

52

Geoff Johns , Grant Morrison , Greg Rucka , Mark Waid , Keith Giffen (Illustrator)

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Following the events of INFINITE CRISIS, the Big Three of the DC Universe each took a year away from their superhero duties. It was a year without Superman, a year without Batman, a year without Wonder Woman, a year without the Justice League. But it wasn't a year without heroes. Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka and Mark Waid pen the weekly, yearlong series that redefined not only the DC Universe but what exactly it means to be a hero.

52 Details

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Author: Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid, Keith Giffen (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review 52 for online ebook

Dean Olson says

The only weekly series DC did that was actually good. Countdown was terrible & Trinity was boring. Brightest Day was okay but it was bi-weekly. This has a whole cast of great writers writing different plot lines that cross over. This focuses on a lot of lesser known characters as the main stars. The Black Adam, The Question/Montoya/Batwoman, and Evil Scientists storylines were my favorite. Ralph Dibney's was really good also. It was full of references to DC History but I think a new reader could read it and understand it.

Adeel says

Goddamn masterpiece. The perfect follow-up to a cataclysmic event, with many intriguing twists and turns along the way, these roughly 1000 pages tell an absolutely marvelous tale of the dc universe in the absence of the big three, with stories centered on Renee Montoya, The Elongated Man, Lex Luthor, and lastly but not least, Black Adam.

Anthony says

Several rotating story arcs happening at the same time over 52 weeks, written by 4 (very talented) writers and drawn by a ton of artists. I've finally read 52 and my opinion is: it's pretty good.

It's the kind of story that's a little daunting to me, because I don't know the DC universe that well outside of Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman, and the three of them aren't in this. (Well, they are, but hardly).

I liked some of the story lines a lot more than other. My favourite easily being Renee Montoya's journey to becoming the new Question. The Black Adam story line is also pretty good. But there are other's that I just didn't feel invested in at all, like the Infinity Inc plot line and the Booster Gold story.

I'd also like to know which writer wrote which bits. Not that it really matters, and it was probably a very collaborative process. I'm just curious to see what Waid or Rucka brought to the story, and if my guesses to what they did bring are right or wrong.

Sean Kennedy says

Wonder Woman, Superman and Batman have taken a year's sabbatical after the events of Infinite Crisis. In a world without superheroes, who is left to step up and take their place?

Well, there's a whole lot actually - but the big three are missed. The stories are all captivating - though some more than others, such as Renee and the Questioner - and it does build to a great climax with a poignant epilogue.

Adam says

Okay, I didn't actually read this version. The one I read was two parts, each containing 26 issues of the original run of "52".

For those that want an introduction to the DC universe, this is a great way to get it. It pretty much touches on everything that is in that universe sans the big three of Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman.

Art is great. Each story is engaging and interweaves pleasantly with its neighbors. If you like superhero comic books, you can't to much better than this.

Adam Bender says

This is a unique DC Comics series in that it highlights some of the more minor comic characters like Booster Gold, Steel and the Question. It was great seeing these characters shine without the big three (Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman) overshadowing them.

It's also quite impressive that the four writers on this book (Johns, Morrison, Rucka and Waid) pulled this off. Somewhat like a soap opera, 52 weaves several individual storylines together into a year-long weekly series. The stories are mostly separate but interconnect in places. The writers make this work and they should be commended for that.

That said, 52 comics is quite a lot. Simple this story is not. I enjoyed the ride, but if you asked me what it was about, I'll be damned if I could give you a good answer. Superheroes fighting supervillains across time and space, I guess.

I'd say it's worth the journey if you're an avid DC Comics fan who gets a kick out of the history. You'll really like it if you can follow all that multiverse gobbledygook DC Comics writers like to have their characters spout as if it makes perfect sense.

Probably not a good introduction to comics, though.

I should say something about the art. It's serviceable. Nothing looks bad, but I was rarely wowed. There were a bunch of artists involved and understandably they went for a safe, consistent look.

