



X-Men: Age of Apocalypse Omnibus

Scott Lobdell (Text) , Mark Waid (Text) , Fabian Nicieza (Text) , Jeph Loeb (Text) , Roger Cruz (Illustrations) , Andy Kubert (Illustrations) , Steve Epting (Illustrations) , Chris Bachalo (Illustrations)

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Charles Xavier is dead - killed in the past during a time-travel accident - and without his dream, the world has become a nightmare! Apocalypse rules with an iron fist, ruthlessly enforcing his "survival of the fittest" creed...but hidden among a downtrodden humankind are Magneto's ragtag freedom fighters: the X-Men!

COLLECTING: UNCANNY X-MEN 320-321, X-MEN 40-41, CABLE 20, X-MEN ALPHA, AMAZING X-MEN 1-4, ASTONISHING X-MEN 1-4, FACTOR X 1-4, GAMBIT & THE X-TERNALS 1-4, GENERATION NEXT 1-4, WEAPON X 1-4, X-CALIBRE 1-4, X-MAN 1-4, X-MEN OMEGA, AGE OF APOCALYPSE: THE CHOSEN, X-MEN ASHCAN 2

X-Men: Age of Apocalypse Omnibus Details

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From Reader Review X-Men: Age of Apocalypse Omnibus for online ebook

Aaron Wiener says

This is one of the darkest story arcs of all time. The bulk of it conveys a feeling of frantic hopelessness. It's fun seeing so many familiar characters in such unfamiliar roles. The ending is triumphant.

The best: X Man (Nate Grey) is a badass character. I found myself looking forward to him the most.

The worst: how the hell is The Beast such an irredeemably psychopathic POS?!

This is a must read for all comic book fans. At times, it's a little dense (a lot of story and characterization gets thrown at you all at once,) but once it gets it's groove, it's manageable.

The allusions to the Shoah are obvious and heavy handed, but in a strange way, that unabashed gloominess raises the stakes and enhances the narrative.

Wt says

This is the storyline that reignited my love of the X-Men and it was also the beginning of the end of comics. Multiple covers and the speculators of the 1990's killed comics. Luckily, this was a great story of an alternate universe that had seen the X-Men not become the good guys. This was the universe that threw major curveballs with key X-Men either dead already or totally different than their counterparts. Like Beast, who became a deranged mad scientist who did more harm than good!

Loved the fact they collected all the series and pieces into one volume, but it is heavy! Not something to walk around with.

Excellent book!

Jenn says

Holy moly.

Jeff Harris says

Charles Xavier was killed in a tragic accident when his crazy and misguided son, Legion, traveled twenty years into the past to try to murder Magneto before he could ever oppose his father's dream. Because of Xavier's death, he never became Professor X, never founded the X-Men, and never made the world a much rosier place than what it turns out to be. Apocalypse, the ancient mutant who holds the value of his "survival of the fittest" dogma above all else, has been awakened earlier than he would have been due to Legion's actions, and he proceeds to take over almost the entirety of North America, killing much of its human populace, and endangering the rest of the world through his nefarious plans of expansion across the globe.

Characters you know and love from the X-Men's original world are now darker, far different versions of themselves. Villains may now be heroes, and vice-versa, in a place where every day is a fight for survival. Opposing Apocalypse's machinations are a quite altered team of X-Men, formed by Magneto in Xavier's absence as a way of honoring his friend and his dream. These X-Men include classic characters like Rogue (who has married Magneto), Iceman, and Storm, but also surprising choices like Sabertooth, Sunfire, Morph (originally Changeling), Exodus, Dazzler, Wild Child, and the breakout hit Blink. The team runs into a mysterious figure who may hold the key to what happened in the past -- and how to bring back the world that none of the X-Men knew had been lost. Bishop, having absorbed time-travel energy from Legion, was left stranded in the new world, and remembers enough of the way things should have been to give Magneto a new mission, and a small grain of hope that he had almost lost. Can the X-Men stop Apocalypse's most recent dark agendas and find a way to traverse the timestream to rewrite history -- again? Or will En Sabah Nur be ultimately triumphant? This is one of the most amazing roller coaster rides in X-Men history, and it remains my favorite plotline in 60+ years of X-stories. If you like the X-Men, you've GOT to read this collection!!!

Lee says

I approached reading this as other reviewers have said, with some caution. I wanted to like it, but was afraid I wouldn't. Overall I can say that it was pretty good, but it was too long and not nearly as good as it could've been. Some of the writers were noticeably better than others and though the art was better than I expected, in places it really is quite poor.

The basic idea of the story is great, and it starts well enough. Quickly though the issues sprawl off in their own directions without a great deal of point to them, and around the half way mark I found myself wondering if any of it was actually going anywhere. Like so many other X-Men events I felt that there were just far too many characters and nowhere near enough time spent with each of them to give any of their stories meaning. So many of them are just wheeled out to show us what their AoA version is like, and then they die two pages later or don't really do anything of note.

Many of the arcs just fizzle out at the end without much of a conclusion for all the time spent building up to it. By the end though, the final issue (Omega) sums it up nicely and we are left with a decent X-Men adventure. I just wish it hadn't taken so long to get there.

Savannah says

I've made some decisions and boy, reading this tome sure was one of them

Alazzar says

There were parts of this story line worthy of 4 stars--maybe even 5--but overall, I've got to call it a 3.

My biggest beef with *Age of Apocalypse* is what I call the "Game of Thrones" problem: we switch between characters so often that it's hard for me to keep going whenever I hit a break point. In *A Game of Thrones*, I was generally interested in each chapter, but by the time I reached the end of any character's section, I found

myself wanting to read more about their plot line; instead, I had to swap perspectives, which brought all my momentum to a screeching halt.

