



HICKMAN • PITARRA

## The Manhattan Projects, Vol. 5: The Cold War

*Jonathan Hickman (Writer) , Nick Pitarra (Artist) , Ryan Browne (Artist) , Jordie Bellaire (Colourist) , Rus Wooton (Letterer)*

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It's the fifth volume of the world's greatest secret science history, *The Manhattan Projects. The Cold War* reveals the dark days of the 'real' Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of an American President, and the end of the Manhattan Projects-Star City alliance.

**Collecting:** *The Manhattan Projects* 21-25

## The Manhattan Projects, Vol. 5: The Cold War Details

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## **From Reader Review The Manhattan Projects, Vol. 5: The Cold War for online ebook**

### **Sean Gibson says**

This series, and this volume in particular, is like a barium enema—on the surface (or, I guess, well below the surface, once it gets where it's going), it's simultaneously intriguing and uncomfortable, but, when you're done, you're left scratching your head, wondering what all the fuss was about, shifting uncomfortably in your seat, and thinking maybe you should have just gone for the cinnamon scone instead. Then, you realize that it's weird that you're at a place that serves both barium enemas and cinnamon scones, so you go home, and that's when you wake up and realize the whole thing was a very weird dream, only the taste of cinnamon lingers on your tongue and you're filled with a feeling of emptiness.

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### **Amy says**

This was pretty different from the previous volumes, it felt a lot more crammed and rushed, and it was pretty far into the volume until we got some of the red and blue flashbacks that have become a staple of this series. But over all this was still as off the wall and as enjoyable as ever.

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### **Kyle Berk says**

I think this volume suffers from Oppenheimer's absence. He was killed at the end of the last volume and I don't think there is enough of the Einstein doppelganger's to make up for it.

Some new characters are introduced and it isn't enough to make up for the old ones's being gone. There is still some great stuff here like the two Generals setting up a new regime with LBJ but this volume is the weakest of the Manhattan Projects I've read so far. But with the multiverse being explored i think there is great potential for the next volume.

It's good but lacking for what has come before.

3 stars.

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### **Crystal Starr Light says**

Bullet Review:

Again, with the insanity, though to be honest, it's starting to wear a bit thin, and oh lordy, has it changed so much from Project Gaia, Project Vulcan, Project Ares.

Also...are there any named females in this world? That do anything? Besides (I believe) the dog? No? Women just...don't exist?

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## **Cyndi says**

JFK, Castro, Ché, Lee Harvey and LBJ...oh my. Add that to the meta effed up scientists and a long lost Soviet Canine Cosmonaut and you have, still, only scratched the surface....all aboard the Crazy Train....love this series!

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## **Chris says**

Getting better again. After the disappointment of the Oppenheimer plot, things are getting nice and weird again.

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## **Koen says**

Sorry, but they are totally fucking this up... They are trying to spice up the quirkiness/craziness, but in the process they botched up everything..

You see just about everything that you can think of popping up in this episode.. and I mean everything: three headed animals, dog with legs, flabbered JFK assassination,... you name it, they've got it :D

No, this definitely wasn't what I was hoping for..

Who knows.. Their hiatus might do MP some good.. We'll just have to wait and see.

Next up though: MP sun beyond the stars..

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## **Dale Grauman says**

They started to lose me with volume 4. I was disappointed with the cruel anti-climax of the Oppenheimer narrative, and I have been disappointed with the Einstein/Feynman narrative as well.

Volume 5 was an improvement, and I generally enjoyed what progress was made here. Lyndon Johnson has been a fun addition.

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## **David Schwan says**

The plot seems to have lightened up slightly in this installment of the story (if going from really dark to less dark but still really dark). The outer space plot arc has some interesting twists. The Einstein's and Feynman explore other dimensions. Lastly LBJ takes a central role in the plot (I suspect he is the one person standing at the end). As usual great graphics though maybe a touch down in quality versus the other volumes in the series.

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## **Peter Derk says**

I'll be honest, it's too long between volumes for me to keep track of what the fuck is going on in this series. It's like East of West that way. If I go a couple months without reading, I don't remember shit. Who was doing what? Where? Why? How is pretty much out of the question in this book, but those other ones apply, and I don't have any answers.

