

SP|KE | OMNIBUS



## Spike Omnibus

*Peter David, Brian Lynch, Scott Tipton, Franco Urru, Joe Corroney (Artist), Zach Howard (Artist), Nicola Scott (Artist), Mike Ratera (Artist), more... Fernando Goni (Artist) ...less*

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Includes such stories as 'Lost & Found', 'Old Wounds', 'Old Times', 'Spike vs Dracula', and 'Shadow Puppets'.

## Spike Omnibus Details

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Author : Peter David , Brian Lynch , Scott Tipton , Franco Urru , Joe Corroney (Artist) , Zach Howard (Artist) , Nicola Scott (Artist) , Mike Ratera (Artist) , more... Fernando Goni (Artist) ...less

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# From Reader Review Spike Omnibus for online ebook

## Slayermel says

In the Spike Omnibus you will find the following comic series collected and put together for you in one place for your reading enjoyment.

### **Spike: Old Times**

In this story Spike meets Halfrek in a local Bar and after catching up with her discovers that she is there on a vengeance job. Spike decides he's going to do everything he can to help her target survive his 30th birthday, which no other male in his family has been able to do.

### **Spike: Old Wounds**

Fred is abducted on her way into work one morning, and her abductor is a retired police detective who is using her to gain access into Wolf, Ram & Heart to see Angel. The detective can't rest until he has solved the Black Dahlia murder and he has his suspicions that the murderer was Spike, since he was in the area the time it occurred. Spike insists he's innocent and teams up with Fred to prove it.

### **Spike: Lost & Found**

There is a Vampire on a killing spree but the unusual thing about it is the crimes are happening in broad daylight. Angel gets Spike to think back about the time he had the Gem of Amarra, and it turns out there was more than one Gem and Harmony had sold the second one on e-bay for some cash. The team has to work together to bring down the Vamp.

### **Spike vs. Dracula**

This series tells the story of the long standing battle and hatred between Dracula and Spike, and how Dracula came to owe Spike eleven quid.

Some of the illustrations in this series were okay, but some were just dreadful. In some of them I had to really double check back on dialogue to figure out who the character was supposed to be as they looked nothing like Dru or Spike. Horrible!

### **Spike: Asylum**

I really enjoyed this story.

Spike is enlisted to find the daughter of a rich couple who has just found out she's half daemon and has gone and checked herself into a clinic for daemons looking for a cure. When her parents receive a phone call from their daughter telling them she's okay while sending them subliminal messages that she needs help because she can't leave, they decide they will stop at nothing to get their daughter back.

Spike checks himself into the clinic and finds he's gotten in way over his head. Once you're in you can't get out. Now he's on the inside, can't seem to find the girl and he's in deep trouble as his fellow inmates are not too happy he's there with them.

### **Spike: Shadow Puppets**

Well Angel had his turn as a puppet so it's only fair that Spike gets his. He does look so cute as a peroxide puppet in black leather, I think I want one.

Smile Time is back and they have moved to Japan. With the help of Lorne, Spike is on his way there to shut them down. Smile Time is ready for him though, and after battling Angel they have learnt from the

experience and have some new tricks up their sleeve. They have also decided that it's time they go global. ?

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## Suvi says

Review (and thoughts about *Buffy* and *Angel*) coming up later. Whenever I figure out how to write about this stuff without sounding like a squeezing fangirl. Haven't had that feeling for a long time. Damn it.

**Edited 13.8.2012** Right, let's try this. NOTE! If you haven't seen Buffy or Angel yet, you might want to skip the following chapters and move on after the asterisks. Then again, if you're not interested in the TV shows, you might not care.

I watched *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* when they were first shown on TV. The former especially was the highlight of my week, campy after-midnight fun. Although I only watched a couple of episodes, don't know why. Maybe the channel at that time didn't show it from the beginning. Anyway, a few days ago I felt like watching the whole series again, plus the last season of *Angel* (reason will be specified later on). That might have been a bad idea, considering that instead of studying to my entrance exam for minoring in history, I barely ate and slept while I watched all seasons during a very short time period. Ok, I did go to work, but needless to say I couldn't focus there very well. I knew I'd be in trouble when the series didn't have any episodes left, but I just kept on going like a steam train.

