



Black Panther #3

Ta-Nehisi Coates , Brian Stelfreeze (Illustrator)

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The most anticipated Marvel series since Whedon & Cassaday's Astonishing X-Men! The Midnight Angels continue the liberation of Wakanda with extreme prejudice, and T'Challa's indecisions could cost him more than just the throne. Coates and Stelfreeze weave a quintessential Black Panther tale that will change the tapestry of the Marvel Universe forever.

Black Panther #3 Details

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From Reader Review Black Panther #3 for online ebook

Jennifer says

I want to like this, but my interest is flagging with this issue. I think that part of the problem is that three storylines feels like too many to maintain in something released in 20-24 page issues. Ta-Nehisi Coates's ideas are interesting; Stelfreeze's visual storytelling is good (though I'm not a huge fan of the art). There's definitely skill involved in the fact that the creative team is managing to convey cultural, political and personal themes with nuance, but this issue wasn't *fun* to read. This series might be better read as a collected trade paperback :/

Sandra says

2.5

I really believe Ta-Nehisi Coates has prepared something incredible for this comic series, but right now I feel like all the storylines have difficulties to fit in such a short issue; failing to convey Coate's ideas with strength. The political and cultural aspects are well presented and very interesting but this issue, as whole entity, feels a little disjointed.

I'm curious to see how Coate's will continue to develop this story, but I'm not sure I'll continue to read it individually... I'd rather wait for a collected trade paperback.

Ps. The art remains wonderful.

David Schaafsma says

Coates doesn't need me whitesplainin' his comic set in the African country of Wakanda. And it's not really about race, anyway. But here goes: It's--in my white middle class view here--about African culture and spiritual heritage and what Africans (and maybe African-Americans, by implication) need to do to reclaim or reestablish more firmly its proud heritage. It would seem huge in the superstructure of its various plot threads and ideological intentions. It's about the Soul of the Race, finally, a spiritual and cultural focus.

Coates is the MacArthur-award-winning journalist and memoirist on the subject of race; he is steeped in the reading of political philosophy and Critical Race Theory and grew up as a . . . Marvel comics nerd, able to repeat the storylines of minor characters of the whole Marvel multiverse. (Hey, he says, you aren't talking about Black Panther as a minor character here, are you?! Because I am going to show the central importance of Black Panther and elevate him in the Marvel Universe to his rightful place!).

Coates is not as far as I can tell a fictional storyteller by trade, and this is her first (and famous, wildly anticipated) foray into comics. He's an idea guy, he can turn a phrase in a memoir of racial politics, but so far, the language in this comic doesn't yet match the level of the ideas. It's elevated, but we have to get to know these characters as human beings. and we really don't yet. Still, this is the best of the three issues so far, too, so maybe. . . and the dude can write, so maybe he willful it off.

I am coming to love the dramatic operatic artwork of Brian Stelfreeze in this series. It matches the huge operatic intentions of Coate's story. It reminds me of Alan Moore's prologue to The Sandman in its High Intentions, all ethereal and abstract and nothing really happening yet. Though I liked that prologue, and while liking this not as much I am starting to like it. It is the third issue and it is mostly talk and rumination and building of conceptual framework. Not a Marvel Action comic yet, nope. But I'm still reading.

Here is Coates blogging on Black Panther, his own comic.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/notes/all/...>

?♥?Kotyonok?? says

Well.

.....

I don't know what it is about this comic series but it feels.... Like I get into it in increments and then the scene switches and I lose interest. Something about it doesn't flow well with me- I mean I can understand how intertwining storylines come together but this one, while it has the connecting fissures, just lacks...something that makes this comic vitally interesting that I can't put it down to see how everything will come together.

However, it's quite beautiful at points. As I've said before, Coates has an eloquence with the way he writes and the overall setting exudes an African-tribal-feel:

...I like the atmosphere, and I've mentioned before I like the dynamic between a sort of tribal society with so much technology- like a combination of past and future. But it is also....slow. Maybe it's building up?

Overall, I think the scene switches and the connection of the storylines needs work. I'm only invested in one storyline and the other two, while I see the importance, are just not clicking with me or creating this momentum for the series.

With me at least.

Maybe it's just me.

Still, it's very mystical and beautiful:

Chris says

First 5 star review from me in awhile. This is definitely the strongest Black Panther issue so far. It's focussed and you can see the pieces coming together that I expect will eventually lead to a good payoff. I'm definitely looking forward to more from this creative team.

Christopher says

Revolutions are slow things....

Some almost-interesting discussions about taking Wakanda back for "the people" and you can kind of see Coates struggling to meld his own political philosophy, which isn't entirely in line with a benign tyrant like T'Challa, into a comic book narrative arc.

Not bad. But not yet compelling.

Amber says

The art is amazing and the ideas are interesting, however, the characters and world don't have quite enough depth to support the apparent complexity of the story. It may be that reading this series issue-by-issue rather than as a complete volume is causing the story to trip-up. The concept behind the separate stories happening in this series are intriguing, but there simply isn't enough development on the page to fill out those ideas. At least not for me. Issue 1 was very promising and I loved it; something hard to describe is lost in issues 2 and 3.

Kevin Catalano says

I really liked the War Dogs. Everything else was just okay.

Terence says

T'Challa languishes in his doubts while forces are emerging from Wakanda to not only save the people, but to take over.

I want to like the Black Panther, but his comics aren't helping. This issue is demonstrating that T'Challa is quite fallible and many are tired of it. He needs help, but has none of seems. He dares not seek outside help because he's already being viewed as an outsider and a man who conspires with an outsider who drowned Wakandans. It's all falling down for T'Challa and I can hardly be moved to care. It's a shame.

Ericka Clouter says

The only thing that has become clear is that there are more than 2 sides in this civil war, and while it seems safe to assume the feminist Aneka and Ayo are “good guys,” all of the other sides, including the Black Panther himself, are ambiguous.

Tori Cole says

Now that I've read the first 3 issues, I think I may have to take a step back and wait for the full volumes. The concept, atmosphere and art are all amazing here. The artwork gives me really good nostalgia for 2001's Atlantis, actually, albeit with greater cultural authenticity. Likewise, Ta Nehisi's vision is phenomenal here, but reading it in individual issues, for me, is really cramping his style. The scope is far too vast, and the storylines presently too diverse, to be digestible in this format.

For casual comic book readers or those unfamiliar with the Panther's heritage, you may be frustrated at first but stick with it. I foresee great things in this comic's future, if we could step back and give Coates some breathing room to tell his story.

Harper Miller says

Things are finally starting to come together. This issue was by far the strongest in my opinion. Now the pace is picking up. I have to admit I'm kind of worried that the storyline may not live up to my expectations but I'm anxious to see what comes next in Wakanda. Waiting is the hardest part.

??? says

Such a beautiful series! highly recommend it!

Solace Winter says

There is still too much going on and none of it very coherent.

Marisa Carpico says

This series is so frustrating because Coates clearly wants to do a lot and it's pretty clear so far that he'll probably do something really incredible, but it's all too disjointed and figurative right now.

