



## Forever Evil

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**The Justice League is dead! And the villains shall inherit the Earth!**

In a flash of light, the world's most powerful heroes vanish as the Crime Syndicate arrives from Earth-3! As this evil version of the Justice League takes over the DC Universe, no one stands in the way of them and complete domination ... no one except for Lex Luthor.

By *New York Times* #1 best-selling creators Geoff Johns and David Finch, ***Forever Evil*** is the first universe-wide crossover of The New 52.

**Collecting:** *Forever Evil* 1-7

## Forever Evil Details

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Author : Geoff Johns (Writer) , David Finch (Penciler) , Richard Friend (Inker) , Sonia Oback (Colourist) , Rob Liegh (Letterer) , Carlos M. Mangual (Letterer)

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# From Reader Review Forever Evil for online ebook

## Jeff says

[ Most of the Justice League are hidden somewhere inside Firestorm and *presumed* dead. Don't ask. (hide spoiler)]

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## Lono says

Went into this one with my hands up to protect my chin. Geoff hasn't really been consistently putting out great stuff of late and I've been disappointed with his Justice League related books in the past. This is yet another book that a couple of friends (Anne's review , Sam's review ) have pretty different opinions on and I think this time I definitely fall more in line with one of them.

Anne, I *really* liked it. Sam, as well as a couple haters at my local shop, make some valid points about weaknesses in the story. But much like you Anne, I just thought it was alotta fun. Picking up shortly after the Trinity War event, Forever Evil puts Lex Luthor firmly in the driver's seat. And boy, he's got some rough road ahead. This review has some **SPOILERS** so if you haven't read **Trinity War**, **Forever Evil**, or my under-educated review is already giving you a headache, you'll probably want to stop reading now.

The Crime Syndicate is taking over, the Justice League is presumed dead, and it's up to Lex Luthor to save the day. Or at least save himself, and inadvertently, the rest of us along with him. Lex gets to show off his big-ass brain in this one as he assembles a group of cold hearted villains to get the job done. But not before the Syndicate takes over. I've been a fan of these villains since Morrison's JLA Earth 2 and the Justice Lords of the "A Better World" episodes of the **AWESOME** Justice League cartoons. The animated villains are a little different, but are definitely inspired by Morrison's despots. They're some evil sons-a-bitches. Next order of business is for Ultraman, Owlman, Superwoman, Johnny Quick, Atomica, and Deathstorm to go on a recruiting drive and the baddies start lining up to sign on. With a few notable exceptions that is. Luthor manages to enlist several of the holdouts to put together his own dream-team consisting of Bizarro, Sinestro, Black Adam, Captain Cold, Black Manta and eventually, Deathstroke. *So fuckin cool*. Love the Dr. Frankenstein and his Monster thing that Lex and Bizarro have going on. Really like Sinestro in this one too. Being a fan of Geoff's Green Lantern run, it was great to see him writing the totalitarian Lantern again. Especially once the dismemberment gets started. Not to be left out Cap'n Cold cripples a guy and Manta shanks a bitch prison style. Finally, circumstance leaves Batman with no logical choice but to work with Lex's Lil' Legion of Doom in order to pull Nightwing's bacon outta the fire. Grayson is the first non-League hero to get caught up in the shit-storm and boy does he get his ass handed to him. **Lots** of fun little moments like these peppered throughout this whole event. Pretty dope.

David Finch's artwork really pulled this all together for me. Loved his old Marvel stuff and I kinda lost interest in him when he was working on the Batman titles. He is back on point with this book and outside of a couple of nitpicky issues, he owned it.

On the flip side, Sam and the boys at the shop have a bunch of reasonable complaints. The moon thing was dumb, the “creature” from Earth 3 plotline that goes nowhere was weak, Catwoman getting the grand tour of the Bat-cave, the Syndicate destroying the world just because, and Lex’s annoying inner monologue wore thin quick. All valid opinions. I also wish Geoff had just let Lex be Lex from start to finish. He could have just been the dick he was in the beginning all along and still got the job done.

But none of these legitimate criticisms kept me from having a great time and ultimately enjoying the shit outta this one. If you can let some stuff slide and just take it for the summer blockbuster I think it was meant to be, you’ll probably find yourself enjoying parts of this one too.