Now, the character of Spike. He first appears in Sunnydale in the episode *School Hard*, where he tries to kill Buffy during a parent teacher meeting, but her mother hits him with an axe and he escapes. See, campy fun! Here we also learn that he has a girlfriend named Drusilla (eery nutcase), and together they're like undead Sid and Nancy. Well, maybe girlfriend is not the right word, but they are definitely the best example of affection between vampires in the Buffyverse. Turns out that I loved this kind of portrayal of vampire villains. Spike has the funniest lines in the entire series, and the fact that he's British makes him a tad more funnier. He's also an incredibly complex character.

What's weird, though (and kind of spooky) is that I don't seem to remember him very well from the time I watched *Buffy* for the first time. Granted, I only watched a couple of episodes, but I remembered the episodes where he was really well. In his place there was just black, like there had been no one! Though now that I watched every single episode and all seasons from start to finish, it hit me what I had missed. I don't normally go for his kind of guys, but I can see why Spike has a large following. It's like he has this strange magnetism that even came through my computer screen.

Then about halfway through season four I got spoiled about his fate. Damn it Whedon, why always the good ones? During season seven finale it didn't stop me from crying my eyes out, though. Fortunately I found out that he's resurrected at the beginning of season five of *Angel*. I was a bit disappointed that his character was reduced into a very small sidekick-y part, but at least he was alive and well! And he was awesome in the episode where he's kidnapped by a demented slayer. I wasn't that interested in *Angel* to begin with, so I decided to just watch the cross-over episode where Spike makes an appearance and the whole season five.

Now, let's go back a bit. When I said Spike is one of the most complex characters of *Buffy*, I meant it wholeheartedly. There are many flashbacks of Spike when he was still a human, an aspiring poet named

William who got heartbroken and later turned into a vampire by Drusilla. All these flashbacks give depth to the character. Although Spike got his nickname from torturing his victims with a railroad spike, you are reminded that there are still some of his human traits in him even as a demon. First off, he's a one woman man. Second, as a devoted companion he is motivated by love. He might make (a lot of) wrong decisions, but he does everything he can to maintain or get the love of the woman he wants (whereas Angelus only cares about lust). When Drusilla left him, he was a real wreck and returned to Sunnydale without his usual swagger. He even tried to get Willow to make a love spell to get her back.

As a kid I liked Angel, now he annoys me. I don't know how I'd have felt about Spike if I'd gotten a full picture of him, but most likely I'd have still fallen for the more broody type. Now Angel just seems like a broody pants to me, with the words of Spike. Angel and Buffy were kind of like Romeo and Juliet, a young and sweet high school couple that would never have worked in the real world. When Spike fell in love with Buffy, it caught me off guard. I wasn't sure what I felt about this turn of events, but it worked out great and made Spike even more complex. Everything Whedon did with them, I approved. Considering Spike's personality, having a real fucked up relationship with Buffy made complete sense.

There's a couple of things people tend to ignore. First, Buffy didn't love Spike. She was confused and numb, because after she died she was resurrected by her friends. They thought she had been in hell, but in fact she had been in heaven, where "*There was no pain / no fear no doubt*" (according to the lyrics of one of the songs at the end of the awesome musical episode). Just before Spike's and Buffy's kiss, she sings: "*This isn't real / but I just need to feel*". Says it all, doesn't it? No matter how much I and others wanted this to be a fairy tale, it was far from it. Buffy wanted to wake up her frozen emotions and become part of the world again. It was obvious that these two had raw animalistic attraction to each other, just look at the scene where Buffy wanders off to Spike's crypt and stays behind the closed door, while he's on the other side and can feel her as well.

