



Amazing Spider-Man: Renew Your Vows, Vol. 2: The Venom Experiment

*Gerry Conway , Ryan Stegman (Illustrator) , Juan Frigeri (Illustrator) , Nathan Stockman (Illustrator) ,
Brian Level (Illustrator)*

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The sensational adventures of the spectacular Spider-Family continue! And this time they're joined by...the X-Men! Annie Parker just received an invitation to attend Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters -which means she's going to get to meet Wolverine, Cyclops, Jean Grey and Professor X! But where the X-Men go, can Magneto be far behind? And after the Master of Magnetism and his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants make short work of the X-Men, it's up to the Parkers to stop them!

COLLECTING: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: RENEW YOUR VOWS 6-12

Amazing Spider-Man: Renew Your Vows, Vol. 2: The Venom Experiment Details

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From Reader Review *Amazing Spider-Man: Renew Your Vows*, Vol. 2: The Venom Experiment for online ebook

Michael says

A decade ago, the controversial "One Day More" storyline saw the Spider-universe hit a ginormous reset button and remove the marriage of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson from the continuity. Years later, another huge crossover event would, the second (or is it the third) Secret Wars storyline saw the creation of a parallel universe where Peter and MJ are still married and raising a daughter.

Their daughter, May, has similar powers to those of her father. In the wake of an evil overlord named Monarch who seems intent on collecting all the super powers he can get his mitts on, Peter is hopping to stay one step ahead of the latest detection devices for himself and his daughter. But when they get noticed and rumors of the Spider-Man's return begin to surface, Peter finds himself fighting to defend his family -- and now the family wants to join the fight.

The resolution of that storyline encompasses volume 0 of this series and then things really get going on volumes 1 and 2. Written by long-time Spider-writer Gerry Conway, these collection of arcs is a lot more fun than they have any right to be. Having recently revisited Conway's tenure on *Amazing Spider-Man*, I wasn't sure what, if anything, I should expect from these issues. But after trying to read much of the current storylines taking place in the Spider-Man universe, I found these refreshingly easy to digest, straight-forward and welcoming to readers who haven't memorized every detail of comic book continuity for the past decade. Seeing Peter try to juggle his secret identity along with the demands of the two women in his life to be part of the crime-fighting team gives the story some much needed depth. The second collection even raises the stakes a bit by having MJ become motivated to contribute to the team (tech left over from Monarch lets her share Peter's powers) and turning to Liz Allen for a new version of the Venom symbiote.

These three collections are some of the best recent Spider-Man stories I've read and they reminded me of what it was that I initially loved so much about my favorite wallcrawler.

Reggie Kray says

Worst Spidey series I have read in decades. Decent art though...

James DeSantis says

I wish Gerry Conway wrote Peter Parker all the time. He writes him near perfect.

So the story continues with Annie, MJ, and Peter working together as the Spider family. The X-Men come into play, with Xavier asking MJ and Peter if they'd let their daughter join the school. Then of course the school is attacked because, well this is a comicbook. The next storyline is about Venom and his great return but this time attaching to MJ. Last storyline is about Normie, the little devil, and why he's so evil.

Good: I really love the family dynamic. I can't stress enough how fun the dialogue is in here. I really loved the hell out of Peter and MJ interactions but the stuff with Annie is great too. The fights are fun, and even epic, especially one fight with venom and then another with Spider-man and Rhino. The pacing is quick and a breeze, and even with a wordy script, it's always light and fun. The art is great, of course, Stegman is one of the best around.

Bad: The storylines themselves are just solid. It's not amazing but it gets the job done. I also thought the ending came out of nowhere and too quick.

Overall still really enjoyable spider-man series. While not as good as volume 1 it still remains really good. Around a 3.5-4 out of 5.

Matt says

Collects Amazing Spider-Man: Renew Your Vows (2016) issues #6-12

I could see my daughters really liking this title someday when they are a little older. In this alternate universe, we get the stories of Peter Parker, his wife Mary Jane, and their daughter, Annie. For reasons set up by the story in the previous two volumes of this series, all three of the characters have spider-powers, so they fight crime and super-villains as a family. This collection includes appearances by Venom, Rhino, Lizard, Mysterio, and the X-Men (with a team made up of popular 1990's characters - they look like the characters from the original animated series).

