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# Rot & Ruin: Warrior Smart



## Synopsis

Brand-new adventures set in the world of Rot & Ruin! Written by New York Times best-selling author and multiple Bram Stoker award-winner, Jonathan Maberry, this all-new storyline continues events from the award-winning series of novels. We meet Benny, Nix, Lilah, and Chong as they travel through the Sierra Nevada mountains just one faltering step ahead of zombie hordes and one giant leap behind the plane flying through the sky that set them on their journey of discovery. "Teens & fans of The Walking Dead will love ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART" --Amy Taylor, Librarian at Lee's Summit West High School in Lee's Summit, Missouri. "This is the series that turned my reluctant readers into avid readers." - Frank Spinney, Lead Teacher for Stillwater Academy in Maine "ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART is a gripping read that will keep students on the edge of their seats and wanting more! I can't wait to these into the hands of my students!" --Sister Kimberly Miller, Teacher/Librarian at Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls in Philadelphia "The stories Maberry give us in the ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART are riveting, with a dark side untouched by other writers of the same ilk. How will the human race survive? What do they need to do? These are all questions Maberry asks of Benny, Nix, Chong and Lilah as they make their way across the deserted landscape of the West Coast. One of the best things about Jonathan Maberry is that his zombie world is not predictable. Yes, we have zombies, and yes, we have humans, clinging to life ever so desperately. But we have heroes in the shape of a 15 year old teenager who grew up in the shade of First Night, tested and tried on the battlefield called the living. The illustrations by Tony Vargas are more than just dramatic, they pull you into a world where you know you don't want to be but can't help staying. Maberry manages to bring humor into a world brimming with wall-to-wall violence, where there is little hope and no justice. Unpredictable and humorous, Maberry manages to connect the reader with the story in his ever-direct and creative manner." -Ann Cole, Teacher, Pennsbury School District, Fairless Hills, PA "I am a teacher and literacy coordinator at an Elementary School. It has long been my practice to include print of all types into classroom libraries: books, comics, how-to manuals, etc. You never know what will hook a student into reading more. However, I did not encourage the inclusion of "horror" which seemed inappropriate for their age level. The thing about the ROT & RUIN series of novels and the ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART comic is...they are not horrific. They are a great example of major themes of literature: man against man, man against nature. What the kids and I have found is that they turn good and evil on its head. You would like to assume the zombies are evil and the humans are good, but that isn't a fair assumption. The very best and worst of humanity can be seen throughout the stories in unpredictable ways. Plus, students need good examples of youth who are pensive, surviving,

befriending, struggling, succeeding. They have those examples in abundance in the Rot and Ruin books. Several students have agreed with me that they aren't really zombie stories...they are human stories...and that is why we feel such an emotional attachment to the characters and the episodes the experience. This series is transitional...and wins over more and more people as word of mouth gets out. I have had more parents ask to borrow the 4 books than have ever requested any other titles in my 23 years of teaching." --Sheila Owen, Teacher and Literacy Coordinator; Palm Elementary, Beaumont, California

"Fast paced plots set in a dystopian, zombie-ridden California: ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART provides all the gore and adventure any high school teenager could wish for, yet throughout Maberry continually teases at the moral questions of life, war and survival. A fine balancing act in graphic form, from a prolific author who never fails grab his readers and leave them breathless for the next installment. Kids will love them!" -Stevens, Texas Lone Star Reading List Committee Member and Librarian, Waller Junior High, Waller, Texas

"ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART isn't just a tale of fighting the undead, but a hard coming-of-age as well. Benny Imura's struggle to honor the teaching of his brother and protect his friends will appeal to young adults who are dealing with the swift changes that define life as adolescents while learning to navigate the terrors of adulthood." --Misty Massey, York County Library, Rock Hill SC.

"With ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART, Jonathan Maberry has created a graphic series that teens and teachers alike will rave about. It has all of the action, gore, and intrigue to grab even the most reluctant teen readers while providing the sort of thought-provoking substance teachers crave for their students." Melissa Singleton Josef, LTS Librarian, Garnet Valley High School, Glen Mills, PA; and blogger for The Suburban Barnyard.

