



Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Caged Angels

Warren Ellis , Mike Deodato (Illustrator)

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The Thunderbolts' wild ride continues with *Caged Angels* as Thunderbolts Mountain is being used as temporary incarceration for captured superhuman combatants. With so many super-powered people in one place, how can things possibly go wrong?

Collecting: *Thunderbolts* 116-121, *Thunderbolts: Breaking Point*>, *Thunderbolts: International Incident*

Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Caged Angels Details

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From Reader Review Thunderbolts, Volume 2: Caged Angels for online ebook

Silas says

I believe I have previously read this arc, but it was a pretty good one. The Thunderbolts are subverted by a crew of telepaths, and end up going a bit nuts and fighting each other, while Penance gets some therapy with Doc Samson. It's pretty interesting, and a bit better in context than it was without, but still doesn't make me enjoy this incarnation of the Thunderbolts as much as I did the original.

Jonathan Forisha says

Good, though I'd have to say probably less as good as Volume 1, and that's due primarily to the fact that it's not on as large a scale.

To me, superhero comic book concepts such as this are really interesting when the writer magnifies the issue and applies it to the modern world at large. With a writer as capable as Warren Ellis, he can definitely accomplish such an otherworldly application, and managed to pull it off pretty well in Volume 1.

Volume 2, however, takes place almost entirely inside the Thunderbolts Mountain. The story is still pretty great, especially when Osborn loses it, and the art is stellar.

If you liked Volume 1, you will also like Volume 2.

Eric Mikols says

I started reading Thunderbolts years ago and kept on with the series until my end days with college. This is the story I never finished and I'm glad I have the chance to catch up. While this series loses the charm of the original villains trying to be heroes premise that it started on, this take, a government task force for collecting unregistered superheroes, is fun in and of itself.

I loved that the psychics who have been taken into custody cause the Thunderbolts to fall apart so easily. Watching Venom and the Swordsman duke it out, or Norman Osborn go even crazier, is a lot of dark fun. In fact, this Osborn is one of my favorite takes on the Goblin. Crazy, out of his freaking mind, and wacky, all with the intent to kill.

I had forgotten how much I loved the art. It has such a detailed and gorgeous line drawing and does some real superhero action that comes with a sense of punch and flow. Beautiful colors and great designs make it easy on the eyes for sure.

Kurt says

This is my favorite Thunderbolts story ever. Ellis and Deodato spent their first arc establishing the new team, taking a new direction for the team concept. Now the various villains have returned to their mountain

headquarters to regroup after a difficult mission, and they have no idea that a quartet of psychics is secretly turning the place into a deathtrap. The story builds at a near-perfect pace, with events taking a creepier and creepier tone until the finale is a full-on terrifying gory nail-biter. There are even moments of humor (like Norman Osborne's many monologues) that oddly enhance the terror rather than divert it.

Deodato's artwork is absolutely brilliant. He uses lighting effects to really enhance the menace of the situation in the building, and his occasionally exaggerated Venom figure is completely believable in this context, even in the uncomfortably humorous moments when he accessorizes with the tiny helmet of a guard he's just devoured. Even the lower-energy scenes, as a few team members wait in Norman Osborne's office to assess the situation, gain an unsettling effect by the way Deodato has light filtered through the window from different angles and with different patterns from the blinds.

Ellis, of course, demonstrates complete mastery of the team in this volume. I want him to mail a copy to Chris Claremont as an example of how to do a mind control story correctly. The psychics don't remove the personalities of the characters, they remove their inhibitions, so rather than a cheap excuse to make team members fight each other, mind control becomes a powerful way to explore the most fundamental aspects of each person. Also, the psychics subtly stop characters from acting on the most obvious plot holes, which can be presented properly to justify the inefficient but dramatic confrontations Ellis wants to try ("Why didn't anyone think to do X?" "Maybe someone didn't want us to...").

This is a tense, read-with-a-flashlight-at-midnight story, crafted by two masters, and I recommend it for anyone with the stomach for it.

guanaeps says

Warren Ellis was the first writer in comics to ever shock me. I had no idea comics could be so insane. Granted, at this point most of my exposure to comicdom was Bendis' Ultimate Spider-Man, so I was young. Ellis and Mike Deodato Jr. showed me what comics were capable of, and I was awed.

In the previous arc, Ellis brought the team to a boiling point; disaster was in the air, it just needed a little push. And when Thunderbolts mountain has to be used as an auxiliary prison, things go off the rails in the most magnificent fashion.

