



Avengers: The Children's Crusade

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The Young Avengers return in an epic saga by series creators Allan Heinberg and Jim Cheung. When Wiccan's reality-altering powers begin to rival those of the Scarlet Witch, the young hero sets out on a quest to find her that spans the Marvel Universe and pits Wiccan against both the Avengers and the Young Avengers. But will Wiccan's desire to solve the mystery of his parentage be his salvation or his undoing? With three words, the Scarlet Witch changed the world forever...and now with her return, nothing will ever be the same for the Marvel Universe. This self-contained Marvel event reintroduces and redefines the Young Avengers and the Scarlet Witch for the Heroic Age, and is essential reading for any Avengers fan.

Collecting: material from *Uncanny X-Men* 526; *Avengers: The Children's Crusade* 1-9, *Young Avengers* 1

Avengers: The Children's Crusade Details

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Author : Allan Heinberg (Writer) , Jim Cheung (Artist)

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From Reader Review Avengers: The Children's Crusade for online ebook

Mike says

A little stiff as a storyteller, that Heinberg. He's got that annoying old-school habit of trotting each member of a guest-starring team-up out to get their one line wedged in, then they disappear off stage right again. The guest stars do their cameo, then slink off again to regain their dignity after slumming in a book of lesser wonders.

Sad really - I didn't know anything about this mini-series when it first came out, and yet it's filling in a major missing piece of the puzzle of the 21st-century Marvel U. And it has the components of a great story - young people on a quest to find their secret destiny. What's not to like?

Man, I wish I didn't mind the "why show it when you can tell the reader all about it" style of storytelling. It's just that when the characters stand still in the heat of action and start expounding on the things that are clearly visible to everyone - or listing off all the facts that led them to this place - I just feel like the momentum has been totally blown every time.

And the many many panels in which the characters pose while announcing their intentions or history - it's like I'm reading a DC comic, or something from the 80's. These "movie poster" pose panels are just about the most momentum-killing thing in comics today, and we can thank Jim Cheung for keeping the tradition alive.

Once we get to the climax, there's the usual foolishness of "I'll take responsibility!" "No, *I* will!" that doesn't amount to shit except making me sick of these third-grade dramatics.

Oh but wait there's more. He's dead! No she's dead! He's healed! Now he's not! I've got pants on! Now I don't! Seriously guys, can we dispense with the cheap theatrics and just tell a story with some heart? Pacing people, pacing - when someone makes a life-altering vow, don't treat it like it didn't happen FIVE PANELS LATER. Maybe it's just me, but I tend to take big things a little more seriously than that.

I feel like this was worth it - just barely - to find out how they brought Scarlet Witch back into the Marvel U. The plot was certainly interesting and gave us something to think about. It sure had echoes that will ring harder after Avengers vs. X-Men. But holy hell was the execution bad - well, a throwback anyway, to the bombastic, leaden and painfully melodramatic comics that I thought we'd left behind.

C.G. Drews says

I liked this a lot. Even though I had a LITTLE trouble with 16-year-old remakes of the old avengers. What?! I don't like change. I like the Avengers for the ORIGINALS. (I even struggle with remakes of the movies sometimes...although I'm okay with the new Hulk...but I digress.) So the comic is basically about the Avengers remakes as teens as they find The Scarlet Witch (who is possibly two of the whippersnappers mother.)

It's a HUGE comic and sometimes I felt it dragged on and on and on. Gah. The last 3 sections didn't really make sense. The VERY last one, what even!?? I think I mostly got ticked off because there is Iron Lad. NO.

No there cannot be an Iron *Lad*. THERE IS ONLY PERSON IN A SUIT AND THAT IS IRON MAN
HECK YEEEEAH.

So that's probably why I had no interest/sympathy for Iron Lad. (And also that last comic was full of remakes of the remade Avengers and IT WAS CONFUSING, OKAY?)

I liked the beginning a lot though. It took me like 50 pages before I was okay with the little Avengers. And I was confused as to why some of the Avengers were old and some didn't age at all. Iron Man NEVER took off his suit (a bit weird) even when they were planning. Were the artists not comfortable in drawing him?! Confusing. And the old Avengers seemed to not be able to handle anything/anyone without these 16 year old whippersnappers doing it all. Which felt even weirder.

