



The Amazing Spider-Man: Flying Blind

Dan Slott , Mark Waid , Giuseppe Camuncoli (Illustrator) , Humberto Ramos (Illustrator) , Emma Ríos (Illustrator) , Kano (Illustrator)

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It's a brave new city! As the costs of Spider-Island continue to rise, Spidey's first enemy returns! The Vulture is back and making kids do his high-flying dirty work for him. Will Spidey be able to stop this flying Fagan from twisting young runaways before another boy falls from the sky? Then: the return of the Sinister Six! Find out what everyone's favorite sextet of super villains has been up to while New York was spidered out. All leading up to Doc Ock's master plan to - well - you'll have to wait and see! Plus: Spidey and Daredevil team up! When Black Cat is arrested, Matt Murdock is the only lawyer who will touch her (her case, we mean). The next great love triangle of the Marvel Universe debuts here! **COLLECTING:** Amazing Spider - Man 674-677, Daredevil 8

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From Reader Review The Amazing Spider-Man: Flying Blind for online ebook

Jeff says

This is a collection that contains three different storylines all taking place after the Spider Island arc. The first involves the Vulture and a group of young recruits, who he is turning into a small army of vulture bandits. Holy Oliver Twist!

A recent volume of something else I read (I think it was a Spider-man/X-Men team-up) showed that the Lizard also has a lizard army in his sway. Are animalesque villains with animal-themed armies something we can look forward to in Spiderman stories? I'm holding out for the Kangaroo and the Squid.

The second story is an issue-long battle between the Sinister Six and the Intelligentsia. I'm all for punch-em-out battles between super groups (I'm shallow) and this one has the added benefit of bringing together characters that have a past (Sandman-Wizard, The Thinker-Electro), so there's bickering between kicks in the groin and the usual bitch slapping and laser burns.

The last segment of the book features a Daredevil/Spiderman/Black Cat team-up. Daredevil uses his billy club and a helicopter to unique effect. Spiderman is less quippy than usual. A horny (heh) Daredevil* and the Black Cat hook up. Not much fun here.

*Is there any female superhero in the Marvel universe, sans the Golden Oldie that he hasn't shagged? If there's another Marvel-DC crossover, Power Girl look out.

Matt says

Collects Amazing Spider-Man issues #674-677 and Daredevil issues #8

In the opening issues, Vulture is back and he has changed his MO. Then, there is a fun villain vs. villain story as we continue to follow the actions of Dr. Octopus and the Sinister Six. The Sinister Six vs. The Intelligencia = Awesome

On a side note, the Vulture storyline, and the Sinister Six storyline were both good set ups for what comes next...the Superior Spider-Man.

The final two issues of this collection were written by Mark Waid instead of Dan Slott, and they feature a Spider-Man/Daredevil team-up. Also integral to this two-part crossover is Black Cat.

Andy says

A somewhat mixed bag after the excellent Spider-Island. The first tale directly referencing the recent chaos is pretty fun, Adrian Toomes returns in somewhat malicious form and there are some nice Pete and Carlie moments. I have to admit to a big smile at the final 'Parker sense' gag.

The stand alone Sinister Six story again feels like filler but is clearly setting up the forthcoming events. Odd, amusing in places, a little unclear.

The final two-parter with DD and Black Cat was less appealing. It's clearly setting something up though it's not really clear what and seems more DD orientated than SM. Plus, I still don't like what they've done with Felicia. The art for this was ok but I would still prefer Ramos to be on sole art duties.

So yeah, build up...

Ed says

Wankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.

Peter Derk says

Hey, the Vulture is back!

So while I was reading this, I started thinking. Does anyone fight more crusty old guys than Spider-Man? He's got the Vulture, whose thing is being old and bald as much as it is the ability to goddamn soar above the rooftops. How horrible is that? You've got these superhuman abilities, but every time you're busted the story goes, "You know, that old guy."

Then you've got Silvermane. A super old guy who sometimes has a robot body. It's like the opposite of normal anti-aging surgery. Just concentrate on the body, leave the face a wrinkled mess.

Funny enough, Silvermane was voiced by Paul Winchell, who you may know as Tigger in Winnie the Pooh. You might also know him as Dr. Input from the Jetsons, Dick Dastardly from Yogi, or possibly some other thing that doesn't sound gross. Surely he did one or two of those. "Fleabag"? "Rumpley's Dad"? Nope, all sound horrible. All is lost.

