



Daredevil, Vol. 2

Mark Waid , Emma Ríos (Illustrator) , Kano (Illustrator) , Khoi Pham (Illustrator) , Paolo Rivera (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Daredevil, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Joseph says

Good, solid stories here. The Black Cat is an interesting addition to the book. Definitely a Batman/Catwoman vibe going on here. The story about the Omegadrive is going on a bit long, though, and the Mole Man story near the end was just creepy, and not in a good way.

Nice to see Matt Murdock on the sunny side of things, though. His personality shines through every page he's present. Good work from Waid on that one.

Brandon says

Maintaining a secret identity is difficult when everyone knows who you truly are. Despite insisting that he isn't Daredevil, Matt Murdock is proving to be unsuccessful in changing the public's belief that he is indeed The Man Without Fear. Letting the criticism and frustration roll off his back, Murdock continues to adopt this more positive outlook that was brought to the reader in Volume One.

After the events of Volume One, Matt has secured a hard drive that contains crucial information on five major crime syndicates in New York City. This of course, makes him a marked man. While those in pursuit of the hard drive try and form a plan of attack (look for a great confrontation near the end), Daredevil is preoccupied with the sudden disappearance of several caskets following the collapse of a local graveyard. What makes this robbery special for Matt? His father was one of many laid to rest in that location.

Many have been praising Mark Waid's approach to Daredevil since the re-launch in 2011. Taking him out of the dark and applying a lighter, more comedic style has certainly given the character a fresh coat of paint. While I was a little hard on the new approach in my review of Volume One, I found myself enjoying it a little more this time around. With the exception of that Spider-Man story placed in the middle of the book, I thought this was a better effort than the first collection.

While I wasn't crazy about seeing him battle Mole Man, I did like where the book finished overall. From what I gather, Mole Man was at one time a pretty big adversary of the Fantastic Four and hasn't been focused on much since the 1960s. How he became who he is, while interesting, didn't really transfer into a compelling story with Daredevil. Although, it did allow a bit of the old Matt Murdock to shine through in his anger directed toward the subterranean dweller.

There's also this weird story that kicks things off involving Matt taking a bunch of visually impaired children on a field trip. The whole excursion runs into trouble when a sudden blizzard hits causing the school bus carrying all involved to crash leaving them stranded. Matt struggles to keep the kids' spirits high while searching for help but succumbs to a leg injury leaving their survival in doubt.

There's a lot to look forward to in Volume three with appearances by Punisher, Spider-man and an apparent return to Latveria. I'm wondering how long they can keep Matt Murdock this positive before his true nature begins to shine through.

This is one of those few instances where I wish I could give a book 3.5 stars.

Sam Quixote says

Mark Waid continues his inspired reinvention of the Daredevil character from the moody, troubled man he was after Frank Miller was done with him in the 70s/80s and a string of other writers continued, to taking the character back to his cheerful, happy-go-lucky roots who smiles and has a good time. I have no desire to read yet another angst-y vigilante with "problems" book so it's great to see a superhero enjoying being a superhero for a change especially one who's been written as a depressed, sometime insane, and all-round gloomy guy for so long - the cover of issue #7, the Christmas issue, says it all.

Nowhere is the change in direction more apparent than in the opening story where Foggy reminds Matt that he's sat in his darkened office brooding, prompting him to emerge, smiling and wearing a "I'm Not Daredevil" shirt, flirting with the ladies and enjoying the party. He also takes a group of blind kids on a trip which ends badly after the bus crashes and they're stranded in the snowy woods. This opening issue is definitely my favourite of the book.

Worryingly, Waid takes Daredevil down the old dark ways again when Moleman and his Moloids plunder the graveyard where Matt's dad "Battlin'" Jack Murdock is buried so Daredevil descends to the world beneath the ground which looks like Hell. This was the weirdest story not least because Mole Man was a shlumpy scientist only now he wears a cheesy Silver Age outfit and is somehow matching Daredevil in combat! But it's visually interesting and has this mild gothic horror vibe to it that's cool.

