Daredevil: Born Again
Synopsis

Karen Page, Matt Murdock’s former lover, has traded away the Man Without Fear’s secret identity for a drug fix. Now, Daredevil must find strength as the Kingpin of Crime wastes no time taking him down as low as a human can get.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This incredible series was the first time I read anything by Frank Miller. This was pre-Dark Knight and showed me what exactly you could do with comics. While comics in the 70s began to make more realistic stories with arcs like the Harry Osbourne’s drug issues and Tony Stark’s alcoholism. But the story was when Frank started with Marvel, he asked to be put on the lowest selling comic and so they gave him Daredevil. With this, he created great, gritty urban dramas that took Daredevil from the clean comics world into the sordid underbelly of New York’s Hell’s Kitchen. Matt Murdoch became a champion for the downtrodden of the neighborhood, and it culminated in this awesome storyline where the Kingpin finds out his secret identity from his junky, porn whore ex-girlfriend looking for her next fix. The Kingpin then systematically destroys Matt’s life and livelihood until he hits rock bottom. As alcoholics say, when you hit rock bottom, you find out who you really are, and in this story, Matt does just that. It is a story of almost biblical proportions of falling and redemption. For most people who are unfamiliar with Miller’s lesser known works, as they are overshadowed by The Dark Knight, Year One and Sin City, this is a great addition to your comic library. Don’t deprive yourself.
I’m not gonna bother explaining how good the story is. Born Again is one of Daredevil’s most famous stories, and Frank Miller is legendary for his Daredevil writing. What I can say is that this specific edition of Born Again is amazing. If you want to own Born Again, buy this one. Here’s why:

As you may know, the original comic books in this series were printed on thin newsprint paper. Some die hard fans might say that’s the only way to read it. I own the original comics, and I compared the pages to the art in this book. The pages in this book are thick, high quality white paper, so any part that was light greyish white in the comics will be white here. Also, the colors are much more solid. Where the colors look slightly pale and faded in the comics, the books presents them vibrantly. This doesn’t mean the art was redone, it just means it’s being printed in a much more expensive process. The colors still look matte, the way they did in most classic comics from the time. They aren’t glossy like modern comics, and the book really feels like something that came from the ’80s like it should.

The cover art is all there with original colors, Marvel logos with copyright 1985 Marvel Comics Group under them, 75 cent price tag, issue number and month, etc. The only thing missing is the black spider-man head logo that was being printed on the bottom left hand corner of the covers for some reason. Some are marked “Marvel 25th anniversary”. Very cool. In the back of the book the cover art is printed minus all the logos and numbers. There are then 24 pages of original pencil only drawings of pages from the story. This is followed by the typed script from Daredevil #233.

The Daredevil: Born Again story line is one of those fond memories from my youth that never quite left my mind. I read this thirty years ago at the tender age of ten and some of the imagery simply burned itself into my mind. Frank Miller writes here at the top of his form, delivering a harrowing tale of destruction, vengeance and redemption that puts Matt Murdock/ Daredevil at the lowest point of his existence. The art is solid for the most part and several characters from the Marvel Universe pop in for a moment or two. Daily Bugle reporter Ben Urich is great in this story, supplying the support that Daredevil needs to get back on his feet. Daredevil’s secret identity gets sold out to the Kingpin by his former girlfriend Karen Page for the price of a hit of heroin and from there, the Kingpin destroys the man bit by bit, taking away everything and everyone he holds dear. I don’t want to ruin the rest of the story but suffice to say that it goes to some pretty dark places. It’s a story line indicative of the time that it was written, when Hell’s Kitchen really was a gritty place unlike today where it has cleaned up immensely.

If you’re enjoying the Daredevil series on Netflix, then trust me, you’re going to want to read this book.
Best Daredevil store I've ever read. The Kingpin is a stone bastard in this. Nuke? That mammer-jammer is a bad mofo. If you like the Netflix series, buy this to see what the character is all about.

I love the idea of daredevil. As a Catholic, I believe no one is beyond redemption. This story takes a man to the depths of despair and leads us on his painful journey to overcome his torments...internal as well as external.

Miller. Mazchullie. How does one explain greatness. The elektra saga was great. Born again goes beyond that. Haven't read them in years. I had forgot how good, great, amazing they were. This is simply the best work ever in my opinion of Miller’s work. My favorite or one of the top ten reads.

I agree with the other raves about the quality of this work—it’s an all-time favorite—which is why I feel it deserves a better production. They use glossy paper which is particularly bad for a dark gritty story like this one. The coloring, originally intended for newsprint comics, is not updated for this edition and so the colors look garish. (Newsprint paper is more absorbent and softens the colors and the dot screens used to make gradations. On glossy paper, the same colors look like bright dots, like a Roy Lichtenstein painting.) Marvel should look to the other Miller/Mazzucchelli collaboration, Batman Year One, to see how this book should have been done. I wish they had just sought help from Mazzucchelli. His own books are beautifully produced, so I’m pretty sure he was not consulted on this one...

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