It's still enjoyable as a book, and I think the real problem is not reading the volumes close enough together and reading other stuff in between. So is that a problem with the book? The book's publication? The delivery? Am I putting myself into that category of people who review stuff on Amazon and say things like, "UPS dropped this off and it got wet in the rain"?

I hate those people. Monsters. Why would you put that information under the rating for a book? Who does that help? I wish everyone who did that had written a book so I could review THEIR book and say, "Left unhelpful review on another book that didn't make any goddamn sense."

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## **Alex Haider-winnett says**

"Unquestionable Machismo" indeed. Now in the 1960's, the Cold War has moved from theoretical to practical. These men who were united in the struggle for science haven't broken apart. And we see the Projects spreading globally.

Laika is lost in space. The Torii between Star City and Los Alamos has been closed. Kennedy is in-over-his head and about to lose it. LBJ plots with cock-sure confidence. Che and Castro have been brought in to keep the peace. The Einsteins and Feynman are colonizing the Multiverse. Van Braun and Yuri have headed where No Man Has Gone Before. And Westmoreland is eyeing South Asia. Science is never amoral or apolitical.

Hickman is the master of the long-form plot arc. And The Cold War is his end of Act 1. Less of a resolution and more of a set-up for what comes next, this book splits our anti-heroes in preparation for something greater. And something worse. It has been reported that when The Manhattan Projects return in the Spring, there will be a new format focusing on individuals and tighter plot arcs that may or may not intersect with each other. The Projects have bred men who will do anything to get their way. And now they are loose in the Universe making their way a reality. "Unquestionable Machismo" indeed.

Four stars rather than five because Pitarra's art feels as rushed as it is innovative. And Hickman introduces a lot of new characters in an already crowded cast. But with the new format and focus on individual stories, it could work out well.

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## **Forrest says**

Just when I was worried that this series would go "off the rails" and become "supergenius scientists . . . in SPAAAAACE!", along comes Lyndon B. Johnson and JFK to ground things back in . . . well, reality isn't

quite right. In fact, it's completely wrong. Like previous volumes of this outstanding series, we deal with extradimensional entities and even watch as Einstein, Einstein, and Feynman travel through the interstices of our dimensions. But what make this volume unique from the others is the strong emphasis on political events happening at home (meaning Earth, in this case) including the assassination of JFK and the . . . persuasion . . . of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara to . . . play along with the . . . erm . . . Soviets. Yeah. The Soviets. Um. As you might be able to tell from my hesitations, nothing is as it seems. But is it ever, in Hickman's and Pitarra's universe? The Cold War, which I lived through as a kid, is portrayed here as the most complicated interdimensional chess game you've ever contemplated. But don't contemplate too long, or your mind might be lost, your brain extracted from your skull and replaced by mind control devices, just like what happened to . . . well, nevermind. Imagine the Cold War gone totally gonzo, ratcheted up to "11", then drop a bunch of acid, and you might start to get the idea. Maybe.

This is, by far, the most enjoyable graphic novel series I've read in . . . well, ever. Which means that most "normal" people will absolutely hate it.

I'm totally content with this. Hate on, normal people, hate on.

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## **Molly says**

[LAIKA GETS LEGS!!!! (hide spoiler)]

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## **Sonic says**

Twisted, warped, depraved, ... and I mean all that in a GOOD way! :)

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## **Tays says**

"My point is, you have to stop being afraid of dangerous things. Some people spend their entire lives locked in a room because they think it's safe."

I have to admit, at some point this volume lost me. There a bits and pieces of it that felt out of place, then again this volume was a start of something new for the title what with out Oppenheimer roaming around as a main antagonist and all that. But even so, it had it's straight up brilliant storytelling somewhere. The narratives Einstein/Feynman narratives were my absolute favourites. Che Guevarra and Fidel Castro gambling inside a casino was quite fun to see. Lyndon B. Johnson was quite a great addition to the cast, the same goes for Westmoreland who became a part of the ragtag team on this one. It's weird. It's brilliant. It's quite a bit of a mess and at the same time quite a bit of orderly. It's science and it's history. Let's just keep it that way for now yea? ;)

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