



## Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 4

*Stan Lee*

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After being bitten by an irradiated spider, young Peter Parker learned he had gained the proportional strength and agility of a spider. Combined with a keen "spider-sense" that warned him of danger, Peter became the hero we all know and love...Spider-Man! In this great volume, Peter will face some of his greatest challenges and overcome some of his most harrowing foes. Adventure at its best, true believer!

Contains twenty-five Spider-Man adventures authored by Stan Lee. Originally published in 1969 and 1989. Collects: Amazing Spider-Man #66-89 and Amazing Spider-Man Annuals #5.

### Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 4 Details

Date : Published 2005 by Marvel (first published 2000)

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## From Reader Review Essential Amazing Spider-Man, Vol. 4 for online ebook

### Mark Schlatter says

Not a lot really happens in this volume: Norman Osborn realizes he is the Green Goblin and then forgets, Flash heads off to Vietnam, we have the first appearance of the Prowler, lots of villains reappear, and Peter and Gwen break up and make up.

But here's what struck me....

1) Harry Osborn grows a Fu Manchu mustache. That's right --- the Marvel non-superhero character with the single strangest hairdo grows a Fu Manchu.

2) Spider-man constantly proves his forgetfulness. On the Lizard: "Whew! Should have remembered the power of his tail!" On Electro: "I forgot how fast he can be... moving on his own blasts of current." On the Kingpin: "I forgot... how fast he can move!!" Spidey never learns.

3) We have campus protest and hippies! Well, not really, because the protests are over the Dean's refusal to convert a building to low-rent dorms, except that what's he wanted to do all the time, but didn't tell anybody. And we have protests over a character called General Su, but we never say why we might be protesting him. It's all pretty straw man, but we do get the chant "Cook an egg... cook your goose! Turn the demonstrators loose!" We also get a nearly afterschool-special serious lesson about why violent protest is wrong, wrong, wrong....

4) Stan Lee writes the following dialogue for a father and son. Son: "I can come back later if you're uptight, dad!" Father: "I've always got time for my outrageous offspring! What's on your mind, man-child?"

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### Sam Poole says

So good. Still- damn it Stan your inability to treat wkmn in your books is horrifying. Every deeply inventive moment, 7 parts story (!!!!!), romance and soap opera, teen drama comedy superhero book melding is marred by your uhh....suspect writing and "females are emotional". Some really powerful stuff in her- spidey loving Medicaid, confessing in a feverish sequence his identity, and the prowler- a legitimately interesting character. It's hard to say this isn't flawless but the flaws it does have are glaring. Spider-Man also starts to address current issues which really is amazing to see, considering 50 years later many major comics publishers still shy away from the sort of commentary prevalent in here.

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### Peter Derk says

It only took 2 years. But I finished this bad boy. Although I suppose if you read these in real time as monthly issues it would take about that long anyway. Or that's what I tell myself as an excuse.

The sad truth?

Well, when these Essential volumes first came out I was in nerd heaven. Which resembles regular hell in a lot of ways, mostly humidity and odor. But that was a long time ago, before damn near everything was printed in full color glory and on paper that's better than what's used to print phone books and bibles, the only two books that are so overprinted that you have to actively avoid them.

So at the time, it was great. Because as a reader of comics and non-collector, the chance to even READ Amazing Fantasy 15 (first appearance of spider-man for those of you who were more aware of your genitals in middle school) was, well, Amazing. Because I didn't have a couple thousand bucks, and even if I did it would have felt like a total waste because, let's face it, the first couple dozen issues of Amazing Spider-Man were less than, uh, Amazing? No, the word I was looking for was Acceptable. Sorry, confusing my A-words here.

What Marvel did with these volumes was to set up a way for readers like me to spend almost nothing to read some seriously hard-to-find comics. Which is a great thing.

Now, however, they've released full-color, gigantic collections that even include peripheral materials like letters pages. It's very cool. It's more pricey, but still pretty damn cool.

And having read four of these volumes and some issues in color...I miss the color. I really do. I thought I'd be a more serious reader for whom the color almost didn't matter. But it turns out I'm not a serious reader. A serious reader of vintage comic books. And I miss the color.

With that out of the way, a few observations from this book:

-What happened to the police offering a few thousand bucks for the apprehension of a criminal?

