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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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TM

THOUGHT SHE'D BE
EASY TO NAB, DIDN'T
YOU, SPIDEY--?



--BUT YOU FORGOT
SHE'S THE
BLACK CAT!

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JRJR + AM

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 arachnid's powers... and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

MARY WOLFMAN
SCRIPT/EDITS

KEITH POLLARD
LAYOUTS

PABLO MARCOS
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R. PARKER
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CONSULTING ED.

THE BLACK CAT ALWAYS LANDS ON HER FEET!

SUDDENLY,
A FLURRY
OF ACTION...

I DON'T BELIEVE
IT-- A SHOOT OUT
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE
OF TIMES SQUARE!

I
THINK IT'S
ABOUT TIME
I MOVED
OUTTA THE
BIG APPLE!

I WONDER
IF ARIZONA
WOULD BE
A QUIETER
PLACE TO
WEB-SLING?

HEY,
GUYS--
LOOK!

IT'S
SPIDER-MAN!



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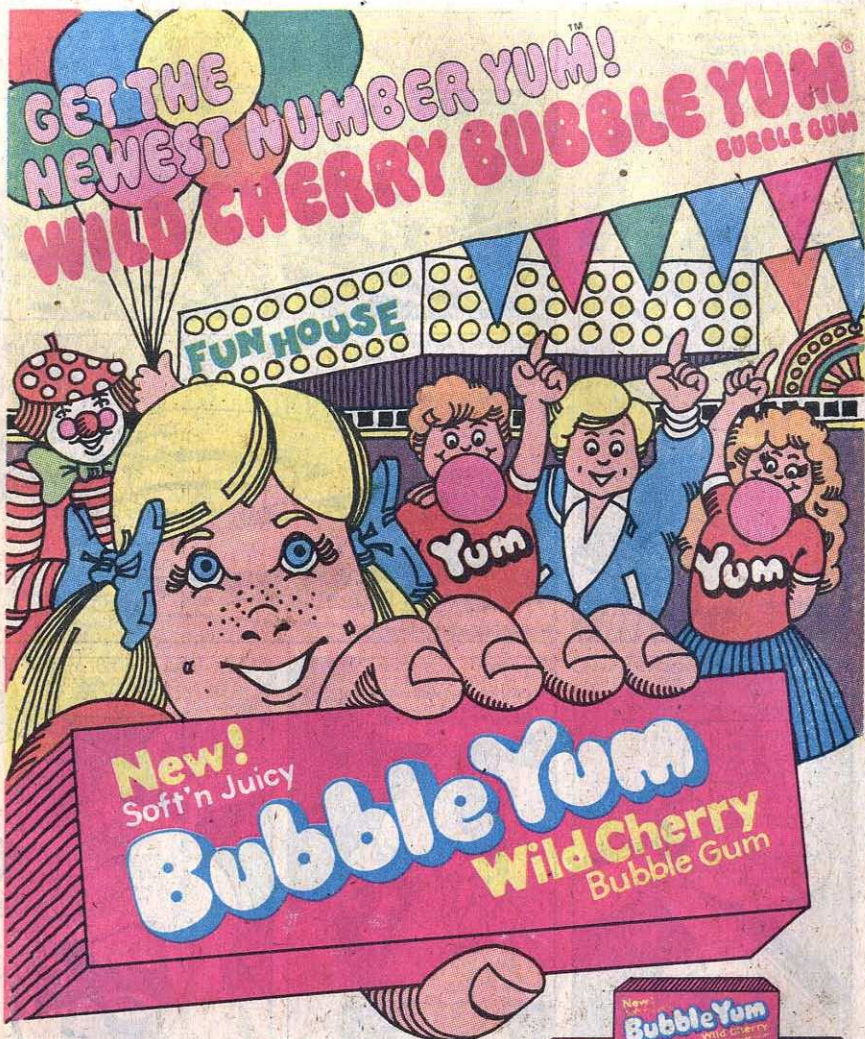
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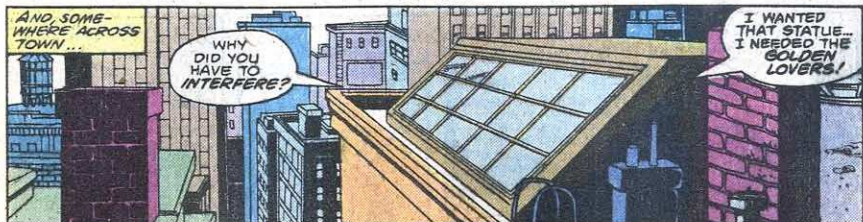
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FOR SOME REASON, SHE AND I GO TOGETHER LIKE OIL AND WATER!



