



## The Fantastic Four Omnibus Volume 2

*Stan Lee (Text) , Jack Kirby (Illustrations)*

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### **The Fantastic Four Omnibus Volume 2** Stan Lee (Text) , Jack Kirby (Illustrations)

Their achievements reflect the boundless energy of two creators at the top of their game with each issue, character and creation building upon and exceeding the scope of the last. It's a list of accomplishments unparalleled in the history of comics: the origin of Dr. Doom; the Frightful Four; the Wedding of Reed Richards and Sue Storm; the Inhumans; the first appearance of the Silver Surfer; the Galactus Saga; the debut of the world's first black super hero, the Black Panther; the cosmic clash between the FF, the Surfer and Dr. Doom; and, of course, "This Man, This Monster!" - the story widely regarded as the greatest FF tale of all! Collecting the greatest stories from the World's Greatest Comics Magazine in one, massive collector's edition that has been painstakingly restored and recolored from the sharpest material in the Marvel Archives. **COLLECTING: FANTASTIC FOUR 31-60, ANNUAL 2-4**

### **The Fantastic Four Omnibus Volume 2 Details**

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## From Reader Review The Fantastic Four Omnibus Volume 2 for online ebook

### Kelly McCubbin says

There's a lot of revisionist history about Ol' Stan Lee and the Marvel Bullpen. Some of it's fair. Some not. But there is a moment about halfway through this volume where Johnny Storm is lying on the ground after having traveled through galaxies and dimensions beyond what he'd ever imagined where he lies quivering on the ground whimpering, "We're just ants. Ants!" where I defy you not to get swept up with the revolutionary fever fans must've felt in 1967 when Jack Kirby and Stan Lee simply changed the way we saw the world. Working under insane deadlines, with no real staff, trying to fabricate the illusion of a bustling creative atmosphere that simply didn't exist, two great artists, already on the tipping point of middle age and having been in the industry for over two decades, completely exploded a form of art. And you can see it. Right here. In this book.

Is it all great? No. Some of it is incomprehensible in it's sloppiness. And then some of it is The Watcher and Galactus and the Silver Surfer and The Inhumans and the, Holy Sh\*t the sky is on fire!!!  
Just wonderful.

P.S. Watch the letter pages closely for a certain famous author who might just have a thing or two to say about winter coming...

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### Nate says

Really great. I hadn't read these stories since I was a kid and I was really amazed at how enthralling they remain. Jack Kirby's imagination was a wondrous gift. Its pretty silly kids stuff but there's an element of unbridled creativity that really tickles my brain.

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### Dan Schwent says

Fantastic Four Omnibus, Volume 2, contains Fantastic Four 31-60, plus annuals 2-4.

**Annual 2:** Doctor Doom's origin is retold and he teams with Rama Tut against the Fantastic Four!

Yeah, Doctor Doom again. While I already knew Doom and Reed went to college together, it was nice to read the story for the first time.

**31-34:** The Fantastic Four take on the Mole Man, the Invincible Man, Attuma, and a billionaire named Gregory Gideon.

Introducing Franklin Storm, Sue and Johnny's father, only to kill him off seemed like a waste. The Invincible Man battle was the best issue of these four. Special bonus: Since this omnibus includes the original letters page, George R.R. Martin has two letters published, starting his long tradition of writing frivolous things when he should be working on something important.

**35-38:** The Fantastic Four take on Dragon-Man and Diablo, The Frightful Four, go to the Skrull homeworld,

and take on the Frightful Four a second time.

Kirby's dynamic pencils drove the debut of two new threats, Dragon-Man and the Frightful Four. It's not very often you see super heroes defeated but the Frightful Four did just that. How is the Fantastic Four going to operate powerless?

On a side note, Medusa's hair is kind of a ridiculous super power. "Your clumsy fists and guns are no match for my uncanny hair!"

**39-43:** A powerless Fantastic Four go up against Doctor Doom with Daredevil as their ally. No sooner do they get their powers back than The Thing leaves and joins forces with the Frightful Four!

Yeah, you know you're in deep shit when Daredevil joins your team and he's the heavy hitter. The three issue conflict with the Frightful Four went a little long but I'm really digging the silver age cheese factor from Medusa.

**Annual 3:** It's the day we've all been waiting for! Reed Richards and Sue Storm are getting married. Too bad Doctor Doom is assembling an army of super villains to attack the Fantastic Four when they are the most vulnerable.

Doctor Doom sets out to ruin the wedding of Reed and Sue, setting a precedent for every future super hero wedding to follow. Doom's allies include but are not limited to The Puppet Master, Red Ghost, Mole Man, The Mandarin, Kang, Grey Gargoyle, The Super Skrull, Cobra, the Executioner, The Enchantress, Black Knight, The Melter, Mister Hyde, Elector, the Beetle, the Mad Thinker, and the Awesome Android. Luckily, the X-Men, Daredevil, Spider-Man, the Avengers, and Doctor Strange are on hand.

