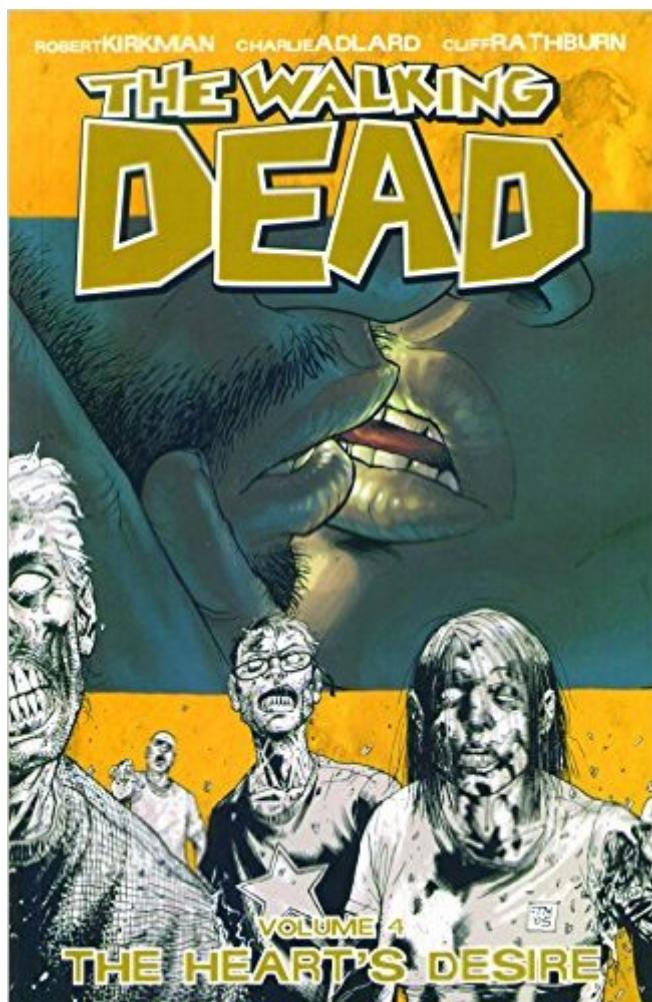


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The Walking Dead, Vol. 4: The Heart's Desire



Synopsis

The world we knew is gone. The world of commerce and frivolous necessity has been replaced by a world of survival and responsibility. An epidemic of apocalyptic proportions has swept the globe, causing the dead to rise and feed on the living. In a matter of months society has crumbled: no government, no grocery stores, no mail delivery, no cable TV. In a world ruled by the dead, the survivors are forced to finally start living. Life in the prison starts to get interesting for Rick Grimes and the rest of our survivors. Relationships heat up, fizzle out, and change entirely almost overnight. By the end of this volume, relationships between key characters are radically changed, setting the stage for future events in The Walking Dead. Reprint Edition

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (202 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

So far, I've loved and obsessed over Kirkman's The Walking Dead series and the previous three collected volumes have not disappointed me at any level. This fourth volume collects issues 19 through 24 and is appropriately titled The Heart's Desire. We pick up from the cliffhanger that ended the third volume (Safety Behind Bars) as Dexter gives Rick and his group a choice that bodes nothing but death either way he chooses: stay and be shot or leave and take their chances with the zombies outside the fences. The book starts things off with a bang as Rick realizes that Dexter's success in getting guns of his own has let loose a bigger set of problems as zombies from a locked wing of the prison was accidentally let out. What happens next as Rick's group and Dexter's group fight to stay alive shows a new side to Rick that surprised me a lot. It puts a new wrinkle on Rick's

rule of "you kill, you die" and will have long-reaching ramifications deeper in the story. It is also in this heart-pounding sequence that a new face is added to the mix in the form of a female survivor whose mode of survival, to say the very least, is interesting. The rest of the book really deals less with the zombies but the emotional consequences of many of the characters' actions from the very start of the series all the way to point of this volume. I can fully understand the disappointment many fans have with the direction the series took with all the drama and soap opera kind of twists and turns of the heart, but I think people fail to realize that Kirkman is writing about the human condition rather than just about zombies. Sure I got a bit impatient with all the emotional crisis and the meltdowns by almost everyone involved, but I can also understand why they've been acting the way they have.

The Heart's Desire is the fourth volume of Robert Kirkman's Walking Dead franchise. He teases the reader just a bit in the beginning after leaving you hanging at the end of Safety Behind Bars. The opening scene introduces a new and mysterious woman named Michonne. This installment picks up the snow globe that is the world of our survivors and shakes it really good. It seems everybody gets their own scene in this one which is nice because it extends the depth of attachment the reader feels towards the characters. Of course you know Kirkman is only doing that so he can hurt you later. The strain of the situation is beginning to take its toll on the survivors here, even with--or perhaps because of--marginally better living conditions, the survivors begin to show some very pre-apocalypse proclivities. Racism and infidelity pop up exemplifying that we are often our own worst enemy. There is a very edgy quality to this volume that has the reader waiting for the pot to boil over. Kirkman does not disappoint. The two biggest bulls in the field eventually lock horns, both claiming some tenuous perch on righteousness. While this is not a case of "Team Edward" and "Team Jacob", other people I know who have read this are split on the support of Rick versus Tyreese. Honestly, I'd never considered the possibility--for the record, I took Rick's side. Like any good zombie story with depth, the zombies have taken a background role in the story by now. This is really about the human condition. Occasionally a zombie pops up to be dealt with, but unlike the start of the story when they are the focus, they've become wallpaper. The Heart's Desire ends a bit differently from previous installments.

Taking place immediately after the events of the previous volume, SAFETY BEHIND BARS, WALKING DEAD, VOLUME 4: THE HEART'S DESIRE collects issues 19-24 of "The Walking Dead" comic books. The book opens with a prologue of sorts and features a hooded woman with katanas and a couple of chained jawless zombies behind her following the sound of gunshots. The shots

come from Hershel's son Otis, who remained on the farm to take care of the animals, but is now headed towards the prison for safety. He's surrounded by zombies, but with the woman's help, they are able to fend them off. The woman is Michonne and she will become a major character in the ongoing storyline. Meanwhile, back at the prison, Dexter, one of the former prisoners, has given Rick and his crew an ultimatum: leave or be shot. However, Dexter's companions aren't as intelligent as he is and they didn't close and lock the prison doors after getting weapons from the armory. That forces Rick's group and the prisoners to join forces to fight back the swarming zombie hordes. In the confusion of the firefight, Rick shoots Dexter in the head. Tyreese sees this happen, but keeps silent. Shortly after, Otis and Michonne arrive at the prison and Michonne asks if she has earned a place with the group. Rick agrees, but only if she agrees to temporarily give up her katanas and kill the zombies on chains. The rest of the book deals with the drama that has been boiling up among the group for several issues back. This volume concludes with a hard-core fight between two core members, a changeup of the group's leadership, and the declaration that the real walking dead are actually the living humans. THE HEART'S DESIRE moves at a slightly different pace than the previous volumes in "The Walking Dead" series.

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