



The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye

Robert Kirkman , Tony Moore (Illustrator) , Frank Darabont (Teleplay)

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How many hours are in a day when you don't spend half of them watching television?

When is the last time any of us **REALLY** worked to get something we wanted?

How long has it been since any of us really **NEEDED** something that we **WANTED**?

The world we knew is gone.

The world of commerce and frivolous necessity has been replaced by a world of survival and responsibility.

An epidemic of apocalyptic proportions has swept the globe causing the dead to rise and feed on the living.

In a matter of months society has crumbled.

no government, no grocery stores, no mail delivery, no cable TV.

In a world ruled by the dead, we are forced to finally start living.

The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye Details

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From Reader Review The Walking Dead, Vol. 1: Days Gone Bye for online ebook

Delee says

Ohhhhhhhhhh Yeah- I'm hooked!

Lou says

We are amidst a Zombie phenomena, well they have been around since that movie Night of the Living Dead, But did not have as much coverage, there is so many novels and movies now with a zombie theme.

Some neat artwork here representing a zombie gore feast of a struggle for a band of humans against the odds for survival.

This is as most people know the genesis of the tv-series of the same name. I have watched one episode with some reservations due to the gore level and wanted to read the graphic novel first. I must say I am hooked now, as there is a real good story here, I love the band of survivors, especially the brave son and i just want to be there on the road with them.

Tv Series Trailer featured here and The making of it

Bookdragon Sean says

Whether you're a comic book fan or a television buff, one thing remains certain: Rick Grimes is a badass.

He's resourceful too, a real survivor. When other members of the fledgling group are panicking and running around like headless chickens, he acts. When they argue about the next move they should take or which option is safest, Rick, again, acts. He doesn't mess about. You've got to give it to the small town sheriff, he quickly realises what he must do to keep his family alive. And it isn't pretty. Surviving a zombie apocalypse is no glamorous business. In this first volume, he covers himself with zombie remains to avoid detection in the vast hoard of the undead. By doing so he demonstrates how far he is willing to go protect his family. Guns are everything in this new world, and walking incognito through the hoards is worth the risk if it means a few more firearms around camp.

A lot can be said about Rick from these early issues. From the way he handles the unhinged Shane; to the way he allows his seven year old son to carry a handgun. He realised very early on how bad things were going to get, and he knew how to respond. Everyone else is still clutching to old world ideas; they are trying

to live in the past and use the same set of customs. But, the world's gone to hell. And, at this point, it seems Rick's the only one fully aware of this fact. Without him, the group would collapse. The man knows what's on the horizon. I think his encounter with Shane is pivotal because through it he learns what could happen to him, and what is likely to happen to everyone if they're not careful.

It's a perfect foreshadowing of a possible rise in character insanity. I think because of it Rick has to up his game. He takes charge and begins to make the necessary decisions. More importantly, though, for the rest of the group, he dons the face of optimism. He becomes their source of strength. I think I'm going to really enjoy reading through these; it will be interesting to see how it compares to the television show. Already I'm noticing how sanity, and an ability to cope, is being explored much more in these earlier parts of the story. The show picks the idea up much later. Dale is also a much more established character in these comics. This is going to be a fun reading experience.

More Walking Dead Reviews to come!

Alejandro says

The days won't be same anymore!

This is the first volume of the softcover editions of "The Walking Dead", collecting the comic book issues from #1 to #6.

Creative Team:

Writer: Robert Kirkman

Illustrators: Tony Moore

Additional gray tones to inking: Tony Moore

Chapter One

DAYS GONE BYE

Rick... Officer Rick Grimes at your service.

This chapter is the epic beginning of the mega popular franchise of *The Walking Dead* that first was comic books, then expanded to a TV series and now there are even prose novels.

This first chapter has the great artwork by Tony Moore that certainly made it iconic. The work of Charlie Adlard in the rest of chapters is really good too, specially on the details of things and backgrounds, but definitely if I'd be able to choose, my pick would be on Tony Moore, it was sad that he won't keep doing the illustrations on the rest of the comic book series. As additional info, Tony Moore remained in the creative

team for a while doing the covers of the first twenty-four issues and the covers of the first four regular TPBs.

A good thing about *The Walking Dead*, if you want to enjoy it in comic books along with TV series is that both storylines are different, sure there will be connecting points here and there, and you will meet the same names of characters (in some cases) but they aren't the same persons, and trust me, while this is my first compendium in the comic book's storyline, I have been watching the TV series since its own beginning, and both stories are different, both truly great, but different, so don't afraid of spoilers in any of both formats, since the events are developed quite different. You may think of the "other storyline" of any format, comic books or TV series, as "the road not taken".

