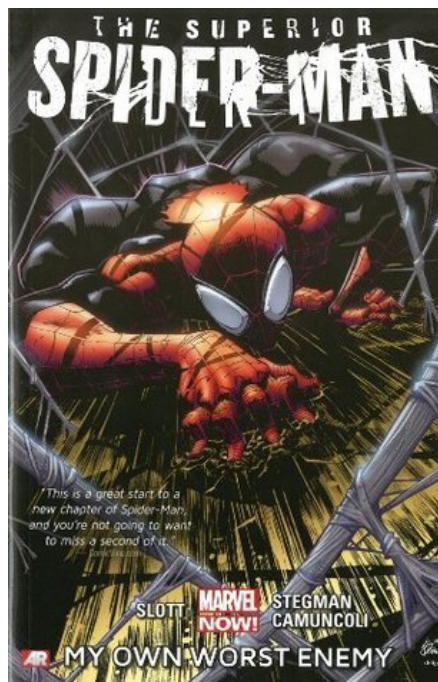




The Superior Spider-Man, Vol. 1: My Own Worst Enemy

Dan Slott , Ryan Stegman (Illustrator)

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Peter Parker spent a lifetime fighting to improve the world, but his story ended dramatically with a final, fatal sacrifice. Now, Peter's arch-enemy Dr. Octopus has taken control of his body...and his life. Otto Octavius is Spider-Man! And he's determined to prove himself Superior to his former foe in every way. But his baptism of fire will come when he faces down the new Sinister Six! Is the new Spider-Man in cahoots with J. Jonah Jameson? And has Carlie Cooper figured out his secret identity? Plus: Spider-Man and Mary Jane "reunited"! The return of the Vulture! And how many people must die before the Superior Spider-Man will kill a super villain? Find out as Otto battles Massacre, with hundreds of lives in the balance! A new era of web-slinging excitement starts NOW! Collecting SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN #1-5.

The Superior Spider-Man, Vol. 1: My Own Worst Enemy Details

Date : Published June 11th 2013 by Marvel (first published 2013)

ISBN :

Author : Dan Slott , Ryan Stegman (Illustrator)

Format : Kindle Edition 120 pages

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



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From Reader Review The Superior Spider-Man, Vol. 1: My Own Worst Enemy for online ebook

Jeff says

An abused trope of sixties TV was body shifting. Remember! Fred Flintstone is now Dino, Dino is Wilma and Barney is the talking garbage disposal. Gilligan's Island – The Skipper is Mr. Howell, the Professor is Mary Anne and Ginger is Gilligan (this one has some porn potential). My favorite non sitcom body shift was that episode of Star Trek, where Kirk was body shifted (or is it mind shifted? Too late!) with a woman he dumped years before. Cue overwrought scenery chewing performance. Oh, William Shatner! This is why God created the Emmy.

Onto Spider-Man.

Doctor Octopus has finally succeeded in shifting his mind into Spider-Man; however, Ock's old, decrepit body is no more. Peter Parker's consciousness now resides in the mind of the new superior Spider-Man, watching as Dr. Octopus does things he never dreamed or thought of and crossed lines that Parker wouldn't dare(view spoiler).

This is probably the most significant Spider-Man story line in decades and the best thing that Don Slott has ever written.

Can Volume 2 sustain the momentum?

Jesse A says

I really enjoyed this volume, this version of spider-man. Good stuff!

Lono says

So let me start by saying I'm not a Spidey fan. Sure, I've read a bunch of his books in the past because I liked an artist or author, but never was so stoked by a title that I couldn't wait to get my hands on the next collection. **The Superior Spider-Man** has changed that. This is not only my favorite Spidey book EVER, it has earned a spot on my list of all-time favorites. Now that that's out of the way, the hardback collection I read also included Amazing Spider-Man #698 – 700 along with Superior #1 – 5, but I couldn't find it in Goodreads so I put my review here. Here's the dust jacket cover image from the hardcover collection. Sweet.

