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Dan Abnett

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Dan Abnett : Aquaman Vol. 1: The Drowning (Rebirth) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aquaman Vol. 1: The Drowning (Rebirth):

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great Start to the Rebirth Books, Though This Volume is Mostly Set Up for the Future of AquamanBy clairetoldmetochangemyscreennameDan Abnett gives us this good, though by no means great, first edition of Aquaman Rebirth. The biggest complaint I have about this book is the fact that it merely spins the wheels without getting much done; a lot of the writing from Abnett seems to be set up for future narrative arcs. This is fine if these stories pay off down the road, but for The Drowning it means a real lack of pay off for a couple of major plot lines. I love Abnett (his work on Guardians of the Galaxy revitalized that book and helped influence the crazy popular movie) so I have faith in his writing going forward, but be aware that if you are looking for a one hundred percent complete arc in this book you will be let down.The Drowning mostly focuses on Aquaman's attempts to establish a dry-land Atlantean embassy on US soil so the surface dwellers and Atlanteans alike can learn more about each other and set aside their differences. Unfortunately, Black Manta decides to make his strike during the opening of this embassy. He wounds Mera, destroys the building, and gets numerous civilians killed during his battle with Arthur. The battle draws to a close however, when Aquaman points out that if Black Manta kills him then the latter will have nothing left in life. Manta gives up when he realizes Arthur is right and that he can't gain anything out of killing his foe outright. From here the book shifts in the one main story beat I didn't like: the US government shuts down the embassy and refuses to allow the Atlanteans to rebuild. The US decides that after the events of the Throne of Atlantis arc back in the New 52 (when Ocean Master flooded numerous US cities) that they absolutely can't trust Aquaman or his people. It is an odd choice for the humans to blame the Atlanteans for all of this when it was clearly Black Manta's fault (and almost no one aside from Mera knows that Manta's vendetta against Arthur is all Arthur's fault). Either way the US government doesn't want to continue the embassy project. Tensions escalate further when Atlanteans seemingly attack a US Navy ship while claiming to be the Deluge: a splinter cell of Atlantean terrorists who refuse to follow Arthur's orders.Aquaman is forced to fight the US armed forces in order to get back to his people to cease any further acts of war between the two countries all while the US government calls in help from the Big Blue Boy Scout himself. Meanwhile, Black Manta meets a new cast of characters who represent a group called NEMO and claim to be a shadow organization that hopes to control the entire ocean. NEMO attempts to recruit Manta who is now looking for a greater calling aside from merely killing his nemesis. The book essentially sets up the threat of Manta with NEMO and the splinter cell of the Deluge so again a lot of wheels are put in motion for future books. The best reason to read this series though is that Abnett, like Johns before him back at the beginning of the New 52, is able to cleverly explore the very nature of Aquaman and the fact that he is often seen as being a joke of a character.

How that affects the public's perception of the character and how that affects the character himself are two brilliant moments in this book. Furthermore, while the opening battle between Arthur and Manta is a bit of a retread the idea that Black Manta has accepted he needs a greater calling in life is well executed and reflects the work done with the character during his stint on the Suicide Squad. Now with NEMO behind him, Manta is posed to be a greater threat than ever before.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Aquaman Swims in Fresh Waters! By Matthew D'Souza Dan Abnett brings Aquaman back into fresh water in his DC Rebirth Vol. 1: The Drowning. Arthur Curry (Aquaman) must overcome Black Manta, hatred from surface dwellers, American politics, and Mera's doubts all while a new enemy gathers in the darkness. The New 52 series was such a delight to read that I am excited for the future of Aquaman again. The art is pretty good, but I would say it's not quite on the level of quality and detail that The New 52 had yet. Abnett's understanding of Aquaman's difficulties and situation is truly refreshing as a fan of Aquaman. He touches on the many problems that Arthur must overcome to be the hero Aquaman. It's all rather well done. I'm happy with this new beginning.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Caught between two worlds, can Aquaman bring them together? By THowerton In this new series Aquaman is a well-known character to the citizens of the earth though is considered a lesser member of the Justice League. He and his betrothed, Mera, are well aware of this and writer Dan Abnett has some fun with this as he throws some good ol' fashioned fan-boy teasing Aquaman's way through the mouths and media coverage of the various personalities in his world. Arthur Curry (Aquaman) is much more than this, though, as Abnett strives to write this character as a noble Arthurian king literally caught between two worlds (land and sea/ Atlantis and the USA/ human and merperson) and who is striving to reconcile the two and bring them together for a peaceful and beneficial union. This is both the strength and the weakness of the book as through his reaching up toward higher ideals (not quite utopian but geared in that direction) Curry is set up as a bonafide hero whose kingly requirements as being the figurehead and leader of Atlantis as well as an immensely powerful superhero (in the more traditional sense) seem to be at odds sometimes, and then his actions really do call into question "would a king really do that? Is that responsible for them to do?" and intuitively many readers will answer "no, he wouldn't"; and so Curry will then seem to be lesser the king in order to be more the hero. I really felt this especially in the second volume. In this first, though, the main struggle is how Aquaman is dealing with approaching bringing a reluctant and apprehensive Atlantis to the table of the league of nations, especially before the USA, and they are equally reluctant if not moreso. And as he does so an old adversary, Black Manta, rears his bulbous head as a terrorist trying to assassinate Aquaman and destroy his dream at the same time. The ending of this collection, which sees the two in a virtual stand-off in regards whether or not they should kill each other, was idealistic, and frustrating to this reader. IMO Curry should have ended Manta's threat permanently. That was his responsibility as the Atlantean head-of-state. But that's also the cool thing about this book: it invites this type of conversation and speculation. It's a little thin in places and Abnett's language that he uses for characters doesn't always fit, but it's still an enjoyable read. 3.75 stars.

The King of Atlantis dives into a new era in AQUAMAN VOL. 1: THE DROWNING, as a part of the critically acclaimed, best-selling, all-new line of volume one graphic novels, DC Universe Rebirth! He is Arthur Curry—Aquaman. King of Atlantis. Member of the Justice League. World leader. Superhero. A bridge between the surface world and the world below. And to far too many humans, the dictator of a rogue state. But Arthur and his beloved fiancée, Mera, are determined to prove to humankind that Atlantis can be a force for peace and justice. Yet even as Aquaman strives to improve his public image, dark forces rise from the depths to crush his hopes and dreams. A cabal of Atlantean terrorists have declared war on their king and the surface world alike. And the killer known as Black Manta will stop at nothing to settle his blood feud with the hero he hates above all else. Can Aquaman stop the tide of distrust and bloodshed? Or to save the world, will he sacrifice himself? Rising up from the blockbuster DC Universe Rebirth event comes AQUAMAN VOL. 1: THE DROWNING, a thrilling jumping-on point to the new adventures of the King of the Seven Seas, from writer Dan Abnett (TITANS HUNT, TITANS) and illustrated by Scot Eaton (BATMAN ROBIN ETERNAL), Brad Walker (ACTION COMICS), Philippe Briones (NEW SUICIDE SQUAD) and more! Collects AQUAMAN: REBIRTH #1 and AQUAMAN #1-6.

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