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### **Gianfranco Mancini says**

A funny and cheesy read, far better than the "Dark Reign" clone I was expecting.

Liked a lot Johns's storyline, Finch's artworks are awesome and the Luthor/Bizarro "bromance" moments were just too much hilarious sometimes.

Sadly I haven't read the *Trinity War* event who lead to this one (the only New 52 comics I've got, before seeing and purchase this hardback volume in a comic shop lured by David Finch's over-the-top artworks, were just the Batman ones), so it was like entering a cinema when the movie was already started.

But for that it was a real good read for a casual comic-book purchase.

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### **Khurram says**

Good story great art work and far reaching revelations for the DCU. The Justice League are missing, the Crime Syndicate have taken over. The one thing standing in their way is Lex Luther. Lex takes the lead role but we are constantly reminded that he not a hero. I do like that fact that this version of the Crime Syndicate are not just evil versions of the Justice League, they are different in not only their thinking but their powers and abilities as well. Also the new 52 debut of B Zero. The only down side is I would have liked to see more of Owl Man, he is more of a cameo than even a side character in this story. I thought a couple of returns were

rushed towards the end. This also sets up the next story what could have been so bad that it made the CS leave their own universe. Lex also put the puzzle together on one of DCU's biggest secrets.

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## StoryTellerShannon says

The JLA gets "pwned" by The Crime-Syndicate from Earth-3 (think alternate DC world) and it's up to Lex Luthor and others to fight the good fight. Villains don't always want to work with the invaders which leads to some interesting outcomes.

Unlike the DC heroes, the DC villains have no qualms about killing bad people so they're like some of our Marvel superheroes, right? That's right. I went there.

Great artwork. Some minor plot holes for a comic world.

**OVERALL GRADE: B plus.**

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## Anne says

So.

I've got a friend who claims you'd have to be a booger-eating, poo-flinging, Shallow Reader to actually enjoy Geoff Johns' latest offering.

*Nay, I say!*

*Actually, I said 'nay' right after I ate my booger and threw some poop on him.....so he may have a point.*

*\*shrugs, wipes hands on jeans\**

This was F-U-N!

At the end of Trinity War, the Crime Syndicate (Earth-3 evil versions of the JL) pops up and overtakes the Justice League.

**KA-BOOSH!**

One big flash of light later, and the entire Justice League disappears! So, who's left to fight these guys?

Well, Lex Luthor, for one. In fact, he's pretty much the star of this show.

The entire story is one giant fight between our bad guys and their bad guys! And that means the real question is:

Are Earth's villains evil *enough* ?!

I loved the tone of **Forever Evil**. It never stopped, never got dull, and you never knew what was going to happen next.

And, as an added bonus, there are going to be plenty of ripple effects left over from this event to keep things in the DC universe interesting for a long time to come. I'm especially excited to find out what's going to happen with the Nightwing storyline!

Now, don't get me wrong, not every member of the Justice League totally disappears for the entire book. And on the side of the *true* heroes, Batman and Catwoman stole the show.

*Although, Catwoman might not be getting an invite to join the Justice League anytime soon, I still consider her on the side of the angels... Pbbbt!*

Also, between Grayson and Selena, you get to see a different side of Batman.

While the banter between Catwoman kept things light, the way he felt about Nightwing *moved* me. In most of the more recent titles I've read, it felt like Batman would always choose Save-The-World over Save-Your-Friend. It was logical, but cold. In this, I felt like Bruce would have let the world burn in order to get Grayson out of danger.

And, honestly, I loved it.

Alrighty.

*Why only 4 stars?*

Truth time.

As my poo-covered friend so eloquently pointed out, there are holes.

Massive, glaring, idiotic...Plot Holes.

Now, as you know, *I* can overlook things like the moon being able to block out the sun...indefinitely.

Because *I* don't particularly care that all that stuff rotates independently, thus making the *placement* of the moon in front of the sun, as a *permanent* solution to sunlight, fairly ridiculous.

And if *that* were the only 'hole', I would just scoff at my condescending friend for his haughty attitude toward a *comic book*.

Unfortunately...*God, it's physically painful to say this. It's like there's a chunk of something stuck in my throat...*

He's **\*GAK\*** right.

