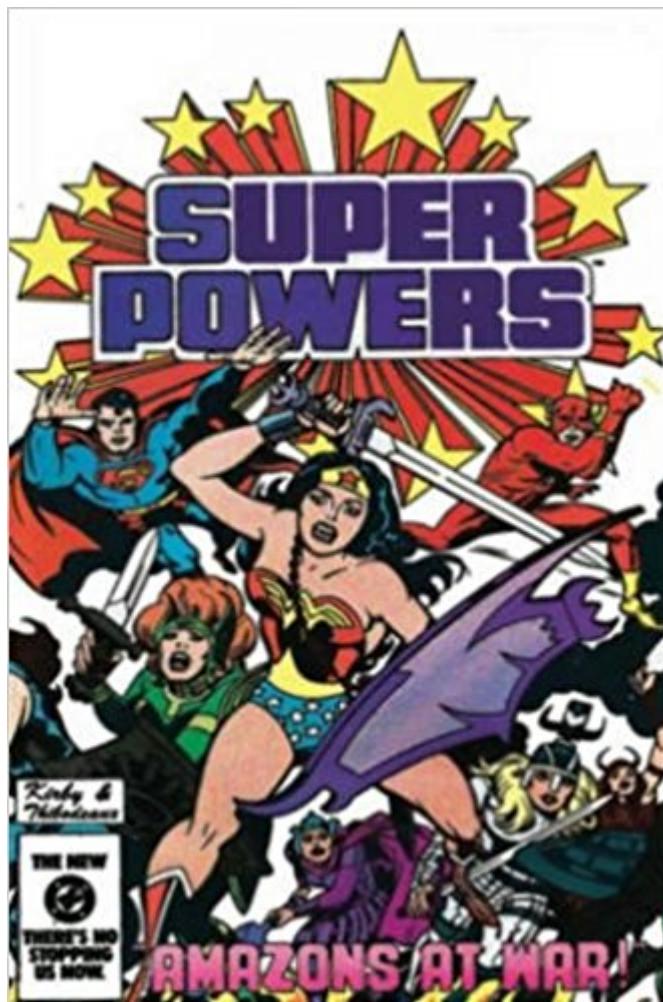


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The Jack Kirby Omnibus Vol. 2



Synopsis

À New York TimesÀ BestsellerIn the 1970s, after his incredible run of comics for Marvel including Avengers, Fantastic Four, X-Men, Thor and more, Jack KirbyÀ returned to DC Comics to create such groundbreaking series as Kamandi, The New Gods and more. During that period, KirbyÀ also created a number of projects that lasted only a few issues, such as The Sandman, starring a super hero who delves into the world of dreams, as well as Atlas (from 1st Issue Special), Kobra, Kung Fu Fighter and more. Now, for the first time, these titlesÀ are collected in a massive hardcover. This volume also collects Kirby's 1980s work on the Super Powers series, based on a veryÀ popular toy line. These issues represent Kirby's only work on the Justice League of America, including Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Flash and more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack "King" Kirby's comics career began in 1937 and continued for nearly six decades. After his fruitful collaboration with Joe Simon ended in the late 1950s, Kirby joined Marvel Comics, where the first issue of Fantastic Four cemented his reputation as comics' preeminent creator. A slew of famous titles followed that elevated Kirby to legendary status, including Incredible Hulk, Avengers and X-Men. Kirby returned to DC in 1971 with his classic "Fourth World Trilogy," which was followed by THE DEMON, KAMANDI and OMAC. Kirby continued working and innovating in comics until his death in 1994.

Jack Kirby, came back to DC in the 1970s after leaving Marvel; he then went back to Marvel; then returned again to DC with mixed results. This book starts off with material from Kirby's reprint run of Black Magic (the original was out in the 1950s the reprints in the 1970s). We get to see two one shots from 1st Issue Special: The Dingbats of Danger Street (an updated kid gang) and Atlas. Sadly there were more issues of the Dingbats but they were never published: it is a shame they did not make this volume. The highlight of the book is Kirby's Sandman; a fun take on the character. This and Kobra (a book based on a villain) are unique high points of this collection. Now about Super Powers- this was a series drawn by Kirby to promote a toy line. In one way it is cool to see Jack handle the Justice League on his own; in another way it is sad to see his art in decline; I am not trying to disrespect him but then again Kirby even at his weakest is better than others at their top. The book itself uses non-glossy paper which I like as it gives the volume more of a "real" comics feel. Even at the cover price I think it is worth it; but at the discount price (at least at the time I write this review) I think it is well worth it to see why Jack was known as King Kirby.

