



Deadly Class, Vol. 3: The Snake Pit

Rick Remender (Writer) , Wes Craig (Illustrator) , Lee Loughridge (Colorist)

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When homeless orphan Marcus Lopez was asked to join a shadowy school specializing in training the next generation of the world's deadliest assassins, he figured he had nothing left to lose. He was wrong. Now, Marcus and his one-time lover Maria are thrown to the wolves when a Mexican Cartel, the family of a classmate they were forced to kill, comes gunning for revenge. The true costs of the life he's chosen to live are only just dawning on Marcus. Incapable of staving off the ravages of love, life, and death, he plunges headfirst into a black pit of drugs, sex, and self-destruction. And just when things seemingly can't get any worse, Finals Season descends on the school. And in this world final exams can be murder! Continuing the cult-hit dark teen drama, writer Rick Remender and artist Wes Craig take readers on the darkest road through 1980s San Francisco, and the kids that ruled its streets.

Collecting DEADLY CLASS #12-16.

Deadly Class, Vol. 3: The Snake Pit Details

Date : Published October 7th 2015 by Image Comics

ISBN : 9781632154767

Author : Rick Remender (Writer) , Wes Craig (Illustrator) , Lee Loughridge (Colorist)

Format : Paperback 128 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Graphic Novels Comics

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From Reader Review Deadly Class, Vol. 3: The Snake Pit for online ebook

Lila says

Holy shit.

Deadly Class is the best "teenagers with a license to kill" drama ever.

It starts right where we're left our gang last time: Fuckface's headquarter is blown up and Marcus and Maria just run into Chico's benevolent father who goes by the lovely name of "El Alma del Diablo"...while carrying Chico's head with them.

What follows is one major chasing scene (reminiscent to issue #1) and a great example of redeeming the previously fucked up character. I liked Maria when we met her- she is a seductive killer with calavera face and bladed fan- how cool is that? But, I was not happy with where Remender took her character in previous volume: he made her to be the "wrong girl" but in a way it was intended more to show us that Marcus is a master of making wrong choices. Depression and constant crying didn't help. Even her backstory was not really hers and it gave us more info on Chico and his dad.

But in this volume.... Remender gave her back her agency and her mojo:

+ all the badass points go to Maria:

This volume can easily be divided in two parts because high-octane, accelerating conclusion of(definitely not approved by school master) action Marcus and his friends took against Fuckface is followed by slower and more paranoid scenes; just miles and miles of Marcus being one hot mess and train wreck.

This worked for me really good because I love stories where character's actions actually have consequences and their Fuckface carnage has a long-reaching, facepalming, casualty and group-breaking ones. (-_-)

Also, if you think that Wes Craig and Lee Loughridge can't top that mindblowing Marcus-on-acid scene, that's only because you didn't see their Marcus-on-mushrooms scene.

Their work is flawless.

I had two major complaints about previous volume:

First, I missed those subtle '80 references creators so perfected in Vol. #1 and second was that I thought there was not enough school stuff.

I swear, it's like they took my whining to heart and gave me everything I needed because:

!!!*

As for King'd Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts, "a shadowy school specializing in training the next generation of the world's deadliest assassins" we are finally getting some hints of its purpose and...well, their selection process. I can't wait to see what's going to happen next.

GAME IS AFOOT!

**Akira is only positive thing I can say about Shabnam.*

Roy says

4.5*

Im loving this again. Its become more about plot again after Vol 2. The characterisation is becoming more fleshed out both for the kids and some adults. The childish humour and scenes werent present. My only concern is Marcus consistently whining. There seems to be too much. I know hes a teenager going through that developmental stage but at times it does become too much. Remender is still one of my fave writers.

Maddie says

It might be because I'm sick but this installment wasn't as easy to follow. I got Maria and Saya mixed up and that was weird. Also Marcus is getting real good at pissing everyone off.

Zedsdead says

I think Deadly Class loses its way in this disappointing volume. Main character Marcus here is a weak, cowardly fuckup of monumental proportions. He rats out his best friend's big secret out of spite, he humiliates his roommate to make the popular kids laugh, he whines endlessly, gets herpes, gets pregnant, and loses every last one of his friends. Which would be fine if that were the character, but Marcus was recruited for Assassin School because he was resourceful, determined, brave as hell and effective. Check out that backstory in the Boys' Home. The transformation makes no sense.

