



Astonishing X-Men: Ultimate Collection, Volume 2

Joss Whedon , John Cassaday

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This deluxe hardcover collects Astonishing X-Men Volume 3: Torn and Astonishing X-Men Volume 4: Unstoppable by the chart-topping super-team of Joss Whedon and John Cassaday, plus extras. In Torn, things go from peculiar to just plain bizarre Emma Frost's erratic behavior has the X-Men spinning in a non-stop downward spiral. Will an unlikely union be the final straw? After secretly lying in wait for months, the new Hellfire Club makes its move Plus: The X-Man destined to destroy the Breakworld stands revealed Who is it, and what will be their fate? And in Unstoppable, the X-Men are off to protect the Earth from its destruction at the hands of the Breakworld. And when it's all over, nothing will ever be the same No, really, we mean it Collects Astonishing X-Men #13-24 and Giant-Size Astonishing X-Men #1

Astonishing X-Men: Ultimate Collection, Volume 2 Details

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Author : Joss Whedon , John Cassaday

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John Cassaday

From Reader Review Astonishing X-Men: Ultimate Collection, Volume 2 for online ebook

Adam Stone says

The second half of Whedon's X-Men run is much messier than the first. With a lesser artist, it would probably just be a three star book, but Cassaday is just as strong here as he was in volume one.

The main problem is it gets quickly convoluted as it tries to tie in too many elements from Morrison's run, while still adding its own characters and themes into the mythos, and it doesn't work. It's still very readable, as the dialog is crisp, and it's clearly building to something, but the Emma survivor's guilt/Cassandra/Hellfire/Negasonic Teenage Warhead/Danger storyline isn't as smart as it imagines it is.

Still, the ending is important, and, again, the real star is Cassaday's art. And nineteenth century Fopverine.

Shane Harcombe says

In sharp contrast to my "avengers forever" review, this was a fantastic series! The storyline was always compelling, the characters well developed and some excellent twists and revisiting of the X-Men's history. A great adventure that I couldn't put down. The difference in my reading experience between this and the avengers collection was like night and day. A great book.

I also loved seeing the emails between Joss Whedon and his publishers when the project was still in development.

Justin Villanueva says

An Astonishing conclusion to the best X-Men standalone series I have ever read. Amazing script full of witty dialogue and twists by Joss Whedon and sublime art and panel layout by Jon Cassaday. Cyclops, who I usually don't like, is a kick-ass leader here best suited for the role. Emma Frost as second-in-command is more than just a walking eye candy; her strategy and telepathy proving more useful than Prof X's ever was. Beast also surprised me as an effective character and fighter, as he mostly took support/healer roles in other X-Men books. His fight with Wolverine here is a testament to that. Speaking of the Wolverine, Logan is pretty much the same here as in any other story, but the book does feature the reveal of his classic-inspired "Astonishing" yellow spandex that will become a staple for years to come. Colossus is a decent character and has some good fight scenes, but he stood out mostly for me due to his shipping with Kitty. And damn, Kitty-- what a babe! As the true main protagonist of the Astonishing run, Kitty Pryde has grown to become a mature woman and a bonafide femme fatale without ever going to thread the sexy route *cough* Emma Frost *cough* Indeed Kitty is sexy without the need to show any skin, and that says a LOT. (Although she did show some and I had no problem with that!)

A must-read for any X-Men fan. The book (along with Volume 1) has a very "graphic novel" feel to it more akin to DC standalone stories that I love, both in story, panel layout and art. Sadly there has not been an X-Book (is that an actual term?) that meets the same standard after this run, but you can just jump in Astonishing Vol 1 without any prior X-Knowledge (again is that a term?) and enjoy the comic for what it is-- one of the best X-Stories you will ever read!

Raquel Evans says

Oof, thanks for once again traumatizing me, Joss Whedon.

(Aside from that, there was a lot of the clever word play humor you'd expect, and content-wise some definitely adult situations. Worth reading for sure if you're a Joss Whedon fan and you can tolerate the content.)

Roy says

A very good conclusion to Whedon's run. Amazing story telling with awesome artwork. I really loved his portrayal of Scott in this one.

Alan says

Okay, if you're reading this review, for the second half of Joss Whedon and John Cassaday's 'Astonishing X-Men', then you probably already know what this is all about already. I'd just like to add, for anyone who's coming to this for the first time, that although both books in this series form to create one big self-contained epic, the first issue in this volume (issue #13) was actually released almost a year after the last issue of the first book (#12). Quite a few radical changes had happened within the Marvel universe during this period (particularly in the X-Men world), and Whedon does a great job of referencing these changes and staying contemporary, without meandering away from his story. Both of the major changes are quickly referenced in the first chapter of this book. The first, when Wolverine tells his students that "A lot's happened, buncha students gone", refers to the after effects of 'House of M' and the "Childhood's End" arc of 'New X-Men'. The second reference is when Maria Hill shows up as Director of SHIELD instead of Nick Fury, due to the events of 'Secret War'. This information is only worth considering if, like me, you like to read your Marvel comics within a greater tapestry of stories, so you can easily forget about these tiny references if you're reading this as a self-contained story!

