



## Silk (2015) #1

*Robbie Thompson , Stacey Lee (Illustrator) , Ian Herring (Colourists) , Dave Johnson (Illustrator)*

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**Silk (2015) #1** Robbie Thompson , Stacey Lee (Illustrator) , Ian Herring (Colourists) , Dave Johnson (Illustrator)

Cindy Moon exploded out of her bunker and into the Marvel Universe when we first learned that she had been bitten by that same radioactive spider in the first arc of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. She then went on to save Peter Parker's life (more than once!) and traverse the Spider-verse alongside Spider-Woman. Now, as SILK, Cindy is on her own in New York City, searching for her past, defining her own future, and webbing up wrong-doers along the way!

## Silk (2015) #1 Details

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Author : Robbie Thompson , Stacey Lee (Illustrator) , Ian Herring (Colourists) , Dave Johnson (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Silk (2015) #1 for online ebook

### Laura says

Read this for my first Ladies Comic Book Club meeting 7/20/16, which was at a winery! And with a really fun group of nerdy ladies!

I liked this Silk comic. It was a lot of information thrown at you very quickly, and I think I may have enjoyed it more if I knew more about the universe overall, and also about the other Spider characters, more than just the Spiderman movies.

Also, this was a volume that was 7 issues, and there were 3 artists across those 7 issues. I REALLY didn't like when the artist changed, because it felt like a different representation entirely. The first time there was a switch, I strongly disliked the style and also felt like Cindy was much more sexualized. The second switch I wasn't in love with but was better than the first.

As much as I enjoyed reading the story of Cindy Moon and even more so loved discussing it, I'm not sure if I will continue her story. I have this weird feeling that if I allow myself to like a comic too much then I will get sucked in and suddenly have to spend a bunch of money and it will be falling down the rabbit hole. Maybe that's pessimistic, but I feel that way, and I'm both tempted and hesitant to become obsessed this way.... (probably will happen with Saga, September's book)

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### Solace Winter says

I think I would be happier with this one if the Spider-Man/Silk relationship doesn't turn out to be a romantic one, since it seems unnecessary. Women don't have to be written into stories for another love interest, but I'm not sure that's where it's going, so I guess I will see! However, I do appreciate they didn't turn her into a carbon copy of Spider-Man, just female. She's bad at quips and inner-monologuing, and is reserved in her interactions for a completely different reason than Parker was. She has a good side mission in mind, but to be honest I'm surprised it's not something she's more focused on, considering her circumstances.

Yes, I gave it 5 stars, but there's a lot of questions, but that's what comics are for, right?

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### Anne says

4.5 stars

Very cool 1st issue!

Cindy Moon is introduced in the Amazing Spider-Man title, played a huge role in the Spider-verse event, and is now getting her very own title!

*Quick Backstory (probably missing stuff):*

*Cindy was bit by the same spider that chomped Peter, and has powers resembling Pete's. She can also spin*

*her own webs, and creates clothes out of her spider **Silk**. Soon after being bitten, she was found by a man called Sims, and then locked in a bunker (for 10 years) that shielded her presence from a spider-hunter called Morlun. She had the code to get out, but chose to stay, because (according to him) it was the only way to keep everyone else safe from the bad guy who was hunting her. He was rightish, because of the whole Spider-verse thing. Still, maybe not exactly a good guy. Since 10 years have passed, she's lost touch with her family, and is now on a mission to find them. Plus, Cindy also has an eidetic memory (like Barbara Gordon!).*

*Oh, and she & Pete had a thing for about 10 seconds.*

**Ta-da!**

Ok, this one does a pretty good job making Cindy a likable new heroine, and giving her a distinct voice. The art is fun to look at, slick, and flows well with the dialogue. And the story itself was a great introduction to the kind of character she's going to be in the future.

*Well, hopefully.*

She's trying to juggle a job, superhero stuff, finding her family, and learning how to blend in after missing 10 years of pop culture references.

Pete pops up a few times to let her know he's there for her, but it's pretty clear that she's going to be a solo act. And while I'm sure there will be plenty of team-ups in the future, it's nice to see her doing her own thing.

This one ends with her getting her own Spider-lair, and trying to figure out the next move to track down her family. There's a little ominous voice-over thrown in the last panel that made me sit up and take notice, as well. All in all, very nicely done.

