



Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 9

Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley (Illustrator) , Stuart Immonen (Illustrator)

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In "Clone Saga," Spider-Man comes face-to-face with the most unexpected foe of all: Peter Parker. But Peter Parker is Spider-Man...isn't he? Who's who becomes a dangerous guessing game as a sinister series of clones turns Peter's life upside-down and forces Spider-Man into a devastating confrontation with one of his oldest foes. Guest-starring the Fantastic Four, Nick Fury, the Ultimates, the X-Men and the all-new, all-different Spider-Woman. And in "Ultimate Knights," Daredevil attempts to enlist Spider-Man in a crusade to bring down the Kingpin - permanently. But with his Aunt's life hanging by a thread, and his serious girl problems with MJ and Kitty Pryde, crimebusting may be the last thing on young Mr. Parker's mind.

Collecting: *Ultimate Spider-Man* 97-111

Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 9 Details

Date : Published February 27th 2008 by Marvel

ISBN : 9780785130819

Author : Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley (Illustrator) , Stuart Immonen (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 400 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Comics, Superheroes, Marvel, Graphic Novels, Spider Man, Graphic Novels
Comics, Comic Book

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From Reader Review Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 9 for online ebook

The_Mad_Swede says

This volume, collecting #97–111, marks the end of Mark Bagley's long and very good run on *Ultimate Spider-Man* (and partly as a consequence my own reason for leaving the series at this point).

Offering an Ultimate version of the much debated Clone Saga (featuring appearances by the Ultimates, Nick Fury, FF and X-Men), the volume kicks off hard and in the tone it's kept for the more or less 100 issues before this. The final half gives the readers the story arc *Ultimate Knights* (featuring Moon Knight, Daredevil, Iron Fist, Shang-Chi and Dr. Strange) and offers a showdown with the Kingpin and his criminal empire.

All in all, an enjoyable volume with Bagley providing a strong finale on his long art duties (helped out with a six page inlay story by new artist Stuart Immonen in #111, which is nice in the sense of a handing over the baton moment) and leaving us readers with nine volumes that Bagley should be very proud of art wise.

Rob says

A perfect juxtaposition of the two very different kinds of stories you get in superhero comics, and a reminder that the most compelling stories aren't the ones feature insane sci-fi weirdness, but the ones that stick a bit closer to real life.

Kaila C says

I will admit that nothing got done when I was reading this. I picked it up and reread it twice just for fun. I really tried to be productive but it just did not happen. Brian Micheal Bendis why must you make ultimate Spider-man so good?!

Brad says

Collects the Clone Saga and Ultimate Knights storylines.

Brian Michael Bendis managed to retell the Clone Saga in fewer than three years, which is better than Marvel managed in the 1990s. He did tell it better, but it was still too confusing. I still don't get how Gwen Stacy was cloned.

As for the Ultimate Knights storyline, it was a nice finish to Mark Bagley's run, finishing off the Kingpin, for now. I was surprised that the Black Cat didn't turn up, given how much she hates the Kingpin, but I guess Daredevil didn't have her number. It's great seeing Kitty Pryde stick around in the book. Overall, Bendis does a great job weaving a large swath of the Ulimtate universe into the life of one kid.

Though they're more expensive, the hardcovers are a bit bigger, and the artwork looks even more gorgeous.

Holden Attradies says

BIZAM! That's a good description of this volume, so I'm sticking with it. Maybe not my favorite volume but most definitely the most action packed as yet! The clone saga was INCREDIBLE. It had so many amazing twists and turns and was so fast paced. It was so hard to put it down, even to go to the bathroom. I can't even imagine what it must have been like getting it issue by issue monthly, thank goodness for the trade market! And my God, the relief of Aunt May finally knowing! And Peter getting back with MJ and breaking up with Kitty only to have her join his school. All of it was high school drama and superhero drama at it's highest! I've adored Ultimate Spider-Man from the begining but I think after this volume it may be my single favorite long-running series. And I think a lot of that has had to do with it having one writer and one artist consistently, which made me all the more sad to see Bagley leaving the series. His art was a big part of waht made this series so strong, and it will be interesting to see if it retains its readability after he leaves.

