



True Blood: All Together Now

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Blood and sex mix on a hot rainy night at Merlotte's, when Sookie and her friends are trapped by a vengeful spirit who feeds on shame. People die and dirty secrets are revealed as Sookie, Bill, Eric, Sam, Tara, Jason, and Lafayette and are all coerced to dig deep and tell painful memories from their past....those things we all have locked within us that we never tell another living soul! Bon Temps, Louisiana has never been stranger, or more twisted, in a story co-plotted by True Blood series creator Alan Ball, with a script by David Tischman (Bite Club) and Mariah Huehner, and lush art by David Messina (Star Trek: Countdown).

True Blood: All Together Now Details

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From Reader Review True Blood: All Together Now for online ebook

Kate says

Being a fan of both the Sookie Stackhouse books by Charlaine Harris and the TV series "True Blood", I had to check out this graphic novel. This is clearly based on the TV series and NOT the Sookie Stackhouse books. The artwork is based very closely on the actors in the TV series. The artwork is good, but the resemblance is just a little weird for me.

The story involves a creature called an imp shaloo - basically a crazy thing with lots of tentacles and teeth, who holds captive all the important characters from the show (after it kills off all the expendable Merlotte's regulars). The creature feeds off of shame and forces everyone to tell their most shameful story. Basically this just seemed like a weird way to get everyone in a room and dishing dirt. None of the shameful stories seemed all that shameful to me, actually, and nothing was totally surprising or revealing if you've watched the TV series at all. The characters seemed like flat imitations of themselves - the spark that they have on TV was not here. For me the conclusion was really weak - they didn't really "defeat" the creature, and I didn't think the creature got the revenge it was looking for, either.

There was a short lead-in to the next story arc but I won't be looking for volume 2.

Brendan says

Alan Ball knows how to craft a great television show. He has a sense of the flair for the dramatic and the style and pacing of television. What I wouldn't say is that he has a flair for great dialogue. He's not bad, he's just not got the zesty zip like Like your Warren Ellis, your Garth Ennis, your Brian Michael Bendis, or your Joss Whedon. And it shows in this comic.

All the regulars from the television series gather at Merlotte's for no good reason, as far as I can see, sometime during season one of the show. An ancient Native American demon spirit shows up and traps everyone, killing a bunch of extras and then forcing each of our regulars to share their most shameful secret. But the stories are distinctly un-exciting. Nearly every one of them has to do with childhood acts (for which we're often ashamed, but rarely have the kinds of extenuating circumstances that make these stories less than juicy (or provocative)) and are so understandable that someone else in the group always says something like "it wasn't your fault."

Even more irritating, from a canonical standpoint, at least two of the characters tell stories that are far outweighed in shamefulness by events revealed later in the television series. On one hand, Ball can be forgiven for not revealing key plot points from future seasons in an offshoot comic book, but on the other hand, he shouldn't have made the spirit telepathic then -- it claims to know if people are really telling their darkest secret. It's possible that Ball intended for the reader to realize the demon was lying about how much it could tell, but the resolution of the comic does not make that clear.

The art and execution is pretty good, though the violent moments with the demon are near-impossible to decipher. This maybe is as it should be, though: Lovecraft often described tentacled otherworldly beings as frightening for their incomprehensibility. That said, not worth buying unless you're a True Blood completist.

Probably worth getting from the library if you just want a bit more True Blood excitement, but I think you'd be better off reading volume 1 of Garth Ennis' Preacher if you haven't read that yet.

Kerry says

I gave up. Just couldn't read it. I'd rather watch an episode than read it.

Vanessa says

For some background on me, I read the first 8 books in Charlaine's Sookie Stackhouse series until I completely burned out and I've seen every episode of *True Blood*. It's not the best thing on TV, or even HBO, but it succeeds more often than not at being an entertaining mess (good looking people getting naked-a LOT-doesn't hurt.)