Again, super impressed the writers and artist of DC pulled this off. But I have to say I'm relieved to be finished.

Jim says

A cut above many such 'event' comics, and some of the storylines are genuinely gripping. But the need to adhere to the conventions of 'crossover' comic series mars what could otherwise have been a truly ambitious

Patrick Williams says

Wow, I was in the middle of my 10 year break from comics when this came out initially. Just goes to show what 4 outstanding writers can do when they are given the opportunity. I was never a big DC capes fan growing up, and still lean more towards Marvel now, but you can't really go wrong with Morrison, Waid, Rucka, and Johns telling the story.

The story is too big to really review it in the little time I have allowed myself to write this review, so a quick recap to give you a flavor. After another DC event (it escapes me right now), Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman have gone missing. That does not mean that the baddies take a break as well. So, we have some less familiar heroes trying to fill the vacuum left by our missing trinity, and some emboldened villains trying to take advantage of the situation.

Pick up this omnibus, or wait for comixology to put the series on sale and pick it up digitally, you won't be sorry you did.

Jonathan Keung says

I was looking for a long book to read while on a plane ride during spring break, I stumbled across this book while scanning for recommended books on my iPad. This book, "52 Weeks", happened to be part of a book series I had read, that I really enjoyed.

"52 Weeks" is a fiction story about the world after a war that left billions dead and planets destroyed. It takes after its predecessor, "∞ Crisis", and tells the story of the year following the events of the war, and although it is written as modern day, it's far more technologically advance, including time travel, teleportation, and the ability to modify human genetics. It begins with a boy named Michael, who traveled from the 25th century with his robot, Skeets, to visit a historic moment when one of the war heroes gives a speech that is still taught in history books of his time. It marked the rebuilding of civilization, that kept the world going after the effects of the war. However, the speech does not happen, and Michael is left to find out what happened to the timeline.

While the book is extremely long, it's interesting every step of the way. The chapters go by the weeks, which is what makes it quite long. Alluring as it is, it does get quite confusing at some points. It lacks introduction to characters and begins miniature storylines with new characters that dont always conclude. I would say that many of the chapters aren't necessary and that if it stood to the main storyline, it would cut out maybe over a hundred fifty pages. However that doesn't mean the miniature stories aren't compelling too. They always end up having some connection, whether major or minor, to the main storyline. The greatest part of the story is that many great characters from " ∞ Crisis" reappear in the other storylines to wrap up how they were able to return for the next book, "Final Crisis", (Came out before 52 Weeks but takes place after) in which the characters mentioned how they came back, but now we were actually able to see it.

I recommend this book to anyone ready for a long adventurous story that is worth the read in the end. You should not however read this book before reading "∞ Crisis", as it will be too confusing for you to follow

along. If you enjoyed "∞ Crisis", but were not interested in the side arcs(will understand if you read it), skip this book and go straight to "Final Crisis", however if every part of the adventure in "∞ Crisis" was luring and just an all around fun read, make sure you don't skip "52 Weeks".

Alan says

Wasn't sure I was going to like it, but it has a lot of my favourite characters as main players - The Question, Ambush Bug, Booster Gold and so many twists and turns. I thought this was excellent. It's massive, but I blasted through it.

Randy Lander says

Post Identity Crisis I was pretty done with DC. But as things move forward and their books become more and more dark and uninteresting to me, I revisit the older works and find the stuff I didn't like more palatable by comparison. Maybe in five years or so I'll find the hidden gems of Rebirth and New 52.

At the time I read this, I was annoyed at the casual killing off of perfectly good characters, but even at the time I loved some of the stories here. The battle for Nat's soul between Steel and Luthor, the friendship/mentor relationship between The Question and Montoya, the weirdness of Oolong Island and the space fellowship that included a blind Adam Strange and a pacifist Lobo, a focus on Booster Gold, some solid mysteries... it's a good read, even if some stories (the Lady Styx story, whatever the hell that Mr Mind thing was at the end) don't quite satisfy.

