



The Walking Dead, Vol. 23: Whispers Into Screams

Robert Kirkman (Writer), Charlie Adlard (Illustrator)

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The new era of peace and prosperity is interrupted by a new type of enemy. One that travels amongst the walkers. One that will turn whispers of their appearance to screams.

Collects THE WALKING DEAD #133-138.

The Walking Dead, Vol. 23: Whispers Into Screams Details

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Author : Robert Kirkman (Writer) , Charlie Adlard (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Walking Dead, Vol. 23: Whispers Into Screams for online ebook

Jeff says

In this volume, Robert Kirkman plays it smart and takes the focus off Rick and places the spotlight on Carl and to a lesser degree Maggie.

Poor Carl. Imagine a teenager trying to grow up and function normally in the post-apocalyptic world. Carl's been shot, witnessed some horrible stuff, done some horrible stuff, all in a world where the rules and boundaries are changing and shifting, even as his father (and Maggie) try to set the world back to some form of old-school civilization.

Carl's even more puzzled when he befriends a captured girl who is part of the new "threat". She has accepted certain behavior that in pre-zombie apocalypse would be considered abhorrent and unacceptable.

Plus, the kid's going through puberty.

Maggie is trying to wear the "leader" hat, but it seems like it comes with a target symbol that's placed on her back as well.

Also more is revealed about the new menace. Nuisance or terror?

This makes two genuinely good volumes of The Walking Dead in a row. Apparently, Kirkman has stopped phoning it in.

And if I haven't said it, Welcome, Welcome, Welcome. Tonight's tuna casserole and sock puppets!

Stepheny says

Just read this cover to cover while in the bathtub! 4.5 stars! Review coming soooooon!

Artemy says

I must say, I am so tired of people being shit in this comic. Yes, the Carl-Sophia/asshole kids conflict was tense, and it added a lot of drama to this volume, but I would rather spend more time on the whisperers than on this soap opera crap. And that gross-out moment with Carl and Lydia near the end of the volume wasn't good, too. Kirkman hasn't done something like that in a while, and I didn't miss it. Also, child rape. Cause why the hell not. Aside from all of that, sure, it's not a bad volume, just a bit of a filler.

Anna says

Someone give Carl a big punch in his nose, because he is about to bring new problems to the communities....

Becky says

Interesting. As happy and proud as I am of Carl for being anti-rape, he's got a lot to learn about the world. And you know... Teenagers. They think they're soooooo smart. He's gonna start some shit. Again.

It was refreshing to not have a ton of Rick preaching in this volume, and have the focus shift to Maggie's community. Her problems stem from people, because, as Slipknot wisely reminds us, people = shit.

I can't wait to see how Maggie deals with her people problem.

Sesana says

Oh, yay, we're back to treading water. It's kind of frustrating that Walking Dead stays just barely good enough to keep me coming back for the next volume. In other news, I'm week.

But I am still kind of interested in the concept of the Whisperers. It's a totally different way to survive a zombie apocalypse, and I do think there's some serious story potential there. But the storyline with Lydia is a total snooze to me.

Some day, I'll quit this series. Just maybe not yet.

Randy says

Excerpted from Rick's Christmas letter:

We're so proud of Carl, who has moved to the Hilltop community and taken a job as an apprentice blacksmith! We don't get to visit him often because of all the roaming undead and apparently we don't have cars anymore, but we hear he's making lots of friends with the local kids. Carl has been making a special effort not to threaten to kill people more than once an issue and most of the time it appears to be working out great! He does have a special girlfriend...or two...or three...so unfortunately he doesn't have much time to carve unicorns for his friends anymore.

Trudi says

Show me the way to go home, I'm tired and I want to go to bed...

Sooooooo, here we are. Back to the more soap-opera-ish, plodding plot with a few interesting "twists" (for lack of a better word) thrown in. I was not riveted. Maggie going toe-to-toe with dickhole parents of dickhole kids is a less than inspiring sub-plot. More scheming by disgruntled community members. Eh, we've seen that number before too.

