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The battle for the soul of a hero! Pushed beyond his limits, Daredevil faces off for a final time against his deadliest foe - Bullseye - in their most brutal battle ever with more than just Hell's Kitchen is at stake. Spider-Man, Luke Cage, Iron Fist, Punisher and more join forces to stop a war that is breaking out throughout New York, with Daredevil at the center. This event will change the streets of New York City-and the heroes that protect it-forever. COLLECTING: Shadowland #1-5

Shadowland Details

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From Reader Review Shadowland for online ebook

logankstewart says

[Note: This review is identical to my review of *Shadowland: Daredevil*, as the two are intertwined through a cross-over event.]

To be fair, I was warned. The truly wonderful Volume 2 of **Daredevil**, spanning from Issue #1 to Issue #512 (which is 132), began in 1998 with a reboot. It lasted for 12 years, and in the majority of those years the story of Matt Murdock was fantastic. Sure, Murdock had a downer life, constantly assaulted and beaten. It was horrible. Tough. But still Matt Murdock pressed on.

When Andy Diggle took over the series at issue 501, there was an immediate shift in the story. Things were already dark, but Diggle took them to a ridiculously level of absurd darkness with little-to-no plausible explanation. The writing quality dropped noticeably, and consequently did the characterization. Art work was passable, but not as good as Lark or Maleev (or any of the others previously). And worst of all was the conclusion. This messy story might have been okay had it been spread out over more issues or handled differently. Instead the cross-over event was wacky and chaotic and I found myself cringing.

To me **Daredevil** Volume 2 ends at issue #500. Most everything established up to this point is resolved, and while the ending isn't perfect it's magnitudes better than the thing here in *Shadowland*. If you're reading stories about the Man Without Fear, allow me to recommend the same thing the guy that loaned me these comics: SKIP EVERYTHING AFTER 500. You won't regret it.

Andrew says

Did anyone actually enjoy this?

This is the text-book definition of why cross-overs are a bad idea. There only reason this existed was to generate more revenue - by forcing fans to purchase more comics than just the Daredevil monthly, and - hopefully - introduce them to other characters.

It was a major shame to see the previous, quality runs go to waste.

Ondra Král says

Dal jsem si nějaké četění včetn předchozích sešitů + tie-inů a furt je to strašně strašně špatný.

Tehanu says

2.5 Reading this is like watching a series finale without watching the rest of the season. Kind of pointless including it on the collection.

Eric Mikols says

I don't know what happened. Two volumes ago, Daredevil is a grade A book with great stories and a complicated character. Come Shadowland, it's a crossover with a bunch of street heroes who have little to do with Matt Murdock, and a character possessed by a demon.

I'm not against these kind of stories, but this one hurts Daredevil as a character. Some of the cameos, like Luke Cage and Iron Fist, make sense while others, like the Punisher and Ghost Rider, are wasted. The end, with Matt dealing with his self-doubt, is decent, but considering how little time we spend actually dealing with Daredevil in this Daredevil story, it's inconsequential. In fact, the only moment that felt like it had real emotion was the beginning with Bullseye, and that's pretty bad.

Kurt says

I love this story, even with its imperfections. For a while, Andy Diggle has been building a status quo in which Daredevil has taken leadership of the Hand with the intention of using an evil organization for a good purpose. In the context of the Marvel Universe, everything has had an internal logic and consistency. As things have gotten darker, with the group building a huge Japanese-style fortress in Hell's Kitchen, and ninjas enforcing martial law on the streets, some of Marvel's street-level heroes have become concerned for their friend, Matt Murdock, and his sanity. In Shadowland, the pieces start coming together, as the heroes band together to try to oppose the newly villainous Daredevil, and Matt Murdock has an internal struggle with the supernatural and moral influence of the assassins he leads. When the Shadowland crossover was originally published as single issues, the pacing was nice and deliberate, with a richness from multiple perspectives on each major event. In its collected format, this story jumps along a little too quickly for my tastes, with lots of action and not much reflection, so I hope that in the future we can see this in an omnibus edition with some of the tie-in issues. Still, I love Daredevil, and I love the new and exciting places that this storyline brings his character, and I recommend it to any Daredevil fan.

