



Clean Room, Vol. 2: Exile

Gail Simone (Writer), Jon Davis-Hunt (Artist), Quinton Winter (Colourist), Todd Klein (Letterer), Jenny Frison (Cover Artist)

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Fan-favorite Gail Simone's (*Batgirl*, *Wonder Woman*) suspenseful debut Vertigo series continues in this volume.

Journalist Chloe Pierce had no idea that her fiance Philip's decision to pick up a book by enigmatic and compelling self-help guru Astrid Mueller would change her life forever--by ending his! Three months after reading Mueller's book, Philip had blown his brains out all over Chloe's new kitchen and something in that book made him do it.

Now, Chloe will stop at nothing as she attempts to infiltrate Mueller's clandestine organization to find the truth behind Philip's suicide and a "Clean Room" that she's heard whispers of--a place where your deepest fears are exposed and your worst moments revealed.

This volume features a spectacularly disturbing standalone issue that delves into the depths of Astrid's terrifying personal history and explains why demons have haunted her since birth.

Collecting: *Clean Room* 7-12

Clean Room, Vol. 2: Exile Details

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Author : Gail Simone (Writer) , Jon Davis-Hunt (Artist) , Quinton Winter (Colourist) , Todd Klein (Letterer) , Jenny Frison (Cover Artist)

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From Reader Review Clean Room, Vol. 2: Exile for online ebook

Alan says

I admit that I binge read at times. And, when I do that I do not always post reviews the same day I complete a trade and move onto the next one. This is my attempt at saying sometimes the reviews are shorter than they should be.

What sticks with me regarding this installment is Astrid. It is not just that she is one of the story's main characters. Unlike Chole, or the rest for that matter, we get more insight into the events that created this uncompromising woman. Many would consider Astrid very unlikable.

What I do appreciate about her, despite some arguably wallowing in self pity for part of this trade, is her conviction that she is doing the right thing.

Even if it might harm people along the way.

Stewart Tame says

An assassin's bullet strikes Astrid, and an attempt to take over the board of the Honest World Foundation is made. And we get glimpses of just what exactly this is all about. It's not pretty.

In some ways, this series reminds me of Robert Kirkman's *Outcast*. In both cases, we have otherworldly entities controlling humans in ways that resemble demonic possession. Whether that's actually what's going on remains to be seen. Also, in both titles, the doling out of clues is slow and deliberate. Simone knows very well what's going on here, but she won't tell us until she's ready. Evil woman!

This is definitely not a title for the squeamish, but I'm liking it quite a bit so far. Recommended!

Jacob says

Intensely intense again! So happy there are already a few volumes out so I can dive right in!

Jeff Raymond says

While I thought the first volume of this was pretty solid, what I'm surprised about with this second volume is how quickly it seems to fall out of the insanity and into a situation where things feel a little more structured. It becomes a miss as a result, and one I hate to admit I didn't love. I'll absolutely keep going with the story, especially since there was plenty here to keep my interest, but...

Guilherme Smee says

"O inferno é real. E o diabo está chegando". Essa é a chamada para esta segunda edição de *A Sala Imaculada*, da renomada escritora feminista de super-heróis Gail Simone e do desenhista Jon Davis-Hunt. No primeiro número ficamos provocados e apavorados sobre a história de que pseudo-demônios vivem entre as pessoas. Somente a líder de uma seita salvadora moderna e chique, Astrid Muller, pode vê-los e nos salvar dele, a partir da posse do "cartão azul" da seita. Mas, neste volume, Astrid sofre um atentado e acaba salva por um desses pseudo-demônios que foi exorcizado. Mas ela resolve abandonar a sua seita e se exilar nas montanhas. Mas se Astrid não vai salvar a humanidade, então a quem vai recair esse papel? Ou a humanidade não será mais salva? E a sua seita e os seus fiéis? Aguém vai se aproveitar desse vácuo de poder? Todas essas perguntas são respondidas e resolvidas neste volume, em que o terror se desenvolve e se intensifica, mostrando o poder da escrita de Simone e também da narrativa e design de mundo de Davis-Hunt. E agora eu estou esperando ansiosamente o terceiro volume que, infelizmente, encerra a série.

Zedsdead says

Deeper down the rabbit hole we go.

This volume contains possibly the most horrifying, dehumanizing torment I've ever seen. Kevin Smith's *TUSK*, but worse. Gail Simone and Jon Davis-Hunt are a little scary.

Davis-Hunt's illustrations crush it once again. He blends a remarkable clarity with interesting, almost cinematic choices: perfectly composed overhead views, or a series of nigh-identical panoramic shots in which the only change is the speck of a sniper in the distance.

Plot points (it's a busy volume):

(view spoiler)

Laura Cunha says

<https://leiturasdelaura.blogspot.com/...>

<http://popoca.com.br/sala-imaculada-v...>

Não é porque o Desafio Literário Popoca de janeiro é sobre o primeiro livro de uma série que vou me limitar apenas a isso. Faço ainda melhor, aproveito e leio a série completa, claro!

Nessa continuação de Sala Imaculada, a autora Gail Simone começa a mostrar a que veio com sua história pesada sobre a verdadeira realidade do mundo!

O segundo volume, Exílio, consegue ser mais opressivo do que o primeiro. A questão é que no primeiro livro da série o leitor ainda não entendeu o que está acontecendo direito, enquanto aqui a ficha começa a cair e, gente, que coisa mais apavorante.

Sala Imaculada se revela aquele tipo de história de dar pesadelos, mas que você não consegue parar de ler para ver onde ela vai acabar. Se o primeiro livro é violento, esse aqui é ainda pior. É definitivamente viciante.

