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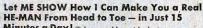






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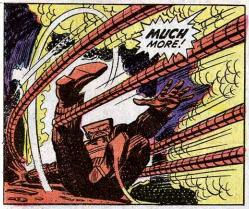


















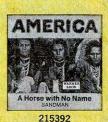
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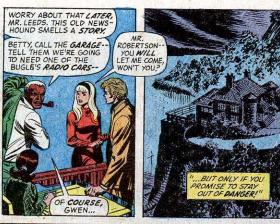




















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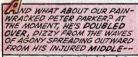


























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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

WOW! Now that mixed-up Marvel has finally entered Phase Two of its vast, intergalactic operations, there's so much happening around here that I hardly know where to begin! You've probably seen most of the awesome announcements about our sensational new titles which are now on sale, titles like SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL and GOTHIC THRILLERS (starring a book-length adaptation of Theodore Sturgeon's world-famous chiller "IT") - so I won't have to mention them, or any of our other nifty newies, in this column. But, now that Marvel's on the move again, I do have to tell you about another sensation we've got in the works, slated to go on sale in December, for all the Marvel freaks on your Xmas list. (And what list would be complete without 'em?) It will present. in one giant-sized library edition, the actual ORIGINS of Marvel's greatest superheroes! And, if you wanna know how big and jam-packed it'll be, here's a heavy hint: it'll probably cost a dollar - and it would be a bargain at twice the price! But even that doesn't tell it all. They don't call us "The House of Ideas" for nothing. (Nope, we make them pay for it!) So, while you're still quaking in ecstatic ariticipation, let's top the whole thing off by announcing the most frantic, far-out, fabulously frenzied monster mag you've ever goose-pimpled over! It's called MONSTER MADNESS, and the first Marvel Commandment is thou shalt not miss it! It'll be on sale soon, so watch for it while you save your bread. (Sixty cents worth ought-ta do the trick.) Well, there's lots more coming, but we're almost out of room, so I'll just leave you with this tintinabulatin' thought: don't tell anyone what F.O.O.M. stands for! It's another little goodie we'll be tossin' at you, while Marvel Marches

Excelsion!

SPECIAL MORE: DUE TO LACK OF SPACE ON THIS PAGE, THE WINNERS OF THE COMIX INDUSTRY'S OWN 1971 SHAZAM AWARDS ARE ANNOUNCED ON THE LETTERS-PAGE OF COMAN THE BARBARIAN! ITEM! We know we went into rapturous detail last time about our new mod-type jungle opus, SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL (now on sale, at last), so we won't wax eloquent over it again - except to mention that writer CAROL SEULING and artist GEORGE TUSKA were helped out at the last minute by a bit of additional dialogue from the nifty new ballpoint of STEVE GERBER - a name we predict you'll be seeing a lot more of, in the near future! Steve's an old confidant and correspondent of Roy's, whom he brought east to help himself and STEVE ENGLEHART with the editorial efforts on our ever-expanding comix line! Fact is, S. G.'s first solo scripting effort can already be witnessed, as well - in the current ish of FEAR, as he and RICH BUCKLER team up to raise the mighty Man-Thing to even loftier heights! Try it - you'll like it!

ITEM! Talking about new things, though - the big news this month is a spankingnew title called GOTHIC THRILLERS! That's the mag wherein we plan to present some of the greatest weird tales ever told - by some of the world's finest authors - in full, novel-length glory! And we're starting out with one of the most macabre sagas of all - an eerie little epic called "IT!" The author: none other than THEODORE STURGEON, one of the most widely-acclaimed fantasy authors in the world! Story adaptation by ROY THOMAS, with art by MARIE SEVERIN and FRANK GIACOIA - and an eye-popping cover by one JIM STERANKO! (Yep. that's right - the Jaunty One has returned to the fold at last, and you'll be seeing his signature on a goodly number of our covers in the months to come, including the current ish of another new Marvel biggie, DOC SAVAGE! Welcome home, Mr. S.! Now, if you'll just find the time to draw a few panels one of these first fine days . . . !)

