



Avengers: The Korvac Saga

Jim Shooter , David Michelinie , Bill Mantlo , George Pérez , David Wenzel , Tom Morgan , Sal Buscema

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He hails from an unimaginable era: the 31st century. Fleeing through the timestream from the pursuing team of futuristic defenders known as the Guardians of the Galaxy, Korvac the Machine Man has established a secret presence on present-day Earth in the self-created persona of the mysterious Michael. Through such an unassuming guise, Korvac contemplates the elements of a universe he thirsts to command. Yet despite the subtlety of Michael's machinations, the world's greatest super-team - the mighty Avengers - catches wind of his cosmos-conquering scheme, thus drawing the two titanic forces into inevitable conflict. Collects Avengers (1963) #167-168, #170-177, extra story pages from 1991 Korvac Saga TPB.

Avengers: The Korvac Saga Details

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Author : Jim Shooter , David Michelinie , Bill Mantlo , George Pérez , David Wenzel , Tom Morgan , Sal Buscema

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From Reader Review Avengers: The Korvac Saga for online ebook

Rachel says

Overall this was enjoyable. I liked how it incorporated so many different heroes, but, being from the 70's, it was still really sexist and cheesy.

Gary Lee says

Wait, what?

Patrickderaaff says

As a youngster I marveled at the scope of this story, but I was unable to find all the back issues that were translated into Dutch in second hand comic book shops. You can imagine how pleased I am now to own the whole story in one tpb!

The pencils by George Perez are great, the style of the other artists is not my thing. The unfolding mystery of Michael/The Enemy/Korvac still holds up after all these decades, love the story pacing as well. It's nice to see the Thor Annual with the Guardians of the Galaxy included, even though the storytelling style there is totally over the top.

Good fun really (regardless of some obvious flaws) and a great addition to my collection (finally!).

Joshua says

A classic Avengers story with an immeasurably powerful villain who is ultimately done in by the forces of good (and a little deus ex machina). There's some interesting characterization here and there, but not a great amount of depth overall. The biggest problem was the big bad's massive change in appearance, power, and personality (with little explanation). The best part was the ambiguous ending.

Sebastian Song says

The writing and art invokes a sense of nostalgia.

More importantly, it signifies the things to come! As in the mega crossovers to plague Marvel year after year. With great ambiguities and artistic conveniences carelessly woven into the Marvel universe.

Buddy Scalera says

I have mixed feelings on this one. I read this as a kid and remembered it fondly. Reading it now felt like a lot of work. Comics of that era had a lot of long exposition designed to make every issue clear to new readers. That slows down the narrative a lot when you're reading it in a collected edition.

The art is great. The core story is good, bordering on very good. This is an "important" Avengers run, but maybe not the finest.

It's just a dense read, especially if you read modern comics. You won't breeze through this collection.

It's worth reading, if you're just getting into the Avengers or Guardians of the Galaxy titles. It touches on big events that are referenced in other Marvel titles, particularly Bronze Age books.

Scott says

This volume collects a ten-issue epic from 1977, from issues of Avengers and a Thor Annual.

Korvac was a slave of the alien Badoon until he used their own technology to break free. Gathering power along the way, he travels from the 30th century to our time, intending to remake the world, bringing him into conflict with both the Avengers and the Guardians of the Galaxy.

I never really liked Jim Shooter's writing much, even as a kid, and he handles most of this story arc (and seems to direct the rest, as there isn't a noticeable difference among the other writers who contribute.) There are too many attempts to be funny that just come off as embarrassing, too much petty, annoying bickering amongst the teammates and too many broad, hand-wavy explanations for everything. Korvac's origin is a particularly egregious example; he escapes from Thor and the Guardians and just happens to teleport right to Galactus' world-ship. There he plugs himself in and woohoo instant near-omnipotence. Honestly, I don't expect real, hard science from this but at least make something up that sounds plausible.

There is an odd sequence where the Avengers, needing to get somewhere but having their jet flight privileges revoked, take a bus--despite the fact that about half of them can fly under their own power.

Ultron makes a less-than-stellar showing around the middle of the volume, hiding out in a convent (!) We find that the Avengers have been "immunized" to his primary means of attack. How does that work, exactly? The Scarlet Witch's involvement in this battle was referenced when Ultron returned a couple years later, but this really dumb plot device is never heard from again. Nor is the deus-ex-machina way in which Thor finally defeats the robot.

And what on Earth is Nighthawk doing in here? He shows up at a fashion show, something he admits he wouldn't normally do, for no apparent reason.

I like a lot of 1970s Marvel, but the Avengers wouldn't reach greatness until about a half a year later.

Nerdish Mum says

Review to follow.

Brian Poole says

As *Avengers* hurtled toward the '80s, it proved that it still had one big epic in the tank. Avengers members (past and present) and various allies started disappearing mysteriously, popping away in front of their friends. A confrontation with the cosmic "Elder" The Collector brought the Avengers to the brink of discovering the extremely powerful Michael, once a villain from the future known as Korvac. Michael killed the Collector before he could expose him, precipitating a final showdown that left most of the heroes near death.

