



Captain America: Sam Wilson, Vol. 5: End of the Line

Nick Spencer (Writer), Daniel Acuña (Illustrations)

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When Steve Rogers could no longer wield the shield, Sam Wilson stepped up as an all-new, all-different and very much all-his-own Captain America. The public was divided. And when a reinvigorated Steve returned to share the mantle, the protests grew louder. Sam just kept fighting on, the only way he knew how. But is the world big enough for two Caps? And as Sam is pulled into the shocking events of Marvel's next big event, will he — and the world — have to choose? At the end of the line, there's no way out! Plus: The classic first appearance of Sam's controversial pal, Rage! Collecting CAPTAIN AMERICA: SAM WILSON #18-21 and AVENGERS (1963) #326.

Captain America: Sam Wilson, Vol. 5: End of the Line Details

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From Reader Review Captain America: Sam Wilson, Vol. 5: End of the Line for online ebook

Kiemon says

The realist book out today. Even in the midst of the Secret Empire storyline this series manages to stay true to its core.

James DeSantis says

Who knew Sam Wilson would keep up such an impressive run after volume 2? Not me.

So this volume deals with the fallout of Rage. As you know he was trying to stop two super villains, lost, and while trying to leave gets beaten down by the Americops. This is all about Sam trying to help the young man get out of jail but Rage wants the people to see how the system works. How corrupt it is. Then in the shadows you see Steve's plan paying off and the volume ends ultimately on a sour note with the loss of a hero we need at a time like this.

Good: I really do love Sam's internal thoughts and dialog. Him trying to figure out how to fix up his life, and help the public, without getting harassed all the time is really well done. You feel for the guy and by the end you feel his pain. Rage's outcome is both heartbreakingly brutal to watch. The last few pages make us lose some hope yet somehow sneak a little in? A odd combination that they somehow pull off.

Bad: The pacing feels a bit rushed. I wished secret empire came out a few months later just so we can flush out Sam's loss of will. Here it feels like it happens all within a day or two.

Overall, I really really enjoyed volume 3 to the 5 of this Captain America run. Does it hit the highs of Ed's run? No. However, it really is very interesting political drama and by the end I felt the spirit of Captain America in Sam. Can't wait to jump into Secret Empire. A 4 out of 5.

Frédéric says

Very political stuff, Spencer's deep in it and I like it.

Rage is arrested for a crime he didn't commit and, despite video proof of the contrary is convicted. Riots start to spread in NY and Sam has to stand for law and order where there's only injustice to defend.

I see no reason comics couldn't be political or at the very least dealing with social issues. Entertainment shouldn't be synonymous of brain-washing.

So here it deals with issues relevant to many countries, the US of A included and, as disagreeable it may be, no less pertinent and interesting to be confronted to. Especially in a medium not particularly accustomed to this kind of treatment.

And all the while digging up the way to the main scheme, namely Secret Empire.

So as far as I'm concerned Spencer does a very good job, with conviction. I can see it's divisive but I do think it still makes for a good plot, not unseen before but still enjoyable. Better if you share the guy's opinions, tho'.

Note that this volume is particularly wordy, without much action. More Law & Order than Hawaii 5-0 if you see what I mean.

Chad says

The Rage storyline concludes as he's put on trial for breaking into the pawnshop when in reality he was stopping a robbery. Spencer ignores a lot of facts to tell the story he wants to tell here. Rage was friends with the owner of the store. Wouldn't the owner decline to press charges, especially when presented with Sam's video evidence, inadmissible or not? Rage is much stronger than the Americops and there's no way they'd be able to knock him unconscious. He's also a 14 year old boy, I doubt he'd be tried as an adult. Spencer conveniently forgets this, even though it's reprinted in the back of the book.

OK, now that that is out of the way. Spencer did do a fair job of portraying some of the injustices of being a black man in today's society and co-opting people's rage on both sides of the issue in locations like Ferguson or St. Louis. Are there any easy answers? No. I don't blame anyone for being scared of law enforcement these days. With the advent of cellphone video, we've seen unarmed men time and again shot for no reason. At the same time, is there any tougher job than being a police officer today? I can't think of a job more scrutinized or stressful.

BTW, this is only 4 issues long with a reprint of Rage's first appearance as filler in the back.

Shannon Appelcline says

Spencer's final standalone volume of *Sam Wilson* has the strength that this comic always promised and never quite delivered. It puts its focus tightly on inequality in America, and how even Sam has been falling down in the quest for a better America.

Yeah, Rage acts kind of dumb, but it's not out of character from what we've seen of him over the years. And, yeah, Sam gets a little talky in the end. But before that we get a great and realistic example of the problems faced by a wrongly accused black man. And the horrific consequences. It's a strong statement of what the *Sam Wilson* comic should have been.

Scott says

I read this in individual issues.

Wow this is so much better than Steve Rogers. The difference here is the storytelling. There is much more tension here in this series and the build up to Secret Empire is stronger. This collection also stands on its

own. I also really liked the art.

David says

A bit thin on the story. Leads into the Secret Empire event series.

