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Doug Moench

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Doug Moench : Essential Godzilla (Marvel Essentials) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Essential Godzilla (Marvel Essentials):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Godzilla Stomps Across The Printed Page* By Steve V. Marvel's attempt to serialize the Big G into comic book form is a mixed bag of cross-over ideas, artwork and storyline that never fully brings Godzilla to life in the medium. Some of this is due to the odd stricture Toho often puts other companies under when it comes to portraying their iconic mascot and some has to fall on the artists who institute a number of subtle and not-so-subtle changes to his appearance and demeanor. Even so, there's some interesting stuff in this collection: Godzilla is shrunk down so he can fight rats, he hops dimensions of space and time, encounters superheroes, and even had a meeting of the minds with Devil Dinosaur. All of this takes place while Godzilla does his usual terrorizing of the military and various metropolises. This isn't an essential property for either Godzilla fans or comic book enthusiasts, but it's interesting enough for a look-see if you can snag it at a decent price. Mild recommendation.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Marvel's take on the King* By Kelly Dowhower Star Date: 1977 What do you get when Marvel and Toho are mixed together? A trippy journey akin to eating giant hallucinatory mushrooms, that's what! Bizarre LSD Toho monsters from test tubes and space, mixed with the Marvel satirical superhero wit, and a large dose of Mel Brooks type humor and pop references. For instance: The Thing/Ben Grim while battling sharks in a large tank: "Sheesh, somebody oughtta tell these stinkers that sharks are outta date...the new thing is flyin' saucers and Pillsbury Doughboys." When Godzilla's little friend, Rob, runs away from the supervision of Hugh Howards (heh, heh), Mr. Howards says: "When Dum-Dum finds out about this he'll have my tail looking like a spruced goose." Ha-ha, hee-hee. Anyway, our story starts out with The King of All Monsters, Godzilla, breaking out of an iceberg in Alaska. SHIELD is called in, with the white Nick Fury at the helm. Fury assigns Dum-Dum Dugan to manage the Big G problem. G-experts are brought in from Japan: Dr. Yuriko Takiguchi, his assistant, Ms. Tamara Hashioka, and his grandson, lil' Robert (Rob) Takiguchi. Rob loves Godzilla and doesn't want him killed or hurt, of course. 'Zilla tramples Seattle and then moves on to San Francisco, where he grapples with a superhero team know as . Hercules, a member of the team, actually topples Godzilla! That's pretty amazing in the Marvel and Toho universes! It's like an ant lifting and toppling a 2M (6' 5"), 136K (300 pound) linebacker! During the scuffle, SHIELD's helicarrier is totaled, so they get a new one--which is notably a forerunner of the "modern" one used in "The Avengers" movie. Now that we've had a healthy serving of the Marvel universe, it's Toho's turn! Enter the racist evildoer, Dr. Demonicus. First off, the monsters the good doctor creates are really trippy. Anyway, Demonicus has a personal row with Dugan's second in command, Gabe Jones. Gabe bursts through Demonicus' window and the old white man freaks out. Demonicus screams, "FREEZE, BLACK MAN!" Gabe retorts, "Forgive me for dropping in like this. Hope it doesn't spoil the neighborhood." (Not bad for 1977.) Demonicus has also enslaved the local Innu. Gabe gives the Doc a good thrashing, and Godzilla fries the three beasts with relative ease. 'Zilla also happens to save Dum-Dum's life during the craziness of the battle--therefore creating a chronic moral dilemma for Dugan and his team. Meanwhile, Stark's company builds the new, colossal helicarrier, and also realizes Dr. Takiguchi's design of a giant shogun robot warrior, Red Ronin, ultimately to be commandeered by lil' Rob Takiguchi! Godzilla starts travelling southeast. He squashes Las Vegas, and battles both Red Ronin (although Red Ronin is actually trying to help Godzilla) and a giant bigfoot known as Yetrigar, in the Grand Canyon. It's quite a scuffle; Godzilla ends up flattening Yetrigar like a pancake under a mountain of rock, but not before he sings his fur but good. Rob/Red Ronin is saddened by Yetrigar's demise, because he felt the monster was just frightened and confused by the events. Oh, well. Then The King is suddenly beamed into space by the citizens of planet Beta. Godzilla battles three bizarre looking gargantuan mutants, created by the enemies of planet Beta--planet Megan. Beta wants to end the ongoing war but Megan not only doesn't want the war to end, but they also want to expand their territories, starting with Earth! So, 'Zilla not only ends up saving our world but Beta, as well! Godzilla is HERO! By the way, these space dinosaurs are freaky. One has a head that looks like two dinner plates with teeth. There's also a vacuum beast that's all lips and teeth. And yet another monstrosity is part snail, rhino, and sporting a hawk's beak! What then? Another turn on a dime, of course! While wandering the some valleys in the U.S.A.'s southwest, the big guy gets wrapped up in a cowboys cattle rustling scheme. Truth and justice prevail and the King even prevents a murder in the process. It's like a bungee cord ride, folks. Now for some of the cowboy dialog: Hal: Mr. Hawks... do you think that monster has a brain? Mr. Hawks: I dunno, but one thing's for sure--he [Godzilla] flushed out the varmints, located my missing cattle, saved my ranch, and stopped a murderer. Only thing he didn't do is save the schoolmarm from a fate worse than death. If he don't got a brain, he sure is good at wingin' it. Hal: Uh, I hate to say it, Mr. Hawks. but I just can't resist... Mr. Hawks: Go on--spit it out, Hal. Hal: Uh... well, who was that masked lizard? (Yuck-yuck-tickle-tickle.) And then things get weird. SHIELD ends up gassing Godzilla with a special shrinking concoction developed by Henry Pym. The big guy then shrinks to about 30 cm (1 foot). Then a professor dipstick trips and drops Mini-Me Godzilla into the East River! Anyway, the big guy battles with a large sewer rat, and ends up radioactively fricasseeing the filthy furry rodent--with a thorough description of the damp, disease-ridden smoke stench, ta-boot! HA-HA! Pym's shrink cocktail begins to wear off--of course! First to man size, then to dinosaur height, and then... You get the picture. Anyway, on his journey of growth he clashes with New York muggers, the Fantastic Four, and sharks. Reed/Mr. Fantastic, of the Fab Four, figures out a way to send Godzilla back to his original prehistoric time. Unfortunately, he decides to use a time machine confiscated from Dr. Doom to achieve the time-bending task! And as every schoolchild knows, villain tech is buggy with a capital

