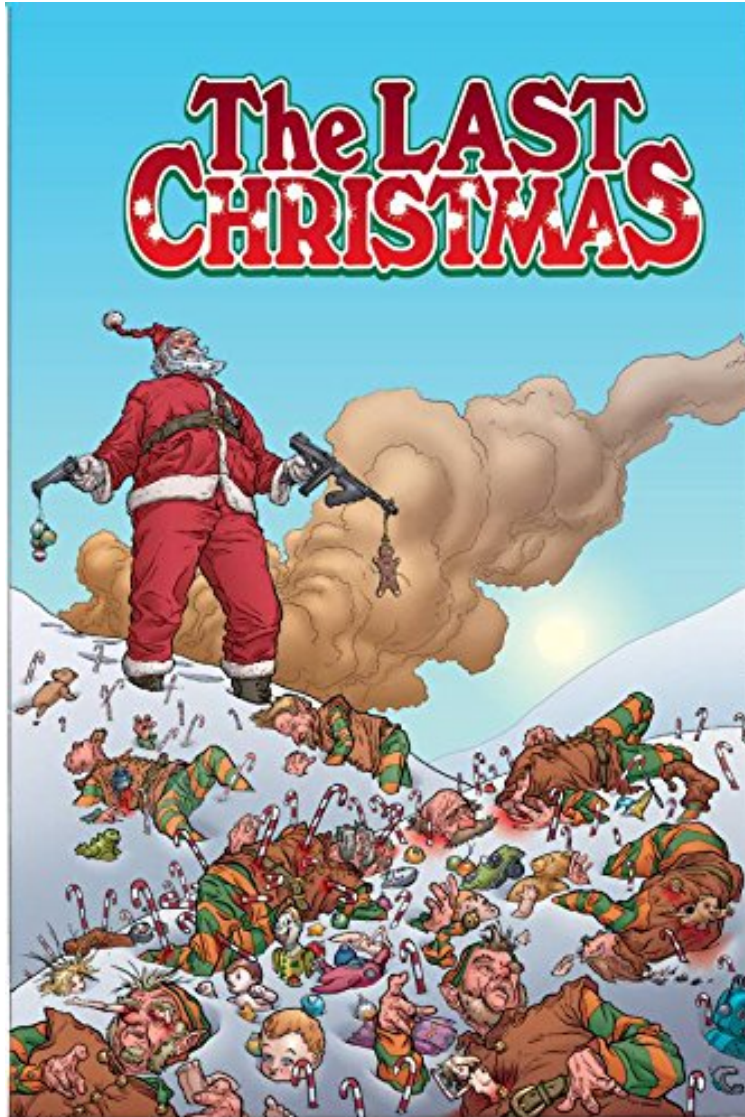


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The Last Christmas

Gerry Duggan, Brian Posehn
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Gerry Duggan, Brian Posehn : The Last Christmas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Christmas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. This combination of creative minds gives you ...By Vincent GarciaGreat book. This combination of creative minds gives you a book that is most definitely unique and something to read if your Christmas spirit is a little warped!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bloody Santa ApocalypseBy Nicola MansfieldSo, look at the cover and you get exactly what you would expect to get from this comic: violent, irreverent, over-the-top, vulgar, Christmas farce. I liked it, a lot actually! Lots of f-bombs and

