

20 Facts About Amazon Prime's New Hit The Boys

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THE BOYS

Amazon Prime Video's new hit series 'The Boys' is a dark comedy that follows a group of vigilantes who fight against the corrupt and powerful superheroes known as 'The Seven'. The series is set in a world where superheroes are celebrities and have become untouchable. The main characters are a group of vigilantes who use their own methods to bring down the corrupt superheroes. The series is a satire on the superhero genre and the media's obsession with celebrities. The show is a critical success and has received widespread acclaim for its dark humor and social commentary.



Amazon Prime

People have always been fascinated by superheroes, but in the past few years especially, we have been bombarded by heroes with special abilities in film and on television. The Marvel Cinematic Universe alone has made over \$22 billion with its 23 movies, and they already have plans for at least another 12 more. On TV, we've got The CW's **Arrowverse** including five shows based off DC Comic heroes. The one big thing all these series have in common is the overarching belief that superheroes are good guys trying to do the right thing and save people. But what if they aren't?

Amazon Prime has entered the ring to flip the superhero story on its head with **The Boys**. *The Boys* was an immediate smash hit on the streaming service, and it's no wonder with all the big names they were able to get on board the series. Not to mention the original storyline we haven't seen a thousand times over already: What if the heroes aren't the good guys? Whether you've already binged the show and are totally obsessed (guilty) or you've been hiding under a rock and haven't heard about it yet, here are 20 facts you should know about Amazon Prime's *The Boys*. Happy streaming.

It's based on a comic book series by Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson



Dynamite Entertainment

Garth Ennis is a comic book writer best known for *Preacher*, which was similarly adapted for TV, as well as his work on Marvel's *Punisher*. Illustrator **Darick Robertson** has also worked on both Marvel and DC Comics, such as *Wolverine* and *Justice League*. *The Boys* was first published by DC's Wildstorm imprint in October 2006, moved to Dynamite Entertainment six months later, and wrapped up after 72 issues in November 2012.

The Boys is not a superhero story meant for kids



Amazon Prime

The violence and gore alone should be enough to make it clear that this superhero show is meant for adult audiences only. Within the first few minutes, the fastest man alive runs straight through a woman, leaving her blood and guts floating in the air, totally disintegrated. Aside from the gore, there's sexual assault and harassment, blackmail, and some very corrupt characters. Plus, a dude's head literally exploding after -orally pleasuring- a female hero.

The comics were canceled by DC before moving to Dynamite Entertainment



DC Comics

Only six issues of *The Boys* were published on DC Comics' Wildstorm imprint before the publisher got a little uncomfortable with the anti-superhero tone and extreme violence and sexuality. Luckily, DC gave Ennis and Robertson the rights back to publish elsewhere, and they had no trouble at all finding other interested companies. The remaining 66 issues were published by Dynamite Entertainment, who gave Ennis and Robertson the freedom they wanted with their series. DC is one of the biggest comic book publishers in the world, but the cancellation was better for *The Boys* in the long run.

Original *Supernatural* showrunner Eric Kripke co-created *The Boys*



The CW

Eric Kripke is a television writer, director, and producer, best known as the genius behind the first five seasons of *Supernatural*. After he left as showrunner of *Supernatural*, he went on to work on other projects, including a few short-lived TV series and his own comic book series for DC Comics called *Jacked*. With Kripke writing the television adaptation of *The Boys* for Amazon Prime, obviously it's going to be good.

...Along with Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg



AMC

Eric Kripke as writer and **Seth Rogen** and **Evan Goldberg** as directors are the most fire team in the game. Rogen and Goldberg are friends from childhood, and the pair have collaborated on about a million successful comedies like ***Superbad***, ***Knocked Up***, ***Pineapple Express***, ***This is the End***, ***Neighbors***, and ***The Interview***. They also developed the adaptation of Garth Ennis's *Preacher* for AMC, so they are no strangers to his work.

The Boys was once considered unadaptable



Amazon Prime / Dynamite Entertainment

Ennis's comics, in general, have been seen as difficult or impossible to adapt in the past, but somehow they keep proving naysayers wrong. *Preacher* was once considered unadaptable, as similar shows on a much less controversial scale have been cut short due to public objections. The series is vulgar, violent, and religious in a fairly blasphemous way, yet its adaptation is currently succeeding in its fourth season on AMC. Critics thought the same of *The Boys* before Rogen and Goldberg proved them wrong yet again. Of course, some aspects of the comics had to be toned down or removed entirely in order to work for the screen.

