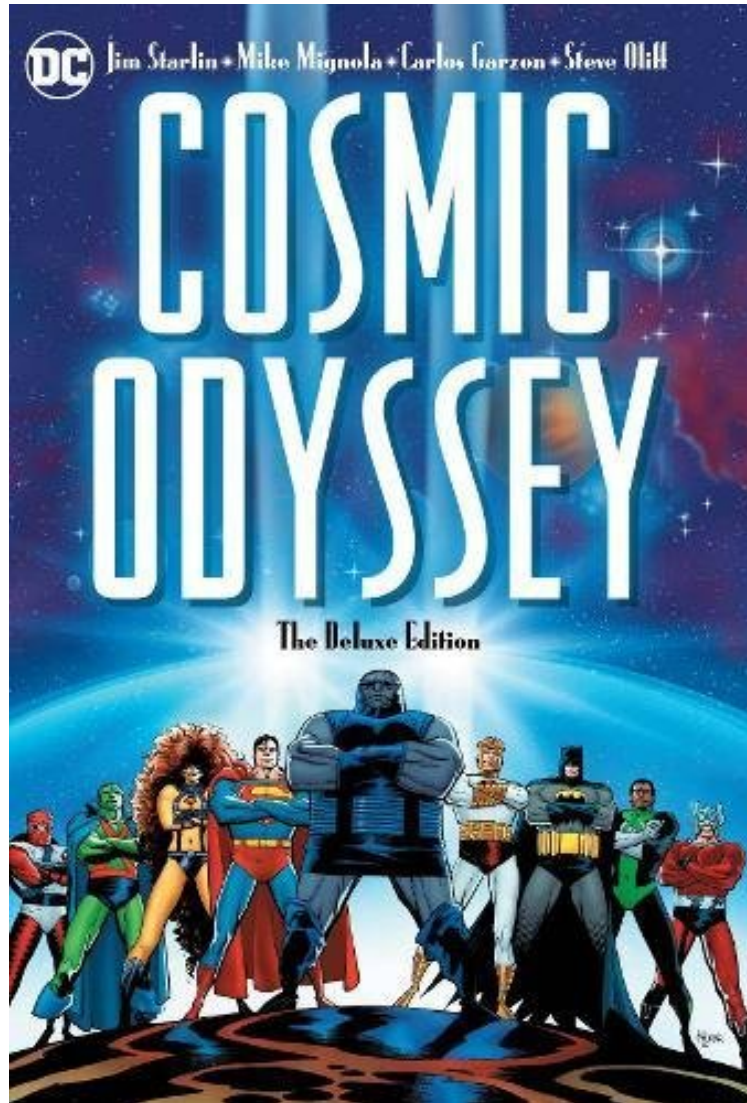


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## Cosmic Odyssey: The Deluxe Edition

*Jim Starlin*

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**Jim Starlin : Cosmic Odyssey: The Deluxe Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cosmic Odyssey: The Deluxe Edition:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. One of the Best DC Events By David Swan I have a long history with Cosmic Odyssey going all the way back to when it was first published way back in 1988. For reasons that now escape me I only bought the first two of four issues. Even though they were paperback, each issue was bound more like a book than a comic and contained something like twice the ordinary pages. 1988 was just a few years after the broadcasting of The Super Powers Team: Galactic Guardians and featured a somewhat kid friendly Darkseid as the