**44-47:** The Fantastic Four meet the Uncanny Inhumans!

This proved to be a timely read since the Inhumans are the surrogate X-Men until Marvel gets the movie rights back. This is the story that introduces them, starting with Medusa on the run and ending at the great refuge, with plenty of super hero misunderstandings in between.

The Inhuman Royal Family act much as they do these days. I'm glad someone besides Stan Lee eventually writes the Fantastic Four, though. His dialogue is kind of terrible and Sue Richards has almost no personality beyond wanting to please her husband.

**48-50:** At last, the Galactus Trilogy!

Fresh from their debacle with Maximus the Mad, the Fantastic Four arrive home to find New York in chaos, but that is nothing compared to the shitstorm headed their way, for the Silver Surfer has arrived and, soon, Galactus! Galactus' arrival and the following two issues are some of the best comics from this era. While I haven't read all of Lee and Kirby's run, I'd be shocked if this wasn't their prime. The art is quintessential Kirby and Lee's also at the top of his game.

**51-56:** A mad scientist steals the Thing's powers and has a change of heart. The Black Panther battles the Fantastic Four and helps them battle Klaw. The Human Torch and Wyatt Wingfoot meet Prester John. The Thing battles the Silver Surfer and the Fantastic Four, minus the Human Torch, battle the much improved Klaw!

The Fantastic Four continues to expand the Marvel Universe, this time by introducing the Black Panther and Wakanda. The Kirby-ness goes up another notch as Kirby machines and Kirby dots are all over the place.

**Annual 4:** The Fantastic Four battle the original Human Torch and the Mad Thinker!

The FF, primarily Johnny, battle the original Human Torch, who was revived by the Mad Thinker. Due to Marvel Comics: The Untold Story, I'm pretty sure this story was only written to retain Marvel's copyright on the original Human Torch. Kind of a shitty thing to do to Carl Burgos. Also, this story also illustrates how much Marvel has played fast and loose with time over the years. At this point, Reed and Ben were still acknowledged as being in World War II.

**57-60:** Doom steals the power cosmic!

While the Kirby-tude of this story can't be denied, it was kind of a letdown in the end. Still, it was great seeing Doctor Doom running wild for a few issues... with no other heroes stopping by to help.

**Closing Thoughts:** The second big honkin' Fantastic Four omnibus was even better than the first. So much of the foundation of the current Marvel Universe was established in these issues. While the dialogue is almost unbearable at times, the concepts and the art were the top of the game at the time. 4.5 out of 5 stars, adjusted for the passage of sixty years.

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### **Oliver Hodson says**

This actually took me about two years to read and i got it in a big shipment from the states. I read it piece by piece getting through to galactus and the famous thing story. The writing was certainly wordy but really full of energy. I usually read everything in a book so the letter columns were at once a fabulous glimpse of the comics culture of the time and an occasional chore. I guess it just showed how the world building was going on off the pages as well as on them. I liked the style of enjoying the story moments over water tight continuity or realism.

The art stood up over time, and as much as the kirby gizmos, i like the dramatic facial expressions and poses that add to the melodrama.

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### **Tyler Hayes says**

Reading these Fantastic Four Omnibuses has given me a new appreciation for what Kirby and Lee did for superhero comics and for the storytelling fabric of the United States. Later writers and artists took the medium and the mythology to new heights, but those heights were achieved, as they say, by standing on the shoulders of these two giants. This volume contains the Galactus Trilogy, the cosmic, mythology-altering superhero epic by which all future "event comics" would eventually be measured, and "This Man, This Monster," one of the best human-level superhero stories ever told. It also introduces the groundbreaking (if problematic) Black Panther and the high weirdness of the Inhumans, along with other major players in the Marvel Universe to come. Don't get me wrong: there are flaws in Lee's storytelling and dialogue, and Kirby's art is at times clearly the prototype for what came after it. But even with those feet of clay, these two are heroes, and my understanding of comic book history is richer for having read these masterworks. Highly recommended for any superhero fan.

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### **Printable Tire says**

Technically I returned the Omnibus to the library awhile ago, and just finished the Marvel Masterworks vol 6 today, but whatever.

I and you don't have the patience for me to go over every issue here, but lemme tell ya, they're the best yet. The omnibus is worth getting just to read the original fan letters, the most interesting of which are from young American soldiers sent off to Viet Nam, or foreign dignitary's children, or Communists taking affront to always being portrayed as the bad guy, or women (like the one who came up with the name Alicia Masters) being patronized by Lee.

Everybody talks about the Galactus saga being the hallmark of this era, but after his initial awesome introduction I felt the story a bit stale- there's no forward momentum, and it's all solved by a Deus Ex Machina in the guise of another one of the Watcher's Fantabulous Machines.

Of more interest to me are the Inhumans, whose nigh-Shakespearean drama is a breath of fresh psychedelic air (although in a strange way, and I'm not the only one who thinks this, they appear to be weirdly based on the Munsters).

