



Wonder Woman, Volume 2: Year One

Greg Rucka (Writer) , Nicola Scott (Artist) , Romulo Fajardo, Jr. (Colourist) , Jodi Wynn (Letterer) , Bilquis Evely (Artist)

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A part of *DC Universe: Rebirth!*

New York Times best-selling writer Greg Rucka continues his return to *Wonder Woman*! The team of Rucka and artist Nicola Scott weave the definitive and shocking tale of Diana's first year as Earth's protector.

Paradise has been breached, Ares stirs, and the Amazons must answer with a champion of their own...one who is willing to sacrifice her home amongst her sisters to save a world she has never seen. Wonder Woman's journey begins in this epic origin story!

Collecting: *Wonder Woman* 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14

Wonder Woman, Volume 2: Year One Details

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Author : Greg Rucka (Writer) , Nicola Scott (Artist) , Romulo Fajardo, Jr. (Colourist) , Jodi Wynn (Letterer) , Bilquis Evely (Artist)

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From Reader Review Wonder Woman, Volume 2: Year One for online ebook

Anthony says

For me this is the better of the two volumes so far from Rucka and his Wonder Woman rebirth. The other volume did pick up more towards the end, but I enjoyed this one more overall. And the artwork is so good.

Michelle Hart says

YESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYES

rucka's wonder woman relaunch is the punchy, optimistic, feminist comic we need right now. it's not perfect--it has wonky pacing issues; the conflict is brought up and resolved within the last two issues--but there's so much heart here.

i mean...

Sam Quixote says

As Greg Rucka was writing two Wonder Woman storylines simultaneously, probably to keep the same artist for the duration of each arc, allowing them extra time to draw the issues while also sticking to DC's double-shipping schedule, his second Wonder Woman Rebirth book doesn't follow on from the first - instead it's a retelling of her origin. For the umpteenth time. Sigh. While the title "Year One" references the classic Batman book of the same name, Wonder Woman: Year One is unfortunately nowhere near the same quality.

Wonder Woman and the Amazons live on Themyscira, la la la, female paradise, etc. Then Steve Trevor crashes his plane near the island and Princess Diana learns of the outside world. Stevie boy gets healed up, Diana proves herself to be Champion of the Amazons, and the two head back to our world where she develops her powers and becomes Wonder Woman. In other words, the usual by-the-numbers story!

I don't know what DC are thinking when they commission books like this. Last year we had two high-profile Wonder Woman origin books (both of which were better than this one): Grant Morrison/Yanick Paquette's Wonder Woman: Earth One and Jill Thompson's Wonder Woman: The True Amazon. So Greg Rucka and Nicola Scott's Year One makes the third Wonder Woman origin in just over twelve months! How many origin retellings do we need?! And you know the Wonder Woman movie is gonna be more of the same – bah!

Scott's artwork was high quality as always and the sniper shootout in the mall was an interesting scene but for the most part I was immensely bored reading this. Standard characterisations – check, dreary exposition galore – check, arbitrary villain - check, rushed, lame final fight – check; Wonder Woman: Year One is an uninspired, unexceptional, un insightful and unnecessary re-tread of Diana's origin. Maybe those readers who've never read her origin before will get more out of this book but Earth One and The True Amazon do

the job far better anyway - check those out instead of this tedium.

lauren ? (wonderless reviews) says

The art in this is STUNNING ??

Anne says

4.5 stars

I remember this made headlines when it was confirmed that yes Wonder Woman is indeed bisexual.
gasp!

Although, is anyone really surprised? She lived on an island with nothing except a bunch of women. I think all of us but the most naive already assumed she played for *both* teams.

Duh.

I was a bit more surprised by Etta and Barbara Ann (soon to be Cheetah) having a thing for each other. And part of me felt like *Damn, Rucka! That's a lotta lesbians you got smooshed in there!*, but since it didn't come off like he was trying to cram in a bunch of low-budget girl on girl scenes into this one, I was ultimately fine with it. I mean, there *are* a lot of women who prefer the ladies, so...