Deodato draws some of my favorite action scenes in all of comics in this arc. The synergy from page to page is just incredible. Again, huge credit to Rain Beredo, who makes Deodato's pencils look like painted art.

I must say, Ellis is pretty ingenious with this book, moving the story in such a way that allowed all these characters to "Strut their stuff". Which leads to my absolute favorite part of the entire run: Norman Osborn.

Watching this character slowly lose it was an absolute joy to witness. So well done. Deodato draws an amazing Green Goblin. And oh my does the Green Goblin goblin.

This is a biased review. This book revealed to me the wonder and incredible potential of the Comic book medium, and so I can't help but love it.

Three cheers for Warren Ellis. Three cheers for Mike Deodato and Rain Beredo. Three cheers for Comics.

47Time says

[The two of them, together with Mirage and Bluestreak who are already incarcerated, have a plan to psychically]

Iranoctis says

Caged Angels ist die bildgewaltige Explosion der im ersten Teil aufgestauten Konflikte, Penance' Ausraster, Venom gegen Swordsman, die explodierende Zeus, hier wird nicht gekleckert. Auch Samsons Therapie mit Penance als ruhiger Gegenpol zur Action ist perfekt ausgewogen und verleiht dem Rest die echte Wucht. Leider sind die flankierenden Zwischenspiele nicht ganz von der gleichen Qualität wie Ellis'+Deodatos Hauptstory, die Zeichner treffen mit ihrem runderen, jugendlicheren Stil nicht die Schwere der Thunderbolts, während das Script durchaus mithalten kann.

Matej Kondas says

Warren Ellis udělal z Thunderbolts senzaci. Udělal z nich tým Marvelu, který pod vedením Normana Osborna chytá neregistrované superhrdiny proto aby ochránil americký lid, který se těžko vyrovnává se zmizením idolů typu Captaina Ameriky a dalších během Oběanské války. Sekundárním cílem je získat Osbornovi politické body.

Kdo četl první díl "Faith in Monsters" ví, že Osborn v tým rozhodně není nějakým uskupením pravových skautů. Ale stejně jako nespokojených šílenců a deviantů, kteří v poli moc vyvíjejí nepobornou. Penance se hroutí a jeho spirála sebepoškozování pokračuje. Venom rád žere lidi a Bullseye se po zpackané akci ocitl v komatu.

A do tohoto blázince jsou v Thunderbolts Mountain internováni tyto telepati. Jejich cíl je jasný, dostat se do hlavy Osbornovi a jeho týmu a nechat je se ideálně pozabíjet navzájem.

Je smutné že u nás vyšla pouze první polovina tohoto spektaklu, který je vlastně kompletním runem Warrena Ellise u Thunderbolts. Který sérii nakopl, rozjel a ze které potom Christos Cage v Secret Invasion a Dark Reign eventech navázal.

Venom začne požírat strážce. Swordsman se rozhodne navázat na svoje nacistické kořeny a vyhlásí tvrdou říši. Proč by taky ne, každý by asi chtěl následovat nacistu, jehož schopnost je vázána na jeho mrtvou sestru, a proto si Strucker křídí svoji sestru potáhl jílec mě, aby se o ní pořádku mohl říct...

I Jamie Lanisterovi by se z této představy asi měšic nepostavil.

A aby to nebylo málo, Norman Osborn si v hlavě zapne písničku od Muchy a podle hesla "Mrdá mi v hlavě, Mrdá mi v hlavě" si oblékne Goblinské tepláky.

Pokud se Vám líbilo "Faith In Monsters" tak "Caged Angels" je ještě šílenější, masakrálnější a brilantnější napsaný comics. Kde kromě nezbytného násilí, precizních zvrátí, nechybí ani černý Ellisovský humor.

AGraphicMaduck says

loved it...don't know how Ellis does it but the art matches his writing/tone, etc. perfectly...captures the madness of this team...really good, it's stuck with me, the portrayal of the green goblin is nightmarish...perfectly done book in my opinion doesn't get much better than this...I read volume 2 first and will need to check out volume 1...

Fizzgig76 says

Reprints Thunderbolts #116-121. The Thunderbolts are infiltrated by their prisoners, and the prisoners work to find the Thunderbolts' weaknesses. This graphic novel ends Ellis' run on the Thunderbolts. It is relatively short, and the story is simple but strong. I'm a fan of Doc Samson, and it is always interesting when his character is brought in to analyze a team.

Gavin says

Wow. Quite a year long run on this for Ellis.

