



Fantastic Four: Season One

Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa (Text) , David Marquez (Illustrations)

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In Manhattan's most famous skyscraper, the Baxter Building, scientific genius Reed Richards hatches a plan that will change the lives of those he loves most-and the very course of human history-in a way no one could've ever imagined. Revisit the story that irrevocably changed comics and pop culture in this all-new graphic novel, modernizing the journey of Reed Richards, Susan Storm, Johnny Storm, and Ben Grimm as they travel to the stars...and return with fantastic, devastating results! All this plus, witness the cataclysmic first battles with The Mole Man, Doctor Doom, and Prince Namor, the mysterious Sub-Mariner in a way you've never seen before. You only think you know the story!

Fantastic Four: Season One Details

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Author : Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa (Text) , David Marquez (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Fantastic Four: Season One for online ebook

Roberto Diaz says

Reading it back-to-back with the original stories it draws from, this is a decent update for new readers who might not get in line with the writing and pace of Lee and Kirby's classic work. The art is really good, and its one-shot structure is well done, plus the bonus Hickman story that gives people a taste of more recent F4 "in canon" stories.

Not a buy for long time fans who know the drill about this characters, but a good coffee table book, alongside with the rest of this series of one shots OGNs (if you happen to stumble upon it on a bargain bin somewhere), to have to introduce friends the characters in a way they don't feel dated.

Hector Wang says

Bought this book for the big reveal about Reed Richard's autism (after seeing a mention of it in an article about autistic comic book characters). The sum of this reveal occurs in one speech bubble in one panel:

"I've self-diagnosed a mild case of autism, for which I'm currently inventing a cure. Otherwise, Alyssa, I assure you, I am of sound mind."

Wow. A cure? Thanks for throwing us all under the Fantastic Bus Reed.

I'm a fan of the FF (particularly Hickman's amazing run) but like the rest of these Season One origin rejiggerings by Marvel - this book was pretty disappointing. Interestingly they chose to include an excerpt of Hickman's first Fantastic Four comic at the very ending which managed to engage and excite me (even having read it previously) far more than the dreck before it. The one star is for that.

Nicolo Yu says

For me, the main draw is the art by David Marquez. The man is a rising star. He is currently killing it on art on Invincible Iron Man with Bendis right now and this was one of his early Marvel works.

The Season One hardcovers were Marvel attempt a few years back to retell the earliest stories of its characters. Sometimes they work, like Hopeless and McKelvie's X-Men, and sometimes they aren't worth the time to read. Marquez on art made me gut this one out. But really, if wanted a new origin tale for Fantastic Four, I'd ask Jonathan Hickman, whose first issue on the regular series is included here. That alone was barely enough to stop me from burning this book. I'm no Nazi but sometimes you get too much comic book trash. With the way I accumulate the genre, it almost happened for me.

Adam Fisher says

The "Season One" line of Marvel Comics was established as a way to modernize the origin stories of popular characters and teams. This book covers the Fantastic Four and it does an excellent job!

Dr. Reed Richards (scientist and inventor), his girlfriend Sue Storm (scientist and semi-socialite), her brother Johnny Storm (ladies man and mechanic), and their friend Ben Grimm (ex-military and pilot) embark on the world's first privately funded and developed space flight. They soar through a cosmic storm, damaging their ship and giving them all powers and abilities.

- Reed becomes Mr. Fantastic, able to stretch out as if made of elastic
- Sue becomes the Invisible Woman, able to turn herself and other things invisible, as well as create bubble-like forcefields
- Johnny becomes Human Torch, able to self-immolate and use the energy of the fire to fly and shoot blasts
- Ben becomes The Thing, covered in rock-like skin, he has super strength and near invulnerability

The story not only shows their origin and how they become established as a super team, but they also deal with both Mole Man and Namor. I really loved Namor's remembering of who he is and trying to reclaim that, and would honestly love to see the continuation of that storyline.

A fun ride, a great origin, all wrapped in wonderful art.... I miss the Fantastic Four and look forward to their return soon.

High recommend.

D. A. Hoops says

Good clean fun.

Amy says

3-3.5 stars.

Wanting to explore the First Family of Superheroes, I picked up Fantastic Four: Season One at the library. The comic follows the story of how the Fantastic Four came into creation and I have to say that I liked it, there was not a outright flaw in the story but there was nothing new to my knowledge in the Fantastic Four as well, which stems from the films made in the 2000's.

I think that the real issue comes from obviously knowing the fates of the characters before reading and also this comic seems to lack from a strong villain, I read this a week ago and can not even remember who the villain was.

That being said, if you want a quick introduction to the Fantastic Four with some pretty graphics then I would recommend you read this.

Sean says

The Season One concept only makes sense if you do something new with the material, something that matters. Aguirre-Sacasa doesn't add/modify enough for it to be different. The art by David Marquez is really good though. Its enough to bump up the rating. Overall, redundancy is the buzz word here!

Mike says

Really 3.5 stars.

There is a part of me that takes a look at something like Fantastic Four: Season One and wants rail in rage and frustration. Truth is, I don't want to be that guy. It helps that the art and writing in FF: Season One is solid and actually does breath some new life into the characters. Reviewers have also been praising Jonathan Hickman's run on FF, Hickman's track record with science fiction comics is near flawless, and I have to wonder why he wasn't given the reins on this original graphic novel. That isn't to say that Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa does a bad job but the minor tweaks to the familiar origin story are slight and just enough to keep the FF relevant in a modern world. On the one hand this a good thing, it doesn't have the radical newness of the more angsty Superman: Earth One or the New 52 titles that might alienate old fans but its strict adherence to the familiar story lends the story a peculiar flatness. I would love see what Hickman (or any good creative talent) said "Here's the Fantastic Four origin story. Update it, go nuts."

