



## Midnighter, Vol. 1: Out

*Steve Orlando , ACO (Illustrations) , Hugo Petrus (Illustrations) , Alec Morgan (Illustrations) , Stephen Mooney (Illustrations)*

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Spinning out of GRAYSON comes a solo series starring the man who can predict your every move... but no one will be able to predict what he'll do next!

A theft at the God Garden has unleashed a wave of dangerous biotech weapons on the world, and Midnighter intends to put that genie back in the bottle by any means necessary. But something else was stolen from the Garden as well...the secret history of Lucas Trent, the man Midnighter once was!

## Midnighter, Vol. 1: Out Details

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## From Reader Review **Midnighter, Vol. 1: Out for online ebook**

### **Joseph says**

This "DCYou" title stars **Midnighter**, a former member of **Stormwatch** and lately seen mixing it up with **Dick Grayon** over in his title. Someone has stole some artifacts from the **God Garden**, including **Midnighter's** secret origin. Along the way, now that he's no longer with former beau **Apollo**, **Midnighter** also has to navigate his way through his new life as a single man.

As expected from a book about a fighter, **Midnighter** is pretty violent and bloody. It works here because we get a glimpse of **Midnghter** as a man. He's not an abstraction or enigma, like **Moon Knight**. Even with his computer brain which allows him to see every outcome of every move, he's still got some vulnerability and it's a humanizing effect. It's easy to care about **Midnighter** and hope he works out all these issues.

As DC's only openly gay lead, there is a lot of pressure on writer **Steve Orlando** to make **Midnighter** not just LGBT friendly, but also outwardly proud. This is a very open book about **Midnighter's** sexuality. So many gay males in comics are basically eunuchs, perhaps scoring a chaste kiss here and there. **Orlando** makes **Midnighter** a sexual person, as much as **Batman** is, and we see **Midnighter** using **Scruff** and hooking up and then starting a relationship. The openness is refreshing.

Over in **Grayson**, **Midnighter** and **Dick Grayson** have had some heavy flirting going on. **Grayson** guests in a few issues here, and it was nice to see the same banter. **Grayson** and **Midnighter** make an excellent fighting team together, playing off of each other's strengths.

I think I loved this book so much because it's fast paced, and **Orlando** weaves **Midnighter's** personal life and his public life in and out seamlessly. It really works well. Artist **ACO** and others have innovative layouts which visualize how **Midnighter's** computer brain works. The coloring is top notch as well, and just can't find any negatives here at all. I'll be reading this again soon.

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### **Sonic says**

Breaking some genre tropes with psycho (and well-drawn!) fists!

Fun.

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### **James DeSantis says**

What confusing writing. Also what a bland character. I found him more interesting in his seven pages in **Grayson** than here. Here he's all mighty, knows everything, can't lose. zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

I can't even recapture details about the story cause I was confused as hell. I didn't know what the hell was happening half the time. And when it settled down it added nothing to the character. His love life felt forced in, when we should have felt some type of connection or drama.

To have a badass main character who is openly gay sounds great but man oh man did this fail to do anything for me. Easily one of the worst comics I've read this year.

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### **Chelsea says**

3.5 stars.

I don't know if I was just in a mood or what but I couldn't really follow the plot of what was going on in this book. I won't detract from it because I still don't entirely understand Midnighter's powers. That's my fault for being a noob but I'm still not entirely clear on them having read this book. But I'm not entirely sure as to what his goal was and if the antagonist in issue 7 had been building to a conclusion or it was just a couple issues and I missed the signs? I am unsure.

That being said, I really like this character. Midnighter has a real personality that sort of reminds me of Starbuck from the one episode I saw of *Battlestar Gallactica*. He's brash, unashamed and protective of smaller people. He sleeps around a little bit but it's clear he doesn't just abandon these men after he's been with them. He has a soft side to him and I liked that this was all conveyed in one volume and you don't have to read a few to see it.

I must give kudos to DC for either allowing Orlando to add as many m/m scenes as he wanted or just not paying attention because I was pleasantly surprised by it. Most comics just fade to black or have the characters hold hands and tell you they slept together. This book shows not only a beginning sex scene between Midnighter and Jason but the softer moments after. We see the easy affection there which is why I get so pissy when we ask for more representation and people are like "we can't have them fucking". Affection isn't just sex and this book gets that.

