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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

I MAY BE
DYING, WALL-
CRAWLER--
CONSUMED
BY MY OWN
BODY
HEAT!

-- BUT I'M
GONNA
TAKE YOU
WITH
ME!!

THIS
IS IT!

THE BATTLE TO THE
FINISH WITH THE
**MOLTEN
MAN!**

FAMOUS NAME

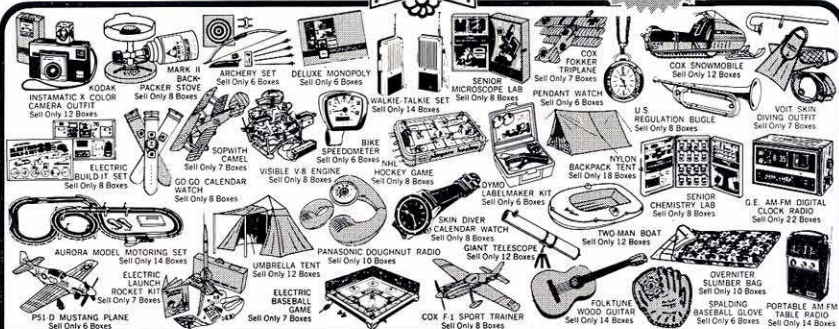
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GERRY CONWAY
WRITER

ROSS ANDRU
ARTIST

F. GIACOIA & D. HUNT
INKERS

ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
P. GOLDBERG, COLORIST

ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

THE MOLTEN MAN BREAKS OUT!

EVERYBODY
FREEZE!

NOBODY MOVES
A MUSCLE--
NOBODY BLINKS
AN EYE--TILL I
GET WHAT I'VE
COME FOR:

THAT CREEP
FROM THE
DAILY BUGLE--
THE REPORTER
NAMED
NED LEEDS!

BEGINNING:
PART TWO:
OF ONE OF THE MOST
SENSATIONAL SPIDEY-
EPICS OF ALL-TIME!

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WHATSAMATTER, YA DON'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH? I SAID **DON'T MOVE!**

A WISE GUY, HUH? I'VE GOT WAYS TO HANDLE WISE GUYS, DOC--

--MOST OF THEM UNPLEASANT!

HUH? NOW WHAT--?

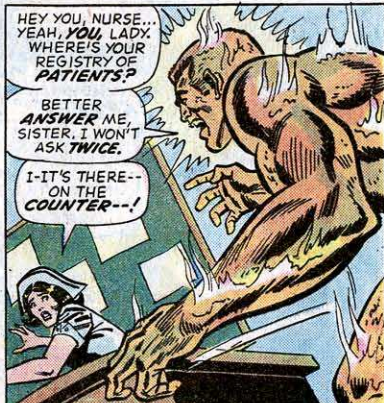
ARE YOU SOME KINDA HERO...



DOES THIS HOSPITAL PAY YOU TO ACT STUPID--



--OR IS IT JUST SOMETHING YOU DO ON YOUR OWN?



HEY YOU, NURSE... YEAH, **YOU**, LADY. WHERE'S YOUR REGISTRY OF PATIENTS?

BETTER ANSWER ME, SISTER. I WON'T ASK TWICE.

I-IT'S THERE-- ON THE COUNTER--!



NICE GOING, SISTER. YOU SAVED US BOTH A BIT OF TROUBLE.

SO LEEDS IS IN THE **EMERGENCY WARD**, IS HE? THAT SUITS ME.

AFTER I GET THROUGH WITH HIM, HE'S GOING TO **NEED** A DOCTOR--

--MAYBE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!



IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON, YOU'RE NOT ALONE. FRANTIC ONE; AT THIS VERY MOMENT, SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, IN A WING OF THE HOSPITAL BUILDING...

THE YOUNG MAN WHO BROUGHT IN THAT **REPORTER**... HE'S COLLAPSED... HAVING A FIT OF SOME KIND!

I'D BETTER LOOSEN HIS **SHIRT**...!



BUT, BEFORE THE WELL-MEANING INTERN CAN ACT...

