

3 Reasons To Watch 'The Boys'

The second season of this adults-only sendup of 'The Justice League' is a must-stream

[John DeVore](#)



Photo: Amazon Prime

1. If you're the sort of person who doesn't like movies or TV shows about superheroes then you may want to watch [Amazon Prime's *The Boys*](#), a TV show about superheroes. I know it sounds crazy but let me explain: *The Boys* is a TV show that may hate superheroes more than you. Based on Garth Ennis' popular comic books, *The Boys* knows that if

Superman really existed he'd be a lunatic who'd sell-out to big business faster than a speeding bullet. The Man of Steel-like character Homelander in this series is like the country he claims to defend: loud, powerful, and selfish. Not to mention completely indifferent to collateral damage. Homelander's not the only funhouse mirror-version of a popular superhero — there's a Dark Knight character who's a sociopath — but he is the most superbly grotesque. A star-spangled Mr. Hyde. The core thesis of *The Boys* is that every superhero fantasy is a fascist one. The show is a very funny, very dark, criticism of a popular cultural genre that celebrates absolute power. I think this show could be refreshing to anyone who cringes at big-budget fairy tales about colorful übermenschen dispensing justice one act of violence at a time.

2. *The Boys* is proudly politically incorrect but in a way that isn't entirely adolescent. The show loves blood and violence and vulgar language. The good guys — four mortal men and one super-powered woman named The Female — are rude and uncouth. But at least they have a moral code. I mean, they're also dysfunctional. Jack Quaid's Hughie is a well-meaning anger nerd and Laz Alonso's character Mother's Milk is a human grenade but they're also both trying to do the right thing, in general. But there is something liberating about *The Boys* — it's a nasty little show that doesn't think highly of our society.

And I think that's why I like it so much. So trigger warning: *The Boys* want to offend everyone — corporate America, white supremacists, unrepentant douchebags. There are no jokes that are off-limits. But the punchlines — which have plenty of punch — are usually at the expense of the rich, famous, and influential.

3. The lead laddie in *The Boys* is character actor Karl Urban, who you may recognize from *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, the recent *Star Trek* movie franchise, and 2015's tragically underrated *Dredd*, a near-perfect adaptation of the bananas British future psycho cop comic book Judge Dredd. These are some of my favorite of his movies — he's the sort of actor who just pops up sometimes, like in *Thor: Ragnarok*. In *The Boys*, Urban plays Bill Butcher, a foul-mouthed English bloke dedicated to curbstomping all the 'supes' he can. Butcher is a hairy macho pile of tires and Urban still manages to make him likable. He's such a good actor. His performance as Dr. 'Bones' McCoy in *Star Trek* is a subtle and gentle love letter to original actor DeForest Kelley. Butcher is the opposite and he's just as fun, flipping the bird and blowing shit up. Anyway, he should replace Hugh Jackman as Wolverine in Marvel Studio's future *X-men* movies.

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