



Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 1: Cosmic Avengers

Brian Michael Bendis , Steve McNiven (Illustrator) , Yves Bigerel (Illustrator) , Michael Avon Oeming (Illustrator)

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The Guardians of the Galaxy are imposing a new rule: Earth is off limits! What has made this world so important? Join Star-Lord, Groot, Rocket Raccoon, Iron Man and more as they fight the foes no single planet's heroes could withstand!

Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 1: Cosmic Avengers Details

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From Reader Review **Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 1: Cosmic Avengers** for online ebook

Anne says

I felt the need to edit this and add in a picture of Peter's floppy hair because a friend of mine pointed out that it was the only reason I was into this comic.

He may be right.

I absolutely *loved* this!

I've read a little about these characters, but this was the first time I've ever really gotten excited about them as a group.

It's a big fun story that gave me exactly what I wanted from it. It's not an origin story per se, but it does give you an overview of who these characters are, and where they came from. So if you're a Guardian newbie (*like me*), then this is a great jumping off place if you're interested in reading about the team.

It starts with a great story about the origins of Star-Lord, and then transitions into an End-Of-The-World-As-You-Know-It battle between the Guardians and some hostile aliens.

I thought it would add bonus point by putting Iron Man into the mix, but it ended up feeling a bit odd. I'm guessing they thought they needed to add a mainstream character to this, considering these guys aren't exactly a group that everyone instantly recognizes. And it turned out fine...really. I think they could have pulled it off without Tony's help, but it all worked out in the end.

If you're more familiar with the characters, you may not be as in love with this as I am, because I'm not sure how well this holds up against their older comics.

And if you know me, then you know that I get totally sucked into the commercialized cheesy titles.

I LOVE CHEESE.

So.

Take that into consideration when you look at my glowing 5 star review of this. Or of anything book, really.

Oh, who am I kidding?

I have *wonderful* taste.

Now go read this!

Nicolo Yu says

On the heels of a new movie in 2014, Marvel relaunched *Guardians of the Galaxy* with its best writer at the helm and ably supported by some of its best artistic talent. I would have been more excited for this but I really miss the Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning version of this team of space-faring heroes.

Bendis is doing a great job on Guardians of the Galaxy, making the series Star-Lord centric for this arc. Bendis gives Peter Quill a definitive origin and daddy issues. This trade also have spotlight stories on almost all of the Guardians, except for Rocket Raccoon who I think is being positioned as the team's "Wolverine" or tough guy with a mysterious background.

The stories are good so far but the spacing is kind of frustrating, although that is expected since Bendis is a master of decompressed storytelling. I missed the excellent pacing of Abnett and Lanning who mixed things up every now and then. Currently, the series is in its eleventh issue but I'd beat the Guardians would have had saved reality and the universe twice in that same span. I like it better when the Guardians were billed as Cosmic Avengers which implies cosmic power. Tomorrow's Avengers seems rather tame.

The art team on the book is a killer though. It starts with Steve McNiven, who did the first few issue who passed the baton to Sara Pichelli, a budding superstar herself. I wish the old Guardians had this line-up of artists but Paul Pelletier and Brad Walker aren't exactly chopped liver.

This is still a good book to get on, especially for the art. I enjoy reading this as a digital comic because it includes the four Infinite comics that work so well in a digital platform. I can't imagine how those will look in print.

Kemper says

Marvel decided to re-launch a book that ties into their latest movie offering and it just so happens to guest-star their most popular film character?

Shocking.

Several decades of the highs and lows of being a comic fan have given me a thick enough skin to try and look past the stunt murders and #1 issues and shoehorning popular characters into stories they got no business in to see if anyone bothered doing something worth reading. It is, and it's a book I'd be interested in seeing more of even if I wasn't ridiculously excited to see a movie featuring a talking raccoon shoot aliens. You can't put a dollar value on entertainment like that!

This is a little odd because it deliberately doesn't show how the Guardians reformed following *The Thanos Imperative*, but I've heard that explanation is still forthcoming. Anyhow, they're back and the line-up is exactly the same one as the upcoming film. (Again, I'm shocked.)

