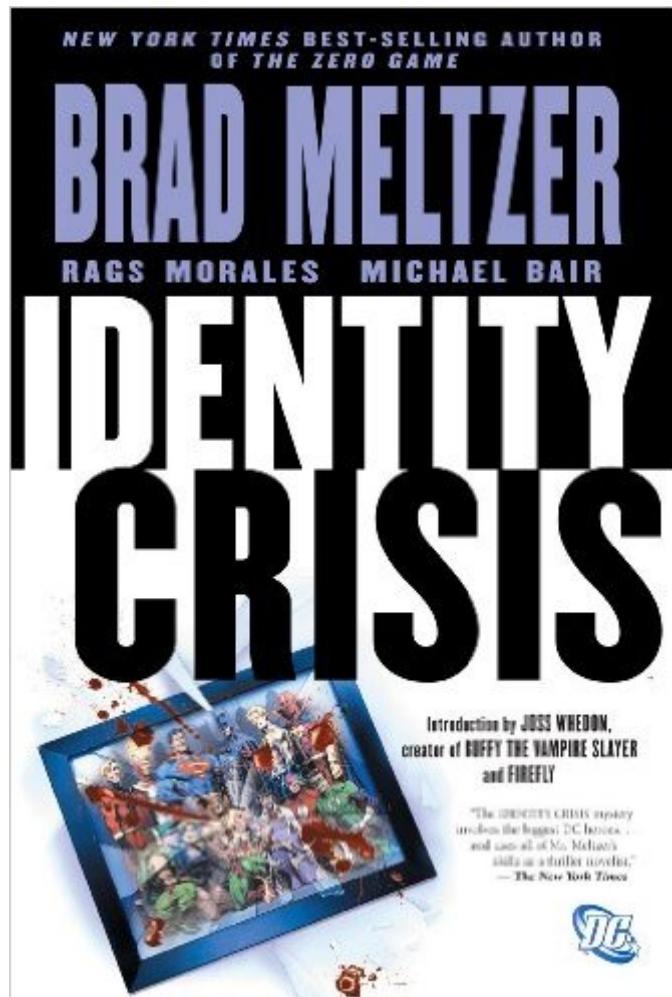


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Identity Crisis



Synopsis

When the spouse of a JLA member is murdered, the entire super-hero community searches for the killer, fearing their own loved ones may be the next targets! But before the mystery is fully solved, a number of long-buried secrets rise to the surface, threatening to tear apart and divide the heroes before they can bring the killer to justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Up until recently I've been a very casual comic book reader. After reading various comics published by DC that mentioned "Identity Crisis" and finding it hard to avoid "spoilers" everywhere on the web I picked this up the day it was released to get caught up and find out what all the fuss was about.

After closing the book, I was shocked about how much a "superhero book" could affect me emotionally. I had lost a very beloved family member a few days before reading this, and I'll admit it did affect the way I viewed this book. But in looking back at it "cold", I believe it stands incredibly well as a graphic novel, a tragic love story and a mystery. The plot has already been gone over well, so I won't go there. Basically, it's what would be a fairly standard mystery except for that it surrounds the murder of the wife of someone named "The Elongated Man", has Wonder Woman deliver the eulogy, and a perplexing question is how a murderer could get around technology from places including Krypton. Typing it, it does sound like the book could have been a huge joke and misstep for DC- but in my opinion it was very effective. I was not familiar with Sue Dibny, but I cried when her husband held her dead body in his arms (and saw the surprise present she gave him for his birthday) and the scenes at her funeral. My heart went out when another character lost a very

