



## New Avengers: Breakout

*Alisa Kwitney (Text)*

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Fantasy/romantic fiction/comics author Alisa Kwitney (A Flight of Angels, Moonburn) reveals the secret backstory of Avengers couple Hawkeye and the Black Widow. Under secret orders to assassinate the Widow, the rough-edged marksman finds himself caught up in a violent prison break that releases some of the world's most vicious and powerful criminals. Defying his superiors, Hawkeye joins forces with the sultry Russian spy - and with a mismatched group of personalities that include Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, Luke Cage, Captain America and Iron Man. Unexpected betrayals and shocking revelations will lead the team from Manhattan's top security Raft prison to the untamed jungle of the Savage Land in dramatically different take on Brian Michael Bendis' blockbuster Avengers comics debut. Learn the sizzling backstory of your favorite big-screen heroes in this adaptation, inspired by the best of page and screen!

## New Avengers: Breakout Details

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Author : Alisa Kwitney (Text)

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## From Reader Review New Avengers: Breakout for online ebook

### Morgan says

This was an absolutely ridiculous, hilarious, true to comic book style while being prose, light and easy read. It seriously was 80% ridiculousness, but I loved it. I'm always hesitant about comic book to prose transitions but I feel as though this was a delightful and true to characterization story, that could even squeeze into MCU if you tried and ignored some things. A perfect non-serious read.

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### Claudsies says

I would like to preface this review by stating I have read comic books since the age of eight. I am especially a huge Avengers fan (Black Widow) in particular. I've read the majority of the Avengers comics (the very good, the good and the really bad \*ahem\* Heroes Reborn). Consequently, I came into this story with a higher than average knowledge of the Avengers and their backgrounds.

I also used up my one Christmas present wish on this book.

That being said, I was curious to see the changes Ms. Kwitney would make to the overall Avengers story. I was especially wary of the way she was to treat Natasha and her relationship with Hawkeye.

Overall, I was impressed with the book. Ms. Kwitney balanced the action scenes and the narrative scenes well. I did not find myself bored with the narrative scenes, nor did I think the action sequences were over drawn. She managed to flesh out the characters well and I especially loved the way she wrote my beloved Natasha, who is not an easy character to write. Although Ms. Kwitney took liberties with Black Widow's story (particularly with Natasha's defection), I found myself too wrapped up in the story to care too much about the changes. While I can understand why some hard-core purists would be upset with the changes, I took the changes in stride and let's face it: the changes make for an excellent story.

My only complaint (if it can be called a complaint) comes from the length of the book. I found myself taking my time, devouring the book slowly so it would last a bit longer. I would love to see Ms. Kwitney tackle a few more stories and I hope she is given the opportunity to do so. I would also love to read the mature version of certain scenes. ;)

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### Jordan Lahn says

Listened to the graphic audio presentation. Great adaptation!

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### Nick says

Reasonable tale following some of the Avengers characters, as usual if you haven't followed the comics there's some baffling backstory elements you have no idea of but the general gist you can read along and

enjoy.

The characters are presented well enough although Tony and Cap are definitely a bit two dimensional. The love story (triangle?) never really gets going, just a couple of bangs then seems to fizzle out until the very end where it hints at more happening.

Not the best prose novel comic conversion by a long shot but not terrible either.

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### **Jim C says**

A novel based on the Marvel characters. In this one, there is a prison break from the prison known as the Raft. This place holds many dangerous villains. Several different heroes converge in an attempt to stop the breakout but some villains end up escaping. These heroes end up working together and in the process end up forming a new superhero team.

The one word I would use to describe this book would be "fun" as I had a great time reading this book. This book brought many smiles to my face because of the banter, the action, and the portrayals of the characters. The portrayals has to be the highlight as the author nailed this aspect. From Captain America's business like attitude to Tony's ego to Peter's quips I thought everything was perfect. I also liked the look into Spider-Woman and Luke Cage as I don't know much about them. We also get minor appearances from other Marvel characters that worked perfectly. The story isn't earth shattering and the world isn't in danger but I had no problem imagining this story existing in this universe.

The only flaw of this book is more fault of mine. I am not the most versed in this world so some of the villains were not known to me. It did not take away from the story but I imagine if I knew them, my experience reading this book would have been even more enjoyable. If you like the current Marvel movies and its characters, you would probably like this book.