Bullseye is locked in syndrome, 4 telepaths get sent to Thunderbolt Mt., fuck with everyone, they all go nuts and nearly kill each other.

Meanwhile, Doc Samson helps Robbie "Speedball/Penance" Baldwin to realize he's still OK, saving him from mental breakdown and showing him how his powers have grown.

Plus Doc pounds on Moonstone, the best psychiatrist smackdown ever.

Venom takes over Garrigan, and the only thing that saves the Thunderbolts from collapse? The sociopathic killer in purple.

Arno Callens says

The Thunderbolts series is all about reforming villains into heroes. Warren Ellis' run is all about them never getting that chance. Whether it's society judging them, or the titular telepaths manipulating them; any push forward on the path to righteousness is followed by two pushes back. I don't really buy that Radioactive Man would actually want to give people cancer, but it isn't too big a stretch of the imagination to think that he could.

The exception to this is Penance, who takes a first step towards actual redemption here. After his supporting status during Faith In Monsters it's good to see him take center stage, as he is by far the most emotionally complex member of the team. Doc Samson gamma-induced bluntness gives Robbie perhaps the best shot

any of the Thunderbolts will ever have at becoming a bona fide hero.

The rest of them? Not so much. Despite being manipulated Venom and Swordsman's behavior wasn't that far removed from their evil potential. Moonstone was even more useless this time around, and don't get me wrong, she's a blast to watch nonetheless. Songbird continues to be everyone else's favorite punching bag, not in the least Norman Osborn's, who may be the character removed the furthest from redemption. Even further than Bullseye, who actually comes close to hero status, as he does technically save the day. Of course he does it in a way which is just as twisted as you'd think.

Faith In Monsters took the Thunderbolts outside of the mountain, Caged Angels took a look inside. The use of space, and several spectacular duels are not just a feather but an entire peacock in the cap of Mike Deodato Jr. If that line sounds a little overwrought, thank Warren Ellis' fabulous, delirious, and hilarious dialogue. Deodato Jr. and Ellis' run was short-lived, but sublime. You want proof? They nearly made me forget Baron Zemo, and I love Baron Zemo. Well done, gentlemen, well done.

Lissa says

Although I don't think this trade was as good as the one that preceded it (Faith in Monsters), this is still a good read. Before Ellis took over the reigns, I didn't know a thing about the Thunderbolts and didn't care to learn anything about them. Ellis has taken this team of misfits and crafted them into some seriously good stuff. The team's dynamics are fun to watch (as they pretty much implode upon themselves in this trade), and you can see how the Dark Reign event is evolving into existence here.

Brad says

This latest group of villains parading as heroes decide to fight themselves instead of justifying their government sponsorship and personal mountain in Colorado. Warren Ellis finally makes Penance an interesting character, and his version of Norman Osbourne, a quiet, angry Machiavelli who somehow has support in Washington, seems to be the new Marvel standard. Deodato's extra-shadowy art is actually useful here-it makes Thunderbolts mountain plenty claustrophobic.

Holden Attradies says

First off the art work was stellar. The coloring worked perfect with the artist, the detail in the faces really standing out. I especially appreciated this because to often the art in superhero comics is purely defined by rippling muscles and T&A. I always appreciate art in this medium that draws more attention to the character aspect of the characters. And as others have said Mike Deodato's art work, which is very dark and shadowy works very well in this story and adds a lot to the feeling of claustrophobia within the Thunderbolt Mountain.

The story was also well crafted and very well rounded. I very much enjoyed that you really didn't get a full understanding of what the main plot/who the main antagonists were until pretty late in the story. And this was one of the most subtle, realistic feeling mind control stories I've very read, especially within the Superhero genre. Seeing these already dark characters get taken to even darker places was a wonderfully horrifying thrill ride. Osborn especially got the shine, in his maniacal whaca-dooery.

The resolution of the story was also really satisfying. At first I felt it was a too convenient way to wrap things up, but then I really thought it through and it was perfect. It was a great use of a character who had little to do, it showed how maniacal and crazy he is, and it resolved their problem in a very unheroic way which seemed perfect for this story which seemed to be about how exactly unheroic they all had the potential to be.

One of the reasons I am so fond of the Thunderbolts is that it gets to explore in many different ways the idea of redemption, and so far few characters that have come through the roster have had the chance to explore that more deeply than Penance. It was good to see his character get some meaningful development. I also really appreciated that his character chose the morally harder road of staying where doing what he feels is his penance would be the hardest. Like he said, the point isn't that it could have happened to anyone but that it happened to HIM.
