



The Massive, Vol. 5: Ragnarok

Brian Wood , Garry Brown (illustrations) , Jordie Bellaire (illustrator)

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The Crash was only the beginning. What remains of civilization is being obliterated by a series of cataclysmic events. The truth about Mary's identity, which began as a faint signal, grows louder—and she's seemingly connected to it all. The secret of the Crash and the location of the missing ship The Massive get answered here, in the final arc, Ragnarok!

The Massive careens into its final climactic chapter as Brian Wood and Garry Brown pull back the curtain on the mysteries of one of the most thought-provoking comics series of the last decade!

Collects issues #25-#30.

The Massive, Vol. 5: Ragnarok Details

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From Reader Review The Massive, Vol. 5: Ragnarok for online ebook

Geoff Sebesta says

....I strenuously protest at the turn this story has taken. What the hell.

Jacob says

A fitting end to a haunting and moving story.

Sean Parlan says

Reading the reviews, people had different expectations. I liked the story telling and it was a solid ending.

Rainey says

Spoilers!

I chopped one star from this review for Mary being an alien instead of the incarnation of the earth itself- which is what I was really hoping for. Despite that snafu, vol. 5 concluded The Massive in a satisfying way.

Anina says

Hell no, this ending is not what I had signed up for, by reading the other four volumes!

Lionel says

This is my review for the whole serie with spoilers but the rating is for this book only:

The serie started so well with the first 3 books. I really just got hooked. Book 4 was already a bit down, especially the story arc Sahara....

And now book 5: How the hell did this story become so magical/aliens/religious ???? the last comic book is so cheesy.... We still don't know what happened to Arkany.

even for all these defaults, I could not have put the book down for most of the serie, so I'll go with 4 stars for the serie but only 2 for the book.

Sherilyn says

That was not the ending I expected. Not sure how I feel about it. The entire series was well worth reading though.

Norman Cook says

What started out as a believable extrapolation of the effects of climate change on the world's geopolitical environment ends with an unbelievable supernatural/alien deus ex machina. The series still presents a lot of thought-provoking ideas and is well worth reading. The characters are a diverse set of individuals with realistic motivations and problems. The artwork is consistently excellent.

Taruia says

I enjoy 'end of the world' and 'dystopian future' stories. The first four volumes were really good and I waited patiently for each volume to appear every six months. Then there was this. We went for a mystical/ethereal/religious overtone here which didn't make any sense when compared to the rest of the story. I feel like Mag at the end of this - I feel a little bit conned, frankly.

Nick Jones says

This series started out **so well** in the first book: A Greenpeace-style ship's crew searching for their sister ship in a world rocked by a major environmental disaster. The successive volumes followed up decently enough, until the fourth started to allow seemingly-mystical elements to incongruously slip in. This final book completely loses the script, falling into magical nonsense driven by the kind of stereotypical handwringing over humanity's effect on the environment that has rendered a lot of eco-tales unreadably bad. Predictably, the endgame is the planet offering a handful of deserving people a chance to start over with a clean slate, a "twist" ending that I suspect everyone who read a few pages into this volume saw coming a mile away.

This kind of story is so heavy-handed, so overwrought, so ridiculously saturated with environmentalistic guilt, so choked with childlike longing for some kind of earth spirit savior to rescue human beings from the mistakes we've made that I can't take it remotely seriously on any level.

Jason Fryer says

A really cool conclusion to the story with some pretty inventive twists. Overall very satisfied with where they left things.

Aaron says

Ehhhhh not really sure the ending was worth the build up. Still an interesting idea just needed better execution in my opinion. Art work was on point though.

Amanda says

The Man From Earth

Elizabeth says

Overall, a really disappointing series. Starts out strong and totally loses it around book three. It's all downhill from there.

Donovan says

"From chaos...comes life?"

Let's talk about Volume 5: Ragnarok.

