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TM

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

FEATURING--  
THE DRAMATIC  
RESOLUTION  
TO THE WISP/  
TARANTULA/  
BRAND EPIC!



## DEATH KNELL!



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J.R. JR. + F. GIACIA



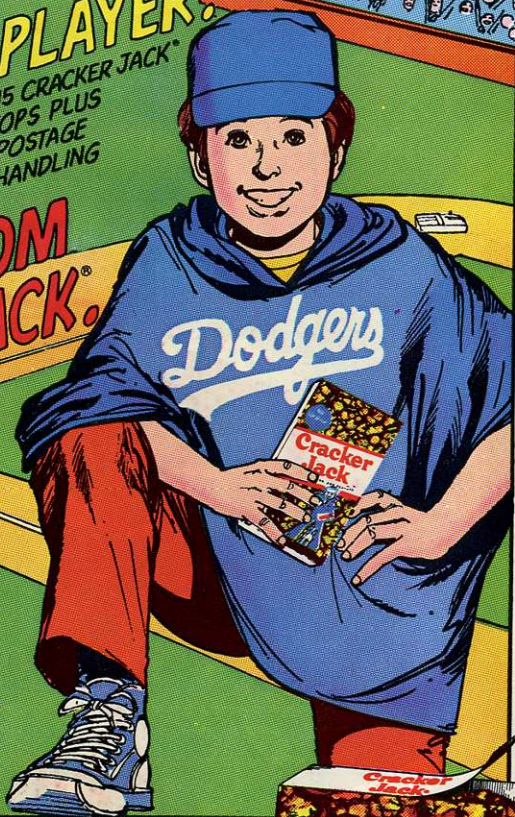
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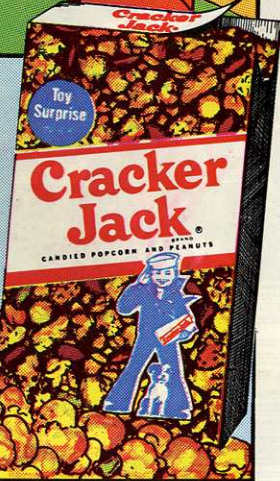
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Offer good only in U.S. and expires  
December 31, 1982.





STAN LEE PRESENTS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN...

# DEATH KNELL!

JUST MINUTES AGO, ROXKON OIL PRESIDENT JOHN T. GAMELIN PUT THROUGH A HIGH-LEVEL VIDEO-PHONE CALL TO JAMES MELVIN OF THE SUBSIDIARY BRAND CORPORATION.

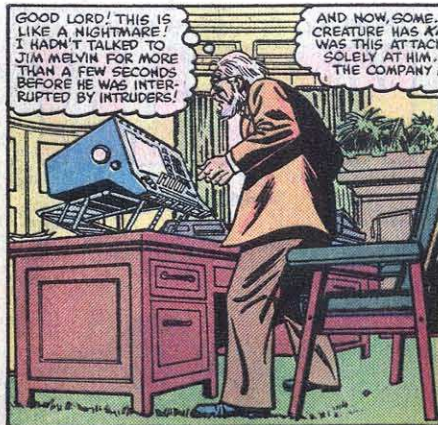
HE NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!



ROGER STERN  
WRITER  
JOHN ROMITA JR.  
&  
FRANK GACIOIA  
ARTISTS  
JOE ROSEN BOB SHAREN  
LETTERER COLORIST  
TOM DEFALCO  
EDITOR  
JIM SHOOTER  
ARANEOPHILE

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AND NOW, SOME... SORT OF CREATURE HAS **KILLED** HIM! WAS THIS ATTACK DIRECTED SOLELY AT HIM... OR AT THE COMPANY AS WELL?







I HAD STATIONED THE TARANTULA OUTSIDE, IN CASE OUR MR. MELVIN TRIED TO ESCAPE ME!

OH, YES...THE CREATURE IS UNDER MY COMPLETE CONTROL!

"YOU MAY RECALL HOW TARANTULA AND I BATTLED OUR WAY THROUGH BRAND'S QUEEN'S COMPLEX EARLIER TODAY. \* WE WOUND UP TUMBLING INTO JAMAICA BAY.

"THE DEEP WATERS GAVE ME LITTLE TROUBLE, AS I NO LONGER NEED TO BREATHE, AND WHILE TARANTULA'S LUNG POWER HAD BECOME MANY TIMES THAT OF A NORMAL MAN'S--

"---HE WAS EVEN LESS OF A MATCH FOR ME UNDERWATER THAN HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ON LAND. I MESMERIZED HIM INTO DOCTILE OBEDIENCE BEFORE WE SURFACED, MILES AWAY FROM THE COMPLEX!"

\*LAST ISSUE.

AND HERE I'D THOUGHT YOU'D BOTH DROWNED!

WELL... NOW WHAT?

I INTEND TO LEAVE WITH MELVIN AS MY PRISONER! HE STILL HAS MUCH TO ANSWER FOR!

DO NOT INTERFERE, SPIDER-MAN! I DO NOT WISH TO HARM YOU!



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and blows great  
bubbles!!!

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delicious!!!

Hey, look at  
all the great  
tasting flavors!!!







WELL, THAT'S MIGHTY BIG OF YA, WISPY-- BUT YOU KNOW ME! I'M JUST A NATURAL BORN BUTTINSKY! I'M A FINE ONE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR TAKING THE LAW INTO YOUR OWN HANDS--



--BUT YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME! KILLING MELVIN WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!

SO YOU SAID EARLIER...



