



Red Hood and the Outlaws, Vol. 3: Bizarro Reborn

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Red Hood, Bizarro (Superman's clone gone wrong) and Artemis (the exiled Amazon Warrior) form the Dark Trinity of the DC Universe and one of comics' most dangerous teams, in RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS VOL. 3: BIZARRO REBORN!

The Dark Trinity--Red Hood, Artemis and Bizarro--continue their rampage through the DC Universe in RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS VOL. 3!

Bizarro's final days are upon us! As Red Hood and the Outlaws rush home to Gotham City in an effort to save Bizarro's life, a new threat is unleashed in the form of Solomon Grundy! Can the Outlaws stop Grundy's rampage without their most powerful member? Who unleashed the monster in the first place? And can Grundy be defeated in time to save Bizarro from certain death?

This brand-new adventure is brought to you by veteran scribe Scott Lobdell and rising-star artist Dexter Soy with RED HOOD & THE OUTLAWS VOL. 3: BIZARRO REBORN, as a part of DC Rebirth! Collects issues #12-18 and ANNUAL #1.

Red Hood and the Outlaws, Vol. 3: Bizarro Reborn Details

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From Reader Review Red Hood and the Outlaws, Vol. 3: Bizarro Reborn for online ebook

Jordanne ~ Bloodthirsty Little Beasts Blog ~ says

I received this book from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review - and boy, was I excited about it! DC! ARCs! Eeeek!

Admittedly it's a little late but I really wanted to take my time and do a good job plus I got approved for this the day before release, I may love them but *I'm* not a superhero! I've decided to switch up my review layout (or lack thereof) for comic books.

In my prose book reviews, I don't necessarily header each section but generally, I rate out of 5; summarise my overall thoughts; pick out parts I liked and parts I wasn't so hot on (trying to avoid any major spoilers) and end on my 'the future of the book for me' as in, will I read the sequels if there are any, would I re-read, would I recommend. I do this because ridiculously long reviews don't appeal to me as a reader, I like them to be to the point: should I read this, yes or no? Are there triggers that would rule it out for me? Arcs that are controversial. I don't want to force my opinion down someone's throat, make up your own mind but here's some stuff you might want to know before.

I want to adopt a similar mindset for comics and graphic novels too, but there are other aspects to consider due to the amount of additional work to go with the story itself in such a multi-faceted universe of characters so I hope to cover them too. Here goes nothing ...

Minor spoilers, just to do with character appearances but if you read the list of creators, it kind of spoils them anyway?

Disclaimers

I feel obliged to start with the fact I haven't read the first two volumes of this series or any Outlaws whatsoever. *Why the hell are you reviewing them then?* I hear you ask. Well, I actually think this puts me in a better position to give an objective opinion on it as a book. A lot of people reading and writing reviews for this book have been ensconced in this world for years, and that's fantastic, it is, but it also creates biases. I have no biases at this moment in time, I'm sure I will develop some as I read more but as it stands I'm a completely objective third party assessing this book from the perspective of *a person that wants to get into comics*. I feel this makes me perfectly situated to assess this book as a gateway for someone, which to be honest is the kind of review I would want to read, disagree? Well, we're all entitled to our opinion. Please contact me for a list of awesome veteran comic book reviewers, because I read those too.

It's also worth mentioning that due to my limited previous reading if you think I'm being too harsh or too generous with my assessment of writing or art, it's probably due to my limited frame of reference and there isn't a lot I can do about that.

Writing Quality - 7/10

Okay so coming from the prose world, comic book writers *do not* have a lot to work with in terms of word count. I can read *500-page* novels and think they didn't really go into a lot of detail but I really like how succinctly the writer has to effectively convey their story and Lobdell does a really good job, I did find

myself slightly confused in some parts but otherwise, it followed on well - I particularly liked Bizarro's dialogue, though I know it wasn't in line with his ordinary speech patterns, I will not explain more for fear of spoiler territory.

Image/Illustration Quality - 7/10

Also, pretty awesome! Artwork for this volume was by Tyler Kirkham, Joe Bennett, Dexter Soy amongst many other from the looks of it. The fight panels were great, my favourites without a doubt. Artemis looks awesome. There are a few panels, where characters eyes are closed or they're far away and, what I presume are their eyelashes, make their eyes look entirely black and *very* creepy. Whether this is an intentional choice or it's my digital copy not being great, I'm not sure but, it's my only complaint.

