



Spider-Man/Human Torch: I'm with Stupid

Dan Slott, Ty Templeton

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Follows the adventures of wisecracking friends Spider-Man and the Human Torch, from high school to the present day, as they battle various villains.

Spider-Man/Human Torch: I'm with Stupid Details

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From Reader Review Spider-Man/Human Torch: I'm with Stupid for online ebook

Eric says

Man, I loved this!

It's the story of a friendship. Ever since the early days of Marvel Comics, Spider-Man (Peter Parker) and the Human Torch (Johnny Storm) have been friends. These five chapters tell how that friendship matured from an uneasy rivalry to best buddies status. It's also an exploration of past eras in the Marvel Universe. It plunks you back into 1964, 1969, 1974, 1983, and finishes in 2005 (the date this series was published). We get to see why villain Paste Pot Pete changed his name to the Trapster, Johnny and Pete taking a joyride in the Spider-Mobile, hi-jinks at the Coffee Bean, etc.

The writer, Dan Slott, is now the writer of the semi-monthly Amazing Spider-Man. He gets what makes Marvel special, and is able to use events from the past to inform the present. The final chapter shows how Spidey became part of the Fantastic Four family. Since the recent events of the death of Johnny and his replacement by Spidey in the FF, this series takes on special resonance and emotional impact.

Fun, funny, and touching all at once. You can't go wrong with this one.

Warren Nast says

Dan Slott at his best. Fun stories that have a collective theme that builds on their friendship and the passing of time.

B says

This was a lot of fun. Some stories were more fun than others, but many were fun generally.

It seems to show a lot of background knowledge about the relationship from old comics and also prefigure a lot of Slott's current run. (The Spider-Car, the Hostess fruit pies, Peter Parker as successful scientist, Spider-Man as fancy team member.)

Something about it seemed a little too condensed, but I'm not sure what that was. Maybe it has to do with the intensity of the rivalry dissipating too quickly at times?

Anthony says

Slott and Templeton re-tell early meetings of Spider-man and the Human Torch in a fun collection suitable for readers of all ages. Ty Templeton's art may be off putting to some readers, since it seems quite simple, but it's the simplicity of it that makes it good art. It's very easy to follow and you always know what's going

on, which isn't always the case in comic book art.

You can also tell that Slott is a writer that loves continuity, and this is a story where he isn't afraid to show it. You can place timeline wise when each issue takes place thanks to his nods at what was going on in the Marvel universe at the time. And it doesn't drag the story down, it just makes it more fun.

Chuck Ventura says

A light, heartfelt read about two bros who hate, envy, and love each other. Not the deepest or most impactful story out there, but I can't complain when each issue leaves me smiling and wanting more.

Holden Attradies says

I'm still not sure how I felt about this. I enjoyed reading it and it was a great homage to these characters past history BUT what I couldn't stop feeling was why not just collect up their actual past history? This felt kind of like Nostalgia run amok and forcing a re-write of how these artists remembered these characters in the past and not how it actually was.

Dan Schwent says

This is a fun story focusing on the friendship between Spidey and the Human Torch. Dan Slott shows his love for 70's Marvel comics by including the Spider-Mobile and also a nod toward those Hostess Fruit Pie ads that were in the back of every Marvel comic for years. Each of the five stories contained within portrays a different period in Spidey and the Human Torch's lives, often with hilarious dialogue. There are references to the Clone Saga, the Human Torch's marriage to a Skrull, and other seldom mention events. Like I said, it's a really fun story.

Terry Collins says

First three stories are fantastic, the fourth entertaining and the last a bit of a mess due to having to work with the then current continuity. However, the story that mixes The Red Ghost and his Super Apes, the Spider-Mobile and "Hostess Fruit Pies" is a fan friendly mini masterpiece. Fun stuff.

Sineala says

This was recommended to me when I wanted to read more about Spidey and Torch, and I have to say it does not disappoint. It is hilarious and was clearly written with a lot of love for the early comics.

Himanshu Karmacharya says

Fun and heartwarming stories reflecting the beautiful friendship between the two protagonists. Really loved the art reminiscing of the days of old.

James says

Fun stuff, especially for fans who are familiar with the back issues. There are a lot of good gags here (including an inspired section with Hostess Pies and the Super Apes), but there's also some surprising emotion as the heroes reflect on the rough patches in their lives. The series gains steam as it progresses and as the Torch puts a funny reverse spin on "that old Parker luck."

Read digitally

Scander says

This is a great TPB collection of the Spider-Man / Human Torch limited run series. It highlights the great though somewhat competitive relationship between Peter Parker and Johnny Storm.

These two are the Marvel Universe's "Odd Couple" and when they appear together, expect lots of funny antics as two super-heroes devolve into pranking siblings.

This is a must have for any Fantastic Four fan who considers Spider-Man to be the unofficial Fantastic Four "5th Member". Really just great fun to read, along with great writing by Slott and great artwork too.

Adam Graham says

This book by Dan Slott (before he started destroying Spider-man to be replaced Spider Otto) is actually pretty good. It collected the limited run Spider-man/Human Torch series that celebrates the unique relationship between Spider-man and the human torch. It's similar to Mark Waid's 1990s story *Brave and the Bold* doing the same concept with the Silver Age Flash and Green Lantern, though in this case, these two go way back as friends and rivals and these untold stories highlight it.

Of the first stories in the book, the first two are written with the vintage Silver Age feel of the 1960s including one in which Torch hires Spidey as his official photographer as he tries to grab the headlines eventually taking Dr. Doom at the Latverian Embassy and one fun event where the two switch places as Spider-man goes exploring with the rest of the FF while Torch tries to bust up a crime ring. The third issue comes right in the Bronze age, in the 1970s after Gwen Stacy's death and with Spidey wanted for murder. The fourth story is from the early 1980s and features a great guest appearance by the Black Cat. The last is in a more modern setting where Johnny at last learns Spidey's identity after a ton of other people in the Marvel universe and isn't happy about it.

Slott really has some fun here. He plays up the idea that while Spidey envies the Torch, the Torch envies

Peter Parker. And he tweaks Marvel convention which has the Statue of Liberty as the Torch and Spidey's meeting spot even though there's really no way Spidey could get there through typical means. The book's not very deep, but it's fun and at the end, a bit heart warming. It's worth a read for fans of these two great characters and their amazing relationship.

Mike says

This trade collects the entire five issue series Spider-Man/Human Torch.

Slott and Templeton give us five adventures of the titular duo spanning a decade of Marvel Universe time and several eras of comics in real time. Spidey and the Torch are usually at odds and always on each others nerves. The stories here are light fare, but a lot of fun and are a nice homage to past stories, capturing an appropriate feel for each tale and making reference to major past events. Key supporting characters for both heroes show up in full force and are used well, although this is Peter and Johnny's story through and through.

Spider-Man & The Human Torch is a humorous trip through the formation of an important friendship for both heroes and a quick, enjoyable read.

Michael says

A fun series. Spider-Man and the Human Torch have always had a bit of rivalry over the years, although they are always there to help each other out when necessary. This series explores the friendship between the two over the years, with each chapter being a self-contained story and taking place in a different part of the characters' histories. Slott has a great handle on the characters, and injects quite a bit of humor. One of the funniest scenes happens in the first chapter, when Spider-Man encounters Paste Pot Pete. There is also a neat reference to the Hostess ads that ran in all the Marvel and DC books in the late '70s and early '80s.

Anyway, it is a fun story where nothing groundbreaking happens, but there are some great character moments.