... BUT NOW, AS THEN, YOU ARE UNABLE TO STOP A MAN WHO CAN CONTROL HIS MOLECULAR ADHESION!

RATS! HE MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THAT!

BUT EVEN AS SPIDER-MAN PASSES THROUGH THE WISP, THE STILL-MUTATING TARANTULA BEGINS TO ROUSE FROM HIS STUPOR.



HIS NEW BODY HAS NEW DRIVES... NEW NEEDS.



UUNGH?

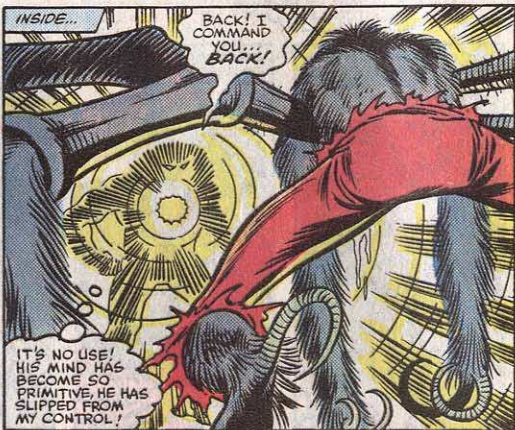
AND HE SENSES EASY PREY!



FOOD!







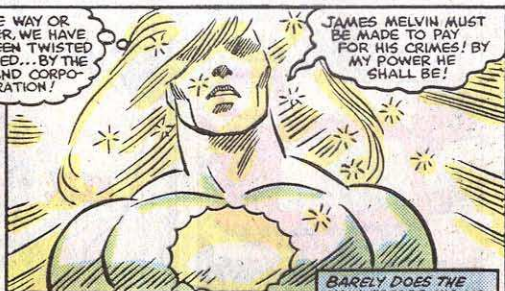




POOR, PITIFUL CREATURE!  
HOW MANY OTHERS HAS  
MELVIN AND HIS COMPANY  
MADE LIKE YOU...

...LIKE ME?

IN ONE WAY OR  
ANOTHER, WE HAVE  
ALL BEEN TWISTED  
...USED...BY THE  
BRAND CORPOR-  
RATION!



JAMES MELVIN MUST  
BE MADE TO PAY  
FOR HIS CRIMES! BY  
MY POWER HE  
SHALL BE!



BARELY DOES THE  
VOW ESCAPE HIS LIPS  
THAN WILL-O'-THE-  
WISP TRANSFORMS  
INTO A BALL OF  
GLOWING MATTER--

--STREAKING INTO THE  
NIGHT SKIES ON A  
MISSION OF VENGEANCE!



WHILE IN A PLUSH  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
AT ONE POKXON  
PLAZA...

THIS IS BAD...VERY BAD!  
I RECEIVED WORD TODAY  
THAT THE DAILY BUGLE  
WAS DROPPING THEIR  
EXPOSE OF OUR BRAND  
OPERATIONS!



BUT NOW...WITH SPIDER-MAN  
INVOLVED...WHO KNOWS WHAT  
MIGHT HAPPEN?

OUR ENTIRE COVERT  
ACTIVITIES DIVISION  
COULD BE IN JEOPARDY!  
THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR  
ME TO HANDLE ALONE!



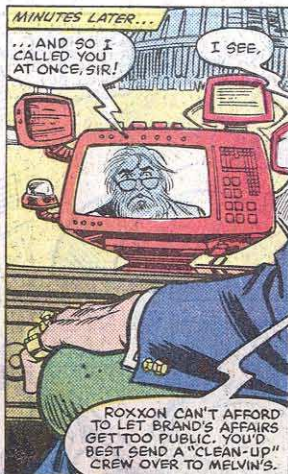
I'D BETTER  
CONTACT--



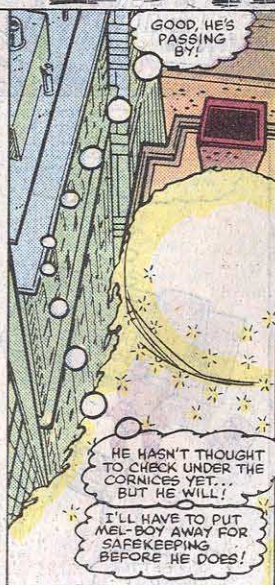
SORRY TO  
DISTURB YOU  
AT HOME, MR.  
D'ANGELO--!

QUITE  
ALL RIGHT,  
GAMBLIN!  
WHAT'S THE  
PROBLEM?





"AND NOW, THAT MAD MONSTER IS LOOSE SOMEWHERE IN MANHATTAN!"







THWIP

OH,  
SHUT UP!



I OUGHT  
TO LET WILL-  
O'-THE-WISP  
HAVE YOU!

YES, THAT SOUNDS  
LIKE A GOOD IDEA!  
I BELIEVE I WILL!



BUT FIRST, I HAVE  
TO TALK A LITTLE  
SENSE INTO HIM!  
JUST HANG LOOSE,  
CHUBBINS! I WON'T  
BE LONG...

...I  
HOPE!

SECONDS LATER...



HEADS  
UP, FIRE-  
BALL--

ONE  
GOOD  
THING  
ABOUT  
WISPY...  
HE'S EASY  
TO FIND  
AT NIGHT!



--I'M COMIN'  
THROUGH!



SPIDER-  
MAN!

AH, THAT'S  
WHAT I LOVE  
ABOUT MY  
CAREER--THE  
RECOGNITION!

MY NAME'S  
ON JUST  
ABOUT  
EVERYONE'S  
LIPS!

