



## Aliens: Fire and Stone

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Directly tying in with the Prometheus and Aliens films, this excursion into terror is not to be missed! An unlikely hero tries to save a small group of researchers and miners from the doomed, deep-space Hadley's Hope colony--which is now infested with vicious xenomorphs! Terraforming engineer Derrick Russell takes control during an outbreak of aliens and leads his desperate survivors onto the Onager, a rickety mining vessel. This role is new to Russell, as are the horrors he and his crew will face both in space and on the strange planet they crash on.

## Aliens: Fire and Stone Details

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Author : Chris Roberson (Writer) , Patric Reynolds (Artist)

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## From Reader Review Aliens: Fire and Stone for online ebook

### Quentin Wallace says

This was of course the "Aliens" volume of the Fire and Stone series. This one is actually a prequel to the Prometheus volume, but I think that wanted you to read it after. It ties into the first volume nicely and expands on the story. This one also reads like a traditional Aliens comic, but a good one. Story and art are both very nice. Another great volume in the Fire and Stone series.

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### Bogdan says

The drawings are nice enough but the story itself it's an incoherent mess without any meaning whatsoever.

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### Ill D says

As much as I've enjoyed the Alien(s) series, I've been a little disappointed with the franchise Prometheus onward. Disappointingly, this tale of Stone and Fire and Aliens follows this downward trend into the abyss. Why you might ask? Let's jump in!

Right off the hoof, the art succeeds as a hook. Like a small mouth bass snatched by the latest tackle, I couldn't resist against Patric Reynold's art. It clearly riffs of R.M. Guerra's crunchy style yet, has its own take: Pleasant to the eyes and evocative in its own way.

No complaints here.

However, the complaints begin once the story takes off. From the ascent, to the descent (view spoiler) our narrative sputters and coughs the entire way. Dull repetition, characters with a mere scintilla of humanity, and an unsatisfying conclusion left a bitter taste in my mouth. Ugh!

So, what went wrong?

It would be cruel to say everything but, most every aspect of the story itself is riddled in a confusion and shoddiness that borders on the upper limits of the Stupid-Meter ®. And it all centers around our dum(b)-dum(b) protagonist! Point the fingers at him!

If I was at the Roman Coliseum, my thumb would be thrust down at every single (goddamn) aspect of his character. He's an engineer, we get it. He's not too interested in much outside the world of observable and natural phenomena that can respond to experimentation. Yet, this gives us the simulacrum of a goddamn robot with the depth of a scrap of cardboard.

When our heroes are trapped on a foreign moon, far from their hopes and motives, he doesn't give a shit; unblinkingly going about his experiments. When compatriots are gored left and right, with rivers of blood

gushing everywhere, he doesn't bat an eye. When the internal politicking of the tiny group of survivors bickers about their survival, Mr. Engineer (not to be confused with the bald Nephilim progenitors) is blissfully doing math and studying the natural landscape.

Since our main focus orbits the unfeeling main character, who seemingly lacks a single shred of humanity, I found myself unable to give a single shit about him or most anything else here. Even when (view spoiler)

Unsurprisingly, when he finally (view spoiler)

So what are we left with, dear readers? A dull and emotionally uninvestible backstory for when our Xenomorphs landed on the moon featured in Prometheus. *Lame!*

To quote good ol' Porky Pig: "That's all Folks!"

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### **Andrew says**

Ugh...I really think with any type of horror/suspense (in film, comics, literature etc.), to make it effective there needs to be a slow building of dread, punctuated by moments of humor and then have the scares go straight for the old jugular. It doesn't hurt to also have characters that, if not completely developed, are at least likeable and somewhat memorable. We do not get that here. As other reviews have noted in so many words, this is as boring as it gets for an aliens franchise spin-off. Don't waste your time.

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### **Richelle says**

Quite enjoyed this one. This is much more like what I'd hoped to be seeing from the Aliens comics as a whole: great art and interesting story lines that explore more of the 'world', etc.

I understand that this was "the second" in a larger interconnected story arc. But chronologically it was first, so I read it first.

It did have that 'you should already know some things, so we won't explain them' feel, but that was fine. I may be one of the few people in the world who actually liked the movie "Prometheus", so I personally found this comic a really good expansion for that story.

I'm looking forward to reading the Prometheus section of this series. I'm looking forward to seeing what this new 'planet' holds. That's what I've wanted from these comics all along, really: ~more details~ about the larger world and the creatures in it.

