

Eclipse Volume 1

Zack Kaplan

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Zack Kaplan : Eclipse Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eclipse Volume 1:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ken M. Jalengood story2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Stay for the science and artBy brutusmuktukA neat sci-fi horror concept falls prey to choppy storytelling and a rather simple showdown between hero and psychotic, cliché villain. At the start we learn a horrifying fact that a solar flare has fried billions of people on Earth, and now people need to flee underground during

the day or get cooked in an instant. This is such a helpless situation, that the star millions of miles away from us, the one that provides us with life, could transform into an unstoppable killer. Of course, people, having ingenuity as they do, develop suits that allow them to explore during the daytime, suits called Icemen Suits. Bax is one such Iceman, and he finds himself caught up in an investigation into what appears murder using the sun. The development of this murder mystery is less interesting than the sci-fi concepts that Zack Kaplan shows on the page with the help of artist Giovanni Timpano and colorist Chris Northrop. Those latter two do a great job portraying the world, particularly the blazing sun, and they lessen the horror of crispy bodies by making them appear like something out of a Simpsons cartoon show. The problem is that the story moves a little too quickly, choppily so, jumping from scene to scene every page. Characters and relations are given little time to develop. This is particularly evident when Bax is alone with the Governor's daughter, protecting her. Instead of taking time to develop any intimacy between the two (not necessarily romance), Kaplan jumps to the next section of his story. Most characters are barely memorable, and one, Valerie, is memorable both for her irrelevance and the fact that she for some reason wears her blouse buttoned down while in her lab. Above all this is an action sci-fi story, and it is an entertaining, if sometimes silly one. There are some breathtaking scenes of the city, of a huge solar panel farm, and these are undercut by the usual action stunts you might find in a mediocre Hollywood actioner, complete with the one-dimensional baddy. I'll probably read the rest of the series because of the cool science and art.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the better comic book series of 2016 By J. Higgins This trade paperback compiles all four issues of Eclipse, published by Top Cow from September to December 2016. The book also contains a cover gallery, a commentary on selected pages, profiles of the main characters, and remarks from the colorist and letterer. Eclipse was the first comic series written by Zack Kaplan. It's also one of the better miniseries released in 2016. The backstory to Eclipse is offbeat and original: an intergalactic solar flare has made sunlight much stronger and more lethal, so much so that anyone exposed to sunlight without benefit of a protective covering will melt within seconds. The Flare has turned the surface of the Earth into a depopulated wasteland, and in New York City, civilization survives underground. During the night hours, people come up to the darkened streets of the city, but when the alarms sound for the approach of dawn, everyone retreats down the subway stairs to their subterranean abodes. David Baxter is an Iceman, one of the technicians whose special suits allow them to go about in the daylight hours, tending the solar arrays that provide New York City with its power. As the series opens, the Icemen have discovered a melted corpse lying in a city street. Bible verses have been scrawled on a nearby wall, raising suspicions that the dead man has been murdered. A reluctant Baxter is recruited by the City's mayor, Nick Brandt, to assist an investigative team looking into the murder. It seems that a person(s) unknown has been making threats against the children of the city's business and political luminaries, including Brandt's daughter Rose. As Baxter delves into the origin of the threats, he discovers that the perpetrator is no ordinary disgruntled citizen - and that Nick Brandt is keeping secrets about questionable actions by his own lackeys. What makes Eclipse a noteworthy debut is writer Kaplan's attention to the obvious stuff that often gets neglected in so many contemporary comics. For example, the opening pages give exposition, in the form of narrative boxes, revealing the story of the Flare and its effects on civilization. In an era in which comics writers are admonished to show, don't tell, a philosophy that too often gives rise to incoherent narratives, it's refreshing to see a writer cue the reader in to what is taking place early on in the narrative. I didn't find myself having to parse out conversational asides, snatches of radio or television transmissions, excerpts from books and magazines, lectures to kids in a classroom, angst-ridden soliloquies, etc., etc. in order to obtain the backstory. As well, Kaplan provides as a hero the traditional square-jawed, white male with a loner mentality. In an era in which too many writers fall over themselves in trying to craft complex lead characters, the simplicity that Kaplan provides means that the plot doesn't get sidetracked by detailing the travails of the hero's personal psychodramas. Another strong point of Eclipse is the artwork by Giovanni Timpano. Using a more detailed style that calls to mind the work of Juan Ferreyra (Rex Mundi) and the Eurocomics approach to artwork, Timpano is adept at rendering the action scenes that are the bread-and-butter of Eclipse, as well as the necessarily more static depictions of the abandoned streets of New York City (in a sense, the real star of the series). Colorist Chris Northrop is another reason the series succeeds so well, giving the daytime scenes of New York City the bleached-out, overexposed look in keeping with the concept of an Earth being irradiated by an apocalyptic solar flare. Summing up, Eclipse successfully combines the murder mystery / cynical private eye genre with a near-future sci-fi treatment, and does so using a clear and straightforward narrative. I'm going to be looking for further installments in this franchise.

Imagine if sunlight burned you alive. In the near future, a mysterious solar event has transformed the sun's light into deadly immolating rays. The world's few survivors now live in nocturnal cities. But a killer emerges who uses sunlight to burn his victims, and when he targets the daughter of a solar power mogul, it falls to a disillusioned solar engineer to protect her. Collects issues 1 through 4.