



## Lazarus: The First Collection

*Greg Rucka , Michael Lark (Illustrator) , Santi Arcas (Illustrator)*

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**Lazarus: The First Collection** Greg Rucka , Michael Lark (Illustrator) , Santi Arcas (Illustrator)

This prestige hardcover collects the first two arcs of the critically acclaimed and New York Times bestselling series; "Family," which introduces Forever Carlyle and her Family as they are brought to the brink of war in a future of economic collapse; and "Lift," where Forever uncovers a terrorist plot against her Family while another family altogether, the Barrets, take desperate measures to escape their life of poverty. PLUS! Never-before-seen work by Michael Lark and graphic designer Eric Trautmann, and exclusive world-building content. Collects Lazarus #1-9 with four-page preview and additional content.

## Lazarus: The First Collection Details

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Author : Greg Rucka , Michael Lark (Illustrator) , Santi Arcas (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Lazarus: The First Collection for online ebook

### Phillip says

This book collects issues #1-9 of the Lazarus series. There are two story arcs, "The Family" in issues #1-4, and "The Lift" in issues #5-9. The story is set on a future earth where the 16 richest families in the world have split up control, replacing the current governments.

"The Family" revolves around the Carlyles who control the western portion of the United States and Canada. It eases the reader into the world by establishing some of the major players and showing what Forever Carlyle, one of the so-called Lazarus, can do. She is protector of the family, but struggles with some of the decisions she has to make to keep it safe. The family is attempting to resolve a feud with one of the neighboring families. The contrast that the creators show between them is pretty interesting.

"The Lift" focuses less on the Carlyles by incorporating a poverty stricken family, the Barrets, who live in Carlyle territory. The story is split between Forever trying to uncover a plot that could weaken the Carlyle family and the Barrets as they struggle to escape poverty. This arc is done well and the creators do a good job of linking these stories.

The world the creators built is fantastic. It is well thought out and almost has a life of its own. I was disappointed that there wasn't a better effort to get the reader more familiar with the world and the jargon used. In the first arc there is reference to population in terms of family, serfs, and waste. There isn't much to distinguish between the three castes though. This is covered better in the second arc, but I would have liked to see it addressed earlier and more clearly.

Outside of Forever Carlyle and the Barret children, there isn't much for character development either. We see other characters on stage and what they are doing at the time. However, the limited view that the creators use puts a little too much distance between them and the reader.

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### Jason says

Dang. What a difference continuity makes! I'd stopped reading this series after five single issues because I couldn't make any sense of it reading it once a month. This is a story that definitely needs to be read trade by trade. I enjoyed it so much more this time around and am following the events and characters so much better. I think it helps saving all the extra-narrative stuff for the end. The single issues had quite a bit of thoughtful back matter but it was too much to keep track of broken up month to month. Very much looking forward to the next story arc!

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### Mike says

Very intriguing graphic novel series. A dystopian future where world economies are still in churn a half-century after collapse, and sixteen powerful companies run by family dynasties have divided up the world

and replaced governments.

The Carlyle Family rules corporate fiefdoms in western North America. They have advanced medicine for longevity and employ some of the population as "serfs" and provide (minimal) aid to the rest ("waste").

Forever "Eve" Carlyle has been medically rebuilt to recover from any wound short of near destruction, and trained to be her Family's Lazerus -- a nearly indestructible defender of the Family's interest. But Eve, and the reader, begin to discover that she may not truly be loved by her power-hungry relatives, and that she may not ever have been family -- or truly human any longer.

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## Strike says

I quite enjoyed this story, even though it feels very familiar. Basically this is a mash-up of X-23 and *Into the Badlands*. 3.5 stars.

X-23 is the genetically engineered daughter of Wolverine who is trained to kill from birth. She shares Logan's healing ability, which makes her an unstoppable assassin. (The X-23 stories by Craig Kyle and Chris Yost are masterpieces. Go read them.)

*Into the Badlands* is a TV series on AMC (and now Netflix) that's about a post-apocalyptic America that's been carved into fiefdoms ruled over by families and their loyal retainers. Firearms are hard to come by so most people use swords and other bladed weapons. It has some of the most inventive action scenes outside of a Jackie Chan movie. The third season starts in April 2018. Here's the trailer for season 2 - there aren't any real spoilers and it gives you a feel for the world: [https://youtu.be/Nvn1laEhI\\_A](https://youtu.be/Nvn1laEhI_A)

The main character here is Forever Carlyle, sometimes called Eve, a genetically engineered warrior with rapid healing ability who has been trained from birth to be a fighter, living in a post-crash world ruled over by a 16-family plutocracy. Each family has their own version of an unstoppable assassin who can reboot and rise from the dead. Hence "Lazarus."

This comic feels like Rucka dropped Laura (X-23) into the badlands. X-23 came out a full decade before this book, so it seems clear that was an inspiration, while *Into the Badlands* started filming at the same time this was being published, which means they probably have a shared source that sparked these ideas.

It's unusual that a comic would be more grounded than a wuxia-influenced TV series, but that's the case here.

We don't get a lot of answers about Forever or how this world comes to be. I'm hoping that stuff is revealed in the next volume. Instead we get hints of larger political machinations going on within and between the ruling families, as well as smaller stories about the common people who have to live in this hardscrabble future. In that regard it reminds me of 100 Bullets, which used a similar technique of doling out tidbits as we learned more about that world.

The art is really nice and Michael Lark's style is perfectly matched with this gritty and bloody story. A couple times I lingered over pages admiring the efficiency of the line work which conveyed emotion with just a few lines. Really good stuff.

