



## Avengers: Fear Itself

*Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , John Romita Jr. (Illustrator) , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Nick Spencer (Illustrations) , Scot Eaton (Illustrations) , Chris Bachalo (Illustrations)*

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**Avengers: Fear Itself** Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , John Romita Jr. (Illustrator) , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Nick Spencer (Illustrations) , Scot Eaton (Illustrations) , Chris Bachalo (Illustrations)

The God of Fear has come to Earth and the only thing standing between it and world domination are Earth's Mightiest Heroes! Can the Avengers stand against an evil older than time itself? Or will even the strongest heroes on the planet fall? It won't take some of the Avengers to fight the madness of Fear Itself--it will take ALL OF THEM! The New Avengers and Avengers join forces in the face of true fear! And who will join the New Avengers for the first time EVER? Stay tuned, True Believer! Plus: amidst the ashes of what is left of the Marvel Universe, and during the battles throughout New York, an all-new Avengers romance blossoms.

**Collecting:** *Avengers* 13-17, *New Avengers* 14-16

## Avengers: Fear Itself Details

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Author : Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , John Romita Jr. (Illustrator) , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Nick Spencer (Illustrations) , Scot Eaton (Illustrations) , Chris Bachalo (Illustrations)

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**Download and Read Free Online Avengers: Fear Itself** Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , John Romita Jr. (Illustrator) , Mike Deodato (Illustrator) , Nick Spencer (Illustrations) , Scot Eaton (Illustrations) , Chris Bachalo (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Avengers: Fear Itself for online ebook

## Sesana says

I'm a little surprised at myself for rating this book so highly. The framing narrative, that the Avengers are being interviewed on camera about the events of Fear Itself, is frankly irritating. It's something that would have been much better done in just one or two issues, not across the entire book. There are times when the format works, and works beautifully, but it's just overused. Which is a shame, because it's a perfectly good concept in the abstract, and it allows for the delivery of some very effective pages with the characters musing over what it means to be a hero, and an Avenger.

Even with the overused concept, even though I'm only vaguely aware of what was going on in the Fear Itself event, it's still a four star book. And it's because Bendis was playing to his own strengths as he wrote, and not letting the event take over. For Bendis, that means characters that act, react, and interact like people, for the most part. So we get a fantastic issue of Spider-Woman dealing with her demons, a very effective page of Mockingbird ([view spoiler](#)), and Squirrel Girl being Squirrel Girl. Add to that the relationship between Luke Cage and Jessica Jones, Spider-Man's fantastic exit from the New Avengers, and lots of action, and it's a very entertaining book.

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## Mike says

Bendis continues to impress. His writing here still has the touches of humour I enjoy, and the moments of emotional truth that I've come to expect from him as he *\*works\** at his craft. The Spider-Woman storyline actually got me a little teary-eyed.

So here's the deal: I enjoyed reading this. But it was like reading a standalone one-shot of "best of" Bendis Avengers writing and JRJ/Deodato artistry. I vaguely remember the themes from previous issues. But I don't even remember the plot points from the Fear Itself main story, and I only read *\*that\** graphic novel a week ago. Maybe it's an ageing brain, but something tells me Bendis was more focused on being Bendis than bowing to Fraction's overarching storyline. Which is still entertaining as hell, but not the most superlative tie-in. I really wonder how much time Bendis had to tune into the finer plot points, and how much he said, "screw it, I'll just write around the major plot points and hope no one notices".

This is still great Avengers storytelling. I wish this book (a mash-up of Avengers and New Avengers) had a little more depth for either deriving series. So I could have more time to catch enough references to recent plots that I could maybe remember all the little changes Bendis has been making along the way.

Mockingbird? Squirrel Girl? And is Victoria Hand good or bad?? I just don't remember, and I feel like I would've enjoyed this as a standalone Avengers book if I did. I gotta agree with others, tho: multiple issues of the "talking heads" concept is grating as hell (it's fun in page-or-two spurts, but don't overindulge).