The art was also bajillion times better (in my opinion) than some of the art in volume one. I like this style, and the consistency throughout the volume made me happy.

A lot of my friends have complained that we did not *need* another **origin** story for Diana. And possibly they're right.

But I actually *liked* this retelling of it. Plus, who knows what's going to happen to Azarello's goddess version once this whole Rebirth mess is over with, especially since she's on a quest to find out the truth now that she's supposedly remembering different timelines. It seemed to me like Rucka might have been doing us all a favor with this.

I'm not sure how I felt about all the gods coming down and bestowing gifts on her and helping her out during her fight with the Big Bad. I'm still a bit on the fence over the way they, in animal form, handed over a cell phone with the info the good guys needed to save the day. Half me thought it was cool, and the other half of me thought it looked a bit Snow White-ish and silly.

You know, *I get it*, everyone seems to believe that animals are a good judge of characters, so anyone they trust must be a WONDERful person...

But I'm here to say that sometimes animals are just stupid as fuck and don't know what the hell they're doing. For example, all chihuahua's hate me for some reason. Those are the only dogs I've ever been bitten by in my entire life <-- which had been FILLED with dogs! You know, my next door neighbors have one that can't poop if anyone is outside because the tiny fucker can't stop snarling at all of us long enough to relax his sphincter and shit. In fact, there's another little bastard that chases me every time I go past his house on my nightly walk. The neighborhood pitbulls LOVE me, but not the Taco Bell mascot? Ugh. And to all of you who would defend this breed - they aren't even *real* dogs, they're just squirrels on steroids.

Shit. What was I talking about?

Oh yes. I'm not sure how to feel about Diana and the woodland creatures.

But I *did* like the way life on Themyscira was portrayed. Especially, the mother daughter relationship between Diana and Hippolyta. I thought it was cool that the Queen wasn't portrayed as being cloying, or smothering her daughter like some sort of ancient version of the helicopter parent. It was sweet and you could see how much they both loved each other.

And the facial expressions were **fabulous** when it came to portraying the emotions in the panels.

Plus, the Amazons were just badass.

And then there's the issue that tells Barbara Ann's origin story. Ok, I know a lot of you aren't all that excited by Cheetah, but I've always liked her. Plus, this explains why WW needed her help in volume one. I *really* want more Minerva in the coming issues! Maybe a full Cheetah origin?! *big pleading eyes*

Steve. <--Awwwww!

If I didn't already love him, this would have tipped the scales. Just a really good representation of the guy. Strong, smart, and most of all just a *kind* person. This guy is much more likable than the New 52 version.

Also, my apologies if you were someone who was reading this as floppies. WTF? No idea what was the goal with the alternating issues, but it seems incredibly stupid since this volume tells *one* story and the last one tells something *completely* different. Jesus. I can't even imagine...

But if you're reading it in volume form it comes across as one flawless story.

Anyway, this might be another of those love it or hate it titles.

Personally, I **loved** it!

Richard says

This book is meant to be read in tandem with Vol. 1 of the Wonder Woman Rebirth series, Wonder Woman Vol. 1: The Lies, as the first twelve issue rotated between these two stories, with Vol. 1 collecting the odd

issues and Vol. 2 collecting the subsequent even issues, and both stories inform the other. So with that in mind, to really appreciate it, especially the somewhat confusing first volume, you probably should read the complete story in issue order in Wonder Woman: Rebirth Deluxe Edition Book 1.