Dan who? Never heard of him. Not really true, as I have read a smattering of his stuff in the past. But nothing that touches this. Had every one of my Goodreads pals not raved about this title I almost certainly wouldn't have even picked it up. Mr. Slott took a character and storyline I had no interest in and owned that shit. Watching Ock interact with everyone in Peter's life as Peter or Spidey was fantastic. I previously thought it would be impossible for Slott to convince me that a life-long villain wanted to be a hero. He did it

in an entertaining and plausible way. Ock doesn't just want to be a hero, he wants to be a "superior" hero. Some of the stuff he comes up with (new spider-suit, spider-bots, and spider-apps) is just great. And Otto also does what any portly middle-aged nerd would do if given the young muscular body of a professional soccer player. Right. He's gonna smash MJ. Can't blame him. And "spirit" Peter gets to watch the whole thing.

And then there's the art. For years I have been jealous of the long list of great artists that worked on a title I really had no interest in. Well not anymore. The art throughout this collection was top notch. Especially the stuff by Humberto Ramos, Ryan Stegman, and Giuseppe Camuncoli. All three brought the kind of dynamic and kinetic work this title needed to make it a classic. Glad to see all of them continue to contribute to future volumes and this insures that I'll be back for more.

Alejandro says

Superior Starting Point!

This TPB edition collects "Superior Spider-Man" #1-5

Creative Team:

Writer: Dan Slott

Illustrators: Ryan Stegman & Giuseppe Camuncoli

VILLAINS MAKE SUPERIOR HEROES

There were a lot of buzzing and talking and even death threats due the decision of Dan Slott of changing the mind of Peter Parker with the mind of Dr. Otto Octavius a.k.a. Doctor Octopus.

I understand the negative feelings since it was changing the mind of a really popular hero, one of the most popular heroes, with the mind of one of his bitterest enemies.

Now a hero has the mind of a villain.

But I have to say that the change has been for the better.

Dr. Otto Octavius is not any villain, he is one of the smartest minds in the Marvel Universe, even Reed Richards looked for him when the life of his very first child was in the balance, in that time, with a very dark result.

However, the point is that Dr. Octavius is not just a criminal whose only assets are violence and mayhem. He is a scientist, a mad scientist if you wish to say, but scientist at the end. And also as a criminal mastermind, he has plans and counterplans, develops strategies and protocols.

A CHANGE OF MIND

The idea of changing minds of heroes with villains is not new, there was done many times before, on the comic book of *Justice League*, on the TV series of *Smallville*, on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* too, etc... but the real key factor that makes this time really different is that Dr. Octavius not only put his mind in Peter Parker's brain but he also get all the Parker's memories and along with that, the biggest lesson in super-heroes' comics...

With a great power, comes a great responsibility.

That changes totally any plans which Dr. Octavius may have once he would be in control of the body and powers of Spider-Man.

Now, he is becoming a hero, but as a scientist and a really, **REALLY** smart guy, he noticed that Parker's ways weren't efficient, so he is starting to take a superior way to do the "hero's job".

He is doing decisions that Parker never did it and they are paying off.

He is not all "banzai" approach to the bad guys improvising on the road, **OH, NO**, he makes plans, he prepares counter-attacks for each possible outcome of the battles, he improves his "patrolling duties" at the maximum, and he is focusing on the important stuff, he can't be everywhere, so he is where he is most needed and where his superior help is really necessary.

Even he is starting to improve Parker's personal life too!

Maybe for some selfish and prideful reasons but still they are improvements in the resume of Parker's professional life.

You get to know Otto Octavius as never before, since each action of him it's explained and reasoned, and he is doing the smart calls and making his "hero's job" as one can't deny is...

...THE SUPERIOR WAY.

Terence says

Doctor Octopus has taken over Peter Parker's entire life. Despite having all of Peter Parker's memories he's still doing things his way which is good, bad, and in-between.

A Dying Wish left me expecting to enjoy Superior Spider-Man even though my initial thought was it wouldn't be too enjoyable seeing Doc Ock be Spidey. When it comes to My Own Worst Enemy, my initial thought was correct. Doc Ock is a resourceful genius, but the man is a total prick too. Fortunately Peter's memory ghost or whatever it is has been keeping Otto in check for the largest part.

