



Avengers: Unleashed Vol. 2: Secret Empire

Mark Waid , Mike del Mundo (Illustrator) , Alex Ross (Illustrator)

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Collecting Avengers (2016) #7-11.

Doctor Doom: Avenger?! The impossible is real! Doom has turned to the light side in a fresh suit of armor as the Infamous Iron Man. And now he is about to take Shell-Head's place in the Avengers -or, to hear Victor tell it, they're joining him! But how will Earth's Mightiest Heroes react to one of its greatest villains joining their ranks?

Avengers: Unleashed Vol. 2: Secret Empire Details

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From Reader Review Avengers: Unleashed Vol. 2: Secret Empire for online ebook

Chad says

Yet another crossover event interrupts the flow of the book. Couldn't we have just skipped these? They don't tie into the main Secret Empire story much at all. We don't even get why some heroes like Odinson and Deadpool were part of the evil Avengers even though there's an entire issue devoted to that team. The Secret Empire laid an egg right in the midst of what was shaping up to be a great book in volume 1.

Iron Doom shows up for a couple of issues and the villain from the .1 issues returns illustrated by Phil Noto. Then we get an issue showing where Thor was at during Secret Empire but not how she got there or back. The Thor issue was very well written. Then an issue devoted to the evil Avengers. Mike del Mundo's art did not work well here. There were a ton of splatter effects and I couldn't make out those panels at all. They were way too busy. Then something happened to Peter Parker and the Baxter Building closed even though they just got there. I'm not very happy about that. I like Peter Parker with money. I've had enough of the Charlie Brown version of Peter Parker to last a lifetime. Hopefully Mark Waid will be left alone to tell his own stories for a while now.

Iris Nevers says

Things are heating up in the current run of Avengers!

Adam Fisher says

This Volume felt like a disconnected mesh of stories to finish out this run of the title, before the upcoming "No Surrender". Overall, not horrible, but not great either, especially with the 'just 'eh' artwork...

- Iron Man (Doctor Doom) joins the Avengers in the absence of Tony Stark, but the first mission isn't for him. Wasp must blend in with the campers at an all-girls camp, in an attempt to shut down a group of child sorceresses.
- Avenger X, a power stealing villain from the Avengers past returns, but is shut down by Doom, combination of magic and technology working together seamlessly.
- Thor awakens on another world and has a heart-tugging story with one of the natives as they work together to take down a violent fiery tyrant.
- During the events of 'Secret Empire', the "Avengers" (Superior Octopus, Vision, Scarlet Witch, Thor, Taskmaster, Deadpool, and Black Ant) go on a mission destroying monsters.
- A final issue shows the everyday struggles of the popular heroes, and what they'd talk about in a casual setting.

Recommend only for completionists, otherwise skip this one.

Paul E. Morph says

This book is in three parts (not literally; I didn't tear it up) the first two issues collected being a fantastic story where the new Iron Man (aka Victor von Doom) comes to the Avengers for help.

The second part consists of two Secret Empire tie-in issues which were less great but still readable.

The third part and final issue collected deals with the aftermath of Secret Empire and has some great character moments between the various members of the team. Most importantly, perhaps, it contains Sam Wilson's decision about what he's going to do with his life now he's no longer Captain America.

Overall, I really enjoyed this one, despite the almost inevitable crossover effect.

Laura Lawson says

So many stories going on now - hard to keep track of everything. Wasp (Nadia) is great.

Babs says

I do like a bit of Taskmaster.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Another relaunch, another set of event tie-ins. Can you hear my enormous sigh from here?

But before we get there, we get some more fun Avengers solo stories as the team deals with the (self-enforced) addition of the Infamous Iron Man to the team. His interactions with Nadia Pym are wonderful, and I'm glad that we get a bit more context for Iron Doom outside of his own book. These issues also deal with the lingering story of Avenger X from the Waid/Kitson mini-series that ran alongside the first six issues of the series. Then we hit the Secret Empire tie-ins - the Thor issue is pretty good, giving some context as to where she was for the majority of the event, and the issue that focuses on Hydra's Avengers is very good indeed, but the epilogue issue is pretty forgettable.

The artwork can't be faulted however, with Phil Noto tackling the main Avengers stories while Mike Del Mundo returns for the Secret Empire tie-ins. Visually this book has knocked it out of the park, but I still feel like the storylines aren't living up to the potential of either the team or the writer - Mark Waid can do better than this, and we all know it.

Marco says

- You have communications earbuds. Use them frequently.
- Hey! I don't have one!
- You have nothing to say that anyone wishes to hear. Vision, feel free to use him as a human shield.

Travis Duke says

I still like this avengers team, it is a good group. However, this book is broken into 4 stories so it is not super cohesive (to me anyways).

The first story brings in Avenger X vs the avenger team and the new iron man he is on the cover so its not a spoilers, its doctor doom. The story was fun and well done.

The second story was a thor stand alone where she helps some alien fight their oppressor and it was fine but seems isolated but maybe it is not in the long run (weakest of the stories but not bad.

The 3rd story is another team (there are a boat load now) where Doc Oct leads deadpool, Taskmaster, black ant, Thor (odinson), Vision, and Scarlet witch. I think I'm out of the loop so I was shocked to see this team but I like them. They take on some aliens that are trying to breakout of the force field that now surrounds earth.

