



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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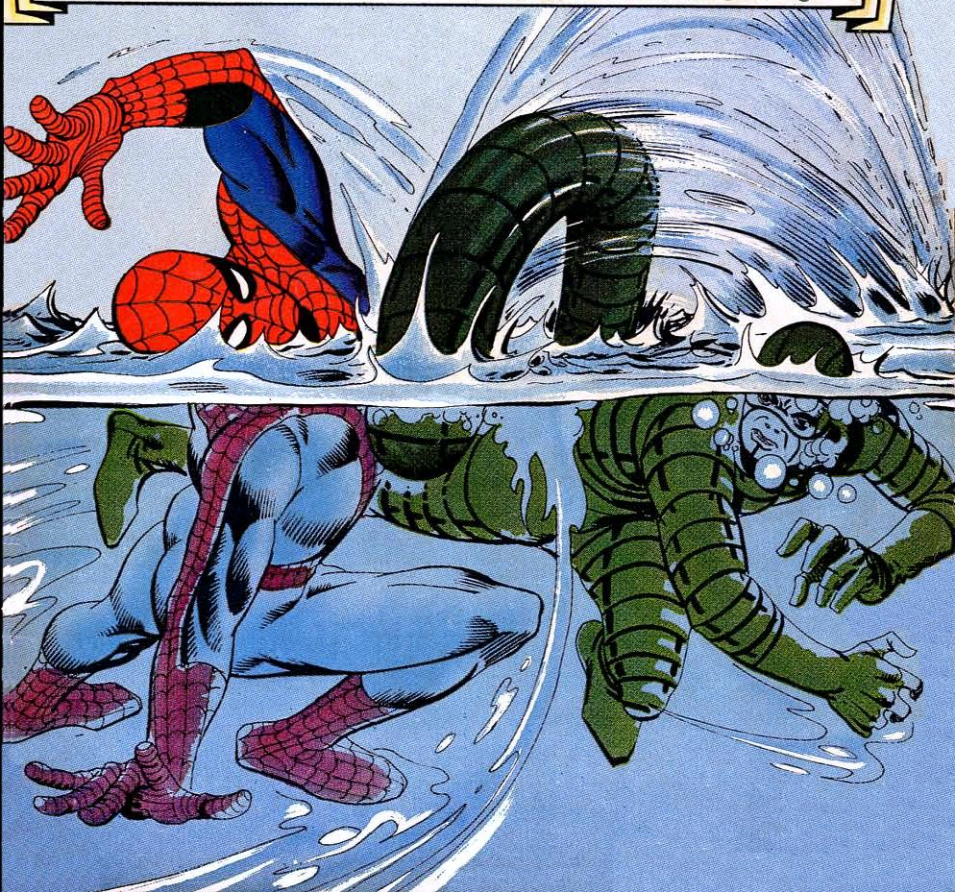
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"NEVER STEP ON A SCORPION!"



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"NEVER STEP ON A SCORPION!"

OR...

"..YOU THINK IT'S
EASY TO DREAM UP
TITLES LIKE THIS?!"

ON THE SURFACE, THIS MAY SEEM
TO BE A SUPER-HERO ACTION
THRILLER! BUT, IF YOU PROBE
DOWN DEEP, IF YOU ANALYZE
EACH SUBTLE NUANCE, IF YOU
DISSECT EACH PHILOSOPHICAL
PHRASE, IF YOU STUDY EACH
NON-EXISTENTIALISTIC PANEL,
YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT IT
ACTUALLY IS... A SUPER-
HERO ACTION-THRILLER.!



WHEN ACADEMY AWARD
TIME ROLLS AROUND,
LEAVE US NOT FORGET...

Writing and Editing by: **STAN LEE**

Plotting and Drawing by: **STEVE DITKO**

Lettering and Loafing by: **SAM ROSEN**

EVEN THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING SUPER-HERO CAN'T WEAR A COSTUME *ALL* THE TIME...

HMM... LAST YEAR'S CLOTHES ARE GETTING TOO TIGHT ON ME! I MUST HAVE PUT ON SOME WEIGHT! I'D BETTER INVEST IN SOME NEW PUDS!



LATER, AT PETER PARKER'S LOCAL BANK...

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, MR. PARKER!

THIS PRACTICALLY CLEANS ME OUT! I'D BETTER NOT SPEND IT TOO FAST!



AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'LL DROP IN AND SEE BETTY BRANT WHILE I'M IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

I CAN GO SHOPPING LATER, WHEN IT'S LESS CROWDED!



BUT, AN EVENT IS TAKING PLACE ACROSS TOWN WHICH WILL DELAY PETER PARKER'S SHOPPING TOUR FOR QUITE A WHILE, AS SOME IRON BARS ARE RIPPED OUT OF A JAILHOUSE WINDOW...

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!



I WARNED THEM, BUT THEY LAUGHED AT ME! I TOLD THEM NO JAIL COULD HOLD THE SCORPION!



BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE I'VE ESCAPED, I'LL BE TOO FAR AWAY FOR THEM TO EVER FIND ME!



AFTER THEY CAPTURED ME, I OUT-SMARTED THEM BY PRETENDING TO CRACK UP! THEY RETURNED MY COSTUME TO ME IN ORDER TO CALM ME DOWN!

NOW, NOTHING CAN SAVE JAMESON AND SPIDER-MAN FROM THE VENGEANCE I'VE PLANNED FOR THEM! *

I HAD ALL THIS TIME TO REPAIR IT, AND WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO BREAK OUT!



* IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, IT WAS ALL LOVINGLY EXPLAINED IN SPIDER-MAN # 20... STAN.

