



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season 8, Volume 2

Joss Whedon (Creator) , Drew Goddard , Jeph Loeb , Georges Jeanty (Artist) , Karl Moline (Artist) , Eric Wight (Artist)

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The Slayer legion is organized and encountering mega-obstacles, while Twilight's threatening reach continues to expand. Buffy and her Slayers travel to Tokyo to face a new kind of vampire with powers they've only witnessed in Dracula . . . Then, Willow and Buffy head to New York to investigate the secrets behind Buffy's scythe; ever full of the unexpected, Buffy is transported to a dystopian future where her first chance meeting is with Fray, future Slayer! Collects Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 8 #11–#20 and the Willow one-shot.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season 8, Volume 2 Details

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Author : Joss Whedon (Creator) , Drew Goddard , Jeph Loeb , Georges Jeanty (Artist) , Karl Moline (Artist) , Eric Wight (Artist)

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From Reader Review Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season 8, Volume 2 for online ebook

Ivy says

I wonder if Willow will find out that Buffy killed her future dark self. Future arc was really weird. Hope Dawn will turn back into a human. Poor Xander.

Svein says

How good are these comics?!? They even managed to make Dracula into a really cool character and I hated him in the series. Can't wait for my local comicshop to get the third volum of this season!

Am I a Buffy fanboy?? Yes I am!

Lise Petrauskas says

Eh. The first volume of Season 8 was really enjoyable, but unfortunately I thought the rest of the series was wacky, and not in a good way. I prefer Georges Jaunty's pencils over Karl Moline in this volume.

John Hess says

Good. Could be gayer.

Michael says

I just love the many ways the comics are progressing the characters and furthering the story, and I'm certainly interested in the rest of this season, and the ones to come.

Karen says

I haven't read the library edition version-I ordered all of the comics separately and read them, but I am sure that this book that compiles the whole season is amazing. As a true Buffy fan, you can't miss what happens after season 7 ends (where the television series stops.) I may not have loved every decision that Joss and the crew made during this very experimental season of Buffy, but I truly was intrigued and captivated by the many twists and turns, and I had to find out what would happen next even if it was breaking my heart! I think that the writers took a lot of liberties in the comic book that they never would have done with the t.v. series, which amounts to a lot more risky decisions and choices....some of which panned out well and others that

didn't work so well. There's quite the debate over that. For instance, there are more fantasy elements in the comics than the t.v. series because there is more room in a comic book series to basically do whatever you want, but at the same time, I felt that it kinda betrayed the spirit of the show a little bit and got away from the core of Buffy and her friends doing what they do best-slaying vampires! In the end, it came back around, and the last few "episodes" were very good, amazing! But there were some episodes that left me going "what???" as some characters did things that you wouldn't expect and seemed out of character for them. Anyways, I don't want this review to be a spoiler-go out and read it yourself. The drawings are very beautiful, and while I am not normally a comic book reader, I got entranced by them after getting used to the medium of comics (it did actually take me a few comics to get used to it.) If you're a Buffy fan, this is a definite worthwhile and enjoyable read, and if you're not, how can you not love Buffy???

Jdetrick says

I'm still not entirely sure the world needs more of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, especially as the show probably should have ended with Season 5. That being said, its hard to ignore the level of craft in these comics, with plots and dialogue that truly feel like they could have been used on the TV show. The weakest issues here are probably the crossover with Fray, Whedon's future slayer, which feels like fan service and nothing more.

Gretchen Alice says

Buffy forever. The contents of this volume are particularly enticing as Buffy and her new crew of slayers take on Tokyo. Also, it is insane that you can buy this huge, full-color beautifully bound volume of comics for under \$30.

Artemy says

Halfway through, and I am not really enjoying season eight so far. The story has a strong feeling of WTF-ness to it, I am really not sure what is going on and what is the main agenda even, the characters feel all over the place and not really themselves, and the storytelling so far is very poor and disjointed, leaving me lost and dissatisfied more than anything. I also get more and more annoyed with the artwork, all the characters look lifeless and motionless and kind of wrong.

That being said, I am still interested in where this is going, and I am definitely not going to quit the series entirely. I really want to get to season ten, as I hear Christos Gage's run is pretty fantastic.

Calista says

I miss Buffy dialogue. It's so good to see or hear it again. The characters are true to their voice. I love the art mostly. There really aren't many vampires in this one. A lot happens with the characters here and some of it I like and some things like going to the future - ho hum.

Buffy, so it seems is Bi and she has a fling with a slayer. Willow - ok, Buffy - really. Strange. Is there really no human male Buffy could date - really. Makes me sad. Oh well, maybe only a strong slayer could keep up

with her. Who knows.

Weird things are going on with Willow. I can't figure where this is going. I love Willow and Kennedy - they are such a great match. I wish the show was still going. I miss it. At least the story continues here in these pages.

yh says

Still really neat. Definitely in the spirit of the TV show, and very worth reading. The characterizations are pretty realistic, and the plotlines are huge and expansive. The art is definitely the most impressive thing about this series; the backgrounds and characters are all fantastically drawn, and the cover art is terrific. I especially liked the cartoon issue in this one. The series hasn't gotten too dark yet, which explains the rating, but I have high hopes. I'm really glad this series is living on in this form!

