



New Avengers: A.I.M., Volume 2: Standoff

Al Ewing (Writer) , Gerardo Sandoval (Illustrations) , Marcus To (Illustrations) , Declan Shalvey (Illustrations) , Joshua Cassara (Illustrations)

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Avengers Idea Mechanics continues to fight the good fight, no matter what! The Maker is back! But what does the strange head of W.H.I.S.P.E.R. want with the White Tiger? And wait, which White Tiger is he targeting? Then, the New Avengers will be drawn into a *Standoff* involving all of Earth's Mightiest Heroes. They're a global rescue force, but what happens when they have to rescue someone from the clutches of S.H.I.E.L.D. itself? War is coming - and so is the American Kaiju! Up from the depths! Thirty stories high! He salutes the flag and eats apple pie! But how can Avengers Island possibly survive the ultimate weapon against renegade super-science? Maybe with Avenger Five, the ultimate mighty vehicle! Plus: A traitor is revealed! And so are Sunspot's secrets, as everything comes tumbling down!

Collecting: *New Avengers* 7-11

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From Reader Review New Avengers: A.I.M., Volume 2: Standoff for online ebook

Alex Sarll says

Like Kieron Gillen before him, Al Ewing knows exactly how to handle a crossover: nod, smile, and then incorporate it into whatever you were planning to do anyway. So the recap pages are more than enough to follow anything necessary to understand the story here, which continues the first volume's themes: the difficulties of changing a corrupt system from within, the dithering of Billy, the loveliness of Squirrel Girl. And above all, the awesomeness of mad science, even if it is a tool available to both sides. As witness - AMERICAN KAIJU!

Sesana says

Parts of this book are just a damn mess. There's seriously a kaiju fighting a giant robot. And not just any kaiju. It's the *American* kaiju, which means that it naturally screams "USA!" as it attacks. Which is every bit as fun and confusing as it sounds, I assure you. Probably doesn't help that this book is getting into Civil War II stuff, and I really didn't know what exactly was going on with that stuff. But it's genuinely fun to read, most of the time, and I want to see how Roberto's plan plays out.

Júlia says

y'all already know how i feel about the art here. not a fan

Arturo says

I wasn't too interested reading this volume after the bland first one, I was just getting through it for the Standoff crossover which it had little to do with and.. Apparently that was a good thing! The Standoff event just wasn't good, and this had nothing to do with Pleasant Hill, the only Standoff connection was rescuing Rick Jones from Shield.

Anyway I gave this a 2nd read after reading U.S.Avengers and realizing how silly it was but in a fun way, and remembering this had the same feel.

I thought Sandoval's art was annoying in the 1st volume or Ewing and Sandoval didn't mash well together, but let's chalk it up to bad writing in that 1st one because Sandoval did one issue in this volume and it was good. Ewing improved doing as good as he was doing in Ultimates if not better (dialogue wise, in this one, not plot wise)

I thought the roll call intro page on the last issue was neat. Having Hulking, Wiccan and Squirrel Girl under "New Avengers", Songbird and Hawkeye under.. Well I won't spoil it, let's say Thunderbolts! And the rest under A.I.M. It brings to mind how well Ewing juggled these characters and not dismissing their connections as per their previous teams.

I was also wondering if I'm just not a fan of Hawkeye after reading Occupy Avengers but Ewing does a great job with him here.

Overall ...with the agents of shield (Quake and Simmons!), the beekeeper AIM guys, the American Kaiju, Hawkeye and Songbird stealing the show, it was a very fun read!

Leigh Koonce says

Cannonball!

Anchorpete says

I wonder, in the long run, will this book be remembered? This is such an out there team, Squirrel girl? Sunspot as the team leader? The team is supported by the Mad Scientist Terrorist Group, AIM. Such an ambitious title. Will it get the credit it deserves? This is what All New, All New Different Marvel should all be about. God, I love Al Ewing.

Mike says

um

charlotte says

marcus to's art is a blessing as always too bad it was only for a short few issues before going back to the ugly stuff *sigh*

Terence says

Avengers Idea Mechanics have no shortage of trouble. The Maker is meddling with them again.

The Whisperer is desperate and is seeking out the New Avengers help against an increasingly corrupt SHIELD.

