

# Step into the Savage World of Conan: The Barbarian by Roy Thomas

In the untamed and unforgiving realm of Conan the Barbarian, Roy Thomas's epic tales have captivated readers for decades. From 1970 to 1993, Thomas crafted 71 issues that delve into the brutal existence of this legendary warrior. Now, let us embark on a literary journey through these iconic issues, exploring the savage landscapes, ferocious battles, and indomitable spirit of Conan.

## The Genesis of a Barbarian Legend

Conan, a product of Robert E. Howard's vivid imagination, first emerged in the pulp magazine "Weird Tales" in the 1930s. A Cimmerian warrior, Conan roamed a prehistoric world filled with monsters, sorcerers, and ancient civilizations. In 1970, Marvel Comics acquired the rights to adapt Howard's stories, and Roy Thomas took up the daunting task of translating them into the realm of sequential art.



### Conan The Barbarian (1970-1993) #71 by Roy Thomas

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 19 pages



## Thomas's Vision: A Gritty and Brutal World

Thomas, known for his innovative storytelling in comics such as X-Men and Avengers, brought a fresh perspective to the Conan series. He embraced the savage and often violent nature of Howard's tales, depicting a world where survival was a constant struggle. Thomas's Conan was not a hero in the traditional sense; he was a ruthless mercenary driven by instinct and ambition.

### **Issue #1: Enter the Black Colossus**

The inaugural issue of Conan the Barbarian, released in October 1970, sets the tone for the series' gritty and action-packed nature. Conan, a prisoner in the slave pits of Xuthal, faces the formidable Black Colossus in a brutal gladiator fight. The issue showcases Thomas's deft storytelling, as Conan's cunning and ferocity emerge amidst the bloodshed.

### **Artistic Masterpieces: The Art of Barry Windsor-Smith**

The early issues of Conan the Barbarian were brought to life by the masterful artwork of Barry Windsor-Smith. Windsor-Smith's intricate pencil work and dynamic panel layouts captured the savage beauty of Thomas's stories. His iconic depictions of Conan, with his rippling muscles and piercing gaze, became synonymous with the character.

### **Issue #23: Night of the Skull**

In this pivotal issue, Conan encounters the enigmatic Skull, a powerful sorcerer from his past. The story delves into Conan's complex relationships and his relentless pursuit of vengeance. Thomas's compelling narrative is complemented by Windsor-Smith's atmospheric artwork, creating an unforgettable reading experience.

### **Issue #50: The Shadow of the Vulture**

Marking a significant milestone in the series, issue #50 introduced a new artist: John Buscema. Buscema's bold and expressive style brought a fresh energy to the title. In this issue, Conan faces the vengeance of the Vulture, a master thief seeking revenge for his stolen loot.

## **A Legacy of Epic Storytelling**

Throughout the 71 issues of Conan the Barbarian written by Roy Thomas, readers were immersed in a savage and unforgiving world. Thomas's stories explored the darker aspects of humanity, while showcasing the indomitable spirit of his protagonist. The series became a touchstone for fantasy and adventure, influencing countless works of literature, film, and television.

## **Issue #71: The Hand of Nergal**

The final issue of Thomas's epic run, released in September 1993, brings closure to the series' overarching narrative. Conan, facing the consequences of his past actions, confronts the evil sorcerer Nergal in a climactic battle that tests his limits. Thomas's poignant leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

## **Conan the Barbarian: An Enduring Legacy**

Roy Thomas's Conan the Barbarian series remains an iconic work in the realm of comics and fantasy literature. His gritty and compelling storytelling, coupled with the stunning artwork of Barry Windsor-Smith, John Buscema, and other talented artists, has left an indelible mark on popular culture. The series continues to inspire and entertain generations of readers, proving that the legend of Conan the Barbarian will forever endure.

## **Call to Action: Embark on an Epic Adventure**

If you seek a literary adventure that will transport you to a savage and unforgiving world, look no further than Conan the Barbarian by Roy Thomas. This collection of 71 issues offers a thrilling and unforgettable journey into the realm of fantasy and adventure. Experience the indomitable spirit of Conan, the brutal battles, and the unforgettable tales that have made this series a timeless classic. Dive into the savage world of Conan the Barbarian today and let your imagination run wild!



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