



Mother Panic, Volume 1: Work in Progress

Jody Houser (Writer) , Tommy Lee Edwards (Artist) , Shawn Crystal (Artist)

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Part of Gerard Way's new imprint, DC's Young Animal!

Gotham has long been the city of the Bat, but there's a new vigilante on the streets, and she's got her own brand of violent justice to deal out to the criminals of the city.

Enter Mother Panic! By day, Violet Paige is a celebutante with a bad attitude and a temper to match, whom no one suspects of having anything lying beneath the surface of her outrageous exploits. But Violet isn't just another bored heiress in the upper echelons of Gotham City's elite. Motivated by her traumatic youth, Violet seeks to exact vengeance on her privileged peers as the terrifying new vigilante known only as Mother Panic.

Collecting: *Mother Panic* 1-6

Mother Panic, Volume 1: Work in Progress Details

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Author : Jody Houser (Writer) , Tommy Lee Edwards (Artist) , Shawn Crystal (Artist)

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Download and Read Free Online Mother Panic, Volume 1: Work in Progress Jody Houser (Writer) , Tommy Lee Edwards (Artist) , Shawn Crystal (Artist)

From Reader Review *Mother Panic*, Volume 1: Work in Progress for online ebook

Wayne McCoy says

What do you get when you cross the line with Batman? Probably something like 'Mother Panic, Volume 1: Work in Progress' by Jody Houser with art by Tommy Lee Edwards and Shawn Crystal.

By day, Violet Paige is a cranky 'celebutante,' showing up at parties and showing diffidence to everyone. By night, she is Gotham City's newest vigilante, Mother Panic. She seeks revenge for things that happened in her past. When she was a child, her father died in a questionable incident. Her older brother was unable to care for their mother or his little sister. Mother was sent to a strange institution, and sister was sent to a cruel boarding school called Gather House. Her methods are darker than Batman and that puts her into conflict with Batman and Batwoman.

I've read a lot of dark takes on Batman. This one takes the premise of a modern celebrity and how they would handle things. In this case, kind of badly. I get that Violet is messed up, but it's hard to feel anything for her, to be honest. Maybe that will change in later issues. I wasn't as crazy about Tommy Lee Edwards art. When Shawn Crystal took over, I liked his approach a bit better. This collects issues 1-6 of Mother Panic from the DC Young Animal imprint.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from DC Entertainment and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.

Keith says

Thinking about it, I'm pretty sure *Mother Panic* is not well-written, nor is it good. If you decide to read it, I would recommend reading Gerard Way's afterword first. Not that it is well-written either (it isn't), but it gives an insight into what the creative team was interested in exploring with this book, which isn't particularly clear from the collected issues themselves. According to Way (who all but claims ownership of the book, crediting writer Jody Houser mainly with snappy dialogue), the character of Mother Panic is designed to explore the invasiveness of modern-day wealth and celebrity. If Bruce Wayne's origin were to play out in today's world (Way suggests), a world in which being a part of the upper crust brings with it paparazzi, the public eye, and a certain loss of identity, how would that impact someone who is already dealing with the dual identity of being a superhero?

I think this is a sort of interesting question, but not one that *Mother Panic* deals with in practice except in the most cursory ways. This volume is divided into two three-part stories. In "Work in Progress," socialite Violet Paige returns to Gotham after an unspecified time abroad and immediately sets up shop as a high-tech superhero, for no clear reason, and with no obvious sense of an origin story. Not to say that there aren't a significant number of flashbacks to Violet's childhood -- there are, in fact, tons -- but it's hard to tell how all the pieces fit together into the character's present-day self. I don't even know if we find out what the character's superhero name is supposed to mean (and if it's a reference to some shitty band, Mr. Way, I will kill myself).

There's stuff to like about this first story regardless -- most of it due to the ways that the mood of the book is

five degrees left of center, existing in a realm of dissonance and discomfort. Violet is genuinely unlikable -- during the story she kidnaps someone after saving them and promptly forgets she did so; she keeps her senile mother imprisoned in a tower garden; and she's just generally obtuse and unpleasant. The book's first villain is a pretty classic Vertigo-style sadist. There's interesting, subversive pieces here, but they all feel pretty rough-draft.

The dialogue is terse, attempting some kind of goth-noir-surrealism that's mostly just confusing and a little frustrating. It's not the kind of book that makes much sense, plotwise, on a first read, and I'm not sure if its methods feel as intentional as something like *Batwoman: Elegy*, which also takes a few reads to make sense of, but seems to know itself in a way that *Mother Panic* does not.

The next story, "Broken Things," goes more deeply into Violet's backstory, which is essentially that she was trained to be some kind of supersoldier (or super criminal or super something else) at an orphanage that acted as a cover for some weird military (or something) science lab. And I think she's trying to take down the people in the orphanage, or maybe she's just trying to take one of the other supersoldiers from the lab, although for most of the story she seems to be friends with the soldier, but then not...I mean, I genuinely had no fucking idea by the end.