The second story arc, with the down fall of the King Pin, was also a page turner. As I've said before I'm not crazy about the Marvel Knights characters but I did enjoy the take on them here. And up until the very end I really did think King Pin was going to get away with it all again. The question remains will the rap stick this time?

Andy says

Bendis really manages to knock it out of the park (again) in retelling the infamous Spidey Clone Saga. In 9 issues he single handedly walked all over the 3 year sprawling mess in the regular continuity as we get a loving, tensely plotted story as Pete's life crumbles around him. I fondly remember reading these as singles, travelling up into central (London), picking up my pull list and heading off to Ed's Diner for a burger and malt shake. The wait was barely manageable to find out what happened next. Happy, happy times.

The clones are realised with knowing nods to the various spider characters over the years, the Fantastic Four feature prominently, the Ultimates pop up and there are numerous cameos including some new Ultimate versions of older characters. There's a truly epic feeling to it all and things get really serious with some major changes to the status quo. This is all fantastically portrayed by Mark Bagley who manages to nail the small character scenes and huge battle sequences alike. He really has made Ultimate Spider-Man what it is, side by side with Bendis.

I recall Ultimate Knights being a little of a let down at the time but read here it's quite a nice change of pace. The way Kingpin gets revenge on Pete through copyright is genius. It moves in interesting directions and Kingpin gets some emotional scenes, though it feels a little of a retreat. I also like the way they handled Moon Knight and his multiple personalities.

The final issue between Aunt May and Pete is brilliant with some great character moments. Midway through, Bagley hands over the reigns for an intersecting chapter pencilled by Stuart Immonen (who took over regular duties after this). I certainly missed his approach and I stopped reading the singles here (for a variety of other reasons as well) but it really felt like the end of an era at the time.

Well recommended even for new fans.

Neil R. Coulter says

Except for Black Cat's reappearance, the past couple of volumes of *Ultimate Spider-Man*--almost everything since the Carnage story--have been a little dull. The spark was definitely waning. For me, Volume 9 was a good return to a lot of what I've liked about the series. This is partly because of the inherent momentum of the Clone Saga story, and very much because of the return of Doc Ock. It feels like it had been so long since the last really good battle between Spidey and either Green Goblin or Doc Ock. Mark Bagley is great at drawing Doc Ock fight scenes, and the climactic battle in this story is really good.

Most of what I know about Spider-Man is either from the movies or the Ultimate series, so I don't know what the Clone Saga was like in the original version. Here it's a little bit too quick, as many stories in the Ultimate series are. But I found it all very interesting. I wish that (view spoiler) had actually been real, not a clone; I know that would've messed up the mythology, but for just a moment it was nice to see that character. I enjoyed Spider-Woman, and I wonder if it's weird to like her better than I like Peter, given her origin. I don't know if she returns in this series or elsewhere, but I'd like to see more stories with her. The fact that she looks a lot like Kitty Pryde adds some weirdness to Peter's relationship with Kitty.

The relationship with Kitty was actually the low point of this volume for me. I really liked Peter and Kitty together, much more than Peter and MJ. The denouement of Peter and Kitty felt too quick, too impersonal, and very disappointing.

The second half of this volume, with the Kingpin and Daredevil story, was not nearly so tight as the first half. I don't know what Daredevil is supposed to be like, but in this story he seemed unbelievably naive and impatient, coming up with a "plan" that is ridiculous. The development of Daredevil and the other side characters in that story is lacking. Doctor Strange has appeared often enough in the Ultimate series (though here he is a bit more of a comic figure than previously), but Moon Knight is quite a mystery. Intriguing character, and I wish there was more about him.

This volume is the last of Mark Bagley's art, and it's too bad he left. His style had, in my opinion, matured over the course of the series. Though at the end he is still drawing mostly on just a few general types of appearance (should Sue Storm and Gwen Stacey look like twins?), his overall style was a little more subtle than the early issues. The change in MJ's look is very noticeable. Where initially she (and other characters) looked quite angular and exaggerated, by the end of the run she looked pretty good.

With the departure of Bagley, I'll take a break from *Ultimate Spider-Man* for a little while. But I think sometime I'll return to more stories in that odd, intriguing world of tiny sunglasses, silly dialogue, and females who refuse to wear shirts that cover their stomachs. It's been fun.