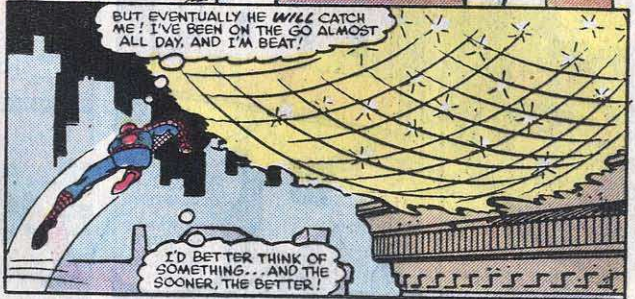
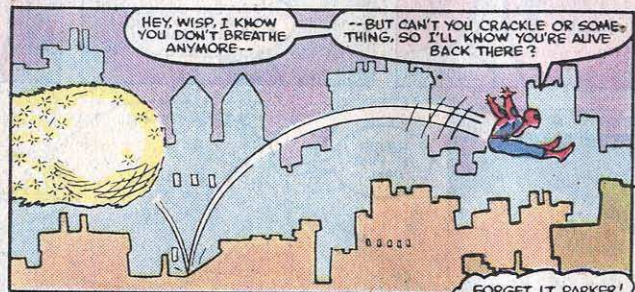
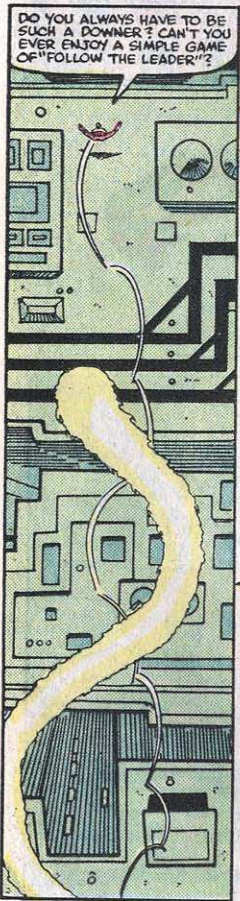


WHERE IS JAMES  
MELVIN?

IS THAT  
ALL YOU  
WANT TO  
KNOW?

OKAY,  
I'LL TELL  
YOU!

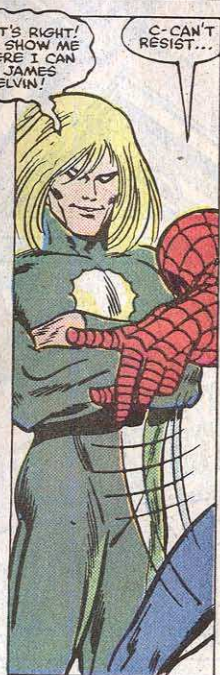
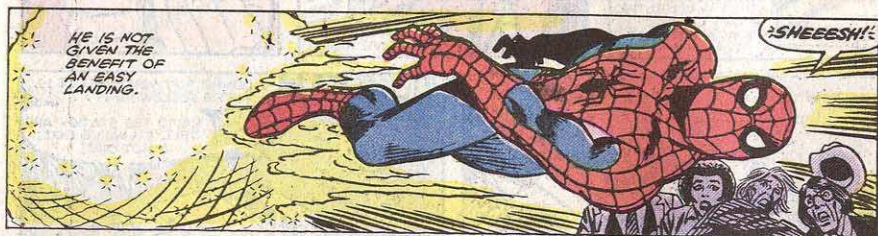
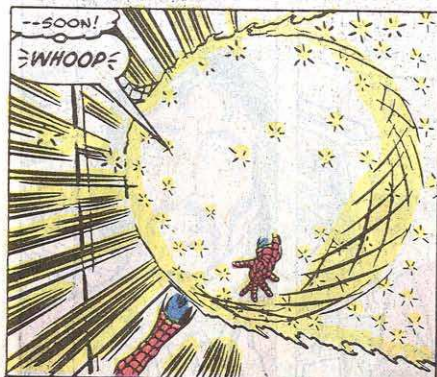
