And that's what happened here: after finishing an issue, I never really wanted to move on to the next, because I knew I was pretty much starting over. This became less of a problem as the story lines progressed and started mingling with one another, but for the first few issues of each book, my motivation to continue was minimal.

That being said, there were a lot of things I liked about *AoA*. For example, it was fun to see how all the characters were re-imagined (both in terms of their visual design and personalities) in a world where Professor Xavier died young and never formed the X-men. Some people, like Cyclops, looked awesome and were fun to follow; some, like Colossus, looked like big metal ninja turtles, and were dumb.

Although the whole event was a three-star affair that took me almost a month to read, I don't regret the time I spent on the project. *Age of Apocalypse* is an important story line in the history of the X-men, and if nothing else, I enjoyed seeing the results of what must have been a massive creative effort on the part of the writers and editors at Marvel.

EDIT: I forgot to mention that Fabien Nicieza, one of the writers for this event, was consistently painful to read. It seemed like he was the only writer in the bunch who insisted on including terrible, action-describing exposition in his stories. I just can't stand when characters say things like, "Remember, I have the mutant ability to [whatever], which is why I'm able to do this awesome trick right now!" Blech!

Adam Smith says

I had originally read parts of this story (the fracturing of the original Marvel Universe, Weapon X, etc.) back when this originally came out in the late 90s. I never got too into it because there were too many crossovers and I didn't want to have to buy eight different series. This omnibus collects ALL of these stories and presents them in chronological order and I happily picked this tome up from the library. It took me about a month to read, but I have to say that I enjoyed it. I almost wish that I would have bought all the comics when I was younger as I may have enjoyed it more. That being said, there are WAY too many characters involved in this whole thing. Every story line did come together at the end, but they didn't really have to make it THAT expansive (and therefore require you to buy eight comics a month), but hey... capitalism. Also, the art was very inconsistent between some of the sections. Not within the same comic, but between comics. Some of the females had short hair and then long hair and then short hair again. You'd think that they would have checked with each other before the started storyboarding. Whatever. I still enjoyed it overall and this has been by far the most epic graphic novel that I've read start to finish.

Tim says

it's really fabulously done. take 30 yrs of storylines and characters and established titles and not tell anyone that you're going to do it, and just change the whole thing. start from the beginning - kill the main character before he's able to change the world and see what results. chaos, naturally, and the lovely people at the x-men in the 90s created the most dizzyingly satisfying crossover/miniseries the books had seen. every single character was rethought - loyalties completely recast, turned evil/turned good, many killed in the finale as

well. beautifully drawn and just terribly interesting. creativity at its very finest.

Jon De says

I will always love reading about the Age of Apocalypse. Now I'm glad I have the full collectiin.

Sean Gibson says

Recently reread this with considerable trepidation, fearing that it wouldn't live up to my memory of how good it was when it was first published ("Xavier dead?! Nooooo! Why couldn't it have been me instead?!" -- actual quote from my super-cool high-school self).

Whew. It holds up. There are a few weak issues here and there, but, by and large, this remains the gold standard by which I judge all subsequent blockbuster crossover event comics (in most cases, they don't live up to this sterling example).

Aaron says

Well this was certainly an undertaking. I'd never read this classic epic and felt a desire to after reading so much fantastic Apocalypse stuff in Rick Remender's Uncanny X-Force series. The entire, massive crossover is collected in chronological order, which would seem like a good thing, but actually makes it very difficult to follow. There are eight 4-issue series to keep up with, and thus you have 7 issues to read between installments of each individual title. I found myself constantly having to look back and remind myself what the hell had happened in the previous issue. It was a fine idea, as sometimes events in one series will affect those in another, but that is so rare (and kind of weakly done), I would've preferred to just read this series by series so I could at least follow the story. The two bookend issues, X-Men Alpha and X-Men Omega, were the most fun to read, as they needed little additional explanation.

As for the actual story, I didn't think it lived up to the hype. Whenever a series takes place in an alternate universe, I expect a lot. It should give them free reign to do whatever they want, killing off surprising characters, giving characters completely new attributes, etc. Not so here. Basically, nothing very surprising happens and every character is really close to his normal universe counterpart, only maybe a little darker or with, say, one arm or something. It's not very bold.

Also, after 1000 pages of buildup and all the character positioning, the climax really only depends on 2 of the characters we've watched, which made me really feel like the previous stories had been a waste. So, overall, ambitious but highly flawed.

Josh says

sigh

What to say about this one... To sum it up: it's everything that was wrong with mid-90's comics. An era that embraced the art of Rob Liefeld - you know, the guy who thinks women look like this:

shudder This comic stuck to that style of art, and it's terrible.

In previous comics (Legion Quest), Charles Xavier's son, Legion goes back in time to kill Magneto in an effort to make the world a better place. Charles Xavier, being a do-gooder to the end, interferes and is himself killed instead. This sets up a future world in which Apocalypse rules.

The story line sets up the potential for characters to be re-imagined in cool ways. The characters were in fact re-imagined, unfortunately not in cool ways. (view spoiler)

In the end this story suffered from clunky dialogue and poor art. Worst of all, it suffers the fate of a lot of alternate reality story lines: ultimately we know that the alternate reality is just that - alternate. As a result, we don't care when a hero dies because we know the deus ex machina will fix it. This is especially true when the alternate characters you're given are unlikable.

So... If you're thinking of reading this story line for the purpose of getting familiar with continuity (as I was), I suggest you just read a good summary on Wikipedia and call it good.

Aildiin says

Very decent X-Men event, especially if you compared it to others released around the same time. Overall I would give it 3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars.

Michael says

[Magneto, who has always been one of my favourites characters, as the new X-Men leader; and the Beast as a mad scientist was also great (hide spoiler)]
