
Brian Michael Bendis

Ultimate Spider-Man, Vol. 13: Hobgoblin (Ultimate Spider-Man #13)



Title: Ultimate Spider-Man, Vol. 13: Hobgoblin (Ultimate Spider-Man #13)

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Description

It's the terrifying debut of the Ultimate Hobgoblin as Harry Osborn returns to Midtown High harboring a dark secret that will affect the lives of all those around him - especially his best friend, Peter Parker. And where does Harry's father - Norman Osborn, a.k.a. the Green Goblin - fit into all this? Collects Ultimate Spider-Man #72-78.

Insightful reviews

Magic Mike: This is a great volume of Ultimate Spider-Man. The story here involves the drama between Harry, Peter, and MJ. There are things revealed here that really heighten the tension between them. There is a lot of history between all of these people and seeing how they deal with the situations they find themselves in is fascinating. There are no missteps here. This is a return to greatness in the Ultimate Spider-Man universe.

Sarah Sammis: I've been a Spider-Man fan on and off since I was about Harriet's age. I stopped reading the comic regularly when I left for college. That was right around the time that the "graphic novel" was coming into its own as a genre. Comic book publishers scrambled to revamp their series to fit the longer and darker format. Now a younger generation is growing up on comics and graphic novels (I'd hazard the novels more so than the comics) and there are series aimed at tweens and young adults.

While my local library was still closed for the move to its new location, I was frequenting the Dublin branch instead. It also has a collection of graphic novels but the choices are more limited and haphazard. For instance, they have only one volume of Ultimate Spider-Man. It happens to be Volume 13: Hobgoblin by Brian Michael Bendis (originally issues 72-8). What an odd place to start but I thought I'd give it a try.

Graphic novels are a balance between the artwork and story. Hobgoblin has a good story. It has the competition between Peter Parker and Harry Osborn and the love triangle around M.J. There's also a crossover with Nick Fury for an added bonus. These things I liked.

I guess for things to be "Ultimate" the typical emotional angst of the Spider-Man series needs to be cranked up to eleven. Even that I can handle. It seems to be the direction the series has gone in recent incarnations.

What turned me off though was the artwork. Every character seems to be in a perpetual state of saying "Duh!" with their lower jaws jutting out and their lips puckered and turned in impossible directions. I suppose it's to show their emotional states but they look like cavemen! The treatment on MJ was especially unflattering. She's not necessarily supposed to be supermodel gorgeous but her artistic treatment just seemed cruel to previous incarnations.

Jerome: Kinda stupid.

This particular edition misses the mark more than most of the series. It takes the element that

the Ultimate Series missed the mark on the most (The Green Goblin) and pastes it onto the character that could have been the chance to get it right, The Hobgoblin. Gone is the mystery that was the genesis for both characters, in its place is the same overplayed family melodrama that has misunderstood the role of the Osborns in the original Spider-Man books. The Goblins don't have that evil goblin-esque presence that was so great in both of the characters, they've been reduced to second rate Hulk like Gargoyles. And Harry Osborn, the most misunderstood character in the Marvel Universe since the 1990s, has been torn further from the core of what that character originated.

Ultimate Hobgoblin had the opportunity to get right what Ultimate Green Goblin missed, but instead it sinks deeper in the same tired interpretation of these characters we've gotten the last fifteen years. It might be surprising to a lot of readers that these interpretations were not always so universal. Both the Goblins and the Osborns deserve different interpretations. I doubt it will ever happen for them again unless they can make a break from each other.

Peter goes on a real verbal rampage with M.J. This is somewhat justified, but he really threw everything he had into her face. If he were to feel some remorse for his actions, it might be more valid, but M.J. just was a huge victim in this book, and it was hard to see her cry.

Jedhua: My short Bookshelf Overview: amusing, hell-of-a-ride, likable-or-deep-characters, suspenseful-or-engaging

Lloyd: I have been examining via those final Spider-Man volumes at rather a clip and nonetheless by no means growing to be uninterested in doing so. This one had acquired the entire top parts of previous volumes that I have fairly enjoyed. A number of the mystique of SHIELD, Peter Parker becoming extra into or even wondering himself as Spider-Man, and all of the nice personality improvement that Bendis has dropped at the desk all during the series. The artwork stays solid, action-filled, and the suitable tone for the series. See my experiences of past volumes for extra of my compliment of this glorious modernization of Spider-Man.

Brad: One part of Spider-Man lore that is eluded Brian Michael Bendis in final Spider-Man is the Goblins. The 1st Spider-Man motion picture proved that it really is tough to replace the green Goblin gown and make it cool. Bendis determined to make the consequences of Osborne's chemical compounds extra bodily obvious, extra Hulk-like. It makes sense, but in addition makes the struggle scenes with Spider-Man extra of a bore. Now, the Goblins are mindless, now not crazy. That is the case with the hot Hobgoblin, whose production and motivation do not rather make sense. However, Bendis makes Harry Osborne lots tragic and relatable. Where this e-book succeeds is the continued Peter and Mary Jane drama. The 1st issue, ahead of the Goblin gobbledygook, and the final issue, as soon as the mess is wiped clean up, are even more compelling and brutal than the fiery orange monster within the middle. Bendis does not take aspects in Peter and MJ's drama--both of them screw up, either overreact, and either need to work out what they will do next.

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