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Animal Man Vol. 1: The Hunt (The New 52)



Synopsis

A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “The best thing to come out of the DC relaunch. Absolutely knocked it out of the park.” Gold stars for the creative team. As a part of the acclaimed DC Comics •The New 52 event of September 2011, Animal Man Buddy Baker, has gone from "super" man to family man—but is he strong enough to hold his family together when Maxine, his young daughter, starts to manifest her own dangerous powers? As these new abilities continue to terrify Buddy and his wife Ellen, things take a turn for the worse as Buddy begins a startling transformation of his own that will lead him on a journey into the heart of The Red. Collected here are the first 6 issues of this dramatic new series from writer Jeff Lemire (Sweet Tooth) and artist Travel Foreman (The Immortal Iron Fist)! This volume collect issues 1-6 of Animal Man, part of the DC Comics •The New 52 event.

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Q & A with Jeff Lemire, author of Animal Man Vol. 1: The Hunt Q: What's it like working on a huge initiative like The New 52? Jeff Lemire: It was incredibly exciting. I grew up a DC Comics fan, so for me to be a part of such a big moment in the company's history was really quite surreal, but also very rewarding. I was given a lot of creative freedom to really make my books stand out and to really do something unique with them. Q: How are you balancing making these stories and characters feel fresh and new while still respecting what came before? JL: Even though I love these characters and the stories that came before, at the end of the day I still have to make them my own. So if I were to just try and replicate the stories I enjoyed, it wouldn't be very much fun for me or the reader. I think

the key is to boil each character down to its core concept and build up from there. Make it fresh and put as much of yourself into them as you can. Q: What stories or creators inspire you most when working on your character? JL: For Animal Man, I was definitely inspired by the often-overlooked run by writer Jamie Delano and artist Steve Pugh. And now I'm working with Steve on the book! And of course, you can't overlook what Grant Morrison brought to the character in his definitive run. Q: I think we can all agree that Animal Man was the breakout hit of The New 52. Was it a bit surprising for you to see such a strong response? JL: Yes, it is. I tried to put as much of myself into the book as I could, and I think when the art started coming in, I had a sense that we were doing something really good, but you never know how the audience will respond. I never expected it to resonate with so many people. I think Animal Man is just a character that so many people can relate to because he is a father and a husband first, and a superhero second. Just like me. Q: You and Scott Snyder tend to Twitter War each other often. How has this affected you when it comes to writing Animal Man and its relation to Swamp Thing? JL: Scott and I are the best of friends, so we often give each other a hard time online. Truth is we spend a lot of time talking about our stories and characters together. We feed off of each other. Fans will get to see that first hand when our Animal Man and Swamp Thing story lines intersect later this year. It isn't one of those crossovers that editorial puts together and forces on you, its a story that grew organically out of us sharing ideas and scripts for our two books and realizing that there was a lot of potential in really interweaving our stories into a greater mythology.

“Travel Foreman’s art is innovative and excellently creepy when it needs to be, and will hopefully get a lot of eyes as Lemire’s everyman hero makes his mark in the new DC Universe.”
• USA Today “A profound meditation on consumer culture and the economy of disposability.”
• PopMatters “Animal Man has the sensational”
• Jeff Lemire at the helm.
• Entertainment Weekly “A strange, dark fantasy book with unpredictable plots and fantastic art.”
• Complex Magazine “Haunting”
• Travel Foreman provides sleek, meticulous art that grounds the book in reality, and he uses inventive page layouts during the scenes in the Baker home to create visual excitement where the situations are less fantastic
• Animal Man is just a cool, odd character, grounded in the real world but still very much a superhero.
• The Onion AV Club “I don’t want to overhype it, but if you don’t love it from the very first page, you’re not human.”
• MTV Geek “The best thing to come out of the DC relaunch. Absolutely knocked it out of the park”
• Gold stars for the

creative team. [Visceral and intriguing.](#) [SFX](#)
[“This book sets the benchmark.](#) [Comic Book Resources](#) [“A great introduction to Animal Man for new readers, while also giving long-time fans something fresh to be excited about.](#) [IGN](#) [“The character Jeff was meant to write. Lemire and Foreman did an amazing job.](#) [Ain't It Cool News](#)
[“Well-crafted and bold.](#) [iFanboy, Pick of the Week](#) [“Animal Man is one you can't pass up.](#) [Bloody Disgusting, Pick of the Week](#)

