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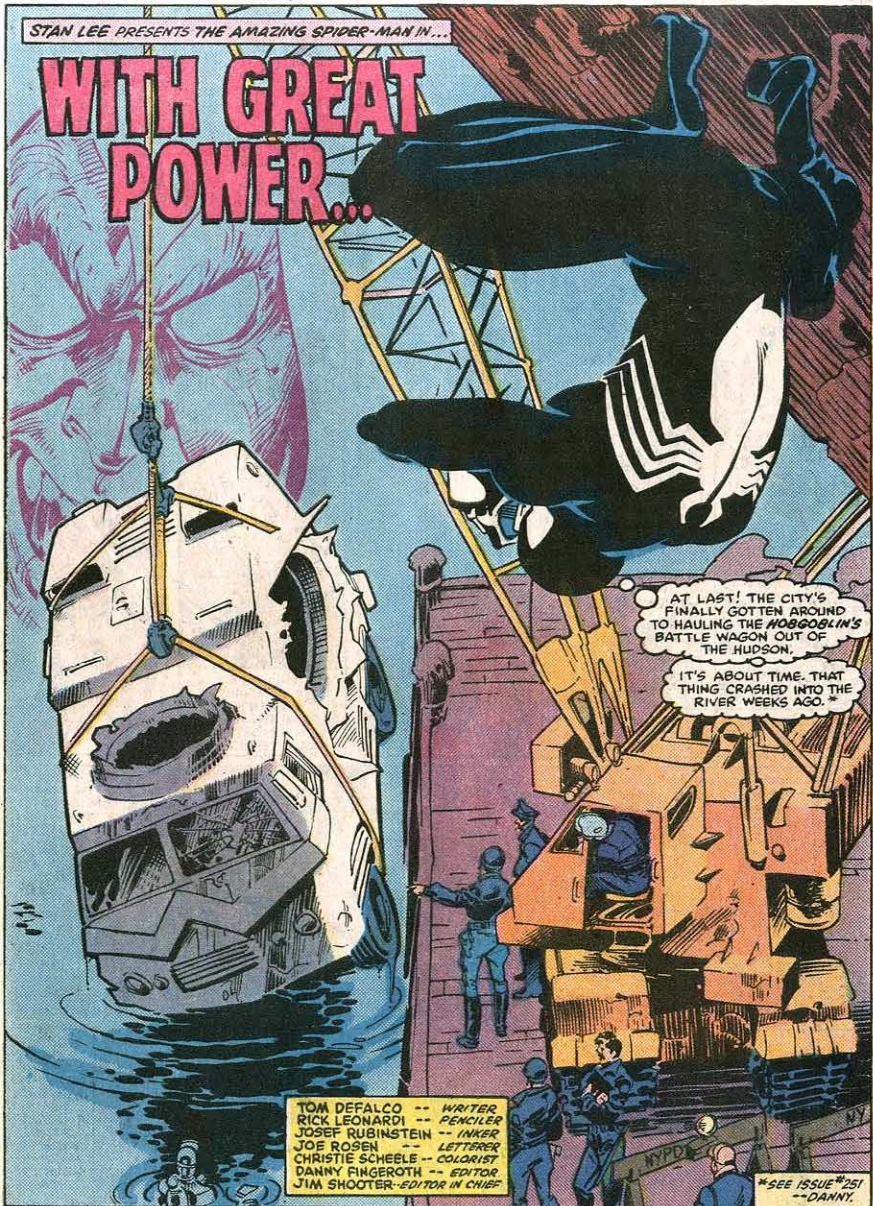
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*SEE ISSUE #251
-- DANNY

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BUT IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY TO ME...

"I HAD FINALLY TRACKED THE HOBGOBLIN TO HIS SECRET HEADQUARTERS."

"WHEN HE TRIED TO ESCAPE, I HITCHED A RIDE ON HIS BATTLE VAN..."

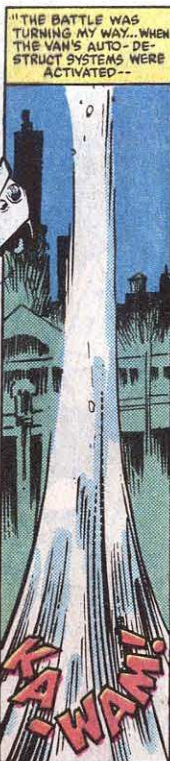


"AS SOON AS I ENTERED IT, HE ACTIVATED ITS INCREDIBLE AUTO-GUIDANCE SYSTEM."

"TALK ABOUT YOUR SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE!"

"WHILE WE FOUGHT, IT MANAGED TO STEER THE VAN SAFELY THROUGH TRAFFIC--"

"--UNTIL WE HAD CROSSED THE ENTIRE CITY, AND RUN OUT OF ROADWAY."



