



## Incorruptible, Vol. 2

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Last Fall, BOOM! Studios showed the world that MARK WAID IS EVIL with the smash-hit graphic novel series IRREDEEMABLE. This Fall, BOOM! shows the world that Mark Waid...INCORRUPTIBLE! Super villain Max Damage had an epiphany the day The Plutonian destroyed Sky City. When The Plutonian turned his back on humanity, Max Damage decided to step up. Now Max Damage has changed his name to Max Daring and turned from his formerly selfish to become... INCORRUPTIBLE.

## **Incorruptible, Vol. 2 Details**

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Author : Mark Waid , Horacio Domingues (Artist)

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## From Reader Review Incorrputible, Vol. 2 for online ebook

### Printable Tire says

I'm not going to say it's improbable a Super Hero-induced apocalypse would spawn a group of ICP/90's Alternative-looking white guys into giving themselves a cute name like the Diamond Gang and going around beating and killing minorities because they think the Super Hero is calling them to do so... I'm not going to say it's improbable because I've never been in a Super Hero-induced apocalypse so I can't say what it'd be like. What I can say, however, is racists make for some pretty lame, boring, cardboard villains, and I expected more from this comic series.

Max Damage: World's worst terrorist, but "no racist!" give me a fucking break. That makes him and his transformation into lovable tough guy as exciting and plausible as a leprechaun unicorn shitting on me and calling it mud pie. Well, okay, that would be pretty exciting. But just make this into a fucking Bruce Willis movie already, for barf's sake. And that last part where the racists get beaten up by every poorly-drawn ethnic stereotype in the book was just embarrassing.

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### Sebastian Song says

The story is gaining some momentum but it's really testing one's patience. Let's hope the plot thickens by issue 9.

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### Amanda says

Max Damage, the supervillain-gone-good, is faced with his first serious moral dilemma that tests just how committed he is to his transformation into superhero: a former nemesis has captured Jailbait, his underage former-lover. Will his devotion to her lead him to make a deal with the devil or will he have to sacrifice Jailbait for the greater good?

I'm still intrigued by Max Damage as a character, but, unlike volume 1, this wasn't quite a 4 star read for me. Maybe more of a 3 1/2. It does little to advance the plot, mainly because it creates a lull to explore Max Damage's seeming invulnerability and reveals his Achilles' heel. The longer Max stays awake, the stronger he becomes. Also, the more impervious his skin and tissue is to bullets, knives, all your standard "I'm going to kill this guy" type weaponry. However, it doesn't protect him from the mental effects of sleep deprivation as he has difficulty thinking straight and forming coherent sentences. The longer he goes without rest, the more dangerous he becomes--basically, without sleep, he's like a punch-drunk armored tank.

It also provides the opportunity to swap out the real Jailbait, a 16 year old girl who is still obsessed with Max despite his declarations that they can no longer be together if he's going to be a bright and shiny superhero, with a more age appropriate and sexually incompatible (she's a lesbian) sidekick who won't offer temptation. The storyline that does this is pretty contrived, but one can see where this swap was necessary. While the interplay between Max and Jailbait was fun in volume 1, the joke of the whining teenager continuously making sexual advances on Max would have eventually become uncomfortable and called his own moral transformation into question. Even if he continued to reject her advances, what kind of good guy would

allow an obviously immature, emotionally damaged kid to tag along into such dangerous circumstances--especially since his enemies are formidable and the world still sees him as a bad guy. The new Jailbait has issues of her own as she is seeking vengeance for the death of her family. Her agenda might eventually offer some conflict with Max and his desire to stay virtuous.

The art is another reason for my slight disappointment in this volume. There's a cartoonish quality to a story that deserves a more gritty realism. The tone set by the storyline and the one presented by the art don't mesh. Basically, the panels look like stills from Saturday morning cartoons in the 1990's. If the art had been more mature and more in keeping with story itself, this may have bumped it up to a 4 star rating.

All in all, this was a necessary volume as it clears up some unanswered questions in volume 1 about Max's abilities and background and, hopefully, sets the stage for some serious awesomeness in volume 3.

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### **Justin says**

Max Damage is a whore with a heart of gold.

Okay, perhaps that's oversimplifying.

Or, perhaps that's an understatement.

Mark Waid's "villain-comes-clean" ongoing series, *INCORRUPTIBLE*, continues with the second volume of this fast-spaced, character-developing, truly intriguing story of what happens when one of the world's greatest super villains decides to become one of the world's greatest superheroes...

