



Transformers: Marvel USA nº 01

Various , Ignacio Bentz (Translator)

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Las históricas raíces en cómic de Transformers vuelven a presentarse para el máximo disfrute cybertrónico. Este tomo recopila los números 1 a 13 de la serie original, incluido el número 3 en su totalidad. Reúnete de nuevo con Optimus Prime y Megatron y sus bandos en conflicto mientras su guerra se extiende por el cosmos. Introducción en profundidad y anotaciones por Mark W. Bellom. Título original: Transformers Marvel # 1-13

Transformers: Marvel USA nº 01 Details

Date : Published January 22nd 2015 by Planeta DeAgostini Cómics (first published June 7th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Various , Ignacio Bentz (Translator)

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Science Fiction, Superheroes, Marvel, Fiction

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From Reader Review Transformers: Marvel USA nº 01 for online ebook

Michael says

After the original four-issue miniseries - a poorly drawn and over-scripted mess - this series becomes a solid, if overly teachy (oh, yeah, there's a lesson in every issue) adventure comic. I'd read four of the issues as a kid (7-10) and nostalgically wanted to revisit them; even without the nostalgic attachment, those four installments were the best issues, after Bob Budiansky took over writing and established the tone of the stories. The artwork ranges from good (the middle chapters mostly) to messy subpar (the miniseries).

Jay Gabler says

So many great details: the oddly specific Portland setting, young tech tycoon G.B. Blackrock, the Megatron/Shockwave rivalry you never saw on TV.

James Zanghi says

When I heard that there was a collection of Transformers comics back from the 80s, I was extremely excited.

When I heard that said comics were produced by Marvel Comics, well, I just had to read them.

So, finally I bought a used copy of Transformers Volume One via amazon for a nice price (I'm telling you, it's the best deals in town if you buy from Amazon.com's third-party sellers.) and I started to read it.

Now, A little background. I grew up watching Beast Wars as a kid and later watched Generation One Transformers on DVD as well as reading a bunch of fan fiction on fanfiction.net and I enjoyed all three. I knew that the Comics were probably a little different than the Generation One show, so I kept an open mind, which is something I always do when I read a book/graphic novel I haven't read before.

So, my opinion of the Volume One? It's way better than Season One of Generation One, and let me tell you...that is saying something! Perhaps even the epic season Two. Granted, there are well more than a few cheesy scenes and dialogue, like in the opening parts where, after waking up in the Ark after spending 4 million years in stasis lock (which is the Transformers equivalent of coma, as most Beast Wars fans will know) the Transformers not only waste time doing roll call but also telling each other what their special powers are.

The story of Volume One doesn't follow the same plot-line as Season One of Transformers: Generation One. Even the reasons for the Autobots and Decepticons crash-landing on Earth is very different. There are many characters (Mainly in the human race) who have different names, mainly instead of Spike (or to the Bayformers fans, Sam) Witwicky, one of the main human characters is named Buster. If you are attempting to read this expecting a word-for-word and shot-for-shot adaptation of Season One episodes, you will be sorely disappointed.

Now, the story is really well done for Volume One with multiple story arcs that carry through to Volume Two, mainly the creation of Circuit Breaker and her obsessive war of hatred on the Transformers. The best thing I thought was how the Marvel writing team redesigned Shockwave's personality like an Evil Spock-like villain who is ruled by logic and reason while at the same time acts like Starscream, only he successfully takes over the Decepticons! It's amazing to read about this ruthless character since on the cartoon he was a total suck-up to Megatron and a traditional lackey in Dark of the Moon who only had a few lines.

Also, I should mention that to the fans of the movies, they will find this a bit different since the focus of the spotlight is rarely on Optimus Prime. He actually spends much of the book out cold and as a prisoner of Shockwave and the Decepticons. Much of the spotlight is devoted to bots and cons like the deposed Megatron and the science-officer Ratchet, who surprisingly team up to fight Shockwave.

