



Ultimate Power

Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , J. Michael Straczynski , Jeph Loeb , Greg Land (Illustrations)

Download now

Read Online →

Ultimate Power

Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , J. Michael Straczynski , Jeph Loeb , Greg Land (Illustrations)

Ultimate Power Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , J. Michael Straczynski , Jeph Loeb , Greg Land (Illustrations)

In a desperate attempt to help his friend, Reed Richards, the leader of the science adventurers known as the Fantastic Four, has accidentally punched a hole into an adjacent universe. Now something has come through the gateway from a realm known as the Supremeverse: the team of astonishingly powerful superhumans called the Squadron Supreme! Their mission: to arrest young Reed for high crimes against their world! What happens when the Squadron collides with the heroes - and villains - of the Ultimate Universe? All-out action, drama, and spectacular eye-candy!

Collecting: *Ultimate Power 1-9*

Ultimate Power Details

Date : Published March 19th 2008 by Marvel

ISBN : 9780785123668

Author : Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , J. Michael Straczynski , Jeph Loeb , Greg Land (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 232 pages

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

 [Download Ultimate Power ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ultimate Power ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Ultimate Power Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , J. Michael Straczynski , Jeph Loeb , Greg Land (Illustrations)

From Reader Review Ultimate Power for online ebook

Garrett Ballendine says

I officially understand why everyone hates Greg Lands art.

This is hands down the worst Trade in the Ultimate universe so far.

-Disgusting porn traced art that doesn't match the dialog.

-Is there a woman on screen? She's got the sexualization cranked up to 11 even just standing still and probably giving an orgasm face.

-Characters abandoning the entirety of their characterisation thus far to act completely different. Hippy Thor is suddenly taking Shakespeare lessons.

-Plot makes no sense and Ultimate Fury's never been this stupid.

Brad says

This is more of a blockbuster spectacle than most comics crossovers. It's big, kinda dumb, and full of full-page splashes, explosions, and fights. There's just enough heart (like Reed Richards' miserable plight to reverse The Thing's Thingness), brains (like the attempt to reign in the Supreme Power), and weirdness (the several stunts in the last few issues) to make it all work if you don't think about it too much. The writing slowly gets worse, though that may just be my personal preference--Jeph Loeb seems to make Spider-Man into a vaudeville shouter. Even the lettering seems to nosedive during Loeb's final three issues. Greg Land's art is fine, but he's given way too many nonsensical fight scenes to draw.

I wish the book did a better job laying out where it fits in the Ultimate/Supreme storylines. I didn't recognize most of the Squadron Supreme (must be behind), and it was jarring to see Kitty Pryde's role.

For some reason the Ultimate X-Men are there, but they do nothing.

Shannon Appelcline says

A shockingly mediocre book given the quality of two out of three writers working on it.

This is primarily an *Ultimates* book, since it's focused on their Reed Richards (and his pathway to becoming the Maker) and their Nick Fury. Unfortunately, it includes way too many Ultimates characters for any of them to get any actual characterization.

As a *Supreme Power* book, this is a step down. We get to see the Squad continuing to work for the government, and Emil Burbank gets some surprisingly nice attention, but other than that you wouldn't know who's who (and some of the character like Zarda even come across as incorrectly characterized). And there's no mention of JMS' annoyingly dropped plotlines from the actual comic.

And finally we get the original *Squadron Supreme*, and their appearance is utterly meaningless. They're just characterized as clones of *Supreme Power*, to the point where you don't even know if this is the real Squad or not.

Beyond that, the book is lots and lots of fighting. There's some joy from seeing the Ultimates and the two Squads together, but it's not enough.

Raja99 says

Why I read this book: I liked Brian Michael Bendis's work in *Ultimate Spider-Man* and the *Supreme Power* universe. I was a little leery about combining the two, but...well, read on.

(I actually read this in the form of loose issues rather than the bound-together book.)

I had trouble reading this issue by issue, but I thoroughly enjoyed it as a complete stack. The story works a lot better without a month (or more) between installments.

It starts out very grim and gritty (despite the very pretty pinup artwork) but ends up pretty goofy. I have nothing against the goofy.

I did not realize that this was going to be a collaboration, much less a three-way collaboration. There are nine issues: Bendis writes the first three, J. Michael Straczynski (yes, the *Babylon 5* creator) does the middle three, and Jeph Loeb finishes things off. The collaboration is far from seamless; neither Bendis nor Loeb seems to have much of a handle on the *Supreme Power* characters, whereas JMS, who has been their primary writer, completely nails them. (Yes, JMS can write like JMS.) Again, I have nothing against this; the book reads a bit like serial collaborations of yore, with one author planting bombs that the next author has to defuse.