Ragnarok literally means "the final destruction of the world in the conflict between the Aesir and the powers of Hel led by Loki, called also Twilight of the Gods." For those of you surprised at the religious undertones, not sure what to tell ya. It's in the title. I'm also not sure how to view the supernatural destruction of the world without examining the supernatural elements, why it happened, and why, how, or if humans even matter at that point.

Let's talk about Mary. Brian Wood, a phenomenal writer, gave us--I can't even call them clues because they were so blatant--details which screamed Mary's supernaturalism. She first jumped from the oil rig into the ocean during a hurricane, something no one should have survived. She repeatedly swam in subzero water to no effect. She disappeared from locked holds within ships. She was repeatedly shot. She has, at first glance, a personal history going back to the 1960s, yet she's only in her twenties. Should I keep going? Do we need more evidence of her supernaturalism?

I love Mary's character. This series eventually reveals itself to be her story, or that her story is the context for everything else. Having an idea of who she was from the very beginning, from Volume 1, I can't say I'm surprised by the "religious" undertones with which this series was concluded. It's inevitable. She is supernatural. She's involved with the Crash, the Massive, and literally everything that has happened. How else can the end be told but in a supernatural context?

Obviously, I enjoyed the series immensely. I loved the ending. It was extremely satisfying. I didn't see the twist of the Massive coming, and although the twist isn't the most original for post-apocalyptic, (view spoiler) it worked for me and surprised me. Because there were no hints there, not that I saw.

The larger question is, what about the preaching and "religious" undertones and "heavy handedness"? (Notice the quotation marks.) I don't even think the ending is what you can call religious in the sense that it's attributed to any one religion, or that there's any spiritual guilt-tripping or judgment per se. Wood goes out of his way to say he's not being religious, more spiritual and humanistic if anything. Philosophical if anything. And not even judgmental but suggestive. We can do better, as Mary tells Callum.

Truth be told, though, humans are fucking assholes to the environment. Although Wood interestingly diverts from a human made environmental cataclysm to a supernatural one, the cause is the same. Because this world will die unless we change how we live. And I don't blame you, fellow readers. It's not your fault. And it's not mine either. I would bike to work if there were bike lanes for my twenty mile commute. Drive an electric car if they made them efficiently. But I do what I can. I bring my own bags to the grocery store, I compost, I grow blueberries and raise layer ducks. But we're still going to kill this planet unless the *system* changes.

It's the *system's* fault. Fracking, oil drilling, tar sands, nuclear waste, chemical spills, coal power plants, plane and auto emissions. You name it. It's a top down problem. We as consumers have only so much control and flexibility. But what we can do is talk about the problem. Admit the problem. Become informed and knowledgeable and intelligent on the problem. Instead of just feeling bad and hoping the next generation will fix it. Or outright deny its existence. How many satires will it take before we accept en masse that there's a problem, a global crisis, that we refuse to deal with?

And what does this have to do with Brian Wood? Everything. Satire isn't subtle. I mean, have you ever read or watched a subtle story about the apocalypse? I wouldn't call it heavy handed, because it's true and true to the nature of the subject, and this comic is the satirical platform to make a true statement: that we are assholes killing the world and we don't even care. It *is* our fault. And we don't even have a Mary to protect us. We have to be our own Mary.

I guess I don't know what readers expected from a realistic series with an obvious premise of human made climate change. Sea monsters? Aliens? Super heroes saving us? That the world would heal itself or just start happily swallowing carbon monoxide? Are we being naive or merely unrealistic in our expectations of the narrative?

This was a great, suspenseful, dramatic series with a slow burn buildup of supernaturalism which, for me, made the series. I enjoyed the realism, but there has to be or should be an X factor, something unexplainable, because that's just how the universe works. Think about quantum mechanics and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle for a second. We can know a particle's location or its speed, but not both, because for some reason the power of observation and participation changes physics.

And Brian Wood seems to do just that. We have the easily explainable post-Crash world figured out, have the characters figured out, and he throws a slow curveball to make it more interesting. What's not to love?
