



Y: The Last Man, Vol. 10: Whys and Wherfores

Brian K. Vaughan , Pia Guerra (Illustrator) , José Marzán Jr. (Illustrator)

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WINNER OF THREE EISNER AWARDS, featured in THE NEW YORK TIMES and on NPR, Y: THE LAST MAN is the gripping saga of Yorick Brown, an unemployed and unmotivated slacker who discovers he is the only male left in the world after a plague of unknown origin instantly kills every mammal with a Y chromosome. Accompanied by his mischievous monkey, Ampersand, and the mysterious Agent 355, Yorick embarks on a transcontinental journey to find his long-lost girlfriend and discover why he is the last man on earth.

Yorick Brown's long journey through an Earth populated only by women comes to a dramatic, unexpected conclusion in this final volume. Collects issues #55-60 of Brian K. Vaughan and Pia Guerra's award-winning Vertigo series.

Y: The Last Man, Vol. 10: Whys and Wherefores Details

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selis ?en says

hof.

Brandon says

I don't even know where to start. I'd love to just throw, no shovel, all kinds of praise on this! You know, like when The Academy gave Peter Jackson all those awards for The Return of the King, mostly neglecting the first two (sidebar: I hate those damn Hobbit movies).

Vaughan did everything *right*, I wouldn't change a damn thing. Part of me wants to do a whole spoiler-ific review but I refuse to neglect peeps who haven't read this, so I'll try and tag appropriately.

You know what, I'm not ashamed to admit it. It did get a little dusty in the room while reading this final volume. I did see (view spoiler) coming but was totally caught off guard with (view spoiler). I almost couldn't even take it! I love that Vaughan threw away the conventional ending and gave us something to think about.

The other thing I love is that despite what I had said in my book #9 review, we're still not totally clear on what caused the plague. This, I'm 110% okay with. I see no real reason to give us a definitive answer as I had noted before, it's pretty much irrelevant.

More people need to read this. Graphic novels and comics are a perfect medium for story telling and people who snub their noses at the format really need to look no further than this series. Granted, the series did lag a little in the middle volumes, it both started and finished strong.

While I'd love for this to become a TV series (there's no way you can fit this into a movie, or a trilogy no less), the graphic novels are perfect just the way they are and it's often pretty difficult to improve upon perfection.

Ashish Iyer says

Y THE LAST MAN is the story of a young man, named Yorick Brown and his monkey Ampersand, both males in a world where every single male has died. That's right, every male on the planet, not just human males, has died in the world, and this story doesn't go the way you think it would. What caused all the men in the world to die? Well, that's something that's explored most of this series. It's always a question in the back of the reader's mind: Is it mystical?

Ending concludes the series in a completely different way than expected, but it works. It will leave you satisfied. Sure, you may want more, but you'll be completely happy with what the creative team leaves you with.

It's a comic you have to read. It's required reading in order to be a comic book fan. It's a fabulous story about a man and his monkey in a world of women.

Craig says

I am very impressed.

When I started reading this series, I was blown away by the first few volumes and couldn't wait to buy the next one to see not only where the story and characters were going, but also to experience the depth of writing.

After a few volumes, though, I felt that the plot and characterization both lagged a bit. While the plot slowed, the characterization didn't really pick up. Some of the middle volumes felt slow and lost.

These last two really picked up the pace, the characterization, and the mystery.

While there are a few small things in this final volume of the series that really irked me at the time, when I was done reading it in its entirety, though, I realized they were very small things. If not for the epilogue, I probably would have felt a bit cheated at the end, but the epilogue is fascinating and emotionally touching in a way the series hadn't quite reached before. I absolutely loved the epilogue and it made the slower parts of the ride well worth it. I would easily recommend this graphic novel series to any one of my friends.

P.S. a couple of months later, and I am changing the rating from 4 to 5 stars. I find myself still emotionally affected by and thinking about the epilogue. That alone has propelled me to change it. The ending is heartbeaking enough that it sticks with you. That is enough for me to consider it worthy of 5 stars.

Bonnie says

Reflecting on this series, I'm going to say: not impressed.

The series tended to irk me a lot. The idea is still thought-provoking and fascinating (you know the drill by now: what happened if every male mammal was wiped out, besides one Everyman and his monkey). But how Vaughan dealt with it was just ri-fucking-diculous.

