



JLA Classified, Vol. 2: I Can't Believe It's Not the Justice League

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A new trade paperback collecting JLA CLASSIFIED #4-9, the critically acclaimed follow-up to FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE! The Super Buddies open for business, but things hit a sour note when former foe Blackguard and his partner Guy Gardner open a sports bar next door to their new "headquarters" in the strip mall downtown!

JLA Classified, Vol. 2: I Can't Believe It's Not the Justice League Details

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From Reader Review JLA Classified, Vol. 2: I Can't Believe It's Not the Justice League for online ebook

Steve says

Enjoyable stuff as always from this team. More so than previous volumes of the JLA / JLE involving this mob, a bit of wider knowledge about the DC Universe and the role of these guys in it is useful, but not necessary.

If you are looking for gritty dark tales of vengeance and redemption look elsewhere. If you want amusing stories with great dialogue and real characters - it is not all just comic dialogues, there is some real poignancy here - try this.

Sesana says

I didn't like this nearly as well as I'd been liking the earlier JLI collections. The characters are the same, and the sense of humor is similar... For the most part. What knocked this book down a star from a three for me was the tireless repetition of misogynistic jokes that weren't funny the first time. It's one thing to have Guy Gardner as a pig, and it's quite another thing to add Booster to that category (Gladys? Did we really need any of that?) and then ending with the female characters bending over backwards to accomodate their sexism. And this is not the fault of the book, but just try to read the last panel (with Maxwell Lord and Blue Beetle grinning at each other) or virtually any scene with the Dibnys without cringing just a little bit.

East Bay J says

More zany antics from Giffen and DeMatteis. Man, I could just leave it at that. Some of the characters are gone, others have been introduced, the team ends up in hell or a reasonable facsimile. Still funny, still tons of hilarious faces, the art's great and the storyline gets downright surreal. Another fun read!

Audrey Hacker says

this is definitely a comic I would shove up my ass with no hesitation

Tom Fuchs says

A bit of a disappointment. All the old trademarks are there and indicate that this is something that I should enjoy, but it just never gels. Their ability to write these characters atrophied with the years, maybe? I still love the detailed expressions on the characters faces, but even that seems to be a little overkill in this volume. Plus the emotional beat in the second-to-last issue is evaporated by immediately having giant rabid dog stampeding through a city to start the next issue. 'Tis a shame.

Laura says

This might just be my bias for Blue Beetle & Booster Gold showing through, but I can't rate this book less than five stars. I just can't.

Of course, having read Booster's more recent novels, I wanted to yell at everyone being mean to him because he goes through a lot of crap later.

Wanting to hug superheroes, that's normal, right?

Was not expecting the feels from Gardner and Fire. Also did not know about Ice. That was upsetting. I probably should stop reading these things out of order.

Super-buddies for life!

Portia S says

I lost this and then I found it and I read it out. This was pretty funny, not a big dramatic plot, but like it's fun for what it is, a light-hearted and fun little story. I hope not one reading this is expecting some kind of intense thing, because it's basically a break from that. I was impressed that they allowed some character growth in Booster Gold, and I think they meant to keep on pointing it out all the time, because in typical super hero things, you want to see that ... subtly. I like Blue Beetle, like, he's chill, but there's something about Booster Gold and his whole slightly crooked and proud personality which really makes me think he's a great character. Who would admit to such faults? I like that. Power Girl, why do I like PG more than SG? I dunno, I think it's because PG is so angry and she has every right to be, she's pretty aggressive and does whatever, and like no one can blame her, who out there would want to be a clone?

Kathryn says

THIS BOOK IS CRAZY! It's a really random plot in my opinion. But I'm not complaining at all! I wouldn't take my word for it though, I'm horribly biased towards Justice League International. I have a soft spot for that wacky team.

Anyway, the team is transported to Hell because of a Booster Gold mistake, and as a result they don't let him forget, even for a second, what he brought them into. Poor Boost!

Very entertaining and laughs in every issue. Recommended. :D

PS I'm considering changing my name to Richard Hertz.

Jennifer says

I really like what I've read of the 1980s Giffen/DeMatteis/Maguire Justice League International. I like the sharp dialogue, the quick wit, the outlandish plots, and the incredibly expressive art. And all of those things are very much present in this reunion book. Unfortunately, also present is a discomfiting amount of cruelty and offensiveness that the original book didn't contain, and for that reason I can't rate this book higher.

The JLI characters have always mocked each other. But that loving mocking in this volume has morphed into outright cruelty. And while the old books had their share of offensive jokes, they were usually counterbalanced by the strength of the offended character and/or the punishment of the offensive one.