One of two downsides to this graphic novel, and these are incredibly minor, are that the paper isn't the usual smooth paper but slightly more rougher construction-like paper. However, it works great and is quite sturdy, so it's not a big deal to me. The other downside is that there is a lot of dialogue bubbles in this book and unless you like reading dialogue (like me) then you might get a little bored.

However, this is a really good read. I highly recommend it if you are getting bored of the whole mind-numbing action sequences of the Michael Bay Transformers films. Plus, the Comics introduce the Dinobots rather quickly, give them way more 'screen time', and they actually talk. Even better, they don't talk like cavemen like they do in the Show, which I found incredibly annoying and a little stereotyping.

Jedi Sunni says

Issue #1 "The Transformers"

Absolutely incredible and what fantastic idea and this issue show me exactly why this series was destined to be a hit from the very beginning. I especially like how the bio's flowed with the story. The characters all take on very diverse personalities that allow to connect with them. My rating for this issue is 4.9 out of 5.0.

Issue #2 "Power Play"

Oh no! the deceptions have kidnapped Sam Witwicky in hopes of getting him to create an alternative fuel source. I like love the art and how they show the transformations. Then there is the constant internal conflict between Megatron and Starscream. I have to say this is a solid second issue. My rating for this issue is a 4.5 out of 5.0.

Issue #3 "Prisoner of War!"

I am such a slow reader when it comes to these comics. This one was decent as it lead to some heroics at the end. It definitely brings back some very fond memories of my childhood. My rating for this issue is 3.9 out of 4.0.

Issue #4 "The Last Stand"

I thought there were some good plot points and the battle between the Decepticons and Autobots was epic. I did not see Spark Plug sabotaging the Decepticons, what an entrance for Shockwave. I did not realize he was

that powerful. My rating for this issue is 4.3 out of 5.0.

Issue #5 "The New Order"

Things are now now starting to heat up, with a new self proclaimed lead the decepticon seem to be in control. Shockwave is awesome and seems very powerful but will that power last. I really like the evolution of the story at this point and personality of the characters. My rating for this issue is 4.8 out of 5.0.

Issue #6 "The Worse of Two Evils"

I really thought Megatron was going to open a can on good old shockwave. I was pleasantly surprised to see he was not quite up to the task just yet. The oil platform was just a slaughter by one and only one decepticon. My rating for this issue is a 4.7 out of 5.0.

Issue #7 "Warrior School"

This one has some weight as Buster goes though some type of metamorphosis and Rachet is learn that brain power is the tool of many a warrior. I did think that it was silly how Buster shocked himself and it did not result in his death. I thought the writer could have been more creative. My rating for this issue is 4.1 out of 5.0.

Issue #8 "Repeat Proformance"

I enjoyed this story a great deal because I am a huge dinobot fan. This story did not disappoint as we saw that have a head on collision with none other than Megatron. The art is above average and the story line was decent. My rating for this issue is 3.9 out of 5.0.

Issue #9 "Disintegrated Circuits"

This is probably the heaviest issue thus far. With josie completely unveiling who she now is. Then theres Buster who has a huge surprised or maybe it's just obvious. Anyways the battle at the end was intense and the characters are really starting to develop, even blackrock is beginning to look like a real human being. My rating for this issue is 4.4 out of 5.0.

Issue #10 "The next best thing to being there!"

We got quite a bit out of this issue, with the coolest being the introduction of devestator. I thought it was creative how the authour made it so that the Autobot and reader are both seeing devastator for the first time. I also thought it was intuitive how the writer showed a selfish human behavior in Huffer. My rating for this issue is 4.5 out of 5.0.

Issue #11 "Brainstorm!"

The beginning of the great Jetfire. There was a lot that took place in this issue. It all being centered around that creation matrix. There was a good amount of action but I liked the father and son moment that the witwickys had with one another. The power of the creation matrix is incredible. My rating for this issue is a 4.2 out of 5.0.

Issue #12 "Prime Time!"

How cool was that issue, which kept me completely engaged the who issue, maybe the best issue so far. This was very cleverly written and set up with precision. The Autobots find themselves in trouble but help shows up to kick some decepticon butt. My rating for this issue is a 4.9 out of 5.0.