C.T. Phipps says

Alas, the story of Captain America: Sam Wilson ends with not a bang but a whimper. I, honestly, am a longtime Captain America fan who thinks Sam Wilson needs to be Captain America full-time. I love Steve Rogers but like John Stewart, there's plenty of room for Falcon as permanently part of the book with the mantle of the Captain.

This volume follows the arrest of Rage, a character I always enjoyed in the New Warriors, getting arrested and convicted for a crime he obviously didn't commit. No surprise there. It was an obvious ending to the story of Sam Wilson trying to clear his friend's name but that makes it no less impactful.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of story I really wanted to see Captain America: Sam Wilson emerge triumphant for rather than beaten. SECRET EMPIRE should have ended with Sam Wilson beating the crap out of Captain Hydra but it didn't.

As such, the story ends on an immense downer. That isn't necessarily bad, though. Still, I want more Sam Wilson as Captain America and the cancellation of that series is quite a pain.

9/10

Michael Hicks says

Nick Spencer completely sticks the landing in this penultimate story of Sam Wilson's service as Captain America. Picking up mere moments after the conclusion of the prior volume, we see Sam reacting to the savage beating and arrest of the young African-American hero, Rage, by the Americops.

Spencer has been telling a story of racial inequality and racism in this series, making this particular run on Captain America highly political, topical, and timely. Front and center now is police violence carried out against Black Americans and Black communities, with plenty of commentary on the prison industry, the America legal system, and the way our society is rigged against people of color.

Had it been written today Volume 5 might have been called Take A Knee rather than End Of The Line. The concluding chapter is especially powerful as Sam examines his role and accomplishments as Captain America, and how best to continue serving his country while remaining loyal to his own ideals and patriotism.

Without a doubt, this is by far my favorite entry in Spencer's run with Sam Wilson thus far. In terms of

story, scripting, layout, and art design, this is a grand slam.

Tom Ewing says

In a development that will startle every reader, the Cap book which isn't entirely ramping up to a colossal crossover works out rather better than the one that is. Nick Spencer's take on racialised and militarised policing isn't perfect - for a start there's a pretty enormous shift in the character of Rage from Spencer's earlier issues to these ones, which is needed to justify the plot. And the response to private police brutality tends to be an individual one - what should Rage, or Cap, or Misty do? - with little sense that the wider community has settings beyond quiescent and rioting - which makes the story a very poor analogue to the Black Lives Matter movement.

But at least there **is** a story here, with comprehensible motivations and actions and opposing forces. Sam Wilson's dilemma - has accepting the position of Captain America dulled his instincts and weakened his ability to do actual good? - is a valid one and unlike a lot of 'relevant' comics past and present there's a realistic sense of who has actual power in an oppressive situation. People are going to whine about political superhero comics however weak they are so there's nothing to be gained from half measures, and while it put a few feet wrong CA:SW at least realised this. The main regret is that the imminent crossover does cast some shadow, and Wilson himself ends the book a diminished figure thanks to it.

B says

This was a little short and I think your mileage will vary based on how much you agree with its politics. It seems a little bit like the author is hijacking someone else's "hard life" (albeit a fictional one) to mouth his beliefs.

Also, isn't Rage stronger than that?

Alex Sarll says

A powerful and heartfelt story about the ways in which America's justice system systematically fails its black citizens. Except that the needle occasionally screeches off the record as the volume awkwardly does double duty leading in to a big crossover about the other Captain America secretly being a fascist. It's all the more frustrating because, if only the whole project hadn't been hamstrung by the bizarre insistence that Hydra are now non-racist fascists, the two strands could have dovetailed perfectly.

Kay says

Oh, Sam. I wish it didn't have to end this way. (At least we'll always have Steve Rogers as a secret Nazi/Hydra agent?)

Let's start with everything I loved about this volume:

The inside cover has a **Sam Wilson Reading Order!** Hallelujah!
EVERY comic book needs to have this page!

Sam is such a well-written heartfelt character. I wish this story could have gone on a bit longer just so we could have Sam holding the shield for another volume or two. Our story ends here with the system failing Rage, and honestly failing Sam. He's trying as hard (if not harder) than our other heroes, yet he's getting his butt handed to him on every front. Spencer has done a fantastic job with this series. The art throughout is really good along with colors and shading. Pay special attention to the faces in this one. Every one expresses outrage, sadness, upset, and determination.

Though I don't really want to, I guess I'll read Captain America: Secret Empire to see what happens next.

Laura Lawson says

Really liked this one. It is telling an important story and I like seeing real issues discussed. I am really looking forward to the next part.

Paul E. Morph says

Sam's time as Captain America comes to an end and there's not a dry eye in the house by the closing pages...

Well, there were two dry eyes in my house actually; my wife's. Her reaction was more along the lines of 'What are you blubbing about **now**, you galumphing great eejit?'

She loves me really.

I'm pretty sure.

Note to self: stop crying at comicbooks when the wife is in the room.

A-hem. Anyway. Mr. Wilson's run as Cap was great, as far as I'm concerned, despite some nonsensical elements along the way. While I'll be glad to have Steve back as Cap (non-brainwashed by Hydra, please) I'll remember FalconCap's stint very fondly in the years to come.
