



Secret Avengers, Volume 1: Let's Have a Problem

Aleš Kot (Writer), Michael Walsh (Illustrator)

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The new Secret Avengers are ready to get started...but can they be the world's most effective secret squad? Or will their personal issues tear them apart? Why not both? Three missions kick off at the same time, and nobody is ready except the bad guys! Earth is endangered by falling S.H.I.E.L.D. satellites! A post-nuclear warhead goes missing in the Middle East! And the Fury...yes, the unstoppable super hero-killing machine from Captain Britain...reappears deep inside Chinese territory! Can Hawkeye, Black Widow and Spider-Woman save Nick Fury and Phil Coulson from dying horribly in space? Will a wounded Maria Hill figure out what her uneasy ally M.O.D.O.K. is up to? Do the Secret Avengers have a prayer against the Fury? As death hits the Helicarrier, Black Widow faces Lady Bullseye...and Coulson goes rogue!

Collecting: *Secret Avengers* 1-5

Secret Avengers, Volume 1: Let's Have a Problem Details

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From Reader Review Secret Avengers, Volume 1: Let's Have a Problem for online ebook

Manni says

Since I'm a huge fan of Fraction's Hawkeye I gave Secret Avengers a chance.

Although I enjoyed the characters and their interactions, it didn't quite click for me JUST YET! Adding the great art by Walsh I definitely left volume 1 wanting more.

I still "only" gave it three stars, because I found the short missions featured in "Let's Have a Problem" to be a bit too anticlimactic and not as charming as Fraction's Hawkeye stuff.

It's a solid start to say the least ;)

Sesana says

I had no idea this was going to be so much fun. If I had known that Kot was going to be taking his cues for Hawkeye from Fraction's incredibly good take on the character, I might not have been so surprised. And I really liked Kot's criminally short run on Suicide Squad. Maybe I should have expected that this book would just be so much fun to read. There's a lot of humor mixed in with the serious action, and it really works for the book, especially with this cast.

I like the way these characters play off each other, even if they do tend to split into two groups: Coulson and Fury, Natasha and Clint and Jessica. Which makes a certain type of sense anyways. These are meant to be basically covert missions, and even a group of five is a little big for an infiltration team. Then there's Maria Hill, who's coming off as being particularly shady here, and M.O.D.O.K., who ends up being far more interesting than I'd thought he would be.

The action part is pretty good, too. The pace can be a little weird in spots, but it's still exciting to read. There's plenty of collateral damage and the stakes feel legitimately high, even knowing that, in comics, everything will always be fine in the end. So yes, it's really an awful lot like Fraction's Hawkeye, which is high praise for a comic book.

Terence says

The Secret Avengers return. Nick Fury Jr. and Phil Coulson fight a machine in space

while Black Widow, Spider-Woman, and Hawkeye have an awkward moment.

Maria Hill is running the Secret Avengers and manipulating everyone in the process.

I initially stayed away from this because of the goofy artwork. I saw some positive reviews so I decided to give it a go. Unfortunately the story was a bit too goofy in its artwork and dialogue. I do like to laugh, but

there is a *long* list of story types I don't find funny. The comedy seems to be the main feature of this series, but I didn't find it funny.

Let's Have a Problem didn't do anything for me personally, but I can see why some people would enjoy it.

Neal says

This is a work of art--funny, intelligent and vivid. In some ways it reminds me of The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy(which if you know me, is a huge compliment!). I've never read any thing by this writer before, but I think it's safe to say he has gained a life long fan, if this is an example of what he can do.

Ales Kot brings a very unlikely group of heroes together. And not a Wolverine, Captain America, or Spider-Man in sight! I especially loved Modoc, never thought I'd say that! He also brought a new character Vladimir to the Marvel Universe. I can say with out a doubt that he is one of the most original characters I've seen in years, I hope to see a lot more of him in the future.

Simply put I can't wait to read the next graphic novel in this series.

Chris says

Dark. Funny. Violent. Crazy. Clever.

Yes, much like writer Ales Kot's criminally short run on Suicide Squad, Secret Avengers is both brilliantly inventive and humorous, while also remaining serious enough to be a credible story. Filled with genuinely funny moments, some frankly wonderful meta references and consistently witty narration, Let's Have A Problem walks the line between annoyingly quirky and confidently unique with style.

I was slightly hesitant to try Secret Avengers despite wanting to read more of Kot's work, mainly due to my unfamiliarity with Marvel and therefore, some of the team members. There was no need for concern though, as BFF's Coulson and Fury, Black Widow and Spider Woman and awkward couple M.O.D.O.K. and Maria Hill are all fantastic characters and easy to get a grasp of right from the start. Oh, and there was some guy who shoots arrows, too? ;-)

The undercover team face three simultaneous missions and despite some erratic pacing and quick transistions between the groups, it's an engaging start that will leave you laughing and wanting more. When things settle down later on, there's a mission with real tension and some genuinely gripping twists that follow. It's a wonderful mix of humour alongside the darker tone of undercover espionage with secret teams and Kot really makes it work.

