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# Spider-Man: Back In Black



## Synopsis

The entire status-quo-shattering BACK IN BLACK saga, collected in one mammoth oversized hardcover! reeling in the aftermath of CIVIL WAR, Peter Parker has plenty of reasons to consider a change of wardrobe: Black is his state of mind. But the worst is yet to come for Spider-Man! In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, events are set in motion that will forever change life of your favorite web-slinger. There IS no going back! In FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN, the secrets of the alternate Uncle Ben are revealed, but not before the Sandman attacks! And in SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN, younger, less-experienced versions of our web-spinning hero begin appearing all over the city, causing havoc wherever they go. Can Peter stop them, and whoever's behind them, before more lives are lost? Collecting Amazing Spider-Man #539-543, Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #17-23 and Annual #1, Sensational Spider-Man #35-40 and Annual #1.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With the Civil War over and Captain America dead, Spider-Man finds himself in a bad situation. Aunt May has been shot and her life hangs in the balance, while poor Peter Parker finds himself a wanted fugitive with a price on his head. All of this leads Spidey to once again don the black costume (minus the symbiote) and seek some vengeance, or as close to vengeance as Spider-Man can really get. The issues collected in this hardcover collection are written by longtime Amazing Spider-Man scribe and Babylon 5 creator J. Michael Straczynski and legendary Hulk writer Peter David, however, both writer's amazing talents aren't nearly put to use well enough with the overall

story of Back in Black. The overall effect feels as if both writers are holding back, and this feeling of restraint is felt throughout the story. Not to mention that nothing really significant happens here, as the story ends with a cliffhanger of sorts, which sets up One More Day, which allegedly will change everything about the Spider-Man mythos. The artwork is pretty decent throughout, featuring work from Ron Garney and Ron Cliquet, but there's not enough here to warrant picking it up. All in all, Back in Black isn't a bad chapter in the Spider-Man mythos, but there's nothing really substantial or noteworthy here either.

Collecting Amazing Spider-Man 539-543, Friendly Spider-Man 17-23 and Annual 1, this is the first book of two Back In Black hardcovers detailing Spider-Man's life after the Civil War events in the Marvel Universe, where his identity as Peter Parker had been publicly revealed. Focusing on the aftermath of an assassin's attempts on his family, the story has Spider-Man facing the darker aspects of his character. Well told and drawn as usual, it cuts off rather abruptly at the end of the ASM issues. Would have liked a little more conclusive end point.

The superhero Civil War that was fought over the Superhero Registration Act ended with Captain America surrendering to the law. The heroes whom supported and fought together with Captain America were forced underground and are now considered criminals. Spider-Man aka Peter Parker makes his way back to the motel he's hiding out in together with Aunt May and Mary Jane. Due to his identity now being public, he's attacked by sniper fire with the bullet hitting Aunt May in the chest. -summary Civil War was definitely a game changer for the Marvel Universe in 2007, and although the event itself was severely lacking, it still did a magnificent job following up both Avengers Disassembled and House of M. Several characters were effected in the wake of Civil War, but Captain America and Spider-Man indeed felt the effects more than anyone. Spider-Man: Back in Black is the final major falling out of Civil War, as it continues dealing with the repercussions of Spider-Man unmasking on live TV and choosing to oppose the Superhero Registration Act. The concept behind the main story title is Spider-Man donning the black costume once again signifying his descent into darkness, which was triggered by Aunt May's life threatening injury. The storyline takes place across two books; Spider-Man: Back in Black and Peter Parker, Spider-Man: Back in Black. The former is by far the best of the two as it deals with Spider-Man's transition. Now, Spider-Man being driven towards committing the one act he always avoided being murder is nothing new. He has come very close to crossing the line before, most notably, during the Death of Gwen Stacy storyline when the Green Goblin killed his lover Gwen, and the Pursuit storyline when

