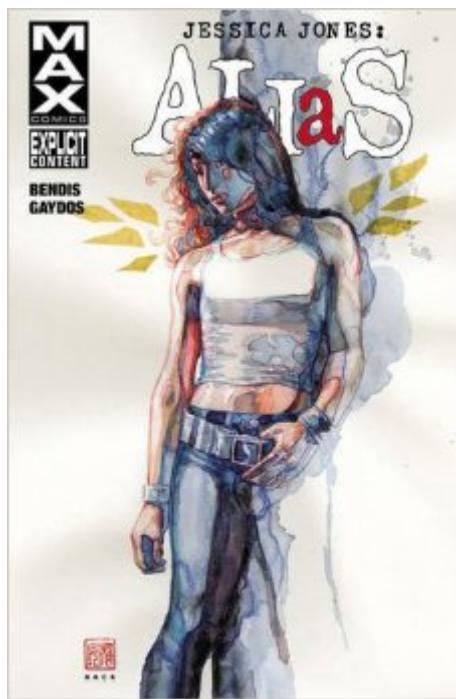


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Jessica Jones: Alias Vol. 2



Synopsis

All she ever wanted was to be a super hero. But life had other plans for Jessica Jones. Now, the adventures of the would-be Avenger turned bitter superpowered private eye continue with two new cases. In "Rebecca, Come Home," Jessica travels to upstate New York to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl rumored to be a mutant in a prejudiced small town - but a murder mystery and a drunken, ill-advised fling might complicate matters somewhat. And in "Raining Men," the hard-luck PI goes on a date with...the Astonishing Ant-Man?! COLLECTING: Alias 11-15

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (23 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I originally bought the Alias Vol1 in paperback, and enjoyed it enough to want the next Vol2. So i decided to try it out on the Kindle app (I'm using a Galaxy Tab S), and was disappointed. The kindle forces you to read it in portrait mode (that's ok, makes sense) but locations (i.e. pages) 4, 11-13, 27, 34, 20, 48-49, 60-61, 79, and 111-115 are in landscape mode! The writing ends up tiny and you can't "zoom" in i had to put the screen so close to my face - my friends thought I was sniffing the the graphics! Siiiigh. Anyway, Jessica Jones is a great story, but I'll stick to the printed hardcopies for the rest of the Volumes. Update: I went ahead and raised the rating, because after poking around (literally!) ... i found out that you can double tap the screen on the kindle app and it will zoom in to the particular graphic panel on the page ... then basically just read the whole thing panel by panel. I still wish the kindle app would just let you pinch in/out to zoom, but I'll take whatever i can get. Made a great read even better.

Collects issues 11-15! Issues 11-14: Jessica investigates the case of a missing high school girl who was rumored to be a mutant. All the usual anti-mutant sentiment comes into play. Issue 15: She goes on a date with Scott Lang (Ant-Man), after telling Luke Cage she already has plans for the evening. (They're acting as bodyguards for Matt Murdock, who the tabloids claim is Daredevil.) This volume maintains the high quality of the previous volume. Fewer naughty words this time, I think. I recommend starting with that one. Note: they moved issue 10 to volume 3. This makes sense, as in issue 10 J. Jonah Jameson hires Jessica, and Jameson is also an important character in the issue 16-21 story.

Brian Bendis's dialogue continues to really shine in this volume of Alias, although it does tip into a kind of liberal preachiness that makes the metaphor of X-man even more explicit than it already was. This does limit the effectiveness of the comic as Jones's personality in clash with small town values only really works when both sides are presented sympathetically, which Bendis tries to do except when he equates being a mutant to being gay to being Jewish. Still the cliche is slightly avoided and complicated in the end of the story when there is a different tragic turn. Yet Jessica Jones and Bendis can't quite completely eat the simplification of the politics they have presented or the caricature of rural life. However, Bendis does a lot of make what are essentially talking heads extremely interesting. For example, Jones's date with Ant-man is a joy to read and is mostly semi-realistic quippy dialogue of a first date. There is a lot of character building in Bendis and he is incredibly good at it, and this will always be the primary strength of Jessica Jones.

In Volume 2, Jessica Jones investigates the disappearance of a teenage girl from a small town upstate, and goes on a date with Ant-man. For some reason, the powers that be at Marvel decided to skip issue 10, but apparently that was a stand alone issue that will be included in Volume 3. The plotting and characterization is exactly like it was in the first volume, warts and all. I'm still waiting to see Jessica do more than catch a lucky break to solve a case, but hopefully next time.

This is the second volume of 'Alias' (what's now being rebranded as 'AKA Jessica Jones'). This volume directly follows the first volume, so make sure you pick that up before jumping into this one. Without getting into spoilers: this volume continues the story of Jessica, and things start to pick up. This is presumably where the plotline that the new Netflix series will pick up, so it's definitely worth a read.

Overall, I enjoyed this book, and I like Bendis' writing as a whole, but the art in this series is passable at best. Gaydos showcases the worse aspects of sequential art shortcuts. I don't care if you want to reuse a panel, but it's not asking too much for you to adjust the facial gesture to accommodate the dialogue, is it?

Two more adventures for Jessica Jones. First, she is drawn to a small town in upstate New York where a missing teenager case needs her assistance because the missing girl is rumored to be a mutant. After that story is resolved, she returns to New York City goes on a blind date with Scott Lang, aka Ant-Man. I found the mystery in the missing persons case very interesting and well plotted. But I found the tone of it ham-fisted and hypocritical. When Jones talks to some locals, one of the girls says that it would be awful to be a mutant, "just like being gay or...Jewish." Later, Jones goes to the local church where the pastor is practicing his Sunday sermon about how mutants are unnatural and caused by human greed, not by the good Lord above. She castigates him for inciting bigotry and goes on to tell him she doesn't know much about religion or organized religion, but she believes the purpose of religion is to make people nice, not mean. So in the name of fighting against bigotry and small-mindedness, she makes a stereotypical blanket statement that underlines her ignorance about the diversity of religions and what they themselves say their purpose is. What should be a subtle but powerful point about bigotry comes off like a lecture about how terrible small town small-mindedness is. I kept rolling my eyes in disappointment. Especially since the actual mystery is interesting. On the other hand, the blind date with another superhero was interesting and a lot of fun. They have a shared background (they both have connections to the Avengers) and have a great conversation over an al fresco dinner. The dialogue is witty in both senses of the term--intelligent and hilarious. This story went a long way toward restoring my faith in Bendis as a storyteller. So I will continue on to Volume 3. Maybe Kilgrave will finally show up?

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