



Aquaman, Volume 3: Throne of Atlantis

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Aquaman, who long ago lost contact with his people, must watch as armies emerge from the sea to attack the surface world. The Justice League answers the call to defend the shores from the invading Atlantean horde. But whose side is Aquaman on? With his brother Orm at the head of the undersea army, will Aquaman stand with his Earth-bound superteam? Or his own people?

Collecting: *Aquaman* 0, 14-16 & *Justice League* 15-17

Aquaman, Volume 3: Throne of Atlantis Details

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Download and Read Free Online Aquaman, Volume 3: Throne of Atlantis Geoff Johns (Writer) , Paul Pelletier (Illustrator) , Ivan Reis (Illustrator) , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Pere Pérez (Illustrator) , Joe Prado (Illustrator) , Sean Parsons (Illustrator) , Art Thibert (Illustrator) , more... Oclair Albert (Illustrator) , Marlo Alquiza (Illustrator) , Ruy Jose (Illustrator) , Karl Kesel (Illustrator) , Cam Smith (Illustrator) ...less

From Reader Review Aquaman, Volume 3: Throne of Atlantis for online ebook

Chris says

Any Aquaman fan knows just how wrong the "Aquaman sucks" jokes have become, but fortunately writer Geoff Johns makes sure that all the naysayers are missing out on another must-have collection. Throne Of Atlantis is an epic story with incredibly detailed artwork, great characterisation and huge action that rivals any blockbuster movie. Oh, and it crosses over with the Justice League series in style!

After an introductory look at Aquaman's early days, the book introduces key characters and delves into the often-teased history of Atlantis. Ruler of the sunken city and brother to the sea-faring superhero, Orm is a captivating and complex character. His perspective and reasoning are truly unique and his powers make him a real threat to the "surface world", unlike some enemies the League have faced in the past. When Atlantis attacks it's truly a sight to behold, expertly rendered in part by Ivan Reis who's work is highly detailed. Fellow readers will be admiring every detail in the stunning splash pages. New Aquaman artist Paul Pelletier has a similar, if not quite as impressive style and his pencils make for a cohesive look alongside the work of the other artists involved.

Unfortunately, there's little to divulge about the plot without heading into spoiler territory. I'll just say that while the Justice League all get their moment in the spotlight, they are still outdone by Aquaman and his supporting characters. (view spoiler)

Readers who've been following Aquaman's adventures since the start of the New 52 will get more out of this tale, but hopefully the story will convert Justice League fans and maybe a few critics, too! Throne Of Atlantis is not to be missed.

Jedi JC Daquis says

2018 reread:

I've been rereading my Aquaman comics after watching the movie. James Wan's bigscreen adaptation of the DC superhero got many story elements like plots, characters and even some setpieces from this run.

I liked it before, and I still like it now. Throne of Atlantis is the climactic battle Geoff Johns has been building up since the start of his New52 Aquaman run. It offers some mindless popcorn action and entertainment which is well worth your time.

2013 review:

Geoff Johns has again proven that he can write grand battle scenes. Throne of Atlantis is an epic war between Atlanteans, superheroes, and the trench monsters. So many characters in play and things happening means that this volume is teeming with full-page panels and spreads. Oh how I love to look at every page. I'm happy to see lower-tier superheroes in action. The third volume ends with a change in Aquaman's status quo. Throne of Atlantis is worth every penny you have spent buying it.

Gianfranco Mancini says

A more than good action-packed JL crossover volume.

Ivan Reis' artworks are the stuff dreams are made of, and the Superman/Wonder Woman "date on disguise" was too much hilarious.

Anne says

Re-read 2016

I mainly decided to re-read Johns' entire run because I made my teenage son to read them.

Yeah.

That's right. I *forced* my kid to read Aquaman comics, because he (like some of you) was making fun of me for my obsession with this character.

So. Since I'm not only his mother, but also an *asshole*, I picked up all four volumes of this sucker, and plopped them down in front of him.

Me: Read 'em.

Him: Are you *serious*?

Me: *raises eyebrow*

Him: Alright! Alright! Jesus!

And do you wanna know what he thought?

Well, I'm going to tell you anyway...

He LOVED them!

And as an added bonus, he ended up having to admit that **Mom** was **right**.

Original review: 2014

Why in the world aren't more people reading this title?!

Throne of Atlantis is a really strong volume for the Aquaman title.