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### **Lizzy says**

The plot was somewhat underwhelming, especially for a novel. The story probably would be better as a graphic novel/comic book. The romance was dull, and reminiscent of fanfiction, and hearing Hawkeye and Black Widow be weirdly neurotic about their feelings for each other was kind of ridiculous.

Plus, I didn't really appreciate Jessica Drew's nastiness towards Black Widow. I get why she felt that way. I could understand the whole pheromone thing working in reverse, but why was Jessica so nasty with the "skanks" and other offensive words? Fine, be suspicious, but the woman-bashing, especially from a female author, who should know better, seemed obnoxious.

Also, a lot of the dialogue felt fanfic-y (especially that awful "shark week" line).

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## **Tarl says**

It's not often anymore that I finish a book in two days. But it does happen, and it happened with New Avenger's: Breakout.

One of Marvel's steps into the world of prose novels based off of comic book series, I had a rough idea what to expect after reading Civil War and Batman: No Man's Land. (Yes, yes, the later is DC, I know) 'Civil War' was enjoyable, and I had an interest in the New Avengers, though I will admit I am not an Avenger's fan.

Kwitney is a good writer, but what made this novel stand out was her being a female writer. It meant that there were some elements in the storyline that were handled differently than you would find with a male writer. It was refreshing and enjoyable, and added a certain element to things such as Hawkeye and Black Widow's relationship that worked, and worked well.

The overall plot was well paced, going from one point to another with without any major slowing point. The characters were each handled well, though I found that the female ones were done with more skill than the male ones. Cage, for example, during the plane scene felt over the top. I am aware that this was most likely from the comic (which I haven't read), but the way that Cage's personality/fears played out felt stiff and out of character.

Still, overall the characters were enjoyable and I thought they were represented well. Even Spiderman's wisecracks were on target and felt in character. (Not to mention Iron Man behaving as he does in the movies, which I thought was enjoyable)

Combat within the novel was handled with a certain flare, though I found it to be drawn out in such a high level of detail, the tension in it was lost. This worked at certain points, especially areas where it was one on one, such as Hawkeye vs Black Widow. However when it was larger combats, it caused the story to get bogged down and slow to a crawl.

In the end, Kwitney did a really good job with this story and has written a really enjoyable book. I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys anything with super heroes. It is well worth the time to read and I will probably read it again in the future. Go and check it out.

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## **J'aime says**

I really enjoyed GraphicAudio's production of Marvels' Civil War. Though the adaptation necessarily differed from the original graphic novel event, it still captured the spirit. New Avengers: Breakout is the same.

The graphic novel could bank on readers already knowing about Disassembled/House of M, and all the fallout from Scarlet Witch's mental breakdown. A book doesn't have that luxury, so this is written/Performed as though people know are familiar with the characters and their personalities, but may be encountering them for the first time outside of movies. For instance, Black Widow is introduced as a KGB spy who has just defected from her handlers. The Avengers know of her by her bad reputation, but she's not a member of the team (yet). I've been reading every event, and most of the solo series since Disassembled so I am very familiar with the character and their history. But this still worked just fine, and was actually

refreshing.

Iron man disbanded the Avengers after Disassembled. In the aftermath, someone orchestrates a massive prison break from The Raft where all the supervillains are incarcerated. There are no Avengers anymore, but several superheroes show up (or were already on site) to try and contain the situation: Captain America, Spider-Woman, Luke Cage (Power Man), Spider-Man, and Hawkeye. Other familiar characters pop up in the story such as Nick Fury and Maria Hill has a sizable supporting role. This hodgepodge group needs to stop the breakout, track down the escapees and discover who masterminded the whole thing. And together, a new team will form.

I loved the story, but the production made it even that much better. The voice actors were well chosen – Tony’s suave tones, Clint’s witty one liners, Natasha’s Russian accent – and bring the characters to life. It was easy to follow who was talking. The sound effects and music add a lot to the story. It’s not quite a movie in your mind, but it’s damn entertaining. Overall, it was an excellent way to pass a long car ride and I’ve already ordered several more from GraphicAudio (which are sadly not available on Amazon). Highly recommended.

