

SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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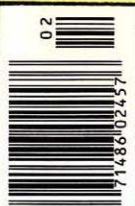


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

STAND ASIDE, FOOLS--**THE GREEN GOBLIN** HAS RETURNED!

HOW CAN WE STOP HIM?!!

FORGET THE GOBLIN! HOW ARE WE GONNA STOP HIM?!?



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While attending a demonstration in radiology, 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 insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

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

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DÉJÀ VU: THE OVERWHELMING SENSATION THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING BEFORE!

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE SOMEONE, WEB-SLINGER--TRY SAVING FLASH THOMPSON!

CASE IN POINT: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, AS HE ONCE AGAIN WATCHES THE MANIACAL GREEN GOBLIN HURL SOMEONE THE WALL-CRAWLER CARES FOR TOWARDS ALMOST-CERTAIN DOOM!

GOBLIN IN THE MIDDLE

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...WHILE, IN A DARKENED WAREHOUSE ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE...

--A DRAMA OF A WHOLLY DIFFERENT STRIPE IS BEING PLAYED OUT!

DON'T BOTHER STRUGGLING, MY FRIEND!

I ASSURE YOU THE BONDS WHICH HOLD YOU ARE QUITE SECURE!

YOU MAY AS WELL GET USED TO YOUR CAPTIVITY, SINCE YOU ARE GOING TO REMAIN HERE UNTIL I HAVE ACHIEVED MY ULTIMATE AMBITION:

TO BECOME CRIME-BOSS OF ALL NEW YORK!!

MMPHHMM!!



BLAST YOU--DON'T ARGUE WITH ME! WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL ASK FOR IT!

I'VE ALREADY COVERED YOUR FACE BECAUSE I COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU SNIFFELLING ANY LONGER--

-- DON'T FORCE ME TO TAKE MORE EXTREME MEASURES!!

I OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL FROM OUR PSYCHIATRIC SESSIONS TOGETHER-- BUT I WON'T HESITATE TO KILL YOU IF NECESSARY!

I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT WHILE I'M GONE!

MMPHHMM??

WHERE AM I GOING, YOU ASK?

I'VE LEARNED THERE IS TO BE A MEETING TONIGHT OF ALL THIS CITY'S TOP CRIMINALS--

--AND THE GREEN GOBLIN INTENDS TO BE THERE, TO CLAIM WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!

AND EVEN AS THE EMERALD-MASKED MANIAC'S CAPTIVE STRUGGLES VAINLY AGAINST HIS BONDS...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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BUT TRY TO BE QUIET, OKAY? TECHNICALLY, THERE'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE TWO VISITORS TO A ROOM AT ONE TIME!

YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, AUNT MAY?

DO I LOOK LIKE A SICK PERSON TO YOU, PETER DEAR? IT WAS JUST ALL THE EXCITEMENT YESTERDAY AT CITY HALL THAT UP-SET ME!

I ONLY NEEDED A LITTLE REST, IS ALL! ACTUALLY, I'M SOUND AS A DOLLAR! DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS AUNT MAY!

CONSIDERING THE ECONOMY THESE DAYS, THAT'S NOT MUCH TO BRAG ABOUT!

* AGAIN, DETAILED LAST ISH, -- LEN.

HONESTLY, PETER-- YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY YOURSELF ABOUT ME!

I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL, AUNT MAY-- YOU GET WELL, AND I WON'T WORRY!

AFTER ALL, IT'S FOOT-BALL SEASON-- AND WITHOUT NAMATH, THE JETS ARE GONNA NEED YOU TO QUARTER-BACK!

YOU TRYING TO PUT YOUR POOR OLD AUNT TO WORK AGAIN, TIGER?

HONESTLY, PETER-- I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE PUTS UP WITH YOU!

HI, MARY JANE... HELLO, MRS. WATSON.

HOW NICE OF YOU BOTH TO STOP BY, MY DEARS--

--THOUGH I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO CALL ME OLD AGAIN, YOUNG LADY.

I THINK I'LL LEAVE YOU THREE TO BATTLE THIS OUT AMONGST YOURSELVES-- WHILE I HIT THE BOOKS!

