



Fantastic Four: Books of Doom

Ed Brubaker , Pablo Raimondi (Illustrator)

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Collects Books of Doom #1-6. From the black steppes of Eastern Europe, to the college campuses of New York City, and finally to the throne of Latveria -- this is the life of Von Doom! From his earliest disasters to his scientific triumphs to the tragedy of the fractured man he would become, this is the story you know, and the one you don't.

Fantastic Four: Books of Doom Details

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Author : Ed Brubaker , Pablo Raimondi (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Fantastic Four: Books of Doom for online ebook

Sam Quixote says

Ed Brubaker brings his considerable writing talents to colour in the past of one of Marvel's more mysterious characters - Dr Doom. We get to see Victor as a young man, innocent and in love, travelling with his roaming family in an Eastern European-esque country before things go sour. "The Baron" is an evil noble who forces Victor and his family to go on the run, ultimately ending in tragedy, while Victor's mother dabbles in the black arts leading to more tragedy. It leads to Victor's escape to America where he first encounters Reed Richards before he returns to Latveria to wreak his revenge on the Baron and secure his country's future.

All highly dramatic stuff, "The Books of Doom" is a good read with a lot going for it. Victor even comes across as a sometimes sympathetic character though oftentimes the coldness of his character that comes from suffering so much so young makes his actions more difficult to forgive. And for long-time fans of the Fantastic Four, we get to see how their greatest nemesis gets into the Darth Vader-type suit and finally goes from Victor von Doom to Dr Doom.

Brubaker's writing is top notch as always and I enjoyed the artwork of Pablo Raimondi which suited the colourful landscapes that Victor's journey took him on. It's a fascinating read as all Origin stories should be, it's just a shame that it's fallen out of print in the UK. For fans of superheroes, as well as those of Ed Brubaker, it's a must-read.

Eric Mikols says

This was great. Doom is one of the strongest personalities in comicdom, and I love how feared he is in the Marvel universe. Having never read his origin stories, this was all new for me. Brubaker does a great job of making Doom sympathetic but also proving why he's a villain. Doom is arrogant, even before the Mask. Many of his downfalls are at his own hand, due to his overconfidence and pride. But it's all told perfectly, even when some moments run the risk of being cliché. Really, though, I enjoyed this all the way through, even if the twist ending was underwhelming. Consider me sick to death of Doombots.

Sineala says

Doctor Doom's origin story. Eh. It's interesting enough, I suppose; it would have been more interesting had I not picked up all of it in bits and pieces elsewhere before reading this. I know a lot of people like Brubaker's writing but I think mostly I am finding it unnecessarily grim -- although maybe it's necessary, given that this is Doom.

Praxedes says

Reading Dr. Doom's biography is a fascinatingly sinister experience. Doom's childhood account was marred

by death and suffering from the start. Horror and grief intertwine to define a character equal parts madman, genius, and zealot --and one of the most complex and memorable villains in graphic novel history. Short but sweet, this six-part series documents Doom's rise from wandering Gypsy to ruler of Latveria and arch-enemy of Reed Richards, aka Mr. Fantastic.

Joe says

Really good Doom story.
Read this one..no, no. Read this one.

Brent says

This well-crafted biographic tale is about as much Doom as you can expect to enjoy, outside of Lee and Kirby: a well-crafted origin for a keystone villain of the Marvel universe. Artist Paolo Raimondi has great appeal. And, Brubaker brings to life the familiar tale, with a twist.

Saif Saeed says

This is the first ever comic I bought 'used but new' off of Amazon because its out of print. I had to buy it twice and I'm still waiting for my refund on the first purchase. The cover was a little torn too so most definitely not buying 'used but new' again.

The comic was alright. I feel like a story that would flesh out Doom in six issues should have done a better job than it did. Granted, this is *the* origin story and everything since this book has been sourced from these six issues but I can't help but feel that other comics did this story better or that other writers can capture Doom better.

The art was ok. Nothing special but not particularly ugly.

Recommend you wait until this comes back into print if you're a Doom fan.

Tays says

Truly a disquieting experience as you read on through Ed Brubaker's words as he puts color into one of the most mysterious characters in comics. Books of Doom is a very magnificent tale that shows the history of Victor Von Doom and how he came to be Doctor Doom. Everything was every bit enthralling.

What I like about most in this title is that, not once did Brubaker ever felt the need to make it a redemption story. We all learned about Doom's ominous presence, and this book justified just that all the while making it a very engaging story. Now don't get me wrong, heart was there. It was all over the place actually. It's just that, what I'm trying to say is, well it didn't ruin Doom's character for me. After reading this, it didn't make me think that Doom could be an anti-hero or something, he's still a villain, it is what it is, but a villain he may be - he does have heart.

Anyway, pick it up. It's a very good piece of writing.

Gustavo Nascimento says

Uma versão bastante interessante da origem de Dr Destino, mostrando que seus "poderes" vem tanto do seu intelecto para a ciência e do estudo das artes místicas. Conta a história de Victor Von Doom narrada pelo próprio desde o nascimento, intercalando com alguns depoimentos de testemunhas intercalados. Os desenhos são muito bons, só achei um pouco estranho o capacete do do Dr Destino.