Issue #13 "Shooting Star"

This is definitely a different type of issue that follows a different theme. I was impressed with the writer and how he navigated this issue. A down on his guy who has made some bad choices. It has a lesson a built-in lesson about life and success. My rating for this issue is a 4.2 out 5.0.

Alex says

The Transformers was always one of the most cynical marketing ploys and we knew this as kids, but bought into all of the hype anyway. Afterall the toys were pretty cool and we had fun hour after hour changing a robot into a car and then back again - OK it's harder to see the appeal as an adult but, yes, we all had them and cherished them and stole them from one another (better still, we won them at a game of marbles. NB I never actually did this, my marble playing skills blew chunks.). It seems strange to think that 30+ years on the Transformers are still a huge property; less strange that the whole marketing behemoth has been resurrected by the shit-tastic Michael Bay with a series of presumably bombastic, uncredible but wildly successful movies that I've - sadly - yet to see. Yet here we are, there are still ranges of Transformers comics being produced and I'm a little bit curious to know what the fuss is all about.

Naturally I decided to start right at the beginning with the old, shitty ones.

Actually, they aren't shitty. Against the odds this piece of cuncial, soulless marketing tie-in about giant robots doing ... not a lot other than fighting, really ... settled into a regularly entertaining comic book and reaching the end of this volume, I might not be quite convinced that there's genius here, but I can at least see why we were enthralled as kids. They start out shitty though, with a 4 part mini-series (I seem to be missing #3 in my collection for some reason) that was intended to be it. There's no heart and soul in this comic, just explanation after explanation, one dialogue box after another explaining that the two Transformer factions were at war, ended up crash-landing on earth and then fighting one another there. There's a little story to it, but it's very mannered and laboured and would have lost interest if I hadn't known that issue 5 was the start of a new ongoing series giving the go ahead thanks to immense popularity.

Bob Budiansky is a much more playful writer, as it happens and whilst the artwork remains weak and we don't ever get as much out of the robots abilities or personalities as I'd like, we do get a bunch of ongoing storylines that I would happily class as "pure fun". The dour and boring Megatron is, as early as issue 5 ousted as Decepticon leader by the cold and logical Shockwave (rocking the one-eyed Cyclops look) and even fails in his initial attempts to regain control. This leads to a string of surprising stories in which Megatron is nearly killed by Ratchet and then winds up as a slave to a part-time gangster. Meanwhile all of the autobots have been destoryed (no wait, captured and fixable) and it's down to the lone Ratchet to save them ... and Oh it turns out that Optimus Prime has the creation Matrix so Shockwave keeps his head happily locked up so that he can use it to create more evil Decepticons, so Prime manages to transfer it to a human who gets the ability to errrr fix cars and stuff.

There's a lot of story packed into these issues and while itnever even flirts with being deep or particularly interesting, it's committed to entertaining and pushing the limits of what you'd expect from such a shallow

concept. Budiansky keeps the stories moving at a decent pace and the result is that after 13 issues of the first volume I feel "Prime'd" for the next one. It's just too easy to read. This comic is More than meets the eye. My expectations have been Transformed. ETCETERA!

I don't really recommend this unless you like robots, toys or nostalgia. I kinda like those things, especially all at once.

H M Reynolds says

Bought this book out of nostalgia for the Transformers comic I used to get as a child - certainly a superior incarnation than the current films.

The book comes with a bit of background about how it came to be created, which is quite interesting. Credit is deserved for creating an interesting plot around something which could have been seen as a cynical marketing exercise.

Did find I got tired of the constant changing of the characters eventually, but the comics did have a good run and there were some exciting stories with clever ideas.

Jason says

Not surprisingly, the stories are rather juvenile. The art work is dated and not very memorable. As a huge fan of the G1 cartoon, it is hard not to read this 'hearing' the voice of the actor. And that can be a bit disappointing since some of the characters don't act like their cartoon counterpart at all (Soundwave and Shockwave are the worse and for whatever reason, Spike is called Buster). Like the G1 cartoon, no one dies in this. There are also some laughable impossibilities in these stories and in my opinion even worse than the cartoon. For example, a paralyzed girl from her hospital bed turns herself into something like a Terminator and two thugs get shot by Megatron and are barely singed. Overall, not recommended.