WHAT ON EARTH...? A SCREAM, FROM THE ADMITTANCE ROOM? THERE MUST BE TROUBLE...



SOMETIMES THESE EMERGENCY CASES CAN GET HYSTERICAL; I'LL SEND SOMEONE BACK FOR THIS BOY--

THIS OTHER MATTER IS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT!

TALK ABOUT LUCK; ANOTHER MOMENT AND "THIS BOY'S" SECRET WOULD'VE BEEN REVEALED--



--AND THE YOUNG INTERN WOULD HAVE LEARNED THAT PETER PARKER IS-- SPIDER-MAN!

STILL DIZZY-- BUT I CAN MOVE NOW--!

GOT TO GET OUT OF SIGHT--

--SWITCH TO SPIDEY-- FIND OUT WHAT ALL THE COMMOTION IS--!



I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT'S THE MOLTEN MAN-- AND IF IT IS, IT'S A CINCH HE'S AFTER ME!

IT'S THE MOLTEN MAN'S FAULT I'M SO SICK-- HIS BODY'S GIVING OFF RADIATION LIKE A CANDLE GIVES HEAT-- AND I MUST'VE PICKED UP SOME WHEN I FOUGHT HIM AN HOUR AGO--

*LAST ISSUE, OUR TIME, --ROY.



--WHICH RAISES THE QUESTION: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME NEXT IF I TANGLE WITH HIM AGAIN?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT, WEB-SLINGER, FOR, TEN SECONDS LATER...

I'M COMING AFTER YOU, LEEDS...



YOU'LL NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO REVEAL WHAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT ME... NOT TO YOUR FRIENDS AT THE BUGLE, NOT TO THE POLICE... NOT EVEN TO THE ACCURSED SPIDER-MAN!

MY SECRET WILL DIE WITH YOU, LEEDS--

THAT IS, IF I LET YOU DIE!

TO BE FRANK, I HAVEN'T YET DECIDED!

REWARD!



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SWELL.

I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN YOU COPS STILL THINK I'M A MURDERER!

*OF NORMAN OSBORN IN SPIDEY #122.
--R.T.



I WISH I COULD STICK AROUND TO STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT-- BUT IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE--



--THERE'S A MADMAN ON THE LOOSE--AND I'M GOING TO STOP HIM!

KRASH!

DON'T SHOOT, BLAST IT! YOU MIGHT HIT ONE OF THE DOCTORS!



AND SO, SEVERAL HEART-STRAINING MOMENTS LATER...

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE MOLTEN MAN ANYWHERE.

THANKS TO SOME OVER-EGGED POLICEMEN, I'VE LOST HIM...AND THAT'S BAD.



NOT SO MUCH BAD FOR ME-- IT'S BAD FOR NED LEEDS.

WHATEVER HE LEARNED AT THAT BOARDING HOUSE, IT'S SOMETHING THE MOLTEN MAN WANTS TO KEEP SECRET...

...WHICH MAKES IT SOMETHING I'D BETTER FIND OUT... PRONTO.



CHEMICALS... ROCKS, GLOWING... SO MUCH LIGHT... FIRE EVERYWHERE... ROCKS GLOWING...

SOUNDS LIKE GIBBERISH TO ME.

BUT IT MUST BE SOMETHING... SO THINK, SPIDEY, THINK!



BUT, SPIDEY'S THOUGHTS DWELL ON OTHER MATTERS AS HE SWINGS ACROSS TOWN...

SPECIFICALLY, THEY CONCERN HIS DESTINATION...

...THE WEST-SIDE APARTMENT OF HIS COLLEGE COLLEAGUE AND LONG-TIME FEMALE FRIEND... MARY JANE WATSON...



FROM THE SOUND OF THEIR VOICES, MJ AND LIZ ARE STILL AWAKE.

WONDER IF MARY JANE'S MANAGED TO GET LIZ TALKING ABOUT THE YEARS SINCE SHE DISAPPEARED...?

YER THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE INTO, ALL RIGHT.



AND FROM THE LOOK ON MS. ALLEN'S FACE...IT'S NOT PLEASANT.

