



All-New X-Men Vol. 4: All-Different

Brian Michael Bendis , Brandon Peterson (Illustrator) , Stuart Immonen (Illustrator)

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Collects All-New X-Men #18-21, A+X #18 (Bendis story), material from X-Men: Battle of the Atom #2.

All-New X-Men Vol. 4: All-Different Details

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From Reader Review All-New X-Men Vol. 4: All-Different for online ebook

Sesana says

This volume seemed like a bit of a dip in quality. Or maybe that's because a few issues with some serious developments have been skipped between the previous volume and this one. I assume they're in X-Men: Battle of the Atom, but I guess I'll find out when I finally read it.

In theory, adding X-23 to the cast is probably a good thing. I was getting bored with the Jean drama. To be honest, I was bored with Jean drama two deaths ago. Having another female character to keep the boys from completely and entirely fixating on Jean is a fantastic development. But I'm apprehensive as to how X-23 will actually fit into the team, and whether or not she'll be a permanent edition or just have a lengthy guest stint. And I actually don't know that much about her, so I don't have any sort of emotional attachment to her at all.

I've never been entirely convinced by this premise to begin with, and I feel like it's starting to show wear. Maybe I would have liked it a lot more if I'd read those other issues first.

Sud666 says

The X-men from the past run into the Purifiers. And a female clone of the Wolverine. Not sure why a clone of the Wolverine would be female. But okay. The Purifiers are run by Reverend Stryker's son (though I thought he used to be a Colonel, not a Reverend- but this might be a retcon) and they are surprised to see the original X-men. I did enjoy the fact that AIM and the Purifiers work together. It does make a sick sort of sense. Once again Bendis' writing style makes this series great. It's funny but at times serious. He has a great way of showing the X-men for all their good and some of their faults. His Iceman is a little to manic sometimes, reminding me of Spiderman. But, once again a great story-glad I picked it up and highly recommend this to any X-men fan. This series by Bendis is one of the best X-men series I've read.

Anna says

I still enjoy these.

But, JFC, is there a reason why Laura Kinney always gets the short end of the stick? Give that girl a break.
#SaveLauraKinney

Kemper says

“Bendis, get in here!”

“Yes, sir!”

“There’s a problem with your story.”

“Which one, sir? I write about 137 of them a week for Marvel so you’ll have to be more specific.”

“Oh, right. I’m talking about the latest issues of *All-New X-Men*.”

“What’s the problem?”

“There’s no Wolverine in them.”

“Right. It’s about the original X-Men team being brought to the present day and having to deal with seeing their future. Wolverine didn’t join the X-Men until later so he’s not with them.”

“Yeah, but he’s around now, isn’t he? So why haven’t you put him on the team? Hell, since he’s the oldest, make him their leader. That’ll be a nice twist.”

“Uh, but sir. We’ve already got Kitty Pryde acting as their mentor and leader. Frankly, it’s going pretty well so I’d hate to....”

“Bendis, are you aware of Marvel’s General Order #1?”

“Of course, sir.”

“And what does it state?”

“Put Wolverine In Every Book.”

“Pretty clear, isn’t it?”

“Yes, sir. I think calling one title *Wolverine & The X-Men* was particularly inspired.”

“That was my idea, you know.”

“I am aware of that, sir, and a brilliant idea it was.”

“Right, so why are you fighting me on putting Wolverine in this one?”

“Ordinarily, I’d agree with you 100%, sir, but I’m afraid I wrote us into a bit of a corner here. I had managed to work Wolverine into *All New X-Men* earlier as an authority figure who wanted to send the team back to their own time. That led into a lot of the conflict we used as part of Battle of the Atom.”

“Now that was a good crossover. Lots of Wolverine in that one.”

“Yes, sir, but unfortunately the aftermath of that would make it very difficult to come up with a logical story reason for Wolverine to work with this team.”

“Hmmm...I don’t suppose those fanboys would just forget about that?”

“I doubt it, sir. They’re pretty touchy about continuity.”

“Damn them and their parents for letting them live in their basements! They’re the ones who want all this Wolverine, but now they’re making it impossible for us to deliver him! What do they want from us?”

"I have an idea, sir. We could use X-23."

