



The Order, Volume 1: The Next Right Thing

Matt Fraction (Writer), Barry Kitson, Mark Morales

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A team of long-dormant Soviet super-weapons is awake, angry, and heading straight at the heart of Los Angeles ready to finish World War III The front line of defense is a team that's been together since just before nine this morning The queen of PR starts her spin A dead body hides more than just a murder mystery And-and-and - a super-sex tape What on earth could justify the use of that many exclamation points? Surely, it could only be *The Order*, the newest ongoing series written by Matt Fraction (*Immortal Iron Fist, Punisher War Journal*) and with art by the amazing Barry Kitson.

Collecting: *The Order* 1-6

The Order, Volume 1: The Next Right Thing Details

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From Reader Review The Order, Volume 1: The Next Right Thing for online ebook

Hannah Givens says

The setup is pretty typical, a new team of young celebrities given superpowers, but Fraction makes it engaging. The powers they're given are a little different, I like the idea of a whole organization hiring and firing the superheroes (in the wake of Civil War), and the script makes each character seem interesting and significant. The whole "pantheon" approach is totally irrelevant, but I got invested in each individual character, and especially like the team leader. He was a body double (?) for Tony Stark, went through AA with him, and is now the "Apollo"-style leader of the team, although he does more leading than superpowering (which I like)! There are also some cool women on the team. I feel like their powers are a little gendered, but not condescendingly so -- if there's enough attention to those arcs, it could say something about women rather than just make assumptions about them.

Chelsea says

3.5

So, this was a short lived series. I can sort of understand why because it reminds me of Gail Simone's the Movement in that Fraction created a team with only one established Marvel character (Pepper) and the rest appear to be brand new. The bad guys are bland and unmemorable. The dialogue for Becky, the Texan, was painful at times. I still don't know all of their names and alter egos. That being said, there's still a lot to love here.

Henry. I ADORED Henry Hellrung. He's a recovering alcoholic and he helped get Tony clean when he hit rock bottom. He used to play Tony in a TV show and he received some of the same hero worship Tony received from kids that looked up to him before his addiction ruined his career. Now he's just trying to lead this Initiative approved team and protect California and that's very honorable.

I adored Magdalena Marie as well (that name aside). She was also an actress. She knows martial arts and protects children and orphans.

I really liked Calamity or James, as well. He lost his legs in a drunk driving accident and the science behind the Initiative made him a speedster.

I loved Kate Kildare and her efficiency and straightforwardness. She reminds me a lot of the Pepper I'm used to. While I have some appreciation for Fraciton's run of Iron Man, I've always kind of squinted at his version of Pepper. She's either passive or unnecessarily petty to me. Here, she's just a bystander for most of it. Weird.

Those were the characters I loved and remembered. This team is one of the more diverse teams which is part of why I'm so bummed it didn't last longer. There's a woc, 2 moc and a wlw in this book. That's a rarity for any Marvel book, let's be real. I will admit, the plot was boring, I side eyed quite a bit of these names for villains and heroes but at the heart of it, this was an interesting book. I like the team and concept behind it. I loved Henry struggling to be a leader and calling Tony for advice. The last 2 issues of this book are very

solid and I enjoyed reading it.

3.5 stars.

Mike says

Slightly irreverent, sometimes funny, solid modern superhero stories, but somehow... lacking. Don't know what's missing, but if I didn't know going in that this was written by Matt Fraction I'd have figured it was some noob who still didn't know what their voice was. Great, smooth art with clean lines and clear staging, so we got great support or what we hope will be something more remarkable. Mostly I want to read more because I'm hoping beyond hope that future issues will be more "Fraction".

Rachael says

Very interesting take on a super-team, though some details were unfortunately close to things we'd written in our original comic scripts. Good characters and great book formats. The plots left something to be desired for a non-comic fan like me. Didn't love the art - too much gratuitous T&A for a book that otherwise treated women pretty well.

Jacob says

I purchased this book at a used book store. The names of Matt Fraction and Barry Kitson are more than enough to earn my support, however one aspect of the book I did not enjoy was how on multiple occasions the page layout would match the next page in a double page spread, tiered in three different ways, but the reader was supposed to read the entire page one before the reading the matching grid on page two. Other than that, this was a decent effort of new or established D-list like characters. I will gladly read the next volume.

Brad says

In the wake of Civil War, Iron Man created a bunch of new superhero teams. One is The Order, in which regular folk get superpowers, but just for just one year. The first volume is barely tied to Marvel's characters (Pepper Potts is a character and Iron Man has a few cameos) and doesn't create very compelling original heroes. But, with a team of largely disposable heroes, that's kind of the point.

Matt Fraction's story format--where each issue starts and ends with characters' job interviews--is interesting, and a quick way to develop backstory and characters' voice. The team's adventures just aren't that gripping. They fight a bunch of "Zobos" (zombie hobos) and also have to deal with a secret military team that's set up to be their ongoing nemesis.

