



Sweet Tooth, Volume 5: Unnatural Habitats

Jeff Lemire (Writer, Artist, Water Colourist), Matt Kindt (Artist), José Villarrubia (Colourist), Carlos M. Mangual (Letterer)

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As the mysterious Captain James Thacker and his crew man a deadly expedition, they will uncover secrets centuries old, but what does any of this have to do with Gus and Jepperd? Plus, while Jeppard, Singh and Gus make plans to head to Alaska, things start to deteriorate for the rest of the group back at the sanctuary!

Collecting: *Sweet Tooth* 26-32

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From Reader Review Sweet Tooth, Volume 5: Unnatural Habitats for online ebook

Dylan says

Only one volume left :(:(

Peter Derk says

You know what every apocalypse has? One big huge asshole who seems dead set on doing whatever the polar opposite of the protagonist is doing. Why? There's always got to be some asshole ruining the fun for everyone.

Apocalypse books are kind of all the rage right now, or maybe that's just starting to die down, but part of me wonders whether those kind of people would really show up? More to the point, who are all these crazy assholes they always get to hang out with them?

"Hey Pete, it's the apocalypse. We could head into the mountains and live in peace. Or we could sign up with the dude wearing a Jason mask and a sash made from bullets. What do you think?"

Well, nameless questioner, I think we'll just go ahead and let bullet crazy man drive towards the abandoned nuclear plant or whatever damnfool plan he's got and wait for him to die. Everybody else seems to be dying without trying, and this guy seems to be ACTIVELY doing things that would have gotten him killed before all this apocalypse business. Sooooo I'll take my chances by not taking my chances, thanks.

JumbleofJargon says

WHY DOES THE ART STYLE CHANGE IN EACH BOOK!

The font choices have also been horrendous throughout the series. The reason behind the plague better not be some spiritistic mess or I refuse to continue with this.

Selene says

3.5 Stars

Licha says

WARNINGPOSSIBLE SPOILERS AHEAD***

2ND WARNINGSTOP IF YOU MUST***

THE plague may have stemmed in 1911. Through the diary of James Thacker we learn he set sail in search of Louis Simpson, who was to marry James' sister, but who never returned home from his mission to Alaska to Christianize the "savages".

James lands in a desolate, cold land and finds that the missionaries died from a plague. However, Louis survived and joined the Inuits and adopted their lifestyle. Louis fell in love with one of the women there and married her.

We learn that Louis opened the tomb of a demon, thus releasing the demon's wrath on all. Louis has a hybrid baby. When James and his crew see the baby, they kill the Inuits and abandon the baby in a cave, sealing the cave shut for eternity. On the expedition back, the crew dies and all that remains is James' diary.

After Gus heals, he is reunited with Jepperd. Lucy is very sick. Everyone discovers Walter is really Haggerty. Jepperd goes back to save the rest of the group from Walter/Haggerty. He leaves Gus with Dr. Singh, who sees his opportunity to go solo with Gus to Alaska. Dr. Singh kidnaps Gus. Gus fights him off and comes in time to thwart Haggerty's plan to hurt the group. Meanwhile, Jepperd's truck overturns and he is rescued by someone he knew in his old hockey player days. Both head to the dam to rescue the group and come just in time to find out Haggerty has been banished from the dam by the group. Jepperd also comes in time to have Lucy die in his arms.

Stewart Tame says

This far into the series, it's hard to come up with anything to say that doesn't involve spoilers. One assumes that anyone who's read volumes 1-4 isn't going to skip 5 because of a bad review, nor is anyone likely to start reading with that volume simply because of a good one. If I wasn't so in love with my own prose, I'd probably skip this altogether. ;-) Anyway, Sweet Tooth still rocks. Quality is still high. We get a glimpse of the possible origins of the sickness, and Gus gets more decisive. Series this consistently good don't come along every day, and I'd rank Sweet Tooth up with Y: the Last Man, Locke & Key (what I've read of it anyway), Death Note, and perhaps even Sandman. All comics should be this good.

Mari says

Here is my full series review for volumes 1-6.

That back story was completely not what I was expecting. I thought I had most of this series figured out, but of all the "explanations" we could've received...? Yeah. Not what I was expecting.

I was kind of hesitantly approaching the end here, but after reading this volume, I feel ready to continue, full steam ahead.

Maria says

screaming

Lindsey Lynn (thepagemistress) says

Love this graphic novel series so much! This is in my top 3 ever. Such a unique well told story. Dystopian but a spin I've never seen before

Sam Quixote says

The first half of the book takes the story back to 1911 where a wealthy young Englishman goes in search of his brother-in-law who has disappeared after going to Alaska to spread the word of god to the native Eskimos. But what he finds in the snowy wasteland is the beginning of the end for humanity... Meanwhile back in the main storyline, Gus and Jepperd find out the real story behind the Evergreen Project.

The biggest problem I had with the book is in the first half of the book where it's revealed how the plague that wiped out most of humanity started and where it came from. I won't tell you what it turns out to be but it's really disappointing. I read it and thought - that's it? I was expecting something a bit more complex, a bit more innovative maybe, but not what it turns out to be. It was so disappointing it diminishes the entire series for me. Whereas once I was excited about the storyline and what Jeff Lemire might do with it, now I've seen more of the whole picture, I'm far less excited.

As for the rest of the storyline, it feels strangely gridlocked. For those who read Book 4, the focus remains in the dam. The one character in the book who tries moving the main plot forward gets pushed out of the story and instead the book focuses on all the secondary characters you don't care about who are now inexplicably dictating the series' direction.