I realize the writing is supposed to represent a strange and very unlike Peter Parker Spider-Man, but the result is a guy I want to punch in the face. Calling the news to witness his successes and making nice with J. Jonah Jameson are just two of the ways Otto has changed Peter negatively.

I'm not sure if I'll continue reading Superior Spider-Man because I can't stand Doctor Octopus as Spider-Man.

Sesana says

I hated this idea from the moment I heard it: Doc Ock has transferred his mind into Peter Parker's body, and is continuing to pose as him, and Spider-Man. It sounds like a gimmick, and it's painfully obvious that this will eventually be reverted. I pegged it as an ultimately pointless, shallow attempt to sell more books. I read it anyways. And, um... It's actually really good.

I still think that the basic idea started as a cash grab, but Slott has put in the hard work to make it something more. He's actually made Otto's thoughts and actions believable. I buy him as a mostly reformed villain now trying to live up to his responsibilities, his way. It adds an interesting dynamic, especially when he encounters an old friend like Vulture. I loved reading how he'd put his past experience as a creator of cunning plans to work. It's a different dynamic. Otto's Spider-Man doesn't patrol, he uses an army of spider-bots to watch the city for him, more effectively than Peter could on his patrols. He doesn't react immediately to a threat, he carefully plans the best way to react to it. And he's certainly more ruthless than Peter ever was.

He's also creepier than Peter ever was. His interactions with Mary Jane are so calculated and cold-blooded that it was uncomfortable to read. For a moment, his devotion to Aunt May was sweet... until I remembered that he'd once been engaged to her. And now he's cozying up to her again. In her nephew's body. Ew. I do find those scenes believable, but still... Ew. Luckily, those scenes don't take up too much space in the book.

I still think this was a bad idea, and I still think that it's a cynical ploy for sales at heart. But nobody gave Dan Slott the memo, and as a result, he delivered the best possible take on the concept, better than anyone could have expected. I can't believe that I liked it as much as I did.

Donovan says

Honestly, this is the first Spider-Man comic I've ever read. He's never interested me as a character. Good guy who doesn't get the girl? Evasive fighter? Goofy villains? Eh... Fortunately for me, Peter Parker is gone and Otto Octavius is here instead. Villainous!

Otto makes an awesome Spider-Man. He drinks, womanizes, gawks, talks back. He's arrogant, scheming, lazy. He's a terrible person at first, making a mockery (satisfyingly for me) of Peter Parker. But being inside Peter's head and having his memories, he actually starts to care. And yet, because he's a villain and sees the value of extremism, he's a killer. Which makes this pretty dark and gritty sometimes and I love it. Reminds me of Batman. But because this is Spider-Man and Marvel, there's humor, which makes for a wonderful balance.

Jan Philipzig says

Gimmicky, Bonkers, Fun!

Aesthetically, this was not really my thing: too busy, inconsistent, rushed, sketchy, gimmicky for my taste. *The Superior Spider-Man* is not primarily about aesthetics, though - it's primarily about plot... a plot that is completely bonkers, interestingly enough, combining b-movie sensationalism with screwball comedy, sixties-television silliness with John Hughes teen-o-rama. And yet it kinda works.

The premise: A reformed Otto Octavius (aka. Doc Ock) has taken over Peter Parker's body, dishing out a "superior" form of superhero justice - one that is a little on the repressive, reactionary, ruthless side, yet at first glance appears to deliver splendid results. Meanwhile, Peter Parker's essence (or something) has died in Octavius' body... but never fear, true believer - Peter continues to affect Otto's memories and behavior... and even keeps hanging around as a ghost, constantly complaining about that new so-called Superior Spider-Man: "He's saying super villain stuff. How can no one see through this?"

Bottom line: It's a ridiculously fertile scenario with lots of potential for drama, conflict, moral ambiguity, meta-commentary, social critique, action, romance, comedy - I'll keep reading. In fact, it looks like I'm already hooked, as I'm really looking forward to some of those attractive-looking spin-offs!

