



## Justice League of America, Vol. 2: The Lightning Saga

*Brad Meltzer , Geoff Johns , Ed Benes (Illustrator) , Shane Davis (Illustrator) , Dale Eaglesham (Illustrator) , Jim Lee (Illustrator) , Adam Kubert (Illustrator) , George Pérez (Illustrator) , more... Patton Oswalt (Introduction) ...less*

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Number-one bestselling novelist Brad Meltzer joins forces with top comics writer Geoff Johns for this incredible graphic novel bringing together the DC Universes top super-teams! Two of DCs biggest super-teams the Justice League of America, featuring Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman and more, and the Justice Society of America, including Hawkman, Wildcat and others join forces in this stunning hardcover volume! The JLA has discovered that several members of the Legion of Super-Heroes from the 31st century are in the present. With the help of the JSA, Superman and his team must track down all seven Legionnaires to discover why these heroes of the future have traveled back in time!

### Justice League of America, Vol. 2: The Lightning Saga Details

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Author : Brad Meltzer , Geoff Johns , Ed Benes (Illustrator) , Shane Davis (Illustrator) , Dale Eaglesham (Illustrator) , Jim Lee (Illustrator) , Adam Kubert (Illustrator) , George Pérez (Illustrator) , more... Patton Oswalt (Introduction) ...less

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## From Reader Review Justice League of America, Vol. 2: The Lightning Saga for online ebook

### Dan says

This follow up to the story line in "Justice Society of America: the Next Age" takes the Justice League / Justice Society crossover to new heights when authors Brad Meltzer & Geoff Johns also bring in the Legion of Superheroes from the 31st Century. The catch is that the Legion members are not letting even their old friend and honorary member Kal-El (Superman) in on their secret mission. Seven Legion members have been sent back in time for their own secret mission and it looks like they all know that one of them won't be coming back. What is this mission, why are they keeping secrets and how do the LSA, JLA and Legion all interact? You've just gotta read it to see. (Easter Egg: look for the reference to 'Kingdom Come') Fantastic artwork throughout (in different styles) really adds to the story too. Plus, there are a few follow up stories included at the end, which address why this new Justice League looks so different from what we're used to. Oh, and the introduction to the trade graphic novel by Patton Oswalt is great too!

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### Richard Barnes says

Maybe I'm getting old, but surely, just because the target audience for comic books is assumed to be teenage males, is that any excuse for the sheer size and prominence of Power Girl's chest?

It doesn't help that there is no villain to speak of, huge chunks of the story require way too much historical background that the casual reader will just not know and that the big reveal/ finale/ whatever is yet another case of a dead hero coming back from the dead.

The death of a major character in the superhero worlds of DC or Marvel can have no impact whatsoever these days - the fact is that whoever has died will be turning up again within a couple of years as part of yet another "event"!

This volume is padded out with a story that elevates this review to two stars - featuring a couple of under-powered heroes trapped in a tiny space in a building that is slowly collapsing around them, and a Superman/ Batman/ Wonder Woman story which treads over the tired old ground of their special bond and how awesomely important they are.

While I'm ranting about the sad state of superhero comics - what happened to heroes taking on villains? Why must we have this constant introspective drivel about how these characters feel?

Yuck, bring back the fun Justice League International - a bunch of B listers who actually did stuff rather than just save the multi-verse and get all angsty about it.

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### Agung Ramdani says

justice league of america — the lightning saga

first of all brad meltzer + geoff johns creates an art together ugh their minds it amazes me sometime

Second the book the motherf\*ckin book overall story, art, everythinggg i lived, i breathed for this book

Third and once again thank you for introducing me to some new amazing characters i need to find more about legion of superheroes also need to pick up some justice society. And i like the teams blended together even without a threat or some evil villainous this books still stand out for me in so many ways because i'm a new reader and i get to know all these characters.

