



Annihilation, Book Three

Keith Giffen (Writer) , Christos Gage , Stuart Moore , Andrea DiVito (Illustrations) , Giuseppe Camuncoli (Illustrations) , Mike McKone (Illustrations) , Scott Kolins (Illustrations)

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The epic collection of the cosmic event concludes! One empire has fallen. Two heroes are dead. It all comes together here! Individually, the Silver Surfer, Super-Skrull, Ronan and Nova have faced down the Annihilation Wave...and lost! Now, they must unite those who remain or die by Annihilus' hand! The Annihilation has only begun! Plus: Get caught up on all of the players in the Annihilation event - Annihilus, Nova, Ronan, the Silver Surfer, the Super-Skrull, Thanos and more - courtesy of the Xandarian Worldmind files of the Nova Corps!

Collecting: *Annihilation* 1-6, *Annihilation: Heralds of Galactus* 1-2, *Annihilation: The Nova Corps Files*

Annihilation, Book Three Details

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From Reader Review Annihilation, Book Three for online ebook

Bradley says

Galacticus. The pacing of these comics is amazingly fast and the art really tells the story even better. It's easy to get submerged in the tales and see plot fly by.

StoryTellerShannon says

For those reading all three of my reviews only the middle part has new information.

This isn't a book for a casual Marvel Universe reader. If you read it and aren't a pro you absolutely must read the historical information in between scenes.

There are a lot of stories within but they blend well enough and are needed.

In book three it comes to a close. Thanos reveals his reasons for a secret alliance with the enemy, Annihilus, the Galactic Alliance (of sorts) is brought to its knees, Galactus is NOT happy, Nova Corps finally gets its revenge and we get more focuses upon the heralds of Galactus (kudos to Firelord vs. The Centurions).

It's good but takes a while to digest and even better it's something very different from the typical Marvel superhero focuses.

OVERALL GRADE: B to B plus (just makes four stars)

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

The final book in the Annihilation series. It was quite a lead-up. I had a lot of fun with all the tie-in books that brought us to this volume and I have to say that I wasn't in any way disappointed.

Is it my favorite Marvel 'event' book?

No.

But that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy it. It doesn't mean that I didn't get a cosmic-sized slap of goodness across my face...and it was a great start for my journey deep down into all things cosmic Marvel.

Holy shit though have we ever come a long way since all this has happened, hey?

Anthony says

All the mini-series in the previous volumes have lead up to this. They don't all tie-together quiet as well as

I'd like, there are a few gaps in there, but it's good enough for a big conclusion and showdown between our Cosmic heroes and the Annihilation wave.

The Heralds of Galactus two parter afterwards isn't that good. It's a little boring since the story is done. But it does tie-up a few loose ends.

I think the strongest point of Annihilation, and why it's so highly regarded still, is how they've managed to weave all these different characters together into one coherent story. Some have crossed paths before, but never in a story this size. It can be a bit overwhelming if you're new to Marvel cosmic, but there's enough good character work in here to make it a fun read.

Ryan Viergutz says

Man, this was /good/.

You have to admire the balls of someone who builds a massive space epic full of completely obscure, unrecognized characters, introduces two HUGE ridiculously powerful villains and wallops the tar out of one of the most powerful characters in the setting.

It's a scifi war story no bloody fooling and I loved this series the whole way through. It looks like this is the only space epic created by this guy but I'm tempted to trawl the entirety of Marvel's recent space epics anyway.

Yeah, I'm just amazed at the huge scale and ambition in this story. I really love how most of the story shows characters in the background, too... just giving an idea of how massive this epic is. If you're a Marvel fan, read this, just don't expect to recognize anyone in it except for Galactus. Everybody knows Galactus... and you'll see exactly why.

Shannon Appelcline says

Annihilation. The actual *Annihilation* mini-series picks up where the Prologue left off and offers up a truly cosmic story of the sort that DnA weren't really able to replicate in what followed (despite all of the strengths of their own writing). Drax vs. Thanos! Galactus bound! It's a really, really big show and Giffen does a great job with it. There's also some strong writing in the individual issues as Giffen tells a story that has scope in both characters and time. If people say *Annihilation* was great, this is why [8/10].

