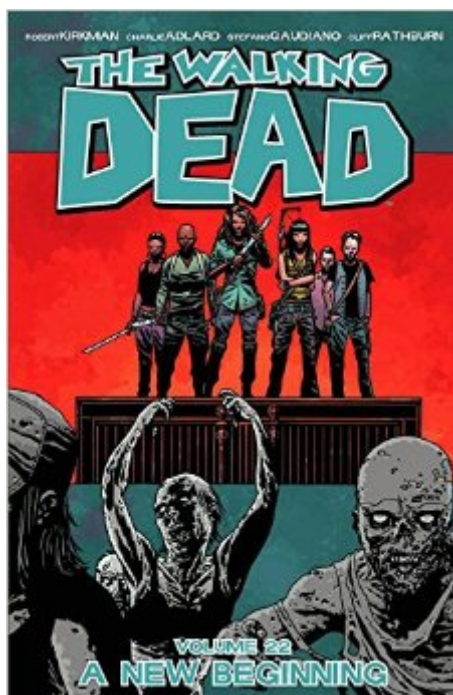


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The Walking Dead Volume 22: A New Beginning



Synopsis

They've survived the walkers. Survived war with a ruthless enemy. And now, in THE WALKING DEAD, hope for the future emerges. A perfect jumping-on point for readers, Volume 22 of the New York Times bestselling graphic novel series marks a new era for THE WALKING DEAD as the survivors pick up the pieces of their shared humanity to create A NEW BEGINNING. In the aftermath of ALL OUT WAR, Rick Grimes and his allies begin to rebuild their communities. But in the world of the dead, tranquility is only temporary. How long will it be before a new, unexpected foe emerges? Find out in A NEW BEGINNING. Collects THE WALKING DEAD #127-132.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE WALKING DEAD, Vol. 22: A New Beginning (issues 127-132 of the monthly series), and where could you possibly go after a story like the last one? It was war, there was near-total destruction, countless people died. So what does writer/creator Robert Kirkman do? He brings us a happy ending, of sorts. A New Beginning picks up two years later. The safe zones are well-established, and the roads between them well-guarded. Life inside the communities is becoming somewhat normal. There are jobs to do, livestock to raise, crops to tend. There's even a bakery, churning out fresh bread. A new group arrives at the Alexandria settlement, led by the understandably cautious Magna. They seem eager to join the rest of the survivors, but something isn't sitting right with her. Meanwhile, Carl is trying to convince his father to let him move to The Hilltop and become a blacksmith. But that's not the thing that's got everyone so worried. After barely making it back

to the Hilltop alive, one of the scouts reports something both terrifying and ominous. The dead have begun to talk. A New Beginning was a difficult read for me. It wasn't badly-written or anything, quite the opposite. But I've just spent so much time with these characters, going through their trials and tribulations with them, that it's weird to see them all suddenly happy. Rick and Maggie share a moment to watch the sun set. Carl is trading wood carvings for clothes among his friends. Hell, Carl HAS friends. Even Eugene is happy, becoming a very important part of the community. One can only wonder what Kirkman's got up his sleeve to tear this happiness into a million undead pieces.

You know what The Walking Dead needs? Captions. Not a lot, just a couple. Like at the start of this volume, maybe mention that this is taking place one, two, maybe three years after the last book? It's a small thing but it'd be really handy to have. So some time has passed since Rick defeated Negan and the communities of Hilltop, the Kingdom, and Rick's place, known as Alexandria, have thrived and developed into safe havens.

Hole-in-the-head-yet-still-alive-for-some-reason Karl has grown into a young man, and he wants to move out from his dad's place to Hilltop, under Maggie's leadership, to be a blacksmith. There's no real story to this volume, it's basically just a catch-up, see where everyone is, type of book, but it's not boring either. Robert Kirkman's created a rich world with a well-known cast of characters that it's genuinely interesting to see how they've changed and what they've done without the threat of Negan. And it's good to have a breather after the last two books which were so heavy on the action – take things slowly, reflect, etc. Kirkman shows us just how far Rick and co. have come in an inspired way – and note he shows us, not tells us, which is another indicator of Kirkman's development as a writer (remember – “You don't get it | WE are The Walking Dead!!” •?). At the start of this volume, Kirkman introduces a new band of desperate survivors who're rescued from a herd by Jesus and a few others. They're brought back to Alexandria, see the community as a kind of paradise and meet Rick, the deformed but charismatic leader. It's a nod to earlier volumes of the series when Rick and co. were the ones on the ropes and having to trust large communities (who usually harboured dark secrets) that seemingly have their lives together.

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