



The Serpent's Heir

Dean DeBlois , Richard L. Hamilton , Doug Wheatley (Artist) , Wes Dzioba (Colorist) , Pierre-Olivier Vincent (Cover Artist)

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Picking up just after the events in *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, Hiccup, Astrid, and company are called upon to assist the people of an earthquake-plagued island. But their lives are imperiled by a madman and an incredible new dragon who even Toothless—the alpha dragon—may not be able to control!

* Dragons writer, director, and producer Dean DeBlois is coplotting these stories.

* Stories tie in to the upcoming 2019 film.

The Serpent's Heir Details

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Author : Dean DeBlois , Richard L. Hamilton , Doug Wheatley (Artist) , Wes Dzioba (Colorist) , Pierre-Olivier Vincent (Cover Artist)

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From Reader Review The Serpent's Heir for online ebook

Lance Shadow says

In honor of the arrival of the 5th season of Dreamworks Dragons: Race to the Edge, I give you my review of a comic that I have been dying to read ever since I knew of its existence. Here's How to Train Your Dragon: The Serpent's Heir!

I kriffing LOVE the How to Train Your Dragon movies. The first How To Train Your Dragon film is a great example of a movie that despite following nearly every cliché you can think of, the execution is so good that you barely even notice. How To Train Your Dragon 2 is just phenomenal. It's my favorite animated movie sequel by far and my favorite movie sequel period only behind Empire Strikes Back.

While my favorite fictional world is and always will be Star Wars, How To Train Your Dragon is a pretty close second, and the next favorite for me would be a distant third.

And the music by John Powell? BRILLIANT. Primal, transcendent, phenomenal, some of the best music that has ever been written for film. Right up there with John Williams. Because of that I find John Powell to be a highly underrated composer. Oh and the whole thing of him composing for the Han Solo movie coming out next year? I just about had a heart attack when I heard that happening. I have listened to the How To Train Your Dragon scores both while watching the movies and just on its' own so many times. Part of what makes How To Train Your Dragon so kriffing amazing is definitely the music. It never gets praised enough.

And the TV series Dreamworks: Dragons is also pretty good, and I am very excited to start watching Race to the Edge Season 5 after I'm done writing this review. The first season (subtitled "Riders of Berk") is ok, but you have to get through some cringeworthy writing to get to the great stuff. Things really pick up though when you hit the second season (titled "Defenders of Berk") which was really good. And once you get "Race to the Edge" started, you'll find a show that starts off not quite on par with Defenders of Berk but then you'll get to something that just gets better and better as it goes along.

Anyways, lets get to Serpent's Heir, the reason why you were here.

THE STORY: Taking place very shortly after How to Train Your Dragon 2, The Serpent's Heir opens like a HTTYD movie with an opening narration starting with the words "This is Berk". Hiccup is trying to lead is village after the attack by Drago Bludvist and his Bewilderbeest when a plea for help comes from another village on another island. Hiccup goes riding off with Toothless, now the alpha of all dragons to answer the call. Astrid, Snotlout, Fishlegs, and the Twins come along for the ride as expected, but we also have new team players Eret and Valka.

THE BAD: Just a couple of nitpicks. First off, in some of the panels the artist drew Valka's dragon incorrectly. It is supposed to have 4 wings but in some panels of the comic it only has 2. Also, there is a portion where a dragon on Berk is able to get group of baby dragons to obey it, yet in How to Train Your Dragon 2 it is specifically stated TWICE that babies don't listen to anybody.

If I had to find any other problem it would be that most of the riders don't really do all that much and they are just kind of there. Fishlegs and Snotlout contributed nothing and even Astrid didn't do all that much (although it was cool to see her kicking ass). Again though, this is a very minor problem and I still would have rather scene their presence anyways because I love all these characters.

THE GOOD: This comic feels right at home in the How to Train Your Dragon Universe.

The story is really enjoyable, and quite compelling. You get to see Hiccup struggle with transitioning into the role of chief as Berk is left in tatters, and you get to see Toothless as he gleefully enjoys his position as alpha.

The touch from Dean DeBlois and the lead writer of the TV series (who cowrote this comic) is really

apparent with how true this stays to all the characters. Hiccup is steadily growing and developing as he faces new challenges and responsibilities, and Toothless is as cute as ever. Astrid is and always will be one of the most badass love interests ever. Fishlegs gets a fun geekout moment, and Ruffnut and Tuffnut are still funny as ever. Valka's motherly presence is always great. A big surprise though was Eret, in how seamlessly he has fit himself into the team.

