

[Fantastic Four: First Steps Review](#)

Did the Reboot Finally Work?



Marvel Studios has officially rebooted its most famous superhero family with [Fantastic Four: First Steps \(2025\)](#), directed by Matt Shakman. After years of failed adaptations and mixed reception, fans were understandably nervous about another attempt. But with a powerful cast led by Pedro Pascal and Vanessa Kirby, Marvel finally delivers a version that feels authentic, emotional, and promising for the MCU's future.

Still, the question remains: Did the reboot actually work, or is it just another misstep? Here's our complete *Fantastic Four: First Steps* review to help you decide whether it's worth a trip to the theater.

Fantastic Four: First Steps (2025) At a Glance

- **IMDb:** 7.3
- **Rotten Tomatoes Critics:** 86%
- **Rotten Tomatoes Audience:** 91%
- **Genre:** Space sci-fi, superhero, action, adventure
- **Cast:** Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Ralph Ineson, Julia Garner
- **Director:** Matt Shakman
- **Writers:** Peter Cameron, Josh Friedman, Jeff Kaplan
- **Producer:** Kevin Feige
- **Release Date:** July 25, 2025
- **Runtime:** 1 hour 54 minutes
- **Streaming:** Currently only in theaters under Walt Disney Pictures. Expected on Disney+ around December 2025.

Plot Details of Fantastic Four: First Steps (2025)

The film embraces the title *First Steps* in more ways than one—it's both the beginning of Marvel's "First Family" and the introduction of the next generation.

Set in the **1960s retro era**, the movie follows Reed Richards (Pedro Pascal), Sue Storm (Vanessa Kirby), Johnny Storm (Joseph Quinn), and Ben Grimm (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) as they balance their newfound powers, responsibilities, and personal lives. Reed and Sue are expecting a baby, Franklin, whose mysterious powers attract the attention of the cosmic devourer Galactus (Ralph Ineson).

Silver Surfer (Julia Garner), serving as Galactus's herald, warns the heroes that Earth is doomed unless they surrender what he seeks most—the child. The team faces the challenge of protecting both Franklin and the planet, culminating in an epic battle against Galactus with surprising twists from the Surfer herself.

Actors' Performances in Fantastic Four: First Steps (2025)

The reboot shines thanks to its cast chemistry.

- **Vanessa Kirby (Sue Storm):** A standout as both a mother and a leader, Kirby brings depth and determination. Her emotional portrayal of a woman protecting her baby and her people makes Sue the true heart of the story.
- **Pedro Pascal (Reed Richards):** Perfectly cast, Pascal balances Reed's scientific genius with his vulnerability as a

father. His ability to shift between intellectual brilliance and raw emotion keeps Reed compelling.

- **Joseph Quinn (Johnny Storm):** Quinn delivers charisma and humor, while his surprising connection with Silver Surfer adds layers to his character.
- **Ebon Moss-Bachrach (Ben Grimm):** Provides comic relief while still grounding the team's humanity.
- **Julia Garner (Silver Surfer/Shalla-Bal):** An empathetic yet conflicted Surfer, caught between Galactus and her family. Garner's performance makes the Surfer more than just a herald—it makes her relatable.
- **Ralph Ineson (Galactus):** A commanding presence. His deep, menacing voice adds gravitas, though his backstory feels underexplored.

Overall, the performances elevate what could have been just another Marvel action flick into something with emotional weight.

What Do Critics Say?

Critics on Rotten Tomatoes praised the reboot, with the consensus stating:

“Benefitting from rock-solid cast chemistry and clad in appealingly retro 1960s design, this crack at The Fantastic Four does Marvel’s First Family justice.”

Most critics agreed this is the strongest *Fantastic Four* film to date, finally giving the team the respect they deserve within the MCU. The focus on family, relationships, and emotional stakes helped it stand out from Marvel’s recent misfires.

Fans’ Reaction

Audiences loved it even more than critics, with a 91% audience score. Many fans called it a “refreshing change” from the typical MCU formula. The emphasis on family dynamics and the arrival of baby Franklin resonated strongly.

Sue Storm quickly became a fan favorite, with many praising her portrayal as both a mother and a superhero.

Is It Worth Watching?

Yes—*Fantastic Four: First Steps* is worth watching both for its entertainment value and its role in shaping the MCU’s future. Unlike previous failed adaptations, this version successfully balances action, humor, and heartfelt drama.

It's not flawless, but it's easily the best *Fantastic Four* film yet and a solid setup for Marvel's next phase.

Baby Franklin in Fantastic Four: First Steps

The biggest surprise is the introduction of **Franklin Richards**, a baby with cosmic-level powers. Galactus's obsession with Franklin makes sense once you consider the comics, where Franklin is one of the most powerful beings in Marvel lore—capable of reshaping matter, energy, and even resurrecting life.

The **post-credits scene** takes things further: four years later, Franklin is seen playing with a mysterious figure in a green cloak—Doctor Doom, portrayed by none other than **Robert Downey Jr.** This instantly sets the stage for *Avengers: Doomsday* and suggests Franklin will play a pivotal role in future MCU events.

What We Liked

- Strong performances across the cast
- Vanessa Kirby's Sue Storm as the emotional core
- A heartfelt, family-oriented storyline
- Retro 1960s aesthetic and style
- Silver Surfer reimagined with depth

- Exciting Doctor Doom tease in post-credits
 - Humor, heart, and MCU connectivity
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What Could Be Better

- Six major leads meant limited focus on some characters
 - Galactus's motivations were underexplored
 - Action sequences felt fewer compared to typical Marvel films
 - Fans expected more of Galactus's history
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Ratings Breakdown

- **Story/Plot:** 7/10
- **Characters & Acting:** 7/10
- **Direction & Pacing:** 6.5/10
- **Visuals & Cinematography:** 7/10
- **Soundtrack/Score:** 6/10
- **Themes & Message:** 7/10
- **Emotional Impact:** 7.5/10
- **Creativity/Originality:** 8/10

- **Rewatchability:** 5/10

Our Rating: 6/10

Streaming Information

Fantastic Four: First Steps (2025) is currently only available in theaters. A Disney+ release is expected around December 2025.

Final Verdict

Fantastic Four: First Steps may not be Marvel's greatest film, but it's a heartfelt and successful reboot that finally gives the team justice. With strong performances, a family-driven narrative, and a tantalizing setup for future MCU films, it's a movie worth experiencing on the big screen.

The inclusion of Franklin Richards and Doctor Doom sets the stage for even bigger storylines in *Avengers: Doomsday*. Marvel may have stumbled earlier this year with *Captain America: Brave New World* and *Thunderbolts*, but with *Fantastic Four: First Steps*, the studio shows signs of finding its rhythm again.

 Do you agree with our *Fantastic Four: First Steps* review? Share your thoughts and let us know your favorite moment in the movie!

