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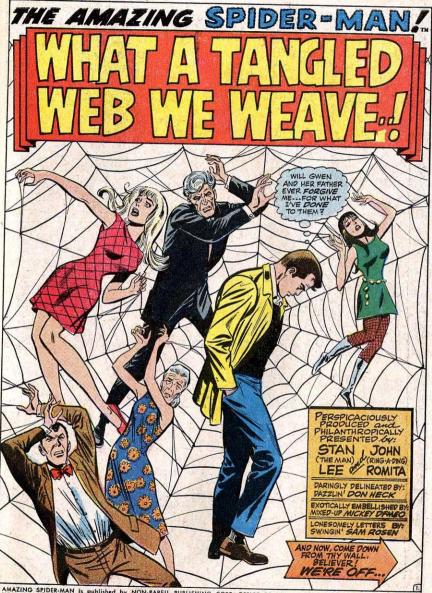
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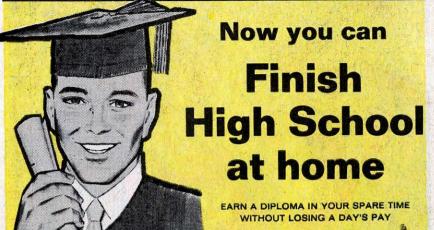






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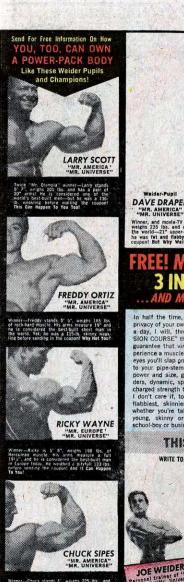


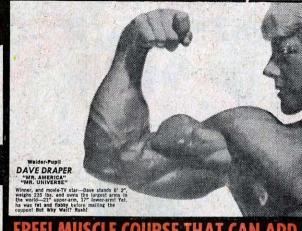












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NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE ...

THE SENSES-SHATTERING SURPRISES GO ON AND ON-!

ITEM! You knew we'd do it sooner or later! First, we gave CAPTAIN AMERICA and the Incredible HULK their own mags, immediately followed by the cataclysmic appearances of IRON MAN and SUB-MARINER in their own pulse-pounding publications. Now, just as you've demanded, NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD, and the ever-mystifying DR. STRANGE have been awarded their own individual mags - on sale at this very minute (if you can make your way thru the crowds)! Yep, once again munificent Marvel gives you the rare opportunity to acquire a pair of practically priceless collectors' item first editions — as well as the chance to follow the frenzied fabled foibles of two of your favorite far-out frolickers in their fantasy-filled feature-length books! (If only the word "books" also began with an f, we'd have set some kind of nutty record! Oh well . . .) So, don't waste a minute! For a penny less than two-bits, you can latch onto two of the newest, most exciting titles in print today - the demon-drenched drama of DR. STRANGE, and hard-bitten hang-ups of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD! Darlin' Doc is drawn by Dapper Dan Adkins, while nitty-gritty Nick is tossed at you by Jaunty Jimmy Steranko! All that's left to say is GRAB 'EM, pilgrim! They're two more of Marvel's finest!

ITEMI Hang loose, hallowed one! You aint heard nothin' yet! At this very moment—even as you read these mind-expanding words—our bleary-eyed Bullpen brethren are busily creating full-length master-pieces featuring a whole NEW array of Marviel stars—power-packed sensations soon to be headlined in their own strips—all-time greats such as DR. DOOM—KAZAR—SILVER SURFER—and others too startling to mention! They'll all be yours in '68, just as we promised! Or, in the words of Fearless Forbush—"Who SAVS this isn't the Second Golden Age of Marveil!"

