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Book Title: Nemesis #4

Rating: 2

Writer: Mark Millar

Artist: Steve McNiven

Publisher: Marvel Comics

Millar and McNiven’s *Nemesis* has been an unreliable rollercoaster of quality. The first issue introduced an uninspired concept about a batman-type character who happens to be villain. What it lacked in originality was made up for in brutal violence and excessive swearing. Worst of all about its debut was that McNiven’s art was not its usual spectacular self. The next two issues proved to be superior in every regard and it looked like the series was building to a magnificent finale.

Unfortunately issue four proved to be nearly as bad as its premiere. This time the blame can be squarely placed on Millar, who seems to be entranced with the idea of Hollywood. I do not mean to imply that this comic was created with the intention of becoming a blockbuster, perish the thought. It is just that the twists and turns of the plot which peels back the layers of deception seem to be snatched right out of action cinema. Anyone who attends the theatre regularly during the summer months should feel some déjà vu while reading this comic.

The ending naturally leaves the potential for sequels galore, which did not particularly surprise or offend me. It is simply something that was to be expected. What is unexpected is just how asinine the final twist is to reach that possibility of more *Nemesis* comics. Millar’s attempt at a big moment to shock the reader fell flat in the worst way imaginable.

If not for the fantastic artwork of McNiven I would have nothing good to say of this comic. His explosions are beautiful blooms of fire and wreckage on the page, they really catch the eye. His ability to communicate fear, rage, and sheer sinister joy on the faces of the characters is masterful. Best of all was the final shot of Nemesis that is quite riveting in its unnerving nature, very creepy. Along with the prison slaughter in issue three, this was probably the best image to capture the character’s madness. McNiven was also very good in the last pages that were lighter in tone compared to the rest of the comic. They were very sweet scenes that were a nice change from what had transpired before.

McNiven is the only reason to purchase this comic. Millar’s story is a disappointment to me, but if you are one of his fans you should enjoy the tale no matter where it leads. I say, skip it.