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East of West, Vol. 4: Who Wants War?

Jonathan Hickman, Nick Dragotta (Illustrator)

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It's the fourth volume of the Eisner-nominated, best-selling EAST OF WEST.

"WHO WANTS WAR?" sees YEAR TWO of the Apocalypse kick into high gear.

Collects EAST OF WEST #16-19 & EAST OF WEST: THE WORLD.

East of West, Vol. 4: Who Wants War? Details

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From Reader Review East of West, Vol. 4: Who Wants War? for online ebook

Inside My Library Mind says

Reread in April, 2016: Definitely my favorite volume so far. I highly recommend this series! I am going to be picking up Volume 5 soon, and I am quite excited for it!

First read in Aug, 2015: Ah I was very pleased with this one. I was in the story the whole time, and I really enjoyed it.

Wayne McCoy says

I reviewed volume 1 of 'East of West' when it came out, and while I liked it at the time, I found it a bit confusing. I just finished 'East of West Volume 4: Who Wants War?' written by Jonathan Hickman and art by Nick Dragotta, and I really like the way this series has progressed.

It's still strange, but I have a better idea of what's going on. Especially because there is a standalone issue that brings readers up to speed with breakdowns of the regions and infographics of the timelines to get to where we are. And where we are is deep in the heart of a fragmented United States (Un-United States?) in the middle of the apocalypse. Regions try to press their particular advantages to bolster their weaknesses. The Nation takes a bold stance against Texas. Meanwhile, the child Babylon is methodically taught to kill, but to what end, we don't know yet.

The art is great. I like the sci-fi aspects of a comic that has an old West feel to it. The canvas for the story is big and I keep thinking it would be an interesting gaming world. I also think this might be a better story to read once it's all completed. I might have had a better opinion of volume 1 with more story to shed light on it.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

Jedi JC Daquis says

While the third volume made things on track in East of West, volume 4 makes it a good read. I liked this volume. It seems that Hickman cleaned the mess from the previous issues and started with a wholly refreshing and lighter tone in the story while not sacrificing the overarching end of days plot.

Volume 4 did not hesitate to build up the Babylon character without exposing his true nature. The unexpected childishness of the character made him more likeable and gave him personality, instead of just being a killing machine. I am okay with the slower pace with the war being slightly sidelined.

The description of the nations and the timeline of events is a visual treat and immensely helped the readers to get a visual familiarization of the colorful world of politics Hickman has created.

Now I am glad I have picked East of West.

Camilo Guerra says

Hickman y Dragotta no fallan y aca nos traen mas tramas, se develan secretos , mas Western, una guerra terrible en menos de 5 paginas y todo al nivel de siempre, aunque reconozco que tanto personaje es difícil de tratar, los chicos hacen sus tareas y todos tienen su momento de gloria, aunque nos quedamos con ganas de ver mas a Death y en espera de lo que viene.

Andrew says

Hickman and Dragotta pull the reader into their beautifully surreal and terrifying world even deeper with this volume.

East of West is one of those series that is greatly enhanced by re readings of the previous volumes before starting a new one. With the added benefit of a little bit of history and background into their alternate world, volume four helps fill in some blind spots and create new questions. The mix of science fiction, alternate history, dystopian, and apocalyptic themes is genius. Highly recommended for anyone seeking some unique in the comics world.

Elena says

2.5

☆ Ashley ☆ says

☆ 2 Stars ☆

40% of this comic is blank or filler (maps/timeline).

Hold the phone, **WHAT?! 40%!?**

The remaining: *Ramble on Hickman*. The plot is getting lost in the philosophical rubbish and I can't name one character that I would miss if they were killed off. Even with my reservations, I was intrigued enough with the previous volumes. Not so much anymore.

Maxwell says

This series consistently proves itself to be great. Each volume really builds well off of the previous ones. In vol. 4 we get a lot more back story, which helps explain some connections and historic events, and we also

see some events unfold that will definitely propel the series forward in a really interesting way. I love the complexity because it's so much more satisfying when things come together and you start to understand the alliances and driving forces of each character's actions. Also in this volume we got some auxiliary material (i.e. timelines, maps, and encyclopedia entries) that expand the world as well as provide more context in a unique and helpful way. Overall, one of the best, coolest and most beautiful (I mean, the art is stunning) comic series I've read. Can't wait for vol. 5 to come out! **4 stars**

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

I don't know what Hickman's doing to me, but I may actually like this one. Either that or I've been so burned by this Summer of Love Challenge/Flop that even the things I hate, I now like.

