



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Predators and Prey

*Jane Espenson , Steven S. DeKnight , Drew Z. Greenberg , Jim Krueger , Doug Petrie , Georges Jeanty
(Artist) , Joss Whedon (Executive Producer)*

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Buffy's world goes awry when former-classmate-turned-vampire Harmony Kendall lands her own reality TV show, Harmony Bites, bolstering bloodsucking fiends in the mainstream. Humans line up to have their blood consumed, and Slayers, through a series of missteps, misfortunes, and anti-Slayer propaganda driven by the mysterious Twilight, are forced into hiding.

In Germany, Faith and Giles discover a town where Slayers retreat from a world that has turned against them, only to find themselves in the arms of something far worse. A rogue-Slayer faction displaces an entire Italian village, living up to their tarnished reputation as power-hungry thieves. And finally, with the help of a would-be demon lover, Dawn addresses her unfaltering insecurities.

* Collects issues #21-#25 and the short stories "Harmony Bites" and "Vampy Cat Play Friend" from MySpace Dark Horse Presents!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Predators and Prey Details

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From Reader Review **Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Predators and Prey** for online ebook

Kemper says

Buffy's adventures after the ending of the TV series continue with this volume of mostly stand-alone stories. The best idea presented yet is that former-classmate-turned-vamp Harmony has scored a TV reality show and when an inexperienced slayer botches an attempt to dust her while the cameras roll, Harmony uses it to make the media and the public believe that the vamps are just a poor persecuted minority group while Buffy and the slayers are painted as a violent cult of bigots. Hilarity ensues.

There's a lot of good satire about the public embracing the vamps that feels like Whedon and company taking some more well-deserved shots at Twilight-mania.

Michele Lee says

BtVS Season 8 Volume 5

I purchased this book.

This volume of BtVS season eight is for fans, not newcomers. It's not really a book that pushes forward the drama of Twilight, the secret anti-Slayer group that's trying to destroy every Slayer on the streets. This collection of comics serves as housekeeping, as well as character and world building asides.

Perhaps channeling the modern day popularity of shows like True Blood and the urban fantasy genre (and irony since Buffy was an establishing factor in UF's popularity) this graphic novel starts off with a frivolous-feeling tale of the vapid vampire Harmony getting a reality TV show. (Not that the story arc is vapid or frivolous, it merely reflects the qualities of Harmony herself.) While the reality show is almost on its death bed Harmony is attacked by a Slayer and all of a sudden it becomes a hit, Harmony a star and Slayers the bad guys. It fits in the greater scale of the story arc, but this wasn't how I pictured vamps coming out in the Buffy-verse. Through Harmony everything seems shallow and empty, but that is the point.

Continuing, readers will find; a story about the Asian sect of Slayers that hints at, but doesn't come close to the hilarious third book of season eight; a story of Andrew, Buffy and the growing sect of bad Slayers that reads like it's seeding all kind of future things for the series, but just barely brushes against them; a story from Faith and Giles, which is absolutely fabulous, dark disturbing and wonderful; a resolution of sorts of the magical mess up Dawn got herself into; as well as bonus snippets of Harmony's reality show and an ad for a fictional product featured in this volume.

Each of the stories are stand alone, provided you already know the characters, which is the major factor leading to this book feeling more like a themed anthology than the next book in a series. It is almost impossible to pick up Predators and Prey without knowing the previous story lines. So readers should be forewarned that this book will probably not be a satisfying read if read out of order.

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

Harmony (remember her?) gets her own reality television show. Twilight, the evil organization trying to stop the slayers, creates some seriously creepy vampire cat toys and uses Harmony's show to turn people against slayers and pro-vampire. Buffy and Andrew take on an evil sect of slayers. Giles and Faith are doing their thing, trying to help slayer outcasts. Dawn is now a doll and in the hands of some creepy guy. Volume 5 is like the middle of a season where there might be an episode here and there related to the big bad, but most of them are off the wall crazy things caused by other folks.

