



## Bombshells: United, Vol. 1: American Soil

*Marguerite Bennett*

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**The DC Bombshells unite in this collection BOMBSHELLS UNITED VOL. 1, continuing the hit franchise!**

Author Marguerite Bennett (DC BOMBSHELLS, BATWOMAN) unites the women of DC BOMBSHELLS in an alternate history tale with Wonder Woman on the front lines of battle.

The Bombshells are back in an all-new series! As our new tale begins, the year is 1943 during WWII, and Wonder Woman is called to Arizona for help by two young girls named Cassie Sandsmark and Donna Troy! The girls' friends and families are being displaced from their homes and forced into internment camps! To save them, can Wonder Woman fight against the same people she once fought alongside?

To make matters worse, Clayface has infiltrated the camp and is disguised as loved ones to throw Wonder Woman off. Collects issues #1-6.

## **Bombshells: United, Vol. 1: American Soil Details**

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Author : Marguerite Bennett

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## **From Reader Review Bombshells: United, Vol. 1: American Soil for online ebook**

### **Veronica says**

The Bombshells take on the home front, with Wonder Woman coming to the aid of Japanese American citizens who have been sent to internment camps. DC Bombshells suffers from a continually expanding cast of characters that doesn't allow for much in the way of development of the ones who have already been introduced -- we get SO MANY new characters in this volume, most of them extremely obscure in the wider DC canon (and then the only one who's recurring besides Wonder Woman is Paula von Gunter? Uhhhh gonna pass on that Nazi redeemed by the power of love trope...) and it's a little frustrating because when there's six new main characters nobody gets much screen time. That said, the Japanese internment camps are an important episode in American history to highlight and I appreciate Bombshells devoting an entire arc to them, and to the ongoing oppression of Native Americans in the US. I would have liked more consistent art, but it's a losing battle, I guess.

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### **ElphaReads says**

The next series starring the Bombshells starts off with a deep dive into the ills that the American Government committed against its citizens: The Japanese Internment Camps. I'm very pleased that Bennett tackled this theme with her first collection of BOMBSHELLS: UNITED, because it shows self awareness that while the Bombshells are absolutely fighting for good during WWII, our own Government had its own horribly policies.

That said, I think that this was the weakest of the collections thus far. While I absolutely appreciate the themes that compassion is the utmost important thing a Bombshell can have, this time it was laid on PRETTY thick, and because of it Wonder Woman has been a little sidelined in favor of a team of girls carrying on her mantle and mission (led by Donna Troy, which is fine, but she's NO Diana). Plus, there's a whole arc with Clayface that just feels like a repeat of Harvey Dent and the Batgirls.

I am ABSOLUTELY going on because this is still a very fun series (AND BLACK CANARY SHOWED UP!). But I'm hoping that it doesn't get a bit muddled with the explosion of new characters we were introduced to.

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### **Melissa says**

This volume was pretty disappointing for me. I really enjoyed the previous run of the Bombshell series, but this just didn't hold up. All of the conflicts were solved with the power of "love." \*Gag\* this was just too saccharine for me. I'm all for having compassion, but it's okay for some butt-kicking every now and again too. Here's hoping the next volume will be better.

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## **Jess says**

I didn't care much for the art in here, but I like a lot that they told the story of internment. I'm very curious to see where this second "season" goes, even if I am also daunted by the prospect of even more characters. There are so many characters!!!!

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## **Nikki says**

This is a little bit of a let down after the first series. The story was good, just drawn out a bit too long. The first 5 issues they're fighting Clayface, and it just felt very slow. If the 6th issue is anything to go by though, I think this series is going somewhere exciting. I'm hoping the art gets a bit better, because I loved the art of the first series.

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## **Chris Lemmerman says**

[Read as single issues]

The war is over, but the Bombshells' work is never done. Wonder Woman attempts to rescue some POWs, but even with the aid of Donna Troy and Cassie Sandsmark, she may not be able to stand against the might of Clayface and the Mud Pack. Plus, who is the mysterious Dawnstar?

After the big conclusion of the previous series, we're back to more intimate stories exploring individual characters rather than the sweeping narrative that Bombshells adopted near the end of its first run. This is a good thing, especially starting off with Wonder Woman, and reminds us exactly how different this world of Bombshells is from our own.

The conflict here resonates with the present day (as all of Bombshells does), and the idea of pitting Clayface against Wonder Woman is well executed (see also: Brian K. Vaughan's False Faces story). The supporting characters are where this kind of falls apart, with most of the Wonder Girls being pretty flat, and Dawnstar coming across a little too aloof to be likeable.

The art is the usual Bombshells fare now; series favourite Marguerite Sauvage starts things off while Marcelo Di Chiara and Siya Oum bring up the rear with more conventional styles. Given the digital-first nature of the series, reading it all in one block highlights the differences between artists more than reading 10 pages weekly, but Bombshells has always had a consistent stable of artists.