YOU JUST TAKE IT EASY, AUNT MAY-- AND I'LL BE BY TO SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER FOR YOU, PETER.

JUST DON'T FORGET TO ZIP UP YOUR JACKET, DEAR. IT GETS A BIT CHILLY AT NIGHT.

I ABSOLUTELY ADORE THAT LADY! IF I HAD MY CHOICE, I'D NEVER LEAVE HER SIDE.

BUT I HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE... HAVE I?

THE GREEN GOBLIN IS STILL ON THE LOOSE-- AND SOMEHOW, I HAVE TO STOP HIM!

BUT THERE'S NO STOPPING THE GREEN GOBLIN THIS NIGHT...

UNLESS YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE YOUR FRIEND--YOU'LL TALK!

THE MEETING TONIGHT-- WHERE IS IT?

BEFORE I'M THROUGH, ONE OF YOU WILL TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW!

AND, OF COURSE, ONE OF THEM FINALLY DOES!

PLEASE, GOBLIN-- ENOUGH! I'LL TELL YA EVERYTHING!

NO, THERE'S NO STOPPING THE GREEN GOBLIN THIS NIGHT-- NOT IF ONE WANTS TO LIVE TO SEE TOMORROW!

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PETER PARKER, MEANWHILE, HAS LEFT HIS COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS UNTOUCHED. INSTEAD, HIS THOUGHTS CHURNING, HE STROLLS ALONE THROUGH THE ALMOST-DESERTED WAREHOUSE DISTRICT--

--AND STRUGGLES VAINLY TO MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL!

WHY ARE THE SINS OF THE FATHER ALWAYS REVISITED ON THE SON?

DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED... DESPITE ALL HE'S DONE... THIS REALLY ISN'T POOR HARRY'S FAULT!

IF ANYONE IS TO BLAME, IT'S NORMAN OSBORN-- HARRY'S FATHER!

AND THEN, IT WASN'T REALLY HIS FAULT EITHER! IT WAS AN ACCIDENTAL CHEMICAL EXPLOSION WHICH CAUSED OSBORN'S BRAIN DAMAGE...

... AND TRANSFORMED HIM INTO THE GREEN GOBLIN--

"--THE ONLY FOE WHO KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY!"

"WE BATTLED REPEATEDLY, UNTIL THAT FATEFUL DAY ATOP THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE--

"--WHEN THE GOBLIN MURDERED GWEN STACY, THE GIRL I LOVED!"

"I WENT AFTER THE GOBLIN THEN, ACHING FOR REVENGE-- BUT WHEN NORMAN OSBORN DIED AS A RESULT OF HIS OWN ACTIONS...

... I FOUND OUT JUST HOW MALLOW VENGEANCE CAN BE!

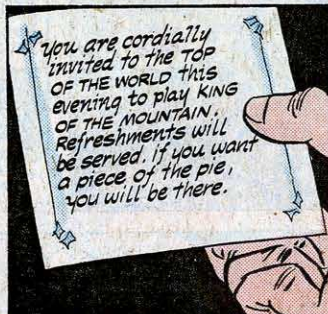
"UNFORTUNATELY, HIS FATHER'S DEATH TOTALLY UNHINGED HARRY'S ALREADY-UNSTABLE MIND--

"--AND HE BECAME THE NEW GREEN GOBLIN, CARRYING ON IN HIS OLD MAN'S FOOTSTEPS...

... UNTIL I FINALLY DEFEATED HIM, AND THE AUTHORITIES CARRIED HIM AWAY...

... RAVING LIKE THE LUNATIC HE HAD BECOME!







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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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The dynamic debut of the Rocket-Racer in SPIDER-MAN has provoked considerable commentary on the part of contingents both pro and con. In short, the response has been anything but indifferent. To wit, a random sampling of representative soliloquies...

Dear Marvel Madmen,

SPIDER-MAN #172 was a lot better than issue #171 (of course, I never did like team-up stories). The Rocket-Racer seemed like an interesting character, but he wasn't given much of a debut, so I hope we'll be seeing more of him soon. The Molten Man makes a good villain for Spider-Man to fight—but it gets monotonous having the Molten Man looking for chemicals to save himself, every time he appears!