I loved the issues with Dick. He and Midnighter have great series and if DC every wanted to do a short team up book with them, I would totally be on board.

So, this is an interesting book and if you like DC comics and are looking for lgbt rep, this is a great book to check out.

3.5 stars.

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### **Jan Philipzig says**

#### **I'll Burst Your Eyeballs and Punch My Fist Into Your Liver!**

The last time I came across the Midnighter was more than a decade ago, back when Ellis and Millar were still writing *The Authority*. I remember being quite fond of the title at the time, so this new volume looked like a great opportunity to catch up and get reintroduced to one of the team's lead characters. Unfortunately, it did not turn out to be the kind of reintroduction I had been hoping for.

Don't get me wrong, it's great to have an openly gay, proud, sexually active superhero around - and even better that DC decided to give him the spotlight of his own title. I wish this was the norm by now, rather than

a cause for headlines. What I don't get is why the character is also cast as a sadistic sociopath who loves nothing more than butchering what he considers "bad guys" (and girls) while shouting "I'm not one for staying away when I have a chance to crush the temples of low-rent mercenary pantloads" or "Hell is finding out how many of your teeth I can manually extract before you lose consciousness" or "I'll burst your eyeballs and punch my fist into your liver."

Correct me if I'm wrong, but this does not sound like a mentally stable person to me, and at the very least I'd like to know what turned the Midnighter into such a disturbed, twisted butcher. The thing is, though, the book does not portray the Midnighter's behavior as problematic at all. Instead, it portrays his sadism and cruelty as fun and cool and sexy, and this is where my problems with the book really start. Considering its official claim to sexual equality and tolerance, *Midnighter: Out* feels surprisingly arrogant, mean-spirited and stagy.

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

This just wasn't as good as I thought it was going to be. I like the idea that he could see every move you are going to make before you make it so it made his fighting skills better.

I also liked some of the graphics.

\*I would like to thank Netgalley and DC Entertainment for a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.\*

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### **Miguel says**

It is not a bad book, i like it, but it didnt excite me. I like when i cant stop read a book and with this one I was always wondering how many pages were still left to read. Also, I didnt care that much about the characters. I think Midnighter (the character) its pretty cool tho! And the art was good (for the most part...).

Im gonna read vol 2 , its the last one so... Hope it gets better!

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### **TJ says**

This book was so awesome! It was great to see a character pushing the boundaries of expectations in terms of being a protagonist in a superhero solo series. Midnighter is a super fun character, and he's a badass! He reminded me of a mix between Batman and Deadpool, with Wolverine's past (or lack of). The art in this book is stunning, but I did find it hard to follow at times, especially the action scenes. The Midnighter/Grayson team up issues were my favorite, and the twist with the antagonist definitely got me! I will be reading the next volume, for sure! 4/5 stars!

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### **Emily says**

I liked this a lot. At times it was laugh out loud funny, sometimes sweet, plus there's a scene where Midnighter and Dick Grayson fight bad guys wearing nothing but towels wrapped around their waists. ?

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### **anna (readingpeaches) says**

I LOVE MY GAY MURDER DAD

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### **Megan says**

Area Man Tries Desperately to Fall in Love Again by Sleeping With as Many Dudes as Possible. He has a Computer Brain. Russia.

Besides being cocky, Midnighter had no personality. We get it, you have a computer in your brain and you like to punch things. He's basically every tough guy superhero we've ever seen, with the exception being that he's gay and a whole lot more sadistic. In juxtaposition with the violence, it only took him a single panel to fall in love, which rather than painting him as well-rounded, just came off as poor character development. I am all for the LGBTQA community, and I am huge fan of DC's move towards recognizing that community, but Sleeping with Dudes isn't a personality trait, and neither is I Kill People, Fuck You.

Why is every second word of dialogue bolded? I hate it when writers try to pound a point into my head like that.

Also, who breaks up with the supposed love of their life and then immediately invites every guy to move in and start a life together? Each of Midnighter's flings had the personality of a single oat from the same pack of all-natural oatmeal. Why/how am I supposed to care? It's obvious they just spent this entire volume gearing up towards the re-introduction of Apollo, and it was so annoying having to sludge through pages of filler just for that reason.

