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STEALTHILY SCRIPTED BY... STAN LEE
PAINSTAKINGLY PLOTTED AND STEVE DITKO
DRAWN BY... S. ROSEN
LOVINGLY LETTERED BY... S. ROSEN

WITH THE COMING OF NIGHT, A SILENT TEEN-AGER FURTIVELY OPENS HIS BEDROOM DOOR...

NOW IS MY CHANCE TO FIND THE COSTUME AUNT MAY TOOK FROM ME!*















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UNDERWORLD MOBS .

SINCE THE POLICE HAVE























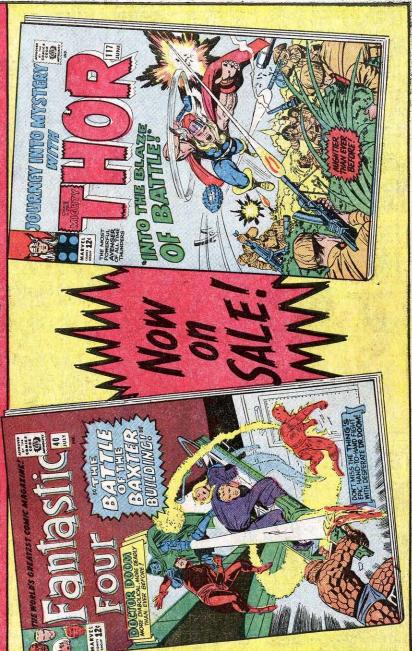






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OH, NO? WELL,



































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I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING OUTSIDE THE POODR / PARKER TOOK THE WHOLE POODNSIBILITY FOR HIMSELF! HE DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO BLAME ANY OF US!















CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

BOYS! MEN! I'LL HELP YOU MASTER

says N.J.FLEMING - YUBIWAZA MASTER

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says Yashie Imanami — Pretty Japanese wife of N.J. Fleming - Yubiwaza Master

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OKAY, IF YOU CAME IN TO GLOAT

OVER BEATING ME







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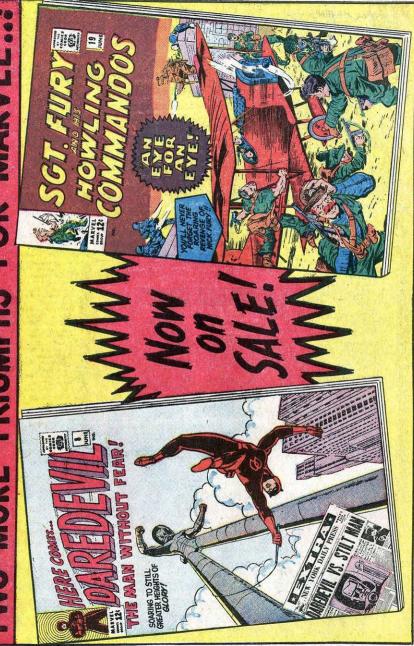
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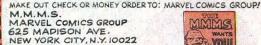
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often develop this way.

NO MORE TRIUMPHS FOR MARVEL



IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED YET, HERE'S ANOTHER CHANCE! WE DON'T WANT ANY FAN OF OURS TO BE AN OUTCAST!





W

HI, GANG! LET'S FACE IT! I'M A MARVEL MADMAN, TOO! HERE'S MY HARD - EARNED BUCK! NOW, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS RUSH ALL THOSE NUTTY GIZMOS REAL FAST, TO

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'NUFF SAID!

PREEEESENTING: THE MOST DARINGLY DIFFERENT GIMMICK EVER OFFERED BY ANY WORLD-WIDE SOCIETY! FROM NOW ON, EACH MIGHTY MARVEL MAG WILL FEATURE 25 NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF M.M.M.S. MEMBERS: (THE NAMES WILL BE DIFFERENT IN EACH TITLE, SO WE'LL ACTUALLY BE PRINT-ING HUNDREDS OF NAMES EACH MONTH!)

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T WRITE TO ASK US WHICH MAG YOUR NAME WILL BE IN ! THE NAMES ARE PICKED OUT OF A SACK AT RANDOM EACH MONTH, AND HALF THE FUN WILL BE TRYING TO FIND YOUR OWN!

