



## American Vampire, Vol. 3

*Scott Snyder (Writer) , Rafael Albuquerque (Illustrator) , Sean Gordon Murphy (Illustrator) , Danijel Žeželj (Illustrator)*

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## Two epic World War II tales in one massive volume!

In the Pacific, Pearl's husband Henry joins a clandestine group on a secret mission to Japan to hunt a new breed of bloodsucker. Meanwhile, Skinner Sweet has plans of his own...

And in Europe, vampire hunters Felicia Book and Cash McCogan go behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Romania in search of a rumored vampire cure.

Blood and bullets abound in this new collection from the Eisner Award-winning series!

**Collecting:** *American Vampire* 12-18, *American Vampire: Survival of the Fittest* 1-5

## American Vampire, Vol. 3 Details

Date : Published February 7th 2012 by Vertigo

ISBN : 9781401233334

Author : Scott Snyder (Writer) , Rafael Albuquerque (Illustrator) , Sean Gordon Murphy (Illustrator) , Danijel Žeželj (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 288 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Horror, Paranormal, Vampires, Fantasy, Fiction, Comic Book

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**Download and Read Free Online American Vampire, Vol. 3 Scott Snyder (Writer) , Rafael Albuquerque (Illustrator) , Sean Gordon Murphy (Illustrator) , Danijel Žeželj (Illustrator)**

## From Reader Review American Vampire, Vol. 3 for online ebook

### Sesana says

The best volume yet. Here, the action has been moved to World War II. The first storyline is about Henry going on a vampire hunting mission in the South Pacific, and finding a secret Japanese camp. The second stars Felicia Book and Cash, infiltrating a Nazi castle to try and extract a scientist with a possible cure for vampirism. Especially important for Cash, whose son had been infected as an infant. It is, of course, violent and bloody. There's also more information about the complicated world of vampires that Snyder has created, and fully believable characters and relationships.

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### Amanda says

I can distill my review of why volume 3 of *American Vampire* is my favorite in the series down to two words: Nazi vampires.

Seriously, does anything else need to be said? Probably not, but just try to shut up my enthusiasm for Snyder's series.

In volume 3, we follow our American vampires and those who love to try and stake 'em into World War II. In the first storyline, Pearl's husband, Henry, is enlisted by the Vassals of the Morning Star (a society of vampire hunters who have made an uneasy pact to keep Pearl and Henry safe) to join a team being sent to the island of Taipan to wipe out an indigenous vampire. When they arrive, they find a vampire unlike any they've ever seen: these vampires retain nothing of their former humanity, can turn a human in a matter of minutes, and are particularly vicious. To complicate matters, the first American vampire, Skinner Sweet, jealous of Henry's relationship with Pearl, sneaks aboard with the intention of killing Henry.

In the second storyline (which is by far my favorite), Felicia Book and Cash McCogan are sent to a remote European castle to track down a rumored cure for vampirism. What they find instead is a Nazi plan to utilize vampires as the ultimate killing machines.

Felicia Book is a particularly interesting character. The daughter of a vampire and a human, Felicia has a huge chip on her shoulder as she has been raised to avenge the death of her father. She's one bad ass mamma-jamma and Snyder hasn't clearly addressed exactly what genetic side effects she may have from her supernatural parent. It will be interesting to see how she continues to develop as a character.

The vampire mythology continues to be the most intriguing part of the story. So many vampire types, developing over the centuries and in varying geographical areas, have led to distinct species with particular strengths and weaknesses. The introduction of the towering ancient vampires hidden beneath the Nazi stronghold is one that I hope gets more focus in future storylines.

Cross posted at This Insignificant Cinder

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## **Kurt says**

In this, the high point of the series so far (I say as someone who has enjoyed the first five volumes), our vampire heroes reach World War II. Through some cultural conventions in the last fifty years or so, WWII stories have been rule-bound to the point where they're generally narratives without surprises. You always have a predictably diverse crew of brave men (excluding one traitor, of course, who will reveal himself at the end of Act Two), and they do predictably brave things when faced with uniformly evil Nazi villains (no one is allowed to be a lukewarm Nazi - in order for audiences to be fine with the indiscriminate shooting of guys on the other side, they all have to be true believers. It solves a moral question, I guess, at the expense of other potential narrative strengths). I was curious to see how Snyder, a talented writer who likes a more interesting story, was going to handle those constraints on his vampire story, and it turns out that he finds ways to work around them beautifully.

