



B.P.R.D., Vol. 3: Plague of Frogs

Mike Mignola , Guy Davis (Illustrator)

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The Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense's ongoing war against the frog monsters explodes in five short stories set before Roger's death in *B.P.R.D.: The Black Flame*.

- Collects *B.P.R.D.: War on Frogs* #1-#4, "Revival" from *MySpace Dark Horse Presents* #8-#9, and an original eight-page story by Guy Davis.
- Series writer John Arcudi and Hellboy creator Mike Mignola join up with an incredible team of artists: John Severin (*Two-Fisted Tales*), Karl Moline (*Fray, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), Peter Snejbjerg (*Starman, The Books of Magic*), Herb Trimpe (*The Incredible Hulk*), and multiple Eisner Award-winning series artist Guy Davis!
- From the pages of Hellboy!

B.P.R.D., Vol. 3: Plague of Frogs Details

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Author : Mike Mignola , Guy Davis (Illustrator)

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Comics

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From Reader Review B.P.R.D., Vol. 3: Plague of Frogs for online ebook

Scott Firestone says

This volume is where B.P.R.D. moved from being a bunch of middling one-off stories to a more cohesive arc. This first one is a bit of a misstep, though, as it tries to gather a bunch of disparate threads from the Hellboyverse and weave them into one tapestry. But it feels somewhat disjointed--and it's been a while since I read some of those threads, so my memory of them is just awful. Still, I like where this is going, and the parts with Abe and his backstory are compelling and unexpected.

Sesana says

Now, this is more like it. Unlike the previous volume, it's a single, connected story. And it's completely written by Mignola. It brings back from the frog creatures from an early Hellboy adventure, which is nice. And the last chapter shows Abe's origin. Which, in true Mignola fashion, raises more questions than it answers. And it doesn't feel like an evasion, just a deepening of a mystery that seemed like it was getting solved. I do like that, and I think it must have been given careful thought to strike that balance between revealing so much that the sense of mystery and wonder is destroyed and revealing so little that the reader feels cheated.

Garrett says

Continuing the story of Hellboy Seed of Destruction, this BPRD volume focuses mostly on Abe Sapien as he learns about his origin, while the others try to stop the frog monsters. I like the fact that his origin is mysterious and I hope they don't over explain it in the future.

Timothy Boyd says

This begins the long story arc that runs through both the B.P.R.D. and later Hellboy comics. Seems the entire Hellboy comic storyline has been building up to this arc. Good gothic horror. Recommended

Dan says

This was worth reading just to see Abe Sapien's origin story. Also picks up from Hellboy: Seed of Destruction. Great art as always, and a good story.

Kevin says

Mike Mignola returns with this book, though I have to say I'm not all that thrilled with the story he wrote.

It's still great Mike Mignola form, however, every time he begins a story arc it's shaky. I'm probably being a bit unfair to him, so I should knock it up to 4 stars instead of 3, however, I just can't do it.

My major complaint is this delusion of mind control in comics. I'm getting tired of these gods/demons suddenly and inexplicably controlling others' minds by injecting a drug or something into them. In the way it is represented in many books, is that this control suddenly gives the controller all the information they want of the person, allowing them to make the person do whatever they want while retaining all of that knowledge. That just doesn't mesh.

Someone who remembers everything also remembers their emotional and chemical states. To control another person it'd be more likely if those memories were repressed, or if the body itself were being directly manipulated (such as the Borg in Star Trek manipulating all of the neurons while repressing the majority of brain functions which have the memories/personality). But even then there has to be a central controlling factor, and after that factor is destroyed they should revert back to normal or just collapse under the body's inability to function. All of these issues are ignored for the sake of the story in "Plague of Frogs", and it just irritates the hell out of me whenever this is done in any kind of story.

Having said that, I enjoyed Abe's origin story (last chapter of the book). It was fun.

I am very glad Mike is back writing, and I'm sure that this large story arc will have a satisfactory conclusion. However, this beginning arc was a bit under-par for Mike. He can do so much better!

Koen Claeys says

Yes ! The bad taste of those first 2 volumes is immediately washed away with a powerful cocktail of excitement, horror, adventure of the most compelling kind. Guy Davis proves to be capable to bring the most crazy horror fantasies to life on paper. Yummie! (This volume is the start of me liking the B.P.R.D more than Hellboy)

Jesse says

My first delve into the Hellboy off-shoot. I definitely enjoyed it. Once again, I think I'm reading this is out of order, but it hasn't really been an issue so far (no pun intended).

Interesting characters, and there are definitely easter eggs for those who have read the previous series. Heavily focused on the super-natural and Lovecraftian themes, it is dark and creepy.

As I'm getting more in to the series, I'm going to try and get them in order as there seems to be more of a long term liner story line.

A good start.

Ctgt says

Great story, great art! Loved it.

Artemy says

This is it, the first truly great volume of BPRD that, I would argue, is just as good as anything Mike Mignola did with Hellboy. The series finds its big story by building upon the already established mythos and at the same time, expanding it into new territory. This is also the first volume to feature Guy Davis's excellent artwork that will become the face of the series for many more volumes to come, just like Mike Mignola's artwork was for Hellboy. All around, an outstanding volume, and a turning point for the entire series.

