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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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While attending a demonstration in radiology, high-school student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the spider's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™**

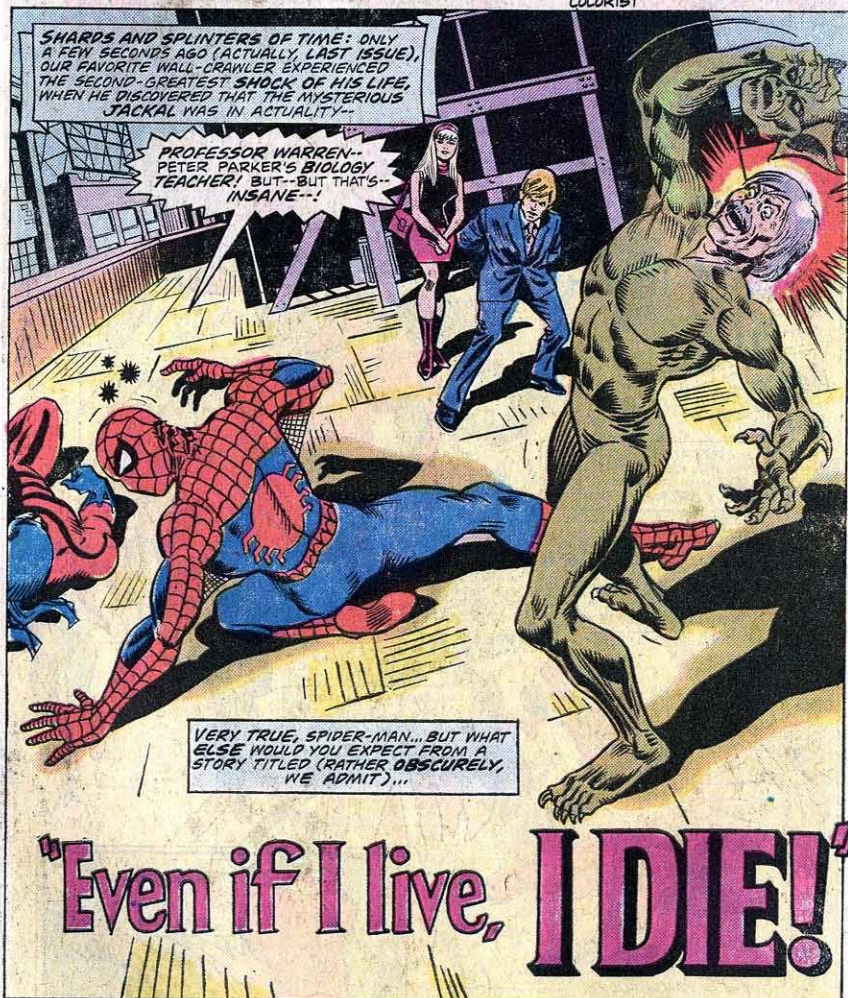
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TIME, SPLINTERS AND SHARDS OF:

STRUCK FROM BEHIND BY THE JACKAL'S SPECIALLY DRUGGED CLAW, OUR HERO SLUMPS FORWARD ONTO THE TARPAPERED ROOF, HIS MIND ROAMING BACKWARD OVER THE PAST DAY'S EVENTS:

HE RECALLS BEING THROWN FROM THE TOP OF THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE BY THE JACKAL AND HIS TEMPORARY COHORT, THE TARANTULA--

POLICE

--AND HE RECALLS ESCAPING FROM THE POLICE BOAT WHICH RESCUED HIM AFTER HE'D INGENUOUSLY BROKEN HIS FALL--

FURTHER, HE REMEMBERS GOING WITH NED LEEDS TO PROFESSOR WARREN, TO CHECK ON THE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN CELL SAMPLES FROM WHICH GWEN STACY'S CLONE HAD BEEN CREATED--

--SAMPLES WHICH WARREN CLAIMED HAD BEEN STOLEN BY A MAN NAMED ANTHONY SERBA.

YES, HE RELIVES IT ALL: THE FIGHT WITH TARANTULA ON THE ROOF OF SERBA'S OLD APARTMENT--

--THE VICTORY--

--AND THEN THE CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE JACKAL STRIKING-- TYPICALLY-- FROM BEHIND.

