



Doctor Strange Vol. 4: Mr. Misery

Jason Aaron , Chris Bachalo (Illustrator) , Dan Mora (Illustrator)

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Collects Doctor Strange (2015) #17-20, Annual #1.

As magic faced its last days, Mr. Misery helped Doctor Strange defeat the Empirikul. But that doesn't make Misery a hero. Not one bit. Now the nightmarish creature is about to show Strange the full meaning of his name - and he'll do it by visiting pain and suffering on one of the Doc's closest allies! The Sorcerer Supreme won't stand for that -but to bring the thunder down on Misery, he needs a little help from Thor! Then, Clea walks back into Doctor Strange's life just as he's picking up the pieces from the worst beating he's ever taken. Is she there to make things all better -or will she make that battle feel like a walk in the park for Stephen? Plus: Savor the debut of the Sorcerers Supreme!

Doctor Strange Vol. 4: Mr. Misery Details

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From Reader Review Doctor Strange Vol. 4: Mr. Misery for online ebook

Roy says

A really cool conclusion to Aarons run of Doctor Strange. There was 1 issue where the artwork changed and it just didnt seem to work. Intriguing ending which has got me very interested if they continue this loose story thread.

James DeSantis says

And sadly we go out in a whimper.

This mostly is closing up ties to Jason's end. Try to cover it up and finish where it started. Doctor Strange has to help his follower get through a dark time. People are after him trying to kill him as always. Then we jump into the annual to kind of jump start the next run. It feels short, rushed, and not a great ending.

Good: I still love some of the art, mostly on Jason's issues. Also Jason still hits the tone and voice of strange well. I also liked that he got a new sidekick.

Bad: The fights weren't that great, the annual was honestly boring, and the new writer didn't really hit the voice of strange. It didn't end in a epic fashion that I think the character deserved and ended more on a whimper.

I'd probably end up giving this a 2.5 or so but honestly I'ma have to go with a 2 star just because it wasn't very impressive.

Malum says

2.5 stars.

Certainly better than the last volume, but still not great. The good:

We got to see Clea again.

The art is nice.

The bad:

Ok, so you used to have to train to get magic powers, but now you can be infected with "magical antibodies" to get magic powers? So, like, you can get magical aids? This reeks of mitichlorians.

Bye bye, Wong. You deserved better. I know Marvel likes replacing straight white dudes with minority characters, but replacing a minority character with another minority character? I am sure someone should be angry at someone else for something in this situation...

Alex Sarll says

Concluding Aaron's 20-issue run – a number which seems odd for modern Marvel, neither short enough to count as cancelled nor long enough to include a relaunch (and indeed, ahead of Legacy this was one of the first titles to get a new writer coming on board without a new #1). There's a niggling sense of it not having quite lived up to its promise, though on the face of it Strange is back in play as a viable ongoing lead with a tweaked status quo and better defined power levels than he's had in years. This goodbye also features guest spots from other Aaron favourites like Weirdworld and Thor (who asks, quite sensibly, whether all Strange's team-ups are this bizarre and disgusting). It's very pretty, too - Frazer Irving is probably the one artist who can excel even Bachalo at capturing the appropriate tone, at once dark, grotesque and not entirely serious.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Jason Aaron and Chris Bachalo close out their Doctor Strange run by pitting Stephen against his worst enemy - the physical embodiment of all of the pain he has avoided for years, Mister Misery. He's gross, y'all.

After The Last Days Of Magic, it took a while for Doctor Strange's series to regain its momentum, almost like it peaked too early. This final arc recaptures a little of that, with Mister Misery managing to deal some horrible blows to Strange's life and his connection to the few friends he has. I'm especially fond of the issue that has he and Jane Foster Thor performing multiple mystical surgeries at once, that's really well done.

Also included here is the lead story from the Doctor Strange annual, which brings back Clea and explains exactly what went wrong with their relationship, and why she and Stephen don't spend very much time together anymore. It's by Kathryn Immonen rather than Aaron, but it slots in nicely.