The first arc of Bombshells United doesn't exactly set the world aflame, but that's not a bad thing. It reminds us of what these characters stand for, and why we read this series in the first place.

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## **WaterstonesBirmingham says**

I love it, I love it, I love it.

The artwork is beautiful and while the story is a little twee and all American, it is well written and I am

excited to see where the storyarch goes and how the newer characters are developed.

Grace

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### **Ithil says**

LOVED IT.

Yep yep yep. That's how I like it.

An amazing story with some kick-ass incredible ladies. The plot is very interesting and intriguing but the best for me has been the style of the drawings and the colouring. It looks amazing and with the plot and the design it just matches perfectly. The quality of the drawings is quite irregular, I do have to say, some are absolutely stunning and some other are not quite right, I guess due to perspective.

I'll be definitely looking forward for more issues because I'm so drawn into the story.

Bring it on!

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### **Emma says**

3.5 stars. I wasn't too keen on the first half of this volume. I'm not a huge fan of Clay Face so I struggled to get into the story. I did however love the introduction of Dawnstar, and the art in this volume was amazing. The colours and backgrounds used with Dawnstar were stunning. The last volume was by far my favourite. So excited that we got to preview Green Lantern, The Flash, Starfire, and a few other new characters. Still by far my favourite series as it's so diverse and includes such an incredible range of female superheroes.

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### **Cale says**

I really wanted to like this book more than I did. Telling the story of the Japanese internments during World War II is a key part of our American History that often gets overlooked. Unfortunately, the presentation of this story is just terrible. The dialogue is clunky, the action is weak, and the story is all over the place. There were several characters who I couldn't distinguish even by the end of the story. I think the format it was initially presented in did it no favors, and while it was nominally about rescuing the Japanese-Americans, they disappeared after the first issue and the rest of the story is facing down a very unpleasantly illustrated Clayface. The redemption arc is the reason it gets two stars - the story does try to go to some good places, but there's just no support there. At least it stays away from the cheesecake posing that inspired the series; that isn't necessary now that they've built these versions of the characters out so much (although most of my favorite characters from the earlier Bombshell books are missing, or show up only in the final section that serves basically as a teaser for the next volume). It had a lot of strong elements, but it just never came together.

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## The Library Ladies says

(originally reviewed at [thelibraryladies.com](http://thelibraryladies.com) )

Thus, we begin with the first collection of the final series of DC Bombshells. I'm still livid and bitter that this series was cancelled, but I'm going to see it through and enjoy it/support it until the very end. What I found most fascinating when I read about the "Bombshells United" series is that this one isn't going to just look at the ills that foreign nations committed during WWII, but also the rotten things that happened on the home front, and in the country that The Bombshells swore to protect. To me, it's refreshing that Marguerite Bennett decided to turn scrutiny on the United States for this next arc, because we did some absolutely shameful stuff during WWII. The big theme of "Bombshells United: American Soil" is that of Executive Order 9066: Japanese Internment. And given that we seem to have forgotten our own history, it's an important reminder that we are not unfamiliar with grievous civil rights abuses. Especially since we seem to be on the path to repeating them.

We get to see Wonder Woman back at the forefront at the start of this new series, and it is always a breath of fresh air to see her. Diana Prince is truly one of the most pure and good DC Superheroes, and it felt fitting that she would be the Bombshell to be confronting the evils of the Japanese Internment. It allows us as a reader to measure up our very imperfect (and in this case horrendous) policies to Wonder Woman as the ideal we should strive for. But what makes it a bit more interesting is the introduction of Donna Troy and Cassie Sandsmark, two Wonder ladies in their own right (both of them filling the Wonder Girl role at different times). Cassie and Donna in this both have vested and personal interests against the Japanese internment, as they are both Japanese American (though Cassie is white passing, she still would have been imprisoned based on the law). You throw in Emily Sung and Yuri and Yuki, and you have a group of marginalized people who are participating in the dissent and the resistance, which in turn makes it so Wonder Woman doesn't act solely as a white savior. It's pretty well done, and I liked the dynamic that Bennett created between them and Wonder Woman (as they eventually form to become The Wonder Girls) that allows them to fight against heinous domestic policy. In fact, at the end of this arc in the collection, Bennett lists a great number of resources people can look up regarding the Japanese Internment (along with some additional resources about how Indigenous peoples were treated during this time; Dawnstar does show up, and while I liked how powerful and important she was I'm a LITTLE afraid that Bennett is kind of falling into the 'magical Indian' trope with her).

