



## Ultimate X-Men, Volume 14: Phoenix?

*Robert Kirkman (Writer), Ben Oliver (Illustrations), Tom Raney (Penciler)*

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**Ultimate X-Men, Volume 14: Phoenix?** Robert Kirkman (Writer) , Ben Oliver (Illustrations) , Tom Raney (Penciler)

After the events of Magnetic North and their recent encounter with the Master of Magnetism, our heroes kick back for a night on the town with their significant others. But who or what is the Magician and how is he going to wreck their plans? Meanwhile, Wolverine runs into an old teammate who's out for revenge. Join new Ultimate X-Men writer Robert Kirkman and Ultimate Secret's Tom Raney as they take the Ultimate Universe's favorite mutants to dazzling new heights!

**Collecting:** *Ultimate X-Men* 66-71

## Ultimate X-Men, Volume 14: Phoenix? Details

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**Download and Read Free Online Ultimate X-Men, Volume 14: Phoenix? Robert Kirkman (Writer) , Ben Oliver (Illustrations) , Tom Raney (Penciler)**

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## From Reader Review Ultimate X-Men, Volume 14: Phoenix? for online ebook

### **Josephine (biblioseph) says**

This was really Bad. As in, words should follow that I cannot say on an all-ages website. This mini-arc kicked some major but. I like Jean so much. The cover is a little mis-leading, I really have no idea what the inspiration is. I'm also let down by Kurt's obsessive behavior. I was beginning to really like him.

Also, northstar's cameo is very, very strange in appearance. I would like to know who okay-d the panel of the party from bird's eye view. I wasn't sure if Northstar was a girl or not.

Otherwise? Artists were awesome. And a very fun, and mind-tingling twist at the end. Good job.

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### **Jason says**

This was mostly fun. It mainly sets up future plots, so there's little high stakes plots but that does mean there's breathing room for smaller character moments.

I'm not a fan of homophobic Nightcrawler who actively avoids Colossus who came out as gay.

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### **Jen Sylvia says**

While I liked the story itself of what was going on with the x-men team and its splintering, I am incredibly bothered by the laissez-faire attitude of letting in some new mutant who can simply bend reality, or use magic, at will, and noticing simply does not occur, by a bunch of hyper-alert, overly-trained mutants. Well, gee, I guess they are teenagers. The hell. Plus? Dressing nearly every female in skanky clothes is truly overdone. I do want to read the volumes preceding this, as well as the ones following as I'm highly intrigued with Rogue's ability, or lack thereof, as well as what is happening with Jean Grey. I just wish I didn't have to feel like a dirty teenager because of that.

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### **Bookwraiths says**

The Ultimate line was suppose to allow creators to put new spins on old characters and storylines, and that is exactly what Kirkman does with Jean Grey, the Phoenix, and the Shi'ar. I have to admit I didn't love every new twist (I could have done without the new Shi'ar update.), but overall it worked in the context of this story. Loved the beginning where everyone is out on their own "dates." It was just good to see the human side of everyone for a change.

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## **Sesana says**

This is the kind of thing I hope to see in an Ultimate book, a new and clever take on an established character or story element. In this case, the Shi'ar Empire becomes a Scientology-esque church that worships the Phoenix. It's a completely unexpected place to take the idea, and it's welcome. We've been doing this dance with Phoenix for a long time at this point, and I'd like to finally see where this is going. Is Jean the embodiment of the Phoenix? Or is the Phoenix an alter she created when her mutant powers were overwhelming her? Kirkman finally gives an answer, but it isn't necessarily a definitive one. There's also a new mutant introduced in this book, going by the codename Magician, and he instantly made me feel distrustful of him. Some of the minor interpersonal stuff is being taken dealt with, and it makes for a cleaner book. I was getting tired of some of the soap opera drama.

