



## Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 5

*Stan Lee*

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SC, TPB, NM/M, New, in cello, By Stan Lee, John Romita, Sr., and Gil Kane. Cover by Steve Skroce. Published in March of 2002, Softcover, 528 pages, B&W. Cover price \$14.95.

## Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 5 Details

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# From Reader Review Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 5 for online ebook

## Sam Poole says

Good, but falls victim to stan lee and his awful and grating writing ticks. Parts of this are truly great and there is excellent development here and exploration of drug culture, white privilege, urban plight, PTSD, student protest etc. Then there are boring and stupid stories about the savage land and Peter Parker growing four more arms (LOL). Overall the development of the female characters stagnates horribly but that's unfortunately to be expected in a lot of ways. No single issue really stood out, though the death of captain stacy, the gibbon issues (seriously good and show peters shifting morality), the issue where spidey stands up for prisoners rights and the return of doc ock were all good. Fine issues- can't wait for Stan to finally leave though.

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## Kyle Berk says

Issues 90-113 aren't the best in the early days but issue #100 is great and the continuing never ending onslaught of bank robbers and crime bosses never gets old.

It's great pulpy fun.

You get four armed Spidey, what else could you want.

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## Andrew says

This volume peaks early with Spider-Man inadvertently causing the death of Gwen's father, Police Captain Stacy. Spidey's struggles with the personal and political fall-out from this event are surprisingly intense and well-written. After this storyline runs its course, it's business as usual for Peter Parker and friends. If you've read any of the other Silver Age Spider-Man collections, you already know what to expect: lots of cornball humor, lots of teen angst, and a sprinkling of strident liberal politics. While this is all still entertaining, Stan Lee seems to be running on auto-pilot. Outside of the Captain Stacy storyline, the best issues come from guest writer Roy Thomas, who introduces the character of Morbius.

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## Paul E. Morph says

This volume marks a major milestone in the history of everybody's favourite wall-crawler in that it covers the issues where Stan Lee (Spidey's co-creator, for the benefit of those of you living under rocks in the DC Universe) stops writing the book.

The issues where the flame is passed are a little ropery; Spidey seems out-of-character in places and we get some of the sillier events in Spidey's career, such as when Pete tries to cure himself of his Spider-powers so he can live a normal life and ends up giving himself four extra arms instead!

Don't let this put you off picking up this volume, though, as there's much more good than bad. There are also some seminal Spidey tales included here including (view spoiler) There's also a load of great, classic John Romita (Sr.) artwork to feast your eyes on.

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## **Zack! Empire says**

These Essential books get better and better the more of them I read. After reading this one I've read over 100 issues of Spider-Man, all in a row, and that really pays off as the reader. You just really get to know the characters after so long. Mostly I feel like an observer when I read comics, but with Spider-Man I really feel like I'm a part of that world.

It's also great to be reading comics I've only heard about, or knew from other things. In this volume we get the death of a major character, the Harry Osborn drug trilogy, and the issues where Peter gives himself three arms. I mostly knew of that stuff through different avenues that were not the comics themselves, so I'm glad I was able to finally read them.

The art is mostly by either John Romita Sr., or by Gil Kane. I love John Romita's work. When I think of Spider-Man it's his version I think of. Gil Kane I don't feel as strongly about. It's not that I don't like his art, but he tends to make the characters look older. There are parts of the book where Peter looks like he must be in his mid-forties, but he is still a young man. It just took me out of the story.

Over all the Spider-Man title is still going really strong and I'm glad to be reading these Essential collections.

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## **Sylvester Kuo says**

Again, there are several arcs in this volume. Stan Lee had to explain the story in elaborated boxes in the multiple issue arcs. Gwen went to London briefly but her relationship with Peter got stronger, although she did a few horrible things. Mary Jane floats around a bit, the Green Goblin was back but pacified again. Many villains broke out of prison to fight Spidey. The 60s stuff keep being added as plot devices which were annoying but otherwise not too bad of a volume although there was little plot progress.

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## **Adam Graham says**

This book collects Issues 90-113 of the Amazing Spider-man and is notable for being the last issues of Stan Lee's incredible run with most of the book by Lee (90-100, 105-110) with the other 1/4 being by Roy Thomas (101-104) and Gerry Conway (111-113)

Volume 4 had ended with the return of Doctor Octopus and Issue 90 picks that up with Peter continuing to fight Doctor Octopus but in Issue 90, Captain George Stacy gives his life saving a child endangered in the crossfire. The death of Captain Stacy was a benchmark in the Spider-man universe with great consequences. It had been hinted that Stacy knew of Peter's true identity and in Issue 90, Captain Stacy actually confirms that's the case.

Peter Parker was in love with Gwen Stacy, who blamed Spider-man for the death of her father. The incident was used by a corrupt candidate for District Attorney to further his own campaign (91-92) and media cover led X-men charter member Iceman to attack. Issue 93 had Spider-man attacked by the Prowler leaving Peter unable to get to Gwen in time. Issue 94 saw Peter ready to hang up the Webs until the Beetle makes a big

mistake. Issue 95 has Peter going to London and try and speak to Gwen but Spider-man has a supervillain he has to fight.