ITEM! And, lest you think that our new JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY and CHAMBER OF CHILLS mags are going to turn into the usual ghosts-and-goblins fare, we invite you to feast your mind and eyes upon the now-on-sale ish of JOURNEY! It features a spine-tingler called "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper," originally written by none other than ROBERT BLOCH —the far-famed author of Psycho and other wondrous works of mystery and menace! The story adapta-tion, by the way, is by GIL KANE and

RON GOULART — and if the latter name looks familiar, it's 'cause Ron himself is a well-known fantasy writer, whose recent novel After Things Fell Apart' has received countless rave reviews! Face it, friend – the Top Talent has come home to roost in the House of Ideas — and we wouldn't want it any other way!

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

FANTASTIC FOUR #129: The Human Torch quits the F.F.! The Thing embattled! Plus, the return of the Frightful Four – starring a nefarious new recruit you'll never forget!

THOR #206: The Thunder God's greatest fight! The Absorbing Man strikes again! All this — and some of the most mind-boggling artwork ever!

DOC SAVAGE #2: The cataclysmic conclusion of Doc's first, fabulous adventure! The fightin' five against — the Son of the Feathered Serpent! Set in the 1930's — because you demanded it!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #156: This is it! Captain America vs. Captain America! Bucky vs. the Falcon! If you miss this one, you'll regret it! You have been warned!

GOTHIC THRILLERS #1: Like we said — Sturgeon, Steranko, Severin, Thomas, and Giacoia! 'Nuff, already?

SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL #1: Jungle adventure — with a twist! And an awesome origin that'll move and shake you! An instant smash!

Not to mention, these way-out winners: SPIDER-MAN #115 (The Hordes of Hammerhead!) — HULK #158 — AVEN-GERS #106 - DAREDEVIL #94 (How do you defeat a guy called - The Indestructible Man?) - SUB-MARINER #56 - IRON MAN #53 - HERO FOR HIRE #4 (Now monthly - and greater than ever!) - ASTONISHING TALES #15 -THE DEFENDERS #3 - CONAN THE BARBARIAN #21 (The Monster of the Monolith!) - WARLOCK #3 - JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #2-GUNHAWKS #2-FEAR #11 - COMBAT KELLY #4-JUNGLE ACTION #2-MARVEL SPOT-LIGHT #7 (The Ghost Rider-who else?) -SGT. FURY #105-and a whole passel of pulse-pounding paradigms! Collect 'em all!





THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, NINTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John.

SPIDER-MAN #110-111 were great! Both story and art were very good, and I congratulate you both. You've really got me worried about Aunt May's leaving. I hope you know what you are doing, because this could lead to trouble. Anyway, I'm glad you brought back Kraven the Hunter, if only for one issue. It was different having Kraven forcing the Gibbon to fight Spider-Man, instead of doing it himself. I liked that. I really liked the way Romita showed Kraven yelling at the Gibbon. That art was terrific! All these things really make SPIDEY worth reading. Keep up the good work!!

John Dandrea Rockhill Furn, Pa. 17249

Dear Stan, John, and Gerry, Okay, now hear this! SPIDEY #111 was the worst work I've ever seen! I mean, it made me sick. To start with, the cover art was nowhere. The same goes for the inking of the cover. Kraven's costume should have been fully covered with color, instead of only half of it! And another thing: when you had Gil Kane drawing the strip, I thought he was the worst artist I'd ever seen. Then, in ish #105, you announced that John was coming back. I nearly died of happiness! But was I ever disappointed. John, John . . . whatever happened to your great works of art like when Doc Ock stole the nullifier or when Spidey and the Green Goblin had that historic free-forall in issues #39-40? And you, Stan, please come back to Spider-Man. This is no offense to you, Gerry, but Stan just has the master touch. As for Pete's situation with Gwen Stacy, just get rid of her - she is nothing but a pain in the neck. A few last words. There are two old villains I would like to see back, the Vulture and the Shocker. Please, please save Spidey. Can't you see you're slowly killing him?

