



Hawkeye, Vol. 1: My Life as a Weapon (Marvel NOW!)

Matt Fraction , David Aja (Illustrator) , Javier Pulido (Illustrator)

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Collects Hawkeye #1-5 & Young Avengers Presents #6. The breakout star of this summer's blockbuster Avengers film, Clint Barton - aka the self-made hero Hawkeye - fights for justice! With ex-Young Avenger Kate Bishop by his side, he's out to prove himself as one of Earth's Mightiest Heroes! SHIELD recruits Clint to intercept a packet of incriminating evidence - before he becomes the most wanted man in the world.

Hawkeye, Vol. 1: My Life as a Weapon (Marvel NOW!) Details

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From Reader Review Hawkeye, Vol. 1: My Life as a Weapon (Marvel NOW!) for online ebook

Kemper says

Hey, Marvel. Instead of massive crossovers and killing off major characters as publicity stunts, do more like this. Please and thank you.

Hawkeye seems like an odd character for Matt Fraction to do after his acclaimed run on *Invincible Iron Man* where he wrote Tony Stark as a slightly dickish genius who was more interesting than the superhero aspect. He uses a similar style to give us a version of Clint Barton that relies on the character's history instead of discarding it, yet could be picked up by any casual fan and enjoyed. As a result, we get a fresh perspective on Hawkeye and one helluva of a fun book.

This should be the usual thing of a hero best known for being part of a larger group having some side adventures on their own. Hawkeye is longtime Avenger where his insecurities about his lack of superpowers often manifested in a smart-ass attitude and problem with authority. As Clint points out several times here, he's just a guy with a bow-n-arrow who usually works with people far more powerful than him. The easy thing to do would have been to revamp him closer to the *Ultimate* version that was used in *The Avengers* movie to make Clint a super-secret SHIELD agent who goes out and has covert adventures. That could have worked, but would have seemed very Wolverine-ish.

What's brilliant about this is that Fraction went in the opposite direction and plays up the angle that Clint Barton doesn't have any powers and is frequently in over his head. The first panel shows him crashing out a high window and the fall puts him in the hospital for six weeks. When he's not off avenging Clint wants to live a somewhat normal life in his Brooklyn apartment where he enjoys grilling out with his neighbors on the roof, but he keeps getting sucked into bad situations like dealing with a Russian mafia slumlord who owns his building. Even when he does a side job for SHIELD that involves going to sleazy Madripoor, Clint has to fight off thieves trying to steal his wallet. And since he doesn't have the powers of a Norse god or a high-tech suit of armor Clint frequently gets the crap kicked out of him.

All of this is done with plenty of humor and heart. If the storyline involving Pizza Dog doesn't get to you, then get tested because you're probably a sociopath. I also love that they're using Kate Bishop as a kind of partner/sidekick. There's a funny dynamic to that because Kate replaced Clint when he was suffering from a minor case of superhero death, and she's kept the name of Hawkeye, too. So it's Hawkeye and Hawkeye. Batman wouldn't put up with that, but it's perfect for the adventures of a slightly scruffy superhero.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

Actual rating : 3.5 stars

? **Why did I find this hilarious?** ?

✓ Because Clint Barton has the best bad ideas

✓ Because Captain America calls him.

Okay, *ONCE*. Whatever.

✓ Because **BOOMERANG**.

Oh, yeah, that's the moment where you pretend to understand what I say. Huh-huh.

✓ Because I discovered many kinds of arrows and of course, that's absolutely fascinating (*RIGHT?*).

✓ Because Clint says *DAMN* a lot. *So do I, so do I.*

✓ Because Kate totally rocks. Fortunately.

Oh! And there's this dog.

That's probably my useless review EVER. Sorry about that.

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Bradley says

I guess everyone is right.

There is some quality storytelling here that lets me forget the middling art and drops me right into the very real pathos and snark that is a pretty damn interesting Hawkeye.

Though, if I'm going to be utterly honest, I think I like his little sidekick even more. She doesn't so much snark it up with words as she does it with action. I really, really like her.

It looks like I'm gonna have to sit down for the rest of the night and run through all five volumes and I'm pretty sure I'm gonna love it.

Will M. says

I believe this will be my first time writing a review for graphic novels. I firmly believe that graphic novels need the same attention and effort given to regular novels. From now on, I'll be reviewing more graphic novels.