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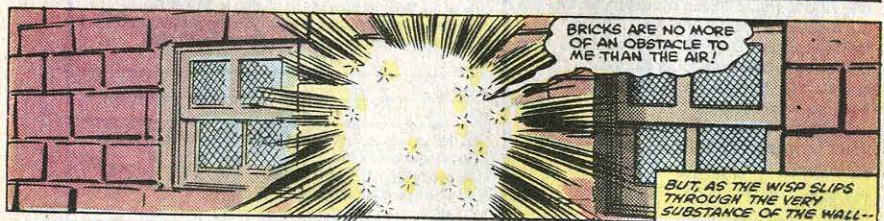
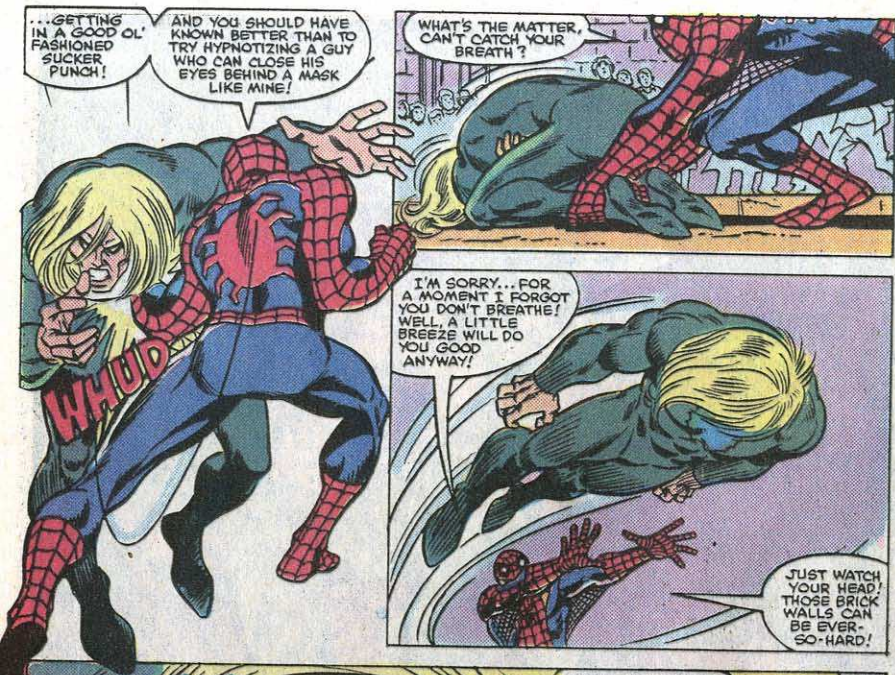
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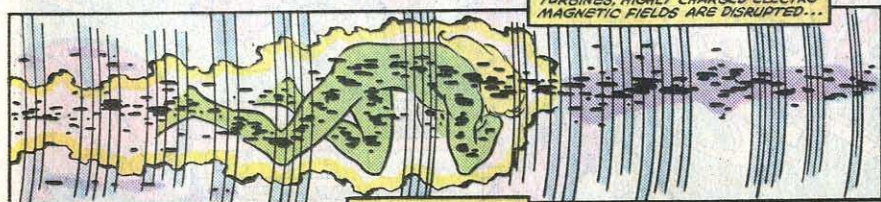
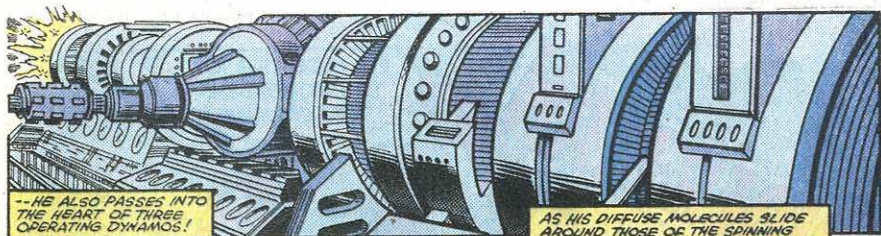
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MC1-83

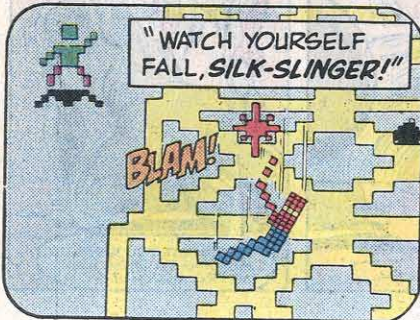
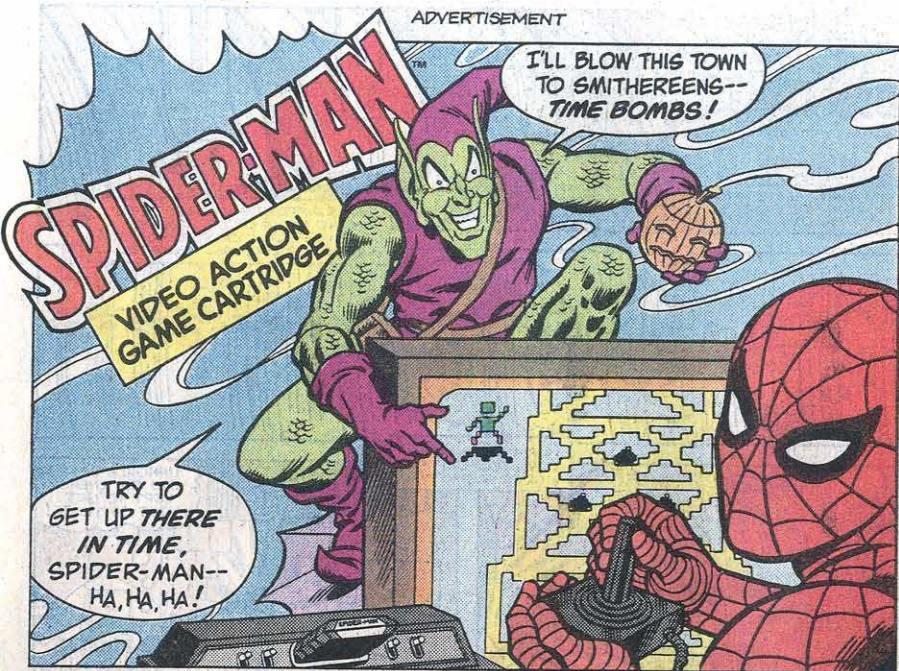




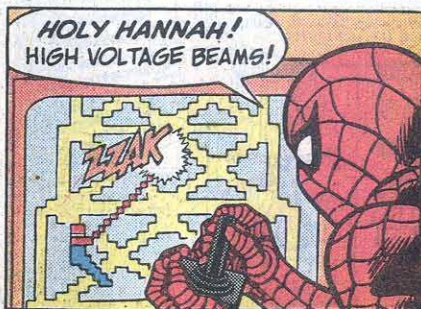












The Goblin's time bombs are ticking away. And his Super Bombs sit fendishly up on High Voltage Towers. The city is on its knees.

