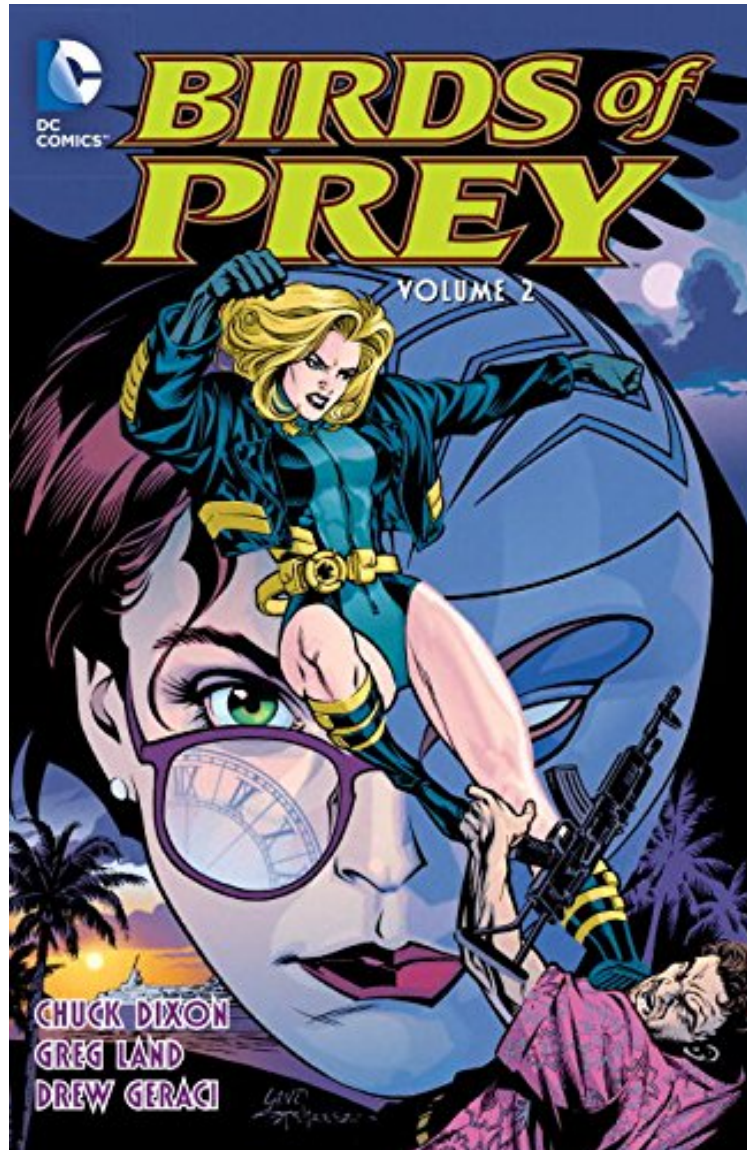


Birds of Prey Vol. 2

Chuck Dixon

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#682775 in Books Chuck Dixon Gail Simone 2016-03-01 2016-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1
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Chuck Dixon : Birds of Prey Vol. 2 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birds of Prey Vol. 2:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Birds of Prey: Globetrotting In Style By James Thomas Jeans While Volume 1 was a collection of mini-arcs and one-offs, Volume 2 marks the beginning of the Birds of Prey on-going series. This means Chuck Dixon is still at the wheel Gail Simone's time doesn't start for quite a while and, unfortunately, it also means it'll be a while before the Huntress joins the team proper. At this point, the Birds of Prey