Heralds. A fair coda to the main story. "A Death of Hope" is a wonderful story about Stardust, and "Brother's Keeper" addresses a big dangling thread from *Annihilation*.. The others are OK [6+/10].

Holden Johnson says

Fantastic end ? to a thrilling series. I know it will continue but I'm happy with the way things ended up.

Randy Lander says

Collecting issues #1-6 of the Annihilation miniseries, this is the real meat of the Annihilation story, as a vast cast of characters steps up into the midst of an intergalactic war to stop an immensely powerful tyrant and his army from conquering and/or destroying most of the universe.

Great war story and big epic sci-fi feel combined with the superhero elements, and terrific artwork. In addition, it really leaves off an interesting status quo for the space side of the Marvel Universe, which allows for the launch of the exceptional Nova series by Abnett & Lanning and the "sequel," Annihilation: Conquest, which is actually better than the original in most ways.

Hrishi says

If I had to review this book in one word, it would be: Payoff!

Disparate threads woven masterfully by Keith Giffen and the other writers over the various limited series that make up the Annihilation event all come to fruition, with just enough loose ends to tantalize the reader. I particularly enjoyed the Surfer/ Galactus and Thanos/ Drax arcs, although the Nova and Super Skrull/ Ronan ones were also fun. Annihilus went out with a bang, and what I appreciate is how consequential the event was. No "as if it never happened" happy ending this, which is great to see. There was also that nod to events on Earth (the Civil War event which was contemporaneous) that made me curious to read that storyline as well...

In reviewing this series/ event, so far I haven't commented on the art, which is a disservice to the books. The art is, well, cosmically good! Any fan of full page epic panels or the Star Wars cantina scene will walk away sated from devouring these books.

The only two turnoffs for me were the resurrection of a character that had died a pretty good death (but here I'm flogging a dead horse well known to comic fans) and the overpopulation of super mighty cosmic beings. One or two are great reading, but when everyone is awesome, no one is!

In summary, I think this was a great introduction to the Marvel cosmic stories for me (not having read Infinity Gauntlet), and I look forward now to the sequel, Annihilation: Conquest

Aaron says

The motives of Annihilus supposedly became clear in Book 2: to invade our universe with his horde of bugs and ships (known as the Annihilation Wave) and take back some space for his Negative Zone. The key to this seemed to have something to do with the Power Cosmic, the energy harnessed by the Silver Surfer and Galactus. Thanos, temporarily allied with Annihilus, discovers his true plans: to destroy all life in our universe. Thanos, Drax, Nova, Gamora, and Peter Quill (among many others) work together in different capacities to halt the spread of the Annihilation Wave.

Some good space opera with a massive scope, though there were almost too many characters to keep track of. I enjoyed seeing Drax performing his role as "the Wolverine of space" as he relentlessly hunted Thanos, and the dialogue between Nova and Quill was a great dose of levity in a hopeless situation. The plotting was satisfying and was much more involved and interesting than pitting one massive space navy against another until one of them wins, which is kind of what I was expecting. It was worth reading for no other reason than to see three members of the modern Guardians of the Galaxy just before the team was formed: Quill (aka Star-Lord), Gamora, and Drax, all of whom feature in the upcoming movie.

Cheese says

I'm just super glad I didn't fork out money for the omnibus as this was of low standard.

Poor storylines, poor artwork and not much of it made any sense. This volume was a little better than the rest because it had some focus on the better characters such as Galactus and his heralds. I love the Silver Surfer, I wish he had a more prominent role in this, it would have been much more fun.

The_Mad_Swede says

This is the finale to the whole *Annihilation* saga (see my reviews of *Annihilation: Book One* and *Book Two*), and Maestro Keith Giffen, event architect supreme in this case, proves that he is every bit as good as the two preceding volumes have suggested.

This volume collects the main limited series, *Annihilation* #1–6, written by Giffen and beautifully drawn by Andrea DiVito, as well as *Annihilation: Herald of Galactus* #1–2 (containing the stories "Parasites", written by Christos N. Gage, pencilled by Giuseppe Camuncoli, and inked Stephano Landini; "Stardust: A Death of Hope", written by Stuart Moore and drawn by Mike McKone; "Afterburn", written by Giffen and drawn by Scott Kolins; and "Brother's Keeper", also written by Giffen and drawn by Andrea DiVito), and *Annihilation: The Nova Corps Files* (various writers and artists).