I think I'm just too in love with the originals.

I still had a great time reading this and I LOVE teenage superheroes. 80% of the story was completely engaging and fast moving and glorious to read. The art was spectacular. I loved reading more about the Scarlet Witch. (She's the most powerful Avenger/mutant EVER and she's also a kick-butt woman in an awesome suit [unlike most of the other women's] and I'm excited for her in the new Avengers: Age of Ultron movie!!) I appreciated the diversity. Although I have to snort at "Hulkling". Wut even.

Aaron says

An interesting, moderately important storyline affecting pretty much the entire Marvel Universe, which went oddly unspoken about at the time of its release. This is essentially the followup to the Avengers: Disassembled and House of M storylines from years ago, as well as just generally an important event in the X-Men side of things. Or, it should've been.

While the story unfolds in a gradual and ultimately pretty epic style, it never really feels as important as it portends to be. This has the feel of a book that was written to satisfy everyone who wanted to know what the hell was going on with the Scarlet Witch post-House-of-M, but without actually ruffling any feathers. There are a few relatively small deaths (that are barely dealt with), a few changes to minor characters, and the return of the Scarlet Witch, but it's all done in such a way that allows it to totally avoid any of the HUUUUUGE problems the Scarlet Witch's return should cause. This is basically a zero sum adventure, which would normally be fine, but it *shouldn't have* a zero sum. This should've been a massive blockbuster crossover, but instead feels like an adventure in a minor side comic.

I mean, the Scarlet Witch wiped out nearly every mutant on the planet with 3 words. It's been the biggest plotline in the X-Men universe for YEARS. And, once she comes back (view spoiler). So, that's it. Status quo maintained. Despite the obvious repercussions this development should've had.

As for the story itself, Heinberg's characterization and dialogue are pretty good. His writing of the Young Avengers feels particularly seasoned, hitting all their voices very well, but most of the other characters feel pretty same-y. The plot is interesting and kept me hooked for a while, until the aforementioned emptiness of the story reared its head. There are also a few instances of other characters just showing up out of nowhere to save the day, which is always a frustrating way to keep from having to deal with anything in the moment.

Overall, it feels a little too been-there-done-that for my taste.

I would say this is worth a read for anyone who loved Disassembled of House of M. It's good to finally see some lingering strings from those stories (relatively) resolved, even if they don't matter as much as they should. Others probably won't get much out of this, though.

Nikki says

Children's Crusade is pretty awesome. It's not exactly a pure Young Avengers comic -- it's definitely a crossover comic -- but it does feature quite a lot of Billy being awesome, supported by the other Young Avengers, and a fair bit of Teddy being awesome. It also features their first (I think) on-page kiss, and is generally more blatant about their relationship than the other comics so far. There's some awesome dialogue, and some lovely funny geeky bits about Billy and Teddy.

It also pulls in the X-Men, the Avengers, backlash from House of M, and features quite a few characters we know and love (or hate).

It's also not without consequences, as even the Young Avengers lose people from their line-up.

On the other hand, I can see some other people's problems with it: it seems to go back on some previous Marvel events and erase their consequences, and it really is one gigantic squabble between various superhero groups, with the teenage Young Avengers coming out as maybe the most mature.

Martin says

"The Children's Crusade" is an event book, of sorts, and contrary to a lot of other event books, the story is FUN, flows organically and has true, lasting repercussions on the Marvel Universe - and not a single tie-in issue! Yay! There's some real character growth, a few deaths (of course! - but some unexpected ones) and, by the end of the book, a new status quo - at least, for the Young Avengers team.

