

At the Image Expo earlier this week, Jonathan Hickman let slip that he would be departing Fantastic Four, FF, Ultimate Comics: Ultimates and S.H.I.E.L.D. later this year. The news came as something of a shock to fans who are now speculating that he will be taking over The Avengers from Brian Michael Bendis. Whether that is in fact the case is obviously unknown at this point, although the writer has confirmed when exactly he'll be leaving Marvel's First Family behind - Fantastic Four #611 and FF #23. Talking to Marvel, he said: "I always had an end point in mind, but along the way I really fell in love with writing Marvel's First Family and I also had all these dangling bits to clean up, so I agreed—[and] wanted—to stay on. Then all the gears started turning on all the [Avengers Vs. X-Men] stuff and what comes after and it just became

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