



Uncanny X-Men By Kieron Gillen, Volume 1

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After the Schism, UNCANNY X-MEN starts over. What is to become of (CENSORED) and the mutants who side with him after the big split? And what does it have to do with the resurrected Mister Sinister? The hottest new writer in the business, Kieron Gillen (Thor) and superstar Carlos Pacheco (X-Men:Schism, Ultimate Avengers) bring you the biggest and baddest X-Men you've ever seen.

COLLECTING: UNCANNY X-MEN 1-4

Uncanny X-Men By Kieron Gillen, Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review Uncanny X-Men By Kieron Gillen, Volume 1 for online ebook

Nicolo Yu says

At the time of the launch of the second Uncanny X-Men series, this was writer Kieron Gillen's first major project. He actually co-wrote issues of the first volume of the series with writer Matt Fraction. Now that Gillen was flying solo, he immediately brought turned the dextrally-challenged villain Mister Sinister into a legitimate threat.

Gillen also gave us an X-Men superteam featuring the most powerful mutants allied with Cyclops and it had a massive chip on its shoulder as it almost threw down with the Avengers pre-AvX.

A lot to like about this new series but unfortunately this won't last. Reading the first trade of it makes the reader wonder what could have been.

AGamarra says

El nuevo equipo de Cíclope al que pone de nombre "Extinción" está conformado por Hope, Magneto, Tormenta, Magik, Coloso (poseído por el Cytorak), Emma Frost Namor y él mismo. Esta nueva formación tras el cisma con Wolverine. Su objetivo igual que siempre proteger la tierra. La primera amenaza: Siniestro, un personaje que a mí no me parece interesante y la saga en general me pareció bastante aburrida.

Markus says

First, this contains only issues 1 - 4, worrying trend lately for Marvel, which is to sell more Marvel Premiere Editions/year...meesa not like it, i prefer OHC editions, but X-men titles get those only for a big events. So has everything changed for better? Nope. It's same old, same old, not bad, just a good enough to continue, Gillen is a good writer and i hope this get's better down the line. Art is good, no Greg Land Photoshop art here, Carlos Pacheco draws a really nice looking Emma Frost. What about the story? A mildly interesting. Now that the teams have split, nothing seems to have really changed, only some mutants missing from a roster. Sinister is back in a comedic plot, showing how superior he is etc, whole three issues seems to be Sinister explaining what he doing in an old villain style. Last issue is a filler, adds nothing to nothing, concerning remaining bits of Phalanx, just pointless story. Overall, i can't recommend this, only for hardcore the X-men fans.

James DeSantis says

This was a surprise! Not bad!

So what's up with the X-Men? Well this is after Fraction's run, which I did NOT like, and what leads up to Bendis run (which I do like). Sinister is the main villain here and he begins to do what he normally

does...talk way to fucking much. He makes a whole army of himself because, well why not, most villains do this at least once or twice. The Uncanny X-Men here are filled with darker x-men such as Magneto, Namor, and even Cyclops is turning that way. By the end you have the X-Men facing off against Sinister while also getting ready for gods to come down from space to take over the world.

Good: I actually thought the dialogue was really strong. The chemistry between this more rogue/dark team is pretty great. I liked to see Cyclops be a true leader and have actual plans when fighting. Each X-Men has a moment to shine, which is nice. I also thought the build up to a "darker" version of X-Men works well as Cyclops demands they install fear into the public's mind if they don't want to accept them.

Bad: Sinister is about as scary as...poop? I know. A silly word. But really, you never are scared or think this guy might win. Even Namor with his "I hate this guy now" knows what's up. Also, this volume is very short. I think it's only like 4 issues.

Overall, a pretty fun start. It's not mindblowing but it is solid, more than I expected. Kieron gives good voice to a lot of these characters. A 3.5 out of 5.

Chelsea says

3.5. This was okay. It wasn't anything write home about but the story was interesting enough.

I enjoyed the art, especially the way Emma, Hope, Storm and Magik were drawn. Usually art of them draws them way oversexualized but I didn't feel that was about this art.

As for the plot, I did enjoy Sinister as the Big Bad. The stakes were high enough for the first volume of this run. I'm still a little confused about his goal but I wasn't bored.

Christina Nightengale says

Scott Summer's Extinction team is pretty cool. They really do seem like Earth's Mightiest Heroes! Look out Avengers the X-Men have always been your major competition and now even more so. Emma Frost, Storm, Namor, Danger and Scott are standouts for me in this. It's pretty great how Namor keeps flirting with Emma and Scott doesn't seem to get how threatened he should be. Emma doesn't seem interested at all, so I guess that makes Scott's reaction more understandable. Emma and Scott do come off like a great couple in this though. Sinister is an amazing villain as always! I'm not sure how he knows the future. He keeps hinting he does. Is he suppose to be just so smart he figured it out? Emma comes off pretty badass through out this! The phalanx one shot issue was kind of sad and I didn't love the art, but it did explain some of the stuff Sinister was able to do in the previous 3 issues. The first 3 issues art was good.

