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Astonishing X-Men Vol. 2: Dangerous



Synopsis

Collects ASTONISHING X-MEN (2004) #7-12. A death at the Xavier Institute reveals a powerful enemy, one that the X-Men never would have ever expected.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

OK, I will be blunt - you need to read Vol. 1 first then read this volume slowly. There are several story details in the first 100 pages or so (4-5 issues) that are essential to understanding what happens near the end. The first time I read this storyline when it was new, I was confused as hell at who was doing what, but reading it now as one volume it does make sense but I saw several parts where I had missed quick asides and minor plot points that come back big later. The story is just WOW. And the buildup and conclusion is pure awesomeness. Never mind that the art is some of the best on the market, period.

Once again, the amazing art is astonishing, which is one of the main reasons I love comics... the other reason, interesting smart story, hard to digest when they put your heroes in a more human and realistic position, where not everything is black and white, there is a lot of gray areas...

Loved this. Great writing.

This volume was really good! It was well written and well drawn. I really enjoyed it. Colossus is the best!

This is one of the best X-Men stories I have read in a long time. My only gripe is that it's too short, but then these things have a set number of pages anyway. I loved every minute of this story. I don't want to spoil anything, because I found that half the fun was in the mystery (or multiple mysteries, as it were), but the re-imagining of an X-Men staple as an enemy was fabulous. Critics complain that it's been done before, but frankly I don't care. Each character is very well thought-out, and their inner monologue in issue #7 is fantastic. It's also nice to see the X-Men interacting with other superhumans (Fantastic Four directly, mention of the Avengers and Spider-man), something that is not often done with the X-men. Everyone occasionally has to strain with the X-verse and suspend a little more disbelief than usually necessary (how many times can we use the ol' Skrull impostor bit? How many times can Jean Grey REALLY die?) But this series is a refreshing departure from those previous convoluted storylines. An apparent continuation of Grant Morrison's New X-Men storyline (which I have not read, but plan on reading after this bit), this arc by Whedon is doing fantastic things for the X-Men. However, I heard that Whedon may not be continuing on this, but he is contracted to finish out one more year of Astonishing. Let's all hope it's equally as good. Buy this book immediately.

Incredible art and story. Builds on volume one and introduces another new villain in the form of alien A.I. Danger.

This was one of the hardest graphic novels to wait for since Ultimates 2. I gave up reading individual comic issues a few years back, preferring to buy the more durable and bookshelf-friendly collections, and only rarely have I regretted that decision, but the ending of the first Astonishing X-Men hardcover collection made the wait until the second hardcover was released almost intolerable. Well, the wait is over and fortunately Joss Whedon (of Buffy and Angel fame) and John Cassaday did not disappoint. Whedon's storytelling, plot twists and unforgettable dialogue make this one of the most memorable X-Men runs in ages. The first half of the collection is the Torn storyline, featuring the return (of sorts) of the all-new, all-evil Hellfire Club. Watching these guys rip through

the X-Men with brutal precision was just incredible. Whedon, whose grasp of the X-Men's psychology is astonishing, uses this storyline to build Kitty Pryde into an A-list X-Man much the same way as Grant Morrison did for Emma Frost in his acclaimed X-Men run. He also goes a long way towards making Cyclops interesting again, which I appreciate. I wasn't quite as impressed by the Unstoppable storyline in the second half of the book. Don't get me wrong, it's still one of the best X-Men tales around; I just never seem to enjoy those X-Men in space storylines (though Beast and Wolverine's reactions to being sent into space were priceless). In this story, the X-Men are sent to Breakworld (home of Ord from the first Astonishing X-Men storyline) to prevent Earth's destruction. Whedon's dialogue shines again, but these galactic epic storylines seem all too familiar, even with the sacrifice of a key character at the end of the saga. As impressive as Whedon's stories are, John Cassaday's artwork is equally powerful. He's one of the 2-3 best artists working in comics today (second only to Bryan Hitch and Greg Land). I loved his Planetary run, and think he was the best possible choice for what Whedon wanted to accomplish in his X-Men run. Whedon and Cassaday have put together one of the most impressive X-Men runs in history. I think that the Grant Morrison run will always be more important, coming in after years of mediocrity to radically shake up the status quo (not unlike Claremont and Cockrum's original run), but Whedon's run reflects a deeper love for the characters and their rich histories. This is another must-have collection for all X-Men fans, and has raised the bar for future X-Men stories.

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