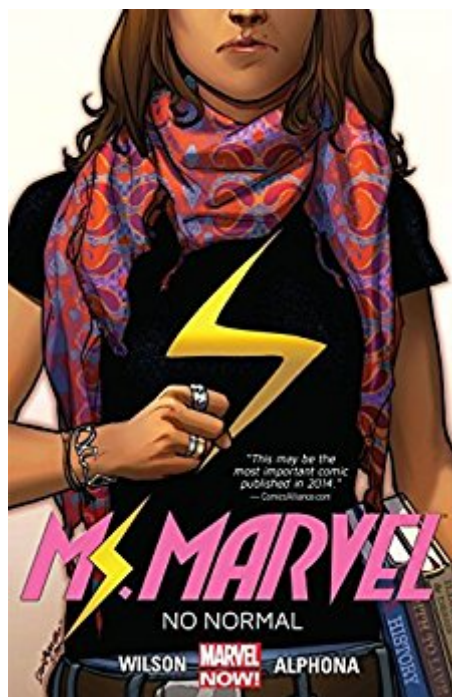


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Ms. Marvel Vol. 1: No Normal (Ms. Marvel Series)



Synopsis

Collects Ms. Marvel (2014) #1-5, All-New Marvel Now! Point One (Ms. Marvel story). Marvel Comics presents the all-new Ms. Marvel, the groundbreaking heroine that has become an international sensation! Kamala Khan is an ordinary girl from Jersey City - until she is suddenly empowered with extraordinary gifts. But who truly is the all-new Ms. Marvel? Teenager? Muslim? Inhuman? Find out as she takes the Marvel Universe by storm! As Kamala discovers the dangers of her newfound powers, she unlocks a secret behind them as well. Is Kamala ready to wield these immense new gifts? Or will the weight of the legacy before her be too much to handle? Kamala has no idea either. But she's comin' for you, New York!

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Customer Reviews

When this book was first announced I read the description and decided unfairly that this was not a book for me. They were rebooting Ms. Marvel as a sixteen year old Muslim girl living in New Jersey. What could I, a 57 year white male living in Minnesota, possibly have of interest in a book like this? But I heard lots of good things about the book so when I found it severely discounted I gave it a try. I am glad I did. It turns out this is a book for anyone who likes good writing and a unique fresh

take on a very cookie cutter genre. It is also a book for anyone who enjoys great art work and coloring. In short, it is a book for anyone who loves comics. Collected here are the first five issues of the 2014 Ongoing Marvel series plus the relevant pages from Marvel Now Point One. In the back of the book it has alternate covers, Character designs and even a coloring example. G. Willow Wilson broke into the comic field in 2007 with her Vertigo graphic novel CAIRO she continued with her Vertigo series AIR, then her first superhero work on VIXEN. Her first novel ALIF THE UNSEEN won the 2013 World Fantasy Award for best novel. She is herself of Muslim faith and spent her twenties living in Egypt. Adrian Alphonsa is a Canadian artist who came to prominence with the charming art for Brian Vaughn's Runaways. Mr. Alphonsa's realistic depictions of children made him a great selection for this book. Sadly, I could name a couple Big Name Artist's who totally lack this ability. They draw children and teens simply as smaller adults. Adrian's art has evolved a little since Runaways and he has a very fine line drawing style that evokes a whimsical mode in which he portrays some of the characters as having exaggerated faces. This is a style which works perfectly.

Ms. Marvel, a female-version character who was created in 1968 for Captain Marvel as Carol Danvers (not the original and confusing history of DC's Captain Marvel now called Shazam!). Carol held the title for numerous years in comics and as sexual icon with her black spandex, long stocking boots, and red tights. Carol has been a prominent component for Marvel women the past decade and has risen to now status in 2012 as Captain Marvel under writer Kelly Sue DeConnick with a whole new suit and outlook on life. So with the title of Ms. Marvel being vacant, who else will take up the title? How about fan-fiction writing 16-year old Pakistani American teenage girl from New Jersey who is Muslim and who adores her idol, Carol Danvers? Well that is one way to get peoples attention. MS.MARVEL VOL.1 NO NORMAL collects issues #1-5 and All New Marvel NOW! Point One. Our protagonist, Kamala Khan is your typical 16-year old geeky girl who lives in a working class Muslim family. She wants to hang out with the cool kids, go to parties to fit in, but her family's lifestyle holds her back. But one night, while sneaking out to a party against her families wishes, Kamala gains shape shifting abilities in a dark mist. Now scared and amazed by having super powers, Kamala takes up her icon's old alias and costume, Ms. Marvel, to help out the community, yet Kamala is trying to work out her new powers and the pressures of school and family life. The re-launched Ms. Marvel caught a lot of media attention because it is the first time a Muslim character stars in a comic book. I personally do not care about such subject material, especially thanks in part to the wide acclaim the series was getting. And it shows. This is thanks greatly to writer G.

This is a solid book with fantastic artwork and fills a niche few (if any) mainstream superhero books do these days. For me, the main attraction here is Adrian Alphona, who became a favorite of mine on the excellent Runaways series. His design sense is great, his storytelling is clear, the pages are loaded with personality, and the colors are top notch as well. It's great to see Alphona working on monthly comics again, and this book is an absolutely perfect fit. As for the writing, it's generally strong. I like the set-up (Muslim American girl who idolizes superheroes becomes one) and the main characters just fine. Kamala is very likable, and there are plenty of cool moments along the way as she starts to learn about her powers and breaks into superheroing. It was an unusual decision to feature a Muslim American protagonist, but there's nothing here to make anyone feel excluded for not being familiar with her religion and/or culture. For all intents and purposes, she could pretty much have any background that puts her at odds with a superhero career. The biggest gripe I have with the book is that the tension with her family doesn't quite ring true. Her family is rather Americanized (expressly differentiating themselves from her brother, who is distinctly more observant) but they're presented as fairly traditional and strict. A lot of the drama is supposed to come from Kamala getting in trouble for sneaking out and being a superhero, but it only ever amounts to a slap on the wrist, her parents whine a little, and these groundings don't seem to affect her in the least. As a reader, I just don't feel any fear for what consequences might emerge from her superhero career. In early Spider-Man stories, Peter Parker had a similar situation with his Aunt May.

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