



## Harbinger, Volume 2: Renegades

*Joshua Dysart (Writer) , Phil Briones (Artist) , Barry Kitson (Artist) , Lee Garbett (Artist) , Matthew Clark (Artist)*

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Led by omega-powered psionic Toyo Harada, the Harbinger Foundation is a secret organization that has controlled and subverted the course of recent history. With a secret army of psychic soldiers at his command, no one has dared defy Toyo Harada's plans for the human race - until now! Harada's most powerful student, Peter Stanchek, has discovered the true nature of the Harbinger Foundation and he will stop at nothing to prevent Harada's vision from coming to pass. With a classified list of Harada's next recruits in hand, it falls to Peter to draft the next generation of empowered youth and form the frontline in humanity's resistance to the Harbinger Foundation. Peter. Kris. Zephyr. Flamingo. Torque. Their fight for the future comes out of the shadows and into the Valiant Universe when *Renegades* begins.

By *New York Times* best-selling author Joshua Dysart and an all-star cast of comics' top artistic talents, get ready for the second stunning volume of the series *Ain't It Cool News* calls "simply astonishing."

**Collecting:** *Harbinger* 6-10

## Harbinger, Volume 2: Renegades Details

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# **From Reader Review Harbinger, Volume 2: Renegades for online ebook**

## **Lionel says**

More action than in the previous volume, this X-Men group is a lot more realistic and we can see Charles Xavier as a bad man.

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## **Chris Lemmerman says**

If the first volume of Harbinger was about introducing Peter Stanchek and Toyo Harada, this second volume really kicks things into high gear as Peter heads across the country to recruit other Psiots like himself in order to take down Harada once and for all.

Each issue in this volume is told from a different character's perspective, which really helps introduce them to the reader, so we get one each from Peter, Kris, Faith, and newcomers Flamingo and Torque as Peter's crusade against Harada sweeps them up into his crazy world. Each character has their own unique motivations, and by the end of each issue you feel a lot more connected to each of them (except maybe Torque, but then he's kind of a blank page anyway so I guess that's probably intentional).

This volume sees these characters come together and start something big, as they learn to work together and trust each other to have their backs; even if they're not exactly friends, they're teammates.

The art in this one is a bit more inconsistent, with each issue pencilled by a different artist. However, it's a good selection of talent, with Barry Kitson, Pere Perez, Matthew Clark, Lee Garbett, and Phillipe Briones all taking one issue each. It helps that each issue focuses on a different character, so it doesn't feel like a breakdown of consistency so much as an actual visual choice.

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## **Hector Ibarrraran says**

This chapter makes the main character a little less deplorable, but not because of his own choices, but rather because he is suddenly surrounded by good people who believe in him. The story feels a little bit like those "realistic" takes on superheroes from the 80s you still find in the 25¢ bin in comic book stores, but I have the feeling that these characters are going to be around for longer. Valiant is taking the time to flesh them out, and though many start as cringeworthy stereotypes, they grow into people you can like, because though all their personal hells and disappointments, they still find it in themselves to try to do the right thing.

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## **Anne says**

**Better and better!**

We get introduced to some new characters with some pretty cool powers. Or, at least, they were new *to me*. I'm sure those of you who are familiar with Valient comics recognized these guys right off the bat from earlier incarnations. But for those of us who are newbies?

Great introduction!

I honestly can't believe that I've not heard more about this publisher or this world. Seriously. So far, I'm just blown away.

So, this motley group of superpowered teenagers is going to take on the most powerful organization in the world. Yeah, it *has* been done before. <--but it was still good!

If you haven't given the Valient world a chance yet because of whatever preconceived notion you might have about this publisher, I highly suggest you check this title out. I got dragged here kicking and screaming by a few good friends, and I've honestly ended up being so glad that they pushed this on me. Lots of fun!

**Recommended.**

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### **Mark Morabito says**

The ideas aren't original but the execution is awesomely good! Holy well developed characters batman! This is the best hero team series I've read.

