



Wolverine by Greg Rucka: Ultimate Collection

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Waitresses, arms dealers, human traffickers, pregnant crime lords, bad dreams and feral female fighters can't stop Wolverine from carving his way to victory in this razor-sharp series reboot by acclaimed novelist and comics scribe Greg Rucka (*Whiteout*, *Queen & Country*). And see Logan do what he does best against his archenemy, Sabretooth! Plus: the unsettling threats of Cry and Vapor! Guest-starring Nightcrawler!

Collecting: *Wolverine* 1-19

Wolverine by Greg Rucka: Ultimate Collection Details

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From Reader Review Wolverine by Greg Rucka: Ultimate Collection for online ebook

Joey Comeau says

Greg Rucka has written a really strong Wolverine story arc here. This trade has 19 issues, and is a pretty good buy for the money.

Wolverine is like Spider-Man - a great character who deserves a story arc as iconic and important as "Batman: Year One" or an "All-Star Superman" but who instead just gets year after year of the same old crap.

This isn't his "Year One" but it is a great story, and one of the best looks at his struggle with the animal aspects of himself that I've seen. The sabertooth/Native b-story in this collection is less essential, but still quite fun.

Greg Rucka is a solid writer. For years I thought of him in the same class as Ed Brubaker, but while Brubaker is almost never short of amazing (his run on Daredevil is THE Daredevil as far as I'm concerned) - Rucka sometimes turns in more workman-like stories. This is one of them. It's strong, fun, and has a good sense of the character. But it doesn't devastate the way Rucka's Queen and Country did. It is more in line with the quality of his Batwoman Elegy story.

Robertson's art is hit and miss for me. It freaks me out a bit, but is so closely connected with Transmetropolitan for me that I find myself feeling affection toward his insanely weird looking people anyway. He draws wolvie as a weird, hairy run of a man, which I really appreciated.

Neville Wylie says

Well first off, this is a Logan book not a Wolverine one (so take that into account before you read)but its a very good one.. it collects the first 3 story arcs of the Wolverine 2003 series. Brotherhood, Coyote Crossing and Return of the Native

While it may read like an episode of Kung Fu where Logan just wanders around and finds some trouble to fix it is enjoyable to see him slice and dice the bad guys with no remorse... two things kind of let me down to take away 1 star... (both would be spoilers but both relate to the Native story)

There is also two stand alone stories one in a bar with Nightcrawler and one a dream.....and believe it or not I enjoyed them both (yes even the dream one)

David Dalton says

This was a big collection, 19 issues. Several different storylines featuring Logan. Pretty much on his own just trying to get by and somehow gets involved in several different storylines. Where does he find the time between playing with X-Men and his Avengers tie-ins? Thanks to Comixology Unlimited I was able to read this. I believe they have a few more that I can borrow/read. Catching up on a lot of older Wolverine stories, just in time for his return.

Adam Stone says

One of the best Wolverine collections Marvel has put out, the focus of this book is the familiar is Wolverine more human or more animal trope that's been used throughout his history. But Rucka doesn't try and present us with an answer, we just get to see Logan on his own, without the leather jackets or the yellow body suit. The first two arcs don't even delve into his Weapon Plus past, they just show Logan in the non-superhero world trying to solve problems like he's an adamantium-clawed Frank Castle. It makes him far more interesting than his more superhero adventures.

The final third involves Sabertooth and Weapon Plus and a new mutant like him that might be linked to his past blah blah blah snikt snikt. It's still told well, and in a fairly spare fashion, but it's like reading a Flash story where he's battling several villains who can all run fast, it's just not that interesting.

The art by Darick Robertson and Leandro Fernandez is great. Like the story, it's not typical Marvel superhero style. It looks more like a Vertigo Hellblazer book (or, specifically, it looks a bit like Robertson's work on *The Boys*).

I recommend this for Wolverine fans, people interested in Logan as The Punisher, and Greg Rucka enthusiasts.

