



## The Boys, Volume 6: The Self-Preservation Society

*Garth Ennis , Carlos Esquerra (Illustrator) , John McCrea (Illustrator) , Darick Robertson (Illustrator)*

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It had to happen sooner or later: the supes get mad enough to go after the Boys. One of the world's most powerful superteams decides to hit our heroes, all guns blazing, and the Female is the first to fall into their lethal trap. The sixth Dynamite collection of Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson's The Boys is here, complete with a cover gallery.

## **The Boys, Volume 6: The Self-Preservation Society Details**

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Author : Garth Ennis , Carlos Esquerra (Illustrator) , John McCrea (Illustrator) , Darick Robertson (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The Boys, Volume 6: The Self-Preservation Society for online ebook

### Janessa says

The background stories.

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### mark monday says

superheroes aren't superheroes, they're superassholes. lather, rinse, repeat. this time out it is The Avengers that are parodied and torn to bloody bits, with the most sadistic treatment provided to the women of course. rinse, repeat. Homelander gets agitated; Starlight doesn't like her work life; a nazi superhero(villain) loses an eye; Hughie gets sick over all of the violence. repeat. i feel like i've read this before and it tastes rather like backwash.

includes a lengthy backstory for Mother's Milk (tedious), and shorter ones for The Female (predictable) and Frenchie (surprisingly entertaining and funny! and so a 2nd star).

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### Mike says

Wow, talk about taking it up a notch. Just like I'd suspected a couple of books ago, the slow burn and character development they've been doing lately just increases the impact of balls-out action that we get here.

Then we slow down again and get deep inside the origin stories (finally!) of most of The Boys. As fantastically absurd and over the top these stories each are, it's amazing to me how well Ennis weaves in emotional notes that really connect me with these characters. And Robertson evokes those emotions in every turn of the faces he portrays.

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### Tom says

Finally! I've been wanting two things from the Boys since Vol 1: their individual back stories and to see some consequences for their actions. Thus far the Boys have terrorised the superhero community with almost no repercussions and don't get me wrong it's been great to see them put the supes in their place but sooner or later someone was going to take a swing at them and now it's finally happening.

The first half of this volume sees the Boys having to go on the defensive as they are targeted by superhero A-listers 'Payback'. It's easily the most exciting story arc thus far with a awesome cameo (that I won't spoil) and some moments that are truly frightening (and it ain't the supes that were scaring me!).

The second half is less on the action but instead gives us the long awaited histories of Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and the Female. The last two are narrated by Frenchie and they are told in a manner that is equal parts charming and bat shit bonkers.

This volume has really raised the bar for this series, highly recommended.

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### **Ryk Stanton says**

After a bit of slow storytelling, this one really stepped it up. For the first time, it is not The Boys who are after a superteam, it is a superteam that is after The Boys. Very violent, very gory, but very good if you like this sort of thing. It's not always what I like (I have milder tastes) but the storytelling and characters are exceptional.

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### **David Frank says**

You're trying too hard.

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### **Patrick says**

You could make an argument for the fact that the true focus of this story *\*is\** the characters. Their relationships and how they change and grow.

This is especially true of the relationship between Wee Hughie and Butcher. You could argue that the entire story is about the two of them. About their relationship.

Though personally, my *\*favorite\** relationship was probably between the Frenchman and the Female.

(Continued in book 7.)

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### **Adam says**

Love the origin stories, especially The Female.

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### **Jesse A says**

Another good volume. Back to fun.

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### **Gavin says**

Well now, THAT was damn entertaining, and moving. (Somehow a foul mouthed Brit wrote the best tribute comic to 9-11 that I've read). Here it's the Brooklyn Bridge, but the sentiments are the same, beautifully conveyed by Ennis (yes, beautiful and Ennis in the same sentence).

Here we get a closer look inside of Mother's Milk, the Frenchman, and the Female. The Frenchman's is a little silly, but that's OK, MM's is great. There's also a huge throw-down with Payback, the #2 VA team. One of the team is put into a coma, and lets just say, it doesn't bode well for Payback, and things get downright bloody. You could even call it...Butcher-y. You knew he was that bad baaad man.