It's with the initial encounter with the Inhumans that Lee/Kirby introduce a formula Kirby will perfect later in his own saga, the Fourth World: introduce a flashy, mysterious harbinger in one issue, then in consecutive issues open up a new expansive cosmos wider and wider. WHO IS GORGON? WHO IS THE SEEKER? Etc. (Incidentally, the Seeker comes and goes and doesn't add up to anything but man is it cool when he's first on the scene.)

The pattern of story wrapped up-new story begins in each issue has been abused to death, but when it's first introduced here it feels like you're getting two stories for the price of one. I even like the pointless wanderings of Wyatt Wingfoot, the Human Torch, and Lockjaw. That would've made a great miniseries.

All my favorite FF themes are still here: Sue + Reed's sexless marriage, the Thing's existential dread, and there's even sports drama when Johnny's at college.

And, of course, we have the introduction of the Cosmic Beatnik, the first native of the Marvel Universe, the Silver Surfer. And Black Panther's no slouch either! (even though his arch nemesis kinda sucks). And Doctor Doom riding a surfboard in the sky! What more do you want? 'Nuff said!

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## **The\_Mad\_Swede says**

This is the second big hard cover volume collecting the early days of *The Fantastic Four*; more specifically, this one contains issues #31–60, *Annuals* #2–4, and *Not Brand Echh* #1. Like the preceding volume it is all written by Stan Lee in his prime, and pencilled by Jack Kirby (inked by Chic Stone, Frank Giacoia, Vince Colletta, and last but certainly not least, the inimitable Joe Sinnott). As with the previous volume, the original letter pages are included, which is a great boon in seeing how Stan Lee built up the Marvel franchise through fan communication.

If the first volume explodes a universe into existence, this second volume certainly follows suit, and sees Lee and Kirby turn to short serial structures interweaving and building longer continuous narrative. Among the big things contained in this hefty book, a few deserve special mention: the introductions of the Frightful Four, the Inhumans, and far from the least, the Silver Surfer and his master Galactus (in the classic Galactus trilogy).

All in all, this is essential reading to fans of FF and Marvel, in particular, and highly recommended to anyone with an appreciation for superhero comics or the history of comics in general. Like its predecessor, this is an historical milestone, ever so important for the development of both the comics field and the comics market.

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### **guanaeps says**

Issues 31-60 of Stan "The Man" Lee and Jack "King" Kirby's legendary run on Fantastic Four. It lives up to the hype. They start catching fire around issue 37 and never "flame off". Introducing such characters as The Inhumans, Black Panther, Silver Surfer and Galactus, this Omnibus is full of landmark Marvel moments that still have weight and relevance in Marvel comics today. Plus this stuff is just a lot of fun. Artie-Simek-lettering-jokes all day!

This Omnibus is a beautiful Over-sized Hard Cover presenting Jack Kirby's mind bending art in its greatest glory.

Moving Forward!

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### **De says**

When I think of the Fantastic Four, it's mostly the stories from this volume that immediately spring to mind. A lot of the groundwork for the modern Marvel mythos is established here: the Inhumans, Silver Surfer, Galactus, and the Black Panther! The final story with Dr. Doom stealing the Silver Surfer's power cosmic and wreaking havoc on the planet is rife with great character moments, especially the "oh crap!" moment when Reed realizes what Doom has accomplished. If I were to criticize any of the storytelling, it would be the drawn out saga of the trapped Inhumans and Johnny's months-long quest to free them (dragging poor Wyatt Wingfoot with him). However, that stuff is minor compared to the rest of the rich, creative lore Stan and Jack brought forth.

Bring on Omnibus, Volume 3.

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### **Pete DeCourcy says**

This is the peak of the Lee/Kirby working relationship. Where Kirby is firing on all cylinders, tossing bizarre concepts and seeing what sticks, while creating a massive shared universe. Nothing can be confined to one simple genre. This is opera, this is science fiction, this is romance, this is drama.

Best moment: God - with a giant G beltbuckle - arrives to eat earth and the FF stop to shit, shower and shave.

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### **Brent says**

Five stars for some great stories. The characters created in these early comics are still around today, and that's pretty amazing!

### **Rich Tommaso says**

This is some of the greatest FF stuff (of course volume 1 is a lot of fun too--but I've read those too many times already). This volume contains some of the best Jack Kirby art on the FF--it's when his work really started to take shape and become bigger than life.

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### **John Porcellino says**

It was about three or four years back that I got into superhero comics-- by which I mean the classic superhero stuff of the 40s through 60s, and in particular the work of Mr. Jack Kirby. Superheroes get a bad rap, because they're awful. But these classic comics should not be dismissed. The Fantastic Four comics, the comics that begat the "Silver Age," stretched the boundaries of what superheroes were all about, but in this particular collection, which features the justifiably lauded "Galactus Trilogy," you get the sense that Kirby and co-writer Stan Lee were actually blowing their own minds while producing it. You can practically feel the ground breaking under their feet as they explore their new world with a passion and grand vision previously unknown to comics.

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