

[E-BOOK] The Best There is at What He Does: Examining Chris Claremont's X Men

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Jason Powell

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**Jason Powell : The Best There is at What He Does: Examining Chris Claremont's X Men** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Best There is at What He Does: Examining Chris Claremont's X Men:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Definitive Review and Retrospective of One of Comics' Greatest Achievements By Jimmy Hanzo With seminal works by comicbook greats like Alan Moore (Watchmen, V for

Vendetta, The Killing Joke) and Frank Miller (Batman: Year One, Sin City, The Dark Knight Returns) being (rightfully) lauded and celebrated with retrospective books that recount and analyze their content, it seems that other important and highly successful creators and work from the 1980s are being passed over in getting their proper due alongside these giants. One of these creators / works seems to be Chris Claremont and his legendary run on Uncanny X-Men. While the franchise itself may be on the decline in recent years due to the success of the Avengers properties, there was a period of over two decades, including comics greatest sales years of the early 90s, where the book sat alongside the Amazing Spider-Man as a cornerstone of the Marvel empire. That's what makes a book like this so important for comics historians -- in it, we are taken issue by issue through the evolution of a title once considered Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's lesser creations in 1975 to its place in 1991 as Marvel's biggest and most consistent sales leaders, a property so rich in material and fan devotion that it's inspired 10 feature films at the time of this writing (the 10th being the third Wolverine solo film set for early 2017), numerous animated series, and a seemingly never-ending stream of merchandise. This book goes beyond the broader commercial success of the X-Men franchise and looks at the individual creative decisions made by superstar writer Chris Claremont and his artistic collaborators that has made "Uncanny X-Men" one of the most unique and relevant ongoing superhero titles of all time. This book provides an in-depth understanding of the various characters, storylines and continuity that formed the foundation of the series' status as comics' premiere series. Powell's conversational writing style strikes the right balance of reverence, detailed analysis and whimsy needed to make a book that could have been a dry bit of critical analysis into a light, breezy read that feels more like a fun trip down memory lane than a series of tedious recaps these books often seem to be. To use a cliché -- it's fun and you learn something too! It's a must-read for X-Men fans, Claremont fans, and comics historians. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Overview of One of the Best Comics Writers Ever By Kevin M. Derby Jason Powell offers a fascinating look at Chris Claremont's run as the writer of the X-Men in this study. Claremont was an impressive creator who could balance exciting stories with developing well-crafted characters. Powell goes through issue by issue and charts how Claremont spent a decade and a half developing Marvel's premier mutant teams and made them comic mainstays. For the most part, this is an excellent book though frankly Powell skips over some comics he simply doesn't like while spending too much time on others. No matter. This is a minor flaw at best. Powell is very comprehensive with his look at Claremont and, even when I disagreed with the book, it was never a disagreeable read. Claremont's reputation has suffered in recent years and he's been the subject of too many jokes about Claremontisms. Frankly he deserves better even if he never reclaimed the heights he scaled from the late 70s through the 80s. Powell's book is a good place to renew our appreciation for one of the greatest and most influential comics writers ever. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended for any comics fan. By Customer The author displays a comprehensive knowledge of Chris Claremont's work on the X-Men in an engaging writing style. Chris Claremont, along with a long list of artistic collaborators, created the modern X-Men franchise. Long before major character deaths were routine, and grim and gritty was the norm, Claremont did it all. The Best There is at What He Does: Examining Chris Claremont's X-Men will make you want to go back and reread the Claremont run as one long story picking up on things that you missed the first time around. This book serves as a great companion piece to that work.

The X-Men franchise is a sprawling comic-book mythology, to which hundreds of creators have contributed material over the past 50 years. The period from 1975 to 1991 is special, however, as the X-Men universe was guided by the voice of one writer, who wrote every single issue of THE UNCANNY X-MEN during that span. His name is Chris Claremont, and he made the X-Men what it is today. THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT HE DOES is an appreciation of the long-term narrative Claremont lovingly crafted month after month, over the course of nearly 17 years. Proceeding chronologically through the issues, this exhaustive overview analyzes the trends, arcs, and themes that emerge over the course of his landmark comics opus. From Sequart Organization. More info at <http://sequart.org>