Here, that's simply not true. Booster Gold and Guy Gardner's rampant misogyny is condemned by other characters, sure, but the jokes are still there to make the readers laugh to begin with. And in the end, those characters get away scot free while the female characters are the ones who suffer. Bea is filled with guilt about being weak enough to turn back to see her friend as they try to escape hell (a weakness that Guy could easily have had instead), and ends the book by asking Booster, who has been nothing but offensive toward her, out on a date. Power Girl, meanwhile, is forced to apologize to Guy Gardner on multiple occasions for the sin of BEING UPSET about his misogyny, and also takes the blame for getting the team sent to hell to begin with (something that was, ultimately, Booster's fault, but of course HE gets to be the hero of the piece). Even Mary Marvel, who is UNDERAGE, apologizes to Guy for attacking him after he gropes her, and while this is in-character for sweet, conscientious Mary, it adds to the overall problematic tone. And then there's the fact that half the book is made up of jokes about how Sue Dibny must be pregnant and hormonal to be upset about anything.

When you add all this to the fact that no one on the team actually seems to like each other, even hidden beneath their jokes, and the fact that the plot is rushed and falls apart completely at the end, you get a disappointing mess from what really should have been a welcome reunion of a great team of creators and characters.

But on the plus side, I did discover a newfound love for Mary Marvel!

Andy Luke says

An enjoyable bout of original JL Bwah-ha moments with a shower of fire whiskey running through the multivitamin drink.

It's a double-header. On one hand, you've JLA fun in the classical sense: laugh aloud through new conflicts and character friendships. On the other, there's a sometimes divisive but always righteous political message. The original run followed the Watchmen/Dark Knight pessimism which later subsumed the industry. At the time of the release of this book, DC Continuity put characters at the heart of JLA through brutal murder and rape. This tale is set just before all that, though published at the same time, and contains multiple references to the 'a dolt' superheroes. At times, the anger makes its way to snarky characters. It's always pushing the walls, motivates the sometimes jarring plot, particularly as JLA was often never about 'anything'. It's all done with love though: sparkling banter, juvenile celebration. Maguire occasionally goes overboard with the cleavage but his character work is clean and consistent and his talent for expressions is priceless.

Andy Connell says

I think my one problem with this was that I read it right after Formerly Known.. and it proved too much in too short of a time.. I think JLI works best if you space out your readings a bit or else you could get tired of the jokes too soon. Still wonderful and sad at the same time seeing as what they did to everyone right afterwards (technically before this was published but whatever) with Identity Crisis. But that's DC for you.

Michael says

Y'know what I love about this book? Beneath the absolutely hilarity, Giffen and DeMatteis **STILL** write some great character moments. It was never the jokes that made JLI such a great series (although they helped!). It was those quiet moments in between jokes, such as Fire admitting that she felt for Guy after they'd encountered someone who may or may not have been Ice in a place that may or may not have been hell. It's great to see Beetle and Booster admit how much they care about their friendship and enjoy working together, but only when the other isn't present! It's great to see Guy Gardner say that he cares about the Super-Buddies, even if he doesn't believe it himself. I love that the humor flows so easily from the characters.

The real tragedy of the gutting of these characters by events like Identity Crisis, Countdown, Sacrifice, OMAC and more has nothing to do with the loss of humor from the DCU. It really boils down to the fact that anybody who's bothered to read Giffen and DeMatteis' Justice League series knows that this group of characters has more personality, more heart, more compassion and love and true heroism than any other characters in any super-hero universe. And that's no joke.

Sophie says

HEARTS!

Oh man, I LOVE the JLI. Or the super-buddies or whatever they call themselves. If there is ONE thing I owe to scans daily, it's discovering this team. It's absolute cracktastic brilliance.

Let me tell you a story: this morning I went to work really early so I could have breakfast there because I didn't have anything left to eat at home. I was the only one there, and for half an hour, all you could hear was my giggling because I was reading this comic. It's not the most sophisticated humor, sure, but it's so very funny. And it has Booster and Beetle and Guy and Bea (<3 <3 <3) and L-Ron, omg. Wonderful. (And the first volume is going to arrive next week! Thank god!)

Ronald says

It is Superheros, the second string and they suffer. Much like the last Superbuddies collection. The story is well written the dialog is snappy. But having even some characters that were not meant to be bufoons act the

part is getting old.

While I all for well done comedy, the story told in this collection is one of the reasons I stopped buying comics in the first place. But often at that time the stupid was not so deliberate.

Jota Houses says

Una secuela de las aventuras de los superheroes antes conocidos como la Liga de la Justicia Internacional. No es tan buena como la anterior pero al menos vuelve Guy Gadner.

La última oportunidad de ver al clásico Blue Beetle antes de que a Maxwell Lord se le vaya la pinza.