...AS I TOLD PETER THE DAY WE GRADUATED*, I FELT IT WAS TIME I ACCEPTED MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN LIFE...

...DUTIES TO MYSELF... AND MY STEP-BROTHER...



*FROM HIGH-SCHOOL, BACK IN SPIDEY #28. --ROY.



"...MARK RAXTON, WHO YOU PROBABLY KNOW AS... THE GOLDEN MAN! AFTER SPIDEY-MAN CAPTURED HIM THE SECOND TIME, HE WAS HOSPITALIZED... AND I TOOK A JOB AS A NURSE TO BE NEAR HIM..."

EMERGENCY



"...TO HELP HIM, IF I COULD.

"YOU SEE, SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HIM SINCE THE ACCIDENT WHICH COATED HIS SKIN WITH GOLD ALLOY... THE METAL WAS REACTING WITH HIS METABOLISM... HE WAS CHANGING, TRANSFORMING..."



"...AND TO KEEP HIM FROM LEARNING THIS, THEY GAVE HIM A MASK..."



"BUT THE MASK ONLY MADE HIM BITTER. HE FELT AS THOUGH HE WERE ISOLATED, AND IN A WAY, HE WAS. HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE OTHER PATIENTS, FOR HE WAS STILL BASICALLY A PRISONER..."

"...AND FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, I WAS THE ONLY PERSON HE SAW..."



"NATURALLY, WHEN HE STRUCK OUT, HE FIRST STRUCK OUT AT ME..."

GET THIS JUNK AWAY FROM ME! I'M SICK OF IT, DO YOU HEAR? MOST OF ALL, I'M SICK OF YOU!

CLANG!

A close-up photograph of a wristwatch. The watch has a round, white face with black hour markers and hands. It is attached to a metal link bracelet. The watch is positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

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"IF I'D BEEN STRONGER, PERHAPS I COULD HAVE GIVEN HIM THE UNDERSTANDING HE NEEDED; INSTEAD, I RAN..."



"...WHICH MAKES ME RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED THE NEXT DAY, IT'S MY FAULT HE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE HIS ROOM..."



"MY FAULT HE STRUCK THAT INTERN..."



"...AND MY FAULT HE FOUND THE SCISSORS HE NEEDED TO REMOVE HIS MASK..."



...AND LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HIM.

HIS METALLIC SKIN IS DISSOLVING, SLOWLY UNTIL NOW... BUT AS HE SPENDS MORE TIME AWAY FROM HIS MEDICATION, THE PROCESS WILL INCREASE...



HE'LL DIE... AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY!

MINE!



POOR T. KID.



IT'S TIME PETER PARKER MADE HIS ENTRANCE...

...AND SINCE MY IDENTITY AS SPIDEY IS A SECRET...



...I'LL HAVE TO SLIP THROUGH THE APARTMENT NEXT TO MARY JANE'S...



...AND HOPE NO ONE SPOTS ME BEFORE I REACH THE FRONT DOOR!



TERRIFIC. SO MUCH FOR STEALTH, EH, WEB-SLINGER?

NICE POOCH, DOWN POOCH, GOOD POO--



DO ME A FAVOR, M.J. DON'T ASK.











THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

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

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM STAN, ROY, AND MARVEL COMICS

By the time this message appears in any of our mags, you'll already have noticed that all of our 36-page comic magazines are now 25¢—a nickel more than they were a few short weeks ago.

Maybe your first reaction to the price hike was the same as ours might be if we were in your shoes: "What's Marvel trying to do to us, anyway? Don't they know we've got enough troubles, what with inflation, shortages, and an energy crisis on our hands, without trying to clip us for 5¢ more every time we want a little fantasy-filled escape from it all? What is this—some kind of rip-off, so that Stan and Roy can vacation on the Riviera this year?"

If that was your reaction, it's an understandable one—and we'd just like to ask you to listen to our side of it for a minute before you decide:

This year, the widely-publicized paper shortage (in addition to various labor settlements among the companies that print, sell, and distribute Marvel Comics) caused additional expenses to Marvel of several hundred thousand dollars. That means that we had to make that much extra money just to stay even, despite the fact that our sales in 1973 were the best in the business.

