



Incredible Hulks: Heart of the Monster (Incredible Hulk)

Greg Pak , Paul Pelletier

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Collects Incredible Hulk #630-635.

PLANET HULK and WORLD WAR HULK writer Greg Pak ends his legendary run - and he's taking the Green Goliath down with him! To protect his beloved family, Bruce Banner has spent the last year sacrificing himself in titanic clashes with monsters, demons and the gods themselves. But what happens when the furious monster inside him says ENOUGH? Every wish comes true - and every curse is unleashed - as the angriest, strongest one there is finally seizes what HE wants. The Hulk's greatest love, most powerful villains and ultimate triumph converge - in what just might be the end of the Incredible Hulk.

Incredible Hulks: Heart of the Monster (Incredible Hulk Details

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From Reader Review Incredible Hulks: Heart of the Monster (Incredible Hulk for online ebook)

Kipjo Ewers says

Greg Paks does it again. One of the best Hulk stories written in my opinion. Right up there with World War Hulk.

MB Taylor says

Mostly only gets 2 stars from me, but for the sake of the last 10 pages I'll give it three.

I'm not a fan of the ultra-powerful Hulk. My favorite Hulk periods are probably when he was drawn by Herb Trimpe in the 70s and written by Peter David in the 90s.

Don Weiss says

As Greg Pak's fabulous five-year tenure as regular writer of THE INCREDIBLE HULK draws to a close, Bruce Banner's ex-wife Betty Ross has just left him to run off to the kingdom of Subterranea with the Hulk's old nemesis Tyrannus. When Monica Rappaccini, the Scientist Supreme of A.I.M., invades the realm with the intention of perverting Tyrannus' Fountain of Youth into a Wishing Well, Betty--in her Red She-Hulk form--impulsively makes a wish that not only has dire consequences for the Hulk, but for the planet as well.

Thrilling his readers with one more explosive parting shot, Pak puts forth an opus in which the Hulk may actually get what he wants for a change. Not only does Tyrannus return, but an eclectic assortment of obscure rogues from the past joins the fray: the Wendigo, the Bi-Beast, Armageddon, Fin Fang Foom, and Umar the Mistress of the Dark Dimension. The Hulk rages to his heart's content, smashing one adversary after another until he finds the source of his recent torment. As Red She-Hulk, Betty's anger, frustration, and capacity for wholesale destruction nearly equals his own. Trapped in a dimension where they can both cut loose like never before, the Hulk and his ex-wife have a knock-down, drag-out fight on par even with those Pak presented in WORLD WAR HULK, and perhaps even with the Hulk/Skaar battle in WORLD WAR HULKS.

Rejoining Greg Pak to end his run on an even higher note is artist Paul Pelletier, who seems to be having the time of his life depicting all the action sequences laid out by the writer. Rarely, if ever, has the Hulk been challenged physically to the degree shown in HEART OF THE MONSTER, and Pelletier proves he can keep in stride with Pak's high-octane plotting. Their collaborative work on this title is a high point not only of the creative run, but of the Hulk mythos as a whole.

It's fascinating to consider just how much Greg Pak has accomplished since coming onto the book. Under his helm, the Hulk evolved from a savage gladiator to a vengeful king and eventually into an uncomfortable father figure. He's tapped into the depths of the Hulk's power and revealed arguably the strongest of all his incarnations. He gave the Hulk, not Bruce Banner, a wife in the form of Caiera the Oldstrong and from there

extrapolated on the ramifications of the Hulk becoming a father with the fear of what impact his own tortured upbringing would have on how he would relate to his own children. He's featured the Hulk's two foremost enemies, the Leader and the Abomination, in worthy sagas against him, and renewed their statuses as serious threats. He's developed Bruce Banner to a whole new level, bringing him back to his roots as a scientist and inventor and exploring the full potential of his intellect, re-establishing him as one of the smartest people in the Marvel Universe and a formidable presence in his own right. He took the more exploitative aspects of Jeph Loeb's run and gave them substance. He brought back long-forgotten supporting characters like Kate Waynesboro and introduced his own, such as the memorable #1 Hulk Fan, Amadeus Cho. And he put his own spin on the Bruce Banner/Betty Ross relationship in a way that's never been done before.

With HEART OF THE MONSTER, not only does the Hulk get a rare "happy ending", but so does Greg Pak. Unlike Bill Mantlo, who traded his Hulk duties over to John Byrne, and Peter David, who was unceremoniously forced off the book after 12 years due to creative differences, Pak's exit from the series seems appropriate, amicable, and unforced. Still, one wishes he could've extended his stay to what would have been issue #650, coinciding with the Hulk's then-50th Anniversary and perhaps ending his run with a fitting final tribute to a character who is, obviously, close to his heart. The collection also includes a touching dedication to Mantlo, whom Pak credits as his inspiration and without whose work many of the themes of his run, and of Peter David's, would not have been possible.

A satisfying finale to a celebrated run, HEART OF THE MONSTER neatly ties up all the loose threads and leaves the door open for the next writer, closing another storied chapter in the life of the Hulk. Truly incredible!

Joe says

One of the much better post WWH books. Its got monsters, magic, and romance. It has some Great Marvel guest appearances. It also reestablishes the The team of Hulks (She Hulk A-Bomb Red She Hulk Amadeus Cho) by the end of the book so its not as monotonous other Hulk books ive read. Definable worth taking a look at if the jade giant is your thing.

Rose says

A quick, fun read, with bright and crisp art.

Willow says

Good, satisfying ending to a LONG run on the title (well, titles, since it changed name 3 times during the course of the run). Nicely wrapped up all the storylines, left me feeling... content, is a good word for it. I could read more Hulk, or not, which I think is the ideal way to end a long run on a book. To paraphrase Robert Jordan, it's not THE ending, there is no ending for any character in Big 2 superhero comics, but it is A ending, and a good one at that.

Jacob says

Public library copy.

Travis says

The grand finale of Pak's long run on Hulk is not perfect and I was only ever a casual reader, but I was quite impressed that Pak worked so hard to wrap up all his story threads and leaves the series in a good place for whatever creative team came after him.

I admire that in a comic writer and so am willing to forgive him some of the story stuff that I wasn't thrilled with.

Not a huge fan of the 'color guard' version of the Hulk family, but Pak created a nice dynamic between Bruce Banner and Betty Ross and made nice use of HULK history. Plus, the art is really clean, bright, big and pretty.

Lee Battersby says

Good, clean over the top fun with a ludicrous number of enemies, worldbreaking, axe-wielding barbarian Hulk moments, monsters, interstellar travel, and mad science-fantasy silliness. In short, just about a Hulk Greatest Hits package thrown together with as much care for logic as a clown crossing the highway with his eyes closed. It's not exactly deep, and it's not exactly a canonical high point, but it's satisfying popcorn stuff, and if, like me, you think there are a few too many Hulks doing the rounds these days, at least you get to see them swatted about like all second-rate 'family' second stringers deserve (I'm looking at you, Superman family).

No classic, but it'll make you smile for the hour or so it'll take you to read.
