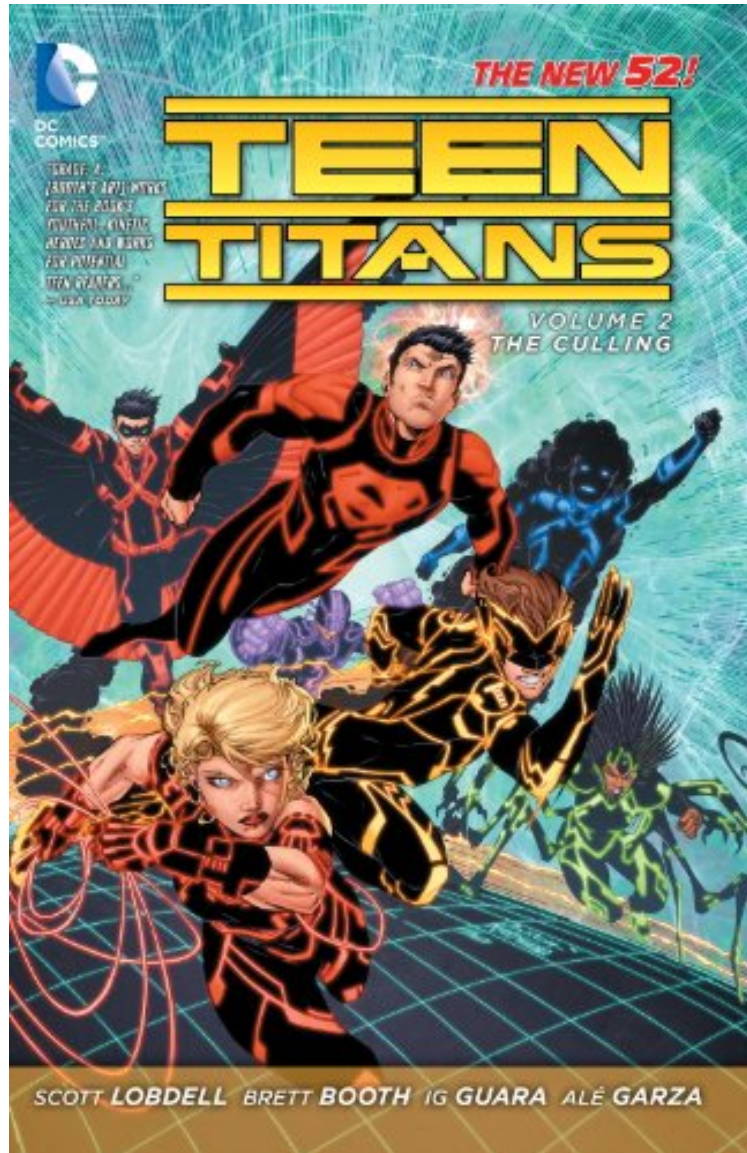


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## Teen Titans Vol. 2: The Culling (The New 52)

Scott Lobdell

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**Scott Lobdell : Teen Titans Vol. 2: The Culling (The New 52)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Teen Titans Vol. 2: The Culling (The New 52):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Missing Brett Booth By Always Samsung I've been a comic book fan my whole life and around the late 90's I stopped collecting. Many of my favorite artists from that era just wasn't drawing as frequently as they use to. For anyone who grew up in that time, the comic book industry was really experiencing a truly vibrant Renaissance during the late 80's to mid 90's. Artist like Jim Lee, Marc Silvestri, Michael

