



The Flintstones, Vol. 2: Bedrock Bedlam

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Fred and Barney reunite for Mark Russell's modern take on Hanna-Barbera's most famous stone-age family!

This second volume starring the first family of Bedrock (and civilization, really) tells the story of who we are and why we do what we do as if it all began with Fred, Wilma, Barney, Betty and the rest of the citizens of Bedrock. Shining a light on humanity's ancient customs and institutions in a funny origin story of human civilization, Mark Russell (PREZ) blends modern interpretations with Hanna-Barbera's classic characters, bringing a breath of fresh stone-age air.

Hanna-Barbera has created some of the most recognizable animated characters of all time. As part of DC Comics' reimagination of cartoons like SCOOBY-DOO, JOHNNY QUEST, SPACE GHOST and WACKY RACERS, these new series are infused with modern and contemporary concepts while keeping the heart and soul of the classic animation.

Collects THE FLINSTONES #7-12.

The Flintstones, Vol. 2: Bedrock Bedlam Details

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Author : Mark Russell , Steve Pugh

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From Reader Review The Flintstones, Vol. 2: Bedrock Bedlam for online ebook

Artemy says

Mark Russell's dark social satire masked as a Flintstones comic comes to an end in this second volume. In a way, this book was even more depressing than the first one, as one of the plot lines got into some really dark territory with two of its sweetest and most innocent characters. I didn't expect such a turn of events, but kudos to Russell for being bold and going with it anyway in what technically should be a kids' comic. The Flintstones was an emotional trip, and I'm glad that after Prez, DC gave Russell another chance to express himself through such an unusual theme. I'm looking forward to reading more of his stuff in the future, and I will miss Flintstones just like I miss Prez.

Rebbie says

This was the first Flintstones DC Comics (for adults) that I've read. It was great, but not at all what I was expecting. I assumed it was going to be lighthearted but geared more for adults, you know, like the cartoon but a little more modern.

But still, it was enjoyable to read, and the social commentary was an interesting element. Thanks to Netgalley for the ARC.

Schizanthus says

I grew up watching *The Flintstones* and then bought the seasons on DVD as an adult. I **love** everything about it - the characters, the storylines, the catchphrases, the prehistoric household appliances. Needless to say, I was all yabba dabba doo at the chance to read *The Flintstones Vol. 2: Bedrock Bedlam*.

I tried **so** hard to love this one but unfortunately my get up and go just got up and went. I didn't find it funny and never connected with the characters. Maybe it was a case of my expectations being too high for a childhood favourite but it never really felt like I was reading about my favourite modern Stone Age family. I'm so sad to say that it never lived up to the Hanna-Barbera cartoons for me.

I received a copy of this graphic novel from NetGalley (thank you so much to NetGalley and DC Entertainment for the opportunity) in exchange for honest feedback.

Morgan says

Another great volume, but unfortunately this one will be the last. I really wish they would continue this series. At least the Jestons is next on their list. Maybe they will do the famous crossover. If not, this series is worth it if you ask me.

Shadowdenizen says

First, thanks (as always) to Netgalley and DC Comics for allowing us access to digital copies of their books and comics.

4.5 stars; what can I say about this title that hasn't been said?

The sly, witty, satirical cult-hit of the last year continues, and in fine-form.

I've said it before in my review of Volume 1, but it's still true; who would have guessed that the smartest book published by DC would be about the adventures of a "Modern Stone Age Family"? (And I mean that in spades; this book deftly addresses many current issues with a light but questioning touch that doesn't insult it's readers' intelligence!)

DC has done a great job of shepherding this title, (and Scooby: Apocalypse!) into a "Must-Read" each month (and I read A LOT of titles, both in single-issues and Graphic Novel format)!

Sam Quixote says

Mark Russell and Steve Pugh's acclaimed Flintstones series comes to a yabba-dabba-end with this second volume. While Bedrock's community undergoes numerous changes, Fred's career at Mr Slate's Quarry continues to have its ups and downs, Wilma's still trying to make it as an artist, and Pebbles questions the importance of science and religion.

Like the first book, Russell uses the Flintstones to critique modern Western society. The First Church of Gerald discovers it can make money off its rubes, er, "parishioners" through paid forgiveness of sins, George Slate embraces an Ayn Randian religion but finds material success is hollow, and Clod continues to scare up money for a bizarre war against the nebulous "Lizard People" who're stealing some guy's ferns! The comparisons to our world are easy to see.

As clever as it is though, the material doesn't make for a gripping read and, coupled with the lack of an overall narrative and episodic structure (which I get mirrors the TV show), made it very easy to keep putting down. I was never that wrapped up in what any of the characters were doing and often found my mind wandering.