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### **Amy says**

So now we assemble a team of not-so-super-heroes who are instantly hunted and in immediate danger. But I love the team of 'losers' Peter goes after and they have some great lines ("SUCK IT, BAD GUYS! I'm aliive! Isaac Newton in the house!!!")

I just came to find out Faith's backstory and how her previous relationship ended... but now I want to know what happens next.

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### **Cheese says**

Fantastic and empowering!

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### **Namor says**

Action packed. But also introspective as Peter's recruits think about their lives and motivations in flashbacks. Peter finds and activates a firestarter and a hulk with his powers. Peter's crush Kris is recruited by the flying Faith. I love Kris's personality and it turns out she is quite the strategist. Kris hates Peter at first but that

changes after their battles. I like this little "X-Men" group of misfits.

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### **Jesse A says**

A small step down from Volume 1. Still interested to see where it all goes.

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### **Brian Dickerson says**

Peter adds on more team members to the psiots "good guys". I enjoyed seeing the origin and earlier history of Faith. I found the dialog a bit action-movie bland and quipping but it was still a fun page turning read. The change in artist across the collected issues was slightly jarring but I realize that's the way non creator owned projects go. A solid read.

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### **Roman Colombo says**

This was quite a fast read. The art is really fun, and goes wonderfully with the narratives, and the new characters are great too. But it's Faith that steals the show. I would love to see her and Kamala Khan team up one day. They would be best friends easily. Rolling right along with Valiant. I hope to see this team build a little more. The Renegades are great.

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### **Geekritique says**

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Review of Harbinger, Vol. 1: Omega Rising

Valiant's immensely fantastic Harbinger series continues with Volume Two, a 5 issue arc titled 'Renegades'. And although it doesn't live entirely up to the standard of the first volume, it feels like a well put together second act. Renegades collects issues 6-10 of the 25 issue run.

Previously we learn that Peter Stanchek is capable of unlocking 'latents' minds so that they can use their unique psionic powers. He does so for Faith, who gains the ability to fly after becoming a psiots. Peter also does the frankly unforgiveable to a young woman named Kris, b tricking her into falling in love with her (without consent). All the while, Peter is inducted into a secret Harbinger organization that is owned by the powerful Toyo Harada, and is used to hone the powers of the worlds many psiots. Until Peter is duped by Harada and realizes this isn't quite the organization he thought it was, and he (with the help of Faith) are on the run.

One of the biggest immediate qualms I had with the second volume, if I'm to get it out of the way now, were the motives of Kris Hathaway, whom we see vehemently wanting nothing to do with Peter Stanchek after he

wronged her in Volume One. Well, she appears to have had a change of heart, and is helping his renegade team super...rebels? We don't really know what Peter is doing currently, or what his purpose is. So Kris' helping him (with a little help from Faith) just doesn't seem to fit with the character previously introduced.

But I guess it can be said that Peter's immediate objective with this arc was to stay on the run from Harada and find latents who's minds haven't yet been unlocked by the Harbinger Foundation. Little of the plot's endgame is mentioned, so that too seems unimportant or far-off at the moment. But when it comes to gathering recruits to his cause, Peter surely makes a habit of it. At least a little habit.

The first inductee of his renegade squad, aside from Faith (who likes to call herself Zephyr) and Kris, turns out to be a young woman named Charlene Dupre, or perhaps better known by her stripper name 'Flamingo.' She's developed over the course of an issue, and you really come to feel bad for her character as you discover the hard life she's led through reckless decisions made as a teenager. She's an abused character, with little self-worth - until Peter comes along and unlocks her psionic abilities, pushing her to become who she was always meant to be. And she has the power to generate and control flames, which is pretty epic, as well as dangerous.