First of all, let's talk about Harmony. I never liked her, which I suppose is how you are supposed to feel. However, I would have been totally happy with her not coming back at all, as I am mostly just annoyed by her. If she had to come back, though, this was a good way to do it. She definitely is reality show material. I'm guessing Harmony Bites would air on MTV. No, I would not watch it.

These Twilight plot lines were pretty great, much better than the previous, to me anyway. The evil toys were just funny, in the same way that the giant Stay Puft marshmallow man at the end of Ghostbusters is. The other prong of their attack, making slayers into the bad guys in the eyes of the public, was pretty nifty as well. It definitely plays nicely off of the vampire craze, suggesting that humans are dumb enough to want to become vamps even in the Buffy-verse with the nasty forehead wrinkles and the gruesome shots of Harmony eating folks on television. Yeah, humanity!

The slayers that are out for their own profit and kicked folks off an island so they can live there do not interest me much. What saved this section was definitely Andrew. His speeches about nerdy things, while boring to Buffy and most everyone else in the comic, are almost all delightful to me. Plus, he did the classic Andrew thing where he tries to be helpful, but does so using his talent with demons, which...yeah, oops.

Giles and Faith's section was pretty boring. They didn't really accomplish anything and they don't quite seem to have a dynamic down. I am all for odd pairings, like when Buffy and Andrew went on a car drive and bonded over Daniel Craig as Bond, but Giles and Faith just are not working out.

Dawn's new incarnation is not nearly as awesome as her previous ones. A doll is just not as funny or intense as a giant or a centaur. She also does some more of the "I don't get enough attention from my sister, so I act out" stuff, which I can't stand. This ends (somewhat of a spoiler here) with her turned back to a human. Everyone knew it had to happen eventually. I'm not really sure how to feel about this, since her crazy forms were some of the best parts of this series for me. However, I am sure she can still get into ridiculous antics (and from some of the spoilers my dear friends have mentioned, she will) as a human.

Good volume overall. A couple of the sections dragged, but there were some hilarious moments and most of the plot lines were solid.

Katya says

This trade felt really rushed and disjointed. The arcs stand well enough on their own, but they don't come together into a cohesive, overall-plot-furthering story. The arc with Harmony coming out of the coffin and ending up spearheading the anti-Slayer movement makes sense as a logical reason for the general public to hate and fear the Slayers, but I don't know if it's because of the fact that we're seeing everything through

Buffy's eyes, who's removed from civilization with her Slayer army or what, but there doesn't seem to be much of a fallout from a vampire's being on a reality show. Wouldn't people be in an uproar about this? (See: True Blood.) The issue just seemed glossed over.

I did like the interaction between Buffy and Andrew, and how well the story showcased Andrew's efforts to redeem himself and integrate himself into the team. Nerd bonding, heh.

The rest of the story was rushed and inconsequential. Faith and Giles in some tiny village, fighting the remains of the Countil who is killing Slayers to protect themselves? The rogue Slayer on a tiny island in Italy, wreaking havoc? How is this relevant and how does it tie into the greater arc? And the end of Dawn's storyline was, again, rushed and seemed too easily solved. And who the hell was that Gepetto guy? No explanations? I feel like I'm watching LOST, and not in a good way.

This review is not cohesive because I'm on cold meds. That's a disclaimer.

Punk says

Graphic Novel. Meh. Harmony stars in her own vampire reality show; Latina gang member/slayer quits gang, dies anyway; Satsu and Kennedy talk about being lesbians and fight demonic stuffed animals; Andrew does some stuff while looking TOTALLY UNLIKE ANDREW SERIOUSLY JEANTY WATCH THE SHOW; Giles and Faith go somewhere -- and, dude, it's not like we have to pay Anthony Stewart Head anymore, why isn't he in more of these? -- with very serviceable pencils by Cliff Richards -- why isn't HE in more of these? -- and, finally, Dawn gets her day and the resolution of her transformation storyline.