There were too many unbelievable moments *not* admit that there were problems with this thing. Instead of coming up with a more logical reason to destroy shit, kidnap people, and keep powerful enemies alive, what you got was this:

*Mwhahaha! Because we're EEEVIL, that's why!*

Ok. I admitted it. Happy now?!

But I'm not letting this review go out on a sour note!

On the whole, this was a massively fun romp that totally captivated my attention. No, it's not perfect, but if you're not someone with a giant stick stuck in your ass, you'll have a good time with **Forever Evil**.

Also reviewed for Addicted2Heroines, and Shallow Comic Readers.

*Thank you, NetGalley!*

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**'kris Pung says**

This was my first read for our "EVIL" Week Shallow Buddy read.

Well it doesn't get much eviler than this you've got evil villains fighting even eviler villains with a cliffhanger of another epic evil villain. Did I mention "Evil Villains"?

Not sure how the doppelgangers from Earth 3 are but they're quite the nasty bunch that I'd like to read more of for sure. DC doesn't have a good track record lately with event books but this one isn't half bad. Lex Luthor really steals the show on this and really puts his brain to good use trying to take down these other villains that are crowding his turf. I also really loved the Lex and Bizzaro moments and can we please get them their own book.

If you're looking to get a better handle of what makes Lex tick look no further then this book.

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## **Gary says**

I loved this story. Really. The Justice League is dead, Lex Luthor is leading the way with batman to eliminate a really nasty threat in the Syndicate. Great stuff. Bringing these villains forward was a great idea and an October release works perfectly. One of the things I have always thought defines a character, especially a super-hero, is the quality of their villains. And like or hate Superman, for example, Luthor is brutal and awesome in a really evil way.

It was a lot of fun watching these characters band together- "My enemy's enemy" and all that. The Syndicate is a group of really powerful, really evil, villains. And yes, the alternate dimension thing has been an overplayed card. But it works.

This story is best read in complete graphic novel form. It reads seamlessly with logical breaks where the comics began and ended, but fitting together like chapters in a book- the way comics should be assembled really. Geoff Johns is at his best here. He seems determined to carve a slot for himself in the New 52 and has done so with this.

The artwork is polished and professional as in most DC works that they care about and promote. Scrivener has some great alternate covers in the back and it was actually fun to read through these and study them after finishing the read.

One of the more interesting character combinations was watching Batman and Luthor vie for leadership of the motley group.

Each one legitimately can lead, and who is to say that when the chips are down and you absolutely, positively have to get the job done Luthor wouldn't be the one you would want leading the way? There is an interesting play on ethics and morality as the villains are clearly willing to take more brutal (and at times efficient) steps to get the job done and playing nice comes across as weakness.

Overall this is a great read, although there are clearly events that transpire prior to this that are only summed up that would've been fun reading coming in to it.

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## Sam Quixote says

If I were to match the intelligence level of Forever Evil in this review, I wouldn't even be typing this; I'd be posting a picture my minder snapped of a frowny face I smeared with my poop on the fridge while I grinned with a giant booger dangling off my nose under my spinning propeller cap. But I'm going to do something Geoff Johns didn't do and put some effort into writing somewhat coherently about DC's latest, oh, let's charitably say angry fart of a comic event: Forever Evil.

Before I start, let's clear the room first of some people who aren't going to like or appreciate what I have to say. So: if you haven't read, or are planning to read, Trinity War, and you don't know anything about Forever Evil, and you don't want spoilers - stop reading this review. Forever Evil's premise is Trinity War's finale. I wouldn't recommend Trinity War either - if Forever Evil is an angry fart, Trinity War is the bowel movement that preceded it.

Also don't read this if you haven't read Forever Evil and are planning on doing so - I will talk spoilers. And finally all DC fanboys and fangirls who don't like hearing their favourite limb-tearing comics publisher being smack-talked, you can safely walk away still believing the New 52 is the greatest accomplishment in comics - you won't agree with what I say anyway, I have some very unflattering things to say, all of which are true, so here I am saving you some time so you can go read the latest issue of Savage Hawkman (unless it's been cancelled, which is a high probability - seriously, have they cancelled more titles than they're publishing in the New 52 at this point?).

Or, if you're just one of those people who're just looking for a recommendation one way or the other, here it is: no, I would not recommend Forever Evil. It is a terrible comic. Maybe you got that from the first sentence but if you didn't I'm saying it explicitly just for you.

