



## B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 6: The Return of the Master

*Mike Mignola (Writer) , John Arcudi , Tyler Crook (Illustrator)*

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A rogue scientist who escaped the bloody massacre in B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth: Russia assembles a paranormal cult bent on world destruction. Can an elite B.P.R.D. task force hunt down the mad Russian's stronghold in time, or will monsters overwhelm a world already teetering on the edge of apocalypse?

Collects B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth: The Return of the Master #1–#5.

## B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 6: The Return of the Master Details

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**Download and Read Free Online B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 6: The Return of the Master** Mike Mignola (Writer) , John Arcudi , Tyler Crook (Illustrator)

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# **From Reader Review B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth, Vol. 6: The Return of the Master for online ebook**

## **Peter Derk says**

I can't decide if I'd like to work at the BPRD office or not.

On the one hand, you'd meet some interesting characters. You'd have the occasional VERY exciting day when an ancient evil or demon or whatever got loose. You know, a wendigo or something. You can only go so long before there's a wendigo on the loose.

On the other hand, seems like horrific death is a possibility. I don't know what percent of BPRD agents make it to retirement, but it seems like maybe 65%? Taking a shot in the dark?

But then again, you'd get access to the mysteries of the universe. That's fun!

Maybe torn in half by frog creatures. Not fun :(

Shoot a machine gun at a giant demon troll thingie? As part of your desk job? Fun!

Likely get consumed by flame as fire tears through the spot where you're standing in front of a vending machine? :(

And that's the thing of it. I think I've always watched movies and seen some dude who gets wiped out with almost no fanfare and thought, "Damn, that'd probably be me."

I'd probably be trapped in the building when a giant squid creature attacked, and killed by the ceiling collapsing while I was taking a crap or something. Or a huge fireball would come roaring through when I was putting in a to-go order at Noodles & Co. and hoping that they put in two sets of silverware because that meant they assumed this amount of food was for two people.

It's a hard life, fantasizing about working for a fictional government agency that deals with the paranormal. You gotta take it one day at a time.

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## **Sean Goh says**

The scene with one BPRD guy yelling "not enough gun" was the high point of this book for me. That Preacher reference.

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## **Sam Quixote says**

I'm not sure if its deliberate but it feels like Mike Mignola and John Arcudi are going around and around in circles with the BPRD – at least that's what it feels like if you've been following the series since the start like I have. Hell On Earth is basically Season 2 of BPRD but in Volume 6: Return of the Master, a lot of

characters from BPRD Season 1 pop up and a number of concepts from that first run also appear here. Namely, Rasputin and the Black Flame, two BPRD villains who've died more than once get brought back and we revisit the concept of Rag Narok, aka the End of the World.

This isn't the best volume as the main focus is on a minor villain and a squad of BPRD human soldiers who aren't particularly memorable. The minor villain is The Master who sets up shop in a ruined Scottish castle, bringing with him some human followers while resurrecting some giant monsters to fight the BPRD squad sent to take him out. The characters we've come to know and love are either absent or doing very little in this book. Hellboy is of course absent, as he's battling his way through hell, Abe Sapien is still comatose inside a tank, and Liz Sherman is AWOL (though she does check in with a single panel). Meanwhile, Johann Krauss is putzing around BPRD HQ, arguing with new recruit (and Marvel rip-off) Fenix, a red-headed girl with powerful psychic powers.

BPRD is at its best when it does short, self-contained spooky stories in the vein of The X-Files but without the TV budgetary restraints (a special effects sequence costs the same as a conversation between two people in a room in the comics world) but this volume is instead more about the larger series storyline going on. As such, it's not a volume anyone unfamiliar with the series should be picking up casually as a lot of it will just be confusing. The problem with this book is that The Master storyline is pretty uninvolved – BPRD squad fire guns at monsters for most of the book – and it kind of ends in a way that makes you think the entire thing was pointless anyway, and the rest of it involves resurrecting the Black Flame (again) and the end of world happens (again). So half of it feels like a waste of time while the other half feels like rehashed material.

There's some decent art and Mignola/Arcudi does make the material interesting enough so it's never too boring to read even if the impression they leave you with is underwhelming. The series could be better if Abe woke up (him being comatose only makes his absence more keenly felt as the other characters just aren't as interesting), if Johann went out into the field again, and Liz came back (or else did something more than nothing!). But I do like the dead Russian guy with the little girl in the jar, I think he's a complex character, at times seeming good, others seeming downright evil, and his plans are obscure enough to keep him on the fence between good and evil.

