



Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 2: Source Code

Julie Benson , Shawna Benson , Claire Roe

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The origin of the new Oracle—the super-hacker who has become an invaluable ally to the Birds of Prey—is revealed in the newest collection of BATGIRL AND THE BIRDS OF PREY!

Oracle's connection to the mastermind known as Calculator causes strain on his relationship with Batgirl, Black Canary and the Huntress. Black Canary goes undercover to discover the secrets of the woman called Blackbird, who can unlock any super-being's true potential. But Blackbird doesn't just enhance powers—she takes them for herself, making her an army of one who threatens the Birds of Prey's biggest secrets. Can guest stars Green Arrow and Nightwing turn the tide against this incredible new foe? Or will they be Blackbird's newest victims?

Gotham City's greatest super-team is a force to be reckoned with in BATGIRL AND THE BIRDS OF PREY VOL. 2: SOURCE CODE! From writers Shawna Benson and Julie Benson (TV's The 100) and artists Roge Antonio (NIGHTWING) and Claire Roe (WONDER WOMAN). Collects issues #7-13.

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 2: Source Code Details

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From Reader Review Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 2: Source Code for online ebook

Kristina Feeney says

I liked this better than the previous volume. A couple of short arcs that were all good.

Sophie says

It's better than I thought ????

Chad says

Contains a couple of smaller stories. Blackbird has Black Canary going undercover to find a meta who's stealing powers. Then in Source Code we find out more about the new Oracle. The calculator shows up but he's not threatening and calculating like past appearances, he's just a scared father. Felt a little out of place. There's a ton of guest stars. The stories are solid but nothing really memorable.

Scott Lee says

The writing was solid, and the art--issue-by-issue--was as well, although the constant artist changes are annoying as there's no consistency to characters' portrayal or sense of style for the book with that kind of revolving door at pencils...

More character bits on our various heroes as the team gets together?/back together? for the Rebirth universe. I'm still really confused on how continuity actually works in the DCU at this point. Does the history *I* know exist outside the heads of Superman and Wally West? Sometimes it seems like it does, and other times it feels like it doesn't. This was an issue (to an extent) in the New52 as well, where DC couldn't seem to make up it's mind whether they were re-launching, rebooting, ret-conning...and they still don't seem certain. That's an annoyance that crops up for me across the entire DC line from time to time right now. It's enhanced here where the book is clearly nostalgic in one sense--re-establishing an old property--but unclear as to exactly how this relates to what we know of past versions of these characters and this team.

The plots themselves were all right, although I have to admit the revolving layers of no-one's really a villain in the Source Code story got on my nerves. People have problems--they do. When they get in trouble they deserve help and guidance--they do. Everyone deserves a second chance--sure. But none of this means you should get off scott-free from bad actions, and everyone here does except for the faceless CEO bad guy who is simply a stereotypical corporate baddie with no character development at all. That's. just. too. easy. And, personally, I feel like it undervalues the lessons the book is trying to address/teach (it also felt a bit pedantic rather than organic, another annoyance) because it makes the forgiveness, the fixing things portion seem ultra-easy. All anybody does here is say sorry. But they had hard circumstances to deal with! So does everybody. They still made their choices.

John Yelverton says

It was a decent enough story with the Birds of Prey getting to know each other in the "Rebirth" universe. My inward groaning was the issues with the letterer and the colorist with bubbles being pointed over the wrongs character's head and one panel in which Black Canary was colored with red hair. It should never have made it to print with those types of issues.

Steve Quinn says

Can't understand the good ratings for this one. It was borderline incoherent.

The Library Ladies says

(originally reviewed at thelibraryladies.com)

It's funny coming off of the Cameron Stewart "Batgirl" Series and jumping into the new "Batgirl and the Birds of Prey" series, if only because the same character is interpreted in such different ways. As much as I did like the more quirky and insecure Batgirl that Stewart created, a self assured and assertive Batgirl is more in line with what I am looking for in Barbara, and the Benson Sisters are really delivering in that regard. When we left off, Batgirl, Huntress, and Black Canary had reformed the Birds of Prey, with a new Oracle by the name of Gus. Gus is a hacker who seems to be a HUGE fan on Batgirl and her adventures, and is capable with the computer. Of course, is anything ever that easy in Gotham? Rarely. So along with the new faces in this series, we also get to see some old ones, faces that I was VERY happy to see when all was said and done!