HE REMEMBERS, AND THEN THE MEMORY COLLAPSES--



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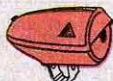
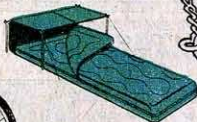
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"THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS WERE QUITE BUSY ONES, PARKER. I HAD TO CARE FOR THE CLONES, DESIGN MY JACKAL EQUIPMENT AND COSTUME, TRAIN MYSELF ATHLETICALLY, ALL THE WHILE BEING DRIVEN BY ONE CONSUMING PASSION:



"THE RE-CREATION OF A WOMAN I--THAT IS, A GIRL I FELT--I--



"THE RE-CREATION OF GWEN STACY--AND THE ACTING OUT OF MY REVENGE FOR HER SAVAGE SLAYING!

"AT LAST, THE DAY CAME--

"--HER CLONE CASKET OPENED WITH A PNEUMATIC SIGH--



"--AND I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING AT BEAUTY, CHASTE AND PURE, UNSULLIED BY THE FILTH OF A WORLD GONE MAD.

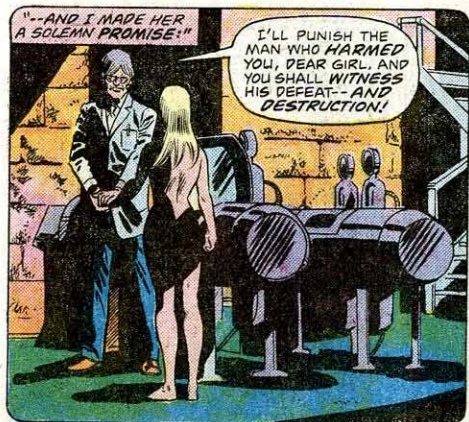


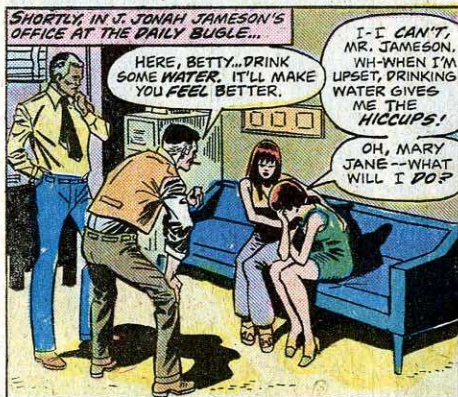
"NATURALLY, SHE WAS COMPLETELY INNOCENT--

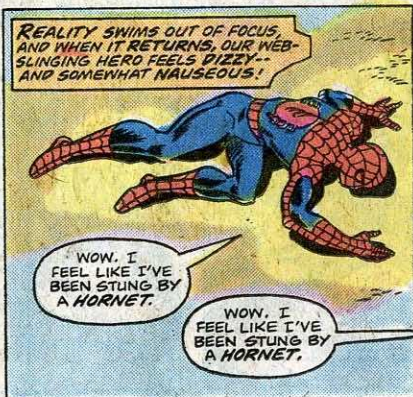


"--WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST MEMORY OF HER LAST FEW HOURS OF LIFE.

"I HELPED HER FROM THE CASKET--









HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?

HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU, FELLA--AND WHERE'S THE JACKAL?

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...



...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE GAG IS, BUT I'M NOT LAUGHING!

NEITHER AM I, HANDSOME.

EITHER YOU TELL ME WHERE THE JACKAL IS HIDING, AND WHAT HE'S DONE WITH GWEN AND NED LEEDS, OR I'LL--



YOU'LL DO NOTHING, MY WEB-SPINNING FRIEND!

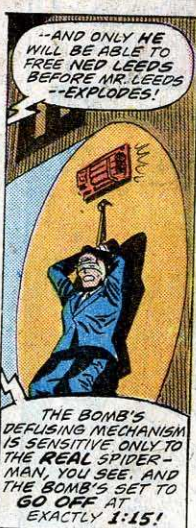
IN CASE YOU HADN'T GUESSED, SPIDER-MAN-- GWEN WASN'T THE ONLY CLONE I MADE!



I ALSO MADE A CLONE OF PETER PARKER! THAT INJECTION I GAVE YOU EARLIER REMOVED SOME OF YOUR RNA-- YOUR MEMORY CELLS!

