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There came a day, unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat. On that day, the Avengers were born - to fight the foes no single hero could withstand.

Essential Avengers, Vol. 1 Details

Date : Published July 27th 2005 by Marvel Comics Group (first published January 1st 1998)

ISBN : 9780785118626

Author : Stan Lee , Jack Kirby , Don Heck

Format : Paperback 528 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Superheroes, Marvel, Comics

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From Reader Review Essential Avengers, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Chloe says

I LOVE CLASSIC LITERATURE

Andres Castro says

Leer las primeras aventuras de los vengadores es una gran experiencia ya que vemos la creación de estos heroes, los contextos de la época en la que se encontraba los personajes, el estilo de Jack Kirby y Don Heck, el color las expresiones, los contextos de la época llama la atención lo vanidosa que colocaban a wasp ante las relaciones de los vengadores por supuesto en esa época que contenía sus tonos machistas, la wasp y otras heroínas ahora se maneja mucho más profundo y menos superficial y machista, creo que lo único que no me gusta es la parte del civil Rick Jones con caprichos de no poder ser un vengador y también lo entiendo par el contexto de esa época en el cual el Sidekick o el chico común puede estar al lado de un héroe generando más empatía al comic, pero estando y perteneciendo a otra época pues considero esa parte molesta e innecesario, gran tomo que vale la pena leer, sus primeros villanos, sus primeras misiones, sus primeras derrotas y cuáles fueron sus predecesores se encuentran en este gran tomó.

Professor says

Man, a lot of folks I know who read comics look down on the 1960s stuff. But they're nuts. You want fun? You want high flown dialogue, loopy nicknames, epic battles, all bright but with just a bit of complexity, character conflict and such creeping in? With plenty of WTF moments and painfully dated gender roles and politics(okay, I may be one of the few that finds that part of amusing, but as time goes on we see the Wasp become a little more proactive)? Well, look no further. As a guy raised on the 80s Avengers books, it was great to see how it all started.

Angela says

Hark back to the glory days of the Marvel age. I enjoyed seeing the original Stan Lee comics and the basis for the popular movies. While I understand that the Avengers is a collection of heroes coming together to fight bigger threats it felt like it was missing pieces of the story. I understand that this is due to each character having their own story arc and comic books but it made the whole collection feel a little disjointed.

Don says

The Avengers, issues #1 - 24. This has been pretty interesting. These issues were from 1962/63 I believe and it's neat to get a glimpse of what the culture was like back then. The stories were pretty campy, but it was good clean fun. I enjoyed seeing how the team was formed and then evolved.

H.L. Sudler says

The somewhat hokey early days of The Avengers, but still fun to read.

Brent says

Another fun foray into the history of the Marvel Universe.

Adam Graham says

Launched in September 1963, the Avengers were Marvel's answer to the Justice League. However, there were some marked differences from the Justice Leagues. For starters, neither of Marvel characters, Spider-man or the Fantastic Four found their way into the Avengers. Instead, the Avengers featured characters who didn't actually have their own comic book but shared their titles with other characters. The first line up included Iron Man from Tales of Suspense; Ant Man, the Wasp, and the Incredible Hulk from Tales to Astonish, and Thor from Journey Into Mystery.

The first line up comes out almost through serendipity as a result of the mechanizations of Thor's brother Loki to frame the Hulk. They decide to form a team, but quickly it becomes clear that the Avengers are no Super Friends. After the 2nd Issue, the Hulk leaves and by the third issue, the Hulk has joined with Namor to fight his former allies.

The Avengers are a team that struggles for cohesiveness with personality conflicts cropping up everywhere. Wasp even suggests that Thor get a crew cut!

However, in Issue 4, the Anevgers changes forever with the re-awakening of Captain America, who subsequently joins the team. The whole feel of the Avengers changes and the next thirteen issues are delightful as a truly great Avengers team goes to war on evil.

However, in Issue 17, after yet another battle with the Masters of Evil, Iron Man, Giant Man, and Wasp decides to take leaves of absence while Thor flies off for "The battle of the Gods," and the remaining Avengers choose three new team members in former bad guys Hawkeye, the Scarlet Witch and her brother Quicksilver with Captain America leading the team.

The last 7 issues leading up to Issue 24, feature an Avenger team where personality conflicts come fast and furious as Quicksilver and Hawkeye have an eye on replacing Cap, and the Avengers' reputation is put at risk thanks to the work of the Enchantress, and finally Cap quits in frustration but comes back when he realizes the Avengers need him.