MEANWHILE, UNAWARE THAT ONE OF THE STRONGEST, MOST DANGEROUS MENACES OF ALL TIME IS HEAD-ING HIS WAY, J. JONAH JAMESON GOES ABOUT HIS BUSINESS AS PUBLISHER OF THE FAMOUS N.Y. BUGLE...

ANY NEW REPORTS ABOUT THE CAT BURGLAR, FOSWELL... OR THOSE ROBBERIES OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT?

NOTHING, MR. JAMESON! IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM.

CAT BURGLAR? SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT BEING STOLEN? SOUNDS INTERESTING.



I'LL GET MORE DETAILS FROM JONAH LATER! HE'LL BE GLAD TO TELL ME SO THAT I'LL GO OUT AND GET SOME NEWS PHOTOS FOR HIM!

I WONDER WHAT HE'D SAY IF HE EVER FOUND OUT I GET THOSE PIX IN MY IDENTITY AS SPIDER-MAN!?



I'M IN LUCK... THERE'S BETTY NOW!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN HER IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD!

IN FACT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN HER!

YOU MUST TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT!



I WONDER WHO SHE'S...?

WELL, HELLO THERE, PARKER! LONG TIME NO SEE!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL, PETER? NED'S BACK TO STAY! HE FINISHED HIS EUROPEAN ASSIGNMENT!

HOLY SMOKE! IT'S THAT REPORTER SHE HAS A CRUSH ON... NED LEEDS! HE'S BACK FROM EUROPE!



YEAH... JUST WONDERFUL!

HE DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME HE WAS COMING! HE WANTED TO SURPRISE ME! WASN'T THAT SWEET OF HIM?

MAYBE HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SPEND A POSTAGE STAMP.

I ALWAYS SAID YOU HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, PARKER!



BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...

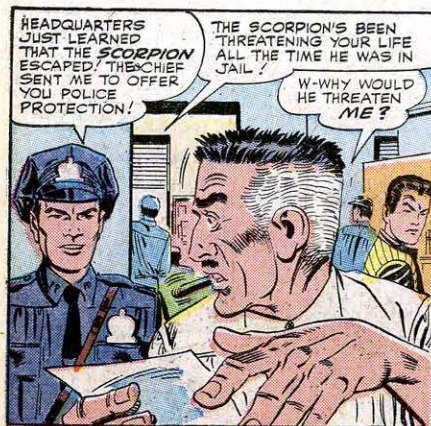
NOW LOOK, OFFICER... I PUT A DIME IN THE PARKING METER... I CAN PROVE IT!

MR. JAMESON! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

A POLICE-MAN! WONDER WHAT'S UP?



IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH PARKING THIS TIME!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Address.....

Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00. Kindly add 15¢ for postage and handling to all orders.

BUT, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY FOR ME TO **TRICK** HIM INTO HELPING ME. AND, I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS...!



MISS BRANT, CALL THE PRESS ROOM! HAVE THEM GET READY FOR AN **EXTRA!**



I HAVEN'T A MINUTE TO LOSE! THE SCORPION COULD STRIKE AT **ANY** TIME!

AND, IF MY PLAN DOESN'T WORK, I'M **DOOMED**... DOOMED BY THE VERY CREATURE I MYSELF UNTHINKINGLY HELPED TO **CREATE!**



BUT, EVEN AS THE DESPERATE PUBLISHER CONSPIRES TO MAKE SPIDER-MAN COME TO HIS AID, THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING ADVENTURER IS ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO DO THAT VERY THING...!

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO FIND THE SCORPION, I'LL LET **HIM** FIND **ME**. IT'LL BE EASIER THIS WAY.



I'LL SIMPLY SHOW MYSELF SWINGING THROUGH THE CITY UNTIL HE ATTACKS!

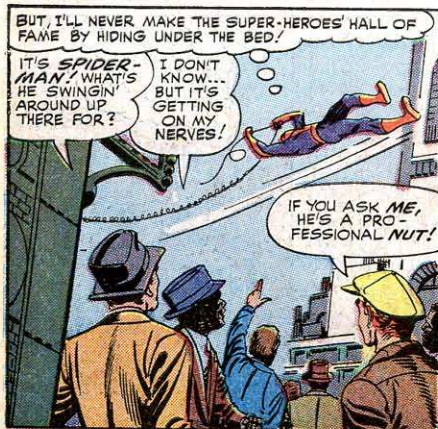
JUST A FUN-LOVING, TEEN-AGE TARGET, THAT'S **ME!**

I'LL CONFINE MYSELF TO THIS ONE AREA. HE'S BOUND TO LEARN THAT I'M HERE, AND THEN HE'LL COME RUNNING!



IF HE'S AS TOUGH TO BEAT **NOW** AS HE WAS LAST TIME, I OUGHTTA HAVE MY HEAD EXAMINED FOR DOING THIS!





EVEN AS THE SCORPION GETS CLOSER TO HIS INTENDED VICTIM, JONAH JAMESON'S EXTRA EDITION HITS THE STREET WITH SCREAMING HEADLINES...

SAY! DO YOU THINK JAMESON CAN BE RIGHT? IMAGINE... IF SPIDER-MAN AND THE SCORPION EVER TEAMED UP... HOO BOY!

THE ONLY WAY SPIDER-MAN CAN PROVE HE'S NOT THE SCORPION'S ALLY IS IF HE TACKLES HIM AGAIN!

"SPIDER-MAN AND SCORPION ARE PARTNERS," SAYS PUBLISHER!



"IF SPIDER-MAN ISN'T SCORPION'S PARTNER, LET HIM CATCH THE SCORPION!"

BOTH THOSE PUBLIC MENACES HAVE THREATENED J.J. JAMESON, THE FEARLESS FOE OF ALL LAW-BREAKERS!

The whole city...