I have no problems with the art. Deodato is awesome as always - in fact I swear his art is gaining more depth and shading. JRJ is unassailable, or at least he's still talented enough not to make it worth picking a fight over a "classic" style.

I'm giving this four stars for the Cage/Jones dynamic, for Spidey's rant, and for the "hero moments" that elevate this to "event" levels.

My plot spoilers:  
(view spoiler)

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## Anne says

**This was pretty fun for a tie-in!**

*The best part was Squirrel Girl kicking Wolverine's ass.*

I haven't read the REAL Fear Itself event, but I think it was that thing where Red Skull's daughter (and also new Red Skull), Sin, did...*something evil*, and unleashed a bunch of enchanted hammers on unsuspecting heroes/villains.

**And FEAR. Don't forget about the FEEEEEAR!**

*But, seriously, pay no attention to me.*

*I know nothing about any of this.*

So, yeah, I don't know what was going on in the rest of the Marvel universe, but now I *do sort of* know what the Avengers were up to.

The whole thing is shown through flashbacks while different members of the Avengers (and New Avengers) are being interviewed. That style of storytelling may get on some people's nerves, but I really enjoyed it.

It didn't really give you a complete picture of anything, but there were several small stories that played out (I thought) very well.

One of my favorites were Spider-woman & Hawkeye making an awkward love connection. You know it's going to end badly (and so do they!), but it's one of those beautiful train wrecks.

And another was Daredevil helping Squirrel Girl save Luke and Jessica's baby, when the Avengers Tower goes down. Everything about that one got me in the FEELS!

I usually enjoy almost anything that Bendis writes, and this one was no exception. If you've been putting this one off out of fear (<--see what I did there?) that you won't get it, stop worrying. This is a (fairly) self-contained little section of the event.

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## **Jeff says**

Don't be scared.

I've read everything my library has on the shelves having to do with the Fear Itself cross-over event and fearfully thought maybe, just maybe, I was skimming the bottom of the Marvel barrel with this volume, but no, there was nothing to be afraid of, Brian Michael Bendis wrote this and happily it's probably the most solid entry out of the nine I've read!! Frightening, right?

Bendis usually writes the better volumes in Marvel's cross over madness (see Dark Avengers from Dark Reign or House of M) and this one is no different. It's told in retrospect by the talking head heroes themselves addressing an interviewer and this entry focuses on individual stories rather than group efforts.

Fear Itself in a nutshell: Norse God Odin has a secret brother who's evil. This dude has seven Thor-like hammers that he distributes like crack candy to a few of the needier earthlings dubbed the WORTHY: The Hulk, Juggernaut, The Thing, Grey Gargoyle (he's French), The Absorbing Man and his hooker girlfriend, Titania, Attuma (Namor's bestest pal), and Sin, the Red Skull's nutty daughter. Their job is to spread, um, fear as in "If I had an Evil Hammer, I'd Hammer it evilly in the morning, noon and night, all over the land..."

*Bite me, Brunhilda!!*

Plus, bonus: Nazis.

*Now go kick some Hun ass, Mockingbird!*

Mockingbird along with Spider-Woman, the Red Hulk...

*Ooooh! That'll leave a mark.*

...Daredevil...

...and Squirrel Girl all are spotlighted.

Squirrel Girl has game kicking Wolverine's aged Canadian butt...

...and then calling in her furry pals to dispose of some Nazi henchman...

...however, it's not enough to prevent the Avengers Tower from crumbling like a cheap pup tent.

**Bottom line:** The most Fear-ful, destructive, carnage ridden, violent, bossest collection in the Fear Itself cross-over canon. Well done, Mr. Bendis!

Way to use those super senses, Hornhead, to get yourself out of a delicate situation.

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## Sineala says

I actually only read the Avengers half, but I really liked the conceit of having the team discussing the events of Fear Itself in post-event interviews, and I enjoyed the focus on Clint, Jess, and Carol, as well as Steve and his angst.