ITEM! We can't keep you in suspense any longer! It's time to unveil the final rank of Marveldom at last! You've already memorized our first five titles — RFO (Real Frantic One), a buyer of at least three Marvel mags per month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), one who's had a letter printed within our pulsating pages - TTB (Titanic True Believer), he who hath won a No-Prize - KOF (Keeper of the Flame) one who recruits a newcomer to our ranks and PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), the supreme award for any who already possess the four preceding titles! And now, our special sixth category - FFF (Fearless Front Facer), a purely honorary degree, approved and awarded by Smilin' Stan and a carefully chosen committee, devotion to Marveldom above and beyond the call of duty! There you have em, faithful one - the complete list of Marvel titles, with which you may sign our daily correspondence, endorse your Nobel Peace Prize, or engrave upon the back of your Phi Beta Kappa pin. Now, if only WE can remember which is which!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #8: Run for the hills, gang — he's back! None other than feeble Forbush-Man has returned, to tackle almost every superhero in sight! It's the whackiest, wildest adventure into hysteria you've ever howled at!. And wait'll you see who poor Forbie has to fight!

FANTASTIC FOUR #75: We've had the presses running overtime, but we'll never satisfy the demand for this one! The Silver Surfer is hiding from Galactus in a strange new world—and no words of ours can describe the wonder that awaits you!

AVENGERS #52: The Panther arrives on

the Avengers scene — just in time to be accused of murdering everybody's favorite Assemblers—and then, to top it all off, along comes—the Grim Reaper! Hoop boy! It's a mind-snapper from start to finish!

X-MEN #44: The high-flying Angel escapes from the clutches of Magneto and digs out to find help - only to be confronted by the most drastically different good-bad guy since the Silver Surferl We call him ... the Red Raven - but you're gonna call him - great him - great -

DAREDEVIL #40: Trying to save the world from the Exterminator's dreaded T-Ray, of Hornhead himself falls victim to the weirdest weapon of all time! And that's just the way the Ape-Man, Bird-Man, and Cat-Man want it! No wonder we call it "The Fallen Hero!"

MIGHTY THOR #152: We'll never get ourselves out of this one! The pandemonium increases as Odin, Ulik, Loki, Balder, Sif, Karnilla, and the Destroyer are all tangled up in the most colossally complicated plot since the Iliad!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #102: Well, it finally happened! The fearsome Fourth Sleeper has awakened—and now, just as the Red-Skull planned, he sets out to destroy all civilization as we know it! And, while he's at it, Cap has his hands full with the evil Exites!

INCREDIBLE HULK #104: After Asgardians and awesome aliens, you'd think an earth-born villain would be a pushover for oi' Green-Skin! But — not the rampaging Rhino! He's a brain-bustin' blast!

IRON MAN #2: Would'ja believe a vociferous new villain called...the Demolisher, who possesses all the peerless powers of Iron Man himself? If not, just latch onto this illustrious ish! If it doesn't make a believer of you — we give up!

SUB-MARINER #2: This is it! At long last the most anxiously awaited clash of the year takes place when Triton leaves the inhumans' sanctuary to tackle Subby — and the seven seas will never be the same again!

MARVEL'S SPACE-BORN SUPER-HEROI CAPTAIN MARVEL #2: With America's greatest missile complex in danger of being obliterated, Captain Marvel must defeat a villain with the combined powers of the Fantastic Four — the Super Skrull NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD (PRE-MIERE ISH): Following a ghastly assassination attempt on the life of Nick Fury, the stalwarts of SHIELD must learn..."Who is Scorpio"—or die trying! James Bond fans, eat your hearts out!

DR. STRANGE (PREMIERE ISHI): The Master of the Mystic Arts is finally in a mag of his own — and what more fitting way to kick off this stunning new series than with..."The Coming of Dr. Strange"? Amulet-polishers everywhere — this one's just for you!

SGT. FURY #54: Because you demanded it. Izzy Cohen blazes into combat again in a death-defying dash for freedom through the steaming jungles of Burma! Does he make it? Only after 20 pages of block-bustin' battle-action will you find out!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #3: With their men captured by the legions of Baron Strucker, Capt. Savage and his Japanese counterpart. Sgt. Joe Morita, must fight side by side for survival on Hydra's island fortress. A guts-and-glory saga you won't forget!

MARVEL SUPERHEROES #14: An all-new, never-before-printed super-sage starring the one and only — SPIDER-MANI All this plus more golden-age adventures of CAP-TAIN AMERICA, SUB-MARINER, and the HUMAN TORCH, for a mere quarter? You'd better believe it!