The first thing that really struck me with this volume was that while Batgirl is the leader of this rag tag group of kick ass ladies, it definitely gives a lot of time to her compatriots. We saw a lot of Huntress and her backstory in the previous volume, but this time some of the attention and shine was focused on Black Canary, aka Dinah Lance. You all know how I feel about her so I will spare you yet another screed on her excellence, but it was nice seeing her get some meaty plot points this time around. Not only does she have a lot of opportunities to show off her entire repertoire of fight skills, she also has moments of emotional growth and pathos. It's easy to forget that of the Birds, she is the only 'metahuman', aka person with supernatural powers. Even though she's a member of the team, she is the Other, and while Babs and Helena may see past this, Dinah is always aware of it. When other metahumans are being targeted and manipulated by a mysterious villain named Blackbird, Dinah takes it upon herself to go forth, undercover, and try to take her down. I loved this storyline because Dinah not only had a lot to do, but we got to see some of her insecurities, and she moved beyond being the sarcastic badass that she usually is within these stories. Also? ALSO????..... Oliver Queen, aka Green Arrow, shows up, and his main purpose is to look on at Dinah lovingly. There is a moment where he is encouraged to think about what he loves most in this world as his motivation, and he repeats 'Dinah' over and over and over again. As a gigantic Dinah/Oliver shipper, this turn of events was quite excellent.

But it's not just Oliver that makes an appearance I wasn't expecting! Because two of my very best lady anti-

heroes of DC also decided to drop in for fun, Catwoman and Poison Ivy! And these appearances harken back to older Birds of Prey realities, in some ways, as while Catwoman has always been a potential ally to the heroes and heroines of Gotham (if you're willing to risk a future backstab), Poison Ivy has been in the Birds of Prey rotation in past iterations of the team. For her to come back and have a role, and hints at future interactions, is great not only for nostalgia, but also for the concept of girl power. DC has been KILLING IT in the girl power departments, as between this series and "DC Bombshells" ladies are taking charge and getting shit done.

And finally, we are now seeing some hints about Gus, our new Oracle. I was open minded about Gus as a member of the team (in spite of the fact I was hoping that Frankie was going to be Oracle), though it was obvious at the end of the last collection that he was perhaps hiding something. All of that comes out in the open in this collection, and while I don't want to spoil TOO much, I do feel like it should be stated that one of the major components involves mental illness. I'm always worried that in stories, particularly in comics or more adventure-y tales, mental illness can be used in an irresponsible way to either bring in conflict or to give excuses for bad or violent behavior. But when it comes to Gus's issues, it is made clear by her partners that not only is he still one of the team, but that he isn't broken and that they will try to support and understand him in any way that they can. So not only do we have a character who has a disability, we have other characters who are willing to break down the stigma and still treat him as an equal. It was very heartening to see.

But sadly, it was recently announced that "Batgirl and the Birds of Prey" was cancelled by DC. So my love and enjoyment of this series has an expiration date. With this information, I'm considering just stopping my reading journey with these characters right here. It wraps up in a way that was personally satisfying to me, and knowing that it's going to end (and with rumors of some questionable plot twists that make my blood boil) makes me feel like I should quit while I'm ahead. DC, as per usual, you are really, REALLY making it difficult to be a fan of yours (AND YES I'M STILL PISSED AS HELL THAT YOU CANCELLED BOMBSHELLS!!!!) I swear, the moment they kill Catwoman to give Bruce some man pain (AND I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST THEM!), I am OUT, so help me GOD!!!

For now, I'm just happy that I did get to spend some fun arcs with some great chicks who kick serious ass. "Batgirl and the Birds of Prey", you burned brightly, and did justice to characters that I love.

James DeSantis says

It's not that this series is bad, it's just I'm not the target audience. Where I can say the current Batgirl was HORRIBLE, this is solid fun, but kind of boring because it's not doing anything I'm really interested in. I'ma go with a 2.5 out of 5. Right down the middle.

Kat says

Basic Plot: First, the BOP take down a villain called Blackbird who trains metahumans and then steals their powers. Then they help get Calculator's family back from the company who kidnapped them.

The first arc was decent and introduced some characters that would have been interesting had they gotten to

keep their powers. Blackbird will be an ongoing villain, I think. The second arc was a bit convoluted and Dickensian, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. I'm rather enjoying what is happening with Poison Ivy and Catwoman. Both arcs moved quickly, but not ridiculously so.

The art, on the other hand, did look a bit rushed/sloppy in some spots and it was disconcerting, especially in some of the panels on the last pages. I get that there are different styles and different artists, but in some panels Helena looks very dark-skinned and in others is very light-skinned. I don't care if they've decided to give her a more olive/Mediterranean complexion, I just think it should be consistent from panel to panel. I also could hardly tell that Selena was Selena at the end. She was drawn that poorly.

