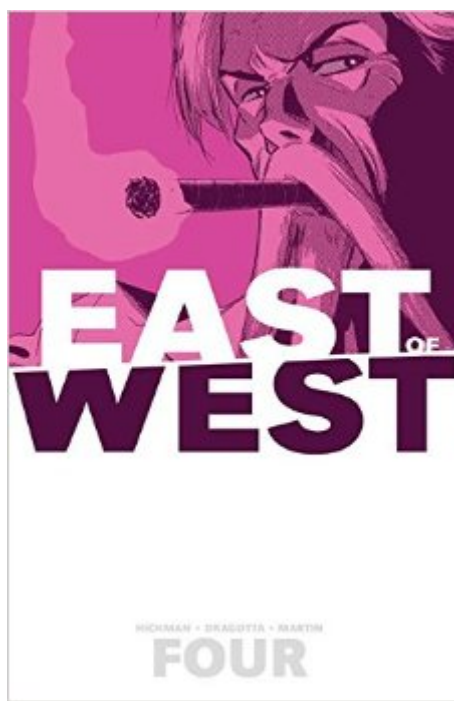


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Who Wants War? (East Of West)



Synopsis

Volume 4 of the Eisner-nominated, best-selling EAST OF WEST is now here!"THE APOCALYPSE: YEAR TWO" begins! Following the dramatic conclusion of YEAR ONE, the Great Beast now roams the fractured United States of America. Deep into an all-consuming war between the splintered nations, the Four Horsemen move to further their individual agendas while resisting the inevitability of The Message.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

East of West continues to be one of my favorite series. In this fourth volume, Hickman and Dragotta continue to expand their complex world, even going so far as providing maps and timelines. This series is a little bit western, a little bit alternate history, a little bit science fiction, a little bit near-apocalyptic dystopia, a little bit social, political, and religious commentary, and a whole lot of action. The United States is not united in this story. The South, Texas, the Native Americans, and the Chinese all have a territory and do not get along. In fact, all-out war festers due to political and religious conflict. To complicate matters, Death rides the plain, separated from his Horsemen because they want to destroy one of the only things he cares about - his son. Each volume reveals new depths of story, and characters become more and more complex as the series progresses. Though there is a multitude of characters, each is given a moment to shine, and each is fascinating. The artwork is surprisingly simple, yet always dynamic. Each character has a distinct body language and "look." Death, in particular, always jumps off the page. The action flows from

panel to panel, yet there is also a nuance to the scenes. You'll find little details in the most unexpected places. This is a must-read series.

East of West, Vol. 4 continues the story of end times. It is 2065; Texas has fallen. War between the seven nations of America is imminent. Politics decide who is on whose side. Might and cunning decide who will survive. Of course, the Four Horsemen are around, as well. What are their goals, and how will they obtain them? The collection contains issues #16 through #19 – four issues instead of five – but it's still a lovely book. I wasn't a huge fan of Vol. 3 until I learned how to read East of West. While Saga, Southern Bastards, and other Image titles have book-length arcs, East of West is best enjoyed issue by issue. Read one. Stop. Read another. That sort of thing. Hickman's writing is on point, but the highlight of the collection is Nick Dragotta's artwork, particularly in issue #16, which contains descriptions of the seven nations, along with a time line. Some might complain about the heavy written content, but well done, as in Lazarus issue #16 or this issue, it brings a lot to both the single issue and the collection. ****1/2

This on-going saga is a thoroughly badass take on the "End of Times" genre. It's cartoony, it's explosive, it's over the top at times. It asks tough questions and it paints an expansive picture of a horrifying future. There is hope for saving the world, and its name is Death.

I reviewed volume 1 of 'East of West' when it came out, and while I liked it at the time, I found it a bit confusing. I just finished 'East of West Volume 4: Who Wants War?' written by Jonathan Hickman and art by Nick Dragotta, and I really like the way this series has progressed. It's still strange, but I have a better idea of what's going on. Especially because there is a standalone issue that brings readers up to speed with breakdowns of the regions and infographics of the timelines to get to where we are. And where we are is deep in the heart of a fragmented United States (Un-United States?) in the middle of the apocalypse. Regions try to press their particular advantages to bolster their weaknesses. The Nation takes a bold stance against Texas. Meanwhile, the child Babylon is methodically taught to kill, but to what end, we don't know yet. The art is great. I like the sci-fi aspects of a comic that has an old West feel to it. The canvas for the story is big and I keep thinking it would be an interesting gaming world. I also think this might be a better story to read once it's all completed. I might have had a better opinion of volume 1 with more story to shed light on it. I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

This is probably my favorite new comic series. Everything is great about it. There just needs to be more of it: mini-series exploring the fascinating history of each land, some maps, character one-shots. More.

Hickman and Dragotta's world takes a huge turn for the best in this fourth volume. A peak into the timeline and history whets the appetite and is a fascinating little critique on the ways men use power. The characters are unveiling their motivations slowly and we really start seeing the whole world take the stage even as Death's own journey gets especially good.

The scope of East of West really becomes apparent here, opening with a much appreciated timeline, detailing the events leading up to the end of days. The series has been plotted with the breadth of a novel, and takes its time in setting up the fantastic alt-history setting. The story isn't so much about Death himself as it is about the last bastion of civilization fending off the end of days, with multiple key players each deserving their own spotlight. East of West will be read best in its series of hardcovers once complete, not unlike your favorite fantasy book series. It's a great book to be on board with now, especially for Game of Thrones fans with a slipstream/weird fiction leaning, or conversely, Mieville fans with a love for the political warsapes of Ice and Fire. I don't imagine we're anywhere near endgame, but I'm deeply invested in seeing what Hickman has planned for us.

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