Hawkeye is probably the most hated avenger, and I used to be one of them. I believe I used to think of him as a ripoff Green Arrow, but maybe I was a huge DC fanboy then. I even researched who came first, and was glad that Green Arrow came first. If you even saw my profile, it's stated there that I'm a huge Green Arrow fan, so there's that.

This *new* graphic novel series about Hawkeye focuses on his life outside the avengers. I wasn't that interested in reading it, but I eventually bought this and was obliged to read this. I have to say I'm glad I decided to read this. Not only did it make me want to know more about Hawkeye, but it also made me like him a bit more.

Like I said, his life outside of the avengers. I'm not sure if this new series was a new take on Hawkeye, but he still had a pretty cool life outside avengers. He's rich and good with the ladies. Somewhat like a brighter Batman (who do I keep comparing DC and Marvel characters). Even when he's not with Capt. America and the others, his life was still action packed. A few appearances of the avengers cast produced a smile from my face, especially Spider-man.

4/5 stars. While I was really entertained, I was also hoping for more. This is a very good first volume for fellow Hawkeye newbies. It will not blow your mind, but this is kinda new in terms of style. I'm not a huge reader Marvel wise (DC fanboy), but I am trying to be updated especially on X-men and Wolverine. I can be unbiased, even if DC dominates my childhood, and my life. Marvel is starting to grow on me though.

Wil Wheaton says

Hawkeye is the best comic story in a decade.

karen says

all right, all right, all right. anne is correct in all things and maybe hawkeye *can* be interesting, in the right hands.

so, anne was kind enough to bully me into reading a hawkeye book. i'm not a superhero person, and i've read very little in the way of superhero-based graphic novels. i read Watchmen and X-Men: The Dark Phoenix Saga because they were assigned for one of my library-school readers' advisory classes, and i've read a bunch of batman books because - batman, but as far as the rest of the world of superheroes is concerned - i was completely at a loss. they're not approachable to me; too many different artists and conflicting storylines/alternate timelines and the early ones seem dated and cheesy but i felt like you would NEED to read the early ones in order to have a foundation for the characters and to see how things evolved or to understand the references or to get the jokes and it was one of those things that seemed too much trouble to even begin getting into now, when i'm probably more than halfway through my lifespan.

and hawkeye - meh. i may not know much about superheroes in graphic novels, but i do watch all the

superhero movies that come out because i'm a sucker for the action films kaboom kaboom pow pow. and while i didn't actively dislike hawkeye the way i did captain america, he's just kinda ... there. there's nothing particularly appealing about him, he's just the guy with the arrows, and he doesn't have pretty elfhair

and he's not katniss

so it's hard for me to be enthusiastic about archery when there's a giant green thing stomping and smashing and there's scarlett johansson and her attributes to look at instead.

but sometime it's good to be bullied into things. because that's kinda the point of this hawkeye book - he's just a *guy*. just a regular old joe whose heroic deeds include paying a dog's vet bills and preventing his neighbors from getting evicted. just a guy who can't even keep his arrows organized and labeled, but still gets to intercourse pretty girls and fumble into car chases and kick the butts of ninjas and magicians and various other hoods along with girl-hawkeye, while making plenty of self-deprecating remarks and having some great banter along the way.

it's a fun story, and i'm glad i read it despite my initial reservations of "i do not like this art" and "what is going on with this formatting and are these pages out of order because why does this dog story keep popping up into the middle of this other story and what is even happening?" but greg assured me things were as they should be, and even though i did not understand the last story at all and i think it relates to something outside of the boundaries of this book and is exactly the kind of thing i was worried about being confused by coming so late to the superhero world, i still enjoyed reading this for the laughs and the pizza dog and the general shrugged tone of the narrative.

so, yes.

greg sent me the next group of hawkeye adventures and i will read those soon, and thanks to anne for giving me virtual swirlies and beating me up by the internet flagpole and all that. i have promised to make her turtles from this book: Milk Bar Life: Recipes & Stories, and i will be making good on that promise probably next week - as soon as it cools off a little bit here and they won't turn into liquid blobs in the mail.

just don't make me read a captain america. even i have my limits.

turtles TK

come to my blog!

Anne says

I'd been looking forward to reading this for so long, that I think I had a little mini-anxiety attack when I realized I was looking at it.

I mean, *all* the cool kids had *already* read it.

And here it was, in *my* hands!

