

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP



20¢ 124  
SEPT 02457

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



JAMESON!  
THAT THING--  
WHAT IS  
IT?

RRRRRAARR

IT'S--  
MY  
SON!

THE MARK OF THE  
MAN-WOLF!







# THE MARK OF THE MAN-WOLF

THE NIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK: IT'S BEEN ALMOST TEN DAYS SINCE GWEN STACY AND NORMAN OSBORN DIED--BUT IT SEEMS THE REACTIONS HAVEN'T YET QUIETED DOWN.

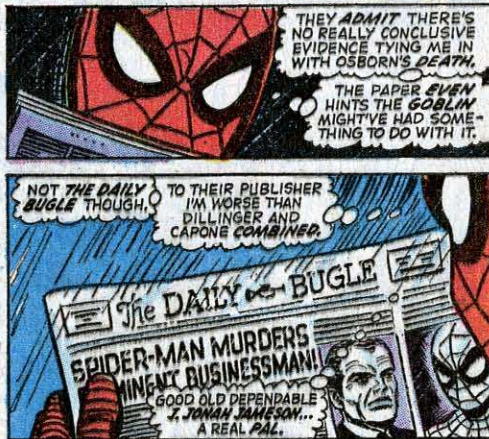
SOME PEOPLE STILL REMEMBER THAT FATEFUL EVE--

--AND NOT THE LEAST OF THEM IS--SPIDER-MAN.

GERRY CONWAY, SCRIPTER \* GIL KANE, PENCILLER \* JOHN ROMITA \* T. MORTELLERO, INKERS \* ARTIE SIMEX, LETTERER \* ROY THOMAS, EDITOR

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EVEN HER.

I DON'T KNOW THAT GIRL--BUT MAYBE SHE KNOWS ME. AND MAYBE SHE'S THINKING--"THAT POOR PETER PARKER, HIS GIRL AND HIS ROOMMATE'S FATHER BOTH IN THE SAME DAY!"

YOU DON'T KNOW, SISTER.



YOU JUST--DON'T--KNOW!

SNAP!



THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN THE TENSION BECOMES TOO GREAT.

MOMENTS WHEN THE BEST OF US MAY--BEND JUST A LITTLE.



KRAK!



NO USE... SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

THE MEMORY'S STILL TOO FRESH... HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO MAKE PEACE WITH MYSELF.

ANOTHER MINUTE IN THERE--IN HERE--AND I'LL GO BUGABOO PERMANENTLY!

PETEY...?



HEY, PETEY!

DON'T RUSH OFF, TIGER--MARY JANE WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH YOU.

NOT NOW, M.J. I'M A LITTLE TENSE.

SO WHO ISN'T?



YOU'VE GOT A RIGHT TO BE TENSE, PETE... BUT NOT TO PLAY HERMIT.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP UP THIS ORSTRICH ACT?

I WISH I KNEW.

RIGHT NOW--IT'S ALL TOO CLOSE TO ME.

I'VE GOT TO PULL MY HEAD AROUND--ADJUST--IF I CAN.







CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



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FOR SEVERAL SECONDS  
MUSCLES BULGE ACROSS  
THE YOUNG MAN'S BACK--  
SHOULDERS WRITHING WITH  
THE AGONY OF AN INNER  
RE-SHAPING--



THEN, SLOWLY--  
A NEW LIGHT  
COMES INTO THE EYES  
OF THE STRAINING  
FIGURE--



"A LIGHT IN THE  
EYES OF--  
A MAN-WOLF!"



WHOEVER WAS PRESENT IN  
THIS CREATURE A MOMENT  
AGO IS GONE NOW.

NOW, THERE IS  
ONLY THE  
POUNDING HEART  
OF AN ANIMAL...  
A BEAST OF THE  
NIGHT WHICH  
SEEMS TO GAST  
ABOUT AS THOUGH  
SEEKING  
SOMETHING...



...OR SEEKING  
SOMEONE!



IT RUNS THROUGH  
THE DARKNESS,  
PADDING CLOSE TO  
THE GROUND  
LIKE THE WOLF  
WHOSE IMAGE IT  
BEARS.

