



Ultimates² Vol. 1: Troubleshooters

Al Ewing , Travel Foreman (Illustrator)

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Collecting Ultimates 2 (2016) #1-6.

Who — or what — is the Cosmic Jailer? What being could be powerful enough to chain Eternity itself? That's the mystery Galactus must solve — before it's too late. Ultimate problems require ultimate solutions, and the former World-Eater will call on those who helped cure his insatiable hunger: Captain Marvel, Black Panther, Blue Marvel, Spectrum and Ms. America! Together they are the Ultimates, protectors of the Omniverse. But now they are something more — the newest heralds of Galactus the Lifebringer! And they specialize in the impossible — like the Shaper's Ghost! Master Order and Lord Chaos! And the terrifying new entity Logos! Meanwhile, Philip Vogt knows the truth — and faces a decision that will either save the Multiverse, or damn it forever! And the Troubleshooters are watching the Ultimates — and they don't like what they see.

Ultimates² Vol. 1: Troubleshooters Details

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From Reader Review Ultimates² Vol. 1: Troubleshooters for online ebook

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Moving swiftly on from the events of Civil War II, the Ultimates have been disbanded...but that ain't gunna stop 'em. Called back to arms by America Chavez and Galactus, the Ultimates face their biggest threat yet - someone has chained Eternity itself, and threatens the balance of the entire universe.

Al Ewing goes hard on the cosmic concepts here, from the appearances of Lord Order and Master Chaos, the emergence of a Troubleshooters team that's very familiar to new Universe readers, and the ultimate identity of the threat itself, but manages to keep the personal crises of the characters in focus too, from Carol and T'Challa's change in viewpoints to Black Marvel and Spectrum's potential romance and even Galactus' feelings on his new role in the universe.

Inheriting the book from Kenneth Rocafort comes Travel Foreman, who is more than capable of keeping up with all the cosmic crazy and depicting some absolutely nutso things with relative ease. All those gross Animal Man things gave Foreman a solid background for this stuff.

A+ for Ewing and friends once again.

Arturo says

This reminds me of The Authority, the first series by Ellis and later by Millar, but with cosmic beings. Well if that's not enough reason to read it, I leave with America's last words "Someone started a war today -- a war on every level of reality--"

Alex Sarll says

Continuing the ludicrously high stakes cosmic epic, this explains nothing less than the origins of the multiverse - and why someone objects to that. If Iron Maiden made a rock opera derived from Ghost Light, it could be something like this, and that's high praise indeed. The plot where a bunch of New Universe riffs are messing with our heroes enthused me less, but I guess selling Marvel on a series that's just cosmic entities being bonkers might have been tougher.

Blindzider says

Very interesting. This series (it seems there was a book before this one) put together a team that deals with cosmic level threats. In this volume, what happened to the cosmic entities after the events of Secret Wars, the collapsing of the multiverse? Beings such as The Living Tribunal, Chaos and Order, the In-Betweeners etc. reorient themselves to the new universe, but sometimes their actions threaten all of existence. The story

contains very high level cosmic ideas, so if you like those "characters" and grand, epic ramifications, then this is for you. My main gripe is that they constantly reference multiple universes when I thought all of that disappeared after Secret Wars.

The art is...not the best. It fluctuates between scratchy traditional art and amateur computer graphics from the 80's. Better visuals may have helped to bring this to the next level, but I was mainly fascinated by the ideas here, even though the human brain (at least mine) can't quite comprehend what all of it means and just end up "going with it."

Sesana says

Sadly, I think I'm going to be dropping this book. I really like most of these characters, but I don't care for the art and I'm not big on super cosmic level threat comics, and the very nature of reality is apparently going to be an ongoing concern in this book. Call me shallow, but I'd prefer slightly lower stakes in a regularly published book.

Akshay says

One of the best and most under-rated team books at Marvel, this incarnation of the Ultimates under the pen of Al Ewing was fantastic in its first volume and in this second not only keeps up that fantastic but takes it to a whole other even MORE cosmic level.

So many comic "EVENTS" are happening in the big leagues (i.e, at Marvel/DC) where "the world will never be the same" and "everything is changed" and blah, blah, blah... but this book... this damned series is just gorgeous. It is some of the most amazing and interesting characters that don't often get the love they deserve (except Black Panther & Captain Marvel who've been getting a big push recently, helped greatly by their movie deals) are part of a team that deals with problems that aren't yet problems and tries to do a rare thing in the superhero game: pre-empt universal and even multiversal threats.

Blue Marvel has been a fantastic character and as much as I'd like to see him in more comics, I like that like this team, he is kind of in his own corner of the Marvel Universe only minimally affected by the stuff that goes on - which is a HUGE deal because of the Marvel tendency to keep shoving events into their monthly series which screws up so much. Thankfully be it Civil War or Secret Empire, this book has remained on its own level and even the supposed crossover issues into events are tenuous at best and almost just for the sake of slapping the event-logo on the cover.

America Chavez is a great character with a world of potential and this book is one of best uses/versions of her and her taking a lead in this volume was great - but for me her solo book was so over the top and ham-handed in its need to cater to people who wanted so much self-righteous diversity that even me who couldn't care less about the characters race, religion, sex, whatever, felt myself constantly rolling my eyes and dropping the book.