Only Spider-Man's spidey powers can get us out of this! Thwip! He shoots his web and swings up the buildings to reach the bombs.

Thwip! He shoots again, escaping the Goblin on his web-cutting jet glider.

But watch out! Goblin and his warped gang of criminals have more sneaky ways to cut your web and plunge you to the streets below.

Can you get Spider-Man to the bombs in time? Your web fluid is getting lower. And time is ticking away. . . .



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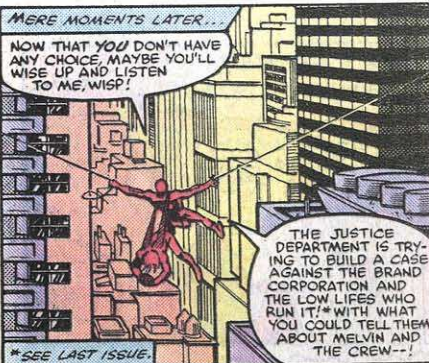
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MERE MOMENTS LATER...

NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, MAYBE YOU'LL WISE UP AND LISTEN TO ME, WISP!



\*SEE LAST ISSUE.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS TRYING TO BUILD A CASE AGAINST THE BRAND CORPORATION AND THE LOW LIES WHO RUN IT! \* WITH WHAT YOU COULD TELL THEM ABOUT MELVIN AND THE CREW--!

IT WOULD DO NO GOOD! MEN LIKE MELVIN TWIST THE LAWS AS THEY WISH!



ONLY IF YOU LET THEM! WHY NOT GIVE THE FEDS A FIGHTING CHANCE?

IF YOU WERE TO WALTZ MELVIN INTO THE FEDERAL D.A.'S OFFICE, HE'D SPILL EVERYTHING!



YOU KNOW HE WOULD!



ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU COULD KILL MELVIN! BUT THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO RUN FROM THE LAW FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

AND EVENTUALLY THEY WOULD HUNT YOU DOWN LIKE SOME SORT OF... MONSTER!



HOLY SMOKES!!









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Sept-82

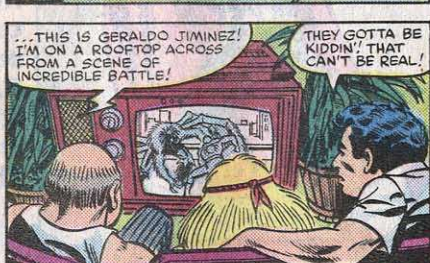
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☐ Fantastic Four  
☐ Ghost Rider  
☐ G.I. Joe  
☐ The Incredible Hulk  
☐ Iron Man

- ☐ Marvel Tales  
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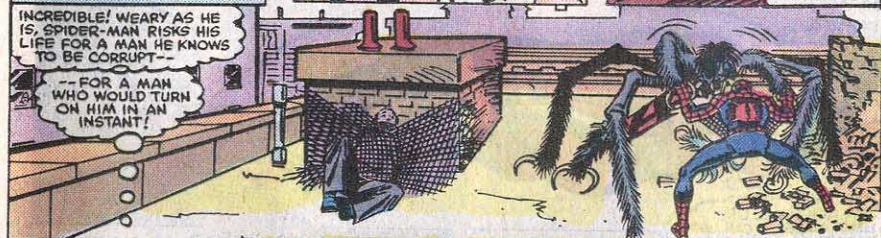
YES, SIR! THEY'LL KEEP EXPERIENCING THOSE "DIFFICULTIES" THAT'S A ROXION-OWNED STATION. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M STILL ON THE LINE WITH THE STATION MANAGER!



AND, BACK ON THE ROOFTOP...

INCREDIBLE! WEARY AS HE IS, SPIDER-MAN RISKS HIS LIFE FOR A MAN HE KNOWS TO BE CORRUPT--

--FOR A MAN WHO WOULD TURN ON HIM IN AN INSTANT!



HE IS EITHER A HERO OR A FOOL!



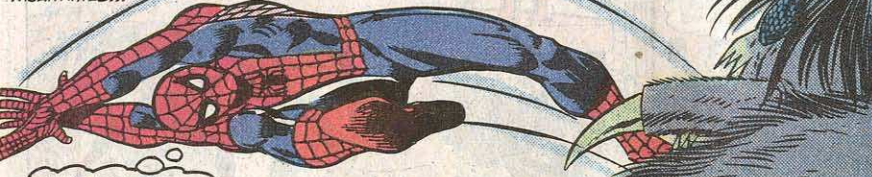
WHILE HE FOUGHT ON, I HAD TIME TO RECOVER... TO GATHER MY WILL TO SLIP FREE OF THESE BONDS.



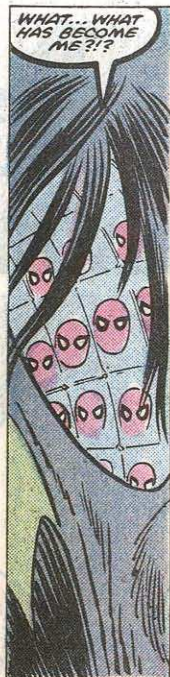




MEANWHILE...







WHAT... WHAT  
HAS BECOME  
ME?!



MONSTER!  
YOU MADE  
ME  
MONSTER!  
KILL!



NO, YOU'LL NOT  
KILL HIM!  
NO ONE  
SHALL!

AND BEFORE THE  
STARTLED EXECUTIVE  
CAN BLINK--



-- HE'S CARRIED  
OFF TO SAFETY,  
BEHIND THE  
BARRICADES OF  
THE POLICE  
LINES BEING  
HASTILY ERECTED  
BELOW!