We get two stories here, one in the Pacific and one in Europe, giving a sense of the whole war by tagging the most significant regions. In Asia, Pearl's human husband Harry gets drafted into a mission for the anti-vampire Vassals of the Morning Star, which he accepts to keep his vampire wife safe. With the two American Vampires largely absent from the story, Snyder gets to set up a traditional band of brothers WWII mission story, which he does with perfect competence. Where it gets bigger, though, is that the mission here is investigation of a new species of vampire, which lets Snyder explore a lot more of his vampire evolution idea to tie together monster stories from various cultures. These Asian vampires, with their faceless bestial (and easily weaponizable) nature, serve as a pungent indictment of WWII stories' tendencies to morph The Enemy into faceless bestial hordes (and to indelibly mark the history of the Pacific Theater with the weaponized advancements in atomic research). It's clever and creative, and I love that the story works at so many levels even before the American Vampires meet up to duke it all out.

With the main characters busy in Asia, then, Snyder tags a couple of supporting characters from the Vassals of the Morning Star to cover the European portion of his WWII tale. Two characters, who we've already seen in small roles in earlier volumes, take the spotlight as they run a traditional spy story trying to extract a scientist from a castle overrun by Nazi vampires. It's a more straightforward tale than the Pacific story, but its strengths are in another development of an ancient vampire species and in realistic and meaningful development of its main characters. This collection is kind of the point where Snyder's series expands from an epic storyline into a fleshed-out world-building project. We're reading something many levels richer than the (entertaining but) simple Skinner Sweet origin story in the first volume, and I'm fascinated to see where all of this will go from here.

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## **Adam M says**

This is a pretty intense series and this is, perhaps, the most intense volume yet. This book gives us a deeper dive into the future and some characters we haven't spent as much time with. Cash and Felicia Book get a pretty big adventure tale full of Nazis, Vampires and Nazi Vampires.

Pearl and Henry enlist in the WWII war effort and wind up in the South Pacific. Skinner Sweet shows up and that's really all the more I can say because that story line is b.a.n.a.n.a.s. (and spoilery)

I like how this series keeps progressing through time and *slowly* introducing new characters with each new decade. It helps us move forward without getting too convoluted. I also appreciate that there is (view spoiler) If you've read the first 2 volumes, that last spoiler wasn't actually a spoiler for you. Just the new fans.

Really happy with this book and looking forward to where Snyder and Co are going next.

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### **Steve says**

American Vampire, Vol. 3, consists of three interconnected stories. The first, "Strange Frontier," is a short-story set in the American West of 1919. Skinner Sweet visits a Wild West show (directly patterned after Buffalo Bill Cody's). He's surprised at the inaccuracies of the show, particularly the gunfight that led to his "death", and sets things right in typical fashion. Then he confronts an old girlfriend who was responsible for turning him in.

The second story, "Ghost War", takes place in the Pacific WWII arena. It deals with Henry Preston and his wife Pearl Jones. Henry has aged well for his age, but he is growing older and Pearl isn't. He's tried numerous times to join the military and fight in the conflict, but each time he's been rejected. Then one of the representatives of the Vassals of the Morning Star shows up and gives Henry an offer he can't refuse. He accepts the assignment and joins a special group of troops that have been selected to investigate a small island under Japanese control. It's rumored that the Japanese have bred a new breed of vampire. The Vassals want them wiped out and a secret war mission makes a great cover.

The third story in the volume is "Survival of the Fittest". Set in 1941, Felicia Book and Cashel McCoogan team up to rescue a botanist in Romania who may have discovered a cure for vampirism. Posing as a pair of wealthy industrialists who support the Nazi cause, Felicia and Cash travel into the dark heart of the Nazi Empire. There they uncover several surprises that threaten not only the outcome of the war, but the fate of humanity and vampires alike.