But truly loyal to the spirit of the franchise.

Officer Rick Grimes, from the Sheriff Department in Cynthiana, Kentucky, suffers a shot injury on duty and he falls into a coma. When he wakes up in a hospital bed, after several weeks, he finds himself alone in the building, or at least he thinks that he is alone. Soon enough he meets several "things", walking "things" that only a word, not matter how nonsensical it sounds, is able to describe those walking "things"...

...ZOMBIES.

And if things aren't bad enough, Rick doesn't know the whereabouts of his wife and son!

So, his first priority is to reunite with his family as soon as possible.

Rick's first stop on his own home leads him to meet Morgan and his son, Duane. Morgan explains him how the world gone to hell while Rick was in coma.

The US Government was asking population to go to big cities to be defended there by the army, and since Lori, Rick's wife, has family in Atlanta, Rick decides to go there to search for his wife and son, Carl.

On Atlanta, he finds Glenn, an Asian-American young man, who explains him how the world works now.

Rick Grimes' world would never been the same anymore!

Lola says

This is so, so, so, so good. It doesn't try to be disgusting and it doesn't mainly focus on the zombies, surprisingly. It's more about the little community of survivors and their relationships, their helping each other out, their trying to find a way out of this pit of death. I felt desolate to see some characters gone too soon or left behind, but I have some hope of seeing new ones in the future that will make me stop missing the departed ones.

Great, great comic series.

Brendon Schrodinger says

For everyone not in the know I have a soft spot for apocalyptic fiction. My first SF read as a burgeoning nerd was *The Day of the Triffids*. It certainly moulded me into the reader that I am today. But although these stories are fiction, the more scientifically removed from reality zombie type apocalypse is by far not my favourite. Nuclear fallout, deadly virus, environmental collapse; these all seem entirely plausible. But there is no precedence for zombies despite fans holding onto the parasites of insects stories.

Zombie apocalypses are not for me.

But I do like *Shaun of the Dead*. That has to do with laughs though.

So investing this much time in zombie apocalypse was a big leap for me and I did enjoy the comic series on the first read-through. But watching the series afterwards I was struck by the differences in character and the stories. I abandoned the series midway through series 3. I felt it was too talky. The main characters annoyed me and were more stupid than their comic counterparts. The Governor was just not scary.

So here I am a couple of years later and I'm going to reread the comic series.

It's interesting to note that like *28 Days Later* the story starts with a complete ripoff of *Triffids*. The main character has been in hospital and wakes up to the apocalypse. This time it's Rick, a police officer who was injured by gunshot wound. Rick wakes up to a very different world. I think it hints that there was about 4 weeks or so that he was in a coma. How he survived I do not know. Power was off. Surely anything giving him nourishment via drip in that time needed power or the need to be replaced. Shhh Brendon, don't poke holes! We follow Rick as he tries to make sense of his immediate neighbourhood and then tries to meet his family. This quest leads him towards Atlanta, Georgia.

The people he meets are interesting and they do each have their own stories. That's one strength of the comics. There are no cookie-cutter characters and the writer does manage to give them all a voice.

We end this volume with a large confrontation between Rick's old world and the new. It definitely tells everyone that old world allegiances do not matter in the new world.

So we are left with everyone on the move south towards warmer weather and away from the zombie hordes in Atlanta.

Meredith Holley says

Okay, is this where the random bolding phenomenon is coming from?? Have you all known this and not **told** me? Is it just so you can **laugh** behind my back? See? I can't even randomly bold if I try. It always ends up being for emphasis.

This book is about don't give kids guns. That's pretty much it. But, sometimes, you know . . . zombie apocalypse . . . sounds like a good idea to give a kid a gun. And if you think that, you're an idiot.

My dad used to keep a lot of guns in the house at one particularly precarious point in my childhood, and the

parents would leave my brother and I alone for the day while they went to work. One day, my brother found a gun and shot the wall. My mom flipped out, and all the guns got sent out of the house, but I think ultimately it somehow got blamed on the *X-Men*. Anyway, don't leave guns in the house.

This was definitely better than the show because not as much emphasis on the love triangle. Also, I like the sounds the zombies make. They say, "Gak" and "Iligh" and other non-zombie-sounding noises. That is pretty great.

