



Transformers: The IDW Collection Volume 5

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The re-presentation of IDW's TRANSFORMERS Universe continues in this fifth volume that contains all twelve issues of the *All Hail Megatron* storyline, plus the four *CODA* issues that followed.

Transformers: The IDW Collection Volume 5 Details

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Kavinay says

All Hail Megatron got a bad rap.

Does it break dramatically from the Furman run? Yup.

Are there continuity errors? Yup.

Is it poor? Not at all.

In fact, it might still be the only IDW series with heavy use of human characters that's actually engrossing. The coda especially is simply lights out, especially the Kup story by Nick Roche.

It's been a long time since I first read All Hail Megatron and it just leaves me wondering: what if only Michael Bay had let the IDW braintrust write him a coherent script?

Raf says

All Hail, Megatron!

I love how IDW has made the Transformers more than you commercials with stories that focus on the overall fight between the Autobots/Decepticons and one-offs about well and lesser known characters that tie into the main storyline.

In AHM, we see the Autobots at the brink of losing all hope with Prime out of commission which causes rifts between members and leads secondary leaders doing their damndest to find a path to follow. The Decepticons have won Earth but seem to be aimless in their direction.

Andy 117 says

Volume 5 of IDW's collection of their Transformers comics contains All Hail Megatron, a "soft reboot" series that acts as a jumping-on point for new readers, with only some elements from prior volumes retroactively replaced or shuffled out of the way.

If you are only passingly familiar with Transformers, the concept of All Hail Megatron is stupidly simple. Megatron, the leader of the villainous Decepticons, takes over the entire Earth. He takes it over. And we see him do it. It's tragic, and devious, and evil. Meanwhile, the Autobots - our heroes - are stranded on a powerless Cybertron, facing off hordes of ravenous and monstrous Insecticons.

I love this approach to Transformers storytelling. It cements the Decepticons as genuine threats, both to lives

and humanity as a species, and the result is a totally serious alien invasion and conquest plot. I'm hardly a fan of Michael Bay's Transformers films, but there are moments in those films in which soldiers stationed abroad must fight enormous robots the size of planes and trucks with nothing but a handful of bullets and prayers that luck will be on their side - and that's what a lot of All Hail Megatron entails. It's tense, with gigantic metal monsters peeking down at cities of people and exterminating them with just enough of a smirk to imply that they enjoy it. And from the ashes of our cities, Megatron - envisioned here as a truly unstoppable, sadistically evil Titan - sits atop his iron throne and declares himself totally victorious.

We know, of course, that the Autobots will save the day. But there's a hopelessness to the proceedings, and I appreciate that the story will let itself go as far as it can go before pulling back. IDW has proved that they can take licenses based off of children's toys and render them wholly inappropriate for children, but in doing so they have created masterful sci-fi fiction. It allows itself to be silly, still - they are still giant, transforming robots, and there's enough humour and action to satiate classic Transformers junkies - but for those who look at the characters with nostalgia, they'll find the characters are fully-realized, three-dimensional beings, in a staggeringly convincing sci-fi world.

Backing up the stellar apocalyptic script is equally stellar artwork. It looks like an animated sequence from a motion picture come to life; crisp, cinematic lines and soft, muted colours create a tangible weight and scope. Humans and robots alike are rendered with aplomb, and the Decepticon interactions with the humans they're tasked with destroying have an almost horrific quality. Meanwhile, the heroics are presented as truly heroic - it presents both sides with a grandiose, spectacular pageantry, and it's gorgeous to look at.

All Hail Megatron is a fantastic place for new readers to come on, a worthy sci-fi invasion story, and a great interpretation of the Transformers universe. While far from IDW's greatest achievement in Transformers, I would say it is their most cohesive, finally uniting the various miniseries and one-shots and giving them a perfect place to start from: with a bang, and never lets up.

Michael says

A little long and meandering at times, but still a solid action-adventure with military overtones. Shane McCarthy does a solid job showing the Autobots at lowest ebb, although he misses a chance to add some nuance to the Decepticons and cops out on Optimus Prime's return. The action is tremendous and some solid plots twists keep the story engaging. The human drama is half-baked, however, and the characters ciphers. I'd give 3.5 stars if I had the option, but my nostalgic soft spot for the franchise allows for the extra half star.
