



## Stephen King's The Stand Vol. 3: Soul Survivors

*Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa , Stephen King , Mike Perkins (Illustrator)*

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Collects The Stand: Soul Survivors #1-5. M-O-O-N spells the start of the third volume of Marvel's critically acclaimed adaptation of Stephen King's horror epic. Nick Andros has hit the road and teamed up with the child-like Tom Cullen. After the horrors of Captain Trips, a bike trip through Oklahoma and Nebraska sounds like fun, right? Except it's tornado season, True Believers, and not everyone Nick and Tom meet is on the side of the angels. Hell hath no fury like Julie Lawry, another survivor of the plague...

## **Stephen King's The Stand Vol. 3: Soul Survivors Details**

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## **From Reader Review Stephen King's The Stand Vol. 3: Soul Survivors for online ebook**

### **Val. S says**

ASOMBROSO.

Este cómic se pone mejor, y mejor cada vez.

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### **Kandice says**

Tom Cullen has always been one of my favorite King characters so I was thrilled when he was introduced. Julie was a high-toned bitch just like she is in the novel, so that felt right as well.

What I didn't love about this installment was the art work. I usually read comics a little slow because I am so enamored with the art on the page, but this time I just flipped on through. The images were too bright and hopeful looking for the tale. Things were more more,,,I don't know, "rounded", for lack of a better word. It wasn't enough to ruin my enjoyment, but we are getting to the meat of this story now and I hope the art improves so the story and the images coincide.

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### **Kate says**

Less about Flagg and more focused on Nick and Stu and Frannie making their way to Mother Abigail. Really loved seeing her backstory, and of course Frannie and Stu's romance. It was weird, the night I was reading the scene where Nick and Tom survive the tornado, we were having a tornado watch here. M-O-O-N, that spells tornado!

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### **Kirsty Stanley says**

We meet Mother Abigail and Tom 'M.O.O.N. Spells everything' Cullen in this one. Lots of Tom/Nick/Frannie and Stu - my fave characters.

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### **Brandon says**

This third entry into this excellent series is more narrative driven than the previous two books. It also features less of Randall Flagg who up to now has been the most compelling character. He still plays a major part in the book as the menacing evil that he is but Mr. Flagg has no direction affect on the story. Instead the reader is introduced to some new characters and given a background story for Mother Abigail. All this happening while the story moves forward and the various parts start to connect. This book focuses on the good side of the epic Good vs Evil confrontation and while there are a lot of scenes of tranquil fields and romantic sunsets it is countered by some grey areas surrounding certain characters and two tragic deaths that

emphasize the plight our protagonists find themselves in. The characters and artwork are still consistent with the previous volumes and the writing - particularly at the end of the book - is top notch and will leave the reader wanting to follow the journey these people find themselves on. At the half-way point of this six volume series I think I can safely say that we are exactly where we should be.

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### **Julio says**

Una excelente adaptación de una de las más ambiciosas novelas de Stephen King (The Stand). Leí The Stand hace décadas, antes que hubiera ningún lugar como este para reseñarla y guardarla en la memoria. Igual mi recuerdo era que me había encantado. Así que cuando exploraba Issuee (un verdadero tesoro para BDs/Comics) y me topé con esta adaptación gráfica, era inevitable probarla. Y el resultado es excelente. El ambiente, la historia, los personajes, reflejan espectacularmente la novela original. De hecho, el esfuerzo de los creadores gráficos es realmente interpretar el sentido de la obra y de sus héroes y malvados, quien sabe, hasta hace esta adaptación más sabrosa. Uno puede ver los rostros--incluso los malvados--, ambientes, paisajes de la novela y quizás sumergirse más fácilmente en ese sueño terrorífico.

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### **Brandon says**

Nick Andros continues on his trek across America, stumbling across Tom Cullen, a mentally handicapped survivor of the plague. While the two aren't exactly compatible at first, they soon realize that they're important to one another after two near death experiences. We're also catching up on Larry Underwood's journey as he meets up with Nadine Cross and her much younger companion.

