



Y: The Last Man - The Deluxe Edition Book One

Brian K. Vaughan (Writer) , Pia Guerra (Penciller) , José Marzán Jr. (Inker) , Pamela Rambo (Colorist) , Clem Robins (Letterer) , J.G. Jones (Covers)

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An alternate cover for this ISBN can be found here.

Y: THE LAST MAN, winner of three Eisner Awards and one of the most critically acclaimed, best-selling comic books series of the last decade, is that rare example of a page-turner that is at once humorous, socially relevant and endlessly surprising.

Written by Brian K. Vaughan (LOST, PRIDE OF BAGHDAD, EX MACHINA) and with art by Pia Guerra, this is the saga of Yorick Brown—the only human survivor of a planet-wide plague that instantly kills every mammal possessing a Y chromosome. Accompanied by a mysterious government agent, a brilliant young geneticist and his pet monkey, Ampersand, Yorick travels the world in search of his lost love and the answer to why he's the last man on earth.

Collects Y THE LAST MAN #1-10.

Y: The Last Man - The Deluxe Edition Book One Details

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Author : Brian K. Vaughan (Writer) , Pia Guerra (Penciller) , José Marzán Jr. (Inker) , Pamela Rambo (Colorist) , Clem Robins (Letterer) , J.G. Jones (Covers)

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From Reader Review Y: The Last Man - The Deluxe Edition Book One for online ebook

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

Pros: good look at how male-dominated our leadership and other key jobs are, that effing ending

Cons: straw feminism everywhere, the fact that one male still dominates a woman's story

I love Vaughan, but I doubt I continue. The love-hate relationship!! ACK!!

Stepheny says

I am a comic book junky. Someday when I win the lottery I will buy them all and spread them out over my bed and just roll around on them because I can. I love them. I haven't encountered many as of yet, but I am slowly branching out. I have read all of *The Walking Dead* ones, most of *The Dark Tower* ones and *The Sandman*. I wants them all. When I have them all I will be like Sméagol. I'll hide away somewhere where no one can find me, clutching at my comics and referring to them all as my precious.

When I first stumbled upon *Y: The Last Man* I remember thinking two things. 1.) What a cool concept for a story 2.) This will either be amazing or a sexist piece of shit. Well, I checked out a couple reviews online and saw that Stephen King had once said that it was: "The best graphic novel I've ever read". Now, that should not be taken lightly. Stephen King talks a lot about his love of comics and I am sure he has read more of them in his lifetime than I ever will in mine (unless I win the lottery and have all the time in the world and fulfill my dream. See above.) For him of all people to say that....that is truly something. Of course I had to read them!

I was not disappointed. I borrowed the books from a buddy of mine and he had the collector's edition for the first one which I guess is the first 2 graphic novels. I think it is written brilliantly and the artwork is quite impressive. I was afraid that it would be a man's version of women's thoughts, being that a man wrote it. But honestly, it is pretty damn good.

I think what I like most about this is that I have no idea where it is going to take me. The story is pretty open-ended and I am fairly certain this is the first time this topic has been tackled. I look forward to continuing on with the series, as everyone I know who has read it has nothing but good things to say about it. I sure hope that little Ampersand meets a nice little female monkey friend!

Trudi says

Pardon me while I flail about in fangirl mode, but OMFG and all that is holy, *Y: The Last Man* is totally a.w.e.s.o.m.e!!!! I didn't think the graphic novel format would ever win me over entirely, but it's happened -

I'm in love - hook, line, sinker, fully, completely. Not only is this an addictive premise taken to the extreme reaches of the most fertile imagination, it's brimming with fully fleshed out characters who live and breathe with histories, motives, strengths and vulnerabilities. The best part? This edition only collects Issues 1-10; I still have another 50!! to look forward to.

How's this for a premise? – last guy on Earth is not alone, literally. Yorick is a hapless, near to agoraphobic, practicing escape artist, madly in love with a young woman a hemisphere away in Australia when a sudden unexplained plague hits the planet and kills every last mammal carrying a Y chromosome. Every last mammal that is except for Yorick and his pet Capuchin monkey Ampersand. Think it would be a laff riot to be the last guy on Earth surrounded by a few billion ladies? Think again gentlemen. Welcome to your new nightmare.

