



The Walking Dead, Vol. 20: All Out War, Part 1

Robert Kirkman , Charlie Adlard (Illustrations) , Cliff Rathburn (Illustrator)

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The biggest storyline in Walking Dead history starts here! It's Rick versus Negan with a little help from everyone else! Collects issues #115-120.

The Walking Dead, Vol. 20: All Out War, Part 1 Details

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Author : Robert Kirkman , Charlie Adlard (Illustrations) , Cliff Rathburn (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Walking Dead, Vol. 20: All Out War, Part 1 for online ebook

Randy says

All this war stuff makes you almost forget about, you know, the zombies everywhere.

Alejandro says

The war finally started

This is the third volume of "The Walking Dead", collecting the comic book issues from #115 to #120.

Creative Team:

Writer: Robert Kirkman

Illustrators: Charlie Adlard

Additional gray tones to inking: Cliff Rathburn

Chapter Twenty

ALL OUT WAR – PART ONE

...I believe in Rick Grimes.

It was odd that the war is easily the weakest part since the introduction of the Saviours.

Maybe because, Negan started to make clumsy mistakes in his strategies against Rick's group. And you aren't used to see Negan making mistakes that illogical.

That's the problem when you are presented with a villain, larger than life, complicated, hard-to-predict, and...

...suddenly he is shown as just another member of human race, able to err like anybody else.

So, the pillar where you have that character is shaking a bit.

That's the impossible dilemma.

You want that good guys save the day but also you don't want that the villain would loss his garbo.

So, as the saying tells...

...nobody truly wins in a war.

Melki says

"I know none of us are soldiers..but until this is over...let's keep that to ourselves."

So, Rick basically says, "Mr. Negan, tear down this wall!" When Negan offers up a rather impolite response, it's time for the bullets to start a-flyin' !

Yup, the action heats up quickly in this one.

Rick has a well-thought-out plan. It certainly *seems* like they stand a chance. But, war is war and there will be plenty of casualties. And it's a strange war indeed when the dead prove to be your allies.

Once again, the gullibility of Rick's tribe is infuriating. I'm an idiot and I saw Negan's secret weapon coming a mile away. Why didn't they? **ARGHHHHH!!!**

But...if Jesus is willing to follow YOU, you must be doing something right... right?

Drew The Reviewer says

I've decided that The Walking Dead will probably be my #1 favorite graphic novel series of all time. The storytelling in this is better than most books. This war storyline between Rick and Negan is remarkable.

Chris says

Honestly, this was my least favorite book of the series so far. It had its moments, but it felt forced in places. In others I struggled with the artwork and narrative because the story seemed to jump abruptly. I even had to turn back and make sure I hadn't skipped a page a couple of times.

Still good, but not of the same quality as earlier entries. I'm hoping that since it's a "part 1", much of what's lacking will be made up for in the "part 2".

Raeleen Lemay says

I really enjoyed this volume! Excited to read part two of this war story arc.

(Side note: Negan made an Arrested Development reference and I really appreciated that lol)

Sam Quixote says

When superhero comics do purely fight stories, they tend to be pretty terrible (like Marvel's AVX or DC's Trinity War), but when The Walking Dead does it? Home run!

Maybe it's because Robert Kirkman's built up the characters over so long that we now care about them, or maybe it's because the characters aren't decades-old superheroes who will never die. Maybe it's a more tense situation as Kirkman's shown that he has no issues with taking out major characters to shake up a story.

Or maybe it's because the story is more realistic – if a character gets shot, they go down, they don't keep going because they don't have superpowers. I think it's because we all know Rick's going to kill Negan and we're waiting for that moment to come. At any rate, The Walking Dead's latest and greatest storyline featuring a very small scale war between Rick's group and Negan's is completely engrossing.

Kirkman wastes no time in sending Rick out to formally declare war by striking first against Negan's factory, and from then on the rest of the book follows how Rick's forces fare against Negan's outposts, the two characters pitting their tactics against one another in a desperate fight to the death. Lots of characters die followed with lots of twists and turns – I don't want to give away details but I thought Kirkman's plotting was absolutely first rate. I especially liked how Rick uses the zombies as tools in his plans!