This volume though, could possibly be appreciated on its own as it's a retelling of Wonder Woman's early years and her introduction to the world of man. I know, I know, we're a bit oversaturated with her origin by now, especially with the hit movie, but trust me, this one is probably the best Wonder Woman origin story I've personally read, with some great, modern ideas, and brings the story back to the more classic telling, after the controversial New 52 reimagining. I love that Diana and the people from the world of man don't speak the same language, and that the Amazons (including Diana) have same-sex relationships, both of which make total sense but has never truly been touched on a lot in the past. The sequence where Diana thwarts a terrorist attack is exciting and timely. One of my favorite aspects of this run is what Rucka is doing with Cheetah's character. Here we see the original friendship between Diana and Barbara Ann Minerva, who's depicted as a Lara Croft/Indiana Jones-style adventurer, and who we know will later transform into the cursed villain. They really do a great job at making her interesting and informing her relationship with Diana in *The Lies*, and makes that book a much better read.

I also loved Nicola Scott's art (who's great work I remember from Black Magick), even more so when you compare it to the odd issues in *The Lies*. Both books have great art, but (by design I'm sure) Scott's rounder, smoother look plays well with the younger, fresh-eyed characters we see in this origin story, which contrasts with Liam Sharp's more grizzled, hard-edged art in the present day material in *The Lies*. It's a great effect and I'm sure it would play even more effectively when read in chronological issue order.

Is it original? Not necessarily, but it works as a fun, modern introduction to the character, and an accessible point of entry for people interested after seeing the movie.

Stewart Tame says

In the grand tradition of "Year One" series, we get yet another run at Wonder Woman's origin, this time courtesy of Greg Rucka and Nicola Scott. It reads well and looks good, but that's really the bare minimum we expect from any graphic novel. Does this book break new ground for the character? Mmmmm ... not particularly. Don't get me wrong: it's good and all. But there's not much in the way of new concepts. If you're familiar with the original Marston origin and the Perez version from the 80's, you can see what bits and pieces Rucka has taken from both, as well as adding necessary pieces to make it contemporary to the present day and age. About the most striking new bit--new to me at least; I'm not a regular WW reader so I don't know if it's been done before, though I'm fairly certain it's a post-80's invention at least--is the addition of a language barrier. Diana doesn't speak English at first--though she does pick it up very quickly--which makes sense given her upbringing and all.

It's basically the familiar origin story: Themyscira inhabited entirely by women, Steve Trevor's plane crashes, contest to determine a champion, Princess Diana sent to outside world, battles terrorists and eventually a villain she's fought in past issues of various WW titles--no points for guessing who since it's pretty damn obvious--I figured it out many pages before Dr. Minerva did.

I find myself wondering what it would be like to read a graphic novel collecting all of the various versions of Wonder Woman's origin to date? It would be an interesting insight into individual writer's styles at least. Heck, I'd love to read such a book devoted to any hero, not just WW.

Good characters, an interesting beginning, but ultimately nothing out of the ordinary.

Will Robinson Jr. says

A truly wonderful retelling of the Wonder Woman origin for a new generation. Greg Rucka makes a risky gamble and decides to write not just the current adventures of Diana Prince aka Wonder Woman, which can be read in Wonder Woman, Volume 1: The Lies, but he decides to let the audience in on the secret history of Diana's first journey into man's world. First though the Wonder Woman origin has had many interpretations through the years Rucka puts his own unique spin on the tale by building some connective tissue to the present mystery Diana is facing. I thought it was clever to use Diana's memory wipe of Paradise Island's location as a sacrifice she gives up to come and save our world. It really added some much needed weight to Wonder Woman's nobility. Next, I have to say Nicola Scott's illustration with Romulo Fajado Jr.'s coloring is a match made in heaven. This is probably one of the most beautiful comics series in the market. The details and emotion for each character is stunning. The colors just really pop and shimmer on the page. I loved Ares design in the story as well and the covers just simply amazing. I still think that Greg Rucka could have easily just made this series its own title like how Batman is Detective Comics or Superman is Action Comics. This series would be great as the new Sensational Comics. I am really enjoying what Rucka is doing with the character and I am looking forward to the next volumes.

James DeSantis says

I almost went with a 5. I would have too, if last issue was as good as the rest.

So this is the origins of WW. Now listen, I'm sure this has been done before. I don't really give a fuck about that though. This is my first time reading a Origin Story for Wonder Woman and I thought it was REALLY well done.