"THE BATTLE WAS TURNING MY WAY...WHEN THE VAN'S AUTO-DESTRUCT SYSTEMS WERE ACTIVATED--"

K-A-WAMI!

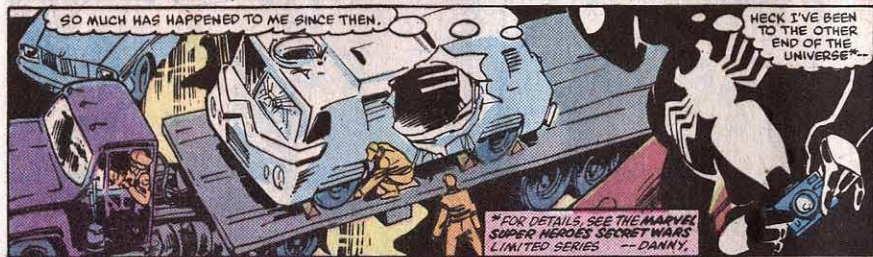


"THE HOBGOBLIN AND I WERE SEPARATED IN THE BLAST. AS SOON AS I COULD, I RETURNED TO THE WRECKAGE TO SEARCH FOR HIM."

"THE VAN WAS STILL PRETTY MUCH INTACT-- BUT HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND! HE HAD VANISHED --LEAVING ONLY ONE TRACE BEHIND--"



"--HIS MASK!"



SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO ME SINCE THEN.

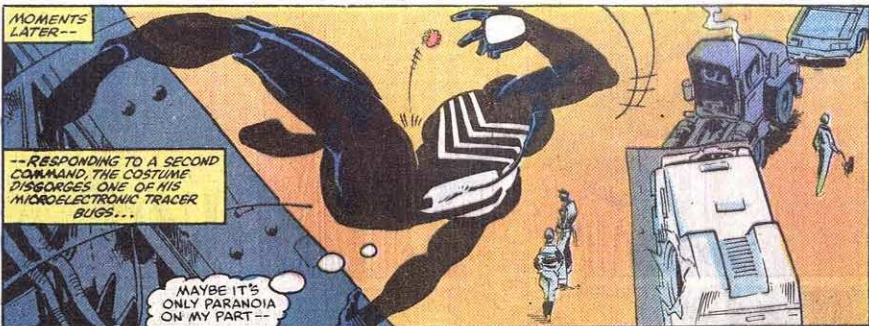
HECK I'VE BEEN TO THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE!"

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MOMENTS LATER--

--RESPONDING TO A SECOND COMMAND, THE COSTUME DISGORGES ONE OF HIS MICROELECTRONIC TRACER BUGS...

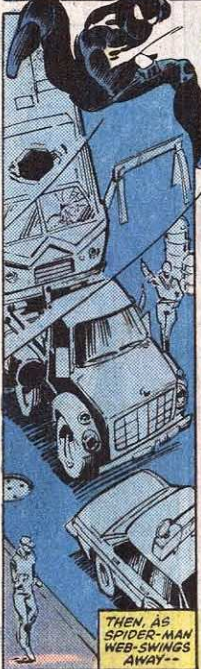
MAYBE IT'S ONLY PARANOIA ON MY PART--



--BUT I REALLY WANT TO KEEP TABS ON THIS BABY.

AFTER ALL, I SURVIVED THAT UNDERWATER EXPLOSION. MAYBE THE HOBGOBLIN DID, TOO.

IF HE IS ALIVE, HE'LL WANT HIS WHEELS BACK.



THEN, AS SPIDER-MAN WEB-SWINGS AWAY--

--AN ELDERLY JOGGER TAKES SPECIAL NOTE OF THE BATTLE VAN...



LOOKS LIKE THE FLATBED IS FINALLY PULLING OUT.

GOOD. I WAS GETTING TIRED OF RUNNING AROUND THIS STUPID BLOCK.

NOW, I CAN MAKE MY REPORT, AND GO HOME.



THE VAN HAS JUST LEFT FOR THE POLICE IMPOUND YARD, I REPEAT...



...THE VAN HAS JUST LEFT FOR THE POLICE IMPOUND YARD!



FUN FOR EVERYONE!

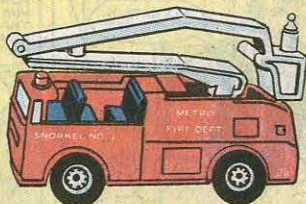
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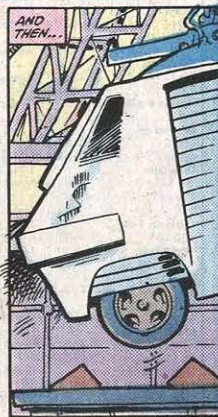
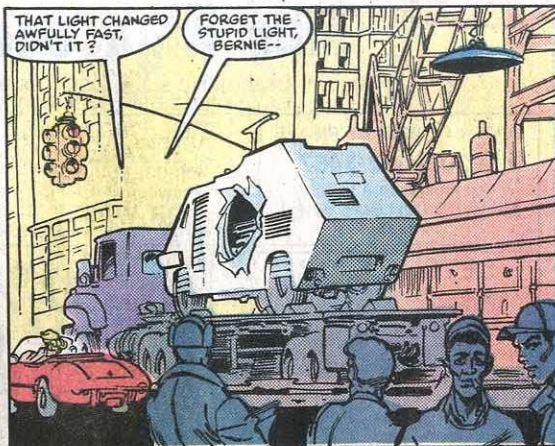
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ELSEWHERE, AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT...