**Can't wait to read the next one!**

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## **Meg says**

I can't believe how fantastic this introduction issue to Silk was! I was completely shocked by how much I enjoyed this first issue. Silk has something exciting and new to it. I'm not even sure I can put my finger on it quite frankly but there's just something about this comic series that is so fantastic. I'm not usually a Marvel fan, in fact, I usually go towards DC comics before I go towards Marvel but between this and Spider- Gwen Marvel is really stepping up their game with bad ass women!!

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## **JB says**

I really enjoyed this first issue. I loved the appearances of Spider-Man and J. Jonah Jameson! This is the first

time I've ever read a story featuring Silk. I'm intrigued by her backstory. She also has a lot in common with our friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man and she has enough differences with Spidey to not make her just a female version of him. I liked the art, I liked the coloring and I liked the writing too. I've added this comic to my pull list and will be checking out the earlier stories with Silk.

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## Nicole Shelby says

I haven't read any recent Marvel comics (or DC for that matter). So, I decided to give one of their new titles/characters a try.

This was the premise for Silk #8. No joke: "Cindy Moon (Silk), Jessica Drew (Spider-Woman), and Gwen Stacy of Earth-65 (also Spider-Woman) recently discovered that the Cindy of Gwen's universe is a megalomaniacal mad scientist. She trapped them on Earth-65, traveled to their home universe and framed the real Silk for a series of tech robberies. Cindy and Gwen tracked her to Parker Industries, where she tried to recruit them by offering Cindy a chance to live with the Earth-65 version of her family and Gwen a chance to life without spider-powers. They refused, and in the ensuing brawl Cindy-65 sapped Gwen's abilities and pummeled Silk using her stolen tech! This couldn't have come at a worse time for our Cindy. The pressure of working as a mole for SHIELD in Black Cat's gang has been building, and it looks like something is going to give."

Seriously?

(1) None of this is related to, alluded to, prefaced by, or hinted at in Silk #1-7. I read the previous issues, with the basic understanding that there would be events/history that I wasn't aware of - since I'd taken a break from Marvel Universe for so long. However, hoping (and for the most part actualizing) an enjoyment of story, even without a complete encyclopedic knowledge. But, from 7 to 8? Oy. After reading that paragraph, I shut 8 and put it away. No continuity, no flow.

(2) Marvel (and DC) are in the business of selling comic books. They make money through art. I'm cool with that - I benefit by getting to enjoy said art. However, I despise when that focus crumbles the art-foundation. I don't want to attempt to find a bunch of random issues, of varied Titles (each with their own incumbent backstories and crossovers), in order to try to piece together a cohesive story. I hate cardboard-puzzles...so, I certainly am going to hate ephemeral issue puzzles.

(3) I understand that Spiderman is continually popular - not my fave - but, its true. His origin story has been retold repeatedly. You don't ever need to follow him with any continuity, because, Marvel will just reboot him, and start again. And the new iteration will be essentially the same.

That said, Silk seemed like it might be just enough of a variance to lend itself to good storytelling. A female (which has been done, but it's always good to see more women in comics). The first 7 issues gave enough backstory to tease curiosity, and enough mystery to draw that curiosity out. Similar to traditional Spiderman enough to highlight some key variance. Any story-tension built, was demolished with disregard.

(4) Alternate realities. Multiverse. Time-travel. All can be, and have been, used in excellent stories (most recently? Black Science. That's brilliant). That said: it is overused as a lame gimmick. I don't want to, and didn't, read this issue #8 (or anything after, or related)...because this schtick is so off-putting. Blech.

Ugh. Enough whining from me. Too late to keep this brief. I'll sum up by saying, after this brief attempt to explore a new title...I'm out. With that, I'm leaving the Marvel'verse, and finding something compelling to read - probably Image Comics.

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### **Thenia says**

Beautiful art and an intriguing story that I'm looking forward to hearing more about.

It might be better to read Silk's first appearance in Amazing Spider-Man first, since the events of that are mentioned more than once.

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### **The Sapphic Nerd says**

First off, I don't know too much about Spider-Verse or Spider-related stuff. I've only read the first 5 issues of Spider-Woman by Hopeless and Spider-Gwen #1. I didn't find the comic hard to follow or understand, and though I'm curious as to how Cindy is first introduced in the Marvel universe, it isn't necessary to appreciate the story and characters here.

The art looks amazing. The colours are bright and bold and the lines are delightfully playful. Everything is a treat for the eyes. Flashbacks are shaded differently so it's easy to keep track of where you are. It's great. Really. Fresh and fun.

