



Spider-Man: The Secret of the Sinister Six

Adam-Troy Castro, Marvel Comics (Contribution by)

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First mass-market edition! Peter Parker, the amazing Spider-Man, has made an astonishing discovery -- he has a sister! Worse, a manipulative super-villain known as the Gentleman, who had a hand in the deaths of Peter Parker's parents, has somehow brainwashed her into becoming the deadly super-villain known as Pity! Together with Doctor Octopus, Electro, the Vulture, and Mysterio, they've formed the newest incarnation of the super-villain group dedicated to destroy Spider-Man, the Sinister Six. The Gentleman's plan to destroy Spider-Man is about to reach its awful conclusion!

Spider-Man: The Secret of the Sinister Six Details

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Author : Adam-Troy Castro , Marvel Comics (Contribution by)

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From Reader Review Spider-Man: The Secret of the Sinister Six for online ebook

Scot Hickey says

good

Ross Vincent says

Completing the story that started 2 books prior.

Spider-Man once again has to take on the Sinister Six. Only this time, we learn what the teams true purpose is. It's not as small as one would assume. We're talking James Bond villain style madness. And, the inside jokes continue up until the very last page.

Eric says

There are a lot of bad guys in this book. The Sinister Six, of course - Mysterio, Electro, the Chameleon, the Vulture, Doctor Octopus and a girl named Pity. The line-up of villains also includes a couple of nutty brothers and even the Red Skull. The book's title should have been *Spider-Man: The Secret of the Nefarious Nine*.

Full review here: <http://superheronovels.com/2013/12/15...>

Craig says

It wasn't bad. Your normal super hero vs villains story. Having grown up with DC comics I wasn't familiar with half the characters in this book that weren't in the 90s animated series or the live action movies but it was still a fun book.

Jaq Greenspon says

Like the other books in the series, Spider-Man: Secret of the Sinister Six uses Adam-Troy Castro's storytelling abilities to overcome poor copy-editing and typos. As the third book in the trilogy, this is the one where everything gets tied together and the bad guys are soundly defeated while the good guys, despite being battered and pounded and ending up in the hospital, emerge as victorious, once again. Even so, there are a number of nice surprises and a few startling revelations.

There's also Castro's incessant inclusions of pop culture references. In the first book, these were clever and

veiled, if you didn't get them you weren't at a loss and it didn't affect your enjoyment in any way. Here though, he seems to finding his only joy in writing the book in how many ways he can shoehorn in a reference and while many of them are cool, there are points when they become distracting... not because they're there, but because you notice when you don't get it and you feel like you're missing out on something, like a private joke you're not in on.

That all said, I did breeze through this in 2 days. It's a quick read, full of action and character development. Castro's best relationship (and probably his best drawn character) is Red herself, Mary Jane Watson-Parker, and her relationship with her husband as Mrs. Spider-Man. She is followed closely by his work with Max Dillon, the living lightning bolt known as Electro. Castro bounces between viewpoints, inhabiting the minds of several of the participants in this drama but these two stand out as offering particularly new insight into both the world of the super-villain and the Hero support network.

Castro also seems to be having a good time playing with the tropes of the comics (which it's obvious he either knows very well or had studied extensively before embarking on this work). The various agencies involved in the operations, the references to other characters and events within the Marvel universe all serve to create a fully realized world.

The only downside, really, is the moments of dropped threads and missed opportunities. When the plot hinges around a device which can replicate the powers of the bad guys, you have to wonder why the bad guy didn't just create the desired effect rather than having the group go through the motions of stealing the device? Also, and this was a big one for me, Castro ends a chapter with Mary Jane watching the news and hearing about her husband's death in an Italian restaurant (and really, where was the Billy Joel reference here?) and the next time we see her, the action is over and the happy couple has been reunited. This seemed to me to be an amazing opportunity since at the moment this occurs, MJ is with Jill Stacy, Gwen Stacy's sister (and if you're not a comic fan, just know that Gwen's death came at the hands of Spider-Man trying to save her after the Green Goblin had thrown her from the Brooklyn Bridge). This is also just after Jill has expressed something akin to PTSD when she sees Spidey on TV and MJ has to assure her (although she can't say why) that she knows Spider-Man is really broken up about Gwen's death. Just imagine the scene when Peter Parker's wife totally loses it when she hears about Spidey's death in front of a woman who blames Spidey for the death of her own sister. That's dramatic gold and character development silver right there. Would have loved to see that play out onstage rather than have it swept under the rug in favor of more action sequences.

Finally, the epilogue is fun, and again provides a nice look into a character we're not expecting who also gives us answers we've been waiting for. It's a bit of a cheat that he comes in deus ex machina-like to reveal all but given the action of the final battle, it's the only way the information can reasonably be presented without even more severe convolutions and writerly betrayal of characterization.

In the end, the trilogy is worth reading. It's a faithful superhero story and adds nicely to the cannon (and introduces a character who may show up in the next Spider-Man film... an added bonus for sure).

Jason says

A well-crafted Spider-Man tale. Finishing off his trilogy, Castro churned out a fast-paced action-packed page turner. With betrayal and heartbreak waiting in the wings and poking its nose in as the tale drew to an end.

A very nice plot twist at the end as well as leaving the future of Pity up in the air.
