



Ex Machina, Vol. 9: Ring Out the Old

Brian K. Vaughan , Tony Harris (Illustrator) , John Paul Leon (Illustrator)

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In this final volume, the tale of Mayor Hundred speeds towards its conclusion. Mayor Hundred descends into the sewers of New York City to finally learn why he was given the strange powers that helped him become the super-heroic Great Machine. A powerful new archenemy reveals a terrifying plan that's been in the works since the very first issue of EX MACHINA!

Ex Machina, Vol. 9: Ring Out the Old Details

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From Reader Review Ex Machina, Vol. 9: Ring Out the Old for online ebook

Chad Jordahl says

Mixed feelings about issue 40 in which writer BKV and artist Tony Harris appear as central characters. Stunt comic-ing, but fun.

Aside from that, I'm in love with these characters and their world. Feeling disappointed that it's nearing the end.

Anna says

God it feels good to resume this series. I'm glad I didn't forget too much of it over the space of, what, a year? I never would have thought that I would be reading it during such tumultuous political times. It makes me yearn all the more for a leader like Mitch Hundred.

Dana * says

AHHHH Thank you an excellent volume, much better than the last. So before we say goodbye to our hero, lets have the explanation of WHY he go his powers and from whom.

OK, so it is fantastical, but not out of the expected for a super hero. Throw in the idea of some parallel universes and an alien takeover, FUN.

This volume feels more superhero comic book-ish than the series has in awhile, and although that is not really my favorite type of story, it totally fit in the timeline of the series at this point.

Get prepared for the batshit ending, what a great setup.

Licha says

Vol. 9 of 10

The series is getting tiring. There's a villain in this one who can talk to plants, another one who can talk to animals (Pherson, from previous issues), and both are out to get Mitch. The reporter Mitch dated for about a minute is back and wants something that belongs to Mitch.

Kemper says

Mitchell Hundred was a nerdy civil engineer in New York. While inspecting the Brooklyn Bridge, a mysterious explosion injured him badly and left him with the ability to talk to machines and make them obey his commands. So Hundred did what any self-respecting nerd would do: he tried to be a super-hero. But Mitchell found out quickly that vigilante justice is a lot harder than it looks in the comics so he tried to use

the fame he acquired to be elected mayor of New York. Thanks to his heroics during the 9/11 attack, he won the election, but politics is even tougher than fighting crime.

Brian K. Vaughan is treating this series like his other masterpiece, *Y: The Last Man* by having an overall story arc that will wrap up in the near future. This installment definitely feels like the beginning of the end. Hundred's first term as mayor is almost up, but the flashback sequences to his time as The Great Machine (Yes, that's really what he called himself in his hero persona. Told ya he was a nerd.) are shedding more and more light on his history, and current events are finally giving us the origin of his powers. It looks like things are about to get seriously strange, and Hundred's political career probably won't be the only casualty.

Vaughan and artist Tony Harris also engage in some fun meta-fiction by incorporating themselves into the story by having them pitch the idea of doing Hundred's autobiography as a comic book to the mayor and his staff.

I can't wait to see how the series ends, but I'll hate to see it go.

Brad says

Everything this series does well was well-done in this book. The main story, at the end of the book, advanced the plot in a "oh, I guess Brian K. Vaughan really does have an ending planned" way. There's a nice mix of idealistic politics, botched superheroism, plus nice development on the nature of Mayor Hundred's powers. The extra issues, at the beginning of the book, are fun side stories, including an issue featuring Vaughan and Tony Harris on the page. (I have a feeling the bald Vaughan just wanted to copy the bald Morrison, who did so in a much more deus ex machina way in *Animal Man*.)

Abigail Pankau says

A super hero starts to set up his next step in his political career. This volume gets back to the overarching storyline of where these super powers came from and why, which makes it more interesting.

Sam Quixote says

"Ring Out The Old" features Mitchell Hundred's old enemies as they mass for the final book in this superb 60 issue series. Pherson (the guy who can talk to animals like Hundred talks to machines) brings New York to its knees using the animal that lives in their millions under the streets of Manhattan, a psychotic killer who claims the plants talk to him murders one of the city's newspaper publishers, and Kremlin and January are planning something to bring Hundred down.

There's also a big reveal at the end about how Hundred got his powers and where they came from, indicating a strong finale for this great series. Vaughan and Harris also get playful in a one-shot issue playing themselves as they go to an interview to write a comic series of Hundred's life. Very meta, very funny, especially as they don't get the job!

I was wondering how this series would end, thinking that there are a lot of unanswered questions but it seems

Vaughan and Harris have got it under control and the finale looks to be a doozy. Strong writing from Vaughan as always, great dialogue, and tremendous art from Tony Harris, it's a great addition to "Ex Machina" and I can't wait for Volume 10!

Cody says

3.5/5

One volume left. A significant portion of this book is devoted to Mitchell Hundred meeting with Brian K. Vaughn and artist Tony Harris to potentially hire them to write his autobiography. I've never been a fan of fiction where the author inserts themselves into the narrative (I'm looking at you, Stephen King). At best it's a diversion from the main story and at its worse it can be seen as awfully vain. I think what's frustrating me most is that the main story of Kremlin and January's betrayal was introduced and immediately put on the back burner in favor of less interesting, one-off bits.

It's almost as if BKV introduced the betrayal storyline and immediately realized there wasn't enough intrigue to fill out multiple issues. The saving grace of this volume is that there are (yet again) more story beats introduced to--what feels like--set up the climax of the series. But as in past issues, it's only hinted at and doesn't feel like the legwork was done to warrant an expansion into alternate timelines, automatons, and mystery boxes. When these details are all dumped in the span of a few pages, the material isn't given time to breathe.

Callie Rose Tyler says

This volume had a slow start with a sort of standalone issue involving a lot of meta-writing. The actual author and illustrator of the series, Brian K. Vaughan and Tony Harris, are visiting Mayor Hundred to be interviewed for the job of crafting a graphic novel biography. It would have been a clever cameo if it had stayed as such but after several pages I just found it to be a little self-serving as it didn't really further the plot or expand any of the series characters.

There is an interesting introduction to the ultimate urban farmer/tree hugger and we get more Pherson. This volume finally gets back to filling in the blanks of Hundred's past but also delve further into why he has these powers. At the same time, we start to see a change in the "independent" for-the-people Mayor as his integrity is called into question.

The volume adds with a bang as we see the origin of a brand new and final super villain.

Mackenzie Melo says

100/Hundred!

PvOberstein says

This is the best self-insertion I've read in forever. Good dangling off all the loose ends that are hopefully going to be tied up.

James says

Rat swarms are scary things. The plot has definitely taken quite a turn for the better with a twist that was well introduced.

Lara says

This started getting a little more interesting towards the end, but I realized something: I am really far more interested in a comic book about a mayor who happens to be a former superhero than I am in a comic book about former superhero who happens to be mayor, if that makes any sense. I just find myself far more interested in how Mitchell Hundred is going to handle various volatile political situations than I am in how he's going to handle whatever obnoxious wannabe superhero or supervillain is currently rising up to annoy the city of New York. I don't know...I just find myself growing a little bored with those guys. And when the hell is that January going to actually DO SOMETHING? Stop your bitter moaning and get to work already, J!

David Schaafsma says

My favorite, I think, of the nine so far. I liked a lot of this one, and maybe especially (spoiler alert!) the "meta" idea of Mayor Hundred hiring Brian Vaughn and Tony Harris to do his biography.... the comics refs throughout the series are fun, as the Mayor is a comics nerd.... But this second to last book is terrific and helps to set up the epic finish...