We are also introduced to John Torkelson, who's identity I'm still a bit confused about. We first find that he has a brother who is a mechanic, but also cross dresses under times of duress. And he, John Torkelson, is bed-ridden and constantly stuck in his imaginary world of Torquehalla, where he's constantly saving babes and riding dinosaurs in a Metalocalypse-type setting. Peter unlocks his abilities, which allows him to project his imaginative self into reality, giving him the appearance of his older, buffer, brother, along with incredible strength. I was a bit confused by how he was portrayed like his brother, and if there was supposed to be any clear distinction between the two characters. But we haven't really seen him do anything particularly useful for the team yet. In fact, much of the team doesn't yet feel like one, except for Faith and Peter Stancheck.

But the story holds its own quite well, pushing the boundaries of this world, and exciting the mind for what's still to come. I look forward to picking apart volume 3, as the series continues to feel highly promising, and the art is continually superb.

Grab this in Paperback.

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### **Elinor Master of Gifs says**

Cette série est trop cool. Faith est la coolitude incarnée. C'est la plus cool des plus cools. La meilleure. Sérieux. Elle est en train de devenir l'une de mes super-héroïnes préférées. Et le reste est super sympa aussi. L'histoire est super bonne et je kiffe les personnages. Il n'y a que le dessin qui n'est pas toujours parfaitement my cup of tea, mais j'adore j'adore j'adore.

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### **Michael Church says**

I think the title really started to catch its stride in this volume. It's still not my favorite book out there, but I definitely see some potential. If nothing else, I like the premise. Wide variety of powers, teaming up for good and bad, all that jazz. There's also some really nice lines that are just witty enough. On the flip side, there's a lot of lines that feel forced and fake.

Overall I have realized I like the supporting cast much more than the leads. Peter and Kris and Harada don't do anything for me. Flamingo was awesome from the get-go and you can't help but love Zephyr. Even Torque has a cool story and his Torquehalla thing is a nice hook. They're just more believable than the others. Even on the side of the bad guys. I mean one of the main villains is Dull Tull and what makes him special is that he's completely devoid of emotion. Really? I get the implication with all the mind wipes and whatever but come on.

That said, I really did enjoy this volume. Watching the team come together felt pretty organic, but there probably could have been a bit more exposition. The Renegades just start showing up places. There's no indication of their methods or anything. I get it but some sort of explanation would have been nice.

There are some interesting things going on, despite my grievances. Kris still loving Peter on some strange level because of the manipulation is a nice touch, but then again why couldn't he have totally wiped that part of her mind? That's the problem with building characters a bit too powerfully - it sets you up for way more loopholes and questions in the long run.

I also get the feeling that this will be a pretty limited run. I mean what are they going to all do after Harada? Oh well. The bottom line is that I'll stick around to find out.

Oh, and the art definitely improved this time. There's less of that hyper shiny and stylized stuff. There's actually an attempt at doing some artwork here and it's nice.

Last note - does anyone else totally imagine Faith talking like Quagmire's girlfriend Stephanie from the Family Guy episode "And Then There Were Fewer"?

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## **sixthreezy says**

Another Valiant comic and another valiant entry. Harbinger is definitely one of the best superhero titles currently running, and I'm a big fan of a lot of the New 52. Valiant knows what they are doing with their characters, and Harbinger is just so awesome. I remembered really liking the first volume I read and I couldn't really remember why when diving into this second volume. As the story went on it became clear to me again why this is such a great series, and it's because the characters are so great. Peter is a great hero even though he plays by his own rules, and his new group of recently activated psiots are all awesome and have their own abilities and unique personalities. I can't say there's a single character in this book I don't like, and the powers just all make sense for their individual lives. Seeing all of these heroes together is so cool, and it makes a reader like me really want to see where this Harbinger storyline can go. The other great thing about these Valiant comics is that they are considerably adult, but still tasteful and really great reads. If you haven't gotten into the new Valiant comics, you should go out and do yourself a favor. Too awesome to miss out on right now.

Originally posted at sixthreezy at the movies & more!

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