There is much not to like about the book. Even at its height, the Avengers are not the nicest group in comics. When Ant Man summons the Avengers based on information received from the ants, he's laughed to scorn. When Iron Man misses a meeting of the Avengers, a board of inquiry is convened and he's given a one week suspension by Thor and Ant Man. And when you get into the last seven issues, I had moments where I

wanted to smack Hawkeye swarthy arrogant face.

That said, there are two great reasons why this book earns five stars. A secondary reason is the villains. The Masters of Evil are a great team, as led by Baron Zemo, and the Enchantress does pretty well on her own with the aid of Powerman. In addition to that, a visit from the Mandarin and the Swordsman are highlights.

The second and overwhelming reason is Captain America. Captain America has no special powers or even a nifty bow and arrow, but he is the heart of the Avengers, and the true natural born leader. He gets testy at Hawkeye (who wouldn't?) and the contempt of the new male Avengers for him, but the fact is that he's the go-to guy, the role model. He has some moments of moodiness, but there's no one better to have by your side in battle. There's no one who's a better inspirational leader than Captain America. And that's why the Avengers are able to continue to beat foes even after the massive power loss that Issue 17 represented.

Cap made the Avengers a great team when he joined in Issue 4, and he kept it a great team despite its comparative weakness after Issue 24. Add to that a good Commie-smashing issue and an issue where prayer was referenced repeatedly in a mainstream comic, and this book is a winner.

Fizzgig76 says

Reprints Avengers (1) #1-24 (September 1963-January 1966). In an attempt to destroy his brother Thor, Loki accidentally leads to a gathering of heroes. With Iron Man, Giant Man, the Wasp, Thor, and the Hulk, the Avengers find themselves as Earth's mightiest heroes. When World War II hero, Captain America is found frozen in ice, a new generation learns of his greatness as he rallies a team that grows to include members like Hawkeye, Quicksilver, and the Scarlet Witch as they fight to protect the Earth.

Written by Stan Lee, Essential Avengers Volume 1 gathers the first twenty-four issues of the first volume of the series. Like all of Marvel's Essential series, the comics are reprinted in black-and-white. The stories have also been collected in other volumes and the Marvel Masterworks series.

I grew up on Marvel, and probably more so than the X-Men, the Avengers were my superheroes. I started reading the comic in the 200s, but this collection helps show how the team came together and formed. Before the Essential line, you could find early Avengers adventures in older Marvel reprints, but it is good to see them collected here. It is also important to note that many of the characters, just like now, were carrying their own books as well as the Avengers...the Avengers was simply a "best of" for Marvel and a way to boost the second tier characters' sales.

This is a big volume and with The Avengers movie being released, it is worth wild for fans to check out. The series not only shows the team's formation, but it also has the return of Captain America in The Avengers (1) #4 (March 1964). The return of Captain America provided the spark the team needed (plus with Hulk never fully meshing with the team, the group was a bit short).

Essential Avengers Volume 1 in addition to Captain America's return features other big firsts. Avengers (1) #2 (November 1963) has the Space Phantom. Avengers (1) #6 (July 1964) features the premiere of the Masters of Evil which provided a bit of anti-Avengers team action whose members had battled the Avengers in their individual team books. Avengers (1) #8-10 (September 1964-November 1964) created the time traveling Kang, introduced Wonder Man (though he quickly dies), and Immortus (who may or may not be an alternate version of Kang). Avengers (1) #16 (May 1965) relaunched the team and turned Hawkeye, Scarlet

Witch, and Quicksilver into heroes. Avengers (1) #19 (August 1965) introduced the Swordsman (an early anti-hero), and Avengers (1) #22 (November 1965) had Power Man (who later became Atlas of the Thunderbolts).

The Avengers wasn't really a great book at this point, but it is fun to see its early beginnings and compare it to the current Avengers mythology. The Essential Avengers has proven to be one of Marvel's bigger Essential lines and more and more volumes continue to be coming out. Start where the team started and see what they become. Avengers Assemble!

Helmut says

Startet sehr langsam...

...und nimmt dann Fahrt auf. Band 1 der Essential Avengers ist für mich klar zweigeteilt: Der mühsame, extrem formelhafte und langweilige Beginn mit den Mitgliedern Iron Man, Thor und Giant Man... und dann, ab dem Punkt, in dem die Lineup wechselt, fangen dann auch die Geschichten an, Fahrt aufzunehmen und spannender zu werden.