Vaughan's world-building here post-plague is incredibly detailed and believable. With all men suddenly blipped out of existence women aren't standing around singing Kumbaya (did you really think we would?) and the world does not become a better place. Far from it. Vaughan deftly explores the harsh realities that must be faced when such a monumental, unpredictable, *counter-evolutionary* shift happens to humans with no warning.

The graphics are superior; each character has their own unique look and the action is propelled along not just by Vaughan's ripping dialogue, but by Pia Guerra's sharp interpretation of the action. I love that I get **so much story** delivered on such a small canvas. I could have taken days to plow through a 650 page novel and not felt as sated or panting for more, the way I felt here after indulging in a mere 250 pages of colorful, comic book cells. That's storytelling magic. I can't wait for more!

My deepest thanks to my graphic-novel reading friends who kept throwing this series title at me for ages – I finally get it now!!!

Chelsea says

I read this last year and decided to re-read it because I didn't know how to feel about the ending to Book Five.

This is such a fantastic series. It's a clever concept, the characters are so rich and compelling, and the art really works for it! Brian K. Vaughn wasn't someone I read a lot of before this series and this book is what converted me into a fan.

Let's start with the concept: all the cis men on the planet have died due to some unknown cause except for Yorick. Yorick and his monkey Ampersand. Yorick finds his mother in DC and she asks him to go find a cloning expert, Dr. Mann to figure out how to repopulate the earth. She also assigns a member of the Culper Ring, Agent 355, to get him there. The series goes over all the issues I wouldn't even think about. Of course, I know there are several male dominated professions but the page where they outline what's happened to the government in several countries, all the priests and rabbis are dead, the farming industry is still doing quite well, however.

There are several moments for this to be kind of sexist but by the fifth book, it's very much not. The idea is women need men to make more people and that's kind of it. It's a pretty progressive, fascinating message.

Anyway, Yorick is kind of a dick in the first book but you grow to love him. Agent 355 is one of the great loves of my life. Dr. Mann is brilliant and she becomes a really brace character. Hero falls in with the wrong people but she is a survivor.

This is just the first in the series so it's strange re-reading it and seeing how much they've grown. I adore this series and I'm nervous but optimistic about the TV adaptation!

Donovan says

While solidly good, Y lacks the magic, humor, and dialog of Brian K. Vaughan's later works. I'll also be an asshole and say I also didn't love the artwork. I know it's over ten years old now, but come on. The Deluxe Edition's paper was practically newsprint and I just wasn't impressed. It's not bad, it's just satisfactory, it's just there.

What Y lacks in some areas it makes up for with cheesy humor, violence, action/adventure, and, I have to say, preposterous "what if" appeal.

The first page, which includes the image above, shows a female cop threatening to kill herself because all the men are gone. Talk about hyperbole. I myself would have a panic attack and then resign myself to homosexuality. What else can you do?

This story reminds me of a cross between Lost (also written by Brian K. Vaughan) and Robert Kirkman's The Walking Dead. There isn't much going on but for the people. So it's a character driven narrative. I disliked Lost for the record, loved the Walking Dead, but some of these characters are a little dry or have that post-apoc archetype feel to them. The shy doctor. The lustful girl-next-door. The spy with too many secrets.

This book obviously deals with sexism, gender roles, and stereotypes. I can't say that I feel these characters are especially realistic. They do try to be. And as a writer I have trouble writing female characters, too. So I get it. I am forgiving. But some of the scenes play out in a completely predictable B movie kind of way. Like when Yorick learns the secret of Marrisville, Ohio he runs back to town and yells about it to all his friends. As I've seen in I don't know how many B movies. Then the protagonist makes a speech and storms from the room.

Even though some scenes, some characters are perhaps archetypical and play out unsurprisingly, this is a cool story whose end I would like to know. I kept reading. Ampersand the Capuchin Monkey adds comic relief. Yorick is that sort of 90s wise-cracking aloof loser character who happens to be an amateur magician. So there's meat to bite into. Just not as delicious and succulent as some people make it out to be.