BOTH YOU AND YOUR CLONE BELIEVE YOURSELVES TO BE-- REAL.

BUT ONLY ONE OF YOU IS --



--AND ONLY HE WILL BE ABLE TO FREE NED LEEDS BEFORE MR. LEEDS --EXPLODES!

THE BOMB'S DEFUSING MECHANISM IS SENSITIVE ONLY TO THE REAL SPIDER-MAN, YOU SEE. AND THE BOMB'S SET TO GO OFF AT EXACTLY 1:15!



HAVE FUN, FELLAS.

I KNOW WHO I AM, PAL-- SO I GUESS I'D BETTER GET THAT BOMB!

NOT SO FAST, FRIEND--



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 375 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Before digging into this month's letters we would like to make the following statement. We regret the fashion in which we depicted the Mindworm's house in the November 1974 issue, as it is an actual residence located in the Rockaway section of Queens.

Now, on to your captivating comments on SPIDER-MAN #145...

This issue we're going to break tradition just a bit, and publish just excerpts from the *mountains* of mail that we received on SPIDER-MAN #145. In fact, in order to give you as much room to sound off as possible, we're gonna hold off until the end of the column before we add our own reciprocating remarks. Onward...

Dear Marvel,

No! No! No!! A thousand times, NO! Why bring Gwen Stacy back? You are defeating your own purpose in "writing her out" of the script of Spidey.

SPIDER-MAN has always had realism in it (despite its sometimes somewhat exaggerated villains). I am deeply interested in the outcome of who (or what) this new Gwen Stacy is. Whatever may be the answer, please don't go into an unbelievable explanation, just keep realism the main point as you have most of the time in the past.

Stealing Manhattan in a recent TEAM-UP can be somewhat forgiven, but a poor excuse for the reappearance of Gwen, no way.

Jan Travis
RD 2-Almond Rd.
Hornell, NY 14843

Dear Stan,

So now we know Gwen Stacy is still alive. I expect Norman Osborn, Captain Stacy and even Uncle Ben are probably alive and returning soon, too. It's a good idea. They will be needed to help Spidey get through his next 25 or 30 years of college.

David A. Lofvers
66 Crestfield Dr.
Rochester, NY 14617

Dear Marvel,

I wish that every Marvel reader, and not just FOOM members, could see the Gerry Conway interview you published on page 27 of FOOM magazine #8. What monumental insensitivity! No wonder I haven't liked Conway's scripting. In the old days Spidey was a regular Holden Caulfield. Now he's about as sensitive as John Wayne or (even worse) Gerry Conway.

I have a couple questions about that interview. It says that Gerry was forced to bring back Gwen Stacy. What lamebrain forced him to do that, and why? Killing Gwen was a stupid mistake, but bringing her back will only make things worse.

Can I give you a relevant quote from the Spider's Web #126? Some people asked if you could bring Gwen back, and you said, "In a word: no. We cannot. Life (and death) simply doesn't work that way. To somehow revive Gwen now would, in our view, be perhaps the single most

tasteless act ever committed in comics. Think on it, and we believe you'll have to agree."
I agree.

And whosever decision it was, after reading the interview in FOOM #8 I think that he and Gerry Conway are running a close race for Mr. Tasteless of 1975.

Richard Nathan
2002 Fourth St. Apt. #208
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Stan and the Bullpen:

SPIDER-MAN #145 was just beautiful! It had everything. Gerry's storyline was stupendous. Ross's art was wonderful. Frank and Dave's inks were stunning. Even the lettering by Artie made me gasp in awe. You brought back one of Spidey's great old foes. Pete's weak-hearted Aunt May, and, to top things off, you mystify all of Marveldom with the return of Gwen Stacy. This issue is truly a modern day classic.

Thanks for a true Marvel masterpiece.

Chip S. Lind
2342 10th St.
Rockford, IL 61108

Okay you guys,

What's going on? Sure, it's one of Marvel's strong points that it responds to the cries of Marveldom Assembled, but I don't think anybody really (I mean *really*) expected Gwen Stacy to come back! It was a tough lump to swallow when she died, but it happened, and after I got used to the fact that she was gone, I was making the best of it along with everyone else.

I hope her return isn't something fake. Personally, I wish you hadn't brought Gwen back, but it's a little too late for that, isn't it? I'll reserve my final judgment until I find out a few more details, and when I decide if I love it or hate it, I'll be sure to let you know.

