



The Flash, Vol. 2: Rogues Revolution

Francis Manapul (Writer, Artist) , Brian Buccellato (Writer, Colourist) , Marcus To (Artist)

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Struck by a bolt of lightning and doused in chemicals, Central City Police scientist Barry Allen was transformed into the fastest man alive. Tapping into the energy field called The Speed Force, he applies a tenacious sense of justice to protect and serve the world as The Flash!

The Flash's Rogues' Gallery are back--but they are more powerful than ever and they're each looking to take down the Fastest Man Alive! Who is behind their sudden organization and why are they also after their former leader, Captain Cold? The Flash must think fast if he can outrun and survive their attack!

Collecting: *The Flash* 0, 9-12, Annual 1

The Flash, Vol. 2: Rogues Revolution Details

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From Reader Review The Flash, Vol. 2: Rogues Revolution for online ebook

Scott says

Another fun ride with the Flash. We got some background on the new and improved Rogues, who are in my opinion some of the coolest bad guys. I love the art by Francis Manapul! It really brings the story to life.

Anne says

I totally loved this!

But.

My opinion is biased by the fact that I read it with my son.

See, he's almost 14.

If you're a parent, then you know that by the time your kid gets to 14, you are no longer cool.

Hanging with **Mom**?

snort

As if.

Which is normal...I get it.

Still, from **Mom's** point of view, it sucks.

Hard.

I used to be the go-to guy (or gal) when he wanted to have a good time.

As in:

Read me a story, Mom!

Play Legos with me, Mom!

Watch tv with me, Mom!

Alas...no more.

Now, he's an evasive creature that only a seasoned photographer for National Geographic could catch on film.

So when he stuck his head over my shoulder, grabbed some chips and salsa, and asked if he could read it with me?

I slowly nodded, and gently turned the page...convinced that big movements would startle the skittish animal. By the time we finished, I was convinced that my hand was going to be permanently cramped into the shape of a claw, and my stomach was gurgling from all of the salsa.

Totally worth it.

"Cool.", it said.

insert my dorky mental fist pump here

Then the elusive beast slithered silently off to it's cave.

So, there you have it. Best book I've read all year!

The majority of this volume is about introducing us to the new stuff about Flash's Rogues gallery.

I get why they changed up their stories, 'cause let's face it, Flash has always had the lamest group of villains.

In the New 52 version of things, they *are* slightly better. Captain Cold 'n Company all have *real* powers now...instead of gadgets.

Stop complaining. It needed to be done.

On a side note, does anyone else find Flash's bad guys sort of endearing? Loveable, even?

Well, except for Grodd.

Damn dirty ape!

I think the only thing I really didn't like was the side-story about his girlfriend, Patty.

I don't like her, and I can't wait till Iris finally gets out of the Speed Force/Twilight Zone. Either that or tell Patty that you're still alive, Barry! The whole reasoning behind why he doesn't is stupid.

Oh no! I couldn't bear to burden her!

Huh?

Burden her with what, exactly? Not having to grieve over her lover is a burden?

It's an overused attempt to keep a superhero's identity safe. I'd appreciate it if they could just for once say, *I'm pretty sure you're not gonna last, so I don't trust you with this really big secret. You know, just in case you get possessed by some cosmic superpower that wants to kill me...or something.*

Flash isn't anywhere near a favorite of mine, but this was a pretty enjoyable book. Definitely going to keep reading this title!

Calista says

It's been awhile since I read the first volume of this run, but this second volume was very good which is a surprise as so much of the New 52 is terrible. This story went really well.

We start out with the Kingdom of Apes and Grodd which was pretty stupid really and then we get back to Central City (it's a hard cut and not a real transition) and the city has changed and the Flash is harassed now. He goes undercover and finds his way to a villains bar. We are introduced to the Rogues. I have to say that they are entertaining and decent villains. I had fun with this and I thought it was a good story. I'm actually excited to read the next one. I have to get it quick before the library gets rid of it. The first of the year, they ax a whole lot of old titles. It's pretty brutal.

Barry is fast as ever and fun here. The last chapter seemed to be left on a stupid cliff hanger with Grodd again which doesn't please me. We also get some weird flashback to Barry's dad that I didn't think was really needed, but if the Rogues stay around, then I'm excited for more. This worked really well.

Maxine ✿ etherealpages says

The story is getting better! The Rogues are so badass, they're definitely my type of villains.