You know what, Vaughan? Very little of my life revolves around men and Fighting the Patriarchy. Seriously, is this supposed to be set in the 1960s? Nearly every woman in this thing is OBSESSED with the patriarchy and the oppression of women by men. All the post-apocalyptic secret societies revolve around MEN despite the fact that there aren't any anymore: the Amazons, the Setauket Ring, etc. etc. Do you know what women don't tend to do? Stand around and spout giant blocks of text at each other about the Oppressive Patriarchy. There were very few *personal* conversations about men. You know, the fathers, brothers, sons, friends, husbands, etc., etc. that every woman left standing lost. Instead everyone thinks about Men and spouts off ideological crap at every opportunity. (another favorite target is religion, especially the Catholic church, but that is a whole other bucket of worms)

And despite all the dead men, this is actually one of the tamest apocalypses I've read about. Electricity, heat, sewage, etc., etc. seems to be in perfect working order almost continuously. Everyone is wearing normal clothes and looking clean and decently fed and healthy. Seriously??? Life As We Know It is over, but it reads more like it's normal life, minus men. And the attitudes of the women - even putting aside their weird obsession with The Patriarchy - are kind of insane. THEY ARE FACING THE EXTINCTION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES. No more babies, no more humans. And they don't seem concerned with this. Even when a male is dropped into their laps, they're mostly like "oh, that's interesting/strange/let's kill him [the Amazons]". There is not a massive WE NEED TO HAVE SEX TO PRESERVE HUMANITY mentality. In the same don't-seem-to-realize-they-are-the-last-generation vein are things like the Israelis who have their weird little machinations which seem to revolve around the idea of a *future* - which besides the farfetched cloning hope (which I guess worked out in the end, but was not really something to bet on) - was really not likely for most of this series.

And there were stupid random tidbits thrown in about How the World Would Be If Only Women Were Left that was just so much bull-fucking-shit. Because apparently after the apocalypse, women would clear out the shampoo aisle but leave the canned food. Because the cosmetic companies were run by men but farms still run okey-dokey post-apocalypse or some such shit. Shampoo is important but (1) people washed their hair before Vidal Sassoon became a thing (2) ANY SEMI INTELLIGENT HUMAN BEING WOULD ALSO TAKE ALL THE FOOD NOT JUST COSMETICS BECAUSE THERE WOULD DEFINITELY BE FOOD SHORTAGES WITH HALF THE POPULATION DEAD, SOCIETY IN DISARRAY AND THE QUICK EXTINCTION OF ALL MAMMALS. Jesus. Was this book supposed to make me think women are pathetic? Because in this book they are. (well, maybe the men are just as dumb and lame, but we really just have Yorick to go on).

Oh, and if every male mammal in the world died, you don't think this would fuck up the ecosystem just a little?

I just think it was a weird, weird series in its outlook. I would really love to read a version of this written by a woman. I do not think Vaughan did a good job of capturing what actual women would be like in this situation. Because according to him we would mostly be really, really angry and railing against the Unfair Power of Men or just kind of cool chicks riding out the apocalypse trying to avoid the ire of the feminazis.

Ivan says

I finished last volume and my overall impression is that it's good series but not without flaws.

Y: The last man is funny and even ridiculous on few occasions but also points out unequality (there are hardly any female pilots, women that killed their husbands serve more time than men that killed their wives etc...) and on more than one occasion ask the question: Is world better off without men?

Flaws? It takes up to volume 3 for story to take off and it takes 1-2 more volumes for Yorick to stop being annoying.

There are also some things I disagree with most notably with statement that men and women can't truly be friends. On one occasion Yorick counts his male friends and says that he can't be as honest with women as with men.

First of all as someone who had female best friend through most of his life (several, as I lived in few different

places) I have to disagree with that assessment. I also have to disagree with second part as I am more honest with women than with men.

Overall Y: The last man isn't perfect but it's one good satire and it gets 4 stars from me.

Jamil says

'As far as answers go, it was...vaguely unsatisfying."

Praiz Sophyronja says

NOOOOOOO. It's finished!!!!

I've tried to delay finishing this incredible series for ages and I'm going to miss all the characters SO much. Yorick, 355., Dr. Mann.. AMPERSAND ugh, all of them! I don't know how to feel about that ending, this whole volume was so intense. The revelations came out of NOWHERE and I'm still reeling from the events.

I'm not quite satisfied with how it ended because there are still so many answers, and this will be one of those tales that will stay with me for years, and I'll always be wondering and wondering.

Vaughan and the artists did an incredible job and I'd seriously recommend this to everyone!

Nicki says

Spoilers Ahead!

If I think on it too long I can't help but feel just a little let down by the ending of this series. But, that said, doesn't mean that I'm altogether unhappy with the ending or that I think it should have been done differently.

All mysteries are not fully revealed. I have to think that perhaps that was intentional. We don't always get all the answers in life, right? Society and periods in history (some more than others) are messy and complicated and convoluted and full of holes that never get completely filled in and smoothed over. And just like in life, we don't always get the most reasonable, justifiable answers to those complex situations. So my feelings of let down are not so much with the writer and how things came together (or didn't) but just that things didn't turn out rosier.

