



## **FF, Volume 2: Family Freakout**

*Matt Fraction (Writer) , Mike Allred , Lee Allred , Joe Quinones (Illustrator)*

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They've handled media mockery, crippling self-doubt, kidnapping and the greatest fiends in the Negative Zone — but can the FF handle...the spooky kids? Shiver as they write the names of weird bands on their desktops! Quake as they use slang to hide their true conversations! Recoil at their monstrous cellphone data-plan bills! The generation gap has come for the Future Foundation — break out the black nail polish! Then, it's Hulk vs. Thing — and it's one for the ages! As the kids in the FF start growing apart, their adult supervision seems to be having some issues of their own. And when Doom the Annihilating Conqueror ascends, is this the beginning of the end of everything? Plus: Pool party! Impossibletown! The horrible secret of Underspace! And two students transfer in at the best worst moment imaginable.

**Collecting:** *FF* 9-16

### FF, Volume 2: Family Freakout Details

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## From Reader Review FF, Volume 2: Family Freakout for online ebook

### Sesana says

Hey, we all knew this would end sooner or later. The Fantastic Four wouldn't stay lost in time and space forever, and once they returned, FF would obviously get folded back into the main title. Still kind of sad to see it go so soon.

That said, I didn't quite like this volume as much as the first. It feels more random, somehow, before the focus turns to defeating Doctor Doom. That plot felt really talky in strange places. I don't know, I just wasn't feeling that storyline, so it was kind of a relief to see it over and done with. Of course, that also meant that the book was over. Alas.

But it was still weird and funny, and I didn't dislike it. Plus, Allred's art was every bit as good as before. He's great on these quirky books.

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### Gavin says

OK, now that I've slept on it...this isn't a 5-Star book. However, it might not be a 4-star either...however, there's tons of little things which amount to the sum of the parts being greater than the whole.

1- Scott Lang. Is nearly a polar opposite to Reed Richards as leader of the FF...but this is a good, if not great thing for the title and the team. Where Reed and Doom have a sort of uneasy truce and the family is wrapped up with him, Scott hates Doom more than nearly anyone in the Marvel U. Doom killed his daughter, and that fuels Scott, but not in the usual bloody vengeance way you might think. It's smarter than that, and Fraction writes it so well, you totally believe it. Scott is also present, where Reed is not, and his attention and care for the kids is touching, especially since he lost his child, he takes their care seriously.

2- still Scott Lang, but this time, it has to do with Pym Particles, and gets a bit science-y, so Lono you best run away. More or less, Scott unlocks a secret that even Hank Pym either didn't or didn't ever share with anyone. It's brilliant in some ways, and I think it shows even more why Scott is one of the most able FF leaders ever. He's no Reed, brain wise, but this was something that even Reed never discovered.

3- most times I have read FF I felt like the kids were either unnecessary or a pain in the ass to read and deal with...however, Matt Fraction here manages to make the kids into the comic relief of the book, while not reducing them to walking punchlines or removing their humanity. Bentley-23 is the golden star, working ever so hard to be a super-villain, and what does the FF do? Turn him towards good? Nope. In a shockingly genius move, they just encourage him to be himself, and even harness his "evil" nature to help the rest of the kids assist in the final fight against Doom. The mole-kids are also hilarious, with unwavering devotion to "The Ben" and "The Jen" and keeping suitors away from her at all costs. In addition to humour, the heart of the book, the FEELS as Anne calls em, come from the kids. Impossible Man shows up with a kid of his own, and wants the FF to take him in. Scott speaks to the kid with kindness, caring, no condescension, and honesty. Medusa speaks of her unwavering protection for all the kids, and when his kid does join, there's the sweetest moment between him and Medusa's niece.

4-Uatu (you ought to, as Scott mispronounces his name) the Watcher gets taken to task by Scott, and it's interesting for sure. I think this was part of the lead up to Original Sin?