"X-23? What's that? Some kind of amnesia gas we can spray on those Cheeto snarfing comic geeks?"

"No, sir. It's actually another character we have. Laura Kinney, she's the female clone of Wolverine."

"Oh, that's right. She's got a healing factor and claws too, right?"

"Yes sir. She even has foot claws!"

"Foot claws, eh? Well, it's not Wolverine, but I guess it's going to have to be close enough. Any chance you could tie some of this into some history those fanboys will recognize?"

"How about a link to the classic God Loves, Man Kills story?"

"That'll do. I'm still worried about our overall Wolverine quota dropping though."

"Maybe we could do something big to get him more publicity, sir."

"Like what?"

"Killing off a character and bringing him back later usually does the trick, sir."

"Great idea. We'll get to work on that right away. We have to keep the fans happy because I just heard those Hollywood nitwits are going to use Rocket Raccoon in our latest movie. You believe that? Featuring a damn talking space raccoon instead of Wolverine in a big budget movie? I don't know what idiot cooked that up, but I expect that it'll flop and cripple the company!"

David Church says

Thought this had the potential to be a great story but ended up just being ok. Liked the addition of X-23 & the new costumes, other than that same ole same ole. Everyone is in love with Jean, drama ensues. Wondering if Marvel is having Wolverine withdrawals not being in this collection so they decided we have to have some Wolverine connection how about X-23?

47Time says

Kitty decides to quit the school as she feels betrayed by the people there. She joins Cyclops together with the original X-Men. They soon get a mission to save a new mutant while wearing new uniforms. It's an opportunity to dish out some spectacularly lame one-liners while fighting the purifiers, armored religious zealots who hate mutants. Did the author really think this scene would be fun to see? The young mutant they save turns out to be X-23, but she is exhibiting way too many feelings. I preferred her cold and bloodthirsty like her 'father,' Wolverine. She joins the X-Men and together they attack the brain-damaged purifiers in their home base(view spoiler). Weak story and the artwork is slipping too.

Jeff says

Three and a half stars.

Contrary to what The Who say, the Kids are *not* Alright. The whole back-to-the-future experiment has been pretty much a fiasco and the X-Kids from the past are now stuck in the present, which is their future.

Off page the X-Kids leave Wolverine's Romper Room school and join up with the other mutants at Camp Cyclops. Kitty Pryde, who's now revealed to be Jewish (Mazel Tov!), accompanies them.

Hola! Professor Butthead!

Beyond the seemingly endless obligatory fish-out-of-water humorous asides...

...the X-Kids go on a "training" exercise against a group of mutant haters and end up rescuing X-23.

This plot development triggers some hormonal stuff from the X-Teenaged boys. Me, if I'm face-to-face with a woman with metal claws coming out of her hands, my first response would be to duck and cover, not this...

Stop thinking with Lil Cyclops! Ask your future self, it'll get you nowhere, Scottie.

The run-in with the Purifiers also triggers more discussion about the Past-Present-Future consequences of the X-Kids from the past being in our present, but their future. *sobs at the enormity of it all*

Happy Birthday X-Men! The Gold issue contained herein offers X-Stories from many of the books past creators. Most are passable, with the best being Wolverine day dreaming about how he'll kill off the rest of the group if they don't buy him beer, as Charles Xavier blathers on about the finer points of a rescue mission.

Sadly, nobody wrote a pool party story.

Bottom Line: Bendis was writing a lot of books back then and the strain shows. Mediocre Bendis is better than some creator's best, still....

Mike says

Ah good, the relaxing vacation between two major events in the X-verse. It's refreshing to take a break from all that world- and race/species-saving, and just get down with some old-school mutant melodrama. Elsewhence does the world/time/Galaxy-bending crisis come from, if not the sexual politics of a redhead and her passively-moping ragtag of emotionally stunted, yet all too willing to bather about their infantile emotions, boys2men?

So what do the kids do while they're not saving the world?

They take some time to update their wardrobe that hasn't seen a change since the 60's, and do their best tribute to the Power Rangers.

They go visit with their old friends, the Purifiers, and catch up on old discussions of "abomination in the sight of God" and the meaning of life as beings less worthy than cockroaches.