Despite criticisms I've had over the years, I can honestly admit that I've never been bored by Spider-Man!! See you later.

Rook Jones
3053 Tremont St.
Allentown, PA

And we hope you never *will* be, Rook. Seriously folks, we want to thank each and every one who wrote in for your letters both pro and con on the events leading up to the return of "Gwen."

Now it's straight-forward reply time: For those of you who are not yet aware, the decision to bring back Gwen was made by none other than ol' Smilin' Stan himself. After absorbing the deluge of mail that poured in after the now-classic epic of SPIDER-MAN #121, and after much deliberation, Stan decided to yield to the pressures of Marveldom Assembled and bring back one of Marvel's most well-loved characters.

However, the batty Bullpen thought that it would be quite right to bring Gwen herself "back from the dead" as it were, and we came up with the idea of making the returning Gwen Stacy, a clone, not to mention all of the plot mechanisms leading up to that revelation and the entire SPIDER-MAN cast's reactions to it. We're waiting with bated breath after this issue's climactic conclusion, to see if the vast legions of Spideyophiles think we pulled it off.

Don't let us down, Marvelites, we're countin' on ya!

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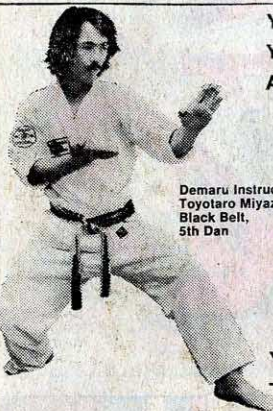
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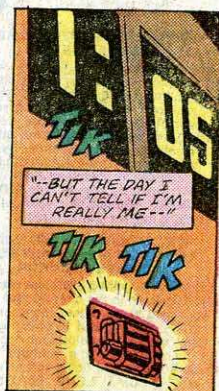
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OTHER....!

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WONDER-
FUL?



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PASSING SECOND,
TIME RUNS OUT
FOR THEIR
FRIEND--

--AND
STILL THEY
BATTLE--



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GOT TO STOP THIS!
I MEAN, WHAT WE'RE
DOING IS ABSURD!

ALL MY LIFE,
I'VE HAD TROUBLE
KNOWING MY-
SELF--



--ALWAYS
WONDERING WHO--
OR WHAT--
SPIDER-MAN
REALLY IS!

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING
MYSELF EVER SINCE THE
DAY I FIRST BECAME
SPIDER-MAN--



--AND NOW
I REALIZE, IF I
DON'T DECLARE
PEACE--



--THIS SELF-
WAR WILL
NEVER
END!

YOU'RE
MAKING
SENSE,
FELLA.

IT'S
TOO
BAD,
REALLY--



--SINCE
OUR TIME IS
RUNNING
OUT!



YOU--YOU
MONSTER!

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TRYING TO KILL
HIM! I SEE
THAT NOW--



YOU'RE NOTHING
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THE KING IS BACK! 'NUFF SAID!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This month's news is too big to hold off for another minute! Jack Kirby is back! Yep, that's right! O! King Kirby (and don't forget, it was at Marvel that he got that sobriquet) has returned to the bosom of the bluishin' Bullpen! This is where his heart is—this is where it all started—and this is where one of the greatest talents in comics belongs. One of Jolly Jack's first projects will be a Marvel Treasury edition of (hold onto your hat) 2001, A SPACE ODYSSEY! Also, he'll start on another brand new series dealing with the Gods that walk amongst us! And, just to prove the master's hand still hasn't lost its touch, he'll be taking over the strip he started more than three decades ago—the one and only CAPTAIN AMERICA! Jack'll be writing and drawing the whole magilla by his lonesome. Much as I'm itchin' to collaborate with him once more, I've still got to finish writing SON OF ORIGINS so that the great new sequel to ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS can be on sale for you before this Christmas. But, as soon as Jack and I get a breather, and when you least expect it, watch for a gigantic special edition of— you guessed it—THE SILVER SURFER! Anyway, one of the most dramatic moments in the Mighty Marvel Con, which was held at Easter time, was when most of the Bullpen was on stage for a panel discussion of The Fantastic Four, and I mentioned that I had a special announcement to make. As I started telling about Jack's return, to a totally incredulous audience, everyone's head started to snap around as Kirby himself came waitin' down the aisle to join us on the rostrum! You can imagine how it felt clownin' around with the co-creator of most of Marvel's greatest strips once more. Now, if we could only find poor old Irving Forbush! Anyway, the Con was a total triumph! Kirby's back! Howard the Duck loves you all! And every day's a holiday at Marvel! So, till we meet again, remember those imperishable words of Aunt Petunia—never speak harshly of your enemy—when you can kick 'im in the shins instead!