Salman Mehedy Titas says

"Matt Murdock Dared Evil and lost"

For years Daredevil had been a stood strongly against the cult of ninjas called The Hand. So it was very surprising when they approached him, during the Dark Reign, to lead them. Initially refusing, he was forced to take the mantle when The Hand decided to go to Wilson Fisk instead, and when Bullseye blew up an entire block in Hell's Kitchen. Determined to use change their ways and use them for justice, Daredevil decided to become the new leader.

What he failed to understand was that he was not in control at all. Like the Sauron's Ring, The Hand corrupted him from within. (view spoiler)

This review will hopefully cover all the tie-ins as well. Here we see Daredevil, now completely corrupted by darkness, fighting against those who he once called friends. This arc contains the arrival of the Daughters of the Shadow, the new Power Man, Daredevil's fall and Moon Knight's brother (view spoiler)

Martin says

First off I should point out that, like most crossover events, reading only the central mini-series is often not enough to fully enjoy said crossover event. From one chapter to the next, you might feel as if you've missed an important development in the story, one that's happened in a companion mini-series or tie-in. Such is the case with "Shadowland". Sure, the more tie-ins you read, the better, but the absolute minimum you should read along with this book is the Shadowland: Daredevil collection (to which I basically gave the same review). Which is logical, since the event is centered around Daredevil. Ideally, to get the most out of this storyline, one needs to read the first part of "Shadowland", then the first part of the "Shadowland: Daredevil" collection, and then the second part of "Shadowland", then the second part of the "Shadowland: Daredevil", and so on...

For an event that's gotten generally mixed reviews from "professional" reviewers from all corners of the internet, "Shadowland", in my humble opinion, is not nearly as bad as you'd be led to believe. Sure, some of its elements might be seen as unrealistic or implausible, but hey, **this is a comic book**, people! If you just let yourself go along with the story, you can see it as an interesting development for Daredevil.

Since its re-launch by Kevin Smith, through the Bendis and Brubaker runs, Daredevil's been subjected to one hardship after another, and he's always come out on the other side. He just keeps going. Now even though the aforementioned Bendis and Brubaker runs were phenomenal and destined to become classics, the Daredevil comic book itself had become quite dark and gritty, and somewhere along the way the editorial staff at Marvel comics decided to bring the character back to a traditional, not-so-dark environment. But they couldn't just change the character overnight. Instead, they had to take him to the logical end of the path he'd been on for the last years. Enter Andy Diggie, whose mandate it was to bring about the "end" of the dark days of Daredevil. Daredevil: The Devil's Hand (which I highly recommend to you) was an excellent start to his run and directly precedes the events of "Shadowland".

So, sure, "Shadowland" and the tie-in books may not be up to par with the Bendis and Brubaker runs, but one must keep in mind that, while these two writers pretty much took the character where they wanted him to go, Diggie had been given clear directives by the editors. This usually excellent writer did what he could with what he was given, and that's that. The art by Billy Tan is nice and the covers are supplied by the always excellent John Cassaday. Considering all of this, "Shadowland" turns out to be quite satisfying in its own right - just don't forget to read it alongside Shadowland: Daredevil. 4 stars.

Anne says

2.5 stars

I'm not enough of a Daredevil fangirl to say whether or not this sucked, so I'll just say I was underwhelmed. I'd heard that this was a BIG EVENT for Murdock, and I can see why, but I'm not sold on the concept.

Demon Possession?

I've never thought of Daredevil as a particularly supernatural character. Religious...maybe. But not necessarily part of the Marvel universe that dealt with the occult much.

Yeah, yeah...The Hand ninjas serve that Beast dude...but still.

Again, I'm not familiar enough with this character to make a true judgment call, so I'm just going off of my (*admittedly uneducated*) impressions.

Daredevil has taken over the reigns as leader of The Hand, in an effort to use them for good instead of evil. *Road to Hell...Good intentions...Yadda, yadda..*
Unbeknownst to him, he's been semi-possessed by **The Beast**, and when he (view spoiler) it allows the demon to take full control.

