



X-Force/Cable: Messiah War

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It's the exciting sequel to 2007's *Messiah CompleX* Cyclops has complete faith that his son, Cable, will do everything he can to protect the so-called mutant messiah - who he believes will save mutantkind.

But he also knows what havoc former X-Man Lucas Bishop has wreaked in the nightmarish future. So now he's sent his black ops team, the X-Force, on a risky, time-traveling mission to save Cable and the child, completely unaware that there's something else waiting for them in the future. Something not even Bishop was counting on...

Collecting: *X-Men: The Times and Life of Lucas Bishop* 1-3, *Cable* 11-15, *X-Force* 14-16, *X-Force/Cable: Messiah War* One-Shot, & *X-Men: Future History: The Messiah War Sourcebook*

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From Reader Review X-Force/Cable: Messiah War for online ebook

Martin says

While I am an X-fan, before reading this book I'd never ever read any story with Cable, Deadpool, Stryfe, or Bishop, and I wasn't familiar with their history. I'd not yet read Messiah Complex (which this book is the sequel to). In spite of all this, I still enjoyed this book. Here's why:

Absolutely everything you need to know about anybody in this story is supplied between its covers. There's a bonus feature that explains who's who and what's what. There's a 3-part story of the life of Bishop, from birth 'til the "Messiah War" story. The opening chapter of the main story does a great job of recapping what went on before.

"Messiah War" itself has all the ingredients for success: time-travel, evil clones, double-crossings, and a healthy dose of violence (par for the course for X-Force!). The dialogue is crisp and clever; Deadpool can be hilarious, though by the end of the book I found my patience had run out and he was just annoying. Now let's talk about the art: Ariel Olivetti's is gorgeous and Mike Choi's is just awesome. Clayton Crain's art is an acquired taste; at times, it seems a bit rushed and comes out muddled (especially in the last chapter). Had Olivetti & Choi handled all the art chores, this book would've been so much more enjoyable to read... There are also parts in the story that seem decompressed, as if they had to stretch out some bits to fill six chapters.

Why did I ever give this book away?! And a hardcover, too! GAH!

NOTE: This book is part 2 in a trilogy. It follows Messiah Complex and precedes X-Men: Second Coming.

Anne says

I've always wanted to find out more about Hope and the Messiah War stuff, but I never really knew where to start.

And, if I'm being honest, I'm *still* not sure where to start.

But this was story came in between **X-Force** Not Forgotten & Necrosha, and I had always wondered what had happened between the time they all disappeared and the time that X-23 fell out of the sky and fucked that evil chick up.

So. Now I know.

And it was actually really interesting! In fact, this was good enough that I'm going to try to hunt down the rest of Cable and Hope's story.

The gist is that Hope was the first (and so far only) mutant born after M-day, and because of what he lived through (in the future) as a child, Bishop is convinced that she will destroy the world. He loses it and tries to kill her in the hospital. Cable managed to save her and slide forward into the future, but now his time machine thingy is fried, and he can't go back. But Bishop is still after them, so he and Hope keep hopping

forward in the timeline, getting into adventures and whatnot while she grows up. And just when things are at their worst, Cyclops sends the X-Force forward in time to try to save the mutant's only hope. <--Hope!

This was **really good** and I'm excited to see how it all pans out. Also, Deadpool was awesome in this.

Aaron says

After reading the exceptional X-Men: Second Coming crossover event, which is essentially a sequel to this book, I decided to go back and read Messiah War to fill in the gaps. What a waste of time that turned out to be!

As the middle point in the Messiah Complex/War/Second Coming trilogy of X-Men tales, this one is the weakest by a large margin. Where the first and last entries do a fantastic job of juggling multiple arcs and dozens of characters, culminating in massive, earth-shaking battles, this one just kind of plods along with a couple of boring storylines and fizzles completely at the end. Nothing seems to really matter, and the reliance on a been-there-done-that time travel setup really hammers home the blandness of the affair.

Basically, Cable has taken charge of Hope, the mutant "messiah," (AKA the first mutant born since Scarlet Witch wiped all of them out). In order to protect her as she grows up, he's taken her far into the future to avoid Bishop, who is stopping at nothing to kill her. Unfortunately, Stryfe, an ultra-powered clone of Cable, is also in the future, and wants Cable dead just because why not. He's mad about something from a 90s story I guess.

I want to take a minute to talk about Stryfe. I mean, what a ridiculous bad guy. He could not look any dumber. He is basically wearing the Super Shredder armor from the second Ninja Turtles movie, only with somehow MORE spikes all over it. He looks like a big stupid pincushion. On top of this, his only real character motivation is the ever-present "Daddy Issues," the laziest motivation in all of media. He's mad that his dad, Apocalypse, didn't love him more. Or something? I hate this character.

