



Star Wars: Poe Dameron, Vol. 2: The Gathering Storm

Charles Soule (Text), Phil Noto (Illustrator)

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Continuing the adventures of the ace pilot hero of Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens! Poe Dameron faces the wrath of a vengeful Agent Terex! But how does Terex always seem to know what Black Squadron is doing? Could there truly be a traitor in the Squadron's midst? Poe will undertake a secret mission from General Organa herself...to escort none other than C-3PO on a dangerous mission to the planet Kaddak! But what will be revealed in a peek into Terex's past?

COLLECTING: POE DAMERON 7-13

Star Wars: Poe Dameron, Vol. 2: The Gathering Storm Details

Date : Published July 3rd 2017 by Marvel

ISBN : 9781302901110

Author : Charles Soule (Text) , Phil Noto (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre : Media Tie In, Star Wars, Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Science Fiction, Superheroes, Marvel



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From Reader Review Star Wars: Poe Dameron, Vol. 2: The Gathering Storm for online ebook

Ivy says

5 ?

RIP L'ulo. Glad Poe was able to find out who the spy was. Happy to see Black Squadron again. Nice to see Poe and C 3PO on an adventure together. Wonder what will happen to Terex.

Can't wait to read Poe Dameron #3: Legend Lost!!!!

Lance Shadow says

The second Volume of Charle's Soule's Poe Dameron comic has released this month. After a one shot storyline with Poe Dameron #7, we go back to a full length story arc with issues #8-13 in "The Gathering Storm".

While Charles Soule as a writer for Star Wars comics has been hit or miss for me, I enjoyed the first volume of Poe Dameron, Poe Dameron, Vol. 1: Black Squadron, quite a bit. Despite being overall a bit of a cheese-fest and having a story that lacked tension, the characters and the dialogue were so much fun for me.

Unfortunately, "The Gathering Storm" is a followup that has many of the same flaws as its predecessor, while much of what made Black Squadron enjoyable is lacking. While I rated "The Gathering Storm" 3 stars, that's being fairly generous and truthfully I could flip flop between 2 stars and 3 stars based on what day you ask me.

THE STORY: Poe Dameron is sent to the planet Kaddak with C-3PO, BB-8, and Oddy Muva to find a droid. However, Black Squadron has a mole and Poe needs to find it. Agent Terrex, of course, is going to go after them.

THE BAD: I've read several reviews on this site saying that this is an improvement over the first volume, but I just don't get it.

Not only does the plot have absolutely nothing to do with the previous volume, it's dull in concept and a complete misfire in execution. I'll admit that the identity of the traitor was spoiled for me before I read this story arc, but even if I hadn't had it spoiled it was so obvious that I almost rolled my eyes at its predictability (probably the only reason I didn't was because again, it was already spoiled for me). While I'll give Soule credit for not going a cliched route after the mole is revealed, the motivations came out of nowhere and the way the character arc plays out feels unearned. The clue scenario done in the Han Solo comic wasn't that great either, but that one felt like masterful storytelling compared to how it plays out here.

Poe may have been a wonderful character in The Force Awakens and pretty fun in Black Squadron, but his charm is lacking in "The Gathering Storm". While Soule does fine in making sure he stays in character, there's nothing but flatness beyond that. And this comic also reveals the problem with Poe Dameron's character so far in the canon: he must have the right characters to make quips with and work off of. Again, in The Force Awakens, Poe's character works so well because he can throw quips at Kylo Ren and Finn. In Black Squadron, it was with Agent Terrex and the other pilots in the squad. But Poe isn't given a good character to work off for most of The Gathering Storm. Add to the fact that Soule does not use the chance to flesh out Poe's backstory, and you have a pretty boring lead character in this.

Once again, I still can't call myself a big fan of Phil Noto's art. It's not BAD, but it just feels so lackluster. I didn't think he had amazing artwork for Chewbacca, but I think you need a better artist if you're going to write a multiple volume ongoing series. Why couldn't they just keep with the amazingly talented Angel Unzueta for this volume after getting him to work on issue #7? Oh well, it's still passable and nowhere near the worst artwork I have seen in a star wars comic, so I'll deal with it.