MARVEL TALES #14: SPIDEY, GIANT-MAN,

THOR, and the magnificent MARVEL BOY — almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! It's a must for you glitzy groovers in this goofy generation!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #15: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk – all in one incredible issue! Just goes to prove that only Marvel has the mags you never get tired of — Marvel after Marvel!



STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Okay, we admit it! We just can't keep a secret! We're so excited about our newest and most ambitious project that we've GOT to tell you about it or we'll just plain bust! Remember how we always tried to upgrade the image of comic magazines? Well, we're now about to take our biggest step towards realizing that goal! Starting next month, mighty Marvel will present an entirely new concept in illustrated adventure tales—a magazine as different from the ordinary comic as a guided missile is different from a spitball!

It'll be bigger than the mag you're now reading — and will be printed on far more expensive, high-quality paper. The cover will be a full-color painting, and the price will be 35t! Also, since it's a new, larger size, some dealers may not display it with their comics, but rather among other magazines — so be sure follook for it carefully. And, if you don't see it, ask for it — demand it — cry for it!

Yet, despite the fact that this sensational issue will be a turning point in magazine history, it will feature the same thrills, action, and spectacular surprises for which Marvel is famous! And the artwork — hooe boy! Just wait till you see those dazzling drawings; clearer, sharper, far more dramatic than you ever imagined any illustrated epic could be!

But now you're wondering about the title! Which character will be featured? You're hoping we selected the right one for so vital a test! Well, face front, flame-keeper! We think we've chosen the very same hero you yourself would have picked — possibly the most popular single fantasy character in the world today — none other than — your friendly neighborhood SPIDER-MANI!

That's all we can tell you now, 'cause we're still writing and drawing like crazy to make our deadline, But, while you're waiting for the big day, be sure to sock away three dimes and a nickel so that you'll have 'em when our 35¢ SPIDEY hits the stands. All of comicdom has been demanding this giant step forward - this long-awaited leap to the next plateau of literary greatness - and soon it will be yours! So, whatever you do - wherever you go don't fumble the ball. By working together, we'll make the comic strip art form more prized and respected than ever thruout the world! And SPIDER-MAN is just the swinger to do it!

Excelsion!

-Smiley.



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**SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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Dear Stan and John.

I've just started reading your Spidey mags and am now going over "The Spider's Web" of issues #55 and #56. I am interested in the three letters on "Spidey isn't Spidey anymore". Really, I don't know how much Petey Parker has changed from "square" to "swinger", but if you change ol' period. Why would a swinger protect his city from such villains as Doc Ock? Why would a swinger go out of his cool way for crime fighting? I can hear Peter say, "I'm a swinger —why should I waste time fighting crime?" Now that that's out of my system, I want to compliment you on a great story in #55 and #56. I sure hope Spidey gets his memory back. There is one thing that bothers me—why does the inker have Spidey with webbing under his arm, waist, and elbow? Just curious! From now on you can count me as a Spider-Man fan. Rick Neumann, 4511 Eastwood Dr. Okemos, Mich.

We can ... honest to Irving? Phew, that's a relief.
Judging from the first few lines of your liltin' letter,
we were afraid there weren't going to be any Spideyfans anymore! But, now that we know you're still with vs, we think we can promise that you won't have to worry about Petey-O giving up web-spinning for disco-dancing at any time soon—at least not on a permanent basis! Although we have to admit Mr. P. is far from the shy lad he once was, we think his changing personality can just be chalked up to maturity! Face it, everybody has to grow up sometime! Right? Right! Oh, and as for the wondrous webbing you asked about, it's been there all the time! And Merry Mickey Demeo inks it in now just like he always has! Excelsior!



Dear Stan and John,

About the coloring error in issue #50, mentioned in the letters pages of issue #57 (you don't have to print this if you want to keep the matter closed)—I thought it was an ingenious example of surreal artistic expression. Another Marvel first! It was perfectly reasonable since it was in a memory flashback passage in a period of heavy emotional turmoil. David Stewart, Dept. of Music, Smith College Northampton, Mass. 01060.

It was? Uh - we mean it was! Hooo boy, Davey-you've saved us again! And we're sending you a famous artists' approved no-prize as a token of our appreciation! Now, if somebody'll just tell us what it is you were referring to . . . I

Dear Stan and John.