The "Part 1" of the title might annoy some readers who were looking to see this conflict resolved in one volume, like when the Governor attacked the prison earlier in the series, but Negan has proved to be a more resilient and complex character than the Governor who won't go down so easily. Plus this conflict is a much larger and more ambitious story than any other attempted so far and Kirkman crams in so many awesome set pieces that there's no way this could be a done-in-one story.

Even though Kirkman skims over certain plot obstacles for those surprise moments when characters seemingly pop out of nowhere, there's still so much happening in this book that you need at least one more volume to do the arc justice. And really, when you hit a rich narrative vein like this, why would you want it over sooner rather than later? Especially when things get turned up to 11 in the final act when Negan reveals a secret weapon that completely changes the balance of the war in his favour...

Jesus continues to be awesome in his action hero role, I love that Maggie's playing a bigger role, Rick continues to flourish as a leader, now assuming the role of military commander, and Negan continues to baffle with his behaviour – he doesn't condone rape but he doesn't blink when it comes to murdering his own people? What a bizarre morality he has! I can't nail down his character nor guess what he's about to do next which is a big part of his appeal.

All Out War Part 1 is a fantastic read – it's all killer, no filler and longtime readers of the series will love it. It's blisteringly paced and you'll fly through this in one sitting, wishing you had the next volume to hand immediately after (and if you're reading this in the future, grab all parts of All Out War and read it as one!). Totally thrilling stuff, the series is at its best the more Rick and co. are up against it and never before have they been in more trouble than with evil Fonzie at their gates - 20 volumes in and the series has never been more exciting!

Mike says

The art is still terrible. Blasé, scrawled during action sequences, generic acting on the faces, and dimly lit.

The action is better - when it's ramping up I'm turning pages fast - partly to get past the garbage dialogue (especially the horrendous bile that comes out of Negan's mouth - no one needs to savour that, no matter how "real" Kirkman tells himself it is, it's still shit coming out of *his* head).

But when the action slows down it's a chore to read - or downright mystifying.

Once in a while Kirkman gets Adlard to do a big double-page spread. I just never know why. The Maggie moment is the most random, less-meaningful-than-they'd-like nonsense.

War strategizing yadda yadda... people dying yadda yadda... we see people affected by war in unexpected ways blah blah blah... I'm sure Kirkman's written this script before, or he's cribbing from Band of Brothers or the History Channel.

I'm just skimming though this - I couldn't care less about who's who (not that I can tell from the art or remember these Generic Dial-o-Matic characters from previous books) or why any of them have any motives. When one dude cries and says, "not until every last one of those motherfuckers is DEAD", I had not one fuck to give.

This is just too damned predictable. The specific actions take by specific people aren't (least of all Negan, to a fault - I'm sure Kirkman is just rolling dice to guess what he should do with this villain, in the name of unpredictability - which just turns him into a dude who has no character), but nearly every beat of the plot is coming at scheduled intervals.

Surprise attack? Yawn. Somebody important dies? Yeah. "Cliffhanger" where the town is in danger? Uh-huh.

At least the TV show has a sliver of colour, even if the dialogue is much worse.

Thank dogs for my public library. Can you believe in the city of Portland, there are 67 people with a reserve on the next volume of this book? Idiots. At least they're not functionally illiterate though. Many of my fellow Shallow Readers might not be so lucky.

Becky says

Well I totally called the returnee's state of return... Though I wasn't sure if it would take place. I thought that would cause the most panic. Sorta right... The grenades were a nice touch.

I actually think that Negan believes his line about being the saviors... That it's not just for show and free stuff. Interesting.

The war rages on... Gotta get back.

Gabby says

Holy shit this volume wasn't kidding about the "All Out War" title. This volume was nothing but bloody, insane war. It was action packed and intense and I loved it. I love how fierce Rick is in this volume. H'es finally taking control and being a true leader again. I keep thinking Negan can't possibly get any worse and

every single volume is proving me wrong.