The Life of Bizarro parts were really cute, done in a sort of chibi style which was a nice reprieve from an otherwise very aesthetically dark book. There is also a double page spread (correct term? probably not?) I loved that I think is supposed to depict the inside of Bizarro's head that was done in really cool psychedelic colours and style.

Character Development - 8/10

This volume only collects issues #12-18 but even in that short time Jason gets some development, pretty much from the start you can tell how much he cares about the other Outlaws but watching him and Artemis, in particular, try to confront and come to terms with how to help Bizarro, or even if he needs help because they don't want him to, was interesting. This edition also included *Red Hood and the Outlaws Annual #1 - Big Tent, Bigger Dreams!* in which Jason and Dick take a few steps forward in what I know is a pretty patchy relationship and that's kind of adorable too and I'd have liked to see them interact more in it but the brief flashbacks were interesting.

In an interview, Lobdell says on why he's drawn to Jason as a character that 'Jason's redemption will probably take forever. That is, he's always going to feel the need to make up for what he's done—he's going to always push himself to do the right thing for all the times in his past that he's screwed things up.' which makes me think that that will be the overarching theme of the series and really makes me want to read the whole thing because damn-it, Lobdell I love a redemption arc too.

Bizarro gets what is by all accounts a game-changing upgrade/development in his character but something tells me it's not for the long haul but was fun to read even though, something tells me it would have meant more had I had a longer relationship with him.

Favourite Moments

We had a few cracks in the fourth wall - a writing device I've loved since Shrek - which made laugh since I wasn't expecting it.

Bizarro's use of the word 'Compatriots' and speaking in what I couldn't not imagine as a British accent.
Flippy Flop the Acrobatic Clown!

Issues

The villains included confused me a little but I'm just presuming they'd make more sense to me had I read from the start and as the series develops. That and the creepy eyes.

Overall - 7/10

Perhaps not a great gateway into comics in general, but I'd wager many would struggle to point to one book for that. I would definitely say this *could* be a gateway to Jason Todd and the other Outlaws, provided you have a general knowledge that Jason used to be Robin, that he's made some poor choices and Bizarro is a Superman Clone created by Lex Luthor though admittedly, all this *is* covered in the book so you could go in clueless. I plan to go back and read the first two volumes and then the rest of the series.

Creator's Thoughts

Not convinced? Well here's a pretty great interview with Lobdell himself where he talks about the series and its characters as well as the reasons behind some of his narrative choices (and editorial intervention). And here's an article that discusses Bizarro's interesting upgrade.

Dan says

I don't usually write spoiler reviews but WTF.....I grew to like Bizarro as an Outlaw. And the whole Flowers for Algernonesque take on Bizarro was just plain dumb. If that were not enough they later revert to the original Bizarro with no fucking explanation or transition period. Poor planning and shittier story telling. I enjoyed this but thought it was just okay.

robinette says

The 2/5 is solely for the art. Reading this is mentally and physically exhausting. I'm following the series to know what is happening to Jason Todd in canon - and I honestly hate it.

SueZ says

Surprisingly good book, seeing that I was really unimpressed with Lobdell's work on Teen Titans. Good art, humor, action and characterization, and even the stories made somewhat sense.

Chad says

How am I still giving a Scott Lobdell book 4 stars? He even revisited *Harvest* and the *Colony* from his awful *Teen Titans* run and it wasn't bad. Lobdell sends the team in a new direction as Bizarro goes all *Flowers for Algernon*. Then they cross paths with Lex Luthor, the Bat team from *Detective*, *Suicide Squad*, and the Creeper. Dexter Soy's art continues to impress.

Chris says

Red Hood and the Outlaws has become one of my favourite comics.

There, I said it.

After enjoying Bizarro Reborn, I'm done comparing this series to its previous iteration. Scott Lobdell has been on form since Rebirth began and this volume is no exception. Bizarro's arc made me teary-eyed, Jason and Artemis cracked me up and the Annual guest starring Nightwing (hell yeah, Nightwing!) was the icing on the comic book cake.

A lengthy volume, Bizarro Reborn has a few guest/fill-in artists, but they range from 'pretty good' to 'I wouldn't mind if they drew the series regularly'. None of them quite compare to Dexter Soy and Veronica Gandini, who have the tone of this series nailed down, but it's a good looking book all-round.

Oh, and that Annual with Nightwing? It's better than any of his Rebirth run so far, features slick artwork by Tyler Kirkham and Arif Prianto and casts a Bat-family relationship in a positive light for once. What more could this comic fan ask for? An intriguing tease at the end of the main arc to keep me hooked for the next volume? Nah. This had one of those, too. As Bizarro might say, me am impressed.