So you get to see some time with Diana on the island learning who she is and what she's going to become. Then Steve lands and you get more backstory on his people, and it's actually really sad but luckily not swept into depression. Once you learn even more of what Diana is for and when she leaves the Island it gets even BETTER. The next few issues of Diana learning about us as people is magical and awesome. Like a baby learning to walk she learns everything about the world and it's done really well.

The negative in the story was the last issue. Here comes Ares, the God of War, and he gets taken out in about 7 pages. It was...lame. I thought it be a far bigger treat, more epic, but came up with just a meh feeling in the end.

However, to push score back up is the art, which is WONDERFUL, and some of the best I've seen in awhile. Really gives each person their own look and feel and the action is stunning and easy to follow.

So overall this is a wonderful origins story and a very strong storyline to get into WW. If you just read this by itself it's also really strong. I recommend this for anyone who wants to know about the badass warrior we all love right before her movie comes out! A 4/5.

Chad says

Wonder Woman gets retconned again. The new origin takes a lot of the elements of George Perez's version of WW's origin but with better storytelling. Diana leaves Themyscira to take Steve Trevor back to the outside world. Because she doesn't speak any English, Dr. Minerva is brought into communicate with her. I loved this addition to the supporting cast. I really liked enjoyed Minerva and Diana becoming friends when you know she will eventually become Cheetah. Rucka does a wonderful job of writing Diana as someone experiencing modern society for the first time. The Gods show up in animal form to grant Diana her powers. I'm curious how Rucka will integrate this take on the Gods with Azzarello's surreal take since both stories are still set in the new 52. Wonder Woman first appears in public when terrorists attack a mall she's visiting. Nicola Scott's art really shines here. I love how she portrays Wonder Woman's powers in the action scenes. It's absolutely fantastic. The only let down in the book to me was when she fought Ares. There was this big build up for him and then he's defeated in no time. It would have worked better if we built up to him over a few story arcs. The last issue was a stand alone story from Dr. Minerva's past.

Received an advance copy from DC and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Artemy says

I wasn't a fan of Rucka's first Rebirth volume of Wonder Woman, but I really enjoyed the movie, and that made me want to read more comics about her. First I finally finished Brian Azzarello's run (turned out to be pretty good in the end, by the way), after which I decided to pick up Year One. I'm glad I gave Rucka another chance, because this volume was really good! And that's a first one for Rebirth.

First of all though, I have to say: whoever at DC is responsible for the structuring of this entire run is an incompetent idiot. This volume, although it's collected as Volume 2, should definitely be read before the first one. It's an origin story, duh! And not just that, but this volume introduces some new plot points that are necessary for better understanding of the plot in the first book! And if you think that's bad, get this: the finale of Rucka's run is going to be in issue 25. Here's the solicitation text for that issue: "Writer Greg Rucka weaves together the threads of "The Lies," "Year One," "The Truth," and "Godwatch"—every story in WONDER WOMAN since the start of the DC Universe Rebirth era—in this extra-sized anniversary issue!" Can you guess in which volume this issue will be collected? Volume 3. After which we'll get volume 4, which will contain issues that come before that one. Oh DC, why do you make my head hurt so bad?

But enough about the bad stuff! Like I said, this volume was really good. Yes, it's yet another Wonder Woman origin story, which seems unnecessary, but it was done so well that I really didn't mind. I am not always a fan of Rucka's writing, but I have to give him credit — he writes Diana perfectly. She's very kind, without any sass or sarcasm, but she's not naive, either. In an era when Superman is either a hateful, brooding bastard in the movies, or is helmed by a sexual predator at DC comics, Diana is THE character to take Supe's place.

