



Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 8: Cats & Kings

Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley

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Sam Bullit is running for Mayor of New York City on an anti-Spider-Man campaign, and Daily Bugle Editor-in-Chief J. Jonah Jameson is backing him 100%. But who's pulling Bullit's strings? None other than the Kingpin of Crime. Plus: Spider-Man meets the sexy and elusive cat burglar called the Black Cat, who claws herself into the young web-slinger's life and purrs her way into Peter Parker's. When the Cat gets her paws on a stolen tablet that the Kingpin desperately wants, the crime lord hires the deadly Elektra to retrieve the artifact for him.

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From Reader Review Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 8: Cats & Kings for online ebook

Doctorjimmy says

3.5

Δι?βάσε ?λο το review εδ?

Μετ? το Legacy, οι αραχνο-ιστορ?ες του Bendis ε?τε θα ?ταν προβληματικ?ς (Venom), ε?τε απλ? filler (Public Scrutiny, Irresponsible): γρ?φοντας το Cats & Kings, φα?νεται να κατ?λαβε πως οι πλοκ?ς του τελευτα?α ?ταν κ?πως ?δειες και αποφ?σισε να χωρ?σει δ?ο διαφορετικ?ς ιστορ?ες μεταξ? τους, με μ?νο κοιν? παρανομαστ? τον καραφλ? χοντρομπαλ? gangster (εξ'ο? και ο τ?τλος).

Η πρ?τη ιστορ?α, που αφορ? τις συν?πειες του Learning Curve, ε?ναι εξαιρετικ?: σφιχτοδεμ?νη, ?ντονη και γρ?γορη, βρ?σκει τον Pete εντελ?ς απογοητευμ?νο με το σ?στημα και το “Suspended 2” τον ?χει να πετ?ει τον ?να απεγνωσμ?νο, κυνικ? μον?λογο μετ? τον ?λλο (ο Sidney Lumet θα ?ταν υπερ?φανος). Ο Bendis απεικον?ζει εξαιρετικ? το π?σο εφιαλτικ? ε?ναι ?λη αυτ? η συνειδητοπο?ηση εν?ς εφ?βου για το π?σο απαθ?ς και σκληρ?ς γ?νεται ο κ?σμος μερικ?ς φορ?ς. Επ?σης, π?σες φορ?ς θα δεις τον Spider-Man και τον Kingpin να βρ?σκονται στο ?διο τραπ?ζι και ο πρ?τος να αρχ?ζει τ? fat jokes;

Η ιστορ?α με την Black Cat ε?ναι κ?πως κατ?τερη, κυρ?ως γιατ? τ?σο η προσωπικ?τητα ?σο και η ιστορ?α εκδ?κησης της Felicia Hardy δεν φ?ρνουν τ?ποτα φρ?σκο σε χιλιοπαιγμ?νες φ?ρμες (επ?σης, η Black Cat ε?ναι η Catwoman των φτωχ?ν), αλλ? ακ?μη και εδ? υπ?ρχουν μπ?λικά θετικ?: η χημε?α της με τον Spidey (και τ? σχ?λια/σκ?ψεις του ?ταν ε?ναι μαζ?), τ? προβλ?ματα της MJ με τον πατ?ρα της και, ως συν?θως, οι σκην?ς που μοιρ?ζεται με τον Peter, ?λα ε?ναι εξαιρετικ?, αλλ? πολ? φοβ?μαι πως τ? τε?χη με την ιστορ?α της Black Cat επιστρ?φουν στα ποιοτικ? επ?πεδα των δ?ο προηγ?μενων arc: το υπερηρωικ? κομμ?τι κ?νει π?σω για χ?ρη του εφηβικο? δρ?ματος.

Nikki says

Aunt May is *awesome*. That's my main reaction to this volume. Aunt May is *awesome* and there needs to be more of her. I love how much she adores Peter and tries to look after him.

Less entranced by the Elektra and Felicia stuff -- it didn't feel developed enough. Maybe there's going to be more later about one or both of them, which would be good.

Sourour says

Spider-Man, who defeated monsters easily, gets his butt kicked by 2 women who did not have any super powers? where's the logic?

Tass says

- We get a little insight on the head of the Daily Bugle, J. Jonah Jameson and why he's the way he is. It explains his views with the Spider-Man.
 - I LOVE the interactions with Black Cat / Elektra / Spider-Man. Again, we're reminded that Peter is still very young... a true teenager, haha.
 - MJ is going through a really tough time in this volume. :(
-

Natalie says

As I've mentioned many times Spider-Man is my least fave. He's kinda just annoying and angsty. The only interesting thing was the cat lady and Elektra showing up.

Derek says

I gave this three stars when I initially reviewed it but I think I was off a bit. I have a feeling I was spoiled by the overall quality of this series and, eight volumes in, had started taking it for granted. That's on me. This is a great volume that is part of a much larger story, a story that I think is one of the definitive takes on Spidey. Terrific work from all creative parties involved and an utter pleasure to read.

Maeli Gleason says

this was amazing please read it immediatly

Nicole says

As usual with this series, I liked the parts of the story focusing on Peter Parker's continuing attempts to come to terms with his powers and his place in the world. This time around, he's justifiably angry about the Kingpin literally getting away with murder and the corruption and apathy throughout the city, while Spider-Man gets blamed for things he didn't do. Peter gets fired from his job and suspended from school for his outbursts. There's also trouble for him and MJ. I really like how Aunt May is being portrayed, and I loved how she told off Jonah Jameson and dealt with Mr. Watson. (I also liked the little detail of her having a copy of a Harry Potter book on her nightstand.)