Earth has been declared off-limits to further alien interaction by a galactic council because they've decided that all of the previous extraterrestrial meddling has created an unstable mix of primitive power that could be a danger to the universe. Peter Quill (a/k/a Star-Lord) doesn't like this since he's half-human, and his alien father, the king of his race, delivers a stern warning that even he is no longer allowed on Earth. Peter thinks this has put a giant target on his old home planet since it prevents its cosmic allies from protecting it so he leads the Guardians to find out what's going on. On the way they bump into Iron Man because Tony Stark's idea of a vacation is building a new suit of armor he can use to jet off into deep space to get away from it all, but he runs into trouble with the evil race of the Badoons.

Overall this was an enjoyable story, and even the inclusion of Iron Man is handled pretty well. I particularly enjoyed Rocket mocking Stark as being from a backwoods planet because there's something inherently

funny about a space raccoon talking shit to a genius billionaire superhero.

While it's still a sci-fi space opera it doesn't have the cosmic epic feel of the timey-wimey adventures of the previous version of the title, and I hope that future issues will give us more of those kinds of things.

Donovan says

My first Marvel ever. So there's that.

What we have here is classic space adventure: spaceships, aliens, baddies, explosions. The world is ending, and only this ragtag team can save it from destruction. Enter Star-Lord, who always dreamt of going to space as a kid. One day his dreams come true and he goes to space. But be careful what you wish for. When he discovers who's behind the evil plot, he realizes being a space hero is no easy feat.

It started off well, hooked me with Peter's interesting if modified tale of a deadbeat dad. But still cool. Then it kind of went off from there. Fast forward a couple years and Peter and his dad don't get along. Surprise. His dad is evil. Peter and his friends kick ass and there are spaceships and explosions. Then I don't know what happened. Groot grows back from a twig, the girl fights some giant dudes on some planet I know nothing about, then it ends. Great art. Fair to great writing at parts. Rocket Raccoon literally says "heroic acts of heroism." Is that sarcasm or just ornate redundancy? Who knows, who cares. Now I can watch the movie.

Sud666 says

I am a Bendis fan and have always enjoyed the Guardians of the Galaxy. So i was pleased to see Bendis penning this GOG tale.

Peter Quill's dad, King J'Son of Spartaax, along with the heads of the Kree, Shi'ar and a few other galactic empires have come together with a "hands off policy" towards Earth. Earth is now a "no-go" planet. Obviously the GOG isn't too pleased with this. Joined by Iron Man they go on a fun filled rampage against the allied forces.

With good artwork, a fun and action packed story, coupled with Bendis' trademark tongue in cheek dry wit this was a really enjoyable read and reminds me why a well written GoG tale never fails to entertain. I never knew about Peter Quill's origins till this issue. A fun and enjoyable read. Look forwards to more of the cosmic avengers!

Sesana says

On one hand, I like the cosmic setting, and the cast is a good one. Granted, I know next to nothing about all of them, but from what I've seen here, they work as a group. And this collection did get me even more interested in the upcoming Guardians of the Galaxy movie. On the other hand, it doesn't feel like much happens here. That may be because this collection only has three regular issues of the series. The other two included are #0.1, Star-Lord's origin, and an online-first anthology that shows Star-Lord assembling his

current team. It may also be because the major events that are shown are done rather hurriedly. It takes less than an issue for the Guardians (plus Iron Man, in an underwhelming guest shot) to repel a sizable alien invasion, for example. It's over before I can get really excited about it, which is a shame. Giant alien battles should be fun. I am hopeful that this series will pick up steam, though. But I do have to say, I wonder why the anthology was put at the end of the book when it's obviously set between #0.1, which starts the collection, and #1. Shouldn't the issues be put in the order in which they happened?

Mike says

Kickass fight scenes, clever repartee and fun loose art. These are the comics of my people - Shallow Comics Readers unite!

God help me, when I heard Bendis was taking on Guardians of the Galaxy I was sad for him. Couldn't imagine what he saw in the obscure, tedious space opera crap from Marvel - maybe he'd pissed of Axel and this was his punishment? How wrong I was - I can admit it, man enough that I am (especially in the Internet, where I don't have to look anyone in the eyes while I say it).

