



## Deadly Class, Vol. 4: Die for Me

*Rick Remender (Writer), Wes Craig (Illustrator), Jordan Boyd (Colorist)*

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**Deadly Class, Vol. 4: Die for Me** Rick Remender (Writer) , Wes Craig (Illustrator) , Jordan Boyd (Colorist)  
It's 1988 and Marcus Lopez's first year at Kings Dominion, the elite academy where damaged teenagers are forged into the world's deadliest assassins, is coming to a close, and the final exam. Pass or Fail, no one survives the Freshman Finals without getting blood on their hands.

Collects DEADLY CLASS #17-21

## **Deadly Class, Vol. 4: Die for Me Details**

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Author : Rick Remender (Writer) , Wes Craig (Illustrator) , Jordan Boyd (Colorist)

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## From Reader Review Deadly Class, Vol. 4: Die for Me for online ebook

### Chad says

Wow, that was a crazy ride. Marcus, Billy, and Petra have been singled out as rats and have to stay alive for the next week while the entire freshman class tries to hunt them down. Remender creates some bats#!t crazy backstories for these kids that will depress the hell out of you. Tons of action while our heroes are on the run and Shabnam turns into the Kingpin.

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### Travis says

How in the world is it possible that this series is getting \*better\*?!

It's an action-packed, propulsive read, yet still manages to delve into the deeper ideas of alienation, human interaction, and morality.

Come for the awesome fights and cool music references, stay for the philosophy!

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### Kyle says

Actual rating: 2.5

Volume 4 opens on the students of Kings Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts school stabbing, shooting, bashing, and poisoning one another as their final lesson. The goal is to "kill the rats!", meaning, in this case, our MC Marcus (as well as a few others).

Let me start by saying that from the get-go, something felt off. Upon further investigation, it came to my attention that the original colorist from the first three volumes was replaced for this group of issues. It was noticeable, and not in a good way. There was a listlessness to the coloring, which ultimately felt flat and unimaginative this time around. It didn't help that after the first few pages, all the violence kind of also became pretty mundane, and (*dare I say?*) **boring?**

There was a lot of confusion throughout all the mayhem, as friends become foes, and... well, pretty much **EVERYONE** just wants Marcus dead. He does have a few allies, though, in his plans to escape his fellow students out for the credit of his death. Sadly, there are a few plot twists thrown in that were a bit too obvious, so they fell flat.

Honestly, the story this time around wasn't the best. The only thing keeping it closer to 3 stars is that ending, which I found absolutely beautiful. Needless to say, too many characters were taken out of the picture in just a few issues. I mean, I get trimming the fat and all the Jazz, but there were some good ones in that bunch that didn't deserve to go just yet. Will they be replaced by other characters in upcoming issues? Or is time winding down on this series?

Judging by that gut-punch ending, I'd assume the latter.

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### **Maddie says**

WHATTHEFUCK

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### **Get X Serious says**

Wow. 5 stars.

You've absolutely gotta give credit to someone who isn't afraid to kill their characters in a serialized comic. And let me tell you... some (er-, most) of the characters fucking die, so I hope you didn't have too many strong attachments to them. In fact this entire collection is pretty much just about (main) characters killing other (main, sometimes secondary) characters... I mean, it's called *Die for Me*, how obvious does he have to make it for you?

But each death is beautiful in a way. Masterfully crafted, handled with care and precision to make sure it's a death worth telling. None of it feels gratuitous or not well thought out. Honestly, Remender is so good at writing deaths that I almost feel like maybe I should hire him to write mine. It'll probably really suck for me but god damn will it be entertaining to everyone else! You only get one, might as well go for gold. Now that I think of it, gold is definitely what Remender achieved with that ending...

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### **Alja (alyaofwinterfell) says**

I'm in shock. That ending was so UNEXPECTED and my mind is still reeling from it!

Shit got real in this volume - I can't say anything about the plot so that I don't spoil anyone who hasn't read the previous volumes, so let's just say that vol.4 involves a lot of action, violence, betrayals and completely unexpected twists and turns.

It hits you right in the feels and doesn't let you off the hook until the final page (and even long after that).