The taking out of Stormfront (the Nazi leader of Payback) is a shout out to WWII all over again: England (Butcher) barely holds him off until the US (Mother's Milk) arrives to help, then the Free French rise up (Frenchman), but the scales are finally tipped by Mother Russia (Love Sausage, arriving after Huey sent him an emergency call). It's a fun little thing.

Huey seems torn here, which is how MM opening up to him and the others as well (the backstories). Ennis also manages to mock the reboot/re-vamping of characters perfectly here, and a shot or two at the writers who take things too far for 'edgy' and 'dark'. There's a perfect passage about how things need to be so dark, and I think it highlights just what's missing in a lot of the big 2 (esp. DC). Ennis also makes a joke of Green Lantern in less than a page.

This is a marked improvement from Herogasm, moves the story forward by having the characters all grow in some way. Even some of the Supes are given more dimensions.

Very strong work here, glad things are back on track.

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### **Sam Quixote says**

The Self Preservation Society is a triumphant return to the level of storytelling found in "The Name of the Game" and "Good for the Soul" after the misfire that was "Herogasm". Vought American decide to do something about The Boys and send their second best supes out to sort them out. Leading them is a Nazi superhero called Stormfront who takes out The Female and Mother's Milk leaving it up to Butcher to sort it out. A great character from earlier in the series shows up in the finale and it's suggested that there's something about Butcher's past that's of particular interest to Vought.

And speaking of pasts, we get the origin stories of Mother's Milk, Frenchie, and The Female. Mother's Milk is the best one as it links the stories of Vought with the tragedy of the Brooklyn Bridge seen in "Good for the Soul" (this universe's version of the Twin Towers). Frenchie's story is great with Ennis throwing in every single French stereotype he can - Frenchie's dad, wearing a black and white striped shirt, a beret, and a string of onions, is killed by a croissant thrown by a villain saying "Hee Haw Hee Haw!". The Female's origin is also a great story that riffs on France's most famous cartoon Gaul and certainly underlines the "female is the strongest of the species" line used previously.

The excellent Carlos Eszquerra contributes art to this book while Darick Robertson makes a welcome return after taking a break with Vol 5. Garth Ennis is as brilliant as always.

The Boys are back and they've never been better.

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### **Shannon Appelcline says**

The main story has the typical funny violence that's at the heart of The Boys [7]. The origins stories vary. Mother's Milk is hard to follow for some reason [6], while the Frenchie one is outright funny [8] and the Female's is actually insightful [7].

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### **Alexandra says**

I'm sorry but PR teams who create comics for the supe's and use RAPE as an origin story is a no-go for me. Only Hughie and Marrie were it for me. I even lost every respect I had for Butch, even if the theory i have in mind about him and Homeland is true.

I can't continue this...

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### **D'Iberville Library says**

The most important aspect of this edition is the background stories. We finally lose the mystery behind M.M., Frenchie, and The Female. Butcher is behind the sudden illumination. He discussed it with M.M. because they could see that Hughie was having a difficult time handling things. Their opening up about their pasts is very abrupt and even Hughie comments on its suddenness. Perhaps they believe that by telling Hughie their stories, he will be more at peace with the level of violence that The Boys perpetually inflict on Vought-American and the supes. Of course, Butcher still remains mostly a mystery. The only thing we still know about is his wife's death.

Highly recommended series.

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### **Stewart Tame says**

I'm apparently incapable of reading the phrase, "The Self-Preservation Society," without hearing the opening bars of the Kinks' "Village Green Preservation Society" in my head, because my brain runs on music references. And caffeine. And cheap puns. Just one of many crosses that I bear ...

Two story arcs in this volume. First, Vought-American sends a team of supes after the Boys. Could this be the end? Of course not, silly. We get to see Butcher do what he does best. A familiar beard returns. And Hughie learns that you just don't mess with some people's sweets.

Second, it's origin time! Mother's Milk, the Frenchman, and the Female all get their backstories told. Frenchie's is hilarious and wildly implausible, quelle surprise ...

I think this series is headed for some sort of definite end, but it's probably quite a ways off yet. I'm just enjoying the ride for now. And, while I love Darick Robertson's artwork, it made me happy to see Carlos Ezquerra's work in this volume. I first encountered his art on the hallowed pages of 2000AD. Nice to see he's keeping busy. Obviously only a crazy person would start reading this series with volume 6, but recommended anyway.