Morlun? Well, he's supposedly about as old as everything that ever existed. Give or take. Not to mention that "Morlun" sounds like an old guy. An old guy whose car you DO NOT use as a backstop in the neighborhood.

Is it a sign of the economy? That people are working longer and longer into their golden years when they would normally be retired? Should the Vulture have hung up his wings long ago, called the Bosley Institute to look into some hair and called it a life?

Because it's getting sad.

If I may.

A few times I went to a stand-up open mic night. And it was alright. Well, it was terrible. But when you have low expectations your basement of terrible is dug deep.

The other folks were okay. But there was something really hard about the older guys. It's easier to be forgiving of someone young who is terrible.

For all I know, these old guys were going up for the first time. And they weren't a lot worse than most of the others. But it was almost like...like you were watching them and wanting them to do better because you were thinking, "Buddy, you don't have a ton of time to get your shit together here."

It must be like that when Spider-Man busts the Vulture. He must be thinking that in all this time, dude hasn't graduated to Real Threat status. He's not even a consistent member of the Sinister Six! He's there sometimes, but not always. Not as many times as he should be for being a veteran. Being replaced in the Sinister Six, it's gotta be like breaking up with your girlfriend and then hoping when you see her out that her new boyfriend sucks. Sucks so bad that you have to resist the urge to smile when you meet him. "Oh, your parents own a laundromat and let you make a living selling Fritos next to the industrial dryers? Wow. Between that and your appearance, it's no wonder!"

The Vulture should hope his replacement is, I don't know, Kangaroo? Big Wheel? If it's Sandman, he's thinking, "Ah, shit. That guy's pretty awesome." If it's the Rhino, he's thinking, "Well, can't say as I blame them." If it's Mysterio, that's like the replacement boyfriend being an artsy douche, but he's actually kind of talented and that's pretty annoying.

Anyway, the Vulture should consider retiring, I think. Not because he's old. Because he's old and that makes me sad.

Koen Claeys says

This trade contains 3 stories and sadly enough only the first one (with the Vulture as a crime lord) was worth my time.

It's followed by a one-shot in which we see the Sinister Six battling the Intelligentsia (the who ???). I couldn't care less about what happened on these pages.

Finally we get a part of Mark Waid's recent Daredevil story-arc, which has (OF COURSE !!!) already been collected in Mark Waid's Daredevil (Vol. 2). Pffft... Such a rip-off.

Mike says

Great change-up on the classic Vulture villain - he's a lot more menacing and heartless than I remember. I'm also in love with how Slott has Carlie and Peter relating to each other now - a little post-breakup sexual tension to keep things more like the early seasons of Cheers than the getting married seasons. (Boy did that stink - the Sam-supplicating-before-Diane storyline, not the Peter dating Carlie storyline - I thought Carlie was going to work out better than it did, or maybe I just enjoyed Petey getting a little and earning it. Wait, where was I again?)

I loved the Sinister Six story - couldn't believe when I truly cared about as many of those villains as I did, reading this. The fact that Slott could draw on so many of their past relationships - it's like we're actually part

of a full, rich and storied universe, not just a revolving door of inconsequential battles between interchangeable players. Ramos graces us with a great, sickening, suitably over-engineered new life suit for Doc Ock - weird and dreadful, makes us almost feel sorry for the wizened dying old bastard.

But the best story - or at least, the one I enjoyed the most - was Waid & Rios' Black Cat + Daredevil tale. Funny, fun, mysterious and smart - it feels like Waid is as good at his craft as any grandmaster is in front of 20 chessboards. The easy confidence with which he writes the interplay between these storied characters makes me so envious it's sickening. Like I need to eat right now before I dry heave with confidence-envy. (hurck.). Dammit.

The crossover to Waid's other book (DD) falls a little flat, and I think it's because of the not-quite-there art by a persona known as "Kano". (Seriously? Who is this joker, giving themselves the Madonna or Jock treatment?) Also doesn't help that the smooth humour from Part 1 didn't stick around for Part 2. (Or again, it might be that the character drawings deflated any good sense the jokes had and they fled in embarrassment.)

Happy enough with this, another solid set of stories in this amazing Spidey-run.

Mike says

This trade contains Amazing Spider-Man #674-677 and Daredevil #8.

In the aftermath of Spider Island tourists flock to New York looking for a taste of super powers they think might still be theirs for the taking. While the spider infection is done, one of Spidey's old foes is happy to step in and give some thrillseekers what they want... for a price. As if that wasn't enough Peter Parker will have to deal with a new, hostile police chief, and several complications in his increasingly distressing personal life.