The main story, as continued from the first book, is that Daredevil has a device called the Omegadrive, formerly the property of the Fantastic Four (and looking like an FF badge) which is a storage device that contains information on five of the world's biggest crime agencies (Hydra, AIM, the Black Spectres, Agence' Byzantine and the Shadow Empire). All five are after him and one of them enlists Black Cat, aka Felicia Hardy, to steal it from him. She and her old flame Spider-man cross over with Daredevil in a fun issue. Waid knows how to write Spidey really well and the dialogue between him and Daredevil is fantastic - you get a real sense of a history and a strong friendship there.

I have some very minor complaints that didn't really detract from my enjoyment of the book. It ends in a very similar way to the end of the first book which again underlines Waid's unusual approach to the character and his treatment of the superhero in this series - but I kind of wish it didn't feel so much like the first book's ending.

Paolo Rivera's art is as wonderful as it was in the first book - his depiction of DD's radar sense is awesome - but I wasn't as convinced of the quality of the other artists on the book. Emma Rios drew Spidey with small, squinty eyes that looked like slits rather than full eyes which was odd, and Khoi Pham really goes overboard with Black Cat's cleavage, giving her massive knockers that are ready to pop out of her ridiculously low-cut one-piece at any moment!

I wasn't fully on board with the series after the first book but this second book has won me over. Matt's character shines through strongly in this book and there's enough variety and action in his adventures to keep the book from becoming slow and stale. An excellent, upbeat and exciting Daredevil adventure - I'm starting to see why it's such an acclaimed series.

Aaron says

This book is just so much fun to read. We're starting to get a little more into Matt Murdock's psyche, with some of the old demons rearing their heads, but not enough to drag down the incredible joy Waid takes in writing this character. It's a vast departure for the Daredevil of the past 10 years or so, but I am now fully in love with this book. Fantastic art, quick-paced stories. This comic knows what's great about the medium and doesn't let it get overcomplicated.

Gavin says

This picks up a bit from Volume 1, starting with a single issue story about Matt out on a field trip with some blind kids. That issue is one of the better ones of any character I've read in a while. It manages to cut right to the core of things without being lame and preachy, which many kiddie-involved books do.

There's another story involving the Mole-Man, and the disappearance of the casket of Jack Murdock and others, which shows a literal descent into hell, much like I believe the last 10yrs of Daredevil storylines have been. It was OK, but nothing super amazing.

The rest of it follows the Omega Drive from Volume 1, and includes a team up with good old Spidey! Waid writes Peter and Matt very well together, and the history between the 2 comes across very well, in that they seem almost at ease with each other. Throw in an appearance by Black Cat, and there's a bit of a monkey wrench thrown in that group of three, but an enjoyable one for sure, when Black Cat is arrested and only Matt Murdock can help...

The art in Daredevil continues to be fantastic, a day-glo retro feel, but very clean (like the Hawkeye art is retro, but not-clean, yet still brilliant). I am certainly enjoying these exploits of Daredevil quite a bit, where in other instances I had trouble getting into the character and his story. I still enjoy the use of the echo-location radar mapping as a visual guide to what MM/DD sees.

Anne says

Buddy Read with The Incredible Hulk!

I've never found a Daredevil book that's excited me. Maybe I've never read the right title, by the right author, but nothing's ever made me go, ***Yeah! Daredevil! That guy is awesome!***

This one was kinda close, though.

Instead of being on the moody Catholic guilt trip, Murdock seems a bit *lighter* and more optimistic.

It starts with a quasi-touching little story about Matt taking some orphaned kids on an ill-fated journey to some camp.

Maybe it's not a camp. It was snowing...so whatever you take kids to do in the snow. How the hell should I know, I've lived in hot climates my entire life. Occasionally, we get a inch or two of the icky white stuff, and it's enough to make me want to immediately move to the tropics. Maybe he was taking them skiing? But giving kids pointy sticks and telling them to slide down a mountain sounds like a bad idea to me, so...

Sorry. I'm going totally off-topic, aren't I?

Anyhoo. Orphans, bus, snow, blind chaperone.

Really? Not sure if that was the best idea anybody ever had. I mean, the least they could have done was send a nun along for the ride.

You know, just in case the bus driver had a heart attack, and the bus careened off the side of a mountain or something...

Lucky for Daredevil, these were the *good* kind of orphans (as opposed to the *evil* kind of orphans), and they managed to drag his ass to safety.

Moral of the story: Snow is bad, and blood loss is a bitch.

