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Howard Chaykin

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#800126 in Books 2009-03-31Format: UnabridgedOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.10 x .70 x 6.60l, 1.25 #File Name: 1582404194256 pages | File size: 55.Mb

Howard Chaykin : American Flagg! Volume 2 (American Flagg Definitive Colltp) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Flagg! Volume 2 (American Flagg Definitive Colltp):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A cluster of satire, sexy, and just bizarreBy C. D. VarnHoward Chaykin wrote this strange comic that feels a bit like The Running Man and a bit like a Paul VerHoeven satire of the 1980s. The television references, the insane politics, the shoulder pads and high angled hairstyles. Elements of the

satire are spot on: everyone living in malls, parody politics, mixtures of slapstick and ultra-violence. Chaykin's world is lush and you can feel the influence on comics book writers and artists like Frank Miller just a few years later. While this was sexy and transgression from the 1980s, its not as transgressive as soon of Chaykin's own work from the time period. The dialogue bubbles and the over-saturation of content in the panels though can be distracting and make American Flagg hard to read. It also dates itself more readily than other more old and grim comics from around the same period such as Alan Moore's work as well as Frank Miller's late 80s work. It is completely over the top and the plot is so convoluted, it is hard to follow. It's very good, but also very much limited by reading it almost 30 years too late. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Raise the Flagg By Zack Davisson "American Flagg!" is one of those comics that I have heard about for decades, and heard was great, but had never read. I finally picked it up and, no surprises, it is as fantastic as reported. Howard Chaykin and his series "American Flagg!" get the term "groundbreaking" attached quite often, and after reading it I see how true this is. Published in 1982 through First Comics (the same year Blade Runner] came out, which does not seem to be a coincidence), "American Flagg!" laid the groundwork and set the stage for the comic book revolution that would come in 1986 with Watchmen and Batman: The Dark Knight Returns. In his introduction, Michael Chabon (The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier Clay) goes so far as to compare "American Flagg!" to Citizen Kane, as having shown the world what could really be done with a medium that hadn't yet realized its own capabilities. Aside from just upping the sex-and-violence quotient to be more adult - something Chaykin would continue with his own famous revamps of The Shadow and Blackhawk - "American Flagg!" mixes politics, anti-corporationalism, and tongue-in-cheek irony combined with an entirely non-ironic patriotism and love of the American ideals of free speech, free press, and free religion. And maybe free love. In 2031 (a day not quite as far in the future as it must have seemed to Chaykin when he wrote it), a eco- and war-devastated Earth has been abandoned by the rich and powerful in favor of a terra-formed Mars. The Earth has been almost entirely purchased by a mega-corporation called The Plex, who pits the remaining population against each other in violent battles that it sells as top-rated programming to Mars. Rueben Flagg arrives, drafted into the Plexus Rangers, a corporate security force. Flagg was once a video star of the series Mark Thrust, until The Plex realized they had captured enough footage of him that they could holographically simulate the character without the actor. Flagg, who is Jewish, finds that Earth is a cesspool of discrimination and racism, with gangs battling against each other every night for Mars' entertainment. The Plex broadcasts a TV show, Bob Violence, loaded with subliminal messages to ensure the Earth folks keep fighting. But Flagg is an idealist, who has grown up on the dream of America, and decides that a little underground rabble-rousing is just what the country needs. And maybe a pirate TV station. I was happy to see that "American Flagg!" is not at all dated. There is a bit of the early 80s here, especially with pastel fashion, white suits, and the pre-AIDS sexuality that has Rueben Flagg as a cavalier James Bond type who can't go thirty feet without a woman taking off her dress and throwing herself at him. (Interesting that Chaykin had all that fun catch up symbolically a bit later, when in "The Shadow" the sex-driven couple both caught AIDS.) There are some political issues that seem dated; one wonders why a future-society so sexually free would still be freaked out by homosexuality. Ultimately, "American Flagg!" lives up to its reputation. This is Good Comics. And any true lover of comic books who hasn't read "American Flagg!" is missing out. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Look around, American Flagg is now By Carl W. Taitano This is one of the best graphic novels ever done. As good, if not better than "The Dark Knight Returns" or "Watchman". You may think the characters are too over the top situations outrageous but just look around. The only graphic novel I believe is comparable, is "Planetary".

AMERICAN FLAGG! created, written, and illustrated by Howard Chaykin and winner of numerous awards and honors, including nine Eagle Awards is now available as a trade paperback collecting the series' second seven issues! Collects American Flagg! issues #8-14.