Jesse says

Absolutely great. Mr. Sinister is a wonderful villain when written by brits (Gillen, here, and Mike Carey in X-Men legacy). Gillen makes Sinister a colonialist, full of British pomposity. He also writes Emma Frost really well, taking what Matt Fraction started and pushing the confident tactician and elegant woman perfectly.

Also, the continuing story of Colossus as the Juggernaut is very interesting, i cant wait to see how that plays out. those first three issues had a great story, and left you knowing there will be more sinister later. then issue four was a masterpiece, told from the perspective of a member of the phalanx (an alien hive mind creature ala the borg). he has been cut off from the phalanx hive, experimented on by sinister, then left to die. his intense sense of loneliness and isolation is so sad. he's literally attempting to contact the phalanx to take over earth, but you feel for him and almost want him to succeed. in the end he discovers his "strain" of the phalanx is gone. he is the last. and in the end, gives up and allows himself to be destroyed by the x-men. heady, emotional and thought provoking, as well as containing seeds of the larger Mr sinister plot. in short, great comics. bless kieron gillen.

Sesana says

After X-Men: Schism, Cyclops turned the headlining X-Men team into Extinction Team, keyed for drastic, end-of-the-world type events. The idea is that visibly saving the entire world enough will win a few hearts and minds, and intimidate anyone who isn't won over. Fair enough. I'd say that, at the conclusion of the first storyline, they've done exactly that. That aside, that first storyline features a version of Sinister that's creepier and more competent than anything I can remember reading recently, and a team that has Storm, Namor, and Magneto working together, apparently rather well. (Even if Storm saying that she doesn't believe in violence is kind of hilarious.)

What most surprised me was the Phalanx story, told almost entirely from a Phalanx viewpoint. Strangely sad, and definitely an unusual tactic in writing a story focused on what's essentially a villainous race. Other than that one issue, this is fairly good, but not spectacular overall.

Stephen says

The X-Men are divided in two. With more than half their members gone with Wolverine to the Jean Grey School for Higher Learning, those left on Utopia have to answer the question: what will their next move be? Now, when they should be at their weakest, Cyclops decides to assemble a new team: one formulated to deal with extinction-level threats.

After the Schism event, I resolved to try both of the new main series coming out of it. I knew right from the off I wouldn't like this one as much as Wolverine and the X-Men: there were so many characters in it I didn't care about, and it looked so serious, so grim, so trying-so-desperately-hard-to-be-dark-and-gritty. And to be honest, I wasn't far wrong.

There's no time wasted. We're right into the story from the first page, and Gillen lays his cards on the table. This is a new chapter in the X-Men's history. Things have changed, and they're fighting for different reasons than they used to. It's not just about protecting humanity any more. With Magneto, Storm, Namor and Colossus on the team, among others, the Extinction Team are the most powerful lineup of superheroes the world has ever seen. And they fully intend to let people know it.

It's a bold statement, but one I'm not quite sure Gillen follows through on. Sure they're powerful, and they're defending humans and mutants, but... pretty soon they start to feel just like any other X-team. It's not boring per se, it's just... a little bland. There's little to distinguish this book from any other, and as the opening to a

series it's weak.

The roster in this story are an interesting mix. I'm not a great fan of Magik or Namor, and didn't like Danger when she was first introduced (though she has grown on me since then, very slightly). Colossus is fine, but he's never been the most interesting character even before the whole Juggernaut thing. Thankfully, we've got Magneto, Emma Frost, Cyclops and Storm to balance things out. Cyclops has gotten more interesting as the years go on, slowly becoming one of my favourite X-Men without me noticing. Magneto and Emma Frost are their usual great selves; but then it would be hard to ruin either of them.

Storm would have been a perfect fit for the other half of the team over at the Jean Grey School, but the decision to keep her here was a good one. There's only three classic X-Men on this team, and Cyclops is fully aware of the position he's in. He's fighting alongside former villains like Danger, Magneto and Emma Frost: he needs Ororo to help him make sure things "don't go wrong". Storm has always been one of the strongest characters in the X-Men franchise, and this book showcases that perfectly.

I feel like I might be crucified for admitting my dislike of Mr Sinister. He's my least favourite X-villain, and while having him show up as the first villain for this book was a good idea in theory, it didn't immediately make this story great.

I loved the shock of (view spoiler), though. It came so out of nowhere, and just isn't the sort of thing that happens in comics that often - but it did get me invested in the story. Unfortunately, while it was a great plot point, it wasn't enough to make me want to read the next volume.