I think I'm in the minority, but my favorite story was the one with Spider-Man.

Black Cat has been arrested for stealing something, and Spidey asks Matt to help clear her name.

Cuz, for once, she didn't actually do it!

It had more humor to it than the other two tales, and that's a big plus in my book. Besides that, I'm just a Spider-Man fan, and it was nice to see him again.

After all that, Mole Man starts stealing bodies from a cemetery. And one of those bodies is Battlin' Jack Murdock's!

Bum, Bum, Bum....

Turns out, the poor little dude just wants to dance with the corpse of a woman he used to work with topside.

That's not creepy at all.

Then Matt goes to visit Pyromania in prison to check on his living conditions.

I'm not sure about the back story between these two, but apparently DD sent him to jail.

Murdock kicks his ass, and then agrees to represent him.

The End.

Ok, not quite The End.

He still has to deal with the guys who are trying to get hold of some *NotSureWhatTheFuckItIs* device that Reed gave him. But it's got information about all the bad guys on it, and somehow if it gets out

Governments WILL Topple! The bad guys all want it, and Daredevil (for some reason) can't turn it over to the authorities.

So.

He (sort of) finds a way out of the mess. For now, anyway.

In the end, I liked this one a lot. Especially for a DD title.

If I can find more of Waid's run on this one, I'll definitely check it out.

Nancy Meservier says

Volume two continues Mark Waid's run on Daredevil. I really loved the first volume in this series, and found this one to me worth my time as well, even if I did take some issues with the art.

The story here mainly springs from a crossover involving Spider-man and the Black Cat, while continuing on the Omegadrive storyline. There's also a secondary arc where Matt finds his father's casket stolen, which brings him on an underground journey where he faces off against Mole-Man. Both stories are really enjoyable, with some interesting twists. We continue to have artwork by Paolo Rivera, and we also get fine work by Emma Rios (who's art I like, although I find her style suits a more indie style, like DeConnick's *Pretty Deadly*, than a mainstream superhero line). I was less fond of the two other contributors, but the one I

took the most issue with was Kano, mainly because of his depiction of the Black Cat. Listen, I get that she's sexy, but that doesn't mean that pretty much every panel she's in has to feature her ass or boobs thrusting out. Rivera draws her with a clear appreciation for her form but she never looks that objectified, even in a sex scene. Rios managed to draw her in a fricken towel, and she seemed less objectified there then when Kano drew her fighting crime. I'm probably devoting too many keystrokes to this, but it was really annoying, given that the graphic novel was really enjoyable beyond that.

If you like volume one, by all means continue with volume two. Mark Waid handles Daredevil very well, and I can't wait to see where he takes the character next.

Mike says

Great story with the blind kids, but an odd diversion from the main super-plot about megacrime, a SuperDrive (better than the Apple product, if you can imagine that) and Murdock keeping three steps ahead of deadly conspiracy (or something equally bombastic - where's Wacker when you need him?)

The crossover with Waid's first parter in Amazing Spider-Man falls a little flat, and I think it's because of the not-quite-there art by a persona known as "Kano". (Seriously? Who is this joker, giving themselves the Madonna or Jock treatment?) Also doesn't help that the smooth humour from Part 1 didn't stick around for Part 2. (Or again, it might be that the character drawings deflated any good sense the jokes had and they fled in embarrassment.)

Matt's tussle with Mole Man is a little poignant but ultimately inconsequential. Sad that that's how this plays out, as it could be so much more. Still, not bad.

(Marvel Unlimited didn't have the 10.1 issue so I don't actually know how that played. Assuming it's like most .1 books, it'll be a one-and-done re-entry point for the mythical "new readers", and I won't have missed anything except possibly a good story.)

If not for a little of the old Murdock paranoia and self-damage creeping in, I wouldn't think nearly as highly of this volume as I do.

Dan Schwent says

7 - Daredevil takes some kids on a field trip and the bus wrecks in a blizzard.

This was some serious shit. Daredevil and a busload of kids, most of them blind, wandering through a blizzard. Once again, Waid plays up what it's like to be blind, with or without radar sense. Good shit.

Amazing Spider-Man 677 - Fresh from being dumped, Spider-Man encounters the Black Cat. Shortly thereafter, she's arrested for breaking into Horizon Labs. Since he knows she was framed, Spidey enlists Daredevil to help him clear her name.

