



Dark Tower: The Gunslinger: The Man in Black

Robin Furth , Peter David , Alex Maleev (Illustrator)

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Collects Dark Tower : The Gunslinger - The Man In Black #1-5. Roland continues his journey towards the Dark Tower in his search for the Man in Black - but when young Jake faces peril in the tunnels, will Roland be able to save him? As the Man in Black's treacheries thicken, Roland and Jake must stave off an attack by vicious, cave-dwelling mutants ... little knowing that an even more sinister evil awaits them further inside the cave. As the end of their quest nears, Roland prepares to meet his destiny... but is he ready for it? Can he do what it takes to find the Dark Tower? Even if it means sacrificing young Jake?

Dark Tower: The Gunslinger: The Man in Black Details

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From Reader Review Dark Tower: The Gunslinger: The Man in Black for online ebook

Trudi says

Well, you wonder why I always dress in black,
Why you never see bright colors on my back,
And why does my appearance seem to have a somber tone. Well, there's a reason for the things
that I have on.

"The Man In Black", Johnny Cash

Marvel's ambitious undertaking to adapt King's *magnum opus* has been hit or miss for me. The first five volumes (essentially a re-telling of Book IV - Wizard and Glass) did not work for me, most likely because Wizard and Glass is my least favorite of the series. While I eventually grew to appreciate the story for what it is, young Roland will *never* beat out long, tall and ugly Roland. So I actually skipped over Volumes 3-5 and didn't pick up the graphic novel series again until Volume 6 The Journey Begins.

I was so relieved and super-psyched to resume the story as it's finally reached The Gunslinger. Roland's young battles are behind him, all has been lost, and he is now on the road to the Dark Tower as a solitary traveler, embittered, battle-weary, with no tears left to shed. *This* is the Roland I adore. This is who I want to read about and see captured in the panels of graphic novel.

In the previous volume, Roland finally meets up with Jake, and I loved how the Way Station encounter is handled. This volume focuses on the slow mutants attack and ends with Roland's palaver with the Man in Black himself.

I did not hate this volume by any stretch, but the series is now venturing into sacred territory and I didn't cotton to several of the storyline alterations. Not to mention, most of the art was just...not good. Inconsistent shall we say. I didn't like how in some panels Jake and Roland are very chiseled and *there* while in other panels they're barely there at all, kind of just shadowy impressions, blurry lines and all.

While I wanted to love the prolonged and "extra" interactions between Jake and Roland, something seemed not quite right about how they were speaking to each other. I can't put my finger on it really. But my gut just wouldn't leave it alone. And the climactic "go then, there are other worlds than these" scene fell flat for me. I didn't feel the punch or the emotionality I should have.

The last section capturing Roland's fireside conversation with The Man In Black is well executed. It strays little, if at all, from the original source material, a lot of the text lifted right from King's novel. Still, there are gaps even in this pivotal scene that I wish weren't there.

It's probably a mistake to read these graphic novels and judge them against King's books. Different format and all that, but I can't help it. And while I'm desperate for more Dark Tower, I'm probably much better off to just go and read the novels again rather than trying to find solace and satisfaction in the colored panels of a comic. A re-read is definitely on the table, but I will stick it out with the graphic novels too. When and where they've worked, I've been extremely pleased.

Becky says

sigh

This was a little bit of a let-down. I had hoped for an exciting build-up to the end of *The Gunslinger*, but it was just more of a methodical plod. There's quite a lot that happens in the final pages of *The Gunslinger*, including that trek through the mountain, Jake's sacrifice, and everything that the Man in Black shows Roland in the vision, but I didn't get any of that sense of scale here.

It was just a lot of the same for page after page. Jake undecided as to whether to continue on with Roland or leave him. Roland hedging and hoping that things won't come to pass as they've been laid out. It's important, and it's true to the book, but in this format, it's just tedious. I can only take the same thing repeated so many times.

The trek through the mountain wasn't exciting or scary at all, and it was over far too quickly to really feel that it was life-threatening. I guess that was time better spent on the "Will-he?/Won't-he?" conundrum again.

