



Wolverine: Origin II

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Collects Origin II #1-5.

A new chapter in the secret origin of one of Marvel's most mysterious characters is revealed, by superstars Kieron Gillen (THOR) and Adam Kubert (AVX)! A few years after the events of ORIGIN finds James "Logan" Howlett running with the wolves, until something unexpected brings him back into the world of men! And when word of a clawed wild man reaches civilization, the hunt to capture him begins! James soon falls afoul of someone Sinister, who's just discovering mutantkind — and the horrors he can visit on them. Escaping his captors and rediscovering his humanity, James and Clara are on the run — but can Sinister offer James something he can't refuse? The mutant who will someday become Wolverine must choose: Is he man or is he beast? Plus: Discover the secret behind James' greatest enemy, the man called Creed!

Wolverine: Origin II Details

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From Reader Review Wolverine: Origin II for online ebook

Dan says

More of a story told with pictures than words. Creed's first meeting with Logan. Okay.

Scott says

Len Wein admitted that when he created Wolverine, he imagined a rather young man with claws in his gloves. Other writers and artists have expanded on the character, initially showing him to appear middle aged, and ultimately, much older than he appears as a result of his healing factor.

The previous Origin volume showed Wolverine as a little kid, so here we see him appearing to be a very young man.

Unfortunately, most of the story is Wolverine (called only "Logan" or "the savage" here) being exhibited in a circus or experimented on by a scientist with steampunk trappings. Although this establishes how Wolverine met Victor Creed, alias Sabretooth, this really isn't very original material, and gives the reader a sense of earlier, better stories. The only particularly interesting twist involves the character Clara and our knowledge of the extent of Creed's healing powers.

It's not a bad read, but it's definitely nothing special. The writing early on with the wolf family is quite good, but this is mostly a compendium of tropes. The resemblance of Hugo to Dum Dum Dugan, Clara to Valkyrie, and Dr. Essex to Doctor Strange didn't help that much, either. (It turns out Essex is Mister Sinister, but this wasn't obvious to me.)

Jason says

So this was good, and I'm glad I read it. Some cool little stories, and Kubert's art was awesome.

But the overall story seemed to rely too much on shock value moments instead of actual character development.

Lots of good little gem moments, but the sum of the parts didn't gel together well enough to equal a good overall story.

Sam Quixote says

Wolverine is one of the most popular superheroes in the world yet arguably has the worst origin and most convoluted backstory over anyone. Part of this stems from the first Origin book back in 2000 by a smorgasbord of creators – then Marvel Chief Bill Jemas, the soon-to-be Marvel Chief Joe Quesada, writer Paul Jenkins (whose thankless task it was to implement Jemas' bad ideas), and artist Andy Kubert.

Together they put together a godawful book where Logan – now called James Howlett – is revealed to be a 19th century sickly child of wealthy industrialist parents whose evil groundskeeper somehow causes him to accidentally murder his dad and sends him and his pal on the run. He later kills his friend accidentally and disappears into the wild, traumatised. Writer Kieron Gillen and Adam Kubert, brother of Andy, pick up the thread to tell the still-unnecessary story of what happened next.

It's 1907 and Logan's been spending his time running around naked in the Canadian woods with his wolf family. But suddenly people are after him. The "gentleman" scientist Nathaniel Essex (the future Mister Sinister) wants to capture Logan and dissect him, while a travelling circus wants him for their star attraction – enter a man called Creed, dispatched to bring Logan in.

Besides showing Logan's first encounter with Essex and the Creed family, I struggled to see the point of this book. I know why it exists from a commercial standpoint – because it'll sell – but, from a creative standpoint, an origin story should reveal something crucial about the character, ie. how they became who they are, and Origin II does nothing of the sort. Wolverine's already the character he'll become at the start of Origin II and the events of this book don't change him at all.

Gillen makes a banal point about who the "real savage" is (ready for this bombshell? It's not wild animals, it's ... man) and Logan suffers some more because that's his lot when it comes to his origins apparently, but we don't actually learn anything new about him with this book.