People are dropping dead at every corner and there's a genuine bloodbath out there - if you thought that the previous volumes were violent and intense, you haven't seen anything yet.

However, there are some truly touching moments amidst all that viciousness; moments of friendship, and some incredibly sad and heartfelt backstories of these kids.

The moment when I realized what the title of this volume means, I swear that I had tears in my eyes. Some scenes from this volume will haunt me for a long time, they broke my heart.

Whether you are already familiar with Deadly Class universe or you haven't started with the series yet, you will love this! It's the best issue yet and I. Am. Not. Okay. after all that has happened.

Now where is the next volume??

Also... this drawing is everything:

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### **Donovan says**

Damn. That was awesome.

While this volume is truly a wild and crazy blood fest, there's still plenty of reflection and emotional intensity to balance it out. When you have those "oh shit, did that really just happen?" moments, you know you're reading something special. One of the best things Remender has done in a while.

Wes Craig's illustrations, Jordan Boyd's colors, and Rus Wooton's letters and design continue to be shockingly beautiful. And that's really saying something with the grotesque level of violence. The design is just super clean, and I can't wait to read this in oversized format like volumes 1-3.

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### **47Time says**

Master Lin' finals involve a game called 'kill the rats.' 'Rats' are students not hailing from established crime families like everybody else in the school. They are designed as targets for the other students so the latter can earn an honor roll. How they can go about killing each other and innocents that get in the way with, say, the police remaining oblivious is beyond me. The volume is better than the previous ones, at least in terms of the action and survival elements, but the long monologues, drug-fueled trips and childish whining are still there. At least there's a gay couple. That should fix everything, huh? Too little, too late.

Marcus is doing a pretty good job of whittling the opposition down, but he is on the less numerous side. He gets Petra and Billy out of the main massacre, but the rat hunters are getting organized with geek Shabnab at the helm. The Russian mountain Viktor, a stereotypical invincible young man with no morals, makes it a personal goal to kill them. (view spoiler)

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### **Wing Kee says**

4.5. An emotional gut punch.

World: The art has always been amazing in this series and this frantic and insane arc is just the same, the framing, the colors, the sense of motion and the raw emotion that comes out of the art and sets the tone of the world is stunning. The world building is very simple this time around, this is the fallout of the last book and this entire arc is just the culmination of that, the culmination of the actual end of the school year, the culmination of relationships that have developed since issue 1, the culmination of the personal story and development of Marcus himself. All the pieces here come together for this pretty amazing fourth arc.

Story: The story is frantic just like the events of this arc, it's relentless and paranoid and just insane. This arc is about action but within all of the action this creative team has weaved together all of the emotions and the plot threads that have been building since issue 1 and it all comes to a head. This is the end of book 1 in Harry Potter, the end of the school year when everything comes together for a fun finish, but here the fun is in the amount of blood that's spilled. The emotions are raw the character interactions heated and tense, just like high school. I love that even in the chaos Remender was able to depress us, make us feel sad and give us all these other moments that mattered. Where this book goes, I'm gonna be really interested.

Characters: Marcus has been going through a lot of change and emotions since the beginning of the series, and the exploration of self inflicted pain due to past trauma is done well here, how he sabotages his relationship was on full display last arc, this one is the result and the self realization of it, sure it's wrapped in a bloody story but it's done so well. The rest of the cast are also superb, this group of friends that Marcus has surrounded himself with are deep and complex and real making for a really emotional roller coaster of a book this time cause so much stuff does go down. Willie is great, Billy is great, everyone is amazing. Even the story obstacles that Remender throws at Marcus like Viktor are done well, great stuff!

This arc was hard to read cause of how raw and intense it was, it was amazing.

Onward to the next book!

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### **Sam Quixote says**

It's the end of the first year at King's Dominion and time for the Freshman Finals. The test? Kill all the rats!

For a book whose story is predicated on a Royal Rumble-esque non-stop battle between teenagers, the fourth volume of Deadly Class is mega-boring! Marcus and co. have to survive as their classmates turn on one another, stabbing, shooting, and poisoning their way throughout the night, racing towards the dawn and victory.

