



## X-Men Masterworks Vol. 3

*Roy Thomas , Jay Gavin (Illustrator) , Werner Roth (Illustrator) , Jack Sparling (Illustrator)*

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**X-Men Masterworks Vol. 3** Roy Thomas , Jay Gavin (Illustrator) , Werner Roth (Illustrator) , Jack Sparling (Illustrator)

Collects X-Men (1963) #22-31. Witness the first appearance of X-Men mainstay Banshee and read the rare stories when a sixth mutant member, the Mimic, joined Professor X's squad. Also featured are the beginnings of the long-ranging Factor Three saga, and the classic battle between Mimic and the Super-Adaptoid.

## X-Men Masterworks Vol. 3 Details

Date : Published July 27th 2011 by Marvel (first published 2002)

ISBN :

Author : Roy Thomas , Jay Gavin (Illustrator) , Werner Roth (Illustrator) , Jack Sparling (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Marvel, X Men, Superheroes, Graphic Novels, Comic Book, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review X-Men Masterworks Vol. 3 for online ebook**

### **Christopher Rush says**

Roy Thomas starts off his tenure as writer of the X-Men by showing off his knowledge of Marvel history - this could have been a good thing, had he done something interesting with forgotten characters or former X-Men villains. However, he just sort of parades meaningless moments and characters who should have been forgotten and doesn't do anything spectacular with them. Yes, he does create the Banshee, but he makes him a confusingly-motivated ancient man and needs several tries before he can do something with him. A great deal of the issues in this collection feature a dead-end plot thread of Jean leaving the team to attend Metro College (enrolling during the summer, for no reason). It's a dead end because Jean usually finds the time to join them on their missions anyway. Despite initially feeling relief she is no longer a fighter, she apparently takes the time to sew new uniforms for everyone and rejoins them anyway. All supporting plot threads that could have been interesting, such as Ted Roberts, Jean's classmate who suspects the teens are the X-Men, are inexplicably dropped without any resolution. Thomas even brings the Mimic back as a teammate of the X-Men - at Xavier's request! - but this goes nowhere, despite some good character moments, since after a few issues Thomas has the Mimic lose his powers again. It's worth reading because it is classic X-Men, and Thomas does manage to get a few good character moments in there (he finally gets the Scott/Jean romance going after a while), but it's not the best storytelling done in the X-Universe. Like with many TPBs, I read the individual issues.

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### **Edward Davies says**

Count Nefaria makes his first X-Men appearance, becoming a pretty important character when the series relaunched in 1975. Still, other than the first appearance of Banshee, this is pretty mediocre stuff, possibly because of Roy Thomas coming on as a new writer and not being able to immediately find his feet.

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### **Nate says**

Reading silver age comics can be jarring when you are used to modern comics. These issues of the X-men are hyper dense in terms of the text per panel that make much of this collection drag even as a modern reader like me could also celebrate these early stories as the foundation of the decades long superhero soap opera it would build to. Roy Thomas is a solid writer and it is refreshing to see heroes sidelined for multiple issues with injuries rather than rely on healing factors or time jumps to get the full squad back to peak performance. For example, Cyclops injures Angel and he is basically out of action for the next four issues. What holds this collection back is Werner Roth's art. It just isn't very good. You would be tempted to blame it on the period he was working in but the one issue Roth isn't responsible for, Issue 30 "The Warlock Wakes" is innovative and interesting in a way the other nine issues in this collection never sniff at, Roth just doesn't seem to have the imagination or skill that the X-Men deserve and I have to wonder if the series had had better artists at the helm if the X-Men would have taken off long before Chris Clairmont got his hands on them.

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## **J.R. says**

By story arc

- Nefaria/Maggia - Lame villains, good plot. 3 stars
  - Locust - Again, a decent plot, but the villain's costume was too corny: 2.5 stars
  - Magic pendant - Extra star for the key plot point of Cyclops accidentally clipping Angel: 2 stars
  - Mimic stuff - 3 stars
  - Banshee - 4 stars
  - Warlock - 2 stars
  - Cobalt Man - 2 stars
- 

## **Etienne says**

Certainly the best X-Men volume until now. Lot of actions, cool new characters, story is a lot less repetitive than it was. It set the bar really high for the next one!!

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## **Evan Leach says**

This collection contains issues 22-31 from the original run. The original team consisted of Cyclops, Angel, The Beast, Iceman, and Marvel Girl (Jean Grey). Professor X and his giant mutant brain are on hand to lead the team. I mentioned in my reviews of the first two X-Men Marvel Masterworks that those early issues can be awfully cheesy, and that remains true for issues 22-31 as well...