This issue demonstrates why Spider-Man and Daredevil have always worked well together and contrasts their crime-fighting styles. It also emphasizes that Daredevil is also a lawyer.

8 - Spidey and Daredevil are in trouble and it sure looks like Black Cat is behind it. Also, cemeteries are being found vandalized and one of the graves affected is that of Battlin' Jack Murdock.

That was pretty serpentine. The interplay between Spidey, Black Cat, and Daredevil was really enjoyable. I like where things are going with Daredevil and the Black Cat.

9 - The Mole Man is behind the graverobbing but why? That's what Daredevil means to find out!

Lots of good shit in this. Daredevil using a coffin as a raft. Mole Man dancing with a corpse. And the Black Cat has her paw in the cookie jar while Matt's underground. I love that Mark Waid is moving Daredevil away from the gritty crime corner of the Marvel Universe he's been trapped in for years.

10- Matt settles things with the Mole Man. Meanwhile, what's happened with the Omega Drive?

The battle with Mole Man was pretty great and the epilogue was also well done. I also liked how things went down with the Black Cat.

10.1 - Matt visits Pyromania in prison, a man Daredevil brought in. Turns out the word is out about the Omega Drive.

Pyromania telling Matt his version of his fight with Daredevil while seeing how it really went down was a nice touch. Things are progressing nicely. I'm guessing the Omega Drive will be the focus of the next volume.

Closing Thoughts: Mark Waid has done a lot to bring Daredevil out of the funk he's been in pretty much consistently since Frank Miller ran him through the meat grinder 30 years ago and into the Marvel Universe as a whole. The Omega Drive was a great maguffin and I'm hoping the Black Cat sticks around for a while. 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Jeb says

While I didn't like this volume quite as much as the previous one -- I wish that the wonderful Paolo Rivera had penciled all the issues, and the constant expository captions to re-establish who Daredevil is and what's currently happening in the story was a little distracting -- but it was still quite good, carried by Waid's new and compelling take on the classic character. I find myself a lot more interested in that side of it -- the character work, the relationships Daredevil has with those around him, and with himself -- than the ongoing story, which I feel is fairly standard comics fare. (view spoiler) I did enjoy the interplay between Spider-Man and DD, and I enjoyed DD's brief tryst with Black Cat, and I'm still glad to see Daredevil as a book that's high on adventure rather than angst and darkness.

Sesana says

Still enjoying this series. I know that this is a shift in tone for Daredevil, from ultra-angst to something on the

lighter side. I really like it. It makes Matt feel relatable, at least to a certain extent. If he were nothing but a ball of misery all the time, it wouldn't have much of an impact when his father's coffin vanishes underground. At any rate, I really like this version of Daredevil.

Noah Soudrette says

I decided to re-read volume one before I sank my teeth into this volume, and the brilliance of this series is really hitting home. While we have a few well crafted one-offs in this collection, the real gold is the continuing story line surrounding the Omega Drive and a crossover with everyone's favorite web-head. If I have any criticism, it's that the art is a little over the place in this volume. Thankfully, Rivera contributes his usual three issues, but we have Rios delivering the Spider-man issue, and Kano and Pham picking up the slack from the missing Marcos Martin, who is sorely missed here. Still, this book is worth every cent and a must own for those who were smart enough to pick up volume one.

Kemper says

This is the kind of stuff that makes comic fans a bunch of disgruntled malcontents who can never be happy.

I've ranted before about how Marvel has made a hash out of it's volumes and numbering systems making it increasingly difficult for someone working through the trade collections to read stuff in order. I knew that Mark Waid had done a new phase of Daredevil, and it's something I was curious about so when I ran across this collection labeled Volume 1 at the library, I grabbed it and gave it a read. Then I planned up to write up yet another one of my witty and insightful reviews telling the fine folks of Goodreads my opinion about it.

Of course, it couldn't be that easy because while I got what's listed as Volume 1 with the same cover matching what Goodreads lists as #1, it actually seems to be some kind of omnibus edition that actually includes all the issues through #10 along with an issue of Spider-Man. But the edition here lists it only as covering #1 -6 with Vol. 2 having the # 7 – 10 and the Spider-Man issue. I cannot find any edition on Goodreads that actually covers what was in the book I read.