Talk about cliff-hangers! SPIDER-MAN #57 was the most precarious one that I've read. Now to my point—as far as I can tell, Spidey hasn't got much of anything going for him. He doesn't know who he is, he is being accused of kidnapping himself, his auntie is in shock, Ka-Zar is holding him prisoner, and jolly JJJ isn't helping matters much. To me this is what sets you guys apart from your competitors, namely your realism. Also the fact that you use continued stories is a plus in your favor, because, face it, no one can stuff a good story in one 12¢ mag. Besides, it keeps us readers on the edge of our chairs waiting. Personally, I think your art is the best around, and I wish you guys would stop printing letters from picayunish readers—the kind that just look for minor errors. If that is all they read your mags for, then they should be stripped of their M.M.M.S. buttons. Comics are written for reading pleasure, not as bait for meaningless criticism. So, unless Spidey joins Brand Echh, I'll shut up.

Jeremy Mucha, 5538 Littlebow Rd.

Palos Verdes, Cal. 90274

You mean there's no way we can change your mind, Jere? Sheesh, as far as we're concerned, you can rave right on into the next issue . . . and the next . . . and the . . . well, you get the message! But, since you did have to go Silent Sam on us, we're still grateful for the kind kudos! Just don't forget to sock some more to us next month-otherwise we're liable to start feeling insecurel

Dear Stan and John.

I want to congratulate you on issue #57-it was great. Namt to congratulate you on issue #37-m was great.

Don Heck did a marvel-ous job on everything from Spidey's webbing to old JJJ's cigar smoke. Also, I think Spider-Man should stop battling other heroes and start fighting more super-villains. In ish #57, in the letters page, a fan asked you to make a poster of the cover of issue #50. Well, I'm asking, too. Why not print the song they sing on ABC's Spider-Man program?

James Monfort, 296 Chinlee Dr. Lexington Park, Md.

Not a bad thought Jimmy boy! Maybe we could even get a big rock group to record it—like the Beatles, the Monkees or the Forbush Five! As for making a poster out of the ish #50 cover, we're still looking into the possibilities—and we'll let all you Spidophiles know if and when we decide to put it on the market! Until then, just be careful not to get your webs tangled up in the Strawberry Alarm Clock!

Dear Stan and John,

I must protest to Don Heck's artwork "invading" Spider-Man. Notice I use "invading" because that's what it is. Now normally I don't mind Don Heck's art. He draws the human body well and does almost as well as Jack Kirby on gimmicks and weapons. But the problem is that his art is sloppy. He has too many lines which clutter up the art. Spider-Man became extremely clear and neatly drawn when Johnny Romita took over, but now that Don has come to Spidey, the art is deteriorating rapidly. In issue #57 I didn't mind his touch-up jobs because you could only see his penciling in a few panels, but in #58 so much of the work was cluttered that Smythe looked awful, and in some scenes Jameson was almost unrecognizable. There were 2 mistakes I foundone in the penciling and one in the coloring. Colonel Jameson, who is an Air Force officer, had a khaki-colored uniform which Air Force officers haven't used since World War II when the Air Corps was part of the Army. His shirt should have been light blue and his pants and coat should be Air Force blue. On his lapel, he had an Infantryman's

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

insignia which, as an astronaut, he would never wear. My source of information is my father, a major in the Air Force, who has put in nearly 17 years of service, so he ought to know! Well, I hope you'll remember this well because mistakes like this just can't be tolerated. I hope you'll take my advice on Spidey's art. Johnny only does one mag, Spidey, while Don does others. So why is he needed??

Lee Hanson, 4611 Hempstead Ave. Santa Susana, Cal. 93603

Simple, Lee—Jazzy Johnny has been so busy working on our new 35¢ Spidey Magazine (see Stan's Soapbox on the Bullpen Bulletin Page for further details) that he just hasn't had time to finish up the regular mag for the past couple of months! And, to tell the truth, we think Dashin' Donnie has been doing a bang-up job of filling in for ol' Ring-A-Ding! Not to mention the fact that we're certain you'll come to like his pulsating pencils just as much as we do if you just give him a little time! After all, it takes an artist a few issues to really get into the groove of a strip! Now, as for the bombastic boner you pointed out, all we can do is send you a genuine, technicolor no-prize for spotting it—while we call up Stan G. and ask him wha' hoppen?