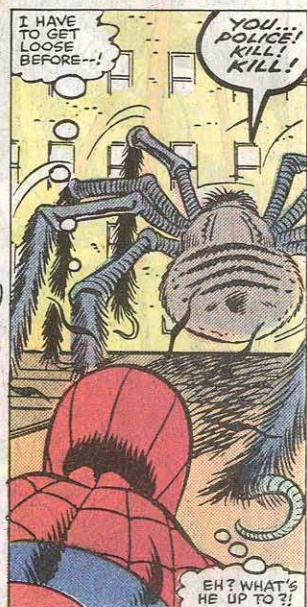
NO... NO! NOT END  
NOW... NOT LIKE  
THIS! KILL...  
KILL...



SOUNDS LIKE HIS MIND IS  
JUST ABOUT COMPLETELY  
GONE-- AND NO WONDER!

UGH! GOTTA GET  
OUT OF THIS WEB  
OF HIS!

IT'S NOT AS  
STRONG AS MINE,  
BUT IT'S STICKY  
ENOUGH!

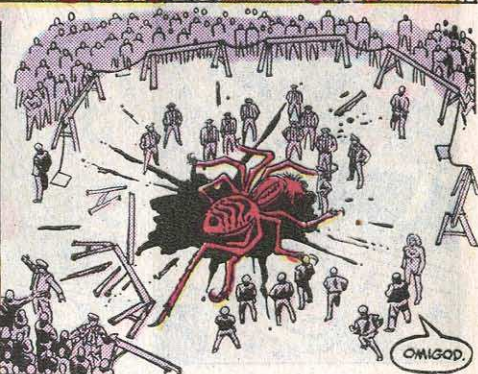
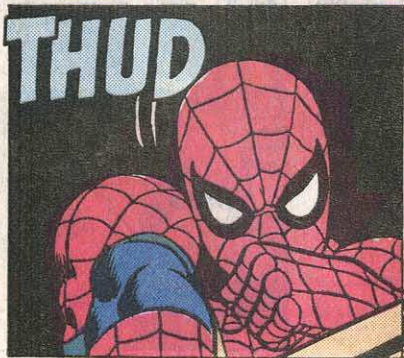


I HAVE  
TO GET  
LOOSE  
BEFORE--!

YOU...  
POLICE!  
KILL!  
KILL!

EH? WHAT'S  
HE UP TO?!







# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO  
EDITOR  
LINDA GRANT  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Web-People,

Congratulations! Superb and wonderful. Thank you so much for putting the webs back under Spider-Man's arms, and incidentally, for the rest of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #231. It was scintillating, from the lovely and moody cover to the flawlessly drawn and completely surprising last page. I turned the page fully expecting to see what's-his-name (you know, that unstoppable guy who's beaten the X-Men time and again), but instead there was Mr. Hyde.

John, whatever you do, don't leave this book. Your Spider-Man is the one I love. I'm sure many other fans would agree with me that the quality of this book has skyrocketed since you took over the artistic chores.

I do have one suggestion, though: Kill off Debra Whitman. She is immature, self-pitying, not too bright, and she sounds like something out of a Gothic Novel. If she says, "Oh, Peter," one more time, I think I'll scream. What our man needs is the beautiful, saucy, intelligent, effervescent, free-spirited Mary Jane Watson. Things were never properly settled between them.

Kathryn Newman  
510 Fernald Road  
Kittery, ME 03904

Kathryn, KATHRYN! I'm shocked at your murderous inclinations.

Please direct your attention to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #74, on sale in just a few short days, for an important story *vis-a-vis* Ms. Debra Whitman.

Dear Tom:

Thank you! With the last few issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, you have put this book back on the top of my list. I had been on a three-year hiatus from comics. I just lost interest, I guess. Luckily, a bunch of swell friends put me back on the right track, and I came back.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is now an excellent book. The covers lately have been great — and the stories, as well as the art, have been really fine. The Black Cat series was great and the Juggernaut books ended nothing short of spectacularly. It was incredible, artwise and plotwise. I thought nothing could follow it.

Then AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #231 came along and blew me away. I really like the Cobra, but I didn't expect Mr. Hyde, too! What a bonus! Why is Hyde angry with Cobra... for breaking prison without him? Oh, well. No one ever accused Hyde of being forgiving. Or sane.

Artwise, John Romita, Jr. is perfect on the book. His Cobras are good, and from what I

saw, his Mr. Hyde looks even better. I must applaud the full-page picture on page 22. It is one of the best shots in SPIDER-MAN in a long time.

I really can't wait for the next issue. I've always believed that the villains were an integral part of the Marvel Universe, perhaps the most interesting part.

Evan Dorkin  
432 Stobe Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10306

So do I, Evan.

Dear Tom:

"Caught in the Act..." was excellent, especially the cover. I looked at it, my eyes riveted on that strange stuff under Spider-Man's arms. Nah, it couldn't be. His webfluid must have leaked out. But, I read the story and — lo and behold — the underwear webs were back! Who said that Marvel never listens to its readers?

Roger Stern's story was great. I loved the Cobra, Betty, Ned, Maria, and the whole crew. It was great when Spider-Man couldn't find Maxie's at first. (Sometimes, you'd think super heroes carried around road maps with them, the way they always get to where they need to go so easily.) Speaking of Maria Madison, why not have Jonah propose to her? It would make for a great anniversary issue.

