



They're Not Like Us, Vol. 1: Black Holes for the Young

Eric Stephenson (Writer) , Simon Gane (Artist) , Jordie Bellaire (Colourist)

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***Eisner-nominated Nowhere Men* writer Eric Stephenson teams up with red-hot artist Simon Gane for an all-new ongoing series!**

We all have advantages over one another, but what if you were capable of things most of us can only imagine? What would you do – and who would you be? A doctor? An athlete? A soldier? A hero? Everyone has to make a choice about how to use the abilities they're born with... but they're not like us.

Collecting: *They're Not Like Us* 1-6

They're Not Like Us, Vol. 1: Black Holes for the Young Details

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Author : Eric Stephenson (Writer) , Simon Gane (Artist) , Jordie Bellaire (Colourist)

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From Reader Review They're Not Like Us, Vol. 1: Black Holes for the Young for online ebook

Maria (Big City Bookworm) says

**Disclaimer: An ARC of They're Not Like Us by Eric Stephenson was provided to me by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. This does not effect my opinion in any way.*

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So let me just start this off by saying that I have had this ARC for so long now and I'm really not sure why it took me this long to pick it up. I had seen some mixed reviews and I guess I was just never in the mood, but I'm so glad that I finally decided to pick it up!

Initially, when I first pick this up and started reading, it felt a lot like a knock-off X-Men. People with special abilities get drafted by a mysterious telepath and brought to a giant house where the other people with special abilities live where they are given nicknames/new identities. The difference here though is that these people don't really seem to be using their abilities for good. There's something more sinister about them and especially their leader.

Throughout the story, we get to learn the backstories of a few characters, but the one that intrigued me the most was that of the leader, The Voice. I was super intrigued by his tragic past as it probably has a lot to do with the way he is today.

Overall, while the story did have a few similarities to something like X-Men, I'm still intrigued and I think I will be continuing with this story in the near future!

--

#ARCAugust

Killian says

This comic ran a little stale for me, but I think it's because I've come out the other side of my emo-teenage years.

This story is quite X-Men in the initial conceit: a group of young kids with special snowflake powers. Then it goes all emo, because no one ever loved them because they were special snowflakes.

So of course now they have to be total assholes to everyone in the world and terrorize them like they were terrorized. And have an awesome music room with hipster records.

The art though is so pretty. I love it when artists get creative with the basics of comics (like above with the newspaper style text overlay).

Or here where the idea of Syd having all those voices in her head and then not being there is visualized but the subtle change in background.

From here...

To here...

So lovely.

All that being said, the plot itself is pretty see through. It's not surprising where we end up at the end, though I am still interested enough in the narrative to see where it goes from there.

Copy courtesy of Diamond Book Distributors/Image Comics, via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Frannie Pan says

Another disappointment, unfortunately.

I just didn't get what the point of this graphic novel was. There's a bunch of "special" adults with different abilities that weren't explained nor did they have specific rules and they take on normals because other people always treated them as freaks.

Uhm, okay but what is the point of it all?!

And then obviously comes the new entry who questions everything (which the others hadn't previously done) but nothing really happens.

I don't know, I felt like this graphic novel wasn't going anywhere, the art wasn't anything special and the whole story was pretty dull despite featuring peculiar characters.

I'm not going to continue on with this.

Alexandra says

really weird & ridiculous but very interesting nonetheless. a group of people with all different powers and talents living together in a house but not by choice.

I felt Syd's pain and confusion over being trapped with random strangers, and not being able to remember

her own name and details about her life. I was very curious about the Voice and who he actually was. I very much enjoyed this and can't wait to read future volumes of this series.

I loved the artwork and the colors and the way the characters were drawn. everyone was so unique and I never had trouble telling anyone apart as sometimes happens with graphic novels (at least it happens to me sometimes, but I'm new to the whole graphic novel thing so maybe I'm just an amateur).

Jes Reads says

Very interesting story premise! think X-Men but they don't give a shit about anyone but themselves. I really liked Syd as a main character but I found they spent a lot of time trying to convince her to join their organization, hence the 4 star instead of 5. Definitely enjoyable. Very violent in case you're not into that!

Lauren says

A more violent twist on what people might do if they had superpowers. Good stuff.

♠ Eze ♠ says

Decepcionante, da muchas vueltas, trata de hacer mas profunda una trama que seguramente no lo sea.

C.J. Cummings says

Image are a great company. They release such a wide range of titles and genres that it is impossible to not be a fan. The latest of theirs I have read was They're Not Like Us: Volume 1.

(ARC Received from Netgalley in return for an honest review)

Written by Eric Stephenson, this is a book that tells the story of a special group of people. Men and women with gifts that allow them to read minds, control thoughts, visions, flames, and a variety of other mind control powers. We follow Syd, our lead character, as she is brought into a group of people lead by the curious "The Voice". She meets people with similar powers and finds a social circle with some very dark secrets and rules. She battles with her own powers, her past and the new world she finds herself in.