Ugh I appreciate this book a lot i don't know what to say.. the only think on my thoughts is THANK YOU GEOFF AND MELTZER

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### **Tom Malinowski says**

This storyline more than 10 years old? Sigh, where did the time go? Spot on writing by Johns and Meltzer as they incorporate the Legion of Super-Heroes post Infinite Crisis by having the Justice League of America team up with the Justice Society of America. That flavor, that feel definitely isn't around today. I really miss the pre-52 era. Maybe one day it can return to that kind of family/historic feel. Anywho, specific Legionnaires are dispersed in the past, but why? Who do they want to bring back? Good stuff.

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### **Mark says**

I found *The Lightning Saga* to be a confusing and uninvolved mess. It's hard to care about any of the characters and the plot isn't particularly gripping. There are so many characters from the Justice League, the Justice Society, and the Legion of Superheroes that don't really get explained, it felt like there was some additional homework that I should've been doing to get everything straight. The last issue about the big three, Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman, was pretty good but still suffered from having to know a lot about DC comics history.

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### **Jay says**

Happy ending, but pretty boring (and confusing) up to that point.

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### **John Yelverton says**

This book series continues its standard of excellence.

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### **Kym McBride says**

I was drawn to this book because of Brad Meltzer. I have read his adult fiction thriller books. I have never been a comic book person, even in my youth. So I wanted to see an 'adult comic book'. What I learned is I

AM NOT A COMIC BOOK PERSON. That seems to be a world I can't get my head around. So it would be a great injustice to try and review a book that is not in my color wheel. (LOL made a joke and I didn't know it..." it would be a great injustice..." and the book is called "The Justice League of America! LOL)

Anyway, I will review the imagery in the book. That, I feel I can have an opinion on. So this is for you...oh, crap. In this comic book world, there is not just one artist/illustrator by a whole group of pencilers, inkers, artists, letterers, colorists.....I guess giving my opinion is going to be harder than I thought!

Well, here goes. The cover is beautiful. I love the variation of characters and poses. I love that a woman is the center figure on the cover, and that it is a beloved female superhero, Wonder Woman. So yes, I was drawn to this cover. Whoever did it - good job.

One thing though. I know that this is NOT something that a book cover person has control over, but it is a pet peeve. All the stickers that the book stores and libraries (yes, I have a library copy) put all over the books, it blocked out some of the title of the book and on the back they covered up the blurb on the back cover. So maybe artist's need to take that into considering when they make the covers. In this case, the lettering on the cover is from tip of the right side to the tip of the left side, so it would for sure be covered up by stickers. Just a note to think about.

The front cover has the image of a variety of characters wrapped around onto the back. Not as interesting, it looked awkward. But at least they didn't attempt to write the blurb on top of all the color images, they put the blurb in a black background column with white print. Legible, thanks.

The colors and images were very well done (by whom ever!) I liked the imagery a lot. The content page has a page and 1/2 of all these unique characters (at least to me) all standing around kibitzing with each other. Much like a casual shot of a bunch of people starting to line up for a group shot. I like this and found it intriguing. It appears they are having loose conversations and interesting body language. No voice bubbles. One female character is moving away from a scary looking animal dude. Funny.

Later in the book, they actually used that same page that grabbed me and then had all the voice bubbles with what each were saying to each other, that was a treat. Seeing Batman in conversation with a busty (VERY BUSTY) blond while he drinks a cup of tea! Funny! (and he appeared to be staring at her breasts the whole time. ugh)

Layout. I LOVED the variety of layout formats used. I have to admit, that I ended up looking up what the actual terms for comic book formats were. So even though I didn't understand the comic book, I did LEARN something from it. Let's see if I can give you, my reader some education too. The layout in these types of books are called the comic paneling. The usually use a 9 or 6 grid format on a page. They also use Big frames (1/2 page or full page) to show the importance of that frame in the story line. They also use small frames to lead you along in the story. I couldn't find all the names for these layouts, but I will list out some of the layouts that I enjoyed a lot: they intermixed small panels with long -widescreen panels (ones that are narrow and long, sometimes horizontal and others vertical.) I loved the full page panels where they had lots of room to give vivid detailed actions shots.