And speaking of anniversary issues, when Spider-Man's 25th anniversary rolls around, celebrate that, rather than the anniversary of the magazine.

Bill Mason  
753 Rively Avenue  
Glennolden, PA 19036

Dear Tom:

This is what great comics are made of. From the cover to the very end, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #231 was, in a word, great.

I don't know how Roger Stern does it, but when I read ASM, I get the impression that he's been scripting SPIDER-MAN for years. Yes, I know he wrote SPECTACULAR for a year and a half, but it just feels longer.

Stern sure had me fooled at the beginning. I thought it was Juggernaut, and not Mr. Hyde, emerging from the construction site. And speaking of Juggernaut, please have him return soon. I like to see the Web-head take on opponents who are stronger than he is, every once in awhile.

Tom, you did the right thing in bringing Roger over to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Now, how about getting him to bring back Belladonna and the new Prowler?

Until Jim Shooter becomes a midgen, make mine Maryell!

Eric Stenstrom  
117 Machinac  
East Peoria, IL 61611

Dear Tom,

What's all this about not celebrating Spider-Man's 20th Anniversary? That's what you say, but what a cover! What a story! Besides, I wanted to celebrate when I saw that — finally — you brought back the webbing under our hero's arms. Yaaa! Besides, any time John Romita Jr. draws the amazing Spider-Man, that's a reason to celebrate!

As for the matter — mentioned on the letters page — of which 25th Anniversary to honor... well, there's about an eight-month gap between Spider-Man's 25th and his book's quarter-century mark. So, celebrate both, with an eight-month epic-length story, guest-starring almost every furslugginer hero and villain in sight, along with a few of the alternate universe Spider-Men from WHAT IF. Of course, with all the cross-overs to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and MARVEL TEAM-UP added in, it'll be somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty issues, plus the chapters that'll appear in X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, and DEFENDERS.

Er... I'm not asking too much, am I? It might be a bit difficult to do that story, what with everyone busy producing the comics adaptation of SPIDER-MAN THE MOTION PICTURE... screenplay by Stan Lee.

Ah, well, I can dream, can't I?

Rick S. Jones  
11292 West 17B  
Argos, IN 46501

Dream all you want, Rick. Just remember, though, that one man's dream is another man's nightmare! After reading your letter, Rog tossed and turned all night, just at the thought of trying to coordinate all of those pages. John kept waking up in a cold sweat. And I couldn't get to sleep at all!

NEXT ISSUE: From out of the pages of DAREDEVIL strides... now, let's keep it a secret for now! We'll just say that in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #237, the ol' Wall-crawler faces a foe from his past, battles a runaway factory, and nearly has his pocket picked! The story is called "The High and the Mighty" and it starts in just thirty short days, so start saving your coins now! You'll be glad you did!

Tom DeFalco



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# BULLPEN BULLETINS

## A COUPLE OF THINGS WENT WRONG LAST MONTH...

First, I was so late with the Bullpen Bulletins manuscript that a number of Marvel Comics had to be printed and shipped without it! An ad was inserted in its place at the printer's.

Second, when the Bullpen Page finally got done, it was so late that I couldn't take the time to check it over properly before it went out. As a result, a photo of the Marvel folks in attendance at the wedding of star writer Roger Stern and lovely Carmela Meno was printed half the size I'd intended, and therefore looked a lot like mud.

## HERE'S WHY!

Last month I was on the road for almost three weeks, attending the spectacular San Diego Convention in sunny southern California, and the incredible Chicago Con in the wonderful Windy City. I took my briefcase and a large portfolio, both full of work, along with me... but while I was in San Diego - I admit it - I succumbed to temptation. I spent two whole days plus a stolen afternoon or three relaxing. I played racketball and lifted weights at the hotel's health spa. I went swimming in the hotel pool, jogging along the scenic waterfront, body surfing at the beach, and partying far into the night. I was joined in these thoroughly irresponsible activities by some of my favorite people - Joe Rubinstein, Jim Starlin and his wife Daina Graziunas, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Byrne and his wife Andrea, Carl Potts and Christie Scheele. It was wonderful - the nearest thing I've had to a vacation in about seven years.

The price for those couple of days off was high. The Bullpen Bulletins did not appear in a number of Marvel titles, and where it did, the photo it carried was naught but a blur. My fault. All my fault.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE...

Well, I've already arranged for several of your favorite Marvel personalities to do guest columns which will appear on this page every once in a while when I think you folks out there need a change of pace - or when I'm in a jam! Also, I'm going to print another picture of Roger and Carmela when I run his guest column. Also, they made me give back my salary for last month...

## OKAY, ON WITH NEW BUSINESS!

Did anyone not see the nifty, sixteen-page Marvel Comics Guide to Comic Collecting which was included in every single copy of *The Amazing Spider-Man* #234? From the response we received it's the most popular bonus feature ever offered in a comic book! If you somehow missed it, head for (or write to) the comics specialty shop nearest you. Many of them ordered a bunch of extra copies of *Spider-Man* #234 and of the Guide by itself, and they may still have a few left. If you don't know of any comics specialty shops near you, check the ads in this comic! Many shops and distributors advertise in Marvel publications. Or, write to me. I'll get back

to you with a list of shops in your general area. Speaking of such shops, I'd like to thank the folks from SUNSHINE COMICS, located at 6370 BIRD ROAD, SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155 for their help and cooperation, without which we couldn't have published the Collector's Guide. They originated the guide, and did hundreds of thousands of collectors across the country a service by allowing us to publish and widely distribute it. Thanks, folks!