First read: November 3, 2015

Rating: ★★★★★

Second read: October 22, 2017

Rating: ★★★★★

Wing Kee says

This was the arc, this was the arc that made me addicted to 1) BPRD and 2) Guy Davis.

I remember Plague of Frogs distinctly, why? Because of a couple of reasons: 1) This was the first full arc illustrated by Guy Davis, 2) This arc introduced Caul (no spoilers), and 3) This arc came out about the same time the Hellboy movie did so I was drowning in Mignolaverse bliss. To this day this 5 issue arc is still one of my favorite BPRD tales and is one of the best examples to non Mignolaverse readers why this series is bloody fantastic:

World: Guy Davis, holy shit can he draw monsters! There's something about his art, when you first look at it, it's weird. The line work is super scratchy (which I normally don't like), the facial expressions are a bit odd (normally a deal breaker for me), and framing is fairly static and there is no great sense of motion (which for an action book is required). But for some reason his art in it's entirety just works...and holy jeez his monsters are amazing! If Mignola's style is the ID of HB, I will argue that Davis' style is BPRD's, he is the standard for which all other BPRD artist must strive for in terms of tone and look. Ok, I like the art, but enough of that, how's the world building? It's fucking fantastic! It's dense, it's lovecraftian, it give you answers but also poses so many more (Caul!). I don't want to go into spoilers as the world building is a big part of the story this time around, the things introduced here set the ball in motion for what is essentially the massive Plague of Frogs story. Amazing!

Story: Pretty dense for 5 issues. There is the world building to set up the greater story, but there are also great character development moments found in this arc. The pacing is amazing, the dialog full of character and wit, this is just a great adventure tale. The final issue is the most fantastic of them all, focusing clearly on

character, giving us answers but teasing us with so much more, plus the massive consequence at the end of issue 4!!! Really entertaining!

Characters: Caul, that's all I need to say. Well to add to that, there were many great character moments and the team dynamic and personalities of each member is starting to become more defined and developed, it's all good here!

Yeah, this arc is amazing! It's the arc that made me a lifelong BPRD devotee. I can't say enough good things about it. If you've read any Mike Mignola HB/BPRD stuff you will know what I mean when this shit got real! But for new readers, this is actually not a bad place to get a sample of what BPRD and the greater Mignolaverse has to offer.

Onward to the next book!

Martin Chalupa says

The first part of the main story itself. It isn't complicated but it is still fresh and original not repeating any previous ones. Overall the series is a little bit darker than Hellboy. I don't mind it just have right expectations.

Amy says

This is the first of the BPRD trades that has lived up to the Hellboy comics IMO.

The art by Guy Davis is wonderful, detailed but not too realistic.

As for the story, it was nice to have something with some substance. In the past trades I always felt like the short stories were rushed, so you never got to delve into them. While the main plot of this trade felt short, it set up enough future story lines that it didn't feel pointless. And it was nice to get a Liz who didn't need rescuing, and some more Abe back story. I actually think what we witnessed of Abe's origin was some of the best parts of this, I hope we get some answers in the future.

Sam Quixote says

"Plague of Frogs" begins the main BPRD storyline that continues up to the present book, Vol 13 "King of Fear". The plot is that some eggs found at the site of Cavendish Hall (from Hellboy Vol 1) are taken back and studied. The result is a large plant like creature developing the lab, taking seed in a human body, and spawning humanoid frogs. Thus the plague of frogs is unleashed and it's up to the BPRD (minus Hellboy) to bring these frogs down.

The book features a great script from Mignola but Guy Davis takes over illustrating duties on this and many other BPRD books. There is also the origin story of Abe Sapien included at the end and it is quite... different than you'd have thought. I won't give it away, but it does give you an insight into Abe's personality at times. It's a nice addition after the beginning of the main storyline.

It's a good place to start and explains a lot of what happens in the following books. A good read and great supernatural fun (especially for this time of year!), join the BPRD saga!

Otherwyrl says

Having complained about a lack of underlying plot in the first two books, I should be saying "this is more like it" but somehow this story swings too far in the wrong direction. There are a huge number of plotlines pulled in from all eras of the Hellboy story, dating right back to the first book and the story of frog creatures in a haunted house. I have read those books but it was a while ago so things were a little vague and having so many disparate plot elements being forced into one story left me a bit dizzy. Not only that, but we also have the quite frankly bizarre origin story of Abe Sapien on top of that. It's all a bit too much.

Basically, the plot - the B.P.R.D. are sent to investigate a shooting at one of their warehouses in Jersey, where they encounter the mutated frog creatures from an investigation with Hellboy 10 years ago. Investigation of the shooter leads them to a cult church in Michigan, where they are attacked by more frog creatures, zombies and a weird mushroom creature that has inhabited the body of the shooter. The cult is trying to bring about the return of the old gods, and by the end the frog creatures have escaped and are spreading out into the countryside where they will infect and recruit more creatures.

It is at this point that the story goes from utterly bizarre to WTF territory as Abe, on the point of death, has a hallucination as to his true origin. Is he really (view spoiler). I honestly don't know how I feel about this story line. Abe is one of the more interesting characters in this series, but this origin feels off in some ways.

It remains to be seen how this plot will be resolved, but I'm willing to give the author the benefit of the doubt for the time being.
