

The new line-up of Uncanny Avengers a.k.a. the Unity Squad has their first outing, which features them promptly being split apart. To be fair, it's a new crew assembled by Rogue for tracking down Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch. There's some dialogue to mention how the original Squad was somehow fractured after developments taking place in other books/titles (such as AXIS) but the actual dis-assembling/re-assembling was pretty much between the previous series and this one, off-panel. On the plus side, this allows the readers to be thrown into the action quite quickly. And the line-up is great. Rogue leading a team of Captain America, Doctor Voodoo, Vision, and Sabretooth? It's the kind of wild mash-up that celebrates the fluidity of Avengers but contains enough grounding in the history of the Marvel universe to feel natural. I mean, it is a bit forced from the events of AXIS, but taken on its own, it's exciting and fun in its feeling of anything-can-happen newness. Who hasn't done their own making and re-making of Avengers line-ups, using all kinds of variety of members? Now it's Remender's chance to show us how it's done. Even so, some of characterization is iffy, at best. I can accept Captain America and Voodoo having interest in following up on AXIS events, even if their motivation is implicit/unstated, but Vision's seething intensity over Scarlet Witch feels awkward and sudden. (It's not helped in that I can't really recall the last time the Vision made an appearance at all, let alone beside his ex-wife.) Likewise with Rogue and her passionate intensity to track down and help the Witch. Their previous heart-to-heart must have been very effective to overcome the heavy-handed animosity they shared at the beginning of the series, as now it's almost to the other extreme and equally as dubiously credible. The action here has three distinct set pieces. The first, a kind of cold open, to use the television term, featuring Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch. The next, the Avengers on their way to track the twins, and finally, a series of one or two page sequences for each Avenger as they've been separated. Each one has Acuña's signature touches. The opening with Quicksilver's moves are dynamic and often takes advantage of comic-panel timing to show speeds. Both Vision's and Voodoo's displays of power are unique to each of them and staged beautifully, with vivid colors and effects. And everyone's scenes, notably with the New Men and with Voodoo's spirits, allow for wonderful character design and costuming. The landscapes and prop details are pure sci-fi goodness, and I particular enjoy the angular and interlocking design elements-- reminiscent of the best of retro-futures brought by Kirby and Simonson. The post Uncanny Avengers #1 appeared first on Weekly Comic Book Review.

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