



StormWatch Vol. 1

Warren Ellis , Tom Raney (Illustrator) , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Michael Ryan (Illustrator) , Jim Lee (Illustrator)

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Don't miss this new collection of Warren Ellis's STORMWATCH epics from issues #37-47, as The Weatherman transforms the team into a proactive, take-no-prisoners strike force. Starring Jack Hawksmoor, Battalion, Jenny Sparks, Apollo, Midnighter, Rose Tattoo and more!

StormWatch Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Warren Ellis , Tom Raney (Illustrator) , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Michael Ryan (Illustrator) , Jim Lee (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online StormWatch Vol. 1 Warren Ellis , Tom Raney (Illustrator) , Pete Woods (Illustrator) , Michael Ryan (Illustrator) , Jim Lee (Illustrator)

From Reader Review StormWatch Vol. 1 for online ebook

Sans says

Lots of icky moments but Ellis did a good job of making sure the reader gets to know the characters slowly throughout the book. I wish we learned more about Rose Tattoo and Jack Hawksmoor. Maybe in the next volume? This also gave me the creeps on a social awareness scale. At the time this was written, there were a lot of changes happening in the government and the United States in general. Those changes are surging again in our current political climate and it makes me ill to think we're repeating history so soon.

Marc Jentsch says

I was always a fan of the Image lines, and Stormwatch was one of the big ones. After a while, I chased too many, my money went other places, and I lost track of things. Then after the Authority launched, I was upset about what I'd heard of the way Ellis ended some of the characters I really liked.

So I boycotted Ellis' Authority and Planetary for the longest time.

Biggest mistake I ever made, but that's another story. For now, let's focus on the fact that I finally decided to go back and have a look at what I'd missed.

This is really the beginning of the end. It starts with an ending and then hurtles headlong toward another, and along the way, sets the stage for what Ellis really wanted to do with the Authority the whole time. But he didn't get the chance here, in spite of the themes and stories.

In the DC universe, the Justice League is self-governing and autonomous. In Marvel, there is only the loosest affiliation of the Avengers to the government and SHIELD. But in the Wildstorm and Image universes, most of the big signature teams were either government sponsored or corporate-funded. That made them a lot more beholden to their bean-counters, lawyers and politicians.

This volume of Stormwatch brings a cynical Stormwatch to its next logical step where the superhumans there defend only the countries that ask, and do what they think needs doing when it happens, regardless. The foot is coming off the brake here, but it doesn't come off all the way until the Authority launches, but you can see Ellis playing with the terminal velocity so many writers and fans have thought about and toyed with when it comes to spandex-clad gods policing the world.

A lot of groundwork besides just the themes are laid here. Seeds for some plots that show up in the Authority are sewn here, too.

Finally, I'm unsure of what I think of the introduction of several of Ellis' creations and the team choices. It left little room for the ones I liked here and no room for them later.

The art is another weak point, and the artists vary too much to give the book the sort of cohesive presentation it needs. Little of it is awful and there is a Jim Lee issue near the end that's gorgeous.

The rest of this review really belongs on the next volume so that's where it'll be.

Aaron says

Great read, especially if you're a fan of Ellis's later Authority series. His work on Stormwatch laid the groundwork for that incredible storyline, and it's pretty interesting reading this as a sort of prequel. That said, I don't think you have to be familiar at all with the Authority to enjoy this book. There's plenty of thoughtful, original takes on superhero stuff in here, with well-defined (if at times a little thin) character work and a sense of impending doom. Each issue stands alone while setting a tone for a larger plot at play. There's interdimensional monstrosities. Government conspiracies. Global political ploys. Lunatic clones. It's the kind of far-reaching sci-fi Ellis excels at, and I'm very intrigued to see where this goes next.

Mark says

Ellis is obviously doing something different in this early work but it isn't quite there yet. Raney's art doesn't help in that regard.

Christa Seeley says

I read this because it's one of the comics that led into The Authority and I figured I should read a little more background first. I had never encountered these characters before or even read a Wildstorm comic. And there were a few elements that I liked - Stormwatch is a little like the Justice League or the Avengers but they work more with the UN (rather than independently or with the US government) which gave it more of a global field. The stories are also much darker than your standard Marvel and DC fare and I liked their unpredictable nature.

That being said there is a ton of characters. Stormwatch is actually made up of three distinct teams and each issue seemed to focus on a different one (with a fair amount of cross overs). Because it jumped around so often the narrative felt disjointed and it took me a long time to get oriented and to figure out who was who. Now 10 issues later I'm still not sure I could run through the team with much confidence.

This collection also lost some points because of the art. I realize that may have been the style of 90s comics but it's over exaggeration of both female AND male characters just doesn't work for me.

Alejandro says

The road to The Authority began here!