And then the climax of the book, Roland having finally caught up to the Man in Black, was just... uninspired. I remember the first time that I read that scene in the book, and really FEELING the scope of the vision. That's the power of King's words, and I was really looking forward to seeing them translated into art here. But it fell extremely flat to me. Don't show me THIS solar system and talk to me about the epicness of the universe. That's such a tiny, infinitesimal speck of the vastness of space. Don't show me molecules of a pencil lead and then say they could all have their own universes. I wanted to SEE it. I want two-page spreads of blackness with a tiny dot to represent the galaxy. I wanted to watch that blade of grass grow in Roland's sight, until it swallowed everything else. I want to zoom down into those molecules and see the universes contained therein.

I want to feel the scale, and I'm extremely disappointed with how it was handled. Such a shame, and such a wasted opportunity to really pull out all the stops and bring the infinite vastness of scale to table.

In addition to that, the artwork in this volume was quite different than the last. Jake and Roland both were drawn completely differently, which was distracting. I liked the way they were drawn better, but still - there should be a consistency, and I've noticed that over the course of this series that's been slightly lacking.

Otherwise, I can't really complain. The adaptation was good, and the tone remained, which I like. It's just such a shame that the one thing that really could have translated wonderfully to this format (artistically representing Roland's vision) was handled so poorly.

Cameron says

The first disappointment from this series, on 2 levels.

First the art work was not up to the standards of the previous illustrators - I am willing to accept "different" is not "bad", however inconsistent (within the same page!) is not acceptable. The majority was okay, but every now and then the artist would spaz out with a low detail wonky lines panel or 2 that didn't even match the profile of the preceding panels and I would have to double back to check it was the same characters; I found

this very distracting and added to annoyance with the story...

Second the story has been dicked with - not embellished, not compacted but dicked with to tell a "different" story. There was nothing wrong with the original story - it was short, it was tense, the silence between Roland and Jake spoke volumes on the growing distrust.

The changed story of Roland and Jake entering the tunnel has been rewritten and some of the most memorable elements of the progress into the better preserved high-tech subway have gone - this was when the book really grabbed me and became the sci-fi, western, post-apocalypse fantasy that gripped me for years. Another addition that irked was the "corpse lights" in the train station - Roland is not Golum and Jake is not Frodo... and wtf is the river doing running through central station!!! Worse yet, these additions subtracted time from the mutant attack (very truncated and bit dull, more like vegetable zombies than cannibal radioactive mutants) and the grand station was so under developed - where was the great vault with 12 lines? where were the mix of high tech and 1800's carriages? we get a glimpse of the track switching on line 10 (to western exit points), an interior of mummified station master (NO close up of the newspaper) and weapons store and that is it. No options, just straight forward (no lit tunnel either, just rock). These story changes drew attention to the dodgy panels as I back tracked looking for the missing elements.

Having said that - the last chapter with the man in black (original King text) was spot on.

If they are going to continue on with the "Drawing of Three", they need to get the better artists back and Furth should realise as a writer she is a good curator and scholar, but to leave the story telling to King.

Cale says

This volume finishes up the main plot of the Gunslinger novel, in fine form. It takes some liberties that actually serve the story better, building the relationship between Roland and Jake up more than occurred in the novel itself, in ways that are fitting for the story, even if the 'avoid the demons' plot device gets a bit overused. The art is surprisingly effective for a section of the story that takes place mostly in the dark. And the presentation of the parley between the Man in Black and Roland is particularly well done, working as well if not better than the novel's presentation. All in all, this is a very good addition to the series and makes a good capstone to the Gunslinger adaptation.

Rao Javed says

Awesome...this really a lovely retold. I cant find anything out of order in this comic. I never betrayed the real book anywhere but in fact added up to it. I liked the drawing the way it was told, the concept, story line, the charterers and uniqueness of it.

It is awesome to read for both comic lover and Sk lover

Adam Smith says

"Go then. There are other worlds than these."

The gunslinger's pursuit of the man in black draws to a close as Roland and the boy venture the dark abyss beneath the Cyclopean mountains. The path to the Tower is near at hand, but is the gunslinger really willing to sacrifice his young companion for the sake of his obsession?

The end of the beginning. Capturing the finale of The Gunslinger novel in glorious detail, this chapter of the Dark Tower comic series is by far the most powerful.