Plot-wise, if you've seen the movie, this comic will seem familiar. The setting is different, sure — instead of the World War I, the comic is set in the modern world. But many other plot points are present in this book, too. Unfortunately, just like the movie, the comic also suffers from the same sloppy third act. When the big bad shows up in the final issue, it feels too sudden, with virtually no buildup, and the resolution to that fight comes too quickly and too easily for Diana. That's just a small complaint though, and in both cases it didn't really hurt the overall experience.

I really liked the way the linguistic barrier between the Amazons and the Americans was shown, that added

some interesting dynamics to the character relations. And speaking of which, I also really liked the new character, Barbara Ann Minerva. Apparently, she was Cheetah in the old continuity, but I know nothing about that — she's awesome here, though! There even was a dedicated issue that was completely about her backstory. She's a genius linguist who fluently speaks many languages, and she always believed in the existence of Amazons, but her researches were constantly shut down by her superiors. She's the first character who manages to successfully speak with Diana and prove all of the naysayers wrong.

You know what? This volume was so good, it actually made me want to go back and reread the first one, because I'm pretty sure the story there will make more sense to me now. But to anyone who's looking for a great WW comic, I definitely recommend Year One! Just remember, this Volume 2 should be read BEFORE Volume 1.

Kat says

Basic Plot: The new story of how Wonder Woman rescued Steve Trevor, came to the United States, defeated Ares, and became Wonder Woman.

Now THAT's more like it. The art for half of the new Wonder Woman series is just gorgeous. Running two simultaneous/alternating storylines is all well and good as long as they both have the high quality the fans want. This one has far superior art to the more "current" timeline story.

The story itself is solid and includes all of the usual suspects: Steve Trevor, Etta Candy, and Dr. Minerva. There are a lot of fun moments as the various characters try to understand each other and introduce Diana to the modern world. Everyone seems to fit together nicely and the new interpretations of the characters really seem to work. I'm a happy fan.

Robert says

This is a volume sure to divide opinions as, yes, it is a retelling of an origin story. I myself feel like it was treading some very familiar ground, having read "Wonder Woman: Earth One" not too long ago.

Taken on its own, however, I feel that Mr Rucka does a great job re-engaging with the character and (amazingly, given the decades of character history and mythos) overtly and tastefully acknowledging the fact that there would be same-sex romantic partnerships on an all-female island, with the title character being no exception. The notion of a virginal Diana of Themyscira waiting untold centuries for the arrival of a "real man" is a quite dated one, and I find it serves the story better that she connects with Steve thanks to mutual respect and admiration and not just because he happens to be the first biped with a penis she has encountered.

A word on the art: Wonderful! I love it when the faces are this expressive, and each character has clearly identifiable features even when in the background. This attention to detail didn't go unnoticed, guys!

Lastly, it appears Mr Rucka has taken it upon himself to flesh out Cheetah as a villain, I only worry that all

this tragic backstory will only work to make her much more sympathetic, or even more of an ally than an antagonist. Trust the process, I guess!

David - proud Gleeman in Branwen's adventuring party says

Review to come

Wayne McCoy says

'Wonder Woman Vol. 2: Year One' by Greg Rucka with illustrations by Nicola Scott and Bilquis Everly collects even numbered issues 2-14 of the DC Rebirth series.

This story tells about the first year of Wonder Woman as Earth's protector, but before that, there is some backstory to take care of. We see Diana's early childhood on Themyscira and in alternating panels how her life and Steve Trevor's seemed to have some parallels. When Steve Trevor crashes on the island and is the only survivor of his plane, a decision has to be made to send someone. Diana is a bit of a fish out of water at first, but is a fast study. With Steve, Etta Candy and Dr. Minerva helping her out, she has found a solid team.

The book also includes a back up story about Dr. Minerva. There is a flashback to her childhood, then a search in the present for something involving the Amazons.

It's another origin type story, and it fits in a bit with the recent movie and other origins I've read. Did we need another origin for this character? There have been so many over the years, so why not. The art is good, and there is a cover gallery showing alternate covers for these issues.

I received a review copy of this graphic novel from DC Entertainment and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you for allowing me to review this graphic novel.
