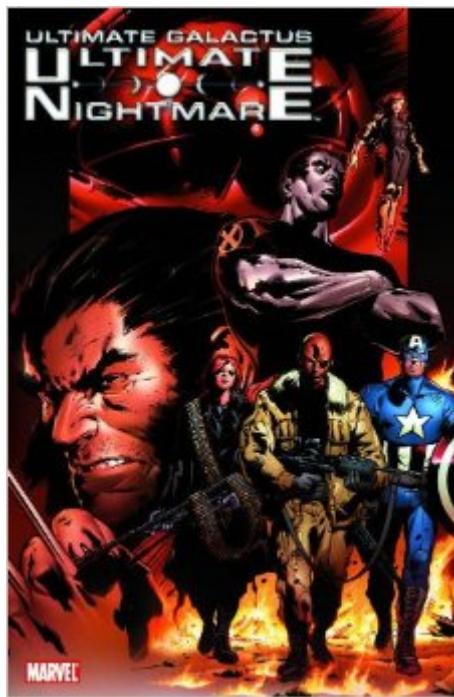


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# Ultimate Galactus Vol. 1: Nightmare



## **Synopsis**

Superstar Warren Ellis teams with hot newcomer Trevor Hairsine (Ultimate Six) to tell a story of international intrigue that shakes every Ultimate book to its core! As world communications systems break down, the source of the anomaly is revealed as Tunguska, Russia. Nick Fury of S.H.I.E.L.D. leads a force comprised of Captain America, Black Widow, and Sam Wilson to investigate, while, simultaneously, Charles Xavier of the X-Men dispatches his own team consisting of Jean Grey, Wolverine, and Colossus. And what they discover there - and what happens next - defies belief!

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Undoubtedly one of the best and most prolific writers in comic history, Warren Ellis, who has given us the classic *Transmetropolitan* series, had an unheralded run on *Hellblazer*, and crafted classics with *Planetary* and his current run on *Ultimate Fantastic Four*, has crafted something really special with *Ultimate Nightmare*. I've never been much of a fan of Marvel's Ultimate line, and besides Mark Millar's Ultimates has anything else in the Ultimate universe impressed me, but Ellis weaves a tale that begins and ends with some cataclysmic results. It all begins when every communications device and psychic on the planet receive an image of an alien race being obliterated, and the source of the signal is traced to Tunguska, Russia. Professor Charles Xavier sends three of his X-Men; Wolverine, Jean Grey, and Colossus to investigate, while Ultimates leader Nick Fury, along with Captain America, the Black Widow, and Sam Wilson (with Falcon wings in tow) check out the

source as well. I won't ruin the twists and surprises in store, but all I'll say is that longtime Marvel fans who may have been turned off by the Ultimate line will be in for a real treat here. The art by Trevor Hairsine is great as well, and his rendering of the signal received all over the planet is simply chilling. All this sets the stage for Ellis' next Ultimate mini-series, entitled *Ultimate Secret* which introduces Ultimate readers to another old time Marvel icon.

This was a fine read, with some very effective sequences... The story starts with Earth being bombarded by an intergalactic SOS signal which depicts the annihilation of a highly civilized alien species. Images of their destruction, with corpses piled high in a manner reminiscent of the Holocaust, flood the planet, taking over every broadcast device on the world. Not only do the images interrupt our lives, so does the emotional content of their mass death, with their anguish and fear broadcast on every frequency known to man. A wave of fear and suicidal depression follows, prompting a response by Nick Fury's SHIELD and Professor Xavier's X-Men, with both groups being clueless about the real cause of the "attack." The story unfolds gracefully, aided by striking, hyper-realistic artwork. Best of all, I thought, was the cold, lethal efficiency of the SHIELD agents, which may take some readers by surprise. I found this book thoroughly entertaining... definitely worth checking out!

Two groups, one consisting of Nick Fury, Captain America, Black Widow, and Sam Wilson; the other of Jean Grey, Wolverine, and Colossus, delve deep into Russian territory to investigate the site of a comet crash. In search of a mysterious message causing horrifying suicides and mass panic, playing across every communication device on Earth, the groups meet. Experiments gone wrong await them.. and is it Cap's fault? This was a fun read. I really don't read much of these characters. Come to think of it, I don't think I've ever read any of their material. No Ultimates, and no X-men, so this was pretty cool for me. Also made me realize how slacking I am in the superhero department. It's an interesting premise, one that I want to see through to the end. So the next two volumes are on the list. Side-Note: I really liked the artwork here. Coincidentally, the artist was Trevor Hairsine, who I just read yesterday in the form of *Divinity* #1.

Occasionally I like to pick up a graphic novel or two when I get bored. I was in such a mood when I ran across this book. Unlike most comics out there, both the writing and the art are great. The pacing is perfect, there's cinematic art instead of a bunch of words explaining everything, and the atmosphere is just flawless. The one issue I had is that the dialog is mostly passable, but it never

took me out of the story. Pick this up if you get a chance. It starts with the Tunguska Event of 1904, blazing through to 2004, and the story just does not let up. You won't be disappointed.

I liked Ellis's work on Ultimate Fantastic Four and I liked the teams being used here (a small squad each from the X-men and the Ultimates) so I picked this up. The writing is very well done and there's a classic horror movie/sci-fi vibe to it that builds up to a nice climax. With a nice small team each of the characters gets a few moments; I particularly like the interaction of Logan and Jean Grey and Falcon and Captain America. On the down side its just a little slow (decompressed style) and there quite a few pages thrown away story-wise. However the art is excellent and apart from a few scenes makes all the superfluous splash pages worth it. I'd never heard of Trevor Hairsine before but he works really well with the mood of the story, from the creepy red/dark tunnels in Russia to the wide open shots of Falcon in the jungle or Helicarriers in transit. It all looks damn good. My only complaints are that Jean Grey's hair isn't colored red very well at all throughout most of the book and Logan looks a bit too much like a shaggy dog, but those are minor nitpicks. Well worth picking up for any Marvel fans interested in a sci-fi/horror adventure and a great take on Galactus.

One of the greatest things about the Ultimate universe is the way old and venerable characters and storylines are treated with a 21st century sensibility, and that they are almost totally devoid of "filler" the way Marvel's 616 (or "regular") universe has been throughout the years. "Nightmare" gives us the best of what we've become used to in the Ultimate universe - gritty, realistic characterizations, and compelling, suspenseful storylines - while touching on territory that is so far unexplored in this imprint... the coming of Galactus. It also gives a weight and a mystery to Galactus (or Gah Lak Tus, in this incarnation) that was not present in its original incarnation. The book itself is very suspenseful and reads like a horror story, and is compelling enough to hook even someone uninitiated to these characters at all. Best of all, at the end, the reader is left wanting more, and looking forward to the next two installments in this series.

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