(view spoiler)

I don't know if that's a spoiler or not, but the zombies do make funny zombie noises. Especially when everything else is pretty straight "BLAM" and "POW" and other old school Batman stuff.

Overall, I'm not so big on Westerns, and I think this series is a Western with zombies. British zombies are so much more compelling than American zombies. Watch *Dead Set*, people. WATCH DEAD SET.

This one is okay, though.

Jessica says

I really liked this! I've watched a few of the first episodes on TV, and honestly I liked this so much more. Maybe it's because I'm a baby and I don't think the zombies look as scary as in the show? Maybe that's part of the reason. But this was really good!

Jon says

I wanted to really like volume one of *The Walking Dead*. Most people do like it. They like it a lot. I didn't, which doesn't make anyone better or smarter than anyone else, we just have different tastes.

I appreciate Robert Kirkman wanting to write a social commentary and not just a horror story, but I don't know that he needs to state this in the introduction - all good zombie (and horror) stories are dealing with more than just the surface material, so Kirkman emphasizing his social commentary sounds more like him trying to convince everyone his stuff is smart and deserving of our attention and praise; why not let his graphic novel prove its merit on its own?

I didn't feel that the character development was that deep. The greatest transgressor here was Lori, who is very one-dimensional. She's the most incompetent woman in the whole story. To me, she is just the whining wife character who tries to frustrate Rick's chivalric heroism by not wanting him to go to the city, or she's the over-protective mother figure who doesn't want their son, Carl, to be taught how to shoot a gun (silly women, not letting their boys become men). She's helpless, submissive, and mostly just obnoxious.

I didn't feel that Kirkman explored some of the issues of survival very thoroughly. For example, gender issues and the division of labor is raised when some of the women are going to wash the clothes. But the issue is opened by Donna's shallow complaints about women doing the washing and men doing the hunting. Her argument is bland and Lori's response is equally so, she claims it "isn't about women's rights . . . it's about being realistic and doing what needs to be done." This is a convenient response to shut down Donna, who is very obviously constructed as a whining, judgmental character (we're not supposed to agree with her, but are supposed to discard her opinion as rapidly as Lori does). The problem is that if you're wanting to survive in the apocalypse (or if you just wanna be able to live in our regular supposedly non-apocalyptic life), everyone should be learning as many skills as possible. Kirkman has the opportunity to examine gender roles here, but chooses to reduce the issue to a series of bumper sticker statements that don't really say anything.

This becomes even more of a problem for me when later the women are taught how to shoot. After the argument over who washes and who hunts, it seems silly that women are expected to learn so-called "manly" skills like shooting a gun but men are allowed to remain ignorant to washing clothes. It's a man's world, zombies or no zombies. Obviously, women should learn how to shoot to protect themselves and to catch food, but domestic chores are also important for survival and the men should learn those too. Is this a small detail I'm picking at? Perhaps. But it happens so often in our culture and our stories that it really annoys the hell out of me. And I don't think this is the characters being ignorantly sexist, I think it's Kirkman being ignorantly sexist.

Another instance of cheap dramatics used to show Lori's helplessness and Kirkman's lame gender use is following the laundry washing when the women are attacked by a zombie and Dale beheads it with his axe. The zombie's head is still "alive" which logically means they have to shoot the head to kill it, even though Dale is holding his axe and we see many zombies dispatched with axes and hatchets (including right before this moment when Rick kills the zombie feeding on the deer with his hatchet). Using the gun to kill the head is a lame move, creating bland dramatics to get Rick and Shane to come running back to camp, where Lori cries on Rick's shoulder, completely beside herself with fear - "Oh, God, Rick . . . it was awful." This isn't interesting or exciting, it's an attempt to make a story exciting because the more action, the more cool the story, the more readers.

Gender studies issues aside, *The Walking Dead* just moves too quickly a lot of the time. A story focusing on the day-to-day challenge of surviving in a blighted landscape should dwell on the monotony of survival, at least some of the time. Kirkman wants the story to drag along and take its time, but it just felt rushed to me. It's like he wanted to have dead time where not much was happening, but then got bored with it and just rushed us on to the next zombie scene where we can be thrilled by Tony Moore's grisly art - mundane chores don't sell stories, but violence does.

Moore's art is pretty good, especially the zombies. But this is an emphasis again on grotesque body horror and violence. There are lots of close-ups of heads getting hacked at and shot. The gore abounds and while that isn't always a bad thing because we are reading a fantasy and zombie stories are a violent, nasty subject, I wonder if Moore was a bit too enamored with killing things.

