



## Justice Society of America, Vol. 5: Black Adam and Isis

*Geoff Johns (Writer) , Jerry Ordway , Dale Eaglesham (Illustrator) , Bob Wiacek (Illustrator)*

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The new Justice Society regroups just in time to face one of their greatest and most personal enemies - Black Adam! The sorcerer Felix Faust has imprisoned the soul of Isis, Black Adam's deceased wife. But the Black Marvel just figured that out, and nothing will save Faust from his wrath -- nothing except maybe the Justice Society of America.

And in Geoff Johns' farewell story, the team celebrates the birthday of one of their own - Stargirl! That all leads to an all-new two-parter by classic creator Jerry Ordway as a villain from the JSA's WWII days returns!

**Collecting:** *Justice Society of America* 23-28

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## **From Reader Review Justice Society of America, Vol. 5: Black Adam and Isis for online ebook**

### **Shannon Appelcline says**

Johns' final look at the Marvels is a good conclusion to the story [7/10], while his final issue is terrific [10/10]. Ordway's story starts off strong, but peters out in the fight-heavy second issue [5/10].

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### **Scott says**

I didn't like Jerry Ordway's pencils on issues #23-25 and the story was ok.

Issue #26 was Geoff Johns farewell story to writing the JSA and it was really enjoyable, with fun character moments throughout.

Issues #27-28 seemed like filler or some bonus story one-shots. They were ok as well, but nothing special.

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### **John Yelverton says**

Such a great story of love and loss on a super-human level!

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### **Alan says**

Geoff Johns leaves the title after what is, for now, his final Black Adam story. No one can question Adam is arguably DC's finest anti-hero when written correctly. A man who loves his country and his wife, with a very black and white view of right and wrong. Isis, his wife is resurrected but her death has altered her world view and where she previously tempered his violence she now wants to cleanse the Earth to start everything anew. The ending of their story is somewhat tragic, Johns does a decent of Billy Batson and Mary Bromfield, as he turns the title over to new writers.

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### **Keith Davis says**

DC tries to dig Captain Marvel out of the hole they put him in, but only succeed in digging the hole deeper. Great Alex Ross cover though, and always nice to see Jerry Ordway pencils.

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### **Nathaniel says**

It was a rather rough denouement. A kind of bumpy coda where Johns lays a lot of groundwork for the future of DC as far as the Justice Society is concerned. He ties a messy bow on Black Adam, after sprinkling his arrival some seven or eight issues prior. He reintroduces Billy Batson. He handles the swelling ranks of the Society, always destined to be a bloated roster of what is more or less DC's B team (look, these guys are often my favorite heroes, but they get relegated to the minor leagues or the retirement pick-up games in favor of the JLA). But it's all kind of sloppy.

The highlight for me is without a doubt Stargirl's birthday party. Johns's final issue. It's handled with a deftness, and the warmth that has become his signature on the series. It's also heartbreaking for anyone who has dug anywhere beneath the surface of the character's origin. Johns's sister, Courtney, was one of the victims on board TWA 800, and in memoriam he created the character of Courtney Whitmore (Stargirl). She has always been a decidedly different type of hero than anyone else I'd encountered in the DCU, and watching her growth from the plucky brace-faced youth to the upper echelon of the JSA has been a real joy of the series, and letting Johns have a final victory lap with JSA with her birthday party and an almost complete lack of violence and action was really nice.

That being said, I'm concerned for the direction of the series from here. Jerry Ordway pinch hits for the last two issues of the volume. It's an interesting concept bringing the heroes back to the war that defined them, and facing them with the horror of Hiroshima, and the reality of it in counterpoint to the spirit of the society they've created, but to be honest, it was all rather bland. Next up is Bill Willingham. Hopefully he'll bring his own fantastic flavor to the series without losing what I loved so much under Johns's helming.

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## **Russell says**

I read this because I love the character of Black Adam, being one of the most power beings in the DCU, and also the malevolent antidote to that doofus Captain Marvel, he has always been one of the more interesting characters in comics. I'm admittedly not a constant reader of JSA mostly due to its revolving door of loser superheroes like Judomaster and Cyclone; a 19 year-old who dresses up like a witch. She also has an awesome origin. From Wikipedia:

“As a 6-year old, Maxine was once kidnapped by T.O. Morrow, the mad scientist who created the second Red Tornado, a powerful android. Morrow infects Maxine with "nanobytes" that are the apparent source of her powers.”

