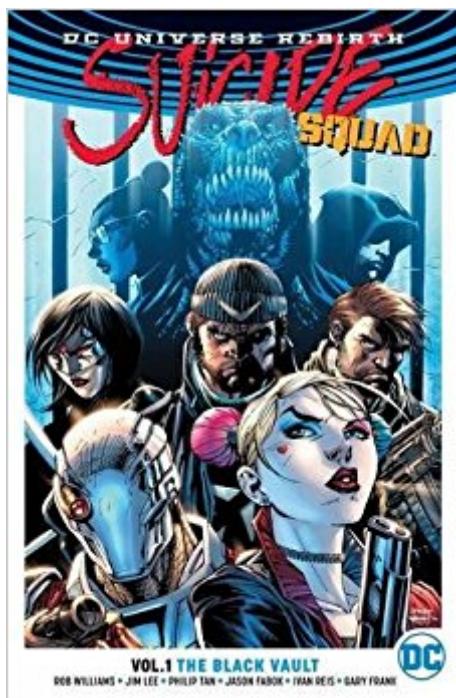


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# Suicide Squad Vol. 1: The Black Vault (Rebirth)



## Synopsis

Harley Quinn. Deadshot. Killer Croc. Enchantress. Captain Boomerang. Katana. They're dangerous. They're deadly. They're deeply unstable. And they're our only hope. They're the characters from the smash-hit film and they're here in this great new starting-point graphic novel, SUICIDE SQUAD VOL. 1: THE BLACK VAULT, as part of DC Rebirth! Assembled by the tough-as-nails intelligence expert Amanda Waller and overseen by disgraced military genius Captain Rick Flag, the men, women and monsters of the Suicide Squad—*a.k.a.* Task Force X—do the jobs that are too dirty for any superheroes to soil their capes with. Their latest mission should be easy enough: recover a powerful cosmic weapon called the Black Vault from enemy hands. The Suicide Squad always gets the job done (mostly) but this time, when the weapon's dark influence spreads and the team is driven to madness and mayhem (more than usual), there's only one person sane enough to save the Squad from destruction—the Clown Princess of Crazy herself, Harley Quinn! Legendary artist Jim Lee teams up with writer Rob Williams and artists Philip Tan, Jason Fabok, Ivan Reis and Gary Frank for a new deadly Task Force X mission in SUICIDE SQUAD VOL. 1: THE BLACK VAULT! Exploding from the pages of DC's blockbuster Rebirth event and starring the characters you love and hate from the smash-hit movie, this graphic novel is a great jumping-on point for new readers! Collects issues #1-4 and the SUICIDE SQUAD: REBIRTH one-shot.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rob Williams has written for DC Comics, Marvel, Dynamite Entertainment and many others. He is the author of the Vertigo graphic novel **THE ROYALS: MASTERS OF WAR** as well as the creator-owned series **UNFOLLOW**. His DC Comics work includes **MARTIAN MANHUNTER** and the forthcoming **SUICIDE SQUAD** with Jim Lee.

Very kind delivery. Good package

Loved it!! Lots of cool action and awesome illustrations

So this volume starts with Barack Obama dismantling the Suicide Squad because it's, well, illegal. And good riddance to it, I say. Of course, there's a new president in town, and doing things that are illegal is pretty much his game plan. But Obama is still the president in this volume, and to soothe his old-fashioned belief that the government should obey the law, Rick Flag is put in charge of the Suicide Squad. If you're really really old, you'll recall that Rick Flag Sr. was in charge of the original World War II era Suicide Squad. This is that Flag's grandson. Amanda Waller has to get Flag out of Guantanamo to lead Task Force X, consisting of the dreadful Harley Quinn, the ridiculous Boomerang, the banal Deadshot, the awful Enchantress, and I don't even have an adjective for Killer Croc. Their first rebirthed mission is to go after a small army of criminals in Mongolia that have figured out how to turn themselves into supervillains for 36 hours while nullifying the powers of superheroes. They intend to hire themselves out to America hating terrorists, which seems a lot less lucrative than, for instance, robbing banks. And really, if Mongol criminals were to get superpowers, they would be more interested in attacking China and Russia than America, but hey, that's the plot. Their second mission has something to do with stealing a cosmic item from a Russian rogue state, accompanied by Flag and Katana and a hacker named Hack. The mission goes south when they encounter General Zod. How does Zod keep busting out of the Phantom

Zone? Seems unlikely to me, but no more unlikely than the Suicide Squad battling the Russian army and the Annihilation Brigade. More metahumans? The world is crawling with them. Especially Russia. Now Zod, it seems to me, should easily be able to defeat, and indeed kill, every one of the Suicide Squad, but if he did that, DC would have to abandon the title. Still, I mean, unpowered Flag standing up to Zod? Seriously? I can't say that I'm familiar with the original Suicide Squad, but its more recent reincarnations, particularly in the New 52, were pretty lame. So there was room for improvement in the Rebirth, and I will give DC credit for doing some things right. I like Harley's bare midriff and her skimpy little t-shirt that says "Rebirth." I like Croc's attempt to eat Zod. I like that fact that someone dies (not saying who, just saying good riddance). And I really like the back stories, or origin stories, that crop up midway through the volume: Deadshot (pretty good story), Boomerang (played for laughs, Boomerang as an Australian James Bond, complete with Bond girls who are repackaged as Boomerang girls), and Katana (really good writing). Then there's a bit where Flag tests Harley's loyalty. That segment, like Harley, I could have done without. The art, for the most part, is quite good. That, and the bits of this I liked, almost squeak this volume into "I liked it" (4 star) territory, not quite. I still get the impression that DC likes the idea of the Suicide Squad but doesn't know what to do with it. If the writers find a direction, a purpose, this has the potential to finally become a good series, but it's not there yet. I would give it 3 1/2 stars if I could.

Well, DC is rebirthing all their titles . . . again. Suicide Squad being one of the many books starting all over. And while I didn't know what to expect from it, had to get a grip on all the new stuff going on, overall, I thought it was a good beginning with lots of promise. The new origin story begins the fun. Director Amanda Waller as the head of A.R.G.U.S. recruits a team of villains called Task Force X, or Suicide Squad. (Not that there is much of a team here, because Waller runs the show, and if anyone does anything she doesn't like or tries to escape or anything else, then they will die.) She also convinces Captain Randall Flagg, long-time Navy Seal, to become the team leader. Once together, the group heads out to the Black Vault to steal a cosmic item. The adventure filled with action, surprises, and loads of villains to put down. And when that is done, we get extended backstories (personnel files and interviews) about Deadshot, Katana, and Boomerang, as well as a stand-alone adventure with Flagg and Harley Quinn. So the good stuff. I loved all the characters. Especially good was the back stories of the guys spotlighted. And the art was really, really good.

Really liked all the variant covers and pencil artwork. Bad. The main story was too short for me. I also didn't find it too interesting. Sure, it had loads of fights and stuff, but it seemed pretty pointless. At least, I didn't get it. All in all this was a good graphic novel. The story was decent. The characters were really interesting with cool back stories. Much better than the New 52 versions for me, at least. The artwork was pretty amazing. The characters looked realistic and expressive with action and motion popping off the pages. So, if you want to give DC Rebirth a try, this looks like a really promising team book to jump on board with. I received an advanced reading copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review. I'd like to thank them for allowing me to receive this review copy and inform everyone that the review you have read is my opinion alone.

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