



Strange Tales II

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Marvel's critically acclaimed indie anthology returns! The best, most exciting cartoonists working today re-imagine Marvel's greatest characters in three giant-sized issues! Get excited, folks. Comics absolutely do not get more awesome than this! Don't miss out on what's guaranteed to be one of the best reads of the year!

Collecting: Strange Tales Vol. 2 #1-3

Strange Tales II Details

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Author : Jody LeHeup (Series Editor) , James Stokoe , Nicholas Gurewitch , Dean Haspiel , Dash Shaw , Harvey Pekar , Jhonen Vásquez , Rafael Grampa , more... Jaime Hernández , Gilbert Hernández , Terry Moore , Kate Beaton , Jeff Lemire , Frank Santoro (Text) , Shannon Wheeler (Text) , Jillian Tamaki (Text) , Kevin Huizenga (Text) , Gene Luen Yang ...less

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From Reader Review Strange Tales II for online ebook

David Schaafsma says

The appeal is a bunch of my fave indie comics artists doing strange short shorts about superheroes. Think: alt-comics meets Marvel/DC, and you know, a lot of these folks as it turns out really not only grew up reading superhero comics but still like them.. The idea is of course that they go for funny, and while some of it is, some of it isn't, as is to be expected with a quick collection. One of Harvey Pekar's last stories, Jeffrey Brown, Kate Beaton, Michael DeForge, and it's all smile worthy, at the very least. I liked it, for the most part, and of course, as with these things, two or three are awesome.

Oliver Ho says

Mostly fun, interesting takes on Marvel characters and tropes. The artwork is uniformly great.

Todd Glaeser says

Not really that strange. The coolest thing is realizing that all these independent artists read the same books I did growing up.

Germancho says

I really enjoyed this uneven compilation of Marvel-based comics written by "underground" artists. The stories by Gilbert Hernandez and Harvey Pekar are the best by far, followed by the stories by Kate Beaton, Gene Yang and Kevin Huizenga. Sadly, other big names such as Jhonen Vasquez and Nicholas Gurewitch seemed to have just phoned it in. Some other stories by other people I don't know were pretty mean and/or boring.

Alex Sarll says

Alternative comics creators are unleashed on Marvel icons, with predictably variable results. Some have since been ushered into the Marvel fold proper anyway (Jeff Lemire); others have a brilliant mesh of their style with the chosen characters (Kate Beaton on Kraven! James Stokoe's intricate visions of destruction applied to Galactus!). A fair few are inconsequential but gently amusing, including los bros Hernandez and others so alternative I can't even find their credits on their pages. More than a couple are pointless, self-indulgent twaddle which reminds me why I don't read more alternative comics; it would be interesting to reverse the polarity and see if long-term Marvel company men could make more of Harvey Pekar's world than he manages with theirs.

Alex Telander says

After the popularity and success of the original Strange Tales, Marvel is back with Strange Tales II, featuring a whole host of familiar and renowned characters and superheroes and villains, all in strange and unusual and unpredictable and shocking situations you'd never really expected them to be in. But the key to Strange Tales II is that it's another great "what if" for known names readers may wonder about beyond the pages of their daredevil and adventurous comic books.

Here you will find many know names – and some not – from the world of comics and illustration, including Jhonen Vasquez, Rafael Grampa, James and Gilbert Hernandez, Kate Beaton, Jeff Lemire, James Stokoe, Terry Moore, and Harvey Pekar to name a few. And within these pages you'll discover the likes of Wolverine involved in mixed martial arts tournaments, eating hot dogs, and giving relationship advice; Spiderman being invited to the prom; or Thor forging an alliance with a disguised farm animal.

In Strange Tales II, you will find your heroes and your idols in strange places and strange situations, and you'll be entertained and you'll laugh, because sometimes these special people get up to mischief and engage in unusual actions to say the least. Eventually they will return to the action and saving of lives their famous for, but for now sit back and peer into the hidden stories beyond the adventure comic.

Originally written on September 21, 2011 ©Alex C. Telander.

