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Moon Girl And Devil Dinosaur Vol. 3: The Smartest There Is



Synopsis

Tony Stark, Victor von Doom, T'Challa, Amadeus Cho...the greatest minds in the Marvel Universe all have one thing in common: they're not smarter than a 4th grader! That's right, the rumors are true - Lunella Lafayette is the smartest there is! Now it's time to put her unrivaled intellect to the ultimate test. Thankfully her best friend, Devil Dinosaur, is thirty feet of mutated prehistoric muscle, making for the perfect combination of brains and brawn! And they're going to need it to stand up to some of the worst villains the world has to offer - and maybe even one of the greatest heroes! Because, while Reed Richards, the guy who used to be the cleverest one around, is away, his best pal Benjamin J. Grimm is here to defend his pole position! COLLECTING: MOON GIRL AND DEVIL DINOSAUR 13-18

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Customer Reviews

My 10-year-old daughter is a Marvel fan and now loves Moon Girl above all other comic heroes. She is dying for the next trade to come out - fortunately it's available for pre-order!

Great book for all ages.

I've rapidly grown to love the "Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur" comics, with their feisty heroine and her brutish but oddly adorable prehistoric sidekick. They're a refreshing antidote to the darker and grittier turn a lot of comics have taken anymore, and do a decent job of blending the "old" Marvel

with the "new" -- combining elements of the classic Marvel heroes with the newer, revamped cast. Sadly, I'm starting to think that this series peaked with its previous volume, "Cosmic Cooties," because while the third volume is still fun, said fun is rapidly dampened by its main character's rampaging ego and escalating Mary-Sue-ism. "Moon Girl," aka Lunella Lafayette, has faced off against murderous prehistoric Killer-Folk and a lovesick alien who nonetheless wants her dead, and she's come out on top thanks to her own ingenuity and brains... as well as a little help from the ferocious red T-Rex dubbed Devil Dinosaur. With big names such as the Avengers, Ms. Marvel, and the Fantastic Four's Ben Grimm hanging around, Lunella begins to think maybe she's cut out to be a superhero after all, and dreams of greatness. But when she finds herself targeted by the nefarious Dr. Doom, who can't handle the fact that his computer calculates that this fourth-grader just might be smarter than he is, she just may be in over her head... and this obnoxious business of periodically switching bodies with Devil Dinosaur is NOT helping matters! As with the previous volumes, this volume has a nice art style, just stylized enough to be dynamic and fluid and avoid falling into the uncanny valley. Colors are vivid without being oversaturated, and panel layout is relatively easy to follow. I occasionally got thrown off by two-page spreads, but that could just be me not being used to reading a ton of comics. The comic also features cameos and supporting characters from the rest of the Marvel roster -- the new Hulk and Ms. Marvel return, and Ironheart (the female equivalent of Ironman) steps in to help at one point. And for those who miss the old Marvel characters, never fear -- both Ben Grimm of Fantastic Four and Doctor Strange from the comic of the same name make appearances, and a whole slew of characters from Reed Richards to Professor Xavier have cameos, albeit in a dream sequence. What drags this book down and makes it obnoxious in my mind are the title characters. Lunella started off as a relatable character struggling to find her place in both the real world and in the world of superheroes... but it seems her recent fame and success has gone to her head. Instead of a girl trying to find her place and feeling like an outcast, we get a girl so full of herself I want to slap her. She's constantly bragging about how she's so much smarter than every other character -- including adults who have been in the superhero business far longer than she has -- and so confident in her abilities to beat Dr. Doom that she ignores good advice and runs headlong into danger at every opportunity. I'm not against child protagonists, but when a fourth-grader, even a super-powered one, is somehow made more intelligent and competent than the entire roster of Marvel characters, I lose my willing suspension of disbelief. It almost makes me hope that this puffing up of her ego is setting her up for a humbling fall in the next volume... Devil Dinosaur was a curious mix of awesome and adorable in the previous comics, but here he comes off as little more than a living prop. Even the gimmick of him and Lunella

switching minds is barely utilized here, and barely even explained. I loved the previous two volumes of this series, so it disheartens me to have to rate this one lower. I'm just finding Lunella insufferable and obnoxious, and hate that she's become such a blatant Mary Sue -- a character too good to be true and who is suddenly smarter and more competent than every other superhero in the Marvel universe. I may be cruel in saying this, but I'm hoping that she actually experiences some failure in the next book, and that her ego takes the blow it needs to wake her up to the fact that, for being the smartest girl in the world, she still has a lot to learn...

Every issue has a different guest star showing up to check up on Lunella. She's passed this test by Bruce Banner that declares her the smartest person on Earth. Moon Girl fights some Doombots. The Good: It's nice to see a title in the Marvel U aimed at younger readers. The Bad: There's not much of a plot or story in any of these readers. Just because it's aimed at younger readers, doesn't mean kids can't handle a story. The Ugly: Moon Girl is supposed to be the smartest person on the planet but still goes to a normal grade school in NYC. It drives me nuts because there's no way she wouldn't be in a special school for the gifted in New York. We had a gifted program in my grade school in a small town of 7,000 people 35 years ago and I live in NY now and know they exist. It just drives me nuts every time we are shown Lunella in school looking bored.

Moon Girl feels like a book that has run headlong into a brick wall. Even grading this on the 'written for ten year olds' curve, I can't say this book is worth reading. In the last issue Lunella completed some puzzle that supposedly means she's the smartest person in the world. Despite the entire book revolving around it, we never get any insight into what the test actually is. Instead, this book is loaded with cameos, with everyone from the Thing to Doctor Strange to Victor von Doom utterly failing to live up to his reputation. If I can pick one key moment that caused me to hate the book, it would be issue two, where Thing and Hulk get into a fight so ridiculous, I would have thought it was a parody. But the whole book is just oozing with Lunella's arrogance. I can't see her as any kind of hero.

I'm always a sucker for Moon Girl. I think she's fun and a character I can personally relate to. I see people complaining about her being "obnoxious," but I think it's fitting. She's a 9-year-old for starters. Secondly, she's not only a 9-year-old, she's a 9-year-old super genius. Yeah, I would expect her to be a little obnoxious and learn as she grows up to become more down to earth. She's flawed, that's a good thing. There's room for character growth. I love this series and highly recommend it.

This is a wonderfully joyful book that's a delight for all ages. Its protagonist is strong but realistically flawed and overall the book feels like a thrill ride through the Marvel Universe. Give them one a try or buy it for the little ones who love superheroes in your life.

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