



Scalped, Vol. 10: Trail's End

Jason Aaron , R.M. Guéra (Illustrator) , Jock (Illustrator)

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Fifteen years ago, Dashiell "Dash" Bad Horse ran away from a life of poverty and hopelessness on the Prairie Rose Indian Reservation in search of something better.

Now he's come back home armed with nothing but a set of nunchucks, a hell-bent-for leather attitude and one dark secret, to find nothing much has changed on "The Rez" — short of a glimmering new casino run by a corrupt leader named Red Crow, and a once-proud people overcome by drugs and organized crime.

The final volume of the series brings together all the threads laid out from the very beginning for a dramatic conclusion years in the making!

Scalped, Vol. 10: Trail's End Details

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Author : Jason Aaron , R.M. Guéra (Illustrator) , Jock (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Scalped, Vol. 10: Trail's End for online ebook

Mike says

Of course, in an Aaron tale the law wouldn't be the end of the story. Here especially. I was initially fooled into thinking, "there's no way there's any more story to tell after the big arrest". Boy is there. Plenty of confrontations, bad decisions, people seeking redemption and little of that to be found.

At the end of this amazing saga, I find myself not entirely satisfied. I can see why Aaron ended this the way he did, and there's a certain poetic justice in how everyone ended up. I don't think his artistic choices were bad, but I have to admit I was hoping for something more brutal, final and certain. After enduring roller coaster after whiplash in seeing our characters go through everything they brought on themselves, I was looking for something a little more cut-and-dried - a little more action-movie justice that gives me some reason to believe that bad deeds go punished.

I credit Aaron or not taking the cheap way out of this. I may not be joyous, but this will definitely linger for me a good long time.

Sam Quixote says

A breathtaking end to an amazing series.

Full review here

Nikita Katiyar says

This is probably one of the best comic series you will ever read.

Cyndi says

Great finish to one of the best series I have traveled through. Superlative!!! Writing! Characters! The tale!

I am reminded of Michael Corleone's passionate revelation from Godfather III...just when I think I'm out, THEY PULL ME BACK IN!!! The lives of all involved are irreparably changed in the final betrayals. The resolution may leave you tweaked . Absolutely loved it!

David Schaafsma says

An epic 60 issue, 1,200 page story comes to a perfect end, and I finally have read one of the great series—Watchman, Sandman, Preacher, and a few others—with rare scope and vision. Scalped is the story of

Chief Lincoln Red Crow and Dashiell Bad Horse, Lakota Sioux Indians on the Prairie Rose Indian Reservation, the poorest county in 21st century America. Red Crow has with the help of “bad money”—some borrowed from a corrupt Hmong gang, some “earned” from meth labs--constructed a Casino in the midst of great poverty and addictions and despair, many compelling storylines. Bad Horse grew up on the rez with his mother, Gina, whom Red Crow once loved; he returns as an undercover FBI Agent to bring down Red Crow and find his mother’s killer. Can there be redemption for any of these lost souls?

If so, activist Maggie Rock Medicine and Chief Falls Down might have starring roles. You won’t hear it from me if they do. But these folks, you won’t believe it, do not carry guns or knives, do not manufacture meth, and seem to be good community activists rising out of the ashes, observing traditional spiritual practices that Red Crow and Dash also return? Consider returning? to.

In the penultimate volume there are face-offs between some of the principal characters, but in this one there is the mother (but maybe “father” is the better word) face-off between Shunka, Red Crow and Dash, all holding guns on each other. What happens is a big surprise, as are a few things in the last pages of the tale. This is in part a noir crime opera, so you can’t expect everyone to be happy in the end, and to have things all tied up in a pretty bow, but I will say it is not hopeless, either. Things point to a new day for some of them, and maybe even the rez. Aaron and Guera write Dash’s final speech, which is powerful. Twice in this final volume I cried, once in public, on a hard-assed Chicago train! (I assured the woman who looked at me--tears streaming down my cheeks--in concern, that I was all right, and held up the book).

