



Mystique by Brian K. Vaughan: Ultimate Collection

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Mystique has used her powers to go against the X-Men in their battle for mutant-human coexistence for years, but in this complicated world, Mystique begins to find the battle lines are no longer so clear. In exchange for protection, Mystique reluctantly agrees to work for Charles Xavier. But instead of being invited to join the X-Men, Mystique is asked to participate in politically sensitive operations as a secret agent. Can this former mutant-rights terrorist be trusted?

Collecting: *Mystique* 1-13

Mystique by Brian K. Vaughan: Ultimate Collection Details

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Author : Brian K. Vaughan (Writer) , Jorge Lucas , Manuel García , Michael Ryan

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From Reader Review *Mystique* by Brian K. Vaughan: Ultimate Collection for online ebook

Adam Stone says

A refreshing change of genre during my re-read of X-Men comics and spinoffs, *Mystique* is an espionage story that features Marvel's favorite blue shape shifter, and includes appearances from other X-Men regulars like Professor X and Forge.

While it's not quite as riveting as Vaughan's work for Image, or even his run on *Runaways Deluxe*, Vol. 1, it's solid storytelling, and a worthy side story branching off from Grant Morrison's X-Men run.

I recommend it for anyone who wants to read an X-Men story that doesn't precisely follow a trope that Chris Claremont originated, and people who like it when Professor X works "off the books".

Heather says

What an intense story line. Much more engaging than DC comics. New favorite villain is The Host, amazing concept.

Allie (alliecatreads) says

I really enjoyed this! While *Mystique* in this graphic novel was definitely different than the *Mystique* we typically see in the X-Men movies, I still really enjoyed this. It had a super intriguing plot, it blew my mind, made me fall in love with the artwork, and it was just a really fun time. If you are a fan of X-Men, then I highly recommend you check this out!

Sesana says

I vaguely remember when this series was released. It was, I think, around the same time that Morrison was writing X-Men. I had zero interest in reading it. I've never been a big fan of *Mystique* in general, and the sexy covers were kind of a turn off. I didn't read *Emma Frost* for much the same reason, though I admit that these covers are at least a step above those. And I never would have, if not for Anne's very positive review. Thanks, Anne!

I really am glad I read this. I really didn't know what to expect, and I'm pleased that this turned out to be a quite fun espionage book at heart. This version of *Mystique* has an incredible amount of control over her shapeshifting and is very competent in the field, which certainly helps. The story ideas are interesting, different enough to not be entirely predictable, and present *Mystique* with actual challenges. Nice.

Above and beyond that, Vaughan put a lot of work into *Mystique*'s world view. Maybe the heavy lifting was done by previous writers, but Vaughan still deserves credit for making her thought processes distinctive and

consistent. She think pretty much exactly the way you'd expect a lifelong mutant terrorist/freedom fighter to think. And she isn't completely cold, even to non-mutants. She may not be entirely sympathetic by the end of the volume, but she's definitely had her moments.

I was very much surprised with how much I ended up liking this series. Enough that I'm planning on reading the next volume, even if it's by a different writer. Because Vaughan's work on the series very much ended in the middle of an ongoing storyline, and I want to see how that ends.

Christine says

Well, I really enjoyed this ride!

kristen b ? says

was this actually good or just good because i haven't read a good comic in so long my expectations are low?? i've seen this around for awhile and bought it just for the fact it was 50% off. at first i thought it was one of those comics i'd buy and it'll sit on my shelf, but i was in a reading mood and read this in one night!

it was written so well, usually comics lose me because the issues are messily written and don't tie together but this was FLAWLESS . i every issue except maybe 2 or 3 were 4-5 stars each and page turners. the more i think about it the more basic the plot is, yet the execution of this story is outstanding. it feels like a movie.

the final issue struck me with mystique learning to love her blue self. the last page gave me chills.