And yet - meh. It's not interesting to read. Some characters you might remember die, others you won't also die, and it feels weirdly static and dull for the most part. Things pick up in the final issue though with a very unexpected final page - whether Rick Remender and Wes Craig will stick to it or whether it's a lame bait and switch is the question. But honestly this volume was so disappointing I'm not gonna be picking up the next one to find out.

Wes Craig's art is good as ever but this is the first Deadly Class volume without colourist Lee Loughridge, with Jordan Boyd stepping in. Boy, does a good colourist make a difference! The art of the first three books stood out because of Loughridge's expert eye - with Boyd, the art is rendered flat and unexciting, much like Remender's script. The contrast between the colourists is so stark.

Deadly Class was a good series while it lasted but this fourth volume, Die For Me, continues the title's descending quality. A boring, unrewarding slog.

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### **Roy says**

This is the best one yet. The rats need to be exterminated from the school. Marcus, Billy and Petra are on the run. Others in Chase attempting to kill them. So much action and gore in this one. The plot takes so many twists and turns as well its crazy where this goes. Great cliffhanger ending. This is a must read

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### **Maria (Big City Bookworm) says**

Where do I even begin. This volume made me go through so many emotions, I can't even think properly. I needed to take a few days to think about what I read before I could even begin to write this review...and I'm still struggling to find the right words.

Die For Me picks up right where The Snake Pit left off. The Freshman Finals. Basically, it's the Legacy's pinned against the Rats. The Legacy's are the privileged students who have ties to Kings Dominion Atelier of the Deadly Arts and the Rats are those who have no ties to the school whatsoever. The students must kill as many of the opposing group as possible within a certain amount of time and those who survive get a passing grade.

The amount of blood, gore, death and betrayal within this volume was absolutely insane. The action was constant, from start to finish with absolutely no time to catch your breath which worked well with the nature of the story, being a race against time and death and all. The entire time I was reading this arc, I was just waiting for something terrible to happen...as is tradition with Deadly Class. There are endless twists and an epic amount of death, especially within the last issue, that had me feeling all of the emotions. The swans. Man, the swans. I'm crying.

Honestly, it's really hard to talk about this without spoiling the hell out of it. All I want to do is rant and discuss everything that happened. I'm still in shock over what did happen and for the first time ever, I think I might start picking up single issues as I can't possibly wait until the next volume comes out.

In other amazing news, Deadly Class has been picked up as a television show and I am beyond excited. I've always dreamed of this series becoming a television show or film and now those hopes and dreams are finally coming true. I've seen a lot of comics being adapted into television series lately, and they have all been pretty darn great.

From the beginning, Deadly Class has been one of the best graphic novel series I have ever read. I picked up the first volume on a whim based on the front cover alone and I'm forever glad that I did. It has turned out to be my all-time favourite series and I absolutely cannot wait to read more!

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### **Initial post reading thoughts:**

shut the fuck up. I'm in shock. holy hell, that was action packed and gory as shit. oh my god. I can't...

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### **Nicole says**

Wow so much happened in this one :o And so much action!! Loved it! NEED MOREE

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### **Crystal Starr Light says**

Bullet Review:

STUFF HAPPENS! LOADS of people die! And still Remender does his thing of great 1st issue, boring middle issues then intense final issue.

Honestly, this was the best of the series so far. All those previous issues FINALLY built up to something other than whining about who is effing who and who is gay.

There is nothing better than a bunch of hormonal, angsty teenagers armed to the nines and set loose to kill each other.

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### **James DeSantis says**

Well I read this last night before I went to sleep.

I then had nightmares of everyone I know dying.

Then I woke up and said I had to review this.

Deadly Class Volume 4 is one of the most intense, fucked up, lovely comic ever made. This is the red wedding of comics, this is the "NOOOOOO" moment of comics, this is the "Well what the fuck now?" of comics.

Deadly Class is both sad and beautiful in some ways. The final pages are touching and wonderful and made me feel so many fucking emotions. However, everything before that is nail-biting, scary, and it's like "The Warriors" meet "The Departed" I mean this shit...this was some amazing shit.

I can't even talk about it cause of spoilers but be prepared. If you read volume 1-3 this is what it all leads up to, and it doesn't let you down.

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