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## **David Basora says**

Poor Jean. I know lots of people hate Jean Grey as a character no matter what universe she is in, but I have always felt that while she can be manipulative, you can't deny that she never asked to be chosen by the Phoenix Force. The end of this book really highlights that. I enjoyed the multiple "date" format used for the beginning of the book, but this Boggs character is ridiculous. His powers strongly resemble the chaos magic of Scarlet Witch, and he is obviously warping reality, at least subconsciously, to fulfill his desires. I'm thinking he is either another agent of Apocalypse or the first mutant himself in disguise.

And I miss Lilandra being a powerful alien queen. I get the idea of making the Shi'ar human in the ultimate universe, but give her some backbone, please Kirkman?

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## **Fugo Feedback says**

Para mí sorpresa, hasta ahora me están gustando bastante más los Ultimate X-Men de Robert "Walking Dead todavía no me engancha" Kirkman que los de Brian "Saga cada día te quiero más" Vaughan. Quizás porque los pasos de comedia esan mejor dados, quizás porque se anima a jugar un poco más con la sexualidad de los personajes, quizás porque me causó gracia la reversión "cientológica" de los Shi'ar. Quizás simplemente porque es un comic muy entretenido y llevadero y listo, aunque tiene sus escenas confusas y deux ex-machina. Si no cuelgo mucho, en dos o otros tomos llego a la infame Ultmatum versión UXM.

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## **Charles says**

### Stuff I Read – Ultimate X-Men #66-74

Now before the masses all rise up and declare me an insane or an idiot for the issue range on this one, let me assure you that it's not really cheating. I should explain, perhaps, that this is really three different three-part stories, but because I really don't want to have to start reviewing three-part stories and because these three arcs weave together to form one larger story, I'm going to keep this a bit more simple and call this one arc. Officially running through Date Night, Phoenix?, and Magical, this arc I think gets the X-Men at least a bit more back on track in terms of where they should be and using the history of the title to tell an interesting

and rather complex story. Because really this arc is about Elliot Boggs, the mutant that becomes known as Magician. It is his story in the sense that it is Magician that creates almost all of the conflict of these arcs, at least that is how it eventually is revealed.

The arcs initially don't tip their hat to that, and so on the one level it is a more mundane story about fights at a school dance and weird churches and such. On the other level, though, it is a very tricky mutant power at work that creates the obstacles and circumstances for Magician to get what he wants. And I like that he is not even that aware of it. Further, it is great that him becoming a villain is explained by his power, that it was a way for him to get out that would prevent anyone from looking for him. On that level this is a very complex story that weaves seamlessly through the three small arcs to create one large arc, where we meet and actually like the character of Magician. At least I did. He is more carefree and eager to be a hero, while Robert Kirkman (trust a Kirk to set something straight, right?) begins to bring the characters out from the weird places they found themselves at when Vaughan left. He cuts right to the chase, however, in effectively stopping the horrible thing that was happening between Kitty and Bobby while reintroducing Rogue to the mix. He outs Colossus and makes Nightcrawler a rather confused and hostile young man, as is appropriate for someone who spent so much time in Weapon X.

He does a good job and showing something new with Cyclops and Jean and even gives the Professor a love interest. While this is happening he is creating all new things, like Magician, who is an Ultimate exclusive, if you will, and shows he isn't afraid to introduce new elements into the story. He also works on complicating Jean, making people think and herself doubt the nature of the Phoenix, as if it might just be a symptom of a mental disorder. Which is great. And while the final sendoff for Magician does seem a little cheesy, a little too worked out, I much prefer it to the tripe that was par for the course with Vaughan. Kirkman moves things along at a quick pace, concentrating on the character moments while leaving the arc with the question of how much was Magician and how much was "real." Which is both good and bad. Good in the sense that it adds a bit of mystery and complication to the story and bad because it leaves the readers rather ambiguously. Was it all a dream, basically?

