

# “Captain Marvel”

By Helen Lutz

Marvel Comics and Stan Lee have provided the movie industry with a myriad of comic book heroes to entertain us on the big screen. Spiderman, Captain America, Ironman and yes, even Deadpool have appeared again and again as super heroes saving humanity. Most recently we met the Black Panther which was all the rage in Hollywood – award winning. That’s pretty cool for a comic book movie.



Marvel brings a new character to life in “Captain Marvel” which is now playing in theaters. Written and directed by women with a strong female lead character played by Brie Larson. We first meet Vers (Larson) as she challenges her mentor/trainer Yon-Rogg (Jude Law) to a sparring match. The two tumble with Yon-Rogg always cautioning his ‘Grasshopper’ to learn to control her emotions. She has amazing powers and must learn how to effectively use them. But where did these powers originate? While she experiences flashbacks, she can’t remember her past.

Vers and Yon-Rogg inhabit the Kree planet of Hala. A galactic war rages with the Skrulls who are shape-shifters and destroyers of planets. Yon-Rogg’s team, to include Vers, is sent to retrieve a prisoner held captive by the Skrulls who must not be compromised. Unfortunately, the mission doesn’t go well and Vers falls into the hands of the Skrulls. Their mind probing techniques are creative to say the least. Using all her strength and talents to break free, Vers jettisons the Skrull ship in an escape pod only to crash on the little planet Earth in the 1990’s totally destroying a Blockbuster Video in the process.

Recognizing her value, the Skrulls follow her to Earth. She must save the planet from their advances; but who can be trusted? Law enforcement takes an interest in the little lady which destroyed the Blockbuster and yet walked away unharmed. Since Vers did nothing out of the ordinary in her mind, she hides in plain sight trying to make her communication device work with a pay phone. N. Fury played by Samuel L. Jackson of S.H.I.E.L.D. takes the lead in the investigation and quickly learns that truth is stranger than fiction.

Vers and Fury struggle to find the Skrulls and learn a great deal about both the aliens and Vers. It seems that Vers (even with her blue blood) is a former Air Force test pilot, actually was taken from Earth by the Kree. She follows the clues to learn that she was once Carol Danvers, a highly successful test pilot who was believed to have died in a terrible crash several years ago. Carol and Fury also uncover several of the Kree’s secrets about the intergalactic war.

Director Anna Boden meticulously sets the stage for the eventual character of Captain Marvel. Larson meticulously brings the character to life. The step-by-step progression becomes a bit tedious as it unfolds. The story is full of twists and turns with plenty of comic relief in both the script and the 1990’s setting. We tend to forget about dial up downloads, pay phones and two-way pagers being state of the art at the time. The movie is filled with good special effects and action, but still feels as if something is missing. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “Captain Marvel” THREE HARTS. Disney works its magic creating a new action hero as well as a very young appearing Samuel A. Jackson (70); however, the part of Goose the Cat is priceless.