



Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Men

Kieron Gillen (Text) , Greg Land (Illustrations)

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The X-Men are used to being feared. When Fear Itself finally reaches the West Coast, they're going to become well acquainted with the emotion first hand.

The unstoppable Juggernaut is marching step by step towards Utopia, and they have all the time in the world to realize how little they can do to stop him.

As an offer by the Serpent's servant puts human and mutant at each others' throats, one X-Man makes a deal with a demon lord in an attempt to halt the Juggernaut's rampage - but can he back out at the fight's end? Prepare for the clash of two unstoppable forces!

Then, after the hammer-blow of Fear Itself and the violence of SCHISM, it can't go on. It's the end of the Uncanny X-Men. And who better to provide a stirring eulogy than...Mister Sinister? Join us for the end of the industry-shaping series with the return of the 19th century's finest morally dubious scientist.

COLLECTING: UNCANNY X-MEN 540-544

Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Men Details

Date : Published March 7th 2012 by Marvel Comics

ISBN : 9780785157977

Author : Kieron Gillen (Text) , Greg Land (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 120 pages

Genre : Superheroes, Marvel, Sequential Art, Comics, Graphic Novels, Comic Book, Graphic Novels
Comics, X Men

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From Reader Review Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Men for online ebook

Markus says

A main part concerns stopping the Juggernaut reaching to San Francisco and this has something to do with the Fear Itself which i have not read yet, and then there's Illyana been a bad girl in a story which i have not read, not going to read. A little confusing, but that's the X-men for you, with too many books going on. (It was so easy to read these back in 80s). A fairly good, nothing to remember after couple of weeks. Last issue of a collection is "last issue" of the Uncanny X-men which leads to a first issue of the Kieron Gillen's Uncanny X-men because of The Schism...but, anyway it's a good nostalgia issue with Sinister lurking in a background for some reason.

Joe says

Good job with the disconnect to the problems on the East Coast.

Terence says

The events of Fear Itself spill over onto the pages of Uncanny X-Men. Cain Marko aka Juggernaut has been possessed by an ancient power

and he's unbelievably more unstoppable than before.

He's headed right for San Francisco and the X-Men's new home of Utopia. What can anyone do?

There will be some mild spoilers, but this book is about 4 years old so I think everyone can handle it.

So I truthfully only read this because of Colossus becoming the Juggernaut.

Tie in books are generally only interesting in the moment if they are interesting then or when something that occurs has a long term affect on the series. That being said I was surprised how good this was. The X-Men under Cyclops dropped the school aspect and focused on being a military. Plans and counter plans were on display. I like Cyclops like this because he feels honest rather than the brown-nosing student I version of him I grew up with. I'm glad I didn't pay to read this though because the one aspect I wanted to know about played out exactly as I read. I was hoping for more depth, but there just isn't more in this circumstance.

Uncanny X-Men: Fear Itself was a solid tie in to the Fear Itself series.

Jesse says

I've read this one before with less context, and I liked it then and liked it now. The primary story of Juggernaut attacking SF and the X-Men throwing everything they can at stopping him is clever and quick-

witted. The outcome of that involving Colossus becoming the new Juggernaut is really interesting, genuinely heart-wrenching. Kitty's reaction and subsequent breaking-up with him is sooo sad and sooo well written. Then the very last issue, Uncanny X-Men #544 (billed as the final issue of UXM before it was relaunched with a new #1) was great too. Centered around the fracturing the X-Men post-Schism, it tells a very touching story of the original X-men breaking up. Also, this entire book is illustrated by Greg Land, but is not terrible. His action sequences are decent, most of the faces are servicable. The fact that he's able to tell a story with some great emotional moments is frankly amazing. Kieron Gillen really came into the X-Men main title on this book, and I look forward to reading his subsequent relaunch, which I've never read before and have heard great things about.