As I said, I wanted to like this graphic novel, but in the end it was just okay. It coulda, shoulda been brilliant and there are nice moments and signs of real quality. But the effort to make it stellar proved too difficult, so Kirkman and co. chose the much easier, safer route of superficiality.

Stephen says

4.0 stars. You can see by the ratings and the other reviews of this book that a lot of people think very highly of this series and it is certainly justified. This is the kind of excellence in both writing and art that make the graphic novel an incredibly power medium when it is done well. Here....it is done very well indeed. The writing and the art are superb and I don't think you could ask for better.

Basically, the set up is very familiar. It is a zombie apocalypse, society has broken down and the walking dead control the cities with bands of humans living in the outskirts trying to survive. I think that is enough background for you to understand the basic premise of the series.

Therefore, rather than do a detailed plot synopsis which others have done very well, I thought I would mention 3 things (beyond the aforementioned writing and art) that I really thought set this series apart from your typical zombie/undead apocalypse story.

1. The Realism

The creators of this story have started with an impossible, unbelievable premise and yet from there have done their best to make the reader forget that we are dealing with science ficiton. They have imbued the story with a very realistic tone and the actions and inactions of the characters in the story felt authentic.

2. The Story's Focus/Pacing

While the zombie's in this story are very important and provide a great "danger" this story really focuses on the lives of the survivors and how the breakdown of society can affect people differently. The character development is excellent and the emotional resonance is stronger than you typically see in this kind of story.

3. The Zombies

One thing that really struck me while I was reading this is that I found myself feeling sorry for the zombies. I think this was something intentional on the part of the creators. For example, there is a scene early on when Rick is leaving the hospital and there is a female zombie that has here lower body crushed and basically can't move (I haven't seen the TV show...yet...but I think this is the woman from the show):

Her body is emaciated and yet she can't die (presumably for quite a long time). She is just lying there moaning and unable to move. She looked...pitiable, at least in the story.Later on Rick sees this same zombie again and she is in the exact same spot and you can tell it makes him sad.

There are similar scenes throughout the book including this...

Here, Rick and a boy are sneaking into town to try and find more guns and they come across this scene...all of the zombies you see are "alive" (i.e. zombie alive) and yet many of them are trapped and can't really move. I found this aspect to be very compelling and added an additional layer to the dread of becoming one of these creatures. I thought the writers did an excellent job in this respect.

Overall, I was very impressed with this first volume and plan to continue reading the series. Well written, well constructed plot with believable characters and an engaging storyline. As far as I was concerned, the story was only missing two things that would have made it perfect:

ZOMBIE STORMTROOPERS

AND, OF COURSE....

But that's just me...and I'm a GUY...and I refer you back to the first picture.

Anne says

[We just got back from a family vacation. And the entire time, I couldn't get my youngest to eat anything they served for breakfast at the place we were staying. And they had EVERYTHING there!

Waffles with strawberries and whipped cream...yum.

But she's 6, and none of it tasted like *Mommy's* food.

On day 3, I spied their stash of Froot Loops.

Yes! We're SAVED!

Or

Justin says

I'm a complete amateur when it comes to this stuff, but I'm really enjoying my time exploring comics and graphic novels. It's hard to rate them because I don't have anything else to really compare them against since I've only read two, so four stars is my baseline for now.

I watched the first few seasons of the show, but then I lost interest when they just wandered around a farm for episode after episode. I get bored easily so I moved on to something else, probably *Breaking Bad* or something, I don't know. But, then everyone is all like, "Justin, it gets better! You gotta check it out again!" to which I generally ignore this enthusiasm and watch something else, probably *Narcos* or something because obviously I like shows about manufacturing and selling illegal drugs.

So recently I find myself in this comic book superhero movie TV graphic novel Marvel DC Universe X-Men Apocalypse Star Wars phase and I ran across this bad boy while browsing the deep dark depths of the interwebs. Did you like that alliteration? This was exciting stuff. As someone who has been an avid fan of grayscale in any art form for the past 20 years (that's a rough estimate because I really have no idea) I really liked the drawings whether they depicted zombies biting someone's face off or a slow zoom out of a desolate wasteland. They were really well done and added an extra creepy element to the story like when *The Mist* released a black and white version of the movie and it made it feel a whole lot different than the boring regular old color version.

The story was also really cool and reminded me why I started watching the TV show in the first place. There are zombie attacks like crazy, but there is depth to the characters. There are emotions and desperation and

hope and fear all rolled up into the story that makes it easier to feel for this motley crew of people.