They meet up with X-23 to get fashion and makeup tips from our favourite psychopathic femme-Wolverine.

Good stuff Bendis, entertain me even in neutral.

Jesse A says

I may be in the minority but I felt like this was one of the better outings in this series. Well done.

Anne says

I know other people ore sort of over these guys, but I'm still enjoying the hell out of the All new X-men. Compared to some of the crap I've read, this title is a breath of fresh air. I could have done without the **A+X** stuff, but even *those* stories weren't too bad.

So, the kids have left the Jean Grey School, and now they (and Kitty Pryde) are running with Cyclops. As a bonus, they're back with Warren, so the gang's all together. I've honestly forgotten what happened in the previous volume, but apparently going back to their own time (at least for now) isn't possible. Yay!

Even better, X-23 joins the cast!

As her #1 fan I have to say, I *may* be slightly biased about this volume due to my inner fangirl screaming like a teenager.

Still.

X-23!!!!

Beast and Cyclops were still sort of pining after Jean at the beginning of this one, but I don't think that will

be the case for long.

It's so cool to watch at these characters turn into something *different* than what their original versions were. And since the whole space-time thing is already fucked, why not just run with these ideas and go wild? **I love it!**

I read these in single issues on Marvel Unlimited, so whatever *material from X-men Battle of the Atom 2* was in this volume, I didn't get...but I enjoyed it anyway.

Terence says

The Original X-Men join the new Xavier School and continue their tour of their future.

So the volume starts with the Original X-Men getting some new outfits courtesy of Magik.

Afterward they are off protecting a mutant from some Purifiers.

The X-Men get a first hand look of the Purifiers patented brand of systematic hate sprinkled with religious passages interpreted in their favor. At this point I have to imagine Hank McCoy longs for the time people just threw rocks at them.

The Purifiers are among the types of people whose real life equivalent terrifies me. When people decide to reinforce all their actions with God and convince others to believe the same the result is horrifying. Even though I feel the real life relevance of the Purifiers is poignant and powerful, this volume was just OK to me. Going on minor missions seems as though it shouldn't be on the time displaced X-Men's radar in my opinion. *Oh well.*

?????? ????? says

The fourth volume for Brian Michael Bendis' going-strong *All-New X-Men* is comprised of issues #18-21 which were the installments that dealt with the aftermath of the crossover event in *Battle of the Atom*. It also features the 50th anniversary Gold issue as a bonus material. Man, this volume is a lot more bipolar than the usual.

Kitty Pryde shockingly decided to leave the Jean Grey Institute of Higher Learning, turning her back on her long-time comrades (and surrogate parents) Ororo and Logan whom she felt betrayed by. I won't go into details; just know that her departure is rightly justified in a way. She then decided to join her best friend Illyana (Magik) who is a member of present-day Cyclops' Dream Team of Mutant Revolution (yes, I made a new pet name for it. DTMR. Shit, I gotta make a glossary of my made-up abbreviations some time). Now since Kitty is their Professor X for this timeline, the OCF felt the need to come with her since they don't feel like the rest of the current X-Men are accepting of them anyway. This is great news to Warren who was pleased that his friends finally saw some sense and now the five of them are complete once more.

I don't really believe Kitty agreed with Cyclops' vision since she has her own way of doing things but I like that they're able to be civil with each other. The man may have murdered Professor X (whose role Kitty has

been filling lately for the teenage OCF), but Kitty does respect him and does not harbor bitter feelings towards him in the long run unlike Wolverine. I think Kitty wanted to let bygones be bygones and focus more on training her students who are counting on her guidance, and this characterization for Kitty Pryde in this series has most definitely endeared her to me. Since reading her character in action for the first time in *X-Men Forever* and then for *Days of Future Past*, I find Kitty to be one of the exceptionally likable and enjoyable X-characters out there. Her development, relationships with people, and principles always get me interested because they're well-written, and her role in this title is no exception.

In issues #19-20, the OCF went on their first mission to help a fellow mutant who is wandering around aimlessly and scared in the city. The issue opens with said mutant being harassed by the anti-mutant fanatics known collectively as the Purifiers whom everyone knows are the descendants of Reverend Stryker whose legacy of hatred and ignorance continues to spread even to this day. The OCF with Kitty and Magik arrived just in time to prevent yet another senseless hate crime, and we are treated to fabulous pages of fight scenes.

