



## Supreme Power, Volume 2: Powers and Principalities

*J. Michael Straczynski (Writer) , Gary Frank*

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The heroes have arrived. You've watched them grow. You've learned their secrets. And now, you're about to see them change the world... for better or for worse! When a god-like Hyperion discovers that his whole life has actually been an elaborate government-made lie, his reaction could mean the end of the Earth! Do the world's other super-powered beings have any chance at stopping Hyperion if the truth sends him over the edge?

**Collecting:** *Supreme Power* 6-12

## Supreme Power, Volume 2: Powers and Principalities Details

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# From Reader Review Supreme Power, Volume 2: Powers and Principalities for online ebook

## Gary Lee says

The "Wonder Woman" character was kind of silly. And she doesn't really fit everything that's been established so far.

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## Alain Dewitt says

Interesting alternate take on the Superman mythos. Look forward to reading the remaining installments.

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## Andrew Obrigewitsch says

This was good. Unfortunately my library doesn't have the third volume though. So I may have to buy it to see how this ends.

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## Terry says

3 stars

Ok, in this volume the shinola hits the fanola. Turns out alien superbeings don't like being lied to or manipulated in the way they were raised...who knew?! Hyperion now knows that the government sponsored fiasco that he calls his childhood was all just a scam so the US of A could have a super-weapon in its back pocket. He's not impressed. Add to that the awakening of a possibly schizophrenic super-woman who wants to help Hyperion take over the world and the fact that the government's only other superhero, Joe 'Doc Spectrum' Ledger is MIA and given to comatose periods when some other force seems to be controlling him, and things do not look good for the Earth. Oh yeah, we also have an opportunistic speedster who wants to cash in on his powers with the biggest pay-check available and a psychopathic vigilante who wants to settle race relations his way.

Things aren't looking good for a world with superheroes. Volume 2 of the 'Supreme Power' series moves on from the set-up to the beginning phases of the pay-off. Hyperion isn't happy, but at least he hasn't gone crazy-town-banana-pants on humanity yet...though that may change if the newly awakened Zarda has her way (let's just say she's a lady who doesn't take kindly to her shopping sprees being interrupted by mere mortals). The Blur is doing endorsements like they're going out of style until he's reprimanded by millionaire Kyle Richmond (aka Nighthawk) for being a sell-out opportunist and is recruited to help the vigilante track down and contain a serial killer apparently augmented with super powers by a secret project within the secret project that was responsible for Hyperion and Doc Spectrum. Also, Amphibian keeps acting weird (but I guess that's normal when you're thrown into the ocean as a baby and somehow raise yourself). The interwoven threads of the stories are starting to come together, but this was very much a 'middle issue' in the series and thus leaves one wanting more. Maybe that's a good thing...it all depends on when/if the

pay-off occurs.

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## Kay says

2.5/3

So far, I really don't care about Joe and blue-fish-woman. The Princess be *crazy*, and besides for seeing more of Nighthawk & the Blur, I only really care about Mark and seeing where he goes from here (I hope he doesn't end up with Princess Crazy).

The ending with the serial killer case was really creepy. My heart was racing & I was so creeped out I had to keep reading onto Vol. 3.

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## Jedhua says

**Book Info:** This collection contains *Supreme Power* issues #7-12.

ABSOLUTE RATING: {3.5/5 stars} (*Rounded Up*)

STANDARDIZED RATING: <4/5 stars>

As Mark Milton boldly continues his public superhero career as Hyperion, the army and NSA fight amongst themselves behind the scenes for control over him. While the NSA believes Hyperion should step out of the limelight and serve his intended function as a strategic tool of political/military coercion overseas, the army brass maintain that he's best situated as a continued diversion away from Joe Ledger – a top-secret operative the US government has been using to exert their influence over foreign affairs. But when Mark catches wind of these machinations following a secret meeting with a Chinese official, he flies off the handle, and becomes determined to get answers one way or another. Meanwhile, there's been a mysterious humanoid creature thriving deep beneath the ocean, and it's about to make first contact...

Well, well, well. Looks like JMS really *\*can\** write well if he puts his mind to it. If you are one of those folks on the fence about reading this after the previous book, listen up: the first volume was structured the way it was only for housekeeping purposes, and *\*this\** book is where things really heat up and take form. For one thing, I can guarantee you're not going to have those same complaints about the lack of action: Frank really steps things up here in that regard, providing a ton of excellent fight sequences. And they're set up very nicely by Straczynski's improved plotting, script, and pacing. Also, if you were frustrated with the last volume's limited explanations, you'll be pleased to know this one fills in a few of the gaps and leaves you with far less unanswered questions by the end.

