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With *Spider-Verse* in the rear-view, Jessica strikes out to make a new life for herself. But she's not going to do it alone, as she's joined by new *Spider-Woman* supporting cast-mate and classic Marvel character Ben Urich!

Collecting: *Spider-Woman* 5-10

Spider-Woman, Volume 2: New Duds Details

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Dennis Hopeless (Writer) , Javier Rodriguez (Penciler, Colourist) , Natacha Bustos (Artist) ,
Author : Álvaro López (Inker) , Travis Lanham (Letterer) , Muntsa Vicente (Colourist) , Vero Gandini (Colourist)

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From Reader Review *Spider-Woman, Volume 2: New Duds* for online ebook

Brian Poole says

After a false start, the recent *Spider-Woman* series found its footing with its second arc, *New Duds*.

New Duds finds Spider-Woman Jessica Drew ditching the Avengers to get back to her origins as a solo adventurer fighting crime in the streets. She even adopts a practical new costume and moves into a loft in a developing neighborhood. Except Jessica is rusty at dealing with street level issues and manages to embarrass herself several times. Reporter Ben Urich intrigues her with the unexplained disappearances of the families of various super-villains. C-List crook Porcupine (not really a bad guy) crosses paths with Jessica and gets her involved in looking for the missing families. What Jessica finds is quite different from what she expects. Afterward, Jessica, Ben and Porcupine go on a cross-country road trip to deal with other unexplained cases Ben's uncovered. The trio lands in a Midwestern town with an evil roadside attraction and some zombie-like locals.

Freed from the poorly received *Spider-Verse* tie-in that weighed down the first arc of *Spider-Woman*, writer Dennis Hopeless hits his stride with *New Duds*. He nails Jessica's voice pretty quickly and her uneven attempt to be a "normal" crime fighter is a great concept that Hopeless plays with in some fun and involving ways. Hopeless gets some mileage out of Jessica figuring out how to do things without the apparatus of The Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. as backstops. Jessica is a winning heroine, who manages to be resourceful and short-sighted in equal doses. The resolution of the "missing families" plot has some clever twists and makes for a nice showcase for Jessica's character. Urich and Porcupine make for a solid supporting duo that gives Jessica interesting personalities to bounce off. The road trip is a cool idea that Hopeless turns into something offbeat and engaging. It's one of the more enjoyable superhero makeovers in recent memory.

Penciler Javier Rodriguez, inker Alvaro Lopez and colorist Vero Gandini are a strong team on art, giving *Spider-Woman* a light-hearted feel that's a nice cross between traditional superhero and a more comic strip aesthetic. Jessica's new outfit is great and the artists find subtle ways to show off its various features. The issues include a lot of dynamic sequences and layouts that can be creative without being self-consciously "clever." Jessica moves nimbly and the artists do a nice job showing her athleticism and "spider moves." The color palette is ideally suited to the shifting narrative, going from muted blues, blacks and grays of Jessica's night-time adventures to brighter colors when she jumps into daytime action. Natacha Bustos provides a seamless pinch hit for Rodriguez and Lopez on one issue. It's warm, entertaining work that gets across the intent of Hopeless's writing quite effectively.

For fans of *Spider-Woman*, picking up *New Duds* is a no-brainer. But even if you're not already a Jessica Drew fan, it's worth seeking out.

A version of this review originally appeared on www.thunderalleybcp.com

Sesana says

This is an incredible improvement over volume one. It helps that volume two doesn't use the artist who must not be named, and I thought that Rodriguez's art was much, much better. I actually enjoyed looking at it,

instead of enduring it. And once he was free to do what he liked with the character, I ended up loving the direction that Hopeless was taking the character of Spider-Woman. She's at a point in her life when she wants to quietly be her own superhero, which I get under the circumstances. She may not be very good at it, but it's an understandable impulse. I was surprised to see that Ben Urich was going to be a full co-star on the book, but not at all upset. I like Ben, a lot. He's consistently one of the most admirable characters in the Marvel Universe, and he's used well here. I was really getting into the idea of Spider-Woman doing a traveling, low-budget version of the X-Files. It was fun! And then Secret Wars happened. So much for that. I hope that the book will be able to pick up where it left off after the event, but who knows.