"Broken Things" is drawn by Shawn Crystal instead of artist/co-creator Tommy Lee Edwards, and while Crystal has a lovely style, it's way too cutesy for a book as grim as this, and he's also an artist who seems relatively incapable of drawing more than one kind of face. This is a problem when the villain and the hero have the same builds and the same haircuts -- most of the time I couldn't tell who was speaking, much less what was going on.

Around the edges of both stories are some scenes in which Violet goes to clubs in order to keep up her alter ego's identity, but it feels no different than most any iteration of Bruce Wayne's doofy playboy. If this is the meat of Way's pitch for this character, there's nothing distinctive regarding these themes on the finished page.

If Crystal continues drawing the book, I doubt it's going to be worth reading to see if Way and Co. can figure out how to be self-critical enough to make the thing good. I will probably give this volume a reread, wait to see who's on art duties for Vol 2, and maybe otherwise I am done with *Mother Panic*.

Logan says

Really good series, highly underrated! Does have a slow start, but this series has quickly become one of my favourites!

StoryTellerShannon says

Focus is on a new vigilante with late 90s artwork (or so it seems).

Kind of good, kind of bad.

OVERALL GRADE: C plus to B minus.

Perry Gough says

DNF -

Read the first two issues and have cancelled my ongoing subscription. Its a good premise but I find the main character to be rather boring and so up themselves that I honestly dont care about them.

Was hoping this new batch of DC would be something different but unfortunatley just like Marvel it has been very poor recently.

Charles says

Can it be possible to be both interested and disappointed at the same time? Damn. I really wanted to enjoy this book and in fact, I very much did for the first few issues. After that, there seemed to be a marked change in both the art and storytelling, but for now, let's rewind a bit.

So far, I've been really intrigued by DC's Young Animal titles. Some are way out there reboots, re-imaginings, reinterpretations, or retro whackiness! This however, falls under a new property and character that exists in the well-established Gothamverse.

Batman and Batwoman show up a bit, but you don't need to have an in-depth knowledge of either to move with the story. However, because I'm a fan of the two, I saw some cracks in the veneer. First and foremost, this title really feels like it's trying to channel some Batwoman: Elegy. In fact, you're almost hit over the head with it if you're familiar with that story and the fantastical, story book elements and rhymes throughout. I could tolerate it for a while in this, but eventually it wore thin when another character appeared who was in that mould.

What also really took me out of this story was the shift in art from Tommy Lee Edwards to Shawn Crystal. The first part was kind of edgy and sketchy looking which sort of fit well in my opinion about a story of a dejected, empty, annoyed, and rebellious young celebrity. However, when it switched to Crystal I was really confused. Yes, it did have a dreamy quality to it at times, but others the art was so jarring I couldn't recognize characters from Edwards' take on them. Add to that, Crystal's felt almost like a hybrid style of MAD Magazine, Ren and Stimpy, and mid-Century manga. Maybe they were trying to appeal to a younger audience, but this story isn't really age appropriate for them.

As for the character design, I found it pretty neat! Is it Bat Family-like or not? I tried to look past the hockey gloves from a marriage of the WWF's Legion of Doom and the Road Warrior. I tried to remind myself that things are a bit different under the Young Animal imprint.

As for the story, I was a bit lost at times. So, wait is the surgeon helping her, the same one from the awful school? How did she become so famous? Why is she a celebrity? Is all to be revealed in another volume? Wait, the super-pretty person was a guy? Super smart rats? I guess it's ok, cuz Ratcatcher's in it. Why is Violet suddenly offended when some vapid hook up rejects her (she's been doing that throughout the story)? The more it went on, the less I enjoyed it. Maybe it was too much of a good thing at first. Now, this might be for you as it's really quite different for DC but does offer the familiarity of the Gothamverse. Although I had

problems with this, I'd still say give it a go just to try something different.

Shannon Appelcline says

What if Batman really were a *total* jerk? And what if his world was as delusional as Gotham itself? And what if his story was told in a fractured, nonlinear way to strengthen that theme?

Well, you'd pretty much get the not-fun, not-interesting comic that is *Mother Panic*. It's hard to follow, it's got semi-ugly art, and the characters aren't particularly interesting.

This is one of those comics I was skimming by the end. I probably should have just set it down after the first few issues.

Roy says

Solid story but the jumping around different time lines made it more confusing. The art was really hard to follow and at stages not that appealing. Pretty disappointed with this one.

