



Atomic Robo: The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific

Brian Clevinger, Scott Wegener (Illustrations)

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Invented by Nikola Tesla in 1923, Atomic Robo went on to be a soldier, a scientist, an entrepreneur, and an explorer whose adventures span the globe. This one begins, if you couldn't guess from the title, in the vast expanse of the south Pacific. The year is 1951. World War II concluded just six years ago, but its mark is still felt in this remote part of the world in ways that one could have ever predicted!

Atomic Robo: The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific Details

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Author : Brian Clevinger , Scott Wegener (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Atomic Robo: The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific for online ebook

Travis says

Lots of action in this volume but not so much humor. That's a shame because the best part of Atomic Robo is the humor. Also the concept behind the story (female jet pack soldiers in the Pacific after WWII) just wasn't as interesting to me as past volumes. Robo takes a backseat to the female cast, which is another shame since his character is the best and most developed. And while I could discern some of the female soldiers from each other (mostly the mechanic) the majority kind of blended together despite the quirks given to each one (e.g. accents, gear).

The introductions say this was a story both the writer and artist had wanted to tell many volumes ago but first had to hone their craft. If this story had appeared earlier, without the establishment of Robo's character and all the humor, it might have fared better in my mind.

Still, any Atomic Robo story is more entertaining than most stuff out there.

Bill says

Back to the outrageous, mashed up sense of fun of the earlier books.

Josh says

This volume kind of sticks out like a sore thumb of the Atomic Robo stories I have read so far. Considering all the kooky stuff that has happened so far, for some reason this volume doesn't feel like it really belongs in the Atomic Robo universe. Even Robo himself doesn't feel quite right in this volume, almost as if he is being dumbed-down just to make the She-Devils look better. That being said, there is some great manga inspired action present here and lots of it. Wegener's vehicles and backgrounds never looked better and the new colorists really help make the book pop in general. Unfortunately, however, Wegener's people and especially women looked like they took a real dip in quality which is kind of bad given the sheer number of ladies present.

Tyler Poole says

Though I could easily see actual shark jumping occurring in an Atomic Robo story, I think there may have been a proverbial one with the time-traveling dinosaur a few volumes back. I thought they'd reversed the trend, but all the stories set in Robo's past lack the wonder the earlier volumes had. The humor is still strong, but I found the narrative wanting. There were entirely too many unexplained engineering marvels (which I suppose are entertaining enough) instead of abstract scientific concepts (which I propose are much more fun).

Tazio Bettin says

So I made a mistake, but a honest one. I told myself ok, #6 was pretty awful, with bad pacing, an all round uninteresting story to something that should have been pretty cool, maybe AR's jumped the shark, but maybe not, maybe it was just a hiccup. The first five issues were pretty awesome. Maybe the comicbook isn't dead yet.

It's dead.

This seventh volume just confirms that Atomic Robo is dead to me. The flying she-devils, another pretty cool piece of history poorly played by a comicbook series that has just plain and simply run out of juice. And the writer's preface where he was giving himself a blowjob on how good he's been at making cool female characters that aren't sexism victims but actually are cool female leads was in poor taste. You want to end the sexist trend? Just do it. Don't give yourself a pat on the shoulder for doing it, otherwise you're lampshading something that just needs to feel like the natural thing to do, not a bait for applause.

The humour is dead, the action is nothing new, the story is monotonous and the plot is absolutely unoriginal. On top of that, the art's quality has dramatically decreased. Rest in pieces, Atomic Robo. I'm truly sorry and I'll miss the verve and the ingenuity of the first five issues.

Thomas Mcphee says

A fun and inventive story with great art and a nice sense of humor.

Mike says

Robo is usually the smartest guy in the room. Which is awesome for those of us who got tricked in early childhood into that same self-image (and cling to it with white, scrawny knuckles long past its expiration date). Dr. Dinosaur, countless human antagonists, even Tesla himself (I think) in one story.

But that gets old after a while. And predictable. What if Robo wasn't the smartest entity/intelligence going? Those minority of stories in the Atomic Robo pantheon are even more interesting.

Like this one, where the She-Devils are way beyond what Robo can stay ahead of...

and this...

and this...

For a Robo book, it's actually hard to switch gears into sustaining my attention on one continuous story. I'm used to fluffy fun bits of his history with thin connective tissue of internal references to make it add up.

There's something off about the fun factor in this story. Is it the endless chase sequences? The countdown-to-doom we see in every lazy drama/suspense/sci-fi?

I'm used to Robo and his friends outsmart the enemy/challenge in weird/funny/unexpected ways. This was a little more...conventional. And a bit tragic. Painful really.

Stephanie Griffin says

I was disappointed in this, the seventh volume of Atomic Robo. She-Devils of the South Pacific? Sounds fabulous! What could have been a female-empowering tale is really just a shoot-em-up in the sky. Over and over. Boring.