I should also say that I thoroughly enjoyed Greg Land's artwork, though it occasionally resembles like lightly rotoscoped pinups (or centerfolds). Unless you're a brilliant storyteller like Sakai or Schulz, I guess I prefer shiny and pretty to dark, gritty, and "loose".

Overall: Fun to read, and something I ultimately (pun intended) can't take too seriously. It's nice to see a touch of humor (not JMS's strong point, to my tastes) applied to *Supreme Power*.

(Finished roughly 2008-09-28 23:30EDT.)

Loren says

A one-star review feels exceedingly harsh, but "Didn't Like It" describes this book far better than "It was OK." It's hardly the worst comic I've read, but it was just as disappointing as I'd feared.

I was an avid fan of JMS' "Supreme Power" series, as well as a long-time casual fan of Marvel's Ultimate books (though the only monthly series I followed was Bendis' *Ultimate Spider-Man*). A crossover between those two series of books ought to be an easy sell for me, and that's why I bought it despite much negative reaction.

Easily the way in which this book failed to meet my expectations was in its treatment of the Supreme Power/Squadron Supreme characters. Over the course of nine issues, they receive virtually zero characterization, and their role in the book is little more than to serve as a villainous force for the Ultimate Universe characters to fight. Hyperion engages in some extreme battles, Zarda talks crazy, and Arcanna's powers play a limited role, but that's literally about it. Only Emil Burbank gets a role with any meat to it, and it's a sadly hyperbolic take on his character, the consequences of which were all but ignored by subsequent

stories.

One reason for this slighting of the Supreme Power characters is just how many Ultimate characters the mini tries to include. At least a dozen have major roles, and the total hero count probably exceeds twenty. The lopsided nature of this crossover is further shown in the character summaries in the back of the book: seven pages devoted to Ultimate characters, and just one to the entire Supreme Power universe.

The plot is little more than the stereotypical 'Misunderstanding leads to characters fighting.' Except that it drags on for *nine issues* of fighting. The non-fighting portions of the 232-page book could easily be summarized in a paragraph, and the first issue (which was misleadingly promising) would occupy half that paragraph.

Many critics have come down hard on Greg Land's artwork, but that was the least of the book's problems. Personally, I think Land's art was perfectly good for this book. It's attractive, dynamic, and easy to follow. The coloring is also quite well done. If the writing was better, perhaps I'd be more critical of whether the art suited it. But as it is, the artwork was actually the best part, and the only aspect tempting me to bump the review up to two stars.

All in all, the book is a disappointment as a crossover, a failure as a story, and an outright depressing coda to the Supreme Power universe.

Scotty Cameron says

Ultimate Power to those of us who are familiar with the Squadron Supreme remember when they fought the Avengers in the 70's, well now they're fighting the Ultimates in the 2000's. When the Ultimate Squadron Supreme's world is destroyed by "Reed Richards" the Squadron Supreme goes after Reed and take him prisoner so the Ultimates, X-men, and the rest of the Fantastic Four. While they fight the Original Squadron Supreme is drawn into this mess and they fight their Ultimate Counterpart's. Then all the Doctor Doom comes in and interrupts the battle. The Hulk is Unleashed into combat and attacks all 3 factions. I liked how this takes 2 of the greatest evils of Marvel and teams them up Dr. Doom and Emile Burbank (Lex Luthor). The Squadron Supreme is Marvel's Justice League you have Hyperion (Superman), Nighthawk (Batman), Power Princess (Wonder Woman), Doctor Spectrum (Green Lantern), Whizzer (Flash), and Arcana (Zatana) and there's more. The Justice League is my favorite super hero team yes you annoying fanboy school girls don't come wining to me because like the Avengers better because of good the movie is oh wait it's the most overrated super hero movie ever Dark Knight's better nuff said.