Seltsam, denn eigentlich sind die Originalmitglieder an sich deutlich interessantere Charaktere - aber zuviele Köche verderben den Brei, und die Abschwächung des Teams tut den Stories scheinbar gut. Hawkeye ist und bleibt ein unsympathischer "Green Arrow"-Klon, dessen ständiges Rumgenöle schnell auf die Nerven geht, und die Scarlet Witch ist weit entfernt von ihren realitätsverändernden Superkräften späterer Zeiten. Eigentlich sind nur Quicksilver und Captain America interessant im späteren Team. Dafür hat man aber nicht dieses Dackelzüchter-Clubgehabe (wer ist denn heute Vorsitzender? Wem muss der Mitgliedsausweis für ein, zwei Wochen entzogen werden, weil er zu spät zur Sitzung kam?) und diese unglaubliche Arroganz von Thor, die eigentlich nicht so richtig zu Thor passt.

Die Zeichnungen sind von üblicher Kirby/Heck-Qualität, wobei Heck eigentlich mehr kann, als er hier zeigt - seine Iron Man-Stories liebe ich.

Ich bin gespannt auf Band 2.

Axael says

The best birthday present you can ever get!

Gomezmr says

This book is so fantastic.

Renata says

I think this held up better than Golden Age Batman. I enjoyed it, though it's still kitschy of course, with plenty of unintentional hilarity. (Like how after Zemo sprays the city with super adhesive glue, the Wasp goes to find "Paste-Pot Pete" to save the day. Thank God for Paste-Pot Pete!) It is a LOT of comics and my interest waned toward the end--but maybe that's just because Iron Man and the Wasp both left the team halfway through. (Also the Hulk and Ant-Man, but I care less about them.)

Zack! Empire says

I feel somewhat bad for writing this, considering how much i love silver age Marvel, but this book is not very good. Just overall in terms of story, and the art, it comes up lacking. I was trying to figure out what this book seems to be missing and i think i know: there are no subplots. The gold standard for Marvel around this time would be Spider-Man, or the Fantastic Four, and the thing that makes them good is all the subplots going on. While an issue of either of those would advance the lives of the characters of the book, an issue of Avengers focuses on the villain of the month, and how to defeat them. It's the kind of superhero story i just don't like.

There are some good things though, and i should mention those as well. The story of how the team actually comes together is good, and very imaginative. It would be easy for the team to simply already be a team at the start of the issue, like X-Men, but Stan and Jack take the time to come up with a reason for the hero's to join together. That was really cool.

The Jack Kirby issues are, of course, stunning. I love Jack's version of all these characters, so seeing them all on one page is a treat. Issue four where Cap joins the team, and then they fight Namor, was really good artwise. There is also a few issues where Jack was inked by Chic Stone, and i think those two make a great pair. I can't say i really care for Don Heck that much. I did notice that his style seems to change based on the inker. I think he is one of the artist, like Gene Colon, who needs an inker that understands how he draws to really make the art the best it can be. The issues inked by Wally Wood is a perfect example of this.

Another thing of note is that I'm not very familiar with many of the Avengers villains. This collection here is basically all the Avenger comics i've ever read. It was interesting to read about villains that i don't know everything about before i even read an issue. I am looking forward to more of that.

My final thoughts on the book is that it just isn't as good as it should be. This is a book with almost all the A-listers in Marvel, at the time, so it should be freaking awesome, but somehow it's boring and hard to get through. I've already decided that i want to continue reading the Essential Avengers line, but it is mostly because i want to read more of the early Marvel stories, not because this book left me wanting more.

Mike (the Paladin) says

I collected comics from the early 60s...what is called the silver age of comics...(I mean I began in the early 60s). I had the Avengers from #4 on, then stopped collecting in the mid 70s. If you're a comic book person you know they got a lot darker at that time. Then...in a financial crisis I had to sell my collection. So, when I came across the Essential collections I was able to recover at least the stories. I went with 4 stars since they are in black and white, but still they're good.

So much of what happens with comic books (at least for some of us) is tied up in nostalgia and times gone

by, maybe a longing for a simpler time. As noted elsewhere (in other reviews and elsewhere) Captain America is my favorite all time superhero, hands down. He (and in the DC universe Superman) exemplify standing for ideals and not only looking for the best but upholding the best in America. Rights and responsibilities equality for all people. In Avengers #4 the "new team" recovers/rescues Captain America from a block of ice where he had been quick frozen at the end of WWII when he was blown clear of a missile launched by Baron Zemo. Cap was dropped into his icy prison and his "young sidekick" Bucky was killed.....

The inclusion of captain America guaranteed my interest. So, the stories I had once owned in original form...even if only in black and white. Good vs. evil and two fisted action...well, two fisted, shield slinging, hammer throwing, etc., etc., etc. action.
