



Invincible: Ultimate Collection, Vol. 7

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At last! The seventh hardcover collection of the greatest superhero comic in the universe! This volume reprints the "Viltrumite War" storyline, as well as the stories showing the ripple effects on Earth resulting from Mark's decisions following that landmark battle.

Collects issues #71–84.

Invincible: Ultimate Collection, Vol. 7 Details

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From Reader Review Invincible: Ultimate Collection, Vol. 7 for online ebook

Relstuart says

Really enjoying this series. The twists and turns continue to be unexpected and I'm enjoying the story arcs following some of the secondary characters.

Frank says

The story starts right where the last volume left off. Atom Eve deals with pregnancy and doesn't know how to tell Invincible.

Meanwhile Invincible is off planet united with his father and brother battling against the last of the Vultrumites, which results in a stunning conclusion for now.

Nancy says

Exciting and very interesting conclusion to the Viltrumite war. Also: bloody, bloody, gory, bloody. Not entirely unexpected but...ugh. Super interesting ethical dilemmas though. Poor Invincible.

The major "good guys" groomed to fight in the war are all male. I didn't realize it until I saw the splash page of them listening to Thadeus's "are you ready to finish this?" speech. Why, story-wise, did they all have to be male? Why no kick-butt women warriors, why? Not cool.

Also, the more I read this series, the more I feel like all the female non-villain characters are written relative to the men. All of their plotlines, with the slight exception of Monster Girl, revolve around their menfolk, whereas the menfolk have plotlines that revolve around their womenfolk AND plotlines that are independent of their womenfolk. Also not cool.

All the mental high fives to Invincible and his reaction to Eve's weight gain, and weight-related insecurities. Way to be awesome and supportive. A few high fives for Eve's salad conversation with Kate. I could have wished for a harder smackdown of Kate's awful "lose the weight for him" opinion but it was enough that Eve didn't just smile and shrug. Absolutely no high fives for the cover of issue #79 showing Eve's previous svelte look instead of her current curves. Super not cool.

Brendan says

This volume was quite weak and never took the chance of livening things up. There was way too much self development and little conflict at certain points. This felt like some of the mid way points of The Walking Dead, story being thrown at us with no purpose. Kirkman definitely sunk to mediocre at various points, villains admitting wrong doing, the giant war was not that giant, I honestly felt like throwing the book out the door. When Invincible returned home after 10 months away it hit a giant lull in the storytelling. They gave

Eve extra weight, the mom left the planet and the enemy found solace on Earth. I expected great things from this volume but was let down every step of the way.

Vicenç Sanz says

Siete tomos de éstos gigantes, más de ochenta números USA y una colección que no hace más que mejorar y mejorar tomo tras tomo. Es increíble la habilidad que hay en éste comic para hacer una historia de superhéroes para adultos con un nivel altísimo y no perderlo en ningún momento.

En el tochaco que nos ocupa hoy tenemos la guerra contra el imperio viltrumita ya para empezar. Es una especie de fin de fiesta simplemente espectacular que te tiene en vilo un número tras otro, con muchas páginas dobles para enmarcar y una tensión palpable que no se reduce hasta el final. Gran saga.

Y luego la vida sigue, con la vuelta a la Tierra del protagonista y un evidente cambio de mentalidad sobre lo que ha estado haciendo y lo que tendría que hacer para conseguir ser más efectivo o simplemente hacer lo correcto.

Me encanta ver que el héroe ya no lo ve todo blanco o negro, y que está entrando en una escala de grises que le lleva a hacer algo inesperado al final del volumen. Es una evolución lógica, fruto de todo lo que le ha sucedido, de las veces que ha tenido que ceder y de las veces en las que no lo hizo.

Vamos, que qué más se puede pedir? (Final de saga cósmica y cambios en el protagonista). Yo creo que nada.

Un comic de superhéroes que hay que leerse a poco que te hayan gustado alguna vez, sabiendo que siempre va a mejor y que quizás lo más flojito sea el arranque. Un comic distinto, con una calidad a prueba de bombas y que encima viene acompañado de un dibujo espectacular, con personalidad y que eleva el nivel del guion.

En la contraportada se publicitan como “quizás el mejor comic de superhéroes del Universo” y no se quedan cortos...