Black Panther is, well Black Panther. He's a badass and is portrayed and utilised very well without overshadowing anyone here.

Monica/Spectrum was always a very poorly used but awesome character to me but this series has been a fantastic way to give her space - and in this volume the stuff we see her do and her rapport/relationship with Blue Marvel is good. Also seeing her grow with her powers and skill was great fun to watch unfold.

Even Captain Marvel who went from great revived character not long back, to horribly misused and terribly portrayed and good-will destroying through the whole Civil War 2 debacle and the aftermath, was tolerable here. And the fact that they focused on her minimally and instead on her as the head of SWORD and Earth's space-ambassador (sort of) worked well for her.

A highly recommended read for fans of cosmic level comics and especially for fans of Marvel's cosmic stuff which only gets relatively minimal coverage in their huge line of comics every month.

Drown Hollum says

I am extremely impressed with The Ultimates. By the final pages of this volume, it was clear that I was reading something special and spectacular. Ewing nails the characters, managing to elevate C-listers alongside fan favorites, a rub which has turned me into a huge Blue Marvel fan. All this though, feels almost secondary to the massive cosmic stakes as Ewing expands on the wholly unique Marvel creation mythos. Foreman was a great talent to tap for this project, and his art helps to make the cosmic elements feel grounded, something you can get your head around.

This book is awfully heady, and likely a little too high in the clouds for some, but for me, this is exactly what I come to comic books for. This is impeccable comics storytelling, at least as far as big-two books go. It's a home run for Marvel, and an absolute risk considering the subject matter, and the cast. It's gold, and I want more.

Also, Logos is like something straight out of Final Fantasy, WHAT A VILLAIN.

Adam Fisher says

Picking up from where the previous Ultimates volume left off, we take a deep dive into the depths of Cosmic Marvel. Eternity (later revealed to be the 8th incarnation of the multiverse) is being held in chains. Desiring to rescue Eternity, Galactus the Lifebringer reunites the Ultimates, making them his Heralds. But... the NSA doesn't want the Ultimates to reform, so they send a team after them: the Troubleshooters.

Meanwhile, on the cosmic side of things, Chaos and Order place Galactus on trial. When it is discovered that the cosmic hierarchy need not be kept the same, they merge to become a new entity, Logos, and change Galactus back into the form of Destroyer. The decision to become Logos was very ill advised and was primarily influenced by the First Firmament (revealed as the 1st form of the Universe), who wants to be back in command of the multiverse and is responsible for chaining Eternity.

Back and forth, all through a myriad of bad art.... the story was mediocre... not sure I will continue this one. Recommend, with reservations.

Cheese says

Great imagination from Ewing. This story is on a higher level than any before it in Marvel. It's truly cosmic!

Tyler Hayes says

Some of the best high-powered superhero comics I have ever read, that never loses sight of the humanity of the characters involved. In his Ultimates series, Ewing took superheroics to a height I rarely see -- heroes who want to solve problems, not simply punch them into submission -- and welded on four-color actionized catharsis while also broadcasting a range of fascinating and real emotions. Ultimates 2 takes that launching pad and goes into the stratosphere with it, embracing high weirdness and characters who are more or less living abstracts while also making all of it feel real and believable. He also brings in characters from the New Universe, and helps make me feel better about constant crossover events at the same time. If you love superheroes, read this series.

k says

'didn't you once tell me that violence isn't the answer?'

'oh, this isn't violence, America. this is a little more ambitious than that.'

YAS

Gary Butler says

42nd book read in 2018.

Number 20 out of 702 on my all time book list.

Very epic in scope, but not so complicated that you feel lost.

Chad says

The Ultimates have disbanded in the wake of Civil War II, only to immediately get back together. There's a new big bad that is trying to destroy the multiverse and the hierarchy of cosmic beings gets shaken to its core. Plus we get the Marvel U analogues of a bunch of characters from the New Universe in the Troubleshooters.

The Good: The book had a Warren Ellis penned The Authority vibe to it. This was surprisingly really good (and coherent) which is hard to do when dealing with cosmic characters. The Troubleshooters were really cool and I like how Spectrum's powers are evolving.

The Bad: It's still a little hard for me to care about any of Marvel's cosmic characters. I've always thought they were kind of pointless.

The Ugly: Some of the coloring had a 90's CGI vibe to it that looked really fake and kind of airbrushy. I hated it. The cover of the book is a good example.

Rick says

If you like your comics *COSMIC*. This is the one to read. As much as Jim Starlin's remarkable work with Warlock, Captain Marvel & Thanos.

Shannon Appelcline says

It is amazing how good this book is.

Ewing takes the cosmic personifications seriously, introduces new personifications, gives us an exciting story about them, and offers the possibility of real change. He supplements all of that with a history of the Marvel omniverse.

He continues his reintroduction of New Universe characters, or rather of their analogues in the Marvel Universe after the White Event. He manages to make them feel like a totally organic extension of their New Universe origins, but totally new too.

He tells a great story about the Ultimates, with great characterization for all of them.

He manages to balance the cosmic with the personal.

And he also makes it all feel like an extension of the excellent storylines by Hickman that made the Avengers so great before *Secret Wars* brought the whole Marvel Universe to a grinding halt.

And somehow Ewing does that in six amazing, coherent issues.
