



# The Middleman: The Collected Series

## Indispensability

*Javier Grillo-Marxuach , Les McClaine (Illustrator) , Jon Siruno (Assistant)*

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The three volumes of The Middleman--basis of the TV show on ABC Family this summer--is now offered in one explosive tome. They tell the complete story of Wendy Watson--art student turned crime-fighter for the world's most absurdly secretive organization--who battles monsters, aliens, and talking primates.

### The Middleman: The Collected Series Indispensability Details

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Author : Javier Grillo-Marxuach , Les McClaine (Illustrator) , Jon Siruno (Assistant)

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## From Reader Review The Middleman: The Collected Series Indispensability for online ebook

### Cristina says

Almost at the end of this fine comic series and I can't stop from being saddened. I first saw the tv series on ABC Family, thought it had a comic book feel and lo and behold it was a comic book! Same on ABC for cancelling the show for it captured the voice of the comic so effortlessly! The story, comic or tv, had both whimsy and edge, and amazing dialogue (bravo for the actors who had to say it!).

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### Sunil says

*The Collected Series Indispensability* contains all three volumes of *The Middleman* so far, and it's definitely worth checking out. There are some minor differences that may cause a little cognitive dissonance, but nothing huge. Wendy is Caucasian with red hair rather than Cuban with black hair, the Middleman is blond, and Noser is white. There's less Lacey and no Tyler. But other than that, the first volume (*The Trade Paperback Imperative*) is almost word-for-word, shot-for-shot the pilot, and the second volume (*The Second Volume Inevitability*) is almost identical to "The Sino-Mexican Revelation." There are still some great lines and moments that didn't make it into the show, however (at least one because the show is quite clearly—and endearingly—low-budget). It's pretty neat to see the episodes in comic form (their original form!), as it gives you even more appreciation for the people bringing them to life on TV. Unsurprisingly, the show is very much in the spirit of its source material, given that Javi is behind both.

The third volume (*The Third Volume Inescapability*), however, is where it's at, as it's a story we haven't yet seen on the show (although one line/moment did appear in modified form last week), and I'm anxiously awaiting the integration of some of the elements of that storyline into the show, if it lasts. Obviously, reading the third volume may spoil you for the show, but it's a good story. It's a good comic overall, actually, as it doesn't adhere to any one panel structure, simply using the medium however is best to tell the story.

You even get "The Alternate Ending Paradoxicality!" Which is...what it sounds like. It features, um, well...I won't tell you what it features because it must be seen to be believed.

Finally, you get *Legends of the Middleman*, which is a few stories—drawn by different artists—featuring the adventures of Middlemen past. They're very amusing, and I think they're basically AU since they break continuity and they're too ridiculous (yes, even for this comic) to be true.

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### Willow Redd says

How can you not love the Middleman? It's the kind of story that mixes the best of classic comics, 60's Batman kitsch, Men in Black, Hellboy, and the pulps of the 30's and 40's. It's brilliant!

Here we have the first three collected volumes; featuring monkeys with guns, lab-created tentacle beasts, an army of masked wrestlers, and the return of the Middleman's arch-nemesis. Add to that a collection of new tales exploring the very curious history of the Middleman through history, a cover gallery, and a pin-up gallery and we have The Collected Series Indispensability.

Absolutely a blast to read, my only real issue is that I wish there was more! Although I have ordered the TV series box set to get more Middleman in my life for the moment.

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### **James says**

I loved the short-lived series "The Middleman," a send-up of classic superhero tropes and other popular culture. So I sought out the comics on which it was based. Two of the three stories were familiar as they became actual episodes (although the comic has a bit more adult humor). Fun and entertaining.

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### **Ali says**

This was way more charming than I remembered from my first reading several years ago. I really enjoyed the sharp humour and silliness (one thing that stands out for me in particular is in the scene with all the luchadores, which also includes Wally/Waldo and Fozzie Bear in the crowd).

I didn't like the alternate ending or the Middleman-through-the-ages snippets at the end, which maybe soured the overall experience for me the first time around. The comics themselves are delightful.

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### **Lisa says**

I loved the TV show so I loved the comic. Just a fun read. :)

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### **Michelle Morrell says**

Wendy Watson is a typical struggling artist when a close call with a disaster of comic book proportions brings her to the attention of The Middleman, who ropes her into being his assistant and Middleman in training. Clever writing and bizarre situations ensue.

This came to my attention thanks to the woefully short-lived tv series. I actually like the series better than the comics, but both are a fun ride.

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### **Sheldon Wiebe says**

Saving the world from evil so you don't have to!

The graphic novel that was adapted from an unsold television pilot script and then adapted for television when the graphic novel was successful.