Greg (adds 2 TBR list daily) Hersom says

I've read all the Wolverine Ultimate Collections -at least I think I have- and this one by far has the best stories.

I don't think the artwork was the same illustrator throughout the entire series, but I wasn't real crazy about some of it. It's not that it was bad, it was excellent really, it's just not how I care to see super-heroes portrayed -Wolverine actually looks so much like a unclean bump, that you can almost smell him. And I get that these stories, like the original Wolverine series in Madripoor, is supposed to be a take-away from Logan's yellow and blue tights and more a noir-ish look at his life. Still I think a most folks would have realized who Logan was, instead of them being all like "Who is this mysterious grumpy stranger?" Despite all that, I still really did enjoy these tales because if nothing else, I guess I like Wolverine as in not so uber-powerful and the gritty kinda hero he was intended to be.

B says

Part of this is, like, invincible Columbo.

And then there's the feeling that Rucka had not really read previous Wolverine comics because there are only bits and pieces of the old stuff. Nightcrawler is his friend! He has weird relationships with younger women!

But the premise is this FBI agent is chasing him because no one knows who Wolverine is. No one knows? Isn't he one of the most famous people in the world?

And then a female Wolverine who is stronger than Wolverine but killed by Sabertooth? OK, I guess.

Jesse A says

Very enjoyable book about Logan not really Wolverine. A good mix of berserker rage and all too human sadness. Well done.

Sr3yas says

★★½ 2.5 Stars

Wolverine's third solo re-numbered iteration kick starts with three story arcs written by Greg Rucka, stretching across 400 pages filled with murderers, human traffickers, and deadly enemies.

Was it epic?

ehhhh... Let's see the stories featured here first.

Brotherhood. ★★★

Brotherhood opens with an underwhelming narrative of a seventeen-year-old girl with an isolated, broken life. But her apartment is across a mysterious man: **Leon, the professional...** All right, I'm kidding. As you guessed, It's the Wolverine himself. She kinda becomes his friend, then gets killed, and Wolverine goes on a rampage to get revenge for the girl he barely knew because that's what Wolverine does in merry times like these.

Nothing special here. Rucka created a bunch of regular evil men as villains and builds up hate towards them so that when Wolverine inevitably kills them, the reader will be like '*Ya, they totally deserved it*'. The only reason I'm not rating is lower is because of the spectacular epilogue issue at the end, featuring an old friend.

Coyote Crossing. ★★½

Wolvie hits the road again and finds a bunch of dead illegal immigrants, and decides to track down the killers. To add spice to the story, there is a lady FBI officer tracking Wolverine.

Again, generic. The only surprise was the Rojas, the villain, and even that was handled poorly. There are some good scenes in the first half and the dialogues are not as bad as the first story.

Return of the Native. ★★½

Rucka exploits the Weapon X program, because why not. Sabretooth is recruited by men behind Weapon X

program to track down native, an escapee with abilities like Wolverine. Sabretooth gives the information to Wolverine and sets a trap to capture both Wolverine and native.

This is the only story in this collection that features mutants other than Wolvie as major characters. So I assumed it might be better than the previous stories, but again, I was sadly mistaken. There are some good Sabretooth moments, but other than that, it's again the tried and tired '*Wolverine and the women who died loving him*' trope. Come on, Marvel. At least bring something new to the story.

Parting thoughts.

So, back to the question. Was it epic?

Nope. It's average at its best, and tired repetition at its worst.

John says

In my opinion, Wolverine is a character who is simultaneously overexposed yet underrated and woefully underutilized.

The character can easily shift from the hyperbolic and absurd (Enemy of the State, Old Man Logan, and Infinity Watch) to much more subtler and restrained books. With him living hundreds of years and forgotten memories, he's a perfect cypher and blank slate character. He's got such rich potential for a secret history.

He's often used for superhero excess and decadence, but as Logan showed, he can also be used for deconstruction.