Luke Cage, Iron Fist, Spider-Man, and...a bunch of second string street heroes that I can't recall right now, try to talk some sense into Matt.
But by then, it's too late. He's got Hell's Kitchen completely locked down, and he's planning on spreading his 'kingdom'...*everywhere?*...not sure.
Electra, some old dude (*Master Somebody*), and the Punisher show up, and the team comes up with a plan to take take him out.
*Also, for some reason, **Moon Knight** is running around in the background of the story. Does he do anything helpful? Not really.*
Ghost Rider gets summoned by Kingpin, who is using an ancient 'magic scroll' that he stole from The Hand. As with Moon Knight, his appearance doesn't seem all that important in the overall story. But at least he attempts to help out during the Big Showdown.

I honestly didn't really *get* the reason for this story.
I mean, I understand what happened, and it was sort of entertaining, but I can't say it impressed me.

Paulo Tiago Muliterno says

Não sei se é porque eu me afastei das séries regulares da Marvel há algum tempo, ou se é porque falta o recheio complementar dos títulos independentes de Homem-Aranha, Vingadores ou mesmo do Motoqueiro Fantasma e Cavaleiro da Lua, mas... cara, que coisa apressada, rasa.

O Demolidor foi um personagem que "grew on me" - nunca fui fã de carteirinha dele, mas com o tempo passei a entender e admirar. Mas aqui parece que nem ele aparece tanto. Tudo vira uma desculpa pra, em determinado momento, ter um quebra-pau "épico" (que dura umas 4 páginas) e terminar.

Uma pena, porque as ideias são boas. Mas a execução enxuta e rasa fode.

Adam Spanos says

Andy Diggie writes Matt Murdock completely out of character and takes a giant piss on everything that the preceding writers had built for the character. Filled with interesting ideas poorly executed, too many characters and supernatural BS after almost a decade of Daredevil being Marvel's most grounded and realistic book.

This is a truly heartbreaking missed opportunity that squanders and ruins the Bullseye character for other, more competent writers in the future.

Relstuart says

This is actually a review of the whole Diggle Daredevil run. The publishing of the Shadowland was very poorly done with important parts of the stories split into different collected editions. So just reading the Shadowland event would be unsatisfying as would just reading the Daredevil issues/collection.

Reading the whole thing together (as I did) it's not as bad as everyone says. But it wasn't on the same level as the Bendis or Brubaker material that proceeded Diggle's run either. I've been wanting to read this for years and I'm very glad to have finally read thru it.

Alan says

Let me get straight to the point; 'Shadowland' is a mess in every conceivable way. As if the story wasn't bad enough (and "bad" it is), the geniuses at Marvel's trade paperback/collections department have made this almost unreadable by completely botching the collection. 'Shadowland', for those who don't know, was one of those crossover "events" that the big two American comic use to rinse our wallets at least once a year. Although 'Shadowland' features numerous inconsequential spin-offs, one tie-in was absolutely compulsory in order to follow this, that of Daredevil, the central character of this event. Daredevil's tie-in has been collected in 'Shadowland: Daredevil'. But the only way you can follow the events of this main 'Shadowland' collection, without feeling like things are just happening for no reason and not making any sense, is if you read it with 'Daredevil: Shadowland'. You would literally have to follow the first issue of this book with the first issue of 'Daredevil: Shadowland', the next issue of this followed by the next issue of DD, and so on until you reach the end. Although, I must concede, I don't actually know if the story would make more sense if the two series were collected together, as I haven't read the DD tie-ins and, after enduring this piece of crap, I should hope I never will.

To be honest, the basic premise behind 'Shadowland' isn't bad. Should you feel the need to read this rubbish, you'd be well advised to read the lead-up to it first, collected in the reasonable 'Daredevil: The Devil's Hand', written by Andy Diggle, the same writer of both 'Shadowland' and 'Shadowland: Daredevil'. It would help if you've also read the Brian Michael Bendis and Ed Brubaker 'Daredevil' runs which preceded Diggle's, or at least have an understanding of the fact that Diggle was charged with the monumental task of clearing the slate for the next writer after him. You see, where Bendis began a gritty psychological chapter of Daredevil's life, which took him to his lowest and most vulnerable, Brubaker, on the shoulders of his predecessor, took the character to even further depths. The result was, as Marvel have described it, "a nine year epic" and, if they weren't careful, we'd be saddled with nine more years (or longer!) of writers trying to outdo each other by screwing up Matt Murdock's life ever further. The idea of Andy Diggle's run was to take Daredevil to the absolute lowest extreme imaginable, before bringing him back from the depths in the follow-up to 'Shadowland', 'Daredevil Reborn', and then allowing the next writer to begin with a clean slate. This idea is entirely logical, and the premise of having Daredevil side with The Hand only for them to end up corrupting him entirely, presents a potentially great way of achieving this end. However, the execution was terrible.

