



## X-Men: Messiah Complex

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The biggest event to hit the X-Men in ten years is here.

Just when it looked like there was no possibility of a future for mutants, hope arrives. But the X-Men aren't there to meet it - The Marauders and Purifiers beat them to it. Now the race is on to get the first new mutant since House of M...

**Collecting:** *X-Men: Messiah Complex* One-Shot, *Uncanny X-Men* 492-494, *X-Men* 205-207, *New X-Men* 44-46, *X-Factor* 25-27, & *X-Men: Messiah Complex - Mutant Files*

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## From Reader Review X-Men: Messiah Complex for online ebook

### Nicolo Yu says

In a simple statement, *Messiah Complex* is one of the best X-Men crossover stories ever; and it's fortunate we have a story like this to come out of Marvel just as the company has about completed making the franchise as irrelevant it could manage.

There's a lot of nuance to the backstory of Marvel deconstructing what once it most profitable franchise; but in a gist, it's all about how Fox got the X-Men rights in what amounted to a fire sale as Marvel attempted to stave off bankruptcy as the twentieth century was about to end.

This was a well executed crossover; it has the best artists of the X-Men line at the time, and it has coordinated unique cover art by David Finch. As a bonus, it even had a Marc Silvestri drawn prologue. The story was well done, it's about the end of Decimation, the dawn of the first mutant birth ever since the Scarlet Witch famously said, "no more mutants." It would be an X-Men story without a trio of capable villains and a few deaths.

If one is a relapsed X-Men reader like me, this story will do well to restart one's enthusiasm for new X-Men stories, the way this new birth brought new hope to the mutant race.

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### ImJaclyn says

3.75 Stars

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### James DeSantis says

Now this was a badass event. I mean it's a X-Men event in the fact it's all X-men titles but a damn good one.

So what happens when the mutant race is in trouble? No more are popping up. The X-Men are losing their minds. Everything is slowly coming apart. OH SNAP here we go a baby is born! The future might not be as bad as we thought. However, every single mutant group wants in on this including non-mutants who like to kill mutants. Now it's a race to whomever can get to this baby first and what they will do.

Good: Love, love, love the way all these X-men titles mix and flow so well. X-Factor, New X-men, Uncanny and X-men all work really well together surprisingly. While there's a few writers they all mesh well together. I loved the tense and chasing feel the entire story gave. As if time is running out, and everyone is scrambling. It felt like it had a ton of stakes too as people would die a lot, and not just minor characters. Each faction of the X-men had something to do which made it even better.

Bad: Some of the art was tough to follow making the action hard to understand. I also thought the big death at the end had been done so many times it was getting a little tiring.

Overall this was great. Exciting, fun, great dialog, with some awesome plotting. I really enjoyed this one a

ton and easily give it a 4 out of 5.

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### **Aaron says**

In the aftermath of House of M and Decimation, there are only a couple hundred mutants left. It's in doubt if any will even appear again. So it's a big deal when the X-Men detect a mutant baby born in Alaska, which they immediately go to safeguard. They arrive to a town on fire and all but one of the children dead at the hands of enemies of the X-Men, the Purifiers and Mr. Sinister's Marauders. The X-Men go on the offensive, tracking the groups back to their sources and discovering that things are not quite as they seem. (view spoiler)

A mostly satisfying crossover X-event, filled with good action, some interesting glimpses of an alternate future, and a strained dynamic between Cyclops and Professor X. On the other hand, there are a huge number of characters between the four X-titles and a many-threaded plot that seemed unnecessarily complex. The art by Billy Tan, Humberto Ramos, and Chris Bachalo is excellent and is probably the redeeming factor for this story.

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### **Shelby \*trains flying monkeys\* says**

Meh. That's about it for this book. I'm giving a two star just for the pretty pictures and Wolverine..because he is the man.

The book tried to hard to cram all the X-men stuff into it. I got lost and didn't care to find my way out.

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### **Paul E. Morph says**

This one is quite a cohesive crossover; nothing felt like it wasn't part of the main story, which was nice. It felt overly action-heavy to me, though, and the 'shock ending' felt tacked-on and unnecessary... particularly as it had been done a number of times before (and even once again since).

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### **Sam Quixote says**

The first mutant to be born since Scarlet Witch's curse on "M-Day" (see "House of M" by Brian Michael Bendis) – No More Mutants – is named Hope and could signal the salvation of the mutant species. But the race is on to capture this baby: the X-Men want to protect her, Mr Sinister want to use her for his infernal plans, Cable is on a mission from the future to Sarah Connor the baby, and a mutant hunting beast called Predator X is on the loose.