I--HUH? MY SPIDER-SENSES...TINGLING LIKE CRAZY!

BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING...



AND FOR ONCE, WHAT I DON'T SEE ISN'T GOING TO HURT ME.

FOR ONCE, PETER PARKER IS GOING TO COME BEFORE SPIDER-MAN.



AND...

THERE THEY ARE... BACK IN THEIR OLD POSITION AGAIN.



AND THERE ARE MORE GUARDS AROUND THE GOLDEN LOVERS THAN YESTERDAY.

SPIDEY-- YOU'VE REALLY MADE MY LIFE DIFFICULT!



NO ONE, LOOKING...THE PERFECT TIME TO HIDE MY LITTLE SURPRISE FOR LATER...

IN PLACE... NOW TO SCOOT OUT OF HERE AND TAKE A LITTLE CAT-NAP 'TIL IT'S TIME.



LATER...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT... LOOKS LIKE MY SPIDER LUCK IS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.

FLASH SAYS HE'S GOT A BLIND DATE FOR ME...



AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D BE CLIMBING THE WALLS AGAIN ALL NIGHT... LITERALLY!

I HAVEN'T HAD A DATE SINCE M.J. AND I SPLIT--

THOSE MEETINGS WITH CISSY IRONWOOD WERE ABOUT AS BORING AS THREE-WEEK-OLD BAGELS.



SHORTLY...

FLASH, SHA SHAN... HOW'S IT GOING?



JUST GREAT, PAL. AND PETE, THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET...



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1.



2.

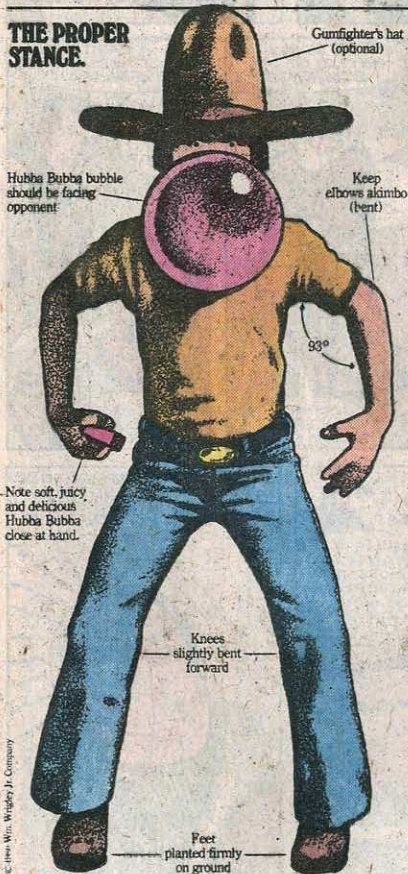


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AND THIS TIME, I'M NOT GOING TO IGNORE THEM.



TODAY'S BEEN ONE LONG DOWNER. I COULD ACTUALLY USE A LITTLE SPIDER-ACTION RIGHT ABOUT NOW.



SO MAKE WAY, WORLD--

--SPIDEY'S COMING THRU!



GUGGENHEIM, AGAIN? THEN THE BLACK CAT MUST BE INVOLVED.

SHE MESSED UP GETTING HER LITTLE STATUE THE FIRST TIME AROUND, SO I GUESS SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME.

WHAT A SHAME... SHE SHOULD'VE STAYED IN BED! SHE'S NOT GONNA BE ANY MORE SUCCESSFUL NOW THAN SHE WAS BEFORE!



AND, INSIDE THE MUSEUM DESIGNED BY FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT.

THE GAS PELLETS I HID HERE EARLIER DID THEIR TRICK...THE GUARDS ARE OUT COLDER THAN THAN AN ICEBERG IN THE ARCTIC!

SO MUCH FOR ANY UNEXPECTED SURPRISES!



BUT...

HI THERE, CAT--SURPRISE!

SPIDEY? YOU AGAIN?

YEP MISS ME?



I MIGHT HAVE BEFORE, BUT I WON'T THIS TIME!

JUDO? YOU'VE GOT YOUR ACT DOWN PAT, CAT...