Anyway, X-Force also gets tossed to the future to help Cable. Fine. Then Deadpool shows up, also for no reason, and his explanation for how he got 900 years in the future is very, very lame. It seems like the writers just threw Deadpool in because they wanted comic relief, but didn't bother to A) accurately setup a reason for Deadpool to be around or, more importantly, B) learn how to write comic relief. Deadpool is at his most annoying here, never shutting up, but also never saying anything actually funny. He just vomits more and more words to read onto the page. He's like plot molasses.

The action plays out very predictably, with not one, not two, but THREE separate instances of Bishop raising his gun to shoot Hope, saying something like "Looks like this is the end of the road, kid," and then getting stopped because he didn't just fire his damn gun. He spends more time pointing a gun menacingly at Hope than I have spent chewing food in my entire life.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, the art in this book is terrible. Seemingly every page had a new instance of me going "Really? That's what you think a human face looks like?" Particularly with Hope and, in a flashback story, young Bishop. The artists in this book have absolutely no idea how to draw children. They all look like monsters. I was too horrified by the incredible weirdness of these children's poor, deformed bodies to even worry about what might happen to them.

In the end, everything is fine and everyone moves on. It's like this story didn't even have to happen. I would say just read Messiah Complex and Second Coming, and don't even bother with this garbage.

Elin the Lightship says

This was actually pretty much what I expected it to be! Both good and bad.

Good - because I kind of already knew everything that was going to happen but it still kept me hooked and didn't disappoint.

Bad - it didn't exceed my expectations.

You pretty much know what you will get;

Lots of time-jumping

The big boy Cable and our little Messiah Hope

X-Force-over-the-top-action

Bad bad guys with big arms

Hilarious Deadpool

Hidden agendas

Confusing timelines and different futures

Found myself a lot of times rather confused over how I wished my fellow mutants should act. Do I want him/her to stab him/her or just find another way/be calmer(*cough*Wolverine*cough*) and sort things out? Can things even be fixed?

At this point in mutant history - nothing looks really fixable.

Sesana says

Following up on Messiah Complex, this is at least a big chunk of the saga of Cable taking Hope on the road. I haven't been following the story through Cable's series, and I'm not likely to do so. I picked this up for the X-Force connection. I'm not sorry I did. Sure, it's basically a Cable story, but X-Force are more than just backups here. They're used really well.

Hope is seven in this story, and believe it or not, she actually read like a slightly more mature than average seven year old. Not a much younger child, not a tiny adult. And Cable is actually a pretty decent father figure to her. In other circumstances, he'd have made a good dad. Of course, they don't get that chance, because Bishop is after them and he's gone way, way off the deep end.

There's a fair bit going on, mostly because there are tons of catastrophes being thrown at Cable and Hope. But it doesn't feel that overwhelming. Maybe because I'm used to comics being a never ending rota of bad things happening, I don't know. But it probably helps that there are a few small chances to breathe here and there, and that the book isn't devoid of humor or emotions deeper than wanting to blow something up good.

After a bunch of issues of Cable and a few issues of X-Force, this collection closes with a miniseries that's basically the complete life of Bishop. It's not bad, and something like this was necessary. I mean, Bishop was an X-Man, and now he's totally unhinged. We needed a good explanation as to why, and this is a good explanation. There's a lot that's still murky, but the long and short of it is that Bishop feels quite certain that he can blame Hope for his miserable early life and the state of mutantkind in his own time. It doesn't make

him any less crazy or dangerous, but it does put him losing it entirely into perspective.

Tara says

4.5 stars. A truly engrossing, action-packed (side) story! Loved it!!! Plus, this was my first encounter with Apocalypse...how cool is he?! This series is kicking some major ass.

Keith says

I didn't really love it because I don't really like X-Force, but my girlfriend will love it because she loves X-Force, and there's a lot of X-Force in it but also a lot of Cable, who hasn't been a good character for like 20 years. There's a payoff for this being an X-Force book that doesn't happen till the sequel, which doesn't exactly make me like this book more? Or maybe it does. I had to get through it really fast so my girlfriend could read it, I'm not complaining just telling you.

Craig says

Once again, they've allowed the atrocious Larry Stroman to unleash his misbegotten pen on the story of Lucas Bishop. Other than these horribly ugly pages, this is pretty good stuff, though it also suffers from the multiple-climax (which never concludes) construction of too many X-Men stories. Anyone else tired of all the time-jumping?