Ok, ok...

Maybe the story fell off a little during Aquaman, Vol. 2: The Others.

I still thought it was pretty good, dammit!

But volume 3 is exceptional!

In this one we meet Arthur's brother, Orm, and we get a bit of backstory on their relationship.

His character is a bit morally ambiguous, and by the end you're left wondering what side of the *Good Guy/Bad Guy* fence he's going to end up falling on.

We also meet Arthur's mentor, who plays a surprising role in the drama that's about to unfold.

The plot goes something like this:

A naval ship's missile goes rogue (for no apparent reason), and detonates underwater. At first, it's not terribly worrying, because there's supposedly nothing charted around the area where the missile was headed.

Unfortunately, it hit Atlantis.

Orm (now the Atlantean king) attacks the surface world in retaliation, and Arthur is forced to choose sides.

Lots of great battle scenes in this one, folks!

Atlantis' army and technology is more than expected, which necessitates putting out the call to an assload of superhumans for support. So we kind of have the beginnings of the Justice League opening up the doors to new members.

Fun Fact:

For once, Hawkman makes an appearance without killing a story!

Of course, *someone* must have been responsible for the initial attack on Atlantis, so there's a nice little Whodunnit playing out in the background of the battles.

Oh, and those monsters from the Trench play a role in the story, too. Nice to know reading volume 2 wasn't a waste.

Mera is still such a kick-ass character, and while she's being portrayed in a great light, I'd still love to see her get more page time. Maybe her own title?

Hint, hint...

Highly recommended!

Seriously!

Also posted at Addicted2Heroines

Eli says

Another good volume in this series!

I had already read about half of this volume through Geoff Johns' Justice League series but I preferred reading it in the context of Aquaman because it makes more sense and it's easier to be empathetic towards Arthur.

Basically the issues that Atlantis has underwater (and trust me, there are a ton) have exploded onto the surface via subtle manipulations of a character I'm not going to spoil. The complexities of Arthur's character have again shown up here. He feels he must defend people living on land and the Justice League when they do not trust and respect him (the Justice League trusts and respects him, citizens don't), but he also feels he must stay true to his Atlantean heritage and his half-brother.

Just an all-around enjoyable comic with action, drama, romance, and suspense.

Bookwraiths says

Damn, Aquaman is a total badass! What the hell alternate reality am I living in?

I have to admit I've never been an Aquaman fan. The whole talking to fish thing wasn't very impressive, but Geoff Johns has worked miracles with this character. The story here was gripping, action-packed, and emotional; the art, meanwhile, was truly breathtaking, doing justice to every one of the great DC characters as well as the undersea world itself.

For whatever it is worth, I'm a huge fan of this Aquaman, as most superhero fans should be.

Gavin says

OK, so this is unprecedented...Geoff Johns has been involved in a storyline I've enjoyed for 3 volumes in a row...oh, and it's AQUAMAN.

The only drawback is that this volume includes some Justice League issues that I've already read and apparently didn't enjoy. So Ya, somehow that Origin issue of Aquaman was much more enjoyable, Arthur accepts who he is, meets Vulko (who's OBVIOUSLY drawn in a way that gives away plenty.....) and returns to Atlantis.

The JL stuff was still kinda dumb, the reserves being called in was cool, but seriously, ELEMENT WOMAN??? VIXEN??? Hawkman and Firestorm, sure, Black Canary and Lightning, OK, even Zatana, but those ????

Issue #14 of Aquaman is missing from Vol. 3 of Justice League, and it's actually a pretty crucial piece of the puzzle, and probably the other reason I like this version of the story than the JL version. Here Arthur and Orm have an actual conversation like adults, and Orm comes across as perfectly reasonable and actually having some love/respect for his half-brother. When you put it into the context of the whole story of Atlantis attacking Earth, it adds more to the story and the shades of grey that everyone lives in.

Here's a strength; everyone IS a shade of Grey. There's no absolutes. As much as Arthur shouldn't be attacking JL members, the JL members seem pretty dense about things (other than Batman, who's just his usual self, but actually gives Arthur more leeway than I've seen him give anyone).

#14 also has a great section with Black Manta in Belle Reve Prison and his interactions with Amanda Waller. His actions here do more to build him up as a pretty badass mofo. When he tells Waller what he does (view spoiler) it only makes him a much stronger character in my mind.