So, we had no choice, really, but to increase the cover price of our magazines, the same way that just about everybody else has to. And, just in case you think we're now getting rich off that new-found nickel: Believe it or not, that extra copper only covers about half the cost of the paper strike and other shortages.

What're we doing about the whole situation?

We think the answer's obvious, if you take a look at some of the titles we're now publishing besides our 36-pagers. There's our increasingly popular 75¢ line of full-scale magazines, first of all. Already, our four flagship 75-centers are being joined by THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU and the return (on March 26) of SAVAGE TALES—with two or three more much-requested titles of mags already in the works.

Likewise, there's our spanking new, sensational 35¢ giant-size comics—a full 52 pages of colorful cawing, and now a bigger bargain than ever!

Not only that, but the next few weeks will herald the coming of a brand new Marvel phenomenon: our swingin' SUPER-GIANTS, featuring one hundred big pages for just 60¢ including a feature-length new tale each and every issue. The Bullpen Bulletins Pages will give you the full scam, next time around—but rest assured that you're gonna be getting your money's worth!

Not only that—but we've got other plans we can't even hint at yet!

Well, that's about it. We've had our say.

About the only other thing we can do is to affirm once more that, just as we've been doing for over a decade now, every artist and writer in the Bullpen will be striving night and day, even harder than ever (if that's possible), to see to it that you consider—each precious coin spent on a Marvel mag to be one of the wisest investments you ever made.

Let's lick this thing together, okay?

Thanks for listening.

Dear Gerry, Ross, Frank, and Roy,

SPIDER-MAN #129 was all right! It brought back both memories of and the style of the earlier years of SPIDER-MAN. It was very much like #26 and #27, though the Punisher was a misguided good guy and the Crime Master of those earlier issues was definitely a baddie.

The Jackal and the Green Goblin are so much alike it is obvious they are related in some way. The face and the costume are quite similar. The electro-prods the Jackal used compare with the Goblin's devices. Both of them wore masks. The Green Goblin removed his to reveal Norman Osborn. The mask of the Jackal hides Harry Osborn's face, doesn't it?

Don't unmask him yet. Continue his adventures in the footsteps of his late father. Make my no-prize goblin green.

Amos Render
(no address given)

Dear Gerry, Ross, and Roy,

I just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #129 and wish to make a few comments:

(1) The cover: fantastic!

(2) The art: great! Ross Andru is rapidly coming to be among Marvel's best artists. The art makes me feel homesick for the late, great DOC SAVAGE mag (which I hope will return).

(3) The story: seems familiar. Could I have read something like it about a man named Mack Bolan? Mr. Conway has been a favorite of mine ever since I read his novel: The Midnight Dancers. He handled the story fantastically.

(4) The sum-up: a far-out comic book. The Punisher has fantastic possibilities. I would like to see much more of him. Maybe a strip of his own?

Michael Bryant
Box 345, Wallins, Ky. 40873

Dear Spidey People,

Things are looking up. Andru's SPIDER-MAN gets better issue by issue (though I still miss Romita), and Spidey is getting over Gwen's death. Pretty good.

I do have some small gripes. The Jackal is a little too much like the Goblin to suit me, and Spidey seems to be just existing with nothing really happening in his personal life. I hope this period doesn't last too long; I enjoy all the neat little subplots more than anything else.

On the last page of #129, you mentioned that Hammerhead is coming back. Hammerhead is okay, but why not bring back the top gangster, the Kingpin? He's been gone 'way too long.

Bill Wormstedt
5 Highland Hall
Bellingham, Wash. 98225

Let's work backward through these three letters and try to answer all the comments and criticisms.

Bill: Spidey's life is sort of stagnating just now—because that's the way he wants it: he's purposefully avoiding any close personal relationships at the moment, for reasons that should be obvious. But, yes, it is going to change—probably whether Pete likes it or not. And as for any resemblance between the Jackal and the late, lamented Green Goblin—don't judge too quickly.

Jackie is actually much more sinister in some ways, and definitely far less noble than Gobby ever was.