The Boys is Amazon's highest ever rated original series on IMDB



Amazon Prime

With an 8.9 out of 10 rating, Amazon Prime's *The Boys* is higher rated than any other Amazon Prime series on IMDB. Viewers and critics alike have clearly fallen in love with the show. Following *The Boys* is ***The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*** with an 8.7, ***Good Omens*** with an 8.3, and ***The Man in the High Castle*** with an 8.1. Not only that, but *The Boys* is also the highest rated superhero show on TV — shockingly. ***Daredevil*** and ***The Punisher*** sit at 8.6, ***Jessica Jones*** and ***The Umbrella Academy*** at 8.0, and ***Agents of SHIELD*** at 7.5.

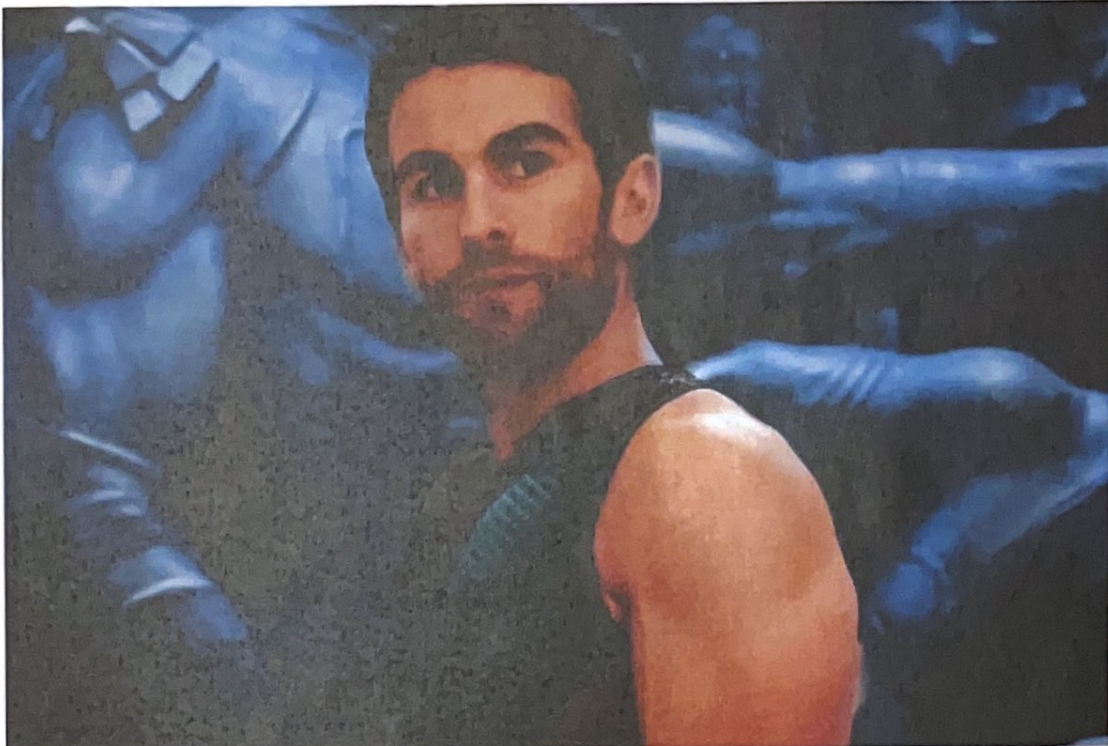
A second season is already in the works



Amazon Prime

It was announced at San Diego Comic Con that *The Boys* had already been renewed for a second season, even before it ever aired on Amazon Prime. They were that confident in how well it would fare, and they were absolutely right to make that judgment. After that cliffhanger ending to season one, thank God it's coming back. We know that the new season is already in production, thanks to some behind-the-scenes footage recently shared by **Karl Urban**, who plays Billy Butcher on the show.

Chace Crawford plays Aquaman-esque "The Deep"



Amazon Prime

That's right, **Chace Crawford** aka **Nate Archibald** from **Gossip Girl**, plays the water-adjacent joke hero whose powers are never really clear, "The Deep." He's really not that deep. When he first meets the newest member of his team the Seven, Starlight, he introduces himself by taking his pants off in front of her and then blackmailing her into giving him oral sex. Gross. I said this isn't a kids' show, right? When he's not being gross with the ladies, he's saving dolphins and lobsters, because that's what we really need superheroes for.