I really enjoyed this. It was a great, compelling and deep story that flowed brilliantly. The characters are a nice mixture of types and each bring something unique to the table. The artwork is lovely and somewhat traditional and works well with the fantastic tale being woven. I will definitely be continuing with this series, and I hope it has a chance to continue for a while because I feel there is so much potential here. I recommend this one, for sure. Top notch.

Althea J. says

3.5-stars

Teenage-me would've LOVED this. The art by Simon Gane is fantastic, focusing on the characters, who are distinct and interesting.

I'm personally a little jaded, having encountered this kind of story in a multitude of different forms. That said, I enjoyed the ambiguity of the characters being both good and bad. And the story itself drew me in and I flew through all 6 issues, eager to find out more about this super-powered crew. I think it's a fun read and I look forward to checking out the next volume.

Alex Sarll says

There's one profoundly fucked-up early *X-Men* story in which Professor Xavier wipes Beast's existence from his parents' memories so that Hank can go to his new life with his fellow mutants and not have the worry of his family. And, more generally, there's a degree to which some eras of the X-Men's comics can be understood as metaphors for the generational divide - a settled human world which hates and fears its own strange offspring. Strip that alienation story of its decades of baggage and superhero trappings, and you have an idea of how *They're Not Like Us* feels. Kids with strange powers and unpleasant backstories are assembled by a charismatic but morally ambiguous leader, encouraged to sever all ties with their old lives, and embark on a career of vigilante action (though the X-Men were definitely less prone to nicking vintage headphones off anyone they beat up). With intergenerational tensions once again bubbling over at the realisation of how much of everything the baby boomers are hogging, it feels like a very timely book. The beautiful, Paul Pope-styled art helps establish its world as a solid place, possessed of a certain shabby grandeur.

(Full disclosure: a Netgalley freebie)

Derek Royal says

I wasn't sure what to expect from this series, and I ended up liking it the more I got into it. I can see connections between this and Stephenson's other series, *Nowhere Men*: both deal with exceptional groups of people, both derive narrative force through the dissent within those communities, and both are progressive mysteries in which new questions are raised every several issues of the series.

Crystal says

I really liked the premise but I don't see the storyline being able to keep up this pace

Krystianna says

This was really enjoyable and it was such a quick read too! Full review to come. By the way, this is available to read now on netgalley if you want to check it out!

Updated July 13, 2015

Thank you to Image Comics for allowing me to read this book in exchange for an honest review!

As you may or may not know, I'm a huge fan of graphic novels. I don't read them as often as I'd like to honestly, mainly because I don't know how I feel about spending ten or more dollars on a small graphic novel that I will probably read in two hours or less and then never pick up again. That's why I usually get mine at the library. However, this is one that I'd definitely spend money on because it's worth the ten dollars.

They're Not Like Us follows Syd, who right off the bat decides to jump off a building in order to kill herself, though she fails. She wakes up in the hospital with The Voice, who helps her escape and brings her to a special house filled with other people who say they're just like her. All these people that are there have special powers. Syd finds out that she's telepathic, meaning that even though her whole life people have told her that she's crazy, she's definitely not. It's just that she can hear things all the time; it's a superpower. The comic series follows Syd as she discovers that there's more to the Voice than he lets on.

I absolutely loved this graphic novel. The artwork was superb and the writing was great. I loved how towards the end of every single comic in the collection there would be a part where the colors of the drawings became darker as Syd reflected on everything that she learned that day. I think those were definitely my favorite sections.

I also loved all the superpowers and learning more about each character. I have to say I didn't really like any of the characters except for The Voice and Syd though. I especially hated Maisie-she got on my nerves! She was just so eager to do things for the Voice. However, I feel that the reader wasn't exactly supposed to like her completely. I thought Moon was really cool too-she was an illusionist and could make others see her completely different, as well as other people around her. I'd love to have that superpower!

I can't wait for volume two of this series. I'm eagerly awaiting to find out what happens next!

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

This graphic novel was following me around. I even saw it in physical book stores, where I seldom see graphic novels that are also on Netgalley at the time. So, as I kept coming across it my interest grew and I decided to give it a try even though I didn't really know what it was about and I passed on it when I first saw it.

A bunch of special kids live together being special. That's basically what it is.

It was not for me. I was actually disappointed by the story. There wasn't a single likeable character between them and I couldn't feel any sympathy either. There was a lot of self pity though, how nobody liked them because they were different. I still don't know where the story is going, but frankly I don't really care. The best part for sure was the title. The art was good but didn't blow me away.

Black Holes For The Young is the first volume of They're Not Like Us.

Thanks to the publisher and Netgalley for providing me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review!

Patrick says

While I wasn't blown away with this story, I will say I think it would make a good tv series. Just an average Psychic ability story. Okay but not great to me.

I received an advanced copy of this from Netgalley.com and the publisher.