Mike: If you liked *Midnight Dancers*, don't fail to pick up on Gerry's latest sci-fi novel, *Mindship*, which should be on sale now in paperback from DAW Books. And, yes, the Punisher will be back—and very possibly in a strip all his own. No definite word yet, though. Ross and Gerry thank you for the good words.

Amos: Don't leap to any hasty conclusions about what face is hidden behind the Jackal's mask. It could be Harry, true. Or it could be someone we've never met before. For that matter, it could be Howard the Duck! One thing we will tell you: when you do find out who Jackie really is, it'll be the shock of your comics-reading life.

Dear Marvel,

I have found that there is at least one Marvel character for each letter of the alphabet: Ant-Man, Black Widow, Captain America, Daredevil, Electro, Falcon, Goliath, Hulk, Iron Man, Jonah Jameson, Kraven the Hunter, Lizard, Mar-Vell, Namor, Otto Octavius, Prowler, Quicksilver, Rhino, Spider-Man, Thor, Ulik, Vision, Warlock, Xorr, Yildiz, Zzzax. I challenge any Marvelite to come up with a list of completely different names.

Jody Hall
Bellflower, Ca.

Hmmmm, Arkon, Betty Brant, Conan, Dr. Doom, Eon, Fandral, Giant-Man, Hawkeye, Invisible Girl, Jackal, Killraven, Luke Cage, Man-Thing, Norman Osborn, Odin, Pepper Hogan, Quincy Harker, Reed Richards, Son of Satan, Thanos, Umbu the Unliving (!), Victorius, Wundarr, X-Men, Yellowjacket, Zartza. (We can't resist a challenge.)

Gentlemen,

I think I like the way you are handling the SPIDER-MAN magazine. I say "think" because it's a rare occasion when I am able to find SPIDER-MAN in Bowling Green. If it weren't for the numerous explanatory notes throughout the magazine, I'd be completely at a loss as to what was going on. But suffice it to say I enjoyed #129 very much.

Mr. Conway wrote a very good story this issue. The Punisher character particularly impressed me, because he is not the usual cold-blooded, totally evil villain. Instead, he was a human being, with human emotions and human frailties. He was so caught up in self-righteous indignation against the evil which he thought Spider-Man committed, that he was unable to see the true evil in the Jackal. After reading this story, I thought about all the times I'd ever judged a person hastily,

without knowing all the facts.

As for the regular characters, I almost feel that I know them from the real world. J. Jonah Jameson—so caught up in his work he has no time for anything or anyone else; Mary Jane—so intent on having a good time she doesn't care for anyone but herself; and of course, Peter Parker—torn between the rigors of being a superhero and those of being human.

This is what I consider to be very good writing. And coupled with Ross Andru's action-packed artwork, those are two big reasons why I liked SPIDER-MAN #129 and why I wish I could find the magazine more often.

Brian Schuck
Bowling Green, Ohio

Thanks much for the obviously heartfelt words of praise, Brian. We appreciate it.

But there's no need for you to wonder from month to month whether you'll be able to find the current SPIDER-MAN. If no store in your area carries the mag regularly, why not subscribe to SPIDEY—and your other favorite Marvel mags, too? All the information you need to get a subscription is contained in the small print beneath the title page of each magazine. Check it out. (And we'll do our part and check out the distribution situation in your area.)

And that's it for this month's Spider's Web, gang. We'll be back again in thirty days—and we hope you will, too. Meanwhile, don't forget you can also enjoy Spidey, and a different guest-star each issue; every month in MARVEL TEAM-UP. And don't forget what they say around the water cooler at the Daily Bugle: the solution to the energy crisis is to harness that hot air that blasts from J.J.J.'s mouth.