The Whisperers are sorta kinda interesting and new, I suppose, if you look at them with your eyes scrunched and squinting. It makes sense to me that there would be a group like this that would come along eventually. The real surprise is that it's taken this long, and perhaps how many of them there's rumored to be. Thousands? Really? That would be shocking indeed. For now, it's just a rumor and my fingers are crossed that this new "threat" turns out to be more than what they appear to be which is a step above same shit different day.

And Carl? Sweet jebus. (view spoiler)

Sometimes this series feels like an albatross around my neck, a monkey on my back, Sisyphus's Rock. I NEED THIS TO END!!!! I NEED AN ENDING!!!! Do you hear me Kirkman???? For godsake man, take mercy on all of us and please JUST FUCKNG END IT.

Ryan Buckby says

the whispers are one very weird group wearing dead people skin and putting it over themselves as masks to cover themselves and walk among the dead is creepy. I think they will end up being the next big threat for each community in some way.

more new characters are introduced Alpha and Lydia along with the rest of the whispers but i'm not entirely sure how big this group actually is, i hope to read some more or see more on the group because these hints aren't enough. This issue also spent time away from Alexandria and focused more on the Hilltop residents which i kind of liked because it moved the story away from rick's story and his life at Alexandria. Carl has more of a role in this issue to he has become more of the main focus in issues 22 and 23 which is an interesting choice, i still don't like carl at all he still annoys me and still feels like a kid making stupid decisions. But hey he has grown a lot in the two year gap maybe there is still a chance for me to like him.

Maggie as leader reminds me so much of rick in charge in the beginning she's still finding her way to me but i like how she has become a strong character in the series and is one of my favourites. I have said this many times in the last few issues but the character Sophia continues to surprise me with how independent and strong she's becoming, i just wish her tv counterpart was still alive!.

another fight coming? carl of course still acting like a kid is going off to save 'his new friend' and i'm guessing in true walking dead fashion it won't end well for anyone.

Mike says

Damn this shit gets tedious *and* complicated to read after ten years.

Who the fuck is anybody? The art is so bland and boring and lacking in any distinguishing detail that even when a character gets named on page 20, it's impossible to know if it's them again on page 25.

Plus I don't even know who half of these wasted of ink are anymore. They don't entirely resemble anyone I remember, the characters introduced in the last few volumes are interchangeable, and they only serve to spout generic and repetitive lines anyway.

Plus Kirkman is playing around with jump cuts between scenes so quickly by now that there's almost no sense of continuity and no way to be sure if they're one scene or another. Ugh, I just want to nuke this planet and get it over with.

There wasn't even one zombie kill (in either direction) in this whole damned book.

It takes me at least halfway through before I get the rhythm of it, and goddamnit I'm gonna download the next volume on Hoopla right now to get it over with. Otherwise my next review is going to be just as bitter and misery-inducing.

Love you right back.

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

What HAS come over me?! I've now rated TWO TWD comics 4+ stars - IN A ROW!

This was a nice continuation of the last volume, and while I really think Carl needs therapy + a stint in a jail, it's nice to be overwhelmed with Our Lord and Savior Rick Grimes.

But why do sexual assault and rape seem to always find their way into these? Hmmmmmmmmmm!!

Continue the drama! But if you kill Jesus, YOU ARE DEAD TO ME!

Sam Quixote says

Writing "spoilers" for a review of the 23RD VOLUME in a series seems a bit pointless, doesn't it? I mean, if you're considering reading this and have read the past 22 volumes, why are you reading a review BEFORE reading the book itself? You're gonna read it whether or not it's good. You've read 22 volumes, you're in

this 'til the bitter end like me, which means you've read the book and know what happened. Other people reading this review, they don't care about spoilers, they're probably just killing time at work.

After a surprisingly decent 22nd volume, *The Walking Dead*, now set several years after the war against Negan, has settled back into its mediocre ways. The focus is (hopefully temporarily) gone from Rick Grimes and his son Karl is now the star of the show. Yes, the kid with a hole in his head, the one who should've died but didn't for no good reason. You know the world's in rough shape when a kid like this is getting the googly eyes from not one but two cute girls (though to be fair one of them is semi-crazy).

A new group of insaniacs calling themselves the Whisperers - who wear zombie skin over their own to blend into the zombie herds - attack Jesus and some of his disciples. Jesus captures one of the nutters, a 16 year old girl called Lydia, taking her back to Hilltop for some answers while Karl protects himself and Sophia from a pair of dickhead kids who attack them.

