



Justice League International, Vol. 5

Keith Giffen , J.M. DeMatteis , Bart Sears (Illustrator) , Pablo Marcos (Illustrator)

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The fifth volume collecting the wacky (mis)adventures of the 1980s Justice League of America. The team is reborn in this volume as Justice League International, featuring heroes including The Flash, Power Girl, Metamorpho, Animal Man and The Elongated Man, all operating under the mysterious influence of Maxwell Lord.

Justice League International, Vol. 5 Details

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From Reader Review Justice League International, Vol. 5 for online ebook

Jdetrick says

The JLE book was good, but I don't think ever quite as good as the original JL book. After this batch of stories it became a slightly more traditional superhero team book, which was effective counter programming to the increasing sitcom like status of the parent title.

Timothy Boyd says

Sometime you just gotta have fun, even in the superhero world of stopping crime and evil. JLI is that fun answer to the superhero world. Nicely written and drawn stories make this an enjoyable read. Recommended

Matt says

This book's got some fun stories, especially the story where Metamorpho goes off to find his kid. The one downside is the awful, awful art by Bart Sears, who never met an anatomy he couldn't screw up.

Michael says

No more hardcovers of this series. Not that DC put much care into the hardcovers anyway.

JLI Annuals 2 & 3 - 2's fun, with Joker being hired to assassinate the JLI - of course, if you've read the collections in sequence, he's hired by the late leader of Bialya - Queen Bee killed him a while back! Not much foresight here. Still, it's a funny lark of an issue. Annual 3's a little more forgettable - the humor's not as good, although there is some good banter. DeMatteis gets to get introspective in the second tale, getting inside J'Onn's head nicely.

The first six issues of JLE are here also. They're pretty solid - the French school issue remains a blast, as is the team's takedown of Queen Bee. The character dynamics aren't nearly as strong as those in JLA at this stage - and they'll never really get that strong. DeMatteis leaves the series after issue 6, and subsequent scripters, Bill Messner-Loebs & Gerard Jones, are capable enough, but can't weave humor and character like Marc.

Metamorpho - a character I'm pretty indifferent to - gets a nice spotlight in JLE 5, as his memory returns when Sapphire and Java show up. Lots of great comedy in this chapter!

Shannon Appelcline says

The highlight of this volume is clearly the Jonn Jonnz story from JLI Annual #3, which is a superb bit of

characterization. The four-issue Queen Bee storyline from JLE is also good, as it nicely highlights the characters of a new League against an old foe. The biggest problem of the JLE is that it just isn't as funny as the original book. Still, this is generally an enjoyable volume.

Laura says

Not as good as it's predecessors. Perhaps due to a lack of Blue Beetle/Booster Gold cameos. Illustration was quite horrid at times. The jokes were incredibly lame. I only really remember the story about the cookout, which was awful.

Justin Blair says

Not the best volume in the run. Still not terrible. The last story about Martian Manhunter and Batman is probably the best even with pretty wonky art.

Steve says

This volume collects Justice League Europe 1-6, and Justice League International Annuals 2 and 3.

It very much focuses on the JLE at their Paris Embassy.

Annoyingly, the inclusion of JLI Annual 2 means that stories that take place before some of the stories in JLI Volume 4 are included here.

However, the stories are decent (if unspectacular) and artwork the same. The humour is still present, though some of it (Wally West in particular) feels a little forced.

Danielroffle says

Typical Giffen/DeMattheis silliness. A few more groans than I remember from previous volumes - the writer's complete oblivion to the fact that Brazilians speak Portuguese, not Spanish, ranks up there - but some good laughs, too. An insistence on making the art truly cartoony highlights the JLI's strong suits: unlike the current DC universe, these comics were never loaded down with either ponderous hero worship or "mature" (which is to say juvenile) violence.

Steven says

Koeykoeykoey Or Bust!

The hilarity continues as the Justice League International collections move out of hardcover to trade

paperback and start collecting the Justice League Europe run, wherein Captain Atom is handed the reins of a spin-off team that's considerably more dysfunctional than he ever expected...with disaster raining down from all sides, a distinctly disenchanted French government casting a beady eye on them, and, most horrifying of all, French lessons for most of the team. Also, the amnesiac Metamorpho's ex-widow shows up. For extra icing, Flash, Wally West, is still an obnoxious sexist, which particularly aggravates Power Girl.

This won't be to the tastes of everyone, of course, given that the goofiness is front and center (with the exception of William Messner-Loebs' J'onn J'onzz story from JLI ANNUAL #3) and the plots take something of a back seat. Also, the artwork by Bart Sears has a craggy, big-hair ugliness to it that can be very distracting at times, particularly with Power Girl. The deliberate lack of political correctness will also unsettle some readers...Giffen and DeMatteis aren't fond of coloring inside the lines at times. Messner-Loebs cheerfully follows suit in Annual #3's first story, which introduces Kooeykooeykooey and its bizarre cargo-cult tribe.

I enjoyed this collection, but I happen to have a fondness for this era of the League.

James Bowman says

(This review covers Vol. 4, Vol. 5, and Vol. 6.)

I was only halfway through the JLI trades, and had considered getting rid of them. Now I'm glad I kept them around! The mix of humor and heroism here is the perfect antidote to the grimdark of DC's current titles. The JLI/JLA stories are a little more appealing to me than the JLE stories, but they're both fun. I'm just annoyed Volume 6 ends on a cliffhanger... (B)