And, damn it. I feel kind of guilty giving this two stars because there were parts of this I liked but really, they could do better. I gather from other reviewers this story takes place between seasons 2 and 3. So after Mary Ann but before Russell Edgington (best TB villain ever, y/y?) A supernatural spirit visits Merlotte's and traps Sookie, Bill, Eric, Tara, Lafayette, Jason and some nameless rednecks-for Star Trek fans, you can think of them as red shirts here-inside and forces them to recount the things they are most ashamed of. I liked Sam's story the best but, then again, it's a story about a dog so of course I would.

I'm gathering IDW (the land of licensed content comics) and HBO mandated the characters must above all else resemble their TV counterparts, which is logical but gives the art a waxy mannequin-like feel. The coloring is also too heavy-handed. As the art is noticeably better in the flashback sequences, I tend to believe corporate meddling is to blame instead of the creative team. The story is a cool idea but the execution is silly. Way too many hackneyed side conversations and blithe mouthing off to a monster that just killed half of the bar, not to mention almost killing a vampire.

One thing that was good: Tara is significantly less annoying on the printed page. In my house, a Tara-centric scene is a scene that gets fast forwarded over. DVR's rule.

I've often looked at this series in my local comics shop but I've never actually thrown down for an issue. I might read another TPB from the library to see if this gets better.

Goldilocks Reads (Jenna Vahue) says

I was volunteering at the library and found that this book was shelved incorrectly. I'm slowly working my way through the book series and I love the television show. I couldn't help myself. I was laughing at all the artwork as I flipped through the pages before I started reading. After a few pages, I couldn't continue. The dialogue was insane and the artwork from different artists was not appealing. It was a giant mess. I think I'll just stick to HBO and the material written by Charlaine Harris. Leave the Sookie Stackhouse entertainment to the pros.

Anne says

Awful.

Awful, awful, awful, awful...AWFUL!

Worst. Dialogue. Ever.

Total crap!

Gah!

What a *stupid* story!

I can't even form complete thoughts after reading this.

Awful.

Reg Mars says

I've been getting into comics lately so I thought with the season being over I'd try to read these. The story is horrible and so uninteresting. It's just about them being trapped in Merlotte's by some monster and they need to tell him their deepest darkest secrets that nobody has heard before. The art is okay some look like the characters from the show others do only sometimes. Not worth the read.

Jillyn says

Down at Merlotte's in Bon Temps, Louisiana, life just keeps getting weirder for the mind-reading, vampire-dating, little blonde waitress named Sookie Stackhouse. One night at work during a fierce thunderstorm, a native creature called an imp shaloo locks the True Blood regulars inside. An intense monster with fangs and tentacles, he feeds on others' shame. Sam, Sookie, Bill, Eric, Tara, Jason, and Lafayette are forced to dish out their dirtiest secrets and stories until the trickster spirit is finally tricked himself.

First, let me say I am a basic fan of this series. I have seen a few episodes of the show, and read a few of the books. I am not the biggest fan, nor am I one who detests the franchise.

+/-That being said, I do believe that this plot does more accurately follow the TV show as opposed to the novels. That being said, this fact did not bother me in the slightest.

+The artwork is gorgeous. Modeled after the cast of the TV series, I positively loved it. Particularly the portrayal of Eric Northman, who is my favorite to look at on the show. It's dark and gritty, and illustrates the monster well.

-There wasn't really a major plot to this adaptation. It appeared to be just a way to reveal the pasts of all of the main characters in a short period of time, with no real battle or even real expansions on their tales of woe.

+/-This first collection continues in a semi-cliffhanger, no doubt leading to a second volume of the graphic novels.

I think that fans of True Blood as well as the Sookie Stackhouse novels would appreciate this artistic rendition of the vampiric story. If you're fed up with all the vampire shows or don't like True Blood- why would you pick this up? You wouldn't enjoy this either.

This review can also be found on my blog, Bitches n Prose.

Wayne McCoy says

One night down at Merlotte's in Bon Temps, everyone in the restaurant is trapped by a creepy, tentacled imp spirit who feeds on shame. The spirit won't release everyone until they all tell a shameful recollection from their past. Since this is based on True Blood, the stories include those of vampires and shapeshifters.