So if you like post-apoc stories, tribal warfare, sex jokes, decent artwork, Capuchin monkeys, cheesy humor and good to sometimes very good dialog, give Y a try. 3.5 stars.

Anne says

Later, boys.

So everything should be peace and love from here on out, right?

Um.

No?

That's coming from a chick so hardcore she cut off one of her own titties!

The premise of this one is pretty catchy. For some unknown reason, every single male on earth just suddenly drops dead. Why? Doesn't matter. It happens.

I can't even imagine the devastation, personally. Every husband, father, brother, boyfriend? Think of all the dead children! And every man is some woman's son, so...

Anyway, chaos rightly ensues.

Except.

This guy, Yorick, and his (male) monkey somehow survive. <--animals, too!

So this is sorta his story as the **Lastish Man** on earth.

The gist is that he's got to navigate this new (dangerous) world while on a quest to be reunited with his girlfriend in Australia. But first, he's gotta save humanity with a genetic scientist & a badass agent from some top secret organization. And along the way, he's going to meet all sorts of women. Some good, some bad, most somewhere in the middle.

Good luck, dude!

This was a pretty cool story. I'm not sure I was into it enough to seek out the rest of the story, but I did think it was interesting while I was reading it. This one is pretty much universally well-liked, so if you think this sounds like something you would dig, check it out.

RJ says

I had heard lots of great stuff about this and the premise sounded interesting. One dude left on the planet after all the other men die of some mysterious disease or something. The artwork is quite good but the dialogue is only so-so and honestly I was a little bored pretty quickly, like by page 3. I was also astounded at the direction the story went, found it heterosexist and homophobic. You'd think a world of mostly women would be pretty frank about lesbians; not this book. The only loud and proud lesbos were one breasted

amazon biker chicks intent on killing the last dude on earth. Speaking of, I tried to like the protagonist and his quest for his lady love (who, I swear to god looks just like barbie) but mostly he was annoying and self-involved. Le sigh. I shoulda known. The plot threw in all sorts of ridiculous leads and red herrings, and between the magical ancient amulets, the random Israelis, the ultra secret spy network; and of course all the chicks throwing themselves at our hero...one of whom proclaims that not even the death of all the men on earth but one is enough to get HER to eat pussy...(I kid you not its in the book!!!!)well, I had assumed it would be post-apocalyptic and interesting. When I saw that it was a thinly veiled male fantasy, I hoped it might have some interesting campy moments, like old star trek episodes. In fact its poorly plotted, the dialogue is boring and there's just not enough action. Steer clear folks, or don't say I didn't warn you!

StoryTellerShannon says

What if all the men, except one young man and his male monkey pet, were wiped out all over the world and nobody knew why exactly? That's the setup for volume one of this series that takes a look at gender issues and progressive science versus a natural order of things. I like that the explanation for the plague is not known and there are several possibilities. There's a fair amount of mischievous style humor in the first volume.

For instance, women commemorate the dead man at an obvious phallic symbol a la The Washington Monument. Extremists women take on the role of the ancient Amazons and tear off one breast and take to believing Mother Earth meant to eradicate the males. Hardcore GOPs may take offense when Republican wives of dead senators show up with guns, arguing they should have a voice in the new government. The main character, Yorick, is a putz and sometimes clueless but believable enough even though some might argue he is a passive character. The super model turned corpse collector who just got her implants is an obvious jab at how the fashion industry and of course female looks are intertwined with male desires.

VOLUME ONE

The crisis hits and shows male mammals biting it all over the world and women gradually adjusting. Some don't care to stick it out and check out by taking their lives. The focus is mainly on America and Yorick and his monkey are apparently the only males remaining and thus do the higher ups assign him a bodyguard, make him wear a disguise to appear to be a woman and send him off to a lab in San Francisco that might be able to figure out why he lived and others did not so that the species may continue. Along the way we see the mournings, the extremists, Yorick's dysfunctional relationship with his mother (who is high up in politics now that the men are all gone), what Yorick's sister is up to, part of the beginning trek to SF, the mysteries of a small town and other countries getting involved when they hear of one surviving male.

