



The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Volume 2: The Crime of the Century

Nick Spencer (Writer) , Steve Lieber (Illustrator)

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The Foes are on the brink as the sleeper hit of the year continues!

Nick Spencer (*Avengers World*) and Steve Lieber (*Hawkeye*) bring you the crime of the century! But if Speed Demon can't do the time, then he shouldn't have done the crime! Boomerang has been targeted for death - but what does the Beetle know about it? Is Overdrive a rat for the Feds? Can Shocker and Boomerang repair their relationship? (And did we seriously just use that question to try to sell a book?) And did you ever wonder what Shocker does on his day off? Because the answer turns out to be "get punched. Repeatedly." It's a second serving of the greatest villain book on the stands today! Crime does pay...but the Foes just might pay harder!

Collecting: *The Superior Foes of Spider-Man* 7-11

The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Volume 2: The Crime of the Century Details

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From Reader Review The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Volume 2: The Crime of the Century for online ebook

Sesana says

Well, it isn't quite as good as the first volume was. But it's still very fun to read. Part of the problem is that only two of the five issues collected here have any forward momentum in the main story. Strangely, the first issue isn't one of them. I really liked Janice's backstory, don't get me wrong, but it was an odd choice after the cliffhanger from the previous volume/issue. Believe it or not, I actually liked the two "filler" issues. I would have rather had the main story expanded on, of course, but if we have to get filler (and, apparently, we did) this was good filler to get. I was especially surprised with how much I liked the last issue, set at a Supervillains Anonymous meeting and without any of the regular cast members. Maybe because it does actually refer to a Superior Spider-Man who is all but absent in this series. I don't mind that he isn't showing up, but Otto!Spidey going ballistic on villains is kind of the elephant in the room that needed to be addressed at some point.

Long story short, I'm still enjoying this series. It's still way better than I ever expected it to be. Funny, creative, and (mostly) thoughtfully plotted out. I'm very much looking forward to the next volume.

Allie says

Not as good as the first one, but still hilarious.

Gavin says

Uber let down.

Nowhere near volume one.

Best joke here is the Plainsman hero from Missourah...because thats how my grandmother says Missouri.

Otherwise, pretty lame, a wee chuckle here and there but way too disjointed to enjoy and Nick Spencer gets credit even if he only did half a volume of writing...

Mike? Don't bother.

Jeff says

“Big, sweaty hippo man-boobs”

That quote's from volume one and it still cracks me up.

[**Public service message:** This is a buddy read with Mominator].

Volume one was one the best graphic novel collections I read last year. It was so funny and insightful that I recommended it to people who don't normally read comics.

Was there anything as remotely funny in this? Not really.

Even the contributions of Nick Spencer, author of Volume One, fall short here. The first issue centering on a female Beetle is a laborious read. The other two issues he penned have some quirky moments and I did laugh out loud a couple of times but fall short of the promise of the previous volume.

The last two issues contained here aren't even by Nick Spencer, with the final one expanding upon the clever Super Villains Anonymous concept offered up in the first volume. Even Hippo was there, along with the Bong, but he didn't offer up any sweaty hugs this time.

Thanks for sharing anyway, Looter and the dude dressed up like a bear.

"Big, sweaty hippo man-boobs" *Le sigh*

R. Morris says

Though nowhere near as good as the first volume, Crime of the Century still has its moments. This second volume of The Superior Foes of Spider-Man suffers from a bit of a jumbled storyline. In the five issues included within, three are (arguably) filler issues. Right off the bat (issue #7) we get the origin of the Beetle, which, although an interesting read, takes a bit away from the flow of the first volume. Issues 8 & 9 are the highlights here, and continue to make Boomerang so much more interesting of a character than he'd been in his 30+ year history. #10 & 11 give us some more kooky villains saying kooky things (I've always been a big fan of oft-used villain The Looter/Meteor-Man...is there any hope that he can join the team??) but they really don't leave much impact other than making the first volume look that much better. Still, I'm looking forward to Volume Three.

Andrew says

There were obviously some serious scheduling issues going on at the time this was published in single issues. Nick Spencer only writes three issues in this collection, and regular artist Steve Lieber only draws two. The fill-in issues are all enjoyable (the Beetle's origin story is particularly funny. Turns out she gave up a successful career as an attorney to pursue her lifelong dream of costumed villainy, with the stated goal of breaking street crime's Glass Ceiling), but they absolutely kill the plot's forward momentum. Because this is a limited series with a clearly defined endgame in sight, it's frustrating to waste time with filler, and I feel for anybody who bought this trade paperback for just two issues of actual story.

Simone says

Se volete leggere la mia recensione, cliccate qui! <http://ascwblog.blogspot.it/2016/02/s...>

Anne says

[**Hail Hydra!** (hide spoiler)]

Jan Philipzig says

This second volume opens with an updated Beetle origin story that has potential but ends up a bit on the slow and clunky side, partly due to inferior fill-in artwork. Then regular artist Steve Lieber makes a welcome (if all too brief) return, and by the time the disembodied yet always feisty head of Mafioso Silvio Manfredi is insulting our friend Shocker, writer Nick Spencer has found his groove again. I generally enjoyed the (lack of) team chemistry and the various misadventures that followed, especially those involving Boomerang.

Unfortunately, the silly fun doesn't last. About halfway through the book it becomes obvious that Spencer and Lieber are running out of gas, as their storytelling is now so sloppy that it just isn't funny anymore. The last 40 pages are written and drawn by various fill-in creators—with rather inconsistent and dispensable results. Hmm, it didn't take Marvel's notorious deadlines long to turn a little engine that could into a train wreck, did it? Bummer, I was really looking forward to this after enjoying the first volume.

