



## Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 13: Hobgoblin

*Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley (artist) , Scott Hanna (inker)*

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**Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 13: Hobgoblin** Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley (artist) , Scott Hanna (inker)

It's the terrifying debut of the Ultimate Hobgoblin as Harry Osborn returns to Midtown High harboring a dark secret that will affect the lives of all those around him - especially his best friend, Peter Parker. And where does Harry's father - Norman Osborn, a.k.a. the Green Goblin - fit into all this?

**Collecting:** *Ultimate Spider-Man* 72-78

## Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 13: Hobgoblin Details

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Author : Brian Michael Bendis (Writer) , Mark Bagley (artist) , Scott Hanna (inker)

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## From Reader Review Ultimate Spider-Man, Volume 13: Hobgoblin for online ebook

### Zelly B. says

My favourite Spidey series of all time. This is actually a (2x) re-read of the entire series.

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### Tass says

+ I'm loving all this graffiti of Tandy Bowen's name all over the school.

Decent volume.

Con: Villains are too easily defeated. Apart from the gripping back stories...they're not really explaining their powers, weaknesses, combat advantages, etc.

Pro: Realistic teenage drama, haha.

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### Jerome says

Kinda stupid.

This particular edition misses the mark more than most of the series. It takes the element that the Ultimate Series missed the mark on the most (The Green Goblin) and pastes it onto the character that could have been the chance to get it right, The Hobgoblin. Gone is the mystery that was the genesis for both characters, in it's place is the same overplayed family melodrama that has misunderstood the role of the Osborns in the original Spider-Man books. The Goblins don't have that evil goblin-esque presence that was so great in both of the characters, they've been reduced to second rate Hulk like Gargoyles. And Harry Osborn, the most misunderstood character in the Marvel Universe since the 1990s, has been torn further from the core of what that character originated.

Ultimate Hobgoblin had the opportunity to get right what Ultimate Green Goblin missed, but instead it sinks deeper in the same tired interpretation of these characters we've gotten the last fifteen years. It might be surprising to a lot of readers that these interpretations were not always so universal. Both the Goblins and the Osborns deserve different interpretations. I doubt it will ever happen for them again unless they can make a break from each other.

Peter goes on a real verbal rampage with M.J. This is somewhat justified, but he really threw everything he had into her face. If he were to feel some remorse for his actions, it might be more valid, but M.J. just was a huge victim in this book, and it was hard to see her cry.

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### Shaelin says

November 14th, 2014

Reflection~

I have read 88 pages of Ultimate Spider-Man Hobgoblin.

Spider-Man has gotten bit by a spider.

Two people have died the past few months. Spider-Man's Uncle and Gwen.

The only person who knows he is Spider-Man is his girlfriend, his aunt, Harry, Harry's dad, and Harry's dad's worker.

Harry's dad is a super villain. Harry's dad's worker found Harry and showed him a place where his dad worked.

"I want to tell you something." Someone has said this to me that before.

(Finished book) November 21, 2014

Recommendation~

Nine months ago, when Peter was first bit by the spider, Harry Osborn was secretly dating Mary.

He vanished and out of nowhere is back in school. Harry is very rich. Harry lies to Mary Jane that Peter killed his father which she then tells Peter, believing this is the reason he is acting weird. Peter denies this and seriously injures a robber. Harry transforms into a hobgoblin. Peter and Harry fight and Harry keeps telling Peter, to kill him. Mary comes and Peter tells her to leave and go inside. After the shield chief came and helped, Peter went to Mary's. He told her he can not trust her and broke up with her. Mary's friend Liz tries to hook her up with Max Raxton. Liz and Mary go to watch his band and he takes Mary home. They kiss and Mary realizes she needs to win Peter Parker back.

"The ship has sailed." This quote reminds me of my friend's dad. He said this sentence to my friend and my friend told me what it meant.

I recommend this book to people who like graphic novels and spiderman.

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### **Nikki says**

Maybe I need to stop reading these for now and just bow to the necessity of dragging them home in my suitcase. They're still fun, and this volume was pretty good -- I got genuinely caught up in the emotion between Peter and Mary Jane, and I was touched and worried for Harry Osborn... but at the same time, these fights keep on happening, it's getting darker and less fun (i.e. needs more digestion time) and the teenage drama between Peter and Mary Jane just keeps on playing out over and over.

Some stuff hasn't even been touched on in a couple of volumes: working at the Daily Bugle, problems with Aunt May, Felicia Hardy (who looks to be coming up in the next one)... I don't know, maybe I better pause while it's still fun, and before I pick it apart.

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### **Lissa says**

What in the heck happened to this series? I really enjoyed the first several trades, but the story line is just dragging along right now. It feels like Bendis is scraping the bottom of the barrel when it comes to potential plots.

I only read this book a couple of days ago, and I'm having trouble remembering what it was about.

Something about Harry Osborn, who is either Harrison or Harold, depending on which page you're reading, being brainwashed by his father to be a sleeper agent of sorts.