But the whole Rag Narok thing is played out. Giant storylines are fine but we've seen it so many times in BPRD that it's become boring. The Black Flame is played out. Rasputin is played out. The best BPRD stories in this Hell On Earth series have been mini story arcs focusing on one or two characters and a new supernatural creature(s) in an interesting location – this large scale, end of the world stuff is too vague and overdone at this point to matter (at least to me). Volume 6: The Return of the Master has its moments but doesn't contain enough fresh material or ideas to make it a standout in the series.

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## **Joe Donley says**

So much stuff is happening!

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## **Wing Kee says**

And we thought things were getting better...

Wow, okay, I can say that I expected this but not the way it played out that's for sure, wow!

World: Crook's art is good, it's not Davis good but it does have it's flair. Much like Mr. Davis he is great at drawing monsters and man are they every gorgeous. The world building this time around by Arcudi and Mignola is just as strong, we get more pieces put in place that have been around since 'Seed of Destruction' and it boggles my mind that we've gone full circle. I won't ruin it but man it is every cool!

Story: First the minor irk, the pacing and the storytelling this time around felt a little choppy with the story jumping and juggling multiple storylines. Normally, this is fine and the creative team has done this well, not so much this time, it's a bit fractured and sometimes confusing. There is a lot of cloak and dagger going on and It's gotten to the point of being a bit convoluted, so yes this is the only issue. The rest of the story is insane, there is so much going on wow. The consequences are the biggest thing this arc, the pieces that are moved. Though the ending once again leaves us so many questions as to character motives and pieces the parting feeling is a sense of dread and that is awesome.

Characters: This has always been one of the strengths of the series, the character matter and to some extent that is the case here. All the regulars are here along with new characters like Fenix. They are great and their arcs are deep and wonderful. However I did find that Giarocco to be a bit underdeveloped here. I think this is because I've only seen her in action and I've not had enough time with her in quiet scenes for character building. I hope this changes in the future. The villains this time are awesome but leaves a lot of questions as to what really happened, which I also hope to be answered in the following arcs.

A great read that delivers on what is sets out to do, minor irks make this a 4 star read instead of a 5.

Onward to the next book!

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## **Orrin Grey says**

Really, if you're not already reading B.P.R.D. religiously at this point, my reviews probably aren't going to change your mind. This is a good volume, continuing the main story more than adding in side stories like the last volume, although it just sort of stops (I'd call it a cliffhanger, but so much is going on that it's almost not even cliffhanging, just busy). The storyline has grown increasingly hectic and complex, and I'm looking forward to being able to sit down sometime and read it all through and try to connect all the dots.

Mainly, this time out, I want to talk about the sketchbook material in the back of this volume. This is one of the best sketchbooks in a long time. Not only is it extensive and varied, with a lot of work by Mignola and Tyler Crook and also some by James Harren, but it's got pages and pages of Ogdru Hem monsters drawn by both Mignola and Crook, which are worth the cover price all by themselves!

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## **Paul E. Morph says**

There are some really good bits in this book, bits which were genuinely creepy and horrific, and Mignola and Arcudi actually managed something that not a lot of books can do these days: they genuinely pulled the rug out from under me, as the book really didn't go where I was expecting it to go. It's nice to get a genuine surprise like that every now and again.

There are also some pretty uninspired bits. One subplot, in particular, goes absolutely nowhere and had me scratching my head wondering what the point of it was. There was also more seemingly pointless stuff involving Fenix, the red-headed, psychic, teenage girl. *Re: this last character. Seriously? Are you honestly telling me the writers came up with this character and absolutely NOBODY in the Dark Horse offices said 'Er, isn't she... well... exactly like Jean Grey?' I keep expecting the rest of the X-Men to turn up and take her back to her home dimension.*

Soooo... you've got your good and you've got your bad. You pays your money, you takes your choice. Personally, I haven't given up hope that things are going to go back to the fantastic standard of BPRD at its best, but I could totally understand somebody dropping the book if this 'it was OK' type stuff becomes the norm...

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## **Meghan says**

[Russia and The Long Death brought some respite from this arduous Apocalypse, but with Roger gone, Liz awol, Abe in a coma, I don't even know what's up with poor Johann, and Daimio who, well.. at least was given a send off worthy of a character I have grown to love, the series feels like it's lost its emotional center....

