



Power Man and Iron Fist Vol. 3: Street Magic

David F. Walker, Sanford Greene (Illustrator)

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Collects Power Man and Iron Fist (2016) #10-15.

The battle for Harlem begins! As Luke Cage and Danny Rand struggle to pick up the pieces after Civil War II, the ultimate turf war erupts right under their noses! Tombstone, Mr. Fish, Piranha, Cottonmouth, Black Cat and a mysterious new player are all vying for a piece of the pie - and New York is caught in the crossfire! Power Man and Iron Fist fight to take back the streets, but Luke has other problems too - big ones. Jessica Jones has left him, and taken their daughter with her. Cage isn't taking it well - and while Danny wants to be there for his friend, he's got issues of his own. Meanwhile, double, double, toil and trouble are brewing... Luke and Danny are handy in a fight, but how do you punch magic?

Power Man and Iron Fist Vol. 3: Street Magic Details

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From Reader Review Power Man and Iron Fist Vol. 3: Street Magic for online ebook

Quentin Wallace says

I figured out one reason I didn't care so much for this series. It was basically 90% Luke Cage and Iron Fist was basically a bit player. I like Luke Cage and his comics, but thought this would be more of a team up book. It was cool to see some of the old characters from the original Power Man series like Cockcoach, Pirahna, Cottonmouth and Black Mariah but they were all focused on more than Iron Fist, and really more than Cage in several places. We also get to see a surprise character in the main villain role, as well as several cool cameos.

Still, between the cartoony art and the campy feel this series just didn't do it for me. Not terrible, but I think there was missed potential with this series.

Jack Stubblefield says

Oh yeah!

Satisfying wrap up to this run of PMIF. After being sidetracked as a Civil War 2 tie in, the series got back on track. I only hope that Marvel decides to revisit Heroes For Hire again. And soon! Good stuff, Maynard.

Christopher Mclean says

A decent ending to a good series. This one didn't click with me as much as it did with many others but I still had a fun time.

As with previous volumes, the light, funny tone was good again, with which really excelling, while the art still didn't work for me.

Daniel says

Fiddle faddle hits the fan.

Doesn't quite hit the heights of volume one. Luke and Danny get caught up in a crime war in their home zone of Harlem. A surprising amount of time is spent on the myriad of antagonists which is good but it is robbing Peter to pay Paul as it means less time with our heroes.

I like Greene's artwork although there is one horrible panel of Night Nurse.

Marsha Altman says

If they took Luke Cage and Iron Fist (the Netflix shows) and smooshed them together to make something like this, THEN it would be a really good show.

Adan says

Street magic is way more powerful than it probably should be, but otherwise, another solid Luke and Danny story. A gang war erupts in Harlem, with Tombstone, Black Cat, and Alex "Runaways traitor" Wilder all looking to take control. Also features Black Mariah, Cornell "Cottonmouth" Stokes, Mister Fish, Piranha, Cockroach, Gamecock, Mangler, and the second best magician in Marvel: Señor Magico! More fiddle-faddle to annoy Luke!

Nate says

I loved this series when it started and still respond to the mood and vibe that David Walker is going for in this series but this third and final volume just fell flat for me. Initially I hoped that this collection would draw on the "street magic" of a movie like *Sleight* but instead we end up with a Doctor Strange meets the crack epidemic mash up that doesn't serve either story that well. Even though this series has some of the most stylized and evocative art in any comic I've come across recently it still can't elevate the story. Walker still has a strong handle on these characters and I'd read any version of Luke Cage he wants to send my way but this story just fell flat for me.

Frédéric says

3.5*

Final arc of this series, certainly not mind-blowing but with an agreeable lighter tone than most and interesting visuals.

After CWII Luke and Danny try to clean up the mess induced by the program that falsely accused people of crimes they didn't commit. But this time *street magic* is heavily involved, there's a turf war in Harlem and the list of casualties is mounting up.

More intense and globally less funny, this volume closes nicely Walker's run.

The street magic aspect works just fine and the characters are in line with what's expected of them-with the exception of Black Cat whose presence is incongruous. I'll point out a somewhat nebulous management of the different parties and timelines involved. Nothing serious but it could have been better handled.

Artwise Sandford Greene and Elmo Bondoc are great and perfectly suited for the particular streetwise/light vibe of the book. Lee Loughridge colors are simply excellent. Then again, when aren't they?

I'll regret this series. It was fun, the characters were cool, a little wave of welcomed freshness in a usually

more anxiogenic MU.

Chelsea says

3.5 stars.

This is hard to rate because, while I really like what Walker did with the villains here, I missed some of the Luke and Danny focus from the previous 2 volumes.