The comic is based on the television series, which is based on the book series. The art used is a sort of vector stylized photo cartoon style, sort of like you can do to your Facebook profile photo. The result is that the characters look much like the actors they portray on the show. This works, but seems a little distracting to the ongoing story. That's probably just me, though.

The story works well as back story to some of the characters, and it's suggested by an idea from series writer Alan Ball. I don't know if these were separate issues before they became a graphic novel, but the chapters divide up by just ending, not building to a cliffhanger. It makes for a kind of broken reading experience to then flip through a few pages of issue cover art to get back into the story.

Most of the stories were interesting. A couple were less so. The imp shaloo character was well created and drawn, with tentacles shooting out of his coat and capturing people near him. The ending hints at a sequel.

Lucy says

It feels so wrong to say I didn't like something True Blood related! I adore Charlaine Harris's novels and the show is one of my favourites, but this is just a really silly lame story. The art work is supposed to look like the actors, but isn't quite right, they should have just got them to pose in a photo-story type way.

Part of the plot is that the bad monster feeds of shame, so the main characters (who are all inexplicably in Merlotte's at the same time apparently between seasons 2 and 3, but isn't Bill missing at this point?) tell their most shameful stories. These stories are not really very juicy (Jason shagged one of his teachers, blah blah). Some of the stories aren't even really stories, or even shameful.

Part of the problem is that the background and personality of some of the characters belongs to Charlaine Harris, and I think only she would be able to do justice to a real flashback type story.

I've already written too much about this, it is an expensive book and I wouldn't pay full price, about sums it up!

Karen says

This was more like the tv show rather than the books.. but still a great story with one of my all time favorite characters.. Deffently a must read if you enjoyed the true blood series...

Justin says

Absolutely terrible. Don't buy this. If you must read it, borrow it from a library.

Elisa says

3.5 Stars

* Disclaimer: A copy was provided to me by the publisher in exchange for a honest review*

I'm a huge fan of the true blood series but I must admit I've only read the first book - don't worry I have almost all of them and I will read them eventually - and I am addicted to the TV show. This being said, this comic was a different experience for me since it never crossed my mind that this could be done.

The artwork is amazing, there's two kinds of drawings of the characters in this comics and I fell in love with the drawings by J. Scott Campbell. The way he portrayed some of the characters, especially Bill and Sookie, made them almost look like some superheroes, like the ones you would maybe find in a Marvel comic, and I found that fascinating.

In terms of the plot, I have a bit of mixed feelings, but this could be solved in the next volume of this series. To me, it seemed like all the trouble they went through with the Imp Shalooop was for nothing since Eric did not show any symptoms after he was stricken by it. But maybe he will start showing it on the next volume. We'll have to wait and see.

I actually enjoyed the fact that the authors decided to go deeper into the characters' past mostly because they had to share some deeper and painful memories that otherwise we wouldn't know about. My favorite ones were by Sookie and Eric, because through Sookie's memory we could understand a bit more of her relationship with her parents and how her ability affected them, and Eric's because it showed us a more caring side of him and if you watch the show you know how hard he tries to conceal this.

When it comes to the characters, I think they did a pretty good job showing their personalities when in comparison with the TV show, but I did not like their Sookie's impersonation since she came across way too sweet, and on the show she does not come across like this. I am looking forward for the next volume.

Read this review on my blog:

<http://liisadventuresinbookland.blogs...>

Petra says

I received a copy of this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I'm really big fan of books and series so this was interesting to read, but not so good as original story. Pictures are beautiful, especially at the end.

Jennifer says

The Good: This graphic novel is drawn well, with all characters being easily recognizable. And it'll give you a True Blood fix if you're waiting for the next TV season to begin but don't want to read the books the series was based on.

The Bad: The storyline was kind of pointless, as all of the major "secrets" revealed were more-or-less known to those who actually watch the show. And I'm kind of confused as to why a graphic novel would be created based on a TV show that's already based on a book series. Haven't we sort of messed with the original characters enough? This felt like really tame, fan-fiction with pictures.