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John says

This is one of the best. All my favs are reporting for duty: Deforge, Brown, Pekar?! So good!

Pturingan says

Like any anthology, there's stuff I liked, stuff I didn't like and stuff that I was just indifferent to. But I think the good stuff outweighed the bad stuff here for me. Plus, it's always a treat to see new stuff from Rafael Grampa.

Berslon Pank says

This volume had an emotional depth to some of the stories and characters that wasn't there in the first volume. The jokes were better than the first volume as well.

Ken-ichi says

Like most people (probably) I got this b/c it features the work of Kate Beaton, who is sort of an Internet

comics hero in her own right, and her story about Kraven at the prom lived up to expectations, as did Nicholas Gurewitch's story. The rest varied from mildly amusing to kind of dull. It was definitely interesting to see how much play Galactus got. I guess he's just naturally ridiculous.

Paul Mirek says

Reading this was a little like watching *30 Rock* on NBC in its prime: in between the dark little nuggets of self-effacing, there's a sense of genuine affection for the material it's lambasting (or at least a sense of nostalgia). Not all of the pieces are satirical--both Frank Santoro and James Stokoe's Silver Surfer shorts are emotionally wrenching, and Rafael Grampa's look at Wolverine's love life shows the unhealthy side of being an immortal with metal knives fused to your skeleton. The dazzling array of visual styles also adds a lot to the sense of wonder at the turn of each page.

J. says

As interesting as it is to see what these artists do with Marvel characters, much of it more novel than enjoyable.

Kevin Wright says

Strange Tales is a fun romp. In some ways, it's the best of both worlds, with some of the biggest alternative comics artists tackling Marvel superheroes for a laugh. You can tell that the artists were having fun with it without taking it too seriously. For some, the results are engaging. For others, I think the constraints of the project don't allow them enough room to stretch out their wings.

The cynical view is that Marvel is trying to co-opt some street cred from these artists without really taking any chances on them. The anthology format never allows for more than 6 pages per artist, with most stories being only 4 pages. This limits their ability to do anything more than a gag. While most seem to be gently mocking the Marvel style, because they don't have the chance to develop, some of the bits come off as more of an amateurish mimicry. The result is more "What the...?" than "What if..." I would love to see Marvel truly take a chance on independent creators by giving them the chance to do full-length books or series.

The highlight for me is the Hernandez brothers' affectionate take on the Silver Age in their own inimitable styles, mostly because they're master storytellers who can tell an actual story with a beginning, middle and end in just 6 pages. Most of the stories featuring the Silver Surfer are interesting, as well, which I think speaks to the appeal of the character among alternative artist types.

Sam Quixote says

This is Marvel's second volume of short whacky comics featuring their beloved characters where you can see the Thing talk to Harvey Pekar about getting a civil servant job or Wolverine stuff his face with hot dogs after a breakup, and so on.

The collection features some of the best artists of the indie comics world: Kevin Huizenga, Dean Haspiel, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, Jeff Lemire, Jeffrey Brown, Paul Hornschemeier, Nick Bertozzi, and Alex Robinson. Yet despite such talent, the stories are boring, unfunny and uninteresting.

The only ones I thought were ok were Kate Beaton's 2 page strips on Spiderman's enemy Kraven going to the prom and Thor going to the carnival and trying his luck on a strength machine (see cover image) and it go wrong. Nicholas Gurewitch has a great short strip about Galactus hiring Magneto as his new herald and then using him as a fridge magnet for his kid's report card.

But that was it for me. The rest of the book was a chore to get through and while the thought of a book of funny shorts featuring famous Marvel heroes is quite appealing, the end result in this book is quite disappointing. "Strange Tales 2" is a miss.

Alison says

Really cool set of comics. I must say, the ones I most appreciated were made by artists that I know for their decidedly un-superhero-based work (Kate Beaton, Jeffrey Brown, etc). It's great to see a reimagining of characters that they clearly love but don't work with. I must confess, I think the artists who don't generally draw superheroes also created the most interesting panels. One day I may get past my bias against more traditional comic drawing styles, but until then, I'll always cringe a bit at superhero comics.
