



B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 3: Russia

Mike Mignola (Writer) , John Arcudi (Writer) , Tyler Crook (Illustrator) , Duncan Fegredo (Illustrator)

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A graveyard of mutated horror is uncovered deep inside a Russian mine. With Liz still missing and Abe Sapien lying on his deathbed, the newly international B.P.R.D. sends Kate and Johann to meet the Russian equivalent of the Bureau - which readers first saw in B.P.R.D.: 1946 - and face an exploding fungus monster at the Kremlin and a spreading contagion.

B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 3: Russia Details

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Author : Mike Mignola (Writer) , John Arcudi (Writer) , Tyler Crook (Illustrator) , Duncan Fegredo (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 3: Russia for online ebook

Sesana says

I think I would have liked this far better if it hadn't had such a focus on Johann. He simply isn't my favorite recurring character. It probably would have helped if I'd already read Abe Sapien, Vol. 2: The Devil Does Not Jest and Other Stories, where the Russian Iosif first showed up. That said, the zombie construction force is very creepy, and there's some good visuals. I'm starting to wonder where Mignola and company think this is going, if anywhere in particular.

Brandon St Mark says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars.

Pretty good story. I think the Epilogue and Johann's new suit are the best things about this volume tho. And damn, Bruno, dick move.

Sam Quixote says

Kate Corrigan and Johann head to Russia to investigate the strange case of dead people coming to life, not harming anyone, but building something in an old abandoned factory. Going down beneath the surface, Johann discovers a sinister foe he's encountered before regenerating and about to launch an attack on the unsuspecting Russian people...

BPRD continues to be an interesting blend of X-Files and HP Lovecraft as their strange agents go toe to toe with even stranger enemies. The overall storyline receives some small space here with Devon catching up with Fenix, but the focus is on the events in Russia. There's a new villain introduced in this volume, Iosif, whose origin story can be found in "Abe Sapien: The Devil Does Not Jest and Other Stories" so snap that up before picking up this book if you're going for the full picture.

"Russia" is a decent effort from Mignola and co. as the BPRD trundle along in this new story arc of survival in a newly endangered Earth swarming with all manner of creepy crawlies and things that go bump in the night. It isn't the best in the series so far and it could've been more exciting in parts (Johann's not the most interesting protagonist) but the writers need to change the formulaic plots they give the BPRD, not the "one monster in one place at a time" scenario that seems to be every BPRD book. Here's hoping future storylines are a lot more imaginative.

Koen Claeys says

Another great volume !

Action, adventure & horror served alongside fascinating story developments leave me wanting more.

Tyler Crook takes over art duties from Guy Davis and he does a very good job at filling those big shoes.

Canavan says

★★★

Ryan says

Recommended only if you are not easily depressed. New characters are introduced and then brutally slain. Existing characters all have very bad things happen to them. The only character benefiting from all this is already a ghost. Oh we'll, I guess it's not interesting if they were to all just hang out and eat cereal together. New regular artist Tyler Crook is settling well into the characters.

Artemy says

Another perfectly solid volume full of thrills and interesting plot twists. The depiction of Russia was laughable, but I won't go into that again, oh no I won't.

WHY DO THEY ALL SPEAK ENGLISH SO WELL

Gerardo says

Quando l'universo di Hellboy torna all'ispirazione iniziale, cioè unire esoterismo a forze militari dal gusto un po' vintage, come quelle post-sovietiche, raggiunge sempre risultati eccellenti. In più, qui il protagonista è Krauss: uno dei personaggi più riusciti di tutta la serie.

Garrett says

Kate learns what happened to Hellboy and a badass new Russian character assists the BPRD. I have a feeling he is going to be the main villain of the series. But damn that unmarked grave story hit me so hard in the feels.

Otherwyrd says

Kate Corrigan and Johann Krauss travel to Russia to meet their Paranormal counterparts, but they find strange things afoot in the Russian countryside. Their director is a very strange creature indeed, but he seems to have an affinity with Johann that could mean trouble for the B.P.R.D. We also get a hint about what happened to Russian child-demon Varvara, who we last saw in the book 1948. Meanwhile, Abe Sapien still lies critically injured after being shot in the last volume - though he seems to be recovering, he is **changing** and not in a good way. In an epilogue, Kate travels to a devastated England, and learns of the final fate of Hellboy.

This is a placeholder review until I can fill in some of the gaps in my reading. The review and the rating may change after a reread.

Peter Derk says

Did I think I'd ever read a comic book where the best character is a sentient cloud of steam? Yes. But I'm a fuckin' visionary, so if you didn't expect it, don't beat yourself up.

There's this thing that happens in horror that I love, which is the reveal of a character that, to be sensitive, I'd call "real fucked up." Of course, we get a Russian zombie man in a sort of diving suit here, and there's nothing I like more than the reveal of that shit.

Show me a closed door, tell me "the boss is back there," and maybe indicate that you'll be sickened by seeing the boss? I'm yours.

Brendan says

Interesting direction for the series but I'm still not sold on the way this series has been treading water. The book gives us an idea on the direction for this series and it could lead to something very different. I enjoyed the Russian bureau introduction and the shady characters who inhabit that world.

James says

A great volume continuing the post-apocalyptic troubles for the BPRD universe. As the title indicates, some members of the team head off to Russia in this installment, teaming up with the shadowy "Special Sciences Service" to investigate a crisis of psychic possession and the living dead.

That's naturally a good fit for "spiritualist in a bag Johann Kraus," who's already dead and conveniently immune to possession. Over the course of this series, he leads a Russian commando team on what's basically a suicide mission to eliminate a big, nasty monster before it can gain a firm foothold on our planet.

The action is exciting. We have a commando team facing off against the supernatural and being utterly overwhelmed from the start. Writer Mike Mignola keeps the pace exciting as the squad is picked off one by one. There's drama on the outside too as the BPRD and their Russian counterparts wrestle over how much to trust one another--and how much to keep secret. In the end, Krauss seems to be another key BPRD player moving out of the team's orbit, and a late reveal leaves us wondering who the bad guys really are.

This volume also contains a one-issue story where BPRD leader Kate Horrigan heads off to England to essentially recap how the latest development in Hellboy's storyline. The bulk of the issue consists of two characters talking on a park bench, and Duncan Fegredo's illustration of Kate is unrecognizable and frankly distracting. But while this throw-in makes for a weak epilogue (with one key moment), the main story is a winner.

Spencer says

A really enjoyable volume which brings together a lot of plot lines from the Mignolaverse. The art is fantastic, the writing is excellent... but I must say that I'm really starting to dislike Johann

Paul E. Morph says

Another really good volume of BPRD. I love Tyler Crook's artwork; it's a good fit for this title. The stakes were high and it was great to see the return of Iosif from the Abe Sapien solo title.

The main reason I'm not giving this one full marks is because the pacing seemed off somehow, with the narrative hopping around to different locations with no real sense of flow. It didn't spoil the story, though, by any means.