Stu Redman collides with Frannie and Harold as they're on their way to Vermont. Harold holds his ground as he's not exactly willing to trust a stranger but an event later on brings the group closer together.

Not exactly a focal point this time around, the Dark Man's influence and appearances in the character's nightmares still lingers in the background. However, word is spreading that he's assembling an army.

Volume 3 is a good bridging gap between the installments. There are a few important developments but nothing quite as jarring as a few scenes from the first two volumes. I will say that the gore is certainly in full force this time around - especially during a violent confrontation involving Frannie, Harold and Stu as they face down a roadblock created by murderers and rapists.

With 3 volumes left and a hell of a lot story to tell, I am a little worried with how they're going to bring it to us, the constant readers. With how well they've adapted the story so far, it's hard not to have faith.

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### **Trudi says**

This continues to be an excellent adaptation of King's epic novel. The characterizations are spot on, the narrative flows nicely and the artwork truly captures the magnitude of the action. It would have been no small feat to re-imagine the sprawling, 1000+ pages of the novel into this projected 6 book series, and I'm impressed by what I've seen so far. Like any adaptation, choices have to be made, things left out or glossed over, but so far the overall integrity of King's story and The Stand's larger themes remain intact.

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### **dara says**

Rating this series is tricky because I'm not sure how I would appreciate it without having read the original source so long ago. Even when characters and events aren't explored in as much depth, my memory starts filling in the gaps. It makes it difficult to judge the characters as portrayed separately from the original novel. I'm almost tempted to read *The Stand* again since it would be more gratifying than waiting for the rest of this series to be released.

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### **Magila says**

I enjoyed this installment way more than the second, and every bit as much as the first.

Why 4 stars? The art.

The art was a serious bummer. It was still gritty at times, but the brighter colors, rounder images, and more inconsistent depictions of the main characters (most criminally Abigail) let the story down. You could still work in the brightness, I mean Nebraska needs to be bright and hopeful, but the world was a demonstrably bonkers place and the overall palate didn't match.

As an adaptation, the writing and character development and storytelling were great. The story arch was skillfully moved along, and I'm a total believer in Marvel's ability to take all but sacred novels and convert them into graphic novels that even the most demanding fan-person hipster should enjoy.

I was glad to love this collection more than the last (though they received the same score), and am even more excited to keep going. It is starting to get exciting now, so frankly if you don't have the time to dedicate to get through the other 300 pages, if you start here you won't be disappointed.

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### **Mario says**

Justo leí una reseña que apoya mis pensamientos: la novela tiene muy poca profundidad en los personajes (lo cual es comprensible), pero mi mente va llenando esos huecos de acuerdo a lo que leí hace tantos años (haciendo cuentas, leí *Apocalipsis hace once años*). Tal vez eso va sesgando un poco la manera en que juzgo la adaptación, o bien la subestimo o la exago. En este número, particularmente, la descripción artística no me pareció tan buena como en los previos tomos.

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### **Sylvester says**

Tom Cullen was an intriguing character, out of all of them. Still, not a book for me.

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## **Calista says**

The gang continue their trek across America. They are all converging with Mother Abigail or the Man in Black. The man in Black is making it either your are with him or you are against him. There are some crazy people out there and people are dying.

This continues to tell this story true to the source. It is very well done. I'm enjoying this and I can't wait to get the next volume.

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## **Michael Hicks says**

Adaptations are a tricky business. Stray too far from the source material or inject different plot or character developments and you're ostracized for not being beholden to the material. Follow it too closely and you're criticized for being derivative. Finding a happy medium isn't always easy, particularly when you care so much for the original. I've always been a huge Stephen King fan, and I rank *The Stand* as one of his absolute best. As such, I was a bit wary of *The Stand: Soul Survivors* when it landed on my doorstep for review.