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

Super intense set of stories. This is the chronicle of Cable's efforts to protect the first mutant child born after "M" Day (named Hope Summers by Cable) from a once ally who becomes obsessed with killing the child, and in his mind, saving the future. Cable is from the future, one in which the mutant scientist created him using DNA from Scott Summers and Jean Gray (although his mother was a clone of Gray). All Cable knows how to be is a warrior, and he proves that he won't stop until he sees Hope safe.

The artwork is gorgeous overall. I really appreciate Ariel Olivetti's work. It looks as lavish and lushly colorful as museum pieces. I wasn't as fond of the art in "The Life and Times of Lucas Bishop, but I definitely enjoyed the narrative on this former X-Men's life. It is important to understand what could drive him to such extremes. But seeing the world he was born and lived in, it clarified his motivations for me.

I liked the tie-in to the X-Force arc. I read this first, and recently read X-Force, Vol. 3: Not Forgotten, and that one takes up shortly after the climatic events in this collection.

Extensive dossiers on all the pertinent characters are included, and that was enlightening. Also included was information about Cable's preferred weaponry and devices. He is quite the gadget man. Due to my obsessive nature, I love dossiers and character bios. When I get into something, I like to find out everything I can about it. I like that the creators put it all here for readers.

I love that Marvel put this collection together. It's a great way to get caught up on some very important stories in the X-Men universe. I think this was a great find at my library, but it is also worth it for bonafide fans of the Messiah War story arc and the character of Cable, Bishop or Hope Summers, and even other X-Force-related characters.

James DeSantis says

Well that was funny as fuck.

Okay so the X-Force team gets sent into the future to save Hope, Cyclops daughter. Cable is still protecting her and is like no-go, she's mine to protect. But of course still have that asshole Bishop like "NO SHE MUST DIE" because he's a fucking psycho. Oh yeah and did I mention Apocalypse kid is here? I never even heard of this dude but he looks like a guy straight out of game of thrones mixed with Final Fantasy 12. His freaking armor is huge, some world of warcraft shit. Anyway he's omega powered of course. Oh yeah and Apocalypse returns. Oh and did I mention Deadpool is in here? That crazy fuck is back.

Good: I really enjoyed the inner dialog moments of each chapter with different points of views. My favorite being Hope, Wolverine, and Cable. The stakes actually feel pretty high and everyone is brutal here so no nice X-Men to be seen. Also this is pretty damn funny. Deadpool makes me laugh, wolverine makes me laugh, and phraser makes me laugh. Everyone made me laugh really.

Bad: The art flip flops between Cable series and X-Force and it doesn't match well. Cable series is bright and with a lot of life, X-Force is dark (on purpose) and gritty. It just doesn't add up well. Also apoc's kid is a fucking loser and hated his "I'm all mighty speech" that he gets from his dad with his dumb armor. Also the ending was meh.

Overall this was a lot of fun, fast paced, and funny as heck. Sure it had a weak ending and weird art flip-flopping but overall it was solid good little cross series event. A 3.5 out of 5.

Anchorpete says

I have a soft spot for Cable's convoluted back story, which ties him with Stryfe and Apocalypse. Though this crossover was based entirely on that, it still felt a lot like going through the motions to basically get to what happens in the end. It was cool to have narrations from various characters that you don't usually get to hear the narration from, such as Bishop, Stryfe and Apocalypse.\

What gives this book five stars, for me, is the comprehensive collection of character descriptions and history at the back of the book. Now, I can actually make sense of Cable's history.

Relstuart says

A fun read as Cable travels through time trying to hide the child named Hope. An X-Force team follows in an effort to provide back up as Bishop pursues to kill the child. But Bishop isn't the only danger as old enemies rear their heads.

I enjoyed the art and if you enjoyed Yost's X-Force work or read the Messiah Complex this is one you'll

want to read too.

Tundextra says

Yet another 'interesting concept, could have been done better' X-books event. Cyclops finally manages to get X-Force sent into the future to aid Cable.... for the team to realise they've walked into a trap! With some huge hitting villains and lots of gore, we get to see all the action, a huge come-back and Hope's first interactions with mutants now she's old enough to understand them. 6 out of 12, I am afraid.

Paul E. Morph says

Now, *that's* how you do a crossover! Only two books involved, nice artwork, fast-paced, action-packed, high stakes, no excess fat and some genuine surprises! I enjoyed this one a lot.

Julia França says

Part 2/3 of the Messiah Complex Event.

Also 3,5 stars.

Random thoughts:

- Deadpool is as sassy as I imagined and it was so awesome to read about.
 - Didn't learn about what Hope really is the way I wanted to, but guess it'll happen in part 3.
 - The ending with Bishop: WHAT? HOW?
 - The art was ok.
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