

Not every character can carry two separate series, especially two separate, unconnected series. In the case of Earth 2: World's End, Dick Grayson is coming very close to doing just that. Now, technically speaking the character is not really supporting two books, as the Dick Grayson of Prime Earth is a different person than the Dick Grayson of Earth 2 who features in World's End and who, if solicits are to be believed, will play a role in the upcoming Convergence. However, whether the same person or not, someone called Dick Grayson is the mainstay of an eponymous Prime Earth series, while also starring in what is rapidly becoming the most interesting plot thread of Earth 2: World's End. Having survived the flooding of Chicago and undergone a whirlwind training with Ted Grant, not Wildcat in this particular series but still a famous boxer, Grayson has set out to find his missing son amidst the ruins of his world. Motivated effectively if rather lazily by the death of his wife, Barbara Gordon, he has come to embody the ideal of giving your all in the utmost extremity, or heroism in the face of doom. The writers probably meant Clark Kent of Earth 2 to provide the main example of that. Clark, we have learned, has been kept alive by the forces of Apokalips for experimentation and other nefarious purposes. In Earth 2: World's End #15, he sacrifices himself to destroy the evil clones serving the dark gods. It is, I suppose, very noble. But it is also leaden and fails to move either the story or the reader's emotions. He has, after all, been "dead" since the first issue of Earth 2. The very premise of that series in part came from his death. For him to reappear suddenly only to make a couple of noble speeches and die again seems a waste of a character. Better to honor the original premise of the series and not have him appear at all than to cheapen his original sacrifice in that way. That is not the only plotline that fails to deliver interest or emotional vitality. The battle between the Avatars of Earth and the Furies of Apokalips still drags on. The insight of Jay Garrick teased in an earlier issue was to use the racial weaknesses of the Furies against them. Not a bad plan, although it is unclear how the defenders of Earth would know of those weaknesses. In any case, the scheme comes to nothing due to the intervention of a transformed Helena Wayne. In the end, it seems the battle was only staged to underscore the need for Yolanda Montez, Avatar of the Red and, like Clark, a prisoner of Apokalips. The art continues to be uneven, given the habit of employing many artists on a single issue. At least, however, the look of various story threads has become somewhat predictable, for instance the elongated forms, twisting bodies, and spattering blood of the Grayson segments as opposed to the more naturalistic look of those portions featuring Thomas Wayne and his party battling in the depths of the earth or the bright, clean, somewhat cartoonish lines of the segments dealing with Jimmy Olsen. The post Earth 2: World's End #15 appeared first on Weekly Comic Book Review.

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