Aldo Haegemans says

This was great! Makes you really wonder, is Doc Ock a better Spider-Man than Peter Parker? When Peter ever gets his body back he is in for a surprise! Wasn't familiar with him, But I loved the Massacre character! Not sure if he is a regular Spider baddy! But this makes me want to check him out.

Chris says

I first heard of Superior Spider-Man when I saw an article stating that writer Dan Slott had received death threats regarding the catalyst for the series; A dying Otto Octavius has managed to switch his mind with Peter Parker's, leaving the original wall-crawler to pass away in his dying body. With all of Peter's memories and experiences still intact, Otto's goal is to become a "superior" Spider-Man. One who won't make the mistakes that Peter did, serving the city more effectively as a result. Aside from the obvious reasons that making death threats towards Slott was wrong, those responsible should be even more embarrassed because Superior Spider-Man deftly deflects all criticism with an outstanding first volume.

With the former Doctor Octopus now trying to be a hero (or at least, his idea of one), the status quo of the series has completely changed. The Superior Spider-Man is more violent and ruthless, yet also more efficient and resourceful than before. It raises the question of whether he actually *might* be doing a better job, especially when a familiar face pops up to offer another viewpoint from the end of the first chapter. Slott begins to develop several intriguing sub-plots while also building to a gripping finale.

Visually the book is fantastic, too. Ryan Stegman's sketchy style sits surprisingly well next to Giuseppe Camuncoli and John Dell's cleaner artwork later on. Their Spidey is strangely more muscular than the

preceding chapters (ironically, in an issue where he comments on getting a fat gut) but, that minor gripe aside, there's little to fault with the artwork.

Only future volumes will tell if this is truly a superior Spider-Man, but My Own Worst Enemy is one hell of a start. Don't let the naysayers deter you from this one, it's a crazy idea that's been executed remarkably well. Highly recommended.

Sam Quixote says

Prior to this series, a dying Doc Ock managed to switch bodies with Peter Parker so that his mind was transferred to Peter's body and Peter's mind was in Ock's body. Doc Ock's mind coupled with Peter Parker's body makes him, in his words, the Superior Spider-man while Peter in Doc Ock's body is "dead" though his spirit is still hanging around, stupefied at the way events have turned out. Crucially though, Peter was able to give Ock his memories and a measure of his personality so it's not totally Doc Ock in control of Spider-man - he isn't 100% supervillain, and he does save lives, think of others, and generally behave in a more or less civilised way than he normally would, much to his chagrin.

So how does Doc Ock do as Spider-man? Actually really well, both as a character and as a concept for this series. He's still selfish, arrogant and ruthless but his Spider-man is incredibly effective. He creates hundreds of mini-spiders with cameras inside and sets them loose on New York providing him with a spy network that eliminates the need for Spidey to go out on patrol - if a spider-camera picks up a crime, the app on his phone beeps and he can get to the scene exactly. Pretty smart, if somewhat Big-Brother-ish, and an idea that's a great blend of Spidey and Ock.

There are lots of little things like that that separate this Spider-man from the real Spidey, like the brilliant way he deals with the new Sinister Six in the opening issue, setting the tone for the series that this is a very different Spider-man than the one we've all read before. The focus is on Ock's more cerebral approach to crime-fighting, incorporating traps and gadgets to accomplish his goals more effectively. This Spider-man is definitely a new and interesting version of Spidey that we've never seen before and makes for a more exciting story as we can't predict what he's going to do next.

It is strange that no-one picks up on Spidey being different - his voice is definitely Doc Ock's, using phrases like "everything's proceeding according to plan" in everyday vernacular - especially MJ. Issue #2 deals with the disturbing consequence of Doc Ock in Peter's body - that he might end up trying to rape MJ, or she would sleep with him not knowing he's not Peter. Thankfully, Dan Slott deals with it tastefully and in a way that it doesn't need to be addressed again in other issues.

There's a brilliant scene that parodies Batman where Mayor J. Jonah Jameson sets up a Spider-man spotlight that shines into the sky whenever he needs him - a light that Spidey quickly destroys, telling him it's like a beacon for every bad guy in the city to target. Which raised the interesting question of why more Batman villains haven't tried sabotaging the light atop the GCPD more often? Batman shows up on the building whenever the light is shone after all. I thought it was a great observation from Slott anyway.