Ironically, while Russell couldn't make me care much about the Flintstones themselves, I was shocked at how deeply he affected me with his two new, minor characters: Bowling Ball and Vacuum Cleaner. The Flintstones' appliances are all living animals who start talking to one another once the humans leave so their stories have a Toy Story-esque vibe to them. And, like Toy Story 3 in particular, without going into spoilers it gets surprisingly dark. The small lives and dreams of Bowling Ball and Vacuum Cleaner are the biggest takeaway for me from this series; beautiful, understated and totally unexpected to find in a Flintstones comic of all things!

I also liked that Russell gave religion a fair shake. The First Church of Gerald is obviously a stand-in for Christianity and, while not religious myself and I'm guessing Russell isn't either, religion clearly has its place in our society and helps many people so I was pleased to see that acknowledged rather than reading yet another tedious one-sided screed bashing belief.

I appreciated Russell/Pugh's Flintstones run more than I enjoyed it – the lack of any strong stories probably

being my biggest issue - but I can easily see why so many loved it. It's got heart, brains and humour wrapped in fine art and a smart modern take on an iconic series. And it ends perfectly too: with a bowling match! The Flintstones, Volume 2 isn't the most compelling read but I think most fans will be delighted with this version of the show.

Alex Sarll says

Continuing and alas concluding the fabulous black comedy take on the prehistoric everyman family - though if there was one thing I found slightly unsatisfactory in this volume, it was the way that rather than being a proto-Homer Simpson, Fred would often be the one delivering the stark moral of the stories. Still, everyone else tends to ignore him and carry on doing stupid human things, so at least there's that. Reflected concerns of our own times include gentrification, drone warfare and people's love of electing manifestly terrible political leaders. And honestly, it near makes me weep to think of all the people out there reading clunking, self-satisfied state-of-the-nation novels and not getting half the insight into our travails which they could be getting here - plus, this has dinosaurs! On which note, the subplot about the bowling ball and the vacuum cleaner...oh man. Think *Toy Story*, without the happy ending.

(Netgalley ARC)

Morris says

I have trouble finding the words to express how much I LOVE The Flintstones reboot comics. "Bedrock Bedlam" is an even stronger follow-up to the first volume. The art is beautiful and the satire is biting. They definitely are not the Flintstones of your childhood (or the childhood of your parents).

This unbiased review is based upon a complimentary copy provided by the publisher.

David Schaafsma says

The second and final volume of a terrific dark social commentary in the form of a Flintstones comic by Mark Russell, who claims as his influences none other than H.L. Mencken, Kurt Vonnegut and Jared Diamond (*Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail*) (yes, the guy who is writing persuasively about the possible? probable? end of human civilization!). Of course, there are an increasing number of grim dystopian comics on this theme, but how many of them are actually funny? If science fiction looks at the present in terms of the future, Russell here looks at the present in terms of a darkly funny story of human history, seeing how the roots of the grim present (sexism, racism, capitalism, religious fundamentalism, and so on) might have come about in Bedrock with Fred and Wilma, Barney and Betty. A dark turn happens with the animals (species-ism!), when Bowling Ball becomes disposable. I like the Church of Gerald, which makes big money through forgiveness payments. The second volume doesn't really advance the story--it's mostly episodic, a series of static critiques--but it is good, surprising and welcome political humor for the world of comics.

Chris says

The Flintstones comes to an end with a fantastic second volume that's just as good as the first. While i'm sad to see the series go, I think having a finite run will work in it's favour in the long run. It makes the series easier to recommend as a whole and if you enjoyed Vol. 1, then this is an absolute must.

My only criticism is that I wasn't too keen on the fill-in art for the first issue. While the characters are still consistent, the finesse just isn't there. Fortunately, Steve Pugh drew all but that one issue and I can't believe I didn't say more about his art previously. His character designs are excellent and on a par with his detailing and ability with facial expressions. Likewise, colourist Chris Chuckry did superb work on every issue and together, the duo left their mark on the re-imagined Bedrock, giving the series a visual identity that I really enjoyed.

Writer Mark Russell also remains on top form and has become one of my favourite writers as a result. His commentary on society and humanity in general felt even more acerbic in this volume, but the sharp wit and silly, offbeat humour he tells the story with balance it out. Oh, and if anyone concludes the arc of 'bowling ball' and 'vacuum cleaner' and claims they didn't feel anything, then frankly, they have no heart and are not to be trusted!

There's little more to say about The Flintstones other than that it's one of the best comics of the year and comes highly recommended. I'll definitely be reading the Snagglepuss series that Mark Russell is writing in 2018 and i'll be keeping an eye out for more of Pugh and Chuckry's work in future, too. If that isn't a testament to the great work the creative team did here, then I don't know what is. Highly recommended.

Chelsea says

4 stars.

This was painful.

It was amazing just painful to read. While I think the first one was a bit more cohesive and the parallels a little more effective, I still really enjoyed this one. It's a major bummer in that a lot of the world's problems are laid out and there's no way to fix them anytime soon but it's a great book.