This happens in comics, but was it ever real? Because on the one hand, I kind of like it. Bring this guy in, get paid. It seems like you could have a really good shitty TV series about a group of ultimate fighters who catch criminals in their spare time. On the other hand, I do fear that it'd be a little bit easy to take a WANTED poster, cut out the face and put my face in there. And then I'd get beat up by ultimate fighters just trying to get by. So there's a definite negative possibility there.

-When did the word "boner" come to mean...boner?

Because they use the word to mean a goof-up, but I can't help but giggle. I mean, come on. It's like if a really big financial gain used to be called a "Big Erect Nipple" back in the day.

-In one panel, Spider-Man is alarmed as a villain swings a "sword-like rod" at him.

What, exactly, is the difference between a sword and a sword-like rod? Because I didn't sleep last night trying to puzzle that one out.

-Why exactly do people have such a problem with Spider-Man?

I swear to god, he swings down in one issue to free a bus that's stuck in the snow. He lifts the back end of the bus, and the bus driver leans out the window and says, "My god! Spider-Man is trying to hijack the bus!" Really? REALLY? It's almost like the entire city of New York is playing some elaborate prank to see who can do the most obtuse burn on Spider-Man. If he picks up a bag of money dropped by a criminal during a heist, someone will say, "My god! Spider-Man is stealing money!" And if he hands it to a cop, they'll say, "Dear Lord! Spider-Man is trying to beat that cop to death with a bag of money!" And if he rescues a kitten from a tree, someone will say, "He's almost certainly going to have sex with that kitten. When will this madman be stopped?!"



## **Josiah Nance says**

Crazy cool if you love comic books!!!

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## **Sylvester Kuo says**

The same contriving story gets round and round in circles. The tablet arc spanned 7 issues, I just couldn't stand how there was some unrelated plot line about civil rights movement, Ditko would have been mad for this inclusion. J.J. Jameson was even more insufferable and Aunt May continued to be sick, it's getting too annoying. I did enjoy the annuals however, we learn about Peter's parents and had a crossover with Human Torch.

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## **Zack! Empire says**

This collection actually has an epic feel to it. It starts out with a two part Mysterio story, which isn't bad at all, but after those issues things really take off. First we get the Spectacular Spider-Man Magazine number two, which has a giant 58 page story where Norman Osborn remembers that he is the Green Goblin. This really scares Peter since Norman knows his secret identity. There are some really great scenes of Peter freaking out over every little thing since he doesn't know when the Goblin will strike. There are some great parts where both Peter and Norman are pretending everything is normal while trying to mess with each other by shaking hands too tightly, or "playfully" hitting each other on the back.

Then it's Amazing Spider-Man King-Size Special number 5, which finally tells the story of what happen to Peter's parents. It starts off with Peter fighting some goons, and nearly losing his life! While he recovers he thinks back on how he found out his parents were branded as traitors, and he can't believe it. He is determined to clear their names, or find out the truth, whatever it may be! He ends up in a battle with the Red Skull, and he does clear his parents, though it's in a rather silly silver age kind of way. One thing of note is that the story was drawn by Larry Lieber, who I've always thought of as a shitty artist, but he doesn't a pretty good job on this story. There's one panel of the Red Skull that I particular liked.

After that things really get crazy as we get a very long story about the Tablet of Time. It starts off with the Kingpin trying to steal it from a collage campus, where a giant protest is happening. Spider-Man manages to stop him, but things just keep getting crazier and crazier and more and more people are trying to get there hands on the Tablet. This is one long story broken up into different stories. Spidey has to deal with the Kingpin, Shocker, Man-Mountain Marko, Silverman, and finally the Lizard! It's a huge story! Those issues alone are worth checking out.

After that it's mostly one and done stories. There is even a note during the Prowler story line about how they had wanted the story to be longer, but people were complaining about the long stories, so they decided to cut back the issue count. These stories are fun to read, but it doesn't take long before they are back to doing two or three praters, which is what I really enjoy.

The book ends with a Doc Ock story, and it's actually a cliffhanger, so I guess I'll have to wait till I get the next one to see how it ends.

This is a great collection. I'm loving how the Spider-Man universe is just growing and growing. More villains are be introduced, and more relationships are developing. I'd love to collect all of the Spider-Man essentials, and this hasn't changed my mind at all.

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