Unlike *The Dark Tower* series Marvel Comics started up a few years back, where the back-story of gunslinger Roland Deschain was unraveled, *The Stand* represents a straight adaptation of a seminal work in King's pantheon. The world of *The Dark Tower* had a history that was only briefly mentioned through inferences, but rarely elaboration, which allowed comic writer Peter David to weave a tapestry set well before finding Roland in the desert, chasing after The Man in Black in the first of seven novels. *The Stand*, however, was a massive self-contained work. There is little room for back-story and interpretation—what you read was what you got. After the success of *The Dark Tower* comics, both critically and from fans of King's original works, Marvel looked toward another King classic to adapt and turned to the post-apocalyptic world of *The Stand*.

*Soul Survivors* is the third and middle volume of Marvel Comics' adaptation of King's enormous novel, and it very much feels like a midway point. A superflu virus has wiped out much of America, and the survivors are learning how to carry on. They're starting to find one another as they trek across the desolate landscapes and regroup. Each of them is haunted by dreams of opposing figures: The Dark Man, who represents the oldest evil on Earth and is leaving a trail of crucified victims along the dead interstates on his way to Las Vegas, and Mother Abigail, a frail geriatric doing God's work by attempting to draw the survivors to her home in Nebraska.

Nick Andros, a deaf mute who can only communicate through his writings, finds the mentally challenged Tom Cullen as he struggles to make it to Abigail. Elsewhere, Stu Redman and his small band of survivors find the ruins of a plague center and learn of the horrors and dangers in this brave new world as they struggle with human slavers and surgery in a world where medicine is scarce. Abigail herself searches for hope in God's will while waiting for the survivors to reach her.

Being the middle volume of the series, *Soul Survivors* is not the ideal place for new readers to begin the story. As the midway centerpiece to the story, there is a bit of a lull as characters figure out their new place in the world, as they gather themselves and others to prepare for the coming of the Dark Man. For fans of the original novel, curious to see what's happening with this adaptation, it may be easy enough to pick up with

this chapter, and there is a fairly helpful synopsis of the events thus far at the start of the volume. As with any adaptation though, there are tricks and shortcuts made from the original. Taking what amounted to several hundred pages in the original novel and translating it into a smaller chunk for the artistic medium requires a certain shorthand. There are flourishes here and there, and some deviations from the original source in order to add a bit of drama through the visuals.

However, if you are a reader who was excited by the opening volleys of *The Stand* and has followed the story through those two volumes, *Captain Trips* and *American Nightmares*, there is certainly no reason not to continue. This volume opens the door for the upcoming chapters, setting the stage for the challenges of surviving in a post-apocalyptic America and the looming battle with the Dark Man and his evil forces. Although I already know where the story is going, I am still curious to see how the comic-book version gets there.

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## **HFK says**

3.5 stars.

*Soul Survivors* is the third volume in the *The Stand* adaption series, collecting the next five issues between the covers of this six part series.

For the first time since starting to read *The Stand* I felt the collection having a few cracks in its flow, and not everything was tied together as smoothly I had gotten used to. These things were quite minor incidents, but they overall took some of my enjoyment away and did not really deliver the way I would have wished it to.

My favorite parts were of Nick's and Tom's journey. Nick comes off as such a strong character who has multiple sides and has seemingly had an significant amount of spiritual growth since the first volume, there is a lot of developments to be seen.

Due to the complicated and crowded plot and characterization, I do feel the story of Stuart's, Frances' and Harold's was the first to suffer from the difficulties when needing to tell a story in a shortish amount of time without a lot of words. Telling through a diary entries is a good way, but the art and execution lacked in that aspect, and there was lot to desire from the layout that felt broken due to simple font change.

Eventually, most of *Soul Survivors* focused on Mother Abagail and her followers. I did not really care for her story, and I think it is because it felt outdated, something that has been done many times since *The Stand* was first published.

What *Soul Survivors* did very good was to show the apocalyptic world. You may survive from the initial ordeal, but there is a lot of hardship ahead of in forms of other diseases, lack of hospitals and workmanship, not to mention the people who will take advantage of the situation without any morals whatsoever.

If there would be a one word that stands out of this collection, it would be "loneliness". It really gets to a whole new level when the world is mostly empty of people, how the need of companion is always strong within. This is captured perfectly, and really shows the talent that is in the works by the creators.

