



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Ultimate Collection, Vol. 3

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The classic Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action continues in the third volume of IDW's Ultimate Collections! In this outing, you'll find issues #12, 14, 15, 17, and 19-21, featuring stories like "Survivalists," "The Unmentionables," "Dome Doom," and the multi-part "Return to New York." Presented as an oversized hardcover, and featuring annotations from Eastman and Laird, you've never seen the TURTLES like this!

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Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Ultimate Collection, Vol. 3 Details

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From Reader Review Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Ultimate Collection, Vol. 3 for online ebook

B says

The one-off stories were not incredibly strong and the longer storyline was not especially memorable. IN volume 4, the Turtles ask "What is our purpose?" I think that's kind of right. In this book, the creators reject the idea that the Turtles actively look for rights to wrong like Spider-Man.

So what do they do? They were trained to defeat the Shredder and they defeated him. What's more, cf. Turtles Forever, the Shredder is a challenge far beneath their skill level.

The fake beat-up comicbook cover was pretty neat. I thought it was actually a beat-up comicbook cover.

Clint says

It's the Turtles

The art here is really, really good. I enjoyed just admiring it. 5 stars for the art. However, the stories are all over the map. There's no arc. It's just randomness. Some are decent. Most are not. 2 stars for the stories. This is a problem with the whole Mirage run, actually. As usual, this "ultimate" collection is missing a bunch of issues. That bothers me, but with the random nature of these stories, I doubt it matters. Still, I feel like I was missing something key in the return of Shredder story.

Brendan says

Concluding with Return to New York, perhaps my favorite TMNT story arc, this is peak Eastman and Laird.

Sarah says

This one was kind of all over the place. The three part "Return to New York" story was excellent, but the rest was fairly meh.

Philip Mastandrea says

Return to new York was good. Other stories felt out of place. Not bad, just not very good either.

Robert Hudder says

September 1987 - this issue deals with extremist survival group wanting to start a nuclear explosion. I read this just a few days after the bit about Donald Trump and the nuclear talks came out. The same idea of inevitability and bombing them before they bomb you comes out.

I'm worried that the idea of first strike and just being offensive and non conciliatory will bring about the things that people are worried about is so ingrained. This is a deeply held belief or at least appears to be that some how aggression is equal to defense.

This was the final set of issues that constitute what Eastman and Laird consider the core books of the TMNT. I was playing the RPG at the time many of these came out and was ready to be disappointed by the mass market spin in some ways.

There was something endearing about a bunch of teenagers trying to do their own thing and being largely decent at it even though they had fights and were sometimes... well teenagers. I am glad that comics are coming back around to a complexity that is more real and rather more than some weird time tracking of a universe (I'm looking at you Marvel and your multiple universe timeline thingies....)

Well worth a read again.

Patrice says

The comics continue to be awesome. Just as the last book capped off with the leaving New York series, this one completes with the even more dramatic return to New York series. But all the stories in Northampton are quite quirky and fun, showcasing the humor that accompanies the drama in this franchise. This is where Laird and Eastman's collaboration was crumbling and for many stories, they alternated who did each issue, rather than working together on them. You can really start seeing their individual art and story telling styles as a result. The overall art really starts changing too, which I attribute to Eastman and Laird bringing in other comic artists to assist them. The most distinctive issue in this book (and my personal favorite) was distractions. The art and story were unlike anything else in the series without being completely incongruous. Very good. This book was also the first indication that these collections would not be complete. The earlier books had all the comics because, one they were all done by Eastman and Laird and two because the early comics are important for establishing the series. I suspect the books eliminate the stories that have less Eastman and Laird involvement and also choose to focus on the most important stories. At least I think it is. Too bad. I think I'd like to read it all if I had the chance.

A. Nixon says

This collection was a really tight one for me. I loved the different settings to the stories (especially the semi-Casey-centric story with the golden cow!). Some of the art for different issues was a little dark for me - I don't mean horrific or depressing, I just mean that their duo-tone-thing made the art very heavy and dark. It worked in the last issue but there's an issue in the middle without the duo-tone and it really stood out to me as being different.

So, I love these characters and there are some really great storylines throughout. Unexpected and fun. Some awesome action sequences and some fun little moments. So go get it.

David Williams says

The first couple of stories were rather ho-hum - definitely not what I had been expecting coming out of the last volume. However, the three-part "Return to New York" arc that they end this volume with was incredible.

Joe Santoro says

I have a bit of a soft spot for the issues where the Turtles are hanging out in Northampton as a UMass grad (I was always sad I missed the Eastman-Laird days there), but I have to admit they're not great comics.. it was definitely the beginning of the commercialization of the property into the cartoon and action figure juggernaut it became.

'Back to New York' is fantastic, though... and a bit of a last hurrah really. I'm really enjoying the commentary in these, and of course having the art oversized is nice :). As long as you're not a completist and OK with them skipping the issues Kevin Eastman (I assume) doesn't care about, this is a great way to experience the original TMNT.

BookLady says

Awesome and a must have classic for all TMNT fans everywhere. Thumbs up!

Timothy McNeil says

While the Return to New York storyline showcased what TMNT did best (well done martial art fight sequences for their own sake and no need to ground it in reality, but still feeling vaguely within the realm of possibilities...yes, I am ignoring the alien for this argument, just as I am ignoring the fact that the Turtles were created by alien goo), the fracturing of the partnership really showed in how aimless the other issues are.

It shouldn't be surprising that something started as a bit of a goof and spiraled into a media empire would have trouble keeping its footing.

Lissibith says

I love these collections. I love them so much. :)

The stories in the first half of this book are okay - the series was entering a time of friction between the creators, so the stories are more one-shots, with varying tones. Some are more lighthearted, some are more serious. They explore different genre conventions as well - one is highly noir, for instance, and another fully embraces the superhero comics that led to our turtle heroes in the first place. I don't think any were bad, but some were definitely less engaging than others.

The best of the set was the three-part Return to New York story arc, which was intense and moody, if maybe a little too dark at times. A lot of the various personalities really came out, the fights were great, and of course, there's that climactic battle. :)

But again, for me the highlight of the book is the commentary pages by Eastman and Laird. In this one, it takes on a bit of a different tone. If you're familiar with the series and its history, you've probably heard that all was not well between the two creators, and this book starts to chronicle some of that - it's part of the reason for the different tone and feel, as the two were working on separate issues at this point. but seeing it in their commentaries helped explain exactly how it happened.

Plus, just hearing about what parts of the books each one liked or didn't is always interesting just from a book construction standpoint. :)

Shaun says

These volumes are a treat. They allow you to relive the heyday surrounding the birth of Eastman and Laird's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles empire. With the large format pages and end notes on each issue, you get a decent inside scoop on what went into every issue. The real star of this volume is the Return to New York storyline where Eastman and Laird were working together again after being diverted to other projects for quite a while. You can see what they've learned on their breaks for other projects and just being away from things. It's really just great to see all these old issues collected together in one easily accessible format.

Nicolas says

I would describe this as uneven. Reading the commentary by the creators, I understand why. It seems like most of the issues aren't meant to fit together, nor were they created with any kind of collaboration or sense of story continuity. It's just a different style of comics. Some of these I liked. Some I did not.