Chris Bachalo is on the main series art, and he's just as dark and dingy as before. He's an acquired taste, but I think he works for this kind of story, moreso than perhaps the more straight forward bits in earlier volumes. Leonardo Romero is on the annual, and I've just been singing his praises over on Hawkeye, so he's always a treat too.

Not quite a (Mister) misery, but not quite as impressive as before.

Shannon Appelcline says

I dunno if the problem was that Mr. Misery was a terrible foe (he was; entirely one-dimensional without any possibility for characterization, and now going down the dull route of punishing a hero by hurting the people he'd previously saved), or if it's that Aaron's *Doctor Strange* got very old very quickly. Whichever the case, the three-issue arc that takes up most of this volume just feels like a trudge to the end, even though it's got some of the quirkiness that made Aaron's first volume great.

The last issue is strong because it's all about a final reckoning with Zelda, who I dearly hope stays around as supporting cast after Aaron's departure. (The season-oriented design of comics in recent years has given new authors too much license to abandon everything that the previous author created.) The Annual also has a neat Clea story that nicely addresses that particular elephant in the room and is one of the better stories in this book ... and it turns out it isn't by Aaron. Huh.

Anywho, I read through all four volumes of Aaron's run, by the later volumes I was reading them well after publication because they weren't interesting me as much any more, and now I think they're all going to the used-book store.

Artemy says

After two lackluster volumes, Jason Aaron managed to somewhat recapture the magic of his first Doc Strange book in this final arc. It's a sweet, fun and quirky sendoff that almost makes me forgive volumes two and three for being as bad as they were. Aaron brings his story full circle, ending it right where it all started. I really liked this finale.

I am happy to see that another great Marvel writer, Dennis Hopeless, is going to take over the writing duties on Doctor Strange, and Marvel won't even reset the numbering of the issues! I only hope that Secret Empire won't eff everything up too much.

Wing Kee says

A fun and choppy end to an entertaining run.

World: The art is fantastic, I've been a fan since the first issue and this does not disappoint. It's weird, it's colorful and not broody like most supernatural books, I like it. The world building this time around is pretty much self contained into Strange's world and more importantly Aaron's part. In the final arc we get the culmination of his story and a resolution of his world.

Story: A bit choppy, a bit too easy as a wrap up and a bit too pacey but overall a fun little read. Aaron has done things in his run that has changed the status quo, I don't know how much it will change with the new creative team but it was fun while it lasted. The tone of the book and the series was both fun and dark at the same time a balance that worked very well. The end of the Mr. Misery story was kinda meh and kinda expected. It was intimate, it was small and personal which I liked but a bit too convenient. The lasting thing that I personally will remember for this series and I wished we had more time to explore is Zelma.

Characters: Strange is interesting in this version, the Aaron version. I like how he's depowered and has a place to build up and I like how quirky and weird Aaron has made him. I don't know what's gonna happen with the new creative team but this was fun while it lasted. Zelma is the best addition and I am hoping we get more of her with the new team she is a great sounding board and our eyes into Strange's strange world. Wong was Wong, I think Aaron didn't really know how to deal with him and his relationship with Stephen so I guess the end is fitting. Mr. Misery was a visually interesting character but not really all the original and in the end his arc was kinda forgettable.

An interesting run that tried new things and created a character I really enjoyed.

Onward to the next book!

Tom Ewing says

Taken as a whole, Jason Aaron's Doctor Strange run is coherent and satisfying - definitely one of the highlights of a rocky period for Marvel as a whole. But it still ends up reading more like a series bible than a fully-fledged series. Strange certainly needed that repair work - nobody has known what to do with him for years, and his role in Secret Wars smacked of Jonathan Hickman needing a particular tool and deciding Strange would do.

