



## X-Men, Volume 4: Exogenous

*Marc Guggenheim (Writer), Dexter Soy (Illustrations), Harvey Tolibao (Illustrations)*

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**X-Men, Volume 4: Exogenous** Marc Guggenheim (Writer) , Dexter Soy (Illustrations) , Harvey Tolibao (Illustrations)

It's a new mission for the first all-female team of X-Men! When the Shi'ar warrior Deathbird lands on S.W.O.R.D.'s doorstep at the brink of death, Abigail Brand calls the X-Men to investigate! But are even they equipped to handle this horrific new alien threat? As "Genespliced" monstrosities engineered from the fiercest alien races across the galaxy threaten S.W.O.R.D.'s orbital base, the X-Men find themselves entangled in a conspiracy that connects to the assassination of Rachel Grey's family! Can the X-Men hope to stop an alien horde? Does Brand know more about the Genespliced than she's revealing? How does Rachel's uncle Vulcan tie in? And will Rachel forsake her teammates and risk Earth's safety to take revenge on those responsible for her family's deaths?

**Collecting:** *X-Men* 18-22

## X-Men, Volume 4: Exogenous Details

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## **From Reader Review X-Men, Volume 4: Exogenous for online ebook**

### **Elena says**

(18) The team (Rachel Grey/Summers, Psylocke, Monet, Storm and Jubilee head to The Peak, SWORD's station to help them with the Shi'ar coma patient, Deathbird who also ends up being pregnant. The station is attacked by hunters who are after Deathbird's baby.

(19) The team meet up with Agent Abigail Brand from SWORD and help them defend their ship after an attack from the Sidri hunters. Shortly afterward they are boarded by Shi'ar warriors looking for Deathbird. One of the Shi'ar tells Rachel Grey that the orders to execute her family was on her orders. The ship that Deathbird was being held on and escaped from was conducting experiments.

(20) The team continues to figure out what is going on with Deathbird and what people want with her. Deathbird was married to Vulcan (Summer's brother). They also refer to him as Emperor Vulcan. Through video surveillance they determine that the baby is indeed what they are after due to its heritage of human, Shi'ar, Mutant and Kree. Manifold Tyger is also a traitor to this team and has now been tasked with murdering everyone aboard The Peak by The Providian Order.

(21) Manifold Tyger has attempted to kill Storm and Dr. Reyes. Where Dr. Reyes was able to use her forcefield ability to stop her from sustaining life threatening injuries Storm wasn't so lucky. While she was in a coma Manifold Tyger strangled her and sent her into cardiac arrest. Now the team is trying to save her before it's too late. The team has been able to capture Manifold Tyger and is now taking him in for questioning.

(22) The Team battles The Providian Order and wins. Rachel Grey saves the life of the person who advised the murder of her family.

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### **Sesana says**

I liked this story a lot more than the previous volume's. Yes, it does serve mainly to give some sort of closure to one of Rachel's most recent traumas, the Shi'ar murder of the entire Grey family. Which is one of those things that's so legitimately traumatic that not talking about it starts to feel really weird after awhile. But even aside from that, it's a pretty decent story. And it's an ancient and honorable X-Men tradition to send the team into space, so it suits the book. I also feel like Guggenheim is doing a better job of writing these ladies as a team than Wood had.

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### **Michael Church says**

This book was utter garbage. The art was the most offensive. These guys draw eyes like kindergarteners. The character models are awkward and inconsistent. Every face is alien and ugly. Bodies contort into strange positions that make no sense. Entire pages are washed out in a single color with no background details. It looks like a pile of vomit that your dog leaves in the middle of the floor after eating your garbage. Some of

the worst art I've seen in a while.

Then there is the story, or what Guggenheim tries to pass off as a story. It's really more a mosh pit of random plot devices, jokes that quickly lose their charm, and hollow characters that make black holes look like they have substance. I'm glad that someone finally recognized how ridiculous it is to have 3 super telepathy on one team, but then their power sets fluctuate wildly, the visual depictions of their powers are similarly disarrayed, and it actually becomes a running joke that these are their powers.

The rest of the book is inconsistent as well. For instance, I know this is a bit nitpicky, but a team coming off of a Shi'ar vessel has the same space suits as a team coming off of an Earth space station. Aliens are described as mindless and having low empathy but that somehow makes them more vulnerable to psychic attack. Space travel happens, so actual timelines go out the window. Multiple people are kept alive by tiny force fields maintaining organ function. For AGES.

One of the worst offenses was how the book wants to parade itself as some sort of feminist statement because it's an all girls team. That's great, but they still keep talking about it in the book itself. What was great about the all female team at first was no one said anything about it. The book didn't have to call it out because these were just badass heroes doing badass hero things. The fact that they all happened to be women was significant, but not the focus. And in this volume you have multiple references to their sex in addition to ridiculous art poses and proportions that are clearly just to objectify the team members.

I've learned that I do not like the Shi'ar and I do not like Rachel Grey. This has some sort of arc for her slapped onto it, but I couldn't care less at this point. Unfortunately, scheduling and being able to read this means I've already got the next volume on my shelf despite how much I hated this. If not for that fact, I would be dropping this title today. There were some shining moments early on in the series, but all of that has now faded. If you're really interested, check out the first arc, but otherwise, steer clear.

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

A bit of mish-mash of a story with the artist changing every few pages. There are some good ideas in here but the execution leaves a lot to be desired. For X-Men completists only.

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### **Diana says**

No, not the Shi'ar... I usually don't like the parts where they appear, dunno why...

And as predicted... I didn't like it. May be it is prejudice against shi'ar or space operas inside the x-men, but... it has some moments, but the story overall wasn't that good for me...