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### **Amy says**

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### **Stephanie says**

OK, the embarrassing truth is that I was really conflicted when I sat down to rate this novel, torn between my inner snob and my inner fangirl. This is the novelization of a graphic novel, not an original story, and it's just fluffy and fast-paced and fun - so wouldn't I look kind of silly if I gave it more than 4 stars? But oh wow, was it fun, at least for me. As a big fan of the recent Avengers films, I honestly just loved it - so in terms of pure enjoyment, it would be totally unfair to give it any less than 5 stars.

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### **Red says**

It was okay. Not great, not horrible, just okay.

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### **Arthur Cravan says**

Man, I really liked this. I can't tell how much of it is the quality of it, or how much of it is the exceeding of admittedly rather low expectations, but this little book kept me going. I remember reading one of the random issues of this story, a mid-way through one, & thinking it was kinda interesting, but never bothering to see where it went. But this book always had me kinda bummed out that the bus ride was over & I'd have to leave it be...

I mean, this book doesn't *give* to you the way Hemingway or Burroughs or Plato gives. But who the hell is

expecting it to? It was a tough call whether I'd just give it five stars - there's nothing inherently wrong with it. I'll definitely be looking for more comic-to-book adaptations. I probably like them better than the comics, really. It would be really cool if they had, like, full-page, colour pictures, at least one a chapter or something. Just taken from the original comics, maybe their covers or something... but really, we all know how Captain America looks, & you could always keep the comics close by for reference.

The end of the book is two excerpts from other Marvel novelizations - including Civil War, which is a story I took great interest in when it began unfolding, but didn't really keep up with after the first few turns. So that's definitely my next goal - that & a Batman one.

If you're just looking for some fun, definitely give this book (& presumably others like it) a go. I guess it's kinda like Star Wars novel-y.

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### **Shelli says**

At first I was really excited to pick up this book. I've been reading Marvel comic books on and off for years, but I'm more of a literature person than a comic book person, at heart. So I really wanted to see what could be accomplished combining a comic book universe and full prose format. After finishing the book, I have to admit I feel a bit disappointed.

Although maybe I shouldn't be so hard on this book for editorial mistakes, I can't say that a novelization of a comic book series should be given a free pass. Literature is literature, whether it's a book that kids are assigned in school, or a comic book, or whatever. There are definitely mistakes here that should have been caught by an editor before it went to print. (At one point Sauron is referred to as having pebbly orange skin... when we fans know it should be green. And then later on in the book he's described as having green skin. How did no one catch that?)

I also feel like the author could have done a little bit better job of describing the scenes for those of us who haven't read this comic book series and don't have a visual idea of what's going on. Especially the breakout in the beginning of the book. I was having a lot of trouble picturing in my head where everyone was as the action started. At one point Spider-Man is on the roof but he's having a normal conversation with Captain America, who I thought was on the ground outside the building. I don't know if they are talking through headsets or what. It's not explained. Then Spider-Man sees the escaping villains through a hole in the roof, then they are pulling him down through the hole (again, not really explained how... Did some villains jump up and grab him?)

Later on as the others are rescuing Spider-Man from the villains, one of the men in the crowd says he is a doctor, not an inmate. Hawkeye binds the guy's hands and then that guy is literally NEVER MENTIONED AGAIN in the book. What the heck was the point of that? He doesn't even examine the injured Spider-Man.

Now, the author I think did a good job on characterization for all the heroes we love for the most part. All the heroes seemed to be in-character, with some few exceptions that nevertheless seem like pretty glaring errors. In the beginning of the story, Spider-Man is hitching a ride over the East River by shooting his web at the underside of a passing helicopter. The helicopter is shot down and Spider-Man ends up in the water, having to swim the rest of the way to his destination. But at NO point does he even have a passing concern for the occupant of the helicopter, even when he looks right at the burning wreckage! Neither he nor Captain America, who is also at the scene, remarks about or tries to help the person who was flying the thing. (I

mean, it is said that some SHIELD agents are putting out the helicopter fire, but the two superheroes don't even go to help them.) I don't know if that was a scene taken out of the original comic book or not, but even if it was, I feel like the author should have put in some normal superhero reaction of rushing to the helicopter to see if the pilot could be saved, or even just having a moment of private remorse that someone probably just died.

Then there's some things here that feel like fanfiction, as some other reviewers have mentioned on this page. There's a scene when the villains capture the entire team and strip them naked before tying them up... for no reason... (Cap gives a throwaway line saying it's to psych them out.) I'm very curious to read the comics this story is based on now, so I can compare what was actually from the comics and what was added to this novel by the author herself.