Sumit Singla says

The book deals with the origin of the character who I think is surely one of the most badass villains in Marvel history. (Some people might debate that, but please blame it on my limited exposure, if you disagree with me.)

I liked the layers in the story, and the artwork as well. The atrocities of the Baron, the death of Von Doom's mother, his relationship with Valeria - all explored very well.

However, why exactly does he hate Dr. Reed? Just because the guy is a doctor? Just because he was looking through von Doom's papers? For me, that was a massive weak link. The story could have done with some more fleshing out of this part.

I did like the little twist at the end, which I am of course not writing about here, since it would be a massive spoiler. Overall, I think this is a good one to read if you are a Fantastic Four fan, but if you skip it, you are not really missing much either.

Alan says

I finished two other Doom mini-series before getting to this one (the second apparently was never collected and was as bad as the first, both written by Chuck Dixon). I saved Brubaker's for last as I usually enjoy his work. At its worst it is solid, and he can be very, very good (see Scene of the Crime, Velvet and part of his Captain America run).

This sits more as what I would classify as his solid work. If one wanted an overview of Doom's life from birth to what appears to be just before his first encounter with the Fantastic Four then you'll enjoy this.

Unfortunately, and I don't know if this is Brubaker or editorial, this was a missed opportunity to add depth to the character.

Charles says

Really enjoyed this. Doctor Doom is pretty new to me, but I do love Brubaker's work. This didn't feel as gritty as his usual but certainly offered a more fleshed out origin. It does a solid job of going behind the

scenes and expanding what was told in the original Fantastic Four Annual #2. If you want a story of misguided passion, arrogance, and obsession, well this is it. Only wish it had been longer!

Matt Garcia says

Incredible origin of Doctor Doom and his humble roots as a member of a gypsy clan. Great artwork and a captivating story line make this a fantastic (no pun intended) read. Doctor Doom is a truly sympathetic villain and I found myself able to relate to some of his dilemmas and controversies. Terrific character study of a scintillating villain.

Will Robinson Jr. says

DOOM BOWS TO NO ONE!!! Doctor Doom is arguably one of the greatest super villains ever created. I mean he has inspired so many villains in fiction. One of which George Lucas admits is a Doom rip-off, Darth Vader. Written by Ed Brubaker with art by Raimondi & Farmer this collected volume tells the mysterious and incredibly intriguing origin of Doctor Doom. Brubaker does a great job with Doom narrating his rise to king of the kingdom of Latveria & the dark magic and science he learns to wield. Victor Von Doom is portrayed sympathetic enough that you understand his motives for power but he is still so much of a dark character. I really enjoyed all the impactful moments from Doom's childhood and the history of his country of Latveria which is a key character in this tale as well. We also get a brief intro to Victor's future rival Reed Richards who from his perspective is one of the people that left such a mark on the tyrant's life. Ultimately it is Victor's fears and nightmares from his past that push him down the dark path he chooses to walk. Colorist Brian Reber does a great job aiding in the mood and haunting quality to the story. Doom is a larger than life character and yet Brubaker manages to tell a small scale story with incredible weight. I thought the surprise ending was brilliant and is so in character for Dr. Doom. I am hoping some day we will get a real well done film version of the character and hopefully the film makers will take inspiration from this well told origin.

Gavin says

This is a 241 special...FF and Evil Villain.

Ed Brubaker does a solid job giving us an origin story of our favourite Latverian megalomaniac. The art is decent, and definitely focuses on Victor and his transformation to Doctor (funny enough, he never actually earned that degree, because he was booted after the experiment which left his face (and psyche) scarred). Victor encounters a lot of tragedy in his early years, his mother dabbled in the dark arts, and it cost her her life and soul; his father died saving Victor while they were on the run from the evil Baron in Latveria.

Then, he ends up in the US, at the same school as Reed Richards and Ben Grimm, and also works as a weapon/tech guy for the military. Funny enough, he thinks Reed sabotaged his work, much like Reed thinks Victor sabotaged his own work in Ultimate FF. That being said, FF doesn't feature in this at all.

There's Doom's love for his mother, and his obsession with saving her from Hell, but the only other thing approaching love is for Valeria, another girl who grew up with him. Even that ends up in heartbreak...and makes me wonder why Reed and Sue's daughter shares her name with Doom's only love....? (If anyone knows, clue me in!)

So there's the inevitable building of the suit to keep himself safe from the power of the Devil's touch (which is what scarred his face apparently) and the robots, and so forth...there's more about his conquering people, working tirelessly, and learning to master all.

Eventually we get to how he takes Latveria and becomes ruler, and there's a twist at the end, as the narration has all been to a reporter who wants to profile him, but the revelation leaves us to wonder...was that the real story? Or just another decoy?

It was solid, 3.5, but I just didn't connect with it enough to rank it higher than that, and the art didn't blow me away...but the writing was good, though you can see how Brubaker has grown since nearly 10 yrs ago on this...
