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Moon Knight #1



Synopsis

NEAR MINT

Book Information

Comic: 32 pages

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Customer Reviews

NEAR MINT

I love the way Brian Michael Bendis is able to take under-used Marvel heroes and put a new spin on them. His twist on Marc Spector's schizophrenia is what really makes this book fun, for me. Moon Knight is, on the surface, a Barman rip-off. His mental illness is what makes him so potentially interesting and rounded as a character, and Bendis does a great job of putting a new spin on Moon Knight's multiple personalities. And the contrast of his "day job" against his night time vigilantism adds another layer of humor to what is already a fun and funny book. A definite must read for any Moon Knight or Bendis fan.

Great writer, and a Great artist ,who's style suits the character.Its a new telling of character that really needed a reboot, and what they have done here really works!!!Its a Great Book, nuff said!!

A collector's item. Moon Knight starts off great with this issue! Maleev's work is amazing, as well as Bendis' writing.

I've been reading Moon Knight since the early 1990s, and I think they have finally struck the right balance between plot lines that will appeal to the mainstream and the abnormality that has always made me love Moon Knight. Not so dark as to scare away fans (a la Bushman's-Face-as-a-Mask),

but less campy and more psychologically complicated than the older runs, I think they've found a recipe for success. If you have friends who laugh at you for liking Moon Knight, give them this first TPB from the newest run, and I can just about guarantee they'll stop their laughing.

Since his creation back in the 70's, the character of Moon Knight has gone through a few different incarnations. First, he was just a gimmicky vigilante with crescent moon-shaped darts and Daredevil-esque fighting sticks. Once he was a little more fleshed-out, he was a former mercenary named Marc Spector who was mortally wounded at an archeological dig site, betrayed by the man he worked with when he had a crisis of conscience. Dying, he was draped in the shroud of the statue of the god Khonshu, and he came back to life to be Khonshu's avatar of vengeance. With that in mind, he travelled back to the States with his lover, the beautiful Marlene and his best friend and partner, Frenchie, set himself up as a wealthy playboy named Steven Grant, who financed the Moon Knight activities, and also as a lowly cabbie named Jake Lockley, who kept his ear to the ground for crime on the street. As time went by, he started having an identity crisis as far as who he really was: Spector, the cold-blooded merc; Grant, the suave playboy; Lockley, the street-wise cabbie; or Moon Knight, the Fist of Khonshu. The character had his own comic for a while in the 70's and early 80's, but sales fizzled out. Later on in the 80's, they tried it again with MOON KNIGHT: FIST OF KHONSHU. It didn't last. In the late 80's, they tried to revive interest again and made Moon Knight a member of the West Coast Avengers, and gave him his own series again, this time called MARC SPECTOR: MOON KNIGHT. This comic had a pretty good run into the early 90's, but it died again. Back in 2005 though, crime novelist Charlie Huston and rising star artist David Finch teamed up to create a very new, very VERY dark interpretation of Moon Knight in a new self-titled series. Marc Spector was no longer a man merely confused by his multiple identities: he was consumed by them to the point of madness. He cut off almost all ties to his friends and lovers after he killed his mortal enemy and had his legs shattered. This introduced a gritty and more "controversial" restart to this character, with another major issue ending up being the sexuality of Frenchie going from straight to gay and Marlene seeing his madness first-hand. The book ended up going from dark to darker as Moon Knight became increasingly violent and increasingly insane, and eventually, that book fizzled as well after a few dozen issues. It also didn't help that long-time fans of the comic hated the direction it took. They felt that it wasn't true to the character and that the book was more about Marc being crazy than it was about Moon Knight. All of these iterations of the character have started out cool, but ended up fizzling out mostly because Moon Knight was seen as Marvel's answer to Batman, but also because there just seemed to only be so much you could do with the

character. Some characters are beloved because they're timeless, but some characters, like Moon Knight, are beloved because they only appear from time to time and only a few fans think the character is really cool. Apparently, Brian Michael Bendis and Alex Maleev are fans of Moon Knight. While this comic started coming hot on the heels of Moon Knight's introduction into the line-up of the Secret Avengers, aka the black-ops Avengers, it's clear that this wasn't just a series to help set that return up. This was a series that was written and drawn by an extraordinary partnership to give us another different iteration of Moon Knight, and the book they've given us is pretty extraordinary too. This time, Marc Spector has made camp in Los Angeles, and he's producing a hit TV show based on the adventures of his life. He's also still Moon Knight, and since the West Coast Avengers broke up, there has been no significant super-hero OR super-villain presence. Still, Moon Knight is determined to make a difference, and fortunately this time he's got three other Avengers on his side: Captain America, Spider-Man and Wolverine. Unfortunately for Spector, they're only in his head. Yep, it seems that Spector is still very much in the paranoid schizophrenic "Beautiful Mind" end of the pool. He hires a 'bodyguard', Buck, who actually happens to be a former agent of SHIELD. Buck becomes Marc's new Frenchie by helping him to develop tech based on the characteristics of Spider-Man, Cap and Wolverine. He wears gauntlets that give him web-shooters (that were reverse-engineered by SHIELD), Cap's hard-light shield, and... well, claws that unfortunately are not Adamantium. Moon Knight's first major case involves the head of an Ultron robot and its sale. Moon Knight tries to break up the sale but is thwarted by an unknown enemy. Soon, an underling of that enemy (referred to as The Kingpin of Los Angeles) called Snapdragon looks to kill Moon Knight. As we see Moon Knight in combat, he utilizes moves and techniques used by Cap, Spidey and Wolvie and even takes on the personality traits of those characters as he uses their techniques. Sometimes, this works, and sometimes... it doesn't. Enter Echo, a creation of Bendis and artist David Mack during Bendis' terrific run on DAREDEVIL. She's completely deaf, but she can read lips and has "photographic reflexes", which means anything she sees, she can replicate in her movements, and more specifically in her fighting ability. She was also once an Avenger under the identity of Ronin. For Spector, she acts as a partner, an equal, a foil and a potential love interest. Bendis and Maleev have created comic magic before with their run on DAREDEVIL, as well as the creator-owned Icon series SCARLET, and here, they do the same thing with MOON KNIGHT. As opposed to Huston's approach to the character, Bendis embraces Spector's madness and turns it into a strength rather than a weakness. The voices in his head no longer truly haunt him but rather act as a Greek chorus of sorts and also act as guidance, either personally or in his "hero" mode. Echo and Buck are very cool characters to have alongside Moonie in this series. They're unique

