



Avengers: The Initiative, Volume 3: Secret Invasion

Dan Slott (Writer) , Christos Gage , Harvey Tolibao , Stefano Caselli (Illustrations)

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"We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us!"

During the Infiltration, a Skrull at the heart of Camp Hammond said these words: "It won't be long until we have a Skrull in every state". Now that Skrull stands revealed and the fate of The Initiative, the United States, and Planet Earth hang in the balance! Plus: Former Avenger, Delroy Garret, assumes the mantle and arsenal of Earth's greatest Skrull-Hunter, THE 3-D Man! He's here to chew bubblegum and kick some Skrull-@\$\$.

And he's all out of bubblegum.

Collecting: *Avengers: The Initiative* 14-19

Avengers: The Initiative, Volume 3: Secret Invasion Details

Date : Published February 25th 2009 by Marvel Comics Group

ISBN : 9780785131502

Author : Dan Slott (Writer) , Christos Gage , Harvey Tolibao , Stefano Caselli (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 144 pages

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

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From Reader Review Avengers: The Initiative, Volume 3: Secret Invasion for online ebook

Jdetrick says

The revelations of this book make some of my earlier critiques invalid, but it doesn't make this book much better. Its a little scattered, as crossovers often are, and its saddled with some really bad art in certain issues.

Matt says

I've been interesting in rereading Secret Invasion. Because of that, I picked up this volume of Avengers: The Initiative when I saw it at a used book store. I was actually kind of excited about reading it because I saw that Dan Slott is the writer, and I've heard that he has done some great things with Spider-Man in recent years. Unfortunately, I was too out of the loop to enjoy this book.

There was a lot working against me.

1. I have never read any of this particular series before.
2. I knew very few of the main characters.
3. This volume was published in 2009, which means the original comics came out in 2008, and I am unfamiliar with what was going on at that time (other than the obvious alien invasion).
4. I did not connect with the main protagonist (3-D Man) at all. Even after reading this whole volume, I am unsure of what his power set is, or why he is valuable enough to lead an Avengers team of his own.

With that being said, there were two things that interested me most about this volume.

1. Ant-Man. This is a different Ant-Man than the typical Hank Pym. I know this for sure because Hank Pym was in this volume as Yellow jacket. I will be doing some research on this version of the hero because his inner monologue was very funny.
2. Mutant Zero. Who is she? Why is her identity being kept a secret (not only from the other characters, but also to the readers)? There is a hint that she could be Jean Grey, but I'm sure I would have heard by now if this was true since this book was first released in 2008.

It was kind of interesting to learn more about the additional Skrull plans for the invasion, but I don't believe much of these specific battles appeared in the main "Secret Invasion" storyline, so they couldn't have been that important.

Even though I had a lot to say about this book, it did not leave me wanting to read more of this title.

Arthur says

definitely better than the last

Ben Lund says

I've been rating most of the tie-ins to the main Avengers Secret Invasion storyline as pretty low in the ratings because the activities doesn't feel like it has any bearing on the action happening in the main storyline, case in point, the deadpool one off takes place in a baseball diamond somewhere, and opens and ends with exactly one mention of what's happening elsewhere, same with Spider Man, hercules, Front line and so on. Really the only reason to read the whole thing is to be a completionist.

Anyway, with that gripe out of the way, this one is actually important, while still outside of the main storyline, it involves a pretty important part of the universe, and the development of the characters (as much as possible over 4 issues) is pretty impressive, and it emphasizes how a small group of people can make a big difference with enough effort. Still not amazing, but enough to rise above the pack.

Chad says

Some pretty solid Secret Invasion crossovers. Focuses mainly on 3D Man who is the only person who can see through the skrull's disguises. Worth reading just for the return of the Skrull Kill Crew.

B says

That ending. Ouch.

D.M. Dutcher says

Eh. Skrulls apparently have taken over the identities of many heroes and are using it to...do something I guess. I couldn't really get what. Meanwhile, forgotten hero 3-D man is the only one who can detect them, and joins up with a group of morons who try and see skrulls by barbecuing their heads and eating them.

The only redeeming moment in the book is the skrull who throws his lot in with the heroes, but his end is not satisfying. Other than that its typically horrid modern marvel; just pass on this and pick up the old Rom: Spaceknight books, which despite being a toy comic, handle similar "secret invasion" themes with a little more class.

Mitchell says

I had been wondering how the Marvel Universe handled what they inflicted on themselves with the Civil War. I should have been thinking of The Cat in the Hat Comes Back. Apparently they handled it by having the Secret Invasion of Skrulls. And what's weird is I read some of that in the past and didn't realize it connected. This book was actually pretty good until it split into multiple separate battles on the same page just with list of characters. Exciting but reasonably sensical. With good enough art.

Ernest says

I have mixed feelings about this volume. As a part of Secret Invasion, the stories were interesting and the broader impact of the Secret Invasion was more fully fleshed out, especially given the main Secret Invasion story which was lacking in depth. As a continuation of The Initiative, I was a little disappointed in the number of characters and who was chosen. This wasn't a bad volume, but I don't know whether there could have been better stories with stronger characters.

Brad says

A very, very densely packed Secret Invasion crossover that shows about half of the teams in the 50 States Initiative, brings back the Skrull Kill Krew TPB in a mostly-sensible way, and has some pathos and 3D Man. Since it's a tie-in book, there isn't quite as much gravity to the story as there could be, but it's still fun and there's a secondary Earth-ending Skrull plot that the Initiative members fend off. The fill-in artists are far too inspired by Steve McNiven, and their work is shiny and detailed, cold and confusing. While 3D Man is a fairly unmemorable hero, Ant-Man, Crusader, the Kill Krew, and some of the old Initiative members do leave an impression. (Komodo's powers seem to be reduced to growing back limbs, though.)

Mela says

This was a pretty good tie in, in fact, it might be one of the better ones, and certainly one of the most relevant. Personally, I don't feel very connected to any of the major characters (or course, the one I did grow to love dies...) and at points its got a little over complicated with too many characters running around - which went over well in the Secret Invasion tpb because those characters are all ones we've known for a long time, it's easy not to confuse them. But most of the Initiative are pretty new characters and thus it's pretty easy to get mixed up. But on the whole, it was still a good read, and I don't feel like I wasted any time reading this view of the invasion.

Patrick says

This volume is a bit of a step down for Avengers: The Initiative. The main problem is that there are too many heroes that we know nothing about. The team books work best when you get to know the characters and follow them through the ups and downs of a superhero lifestyle. In this book, we are exposed to an overwhelming amount of heroes from the 50 state initiative and you lose the connection. It's not a terrible book, but it isn't great.

Kris says

I finally realized what bugs me about The Initiative: there are just so many characters! Between the recruits and the superheroes on staff and the members of the teams in the 50 states, it's hard to keep track of everyone.

I've actually enjoyed what I've read of the Secret Invasion event (which so far has been the main storyline

and these Initiative issues). It's been fun trying to figure out who the Skrulls are on each team.

Jordan Lahn says

Wow. A pretty dark chapter for a lot of the characters in this book. Lots of sacrifices, lots of harsh character moments, and like the main Secret Invasion series it ends feeling like less than a victory. Very well done.

Angela says

The invasion properly starts. 3D man can see skrulls and goes on a mission to take out every skrull initiative member. It introduced the skrull kill crew, who are an interesting group of characters. The tour of the different initiative groups is intriguing, and makes me want to know more about the different teams. A good read.