Not saying it's not hella confusing, but you know, at least there's story, it's interesting, and I'm invested in the characters. Better than the book I'm working on now.

Travis Duke says

I am sure I am in the minority in saying this but the story progression is slowing down and I feel like the books are not getting better. When they have to include a timeline and character bio that is close to 10 pages, that should tell you that the story is cumbersome and bloated. I was a huge fan when East of West started but Hickman is turning more poetic and drawing the story out. The art continues to be fantastic with Dragotta continuing to create great panels. At this point I am hoping they wrap up this series soon because its becoming painful for me anyways.

Quick recap because god knows I need it with East of West....

The republic (Texas) is dead, wiped out by the nation and there vast technology. The four horseman are travelling.... I actually have no idea what there purpose is anymore. Death re-unites with premier (his wife). Premier (Pra) creates an alliance with the nation. Babylon (deaths son) is travelling (not sure where too) and his navigator robot is reprogrammed to make him kill.

Taylor Ramirez says

I enjoyed this book more than the last one. I enjoyed the bits with Death and Xiao, I like their romance but apparently they're never seeing each other again so that sucks. I'm super worried about Babylon because the evil Balloon is starting to teach him to become a killer. He's such a sweetie and now he's going to bring the end times. I also liked the bits with the Ranger or Thomas. He's probably my favorite character, he has such good lines. Plus he actually has morals unlike Chamberlain.

“That's right. Because all of those things just had the illusion of matterin'...But no lies last start of war—it's like wakin' up from a dream. War is the great crucible where men make their own destinies—become heroes of villains—are remembered or forgotten.”

This is a really great Thomas line.

So Chamberlain named his niece Constance Lee his Chief of Staff. I like her already.

So Babylon sees everything nice and pleasant as horrific and dead, while he sees everything horrific and dead as nice and pleasant. Weird.

Balloon: Where'd you get the demon?

Orion: Cheveyo summoned it from the plain and I grew it as an arm.

Balloon: Hmm. Sounds painful.

I love the humor, too.

Donovan says

Volume 4 has more great splash pages and moments of climactic violence which seemed to be in lesser quantity in Volume 3.

The Beast now called Babylon and his faithful Balloon are free from their prison and now walk on a soul quest, eventually led by Ezra Orion's reprogramming of Balloon to help Babylon become a bringer of death. It's creepy to see how Balloon distorts his sense of reality, twisting friend and foe. But he's still a cute kid.

The nations are now at war, as Hickman beats this point to death. Death informs Xiaolian that their son is gone but he will find him. And political leaders pace and bang their fists wondering how they can crush each other. I guess I'm less interested in the state of the nations than their leaders personally.

I must say that I want more from the Horsemen. In this volume, Conquest has subdued a meat (human) and rides it with horse bit handlebars. War and Famine are nearly nonexistent, except to drink blood and talk about how great destruction is. I honestly don't know what they're doing anymore. Pulling a trailer of something to go somewhere. ?

All that being said, although Hickman definitely stretches himself thin, this is still shaping up toward something great.

Roy says

This provided a few more answers to some questions. The plot is unfolding and developing at a less confusing pace. Still really enjoying this atm

Cyndi says

Wow, business is picking up. Lines drawn, quests begun and metamorphoses abound. The road to hell seems paved with undetermined intentions and I can't wait to see where it takes us!

L. McCoy says

WARNING: SPOILERS FOR VOLUMES 1-3 AHEAD!

What's it about?

As a general rule, I'm gonna mostly skip this bit in East of West reviews.

Pros:

The story is great as it always is in this series.

The art is still extremely well done with this book being full of amazing panels!

The characters are still very interesting.

The action scenes are exciting.

This volume is unpredictable.

There's a little bit of humor thanks to some great, more cartoony panels showing how Babylon sees the outside world.

The world building is great and gets even more in depth!

The dialogue is still great.

There's romance in this volume and it's amazing!

There's a little bit of horror in this one, pretty well done too!

The ending is great.

Why not 5 stars:

The first volume contains an obnoxious amount of prose and I can't stand when comics and prose are mixed in the same book.

Overall:

Great volume even though I have one problem with it. This series continues to be freaking amazing and it's a series that all ~~comic~~ readers should definitely at least try!

4/5