Overall, I'd say this is a very good start but if you're the nitpicking type you may not enjoy it as much because everything hasn't been explained. A good starting read, by the way, for people new to comics/graphic novels. The series has received 5 prestigious Eisner Awards. Hollywood has been trying to make this into a movie since 2007. Some say this series saved Vertigo Comics from financial problems.

CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B plus; STORY/PLOTTING: B plus to A minus; ARTWORK: B plus; THEMES: B to B plus; WHEN READ: early January 2012; OVERALL GRADE: B plus.

J says

I really loved this. For being 10 issues, this went by quickly. The artwork was great. But what really stands out the most is the plot concept. I've never really read anything like it. And I love that they show that a planet full of women would have their share of problems too. It's not some feminist utopia we are falling into here. I mean, there can't be a feminist utopia, especially if an entire biological sex has died for unknown reasons.

The only minor issue I have with this is Yorick, the "last man." He's likable but he can also be a raging idiot. Like the women that try to protect him and keep him safe from danger that is obviously around many corners just can't always seem to keep a lid on him. Like he jumps into situations that he could have just as easily walked away from because he's not used to being the only man in social situations. He gets himself into danger when he knows he may hold the key to understanding the male plague. I'm glad he's not perfect because then it would be boring and unrealistic, but I hope he gets himself together a little. At least he's funny and I like him overall. And his monkey Ampersand.

I can't wait to read more of this!

Jayson says

(A-) 82% | Very Good

Notes: An addictive, offbeat Odyssean quest built on non-linear narrative, splash reveals and pop culture quips and banter.

Krzysztof says

Having read the first ten issues I'm only about one-fifth into the whole thing, but despite being rather conflicted about it I'll probably continue reading. On the one hand, "Y: The Last Man" is a well-written engaging story with some interesting moments and witty dialogues. On the other, it's sexist to the core. So far, the main villain of the story is an extremist group called Amazons who happen to embody all features of the stereotypical men-hating feminists. Their ultimate goal is to murder the last male human on the Earth, because fuck survival of mankind: reproduction, to them, is just another manifestation of masculine power and, thus, equivalent to rape. And although the author attempts to show various faces of femininity and essentially avoids objectifying women, it's difficult to read this crucial element of the plot as something other than a straightforward mockery of feminism (and a model example of straw feminism). So, while at some points I am truly enjoying the story (and drawing too), the moment its crypto-chauvinist undertones re-surface in my consciousness I get irritated again. The author doesn't seem to know what he is trying to say about femininity, masculinity and men-women relations or, if he does, it certainly doesn't show. Also, the protagonist is an idiot and I have a hard time trying to sympathise with him (I usually fail). Nevertheless, I'll give it a shot; maybe it is all developing towards some totally anti-misogynist conclusion ;P

Richard says

Wow. This was great. After an outbreak swiftly kills almost all of the mammals on earth with a Y chromosome, an amateur escape artist named Yorick and his pet monkey named Ampersand discover that they are inexplicably the only two males left on earth. Yorick goes on an odyssey to not only learn the truth behind this mysterious phenomenon, but also travel to Australia to find the love of his life, Beth. But it's easier said than done and the concept of being the Last Man On Earth isn't as fun as it sounds.

This is an endlessly addictive, fully entertaining first installment of a five book (60 issue) series. And from the intriguing concept, to the compelling characters (including a great villain), the memorable moments, and the simple, unadorned artwork, this series does everything right. And this is just the first book! I love how Yorick isn't perfect, he's not a saintly, valiant guy and not a ripped action hero either. He's also mouthy, obnoxious, and a little smug, but completely endearing. I'm also looking forward to learning more about 355, Dr. Mann, Hero, and Alter. I'm completely flabbergasted that this hasn't been turned into a tv show yet. It could be a stellar, binge-worthy hit series, similar to the way *The Walking Dead* was way back when it was actually good. I'm so excited to read more of this.

Calista says

I have a lot to say about this. I have basically two feelings, two minds and two reviews. The short, part of me was very entertained by this and part of me kept screaming this is stupid.

I actually wrote a story on this subject (obviously not published a few years back with something just like this premise. I didn't know this existed.) so I have thought a lot about this. There is a lot of questions about what is going on in the story and there are many answers to be had so I don't understand what is really happening. The story is very well written, well scripted and the artwork is nice. It is doing it's job well.