I am under the impression that this mini-series was not given the exposure it so rightly deserved. This book's got everything: Doctor Doom, Magneto, the Avengers (old & new), the X-Men, X-Factor and the Young Avengers (naturally). Everyone's motivations make sense and are justified, and with each and every one of them thinking they are right (and the others wrong), it creates interesting conflicts - and foreshadows Avengers vs. X-Men: the X-Men and the Avengers come to blows over who gets to decide what to do with the Scarlet Witch. Writer Allan Heinberg and artist Jim Cheung have given us a wonderfully structured and beautifully illustrated epic - in fact, Cheung's done his career-best (so far, so far) work on this book - that is sure to become one of the gems of any comic book reader's bookshelf. Let's not forget colourist Justin Ponsor's simply fabulous work.

I'd been waiting for this book a long time: since the first issue was solicited. A nine-part story arc with each part released *every two months*. Let's do the math: that's eighteen months, plus the delay for the hardcover collected edition to come out, and we're looking at about *two years'* waiting time. My expectations were so high for this book, it would've been easy for me to feel let down. Well guess what: It was even better than what I could've imagined.

I won't say any more about this book, for fear of spoiling it. Once in a long while there comes a book that's almost too awesome for words, and this is one of them.

Terence says

Two of the Young Avengers Wiccan and Speed look like twins, have the same name as Wanda Maximoff's children, and have the same powers as the Scarlet Witch and her brother Quicksilver. Wishing to know the truth the Young Avengers set out to find the Scarlet Witch Wanda Maximoff.

The Children's Crusade continues the storyline started in Avengers Disassembled and continued in House of M. Wanda's powers got out of control and she altered reality harming millions and depowering the majority of the mutant population. I was vaguely aware that this was a large scale continuation of that story line so I was interested to see how things went and I have to say things were a bit *crazy*. I really appreciated the mocking comments made about Civil War. It was hard not to mention heroes fighting each other because it seemed to be happening practically every issue in the volume.

A lot of information was revealed about Wanda and the what led up to Avengers Disassembled. It was helpful because it seemed crazy to me that Wanda's abilities went so over the top.

There were a few parts that were *too convenient*. Clearly there was some sort of plan in place to continue stretching out the events of M-Day. It was rather annoying the way things were explained and interfered with at times. It felt like someone decided Wanda had to be a hero again so some twisting of the facts was needed.

All in all the Children's Crusade was one enjoyable story.

Jeff says

In a cartoon, when someone rolls a perfectly round snowball downhill, the snowball ends up huge with rocks, trees and skiers all collected within and sticking out at odd angles. This storyline is a lot like a little snowball. What starts as a fairly simple story – two members of the Young Avengers, Wiccan and Speed* believe that they are the sons of the Scarlet Witch and with Magneto's help hope to find her.

This is where you start pulling twigs, rocks, broken limbs and torsos out of the big snowball – The Scarlet Witch, was responsible for the House of M** and killing a few Avengers***, so the X-Men and the Avengers, both want to find her, but not for a happy, feel good reunion. If Wolverine wants to gut her, it's serious.

A dreaded time travel plot thread is thrown in here too. I find time travel storylines give me constipation, light-headedness, bouts of nausea and hives, so I'm not a big fan. Hey look, it's Iron Lad, from the future, who grows up to be Kang the Conqueror, or does he? He's here to escort the kids around different points in the time stream and further muddy the storyline and get the reader's head a-shaking.

Bonus confusion points for Dr. Doom, who's on a power-trip. Again. Doom is a whore for different cosmic

power sources. I assume Galactus had a lunch date, otherwise he'd be in here as well.

You do get some clarification on the House of M storyline and the penultimate Scott Lang/Dr. Doom battle in FF, but it's still a time travel-y slogathon.

*Because he's fast. Really, really fast. Get it? Somebody wake up Stan Lee from his nap and tell him we need a better name.

**She altered reality and most mutants lost their powers.

***They're dead.

David says

Utterly brilliant. A fine example of the best that Marvel has to offer. Instant classic and essential reading for all Marvel fans. This is super-hero comics at the top of the game. Touching and heartbreaking writing. Superb artwork.

Every Marvel fan simply must read this book.

Anthony says

I love the characters Allan Heinberg created for The Young Avengers, and the way their personalities have come together over the years since the characters were first introduced. Even the most infuriating member of the team, Patriot, still interests me, and of course I think the Wiccan-Hulking duo is a much-needed fairly visible pairing for gay teens (they're committed to each other, they're not ashamed to show their love for each other, and they're not promiscuous. They're also not stereotypes).

