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**EXCLUSIVE: Spider-Man Miles Morales — popular biracial version of the hero — joins main  
Marvel comics universe this fall**

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MARVEL COMICS

When Spider-Man is relaunched in comics this fall, it will be the biracial Miles Morales behind the mask.



Comic book geeks' spider senses are tingling.

After battling evil-doers in an alternate comic book line, a popular biracial version of Spider-Man is getting a promotion to the official Marvel Comics universe.

The first issue of the relaunched "Spider-Man" hits comic stores, tablets and smartphones this fall with more fanfare than a typical new series, because the hero under the mask is Miles Morales, the teen son of an African-American father and Puerto Rican mother.

"Many kids of color who when they were playing superheroes with their friends, their friends wouldn't let them be Batman or Superman because they don't look like those heroes but they could be Spider-Man because anyone could be under that mask," says writer and co-creator Brian Bendis. "But now it's true. It's meant a great deal to a great many people."

The character has been around since 2011, replacing the murdered Peter Parker in Marvel's offshoot "Ultimate" line and gained a sizeable following, but the "real" Spider-Man has kept patrolling the company's main titles.

**MARVEL** The Miles Morales Spider-Man has been around since 2011, replacing the murdered Peter Parker in Marvel's 'Ultimate' line.

When news broke that Marvel and Sony were rebooting the cinematic Spider-Man, social media erupted in pleas to have Miles Morales instead of Peter Parker as the friendly neighborhood hero.

It won't happen on the big screen anytime soon, but the clamoring didn't go unheeded. When the publisher opted to fold its Ultimate line this summer in their event series "Secret Wars," Morales landed a permanent home — alongside a mentor in the grownup, genuine Peter Parker.

“Our message has to be it’s not Spider-Man with an asterisk, it’s the real Spider-Man for kids of color, for adults of color and everybody else,” says Bendis of the series which is drawn by artist Sarah Pichelli.

The move is part of a recent push across the industry to add a little more color of a different variety to the splash pages of superhero books to appeal to a much more diverse readership.

Marvel has already surprised fans by introducing a female Thor and having an African-American hero, The Falcon, taking over the mantle as Captain America. And one of the publisher’s breakout hits in the last two years has been Ms. Marvel, a Muslim teen girl.

The enormity of Miles Morales' place in comic book history didn't really hit Bendis, a father who has two kids of color among his four children, until recently. His 4-year-old adopted African-American daughter found a Miles Morales Spidey mask in the toy aisle of a department store, put it on and said, “Look daddy, I’m Spider-Man!” he recalls.

“I started crying in the middle of the aisle,” says Bendis. “I realized my kids are going to grow up in a world that has a multi-racial Spider-Man, and an African American Captain America and a female Thor.”

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