There is a lot going on in the book that isn't really explained so if you're jumping in blind then you might find yourself a bit lost. Having too many series has always been a problem with X-Men: Uncanny X-Men,

New X-Men, X-Force, X-Factor – there's too many storylines intersecting to have a standalone book make sense and reading “Messiah CompleX” I kept wondering what was going on. Why are Cyclops and Prof X fighting? Were Mystique and Rogue a couple? Mystique seems to be trying to save Rogue from some coma-type state – how and when did that happen? Is Hope Cyclops’ daughter – who’s the mother?

I felt there was too much going on which made the book seem overstuffed and more than a bit jumbled. For one thing, the futuristic mutants in concentration camps idea has been done many times before and is trotted out again here to no real effect. I think the point was that if Hope lived, this would become reality but it's unclear how or why – this is another storyline which I expect was addressed in future books. Predator X was one big Macguffin – what was the point in having this robotic dinosaur running rampant? What is it, who sent it, why is it included? That storyline just ends nowhere. As does the Mr Sinister storyline – I thought Sinister would play a much larger role than he actually did, and we never find out what his motives are anyway! It's another story point that ends in a cul-de-sac.

The best storyline was easily Cable’s. He’s a futuristic mutant fighter who’s come to the present to save Hope (I know, it’s basically T2 but I don’t care). It’s him and a baby against everyone, good and bad, and I really wanted to read more about his fight for survival against the odds. I thought the Predator X storyline was created just for Cable to fight at the end but no. Instead we catch brief glimpses of Cable throughout before the final pages where I really wanted to pick up a book devoted entirely to Cable and Hope’s survival rather than read more of the convoluted adventures of the X-Men.

The book is a pretty decent and fun read as there’s a lot going on so you’re never bored. It’s just that with so many questions about what’s going on, I couldn’t really enjoy it fully. I also thought there were far too many characters involved – I don’t know who X-Factor or X-Force are, and frankly I don’t care. If you’ve read all the books leading up to this event though I’m sure it’s more satisfying.

And on a sidenote, a major character dies at the end. I won’t say who but if you’ve been following the more recent “Avengers Vs. X-Men” title that character dies again! I guess the old rule that only Peter Parker’s Uncle Ben stays dead is well and truly still enforced. Kind of undermines the shock of the ending to “Messiah CompleX” though and makes killing off characters in comics somewhat laughable.

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### **StoryTellerShannon says**

A true Messiah has been born for the X-Men and various groups are fighting for control of the child. It's an intriguing idea but the the many subplots dilute it a bit towards the overall flow. Artwork is quite good to above average.

### **OVERALL GRADE: B to B plus**

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### **???? ???? says**

I had a month of laidback fun because of Jeff Parker's *X-Men: First Class* and I will always be thankful for that break. I almost forgot what was waiting for me once I get back to more serious works down the pipeline. As a natural progression, I was once again reading the *House of M* aftermath where mutants have become an endangered species and there are less than a thousand of them globally. This thirteen-issued arc with a title

so shamelessly foreshadowing is where I rightfully find myself, and it wastes no time bitch-slapping me in the face in reminding me that the X-MEN universe is a collection of varied clusterfucks that I will never get tired being caught up in and incessantly discussing about said abuse in my reviews.

*Messiah Complex* encapsulates that experience. This is also my last story before I take a two-month hiatus to make way for Batman comics diet this July, and then *Hellblazer: John Constantine* on August. I've been away from these beautiful men and their compelling stories for far too long and I need to give them a chance to shine again. Originally, I wanted to end this month with the follow-up arc, *Second Coming*, but decided that I simply have no time to absorb another big-event arc.

*Messiah Complex* after all has proven to be time-consuming enough. Wisely so, I timidly tucked in my raging hard-on and chose not to waste my jizz in one place. I thought it best that the *Second Coming* (pun intended at this point) will be my opening act once I resume in September.

So, until then, you can enjoy this particular jizzfest below instead.

Reading *Messiah Complex* was exhilarating but it also had me freaking out slightly on certain aspects. There is a central conflict that holds together a series of subplots within it and it could get wonky tracking them all down so I decided to illustrate them in a diagram for my convenience so I can touch upon all of them in this review. I will be taking a two-month hiatus so I better wrap up this month with a special post and nothing fits that bill perfectly than *Messiah Complex*. It span for three separate X-titles, namely *Uncanny X-Men*, *X-Factor*, *New X-Men*.

