



Crash & Troy

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A mutant and a transient human consciousness embark on a dangerous mission to prevent mass destruction in *Crash & Troy*.

Crash is a mutant with superhuman strength; he and Troy 3.0, a singular human consciousness that can move into a variety of robotic husks, are mercenaries. They free a captive from a prison planet in exchange for a large sum. But the man whom they rescued is the dictator of Wexia-2, and he threatens the galaxy with a black hole manipulator. Faced with prison for their crimes, Crash and Troy commit to go to Wexia-2 with Delphi, their handler, to recapture the man they freed. Once they land, Crash, Troy, and Delphi face hordes of enemy guards to complete their mission.

The book is action-oriented, with liberal doses of humor: Troy is a fashion-obsessed Meryl Streep fan, and the villains, Jongil and his son Jongun, are inspired takes on North Korea's reigning family. Crash and Troy aren't deep thinkers, and Troy serves as comic relief throughout the story. But although Troy suggests the mission to Wexia-2 as a way to avoid prison time, Crash shows real growth when he's forced to consider his own selfishness and accept responsibility for his actions. Scenes like these, though brief, offer a bit of substance in the otherwise breezy narrative, and they're a necessary counterbalance to the jokes and fighting.

The art is colorful, kinetic, and loaded with eye-catching stylized sound effects. Exciting, funny, and setting the stage for future adventures, *Crash & Troy* is a satisfying science fiction romp.

PETER DABBENE (January / February 2023)

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