



Avengers Assemble, Vol. 3

*Kurt Busiek , Roger Stern , Fabian Nicieza , Stuart Immonen (Illustrations) , Mark Bagley (Illustrations) ,
Bruce Timm (Illustrations) , Paul Ryan (Illustrations)*

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The crisis of the Eighth Day is followed by Triathlon's first day as an Avenger, which takes the team south of the border and back in time thousands of years! And how does the mystery of Madame Masque match the curse of Count Nefaria?

Avengers Assemble, Vol. 3 Details

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From Reader Review Avengers Assemble, Vol. 3 for online ebook

Chelsea says

Can Marvel stop torturing Janet van Dyne? Christ *sighs eternally*

Okay, so this was just not good. The last one was okay for the most part but this one just made me aware of how tone deaf white writers can be when trying to tackle issues of race and representation. I'm not sure if this was some Tina Fey, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt shit where the writers read criticisms that their team was too white and tried to combat with something praising themselves? Or if they were trying to be proactive and had good intentions but fell into this trap? Either way, this was just awful.

I'm sure some people hated it because they thought it was SJW bullshit but trust me, even my crowd doesn't want this. This reads as a total "What Not to Do When Discussing Race" handbook.

Where to start:

Okay, so the Triune of Understanding is a very cult like organization that calls itself a church. They've been the nefarious hands behind a lot of the Avengers' bad press and they created a black superhero: Triathlon. When we meet Triathlon, he's very defensive about people criticizing the Triune because they took a chance on him when no one else would. However, he's nice for the most part.

Jump ahead a few months and the Avengers are getting crucified in the press for being anti-church, pro-mutant (from bigots) and having too white of a roster. Thor takes great offense to all of this because "How dare you suggest that the color of one's skin should matter to me?" We follow that ignorant ass interpretation with Iron Man blatantly saying "I don't give a damn about equal representation" and we even have Cap sarcastically saying "Tell the press I made the call because I'm racist" or some shit. *Sighs*

Sighs

Sighs some more

6 hours later

Look, these guys are my idols. Granted, I will always be a bigger Iron Man fan than I am a Thor or Cap fan and I believe Busiek's run of Iron Man to be the overall best (only Director of Shield comes close) but this makes me question things. What ever gave the impression that Iron Man would say this? I get that it's supposed to reflect white men being ignorant of their own biases but to have Iron Man blatantly say he doesn't give a shit is just... wrong.

Also, Thor expresses the same bullshit arguments against Affirmative Action programs. As if having a roster with more diversity automatically meant all the people of color were chosen *because* they're people of color. It doesn't! It just means that you were more open to selecting qualified candidates from different backgrounds. To argue differently implies that all the white people are qualified and the people of color just weren't talented enough. The only combat against this bullshit, tired ass belief (that I endured in my university because people assumed I got in because of my race but I was in the top 8% of my HS class so kiss my ass) is Jan's comment of "I know there's no merit to these allegations but maybe we have been selecting only white people".

However, that doesn't super help because they make a point of showing them asking old Avengers of color and they all conveniently can't come back. As though they were trying to say "See, we tried? It's not our fault

we only have white people here." Come the fuck on.

Also, all the attempts at being subversive and self aware came across as offensive really quickly. Falcon says "I've had enough of being Earth's Mightiest token". There are signs from protestors saying "Earth Whitest Heroes". I will admit, one made me chuckle with "Of Color does not mean red plastic". Triathlon has a big chip on his shoulder because the Avengers have dragged his church through the mud and when he joins, Iron Man gives this great spiel about how he doesn't want Triathlon on the team because he doesn't trust him and the fact that he's black shouldn't mean all that gets ignored or something that mentioned his race a lot so Triathlon is just a dick to them. And not everything he says is wrong but they intentionally portray him as an asshole so a white lady, Carol, can tell him to knock it off.

This is fucking bullshit.

Never have a white character tell a black man to be nicer to the white folk. Especially when he had a pretty damn good reason for not liking them. What was the goal of this story?