...As long as he lives to survive the transformation.

Following on the heels of the first volume, this volume finds Max ultimately alone, having alienated his underage, (we have to presume) sexpot sidekick, Jailbait, and, finally, vulnerable, as the world still isn't quite ready to accept that a man known as Max Damage might actually be trying to do some good things for a change (rather than some very, very bad things to the world, if readers are familiar with what's transpiring in Waid's sister title, *IRREDEEMABLE*).

As with the series' first volume, there's little to summarize here that will actually provide the reader with an isolated narrative, much less an idea of where Waid intends to take the series next. This volume, like the last, is truly serialized (ending each "chapter" of the ongoing series with a cliffhanger that demands the reader keep reading, at all costs!) This detail appears to be, for the moment, the strength of the series: Waid is constructing an ongoing thesis not only on what it means to be a hero, but also on what it means to be a broken man capable of invigorating the world with a little hope, and readers will sign on for the long ride, if they know what's good for them.

Along the way, readers will gain more insight into the special abilities of Max Damage. Where before, Damage was illustrated as little more than a "thug" that took on the Plutonian, this volume posits Damage as a character with formidable abilities that make him a pretty compelling adversary to the Plutonian. Readers will also come to understand the impact that the Plutonian's "gone bad" personality has had on the supporting cast of characters of this world, so if readers aren't keeping up with *IRREDEEMABLE*, there's enough here to fill in the gaps so that it's at least understandable that a great hero has "turned to the dark

side,” so to speak, and INCORRUPTIBLE represents the fallout of that turn.

Max Damage is at the center of that fallout, and his character will quickly become one that readers will cherish: the ultimate anti-hero, the dark horse in the running, the best star of the best-kept secret in comic books today.

Artistically, Horacio Domingues brings a very different look to the series than the first volume provided. It's still sometimes touch-and-go, but there's more consistency to the line work and character representations than can be said for the first volume of the series. Hopefully, Domingues remains onboard to hone his skills and better develop his style, which is markedly different from that of Jean Diaz. It couldn't hurt after the series' first volume, which remains a success based on the storytelling alone.

With this second volume, the story itself and the conflicts that are presented to Damage and his (new) sidekick continue to drive the plot forward, as this series continues to explore the notion that a hero isn't simply defined by doing what a bad guy, wouldn't.

In a similar fashion, this series continues to explore that what makes great comic book storytelling good isn't defined by doing the opposite of what bad comic book storytelling, does.

INCORRUPTIBLE simply does it, and INCORRUPTIBLE does it in inimitable fashion.

The supporting cast that catches a glimpse of the new & improved Max Damage is certainly (and justifiably) wary of what will happen next.

Readers of INCORRUPTIBLE can rest assured that what happens next, if what we've seen so far is prologue, will be truly heroic, no matter the initial misgivings they may have had that a hero can come out of nowhere.

Like those heroes, INCORRUPTIBLE seems to be coming out of nowhere, ready to invigorate hope in great comic book storytelling.

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## **Gavin says**

In volume 2, Max Damage picks up the search for Jailbait, who ran away/disappeared at the end of Vol. 1. He finds a dead-ringer for her, who accompanies him around, and ends up becoming a little unhinged herself due to events that take place. Max eventually finds the real Jailbait, so now he's stuck with 2 sidekicks for a bit. The major development is a white supremacist group who takes the Plutonian's attacks to be a sign of White Pride, and is attacking everyone who's not, and attacks Max with knowledge of his weaknesses. The source of knowledge of his weaknesses turns out to be tied to his past and will set up the events of volume 3 to search for the source.

Well written, good art, and the continual morphing of Max from bad guy to hero is interesting. Fun flipside to Irredeemable.

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## **John says**

The second volume of this series is still darned entertaining, but there are some odd changes. The tone is more serious and more focused on the characters while the artwork has become lighter and more cartoony. Kind of a strange combo, but this is still worth following.

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## **Alan says**

A good solid outing in a universe Mark Waid has created (unlike his sometimes not so solid work when doing work-for-hire). Max Damage is hellbent on sticking to the redemption road in a dystopian super hero tale. Max is willing to give up everything he had before embarking on his hero's journey including the one solid relationship he had in his life (now he has issues with his sidekick being a 16 year-old girl). While he's at it he does take out a revolting white supremacy gang that is murdering business owners and residents of a destroyed city.

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## **William Thomas says**

Great premise. Great tie-in. Great powers. Terrible execution.