Michael says

I'm a bit a novice when it comes to The Flash. My knowledge of the character comes from his portrayal in various television programs -- both live action and animated. But I'm interested enough by what I've seen in those portrayals to want to go back to the source material and learn more.

This second collection of the New 52 Flash is an interesting one. While many of the characters are familiar, I don't know enough about their history to definitively say whether what happens here is good, bad or somewhere in between. Back in Central City, the Flash faces overwhelming anti-Flash public sentiment,

whipped up by one of his old friends. Couple that with several adversaries coming back into town, all with a new take on their old weapons and you've got a very interesting dilemma for the Scarlet Speedster.

I find it interesting that a comic book series would spend a run of issues delving into the minds and psyche of our heroes various foes as this one does. Most of these faces are familiar from the just completed first season of the show and I'll admit I found myself having to separate what we saw there from what we get here.

I also found it a bit confusing to come across a massive cliffhanger and then go into a storyline that gave us the capsule history of the Flash and had no ties to said cliffhanger. I understand these collected editions are meant to put together a couple of months worth of continuity, but a little more explanation might have left me not scratching my head as I wondered just how and when the flashback to our hero's origin was going to come into play. I guess this is my Marvel bias showing through because it feels like Stan Lee used to give us a reminder of everyone's origin every two to three years as a way to welcome in new readers.

Overall, this was an interesting little story. I'm sure to pick up the next installment simply because the cliffhanger left me curious as to where things might go next.

James DeSantis says

Another solid book but nothing groundbreaking. Maybe I should start with the old Flash stories, but getting into him with New52 hasn't been as amazing as I hoped. You get to see the rogues fighting each other, while also featuring the ending surprise cliffhanger of Grodd, but then another twist happens at the end of this one. Overall, it's fun, and cheesy, but it won't be staying with me just like volume 1. Good stuff but should be great.

Scott Foley says

I love the Flash. I've loved the Flash since childhood. I've said this before, but I'll say it again: I especially loved Mark Waid and Geoff Johns' runs on the Flash. I loved Barry, then I loved Wally, and then I loved Barry again (and I'm anxiously awaiting Wally's return).

The New 52 felt unnecessary when it came to the Flash. After all, Barry Allen had only recently returned to the role and Geoff Johns went to a lot of trouble to adapt the Flash's world to accommodate Wally, Jay, and Barry. But, even with that said, I didn't mind the (sort of) reboot. Comics are a perpetual medium, and companies must freshen things up as a whole every so often.

I'm telling you all of this because I like the Flash. I really like the Flash. I want to like the Flash. And while I love The New 52 Flash's art and its dedication to interesting layouts and an unrelenting sense of forward momentum, I can't help but feel the stories are a step behind.

For me, and this is only my opinion, this volume of The Flash feel frenetic, and that's good when it comes to art depicting the Fastest Man Alive, but not helpful when it comes to coherence. The plots are rushed, the characterization is spotty (Barry's a bartender now?), and the dialogue ... Well, that's one of my main sticking points. The dialogue is clunky. I really hate to criticize, but all of the characters' sounded the same to me. I did not get a sense of a distinct personality from any of them.

Finally, granting the Rogues super powers is another step in the wrong direction. I believe part of the

Rogues' charm was their ridiculous technology. Next to Batman, Flash has some of the best villains out there, but unlike the Batman, they were really just crooks with some nifty gadgets. Did anyone ever really think they stood a chance against a man who can move in the blink of an eye? Johns did a wonderful job of conveying this irony during his first run on the title. I understand the intent may be to make them more of a challenge to the Flash, but giving them super powers isn't the way to achieve it. I would instead have perhaps amped up their equipment, given it a more modern touch somehow, or, perhaps, rounded out their characterization. Again, between Waid and Johns, it would be hard to add more depth to them, but simply giving them powers seems too easy and, ultimately, boring.

Now, I admit that I could be wrong. Perhaps there is a master plan in the works here, maybe I'm jumping the gun a bit. Perhaps Manapul and Buccellato are playing the long game, and what seems haphazard and disjointed will ultimately be a complex, interwoven tale that satisfies. As of right now, though, I'm hesitant to believe this is the case.

Will I keep buying The Flash? Probably, because I love the character, the art is some of the best in the industry, and, from what I hear, creative changes are looming. I've followed this character since the early 80s and I see no reason to stop now, even if the actual storytelling isn't my cup of tea at the moment.