The reason for #172 being such a good comic was the sub-plots. Of all the comics that Marvel puts out, SPIDER-MAN has the most complete and well-developed set of characters. Unlike the other comics, the supporting characters act like real people, all with their own interests and concerns. The people in SPIDER-MAN grow and change; they don't stagnate like so many characters in the other books. Liz and Harry are getting married, Glory's getting adjusted to her new job, J.J.J. has found true love at last (pages 14 and 15 were the best pages of issue #172), Aunt May is standing up for Gray Liberation, and Mary Jane and Peter are finally beginning to understand each other! I haven't seen Peter and Mary Jane together since issue #168, and I haven't seen Aunt May at all since issue #167! Oh well, issue #172 was so good that I didn't even miss them. That is NO hint, however, that I would like to see less of them!

(Jump'n) Joe Jordan
412 Owl Hill Rd.
Litzitz, PA 17543

Dear Marvel,

The Rocket-Racer was the most ridiculous character you guys have ever created. Really, Len, why didn't you just use the Molten Man, instead of throwing in a guy who rides a super-powered skate board? What if hoola hoops were in fad? I can just imagine — the Hoola Twister or Ring Head! *Shreeessh!!!* Aside from this, it was the usual great Len Wein/Ross Andru issue. I'm dying to see Spidey battle Doc Doom again. PLEASE?

Danny Clark
1 Freeman Ct.
Commack, NY 11725

Sorry, the Rocket-Racer didn't send you, Danny boy—but, in regard to your hypothetical super-heroes, if you've been reading THE DEFENDERS lately then you know that the idea's already been embodied by the small-time sensation known as the rinky-dink Ringer!

So who says this isn't the Marvel Age of sports-influenced, athletic antagonists? Certainly not us!

Dear Bullpen gang,

In regard to the latest issue of SPIDER-MAN, I have come to the conclusion that a large portion of the cast is part Felipe—at least in the nine-lives department.

You people just can't seem to keep a dead guy down!

The Vulture, for one, has been left for dead many times, but is still buzzing around; and what about the infamous Doc Ock, or even Hammerhead? In addition, there are the Green Goblin and Mysterio, who when the originals were incapacitated, were quickly replaced with second rate stand-ins? And, with all the stress and problems that Harry has been

enduring lately, it looks as if it is about time for another surprise visit from the Goblin. On the opposite side of the coin, there is poor Gwen, who, after falling off a bridge, bounced right back into Peter's life as one of the Jackal's clones. Most recently, we have the Molten Man, who was last seen as a puff of steam, and who managed to escape his gaseous fate only by a "fluke." At any rate, the Molten Man story was very well-written, and the art was at its usual level of excellence; but please, Len, let this be the end of Molty.

Oh well. Until Spider-Man is no longer amazing, make mine Marvel!

Steve Avalos
1322 Milvia St.
Berkeley, CA 94709

While we must certainly admit to the evidence of extraordinary longevity embodied in your letter, Steve, we must also add a few words in our own defense. Lively Len Wein not only alludes to his healthy Artistic License, but also maintains that it's a long-standing super-hero comics tradition—and a creative challenge, 'to boot'—to bring back assorted super-villains from the seeming dead. He gets a kick out of coming up with the outsize explanations, and hopes that the sporadic reappearance of certain super-villains doesn't interfere with your sincere enjoyment of his scintillatin' Spidey saga (and, judging from your comments on the Molten Man story, it sure hasn't).

Besides, many of our most enthusiastic readers actively look forward to the eventual return of famous old foes, as witness the following letter...

Marvel,

I'm not holding my breath, but I hope that in the near future, I'll see some of the old villains like Meteor Man, the Prowler and the Chameleon come back to give Spider-Man a hard time. It was great to see the return of the Molten Man in ish #172, and I hope to see the return of many more super-villains soon.