Here's the thing. Women hold life as sacred. They are not going to try and wipe out the species. They would not be trying to kill the last man. Women usually rule in groups in a matriarchy. They aren't as power hungry though that is there. There would be general bitchy-ness, but the roving groups of man hating women bent on killing off humanity. That is absurd. So the story is extremely entertaining yet stupid. Women would not be bent on self-destruction. The man hating in the book is ridiculous. Especially since all the men are gone but one or so. There is no reason for that anger any more.

Women would come together and help each other out. There would be little reason to compete with each other. They would be in danger of killing the man trying to get his attention and fall in love with him. That is more like it. This telling is silly and I don't think Brian is writing women well in this story. Too much physical conflict. Women's conflict is more passive aggressive and emotionally abusive. I know there would be women who were mentally crazy and they could cause harm and danger, but women would come together and bond I believe.

So, this novel is able to bring all this out and cause me to think, so it's doing it's job. I think it is very entertaining and I gave it a high score even while thinking the author has it all wrong and this is all wrong. I still got my money's worth, so I am excited to read more and see why the women want the last man dead and

end the human race. I doubt he will be able to sell it to men, but it will be entertaining in the process.

The prostitutes and strippers were all out of jobs. Isn't that interesting to think about.

Cathy (cathepsut) says

Y: Last Man Volume 1, Unmanned

It's the end of the world as we know it. Everybody with a Y-chromosome dies, except for Yorick and his pet monkey. And so begins his trip to find his lost love. On the way he picks up some travel companions and a lot of trouble—he provokes plenty of that trouble by not being the smartest cookie.

Artwork and plot are ok. The timeline ticking backwards and forwards is a nice gimmick, but got a bit confusing towards the second half of Volume 1.

I would have liked to see more of the early days after disaster struck and of how Yorick deals with his situation. It all seems very orderly and clean, when the story picks up two months later. I would have thought that it is still more chaotic after such a short time. Half of the world's population and gazillion of animals just fell over dead in a messy way. The place should stink to heaven and be full of diseases. Lots and lots of things should have stopped working. It should be mayhem...

At the end of Volume 1 I am somewhere between 3 and 4 stars. Onwards to Volume 2, Cycles...

~~*

Y: Last Man Volume 2, Cycles

Strabo, Greek historian: *"that the right breasts of all Amazons are seared when they are infants, so that they can easily use their right arm for every needed purpose, and especially that of throwing the javelin and use the bow."*

We are either dealing with stupid Amazons or authors that didn't do their research.

Anyway, I liked this less than Volume 1. The man-hating Amazons didn't work for me, I didn't buy the Stockholm Syndrome thing and Yorick was pretty annoying, too. Homophobia. Stereotypes. Clicheed caricatures of women. And, seriously, the world is ending and all he wants is to travel halfway around the globe to find his girlfriend? And what is with the weird Israeli soldiers? And the statistics? And the preachiness? Yeah, not working for me.

Four stars for Vol. 1, two stars for Vol. 2, let's call it a draw. Not continuing.

Roy says

Loved this novel. The concept is one that gets brought up a lot in sci-fi but this was amazing. Great characters if a little cliché, great writing, and cool artwork.

Ronyell says

Introduction:

What would happen if you became the last gender (whether you are a male or female) on the face of the planet? Well, that is what we are discovering in Brian K. Vaughan's Eisner Award winning classic graphic novel, "Y: The Last Man: Book One!" After hearing so many glowing reviews about this graphic novel, I decided to give this book a shot and man, was I blown away by the creative concept of this graphic novel! "Y: The Last Man: Book One" is definitely one of the most dramatic and creative graphic novels ever created!

What is this story about?

Yorick Brown was a twenty-two year old young man who had a job as an amateur escape artist. He was planning on proposing to his girlfriend Beth when all of a sudden, all the men and the male animals around the world started dying off when a mysterious plague hits the world and only the males with the Y chromosome are affected. Fortunately, only Yorick and his pet male monkey Ampersand survived the plague and now Yorick must find out more about the plague and try to save mankind while trying to find his girlfriend Beth who is on the other side of the world!

