



Ant-Man: Second-Chance Man

Nick Spencer , Ramon Rosanos (Illustrator)

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SCOTT LANG LEARNS NOT TO SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF!

Scott Lang has never exactly been the world's best super hero. Heck, most people don't even think he's been the best Ant-Man! And the last guy invented Ultron and joined the Masters of Evil, so that's saying something. But when Iron Man calls with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Scott's going to get a second chance to be the hero he's always dreamed of becoming! Then, Scott faces off against his old foe the Taskmaster, but who is the mystery villain pulling the strings? And when Ant-Man needs to pull off an impossible break-in, he assembles a new gang...of criminals! Because that's what heroes do, I guess. Sure, he's been to prison, had a messy divorce and was...um, dead for a while there. But this time is different! This time nothing is gonna stop the astonishing Ant-Man!

Ant-Man: Second-Chance Man Details

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From Reader Review Ant-Man: Second-Chance Man for online ebook

Jan Philipzig says

Another superheroes-like-you-and-me (you know: losers) type story in the *Hawkeye* tradition--nothing earth-shattering, but enjoyable enough.

Jeff says

Who the heck would want to be an Ant-Man?

You shrink and do stuff. And you can command ants to do things:

“Get me a beer from the fridge, ant-lings.”

At least for Scott Lang, the current Ant-Man in the Marvel universe, the bar was set kind of low.

The previous two Ant-Men were:

A) Hank Pym - A crazy, wife-beater who created a robot that wanted to destroy all life on planet Earth

B) Eric O’Grady - An evil pervert douche-bag who liked to hang out in the women’s showers at Avengers HQ.

After giving Dr. Doom (Ha! I’m sure it was probably only a Doom bot) a whupping in FF, Vol. 1: Fantastic Faux, Lang finds himself on the job market.

Sadly, there’s not much of a market for a super hero with his particular skill set and the job interviews aren’t going to well.

Plus, his ex-wife and daughter have moved to Miami, a veritable hot bed of super hero/super villain activity.

He follows, starts his own security firm and soon finds himself interviewing guys in bear suits to fill his staffing needs.

And goes up against his old nemesis, Taskmaster.

Okay, Ant-Man doesn't really have a nemesis. Can't fault the guy for ~~being delusional~~ dreaming.

Nick Spencer, who wrote the most excellent *The Superior Foes of Spider-Man, Vol. 1: Getting the Band Back Together*, gives this one a go and for the most part succeeds. The first issue is slow and talky but it picks up steam as it goes along. Spencer also does a swell job of incorporating what little past Scott Lang has accumulated in his solo stints at Marvel, which can be found [here](#) *Ant-Man: Scott Lang*.

Bottom line: If you enjoyed the movie, check this out. Spencer does a good job breathing life into a character that in other hands, could have been dull. It has oodles of Spencer's trademark wit. My lone quibble would be that he seems to have completely ignored the fact that Lang's daughter not only spent time in the *Young Avengers*, but is/was also sort of dead.

Sesana says

I feel like I need to get this out of the way first thing: the last time I saw Cassie she died (*Avengers: The Children's Crusade*) and the last time I saw Scott he was mourning her (*FF, Vol. 1: Fantastic Faux*). So to see her on the page, alive, and absolutely nobody talking about the whole dead thing? Weird and kind of jarring. Apparently, she was resurrected somewhere during *Axis*, but I didn't know that, and it's really strange to have nobody at all in this book talk about it. Is there some kind of magical amnesia at work? Really active denial? Spencer just not wanting to talk about it? I don't know.

But as you can see from my star rating, I was able to get past that. Spencer's *Ant-Man* reminds me, in many ways, of Fraction's *Hawkeye*, which is a great thing. It also matches the tone of the movie, which I really liked. Overall, it's a fun book, with plenty of humor, good action sequences, and a bit of heart thrown in for good measure. From my experience with the character, *Ant-Man* (as Scott Lang, at least) is defined by his love for and relationship with his daughter, and that's rightfully at the center of this book.