The main series is great. Giffen shows that he is forced to be reckoned with on the cosmic scale; and for someone who has mostly been familiar with his funny JLA/JLI stuff (with J. M. DeMatteis and Kevin Maguire), the ultra violence of Lobo (with Alan Grant and Simon Bisley), and his stint as artist on the Legion of Superheroes (with Paul Levitz), this comes as something of a (welcome) surprise. I am certainly looking forward to going back to read his brief run on *Thanos*, taking over from Starlin himself, which I never got around to when it happened.

In terms of the content, I do not want to say too much, but everything the two previous volumes have set up comes to a head: it is Tenebrous and Aegis, Thanos, Annihilus, et al, vs. the brave collection of heroes who have made it this far. And DiVito's art makes it all the more enjoyable.

In the two *Heralds of Galactus* issues, we are treated to four stories: "Parasites" gives us the story of Terrax the Tamer, whereas "Stardust: A Death of Hope" gives us the story of ... you guessed it: Stardust. In "Afterburn" (where Giffen once more shows off) Firelord is at the centre of things, and in "Brother's Keeper", the Silver Surfer and his master Galactus settle the score with Tenebrous and Aegis. The stories add to the whole (to different degrees), Giffen's contribution more so. All in all, it is a nice little epilogue of sorts.

Finally, there is *Annihilation: The Nova Corps Files*, written by various writers and drawn by various artists. The seed for this could already be seen in previous volumes, where we have been treated to snippets of fact sheets from the Nova Corps Files. Here, however, some of the files we have already seen appear to have been rewritten, and not always necessarily for the better. The problem is that it straddles the fence a bit too much. On the one hand, it tries to be old school Official Guide to the Marvel Universe entries (which would have been nice), but it lacks the relevant bibliographical references which would allow us as readers to know where to go for referenced stories. On the other, it attempts to create a fictionalised archive (i.e. that of the Nova Corps), but it fails in that it contains information, which likely would not be known by the Corps, even though it would be by readers of the relevant comics. As such, it was a bit of hurdle to slog through, but I wanted to give it a shot. And some of it was enjoyable too.

All in all, this is very good cosmic Marvel, and I am very much looking forward to rereading Abnett and Lanning's *Nova* and *Guardians of the Galaxy* while reading the events that followed alongside.

Heartily recommended!

Elinor Master of Gifs says

3,75

Voilà ! Les issues de l'événement elles-même sont très bonnes ! J'ai beaucoup aimé, c'est plutôt épique, Richard n'est pas aussi agaçant, et j'aime beaucoup les alliances improbables pour défaire un ennemi commun. Drax est celui qui ressemble le plus à sa version cinématographique, Peter est un cyborg oO Les hérauts de Galactus, après, sont par contre très dispensables. Seule la partie sur Silver Surfer est importante, et elle n'est pas franchement bien exécutée à mon humble avis.

Mike says

I read most of this book by accident out of order from the minis that preceded it, and found myself both confused by all the implied recent adventures and conflicts, and at the same time bored by all the implied drama that seems to have relied so heavily on the prologue that was built up before this book.

After re-reading the generally execrable prologue books (save the Drax and to a lesser extent Super Skrull minis), I realise that there's still plenty of action and developments that head left off the table or nearly forgotten. Like how did Nova and Starlord meet? How did Gamora get from an exiled attacked planet with her "Graces" to battling at the front lines with Nova and Starlord? How did the Kree armies get hooked up with the rest? It's like there was some other inter-story that got scrapped that could've been just as interesting to tell (or even moreso than the prologues that they did bother to publish).

Man, for a series of prologues, they sure did a spotty job of setting up the action in this story. Still felt like getting dropped in the middle of it all.

What's more than a little confusing about this book's main battles is how ineffective the Cosmic Power wielders are at wiping out the waves of grunts. IIUC, any one of these guys could take out a massive battlefield with one massive burst. We've got multiple Heralds, Ronan, hell even just Nova with the entire

Nova force. What's the big deal guys? Why do you all look like you're sweating so hard?

