



## Birds of Prey, Vol. 6: The Battle Within

*Gail Simone* , *Ed Benes (Illustrator)* , *Tom Derenick (Illustrator)* , *Joe Bennett (Illustrator)*

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Featuring two exciting story arcs, from BIRDS OF PREY #76-85! With their Gotham headquarters destroyed, the Birds take flight to Metropolis and beyond! Black Canary enlists the help of Wildcat in Singapore, while the Huntress infiltrates the Gotham mob!

### Birds of Prey, Vol. 6: The Battle Within Details

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## From Reader Review Birds of Prey, Vol. 6: The Battle Within for online ebook

### Robin says

This is volume 4, and there's some great Oracle plot in it. In one trade, we get several arcs with different villains. (And if you thought Nikki on Heroes was kind of a wimp, the villain Rose/Thorn is a much better treatment of the same idea). Some slightly soap-opera-y team drama, but it's not overdone.

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### Victor Orozco says

Nice little look on what the girls have been doing. Finally get to see the birds with Helena and Zinda. Helena is... interesting but of the Helenas I prefer Wayne than Bertinelli as Huntress. Too much drama out of Bertinelli.

Zinda is really cool, sort of a fish out of the water having grown up in the 50s.

Barbara here and there is particularly bitter at times. I have to admit even though she was a death's door I wasn't very moved.

Dinah was excellent. Hot as lava. I like how the artists make her look so hot. She does go a little overboard at times with the drama.

Nice inclusion of Ted Grant in that interesting adventure in Singapore. C+

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### Emily Dahl says

Harvest was a really interesting villain - I loved the introduction of a bunch of new villains and the move to new locations in these story arcs. I didn't really care for Brainiac, so I was sad to see that come back.

The art was a little more all over the place in this volume - a lot more gravity-defying boobs and T&A than in the earlier volumes of this run. (Though I was happy to see both Black Canary & Huntress wearing actual clothes in a fight for once at the end of this one.)

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### Craig says

Another very well-written book by Gail Simone. The evolving relationships of the main characters matters as much as the adventures they share, which is really saying something in the comics of a decade gone by when you stop to think about it. Zinda and Helena are perhaps the most interesting of the group this time around. Too, the subtleties and suggestions of discussion advance the plot as much as the explosions do, which is cool. The art is what it is... very pretty, not too realistic... I'm not sure it's appropriate to say it's sexist when

the male characters are drawn in an unlikely fashion as the females, and I'll admit that I always liked Benes' work. Anyway, I believe Simone's run on Birds of Prey is a high water mark in the history of DC.

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## **Sophie says**

Truth be told: most of my favorite fictional characters, whether in books, comics, tv or movies, are men. There are exceptions, of course, but very often in popular culture\*, female characters are written in such a way that I find them either bland, annoying or stupid, most of which doesn't have to do with their gender than with the fact that a lot of writers don't seem to know what to do with women, or what they are like (and this, sadly, applies to female writers as much as to male writers). Sometimes I feel bad about this, because hello, I love women (in every way, as people who know me should know), and I want to get excited about female characters. But it's not always as easy as with "Birds of Prey", where I love all the women so much omg. Ahem.

Oracle, Black Canary, Huntress and Lady Blackhawk kick ass. They're on a mission, and sometimes they win, sometimes they don't. But what I love most about this team are the little moments where it's obvious they care about each other (even though it takes some of them a while). And their interaction feels feminine without being like a bad chick-flick. So if you're looking for a great book with interesting and likable female characters, this is it.

\*That is to say, I'm talking about the kind of things I tend to get excited about, not the things I admire - it's usually a difference.

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## **Elizabeth says**

Okay so I remember watching the tv show of this and thinking "This is so nearly good but not". I thought it was a problem with the show. Wrong. The comic fails on so many levels it's hard to even tell where to begin. I love Gail Simone, she's awesome! So why is this so terrible? True, I am dipping into the series late on, but that's true of pretty much anything I start reading. This is just bad. Firstly the artwork is ridiculous. I don't usually complain about big bosoms but I'm about to here. The women in this don't look like an 'unrealistic ideal', they look stupid, like bad photoshop. Their globe-like boobs seemed tacked to their bodies even when they're not in costume and supposedly wearing day clothes. The men actually make me wanna laugh. I'm looking at a panel of Batman and going, "What is that muscle? How many muscles do you think there are in an arm? Have you seen the human body?" Honestly, just stupid. Then the dialogue, pretty much all the writing is bad. That's it, there's no other word for it, just plain bad. So much so the characters seem interchangeable and hollow. It's like sock puppet theatre with globular breasts. Then thematically - oi! The girls are tracking down other 'heroes' that 'go too far', and turning them onto the right path. The notion of vigilantes hunting vigilantes because they consider them to have gone too far beyond the law is ridiculous. It's laughable. And frankly, even Simone doesn't seem to realise it. There is no dwelling upon the hypocrisy at the crux of their actions, nor introversion of any kind. This is a book absent of thought bubbles. And even the author seems unaware of what a ludicrous plot she's written. No thinking on either side of the pen. All in all, disappointing. Never thought I'd say this but stick with Supergirl, you'll be better served in every department.