Chelsea says

This was like a collection of all the guest issues and while I didn't care for the Suicide Squad issue, I greatly enjoyed the issue with Batwoman and the Detective Comics team. Also, the Nightwing visit in the annual was perfect!

This starts with the Outlaws trying to save Bizarro. We get a glimpse into Bizarro's head and his perspective on his birth. We get a better understanding for why he's so attached to Jason and Artemis. Bizarro is such a doll and I just want the best for him. Not gonna lie, I teared up a bit.

Then we get a complete 180 for Bizarro's IQ. It took some getting used to and I'm wondering just how long that change will last. I'm reserving judgement.

I loved the issue with the Detective Comics crew. Although I wished they'd used Cass a little better, I enjoyed the banter and it's interesting seeing the chemistry between Kate and Jason considering he sticks up for her a bit later in the Detective Comics series.

I didn't really need the Suicide Squad issue. I've written off that lot as a team, to be honest. I've yet to read a book with them that I love and Harley is hit or miss for me, to be honest.

I wished for a little more of Artemis in this one but, she was wonderful when she was here. Also, Lobdell didn't shove her in with Dick which is pleasantly surprising.

And Dick. Dickiebird. I *loved* seeing his relationship with Rebirth Jason. It was starting to look like Dick's only solid relationship with the Batfam was Damian but it looks like he and Jason have an interesting history. Not as nuanced and fascinatingly complex as pre 52 or that odd point with the Battle for the Cowl arc, but it's intriguing.

Rebirth Jason spent his entire life admiring Dick and feeling a little inadequate. He's jealous of Bizarro and

Artemis immediately being enamored with Dick. We even get some brotherly flashbacks with them roughhousing in the manor. I'll never get it but DC would make tons of money off me if they gave me a series that was just the Batfam interacting. Detective Comics is the closest I've gotten but I'd love a series of Bruce, Jason, Dick, Damian, Cass, Babs, Kate, Duke, etc all working together.

Anyway, the annual was a wonderful insight into Jason's view of the Batfamily. He thanks Dick for his help and tells him he did his best as a big brother. I get that Rebirth is partially relying on narrative boxes and the fans' prior knowledge for things like this but it would be nice to actually see some more of their interactions.

But, overall, I liked this volume quite a bit. It bumped down to 3 stars for a bit because of that Suicide Squad arc but I couldn't mark it lower after that annual. It was such a great annual!

Jacqueline O. says

Picking up from where the last volume left off, with Bizarro dying - Red Hood (Jason Todd) and Artemis decide they are willing to try anything in an attempt to save Bizarro - so they take him to Lex Luthor. Not only does Luthor save Bizarro but the cure causes Bizarro to become a genius intellect. We eventually learn that not only did Luthor use artificial Kryptonite to cure Bizarro - but Bizarro took some of it and is using it to keep himself fit and to increase his intellect. This reminded me of the original *The Outer Limits* story, "The Sixth Finger".

Once he is cured, Bizarro becomes the strategic head of the Outlaws, something Jason and Artemis don't actually mind, at all. They are at times surprised, such as when Bizarro reveals his secret headquarters above Gotham, or his teleport device (for lack of a better term), but neither Jason or Artemis are great planners, so "smart Bizarro" actually adds to their team. And he doesn't really seem to have a hidden agenda, so all is going well.

The rest of the book pairs the Outlaws with other groups. Amanda Waller gets the Outlaws hauled in on false charges so she can have them sent to Belle Reve prison. Once there, she immediately sends them out on a mission with the Suicide Squad. The mission confirms Bizarro's new gifts - and is a rousing success.

Batwoman and the rest of the Batfamily show up for one story in this collection, largely discovering Bizarro's invisible HQ above Gotham. Since it's largely a slug-fest, and only sets up the info about the new HQ, the only question I had was why Kate (Kane aka Batwoman) didn't know that Jason was working with Bruce Wayne's blessing. Jason has been working undercover to break up Gotham's gangs (such as Black Mask's gang) since issue 1 of this series. But Batwoman, Batwing, etc. act as if Red Hood really was a criminal. Jason is still staying true to the general Bat vow to not kill - something Kate herself actually breaks, so what's the deal?

Jason and company also face off against Queen Bee, who is defeated by Bizarro. And Artemis meets Creeper, but he quickly leaves when he fails to join the Outlaws. They face off against The Beast (formerly KGBeast, now a free agent), but that also doesn't really go anywhere in terms of plot.