## MARVEL TROUNCES WARREN!

I thought you'd like to know that on August 3, 1982 the Bullpen Bombers trashed the Warren Warriors on the softball field by a score of 20-1. Our left-fielder and manager Robbie Carosella led the attack with five hits in six at bats, including two homers.

Here's the line-up:

RF - Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC* - 4 for 6; LF - Robbie Carosella, Photostat Operator - 5 for 6; SS - Harry Eisenstein, Mail Clerk - 0 for 5 (but brilliant in the field); 1B - Jim Shooter, Editor-in-Chief - 2 for 5; CF - Ken Fedunewicz, Special Projects Production - 2 for 5; 3B - Nel Yomtov, Merchandising Development - 4 for 5; P - John Morelli, Letterer/Correctionist - 4 for 5; 2B - Lance Took, Assistant Editor - 4 for 5; SC - Ken Lopez, Production Assistant - 2 for 5

We had 'em all the way!

## I HAVE TO MENTION...

...that in San Diego, at their annual awards banquet, our own Archie Goodwin, Editorial Director of *EPIC Illustrated Magazine*, was honored with the prestigious Inkpot Award, acknowledging his contribution to the comics industry. If you want to see one reason why, buy or borrow a copy of *EPIC*. It'll convince you. A bunch of other Marvel folks have received inkpots as well over the years. I'll run a complete list here sometime soon.

## A WEEK LATER...

...in Chicago, at the Con, disaster nearly struck! You see *Spider-Man* was there, live and in person to give away free copies of the latest issues of *The Amazing Spider-Man* to the fans in attendance. The trouble was the shipment of comics never arrived! Fortunately, yours truly happened to bump into old Webhead in his hour of need, and I just happened to be carrying a hundred or so coupons, each good for a free subscription to any Marvel title. I promptly turned the coupons over to our hero, who found them an extremely effective substitute for his missing freebie comics. No problem. Now he owes me one. Just goes to show you, the Boy Scouts are right. Always be prepared.

## IT'S ABOUT TIME...

...that I gave Eliot Brown some credit. He's the guy who typesets this thing (and almost every other thing) every month... and he does a darn good job, and we're grateful. But, typesetting

isn't his only trick. He's also our resident photographer. He took the stunning photo which graced the cover of *Dazzler* #21 - as well as most of the other photos that have appeared in Marvel Comics in recent years. If a photo isn't credited otherwise, chances are it's Eliot's work. I should mention, too, that Eliot is our resident technical expert. If something's broken, he can fix it - if something's complicated, he can explain it - if you've got a problem, he can solve it. He draws - and he's especially good at technical drawing, like blueprints, diagrams, cutaways, mechanical drawing - he inks, he colors, he designs, he does boardwork, and other stuff, too, that I can't think of. Best of all, he's a real trouper who's stayed here at the office all night many times helping desperate artists and editors make deadlines. He's probably blushing now, as he typesets this - he's such a humble guy!

Well, Jim, I just don't know what to say, but I think that I'd like to take this singular opportunity to thank all the little people whose coattails I've ridden; when I think of Marvel Comics, the image of selfless camaraderie almost, almost has a tear to my eye, the hours of bonhomie, shoulder to shoulder... I can't go on - well, yes I could, but Jim is sliding his forefinger across his throat. Hmm. Thanks, Jim.

*With Love*

But I couldn't pass this opportunity to let him know he's appreciated! Hooray, Eliot!

## CONGRATULATIONS...

...are in order for my former secretary Franki Sienkiewicz. Being my secretary has got to be the toughest job in the place (tied, maybe, with the Traffic Manager job, which Virginia Romita handles so well). It involves representing Marvel to the world and the freelancers, handling an enormous workload including tons of memos, letters and complicated projects, all of them urgent and important, supervising three or more office assistants and putting up with me. Franki took it all in stride - so well, in fact, that she received an impressive promotion. She's now Administrative Manager of International Licensing. Whew! I feel like I should salute even when I just write that title! I think what it means is, that she's in charge of Europe... or maybe just NATO. Congratulations, Franki!

## MY NEW SECRETARY...

Pardon me, my new Administrative Assistant - the job grew a lot while Franki had it, because she was always eagerly shouldering more responsibility, so we had to change the title - is Lea Sapp. Lea is doing a great job and is already making me forget about 'whatsname. Heh, heh. Just kidding, Franki.

## GOTTA GO!

I think I see some NATO bombers headed this way!

Best,

*Warren*



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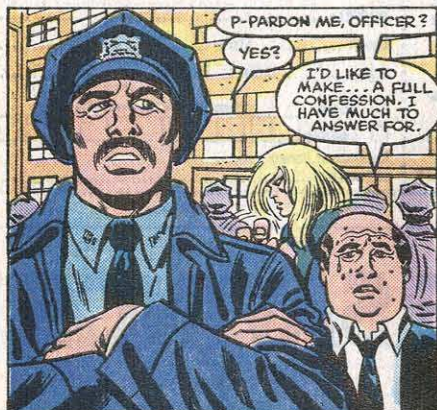
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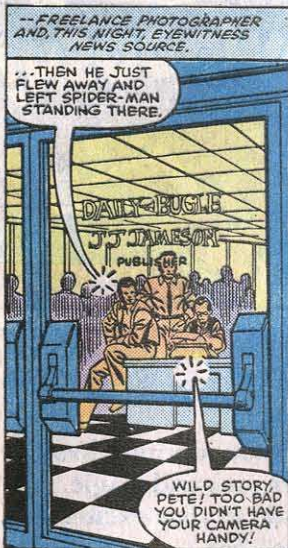
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