



Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle?

Julie Benson (Writer) , Shawna Benson (Writer) , Claire Roe (Artist) , Allen Passalacqua (Colourist) , Steve Wands (Letterer) , Roge Antonio (Artist) , Yanick Paquette (Cover Artist) , Nathan Fairbairn (Cover Colourist) , more... Deron Bennett (Letterer) ...less

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A part of *DC Universe: Rebirth!*

The Birds of Prey prowl the street of Gotham once again! The sisterly, crime-fighting trio--Batgirl, Black Canary, and Huntress--get the band back together in the aftermath of *DC Universe: Rebirth*, but they're not reconnecting for nostalgia's sake. A mysterious new criminal operative called Oracle has declared war on Gotham. Barbara Gordon, a.k.a. Batgirl, and a.k.a. cyber-superhero Oracle in a previous guise, takes exception to someone smearing her legacy.

Writing duo and sisters Julie and Shawna Benson, along with breakout artist Claire Roe, reunite the femme fatale crew in *Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle?!*

Collecting: *Batgirl and the Birds of Prey* 1-6, Rebirth

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle? Details

Date : Published April 11th 2017 by DC Comics

ISBN : 9781401268671

Julie Benson (Writer) , Shawna Benson (Writer) , Claire Roe (Artist) , Allen Passalaqua (Colourist) , Steve Wands (Letterer) , Roge Antonio (Artist) , Yanick Paquette (Cover Artist) , Nathan Fairbairn (Cover Colourist) , more... Deron Bennett (Letterer) ...less

Format : Paperback 168 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Dc Comics

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From Reader Review Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle? for online ebook

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Considering the state of the three main lynchpin characters of the Birds Of Prey coming out of the New 52 and into Rebirth, I was very surprised with how easily Black Canary, Batgirl, and the Huntress come together in this brand new Rebirth series.

With the mystery of a new Oracle uniting the trio, they go on a fun-filled romp through the Gotham City underworld as they attempt to reconcile their differences, try not to kill everyone (Huntress, we're looking at you) and unravel the secret of the identity usurper.

The dialogue and character beats in these issues are great, and the girls are at their best when they're allowed to chat and quip while they fight. Where the story falls down is being overly bloated with supporting villains, and the final Oracle reveal is a little underwhelming (although it has potential moving forward since there's more to the character than meets the eye). Shawna and Julie Benson's scripts are pretty tight, but they try to do a little too much at once at times.

Claire Roe, whose work I'm not familiar with, opens the series with some gorgeous visuals, and is then assisted by Roge Antonio whose art I've grown to appreciate a lot on his fill-in work over on Grayson and issues of Batman. There's a good balance drawn between the grim and gritty underworld of Gotham and the ease at which these three characters bring light into any room they find themselves in.

While not without flaws, Batgirl & The Birds Of Prey is definitely a good step in the right direction for the franchise.

TheSkepticalReader says

Yes, yes, yes, yes, *yes*!

Very much like the previous arc of Birds of Prey comic book series, I absolutely loved this one. Not just because it's a female-centered group of kickass women, but because they are some of the best comic book characters I have ever read and they compliment each other really well.

Of all the DC women, Wonder Woman and Batwoman have always been my favorites, with Batgirl a bit further down the list. This first volume of the new Rebirth line, however, might have just changed that. Batgirl is a surprisingly strong leader while both Canary and the 'Purple Girl' (I won't reveal her name as it's a spoiler) play equal important roles to her Alpha image.

The storyline is gripping with just enough action and drama to keep me fully entertained. I wasn't expecting things to take an emotional turn towards the end but I am glad for it nonetheless as I think it made me like 'Purple Girl' out a bit more.

I am DYING for the next volume already.

Disclaimer: I received this e-book from NetGalley in exchange for a review. All opinions stated are my own and not influenced by the exchange.

Amber says

Honestly I am sucker for some good ole' kickass heroines. I like it even better when those kickass heroines create a badass squad. I never had the pleasure of reading the older Birds of Prey comics, but this book makes me wish I did. The writing is pretty good, doesn't feel super stiff when characters talk and the story makes for a good team introduction. I am glad I gave this one a try and look forward to reading the next one. My hopes are that it will get even better!

Scott S. says

3.5 stars

Despite some absolutely cold-blooded murders (both depicted and implied) this was otherwise an enjoyably breezy, sort of light-weight conspiracy / crime story. Sure, it's not perfect - there's a plot 'twist' that any reader over 13 years old will likely spot from miles away; the artwork varies in quality - but the spirited bantering and competence of the trio make up for the shortcomings.

Saruuh Kelsey says

Squad goals!

Usually with a group of characters, there's someone I don't really like but I LOVE everyone in the Birds of Prey. Barbara is my fave but I really like how murderous Helena is. Plus, the story is exciting and original and never once lags, and the art is perfect. I loved this, start to finish. So, so happy this was good!!

Wing Kee says

Choppy but well intentioned.

World: The art is good, it's one of the best parts about the series, the characters are full of personality and the color and the detail are just wonderful. The world building is also solid, bringing these pieces from the New52 together to form the Birds again was not an easy thing but the pieces do fit. The idea of creating piece of Gotham for them to play in is good. However there are a few pieces that are left on the floor from Burnside Batgirl which they should have used. Solid.

Story: I liked the story, it called to the past of Babs and also each of the characters and tied them all together.

