

[Download] Rising Stars, Vol. 1: Born In Fire

## Rising Stars, Vol. 1: Born In Fire

*J. Michael Straczynski*  
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#771140 in Books Top Cow 2001-01-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.10 x .30 x 6.50l, .68 #File Name: 1582401721192 pagespublished in 2003printed in Canada | File size: 61.Mb

**J. Michael Straczynski : Rising Stars, Vol. 1: Born In Fire** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rising Stars, Vol. 1: Born In Fire:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Weak for JMSBy A CustomerStraczynski is obviously capable of very powerful, insightful storytelling--just watch seasons 2-4 of Babylon 5. He's really off his game here, though. He starts creating an interesting tale in the vein of Watchmen, but without anything near the density and depth of that series/graphic novel. Here in Rising Stars the narrative is poorly paced overall and suffers from a number of other flaws:\* It's sometimes hard to tell which characters are which at first. (And why does Flagg/Patriot have black hair in

the first issue and blond hair later? That doesn't help matters.)\* It's hard to get a read on what the various characters are all about. Give us more characterization, more motivation, more reason to give a darn about them. That's especially true of the lead protagonist, who's very bland and unsympathetic. It's hard to care about a conflict unless you first care about the people involved in it--that's Writing 101 stuff, very surprisingly neglected here, given the way JMS handled the Narn-Centauri conflict in *Babylon 5*.\* SPOILER! The scenes where the killer reveals himself to Joshua and his father and where they create a conspiracy through the government are just horribly paced, seemingly thrown together in a heartbeat with no decent setup or sense of drama. You're left to guess at any deeper motivations, and not in the good sense of being left wondering in anticipation, but rather just wondering why the author painted everything in such broad, clumsy strokes.\* As others have noted, the second half of the book devolves into very juvenile, cliched superheroics. The author is capable of way more than that, and so are comics (see *Watchmen* again, for a classic example). Please, no kids' stuff, JMS! Hopefully the storytelling will gain refinement, depth, and better pacing in the later issues, but I'm not even sure if I'll give them a try now. As for the art, it's all over the map technically and stylistically, thanks to an army of different pencillers, inkers, and colorists. It starts fine and mostly keeps going downhill, with the last few issues pretty pedestrian, if not weak. The real problem is that no matter how nice some individual images look, the visual storytelling falls flat almost everywhere--just one jumbled, cluttered, hyper-dense page after another. Check out David Lloyd's work on *V for Vendetta* to see a master of pacing, grace, and restraint at work. This series has some potential, but it really doesn't capitalize on it in this volume.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. No words... By Rhiannon Clinton There are not enough words in the universe to express how much I loved this series. Wonderful characters, great story, beautiful artwork. One of the best pieces of literature I've ever read...and I mean that to include every type of literature. Do yourself a favor and buy this graphic novel. If you don't come back for the rest of the series, you're nuts.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. JMS makes the superhero genre his own. By Tom Breton Think of everything that's wrong with the superhero genre: cardboard characters, insipid plots, meaningless battles for no good reason, powerful blows that somehow no-one ever dies from, etc. *Rising Stars* is at the complete opposite end of the spectrum from all that. I don't think a more intelligent superhero comic has ever been written. JMS has clearly given a lot of thought to what makes each character tick, and how they fit in (or don't fit in). For the most part, the characters seem to be drawn from real-world personalities, exaggerated to superpowered proportions, which helps the book's psychological plausibility. *Rising Stars* is also totally engrossing. I just bought the second volume and I can't wait until it arrives.

TOP COW is proud to bring you issues 1-8 of the critically acclaimed series *RISING STARS*. This is the first story arc written by J. Michael Straczynski and tells the tale of the beginnings of the Specials. With new cover by MIDNIGHT NATION artist Gary Frank. This collection is the perfect way to revisit the earlier issues of *RISING STARS* in one sitting or to discover for the first time the most realistic superhero epic since Alan Moore's *Watchmen*.