Then the rape scene. It was so uncomfortable that I doubt I want to see it ever again, but it was an important reminder that even though Spike loved Buffy passionately ("*There's a traitor here beneath my breast / And it hurts me more than you've ever guessed. / If my heart could beat it would break my chest.*"), he was still a demon. In *Buffy* vampires are real monsters. The chip the government implanted into Spike's brain (...) made him more mellow, but his instincts didn't die even if his behaviour changed. In fact, after the attempt of rape he was horrified that he tried to do it, but he was also equally annoyed that he wasn't himself, that he stopped. This sparks him to go on his journey to "give what Buffy deserves". I'm not sure if he intended to get his soul back, or to get his chip removed and got tricked by the demon (I think by what he said he meant that Buffy deserved an ensouled Spike, just as she had had Angel, and with the soul he wanted to punish himself for what he had done), but he got his soul back and things changed.

Now he was comparable to Angel who also has his soul. Yet again people tend to forget that Angel's soul was forced on him as a curse, whereas Spike fought for his soul (even if he didn't mean it to happen). Buffy is horrified, but I think from here on she begins to feel emotionally connected to him (the comfort scene where she just laid there in his arms was beautiful, not to mention the scene where Buffy tells Spike that she believes in him). I don't know what would have happened if Spike hadn't died, but I think Buffy will always consider Angel as her friend and lover, and Spike as her protector and ally. Then again, I guess I'll see if I was right when I start reading the next seasons of *Buffy* in comic form. I hear Whedon has not completely forgotten Spike, they just had problems because some other company had rights to the character. Good, good! Can't wait what Whedon has in store for him!

Oh, and a few words about Angel vs. Spike. The way I see it, Angel as Angelus (his soulless alter ego) is a more conventional evil (BUAHHAAAHAA, I'm EVIL!!) and Spike is more layered. In *Lies My Parents*

*Told Me* (I think) Spike says that Angel made him the monster he is. He's right, you know. Angelus had made Drusilla into a vampire, and when she did the same to William and brought him to him, Angelus was glad that he finally had some male company. They rampaged together and killed and killed and killed, and Angelus was the one who taught William to be a vampire. Eventually he became Spike. But not before Angelus had had his way with Drusilla, angering William into a point of no return.

It was also pretty annoying that Spike saved the world by dying, and no one even said thanks...

\* \* \*

Finally, a few words about these Spike comics. I didn't particularly care about the one-shots, the artwork looked too Photoshopped, the stories weren't that special, and they had continuity problems. The artwork in Spike vs. Dracula varied (sometimes making Spike ridiculously unrecognisable), but the stories were entertaining and you learn why Spike had the two weird vampires with him in the submarine in *Angel's* episode *Why We Fight* (gotta love the comics' references to both series). *Asylum* and *Shadow Puppets* on the other hand were great. Franco Urru is a fantastic artist, I'd like to read more of his comics. These two were also the only ones where Spike's personality fully came through. The following quote is a great example.

*"- Alright, you sodding son of a... No. No no no.*

*- Yes yes yes, sodding bloody brilliant wanker luv git bollocks. Pip pip, long live the queen, bangers and mash. Any and all spike-isms out of the way, cupcake? Good good.*

*- For one thing, admiring your decor. I mean, wow. It's Dungeons & Dragons meets freshman college dorm.*

*- It's from something called Ikea and it's cheap. A champion doesn't need much, just...*

*- a Klippan love seat with lumbar support. No, I can see that."*

And another one:

*"This group is a joke. No slayers, no Vahla Ha'nesh demons, not even a smart-ass with an eye patch. And they want a vampire with a soul to lead them."*

I also spotted a comment in some random post about Spike vs. Angel, and I think this sums up my post pretty well:

*"He was never either the guy who broods or the eeeeevil guy, he could be funny and scary and annoying and sweet and murderous and loving and vulnerable and snarky and sexy and sappy and silly and smart and bad and good - all AT THE SAME time, within the same episode or even the same scene. He could be a punk rebel and a dorky Victorian poet and a dark demonic lover one moment and a bloke who's into watching soaps the next one... He was a far more unconventional and unpredictable character than Angel."*

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## **Shaun says**

I really enjoyed the different stories found in the omnibus. Spike is a favorite of mine from the Buffy universe. Whether facing down Dracula or demon puppets, the Spike Omnibus has something for any Spike fan.