Excelsior!

Stan



and possible greatest guest-star extravaganza of all—the super-team supreme—THE CHAMPIONS! Featuring five of the most far-out fightin' furies ever to cross the pages of a comic mag, this brainchild of TONY (the Tiger) ISABELLA is even at this moment being blazingly brought to life by Dashing DON HECK, whose pulse-pounding pencils on both THE AVENGERS and THE DEFENDERS elicited such enormous approval from Marveldom Assembled! So join Tony, Don, THE ANGEL, THE BLACK WIDOW, GHOST RIDER, HERCULES, THE ICEMAN, and a volume of vile villains for this power-packed premiere—on sale in July! (And while you're waiting, you might pick up on a few other super-group sensations—namely the FANTASTIC FOUR, the aforementioned AVENGERS and DEFENDERS, the X-MEN, the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, and those wide-eyed wonders of World War II—THE INVADERS. At Marvel, everybody gets into the act!)

ITEM! Look out, Lockjaw! Watch out, Redwing! here comes the all-time ace of the animal kingdom—HOWARD THE DUCK! That's right, O True Believer! Stan and the Marvel Gang proudly present an



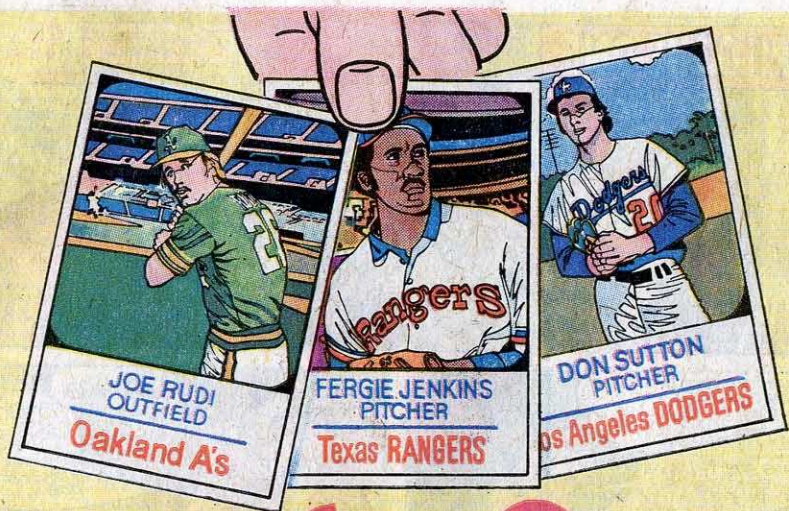
ITEM! If you think the triumphant return of the King (which has got to be the most awesome arrival since MacArthur trucked on back to the Philippines) is the only big event coming at you from your brain-blastin' Bullpen, we'll just have to casually mention the title of our grandest, goofiest,

all-new comic mag masterpiece starring the Aquatic Avenger whose uncanny deeds of derring-do have astonished readers in THE MAN-THING. Once more, STEVE GERBER and FRANK BRUNNER combine talents to give you what may turn out to be the greatest humor or greatest adventure mag the world has ever known. Once more, that's HOWARD THE DUCK—now in his own book! And you thought we didn't love ya!

ITEM! "Cut off a limb and two more shall take its place!" So sayeth Hydra... and so sayeth MARVEL! In case you were wondering what we had in store for you in our magnificent magazine line, wonder no more. First off, SAVAGE TALES (starring KA-ZAR) is gone. But it's being replaced by not one, but two great new titles—MARVEL SUPER ACTION (starring KA-ZAR, THE PUNISHER and DOMINIC FORTUNE) and SHERLOCK HOLMES (the dean of detectives in exciting adventures as portrayed by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Valiant VAL MAYERIK). Secondly, DRACULA LIVES and VAMPIRE TALES are gone. But they're being replaced by not one, but two, but four new magazines—THE LEGION OF MONSTERS (presenting spine-chilling stories of DRACULA, THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER, and the all-new MANPHIBIAN), MASTERS OF TERROR (the works of Robert E. Howard, H.P. Lovecraft, Robert Bloch, and other titans of the typewriter—re-presented in comics form), MARVEL MOVIE PREMIERE (the sensations of cinematic—brought to you by masterful Marvel), and STAR-LORD (science-fiction with a difference!). How's that for making Hydra look like a pack of pikers?