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Big news, Believers! You long-time Marvel maniacs who keep track of who's who among our editorial staff will get a real charge outta this! For reasons too complicated to explain, (which is, of course, a shameless euphemism for "we haven't got the time!") we've done another editorial flip-flop and come up with a real treat for you! I'm delighted to announce that none other than good ol' Archie Goodwin has been given the position of Executive Editor of our soon-to-be-unveiled magazine masterpiece, the much-heralded, long-awaited EPIC ILLUSTRATED! Yep, it means I'll once again be working with Artful Archie, just as I did when he was Editor-in-Chief of all our Marvel color comicbooks! Of course, that was before Jolly Jim Shooter replaced him when Archie resigned to devote himself to free-lance writing. And, if thou hast managed to follow the twisted and tortuous perignations of this convoluted little paragraph, thou mayest most assuredly here-with consider thyself thrice No-Prized!

But, all kidding aside, (I didn't know he was kidding!) "It sure didn't sound funny to me!" "If that's his idea of kidding, I'd hate to read 'im when he's

serious!" (Okay, okay, shaddup already!) —It's really a kick to welcome one of our favorite alumni aboard once again. Archibald, who sports the craziest and most colorful collection of funky sneakers you've ever seen, is justifiably considered one of the finest writers and editors in the field, (not indoors, just in the field!) not to mention the fact that he's one of the nicest guys we know. Of course, next to the rest of the staff, even Doc Doom would seem nice! (I might as well offend everybody! It's one way to find out if anyone's actually reading this mishmash.)

Well, let's call it a day now, 'cause I know how emotional and choked-up this announcement has made you. But try to keep cool — don't be too impatient — a month isn't really that long a time, and before you know it I'll be back with you again to continue bestowing these words of wisdom and comfort to help guide you through the savage and stormy seas of life! (NOW do you see why they don't ask me to write any more stories?)

Till next ish then, keep well, keep happy, and most of all — keep in touch, hear?

Excelsior!

Stan

Marvel Masterpieces on sale this month!

- **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #63** — "Suffer Not A Warlock To Live!" The return (?) of Adam Warlock as the Thing teams up with Moondragon and Starhawk!
- **SHOGUN WARRIORS #16** — Shogun Sanctuary is destroyed by a mysterious alien intelligence!
- **SPIDER-WOMAN #26** — Spider-Woman menaced by the macabre White Gardenia!
- **STAR TREK #2** — The tension mounts as Marvel's adaptation of the Paramount Pictures stellar spectacular continues.
- **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #46** — Spidey teams up with the Fantastic Four, checks out the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, and generally has more adventures than you can shake a web at.
- **DAREDEVIL #164** — Daredevil is confronted by a reporter who knows the secret of his dual identity!
- **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #86** — Re-presenting Incredible Hulk #138. Hulk vs. Sandman for the life of Betty Ross!
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- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #245** — Cap teams up with Aaron Hunter, stalks a Nazi war criminal.
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- **AVENGERS #195** — Ant-Man, Yellowjacket and the Wasp on a suicide rescue mission into the lair of... Task-Master!
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- **CONAN #110** — Part II of the adaptation of "Sons of the Bear God!" by Norvell Page. Marvel's foremost barbarian in blood-tingling action!
- **THOR #295** — Thor, Loki, and Odin in pitched battle against the Storm Giants and Alberich the Troll as the quest for the Ring of Power begins.
- **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #85** — Reprising Fantastic Four #108: The incredible secret of... Janus!