THE GOOD: I'll admit the second half of this comic starts to have the charm of volume 1 again, and there are some other good ideas here too.

The first and biggest positive I can give to *The Gathering Storm* is with Agent Terrex. Is Terrex still pretty cheesy? absolutely (view spoiler). But Soule goes into his backstory pretty effectively and gives him a pretty strong character arc for this volume. Once again he still proves to be pretty menacing, and his portions were by far the best parts of this volume.

I also like the idea that 3PO has this network of droids, and that it actually makes him useful. Sure it's another idea in this series that seems a bit silly, but it's refreshing to see 3PO not pointlessly dragged on another mission because he's C3PO-Human-Cyborg-Relations, and it's good to not just see him whine and complain all the time.

When we FINALLY get to see the Black Squadron pilots make a return, that charming and likable pilot dynamic I liked so much in the first volume of this series makes a return and man was it fun. Charles Soule also continues to demonstrate his talent with dialogue here and after how much of a slog the first half of this story arc was, it was much appreciated. It's just too bad this was nothing I haven't already gotten in the first volume of the series, and even then, there could have been more time with the pilots instead of a ridiculously obvious and predictable revealing the traitor plot line.

The easter eggs from other star wars canon novels and comics are still used very well. The ones that have already made an appearance in Black Squadron are carried out in an interesting way and new easter eggs are cleverly integrated. Much like volume 1, "*The Gathering Storm*" will have some value in rewarding readers who closely follow the new Star Wars canon.

And of course, Poe Dameron is in character with what he was in *The Force Awakens* and the first volume.

THE CONCLUSION: 3 stars is too high, but 2 stars is too low. "*The Gathering Storm*" isn't terrible, but it definitely is one of the weaker story arcs released by the new star wars canon. I guess the best thing I can do is in celebrating the release of "*The Emoji Movie*" and its plastering by film critics by helping guide you with a probably rating for this thing: If *The Emoji Movie* was so bad that you want to find some positivity in entertainment, give "*The Gathering Storm*" 3 stars. If *The Emoji Movie* was so bad that it makes you hate everything a little more, I'd understand your inclination to go with 2 stars. Look, I know that was a pretty terrible parallel, but I'm sorry, I've got nothing! I'd feel guilty for being too harsh on "*The Gathering Storm*" with a 2 stars but I feel like I'm going to easy on it for rating a 3 stars. Ok, 2.5 stars! Happy?

Oh well, you can definitely give "*The Gathering Storm*" a pass, but if you're straight up dying to read it, you won't have any regrets. It will probably overwhelm you overall but I think there will still be some satisfaction from certain parts of it.

Scott S. says

Slight improvement over Vol. 1 and a little more fast-moving, but still sort of bland. This time C-3PO shares the cover with Poe, and for good reason - he pretty much successfully plays the trusty sidekick role on their mission. Elsewhere, readers finally get a backstory on returning villain Terex (snotty as usual, but still not very colorful or intimidating) and his past is not exactly earth-shaking.

Chad says

Poe heads off with C-3PO on a secret mission to recover one of his spies. Yes C-3PO is actually useful. He's created his own network of droids to spy on the first order. Meanwhile, Terex has decided to do things his way to bring down the resistance. We find out his origins and get a little peak into what happened when the Empire fell. This series takes place before Force Awakens which is good because Last Jedi turned Poe into a useless character.

Anchorpete says

C-3po - Droid Spymaster.

That is enough to make you want to read this book, right?

Ok, let's move beyond that.... This has the best villain introduced in the new star wars canon. In this volume, we get to read about his super interesting backstory. This book really beefed up my excitement for The Last Jedi

Lata says

Enjoyable continuation of Poe's story (leading up to The Force Awakens). In fact, I liked this set of issues more than those in volume one. Threepio gets to show off a little why Leia keeps him by her side, and a character from Chuck Wendig's Aftermath makes a brief appearance (yay!)