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### **Smoothw says**

It feels bad somehow to slag on creator non superhero stuff that isn't overtly exploitative, but I found this to be a pretty boring introduction to the series. The premise, corporations divide the world up in an explicitly feudal manner, is a good hook to hang a sf action series on, but nothing else in this volume is of much interest. The plot, such as it is, involves the ninja robot enforcer of one of the corporate clans do various missions while gradually realizing the corruption of her world and dealing with the various decadent aristocrats who she thinks are her siblings. The dialogue is straight laced or sub standard soap stuff, the art is photo referenced and stiff (and doesn't even have an interesting vision of the future I might add), the mystery of the heroines origin seems pretty straightforward to me, and the pacing is decompression central. Avoid!

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### **Donovan says**

I just don't really care for Rucka's writing. I found myself bored with the archetypical characters, dialog, and standard dystopian world building. And the artwork has that Sean Phillips feel but without the spark. Tread lightly with this one.

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### **Paul says**

This was really good.  
Good characterization and good world-building.  
Good story and good art.  
Looking forward to the second book, in what, 2 years or so?

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### **Brent says**

Greg Rucka and Michael Lark knock it out of the park.  
Highly recommended.

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### **Liz says**

This is an interesting approach to a female "superhero."

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### **Rollin says**

Part of the catching up with what I read during and immediately following the move.

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### **Patrick says**

Really good. The futuristic aspects of the story mixed with historical financial circumstances of people was pretty cool. a possible view of the future, with a tip of the hat to the past.

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### **Relstuart says**

An interesting concept as the world is divided and owned by 16 families of billionaires. The author did a lot of research and apparently blended real people together to come up with the economic strengths of his families. The focus of the book is a female spec ops female that is the guardian of the family. She has been modified to heal quickly when injured so takes point in security and armed conflict though the families have plenty of foot soldiers. The first books has a lot of world building and has some conflict within the family. I'm sure we'll learn more about the story threads in the upcoming books.

The second oversize HC is due out in a few months and I'll check it out. It's a tough violent world but hopefully we'll get a interesting tale out of this.

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### **Anne says**

#### **Is no one seriously going to say anything about Forever's Lego click-on hair?**

Come *on*, people! That is *not* a sort of hairline that appears in nature.

It looks like she's wearing a hard plastic hat in the majority of the panels! I honestly don't understand why there aren't people lined up around the block, pointing and laughing at this nonsense.

And nobody else looked all weird like that, so I started looking through the pictures until I discovered what (I think) the problem is with this thing.

#### **The dude can't draw slicked back ponytails!**

Forever looks fine as long as her hair is down or there are a few wisps of hair in the front, but that's not what's happening in the vast majority of the panels.

#### **Normal Human Hair:**

#### **Mutant Lego Hair:**

I'd read the first volume a few years ago and liked it, but this time around I just had a hard time ignoring that glaringly bad hairstyle. I mean, the ponytail is a fantastic choice for someone who sees a lot of combat, but if you can't draw that sort of thing well? Then just buzz her head or something.

Yes, I know I'm being petty.

Still. Uck!

As far as the story goes, it was alright. I think I originally enjoyed *Lazarus*, Vol. 1: Family because it was more of a *teaser* than this Collection. <--(vol. 1 had issue 1-4, and this is 1-9)

After I was done with vol. 1, I had all these questions that I was interested in finding out the answers to, and at the end of *this*, I was just left feeling like those same questions were still all hanging there. I want to know where Forever *really* came from, who sent her that message, and if she's going to go rogue and give these turds the middle finger...

The gist is that Forever is the genetically enhanced *Lazarus* of her Family. There are quite a few of these Families out there and they each (basically) own a portion of the world. The term Lazarus refers to the fact that she (and those like her) can take a head shot and come back from it. At this point in the series, Forever is unaware that she isn't a *real* member of her Family. And she was raised with her 'father' dangling the emotional carrot of his love and approval in front of her to get the best *performance* out of her skills. Now that she's an adult she's still being manipulated into doing things she finds morally questionable because of her need to please her 'family' and keep them safe.

Maybe I'm just burned out on dystopian settings right now because most of my friends absolutely *love* this title. At any rate, it's still a really good concept, and I'm still going to continue with the series. I'm just not *quite* as excited as I was originally.

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### **Myra says**

2.5 stars. I'm not by any assessment totally engaged in this series after reading this, but I am interested enough that I'll try the next volume. I think the premise behind this could be really good, but so far it's falling a bit flat for me.

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### **Tori (InToriLex) says**

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Throughout the series Forever Carlyle works hard to defend her family and home. But struggles throughout the series with her own identity. This series is violent, emotional and very entertaining. Throughout the series it highlights the great disparity in wealth distribution that exists in the world, people outside of family's or their service are considered Waste. The series was inspired in part by the Occupy WallStreet movement, so

many parallels are intentional.

Forever is a feat of science, physically enhanced and perfected to be the Family's perfect defender. All of the powerful Family's in Lazarus have their own Lazari for their family. But Forever must grapple with the possibility she is not biologically related to her family. There is quite a bit about how the allegiances are formed between families and the corrupt nature of this world, but how Forever deals with it all, is the most fascinating.

The large majority in this overpopulated world are Waste. Waste exist at the brim of poverty and the mercy of the Family's charity. Most people work hard and go though a selection process called Lift that will make them valuable servants to a family and improve their status.

The action scenes are great along with the rest of the artwork, and this shifting perspective comic has alot left in store for readers. Forever is not quite a super hero and the dystopian society brings a wonderful story line to the medium. If your not into comics but enjoy dystopias, this comic is definitely something you should check out. How wealth and power corrupt in this futuristic setting is close enough to home to make you think about the society we live in. (P.S. I will only review larger collections of comics at a time.)

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