Turner, and J. Scott Campbell all contributed to the rise in comic book sales at that time due to their wonderful talents. Brett Booth was also amongst one of my favorite artists at the time when he was drawing his own series for Image comics called The Kindred/Backlash. I had every issues of that series. Recently, I decided to follow up on some of my favorite artists from back in the day to see what they're up to these days. I was only interested in getting their trade paperback releases to have all their artwork in centralized in one place rather than separate issues. Glad I came across this issue after extensive browsing and research. It's hard to tell from the description on who the real artist is and who's doing the inks and coloring. Anyways, I brought this for Brett and his awesome drawing style. Sadly I have to give this 4 stars because he only draws 2 issues in the entire book. I was so disappointed. I wanted the entire book to be by Brett. I could sit there all day just being amazed by his artwork and drooling over his talent. Unfortunately, it won't be all day since he only drew 2 issues. I wanted to be upfront that my review is not about the story because I buy comics for the artwork. Definitely pick this up if you are a true Brett and Teen Titans fan.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I really like the artwork of the story. By Adam F Warning, this review contains spoilers. On a first read I felt this was a big mess jumping around all over the place. It goes from a continuation of the story from Vol. 1 to back in time to back to today. Then it goes to a story today that doesn't really tie in with the rest of the volume really. My advice if you read this one: skip the story When Dinosaurs Roamed the Earth until the end of the book, then read it. I really like the artwork of the story, but it made the already jumping story even more jumpy. By skipping this, it will provide a much better continuity. On a second read, skipping the Dinosaurs story, it made a fluid story that stuck together much better. In the book then we get the origins of Wonder Girl and some character development between the others. I am really baffled, though, why they stuck that dinosaur story in there - it really makes it just seem totally chaotic with all the jumping around. It just brings up all kinds of questions: Where is the rest of the team for example? Finally, I am wondering if the story that is contained here really is the final word that will be heard from Harvest, or if the story will continue. If that was the end to that story, then that was a disappointing conclusion to that chapter. I hope that that part of the story will be continued in another issue.

Rating: Story as written: 2.0 Story skipping Dinosaurs: 3.5 Art: 3.0 Characters: 3.5 Overall: 3.0

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing followup to the first volume. By NFI liked the first Teen Titans volume of the New 52. I thought there were some interesting possibilities in the reinvention of this team, with a foreshadowing of some interesting villains, in particular. This second volume, unfortunately, let me down. The primary threat in the first volume was the group N.O.W.H.E.R.E., which has been rounding up super-powered youths for their own, presumably nefarious purposes. In that book, the Titans had gone after NOWHERE in an attempt to rescue Superboy, who had defected from NOWHERE after a fight with the Titans. The book ended with a cliffhanger, as, after freeing Superboy, the Titans are held immobile by a new villain, Harvest, the apparent head of the secret organization. Unfortunately, due to a crossover, the action shifted to the Legion Lost title, a now-defunct and largely unlamented DC series. A lot must have happened in that book because a lot of what takes place in this followup Titans title doesn't make much sense without that prior knowledge. The book opens with Red Robin being tortured, apparently being turned into an actual bird at the hands of a new villain called Omen, who has the power to reshape reality. The other Titans look on in helpless horror as Robin is manipulated, until Omen frees him and picks a new victim, Wonder Girl. Robin wakes up in another part of the complex, unsure of just how much he was experiencing was real. In the next few sequences, Omen repeatedly puts the Titans through the wringer, shaking their confidence. Harvest then orders that they be taken to "the colony." The next chapter shows the Titans paired with the Legion Lost and five other unexplained youths (Terra, Thunder, Caitlin Fairchild, Lightning, and Ridge) in what's called "the crucible," where they are forced to fight one another, with the winners forced to serve Harvest as members of his elite corps, the Ravagers. Red Robin comes up with a strategy to throw everything his team has got at Harvest to buy the Legionnaires enough time to destroy the central power core of the complex, freeing everyone. What's left unexplained is why some of the youths are free and why Harvest just stands around while all of this plotting is going on under his very nose. There are clues that Harvest is likely to be someone from a future era but they don't go anywhere with this, at least not in this book. While Harvest takes on the Titans, the rest of the crew is helping everyone escape in the complex's escape pods. Harvest, still fighting the Titans, brags that this is by his design, that the release of the super-powered youths will create chaos, leading to public clamor for organizations like his to control those same youths. Harvest escapes and the Titans escape, as well, with a little help from their friends, but wake up to find themselves in a dinosaur infested island. After some interactions between the team members, a badly hurt Danny the Street gives his all to take the team back safely home. Frankly, this whole sequence was an unsatisfying mess. You never really do figure out just what the heck is going on. Some of the character interactions don't make sense, and neither do Harvest's actions and reactions. It's an unsatisfying ending to the story arc that began in the first volume. The next story arc isn't much better, as the Titans return home using Danny the Street's powers, only to find that some intelligent "dinosaurs" have returned with them from the mysterious island. One of them goes on a rampage, rapidly evolving some reptiles with a "mutagenic mist" in an exhibit and freeing them. Kid Flash takes care of the newly evolved reptiles, then goes after the originator of the trouble, who has escaped into the sewer system. There we find that his goal is to raise a reptilian army to take over the earth. That's where this sequence ends, in a cliffhanger. As with the previous arc, this was a mess. Kid Flash was the