The climax of the story seemed a little lackluster, especially since the villains get away. The problem introduced at the beginning, that all the inmates of the supervillain prison have escaped, isn't really very much resolved by the end. This is problematic for a prose novel, as it leaves the reader feeling unsatisfied by the story's end. As a stand-alone novel, I feel like I'm missing things here that might be cleared up if I read the accompanying comic.

On the other hand, I really enjoyed Hawkeye and Black Widow's interactions, and a little bit of the love triangle they threw in with Spider-Woman being concerned (or jealous) of losing her partner to the spy's charms. I will definitely give more comic book novels a chance, and hope they are edited better than this one.

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### **Neil says**

This was a decent adaptation of New Avengers vol. 1, #1-6, by Michael Bendis. It kept the basic thrust of the storyline of the comics. I think the novel introduced more attitude than the comics did that lead up to the 'Civil War' storyline, but there was also more 'backstory', more expanded 'behind the scenes' stuff than was in the comics themselves. So the author seemed to write the adaptation based on stuff that had not been written yet, which was okay. There were some dramatic changes in the novelization that most assuredly did not follow the comics, but I still think these 'dramatic changes' did not adversely affect the flow of the book. It had decent character development in the book, considering it seemed like some of the characters were being 'introduced' for the first time and their 'origins' were being retconned a bit for the novelization.

What were the 'dramatic changes' in the novelization? The Sentry, Daredevil, Foggy Nelson, and Wolverine have been replaced by Hawkeye and the Black Widow. In fact, Logan does not make an appearance at all in the story. The interesting thing about Hawkeye is that Clint was already dead; he had been killed by the Scarlet Witch in Avengers vol. 1, #500 - 503. Although he would probably have joined up with the New Avengers when they formed, he never had that opportunity. In the novel, both he and Jessica are SHIELD agents; Clint tends to be on the edge of getting the boot from the organization. I do not think Tony and Steve had the same issues in the comics as they had in the novel, but that could just be my interpretation. Natasha [the Black Widow] played no part in the formation of the New Avengers; she would later play a part in the formation of the Mighty Avengers in the comics, but that is not until much later. Yet in this novel she is 'introduced' for the 'first time' as wanting to 'join' SHIELD and to leave her former masters. (view spoiler)

Leaving out the Sentry, Daredevil, and Foggy Nelson did not truly detract from the story too much. Having said that, I did miss the Sentry not taking Carnage beyond the atmosphere before ripping him in half. One of

the best parts of the comics! Wolverine was a welcome addition to the team in the comics, so I was relatively sorry not to see him included in the book. At the same time, I cannot say he played much of a part in the comics. Daredevil was instrumental in keeping most of the Raft prisoners from escaping, but still not integral to the overall storyline.

The author seems to imply (view spoiler) Jessica's status as an enhanced human whose powers are slowly returning.

There were some 'minor changes' in the novelization (view spoiler). Obviously, there is more 'backstory' in the novelization that does not occur in the comics; I do not think the 'additional stuff' necessarily detracted from the story. In some cases, I think it helped enhance the story. I do not remember as much 'internal dialogue' in the comics as there was in the book, but I think the internal dialogue helped define the characters better.

Sure, some of the verbiage came across as being lifted from the comic book forum, but that was to be expected. It is based on six issues of a comic book series. However, I felt it still fit the book.

I was kind of surprised at the amount of language in the book, to be honest. It was not obnoxiously flagrant, but it still seemed like more than there needed to be. I know comics have been moving toward a 'more mature audience' over the years, but it was still surprising to me. I have read other novels in the past where the author did not feel a need to include foul language. I get that it probably stems from an attempt to be 'more real' but it is not always necessary. But that is my opinion.

Overall, I enjoyed this adaptation. It was a worthy effort. I can see myself reading it again, sometime.

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### **Christopher Dodds says**

I did enjoy this book of the Avengers or New Avengers as it featured more comic accurate versions of the Marvel characters from the film and Tv show versions. But it seemed to me that it seemed to focus on more about a story or romance between hawkeye and black widow and less on the actual breakout of the super villains from the raft as well as the other Avengers. Apart from that the action was great and fast flowing and there was some great character development, in it and some out of character moments but otherwise a great book.

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