Maybe Remender can salvage the series—maybe he's going to make the case (all evidence to the contrary) that Assassin High turns good people into limp assholes--but I think he's just going all in on cheap melodrama and teenage angst and wound up sabotaging himself.

Plot points:

(view spoiler)

Miguel says

YES! DC is back! Loved it! I loved this new arc! I just hope the group gets back together in vol 4, because i

love them all. I adore the fact that Marcus thinks he knows everyone and everything around him, but he's so wrong!

This is definitely my favorite series from image comics! Top 3 best current series in my opinion, no doubt!

READ IT!

Ps. PLUS THE ART <3

Travis Duke says

Remender comes back strong in the writing with vol. 3. Maria's ghosts come back to haunt her after they discover the news of Chico. Its some great story telling and art, lots of action and excitement. Meanwhile Marco is spiraling out of control on drugs, unable to cope with his emotions about Maria and Saya he turns to Petra for rebound. The writing is much better after not caring about Marco in vol.2, Remender nails the teenage emotions and outbursts perfectly. Willie now has feelings for Saya and Marco is struggling losing his friends and girlfriends. The past is catching up with Marco and its not pretty considering all the rules they have broke at the school. We are left at the freshman graduation with a surprise lesson about killing the rats at the school, namely Marco I presume. After 3 volumes I think Remender has created a really nice setting and dug deep in the character creation. I personally want to see where this all ends so I am looking towards vol.4

Crystal Starr Light says

Bullet Review:

Questions that run through my head as I read this:

How many times per panel can our protagonist whine about something?

Will there ever be a female character that DOESN'T have sex with Whiny Emo Idiot Boy?

Why does this series compile it's volumes so the opening issue is FANTASTIC (compared to the previous Emo-whiny drug-induced blandness of the series), the closing panels are decent, and the ENTIRE REST OF THE VOLUME is our protagonist whining, getting high, whining, having sex, whining, moping about Saya, whining, going to the clinic to check if he has herpes, and oh MOAR WHINING?

Why haven't we gotten back to the REAL plot, aka Ronald Reagan's assassination?! You teased me with that and now you won't deliver.

I don't think Remender and I get along. We are way to different. But as long as the coworker lends me these, I guess I'll read.

Victoria ? says

Didn't enjoy this one as much as the other 2 volumes but the last issue Atleast makes me wanna carry on!

The mc is lowkey starting to annoy me though...

Maria (Big City Bookworm) says

How do I even begin to explain my love for this comic series...oh that's right, I already have on multiple occasions. For those of you who don't know, Deadly Class is my all time favourite comic series by my all time favourite comic book writer, Rick Remender, and also published by my all time favourite comic book publisher, Image Comics.

Deadly Class is one of the darkest comic series I have ever read. Not only does it deal with a school full of teenaged assassins, but it deals with heavy material regarding illegal drugs and mental health all during the crazy decade of the 1980's.

"A dark hole. Falling deeper every day. I need to make a change. But don't I always?"

The Snake Pit picks up right where Kids of The Black Hole left off. The gang has got themselves into one hell of a situation and due to their recklessness and after the occurrence of a tragic accident in regards to a member of their group, all hell breaks loose. Friendships end and relationships falter.

Marcus is in his darkest state yet throughout this installment which is almost hard to believe. He is continuously spiraling downward and something needs to change before he completely loses it. On top of his obvious deteriorating mental health, Marcus has plunged even deeper into the world of illegal drugs which is definitely not a great combination. Ultimately, Marcus is lost. He has trouble fitting in with those around him and when he finally starts to get along with someone, either they turn out to stab him in the back or he finds a way to ruin it by his own hand.

"What hurts worse, she didn't leave you. After everything you did, she came back for you. Pulls you through a soup of brain damage and broken bones."

Marcus' internal monologue is still probably my favourite thing about the entire series. By constantly knowing what he is thinking, we are able to learn a lot about him as a character. You can clearly see the deadly mix of anxiety and depression that Marcus deals with on a daily basis and how badly it is eating him alive. He has been on a steady decline from the start of this series and I really hope he manages to find a way out of his downward spiral.