Donovan says

While still exciting and beautifully illustrated, Rogues Revolution is less focused than Move Forward due somewhat to the sophomore slump.

The Rogues story arc feels kinda quick, but it does in fact tie in to the larger story. The "subtly" named Dr. Darwin Elias uses his genetic recoder to give the Rogues their powers in order to orchestrate the assassination of Flash's social character. At first his supposed ally, it's obvious now that Elias is more Flash's enemy.

Elias' motivation is a bit cloudy, however, explaining it away as a random social experiment. But science isn't random, as he also explains, because the scientific method and experiments have very clear procedures and objectives. I'm thinking this may be explained in later volumes, because it's been years since I've read this series.

There's also the feeling of distance from Volume 1, like the events happened long ago. The vortexes created by Turbine, those who are lost in the Speed Force, Grodd and Gorilla City, the E.M.P. blackout. I know that Manapul and Buccellato are doing a slow burn here, and laid plans for several plot lines in Volume 1, but they're burning VERY slowly in this volume and fall to the background of the Rogues' reintroduction.

That said, it's a fun if less consequential story. The Rogues have a lot of backstory that's quickly covered and reworked, Barry continues to grow in speed, power and character, and right at the end the ~~Guerilla~~ Gorilla War crashes into Central City. Another solid entry in this series.

Ricky Ganci says

(4.5 stars) The thing that I liked best about this second volume of THE FLASH was the way in which

Manapul and Buccellato pull all of the plot threads together into single core narrative that can go anywhere from here--all details, characters, motivations, and dialogue are significant, and as questions come up, the story answers them in due time. The control that the two book-runners show over the story impresses and entertains, setting up a third volume in which the stakes continue to rise.

If volume 1 puts the pieces on the table, this volume sets them up, and then puts them into motion. There are quite a few plot threads running around, from Grodd to Captain Cold, from Patty Spivot's grief to Iris West's internment inside the Speed Force, and others. What this volume does, without resolving all of them too quickly, is weave them together to a point of convergence at which the reader sees them as all connected to Barry's dual identity. The V1 discussion of CC's sister seemed inconsequential at the time, but becomes crucial in V2, as it not only extends the story of the Rogues but also clarifies dialogue that seems at the moment of utterance to be only context, but is actually part of a larger concern, and is probably the overarching conflict that the Flash is dealing with at the current moment--it's also one that came as a terrific surprise in this volume. It's hard to pull off evil mastermind stuff in storytelling, but Manapul and Buccellato do it effortlessly, weaving a series of stand-alone stories together to a terrific conclusion (that also contains a wildly plotty cliffhanger). Well-structured stories are the best kind in my opinion, and this volume, though not a complete story by any stretch, represents a particularly well-structured sequence of comic books.

As good as the current Flash plot is, however, the #0 issue that is included at the end of the volume might be the single best issue of the New 52 that I've yet read. Without forsaking the current emotional and personal state of Barry Allen, Manapul and Buccellato investigate and clarify his history as a scientist, police officer, and of course as the Flash himself, piecing together an artfully-structured explanation of his first moments as The Fastest Man Alive. As an entre-acte between volumes 2 and 3 in which Barry's identity is at a crossroads, this brief look back is a terrific reminder of the Flash's absolutely moral nature and a validation of the statement that Batman makes in Justice League: Barry is a police officer and doesn't like to work outside the law. His code of ethics stems from the search for justice within the law, and as Central City prepares for a new challenge, this is material that makes this collection more than the sum of its parts. A terrific read, a great story, and standout artwork makes this volume of THE FLASH the exact step forward that the book needs.

Matthew says

To check out all my reviews: <http://dancinginth3dark.blogspot.com>

True Rating: 4.5

After reading this 2nd volume I have to admit that the storyline has excel considerably compare to the first book in the series but I have to admit that the writers are negligent when it comes to providing background information when it comes to certain characters and their conflicted issues with the Flash. I am an amateur when it comes to superheroes comics and I am not going to invest countless hours trying to study every single character and their origin story and that issue can be fixed efficiently with only a few pages of backstory in the comics.

I am delighted that we finally get to learn about Barry Allen's past specifically when it comes to his parents and how his mother got killed (Even though I know this already thanks to the television show) but we still are left out of the loop when it comes to villains like Captain Cold, Heatwave, Captain Glider and others.