Ketan Shah says

A serviceable story from 3 of Marvel's big guns,with some seemingly major impact on the Ultimate universe. It would be interesting to see how whether the incidents here had lasting effects or whether it was all hype. However the title is let down by the terrible art of Greg Land,who seems to draw every female character in some kind of cheesecake pose no matter what the situation. For example ,Sue Storm after taking a heavy beating and in the midst of trying to save Johnny Storm from plummeting to the earth with a force field ,props herself up with a come hither look straight out of a Sports illustrated swimsuit special. And based on Greg Land's record of swiping/tracing images from popular magazines,it could well be from that mag . Elsewhere ,female characters pose and preen for no real reason ,with expressions that range from sultry to positively orgasmic. Which isn't surprising given Land's record of tracing from porn images as well.

Everytime I encountered on of these images it totally threw me off the story and totally disrupted the flow of the comic. They might work for covers and pinups but his style had no business being used to tell a story . Some examples of Land's work can be found here:

<http://jimsmashextended.blogspot.sg/2...>

Ultimately disposable ,with writing that seemed far weaker than Straczynski's own Squaron Supreme stories and some of the worst art I've seen in the Ultimates universe,

Bookwraiths says

I'm going against the crowd and admitting I really enjoyed this one. First and foremost, this was a damn gorgeous book; Land delivering some of the most stunning visuals I've seen. Sure, it was cheesecake at times, but never too much. Second, this story featured the Ultimates and the Ultimate Fantastic Four tangling with the Squadron Supreme from Michael J. Straznyski's Supreme Power. And, three, a few important events actually take place amid the cool fights. All of these things combining to make this one a great read for me personally.

To be fair, I understand why everyone doesn't love Ultimate Power. It has a fairly standard plot for pitting our superhero teams against one another, which is a shame since a trio of great writers collaborated on it. The characterization and plot take a backseat to the action. There are so many characters going at it that none of them stand out. And the appearance of certain guest stars is pretty pointless.

Overall, this was a fun book. Others might or might not enjoy it as much as I did.

Kris Ritchie says

As I am going back and adding volumes I read this year, this one was just not that memorable.

Reed Benson says

I remember perusing the single issues of this story while I was at my hometown comics shop, flipping through the pages and spoiling the endings for myself. It seemed like every final page I came across would have me thinking, *Wow, that's huge! This story must be amazing!* See, I know it's not popular to say, but I was a fan of *World War Hulk* and all of its wanton destruction. I thought it was built well and led to as epic a climax as I could want from any summer blockbuster action film, much less a comic series. So I was hoping for the same thing from this.

There was a lot of fighting, that's for sure. But it didn't have the impact of *World War Hulk*, I don't think. Two reasons:

(1) The character development was poor. There were just too many of them! There's no way to develop all of them properly. I think they could've done a lot better if they'd left out the X-Men and Spider-Man; they didn't serve much purpose at all. It should've been "Squadron Supreme vs. The Ultimates and Fantastic Four" instead. Then they could've tightened it up a bit.

(2) It was too long. *World War Hulk* was, what, five issues? This was seven, and every issue had to end with a twist. Unfortunately, two or three of those twists resulted in more characters being thrown in to gum everything up. And it just seemed like the fight went on forever. *World War Hulk* starts with a big fight (Hulk vs. Iron Man) and amps it up a notch for each subsequent battle until the two most powerful beings in the world throw down. They could've done something like that with Thor vs. Hyperion, or at least made their first battle potent enough for the second one to mean more.

I did like the art all right. The characterization of Nick Fury was the main focus, it seemed, and it worked for what they wanted to do. Unfortunately, the writers whose stories came after this one seemed like they wanted to go a different direction with him, so his true motivation is hard to pin down. But I guess I shouldn't hold that against these writers.

It's not a terrible book. You can read it if you want. Maybe borrow it from a library or a friend. I wouldn't pay for it unless it's really cheap.

Damián Vives says

Bendis, Straczynski y Loeb cruzan de manera efectiva y cargada de acción el universo Ultimate y el de Supreme Power. La saga de nueve episodios se divide en tres actos de tres capítulos cada uno. El primero, ambientado en el universo Ultimate, está a cargo de Bendis -el principal hacedor de esta continuidad- y se centra en la distópica cruzada de Reed Richards por curar la mutación sufrida por su amigo Ben Grimm, The Thing. En su investigación, Reed desata el caos en un universo paralelo, del que emergen sus titanes -El escuadrón supremo- buscando venganza. El segundo acto, a cargo del creador de Babylon 5, centra su acción en el oscuro universo del Escuadrón y narra una espiral de conspiraciones, para desembocar en un tercer acto a pura acción a cargo del veterano Loeb. El apartado gráfico está a cargo del magistral Greg Land.

