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Deathstroke Vol. 4: Family Business

James Bonny

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James Bonny : Deathstroke Vol. 4: Family Business before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Deathstroke Vol. 4: Family Business:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Solid Ending to the New 52 Deathstroke Run Though the New Writer isn't as Solid as his PredecessorBy clairetoldmetochangemyscreennameBonny finishes up the New 52 series kicked off by Tony S. Daniel which left off on a cliffhanger in the previous volume. Deathstroke is after his missing daughter Rose only to find he's walked into a trap set by new villain Lawman along with his allies who seem to

include Rose herself. The book wraps up Slade's conflict with Lawman and actually serves as a solid, cathartic ending to his familial issues with Rose and his son Jericho. The book also is aided by the arrival of classic villain Ra's al Ghul who attempts to draft Slade and his children into his service in exchange for aid against Lawman. The book is good, but not great due to Bonny's often on-the-nose dialogue and exposition. He sadly just doesn't have the same knack for the character and his family drama as Daniel did (we'll see if the Rebirth series writer does better with the material). All in all though this is a good end for the character arc started in Gods of Wars, especially since I enjoy Slade the most when he's dealing with his complex familial drama. It is also nice to see that Lawman and some of his engaging allies are not going to be one off characters and may return in the future (though it does provide a slight sense of anticlimax to everything). Still, I'd prefer to see more out of this group than just one book's worth of constant battling so I'll take the hit on the story for now in exchange for the hope of a stronger arc later. After the main arc concludes we get the Deathstroke annual which is actually surprisingly good. In it, Slade travels to a war torn country caught between two warring criminal families. Slade is paid to start picking off the members of one family only for it turn out that a second assassin is being paid by the other family to do the same. Slade and the other assassin tiptoe around one another and slowly lead the city to devolve into chaos as the two families go to outright war. The story ends on a dark end when it turns out the Slade was posing as the second killer the whole time to play both sides. Furthermore he was being paid by a third party to wreck havoc on the crime families. It is fittingly dark story for the gun-for-hire and one of the better annuals I've read recently. Finally, since this is the end of the New 52 series, this book does include the first issue of the Deathstroke Rebirth story which finds Slade in two separate time periods. In the main story, Slade is tracking down a target in a foreign country. In the second, we see a young Slade with his sons Jericho and Grant. Both story arcs feature a darker Slade than the main arc. Especially compared to the Slade we just saw in the main story, this version is downright abusive to his young kids. It certainly looks like the writers aren't willing to give Deathstroke the father of the year award and while this could make for some fascinating material (again with the family drama) it is a bit jarring in this book when we just saw the father give his kids a tearful loving goodbye. The return of Wintergreen is certainly intriguing and sets the Rebirth series up for a cool starter arc. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Slade, Ra's, and revenge! There's blood in the streets when Slade is on the Road to Rebirth! By KBoticus This last volume of Slade's second New 52 series closes off the story arc that had been building up since volume one. Story: Bonny doesn't seem to be as good as a writer as Tony S. Daniel was on this title. The story picks up where the previous volume left off. We get an interesting enough character in Lawman, a person who Slade knew in his past, who teams up with Snakebite and Mystasia to kill Slade. Slade is just trying to find his daughter, who is under the mental control of Lawman. The first part of the book dealing with Slade fighting Lawman is kind of predictable. It seems like Lawman always gets away. I thought it was super weird that Batman shows up and totally convinces Red Hood to leave Slade in the middle of a fight so RH can help Bats find the Joker. So...Red Hood just leaves....mid fight. WTF?! The story gets better once Ra's Al Ghul comes into the picture, offering to save a life if Slade will swear allegiance to Ra's. Seeing Deathstroke and Ra's together is pretty neat, especially as they team up to take down the man who betrayed Slade. It ends with a pretty good battle between Ra's and Slade! Plus, at the end of it all we get to see a very human, very dad side of Deathstroke, not something I'd imagine is present in most of his stories. This first story in the book was mostly action, just enough story to have some substance to keep it going, but not that deep. It was only really exciting for me once Ra's got in the picture. We then get two last issues to finish this collected edition; an annual, and Deathstroke: Rebirth #1. The annual was awesome! Written by Phil Hester, it was a brilliant assassin/spy action thriller that certainly surprised me with the big reveal toward the end. I loved Phil Hester's analogy comparing religion to a city and its people. Really excellent stuff in that issue! Then, we move on to the Rebirth one shot. This was the first work written by Christopher Priest that I have read. I understand that he had a pretty profound run on Black Panther over at Marvel. The issue sort of played out like that spy thriller with different segments of the issue being given different titles. Overall, the issue was great, very interesting, but somewhat confusing at times. I'm still piecing it together. But, it leaves me pretty excited for the Deathstroke Rebirth title. Art: Paolo Pantalena does most of the artwork for the New 52 issues. I believe Tyler Kirkham only does the art for the first issue in this book, then goes to covers only while Pantalena does most of the interior art. I really like Kirkham's art style; I just wish he would have drawn all the issues. Pantalena isn't a bad artist, and certainly surprised me with his splash pages being pretty good, but I definitely think Kirkham is the better artist, or rather, his style appeals to me more. Pantalena does draw a great Ra's Al Ghul though. Kirkham also has designed Lawman to look really badass and cool! I liked the artist on the annual. His style came across to me as a sort of grittier Francis Manapul. His style suited the story and the tone of the annual well. Carlo Pagulayan (that's how I'm spelling his name), probably most famous for his work on Planet Hulk, did the art for Deathstroke: Rebirth #1, and it's pretty good! He draws Slade well. Overall: The main story was somewhat predictable, but had some sweet spots, and the book as a whole greatly benefited from that annual and the Rebirth one shot. It's because of those that I give this 4 stars. Not a bad ending to the New 52 Deathstroke title, and I'm definitely interested in the Rebirth title. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the read and hope for a few more in ... By Jonathan K. Worth the read on the continuation. I enjoyed the read and hope for a few more in this series. The violence isn't too over the top, and the drawing is great!

DEATHSTROKES LAST STAND! Slade Wilson, the unstoppable mercenary known as Deathstroke, has left more than his fair share of bodies in his wake. And now one of them has come back to return the favor. Five years ago, Deathstroke left his former partner Wardell Chambers for dead on a contract gone wrong in Kahndaq. Now calling himself Lawman, Chambers has returned, this time with the power to bend minds to his will, manipulating everyone around Slade in an elaborate game of deception in order to exact his revenge. With the lives of his children, Rose and Jericho, at stake, Slade is forced to form an alliance with the last person he ever thought possible none other than Ras al Ghul, leader of the League of Assassins. But Ras al Ghul never makes a move without an ulterior motive. Caught between the League of Assassins on one side and an army of mercenaries led by Lawman on the other, there's only one question left for Deathstroke to answer: Who will be the last killer standing? From writer James Bonny (THE SAVAGE HAWKMAN) and artists Tyler Kirkham (TEEN TITANS) and Paolo Pantalena (RED HOOD/ARSENAL), DEATHSTROKE VOL. 4: FAMILY BUSINESS brings the baddest villains in the DC Universe to the ultimate showdown! Also including DEATHSTROKE ANNUAL #2 by GREEN ARROW scribe Phil Hester, this volume collects issues #17-20 and a special preview of DEATHSTROKE: REBIRTH #1!

About the Author James Bonny is a rising star writer who has gained critical acclaim through his work across several series. After his run on TOMB RAIDER, Bonny began collaborating with Tony S. Daniel on THE SAVAGE HAWKMAN. He continued to work with Daniel on DEATHSTROKE, and has since taken the reins on the series.