The Good:

- Luke and Danny were perfect! I loved every aspect of their relationship in this volume. At this point, I guess Walker had to follow Bendis' messy lead and Jess has left Luke at this point. So, he's working with Danny and taking care of Dani together (?) which is adorable. Danny even learns what "Fiddle Faddle" and "Icky Yucky" means which is so cute!
- There's a great arc where Danny wonders if Luke would've been better off if they never got the team back together. He blames himself for Luke and Jess breaking up and Luke shuts him down immediately. They save the day together, like Luke said, and they end this book as a team. (Which is slightly confusing considering they have 2 solos now and the Defenders series that may have ended because Bendis is leaving)
- Alex Wilder from the Runaways is back and I screamed! I was so happy! I loved that kid and Runaways was never the same after he left. I loved how they utilized him here and he was so well done! Walker just gets how to write black characters.
- Walker brought back the old school feel of the old Power Man and Iron Fist run and brought back several old black, latinx and afro latinx characters that were initially just criminals. Walker gave them all depth and families and made us care about them. They're not just one dimensional; they're people.
- Add to that, Walker talks about the importance of recognizing people that own up to their mistakes and try to make a better life for themselves and their family. These ex cons are living on the straight and narrow and Luke and Danny give them jobs. This series talks about the importance of giving second chances. It also doesn't treat the villains inhumanly. Luke doesn't wish death on their enemies; he even mourns them.
- I'm 99% sure Jennie/Black Mariah were a couple.
- The arc actually had stakes

The Meh:

- it was focused a little too much on the backstory behind Piranha and The Fang Gang. It was very well done but I didn't really care to know this much about them.
- I didn't always love the art, to be honest.

So, it's not quite what I was hoping for in a finale but it certainly wasn't bad by any means. It ends on a high note and talks about the importance of Luke and Danny's partnership. So, A++ and I'm still hoping I'll get a Netflix Power Man and Iron Fist series.

Jonathan Anderson says

Good thing I was already reading the Jessica Jones reboot, or the fact that they have characters randomly blurt out that Jessica left Luke and took his daughter would be incredibly frustrating!

I still like the way Luke and Danny go about handling the events of Civil War II, but this wasn't quite as strong as the last volume. Also, I had basically gotten used to the art and then they bring in like every character in the whole universe and I spent a good couple minutes distracted by how weird some of them looked. So, there went that.

Rod Brown says

The storyline remains a sloppy mess following the Civil War II crossover and offscreen developments in other books. Throwing a bunch of magic into the mix doesn't help. Where's the humor from the first book? I guess I can see why it got canceled now.

Elizabeth Crockford says

This is probably my favourite volume of the series so far, which is funny cause there's no Jessica in this one, but hey. A certain character, who I didn't know was back from the dead showed up, which was a pleasant surprise. Over-all this series continues to be a fun jaunt with stellar art. Four stars.

Guilherme Smee says

Esse volume de Luke Cage & Punho de Ferro começou meio estranho, com um senso de humor um tanto questionável no primeiro encadernado. Mas depois, no segundo encadernado, linkado com a Guerra Civil 2, ficou bem interessante mesmo. Esse terceiro e último encadernado dessa fase mantém o ritmo, dessa vez envolvendo magia, o que eles chamam de "magia das ruas", sendo manipulada pelo ex-líder e ex-vilão dos Fugitivos, Alex Wilder. Vale destacar a arte incrível de Sanford Greene e de Elmo Bondoc, que conferem um clima todo próprio para essas histórias. Durante toda essa run no título, o roteirista David F. Walker resgatou muitos personagens das histórias antigas de Luke Cage e do Punho de Ferro, dentre eles, sendo a maioria negros. Ele fez a mesma coisa trazendo muitos heróis e vilões negros da Marvel para as páginas da revista, como no caso do Irmão Vodu, o Garra Negra, o próprio Alex Wilder e o Homem-Aranha Miles Morales. Então, excetuando-se o esquisito primeiro encadernado da série, Luke Cage & Punho de Ferro é uma leitura bem aventureira e cheia de entretenimento. Pode ler sem medo!

Chad says

Too much focus on the Fang Squad. It's all about these lame 70's villains. It would be one thing if Walker gave them some updates. Devil Disco is still wearing a disco ball on his head for Pete's sake. Yet, it's played straight instead of tongue in cheek. Luke and Danny barely get any screen time and when they do, Luke just says Fiddle Faddle. I just can't take it seriously when they are still using 70's lingo.

I'm not a fan of Sanford Greene's art. Everyone looks dirty like Pigpen from Charlie Brown with a broken nose.

Scott Lee says

Walker delivers the pay off he's built toward in the first three volumes with the manipulator behind all the events that have lead up to this point in the series being revealed, a three way gang war for Harlem blowing up with Danny and Luke caught in the middle.

The characterization continues to be strong throughout, as it has been through each volume so far, particularly with Luke and Danny themselves. The plot has enough action to keep a comic junkie happy, but is still character driven, which I particularly appreciate. The pencils--primarily by Sam Greene--are heavily stylized. It's rough-edged with some sketchy moments here or there that make it feel unfinished in spots. That said, that off-kilter look fits the quirky tone and storyline nicely, and I only felt it strayed too much toward caricature or incoherence in a couple panels in the whole volume--pretty good for a style as loose as this one seems to be.

Between them Walker and Greene are deliver high camp with tightly locked poker faces. I know they're winking at me throughout the book, and daring me to catch them at it, but they never quite step over the line to self-mockery, and if there are moments of levity, they're justified, consistent with the character(s) involved, and short, always in the background of the plot. That said, It felt like there was a joke I couldn't quite catch site of, as if it wanted me to be aware of it but only by inference slipping just out of sight after allowing a corner-of-the-eye glimpse each time I turned my head.

This isn't world beating comics--it's much smaller scale than that. It isn't a classic that will soar through the ages--a *Dark Knight Returns*, a *Watchmen*, or a *Kingdom Come*--but it is a comic that repeatedly grabbed my head and attention and held it till something forced me to put it down, and that left me at least momentarily happier for having read it.