Similar to the first volume, this series expertly uses the daily lives of the Bedrock citizens to parallel issues in our daily lives. It tackles the minimum wage work force, gentrification, ageism, female objectification, classism, mega churches and painful comparisons to this past election.

Minimum Wage Work Force: There is an arc where Fred and the other guys at the quarry are fired because the quarry can make more profit by hiring less experienced workers and paying them lower wages. Fred suffers and feels useless because he can't provide for his family. The quarry's stock prices soar because they're not paying as much for workers and it takes Fred's boss realizing he's an asshole to change this. So, no hope for real life scenarios like this, I'm afraid.

- There's also a part where a new employee who wasn't properly trained gets buried beneath a rock slide and the boss doesn't want to lose profit shutting down the quarry to rescue him.

Gentrification: This was your typical story where hipsters move into a community, build up condos, make real estate prices skyrocket and then slowly boot out the people who lived there before. Not much to say

about this one.

Ageism: Everyone from the animals being used as appliances, pets, and workers are used to talk about the obsession with youth and retiring people when they get too old to be desirable. Not a ton to say about this theme.

Female Objectification: There's a pretty short interlude where Wilma goes to visit her mother on the farm she grew up on. Wilma ran away when her father promised her to an older man in exchange for a dowry of goats. I wasn't entirely sure how this related to real life parallels? This isn't something that really happens these days and the only connection I could make was to Fred's narration.

- When talking at the debate over whether to close a children's hospital to pay for dinosaur armor, Fred says that men have two imperatives: 1) Make children 2) protect children. This speech is told over a shot of Wilma running away from home which I saw as a great way to talk about men protecting girls instead of using them as leverage.

Classism: This is interwoven through out all the parts with Fred's boss which related to:

Mega Churches: There is an arc where the church, which started with good intentions, starts exchanging tithes for absolution. People come in and learn that they can donate to the church to get "forgiveness" instead of actually living by the principles of Gerald. I saw this as a parallel to mega churches but it could also just be about inactive worship. Eventually, the rich people start worshipping Vorp who doesn't preach so much about humility and helping your fellow man.

Elected Officials: This was just painful to watch. There's a big idiotic, war hungry pig in office and he manipulates the public to support using community money for a falsified war or closing down a children's hospital. So, literally making people choose between healthcare for the needy and a war with false motives. He doesn't actually have any plans or solutions for going to war with the lizard people. There's a point when he keeps digging himself into a corner and his underlings remove his ability to communicate with the outside world and run things themselves. It was bloody painful.

- Also, the speeches about how this whole vendetta was manufactured because the lizard people look and think differently from the people in Bedrock was really well done. One of the best lines in this book came at the end of one of these issues:

Yeah, they stole some ferns but every day, we do worse things to each other right here in Bedrock. The truth is, we're just weirded out by them. And for that, we turned out backs on sick children for that we traded our retirement for loose meat sandwiches. We take money out of our schools and make life harder for ourselves. And for what? To kill a few lizard people? **If we're looking for places to cut back, then I say racism is the most expensive luxury we have.**

Michelle says

When I first heard of this DC/Hannah Barbara reboot, I had no idea what to expect. I never thought it would bring us a satire on consumerism, capitalism, religion and modern culture in general, really.

I really enjoyed this second (and sadly, last) volume of this series, even though I found some of the humour to be a bit too on the nose (but when it's done right, it really works). I especially like how Russell came up

with stories within the Flintstones universe that inform some of the beliefs people hold today (ie. shortening Bedrock's Gerald - an obvious reference to the Judeo/Christian God - to G-D).

It's a super fun series, one that caught me completely by surprise. It's definitely worth checking out!

Ana says

All good things must come to an end. I really loved this series. Please give it a read!

Chad says

While I can appreciate the dark social commentary, Mark Russell and Steve Pugh has given us, the last thing I need to be reminded of is how humanity seems to be headed to oblivion, especially in Trump's America. I don't need a social satire set in Bedrock to open my eyes to what I see every day. It made this a bit of a slog to get through. The one bright spot in the book were Bowling Ball and Vacuum Cleaner. Yeah the story got very dark in places, but their story ends on a heart warming note.

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

? Garima ? says

This is adult version of beloved Flintstones where it is also mixed with certain technology, time travelling and certain ugly aliens...

The expectation was still adult but light-hearted version of this -

what I got was this -

Even though in glossy cover artwork everyone is happy and smiling, I never smiled once while reading this. This is adult version of comics which focuses on many modern day issues like feminism, politics, slavery, religious beliefs etc...and I can't believe how depress I was when (view spoiler)

Still after reading few chapters, it grows on you and I ended up liking it despite of it didn't match my expectations.
