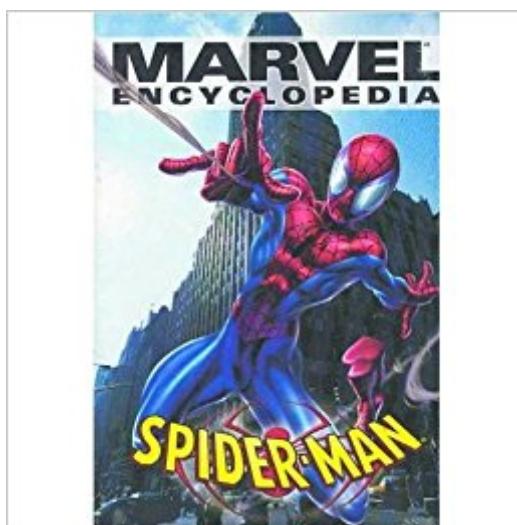


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Marvel Encyclopedia Volume 4: Spider-Man HC (v. 4)



Synopsis

Marvel's best-selling Encyclopedia series continues! This fully illustrated, comprehensive deluxe hardcover volume includes in-depth biographies, statistics, and essential reading lists for the world's most popular comic book hero, Spider-Man, and all his friends and foes like the Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus and Mary Jane Watson! An essential Who's Who of the Spider-Man universe for fans new and old of all ages!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

It's great! It has all of the characters, including non-hero characters. I also love that it includes scores for various attributes of the characters. The only reason I don't give it 5 stars is because if you already own a Marvel Encyclopedia book from this series, there is a lot of overlap. For example, I owned the X-Men book first and loved it, so I got this one. However, there are TONS of characters who appear in both X-Men and Spider-Man, so you end up with two books that have about 30% the same material.

This really is the best encyclopedia when it comes to all things Spidey. It even goes beyond just Spidey villains and characters and covers most of the Avengers and even a few X-Men as well as members of the Fantastic Four. I own all of the Marvel encyclopedias and this is by far one of the better ones. A ton of character art and a great break down of first appearances and powers of each character. A must buy for not only Spider-Man fans but Marvel fans as well.

Filled with Spiderman facts and pictures, I got this for my son for Christmas and he's only 7 now so he's not reading everything - that's what parents are for - he loves to pour over the pictures and read what he can. Very nicely put together and filled with lots and lots of info on our web-slinging friend.

Kit Kiefer offers a good addition to any comic fan's bookshelf with the *Marvel Encyclopedia* on Spiderman. Besides offering concise takes on the various characters, this book includes excellent essays on Spiderman, merchandise and television shows and movies associated with him. Be warned, while the book was published in 2003 so it is already dated. That's a plus to some fans who hated *Civil War* and *One More Day* and other recent storylines. There are some minor problems to be sure (does the Beetle really deserve less space than Foreigner?) but this book should appeal to most fans of Marvel's leading webslinger. One additional benefit comes from the encyclopedia covering the non-powered supporting cast members including Peter Parker's friends, family and fellow co-workers. Spiderman has one of the best supporting casts in comics and it was nice to see the encyclopedia cover these important characters. Highly recommended.

It's a shame, but I have decided to only give this book 4 out of 5 stars. It's not a bad book by any means. In fact, considering what we could have gotten, it's an 'amazing' book. So I still recommend it for new or veteran spider-fans, however reading the rest of this review will reveal with a star was dropped. The bulk of the book is made up of a comprehensive encyclopedia, which covers most of the people, places and objects linked to Spider-Man over the past 40 years or so (It seems to end around 2002-2003ish). These are presented in a clear and readable style in alphabetical order with other entries clearly marked. I cannot fault the design of this section, like the *Fantastic Four Encyclopedia*, it is instantly searchable, readable and colourful. What I can fault however, is the content. No, it's not a disaster. Far from it. But the page count requirements have obviously taken their toll on the length of a large percentage of the entries. The *Fantastic Four* book more or less got away with it's page count as for the most part it only have one comic to cover (but that volume does cover the Human Torch's time in *Strange Tales*, the Thing's in *Marvel Two-In-One* and *Fantastic Force* as well as numerous one-shots and mini-series). But compare that to Spider-Man who has had over his 40 year history and average of 3 or 4 titles a month published, in addition to various one-shots and specials. Simply put, although Kit Kiefer does miracles with his brief, it's not

enough. The main encyclopedia has an addendum which lists entries which have smaller, more tenuous links to Spider-Man, with smaller entries and no pictures. This is a welcome addition. In addition to this, the book also contains a number of text essays which focus on various toys, television series and, as one would expect, the big budget blockbuster movies. Spider-Man is the public face of Marvel. This book is still a must-have purchase for anybody remotely interested in investigating Spider-Man's long and complex history. I just feel the character deserved more respect from Marvel, who could easily have upped the page count and delivered the ultimate Spider-Man reference book.

It all started when my friend got this book. He let me borrow it and when I read it, it was great! It has a lot of information of what you need to know about the Marvel characters! I think it is the second best one of the Marvel Encyclopedia series! I like the main people, Venom, Hulk, Spiderman, and a few others you just have to read yourself! Thanks to my friend, I have finally wrote a review of a book about the Marvel Encyclopedia. Don't listen to other people that say it isn't a good book because it sure was! It had plenty more information than what other people say! It is a fun book to read and I recommend it for all you Marvel fans!

An informative read, this book contains a highly ambitious study of past characters/cross-overs in the Spider-Man realm from 1963 to 2002. The textual chapters, however, are written in a rather trite form, filled with annoying, smarmy pop-culture references seemingly aimed (and misfiring) at younger audiences. And yet, these chapters are mercifully brief, and not the real grabber for the book.

At first, when I saw the cover of this book, I thought that it was a book suitable for a five year old but once I opened the book, I knew that I was wrong. This book was filled with facts about your friendly neighborhood spider-man and many of his allies and foes such as Venom, the Vulture, Dr. Octopus, The Lizard, and many many more. This book is great for all ages and is a great to read whenever you want. If you are a spider-man fan, you must buy this book.

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