Issues #674 and 675 are a two part story introducing the new status quo after Spider Island and featuring the old foe I mentioned above. It's an interesting adventure that establishes a new character, redefines a recently absent threat, and gives a glimpse at how Peter and Carlie will coexist from here. I'm still not thrilled with Peter's characterization in terms of his attitude towards the relationship, but it was better in general here.

Next is a stand alone tale starring the Sinister Six targeting another group of villains as part of Dr. Octopus' long term plan. Lots of intriguing character moments with the various members of both teams. Really liked this.

We end with a two part crossover with Daredevil also involving a certain ex of Peter's with less than legal tendencies and a propensity for causing bad luck. This was decent, with some nice banter and a solid enough plot, but it is geared more towards setting up things in future Daredevil issues than on Spider-Man.

Overall a very good installment of Spidey's adventure that continues to add dimensions to the ongoing mythos Slott has been building.

Eldon Farrell says

Not the best of Slott's work, but for a "sandwich volume" (i.e. sandwiched between bigger storylines) it wasn't bad. Enjoyed the fresh take on an old villain too :)

Kameron Nettleton says

Vulture/Carlie Cooper stories were interesting because it was fun to see Pete so uncomfortable.

The Sinister Six interlude was lame.

I'm a huge Black Cat fan, since her dynamic with Spider-Man is so different than the other women in his life, so that part was interesting. Daredevil and Spidey together makes for an interesting pair.

Ottery StCatchpole says

This book is an example of exactly what it is about comic book buying that frustrates me. I love Dan Slott's writing, I love Mark Waid's writing and I read this book because it has both of their stories. In particular what attracted me to this book was the storyline by Mark Waid, that crossed over from Spider-Man to his Daredevil book, which focuses on Black Cat's adventures with our heroes. Now I have nothing against the creators or the stories in this book except to complain to Marvel that they didn't collect the complete Spider-Man/Black Cat/Daredevil story line. Two parts out of three made it into this book, for the last one you'll just have to buy the next Daredevil collection. In my opinion that's pretty d*ck. I would have easily bought a paperback of just that story line, and here I would have bought this one I would have been happy to have a Dan Slott penned Spidey Adventure as well. But money reigns supreme in comic books and the greed of Marvel Comics must be served.

Now that I've gotten that foul taste out of my mouth, onto the actual review of the book.

The stories are brilliant. To begin with this starts off after Spider-Island takes place, and Spider-man has to team up with his ex-girlfriend, a cop, on an assignment to solve some murders that the chief of police is only too happy to consider suicides, but in fact lead to an old Spidey villain. The deaths are violent, but Mr. Slott doesn't delve on all the dark and heartbreaking pain and sorrow of Spider-man, after all this is Spider-man not Batman. Ever present are our heroes quips, and zingers and it's nice to see that despite the fact that he is a member of the Avengers the NYPD still has it out for him. So Peter Parker's life is not entirely uncomplicated. Still he manages to move on. I was especially fond of his back and forth with the detective ex-girlfriend and felt pretty bad that she and Mary Jane decided to start talking to one another at the end, about Spider-man. Poor Pete. Will things ever change?

The artwork for this story was very dark, and not to my liking but I think it served the story well, as it took Spidey to the morgue, and it was set at night, and it dealt with a dark old villain so, while I didn't care for it I can understand how it helped to create the noirish mood for the story.

This story was followed by one involving Spidey's villains, the new incarnation of the Sinister Six. It's an interesting side story in which Doctor Octopus decides to go after a league of self-proclaimed evil geniuses in the Marvel U run by M.O.D.O.K. Suffice to say, the doctor doesn't take kindly to not being invited into the league and they have a fight, villain against villain with apes and Sandman and Rhino and all kinds of awesomeness. This story is both funny, and evil in that you side with the Sinister Six despite the fact that all the characters in the story are evil. It was pencilled by Humberto Ramos rather expertly, and while I do not

like the direction that his work has taken of late I am still a fan and I could not find a flaw in his work. But again, I'm a big fan.

Then we move on to Mark Waid's story of Spider-Man, Black Cat, wherein someone tries to frame Black Cat, who now has bad luck powers, who knew, for a theft she didn't commit. She obviously escapes, and Spider-man being cute and funny and adorable blows Matt Murdock's cover in a delightfully funny way. The artwork for this story is brilliant and beautiful and it is by Emma Rios, whose work I am quickly becoming a fan of. Black Cat was sexy, without being ludicrously endowed, Spider-man was Spider-man without the ridiculous body bends that some artists use to display his building swinging and Matt Murdock well, the art is brilliant, with a paintbrush feel to it that is reminiscent of Paul Pope, but it is distinctly her style.