BUT HIGH ABOVE THE NEWS-READING PUBLIC, THE NEWS-MAKING ADVENTURER BEGINS TO GROW RESTLESS...

I DON'T LIKE IT! HE SHOULD HAVE COME AFTER ME BY NOW! I KNOW HE'S NOT AFRAID!



AND, AT THE SPEED HE TRAVELS, IT WOULDN'T TAKE HIM LONG TO REACH ME...

UNLESS...



WAIT A MINUTE! I COULD JUST BE THE PRIZE CHUMP OF THE YEAR!



I MIGHT BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO SCORPY'S HANDS!!

WHILE I'M WALTZING AROUND UP HERE, JAMESON IS ALONE AT HIS OFFICE... AND THE SCORPION PROBABLY KNOWS IT!



AND, DIRECTLY ACROSS TOWN, EVEN AS SPIDEY COLLECTS HIS THOUGHTS...

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! ONCE I SILENTLY CLIMB THOSE BACK STEPS, I'LL BE JUST OUTSIDE HIS PRIVATE OFFICE!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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CTI lessons are written in simple English and fully illustrated. Thousands have learned auto mechanics through lessons alone. To make it still easier to apply "lesson learning," to actual auto repairing, and to build your confidence, CTI provides each student with 30 Job Experience Projects. This practical instruction will encourage you to begin repairing cars as you train, and earn money in spare time. It will help you get experience.

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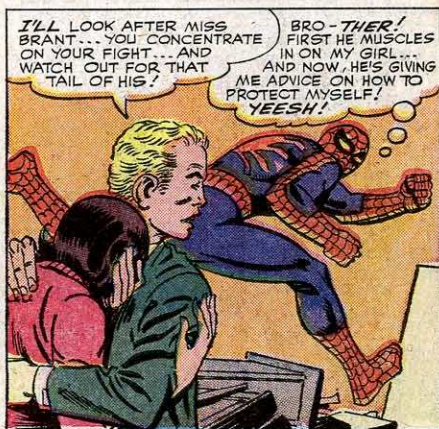
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THEN, THROWING CAUTION TO THE WIND, THE WONDERFUL WEB-SPINNER HURTLES TOWARD THE SCORPION AT TOP SPEED...

ONE SWIPE OF HIS TAIL CAN BE DEADLY! HE'S GOT TO BE STOPPED BEFORE SOMEONE GETS IN HIS WAY!

EVEN SPIDER-MAN CAN'T STOP ME FROM FINISHING YOU OFF, JAMESON! YOU'VE NO ONE TO TURN TO NOW!

DON'T WORRY, BETTY! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT NOTHING HAPPENS TO YOU!

NO! YOU CAN'T GET ME! YOU MUSTN'T! GET SPIDER-MAN INSTEAD!

YOU'D THROW ANYONE TO ME IN ORDER TO SAVE YOURSELF, WOULDN'T YOU?

BUT, IT'S SPIDER-MAN'S JOB TO FIGHT KILLERS LIKE YOU!

WELL, IF HE KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM, HE'LL RESIGN REAL QUICK!

IF I KNEW WHAT WAS GOOD FOR ME, I WOULDN'T BE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, MISTER!

THIS IS FOR FRIGHTENING BETTY BRANT, YOU FINK!

HIT HIM AGAIN! HARDER! HARDER!

BUT, THE VERY FIT OF SHEER RAGE WHICH MAKES HIM FIGHT LIKE A DEMON, ALSO MAKES SPIDER-MAN UNUSUALLY CARELESS...

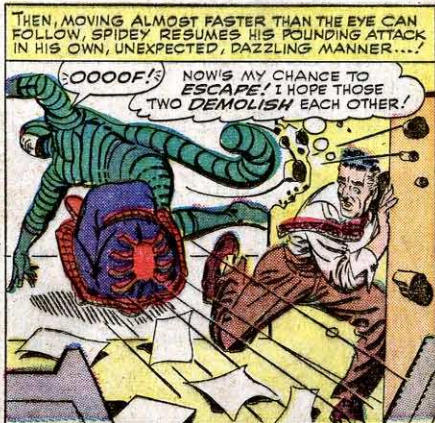
HE'S SWINGING TOO FAST. MISSING ME! HE'S WIDE OPEN NOW!!

BLAST IT! IF I'D ONLY CONNECTED WITH THAT ROUNDHOUSE RIGHT!

HAH! DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO TRIP YOU WITH MY TAIL, HUH?

SWEET DREAMS, WEB-HEAD! IT'S TIME FOR YOUR BEAUTY NAP... YOU CAN SURE USE ONE!

UHHHH!



SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE POLICE HAVE GONE...

IT'LL COST ME AN ARM AND A LEG TO GET THIS PLACE BACK TO NORMAL AGAIN! HALF OF MY FURNITURE IS BROKEN UP... AND THE OTHER HALF IS CRACKED AND SCARRED!

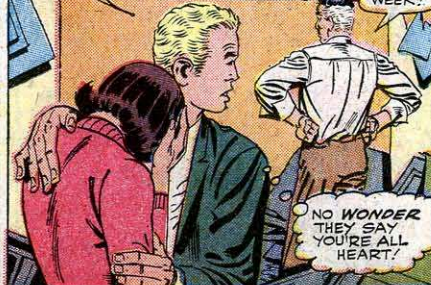
NOBODY HAS TO KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET RID OF THIS OLD JUNK FOR YEARS! NOW THE INSURANCE WILL PAY FOR A WHOLE NEW SET-UP!



MR. JAMESON, BETTY IS PRETTY SHAKEN-UP OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED! I THINK I'D BETTER SEE HER HOME!