Since the first issue acts as a sort of incomplete primer on the history of Scott Lang (which, as mentioned, totally avoids saying that Cassie had been dead and stuff, while mentioning that Scott had died. so weird) which makes it a great place for a new reader to jump on. The movie is going to raise at least a little interest in the character, after all. I feel like people who liked the movie would like this book as well.

Dan Schwent says

Ant-Man looks for gainful employment. Hilarity ensues.

Confession time: Most of my exposure to Scott Lang, prior to the *Ant-Man* movie, was in various issues of *Fantastic Four* and *FF*. For some reason, I had a craving for his newer solo adventures and picked this up.

Second-Chance Man gives Ant-Man the "Hawkeye by Matt Fraction" treatment to a degree. Instead of Ant-Man fighting crime, he's fighting to pay his bills, first with a shot at working for Tony Stark, then in Miami, running a security business.

Spencer knows his way around an Ant-Man story. Prior to his recent adventures, I thought Ant-Man was right up there with Hawkman and the Atom in terms of lameness. Spencer took the ant-covered ball and ran with it in this one, pitting Scott against menaces like Darren Cross, the Taskmaster, and, most fearsome of them all, his ex-wife.

Scott's relationship with his daughter Cassie is the heart of the book. He uproots his life and turns down a job with Tony Stark to be with her. When she gets into trouble, he assembles an ace team to help get her back, a team consisting of Grizzly and Machinesmith, whom I hope factor into future volumes.

Good stuff. Second-Chance Man was an entertaining way to spend an hour avoiding housework. Three out of five stars.

James DeSantis says

Funny. I read volume 1 when it came out (The volume 1 that comes after this volume 1...yeah...fucking Marvel). So this was like going back before what I read.

So Scott is the new Antman. He fun, he has a kickass teenage daughter, and he's about to start his job with Tony. Sounds sweet right? WRONG. We move right to miami. I felt like the editors wanted Spencer to do things here and there and he went along with it. It felt rushed at spots, and even more so in the next volume.

On the good side Scott is a lot of fun. He really does make you smile a lot of the time while reading. His daughter is awesome and watching them together works really well. Also the side characters he gets in this series (and later keeps in the next volume) are great. I mean you got a guy dressed up like a bear. Not transformed into a bear. Dressed up as a freaking BEAR. I mean...just awesome.

So yeah it's a fun little read. The main plot is mindblowing but the characters are fun and that's what matters.

StoryTellerShannon says

A down on his luck Ant-Man, former criminal, can't seem to get a break finding a job so he opens up his own security business and takes some villains along for the ride. They're not real villains because the real ones are ashamed to have this Ant-Man as their opponent.

There is definitely some great humor in this one.

A good start to the series.

OVERALL GRADE: B plus.

Jonny Campo says

3.75 out of 5

good book with some good writing and nice art i love how it does not take it self seriously, i enjoyed it but i disagree a little with all the praise. I did like this book but the first half of it is super boring and has way to much useless dialogue and a lot of gibberish inner monologue, i rate the first half like 2.8 out of 5 (The overall villain is kinda sucky as well). But i found the second half to be very enjoyable like 5 out of 5 so i just tried to average it out lol. I really like how Ant-Man hires help to work at his company from the former super baddies club, I really hope they all stay together and maybe add a couple more guys it reminded me to Superior Foes Of Spider man which i loved and am saddened its gone i really want that series back and with Nick Spencer here im hoping Ant-Man Can be Marvels successor to that title. i recommend this title if you like to explore the superhero universe and also like b level hero's and a lot of comedy.

Elena says

NOOOO why did it have to end? :(

Ant-Man is awesome. Marvel is my life. And Nick Spencer is THE BEST! I loved everything about it.

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

the humor was A+, but the plot was a little too convenient. Though I was surprised the direction the plot went in. Overall, enjoyable, but not mind blowing.

