

Spectrum, revitalized, goes toe-to-toe with an nearly omnipotent being, Blue Marvel and his son pull the right lever at the right time, Captain America faces a horde of transformed monsters, and Spider-Man fears public speaking without any pants. This issue is the climax of the battle against the Beyond Corporation, the face of which (well, sort of) is Mr. Quantrell. This issue is bold, dramatic, and full of action, striking a balance between the drama of facing an overpowered foe and some moments of humor and of relationship-building. The focus is on Spectrum, of course, who displays her power in some fantastic ways, showing herself to be a true powerhouse. Her attitude has shifted a bit, but it's all to show how she has underwent a kind of "hero's journey" and is now decidedly in the rebirth phase, using her newfound power (and attitude) in key ways during the issue. What's interesting is that this journey stretches back throughout her history, even as far back as comics published in the late 80s. I'll admit my bias in that these were the issues that at one point allowed me to claim Monica/Captain Marvel as my favorite Marvel character, which would have been saying a lot for a young white male, and so I see in this issue Spectrum being validated as a character. The side effect of this, perhaps, is that a lot of such history is a bit abstract. The characters talk a lot about "what you did" and how life was "changed" in general terms, and I'm sure my knowledge of the characters' rich histories enhanced my enjoyment of this issue. If you didn't have that, you can still enjoy the issue but a lot has to be taken for granted in order for the story to present itself. Similarly, the father-son moment between Blue Marvel and Positron is a bit hand-wavey, as the long-standing tension between them is resolved with a single line ("As it turned out, all we needed was the right equipment.") A lot of this would have gotten in the way of the action and tone being set, so it's a forgivable flaw. In the same way, since Spectrum, Marvel, and Captain America are the showcased stars, the remainder of the characters get short shrift. Spider-Man is appropriate as a source of humor and does his role of the comic jester well, and maybe having anything more than what we got would, again, have crowded out the strengths of this issue. Still, even something as simple as actually seeing the remaining characters like Power Man and White Tiger reaching out to one another would have made more of a satisfying ending than simply depicting them laying face down in the street. With Iban Coello on art, there is a remarkable improvement in drama and action. Take something as simple as tilting the horizon line of a panel just slightly—it's actually rare to have a panel here with a strict 180-degree horizon line, resulting in a momentum of reading from panel to panel, a visual tension. Also, the figures are solid, the posing and expression near-perfect. There have been similar titanic throw-downs in this title before, but with art like this on display, this issue stands far above the others. The post Captain America & The Mighty Avengers #7 appeared first on Weekly Comic Book Review.

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