



Captain America: Winter Soldier, Vol. 2

Ed Brubaker , Steve Epting (Illustrator) , Mike Perkins (Illustrator)

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The questions plaguing Captain America's dreams and memories have been answered in the most brutal way possible. And in the wake of this brutality, General Lukin makes his first all-out assault - tearing open old wounds and threatening to make new scars that will never heal!

Collecting: *Captain America 8-9, 11-14*

Captain America: Winter Soldier, Vol. 2 Details

Date : Published October 25th 2006 by Marvel (first published May 31st 2006)

ISBN :

Author : Ed Brubaker , Steve Epting (Illustrator) , Mike Perkins (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 138 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Marvel, Comic Book

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From Reader Review Captain America: Winter Soldier, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Eric says

The Winter Soldier story-line really shouldn't have been split up into two volumes, as all of my concerns in my review of the first volume -- not enough Cap, not enough action, not enough resolution -- were addressed in this volume.

That being said, Captain America still doesn't even crack my top ten list of favorite superheroes. He is too one-note with the punching and shielding repeated ad nauseam -- it makes me think of the saying that when all you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail -- and while he has the same lawful/good disposition that makes Superman so boring, he can't even fly or shoot lasers out of his eyes. Poor Cap. Two things he does have going for him are good writing, which covers a lot of the sins of updating this outdated WWII figurehead hero to the current day, and a really interesting supporting cast, including, in this volume, Falcon. And while the first volume focused on the supporting players and basically ignored Cap, this volume had a better balance.

I probably wouldn't have continued with this series, but I bought Civil War: Captain America and Captain America: The Death of Captain America in the same sale, so I will continue on to the inevitable (thanks to the subtle titling) conclusion.

Andrew Greatbatch says

OMG BUCKY <3

Brubaker, you have shown me how amazing you really are with your Captain America run, and I want to thank you for these great stories!

Kemper says

Captain America and SHIELD struggle to stop a string of terror attacks that are part of a larger plan, and the architect of it has a very old grudge as well as a devastating personal card to play against Cap.

I noted when reviewing Vol. 1 that the secret of the Winter Soldier has been out there for some time. I've written about him in several of my own reviews for Brubaker's run of Captain America as well as the Winter Soldier's own book. But the movie comes out next week and for once Hollywood hasn't given away the whole story in the trailers so I'll play along and keep my mouth shut too.

Suffice it to say that this is one of my favorite superhero stories I've read in recent years, and the events in it would have long standing consequences for Cap.

(view spoiler)

Aron says

About a 95 on a scale of 1 to 100. This was my first time reading this, which makes me really late on such a great story. The reason for this is that I briefly skimmed Winter Soldier some years back & decided I wouldn't be too crazy about & never really thought about it again. Here lately though I've been trying to read some of the popular arcs that Marvel put out in the last 10 years or so, & of course Brubaker's Capt. America run kept popping up on a lot of top 10 lists found on the internet. Long story short is that I must not have been in the right frame of mind when I flipped through this the first time because this is an excellent story. I love well crafted political intrigue stories & that's most definitely what this is. The writing & dialog are near perfect, the flashback scenes are well done & the artwork matches the tone & content of the story very well. I love it when a story really sucks you in & you just get to set back & enjoy. There's just not enough good things I can say about Winter Soldier, other than as fun as I thought the movie was the book that it's based on is so much better. This was an extremely fun read & I'm definitely gonna be checking out the rest of Brubaker's run on Captain America as soon as possible. Highly recommend.

Travis says

3.5

Hey, can we all appreciate the last two Captain America movies though?

Stephen says

I'm not gonna **toss a tantrum** or spew **geek rage** all over this review (*though I may stomp my feet once or twice*), but seriously, folks, a **lukewarm** quality Cap graphic novel written by **Ed Brubaker** is just a **teary-eyed disappointment** for me. Eddie is one of the **elite** comic writers working today (or ever) and Cap has become his signature series. Before Brubaker came along, Cap was a softening, 1950's anachronism with the beginnings of **man-boobs**. Ed took Cap's aging, saggy bottom and re-forged him back into a steel-eyed, bone-breaking block of iron kick-assery.

He deserves full props for that.

However, with that kind of accomplishment comes the baggage of high expectations and low tolerance for **pooch-screwing** and this one just didn't work for me overall. There were flashes of "**oh yay**" but the potential was too often squandered and the awesome never came close to filling up the **fanboy happy tank**.

What exactly twisted my Calvins in a bunch, you ask? Well, don't get your own all knotted up with impatience and I'll tell you.

Let me begin with a brief analogy that hopefully will help explain. If you'll forgive my rival-company reference to DC, Cap has always been a perfect cross between **Superman** (i.e., high ideals, apple pie principles and an unwavering symbol of hope and freedom) and **Batman** (i.e., a results orientated, "in the trenches" fighter obsessed with bringing down the bad guys). Cap is the honorable soldier dealing with really nasty bad guys and not afraid to bring the pain when necessary. *[I know, I know...I can hear the **nerd alarm** going off too, but please try and ignore it and pay attention.]*

HOWEVER...(are you listening ED?)

...unlike Batman, Cap has never lost the battle with his darker side or silenced his basic humanity and has always maintained his "Superman-like" positive outlook about people and society. This is what makes Cap...Cap. He's always been the perfect combination of "tough" and "moral" when it comes to superheroes and that's why he's always been one of my favorites. [*Would somebody please turn that bell off?!!*]

Unfortunately, Brubaker stubs his pen a little bit on the altar of trying to make Cap more flawed and accessible...more of a "real" person. I'm great with the thought, but in doing so, he ended up painting Cap as a bit of a "burn out" with some significant emotional baggage. C'mon, Eddie...Caps not a Dr. Phil guest looking to open up a dialogue with his inner child. A little depth and some personality warts are great, but don't turn Cap into a basket case.