EVEN IF YOU MISS YOUR NAME, THERE'S STILL HOPE! WITH COUNTLESS THOUSANDS OF MAGAZINE READERS THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD SCANNING THE LISTS EACH ISH, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SOME FRIEND WILL CALL TO CONGRATULATE YOU, EVEN IF YOU YOURSELF MISSED YOUR NAME!

(AND, IF THIS KEEPS YOU BUYING ALL OUR TITLES REGULARLY, THAT WON'T BREAK OUR AVARICIOUS LITTLE HEARTS EITHER!)

Tom Caine Louisville, Ky. Rick Keltsch Ft. Wayne, Ind. Jim Hodge Marion, Ind. Donald McGregor W. Warwick, R. I. James Byers Mukilteo, Wash. Randy Newell Bellingham, Wash, Sylvia Thomas Philadelphia, Pa. Edward Miller Liverpool, New York Alan Bradley Greenville, Ohio Bob La Riviere Bellingham, Wash, Doud Moore Spencer, Iowa Stuart L. Churchill Ann Arbor, Mich. Jeff Creeth Ann Arbor, Mich. Jerry Vasily Bridgeport, Pa. Edward Perez New York, New York Philip Pulling Thendara, New York Denny Woods Irwin, Pa. Robert Koenig Onida, S. Dakota David Bulter Forest Hills, New York James Buck, Jr. Ft. Wayne, Ind. Steve Zenuh W. Mifflin, Pa. Charles Lorman Tynsboro, Mass. Jerry Richardson St. Albans, New York Tom Gibson Stockbridge, Mass. Mike Havery Royal Oak, Mich.

YOU DIDN'T THINK THAT PRINTING YOUR NAME WAS ALL WE'D DO FOR OUR MERRY MARCHERS, DID YOU?? STARTING NEXT ISH, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A SPECIAL OFFER FOR YOU... THE FIRST OF MAWY SUCH OFFERINGS! AS USUAL, WE WANT ITTO BE A SURPRISE; SO WE'LL SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT TILL THEN, BUT YOU CAN BE SURE OF THIS... IT'LL BE WORTH WAITING FOR! YOUR SAID!



Please address

your letters to: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV. NEW YORK 10022 N. Y.

-Even though you think you've got the whole thing figured out, we want to warn you! Stan and Steve are a lot trickler than you think! So don't be too quick to make the obvious deduction as to who the Crime-Master really isT (Same goes for Gobby, of course.) Anyway, it'll all come out in the wash next issue, and till then, let's dip into the ol' Marvel mailsack . .

Dear Stan and Steve,

I just heard the M.M.M.S. record. It was pretty funny
But what happened to Steve Ditko?! He I especially
wanted to hear! He wasn't even in the MARVEL TALES
ANNUAL! First I couldn't see him and now I could not get to hear him. You know, I'm beginning to wonder about Ditkol Are you trying to hide something from us? Hm-m-m, Ditkol Are you trying to hide something from us? Him-m-m, a man who draws weird, a man who draws only unusual stories...fantasy like Dr. Strange... I wonder? Does he have two heads? Or four atms? Or three eyes? Is this why we never see him? Maybe he's from another planet and camnot speak our language well. Is this why we couldn't hear him on that record? Maybe he is a super-intelligent gorilla you found who can draw well? Maybe he is six inches tall? Is this why you have not revealed him to the world? I must say that Ditko is really becoming a mystery! Who is he?? What is he?? Anyway, in closing, I say—we want Ditkoll

Vincent C. Stuart, II, 1438 W. Euclid Detroit, Mich. 48206

Vince, he's even a mystery to the gang in the bullpen! He seems to be an ordinary Joe— except for that silly habit of his of walking on the ceiling! So, you say you want him, eh? Well, as far as we're concerned,

if you can find him, he's yours!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Your latest edition of SPIDER-MAN was excellent-Spider-Man is my favorite hero of all the heroes in all the comic magazines. This is due to the fact that web-head is more realistic than the rest and that he usually battles only earthling criminals. When the fans write, you should have the courtesy to answer them and not consider the letters a big joke, I know you say in the Announcement Section that you were only fooling and that you take our Section that you were only fooling and that you take our letters seriously, but the questions asked in the letters should and must be answered so that we, the buyers of your mags, can be informed. I hope you consider this letter for I'm sure the majority of readers agree with me.