The last story is back to our avenger team and actually has some nice moments including Vision and Hercules discussing immortality, Thor and falcon taking about leadership, and Parker and the new wasp trying to get along. The art is great in all the stories, really like it. Still on board with the avengers team

Zachariah says

Another comic destroyed by a stupid ass crossover. Seriously sick of this. It ruins so much. After the first promising volume, almost nothing happens in four issues but monsters of the week. I'm done.

Scott Lee says

If Waid truly does know where he's going with this b00k then he's going for an incredibly *slow* build. I'm hoping this was an off-his-game moment from him due to the tie in with *Secret Empire* keeping it (this collection of issues) from resembling something even remotely cohesive.

B says

After the first issue-and-a-half, this feels like a book that primarily serves to advertise other characters' books: Read the Wasp! Read Secret Empire! Read Thor!

The team doesn't seem to have an overarching purpose. Still, I thought it was entertaining enough.

Matt says

Collects Avengers (2016) issues #7-11

This was a strange collection. There is an issue that features the newly reformed Dr. Doom asking the Avengers for help with a lame mission. Then, a villain returns from Mark Waid's recent "Avengers: Four" story. Next, we have a "Secret Empire" tie-in story in which we find out where Thor was sent. That is followed up by another "Secret Empire" tie-in story about Hydra Cap's Dark Avengers. The final issue in this collection deals with the fallout of "Secret Empire." The stories in this collection don't run together smoothly. It's sad when flagship books become back-burner titles.

Fizzgig76 says

Reprints Avengers (5) #7-11 (July 2017-November 2017). Doctor Doom has joined the Avengers and the Avengers aren't sure they like it. While a side team lead by Doctor Octopus patrols the planet and Thor battles in another dimension, the Avengers find the greatest threat to the team might not be villains...but bankruptcy.

Written by Mark Waid (with additional writing by Jeremy Whitley, Avengers: Unleashed Volume 2: Secret Empire is the third collection of the fifth volume of Avengers. The series follows Avengers Unleashed Volume 1: Kang War One and the conjunction series Avengers: Four. The collection features art by Phil Noto and Mike Del Mundo and ties in with Marvel's Secret Wars event series.

I loved the Avengers growing up. It was always a weird collection of Marvel heroes trying to work together and essentially becoming friends as they become teammates. Even the most jaded characters like Sersi and Moondragon were made part of the team and it somehow always works out. Unfortunately, a lot of this fun is missing from the Avengers, and the series also has no flow in its storytelling.

The series is a jumbled mess. The first two issues have Doom joining the team, but then nothing ever comes of it (and he disappears after the second issue). The series then dips into the Secret Empire storyline with no explanation of what is occurring. There is a standalone Thor issue that isn't really set-up (nor is the resolution explained...Thor just shows up again in Avengers #11). Avengers #10 features a Doctor Octopus "evil" Avengers on a mission that once again isn't relevant to the events of the previous issues of the collection...it is all just random.

I am also not sold on the art. Both Phil Noto and Mike del Mundo have done good work on titles and even within this title there are some great visual moments, but in general, the art is rather inconsistent like the writing. It also can be difficult to follow the action and the story as a result...something that dooms a comic since it is based around the coming together of visuals and storytelling.

This is another sign of the problem with a lot of comic books today. The series seems aimless and subjected to too many outside forces (while not telling competent, self-contained stories within the "Big Events" that shape series). If I were a new reader and picked up any of these issues, the title would scare me off...losing a potential new customer forever. Fans of the movies won't recognize the characters, but fans of the comics also find that the characters are for the most part unrecognizable...the attempts by Marvel to appeal to both sides fail both sides. Avengers returned to its original numbering after this volume (starting with Avengers #672) and began the "No Surrender" storyline.

Shannon Appelcline says

In many ways, this volume embodies everything that's wrong with modern Marvel. It's horribly fractured, with five different single issue stories, with almost no continuity between them, not even the same group of characters. The problem is Marvel's constant and obsessive crossing over between their titles. So issues 9 & 10 both crossover with the *Secret Empire* event, but I really only know that because of the title of the volume. There's no explanation of how Thor ended up on some weird alien planet (in #9) or how a group of evil Avengers replaced our protagonists (in #10) or what happened to them (afterward). And, the crossovers don't end there. It looks like a big, annoying reset button was hit over in *Amazing Spider-Man*, but again what it is, I don't know, nonetheless #11 is all about that.

Somehow, amidst this rubble, there are two good issues.

Trying-to-be-good Dr. Doom is one of the best things to come out of post-*Secret Wars* Marvel (really, one of the few good things that has happened in a universe that's been wildly reeling toward mediocrity since, as revealed by their plunging sales), and he's the heart of issue #7, along with his delightful interactions with the Avengers.

Then, in #11, we get interesting interactions between our various Avengers, which is the sort of thing that Waid excels at, but which just doesn't appear enough in this volume.

And between? Dull stories. Some fight against a super-Adaptoid like lady (#8), a mostly pointless Thor story (#9, and why does Waid keep using Avengers to tell solo Thor stories?), and a story about evil Avengers that should be delightful based on the cast, but somehow isn't (#10).

Yawn. I dunno why Waid's Avengers continues to be not great.
