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Dare to Know

Apocalyptic Comics

Comics set in a world or civilization after a catastrophic event (e.g., nuclear war, an alien invasion), sometimes also including the period immediately preceding the event.

A sub-genre in which a doomsday scenario, such as a pandemic virus, astronomical event, or nuclear holocaust, has devastated the world. The nature of the disaster shapes the setting, the plot, and the actions of the characters. For instance, a nuclear cataclysm will cause radioactivity and its effects on survivors to be a significant factor. Characters confronting an invasion by a technologically superior extraterrestrial race may deal with the planned eradication or enslavement of humanity, the harvesting of people as a food or fuel source, the seizure of the planet's natural resources, or the complete obliteration of the world. Besides describing the actual event, some authors and artists have explored humanity's reaction.

Apocalyptic comics often focus on the fall of civilization by a terrifying event or entity, and the emergence from the ashes of a dark and dangerous replacement. People may face tremendous hardships and be forced to commit barbarities in order to endure, including cannibalism. Stories may or may not end with humanity's victory. This sub-genre can blend with **horror comics**, especially with stories that feature vampires or zombies.

Common Elements

Community
Destruction of ecosystems
Dystopian societies
Deadly plagues

Extraterrestrial attack
Alien infiltration
The struggle to survive
Human nature

Graphic Novel Examples

<i>3 Keys</i> (2023) by David Messina
<i>28 Days Later Volume 1: London Calling</i> (2010) by Michael Alan Nelson, Declan Shavley, and Alejandro Aragon
<i>After Dark</i> (2010) by Peter Milligan and Jeff Nentrup
<i>The Beauty Volume 1</i> (2016) by Jeremy Haun and Jason A. Hurley
<i>Deep Beyond Volume 1</i> (2021) by Mirka Andolfo and, David Goy
<i>The Eternaut 1969</i> (2020) by Héctor Germán Oesterheld and Alberto Breccia

<i>The Fall</i> (2021) by Jared Muralt
<i>The Goddamned Volume 1: Before the Flood</i> (2017) by Jason Aaron and r. m. Guéra
<i>In the Flood</i> (2022) by Ray Fawkes
<i>Kamandi the Last Boy on Earth! Omnibus</i> (2018) by Jack Kirby and Gerry Conway
<i>Land of the Sons</i> (2016, 2018) by Gipi
<i>Last Flight Out</i> (2022) by Marc Guggenheim and Eduardo Ferigato
<i>Negalyod: The God Network</i> (2022) by Vincent Perriot and Florence Breton

<i>The New World</i> (2019) by Ales Kot and Tradd Moore	<i>Snowpiercer: The Escape</i> (2014) by Jacques Lob and Jean-Marc Rochette
<i>Oblivion Song Volume 1</i> (2018) by Robert Kirkman	<i>Strontium Dog: The Life and Death of Johnny Alpha: The Project</i> (2012) by John Wagner and Carlos Ezquerro
<i>The Panic</i> (2022) by Neil Kleid and Andrea Muti	<i>William Gibson's Archangel</i> (2017) by William Gibson with Michael St. John
<i>Solo: The Survivors of Chaos</i> (2020) by Oscar Martin and Diana Linares	<i>Xenozoic Tales Volume 1: After the End</i> (2003) by Matt Schultz