So much easier to read than the Annihilation-era Marvel Cosmic stuff. Doesn't hurt that it's grounded in a good ol' Earth-bound take of one boy who gets called to grand adventures in the galaxy. Also doesn't hurt to have a friggin sense of humour about it.

And an actual sense of the absurdity of the Marvel history. When the Evil Conquering Type starts rattling off how many ways Earth must be a threat because of how improbably central it's been to untold number of major events, I almost cheered. Because of **course** that's how it should be regarded after all these tales. Good god, just the number of planets that have died from **one** planet-killing threat, and yet Earth stands against one a **month**? Yeah, tell me someone wouldn't start to notice a trend.

But mostly this is a lot of fun, because if you've got a pair of rocket boots and the extra-legal (extra-planetary?) authority (or just indifference) to kill tons of ugly space beasts, wouldn't you be having the time of your life? No matter how GRAVE the situation, writing tales from that point of view (**cough** messrs. Abnett and Lanning) just does **not** give a guy like me a reason to keep turning those pages.

What else keeps me turning the pages? Bendis knows when to let the artists take over the storytelling - tell us with one glance or facial expression something that he **could** add to the dialog, but why?

I also gotta credit Bendis for doing interesting politics. I dunno if that's how it works at the highest levels of power, but he sure has an eye for intrigue. Queens are not to be underestimated. Oh no.

Be haunted by this review and further diatribes when you

Emma says

This was fun! I'd like to continue the series too one day.

3.5 stars.

Chris says

As some of you may know, I found this run of Guardians of the Galaxy to be a disappointing one. 'Good banter, bland stories' sums it up best and I gave up on the stagnant series following the Black Vortex tie-ins. Still, it was nice to leave the series behind by revisiting my favourite volume and remembering that Guardians had potential when it started.

It helps that Cosmic Avengers features the best artwork of the entire run, Steve McNiven, Justin Ponsor and colourist John Dell delivering a treat for the eyes. From destructive space battles, to the the grandeur of the planet Spartax, the art team doesn't miss a beat. McNiven gives Peter Quill what is quite possibly the finest head of hair in all of comics ~~which i'm totally not envious of~~. Similarly, Mike Del Mundo's artwork in the short stories that introduce Groot and Gamora is fantastic, with the latter utilising multiple silent panels, allowing a fight scene to tell the story.

Aside from that, it's pretty much...well, 'Good banter, bland stories'. Despite my complaints, Cosmic Avengers is a decent read that's elevated by some truly great artwork. Unfortunately, as much as I try to review books based on their own merits, I couldn't quite shake the feeling of disappointment that this run ultimately left me with. Farewell, Guardians.

Gavin says

Tony Stark: "They destroyed my Armour suit"

Rocket Raccoon: "Did they destroy your man-parts as well?"

TS: "No."

RR: "Well then take this (a gigantic gun) point it at anyone who's not one of us and kill them."

This exchange alone earned this book a positive review, even if the rest of it sucked. However, it didn't suck.

I really enjoyed this; knowing almost nothing about this title/team. I know I like Bendis, and so I gave this a shot. Adding Iron Man seems like the ploy to get more mainstream readers invested, which I thought would be a bad idea; but then it turns out that Tony Stark isn't all that big a player here, which I like. Especially after a 3 foot tall homicidal raccoon puts him in his place.

This is an interesting set up, and just as much interest in the "bad guys" who include leaders such as the Queen Brood, Freiya (Asgard), Kree Supreme Intelligence, etc.

Star-Lord has the makings of a solid character (I know he's already one) and I love that Gamora is the daughter of Thanos.

There's also good stuff set up with the terrible father/son relationship.

Well worth a read.

Kelly (and the Book Boar) says

Find all of my reviews at: <http://52bookminimum.blogspot.com/>

This review brought to you courtesy of **Supernerd**'s my son's and my ginormous Pop Vinyl collections. (It may also serve as Exhibit A when he asks why we don't have any money for him to attend college.) If you don't like reviews that contain a massive amount of images, well . . .