This TPB edition collects "StormWatch" #37-47. This material was originally published under the label of "WildStorm Comics" in two separate volumes "Force of Nature" and "Lightning Strikes". This is an omnibus edition collecting both original TPBs in a brand new re-publication under the label of "DC Comics."

Creative Team:

Writer: Warren Ellis

Illustrators: Tom Raney, Jim Lee, Pete Woods & Michael Ryan

INTO THE WILD...STORM

Wildstorm Comics used to be a 90's Indy Comic Books' publishing house, which Jim Lee founded by Jim Lee, but when he went to work full time for DC Comics, he sold the company to DC Comics, and now all the titles and characters created under the label of WildStorm are property of DC Comics, and some of them have been incorporated into the DC Universe during the "Flashpoint" event and following "New52" continuity.

WildStorm was been one of the most prolific and relevant Indy Comic Books' publisher, creating many of the hottest titles of the 90s decade such as *Gen13*, *WildC.A.T.S.*, *Wetworks*, *Team7*, *The Authority* and *StormWatch*, where they gave birth to popular characters such as Caitlin Fairchild, Grifter, Deathblow and Jenny Sparks.

Brandon Choi and Jim Lee created *StormWatch*, but this TPB edition, numbered as "Volume One", focused on the era, at the issue #37, when Warren Ellis took over the writing job, and it's without a question, a key moment where you are witness of the first steps to the road to *The Authority*, where the characters of Jenny Sparks and Jack Hawksmoor are introduced, along with Rose Tattoo, and even Swift (aka Shen Li-Min) gets a power boost.

STORM WITH A CHANCE OF WATCHING

StormWatch is the United Nations' Special Crisis Intervention Team.

It's a massive operation with an orbiting satellite headquarter, containing medical facilities, interrogation rooms, cryogenic cells, along with the disposal of armed troops, high-tech fightercrafts, and three special teams with superpowered beings.

Henry Bendix (aka The Weatherman) is basically the World's Policeman, that while he is supposed to wait until a country, member of the UN, would invoke the Code Perfect, to intervene in a situation, during this run, you will be witness how The Weatherman is taking more and more liberties and taking actions even without the sanction of the UN Council.

The world is falling apart, going into a really dark scenario, and The Weatherman won't wait until it would be late to do something. He will do something... now!

The time of just watching storms is over...

...it's time for Police Action!

Borders are for maps, StormWatch will intervene whenever is needed and taking all the hard calls.

THE SPARK OF A CENTURY

I bought this TPB since I love Jenny Sparks, I think that she is one of the best comic characters ever made

and her appearance in *The Authority* was truly epic, and since she was introduced here, I didn't need anything else to decide and buying the TPB.

Jenny Sparks is the embodiment of the Spirit of the 20th Century...

...In a total literal sense!

She was born in England, on January 1st, 1900. Coming from a line of "spirits", each taking over the responsibility of taking care of the world during a whole century, each with a different power that it will be the key revolutionary element of that century, like in the 19th Century, there was a "Jenny Steam", in the case of Jenny Sparks, living in the 20th Century, she possess a vast control and manipulation of the electricity, even she can turn into pure electricity herself.

On the issue #44 (featured in this TPB) you'll get a wonderful glimpse of how each decade, beginning with the 20s (where Jenny is now an adult) through until the current (at the time of publication) 90s. That comic book issue is a masterpiece showing each unique mood of Jenny Sparks merging with the defining style of each decade in the way for storytelling, artwork and coloring, in comic books. A masterpiece of comic book issue!

Jenny Sparks smokes cigarettes a lot, she drinks booze even more, she is cynical, she disregards about authority, but...

...never have doubt about her love for Earth. The blue planet never was safer than in her watch.

Don says

Here's the thing: I've never really liked Warren Ellis. I know he's got a massive, massive fanbase, but I've never really been able to get past the fact that he's one of those comics writers (like Garth Ennis, and like Howard Chaykin) whose general contempt for humanity is palpable, and seems to infuse nearly everything they do. A lot of people like that kind of thing; it validates their own bitter cynicism, and they delight in cleverly written schadenfreude. For me, though, it's a turn-off.

So I've been shocked to discover that Ellis's early works, at least, aren't nearly as bleak. Don't get me wrong; a good number of the characters in *Stormwatch* are troubled, but Warren has constructed such a diverse cast that those are balanced out by idealists as well. But that's not what's so impressive about this book: what is, is that it's *smart*. Shockingly, impressively, smart. Many of the tales in this collection are tightly-constructed done-in-ones, with plots and concepts making real use of the potential afforded in a sci-fi superhero world like this one. There are character subplots, but they don't yet overwhelm. And although the cast that Warren has put together is so large as to be almost unwieldy, the characters are balanced throughout the stories in a way that makes the size of the group something that *challenges* the reader to try to keep up, yet never truly overwhelms.