Bob Kapinos
943 Nena Avenue
Havre de Grace, MD

Dear Marvel,

In SPIDER-MAN #172, page 22, panel 4, Spidey spots Molten Man's footprints in Liz's apartment. The only thing wrong with this is that his footprints are shaped like shoeprints—and Molten Man doesn't wear any shoes! He's bare-footed! I'll take one no-prize, please.

Randall Manion
253 NW 63 Terr.
Miami, FL 33150

Dear Marvel,

SPIDEY #172 was great, but why didn't Molten Man leave footprints instead of shoeprints? When Spidey pulled off his coat, he had no shoes on his feet!

Jeff Edwards
9030 Carriage Ct
Pickerington, OH 43147

Tsk, tsk, you two! Do you really think we'd be so careless as to make such an obvious error? (Oh, you do, eh?) Well, we were just testing you, that's all! Molty started out wearing a pair of stylish black pennyloafers, but not only did they cramp his sensitive feet, they also disintegrated as they were eventually burnt to cinders. Sorry, that's no no-prizes—but nice try!

We'll be back next month to amuse and amaze. Meanwhile, take thirty!

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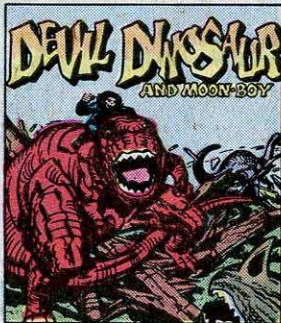
STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, culture lovers, here's a Thanksgiving treat for you! I won't try to sell you a single thing anywhere in this column! Instead, I'll let you in on a senses-shattering secret! Ready? Here it is! Even the mighty moguls of Marvel can make a mistake! And the one we made a few issues back is a real cymbal-clanger! If you're the one holdout in all of comicdom who didn't notice it, this is for you. Last August, right here in the cosmos-spanning Soapbox, I asked you to try to guess what PIZZAZZ was. I figured we'd make a little game out of it and I'd clue you in next ish. But who knew—WHO KNEW—my over-eager little staff would be putting a big, full-page, full-color AD for PIZZAZZ right on the inside front cover of all those very same mags?!!!! There I was tryin' to tease you, slyly asking you to guess about something that was fully and completely described on a previous page in the same magazine! Talk about having egg all over your face! This time I got the whole chicken! Oh well, waddya expect from a guy who could never remember whether his own character was called Bruce Banner or Bob Banner! Hey, speaking of that, here's another nutty thing that could only happen in the wacky world of Marvel. As you know, Universal Studios just completed a live-action, 2-hour special tv movie of everybody's favorite jolly green giant. (In fact, THE INCREDIBLE HULK may be prime-timing it on the tube by the time you read these imperishable words!) Anyway, what do you think they called ol' Doc Banner? Bruce? Uh-uh! Bob? Forget it! They decided to name him Dave! What there is about our recalcitrant little rampager that makes it so tough for people to get his name right I'll never know! But there you have it, more living proof that—despite what you've always thought—even the minions of Marvel are sometimes less than perfect! But keep it to yourselves, huh? We'd hate the competition to find out that we're merely flesh and blood! Look, in case I'm sounding too humble, don't worry. One of these days, if we ever do something right, I'll tell you about that, too!

Excelsior!

Stan

expecting this—there's MACHINE MAN. If the title's not quite familiar to you, it's because we felt a brand new feature ought to be launched with a brand new name, but Machine Man is most certainly *Mister Machine*, whose adventures in the now-defunct 2001 book drew more comment and acclaim than any other stories in that searing science-fiction series. With cyborg super-heroes still rampaging on TV and star-warring robots stealing scenes at motion picture theaters, Jack's mechanized man with the all-too-human feelings ought to be one of his biggest successes yet! For his second title, Jack proves that there's no time or topic he can't bring the distinctive Kirby touch to by taking you into the primitive conflicts of earth's prehistoric past for the adventures of DEVIL DINOSAUR. We're betting that if you dig our GODZILLA book (and from cards, letters, and sales reports we've got to conclude that more than a few of you do), this one just has to be your mixture of monstrous mayhem! Both of these bombshells should be bursting your way in about a month's time, so watch these pages for further announcements!