NOW AND  
THEN IT  
CLIMBS...



...AND LEAPS FROM  
ROOF TO ROOF,  
AS THOUGH FROM  
CLIFF TO CLIFF.

A SHARL ESCAPES  
ITS LURINE BREAST...  
A GROWL OF SHEER  
HATRED RESERVED  
FOR THE QUARRY  
IT HUNTS...





...AND THAT QUARRY IS...MAN.

**T**HE BEAST CAN SCENT IT NOW-- THE SPORE OF MAN'S PASSING, THE SCENT OF ONE PARTICULAR HUMAN, THE GOAL OF THIS RAIN-DRENCHED RUN.

"AHEAD," THE MAN-WOLF THINKS, "THE ONE I HUNT IS AHEAD."



**T**HE THOUGHT IS NOT SO COHERENT-- BUT THE MEANING IS THE SAME.

**O**NE FINAL LEAP, AND HE SQUATS ATOP A STORM-SPLATTERED BUILDING...



...AND HE LOOKS ACROSS A SEEMING CHASM AT THE HUMAN BEING HE SEEKS!



**A**ND IN ONE SLEEK MOTION-- THE MAN-WOLF LEAPS!



WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--?



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WHO ARE YOU, AND  
WHAT'S THE MEANING  
OF THIS?

DO YOU REALIZE  
WHO I AM? THE  
NAME IS JONAH  
JAMESON, MY  
FRIEND--AND I'LL  
HAVE YOU KNOW  
J. JONAH JAMESON  
IS NOT THE KIND  
OF MAN TO BE  
AMUSED BY SOME  
SORT OF  
INFANTILE JOKE.

I DEMAND  
AN  
EXPLANATION  
FOR THIS--  
THIS  
RIDICULOUS  
COSTUME.

I'M  
WARNING  
YOU...

...I'M...  
WARNING...  
YOU...?



IT IS THEN,  
OF COURSE,  
THAT  
JAMESON  
REALIZES  
THE  
CREATURE  
BEFORE HIM  
IS NOT  
WEARING A  
COSTUME.

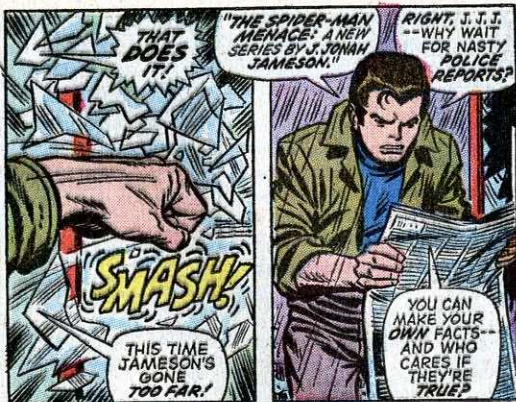
AND IT IS  
THEN, NATURALLY,  
THAT J. JONAH  
JAMESON BECOMES...  
AFRAID!

AND BY THEN, YOU SEE, IT'S  
ALREADY FAR TOO LATE!



GOOD LORD  
IN HEAVEN...  
NO!





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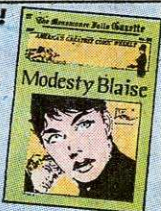
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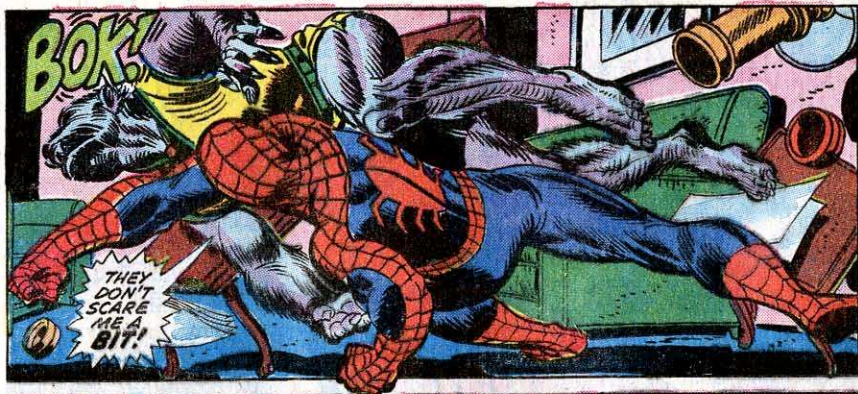
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STIRRING SPIDER-MAN.