Whatever. On to the “Black Adam and Isis”...garbage. Black Adam beats the crap out of a 75 year old Captain Marvel who is guarding some stupid magical totem called “The Rock of Eternity”. The rest of the Keystone Cops, I mean JSA, come to intervene after Captain Marvel gets turned into whimpering schoolboy Billy Batson. So apparently the plot is the JSA trying to stop Black Adam and his main squeeze Isis for trying to kill every man, woman and child on Earth. Also, a simmering love affair between Atom Smasher and Stargirl lingers. Gimme a break.

Honestly, Jerry Ordway's terrible pencils really take away from what could have been a decent, if not spectacular story. I'm sure he can draw better than me, but I am not getting paid to do so either. His pencils look like an 80's cartoon. Seriously, Ordway = Ass. The putrid combination of asinine characters and F list artwork makes Black Adam and Isis a resounding failure. Look elsewhere.

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## Caleb says

The first couple of issues in this book are okay, but a definite step down from Johns' "Thy Kingdom Come" series that precedes. 3 stars. The last several issues are awful. For example - Stargirl's birthday party? Really?

I think the JSA is a great team and has a lot of fun stories that can be explored, but this was a letdown.

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## StoryTellerShannon says

Longer review possibly coming.

The Black Adam tale with Isis was the best part. The other tales were not as stellar but above average to somewhat good.

I hope to see more of Black Adam, the ultimate DC anti-hero.

**ARTWORK: B; STORY/PLOTTING: B minus to B; CHARACTERS/DIALOGUE: B;  
JSA MYTHOLOGY: B to B plus; OVERALL GRADE: B; WHEN READ: early February 2012.**

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## Barbara says

If you've read "52", you might want to see more of Black Adam and Isis, as they had a very compelling storyline. However, the story is entertaining but feels incomplete. Black Adam seeks out Felix Faust, who is holding the soul of Isis (Adrianna) and demands that Faust bring her back to life. Things don't go according to plan--do they ever?--and Isis comes back wrong, as TV Tropes would say. Billy Batson and Mary Batson become Black Marvels themselves, and it's up to the JSA to stop them.

There's also a funny story called "Happy Birthday Stargirl" which is a stand-alone story featuring Courtney and the JSA's attempt to give her a surprise birthday party. It's filled with humor (particularly from Starman) and feeling.

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## Joseph says

Weak sauce, as Geoff Johns winds up his various Justice Society runs. Terribly weak, ill-thought out story, which utilizes few of the gargantuan cast in a story that feels old because we've been through it so many times before. Five years later, poor Atom Smasher and Black Adam do the same song and dance seen four or five years earlier. The ending is predictable and mechanical, and I'm wondering why we should care. Johns went out with a whimper, and this arc is just as forgettable.

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## **Charles says**

The interesting and coherent moments in this were few and far between. This is really a hodgepodge collection of some modern JSA stories. It's called Black Adam and Isis, but they're only in the first few issues. The art is pretty bonkers at times. Didn't really enjoy their look of Mary Marvel in BDSM gear and weird pink pigtails. Power Girl's look varies wildly from one issue to another. Jay Garrick looks normal for the most part, but totally strung out, skinny, and greasy hair in the issue about Stargirl's birthday. More dings for gross content, like opening the story with an implied rape of Isis at the hands of Felix Faust and Atom Smasher "doing the right thing" by turning down Stargirl... Because she's a kid. Seriously, we need that explained and defended by other characters? Who wrote this? Roy Moore?

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## **Devero says**

Questa storia ripercorre l'antica inimicizia tra Black Adam, Capitan Marvel (Shazam) e i loro legami con la JSA e la Marvel family. In parte anche per i disegni di Ordway, troppo classici e un poco sottotono, non è riuscita come le saghe precedenti.

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## **James DeSantis says**

If I were to rate this it's really broken down like this.

Black Adam and Isis Arc - 2/5 - Boring and kind of just there. There's a few glimpses of interesting character development but the rest is just meh.

The final two part story 1/5 - Boring, bad dialog, nothing connects.

The farewell issue - 4/5 - It's a birthday for stargirl and it's really well done. Has heart, humor, and well done dialog that we've come to enjoy in this series.

I'ma have to go with a 2 out of 5 for this one because only one good thing worth reading. However, just for that issue alone read it, skip the rest.

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## **Victor Orozco says**

Not too sure how to make of this collection. Set amidst the time after the events of the 52 storyline and a little bit before the Final Crisis as the Justice Society of America does what it can to quell Black Adam.

All things considered it was a bit forgettable. C-

