



Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives

Kurt Busiek , Brent Anderson (Illustrations)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives

Kurt Busiek , Brent Anderson (Illustrations)

Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives Kurt Busiek , Brent Anderson (Illustrations)

When you're the Silver Adept, one of Astro City's newest and most powerful mystic heroes, your life is full of magic, battle, demons, apocalypses and more. When you're the Adept's personal assistant, though, life gets really weird. A look at the woman behind the hero.

Collects ASTRO CITY #11-16.

Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives Details

Date : Published March 17th 2015 by Vertigo (first published February 1st 2015)

ISBN : 9781401254599

Author : Kurt Busiek , Brent Anderson (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 176 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Fiction

 [Download Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives Kurt Busiek , Brent Anderson (Illustrations)

From Reader Review Astro City, Vol. 11: Private Lives for online ebook

Drown Hollum says

Setting off on another Astro City adventure, Busiek again chooses to tell a series of short stories in this volume instead of one focused tale. We get a smattering of Astro City insights, meeting a handful of new characters, all with the usual Astro City misdirections. Anderson's style is really showing its age at this point, and is becoming a distraction from the excellent Alex Ross designs. That's a tough thing to admit to considering his history with the book, but I'm just not blown away by the artwork anymore. I would have preferred a focused singular story from this collection, but most of the books shortcomings are made up for in the excellent final story of the trade, focused on high school aged heroes and identity issues. Astro City is still on of the smartest books around, but this particular volume felt a bit more like a warm-up stretch than it did a main event. Still, Busiek is a master, and his warm up stretches still read better than most of the competition at 100%.

Joel says

Sadly underwhelmed by this set of stories.

[Name Redacted] says

Huh. This was the most uneven entry to date in the series, likely because it felt like they sacrificed the timelessness of previous volumes at the altar of cashing in on "social justice" box-checking. It honestly felt like they clumsily shoehorned a gay (male) couple & a trans (m2f) protagonist into two random stories simply because they were afraid of being accused of not being progressive enough. Which they probably would have been, if we're honest. And this isn't a matter of me objecting to the inclusion of gay or trans characters -- because if they'd had established characters revealed as gay or trans instead, I actually think that would have worked better. I mean, the title of the volume is "Private Lives," so learning that the Samaritan is secretly bisexual (since they've already established that he likes women) or that Quarrel wishes she were a man could have worked. Heck, the first story opens up with a female sorcerer-supreme and her female personal assistant and that would have been an excellent opportunity to introduce a lesbian couple, or an unrequited love for one by the other. But nope. Here they just threw together some random stereotypes, pretended they were characters, and trotted them out in front of the audience because "Progressive!" They knew that simply including them would get rounds of applause from the unthinking masses and diffuse any potential accusations that they were somehow worse than Hitler because they hadn't checked those boxes yet. These characters and their stories just felt...hollow. Cheap. Flat. Because they felt like intentional box-checking, not ideas the writer & artists had felt inspired to create and just had to debut. Especially on the heels of the last volume which seemed to be a criticism of both Male Chauvinism AND 3rd Wave Feminism right up until the end when it just spat out some now-obligatory political punditry. It feels like they're wading into waters that are deeper than they are capable of navigating, and that's just depressing. Astro City works best when it deals with the human angle of superhero comics, embodying the iconic and giving it flesh and blood, hopes and dreams. These two stories felt like regular comics from a regular publisher, hamfisted and artless, and we've come to expect more from Astro City.

Even that opening story about the sorcerer's personal assistant was cute but insubstantial.

But the stories about an old woman and her robots (where, again, you could have introduced a solid lesbian angle) and the clothes-horse robber (who, kudos to the author, flouts expectations and does not turn out to be gay)? Gold!

Mark says

Smaller story arcs - which I don't always love in Astro City - but some neat twists on magic-laden superheroing and a lovely story about robots.

Trike says

This collection is more of the same, and when it comes to Astro City, that's a good thing. This is another collection of loosely-related short stories, with a hint they might tie together later.

Busiek is a comic book historian, and he clearly delights in plumbing the tropes of superheroes. Best of all, though, is when he gives them a slight twist, making them feel familiar yet new at the same time.

Also, the inclusion of main characters who are elderly, black, or LGBT, helps round out the world. By going beyond the typical buff bods and sexy outfits and exploring humanity in all its variety, Busiek and artist Brent Anderson really make Astro City feel like a place people actually live.

Plus, Alex Ross' cover to the story "Ellie's Friends" is one of the coolest he's done in a while. And this is a guy who churns out awesome art daily.

Shannon Appelcline says

These aren't Busiek's strongest shorts, but they're still quite a nice collection of *Astro* stories that continue to innovate the setting.