The writing is top notch. It's quick, funny, and smart (what I expected Spider-Gwen to be). Silk/Cindy Moon is a wonderful, sassy character who feels dynamic, struggling to find her place in the world at a stage where she's not too confident in herself. The fact that Cindy's Asian and has LGBTQ female friends is great for representation on multiple fronts. I also love that we see her relationship with her parents, and with her brother (so accurate!), as well as with other people (like Spider-Man).

Overall? FANTASTIC. I'm in LOVE with this comic and can't wait for more! I'm gonna buy the trade paperback when it comes out for sure!

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### **Mariana says**

This was great! The artwork is so, so beautiful.  
Can't wait to find out more about Cindy Moon!

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### **Mike says**

A review from my free e-magazine:  
*PopFam.com - Pop Culture for Families*  
<http://www.popfam.com>

## **Silk #1**

Marvel Comics

by Robbie Thompson & Stacey Lee

Reader Appeal/Publisher Rating: "T" for Teens

Genre: Superhero

*Marvel Comics spins off a new series starring a supporting character from the "Spider-verse."*

You really want to like Silk. She is—almost literally—a female rendition of Peter Parker/The Amazing Spider-Man. That said, you'd be hard-pressed to say why Silk needs to exist in the Marvel universe—except that she's a female version of Spider-Man. That alone gives this new comic series a forced feeling, like some suit from the marketing department visited the Marvel Bullpen one day and said, "Hey, we need to appeal to more high school and college-aged girls. Give us a new Spider-Man and make her a girl. An Asian girl would be great for our demographics. Go!"

Well, be careful what you wish for, because that's often what you get. Here's how it works out in Silk #1:

Cindy Moon is a pretty young woman in her twenties. When she was eighteen, she was (insert eye-roll here) bitten BY THE SAME SPIDER that bit Peter Parker. That heavy-handed storytelling device means Cindy has Spider-strength, powers of adhesion, and a "precognitive awareness" ("Silk Sense" instead of "Spidey-Sense," but really, what's the difference?). And she can spin webs out of her fingertips. And she just happens to work for J. Jonah Jameson, who keeps demanding that she give him photos of her spider-hero alter ego...

So, yeah, she's pretty much a Spider-Man literary clone.

Still, you say, aren't most super heroes simply copycats or derivations of ancient mythological heroes anyway? Well, you make a good point, dear reader. So I guess the real question is whether or not female-Spider-Man is a new/old hero worth reading...

On the plus side, she's got a good insecurity-versus-confidence inner monologue going on, and an intriguing backstory about lost family. On the negative side, that inner voice is remarkably close the one Peter Parker trademarked some 50 years ago, and didn't Spidey already cover "lost family" territory in the death of Uncle Ben?

Additionally, Marvel felt a need to wave political banners in Silk #1, shoehorning in a fairly irrelevant "statement" subplot about a lesbian roommate and her dating exploits. It's one thing if that's integral to Silk's story, but in the context here it just feels preachy, and like pandering for progressive street cred. ("Look kids! I'm cool because I think being gay is cool!")

The best part of this comic is Stacy Lee's confident illustration paired with Ian Herring's colors. Those two know how to rock a comic book spread! I particularly liked Lee's facial expressions and sense of movement from panel to panel. Very nice ... but just not enough to make up for the redundancy and political posturing of the rest of this book. Silk #1 should have been great, but in the end (for me at least) the story just fails on too many levels.

Parents should be aware that Silk #1 does contain some questionable content, including off-panel dialogue of a lesbian sexual encounter in progress, the occasional profanity, and of course, comic-book violence.

## Jessica says

[image error]

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## Stabbing says

It's ok. Nothing stands out in this first issue. Does have several cameo appearances by regular Spider-Man cast. However she really just feels like another Spider-Man clone, and does he really need another one of those? The art is bright and looks animated cartoonish. Not a fan at this point but if they step up their game next issue I might get into it.

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## Tiara says

Crossposted @ The Bibliosanctum

*Silk #1* is worth a mention. There are too few mainstream books with women of color placed squarely in the center. (Cindy Moon is Asian-American.) Not only do I feel this book is important for that reason, but this is really a good female-led comic despite a few bumps I'll talk about later. (Skip to the bottom for the TL;DR version.)

