



Nova, Volume 4: Original Sin

Gerry Duggan (Writer) , Paco Medina

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Original Sin tie-in!

The Watcher's eye presents a pair of mysteries: was Nova's father a murderer? And what is the secret origin of the Black Novas? Sam Alexander grieves for the Watcher and turns to a friend for help - everyone's favorite Guardian of the Galaxy, Rocket Raccoon! As the secrets of the Black Novas and Sam's dad are revealed, Sam's world is torn apart...but can he come out of this stronger? And when Sam discovers new information about his dad's whereabouts, he must find his former-Nova father halfway across the universe...and either give him salvation or justice! Plus: When the Alexander home is threatened, there may not be anything that Nova can do to help out.

Collecting: *Nova* 17-22

Nova, Volume 4: Original Sin Details

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From Reader Review Nova, Volume 4: Original Sin for online ebook

Sesana says

I haven't read all of the Original Sin tie ins, but this is one of the more logical ones. Sam had a fairly close relationship with the Watcher, so he'd have a special interest in his murder. And his perspective, of being totally helpless on the sidelines as heroes at least as powerful and with a lot more experience actually do the work of avenging the Watcher, that's actually some pretty good stuff. It's something we don't usually get to see in those giant, all heroes on deck fights. And it does lead to Sam finally getting some answers about his father. No, it doesn't change the status quo, for reasons that basically make sense in context, but at least it's something. Because four volumes in, we really needed to get some traction on that subplot. All that said, the dialog is pretty uninspired, and Sam's bumbling can be more annoying than endearing. It isn't great, but it is good.

Jeff Powers says

Sam is ever closer to the truth about his dad's past while still managing to deal with his home and school life. This volume is a bit disjointed as it tries to fit into the Original Sin summer crossover series. Even though it was slight and rather short lived, the Nova parts of the crossover felt more weighted and true to the character than any of the other stories that came out in that event. The death of the Watcher has a big impact on Sam's new life and the revelations about his dad have much farther reaching consequences. This volume goes from Original Sin to chasing down Sam's father's past to a great single issue hanging out with X-Men on Halloween. It isn't as cohesive as the previous collections but all the stories add to the building of this young character. Making him into the hero he needs to be. Still lots of super cosmic powered fun.

Hector Ibarraran says

Can I say that Sam Alexander is quickly becoming one of my favorite Marvel characters?

Melissa says

Read as single issues

Daniel Butcher says

A fine story.

For an Original Sin tie-in it did dispense with the secret pretty quickly, though at least that secret had ramifications.

Really the tie-in with this volume is tied to the relationship between Sam and the Watcher, which would have really been fun to see play out some more in future issues. Really Sam being new is really the hero that can look at the Watcher in a new light and start a true friendship. The youngest and the oldest could have been the next Odd Couple.

James DeSantis says

So the series remains fun and exciting yet not as well told as the previous volumes. The Original Sin tie in was weak at best. It had a good idea, The Watcher dying was sad and sudden. Sam's reaction was golden. I also love the twist and making Sam question everything. However, by the end it felt all to much stuffed into a simple told story.

I hope more for the last few volumes. Just streamline story mixing space adventure with real teenage issues. That's where nova does best. When it tries to be one or the other too much it fails to be either all that well.

On to Volume 5!

Wilde Sky says

A boy struggles with school / friendship whilst wrestling his superhero powers.

I thought the bits dealing with the boy's home life were good / amusing, but all the superhero stuff was a bit much for me. The graphics were good.

Mitchell says

Lame. And boring. Don't like the main character as a person or a hero. Don't find the story of his home life interesting. And don't appreciate him in space, with or without Rocket. The bit with of trick-or-treating with the Jean Grey School was pretty good though. Good enough art and writing otherwise.

Adam Fisher says

Just under 4 Stars...

Sam's adventures expand out to include both his view during Original Sin and his father comes into play. Perhaps the last Nova isn't the last afterall! The art and the story are good on this title and I really like Nova's playful exuberance.

...and that end.... joining the Avengers? Maybe?

This title is getting better as it goes along.

Recommend.

Wing Kee says

Wow this is so sloppy and so half measured.

I like this character, there are a lot of good things going for this book and there is so much potential. But man, the writing here just keeps letting this character down.

World: The art is okay, it's nothing really special, it's pretty but it does not really stand out to any art from middle quality Marvel. The world building here is just like the writing, it's spotty and fairly fragmented and lazy. It's there, there are pieces that are good and it keep trying to build the world and painting a picture of Sam's father and where he is, but it's sloppy. It's in pieces and just when you think that we will dive deeper into the world, nope, we skip it and just do a surface pass to it. That's the statement of this series, surface level.