Don't let these brilliant, fabulous covers fool you- the artwork inside the issues featured in vol. 2 here isn't even what I would consider to be competent. It's really remedial. It's Saturday morning cartoon styled and it cheapened the entire book for want of an edgier, darker style.

The story falls flat, doing nothing to lure us into the next issue. It relies heavily on filler, instead of a solid, brilliant story as Waid features in *Irredeemable*. It has instead degenerated into a generic, campy little rag of a book when it could have been the rival to Brubaker's *Incognito*.

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## **Patrick says**

Continuing the storyline from Vol1, new characters are starting to be added (and it is a nice change!) Still has very nice artwork and a strong storyline.

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## **Julio Bonilla says**

I am hooked on the *Incorruptible* Series! The second volume is full of surprises! First, I noticed the artwork is different from the first volume. Then I found out why Max won't die. Did I mention he has a weakness? It's sleep! Has Jailbait always showed lots of skin?! She dresses like a whore! Onto the next volume . . .

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## **Nicola Mansfield says**

Reason for Reading: Next in the series.

It's been such a long wait since Vol. 1 but it sure was worth it! Vol. 2 is even better than the first and I'm loving this series much better than Irredeemable (which I really like). Since we are dealing with only one main character here there is so much more character development of Max Damage than in the other series and while one still is reminded of the vicious villain he used to be it is hard to not like him for who he is now, the seemingly only superhero really working for the good of others and not himself. The story arc is great! A group of skin-head like thugs are attacking people of racial diversities in the name of "cleansing" and have taken on Plutonian as their hero/god/leader image. Max is called in by his police chief friend to take them down but unfortunately they have learned Max's secret vulnerability. This volume also pulls a "Robin" on us by replacing the Jailbait character, but it all goes down with a good storyline and the original Jailbait character is not necessarily out of the picture for good.

The only thing that makes my rating an actual 4.5 instead of a full 5 stars is that they've changed illustrators for this volume and it was immediately noticeable as soon as I opened the book. Max's character just does not have the same rough, powerful, dangerous look he had when Jean Diaz was drawing. Domingues's drawing makes Damage look downright friendly at times and even a little dunce when he's down. However, it's not enough to mar the fabulous storyline and the direction this series is taking. I'm so glad we only have to wait until Feb. ('11) for the next volume! 4.5/5

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## **JB says**

Almost really good, ultimately feels like wasted potential. Intended to be a limited series, but comes off as though there was not an intended direction for the series. Spends way too much time on an antagonist that makes no sense for the setting. Mainly fun for the clever world-building. Has really no effect on the primary series this is a spin off of, so you can read Irredeemable in its entirety before starting this series (there was a crossover, but it carries nothing from this series over to it, except "The main character of this book was the Plutonian's primary villain").

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## **Adam Stone says**

Racists are terrible. Criminals who have sexual relationships with underage girls are also terrible. Pitting them against each other, while showing how one of them is trying to be better has to be handled just right to rise from Exploitative Garbage to Interesting Story Of Redemption, and this volume of the story doesn't rise to Interesting.

At this point in the story, I am rooting for everyone to explode into band aids or food or something that can help literally any background character in this book recover from the...I don't want to say damage because it seems like I'm trying to riff on one of the dumbest names in comics....injuries at the hands of the awful characters in this book.

Even the art in this book looks like it regrets its involvement in the story.

I don't recommend it.

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### **Terry Collins says**

The story advances, we learn more about Max and just how despicable he was in his former incarnation as Public Enemy #1, and a new sidekick / girl partner is introduced after a tragedy in her own life. Still addictive reading on all levels from a master storyteller and creator.

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### **Jeff says**

I'm really enjoying Mark Waid's Irredeemable, so I thought I'd give the second volume of this companion series a look. I liked the first one, but wasn't bowled over by it like I am with Irredeemable.

Incorruptible has Waid examining the flip side of the superhero-goes-whacko-and-turns-villain by offering up the villain-gets-a-conscience-while-watching-the-aforementioned-whacko-superhero-destroy-a-city.

Max Damage has to navigate his way through his idealistic and narrow view as to what a superhero/good guy should be.

Wait! Nope!

A major part of Mr. Damage's dilemma is resisting the urge to sleep with his underage sidekick/girlfriend, Jailbait.

So, instead, he bitch slaps some criminals.

Feel better, Max? No, me either, big guy.

**Bottom line:** Mix in some leftover hero clichés from Incorruptible, some heartbreak, a little humor and some skull cracking and you have yourself an adequate meditation on a villain-to-hero transformation.

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