



God Is Dead, Volume 1

Jonathan Hickman (Creator) , Mike Costa (Writer) , Di Amorim (Artist)

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Like a thunderbolt from heaven, the epic first chapter of Jonathan Hickman's God is Dead is here!

Mankind has argued over the existence of gods since the dawn of time. In modern eras it's been fashionable to mock religious believers with taunts of scientific testimony and fact. But when the gods of old begin to reappear on earth and claim the domain of man for their own, the world is thrown into a state of utter anarchy. Now Horus walks the streets of Egypt, Zeus has taken over the Sistine Chapel, and Odin is coordinating the dissection of the earth among the returned deities. Mankind held sway over the world for thousands of years and their hubris over that time has made them powerful, but when faced with the divine, can mortal weapons put an end to the second coming of the gods? After the missiles fly and the tanks roll, the gods still remain.

As the world tumbles toward apocalypse, a group of scientists seek to do the impossible... give birth to the gods of science. As the greedy deities battle for absolute rule over the material world, a new divinity arises and the world will tremble beneath the war of the gods!

Collecting: Jonathan Hickman's *God is Dead* 1-6

God Is Dead, Volume 1 Details

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Author : Jonathan Hickman (Creator) , Mike Costa (Writer) , Di Amorim (Artist)

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From Reader Review God Is Dead, Volume 1 for online ebook

L. McCoy says

Gotta admit, I'm surprised that it's Hickman who wrote this...

What's it about?

So in today's world where society seems to always debate over religion, a bunch of crazy and terrible things start happening all around the world. It becomes more clear what's happening when gods of various sorts of mythology (Greek, Norse, Egyptian, etc.) come back to Earth and they are pissed. Meanwhile, a secret group of scientists tries figure out to fight them.

Pros:

The story is a very interesting idea. I imagine that it would be about as crazy as this book depicts it.

The art is very well done.

Some of you may know that Avatar Press (the publisher of this book) is known for exciting and gory action scenes. This book is no exception, there is a lot of that!

The dragons are pretty cool.

The comparisons between mass news media and batshit insane religious zealots is pretty clever IMO!

Cons:

This book can get predictable. I saw most of the twists coming.

The characters are pretty poorly done. The gods are dicks and I get that they're the villains of the story but many authors manage to write villains that are perhaps dicks but still interesting... not here, they're just dicks. The human characters are very generic.

The dialogue is terrible. This surprised me because I'm a fan of Hickman (he wrote East of West which is my favorite comic) and one of the things he does super well is dialogue, not in this book though.

The comparisons between mythology and modern religion... it's beaten into the ground so much in this book.

I do believe in God and Jesus but I don't mind (in fact, I kind of like) commentary with different views on a topic if it's well written (IIRC, the review I posted that got the most likes is a five star review for Preacher Book One so it's not like I'm some super religious nut). The problem here is that instead of being told through good storytelling, it's told through characters beating this point into the fucking ground and not even making any interesting points. It's also often at random times too.

The fan service gets a bit gratuitous. I don't mind nudity but there were a few scenes where it just seemed to be there for no reason other than "they're boobies". It wasn't nearly as bad as some comics (example: Saga) but still mildly irritating.

The ending is sort of rushed.

Overall:

I was torn between giving this a 2 star rating or a 3 star rating. I went with 2 because I disliked more things than I liked and while it is exciting and has some cool stuff like dragons, it's mostly dumb. I wouldn't say it's awful but I expect a lot better from Hickman (and with a new volume of East of West coming this week I'm hoping to see some of his usual awesome writing).

EisNinE says

A Massive Disappointment: Hickman Fans, Stand Clear

Jonathan Hickman's writing has been impressive on books like 'The Manhattan Projects' and 'East meets West' (which I'm currently reading and really like), so I was looking forward to seeing his over-saturated imagination put to work on an Avatar title. I liked the simple cover designs, and I thought he might be able to do something exciting with a 'return of the old gods' scenario. Eh... Not so much.

The first problem is the art of Di Amorim. Jeebus. I take no pleasure in tearing down the work of others; but what starts off as a merely pedestrian effort in an ugly and outdated style regresses to some of the worst, sub-mediocre work I've seen in a while. Avatar has some talented artists locked up in their weird little publishing dungeon, like Jacen Burrows, Gianluca Pagliarani, Paul Duffield, Facundo Percio, and Oscar Jimenez. But their 'B-List' -- or in this case 'C-List' -- artists are awful. These are the guys/girls they call to scribble out 22 pages a month when the artists who aren't too lazy to look up a photo on Google are busy.

Look at this shit! Feeling any nostalgia for early nineties Image comics yet? The correct answer is 'no'...

While the art is horrible, it's just the most obvious problem; this 'godawful' piece-of-shit would have been a complete waste of time and effort for a better artist. Avatar knew how bad the script was. As popular as Jonathan Hickman is, why else would they not match him with a better artist, a 'name' artist? If I were guessing... and I am... Hickman just gave his 'co-writer' Mike Costa a phone call and an email with some bullet points, then let him do whatever the hell he wanted. This thing makes his 'Secret Wars' event for Marvel look like fucking genius. Best of all, the idiotic quotes from Hickman about 'pissing off' humorless atheists with 'God is Dead'. Huh? Given all the murderous assholes killing innocent people in the name of their god, I'll suggest it's not atheists that desperately need a sense of humor.