The biggest offense is that the people asking for greater representation are presented as being just as angry and unjustified in their anger as the anti-mutant bigots and that's a big problem. There is only one panel of one member of the former group saying "Don't lump us in with you, racists" to the anti-mutant crowd but the image remains: both of these groups are perceived as equally "villainous" to the Avengers who are "just trying to do their jobs".

Ugh, so this was just annoying. I enjoyed Jen becoming fast friends with Triathlon and Nefaria was interesting but this is not a recommend.

Don't call it SJW bullshit because even the liberals think this book is full of crap.

TJ Shelby says

Another amazing volume.

*****Dave Hill says**

This is Avengers story-telling in the best traditions of the old school, around 2000, with great Perez (mostly) art, epic stories, and all-around goodness. The cross-overs with the Thunderbolts (under Nicieza & Bagley) make me want to see collections of that work, too. As much as there's great stuff going on in both Avengers and Thunderbolts in the present time, it makes me miss those old days a lot.

James says

Its books like these that make people think comic books are for kids. Cheesy dialogue and poorly executed arcs lead the Avengers through uninspired territory that only fans of the 80's could enjoy.

Randy Lander says

Another hit and miss volume, but more hit than miss. Busiek's missteps include breaking up Scarlet Witch and Vision in favor of a clunky, uninteresting Scarlet Witch/Wonder Man relationship and trying to introduce new villains (good impulse) but introducing a forgettable team based on the Juggernaut, plus more of the underwhelming Triune Understanding.

On the upside, there's also a pretty good crossover with the Thunderbolts, the use of classic (but not overused) villains like Kulan Gath, Count Nefaria and Taskmaster and some gorgeous guest art from Stuart Immonen.

Devero says

Il rapporto tra Wonder-Man, la Visione, Scarlet Witch sembra esplodere, mentre si avvicina la minaccia degli esemplari dell'ottessenza. In seguito lo scontro con Kulan Gath, e il ritorno di Nefaria. Ospiti i Thunderbolts.

Busiek pesca a piene mani nella mitologia Marvel continuando a creare storie ottime per George Perez.

Steven says

Look...honestly, I generally love Kurt Busiek's writing, but this Avengers run wasn't his finest hour by a long chalk. Points for getting shots in at Scientology, but, man, the Triune Understanding is dull, dull, dull. Then we have the diversity and relevance angle...and, hoo boy, Kurt whiffed that one painfully. Triathlon is pretty much a caricature Angry Black Man, Silverclaw is a parody of a young South American woman, and Duane...my God, Duane. Duane started out as a sweaty bag of nerves and got worse, and worse, and worse, and by this point he's...oh God, I'm a white bloke, and I can't say it. I'll just settle for saying that Duane wouldn't be out of place in certain 1930s movies.

sigh

The rest of this volume is pretty much typical Avengers trouble and strife, with members coming and going and huge threats having to be handled (usually by hitting them a lot.) There's also a crossover with The Thunderbolts.

Next volume: *Maximum Security* or where the hell is Snake Plissken when you need him?

Chris Lemmerman says

Great stuff, all the way through. Trumps the previous volume because of the consistent Perez/Busiek work instead of having some fill-ins (though the Hellcat annual will be wiped from my memory), and the Nefaria Protocols crossover with the Thunderbolts at the end is superb. I like how Busiek still has loads of little subplots bubbling away - this is how you do Avengers properly.

Marshall Ruddock says

Hey, a 3rd volume of Busiek written Avengers!

Ugh.

Colm says

Triathlon joins/is foisted upon the Avengers with a chip on his shoulder. Crossover with the Thunderbolts. A stupid trip to South America to help Silver Claw save her village. Mostly wonder what I read it for but the clash with Count Nefaria was decent, even if Madame Masque's internal dialogue was woeful.

Jdetrick says

If these issues aren't quite as exciting or thrilling as the ones that immediately preceded them, its not because they're poorly written or drawn. Its simply that the villains are less interesting and the plots a little more threadbare. These are still great Avengers comics though.

Ondra Král says

Busiekovská telenovela se svými klady i zápory

Gomezmr says

These comic was totally amazing.