Devann says

I really wanted to like this but just ...what the fuck? I mean yeah it's basically just a young female version of Batman ...but she's also a foul-mouthed jerk who was apparently trained as an assassin or something by a boarding school full of creepy nuns and let me tell you, nothing could be further up my alley. Unfortunately the plot and art are both so sketchy that I have only the vaguest idea what is even supposed to be happening which made the whole thing more frustrating than anything. I think I will probably check out volume 2 just because I really WANT to like this but I'm not very hopeful about it.

Chad says

Mother Panic appears to just be a combination of Batwoman and Batman who curses. She's a celebute who wants revenge on anyone that has to do with this weird boarding school she was forced to go to for 10 years. The flashbacks come in such a disjointed way (sometimes just one panel) that it was really hard to make sense of what happened at the school. I learned more about the characters from the Who's Who entries at the back of the book than I did from the actual story. There wasn't a single likable or interesting character in the book. And the dialogue had such gems as "What the f#cking f#ck is going on?". Feels like the writing of an angsty teenager not the same writer that writes Faith over at Valiant (which is a great book).

The only things I really liked about the book were the visual design of Mother Panic's costume (It looks damn cool.) and the backup story. It was a story about an overnight talk radio jock who was pro-Batman. He's murdered and the owner brings in an anti-Batman podcaster to replace him. It has absolutely nothing to do with Mother Panic.

Received an advance copy from DC and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

Wing Kee says

This book is as lost as Violet.

World: The art for the first 3 issues was good, I like the style, reminded me of Sean Murphy which is always a great thing. The other 3 issues were not so good, the exaggerated facial expressions shifted the tone and made for a janky read. The world building here is fragmented and broken much like the main character (more below), there is not enough context to engage readers and also not enough to build and establish Violet's little piece of Gotham that we are supposed to care about. The Bat family cameos tried to tie her into Gotham but they didn't do anything other than take away from the Bat family since after 6 issues you feel like the Bat family would have stepped in to do something about this character. A lot of work needed in the world building to make this book something.

Story: Fractured and broken and half assed. To dig into the core of the issue of the story we need to dig into the character of Violet (which I'll get into below), but wow the story is a mess. The pacing is all over the place, the scene jumps are choppy and not in a stylish way where pieces fit together in the end. After two 3 issues arcs readers are still lost to what the point of the series is and what the point of Violet's mission is. There is also not enough time with the side characters to care about what they are doing and what even is the matter. We get little glimpses of Gotham and don't get enough to truly know how this ties into the point of the story. We don't get enough context for the point of the story and in the end Violet's actions seem pointless and the story is mindless.

Characters: The heart of the book and the biggest issue of the book. I don't mind flawed and broken characters, Batman is the most broken of characters but he's well written and therefore relatable and can capture the interest of readers. Violet is damaged, we know very early on and we want to sympathize, we see her family, we see snippets of her past (there are a lot of similarities to her and Kate Kane). But her actions are not well motivated enough, or more precisely she's not well written enough for us to understand her actions and to see her crusade, all we get are snippets of her acting like a directionless character that has a moral compass that spins around so erratically we don't know what to expect and do. It's not that we can't predict how she will act, cause unpredictable characters are also fun, but it's inconsistent. The rest of the cast are throwaways, given the rich potential there is there they get snippets here and there and even no set-up and we are to accept them as is...this is just bad writing.

Poor writing and pacing hurts this series.

Onward to the next book!

? percy ♡ says

I AM FURIOUS

((the following thing also happened to like two other comics but this one was my MOST ANTICIPATED COMIC OF 2017))

- adobe digital editions stopped working
- ok that's fine just uninstall then reinstall
- but this... didn't work??
- when it finally worked MY COMPUTER DIED
- FINALLY managed to get access to another computer
- no longer have file
- go to download off netgalley
- IT'S BEEN ARCHIVED
- FUCK MY LIFE

so out of the 4 young animal ARCs i got, i only managed to read the ones by gerard way. maybe this is a sign that we're telepathically connected. clearly. obviously. anyway

Rory Wilding says

Reading this first volume of Mother Panic from DC's Young Animal imprint reminded me of what was morally wrong about the character of Batman in Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice. Although I thought the casting of Ben Affleck was spot-on, given the material he worked with, the role itself of a self-loathing vigilante with brutal methods who doesn't mind the bloodshed seems to contradict what is great about the Dark Knight Detective in the comics.

Please click [here](#) for my full review.

Koen says

Ohhh, this is too bad, it started out so promising!

Good art for the first part, but still the story was lacking.. well everything: direction, ambiance, feelings, a backbone,...

Nope, this character just won't do.....

Frédéric says

A reverse Batman type (Black/White, male/female, socialite/tabloid trash...) totally unlikeable psycho character in a confused and badly paced plot.

Good art by Edwards on the 1st half- not his best though- with totally inappropriated art by Shawn Crystal on the 2nd. Way too cartoony for the would-be violent gothic story the plot wishes it were.

Young Animals never cease to disappoint.