close loved one, and I really felt the tension when the Justice League were at moral odds with one another. I will admit I was very unhappy when we were shown that Sue had been attacked before- by being raped by someone usually referred to as a fairly silly villian. This scene was the hardest for me to read. However it was done off panel, and we are basically shown reactions and some slurs from the rapist- it is not done graphically or sleazily but the very nature of it is harsh. Personally, I read comics for entertainment and as a break, but I did understand what this book was going for. I do not think sexual violence should have any place in 'superhero' comics and I do not believe it was needed in this story to give it more impact, but that's my own opinion. I think this story has polarized a lot of comic readers. Some would like this genre to stay more classic with pages of fights with supervillians- and that's an extremely valid point. Others are open to and even prefer more adult stories like this one, and the sales of this storyline and the amount of buzz surrounding this have shown it's brought many people back to comics- or even into them the first time. Neither view is wrong, but it makes books like this tricky. Personally I love classic superhero tales but Identity & Infinite Crisis have got me reading current "big title" books for the first time and I'm really enjoying them. If you go into this story already judging it, and picking apart the mystery aspect and every character action- you'll probably be left dissapointed. It's very well-structured, but parts are manipulated to get things rolling in a different direction. If you're debating reading this, all I can do is recommend that you go in with an open mind and read this with your heart on your sleeve. In the end this is just a book about people, relationships, and the pain we automatically accept when we love and care about someone. If you're ready to believe a superhero, under the mask, can love and lose as much as yourself... then I believe you will get something out of Identity Crisis.

I used to be a DC comic addict, and in the mid-'80s spent more than I should have buying issue after issue of all that DC and First Comics could put out. As I got older, I stopped buying the mags (I was spending my money on dates, then marriage, now kids...) and lost touch with the genre. But sometimes, while browsing in a book store, my legs would take me to the graphic novel section. My eyes would scan the titles, and from time-to-time I'd let temptation get the better of me. The Ultimate Spider-Man for instance, and the new JLA comics in particular caught my eye. And just last month, I bought this book. I was attracted by Brad Meltzer's name on the spine. I like the guy's thrillers. They're usually mindless fun, perfect for a quick read. I thumbed through the book and liked what I saw of the art. I bought it. And I'm glad I did. This is one of the best graphic novels I have ever read, and it will hold a place of honor on my bookshelf, next to my Dark Knight Returns and Ultimate Spider-Man collection. This will be reread time and time again, and I'm glad I got around my

aversion to buying comics again.

This was an amazing story! I used to mainly read Marvel Comics bcuz quite frankly DC is so very hard to just jump right into...however this collection had everything I wanted and more! Definitely worth it...my only complaint is that I wish DC would digitize more of their collections! Come on guys! I would probably spend over 200.00 a month in DC comics if I could find them on or Comixology!!!!

This storyline came out during the height of my comic reading days but, aside from Batman and Swamp Thing, I was more of a Marvel guy. I have since become more steeped in DC's universe of heroes and have been reading a lot of the older stories that I missed back then. For whatever reason, I stayed away from Identity Crisis for quite some time. I'd read the reviews (good and bad) and, even after I decided to pick it up, it took me the better part of a year to finally read it. I'm so glad I finally did. I still read comics but very seldom do I find stories that thrill me like they used to. Things have gotten so grim now in the DC books that many of the tales have no hope...even after the hero wins. This book is definitely grim, but grim with a purpose. The characters have a humanity. The pain is real. Death has consequence. Choices have consequences. These are the characters I've come to know grappling with real emotions. This is great storytelling. It is true to the characters and celebrates them even as it deconstructs them.

Well, after ten years (2004-2014), I finally read "Identity Crisis". I'm pleased to report it was indeed well worth the wait (and, in retrospect, was an outstanding Christmas gift). I'd been out of the comic mode almost entirely for more than the past decade, and IC is my first venture back into DC. If it's any sign of what DC is like these days, I'm very much looking forward to more. If you haven't read IC, you might want to check it out. In my opinion, it's a great way to spend an evening. :-) PS...Brad Meltzer also wrote a great novel re: the U.S. Supreme Court called "The Tenth Justice".

I put off reading this book for the longest time. Some people loved and others hated it. I figured, why not just read it and see what it's all about? It turned out that by the end of the book, it instantly became one of my favorite graphic novels. I'm a DC fan through and through, and while I can understand why some people hated to see their heroes portrayed this way, I thought it was absolutely fantastic. This book poses some serious questions. When are heroes the most vulnerable? What will they do to protect their loved one? When families are at risk that entails making some tough choices and Brad Meltzer handled this sensitive material very well. 5/5

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