In case you don't already know, I'm a comic book newbie. In fact, *Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Avengers* was my first foray into any superhero storyline. To sum it up briefly, I believe I have found my people. When the movie version of *Guardians* finally made it to the Starz Channel I found myself watching the hell out of it, so I figured there was a pretty decent chance I'd like the comic version as well. Talk about understatement of the year.

The story begins with the origins of the "Star-Lord" – and while movie version has Peter's mother banging a rando alien and then dying from cancer, this version has *just a bit* more shoot 'em ups involved with her demise. WTF is up with killing the mothers all the time? Everyone drinking the Walt Disney Kool-Aid or what? Anywho, after his mom croaks, Peter dedicates his life to getting back to outer space, and with the help of a career at NASA, finally makes it there in order to take his birthright as the Star-Lord we all know and love . . .

(Yes, Supernerd does indeed have both masked and unmasked versions of all the superheroes. He might need an intervention.)

Things then flash forward to a plotline of the ragtag bunch of misfits we all know and love . . . along with – Iron Man???

Yep. Iron Man. Alrighty then. The Guardians have already duked it out with Thanos and his ilk, and now they (along with Iron Man) are faced with some new über baddies . . .

(Cut me some slack, I had to make due with what was available. All Supernerd had in his collection was Ronin and he ain't in this one.)

The story is action-packed almost from the jumpstart where we witness Gamora being super kickass . . .

(The 947,381 picture asshole cat has photobombed this year.)

and Groot getting blown to smithereens. Y'all know what happens when Groot gets ka-boomed, right?

Okay, this part isn't really covered except showing Rocket sticking a twig in some dirt, but Mitchell lurvs the Baby Groot and insisted I add this ;)

Anyway, back to all the über baddies. They are plotting to destroy Earth . . . or are they???? **DUN DUN DUNNNNNNNNN!** Can the Guardians save all of us Earthers before it's too late? What do you think?

God bless 'Murica.

Alright, so obviously I loved this and if a non-comic book junkie like me dug it, then you all should too. Although the spandex chafed a little more than I would like, I'm definitely interested in reading anything I can about the Guardians – especially after the little teaser about Rocket . . .

Or is there????

Now if only they'd introduce my old fave . . .

Since I know diddly shit about artwork I'm not really going to go there except to say that for the most part I thought it was pretty damn good . . .

"BLAM! MURDERED YOU!"

And even the panels that weren't *the best* made up for it with pure awesome . . .

"I'm throwing up in my snarg."

LOLOLOL – Advance apologies, husband. I have a feeling I'll be using that line way too often.

Disclaimer: I have no affiliation with the Funko corporation, but am willing to sell my soul to them in order to obtain more of their Pop Vinyls. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Terence says

After Star Lord's father J'son of Spartax and a Intergalactic Alliance made a rule for everyone to stay away from Earth, the Earth is attacked. The Guardians come to protect Earth and get some help from Iron Man.

So I like to laugh as much as anyone, but I feel like there is a limit to how much laughter there should be during serious events. In my first experience with Guardians of the Galaxy, in their film, they crossed the

threshold because of this:

This volume crosses the line for me too. Rather than ranting and raving I'm just going to say:

Unlike Austin Powers I'm actually telling the truth about that.

Jeff says

I would think that when a guy like Tony Stark would take a vacation, it would be with a bunch of strippers and a closet full of booze (and maybe Viagra, Tony's old, the pulse bolts just don't work like they used to*). Instead he drifts off into space and encounters the Guardians of the Galaxy. Violent interstellar hijinks ensue.

Star Lord's backstory here is somewhat different than the movie. Also, Rocket Raccoon has more of an edge (He really likes to shoot people. Bonus!); this is fine. For fans of the movie, you get an explanation about Star Lord's daddy and (view spoiler). How the films creators reimagine it is anyone's guess.

The short stories that feature each of the Guardians at the end of this volume vary in quality.

*Hint: borrow some Pym Particles from Giant Man.

Mischenko says

Just ok for me. Hope to enjoy the next one more.

Elena says

"I am Groot."

It's Guardians of the Galaxy. Of course it was awesome as hell.