First off, though MC is ridiculously rife with subplots, it doesn't get bogged down by its varied ensemble of characters unlike, say, the first two volumes of that forgettable *Age of Apocalypse* big-event in the nineties which I read last month and was barely happy about. MC was written by Ed Brubaker and is a direct follow-up to Brian Michael Bendis' *House of M*, and though it is just as all over the goddamn spectrum of what you can expect from a soap opera, the narrative has much more focus and fluidity than AoA. The contrast is just apparent to me because all the subplots lead back to the main plot even two or three of them can be considered distant enough to be standalone events--and everything still makes sense together as a whole. Unlike AoA. Srsly, fuck AoA. I'm a child of the nineties, sure, but FUCK AoA. It was a seventy out of a hundred percent waste of my May.

To demonstrate the breadth of this clusterfuck, behold my handwritten diagram below which I will discuss by point for the rest of this review. Please bear with me. We are going to get through this. Take note that I will only discuss the content of the first six to seven issues because I don't want to spoil the second and final act for the latet issues so you can enjoy those for yourself. Besides, the six to seven issues have already enough material to fill up an entire entry here. Now, I drew this diagram and wrote the notes around five in the morning even though I had a class at noon. And it was a compulsory need to make sense of it all which actually helped me process what to type here.

[CLICK FOR LARGER IMAGE]

There are TEN ATTRACTIONS. Two of those are divided into halves. I will write down my shorthand notes first and then expound of them. Reading them, I realize that they look like tabloid headlines, and therefore should be treated as such.

So here we go.

"Aka-chan" is the Japanese term for baby. I just want to use that name from here on because it's cute. So, presently, things are escalating shit upon shit since mutants got depowered while a few retained their powers like the X-Men. This is all thanks to Wanda Maximoff's curse to punish daddy Magneto so she remade reality so that there will be no more new mutants to manifest powers. But then a baby was born somewhere and it instantly manifested a mutation of some kind which was powerful enough to haywire Cerebra. The first issue opens with the X-Men (Cyclops, Emma, Wolverine, Nightcrawler and Angel) tracking down this little miracle of life only to discover that two nihilistic groups of unforgivable assholes have beat them to it. Tough luck.

Orgies are fun. Also, unsanitary. Massacres are only fun depending on whether you're the killer or the one being killed. But to be black and white about it, massacres are bad. Also unsanitary. The Purifiers and the Marauders, in their pursuit for aka-chan, collided in one place and fucked each other up. Both sides had casualties in their short-lived, terrifying hatemaking but now the X-Men (the police who arrived late and only have to inspect the scene of the crime) need to figure out which one of these cunts have aka-chan. The Purifiers are anti-mutant cunts who want to eradicate mutants because we all know by now that genetic cleansing is historically justifiable especially for religious purposes. Aka-chan is the new antichrist, the Purifiers believe. Meanwhile, the Marauders are followers of mutant militant leader but fabulous fashion trendstarter Mr. Sinister who is still worse than Magneto on an ordinary bad day. He also just abducted Rogue, being a douchebag, and now he is after aka-chan. If his name isn't a dead giveaway already then there's no other way to stress that he cannot have that baby. Purifiers might just kill it but Mr. S will find a way to weaponize it for his own stupidly immoral agenda.

Cyclops takes his leadership role more seriously especially in the light of recent events as well as his personal issues about Professor Xavier's deception concerning his long-lost brother. Now I like Scott. I belong to the faction of fans who had always favored him even during the moments when he's less emotionally relatable.

**(3.1) RICTOR, PREVIOUSLY DEPOWERED, INFILTRATES PURIFIERS** so Cyclops can gather intel and keep tabs.

**(3.2) CYKE ASKED FORGE TO SEND MULTIPLE MAN TO FUTURES BUT LAYLA MILLER HITCHES A RIDE.**

This is one of the standalone subplots I was referring to but it is still covered for the rest of the issues. Time-travel stuff. On Cyclops' orders, Forge helps out Multiple Man (Jamie Madrox) as he sent duplicates of himself to possible futures where mutants are still endangered or what could happen if aka-chan ends up in the wrong hands. Something like that. But Layla Miller (first introduced in House of M) tags along which was not part of the plan. They have their own spin-off going on but their scenes are still relevant to the present arc.

Some time ago, the Purifiers attacked Xavier Institute of Higher Learning and killed 45 students. The pupils themselves who are now deemed the New X-Men were left to fend for themselves and a few survived. Cyke kept the Purifiers' participation a secret in the current mission to keep the kids out of the picture, but it got out anyway and now the Xavier Institute Pupils go on a reckless field trip to get back on the Purifiers and maybe secure aka-chan if they do have it. What these kids didn't anticipate is that the Purifiers hired the genetically-modified mercenaries Reavers who would have killed them all if Rictor didn't blow up his cover to intervene and order Pixie to teleport them out. Said teleportation scattered all of them in different places, barely alive.