Aimee Meester says

!!!!!!!!!!

there are two things i love with all my heart: Scott Lang, and comics about superheroes trying to navigate ordinary life instead of time-traveling and saving the galaxy. This delivers. And i adore it. ♥? it captures everything i loved about the movie, and SCOTT AND CASSIE PLS GIVE ME MORE DADS TRYING TO BE THERE FOR THEIR KIDS

Chris says

When Marvel announced that Ant-Man was getting a new series ahead of his then-upcoming film, I thought I finally understood how all the Aquaman critics felt (Jeff and Sean, i'm looking at you).

"Hey, it's ~~Aqua~~ Ant-Man, that guy who talks to ~~fish~~ ants. Lame!"

Then, the positive reviews and recommendations for Second Chance Man came pouring in and I began to doubt my rash decision. I gave Aquaman a chance without judging him, so why not "the ant guy", too?

Long story short, I was completely wrong. This is why you don't judge a book by its cover character, no matter what reputation they have.

Second Chance Man is a hilarious and surprisingly heartfelt story and I loved it. You see, this Ant-Man *is* a bit of a joke and he knows it. Or at least, Scott Lang is a down-on-his-luck Dad with a good heart and razor-sharp wit that makes him an unlikely, yet likeable hero.

Writer Nick Spencer takes the character and puts him through some misadventures as he attempts to become a better father to his daughter, Cassie. The book leans heavily towards comedy and the humour is right up my street, cracking me up on more than one occasion. At times, it's almost reminiscent of an animated comedy, in part thanks to Ramon Rosanas and colourist Jordan Boyd's artwork, which is clean and crisp throughout.

Both Nick Spencer and Ant-Man taught me a lesson about comics that I thought i'd already learned, which is to always give a series a shot before judging it. I've enjoyed Second Chance Man each time i've read it and i'm sure i'll come back to it again in future. Highly recommended.

Donovan says

This is hilarious. Rarely do I give anything 5 stars, especially, you know...(whispers) Marvel. But this is grrrrreat. The writing is funny, strong, the action is exciting and believable, the artwork is gorgeous, and Ant-Man is not the stock character I thought he was. A self-admitted loser, divorcé, unemployed ex-thief and ex-convict, Scott Lang is not your average super hero. He's the anti-hero underdog wisecrack jerkoff who's a delight to watch narrate, screw up and somehow win by luck and accident. He's you and me and all of us. He's the terra firma Star-Lord. But he's so much deeper than Peter Quill. He's got confidence issues, he has a derelict New York studio apartment without power he can't afford, he can't pay his phone bill, he's trying to be a good father but his ex absolutely hates him. Hell, he's a third rate version of a third rate hero no one has ever heard of. But guess what, America, he's earned my respect. And he has a badass sidekick. Yeah, the tall guy in the Grizzly suit.

Ant-Man (in costume) applies for a head of security position with Iron Man. Turns out he's best qualified out of all the applicants because he's willing to ~~break into Stark's apartment~~ to do anything to get the job done. But Ant-Man wants to be there for his daughter, so he shrinks onto the next flight to Miami where his ex and daughter have suddenly moved to get away from him. He doesn't tell Stark about any of this, he just bails, so Stark is pretty pissed.

Once in Miami, Ant-Man decides to start his own private security firm. Why not? Iron Man was going to hire him. "Who knows how to not get your stuff stolen better than the guy who used to steal your stuff?" But first he needs a bank loan (hilarity and violence ensue, a mysterious bank CEO appears to be hiding something). Ant-Man even pays for a billboard that appropriates an endorsement from Iron Man. The panel where Stark says he's going to sue had me cracking up.

Just as Ant Man is getting his new life together, old foes return for **REVENGE**. Taskmaster is hilarious, I

never knew he even existed. Ant-Man mocks him for his costume design, is he a ghost pirate or what? What I find interesting is that this reboot isn't completely discontinuous, it actually sequels old issues of Ant Man from the 70s and 80s. Unfortunately those comics are out of print so they'd be pretty hard to find except in an equally hard to find omnibus. That said, I like that these volumes continue the original Ant Man and fit into the larger Marvel Universe.

