

BOOKS

So, you have a huge paper due tomorrow morning, but the word you want simply refuses to surface, what do you do? Well, in the not too distant past the answer to that would have been to hit your thesaurus, but not anymore. The new resource book is the Random House Word Menu. This book is a breeding of a dictionary, thesaurus, treasury of glossaries, reverse dictionary and almanac. Anything you want, this book has, and its all organized by subjectmatter. Plus, it's got an index for when you know what word you want. The 977 page WordMenu was compiled by Stephen Glazier and the dust jacket proclaims it as "The ultimate one-volume Resource for finding and using words". But really, this book does what it says it does- it is quite useful during those late night essay writing sessions. And all this for only \$27.50 Canadian. What more does a busy student need? ●

Comics

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scrawls that serve only to accentuate the drawings' lack of detail rather than compensate for it. The artwork is, overall, quite poor, including the rather annoying "foil enhanced" cover. Such covers can often be annoying if for no other reason than the fact that Marvel is constantly producing such gimmicks for their books, and they're not very unique anymore. Cover enhancements like this jack up the books' price, and it's even more frustrating when, as in this case, it's a poor cover (the foil in question is just red foil on the title logo and a big red background behind the dashing Defenders, nothing too original or exciting). Marvel has produced some impressive enhanced covers, such as the recent "holo-grafx" cover of *Doctor Strange* #50 or the unique "prismatic foil" cover of *Guardians of the Galaxy* #25, but the cover of *Secret Defenders* #1 boasts neither good artwork nor original gimmickry. This picture is worth a thousand apologies.

In short, *The Secret Defenders* is a reasonably well-written series with a lot of potential, though the art is a total write-off and the book's first issue is ridiculously overpriced (\$3.15, probably thanks largely to that foil-enhanced fiasco that serves as the book's cover). Subsequent issues will be a slightly more reasonable \$2.25, and fans of Doc Strange, Defenders, and super teams in general may enjoy the rather eclectic storytelling this book could produce. ●

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