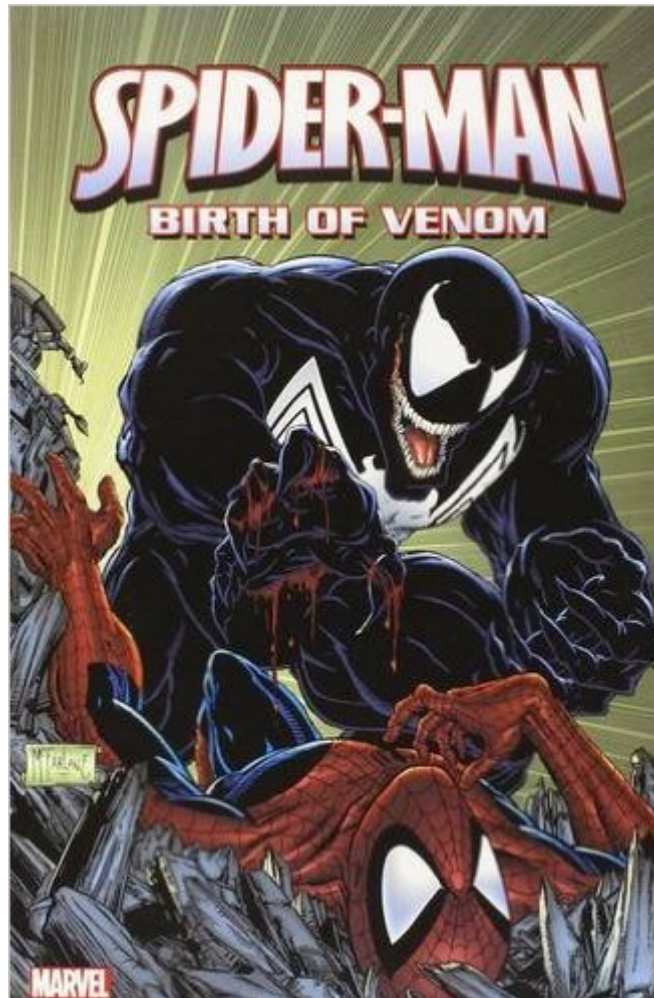


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Spider-Man: Birth Of Venom



Synopsis

The Beyonder's Battleworld might seem a strange place to get new threads, but it's Spider-Man who becomes unraveled when his shape-changing costume attempts to darken his life as well as his fashion sense! But ridding himself of his riotous raiment proves an even greater mistake when its alien enmity bonds with mortal madness to form our hero's most dedicated decimator! Plus: the first appearances of Puma and the Rose! Mary Jane Watson's startling secret! And the debut of the battling...Bag-Man!? Guest-starring the Black Cat, the Fantastic Four and more! Collects Secret Wars #8; Amazing Spider-Man #252-259, #298-300 & #315-317; Fantastic Four #274 and Web of Spider-Man #1

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Customer Reviews

The trade paperback SPIDER-MAN: BIRTH OF VENOM expands on the 1991 trade SPIDER-MAN: THE SAGA OF THE ALIEN COSTUME, collecting either complete or partial stories from Secret Wars #8, Amazing Spider-Man #252-259, 298-300, & 315-317; Fantastic Four #274; and Web of Spider-Man #1. Contained here is everything you need to know about how Peter Parker's black and white "costume" from the Beyonder's Battleworld became one of his greatest foes. From the brief initial appearance of the costume in Secret Wars through its evolution to a full-fledged villain, it's all here, plus appearances from Puma, Jack O'Lantern, Kingpin, the Rose, Black Cat, and the Fantastic Four. To me, these are the only Venom stories worth reading, as they came before the character's overexposure and inexplicable transformation into something of a "good guy". The first

half of the book follows Peter's discovery of the true nature of his costume, the majority of which is by writer Tom Defalco and artist Ron Frenz. Even though I have read these stories many times, the fun and suspense were still there. Defalco's use of expository dialogue and thought balloons are excessive, but the writing is no less solid for it. Frenz' art is superb, strongly resembling the work of Frank Miller at the time, while successfully incorporating Spidey's unique fighting style and general quirkiness as defined by Steve Ditko. The second half of the book contains the Venom stories written by David Michelinie and illustrated by Todd McFarlane. This includes the introduction of Eddie Brock and the development of Venom as a major Spidey villain. These guys were certainly the most prominent creators during this period of Spider-Man's history, but I feel that more work is included from them than necessary.

This book is definitely a must have for all Spider-man fans. First of all, you get a lot of good storytelling and writing in this collection. The summary of this collection, listed on the back of the book and of course seen under the details of this page, is very understated. When I chose to purchase this book I just thought that I was getting the origin of the alien costume Spider-man received when he was on Battle World, the subsequent issues featuring Spider-man using this costume and eventually getting it removed by the Fantastic Four, and of course the first appearance of Venom in ASM issue number 300, as well as his first of many returning appearances in ASM #315-317. A worthwhile buy in itself, but this book featured much more. The alien costume saga was written very well. It introduced new villains such as The Rose and the deadly Puma, Mary Jane Watson's background story, as well as the moment when Mary Jane tells Peter that she has known that he was Spider-man for years. All of happens while the alien costume slowly begins to take over Peter's body and exploit him as its host. Brilliant storytelling. The alien costume also features appearances by the Black Cat and the moment when Peter tells Aunt May that he had dropped out of graduate school. The only downside to the alien costume saga part of the collection was that it only collected the ASM issues as well as Web of Spider-man #1 in which Peter removes the alien costume at the bell tower of the church. I wish they would have included the issues of Spectacular Spider-man and Marvel Team-Up in which the alien costume was bonded with Spider-man. I love the alien costume and I just like to have complete collections.

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