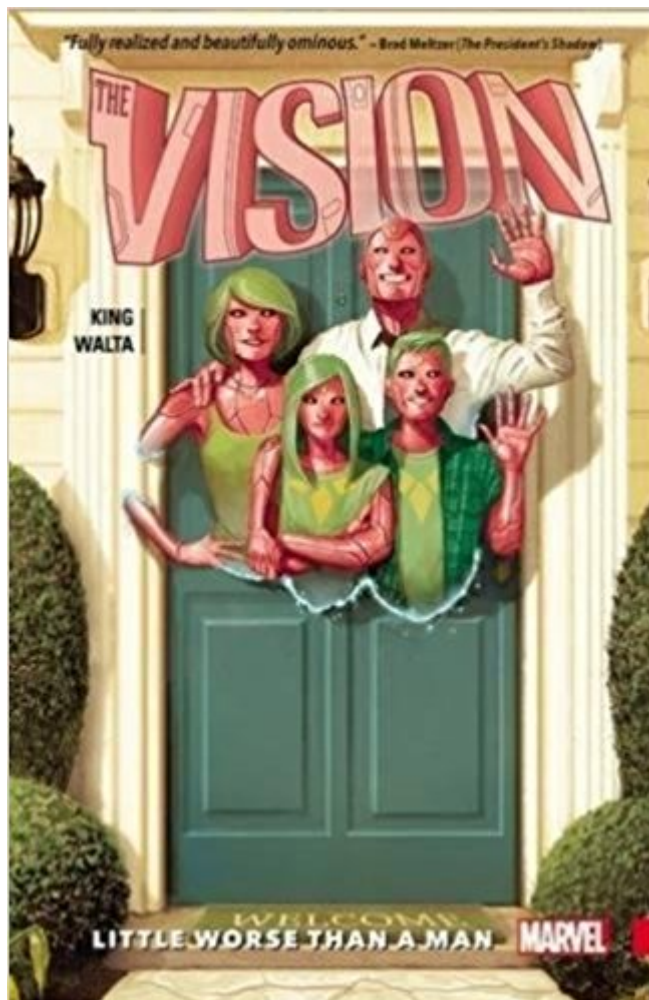


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# Vision Vol. 1: Little Worse Than A Man



## Synopsis

The Vision wants to be human, and what's more human than family? So he heads back to the beginning, to the laboratory where Ultron created him and molded him into a weapon. The place where he first rebelled against his given destiny and imagined that he could be more -that he could be a man. There, he builds them. A wife, Virginia. Two teenage twins, Viv and Vin. They look like him. They have his powers. They share his grandest ambition -or is that obsession? -the unrelenting need to be ordinary. Behold the Visions! COLLECTING: VISION 1-6

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have to be honest, while I think of myself as a fan of comic books and the stories that have been inspired by them, I don't read them regularly. The Vision was a character that I was aware of before his debut in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, but it wasn't until his appearance in "Age of Ultron" that I got to know him. This book is my diving in to his world in the comics themselves, and it felt as though a lot of it was written to accommodate newcomers like me. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, of course, the story is accessible to the uninitiated. There's a good deal of humor in the idea of a day-in-the-life of a super-powered android family. Underneath it, though, are dark undertones hinting at tragedies both occurring and to come. I bought it on a whim born out of curiosities over the character and recommendations from online critics. It doesn't disappoint.

This is a powerful, fascinating work; it's so compelling, in fact, that it's led to the first review I've ever

written on the genre (and I've been reading comics for 30 years). As other reviews have mentioned, it's a slow-moving, complex, 'adult' sort of story - all of which are accurate, and the comparisons to other complex works like *Watchmen* or *Maus* are apt. If you like that type of writing, I suspect you'll love this one. In essence, Tom King's "Vision" is a work of psychological horror of the most powerful sort, where one tragic event begets a series of other tragic actions and occurrences, and you watch the characters in the story respond and cause further tragedies, all with a sort of horrible, but very understandable and realistic, inevitability. The foreshadowing King does here adds to this feeling (telling you the fate of some characters, and clearly laying out tragedies to come), although of all the elements in the story, combined with a particularly brutal scene between Agatha Harkness and her familiar, Ebony, it felt a little heavy-handed (my only complaint about the writing, and it didn't really detract overall). Tom King may have meant both to jar and to contrast with the understated subtlety present in much of the collection, and if so, that technique certainly succeeded. Overall this collection reminds me most of early Stephen King, especially *Pet Sematary*, in terms of the powerful and apt portrayal of subtle but chillingly accurate psychological elements. Several times, as when I read *Pet Sematary*, I found myself thinking 'oh no, if only x hadn't happened, then y wouldn't have happened.' That's good writing, to draw someone in so far. The above is general, so as not to give any spoilers, but I will add that the interactions between C.K. and the Visions, especially Viv, are particularly poignant and really draw one in.

This review is for Volume 1 & 2 of *The Vision*. Will this be Tom King's greatest comic book work? Can he top his story in *The Vision* elsewhere? I have to ask these questions because these 12 issues are that good. I was captured and hooked tight from the very beginning. The story is so simple, but also so complicated. It's beautiful. King takes an android avenger out of his regular arena and puts him somewhere that many can relate to, the suburbs. And he's not fighting crime in the suburbs, he's dealing with his two curious teenage kids, his loving wife, and the nosey neighbors. Who writes stories like this featuring super heroes? *Hawkeye* by Matt Fraction surely inspired *The Vision* in its behind the scenes take on a character usually only enjoyed for their punching and kicking, so check that out if you haven't already. Seriously though, this book, these 12 issues, they're comic book gold. These are the books I'll give someone who might like comics but isn't sure what to read. Thank you, Tom King. And the art, it's fantastic. It's simple, but beautifully straight forward, just what this story demands. The pencils and colors couldn't be better.

The Vision builds himself a family and moves to the suburbs with them. Things are great until they

aren't. After reading the first issue of *The Vision* via Marvel Unlimited, I knew I wanted to read the rest. *Little Worse than a Man* collects the first six issues. The Vision and his family experience prejudice from their human neighbors, Viv and Vin's classmates, and later, the cops. Virginia lies to the Vision once and it snowballs, sending their quiet suburban life out of control. I saw someone refer to *The Vision* as the *Breaking Bad* of the Marvel Universe and I can definitely see it heading in that direction. The subdued art fits the story perfectly, and Tom King is going to be a big name in the future. The story's unknown (at first, anyway) narrator gives the book a tone not often seen in superhero comics. It raises questions about family and what it means to be human. Tom King and Gabriel Hernandez Walta have produced one of those quirky, powerful books I can't imagine Marvel taking a chance on ten years ago. I can't wait to see what the next volume holds.

This is a *\*staggering\** work by relative newcomer Tom King. Marvel's android hero The Vision, having recently mindwiped himself into a sort of reset, decides to create a family for himself and take up residence in the suburbs to simulate a "normal life". Of course, having a normal life is difficult even if you're a human being, but being an android Avenger with enemies always lurking in the woodwork means a normal life is next to impossible, and it could lead to some...programming errors. The dread is absolutely palpable throughout this series. It's chock-full of poignant moments and foreshadowing that always let you know the Vision's world is just one gentle push from falling over a precipice. The literary devices King uses vary from issue to issue and are imaginative as hell, so despite its "Father Knows Best" cover, *THE VISION* is both an extremely entertaining and intellectually stimulating read.

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