



Velvet, Vol. 3: The Man Who Stole the World

Ed Brubaker (Writer) , Steve Epting (Artist) , Elizabeth Breitweiser (Colourist)

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The strands of the mystery finally bring Velvet back home to the US, and to Washington, D.C. no less, for an explosive finale.

Collecting: *Velvet* 11-15

Velvet, Vol. 3: The Man Who Stole the World Details

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From Reader Review Velvet, Vol. 3: The Man Who Stole the World for online ebook

Christopher says

It's great, is what it is. Just like the first two volumes.

And perhaps most amazingly, this actually completes the story. Not in the standard, "we finished this arc, but started up another" way, but in a "wait... is this series complete?" way. I haven't looked up any news, but they haven't released any issues that aren't in this volume, so this is now the time to pick this series up if you haven't read it. You can actually read the whole thing instead of having to wait like the rest of us sad souls.

Roy says

A great conclusion to this spy story. The twists were great and I love the artwork. Kinda expected a big reveal but didnt shock me as much as I was hoping.

Max says

An excellent conclusion to the series.

What, you want more? Okay, fine: Velvet's third volume suffers a bit, in my opinion, from an (understandable) focus on unwinding the mystery rather than showing or transforming Velvet's character. On the one hand, great, a pat thriller ending! On the other hand, I feel like a little more work could have given us something more character driven and awe inspiring—compare, say, the end of *Three Days of the Condor*, or Brubaker's own *Sleeper*, or even the previous two volumes of Velvet themselves. The three-way standoff halfway through this book is Velvet's real test of character; everything after just works her competence through, to my reading. That's a fine and interesting choice, but it leaves the ending slightly flat from a raw storytelling perspective. (Compare, say, the end of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, where Le Carre lands the conspiracy and the character arc in beautiful sequence.)

But: Velvet's third volume remains beautiful, and well-told, the art's amazing and distinctive, I love Velvet's character design, and I will joyfully buy the next Velvet story, if there is one. Don't let my rumination on the nature of the thin line between Velvet's third volume and some of the greatest spy fiction of all time (including the series' first two volumes) stop you from reading this.

Sam Quixote says

What if the Watergate burglaries were a cover-up for something more heinous? As Velvet nears the end of her search to uncover who framed her for the murder of her love Agent X-14, the trail takes her all the way to Nixon's White House. To get the answers she needs, she's gonna have to kidnap the President!

Ed Brubaker and Steve Epting's brilliant spy series closes out its first arc strongly in *The Man Who Stole the World*. That said, I think this is my least favourite volume in the series despite being top notch – that's just how high quality the previous two books were!

The book is filled with the kind of spectacular action you'd expect in any spy thriller – hand-to-hand fighting, gunfights, car chases, skydiving – but it's nothing we haven't already seen Velvet do before; still fun to see but not as impressive.

The story plays out excitingly and keeps you guessing who Velvet can trust – if anyone – and then we get to the reveal of the villain behind it all. It's fine, as is the explanation they give, but, as always seems to be the case with most spy thrillers, the villain's plan is extremely convoluted so these fast-moving stories almost always end awkwardly with slow, extensive exposition. I still enjoyed the hell out of the ride getting there though!

Steve Epting's art and Elizabeth Breitweiser's colours continue to make Velvet one of the most gorgeous comics Image is publishing right now. The action is flawlessly rendered and they somehow give a comic set mostly at night this glorious shimmer to it. If you've read the last two volumes you'll know how remarkable the visuals in this series are.

I wasn't as blown away as I'd hoped with this third Velvet book but it's still a fine ending to an outstanding spy comic. Velvet is easily one of the best things Ed Brubaker's written yet and first class entertainment to boot – highly recommended to all comics fans! The genre has a new standout hero alongside Bond, Bourne and Archer: ~~Valerie Archer~~ Velvet.

Skip says

Good addition to the Velvet Templeton series, but not as good as first two volumes. Velvet Templeton has been laying low (outside of the country for several months), but returns to continue investigating the death of her husband, a key spy operative. Her investigation leads all the way to Dirty Dick Nixon's White House. Good time piece for a 1960's spy yarn. Exciting visuals, as always.

Anne says

If James Bond were a middle-aged woman, he'd be Velvet.

Somebody, please tell me this *isn't* the end of Brubaker's stories with this lady because the world needs more of **this**.

The Man Who Stole the World is the third and (hopefully not) final installation of the arc that started in volume one with Velvet discovering a conspiracy that pushed her out of the secretarial pool...and back into the spy game.

And **ohmygod** the conclusion was AWESOME!

A double (triple?) crossing lover, a rogue agent, a dead mentor, and Watergate are all interwoven into this crazy good graphic thriller.

Velvet is an example of why I love it when writers get to do their own thing outside of the world of Marvel & DC. Because as much as I love my iconic superheroes (and I *do* love them), there are so many other great stories out there just waiting to be told by creative writers and artists.

Haven't read this?

What are you waiting for?!

Kemper says

Velvet comes to Washington D.C. as part of her effort to clear her name and expose the conspiracy that set her up. To do this she'll need to blackmail Gerald Ford and kidnap Richard Nixon.

And I thought Jason Bourne was dangerous.

I gotta admit that I was a little let down by this one. Velvet is still an awesome character as a middle-aged lady spy kicking ass, and the artwork continues to be top notch as we see her get into a variety of situations that would make great action scenes in any blockbuster movie. Yet as we wrap things up the plot starts to collapse under the weight of it's spy-vs-spy machinations with so many betrayals and twists that even John le Carre would need a flow chart to keep track of all of it. Frankly, I'm still kinda confused as to why the entire thing happened to begin with.

