



Universe X, Vol. 2

Jim Krueger , Alex Ross , Brent Anderson (Illustrator) , Tom Yeates (Illustrator) , Doug Breathwaite (Illustrator)

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With Earth X, Ross and Krueger presented one possible future for the Marvel Universe, where all humans are superbeings. "Universe X" is the two-volume follow-up story to the trilogy. The story will be concluded in 2002 in comic form in Paradise X. Much is revealed in the final chapter in the Universe X saga: Why has Mephisto been manipulating Thanos, Nighthawk, Gargoyle and Dr. Doom? Plus: the identity of Belasco, the fate of Her and the resurrection of the man who killed the Avengers

The Silver Surfer, the Iron Avengers, the Sentinels and Magneto unite to battle the Absorbing Man -- while Peter Parker, Venom, Sgt. Cage and the rest of New York's heroes struggle in vain against a dying world. And in the land of the dead, Captain Marvel fights for the final time against Death herself

Universe X, Vol. 2 Details

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From Reader Review Universe X, Vol. 2 for online ebook

One Flew says

2.5 stars

I loved Earth X. It disassembles the Marvel Universe, putting every aspect of the mythos under the microscope, twisting it and taking it to harsh absurd places. The story was detailed but still fluid.

Universe X takes the redefining of the Marvel Universe to the next level. The reader is just bombarded with ideas, characters, plot threads and complicated examination of anything that ever happened in Marvel's past.

Someone should have streamlined this book, there is some great elements and a semi coherent plot there somewhere but fuck it's a slog to read. The artwork is stylised and different from the typical superhero fare, some of the character designs are inspired, which is one of the few redeeming factors.

The nerdy part of me loves this, but the aspiring writer hated it. The plot is all over the place, even the interesting threads like Magneto and Toad's reversals or the fate of Cable would be cool if the writing wasn't so clumsy. An unnecessary sequel.

Andre says

The story continues, keeps us interested and reading past the hour we should have stopped.

Timothy Boyd says

Is Earth X a possible future or an alternate reality? No matter which of these possibilities holds true it all comes out as fantastic story for Marvel's superheros. Exceptional art and an excellent plot by Alex Ross make these a superb read. Very recommended

Justin says

Great art, umm...I had no idea what the fuck was going on though.

Kyra says

Iron Maiden finally got to do stuff! Venom had some nice moments with her dad! Loki was briefly but memorably awesome! Thor finally started to realize that maybe she doesn't know everything!

That's...literally all I care about in this book, everything else was a big pile of overly convoluted wtf to me

Stacy says

This view of the Marvel Universe is definitely impressive, but some of the storyline is hard to keep up with. I love the artwork and learning about new superheroes.

BigJohn says

I wish I could like this book more, but where Earth X was brilliant, this second part comes across as desperate and confused. This is the 2nd part of a trilogy, and what's really interesting to me is that when I read the introduction to part 3, Paradise X, it recaps Earth X and Universe X. The re-cap of Universe X made me think I read a different book. I suppose it was accurate, but I sure felt like I hadn't read the same book.

It definitely had its points, though. There's some pretty exciting action and some really clever and interesting concepts. But some of the 3rd-rate heroes that are brought to the forefront smack of author favoritism. I dunno. It really didn't do much for me.

Sandra Rosa says

actually have this in individual issues...

Basil Godevenos says

A nightmare of exposition.

Oliver Bateman says

See review for vol. 1. Truly a dismal conclusion to a somewhat promising arc.

logankstewart says

I first read Earth X a few years ago. I was largely unimpressed and decided not to read the sequels: Universe X and Paradise X. The whole series spans five large trade paper backs and I didn't want to invest in the story. For some reason I decided to pick up Earth X again and give it a shot, and this time I was quickly engrossed... or at least interested.

Earth X places the Marvel universe in the unspecified future. Captain America is an old man fighting a war against a large metaphor. Reed Richards, devastated over the deaths of his wife and the Human Torch, lives

in seclusion in the remains of Dr. Doom's mostly abandoned fortress. Wolverine is a fat, lazy slob who refuses to get off the couch. Peter Parker is much the same. In this future, familiar super-heroes are supplanted by a new breed of humanity: everyone has super powers.

In the midst of this, the Watcher pulls the cyborg X-51 to the moon and names him the new Watcher. The world is ending and the Watcher wants X-51 to tell him everything that's happening, as the Watcher has been blinded. There's also a time machine and about a million side-plots. And dinosaurs.

The bulk of Earth X is told in a somewhat passive voice through conversation between X-51 and the Watcher. The Reader sees different events happening on earth, but immersion is mostly omitted, ironically forcing the Reader to take part as a watcher. Inserted throughout the trade paperback is various info-dumps that basically serve to fill in the Reader on more information about what exactly is going on. These info-dumps are yawn-inducing at best, largely unimportant and extremely uninteresting. They're kind of like deleted scenes on a DVD.

This time around I still felt that Earth X was a bit heavy handed and too philosophical for its own good, but the story was somewhat entertaining. When I finished the introductory issue I happily picked up the first volume of Universe X to see where the story was heading. Not where I thought, which was a good thing, but the story turned more ridiculous as the pages depleted. By the conclusion of Universe X Volume 2 I was ready to quit again, but I hung in there, hoping the concluding volumes would be okay.

Halfway through Volume One of Paradise X I gave up the ghost and quit. The groans were too loud for me to continue. I developed a tic and a severe allergy to the Marvel Universe. I was no longer at all interested. I flipped through the rest of Volume I and did the same for Volume II, skimming over the artwork and totally ignoring the text. There were a few cool-looking scenes, and if I could somehow read the comic without the words I might continue, but I could not, and I just didn't have it in me to start again.

Maybe I'm just the wrong audience for this kind of mega-comic. I've been a lifelong comic book reader, a lifelong fan of Marvel (albeit niched to really only just Spider-Man and the X-Men for most of my growing years), and I've even been known to enjoy an occasional philosophical tangent for no other reason than to wander down different avenues of thought. But the Earth X saga failed (twice) to live up to expectation. The writing was terrible and the plot was such a mess that meaning was lost in untranslated psychobabble. Joss Whedon wrote the introduction for Earth X, praising the series as innovative and entertaining. I disagree with Mr. Whedon here. It may have been innovative when it was written, but I cannot imagine it ever being entertaining.

All in all I really cannot recommend the five-volume saga of Earth X. There were plenty of people who enjoyed it, but count me out on this one. Sorry.