Now he's got a clean slate, a fresh cast and a more defined role and power set, plus a relatable set of reasons for why he's so aloof. This is a Doctor Strange writers can pick up and work with, and Aaron deserves a lot of credit for that. But Strange is always at his best when filtered through a writer's particular vision of the magical and weird, be it Ditko's sense of cosmic justice or Engelhart's refraction of the lysergic 1970s. Jason Aaron's concept of magic is a mix of the whimsical and the gross, with the Sanctum Sanctorum a grown-up take on Jan Pienkowski's Haunted House pop-up book, full of haunted fridges and nastiness lurking in cupboards. Whether you like it is down to personal taste - certainly you couldn't ask for a better artist for this stuff than Chris Bachalo, but after four volumes of tentacles and puke the vibe was wearing thin for me.

Craig says

Kind of a mishmash of stuff here. A bunch of disconnected stories. Different artists from one issue to the next. Aaron's run concludes more with a whimper than with a bang, which is too bad because he started off strong. Chris Bachalo should be given permanent art duties on this title, regardless of who's writing.

Frédéric says

After 2 volumes rather so-so, Aaron & crew bring their run to a satisfying conclusion.

We left Wong in a dire situation when vol.3 ended but our favorite mystic saves the day-at a predictable cost for himself-with the help of... the goddess of thunder herself, cleverly introduced in the plot.

The final issue remodels Doc's entourage before passing the flame to Dennis Hopeless.

On the drawing board all's for the best: Frazer Irving, Chris Bacchalo of course and even a few pages by Kevin Nowlan. A well designed closure.

There were ups and downs during this run but it remains overall a good series. Aaron managed to hook me onto a character that never really interested me before. Kudos to him (and his crew).

Paul E. Morph says

After an excellent beginning and an unfortunate dip in quality in the middle of their run, Jason Aaron and Chris Bachalo go out on a real high. This volume had everything I want from a Dr. Strange book (other than to have it read to me by Vincent Price) and I loved every little bit of it, especially the parts that made me laugh out loud and the parts that made me want to cry. Great stuff! I don't think I've ever enjoyed Dr. Strange this much...

Adan says

Dr Strange battles Mr Misery to save Wong as magic starts seeping back into the world. Thor performs surgery at super-speed, Zelda Stanton, Librarian from the Bronx, gets an upgrade, and there's a side trip to Weirdworld. And most important of all, el Medico Mistico shows up for a panel to tell us what it is that burns at the touch of the Man-Thing ("miedo", for those of you keeping score at home).

Bachalo does most of the art in this trade, as is right and just, but he does take a break to let Frazer Irving and Kevin Nowlan take a crack at the weirdness of Aaron's Doctor.

There are two back-up stories from the Annual starring Clea, who's looking for a divorce, and the Ancient One, who wasn't always so ancient. Both were fun diversions (Clea's had the added benefit of featuring Zelda Stanton, Librarian from the Bronx).

Chad says

Jason Aaron and Chris Bachalo finish up their run by finally taking care of Mr. Misery. (Anyone else think of the Elliot Smith song, Miss Misery every time we hear this cancerous goo villain's name?) Hopefully the new creative team won't be so focused on having Strange eating gross food. I liked the little change in the status quo at the end of the story, which I hope will set up an interesting direction for Dennis Hopeless to take the series in.

Carol Rodríguez says

Con este tomo se pone fin al Doctor Strange reinventado por Aaron e ilustrado por Bachalo, y estoy deseando ver el trabajo de otros autores. Ha sido una experiencia divertida e interesante, dicen en el epílogo que querían hacer algo lovecraftiano y con humor y se consigue, además de rescatar personajes míticos de Marvel y dar un giro a la magia, al Doctor y a sus colegas.

Este tomo en concreto sigue siendo igual de disfrutable. Las ilustraciones de Bachalo, que al principio me parecían confusas (y he visto en otras reseñas que no es solo cosa mía), en este volumen están mucho más depuradas, y el colorido del mundo mágico me encanta (me recuerda mucho a cuando sale Delirio en Sandman). En el primer capítulo las ilustraciones son de otro artista (desconozco el motivo), pero también me gustaron mucho.