When you add the events of 14 to the whole story, it makes it flow much better, gives a depth of understanding to characters, and adds borderline levels of Greek Tragedy to the relationship between Orm and Arthur. The JL Vol. 3 collection omits this issue, so we lose out on that whole part, which I actually feel is crucial to the feel/emotion/shades of grey.

Oh and to echo Anne's thoughts...Mera IS a badass. She for sure deserves her own miniseries or at least a spot on Birds of Prey (they could call it Fighting Fish and crosspromote with Namor!).

So even though the difference between Vol. 3 of Aquaman and Vol. 3 of JL is but 2-3 issues change, it makes a WORLD of difference...I'd up my review to 3.5 stars.

Looking forward to Vol. 4 (I've already read it, so I'll put my thoughts up now.)

Get this review and more at:

Chad says

Decided to do a re-read after watching Aquaman. Atlantis attacks the surface after some missiles inadvertently hit Atlantis. There are so many great character moments interspersed between epic battles. I loved Superman and Wonder Woman's first date. It was delightful. Amanda Waller trying to recruit Black Manta to the Suicide Squad. How great was that? Cyborg's sacrifice. Theirs so much to love. Johns masterfully reconstructed Orm's character. He's actually a good king protecting his kingdom. I really liked how Orm and Arthur really cared for one another and hated being on opposing sides. Ivan Reis's and Paul Pelletier's art is sublime. Even though their styles are different, they meshed really well together.

Caitlin says

Geoff Johns is making me into an Aquaman fan, and that is a statement I can safely say I never expected to write.

In volume three, Johns brings in a number of different threads that have been building in the previous volumes and sets in motion a war between Atlantis and the "surface dwellers." The Dead King's scepter, capable of sinking entire islands into the ocean, has fallen into the hands of some mysterious Atlantean benefactor and when missiles are suddenly retargeted to fall on Atlantis, it becomes clear that this person has war in mind. Arthur, along with the rest of the Justice League, must somehow get the Atlanteans not to destroy entire cities in their quest for vengeance **and** find out who is behind it all.

One of the greatest strengths of this volume is the focus it puts on relationships between Arthur and the other characters. I was particularly impressed by the ties built between him and his brother Orm, the current king of Atlantis. The idea that Orm would have been raised, in common with the other Atlanteans, to both hate and fear the surface dwellers who have repeatedly murdered them and poisoned their home makes perfect sense. It made it easy to understand why Orm would turn to war when the missiles fell on Atlantis. The dichotomy between Orm, the full Atlantean, and Arthur, who has a foot in both worlds, was really well done. And I loved the relationship between Aquaman and Batman. Batman is one of the few who trusts Aquaman and understands that he has to deal with his brother without outside interference. Throughout, the relationships between characters were very well written and compelling. It made the volume an extremely fast read for me.

What makes it a bit of a tough read is the end. (view spoiler)

This Aquaman series is doing exactly what the Wonder Woman one never did for me. It's epic, compelling and really making me love a superhero I never gave a shit about before. Definitely one of the must-read New 52 series!

Sesana says

For most of the time I was reading this book, I was greatly enjoying it. It's a big event, but there's a personal element to it, too: Atlantis invades the surface world, forcing Aquaman to choose sides. And there's plenty of cool stuff going on. It helps that Mera remains ridiculously awesome, and that Aquaman's enemy Black Manta has a scene that makes him so much cooler and more intimidating than I ever would have expected him to be. And there's a really fun scene with Clark teaching Diana how glasses can be a good disguise. So far, so good.

And then I get to end of the book and something hits me. This whole war with Atlantis starts when renegade naval missiles hit Atlantis. Surely, this had some sort of effect in Atlantis. Surely, there was damage, injuries, even fatalities. Surely. But I can only speculate, because not one single person on the surface side seems to care in the least that Atlantis was attacked, not even Aquaman. At no point does anyone even acknowledge that the events that triggered Atlantis to attack are actually, legitimately terrible, and actually, legitimately something that an actual, totally sane country would go to war over. At no point is there any expression of regret at their losses, or an understanding that maybe the Atlanteans have a right to be upset. Only the lives of humans matter in this book, which is a genuinely uncomfortable prospect when two members of the team aren't human.