I. Was. Cool.

Then I opened it up. And I shit you not, my first reaction was this:

*Wha..? No. But?! Mother fucker. What's up with this ugly-ass art?! Well, shit. This is just great. So **that's** what they were all talking about. That's just...fuuuuuck. God. I can't...ugh.*

So I shut it.

Yes. I was so pissed at the blocky drawings that I put it down and went to make myself some coffee.

Because coffee is my comfort food...

And I'll bet my secret stash mini-Snickers that you guys are all going *What?! Is she insane? The art is the best part of the book!*

Well, sorry. I wasn't expecting *that*. And coupled with my sky-high expectations for this one? Let's just say that I'm not terribly surprised that I had a bit of a hissy fit/mental breakdown. In fact, I can actually feel my blood pressure rising just reliving those first few moments.

Hang on. Gonna make some coffee...

I'm back.

shlurp

Ahhhhh.

Did I overreact?

Of course. Even I can see that, *now*. Hell, I could see it *then*. But I didn't care at the time, because I was in the middle of a hormone-induced break with reality. Couldn't be helped. There are some *days* when the slightest thing can send an otherwise rational woman spiraling into Crazy-Eyed-She-Devil territory.

Yesterday was one of those days for me.

shlurp

I'm fine today. Mostly.

Although, I would advise that you wait a few days before mentioning that this review has turned into a bowl of rambling nonsense, just to be safe.

So how did this go from I-Want-To-Shove-It-In-My-Toilet-But-It-Won't-Fit-Down-The-Tiny-Hole-In-The-Bottom-Of-The-Bowl to **5** stars?

Coffee, of course.

shlurp

And *maybe* I raided the kid's Easter baskets for any leftover chocolate.

Then I sat down again. And *this* time I read it.

Oh. My. God.

It was everything you guys said it would be *and* more!

Hawkeye and Hawkeye

Bro

This looks *bad*

And:

The dog...

If you didn't get a little misty-eyed about Arrow/Lucky, then I'm afraid we can't be friends. Personally, I was slightly choked up by the time Clint named the dog.

Slightly choked up, mind you. Not a blotchy snotty mess. Nope.

Because I wasn't a fountain of raging mood swings when I read this.

This volume also included a story from the Young Avengers at the end, and it was phenomenal!

But.

I'll let you in on a little secret...

I missed the artwork from the Hawkeye title when I was reading it.

Don't. Say. It.

Get this review and more at:

Jeff says

If someone had told me that one of the best graphic novel collections of the past year would be about Hawkeye (the Avenger, not the M.A.S.H character), I would have scoffed. Hawkeye? Really? The bow and arrow dude with a big mouth and identity issues. Meh!

Well, true believers, they would have been correct. In this collection, he's a compulsive, impetuous, big mouth first, super-hero second, who's not above getting his butt kicked (repeatedly). One issue recounts how Clint Barton (aka Hawkeye) on the way to the store to get post it notes to keep track of his arrow collection, gets sidetracked, making one bad decision after another until he's rescued (again) by Kate Bishop, his female counter-part.

It's smart, funny, and well-written. David Aja's art is the coolest thing I've seen in a Marvel comic since Mike Allred did X-Statix.

Highly recommended, Bro.

Bonus: A clever place to hide your credit cards is suggested.

Shelby *trains flying monkeys* says

My library actually got in a bunch of new graphic novels. So I was really excited to pick this one up because

1. Avengers
2. This guy

Clint Barton AKA Hawkeye is pretty cool. Even though he doesn't have the powers that the other Avengers have at their disposal.

He has a boomerang arrow for crap's sake! I should have loved it. All my friends on Goodreads that have read this book have rated it quite highly.

So of course I go and read it wrong...that's just what I do.

I think that is it!

Anyways. The art wasn't my favorite but I overlooked it because I almost got to see Hawkeye's wanker.

There is much ado about a tape that everyone wants..including an evil heiferness. The only part I really liked was Pizza Dog...because dogs.

goes to sit in shame corner

Terry says

3 – 3.5 stars

Ok, so as Hawkeye's number 1 fan it's a little surprising that it's taken me this long to get to this critically acclaimed series starring comicdom's greatest archer (shut up Ollie!) Matt Fraction and David Aja make a great team as they take a peek into the 'everyday' life of a superhero...a superhero who can't shoot lightning bolts, fly, or bench press a city bus. What does an average Avenger do on his days off?

