



FF, Volume 1: Fantastic Faux

Matt Fraction (Writer) , Mike Allred (Illustrator) , Laura Allred (Colorist) , Joe Quinones (Artist)

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The Fantastic Four have formed a new team to guard the planet, and their wards in the Future Foundation, while they're on an interdimensional journey: Scott Lang, the incredible Ant-Man, Jen Walters, the gamma-spawned She-Hulk, Medusa, Queen of the Inhumans and Ms Thing.

But how does the world respond when this new FF making its public debut; how do the future Foundation kids feel about these new grown-ups running the show? And what does Scott Lang have in store for Dr. Doom, the man responsible for his daughter Stature's death? The war begins.

Collecting: *FF* 4-8

FF, Volume 1: Fantastic Faux Details

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Author : Matt Fraction (Writer) , Mike Allred (Illustrator) , Laura Allred (Colorist) , Joe Quinones (Artist)

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From Reader Review FF, Volume 1: Fantastic Faux for online ebook

Chris Lemmerman says

First off, can I just say that Fantastic Faux is a superb title?

Now, onto the rest of the book. Always zany and often heartfelt, FF is about family at heart, and yet there's still time for superheroics, subplots galore, and the always brilliant art from Mike Allred and Joe Quinones.

Where Fantastic Four is more straightforward, FF is always doing something crazy, and the plot is as unpredictable as it is awesome. A fun read from start to oh-so-tantalizing end.

kristen bolash says

oh my god oh my god oh my god this is 100% my FAVORITE series!!! this is ADORABLY fun and so so action packed. also 5/5 just for the softest trans rep EVER!!! i love how centered around family this is as well. this is someone i read on marvel unlimited that i can see myself buying hard copy because i loved it so much.

it picks up pretty much right where the fantastic four volume that contains issues 1-3 left off, i recommend reading that first although it's not needed.

i loved how every character in this has a story within the overall story. you see darla as a singer and all of her accomplishments and jen with her ex. scott is the leader overall and the story is mainly centered around a mind controlled medusa. i ADORED seeing luna in this!!! aunt medusa is the softest. it's also not common ALL inhuman characters are in a series, but luna, ahura and even karnak are in this.

this comic is also so "before it's time" even being just a 2013 comic. it deals with hackers which is obviously a bigger deal now than it was then.

art is still 100/10

Alasondro Alegré says

★★★½

Jasmine says

I really don't care about the "plot". I just want to see the kids be tiny evil geniuses, and then realize that it may be more fun to just go peacefully home and try on dresses/breathe fire/the ushe.

Dan Schwent says

The new FF are struggling to hold down the fort. Bentley gets up to some mischief. The future Human Torch awakens and the future he's predicted draws nearer.

Ant-Man and company continue trying to fill the shoes of the Fantastic Four and go up against a leviathan, The Wizard, Blastaar, and The Inhumans but their biggest enemies seem to be themselves.

That might be stretching it a little but Matt Fraction and Mike Allred have created a throwback to the Fantastic Four of the 1960's, a bickering team that still feels like a family.

I dig Matt Fraction's writing. Maybe not as much as Dan Slott's on the Silver Surfer but he does a good job of writing something that works to Mike Allred's strengths and fits his art style. He also gets some mileage out of The Wizard and the Inhumans, something I don't think many writers do a good job of. I also like how he's planting seeds for the next volume while doing some good character development within the FF cast.

I really like what Matt Fraction is doing here and I'm keen to start the next volume. Four out of five stars.

Nikki says

I think this one definitely requires more background. It might be volume #1 of the FF Marvel Now books, but it clearly follows an ongoing story involving the Fantastic Four and... possibly a lot of other people? I had no idea who a lot of these people were, other than Johnny Storm and Scott Lang. (Where does that fit with Young Avengers? Isn't he Cassie's dad, and isn't he dead? Or did he come back amidst the timeline crossing?)

Anyway, there were fun aspects to this -- the line "All of you pale before our hetero-normative cisgendered classification of family!" is a winning one, and there's some other good one-liners. Which I'd kind of expect from Matt Fraction, really. There was a really nice bit where he fit in a trans* character, dealt with sensitively, yet in such a normal way -- it barely caused a blink, and yet it worked well. I liked that bit a lot. Oh, and She-Hulk is great.

Overall, though, I don't have enough context to really enjoy this. Too bad the library's collection of comics is generally spotty.

Gavin says

Well, I liked the art. It was fun and whimsical.

The story was all over the place, but then again, that's the FF, so no big surprise.