ITEM! It had to happen! After two years and 196 pages (surely a rollickin' record of some sort), Dauntless DON MCGREGOR'S classic tale of heroism and revolution, "Panther's Rage," is drawing to a close. So don't dare miss the latest issue of JUNGLE ACTION starring THE BLACK PANTHER! (P.S. for BILLY GRAHAM watchers: just who is that handsome dude we've been seeing in the back-ground of television commercials for such diverse products as beer and chewing gum? Darned if he doesn't look familiar.)

ITEM! If you missed MARVELCON '75, pilgrim, then you missed the comics cavalcade of the decade! Not only was Jack Kirby's return to Marvel announced before an enthralled crowd, but most of your favorite Marvel madmen were there to meet and greet all the keepers of the flame who likewise keep us from going bankrupt! There were panels, displays, and even guest appearances by Spidey and ol' Cap America themselves! Even if you missed the event of the convention year, though, you can still share in the fun! Just pick up on FOOH MAGAZINE #10 and dig on our special photo-news report on the festivities! And, of course, there's always MARVELCON '76! Year after year, Marvel's number one! Believe it!



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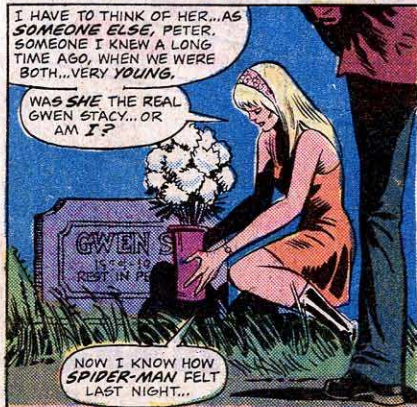
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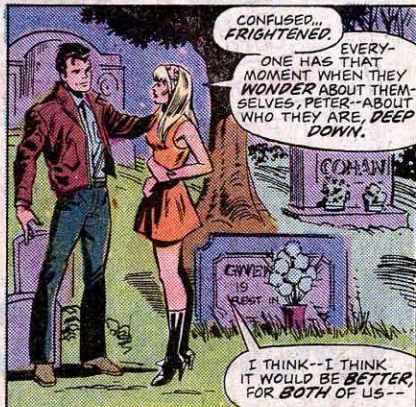
A CEMETERY IN QUEENS...



I HAVE TO THINK OF HER...AS SOMEONE ELSE, PETER. SOMEONE I KNEW A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN WE WERE BOTH...VERY YOUNG.

WAS SHE THE REAL GWEN STACY...OR AM I?

NOW I KNOW HOW SPIDER-MAN FELT LAST NIGHT...



CONFUSED... FRIGHTENED.

EVERYONE HAS THAT MOMENT WHEN THEY WONDER ABOUT THEMSELVES, PETER--ABOUT WHO THEY ARE, DEEP DOWN.

I THINK--I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER, FOR BOTH OF US--



--IF WE DIDN'T PRETEND TO BE THE SAME PEOPLE WE WERE WHEN PETER PARKER LOVED GWEN STACY--AND SHE LOVED HIM.

I WISH I COULD KNOW YOU THE WAY SHE KNEW YOU, PETER-- BUT I CAN'T.

BECAUSE I CAN'T... THIS IS GOODBYE.