Chris says

I've heard good things about Spider-Woman since her series headed in this new direction and it's easy to see why, as *New Duds* is reminiscent of series such as Ant-Man and Kate Bishop's adventures in Hawkeye. Although I didn't enjoy the story as much as I'd hoped, the entertaining trio of Jessica Drew, Ben Urich and Porcupine made up for it.

New Duds also looks great thanks to the remarkable artwork by Javier Rodriguez, Victor Olaba and Vicente Munsta. The striking colour palette in particular makes this book one to admire and I love Spider-Woman's stylish, yet practical new costume.

Sadly, the last issue has to wrap-up the series for Secret Wars (albeit temporarily) and seeing Jess back in her old costume, reluctantly joining the fight to save the world left me as dejected as she looked. Still, I can't fault writer Dennis Hopeless for that and the creative team kept me interested enough to read the next volume.

Jeff says

Jessica Drew aka Spider-Woman is tired of dealing with fighting evil on a mega-intergalactic scale (although she's still up for the occasional throttling of a Skrull) and wants to dial back her life a bit – become just the friendly *neighborhood* Spider-Woman. She even changes her costume, hence the title of this volume.

Her new career gets off to a rocky start, so she ends up working with reporter Ben Urich, who points her in the direction of a story about super villain's loved ones going missing and not being reported to the police. So through happenstance, she abducts the Porcupine, for answers...

...and eventually forms an unlikely alliance with Urich and Mr. Porcupine.

There's some focus on super hero deducting until the use of reason...

...gives way to a beat down.

Bottom line: Hopeless follows the Marvel trend started by Fraction's Hawkeye of going up close and personal and easing off on the "super" heroic histrionics. This one works well up until the road trip, then kind of fizzles, but not dramatically. Spider-Woman then gets hijacked by Secret Wars.

Both Hopeless and Bendis have done some good work with this Spider-Woman, each from different perspectives. I hope Loveless' approach continues, it suits the character well enough.

Three and half stars rounded up.

An example of the fine artwork!

Jonathan says

4.5 stars

"Your disgusting stink-mouthed hand demon bit me on my face meat!" - Jessica Drew **aka** Spider-Woman

Awesome art.

Crazy-good layouts.

Have I mentioned I'm a big fan of the highly stylized sound words that blend into the panel?

Hopeless nails the story and more importantly the dialogue on this one. I never thought I would say this but I'm actually enjoying Spider-Woman.

"Dude marinated the beef in some kind of mind sauce" - Roger Gocking **aka** The Porcupine

Weird. This is exactly my kind of mind sauce.

Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says

Oh, I had a fun time with this one. I love Jess's snark! I love she has teamed up with Ben Urich and Porcupine! I mean, Porcupine is hilarious in his own right!

I loved the first story of how the women and kids all disappeared and the reasoning behind it. That was pretty freaking cool. Well, not the reasoning but the other part!

But, Jess, Ben and Porcupine being on the road together was great! I really loved the crazy rodeo idea they stumbled onto. lol

I might do a more in-depth review later.

James DeSantis says

Very fun series. As expected. Spider-Woman is a sexy big booty warrior and this is no different. Before we get to her getting prego after Secret Wars this was a fun little adventure. seeing Jessica Drew go back into street level fighting is a ton of fun. Then you have Ben (From Daredevil) and a villain to join her party and you have plenty of fun times to be had.

Good: Cute and charming. Lots of fun things happening here, good humor, and Jessica is a main star worth following. The start of the series is very strong.