only member of the Titans involved and Lobdell couldn't quite decide if he was writing a horror/action sequence or a humor sequence. There are some writers who can successfully combine both. Lobdell really isn't one of them. And the story is so far-fetched and so overdone and cliched, that they lost me almost at once. The third story arc in this book is a bit better, as we learn more about Wonder Girl's back story. Wonder Girl's armor causes her to run amok, as she takes out Solstice, Kid Flash, and Bunker. Robin and Superboy find her amid her unconscious teammates and take her away to an isolated cabin. There, Cassie is taken over again by her armor until Robin and Superboy manage to pry it off of her. Just as they do so, a blast from Cassie's past shows up, a former boyfriend, Diesel. Diesel tells us that Cassie left him in Angkor Wat and that he had formerly worn the armor, which he now proceeds to take from Cassie, after which he flies off. Cassie gives her back story in the next sequence, as an acrobatic thief, a tomb raider. Diesel saves her from capture by the authorities on one of her expeditions and, as Cassie puts it, "it was pretty much lust at first sight." In an archaeological dig, Diesel had discovered and donned a gray mask. In an effort to pry it off of him, Cassie picks up a discarded pair of gauntlets, the armor that would give her her power and eventually consume her. The mask recognized her as the superior host, so it abandoned Diesel to join with Cassie. The armor needs enormous inner strength to keep it in check and Cassie knew that Diesel lacked that strength, so she donned the armor in part to protect him. As far as Diesel was concerned, though, the armor was his and Cassie had stolen it. Before she can explain the temple they're in falls apart and Diesel is buried. Robin, Superboy, and Wonder Girl return to the site of the temple, where Robin reveals that the markings on the temple are called "the mark of Trigon." Just as he reveals that, Diesel attacks the trio with an army of "blood warriors." While Robin and Superboy fight his army, Diesel takes Wonder Girl into the depths of the temple. In a pitched battle, Cassie and Diesel fight for control of the armor. I think you can guess who wins. Finally, the Titans return home, only to find that Red Robin has taken off and that the Joker has left a little present for them on their doorstep, setting up the next issue. Ale Garza took over the artwork on the last sequence and it wasn't really an improvement. Everything is oversimplified and Wonder Girl comes across as a blonde, big-eyed ... well ... bimbo is the only word that comes to mind. The others aren't much better and everything is much more cartoony, which just doesn't work with the storyline. I really wanted to like the Titans but after this mess of a book and the subsequent book, which wasn't much better, I won't be buying the fourth book in the series. Enough is enough.

As a part of the acclaimed DC Comics--The New 52 event, this second volume of Teen Titans launches the mini-event "The Culling" featuring Superboy and Legion Lost! When the organization known as N.O.W.H.E.R.E. captures Superboy, the Teen Titans, and Legion Lost and pits the young heroes against each other to weed out the weak, it will take everything the most famous teen heroes of the DC Universe have to save themselves from each other. But the ruthless Harvest won't give up easily leading to one of the young heroes making the ultimate sacrifice for the others. Collects Teen Titans #8-12, 0 and DC Comics Presents #12.

Praise for Teen Titans Vol. 1: "Grade: A. Brett Booth's illustrations, reminiscent of early 1990s superhero art, works for the book's youthful, kinetic heroes, and works for potential teen readers willing to take this superhero comic for a spin on their iPads." USA Today "Booth offers a kinetic approach that drips with energy." IGN "It finds a great equilibrium between the fun that made many of us first pick up comics, and the narrative strength that kept us reading them." PopMatters About the Author Scott Lobdell is a veteran of the comic book industry, having worked with nearly every major American comic book publisher. Lobdell is best known for his work on Marvel's X-Men franchise in the 1990's, penning such works as Uncanny X-Men, Excalibur, The Age of Apocalypse, Generation X, amongst others. He is currently the writer of SUPERBOY, TEEN TITANS, and RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS, each a part of DC Comics--The New 52.