Dickhead kids have dickhead parents who say dickhead things like "Dude, my kid's totally allowed to hit yours in the back of the head with a brick - but him fighting back and hitting mine with a shovel is totally out of line!" and dickhead Gregory (the former leader of Hilltop before non-dickhead Maggie) decides to be a dickhead and try to assassinate Maggie. Still awake? Karl gets some. Aww, yeah dawg!

I didn't hate this volume but it does drag in places especially as the, uh, story, I guess, is a bit thin. There's way too much time devoted to Maggie dealing with the dickhead kids' dickhead parents, especially as the plot really doesn't go anywhere. You think it does but apparently Maggie, like Karl, is unkillable, also for no reason. I guess their buddy Jesus didn't get his nickname for nothing, eh?

The Whisperers stuff is ok and I'm glad an adversary has been introduced to fill the Governor/Negan gaps because this series gets good once the action starts a-flowing. But their former member Lydia, Karl's new love interest replacing Sophia, is a bit of a downer - I shouldn't be surprised though, this is *The Walking Dead*.

I saw *Beetlejuice* too but not every emo-chick interested in death needs to be called Lydia, Robert Kirkman. And, really, did you need to mention that she was raped repeatedly? She's 16 and she mentions to Karl that when she was with the Whisperers that it's been going on for a while. My god, can we make this series just a little bit less bleak? Was child rape the missing ingredient in this misery stew? Jeesh.

Maggie and Jesus are decent characters but Gregory's a joke, and Karl has his moments, though I kept hoping we were going to see what Rick was up to. And, given that last page, I'm not sure it's a good idea to rest the direction of the series on Karl's invincible shoulders - or maybe that's just a tease and we'll be back with Rick and co. in the next book? We'll see.

Despite *Whispers Into Screams* being an average addition to the series overall - it felt too unsubstantial - 23 volumes in, I'm not about to give up now. That's probably the most depressing thing about the series actually, more so than the child rape and such: regardless of quality, onwards I trudge! The world's best-selling comic, everybody!

Anne says

4.5 stars

Oooooh! Interesting new chapter in TWD!

Also, there will be SPOILERS.

Still...

So, not much of Rick in this one. And that's fine! He's been replaced by the equally interesting Carl & Maggie. Plus a bit of Jesus...

There can NEVER be too much Jesus.

Ok, so Jesus runs into these **Whisperers**, and brings one back for questioning.

shudder

After he peels off the grody zombie skin they were using to blend in with the walkers, he finds out his captive is a teenage girl.

A cute teenage girl.

A cute teenage girl that **Carl befriends.**

*And by **befriends**, I mean she teaches him about the birds and bees.*

{insert 70's porn music here}

But how do they end up becoming so *close*?

Well, Carl ended up next to her in a cell for several hours, due to an altercation with some boys who were trying to hurt Sophie. <--These were the same boys that got their asses kicked by Sophie in the last volume, for trying to beat up/bully another kid.

Yeah, so these little assholes were out of blood.

Carl ran off, and poor Sophie thought she was done for...

But...**CARL.**

FUCK YEAH! CARL!

In retrospect, he *may* have gone a bit overboard. **Nah.**

No. No, you didn't kill them, Carl. But you did beat the ever-lovn' shit out of them, and their hillbilly parents are kinda pissed.

Whatever, Mama June. Maggie doesn't give a shit what you and your trailer trash cronies think about the boy who saved her daughter's life.

BUT. Maggie *does* think Carl went too far, and maybe needs some therapy or something. In the meantime, she needs to keep him safe from those two redneck families.

Annnnnd...now we're to the part where Carl is in the cell next to **Lolita Lydia**.

Prison Pals are forever!!--I take no responsibility for the accuracy of that website.

Also...no. **Just don't.**

Anyway, Carl & Lydia become friends, bond over scars, and fall into a Romeo and Juliet sort of love.

Which, historically, always turns out well!

(view spoiler)

Meanwhile, Maggie is dealing with the disgruntled losers in her community, who are being stirred into a frenzy by Gregory.