The ending also seems to indicate that there will be more Velvet at some point, but it hasn't happened yet so it's kind of unsatisfying. Although I guess there is a TV series in development so maybe that'll motivate Ed Brubaker to return to this at some point.

Still, the three volumes that made up this story were some great comics that were well worth reading, and I'll keep my fingers crossed that we see Velvet return in a slightly more coherent story someday.

Trish says

What a blast!

I had to wait quite a while for the 3rd and (at least for some time) final volume of Velvet, the kick-ass female ex-agent that turned secretary after she had had to kill her own husband (or was he?) and couldn't get over it. But it was so worth it!

After the set-up in volume 1, she freed Damian Lake in volume 2 but got set up by him as well and has been trying to find some answers to this whole mess that started with the murder of agent x-14 all those years ago.

And what a ride this was! Just like in the previous two volumes, Velvet knew how to play at this game and stay alive, using her fighting abilities as much as her very attractive female body. The way she played Max, however, made me shudder - but I guess it's not that big of a deal for her considering how long ago she had

to kill her husband. She's got nothing left but her desire for answers and revenge so why not pulling all the stops?!

The reader gets on the spinning wheel with the characters, trying to figure out who is on which side and what the hell is going on until we get the pretty smart conclusion (it wasn't anything fancy like aliens, but it was a very clever political plot which fit the rest of this spy thriller). Again, some dialogues rang true even though the story plays in our past and although (view spoiler).

What really takes the cake however, is (view spoiler)! I mean, I guess I read too much of this spy game so I'm getting paranoid myself, but does that mean (view spoiler)! It is entirely possible however that I'm just imagining things (or, even, that the author wanted to confuse the reader). Well played, Mr. Brubaker, well played!

The art, too, was top-notch like in the previous two volumes (with making Velvet sexy but not overly sexualized - she wears practical clothes and doesn't fight half naked like some comicbook super heroines) with a great colour palette.

This was a fantastic series, not too drawn out but long enough for an intelligent story to play out and the art and writing went hand in hand very well. I'm glad this was recommended to me so I started reading what has now become one of my favourite comics!

Steve says

I really have no idea why it took me so long to read this final volume; it's been over a year since I read the first two books!

Great ending to a great series!

Jan Philipzig says

Lots of style and intrigue, though I could not really get into the characters - which is unusual for a Brubaker story.

Mike says

A very complex, satisfying, and overall, *fierce* ending for the Odyssey of Ms. Velvet Templeton.

Decidedly not a stand-alone volume, this is the third and final collection. The jacket blurb should be enough for the plot synopsis. I would add that the subtitle of this volume is highly apropos, the art stunning, and the historical references smart, true, and clear (or un-prove-able).

Sesana says

From the first issue, this has been a fantastic spy thriller.

David Schaafsma says

I have been waiting for my library to get this in for me for many weeks, and here it is, and I read it in one breath. Why? Because it is one of the best comics out there. Do I say that a lot? Well, I hope not a lot, because this series really is among the best comics running. It is a spy thriller, with top secret agents, double crosses, car chases, all you'd expect. . . but so good, with such good Brubaker dialogue and plot control, and then, in this third volume that completes the first arc of the story. . . Bam! Enter The President of the United States of America, Richard Milhouse Nixon, at the Watergate hotel, and maybe something larger at stake than we thought. When Nixon showed up, I actually laughed out loud. Ford, too! Audacious, this Mr. Brubaker, and such a good and inventive writer.

The focus, in case you don't know, is on Velvet Templeton, a kind of Miss Money Penny character (from Bond! Do I have to tell you?! Come on!) who is investigating the death of a key operative, her husband. She's been out of the country for several months, laying low, but her investigation leads all the way through lies and dirty secrets to the Very Hall of Lies and Dirty Secrets, in Nixon's DC. And we get some answers, and some resolution. It's SUCH a deliciously good sixties spy yarn, with a middle aged woman as the lead character. Wait: Can that idea work in the world of comics?! Can she even do this?! Where is the male-sophisticate lead and all the Barbie-esque Bond girls falling at his feet? What will readers do?! Just read it, you won't miss them, I promise.

And I almost forgot: the artwork of Epting and Breitweiser (coloring) is fantastic here, a complete collaboration, some of the best work going anywhere.

Artemy says

And it's done! The final (for now) volume of Velvet is finished, and it's still really good!

Now, I have to say, I feel that the ending was a bit underwhelming — so many twists and turns in the last couple of issues, it was a bit hard to follow. Still, the big reveal was unexpected, and the story was every bit as exciting to read as the rest of the series.

Steve Epting and Elizabeth Breitweiser on art and colours are still at the top of their game, creating gorgeous images on every single page of the book. I really want to see more of their art, and it looks like there is already another series planned with the same creative team. Can't wait!

Overall, it is a satisfying ending for a story that was great throughout. If you've read the first two volumes, you will definitely want to pick up the third one!

As a sidenote: in the back matter of issue #15, Brubaker said that the delays in Velvet release schedule were due to him working on Jonathan Nolan's new TV show, Westworld. As if I wasn't excited enough for this show! Now that I know that Brubaker is one of the producers, I absolutely need to see that ASAP.

Ritinha says

Um artístico salto do tubarão logo ali a seguir ao primeiro 1/3. Gostei que a Velvet se ofendesse com a h bris do Grande Mauz o. Realmente a h bris pode ser uma coisa detest vel. At  pode arruinar boas coisas. Como hist rias de esp es.