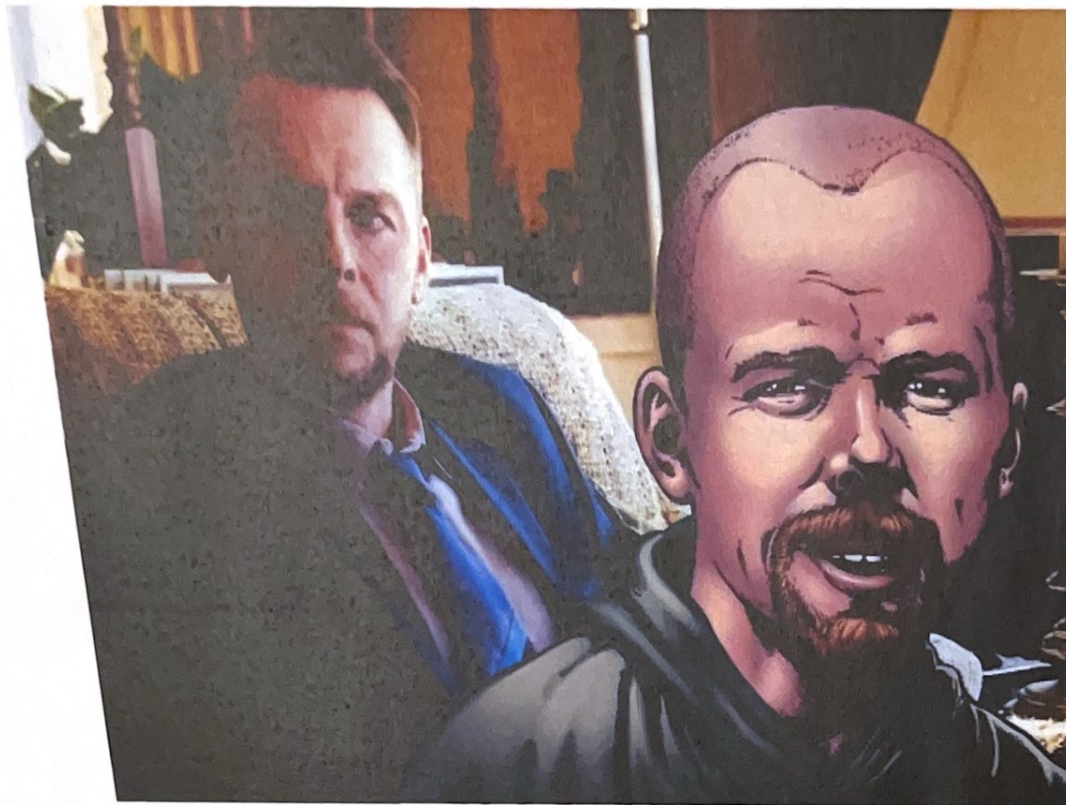
Hughie Campbell is played by Jack Quaid, Dennis Quaid & Meg Ryan's son



Amazon Prime

Dennis Quaid, who has a long list of film credits including playing the father in **Lindsay Lohan's** version of *The Parent Trap* and starring in Disney's 2002 sports movie *The Rookie*, plus '90s rom-com queen **Meg Ryan** of *Sleepless in Seattle* and *You've Got Mail*, were married for a decade and had three kids together. Their son Jack first came on the scene with a role in *The Hunger Games* in 2012. He's now the lead character on Amazon Prime's *The Boys*, playing Hughie Campbell, a heartbroken man who witnessed the death of his girlfriend at the hand of a superhero, now hell-bent on revenge.