Which makes the supposedly triumphant ending that much more sour to me. The current king of Atlantis, Arthur's half-brother Orm, is repeatedly shown to be, in general, a good man, a good king, and has nothing but the best interest of his people at heart. So when Arthur defeats him and takes his throne (view spoiler) and has Orm thrown into a human prison, I can't see it as a victory at all. There's no real attempt to explain why what Orm did was so wrong. In the real world, one country attacking another by firing missiles into what seems to be a civilian area is an act of war, and responding in kind is neither shocking nor abhorrent. Yes, it's obvious to the reader from very early on that the U.S. government didn't intentionally fire those missiles at Atlantis, but how is Atlantis in general or Orm in particular supposed to know or trust that?

It kind of looks like I'm in the minority in even thinking along these lines. Those thoughts really did bring my enjoyment of the book as a whole crashing down. No, it isn't an inherently bad premise, but the presentation is very one-sided. Unless we're meant to think that the Justice League as a whole, including the current king of Atlantis, really doesn't care about Atlanteans.

Jan Philipzig says

Well, that wasn't the most organic or convincing story in the world, was it? But I guess that's beside the point, as long as it results in a war that looks like a cross between the movies *Pearl Harbour, 2012* and *Piranha*. Seriously, where did all the fun and charm from Volume 1 go?

Jayson says

(A-) 80% | Very Good

Notes: It crumbles characters to complexity by catastrophe and costly concessions: couching cultivation in cinematic clamor.

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

This could have been...would have been a helluva lot better if it hadn't been a bloody cross-over event.

Its what I hate most about Marvel and DC, and why I often find myself giving up on their titles. Why cant we just have self contained stories? Why? WHHHHHY?

I remember when cross-overs were saved for something special. When it was actually an event. Now its just a money grab to make us buy other titles.

Fuck you.

Anyways.

Phew.

After all that...I enjoyed it well enough. I just wish it was all in its own comic.

Meh.

Sam Quixote says

I get it now - Geoff Johns is the comic book Michael Bay! Do you like massive, loud action scenes strung together with a nonsensical "story"? Look no further than Throne of Atlantis, this summer's blockbuster (s)hit!

Ok, this whole review is going to look into why Throne of Atlantis is one big DUUUUUH so it's going to be packed with spoilers - if you haven't read this yet and you're just looking for a yay or nay review, my answer is: if you've enjoyed New 52 Aquaman so far, you'll like this; if not, it won't change your mind. It's Geoff Johns being Geoff Johns and that's something you either like or dislike at this point.

Right, from now on here be spoilers.

Missiles from a military cruiser are fired at Atlantis precipitating an attack from the current King of Atlantis, Orm, who is Arthur's half-brother. In retaliation, the Atlantean army launches a massive tidal wave against the East Coast of America, putting Gotham and Metropolis under water, and follows it up with a land invasion. Will the Justice League be up for the challenge? Sigh... here we go again, Papa Johns.

If you've read your share of superhero comics, you'll know that most superhero fights, big or small, could be avoided with a simple conversation between the two combatants and, usually, this dialogue would then make fighting redundant as the problem is usually a trite misunderstanding. That's what Throne is like, right from the get go. Orm should've spoken to the Justice League about the missile attack who could've spoken to the US Military and Orm would've discovered that the attack was unintentional and that starting a war would be a waste of their resources, not to mention lives. Furthermore, they could combine forces to find the real culprit behind the malicious attack a lot faster. But no, that would mean no big splash pages (pun not intended but very appropriate!) and no "story", flimsy as it is. So to war they go, manipulated easier than puppets!

I'm going to skip ahead to the finale now because the middle is just one long fight scene between the Justice League and the Atlanteans in the unending rain. Orm proves he's a tough dude (because I guess that was important?), the Atlanteans as well, while Hawkman even shows up at one point and DOESN'T wreck the book which is a tiny miracle (though his inclusion is pointless - what's a winged dimwit with a mace going to do against a tidal wave?).

There's some fine art from Ivan Reis (who draws the Justice League issues) and Paul Pelletier (who draws the Aquaman issues - yeah, both titles get splashed together in this book because DC apparently stands for Dumb Crossovers), even though the splash pages are busier than Oxford Street on Christmas week. But the art does look stream-lined and has this modern comics cinematic look to it with wide panels and splash pages, all of which complements the story well.

So: the incredibly stupid finale.