The ultimate sense one gets upon reading the stories in this collection is of an incredibly talented author performing a very, very difficult balancing act of numerous balancing acts all their own: that of characters, that of plot vs. subplot, that of cynicism vs. hope - and much more besides. The only reason it doesn't get a full five stars is because with such a large cast of characters, you can't ever get too fully invested in any one of them. Hopefully that may change with future issues!

In any case, it's clear I'm going to have to re-evaluate Mr. Ellis after all.

Justin says

Ever since DC released the Absolute Authority hardcover collections, I've been waiting and hoping for a similar treatment of Warren Ellis's late '90s run on Stormwatch, which was the precursor to his groundbreaking Authority series. I didn't quite get my wish for an Absolute Stormwatch, but DC has at least released those issues in a pair of hardcover collections.

I was actually a fan of Stormwatch from the very beginning. Sure, it was formulaic and very typical of the early '90s Image Comics mindset, but I really liked the characters, and the whole Justice League meets Star Trek approach was fun. The series stumbled in later years and was an almost unreadable mess when Warren Ellis was brought in starting with issue #37. He quickly cut a bunch of dead weight characters, rearranged the teams, and introduced new characters like Jenny Sparks, Jack Hawksmoor and Rose Tattoo. It's obvious in hindsight that he was setting the stage for the Authority series, but at the time it was just good to have a darker, edgier and just plain better-written Stormwatch. All of the stylistic elements that made The Authority work so well were field-tested in these issues of Stormwatch.

It helps that the artwork was also considerably improved. Tom Raney has a very unique (and occasionally disturbing) style, and it was completely suited to Ellis's darker, grislier storytelling and the style of his new characters. Having a fill-in issue by none other than Jim Lee is an added bonus.

As to the hardcover release, it's a step up from the previous paperback editions, but not by much. The cover is obviously sturdier, but the pages aren't noticeably larger or glossier, and there's next to no bonus material. Not even an introduction explaining why the book is important enough to be collected in the first place. It's about the same size and quality as the recent Preacher hardcovers.

While I think they could have done a lot more with this collection, it is still nice to have a more durable collection of these issues. If you're an Authority or Warren Ellis fan and haven't yet checked out Stormwatch, this is a great way to do so.

Blindzider says

Reading this a second time, you can see Ellis is setting up the pieces for what is to come. This volume primarily introduces the new characters and destroys whatever Stormwatch was before. The whole theme of "superheroes deciding what the world should be like" begins here.

The art is very "90's". Raney's art has a quirkiness about it that I like and it fits the story, because some of Ellis' ideas are off the wall and strange but are still fascinating.

Michael Emond says

I love me some Warren Ellis and this is Ellis at his best. Taking on the old Hero Tropes and turning them on their ends. It was a jarring start since Ellis was shaking up the old book and turning it into his vision but once you get over that bump it is an amazing read with interesting characters. The art is only so-so but the writing is the star here so I can overlook some boring art work that doesn't get in the way of the story. Ellis is one of the most dependable writers in the game for exciting plots and ideas while still writing a good old fashion hero book. People who love Ellis should also check out Fell, Global Frequency and Planetary.

Jared Rasic says

Some trademark moments of greatness from Warren Ellis, but none of the characters congeal enough to make me care. Honestly, it just made me wish I had more Planetary to read.

Sean says

3.5 really. (The last chapter sux)

Eric England says

Stormwatch Volume One by Warren Ellis and Tom Raney is an excellent graphic novel. While Tom Raney's art is very much in the 1990s style and may not be the taste of contemporary readers, Warren Ellis' scripts astonish and delight. Ellis had all the makings of the comic book legend he would eventually become in this series. Stormwatch is not only the series that laid the groundwork for his classic Authority run, it also contains elements of some of his later work like Planetary and even his recent superhero comics for Avatar Press. The stories cover many themes and topics, but some that stand out are the perversion of texts and political philosophies to justify evil, the battle between security and freedom, the fact that having superhumans living among us would not be a good thing, hope in the midst of looming darkness, the political corruption of both legitimate and rogue states, and the dangerous effects of small groups of fundamentalists in a modern society. Additionally, Ellis does a great job creating compelling female superheroes (particularly Jenny Sparks). Finally, to top it all off, readers get to see parodies of Watchmen, Akira, and Will Eisner's The Spirit. Plus, there is the mentally insane illegitimate child of John F. Kennedy.

Hannah Givens says

Stormwatch was interesting in its time. In hindsight you can see it's still a transitional form on the way to The Authority and Planetary, it's not quite amazing yet, but for what it is it's really good.

Simon says

I... kinda... this was much less good than I hoped it would be?