The villain is also quite a bit of fun and something completely different from what I have seen before in this world. Same with the Island, and the revelation about what happened on it was really cool.

The art is also really good with some fun action, nice backgrounds, and wonderful character drawings with highly emotive facial expressions.

THE CONCLUSION: A very satisfying and solid tie-in that the hard core How to Train Your Dragon fans should really enjoy. It felt more in line with what you would get from the TV series than the movies, but that's what I was expecting as soon as I heard of this comic's existence. And as a TV episode like story it gave me exactly what I wanted.

I'll definitely give this a read again in the future and I am definitely quite excited for the next comic that will be coming out, "Dragonvine".

But first, I have a new season of Race to the Edge to watch.

Glory says

This graphic novel is really the first glimpse we fans have of Hiccup as Chief of Berk and it really pays off. We see Hiccup struggling to command a people who doesn't necessarily respect his new leadership, and we see him lash out at those who would dare attempt to threaten him. It's a powerful moment that reminds me how far Hiccup has grown and matured in this entire franchise and how delicate and thoughtful DeBlois and Co. are treating his character arc. The dark undertone continues in the fact that (view spoiler) The quality of the storytelling is enhanced by the incredible artwork. Hiccup's narration at the end is a wonderful piece of characterization and a huge allusion to the sacrifices he will make in the third film to take responsibility of his tribe, even to the loss of his personal freedoms and passions.

Drucilla says

I was expecting a lot with this tie-in to the franchise and I have to say that I was a little disappointed. Before I get *ahem* roasted by fans, let me explain. It's a good story. It stays true to the characters and the story builds on where the 2nd movie left off...but only a little bit. I guess that's why I didn't rate this higher. After all of the buzz around this graphic novel, I expected more. It comes across as just another episode of the t.v. show. Like I said, it's a good story and it's fantastic that they got the director to co-write. It certainly gives this book an air of officiality that *other* Dragons comics don't have (side note: those are sooo bad). I know that they can't give too much away concerning the third movie (especially since I don't know if they even have a script yet), but a little more would have been nice. There are certainly hints of stuff that *could* become something, but it's so hard to tell. I don't mean to be a downer. When I say it's like an episode of the t.v. show, it's not a bad thing. I *like* the show. I was just hoping for a little more.

TinTin Kalaw says

Set immediately after the events of the movie How To Train Your Dragon 2, The Serpent's Heir is this sort

of coming-of-age story for Hiccup as he strives to be the chief Berk needs. I really enjoyed reading this. The feeling was like watching an episode of the DreamWorks Dragons Netflix show :)

Rachel says

A good story continuing where the second film leaves off. I found the art well done, the story put together well, and great panels. There were also the usual stuff going on like goofy characters, some grown up humor, lots of dragons, and a battle fought with ingenuity. The ending was a bit dark though which might be my biggest issue with it. I like though how Hiccup found a way to start becoming the chief he needs to be. A story for those who like the How to Train Your Dragon movies for ages 11 or 12 and up.

Lou Anders says

This graphic novel, set between the second and forthcoming third How to Train Your Dragon films, sees film series writer/director Dean DeBlois and Dreamworks' Dragons show writer Richard Hamilton team up on the first of three planned stories. I am a big fan of the films and an even bigger fan of the Netflix television series, so to find that creative geniuses behind each of these two iterations of the franchise have teamed up is marvelous. The art by Doug Wheatley perfectly captures the look of the characters and is a great deal of the joy of this book. Obviously, the characterizations are spot on seeing as to who the writers are. Story wise, this is a tale that takes place away from Berk, and it feels like a little more of a filler episode then one which advances the characters and the narrative. I enjoyed it, and I'm in for the ride, but I hope that the subsequent graphic novels have a little bit more of a substantial impact on the unfolding cannon. That being said, the How to Train Your Dragon franchise is amazing and I cannot recommend it, and all of its permutations, enough.

Paige says

I thought this book was okay. It was a little short for my liking. I don't think there had been enough time given to really understand what was going on. I felt as though it had been rushed. I felt as though one minute we were on Berk and seeing the damage to the village that had been caused by the battle in the second film to the next where we were traveling to a place I had never heard of before and had never been mentioned in either the movies or the two shows. I was a little confused at where the story was going with the heir and who that who. I felt like it wasn't thought through very well and the writers just thought they'd put something together quickly. I felt like there could've been more of a build-up and we could've got to know this prince a little better rather than him just suddenly being revealed as the heir. It just didn't fit to me.

It was nice to see the way Hiccup was having to handle being chief and how difficult it has become as his father wasn't around to help him make decisions. That felt very real and I thought that was a nice touch to the story and the character development of Hiccup.

