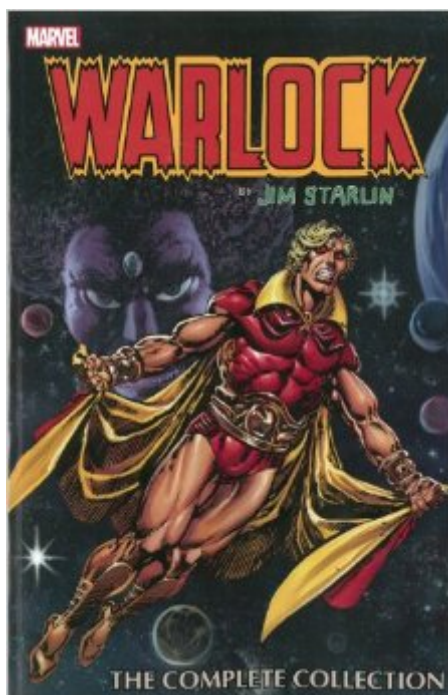


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# Warlock By Jim Starlin: The Complete Collection



## Synopsis

At '70s Marvel, no one mastered the startling scope and high-concept complexity of cosmic adventure like Jim Starlin! And his work on Adam Warlock set the tone for star-spanning spectacle that is considered a high-water mark to this day. Starlin evolved Warlock to the next level, imbuing the character with the inner demons of a man-god on the brink of insanity. Forced to confront an evil version of himself and the nihilistic menace Thanos, Warlock's conflicts weren't just knuckle-grinding throw-downs; they were epic, existential struggles for his very soul. Featuring the first-ever assembling of the Infinity Gems. COLLECTING: Strange Tales 178-181, Warlock 9-15, Avengers Annual 7, Marvel Two-In-One Annual 2

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If Jim Starlin has laurels to rest on, they took root in this mondo 70s work, an over-the-top romp through the Marvel cosmos that's about as trippy and drug-fueled as any mainstream comic has ever been before or since. After honing his artistic (and writing) chops on 'Captain Marvel' (the Marvel comics version, not 'Shazam') he jumped upon his own shoulders to reach heights he's never quite achieved since (even if he's tried, and sorta come close). While his writing doesn't always live up to his stunning artwork, it's still a blast of hokey, pulpy fresh air to wade through his dense purple prose. And the artwork... ah that artwork. This is Starlin at his peak, before he actually started to try drawing real people, and it's all the better for it. Think of it as a sort of hybrid of Kirby,

Buscema, and Gulacy and you start to get an idea of what it's like (and he's helped by some of the best inkers in the business, Al Milgrom, Steve Leiahola, and Alan Weiss). Getting the complete saga in one thick volume, on slick paper, is a real treat. And as a bonus you get the "lost" Adam Warlock story, reproduced from photocopies of the pencilled work, and all of the covers Starlin's produced for various reprints over the years (which demonstrate how lackluster his art became soon after he became a "serious" artist). It makes a fine companion to the fat Captain Marvel trade from some years back and is an excellent primer for the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' movie. This is primo mainline comics work, some of the best stuff to come out of the 1970s. Highly recommended!

Maybe, with Dreadstar, this was the best work of Jim Starlin ever. This collection contains Strange Tales 178-181, Warlock (1972) 9-15, Avengers Annual 7 and Marvel Two-in-One Annual 2. It isn't perfect just because it is not a hardcover as it deserved. But this sure is a piece of gold for any Starlin and Warlock fan.

After re-imagining Captain Marvel, writer/artist Jim Starlin really stretched his wings with a second cosmic series starring would-be cosmic savior Adam Warlock. In these trippy, cosmic stories Warlock has to defeat his future self, and then save the stars of the galaxy from not one, but two madmen out to destroy them. The ideas are big, the art is innovative, and still quite nice today, and the stories offer humor, pathos and cosmic fireworks. Our hero, Warlock, is annoying at times, whinny, self righteous and melodramatic but Starlin seems to be aware of this and pairs him with characters who regularly call him on these traits. The first half of the book pits Warlock against a self-styled god who turns out to be Warlock's own future self! Then, after some forgettable filler, the second half pits Warlock against Starlin's most enduring creation the mad Titan Thanos and his quest to snuff out the sun. Alas Warlock's battle with Thanos was scattered across a half dozen titles, from Strange Tales, back to Warlock's own book, then to an Avengers Annual and finally wrapping up in Marvel Two-in-One of all places. Another chapter from Marvel Team Up isn't even reprinted. The chaotic publishing schedule takes its toll, the final chapter barely features Warlock with the focus on Spider-Man and the Thing, plus the need to recap everything that's happened. Many key events happen off camera and are just recapped. It's remarkable how good the story is considering the chaotic way it was presented. Obviously Warlock's book was intended to run a while longer. I would have loved to have seen a behind the scenes explanation for what happened. Was it just sales? Apparently there was at least one more issue drawn, the pencils are reprinted in the back, it's even referred to briefly later. Despite these flaws it's a great book and one of the first major

cosmic crossover sagas that are now common in DC and Marvel. It deserves a place on your shelf.

If 'Guardians of the Galaxy' has piqued your interest = wanting to experience more of the MARVEL 'Cosmic' Universe, then this collection contains one of the key Epic story 'Arcs' (although there are a number of other good ones, like the massively huge "Avengers vs. Thanos" collection - also by Marvel's ingenious Artist/Writer, the cosmically-aware and super-imaginative Jim Starlin!). However, must caution all you Rocket & Groot fans (and I am sure there are infinitely many out there) that rowdy 'Rocket\* Raccoon' did not debut in his own mini-series until nearly a decade after these superlative Starlin stories (most unfortunately!): But when you do purchase this hallowed tome, you will most definitely:-See the earliest adventures of the green-hued gorgeous but infinitely deadly Gamora (when she was still a protégé of death-worshipping Thanos!). -See Thanos in an uncharacteristically benevolent role?! (not quite, but at least temporarily the 'Lesser of Two Evils' against the eviler 'Magus' for the first part of this Epic Tale!).-See the cosmic super-being Adam 'Warlock' realizing that he might very well be the reluctant 'savior' of Life as we know it![[for those unfamiliar with this character, the name 'Warlock' truly belies the fact his intentions have almost always been 'good' although his best laid plans have usually gone awry (like unsuccessfully keeping those violent 'beast-men' from infiltrating the new 'Garden of Eden' known as Counter-Earth!)] And of course, his intrinsically personal 'Link' to that evil-incarnate 'Magus' (a being even scarier than Thanos, if that's possible!)] This is far-reaching and quite ambitious Science Fiction (that went way beyond anything presented in the American 'Comics' format at that time = mid-Late 1970's) - and I think the super-imaginative nature of these Jim Starlin stories (and the incredibly creative, and sometimes even bizarre Artwork) really revolutionized comics & Graphic novels, for decades to come!note\*: I think (although I never saw it myself) that Rocket did initially debut in a mid-1970's B&W Marvel magazine 'Marvel Preview,' first as 'Rocky' Raccoon (inspired by a Beatles song?!)

Created by the Legendary MARVEL Writer: Bill Mantlo!

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