The art breakdowns are consistent thanks to Giffen but the guest finishers and obvious time pressures do mean that some art is stronger than others. Still, kudos to everyone for actually managing an on-time weekly book that delivered weekly reasons to keep reading and a satisfying story when collected years later.

On balance, I'd probably give this three and a half stars, but when considering whether to round up or down, there's just enough that doesn't work for me to call this good rather than great.

La Revistería Comics says

Tomotorotazo con los cincuenta y dos 52 en una edición tan inmanejable como insuperable. Lo mejor de los personajes segundarios, terciarios y hasta cuaternarios del viejo universo DC en un solo, bello e insuperable integral.

Wing Kee says

One of the best weekly series from DC of all time.

World: The art is generally consistent and good, there are issues now and then that look out of place but overall it's solid. The world building is absolutely fantastic and meticulous. Following the events of Infinite Crisis we find the DC universe changed and this story is about that change, and not only that it's about the DC universe without the Trinity for a year and how it plays out. The world is interesting, the scope is huge, the characters from all across the DC universe, it's amazing.

Story: Wow, okay how do I start without spoiling anything. First the writers for this series, all amazing all in the A game and all taking a piece of the DC universe to play with and then thrown together. 52 is like Jazz, you have no idea what's happening and you don't know how it works together until you do and you appreciate the beautiful chaos that is happening and with this group of writers you get that. The idea of a weekly series without the Trinity is insane and ballsy and this is exactly what we get here, it's executed well with each issue making you want to read the next, the mulitple storylines intertwine and you as a reader don't know where it's all going until the end. It's great. The long length of the series also lends itself for so much character development which amazes. I'm running out of adjectives. I'll stop with the spoilers and I honestly don't think I can express this series unless we sit down and have a pint, but the best things to come out of this series are 1) The Question Rene Montoya 2) Booster Gold / Rip Hunter 3) Batwoman and 4) Black Adam these four pieces really make this series so amazing and worthwhile and their journey is insane. That last 7 issues! Holy wow!

Characters: So many characters where do I start without spoiling anything. This is a slow boil and it's great cause they have 52 issues to develop characters and stories giving so much breathing room for normallly quick action books. Booster is given so much more depth, and oh my God with Rene. Then there's Will Magnus, Black Adam...and the list goes on but I don't want to talk about it. The idea with no Trinity in the title really was great cause it allows the rest of the DC universe to shine and strut it's stuff and with the characters that are on display here the DC universe is pretty fucking fantastic.

I would not have expected a series like this to be so amazing. How can a series without the Trinity be something of substance, how can we care about these characters that normally are just meh. Yes it's not perfect, there are some pacing issues and knowledge of the DC universe does help a lot and there are some ridiculous plot lines (Space stuff) that just does'nt quite work but wow the stuff that hits is amazing.

Onward	to	the	next	book	!

Koen says

The story after the big finale of Infinite Crisis.. 52 weeks without Supes, the Bat and Wonder Woman.. And what a ride it was!

A full year with some major events concerning a lot of the other superheroes out there.. Animal man, Kory and Adam Strange looking for their way home and Elongated Man, Ralph, looking for his wife Sue... Also Booster and Skeets looking for what is happening to time itself..

Next you had Lex with his Everyman project and also the events concerning the Black Marvel Family.. Oeh, I almost forgot about Montoya and Question man!

As you can see: many, many things happening througout the world (universe) in these 52 weeks, and it's action packed, fun, there's drama, there's tragedy, comedy, love,... everything you could expect! And all the

stories perfectly woven together.

I've ravished through this tome like a madmen, to get to those final pages and find out how everything develops... And what a turn of events it was! But no worries, no spoilers from me:)

I'm now looking for anything that was missing/wrong/felt awry.. But I can't compel myself to write any bad words on this.. Nothing was amiss - this was **one of the most entertaining and compelling comic book stories of the past decade** and it's a must read for all DC/comic fans.. (Preferably if you've just read Infinite Crisis of course ;))

Arthur says

Unless you're a diehard fan it's totally not worth the read