Despite the jokey nature of the first couple of issues, things get very dark in the latter half of the book with Peter's grip of Ock's mind slipping (he follows Ock everywhere as a kind of one-man disembodied Greek chorus) and sees the Superior Spider-man becoming much more harsh in his approach to Spidey's rogues gallery, specifically in his treatment of the Vulture and Massacre. In fact, the way Spidey deals with Massacre might be a dealbreaker for many long-time Spider-man readers - but just remember it's not Peter.

There really isn't a single thing about the book I can fault. I even liked the sub-plot where Ock discovers Peter doesn't have a doctorate and, his ego enraged, re-enrolls in university to get his PhD. and gets tutored by a little person with excellent Italian cooking skills. Amid everything that's happening, it should be a sidetrack that feels unnecessary but instead adds to the overall richness of the storyline.

Dan Slott, Ryan Stegman and Giuseppe Camuncoli have re-invigorated Spider-man with this storyline, giving the character a fresh perspective and creating new avenues of storytelling with all sorts of possibilities. Superior Spider-man is a fantastic series and a must-read for both old and new fans of the character.

Mike says

This is just about the most brilliant idea I've seen in superhero comics in ages. Otto Octavius inhabiting the body of Peter Parker, spouting off his classic arrogance, distaste for all the Neanderthal morons surrounding him and being about as self-serving and brusque as Peter Parker was not? The dissonance from everything we ever knew about Parker is simply divine and wholly entertaining.

The insults he hurls at nearly everyone around him are hilarious - like a symphony of comeuppance for the beleaguered Doc Ock, always a bridesmaid (or would-be world-conquering genius), never a bride. Now with the power and legitimacy of being on the good side, he gets the victories he's always deserved. Ironic but he'll (and I'll) take it.

There's something gorgeous about just how quickly and easily Otto's brain and Peter's body equate to the perfect crime-fighter, and so ridiculously beyond most foes it's unfair and almost cruel. This makes my nerd side just sing with joy - I should be running naked through the streets in celebration of this victory on behalf of us nerds.

Otto's entire approach to solving problems that were hellish for Peter is just so...gratifying and facepalm-worthy. Of COURSE that's how a genius and master plotter would handle these things - what moron WOULDN'T? (Little embarrassing for our hero, wouldn't you say?)

This book feels like my well-earned reward for setting out to catch up on Spider-man that I embarked on early this year when I reached back (through a Marvel Digital Unlimited subscription) and started with Brand New Day.

Watching Otto try to woo Mary Jane is like a symphony of teenage nerd-losses, played out with big brains but still missing the clue on how to understand girls. Bonus: there's a special observer along for the ride, making the whole exercise a squirmy pleasure I'd never dreamed.

The Massacre story is a little less exciting, because it's the same old threat and just happens to have a few Otto one-upmanship twists to freshen it up a bit. It's not that it's not good, just that it's playing out the same scenery with a slightly different outcome. Somehow it feels like I'm playing a video game here, and this time we're free playing a level with a new character. Somehow it's...not entirely fun, feels a bit rote. (Or maybe it's just that we've trotted out Massacre, a C-list villain, to give Otto the excuse he needs to take this further than Spidey ever would.)

The repercussions on Spidey's life from what Otto is doing are obvious, and inevitably Parker will re-inhabit his body and then have to deal with his wrecked life. It's an interesting way to mess with the "good life" that Peter has earned lately, though it boils down to "I was possessed" - a trope of soap operas that I wish I'd

never been forced to acknowledge I've seen. (My mom made me do it, OK?)

Art by Stegman, Camuncoli and team is good - evocative, fluid action, and interesting choices - but the faces look weirdly puffy and angular, and the acting ain't exactly subtle.

All in all this is a must-read book, and a lot of fun is in there. I can't in good conscience give it full five stars, but it's damned close.