5- the art, by Mike Allred, just makes you feel welcome and cozy. It's not the most awe inspiring, or technically impressive, but it's colourful, tells the story, and fits like your favourite t shirt and jeans.

Honestly, there's so much here, I could write twice as much, but I will say it's an improvement over the first volume, and even if this was the end...damnit...you knew the Reed-Storm clan had to return. I hope this results in Scott Lang getting a raised profile in Marvel going forward, and Matt Fraction should get to write it.

Enjoy this flawed yet wonderful book, if you don't smile at least once? You have no soul.

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### **Robert says**

This compilation was good fun, clearly the writers weren't taking themselves at all seriously here which made for some good tongue-in-cheek hi-jinks. I guess it was always meant to be a limited run event series, but that's too bad- I would've enjoyed following the adventures of the Future Foundation for at least 4 minutes more!

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### **Jeff says**

Since Disney owns Marvel what would be the perfect way to broaden your audience and increase sales? Add kids and animals. There are plenty of kids here: Inhumans, Moloids, villain clones, mutants, etc., with the two fish kid Uhari's possibly straddling the kid and pet groups.

What else could we do to save this book? It's a Fantastic Four related title so bring Dr. Doom into the story and threaten to kick his ass because revenge is a dish best served up with a mega-dose of Pym Particles. Scott Lang, Antman, whose daughter was killed by Doom has been brooding so long on this he's about to pop.

Sorry to see Matt Fraction's run on this funny and engaging title come to an end.

### **What's to like.**

The humor. It doesn't reach Hawkeye proportions but it's loaded with laughs.

Fraction and Allred wrote themselves into this comic.

Maximus the Mad (Mad as in crazy pants, not Mad as in perturbed)

The Moloid kids give a lecture on hero and villain uniform colors. Red and blue = good. Green and purple = bad.

Looney one-eyed, old-guy Torch from the future.

Bentley-23, best evil clone kid ever.

The kids get to Scooby Doo a bunch of Red Ghosts.

### **What's not to like.**

The confusing denouement

The Fantastic Four are suddenly having a barbeque on the Moon! Some chunks of continuity are missing and I assume can be found in the Fantastic Four comics that were running concurrently with this series.

What kind of wet blanket wouldn't like this series?

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### **Sam Poole says**

Okay so I really liked a lot of this- darla deering, all the kids in the FF school, the great combinations of self-referential and meta commentary with the cosmic and sense of humor and grandiosity found in the best fantastic four books. The ending, however, is very weak. Ant Man brutally beating doctor doom was so excessive and hard to read that I was basically hoping he would fail. It's a bummer Fraction couldn't write this like...forever because it's conceptually great and generally well executed, just not successfully wrapped up.

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### **Chad says**

The overall plot here is a bit suspect. It mainly consists of Doom scheming behind the scenes, almost from behind the curtain offstage. The book works best when it focuses on the kids. The FF is really a bunch of dud personalities. Fraction doesn't seem to care for them much at all except as for foils for the kids. But man when the kids take center stage is this book great. It's so damn funny and cute. I almost spit out my drink when the kids explain to the Impossible Man's son that he's evil because he wears purple and green. Bentley-23 needs his own book.

What can be said about Mike Allred's art that hasn't been already said? I've been a fan since his early Madman days. I just can't get enough of his kitschy, retro look. He brings a lot of movement and kinetic energy to the look of the book as well.

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### **Chris Lemmerman says**

Amazing. This series has been continually enjoyable and impressive, stretching the idea of comics in general whilst still being hugely innovative and very different from everything else that's on the stands, and this final volume tops that and then some. Despite losing writer Matt Fraction halfway through, the volume continues and ends strong with Lee Allred at the helm, with some truly laugh out loud moments and a satisfying final battle with Doctor Doom that involves the entire team. I love that the children are the focus for these stories, despite the fact that Ant-Man, Darla Deering, She-Hulk, and Medusa could easily steal the spotlight. Even if you don't read Fantastic Four, you owe it to yourself to read FF - it's not a companion book, it far outstrips the parent title and shows it how to do comics properly. Also, an entire book of Mike Allred (with a little help from Joe Quinones) artwork is worth almost any price.