Jessika says

I was absolutely surprised by this comic. Then again this is my first Marvel comic that I'm ever reading! I need to read more and start a collection. There was so much I didn't know about Mystique's character such as Charles Xavier not being able to read her mind and any other telepath alive can not read her mind as well. She can also shift her organs around her body and close up her lungs?! I have been so ignorant of her character in the past and I've got to say...Mystique is such a bad ass.

Angel says

When I picked this up, I was intrigued that Mystique had her own series. Even though she is one of the "bad guys" in the X-Men universe, I do find her intriguing. This series has Mystique up to her neck. She has made enemies around the world, and they all want her head. So, she makes a deal with Charles Xavier to be one of his clandestine agents: people who can do some sensitive missions that will not be traced back to Xavier or the X-Men. In exchange, she gets protection.

The collection is a pretty entertaining series of spy stories where Mystique uses her skills. Usually the tales involve helping mutants in some way. They are pretty good for a quick entertaining read, but there is no

major substance here. It's light entertainment. What I wish would have been better was the art. Some of the art in the series is just not that good compared to other works I have seen. Also, the art in the series stood in contrast to the cover art, and the cover art was often a lot better. I tended to find myself wishing, "why didn't they have that cover artist do the series. It would have allowed the character to look better." So my big issue this time around was the art. The stories are ok. Personally I liked the story taking place in Cuba where she is helping children as the regime is preparing to use Sentinels against the local mutants. It just caught my eye. And by the way, what would spy stories be without some double crosses? But I will leave the readers to discover those.

So, overall, I did like it. It was a nice, easy read. I think fans of X-Men will probably like it, at least the casual readers. And I will certainly look for the next collection, hoping things will stay interesting.

Mercedes McLean-Wheeler says

While I liked this series quite a bit, I still have some mixed feelings. It's an interesting study of Mystique, but it's far from Vaughan's best work. I think this likely because I like his work best when we get a fleshed out view of multiple perspectives, watch characters interact, and gradually see his masterful worldbuilding. But because this collection was so focused on Mystique, we didn't get much of anything else. Ultimately, if you want to read it because you love Mystique, I think it's a great choice. If you want to read it because you love Brian Vaughan, it's only so-so.

Shannon Appelcline says

Drop Dead Gorgeous (#1-6). The *X-Corps*-era of *X-Men* comics was a fun one, with its focus Professor X and the X-Men having a presence on the international stage. This book is very much a part of that era, with Mystique acting as Xavier's top spy, doing work across the world that the X-Men can't.

Mystique herself has always been an intriguing character in the *X-Men* mythos, but she's rarely been written that well when she's part of a large cluster of villains. Thus, it's a real pleasure to see her in a solo book. Vaughan presents a believable and consistent characterization of her, that nonetheless steps back from the most sociopathic takes over the years. Yes, she's violent and remorseless, but she cares about mutants and she has lines that she won't cross. Most of the delight of this volume is in seeing how she interacts with Xavier and the world.

There's a mission here too, with Sentinels in Cuba, blahblahblah. It's fine enough, and it's a good incident to get Raven moving. It also really picks up toward the end, when Raven starts to realize the human costs implicit in her mission. The last issue or two are particularly great.

The other fun thing about this volume is that Vaughan clearly sets up a premise that could run for a long series, and then before his first arc's even over, he twists that in a fun way. It's a pity that by that point we're already a quarter of the way through the whole series [4+/5].

Bigpox (#7-10). The second *Mystique* arc leans heavily into James Bond tropes ... and it's not nearly as interesting as the first. Forge makes gadgets that have all kinds of potential problems. Haha. And Raven

fights and runs and runs and fights. There's still some interesting double-and-triple-crossing going on, but otherwise this second arc is pretty shallow [3/5].

Forge (#11-12). Forge and Mystique working together on a domestic case offers some great nods to their *X-Factor* continuity — and generally, their interactions are electric. There's also a plot here, and though it has a nice twist, there's also lots of fighting, which drags this otherwise strong arc down a bit [3+/5].