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## **Sarah says**

Its Spike...being. Well, Spike. Covering everything from spats with vengeance demons, Dracula, and evil puppets, and throughout every tale, Spike manages to deal with every fight and letdown with a good zinger and style that is certainly all his own.

Team Spike!

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## **Peter Brichs says**

Ganske fine Spike-tegneserier, som er samlet i denne Omnibus. 4 af de 5 historier er "Spike i sæson 5 af Angel"-historier, og de er ganske fine. Specielt Spike: Asylum er en skøn historie om Spike på et sindssyge hospital for overnaturlige væsner.

Den sidste historie (som fylder lige under halvdelen af omnibusen) er Spike Vs Dracula, som fylder nogle huller i den timeline, vi har set af Spikes fortid - altsammen hvor man møder Dracula. Der er fint med referencer til resten af de gange, vi har set Spike, og det er rigtig sjovt.

Alt i alt en fin Omnibus, omend jeg savner mere af den onde, farlige Spike...

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## **Jsrott says**

I started this having read several of the Buffy omnibuses (omnibi?) and I enjoyed them, but when the action shifts to Spike the great part is that the writers have a lot more freedom to go crazy, and it works. These stories serve to both add to the mythology and develop the character even beyond where the TV shows leave off. Yet, while they are gonzo, they stay true to the characters and their various idiosyncrasies. I would even go so far as to say I enjoyed these more than the Buffy omnibuses.

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## **Lani says**

Enjoyed these witty, beautiful stories about a complicated character.

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## **Jim C says**

This is an omnibus that is about a character that is part of the Buffy universe. Spike is a vampire with a soul and all of these stories take place during the final season of *Angel*. The reader's enjoyment would be enhanced if they are familiar with the television series.

I enjoyed this much more than I thought I would. I always thought adding Spike to the final season of the show was fantastic and this collection just adds to it. I am a sucker when a story provides easter eggs and callbacks to previous stories and this collection exceeds at this. We get call backs to classic episodes like

"Smile Time" and fans will rejoice in seeing Spike as a "wee little puppet man". The stories probably weren't the strongest but the connection to the final season more than made up for it. The only flaw in this collection was the artwork. It just wasn't good. There was one story where I didn't even realize it was the main character for the first several pages.

In one word this collection was just plain fun. It doesn't take itself too seriously and just goes with it. You can tell the writers had fun with it as they have many shout outs to the Whedonverse and to its fans. If you are a fan of this universe, I strongly recommend reading this collection.

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### **Skyler Boudreau says**

Just as great as I expected. It's nice to dive back into this franchise.

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### **Max Nemtsov says**

two last stories, "asylum", and "shadow puppets", are somehow the best in the series

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### **Brittany says**

This disappointment is more than overwhelming right now. How did this go so wrong? The first 265 pages of this were total shit and a waste of time. Asylum was a really legit story that made up about 100 pages. And Shadow Puppets, while funny, was not what I was expecting.

\*\*\*Spoiler free review. Unless you haven't watched the Buffy and Angel TV shows. In that case, there will be spoilers.\*\*\*

I knew going into this that most of these stories about Spike take place between the time that Spike gets his soul back and probably the beginning of season 8. I knew that there wouldn't be any Buffy because Angel was so prevalent in the descriptions I read. I expected, because he's soul-having-Spike, that he would still be the Big Bad while having his wonderful conscience and wit. I expected him to save the girls, have deep and personal revelations, and become an even more spectacular Spike. Again I said, ENTER: DISAPPOINTMENT.