Old John Storm, the Blue one-eyed man from the future is here, and I'm trying to recall what book he showed up in before this one...anyhow.

I actually enjoyed the Future Foundation kids here. Usually I despise them.

Bentley trying to embrace his inner super villain with hilarious results, the mole boys having a crush on She Hulk, and one of the kids deciding to wear a dress and be a girl...with one of the simplest and heart warming results ever. Way to go with positive gender identity work Matt Fraction! Well done!

Alex Power had his own story too, with more grown up connotations.

Scott Lang is coming into his own as leader, still haunted by his daughter's death. Medusa gets knocked down a peg by She Hulk, who is hot. Wyatt Wingfoot notices it too! And Ms. Thang tries new outfits on.

Good and bad. Not amazing, not terrible.

Sesana says

It might have been a mistake for me to read this. I don't mean that as any value judgement on the book itself. I just know so little about these characters and this setting that I was lost through most of the book. The Fantastic Four have never been appealing to me, and so I was trying to catch up on the background that I needed as I read. Take my advice, and don't try to jump on here.

But that has nothing to do with the quality of the work. Fraction is a great writer, and I can see that he's doing some good things here. I like the sitcom feel of much of the book, the silliness that doesn't quite take over the book. And Fraction did a great job with Ant-Man, his continuing grief over his daughter's death, and the way he cares for the Future Foundation kids. The little speech he gives them about how much he worries about them hit just the right notes.

Fraction earns points for how he handles Tong. In the course of a few deftly handled panels, Tong goes from presenting as a moloid boy to a moloid girl. And then people move on with their lives, with everyone the happier. Thanks for that. But then there's an oddly heavy-handed scene with the villain of the issue, giving Ant-Man a slightly too convenient chance to defend nontraditional and created family structures. Odd, that Fraction handles the more tricky issue so much more easily. But I do admit to loving the villain's delightfully over-the-top line, "All of you pale before our hetero-normative cisgendered classification of family!"

I first encountered Allred's work in iZombie. I loved the pop art feel of it there, and I loved it here. It really suits a book with a lighter tone.

Anne says

I'm all by myself here, because everyone else seems to think it was great, but I absolutely *hated* this. I thought it was silly and boring.

To me, it felt like the story jumped from one goofy plotline to another with lightning speed.

Johnny's back...maybe. And he wants to kill Doom!

dramatic music swells

Hang on! She-Hulk is going on a date! The moloid kids are in love with her, so they want to ruin it. But they end up making it better on accident!

insert canned laughter here

Johnny's burning everything down!

He's gone **CRAZY**! Come on gang, let's go save him...and the city!

2 seconds later

Ok. Done!

applause

The Yancy Street Gang is picking on Darla!

They hack her cell phone and post her embarrassing selfies, then show up at her concert and throw cabbage at her.

Oh no!

Don't worry, Darla, Ant Man will save you!

???

And on and on and on...

To me, this was so dumb. *All* of it.

I barely made it through this, and there's no way I'm going back for more. I'm glad other people are enjoying Fraction's take on this, but it's just not for me.

Honorable mention for having a transgender moloid.

Chad says

Matt Fraction brings the quirkiness of Madman along with its writer/artist to the FF. Fraction takes an inmates running the asylum approach to the book. The replacements for the Fantastic Four are all pretty dysfunctional on their own and now they're in charge of a bunch of genius children. The book is fun and episodic while Mike Allred makes the book look better than ever.

Sam Quixote says

With the Fantastic Four on their great space adventure, the FF have stayed behind to look after Earth in their stead. The FF, or Future Foundation, are: Scott Lang aka Ant-Man, Medusa, Queen on the Inhumans, Jennifer Walters aka She-Hulk, and Darla Deering aka Ms. Thing. In this first FF-only volume (the first three issues of Marvel NOW! FF were collected together with the first three issues of Fantastic Four), She Hulk goes on a date with old flame Wyatt Wingfoot; Johnny Storm from the future wreaks havoc in New York, and Bentley Wittman aka The Wizard tries to disrupt the FF family through mind-controlling Medusa.

Like his companion series Fantastic Four, Matt Fraction's FF is episodic – almost sit-com-ish – in its approach and it works really well. It allows him the freedom to do done-in-one issue stories like the She-Hulk date or Darla having her concert sabotaged by the Yancy Street Gang, both really fun stories, and it's these issues that make the book worth reading – that and Mike Allred's art!