Interestingly, this volume reminded me of the first arc of Joss Whedon's run on Astonishing X-Men, a series that started strongly but I then grew to loathe. It's a slightly similar premise, and featured some of the same characters, but Whedon's interpretation wins out for me. This one, ultimately, had too much going against it.

Alan says

I stopped collecting X-Men comics during Matt Fraction's run, after it became painfully clear to me that I hadn't actually enjoyed them for a long time (aside from a handful of exceptions here and there) and that I was only buying them out of habit. Even before the Disney acquisition, Marvel was regressing back to the days of over-reliance on gimmicks and "events", and it seemed to me that original creatively free runs on a core X-title (like those of Grant Morrison and Joss Whedon) had become a thing of the past. But I still love the X-Men, and not too long ago I decided to research into what I'd been missing out on since I stopped following them. Evidently, it seemed, I'd not missed much (just more gimmicks and "events"), but I'd been hearing repeatedly that Kieran Gillen's run on 'Uncanny X-Men' was actually genuinely good (Gillen being a writer who's independent comics I've greatly enjoyed, and heard much good about his Marvel output in general). I recently had a quick chat with Gillen at a comic convention, where he told me about what he'd been doing on 'Uncanny', and I got the distinct impression that he felt the same way as I did about the general trend of X-Men comics in recent years. So I very excitedly purchased the first volume of his run, got him to sign it, and went on my merry way eager to read it. Sadly, I was very disappointed...

After a few pages of set-up, the action begins, and it doesn't stop for the whole of the volume. This book is very much a mutant slugfest of the kind that put me off X-Men comics in the first place. If that's your thing, then by all means you'll probably agree with the general consensus that this is a great book. If, however, you want a bit of characterisation and development in your comics, then you'll wonder where all the rave reviews

have come from. Another problem with this book is that, collecting the first four issues of the re-launched 'Uncanny X-Men' series, it's supposed to be a good jump-on point for new readers. But even I, as a long time X-Men reader, found much of it confusing. For instance, I don't actually know what the Celestials are, or why they're standing around in San Francisco, and the writer doesn't bother to tell me. Colossus is now able to summon the Juggernaut's armour, and I have no idea why. Despite being a long-time X-Men reader, I know little about Mr. Sinister (he was mostly around during Chris Claremont's original run, of which I was only around for the tail end), and I don't really know what he's doing or why. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't expect loads of narration boxes and exposition explaining everything, like X-Men writers did in the '90s. But, as a book designed for new readers, this is shockingly inaccessible.

Over all, there really isn't anything I can recommend this book for. It's just one big fight (well, two actually, as the final issue is mostly self-contained), which I found confusing to fully understand, and what little characterisation it has is cheesy and melodramatic. The art is nice, but I personally don't think that the cartoony style suits the X-Men (though this is entirely subjective, like everything else I've said). It boggles my mind that this run has been receiving such critical acclaim when it's just another slugfest. Gillen told me that he feels that it gets much better after the first volume, but considering that vols 3 and 4 (the last two) are both "Avengers vs. X-Men" crossovers, I'm not expecting much.

As I'm in the minority with my opinion, I'm obviously missing something. Perhaps I'm just growing out of X-Men comics, but I found this boring, inaccessible and patronising. I can't think of a single good thing to say about it. Sorry.

William Thomas says

After the waste of paper that was 'Schism', Marvel is trying to smooth out all of the problems of the X books from the time Morrison began writing. The Schism may not have been much fun to read but it was a completely necessary break because everything was becoming so absolutely formulaic, muted and static. On top of that, instead of having any real kind of downtime to do some character building and to have some real and true connections between the characters, it was just wave after wave of senseless crossover.

Say what you might about Chris Claremont's writing nowadays, he should be the blueprint for the X-Men from here to kingdom come. There is no denying that his 17 year run on X-Men was what catapulted it to one of the core books for Marvel. All of the greatest X stories happened throughout the 80's and early 90's. Even though Claremont was the architect of the X-Men through the biggest crossovers in X history, he always made the characters' personalities shine through and made real emotional connections. I'm not talking about the bored way that Gillen writes Scott and Emma's little love notes to one another, but I mean very deep connections at a level that made the reader care about what was going to happen in the next issue, the next year, the next decade. WE wanted to see where they'd go and we cared about all of them.

Gillen may write the best bookk Marvel has going right now when he puts pen to paper for 'Journey Into Mystery', but he doesn't understand that the X-Men are just more than a great villain and a big fight. He has no love for these characters. He has no love between these characters. He hasn't shown us the complicated relationship between Magik and Piotr. He hasn't even begun to write the Namor/Emma/Scott love triangle in a way that even approaches the Logan/Jean/Scott affair.