I'll give this one 3.5 out of 5 stars.

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### **Logan says**

So I heard there was a big hooaha about Fire and Stone, a big event spanning across multiple franchises such as Prometheus, Alien, Predator and AVP. I got this to see what it was all about. All it is people running from

xenomorphs... BORING!

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### **Gianfranco Mancini says**

**Vote: 3,5**

Storyline/artworks are sometimes confusing, but it was just great coming back to LV-426/Acheron again.

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### **Chris says**

Cash-grab trash. Tries to be canon but fails. Tries to be scary and doesn't succeed. Reduces the xenomorph to mindless beasts instead of the terrifyingly cunning, silent hunters that have been depicted so well in (some of) the films. Pointless, unlikable characters that simply act as fodder for alien snacking. \*snore\*

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### **Trae Stratton says**

I want to give this four stars, I really do, but it was just too light on action and the characters make such bad decisions that it was frustrating to read. That said, it's still a fairly solid inclusion to the Aliens/Predator mythos. The backup story featuring Hicks that puts this arc into better perspective with the movie Aliens was a welcome addition.

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### **J K says**

hard to judge when this is part of a larger whole, but it's a decent Aliens comic that connects directly to the Alien antics on LV-426, back when Newt was there and Ripley had just finished snoozing in the shuttle.

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### **Chad says**

A prequel showing how the Onager (the ship where the Aliens are hiding in Prometheus: Fire and Stone) made it to LV-423 from LV-426 (the planet from Aliens) and what happened to everyone aboard. The art's not very good and the story isn't very exciting. This one felt phoned in.

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### **Trekscribbler says**

One of the greatest challenges in crafting a tale within an established franchise property is successfully meeting the needs of the established readership while also delivering something fresh, bold, and new. As you can imagine, fans come to a property like ALIENS with certain expectations: there should be a mix of known

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elements like Xenomorphs, trapped humans, and ratcheted-up tension (these things are requisite in any adventure set within this universe). Still, the trick for any writer is “What can I add to the formula while keeping the reader’s interest?” After all, perhaps anyone can tell an ALIENS-specific story ... but only a master storyteller can meld the needs of this particular world with the template for something greater.

Despite a few shortcomings, I thought Chris Roberson and his talented crew delivered ALIENS: FIRE AND STONE as an understandably cerebral departure for some of what’s come before in Ridley Scott’s inspired universe. There was just enough old and new as there was borrowed and blue (make that ‘blood red’) to make this wedding one worth attending for SciFi fans young and old.

(NOTE: The following review will contain minor spoilers necessary solely for the discussion of plot and/or characters. If you’re the type of reader who prefers a review entirely spoiler-free, then I’d encourage you to skip down to the last three paragraphs for my final assessment. If, however, you’re accepting of a few modest hints at ‘things to come,’ then read on ...)

From Dark Horse’s publicity materials: “During a vicious xenomorph outbreak, terraforming engineer Derrick Russell leads a desperate group of survivors onto a rickety mining vessel. They hope to escape the creatures overrunning their colony-but they’ll face horrors both in space and on the strange planet where they crash. Ties in with the Prometheus and Aliens films! Collects the four-issue miniseries.”

I had the good fortune of following this tale as it developed, having read this as individual issues, and that’s the perspective from which I’m penning this review. (If Dark Horse provides any supplemental materials with the publication of this trade, I’ll try to craft a quick post-script once I’ve read and reviewed for future addition here.)

I think the best advice I can give any reader going into FIRE AND STONE is to clarify this one succinct reality first: it’s best to approach this particular ALIENS tale in knowing it’s only one piece to an even greater puzzle – indeed, Dark Horse is weaving a larger tale across their Predator, Aliens Vs. Predator, and Prometheus titles. What scribe Chris Roberson explores here is only one piece to that big puzzle, but I can assure you that having read the entire affair this one stands pretty solidly on its own two feet; little will be lost in reading this independently of the others, but that’s not entirely the case if you’re looking at reading the other trades. (Several developments here make those other collections have greater meaning.)

Second, I think it’s best to grasp that like the film PROMETHEUS and in ways unlike ALIEN and its first sequel ALIENS, this departure of FIRE AND STONE is vastly more complex. It’s a cerebral tale, one meant to take readers on the tour of experience almost thought-for-thought with a survivor: engineer Derrick Russell finds himself and his crewmates stranded on an alien world that’s growing increasingly bizarre with each passing day, and only he’s hell bent on making sense of it all. Because this is more of a psychological study of that scientist, action is secondary. Don’t misunderstand me: there’s plenty of Xenomorph terror that one has come to expect from any trip into this universe, but all of that pales to the journey of discovery undertaken to tell a big story against an even bigger backdrop.