Lemire announced earlier this year that the series ends on issue #40 which, as I write in November 2012, is the next issue to be published, so there's going to be a Book 6 and that's it. Reading Book 5, it feels like Lemire has totally run out of ideas. Both storylines in this book are badly written, poorly characterised, and plotted in a slapdash way. (view spoiler) And the art by Matt Kindt is just horrible, the less said about this guy's work, the better.

The storyline with Gus and Jepperd is just as bad - the main storyline, of Gus following his dad's Bible to the location that reveals who he is, etc. goes nowhere in this book, sidetracked entirely by a pointless side story.

On a more general note, now that the series is wrapping up I can look back on the 5 books and say that Gus aka Sweet Tooth is a pretty poor main character. He's perpetually startled-looking, standing around reacting to things while his guardian Jepperd saves him from all manner of threats. He's probably the least involving main character of a comic book series ever created and I like and care about him less and less with each book. Lemire seems to sense Gus' passivity as he addresses it in this book but even so it's a token gesture that doesn't make up for 5 books of Gus more or less being a pawn pushed around by all the other characters.

Lemire's had a prolific year, "Unnatural Habitats" being his 5th book published in 2012 after DC's New 52

series' "Animal Man" and "Frankenstein", the Top Shelf-published "The Underwater Welder" and Book 4 of Sweet Tooth, "Endangered Species" - so maybe because he's stretched thin on so many projects, that's why the book feels so rushed and poorly put together, but still, for a penultimate volume this is weak stuff.

Instead of ramping up the excitement and intrigue for a big finale Lemire manages to deflate the series with some uninspired plotting and feeble storytelling choices. "Unnatural Habitats" is a let-down for fans of the series and I have lowered expectations for the final book.

Alison says

4.5 STARS

interesting turn of events, but can't say I didn't see it coming.

Afro Madonna says

Me after reading this :

So in my feels right now .

Chelsea says

This was a strange one. It was unlike any of the volumes that came before it. It had the darkest moment I've read in this series so far and it also had the goofiest, most unbelievable moment.

So, this starts with a letter from a doctor in 1911. It's all a narrative from his point of view as he travels to Alaska to rescue his brother in law to be. There's a lot of animosity between these white men and the native population. They wake up to find their dogs have been slaughtered viciously and assume the native people did this so when they come across a group of them, they try to shoot them.

Turns out the guy they've been looking for, Louis, has been with the Native people all this time. He fell in love with a native woman and he's happy. There's a scene that made me laugh my ass off:

Guy: But what about my sister?

Louis: I never really cared for her.

It's hella awkward. Louis tells a story about a plague in his village that he thinks he caused by opening a crypt where the Native people buried their gods. Their gods were animal hybrids, like Gus, and by opening their tombs, Louis unleashed the sickness. Louis' son turns out to be a deer hybrid and his ex brother in law wants to kill his son.

What follows is the most horrifyingly violent, disgusting scene as these Native people are slaughtered for trying to protect a child. They've done nothing wrong and it was just so disheartening. It was the hardest scene for me to get through in this series and in the end, the child is killed anyway.

All of this and we cut to the future immediately after to see what's going on with Gus and the Gang.

They've been split up while Jepperd waited for Gus to get well enough to continue the trip to Alaska. They run into the real Evergreen crew who warn them about "Walter"/Harrity in time for him to reveal his creepiness. Blah blah, Gus helps save the day and Jepperd comes back.

Now, what I mean by the most ridiculously unbelievable moment, was the moment where a scary lumbersexual dude captures Mr. Jepperd (who crashed a car on an empty road in pure Lori Grimes fashion). He takes Jepperd back to his cabin and interrogated him because he thinks they've met before. The whole time Jepperd is telling him that he doesn't know him and he needs to save his friend.

Then the guy asks if Jepperd ever played hockey. And it's this weird, light hearted moment when he starts laughing and complimenting Jepperd's past career. It did not fit the tone of this book at all. It was so damn confusing?? The Walking Dead (whatever my problems with that series) did a similar thing with Michonne and Tyrese but that played a little bit better because things weren't life or death for other characters at that moment. It wasn't played for comedy either. It was more about "hey, look what are lives are like now" not "I pity the fool that tries to go toe to toe with one of the best brawlers in the league. Now let's go save these kids".

It was weird and it took me out of the book for the moment. Anyway, hockey fan is apparently part of the crew now.

So, I didn't like this one as much as the last 4.

Ema says

Chorei baba e ranho. Como previsto, fiquei com o coração partido.

Paz R.M. says

3 Stars

Hey, this was a solid volume, but the fact is it is the weakest of them all so far. There's not much going on plotwise.

First three issues have **nothing to do with the main storyline**, but it provides some answers about the plague. These issues tell the story of a group of englishmen going on an expedition to Alaska in 1911. I really can't say much more because I don't wanna spoil. Still, I'm not really impressed with what happened here, but at the same time, I never wanted an answer for the sickness so I never had big hopes for *that*. It was just okay, **I still am much more interested in Gus's origin** and for his own trip to Alaska.

The next issues continue the story of Gus and Jepperd one month after the events of volume 4. **There's no real progress because what was obvious in the previous installment is finally revealed here to the characters**, so we focus mostly on what's happening inside the dam. There's a bit of action, a bit of crazy people. Some danger for our protagonists. Nothing truly remarkable that wasn't already set up last volume. Still, even if some of this felt like a filler ~~not what I was hoping as this is the second to last volume~~ and there weren't enough beautiful/tragic moments, those that I love so much, I still care so much for these characters.

I also love the world and I grew to adore Lemire's art. So, yeah.

3 stars for you, weakest volume of Sweet Tooth!

Also, is very important for me to say: **If anyone ever hurts Bobby again Imma be fucking pissed.**