- **MARVEL TALES #115** — Originally presented in Amazing Spider-Man #138. Enter: The Mindworm!
- **X-MEN #133** — Wolverine in solo action against the Hellfire Club.
- **TALES TO ASTONISH #6** — From the Mighty Marvel Archives: Sub-Mariner #6. Showdown with Tiger Shark!
- **ROM #8** — Rom vs. the telepathic bloodhounds of the Dire Wraiths. Plus: more on the fate of Firefall!
- **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #6** — Re-presenting Silver Surfer #6. The Surfer vs. the Overlord in "Worlds Without End!"
- **FANTASTIC FOUR #218** — The far-out finale to the story begun in Peter Parker #42. Showdown with the Frightful Four!
- **IRON MAN #134** — "The Strange Secret of... the Other!"
- **PETER PARKER #42** — The Spectacular Spider-Man fights for his life against the Wizard, Electro, the Sandman, and the Trapster — aka: The Frightful Four!
- **DEFENDERS #83** — Lol! There shall come and ending to the Tunnelworld saga! And what an ending it is! Featuring a duel to the death in the mind of the Hulk!
- **MARVEL SUPER-ACTION #19** — Reprising Avengers #58; the classic "Even an Android Can Cry!" The origin of the amazing Vision!
- **AMAZING ADVENTURES #6** — Re-presenting X-Men #3 "In Final Battle With the Blob!" A special feature on the powers of Cyclops.
- **STAR WARS #5** — At last! Luke stands face-to-face with Darth Vader! Plus: the mystery of Sister Dornia!
- **MASTER OF KUNG FU #88** — "The Legend of the Dove!" Fu Manchu's plot to blow up New York!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #51** — "Satyr's Blood!" Part III of Marvel's adaptation of "Conan the Liberator!" by DeCamp & Carter.
- **MARVEL PREVIEW #21** — Featuring the mysterious Moon Knight. With a title like "Mindthieves!" you know it's gotta be weird! Plus a solo tale of the sensational Shroud, drawn by Steve Ditko!
- **TOMB OF DRACULA #4** — "Angelic!" A moody, windswept saga of human failure and inhuman horror as Dracula chooses for his victims... two small children! Plus: "Death Vow!" Also, interviews, features, and more!
- **THE HULK #20** — "Power Unchained!" Torn from tomorrow's headlines, the Hulk is caught in the middle of a crisis at a nuclear power plant. Plus: the women in the Hulk's life. And just cause we don't fool around, there's also an exclusive interview with Ken Johnson, producer/director of the Hulk TV show! Oh yeah — Moon Knight'll be there, too.
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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MARY WOLFGAN
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mary, Sal, & Jim:

Naturally, the question of the month is: What's going to happen in SPIDER-MAN #200? Whatever it is, it's sure to be a landmark. For the first time in years, I'm totally in the dark about what's going to take place in an anniversary issue.

Rather than try to guess, I'm going to focus on an issue which many people will forget in the rush... SPIDER-MAN #199. First of all, note that it's well-crafted, hardly dull, and enhanced by excellent artwork (those underwater scenes make me wonder if Sal and Jim wouldn't be the perfect team for the new SUB-MARINER book you keep talking about). Yet, at the same time, what really happened this issue? Mysterio may as well have shot Spider-Man with that dart last issue! But there's the catch; because no mysteries were cleared up in issue #199, because Spider-Man had naught but another frustrating when he found out that the trap he'd endured was all an illusion, SPIDER-MAN #199 will result in nearly twice as good a story in issue #200. In the great Marvel tradition, you've made the reader empathize with our hero, so that his discouragement at being unable to catch Mysterio becomes the reader's as well. Very subtle, but a big plus: #199 did more than just mark time until #200.

Before I forget, I'd like to compliment John Byrne and Terry Austin on this year's SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL. It was great to see Doctor Octopus back; no longer the nice old guy who courted Aunt May, but once more rotten to the core. It was the best annual for Spider-Man since 1966, and you deserve a lot of praise for it.

Matt Kaufman
303 West Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Mary, Sal, and Jim:

Well, next issue will be the Big One — the 200th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. But before that dramatic moment becomes history, I would like to impart some of my thoughts about how the story has progressed so far by focusing on SPIDER-MAN #199.

Although when I first realized that Spider-Man's 200th anniversary was finally to become fact I was very excited, I have found that now, just one issue before that event, I am not that excited, but have already started to feel twinges of disappointment. One reason why I feel this way is because I am not happy that it looks like Mysterio will be sharing at least a third of the stage with Spider-Man. Personally, I feel that Mysterio is one of Spidey's dumbest and most uninteresting villains. Mysterio, with his bubblehead, weird eye buttons for his cape, and odd gloves is one of the funniest-looking super-villains in the Marvel Universe; and funny villains don't seem that threatening or imposing. The other possibility is that Uncle Ben's killer will be taking up another third of the center stage. From the beginning this is the direction that this story seemed to be taking, but somewhere along the way it appears to have gotten sidetracked. Up to this point, Spider-Man doesn't even know his uncle's killer is on the loose, let alone partly responsible for his aunt's supposed death. (Yes, I'm one of those who doesn't think that Aunt May is dead — yet.) If Uncle Ben's killer is going to take center stage next issue, I feel that the meeting with Spider-Man will lack enough depth because of the lack of sufficient build-up.

