



FF, Volume 2

Jonathan Hickman (Writer) , Greg Tocchini (Artist) , Steve Epting (Artist) , Barry Kitson (Artist)

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The War of Four Cities escalates, and we learn what it is that the FF fears most! The Future Foundation is caught in the middle as the war expands to encompass the entire Marvel Universe! Plus: Black Bolt is back and is determined to reclaim his throne. Ben Grimm returns to the pages of the FF as Ronan the Accuser and the armies of the Kree empire invade the earth! A Galactic empire is born as the war of Four Cities comes to a close. What does it mean for Marvel's First Family?

Collecting: *FF* 6-11

FF, Volume 2 Details

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From Reader Review FF, Volume 2 for online ebook

Christian Zamora-Dahmen says

This is a very mature and interesting take on the Fantastic Four. The characters do resonate in unexpected ways and they're still true to who they are. The one thing I can't figure out is how people managed to follow such a story in a monthly basis. The subtleties of the arc would get entirely lost with such long hiatuses. Anyway, my one only complaint is that Hickman's stories get a bit dense sometimes and not everything makes sense or gets rightfully explained. Five wives for Black Bolt? Seriously? Still, it was a great read. Though, the story doesn't end yet in this volume! Having Barry Kitson do some of the issues is just magic. I wish he could have been through the entire run.

Donovan says

My least favorite volume in the series. Heavy on Inhumans and little FF involvement until the last two issues.

This is probably why I haven't read any Inhumans. Such convoluted mythology. The Supremor, whose metagenesis plan succeeds, destroys nearly all the genesis worlds once he freaks out and discovers that he's fallible and one of his own creations will kill him.

Now there's total war that I can't even keep track of. Inhumans versus Inhumans versus Earthlings versus...?

Mike says

Nice bit of mythology Hickman & co make at the start of this book, what with metagenesis as the forebearer of all these weird races that swirl around the Marvel U. (Dunno how much of this has already been thought of and how much is Hickman's invention, but it's the first I've seen of it.)

Tocchini's art in the first couple of chapters is hard to 'read' - not sure if recurring costumes & faces are meant to be the same person or it's just because he doesn't draw all that clearly.

I haven't kept up with Inhumans plots through the Marvel U - is all this grandeur a result of years-long struggles, or is this an instantaneous climax of something we didn't know about? I saw them show up in one of the recent Marvel events, but there too it felt like a hint or fragment of a story that - if it was being told, it wasn't anywhere I had stumbled across.

Overall, this story left me feeling pretty flat on Hickman. Yes, there's lots of universe-threatening movement, and all the big players that Hickman has been amassing over the years are coming out to play. But something about it feels almost...boring to me. Compare it with what came in the early days of Hickman's run - Reed going off to otherworlds to play with big boys and big toys (beyond even his ambitions and imagination), visitors from the future hinting at big destinies for the Reed kids... Maybe the problem is we see all the pieces on the board now, and there's nothing else waiting in the wings. (Not to mention that - with all of the supervillians brought to bear in the big fight, somehow it just felt like they were all standing around waving

their arms and emoting their usual catchphrases, but ultimately their contribution could've been exceeded by a small army of Herbies.)

Second reading, Feb 2015: what I *do* like, however, is Sue Reed. In Hickman's run, she is self-assured, operates independently of her family and takes charge - in ways the "boob window" Sue would never dream. Same with Black Bolt's wives (or at least Medusa) - takes no shit from people and creatures around her.

Melissa says

It was odd to see the series focus so much on the Inhumans, who I find more interesting by far than the Fantastic Four, but who are not actually part of any groups whose initials are FF. I haven't figured out what this series is supposed to be about. I presumed going in that it was about the Future Foundation, but in this collection it's mostly about a lot of people who are not in the FF. It was chaotic at times trying to keep track of all the characters in panels full of Alpha Primitives, Reed's supervillain posse, Inhumans, royal Inhumans and the Reeds from other dimensions. And I'd thought it would be difficult to remember who's who of the FF kids. I like the strange otherness of the Inhumans that comes through in this time period, but there are so many moving parts in this series it isn't a surprise that it didn't stick around.