are comprised solely of Barbara Gordon (Oracle) and Dinah Lance (Black Canary). The book collects the first 11 issues of the ongoing, as well as Ravens # 1. Full spoiler talk below: Issues #1 through #3 tell the story of Black Canary infiltrating a fictitious third world country to bust up a human trafficking scheme (the man in charge kidnaps rich people and then extorts their families and employees to assure the hostages safety). Canary meets a face from Barbara's past, while Barbara gets to know an online personality that may not be as benevolent as he seems. It's an alright arc that more or less sums up what the Birds of Prey are all about: handling issues abroad that fellas like Batman don't really have the time or inclination to sort out. It sets them apart from other domestic superheroes in that they regularly violating all sorts of international jurisdiction to get the job done. Following issue #3 is Ravens #1, a standalone story that sets up a sort of antihero version of the Birds of Prey, a group of femme fatales lead by Cheshire. I can't say I was initially very fond of the group, and it isn't clear as to why this issue is included in the trade paperback until right at the end, when Oracle and Black Canary make a brief cameo to set up plot, which leads us into the next storyline. Issues #4 through #6 revolve around the Ravens and Black Canary getting sucked back through time to the prehistoric age by a crashed Russian satellite that's leaking Neutrino energy. You can't make this stuff up. It's a cray-cray turn of events for the Birds of Prey comic to take this early in its run, and is something I was unaware of going in, so it was a bit of a surprise. The B-plot of the arc revolves around the American government coming after Barbara, who has gotten herself noticed while going on her carefree hacking sessions of the Air Force information database. This particular story has acted as a through-line since the first issue, and it culminates in a bit of a fake out by the end of this arc. Another small through-line since issue 1 revolved around someone spying on Barbara via a bank of mounted wall monitors. This plot too comes to a close during the Ravens arc, but does so in a fashion that makes it feel like it was suddenly dropped. It's an amusing moment involving Batman and Alfred, but the lead-up made it feel like it'd have a lot more weight than it ultimately does. I thought for sure it was tied to the storyline about Barbara's online hacker friend. The end of the arc leaves threads hanging. I don't know that they'll ever come back, but everyone seems to just take it as read that time travel is a thing that can happen and there's an object out there that makes it possible. But it is a comic book, so okay. Issue #7 is a one-off story in which Black Canary is sent to extract a war criminal from hostile territory so that he can face due process in a court of his peers before his enemies can execute him. This is an interesting issue in that it addresses the moral question of what it means to be an usurper, and how the media portrays war criminals vs the reality of why they've done what they have. I would have liked to see at least one more issue dedicated to this storyline, but it was still an interesting read. I particularly like how the narrative takes no stance on the right or wrong answer, instead leaving it up to the interpretation of the reader. Issue #8 is another one-off story, this one delving into the relationship between Barbara Gordon and Dick Grayson. It's your typical we can't be together and you know why comic book trash. I sort of give it a pass because it was written in 1999, but I'm pretty much over the desire of comic book writers to forcibly separate characters who are romantically linked to one another. It's a tired old trope. Still, it was nice to see Barbara and Dick interacting on a personal level in an issue that was entirely character driven, with precisely zero in the way of superhero antics. Issues #9 through #11 are similar to the one-off issue #7, except in this case Canary ends up inadvertently releasing Joe Gardner, a half-alien clone of Guy Gardner. This appears to be set after Guy was killed, as Canary is really surprised to find Guy alive before finding out who he actually is. It's an alright arc that builds toward something bigger happening beneath the surface, something that Canary and Oracle desperately need to be made aware of. It also has a really funny moment where Superman swoops in to save the day before immediately swanning off again (the sort of thing I keep wondering why never happens in these books). Overall a fun read. I can't wait for Volume 3 to come out in January of 2017. Dunno why DC decided to delay it out of September, but I'll be there as soon as it lands.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The scheme is a good one (forced labor and ransom) By Michele Lee Still hunting down the sleaze of the world Black Canary (with Oracle at the assist) stumbles into a slave ring with a twist. These slaves are also kidnapped heiresses, business moguls and other member of the One Percent. The scheme is a good one (forced labor and ransom? Score!) Also included in this volume is a semi-romantic interlude with Nightwing, and the adventures of the female mercenary group, The Ravens, who cross paths with the Birds off and on. And sea monsters, for good measure. Dixon expands all of our troubled favorite ladies and challenges them in less than physical ways. Oracle dodges the military and Batman's babying. Black Canary tries to help people who really need it, sometimes even if they don't deserve it. It's nice to see them come together to a place where they're standing up for people because it's what's right, not because they're invincible or martial arts masters. Dixon also touches on the issues that super powered people would bring, like people suddenly becoming weapons in the nuclear arms race. This volume has its fun moments, but also has a more sober tone than the first book. Still, it's a fantastic read, very recommended for comic fans, and public libraries wanting to build a collection.

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not grounded enough By S. Penrose While I've always enjoyed Birds Of Prey, this early collection is not very good. The Birds are better served with more grounded action, not time travel and alien clones. Dinah and Barbara's relationship isn't as symbiotic as it is later in their relationship and here it's still awkward. There was a great chapter exploring Dick and Babs' past but overall the story is forgettable. The art, mostly by Greg Land is very good but not a lot to work with here.

The continued adventures of the loveliest and deadliest crime-fighters in the DCU from the critically acclaimed superstar team of Chuck Dixon, Greg Land and Drew Geraci. The Birds of Prey have become a tight-knit partnership, even though Black Canary has never seen Oracle face to face. But their friendship and their lives could be cut short when Black Canary finds herself in the middle of a deadly hunt led by the ruthless cult leader Kobra for a long-forgotten piece of Russian technology. And as Black Canary fights for her life, Oracle has her own troubles when the U.S. Army begins tracking down the person hacking into their systems. All of this, plus guest stars Batman, Nightwing and Guy Gardner? Collected for the first time in chronological order: BIRDS OF PREY #1-11 and BIRDS OF PREY: RAVENS #1.

"Well written... absolutely a pleasure to read.... Simone knows how to push her readers' buttons--there's something hugely entertaining happening on almost every page."--"The Boston Phoenix" "A well-written guilty pleasure."--"Entertainment Weekly" About the Author Gail Simone is the fan-favourite writer of Secret Six, Superman: Action Comics, Rose Thorn, Deadpool, The Simpsons, Gen 13 and Welcome to Tranquility. Terry and Rachel Dodson are a fan-favourite penciller and inker team (respectively) whose work includes Generation X, Pryde and Wisdom, Spider-Man, Storm, Teen Titans, Trouble and Star Wars.