There are a couple of faults with Secret Avengers though, the most prominent being the admittedly creative, but ugly as hell covers by Tradd Moore. Fortunately interior artist Michael Walsh fares much better, with a rougher, grittier style that's somewhat reminiscent of Kot's former collaborator at DC, Patrick Zircher. There's also a two-part Original Sin tie-in that shows Kot can write a straight story with an interesting concept. Unfortunately, as the introduction notes, it's an 'Infinite Comic' initially designed to be read on Marvel's app (ugh) and something just feels off throughout.

Overall though, Secret Avengers first volume is a blast and i'm so glad that Marvel gave Kot the chance to do his thing. At the time of writing, the series has been announced to be drawing to a close this year, but if the final pair of trades are as good as this one it really is DC's loss and Marvel and it's readers gain.

James DeSantis says

This was pretty fun if not a tad bit confusing. I'll admit, I never read a secret avengers title. There's enough freaking Avengers titles to read and catch up on before getting to the "SECRET" avengers. Plus I heard their previous runs been meh. So I said screw it. But then people said this one was a lot of fun and I said 'Sure why not. Marvel Unlimited let's do it" and glad I did. This was pretty dang good!

What I liked: The artwork reminded me of Matt Fraction's Hawkeye. I really thought it all flowed together nice and easy to see the action. The dialog was pretty fun and goofy. Things happened at a very fast paced and one minute you're on earth the next you're in space. I liked the pace just because I was never bored and I did get a few laughs for sure.

What I didn't like: The story is all over the place. Sometimes I couldn't even keep up with what was happening. The first few issues I stayed confused but by the end I was starting to see the bigger picture. The ending was pretty exciting for the future of this series.

So I had a lot of fun reading this. I will def check out volume 2 down the line. Let's hope it keeps up the fun times!

Tom Ewing says

A third stab at making the Secret Avengers title work for Marvel - this one a S.H.I.E.L.D. book in all but name, picking up some of the cast but none of the tone of Nick Spencer's suspenseful run. Ales Kot's approach has been compared to Hawkeye - it has Hawkeye in it, and he acts a bit like he does in the Matt Fraction book - but Secret Avengers reminds me of a whole stew of titles. Michael Walsh's quirky, diagrammatic art is in line with Chip Zdarsky's approach on Sex Criminals or Steve Lieber's on Superior Foes Of Spider-Man, and Kot's flip tone isn't far off Superior Foes either. But there's a commitment to stylish, near-future weirdness (a sentient bomb built by an art terrorist, to pick an idea that catches the tone nicely) that recalls Grant Morrison, or the grandfather of Marvel spy cool, Steranko.

That's a strong list of notes to hit, and Kot is one of the more exciting and ambitious writers Marvel have found lately. Secret Avengers isn't as good as his independent work, but it offers hip, smart, fairly sophisticated fun. It's not quite cohering yet, though - some characters still feel like they're in it by decree rather than need, the references can be a touch too on the nose, the situations hotter in concept than execution. But Kot writes a good Phil Coulson, Maria Hill, and Clint Barton and he's the first writer to make the new Nick Fury seem like a good idea. In a character- and idea-driven book, that's a fine strike rate.

Lono says

Yep, this is it. My favorite Avengers title in years and probably the BEST Secret Avengers stuff ever. Kot has that "Matt Fraction" thing down. Great action with just enough silly. This book starts off right after Nick Spenser's run on Secret Avengers, but I don't think you really need to read that run to enjoy this. Maybe just the 3rd volume (cuz it's good).

Ales' team consists of Nick Fury, Black Widow, Spider-Woman, Phil Coulson, and a tag-a-long by the name of Clint Barton. Oh, yeah and the Mental/Mobil/Mechanized Organism Designed Only for Killing. He's great and also a professional egoist. After this series I'm buying a M.O.D.O.K. t-shirt. He is awesome in this book. Maria Hill sparkles too and she really has her hands full with this crowd. That, and she gets hands on. Dig her.

A.I.M. continues to make itself an annoyance to the gang in this collection, but there's also a couple of new villains that show up to shit in our heroes cereal. A crazed poet and arms dealer named Artaud, a killing machine called "The Fury", Lady Bullseye, and an artificially intelligent bomb by the name of Vladimir just to name a few. The quirkiness of this title is just so fun.

Michael Walsh is the perfect illustrator for this one too. He's got a "Matt Wagner" vibe that I love. Wonderfully drawn simple, but distinctive characters and backgrounds that nail it. Mike's got a new fan in this guy. I'll be hittin' his shit up again down the road. Travis Moore, of "Luther Strode" fame, provides some sweet cover art as well. Money.

Could've done without the Original Sin tie-in included at the end of the book. I get that it was collected since Ales wrote it and it wasn't bad, just didn't flow or really have anything to do with the rest of the story. And the art was meh.