Artemy says

Dull, dull Inhumans hijack this volume of FF. Who likes those guys? I don't. But they show up and completely steal the spotlight from the Future Foundation. Not cool, Hickman. Not cool.

Bill says

Some interesting twists in this volume, but it definitely requires knowledge of the history of the Fantastic Four, their allies and enemies, for a good deal of this to make sense. That said, these stories finally reveal much of the long-mysterious history of the Inhumans and their Kree creators, along with some rather good fight scenes and character interactions. It's especially cool that not just major characters like Reed, Sue, and Black Bolt get their moments to shine -- we also see characters like Crystal and Alex Power get some great scenes as well. (As a fan of "Power Pack" years ago, it's great to see Alex finally getting to prove that, yes, controlling gravity is a rather impressive and useful power.) And Reed finally calls in the cavalry -- his many heroic allies in the Marvel mythos -- a much better choice than his villain-recruiting plan in the first volume. Ends on a rather dramatic note that certainly makes one want to jump right into volume 3.

Side note: I have to wonder if a lot of the character design of Rick from "Rick and Morty" comes from the portrayal of Reed (and his father Nathaniel) in these volumes -- especially the antagonists being from the amoral "Council of Reeds" and the implication that any significantly advanced genius is not only aware of, but interacts with, their analogs in other alternate realities.

Nicolo Yu says

What's not to like? Jonathan Hickman's Fantastic Four was the first time that the writer's biggest plans was able to come to fruition and this volume is an important component of the story. It proves that the Fantastic Four is the franchise that gave birth to the Marvel universe and that Marvel's plans for its own slate of movies are severely hampered with the FF rights in the hands of Fox.

Sam Quixote says

It seems Marvel are aiming to make more and more of their stories, both on the page and on the silver screen, more cosmic, more spacey and "FF2: The Supremor Seed" is no different. It starts with a lot of mythology about Black Bolt, a kind of cheesily-dressed villain who is nonetheless credited as one of the most powerful characters in the Marvel Universe. He lives on the Moon, has 5 wives, and doesn't speak. He's raised an army of Inhumans and is invading Earth along with a bunch of alternate universe Reed Richards.

The problem with large scaled stories that encompass grandiose things like entire universes colliding and so forth, is the loose grip a writer has on making the characters - made small by the events occurring around them - to seem relevant to the story. Here, they not only appear small and insignificant (what are Ben Grimm and Spidey going to do in the face of some kind of space God and an army that's destroyed hundreds of alien races and worlds?) but are also uninteresting and bland to read about. And these are some top tier Marvel characters too!

Even throwing in members of the Avengers didn't do much to raise the interest level. When Jonathan Hickman can't get me interested in the existing cast, introducing even more characters into the mix isn't going to solve this lack of depth to the characters and their plight. If anything, it further underlines the superficial feel to the story. And for all its imagination of universes, worlds, alien races, etc., Hickman never feels in control of all the elements nor does he project any sense of urgency to the events. The overall feeling is of aloofness in the reading experience and a self-awareness of the transience of superhero comics at its most base level.

I enjoyed the first volume and the second is pretty to look at but its inability to connect with the reader at all left me indifferent to the story and cold when I put the book down. I'd like to say it was a fun, fascinating romp but it was pretty much the opposite.

Terence says

At the conclusion of Realm of Kings Black Bolt was missing and presumed dead. Guess who's back?

So this volume of FF was hijacked by the continuation of the Inhumans story Realm of Kings. Why Marvel didn't allow the story to finish with its own title is beyond me, but I'm glad the story was told somewhere. I have to imagine FF fans weren't pleased with two entire issues dedicated to Black Bolt's return and the Inhumans.

So Black Bolt's back and he's ready to return to Earth, perhaps because he has more wives awaiting his

arrival.

Immediately arriving on Earth the Inhumans rough up some Reed Richards from the multiverse. Meanwhile The Kree with Ronan the Accuser once again leading them have plans of their own.