Before I talk about the book itself, here's the gist of how Cindy Moon got her spider powers. I apologize that this is probably not going to sound like the greatest story when condensed down to these few lines, but it is what it is. The spider that bit Peter Parker also managed to bite another person, Cindy Moon, giving her the same powers. (More importantly, she can weave clothing from her fingertips. Aesthetics.) Instead of having the free range that Peter Parker had, a man named Ezekiel Sims kept her in isolation for 10 years until Peter found her. Yes, that's a fairly small view of what happened, but to talk about this in any more detail will require an aside just for this purpose.

This book starts with Cindy fighting a fairly cartoonish villain, named Dragonclaw. She equates to a Pokémon. (Side note: I freaking love Pokémon!) While fighting him, her powers begin to short out whether this relates to her decade in isolation or not is unknown, but things start to go downhill from there. She's helped by your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man who jokingly accuses her of not calling, but their interactions say there was something there and *something* might still be there.



I enjoyed this book, especially that I'm usually not the biggest fan of Spiderverse, but I almost always love the Spider-Women of that verse. Cindy joins Jessica Drew and Anya Corazon (Araña) in my heart. Her story focuses a bit on her past and her present, giving readers a brief glimpse of who she was before she became Silk and who she is now, shifting between a brilliant, headstrong teenage girl on the edge of adulthood and a socially awkward adult woman who's trying to find her place as a person and a superhero. Despite the funnier moments in the book, Cindy is a woman lost, a woman struggling with her past for various reasons, a woman who wishes things were "quiet," and a woman who still doesn't completely understand her own strength. I'll pause to compliment Thompson for managing to catch the nuances of a teenager butting heads with her parents over love, sports, and school without seemingly being over-broody or over-cheesy. There is a fair bit of cheesiness in this book, though, but Cindy even mentions that she's got to work on her quips.

Pop culture features prominently in this book. That can be a good or bad thing depending on your tastes. However, much like the pop culture Marvel has used in other newer titles, I find it chuckle-worthy and well-timed while being a tad more finely clever (if such a statement can be used with memes) in terms of wit with this book. We don't get doge memes here, which many people don't know, instead we get my personal favorite #AskingForAFriend, which is easily understood in the right context because we've all had those "asking for a friend" moments. Not that I'm downing the doge meme. Sure, some of it won't stand the test of time when my kids read this 20 years later, but it adds a little fun to the book. Also, kudos to this book for that Sleepy Hollow/Supernatural mash-up shout out. Robbie Thompson writes for *Supernatural*, and Orlando Jones, one of the stars of *Sleepy Hollow*, is known to tweet avidly about *Supernatural* and mashing the two shows up.

Next up: I loved the art in this book. It's fun. There's an anime-ish quality about it while making me think of the Teen Titan cartoon (the 2003 show, not Teen Titans Go to be clear). Yes, I can accuse it of being a little "girly" at points, but it's not done in a way that makes me feel like someone went heavy on the glitter because this is a girl (and all girls like pink and glitter, duh). It's subtle, it's pretty, and it fits the feel of the book. It manages to be both bright and dark, if that makes any sense, and it's so busy. Okay, maybe "busy" isn't what I meant. I mean, the panels feel like they move and flow with their actions. It feels active.

Now, to get the "bad" out of the way. One thing that sort of bothered me is that, while Peter definitely doesn't overshadow Cindy in her book, I didn't really like her following in Peter's footsteps by working for JJ (okay, she's technically not working for him, but you know), using her own secret identity for stories. I understand why they did it in context of the story, but it felt like they could've given her something more unique than that. It's a small complaint really.

Next, I will concede that Silk might be a little confusing for newcomers because it does require some knowledge that you'll likely have to Google for (or ask me!). It's not nearly as new reader friendly as Squirrel Girl. It was a little disjointed for me, so I can only imagine how it might make someone new feel. However, I think this book is still worth the effort of reading after you have a grasp of her background. I just feel like they were just trying to cover a little too much ground this issue. I'm hoping subsequent issues will be less harried.

Overall, did Tiara love this book? I think one panel can sum it all up my feelings:

TL;DR: In the words of the esteemed Daniel Bryans:

Let's hope Spider-Gwen inspires me as much when I read it (later today). <33

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### **Sarah says**

I liked this quite a lot. My biggest quibble is that I don't really care about Peter Parker and there's more of him than I'd like in this intro, but I also realize that helps it grow an audience, soooooo...

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### **Ariana says**

I JUST LOVED IT. The artwork is amazing. I loved it too.

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