I don't know if it was his intention to write one of the most boring Wolverine books ever but that's what Kieron Gillen's done, which is surprising if you've read his other Marvel books like Young Avengers which are fizzing with energy, fun and ideas. To go from those kind of comics to the flat, monotone, painfully dull narrative of Origin II is totally unlike the quality writing and imaginative storytelling you'd expect from him. Adam Kubert's art is fine – I prefer it to Andy's – but there weren't any images that stood out as particularly memorable and the overall effect is unmoving.

Origin II is completely pointless, telling us the unnecessary next part in the dull early years of Wolverine while also failing to shed light on any aspect Wolverine's character. You come away from the book knowing the same about Logan as you did going in, which totally undermines the point of telling an origin story. For a character of his popularity, Wolverine's origins should really be better than this.

Joseph Inzirillo says

Wolverine origin stories are always good. This details his wild time in the woods and his first experience with the Creed family. Good story. Good art.

Hailey says

The story of Wolverine has always fascinated me. As a young child when the X-Men movies first came out I was pretty impressionable.

When the origin story first came out I was excited, a glimpse into the mysterious almost elusive background of Logan was exciting, it was clear that he had made an impression on me from childhood.

I no particular order I found this volume boring, dreary, dull and generally unexciting and uninteresting. A huge step down from the first volume that gathered my attention immediately.

Although the art style is impressive and I'm a personal fan of it the story line was lacking in more ways then one. It's a fair sized graphic novel but nothing seems to happen in it. We have pages and pages of it and characters are introduced and killed off but there's no real character development.

Its disappointing to say the very least and I don't think I would recommend it to anyone.

Matt Tandy says

Gillen takes the story started by Jenkins and makes everything more intense, giving more insight into the savagery of Wolverine, and also the tragedies his heart is made to endure. More action packed than the original Origin, Origin II is closer to a superhero comic. However, the excellent writing continues as Gillen gives much more background into Logan and also his oldest nemesis. Terrific adding a major X-Men villain, and the little twist at the end is cool. Both Origin stories give so much more weight to the Logan character, making his overall story even more intriguing.

Jordan Lahn says

This story was alright. Nothing special. Definitely not as revelatory as the original Origin. Kind of feels like more of the same... That being said it is entertaining in its limited way.

Jorge Lopez says

This book wasn't bad. It is just the perfect definition of unnecessary. An average meh story that does not add anything to the character's story whose only objective is to cash the previous Origins Graphic Novel by Paul Jenkins, continuing a story that was already perfectly closed.

The art was beautiful, though.

Quentin Wallace says

I liked this one, but it still felt a little like ret-conning, which I am not a fan of. You get to see Wolverine living with the wolves after the event of the first Origin series. Then, Mr. Sinister and the Creed family are introduced to Wolverine. I really liked Wolverine better before either Origin series, but this was still an entertaining read. The Kubert art is great as well, but not up to the level of the first series.

I'm sure any Wolverine fan will enjoy this one, particularly if you enjoyed the original ORIGIN series.

Pinkerton says

English (but not so good) / Italiano

Yes, I know isn't perfect but I think that many people exaggerate with critical against Origin II. Personally I love this tale and I think that if it could have more space - giving wider breathe to the moneybags event, the opulent Doc. Essex, and to the Creed family - it will be one of the must have volume not only of Wolverine but of the X-Men in general... for me it's already. Even this time awesome graphics, no superheroes and a drama for framing; a bit like the memorable splash page, with a strong emotional impact, about the bear that gave rise to chaos.

“...the bear had found its way home.”

“But not to his home.”

5 stars deserved.

Italiano

Sì, so che non è perfetto ma penso che molti esagerino con le critiche nei confronti di Origini II. Personalmente adoro questo racconto e credo che se avesse potuto godere di maggior spazio - dando ampio respiro alla vicenda del riccone, l'opulento dottor Essex, e alla famiglia Creed - sarebbe stato uno dei volumi must have non solo di Wolverine ma degli X-Men in generale... per me lo è già. Anche stavolta grafica eccezionale, niente supereroi e un dramma da incorniciare; un po' come la memorabile splash-page, dal forte impatto emotivo, con l'orso che dette origine al caos.

