

Fantastic Four: The Epic Saga from 1961 to 1996

The Fantastic Four, Marvel's first family of superheroes, have been thrilling readers for over half a century. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, the Fantastic Four debuted in 1961 and quickly became one of the most popular superhero teams in comics. The team consists of Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Human Torch, and Thing, four astronauts who gained superpowers after being exposed to cosmic rays.



Fantastic Four (1961-1998) #113 (Fantastic Four (1961-1996)) by Stan Lee

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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The Fantastic Four have had many adventures over the years, fighting villains such as Doctor Doom, Galactus, and the Skrulls. They have also been featured in numerous television shows and movies. The most recent Fantastic Four movie, released in 2015, starred Miles Teller as Mr. Fantastic, Kate Mara as Invisible Woman, Michael B. Jordan as Human Torch, and Jamie Bell as Thing.

The Early Years (1961-1970)

The Fantastic Four debuted in *Fantastic Four* #1 in November 1961. The issue was a huge success, and the Fantastic Four quickly became one of Marvel's most popular titles. The early years of the Fantastic Four were marked by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's groundbreaking storytelling. Lee and Kirby created a cast of complex and relatable characters, and their stories were full of action, adventure, and humor.

Some of the most iconic Fantastic Four stories from the early years include "The Galactus Trilogy," "The Silver Surfer Saga," and "The Kree-Skrull War." These stories helped to define the Fantastic Four as a team of superheroes who were always willing to fight for what was right.

The Silver Age (1970-1986)

The Fantastic Four continued to be popular in the 1970s and 1980s, although the team's lineup changed several times during this period. In 1973, Johnny Storm left the team to join the Avengers. He was replaced by his sister, Susan Storm, aka Invisible Woman. In 1975, Ben Grimm left the team to join the Defenders. He was replaced by She-Hulk.

Despite the lineup changes, the Fantastic Four remained one of Marvel's most popular teams. The team's adventures during this period included fighting against Doctor Doom, Galactus, and the Skrulls. The Fantastic Four also met new allies, such as the X-Men and the Avengers.

The Modern Age (1986-1996)

The Fantastic Four entered a new era in 1986 with the launch of *Fantastic Four* #300. The issue was written by John Byrne, who had previously worked on the X-Men. Byrne's run on *Fantastic Four* was a critical and

commercial success. He brought a new level of realism to the team, and his stories were full of action and suspense.

Byrne left *Fantastic Four* in 1990, but the team continued to be popular under the leadership of writers such as Walt Simonson and Tom DeFalco. In 1996, *Fantastic Four* #400 was published. The issue was a major milestone for the team, and it featured a guest appearance by Stan Lee.

The Legacy of the Fantastic Four

The Fantastic Four are one of the most iconic superhero teams in comics. They have been featured in numerous television shows and movies, and their adventures have thrilled readers for over half a century. The Fantastic Four are a symbol of hope and heroism, and they continue to inspire new generations of fans.



Further Reading

- [Fantastic Four \(1961-1996\) on Marvel.com](#)
- [Fantastic Four on Wikipedia](#)
- [The Best Fantastic Four Comics of All Time](#)



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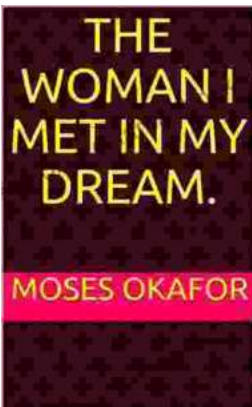
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