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HAPPENED TO TALL,  
DARK AND HAIRY?

DON'T TELL ME  
YOU BEAT HIM  
ALL BY YOUR  
LONESOME!

IF THAT GETS  
OUT, WE'LL HAVE  
TO GIVE YOUR  
"PEACEFUL  
CITIZEN"  
AWARD TO  
JOE FRAZIER!

SAY...WHAT'S THE  
DEAL, JAMESON?  
WHERE'RE THOSE  
SNAPPY  
COMEBACKS?

AREN'T YOU  
GOING TO  
ACCUSE ME  
OF PLAN-  
NING THIS  
WHOLE  
THING?

YOU  
WON'T  
WHAT?

DUMMY--THAT  
CHARACTER  
TRIED TO KILL  
YOU!

YOU'RE NOT GOING  
AFTER HIM, SPIDER-MAN.

I WON'T  
ALLOW IT!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER...  
IT'S NOT...IMPORTANT.

IF YOU ATTACK  
HIM--I'LL MAKE  
YOU PAY, YOU  
WALL-CRAWLING  
MENACE.

LOOK,  
I'M NOT  
YOUR  
BIGGEST  
FAN--!

-- BUT  
THAT  
MONSTER--!

SPIDER-MAN, I SWEAR TO YOU...  
IF YOU MOVE ONE MUSCLE  
AGAINST THAT CREATURE, I'LL  
REPORT THIS AS AN ATTEMPT  
ON MY LIFE...BY YOU.

AM I  
CLEAR?

LOUD AND  
BUNKIE.

NEXT TIME--  
REMIND ME NOT  
TO PLAY GOOD  
SAMARITAN.

...SOME PEOPLE HAVE  
A WEIRD SENSE OF  
GRATITUDE!

GRATEFUL? HOW  
CAN I BE GRATEFUL  
TO THE MAN I HATE  
MOST IN THE WORLD...?

HOW  
CAN I BE  
GRATEFUL...

...WHEN THE  
MAD KILLER  
HE'S SAVED  
ME FROM...  
IS MY SON!