As a bonus, this book contains an interview with Andy Diggle, a well respected British writer who had previously shied away from superheroes. He explains that when Marvel editorial "heard my plans for where I wanted to take DD as a character, they liked where I was going and asked to make it even bigger and louder and darker." I can only guess that this is where the stupid idea of making this into a company-wide crossover came from, and why other superheroes like Spider-Man and Wolverine were shoehorned into it. However, we can't blame it all on the evil Suits in Marketing, as Diggle goes on to explain that "'Shadowland' is a big colorful super-hero fistfight extravaganza, which is what super-hero readers want." So Diggle has basically

admitted to dumbing down to the audience of a genre he says himself that he doesn't care for, in the same way that a Hollywood executive might presume that all the masses want to see is big explosions and sexy women only to release a film that flops. Furthermore, I'm sure that it wasn't editorially mandated when Diggle wrote The Punisher entering the fight out of the blue, just as the other superheroes were about to lose the battle to the evil ninjas, exclaiming, "Kung-fu THIS" as he rescues everyone.

In closing, all I can say is that 'Shadowland' is a complete shambles. It has absolutely no redeeming features, and it reads as if it were written by someone who thinks all superhero fans are idiots. The formula for this travesty seems to have been to throw in as many fights, superheroes and one-liners as possible, while completely destroying Daredevil in the process. The fact that this story was so clumsily reprinted adds insult to injury, showing how little regard Marvel editorial clearly placed this in. 'Shadowland' epitomises everything that is wrong with the superhero genre, every negative and juvenile stereotype of comics, and spits on Marvel's longest continually-excellent modern-day series. Avoid at all costs.

Mike says

not entirely bad, not very satisfying. Seems a limited-run series forced things to culminate too fast a before we got a chance to see it sink in. While the action was good, the very limited insights into Murdock's descent were frustrating to say the least.

The appearances by high-profile superheroes - out of nowhere, no context or reason why they'd know of or be associated with this storyline - feel like the kind of stunt casting A-list Hollywood guest appearances on flagging TV shows during sweeps week. What, didn't Marvel feel big enough trotting out every martial artist in all of Marvel? Had to have a walk-on (and just as fast walk-off) by Spider-man?

The post-story interview with Diggle makes it clear that Marvel meddled heavily in the stunt casting and number of marvelcharacters traipsing around - and I gotta say, the meddling shows. Diggle is much more edgy and fun than this series allowed him to be.

The art is pretty solid, but what's with the out-of-proportion heads? Kingpin looks like something out of a Tim Burton movie.

Gustavo says

Cuando leí de qué se trataba Shadowland me sentí muy intrigado por todo el concepto de "Daredevil toma el mando de La Mano y la usa para proteger Hell's Kitchen", es una idea muy interesante. Lamentablemente en este libro es muy desaprovechada y termina convirtiéndose en la vieja trama de *superhéroe se vuelve malo, los amigos le piden que cambie, el no quiere cambiar y terminan peleando*.

He leído a varios devir que esta historia está incompleta sin la parte de la historia de Daredevil: Shadowland, pero la verdad que después de leer esto no se cuanto podría mejorar, estoy dudando en darle una oportunidad.

Otra historia en la que aparece Moon Knight y no haee absolutamente nada, pero para ser justos, nadie hace nada, porque en este libro no pasa nada, el cambio en Daredevil es explicado de la forma más estúpida posible, por supuesto liberandolo de toda culpa, lo que hace que la misma premisa de la historia sea básicamente una mentira. Que decepción.