Benjamin says

I think I need to start wearing a diaper while reading these.

Mario Mikon says

Kirkman is the master of plot twists.

I'm totally addicted to this series.

Trike says

I'm giving the art 5 stars because in some places it's flat-out amazing. The writing waffles around 2 stars for me.

MILD SPOILERS

This whole arc was about taking the long view and not simply punching your way out of situations. Invincible comes to realize that Dinosaurus was right, even if his methods were wrong, and cuts a down-on-his-luck inventor some slack after the guy robs a bank... and then sells his tech to another criminal who then robs a bank, one of the zap-zap heroes who blames Invincible for the deaths of his family realizes he has some culpability, and the core of this story, the Vilrhumite War, ends on a similar note after Invincible, Oliver and Allen blow up their planet. The leader of the Vilrhumites takes the surviving members of his race to Earth where their long-range plan is to interbreed with humans in order to resurrect the Vilrhumite race.

It's couched as growing up and taking a fresh perspective that incorporates shades of gray, but Mark is basically perpetuating the same problems, just via different means. Maybe that will turn out good or bad, but there are not hints given just yet.

However, despite Mark's apparent maturation, he's still not working well with others. He's still a loose cannon, going his own way, and often not communicating with Eve his feelings or plans. I pretty much hate it when characters don't include others, because it's a cheap way to spring a story surprise on readers. Mark not informing Eve about his plan (view spoiler) makes sense because it gives her actual deniability, but it's the kind of short-term thinking that will only damage his relationship with her. So wing that he should have figured out by now, with all of his new-found adulthood. (Which is now a word. You're welcome.)

So, yeah, the writing is uneven. But that art, mm-mm! So good! Ottley kills it page after page.

Adam Stone says

Skip this volume.

After the excellent pacing and cool narrative beats of volume six, this volume begins with "The Vilrhumite War" a chance for Kirkman to extend the gore of the Invincible/Omni-Man fight in volume one, and the Invincible/Conquest/Atom Eve fight in volume five from a single issue's worth of fighting to seven issues' worth of fighting. If you read volume six there aren't many surprises as two of the characters spent part of that book collecting various artifacts to bring down the Vilrhumite empire, and here we just see them use them to varying degrees of success. It's about two cool issues worth of story expanded to what feels like fifty issues. The end result is interesting and worth knowing about but I'm sure there will be a recapversation in volume eight that will reexplain it.

"Get Smart" also suffers from excruciating pacing, and terrible, preachy narrative beats. They're all things that I agree with, and am glad to see in comics but man does Kirkman botch each reveal and unfolding consequence.

This is the wettest fart of the series. I hope we find out years from now that Kirkman didn't even write this, and that he quickly sketched outlines between counting piles of Walking Dead money (which he has totally earned) and passed it off to a really eager college student who just discovered slam poetry and the Huffington Post.

I can't recommend this. I was going to say I recommend it for people who love the art on Invincible who could skip over the words, but there's the issue of Fat Eve in the "Get Smart" story. Body positivity being another noble goal that this collection reaches for but falls far short of reaching.

Richard Guion says

Issues 71 - 77 have the most epic action arc of any superhero title I've ever read! Omni-Man returns to get Mark and Oliver to help against a Viltrumite attack. This leads to a battle in space between the rebel Viltrumites and the ones still loyal to the empire - led by Conquest who battered Mark so viciously before. You have never seen superhero battles such as these. One thing that always seemed stupid to me was Superman going up against someone like General Zod - with military / martial art training - a guy like that should have made Superman bleed. Invincible doesn't pull any punches in such fights. Just when you think it's over, another battle comes up when Thragg, the leader of the Viltrumites enters the fray.

And the conclusion to this on Earth - it's a decision you've never seen any DC or Marvel hero make, because it would destroy their shared universe.

Pay attention to Robot and Monster Girl's disappearance.

Javier Muñoz says

Este es posiblemente el tomo de invencible más espectacular hasta la fecha, la guerra viltrumita en todo su esplendor, grandes escenas de combate, empacho de páginas dobles, violencia y destrucción en dosis planetarias... y al final todo se resuelve de forma impredecible. Pero no acaba ahí la cosa, hay eventos inesperados que cambiarán la tierra para siempre, nuevos y viejos enemigos, personajes que sufren grandes cambios, Mark empieza a madurar y a pasar de idealista a pragmático, cambiando su relación con ciertos villanos para intentar mejorar el mundo en lugar de preocuparse sólo de hacer justicia....