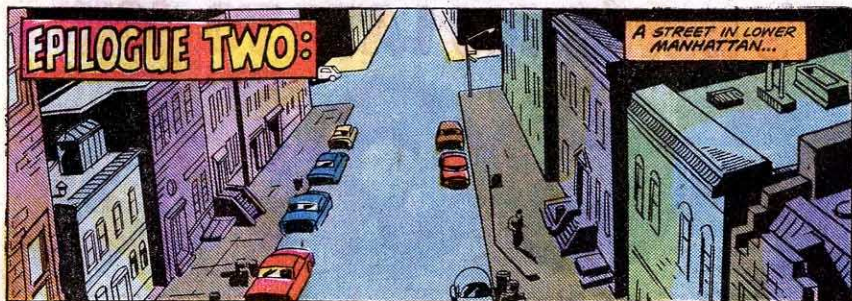


GWEN, MAYBE IF WE...

DON'T SAY IT, PETER.

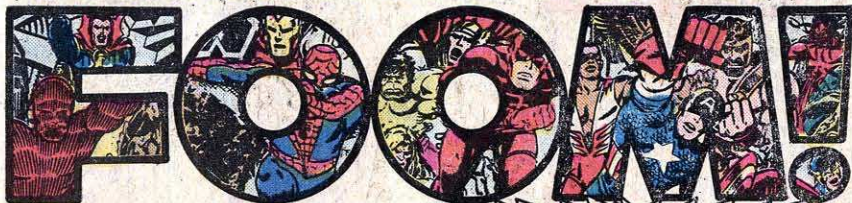
TURN YOUR HEAD... AND PLEASE, DON'T LOOK BACK.





NEXT ISSUE: **SPIDER-MAN** *or* **SPIDER-CLONE?**

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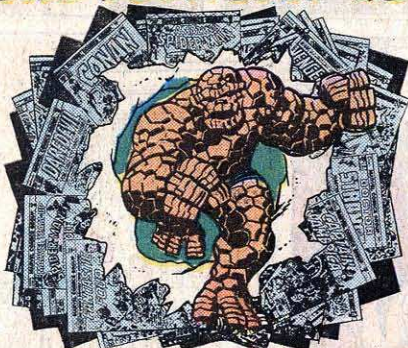
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TWO-IN-ONE

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DEFENDERS
FANTASTIC FOUR
INCREDIBLE HULK
IRON MAN
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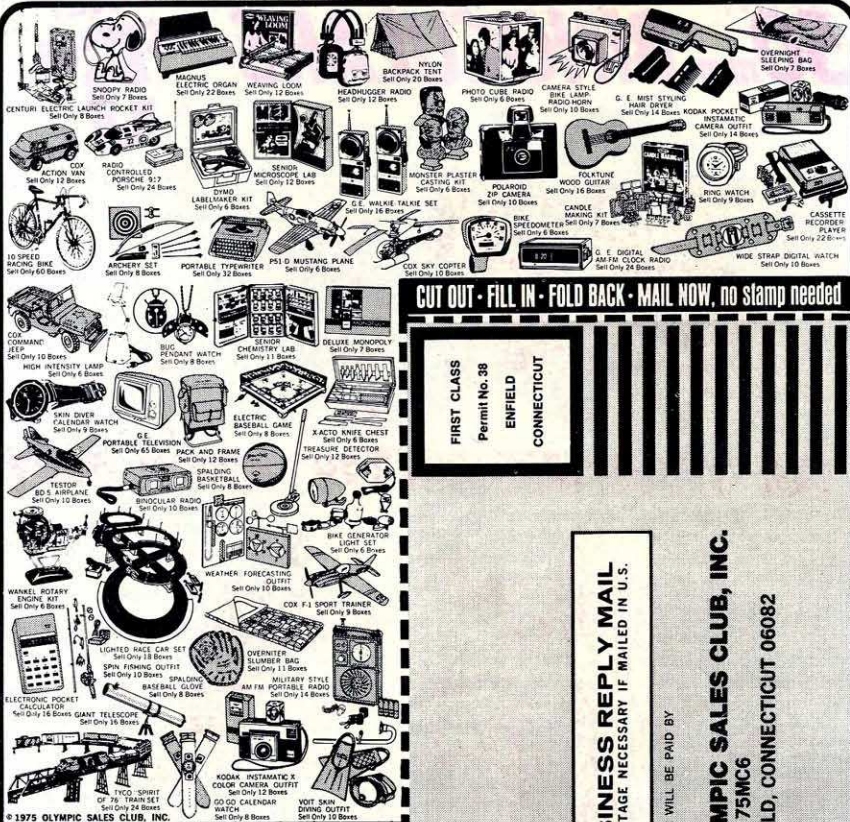
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