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## Emmett Spain says

A superior tie-in to what was a lacklustre event. Bendis cleverly takes the focus away from big action, knowing that we can find it in the other event volumes, and puts the focus on the characters. What they are going through, the sacrifices they make, the personal relationships they yearn for. Characters like Mockingbird and Spider-woman, who rarely get any development whatsoever, here get to express their hopes and desires, and reflect how the world sees them (in a way that smells of meta-narrative very much in the Bendis style - he likes to reflect the status of each Avenger in the same way that they are viewed in the general readership). Overall this was a welcome change from mindless punchfests and a rare glimpse into the minds and hearts of some of the lesser Avengers. Bravo.

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## Sonic says

If you have read my reviews then you know that I loath Bachalo's marshmallow illustration, but I will admit this was on the better side of the spectrum for him.

I love the art of Romita Jr. and Deodato so things balanced out in the end (for the most part.)

And Bendis is almost always a pleasure to read, and while this was not his strongest stuff, it was still a very enjoyable read.

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## **Kevin Giebens says**

### **A fun tie-in to the Marvel event, which I never expected to be so good...**

I thought I'd seen everything the Avengers could do, in the Marvel Event itself. Fortunately, I was very wrong. This tie-in gives a much closer look at some of the Avengers who aren't shown that much in the event itself.

What makes this story so special though, is the way it's been told to the reader. The whole story is shown in flash-backs, while the members of the Avengers explain what happened to them and their friends. This was perfect to give the characters the development they all deserved.

The fun thing about this issue is that they also included the 'New Avengers' in the same way of story-telling.

We got to see how Squirrel Girl, Daredevil, Red Hulk, Spider-Woman, Ms. Marvel,... reacted to the horrors happening all over the world. And how they dealt with the fact one of their own turned evil as well.

I liked this tie-in a lot. Although I didn't care for all characters, the way of story-telling felt fresh and made me care more for them...

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## **Brian Poole says**

The Avengers attempted to help with the rebuilding of Asgard, just as the Red Skull (daughter edition) launched her “fear god” attack on the world. The team contended with large Nazi robots, while Red Hulk fought a fear god-possessed Thing, resulting in the destruction of Avengers Tower. Ms. Marvel, Spider-Woman, Protector and Hawkeye all wound up fighting the possessed (Green) Hulk in Rio. Hawkeye (recently split from Mockingbird) and Spider-Woman took steps toward a romance. Steve Rogers went on a commando raid in Sweden with just Sharon Carter, Maria Hill and Victoria Hand as support. They fought some neo-Nazis and things weren't going their way, until Daisy Johnson (a/k/a Quake) arrived to help out. The Avengers then joined the final assault on the fear-powered Red Skull.

Meanwhile, Mockingbird's rapid recovery stunned the other New Avengers. Just in time, as tension over Victoria Hand nearly split the team. The New Avengers plunged into the fight against the Red Skull's Nazi robots. Meanwhile, Squirrel Girl ran a gauntlet through the embattled city in order to get to Luke and Jessica's baby, to keep her safe and Daredevil came to the rescue. In the aftermath, Luke and Jessica finally convinced Daredevil to join the New Avengers.

This is a tough collection to get into. It's inextricably tied to *Fear Itself*, which was one of Marvel's least successful crossover events of the past few years. Compounding the problem was Brian Michael Bendis using the “talking heads give interviews to an unseen documentarian commenting on the action” device that was already over-used at that point. The result was to devote pages and pages to grids of talking heads, telling you about the action, instead of showing it. It was a curious choice that further enervated a tie-in to an unsuccessful story. Some of the character work was nice, but a lot of it got lost in the shuffle. This collection

can best be remembered for the start of the Hawkeye/Spider-Woman pairing, which never made a lot of narrative sense, and for Daredevil's long overdue induction. On the art front, John Romita, Jr., Chris Bachalo and Mike Deodato all contributed issues. All three artists struggled with ways to make pages of talking head grids dynamic and none especially succeeded. Bachalo probably managed slightly better to add a bit of interest where he could, but grids of talking heads are not especially interesting. Each did some decent work with the action sequences slipped in between the interviews, but there wasn't a lot of momentum. Ultimately, *Fear Itself* was as unmemorable as the event it supported and is relevant only for completists.