This was an enjoyable read, but not quite as fascinating as the previous two volumes. "Strange Frontier" provides a quick look deeper into the mind of Skinner Sweet and reveals that, perhaps, he never was as evil as the public has been led to believe. "Ghost War" is the strongest of the volume, but the relationship between Henry and Pearl is not given the space needed in this story. "Survival of the Fittest" moves the larger plot of the series along but ends in predictable fashion.

It'll be interesting to see how "Ghost War" and "Survival of the Fittest" develop and crossover in the future.

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### **Quentin Wallace says**

This volume had 2 different stories set during WWII. One was set in the Pacific Theater, and the other in the European Theater.

The story set in the Pacific dealt with a special group of vampire fighting soldiers who find themselves facing a much greater threat than they'd been led to believe. However, one of the soldier's is Pearl's loverboy, so she takes matters into her own hands. Oh, and another of the soldiers? None other than Skinner Sweet, the original American Vampire. We finally get to see Pearl vs. Skinner, and there's a twist there most

of us probably didn't see coming.

The second storyline, Survival of the Fittest, deals with Nazi vampires and a suppose cure. We also get a glimpse of the first vampires, literal giants who find themselves at odds with more modern vamps. There's also the matter of Mccogan's vampire baby, and a cure is very important to him.

Parts of this volume reminded me of F. Paul Wilson's THE KEEP and overall this was a strong collection. Good series overall.

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### **Dan Schwent says**

In the third American Vampire volume, the vampires enter World War II as Henry goes to Taipan and encounters a Japanese breed of vampire and Cash and Book go to Germany to find a cure for vampirism and instead encounter a brigade of Nazi vampires.

American Vampire 3 is more of the same greatness that I've come to expect from the American Vampire series. In the first story, Henry and company go to a Japanese island and go up against a breed of Japanese vampire with Skinner Sweet in their midst and it's up to Pearl to save her man. It's a great story and Snyder fleshes out his vampire mythology even more. Not only that, it plants the seeds for later stories. Snyder seems to be committed to American Vampire for the long haul, judging by the seeds sown.

The second story brings back the characters of Book and Cash from Volume 2 and sends them off to Germany. The brigade of vampire nazis reminded me of Robert McCammon's *Wolf's Hour* for some reason, probably the combination of World War II and supernatural creatures. I love that Snyder introduced yet another breed of vampire in this tale, possibly the progenitors of the species. It tied up some loose ends and also planted seeds for future tales, something that Snyder is proving adept at. He never closes a door without first opening a window.

American Vampire has proven itself to be one of the best comics going today and this volume is no exception. If you like your vampires brutal and bloody and not sparkly whiners, this is the series for you!

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### **Lauren says**

Snyder pushes the series forward into World War II with a volume that's truly an embarrassment of riches.

The Vassals of the Morning Star have a stake--I'm not ashamed of that joke--in the Allied cause, so, having heard rumors that Taipan is infested with vampires and worried about the fate of the American soldiers due to land there, they embed a small crew of their own to take the bloodsuckers out. Included is the stealthily-recruited Henry, Pearl's husband, who gets some great fleshing-out as he tries to figure out what he wants from life besides happiness at home. *Also* included is Skinner Sweet, hiding in plain sight: he's curious--and he's been thinking about Pearl. In the series's continued period-by-period stylistic homages, this is an awesome, action-packed Dirty Dozen-style secret war operation. And it finds a strong emotional core in the Henry/Pearl/Skinner triangle, especially as we duck back further into the past for another peek at Skinner's

backstory, and the woman he almost loved--a woman who, like Snyder, understood narrative.

The Germany story is a classic in both the "Nazis, I Hate Those Guys" genre and what I'll call the "Werewolf Women of the S.S." genre (thanks, *Grindhouse* trailers!). Cash, working with the Vassals after the terrible fate of his son in the previous book, goes to Germany with Felicia Book to run an exfiltration on a scientist who may or may not be able to cure vampirism. This story is slightly cheesier, but there's also some genuinely unnerving stuff here: (view spoiler) Both Cash and Felicia having strong motivations to find out the truth behind the doctor's claim gives it high stakes, too, which cuts through some of the camp.