Some of the dialogue was just so cheesy, especially by the end.

There has to be a better name than "Fight Computer", my god. Although to be fair, Batman has the Batcomputer and Batarangs and I've never questioned them before...but come on, Fight Computer?????

Even though Dick Grayson is possibly one of the most well-known superheroes out there, a bit more of an intro on him would have been a better transition for his place in this volume. Dick's role as a Spyral agent is a relatively new change, and those who haven't been keeping up with him or the rest of the batfamily might be sitting here like, excuse me? Whom? His entrance came out of nowhere.

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### **Sam Quixote says**

Superhero team comics have never been my thing. I've enjoyed the occasional X-Men adventure but I don't

think I've ever read a great Avengers or Justice League book. Somehow though, I loved The Authority. Maybe because they were subversive - two of its core members, Midnighter and Apollo, are meant to be Batman and Superman, but gay married - though it's probably because my favourite comics writers and artists worked on the title.

Warren Ellis and Bryan Hitch created the series, Mark Millar (back when he was still trying) and Frank Quitely took over, then Ed Brubaker and Dustin Nguyen, and then Grant Morrison and Gene Ha. Midnighter featured in Garth Ennis' bloody brilliant Kev series before Ennis and Chris Sprouse launched the short-lived Midnighter solo series. What a roll call of the finest talent in the medium!

The last few years have been rough on Midnighter though. Keith Giffen did his best to make the character as boring as possible during his dreary Midnighter run and then the New 52 happened and Midnighter/The Authority became Stormwatch for no good reason. After a series of mediocre writers tanked the title, nothing was done until DC decided to give Midnighter another shot at a solo title last year - and it still doesn't work!

Maybe it's because there's so much more attention on social minorities like gays these days that there was a lot of focus on Midnighter's launch last year, or maybe it's because Midnighter's never had a gay writer until now, but Midnighter has ALWAYS been a gay superhero. He got married to Apollo years before gay marriage was legal! One thing's for sure though, reading this? You won't forget he's a gay superhero!

It's like New 52 Batwoman all over again where readers were constantly reminded that she's a LESBIAN SUPERHERO! We are the amazing DC, look how progressive we are - isn't that what you people want?! LOVE. US. There's no coherent story to this first Midnighter volume (subtitled "Out" because did you know he's a gay superhero?) - something about someone stealing people and experimenting on them like Midnighter was once experimented on, for some reason? - or any strong character development - if you've never read Midnighter before, you'll be lost starting here - but he sure loves the dudes!

Opening story, he's in bed with a guy - and they're nekkid! Then he's flashing back to his breakup with Apollo - a dude! Then he's going on a date - with another dude! Then he's kissing a guy, another guy, yet another guy, they're getting nekkid in his kitchen, they're dancing in a gay club, hallelujah, it's raining men! Midnighter is a GAY superhero. It's subtle but that's the message here. He's gay. And a superhero. But mainly gay. So gay.

There's a team up with Dick Grayson because Midnighter cameo'd in the Grayson series... for no reason. Because Midnighter is a Batman knockoff and Dick was once Batman's sidekick? I wonder if the only reason these two are paired is cos straight female/gay male readers want to see these two lookers standing around with their shirts off?

There's some nonsense about vampires and a totally uninteresting betrayal and then the book's over. Did I mention that Midnighter is a gay superhero? Because that's the only important thing to remember about this book. I hate to sound cynical (he says unconvincingly) but this reads less like Steve Orlando had a great Midnighter story to tell (if so where was it?) and more like DC were ticking a box on an equality spreadsheet.

Really wasn't impressed with the art either. "ACO" crams in tons of tiny panels into each page, possibly to give the impression of a lot happening quickly or the various calculations Midnighter's implants are doing before he fights, but all it does is look messy as hell. I had no clue what was going on in the fight scenes, just that Midnighter was standing around at the end with his opponents on the floor unconscious – very unexciting to read.

Steve Orlando just isn't a very good writer which is why his *Midnighter* is so boring. By all means let's have more gay superheroes but don't make their sexuality the whole purpose of their books - let's remember to have a good story/characters first, because that's the main reason readers, whatever their sexual orientation, are picking up these books in the first place; not to make a statement but to be entertained. If you want to read a great *Midnighter* book that does justice to the character, ignore this crap and find Garth Ennis' one instead.