It's revealed that Arthur's exiled advisor, Vulko, is behind all this madness. Who's Vulko? He's an older gentleman who's rocking a ponytail possibly to make up for the lack of hair on top, has a bit of a belly, and spends his free time on the Scandinavian shore untangling fishing lines. He's also nursing a grudge against Atlantis for banishing him and wants to see Arthur as the King of Atlantis because... well, HE thinks that's who should be on the throne, even though no-one else, including Arthur, thinks this way.

So that must mean Atlantis is a disaster right - some kind of dictatorial nightmare for Vulko to go to such drastic lengths to change the leadership? Actually, Atlantis is a very decent place under Orm's rule. It appears prosperous and he's actually quite a progressive leader, taking a strong stance against superstitious nonsense and punishing those who would threaten children. That's how Orm is introduced by the way, as a leader who cares about the safety and well-being of his people and makes a good call by standing up to thug violence. And he's the bad guy!?

Vulko somehow - it's never actually explained how he does this - manages to get a US Navy Cruiser to fire its payload at Atlantis because he thinks, rightly as it turns out, that Atlantis will throw its full force in retaliation to the surface world and cause Arthur to choose to take the throne of Atlantis for himself. Ok... few problems with this.

How did Vulko know Atlantis would succeed in a war against the surface world, who count amongst their number Superman, the most powerful being on the planet, along with Wonder Woman, J'onn J'onzz, and numerous others? It would be more likely that Atlantis would lose this war and the city would be destroyed, so Arthur would never have been king at all as the throne and the people would no longer exist.

Also, whichever side lost, how does he know Aquaman's response to finding out this was all to manipulate him into taking the throne, would be to take the throne? It'd make more sense that he would refuse any claim to the throne forever based off of the bloodshed this war has caused. And, once again, Atlantis is ruled by a good king, Orm, who is reacting to an act of war (a bit too reactively but then Johns isn't writing him with much intelligence) - Aquaman could well say, Orm is the king, he is my brother, I'm in the Justice League,

let's all just learn to get along, ok? And next time, let's TALK FIRST before doing anything rash!

Maybe you're thinking, well, clearly Vulko's crazy, that's why his plan doesn't make a lick of sense - you can't rationally explain a madman's ideas. And you'd be right, except that Aquaman validates Vulko's insane plan by accepting the throne of Atlantis and returning to be the king!! His reaction when he finds out that Vulko was behind everything is basically: "You did all of this just to get me back on the throne - do you have any idea HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED?!?! I accept". Wait - what?! So I guess Vulko was right to do what he did? His plan did work. (To be fair, the scene where Aquaman yells "I AM YOUR KING!!!" is really funny so it was kinda worth it)

Meanwhile, Orm, whom I felt more sympathetic towards after re-reading parts of the book, gets locked up on land while Vulko goes to an Atlantean jail - why? Vulko's by far the worse of the two - he should be punished the most by staying on land. Already Arthur's first decision as new king is questionable - it'd be amazing if he turned out to be a worse ruler than Orm!

Everything about the plot of this book makes no sense when you stop and think about it for a moment. It's just a lazy excuse to have a giant fight between the Justice League and the Atlantean army because big, dumb, loud action scenes sell comics. This is why Johns is the comic book Michael Bay - they both choose mindless action over everything else.

Like a Transformers movie, you can appreciate the energy and effort that's gone into making the book look flashy and attractive but look beneath the surface and it's a staggeringly stupid and failed attempt at good storytelling.

(All that, and I didn't even mention how bizarre it was that Orm managed to defeat Superman, Wonder Woman AND Batman in one go!! And there's a Justice League/Throne of Atlantis book? The whole story is right here in this volume! What, they throw in a couple extra Justice League issues and then duplicate this volume for a whole "new" volume? What a ripoff! Cynical, cynical DC.)

James DeSantis says

I already reviewed 2/3rds of this book with JLA. So I won't go in to great detail on it. I liked the setup issues for the big Throne of Atlantis fight. Just keep in mind shit's about to go DOWN but if you read it in Justice League you might be disappointed.

What I liked: The set up, the war, the brotherly fight. This is everything Aquaman is about. It's truly a amazing arc and one of the best for our young King. The ending is bitter sweet and really sets up the finish for Johns run.

What I didn't like: The fact I read it haha. That and the Justice League were acting kind of dumb here.

Read my Justice League review to get all my hyped moments for this fight. However, don't get it twisted, this is one of the best Aquaman arcs I've ever read!
