



Daredevil: Back in Black, Vol. 3: Dark Art

Charles Soule , Ron Garney (Illustrator)

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Collects Daredevil (2015) #10-14.

The creepiest Daredevil story of the century! Losing a big case has landed A.D.A. Matt Murdock in hot water with the city, leaving him less time to clean up the streets as DD. But as his protégé, Blindspot, tries to take up the slack, the young hero gets in over his head when he stumbles upon a horrific crime scene — one that will terrify even the Man Without Fear! Muse — a serial killer who turns his victims into works of art — is on the loose, and Daredevil and Blindspot are no fans of his "masterpieces." But DD, for so long a solo hero, will have yet another partner on the case — an Inhuman! Muse's sadistic art installations will strike close to home — and there's nothing Matt can do about it!

Daredevil: Back in Black, Vol. 3: Dark Art Details

Date : Published February 22nd 2017 by Marvel

ISBN :

Author : Charles Soule , Ron Garney (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 112 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Superheroes, Marvel, Graphic Novels, Comic Book

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From Reader Review Daredevil: Back in Black, Vol. 3: Dark Art for online ebook

Scott Lee says

This is a comic with a plot black as pitch, but I loved every gruesome moment of it. Excellent work by Soule and co. Daredevil encounters a new villain who calls himself Muse, and this one is a full-out, Batman villain level nutjob. He is an "artist" who chooses to work in various bits of--and occasionally whole--human bodies to create his "art." Great characterization on Daredevil as the D.A. puts him in a challenging position, and wonderful treatment of Blindspot as well. This was a great volume. Easily the best so far of the new "Back in Black" series.

Chris Lemmerman says

I really, really like Charles Soule's Daredevil. Like, really really.

After the scattershot second volume, this third one gets back down to business as these five issues pit Matt against a creepy-as-hell artist who murders people in order to create his pieces. He has a gross design that only gets worse the more we discover about him and his motivations, and Soule manages to effortlessly include a semi-crossover with his Inhumans titles so we get to see some more Nur which is always good.

This arc also blends Matt's court proceedings and his Daredevil life very well, and I love the inclusion of Blindspot. The ultimate conclusion of the arc promises lots more in store for him in the future.

Ron Garney returns after a few issues hiatus on top form, grim and gritty and exactly what this story needs. I already mentioned his design for Muse, which is so simplistic and yet so effective, and colourist Matt Milla works wonders with black and white tones throughout.

Scott says

Darker than usual (Tarantino inspired?) tale with Daredevil and protege Blindspot taking on a sadistic serial killer with the appropriately sleazy-horrible tabloid nickname 'Vincent Van Gore.' He also identifies himself as 'Muse.' I just call him **disgusting**. Things are a little slow-going at first - the Murdock workplace drama was interesting, while the Inhumans angle felt trivial - but then the tempo increases with a race to stop the evil guy and prevent more deaths. And poor Blindspot . . .

Aimee Meester says

One of the best Daredevil comics I've read thus far! A horrifying serial killer mystery with some great writing and even better art.

James DeSantis says

And here is where Soule gives his first "great" volume. I saw glimmers of the greatness that could be in volume 1 and 2, but here, where we get a new villain + more focus on Blindside we have a far more interesting series.

There's a new villain who murders people and prompts them up for "art". Sometimes he takes them apart, uses their blood to paint, who empties their blood and uses them as statues in a way. Muse is a dark villain and one that Daredevil needed to give this series a boost. While Matt is on the search to find him Blindside gets a lead and things spiral out of control.

What I liked: Loved Blindside and Daredevil working together. Seeing Blindside as a sidekick is great and what happens at the end between the two is both shocking and heartbreaking. I love Muse as he is a villain Daredevil needed for a long time. Dark and extremely fucked up he does what he loves to do, murder, and make art from it. I also really enjoyed the pacing here as it moved very quickly and felt scary at all times.

What I didn't like: I could have lived without the INhumans part. I get they're a part of it because of what Muse did but it felt it slowed the pace a bit too much.

Overall I loved this. Brought me back to the Bendis/Ed days and that's a huge compliment to Charles Soule. Keep it up man. A 4.5 out of 5.

Juan says

I felt this arc was pretty solid. It is called Dark Art because of a new enemy that uses macabre means to express his art. I mean the very first piece we see is a giant red mural that we find out was painted using the blood of at least 114 different individuals. From there it just gets worse and more twisted. The enemy is a very sick Inhuman who does some pretty outrageous. Blindspot finds himself in a really vulnerable position and by the end, you can't help but hope for the best and wonder what he will be capable of from here on out.