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### **Roxanne says**

My knowledge of *midnighter* is kinda limited i know of him and the general gist of the guy but i hadn't read any *midnighter* prior to this. So picking this up doesn't really tell you anything about the guy, the plot was weird i'm pretty sure even the most avid *midnighter* fan couldn't explain that plot or what little plot it had, it was all over the place. The best it got was when *grayson* showed up to help the plot seemed more together but then he goes and it quickly goes back to what the heck is going on here? Why did i keep reading this...the last issue was weird. The artwork is great though and i just want to know more about the character without having to go through his back catalogue (that's not a euphemism) Vol 2 needs a completely new plot that is separate from on going plot in *grayson*, or just explain what the hell is going on better. Even reading what this book is about i'm like none of that happened. *Midnighter* sleeping about may piss some people off i thought the guy was settled down with his husband and a kid so obviously i'm way off. I could only say pick this up if you love *midnighter* because it offers little to anyone else.

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### **Chad says**

This book starts out awful. Steve Orlando tries so hard to write the snappiest, hippest dialogue he can and fails miserably. *Midnighter* just rattles off nonstop snark as if he's a British Spider-man, which doesn't fit his character at all. It gets better once *Grayson* gets pulled into the book and *Midnighter* has a foil to play off of. I have to say I was truly surprised by the twist at the end of the book and it works quite well. Romulo Fajardo coloring ruins this book for me. It's such a garish and yet dark color palette. It completely obscures the art. In the smaller panels, I just find myself staring at them, trying to figure out what's even going on. It totally takes you out of the book.

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

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### **Guilherme Smee says**

Apolo e Meia-Noite foram o primeiro casal gay de super-heróis a trocarem alianças em uma história em quadrinhos. Nesta HQ, que eu tive de recorrer ao importado, por desistência da Panini Brasil em publicá-la, o Meia-Noite está "dando um tempo" no relacionamento com Apolo. Assim, como o personagem teve toda sua vida inventada depois que foi abduzido por alienígenas que o tornaram aprimorado, ele quer pela primeira vez viver uma vida "de verdade". E essa vida de verdade inclui sim, exercer sua sexualidade como gay. Portanto, essa é a história em quadrinhos de super-heróis que mais e melhor explora as nuances e as miríades dos relacionamentos gays. Pelo menos daquelas que eu li, e não foram poucas. Isso porque o roteirista, Steve Orlando, é bissexual assumido. O Meia-Noite voltou à cena porque o roteirista Tim Seeley passou a utilizá-lo nas histórias de *Dick Grayson*, enquanto ele trabalhava como espião para a agência Espiral. A HQ é, de

longe, um dos melhores trabalhos de Steve Orlando, que já trabalhou com a Liga da Justiça América e com Supergirl. Midnighter também ganhou diversos prêmios tanto da mídia gay como da mídia tradicional de quadrinhos. Outra coisa que chama atenção neste encadernado é a arte e a narrativa de ACO, muito bem engendrada e tudo a ver com o personagem. Podemos definir a participação do artista neste encadernado como essencial para seu sucesso principalmente quando comparamos sua narrativa em quadrinhos com os demais desenhistas que se encarregaram de outras histórias neste mesmo compilado. Mas mais do que isso, mais do que a espionagem, a ação, a violência, Midnighter é um quadrinho sobre pessoas que passaram anos e anos em um mesmo relacionamento e, quando, por alguma razão, se libertam dele, passam a enxergar novos horizontes e novos mundos na frente de si. Por isso, ela fala muito também sobre frustração, a de não encontrar pessoas como aquela do relacionamento antigo, em quem podia-se confiar. Uma jornada não só de encontrar um novo "outro", mas como de encontrar um novo "mesmo" e isso também diz respeito a sua própria identidade e àquilo que você acredita que é. E deixei para o final para dizer que o encadernado encerra com um reviravolta mindblowing, que faz jus a todos os prêmios e críticas positivas recidas por essa HQ. Leiam. Leiam. Leiam! Panini, você foi uma PANACA em não publicar, confirmado sua fama de homofóbica! Beijinhos!

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