



Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Red Scare

Daniel Way (Writer) , Phil Noto (Illustrations) , Charles Soule (Writer) , Steve Dillon (Illustrations)

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A new terrorist mastermind rises, with close ties to a member of the Thunderbolts - and his extremist cell has weaponized decommissioned Crimson Dynamos! Meanwhile, emotions run high as the all-new Thunderbolts are tearing themselves apart...and when Deadpool's not happy, it's no laughing matter! Can the fractious team pull together long enough to combat a deadly terrorist threat?

Collecting *Thunderbolts* 7-12

Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Red Scare Details

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Author : Daniel Way (Writer) , Phil Noto (Illustrations) , Charles Soule (Writer) , Steve Dillon (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Red Scare for online ebook

Joe Young says

Daniel Way - writer

Phil Noto & Steve Dillon - illustrators

Way continues his excellent run on the new Thunderbolts title. Tensions within the group boil over as the Thunderbolts confront Ross and demand the truth. The identity of the terrorist mastermind who Ross is hunting is revealed, and there are unexpected ties to a member of the group. Elektra and Punisher continue their "relationship" (much to the dismay of the unstable Deadpool) until a Frank is confronted with Elektra's true nature.

The tensions are high, action bombastic and the drama is gripping in this underrated series. Excellent art from Noto and the always reliable Dillon make this volume a visual treat. Recommended 4/5

Dimitris says

I'm surprised I finished it. I'm SHOCKED at how fucking bad THAT was.

With a team like that. With Punisher and Deadpool being 2 of my favourite characters.

With Noto who I love his artwork.

And it was still a piece of TRASH.

This is UNREADABLE. It SUCKS.

The plot, the dialogue the whole fucking story is for the fucking bin. This is what I get for buying the whole series without looking at any reviews or anything. Though that wouldn't help seeing people rating this piece of SHIT with 5 stars. I do NOT for the life of me understand HOW and WHY would anyone like this.. unless you're just looking at the pictures/turning the pages without reading anything, there's absolutely NOTHING there. Nothing. Nada. I'm fucking DONE for the moment.

I'm not going to put myself through volume 3 of course.. that was fucking boring as fuck.. and that's coming from someone who read 100+ issues of SPAWN. FUCKING SPAWN. Bah. I'm done. You'd be better off reading Betty & Veronica than that.

A boring as fuck read, with every single character being OUT of fucking character, besides Red Hulk because WHO gives a SHIT about him? With cringe-worthy scenes, with FUCKING TERRORISTS in it that vomits CLICHES like it's the 90s--- just no. There's nothing here.

PS. If you thought Red Hulk is the worst thing to come out of Marvel since Howard the fucking Duck, you should see him over here. He's utterly disgustingly boring. They managed to make a cloned 1-dimensional character with another colour even MORE bland. Done.

NEVER read that piece of shit. EVER.

Scott Lee says

This was a solid volume as well. The team challenges Red Hulk and forces an at least partial reorganization of power that limits Thunderbolt Ross's previously absolute control over their information and agenda. There's some interesting things with the Leader who, of course, proves not to be as controllable as Ross hoped.

But most of the volume is a Punisher story in one way or another as we follow the developments that stem from Frank's involvement with Elektra and the ties between that relationship and the current mission. Frank's twisted, and I've never much liked him. I figure he's wrong about just about everything, and his continued freedom in a Marvel Universe where any number of heroes could get him locked away forever--or kill him if necessary--astounds me, but I guess there are enough people who like him more than I do, that that stretcher of a plot item is just constantly ignored. Still within the context of this book he's perfect, and spending one issue and most of another entirely inside his head is a wonderful character study.

Anchorpete says

Ok, so this book was an improvement upon the last trade. I am thinking that adding Charles Soule as a co-writer definitely helped. In the previous trade, it felt like there was a lot of conspiracy added to make the story seem complicated, but in the end there was not an intriguing larger picture to back it up. It is sort of like the characters on this team- Punisher, Elektra, Red Hulk, Deadpool, Venom, essentially characters whose main purpose is to be bad ass and kill people. They always leave you wanting more. Each of these characters make great supporting characters on teams where there are characters with more depth.

Unfortunately, if each character is the equivalent of a foot of water, the Thunderbolts team creates a pretty shallow pool.