OF COURSE! I WOULDN'T EXPECT HER TO KEEP WORKING AFTER WHAT HAPPENED! SHE CAN HAVE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF!

I'LL JUST DEDUCT IT FROM HER PAY CHECK AT THE END OF THE WEEK!



NO WONDER THEY SAY YOU'RE ALL HEART!

C'MON, BETTY...EVERYTHING'S OKAY NOW! IT'S ALL OVER! THE SCORPION AND SPIDER-MAN ARE GONE NOW!

WHAT ARE YOU ALL STANDING AROUND FOR? GET TO WORK! GET TO WORK!

AND HAVE ONE OF OUR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS COME UP HERE IMMEDIATELY!

I JUST GOT A GREAT IDEA!



AND SO...

THAT'S IT! TAKE A LOT OF SHOTS OF ME, HERE IN THE RUINS OF BATTLE!

IT'LL MAKE A GREAT FRONT-PAGE STORY! "FEARLESS, COURAGEOUS PUBLISHER SAVES HIS EMPLOYEES FROM DEADLY COSTUMED KILLERS!"

I'LL BE A HERO!



MAKE SURE THESE PICTURES DO ME JUSTICE! GET MY COURAGEOUS EXPRESSION... MY DETERMINED, FIGHTING STANCE... MY IRON FISTS, CLENCHED AND READY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN IF THE SCORPION DEFEATS SPIDER-MAN?

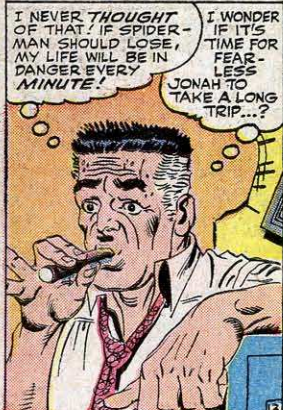
HE'LL PROBABLY RETURN HERE TO ATTACK JAMESON AGAIN!

ULP!

I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! SPIDER-MAN SHOULD LOSE, MY LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER EVERY MINUTE!

I WONDER OF THAT! SPIDER-MAN SHOULD LOSE, MY LIFE WILL BE IN DANGER EVERY MINUTE!

JONAH TO TAKE A LONG TRIP...?



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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TO SELL
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THIS
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MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE CITY'S TOWERING ROOF-TOPS, THE ONE MAN WHOM JAMESON HATES THE MOST IN ALL THE WORLD, BATTLES VALIANTLY AGAINST THE DEADLY, MERCILESS SCORPION...

AFTER TODAY YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF A NEW SPARING PARTNER, SCORP!

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE! ONCE I FINISH YOU, I'LL--
:OOFF!:



I HATE TO BE A SPOIL-SPORT, SCORPY, BUT I'VE GOT PLANS OF MY OWN!

YEAH? TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO CARRY 'EM OUT!

DON'T BET ON IT, BUB! I'M HARDER TO LOSE THAN A BILL COLLECTOR!



I'M NOT AIMING TO LOSE YOU, BIG MOUTH! I'M JUST GONNA SMASH YOU INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK!



GOOD! THERE'S A T.V. SHOW ON THEN THAT I'VE BEEN DYING TO SEE!

WHAT'S HOLDIN' YOU UP?? ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE HAD BRAINS ENOUGH TO FALL ON HIS FACE BY NOW!

AND RUIN THIS HANDSOME PROFILE OF MINE? FORGET IT! BESIDES, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET UP AT BAT NOW!







TSK TSK! I FORGOT THAT YOU CAN'T FLY!

WELL, HAVE NO FEAR! SPIDEY'S HERE!



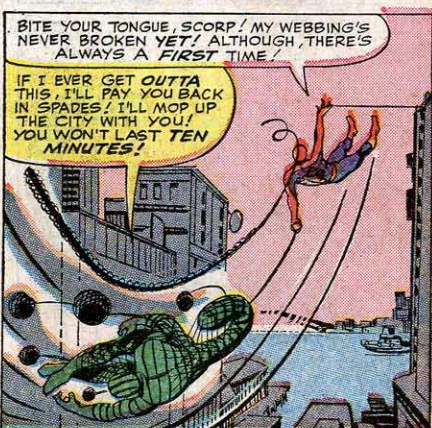
SAY! I WONDER WHAT ED SULLIVAN WOULD PAY FOR AN ACT LIKE THIS?

GET US DOWN FROM HERE BEFORE WE'RE KILLED! DO SOMETHING, YOU LUNATIC!



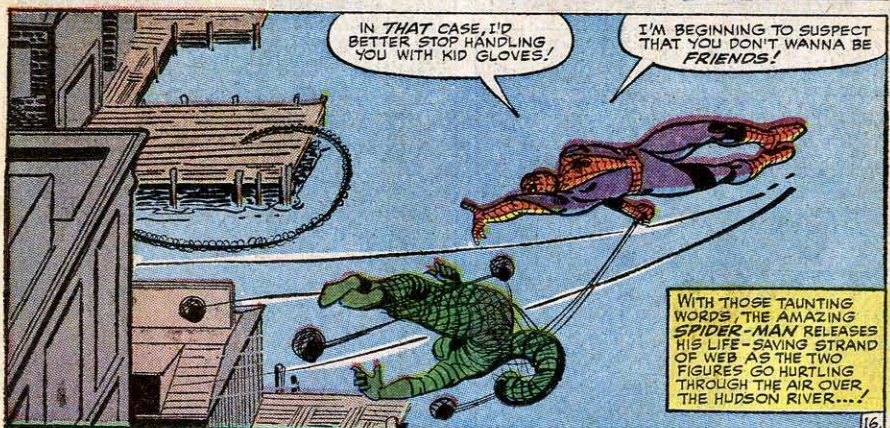
SURE, PLAYMATE... BEING YOU ASKED ME SO NICELY...!