Starbright (16) is the best for reasons that would be spoilers. But it's a really nice character study of an outsider.

Silver Adept (11) is next after that, mainly because she's a delightful new hero. The actual story isn't that different from Busiek's original Samaritan short, with a slight twist.

Robots (14-15) is the only two-parter in the collection. It's a bit slow in the first part, despite its cute story of someone who revives broken criminal 'bots. It picks up in the second half when you realize there's a mystery to be uncovered.

Wolf (12) is nice mainly for its conception of a gentleman thief. *Astro City* shines when it plays with archetypes.

Dancing Master (13) is my least favorite of the set. It tries to be clever with time and the result is a story that barely makes sense. I like what I get, but the structure obfuscates rather than illuminating.

Eric England says

Astro City Volume 11: Private Lives is an excellent graphic novel that continues the long tradition of sublime storytelling associated with the Astro City brand. This volume is a collection of smaller personal stories that provide nuance and detail to a larger superhero dominated world. One tale focuses on a small-time costumed criminal and another on the brilliant owner of an isolated robot museum. There are also stories focusing on the assistant to a powerful sorcerer, a young hero, and a strange deity. Each of these vignettes are expertly realized with plenty of twists and turns. Busiek is a master storyteller who plays the comic page as if it were a grand symphony. The adventures of the denizens of the Astro City world are arranged and rearranged in carefully orchestrated compositions that play on old tropes and push them into new and exciting directions. Underlying this entire series is a sense of hope and overwhelming wonder. Busiek and his artists utilize the tools of artistic innovation to push forward a life-affirming message that rejects trendy forms of nihilism. Astro City may be hokey, but it is hokey in a profound way that speaks to the inner strivings of the human spirit. I highly recommend this series to all readers.

Dan Schwent says

The Silver Adept's assistant struggles to keep her affairs in order. A former super villain tries to keep on the straight and narrow. A woman running a robot museum has to contend with a slippery nephew. And Starbright and Simon Says struggle to understand one another. But that's how life is in Astro City.

Kurt Busiek and company serve up more slice of life tales set in or around Astro City. I'm running out of things to say about this great series. This was a good volume but not exceptional. When they're all high quality, you get kind of numb after a while. All of the stories were engaging. The little old lady running the robot museum was my favorite but I don't think there were any duds.

As always, the world has a lot of weight to it, like it's existed for 50 years and we're only given small glimpses of its vast history. I want more adventures of Silver Adept, Starbright, and the others! 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Ken Moten says

This volume is another solid story telling volume of Astro City in modern times. What I have said before when reviewing previous books of this series is how it tells the story from the "bystander/secretary" point-of-view and/or not-superhero point-of-view. We get stories of outsiders who move to or involve the superheroes of Astro City and one very surprising story of redemption to end the book. Of course the volumes all pertain to a meta-narrative that has been building since Astro City, Vol. 9: Through Open Doors (it is very Grant Morrison-ish). To conclude, very solid book on the newer characters of Astro City.

Michael Emond says

I had been starting to give up on Astro City - the last few entries in the series did not grab me the way earlier volumes had. But after a few years break I couldn't resist. It did feel like returning to a comfortable pair of jeans. Nothing really surprised me or shook me up in this volume but it was entertaining and reminded me of why I like these stories - they are a simple take on the world of super heroes from the perspective of those around them. The idea of Marvels taken to extremes. Solid story telling and solid art. My fav story was probably the first one about the Silver Adept's secretary but they were all entertaining.

Sesana says

Yet another fantastic Astro City collection. The blurbed story, about the personal assistant who keeps a Doctor Strange-like character going, was particularly good. But I have to say, I'm about ready for Busiek to deliver on these hints towards a bigger story he drops every now and then.

Patrick says

More of the excellence I've grown to expect from this marvelous series.....

Cale says

This volume of Astro City is about average for the series, which still puts it several steps above a lot of its competition. The small stories of people surrounding super heroes as well as the heroes themselves still carry some emotional weight. This selection has its hits (the two-part Ellie's Friends is the definite high point for me), and its misses (Waltz of the Hours just didn't work for me, and the Deep Dark Woods missed the landing after an interesting story), but overall they're pretty good. There are concepts I've not seen played out before that work well, and a couple of tropes that are reused to good effect. The last page, hinting at the overarching plot of the Vertigo Astro City, seems a little out of place as the only mention of that concept, but it's easy enough to overlook. Astro City remains an enjoyable place to visit, with something new to see every time.

Brenda Clough says

Another excellent compendium of Astro City stories.

Brent says

Astro City is such a great series. This installment is a great jumping-on point, a set of slice of life superhero and villain stories with folks behind the scenes.

I'm also a fan of artist Graham Nolan, who draws a fine issue/chapter/installment here,

Highest recommendation.