The story itself has stayed at relatively the same pace. We see Marcus and his friends getting themselves into some serious trouble, but what's new here is the fact that Marcus has ultimately pushed everyone away from himself. The tone definitely feels darker and it doesn't seem to be getting brighter any time soon. Towards the end of this volume, it seems the focus of the story will switch back to the theme of a high school meant to train assassins. Up until this point the story has been focusing mostly on Marcus and his relationships between friends, girlfriends and acquaintances at this new new school, but it seems as though that this will be taking a turn if the end scene is any indication.

"During change life is uncomfortable, but only to the degree that you hold on to the past. Like the phantom limb that still itches after it's been severed."

As I have said, the writing within this series is phenomenal. Not only in terms of Marcus' internal monologue, but also literally everything else within this series is perfect. Rick Remender has seriously found the tone of the story and has been executing it wonderfully.

Nothing accompanies an already amazing story better than some amazing art. I love the style of Wes Craig as it flows perfectly with the story that Remender has created. I was even lucky enough to score a signed print from Wes Craig himself at Fan Expo Canada this past summer and I am in love with it.

I've said it once and I'll say it again, Deadly Class is my favourite comic series to date. I cannot stress how much I recommend that everyone at least give this gem a try. I continue to look forward to reading future installments and praying for Marcus' well being. I would love for you to join me in reading the intense story that is Deadly Class.

"Down here I don't have to even exist. Down here I'm already dead. And I like it."

James DeSantis says

Fuuuuuuuuck! NOOOOOO!!!! This series really has no problem killing major characters.

So this picks up right where volume 2 ends. Some intense gun showdown. Death of a major character, big fight scenes, then half way through the volume another major death. One that actually made me sad. Made me want to destroy some mofos. I was so freaking sad, cause loved this character. Then we slow down a bit. Interesting downward spiral of our hero. Some scenes weren't needed but the last 10-12 pages are so fucking intense I had to grip my balls and read non-stop like a mad man.

Anyway.....this is almost as good as the last volume. On to volume 4 baby!

Sebastien says

I finished volumes 3 and 4. I thought they were pretty great. The art is superb, compositions are fantastic and the coloring, wow, it is perfection imo!

If you are going to read this series you have to suspend belief and also know you are in for a hell of a whiny emo boy main character. He's quite self-involved and narcissistic which tires but not enough to get me to quit (this shouldn't read as a challenge to the writers). The story, as ridiculous as it is, just works as a vehicle for mayhem and entertainment and the various dilemmas and conflicts do suck me in. But I don't really understand why whiny boy is in ninja teenager assassin school, tbh with you he doesn't seem very into killing and he doesn't seem to be all that good at it either (admissions at this school may need retooling). He's also doing a lot of drugs which I think is having a downward effect on his murdering potential (in fact many of the kids do a lot of drugs, this school could use a counselor or 10). It's too bad because I really think he would flourish at the Whiny Academy, I think he has the potential to be top student there. But maybe this is an indictment of the system, his example showcases that we (the system) aren't getting kids to the right

schools they need to be at for their talents to blossom. Hence you see misplacement of Whiny Boy at a Murder Academy and its just another indicator the system is going to hell.

Anyways. The action scenes are great fun. Rivalries and cliques are ridiculous but entertaining. Reads super fast. Sometimes there is a jarring contrast between seeing the characters worry about staying alive and conducting high stakes murdering and then next scene seeing these same characters agonizing over petty sentimental quotidian life problems (Sally is dating Jerry?! nooo my life is over!!!) which is weird and silly. And then their life IS over in the next scene but that's because someone put a bullet in their head. So there you go. But like I said you just have to suspend some belief (I'd be surprised if anyone is reading this for nuanced grounded quotidian realism) and roll with it. The writing is good and helps cover up some of those things that make you go "Huh?" Some funny moments too which are nice touches.

As I mentioned in review of previous volume, this series reaches a high-level of demented. I applaud this continuing accomplishment. There is some fun imagination going on here, I mean, very dark and twisted but imagination it is and I'm sucked into the zeitgeist of the whole thing now!

Cheese says

3.5 stars.