Bad: The last issue is very rushed and just thrown together for Secret Wars. Disappointed in that issue.

SO yeah, this was fun and enjoyable. Nothing mindblowing but a good time none the less. A 3 out of 5.

Nikki says

I liked the redesign for Jessica Drew in this volume, and I do prefer Rodriguez' art to Greg Land's (even though I don't quite get the antipathy some people had towards it). This volume feels a lot more fun than the first one, in line with Jessica's decision to get away from the Avengers and be an ordinary person (ish) for a while. Ben Urich also has a key role, which is fun too. Unfortunately, it feels somewhat truncated because just as the first volume took Jessica Drew out of one Marvel event (Spider-verse), the last part of this volume pulls her off her detective agency job and back into the Avengers for Secret Wars. Yay.

I don't know what Marvel thinks they're doing, constantly crippling the solo comics with these ensemble events that a lot of people don't even like. It's alright when they're a novelty, but when one TPB is bookended by two big universe-wide events, ugh, it's far too much. Jessica Drew's little detective story is fun enough but very light, and one could wish we get to see a bit more of her. It's an interesting plotline, though perhaps somewhat predictable — or I dunno, I felt like I'd read something like it before, anyway.

Still not groundbreaking, but Jessica is still awesome.

Originally posted here.

Sam Quixote says

Jessica Drew may be taking a break from the Avengers to pursue a career as a Private Investigator but her superhero past isn't taking a break from her! Someone's blackmailing Z-list supervillains into committing crimes and the unlikely duo of Spider-Woman and Daily Bugle star reporter Ben Urich are on the case.

Spider-Woman, Volume 2: New Duds isn't a bad comic, it just lacks convincing antagonists, solid stories and a point. I know that sounds like a back-handed compliment but, considering the circumstances, Dennis Hopeless did well to write a fairly decent book – I definitely wasn't ever bored reading it.

Still, it's hard not to be underwhelmed once the flimsy bad guys and their feeble motivations are revealed behind both storylines. That said, I'm sure it didn't help that this series sprang out of an event and, poetically, ends with another event after just two volumes, so Hopeless didn't exactly have acres of room to manoeuvre with the kind of stories he could've told. And he does write Jess really well, showing the character's potential and appeal, and for the most part it's a breezy, fun read, albeit largely unmemorable.

I really loved Javier Rodriguez's art. As well as appreciating his skill and lush visuals, as a red-blooded male I very much enjoyed how Rodriguez drew Jess! Superheroes always look generically ripped but maybe it's the more realistic, girl-next-door way that Rodriguez draws Jess or her new outfit but, damn, Spider-Woman has never looked sexier than she does in this book! The all-star art team is rounded out by Alvaro Lopez's perfectly complementary inks and, my favourite colourist, Muntsa Vicente, who instantly improves any book she's put on.

Also, ignore the numbering of this volume – this works fine as an accessible standalone Spider-Woman book, so you needn't read the first volume if, like me, you're not a fan of Greg Land's (f)art. Overall, it's a bit too light for my taste but New Duds is an entertaining-enough read.

Artemy says

I love Jessica Drew! She is one of my favourite characters in the Marvel universe, and also my favourite Spider-Person. Even though Marvel stupidly started off this new series with an event tie-in, they event(ha!)ually came back to their senses and just made this a stand-alone series. So, if you just want to read about Jessica without all the convoluted mess that is Spider-Verse, just pick up this volume. It has nothing to do with volume 1, it is a sort of soft reboot for the character. And it is pretty good! It is fun, silly, very much in the vibe of Kot's Secret Avengers and is just a nice read. Great art and colours, too. Good stuff.

Chad says

Spider-Woman gets a soft reboot. New artist, new costume, new focus. Jessica has decided to step away from the Avengers and affect street level crime, which it turns out she's very bad at. In steps Ben Urich, who's looking into a series of kidnappings of D-Level supervillains' families. Jessica captures the Porcupine and forces him to help track down his daughter. What they uncover is a very clever idea. I loved it.