ITEM! You know, one of the things we're most often asked in the jillions of letters you people are good enough to send us is usually something like: "Hey! If Thor is trapped by the Cosmic Hairdresser's Rinse-and-Set machine in his own book, how is he able to fight side-by-side with the Vision, Iron Man, and the Scarlet Witch against the Giant Wontons of Fu Manchu in the latest AVENGERS?" Vexing as this type of dilemma is to all continuity buffs—and most of the Bullpen counts itself in the forefront of those ranks—there's a reasonably simple explanation, one put forward by STAN THE MAN himself in this very column several years back, which bears repeating every now and then for those of you who dropped in late to the Marvel Universe. Obviously, all of the adventures taking place in all of our various titles are not happening at the same time. What the mighty Thor is doing in his own book—to stick with our example—may be happening before or after what's going on in the AVENGERS. Also, *Marvel* time is not the same as real time. Showing four *hours* of the Thunder

God's admittedly hectic life may take four issues and *four months* of regular time, that adds to the continuity confusion and creates situations like, having Peter Parker sunning himself in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN while having a snowball fight in the same month's TEAM-UP or SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. What we try to do is to occasionally leave time gaps between the end of one adventure and the start of another, so that an imaginative and industrious Marvelite can figure: "Ahl! The Hulk was in Hohokus, New Jersey when he polished off Orhoh of the Orthodontist last issue, but this month's mag opens with him kicking sand in a bully's face on Pismo Beach! Getting there probably took him several days. That could explain why he had time to help Nighthawk and Hellcat in the bean-eating contest several issues ago in the DEFENDERS!" We think it's one of really fun fringe benefits of being a *Marvel* fan, and judging from some of the well-worked-out theses that a lot of you keep sending our way, you're in agreement. Try it sometime. . . We may not always agree on the exact *course* of *Marvel* history, but trying to *plot* may be the greatest parlor game since Twenty Questions.

ITEM! We know most of you are probably starting to think about Thanksgiving turkey, but as this is being written there's still a smidgeon of Summer left, so we'll bow to the browbeating of the Bullpen Softball Team and inform you that despite a slow start, the titanic ten are finishing the season strong with victories over Doubleday Books and rival comics group, Warren Publishing. No small part of these victories have come from such stellar performers as Vivacious VILMA FALCON, who in addition to working in our Subscription Department manages to pitch, hit, and field like a pro, and to devastating DAVIDA LICHTER-DALE and Ramblin' RICK PARKER of art production, who usually carry the beer.

ITEM! Let's close out with a swift parade of plugola and call your attention to such goodies now available as our \$1.00, 80-page, Giant MAN FROM ATLANTIS comic. This is a special to kick off the series we'll be doing about TV's underground superstar and offers two bonus-length comics stories plus articles, pin-ups and photos of Mark Harris and Company. When we say this is a big one, we're really being literal! Also, the second in our full-color paperback collectors' editions is out. First was SPIDER-MAN. This time around it's the FANTASTIC FOUR. Another paperback in the *Marvel* manner is our illustrated version of STAR WARS. If you missed the Treasury Edition or regular monthly mags, here's your chance to make it up; if you've become a *Star Wars* completist, here's one more item you can't live without. And last, for younger readers and TV cartoon aficionados, this month sees the appearance of the all-new, all original FLINTSTONE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY featuring your favorite Hanna-Barbera characters in a gift-size Treasury book! Look for 'em all . . . and for us in this same spot next time.

ITEM! Hey, we've been promising and promising to give you the scoop on JACK "King" KIRBY's two new titles just as soon as the time was right. Well, we have first issues on both of them sitting with us right now, so the need for secrecy is certainly past. First off—and we'll bet most of you were already

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LET'S GIT 'EM ALL, KIN. CAPTURE 'EM OR...

...OR OUR NAME'S NOT DING-A-LING!

WE KNOW NOT WHAT PROVOKETH THEE, STRANGE FAMILY... BUT IF THOU DOST COME AMONGST US WITH UNPLEASANTNESS IN THY HEARTS...