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## **Artemy says**

The series is more or less back on track after the disappointment of the previous volume, but *The Return of the Master* still wasn't great. Again there was a whole subplot that came out of nowhere and was seemingly entirely pointless. The Fenix stuff starts to drag, she's being an annoying angst-y teenager, and her importance to the story is still unclear. Only one storyline out of three felt like it was advancing the plot in a meaningful way, and it was still only a tease of things to come. It wasn't a bad volume per se, but I'm certainly used to expect more from BPRD.

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## **Wayne McCoy says**

This is volume 6 in a series. It is a direct continuation of previous events and is not a stand alone work. Without the previous issues, or knowledge of characters in the Hellboy universe, you might expect to be a bit on the confused side.

But, if you like battles with strange monsters and you like Hellboy, then this is a great book, but you should probably read the previous volumes first. There are gruesome monsters that evolve and ooze and are nothing like I've seen in other works.

The work by Mike Mignola and John Arcudi is good and there are a huge range of characters, which are all unique and easy to identify. Sometimes in huge character books, the artistic style can blur characters together, but I had no trouble distinguishing, so that speaks to good artistic ability. The book ends on a bit of a cliffhanger, but there is also about 40 pages of sketches and character development that I found interesting.

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## David says

It's been a couple of years since I've read either a Hellboy or a BPRD book. I tend to read those title in a binge reading marathon once a few TPB collections are printed.

Are for the newer BPRD: HELL ON EARTH series I very much enjoyed the first two volumes. And here I am reading them out of order. Following Vol. 2 with Vol. 6. The Hell On Earth series is one long continuing story. So I'd strongly recommend reading them in order.

Even without reading Vol.s 3,4,5, I found much to enjoy in this collection. BPRD is perhaps the most consistently terrific title in comic books, pretty much since the inception of Hellboy back in 1993. That's 20 years of top-notch material. Impressive to say the least. The writing is superb, Arcudi's artwork looks like Mignola's style crossed with Herge, color by comicdom's reigning color Master which all adds up to a Premium title in the field. It's the Jaguar of comics.

I've got the bug again. I've got to catch up with my BPRD and Hellboy reading.

My thanks to NetGalley for an electronic copy for review.

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## Sesana says

It actually seems like the overarching plot is moving forward this time around, but I'm not convinced that this is the way it should be moving. Black Flame? Rasputin? Haven't we done this before? It doesn't help that many of the focus characters in this issue are less compelling than the old favorites, who have by and large been sidelined. I am definitely not a fan of Fenix, who is annoying for more than just being borderline copyright infringement. I miss Abe, and I miss Liz. But hey, at least something is happening on the world stage, even if I'm still not sure Mignola and Arcudi really know where they're going.

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## Marc Pastor says

Just quan semblava que la història havia perdut el focus i no hi havia un protagonista clar que portés l'acció endavant, el retorn d'alguns personatges i monstres la redreça.

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## Otherwyrld says

This is a placeholder review until I can fill in some of the gaps in my reading. The review and the rating may change after a reread.

A lot happens in this book, most of it not good for the world, which seems to be on its last legs. Rasputin is reincarnated and starts a cult in Scotland, one which commands trolls which he throws at a B.P.R.Q. hit squad. Russian scientists are given a body that was being grown by the B.P.R.D.(as a new body for Johann,

or for Roger? I'm not sure) on false pretenses, as the Russians want it for Rasputin's soul, not realising that he has already returned. They do rescue a soul, but it turns out to be (view spoiler) who then goes on a rampage. Giant monsters are on the move all over the world, and some of them are laying eggs.

Less interesting stuff includes Fenix running away from B.P.R.D. headquarters, as she seems to know that something bad is going to happen. I have never really warmed to this character not just because she (view spoiler) but also because she is a whiny brat.

Finally, we catch up with Liz Sherman again, who seems to be in a bad way here, possibly because of the incident from the last book but maybe something else.

So, pretty good story all in all.

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### **Jeff Lanter says**

Over the last week or so I think I have read three volumes of B.P.R.D. and this is easily the best one in a while. Stuff happens (including several surprises so I can't say too much in this review) and the plot moves forward in a way that was desperately needed. I wouldn't say the overall story arc was amazing but there was just enough action and suspense to help make it all work. By the end, things seem about as dire as can be which is more or less what we expect in an H.P. Lovecraft inspired book like this. I hope the next few volumes are this strong because there are small moments where B.P.R.D. seems in danger of losing its way or the story becoming too drawn out with the end result being that it might start to bore us. This book has been consistently good for so long that it would be a real shame if it became stale or not good.

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