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The Wicked + The Divine Volume 3: Commercial Suicide



Synopsis

After the detonation of FANDEMONIUM the gods-as-pop-stars of THE WICKED + THE DIVINE try living in the long dark shadow. Team WicDiv are joined by a stellar cast of guest artists to put the spotlight of each of the gods. The multiple Eisner-award nominated series continues in the only way it knows how: darker, weirder, faster. Don't worry. It's going to be okay.

Book Information

Series: The Wicked + the Divine

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Image Comics (February 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1632156318

ISBN-13: 978-1632156310

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.7 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 54 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,069 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Image Comics #147 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Fantasy Graphic Novels #891 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels

Customer Reviews

My initial reaction to this book was confusion--the art, so consistently beautiful in the preceding two volumes--is immediately and drastically different, with a different visual style every issue. At first this bugged me, but the more I read the more the changes made sense, and, in my opinion, work. After the shocking ending of volume 2, the focus of WicDiv as a series had to shift to a different character than the one we watched for both the preceding volumes, and as the story shifts its focus across WicDiv vol. 3 from reporter to god to god, the artistic changes work to emphasize the different points of view we as the readers are experiencing. This is a book that focuses not on the central relationships one fan develops with her idols, but on the lives and experiences of each individual god idolized by the world. These are deeply broken people cursed by fame and adoration, a theme present in the previous volumes but nowhere near as thematically explored as here in volume 3. If WicDiv's greater literary message is about how terrible it would be to be famous and how terrible the "adoring fans" are to their idols, then this book is more true to delivering that message and more effective in its than both the preceding volumes combined. This is a stellar volume in a stellar series

that is worth everyone's time to read.

After the bombshell ending of *The Wicked + The Divine* Vol. 2 that left many readers shocked, heartbroken, and asking a ton of questions, volume 3 picks up that smoking gun not necessarily by keeping the ball rolling at a fast, suspenseful pace, but by slowing things down and exploring...back story? Yes, back story. This third volume is largely focused on providing more information about each member of Gillen and McKelvie's celebrity pantheon, and coming with this new direction is also the inclusion of guest artists illustrating five of the six issues (McKelvie himself did 14). The artistic styles between the five vary greatly, sometimes being rich, vibrant, and detailed, and at other times being more roughly drawn with a more simplistic color palette. Stephanie Hans, Brandon Graham's, and (especially) Tula Lotay's issues were my favorites, but the artists were all chosen in a very clever way in which their styles reflect the overall tone of their respective issues, e.g. Lotay's is deep and poignant for an issue that also is, Graham's is zany and cartoonish for an issue that also is, etc. It's definitely a shift in gears, and our main protagonist from the first two volumes, Laura, is absent from this third, but don't take that as meaning that this volume is more boring or any less excellent. Even though the action in it isn't as rampant, McKelvie's storytelling abilities are spot on as ever. Most notable of all, we also get the huge reveal in this volume of who killed the judge and framed Lucifer back in Volume 1, and the answer may come as yet another shocker. But by exploring each god's background more in depth, McKelvie is effectively able to give readers a better understanding of how they all relate to the perpetrator, and which gods may be standing with or against them down the line. It comes at a good timing, and lays a solid foundation for things inevitably heating up in the soon-to-come fourth arc. Don't let the change in technique and some of the negative reviews below deter you. If you're a fan of what's come before, buy this trade and keep the magic going.

I will certainly agree with other reviewers and say that the variations in art work caught me a little off guard and did distract me a bit. I really enjoyed the art from the previous volumes so this was a slight shock to the system. Using 6 different drawing styles and character renderings is certainly a change. However, I will not debate the wisdom of those who came up with that idea. I WILL say that once you get used to the art and into the story it becomes quite interesting. This volume sort of goes back and fills in some blanks while leaving new ones at the same time. I'm very curious to see what the next volume looks like. Literally!

This volume is all guest artists which I really disliked because McKelvie's art style is so beautiful and some of the art in this volume feels really dumbed down. HOWEVER, these issues focus very heavily on the backstories of the other gods which is suuuper cool to read through, even if a lot of it did feel like filler narrative until McKelvie got back to illustrate again.

Wicked and Devine started off strong, hit a crazy cliff hanger... Then immediately put on the breaks in this volume to give us back story. I mean back story is appreciated, but not when it consumes most of the volume. Very little actually happens here. The other annoying thing was the jarring art transitions. Amaratsu and Tara chapters were gorgous but the others were less than desirable artistically. They shouldn't have had guests with such varying styles. Hopefully volume 4 cleans up these problems and goes back to being great.

It's not that I didn't like the story....it's cool to get some background on our characters....it's the art work. I really like this graphic novel, but this volume was hard to get through due to the huge difference in the artwork. The Wicked & The Divine is beautifully drawn, and I find this art to be much more drab and even hard to feel the characters in the same way. Their facial expressions are much harder to read and they just don't look like themselves. In a different comic, I wouldn't have minded the art. I originally started reading this comic because I thought I looked so lovely. I just really struggled to get past it.

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