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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

If you happened to miss the ol' Soapbox last ish, it's because I was in sunny Italy and didn't return in time to write it. But don't think I deserted you, O True Believer! I was there on your behalf, and now that I'm back I'm just bustin' to tell you about the fun and excitement of the biggest comic-book convention of them all. About 200 miles south of Milan, in the beautiful, ancient city of Lucca, they've been holding an annual comic-book congress for the past eight years. This year's Lucca 9 was the biggest yet. The whole town played host to writers and artists from all over the world. There were shows, panels, exhibits, and ceremonies lasting an entire week. Inside the main auditorium the seats were equipped with earphones through which you could hear translations of every speech in virtually every language. It was like being at the U.N., but lots more fun. And if those wild, warm, and wonderful Italians aren't the friendliest people around, then Thor bleaches his hair! But the thing that impressed me most—the thing I want you to know, is—in Europe comics are taken far more seriously by the adult population than in America. If you didn't know Lucca 9 was comic-book oriented you'd have thought it was a business convention. The adults, including the Mayor of Lucca himself, far outnumbered the youngsters in attendance. There were professors, businessmen, scientists, filmmakers, lawyers, and literally hundreds of other mature, serious fans deeply involved in one of the most popular art forms of all—the ubiquitous comic-strip! So here's to all of Marvel's fabulous friends in Lucca, and throughout the free world. So long as we strangers from different lands can come together in good will and mutual respect; so long as art can help to forge a lasting bond between people and nations; then so long shall there still be hope for an abiding peace upon this troubled earth.

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! We've lots of bombshells to explode this time around, so let's get rolling, shall we—?

ITEM! The big news this month—and we do mean big—is a fabulous pair of new mags sporting 52 great pages for just 35¢! That's right—our swingin' Summer-of-'73 Specials were such a rousing success, and so many of you requested more of the same, that we began work almost at once on a regular line of 35-

centers. The only difference is, these new titles will contain mostly new stories and art, plus a whole passel of bonus features such as pin-ups, interviews, and more surprises than you can shake a Forbush at! The first of these mind-benders has already been on sale for a few weeks now: the first far-out issue of GIANT-SIZE SUPER-STARS, headlining the *Fantastic Four*, no less (with the ever-incredible Hulk as guest star)! As those of you who purchased this sell-out sensation already know, SUPER-STARS is a monthly mag, featuring no less than three rotating series, in the style of those Mystery Movies that've taken TV by storm. The F.F. led off the parade, of course, and this month's second slambang issue heralds the much-requested team-up of two of the most monstrous super-villains of all—Morbis, the Living Vampire, and the menacing Man-Wolf (alias John Jameson), against none other than your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! While the third ish, on sale in April, will star still another of Marvel's mightiest: Conan the Barbarian! Then, the whole cycle will start all over again, with the F.F., Spidey, and Conan each appearing four times a year, in some of the most spectacular sagas ever recorded—we kid you not!

That's GIANT-SIZE SUPER-STARS, still on sale—if you're lucky!

Got it? Okay, then you're all set for our next scoop—!

ITEM! Our second magnificent new 35¢ mag has a title nearly as mind-boggling as the first: it's GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS, and it debuts March 12, starring (who else?) the one and only Dracula himself! But, this sinister series is called "The Curse of Dracula," and it'll be a wee bit different from the Lord of Vampires' other Marvel misadventures, for it'll deal mainly with those whose lives are touched by our blood-thirsting Count in some way, beginning with Dracula's very own daughter, as depicted on this self-same page! (Don't worry, though—our Transylvanian terror will appear prominently in each and every one of these tales!) And, since our new monthly CHILLERS mag has the same format as SUPER-STARS, Drac's new fear-fests will alternate with those of two other baneful new lights in the Marvel firmament: Werewolf by Night, and the macabre Man-Thing! All in GIANT-SIZE SUPER-CHILLERS!

Hope that's all clear, Flame-Keeper. 'Cause as of right now—you're on your own!

ITEM! And, sharing the limelight with these two blockbusters, have we got news for you! SAVAGE TALES is coming back for the third time—and this time, we're gonna go 'way out on a limb and predict that this most-honored Marvel mag is here to stay! In fact, we're so sure of it that we've already scheduled it for bi-monthly publications, like our

other 75¢ titles, with the first of the new series going on sale March 26! There'll be brand new, grand new Conan sagas by the likes of Barry Smith, John Buscema, Gil Kane, and Neal Adams—special items of interest to sword-and-sorcery swashbucklers the world over—plus a phantasmagorical new feature on the greatest fantasy films of all time! Now, if that isn't 'nuff said, we don't know what is!