Kurt says

This is a big fun pulpy story about Atomic Robo meeting a rough crew of women who swoop around on jetpacks committing random acts of piracy in the Pacific just after World War II. There's a lot of heart here, with strong female characters outclassing our hero, and they all join together to save North America from a comically huge threat, and the action level is high. As usual with Atomic Robo, there's lots of humor too, especially in Gail Simone's charming introduction. My only troubles with the book are that the artwork tends to be unclear - lots of energy, not a lot of "here's which jetpack/ship/robot I mean to portray by this squiggle" - and that the whole thing is pretty lightweight. This is a summer blockbuster movie, not a thoughtful award-bait film, even in the context of a comic series that leans toward big action and humor most of the time. If you like Atomic Robo, then you'll like this part of the series, but I recommend one of the earlier volumes for a better introduction to the character.

Christopher Colton says

In the afterward, Brian Clevinger and Scott Wegener discuss how this story was conceived early on, but they waited to do it until they felt their writing and art skills had improved enough to do it justice. Personally, I feel they definitely succeeded. The Flying She-Devils of the Pacific is a good pulpy story set amidst the aftermath of the War in the Pacific, and definitely feels like a somewhat realistic premise (you know, assuming there were airships, jetpacks, earthquake bombs, and flying robot suits in the 1950s). I really liked that an all-woman team of sky pirates largely goes wholly unremarked-upon, except for Robo's surprise at finding them on an uncharted island with an enormous airship. No one says any variation of "they're only women"; they're simply there, and they do what they do, and it's treated as perfectly normal (again, as normal as airships, jetpacks, earthquake bombs, and flying robot suits in the 1950s can really be).

My only real complaint is that the story's brevity meant the individual She-Devils weren't particularly fleshed out as characters, but there's really only so much that can be done in the amount of pages they had to work with and they chose to focus on the team as a whole rather than the individual members. I'm not sure it's the choice I would have preferred, given what happens in the climax, but I can't necessarily say it was the wrong one, either.

Brian says

I like Atomic Robo. He's the robot version of Hellboy. This was my least favorite trade, though. None of the She-Devils is really defined all that well, other than "mechanic" and "leader" and "Crazy." There's plenty of action, but maybe too much? An explosion here, heat trails there, gunfire over yonder, it's a bit much. I applaud the fact that they wanted to do a female centric story without resorting to tired tropes, and they did, but it didn't make for an amazing tale.

Alan says

I know why I enjoy Atomic Robo. It is the other side of the coin from Hellboy (which I also enjoy along with B.R.P.D. a great deal). A fish out of water character who's adventures can easily cover a 100+ years because Nikola Tesla is Robo's creator. Where Hellboy and B.R.P.D. deal with the supernatural, Robo is dealing, usually with crazed scientists.

While testing a new Tesladyne plane in 1951 Robo is shot down in the Pacific. There he discovers a culture of smugglers, thieves and adventurers. The She-Devils are women pilots and mechanics who had found freedom during the war and elected not to return to the U.S. and their old lives.

To avoid spoilers I will say that Robo and the She-Devils team up to solve a threat to the U.S that brings back memories of the Japanese science fiction movie Atragon.

A. Nixon says

Review as of Sept 8, 2014:

I'm still confused where this story seems to fit into the timeline of the graphic novels (which may just be that I get too caught up in the story to notice the time/date stamps at the beginning of sections) but I did still enjoy it. The girls were great and it was nice to not see Robo as the only hero in the piece (well, him and Jenkins, as per usual!). These are some kick-ass ladies and it was nice to see who they were based on, in the back of the book.

Review as of February 13, 2013:

This one was great! The first few pages were confusing, granted (because I wasn't sure who was who -- good guys versus bad guys), but it all came together when the She-Devils were introduced. And, I have to say, *I loved these characters!* They were so awesome. Robo's surprise at finding that they were all women was hilarious and the writing really picked up from where it was in the previous volume. A very satisfying read and I think it's one of my favourites in the series.

Sunil says

While I love the idea of the Flying She-Devils—and the fact that they have fairly distinct character designs—there are too many of them to really give attention to characterization beyond archetypes. There's

barely a plot, and I wasn't really engaged the way I usually am, especially because the action sequences were kind of hard to follow. I mean, I love a team of lady pirates with jetpacks as much as the next guy, but this book seems like a cool concept the creators didn't really know what to do with.

B says

I'm really into this series for Dr. Dinosaur. I just don't like the Atomic Robo straight adventure stuff very much. It always feels a little too straight. But I never know from the title/cover whether it will be a straight adventure or a wacky adventure.

I missed the opening panel and the back of the book where they tell you the year. So I was confused for a little while.

There's something uncomfortable about the choice of villain, I think.
