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Marvel Encyclopedia Volume 6: Fantastic Four HC



Synopsis

The World's Greatest Comic Magazine - for more than five hundred issues, nearly every cover of Fantastic Four has boasted this bold proclamation. Forty years ago, writer Stan Lee and artist Jack Kirby created a team of adventurers like no other that had come before. Now, Marvel Comics is proud to present the definitive guide to this groundbreaking title. Never before has the Fantastic Four's complete history been collected in such a comprehensive volume. This book covers it all, from their first days to the team's landmark 500th issue and beyond!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

By far the most exhaustive of the Marvel Encyclopedia Series. I can not imagine any person, place, thing or noteworthy event that ever even remotely dealt with the Fantastic Four (and to a lesser degree their supporting cast) to have been left out of this volume that flows with seemingly endless information.-The Encyclopedia: Everything is in here. Everything! Did you know there is a Skrull resort planet where everything is a replica of Prohibition-era America? Worthless yet fun facts such as this abound in the FF Encyclopedia. Not only is the FF covered in excruciating detail, but so are the Sci-Fi and WWII-era remnant corners of Marvel, Silver Surfer, the 1st Human Torch, Thanos, Adam Warlock... the sheer amount of content in this book is astonishing, especially when one considers how the rest of the Marvel Encyclopedia series, Spiderman aside, is a bare-bones quick reference guide- this is the ONLY volume worthy of being called an "encyclopedia".-Extras: The

encyclopedia section is so massive that appendices had to be added, including foot-note characters and a quick guide of alternate realities! Also, the non-comics mediums of the FF are discussed in the beginning of the book (namely cartoons and action figures). The only confusing thing is that the FF Movie was just about to come out a few short weeks before the book was published but it has very little mention... perhaps Marvel did not want to prostitute this book to its marketing department as it did the X-Men Encyclopedia, for example. If you are a fan of the Fantastic Four not only must you buy this, it's a shame you don't have it already! Also, if you are one of the handful of people who love the Silver Surfer and the small domain of Marvel science fiction the saints who put this together snuck in a good bit of stuff to appease you. Step on anyone who gets the way of you purchasing this book!

Many of the Marvel Encyclopedias published a decade ago were not worth the paper they were printed on. But the volume on the Fantastic Four remains excellent despite the passage of time. It was released in 2004 and so the movies, "The World's Greatest Heroes" tv show, death and resurrection of one member and the Marvel Civil War are not touched on (some of us may not think that's a bad thing) but it still holds up well. Kit Kiefer offers a three chapter introduction covering the team, its merchandise and the various cartoons that came in its wake. These chapters alone are worth buying the book. The book offers excellent profiles on the main characters and their chief rivals. There are also concise and sharp looks at obscure characters and minor players. There simply isn't a better look at the Fantastic Four on the market and fans of the beloved comic will adore this book.

The Fantastic Four Encyclopedia has a detailed synopsis of nearly every character the fantastic four has encountered as a group or separately. It has characters from the 60s all the way to new characters just recently created. It also has characters from the Human Torch's strange tales in the 60s and The Thing's Marvel-Two-in-One. Yes this has it all and is a must buy for any Fantastic Four fan.

Well, I've bought three of the Marvel Encyclopedias released to date, the first volume (a general overview), the Spider-Man volume and this Fantastic Four volume. I have to say, this volume is by far the best. It's similar in format to the Spider-Man one, but the Spider-Man volume didn't quite go into enough detail. That's understandable given the sheer number of Spider-Man comics published (one of the reasons I dread to think what the X-Men volume will be like!). However, the Fantastic

Four one seems to get the information per entry/number of entries ratio right. Bar the odd niggle, I pretty much think this volume nails everything of interest to Fantastic Four fans. Personally I think entries like Malice, The Cosmic Cube and Kang could have been bigger, but these are minor matters. Cramming the entire Fantastic Four canon into a single volume always was an impossible task, and each entry's importance is subjective anyway. As well as the main body of the encyclopaedia, the book also includes a few essays on the Fantastic Four comics, the TV cartoon series and a look at various toys and action figures released over the years. The recent big screen Fox movie is mentioned, but never becomes the focus for these essays (Unlike the prominence of the films in the Spider-Man volume). Finally, at the end of the main entries there's an appendix listing all of the Alternative Earths we've glimpsed in various Marvel comics... not just the Fantastic Four (but most are connected in some way to the foursome. The ill-judged Ultimate universe is included in this list. What's more, this appendix even has its own appendix listing lesser examples. I must say, I found these pages to be the most enjoyable section of the book. Like all of Marvel's new hardbacks the book has a handsome, unified design which really looks consistent with other volumes or Marvel titles. I have no hesitation in giving this book top marks.

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