IF THIS BLASTED HUNKA WEBBING SHOULD BREAK...!



BITE YOUR TONGUE, SCORP! MY WEBBING'S NEVER BROKEN YET! ALTHOUGH, THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME!

IF I EVER GET OUTTA THIS, I'LL PAY YOU BACK IN SPADES! I'LL MOP UP THE CITY WITH YOU, YOU WON'T LAST TEN MINUTES!



IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER STOP HANDLING YOU WITH KID GLOVES!

I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT YOU DON'T WANNA BE FRIENDS!

WITH THOSE TAUNTING WORDS, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN RELEASES HIS LIFE-SAVING STRAND OF WEB. AS THE TWO FIGURES GO HURLING THROUGH THE AIR OVER THE HUDSON RIVER...!

PLAY 1965 BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES

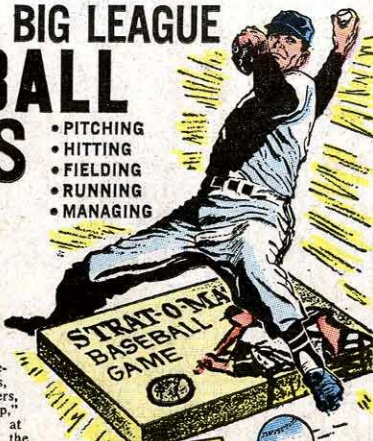
Easy to play, real thrilling, exciting baseball with STRAT-O-MATIC. 400 big league players perform according to their actual abilities and your managerial decisions. You, the manager, call all strategy moves for all 20 major league teams.

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- MANAGING



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In fielding, Willie Mays will make catches which other outfielders would fail to make. Bill Mazeroski will make fewer errors and take away more would-be base hits than other second basemen. In base running, and stealing also, all players will perform realistically.

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FUNNY ILLUSION!**

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I enclose \$1 plus 25¢ for postage and handling
(Total \$1.25) send me the Slimline X-RAY SPECS.
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See through **fingers** - through skin - see yolk of egg -- see lead in pencil. Many, many, amazing, astounding, Illusory X-Ray views yours to see ALWAYS--when YOU wear Slimline X-Ray Specs. Bring them to parties, for real FUN -- GUARANTEED -- They give you a 3 dimensional X-Ray Vision -- the instant you put them on. When you look at your friends you'll "see" the most (blushingly funny) amazing things! Full Instructions Of How To Enjoy Them To The Fullest! Last For Years -- Harmless -- Requires No Electricity -- Or Batteries -- Comes Complete -- Permanently Focused -- Nothing Else to Buy -- Send \$1. plus 25¢ for postage and handling -- Money Back If Not 100% Satisfied.

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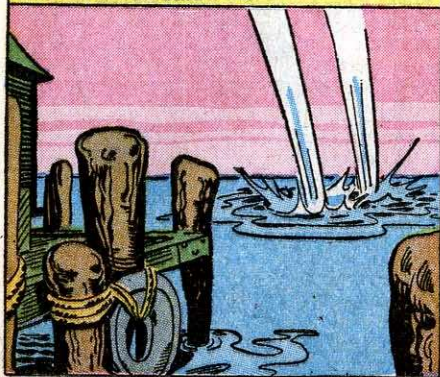
Dept. 247

P.O. Box 90

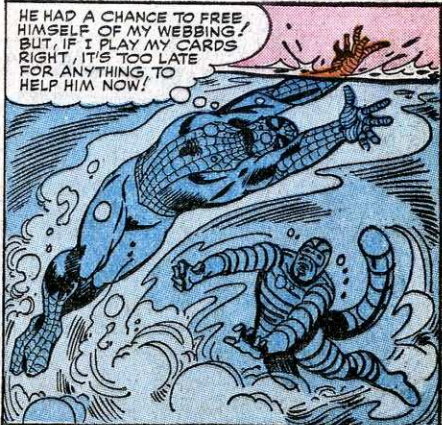
285 Market Street

Newark, New Jersey

AND THEN, LIKE TWO CAREENING HUMAN METEORS, THE TWO SUPER-POWERED ANTAGONISTS PLUMMET INTO THE WATER BELOW...



HE HAD A CHANCE TO FREE HIMSELF OF MY WEBBING! BUT, IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT, IT'S TOO LATE FOR ANYTHING, TO HELP HIM NOW!



EVEN IN THE WATER, MY NATURAL AGILITY MAKES IT EASY TO DODGE HIS POUNDING TAIL!

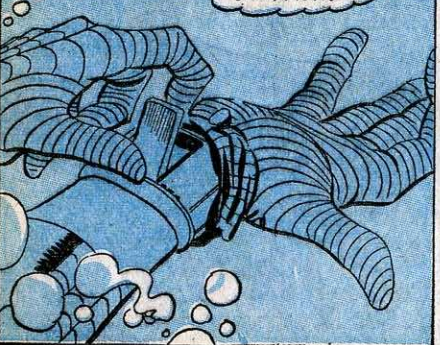


AND, WHILE HE WASTES HIS TIME THRASHING AROUND, I'LL RELOAD MY WEB-SHOOTER AND PUT MY OWN PLAN OF ATTACK INTO EFFECT!



LUCKY I ORIGINALLY MADE IT WATER-PROOF!

EVERYTHING'S SET NOW! HERE'S WHERE OL' SPIDEY GOES TO WORK TO SQUASH A SCORPION!