swearing start off from the first page, so if you get offended easily don't even bother. After only a few pages I had settled into the groove and was thinking Fables with Santa Frosty as the main characters. Santa goes ballistic after Mrs. Claus is murdered, cancels Christmas and turns into a drunk. Several years go by, and after numerous suicide attempts to join his beloved he sets out to get the one remaining kid who still believes in Santa Claus who is making it impossible for him to die. Adult humour ensues and Santa's opinions change giving him a taste of Christmas spirit once again. Oh, did I forget to mention the zombies.... nothing spectacular, but lots of fun. More of a 3.5 if half stars were allowed. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Full of blood and guts, just like Christmas should be. By Sheldon Nylander It's the end of the world. Actually, it's after the end of the world. World War III has been fought, natural disasters have ravaged the earth. Roving gangs and mutant zombies roam the earth, seeking out the last of humanity. It's "The Walking Dead" and "Mad Max" rolled into one. The North Pole is attacked by marauders, killing Mrs. Claus and leaving Santa for dead. Depressed, he makes numerous attempts at suicide before realizing he can't die as long as one child still believes in him. So, Santa sets out to correct this... This is the basic premise for "The Last Christmas," a graphic (and gory) novel written by Gerry Duggan and Brian Posehn, and illustrated by Rick Remender, supposedly conceived while the writers were playing Halo, according to the notes. I believe it. The whole book reads and looks like the thought train of smoking too much pot while staring at a box of Christmas decorations and imagining all their potential violent uses other than for their intended purpose. The story is quite good and flows like smooth egg nog. Mostly. It can occasionally flow very quickly at times, almost too quickly, which gives it a jerky motion, but not overly so. Most of the time it ramps up appropriately rather than going from zero to sixty in a half second. The plot is also fairly entertaining, with some subtle twists, although it starts out a lot more interesting than it ends. While it starts out quickly with the apocalypse (it's always a good idea to begin with the end of the world) and the rampages and the murder, it turns into a fairly conventional rescue and destroy story. It would have been nice to see some more risks taken as the story went on, but we can't hope for everything. Plus, the very end felt like it was tacked on and unnecessary, and seemed like the creators were just saying "Hey, look what we're doing," and felt like it served no real purpose and wasn't that funny. While the characters are generally well drawn (in a literary sense, not artwise; I'll discuss the art in a moment), occasionally motivations seem strange. Santa is clearly depressed over the apocalypse and the death of Mrs. Claus, but somehow the elves seem simplistic. They are supposed to be happy and helpful, so they are happy and helpful, no matter the circumstance. Well, they do become violent a little later, but it felt like they could have used some more fleshing out. Also, the motivations for some of the villains seem lacking. One of the main villains is a mutant who wears a judge's robe, but this is never really explained or even capitalized on. It had a lot of potential that was never brought forth. At the same time, they serve their purpose for the plot, so it's not a huge drag. The art is quite pleasing to the eye. The drawings are quite beautifully done, and the ink is colorful and vibrant. It's quite an interesting juxtaposition having a much darker story taking place in a bright and colorful world, but it's one that helps maintain the humor. It is supposed to be funny, after all. A lot of the drawings also include subtle details that make you want to take your time and fully enjoy them, rather than just blow through them. "The Last Christmas" is a good read, even if it falls far short of perfection. Even taking some time to enjoy the art, it's a very fast read and gives a darkly funny Christmas story full of blood and guts and mutilations, just as Christmas should be. "The Last Christmas" earns 3.5 slay bells out of 5. Note: A review copy of this title was provided to this reviewer without charge through NetGalley. This has in no way affected the content of this review.

The writers behind the hit series Deadpool present the sad, funny, and true story of Santa Claus after the apocalypse! After tragedy strikes the North Pole, Santa turns his back on humanity and gives up on Christmas. Even though the world has been completely overrun by naughty men, there's still one boy that believes in Santa. But could that be the biggest mistake of his life?

From Booklist In a culture rife with postapocalyptic bedlam, Duggan and Posehn's maniacally tasteless *The Last Christmas* invites old Kris Kringle to grab an Uzi and join the zombie zeitgeist. The world has gone nuclear, and with radiation mutating mankind, the horde attacks the North Pole and kills Mrs. Claus. Santa slips into a deep alcoholic depression after the death of his wife, and Christmas is officially over . . . except for one good little boy who keeps the Christmas spirit alive in spite of roving bands of marauders and mutant zombies. What happens next is an irreverent and gory holiday romp of revenge, rum, and song as Santa and his little helpers descend into battle armed with fruit cakes, candy canes, and deadly explosives. Penciled by the critically acclaimed Remender (*Uncanny Avengers*), the art strategically adds much-needed humor to balance out the over-the-top subject matter while inserting a rosy cheek to Santa's Christmas rage. Fans of Duggan and Posehn's *Deadpool* who are looking for a little cathartic postholiday stress relief will find scads here. --Ben Spanner