There is some interesting things happening with the next generation of the Osborn family, and his involvement in the story really makes it obvious that Annie is the star of this book.

Adam Graham says

This book collects Issues 6-12 of Amazing Spider-man: Renew Your Vows and includes three story arcs and a one-shot:

School Daze (6 and 7): Mary Jane and Peter receive an invitation to enroll Annie in Xavier's School for the Gifted and they make a visit on the same day an attempt to take over the school is made. This story is pretty fun (and the last fully written by Spider-man legend Gerry Conway.) It raises some interesting questions and also fleshes out the alternate universe and explains at least part of why the deal with Mephisto that happened in 616 didn't occur here.

The Venom Experiment (8 and 9): Feeling the pressure of trying to balance being a Superhero with the challenges of being wife, mother, and small businesswoman, Mary Jane gladly accepts the Venom symbiote from Liz Allen. There are two problems with this. First, the way that it effects her is weird and different from how Venom typically operates. Secondly, the arc is rushed. She doesn't even get the Venom symbiote until late in Issue 8. This should have been at least a four issue arc, but the rush to wrap it up in two issues makes it unsatisfying.

A Day in the Life of an Osborn (10): This story sets up the finale as it focuses on the sad and lonely life of

Normie Osborn. There's some good emotion and also Spider-man and daughter battling the Lizard to get things from getting too heavy.

The Curse of the Green Goblin (11 and 12): Normie's evil plans are revealed, Annie is kidnapped and it's up to Peter and Mary Jane to write things. This story has some great action, but also allows some good character moments and allows Annie to save the day through her heart rather than her fist without being corny about it. The issue is maybe a little too compressed due to the demand to wrap this run up with Issue 12.

Indeed, that's my prime complaint. Really, this series and this team needed six more issues. I also did think at times they made Peter too weak, so the ladies could step up. Still, these didn't become big enough issues to stop this from being an enjoyable book.

Scott Lee says

[seemed to kill back in warzones (hide spoiler)]

Titan90 says

I am thoroughly enjoying this series for a number of reasons. Mostly because Mary Jane is a supportive and caring spouse and not a walking ego. In the 616 Universe, her relationship with Peter is anything but healthy, and while I am not a fan of the method of retconning it, I was glad to see him free of her.

This timeline, however, shows her to be the right kind of woman for Peter - strong, independent, supportive, and caring. I also enjoy reading about their daughter. Annie May is as brilliant as MJ and as brave and intelligent as Peter. The family dynamic is fun and light-hearted, and it anchors and binds the characters together in a delightful and fun way. I also appreciate that it is not "Parkers vs. the world" but that they have team-ups in their superhero lives and in their every day lives. They makes mistakes but forgive each other. It is great without being "fluff."

Jeff says

For the most part this was pretty interesting although the storyline of 10 year old Normie Osbourne gets wrapped up way to quickly and neatly for my liking.

And while I love the current run of SUPERMAN and can always feel the love within the Kent family, here in RENEW YOUR VOWS, it feels lacking. I know the Parkers are a strong family unit, but where it feels natural in SUPERMAN, here it feels like Conway is trying a little too hard for those "awww" moments.

Paul E. Morph says

This volume of parallel universe Spidey-family shenanigans was OK. Reasonably entertaining but nothing special. Mary Jane as Venom was probably the highlight.

Mike says

The Venom idea seemed cool, and the Normie Osborn subplot is OK, but the “every villain has a preteen child” seems a bit far fetched once we get to see Lizard with Billy.

And by the time Stegman takes over all scripting duties, it seems we’ve forgotten that Peter is an overprotective parent or something.

In fact, it gets downright maudlin.

And it cycles through all the highlights of 616 Spidey’s career (with the addition of all the child sidekicks of course) at a sprinter’s pace, like the creative team knows this concept book has a shortened shelf life - and somehow by feeling like a rushed retread, they all but guarantee this book will get cancelled in short order.

I found myself having a lot less fun reading this book than the previous one. I’d like to be able to say what the cause of deflation is - is the concept thin and aging rapidly? Is the writing change dropping quality? Did the chosen storyline just not work as well (and the next could pick back up my enthusiasm)?