Marsha Altman says

Soule's disappointing run continues. Still without explanation as to what Matt did to get his secret identity back, which required him turning his back on his old life and girlfriend and transforming into a jerk, we go forward with the plot that Matt works for the DA's office, where he somehow ended up for getting in trouble about something because he was off being Daredevil, and he ditches what little work he still has to ... go off and be Daredevil. And then people complain about it and he talks about how having a private practice with Foggy was so much better. Look, if it was better, why don't you go do it? Foggy's just sitting around. People still need defense attorneys. It's what you're good at! What is Soule trying to do?!?

Overworked Matt puts more and more responsibility on his unpaid intern Blindspot, who is not at all ready for any of this and therefore constantly gets in serious danger. He's borderline taking advantage of Blindspot at this point. Basically everything that happens to Blindspot when they face off with what is actually a somewhat interesting villain is Matt's fault because he's a jerk. This is not the Matt Murdock we know and love. Soule's trying to make a point, but I don't know what it is.

Chad says

Given that Charles Soule is a lawyer, you'd think he'd be able to make Matt's work life interesting, but he doesn't even try. Daredevil takes on some crazy artist called the Muse who's using people to make his art. Muse also harms Inhumans so they get involved. I think the Inhumans are responsible for my general dislike of the Marvel U over the last few years. They don't really fit but yet Marvel keeps trying to shove them down our throats because they can't make movies about mutants.

Daredevil has to be the worst mentor in the world. He's completely ignored training Blindspot since the first arc. (view spoiler)

Blindzider says

I didn't read Vol 1 and 2 of Soule's run, and this story arc was able to update me on what's changed since Waid's run: He's back in New York, but as a prosecutor, and he has a younger partner and he and Foggy are not exactly friends anymore. The main story plot involves a serial killer who considers himself an artist. It's a little short and feels like there could have been more to it but it did give off a creepy tone. I suspect this villain will be revisited at some point.

Overall, Soule's run has a bit of the classic feel but some new aspects as well. I'm interested enough to try and read at least the first two volumes to catch up.

Frédéric says

3,5*

At last a decent volume of DD by Charles Soule. After a ridiculous 1st and a meh 2nd , I really was starting to lose all hopes for Matt Murdock and crew but there it is.

The plot is not particularly original -a serial killer uses live material to create "art"- but the tone is really dark and grim and a bit gory, a mood I'm totally in for.

'Cuz it was well done, mixing action and more mundane stuff, including Matt's difficulties to balance his night assignments as prosecutor and vigilante.

Blindspot is bit more fleshed -out as a character and there's even an Inhuman issue, not indispensable but decent enough.

I made my peace with Ron Garney's new style-actually pretty well suited for this run-particularly with Matt Milla's livid colours.

Shadowdenizen says

While not as strong overall as Mark Waid's run, (and I find Charles Soules work generally hit or miss for me) I'm still enjoying this new run of Daredevil.

And this is the strongest entry yet. Really enjoyed the overall storyline, and the interactions between the characters was spot-on. (The scene between Matt and Foggy in particular really depicted the current dysfunctional state of their relationship quite well.)

Sesana says

Good story, creepy villain, and Soule goes a step farther than I had thought he would. Pretty good stuff.

Wing Kee says

Pleasantly surprised.

World: The art is good, I like it when this creative team is together, it's dirty, it's scratchy, it's gritty and it's very tonally consistent with what this team is doing with this new reboot. The world building here is very small and self contained but it's the best thing about this world since Soule picked up the book. The pieces we get of Matt are small and intimate and tied to Soule's version and this is what makes it good.

Story: Let's throw the stuff I don't like about this reboot out the window for the moment and look at this story as itself, it's pretty fantastic. It's pretty pretty great, especially the villain (both visually and how he's written). This is Soule's Joker for Matt's Batman. The chaotic nature of the villain made for an interesting story and the pacing and the usage of the characters Soule creates is finally realized into something tangible and with consequence. A really good story top to bottom, bravo.

Characters: Matt is still Matt from the 90s-2000s but oh well. Blindspot is great this arc, finally comes into his own and gets some depth. He feels very very Dick Grayson x Jason Todd this arc but yeah that's just me. Muse, great villain and Matt's Joker created by Soule, that's a good thing.

That's all I'll say, read this if you want to believe in this new reboot and read this if you want a good tense and dark Daredevil Batman light story.

Onward to the next book!

Malum says

MUCH better than the last book. This volume is really dark, with Daredevil and the Inhumans tracking down a vicious serial killer. Blindspot also has a major character arc in this one that I didn't see coming.

Gianfranco Mancini says

First 2 issues collected here were just so boring and still can't stand recent boosting of the Inhumans in expense of the Mutants made by Marvel/Disney (maybe now that Mickey Mouse owns Fox too that's going to change for good... they already "resurrected" Wolvie just as scheduled), luckily suddenly narrative pace accelerated becoming a real page-turner and Garney's dirty artworks were just as great as always... and Muse/"Vincent Van Gore" is a real hell of a villain.