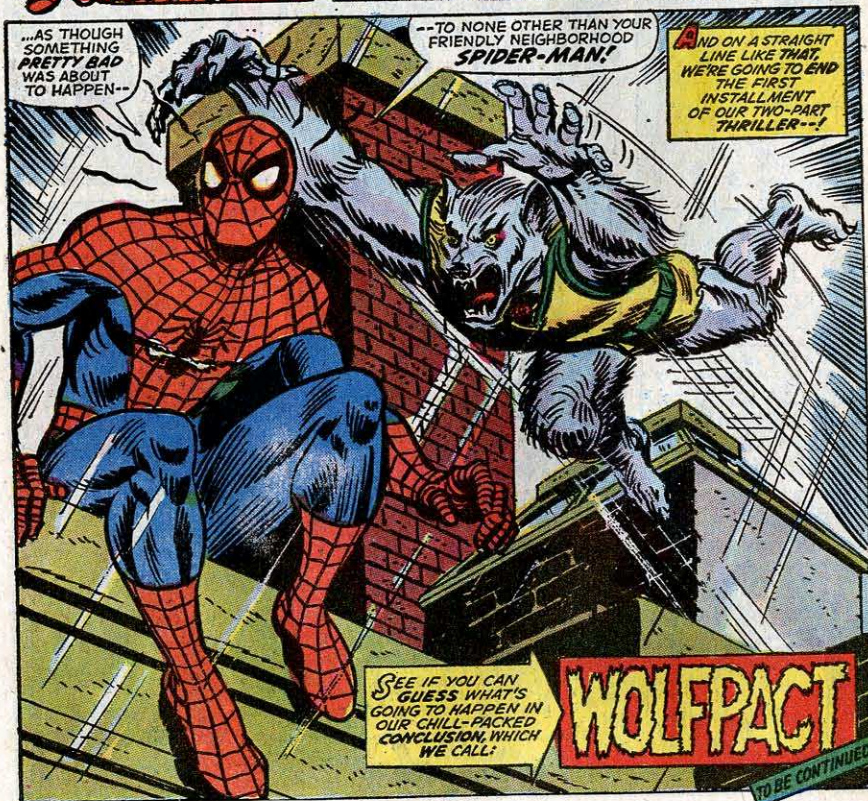














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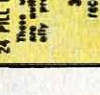
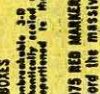
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ITEM! But, don't get that little happening mixed up with still another epochal event from Marvel — as summer of 1973 heralds the return of our ever-lovin', muchly-missed *Annals* (or *Specials*, or whatever we called 'em last time around). There'll be no less than three over-sized opuses winging your way in the long hot weeks to come, as your Bullpen brain-trust re-presents some of the most magnificent adventures ever

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ITEM! Now, we could go on to tell you that DRACULA LIVES #3 is also on sale right now, starring the Lord of the Living Dead in a trio of timeless sagas — or that TALES OF THE ZOMBIE #2 is likewise looming in your path, as the Man Without A Soul rises from the grave once more. But, our awesome ads elsewhere in our frantic mags will take care of that little matter. What we wanted to mention next is a forthcoming publication from mixed-up Marvel that might sound a wee bit like a reprint — but take it from us, it ain't! That's the wild, wait-out mish-mash we call CRAZY Magazine, a brand new 40+ sock-it-to-'em sensation that's destined to take the waiting world by storm! It features perfidious parody, scathing satire, and laugh-a-minute lampoons that'll hit you where you live — and kick the Establishment where it sits down! With art and scripts by some of the world's greatest wits — including a special surprise or two you'll have to see to believe! That's CRAZY Magazine #1! Watch for it on magazine racks everywhere, just about any day now. As Honest Irv Forbush (or somebody) once ad-libbed: "Nuff said!"

ITEM! And here's a final scoop just pulled

off by the batty Bullpen! We've just revived one of our most popular titles of the sizzlin' 60's — a little thing called STRANGE TALES — and used it to usher in the eerie adventures of perhaps the most unique superhero ever! We call him — BROTHER VOODOO! You'll call him — sensational! That's STRANGE TALES #169, now on sale — and well worth the five-year wait!

Now, if we may, we'd like to get serious for just a moment.

This is the Bulletin item we hoped we'd never have to write.

Bill Everett, creator of the Sub-Mariner and a host of other great comic-book heroes, passed away on February 27th last. Bill was known and loved by just about everyone in the comics world, and was respected as few of his peers are respected.

Rather than launch any lengthy eulogies here — something Bill wouldn't have wanted, in any case — we'd prefer simply to refer you to the pages of SUB-MARINER #65, now on sale, in which a final and well-earned tribute is paid to this most important of Marvel talents... this most kindly, most generous of men.

We sorta think that's where Bill would most have liked to be remembered.

# FOOM!

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# THE SPIDERS WEB

## SPECIAL BULLPEN NOTE:

Well, we expected an avalanche of mail on SPIDER-MAN #121, the issue which featured the tragic death of Gwendolyn Stacy... but we were wrong. We got at least two avalanches. And letters are still pouring in literally by the hundreds. Herewith, a random sampling of the earliest arrivals, followed, of course, by our comments:

### Spideophiles,

Webhead's latest issue, #121 to be exact, was at first, in my mind, a rather dubious commodity. How many times have I seen on the cover and on the Bullpen Bulletin pages, "Turning Point," "Most Important Issue," "It's A Biggie," and the like? So I disregarded these ominous omens. Boy, was I a dummy!

