

The Incredible Hulk: An Unforgettable Journey from 1962 to 1999



Incredible Hulk (1962-1999) #118 by Stan Lee

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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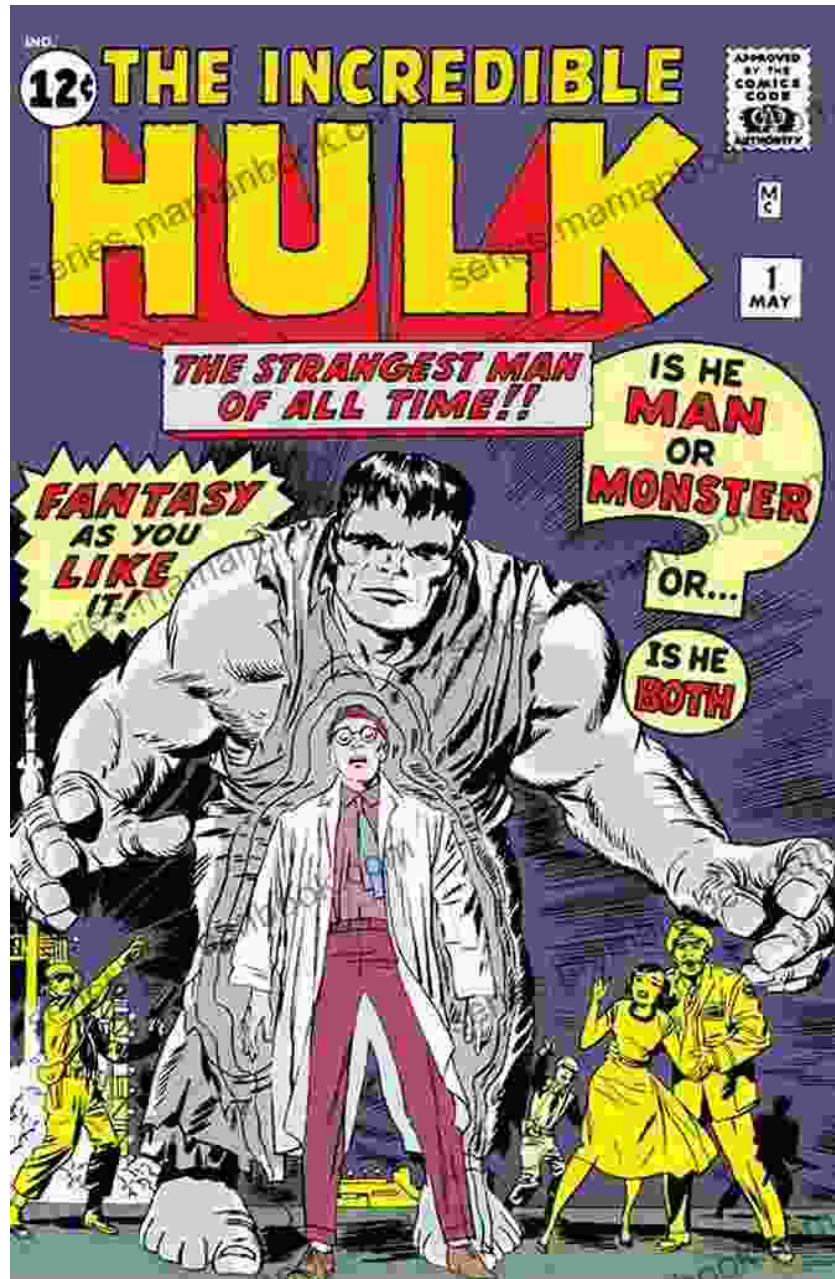
Print length : 21 pages



Origins and Early Years (1962-1967)

The Incredible Hulk was born on the pages of *The Incredible Hulk #1* in May 1962. Co-created by legendary comics titans Stan Lee and Jack Kirby, Hulk debuted as a shadowy figure imbued with immense strength and a tragic secret.

Scientist Bruce Banner, exposed to gamma radiation during an experiment, transformed into the monstrous Hulk whenever his pulse exceeded a certain level. This duality between the gentle scientist and the raging beast became the core of the character's struggles.



Early Hulk stories explored themes of isolation, prejudice, and the dangers of scientific hubris. He battled a rogue's gallery of classic villains, including the Abomination, the Leader, and Zzzax, all the while searching for a cure to his condition.

The Lee-Kirby Epic (1968-1970)

In 1968, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby joined forces to create an unforgettable run on *The Incredible Hulk* that would define the character for decades to come.

This era introduced the beloved character of Rick Jones, Hulk's loyal companion and often the catalyst for his transformations. Together, they embarked on thrilling adventures that took them across the globe and beyond.



Lee and Kirby's Hulk stories delved into complex social issues, challenging racism, war, and the limits of human endurance. They also created iconic villains such as the Red Hulk and the Maestro, who would become enduring fixtures in Hulk's mythology.

The Bronze Age and Beyond (1970-1999)

After the departure of Lee and Kirby, the Incredible Hulk continued to evolve in the Bronze Age of comics. Writers such as Len Wein, Roy Thomas, and Roger Stern explored new facets of the character, introducing memorable characters like Betty Ross, Jim Wilson, and Doc Samson.



Hulk became more introspective, grappling with his inner demons and the consequences of his actions. He faced challenges ranging from supervillain battles to political intrigue, all the while searching for acceptance and a place where he truly belonged.

The 1980s saw the rise of legendary artist Sal Buscema, whose iconic Hulk artwork became synonymous with the character. He brought a new level of

realism and emotional depth to the Hulk, solidifying his status as one of the most visually striking characters in comics.

The Incredible Hulk #118 (1969)

Among the many classic issues of *The Incredible Hulk*, one stands out as a landmark achievement: issue #118, released in June 1969.

Written by Stan Lee and drawn by Herb Trimpe, this issue is widely regarded as one of the greatest Hulk stories ever told. It features a pivotal battle between Hulk and the U.S. military, as the government attempts to capture and neutralize the perceived threat he poses.



Hulk #118 is not only an epic superhero tale but also a powerful commentary on the Vietnam War and the destructive nature of military might. It became a touchstone for Hulk fans, cementing his status as a symbol of both power and vulnerability.

Legacy and Impact

Over the course of his nearly four-decade run from 1962 to 1999, the Incredible Hulk left an indelible mark on pop culture. His enduring popularity has spawned numerous television shows, films, video games, and merchandise.

The Hulk's struggles with identity, anger, and acceptance have resonated with generations of readers. He has become an icon of both the superhero genre and the broader human condition.



The Incredible Hulk's journey from the pages of *The Incredible Hulk #1* to his status as a global icon is a testament to the enduring power of storytelling and the timeless appeal of his character. He will forever remain one of the most beloved and complex figures in the Marvel Comics universe.

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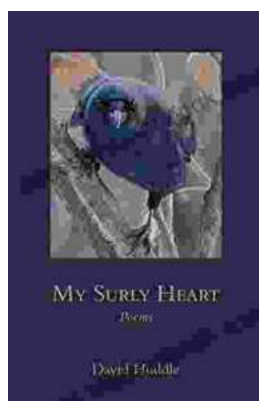
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