



Spike: The Devil You Know

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While out and about (drinking, naturally) Spike gets in trouble over a girl (of course) and finds himself in the middle of a conspiracy that involves Hellmouths, blood factories, and demons. Just another day in Los Angeles, really. But when devil Eddie Hope gets involved, they might just kill each other before getting to the bad guys!

Spike: The Devil You Know Details

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Jim C says

This is part of the Buffy/Angel universe and is a collection of four issues. This collection is your basic buddy cop team up where two people who do not like each other pair up to defeat a common enemy. In this one, Spike teams up with Eddie Hope who had a minor role in previous *Angel* issues. Their common enemy is someone from Spike's past who is attempting to open a mini hellmouth.

There is really nothing new here. The idea of a villain opening a hellmouth has been done before. The team up of Eddie and Spike never really works. They try the witty banter and attempt to outdo each other but it never comes across as delightful entertainment. And that is not even the worst aspect about this collection. That distinction belongs to the artwork. It would be nice if a comic based on a television show character somewhat resembled the actor. In this collection, the Spike character illustration would differ from panel to panel and was a sad replica of the character.

This was a quick read and I would only recommend this to die hard fans like myself. This can be skipped because there is no vital information for Spike's story arc.

Alex says

Pretty routine stuff. One of those spin off comics that are greenlit when a property is booming and everyone wants to lap them up, regardless of the quality or care that's taken in producing them. There'll always be Spike fans excited by the prospect of Spike in his very own comic happy to pay money for second rate work. That's not to say that it isn't fun in any way, it's just all so derivative and run of the mill, taking a bunch of elements from 1,000 other Buffyverse stories and adding nothing of interest to them. There's not enough here to justify the existence of this one though.

Anastasia says

I love Spike, but hated this series. I read 1 and a half issues before I quit.

kory. says

The dynamic between Spike and Eddie is nice.

Matt says

Eh, Eddie Hope seems to not have much depth beyond the Punisher archetype, but Spike still has enough style to buoy him.

Bert says

Yikes. The run of the mill story was bad enough, but the drawings are just awful. I'd proclaim this to be "for fans only", but I'd be doing a disservice to fans if they'd take that as an encouragement.

pianogal says

Not my favorite. Not a bad story, but some of it didn't ring as Spike. He was a little butch in some of the drawings and his trademark snark was missing.

Bradley says

It was all right. Sure, closing a hellmouth with the help of a devil is fun and all, but what can I say? It's all been done before in buffyverse. I really want the characters to look more like themselves, too. I'd read this only if you're a die-hard completionist like me.

M says

Spinning out of the Angel series from IDW, vampire-with-a-soul Spike finds himself tracking down a Hellmouth-creating vampire he knew from back in his demonic days. Newly-minted character Eddie Hope, the ice devil with a list of names to hunt down becomes embroiled in the mess as well. Not only does the plot fail to impress, but it feels more like a chance to test the waters with the Eddie Hope character. While I admire IDW for trying new things are finishing up the canon "After the Fall" storyline, Eddie Hope and Spike's latest adventures do little for this Buffy fan.

Sarah says

Meh. That's the best thing I can say about this. I love Spike like A LOT but this book stripped out all the emotional stuff that made him a great character, gave him a plot that was mediocre, and paired him with the least interesting sidekick ever in Eddie Hope. It seemed like this was all testing the waters for an Eddie Hope series but his character just isn't interesting enough on his own to sustain a story. Super Spike fans looking for a distraction might enjoy a flip through but this is not a great story or even a good one.

Sesana says

Well, that was pointless. The story is dull enough that I doubt the writer was interested in it. The character of Eddie Hope actually got a lot more development in the one shot I read in Angel: The End than he does in

the entirety of this miniseries. The art... Well, I've resigned myself to these media tie-in comics having a really slight grasp on how to draw actual people, but this was another thing entirely. The artist couldn't seem to decide from one panel to the next how to draw Spike, and he couldn't have looked like himself in more than a few panels. Horrible.

Alan says

A solid entry in Buffy/Angel canon as Joss Whedon now has oversight, while not actually writing, the comic tales of these characters. This takes place post Angel season 5 and Spike is now walking the heroes road by choice. Wolfram and Hart, plus the Black Thorn and hellmouths all figure in a tale that seems to be setting up further Spike adventures down the road.

Sean says

Buffy/Angel-verse books can be so hit or miss and this story was such a surprising hit. Spike is introduced to Eddie Hope and they have a wild night trying to save the day. The dialogue was spot on as Spike sounded like Spike and the plot was fun. The art by Chris Cross was great. The book could have used a little help from editorial with more obvious chapter breaks and footnotes. Overall, a really great book!

Candiebarr says

I think I remember reading this the last time I read SPIKE Omnibus, which is a book I have, but even so, I think I'm going to keep this anyway. More so because it's a BtVS related book. I'm not really a big fan of the art. I think there's too much detail for it to actually look good in colour. In fact, there were a few pages at the back of the book before it was coloured and it looked much cleaner. I also don't think the character design remained of the same quality throughout, but maybe that had something to do with trying to draw the characters to match their real-life counterparts. The story also seemed a bit rushed and doesn't seem to explain anything. Like, why did Spike just happen to run into Eddie? and who is this person (demon?) opening the hellmouth for Tansy? Why is she opening it?

In all honesty, the only thing worth reading it for are the few coloured pages at the end that are kind of cool looking.

Jonathan Coulombe says

As usual, Spike makes a great character to put into a story. This one feels really like an episode of the TV series as it involves adventures during a single night out. The author managed a good mix of adding a little bit of Spike background while keeping it to the present day. The pace was also really strong in this one.

4 stars instead of 5 for 2 reasons: First, while the likeness was quite present in terms of artwork, it was a bit too cartoony at points. Second, Spike is a great character, and Eddie was interesting, but mixing the two of them, while the result was great, was not like having Spike with someone else from the show in terms of

possibilities for dialogues and what not. Hence, I feel it could have been even better as a trio if Gunn was in it or another character.

Great read however.