The story starts by letting us see Clint Barton, aka the Avenging archer Hawkeye, having a pretty bad day (which seems to be the norm for him): he's just gotten out of the hospital after sustaining pretty major injuries during his 'day job', runs into a track suit mafia that wants to evict all the tenants from his low-rent apartment building, and becomes responsible for a dog that got hit by a car, partially due to Clint's intervention. Things don't really get much rosier from there. We then get a list of every bad decision Clint is capable of making in one day (for the record it's nine this time) – along with a running tab on his arsenal of trick arrows, both the whacky and the wonderful: boomerang, respect it. Finally we follow Clint on his quest to wrest an incriminating video tape (yes, tape) from the clutches of a cadre of rich supervillians intent on getting some dirt on one of the Avengers. Ultimately we see how trying to do the right thing can lead to all sorts of complications, misunderstandings, and just plain bad luck. It's not always easy being Clint Barton. In fact it's probably never easy.

The other major player in the series is Kate Bishop a privileged young heiress whose defining attributes seem to be an overabundance of sass and world-class archery skills. These make her more than qualified to be the de-facto protégé of Hawkeye, a hero known to be pretty good with a quip and a bow himself. Kate plays the hip sidekick to Clint's somewhat in over his head mentor and it's here that I ran into a few issues with the series. Please allow my inner-geek to vent a bit: granted one of the great hooks for this character has always been his low self-esteem and the fact that he was a 'mere' human who sometimes felt in over his head working on the premiere Marvel super-team peopled by gods and monsters; also granted that having the whole protégé-teacher dynamic turned on its head in various ways is a clever and entertaining idea. Despite

these things, though, it sometimes felt like Fraction was leaning a little too heavily on the ‘Clint’s an all-too-human screw-up’ side of things. I mean by now he’s proven himself time and again and has even led both the Avengers and the Thunderbolts fer crissakes! And Fraction has him being led around by the nose by Kate freakin’ Bishop?! Is it really that likely that Clint is such a mess that he has to have his supposed protégé telling him how to act on a mission? I can accept the snarky banter between them: she wants to sass Clint and he plays along? Cool. But to think that she’d be the real backbone of the partnership just kinda rubbed me the wrong way. It was a bit too extreme. Ok, end of rant.

The art by David Aja in issues 1-3 is awesome: reminds me of Mike Allred’s stuff, which is always a good thing. The art by Javier Pulido for issues 4-5? Um, not so much. The additional story in the back from the pages of the Young Avengers was ok, it certainly showed Hawkeye as less of a screw-up and more of a mentor, but it was definitely a change in pace and style from the rest of the book.

All in all this is good stuff. I totally understand the love this title gets...I just wish Hawkeye got a little more respect. The poor guy deserves a break every now and then.

Oh and Dan? Apropos of nothing: Hal Jordan is still better than crab-face guy!

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

WHY DID IT TAKE ME SO LONG TO PICK THIS UP?! Hawkeye is the best! This was loaded with action & humor. All I need when it comes to comics tbh. Also Kate Bishop is bae.

Ronyell says

Introduction:

Now, I will admit that when I first heard about Marvel launching their “Marvel NOW” line (which is similar to DC doing their “New 52” reboot, except that “Marvel NOW” is not a reboot), I was a bit hesitant about reading any of the comic books from this line because:

- 1) I did not like the direction that Marvel was taking some of their franchises (X-Men in particular).**
- 2) Since I have not been reading Marvel Comics (or DC comics for that matter) that long, I was afraid that I would not understand some of the new comics coming out since I have not read a lot of the previous comics before the 1970s and some from the 1990s yet.**

But, after I heard so many good things about this comic book, I just had to put my reservations about the “Marvel NOW” comic book line on hold and give Matt Fraction’s hit series “Hawkeye: My Life as a Weapon” a chance! Lo and behold, I found myself loving this series and I wanted to read more from “Hawkeye!”

What is this story about?

Basically in this volume, it details the adventures that Clint Barton, also known as the legendary Avenger, Hawkeye, has whenever he is not with the Avengers. Along for the ride in these adventures, is Young Avenger member Kate Bishop and she and Clint end up fighting crime in New York City while wielding their bow and arrows in the process!