The real thing that bothers me is how much of a jerk Peter is to Mary Jane. He goes psycho on her more than once, telling her that she needs to stay away from Harry without explaining. How hard would it be for him to say, "Hey, MJ, stay away from this dude because I think he wants to kill me no matter what act he's putting on now" instead of blowing up at her repeatedly? What a brat. And, of course, it's all MJ's fault, because she's a stupid woman who just won't listen. I've wondered in the past if Bendis has a serious issue with women, and this is only hammering home that idea.

This book adds nothing to the Ultimate line. Even if you're a fan of Ultimate Spidey, you're not missing anything if you skip this trade.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

I've been a Spider-Man fan on and off since I was about Harriet's age. I stopped reading the comic regularly when I left for college. That was right around the time that the "graphic novel" was coming into its own as a genre. Comic book publishers scrambled to revamp their series to fit the longer and darker format. Now a younger generation is growing up on comics and graphic novels (I'd hazard the novels more so than the comics) and there are series aimed at tweens and young adults.

While my local library was still closed for the move to its new location, I was frequenting the Dublin branch instead. It also has a collection of graphic novels but the choices are more limited and haphazard. For instance, they have only one volume of Ultimate Spider-Man. It happens to be Volume 13: Hobgoblin by Brian Michael Bendis (originally issues 72-8). What an odd place to start but I thought I'd give it a try.

Graphic novels are a balance between the artwork and story. Hobgoblin has a good story. It has the competition between Peter Parker and Harry Osborn and the love triangle around M.J. There's also a crossover with Nick Fury for an added bonus. These things I liked.

I guess for things to be "Ultimate" the typical emotional angst of the Spider-Man series needs to be cranked up to eleven. Even that I can handle. It seems to be the direction the series has gone in recent incarnations.

What turned me off though was the artwork. Every character seems to be in a perpetual state of saying "Duh!" with their lower jaws jutting out and their lips puckered and turned in impossible directions. I suppose it's to show their emotional states but they look like cavemen! The treatment on MJ was especially unflattering. She's not necessarily supposed to be supermodel gorgeous but her artistic treatment just seemed cruel to previous incarnations.

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### **Jedhua says**

**Book Info:** This collection contains *Ultimate Spider-Man* issues #72-78.

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** {3+/5 stars}

**STANDARDIZED RATING:** <3/5 stars>

The final events of *Ultimate Six* marks the last time Peter has seen or heard from Harry Osborn. After helping to subdue Norman and his four companions on White House grounds, Peter reaches out to embrace his friend, but Harry responded by promising to kill Peter and the S.H.I.E.L.D. agents who were involved in the takedown. That was then. Now, Harry resurfaces and casually walks back into Peter's life as if nothing bad had ever happened between them. Although Mary Jane and the rest of his peers all seem to think everything is alright, Peter is intensely suspicious of Harry, and begins to panic. And when Harry finally approaches Peter privately, he discloses the fact that he and Mary Jane were dating before Peter's relationship with her. But instead of harboring a grudge, Harry offers his continued friendship, and cryptically says to Peter: "All we have is each other... It's only us... I'm going to help you. And you... You're going to help me."

Although this turned out to be yet another 3-star volume, it was the highest 3-star *USM* volume I've read in a long while; if only the one of either the first and last issues were as strong as all the others (i.e. half a star higher), this would have been 3.5 stars. Somehow, it seems as if only the Osborns are able bring this level of mystery and danger to the table; aside from volume one, most of the highly-rated issues of the series are clustered in this book and in volume four (i.e. the arc with the Green Goblin and the Brooklyn Bridge incident). I think it should go without saying that the circumstances surrounding Harry's return aren't nearly as simple as they look, and they actually conjured up some of the most tragic and disturbing stuff I've seen from the series. I only wish Harry had been a more interesting/important person in Peter's life before all this went down; I know they're supposed to be good friends, but I never really got to see any important moments between them or feel their closeness. Even *Amazing Spider-Man 2* (which I happen to think was actually pretty good) was able to craft a pretty meaningful Harry-Peter relationship without any previous history, and had great casting for both characters.

#### **Postscript:**

How many times do you think we've seen the following classroom scene before?

The correct answer is way too many. This is actually a panel found in issue #74, which I had to read twice to fully appreciate. I find it's getting harder and harder to remain objective about this series when it has been so redundant and boring in the past. But as it turns out, the conflict between Mary and Peter makes this issue arguably the best one in the book, and I almost completely missed that the first time around. So although I found myself forgiving that scene, I couldn't manage to forgive this one:

Or this one:

Or this one:

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## Michal Vámoš says

Nebýt toho p?ehnaného teen dramatu v každém ?íslе, možná by to bylo trochu snesiteln?jší, i když chápou, že to je téma, na kterém tahle ?ada dost stojí a Bendis s tím pracovat zvládal. Jen je toho už moc.

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## Kenneth says

Peter faces his friend and enemy Hobgoblin.