This kinda weirdness is usually not my thing, but Ales is able to sell me on it for some reason. I would imagine it's sorta like folks that appreciate Grant Morrison's uniqueness. I don't, but I think Ales' odd style is a bit more digestible to the blue collar comic fan than Grant's. Odd without the obscure references and mind-boggling plot lines that Morrison typically baffles me with. A recommend to anyone that's enjoying Fraction's Hawkeye or is a fan of any of the characters. Kot and Walsh killed it.

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Shannon Appelcline says

I was ready to give up on the constantly-rebooting Secret Avengers title, but I heard enough good things about Kot's run that I decided to give it a try ... and I'm glad I did. What we have here isn't quite Fraction's Hawkeye, but it's clearly in the same wheelhouse, with non-traditional storytelling, humor, and deep characterization. We also get some fun, secretive espionage. Overall, a terrific comic; too bad it's already going away!

The Infinite Comic that finishes things off isn't nearly as good. In fact, it's a little incomprehensible, and not in a good way, so consider my rating for the main arc of #1-5 only.

Sonic says

Fun, off the wall, and refreshing, I even enjoyed the art for the most part except the last chapter where it just felt like the artist was not able to keep up with the concepts of the writer.

Anne says

4.5 stars

Yep, yep, yep! This was very cool!

Not sure why I haven't heard much about this one, but it's really good. It's got the same vibe as Hawkeye, but the premise is like a toned down version of the X-force for Avengers...if that even makes sense.

Maria Hill has decided to put together a Top Secret group of heroes to take on Top Secret threats. Nick Fury, Phil Coulson, Black Widow, Spider-Woman, and (unbeknownst to everyone on the team) M.O.D.O.K. make up the team.

Oh, and Hawkeye ends up accidentally making the roster.

He's the Problem that the title refers to.

Let's Have a Problem was just *fun* to read.

There's a rampaging Death-machine (ironically called Fury), satellites falling from the sky (???), a self-aware an bomb (who wants to try gelato), an assassination attempt on Hill (she probably deserved it), and a murder in M.O.D.O.K.'s mad science lab (because...shit happens).

I didn't realize it until I decided to look this guy up, but Ales Kot was the guy who wrote *the only* volume of Suicide Squad that I thought was worth a shit. And after reading *this*, I can say without a doubt I'll be stalking whatever he decides to do next.

Highly Recommended!

Get this review and more at:

Emma says

2017 review

I enjoyed this, but I'm dropping it down to three stars on reread. Still fun though, and I will be carrying on with the series this time! Read for the 7-in-7-readathon!

2016 review

Book number 1 for the #GetGraphic challenge: a new to you series

4 stars!

This was so much fun! I'm really looking forward to continuing!

Chris Lemmerman says

5 stars for the main series. A zany, convoluted and yet all intertwining look at the Marvel Universe, and a new look at superhero-ing combined with espionage. Kot's plot twists and insane ideas are well at home, and his MODOK and Maria Hill are written perfectly. The art from Michael Walsh compliments everything storywise too, and is very consistent with the previous volume's artists whilst retaining its own style. Unfortunately the Infinite Comic in the back is just odd. Either it doesn't translate well into the flat, non-moving format, or there's some dialogue missing, because it's just really poorly structured and difficult to follow. The artwork's great, but the story doesn't flow properly at all, and it brings this down from 5 to 4 stars.

Kate says

Maria Hill has put together a small unit of Avengers for some smaller ops. Nick Fury, Phil Coulson, Black Widow, Spidergirl... NOT Hawkeye but somehow he ends up tagging along anyway. They're tracking down a weapon called The Fury - not to be confused with Nick Fury - with the aid of M.O.D.O.K., a creepy big-headed creature now working for SHIELD.

The comradery between Fury and Coulson is fun, and it seems Matt Fraction's Hawkeye has carried over into yet another comic. This had a very similar art style and I really enjoyed the interactions between Hawkeye and his "ex-girlfriends" Natasha and Jess. (I don't really consider Natasha to be Clint's ex, but whatever). Coulson's PTSD was an interesting addition. I thought Black Widow came off a little bitchy, I never really saw her as having a problem with Maria like this, although Maria herself isn't exactly the hero of this one and acts pretty shady most of the time. The final issue in this collection was from an online issue of Original Sin (I think?). I didn't see it as having much to do with the rest of the volume.

Stewart Tame says

I like this version of Secret Avengers. Actually, I don't really recall having read any Secret Avengers before, but I read a lot of comics, so I may have forgotten. At the very least, this is the most memorable version of the team. How's that?

What makes this memorable for me is Ales Kot's writing. I've been hearing good things about his run, and I was not disappointed. There's a breezy humor that's very refreshing. The characterizations and plotting are solid, but the banter and slightly flippant tone are what make it sing. I love seeing an enthusiastic MODOK running his lab, and Hawkeye along for the ride with two ex-girlfriends. I love the scene of Spider-Woman trying to talk a sentient, suicidal bomb out of detonating. And the evil poet. This book just packs a sizeable dollop of fun all around. Definitely looking forward to volume 2 ...
