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ANGEL™

— AFTER THE FALL —
VOLUME ONE





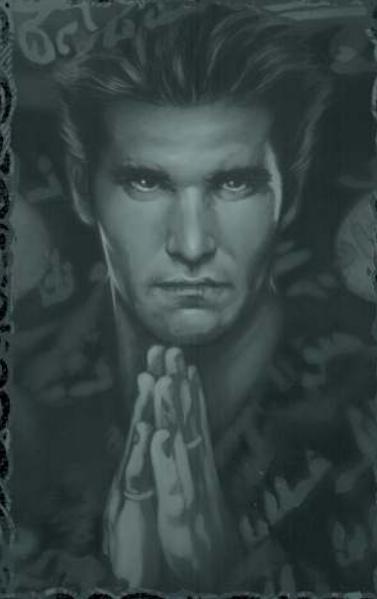
ANGEL™

— AFTER THE FALL —

VOLUME 1

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ISBN: 978-1-60010-181-6

11 10 09 08 01 02 03 04

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Angel created by Joss Whedon and David Greenwalt.

Special thanks to our Watcher, Joss Whedon, and Fox Worldwide Publishing's Debbie Olshan for their invaluable assistance.

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Originally published as ANGEL: AFTER THE FALL Issues #1-5.

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It was a weekly ritual. I'd go over to my friend's house, or my friends piled into my apartment, and we'd watch the new episode of *Angel*. It began with the very first episode, with my then-girlfriend. The girl and I broke up (I got custody of the DVDs), but the ritual continued with other friends.

And one night (the Internet tells me it was March 4, 2002 to be exact... ooooh, beware the, um, 4th of March...), an episode of *Angel* out-and-out ruined me. To recap, Angel had a newborn son, Wesley discovered prophecies that Angel was going to kill said newborn son, and the forces of Wolfram & Hart and every demon in the city wanted a piece of said newborn son.

And Holtz. Oh, don't get me started on Holtz.

This arc wasn't without its laugh-out-loud moments. Sure, the Drive-Thru Hamburger being a conduit for a higher power was hilarious, and Demon Skip had the best deadpan delivery on television, but they were mere blips of relief from the stress. As per usual, Mr. Whedon and Mr. Greenwalt were throwing everything at our heroes. How on Earth was Angel going to save his son? I mean, even Wesley was working against him. This was going to be something, but surely everything would be okay, they wouldn't—

—oh wait, they *would* steal the baby and toss 'im into a hell dimension. Angel's on the ground, defeated (Wolfram & Hart even kinda took pity on him), the baby went to Hell in the care of Angel's then-greatest enemy, Wesley is dying... what other show attempts these kinds of things? It was truly one of the best hours of television I had ever seen, and I couldn't wait until next week.

But then the show went away for a *month*. Reruns until April 15th. Those cold-hearted bastards made me wait a month to see if everything was okay.

Of course, this being *Angel*, everything was not okay, nor would it ever be okay. Sure, the baby came back, but he had a big ol' chip on his shoulder and an attraction for Angel's ladyfriend. Wesley and Angel worked out their problems, but then Wesley had to go and die.

And Fred. Oh, don't get me started on Fred.

That month-long wait, though, was nothing in comparison to the three long years I had to endure before finding out what happened after Angel, Spike, Gunn and Illyria stood in that alleyway, ready to face down hordes of evil.

But this time, I had a say in what happened. Beyond my usual shouting at the television, I am now helping steer the ship. I get to be a cold-hearted bastard! Life, sometimes, can be quite awesome.

The wait is over. They're back.

And I'm so sorry about the month-long wait between issues. I've been there.

Brian Lynch
04/08/08

introduction