What I loved about this story:

The premise and Brian K. Vaughan's writing: When I first heard about this book, I was thinking to myself about how would you write a book about being the last man standing on Earth? Brian K. Vaughan has done an impressive job at bringing out that aspect as it was done in an extremely creative and intense way! After reading so many books that deal with a post-apocalyptic setting, whether it dealt with oppressive governments (The Hunger Games) or crime ruling the city (Fray), "Y: The Last Man" was a truly unique case of a post-apocalyptic setting as it has it set up where all the men (including the male animals) of the world are wiped out, leaving only the women to occupy the world, which gives us a "what if" moment about what would happen if one gender is wiped out by an unknown force? I loved the way that Brian K. Vaughan really delved into the set up of this world as not only do we readers try to find out what caused the plague that caused the death of many men around the world, but we also see how the women of the world try to deal with the politics and the technology that were once occupied by the men. I also loved the main character Yorick Brown as he is extremely funny and optimistic, despite being the last man on Earth and I enjoyed seeing him trying to help the women who are trying to save mankind accomplish their goals and I loved the witty dialogue that Brian K. Vaughan wrote for all the characters in this book.

Pia Guerra's artwork: Pia Guerra's artwork along with coloring by Pamela Rambo and inking by Jose Marzan Jr., really brought out a dramatic feel to this story as the characters look realistic and the colorings

really brought out bright yet intense feel to the story. Probably some of my favorite artwork in this graphic novel was of Yorick himself as he has brown wavy hair and also has a laid back look on his face that really made me feel for the character.

What made me feel uncomfortable about this story:

Probably the only problems with this graphic novel are that there is some strong language in this book like the “f” word and the “s” word and some disturbing content. The idea about a plague killing off the men in the world is a disturbing thought and could scare some readers who are uncomfortable about the subject of diseases spreading around the world.

Final Thoughts:

Overall, “Y: The Last Man” is easily one of the most **CREATIVE, INVENTIVE and INTENSE** graphic novels I have ever read and I would **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** this book to anyone who is a huge fan of Brian K. Vaughan’s works and love reading about post-apocalyptic worlds!

Review is also on: [Rabbit Ears Book Blog](#)

Michelle Curie says

Y. Nothing more than a chromosome, and yet it's what makes the difference between men and women. In the world that Vaughan has created here, both live amongst each other, just like we do. Until –

Almost at least. Turns out the seemingly only surviving males on planet Earth are an unemployed escape artist named Yorick and his pet monkey. To him, the apocalypse couldn't come at any worse time, as he was just about to propose to his girlfriend over the phone. So while going down under and finding her becomes his priority, other women have different plans.

Oh well! **Thankfully, Yorick is a typical Vaughan character, which makes him a wonderful protagonist:** clumsy yet overbold, funny but awkward. The rest of the characters are nuanced and I can only praise the writing for creating such a diverse and interesting cast. And the scenario itself is just as intriguing, because *what would* happen if half of the population was to suddenly disappear?

The story has been called chauvinistic or sexist even by some, a thought that didn't occur to me while reading. I felt like it rather called out the questionability of the male-driven society we live in today without falling into the trap itself. And yes, certainly the question of whether the world would just go nuts without *men* is a valid one, but I believe so. And not because women couldn't function by themselves, but because there is no way that the wipe-out of 50% of the world's population would not cause a shift in power. There will always be people seeking profit for themselves, trying to benefit from unstable situations or simply push through their beliefs.

It is an interesting starting point for a comic book series and honestly one of the best stories I have ever encountered in this format so far. There is constantly something happening, there are surprises and turns of events, interesting thoughts and clever dialogue. *I'm so into this.*

Jenbebookish says

This was so good. My graphic novel love affair started and stemmed from my first experience ever with graphic novels, which was with the Saga series, which incidentally happens to be by the same writer as this, Brian Vaughn. The guy is a genius, so totally creative with talent up the wazoo. He's creator of so many popular series'...Lost, Ex machina, Saga, and now the first series I've come across to rival Saga...The Last Man.

