



X-Men Blue, Vol. 6

Cullen Bunn (Text) , Jorge Molina (Illustrations)

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Extermination looms! COLLECTING: X-MEN BLUE 35-36, TBP

X-Men Blue, Vol. 6 Details

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Author : Cullen Bunn (Text) , Jorge Molina (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review X-Men Blue, Vol. 6 for online ebook

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Magneto has tried everything in his power to save the world. He's toed the line, and tried to teach the X-Men Blue team everything he knows about being a mutant. But it's not enough. A trip to the future reveals that no matter what he tries, he'll never escape his villainous nature – well then, so be it. If the world wants Magneto to be a villain, then who is he to argue? And then, on the eve of their return to the past, the X-Men reflect on all they have learned and try to find a way forward while traveling back.

It must have been very difficult for Cullen Bunn to write this final arc of X-Men Blue, considering their fate is being sealed over in Extermination, which he isn't writing. To have characters you've been working on for so long taken away from you so you don't get to see their story to fruition sounds extremely irritating. That said, the X-Men Blue characters have always been second string to Magneto, who Bunn has been writing for much longer than the X-Men themselves, so it's fitting that the first half of this volume is devoted to bringing his story to a close.

The flashforward arc almost portrays Magneto as Sisyphus; no matter how hard he's tried to be good, it just isn't enough, and his encounter with the X-Men of the future shoves his failures right in his face. The journey he has been on under Bunn's watch is easily the most compelling part of X-Men Blue, so it's nice to see it come to fruition, even if the fruit it bears aren't as delicious as you'd hope. Happy endings aren't standard for the X-Men at the best of times, but seeing Magneto reverting to his old ways is both sad (because he really has tried) and invigorating (because Magneto as a villain is always a treat).

The final two issue arc of the series brings the focus back to the X-Men Blue team properly, as we get a whistle stop tour of everything that the previous 34 issues has touched on. From the characters Bunn has introduced to some of the dangling plot threads, there's somehow room for conclusions to everything (even if they're sometimes a little convenient and compact). Like I said before, it must have been hard for Bunn to lose agency on these characters right at a pivotal moment, but he manages to shut down the story he started on his terms while hitting the emotional beats that a farewell requires.

X-Men Blue pulls out all the stops on the art front for these last six issues as well, with Jorge Molina returning for one final time while the incomparable Marcus To tackles the others. Blue has always been the strongest artistically of the X-Men colour books, and both To and Molina prove just why that is. They have very clean, clear cut styles, and To especially gets to prove how versatile he is with many paneled pages as well as splash pages and double-page spreads in the final two issues. This volume is beautiful from start to finish.

X-Men Blue ends in much the same way that it has been throughout the entire run: it's a story about characters, rather than just what happens to them, which is an easy trap for comics to fall into sometimes. The young X-Men are going to be changed by their experiences, even if that story doesn't get to come to a head in this series, while Bunn brings his long-form multi-series Magneto to a satisfying if grim conclusion. Coupled with two fantastic artists, X-Men Blue proves yet again that you don't always have to go big, but you do always have to go home.