Old Times, Old Wounds, and Lost & Found are so forgettable that I literally have forgotten them already. What I do remember: trying desperately to get through story arcs that were only FIFTY PAGES. How did this even happen? Spike is such an interesting character. It cannot be THAT HARD to create a good fifty page story about the guy.

Spike vs. Dracula was absolutely terrible to me. Dracula was such a boring character to me alllll over again. "Ah, I am Count Dracula. Where are all of my brides because I am so sexy and all powerful." That is literally Dracula in a fucking nut shell. And he and Spike just chase each other over the course of a century, back and forth, because of stupid ass shit that literally means nothing. This lasts for over one hundred pages. Who thought this was a good idea?! (Spoiler: It was Peter David, who I will forever be staying away from apparently).

But then.... THERE IS A SAVING GRACE! Asylum was actually really wonderful. The story line read more like an Angel arc than Buffy, but it worked well when you think of how it fits with the other comics found in this omnibus. Again, I won't go into any spoilers, but I can safely say that Spike is tricked into admitting himself into an asylum for monsters, and he meets some crazy ass demons and vamps and monsters in the process. Awesome read.

And we end with Shadow Puppets, which wasn't AWFUL. But it was just another 100+ pages that I could have done without. A big solid for this installment was the fact that they included some awesome Asylum characters into this arc. Also, there were some insanely witty parts that I couldn't ignore. So this one was worth my time.

All in all I can safely say two things:

1. Skip the first four stories in this omnibus. Just read the good stuff. Please. Don't waste your time. And know that it literally pains me to rate a Buffyverse addition so lowly.
2. If you have not watched Angel, you won't know who a lot of these characters are. That's just a fair warning. You can make it through without a lot of intense knowledge on them though.

Again I say how sad I am about this omnibus. Luckily the last two stories salvaged SOMETHING for me. But this rating breaks my heart. I need the last Buffy omni in such a ferocious fucking way.

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### **Caty says**

O Spike, I'd been lost without you. I devoured this appropriately thick book of your adventures during off hours at the motel on Wed. The whole Buffyverse would be nothing but a black hole without you, and to have MORE of you, canonical but beyond the TV show, made my heart pitter fucking patter. Esp. the long bit in the middle, Spike Vs. Dracula, b/c I have a soft spot for the Buffyverse's Vlad Tepes as well. And besides, it showed you in little clips from 1898 to 2003, always in high and hip contemporary style, whether you were living the "dolce unvita" in postwar Italy in 1959 with gorgeous shades and glossed back hair, or you in 1934 in a loud but awesome LA suit taking Dru to a live charityu performance of Bela Lugosi's Dracula. And your dialogue...oh, god your dialogue. Enough raving from me. Let's just say I love the shit out of you and be done with it.

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### **archdandy says**

I loved it! It was really great to be able to read all about Spike's adventures and it renewed my love for him as a character. He is much more of a rounded character than Angel ever will be! This is definitely going on my favorites shelf.

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### **Isabelle says**

I just couldn't keep going. Some of the art didn't even look like Spike and I was frequently thinking "Spike would never say that!"

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### **Sophia says**

Really enjoyed these stories!! I was unsure of the continuity for some of them but they were good none the less. After reading Spike vs. Dracula, it makes sense what he says in that season five episode, I liked that they made that connection. I love how their issue was over something so silly but it was classic Spike! Spike: Asylum was one of the stories that I was really unsure about. The story line was alright but it was a lot more bloody than the Buffyverse usually is and a lot more crazy (which I guess makes sense since Spike was in an asylum!) I really enjoyed Shadowpuppets, I thought it was hilarious and witty. Plus they brought in characters from the last story while adding new characters which is always interesting. The last part of Shadowpuppets was probably my favourite issue in this book! It had puppet versions of Angel's gang and the way they interacted with each other had me cracking up! Plus all of the 'official canon' jokes were pretty funny too! Overall, a really good book if you want to expand your Buffyverse knowledge and have a little more Spike in your life (and really, who doesn't want that?)

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