Awaiting the Dawn of X

by HandmaidenOfHorror

Summary

A reading guide for X-Men comics in the wake of the franchise’s relaunch.

To coincide with mutants entering the MCU, Marvel is relaunching their whole mutant franchise. X-Men have been the publisher most popular property, and unlike other superhero franchises they were blessed with several talented writers dedicated to create a linear storyline. Thankfully, those storylines can be distilled into several stories. Below is my selection of the most important mutant storylines in chronological order:

*Uncanny X-Men #129-142*

*Magik #1-4*

Chris Claremont at his finest. Those Uncanny chapters feature the classic Dark Phoenix and Days of Future Past stories, introducing a handful of characters, with Jane Grey and Kitty Pryde being central characters. The following miniseries features Ororo Munroe and Illyana Rasputin, character associated with New Mutants (who will appear in the upcoming New Mutants movie).

*God Loves, Man Kills*

*Magneto Testament #1-5*

GLMK is Claremont’s another cult classic storyline introducing Reverend Stryker as a villain and focusing on Kitty Pryde. It also features Magneto’s first heroic portrayal. Magneto Testament is a miniseries presenting the villain’s backstory, and while it’s pretty sugar-coating horrifying history, it nonetheless adds much depth to Magneto’s character.

*New X-Men #114-116*
New X-Men Annual

New X-Men #117-154

A long run by Grant Morrison introduces Emma Frost as a heroine and Xorn, a pacifist with nuclear powers, who will be very important in the story. Morrison’s run focuses on Charles Xavier, Logan Howlett, Scott Summer and Emma Frost. It features a plenty of science fiction plots, and builds upon themes of God Loves, Man Kills.

House of X #1-6

Powers of X #1-6

Two miniseries by Jonathan Hickman combine into a single story. It starts with House of X, with Professor X and Magneto establishing a mutant nation on the sentient island of Krakoa (why exactly those and other characters are still around is explained within series), and goes into Powers of X, a miniseries featuring Moira MacTaggert in a groundhog day from hell, repeating her live in manner similar to how Rika Furude did in When Cicadas Cry. The reading order for this story goes as follows:

1. House of X #1: "The House that Xavier Built"
2. Powers of X #1: "The Last Dream of Professor X"
3. House of X #2: "The Uncanny Life of Moira X"
4. Powers of X #2: "We Are Together Now, You and I"
5. Powers of X #3: "This Is What You Do"
6. House of X #3: "Once More unto the Breach"
7. House of X #4: "It Will Be Done"
8. Powers of X #4: "Something Sinister"
9. House of X #5: "Society"
10. Powers of X #5: "For the Children"
11. House of X #6: "I Am Not Ashamed"
12. Powers of X #6: "House of X"

Upon this storyline, Dawn of X will be build. There will be several series published, out of which the ones I am anticipating the most are The Marauders, featuring an Emma Frost sponsored team of pirates including Kitty Pryde, Iceman and Storm fighting to free mutants in less than legal ways. Another interesting title for me is New Mutans, featuring Magik and Mirage (Fearless Defenders, Exiled crossover event featuring Loki), among others. The multinational make-up of the team serves as a spiritual successor for Claremont’s X-Men run. Marauders debut on October 23, 2019, while New Mutants on November 6, 2019.

Additional reading:

Ultimate X-Men #1-12

This story presents a revised origin for both the X-Men the Brotherhood of Mutants, as well as the Weapon X organization, as part of Marvel’s Ultimate Universe. It serves as a pretty good introduction to the characters, as different as they may be. The following stories don’t live up to the hype of the first year, though.

Iceman Vol 3 #1-11

Iceman Vol 4 #1-5
And now for something completely different, a story of a young gay man who happens to have superpowers. Plot-light and character-heavy, they are nonetheless pretty unique and very enjoyable.

*Exiled* #1

*Journey into Mystery* #637

*New Mutants Vol 3* #42

*Journey into Mystery* #638

*New Mutants Vol 3* #43

A crossover story between New Mutants and Loki, it serves as a good introduction to the team.

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