I haven't got much more to say about this book apart for it was a good light read to 'help me catch up on my reading challenge for this year, but it isn't something that I am in a hurry to read again.

I give this a 3 out of 5 stars.

McKenzie Dean says

The Serpent's Heir reads like an episode of *Race to the Edge*, which is one of my favorite aspects of the cinematic *How to Train Your Dragon* franchise. It takes place shortly after the events of the second *How to Train Your Dragon* film, following Hiccup and Toothless as they each begin to navigate their new leadership roles as Chief and Alpha. Full of witty banter, new dragons, and exciting adventure, it's a must-read for any fan of the films!

Stuart McMillan says

FREAKING BRILLIANT

I'm the kind of guy who goes crazy over how to train the dragon (you have no idea), so I got SUPER excited whilst this book was downloading, and I was not let down. If the authors are reading this; keep it up guys! =) Now I just need burning midnight!

kai jiang says

I enjoyed *The Serpent's Heir*, it's a nice little something to tide all us fans over as we wait eagerly and a bit impatiently for the next installment in the *How to Train Your Dragon* franchise. It's nothing particularly groundbreaking, and the comic feels a bit like filler, but we get new dragons and we see more of Hiccup and the gang, so if you're a fan of *How to Train Your Dragon*, then *The Serpent's Heir* is well worth your while.

King Haddock says

Don't get me wrong - this is a very beautiful graphic novel. The story was written well with great pacing - there's never an instance that feels rushed, or which passes over your head (I didn't have to recheck previous pages in the graphic novel for something I had missed, etc). The artwork is downright gorgeous; I love especially how the characters' faces are drawn and so expressive in their emoting. The colorist did a fabulous job, making the colors bright and appealing on every page, coinciding well with the personality of the DreamWorks *How to Train Your Dragon* universe. There are many entertaining moments, humorous pages, and dragons to satisfy readers. The other *How to Train Your Dragon* graphic novels are not to this caliber... this is by far an outstanding piece, well worth its price, and a great addition to the canon for HTTYD lovers.

The reason why I'm giving this three stars is not out of lack of quality or lack of satisfaction. This is a good graphic novel! It's merely that I don't feel like I connected with the story. The story didn't feel *exceptional* to me, I suppose I would say. It wasn't a unique adventure or outstanding anywhere in that regard. There weren't any interesting plot twists or deep connections or concepts explored in depth - it was rather superficial in that regard.

While I am someone who loves to study narrative structure, characterization, symbol, and all the elements

that turn story into art, and I love studying what makes a written work objectively good... I will admit a lot of my rating system is based upon subjective emotional response. My emotional connection was not strong for this one, despite the fact that there are many good elements in TSH, and I am pleased that this exists. And I'm glad to have purchased it - I'll be eating up the artwork for many days to come.

Adele Broadbent says

Hiccup is the new chief of his village and when a visitor arrives (Calder of the Nepenthe), he asks Hiccup for help. His island is experiencing fearful earthquakes and they're not sure what to do. Can Hiccup and his skill with dragons come to their aid?

But they find more than they've bargained for, with dragons aplenty, a madman who believes he's a dragon and a surprise under the island.

This story begins after the events in the movie - How to Train your Dragon 2....

Frederick Tan says

As the new chief, Hiccup must bring order to his village after the recent attack by Drago Bludvist and his Bewilderbeast. Another opportunity to prove himself comes when the earthquake plagued island of Nepenthe calls for assistance. But once on the island, it becomes clear the tremors are just a part of the problem. The island is also not what it seem on the surface. With toothless as the Alpha dragon on his side, Hiccup must take charge of the surprising situation that develop on the island. As the new chief this is an ideal time to put his mettle to the test.

Atlanta Bushnell says

I read this awesome little book in one sitting. I loved it! I'm a huge fan of the How To Train Your Dragon series, both the movies and TV show, so I was so excited when I discovered the graphic novel.

So this novel fits in between the second and third movie. It honestly felt like watching an episode of Race to the Edge and I loved that. It captured the characters perfectly, with all the fun and adventure we've come to expect from the series. The artwork was great too, which is always important for a graphic novel.

All in all, it's a great edition to the franchise and I highly recommend it to fans of the series. It is a must read! I hope other fans enjoy it as much as I did.

Happy reading!

- Atlanta

Sonia says

Takes place after the second movie

I really enjoyed the art and the shenanigans that took place.

Some parts were too fast paced.

But I really loved the designs and the characters.

Anyone who love the series will love this