Eric England says

I have not read the actual Fear Itself miniseries, but I have a basic understanding of the plot. That said, I thought Fear Itself: Uncanny X-Men was just ok. Kieron Gillen's writing was good but not his best. Greg Land's art was bad but far from his worst. The collection told a fairly standard story where the X-Men battle a magically enhanced Juggernaut. Gillen does his best to add new facets to the events and Land has some great panels and double-spread pages. However, nothing is really too memorable. I also think this book would be a little inaccessible to newer comic book readers (veterans could follow it just fine). The story just dumps the reader right into the middle of the situation. Personally, for the new X-Men reader, I would recommend Astonishing X-Men by Joss Whedon and John Cassaday. Bendis' All-New X-Men is also great but it just started and is only available in single issues.

Tundextra says

Fear Itself hits the X-Men hard as one of their oldest enemies is given god like powers. A true team effort ensues using X-Men from all six 'classes' from the likes of Iceman and Logan through to Hope and her Lights! The final book shows the schism, and after a 40+ year run the end of the Uncanny X-Men comic book volume 1!

A firm 8 out of 12, for action and a comic book milestone.

Adam Stone says

I can't honestly speak to the quality of the story because ten pages in, I finally reached my limit on forcing myself to look at Greg Land's porn tracing. He's both objectively and subjectively terrible, and I hate the sheer volume of X-stories that editorial allowed him to turn into his liefless spank-fest.

I usually like Gillen's writing, though, and just imagine that it deserves better than Land's terrible art.

Vikas says

Not too bad of an ending for a series that went for ~48 years

Dante says

This is what I've actually read: Uncanny X-Men #543 (Fear Itself Tie-In).

Of course, I didn't understand the story because it's part of a larger story, which I don't have. But I love the graphics.

Sesana says

As an event tie in, pretty good. Having Juggernaut be the main threat for Utopia (and, by extension, San Francisco) is a smart choice. I like seeing Cyclops as the smart commander he eventually became. As a side note, this happened right around the same time as Schism, so there's some serious tension between the characters. Not exactly deep, but fun.

Mike says

Skips along at a quick pace, driving towards the inevitable defeat of Juggernaut as uber-threat. As far as story goes, this feels like every other X-Men event tie-in story I've read for the last few events. I'll look forward to Schism where X-Men is the main attraction, not just a little sidebar to flesh out the Marvel universe. However, I'll call dibs on any story in which Emma's bone-dry wit gets to come out and play.

It's not that it isn't a decent story - it's got action, quick pacing, crisp sparse dialogue, and everyone seems in character. We even get a nice little character-changing surprise (that I hope sticks around for a few years, like Rogue's powers-loss did or Pryde's multiple perils).

But somehow, like every bounded story (where there's a bigger event looming that artificially constrains the time allowed to tell a proper story), this feels like its over before it just gets going. (I'm sure glad I wasn't paying \$3 or \$4 an issue for this sparse stuff tho.)

It's too bad - I quite enjoy seeing Scott Summers squirm over not-quite-failing but not succeeding either. And the torture of X-Men having to make hard choices that don't make anyone happy is one of the guilty pleasures of reading these series.

I have to say how under appreciated Greg Land is as an artist - not just by me, but by the measure that he gets no mention among the superstar artists that usually get talked up. This is clean art, well-executed figures and faces, and interesting blocking/camera angles. I should pay more attention to where he's going.

The final wrap-up story is pretty boring - no news, nothing meaningful is said (except for whatever meaning Gillen & Land got out of their farewell note to this series).

Plot note spoilers:

Emma recognises that Hope contains the spirit of the Phoenix, and must be stopped before annihilating the planet. Colossus takes on the burden of avatar of Cyttorak. Namur continues to woo Emma in his regal,

noble way.

Craig says

Continuing the great x-read of 2017/2018... (and I am really far behind with my reviews so I will be putting up a bunch of quick-takes to catch up...)

