



Siege Prelude

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Norman Osborn faces off with Doctor Doom, and his mysterious threat to Doom is revealed. This title collects Dark Avengers number 1, Dark Reign: The Cabal, Thor number 600, Dark Reign: The List - Avengers, New Avengers Annual number 3, Dark Reign: The Goblin Legacy, and Marvel Spotlight (1971) number 30.

Siege Prelude Details

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From Reader Review Siege Prelude for online ebook

Alex Gherzo says

This was a good Dark Reign highlights reel, although it doesn't feel comprehensive.

Spoilers...

I liked the series of vignettes on the Cabal, the group led by Norman Osbourne (only don't tell Dr. Doom that). I'm really interested in knowing what Loki promised Doom in return for his assistance in housing the Asgardians (and I loved Doom's fantasy of taking over the Cabal). I have no idea what Emma Frost is doing as part of the Cabal; was her joining the X-Men a massive hoax (which doesn't make much sense, considering she seems to truly love Cyclops), or is she actually undercover in Osbourne's group? Or is there another angle she's playing?

The Thor story was excellent also, and really plays up Loki's skill at Iago-like manipulation (this, I imagine, will have the biggest impact on Siege). The fight with Bor was sufficiently epic, and the ending really makes you want to see what happens next.

I dig how Osbourne reformed the Thunderbolts as his own evil Avengers team, and Hawkeye's assassination attempt (he has a great jab at Spider-Man too: "We whack this nutjob Osbourne like Spidey should have done in high school and we end this madness."). And the big reveal is that Steve Rogers is still alive! I like how this is handled, with everyone clearly not showing Bucky-Cap the same deference they would to Steve (which actually makes me like Bucky assuming the mantle more; if everyone pretended like he was just as much Cap as Steve, I'd have had a big problem, but as it is he's just trying to do the best he can in a job meant for someone else, and that makes him really noble and heroic instead of just a pointless shakeup).

The old issues of Spider-Man were pretty useless; is there anyone who doesn't know that Norman Osbourne was the Green Goblin? The shift in writing styles is jarring, and nothing is really added by their inclusion. If they had just left the Norman Osbourne history text they'd have accomplished exactly as much.

I have no idea what point it serves, but I really enjoyed the Warrior's Three story. It was fun seeing Thor's buddies get into some wacky adventures on Midgard, and the culture clash of Asgardians on earth never gets old.

Overall an enjoyable time, but I think I want to try to fill in some gaps in Dark Reign before I move on to Siege.

Jordan Anderson says

I understand trying to wrap up a decades long storyline into some kind of conceivable prelude is a difficult task. I mean, you have a ton of interconnected storylines by a bunch of different authors and artists and trying to collect them all together is bound to leave readers with an inconsistent bunch of issues.

I'm not saying *Siege: Prelude* is bad; I actually have many friends who say this storyline is one of Marvel's best (somewhere between *Secret Invasion* and *Civil War*). And I can see where the story is going. It's just

that, as I said, this collection suffers from such a wildly inconsistent batch of comics, spread out over 3 or 4 decades. On their own, or within the main spread they come from, I have no doubt they're good (especially the original *Thor* stuff from Stan Lee) but when you try to make them all flow together seamlessly with modern art and writing skills by Bendis, it's jarring and takes out of the continuity of the entire arc.

That being said, I really enjoy Bendis's stuff. The New Avengers and Osborne's takeover of S.H.I.E.L.D. Is setting up a storyline what I know is going to be really hard to put down. Fingers crossed the next volume's continuity will be better.

Stephen says

Another of these sucky disparate collections that can't hold together (the Warriors Three story at the end was just bizarre). I do quite like the Dark Avengers though.

