

= Archie vs. Predator =

Archie vs. Predator is a four @-@ issue limited series comic book and intercompany crossover written by Alex de Campi , drawn by Fernando Ruiz . It was published in the United States by Dark Horse Comics and Archie Comics in 2015 . The single issues were released between April and July , and a hardcover collection went on sale in November .

Following in a long tradition of all @-@ American teenager Archie Andrews meeting unusual celebrities and pop culture icons , this comic shows him meeting the galaxy 's deadliest hunter , the Predator . The idea was first suggested in the Archie office and then proposed to Dark Horse , who holds the license to the Predator character . The companies paired de Campi , a horror writer at Dark Horse , with Ruiz , a regular Archie artist . When the comic was announced , many media outlets noted in their headlines that the new title was not a joke .

The book received positive review from critics , who enjoyed the strange matchup and dark humor . The miniseries was the bestselling book for both publishers during its release and won a Ghastly Award for Best Limited Series .

= = Publication history = =

= = = Development = = =

Following the success of the Archie meets Glee and Archie meets KISS , the Archie Creative Summit held in March 2014 included a brainstorming session for new crossovers . Godzilla and Friday the 13th were considered , but the Predator received the most support . Fernando Ruiz , who was later chosen to draw the comic , was present at the summit and liked the premise , but did not believe it would actually be made .

After Archie proposed the crossover , Dark Horse approached Alex de Campi to write based on her work on the horror comic Grindhouse . The project was originally title Archie meets Predator , but it was changed to vs. because the people involved in production kept calling it that unintentionally , and to parody the Alien vs. Predator franchise .

To prepare for the project , de Campi read over 4000 pages of Archie comics . She drew inspiration for the story from the 1940s era of Archie , when Betty and Veronica had " more edge . " Her scripts were subject to notes and tweaks from Archie and Fox , but de Campi described both licensors as " extremely mellow , pleasant and easy to work with . " She expected some of the notes , such as being told ? Alex , you can 't make jokes about child predation in an Archie book ? . Other times , she was surprised when she did not receive notes , like her use of Emojis for the Predator 's speech . In one case , editorial pushback led her to rewrite a story arc , and she was much happier with the final version . She was pleased when she got to add depth to Dilton Doiley , a character she feels is often overlooked in regular Archie comics .

Archie Comics and Dark Horse Comics jointly announced Archie vs. Predator and the creative team at the 2014 New York Comic Con. Soon after , many media outlets carrying the news used a headline indicating it was not a joke . Series editor Brendan Wright described it as his " most nutso project , " and Jon Goldwater , Archie Comics Publisher and Co @-@ CEO , said the comic followed the tradition of other unusual crossovers like Archie Meets the Punisher .

= = = Publication = = =

A promotional minicomic was released a couple months prior to the first issue . It featured eight pages from the first issue and some of Ruiz 's character designs , including some of his initial , more lifelike Predator sketches .

The four issues were published monthly beginning April 15 , 2015 and ending July 22 , 2015 . Each issue included a one @-@ page , humorous bonus strip written by de Campi featuring crossovers of other Archie and Dark Horse characters : Sabrina Meets Hellboy (art by Robert Hack) , little Mask

and his pals (art by Art Baltazar) , Jughead Meets MIND MGMT : " S " is for Sleeper (art by Matt Kindt) , and Josie and the Pussycats Meet Finder (art by Carla Speed McNeil) .

A 128 @-@ page hardcover collecting the series was released November 4 , 2015 .

= = Plot = =

Archie and his friends take a Spring Break trip to Los Perdidos Resort , and a Predator touches down in a nearby jungle . Betty discovers an ancient Colombian shrine and attracts the attention of the Predator , who follows her home to Riverdale .

The Predator attacks , targeting Veronica and killing several people . Kevin Keller , a friend with military experience , organizes and protects Archie and his friends . Betty takes a picture of the creature and Kevin 's father , a US Military General , identifies it as a teenager from a race of nearly unstoppable alien hunters . Jughead is used as bait to lure the Predator , but the trap fails and the Predator kills the majority of the kids .

Jughead regroups with his remaining friends . Some members of the group decide to split up in hopes the Predator will continue to pursue Veronica , allowing them to escape . Dilton , Archie , Betty , Veronica , and Jughead stay behind . The Predator attacks again , killing Dilton and Jughead and critically wounding Archie .

Betty and Veronica take refuge at Lodge Manor , where they hook Archie to an experimental healing machine . When the Predator attempts to break their barricade , Archie is killed , Veronica is knocked unconscious , and Betty 's left hand is cut off . The Predator shows regret and reveals he was motivated by a crush on Betty . Betty uses the opportunity to wound the Predator . Veronica awakens to find Betty using the face and body reconstruction system on the healing machine to transform the wounded Predator into Archie .

= = Reception = =

The first issue was the bestselling issue for both publishers in April 2015 , and the 74th best selling comic among other release that month . Sales numbers fell just under 30 % through the fourth issue , which was the 102nd best selling issue in July . When the hardcover collection was released in November , it was the 36th best selling tradepaper back .

The first issue garnered an average review rating of 7 @. @ 9 out of 10 according to the review aggregator ComicBookRoundUp . Writing for The Guardian , Graeme Virtue said the " appealingly strange " series fit with Archie Comics ' reputation for pushing comics forward and praised it for remaining true to both properties . The book 's " deeply funny dark humor " was a selling point for Robin Parrish at Tech Times , and IGN reviewer Jeff Lake described the first issue as " pretty darn great . " Comic Bastards ' Dustin Cabeal described the miniseries as " a hoot . " The series won the 2015 Ghastly Award for Best Limited Series .