Shannon Appelcline says

So is this better than Way's first volume? Sort of. I mean, at least it's not wall-to-wall military action. But instead we get increasingly intricate conspiracy plots that I can't really make heads or tails of. There are Gamma-powered Crimson Dynamo, but they just seem to show up at inopportune moments, and then at worst are a minor inconvenience. There's something about the Red Leader too, but it really doesn't make much sense, at least not in the confines of this volume. And where exactly is Mercy this whole volume?

Oh, and the characterization is really lacking, with the exception of Deadpool, who Way knows how to write.

There's an immediate upgrade when Soule writes the last issue. We get a plot that actually makes sense and a spotlight on the Punisher that reveals him as something more than just the-guy-who-shoots-the-gun. It's not enough to save the volume, but it's a good indication that things are about to get better.

Sam Quixote says

The second volume of Marvel NOW! Thunderbolts sucks! Why? It has a mind-numbingly boring plot: Elektra's brother Orestez has weaponized a bunch of Crimson Dynamo suits and sent them off to blow stuff up. Thunderbolts are..... zzzzzz.....

I don't know what it is about the Middle East and Marvel (or DC for that matter), but when a story takes place there it's always the same: superhero has to stop terrorist from using a bomb to blow some stuff up, superhero succeeds, we get a shot of an innocent kid showing us that, hey, they're not all violent extremists, they're just like you and me! and then they move on. Same predictable guff in this book. Not that they're wrong, extremists make up a very small percentage of the population anywhere, it's just so banal to read.

Meanwhile the downright pitiful "love triangle" between Deadpool, Elektra and Punisher mercilessly grinds on. I didn't buy it's forced nature in the first book, I hate it even more in the second. Were Deadpool and Elektra even dating in the first place or did Deadpool imagine it? Anyway, I absolutely don't care who Elektra gets it on with, I just want it to stop being a plot point that Daniel Way thinks the audience want to read.

Way is a very uneven writer in terms of quality writing/storytelling and while I thought he did a good job with the first volume, the second is just bad. The plotting is dull and unimaginative, the characters' interactions haven't developed any further since the first book – it's the same unchanged dynamic as if nothing's happened to them as a team – and some scenes are downright bizarre, like how he writes British people. I'm British and I can tell you only cartoon versions of Brits talk the way they do in this book ("Oi, shut it, you slaag!" etc.). It's actually kinda funny to read but supremely dumb nevertheless. Phil Noto's art is ok for the most part but to be honest a lot of his stuff feels workmanlike and uninspired.

The final issue that closes out the volume is the only part of the book that doesn't suck. Writer Charles Soule takes over from a beleaguered Daniel Way and writes what is basically a Punisher comic. And who joins Soule for this issue? The consummate Punisher artist, that's right, Steve Dillon! YESSS! The issue is the best kind of Punisher story – simple, straightforward, violent: Frank hunts down Elektra's brother and kills him. In one amazing scene Frank head-butts Orestez so hard, Orestez's neck snaps!

This one comic made me wish they had jettisoned the Thunderbolts, Way and Noto entirely and let Soule/Dillon do a Punisher book instead. Unfortunately, we got a piss-awful Thunderbolts book with a good Punisher issue closing it out. At just the second volume, Thunderbolts has taken a nosedive in quality and is definitely missable but, if you're a huge Punisher fan like me, it's worth reading just for the Punisher issue.

Lee Diamond says

Relatively good story

Reasonably paced. With a few good quips. Read this in the run up to infinity and it felt rather like filler.

Sebastian Song says

If insurgency warfare is like eating soup with a fork, Daniel's Thunderbolts is eating soup with a fork while being roasted on a turning skewer.

Anne says

Alrighty. Well, this was just kind of *ok*.

I wouldn't say I'm a huge fan of the Thunderbolts team in general but, even so, I think this was a pretty weak volume. Lots of Red Hulk Ross doing his grumpy-mustache routine, lots of Punisher doing his douchebag routine, lots of Leader doing his sniveling amnesiac routine, and lots of Deadpool doing a mediocre Deadpool routine. Electra had a decent little storyline, but Venom is basically a non-character in this one.

The bad guys were standard dudes in robot suits financed by a scheming villain being financed by another scheming villain being armed by another... <-- you get the point

The art was nice, though.

I liked the look of the comic quite a bit and thought the colors popped off the page really well.

Overall, this was just bland. Not terrible, not unreadable.