Doing so means war with SHIELD which Roberto da Costa has no problem with, but he's only taking volunteers. Anyone who isn't sure needs to get off the ship.

Standoff was a good volume. Sunspot's New Avengers AIM is an interesting group that is more concerned with doing good than the personal cost to them. Which was quite substantial in this volume. I'm growing to appreciate a more obscure cast because I don't know everything about them like I do about the classic Avengers roster. This volume is full of unexpected events and betrayal.

I have to mention that Al Ewing may have done the best tie in to an event issues I've ever read. He knew where his story was heading and seemed to make a small tweak or two while continuing his story. It makes for strong mostly seamless writing. Without having read the Standoff event I felt as though I hadn't missed anything of importance which is fairly shocking.

Standoff was a good volume and it was better than its predecessor.

3.5 out of 5 stars

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Al Ewing knows how to do event tie-ins. He's one of those writers who can always make the event work in his favour rather than getting swept up in the event story and forgetting his own story instead. Standoff itself leads to his team battling the Agents of SHIELD, as well as the superbly named American Kaiju (who is basically patriotic Godzilla and it is awesome), all without actually going to Pleasant Hill at all, choosing instead to tie-in to the Whisperer/Rick Jones storyline instead. Nicely played.

There are also some one-and-done stories here, including one for the White Tiger and Power Man that flips their status quo and furthers the Ultimate Reed Richards/WHISPER story, and a Standoff epilogue issue for Wiccan, Hulkling, and Squirrel Girl as they try to work out what to do with themselves after the events of Pleasant Hill.

The art's probably more to everyone's taste in this issue, with Gerardo Sandoval only pencilling one issue, Marcus To handling most of the Standoff issues (I'm a big fan of To's work), and Joshua Cassara pencilling the White Tiger issue. It's less consistent, but we get one issue per storyline, so it's not too bad.

New Avengers (along with the Ultimates, suspiciously also by Ewing) continues to be the Avengers book you're probably not reading, but definitely should be.

Shannon Appelcline says

Ewing's *Avengers* really continues to excel. The writing is fresh, the characters are strong (particularly the supporting cast), and he pushes the story forward hard through twists and turns.

This is the *Standoff* crossover but fear not that it might be an incomprehensible mishmash like all the other recent single-book crossover collections from Marvel. Nope, Ewing did a great job of taking the core story of *Standoff*, but really going off in his own direction. I'm not really sure what's going on in Pleasant Hill or why Rick Jones is on the run, but other than that, this is a strong, enjoyable volume.

Jdetrick says

I have to give Al Ewing credit...he used a crossover to the advantage of his book. These issues, which tie into

the Pleasant Hill crossover, can be enjoyed without really knowing what was happening in the storyline, and advance the plots here very nicely.

Melissa says

Read as single issues

Michael Church says

This was absolutely DELIGHTFUL. Al Ewing has a wonderful sense of humor and seems to be quite capable of weaving an interesting story. He's managed to give several characters a distinct voice through the first two arcs. I especially love Roberto (Sunspot). I don't know how much it fits with his past, but it's a lot of fun here.

The little bits are what really make this stand out. Things like team members and AIM employees voting on team decisions with a phone app. Giving a name to an AIM employee representative. The reveals for Avenger 2 and Avenger 5. American Kaiju as a villain. There are winks and nods and smiles all over the place while managing to keep the stakes high and plenty of action. Ewing manages to make the whole thing feel like an inside joke that the reader is very much a part of, and I love it.

Marcus To does an excellent job on the art for his issues. It's a clean style and the colors by Dono Almara are excellent. I especially like the work around American Kaiju. The only reason I took off a star was for Gerardo Sandoval's issue. I just can't get on board with his style. It is so exaggerated and cartoonish. It also ruins some of my favorite characters, like Wiccan and Hulkling. Hawkeye looked like Captain America to me. Really it's mostly the guys that he can't draw.

Regardless, I'm loving this title. Unless things really fall off in Volume 3, I'm expecting to keep following this in USAvengers next.

Dreximgirl says

Admittedly some of this is very silly (Giant Robot vs American Godzilla being one example) but overall it was good. Although I can always do with more Billy (Wiccan) and Teddy (Hulkling) :)