Greyson [Use Your Words] says

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, DC Rebirth Series Ratings:

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 1: Who Is Oracle?: ★★

Batgirl and the Birds of Prey, Volume 2: Source Code: **Lost Interest in Series**

—
This was another case of not being interested. If I'm honest with myself, DC Comics just isn't for me.

—
?Blog?Instagram?Twitter?Tumblr?

Allison says

If volume 1 felt slow to you, keep going. Once the team is completely together this really picks up. Wonderful.

Wing Kee says

I really liked this arc...except the constant artist changes.

World: I liked the art when Roe and Antonio are doing it but not in the same issue and not when other artists come in to fill in the pages cause they can't draw in time. It's jarring. The end of Source Code which was gorgeous ends with such a jarring art change that it makes...argh. The world building is fine, I like this team and I like the cast of characters and the people in the DCU we meet, Roulette is very old school. I like.

Story: The first issue was pure character building and I loved it. The Blackbird story was a fun very retro story that was safe and just fun with the team ups. Then Source Code was great. So far the pacing for the series has been solid, the tone consistent, light and fun. I liked the Oracle stuff, I still like the idea of Frankie way more but yes his story was interesting and the characters involved in that arc was fantastic. The art did it no favours in the last couple of pages, that really annoyed me.

Characters: It's great how optimistic people are after Rebirth. I love it. Babs is great as are the rest of the birds and the quiet moments we got with all of them and the banter was great for chemistry, this team feels good. The cameos were fantastic with Nightwing and Catwoman and ...IVY!

A fun fun arc that improves on the last and the only thing is the art needs to be more consistent.

Onward to the next book!

read individual issues

Adam Fisher says

3.5 Stars.

This Volume breaks down into two stories:

1) Nightwing is in Gotham chasing down Gemini, a meta with elongating powers. Calling on the Birds of Prey for assistance, it is discovered that Gemini is being controlled by Blackbird. Black Canary goes undercover to find out about Blackbird's control and learns two things: Blackbird has a way of helping metas discover more of their ability and control AND she helps them become more powerful so she can steal their abilities. Add Nightwing and Green Arrow to the ladies and you can guess how this ends up.

2) The new Oracle has a problem and he's been keeping it from the Birds. Before working for them, he had dealings with low-threat villain Calculator. Helping him and learning from him, Oracle was searching for a way to get away from his influence. Then a job got botched....

(follow me, it's complicated....) Poison Ivy began working for a company called Terracare. She was investigating their fertilizer additives to test for properties that were killing bees. Ivy hired Catwoman to break into the vault (using plans she got from Calculator) and steal the additive. Selina decided to help herself to some diamonds while in there. Terracare was angry over the theft, so they abducted Calculator's family to convince him to give back the diamonds and formula. Calculator seeks out assistance from the Birds and they get involved at the cost of Oracle's debt to him being paid. An epic fight with Ivy breaks out, but all ends well.

There was also a one issue story where the team thwarted a couple of crooked realtors that was pretty funny...

The stories here are good and the art is good, but the whole book is extremely dialogue heavy. I enjoy it usually, but at times it seemed like it was bogging down the flow. I'll still continue with the title though. Recommend.... but give yourself plenty of time to read.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Source Code is actually only a small part of this volume, which also collects a one-shot called Soldier Of Fortune that explores the Huntress's backstory, and another three part story called Blackbird, which sees Black Canary going undercover in a metahuman fight club with a sinister ringleader.

Source Code itself is the culmination of the year-long Oracle storyline as the Calculator makes his presence known and the Birds have to rope in some unexpected help from Catwoman & Poison Ivy to diffuse the situation. It's a fun story, and it's nice to see the writers comfortable enough with Babs, Dinah, and Helena that they can introduce some more players into the mix now.

If Who Is Oracle? from the first volume is a Batgirl story, Soldiers Of Fortune is a Huntress story, while

Blackbird is a Black Canary story. The alternating focus is subtle and not overpowering, which makes for consistent reading with different aspects of the characters explored each time.

Speaking of consistent, six of the seven issues are drawn by Roge Antonio, an artist I'm glad is getting more regular work after propping up the Bat books for a while now with fill-in art across them all. Soldiers Of Fortune is by Claire Roe who had been initially tapped as the series artist, but it seems Antonio has been able to swipe it out from under her; probably because he's able to do six issues in a row, while Roe struggled in the first volume after three or so.

A fun exploration of the three characters, and a good conclusion to the first year of stories. With all the Birds firmly in place, onwards to the next thing.

Dan says

Really meh for the most part.