What I found so strange about Brubaker's stumble is that I thought he got Cap's voice **perfect** in the first volume of the Winter Soldier series. [*Rumor is that I may have actually squealed with delight, but you'll never prove anything*]. I just think in this one, he poured too much "anti" into Cap's character and lost the proper balance.

NOTE: *My nerdy outpouring of nerdfanggeekboy is almost spent so please just bear with me for a tad longer.*

I know the above sounds mega nasty and I don't mean it to sound that negative. I still **mostly** enjoyed the story and there were parts that were excellent. I just know how talented Brubaker is and how unequalled he is writing Cap and so was bummed that I didn't get a stronger effort from him.

Overall, smack dab between okay and a weak like. Call it 2.5 stars. You can do so much better Eddie...let's buckle up and get it right next time.

Robert says

Seeing this in a comic panel for the first time was a gut punch:

This compilation was amazing! So nice to finally visit the source material for my (to date) fave MCU movie and find it does not in the least disappoint, either as a twisty-turny superhero thriller or artistically as Steve Epting does great work bringing the inner conflicts and emotions to life AND nailing the hyperkinetic action sequences. Simply a MUST READ for anyone who likes the characters.

Marta L says

3'5

Paul says

The book where Captain America's sidekick, Bucky, is brought back. Hmmm, this is a sort of sacrilege to me. There are some deaths in the Marvel Universe that I feel are sacred. There's Gwen Stacy. Uncle Ben. And Bucky.

So, I'm not sure how I feel about Bucky being back. On the one hand, it pisses me off, but there's a twelve year old in me that loves seeing Bucky again. I collect golden age comics, so Bucky's no stranger to me, and an updated version actually works.

I suppose that's the thing: there's maybe two or three writers out there (such as Bendis) who could do this storyline and make me like it. Luckily, Ed Brubaker's one of them.

So, yeah---I like the characterization: Brubaker has a knack for having characters be superhuman and human at the same time. Epting is a very good artist, and Lark, who does some chunks of the storyline, is one of my favorite artists.

So, okay. Bucky's back. I can live with that.

Cheese says

A great insight into the creation of Bucky aka the winter soldier and how him and cap met and built a friendship.

The way Brubaker manages to portray Bucky as a complete badass even at the age of 16 is excellent. In this volume we also get to see captain America go up against Bucky and it's a good fight!

What's also very interesting is the interaction with the cosmic cube. Because the artwork is drawn in such a real world way it's kind of easy to forget that it's cosmic and can do pretty much anything so to see it used in the way that it has been is exciting.

Another excellent volume.

Gavin says

Volume 2 of this collection (which was actually Ed Brubaker's first work for Marvel! - this collection, not Vol 2) picks right up where the first left off. The Winter Solider has been spotted, and there's a good chance it's none other than a long lost hero from the past...

Featuring Cap alongside Sharon Carter, Nick Fury, Falcon and Iron Man. This shows just how deep loyalty runs, the importance of friendship, and sets up one heck of a run on this series...Strongly recommended.

Carlex says

Finally I have read it. Excelsior!

Tym says

As before an excellent read, one part political thriller, one part war story and one part emotional thriller. I LOVED Winter Soldier the first time I read it and the same still holds true. The art is a great blend of dark, realistic and yet still superhero-ey enough to pull of Falcom and other guest stars. I think this is probbly the best Captain America story ever written. I just wish I owned my own copy.

Michael says

Not quite what I expected it to be, but still very good. It didn't really start to click until Cap found out about Bucky, which is not coincidentally the first time a human element entered into the espionage and intrigue. Epting's art is, as it's always been, terrific. Two things I didn't care much for: the Jack Monroe chapter seemed a waste of time, a marking of space while Epting caught up to deadlines; and the villain getting soft because he'd injured his friend and basically giving away the Cosmic Cube. That was kinda dippy.

I did like the opening of the final chapter: Winter Soldier about to pop Falcon, who suddenly disappears, then Bucky turns to Cap and sees the shield already coming right at him. Nice sequence. Some nice twists, nice intrigue and solid character work.

Dirk Grobbelaar says

I still own the trade paperbacks that came in a Volume 1 and Volume 2. I see that **The Winter Soldier** has since been published in a single volume (Captain America: Winter Soldier Ultimate Collection) which makes perfect sense. It's impossible for me to rate the two volumes separately.

So, I just wrote a single review, which will be exactly the same for both:

Captain America: Winter Soldier, Volume 1

Captain America: Winter Soldier, Volume 2

This is a prime example of how good the graphic medium can be when done right. There's very little, if anything, wrong here. Every single panel is pure class. Visually arresting, the use of dark colours captures the emotional mood perfectly and lends a cinematic sweep to the story. The plot is ingenious and much deeper than most (where "comics" are concerned). Of course, we all know where this arc eventually ended, but let's not go down that road right now. The **Winter Soldier** sequence often makes it to lists of the "best **Marvel** graphic novels", but it should be on the list of best ever graphic novels... **period**.

It's a funny thing. I find myself wanting to write something about the story, and at the same time I don't want to. There is a brodingnagian potential for inadvertent spoilers. So I'll just say...

...**Highly recommended**. And another thing: this actually serves as a good place to jump in if you haven't

read a lot of Captain America previously, because of the ample use of flashbacks and the rich back story.

Note 1: OK, so I know I said that my review of the two Trade Paperbacks would be exactly the same, but I just wanted to add that something I appreciated in this collection was the inclusion of The Falcon. There is a lot of history between these characters.

Note 2: and lastly, someone commented on my review of Volume 1 that this is the “quintessential Captain America”. I can only agree.