Dear Stan and John,

It seems I only write you when I have a fantastic idea or I have something critical to say. The critical point is that you are making a laughing-stock out of Aunt May in your SPIDER-MAN book as you so sharply pointed out in your NOT BRAND ECHH satire, and the fantastic idea is that you should kill her off. For several years I've been a devoted Aunt May hater, not that I'm a member of an Anti-Little-Old-Lady-Society or anything, and I've yearned to see Spider-Man really get free. I mean, nobody lives forever, do they? The way you've presently got it, Peter Parker's devotion to his aunt is a barrier against his developing mature relationships with women his own age. As a matter of fact, I almost think Spider-Man's frequent fights with the ungodly are sought by him unconsciously so that he can rid himself of the frustrations that he must have. So, in the name of tenderness and mercy toward superheroes, I urge you to write Aunt May out of your comics. How's that for criticism and fantastic-idealism. J. F. Kusske, Rt. #2 Hastings, Minn, 55033

We're not sure, J.F.—except that it definitely isn't gonna Win you any awards from the Little Old Ladies Sewing Circle! Face the facts, man—hang-up creators we are—but Aunt May killers, never! Well, at least not until we find a perfect time to pull it off—and make it blend in smoothly with one of our pulsatin' plots! In other words, we aren't making any promises about ancient Aunt May—but, like you said, "Nobody lives



Dear Stan and John,

Movies have their Oscars and TV has their Emmys and

and #33. The second category is Best Short Story-my winner is SPIDER-MAN #16. The third is Best Cover-won by Spidey #50. The fourth is Best Title-Spider-Man #31. The fifth category is Best Villain-Spidey issue #6. The sixth and last category is Most Abundant Guest Stars-won by issue #19, Spidey natch. Imperius Said! I mean 'Nuff Rex. Oh. York Battery, 119-29 180th St. St. Albans, N.Y. 11434

Is that all you can say . . . after giving Spidey the biggest awards sweep since "Gone With The Windl"?
Well, there are some people who just don't get worked up about anything! But, wow, does your idea for Irving Awards ever grab us! We think it's just about the most scintillating suggestion we've heard this year! Now, our only problem is, what do we do about it? Should we take a yearly poll to pick the winners-or maybe set up a special committee to vote for the Irvings or what? Tell you what, since Marvels are really your mags, why don't we leave the decision up to Marveldom Assembled! Then, as soon as you tell us how the voting should be handled, we can get the ball rolling toward the very first presentation of the Irving Awards! But let us hear from you soon! Our batty Bull-penners are already tearing themselves apart arguing over who the first winners will be!



Dear Stan and John,

Hooo, boy! Spider-Man is a masterpiece! I'm not referring to any one particular issue, because they're all great, Issue #54 was fantabulous! Having Doc Ock as a boarder at Aunt May's house was fantastical, one of the best ideas yet. Ish #55 had a good surprise ending. Imagine — poor of Spidey losing his memory. Ish #56 having Spidey join Doc Ock was a perfect example of Marvel genius. Ish #57 had the best surprise ending yet. First we see Spidey and Ka-Zar's pet lion plunge into a pond. Next we see the lion come up, but no Spidey. Finally we see Ka-Zar plunge into the pond and bring up the lifeless form of Spider-Man, saying "The battle has ended . . . forever!" Then you frantically say, "You must be here next issue!" With last words like that, who wouldn't be here next issue?? I would also like to commend you on your other Marvel Comics, Among the others, NOT BRAND ECHH (Commonly known as 12¢ wasted) is very funny. Keep up the good work, gang.

Sam Schraeger, 1611 Drummond Ct. Asbury Park, N.J.

We'll try, Sammy—even though we are a little dis-heartened to learn that you only find NBE "very funny"! Sheesh—and all the time we thought it was hysterical! Oh, well—at least you're still swingin' along with Spidey, so we'll let you keep your MMMS card for now! But, be warned, if the next issue of Brechh doesn't comic magazines should get Irvings. The first category is fracture your funnybone, we'll be forced to resort to Best Continued Story—my winner is Spidey issues #31, #32, desperate measures . . . like, we'll probably cry a lot!







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Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator, With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

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