“...l'orso aveva ritrovato la via di casa.”

“Ma non di casa sua.”

5 stelle meritate.

Ozan says

It was ok. Wolverine left the civilisation and lived with wolfs, then Pychopat Dr. Essex's freak experiment which is a polar bear killed all the wolf family of Wolverine... And then some circus people caught wolverine and used him in their show... lol like nightcrawlar, he was circus freak for a while too after all. Dr. Essex made an offer to circus owner to bring the Wolverine to make some experiments on him... That was painful for Wolverine for sure too but nothing new, if you read Weapon X. So it doesn't bring anything new to the table. All this made the foundation of Sabretooth vs Wolverine rivalry. Wolverine met with Sabretooth, he was working with circus people and helped them to catch Wolverine but even in the end of the book, the hate between them was not there, they were not at a vendetta position yet... This means you kids better be get ready for Origin book III... lol And i wasn't a big fan of the first one to begin with. It was a mix of a Tom Cruise's "far and away" film and classic story "the secret garden". Who knows what they ripped off in this second installment lol and it was very short...

Sr3yas says

What's wrong with Wolverine: Origin II in ten sentences or less

- (1) You can only have one origin story.
- (2) Wolverine staring as an overgrown Mowgli.
- (3) White Baloo got no chills.
- (4) Human Characters duller than a cabbage
- (5) Unnecessary forging of connections between classic characters which screw up the charm of original storylines.
- (6) Wolverine is savage. We get it.
- (7) Dissecting Wolverine for the first time as a throwback to Weapon X.
- (8) A plot that supplements absolutely nothing to the character of Logan.
- (9) Worse of all, they actually managed to turn Logan into a boring character.

Skip or gift it to your worst enemy.

Anne says

Crap story with decent art.

Wolverine, or should I say the *Wolfish Man* {insert scoff here}, because that's what he goes by while he's rolling with his new wolf family out in the Canadian wilderness, is back for *another* origin story.

Which is *genius* when you think about it. I mean, they can milk this shit *forever*, if they want to keep churning out volumes for each year of his life before he joined up with the X-men.

What an exciting thought!

Wolfish Man's life is torn apart (*again*) when a rogue (*mutated*) polar bear eats his new family. As mutant polar bears do...

Still reeling from their deaths, he gets captured by Creed & a nice chick with a scarred face, who work for a dude who owns a circus. No, I'm not kidding.

Logan joins the circus.

Well, not so much *joins* the circus. More like he gets put into the freak show line-up, and they poke him with a cattle prod to get his claws to pop out.

Too bad he doesn't have his adamantium claws yet. All he can do is growl & swipe ineffectually at the inside of his little cage.

Looks like those guys at Weapon X really did you a favor there, Bub.

Logan (*I refuse to call him Wolfish Man anymore*), eventually begins to trust Cleo (the nice lady), and they form a bond.

She rescues him from an evil scientist that the circus guy lends him out to, and they go on the run!

With Creed.

There are a few little twists at the end, that kept it from being one star material, but most of it was just not worth reading.

If you're a huge Wolverine completionist, *and* you can borrow this from your library or a friend, then go for it. However, I wouldn't personally shell out any money for this one.

Sud666 says

Kieron Gillen wrote some great comics when he wrote the Darth Vader comics. So I was glad to see him writing this origin story.

Damn this is good! The artwork is gorgeous and the story is truly well done. It starts with Logan spending time with a wolf pack. I really liked this part of the story and the ending part is touching. The rest of the story about the Creed family and Logan's interactions with them were different. I won't say any more since there are some special things going on-so I shall not say a thing.

This is a look not only at Logan's background but also of his psyche. This is a dark tale and some may find it depressing. But I always thought that Logan's tale SHOULD be tragic and sad. I enjoyed this tale and am looking forwards to the rest of the tale. Let's hope Gillen keeps on this story arc for awhile-he really does a great job with the Logan storyline. Excellent!