Ok, so I'm assuming if you're still with me at this point, I'm safe to say....

(view spoiler)



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## Alejandro says

### Great reading about evil

#### Creative Team:

Writer: Geoff Johns

Illustrator: David Finch

### EVIL VS. EVIL

#### *Aeternus Malum*

A secret infiltration into our dimension. Opening move.

Insert a mole in the Justice League. Second move.

Getting down (literally) the Watchtower. Third move.

Set both Justice Leagues to fight each other. Check.

Taking down both Leagues in one single strike. Checkmate.

The world is in the hands of the Crime Syndicate.

And if like that wasn't bad enough...

Arkham Asylum, Blackgate, Stryker's Island, Belle Reve, Iron Heights, Badview, all major prisons containing the most dangerous and powerful villains are breaking to set free their new "minions", their new army, their new Secret Society, the new fist of the Crime Syndicate to enforce its new control over humankind.

The Grid, an unexpected new ally of the Crime Syndicate takes care of the electric power and electronic communications worldwide. All under control de the Crime Syndicate.

And the few minor superhero teams remaining like Teen Titans and Doom Patrol are easily beaten down by the Crime Syndicate.

However, while many of the villains seeing the sudden change of power in the world, they soon enough join the Secret Society, there were some unexpected bastions of resistance...

The Rogues. The team of villains of Central City are ordered to destroy all the city, and while they started to do the assigned job, there is a limit, there is a line that they won't cross when they are ordered to attack even

hospitals and schools and the running population trying to evacuate the city... They may be Rogues. They may be criminals. They may be villains. BUT, there are things that they won't do.

There is another ruthless man. An unmerciful man. A man who never hesitated to kill. However, this man can be the only chance of humankind of surviving. This man is Lex Luthor.

Lex Luthor knows that he needs muscle to face this Crime Syndicate. First step: Looking for a project that he already having set since 5 years ago: A clone made from Superman's blood, Subject B-0 (B-Zero), a bizarre monster with incredible power. Second Step: To recruit unholy characters that each of them have their own personal reason to fight against the Crime Syndicate, so Lex Luthor and "Bizarro" gets help from Black Manta, Captain Cold, Black Adam, and even they will get more surprising allies and very unlikely partners.

In a world drowned in darkness, with all kind of evil everywhere, **HOPE** won't save the world.

Lex Luthor and his "Legion of Doom" will have to do it.

But even when Luthor knows that the odds are totally against them, the Crime Syndicate will have a hidden wild card, so powerful, so dangerous, so uncontrollable, so *unspeakable*, that even the Crime Syndicate is afraid of use... **him**.

### **THE UNMERCIFUL ENEMY**

*I never run away from anything.*

*Forever Evil* is an exceptionally well written story with a great artwork too.

However, I think that some of the very basic idea wasn't exploited as it should.

I mean, that the whole idea was Evil versus Evil. So, why they didn't do it to its full potential? Since, Lex's Team will get help from certain superhero, and even a key ally of the Crime Syndicate will be challenged by one other surviving hero. True, you will get a fair quantity of villains battling villains, but even so, I felt that the premise wasn't exposed as I expected.

Also, there is a more powerful enemy of any good story in comic books...

...the heroes has to appear again the next month to keep selling comic books.

So, that *unmerciful enemy* of making "permanent" things, it's like a "stop sign" to avoid doing really bad stuff to the heroes. Unknown heroes? Pfft, they are cannon fodder. But the really popular and known superheroes? Oh, there will be a way to get them back for the next month of comic books' sales.

I didn't want an excessive blood bath, because don't get mistaken, you will have a fair amount of blood in the story, but if you analyze the whole event, you will "see" the invisible barriers in storytelling to avoid doing irremediable stuff to heroes (and even to some villains) that the publishing house needs them for the next month in their titles and/or the expected sequel to the event.

But even so, the story was quite powerful enough since things in the New52 won't be the same anymore.

As any good story, there is characters' evolution, there are changes in the status quo, and it will leave scars to remember.

Definitely one of the DC Comics events that I enjoyed to read (and re-read).

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### **Cheese says**

My last review was the justice league Trinity war, which led to this story. In trinity war I was really annoyed with the cliché story, but DC have redeemed themselves a bit with this story. This was really good fun to read and kept me interested. The fact that i couldn't predict what was going to happen was quite refreshing and for the first time I found myself liking lex Luthor. He was excellent in this.