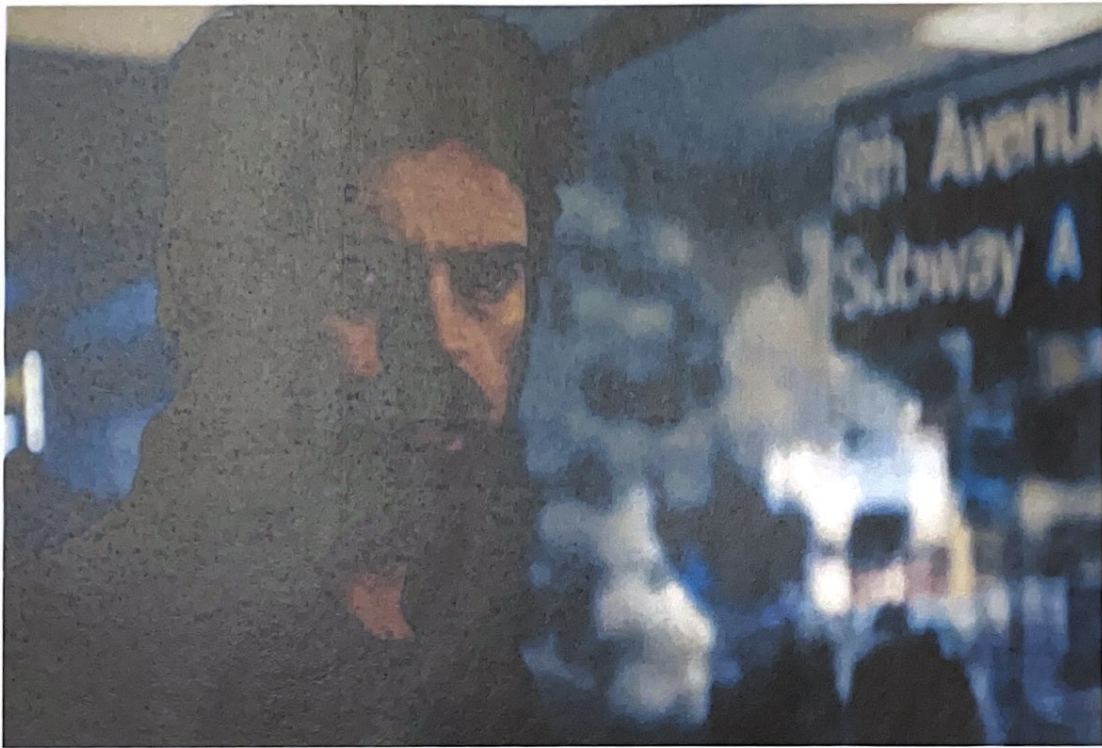
Simon Pegg, who plays Hughie's father, was Robertson's original inspiration for Hughie



Amazon Prime

You probably recognize English actor and comedian **Simon Pegg** from *Shaun of the Dead*, but if you're familiar with Ennis and Robertson's original *The Boys* comics, you'd recognize him as Hughie Campbell as well. Robertson modeled the character of Hughie after Pegg while illustrating the comics, so it's only fitting that he'd play a role in the television adaptation as well. Unfortunately, Pegg was too old to play Hughie, so he got the role of Hughie's father instead.

Karl Urban, who plays Billy Butcher, has been involved in three other comic book adaptations



Amazon Prime

Karl Urban has played comic book character **Judge Dredd** in the 2012 film *Dredd*, as well as CIA agent William Cooper in the 2010 action comedy film adaptation of the comic book series *Red*, and Skurge in *Thor: Ragnarok*. Urban is well-versed in the world of comic book adaptations. His latest comic book role on Billy Butcher in *The Boys*, the leader of the team seeking revenge and the destruction of the superheroes, who were responsible for what he believes to be the death of his wife.

It's low-key feminist



Amazon Prime

The original comics were a little harsh, but in light of today's society and women's equality movements, the character of Starlight was altered for the show a bit to be more of a feminist icon. Her original super suit is very modest, and while it allows her the movement she needs to save the world, it doesn't overly sexualize her. However, when her press handlers design her a new incredibly sexualized suit, she fights them on it before accepting defeat and wearing the new suit. Yet she makes it a point to tell a young girl wearing a costume of the original to keep that one rather than saving money for the new one. Starlight also beat up some attempted rapists, and she wasn't afraid to come forward about her own sexual assault at the hands of another super.