This mini-arch around the Death of Captain Stacy was superb, leading to some very good stories where Peter Parker's emotions and conflicts are portrayed realistically and great humanity. I loved Spidey in London.

Issues 96-98 were another landmark in the series featuring the return of Green Goblin, but also Peter discovering that his best friend and roommate Harry Osborn had a drug problem. The last two issues were printed without Comic Book Code approval and was a true landmark with Lee discussing a vitally important issue in a way that was not too preachy and also very human with Peter Parker getting into action against a band of drug dealers.

At the end of that arch, Gwen Stacy returned and the two are quite a couple. Issue #99 was more forgettable with its focus on prison reform which seemed less like Spidey. Issue 100 was a great retrospective on Spidey with Peter deciding to quit being Spider-man and take a concoction that he thinks will cure him of his Spider-powers. Instead, it gives him six arms. This issue is hard to hate because the six-arms thing is so iconic though Spidey deciding to quit comes out of nowhere because he's with his girlfriend, he's got a job as a staff photographer, and his problems are limited.

This leads into Roy Thomas' mini-run. Issues 101 and 102 resolve the six arms issue while also introducing Morbius the Vampire who ends up fighting the Lizard. Issues 103 and 104 has J Jonah Jameson responding to falling circulation numbers by taking Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy (in a bikini) to the Savage Lands, where they meet Ka-Zar who ends up fighting Kraven the Hunter and a creature named Zog.

Thomas is a good writer and these are fun stories. However Thomas' weakness (particularly in the second arch) is that he seems to forget, this is supposed to be the magazine about Spider-man as Spidey becomes an afterthought in his own magazine.

Issues 105-107 feature the return of the Spider Slayers, a story arch that causes some reviewers to roll their eyes as it was the third appearance of Professor Spencer Smythe and his robots. I liked the arch because the robots are far more menacing than the silly things that showed up back in Amazing Spider-man #25. Plus there are additional elements that are nice to see such as Smythe using anti-crime big brother cameras that he'd been contracted by the city to install and service to commit crimes. Issues 108 and 109 are a story about Flash being haunted for something that occurred in Vietnam and it's a memorable serial that has a good reason for featuring a cameo by Doctor Strange.

Also in Issue 109, Gwen Stacy finally tells Aunt May that she's been babying Peter too much and acting like he's an infant. May reacts like a mature elderly woman would: she runs away from home.

Issue 110 is unfortunate in that it's Stan Lee's last issue and it introduces the weak character of the Gibbon, a hair guy who was such a fan of Spider-man that he wanted to be Spidey's sidekick. Spidey blows him off while searching for Aunt May leading to him to become a villain.

This is consummated in Issue 111 under the tutelage of an A-list Spidey villain who had been thought dead. Unfortunately, both the villain's return and Conway's first issue were wasted by his plot.

Issue 112 sees Spidey running away from fighting crime so he can find Aunt May, and the newspaper labels Spidey as a coward which hails back to Issues 15 and 16 of the story and feels kind of tired but ends on an upswing as Spidey ends the book where he began it: forced to confront Doctor Octopus.

Despite the last few issues, most of these stories stand up pretty well with the Death of Captain Stacy, the Return of the Green Goblin (with Anti-drug message), and Stan Lee's last spider-slayer story being strong highlights. Conway's issues are a bit of a tease as we begin to get an idea of what his era (which would reshape Spider-man) would be like. It's telling that these last three issues feature very little of Gwen showing from the beginning struggled with what to do with the character. He would decide what to do with the character in the next Essential.

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### **Juan Jose says**

gets me to infancy!

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### **Christopher Litsinger says**

It's f-ing Spider-Man, do you really need a review?

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### **Josh Vanecko says**

Ever since I was a child I loved reading spider-man. It gave me dreams as a child. I decided to re-read all the comics again. Let me tell you, this one is my second favorite. Because it always keeps you hooked. I mean Peter is going through many struggles and at the same time having to fight villains. Not only that but he has to worry about his love life, finances, and Aunt May. In this series Peter doesn't want to be spiderman. But, he knows he has to. You can not put this book down. I read it 5 straight hours losing track of time. Its cliff-hanger after cliff-hanger. Then when it looks like everthing is going well, he is framed for murder. So the police are after him. Gwen stacy's dad dies and Spider-man is blamed for it. Unfortunately, media doesn't help him either for ever since spidey came into the crime fighting business, J. Jonah Jameson has put him down. As you read this you begin to want to make choices for him, but it always goes wrong. You may like the happy superheros that get everything they want and are rich. If you like that type of comic, then this isn't for you. You see this comic is not fake, it shows what struggles people actually go through. So we can actually relate to him. Thats what so good about this series. Thats why I love this and I recommend this book to anyone of all ages!

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### **Peter Derk says**

Huge, giant review here because I'm too lazy to post pictures on goodreads:

<http://www.helpfulsnowman.com/?p=5579>

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### **Reggie Kray says**

Nothing like old school Spidey! =)