Aaron writes an afterword citing influences: Cormac McCarthy (Red Crow reads *The Road* in jail), Bruce Springsteen’s western album, and “The Ghost of Tom Joad,” *The Wire*, *Deadwood*, Johnny Cash, Sam Peckinpah, Leonard Peltier (the ultimate inspiration) and James Ellroy. Highly recommended series, with high entertainment value AND political aspirations, but it’s not for the faint-hearted. Only the brave!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZRbe...>

Daryl says

The five-star rating is not only for this volume, but for the series as a whole. I read the final three volumes in the last week. I tried to read them slowly to savor them, but found I couldn't. The writing throughout the series has been amazing, and by the end, everything pays off. Vertigo has published some great series - 100 Bullets, Y: The Last Man - and this ranks right up there with the best of them. R.M. Guera's art meshes with Jason Aaron's story perfectly, and even when there were fill-in artists (in earlier volumes), they managed to capture the feel and mood that is Scalped. I can't praise Jason Aaron enough for his writing here, especially considering that he barely wrote any comics prior to beginning Scalped. I'm sorry to see he's moved on to super-hero books (particularly those with an X in their title) and hope he returns to doing some creator-owned work sometime soon. Now that I've finished it, I look forward to re-reading this entire series from the beginning again. I read the first half of Scalped in monthly issues, and the last half in trades. I'll bet I like it even more, reading it as one continuous story from beginning to end.

Václav says

How to address my feelings toward this last book of 60 issues epic about one dirty Native American reservation without spoiling the ending? I can only say that Aaron made it through the end with honour. There are few things in last book that I do not like, but overall, the storytelling is excellent. The ending could be bit unsatisfying at some point, but what did you expect, fairy sweet happy ending? This world was crap and it stays that way even the stories of our protagonists ends (one way or another). But we saw that coming and it was hell of a ride. I didn't like Guerra's art then and I still don't fancy it, but it did its job. It somehow suits the topic and place and it's not distracting when the pace of the story is fast.

Scalped is great series, I would recommend it to all fans of neo-noir, crime & action, the TV series about dirty cops and crooks, like The Shield, True Detective, Fargo. This is both grim as action packed and it reads well, with lively Rez full of colourful but morally grey characters.

Benoit Lelièvre says

Eh.

The series was a wonderful experience overall, but the ending wasn't what I wished or expected it to be. The precedent volume ending with the very moment every reader was anticipating, it seems like Jason Aaron wasn't sure what to do with his characters afterwards. They seem settled, then they don't. They seem headed for a certain fate, then they go for another. And at the end, very little is solved and what's solved isn't in a satisfying manner *ahem* NITZ *ahem*.

I've greatly enjoyed following these characters over the months and I will forever keep a good memory of them, but... the grand finale could've had more style. It ended in somewhat of a whimper.

Josh says

SERIES: 10/10

An excellent take on crime fiction. Jason Aaron says it best in his afterword: 60 issues, 10 trade paperbacks, over 1200 pages. This is an epic work that can read like a whole novel if the entire series is taken in (which is now possible being that the whole series is available in paperback).

At first, the story centers on Dashiell Bad Horse, a disillusioned tough guy with a self-hatred for his own people, returning to his degenerating hometown, the Prairie Rose Indian Reservation, in what I would call a play of fate. As the story goes along, you will see what I mean. The reservation is run by his uncle, Lincoln Red Crow, the filthy rich and corrupt Chief of the tribe. He owns most of the town, including the police. With aims to build a massive casino on the reservation, he enlists Dash as a top enforcer on the police force, who does his duty with brutal self-destructive passion. Along the way, a series of other faces and names make themselves known, including Dash's activist mother Gina, Red Crow's daughter Carol, and an FBI Agent named Earl Nitz, whose goal in life is to prove Red Crow guilty for the murders of two FBI agents in 1975. All these story arcs come together so nicely, some ending abruptly, some continuing on until the bitter end to the surprising and satisfying conclusion.