Ruck's wolverine run is much quieter. There are no suits and capes, no supervillians. It reads more like a low-budget loner movies/tv show. It's almost a character study--there's no crossover event, little to no mention of the Marvel Universe and the X-Men, etc. The villains are bad people--supremacists, sex traffickers, et cetera. The people who need hurt. It's a bit like a Punisher run in a way, with a bit of "realism".

It shows the character can stand on his own two feet, without having been tethered to the X-Men. That being said, it's well-written, but not the most "exciting" run on the book. I tend to like Millar and Jason Aaron's works on the character the most.

Blindzider says

2.5 Stars

I think this is only my 3rd time reading anything by Rucka and I'm still not impressed. This volume contains

about 3 story arcs, 6 issues apiece. Each arc has it's own story and the first two are connected.

There are no real super villains and no costumes. Logan basically stumbles across trouble and his sense of honor gets him involved in crimes dealing with human traffickers and arms dealers. While the stories do a decent job of portraying Logan's sense of honor the rest seems to be a chance to talk about a political agenda.

The third arc goes back to the Weapon X program, which is a well that's been used way to many times. It's a reason to bring Logan up against Sabretooth and while there are a couple good moments, there's nothing new here and what is new is discarded predictably at the end.

Also, there are a number of artists throughout this volume, and aside from the covers, the interiors are mediocre at best.

Rucka wasn't afraid to show Wolverine doing what he does best, but if this is Rucka's best then I think I'll pass on the rest of his work.

Ezra says

Wolverine!!!

It's a good set of short stories that are somewhat connected? They just tell of Logan/James living a normal (for him) life and how he is a softhearted man who loves his best friends and just wants to do right by people even though he has a feral side that he can't always control.

You get to see some Nightcrawler!! Logan and Kurt have always been BFFs through the series and it's nice to see him hang out with Logan and then bond over their love of beer.

He ending is what cost it a star. Also he whole Native story? Logan has had kids before, but I guess for the drama of it they had to go. Idk it was abrupt and predictable. She had a healing factor and Logana and Creed both survived worse but that killed her? Who knows.

Otherwise good art (except for the women who are drawn like stick figures with DDs/Es even though they're supposed all fit and or malnourished).

Did I mention Nightcrawler shows up?

J. says

I like what Rucka is trying to do here--playing on the emotional weight of Wolverine, constantly struggling with his humanity/animality. But this volume contains three stories, and only the first one is really very entertaining. It isn't particularly helped by mediocre art, but even the stories just don't really keep my attention. I found myself sort of slogging through it all.

Ahmad Al-eskafi says

It my first comic book,also about one of my favourite character. I enjoy reading it all the way

Jennifer Juffer says

Where do I begin?
Is this a book worth reading?
Are you a Wolverine fan?
Do you enjoy literature?
Do you enjoy stories of love, life, loss... tragedy?

It's all here.
Rucka wrote and created this book and took it to a whole new level in this collection. I read the "Brotherhood" and enjoyed the use of language.
I was desperate to read it all!
I read it all.
I'll never forget a page.

The book questions, for me, the struggle within Logan. Does he think of himself more of a man or a beast?
The reader knows the answer.
However, looking inside out, as Logan does... it's a harder question.
A human question.
We rarely see ourselves as we truly are.
Logan and Wolverine are no exceptions.
They are the same.

There are so many reasons to read this.
If you're an X-Man Fan...
A Wolverine fan...
Or like me... a Logan fan.
Heck, if you simply enjoy good writing and excellent art... read it!

However, it's a tough book.
It's a well written book.
It's an artistic wonder.
The final page left me...

Well, just read the book.
It won't bore you.

Sketching Girl says

The Art in this book is very good, the stories engaging, and I feel I actually got to know Wolverine a little better. Which is surprising for me as I have read a lot of Wolverine comics, so I loved this extra insight into

him outside of the X-Men's world. I also enjoyed the addition of new characters, including Native. A very good read, and one you can easily pick up and re-read at any time - even when you've just read it. I find I can open the book anywhere, and start reading it again, I am instantly re-enthralled and get hooked straight back into it. A fantastic book!