B. They go ahead and use Doom's time gadget, sending the big guy back in time. Godzilla then finds himself squaring off against a violent caveman tribe and Marvel's Devil Dinosaur, which had a run around the same time Godzilla came out. Devil Dino really got around the comic book universe--REALLY! He battled The Hulk, Spider-Man, AND--Batman! Well, Doom's time travel toy crashes--of course! Hence, 'Zilla is sent back to the future and appears in Times Square--at full size! Enter, The Avengers. The Fab 4 is still hangin' around too. Throw in J. Jonah Jameson, and you've got one monumental mess. After Manhattan is reduced to a smoldering heap of concrete and plastic, Spiderman (Peter Parker) snaps a photo of Godzilla heading out to the open sea--which saddens lil' Rob to no end, of course. And so, like all Godzilla tales, and comic books in general, this story closes on a melancholy note. The only gripe I have with this book is that it's not in color, and it's also shoddily constructed. The cardboard cover came off and I had to re-glue it, which wasn't that much of a problem. This format no doubt lowers the price for the consumer substantially. However, I would've paid the extra bucks for a quality, hardbound color copy. So, I think they should've offered both. Keep in mind, I'm no expert when it comes to the book business; I'm just stating my druthers.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Basic Entertainment By Dylan Luciano Essential Godzilla collecting the complete series of Marvel Godzilla comics they did back in the 70's is very basic entertainment. Fitting in with the less Essential and more experimental comics Marvel was trying at the time (Mrs. Marvel, Spider-Woman, Dazzler, Champions, Nova, She Hulk etc) Godzilla fights both The Avengers and The Champions (probably because their book wasn't doing so hot) and interacts with the Fantastic Four but as a whole his book is pretty self contained. Some of the stories are just odd such as Godzilla having to fight Cowboys (yes that really happened) or when Godzilla gets shrunken down and fights a rat in the sewers of New York. My favorite issue is the one about the gambler in Las Vegas when Godzilla attacks. Predictable but also very fun. By the time the book starts to wind itself down with a time travel adventure I was thankful it was ending. The book shares a lot of similarities with the Hulk. Dum Dum Dugan the director of SHIELD (at least for this series) is just Thunderbolt Ross and Godzilla is argued to be a misunderstood character rather than a terrible monster. It also suffers from lacking characterization that the Hulk book sometimes has. While the Hulk at least transforms into Bruce Banner which can be used to move away from a plot more than Hulk gets angry and smashes things Godzilla has no such luck. The burden of characterization goes to his "supporting cast" a term generously used to the other characters. Dum Dum Dugan and most of the characters repeat the same dialogue over and over again. I wouldn't mind if they did that a few times seeing as how I have the luxury of reading all the issues at once when they weren't produced that way but most of the time the characters state the same dialogue and don't develop from there. While a casual fan of the Godzilla movies I was very disappointed by the lack of monsters Godzilla fights. He rumbles with Red Ronin (the comic books equivalent of Jet Jaguar) a Yeti and some creatures on the moon from an alien race we never see or hear from again. Very disappointing in this one fans opinion. The ending also was pretty disappointing. Godzilla might as well have looked at his clock and winked at the reader for the ending. If your a Godzilla fan or want to see one of many experiments Marvel tried back in the 70's then give it a look over.

"You have your fear, which might become reality. And you have Godzilla, which IS reality." -From Godzilla, King of the Monsters (1956) And what a reality it was! For two years, Japan's greatest export was one of Marvel's biggest stars, and the King of the Monsters upheld his title against some of the best and worst the House of Ideas had to offer - including the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, and Nick Fury and the Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.! Godzilla shrinks, goes West, travels through time and hosts one of Spider-Man's most gratuitous guest-shots ever! Plus: aliens, mutants, mad Scientists and almost a dozen MORE giant monsters! It's so big, you can't miss it! Collects Godzilla #1-24.