Barry Kaiman, 115 So. 54th St. Omaha, Nebr. 68132

Aw, c'mon Barry! If you want serious answers you can always write to your local newspaper. We take our stories pretty seriously, but after finishing one, we kinda like to let our hair down and have a few laughs with you guys and gals. Anyway, we don't always know the answers to the questions we receive, which is why we parry so many of them with a corny gag—it's our sneaky way of wiggling out of a tight spot!

Dear Stan and Steve,

With your kind permission may I say a few words concerning your magazines. I feel I can do this because I have been reading them for over eight years. I would like to tell you what I like and dislike about your comics. Your paper, inking and lettering are not as good as your competitors in the same line of work as yours. Your plots are very good, though, and so are some of your villains—such as Dr. Doom, Namor, Zemo, Dr. Octopus, Sandman, Electro, Mysterio, Rama-Tut, and Molecule Man. Why do you ruin a good hero or villain by introducing atomic rays and gamma rays in their origins. Why can't your

teams work better together? Your best issues to date are FF #s 4, 5, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21, and SPIDER-MAN #s 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, and 12. Please do not get me wrong— I never miss a single issue of any of your comics, but I still think your competitors are superior to yours. I will expect a sane and serious answer from you on this matter.

Joseph M. Pappalardo, 163 Himrod St.

Brooklyn, 21, N. Y.

Aw, c'mon, Joe! How serious can we be with a guy who thinks our competitors' mags are better? We'll bet Aunt May would say: "That dear boy doesn't need seriousness-he needs sympathy!"

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #40: If you read no other magazine all month, you must read this one! It's the thriller you've been waiting for-"The Battle of The Baxter Building!", in which the fabulous F.F. wages a no-holds-barred freefor-all against the most dangerous villain of all time-Doctor Doom! It's like WOW!

AVENGERS #17: When a mag is this good, it's almost a shame to say anything about it! This one has everything! A brand new line-up of Avengers! Captain America more heroic than ever before! And, to top it all off, the sensational theme is: "The Search For The Hulk!" How

great can a comic mag get! X-MEN #11: Another shocker from the House of Ideas! This one was specially produced in answer to many of your earnest requests, and it finally presents the end of the evil mutants! Also, wait till you meet The Stranger! DAREDEVIL #8: For those of you who've wondered what we could possibly come up with to top our previous sensational D.D. thrillers, here's your answer—in spades! D.D. battles the most off-beat villain of the month (ANY month) when he tackles the startling, stupifying Stiltman!

Month) when the deckes his attributed in the Month of the Blaze of Battle!" and you'd better hang onto your seat when you read it! It features Thor's quest for an enchanted packet—a quest which brings him face-to-face with tragedy on an Asiatic battlefield! It's drenched with

glory! STRANGE TALES #134: This month's Torch and Thing thriller features a long-awaited surprise! The title will give you the idea: "Enter—the Watcher!" As for Dr. Strange, he's up to his amulet in all kinds of magical mishaps! This ish is for you!

SUSPENSE #67: Iron Man fights six super-foes in this

one and even finds time to bring Happy back to the fold! As for Captain America, he's out to destroy his own nation, under the hypnotic control of the Red Skull! If there's a more exciting mag around, we'll eat it!

ASTONISH #69: Giant-Man finally catches up with the Human Top, and their battle is a joy to behold! As for the incredible Hulk, it's so full of strange surprises that the only thing we'll tell now is that ol' green skin is

winning every popularity poll in town hands down! SGT. FURY #19: Those of you who were shaken up by the death of Pamela Hawley last ish, (and that includes 'most everybody) won't want to miss "An Eye For An Eye" in which Nick Fury meets up with the man re-sponsible for Pam's death! It's stark, gripping drama as only Marvel can present it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

As soon as I bought issue #22 I just had to write you

about the cover even before reading the story. I've been reading mags since I was only six-now I'm eighteen and never have I seen a mag without the hero on the cover. The way you had the Clown and his Masters of Menace shrieking in fear upon seeing the spider signal in that weird background was "A plus" in originality. You see, Spider-Man is totally different than any other super-hero
—he is the type of super-hero that appears better in
gloomy, nightmarish surroundings. All your covers dealing with white backgrounds just cheapen the cover and ing with white backgrounds just cheapen the cover and even ruin the story inside. Keep up the good work like #22. (Doc Doom should invent a wide-awake pill so Stan can work on more super-hero mags. 'Nuff said!)