Where I think the book falls down is twofold. The Doom storyline isn't particularly interesting. Johnny Storm from the future says they have to kill Doom but the storyline doesn't advance much in this book and there's nothing about it that I really want to read. Doom's too serious a villain for Fraction's comedic FF and the whole killing thing sticks out awkwardly. Then the Bentley Wittman story with The Wizard looking to

create his own nuclear family was just plain dull. More than that, it felt overly preachy on the part of Fraction.

This book deals with progressive ideas really well. Tong, one of the moloids, decides to change sex – he's a woman trapped in a male moloid's body – and rather than make a big deal out of this, Fraction does it all in one page. The coming out, the acceptance, the joy – moving on! It shows Marvel's own progressive nature and is a positive reflection of the readership that it's a scene that's barely noticed, which is as it should be.

Continuing the progressive theme is the idea of a traditional nuclear family – the one The Wizard is looking to forge – contrasted with the FF's unorthodox family structure, which nevertheless works. Ant-Man and co. punching The Wizard while declaring that his idea of a family is outdated and boring felt very on the nose. If Tong's sex change scene was handled perfectly, Fraction fumbles the affirmation of the 21st century family, one which doesn't necessarily have a mum and dad but provides real structure and love. That and the dull story overall didn't make me love this book as much as I'd expected to.

There's still lots of great stuff here like Darla trying on various hats and taking selfies, only to have her phone hacked by the Daily Bugle, and the John Hughes-esque escapades of Bentley-23 and the moloids as they try to disrupt Jen's date (the moloids fancy The Jen!). And then there's Mike Allred. How best to describe his art - transcendently beautiful? He has one of the most visually unique styles in mainstream comics where the drawings are striking and vivid without looking cartoonish or cheese-cake-y. He's one of those artists whose work instantly makes the comic that much better where, even if the script is lacking and not holding your attention, the pop art style makes up for it.

Fraction's writing these days is so up there that even if FF isn't of the same standard as Hawkeye or Sex Criminals, it's still head and shoulders above many other Marvel titles. It's because of the high quality of his other comics that I was disappointed with FF not being of as amazing but I still enjoyed parts of it. FF's not the best comic Fraction's done in recent years but it's definitely still worth a read.

Jeff says

I don't read the Fantastic Four much anymore (my library doesn't have it), so I had all sorts of questions when I started reading this:

When did they start a school/daycare at the Baxter Building?

Moloids? One just a sentient head in a jar? Atlanteans? Some bad guy progeny? Artie and Leech, who haven't aged a day in 40 years of continuity?

Doombot H.E.R.B.I.E.S. ? Kneel before Doom. Ha!

When did Dragon Man become a good guy? He had an obsession with the Sue Storm that almost turned into monster porn on several occasions.

Since the Fantastic Four are off doing stuff, who's in charge of this brood?

Let's see. You have the brooding Antman, Scott Lang, not crazy Eric O'Grady or Hank Pym, candidate for Viagra. The Green She-Hulk, the adolescent crush for the Moloids. Medusa, (attitude) Queen of the

Inhumans. Darla Deering, who has a kind of fetish for the Thing and likes to wear an old Thing suit.

Good choice Reed and Sue, I'm sure these kids are in safe and capable hands.

With all this, the title is a lot of fun. Matt Fraction (My Life as a Weapon) brings an off kilter approach to the material with some nice old school touches (a layout of the Baxter Building just like Lee and Kirby used to do).

Stewart Tame says

Okay, so this is volume 1 of FF. It says so in the copyright information and everything. Normally, that would mean the story starts here, right? Volume one and all? Not at Marvel, though. This is a continuation of a story that began ... somewhere. I'm unable to discern where just from this book alone. On the back cover, we see that this collects the stories that originally ran in issues 4-8 of the FF comic books. So what happened to issues 1-3? Why aren't they volume one? Does this make sense to anyone other than the most diehard Marvel fans? This is a fun book, and I would have liked to have read it from the beginning. It's a goofy, funhouse take on the Marvel universe, and Michael Allred was an excellent choice for the art. Just be warned that, at Marvel at least, the volume numbers don't mean anything, and are apparently assigned randomly. Knocking off a star for that.

'kris Pung says

Wow Matt Fraction is just killing it with all his Marvel Now books.

Nicolo Yu says

I miss Jonathan Hickman's FF but Michael Allred on art gave me a whole new reason to pick this up. I have the first 10 issues on singles and I had little hesitation double-dipping with this trade.

To Fraction's credit, he does not ape Hickman but has a whole new approach to the title. He maintained the family dynamic, even with new characters that were substituting for the missing F4. FF is still a school, but I couldn't feel it. Antman and company does not carry any academic gravitas.