Esta colección sigue siendo muy grande.

Matthew J. says

More heart break and bone break in this volume of Invincible. The culmination of some big storylines and a real turning point for Mark. He comes out of this volume changed in surprising ways. This continues to be a great series, and Ryan Ottley's art gets better with each volume. There are so many great characters, so many great threads running through the series. I really have no idea where things will go, yet everywhere it takes the reader makes sense with everything that's happened before. Love it. No resets here. If you like comics, superheroes, or just good stories, you should sit down to Invincible.

Cheese says

This series just keeps getting better.

Christopher says

My natural and immediate tendency is to gripe about this collection. I want to say "I get it - you enjoy knocking teeth out of, punching holes through, ripping arms off of, and doing anything short of decapitating your main characters and then giving them a little bed rest to recover before saving the world again." Kirkman is by all appearances a creative genius, so why does he so often go back to the well of ultraviolence for ultraviolence's sake? Much of the first half of this book resembled what I hate so much about the "bestselling graphic novel of all time", **THE DEATH OF SUPERMAN** - that there are two evenly matched super-people who punch each other really, really hard back and forth for fifty pages before both of them collapse.

In some respects, all that punching was necessary, and ultimately Kirkman pulls it off brilliantly. That's a theme with Kirkman - just when you think he's done all he can do, he creates a plot twist that blows your mind. While the Viltrumite War arc was a bit disappointing in itself, it sets up the future for something great. When Invincible gets back to Earth and into the normal swing of things is when things really get interesting, because it's the quirkiness of Kirkman's comics that is so intriguing. The dozens of superheroes and supervillains, the relationships (Robot-Monster Girl, Invincible-fat Atom Eve, Deborah-Omni-Man, etc.), how everyone hates the way Invincible carries them while flying.

And of course, Invincible goes through another bout of existential confusion and angst. What is the best use for a superhero? So far he has been a reactionary character - when a bad guy comes around, he beats them up. Should he be more like Atom Eve, who flew away to Africa to help starving people? And, without spoiling too much, this is where the hardcover ends, with Invincible's decision to be more proactive with his power and, of course, a moderately-effective cliffhanger to leave the reader thinking "WTF?"

INVINCIBLE seems to be the anti-WALKING DEAD in that it thrives on abundance. Abundance of characters, of story arcs, of philosophical meanderings. WALKING DEAD is a very simple story about the survival of one man and his son in a broken world, and Kirkman is constantly closing doors to focus on that. Whenever there are too many characters in the storyline, he's sure to kill them off, no matter your emotional attachment to them. INVINCIBLE, on the other hand, loves opening new doors. Kirkman introduces new story arcs even if he can't find any space to fit in further development for another ten issues. New characters are introduced almost on a per-issue basis, and even if there's no obvious significance now, you can tell they'll be important later. And characters are almost never killed, barring two or three exceptions, because what the heck - the more the merrier! Maybe that's why the first half of this volume disappointed me, because it was too focused on the Viltrumite War to explore anything else. Focus is not what I want from INVINCIBLE. I want a vast party of characters pulling a bunch of ridiculous shenanigans so that I can barely keep up.

Anne says

This is really just such a consistently *good* comic book.

For every bit of action in the panels, there's the same amount of emotion in the storytelling. And I'm not afraid to admit that I'm going to be sad when this ride is over.

Since this is part of the Ultimate Collection, there's almost too much that happens here to give a 'review' of what happened. In an effort to save time (and not spoil some incredible scenes), I'll just say that it was all pretty much the fantastic sort of stuff I've come to expect from Kirkman's series.

One thing I wasn't expecting was to be so interested in all the secondary characters in this title. For some reason, I thought this particular volume was particularly great when it came to the side plots. In fact, one of the main things I want to find out in the next book is what the hell happened to Rex!

Of course, SO MUCH happens with Marc & Eve. So. Much. Between the pregnancy and Eve's weight gain, *nothing* went down the way I would have predicted. And I *love* Kirkman for that!

Good stuff! And highly recommended for anyone who wants a superhero tale that's outside of the DC/Marvel universe.