FF volume 2 wasn't anything special, but it was good to see what happened to the Inhumans after the Realm of Kings storyline.

Jesse A says

Probably the weakest volume of this whole run but partially because it has a lot to do with Inhumans and my knowledge of them is limited, at best.

Jacobi says

The most surprising thing about this volume? It solidifies how natural Spidey fits in the FF's corner of the Marvel-U.

James Lawner says

This was still pretty good, but the inclusion of the Inhumans and the Kree kinda took away from the Future Foundation, and I don't know if this is the direction this series should take. Also, this is apparently spoilers for some storyline that happened, but it is explained here, but I still don't fully grasp it. Also, the artwork in those Inhumans explainer issues were not great.

Russell says

I had no clue where I left off. However, I sunk back in pretty easily.

SC Writer Hickman is great like always. I am very curious for what is next.

Peter Derk says

The first volume in this series started out pretty good. We have the Fantastic Four, minus Human Torch, plus Spider-Man. We also have a bunch of Reed Richards-ses that come from other dimensions, all of whom decided at some point to abandon their families in order to do what's best for the world, which kind of means they lost any anchor to emotional reality and therefore became a group of dangerous sociopaths.

I can dig it.

Then we have the second volume.

The phrase "a lot going on" can either be really great or really bad.

Examples:

"There is a lot going on in that novel." Could be great because there's cool subtext, could be shit because dragons and man-eating plants just showed up for no real reason.

"She's got a lot going on right now." Could be someone with a career that's on fire or someone who is learning how to live life in a wheelchair.

"There's a lot going on at the office." Could be that business is brisk, could be that the pop machine is out of Brisk Iced Tea, could be that someone briskly shot everyone on a Tuesday. Kind of depends on who is telling the story.

When I say "there's a lot going on" in the second volume, I mean it in the bad, dragons, man-eating plants, wheelchair, office shooting kind of way.

A reasonable, paced story turns into about seventeen stories. No less than SIX other races show up within these pages. Characters I've never seen before duck in and out for no apparent reason. And in the end a war for humanity is fought...by the Inhumans. There's a group of kids who might be scientists, one of whom appears to be somehow related to the devil. Oh, and how could I forget this key plot point: THERE'S A MAGIC SEED!

I have a couple of explanations that could describe how this volume feels.

It kind of feels like your five year-old little brother read every Fantastic Four comic written from 1970 to 1979 and then breathlessly summarized them for you, using character names as though they are people you are familiar with and leaving you feeling like he must have left out HUGE plot points and may need to be evaluated to make sure his schooling is addressing all of his special needs.

It kind of feels like someone came up with eight years worth of storylines, then was told he had 4 issues to write, and then instead of picking one decided to just jam them all in to see if he could, like jamming a bunch of dum-dums in a phone booth.

It kind of feels like I read the first volume, then the eighth volume. Ten years later. With a somewhat alarming fever.

Well, you get it. Which is to say, I don't get it.

But please, if you explain your story to someone and it has a magic seed in it that grows a weird floating head with four eyes

...eh, evaluate whether a genie would be appropriate to this world and use that as your guide.

Aaron says

I really enjoyed this volume, but a lot of me wonders if anyone would enjoy it who hadn't been following all the Cosmic Marvel stuff for the past few years. The War of Kings and parts of the Thanos Imperative play a major part in the arcs here, and the information from those arcs is just kind of mentioned without any real setup for readers who might be unfamiliar with it. Even though I've read all of that stuff, it took me a second to remember what had happened in those storylines.

That said, once I caught myself up on everything mentally, I really got into this volume. It's a lot of action, whereas the previous volumes have focused a lot on plot, but that doesn't fall to the wayside by any means here. There's still enough development to go around, and the book ends on a cliffhanger I'm really looking forward to following up on.

So, if you're already reading Hickman's FF/Fantastic Four stuff, this is going to keep your interests piqued. If you're not reading it, this isn't the place to start, but hey, that's what "Volume Ones" are for.