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## **Oliver Hodson says**

Loving this series, and although the impossible curves can be a bit too much, it still comes in as a good story with appealing art. It might be gradual wins, but I like how huntress has fabric covering her belly and she became the first DC hero to use the word sex (as far as I can remember) without blushing. It is awesome how these characters think about how they use people and its not always in a good way, as the dynamics between babs and huntress show.

Canary has developed too, and her natural friendship with wildcat was cool as was the fact that she could call on a wide range of friends with complex relationships to her to help her fight a large enemy.

The integration of a wide range of supporting characters like josh, savant, and lady blackhawk has been very effective.

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## **Amanda says**

Part of my massive Barbara Gordon Re-read which I had a glorious amazing time with. Birds of Prey, under the hands of Gail Simone, was a gorgeous thing and It made me super happy to have all my amazing women back together doing amazing things!

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## **Talkswithwind says**

This book represents the issues that drew me into Birds of Prey in the first place, and where I fell in love with the character of Black Canary. All thanks to this person. I particularly like the arc of Black Canary, her time learning to live in the footsteps of the Assassin, and her attachment to the girl Sin. Very well put together, and was a great introduction to Gail Simone's storytelling.

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## **Sesana says**

I don't know. I want to like this book more than I actually do. Part of the problem is the ridiculous art. It's the kind of art that gives superhero books a bad name: women with oddly round and hard breasts wearing painfully unsupportive clothes, men with a hundred muscles per square inch and no necks. The storylines, particularly the last one, are lackluster. Very little in the way of introspection by any of the characters, especially when they need it. About the only thing that affected me was the barely acknowledged subplot of Ted Kord's disappearance, but that's because I know where that one's going.

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## **Meghan says**

I am familiar with Gail Simone's reputation for writing a variety of female superheroes who actually interact with each other in interesting ways, and I can now confirm that it is, indeed, deserved! I could wish that they were not all drawn as being absolutely interchangeably Barbie-shaped, but you can't have everything. (And a set of Birds of Prey Barbie dolls would be a fun project, if I were craftier.)

## **Sarah says**

The previous volume of Birds of Prey featured an amazing bar fight and Huntress peacing out. Getting the band back together takes a little longer than I wanted, but integrating Helena's mob past as part of her operative usefulness proved a good call by Simone.

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## **Lisa says**

There are several good storylines going on in this collection. The title seems to refer to both the battle Oracle is fighting with the cyber-parasite within her, and the struggle for the Birds to remain a team. This collection is thicker and meatier than the previous collections. There is a lot going on and it is more enjoyable than the last (Between Dark and Dawn). I would have liked to have seen a little more of Lady Blackhawk, but perhaps she will get a stronger role in the Birds as the story progresses.

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## **Cassie says**

Oddly enough, I think I prefer the scenes with the ladies out of costume. Their missions and mortal peril didn't really intrigue me as much as their friendships do. I love Black Canary and Huntress and Zinda is fun, but Oracle kinda fell flat for me a bit.

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## **Ariel Marie says**

Without a doubt, Birds of Prey is one of my favorite series especially when Simone is the main writer. This is another great installment in the series. It introduces Black Alice who will later become an incredible character who will be missed. Yet my highlight of this collection involves a villain named Harvest.

Birds of Prey: The Battle starts off strong returning to the daily lives of the girls as The Huntress does her best to help a girl named Alice who recently lost her mother. The relationships between all the women in this series is always the best. Gail Simone does an excellent job at crafting friendships in this series. Black Alice's struggle to fit in is no different. She is truly a pariah and as they help her the more interesting she becomes. It's a shame the series couldn't spend more time after her but soon after Alice, Harvest is introduced.

The action packed collection involves one villain after another yet none of them are quite villainous until the drug dealers introduced in the very end. After Alice, there is Harvest and Thorne. My favorite would have to be Harvest who is called upon when somebody has sinned. Somebody writes down a name and she kills them. Yet Harvest has a few secrets of her own. As the mystery unfolds, Black Canary's and Huntress's pasts also become even more fascinating. Yet the questions that revolve around Harvest are not answered until later creating an addicting read. I couldn't put any of the issues down during this arc. In addition, Harvest is the one who remains with me.

While I mainly reflect on Harvest, the way Black Canary and Huntress react to Thorne is memorable, too. I

find it impossible to hate any villain for what they do. I want to support all of them. There is so much pain and no justice for so many of them. Apart of me doesn't want the Birds of Prey around to stop them.

It isn't until the end when Black Canary and Wild Cat go to Singapore that the story starts to slow down and loses its interesting points. While there are moments especially with Oracle's and Huntress's involvements, most of the story falls a little flat. It's a shame. I think the reason is because the chemistry is thrown off by introducing Wild Cat as Black Canary's partner instead of the actual members of Birds of Prey. Therefore, it is a bit of a struggle to pull through these parts and to the end. Still, this arc is almost as strong as the others. All it lacks is the dynamics and friendship between all the women of Birds of Prey yet there are valid reasons for them being separated.

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