



Spider-Man: The Darkest Hours

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Peter Parker's life has hit a peaceful stretch. No evildoers have tried to flatten him in weeks, his marriage to Mary Jane is stronger than ever, and he's enjoying his job as a high school science teacher. Life is good.

Naturally, that doesn't last.

When Peter learns that his old enemy the Rhino is on a rampage in Times Square, he suits up as Spider-Man to stop the destructive villain in his tracks. But he's unexpectedly foiled in his attempts by the Black Cat, a former ally and old flame. The Cat informs Peter that the Rhino is just a distraction -- the real threat comes from a group of Ancients, members of the same race as the being called Morlun, who Spidey defeated in battle years earlier. The Ancients are now looking to exact revenge -- and hope to steal Spider-Man's life force in the process.

To defeat such powerful beings, Spider-Man is going to need all the help he can get, especially from the Black Cat. But what will Mary Jane Parker have to say about that? Peter isn't sure which is worse -- the Ancients trying to drain his life force, or the wrath of a jealous wife....

Spider-Man: The Darkest Hours Details

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From Reader Review Spider-Man: The Darkest Hours for online ebook

Nick says

Jim Butcher's Spider-Man reads a lot like Jim Butcher's Harry Dresden: wisecracking, willing to throw down against suicidal odds in defense of the innocent, and kind of a doofus about women. You could argue that this is reflective of Butcher's weakness as a writer, but here, it's not much of a liability. Butcher brings his talent for description to the action sequences and the plot clips along. The reading level felt a little bit too easy--I'm not sure if this was meant to be a young adult novel, but I could have used a bit more of a challenge. Nonetheless, not bad for a \$2 used bookstore find.

Joel says

Like most of the other reviewers I read this book more because of Jim Butcher then Peter Parker. Over all, it was a good story with 2 minor flaws. First, one of Butcher's biggest talents is working out the logic of his worlds. The world in this book that of Marvel comics. It's a rather schizophrenic world: there are hero's, and aliens, super-science, and magic, and gods from every pantheon. Butcher throws a couple of passes at applying order to all of that; but he's not really allowed to change it, nor can he modify Spidey's relationships. Sometimes that shows.

Second, Spider-Man is too much like Harry Dresden. That's why I got the book in the first place. Spider-Man cracks wise during fights, as does Dresden. Dresden always goes after the Villain no matter the odds, so does Spider-Man. They're both saps about women, and they both do guilt a little too well. The problem with all of this there are points in the book where you shake your head and ask, "Why is Harry Dresden Kissing Marry Jane?" It's oddly distracting...

Beyond that, it's a good book. I don't have quite as much to say about why it's a good book as I do on the book's flaws, but you'll have to trust me. The villains really seem like they might beat Spider-Man, the characters are compelling, and the action is nice and solid. I'd recommend it to fans of Dresden. But you'll need to think of it as a parallel universe where Malcolm Dresden picked a different name for his kid - a name that contained fewer stage magicians, and the kid got a radioactive spider rather then a magic staff.

Dewayne Dowers says

Easy, entertaining read. However, I am a huge Jim Butcher fan. It starts off a little slow at first and anti-climatic ending for ancient, super-hero devouring, foes. Definitely would recommend this book to others.

Andrew says

A chance buy at a charity shop and one which though not regretted was one that has been a while picking up....there was no real drive for me to read 'that Spider-Man_man novel on the bookshelf'..however

eventually I picked it up have it a go...and.....

It's maybe best described as not only a comic book tie in but as a Sci Fi romp as it features the spider mutated hero fighting against a extra terrestrial trio who feast on part man part beast entities....as such once Spider-man is dispatched others such as Ant_Man,Spider-Woman and to be honest various others would need to fear their futures.....

Of course this horror is averted but it's a fun read...it features others from the Marvel Universe alongside the Black Cat as Doctor Strange and the Rhino pop up too...the author does a good job in bringing this book to a broader audience than maybe comic book or graphic novel fans and all in all I found this a light but perfectly enjoyable read.

E.Y.E.-D says

I am not a fan of super hero comics. I much prefer stories a long the line of Sandman and Saga, I decided to give this a shot to see if I enjoy super heroes more in novel format. I am a big fan of Jim Butcher so this seemed like a good book to test that out with. Turns out I just don't like reading about super heroes.

There was nothing wrong with this book other than it is just not for me.

I recommend this to any fans of Jim Butcher that also like super heroes.

Ogreart says

Any time a novel is written about a comic book character there is the potential for much cheesy-ness. In the hands of an author of Jim Butcher's caliber, that potential is never reached. Spider-Man: The Darkest Hours is thoughtful and insightful while still containing plenty of action and mayhem.

To start, this version of Spider-Man has Peter and MJ married, Aunt May in on the alter-ego, and Peter teaching high school science part time. I start there because there are so many iterations of the characters and their timelines that knowing that helps place it. If you have never read Spider-Man before, this caveat isn't necessary. You will be able to jump right in.

As there always is with any good Spider-Man story there is a subplot that has Peter having trouble in his civilian identity. He is substitute coaching the basketball team for a week and the star player knows that he is really, really good. So good that he doesn't see the need to play as part of a team. The coach asks Peter to work on this as the kid is good at heart. Oh, and then Peter finds out after school on Friday that if that kid's immunizations aren't up to date by Monday morning, he will be suspended and off the team.

At home, MJ has gotten a part in The Scottish Play. The hitch is that the theatre is in New Jersey. To make the commute, she buys a car and tries to get her license. With no luck. So Peter tells her he will help her study for the test.