HOWEVER, there were a few stumbling moments in this series to me. The first involves the introduction of Clayface. He is the face of antagonism in this series, as he's a former soldier who is very in favor of the internment. It all comes back to him seeing the American Ideal that must be protected at all costs, and he is obsessed with Wonder Woman because to him, that's what she represents. This in and of itself is a very intriguing concept and metaphor for blind nationalism. But my problem is less to do with that and more to do with the pay off. For those who don't want to know, we have our usual SPOILER ALERT:

Clayface, of course, sees the light through compassion, empathy, and the selfless sacrifice of Wonder Woman. This does two things: it makes it so the Wonder Girls get a little bit more to do in their own story (which is fine), but it also trades in one really well done and rounded character at this point for five new characters who are brand new to the story and not very complex as of yet. Donna is the exception, but the rest of the Wonder Girls as of now could VERY easily get lost in the crowd, which is a similar problem with the Bat Girls in previous issues. Speaking of the Bat Girls, the story of Harvey Dent going from villain to ally all through the power of love has basically been regurgitated with The Wonder Girls, as now Clayface is fighting on the side of good. We've seen this already! And I want to see more of that kind of thing with

Harvey, if I'm being honest! Oh, and it happens with Baroness Paula van Gunther, as she ALSO shows up for about three seconds to say that SHE TOO has seen the error of her ways! WHY? In execution it's because of Dawnstar, but in terms of why it has happened characterization wise, that remains to be seen. The good news is that Wonder Woman isn't gone for good, as she has pretty much reappeared by the end of the collection (SORT OF, she's kind of become a hybrid of Diana and Donna, it's complicated), but it definitely feels like she may be stepping aside. Which I have a lot of feelings about.

On top of that, it has become very clear that even MORE Bombshells are going to be added to this universe. The heartening thing about that is that Bennett really wants to give all these awesome ladies their due, but the worrying aspect is we are getting VERY close to fantasy bloat territory here. I worry that by adding all these characters, they REALLY won't be able to shine properly because they will always be competing for page time. Especially since the series was so unceremoniously cancelled before it could go as far as it wanted to. But hey, there is some good news in this slew, and I mean SLEW, of new faces: BLACK CANARY IS HERE!!!!

So overall, BOMBSHELLS UNITED was an important collection with an important story, but I'm starting to worry that this series is getting overcome with the number of characters it has. I really don't want it to get bogged down. But that said, I'm excited to see where it goes next!

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### **Grace says**

I love it, I love it, I love it.

The artwork is beautiful and while it is a little twee and all American, I really enjoyed the story and am excited to see where the storyarch goes.

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### **Rebalioness says**

I loved the first series, even with the mess that was the Russian battle. I had to give up on this one after the battle with Clayface. After the fight with Clayface, prepare for a galactic 'magic carpet' ride, courtesy of Dawnstar, to "unite the minds" of everyone.

The story line opens with the internment of the Japanese on the home front. Good topic.

However,

The art looks like it was photocopied from a watercolor sketchbook, and is very washed out. The continuity jumps back and forth, with the sequence of scenes being very confusing. Several new characters are introduced at normal speed (which, in this series) is the speed of light. Some have not appeared before, but you're still expected to know all about him.

There is a whole 'summoning' ritual to contact Wonder Woman which makes NO sense. (Apparently communications technology doesn't exist here.)

There is a handwave to the first series, showing the main characters off on missions. That's all you get.

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### **Katie says**

This was so excellent. My husband's grandparents were both incarcerated in the camps during WW2, so this alternate take on history was very powerful. I hope we can all take the lessons of what should have been to heart, so we once again do not repeat it.

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### **Sarah says**

I have a hard time rating this volume. I was confused to where it was picking off since it's a continuation of the other main series. I didn't like this volume as much. You will notice that I still gave it 5 stars however. I didn't personally like the entire story was basically just Wonder Woman and the various wonder girls (I still didn't recognize 3 of them but I'm guessing at one point in time they worked with or as wonder girl). I liked the introduced of Cassie and Donna. But the arc felt longer than it needed to be. I was getting impatient but then I read the letter that the main author wrote after that arc and it made more sense and I forgave the longer time spent. Also even though I have never heard of her, dawn star was really cool.

I really enjoyed the last bonus little issue where we finally get to meet some characters that have been promoted for so long (STARFIRE AND JESSIE QUICK AND BLACK CANARY)!!! I am so looking forward to seeing more of them. I prefer the issues where you get to jump from a couple of people's stories and perspectives so you get a better picture of the whole universe. So I am hoping the next volume will do just that and do more than briefly mention these characters.

Also did the art style change like 3 or 4 times? Like at first it was definitely different, then it was like is this the same as the first series?, then it was like definitely different again, then it was like the original art style. It made me uncomfortable. I loved the original and hope it continues with that.

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Either way, this was not my favorite volume in the bombshells universe, however I still love the thought and idea behind the entire thing. Hence the 5 stars.

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