In one entire chapter they used a frame edging that I liked. It had wide screen panels with a ripped edging. The character is trapped under a building, and the ripped edging of the story ADDS to the crushed world in the story line. Brilliant! And when they were bouncing from the trapped area to the above ground scenes, the ripped frame allowed me to know 'where we are now' in the story. So it was a very good way to allow the reader to follow the movement of the story.

I really enjoyed the variety of characters and the uniforms and such. Not being in this comic book world, I had no idea who 99% of them were, so it was an enjoyable part of the book. But not a bunch of reality going

on here. Every guy had rock hard abs and legs. And not a inch of anything but detail in the costume...

Now, for this next part, I have wrestled with my opinion on the women's portrayal in this comic book world. And I know that mostly men read these books....And I will be booed for saying this but WHY DO ALL THE FEMALE CHARACTERS NEED TO BE HAVING ALL THEIR PARTS HANGING OUT INTO THE WORLD? One jump off a building, and those tiny fabrics will give! And the breasts are bad enough but now they have the high cut legs that leave NOTHING to the imagination! Guys....I know....but COME ON. I know you are 'in another world' but don't they have GRAVITY there either? Ugh. Ok. I had my peace. I'll move on.

I'm going to rate this book on IMAGERY ALONE. Not the story line, since I just could not follow it. It's like reading a book in a different language.

So would I recommend? If you're a guy? Yes. If you have that kind of brain that can follow this? Yes, if you like imagery that is full of movement (not the breasts, they are cemented in place), but lots of action? Yes.

If you don't get comic book world speak....PASS. But visually pleasing.

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## Barbara says

Yes, the story is convoluted. That's almost to be expected when you have more than one author; here, we're gifted with novelist Brad Meltzer and comic writer Geoff Johns. The story involves three super teams: the Justice League of America, the Justice Society of America, and the Legion of Super-Heroes (from the 31st century). Seven of the Legion have been trapped in time in different areas and it's up to the JSA and JLA to determine where and why. The artwork by Ed Benes is terrific, and the ending is worth it. Also, pick this up for one of the best written and illustrated comic stories ever: "Walls" by Brad Meltzer with claustrophobia-inducing pictures by the very talented Gene Ha.

Re-read in 2016: This is a strange story. Brad Meltzer, Geoff Johns, and several good artists and pencillers worked together on it, but in the end, it's a bit confusing and unfulfilling.

There's no villain in the story, but midway through, we get a panel featuring three of DC's worst (including the Ultra-Humanite and Ocean Master) and then they are never seen nor heard from again. Why?

The story begins with a man named Val Armorr, who is a member of the Legion of Super-Heroes, a 31st century band of teenagers with special powers. He's trapped in this timeline with seven other members of the Legion, and the JLA and JSA must find them all and see what's going on.

And that's part of the major problem. We're never sure what's going on. We know they're here and we're told that they're trying to save someone (or something), but nothing is fully realized or explained. The fun comes in watching the two superhero groups team up. The ending is pretty good, but overall the story falls flat, and that's surprising when it's coming from two great writers.

The standalone story "Walls" is one of the best I've read (Brad Meltzer wrote this one), and the artwork is amazing. It involves Red Arrow and Vixen being trapped in a collapsing (or collapsed) building. Gene Ha's work here is terrific. Get the book if only for this story.

The other two stories, "Monitor Duty" and "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" show the JLA as more of an extended family than a group of superpowered beings. They eat, play, laugh, love, and fight with each other regularly. They also routinely save the universe. The latter story shows the growing bond between Clark,

Diana, and Bruce and how this bond is nearly severed. All in all, a good read for those who love the JLA.

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### **StoryTellerShannon says**

The primary story is roughly a B to B plus. The stories that follow after that aren't as good but some of them are homages to The Justice League of America so definitely they're worth a read. A lot of JLA History within. Comes close to a four star in some ways but not quite.

