



## Spider-Woman: Origin

*Brian Michael Bendis , Brian Reed , Jonathan Luna , Joshua Luna (Illustrations)*

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**Spider-Woman: Origin** Brian Michael Bendis , Brian Reed , Jonathan Luna , Joshua Luna (Illustrations)

This all-new epic chronicles the intriguing secret history of Jessica Drew and her journey from child experiment to Hydra agent to S.H.I.E.L.D. agent to super hero to private eye to Avenger! Written by New Avengers scribe Brian Michael Bendis and searing-hot newcomer Brian Reed (Ms. Marvel), and featuring stunning full-color visuals by the Luna brothers (Ultra, Girls), this story is packed with intrigue leading directly into the upcoming Spider-Woman series from Bendis and Eisner Award-winning artist Alex Maleev (Daredevil). Collects Spider-Woman: Origin #1-5.

## Spider-Woman: Origin Details

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Author : Brian Michael Bendis , Brian Reed , Jonathan Luna , Joshua Luna (Illustrations)

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# From Reader Review Spider-Woman: Origin for online ebook

## Alice says

A friend told me to check out Spider-Woman, I had no idea who Jessica Drew was until I read Secret Invasion and had a look on Wikipedia! She sounded awesome, and it is always good to find new female heroes to delve into. When I got my Marvel Unlimited subscription this is one of the first books I checked out.

So, as a character I love Jessica Drew. I've seen bits of her since in Captain Marvel stuff and she's a lot more light hearted there. This is a pretty dark and tragic origin story that has her being trained and brainwashed by HYDRA, and send after SHIELD. The story isn't great.. the pacing is weird. There are huge time jumps that miss out some potentially interesting stuff. She goes from teenager to ass-kicking agent out of nowhere, it would be good to see her get used to her powers (they seem to me electrical energy and flight). It's almost like a timeline, or an outline with no fleshed out plot.

Also the artwork is sloppy, not a fan.

Jessica Drew I love.. this book is average, but it was a decent introduction to her and I'll definitely be reading New Avengers to see more of her.

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## Nikki says

I've loved what I've seen of Jess in Captain Marvel, but this is a long way from that cheerful character. This is Jessica's dark past, her birth and her training as a member of Hydra. We see a couple of flashes of her later humour -- when told her costume doesn't count as a uniform, she retorts that she'll just go and break that to Captain America -- but mostly this feels a bit flat, despite the emotional content. It just goes too fast: one minute she's a seven year old in an adult body, the next she's an adult who's willing to sleep with her enemy to get what she needs, using her body consciously and purposefully.

The art is okay, but nothing special -- people kept talking about the Luna brothers when I was looking up this comic and raving about them, but the art here felt kinda flat here, too.

Still, it's good to have more backstory on Jessica Drew.

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## Stephanie says

I preface this by saying this is not a comic character that I have ever followed and know very little about. That being said it was an OK story and the artwork was OK. I agree with Anne too that the brownish tones were a little too dark and maybe the artist chose that coloring because of the dreariness of the situation but I need vibrancy. Anyway I liked the ending and would read more about Jessica Drew.

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## Hector Ibarra says

A great story about Jessica's dark past. I loved how the Luna Brothers art made it feel like it wasn't a supreme comic, but something else. I was amazed by how much character development Bendis was able to fit into such a small Ammon of narrative space. It made me want to read more stories feature Spider Woman.

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## Allison says

Nick Fury demanding a Dr Pepper during an interrogation is pretty great.

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## Clay says

Decent story. Terrible art.

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## David says

This "reboot" origin miniseries by Bendis retells the story of Spider Woman, mostly sticking to original Marvel canon but adding some more details about her parents. It has clean artwork and very nice coloring, with an almost vintage four-color comic book feel but a modern palette. This is the original Marvel Universe, with the original not-Samuel Jackson Nick Fury in charge of S.H.I.E.L.D. And unlike the Black Widow volumes I just finished, Spider Woman carries her own story without any guest appearances from other Marvel heroes.

Jessica Drew grew up on Wundagore Mountain, and had an "origin story" not too different from Peter Parker's - except instead of being bitten by a radioactive spider, she was zapped by a laser beam carrying spider DNA while *in utero*. Yeah, I don't know how a laser "compiles" DNA either, but there you go. The laser went through a "Wundagore Widow" and into little pre-natal Jessica Drew, and ten years later, she's sticking to things and shooting electrical beams from her hands.

Her parents, it turns out, were actually being financed by Hydra, and Jessica spends much of the rest of her life being chased around by both Hydra and S.H.I.E.L.D. She spends time as an agent of both, but eventually (a little too abruptly, I think) joins the side of the angels.

Of course this story was a bit abbreviated, trying to introduce an established character with a lengthy history in five comic book issues. But it was a good introduction to the character, and depicts her as a combination of sweet and naive and cold-blooded killer.

This is not really a "light" superhero story for younger readers, but it's suitable for teens and does not require an intimate familiarity with 30 years of Marvel history.

