



X-Men and Spider-Man: The Present

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The X-Men and Spider-Man must join forces to stop destroying the multiverse in an adventure through the past, present, and future. Dinosaurs, knights, gunslingers, World War II heroes, old-friends-turned-enemies, and future versions of themselves await them...

X-Men and Spider-Man: The Present Details

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From Reader Review X-Men and Spider-Man: The Present for online ebook

Matthew Ledrew says

Okay, first, big-time spoiler warnings. Anyone who is actually planning on reading this trilogy based on my first review should not read this beforehand. The reveal of the cliffhanger from the last book will be inevitably revealed very quickly here.

Last time we ended with Bishop and Spiderman trying desperately to get back to their time after a trip to the old west. They use their time travel device at the last moment and get back to present day New York... But not their present day New York! They're trapped now in an alternate universe where the XMen are government sponsored manhunters, chasing down any and all super-powered beings!

This story is reminiscent of House of M, a story that took place over a decade later. It's also the main focus of the novel and this review, and for good reason. It's thrilling and entertaining, and it's status in an alternate universe allows the AUTHOR to take real risks and put characters in real danger.

Also continuing from the plot of last issue, Cable's long lost wife is the second in command of a freedom force in this reality. The leader is, almost naturally, Magneto.

The other characters from the first novel appear again as well, but it seems even more filled-in than the first part. Having failed in his goal of destroying many past realities in the first novel, Kang has sent his "time bombs" to different locations in the present, and various XMen must again split off into teams to stop them. While it was necessary to involve them in the previous book, I feel this 'middle' chapter would have been better served focusing on Peter and Bishop, with the other XMen saved for part 3. Also, traveling to different locals in the same time is much less interesting and doesn't allow the cameos that the first volume provided.

So back to the main plot. There are some great scenes between Bishop and Peter as Peter relates a bit of his origin over coffee and Bishop gains respect for him. Like I said in my review of part 1, these two haven't gotten a lot of time together over the years, and it's truly a missed opportunity. They form a buddy cop dynamic, with Spidey being the wisecracker and Bishop the straight man. The duo quickly runs afoul of Magneto and joins his crew against the XMen. There are some hilarious moments as we see some of the misfits that make up Magneto's team, but that initial disbelief fades when we get to see how impressive these Z-listers function against a common enemy. It ends with a climatic battle for the fate of their world... A world that is then destroyed by one of Kang's time bombs after Alyah, Bishop and Spiderman escape through a time portal.

The novel ends with our heroes back home and a stunning revelation about Kang's true plan, which (once again) I'll get into next time.

This one is good again. While not perfect, it's still very good. I'm teetering between a 3 and a 4, and in these situations I like to give the book the benefit of the doubt. 4/5. A solid second chapter.

Emma says

2.5 Stars because the idea was better than the writing in my opinion.

I struggled a bit with this one. The first book moved along nicely and the plot was relatively simple bearing in mind it was about quite a complex idea i.e. alternate universes, time displacement etc. This one felt a bit all over the place - there were different versions of the same person cropping up several times and I found it a bit difficult to keep track of who and where I was with if I'd put the book down for a day or so.

As with the the first book I found it focused heavily on Spider-man and his world. Most of the villains featured were not exclusively from the X universe rather we get Rhino and a bunch of others that I wasn't that familiar with. If this book had been titled SPIDERMAN with X-men I think I would have accepted so much spidey time better.

Patrick says

Thwarting Kang's evil "time-arrow" scheme to destroy the past in the first book, our heroes now travel to the corners of the globe to stop his other devices from eliminating the present. Of course, he has hired goons in place to protect them. Wolverine and Gambit face Electro and Hydro-Man, Storm and Iceman fight the Wrecking Crew, Cyclops and Jean Grey face Speed-Demon and the Taskmaster, and the Beast and Cable tussle with the Rhino and Volcana. Meanwhile, Spider-Man and Bishop are trapped in an alternate Earth where the X-Men are working for the fascist government to imprison all other super-powered beings, good and bad. The duo team-up with Magneto and the last of the unlikely rebels left (villains like Sandman, as well as a couple of the New Warriors) for a last-ditch attempt to break everyone out.

Lance Lumley says

I got the Time's Arrow Trilogy from a library book sale. I liked the first book better than this one. In the story, the villain Kang send arrows throughout time and Spider Man teams with the X-Men to destroy them. At the end of the first book, Spidey and Bishop are trapped in version of New York that isn't Spiderman's timeline.

In this book we find out that the X-Men in this timeline are working with the government and heroes like The Fantastic Four, Daredevil, and The Avengers are all captured and are menaces to society. Magneto and other "villains" are hiding underground and are going to take over (simple plot line, but there is more to this) and free the heroes. Spidey and Bishop agree to help in order to be sent back to their timeline (Magneto has one of the Core Placements from the previous book).

Spiderman finds out that in this world Peter Parker is a star basketball player and is married with children, but not to Mary Jane and ends up going to his house to talk to him about joining the revolution. Meanwhile Wolverine, Storm, Beast, and Iceman are trying to find Spidey and Bishop, while the two meet this timeline's Cyclops, Beast, and other X-Men who are working for the government.

There is a lot going on and towards the end, it gets a little confusing on which timeline X Men are which. There are too many name dropping of characters, including Howard The Duck, for me. I am not sure why there was a trilogy with 3 separate co authors (the only steady one is Tom Defalco). The writing style is

different from the first book, which I'd rather have. But then again, I only paid a quarter for these books so it was still a decent read. I will read the last just to see how it ends up, but this one lagged for me.