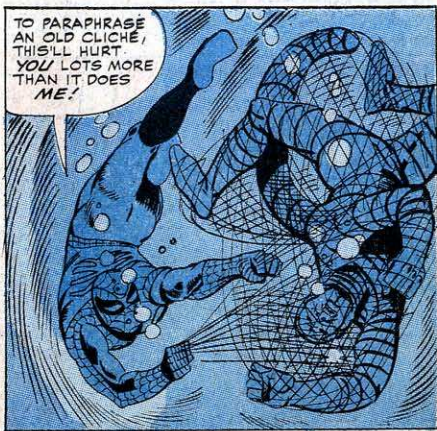


IF YOU WANT ME, SCORPY, COME'N GET ME!

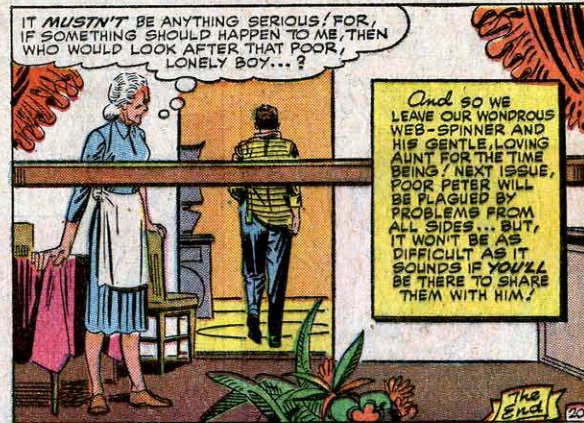
DON'T LET MY WEBBING BOTHER YOU! I JUST WANNA WRAP IT AROUND YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET LOST!

JUST WAIT! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU...!









NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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You'll Glean With Pride Of Achievement When Your Friends Admire Your Haircut. E-Z Cut. The Simplicity Of E-Z Cut Its Efficiency and Accuracy Will Fill You With Pride. The Professional Touch Is So Easy To Achieve That Anybody Can Do It — It's Safe — Easy & Simple!

WAS THE BARBER CLOSED?

Now You Can Say Good Bye To Ever Feeling Bad About Your Appearance! No Matter How Late You Come Home You Can Have Your Hair Looking Good That Evening! In A Matter Of Minutes You Can Look Neat And Trim For Any Last Minute Appointment. Now You Can Be Ready In Minutes For Any Sudden Call — Any Evening. Just Glide The Comb Cutter — And You See It Pick Up The Cut Edges — The Whole Family Can Use It. Sold On 30 Day Money Back Guarantee.

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E-Z Cut Is Made Of Stainless Steel With Replaceable Blade. E-Z Cut Requires No Electricity, No Dangerous Edges To Bear, And It Is So SAFE To Use, You Can Use It On Your 1½ Year Old Child!

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FOR CHILDREN

FOR WOMEN



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FOUND! In an abandoned Army PX in the southwest...

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HERE ARE 25
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 Maria Bostwick
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 Arango, Calif.
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 Salvador Gutierrez
 Alamo, Calif.
 Mike Walker
 San Leandro, Calif.
 Chris Kuchler
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 Bill Collins
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**"DON'T TURN YOUR BACK
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1000 MEMBERS
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The MERRY MARVEL BULLPEN PAGE!

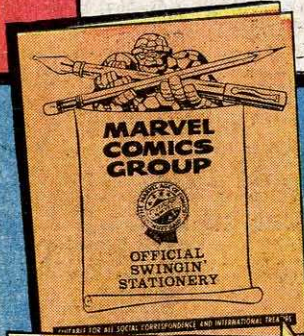


THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS GOING "T-SHIRT WILD", AND IF YOU'VE ALREADY RECEIVED *YOURS*, YOU'LL KNOW WHY! THEY'RE BOLD, BRIGHT, AND BEAUTIFUL--AND EXCLUSIVELY *MARVEL!* -- THEY'RE SO IN THAT EVEN THE FEW REMAINING "BRAND ECCH" FANS HAVE BEEN ORDERING THEM LIKE CRAZY! SO, IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE IT YET, SEND FOR *YOURS NOW!* YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN COMPANY WILL DROP IN!

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AND, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, REMEMBER TO TREAT YOURSELF TO A DECORATOR-APPROVED, JAM-PACKED MARVEL *STATIONERY KIT!* YOU'LL RECEIVE A HANDSOME ILLUSTRATED PORTFOLIO, FILLED WITH THE GREATEST POP-ART LETTERHEADS AND ENVELOPES YOU'VE EVER MARVELED AT!



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FINALLY REACHED ME! NOW HERE'S
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PLEASE ADD 15¢ PER ITEM FOR
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ADULT SIZES: ☐ SMALL ☐ MEDIUM ☐ LARGE

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S-29

THE SPIDER'S WEB



Please address
your letters to:
**THE MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
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NEW YORK 10022
N. Y.**

—Poor Spider! Even when he manages to beat a big, bad super-villain, his troubles are never really over. But, for a change of pace, let's see what all you web-slingers have to say this month—we can usually get a chuckle or two out of our mixed-up mail...

Dear Stan and Steve,

After giving much thought to the subject of Spider-Man and conducting a careful analysis, I have concluded that Spider-Man is distinctly unique from any other character in comicdom. I have based my hypothesis on SPIDER-MAN as a magazine. Spidey as a character has been dealt with before. The following is my analysis of the amazing Spider-Man. The name Spider-Man comes from the element Spiderium, which has the properties of excitement, adventure, and realism. Spiderium is a relatively new element, having been successfully made by the madmen at the laboratories of the Marvel Bullpen in 1962, and placed in the *Amazing SPIDER-MAN* magazine. In chemistry, one speaks of isotopes, and Spiderium thus far has had 25, and the number in the future seems infinite. In its molecular form, Spiderium is known as Spider-Man. Spiderium has two nuclei—one is great stories by Stan Lee; the other is stupendous artwork by Steve Ditko. The electrons are the readers, especially the ones that write in to the Spider's Web as they revolve around the two nuclei. So you see, there is the scientific explanation of Spider-Man. Now, as a final word of scientific advice for future isotopes (ish's) keep those test-tubes, (pens) going. Spider-Man is a perfect compound of what all readers seek. Keep the stories coming, fellas. 'Nuff said!