I'm excited to continue reading these and yeah yeah yeah I started the show again recently. I'm going to give it another shot and see what happens when these guys get the hell off the stupid farm.

Looking forward to it.

Nat says

This review contains ***spoilers*** for both the tv show (season 1 &2) and the graphic novel.

I absolutely loved the first two seasons of **The Walking Dead**, so I decided why not give the comic books a chance. And I was not disappointed.

This volume brought back so many memories of the show for me and reminded me of just how much I loved it— even with the jump scares.

But **The Walking Dead** doesn't only focus on the gore of killing zombies, it also explores how people deal with extreme situations and how these events **CHANGE** them.

It was certainly interesting looking back at how Rick started on his journey and how much he has changed and matured since.

But a lot of beloved old characters reappeared:
(GLENN!! CAROL!! ANDREA!!)

Oh, and Shane also appeared which reminded me of how much I **despised** him (always a fun reminder).

But then Carl shot him, which astonished me, considering that in the tv show it doesn't happen till much later.

And I don't remember a Donna from the tv show, but I wholeheartedly agreed with what she brought up:

(I did not like Lori in this story. **At all.**)

And I almost forgot how gruesome some scenes can be in **The Walking Dead**, especially when they went on the hunt for guns in Atlanta:

(I had to take a breather after that part.)

But it was interesting seeing how different the pace is compared to the tv show—that's mainly why I quit after season 5, the pace was too damn slow.

And yet this kind of made me want to continue watching the show?? But if I don't, I'll still continue on to volume 2 in this series (I hope sooner rather than later).

Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **The Walking Dead, Vol. 1, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!**

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Laurie –A Court of Books– says

"It's not the same as killing the dead ones, Daddy."

"It never should be, son."

It never should be."

I'm so glad I finally decided to read the comic! **It was so powerful to have more depth and more layers to the story**, and the comic form is as addictive as the series. It is basically the same story in both but it still gave me the feels.

I felt peace, hope and calm

I felt pain, sorrow and grief

I felt hatred, heartbreak and disappointment

It is so weird to see the character so unaware of what will happen next, **not knowing yet that the living ones will be the worst down the road**. It felt almost peaceful, putting the zombie apocalypse thing apart.

I would definitely recommend this book even though you have seen the series, and to my opinion there is no "right way" to start. Series first or comics first, I think that both are possible and they both add up to each other.

(view spoiler)

Annie says

I have to believe that readers of dystopian fiction or apocalyptic fiction harbour the belief that the world bound by the printer's ink is definitely looming; would one day come true. Or at the very least hope it does. I myself cannot stop from venturing into the implications of the dawn of the walking dead. (see what I did there? Too obvious? :/) What would I do first? Ah the possibilities! Of course the romance would strip away if such a dawn actually arrives...tut tut tut. I would possibly first have to numb the philosophical Annie and hand the gauntlet (or rather the axe) to the survivalist Annie and so, off to the nitty gritty.

The first thing that I noticed was that the artwork was black and white. For some reason this seemed natural, like before I had actually read this I had expected, even wanted this to be monochromatic. The lack of the distractions otherwise afforded by the convergence of colour provide a very clean slate for the characters to exist and the story to proceed. Indeed, the grittiness of the story would have come apart at the seams if we were to keep getting distracted by the rainbow consorts popping up.

When I started watching the Tv series, or rather let it fester in my lappie for days before I finally got down to it, sans the popcorn obviously, I was expecting it to be a zombie centric series, and it is. But the zombies, more than anything, provide the driving force and are then littered here and there. The nature of the media of course requires it to be more graphic, but in the graphic novels the zombies are relegated further into the background and the characters are pulled more into prominence. The struggle for survival is nigh!

Apparently, the world apocalypse does nothing for the division of labour, such that women still end up washing clothes and the men are out hunting. And only one woman among the group ends up mastering the gun. Pfft!

So, the apocalyptic world of Kirkman still harbours some prejudices, but it still makes for a great read. Having religiously followed the TV series since after the rocky start, and having only picked up the graphic novels to fill the void left between the EPISODES of the latest season, I was surprised to find the comics much better than the TV version. Which is saying something considering that the TV series is really, really good. And incredibly fast paced. At my snail pace too, I might end up years ahead of the series within a month! Yet to decide whether it is a good thing or a bad one. But for now Rouaugh! Ruh! Uh! Gak! will have to suffice!