Starting with issues #7-8, we begin to see a change in Hyperion, and he quickly starts to question his prescribed role in society. And though we knew this was coming, it's clear that the writer's patience in walking us through his gradual evolution has payed off, and my sympathy for Mark caused me to dread what ultimately (and understandably) may become of him. But as tense as things start to get in the first two issues, they're really just a warm-up for what Straczynski's got planned for the remaining four. I can't really get into a whole lot of detail here, but I will say that once he gets started in issue #9, he never lets up, and ends off with a pretty cool cliffhanger at the end of the book. There are even times where the writing feels quite reminiscent of Warren Ellis (like in the third and sixth issues), and Straczynski proves himself capable of some similarly ominous and suspenseful storytelling. So I gotta give him serious props: that's no small feat, and it's not a comparison I'd ever make lightly.

And somehow, when the action dies back down during the second half of the book, JMS still maintains the momentum. If anything, things only get *\*more\** engaging as they move along, not less. It's here that we get introduced to new characters like Princess Zarda and the weird amphibian lady, but more importantly, it's here that the complex characterization shines the brightest. Especially intriguing were the developing relationships between Hyperion and Zarda, and between Nighthawk and the Blur. What's so cool about Zarda's character – besides the copious nudity, of course – is that she talks and acts like a genuine goddess, and her casual aloofness and vanity playfully nudge at Hyperion's own reluctant pride. The interaction between Nighthawk and the Blur is perhaps even more entertaining, and it was great to see these two proud individuals challenge one another to become better men.

*[Is it just me, or does this Hyperion-Zarda scene mirror that Superman-Wonder Woman scene in The Dark Knight Strikes Again? Just where exactly does the creative "homage" end with you, Strac?]*

I wouldn't have guessed so from volume one, or even judging from the user ratings/reviews, but I actually enjoyed this book enough that I feel somewhat excited to start on the final installment. As I predicted, this volume benefits greatly from the deliberate groundwork laid in the previous arc, and so it's able to take off with minimal lead-up. I'm gonna try and remain cautiously optimistic here, but with *Powers and Principalities*, this series really does appear to be on an upswing, so I wouldn't be surprised if book three is able to achieve a solid four stars. Here's hoping...

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## Matej says

This volume was not as strong as the first one, but it was still interesting and had some good twists and turns. I like the "adult" and more realistic take on the Justice League, and would recommend this to anyone who likes Justice League elseworlds stories because this is basically it.

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## **Jdetrick says**

I really wanted to like this less than I do, but despite being more cynical than the original, Straczynski manages not to allow his story to wallow in it's darker aspects, and he keeps giving us characters to root for. Very well done.

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## **Fantasy Literature says**

In this volume, the shinola hits the fanola. Turns out alien superbeings don't like being lied to or manipulated in the way they were raised . . . Who knew?! In Powers and Principalities, the second volume of Supreme Power, Hyperion now knows that the government sponsored fiasco that he calls his childhood was all just a scam so the U.S. of A. could have a super-weapon in its back pocket. He's not impressed. Add to that the awakening of a possibly schizophrenic super-woman who wants to help Hyperion take over the world and the fact that the government's only other superhero, Joe "Doc Spect... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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## **Miss Michael says**

Okay, so this story arc was a little more interesting than the first one. More action packed, I'd say. Why only two stars? It feels terribly misogynistic. I know what you are thinking: \*GASP\* In a comic book? No! And the answer is, yeah, comic books have a long history of pointing a rocket and a scantily clad babe who happens to spread her legs in the direction of said rocket, but in modern stuff there are usually some pretty rockin' ladies. However, in this volume we are introduced to our female characters, and I was a bit disappointed. So far, both seem to exist solely in their relationship to male characters. One is smitten with Dr. Spectrum, the other, Zarda, is some kind of . . . soul mate(?) for Hyperion. So far she's just bossy and obsessed with taking things she finds beautiful. Snore.

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## **Timothy Boyd says**

What if power corrupted a superhero, or the government decided to manipulate superheroes to their own use. Straczynski does a fantastic job telling the stories these questions pose. Well above average art and exceptional story and characters make these pure please to read. High recommended

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## **Ryan says**

A little pulp post-Under the Banner of Heaven to cleanse the palette before moving on to something serious again.

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## Shannon Appelcline says

JMS continues to very slowly bring together his JLA (Squadron Supreme), but his character studies are so interesting that it's worth waiting.

**Hyperion (Superman)** continues his story from v1, and this is mainly about repercussions: what happens when you've lied to Superman his whole life.

**Doctor Spectrum (Green Lantern)** is still obviously Hal Jordan, but he's also presented as Superman's opposite number, which is fascinating because it feels so true in the Supreme universe.

**Zarda (Wonder Woman)** finally gets more attention, and she's intriguing too; her presentation as a goddess of war is a far cry from Wonder Woman's role as a diplomat of peace in the time period, but it also feels very true.

Overall, this volume is much better integrated than its predecessor, with the minor characters of the Blur (Flash) and the female Aquaman even having good connections to the main story (though both of the women existing mainly as balance to male heroes is a bit grating). It's also fascinating to see how JMS connects the appearance of villains to Hyperion and to the malevolent government.

Overall, another strong volume whose only really fault is that it stops just as things look like they're about to hit a big climax.

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