These are all supporting character one-shots and they feel like it, not even the Dawn story managed to be satisfying, except for on an emotional level. And when did vampires become common knowledge? I absolutely missed that issue. Or was that the point of the Harmony story? All I know is these volumes would benefit from a brief "previously on" paragraph at the start. I read them one after another and I still can't keep track of all the bads.

Two stars. The dialogue's snappy, and the emotional connection between the characters still gives me the warm fuzzies, but not enough to make up for the weak story and confounding art. Jeanty can draw Andy Dick but not the Buffy crew why?

Renee Nicole says

Looks like I'm in the minority, but this was my favorite book of the season so far. It was overly silly, thanks to the Harmony storyline. But it was packed with some great humor, from more than just Xander. From vampy cats to Buffy/Andrew nerd-bonding, this was definitely a fun read.

unknown says

You remember how, when he was young and hungry and battling budgetary constraints and studio execs at every turn, George Lucas made the original Star Wars trilogy?

Then you remember how 20 years later, he had enough money and CGI to have complete control and tell whatever story he wanted and he subsequently made the prequel trilogy?

I can't remember why I brought that up.

CaseyTheCanadianLesbrarian says

Despite more occurrences of casual monosexism and the fact that all the women seem to be drawn with the same "big boobs and super tiny waist" body type, I have to say I loved this volume because it was so funny! Andrew and Harmony being their ridiculous selves. Buffy's one liners! Vampy cat stuffed animals that attack! It was also great to get a little piece of so many characters in one volume.

Brittany says

Buddyread with the Shallowreaders! Criteria: Where you go back so far that finding the banner is almost not an option!

A world where Slayers are the villains and vampires are misunderstood? This should have been a great beginning to an awesome story. Instead, it was just okay. But they can't all be mega awesome, I guess.

The beginning was cool. I liked the fact that Harmony, the ditziest of all vampires in existence, has become THE FACE for vampires everywhere. Do they want to kill you? SOMETIMES! BUT THAT'S OKAY! BECAUSE IT ISN'T ALL THE TIME! And when she's attacked on her MTV reality show, Slayers become public enemy number one.

So why did this flop? Because there wasn't enough for me. Dawn's story line of being cursed is chopped up and put to rest with the finesse of a preschooler writing a story.

"I love you Dawn," says Kenny.

"I love you, too," says Dawn. "But I boinked it out with your roommate, and that's a hurtle I can't look past. Let's be friends."

"Okay, bye bye now," says Kenny.

Um. Okay. I don't really have anything else to say about this other than there was enough action, enough wit, and awesome artwork to save this from a lower rating. Here's hoping for the next volume.

Fables&Wren says

WrensReads Review:

Guys. GUYS. GUYS!

Harmony gets her own TV show and she is like, a celebrity. This is not a drill and it is the best worst thing to happen to anyone ever and I need more.

And we get to see new faces

And Buffy does her face

And there are monsters.

In all honesty, this is getting pretty great, in not a great way. The slayers are being hunted and hated, vampires are being sympathized, and "Twilight" is still trying to stop Buffy from doing literally anything.

Whoever decided that Twilight was a good name for an evil group against *vampire* slayers.. needs a head check.

I have a feeling my heart is going to burst with anticipation.

WrensReads | Goodreads | Twitter | Instagram

I'm laughing so hard right now. Lolololol RTC.

Natalie says

In a Sentence: A great look at some of the minor characters, but the inclusion of the Harmony arc made BTVS Season 8 #5 a bit slower than normal.

My Thoughts

I have a bit of a split opinion on this installment in the series. I loved three out of the five issues ("Predators and Prey" and "Safe"), and thought one ("Swell") was mediocre. The other two issues though ("Harmonic Divergence" and "Living Doll") I found to be a bit boring.