However, I don't really care that much about the Kingpin storyline. I preferred it when Daredevil shattered the Kingpin's kneecaps and the cops hauled him away. One problem I have with comic book/graphic novel storylines is that they tend to drag on and on, and even when you think something's been resolved, the characters may pop up again later.

Maybe it's just me, but I found the fight sequences difficult to follow.

Then we have Black Cat and Elektra, suffering from distinct lack of personality and depicted in a way that makes Victoria's Secret models look like underfed ten-year-old girls. I've complained about the bombshell factor before, being of the wrong orientation to appreciate it; but seeing characters with such extreme-proportioned figures and absurd costumes just irritates me. Like Carl's Jr. commercials and stories about girls asking for breast augmentation surgery for their 16th birthday irritate me. There are a couple of concepts in the sketchbook in the back of the book that are much less irritating, somewhat more like Catwoman in *The Dark Knight Rises*.

So...I'm not sure if I want to read all the other installments in the series. I am intrigued by the blurb for Vol. 12--because it guest-stars Wolverine and the Human Torch--so I'll probably read that one, but maybe that will be all.

Jeff Raymond says

I don't want to say I disliked this batch, but...well, some of this was weak. I can forgive the Ultimate Six diversion as an obvious crossover with a comic I don't read, but I have to say that Black Cat is really annoying, and the whole Hobgoblin thing didn't do it for me, either. Still soldiering on - I have library leads on all the available trades, shockingly, so I'll be caught up at some point this summer - but a few of these were more than a little rough around the edges.

Fellipe Moscardini says

Another excellent arc. I love the writing and the art is (mostly) good. Bendis has the ability of keeping his reader engaged from start to finish. This version of Peter Parker is my favorite. 4/5 stars

Kenneth says

Spider-man meets Elektra who is hired by the Kingpin to retrieve a tablet stolen by the Black Cat.

Erin *Proud Book Hoarder* says

This is the first Spiderman graphic novel (well, comic collection in one book) that I've read out of the three I own. Peter Parker of course goes around moping about something or other - moping IS as much a part of his identity as the superhero gig - but it didn't bother me because I expected it. Despite his angsty personality, I do like Peter Parker, especially his fun humor during battles.

This is a two parter that ties in together, all involving Kingpin in some way. The crime boss makes a worthy villain, with a short scene in the end showing a reason for his motivation. He doesn't delve into any cliché lines, and his sidekick helpers provided amusement when tangling with Spiderman. The girls aren't introduced until the second half; they don't play a large part. I'm especially curious about the cliffhanger with the main one. Mary Jane is having familial issues with her father, and Gwen is living in the Parker's house (a history I don't know or understand in this version.) Meanwhile, Aunt May is shown as the awesome stand-in

parent who is protective and tough-as-nails. The chief is as anti-Spiderman as ever, but this story delivers a twist in him going too far. The story leaves off open-ended, but unfortunately I don't have the next volume.

Humor and quirk win, enhanced by colorful art and flashy moves. I especially like how Spiderman is done, almost like the mini action figure children version.

Zelly B. says

My favourite Spidey series of all time. This is actually a (2x) re-read of the entire series.

Sesana says

Not the best volume so far, but still mostly fun. I think the highlight has to be the entire J. Jonah Jameson subplot. I'm hardly a Spider-Man expert, but I think that might be the most thoughtful conversation I've ever seen a writer give Jonah, who is normally written as a blustering yellow journalist with an inexplicable axe to grind. And I'm not saying that the Ultimate version is none of those things. After all, if you took those characteristics away, you wouldn't have J. Jonah Jameson anymore. But there is some surprising depth here. Nice work, especially when it would be ever so much easier to leave him as is.

Jack Herbert Christal Gattanella says

4.5/5

The revelation here is J Jonah Jameson; if I was only rating the first half of this volume it would get 5 stars because Bendis does that unique thing of taking a character who has always been an archetype (an entertaining-as-f*ck one but a type all the same) and mine an astonishing level of depth in just a handful of pages and a few issues.

He was already dynamic in this Ultimate series, but somehow thru a couple of moments and some surprising soul-searching, we see that he is a decent man underneath the hundred layers of gruff, cigar-chomping exterior. If Sam Fuller had been alive to make a Spiderman movie (god knows why but that just popped in my head), those issues would be copied near verbatim.

Where it loses from greatness to just really good is the stuff with Black Cat and Elektra. And those issues in the second half of this volume are gripping and ass-kicking, pulpy fun ("a catfight" as Peter can't help but quip seeing them duke it out), but Elektra is there I felt more for another dose of fan service connectivity to Daredevil when it's already there with Fisk. I'd be more ok with it if they gave her more to do than be a kill machine. I didn't know too much about Black Cat/Felicity's history so this helped to find out about her dad's backstory.

All in all though, I felt the real core of the second half was with MJ and her father. That is heartbreaking stuff and whenever Bendis focuses on that he's in his firing-on-all-cylinders mode. With the action and theft storyline it's still fun, but maybe my issue is that a) I just come to expect a lot from this series, so when it's only *good* it feels like a letdown, and b) maybe it just didn't blend so well.

This said I want to see more of Black Cat and im guessing I will soon.
