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MOON KNIGHT



Moon Knight Vol. 1: Lunatic

Jeff Lemire , Greg Smallwood (Illustrator)

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Collects Moon Knight (2016) #1-5.

Marc Spector — a.k.a. Moon Knight/Jake Lockley/Steven Grant — has been fighting criminals and keeping New York City safe for years...or has he? When Marc wakes up in an insane asylum with no powers and a lifetime's worth of medical records, all of his identities are called into question. He's surrounded by faces: haughty doctor, hostile orderlies, vacant-eyed patients. But maybe those faces are just masks. Some might hide friends, others enemies. Or even worse: gods and monsters! Marc's got to get out. The moon is high, the mask is on — but if he succeeds in escaping, will he find only a city of sand? And what will it mean when Marc Spector comes face-to-face with...Moon Knight?! Everything you know may be wrong — and you'd be insane not to find out for sure!

Moon Knight Vol. 1: Lunatic Details

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Author : Jeff Lemire , Greg Smallwood (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Moon Knight Vol. 1: Lunatic for online ebook

Cheese says

Well done Marvel for letting Jeff write this.

This was excellent, and totally original.

I thoroughly recommend this series, but make sure you start with the Ellis run before this.

Roy says

This was wacky and trippy. Marc if that's his name wakes up in a mental hospital. He believes he's working for some type of Egyptian god. He sees things in a different light when the Moon Knight mask goes on. Cool story which has this eerie trippy vibe. The artwork is great and complements the story's weirdness. Lemire is becoming one of my faves.

Lyn says

Central to an appreciation of the Moon Knight story is a dichotomy and / or synergy of his mental health and the blessings / curse of the Egyptian god Konshu.

Jeff Lemire and Greg Smallwood's 2016 start of a new series explores these elements with style and inspired artwork.

Is Spector completely insane? Has his lifetime experiences as Moon Knight and his other alter egos been the creation of an impaired mind? Is Konshu real? And if so is he Marc's benefactor or is Marc a tool to be used and discarded?

Lemire fields these questions in a skillful play that leads the reader further into the storyline while Smallwood's illustrations work together with the writing like a dueling lead guitar solo of which Iron Maiden would be proud.

Definitely for Moon Knight fans and good enough for a fan of the genre to pick up on a very cool storyline.

Maria (Big City Bookworm) says

Actual rating: 4.5 Stars

Well that was interesting. I'm 100% a fan of stories/scenarios where you're not entirely sure if what you're reading/seeing is real. Think Mr. Robot or Fight Club. Moon Knight did exactly that for me. I'm still not sure what's real and what isn't after reading this first volume, but that doesn't bother me. Yes, I want answers, but I'm okay with waiting for them if the story continues to be written as well as this one.

Stay tuned for a full review coming soon!

Jan Philipzig says

One of Lemire's more charming superhero efforts: lively yet devoid of fight scenes, bonkers yet all too relatable

Logan says

I said I was gonna read more Moon Knight and so I did! Moon Knight has had many creative teams over the past few years, each putting their own kind of spin on the character and we see that now with Jeff Lemire. So the story is Mark Spector wakes up as a patient at a corrupt, dodgy mental asylum, he has no memory or recollection of how he got there, he tries to escape but then realises he's trapped in something much bigger. First off Artwork is quite nice, its got this shady shadow kind of look which I think fits the Asylum theme. Story is pretty weird, even for Moon Knight, but its pretty well written none the less and has a surprising twist I didn't see coming! My only gripe with Jeff Lemire's run is he seems to be going down a more psychological thriller route; where as the whole crime fighting vigilante element is getting left behind completely which I feel doesn't fit well(Since I'm a Moon Knight Groupe now! Hahaha) But overall its a good run, just not my favourite, I prefer the Marvel Now Run.

Sam Quixote says

Everyone knows Marc Spector is that crazy superhero Moon Knight – or do they? What if Moon Knight has been a delusion only existing in Marc's troubled mind and he's been locked up in the loony bin the entire time?

For such a little-known character, Moon Knight has had some surprisingly great books these last couple years from the likes of Warren Ellis (who kicked off the Moon Knight renaissance with a new version of the character, Mr Knight), Brian Wood and (to a lesser extent) Cullen Bunn. It's Jeff Lemire's turn to pick up the title and he's joined by returning artist Greg Smallwood, who previously drew Brian Wood's Moon Knight. And their first arc is just ok.