All in all, another well-paced, clever, scary, and dramatic installment. A bit of non-spoilery nightmare fuel: the vampires lurking in the water like sharks, unable to come too close to the surface because of the sunlight filtering through the first few feet of ocean. Waiting for nighttime.

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### **Kemper says**

What could make World War 2 even bloodier? Vampires!

There's essentially two stories told in this volume. The secret group of vampire hunters called Vassels of the Morning Star recruit aging human Henry to leave his vampire wife Pearl to try and root out a nest of bloodsuckers on the island of Taipan as the US tries to take it from the Japanese. Skinner Sweet shows up with his own agenda and as always the brutal vampire creates chaos and bloodshed wherever he goes.

In the second story, the Vassels send their agents Cash McCogan and Felicia Book to Europe on a secret mission to see if a Nazi scientist has developed a cure for vampirism. And in a one off story, Skinner Sweet takes in a wild west show where he creates more mischief after coming across some old friends.

The series is just getting better and better as it goes. It's now obvious that Snyder has a pretty well mapped out plot going on, and it's getting more intriguing as the takes the characters deeper into the 20th century. We also get some more explanation and background as to the different vampire species.

It's bloody, brutal and helluva a good comic.

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### **Carol Storm says**

Oh God, make it stop! Please make it stop!

This AMERICAN VAMPIRE series gets worse and worse with each new volume. By this time we're up to World War II. And a bunch of vampire slayer guys dressed up as GI's land on a Pacific island to fight Japanese vampires. Now it was made clear in earlier volumes that there are different species of vampire from all over the world. And of course the greatest vampires are the "American" breed, led by Western outlaw Skinner Sweet. (He's making American vampires great again.)

So guess what? While the European vampires in 1 and 2 were intelligent, polished, and smooth (with some really lovely girl vampires among them) the Japanese vampires are a race of disgusting insect creatures who

just make hissing noises and attack mindlessly. They don't even have faces! Now I thought, okay, this is a commentary on WWII propaganda. They're going to spin this somehow. They're going to subvert it. So I kept reading, and nope. Nothing. The racist stuff is really meant to be taken at face value. Because Scott Snyder is a punk who panders the very ugliest impulses of his audience. Thanks Scott, for being a no talent pandering bigot and a creep!

So then the other story is about fighting Nazi vampires, and guess what? They can talk. They're brave soldiers. And the Nazi officer who shows the boy and girl hero around is actually kind of charming, in a silly sort of way. Because what the hell, at least the Nazis are white men! God, I hate the idea that there are kids somewhere reading this stuff and not realizing how vile it is.

Anyway, the Nazi story is a little better. It's like WHERE EAGLES DARE for morons. Not to do spoilers, but there were some plot points that didn't make a lot of sense. The Nazis have a whole brigade of Vampires, fighting for them like mercenaries. But the Nazis are also working on a "solar gun" that shoots light rays and will disintegrate any vampire instantly. So why would you have to make that kind of gun if your best fighting troops are vampires? And if you do want to develop that kind of gun, just to keep the vampires in check, would you really "invite" the whole brigade to watch while you test it on a batch of captured vampires?

Oh, and on top of the really hateful story lines, there were a lot of careless, stupid mistakes, just to show Scott Snyder's contempt for his audience and for history. Like, the Nazis are clearly at war, so it's well after 1939. Yet when the mad scientist is filling in the backstory, he says, "now, twenty years ago, in 1915 . . ." So he's a mad scientist who can't do third grade math! And the nasty heroine, she's always being introduced to people as "Ms. Book." Nobody used "Ms." as a title in the Thirties or the Forties! Even the Nazi bigwig calls her "Ms." And he praises her fighting skills too. Ze only problem is, Nazis were not feminists! They used to say a woman's place was strictly Kinder, Kuche, Kirche. With the children, in the kitchen, or at the church! Too bad Snyder boy couldn't do maybe five minutes of research on Nazi Germany.

I really can't wait for volume 4. I really can't! Please, stop writing these stupid books!

