



Black Panther by Reginald Hudlin: The Complete Collection Vol. 2

Reginald Hudlin (Text) , Trevor Hairsine (Illustrations) , David Yardin (Illustrations)

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From Civil War to the Fantastic Four! King T'Challa and Queen Ororo are about to embark on a diplomatic tour around the globe - and beyond! Stops include Latveria (hello, Doctor Doom), the Moon (meet the Inhumans), Atlantis (hey, it's Namor) and a United States locked in conflict over the Superhuman Registration Act (enter, Iron Man)! But Storm and the Panther won't stay on the sidelines of Civil War for long... And in the aftermath, the royal couple will find a new home in the Baxter Building as half of a new Fantastic Four! Together with the Thing and the Human Torch, they'll battle familiar zombies and gangster Skrulls, and face big trouble in a very little land - Sub-Atomica, home of the Psycho-Man! Plus, the Watcher takes the Panther Black to the Future! **COLLECTING: BLACK PANTHER (2005) 19-34, ANNUAL 1**

Black Panther by Reginald Hudlin: The Complete Collection Vol. 2 Details

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From Reader Review Black Panther by Reginald Hudlin: The Complete Collection Vol. 2 for online ebook

B says

Interesting choice. The first volume felt like it really picked and chose from Marvel continuity. Here, Hudlin dives right in and writes a completely mainstream Marvel book (except for a few hints here and there of a political agenda.)

I am personally cross about Dr. Doom's portrayal as an overt racist. My understanding is he basically has two holes in his ability to reason: (1) He believes he is the best and (2) he believes it all works out the best if he is in charge. You could imagine racism being part of the first part: he believes his race is the best because he believes he is the best. But that's never been there. Oh, well, I guess I am a bad reader for liking villains.

Similarly, King Solomon's Frogs also appear racist? Weird.

Ma'Belle says

Somehow, the Civil War tie-ins for this series are much better than the mess that follows. I never thought I'd be saying that, but Black Panther's key role intervening and organizing Cap's rebel vigilante freedom fighters is the right tone for this book. After their wedding and a short honeymoon, T'Challa and Ororo visit Dr. Doom in Latveria, followed by the Inhumans on the Moon, and finally Prince Namor in Atlantis - all on diplomatic excursions that help set up Panther's political choices and how he, and Wakanda, are (mis)perceived by the ignorant big wigs in the U.S. State Department later.

I know the pairing of Panther and Storm has gotten knocked on over the years - mostly in the tone of, "Come on! You're going to take your main black male and female in the universe and have them get married?!" But the way Reginald Hudlin writes their chemistry and communication throughout their relationship, Storm's presence ends up being the strongest element in this portion of the Panther arc.

What **really** doesn't make any sense is that Panther goes directly from fighting Reed Richards and Tony Stark to suddenly being invited to live in the Baxter Building and lead the Fantastic Four with Storm - completely being put in charge of Ben and Johnny AND the Richards' kids. Obviously, Reed has been an asshole patriarch for decades, and those two are right to take some time off to work on their relationship. But the cross-over is super clumsy and filled with too many unrelated details. T'Challa had been working on a prison break in the Negative Zone to free the superhumans who were locked up for defying the Registration Act. Then T'Challa mentions once in battle, to Storm, that Cap has surrendered. That's all we hear about that before the new FF team is fighting a near-invincible bug warrior from the Negative Zone, and then some ancient magic frogs send them to other dimensions where they have to fight pseudo-super-Skrulls and the most powerful crew of Marvel Zombies.

I haven't bothered reading the Marvel Zombies event/miniseries/whatever because it seemed like a gimmick that would surely lack any substance or creativity and instead serve only as a jokey What If? scenario where the heroes lose all their scruples because all they care about is eating everyone else. And this 3-issue crossover confirms that. Honestly, I couldn't read through the second two thirds of this collection fast enough.

The penultimate arc of this Complete Collection Vol. 2 was better, but not great. Human Torch, Thing,

Panther, and Storm get magicked to an old Skrull world based on 30s American mobsters, who are able to capture most of them and pit them against each other and other gladiator slaves from around the galaxy for their entertainment. Sound familiar? Yeah, it's basically Planet Hulk, but with some different characters. The plot twist that was a bit more interesting is that the Skrulls who aren't evil tuned in to Earth in the '60s after Thing first went there and destroyed everything, and they get inspired by the civil rights movement, and shapeshift themselves into Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and the Black Panthers, plotting a revolution.

Finally, the collection ends on a strong note with the Black Panther Annual #1, which gives Hudlin the opportunity to end AGAIN with a huge Wakandan wedding issue. This one is on a possible reality where the U.S. and Wakanda have decided to rule the rest of the world. The story was good and resolves a few lingering questions that had come up earlier, but the art in it is really bad. Characters will randomly be distorted into strange shapes, like the penciller was looking at a Dali painting, but bloating people's faces and bodies does not work with this story.

I'd give the first and last parts of this collection 4 stars and the middle section 2 stars.

Andy Zell says

Not as good as the first volume. The Civil War stuff was okay, and I like the idea of Black Panther and Storm becoming members of the Fantastic Four, but the FF stories weren't great. And the less said about the zombies, the better (though to be fair I think that was a company wide event).

Matt Sautman says

By this point in Hudlin's run of Black Panther, Hudlin charges the comic with an aesthetic of Civil Rights Activism that builds on the signifying Priest introduced in his own run. Without giving away any spoilers of this volume's events, Hudlin utilizes a linear approach to story-telling that highlights underpinnings of Marvel's Civil War and challenges hegemonic representations of black subjectivity in white American media and politics. The stories here are pleasurable, yet intellectually stimulating too.

Adam Stone says

The last volume saw T'Challa and Storm get married. IN this volume we see the new couple honeymoon in Latveria (it doesn't go well), visit the moon (it doesn't go well), and even stop in at Atlantis (it doesn't go well). WHILE the failed diplomacy acts are the crux of the plot, the real story is watching T'Challa and Storm's relationship unfold. Not fall apart or bloom, just unfold. Two people with their own idiosyncrasies, working together to the best of their abilities. It's a fun read.

Then the volume veers into Civil War, which was the big Marvel event of that era. And Hudlin does a great job of using the major beats of that story to inform his own examination of grief and power dynamics in a new couple. And then he bounces him into The Fantastic Four, which is much lighter in tone.

Apart from a few wonky transitions, and some seriously subpar art from Koi Turnbull during the Civil War

portion of the story, this is a good, if inconsistent read.

I recommend it to people who want a deep dive on The Black Panther before they watch the movie, Storm fans (she's often the central character of the stories), people who love the idea of The Fantastic Four but hate Sue and Reed Richards, and those who like a story whose tone frequently changes but not at jarring pace.