A great ride in which Wendy Watson - struggling artist and temp worker - is threatened by an unimaginable experiment gone wrong; maintains her cool, and becomes sidekick to The Middleman, a gosh-all-heck-gee-whiz-to-pieces, honest to goodness righter of wrongs and hi-tech superhero (because all those villains you

read about in comics? ARE REAL!).

Great fun!

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## **Ben says**

I picked this up because I had seen the TV series and was a big fan. The TV series was goofy and fun, about an employee for a secret organization and his sidekick who are called in to investigate aliens, the supernatural and anything else out of the ordinary. It's a bit like the X-Files, but with the emphasis on the corny and fun, rather than the serious and creepy.

This collection contains three limited series and several stand alone issues. The first two limited series were remade almost directly as episodes of the TV show. The third however, goes in a darker direction than the TV show, which remained light throughout it's short run. The one big difference is that the level of violence and carnage is a little higher and more explicit than the TV show (but I guess that's what you get for having the show on ABC Family). The third collection ends on a bit of a cliffhanger that was never resolved. Or at least not so far.

The stand alone issues show various Middlemen in different time periods.

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## **Erikka says**

Dubby, if you're reading this, you probably have either seen or heard of the painfully short-lived and amazing Middleman TV show. If you enjoyed that show, dig into the comic that started it all.

Volume one is literally verbatim the first episode, "The Pilot Episode Sanction." Like, it's the script set to comics. There's nothing I can say in a review to elucidate that point. And since that was a great starter episode for a series, it was also a fun read.

Volume two is pretty much "The Sino-Mexican Revelation", introducing the lovely and amazing Sensei Ping. It also includes my favorite aspect of that episode: the time being told in different time zones, real or fictional. I thought that was hilarious.

Volume three introduces us to Manservant Neville who is damn near identical to Mark Sheppard (casting applauded). The rest is a smattering people and organizations that appear throughout the series (a great deal shows up in the "Obsolescent Cryogenic Meltdown"), plus an interesting storyline regarding the Middleman's nemesis. There's also a twist surprise ending that the show unfortunately did not survive long enough to get to. It would have been amazing.

Finally, there's an additional ending that was added after publication that expands on the story in volume three. It's exactly the kind of ending readers want when the story ends and leaves you craving more. It's like...dessert. It's word dessert. With pictures. And Soviet bears. And a roughly alternate-universe Middleman-looking Wendy from "the Palindrome Reversal Palindrome." Also, a small section at the end has Ida tell us about Middlemen of the past, which was kinda swell (and vaguely familiar...).

This was pretty awesome and totally worth reading if you enjoy the TV show.

I'm signing off now, Dubby. Take care and remember our motto: fighting evil, so you don't have to"

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### **Alan says**

I wanted to go to the source material for the ABC Family network show that I had seen so many positive reviews for. Do I think its great? No, but it is a pleasant read, and I found more enjoyment with the last installment that told tales of The Middleman in different settings (sword & sorcery, steampunk and WWII). If you like MIB (both the movie and the comic that spawned it) you'll likely enjoy this. Also, a little more time is spent trying to develop the characters than MIB the comic did.

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### **Pj says**

Okay. Like several of the others listed here, I came to this through the short lived TV series. The first two parts were word for word translated to the screen so it is only through the minor differences in character and the final third that the books contains things new. I wonder if other fans may miss things invented for the show. (Although it would be almost impossible to render in print I wanted the energy drink \*\*\*\* to be in the book.) That said, it's still a real hoot. This belongs to the rare area of comics that seem to have remembered to have fun. Short lived in print and on screen - but worth visiting again and again.

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### **Elizabeth says**

After watching the TV series "The Middleman," I knew that I really wanted to read the comic book it was based on. Most of the storylines in this collected omnibus of all of the comic books were later used in the series, but I enjoyed seeing them again in comic book form with some additional material (and some special effects that are easier to draw than create for television). As a fan of the television series, it is fun to see how the concept of the characters and storylines either stayed the same or changed due to casting and other creative decisions. There are also some panels of art that were so fun that I want to photocopy them and hang them on the wall. THE MIDDLEMAN comic books feels a lot like the television series -- a fun, witty story that does not take itself too seriously and yet has a big heart. Especially for anyone who is a major fan of the television series, I feel this volume is truly indispensable.

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### **Timothy Nichols says**

Geeky and hilarious. Well worth the time.

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### **Cat Herine says**

My first introduction to the Middleman was through the sadly short-lived series on ABC Family (RIP to both). This comic is a compilation of three volumes, the first two of which later became episodes on the show.

There are some differences, such as minor dialogue changes and most notably race lifts for characters like Wendy and Noser. These changes merely improve an already great premis, and add more depth to the show.

The comic is wacky and fun, making for a light read. It does get progressively darker by the third volume though (I'm looking at you, Middleboy), with the ending leaving on a cliffhanger.

The addition of assorted AUs penned by different authors was interesting to read, but I wish they had been able to sneak another volume.

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