Goddamnit, I just want to read about a blind lawyer who spends his nights acting as a vigilante in red tights beating up criminals. Why does it have to be so complicated?

So I'm posting the same review for both Vol. 1 & 2 and calling it a day. I'll also get credit for 2 books on the challenge. That's what you get for not having the correct editions, Goodreads! Rampant cheating of the system!

Onto the review:

Frank Miller deserves a lot of credit for making comics more mature and darker in content. Frank Miller also deserves a lot of blame for making comics more mature and darker in content. While it was his work on Batman's *The Dark Knight Returns* that most people point out at as a watershed moment, Miller dished out far more abuse to poor Matt Murdock who he treated like a noir hero who was destined to suffer. Just as countless creators spent years trying to make Batman as grim as possible after *DKR* and *Year One*, almost

every writer after the Daredevil *Born Again* storyline seemed to follow the Miller template of destroying Murdock every few years. Even popular runs by Bendis and Brubaker followed the Miller Maxim that Daredevil must be forever picking up the pieces of a shattered life.

And that made for some interesting stories but at this point, what else could you do to the poor bastard? Now that there seems to be some interest in rolling back the dark black curtains and letting a little sunshine into comic stories again, it's nice to see Matt Murdock smile. He's decided that he's tired of all the brooding grimness, and he wants to get back to being the swashbuckling hero he started out as. It almost seems like a testament to the power of positive thinking because in the old days if Daredevil tried to break up a hit at a Mafia wedding, he'd probably have ended up covered in the brains of the lucky couple. Now he saves the day and gives the bride a big kiss that ends up on the front page of *The Daily Bugle*.

The only fly in the ointment is that the secret is still out that Matt Murdock is Daredevil and although his legal maneuvering has kept that from being officially acknowledged as fact, it also makes it impossible for him to argue a case in court since any opposing lawyer can simply point out his reputed history as a masked vigilante. But Matt's can-do attitude carries over to a new business plan in which he and his partner Foggy start a new kind of legal business in which they coach people to represent themselves.

As a long time Daredevil fan, it made me stupidly happy to see Matt have some fun again. It also tones down the grungy street criminal factor and makes DD seem like a part of the routine Marvel universe again by having him mix it up with super-villains like Mole Man and team-up with Spider-Man as they try to clear Black Cat from a robbery accusation.

However, unlike a retcon, Matt's old history lurks out there and sometimes makes his new attitude seem delusional, maybe even dangerous. There are also hints that DD's methods remain shady for a superhero such as when he comes into evidence on the megacrime groups like Hydra and AIM, and instead of turning it over to the Avengers, he hangs onto and plays the factions off each other.

This was an interesting way to bring Daredevil out of the shadows but still keep some of the scar tissue he's collected over the years. I'll be reading more of this as long as I can figure out which damn book to get...

Jonathan says

I like what Waid is setting up with this volume.

The art is perfectly matched to the hornhead and his powers.

Plus who doesn't love a good team-up? Short though it may have been.

Jeff says

Buddy read with the lovely and awesome Anne. <https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/1...>

Daredevil is the last superhero you would want watching your kids. His being blind is the least of your worries. Take the first issue of this collection as a warning. He's riding in a bus as his alter ego, attorney-at-law and babe magnet, Matt Murdock, accompanied by some underprivileged kids. It's cold and snowing heavily. The bus crashes and the bus driver is killed. He in short order: hollers at the kids, changes into his Daredevil costume (How does this help? Now, these kids know his secret identity and the damn thing isn't fur lined), disses Spiderman (let's face it, the Web head had it coming), loses a kid, tries to give them a lame pep talk and (view spoiler).

The kids would have been in better hands with Dr. Doom. I hear he can make balloon animals.

The rest of this issue has a Spiderman story already published elsewhere (GAH!), an encounter with the ultra-creepy Moleman and one of the better superhero-in-prison-just-visiting-but-now-in-danger-and-not-trying-to-reveal-his-secret-identity-even-though-a-bunch-of-kids-on-a-crashed-bus-and-half-of-New-York-already-know-it story line since Clark Kent visited Lex Luthor in prison in All-American Superman (the highlight of that collection).