A lot finally happens in this volume. Major characters being killed off and the main character getting hit on all sides. Edge of the seat stuff.

Look forward to the final  

Sam Quixote says

The Snake Pit picks up where the last scene from Kids of the Black Hole ended: Marcus and co. have successfully raided Fuckface's stronghold but are faced with a new threat: Mexican gangsters – the same evil muthas who killed Maria's family! Things go from bad to worse as one of Marcus' friends is killed and, as a result of the raid, another is taken out too in King's Dominion no less! The guilt, along with an increasingly messed up love life, sends Marcus into a tailspin of depression and paranoia exacerbated by his growing drug use as he becomes a one-man island of emo moping!

The third volume of Deadly Class is definitely the least interesting in the series so far. It does start really well though as Maria gets her blood-soaked revenge on Chico's father, El Alma del Diablo. The sequence has grenades and motorbikes, bladed fans and gas heels, and fire, fire fiiiire - brilliant! Rick Remender shows us he's not afraid to kill off main characters either which definitely adds an element of delicious uncertainty and tension to the narrative.

Unfortunately Remender can't keep up the pace after the explosive start and things slow down to a crawl as Marcus burns bridges with his surviving friends and gives himself over to druggy oblivion. What follows isn't a very insightful portrayal of depression as Marcus (and the plot) becomes more or less static for a lot of the book. Maybe that's realistic of the illness but it's also not very interesting to read.

The introspection could have been compelling and thoughtful except his constant inner monologue is rendered tedious with his drug-fuelled paranoia as he goes over and over the same half-baked gibberish ad nauseam without it going anywhere.

There's a two-page 'shrooms sequence that's kinda fun (starring Ronnie Reagan as a chibi astronaut with a machine gun!) but it's not as imaginative or epic as the Vegas one from the first book.

Remender seems to think Marcus drunkenly sleeping with a fat girl at a party is enough "plot" for this book! There's too much boring teen relationship drama, it's like a less kiddie-friendly version of Sweet Valley High! Marcus loves Maria, Marcus loves Saya, etc. Eh, that part of Deadly Class was always the least interesting to me.

Another student tries to blackmail Marcus which is so stupid. It's a school for assassins, dumbass – you put one of them against the wall with nowhere to turn, what d'you think they're going to do? Also, even if Marcus is strung out, how – when he's an ASSASSIN-IN-TRAINING – does he bungle a point blank shot to the head?! He should be expelled for screwing up something meth-ed up gangbangers could pull off with their eyes shut!

Wes Craig's art is still tremendous, Lee Loughridge's colours are awesome, and I'm still interested in the series – a story finally rears its head in the final two pages of the book so the next volume looks to be great fun – but, for me, Deadly Class, Volume 3: The Snake Pit is a disappointingly average entry for an otherwise quality title.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

BR with my fabulous Deadly Class partner in crime, Kat (click to read her review)

If I thought that the previous volumes were fucked-up, SURPRISE! **INSANITY OVERLOAD.**

Let me tell you something first : **Marcus is losing it.** There's no denying it, my favorite assassin in training is going *down* and fucking up pretty much everything : girls drama (AGGHHHH), mushrooms overdose, paranoia is eating at him (also, herpes ← the day you're fantasizing about an herpes family, please be worried). Where does it leave us when the main character can't hold his shit together and bites everyone's heads?

? With a fucking clown and 1,000,000 questions.

Plot wise, I appreciated the risks taken and some parts really surprised me ← There's nothing I love more, so high-five for that, Remender. Not to mention that messed-up ending which promises us a hell of a ride in Volume 4.

(↑ *Not the ending. I'm not that bad :P*)

I will never say enough how much I'm in love with the art and I would put this on my walls, frankly. Well, maybe not *everything*, but you get the idea right? Perfect to convey the crazy 80s atmosphere in my opinion, along with all the pop culture references I always enjoy finding there.

? In the end, even though I didn't enjoy it as much as the others, I can't wait to see where the story goes and how Marcus evolves. **Isn't it all that matters?**

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Morgan says

This was slightly better than the last volume. Not really a fan of the story anymore. Turning it to a teen romance drama more than about assassins. I hope that changes. The art is what is keeping me from leaving the series though.