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## Doctorjimmy says

Χωρ?ς αμφιβολ?α, το επ?κεντρο -και μεγαλ?τέρο θετικ?- της ιστορ?ας ε?ναι το τρ?γωνο Pete-MJ-Harry. Ο Bendis αποτυπ?νει εξαιρετικ? την παρ?νοια που μαστ?ζει τον γιο του Norman μ?σα απ? την σχ?ση του με τον Shaw (και το ποι?ς ε?ναι πραγματικ? αυτ?ς ο μυστ?ριος νε?φερτος χαρακτ?ρας), αλλ? σ?γουρα θα πρ?πει να ?χεις διαβ?σει τα προηγο?μενα arcs που τον φιγουρ?ρουν για να δεις σε β?θος την χειραγ?γηση που ε?χε υποστε? απ? τον πατ?ρα του ?λα αυτ? τα χρ?νια: ?σως το πιο καλοφτιαγμ?νο origin κακο? μ?χρι τ?ρα.

Αντ?θετα, ο Peter βρ?σκεται σε επιφυλακ? και ?γχος καθ?λη την δι?ρκεια της ιστορ?ας, μην ξ?ροντας αν πρ?πει να εμπιστευτε? τον παιδικ? του φ?λο, ξεσπ?ει σε λ?θος ?τομα και καταχρ?ται τις δυν?μεις του, εν? τρ?μει στην ιδ?α του να πεθ?νει και η MJ μετ? τον θ?νατο της Gwen, αποφασ?ζοντας να την χωρ?σει για την ασφ?λεια της. Και η εντυπωσιακ? τελικ? μ?χη απ?κτα ολο?να και πιοτ τραγικ? χαρακτ?ρα αν σκεφτε?ς πως ο Harry δεν θ?λει να ?χει καμ?α αν?μειξη με ?λα αυτ?. Δεν μπορ? να πω περισσ?τερα χωρ?ς να spoil-?ρω αλλ?, γενικ?, πρ?κειται για μια απ? τις πιο ?ντονες ιστορ?ες του τ?τλου μ?χρι τ?ρα.

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## Fellipe Moscardini says

Another solid volume. Harry's story was a bit convoluted, but overall it was pretty good. Peter and MJ's breakup has opened doors for more teenage drama, which is fine by me, I guess. Not as great as the previous volumes, but still part of one of the best comic book runs I've ever read. 4/5 stars

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## Wing Kee says

So much better!

Wow the last arc was rough. It was not the right type of levity and ended feeling forced and bad, so how is his arc? Pretty good but with some huge flaws.

World: Art, not a fan. The world building is strong once again. Not in your face but there to support the story. This is a character driven arc and we get a beautiful stage for the story to play on. The Harry origin the

stuff with SHIELD good stuff.

Story: Strong emotional core that drives this story forward. There are a few character illogical steps with Fury and MJ but other than that this is solid. The emotions are real and the pacing perfect. The tragic story of Harry is well done with the slow boil done well. The resolution is also handled well which I am surprised. The drama with MJ and Peter is also good. It's weak in the core of the issue and illogical but at the same I understand what the creative team is doing emotions wise. Good stuff.

Characters: Peter is good. He's a force of nature this arc, he is reacting and that's a great thing for the story and the character interactions. It creates wonderful tension and drives the story. The blame to MJ is unwarranted and makes sense to be this way, the wedge is there to create drama even if it is not a good reason. But hey he's in grief so we can go there. MJ however I'm a bit worried about. Her reaction to it is a bit too self hating for my taste but then again she's 15. But yes it really bugs me. She should not be defined by Peter and at this moment she is. Shame. Harry was wonderful just read it.

Strong story with some weird choices.

Onward to the next book!

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### **Sesana says**

This is more like it. I think that I've said before that virtually everything I know about the Spider-Man mythos I learned from the 90s cartoon, so I suppose that I'm coming into all of this with fairly fresh eyes. Was this version of Hobgoblin perfect? Probably not. But Harry is a sympathetic character here, for the most part. The blow up between Peter and Mary Jane was also handled fairly well. I get what Peter is saying, and I get what Mary Jane is saying. Both have good points, neither were at their best. Like so many real life breakups, I suppose. Which doesn't make their arguments easy to read. Quite the opposite, at times.

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### **Brad says**

One part of Spider-Man lore that's eluded Brian Michael Bendis in Ultimate Spider-Man is the Goblins. The first Spider-Man movie proved that it's hard to update the Green Goblin costume and make it cool. Bendis decided to make the effects of Osborne's chemicals more physically obvious, more Hulk-like. It makes sense, but also makes the fight scenes with Spider-Man more of a bore. Now, the Goblins are mindless, not crazy. That's the case with the new Hobgoblin, whose creation and motivation don't quite make sense. However, Bendis makes Harry Osborne plenty tragic and relatable.

Where this book succeeds is the ongoing Peter and Mary Jane drama. The first issue, before the Goblin gobbledegook, and the last issue, once the mess is cleaned up, are much more compelling and brutal than the fiery orange monster in the middle. Bendis doesn't take sides in Peter and MJ's drama--both of them screw up, both overreact, and both have to figure out what they'll do next.

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