And sufficient build-up is the one most glaring problem with this SPIDER-MAN saga — there hasn't been much. Unlike Mary's FF opus where the story did build (even though it took too long to build) this Spider-Man epic has lacked the momentum to keep the reader coming back issue after issue until the big ending when the reader is supposed to be perched on the edge of his seat waiting for the dramatic finish. But I haven't been waiting on the edge of my seat; in fact, all these issues leading up to the 200th issue have been like any other issues long before them. This saga hasn't had any big crescendo like most lead-ins to anniversary issues try to attain. And it's a shame, because I know that Mary has the ability to make something like this special.

To add to the problem, the art hasn't been too great. This issue's cover was much better than any of the interior since the stuff Starlin and Byrne did for this book. One

reason why this cover looked so good was that there was a good inker embellishing Keith's pencils, namely Pablo Marcos. Keith's (and Sal's) interior work has been shoddy to say the least, and Jim's inks don't really work all that well with either of these artists. All I can ask is that either you give the book a good inker like Pablo — or maybe Bob McLeod (he really looked good over Keith on the cover of the newest annual) — or finally make John Byrne drop the X-Men so that he can take over this book (he also looked great in the annual).

Unless something phenomenal happens — like a miracle — next issue to make this epic memorable, I can safely say that this epic has been very disappointing. And considering that this book is Marvel's mainstay, I can only reiterate: it's a shame.

Kurt Olsson
Leonard, Box 1184
Colby College
Waterville, ME 04901

It would appear that we have a bit of a disagreement here. Mr. Kaufman enjoyed SPIDER-MAN #199. Mr. Olsson loathed it. Matt likes the build-up. Kurt doesn't think there's been enough. And both gentlemen disagree with each other on the quality of issue #199's art (though they both seem to have liked the art on this year's annual). One issue, two very different opinions. But then, that's what makes horse races... and comicbooks, it would seem.

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-MAN #199 was definitely one of the most exciting comics I have read in a long time. Mysterio has to be one of your deadliest villains. Who created him? Well, whoever, let's see more of Mysterio!

The constant changing between reality and illusion this issue really kept me guessing. Spider-Man did well against Mysterio, and I'm very glad you gave him a chance to recover from that broken arm and get rested up for the final fight. The ending wherein the villain conquers the hero who is injured had gotten way too old. This time, Spider-Man was beaten fair and square by Mysterio. I have just one question: Why didn't Spider-Man think that Mysterio's gun was real? I mean, he had enough tangles with Mysterio's illusions to know that he shouldn't take a chance like that, no matter how mad he was.

Paul Green
3209 Corvette Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

A good point, Paul. Still, after Mysterio had played hook with both his perceptions and his spider-sense over the last two issues, we're not all that surprised that the ol' web-slinger let his temper get the better of him.

And, by the way, Mysterio had his birth in the fertile minds of Stan Lee and Steve Ditko!



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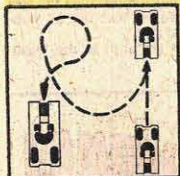
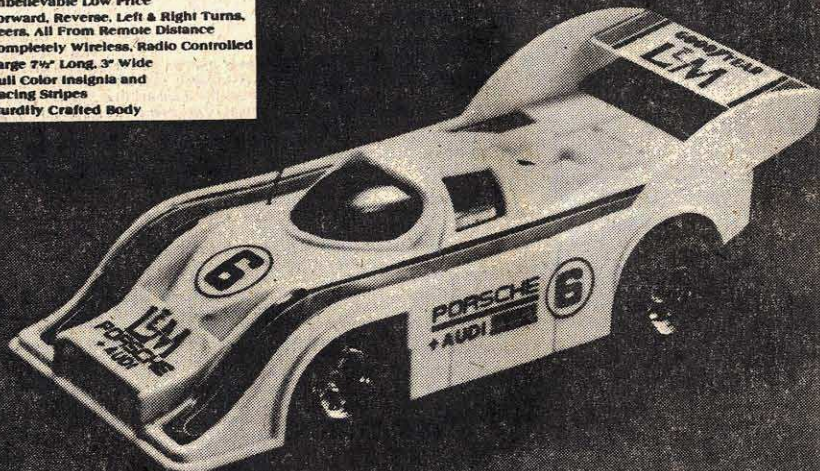
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