One complaint I have also doubles as a praise. Lots of the comedy is topical, so while it's funny now that Ant Man jokes about finding villains on LinkedIn and Tumblr, those jokes won't make a lot of sense in ten let alone twenty five years. So the longevity of the comedy will seem *pretty* outdated pretty quick. But it's quite funny for now. So thanks Marvel for giving me the funny.

Sam Quixote says

Scott Lang is divorced, jobless, and middle-aged in a ruthless job market full of younger, more qualified people who don't have a criminal record. More than anything though he wants to be a good dad to his teenage daughter Cassie, so he goes for the job of head of security at Tony Stark's company to get back on his feet. Except that's the start of Ant-Man's BIG problems, wha whaaaa!

The effect of Matt Fraction and David Aja's Hawkeye on Marvel can't be understated - it was a game-changer, the effects of which we're still seeing. Without it we might not even have titles like Ms Marvel, Squirrel Girl, Howard the Duck, Guardians of the Galaxy, She-Hulk, FF, Hellcat, Vision, All-New Hawkeye (of course), and numerous others - yes, I know these titles existed prior to their run but Hawkeye showed a new angle and approach to superhero comics they didn't use before. Street-level characters often overlooked and barely known to readers given a shot in the arm by finding the humour in their underdog charm and freedom to reinvent themselves as (somewhat) relatable to ordinary people.

Nick Spencer and Steve Lieber's Superior Foes of Spider-Man was probably the closest thing to a clone of Fraction/Aja's Hawkeye. Superior Foes mimicked the visuals, tone, and storytelling approach of Hawkeye to a T and, in its short three-volume run (it was never intended to be an ongoing), did well because of it.

Take away the powers and the father/daughter angle and Nick Spencer's Ant-Man is a new Fraction Hawkeye book in all but name - until about halfway through. Spencer writes Scott Lang's voice as identical to Clint Barton's wise-cracking, down-on-his-luck schlub who gets laughed at by everyone for being a lame hero.

What Spencer does after the halfway point though is turn this into another version of Superior Foes with Scott in the Boomerang role and a couple of Z-list villains in tow (a guy in a Grizzly outfit and another who eats AA batteries) as his compadres who have to break into a bad guy's lab - the new Beetle even cameos at the Stark interview! It's surprising how blatant a copy it is!

All of which is to the good. I loved Fraction/Aja's Hawkeye and enjoyed Spencer's Superior Foes. Sure it's derivative but Spencer - or anyone - channelling those titles is very welcome to this reader. The story itself though is a bit boring to me. Scott wanting to be a good dad and setting up a security business? Ehhh...

Maybe it's because I don't have kids that I didn't really give a fig whether he and Cassie got along, but that whole "doing right by his kid" stuff just felt corny. It's a big part not to like though and more often than not I

found myself reading something else after just a few pages of this one - Spencer just couldn't hook me (though I eventually finished it).

Otherwise Second-Chance Man is a strong first new outing for Ant-Man. Great art from Ramon Rosanas, inventive use of Ant-Man's powers (both as a struggling single dad and a superhero), good sense of humour, and the story has some moments throughout. It just doesn't have a very compelling storyline to hold my attention for long.

Hey, at least it's not Eric O'Grady Ant-Man, right?

Aldo Haegemans says

Very enjoyable and Good humor!

Terence says

So Scott Lang is a divorced ex-con looking for work. He also happens to be Ant-Man, but that doesn't appear to be enough to convince anyone to hire him.

Have you ever spent time with someone who is *sure* they are funny when you **know** they're not? That's Scott Lang.

I mean this didn't even put a smile on my face, but it did keep my eyes rolling. Every attempt at humor just annoyed me more. I know people like this in real life, I don't want to read about a fictional hero like this too.

Second-chance man clearly isn't a volume for me.