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## Michael Church says

What's unfortunate is that the things making this title so delightful are also some of its drawbacks, due to its short run. It's the type of book that will have some minute thing happen in the background of one panel and turn it into a running joke for 6 issues and bring it up again after 5 more. Sadly, the book ends here with issue 16 so it doesn't get the chance to really dig into that personality.

It's also a book that very much stands on its own two feet. Many issues can be enjoyed almost independently of each other. This works for and against the book. While it's nice to see, it also gives it a slightly disjointed feeling. That said, there is still a clearly overarching story that reaches a clear climax. It may not be a perfect ending, but it is certainly an ending that represents this title well.

My main complaint is the obscurity of so much of the final issue. Scott Lang is making references constantly to things that many people won't know at all. There's also some science stuff that they try to explain and end up making no sense until pages later when they finally sum it up in layman's terms in one sentence. Nothing that would deter me from reading, but still something that gave me pause. There were also some uncomfortable scene changes that were just too abrupt and in the middle of intense action. I know this happens in other titles, but the action was still so dialogue and story laden that it was interrupting that progression as well.

As for the art, it's what you should have come to expect now. Allred has an incredible style and I'm pretty sure I'll try any series that he draws. The lines are distinct and the whole book has a wonderfully surreal and unique look. Even better, there are no substitute artists in this series. I wish so strongly that more books would follow this lead and just wait for the series' main artist to take care of every issue.

Anyway, this whole thing is a fun ride. With the ties to Cassie and the Young Avengers and Children's Crusade, I enjoyed it even more and feel a stronger sense of closure. FF is definitely worth your time and a closer look.

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## Dan Schwent says

The FF plan to bring the Fantastic Four back to earth in time to stop Doctor Doom, Kang, and Annihilus from becoming Doom the Annihilating Conqueror. Things don't go as planned...

Matt Fraction and Michael Allred's run on FF ends with a bang. The FF take in Impossible Man's son Adolph, try to bring back the Fantastic Four, and go to war with Doctor Doom. Fraction does a lot to elevate Scott Lang in this volume and goes a long way toward dragging him out of Hank Pym's size-changing shadow.

The battle with Doom was very well done and Doom was true to his scene-chewing self. Fraction's portrayal of The Watcher was also pretty great and I loved the stuff on the blue area of the moon. Ahura stepping up for the war was also a nice touch.

Much like the last volume, this book reads like a modern day love letter to the Stan Lee and Jack Kirby days of the Fantastic Four. It's a damn shame this is the last of Matt Fraction and Mike Allred on FF. It's been a lot of fun. Four out of five stars.

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## 'kris Pung says

I think I've got a giant soft spot for this zany series and I can't believe that it's been canceled WTF (smashes fist through drywall repeatedly)!!

Okay I'm back; Fraction has been killing it on all his titles lately and this still remains my favorite of his. He pretty much throw every Z list FF villain (Grey Ghost, Impossible Man, etc.) in this one and somehow he keep it on the rails. The ending oh my the ending was just perfect (silent tear streaming down my cheek) why do the comics gods always cancel the fun books?

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## Artemy says

It was still pretty great, although when Fraction stepped down and Allred started writing the series, the quality and the feel dulled down a bit. The ending was epic though! Loved this series as a whole.

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## Bill says

First off, the two previous volumes in this story arc (noted below) are required for any of this to make sense. I found the two previous volumes to be a little uneven, but everything comes together here, and it really is fantastic. Doctor Doom is one of those character who has always needed to be taken down and taken apart -- not just defeated and left to escape, but truly called to judgement for the genuinely horrible things he's done throughout the history of the Marvel Universe. And here, finally, he gets that breakdown he deserves. (Another good subtitle for this volume could have been "Doctor Doom Disassembled.")