Then the super-hero crisis hits: Rhino is on a rampage in Times Square. As he is about to swing into action former girlfriend and sort-of good guy The Black Cat (Felicia Hardy) tells him he is headed into a trap. He goes anyway, of course. After defeating the Rhino, he is attacked by a trio of "Ancients" who are siblings of Morlun, a villain Peter barely beat. They feed on the life energy of people with power derived from totemic

sources. Animals. Like Spider-Man, Black Cat, and yes, Rhino.

The stories intertwine and seeing Peter work his way through these problems is what I read about Spider-Man for. There is a lot of soul searching, deducing, and cattiness in the finding a solution. And the not-help of Doctor Strange drives Peter to distraction.

I heartily recommend this book. It is by turns, funny and serious, fun and thoughtful. Butcher's take on these iconic characters was a joy to read. In fact, I read most of it in one day—it was hard to put down.

Check out all my reviews at <https://mrbsbookshelf.blogspot.com>.

Rob says

I was a huge spider-man fan as a kid. I am a huge Jim Butcher fan. How could I not love this book? It was rather enjoyable. A nice short read as a diversion after plowing through the first 4 song of ice and fire books.

Ricky says

This book was way better than it had any right being.

Marcus Harris says

Jim Butcher was born to write Spider-Man. He's as much as admitted that the hero of his best selling series The Dresden Files shares not a few personality traits with our favorite web-head: a fierce desire to defend the helpless, constant money problems, and an inability to keep from cracking wise in the face of much more powerful opponents. Butcher here has set Spidey against some doozies. 3 predatory siblings of an opponent who once came as close to killing our hero as any other. Toss in that Butcher writes Pete's pre-Brand New Day marriage to Mary Jane so well that's it's got to be freaking embarrassing to all the writers at Marvel that looked at the union as an impediment to good storytelling. Throw in a new perspective on a classic foe as well as the spice and awkwardness of teaming up with a wild ex-girlfriend, and appearances by the mysterious Sorcerer Supreme, and you have a few of the ingredients that make up one of the most entertaining and satisfying Spider-Man tale I've read in a while.

Brittany says

That was fun and different from anything I typically read. A comic without the pictures, written by a talented author. Biggest knock is that it felt a lot like Harry Dresden instead of purely like Spidey. It was still a good book that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Robert says

Contract writing is something many established authors shy away from or only do pseudonymously, but Jim Butcher knocks this out of the park, earning credit for both him and the Spider-man franchise.

Paul says

Spiderman is my favourite superhero so was interested to see how this came across in an actual novel. Quite well actually.

Lots of familiar faces like MJ, Black Cat, Dr Strange and Rhino. Lots of wise cracks and action.

My only issues were the main 'baddies " were related to a previous villain from the comics so there was a lot of back story to fill in. Could have just come up with a new character.

Also the" life lesson" of working as part of a team was as subtle as a Rhino rampage. I was expecting at the end Spidey to say What have we learned today?

Overall a quick entertaining read.

Kevin Findley says

A really fun follow-up to the 'Morlun' storyline from about 15 years ago. It surprised me I had never heard of this book until recently, since I was reading (but not buying) Spider-Man back in 2006 when it was published.

Oh well, it was still a lot of fun to jump into and enjoy the ride. Spidey and Co. defeated the villains using a little non-help from Doctor Strange and Wong. If that doesn't make sense, read the book and it will. Since it is Spidey, there was a point where he is all but defeated, gives an inspirational speech, and then the villain is beaten.

One final word of review and minor spoiler: Gremlin!

Find it! Buy it! Read it!

Kat says

I have read all of the Dresden files books, so when my husband picked this up and told me why, I was intrigued. Having read many comic books, I've decided that there definitely are some writers that are better for certain characters. Butcher was meant to write Spider-Man. It's unfortunate that Marvel pays its novelists so little, because Butcher could definitely make me want to read more of the novelizations of various graphic storylines. I don't tend to read them, as the visual medium tends to work so much better for the stories. Authors tend to resort to WAY too much visual description to compensate for the lack of pictures. Butcher

manages to find a balance between dialogue and description, plus he's so used to writing snarky comments for Harry that he really does Spidey well.

Quick synopsis- Spidey has to deal with 3 evil, vampire-ish baddies who come looking for revenge after their brother got killed. Spidey has to learn to work with others, including his enemy the Rhino, in order to win the fight. There's a didactic nature to the story that's pretty obvious, and the subplot's relation to the overplot is very obvious, but it's all good, lighthearted fun peppered with witty Spidey banter. It isn't my favorite novel by a long shot, but it was a fun, quick read.

Ryk Stanton says

I wanted to read this book since the first time I saw it on the bookshelf at Books-A-Million, the cost was a bit prohibitive for a quick-read superhero book. I have probably taken it off the shelf and put it back on the shelf a dozen times in the past few years. I mean, it's Spider-Man (my favorite superhero) and written by Jim Butcher (one of my favorite authors), but all they have had has been a trade paperback version for about \$15.

And then, suddenly, I remembered they have these nifty things called public libraries where people can get books for free. I checked my local library and, sure enough, they had the book.

It *was* a fast read, but it was also fantastic. I should not be surprised; it is Jim Butcher, after all. But I did not know what to expect, and I would not have been disappointed if I paid the money for this book. It was that good. I don't want to give any spoilers, but I was totally caught up in the action and I really liked the depth of the characters, especially Felicia Hardy and the Rhino. Butcher weaves several subplots into the main conflict that all pay off gloriously.

If you get your hands on a copy of this book, and if you are a fan of Spider-Man and/or Jim Butcher, I think you will love this book.