I had been dying to read this run forever! Story: This was my introduction to Animal Man in the comics besides seeing him cameo in Scott Snyder's Swamp Thing run. I don't really know much about the character but I'm learning. It's great that DC can have their own everyman hero (though he's not nearly as popular as Marvel's Spider-Man). It seems as though Lemire is actually expanding on his mythos, by introducing Buddy to The Red and the Parliament of Limbs who inform Buddy that his four year old daughter, Maxine, is actually the Avatar of the Red. I don't know how to feel about this, as Animal Man almost seems to be playing second fiddle to his own daughter in his own book. I mean, the father is the superhero, but his toddler daughter is already more powerful than he. I guess it's not a big deal. After all, for you DragonBall Z fans, four year old Gohan temporarily had a higher power level than Goku. Buddy and his family are being stalked by the Hunters Three, agents of The Rot, the ultimate enemy to The Red and The Green. They are powerful, deceptive, and good at what they do! There's a lot of tension buildup throughout the story (as I also felt reading Swamp Thing) because the Rot agents can take the form of normal people and using these disguises they can get up close to the blissfully unaware heroes. It very much reminds me of John Carpenter's The Thing. The protagonists never know where the agents of the Rot may be. Buddy tries to save his family and protect them from the Hunters Three and we get some good family dynamics going. Eventually, due to the inexperience of Maxine, Buddy and his family have to hit the road and try to escape from the agents of the Rot. I would have liked to have a little more action in this volume, but there definitely is a decent amount. Art: I like Travel Foreman's covers, but I'm really not a fan of his interior art style. It almost looks like unfinished pencils or that he's still learning how to draw, and then someone inked and colored over it. Just not a fan, and that's the main reason I'm giving this book a rounded up 3 1/2 stars. I would have preferred another artist with a more "refined" style, but volume 2 seems to mainly feature Steve Pugh on art duties, so I'm looking forward to that! The book is very colorful; it at least has that going for it, but I felt as though all the colors are muted slightly, or they are not as vibrant as I wish them to be. This is more

so a small nitpick of mine, it's not really a problem with the book. The Hunters Three look appropriate for agents of the Rot and the main one most assuredly will remind one of The Thing. One thing I LOVED about this book is the body horror, and you can't really be doing a book about DC's Avatars without doing some form of body horror. This book has that in spades, Foreman at least lends a creepy feeling to his images. Overall: I honestly don't see what the big deal is about this book. I know it was called one of The New 52's top 3 books. I enjoyed this volume, and I already bought the rest of the run. I found this book got better and better as I read further through the story. I'm becoming a big fan of Lemire, but I'm not a fan of Travel Foreman as an artist. I would have preferred someone else on art duties. But, this run IS off to a good start, and I'm excited for the rest of the run.

I have never heard of Animal Man before reading this book. In fact I didn't even know he existed to be honest. Animal Man has been part of the DC comics universe for quite some time. Though I believe as time wore on since his debut in the 60s, Animal Man became overshadowed as many unique heroes in DC tend to become due to the status of heavy hitters like Superman and Batman. For a time, Vertigo comics, an imprint of DC that handled darker, graphic and more adult oriented comics, actually fleshed out Buddy Baker and tied him closer to his powers and connections with animals by having him become a part of The Red, which is a force that connects all animal life on Earth. Animal Man Volume 1 The Hunt is written by Jeff Lemire with art by Travel Foreman. The book does continue plot points from Pre-New 52 Animal Man but it is very accessible to readers and it doesn't take long for you to jump into the story. Buddy Baker is an animal rights activist and icon for conservationists and young people who are concerned with animal well being. He is married to his wife Ellen and has two children a son named Cliff and a daughter named Maxine. He actually isn't torn between his duties to his family and his superhero career (as many writers would approach) initially but he is still a presence to be felt in the world nonetheless. Trouble arises in the Baker household however when Maxine begins to display powers that rival Buddys and he embarks on a journey to discover more about The Red and exactly what is going on with his daughter. However, all is not well as The Rot, a force representing death and decay emerges and begins to threaten Bakers family and sets in motion events that threaten Animal Man, The Red and The Green (plant life). Jeff Lemire writes an outstanding tale that is mixed with elements of horror, humor and your usual comic book action and adventure. Travel Foreman however presents the visuals in this story in a bizarre yet unique way. Characters look like human beings, but when action picks up and the fantastical elements come into play such as action sequences, The Rot, The Red, The

Hunters Three and so on, Travel really gets carried away and presents disturbing monsters and very graphic deaths and feats that these characters perform. This book definitely raised my interest in Animal Man and I highly recommend anyone who reads comics to read this, you will probably feel the same.

This was the first time I got introduced to Animal Man (Buddy Baker). I Picked this up because I'm a fan of Jeff Lemire's work. The story was interesting enough to keep me going, but I was not feeling the art from Travel Foreman. That is why I am giving it 3.5 (rounded to 4 because it does not deserve a 3). The story involves Buddy Baker as an everyman hero with a family (wife and 2 kids). While I was expecting this volume to be centered on Buddy Baker, it actually tends to center more on his daughter Maxine (4-years old) who is recently discovering her powers and her connection to The Red (all animal form). The two go in a journey into The Red and find out The Rot (death and decay) have sent 3 agents after Maxine, complicating things for Buddy and his family. Note on the art: while I was not a fan of the art, I do give credit to Foreman's imagination and depiction of The Red and The Rot, as well as all the gore. It added a little bit of horror to a story that began light-hearted and a little comical. But I do believe that if the art had come from Yanick Paquette (Swamp Thing), this series would be flawless.

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