Marquis says

"A story 7 Years in the making!" This is how Marvel describes this humongous story, but they're wrong! This story is actually 70 years in the making!!! Since characters like Thor, Captain America and Iron Man had been introduced, there has always been this iconic, larger-than-life nature about them; sure there have been personal tales, but Siege is THE story of all these characters and the very real world they live in! And who would ever have thought that crazy-as-a-bag-of-squirrels Norman Osbourne would emerge as such a badass?! Marvel's answer to Lex Luthor is every bit as diabolical, yet no where near as smug. He has issues and knows it. His story of possible, yet unlikely redemption is one of the key driving points of this story. Even cooler, you have Bulleteye as Hawkeye, Daken (Wolverine's recently revealed son) as the official aforementioned clawed mutant, and a Scorpion-turned-Venom-turned the official Spiderman! In a world where the villains are the "heroes" and the heroes are forced to live as outlaws, this is the best main stream Marvel has been: ever! As a diehard X-Men fan, I had generally given books like The Avengers as much attention as I would a good D.C. story, but now Marvel as set every character they ever created on a huge chess board and letting them go all Medieval on each other! So grab some popcorn and a fresh set of Spiderman underoos, cause Marvel has crafted an amazing story of revenge, betrayal, murder and mayhem with gods, monsters, megalomaniacs and mutants that has been a century in the making!!!

Joe says

Wow
just good stuff

Gavin says

So I tried to read Siege somewhat in order, but this was the 2nd I read after reading one stand alone (Siege the Initiative). This book collects all the issues that set things up, including the Cabal of Norman Osborn, Dr. Doom, Loki, The Hood, Namor and Emma Frost (Namor and Frost quickly disassociate themselves so don't

really have an involvement). The dynamic between villains is interesting. It also shows the incident that sets things off, much like the one that set off Civil War (an idea given to Osborn so that he can lay Siege to Asgard (hence the name of the storyline)). Also lays out the villains used to form a new (Dark Avengers) Avengers team including Venom (as Spidey) Daken (as Wolverine) Bullseye (as Hawkeye) and a few others. It also shows the actual Avengers who are hiding out still as aftermath of Civil War, with the Registration Act still in effect. I liked knowing the setup for sure going in. Important read if you want to read this event.

Michael says

Good, but not nearly as weighty as the last 3 or four Marvel events. I think Bendis needs a break...

Michelle Heegaard says

I just loved the story of these 'dark avengers'. Please give me more!

Earl says

The beginning and the end of this Prelude pretty much says and saves everything here.

Travis Duke says

Overall not a bad book but some of the stories are a little out of place. Dark reign story line is great. The bendis stories are a highlight, love meyhews art too.

Christian Smith says

again another bunch of random Dark Reign issues packed into one vol. the timeline seemed a bit messed up plus it just wasn't that good.

James says

Contains some ok stories, but is in no way a decent set-up for Siege considering the entirety of the Dark Reign storyline ess the set-up. Best considered as a collection of loose ends.

Dan says

Excellent intro for this event. Can't wait to see where this all goes...

J'aime says

Siege Prelude is intended to help set the stage for Siege for those who may not have been following Marvel comics since the Skrull invasion (i.e. Osborn's "Dark Reign"). It pulls together various issues across multiple series to show the state of things as the Siege event approaches. At the close of the Skrull invasion, SHIELD has been dismantled and replaced by Norman Osborn's new HAMMER organization. Iron Man has left as head of the Avengers, and they are left as leaderless outlaws.

Prelude opens with Osborn gathering various supervillains/Thunderbolts to be his new Dark Avengers, with each assuming the mantle of an existing Avenger. E.g. Bullseye becomes "Hawkeye", Venom becomes "Spider-man," etc., and Norman himself becomes the Iron Patriot after confiscating Tony's armors at Avengers headquarters. He has also assembled Loki, Namor, Dr. Doom and others to be part of a supervillain Cabal. All of whom are plotting against each other while supposedly working with Osborn. During this time, Loki (reborn as a woman) has orchestrated Thor's banishment and is trying to convince King Balder to take the Asgardians to Latveria. Where are the real Avengers? Trying to keep Hawkeye from murdering Osborn!

Though it is helpful to have some basis for the state of things before Siege commences, this book feels disjointed. This is mostly due to each issue compiled being part of another plotline of which readers do not have the entire story. For instance, Spider-woman is part of the Avengers but I've no backstory on how or why. Prelude closes with an early issue of Spider-man wherein Spidey and Goblin learn each other's identities and follows with a prose "history" of how Norman/Goblin got where he is. Overall, this book feels very piecemeal but is still helpful for newbies trying to orient themselves for Siege.