Finally, this collection includes the *Red Hood and the Outlaws* Annual #1, at the end of the book. I actually loved the story - a circus blows into town, and Jason, Artemis, Bizarro, and special guest, Dick Grayson, investigate undercover. It's a sweet story - from Jason admitting he had once seen Dick perform in the circus, to Bizarro falling for the bearded girl, to art and flavor of the panels. They stop the KGB beast. The only problem with the Annual is the placement - the story is set earlier in time so it probably should have come **first** in the collection, not last. But it's a stand-alone story, largely, so it still works.

I really enjoyed this collection. It's a bit more on the tragic and action-oriented side than other volumes, with less humor - but it's still a great read. Recommended.

Anne says

A friend of mine suggested that Lobdell must have a ghostwriter because this was so good.

Now, I've read and liked stuff by him before, but I feel like that's pretty high praise coming from someone who thought his writing was garbage. And who knows? Maybe that will give someone who isn't a Lobdell fan the nudge they need to check this title out.

As the title suggests, this volume focuses on Bizarro, who has been having *health problems* that finally come to a head in the first issue. Lex Luthor steps in and saves him, but there are a few...*changes* in his personality when he wakes up.

So, now we get Smart Bizarro. And while Jason is thrilled for his friend, Artemis has her doubts that everything is hunky-dory.

This one is crossover heavy, so if you like that sort of thing get excited.

The first is with the Bat-extras. Batwoman, Batwing, Cassandra Cain, Azrael, and *Clayface*. I haven't been keeping up with what organization those guys are in together but I assume they're some sort of team. Of course, since the Bats-whatevers are good guys and the Outlaws are good guys *posing* as bad guys, there's going to be a fight.

Aaaaaand that leads into a reluctant team-up with the Suicide Squad. Stuff and things happen and everyone becomes best friends. Heh.

The last issue shows a sweetish reunion between Grayson and Todd while undercover at a circus. Lots of innuendo of the budding romance between Jason and Artemis, too.

Overall, still a title I'm very interested in following.

James DeSantis says

I'm not even going to lie...Red Hood and the Outlaws is slowly becoming one of my favorite Rebirth titles.

So what's happening here? Last we saw our friend Bizarro was on death bed. The end is almost here for our favorite (not all there) hero. However, Lex saves him, in a rather touching scene where he thinks back to when he lost his Bizarro is Forever Evil crossover. Then out comes a SMART Bizarro. At first I was like

"Nooooo! I like dumb Bizarro" but then it all fit somehow and we got a interesting Arc of Bizarro trying to alter the future while Artemis and Jason bond some more.

Good: The conversations between everyone is wonderful. They all feel so alive, so well crafted, and interesting. The fights are highly entertaining, and the art is some of my favorite around. By the end it keeps a very intriguing storyline going and something special coming. I also enjoyed the annual and anytime see Dick and Jason bond it's special.

Bad: The plot itself isn't all that original or interesting. That's really the only negative.

This series is always entertaining, always interesting, and always fun. Right now I'ma go with a 4.5 out of 5. I really am enjoying this series way more than I expected.

Roman Colombo says

Well... I'm caught up on Red Hood everything (I think). Now to wait for volume 4. I really like what Lobdell is doing with Bizarro, and how it is affecting the team. And Soy's art continues to look great.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

This is another weird one in that I'm not sure DC have solicited the trade correctly, but we'll go with #12-18 + Annual #1 as the contents and review that, shall we?

I still don't understand how, after a year on the title, Scott Lobdell is still doing so well with this book. I just don't get it. I'm super glad that he is, but I'm so confused as to what happened before. Anyway, happier thoughts.

Bizarro is dying. Wait, I said happier. Damn it.

Bizarro is dying, but all is not lost! Aha, there we go.

What could have easily been a one-note story that ended very quickly becomes a much more interesting character study for a character that shouldn't really have much to study, all without sacrificing panel time for the other members of the Dark Trinity. While Bizarro's new character arc does bring the Outlaws into conflict with some new faces like Lex Luthor and the Suicide Squad, the book never loses sight of the laser focus that it has on these three characters and their relationship with each other - which is only going to take more twists and turns as a result of these issues.

The annual is probably the most superfluous issue, mostly just an excuse to get Nightwing in on the action, but it holds up a mirror to Red Hood that he doesn't particularly like and shows us why he has to fill the void in the Bat Family that he does.