Remember Gregory? The asshole that Maggie ousted in order to (accidentally) take over the role as Leader of her the Hilltop community?

Yeah. Believe it or not, the dude *still* has delusions of grandeur.

And he's willing to KILL Maggie to make his dreams come true.

Two problems with that plan:

1) JESUS!

This dude really needs his own theme song, amirite?!

2) *He fucked up the poison...idiot.*

Shockingly, Maggie is pissed.

I'm salivating right now! I just can't WAIT to find out what she does to this dickhead!

However, that isn't the biggest problem! Nope. the BIGGEST problem is all of the Whisperers standing outside of the Hilltop communities gates.

Guess who Lydia's *mother* is?

Ewwwww! I mean, *awwww!*

Er, so they are willing to trade the kid for several of Maggie's people.

Easy decision, right?

Well, Carl doesn't think so! Lydia has told him about a lot of rapey things that go on in that community, and he (rightly) isn't excited to see her head back into her mother's arms.

But Lydia volunteers to leave, so there's not much he can do about it, right?

Or, you know, he could just take off on his own to rescue her...

FUCK YEAH, CARL!

sigh

If I don't get my hands on the next volume soon, I'm going to explode.

That last sentence is for my librarians. <--You know who you are, make it happen!

Alejandro says

The Whisperers are coming!

This is the twenty-third volume of "The Walking Dead", collecting the comic book issues from #133 to #138.

Creative Team:

Writer: Robert Kirkman

Illustrators: Charlie Adlard

Additional gray tones to inking: Cliff Rathburn

Chapter Twenty-Three

WHISPERS INTO SCREAM

You will fear us.

The different communities are doing their best to get civilized again, but how smart can be trying to get back that, in a world where modern society collapsed beyond any hope to rise again?

Survival instinct has been the way of life since zombies started to walk.

Killing has been the only safe way to remain alive.

They thought that they were safe now.

Zombies. The Governor. The Hunters. Negan.

Rick's group seemed already having faced all the possible worst that this apocalyptic world could bring into them.

Hardly.

They were **wrong!**

Enter: The Whisperers.

And the shit hit the fan. Hard and big way...

...And the filth is everywhere.

They won't be safe anymore, anywhere...

...not matter how much they faced in the past...

...nothing prepared them for what's coming!

Gabby says

Wow, I really enjoyed this volume. There was hardly any Rick in it, but if I'm being honest it was kind of refreshing and it was a nice break from all the Alexandria drama. This one takes place almost entirely at the Hill Top with Maggie and Carl. I really love the idea of these people dressing themselves as zombies. It's so smart. They call themselves The Whispers. We get introduced to a new character named Lydia who is a young, cute teenage girl. I didn't think I would like her but I've got to say I'm really enjoying her character. I love that this volume really focused on Carl and his contribution to the Hill Top and his relationship with Maggie (and Lydia).

SPOILERS BELOW

These idiots at the Hill Top want to kill Maggie because they don't want her to be the leader anymore just because of a stupid fight between Carl and these two boys he almost killed while defending Sophia. It was so dumb. The old leader Gregory actually attempts to poison Maggie but luckily Jesus saves the day and rescues Maggie and takes her to the doctor. Lydia and Carl talk while they are both being held in the prison and he starts to like her. He lets her out with Maggie's consent and they go out in the field together. Then, she asks him to remove his glasses so she can see his scars, it was actually pretty cute and sweet. But then, she licks the hole in his eye and says she thinks it's sexy and then Carl gets laid for the first time. I knew Rick should've given Carl some kind of sex talk (especially knowing Sophia lives there and he's no longer under parental watch) but oh well. I do actually think Lydia and Carl are super adorable though and I totally

ship it. Then, all of The Whispers shows up at the door step of the Hill Top demanding that they get The Alphas daughter back, Lydia. Lydia volunteers to leave but Carl doesn't want her to go because he found out she was being raped by her people and they aren't safe. At the end of the volume, Carl leaves the Hill Top secretly and sets out to rescue Lydia.

I really enjoyed this volume. I thought it was great character development for Carl and Maggie and I really like Lydia as a new character. I think The Whispers are really cool and I'm interested in learning more about their group. It seems like this series is finally picking up the pace again, I love it.