The Daredevil issue continues the story, which is brilliantly written and funny with a light heartedness that you hardly see anymore in comics, as every comic book character seems to think that every instant is earth-shatteringly important and that any wrong move will destroy the universe. Sadly, too much of that waters down the experience and most major earth shattering events become, well, blase. But again, not so in this issue, the stakes aren't high but we care because Black Cat is a very real character to us, and while she's a thief sometimes, in this case at least she was not. And you can't help but feel bad for Spidey in the end . . . or at least at the end of this volume.

Still things might end up differently, but I couldn't tell you as this story is not resolved in this book, so we're left with a cliffie. All in all the collection is full of solid storytelling, art that is all over the place but for most of the stories it works, and with the exception of the incomplete last story, it is a near perfect book and a constant reminder that Dan Slott and Mark Waid are the people to go to, if you want to read good books.

C.G. Drews says

It's probably not wise to read comic #42 first...but I did. **Lots of stuff didn't make sense.** Mostly that this was full of repercussions from "what happened on Spider Island." HA. I have no idea what you're saying. But apparently everyone turned spider? That sounds intriguing.

What Did I Like?

- Peter Parker had a girlfriend called Carlie Cooper. Such cute alliteration. They broke up tho.
- Spidey is incredibly sarcastic and drips like a tap. Seriously, he never shuts up and at one stage Daredevil covered his mouth just to get a moment of piece.
- The illustrations are incredible
- Peter Parker knows his ex by her coffee order.
- He's also as awkward as anything.
- Black Cat was awesome.

Basically I am here to appreciate Spiderman. WHICH I DID. But there was stuff that sucked, in my humble opinion, too, though:

What Didn't I Like?

- There's this whole middle section about aliens fighting. I didn't recognise anyone's names and I freaking didn't care. I picked up "The Amazing Spiderman" to read about....(can you guess?)...SPIDERMAN. I don't care about random aliens fighting in space. Whatever.
- They didn't catch the badguy. They kind of caught half the bad guys. It was a bit anti-climatic.
- I spent a lot of time half-engaged because they were following a mystery they were just leaping from buildings in a flurry of skin-tight suits and not getting much done. *shrugs*

- The police were all "get out of this Spiderman, we hate you" when (for crying out loud) this is comic #43...what the heck have they been doing so far? How do they not trust Spiderman at this point?!!

I've read better comics.

But I love Spiderman.

Maddsurgeon says

Good winddown to the big "Spider Island" arc; a couple issues of Peter and Carlie vs. the Vulture; a Spideyless Sinister Six issue, and a Daredevil crossover guest starring the Black Cat.

The Vulture bit balances the detective stuff well with the webslinging stuff; it's good to see Carlie still in the book even though she's not the main squeeze.

#676 is a bit odd, as it takes what feels like a subplot and runs it for the entire issue. It's great to revisit all the Sinister Six (who are the protagonists in this issue, pitted against the Intelligencia), and they're all written very well, but Spidey's absence is felt, and in the grand scheme of things the plot seems to be but a small part of Doc Ock's master plan.

The Daredevil crossover is great; Mark Waid writes Spider-Man as well as he writes Daredevil. I haven't seen these two paired up with a while, and it's always a blast. And adding Black Cat to the mix just makes it that more fun. It dovetails into Daredevil's own continuity, so it feels like the whole collection lets off on a cliffhanger, but that makes sense as Spidey leaves the story at this point.

Ernest says

Post Spider-Island, things are not peaches and roses for Spider-Man (is it ever?). This volume contains three main stories, one involving Vulture and his band of young recruits, another involving two rival villain groups and the third a Daredevil/Spiderman/Black Cat team-up. There are no fundamental weaknesses in any story, with some nice artwork at points, but the stories are largely forgettable, if on the higher scale of combination of art and story. It is a decent read if you like this kind of thing, while casual readers can find something more engaging to read (if I were to try turn a casual reader into more of a fan, this wouldn't be a volume to pick – there are better and more classic Spider-Man issues/volumes to go with).

Roy says

The Vulture story and the Black Cat story were worth the read however the Sinister Six story was a bit lame.

