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Suicide Squad Vol. 3: Rogues

John Ostrander

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John Ostrander : Suicide Squad Vol. 3: Rogues before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Suicide Squad Vol. 3: Rogues:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A startling turning point in one of the best superhero series everBy David BainbridgeThe correct title is Suicide Squad: Rogues.This volume wraps up a couple of plot threads and introduces some new ones. The subplot with Captain Boomerang masquerading as Mirror Master concludes in a way that is very true to the characters. The main focus of this volume, however, is the Election '88 story. In Volume 2, the

squad is blackmailed into helping a corrupt senator get reelected. Amanda Waller and Col. Rick Flag both have their own ways of handling the problem and they come into serious conflict. Waller's need for tight control and Flag's desire to be like his father put the rest of the squad in jeopardy. John Ostrander cranks up the tension in this story into one of the most memorable conclusions in comics. I recommend reading *Suicide Squad Vol. 2: The Nightshade Odyssey* and *Deadshot: Beginnings* before reading this. Both are by John Ostrander. *Deadshot: Beginnings* reprints the *Deadshot* mini-series from 1988 which leads directly into these stories. One of the stories is a tie-in to the Invasion crossover series that DC comics did in the fall of 1988. In this series, several alien races invade Earth to put an end to Earth's superheroes. So if you wonder why the squad is suddenly fighting aliens in Russia and Australia, that's why. You don't need to read the rest of the Invasion series to understand what's happening. John Ostrander integrates this crossover into the *Suicide Squad* stories very effectively. Also introduced in this volume is some new members of the *Suicide Squad*: DC villains Count Vertigo, Dr. Light, Shrike, and married thieves Punch and Jewelee who have no shame about playing out their SM games in front of the other squad members.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Mission: Impossible" with supervillains By Lee Kirby The *Suicide Squad*, in its current, Harley Quinn-driven iteration, is DC Comics' version of the Dirty Dozen-handling jobs the Justice League wouldn't touch, or even care to know about. Twenty-nine years ago, however, it was more like DC's answer to "Mission: Impossible," as the Squad undertook high-risk covert missions with political implications on the Federal government's behalf. This is especially evident in the "Mission to Moscow" storyline collected in this volume. The team is sent behind the Iron Curtain to Moscow to free a revolutionary writer the Communist government is holding prisoner. But the mission runs into a major hitch when the Squad learns that the writer, Zoya Trigorin, doesn't want to escape. In order to return to the States, the Squad must battle the People's Heroes, a Russian team of metahumans. And there are prices to be paid: Trigorin dies, and Nemesis-a former vigilante turned government operative-is capture by the Russians. After the Squad returns to America, team leader Amanda Waller unleashes her wrath upon the Squad's liaison to the UN Security Council, Derek Tolliver, when Tolliver tells her he just assumed Trigorin wanted to leave communist Russia. "Trial by Fire" also includes two other Squad adventures. In the first, the Squad battles a group of super-powered terrorists from the nation of Qurac-a storyline which highlights the treacherous nature of Flash villain and Squad regular Captain Boomerang. The second is a one-issue-and-done sequel to modern Squad writer John Ostrander's "Legends" miniseries in which Darkseid sends the Female Furies to free his minion Glorious Godfrey from prison. The collection begins with a story from DC's "Secret Origins" series in which Ostrander ties together the histories of his modern Squad and two previous groups created by writer Robert Kanigher-a Squad which was formed to fight monstrous menaces in the absence of the Justice Society of America, and which included modern Squad members Rick Flag, Jr. and Karin Grace, as well as a true "Dirty Dozen"-style group of military misfits and riffraff formed during World War II and commanded by Rick Flag, Jr.'s father. This story, in keeping with the late-eighties political climate, features a guest appearance by President Reagan, who assigns Waller to direct the new Squad because she's been too effective as an aide to a Democratic congressman who's opposed his programs. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev also appears here, though series penciller Luke McDonnell makes him look more like Lou Grant with glasses and a ketchup splotch on his forehead. (He also makes Flag, Jr. look like a particularly square-jawed version of Captain James T. Kirk-ironic, given that he began his career illustrating issues of Marvel's first Star Trek comic, an assignment he said he hated.) Though I've made much of this Squad's similarities to the IMF, it departs from its video counterpart in a significant way: It examines the characters' lives, motivations and psychological makeups. Particularly notable in this area is the tortured relationship between Flag and Grace, because Grace believes Flag abandoned her after her nervous breakdown in the wake of the final mission of the first Squad of which both were a part. We also see the team's psychologist interviewing Boomerang and other members of the team. It doesn't have Harley Quinn, but "Suicide Squad Vol. 1: Trial by Fire" features a blend of political thrills, melodrama, and capes-and-tights action which make it well worth reading. These early adventures of the modern Squad are highly recommended.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Paper Change By Stack The three stars here do not reflect the quality of the story, which is excellent, if a bit choppy due to crossovers and events in other titles. The problem is that the previous two volumes in this series used a glossy, high quality paper while Volume 3 has switched to something more like newsprint. This may be a slight benefit in that the colors, which were almost garish on the glossy white paper, are more muted, but the package as a whole feels cheaper and there was no corresponding reduction in price.

Creators John Ostrander, Luke McDonnell, Bob Lewis, and Karl Kesel continue their legendary run in *SUICIDE SQUAD: ROGUES*, collecting issues #17-25 and *ANNUAL* #1 of the celebrated 1980s series. The Squad will go on Or will it? Forget the terrorists occupying American soil, the guerrilla factions killing each other off, or the aliens invading Earth. It's the war at home that may spell the end of Director Amanda Waller and Task Force X. Waller's *Suicide Squad* of incarcerated super-villains and troubled agents has worked effectively under the radar until now. No one, not even her staff in the Belle Reve metahuman prison facility, trusts The Wall. Plus, rising tensions among ever-changing Squad members mean that they've become a bigger threat to each other than to their opponents. And when

government officials with presidential aspirations discover the existence of Task Force X, Waller is forced to do whatever it takes to keep her team from being exposed to the world even if it means crossing the thin moral line that separates her from the disposable villains recruited for her impossible assignments.

About the Author John Ostrander is a renowned comics writer who co-created the science fiction series GRIMJACK with artist Timothy Truman. With his wife, the late Kim Yale, he wrote DC's SUICIDE SQUAD. With artist Tom Mandrake, a frequent collaborator, he wrote a lengthy run of DC's THE SPECTRE. Ostrander has also written for Marvel Comics, and for Warp Graphics' ELFQUEST. Recently Ostrander has been writing for Dark Horse's line of STAR WARS comics.