A version of this review originally appeared on [www.thunderalleybcp.com](http://www.thunderalleybcp.com)

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## **Ableabelian says**

First, this is basically Volume 2.5 of the Bendis Avengers series.

You know, this comic collection is beyond frustrating. The individual comics are GREAT, and there's some really deep issues raised that I love. And yet, I picked this up because Volume 3 of the Avengers by Bendis has (SPOILER) happened.

Said SPOILER-Y thing, that is arguably THE CENTRAL FOCUS of this plot line, is not in the eponymous volume.

The issues are good, but Marvel makes it way too hard to follow a specific story.

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## **Michael says**

So I read the first issue in this series. This is the thing: you pick up a series and you instantly feel lost. the characters and plot refer to something that happened in the last series, so you seek that out in order to get caught up. Same thing: you can't truly understand *this* until you know about that, and on and on *ad infinitum*. If I truly want to understand the story of the Avengers--and this is one comic books series out of dozens--I need to go back to the beginning. All the way back. 1963. There are more than 400 comic books! And this doesn't count special runs, alternate characters, etc. The New Avengers! The Teen Avengers! Avengers 2.0! Fall of the Avengers! Rise of the Avengers! The Avengers Unplugged! The Avengers Re-Plugged! It's bewildering.

My Marvel Unlimited account has access to 20,000 comic books, with more added every month. Ye gods.

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## **Chelsea says**

review to come

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## **Jordan Lahn says**

Really love the talking heads format of this arc. It really makes it stand out from the rest of the series. Spider-Woman really gets a chance to voice some of her internal demons, and her relationships with Ms Marvel and Hawkeye are really developed. It was also fun seeing Squirrel Girl get a chance to show her stuff. Strangely, I kind of like the fact that the Avengers and New Avengers tie in issues for big events don't follow the plot of the larger events, and instead tell more peripheral stories. It gives lesser known characters a chance to have their stories told. That's one of the things I really like about the New Avengers series in particular.

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## **Anchorpete says**

When Bendis' run ends on Avengers, it may be a good time for me to stop buying comics. That will never happen though. I just feel that since I returned to comics in 2001, after giving them up for five years, AVENGERS have been linked with Bendis, from Avengers Disassembled to Avengers vs X-men. How many times can I say Avengers in here?

This trade captures the feeling of having a family of random super heroes strung together. This features characters that are basically made for the avengers team- Thor, Iron Man, Cap, Hawkeye (hey weren't they in some movie, recently?) and then the characters who stand out on their own- Spider-man, Wolverine. it makes 'Fear Itself' not seem that bad. Read this as opposed to the actual 'Fear Itself' trade.

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## **Aaron says**

This could've been a really solid, character-driven crossover entry, which seems to be what Bendis wanted this to be. The problem is, he uses this stupid "interview" format where every character expounds their every inner thought and feeling to an invisible (interviewer? journalist?) person off screen. This would be lazy as all hell even if this were TV, where that format is somewhat more natural. In comics, it feels downright insulting. Particularly since we never even know who the hell is conducting these interviews or why. They just appear to be for some random book about superheroes.

The actual stories themselves are good, not great. Pretty much every issue is devoted to telling the story of one or two characters' struggles during the New York-based events of Fear Itself, largely answering the question "Where were you when Avengers Tower fell?" for each of them. I also found this to be a little weird, since the allegory for Avengers Tower falling is clearly 9/11, a real-world, far more devastating event that technically also happened in the Marvel Universe. It definitely lessens the impact when you try to compare a fictional tower for superheroes to real towers where thousands died.

That said, I still very much enjoyed several of these. Squirrel Girl's story, oddly, was probably my favorite, with Daredevil's introduction as a New Avenger also tugging at my (admittedly fanboy) heartstrings. I'm interested to see if the events here actually matter in the larger arcs of these series, as they definitely don't seem like they will, other than the fact that the Avengers are gonna need a new house now. As such, this is probably a missable book, but some of the better Fear Itself stuff I've read so far, if you're into that sort of thing.