Bill Kagan, 105 Windsor Rd.
Asheville, N. C.

How about that? We've been panned, razed, roasted, and toasted before, but we've never been chemically analyzed! We appreciate it, Doc, and if your friendly neighborhood alchemist runs out of Spiderium, don't despair—we hear that the A&P is having a sale on it next week!

—Well, the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL is on sale right now—which means it's probably already sold out at most newsstands. If you were lucky enough to have gotten one, you know how great it is. But, for those hapless thousands who arrived too late—vainly clutching their 25¢ with tears of disappointment welling up in their baby blues, we'll mention the contents briefly, so that it won't be a total loss. Besides featuring three Spidey classics from his earliest days, the Annual leads off with a full-length original yarn, guest-starring none other than Dr. Strangelove! It's the kind of wonderful, whacky story you never expected Peter Parker to star in, and it has some amazing twists that a hairpin! But, we don't want to say too much about it—you might think we're bragging!

—But we HAVE to tell you this—there is no greater Annual on sale now (or ever!) than the fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL! It features a story which will be talked about as long as the Marvel Age endures—"The Wedding of Reed and Sue!" But, the big news is this—there are more super-heroes and villains in this dazzling drama than you have ever seen in any one story—or in any half-dozen stories! You'll meet almost every Marvel character in existence somewhere in the tale, and don't forget to watch for Spidey himself—he comes in when you least expect him! The FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL—if you buy no other magazine this year, it's a MUST!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #43: This is the payoff of the F.F.'s most deadly battle! You'll learn the dramatic fate of the Thing, as well as the startling secret of the Human Torch! Truly, this epic will make magazine history!

AVENGERS #20: Fans everywhere are talking about the unexpected drama, the powerful appeal of this newest of Marvel fighting groups! You too will gaze in wonder at what befalls the Swordsman!

X-MEN #13: Of all the super-villains since time immemorial, possibly none have ever equalled the Juggernaut in sheer power or stark savagery! And now, he faces the seemingly helpless X-men!

DAREDEVIL #9: A completely different type of adventure for D.D.! He dares to invade a killer's castle in another country, and runs into one of the strangest dangers any costumed hero has ever faced. Also, he finally consents to an eye operation, and—but why not see for yourself?

THOR #120: All we have to tell you about this sensational issue is that it features the return of one of Thor's most spectacular foes! Because you demanded him we present the return of the Absorbing Man!

STRANGE TALES #137: Nick Fury, Agent of Shield, realizes that Hydra has finally begun its most daring attack upon the human race! Also, you'll see the battle you never expected when Dr. Strange confronts the Ancient One himself!

SUSPENSE #70: Iron Man reaches new heights of glory in this unforgettable saga of the Titanium Man, as death once again embraces a Marvel character! While Captain America's dilemma is too fearful to describe on this page!

ASTONISH #72: The imagination of Stan Lee—the art of Adam Austin—make Sub-Mariner's thriller a breath-taking spectacle as Lady Dorma meets a dreadful fate! As for the Hulk, this one has to be seen to be believed!

SGT. FURY #22: Only mighty Marvel could present an epic like this! Against the background of World War Two's famous Ploesti air raid, Fury and Bull McGivney fight their own private war, as only they can! It's a swingin', slam-bang sensation!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have been reading some of the recent issues of TALES OF SUSPENSE and they have been featuring old stories of Captain America and Buckle, so why not have some stories in SPIDER-MAN telling about what happened to Peter Parker's mother and father, because he had to have a mother and father to be born.

Gary Bartlett, 22 E. Osceola St.
Stuart, Florida

Now there is one of the most startling revelations we've read in weeks! We thank you, Gary, for a most sobering lesson in biology, and promise to give it all due and proper consideration as soon as the shock wears off! (Also, by stalling for time this way, we'll have a chance to try to figure out what *did* happen to Spidey's mother and dad!)

CHEE! Have you noticed the sorry mess of Marvel IMITATIONS making the scene lately? Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery and all that jazz, but we wanna make darn sure no dyed-in-the-wool Marvel madman gets stuck with one of those inferior "Brand Echh" versions of the real thing!

So, lull yourself to sleep each night with these imperishable words: "It isn't a Marvel masterpiece unless it SAYS Marvel on the cover trademark!" Don't ever settle for less—you're too important to us! — Remember—we found you first!

—Before we forget, the THOR ANNUAL and the SGT. FURY ANNUAL are also on sale now! It's the first ish for both, and the gang in the bullpen really knocked themselves out to make sure they'll be the hits they deserve to be! The THOR ANNUAL features the battle which all of fandom has been clamoring for—Thor vs. Hercules! Never have you seen such power—such drama—such epic pageantry! And wait! You see King Kirby's rendition of Hercules—he's like WOW! As for the SGT. FURY ANNUAL, it's merely magnificent! You'll see the Howlers battling in Korea—two decades after World War Two! They're older, tougher, and greater than ever—and you'll see Nick receive a battlefield commission for gallantry in action! We never expected a war mag to become one of our standout sensations, but this ish will show you why SGT. FURY is at the top of the mighty Marvel best-seller list!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I believe that I have finally deduced the reason why SPIDER-MAN is fast becoming the worst of all your mags. You are featuring J. Jonah entirely too much. J. Jonah has held center stage in four of the last six issues. Now, I admit he does add something to the uniqueness of this mag, but even the greatest of characters can be overused. (You guys proved this with Magneto in the X-MEN.) SPIDER-MAN #25 was, thank Asgard, about as far as you could go. I mean, using Jameson as the lone villain made the mag pretty sick. If you value yours truly's loyalty, don't repeat this disaster. And, oh yes, just so Steve won't feel slighted, I must say that Ditko is probably the worst artist ever to hold a job for any noticeable length of time in the Marvel bullpen.