Chameleon revealed his parents to be alive and well, with them turning out to be artificial killing machines. This time though, the possibility of him crossing that line feels inevitable due to one of the two most important people in his life being attacked in such a way. This is Spider-Man at his most aggressive. Written by J. Michael Straczynski this TPB collects Amazing Spider-Man 539 - 543, Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man 17 -23, and Annual #1. The plot begins with Spider-Man rushing Aunt May to the hospital. The situation isn't only terrible because of her injury, but they're all wanted fugitives plus Spider-Man has no idea who sent the attack. He had made so many enemies that it could be anyone. JMS wires this story up tightly from beginning to end; there was really no way to guess where this was going, and the possibility of Spider-Man making it out of this one became more non-existent by the page turn. There is just one problem after the other and it all feels so believable. Spider-Man eventually links the shooting to the Kingpin whom ordered the hit from Ryker's Island prison. This leads to a chase and later the brutal confrontation between the two. Unlike Peter Parker, Spider-Man: Back in Black, this story feels very different from the normal Spider-Man tales. Anyone who says otherwise did not read this book. Spider-Man's rage could be felt through the mask. The usual wit was gone, and it was completely replaced by something much darker. JMS driving Spider-Man back to wearing black couldn't spoon-feed the stories' themes more. Still, it doesn't dampen the impact in the least; we're given so many reasons through the artwork, dialog, and random situations on the symbolism behind the color black, with loss of hope standing out the most. The situation definitely feels hopeless which is strange in a Spider-Man story, since his reputation was built on somehow overcoming all obstacles. JMS handles the story well keeping you in the dark, even when Spider-Man battled Kingpin the suspense was high; and after the battle, the tension was still pretty high as Aunt May's situation would become more complicated leading Peter to truly walk the path of a criminal. JMS did a far better job handling the Back in Black concept, and this book would have been perfect had it ended right then. Marvel decides to ride the coattails of the Spider-Man 3 film that came out the same year with the next story written by Peter David, that runs through Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man. This story continues events from earlier issues wrapping up the storyline concerning the Spider-Man from the future of 2211. Spider-Man partners up with the Sandman whom was in the third movie, as they try to prove Sandman's father's innocence while he sits on death row for murder. This story does maintain the concept of Back in Black with Spider-Man forced to do things a criminal would do, but it's nowhere near dark as the previous story. This can be a problem since it feels so different from the main Back in Black storyline, but unlike the crossover found in Peter Parker, Spider-Man: Back in Black, this one is very fun to read. David uses the buddy cop formula; Sandman and Spider-Man's interactions can be very

funny, as Sandman points out they are in fact criminals so driving without a license breaking the law means nothing. An earlier plot thread that took place in the storyline Spider-Man: The Other receives closure here as well. This leads to a spider-being named Ero seeking to consume Spider-Man whom claims to be his natural predator. This story is action packed, and it goes against the grain of Spider-Man attempting to save his enemy's life. There is plenty to like here, and Sandman Year One is an excellent origin tale that goes into his childhood and the real reason he tried to kill Spider-Man over the years. I heavily criticized the other Back in Black book for adding nothing to the Back in Black storyline. This book later does the same thing; the difference here is that this book is more fun to read, has better action, and artwork. Plus it still features stories and interactions that remind you Spider-Man is a fugitive, at times, I forgot that with the other book. Ron Garney draws the first story and it does feel dark and moody on some occasions. The facial designs especially are worth noting, Peter feels different walking around with pure hell on his face. The action panels are very good with devastating looking blows thrown during the Kingpin fight. Sandman Year One looks really good also with some nice details of Coney Island where they fought at. The dialog and panels are done perfectly helping the flow of the book. The only real problem with Spider-Man: Back in Black is that due to the next event One More Day, it feels almost pointless. The events that took place here really did damage the character, and Marvel was forced to write their way out of a corner. Still though, this is a very good storyline that proves Marvel were willing to take huge risk. It was a great follow up to Civil War, and it's among the most interesting storylines in the Spider-Man mythos. I recommend this book anyway to serious fans of course and even casual fans. There's enough information provided to keep people from feeling lost. Pros: Strong narrative and artwork, excellent follow up to Civil War Cons: Leads to a big retcon, clearly tried to promote 2007 movie

a great book where we see the darker side of spider-man who is fed up with having his family and friends being hurt because he's trying to help people and people still treat him like the bad guy. and in this book it's takes place after civil war where his aunt may is shot and he is willing to do anything to keep her alive even if it means committing a crime. and we see the return of the spider creature who attacked him right after the other story line who is looking for a mate to make babies with and flash is her 1st choice as spidey tries to save him.

It has been a long time since I dipped into the world of comic books and while I was at the local book store I ran across this title. I only read just a few pages before I had to leave but from that day alone I was hooked and I wanted to make this book the first title I wanted to own again. From the

artwork to the writing itself it was like i was watching a hollywood blockbuster movie. I love this book and it helped me get back into reading comics.

This was an amazing read! It continues where Civil War Spider-Man left off and does a remarkable job of capturing the mental state of Peter. Artwork was beautifully done and story is just a whirlwind of emotions. Highly recommend reading.

Despite horrid reviews I've read, I was actually fairly impressed with this volume. The artwork on most of the comics compiled here was phenomenal and the stories themselves were interesting and explored the complexities of what it means to be both Peter Parker and Spiderman. True, there is not a unifying story tied together in the "Back in Black" crossovers, but they are enjoyable one-shots nonetheless. It also goes without saying that Straczynski's contributions are phenomenal. Even in the other works, though, there is still plenty of the witty web-slinger we all know and love. There were even a few jokes and meta moments that made me laugh out loud. That said, way too much time is spent on Sandman with little explanation as to why other than the fact that he appeared in the most recent movie (Spiderman 3) which was a flop.

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