Artwise, Dexter Soy continues a superb run on the title with his distinctive silhouettes and use of shadow in his pencils, while Veronica Gandini's colours give everything a very gritty realism without ever shying away

from the superheroics of it all. Tyler Kirkham's more loose style fits the Annual's circus theme very well, while Joe Bennet and Sergio Sandoval pop up for fill-in issues here and there but without ruining anything in the process if being slightly forgettable.

I'm still lost. How is this book still so good? I don't understand - but I love it.

José says

75/100.

Después de un volumen normalucho a nivel de guion, pero que me gustó bastante, el guion de Scott Lobdell ha vuelto a sorprenderme. Ni el arte ni el color cambian, así que sigue encantándome. Esta vez, la trama está más centrada en Bizarro y es algo que creo que nadie se hubiera esperado nunca. Estoy muy intrigado en saber cómo termina.

Como nota aparte, debo admitir que odio los anuales casi siempre, pero el anual de Red Hood and the Outlaws ha sido la hostia. Solo digo que se une por un numerito Dick Grayson.

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

Story: Bizarro has a limited lifespan, Jason and Artemis were warned that this would happen but the more Bizarro exerts himself the weaker he becomes until finally after a battle with Grundy Bizarro collapses. For reasons of his own Lex Luthor extends Bizarro's life only this time when Bizarro wakes up he doesn't have the mind of a child but off the chart level genius. He's so smart that he is manipulating situations so they can have his desired outcome. Which leads to working with the Suicide Squad. In the Annual issue we find the Dark Trinity working with a traveling circus and Jason invites Greyson (and kind of tricks him) to work with them.

Art: Dexter Soy does exceptionally well, Bizarro's dreamland version of the characters were adorable. Gandini's colors, I loved the shading. I also enjoyed Kirkham's work it felt softer and a more carefree and worked well with that story. All in all the art was visually appealing and worked well with what was going on in the story, in other words no really weird facial expressions those always make me cringe.

Review: Overall, it was a good story and I enjoyed pretty much everything about it except smart Bizarro, that was just creepy. I know you couldn't of had the story without smart Bizarro, it's not the fact that he was smart that made it creepy it was how he was portrayed the things he said and how he manipulated certain thing. I think Jason was taking the whole thing way to easy, he was sceptical at first and then, poof, everything was fine. Oh Bizarro is a genius, cool. Oh Bizarro can build all these neat gadgets that can rival Batman, awesome. Oh Bizarro built a giant invisible fortress above Gotham run by a holographic AI projection of himself, yeah that's not creepy at all; and how he manipulated Waller to get what he wants, okay yeah that was a little cool. Artemis has it right to be suspicious especially since it was Luthor who did this to him. I loved seeing Greyson and Todd interact with each other, my two favorite Robins. I can't wait to see where this story goes.

Wing Kee says

Some really interesting ideas but a slight step back.

World: The art is fine, this book does look pretty and the sense of motion is good. Still not a big fan of the cleavage and pose shots that this creative team fits into the pages just for titillation but that's about it (given Lobdell's past this is really restrained). The world building here is fantastic. The things that happen to the Outlaws here is status quo changing and I like that, but at the same time frustrating cause I already see this creative team pulling back from it immediately (next issue). I like this new dynamic and I do see that use of that crutch for drama but please give us at least a year of this to make it matter. The cameos of the Bat Family and the Suicide Squad was kinda ho hum and really distracted from the big status quo changing thing, but the world does tie it together. Solid.

Story: That first issue with Bizarro was beautiful, it's reminded me of Grundy in 'Justice League Unlimited' animated when we saw him and Hawkgirl, it pulled on the right heartstrings, really good stuff. The subsequent stuff with this arc is also great cause it took the characters in a different area and the core of the drama was tied to the team and their relationship with each other. I can't believe I'm saying this but Lobdell has slowly created characters I care about. The cameos on the other hand while always fun was a bit of a distraction from the team dynamic and I think it also took away from the core drama which I wanted more of. This little lull in the end made me feel that falling back on cameos to drive the story, it was a little step back.

Characters: I don't want to do spoilers but that character arc of one of the characters this time around was so good and I didn't see it happening and then the consequences good and bad and the character itself, it's good. I am expecting more drama and heartbreak. The team dynamic is good, the shakey start of the first arc and the subsequent building of the other arcs are good and have led to some good character banter and moments. I like this team. Oh man and then the Creeper!!!! I can't wait what they do with that!!!! The cameos from the Bat family and the Squad were meh and it was par and mindless action scenes but oh well, I'd rather have more time between the first two issues of the team members just working out their emotions.

A slight step back but I'm still surprised how much I like this book.

Onward to the next book!

read individual issues