weekly villain. This was what I had in mind going in to Cosmic Odyssey but this is definitely not a kid friendly story. In book one, Batman comes across three bloody partially eaten corpses hanging like sides of beef in a sewer. The first thing I noticed about this Deluxe Edition is that it doesn't have the normal glossy pages. I'm too lazy to pull out my old Cosmic Odyssey books but I could swear they had higher quality paper than what we have here. The cover price is \$34.99 although is currently selling it for half the price. However, I think people generally expect more when buying a Deluxe Edition. There is also almost nothing in the way of extras. There's one artwork page showing the poster for Cosmic Odyssey and a couple of trade paperback covers and that's it. Most TPBs have more extras. As far as I can tell the only thing deluxe about this edition is the physical dimensions of the book and the fact that it's hardbound. Regardless of the bare bones nature of the presentation this is an excellent story particularly given the time period in which it came out. DC was doing a lot of crossover events following Crisis on Infinite Earths and this is perhaps the best. There are some great moments as when one of the members of the JLA makes perhaps the greatest blunder in the history of DC comics. His mistake is something he carries around to this day and gives a rare moment of fallibility to the usually infallible Justice League members. Having now read the second two books in the series I can say that the second half, in particular the final book, are the most powerful parts of the story. There is a fight with Batman and New God Forager on one side and an Apocalypse warrior on the other that is just amazing and heartbreaking. The most unbelievable moment, however, is when the JLA member who made the mistake contemplates suicide. This simply does not happen in the DCU and it's handled perfectly. One of the nice things about Cosmic Odyssey as compared to other events from that era is that it is entirely self-contained so you get the whole story. Unlike Crisis, Legends, Millennium, Invasion! and Armageddon 2001 there are no annoying tie-in issues. I didn't fall in love with the art of Mike Mignola but he was only 28 when this was published and his later art for Hellboy proved he had a ton of unrealized potential. In fact, he is the writer, artist and creator of Hellboy which I'm sure didn't hurt his bank account. It's interesting that in his Wikipedia entry Cosmic Odyssey is one of just four projects listed under his Notable works. The comics of the late 80s and 90s had a lot of cheese but there's no cheese here. This is a great mini-series with events that still get mentioned today. I really don't feel like Cosmic Odyssey has ever gotten its full due and I'm glad that DC is releasing it again. It only took me 29 years to finish the story.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hard to resist... again!

By Richard A. Tucker

Revisiting this old series is a lot of fun. The larger format is nice but I have two reservations: the color is a bit intense and there's no extra material with the exception of a couple of pin-ups. I have to say, I prefer the color from the last softcover collection. Still, such a grand epic bound in a decent hardcover is hard to turn my nose up and complain too loudly. It's interesting to see this work from that period. This is when DC is shedding the proper low violence period. Even before the Miller's Dark Knight DC was trying to be more open to bolder graphic narratives. However, it took the Dark Knight and new Swamp Thing to get them to take more chances and they did it in high style. Jim Starlin, the writer, pulled no punches. He delivered on a narrative chock full of violence, angst and strong characterizations, including a Superman who who loses his cool more than I expected, but for good reason- he's up to his neck in a vile plot that is frustratingly hard to stop and allies who sometimes see little use in pulling their punches. There's a vileness in this plot that is inhumane and it brings out the worst in most of them. Starlin has a wonderful knack making the jump from nobly intended characters to desperate soldiers fighting for that last, bloodied inch of ground because if they don't scratch and claw for it there's no chance of surviving. Mike Mignola, now best known for Hellboy and the BPRD, is at a crossroads with this book. He's stylized in a such way that it's a serious departure from his previous work. The emphasis is on panel design and layout and then filling panels with bold designs and line work very evocative of Jack Kirby. He's not imitating Kirby but taking his lesson in keeping the action flowing and not worrying too much about details that bog down the flow of the story and laying in heavy, dynamic action that practically grabs your eyes and runs with it. There's a some very good quiet moments too, which is a hallmark of Starlin's storytelling. It's not all flash-bang. He gives you a chance to breathe and take it all in, and Mignola delivers here, very well. It's a hard story with harder choices and characters grown stern from the effort. It's about sacrifice too. So, all in all, well worth the read and good enough to revisit from time to time. A worthy book for the bookshelf.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mike Mignola Ascending!

By L. W. Swint

Back in the mid to late 1980s, Mike Mignola was a young comic artist who produced work for Marvel and DC Comics. As the decade ended, Mr. Mignola had honed his craft on such characters as the Canadian super hero team "Alpha Flight," created by John Byrne, for Marvel Comics in 1985, the mysterious DC Comics character, "the Phantom Stranger," in a 1987-1988 four part mini-series, and even a 4 issue Marvel limited series from 1985 featuring "Rocket Raccoon," before he became an obnoxious movie star in the 2015 film, "Guardians of the Galaxy." In 1988, Mr. Mignola contributed his talent to another multi-part comic series: "Cosmic Odyssey," an ambitious tale which served as a grandiose announcement of his arrival as an emerging creative force in the world of comics. "Cosmic Odyssey" is an epic story of powerful friends and foes uniting out of the ultimate necessity: the preservation of the universe! When "Metron" of the "New Gods," seeker of all knowledge, makes a terrible discovery, its repercussions threaten the Milky Way galaxy and beyond. Thus, the lords of two worlds long in conflict with one another, dread "Darkseid" of "Apokolips," and noble "Highfather" of "New Genesis," form an uneasy alliance to overcome the impending danger. These "New Gods" ally themselves with the mortal superheroes of Earth, including: "Superman,"