The book feels simultaneously hip (thanks to Fraction, who comes out of the Warren Ellis school of neat ideas) and quotidian.

As for the art, Barry Kitson's been around a long time, and does suitable work. The colors are far too dark, though, especially with a team of unfamiliar heroes.

Gary Lee says

I liked this one much more than I probably should have.

But in this day or "concept-shattering" superhero story-arcs and serious, heartwrenching, ultra-personal indie comics -- it's nice to be reminded from time to time that some comics are simply balls-out fun.

I'm not a fan of what little *Civil War*-era Marvel I've read, nor its effect on the overall Earth 606 universe.

The Tony Stark Initiative (a plan to give each state its own team of highly trained superheroes) was bound to fail, on its own epic scale if nothing else; but at least *The Order* that briefly came of all of it was enjoyable.

It's not great.

It's just fun.

John Wiswell says

This was a pleasant surprise. A superhero book with impossible powers, implausible physiques, costumes for all, massive battles, and yet none of it felt cheesy. These trademark elements of the superhero comic were filtered through real human problems (love, alcoholism, paralysis) and parallels to real events (international military crises, media sex scandals), and all filtered down into some interesting personalities. *The Order* is very much a personality book, with each chapter focusing one on potential candidate for heroism, from their motivation and personal conflicts, how they came to public works and how they figure into the "team." The characters are often more interesting than the events, though early curveballs (like who gets fired from the government-sponsored Order) make it more interesting to follow. Considering almost everyone who appears here is a new creation of Matt Fraction, new readers can jump in here with ease.

The art style is also quite fun to look at. It's pretty detailed for a Marvel publication, and the coloration, while not truly dark, is dimmed and dulled at certain points to prevent the pictures from being cloyingly bright.

Neil McCrea says

One of Marvel's post Civil War titles. I suspect the title died on the vine, but I could be wrong about that.

After the Superhero Registration Act went into effect. Iron Man set about creating legal, government regulated super teams for all 50 states. The Order is his flagship new group and represents California. It is a team made up entirely of new superheros. They are all highly trained, normal humans, briefly given superhuman abilities for a year long term of service.

The premise is solid, the dialogue snappy, the art serviceable, but the characters are paper thin, and the antagonists are uninteresting and eminently forgettable. I enjoyed the examination of Marvel Universe politics and celebrity culture, and the title (if it survived) seems like it would have been capable of examining these issues to a much greater degree than any other regular Marvel title.

Altogether, my enthusiasm is lukewarm, and I would not be following this title even if I were still in my

obsessive comic collector mindset.

Gayle Francis Moffet says

More 3-1/2 than 3; this book works really hard to sell the post-Civil War idea of how the 50-states Initiative would function. In short, everyone chosen for the program gets a year as a superhero, and those who don't follow the strict morality clauses in the contracts get booted. The Order is made up of a bunch of people whom Fraction tries to characterize as much as possible in his limited time in the first run, and a couple of them manage to stand out. Unfortunately, I didn't find the team leader to be one of them. It's not a bad book, but I know it only got one more arc, and I doubt it all came together that fast.

Daniel says

Really a 3.5 but closer to a 4 than a 3.

This is a fun mix of the celebrity superhero hijinks of X-Statix and the "people with other jobs becoming superheroes" concept of Global Frequency. The superhero designs themselves are a bit bland and the first issue is boilerplate, but after that we're off to the races with slick characterization and polished art.

Eric England says

The Order: The Next Right Thing is an interesting graphic novel that focuses on a team of celebrity superheroes that are given powers by Iron Man and Stark Industries. The team must deal with interpersonal conflicts, external challenges, and numerous super-powered enemies. The graphic novel works primarily because of the distinct voices that Matt Fraction imbues in each of his characters. They all feel like real people in extraordinary situations. However, some of the traditional superhero antics feel a bit forced, it seems the writer was more interested in character-building than action. The art by Barry Kitson and Khari Evans is excellent, both artists are top-notch. However, the graphic novel leaves the reader wondering if the traditional superhero art of Kitson and Evans was the right choice for the book. A more avant-garde style of art would have fit Fraction's themes as a writer a bit better. As it stands, The Order Volume 1 is flawed but fascinating; it is certainly worth a read.

Pete says

nothing earth-shaking here but if you write a comic book that has 1) a sober lead character 2) quotes from mike davis, john mcphee, and suisho tobita in it i will come on here and give you five stars

Gina says

Interesting concept, but also the framing of the interviews is a good device for moving the story along.

Fizzgig76 says

Reprints The Order #1-5. The first line-up for the Order is fired and a new team is brought in to replace them. I can see where the Order is trying to go but it doesn't quite seem to make it over the hump. It feels like a Planetary or a much less extreme version of X-Statix. That being said, it isn't bad but it doesn't feel quite like a really good book.