Travis McClain says

Marvel's *The Transformers* was one of the very first comic books I ever read (the other being Marvel's *G.I. Joe*). I learned more of my vocabulary from those comics than I did in my language arts classes in school. I always appreciated that neither comic was afraid to talk over the heads of the kids who watched the counterpart cartoons. Bob Budiansky - editor of the first four issues, then writer of the next 51 - wrote it as a straightforward comic book of its time. I confess, I was the kid who really did consult the dictionary often, just so that I could understand what was being said.

The deficiencies of this comic will be more glaring to younger readers than to those of us who grew up reading comics of the Bronze age. Not only is there a lot of clunky exposition, but a lot of it is repeated in each issue. The philosophy of the era was that any given issue could be some reader's first foray into a book. That was more or less dictated by the nature of the mass market distribution that put comic books on spindles at gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies, and other such places. Those were where I found my comics, long

before I ever set foot inside an actual comic book shop.

As for the narrative, it's a bit shaky, especially in the original four-issue limited series. In fairness, Budiansky was more or less creating the foundation for the entire franchise's mythology as he went. Many elements that have survived various incarnations of the Transformers, up to the recent live action movie series, can be traced directly to these pages, rather than to the cartoon.

What struck me most when I read the comic originally, and which I was thrilled to discover held up even better than I had hoped, was just how bad a dude Shockwave was. He was entirely peripheral in the cartoon, but in the comic book, he was ruthless and imposing. I was ecstatic to learn he would feature in the movie, *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, but disappointed that that version bore no resemblance to the one that Budiansky wrote as the calculating conqueror.

I also have to give Budiansky credit for writing human characters. I've often been impatient with them in the aforementioned live action movie series, but the humans of the comic book are not just more tolerable; they're actually likable. They're not as gritty as modern human characters would be written, but the tone of the book overall is not particularly gritty (the occasional mauling/murdering of a Transformer aside!).

The most tragic human character is Josie Beller, who becomes Circuit Breaker after being almost entirely paralyzed following a Decepticon assault on an oil rig. Her origin story is classic comic book stuff, but it works. She's instantly accessible and sympathetic. Also, her Circuit Breaker costume was one of the raciest things of my youth. I knew when I saw that design that I would never see such a thing in the cartoon, and in truth I made sure that issue #9 (prominently featuring her on the cover) was never lying around for fear that my prudish mom would balk and end my comic book reading.

Though the overall story arc runs through the first twelve issues, I appreciate that IDW went ahead and included issue #13 here as a sort of coda. It's an offbeat story in which a two-bit loser on the run from the mob after embezzling from the boss runs afoul Megatron, stuck in pistol mode, his thought process damaged. It's obvious where things are headed, but it's a fun little romp all the same and I think it plays better as a comic book story than it ever would have in another medium.

My thanks to the Oldham County Public Library for acquiring this volume for me, and to the Metropolitan Library System in Oklahoma City for lending it. It was a thrill to revisit these stories of my youth.

G Nda says

What you'd expect. Though it's cool to see the direct connection to the toys in the comics. Makes me feel bad for anyone who gets excited for this franchise though.

James Badger says

Much cooler than I thought it would be. I honestly didn't know if the Transformers action I loved in the 80's cartoons could be translated in comic book form. Not only did it translate well, but the comic books were able to add quite a few details the cartoons left out. I've been saying for years that the original cartoons are the only canonical entities in the world of Transformers (That's right, Michael Bay. I like to pretend you and

your terrible movies don't even exist), but I guess I'm going to have to let the comics in as well. They take the original story and give it a depth and breadth it didn't have in the cartoons.

