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Essential Avengers Vol. 1



Synopsis

The Essential Avengers Vol 1

Book Information

Series: Essential (Marvel Comics) (Book 1)

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Marvel Comics (December 8, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0785107010

ISBN-13: 978-0785107019

Product Dimensions: 10.3 x 6.7 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #710,482 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #266 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > History & Price Guides](#) #446 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > TV, Movie, Video Game Adaptations](#) #2006 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Comic Strips](#)

Customer Reviews

The Essential Avengers Vol 1

There are certain guilty pleasures too good to resist, like revisiting childhood fancies: This Avengers collection, along with Fantastic Four and Thor from the Marvel Comics Silver Age collection are items I purchased for a backward glance at creations that were to eventually make Marvel a significant pop phenomenon. Some have argued that Marvel blurred the line between good and evil, but I disagree. They arrived at the same outcome as other publications via a more circuitous route by introducing the concept of the "misunderstood" hero, but "good" beating "evil" was still the overriding message: that held for the Silver Age anyway (directly after the Silver Age, something of a more sinister nature was to enter comic book literature..and I don't just mean Roy Thomas!). This black and white morality of the "good vs evil" tales in a world of fabulous, costumed heroes seemed real to a 12 year old at the time, so a 12 cent comic book was a worthy investment. If only the real world were so black and white! Legendary comic book artist Jacob Kurtzberg (Jack Kirby), son of a garment factory worker from the immigrant melting-pot of New York and his collaborator Stan Lieber (Stan Lee), built this empire together and today it goes without saying that "Marvel" is a household word. As a kid, these humble magazines were like gold to me. The erstwhile Kirby may have made

his name as a serious artist had he not settled for the comic-book world, where he was (and still is, in my opinion) without peer historically. If Kirby made an error in judgement, it was in trying to compete with Lee as a comic book writer instead of taking his artwork to another level. Truncated, packaged, black and white copies they may be but are still worth looking at for old times' sake if you can't afford to buy the originals at inflated prices from collectors. Still highly recommended for nostalgia buffs or for those who lost their original comics over the years (as I did) and are not prepared to pay collectors a small fortune to retrieve those above-mentioned originals. Arrived in a timely manner and in good condition. Just short of 5 stars due to being black and white only.

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 Avengers 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. In Issue 17, after yet another battle with the Masters of Evil, Iron Man, Giant Man, and Wasp decide 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.

Good stories of the early Avenger saga- but if you can you'd be better off getting them in color so you can see the art as it was originally intended- this is one way to read the early stories all in one place but only recommend it if you have no other options.

As good as the early Fantastic Four issues were, the Avengers took the superteam concept to a whole new level. Here was a team formed for the noblest of goals, thrown together by the machinations of an evil immortal only to turn the tables and begin the legendary association which would have teenagers all over the world shouting "Avengers Assemble!" in their backyards. "Essential Avengers vol. 1" captures the first 24 issues of the classic series, scripted by Stan Lee and illustrated by Jack Kirby and Don Heck. If the first appearances of Kang the Conqueror, Immortus, and the Masters of Evil aren't enough for you, pick this collection up for Avengers # 4, the return of Captain America. This alone is enough to mark a substantial return on your investment for this book. Highly recommended to all comics fans and X-Men fanatics who need a primer in how team books used to be written.

A great way to introduce new readers to the mighty Avengers. Also a great starting point for fans of the movies.

Really enjoyed reading the Essential Avengers Vol. 1

It is interesting to read the old books that I did as a kid, and to see how they have been reinterpreted in the contemporary movies.

Awsome book nearly done reading it. Great condition. Never knew there was a Ant man & wasp woman in it.

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