Calista says

This story was miles better than the previous volume. Poe really comes into his own. He finds out information is leaking and there must be a spy somewhere and he is concerned. So C3PO tells him of the network of informations they fun and they go to find a droid. Terex is waiting for them and the cat and mouse game is on again.

The action mostly made sense and the characters had more focus and voice here than previously. I had fun reading it unlike the first volume. The one thing that didn't happen is we do find out who was the leaker, but Poe doesn't find out as far as we know at the end. I guess we are to assume he does. Still, this was a good outing and Poe and 3Po have chemistry. It worked well. I almost think these novels have been better than the movies, well, the last movie before Luke was ruined anyway.

I'll continue on.

Chris says

3.5

Improvement over the first collection. The baddie is pretty awesome and the back story about him was interesting. Nice to 3PO in here to.

Liz (Quirky Cat) says

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Thi

Michael Mills says

A huge improvement over the first volume. As far as inevitable endpoints go, finding Lor San Tekka isn't the theft of the Death Star plans, but Charles Soule's having fun exploring the period immediately prior to *The Force Awakens*. It's a time of cold war between the New Republic and First Order, which Soule plays as akin to Britain/America and the Nazis circa 1936 (as with Doctor Aphra, Indiana Jones casts a long shadow).

With the films understandably keeping the future of the Star Wars Universe to themselves, this series inevitably ends up drawing on the better established period of the original trilogy for a lot of its material – but again it's well leveraged. Terex, who came across as a generic moustachioed Imperial in the first volume, is here fleshed out to fanboy-ish delight.

Unexpectedly, *Poe Dameron* is one of the best *Star Wars* comics Marvel are putting out.

Ben Brown says

The first arc of Charles Soule's "Poe Dameron" series was about as "fine" a set of issues as you were likely to find. The story and character work? Fine. The art by Phil Noto? Fine. The development of the state of the post-Return of the Jedi galaxy? Fine. There was little in it that was offensively bad, but also little that make it all that memorable, either. For a story that was more or less supposed to serve as a direct prequel into "The Force Awakens," Marvel's "play-it-safe" approach to the series was curious and a bit disappointing.

Thankfully, the second volume is a marked improvement on the first, with Soule wisely jettisoning many of the elements that didn't work-giant kaiju egg, I'm looking at you-and electing instead to place an emphasis on the dynamics between his characters rather than on the series' relevance within the broader Star Wars galaxy. The result is an arc that is remarkably compelling issue to issue, with a tone-both in story and in

Noto's art—that feels light, yet also filled with stakes (it also doesn't hurt that in Terex, Soule has provided us with one of the best villains of the new Star Wars canon). If this is the type of approach that we can expect from "Poe Dameron" going forward, sign me up for more.

sassafrass says

BB8 HAS KILLED FOR POE AND HE IS WILLING TO KILL AGAIN!!!!!!

Cale says

This is the closest the Marvel Star Wars comics have gotten to the classic Rogue Squadron series. It's... not particularly close, but you do get a little bit of X-Wing combat. And more of Poe and his Black Squadron (most of whom are sidelined for the majority of this collection), as Poe goes on a mission to rescue one of C-3PO's spy robots.... Yes, you read that correctly. 3PO is now a spymaster, and it's a plot point that works surprisingly well. At the same time, Poe's nemesis Terex is on the same planet, for very different reasons, and the two inevitably collide. I like what they did with Terex here - he's not your traditional First Order goon, and the events from Volume 1 have had a significant impact on him. The two stories are coincidental at first, but dovetail together to a rather surprising ending. And there were a couple callouts to other new Star Wars canon that were a very welcome surprise. Overall this volume is about on par with the first volume; it's got some good humor, decent intrigue, and action (although it's more ground-based action than in space).

Peace says

I like the art and love Poe and Co. TM, but the plots in these are pretty meh. I think they suffer from the "nothing much happens before TFA" syndrome. Hopefully it will pick up in the next volume.

Stephanie says

I really loved Threepio's spy network and the cameo from my favorite droid. <3 Like all Star Wars, the implicit slavery of droids (and the ease with which human heroes replace the droids' personalities/identities???) is extremely problematic.