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### **Brandon says**

In professional wrestling, there's this term for a specific kind of character called a "tweener". A tweener is basically a guy who's generally in it for himself. He's not exactly a *heel* (bad guy) or *babyface* (good guy), he's more so *inbetween*. A prime example would be Stone Cold Steve Austin, a guy who exhibits traits of a rule breaker but is beloved by the fans.

If we took the *American Vampire* universe and labeled the characters in relation to their actions, Skinner Sweet would be the definition of a tweener. Sure, you could argue that he fits the role typically portrayed by a villain but with some of his actions in Volume 3, Skinner is often walking that line between good and evil.

In Volume 3, Snyder moves the setting to the 1940s and the conflict of World War II. By that alone, Snyder's already got me interested. If you ask anyone, Nazi's are the true measuring stick in regards to the level of evil the human race can sink to. When you throw *vampires* in the mix as soldiers of the Reich, you're sinking so low you might as well be operating out of Hell.

While the first two volumes are just plain excellent, the third installment truly takes things up a notch. The

ongoing development of some of these characters has lead the series into some fantastic story telling. Snyder is just churning out compelling fiction, leaving nothing off the page. Emotions are running high as characters like Skinner Sweet, Pearl Jones and Felicia Book interact throughout history, desperately trying to rid the world of one another.

This Scott Snyder guy is something else. I've yet to read anything of his that doesn't grip me from the beginning and leave me wanting more. There's so much to love within this series and so far, I can't recommend it enough.

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## Otherwyrd says

Volume 3 of this series is absolutely massive - there are 12 or 13 single issues in this one volume (as opposed to the rather anaemic 5-6 issues most graphic novels consist of), and there's a lot to like in these stories.

First off, there's a nice prologue story set in 1919, where American vampire Skinner Sweet runs into a carnival showing a bowdlerised version of his life and "death". Needless to say, he reacts rather predictably to all this, but the real entertainment is when he runs into his old flame Kitty, who is reduced to putting herself on display for the entertainment of others. When she admits to being the one who betrayed Sweet to the law, he is about to tear her head off when she makes some rather cogent comments.

"It was all over. Everything. The world we knew. Paved over. Fenced in. Everyone saw what was coming, everyone except **you**." and later

"... the world we belonged to is **gone**. Except for **you**, baby. It was always in you. The **West**, it's wherever you go."

This is an interesting point to make which really struck me at the time. If you can see the series as an alternative view of American history, done from the point of it's first vampire, then Skinner Sweet represents a part of history that is both overly romanticised and quite definitely a part of the past the the USA has grown up from.

Ahem, being a bit long-winded about the smallest part of the book, so lets get to the rest. There are 2 separate stories in the rest. The first follows Henry Preston (who is married to second American vampire Pearl) as he fights a secret mission on a Japanese island. There he teams up with Skinner Sweet to take down a nest of vampires that are being experimented upon by the notorious Unit 731 of the Japanese army. Its brutal and gripping, and leads to (view spoiler).

The second story follows vampire hunters Felicia Book and Cash McCogan in an undercover mission to Nazi Germany in a bid to find a cure for vampirism. What they actually find are (view spoiler) and there follows a hectic chase as the two of them try to escape. This story feels like it came from the pages of Hellboy, which is no bad thing, especially as the story ends with some uber-vampires being awakened from a long sleep. The cure they seek isn't exactly as advertised, but it may give a future to Cash's son, infected with vampirism in the womb.

4 stars is maybe a bit generous, but it was a lot of fun so lets called it 3 1/2 stars.

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**Char says**

Vampire Nazis! Vampire hunter spies!

Plus, I loved the graphics. What fun!

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**HFK says**

Bla, bla, bla, bla, bla, bla, bla, bla, bla. I doubt I have ever disliked a graphic series as much as I do dislike *American Vampire*. What a dullboringuglybad waste of my time, what was I thinking when actually buying seven volumes of this "everyone loves but me"-crap. Bla, bla, bla, bla, bla. Who the fuck cares.

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**Arnis says**

<https://poseidons99.wordpress.com/201...>

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