



The Boys, Volume 3: Good For The Soul

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In a world where costumed heroes soar through the sky and masked vigilantes prowl the night, someone's got to make sure the "supes" don't get out of line. And someone will. Billy Butcher, Wee Hughies, Mother's Milk, The Frenchman and the Female are The Boys: a CIA-backed team of very dangerous people, each one dedicated to the struggle against the most dangerous force on Earth-superpower. Some superheroes have to be watched. Some have to be controlled. And some of them-sometimes need to be taken out of the picture. That's when you call in The Boys. This volume collects issues 15-22 of the Boys by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson.

The Boys, Volume 3: Good For The Soul Details

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From Reader Review The Boys, Volume 3: Good For The Soul for online ebook

Jesse A says

Still a fun series. 3.5 stars.

mark monday says

Ennis continues his obsession with shit in this 3rd installment of his vindictive parody. the underground team known as "The Boys" continues to keep a watch on various super-powered groups like "Teenage Kix" and "The Seven". mysteries are deepened, some questions are answered but more are not, a slain character comes back as a revolting zombie, the most enjoyable character - the naïve heroine Starlight - continues to evolve, there's a slice of graphic hate sex for a couple of characters, and there's also a surprisingly touching love story at the center of it all (explicit joke about cunnilingus during menstruation notwithstanding). my two favorite things: a fascinating standoff between the leader of The Boys and the leader of The Seven ("Homelander", ha!) and most of all, a brilliant depiction of The Seven failing to rescue an airplane hijacked by terrorists.

and then there's the shit. Ennis and illustrator Darick Robertson surely do love the inclusion of feces whenever possible. it is all over the page due to the excessively detailed and revoltingly gross renderings of two slaving, excreting superheroes-turned-zombies. but it's more than just a reader gross-out, shit is there as a regularly recurring metaphor and analogy. it is frequently used as such by the characters and it is also clearly the author's touchstone when viewing the world and its history and the rationale behind why things happen in the way that they do, in the way that the most banal of motivations always win out, crushing the spirits of the unlucky and the disposable. per Ennis, The World Is Shit. well, okay.

Gavin says

Third volume into this great series, and nothing yet makes me want to stop reading. This one has a lot more about the characters, history, and background info that led us to where things sit here: a sort of Cold War stalemate between the Seven (Think JLA) and the Boys. Hughie gets more ink than anyone else, and I think that's a great idea because he's easily the one that most can relate with.

We get a glimpse into the history of Vought-American, the uber-corporation that supports (and more) the Seven, and Supes in general, as well as a look into the alternate 9-11 tragedy in this world.

There's definitely some funny bits here too, especially as things pick up with Hughie and Annie, and neither one knows the other all that well...definitely setting up for some interesting stories to follow.

I also loved how Butcher stayed so quiet and stoic during his meeting with his counterpart. Makes me really excited for the eventual throw-down that is no doubt going to be bloody.

We even get the return of a character thought dead, and I can't say it's joyful...

Well done, looking forward to the next installment!

Christopher (Donut) says

I consider this the best installment so far. The formula is: put Watchmen and Planetary in a blender, add several pounds of f---s and c---s, and several cups of degradation (sex and violence, and not always separately), garnish with "underground" flair.

I'm starting to like it, and that bothers me.

Aldo Haegemans says

3,5/5

HFK says

I want to make babies with Garth Ennis.

Good for the Soul is the real goddamn addiction dope, extremely fulfilling volume as there is so much revelations, history opening before my eyes that it almost wants to make me go apeshit for its awesomeness.

Being a very character driven series, it is almost unbelievable how whole and structured it can feel even when there is so many personalities to follow. It never feels as if there is too much of everything, too much of pieces to put together, and I suppose this is again a proof of the great talent Mr. Ennis possesses inside of him.

It is marvelous how history, conspiracies, real life realities are spinning and swirling together as to their own world creating that has just enough to tickle my fancy spots. Needless to say how much I love Ennis' take on the superheroes, making them his ugly, motherfucking bitches. Oh the humor, oh the nastiness, oh the perfection.