For the last two issues, Spider-Woman, Ben, and Porcupine go on a road trip to stop more D-Level villains across the country and come across a bunch of zombified citizens in Dodge City. And we get the obligatory Secret Wars interruption.

The Good: Along the lines of Matt Fraction's Hawkeye, Hopeless focuses more on humanizing Spider-Woman. It definitely works. I loved this book. Well-told engaging stories with great art.

The Bad: That Secret Wars interruption. I wish Marvel would just leave some of these books alone to tell good stories.

The Ugly: Porcupine's costume is ridiculous, but that just adds to his charm in this case.

David says

If you've read recent DAREDEVIL, HAWKEYE or FOES OF SPIDER-MAN and those other highly acclaimed titles from Marvel, rethink those and add Spider-woman: and you get this book. There's a strong current of shame or duffus-ness about being a super-hero that runs through all these titles Spider-Woman included. It's even remarked upon that her solo efforts (read her solo titles) haven't amounted to much to date. But there's so much charm and pleasing colors and humor and pretty drawings that it's impossible to dislike anything about the book. It's a fun, well-crafted Marvel title, perhaps a bit formula. But it's a formula that's charming, pretty and delightful so who gives a ****.

Javier Muñoz says

Esta es una serie divertida que te hace pasar un buen rato sin pretensión ninguna, con unas tramas desenfadadas y con unos cuantos personajes que caen muy simpáticos, como la misma Jessica Drew, un Ben Urich más relajado de lo que suele estar y un puercoespín de lo más desmadrado.

Me gusta esta serie porque spiderwoman se aleja de las grandes amenazas y supervillanos para intentar ayudar a la gente corriente y porque tiene sus fallos y cualidades negativas que la hacen humana y nos ayudan a empatizar on ella.

Paul E. Morph says

I've always been a big fan of Jessica Drew and missed her quite a bit when she vanished from the face of the Marvel Universe for several years. Thanks to Brian Michael Bendis, she's been back for a while now, which is great.

This latest take on Jess, written by Dennis Hopeless (*love his surname*), has been a lot of fun. Taking a leave of absence from the Avengers (*nobody quits the team, Jess; 'once an Avenger, always an Avenger' remember?*) to go back to running a detective agency again, Jess is back to dealing with 'street level' threats. She even has a new costume for the first time... well, *ever* as far as I can recall... and I really like it.

Apart from the sunglasses. Jess, you've *got* to ditch those bloody awful goggles!

I really like the semi-comedic tone of this book. It obviously owes a lot to Matt Fraction's Hawkeye series, but it's far from being a complete rip-off. Personally, I think that if the success of Fraction's Hawkeye leads to Marvel taking more chances with more quirky books, that can only be a good thing.

The end of this volume gets wrapped up in Secret Bollocking Wars, unfortunately, but they don't spend too long on it, which is good. I'm looking forward to this book returning with the same creative team after this Secret Wars ball-ache is out of the way.

Anne says

I love Spider-Woman!

Issue #5 deals with Jessica's decision to leave the Avengers, become a street-level fighter, and (of course!) the **costume change**. It's also a nice set up for Ben & the Porcupine.<--good stuff!

The main storyline is Jess trying to find out what is happening to family members of C-list villains, including Porcupine's daughter. And the conclusion was, I thought, **awesome**.

This sort of story suits me right down to a tee, so even though the last issue got hijacked by Secret Wars a bit I still really enjoyed it.

I love it when comic book characters, especially those with crazy superpowers, get humanized by the writers. And along with humor and good storytelling, that's what Dennis Hopeless brings to the table in volume 2.

And in case you were worried, Jessica isn't just some *girl version* of Spider-Man, she's Amazing in her own right.

Bonus? If you're looking for something you don't need years of back issues to understand, then this one might be a winner for you!