But it lacked that certain spice that would have made it a more memorable volume.

Silas says

I enjoyed this as much as the first volume of this edition of Thunderbolts. It's a bit more espionage than military assault, but based on the conceit of the book, that makes sense. I like that it involves a bunch of military themed characters, but their individual personalities lead to different stories, since they all come from different places. The team is not particularly united here, but that makes it all the more interesting to read.

Charlie says

I really enjoyed this story arc immensely. I found myself constantly going back into it at every free break. It's great!

What I didn't like was the odd shift in Way's righting of Deadpool. I'm currently reading his Deadpool collection (which is terrific) and it seems like he *ahem* lost his way while focusing more on Punisher,

Elektra, and the subplot of the Leader's presence while building up a rather subpar villain.

I do like how Frank Castle wrapped up the Natchios arc up neatly, but the lack of a strong villainous presence and the lost tone of Deadpool through this collection definitely ranks it below the first arc.

Looking forward to collection #3!!!

Jason says

Big let down from the first volume, which I wasn't all that happy with to start. Although the last story was pretty good: Dillon was back as penciler (great choice for this book), and a different, guest writer (who would make a better permanent writer for this team, in my opinion).

Harley says

Decent Comic not the greatest but still was good.

Pros

The Punisher X Electra wasn't expecting and in comic romance but it worked.

Good art, the art was good i like most of Marvel Now art but this one stands out on top.

Great Variant covers at the end.

Cons

Punisher / Deadpool team up, it didn't work putting Deadpool and Punisher on the same team makes no sense as they are fierce enemies.

Some of the story didn't link up that much, some did some didn't.

In Conclusion

It is an alright comic not the best not the worst about a 3.5, The only reason i picked it up was because of the Punisher.

Sonic says

Am I the only person bothered by the fact that the Hulk does not really resemble Bruce Banner at all? Maybe when hacks like Sal Buscema or Herb Trimpe drew the Hulk and everyone had the exact same face there was more of a correlation,...

But I have seen many (what I consider better) artists who seem quite content that they look like two completely different beings.

(I felt that in the Avengers movie they (maybe for the first time ever) tried to make Hulk look like Bruce Banner. [Good Job, Joss Whedon!])

So now we have the Red Hulk, and yes at first it was supposed to be a big mystery as to who this Red Hulk was.

And personally, I groaned when we found out that it was that hot-headed militant tool, general Ross.

Though, I admit there is a certain poetic logic to that.

And no I don't want Red Hulk to have a big stupid "cop mustache" but it just might be even more stupid that

Ross has a mustache and full head of hair, and then he morphs into the Red Hulk and he has a full head of hair but no mustache. Am I right?
Am I the only person bothered by this sh!t?
Couldn't they just have Ross shave it?

Anyway, .. Daniel Way gets these characters, and their interactions are wonderful, and the dysfunctional nature of this group is a joy to read. I did however find myself missing Dillon's illustrations when he was not around.

Jeff says

What a disappointment!!

I really wanted to like this, but alas, no. On the drawing board this looks like a can't miss. First, it's the Thunderbolts, Marvel's go to superhero group for something off-kilter or shady. Second, the cast of characters: A Hulk, Deadpool, the Punisher, Elektra, Venom – worth a fan boy squeal, no? Third, their taking down terrorists, who's not down for that? Like I said, in theory, awesome.

The bad...

It's the Thunderbolts, Marvel's go to superhero group for something off-kilter and shady.

The Hulk? It's the red one. (view spoiler) He's in charge and, well, he's not green.

Deadpool? Aside from one very funny scene with Blind Al, he's not at the top of his wisecracking game.

The Punisher? He's slimming down (never a good thing), sleeping with Elektra (usually a good thing) and morose and moody. Make yourself at home, Frank, go shoot someone.

Elektra? Her brother is the terrorist, who's selling gamma-powered Crimson Dynamos to the highest bidder, so she's pouty and shifty and not smexy at all.

Venom? It's the good guy Flash Thompson one, so any crazy killing sprees are out of the question.

Way throws in a dumbed down Red Leader because he's the only one who owns a laptop.

The plot? Combine some curious (as in, what the hell just happened) moments, with some obtuse artwork and you have yourself a two star rating, Jack.

Now, I have to read volume #3. *sigh*

Thunderbolt kitties for Trish.