Story: There are still little bits and pieces of good in here and I keep hoping that they will dive deeper into it and make this story deeper than it truly is. I wanted more Sam hunting for his father and we do get this, but like everything else it's so surface and superficial. The home stuff which should have been drama story gold, the stuff at school also, his friends also, but we don't get anything deeper than basic story usage for these pieces to act as half assed surface issues. The Original Sin storyline is also a let down, the potential for seeing a different side of Sam's father ends up being a throwaway. One issue it's an issues, the start of the next we find out that it's been resolved between issues, poor writing. That's the issue, I can't stand it anymore and I think that this series needs a new writer and a new direction.

Characters: Again, the foundation for a potentially great character is there in Sam. His struggles as a young hero should have been story gold but it's never dealt with other than surface level storytelling that's tossed aside rather easily. It's been 22 issues and I don't think it will change with 10 issues left. Mom is also a throwaway, what mother acts like that and is so understanding?! It makes no sense. His nonchalance with his identity, and the left unanswered issue with Cassie is annoying. What about the UFO hunters. Then there is the cosmic characters, also throwaways. I don't even want to talk about it anymore.

This series needs a new writer and a focus, this is simply a mediocre series and a disservice to this wonderfully potentially complex and interesting character.

Onward to the next book!

Shannon Appelcline says

Sadly, after reading a second volume of this new *Nova* I'm still not a fan. It just doesn't seem to have a strong sense of itself. It's a generic kid hero, with a generic (surprisingly supportive) family. I liked this better when it was called *Blue Beetle*; this new *Nova* just doesn't have much heart to its character or much focus.

Worse, this particular volume seems to actively sabotage its plots. First, we get the Watcher killed who's supposed to be a friend of Sam's ... and then Sam barely touches upon the fact for five issues! Then there's a big Original Sin plot where Sam finds out awful things about his father ... and he resolves the issues off-

panel and then describes to us what happened. The plotting on these issues is so bad that I literally feel like I was missing issues.

Matt says

Collects Nova issues #17-22

I'm becoming less and less interested in this book. It started out really strong in the early issues, but has definitely become less engaging as time has gone one.

This collection has an "Original Sin" tie-in, and like many of the other Marvel heroes, a secret is revealed to Sam that changes his perception on something. He finds out information about his dad, including why he has been gone for so long.

Rocket Raccoon makes a cameo early in this collection, and the last issue of this volume has a cameo from mutant members of the Jean Grey School.

Anne says

There's a lot of stuff crammed into this one.

I'm not sure if that's such a good thing, but it's still not the worst comic title I've read. It's passable, but I'm starting to lose interest.

Sam is *still* dealing with problems at school, and he's on the verge of getting expelled for all of his absences. To top it off, their money problems are getting worse, and he's found an eviction notice that his mother hid from him.

Then there's the crossover with Original Sin. Which actually makes sense, because Sam has a special relationship with this Watcher, and has been going to him rather frequently to 'talk' about his problems. So it made sense for Sam to be involved in this event. The part where he found his body was pretty well done.

Next up is a whole thing about his missing father. It appears that his dad wasn't quite the hero Sam thought he was, and may have been involved in murdering members of the Nova Corps.

Or maybe not.

Sam & Rocket get a tip on where Nova's father may be imprisoned, and set out to bring him home.

Oh, and I almost forgot. There's a group of conspiracy theorists, who are starting to hang out in Sam's home town. They're hoping to catch a glimpse of the 'lights' that seem to have a curfew. Because... **ANCIENT ALIENS!**

Alex Firer says

I like Marvel comics. I'm a sad idiot who likes Marvel comics so I read 22 issues of Nova in one day and when I look back I will see a dusty Moby Dick and with my final words whisper the oath of the knock off Green Lanterns of the Marvel Universe.

Anyway I liked this. I like seeing scummy people and I like seeing people deal with the smaller aspects of humanity that Duggan is so good at.

Daniel Sepúlveda says

Los hechos de Original Sin afectaron a muchas series de Marvel, pero Nova es un caso especial. Tal vez sea por la "Amistad" que Sam Alexander tenía con El Watcher o por la verdad que la muerte de éste reveló. Ahora Nova tiene que hacer todo lo posible por encontrar a aquél que desapareció algunos años atrás!

Puntaje: 4,5