Like the first volume, this book contains two interconnected story arcs which tie into the whole 25 issue run. The first arc, which deals with the fallout from Grant Morrison's 'New X-Men', was, in my opinion, the highlight of this run. However, I thought that the following arc, in which the X-Men are sent to space and have to "save the world", kind of lost sight of what made the preceding issues so special. Full of action from beginning to end, and guest stars galore, it's nothing like the grounded well characterised drama that came before. No doubt, it was Whedon's intention from the very start to focus on this completely different aspect of the X-Men at the end, but I think it was a little bit too overblown, what with all the pointless guest stars and everything (and there really wasn't any real point why they were there). That said, it is always quite cool to see a writer of Whedon's calibre depicting some of my favourite superheroes, even if only briefly.

Great book, over all, though. A good, satisfying conclusion to one of the best X-Men stories ever. Even the later 'Astonishing X-Men' stories, by such otherwise great writers as Warren Ellis, won't come anywhere near the level of this.

Michael says

Whedon's dialogue makes me less batty than Claremont's dialogue. Yes, I know Claremont is not writing X-Men now, but I am also not reading X-Men now, and I can only comment on what I know.

Jesús Miguel says

Everything part of the arcs from this run were wrapped up in this volume. The art was amazing and the writing delivered. At the end, the highlight for this series was Kitty Pryde (my favorite X-Man) and her relationship with Colossus. If anyone wants to dive into the mutant world, I highly recommend this series. It's easy to read, it acknowledges its past history without making it difficult to follow, and the story presents something new and concise.

Simone says

Se volete leggere la mia recensione, cliccate qua! <http://ascwblog.blogspot.com/2017/06/...>

Nicolo Yu says

It took a few years, but I finally have my second volume of the *Astonishing X-Men* hardcover, completing Joss Whedon's and John Cassaday's twenty-five issue run in the title.

This hardcover collection, like the one that precedes it, contains two story arcs, with the last culminating in an oversized "giant-sized" issue. The first story, "Torn", features the return of a new incarnation of a classic X-Men nemesis, the Hellfire Club, or is it? With psychics, one can never be too sure how much your perception of reality is twisted in the presence of one. Kitty Pryde gets her Wolverine moment here. With the mansion seemingly invaded and losing control over her phasing powers, she falls miles underground but manages to compose herself enough to stop in an underground scream. Wading in hip deep water, she turns around makes her statement to her foes declaring, "My turn."

Kitty mounts her counter-attack, only to find the rest of her team out of commission. Cyclops and Colossus are comatose; with the Beast chasing deer with his mind devolved to that of his moniker, a beast. Wolverine, though his mind was regressed to that of pre-teen James Howlett, a wimpy, sissy boy, is a more adorable personality than the tough guy persona he usually projects. Emma Frost appears to have finally showed her colors and betrayed the team.

In "Unstoppable," the X-Men, just moments removed from the aftermath of their harrowing encounter in the previous arc, are whisked away by teleporter and appear on the bridge of a spacecraft. Agent Brand and S.W.O.R.D. need superheroes and have enlisted the X-Men to help stop the rising danger of imminent destruction to two worlds.

There is a feeling of déjà vu, reading this collection. I have read this before. This is Whedon channeling the Dark Phoenix Saga, without Jean Grey or the Phoenix. Like the original story, the team is tested body and soul by the Hellfire Club and abducted from the scene of their last battle to find another one in an alien world

and be judged by an alien race. It also ends with the sacrifice of one the X-Men's number.

Whedon end his run on the title with an oversized issue, allowing Cassaday extra pages to draw as much Marvel's New York's finest superheroes as he can possibly fit in the panels. He does not disappoint, he draws a beautiful two-page spread of Spider-Man in mid-swing over the Manhattan skyline, enough to draw your breath away.

Whedon's and Cassaday's run of twenty-five issues of *Astonishing X-Men* is a modern classic of X-Men storytelling. Well written and well drawn, Whedon moves away from the socio-political commentary, reality television shows and mutant gang warfare. He just writes comics the way they are supposed to be and that is to astonish.

Kathryn Lane says

I hate it when a fantastic book ends on a cliffhanger and you just want to carry on reading... I could not put this down.

Frances says

See review of vol 1 but damn Joss Whedon. I forgot how much you love to hate your fans as things come to a close.

Jessica says

The saga continues. I still hate Emma Frost. But I've always been fond of Cyclops, and this had a rather poignant story arc for him, as well as for Kitty Pryde and Colossus. Also . . . Go, Beast! Rawr!

TJ Shelby says

Wow, this was kicking around a 4 to 4.5 star book until Joss Whedon hits a grand slam with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth...wow. What a great storyteller.

Peter De Kinder says

The story is wrapped up and there are a few good moments along the way. Overall this is a fairly run of the mill x-men story with a few surprises and the prophecy plot device Joss Whedon seems to like a lot. It passed the time, but I expected more from him.