Mas não necessariamente isso é bom. A história tem lá os seus furos, e, talvez por originalmente a série ser publicada em capítulos menores, tem um quê de repetição de falas que serve para lembrar o leitor que compra mensalmente a história o porquê de algumas coisas. Só que isso não funciona bem quando você junta tudo.

A minha sensação é que a história é melhor do que Gail Simone foi capaz de contar. Ficou bom, mas deixa a desejar.

Chelsea says

Another great volume!

Astrid is turning out to be a really great character! I really like that we're seeing more of what Chloe can do and Killian is still a badass character with depth to her motivations. We also get more on Capone and Duncan, Astrid's good little soldiers.

The monsters are even better in this one! I actually felt a little bad for Spark until we got more on his history. I love how Chloe's mind works in this volume!

We get more on Astrid's history and kind of how she began the company and that was interesting.

The art was great as ever. There were quite a few pages where I paused because of how striking the monsters were. A+ for that.

The ending is driving me crazy! I need the next part!

Shannon Appelcline says

I'd swear this is Gail Simone writing as Garth Ennis, but Simone of course has more sophistication and knows the boundary between grotesqueries and just gross.

The second volume of this horror comic does a good job of making more sense and slowly bringing us into the backstory of what's going. There are also some very nice action sequences. On the flip side, the characters are less intriguing and more focused on just moving along the plot.

I'm looking forward to the next volume, which is sadly the last one from what I hear (at least the last with the dying Vertigo brand).

Chad says

Who knew Gail Simone had a horror writer lurking inside her? Simone continues with the twists and turns that keeps this book interesting. We get to see more of the backstory of what is really going on as the story focuses a bit more on Astrid's backstory and each of her lieutenants. Jon Davis-Hunt continues to impress with his stunning body horror. His character work is fantastic which makes those creepy of hell monsters he draws look even more horrifying.

Agn? says

[the unexpected romance between Chloe and Detective Damakos or Spark's change from good to evil and back (hide spoiler)]

Travis Duke says

Not as good as volume 1 for me. I still think the story is entertaining but I'm not sure it has much gas left in the tank. The story stalls a bit and new characters are introduced that do very little for the story. The writing is just inconsistent and there are moments where I am asking myself where is this going. The sudden romance with the detective was off base for the story and so was the backstory for Spark, it was sloppy. Overall the plot is OK seems predictable at times and slow. I hope it picks back up.

Spoilers below for a recap:

Astrid is shot and almost dies but Spark saves her. Then she goes AWOL and some random weirdos try to take over the company but Astrid already anticipated that. Spark is good then helps astrid then gets stuck in

the clean room then goes bad then Chloe does the weird time travel thing and we see the backstory to spark.

Chris Lemmerman says

Gail Simone is sick, twisted, more than a little worrying, and absolutely amazing.

Clean Room continues to shock and surprise at every turn, with plot twists you'll never see coming (check out the first double page spread in issue 8) and yet some deeply personal and intense characterization that balances it all out. We still don't have all the answers, but the bigger picture is coming into focus, and it's scary as hell.

This book wouldn't be half as effective without Jon-Davis Hunt, who draws body horror to an insane degree while making the rest of the cast as lifelike as possible. Colourist Quinton Winter makes sure everything pops, and the Clean Room itself is a perfect sterile white that will haunt your dreams.

Not for the faint of heart, but a blindingly good read.

Shannon says

This made me hate myself. Why keep reading? Whyyyyy

Because sometimes I'm dumb and hope things will get better.

This definitely didn't.

Individual issue reviews: [#7](#) | [#8](#) | [#9](#) | [#10](#) | [#11](#) | [#12](#)

Total review score: **1.17**

Chris Walker says

I picked this up from the library despite not enjoying volume 1 because I was curious as to whether the story got any better.

It didn't.

I don't know if it's just an issue of my tastes changing as I get older, or if it's a result of overexposure to similarly themed comics, but Clean Room simply doesn't do it for me. If I had to pick an overarching problem with the comic at the end of volume 2, it's that it seems to conflate darkness with depth and overt cynicism with satire. In the first volume we were treated to a barely disguised version of Scientology that seemed to serve no deeper purpose than to ask, "Hey, wouldn't it be crazy if we combined Scientology with demons??" The second volume does nothing to deepen or expand upon Astrid's organization. Instead, the Honest World Foundation seems to serve mostly as a convenient plot device to allow Astrid and her followers to coerce, bribe, and murder their way out of any challenge that faces them. Instead, we are

introduced to another shady religious organization/business headed by a character who is one of the most laughably flat caricatures of a hypocritically depraved Christian and cutthroat businessman. Seriously, this guy obviously exists for no other reason than for the reader to hate him and wish him a gruesome death. Which, this being the kind of comic that it is, is a pretty likely occurrence.

While this game of "who can be the most heartless, depraved megalomaniac" is playing out, there is frustratingly little character development to be found. The bulk of the exposition is spent on delving into Astrid's past which, while sometimes interesting, doesn't really do anything to develop her as a character. Despite what happens to her, she's still the icy, take-no-shit, stoic Machiavellian she was at the beginning of the first book. Meanwhile, Chloe takes a backseat for most of this volume, though I will admit that one of the few bright spots was the plan she puts in place towards the end of the volume.

As for the art, Jon Davis-Hunt's work is as solid as ever. He continues to come up with novel ways to creep people out (his demon designs are particularly notable mind-bending monstrosities). At the same time, I can't help but feel there's a certain clinical feel to the characters and the world they inhabit. This is probably by design, and I can't say that it doesn't fit the narrative, but it makes me grow kind of bored in much the same way that the story does.