Alex says

I am kind of torn between 3 or 4 stars for this collection. It's hard to rate things like this, because it's made up of several individual pieces, but even put together they are still only a part of the whole of Season 8. But there are 5 star occurrences here (the high school flashback) and there are some only-just 3 star stories (the initial time travel issue...)

After a fairly promising start to Season 8, I think it begins to lose its footing just a little bit here. There are some redeeming points, but let's begin with the negative points.

The first arc, Wolves At The Gate, doesn't sit quite right with me. Xander's post-show backstory with Dracula seems weirdly shoehorned in, and not something I could ever see happening. Following on from that is an arc that introduces... time travelling. And technically Buffy has time travelled before on the show, in her spiritual quests with the First Slayer. But this time we are out-and-out creating a portal so that Buffy goes a couple of hundred years into the future. And yes, once again, the comic books lack of limitations proves to be (for me at least) more of a hindrance than a help. I didn't need out-and-out sci-fi, I was perfectly happy with the mystery-with-occasional-sci-fi-tech tone that the show held (and the first 10 issues of Season 8 maintained).

The other thing that got me, most noticeably about the first 2 issues of Time Of Your Life, was the lack of explanations; very vague things happened, and I felt very much like I had just been dropped in the middle of the action. It's like the writers were trying to race through the plot, so they would explain some plot points of circumstances or justifications in just a brief throwaway line. And maybe I need to re-read the season for a third time to fully piece everything back together, because it felt like a very white-knuckle ride with lots of things being thrown at me.

On the good side, however, I did enjoy the conclusion to Time Of Your Life. Once I had adjusted to the future, and it began to focus on the characters again, I found it really engaging in a way that almost rivaled the show. Because here is something that the show did very well - not just providing entertaining story, but incredibly true to life characters on top of that. And I think that is what I have been missing from the comics so far (maybe partly due to the fact that reading words on a page will NEVER be the same as watching real

people portraying the characters). But in the latter half of Time Of Your Life, it was focused around the characters and their decisions - and I found the final confrontation between Buffy and the 'Mad Woman' kind of touching.

So this question of morals is something that has been brought up a few times within the comics - including when Buffy meets Twilight. Is she doing the right thing? Are they really making the world a better place? And even though there are never really any answers given, it's interesting to ponder.

The death featured in this volume also gave me a twisted sense of satisfaction. As if it's saying 'yes, this is still the same show that fearlessly killed off several major characters.' However, it is slightly worrying that one of the few new characters actually introduced in the comic met an end so suddenly, but to be honest I am not complaining too much about that. I genuinely think that the pace of the comics lends itself much more to plot than to character development. So with that in mind, I would rather have interesting plots based around characters we ALREADY know, than have to try and 'get to know' new characters when we are given little to work with.

(On the downside, though, the characters seem to get over the death quite quickly... (view spoiler))

So finally, let's talk about THAT ISSUE. "After These Messages... We'll Be Right Back!" and this issue probably is my favourite issue of the entire season so far, because it seemed to encapsulate what the series was. We go back to high school, and not only is it amazing to just get to enjoy a bit of high school again (Willow being geeky, Cordelia being bitchy, Giles being uptight), it also provides a perfect bit of nostalgia and mourning from Buffy. The scene where Joyce talks to Buffy about her 'bright future', I almost got a lump in my throat. Plus, the whole thing was a pretty awesome way to finally get use from the unsuccessful animated show.

So overall, this is a bit of a mixed bag. I think the character interaction in Time Of Your Life, and the whole presence of After These Messages.. is what brings the overall collection up to a 4 from a 3.

{Read 31/07/14}

Kelsey says

♥?

Kelsey says

LOVED the Fray crossover!!

Shelli says

Continuing Joss Whedon's canonical Season 8 of his cult hit and critically-acclaimed TV series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer", Issues #1-10 (compiled in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Season 8, Volume 1*, to which I gave 4 enthusiastic stars) caught us up on all the happenings since the last we heard of our heroes on TV, and

introduced Twilight, the latest "big bad". But I did not find the issues collected here in Volume 2 (#11-20) as compelling or as well-structured as I'd hoped. While I'm sure all the new narrative threads will come to bear eventually, here it just feels like a *lot* of things simultaneously flying out in multiple directions, with very little mention of Twilight himself, but a lot of new, confusing questions unanswered. The result feels a bit scattered and disjointed, with some interesting developments, but an overall weakening of general coherence.

Addendum added after second reading, 22 December 2017: I'm going back and re-reading the entirety of Season 8, after realizing how intense and interlockingly entwined all the aforementioned narrative threads really are. I still (perhaps even more now) don't overly appreciate the entire Dawn subplot(s) across the entire season, and here specifically in Volume 2, I'm not feeling overly warm and fuzzy toward the "After These Messages... We'll Be Right Back!" artistic experiment either, visually cute though it was. However, I do now have much more respect and fondness for the brief Dracula arc, and have also come to see the brilliance and profundity of tackling the implications of the written-long-ago *Fray*, which is clearly going to have major repercussions for seasons to come. Accepting that full appreciation of Season 8 is turning out to require more than a single reading, I hereby up my rating to...

3.75 stars.