H. Doyle Abernathy, 2628 East 24th St.
Granite City, Ill.

— *Whew!* — We sure are glad you wrote that last sentence, Doyle! We thought you were serious until we read it — now we know you've gotta be kidding!

—Special note: We want to thank the editors of New York's famous VILLAGE VOICE for the wonderful write-up they gave the Marvel Group, and the FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN in particular. We're frankly flattered and pleased as punch! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Let's face it, gang, ol' Spidey is the living end in super-human heroes. His treatment is so realistic, it scares me. His troubles are splendidly used to add that extra drama to each and every epic tale. Sunny Steve is the only artist for Webhead; please get him to do more covers like #18. Wow, was that a masterwork and a half! While I'm handing out the kudos, let's not forget the guy who started the Marvel Age (hats off), good ol' Stan Lee! He certainly puts his heart into each story. Sure, not every one is as good as the last, but how can they be when Stan sets such a darned high standard? All I want now is for Spidey to meet the X-Men (I sure dig those fellas). Till then, thanks a zillion, and keep those mags coming. You are A-okay in my book.

John Hudson, 2 Rydal Gardens
Hounslow, Middlesex, England

Thanks, Johnny. Your kind words went straight to our hearts. Letters like yours make all our toil seem worth while. (And, of course, the pay checks don't hurt, either!)

—We're running out of room, so we can only mention briefly that the MARVEL TALES ANNUAL goes on sale Aug. 1st! It features the complete "Origin of the Avengers"—the complete "Origin of the X-Men"—the complete "Origin of Dr. Strange"—a complete tale of the incredible Hulk, from the bygone days when he was featured in his own magazine—and other surprises. With a lineup like that, who needs a hard sell! Just get to your newsstand early!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Keep up the good work that you boys are doing. I just love your mags so much that I even subscribed to one of them. I like your SPIDER-MAN the most because I read of him before he even became famous. Why don't you have him make up with Betty because it makes me sick when they fight like that. What ever happened to J. Jonah Jameson's son? I remember that he appeared in one of Spider-Man's earlier series. Will he ever appear again? By the way, does he, like his father, hate Spider-Man? I hope not because I kind of liked him. He seemed like a clean-cut boy. Well, that's all I have to say for myself besides telling you to keep up with all the great work that you have been doing. Don't forget it's the Marvel Age!

Joseph Silvero, 584 River St.
Paterson, N. J.

That's what we keep telling them down at Brand Echh, Joey! As for Jonah's son, you know as much about him as we do! Nobody seems to have heard about him all these months. But, if we run into him, we'll mention that you asked about him—okay?

Dear Steve and Stan,

I decided to reverse your names for two super-duper reasons. Reason 1) It is most refreshing to see a non-Lee plot (ish #25). I haven't seen a worthwhile one of those since I discovered Marvel and before. The Ditko dimension of art was up to par as usual, also. Reason 2) Steve is my own first name. Don't publish Steve's picture. Let us preserve the air of mystery over this camera-cracker and not ruin a good copy of Spidey!

Steven Russell,
Oxnard Beach, Calif.

You got yourself a deal, Steve! Now, if we can just find Lee again! Ever since reading your letter, he's been out searching for a fan whose first name is Stan—just to get even!

—We've just got room to say we hope you're enjoying your nutty Marvel T-shirts as well as your swingin' stationery! We're working like mad to bring you many other unusual and exciting items in the months to come, so keep watching. And remember to keep your M.M.M.S. membership pin in a safe place—it's becoming the biggest "in" thing in town!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have just read SPIDER-MAN #25 and it's my opinion that it could have been better. As I turned the cover over to the introduction page, there was this goofy-looking robot with J.J.J.'s ugly face on it. I think you could have made a more sensible-looking robot. Also, on page 4 Peter Parker should have had enough brains not to urge J.J.J. to look at the robot, because there might be a potential threat in the device anyway. From this letter you might think I'm just a criticizing reader or that I'm against Spider-Man (perish the thought), but I'm not. Spider-Man is at the head of my costumed hero list! Well, that's about it, so I'll say so long to the Fathers of Super-Hero Greatness!!

Ricky Romano, 3505 Ave. G
Birmingham, Ala.

Wow! Are we gonna take a ribbing from the guys in the bullpen when they read what you called us? We never can tell whether letters such as yours are knocks or boosts, Ricky—but we get a big charge out of them all the same.

—Instead of giving you a big pitch for our next ish of SPIDER-MAN, we'll merely say that it's written by Stan, drawn by Steve, and produced in the usual Marvel manner. In other words, it's the greatest! Get it! See ya next ish! And, if you run into Irving Forbush, tell him to get rid of that nutty pet scorpion of his!

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| 13. I Want To Hold Your Hand | 33. Do You Love Me | 53. Judy's Turn To Cry |
| 14. As Usual | 34. Once Upon A Time | 54. More |
| 15. Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, Um, | 35. Three Window Coupe | 55. Green Green |
| 16. Surfin' Bird | 36. Chapel Of Love | 56. If I Had A Hammer |
| 17. Anyone Who Had A Heart | 37. Voicare | 57. Denise |
| 18. Somewhere | 38. All My Love | 58. Wait Till My Bobby Gets Home |
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