Like I've said already Fantastic Four: Season One is actually quite an enjoyable tale that definitely hearkens back to the fun (a vaguely silly) nature of comics of old. In many ways it reminds of the Marvel Adventures imprint of books though one directed at an older audience. But how old? For some readers (me) FF: Season One doesn't seem to make too much sense and I think most long-term comic book readers have sort of come to grips with the notion the ageless comic book character. Comics make a big deal about continuity (or at least comic fans) but we latch on to familiar characters so often that the attachment to continuity begins to make less and less sense as characters get trapped in a recursive loop, perennially stuck in young adulthood.

There have been interesting experiments to solve this problem. Marvel's failed MC2 universe about Marvel's near future (Spider-Girl, J2, A-Next) and the Ultimate line are a start and the Ultimate line especially actually seems better at progressing characters along specific arcs then the current Marvel Universe (Ultimate Spiderman is a great example of this). DC took the more radical approach destroying its entirety continuity and deciding to rebuild from the ground up. Rage at that all you want but from a sales, and arguably a creative, standpoint it isn't really a bad call. A radical and gutsy call but in order to unlimber oneself from the weight of history that is a step one has to be willing to take.

I've gone a bit off topic I think but the main problem with FF: Season One is I can't quite understand how it fits in with the rest of the Marvel universe. If the answer is "not at all" that's fine but the event of its release, perhaps drowned out by Marvel's other big guns (the gear up towards AvX, Amazing Spiderman, and The Avengers), seems to have passed so quietly and unobtrusively. The bottom line is if you like the Fantastic Fours origins, if you like the characters as you know them, then FF: Season One offers very little to complain about and simultaneously offers too little that is so new as to justify shelling out \$15. This is a title that seeks to appease longtime fans but doesn't seem to go out of its way to attract new ones either particularly given what feels like a tangential connection to the current ongoing (at least before November, and the relaunched Fantastic Four title). A titled reads and looks greats Fantastic Four: Season One is a title for new readers and one that is best recommended by a fan looking to turn someone on to Marvel's First Family.

weii says

3.5

Alexson says

Awful. What the fuck? Why do people like this? This was so badly drawn and written. I mean, the second portion storyline wasn't so bad but majority of it was that one awfully done bit...devoid of life...barf.

Steven says

Maybe my expectations were low, but I really was surprised at how much I enjoyed this retooling/retelling of the FF's origins. If nothing else, it crystallized some character bits that originally took 20+ years to be realized in some of the characters and did it in an interesting fashion.

Don't think I'd want this to be the standard continuity, but as a stand-alone tale, it works very well.

Kemper says

The Fantastic Four is the title that launched the modern Marvel universe, and it's also the most dated in a lot of ways. After all, it's based on the idea that a mad scientist tried to beat the Russians into space and took along his girlfriend and her kid brother for some reason. The members have catchphrases like "Flame on!" and "It's clobbering time!" Hell, they billed themselves as The Fantastic Four. How do you make that work in the 21st century?

God knows it's been tried. There was the complete overhaul of the concept in the *Ultimate Fantastic Four* that tried to pin the wacky sci-fi elements to a more grounded reality. Meh. Fox first tried to make it work on screen with two movies that stuck close to the original idea. Both sucked. Then they went the 'realistic' route and coughed up a grim and dark furball that, while kind of interesting in places, still sucks.

What Marvel has done here is probably the safest and blandest attempt, but it also may be the only way to play it because it's still tied to the regular Marvel comics universe they couldn't completely upset the apple cart. Instead they stick to the old core story and just update the parts that absolutely didn't work anymore. For example, the doomed test flight now comes from Reed's rushed attempt to be the first to set up a space tourism business to fund his other projects, and the goofy names come from focus groups and branding efforts.

The results are....fine. It's a Fantastic Four that's still very close to the original, but it's been dusted off and given a fresh coat of paint. It also does a nice job of retelling a couple of their early adventures with the team first facing off against the Mole Man and one of his giant monsters, and then they meet and fight Namor. I particularly liked how the whole idea that the FF are celebrity superheroes is played up.

So this is just an update with nothing all that new and groundbreaking, but it's a solid piece of work. If

Marvel ever wrestled the film rights back from Fox and made their own FF movie it'd probably look a lot like this.

Daniel Sepúlveda says

Puntaje: 3.5 Estrellas.

Siempre es bueno recordar el inicio de ciertos personajes, en este caso: Los Cuatro Fantásticos. La historia clásica acompañada de excelentes dibujos. Aunque debo admitir que el final me dejó muy WTF!!!! Quiero saber que pasa después, yo creía que los Season One eran autoconclusivos!

Klinta says

This started pretty well, but by the end fell flat. I didn't really like the villain or most of the heroes... actually I just liked the Thing and it felt like this book was not as much about the origins as about Thing's attachment to the rest of the team and sacrifice, and reasoning.

I liked the art. The modern elements are thrown in here and there (like Twitter) and seem off. I am sure they could have done a lot better and a smoother job at that.

Anne says

[He's a greasy homeless dude...till he gets his *memory* back. At which point, he starts tooting some Atlantian Power Horn. The Horn 'O Power produces a Leviathan, and it starts attacking the city.

Because that's was *Leviathans* do, right?

Oh, and he tries to pull the forced marriage thing on