In any case, I've enjoyed the confrontation between the OCF and the Purifiers. This is the first time the OCF have encountered them after all and I don't think they realize the gravity of this moment. After all, the OCF belong in the sixties, in an idyllic time where mutant discrimination isn't very rampant or blown out of disgusting proportions. Luckily enough, the goddamn Purifiers were more than enthralled to get the kids up to speed. These motherfuckers keep shouting out biblical scriptures as they murder in the name of God, hence also simultaneously making every Christian in the vicinity who is not a hatemonger feel like puking because now his or her own faith is associated with such stupid fanatics. The one thing so unforgivable about these Purifiers is how they twist the word of God to suit their inclusive views about race intolerance and self-entitlement, all the while considering themselves faithful servants of the Lord who, according to their delusions, hate the mutant race because they are unnatural abominations. "God did not create mutant" is the main idea to take away here. Yeah, that's very Christian. Please stop disguising your hatemongering with anything else but just that.

Issue #21 opens with a great callback to Chris Claremont's piece *God Loves, Man Kills* and the illustrations themselves seem to look exactly like the panels featured in the aforementioned storyline with a few touch-ups here. Anyway, I was no longer paying that much attention to whatever fucking delusion Stryker Jr. and his apostles are currently chewing on so reading this issue was a pain in the ass. Seeing my babies incapacitated was no treat, but time-dispelled Jean Grey is proving to be someone you should never fuck around with, and she is not thrilled about Stryker and the Purifiers at all. It just occurred to me that even her present-day adult version has never encountered the full force of the Purifiers (she was dead during *God Loves, Man Kills*) so it's noteworthy to see how she is reacting to all of this.

And let me tell you, she might be one meltdown away from killing these motherfuckers. I wouldn't be oppose to it, but the truth is, what is chilling about her reaction so far is how...calculating they are. She doesn't get full-blown angry but rather quietly seething--which for me is a lot more dangerous than her nuclear meltdowns. It feels as if after meeting the woman she becomes in the future when she decided to stay in this timeline (I'm referring to Xorn-Jean Grey from *Battle of the Atom*), I think teen Jean is beginning to see her point of view or at least understand why future-her got to be so vengeful. She could feel the pressure of still turning into Xorn-Jean if she's not careful with how she's dealing with anti-mutant assholes at this point. I just get the sense that Jean is struggling internally, whether she's aware of it or not, to minimize her negative feelings toward that infuriating faction of the human race that desires to destroy the mutantkind. I guess, what I'm saying is, she might become the next Magneto if she's not too careful. Xorn-Jean from *Battle of the Atom* was certainly giving off that world-weary witness-to-atrocities vibes in same manner as classic Magneto. That should intrigue you, dear reader. It certainly had me thinking.

The Gold issue #1 aimed to showcase the best aspects that there is to love about the X-Men. The stories featured herein were written by Chris Claremont, Stan Lee, Louis Simonson, Roy Thomas, Len Wein and Fabien Nicieza. They have all contributed substantially enough in the X-Men universe way back so it was

nice to read their material again albeit in the form of flash fictions. The five stories themselves were whimsical and kooky which is just the way I like them. Nothing too heavy but there is some lightness to be had particularly with that Stan Lee/Louis Simonson piece about the original X-Men and their very stilted sixties language that made me giggle non-stop because of how cheesy they used to sound like back then.

The longest story here had to be Claremont's Sentinels piece where we get to see the old-continuity X-Men before all the scary shit about mutant decimation occurred so it's pre-*House of M* era and we get fantastic character moments with Kitty Pryde and Rogue who had just become a part of the X-Men after being Mystique's sidekick for a while. Prof X and Scott are having happy times with their girlfriends here (alien empress Lilandra and Madelyn Pryor) while Nightcrawler is still very much alive (OH, I'VE MISSED YOU, ELF!). I hate anything with Sentinels but this story was acceptable enough. It was colorful and flashy and reminded you of the times when the X-Men can still enjoy themselves while doing good instead of worrying about their survival against hatemongering assholes like the current storylines we have now.