All that said, this is a fairly compressed story that skips over a lot of things. Jessica's abrupt development from a girl who spent ages 10 to 17 in a coma to a skilled espionage agent able to go to ground and evade both S.H.I.E.L.D. and Hydra for *years*, and who also apparently gained the sexual and psychological

maturity of her physiological age, was not really explored much.

I liked this book, but 4 stars is being a little generous because I am a Spider Woman fan.

Spider Woman is probably my favorite non-X-Men Marvel heroine (though Captain Marvel is cool too). I actually have a Spider Woman collectible figure:

Ain't she cute? So when does Spider Woman get a movie?

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### **Tsana Dolichva says**

Spider-Woman Origin written by Brian Michael Bendis and Brian Reed and illustrated by the Luna brothers attempts to summarise Spider-Woman's origin story. It doesn't do a stellar job, though I suspect this is at least partly due to being limited to five issues. I also read Spider-Woman Saga which is a short (10 page) one-shot summarising Spider-Woman Origin and bridging the gap between it and Spider-Woman Agent of SWORD. This review contains spoilers as I intend to discuss some problematic elements of the story. Read at own risk.

This was a weird comic. I feel like they wanted to cram so much backstory into five issues that at times it felt like a montage sequence from a movie. According to Wiki, apparently this story rewrites/retcons a bit of Spider-Woman's history for more modern comic stories, but from the summaries I read it doesn't strike me as wildly different, more like shifting timelines around. My main problem with this story is how shallow it was. There was little depth of character and zero nuance to events that really should have been nuanced. You know, like a movie montage.

After a supposedly horrible childhood — we really don't see anything horrible happening to her, other than being isolated with her parents and some medical issues, and certainly nothing that screams evil brain-washing cult — Jessica drew finds herself in a coma between the ages of 7 and 17. So when she wakes up, in HYDRA's presence, she's basically still 7, in a mostly developed body, she seems to magically gain maturity somehow? It's really not explained and it really should be. Because if you assume her mind continues to develop at a standard, she's something like mentally 10 (or certainly low teens, I may have lost track of a time jump) when she decides to sleep with an old dude to get close enough to assassinate him. EW! Between waking up and that moment she does have the chance to learn lots of stuff, but as far as I could tell, HYDRA only taught her how to fight, not how to adult. So when she goes off and leads a semi-successful life in hiding... I just don't buy it. There was a lot of implausibility in this comic, more than usual. Oh, and it was super weird seeing a white Nick Fury.

Given the stolen childhood aspect, I couldn't help but compare it with Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt who lost a similar chunk of her life (but started out older). Unlike Kimmy, Jessica isn't shown as having any trouble adjusting to the real world, which is ridiculous. Like, this whole thing was actually more ridiculous than the HYDRA brainwashing she undergoes. While I bought the HYDRA brainwashing by the end, the problem of how many life skills she could have possibly learnt in between all that martial arts training remains a problem. More than zero, sure, but I don't see how she had much time for it.

To summarise: Jessica's traumatic childhood didn't seem all that bad (like, OK, her father was experimenting

on her, but he wasn't hurting her) until the very end just before HYDRA comes in. I felt like I got a better feel for the character's past from references in Avengers Assemble and Captain Marvel appearances. Spider-Woman Origin just left me thinking, "Huh? Is that it?" The art was pretty and probably the best thing about it. Only a few gratuitous butt shots. I don't particularly recommend reading Spider-Woman Origin if you're looking for, y'know, good comics. If you want a quick summary of Jessica Drew's life, then go for it.

3.5 / 5 stars

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### **Joanna says**

An amazing character with a pure and kind heart!!!!  
A good origin story!!!!

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### **Jedhua says**

ABSOLUTE RATING: {3+/5 stars}

STANDARDIZED RATING: <3/5 stars>

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### **Trey says**

There were panels that made me wonder if the artist was even trying.

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### **Basma says**

I loved knowing the origin story of Jessica Drew especially the I was just recently introduced to her character but the art style and coloring doesn't fit the superhero story at all and to me it feels like such a bad pick. Art styles in comics - to me - have such a huge impact on the story as it's mainly a visual read, and I think this volume could've been stronger if the art was stronger. (Sorry to the artist I just think the style could fit something else not necessarily a superhero comic.)

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### **Kris says**

Good origin story for a character I'd always wanted to know more about. Not a huge fan of the artwork; it wasn't bad, just not my favorite.  
I also liked the inclusion of Taskmaster and Whiplash, two of my favorite Marvel villains.

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### **Eleanor says**

Okay, so the artwork is kind of...terrible. In spots. The rest is just okay. But in a world where most superheroes are men who wear their underwear on the outside of their...suit? costume? Whatever...it's nice to have a female character who is more than just cat ears, a thong, and bad puns. It's even better to have a woman whose back story is tragic and compelling and complex. She's flawed, but understandably so. I rooted for her to kick some ass, and she did not disappoint.

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### **Travis Duke says**

Wow what a great origin story. Bendis writes a touching family story that is executed beautifully. The art is early computer work from mid 2000's and it works well and keeps the story on pace. Agents Carter and Woo cameos (very small) are cool but when she crashes that plane with Jared, wow. I've always liked Jessica Drew as a character more so than Peter Parker, this just solidifies my view.

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