ITEM! Whew! We've just room enough to tell you that a couple of other new series make their debut this month as well. One is *The Living Mummy*, who returns as the star of SUPERNATURAL THRILLERS, where he made his first foray a few months back. The other is *The Golem*, whose stomping grounds (and we mean just that!) will be STRANGE TALES. All this—plus an extra-special issue of WORLDS UNKNOWN, featuring an awesome adaptation of Columbia Pictures' new thriller, "The Golden Voyage of Sinbad!" Need we say it? It's the Marvel Age of Comics all over again!

ITEM! Due to a last-minute emergency, we had to forego our widely-acclaimed Bullpen Bonus Page this go-round. So, we'll have to wait till next month to tell you all about the brain-blasting bargains that'll be yours when you've amassed a complete set of MARVEL VALUE STAMPS—or about some of the hectic hijinx which the World's Weirdest Bullpen have been up to—not to mention the return of our capricious Checklist. Next time, though, we promise you two full pages of Marvel news and views! Just wait and see!

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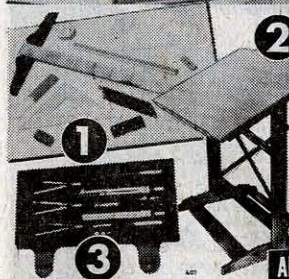
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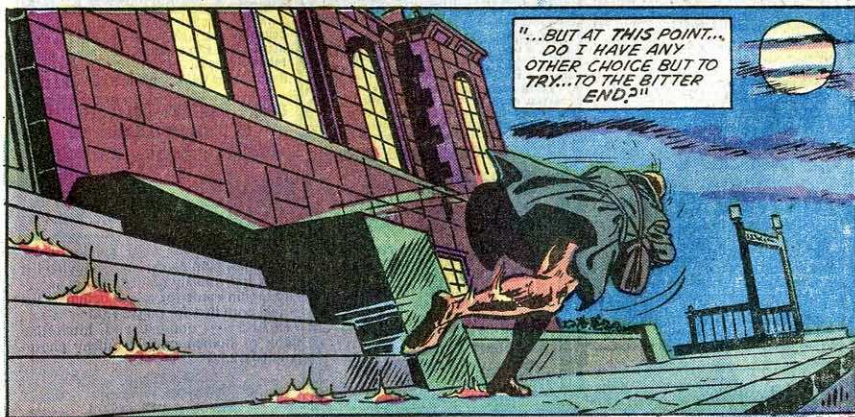
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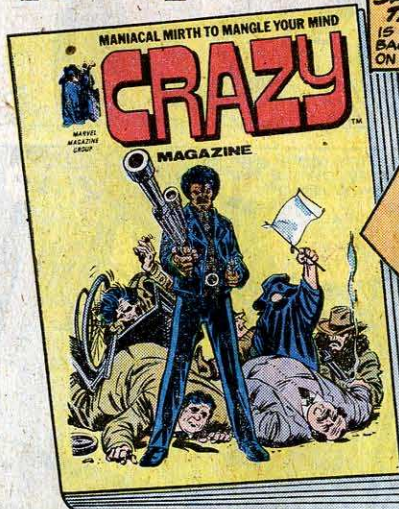