It is a wonderful value, over 600 pages of Kirby material, but it isn't as glorious as other collected Kirby volumes (Kamandi, Fourth World, The Demon, etc). The first 150 or so pages are reprints of reprints, some early Kirby/Simon horror tales, and they're not that interesting as hoped. The Sandman, Kung Fu Fighter, Kobra, all are dynamic in their own way but each have their own faults. Mostly what we have here is Kirby collecting a check and not really going all out crazy as he did with The Eternals, Mister Miracle and The Fourth World. Some of the storytelling (even in the pages not written by Kirby) is extremely shaky even by early 70's standards. And as one reviewer mentioned above, the Super Powers series shows the King's art in a definite decline. However it is good to finally have these tales collected, and when you can get this massive book for under \$25 dollars, how can you complain? This will have a fitting place on the bookshelf beside the other Kirby collections, but as more of a curiosity. It doesn't have the replay value of The New Gods, or his great 70's Captain America stories, but what does?

Now THIS is how an omnibus should be done! Great reproduction, great color and great artwork by the King himself, Jack Kirby! This edition covers Jack's work at DC Comics after he had created his Fourth World opus, and after he had returned to Marvel Comics, gone into animation, and become a free agent, as it were. The selections here are a strange cross-section of DC Comics in the seventies and eighties. Black Magic reprints some old Kirby tales from the fifties, including some of his Dream Detective stories. Following that up was Kirby's revival of the Sandman, this time as a

character who could control dreams, an issue of Kung Fu Fighter, the first issue of Kobra, some First Issue Specials (including the revival of Manhunter), Superman meeting the Challengers, and the first two Super Powers toy tie-in series. My one qualm with the book is the addition of all the Super Powers issues; Jack did plot the series, but only wrote and drew the final issue. The first four had some truly atrocious art (which had the saving grace of some Alan Kupperberg inking on a few issues), and had little to do with Jack; it comes off as four issues of filler in an otherwise excellent volume. Having Kirby do the entirety of the the second series more than makes up for it, since we get Jack's take on Doctor Fate, Red Tornado, Martian Manhunter and even the modern-look Green Arrow. Speaking of GA, I've read a lot of complaining reviews on the first Kirby Omnibus, since it had Green Arrow on the cover and wasn't completely Green Arrow all the way through; apparently no one bothers to look to see exactly how much of the feature Kirby actually did - it was only about nine or ten eight-page stories. That's obviously not going to fill 300+ pages. If the rest of that book is anything like this, I'm definitely grabbing it as soon as I find an affordable copy. If you like good comics, and/or if you like Jack Kirby, THIS is definitely a book for you!

I met Kirby back in the 80's when comic cons were still kind of geeky. He was such a polite man, yet you could feel the intensity of how much he enjoyed his work through his responses to questions. The 2nd series of Super Powers were just released back then. I always enjoyed the JLA & to find my favorite artist doing the Super Powers series was a dream come true. This series of stories in Omnibus #2 fills out more of Kirby's tenure with DC. To fill up the book even more, DC gives us a generous helping of his contributions to the Black Magic series plus 1-shots & his contributions to the revived Sandman series of the 1970's. I bought the Sandman series back then but was disappointed that it didn't catch on with the readers. Kirby was not a constant artist on it & the omnibus only reprints #1, 4, 5 & 6. DC published The Sandman book which is a collection of Kirby & Simon's Sandman stories from the 1940's & the 1st issue of the revised Sandman story from 1974, but nothing followed after that. So, it was a delight to see this Omnibus with more meat to it from the Sandman 1970's era

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