Peter Aicich  
Corona, N.Y. 11368

### Dear Gerry,

I have just finished SPIDER-MAN #121 and I am unable to contain my congratulations and anger, O.K., so I've read every SPIDER-MAN mag and I've seen Spidey go from bad to worse and back to bad again. But that's the name of the game for poor old Peter Parker. O.K., so Stan, and now you, Gerry, can't find any happiness for our hero. But why pick on Gwen??? When Gwen was first introduced into Peter's life, it appeared as if Marvel did have a heart, but now I have my doubts. My congratulations are in order because no SPIDER-MAN mag has ever struck me as did this #121. My anger, well, that's obvious. All I HECKUVA story and return the only good thing that Marvel has ever given to that most knocked down, sorrow-ridden, and guilt-complexed character. If not, well, us college guys will just have to burn you in effigy, Mr. Conway—and you wouldn't like that now, would you?

Steven Pearlman, Stevens Inst. of Technology  
Hoboken, N.J.

### Gentlemen,

How much more agony must Parker live through? This issue, #121, has a certain finality to it. I know that Gwen is really dead. So I have the right to cry. I have the right to mourn her death. I have the right to know that I will not feel absurd three issues later when she is suddenly brought back to life by some super-alien life ray. The rest of "The Night Gwen Stacy Died" completes one of the most heart-rending, magnificently scripted and laid out sagas to date.

After a dramatic, typical Spidey rescue... BLAM! It hits you! "I saved you, honey... I saved you." He didn't save her. Fantasy? Reality? Where is the dividing line?

Gentlemen, you have succeeded in placing the comic book, SPIDER-MAN, onto a newly defined aesthetic plane of realism. But Lord, you have also succeeded in touching my soul.

Salvatore M. Trento  
Dept. of Anthropology, S.U.N.Y.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

### Dear Roy, Gerry, Gil, et al.

I only hope you make Gwen Stacy's death as big a turning point as it deserves to be. I'm expecting some totally new directions, and if you fail to do so, then Ms. Stacy's death will have been in vain, so to speak.

Robert Lowrey  
(no address given)

### Gentlemen,

As you said, SPIDER-MAN #121 was a shocker. Frankly, I wonder what kind of home life you people must have, or had as children.

Donald Shinnars  
Wauwatosa, Wisc.

To whoever had the idea of killing off Gwen Stacy, you rattlesnake, you buzzard, you large red insect, you worm, you cockroach, you lizard, you skunk, you tapeworm in the digestive system of humanity: Why is it when a superhero and his girl finally seem to be getting it together, you kill off the girl? May you lose every tooth in your head but one, and in that one may you have a toothache; may someone put arsenic in your midnight cocoa; may you be stricken down by a

spirit of justice and be reincarnated as an amoeba!

RFO Sergio J. Andrade  
Roselle, N.J.

### Dear Marvel Bullpen,

Realism has always been a significant ingredient in Marvel's success, and, unfortunately, a reality of life is the certainty of eventual death. But as sorry as I am about Gwen's demise, I am anxiously awaiting the introduction of new characters in SPIDER-MAN and Peter Parker's life. A life which will continue in the Marvel tradition, as it has for over ten years.

Dave Carrothers  
Oakland, Calif.

### Marvel,

How DARE you kill Gwendolyn Stacy? You are a pack of soulless, mercenary sadists. I am no longer a True Believer.

J.M. Black  
Alamedam, Calif.

### Dear Bullpen Gang-sters,

You guys should change your names to the Marvel Soap Opera & Murder Co. Inc. Just like Spidey, you're giving my ulcers ulcers!

Kent Raleigh Jr.  
Phoenix, Ariz.

And that's how it went, folks. Schizoid! Utterly schizoid!

Almost everyone was deeply moved and saddened by Gwen's death. But even those who wrote some of the most sensitive, sorrow-stricken, "how could you?" filled missives had to conclude (are you ready?) that we did the right thing.

Of course, not everyone felt that way. Some promised never to buy a SPIDEY mag again. Others called us "murderers," "liars," "assholes," and a slew of unprintable epithets. And yet... the number of Marvelites who gave us a sort of quivering nod of approval frankly amazed us.

Next issue: the full story behind-the-story (subtitled, "So NOW I Know Whom to Blame!"), plus your comments on SPIDEY #121, in which the Green Goblin not only hit the dust, but made a seven-course dinner of it. Tamam shud!

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