I’m hoping it’s #3, so I’ll stay optimistic and plan to read the next volume. Let’s hope my crappy memory remembers “want to read the next one” more strongly than “felt abandoned by the last one”.

Kevin says

This one was a bit of a drop off from the first volume, which I absolutely loved. The art was really good, right up until the very last page where it just hit the dumpster for some strange reason, and teh story itself was pretty decent.

Without getting into spoilers, I think it all took a really weird, inexplicable turn in the denouement, the sort of story-altering turn that makes me doubt I’ll be back for volume three. They just randomly decided to toss away the one characteristic that made this book differnt, and now it feels it’ll just be like a lot of others.

Chad says

Darker in tone than the previous volumes. The X-Men show up and try and convince Peter and MJ to send their daughter to their school. Then MJ, in something that seemed very out of place given her past encounters with Venom, accepts a suit that is clearly Venom. Finally Normie's story comes to a head. Stegman has taken the writing over by this point and it could use some polish. Everything felt very crammed in and rushed like they were being kicked off the title.

Chris Lemmerman says

[Read as single issues]

Gerry Conway and Ryan Stegman bring their *Renew Your Vows* run to an end as Peter and MJ contemplate sending Annie to Xavier's School for the Gifted, MJ gets a very familiar looking black suit, and Normie Osborn makes his move.

The X-Men story here is an interesting take on the concept that I've not seen before; we see mutants joining the school all the time, but it's very rare that existing superheroes have children that could go through the scenario - plus this introduces the idea so that Marvel can use it for the time jump after this arc. Nicely done. This one's drawn by Ryan Stegman, and I still really like his visuals. He hasn't seemed to find an inker that suited him as much as his early Scarlet Spider work, but it's still solid superhero action, and he's right at home on Spider-Man books.

The Venom Experiment story feels a little too short, like the writers only had enough space to set it up and not really tie it off properly, but the strain it places on MJ and Peter's relationship is worth it. Then we head into the final three issues (plotted by Stegman himself with art by Brian Level) bring the Normie Osborn plot to a close as well. This ends in a really heartfelt way, and would only really work with these characters, again. There's some very specific storytelling going on in this book, and I really like that. If you can swap out your heroes for others and the story stays the same, then something's wrong.

Renew Your Vows' first act feels very complete, if a little rushed at times. I'm very interested to see where Jody Houser and Nick Roche take us in the next volume.

Adam Fisher says

This Volume covers 3 basic storylines:

- 1) The Spider-Family gets summoned to Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, with them expressing an interest in Annie Parker (Spiderling). Who should stick their face into the mix but Magneto and the Brotherhood, but they are no match for Spider-Man, Spinneret, and the X-Men (Jean, Wolverine, Cyclops, etc) This story is pretty good except for one thing... Jean would NEVER be with Wolverine. I'll not go far into this, but Jean/Cyclops is a very important relationship in comics to me, so alternate universe or not, I can't except it.
- 2) The majority of the story covers MJ gaining the Venom Symbiote. As Spinneret, she gets her powers from technology leaching off of Spider-Man. In an attempt to be able to have her own power, MJ goes to visit Liz Allan, who has her participate in an experiment that gives her the symbiote. MJ is able to overcome the power of Venom, using it for good, but only after a fight against her own family.
- 3) Rhino kidnaps Annie, but that is a ruse to lure Peter and MJ into the fray against the giant Green Goblin mech. Though the fighting is done by her parents, Spiderling is again the one who stops the mech ultimately, both by appealing to Normie's sensibilities AND by using a vent on the mech to get in and shut it down.

The end of the Volume surprises with an 8 year jump in the future. Spiderling is given a new (blue) suit and the family still seems to be heroing all together.

Excellent storyline. Great read. Recommend.

Willie Krischke says

This is drifted pretty far from what I liked about it originally, and it's just hanging on by a thread to my pull list at this point. The original "Secret Wars" arc was about how being a parent changes Peter Parker, and that was really interesting. But now, with evil Normie Osborn and now a young Billy Connor as a lizard, it's veering awfully close to something like "Teen Titans." Not what I was looking for. I want it to be about parenting, not about childish superheroes.