Justin says

I put off reading *Ultimate Power* for the longest time because of all the negative reviews here. This despite the fact that I absolutely love both the *Ultimate Universe* and the *Supreme Power* titles. Anyway, when I ran across a used copy of the *Ultimate Power* paperback collection I decided to give it a shot.

The story is pretty basic. The *Fantastic Four's* Reed Richards, in a quest to cure his teammate the Thing, sends probes through the N-Zone into other dimensions (you'd think he'd have learned his lesson after that whole zombie thing). One probe reached the *Supreme Power Universe*, wreaking unimaginable havoc. The *Squadron Supreme* tracks Reed down to make him pay, at which point they, the *Fantastic Four*, *Spider-Man*, the *Ultimates* and the *X-Men* proceed to pound the living crap out of each other for nine consecutive issues.

The plot is pretty basic, but Bendis, Straczynski and Loeb throw in a few surprises, and the dialogue (at least on Bendis's issues) is pretty sharp. With this many characters, there really isn't any kind of character development, and it does get hard to tell who's who after a while. I'm not sure why they decided to have Thor adopt the old school "thee and thou" dialect, or why the lettering style changed so dramatically towards the end of the book, but those are minor complaints.

Greg Land's artwork is the highlight of the book. I don't care if he traces, or that his female characters look too similar. The guy is an amazing artist, and his pages are just too stunning to complain about.

Despite the negative reaction of most fans, I actually enjoyed Ultimate Power quite a bit. I totally understand how people could be disappointed with it. It doesn't live up to the standard set by the Ultimates or Supreme Power, but it's still an entertaining, gorgeously illustrated superhero slug-fest.

Tays says

You know for all the hype these artists and writers have on Marvel, I don't understand why Ultimate Power is such a mediocre book for me. Bendis is quite a good writer and Loeb seems to be good when he's in the mood. Land is the go to guy for the artwork recently. These guys sit on throne up there on Marvel Comics. What I don't get is when they work together, they give me this mediocre read. -_-

Not that I didn't enjoy my time reading through it's pages, I did. But I guess, it's only suffice for me to say that it was to let pass time and not something that would stick with me. Not something that's memorable like Daredevil: Yellow or something. Some bits of the story were predictable, though I have got to hand it to these guys for making Fury look like a bad guy, see I found that funny. It was a little amusing for me, personally. Most of the artwork in this book is a bit off recycled, the girl characters seem to only know one pose which is kind of distracting and way out of hand in fight scenes or something. It was drawn well and inked well, but the postures are quite redundant.

So yea, Ultimate Power = MEDIOCRE.

Martin says

Eye-candy indeed! I read this one in the Deluxe hardcover format and it simply looks fantastic. The story itself was good, had a nice twist or two, but it could've been told in a six- or seven-issue mini-series instead of the nine issues we have here. How? Simple: ease up on the splash pages.

As it is, I still enjoyed it, in spite of the following points:

* It's Greg Land on art duties, and while his art in the book is clear and very well coloured by Justin Ponsor, the women in the book all look the same (or **VERY** similar: if not for the hair color and the dialogue bubbles, I'd sometimes be hard-pressed to tell you who's who).

** Some weird stuff happens in the last third of the book (the "split/duplicated" Squadron Supreme) and some of the art looks rushed, especially in issue 8.

*** Hulk seems to be the go-to guy for Fury as well as for any writer on an Ultimate title (at least as a plot device) when they want to [air quotes] do something BIG - and I'm getting tired of that. Read my rant below in the spoiler section if you want to... or don't click on it and just skip to the end of this book's review.

(view spoiler)

Anyway... Not as earth-shattering and/or Ultimate-universe-changing an event as what you'd be led to believe by reading the back cover of this book. After all, Fury returned during the "Ultimatum" event and Zarda went back to the Supremeverse at the end of Ultimate Comics New Ultimates: Thor Reborn.

Still, it was a better book than what the different reviews had led me to think, and I'm very glad I decided to check it out.

Quentin Wallace says

This volume featured some of the most gorgeous art I've seen, but the story was a little cliché. The ultimate universe is invaded by a Squadron Supreme universe, and then vice versa. Things get really confusing when the "real" Squadron Supreme shows up. Overall I did enjoy the story. There was plenty of intrigue and some pretty cool moments, but things did a little confusing and "crowded." The art alone made this a must read, however.

If you like the Squadron Supreme and/or are a big fan of the Ultimate Marvel Universe, try this one out.