I do hope they focus a little more on these characters going forward and I'm looking forward to seeing where it goes.

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### **Jesse A says**

I really liked this one. After the relative disappointment of Trinity War my excitement for this one was minimal but Johns did a really good job with this.

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### **Chris says**

[Forever Evil #1

Aquaman #23.1 - Black Manta (Optional single issue that offers a better explanation of Manta's decision in the main storyline)

Justi

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### **Donovan says**

"THE WORLD IS OURS."

Man, this was a fun read. The Crime Syndicate, led by Ultraman, is conquering the world and enlists all of Earth's villains, all of them. Of course there's a group of villains that doesn't agree with the Syndicate, led by Lex Luthor. After all, if all the good guys are dead, who are they going to play tag with? And naturally this group of "good" villains is forced to work with the heroes who weren't killed by the Syndicate. This push and pull of constant conflict made for some great reading. I mean, this whole book was a giant series of conflicts. But we really see a tender, admirable side to Lex Luthor, which really motivates me to read more Superman, who amazingly is absent in this book because someone else has the limelight for once.

A few notes...

Power Ring is a hilarious (albeit tragic) character. Evil Harold Jordan, when compared to Good Hal Jordan, the fearless conqueror of will, could not be any more different from his counterpart.

Bizarro is awesome. What are you all talking about? Johns is totally paying tribute to Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, especially with the flower scene. I've read Frankenstein and I'm pretty sure the flower is a direct reference. Bizarro is a kind natured if simpleton version of Superman, but he still has plenty of gusto with his super strength, fire breath (instead of vision), and cold breath. And let's just say his story arc follows closely to that of Dr. Frankenstein's monster.

I was only confused by two parts. (That's it? Not bad for an event.) Not sure if this is a spoiler, so I'll hide it just in case. (view spoiler) But I'm confused how he has Shazam's powers and can absorb other powers. How is that at all like his Earth counterpart? How is he connected to Shazam? That seemed to lack sufficient explanation. And the second part is also a spoiler. So it's also hidden. (view spoiler) While the end involving those folks wasn't too off-putting, it felt like a convenient Scooby Doo wrap up that I'm sure isn't explained elsewhere. So if anyone can enlighten me, please, feel free.

All of that being said, I was generally very happy, intrigued and excited while reading. Forever Evil is character driven and Johns knows what he's doing here. Some reviews claim that this is a shallow cash grab event lacking substance, and that's just not the case.

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## **Bookwraiths says**

Originally reviewed at Bookwraiths.

Following on the heels of Trinity War comes *Forever Evil*!

The Justice League is DEAD! The world's most powerful heroes vanishing as the Crime Syndicate arrives from Earth-3; this evil version of the Justice League taking over the world.

Villains shall inherit the earth . . . or might they save it from its would-be conquerors? If Lex Luthor has any say in the matter it will be the latter . . . strange as that may sound.

When I read this book, I had little expectations of anything remotely enjoyable happening. I mean, why would I? *Trinity War* had disappointed, and this was Geoff Johns' finishing up that whole plot line. It just looked like a train wreck waiting to happen. But, I actually found myself enjoying this one.

First, the art was really good. Absolutely no letdown in this area at all, as David Finch and Richard Friend delivered some amazing superhero action from first to last page. Every character distinctly rendered; every fight superbly choreographed.

Second, Johns did some amazing things with Luthor. Nothing that hasn't been done before, but he made it

work in the confines of what could have been another DC brawl-fest. But here — even though there were fights galore — it never overshadowed the characterization that Luthor underwent.

Third, I love the Crime Syndicate. When I was a kid growing up long ago, I always sought out any appearance by these evil versions of my favorite DC heroes, not just for variety sake but because they were cool. And in *Forever Evil*, Johns has made them even more so. Really great to see them in action again.

Even with all that being said, I have to admit this story had some huge freaking plot holes. Ones that you couldn't overlook even though you desperately wanted to. They were really bad actually. Things Geoff Johns of all people shouldn't have allowed to remain in his story.

Was it still a fun read though? Hell, yes. Mindless fun, maybe, but it was still much better than *Trinity War*, in my opinion. So pick it up, sit back and enjoy the show.

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