I guess I realized that 'God is Dead' might be a new low in post-2001 comics -- passing mediocre, to bad, to hilariously bad, to irredeemably awful, and finally embracing pure shittiness -- after a sequence in issue #3. The 'desperate resistance', made up of five characters we know nothing and care nothing about, go from conspiring in their sewer-headquarters to hopping a small plane piloted by Gaby's conveniently introduced father. After their plane is suddenly attacked by a dragon (the wrong kind of dragon, but whatever), everyone is forced to parachute from the plane - including the Stephen Hawking-double, complete with the robot voice and mechanical wheelchair, which someone was prescient enough to equip with a parachute... I had to laugh at the tiny depiction of the wheelchair under the canopy, about to safely land with the others (see the picture below, top panel). When they hit the ground, it just so happens that the body of the dead god they've been looking for is twenty feet away, undisturbed. WTF?! *Attacked by a dragon and forced to evacuate the plane, the entire group, including the quadriplegic in the huge mechanical wheelchair, safely land exactly where they wanted to land in the middle of the war-torn Asian subcontinent.*

Every 250 lb robo-chair carrying a 120 lb paraplegic should be equipped with a parachute. That 370 lbs of metal, plastic and bone would no doubt make for a safe landing, right?

He's "good at his job"? Then why was he clearly planning on flying further, giving no warning to evacuate until after the dragon attack disabled the plane, their parachutes landing directly on top of Divine Corpse-

Central? Bitch, please.

Then there's this delightful sequence, which perfectly sums up the wretchedness of this book... who the fuck keeps buying this comic? I made the mistake of ordering volume 1; it happens. But who bought volumes 2, 3, and 4? Why?

My apologies.

If things like that don't bother you, who knows, maybe this IS the book for you. The dialogue is so bad at times, the action so insipid, I think Hickman should cut his losses and abort this paycheck-to-remodel-his-kitchen before it drags his reputation through the mud any further. As far as the story, screw it. If there is anyone out there who thinks this book is worth defending, I should let them have the fun of doing the play-by-play on this convoluted mess: first the Nahautl Pantheon kills the Hindu Pantheon, then the Egyptian Pantheon kills the Nahautl Pantheon, then the Norse Pantheon kills the Egyptian Pantheon... But I guess I won't. I suppose that last bit technically qualifies as a spoiler, but this series was spoiled the second it hit the printer. Hickman fans: stick to the books he's actually writing, he has some great ongoing titles. Di Amorim: you should probably think about another career choice.

Bill says

This is where Hickman and I finally part ways. After slogging through six of his creator owned epics I'm done hoping for depth and characterization and getting hot twaddle instead. If you read the paragraph long description on the back of this volume you will have read all there is to this story so far. Hickman's got the high concept sound byte down to a science but he can't seem to turn it into a satisfying story. Within the span of these six issues you learn nothing about the main characters, the gods or the world they inhabit. I didn't care about a single thing that happened because everything seemed to take place in a vacuum. And the art? Boring. It's full of gods battling gods and it still manages to be boring. If you're looking for a ridiculous double page spread of two characters with no history or chemistry kissing, I guess this is the book for you. I'll read something else.

Christopher says

Pardon the pun, but this is godawful.

Lisa says

I love the idea behind this graphic novel, with the old gods returning to Earth (this time, it's personal!) to claim dominion over mankind, which they turn out to be rather good at.

As the remaining human population gets mostly sacrificed and the gods start a Battle Royale for control over all, a small band of people known as The Collective have gone underground, looking for a way to fight back.

****Also posted at Randomly Reading and Ranting****

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Baska says

eh..

Sadie Oldenkamp says

Worst comic E-V-E-R. If it was possible to give negative stars I would. It is a comic that reads like the fan fiction of a fedora tipping, forever alone, super creepy guy we all knew in high school. Don't waste your time on this garbage.

Philip says

I really did not like this. There are several minor things that make me wonder if the creators did any research: a Chinese dragon being drawn as a European dragon, Thor and Loki being brothers (which is an invention of Stan Lee). Most of all, it seems like the writers just don't actually understand the functions of mythology. It feels like they haven't read any actual myths, but instead are working from depictions of gods from superhero comics.

Kris43 says

the basic story of this series drew me in...it sounded brilliant and intriguing.
even the start was breathtaking. the gods returned and found the state of our world unsatisfactory, so they regained their place. wow! loved Egyptian gods, south american, greek ones and norse! so cool!
by the end of the #2 they all get reduced to these pathetic simplifications who wear superhero-like funny costumes, bash each other on the head with hammers and shoot lightning bolts... shallow as a puddle.
disappointing!

Jonathan Huffman says

Volume 1 of God Is Dead is pretty bad, which is usually an indication to steer clear of the comic entirely. However, once Jonathan Hickman leaves, and Mike Costa takes over writing duties, the series improves dramatically. This, yeah, it's pretty rough-- though the concept is a blast, and so is the wanton depravity.

Make it through it and get to the good stuff.

Khanh Christian says

This is the dumbest, the most brainless thing I have ever read... Brainless violent, gods are at war, gods are killed here and there with very few narrations.

Edward Kaye says

This is not up to Hickman's usual high standard. It feels like it's trying way too hard to be a Warren Ellis superhero deconstruction piece, but falls way short of the mark.

Sarah says

Oh Jonathan Hickman, why? So violent. No build up, just distruction. I love so much of your work, but I will not be reading this series.

Courtney says

[
I apologize in advance if I don't