"the Batman," J'onn J'onzz the "Martian Manhunter," "Starfire" of the "Teen Titans," and John Stewart, a member of the "Green Lantern Corps," all united in desperate hope of saving reality itself. As this immense tale builds to a climax, the reader will learn of the rise and fall of a great galactic empire and the ancient menace it created, experience the tragic consequences of a hero's arrogance, read the grim rhyming verse of a demon, fear the plots of a dark immortal and witness the heroism of "New Gods" and mortals. From the grimy underground sewers of Gotham City, the far away worlds of Rann and Thanagar, to the dark dimension of Anti-Life, a vast cast of characters combine their mighty forces in a grand comic adventure of truly stellar proportions! This saga through space and time is written by Jim Starlin, a comic writer and artist who is considered the master of 'cosmic' stories. His other literary works include: the creative resurrection and death of "Captain Marvel (1973-1974, 1982)," the tale of "Adam Warlock (1975-1976)," "Dreadstar," the last survivor of the Milky Way galaxy (1980, 1982-1986), and the Infinity Saga which featured the massive comic-crossover event, "The Infinity Gauntlet," first published by Marvel Comics in 1991-1992. This DC Comics epic, originally released as a special 4 issue mini-series, is very much in the tradition of Mr. Starlin's many past otherworldly adventures. There is a reason the word 'star' is in this creator's surname! As illustrated by Mike Mignola, the larger than life story imagined by Mr. Starlin proved to be a storytelling triumph for the gifted penciller. At this time in his comic art career, Mr. Mignola had a style that was partially inspired by the powerful vision of the legendary Jack "King" Kirby, along with his own sense of expressionism. His depiction of such iconic characters as "Superman" and "Batman" remains refreshing even after three decades, and he also succeeds in illustrating the varied vistas, inter-planetary and inter-dimensional, demanded by Mr. Starlin's script. Collaborating with inker Carlos Garzon, colorist Steve Oliff, and letterer John Workman, Mr. Mignola helped "Cosmic Odyssey" soar as an epic space opera. "Cosmic Odyssey" was one of the major DC Comics series to be published after the company's ambitious "Crisis on Infinite Earths" event of 1985 and continues to be memorable not just because of the talent involved but also because it succeeds as a self-contained epic, a tale unencumbered by the challenges and complications of the inter-company cross-over chronicle, a comic publishing trend that could enthrall yet also exhaust or exasperate the most enthusiastic reader. Where this otherwise truly entertaining collection falters is not in its contents but in its presentation. Where as the original 1988 comic mini-series was published as a high quality release on glossy paper with card stock covers, this "Deluxe Edition" has been printed on thinner paper quality. Additionally, this book continues a DC Comics editorial policy of offering few if any extras in its hardcover reprint volumes. For this reviewer, a series of interviews or more extensive biographies of the comic's creators would have been appreciated...but no such luck. Despite the above shortcomings, "Cosmic Odyssey" is a comic creation very worthy of a hardcover tome and for this fan of the work of Jim Starlin and Mike Mignola, creator of a certain beloved demonic paranormal investigator, this book comes recommended.

A deadly force like none the universe has ever seen is rising. Millennia ago, it wiped out hundreds of star systems and pushed the planets of New Genesis and Apokolips back into the Stone Age. Now, Lord Darkseid alone has seen the danger that is coming. He needs help, but the monsters and deviants that serve him on Apokolips will be no match for an entity this powerful. To save his realm and others, Darkseid must look for help in the camp of his enemies. Only heroes can help him now. The champions of Earth, New Genesis and Apokolips unite in COSMIC ODYSSEY: THE DELUXE EDITION, from writer Jim Starlin (BATMAN: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY) and artists Mike Mignola (Hellboy), Carlos Garzn (THE WITCHING HOUR) and Steve Oliff (Spawn). This edition collects the complete classic miniseries in hardcover for the very first time.

About the Author Jim Starlin is the acclaimed author of classic graphic novels including, for DC Comics, COSMIC ODYSSEY and BATMAN: A DEATH IN THE FAMILY, as well as the 1982 Marvel graphic novel The Death of Captain Marvel. His other works include the space operas Warlock and Dreadstar.