and they're strong. It also doesn't hurt at all that the book does make you laugh from time to time, especially when a lesser writer would find a way to mire it completely in darkness. Maleev's art is gorgeous here as always, and gives the reader enough of a sense that something is off-kilter, but still is dynamic enough to make regular comic readers happy. The tragedy of this comic is that even this latest MOON KNIGHT title, with a superstar writer/artist team at the helm, is ending after issue #12. Get it while the getting's good.

Title: Moon Knight (HC) Publisher: Marvel Writer: Brian Bendis Artists: Alex Maleev (pencils, inks, covers), Matthew Wilson, Matt Hollingsworth (colors) Collects: Moon Knight #1-7 Price: \$24.99 *** This review DOES contain a few minor spoilers, but nothing that should prevent you from enjoying a reading of the book. *** I read my first Moon Knight comics back in the early '90s. At the time, the character was experiencing a brief resurgence in popularity, and I fairly enjoyed the comic series "even if I didn't feel it was living up to its potential. After reading it for a couple of years, I dropped the title. In the mid '00s, I picked up a couple of the Moon Knight "Essential" collections, and I was, again, impressed by the writing and art in the series. Even by today's standards, the artwork seemed pretty good "even in the B&W reprinting. Shortly after reading those books, I tried out a few of the collected editions of the new series that was written by Charlie Huston with terrific artwork by David Finch. While the artwork was nothing short of amazing, the story failed to really keep me engaged and interested. I preferred the writing in the original series better than the writing in the re-launch, and I, again, dropped the title after reading the first three TPBs of the series. Now, the title has re-launched under the pen and pencil of one of my favorite creative teams " Bendis and Maleev. I really enjoyed their work on Daredevil during their four-year run, and I had my hopes up for their take on another of Marvel's urban, street-level heroes " Moon Knight. While the book wasn't nearly as impressive as I hoped it would be, it was still good enough to convince me to pick up the second book in the series, as well. Bendis really takes Marc Spector to some new places in this book " both in terms of geographical locale and in terms of psychosis and split personality. While villains with mental instabilities or split personalities are fairly common in the world of comic books, heroes with mental disorders or multiple personalities are quite a bit rarer. Marvel happens to have two pretty popular heroes of this sort: Deadpool and Moon Knight. Their mental quirks make them both interesting and difficult to write well. In this new series, Marc Spector (aka Moon Knight) spends a good deal of time conversing with three of his personal heroes: Spider-Man, Captain America and Wolverine. He looks to them for advice and for assistance as he goes about his

vigilante patrols and investigations. They each offer him suggestions and help in their own way “ based upon their individual personalities, powers, levels of aggression, and sense of personal responsibility. The problem with this is that none of these other heroes are real. They are nothing more than voices in Marc’s head. To some extent, Marc does realize that they are not real and that he is mentally unstable. However, this hasn’t stopped him from embracing their ideas and fighting styles and tailoring his own personal weaponry and costume to further mimic these personas. Like I said “ it’s a new take on Marc Spector and it does make the book an interesting read. While I have to say that Bendis has me hooked, as usual, Alex Maleev’s art just isn’t grabbing me the way it usually does. Perhaps it has to do with the large amount of stark black and white inked images on the pages. The uncolored pictures just aren’t very pretty and come across as looking more like sketches. I don’t know. Maybe the art will grow on me over time, but compared to David Finch’s work on Moon Knight from a few years ago, everything is a step down, in terms of quality. One other thing that I liked about this book was the inclusion of another good character that I have been missing for a few years: Maya Lopez (aka Echo). Echo was created in the pages of Daredevil about ten years ago, and since that time I can only remember her appearing in one other story arc in the pages of Avengers when Bendis was writing that book. That was probably five years ago, so it was nice to see her pop up again. Hopefully she will remain a supporting character in this book for quite some time, though it would be fairly easy for her to steal the spotlight away from the character of Marc Spector. Whether you are a long-time fan of the character or a newcomer to the character, this book deserves a look. It’s a decent opening story arc for the re-launch and a decent introduction to the character, so give it a try and see what you think. Writing: 8/10 Artwork: 6/10 Cool Factor: 7/10 Value: 7/10 Overall: 7 /10

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