The other two pieces were delightful oneshots that feature the perspective of certain characters. The Roy Thomas one was about Banshee and Sunfire totally bro-ing it up with their little adventure. Meanwhile, Len Wein's Wolverine-focused piece was absolutely hilarious. The way that dude thinks can be so outrageous yet endearing all at once. Of course, the last piece of this issue was the only one that ended up unraveling me by the seams...then drove me bat-shit insane.

Yes, the greatest surprise in this issue for me was the fact that we even got a Professor X/Magneto story! And of course it was penned by Fabian Nicieza himself! If you don't know who this jerk is, then please refer to his nineties stories *Fatal Attractions* and *Legion Quest* which are both tales of Cherik-centered madness and shippy angstiness that would render any Charles/Erik shipper such as myself angry, tearful and comatosed because of Nicieza's paradoxical pleasurable and agonizing depiction of these two dorks' relationship.

Overall, the fourth volume *All-Different* was a great mixed bag worth chewing on.

RECOMMENDED: 8/10

DO READ MY REVIEWS AT:

Donovan says

I wasn't as in love with this one, but it's still fun and plenty readable. It just introduced a *lot* of new characters, what with the religious zealots, Wolverine's clone, and whatever A.I.M. was. I also had a harder time following the plot, maybe because nothing huge was happening. But lots of entertainment. Another series of adventures to show off the awesome charming characters. And did you catch that Dazzler joke? Priceless.

Gavin says

This is where we come back down from the stratosphere back into good, but not amazing. Bendis had an awesome run, and I'm not saying it's over, I doubt it is, but this volume feels like the part of the roller coaster

that has to start climbing back up again from after all the twists and turns and thrills.

Another major loss is that Stuart Immonen is no longer the artist after issue #18. This is one of those times where an artist and writer are so in sync that change isn't the best result. I'm not saying that the new artists aren't capable, but it's just like a copy of what came before.

The other problem I have is that this collection starts with #18, and Vol. 3 ended with #15...that means I'm completely lacking #16-17; Battle of the Atom issues. I think I need to read this to really get what's going on, but not enough to completely ruin the book.

I'm sure they're contained in the Battle of the Atom book itself, yes?

The team and Kitty end up joining up with the new Cyclops, and finally get their own uniforms that don't make them look totally out of time. What follows is a run in with the Reavers and Stryker, as well as bringing another student in. (X-23) That feels like they get their own Wolverine on this team, and another female to compete for the lusts of the other ones, not just Jean. Shockingly this leads to conflicts. We pick up X-23 after everything that happened in Avengers Arena (she killed a buttload of her old teammates/friends).

I'm not super into that yet, but I do like the new personality injected by her arrival. It remains to be seen if they will make her a full 'member' or if she's just guest star of the month.

The most fun here comes from X-Men: Gold, a 50th Anniversary celebration of the X-Men, with contributions from Chris Claremont, Stan Lee, Walter Simonson, Len Wein, Roy Thomas, and other X-writers from the past.

The coolest part may be all the Variant Covers to #18, courtesy of Julian Tedesco; they run the gamut from 60s to 00s X-men with the various team incarnations of each decade.

60s: Cyclops, Jean Grey/Marvel Girl, Beast, Iceman, Angel

70s: Wolverine, Storm, Colossus, Nightcrawler, Banshee, Thunderbird

80s: Wolverine (Brown/Orange), Storm (Mohawk), Havok, Dazzler, Longshot, Magneto

90s: Cyclops, Rogue, Gambit, Bishop, Psylocke, Jubilee (this looks like an episode of the Animated series)

00s: The Grant Morrison New X-Men (Cyclops, Wolverine, Jean Grey, Beast, Emma Frost, Xorn)

It's a fun book, but in the series, it's a low point so far (that being said, the low point for this series is higher than the high point for a lot more).

I will keep reading for sure.

James DeSantis says

So this was kind of...wonky? Boring? I can't find the right word.

I like the Cyclops and Laura moment. Seeing young him and Wolverine clone talk was interesting and fun. That moment had heart.

The rest? A crazy religious organization hunting down our favorite mutants. How fun! Haven't seen this before...zzzzzzz....

Yeah not much to say on this one except very very forgettable.