Wolverine, Storm, Angel and Nightcrawler butt heads with the Marauders while Gambit slinkers away. Wolverine confronts him and finds out the real whereabouts of (SEE ITEM #7). Mr. Sinister was pleased to know that the X-Men have yet to acquire said aka-chan so he is still in the game.

#### **(5.2) SENTINELS INTO NANO-SENTINELS BECAUSE WHY THE FUCK NOT?**

Meanwhile, the human pilots inside the Sentinels were converted into some sort of creatures using the Nano-sentinels strain developed by Cassandra Nova, Charles' evil twin sister who has never forgiven him for eating her when they were still in their mother's womb or something. Said nano-bastards started attacking Emma, Scott, Bobby, Beast and the other students inside the mansion. This is something of another subplot that might get a larger role in the series later. Oh, and the only person who has a strain of that nano-virus is Cable so Scott is determined to get to him since he both has the baby, and he might have triggered the conversion of the nano-sents.

WTF, Scott. It's your OWN SON. Led by Wolverine, the X-Force go on a mission to get to Cable before anybody else. If they can manage.

They haven't seen him in a while so they're not so confident if Cable has all his eggs in the basket. Meaning, if he's now a nutter. One is simply careful. But Scott, come on, it's your son. Please talk to him. And Chuck. He's kindda your dad. Stop ignoring him and freezing him out.

Bloody confrontations ensue.

A monster that resembles something from *Aliens vs. Predators*, this hungry motherfucker eats mutants. Because that's what an endangered species needs: more creatures above them in the food chain. Predator X is a living example that things will get so much worse...with an off-chance they might get better...I guess. I pray. This is a subplot I am really hoping will not reach aka-chan.

For reference, check out the events in *Deadly Genesis*. His banishment is justifiable. Scott has trust issues

with Xavier now so he is literally telling the Professor to go to his room because he's grounded. The younger ones accuse him of passivity, neglect and abandonment which is all true because Chuck had eloped with Mags in Claremont's Excalibur III so they can rebuild Genosha. It's sad to see Chuck forced out into the sidelines as he sees that he is no longer needed or respected. In retrospect, both he and Erik let down their children and now they are suffering the consequences of those failures.

There you have it. A summary of the first six or seven issues. Excited to check it out? Then go right ahead. It's engrossing enough to maintain your interest and attention span and quite an important arc since it precedes *Second Coming* which is another game-changer arc.

**RECOMMENDED: 8/10**

**DO READ MY REVIEWS AT:**

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**Sesana says**

"No more mutants." Scarlet Witch's curse, and a death sentence for mutants as a people. And now a mutant has been born, literally. Naturally, this leads to an all-out war over the possession of an infant who just might be the mutant messiah.

So far, you've got me. That core story, that unto the mutants a child has been born, is more than a solid foundation for one of those big X-overs that we all "love". And that's the biggest problem with this book, that it's a major crossover among far too many books. Which means that the story ends up getting bloated with a bunch of side stories that don't come to anything, don't really matter, and don't have any place here. Predator X, Sinister, yet another take on Days of Future Past... If the writers had kept the whole story tighter, than it would have been a much more enjoyable book.

But I do appreciate that things happen, and that they actually matter. The X-Men that I used to read are very different from the X-Men of Marvel Now!, and this is an important step on that road. If you ignore all the padding, there's good ideas and a sense that interesting things are going to happen in the future. Not the best crossover in the world, but at least it's based on an idea that's fundamentally pretty interesting.

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**Gavin says**

OK there is absolutely no messing around with this one. This is a major story, and the X-Men universe will be significantly altered.

The first Mutant Baby is born since the House of M event, and every force on the planet wants the baby for their own purposes. However, there is one lone figure who gets to the baby before anyone else...

This sets up chases and battles, and we see a huge roster of characters in this one: Wolverine, Cyclops, Emma Frost, Storm, Beast, Prof X, Angel, Iceman, Nightcrawler, Colossus, Siryn, Bishop, Forge, Gambit, Rogue, Mr. Sinister, Mystique, X-23, Lady Deathstrike, Warpath, and a whole bunch more.

Jam-packed would be a good way to describe this story. In a good way.

Ed Brubaker delivers here yet again, and the art is very good for conveying the seriousness of the events.

It reminded me a lot of the X-Men cartoon from the 90s where everyone showed up, and the past was dependent on the future and time travel was real, and people from the future were in the past and visa versa.

All in all, just a very cool book, with a lot of stuff going on, and some serious consequences, including the death of some MAJOR characters.