What I loved about this story:

Matt Fraction's writing: Now I will admit that this is probably the first time I had ever read an "Avengers" comic book since I am more of an "X-Men" fan, but after hearing so many good things about this comic book, I decided to give Hawkeye a try and I found myself loving this volume! Matt Fraction has done a brilliant job at keeping this story self contained (which was what I was looking for when I picked up some comic books in the "Marvel NOW" comic book line) and I really enjoyed the solo adventures that Hawkeye went on. I also loved the way that Matt Fraction made Clint Barton into a truly hilarious and active character and I loved his little quips throughout the entire story. Some of my favorite lines from Hawkeye was when he was making fun of how the older comic books would set up the dialogues whenever they are translating foreign languages (like you know how the older comic books would tell the readers "translated from Russian" or "translated from Japanese")? Well, his dialogue would go like this:

"(Some Spanish-sounding stuff)!" or "(French Stuff)."

I also loved the way that Matt Fraction portrayed Clint Barton's relationship with Kate Bishop as it is both heartwarming and hilarious to look at and it was fantastic seeing another character who had the same sharp-shooting skills as Hawkeye does.

David Aja and Javier Pulido's artwork: David Aja and Javier Pulido's artwork were fantastic in this volume as they are reminiscent of the artwork in Frank Miller's classic "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns" comic book. I loved the way that David Aja's artwork in the first three issues is scratchy and bold lined while still capturing the essence of each action scene involving Hawkeye and Kate Bishop fighting against criminals. Javier Pulido's artwork in the fourth and fifth issues are much lighter in color tone and much more detailed in designs and I really loved the way that they captured the characters and the action scenes.

What made me feel uncomfortable about this story:

Probably the only issue that I did not care for in this volume was the "Young Avengers Presents #6" issue. For one thing, I do not normally read the "Young Avengers" comic book series, so I will admit that I was a little confused about what was going on, even though this issue is supposed to be when Kate Bishop first meets Hawkeye. Another thing about this issue was that I felt that the tone of the story was way too different from the tone of the rest of the volume, which was light hearted and action-packed while this issue was dark and had too much soap opera drama for my tastes. So, all in all, I think that this issue was just average and not as good as the rest of the issues in this volume. Although, I did enjoyed Alan Davis' artwork in this issue as it was gorgeous to look at and the characters' facial expressions were realistic.

Final Thoughts:

Overall, "Hawkeye: My Life as a Weapon" is one truly brilliant volume for anyone who is a huge Hawkeye fan and I am definitely looking forward to reading more of his series in the near future!

Mike says

This book demands multiple readings. On the first read-through it just works so smoothly that it's easy to miss the exquisite creative relationship between Fraction and Aja.

I'm leaving this to fester in my subconscious for another month or two before I pore over it again - I just can't do it justice on one reading.

...even knowing how much Fraction handed over control to Aja - and even knowing that Marvel Style was the scripting approach - I still gotta credit the talent behind the keyboard as much as the brush. I mean, the art is phenomenal - monster-sized amazing - don't get me wrong - but on second reading, I'm still just enthralled by the words that make it on the page.

I feel like Barton is a guy I would totally know, and would definitely want to hang with. I wouldn't feel *cool* enough to actually try - he's far too self-effacing and (mostly) ego-free for me to feel...well, here's the thing: I'm more *together* than him (his personal life is a shambles - a real wreck of epic neglect), and I can't say I feel less clumsy than him (to be fair, I haven't tried to dodge bullets or cling for life and hero-uplevel-points off the roof of a careening - or is it careering? - car). So I guess I'm conflicted on which of us would be a worse influence on the other. Good, we've established a bro-bond.

OK so the characters seem more real, scratched up, rode hard - love them one and all. Even the Draculas (especially the Draculas). Even Katie Bishop with her impossible...ness - better than me in every way except the irrepressible sarcasm (at which she excels too).

But holy gods does the art make you want to get out a protractor and a set of crayolas and just go to town on the walls of your house. Composition, line work, nothing unnecessary, framing, layout, sizing. This book alone will give me a sizeable chunk of my talk on Comic Book Storytelling User Experience - the book's a treatise on how to use the medium to its fullest unique contributions. Shit, even the colourist - I mean, this is where I learned what a colourist really does for a comic. Palette choice, subtle shading, contrasts, consistency, mood. Damn Matt I am a fan for life.

Wish I could say Pulido was doing as many creative things as Aja in the two-parter, and it felt a little less like the Bond/Rockford/super-cool story for that stretch, but it's still first-rate fun.

I don't exactly remember, but I think I'd already heard some specific commentary on the art by the time I'd read this - like I'd at least heard Sims & Wilson raving on War Rocket Ajax, and I'd maybe even heard the Fraction/Aja interview on Gillen's Decompressed podcast. So I was ready to drool over the art before I ever saw it.

