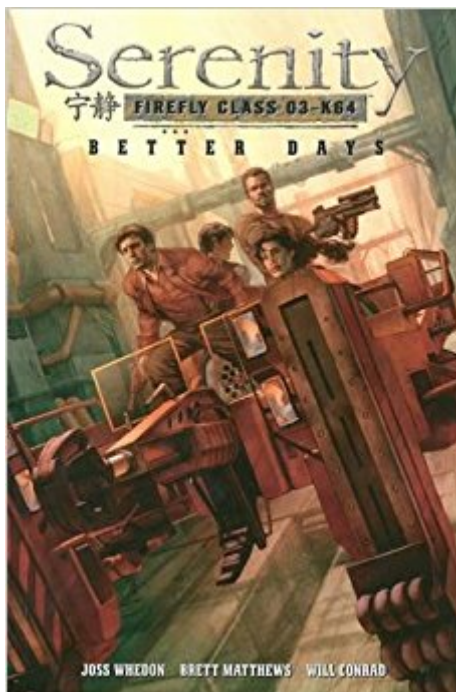


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# Serenity, Vol. 2: Better Days



## Synopsis

Serenity: Better Days follows everyone's favorite space cowboys in a thrilling, action-packed adventure, where Mal and his crew take on a heist that promises a big payoff. But when one of Serenity's crew is taken captive and tortured, the gang must put their enduring differences aside and work together to save one of their own, even if it means losing the cash prize of a lifetime! Joss Whedon returns to the world of his blockbuster film Serenity, reuniting with Brett Matthews and Will Conrad, his collaborators on the bestselling 2005 series Those Left Behind.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Whedon's beloved TV show Firefly was canceled, fans were left with a little spaceship-shaped hole in their hearts. This second entry in the Serenity comic-book series, which essentially presents new episodes in graphic format, should help mollify them. Whedon's sensibility works well here, as primary hero/rogue Mal Reynolds and his crew balance snarky asides and verbal sparring with cloaked sentimentality and plenty of western-styled space-opera action. While most of the in-jokes, character quirks, and background references will only resonate with those already in the know, that is a pretty sizable and hungry population in its own right. Grades 9-12. --Ian Chipman

A collection of stories set in a post-Serenity film version of the 'Verse. The main story looks a whole lot like a planned episode of the TV series. It's flimsy and silly in the same way the once-a-season

comedy episode on X-files was. While not at all canonical or epic, it's fun to be able to see the crew again. The other stories are more fan-fantasy in design and structure. Character images are less identical to the actors; not a problem for me, but I'll bet some hardcores weren't wild about it. It's 'Float Away' that is, in my opinion, the most significant and touching story. It addresses the impact Hoban Washburn had on his friends and family. It might be melancholy and cliché to some, but - in the wake of what had to happen about his death in the film - this is the best imaginable ending.

This collection of comics featuring characters from "Firefly" and "Serenity" offers a fun look at the continuing adventures of Mal Reynolds and his crew. The "Better Days" story is a bittersweet but engaging look at the crew when they have a run of luck. With the help of Brett Matthews, Joss Whedon offers more insight into his cast of characters. The art by Will Conrad and Michelle Madsen is solid but not memorable. "The Other Half" by Jim Kruger is an exciting action story with art by Conrad and Julius Ohta. Whedon offers another fun--if somewhat enigmatic--look at the crew with "Downtime" with art by Chris Samnee and Dave Stewart. "Float Out" by Patton Oswalt (yes, that Patton Oswalt) with art by Patric Reynolds and Stewart offers a lighthearted but also moving look at ace pilot Wash. These stories are probably better on character than action--meaning if you are not a fan of "Firefly" they won't mean much to you. But those who are fans should enjoy this collection.

If you claim to be a fan of Firefly/Serenity and you have not checked out the stellar comic collections that complete the stories, you need to, and fast before a more rabid fan accuses you of being a *Firefly* fan. (BUN tyen-shung duh ee-DWAY-RO) or Stupid Inbred Stack of Meat in the Firefly lexicon. But seriously, the artwork is consistently impressive, the stories are all Whedon (and a few friends) and the characters are those lovable rapscaollions we know and love oh-so-very-well. If you want to complete your Firefly experience, get these books, before the Alliance cracks down on them.

I came to the firefly verse after it was over and by way of my daughter who was raving about Castle. I thought I would check it out and instantly fell in love with that crazy cast and the story lines. I could not believe that this show was dropped! I bought the series and the movie but it wasn't enough...now I've got the comics and it still isn't enough. Someone tell me that a follow up series is in the works somewhere!!! Until then keep the comics coming!

Sometimes you're the windshield, sometimes you're the bug. That's life. And for Mal and his crew, we watch them go through one or the other of these with every adventure. Artistically, this is very rich, even if the likenesses are not perfect. I've covered this topic in my "Leaves On The Wind" review, and also in "Those Left Behind", so I won't further it here. Spending time in this universe really is a joy. It is always fun, even if the adventures aren't always gripping and terrifying and amazing. Sometimes life is not so grand. I think the nature of that reality shows up in these graphic novels. I enjoyed the story, but it was lacking in some qualities. But I am glad they are producing these efforts nonetheless. True fans will enjoy it. Time spent with friends is never wasted, even if it is a make believe universe. So put on your Browncoat, strap on your favourite weapon, and step into the stars...

Excellent

I read both Better Days and Those Left Behind and none of them lived up to my expectations. I guess the TV show is a tough act to follow. I think what I liked the least in Better Days was the almost complete absence of River and River related story lines. And some of the other characters (Book and Kaylee) feature sparsely. And the stories seem to go too fast. Maybe the books are too short. Anyway, I hope they keep on publishing more books, even if they're all terrible. Firefly must live on!

Because I collect all things Firefly and this series did not disappoint. Now, maybe you can't go by a die-hard supporter. Other reviewers said it was short and the story seemed incomplete. I didn't notice that. I noticed that Brett Matthews' art was excellent, the dialog exactly what one would expect from a Joss Whedon production, and it was a really fun way to spend a half hour. The hard cover volume contains the entire Better Days comic series in one beautiful edition, sturdy and richly detailed, to be enjoyed over and over.

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