Although it is fiction, the bare bones of the story are rooted in fact. The aforementioned FBI incident is based on a real event and allows the story to delve into a gritty noir-setting as bits and pieces of the event make

themselves known over the course of the story and little by little the truth comes out.

There are various influences at work here, such as the noir style of Dashiell Hammett and James Ellroy, the songwriting of Johnny Cash, the films of Sam Peckinpah, the Western themes of Cormac McCarthy, as well as the gritty realism of *The Wire* and *Breaking Bad*. The latter show being most similar with the meth subplots in the desert sands. When all these elements are blended together, with Jason Aaron's stellar writing and R.M. Guéra's fantastic artwork, you get a series that drives its point hard like a hammer beating nails into a baseball bat, which in turn lodges itself into an unfortunate victim's head.

Gritty action, great dialogue, and some pretty fascinating moral boundaries crossed, *Scalped* is one of those titles that comes every once in a while to shake things up.

Ill D says

Part crescendo, part epilogue, 100% awesome, *Scalped* Vol. 10 brings a stunning conclusion to the modern day American epic set on the "rez."

Ctgt says

Great crime series but really much more than that. How we deal with loss, the past, traditions and the truth behind it all.

Art by R.M. Guéra was gritty and a bit rough which fit the story to a tee. This was my first introduction to Jason Aaron and I personally believe this is his strongest work.

8/10 for the entire series

Joseph says

God, what a great conclusion to this sad book.

Heath Lowrance says

The end of this epic, violent, emotional, intense crime drama doesn't disappoint. But it does give us a lot of unexpected moments. Yeah, there's the obligatory bloody three-way stand-off (we'd have felt ripped off without that) but there's so much more besides. There's excellent character moments and sudden insights and bittersweet endings and even a little hope. There's open-endedness and world-weary resignation. There's self-discovery and finally-realized Truth, with a capital T.

Jason Aaron could easily have drawn his epic to a close with a simple shoot-out, a simple death or two. But he goes someplace deeper, someplace we readers can take with us when it's over-- and by doing so manages to elevate the entire run into something deeply profound.

No surprise that the body count is high; characters we've known from the beginning die. But what's not surprising is the number of characters who LIVE, and have to pick up the pieces and carry on when all is said and done. But I guess that's sort of Aaron's point: nothing is ever really 'said and done'.

It's crazy, but I'm going to miss these characters. Dash Bad Horse, the conflicted undercover Fed, his activist mother Gina, crazy prophet/murderer Catcher, tragic Dino Poor Bear, honest cop Franklin Falls Down, enforcer-with-a-secret Shunka, sad sad Carole, Indian wannabe Diesel, vengeance-mad Agent Nitz... but most of all Lincoln Red Crow, who's character arc is simply the most stunning I've ever seen in a graphic novel. Aaron pulled him apart layer by layer over the ten volumes, showing us not only his conflict and growth and spiritual death and rebirth, but also revealing that Red Crow was multi-faceted from the start. He's the character I'll most remember from this series.

If you're reading this, you're no doubt already a fan of the series to have come this far, so I know I'm preaching to the choir when I say that SCALPED will be remembered decades from now as one of the high points in the history of graphic novels. It's a masterpiece.

Jedi JC Daquis says

A fitting conclusion to a behemoth 60-issue of an Indian story, Trail's end gives a glimpse of what happened to the main characters after the climatic volume 9.

Ultimately, Prairie Rose has undergone so much reconstruction, save for others who have succumbed to a life of crime and misery.

To be honest, I really didn't expect much from the last volume, since I almost certainly knew that the climax has already happened. But like a magnificent story, you have to see it until the end. Dash is certainly one of the most memorable protagonists in comic book history.

Bevans says

Goddamn, this is brilliant. A perfectly executed story, dozens of great characters, and wonderful art. I really hope they collect the series into some nice hardcovers, because I want to read it again and pass it along to my friends.