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### **Vittorio Rainone says**

Secondo volume (parzialmente) a firma Ellis con protagonisti gli Xmen. Per fortuna non ci sono i barocchissimi disegni di Bianchi ad appesantire ulteriormente una narrazione dalle dinamiche davvero infantili. Vista la caratterizzazione così stupida di due dei principali protagonisti della saga X (il condottiero

Ciclope che agisce per tutto il numero "Improvvisando", e il vecchissimo Logan che agisce per tutto il numero come un idiota) e viste le battute autoreferenziali che percorrono tutto il numero, verrebbe da dire che ad Ellis non piacciono quasi per nulla gli Xmen. Soprattutto visto che ha fatto molto (ma molto) di meglio altrove. Phil Jimenez è decente, ci regala qualche bella splash page, ma nulla di trascendentale. Il secondo ciclo, a firma Harris e Jimenez, è assolutamente trascurabile.

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### **Charles says**

The overall name of the group is a serious misnomer in this adventure, for all of the members of this action team from the overall group known as the X-Men are female. As a story, it is a bit disjoined and hard to follow, especially if you are unfamiliar with the context established in earlier episodes regarding this group of heroes.

However, the writing is excellent, the dialog of the characters is very feminine, yet within the bounds of Marvel action heroes. This is in keeping with the legacy of Stan Lee, where the textual aspects of the adventures were often the strongest points in the story. There is sarcasm aplenty as these women have to get along with each other, fight powerful villains that are male, female and animal and sometimes suppress emotions that would be self-defeating if allowed to bubble to the surface. While the story wanders a bit and, in some respects, goes on a little too long, it is well within the bounds of the Marvel tradition of sassy characters that get the job done of fighting and defeating the evil they encounter.

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### **47Time says**

The battles in this story arc are so rushed it hurts my eyes. There are eviscerations, explosions and betrayal aplenty, but the overall feel is mediocre. The originality of the series was wasted on this arc after the writer change. I also blame the setting: fighting in space is boring.

Deathnote of the Shi'Ar is found nearly dead, floating toward the SWORD orbital station. She is being pursued by Sidrian hunters who want her unborn baby. The SWORD station becomes severely damaged and loses orbit. Storm and Jubilee help keep the station in orbit while Rachel, Psylocke and Monet pursue the hunters.

(view spoiler)

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### **Chris Lemmerman says**

Probably the best this series has been since it started, as Brian Wood's story lost its way after the initial arc. The character work is strong, and there are some nice concepts introduced in this volume which I'd like to see looked in on again by other writers, though that's probably unlikely. The artwork is pretty good, despite some odd facial expressions from Harvey Tolibao, and I wish Dexter Soy had retained his beautiful painted style from previous work like Captain Marvel. This isn't an X-Men book that particularly stands out above

the rest, but it's a solid story, with decent art, and that's not a bad thing.

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### **Melissa says**

Read as single issues

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### **Joe says**

The X-Women should have their own book.

A joy

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### **Tundextra says**

A battered and beaten Deathbird turns up at the Peak - Agent Brand calls in Storm's all-women X-Men. Rachel gets to face the Shi'Ar again! The team following back Deathbird's trail to find where she was held, and by whom.

A not-too bad X-Men in space arc with some interesting character developments for Rachel Grey and Cecilia Reyes. An average 6 out of 12, I liked it :)

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### **Anne says**

3.5 stars

#### ***X-men vs Aliens!***

Rachel and her tragic family story are front and center in this one. We get some flashbacks to when the Shi'ar hunted them all down, and Rachel deals with her anger over the injustice of it.

To start the adventure off, her *aunt*, Deathbird, is found floating in space near S.W.O.R.D's space station, and the X-men are called in to investigate.

Toss in some funky aliens attacking, more Shi'ar, and some kind of crazy Illuminatiish genetic splicing conspiracy, double agents, a **Storm** in space, and you've pretty much got a fun little plot.

The dialogue between the characters was good, and there was enough 'witty banter' to keep things kind of lighthearted.

*Well, except for Rachel...she was just a buzzkill. And isn't that usually Storm's job?*

I'm assuming the idea behind this is to have an all-girls team, which is cool, *in theory*. Honestly, I thought I'd like it a bit more than I do. Hate to say it, but I miss the boys. It just seems odd when they have all-male or all-female teams anymore. Maybe it's just me...

Anyway. This was as good as the last volume, maybe better. If I can find more at my library, I'll keep reading. If not? I won't be too upset.

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### **Craig says**

Continuing the great x-read of 2017/18...

I feel like I was more excited for this series (well, the team lineup, at least) before I began reading it.

It isn't a bad series. There have been plenty of those through the years in the x-books. But it certainly doesn't rank among the greats.

In this volume, it's nice to see Rachel get a little closure but I never love the space opera side of the X-Men stories.

Also, Monet feels like a different character from her X-factor run in a lot of ways...

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### **Quentin Wallace says**

This volume wasn't bad. The entire story takes place in space as the aliens attempt to save Deathbird from..well, let's just say this wacko who is experimenting on different alien species. The X-Men battle genetically spliced creatures that contain parts of Brood, Skrulls, and who knows what else. Also we get to the return of the Sidrian Hunters. (I still remember that issue where Kitty's Pet Dragon Lockheed ate all of the Sidrian Hunter eggs.)

Overall I enjoyed the storyline, but I thought the art was slightly weak. There was a lot going on however, so it's not like it was an easy job for the artist.

As I've stated with previous volumes, this series just isn't a favorite. Unfortunately I think we are going through a down period as it relates to X-Men comics, but maybe it's just me.

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