"Harmonic Divergence" focused on Buffy's high school classmate, Harmony Kendall, who was turned into a vampire at graduation. In this issue, Harmony gets her own reality show called "Harmony Bites," which has the effect of making vampires cool and in style. With the exception of parts of the fifth season of Angel,

Harmony's character has always annoyed me, so I really didn't care for the issue that centered on her. However, the issue had value in the sense that it set up the tone of the rest of the book. Because of the increase in vampire popularity, the public opinion of Slayers starts to take a rapid slide downhill. This set-up will be important in the fourth issue, "Safe."

The second issue, "Swell," takes us to Japan, where we get to revisit Sansu, who is leading the Slayer cell there while trying to get over her love for Buffy. We even get a surprise visit from Kennedy, who is sent to check in on the girls. While I enjoyed the character development of both Kennedy and Sansu, the "Big Bad" of the issue was a bit ridiculous: mind controlling vampire-kitty stuffed animals. Seriously?

The third issue, "Predators and Prey," was probably my favorite. It focuses a lot on the character of Andrew--a character who's been steadily growing on me since Season 7 of Buffy. Buffy and Andrew take a trip to visit a group of "bad" rogue slayers, led by a mohawked, gun-wielding chick named Simone. On the plane ride over, Buffy and Andrew have this cute bonding moment over their shared love of Daniel Craig. However, Andrew makes a bit of an "oops" involving experimental demon DNA and a giant Ragna demon, which makes him desperate to prove his value to Buffy. The rest of the issue focuses on Andrew's insecurities. He really values the home he's found with Buffy and the gang, as well as the sense of purpose it's given him. However, he still feels like he has to prove himself, mainly to make up for his past. My favorite part of the entire book was the following scene, which was a huge turning point for Andrew:

"Buffy: Look, Andrew. You were willing to sacrifice yourself to save innocent people. For a greater good. That's huge for you. You should be proud."

Andrew: But you were right. I lied to you."

Buffy: Yeah, you're part of the family. Get used to screwing up for good reasons, it's what we do."

Andrew: I'm part of the family? ...(smiles)"

In "Safe," we get to see the return of Faith and Giles. The primary problem in this issue is that some of the Slayers (and in Giles' case, Watchers) are finding it harder and harder to find a reason to keep up the good fight. As Duncan Fillworthe, one of the two remaining (former) members of the Watchers' Council tells Giles (the other member):

"The vampires SLAUGHTERED us! EVERY ONE! And for WHAT?! For giving counsel to the girls who REJECTED us! Your Buffy. Think of what SHE's done to you. I remember when the teacher died. The one you loved. She died because Buffy ignored you and loved a vampire. Jenny Calendar? Do you remember HER, Rupert?"

Aww...poor Giles! Of course he remembers Jenny. How could he not?

"Living Doll" centers around Dawn, and while the Dawn parts kind of bored me (not because of Dawn, but because of the situation she was in), there was some great interaction between Buffy and Xander as well. Not to mention they threw in a reference to Veronica Mars, which has recently become one of my favorite shows of all time! Here are a few of my favorite Xander lines:

"Buffy: I mean, look at me. Who dresses like Wolverine for fun?"

Xander: Certainly not me. Any proof you've seen to the contrary could have easily been photoshopped. And besides, I was drunk."

And then there's this one...

"Buffy: How can I not know this?"

Xander: (Face-palm) It cannot be because I just told you because I would never do that. Bugger.

Xander:...Hey, check me out. Now I can hate myself in British."

Wow. I kind of went crazy on this review, didn't I? Well, overall, this issue's definitely worth reading, even if you have to skip the Harmony and Dawn parts. If nothing else, read "Predators and Prey" and "Safe," because I promise you, they'll be worth your time!

Calista says

This Volume reminded me of those quirky wonderful moments in the show. There were so many moments in here that would have made this a favorite episode of mine.

The whole thing with Harmony in here is ridiculous and it so work. I'm sure reality TV would love Harmony bites if it was a thing. It can turn anything upside down. Look who's president. This part of the story with the media and entertainment seems to have been a little prophetic. It is directly talking about the mess we are in now.