Yeah. There are a lot of silly costumes and a lot more silly dialogue in this book. These issues were published from 1966-67, and the standards & expectations of the medium were different than they are today. Some people will find this level of cheese delightful, while others will find it overwhelmingly obnoxious. Personally I kind of enjoyed it in a nostalgic sort of way, but I had to limit myself to one issue at a time to avoid severe eye-rolling.

The first X-Men Marvel Masterworks is interesting as it contains the original issues that started it all. The second introduces the Juggernaut and the Sentinels for the first time, so it too represents some X-Men history. This one? Not so much. The X-Men are mostly battling a random bunch of 3rd rate villains that I had never heard of, and this collection doesn't really introduce anything of importance. That said, now that the creators have 21 issues under their belts I do think the overall quality of the writing and artwork is higher than in the first two Marvel Masterwork collections. I mostly enjoyed these issues, even if I didn't recognize any of the weirdos the team was facing (and I certainly enjoyed them as a youngster, which was the intended audience for these early issues). **3 stars**.

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## **Mike Wierzbicki says**

More classic X-Men. I liked Roy Thomas's issues more than Stan Lee's but as with Volumes 1 and 2, these

are neat to see how the team has evolved but I wouldn't recommend them to those looking to get into the series.

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### **Jessica says**

I don't like the ComicCraft cover compared to the standard, but this is the one I own.

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### **Kami says**

- This one wasn't as fun as the previous 2, but I still enjoyed it.
  - Jean should just hook up with Warren!!!! Why is she wasting her time dreaming of Scott? Scott is so dramatic and emotionally unstable. Warren is good looking, has money, and is more forward about how he feels.
  - Jean and Cyclops are just getting annoying. I'm tired of the "Oh, I can't tell her how I feel!" crap!
  - I like the new costume change, especially Marvel Girl's.
  - It was fun to see a few cameos in this volume. Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, and Spiderman make an appearance.
  - The last issue was probably my favorite. The action was good, and the villain was more fun.
  - The villains in these issues were kind of dumb. I want Juggernaut and Magneto back. These 2nd class villains are pathetic!
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### **Elliot Huxtable says**

Very middle of the road fare, with no interesting developments. With the exception of Banshee no interesting villains are used, all one-shot wonders.

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### **Jedi Sunni says**

I don't usually rate a x-men book this low but it started out as a hot read with some unusual characters. It quickly got boring and repetitive. I usually don't start a book and not finish so I did the noble thing and finished this book. It an above average book which some may deem worth reading.

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### **Amy says**

Cyclops is still whiny as heck

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### **Kelly Lynn Thomas says**

The emotional characterization in this volume picks up quite a bit. But I was really annoyed that they call each other by their real names in battles all the time! After making a huge deal about their secret identities in multiple issues. There are other oversights like this that bring down the quality of the book, but if you can ignore it, it's not a huge deal. Some of the villains are ridiculous, like the Maggia (the porcupine guy, I mean come on), but some of them I really enjoyed like the Locust/Dr. Hopper. Banshee is introduced in this volume, and he's a pretty cool character. The story lines with the Mimic are also interesting. Scott and Warren's struggle over Jean is stupid and annoying from a feminist standpoint, but it was written in the 60s for a male audience -- not really an excuse, but it's a product of its time. And it's not like Jean doesn't have any agency. She just doesn't get as much "screen" time as the boys. The story with Merlin where she gets brainwashed was kinda dumb and annoying, though. Ugh. I'm really not sure what the point of her "leaving" the X-Men is, either. She's still there, and she still fights with them all the time. So, in conclusion, there's some decent stuff, but also some really lame stuff. It's an uneven volume.

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### **Jason Crane says**

Roy Thomas takes over as writer and things get ... well, just about exactly the same, honestly. I'm not sure how much of a hand Stan The Man had in the plotting and characterization of these books (he's listed as editor), but it certainly seems like the folks at Marvel figured it wasn't broke so why fix it. That the title was cancelled 30 issues after this collection (before being revived again, of course) says to me that maybe they should have paid more attention.

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### **Inkling says**

The stories are ok. It depends what you're after. There's not much character development happening, but that's to be expected of early comic-book issues. The problem, in my opinion, is that, since it is focusing on action each and every time, the stories seem to always be set in the same pattern - easily spotted every time.

What's a bit annoying, and the other fans of the series have noticed it as well, is the fact that, Roy Thomas, the writer, is such a huge fan of the Marvel universe, that he can't help crisscrossing characters and story-lines. There's issues where the X-Men meet the Avengers, or fight against villains that other Marvel heroes have fought before. It's a nice spin, it's refreshing at first, but it can get quite tiresome at times and you begin to miss the old villains such as Magneto.

I'd say, read this book if you want to get an idea on the dynamic between the initial founding members of the X-men team. It might give you a clue as to how things were for them in the beginning and how they'd cope when it was just: Marvel Girl (Jean Grey), Ice Man, Beast, Angel, Cyclops and Professor X.

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