And as a long-time Avengers fan, I should have enjoyed the fact that this storyline not only enhances the background for Wiccan, Hulking and Speed but also ties up a lot of lingering storyline knots from years of creators reversing the work of previous creators. John Byrne didn't like the fact that Steve Englehart had given Scarlet Witch and Vision kids, so he found a way to get rid of them; Brian Bendis decided to use that as the impetus to dismantle the Avengers and kill Ant-Man. Heinberg uses this storyline to bring back the kids and Ant-Man and redeem The Scarlet Witch ... but then he goes ahead and kills another character.

And I think that's ultimately why I didn't enjoy the story as much as I thought I should have: there's too much "let's fix this mistake, and that one, but then we need more drama so we'll do this..." for me. One of these days, I'd like to see a simple straight-forward adventure of The Young Avengers that isn't contingent on being a part of a massive company-wide crossover or an attempt to "fix" what previous creators have done.

(For the record: I am one of those who was pissed at John Byrne for getting rid of Wanda & Vizh's kids; I also thought it was silly for Bendis to use that as the motivating factor for Wanda going insane several decades (reader time) later.)

Sesana says

I have no idea why I picked this up. I've never read Young Avengers. Most of the characters I don't know at all, and haven't seen in any other titles that I can remember. I wasn't particularly invested in the Scarlet Witch storyline after House of M. And yet here I am, reading it anyway. Surprisingly, it was actually pretty good. I'm sure I would have gotten more out of it, much more, if I'd been invested in the cast of Young Avengers. But I liked what I saw here, and I believed their motivations and internal conflicts. I can see that this gives some closure to what must have been a long running storyline in Young Avengers (are Wiccan and Speed the sons of Scarlet Witch?) and I imagine that somebody who had that backstory would feel a lot more satisfied with the resolution.

I have to wonder, after reading this, if Marvel editorial had already decided to do Avengers vs. X-Men, because a lot of the conflict here foreshadows what's to come. Maybe I'm giving Marvel editorial too much credit with that, because this conflict actually made more sense to me. Notably, everybody here is a hell of a lot more reasonable than they would be in Avengers vs. X-men. But I won't rehash my argument that the entire thing was unnecessary here. I'm not sure the way the conflict is resolved makes that much sense, and it sure doesn't speak much to justice to me, but it is, at least, a resolution.

Nicolo Yu says

Allen Heinberg and Jim Cheung end their Young Avengers saga by bringing to a full circle their concept of teen heroes inspired by the Avengers legend that began in the aftermath of Brian Bendis' Avengers Disassembled. In this ten-part miniseries, Heinberg sought to redeem Wanda Maximoff, the reality altering chaos mage Scarlet Witch; whose nervous breakdown precipitated Disassembled. It was an appropriate story to tell and developed organically. After all, two of the Young Avengers, the mage Wiccan and speedster Speed were said to be the long lost children of the Scarlet Witch.

***Dave Hill says

Collects the 9-issue miniseries and accompanying couple of issues, focusing on the Young Avengers and two of their members -- Wiccan and Speed -- who want to confirm if they are really the lost children of the Scarlet Witch and the Vision.

But the Scarlet Witch is missing, and given her role in the "No More Mutants" genocide of mutantkind, some of the people also looking for her may have another agenda than a family reunion ... the Avengers ...the X-Men ... Magneto ... and Doctor Doom.

A great, intricate, delightfully crafted story, beautiful artwork helped by the oversize format (something I usually detests) -- and, alas, all rendered 85% obsolete by the whole Avengers vs. X-Men dust-up this past year and change. Bleah. But this book? Five stars.

Valeska says

I'm not crying, you are.

Jamil says

there's are essays to be written on this comic (The Young Avengers as fan, wish-fulfillment heroes; Crossovers as super-hero/super-villain slash-fiction; Patriot's portrayal as indicative of fandom's inability to embrace african-american heroes) but I'm too bored to write them.

charlotte says

im not crying go awya