I really like the mind-fuckery of the setup, that Moon Knight might just be a complete nutter's daydream to escape his miserable existence – Lemire does well in playing up that angle as long as he can and part of me wishes it really was just that. Problem is this is an unsustainable approach and you know it's only a matter of time before it's revealed that Marc's once again being messed around with by someone. It's a foregone conclusion and all you're really waiting for is the predictable penny to drop.

Meanwhile Marc fights Egyptian mummies/animal-headed guards (or are they?) and runs towards a pyramid

(or is it?) for answers. It's not the most interesting direction to take the premise and feels a little repetitive at times. And the ending is very abrupt and anticlimactic. Rather than a satisfying finale to this book, it's all about setting up the next book which is a bit disappointing. I also didn't like the Egyptian Gods-as-aliens stuff which is just conspiracy nut-level garbage.

Greg Smallwood's art is really cool, especially the granular look of the scenes between Marc and Khonshu, heightening their unreality. And speaking of unreality, several artists cameo on the last chapter to highlight Marc's tenuous grip on sanity. James Stokoe's pages are bloody fantastic – Marvel, more from this guy, please!! – as are Francesco Francavilla's, particularly those colours.

There's some good stuff in Lunatic but some of the execution and material is lacking - it's not a slam dunk like Ellis or Wood's books but it's worth checking out for fans. And though it's kinda average, compared to the rest of Marvel's woeful current range, Moon Knight is actually one of their better titles!

Tiago says

Jeff Lemire finally gets a superhero that fits his style, and it's a blast! I had some bad experiences with Lemire and Marvel before, I didn't like his run on the X-Men at all, but I love the heck out of his other stories, so I was a little apprehensive on this one, but as soon as I've read the first chapter, I knew this was gonna be good.

This was a refreshing take on a superhero story, it plays like a thriller, a psychological horror or even an acid trip and that's just right up my alley, and even though the ending was a bit open and confusing, it got me eager to read the next volumes.

I thought the art style was really cool as well, the entire book has a slick design, with tones of white, black and brown that fits the story perfectly, it looks good even when the art comes out as a bit muddy, and I can tell the artists took a lot of inspiration from The Nikopol Trilogy.

Sign me up for the rest of the series, here's my five stars.

James DeSantis says

After I finished this volume I texted my friend these exact words...

"What the fuck did I just read?"

Moon Knight has never been a character I loved. I read Ellis run, read some stuff here and there for him, never really got the appeal. However, I'm always willing to give new artist/writers a chance to bring me into the fandom. Shit, if Tom can do it with Vision anyone can.

So Lemire's Moon Knight starts off with our favorite insane person stuck in a insane asylum. This whole volume is just a gigantic mind-fuck. Marc (moonknight) decides it's time to bust out of this place. He's seeing visions, creatures that replacing humans right in front of him, and the whole time you don't know what's real or fake. By the time this fast paced action adventure insane adventure ends you're left almost

speechless.

Good: The art is clean yet cloudy and dream like. I really dug it, and the suit for Moon Knight was boss. I also really liked the trippy back and forth moment and making you question what's real or fake the entire time.

Bad: It doesn't offer any answers. I get this is the start but by the end of the first volume you should have SOME answers...you get really none.

Listen, I dunno if I'll ever LOVE a Moon Knight series but this one is def keeping me intrigued. I'll try out volume 2-3 and see if it gets even better. For now it's solid, weird, and fun. Let's hope it keeps getting better!

mercedes says

I have a feeling I probably should've started with Ellis' run as this was WILD and I am confused but... in a good way. But hey! Mercedes culture is always assuming I can start with volume 1 of anything.

The art was gorgeous and fit with the theme of the story so well, the switches between what Marc can see / what everyone else is seeing is brilliant and I'm shocked this doesn't have a higher rating, I was so invested in this.

Paul E. Morph says

Moon Knight's back with another new creative team and I'm happy to say they've continued the great run of MK stories that began a few volumes back with Warren Ellis' run.

I absolutely loved the psychological horror feel to this book and the fact that Jeff Lemire constantly keeps you guessing as to how much of the proceedings are 'real'. This isn't a particularly original set-up but I honestly don't think I've ever seen it executed this well.