SPOILERS BELOW

I thought Negan was actually a pretty decent guy when he stopped Holly from being raped. That surprised me because I didn't think he would actually stop it, and he killed the guy who tried to rape her. But then he becomes even more monstrous as he pulls up to the gates of Alexandria. I think Rick's plan was great, they pulled up at Negan's place and cause enough loud gunfire for a ton of walkers to storm the place and then they left, leaving them trapped. That was sad when Shiva the tiger died, but it was so funny when Michonne called Ezekiel a pussy. Then Negan pulls right up to the gates of Alexandria like the governor did at the prison and he has Holly tied up with a bag over her head. I knew right away she was a walker and I was like what the fuck? Why wouldn't they think that? Then Holly bites Denise's arm and Negan begins his attack and starts throwing grenades over the fences. Then Heath loses his leg in an explosion and Denise knows it's too late to save her so she decides to spend the time she has left saving everyone else. I love that Dwight is actually on Rick's side and he killed some of Negan's men and gave Jesus the rest of his grenades. Poor freaking Carl, as if this kid hasn't been through enough, gets blasted by one of the grenades and it burns half of his face. He's a tough kid man. Negan is so crazy how he constantly mentions his dick being "so hard" at the sight of all this destruction. He wants to wrap barbed wire around it and call it "Lucille 2" like what kind of crazy fuck thinks that way? Ugh, he's disgusting. He makes my skin crawl. I don't really understand what the fuck happened to Rick at the end of this volume..? He just kind of fell when he was talking to Andrea and Maggie.. Like did he get shot or something? I don't know what happened. Negan see's all the smoke and he thinks they won. But this is only part 1 of "All Out War" so I'm excited to see what happened next.

Sesana says

Look, everybody! It's forward momentum in the story! I kid, but only a little. Finally, we have the direct confrontation between Negan and his Saviors and Rick and everybody else. Plenty of action, and plenty of deaths. Of course. Negan remains as frightening and fascinating as before, which is good. I think I may be getting tired of most of the rest of these people. I really hope that this is building up to Kirkman's grand finale on the series, because I'd much rather that he go out explosively than drag this out much longer.

Nicole Alycia says

Loved all the action in this one! Can't wait to see what's in store in Part 2!

Jeff says

The library finally got a copy of The Walking Dead, Volume 20: All Out War Part 1 in stock. Was it worth the wait?

In a word: No!

First, take a look at the title. It says Part 1. Which means nothing much gets resolved and Kirkman is playing the old dithering, meandering game. The one where nothing happens. The plot just spins around on its axis. It's the same game I play with my wife when she asks me to do some sort of "important" chore around the house.

Wife: Honey, could you please do (insert any mind numbing chore you can think of here)?

Me: I'll get right on it.

I take a look at what needs to be done. I grab something to eat. Take a nap. Get up from my nap and play Skyrim.

As I'm playing Skyrim, my wife interrupts the game:

Wife (with a little more insistence): Have you done (mind-numbing-waste-of-time-chore) yet?

Me: I'll have it done soon

Wife (skeptical): Of course you will. I need it done today.

Me: On it.

I again take a look at what needs to be done and play another half hour of Skyrim. My son comes into the room; we make lunch and play Soul Calibur. Unless I play Voldo and my son plays the worst character in the game, I get my ass handed to me. Weary from all this, I take a nap.

My wife shakes me awake and asks if I'm done with the (insert expletive, expletive chore here).

She's angry, but not to the breaking point yet. I go into the kitchen and look for something to eat. She follows me into the kitchen and has that look in her eyes. The one which says she's about to weaponize whatever's in her reach, like the dude from The Eiger Sanction. I get scared (just like Rick in this very volume) and acquiesce and do the (insert name of god-forsaken chore here).

Yeah, The Walking Dead is like that. Spin those plot wheels, baby! Plus, Kirkman has killed off the only interesting element he's added recently – (view spoiler). He's also added a new game changing plot device - (view spoiler). Yawn.

I think Kirkman should take a page from the MASH books. Make The Walking Dead a travelogue. With Zombies. The Walking Dead Goes to Maine. The Walking Dead Goes to Las Vegas. The Walking Dead Goes to London. The Walking Dead Goes to Khartoum. With zombies. Hijinks ensue.

Sarah says

[SHIVA!!!! I knew that tiger was going to die, I just knew it and it still broke

Artemy says

Okay, that shit was pretty cool. Aside from a few minor Kirkmanian cringe-worthy moments (I BELIEVE IN RICK GRIMES double pager comes to mind), this was an awesome volume of TWD. Didn't think I would ever say that.