My feelings about the explanation of the plague are mirrored by Yorick himself when he says, "As far as answers go, it was vaguely unsatisfying." To which Beth asks, "Is there any explanation that would have been satisfactory?" Yorick: "Um, aliens? I would have also accepted witchcraft or anything involving nanobots." I think that Vaughan is letting readers know here that he *knows* that the grand reveal really wasn't all that grand, that it wasn't a mistake or an oversight but it was meant to be that way. The series' strength is most definitely in its characters. And character development is what Brian Vaughan seems to do really well.

My only real qualm is that Yorick's character wasn't more redemptive. He loses so much and goes through so much and manages to maintain his sense of humor and optimism through the entire series, right down to the very last chapter, but excluding the very last chapter. It's rather disheartening. But then again, a human reaction that feels true to life. It's an anti-fairytale conclusion. And a fairytale, this definitely is not.

John Wiswell says

It'll be hard to respond to this without spoiling a lot, but here goes...

So we finally bring all the characters together, and all the longing and all the inconvenient things that could happen do. Someone wants to confess something only for someone else to interrupt with another earthshattering event. Who does Yorick want to be with? *Y: The Last Man* has always had an element of soap opera disguised as philosophy, but this is by far the most heavyhanded and ignorantly blunt volume in the run. The big reunion is a total bust (and not in the *Lonesome Dove* fashion of deep and meaningful change over time), and turns into fodder for one more big fight scene (admittedly with a couple of great allusions to the visual history of the series). The meta-fictional story where a director turns to comic books deserves the "Meh" Yorick dumps on it at the end. I understand the drive to do something deeper within escapist entertainment, but *Y: The Last Man* isn't nearly deep enough to be patting itself on the back for it, especially not after a streak of disappointing stories. The final arc is certainly a step up from the penultimate one, but does not step nearly high enough on all that was built throughout the series.

The final chapter is a cop-out, first skipping ahead sixty years, then bebopping around within the sixty year timeframe, robbing us of the thorough resolution we read over one thousand pages to reach. Many of the things we glimpse in these future tenses are cool, but highly improbable or unbelievable without proper explanation, and because this is the end, we'll never understand how or why they happened; not the cultural or scientific advances, not how characters grew to the point where they did the things they were depicted as doing. At the end of such a long journey, this was a very disappointing ending, and far from an apt one when you realize all the characters you followed either died or wound up doing things that bore little or no relation to what they'd been doing for 1000+ pages.

Understand that I'm not mad, just sourly disappointed after how good this series was.

||Swaroop|| says

The Series Finale...

and, in the end, everything falls into perspective...

Y: The Last Man is about the only man ("The Last Man") to survive a mysterious plague that wiped out every other male of all the species on the planet ("every mammal with a Y chromosome").

This simple, yet in many ways complex, story of a man and his monkey has been an interesting journey and fun-filled roller coaster ride! The artwork was consistent across all the series (60 issues) and the storyline is well-written and engaging.

Nihan says

:((((

Tudor Vlad says

Reading the epilogue with Ramin Djawadi's *Light of the Seven* in the background wasn't a very good idea. This last volume was a roller coaster of emotions, one moment I was feeling happy, the next I was feeling sad and all this kept happening until the crushing finale that made me weep like a child. I had my own theories on how this was going to end, but none of what I thought was going to happen actually happened. There are so many horrible moments in this volume that make want to hate *Brian K. Vaughan*, but at the same time love him, because honestly I think this was the best way to end the series. I'm still not OK with it, I don't think I'll be for quite some time but I'm grateful for the journey I had with these characters. Sure, it had its ups and downs but this ending made me appreciate the series as whole even more, there are so many moments from past volumes that in retrospect are now heartbreakingly beautiful.

Bradley says

Okay, so that ending was all kinds of awesome. And horror. And awesome again.

We get our happy ending, have it turn into the opposite, and then we get it happy again, and then we are subjected to a truly great punchline. You know, as in the answer to a great joke about men and women. :) No spoilers, but Yorick the great escape artist really does it in the end. :)

So we get love, hope, tragedy, more tragedy, humor, a little more tragedy, and a super bitter-sweet end.

I can't imagine a better wrap up. It kinda makes the whole series shine in retrospect. :)

I'm very pleased. :)

Oriana says

I know it's cheaterish and stupid to review a series as a whole rather than the individual books, but I read these so fast, so one-after-the-other, that they're not too separatable for me. (Except the subplot about the actress troupe; that one sucked.)

I guess people have a lot to say about these books' unfeminism and misogyny and all that, but I am no theorist, and all I can tell you is that I cannot recall ever in my life being so enthralled by a series, in such a pell-mell frenzy to read the next and the next and the next, so in eye-popping awe of every single page.

So argue with me if you want -- tell me why I'm wrong and what I missed and I'll happily listen -- but I loved

these books *so hard*, it's probably going to be hard to convince me they're anything other than balls-out fucking incredible.