### **OVERALL GRADE: B**

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### **Christopher says**

I love the Justice League. It is hard for me to read a book with the Justice League and not like it. I love looking into the lives of my favorite super hero team and being that fly on the wall.

This book, like all the Justice League stuff I read, has great team dynamics. The book was very well written and very fun. The artwork is pretty good as well. In all honesty there is not a lot of action, as the league tries to stop some heroes from the future from doing ... I ain't telling. You have to read this book with the other volumes for you to enjoy it fully and get the richness of the characters.

I love how they are flushing out Red Tornado's character. The scene where Red Tornado has to go do Justice League duty and watch Felix Faust instead of spend time with his family was very good. Especially since he swapped shifts with someone else to create the inconvenience. It shows that even our heroes have human qualities we can connect with.

The last thing I love about this book as well (as all the JLA books) is that DC knows how to use their insignificant characters so well in these group settings. I love how they take the nobodys and make them important to the team. I honestly feel DC has the best characters and team of writers out there for the big publishers.

My gripes about this book are that the stories are way too rich to try and fit into such a puny graphic novel. We need a much more substantial book. I am willing to pay for the extra cost.

The last thing, I didn't quite get the last story with Red Arrow and Vixen. I wasn't sure how that fit in with the rest of the book.

Cheers.

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### **Peter says**

Holy shit was that bad. There is NO THREAT, the situation doesn't get any worse. The tension is not elevated. The Legion of Superheroes have come back to save Wally West, but to do so they have to sacrifice one of their members, so they must make sure that this time line's super heroes does not stop that sacrifice. This is revealed in the last issue so all the issues before it read like the two greatest superhero teams in DC

are punching VISIONS for two strait days. That's right they fight illusions on multiple occasions (and the best part is that they figure out the first one right away, but are fooled by the second one, when they should be expecting it). That being said Melzer does have some fantastic moments. When he juxtaposes multiple scenes and has different characters giving the same narration... oh is it good. And the One Shot with Red Arrow and Vixen trapped in the Watergate hotel... which is sinking into the Potomac was AWESOME!!! I think that the Lightning Saga was a cooperate "OK we need an event in order to bring back Wally West and you have a week to write it." And this is what they came up with with out much time to plot or edit.

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### **Scott S. says**

While the main five-chapter plot was just okay (although both the artwork - there were some great two-page spreads - and the deft handling of over two dozen involved characters were above average) it was the three unrelated short stories that close the book that made it worthwhile. *Walls*, *Monitor Duty*, and *Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow* were, although different in style and content, uniformly excellent as a finale.

Also, someone somewhere lost a bet. The initial story cried out for Power Girl (but you could also substitute Vixen, Dream Girl, Dawnstar, etc.) to use the old Zucker/Abrahams/Zucker (see *Naked Gun 2 1/2* ) punchline set-up "Is this some kind of bust?"

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### **Karl Kindt says**

These long story arcs in which there is a mystery kept until the end of the arc (and that REALLY is the only story plot element that matters) are getting really really old and formulaic and tiring. The "big secret" in this one allows the writers to let characters act out of character for the entire arc. No spoilers, I promise: The secret kept until the end...there is no reason for it. None. Characters do things they would not normally do so as to provide conflict between them and others. The secret I am talking around is kept from Superman, but in the end, there was absolutely no reason the people keeping the secret needed to. They say, "He'll understand and forgive us when we're done," but they had just told him what they were doing, he would have helped. This is modern comic storytelling as bad the really dumb formula comics of the distant past, but it has showy art and a seemingly post-modern comment to make. Some modern comic writers ride on the shoulders of giants and do work that even surpasses their predecessors...these writers fell off the shoulders of the giants and into the mud.

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### **Kathleen says**

"Walls", the story of Red Arrow and Vixen trapped in a demolished building sinking in the Potomac, is definitely one of the top ten best single issue stories ever written.

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