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BY STAN LEE, JACK KIRBY, ROY THOMAS, DON HECK,
JOHN BUSCEMA AND SAL BUSCEMA; FOREWORD BY LEIGH BARDUGO;
INTRODUCTION BY JOSÉ ALANIZ; SERIES EDITOR BEN SAUNDERS

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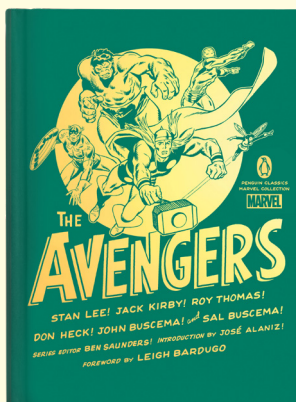


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It is impossible to imagine American popular culture without Marvel Comics. For decades, Marvel has published groundbreaking visual narratives that sustain attention on multiple levels: as metaphors for the experience of difference and otherness; as meditations on the fluid nature of identity; and as high-water marks in the artistic tradition of American cartooning, to name a few.

Starting in 1961, Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, and their collaborators transformed the Super Hero genre with a series of new creations, including the *Incredible Hulk*, *The Mighty Thor*, and *The Invincible Iron Man*. In 1963, Lee and Kirby brought these characters together for the first time in a new magazine called *The Avengers*—adding a resurrected Captain America shortly after. Over time the Avengers' roster would frequently change, mirroring transformations in the Marvel Universe and the society that it reflected. This unique collection gathers key issues from the first few years of the series.

A foreword by Leigh Bardugo, a scholarly introduction and apparatus by José Alaniz, and a general series introduction by Ben Saunders offer further insight into the enduring significance of *The Avengers* and classic Marvel comics.

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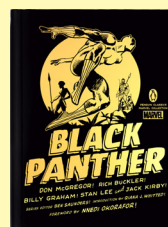
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