WITH UNPLEASANTNESS THOU SHALT BE MET...

...AND THEN SOME.

BY CRACKY, THAT PURTY, YELLA-HAIRED FELLA'S THE LEADER... LET'S HORNSWOGGLE HIM AND THE REST'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE...

OK, PA, MA, AUNTIE, SISTER, BROTHER, COUSINS BEE AND BYE, AND GRANDMA--ALL YOU DING-A-LINGS--HOLD HIM STILL, SO AH KEN GIT A BEAD ON 'IM WITH MY ATOMIC SHOTGUN.

THY FAMILIAL BONDS ARE IN-DEED STRONG... PITY 'TIS MIS-SPENT ON EVIL... BUT 'TIS NAUGHT BEFORE THE FIERCE POWER OF THE MYSTIC MALLET MJOLNIR...

HEE HEE HAW, COUSIN BYE... AH THINK WE GOT 'IM...

SHO NUFF, COUSIN BEE... IT'S OUR COUSIN-POWER SECRET WEAPON... NOTHING CAN RESIST IT EXCEPT WHEN OUR HAIDS WANDER A BIT... AND WE LOSE THE CONCENTRATION... AND WE GOOF IT UP OURSELVES.

BUT... WHAT'S THIS?... THE COUSINS THY CALLETH BEE AND BYE RESISTETH THE HAMMER...



...AYE THEN, 'TIS BUT CHILD'S PLAY TO USE THIS PLOY AND DISTRACT THE COUSINS BEE AND BYE... AND BYE AND BYE 'T'WILL BE THEIR UNDOING...

...ER... UH... AH... MMM... HAM... LOOKA THET... COUSIN BYE...

CHERRY... GREAT, LIGHT TENDER CRUST... REAL FRUIT FILLING, COUSIN BYE... I CAN'T RECOLLECT WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BUT IT COULDN'T BE HALF AS INTERESTIN' AS THESE MOUTHWATERIN' HOSTESS' FRUIT PIES...

YOU FOOLS! WE ALMOST HAD THE YELLA-HAIRED ONE IN OUR POWER! DUMB COUSINS!

FORSOOTH, M'LADY... NOT SO DUMB... THEY KNOWOF YON DELICIOUS SNACK...

NOW HOME TO ODIN. BE SURE TO SAVE SOME HOSTESS' FRUIT PIES FOR THAT GREAT ONE TO ENJOY, TOO!



...ER... COUSIN BEE WHAT WERE WE SAYING...? OH, LOOKA THAT... DELICIOUS HOSTESS' FRUIT PIES... APPLE... AND...



YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS' FRUIT PIES







YOU'D BETTER ANSWER ME, SILVER-MANE!

I'M BEGINNING TO LOSE MY PATIENCE!



WHUMP!

WHUMP!

AND ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IT'S TIME I PUT AN END TO THIS CHARADE!



NOW, SILVER-MANE, DO WE TALK-- --OR DO I HAVE TO START GETTING TOUGH?

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, GOBLIN?

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY OFFER US THAT WE DON'T ALREADY HAVE?

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO ASK THAT!



OF ALL THE SUPER-HEROES IN THIS TOWN, WHO CAUSES YOU THE MOST TROUBLE?

WHO WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE PUT OUT OF YOUR LIVES FOREVER?

I GUESS... SPIDER-MAN!

YEAH-- SPIDER-MAN!!



INDEED-- SPIDER-MAN!

WELL, MY FRIENDS-- I CAN ELIMINATE THE WEB-SLINGER FOR YOU PERMANENTLY!

YOU SEE, I KNOW WHO SPIDER-MAN REALLY IS!!



NO! THE MOMENT I'VE DREADED IS FINALLY ABOUT TO HAPPEN--

--AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN REACH THE GOBLIN IN TIME TO STOP HIM!



THE GREEN GOBLIN IS ABOUT TO REVEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY--

--AND WHEN HE DOES-- SPIDER-MAN IS FINISHED!!

NEXT ISSUE!

THINGS GO FROM TERRIBLE-- TO WORSE! BE HERE FOR...

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