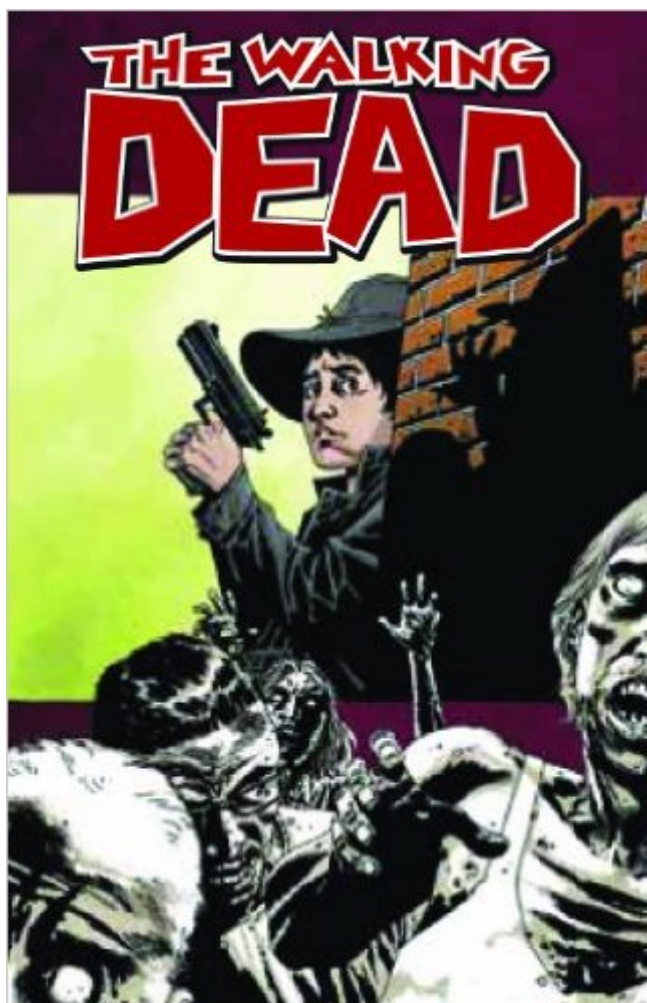


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The Walking Dead, Vol. 12: Life Among Them



Synopsis

The world we knew is gone. The world of commerce and frivolous necessity has been replaced by a world of survival and responsibility. An epidemic of apocalyptic proportions has swept the globe, causing the dead to rise and feed on the living. In a matter of months society has crumbled: no government, no grocery stores, no mail delivery, no cable TV. In a world ruled by the dead, the survivors are forced to finally start living. At long last, the survivors of Robert Kirkman and Charlie Adlard's acclaimed post-apocalyptic survival adventure find the hope they've longed look for. Can a town not yet ravaged by the horrors unleashed on Earth possibly be all it's hoped for? Is there a far more sinister secret behind their newfound safe haven? Even worse, can people forever changed by the worst in humanity ever hope to get back to their old selves? The next chapter of *The Walking Dead* is primed to change everything! Reprint Edition

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Customer Reviews

When I heard that AMC was going to produce a television series based on the zombie epic "The Walking Dead," I was both concerned and delighted. A bona fide classic in undead lore, "The Walking Dead" graphic novels are brutal and surprising--not really what I would picture for a basic cable TV show (the first season is slated for 6 episodes, we'll see if it goes beyond that). But AMC has produced terrific and prestigious shows like "Mad Men" and "Breaking Bad," so I'm pretty stoked to see what they do with this. Add Frank Darabont of "Shawshank Redemption" fame as the creative force behind the show, and we just might have a winner! In anticipation, I've gone back through the volumes of "The Walking Dead" to discover again the many pleasures that this series

has to offer. "Volume 12: Life Among Them" gets the team back on the road to Washington D.C. But while their reason for going to D.C. always seemed like a hastily (and sloppily) drawn plot point, it soon becomes clear why it seemed so sketchy. However, the group are recruited by another community--and things might be just too good to be true. Entering a private housing sub-division, we get echoes of days gone by (when the team thought they were safe in Volume 2). This time, however, they are joining a group. Kids are playing in the streets, wives exchange recipes, cocktail parties are held, and holidays are observed. Somewhat hopeful, somewhat wary--confusion and acceptance are at war. While not a lot of actual action, we do seem to be gearing up for some major developments as suspicions fester. A nice interlude.

This was one of the most low keyed Walking Dead volumes I have read, with only a couple of minor scrapes with the undead and most of it dedicated to interaction between Rick and his group and a new group of people who find him. They are welcomed with mostly open arms into a community outside Washington, D.C. This community seems too good to be true and much like me, some of the characters are finding it hard to adjust to a world that seems safe and normal...normal being the part that feels strange to everyone. I think what was most interesting in this particular volume was the fact that while we do not know everything about this new group, on the surface they appear to be completely on the up and up, while Rick and his group have the perspective of being the ones not to be trusted...and based on their actions, it almost seems as if Kirkman wants us to feel a little uncomfortable with Rick and the others rather than this other group. I thought it was an interesting twist and raises the question of whether or not it is impossible for things to ever go back to what they were before the apocalypse for Rick, his son, Michonne, and some of the others. My guess is that things are about to get stirred up in this series, because as is the case with previous episodes, there is usually a calm before the storm. I just wonder if Rick is going to be the one that is going to be the cause of all the trouble this time around.

Robert Kirkman, *The Walking Dead: Life Among Them* (Image, 2010) As I write this, we are less than six weeks away from the premiere of the AMC adaptation of *The Walking Dead*, and the anticipation level is excruciating. Granted, at least half of us are already asking "are they going to screw this up as bad as CW did *Legend of the Seeker*?", but you know the drill. And this is the atmosphere in which I (finally!) got my hands on *Life Among Them*, the twelfth book in the series. (I've had it on hold from the library for about five months now.) The group, now whittled down almost to a core, has almost made it to Washington, DC, when a startling revelation changes everything...

or does it? Rick and Abraham decide to plow on to Washington anyway to see if they can scavenge some supplies, and there they find out that the title of this book does not mean what they think it means, not at all. (Sorry, couldn't think of any other way to do that without a spoiler, cheesy as it is.) There's nothing I can say about The Walking Dead that I haven't already said in earlier reviews, and the simple fact is that the steadiness of the quality of the series makes it one of the great pleasures in comics today. If you're curious about the upcoming series, what better way to prepare than to read the books? ****

I've purchased all volumes up to 22 and the TV show has just about caught up to where I am in the novels. These books are friggen awesome. I don't read much and my buddy lent me VOL 1 after he knew I liked the show. Well, I burned through the first one and then just went on a tear buying 4 volumes at a time...the price is pretty good for what you get out of these. \$9-\$15 is the range I've paid per novel, I'm not sure why they aren't the same but anyways, I keep buying them none the less. The story was written before the TV Show and the show follows the story but there is some differences. The written story is more violent and graphic then the tv show but the tv show does a decent job of sticking with main ideas. I've noticed that certain plot things that happen in the book also happen in the show but there is a unique twist like a different character it happens to or something like that. Which makes reading these volumes great cuz I have some idea of where the story is going (after having watched all tv episodes) but there are still surprises. If you like the TV show and haven't read these, give it a try and you will get a whole new experience of the Walking Dead story. I'm putting this same review under every volume I've purchased (1-22) so people can see it. go buy these!

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