This might be my main problem with giving so many of these guys massive space-powers (and why I don't get terribly excited by the whole cosmic arm of the Marvel U) - I don't feel terribly invested in their "struggles", and I'm confused when they ignore their own powers. It's particularly weird with Nova, who stands around the battlefield yelling at people instead of frying a few thousand beetle-villains at a pop.

On with the show... did I already mention in another review this whole "woman" thing regarding Gamora? I'm a little confused that one bug-looking alien finds Gamora (a humanoid alien) so attractive that he'd drool "Got no use for brains. That body though..." Are we really to believe that there's (a) sexual attraction between alien species, (b) the same male-female dynamic across the galaxies and (c) that different species find the same body parts and conformation attractive? Most sci-fi (or maybe just Star Trek) has led me to believe that what I find attractive about Gamora (ample boobs & hips with narrow waist and lithe limbs) would be neutral or disgusting to other species. Ugh, damn you Roddenberry for ruining a simple teenaged-boy-worthy lascivious moment.

The action is suitably big, even for this all-across-space storyline. The deaths and rebirths are pretty good, and the cameo appearances I am amused by (Blastarr? Space Knight?)

The results are impressive, though they don't feel earned. Kree and Skrull are forever changed. Galactus is back on stage, with Silver Surfer leading the way. Most of the rest of the heroes are alive and kicking, but the whole thing was resolved with some damned last-minute deus ex machina, and the epilogue is like the end of Animal House with such lamely-conveyed VoiceOver BS. Terrible ending.

Then on to the Heralds of Galactus coda, one written by my favourite paint-by-numbers hack, Christos Gage, and the other by the sergeant of the old guard, Keith Giffen. The former story was just terrible, no idea why it was even necessary. The latter story at least had a purpose, though it could pretty easily have been a flashback in another later book. Ultimately Silver Surfer again sacrifices himself amid soliloquy after energy blast, and Galactus once again tells us how impressed he is with his servant. Yay.

I'll mention Andrea Divito here as a great artist - capturing big scenes with clarity and weight, and making the individual characters seem fairly real and embodied.

So the big question is: did this whole Annihilation storyline make me feel any more prepared for the forthcoming Guardians of the Galaxy movie? Only a tiny bit - I got to know a little about Drax and Gamora, basically nothing about the others. Would more recent GotG books probably have covered the same ground? Almost certainly, and without all this grade-B writing from creators I've never heard of. Basically, for anyone else in my shoes, I'd recommend skipping this and heading for stuff that might matter or entertain more. According to one of the chronologies

Paul says

Book 1 – Excellent Prologue and introduces us to some great main characters.

Book 2- Unworthy follow up to book one. Never picks up any pieces and the character's stories are disjointed in comparison to the over all story of Annihilation,

Book 3 – Read on!

I have to admit that at the end of book one, I was excited to read on. Then I got to book two and couldn't figure out why they would come off the high of book one to this. Well the opening pages of book three were the pay off! We start in the middle of the war with everyone from the past books – united as one team!

Next question – Why? I mean in book one we see how the team between Nova and Drax form, but book two was a bunch of solo stories. No reason that they all end up on the same team, it just happens! Further confusing is the fact that some of them were fighting each other in the last book, why are they teammates now?

Weigh in what happens to Silver Surfer and Galactus through vague flashbacks! What? Did I miss a book 2.5? Shouldn't have Marvel spent some time explaining how this happened in book two, over the individual, blah, stories they did tell?

All the threads get tied up. Not necessarily nicely, but they are solved. Some conclusions were convenient (why was Silver Surfer involved at all in this series? Only to make a convenient one panel change in the war.) The best part (though short) is the show down between Annihilus and Nova. Fitting retribution to the ending of book one!

The book ends short. I was surprised to see it end before I was halfway through. I couldn't figure out what the other half of the book was made up as. Unused art? Cover Gallery? Afterward from the creators? Try none of the above. The final half of the book serves as an Epilogue, showing us what happens to the Heralds of Galactus after the war. These collections of short stories are not worth the time. Unless you are a true fan of the Heralds and need to know, end on a high note and stop reading after the war stops!

Final verdict. Don't think into it too deeply! It is excellent eye candy. If you are a cosmic fan – you may like it. If you are not, be a bit wary.