In any event, the arc shows that Kirkman's run will most likely be a big step up from Vaughan's, if not the greatest the series has enjoyed. His characters are recovering from the super-juvenile idiots that he inherited and are making their towards being effective again, but I don't know that Kirkman does much to give them any strong victories. What wins they get are due largely to Magician, after all, so at the end it is like another loss for the team as a whole. But it puts them with somewhere to go, and feeling a bit more like a team. I'm waiting for Kirkman to get into some less mundane stories, but time will tell. As for this arc, I give it a 7.5/10.

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### **Eric Mikols says**

This is where I stopped reading Ultimate X-Men back in the day, so it was a little jarring to come back. I've definitely outgrown the Ultimate Universe, so we'll see. Plenty entertaining, anyway.

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### **John White says**

An interesting first outing for Kirkman. I liked that he tried to experiment with narrative structure of the

series as this allowed an different exploration of the same characters. It just falls short of being very good as I don't think the Ultimate Phoenix has really worked yet.

The art by Raney and Oliver is good walking the right line for this series between imaginative and realistic.

Overall a good read and looking forward to getting in to Kirkman's tenure to see if he can build on some concrete promise.

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### **Fizzgig76 says**

Reprints Ultimate X-Men #66-71. The X-Men have a night off and become involved with the Church of the Shi'ar Enlightenment. Ultimate X-Men is X-Men light but trying to be heavy. The story ideas aren't horrible (Phoenix makes a lot more sense--at least the Jean part), but the dialogue and character interactions are bad. A comic like Noble Causes plays with soap opera aspect of comics for jokes, but Ultimate X-Men is a joke because it feels like Kirkman thinks his writing is creative. The substory of the fight with the Brotherhood and "the Magician" was a waste of space.

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### **Jedhua says**

**Book Info:** This collection contains *Ultimate X-Men* issues #66-71.

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** {2.5/5 stars} (Rounded Down)

**STANDARDIZED RATING:** <2/5 stars>

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### **Brian says**

This volume is essentially a rest period after a series of conflicts. The first arc "Date Night" introduces Magician plus furthers a lot of the interpersonal relationships between the X-Men, for better or worse. In the second arc, "Phoenix?" Jean Grey is tested to see if she truly is the Phoenix or not. It's interesting stuff, especially given that Robert Kirkman (of Marvel Zombies and The Walking Dead) is involved. Only short a star because again, it's ramping up between arcs.

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### **Melissa says**

One of my least favorite story lines within the Ultimate X-Men comics.

I don't find the characters particularly sympathetic. I always felt a little jarred at Jean Greys behavior in this one (even before the whole interview thing).

I don't know they just don't feel like the character I know and love and I feel like the art quality is

inconsistent and cheaper than in the past.

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### **Edward Cheer says**

What an odd title. "Phoenix?" As if Kirkman was tempting you like a seductress showing a bit of her cleavage. "Wanna see some Phoenix? Huh? Do you?"

Suffice it to say, Kirkman is actually really good as he's established for me prior to this comic with his Walking Dead series. However, I feel bad for the people who read this comic during its release, as Kirkman has a problem with letting conversations run over into other issues, which can often confuse readers who receive the comics on a monthly basis.

However, Kirkman does an excellent job of blending character stories between each other. My problem with this, however, is the difference in tone between the stories. We jump from romantic relationships, to talking about the apocalypse, to a dirty fight in the middle of the rain. I recognize this as a flaw, but I still enjoy the amount of time Kirkman spent fleshing out each character in their own story.

Some other problems I have is the occasional robotic-sounding line. "This is a good thing." being spoken Xavier sounded like a very stiff line amongst the other few sprinkled in this volume. I'm also not a big fan of Nightcrawler being played off as so melodramatic, whiney, and intolerant. He and Colossus are good enough friends, that I figured him learning about him being gay wouldn't stop their friendship. But he whines about it to an unconscious girl he doesn't have the balls to ask out in the first place. Very nice.

This is a good step in the right direction. There's some genuine tension to Jean Grey being the Phoenix, and I really feel for these character as they go about their different stories. I just hope Kirkman can keep building off of his own momentum.

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