"Mayhem, shocking kills, and heart! Just like the novels, you won't want to put them down...or shut off the lights. The Walking Dead has met its match in this teen empowered world of Rot and Ruin: Warrior Smart." --Joanne Mumley, Tyrrell Middle School, CT

"ROT & RUIN: WARRIOR SMART is a thinking teens' comic book. Young people, just like them, facing moral dilemmas in a zombie infested world gives them a WALKING DEAD of their own to discuss and debate." Jay Nickerson Gimli High School, Gimli, Manitoba

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Four kids who are samurai zombie hunters are looking for an airplane. The world has fallen apart (as it always does when zombies are in charge) so there shouldn't be any airplanes. Hence the search. The kids aren't really samurai but they carry swords and some other kid taught them to fight so that's close enough. Although the world has fallen apart, young women wear bras and panties that look like they were just purchased from Victoria's Secret. Maybe that's where non-zombie women will begin their scavenging after the zombies take over. Rot & Ruin is full of standard zombies who are easily killed but aren't much good at killing. There are also scary scavengers roaming around (although they disappear pretty quickly) and a breeding farm where horny old guys carry out their plan to repopulate the planet with non-zombies by boinking teenage girls. That seems like a pretty good plan but the teenage samurai girls aren't into it. The story is pretty silly although it tries to explore profound themes, like whether breeding farms are a justifiable way to rebuilding the world (so that zombies have more non-zombies to attack). The idea that four kids on foot can find a jet doesn't seem to strike the kids as absurd but the kids really aren't very smart. Neither is the story. It's all been done before. Over. And over. And over again.

'Rot & Ruin Vol. 1: Warrior Smart' is based on the book series by Jonathan Maberry. This story is about a group of teenagers trying to make it during the z-poc. This is part of the series, and not a retelling of the first book, so it does kind of dump you right into the action. Benny, Chong, Lila and Nix are on the run. They are trying to track down a jet that flew overhead. They are also foraging for supplies, which is getting pretty picked over. When their scavenging takes them to an abandoned hospital, they find themselves running from zombies. They stumble across something really weird and disturbing, but before they can decide what to do about it, they have to make a break for it. This leads them to a walled farm where everything seems to be normal life. Plenty of food, and walls and

traps to keep the zombies at bay. What could possibly be wrong with settling down and staying for awhile? If you are familiar with post-apocalyptic zombie stories, you know that groups of humans living safe behind walls are almost as dangerous as the zombies are. Maybe even more dangerous. It's a good thing these kids have some mad fighting skills. The story is pretty good. Perhaps a bit disturbing when they get to the heart of what the humans are doing, but if teens can handle a book series about zombies and zombie killing, I suppose this is just more of the same. The art was a bit uneven. Sometimes the characters looked Asian, sometimes they didn't. I don't know that it matters, but when I read a graphic novel, I like decent art. It's still a good quick ride, and I'd like to read more about these characters. I received a review copy of this graphic novel from Diamond Book Distributors, IDW Publishing, and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

Can't get enough Rot & Ruin even though the series is over? Then you have to check out the comic book series! It's just as good as the books, and it takes place in between the main events of the book series. Benny, Nix, Lilah, and Chong are on the move while trying to follow the jet they saw and along the way they encounter another group of people. Just like in the series we find that humans are much harder to trust than the zombies. Zombies are constant, they're motives don't change but humans have a way of surprising you. They can make an already bleak existence utter hell. The gang meets one such group under the leadership of Farmer John, who wants to rebuild the world and he has a very rudimentary way to do it. I'm definitely loving this plot, and I enjoy getting to see even more survivors. The artwork is not necessarily my favorite but I actually really like the feel of it. The sketchy lines and really bold outlines really fit the feel of the story. I can't wait to read even more of this series. This is actually a series I feel is worth buying the individual issues of. Especially since the alternate covers are the zombie cards. So needless to say if you love Jonathan Maberry's books then go get this comic series. You won't be disappointed!

Compared to the Rot and Ruin series, this was an okay read. The concepts were good, but it was such a short book, the story felt rushed. I liked revisiting the characters again and thought the elements of the zombie babies and the 'cows' were innovative ideas. The art work was really good and similar to The Walking Dead graphic comics. I thought a few of the character details were off from the main series, like Lilah is supposed to have extremely white blonde hair, but in this book she had blonde hair. She also speaks softly because of a voice injury, but in this book she could yell

over people. I would definitely read the next book in this series and would recommend it to my friends. Maybe you don't have to have read all four books in the Rot & Ruin series before this one, but I'd recommend reading at least the first two books. Personally, I would prefer to have a series about Tom's (my favorite character) adventures before Rot & Ruin. This review is based on a digital ARC from the publisher through NetGalley.

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