Consequently, Roberson and his collaborators here spend many panels in some very dark places. Like any visit to the world of the seminal ALIEN, the stakes are high, and the prospects for survival are always in flux. In fact, one of the meatier aspects to FIRE is the reality of this world: because it’s been overrun with the world-changing technology presented from the PROMETHEUS film, the environment and its various ‘creations’ are always on-the-move. Just when Russell and readers think they have a clear-cut picture of what they’re collectively up against, Roberson spins the wheel again with a new development, and this unpredictability gives the story more teeth than your run-of-the-mill Xenomorph!

However, because this is a tale best told in one’s head – we’re always better at imagining darker places than we ever give ourselves credit for – I suspect this FIRE might not burn as brightly for some readers. Hang

with it, though, and you'll be rewarded ... so long as you go into it knowing full well that few have ever faced dire circumstances and lived to tell the tale.

ALIENS: FIRE AND STONE (Trade Paperback) is published by Dark Horse Comics. For those who need it spelled out perfectly, this is a trade paperback collection of a four-issue mini-series previously published individually as ALIENS: FIRE AND STONE issues 1 through 4. The story is written by Chris Roberson; the art is drawn by Patric Reynolds; the colors were completed by Dave Stewart; and the letters were filled in by Nate Piekos of Blambot. The collection bears the cover price of \$14.99, and – so far as this reader is concerned – that's a bargain for the genius that's contained between the covers.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Grim and dreary, this FIRE AND STONE may not please everyone. But I liked it quite nicely. It's a far more existential tale of dread than we've heard from this universe (so far as I can recall), and while it's closing panels leave you precisely where you need to be I daresay few will be entirely happy about it.

In the interests of fairness, I'm pleased to disclose that the fine folks at Dark Horse Comics provided me with a digital reading copy of ALIENS: FIRE AND STONE (Trade Paperback) by request for the expressed purposes of completing this review; and their contribution to me in no way, shape, or form influenced my opinion of it.

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## **Bruce M says**

I read this particular story as it came out each month.

The story supposedly ties into some kind of comic event, *Fire and Stone*, which deals with several different aspects of the *Alien*, *Predator*, *Prometheus* and *Aliens vs. Predator* mythos. I'm judging this book entirely on its own merit, because I didn't look into any of those other titles.

The Fiona Staples cover for the first issue was gorgeous, and got me flipping through the book. The issue was intriguing enough to commit to the rest of the series.

The art in the book is decent. It's largely dark, ominous and lonely... which is what the title should be going for. The story itself is mostly self contained, but nothing really get accomplished or resolved. The book flounders in the middle and delivers an ending that really isn't good enough. However, I found it surprisingly satisfying.

There's little here that's truly outstanding or memorable. However, bigger fans of the whole Alien/Prometheus history might be more engaged. I couldn't stand Prometheus, so the appearance of elements from that movie here just caused me to lose interest that much faster.

I'd definitely recommend this one to fans of both Alien and Prometheus. If you think Aliens is better than the original, don't let this title fool you. *Aliens: Fire and Stone* is much more psychological thriller/horror than action movie. And if you hate *Prometheus* and the things it brought in to the Alien storyline, then it's probably best to just skip this one.

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## **Maria says**

I know that this is second volume of the Fire and Stone series but it's actually a prequel before Prometheus... which places this volume in an interesting timeline against the other two.

Not much of a story line due to the way it's been set up but again it's early on still so I'm reading this as a filler volume to get the ball rolling for the next two volumes.

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## **daisy says**

2.5 stars. It's listed as #2 in the Fire and Stone series, but it actually comes before the Prometheus volume chronologically. It wasn't bad, but not a whole lot really happens and the people who land on LV-223 end up dying before you can really form any connection to them. Derrick is around a little longer, and is responsible for the writings + diary Francis and Elden find in the cave in the Prometheus volume, but? even his character seemed somewhat underdeveloped.

It felt a little bit pointless tbh, more like a very bare-boned setup for what comes later, but the art was nice and it was kind of interesting to see how the xenomorphs got onto LV-223. Definitely gonna continue with the Fire and Stone series, but only because I want to see how things play out for characters in the Prometheus volume : " )

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