Well worth the read for fans of the Dark Tower series.

Andrew says

So this is how I spend my Sunday morning. Well I will admit as this second series comes to an end I think the true strengths of the Gunslinger are finally showing through - A Gunslinger who is ruthless and drive to fulfil his promise regardless of the cost to himself and those around him. For me this is the character I remember from the books, and even though you could say this series of books (and likewise the one before it) went to the shaping of the man who would become the legend - I think the story has finally found its peace - its just a shame it happened in the very last book. (Technically here is another books called Last Shots based on specials and one off stories collected together spread across both series).

I finish this book just as I read that a third series has in fact been commissioned so we should start seeing the beginning of the Drawing of the Three. This marks another massive stage in the quest for the Dark Tower and for me is when really the who span and interlinking of the works of Stephen King finally start to come together.

Andrew Pixton says

The artwork is beautiful. I wasn't pleased with the climactic decision Roland makes, but I suppose that's the point. Also, I'm not wholly convinced yet why his quest is necessary. A starker contrast with the before and after of the fall would help. The story is interesting characters good though.

Alondra says

4 Stars

"Go, then. There are other worlds than these." ~ Jake

Roland and his quest. Jake.

Karissa says

This is the tenth book in the Dark Tower Graphic Novel series and does a decent job of wrapping up the story arc. There is one more graphic novel in this set called Last Shots which is a compilation of Dark Tower stories. I enjoyed this volume and the artwork as well; it does a good job of wrapping up the story arc for the Gunslinger Born full length novel.

Roland and Jake journey under the mountain in Roland's continued search for the Man in Black. At first Jake decides not to accompany Roland because the Man in Black says he will die if he follows Roland. Then Jake changes his mind and he and Roland journey through these dark tunnels together. They encounter rats and bats along with the more deadly Slow Mutants. However, the biggest peril both to Roland and Jake is when Roland must decide what he wants more; to build a life with Jake or to continue to follow his obsession.

I remember this part of the book being depressing and it was again depressing in graphic novel format. This is the book where we finally learn the depth of Roland's obsession with the Dark Tower and learn that maybe he isn't the hero we thought he was.

The artwork throughout is in beautiful full color and very well done. I love reading these graphic novels partly because of the beautiful and detailed illustration.

There are some very intriguing parts to the story as well. We learn more about how Jake's world straddles Roland's. In Roland's discussion with the Man in Black we learn more about the Dark Tower and how it relates to space and time.

I really do enjoy the relationship between Jake and Roland. They are both tragic characters but still find some comfort in the father/son type of relationship they develop.

This was another excellent volume in the Dark Tower graphic novel series. I continue to enjoy the illustration, the complex characters, and the convoluted plot involving the Dark Tower. That being said this is one of the most depressing books of the bunch. I would recommend to those who enjoy dark fantasy graphic novels. I look forward to wrapping up the Gunslinger Born story arc with the final collection of stories; Last Shots.

Char says

"Go then. There are other worlds than these."

And I might just do that after the next graphic novel in the series, which finishes off this story arc.

This installment completely changed what happened in the books, and I'm okay with that, I guess. However, that combined with the artwork, which I still don't feel is on par with the earlier graphic novels, may be enough for me to quit the series entirely. That goes against my completist nature, but life is too short and I want to read ALL the books. Choices must be made and I'm not sure the rest of this series will make the cut.

mike andrews says

Amazing job of bringing the Gunslinger to graphic form. Love the additions to lengthening the story.

Gary Butler says

15th book read in 2014.

Number 197 out of 359 on my all time book list.

Follow the link below to see my video review:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHnh6...>

John says

Absolutely loved the exchanges between Marten and Roland and Jake and Roland. It was very sad seeing Jake go to his second death. There are other worlds then these.

Kate says

Roland and Jake continue chasing the Man in Black and enter some creepy caves...

The excitement in this volume comes about halfway through, with all the mutants in the caves and the chasing and the train tracks. The ending was much quieter, and involves Roland's meeting with the Man in Black, which is more of an abstract thing. It's interesting to read this, as it was the end of the first Dark Tower novel, and see how that novel might have been a standalone. But then there's the prophecy with the tarot cards... and now I want to get to the Drawing of the Three!