Periodically when it comes to comics, these issues get answered later or not at all but between the artwork and the action scenes, these questions often get put aside and in this book this issue is transparent. I do not

know why we have this elephant in the room but I hope the issue gets fixed because when the creators/writers do not provide the essential details it comes across that they don't care about the readers and it ruins the experience of reading our favorite heroes.

Now back to the story... The Flash discovered the speed force and trapped inside this vortex is a man named Turbine who appears to be causing the raucous of ripping the fabric of time whenever Flash reaches high levels of the speed force. Turbine wants to escape and thanks to the Flash he has found his escape and both him and Flash get sucked back into Earth except Flash meets a civilization of sophisticated gorillas who has a new leader called Grodd. Apparently this source of lightening has been trying to find an individual who can use these powers effectively and throughout civilizations every time this flash of electricity has shined on a certain tribe it either flourished for a certain period of time or wreaks havoc because they cannot handle this power.

Before Barry Allen received his powers, this group of Gorillas got shot by lightening and the aftermath of this incident has lead these Gorillas to become intelligent beings who the likes have never been seen by humans and they realized that Barry is the messenger that their time on Earth has ended since they have become a savage society under their ruler and Grodd cannot accept and wants to kill the Flash.

The other storyline that develops is these groups of villains known as Rogues are now taking advantage and causing chaos in the city which the Flash needs to take care of asap. I admire tremendously the amount of handwork these illustrators put into the graphics and making the story believable with a superhero who runs at the speed of light and they make the effort look smooth. I have absolute no clue what is the direction this comic is heading but I have faith that the storyline will improve the further we venture along in the series. I would recommend this graphic novel to those who love the television series and need their daily dose of Barry Allen.

Kyle says

I thought there was a slight dip in the quality of art and storytelling compared to the first volume; but then I felt there was an improvement in the development of characters and backstory in this volume, which is what I felt was lacking in the first volume.

The Gorilla Grodd issues were a little confusing, but it is clear they are just set-up for a much larger Gorilla Grodd storyline. Volume 1 pulled a similar tactic, it put a lot of puzzle pieces on the table so that Volume 2 could put them together. I'm sure volume 3 will put all of these Gorilla City puzzle pieces in order for us too.

My favourite part of this collection was the Annual. It had a pinch of origin story, a dash of retcon, a few completely new ideas that moved the larger story forward and it reassembled ALL of my favourite Flash characters. I loves me my Pied Piper and I'm anxious to find out what happens to him!!

A very enjoyable read. Not perfect, but very enjoyable.

4/5

Chad says

Manapul puts his own spin on the Rogues, getting rid of their gadgets and giving them powers instead. The storytelling is very scattered. A lot happens off panel, which is confusing and makes for a disjointed story. Manapul still makes the book sing artistically. The fill in artists do a good job as well, but Manapul makes the other artists look like they are using crayons.

StoryTellerShannon says

One of the weaker Flash tales with good artwork.

OVERALL GRADE: C plus.

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

Unlike the first volume, Francis Manapul pulls the storyline towards the introduction of The Flash's rogue gallery, Rogues. What this does is that a lot of the subplots that were left hanging in the first volume and seemed to be there in the purpose of teasing bigger things to come were under-utilized and severely neglected throughout the story. An attempt to develop those elements only felt like a sabotage mission to what this volume ended up focusing on.

If we look at the introduction of the Rogues, it was fun, but also quickly dealt with each time. From Captain Cold to Mirror Master, the Rogues are an interesting squad of criminals who once had rules, but then were abandoned after a tragic event that changed each of their lives. The origin story of the Rogues proved to be interesting and still gives us a nice look at some of The Flash's most memorable and common villains, and Francis Manapul does a wonderful job in creating a story that utilizes each of their powers in a creative way.

Dr. Elias' story was also finally demystified, but when it came the time to tell us what happened to him, all I felt was an overwhelming feeling of disappointment. It's not the worse thing ever, but it did feel lazy.

Speaking of lazy, The volume incorporates two extra issues, a #0 and The Flash Annual #1, and were truly killers of momentum to the volume's pacing. The origin story of The Flash in #0 was still pretty good and covers all the basis of what we know about The Flash and what his powers mean to him now.

Francis Manapul's artwork still continues to excel with his unique style and is again what makes this series so far such an entertaining ride. Everything feels fast-paced, electric and flashy, and honestly, I can't wait for when things get dark and crueller villains drop by. At least I hope that will occur sometime soon!

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <https://bookidote.com/>
