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Jessica Jones: Alias Vol. 2 (Alias (2001-2003))



Synopsis

Collects Alias #11-15. All she ever wanted was to be a super hero. But life had other plans for Jessica Jones. Now, the adventures of the would-be Avenger turned bitter super-powered private eye continue with two new cases. First, Jessica travels to upstate New York to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl rumored to be a mutant in a prejudiced small town – but a murder mystery and a drunken, ill-advised fling complicate matters. Then, the hard-luck PI goes on a date with...the Astonishing Ant-Man?!

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Customer Reviews

Collects issues 11-15
Issues 11-14: Jessica investigates the case of a missing high school girl who was rumored to be a mutant. All the usual anti-mutant sentiment comes into play.
Issue 15: She goes on a date with Scott Lang (Ant-Man), after telling Luke Cage she already has plans for the evening. (They're acting as bodyguards for Matt Murdock, who the tabloids claim is Daredevil.)
This volume maintains the high quality of the previous volume. Fewer naughty words this time, I think. I recommend starting with that one.
Note: they moved issue 10 to volume 3. This makes sense, as in issue 10 J. Jonah Jameson hires Jessica, and Jameson is also an important character in the issue

16-21 story.

I originally bought the Alias Vol1 in paperback, and enjoyed it enough to want the next Vol2. So I decided to try it out on the Kindle app (I'm using a Galaxy Tab S), and was disappointed. The kindle forces you to read it in portrait mode (that's ok, makes sense) but locations (i.e. pages) 4, 11-13, 27, 34, 20, 48-49, 60-61, 79, and 111-115 are in landscape mode! The writing ends up tiny and you can't "zoom" in I had to put the screen so close to my face - my friends thought I was sniffing the the graphics! Siiiiigh. Anyway, Jessica Jones is a great story, but I'll stick to the printed hardcopies for the rest of the Volumes. Update: I went ahead and raised the rating, because after poking around (literally!) ... I found out that you can double tap the screen on the kindle app and it will zoom in to the particular graphic panel on the page ... then basically just read the whole thing panel by panel. I still wish the kindle app would just let you pinch in/out to zoom, but I'll take whatever I can get. Made a great read even better.

Brian Michael Bendis hits all the modern noir notes that he needed to continue to make Jessica Jones: Alias, Vol. 2 another great comic. Jessica feels more and more like a real person instead of a super hero character. Bendis proves he is not just a good writer, but an increasingly great one. Michael Gaydos' is still really nice and stylized to fit the hazier qualities of these stories. I find myself relating to these books exponentially more. The characterization is great and the narratives interweave into a lovingly crafted spiderweb of character arcs and cases. David Mack's covers are super gorgeous and stand out as always. Jessica Jones: Alias, Vol. 2 is a highly recommended indie comic from me. Enjoy!

In Volume 2, Jessica Jones investigates the disappearance of a teenage girl from a small town upstate, and goes on a date with Ant-man. For some reason, the powers that be at Marvel decided to skip issue 10, but apparently that was stand alone issue that will be included in Volume 3. The plotting and characterization is exactly like it was in the first volume, warts and all. I'm still waiting to see Jessica do more than catch a lucky break to solve a case, but hopefully next time.

Refreshing....Real.....Clever...Jessica Jones is a departure from the norm and quite a breath of fresh air. Quickly becoming one of my favorite hero/anti-heroes in comicdom. Noir-ish honest storytelling and sublime artwork that brings to life a heroine that was sorely missing from comic books. They should make a TV series about character...Oh wait!

Brian Bendis's dialogue continues to really shine in this volume of Alias, although it does tip into a kind of liberal preachiness that makes the metaphor of X-man even more explicit than it already was. This does limit the effectiveness of the comic as Jones's personality in clash with small town values only really works when both sides are presented sympathetically, which Bendis tries to do except when he equates being a mutant to being gay to being Jewish. Still the cliché is slightly avoided and complicated in the end of the story when there is a different tragic turn. Yet Jessica Jones and Bendis can't quite completely eat the simplification of the politics they have presented or the caricature of rural life. However, Bendis does a lot of make what are essentially talking heads extremely interesting. For example, Jones date with Ant-man is a joy to read and is mostly semi-realistic quippy dialogue of a first date. There is a lot of character building in Bendis and he is incredibly good at it, and this will always be the primary strength of Jessica Jones.

Overall, I enjoyed this book, and I like Bendis' writing as a whole, but the art in this series is passable at best. Gaydos showcases the worse aspects of sequential art shortcuts. I don't care if you want to reuse a panel, but it's not asking too much for you to adjust the facial gesture to accommodate the dialogue, is it?

Great

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