Carnival (#13) Vaughan ends his run with another 007-like heist, but this one is more enjoyable than the previous take, because he keeps it light and mixes in some humor and some empathy. It's a nice final story, because we see some of the strength of his early *Mystique*. [4/5]

Hadas Sloin says

A great run of this classic character!

I admire Mystique since the days of the animated series, and I was delighted to read a story she's at the center of. Vaughan's Mystique is confident, kick-ass and non-apologetic. But more than that, she is a complex character with a grey moral compass.

The independent stories could be more interesting, but I don't feel they are the important part of the story.

Also - I love the strips in which Mystique is in mid-transition. I can't get enough of these.

Lori says

Professor Xavier recruits Mystique to use her spy skills to further his agenda of protecting mutants around the world. Mystique finds herself in uncertain circumstances as the somewhat straightforward premise rockets from one desperate situation to another. The overarching plot falls apart toward the end, particularly in regards to the big baddie, but the general idea of Mystique using her abilities for the good of others was interesting.

Anne says

4.5 stars

Also reviewed for Addicted2Heroines

Look what Mama found when she took the kids to the local shop for Free Comic Book Day!

So this is a few years old, but it's aged very well. From the slick art (that bumped it up half a star) to the timeless quality of the story line, this is one that I can see myself enjoying just as much in another 10 years.

US Homeland Security has finally managed to capture the mutant terrorist, Mystique. Seconds before she's about to get put down for good, Magneto crashes in and rescues her.

Except.

It's *not* really Magneto.

Charles Xavier needs someone for a few special assignments. Someone who is a master of espionage. Someone who can take care of themselves in highly dangerous situations. Someone he can disavow all knowledge of...if things go sideways.

Someone like **Mystique**.

And Mystique needs the Professor's help. He has a device that can mask her from the various (and numerous) agencies that are gunning for her. Besides, everything he wants her to do lines up with her own ideas about helping mutants.

Well, except for the part about not killing anyone...

This was so much fun to read! I've always liked Mystique (or at least the *idea* of her), but I've never really been able to slog through enough X-Titles to get a clear picture of who she was. This was an excellent way for me to get more insight about her, without having to deal with all of those other pesky mutants.

Someday, I plan to acquaint myself properly with the X-Men. Really!

In order to do that, though, I'll probably have to seclude myself on an island for a few years.

I mean, seriously, do you know how much X-Shit there is out there?!

So, until that day, I'll settle for stuff like this.

Andrew Uys says

I'm not surprised to find this 13 issue run by Brian K Vaughan to be one of the best Mystique stories around, largely because Brian K Vaughan never writes a bad comic book. Forced to work for Professor X, Mystique becomes his X-Corps' off-the-books fixer/agent. Taking place during a period of the X-Men (or X-Family) that I'm not very familiar with, this makes the read even better, as it serves as both a great stand alone series, steeped in espionage and "black ops" styled missions, and also offers this unique and often-humorous window into the X-Men world from one of their detractors - Mystique herself. The 13 issues plus design art from some of the industry's top talent makes this great 'anti-hero' X-Men graphic novel well worth picking up.

David Schaafsma says

I read this because I try to read everything by Vaughn, and had passed this one by. I did not look forward to reading an X-Men comic, really, but I knew he would add something to it, and I'm not wrong. Mystique, the shapeshifting assassin, one of the interesting bad guys in the Marvel universe, in this run is given the focus (if not a lot of depth), and becomes a sort of world-traveling espionage superhero who gets involved in geopolitics everywhere and surprises you with wit and great characters. In Vaughn's version, she's a freedom fighter, who uses her mad skills to save the world. Not such a bad person; she was misunderstood! The artists decide to make her look like every other woman in the superhero universe, of course, and the art is just okay, done by various artists, but I liked it pretty well, maybe 3.5-5.0 mainly above a 3 because of Vaughn's invention.