J. Alan Bolick, 2285 Brockett Rd. Tucker, Ga.

John Dandrea, thanks for the kind words.

J. Alan Bolick, we appreciate the stern yet constructive criticism, too.

And, Marveldom Assembled, for the record: these two letters indicate pretty much how your comments ran on SPIDEY #111. Either ya loved it madly, or you utterly despised it! There were precious few middle-of-the-web

Also for the record, we gotta take issue with J. Alan's comment that we're "slowly killing" Spidey. It's true of course, that Gerry is toying with some new approaches to the character and that his prose style is different from Stan's...but we think Ger has some mighty fine ideas in the works. And the Aunt May/Doc Ock/Spidey fracas now in progress is only a sample of what's to come.

Y'know, after one writer has become identified as closely with a strip as Stan has with SPIDER-MAN, it's only natural for you guys 'n gals to rebel when a "sinis-

ter new influence" is unleashed.

To paraphrase John Lennon, give Gerry a chance. And we humbly ask the same indulgence for Roy on FAN-TASTIC FOUR. These two gentlemen are planning to take both those strips down roads no one ever even

considered before!

And that's enough speech-makin'. More of your comments, now:

Dear Stan, John, Gil, etc.:

You're ruined Kraven. Kraven the Hunter, that is. The Kraven we all came to know and hate, Ditko's Kraven, was very, very different from the Kraven who appears all too often now. The earlier Kraven was cool, logical, in-telligent, and patient. He would spend days, weeks studying his opponent; then he'd make his move coolly, mercilessly, and quickly, using perfect logic and showing little emotion. He would withdraw, rather than retreat; retreat, rather than die. He could almost be idolized, and would certainly be admired. But now, we have a hate-filled, emotional maniac. In SPIDEY #111, he grimaced and snarled through all 31 panels in which we could see his face. He hasn't changed too radically. but he has gone from a first-rate to a second- or even third-rate villain. Please bring back the old Kraven. He'll add variety to your comics — especially SPIDER-MAN. Believe me, variety you can use. Haven't seen any in a long time.

RFO, KOF Jerry Jones 256 Las Miradas Dr., Los Gatos, Calif. 95030

Dear Friends.

What's wrong with you guys? Can't you see that a love can last a lifetime? Why don't you try that idea? My parents have. So have a lot of other couples I know. Love isn't all misery! There's a lot of happiness in it. too. But almost all of your costumed wonders haven't. found that out.

A perfect example is good old Spider-Man himself. Idiot Parker doesn't realize that Gwen loves him, and now he thinks she's going to run off with Flash Thompson! Now that's stupidity! We all know Gwen is in love with Pete (though I don't know why, with all his prob-lems)! So please let Peter wise up! He and all the other heroes have enough problems to last a century. Please let them have some joy in at least one way.

I know you'll say it isn't true, that this doesn't happen in real life, but it does, and it will! We've just got too many skeptics who don't believe any love in this world

exists or lasts.

I love your characters, and I love your comics. (Yet another example of undying love!) And as long as you keep making them, I'll keep reading them. So, now that I've had my say, I'll sign off.

Love,

Kathy Raisz, 900 Notley Road Silver Springs, Md. 20904

Don't be too hard on us, Kath. The Bullpenners are staunch believers in love . . . but we know, too, that it's not all you need. Sometimes, you need not to be Spidey, or the Vision, or Tony Stark before things can really work. Or maybe you need enough self-assurance to think that who (or what) you are doesn't matter. Whatever the case, our heroes have had more than their share of ill-fated romances - but that only means the percentages are in their favor next time. Maybe.

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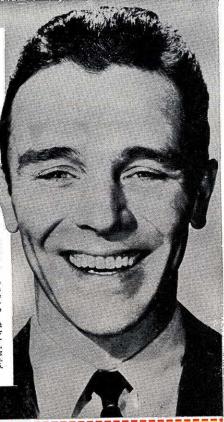
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