And it's so good - so well *designed* - that I included pages from Hawkeye three times in my "User Experience of Comics Storytelling" talk. (Most other creators and books get *one* mention, except Locke & Key.) This book is fantastically designed, and credit to both Aja *and* Fraction for collaborating so hard to get the tone and the flow just right. But heavy kudos to Aja for obsessing over layout, symmetry and eyeline

on every page.

Terence says

"Hawkeye became the greatest sharpshooter known to man. He then joined The Avengers. This is what Hawkeye does when he's not being an Avenger. That's all you need to know."

This is the quote that starts the volume. I have to say my general best case scenario when it comes to Hawkeye is indifference. The man fights with a *bow and arrow* for goodness sakes. I'll admit he's effective with it, but who fights with a bow and arrow. The ammo that can be carried is always severely limited, there is a risk of it falling out, and against any notable enemy his arrows are practically useless. Anyway that's my general thoughts on Hawkeye, let me talk about the volume.

My Life as a Weapon wasn't really my thing. Covering Hawkeye's life outside the Avengers is akin to focusing on every time someone semi interesting goes grocery shopping. Everyone knows people have to buy food, but most people aren't interested to hear about it. So seeing Clint hospitalized, fighting legally correct thugs over rent, and just walking around wasn't doing anything for me.

I wasn't really a fan of the artwork either. It wasn't bad, I prefer the sharp realistic artwork over the Sunday Comic Section artwork style.

Most people I know loved this, but My Life as a Weapon left me indifferent.

2.5 out of 5 stars

Jan Philipzig says

“Okay... This Looks Bad...”

... You cowboy around with the Avengers some. Guys got, what, armor. Magic. Super-powers. Super-strength. Shrink-dust. Grow-rays. Magic. Healing factors. I'm an orphan raised by carnies. Fighting with a stick and a string from the Paleolithic era. So when I say this looks 'bad'? I promise you it feels worse... Paleolithic. I looked it up.”

That's how Marvel's influential surprise hit (first launched in 2012) starts, and it's a good indicator of the title's successful marketing strategy. At its core, Matt Fraction's *Hawkeye* is a superhero comedy targeted at the politically and economically marginalized “emerging adult” who has a hard time identifying with, say, everybody's favorite millionaire Bruce Wayne. Or with anybody in a position of power, for that matter. And as the quote suggests, the series initially matches its own ambitions quite well.

It quickly becomes clear, however, that *Hawkeye* does not really care about the underdog at all. Instead, it

very much embraces the inherently conservative rules of the superhero genre and even takes them to the extreme in places. “Hobos” serve as the butt of several jokes, for example. In issue #1, Russian mobsters (rather than an exploitative system) are blamed for an increasingly unaffordable rental market. In issue #2, our hero for a brief moment considers the sad fact that “many” of the “ultra-rich” are “bad guys” but then, instead of pursuing this thought, goes for the generic baddies anyway: those who try to steal from the ultra-rich (and are portrayed as even more despicable individuals, of course).

In issues #4 and 5, the videotaped record of secret, government-controlled yet undemocratic so-called anti-terrorism activities that involve the Avengers and even murder is about to leak. Captain America’s response: “Make no mistake... This is very bad.” S.H.I.E.L.D. Agent Maria Hill couldn’t agree more: “We have 72 hours before the tape goes up for auction... After that it’s out in the wild... The tape gets out and it’s bad for you, for S.H.I.E.L.D., the Avengers, the military, and it is personally very bad for the President of the United States.” Oh my. Thankfully, our hero saves the day by ensuring that the government’s illegal secret activities remain hidden from “the wild.” Phew, I guess we can all breathe a sigh of relief now.

With its refusal to acknowledge the systemic roots of poverty and its endorsement of government secrecy (even of the government’s right to have people secretly assassinated at will), *Hawkeye Vol.1: My Life as a Weapon* ultimately promotes a reactionary world view that feels more problematic today than ever before. Ironically, it is the kind of ideology that has contributed to the gradual disempowerment of young adults in North America since the 1980s—the very group of people that represents the title’s target audience.

From an ideological perspective, then, Matt Fraction’s *Hawkeye* is typical Disney fare. Thanks to its engaging “loser”-protagonist, though, it feels surprisingly relevant for a mainstream superhero title. It is also competently executed and even pretty funny in places, at least if you don’t let its underlying reactionary messages sour your mood.