As the story goes, one random morning, amidst all the normal every day happenings going on all over the world, totally and completely at random, every creature with the male Y chromosome drops dead, man and animal alike. Except for one lowly, totally unspecial guy and his pet monkey. What remains is a world in which 48% of the global population has been eliminated...which includes 99% of the world's landowners, 95% of all commercial pilots, 92% of all violent felons, 100% of catholic priests, Muslim imams, and Jewish Rabbi's, and 85% of all government officials...& Yorick. The world is left to the women who are all doing the best they can to pick up the pieces and move on and survive. There are those who believe this is an act of terrorism, those who think it's the end of the world, & those who think it's an act of God-a purposeful delivery from the stifling & oppression that women suffered at the hands of men. Anarchy and chaos reign, where the strong and the murderous seem to be clawing their way to the top and where what is left of the government...the secretary of agriculture being the highest ranking female official that remains... attempts, somewhat unsuccessfully, to garner some level of control. With all the different attitudes and beliefs coming to such fatal clashes and heads, Yorick, the seemingly sole survivor of the mass male extinction, is faced with danger coming from all angles. Some want to kill him, some want to fuck him, some want to protect him, some want to clone him, & some don't know what they want at all from him but despite his unwanted position as man kind's single remaining chance at survival and repopulating the earth, he's got an agenda of his own. To find his girlfriend and fiancé who at the time of the "plague", resided on the other side of the world in Australia.

It's totally a been-done-before premise, the whole last man standing thing...but with a slightly unfamiliar twist of women being spared. The characters are unique and the path Vaughn chooses to take the women is also not the expected. Women gangs, trannies, towns run by escaped cons...it's a world that I definitely wouldn't want to actually be in, but that I enjoy visiting for brief periods of time;) I am so diggin these story lines right now, and while Yorick himself might so far be the most uninteresting character, I'm still super excited to see where the storyline takes me and how all of the characters' stories develop, even Yorick!

Oh and did I mention, the art work is on point?

Craig says

I refuse to read any other reviews on this series before I post this. Therefore, I may sound either stupid or prescient. Or maybe a bit of both. Personally, I am leaning towards stupid, but...

Friends have been telling me to read this series for quite a bit. They said "you like literary comics, so..." or "You're obsessed with end of the world plague sort of stuff that presents humanity in a different light..." or "you took women's studies classes in college, so you might find it interesting..."

Well, to be honest, I never read it because it was written by a man. No matter how idiotic I think the 'war of the sexes' can be, somehow I thought that a man could not write this series and make it serious, make it meaningful... Really, a man writes a story about the last man on earth? How original.

Flash forward to Christmas this year. A good friend of mine (who should not have gotten me a gift...) bought me this. And because a friend bought it for me, I had to read it. And...

What a fool I have been. I have maintained for a long time that good sci fi/fantasy/zombie/apocalypse fiction exists to make us examine ourselves in ways that it is difficult for other literature to approach quite as directly. (And those who know me and my penchant for poetry and 'slice of life' prose know that I do not mean to belittle any other forms.)

And this book maintains that tradition. I have no idea where the series goes from here, but I am very impressed with this volume. There is a fantastic sense of history here, not only of this country, (I learned several things that I had never heard of from the revolutionary war period, especially) but of the world and how men and women are treated within it. I feel like I am a male that understands a good deal about gender dichotomy in this world and I have no regrets in saying this taught me a thing or two.

Maybe it is better that this story is written by a man -- because only a man could understand the idiocy of a man's place the way this author does. Again, I turn myself over to the gender 'war,' but there is a sliver of honesty there. There are so many moments in this book handled so deftly and subtly. In other hands, I'm sure they would have knocked you over the head or else simply gone over the head of many readers. With so many comic readers being male, perhaps a bit of a male viewpoint was needed to really shatter the male viewpoint.

That is not to say that there aren't some comic book story traditions that aren't upheld too rigidly and some cliché story elements that don't creep in... And that is where the stupidity or prescience creep in. Those of you that have read further into the story can laugh at my hope for this story or say that I saw this glimmer of brilliance despite the small clichés present. Either way, I am glad that I was 'forced' into reading this first volume. I will definitely be pursuing more. So far, I am impressed. I hope to remain that way.

Raeleen Lemay says

I really liked this! And that ending, DAMN. Need to get my hands on the rest of the series right away.