This was a massive saga with universe-shattering stakes. The fractured core team had to find a way to reunify, just as a massive infusion of former members and allies descended on their doorstep. Michael's motivations were rather complex and he was presented as far from the typical comic book villain. He would have a profound impact on Moondragon, especially, propelling her down some dark roads in the years to come. Several characters made progress dealing with their respective personal issues. Ms. Marvel made her first appearances in the book (though it would still be some time before she'd join as an official member). This arc also included the introduction of Wasp's career as a fashion designer and explored some crucial terrain in the complicated Captain America/Iron Man partnership that would echo down the years in stories such as *Civil War* or Jonathan Hickman's recent run on the title. On a sartorial note, this arc marked the debut of Wonder Man's infamous leisure suit look. Readers were also introduced to NSA liaison Peter Henry Gyrich, who revoked the team's special privileges due to security concerns, making their operations difficult at a crucial moment. Seeing the team commandeer a city bus to transport them to the climactic showdown was a wonderfully bizarre detail.

A small army of writers and artists worked on this saga. That it holds together so well is an accomplishment of strong editing. *Avengers: The Korvac Saga* is one of the most famous *Avengers* arcs and a must read for fans.

A version of this review originally appeared on www.thunderalleybcp.com

Jon Arnold says

In retrospect this is one of the foundation stones that pointed the way to the future of modern comics. It's clearly influenced by Claremont's X-Men storylines, with a lot of soap operatic conflicts going on (a leader filled with self-doubt, Captain America taking a quite out-of-character Wolverine role of undermining him), panels here and there setting up later storylines so nothing ever quite feels tidily resolved, and epic battles stretching from the 31st century to New York's Forest Hill Gardens neighbourhood.

It's clearly a primitive form of the ongoing narrative which dominates modern comics – whilst the story builds to the last three issues here, the Korvac storyline itself doesn't properly kick in until the last three issues or so. What saves it though, and marks it out from the majority of what's followed is the enormous sense of fun behind it all. In the economically testing 70s the government interference and cuts storylines

were very much on the nose (and read so again to a modern British reader like me). It culminates in the splendidly absurd way the Avengers eventually reach Korvac's lair, a splendidly comic conceit that adds to the absurdity of the climax's setting. And of course there are the requisite punch-ups, although Jim Shooter has the wit to undermine this in the climactic battle (it's far better executed here than when he reused it for Secret Wars). This is ridiculous, epic and yet has room to ponder moral questions.

What also raises it above the usual superhero fare is the essentially tragic nature of the villain. Korvac is clearly one of the Avengers' most powerful foes and even a combination of the world's mightiest heroes wouldn't match him. The answer is therefore rooted in character, lending a tragic air to proceedings. We're not simply admiring the heroes and jeering the bad guys, instead we're left with characters on both sides as flawed and complex as the medium would allow.

Of course, being forty years old a lot of the attitudes on display are out of date, as happens to all art over time. But this is a reminder of how inventive Marvel of the 70s was and how fortunate I was to be brought up on them. Tremendous fun.

Johnny Andrews says

A complicated epic involving the most complex of characters, Korvac or later, Michael. It starts with Thor teaming with the original Guardians of the Galaxy to take on this mad machine man who is tormented and yearning for power (like they all do) then it moves to an awkward time within the Avengers, fighting and disloyalty is high, some government official basically comes in and shuts them down leaving them with lacklustre means, even Nick Fury abandons them as the Avengers lose all their priority clearance. Stressful times ahead so how do they cope when past and present Avengers keep disappearing and who is Michael. Without giving too much away the Korvac Saga leads up to what you expect a huge battle but are the Avengers really the bad guys at the end of the day.

I totally felt for Michael but then he wanted to rule the world even if he wanted to save it make it better, the likes of Hitler said similar doings and we know how that ended, so was the Avengers right to not allow him to go ahead as planned. One will never know.

Angela says

This is getting 4 stars for the ending, a first for the Avengers and quite brave. Decent story, it stands out in that era.

Carlex says

Cuatro estrellas y media por el conjunto, con algunas entregas individuales algo flojas.

Los cómics datan de 1977. El tomo recoge una de mis sagas preferidas del grupo de superhéroes más poderoso de la Tierra. Especialmente aquí se luce Jim Shooter de guionista, a quien le gustan los argumentos a lo bestia y que nos ofrece lo que para mí es uno de los finales más grandiosos de la era Marvel.

¡Excelsior!

Stephen Snyder says

The Korvac Saga!

An epic Marvel tale, told when epic tales didn't need to be a miniseries crossing over 42 on-going titles to get the whole story, which doesn't make any sense. No way!

It begins in a Thor annual, guest starring the Original Guardians of the Galaxy, and gains momentum as it sails through the regular issues of Earth's Mightiest Heroes, The Avengers! (Guest starring the Original Captain Marvel and the Original Ms. Marvel!

Now, I ask you, "What more could you possibly ask for?"

Just don't sit there! Go and read it! Enjoy!

Tone says

What it must have been like to read that final fight scene at the time.
There really had never been someone who walked over the Avengers like that before.