The best moment of the entire volume is the road trip that Buffy and Andrew take. That was like the ultimate moment. Andrew goes on his Andrew tangent about pop culture and they finally realize they have some geek love to share. Daniel Craig. Indeed. Really, why hasn't Andrew come out yet. They have plenty of lesbian regulars and no gay regular. It's time Andrew came out of the closet. Hello.

I'm glad Faith and her story are continuing on. She and Giles are making a fantastic team up. We also find out that there are slayers out there that aren't party of the Buffy pact and they have gone rogue. Dawn's story is finally resolved, although, we never see that Dawn was kidnapped until she is a doll. That was rather abrupt. Oh well.

This is really getting good and I think it has found it's voice in the new medium and the story is really cooking now. I am looking forward to where this is all going to go.

Virginia Books says

2.5 For these six little stories, all of them connected among them but all of them also a little meh. That pretty much describes this fifth volume. I'm rounding up because it's Buffy and I think that, overall, it's unfair giving it less than 3 stars.

Part one: Introduction by **Harmony** and a reality show where she bites random willingly people and tells the audience (yes, she has an audience) how slayers are the great evil after nazis (and I'm quoting here).

Part two: Fluffy stuffed demonic kitties. Literally. Nothing to say about it. Even with the gay squad there, not appealing enough.

Part 3: (The best—humor related— but still didn't wow me) **Buffy and Andrew** goes to Italy and Andrew talks about Galactica and "fat Lee", and that was hilarious.

All the nerdy talk and references were funny but that's all.

Part 5: Faith I love you so much, girl. Best short story in this volume.

Part 6: it starts like those crappy episodes that series like Fringe, Supernatural... and wth, Buffy, have in every season, the ones you want to skip because you know nothing is gonna happen. But surprisingly I ended up liking it. Meh but ok.

And it ends how it started, with Harmony. Not my favorite vampire in the world but it has some Clem and I liked that guy. Do you remember Clem?

In a sense, Predators and Prey has the scent of Watchmen, that "who watches the Watchmen" thing and that part, the essence, I loved but it was weak in a lot of things so nope, not my favorite in this season, the worst for me indeed.

Anyways, I'm jumping into the next one crossing my fingers and as eager as I start every single volumen. This is my Buffy after all.

Reviews for Book Lovers

Cathy says

Just kind of lame. Not confusing like the last one, but not emotional or particularly funny like the first few. It was like one of the forgettable episodes, pleasant but not significant. The plot change introduced by Harmony having a reality show and vamps becoming popular, therefore Slayers being seen as the evil enemy, is interesting and will probably figure into the next set of comics. But this set were all shallow. And cheesy - suddenly Batman actions sounds abound: Thok, Thomp, krak, Clunk, Thnk, Shhirk. That's just in the first comic in the book. And the art was sub-par as well. It was fine, enjoyable to some degree, but not

memorable.

James DeSantis says

These are basically just one shot stories throughout this volume. Felt like each issue or so was a episode of Buffy. So what does that mean? Some are better than others.

We have the whole dawn situation finally wrapped up in this volume. We also have Buffy sending one of her top Slayers to check up on a division in Tokyo, which leads to a lot of lesbian yelling (No really, they argue and complain about lesbian stuff I'm not being sexist) and then there's also story with Faith and Giles. Oh yeah, and remember the fancy annoying vampire Spike hooked up with? Harmony somehow got the bright idea to turn the world against slayers and love vampires...yep it happened.

Good: The storyline with Giles and Faith is pretty solid. Little predictable but something about faith in comic form is really well done. I also enjoyed Dawn storyline getting wrapped up and was wondering how long they could extend it. But it was well done and Dawn is back to being a regular girl.

Bad: The storyline with character's checking in, and dealing with the lesbian crush on buffy and sleeping with her wasn't all that interesting or fun and went on too long. I also thought the Harmony twist was kind of...dumb.

Overall it's a uneven volume. While not great, but not horrible, it stands to have a few good scenes in each issue worth reading. Hopefully series gets back on track soon. A 3 out of 5.