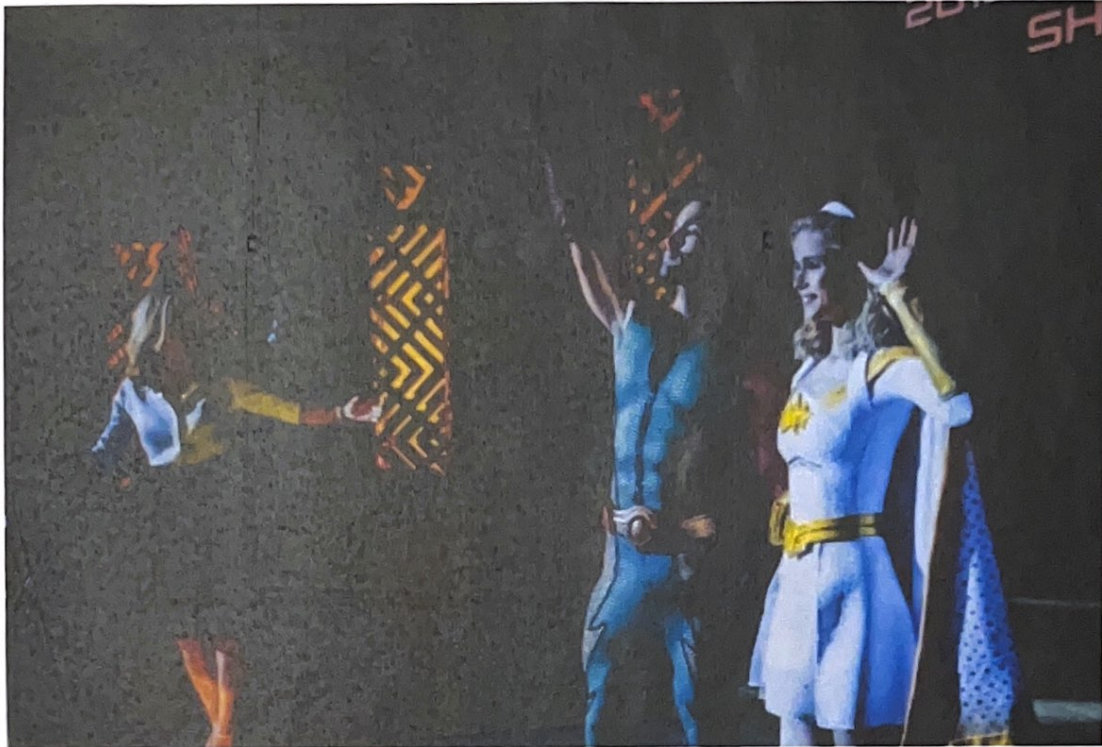
It's less fantasy and more realistic dystopia



Amazon Prime

Let's just say that superheroes are real. Don't you think that fame and admiration and pure unbridled power would go to their heads and corrupt them? Throughout history, we've learned that power corrupts, so why would superheroes be affected any differently? On Amazon Prime's *The Boys*, a world filled with superheroes is almost dystopian. You'd think it would be great, but in reality, it's more of a nightmare. Some people have a ton of power while others have none. It's unfair to the point of being terrifying.

It's a meta critique of the superhero story



Amazon Prime

The Boys is a dystopian spin on superheroes, but it's also pretty meta. It's a superhero story commenting on superhero stories. There's the archetypal superhero team we're all accustomed to seeing, The Seven, but they were chosen specifically and have every detail of their lives mapped out for them to keep up appearances and avoid bad press. They star in their own movies and TV shows, and even their live press conferences are scripted with stories invented by their team of handlers. By this logic, how would we know if another superhero presented to us is really who they appear to be in comics or movies? It's all scripted by someone anyway.

The “superheroes” are created for the gain of the company they work for



Amazon Prime

That company being Vought International. Vought created the Seven, the most famous, powerful, and elite team of superheroes. They handle their press and public personas, they film movies and television shows about them, and they even pick and choose which rescue missions they should go on. But more importantly than all of that, Vought created a drug injection that can turn babies into superheroes. There's no other origin story here for any of *The Boys'* heroes.

The only moral hero literally has light powers



Amazon Prime

Symbolism, much? Starlight is quite literally the light in the darkness of corruption that is the Seven and Vought International. A bit naive when she joins the team, Starlight truly wants to help people and save the world. It's only fitting that her power is the ability to absorb electricity from around her (which causes lights to flicker), allowing her to shoot blasts of light from her hands, and generate blinding light from her eyes.

The soundtrack largely consists of classic rock



Amazon Prime

Amazon Prime's *The Boys*' soundtrack is pretty varied, but the music seems to have been specifically chosen with certain characters in mind or to add something upbeat to contrast the violence on screen. Billy Butcher is British, so there are plenty of appearances from classic British punk bands like **The Clash**, while Frenchie, another member of The Boys, gets rap. More classic rock that's made its way into the show include **Joan Jett**, **Heart**, **Iggy Pop**, and **Billy Joel**.

It has some pretty significant differences from the comics



Amazon Prime

First of all, in the comics, the leader of The Seven, Homelander, eats babies. Yes, Homelander was originally a cannibal who ate babies. Good thing that didn't make its way onto the show. In the comics, Starlight was also more of a punching bag for the rest of the Seven than a strong woman trying to fight injustices and stand up for what's right. And Hughie was originally a Scottish conspiracy theorist before he became your average American guy on the show.

It has a raunchy spin-off comic called "Herogasm"



Dynamite Entertainment

As if *The Boys* doesn't have enough depravity and debauchery as is, the spin-off, *Herogasm* is all about the superheroes' sexploitations. It's literally just about superheroes having orgies. Apparently that happens in the comic book version of *The Boys* as well, but why not also have a mini spin-off series dedicated solely to that.