Oh yes. More please, and thank you.

I do not really want to make babies with Garth Ennis, I was joking. I just would really wanna bang him with protection.

Ill D says

When did Garth Ennis become a Soap Opera author?

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

I wasn't sure what I was expecting from this series. But wow is this a weird series. From the characters, their arcs and that art style. And yet I want to know what happens next.

David Schaafsma says

Ennis continues his send up of superhero comics in this the third volume of The Boys (A CIA-backed group monitoring the supes), with two basic storylines: Some back story by Billy Butcher told to Wee Hughie about the Vought Corporaation's support for the Superhero group The Seven who botched a rescue attempt of a plane during 9-11. Yes, it's that nasty. Billy is a kind of a twisted Stan Lee parody, who has his own personal reasons for resentment against the supes especially after supporting them and producing them for all these years.

As happens with superhero comics, superheroes that are dead come back to life again, kill them again and again, superhero zombies, yes literally is the case in one issue here. That's a good point, and fun.

Wee Hughie is the central character in this one, talking with Butcher about Vought's ugly history of supremely vain and brainless and destructive superheroes beloved by a comics public brainwashed by the comics and mainstream media. At the same time, Wee Hughie is developing a sweet relationship with Annie as this darker political story works its way out. Ennis balances the sweet with the vulgar and dark, definitely, but he can be very funny, with a heart beating in there somewhere and some good satirical work. Ennis has a juvenile (shall we say Boyish?) obsession with bodily fluids as a basis for his humor (and especially in his commentary on the supes!). I still have not warmed up to this one as much as The Preacher, but it is good comics work from Ennis.

Jason says

This volume has some real nasty scenes, all I can say is poor poor Hughie, that's not what you want to wake up to. Haha

Some interesting concepts in this issue, which is mainly focused on giving you some background on the boys and the seven. Alternate reality stuff on 9/11 was really messed up. Why are super heroes so dumb?

On to volume 4!

TJ Shelby says

Guilty pleasure...or maybe sick obsession is a better explanation. As with all Garth Ennis books, I cannot with good conscience recommend them to anyone.

Stewart Tame says

I swear, sometimes it seems as though this book would more accurately be titled Wee Hughie, Co-Starring the Boys. I'm not really complaining, mind you. He's the New Guy, and gives us an outsider's perspective on the team. It gives Butcher and/or Mother's Milk someone to explain things to without sounding too exposition-y. In any case, this volume is decidedly Hughie-centric as he deals with his guilt over Blarney Cock's death, makes progress in his relationship with Annie, and gets filled in on some of the secrets behind Vought American. Still loving this series.

Mike says

This time around we're getting to know everyone - the characters, the supes, the world and even the Stan Lee-on-testosterone parody. I really like this kind of writing by Ennis - gives the story and characters a chance to breathe, lets us take a closer look and understand why these crazies did or will do what they do.

I'm thrilled we're getting some details (finally!) about the Vought-American Corp and the supes they funded, and Ennis has a hilarious take on how they intervene in the 9-11 fiasco.

It's moving slower than the previous two books, granted - and I can see why some folks would feel disappointed when they just came off two fast-moving, shocking and balls-out funny books.

I've been with Ennis long enough to know this is part of his style, and it means that once he's done setting the pieces in place and get them shined up, we're going to see some crazy funny shit come fast and furious.

Stephen says

3.0 stars. This is the third volume of this ground-breaking series by Garth Ennis. For the most part, I thought the story-line was just okay and the sex and violence seemed to be a bit more pointless than in the previous two volumes. That said, the infamous 9/11 tie in plot-line in the last story arc was gutsy and very well done. Apart from that, this would have gotten two stars.

Chris Greensmith says

"THE INFINITY DEBATE" Much better than volume 2, the last 3 issues really fleshed out the back story and now I feel the writers have the rest of the series planned out and know where they are going. The crassness of it has been toned down too so doesn't seem so forced and can be a bit more hard hitting. I feel the the pieces are now in place for this to really begin. Still missing Little Nina though...3 ?