Richard O'Baid, 106 E. 2nd St.

Brooklyn 18, N. Y.

Stan's got enough wake-up pills, Dick. The only trouble is, he's so busy writing that he hasn't time to take them!

-By the way, don't forget to let us know what you think of our new M.M.M.S. page! We plan to keep it running in every issue, with a new surprise of some sort each month! (And the biggest surprise of all will be if we can keep coming up with a different gimmick every ishl) Anyway, if you haven't become a Merry Marcher yet you might as well break down and do it now. We don't want you to get a guilt complex every time you read our club page!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I was just looking at SPIDER-MAN #22 and I notice that Peter Parker was wearing a blue suit. Now don't get me wrong-I'm a marvelous Marvel madman just like the next guy and I don't like to knock your mags. But I just looked back at some Spidey comics like issues #1 through #22 and it seems that in every one of them Petey is wearing a blue suit! I don't mean to cramp your style, but I think Parker should have at least one or two new suits! Two more things-the tie and the vest -they look good but I don't know anyone who would wear a tie and vest everywhere they go, do you??!! Steve Keyes, 3077 Donnybrook Lane Costa Mesa, Calif.

Boy! As if we didn't have enough trouble with our covers, or stories, and the way Steverino draws feet! Now some fanatic takes umbrage, at poor Petey's clothes! Tell you what, S.K., we'll forward your letter to the fashion editor at MILLIE THE MODEL mag and see what she says! And another thing—Pete does have new suits! Can we help it if he only buys blue

-SCOOP: SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2 will be on sale sometime in July! More info next ish! But, this much we can tell you-it's gonna be worth waiting for!

Dear Stan and Steve

I just finished SPIDER-MAN #22 and I have to admit that the so-called "Masters of Menace" were the weakest and most unimpressive group that Spidey has ever fought. The Clown was dull and very uncrafty, as the first page says. All he did was occupy the crowd to divert their attention. The Great Cambonnos were fairly interesting, but they, too, were rather unoriginal. (They did, though, handle Spidey quite skillfully on page 12.) Cannonball was not too good because his name implies that he would be shot from a cannon as he was in issue #16. In the new issue he would have been an utter flop if not for his simple steel helmet which enabled him to do things like smash down the gallery door and knock out J.J.J. As for Princess Python, all I can say is that she is the most useless, charmless super-villain that I have ever seen in a Marvel comic. All she did was to grab Spidey and hold him briefly. Her pet python did all the other work. Though I must admit that the battle between Spidey and the giant snake was excellent in art. Ring master was the most original character in the whole story. I don't think the Masters of Menace should have thrown him out because the group would be much better if he were in it. The sixth panel on page 5 was the most hilarious thing I have seen. Doubtlessly, the unknown person who thinks he can't draw feet is Sparklin' Steve who, incidentally, has always been able to draw feet and hands excellently and should not worry about it. You two are the most capable men in magazine historydon't let this one mistake get you down. Keep up the good work-and get that cool Green Goblin back soon, please!

Ty Bizony, 370 W. 109 St. New York, N. Y. 10025

Glad you mellowed a bit towards the end of your letter, Ty! After what you said about the Masters of Menace, Stan was about to chuck the whole thing and go back to writing Mother Goose!

Dear Stan and Steve.

You may think this is a crazy suggestion but it's really just stupid enough to work! For the past three years you've been kidding your "teen-age" mags and kiddingly saying that PATSY WALKER and MILLIE THE MODsaying that FAISI WALLER and MILLIE THE MOD-EL are the only places you won't find Spidey as a guest star. Well, why make those gals an exception? In this crazy Marvel Age of Comics I can think of nothing wilder than the Torch and Spidey mixing it up with Patsy or Millie! If you don't pull a story like this you're even more insane than I am for suggesting it! See what the other readers think!