Gavin says

Well now, THAT is how you jump start/reboot one of the biggest superheroes out there. Marvel NOW started slow for me, but at this point, it's kicking the crap out of New 52. (Matt Fraction on Hawkeye; Mark Waid on Daredevil; Jonathan Hickman on the New Avengers; Brian Michael Bendis on All New X-Men, Jason Aaron on Wolverine and the X-Men....just wow).

Doc Ock's consciousness is in Peter Parker, and Peter is dead. Yes that's right. However, the dead sometimes have a way of haunting people...but I won't give more than that away. Taking a whole new spin on Spidey, his relationships with everyone (which Slott's done a great job of explaining, it's not Otto's brain in Peter's body, because Peter's memories and morality is still intact, so it's a hybrid of Peter and Otto). This makes very fascinating reading, because he's not a bad guy, nor is he the good Spidey of old, but somewhere in between, and in some ways, far more effective. [little robotic spiders to act as an early warning system for crime so that Otto can be where he needs to be without having to 'waste time' patrolling]

There's a nice parallel of Batman (J. Jonah gets a Spider Light put on the roof of the mayor's house) and I'll leave it to you to read how that goes down. There's also run ins with Vulture (a whole new dynamic as Otto and the Vulture are old acquaintances) as well as Massacre.

The fight between Massacre and Spidey will shake you, and may be too much for some long time Spidey fans, but you have to remember...that it isn't Peter Parker.

Slott manages to take Otto as Spider-Man and make it fascinating, his interactions with everyone are new, and bring up all new situations. Yet without giving it away, the spirit of Peter Parker looms large over this book.

This is in my opinion a new modern classic, and destined to be included in the greatest Spider-Man books ever. Bravo Mr. Slott.

James DeSantis says

Finally, years later, I sit down and read Superior Spider-man to see if I'll enjoy it as much as I did when reading issue 1 years ago. I fucking do, is the short answer.

So Dr. Ock is the new Spider-man. With that it started a million online fanboys crying for hours. However, if you actually read it, not a bad idea. So now Dr. Ock has all the memories of Peter Parker and the same feelings but that doesn't mean he has to do it the same way. This is a man who wants to cut out the bullshit. Have a life. Take down criminals, FOR GOOD. This is a man on a mission to save people but not bullshit around. This is the Superior Spider-man, and he actually is.

Good: The art is wonderful. I love Ryan's artwork, some of my favorite of Spider-man. The dialog is a step up, since Dr. Ock spider-man is far more interesting and well done and it SOUNDS like him verses where I never thought Slott got Peter's voice down right. The later half of this volume is extremely well done and the last few pages are near perfect for a new SPider-man adventure.

Bad: I thought the start was a little slow, and gimmicky with a ghost-like Peter Parker following Dr. Ock Spider-man everywhere.

Overall this was extremely fun and easily the best Spider-man story read in awhile. His solo title has suffered but this, this was some good shit. Hope to enjoy Superior Spider-man's entire run now! A 4 out of 5.

Anne says

Yes, this was just as good as everyone said it would be.

Maybe better.

I haven't kept up with Spider-Man, so I have no idea how Doc Ock pulled off his Vulcan mind-meld switcheroo. I mean, I knew he *had*, I just didn't read about it when it happened.

I can't believe what a great job Slott did with this whole concept.

Let's kill off Peter...and replace his mind with Otto Octavius'.

In what world does that sound like a good idea?!

It shouldn't work. Nothing about that sounds remotely good. Nothing.

But it's sooooo awesome!

I cared! I actually cared about Doc Ock! It didn't hurt that Peter's consciousness is still rattling around in there, desperately trying to give Otto some sort of moral compass.

Good luck, Parker!

As an added bonus, it also gave the book a team-up feeling to it. And really, who doesn't love team-ups?

The kicker is that Otto actually does do a *better* job as Spider-Man...than Spider-Man. Which doesn't exactly escape Peter's notice, and leads him to have several facepalm moments.

Why didn't I ever call the police for back-up? Duh.

Really the only way this could have been better is if Otto had decided to get a haircut. Can you imagine Spider-man with a bowl-cut?

Nice.

It's humorous, smart, and touching all rolled into a fun story with cool art.

Superior Spider-Man is everything that's great about the comic book medium.

So go read it!