Since I only read the x-books, I have no clue what the main Fear Itself plot is about really... And with how lackluster the x-related tie-ins are, I have no desire to find out.

Paul E. Morph says

Story: 4 stars

Artwork: 2 stars

A nice romp of a Juggernaut tale with lasting ramifications for Colossus. The last issue (billed as the final issue of Uncanny X-Men, although the title is inevitably rebooted a short while later) leaves a bad taste in the mouth, though.

J'aime says

Fear Itself was an enjoyable read, if not as good as other Marvel crossovers. A few of the tie-ins have been excellent, but just as many are lackluster. This is one of the latter.

I picked up this tie-in mainly to see how the X-Men came through the event. Juggernaut, the "unstoppable," is given one of the hammers of the Worthy and so he's now - unstoppable. Yeah. He's making his way toward San Francisco/Utopia and the Cyclops must orchestrate a defense. Much of this felt like a story I have read before, even though I don't read the X-Men series. The X-Men hit Juggernaut one at a time, or in groups, trying to remove his helmet for a mental assault. Only, he's no longer Juggernaut and his mind is a very dangerous place. This story felt like a retread until Cyclops comes up with a plan that was not only fresh but actually would have defeated one of the Worthy - something none of the other hero teams have managed. It was a good ending to a lackluster story.

Juggernaut is the entirety of this story and it really wasn't critical to the main event in any way. I'd only recommend this to completists or those who particularly enjoy the X-Men. Lots of action, but little consequence.

Geoffery Crescent says

Fear Itself is set shortly after I stopped following X-Men properly, somewhere amidst Second Coming and Avengers Vs X-Men I hopped off the Blackbird in search of pastures new (seriously, what was it with those

weird floaty personality bubble things they had going on back then?). I even wrote a complaints letter about how poor the quality had gotten which you can read here if you're that way inclined:
<http://sauteedpotatoesandonions.blogs...>

But Fear Itself isn't half bad and you don't need to be super familiar with the events leading up to it to enjoy it. For a start, the main guy is Juggeranaut, and who doesn't love a bit of Juggy? The script is tight and Cyclops' multiple battle plan strategy means we get a chance to see lots of familiar faces and old friends working together in exciting new combinations. I even got a little emotional when I saw Magneto helping Rogue, it all went a bit 90's for a moment and I remembered when X-men was, like, really good. The trip into Cyttorak was also excellent.

It's not without its flaws though. The art is a little weird and blurry, although that may have been down to the way it was printed, a bit like an Impressionist picture everyone looked good until you got closer. And I've got no idea who they were modelling Kitty Pryde's face on because it just didn't look like her. That said the splash page in issue 544 was beautifully done, we even got an Excalibur-era Rachel Summers. The ending was bizarre and I'm not sure, as much as I like Mister Sinister, I'm down with the idea that he's been controlling the X-Men's lives from day one. That's a ret-con right there, and one thing Marvel truly suck at is ret-cons. Did we learn nothing from Secret Wars? Plus, why was Namor hanging around the place? Not, like, helping or anything, just hanging around, being annoying. Doesn't he have a kingdom to run?

My biggest bug-bear, however, was the characterisation of Emma Frost. I used to love Emma Frost, she was all cold and sarky, and she was down with the Hell-Fire Club in the 80's when it was COOL, and she had that nifty fur cloak thing. But now she seems to be all tits and facade and nothing else. Case in point, Namor goaded her so much about not being married to Scott that she tried to smother Hope with a pillow (it makes sense in context...sort of). I mean sure, go ahead and kill Hope, she's bland as anything but really? The Emma Frost from the House of M thought the idea of marriage was ridiculous. And to top it all off she ends up copping off with Namor anyway. She's all over the bleeding shop.

Fear Itself is a nice little read but it doesn't really bring anything new to the X-table. Now, if anyone needs me, I'll be in the Danger Room. 90's era, of course ;)