Steve Gerber, 1014 Roberts Ct. St. Louis 30, Mo.

Never mind what the other readers think, Steve! How would we ever sell the idea to Patsy or Millie?

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #23 which I bought today is another mildly great issue. Spider-Man has made famous the "ending in doubt" in recent years-practically all issues of Spidey have it and it has become the expected. How about giving Spidey some definite endings? Don't keep us hanging quite so often-I can't stand the suspensel Ditko's art, as usual, is best at Marvel. Greater uses of the darker colors are in order as they give the stories an aura of mystery. I also purchased issue #3 of MONSTERS TO LAUGH WITH-great, as can be expected from Stan Lee. I have the perfect "steady" for Petey-the Black Widow!

Steven Johnson, 681 Maple St. Indiana, Pa.

You're too late, brother Johnson -Rumor hath it that she's carrying the torch for Jonah Jameson!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I really enjoyed SPIDER-MAN #22-"The Clown and his Masters of Menace"-and found it refreshing to see, as a change, an ending where Spidey comes out on top. I agree that you've worn thin the "hard time for Spider-Man" idea. Although, he is my favorite comic character, I've been getting tired of this theme. Well, at any rate, I just thought I'd tell you how entertaining I found #22 to be. I'll be looking to:
Spider-Man will win out again.
Dave Szurek, 6328 Perkins St. to be. I'll be looking for #23 and will be hoping that

Detroit, Mich. 48210

Uh oh! With an attitude like yours, after you read the ending of this ish, we'd better run for the hills!

Dear Stan and Steve,
Well, I'm a nutl I got all that beautiful M.M.M.S.
stuff. What I like best of all is your clowning around on I that record. The stickers are all right, too, and very sticky. I still didn't get my tongue off the roof of my mouth! Boy, do I have them plastered all over the place! As for the badge, it's o.k. except that the kids keep trying to take it from mel I sure hope you come up with another idea on the club very soon. Also, your comics are okay in my book, too!! Clarence Spicer, R.D. #2 Howard, Pa.

Okay?? After all the blood, sweat, and tears that go into each ish, you can only call them okay? A fine Merry Marcher you are, Clar! Let's show a little more enthusiasm, chum, or Spidey may drum you out of the corps!

-This is one time we don't have to put in a big pitch for our next ish! If you don't know by now that it's gonna be a big, special exposé issue, we probably lost you a long time ago! But, for the one or two of you who do plan to join us for SPIDER-MAN #27, we want to say that there's a reasonably good chance that you'll derive a modicum of enjoyment from our offbeat odyssey! In other words, face front! If Irving Forbush can be here, so can you !







of school-a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live." The famous artists agreed.

Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or parttime art jobs.'

Me's Looking for People Who Like to Draw

TODAY HUNDREDS of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working happily at easels and drawing boards, making pictures and getting well paid for it. They all can thank Albert Dorne, a famous artist who devotes almost his full time to helping other people become artists.

Some of the People Dorne Has Helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

Don Golemba of Detroit is another. He stepped up from railroad worker to the styling department of a big automobile company-by showing his work with the School. Now he helps design new-car models.

Pat Browning wanted to escape from her dull typing job to something creative. Soon after studying with us, she was promoted to full-time artist with the same firm-at much more money.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job

to become fashion artist for a local department store.

Eric Ericson worked in a garage while he studied art at night. Today he is a successful artist, earns seven times as much, and is building a new home for his family.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could help only a few of these people, he called together America's most successful artists -men like Norman Rockwell, Ion Whitcomb, Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need-including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

Norman Rockwell Fred Ludekens Jon Whitcomb Ben Stahl Stevan Dohanos Austin Briggs

Al Parker Robert Fawcett George Giusti Harold Von Schmidt Peter Helck Albert Dorne

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the Famous Artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid to take this test, but now the School offers it free and grades it free. Men and women who do well on the test-or can offer other evidence of art talent - may enroll in the School. But there's no obligation. Simply mail the coupon below.

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I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test and descriptive brochure.

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