Throw in old favorites from the Fantastic Four supporting cast -- Impossible Man! The Watcher! and another oddly appropriate cosmic being! -- and a few new faces, and this is just like a love letter to fans of the Fantastic Four, who have put up with so much of the weirdness over the years, and yet appreciate that they and their friends and allies truly are one big extended family.

[Note: two previous volumes are: "Fantastic Four, Vol. 1: New Departure, New Arrivals" and "FF, Vol. 1: Fantastic Faux"]

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## Fugo Feedback says

Si el tomo 1 me pareció entretenido, ingenioso y bonito, este me pareció divertidísimo, muy gracioso y dibujado como los dioses, ¡hasta el dibujo de Quinones no sólo no contrasta con el de los Allred sino que se complementa muy bien!

Y así durante más de 150 páginas fabulosas, entre las que resalta el genial soliloquio/resumen de Maximus, cuando quiere aclarar que no fue Doom el que lo metió en el frasquito en donde está encerrado; y que resume a la perfección el espíritu de la serie **¡OJOS, PÓILER!**:

—¡No ha sido Muerte, ha sido la Hormiga! Me redujo al tamaño de un tigre cuando íbamos sobre Pantalones Morados tras Julio César... Es una nube rosa, por cierto. Me engañó por un desayuno cuando me puse un robot por sombrero y la csa de la luna tenía lavabos, pero yo estaba en la bolsa que no tenía, estaba oscuro, robaron un robot de Texas y luego la Hormiga me puso aquí para darles una excusa para machacar...

—No le hagas caso. Por algo le llaman Maximus el loco.

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## Nicolo Yu says

Matt Fraction's Fantastic Four will always be overshadowed by Jonathan Hickman's run, which preceded it. Still, Fraction had his moments, especially on FF, which ran side by side with the main title. The main arc on Fantastic Four was about the original team's adventure while they were lost in time and space, while FF was all about hope their replacements coped with absence.

FF was awesome because of Michael Allred. This was the first monthly I followed regularly with Allred on art and enjoyed it tremendously. FF had a trippy premise and Allred was perfectly suited for it. The art team was a family affair with wife Laura providing the colors to her husband's lines. Fraction drew to their strengths; Allred books always have interesting females as leading characters, from X-Statix, iZombie, and now with FF.

I recorded the first volume of this series four stars but I felt that this one deserves five because there's a lot of goodness that I enjoyed.

First, it's an excellent Ant-Man series before the run up to the Paul Rudd movie. Ant-Man get to be super-heroic, with a superstar girlfriend to boot.

Second, the kooky Fantastic Four villain return, with Red Ghost and Impossible Man. Impy has key role in the final storyline.

Third, the clone of Bentley Wittman comes into his own. This redheaded stepchild can be hard to tolerate sometime but he delivers in the end.

Fourth, this was stealth Avengers story. Pym particles play a key role and while Kang made his appearance as Rama-Tut in the old Fantastic Four comics, he will forever be linked to the Avengers.

It wasn't a perfect run. For example, I hate how Fraction used Alex Power. It was like he totally regressed and made him villainous which I thought was out of character. Still, it made up in other key areas not limited to what I mentioned earlier.

This was thick for a regular trade, it had eight issues, and the last one was oversized. Most current trades only have five or six, so this was a bargain.

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## Joe Young says

Matt Fraction - writer

Mike Allred - illustrator

I straight up loved this series. Long story short, Scott Lang finally gets his act together and decides to kick Dr. Doom's ass. And that's exactly how that shit goes down.

Humor abounds, clever writing plays with the traditional ff family dynamic, new characters are introduced that pay homage to classic Marvel canon, all with twists and turns that keep you guessing until the very moment of dénouement. Spectacular artwork from the amazing Allred make this a collection not to be missed.

5/5

Highly recommended.

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