Lono says

A D-List character buddy read with my Shallow Comic Reading pals!

I really struggled to finish this one. Just didn't tickle me the way Vol. 1 did. A few moments here and there, but lacking overall. Nick Spenser had some help with the writing chores and that is probably why this one fell a little flat. Even Nick's stuff in issues 8 and 9 didn't quite measure up the shifts and giggles of the last collection, and **that stuff** was the high point of the book. These were really the only issues that picked up where Vol. 1 left off. The rest was a resounding MEH. A bunch of less funny, individual short stories about the gang, a guy in a bear costume, and "The Looter".

Steve Lieber's art was still pretty good and Siya Oum contributed a really nice looking 4 page Beetle story where Daredevil made a brief appearance. Couple of other folks also filled in a few pages here and there, but nothing "Superior", just ok.

Hardcore fans of the first volume might enjoy this one. I may come back again to see what happens to Boomrang and the rest of the Sinister Six (Five or Four or whatever) solely based on some pals reviews....or not.

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Sam Quixote says

Well, that was a let-down! After a slew of bad Marvel comics, I thought I could rely on Superior Foes to come through and it totally dropped the ball. Put simply, Volume 2 is a birruva mess.

The first book's creative team of Nick Spencer and Steve Lieber is broken up with the pair only collaborating on two of the five issues, thank you insane Marvel shipping schedule! In addition, there are three writers and five or six artists also contributing work – this many cooks in the kitchen? Never a good sign!

The main story of the series is the new Sinister Six (who're actually only five – boy, did that joke get old fast!) ripping off The Owl for a painting of Doctor Doom sans mask and the head of Silvio Silvermane. The second volume does little to build on the first book's story and the two Spencer/Lieber issues cover briefly what happens next before the remaining issues turn into filler. One issue looks at the new Beetle's origins, another at past failed shenanigans, and another at the supervillain support group.

Boomerang gets the lion's share of the main story as he begins a relationship with the woman he met in the first book, and then has to dodge Bullseye who's after his head! The Lieber art is fantastic as usual but Spencer's dream sequences felt a bit passé. I think I'm over the silly schtick of the series, especially as it's become unfunny. The Bullseye stuff was pretty decent though. The other members of the team basically tread water.

The new Beetle's origin was ok. Her dad's Tombstone and she always wanted to be a supervillain and blah blah blah. James Asmus' filler issue (wittily titled "The Fill In" – hmm) is three members of the team sat in a bar trading dull stories. The closing issue is the supervillains' support group featuring baddies who have been beaten savagely by the Superior Spider-Man. They weren't the most interesting stories and the idea of supervillain support groups has been overdone these last few years, but that seems to be par for the course of this book.

There's not a lot to say about this volume besides how poorly it pales in comparison to the stronger first book. The multiple writers and artists make for an uneven and unsatisfying narrative as the issues jump from one set of characters to another to little overall effect. It also makes me less interested in following the series for a third volume which is disappointing as Superior Foes was the one decent Superior Spider-Man spinoff.

Martin says

A short collection, including an origin issue for the new Beetle, followed by two issues continuing the zany plot of The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Vol. 1: Getting the Band Back Together, capped with two issues of short stories by fill-in creative teams - which, while being in the same spirit as the 'main' story, take the focus away from the true stars of this book and do not help the story progress.

Even though this book was not as fresh in concept as the first volume was, it was still fun, and I am looking forward to reading The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Vol. 3: Game Over, which concludes this series (and I'm reading The Superior Foes of Spider-Man Omnibus, so Volume 3 is, like, *right there!*).

John Ferrigno says

I almost gave this five stars like I did the first volume, but the last stories, about Grizzly and the Looter, weren't quite as good as the rest of the book. While they were well written and illustrated, I had spent the previous nine issues getting invested in the main characters, so having the spotlight on people other than Boomerang and the rest of the gang was a bit of a let down.

However, this just goes to show what a great job Nick Spencer has done on this series. He has written these characters so masterfully that I have reached a point where I genuinely care about Boomerang, Shocker, Speed Demon, Beetle and Overdrive.

Another fun entry in the series, and a must read for anybody who misses a time when comics were fun.

Ma'Belle says

I thought the first [short] volume was amusing, but this one was hilarious. I don't think the plots matter much, as they're just clever vehicles for tying together the myriad mishaps of B, C, and D-list supervillians. Watch them tackle the sexist glass ceiling of villiany! See them entangle themselves in ever-widening webs of boastful lies!

I haven't read any of Nick Spencer's other projects, but he does this really well. It's pretty obviously styled to complement/mimic the success of Matt Fraction's Hawkeye. Marvel doesn't include enough issues in each trade paperback, but if you like the current Hawkeye series' way of looking into the day-in, day-out, behind-the-action-scenes lives of minor characters, check this series out. I've thought for years that there aren't enough well-written storybooks within the major comic 'verses from the perspective of the second stringers whose limelight is constantly stolen. This is that.

It helps just a little bit to understand the basic premise of Superior Spider-man, but for a spin-off title, it really stands alone fine. Superior Spider-man is great, but not at all necessary to read any of Superior Foes.

Robert says

Not as off-the-wall and twisty-turny as the previous volume.

I guess I enjoyed the chance to spend a bit more time with each of the characters to learn a bit more backstory, etc., but some of the content (like the story with Grizzly, etc.) really did just feel like so much filler.