What Gillen has given us is a pale imitation of an Avengers book with a team f powerhouses that deals with 'extinction level events'. So what? Any hack can write Mr Sinster into a book and have a brawl. There has to

be something more for us to keep coming back to. There's just no hook. Its all two-dimensional. And even though its fairly entertaining, it falls flat.

Writing Grade: C-

Art Grade: B

Christina Kneidel says

Meh as an introduction to Cyclops' group of X-men it was helpful, but the actual storyline and bad guy were hard to follow and fell short.

Zack! Empire says

I hope you are ready to read a lot about me along with this review, because that is what you are going to get. I was first exposed to the X-Men via the early 90's cartoon on Fox. I immediately fell in love with that show, and have been a huge fan of the team ever since. Or, at least, I thought I was. I've been thinking about this lately, and I realized that, while I've loved comics my whole life, I haven't actually read very many. I'll bet that since my introduction to the characters around 20 years ago, I've read maybe 100 issues. And that's only because I've read through two Essential Collections. When you are talking about a team that has been around for almost 50 years, 100 issues is nothing. That isn't even a drop in the bucket.

Recently I started using the Marvel Unlimited App, and at first I was overwhelmed with it. If you don't know what it is, it's a subscription based service that allows you to read digital versions of Marvel Comics. Only it isn't the comics from, say the last year or two, it's comics from nearly the companies entire publishing catalog. The regular on-goings, the mini-series, and the event based books. It really was like looking into the ocean and trying to see the whole thing at once. I was total lost.

Now that I've gotten more use to having it, and have thought about it, I've settled into the idea of using it as a way to read book collections, rather than individual issues. So when I looked this book up online, and saw that it contained the first four issues, I read the issues all back to back, as if I had the book. I'm really hoping that this will help not feel like I'm trying to read comics in a quicksand pit, and it will allow me a chance to really get to know this characters I've "loved" for so long.

Now to actually talk about this book. I wasn't sure where to start with the X-men. I suppose issue one from the 60's seems like a smart choice, and I do want to go back and read those early issues, but I also want to read what is going on now. It's a classic case of having your cake and eating it to. I want to know where the character's ended up, but I also want to know how they got there.

I choose to read this book because it's the number one of a new on-going that takes place after an event. It's hard not to go back and see what happened, and I think I will be doing that anyway, but I had to start somewhere.

The story is that Cyclops has started his own X-Men team, because he and Wolverine had a fight that divided the Xavier school. Now Cyclops' team is set up in Utopia, which I think was off the coast of San Francisco? (Oh man, I just read this and already I don't remember. Hope you're not counting on my review to be the tie-breaker for if you should read this or not!) He calls his team the Extinction team. It's a "big picture" team. It was surprising to see Magneto and Namor on the team. Is Namor a mutant? I guess he must be. And I know they have flirted with Magneto being on the X-Men's side before, but I guess he's a full on member now. I'd be interested to know how that happen. That was one of the weaker points of the book actually. Since it's a collection of the first four issues of a title, you would think they would do a better job of telling

you who's who, and how they got there. It doesn't need to be a full on recap, but give me something! The story line is pretty basic. Mister Sinister has finally finished all the experiments he has done over the years, and the result's of his research is that he can now build the perfect city. One that is entirely made up of him and him alone. He takes over the bodies of everyone in town and turns them into hive-mind clones of himself. Of course the X-men show up to stop him, and you get three issues of them slugging it out.

Somewhat of a let down actually.

Some cool stuff does happen though. I liked how they tried to make Sinister's actions over the years have a real purpose, other than just making him a evil mutant scientist. And the way they keep Emma from using her telepathy was interesting. I also really dug the art. Very clear storytelling and strong coloring.

This might not have been the best choice for starting me down my road of getting to know more about the X-Men. If I didn't already have an interest in the characters, and this was my first exposé to them, I don't think I'd want to continue reading about them.

Jonathan says

3.5 stars

Fairly decent though short-lived battle with Mr. Sinister. Look forward to seeing what's next.

Gavin says

I read this after Vol 2. Somehow it didn't make all that much difference. Showdown with Mr. Sinister, who's now more powerful than ever, in a very interesting way. Shows the Sinister brainpower and not just the badguy stuff. This is the suave talking, smug villain that has more character than others. First outing for the Extermination team, which is badass. Colossus seems more prone to rage (links him with the Juggernaut - note to self, get Mike/Sam to explain to me lol), Storm and Magneto work on the same team, and effectively no less. However, the more interesting story was #4 the standalone story about the Phalanx creature and how it's hive-brain was dissected by Sinister and how it tries to survive and runs into the inevitable conflict with the X-Men.

Good ideas, solid art, but nothing wow yet.

apparently the A vs. X would be the place to go for that.