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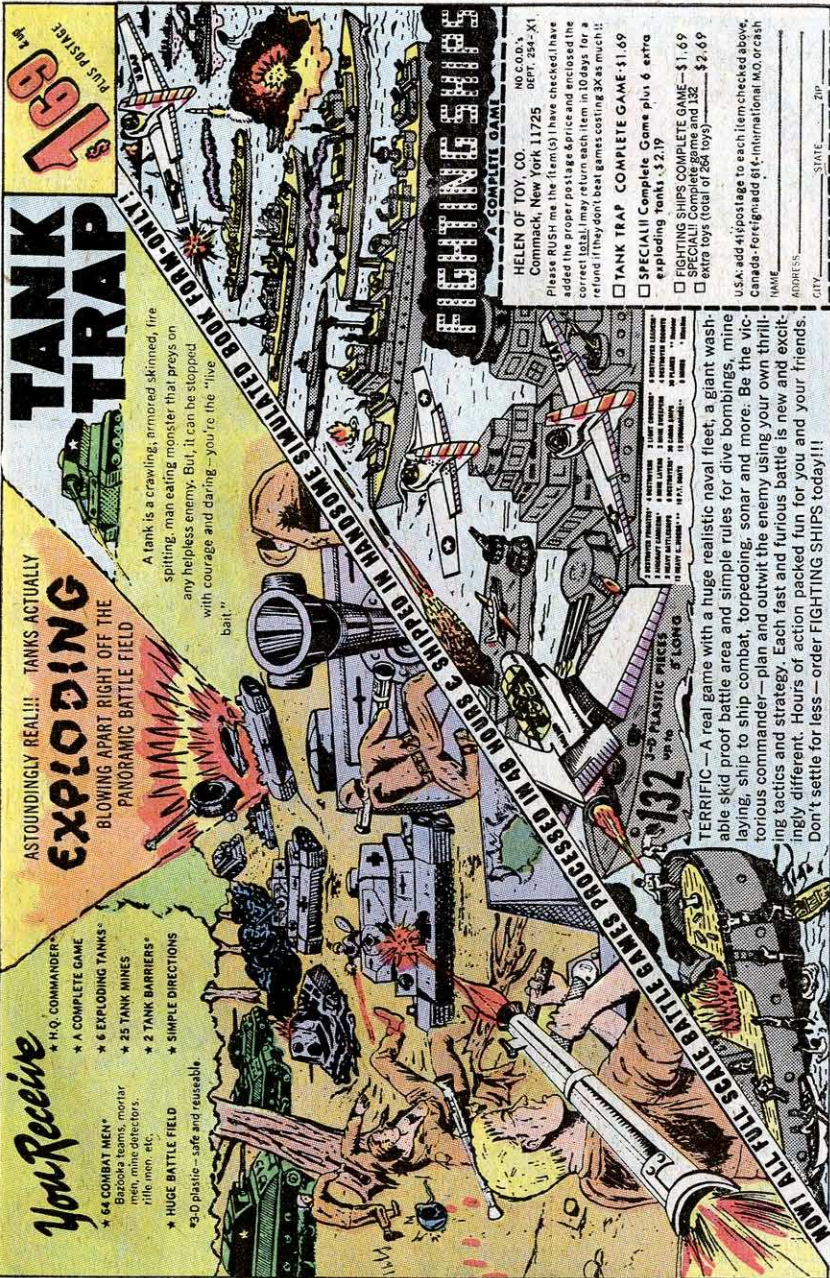
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EVER
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TO ME IS
BECAUSE
OF YOU!

I'LL
DESTROY
YOU--



--TEAR
YOU
APART
WITH MY
BARE
HANDS!



BUDDY,
HAVE
YOU
GOT
THINGS
BACKWARD!

I'D TAKE
THE TIME
TO DISCUSS
IT WITH
YOU--



--BUT FRANKLY, SAVING MY NECK
TAKES PRIORITY, AND SINCE YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO KNOCKED US BOTH
OFF THIS BRIDGE--



--I'M SURE YOU WON'T
MIND IF I SPEND A FEW
OF OUR TREASURED
MOMENTS TOGETHER
SPINNING A
HANDY WEB!

FIRST YOU SAVED
THAT REPORTER,
NED LEEDS--

KREAK-

SNAP!



--NOW YOU'VE
ATTACKED ME,
WHEN I WAS SO
CLOSE TO
SUCCESS!

I HAD ALL THE
ELEMENTS I NEEDED
TO CURE MYSELF--
ALL BUT ONE, AND
THAT ONE I STOLE
THIS EVENING--

WHANG!



IF I'D ESCAPED, I COULD
HAVE REDISCOVERED THE
FORMULA THAT CREATED
THIS ACCURSED GOLDEN
SHELL...

I COULD
HAVE SAVED MY-
SELF, IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR--END

SURE YOU COULD
HAVE, RAXTON--
AND MY NAME'S
SANTA CLAUS!





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