It was a bit choppy and the story did jump around a bit but overall the idea of the story was good. What I did not like was that Oracle turning out who it was, I did not enjoy. I truly feel that Frankie should be the new Oracle, she's an amazing character and has earned that role, this new character didn't, no.

Characters: I like the Birds they are a good bunch and putting them together is good. However the character moments here were a bit janky and motivations and dialog is also a bit janky. I did not like how they treated Frankie which as above I have strong feelings for.

It was okay, could have been better, a bit choppy a bit janky in story but the pieces are there, just not all the pieces I want.

Onward to the next book!

Steve says

I received this from Edelweiss and DC Comics in exchange for an honest review.

Story - - 5 stars. I really liked how the back stories played so heavily into the plot. I felt like I should have seen it coming, but it surprised me.

Art - - 2 stars. The artwork was very weak. I don't care for the style used for most of the book. Sort of a mashup of western cartoon and Japanese anime. Not for me.

Total - - 3.5 stars, rounded up. I'll keep reading this one for now.

Sesana says

I'm being generous with a three star rating. The story is a bit of a snooze for the first few issues, and doesn't do a great job of putting Huntress on a team with Batgirl and Black Canary. It seems obvious, to me, that she's being brought in because she was an important member of the pre-Flashpoint Birds of Prey, but in universe she seems like a random addition. Fortunately, the book does improve as it goes. The dialog is a high point throughout, and the last few issues are actually quite good. There's a few decent twists, and the collection closes out with a sudden unanswered question that is making me consider the next volume. But I don't particularly care for the art. It isn't terrible, just not my cup of tea, and a bit inconsistent. Really, I'm a bit torn about this book, and whether or not I want to continue with it. There's some promise, but I'm just not sure it's enough for me.

Greyson [Use Your Words] says

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, DC Rebirth Series Ratings:

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle?: ★★

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 2: Source Code: **Lost Interest in Series**

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?Blog?Instagram?Twitter?Tumblr?

Sam Quixote says

Oh Rebirth, you are so boring! Batgirl and the Birds of Prey (emphasis on Batgirl I guess because people like Babs and don't give a fuuuuuck about Black Canary and Huntress – to be fair, I don't either!) is another pile of wanky, tedious comic sludge.

The Birds of Prey go looking for someone going by Babs' old secret identity, Oracle, while fighting snake-themed baddies (cos birds and snakes are natural enemies, geddit?) and mafia goons. It's so ordinary, uninteresting, and overall blah I was never once entertained.

The sisterly writing team of Shawna and Julie Benson, writers of TV shows *Emma Approved* and *The 100* (never heard of either), drearily go through the motions of a typical superhero team comic. I suppose the story is clear, which is something given that it's an Afterbirth book, and each of the characters' origins are retold for new readers' benefits making this a decent jumping on point for them. For guys like me though who already know all that jazz, re-reading it all made me want to blow my brains out from boredom. And the answer to *Who Is Oracle?* is underwhelming to say the least. More like *Who Fucking Cares?!*

Claire Roe and Roge Antonio's art is dogshit. The first panel we see Babs, I thought she was in the middle of sexual reassignment, she looks so manly! And when did she get so unattractive? She's suddenly got a weird horsey, Secretariat Jessica Parker face. And, Christ, that stupid mask – it conceals nothing! I can't buy that Jim Gordon doesn't know that Batgirl's his daughter when they're face to face in a lit room! I would've loved it if at the end of their conversation he turned away and said "By the way Babs, get a better fucking mask, you clueless dope – only a complete retard wouldn't know it's you under there."

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey is uninteresting, uninspired drivel. All it did was remind me that I liked Barbara Gordon better when she was Oracle. I'm starting to think DC stands for Dire Crap!

Albert says

I am beginning to think that with the exception of Wonder Woman, DC Comics just does not know what they want to do with their female characters. Its disappointing when you consider the upward trek Batgirl was on and Black Canary as well. Though DC has never really seemed to know what to do with the Huntress.

Chad says

This felt more like Gail Simone's run on Birds of Prey. The story was ultimately nothing special, just a way for the team to get back together. Someone's using the Oracle to name to sell information to the highest bidder. So the team goes on the hunt for Faux-racle as Dinah keeps referring to them.

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

Brandon St Mark says

A very fun read! I like the team dynamic a lot, and each character is distinct and easy to empathize with. I think Huntress may be my favorite, but I like Black Canary a lot. I hope I don't have to wait too long for Vol 2 to come out.

Bookwraiths says

2.5 stars. Definitely there is potential with this past, but the story and art needs A LOT of work. Full review to come.

Nadja says

I really didn't like the first few issues but it got a bit better towards the end. The way Batgirl, Black Canary and Huntress came together to form the Birds of Prey just didn't really work for me. I was also a bit confused about whether they were supposed to already know each other or they just met. Because it seemed like Batgirl & Black Canary didn't actually know Huntress but the again they were like best friends in a matter of a few pages... It just didn't work for me.

I also didn't enjoy the art in the first few issues it gets a bit better in the next issues but it's still somewhat inconsistent... I also got more into the story as it progressed but it still wasn't anything special and you could see the turns coming from miles away... There were also just way too many really uninteresting snake-themed villains for some reason...

Like I said I started liking this volume a bit more towards the end mainly because I really grew to like the characters. The last page also was really intriguing but I unfortunately still don't really have any desire to continue with this series...