Bo says

This collection really starts out like trash. First issue of transformers has bad art, bad writing, bad coloring and bad lettering done by a dyslexic person. Not to mention it fills every bad stereotype about toy tie-in properties. Over the course of the volume it improves quite a bit. Still flawed but a fun read.

Andrew says

This is really a generational review. If you're a child of the 80's you should be familiar with Generation 1 Transformers. I was a huge fan as a kid: I watched the show, collected the toys, saw the animated film in the theater, and also bought the comics on a regular basis. If you weren't born yet when the Transformers Generation 1 were at the peak of their popularity, or if you already an adult by the time they became popular, chances are this collection of the first 13 issues of the comic book won't appeal to you. But if you grew up with the Transformers these early issues should have off the charts nostalgia appeal. Being as these were published by Marvel I can re-read these as an adult and appreciate them more than, say, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle comic books that Archie comics used to publish(not the Eastman and Laird originals)since they weren't written exclusively for a younger audience(most of these comics have more dialogue and a bit higher vocabulary than you might think). Other than that these are pretty much exactly what you would expect if you are/were a fan of the Transformers: it fleshes out the mythology, has tons of characters, guns, vehicles, and fight scenes, and even features one issue where Spider-man from regular Marvel comics continuity crosses over into the world of the Transformers! Hardly any of the regular Marvel Super Heroes were based in Oregon(where these stories take place), so the crossover of a Marvel regular with the Transformers could logically be explained away as a one time thing: the regular Marvel heroes all have their own cities to worry about non-stop, and the Decepticons seems to be the only regular super villains in Oregon, so the Autobots can exclusively fight evil in Oregon while Spidey concentrates on fighting HIS super-villains in New York City, where he lives. I don't know. It just seems weird that the Transformers are part of regular Marvel comic books continuity but never interact with any other heroes and villains except for very, very rare occasions(issue 3 with Spider-man and the G.I. Joe crossover)but I guess you can explain it away. Overall though if you were a fan of the Tranformers growing up you should still be able to have fun with these as an adult.

Chris says

I didn't really expect much going into this volume of the original Transformers comics. I have never been a big fan of the cartoon or the toys (back then I was more into GI Joes, and later Ninja Turtles). This was like reading a piece of history, I guess. It was ok, but I'm glad I didn't pay much for it. I guess it was better than I expected out of a comic that was made to drive toy sales and advertising during Saturday morning cartoons. It definitely read like a morning cartoon. Some of the plot lines were just silly. Some of the types of transformers were silly (like Shockwave and his "space gun" that has a handle and trigger. Or the cars that have steering wheels).

The artwork was ok, but nothing inspiring. It took a long while for me to really see much difference between

the different transformers. Later on, at least a few of them were recognizable, but there were still some that just looked kind of generic. Some of this might be due to the compression in quality as well as compression in size. I am reading this on a 7" kindle tablet, so that's a fair amount smaller than the original print edition. I ran into problems with the lettering in the same manner. Most of the time it wasn't too difficult to read, though sometimes it wasn't clear. I definitely had to have the screen a closer distance from my face compared to other things I've read (comics included).

I will probably continue reading the classics volumes (I think I have vol 1-4) but highly doubt that I'd read them again. My boys would probably enjoy them though.

Oh, I should also mention that I got this from HumbleBundle, and assuming it's the same as any other version, but there were a couple issues missing for some reason. I think #3 and #9. I'd have to go back and check and I can't be bothered. It didn't really affect too much of the continuation, but maybe slightly.

David Shelby says

It's cheesy, it's old fashioned, and it's great. Though the art may be a bit lacking in places, Budiansky and his team did an excellent job weaving high action with surprisingly interesting characters that make for a fun experience.

I can't say it's the best Transformers book ever written, but it's definitely right up there.

Carlos Enrique says

Con una historia que no tiene nada que ver en la mayoría de sus aspectos con su contraparte animada de los 80's, me encuentro y me sumerjo en un universo de Transformers que me hace querer leer más de estos ya clásicos comics.

Lecturas recomendadas para todo amante de Transformes, personajes que a muchos nos acompañan desde nuestra niñez.