Greg Smallwood and co.'s artwork is never less than jaw-droppingly good throughout, including the surprise guest artists in the last issue. I hope they continue to produce work of this standard.

A word of warning, though; don't expect everything to be wrapped up nicely and all questions answered by the end of this volume. It's very much a case of 'to be continued' and I, for one, can't wait for the next volume.

Quentin Wallace says

I'm a huge fan of the Moon Knight character, but I'm not a fan of the recent trend that seems to be how to make the character as crazy as possible.

I prefer him when he was more like Marvel's Batman, although some of the recent stories which explore his split personalities have been interesting. This one just takes it to the extreme, as we see Marc Spector in an

insane asylum and we really never know whether he really is in an asylum or if he's in some other dimension fighting Egyptian Gods and mummies.

It is an original story, and the art is good as well. I just prefer a more traditional Moon Knight story. That being said, I will be continuing the series as I am curious to see where things go from here.

David Schaafsma says

I basically have had little interest in Marvel's answer to Batman, Moon Knight, but I did read Ellis's run, which I liked quite a bit. This is a crazy premise that is also supposed to be the attraction to the series: a rich man in a white moon suit, supported by (?) by the Egyptian moon god Khonshu and with three/five different personalities, who comes to Gotham City (no, I mean New York City!) to fight crime. Uh, is this in some sense a commentary on the brooding Batman? Maybe.

I read this volume of Moon Knight because I am a fan of Lemire, though I usually avoid his superhero stuff, much preferring his indie work. I also am currently reading a lot of things about madness/insanity, so the fact that the volume is titled "Lunatic" interests me.

So Marc Spector is this crazy superhero Moon Knight – or is he? In this issue Marc is apparently in a psychiatric hospital complete with scary doctor and psychotic attendants who beat him up and drug him regularly and suggest his MK claim is just a delusion. He also seems to be on the ward with various people he knows wafting in and out. Are they really there? Is he really there? Is he really Moon Knight or is he really just Marc or one of his other personalities/identities.

The question of the mental illness of Spector is tackled in this volume directly and interestingly, even though the concept in some ways is not really all that original. Nothing is resolved at the end of the volume, which is a pretty long time to keep the "is he crazy?" thing going on, especially since anyone who has read any other MK work knows that this will not really be a series ending resolution.

The MK-Khonshu scenes are pretty cool, sort of ethereal dream sequences, heightening that sense of unreality. I don't know what is really going on, or what it all adds up to, but the approach is pretty interesting. 3.5 rounded up for all the dreamy art.

Anne says

This really has me excited for *more* Moon Knight!

Ok, now I'm certainly no Moon Knight expert, but I have read a little about this guy before, so I *do* know the basic bare bones stuff about the character. Which is something I'd recommend if you're thinking of grabbing this title. I'm not saying you absolutely *couldn't* jump into this, but I'm guessing that it might help - especially given the nature of Mark's (aka Steven/Jake/Mr. Knight/The List Goes On...) mental issues.

This wasn't some sort of *perfect* story, but it was intriguing enough to make me want to go back and finish out the previous run. I stopped after From the Dead because...honestly, I have no idea. *shrugs*
But now I wanna find out what happened. Badly.

Alright. It opens with Marc talking to Konshu (the Egyptian god who gives him his powers) and then immediately transitions into Marc on the inside of a mental facility as a patient.

As the story progresses, and Marc's perception of reality shifts back and forth, the reader has to decide whether they think he's truly being held captive by strange forces...or just delusional.

And while you might think the answer is cut and dry, Lemire does a good job stringing you along and jerking your opinion around throughout the entire volume.

Oh, and *that ending*?

What the *what*?! Get outta here with that awesome craziness!

Elizabeth A says

I love comics, but am not a big fan of super hero stuff, but am a fan of Jeff Lemire, so got my hands on this three volume series and settled in for the ride.

Mark Specter wakes up in a mental institution and has amnesia. Who is he, and how did he end up in this state? The journey to the answers is an interesting ride. I really appreciated the exploration of mental illness, and since we can know what he knows it's a confusing journey with lots of strange encounters, including space werewolves. I liked the art, the themes explored, and the final message in the third installment. While I was delighted with some aspects of the story, it felt too disjointed for me, and yes, I realize that was probably intentional given the subject matter.