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### **Buse Arslan says**

Çok be?endim. Aksiyonun asla bitmeyi?i, tek bir tak?mla ba?l? olmay???, birden fazla karakter görü?üm sevdi?im taraflar?yd?. House Of M en sevdi?im event olmas?ndan dolay? devam?nda neler oldu?unu, X-Men'in neler ya?ad???n? bilmek çok istiyordum zaten. Not: Normalde Mesih KompleXi bir ve ikinci ciltlerinin birle?imi ancak yay?nevi taraf?ndan ikiye bölünmü? ikinci part? bulamayanlar için uyar?l?r.

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### **Nelson says**

Wow! Now this is how you do a crossover event! This follows 4 different series with different writers and artists, and yet everything felt entirely cohesive as if it was just one series by one writer and artist. This is done at the cost of each series not feeling wholly like the series would normally feel; for example X-Factor had to advance X-Men's plot, and Uncanny X-Men had to advance New X-Men's plot, and so on. The series all got melded together, but this is for the best. There were generally 5 or 6 different plot threads being advanced on each issue. I used the word "cost" earlier, but honestly this is exactly why this crossover works so well--because it feels like one cohesive series. The writers matched up their writing styles well, and the artists' styles were similar enough that it never felt jarring jumping between 4 different ones. The only reason I used the word "cost" earlier is because if someone were reading any of the 4 series by itself, reading only the issues from said series would feel completely jarring, and skipping them even more jarring. So the only option is to read the whole crossover event, which might still be a bit confusing if not reading the other series involved. Everything is explained well, so one could easily read this standalone, but a lot of setup was done in each of the series involved beforehand, so the full impact would be lost. Still, this is a very minor concern as the event is completely worth the time.

The plot itself starts out fairly simple: various factions searching for a baby. Eventually, twists are introduced adding depth to the plot. By the end, things come together smoothly. Having read X-Men, Uncanny X-Men, X-Factor, and a volume of New X-Men, I felt like I got a lot more out of this crossover, as plot threads that had been sown way back in those series get used or resolved here beautifully. It also helps being familiar with all these characters, their motivations, and their current states.

I think every single writer wrote very well. I am a huge fan of all of them individually in their series and other works. I feel they might have been a bit more stiff than usual since they needed to make sure everything was going according to plan in terms of plot elements and pacing, but their seamless collaboration more than made up for that.

Every single artist knocked it out of the park too. Even Scot Eaton and Humberto Ramos, who can be a bit hit or miss for me, were on their best game. And Silvestri, Tan, and Bacchalo were incredible as usual. It also helped that D'Armata colored two of the series along with the one-shot, and that Delgado and Reber have similar coloring styles. Every series flowed well from one to the other.

All in all, I would give this a hearty 9/10. Solid writing, good art, lots of action, lots of status quo developments, and even a bit of character development here and there. Due to the fast paced nature of the event some parts weren't as fleshed out as I'd like, but it's understandable. I look forward to reading the series spanning out of this next.

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### **Relstuart says**

This book helps fill in the story of where Hope comes from. It follows the X-Men Endangered Species OHC where the X-Men are struggling to find a way to preserve the mutant gene/species. That book was very Beast focused. This one featured a ton of people and is much more team focused versus person focused. Lots of action and a little time travel. I felt like we saw all the major X-men in action and we see a few deaths and rebirths. Overall fun but not for a new reader who would have no idea who everyone is.

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### **Terence says**

The first new mutant since M-Day has appeared and the mutants power is so strong it disabled Cerebra.

The X-Men head to the location to find the town was burned.

They fear it was the new mutant, but it appears to have been a war.

The Purifiers and The Marauders made it to the new mutant first it seems, but where is the new mutant now? The race is on to retrieve this powerful new mutant.

Messiah Complex is an interesting race. A lot of characters get involved and they don't all make it to the end. The fact a powerful new mutant was born is certainly intriguing because it's impossible to know what that means.

I thought the reasoning behind every group being after the new mutant was thin. It's certainly not unimaginable, but some information that happened earlier in the volume has to be ignored for everything to work.

The X-Men's future is always ominous and the ones described seemed appropriately terrible for them. It's surprising time travelers like Bishop and Cable even still bother. At a certain point I imagine one of them being like, *"I really shouldn't go back in time. The likelihood is I'll just make things work. I should just fix up my time."* I also feel bad for Bishop. No matter what world or timeline he comes from it's always hell and there are always mutant concentration camps.

Messiah Complex was a semi-bloated massive crossover X-Men event, that in the end was overly familiar and just OK.

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