HOW DID YOU DO TODAY, PETER?

NOT GOOD, BETTY. I COULDN'T INTEREST ANY OF THE EDITORS IN THE PICTURES I TOOK THIS MORNING.

COULD I LEAVE 'EM WITH YOU IN CASE SOMEBODY HAS A CHANGE OF HEART?

SURE.

DON'T LOOK SO DOWN. I'M SURE YOU'LL PICK UP A FREELANCE PHOTO ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DAY IS THROUGH.

SURE, IF LANCE BANNON DOESN'T BEAT ME TO IT.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE USED TO BE YOUR MAIN COMPETITION-- BUT HE HASN'T SHOWN HIS FACE IN WEEKS.





HELLO?

I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE.

NATHAN--?



LISTEN UP, BOY. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. YOUR AUNT DOESN'T KNOW I'M CALLING.

I REALIZE THIS "COLLEGE THING" IS STRICTLY BETWEEN YOU AND HER--

--BUT YOU'RE BOTH ACTING LIKE STUBBORN FOOLS!



YOU TWO REALLY CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER. IT'S HIGH TIME YOU SETTLED THINGS.

MAY AND I ARE HAVING LUNCH RIGHT NOW AT GINO'S ON 72ND STREET...

I KNOW THE PLACE!



I CAN BE THERE IN THIRTY MINUTES! AND, NATHAN...

...THANKS!



OUR TABLE IS READY, DEAR.

WHO WERE YOU CALLING?

ER... I JUST WANTED TO KNOW THE CORRECT TIME. IT ISN'T AS LATE AS I THOUGHT.



THEY DON'T MAKE MANY LIKE NATHAN LUBENSKY, ANYMORE!

HEY, PARKER! COME HERE A MINUTE...

I WONDER WHAT WENDY THORNTON WANTS WITH ME?



YEAH. WHY?

SOMETHING JUST CAME IN ON THE POLICE BAND ABOUT IT.

DIDN'T YOU TAKE PICTURES OF THAT STRANGE VAN THEY FISHED OUT OF THE HUDSON THIS MORNING?

IT NEVER REACHED THE POLICE IMPOUND YARD.

WHAT--?!

I DON'T GET IT. THAT THING HAS BEEN RUSTING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER FOR WEEKS!

WHO COULD POSSIBLY HAVE ANY USE FOR IT NOW?!

WELL, PARKER, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK THE PICTURES.

WHAT DO YOU--

SEEMS LIKE IT JUST VANISHED. NO ONE KNOWS HOW.

--THINK?

PARKER--?!

THAT VAN COULD LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO THE HOBGOBLIN--
--BUT NATHAN AND AUNT MAY ARE WAITING FOR ME!

THE NERVE OF THAT GUY!

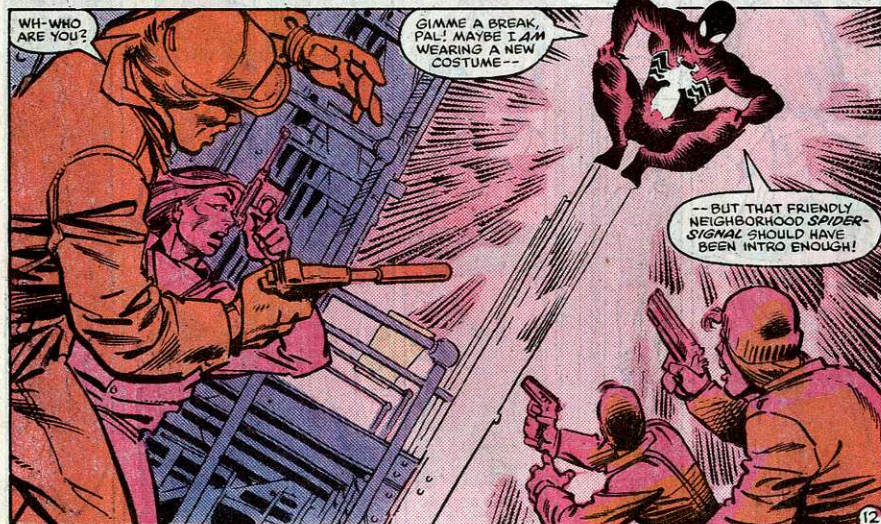
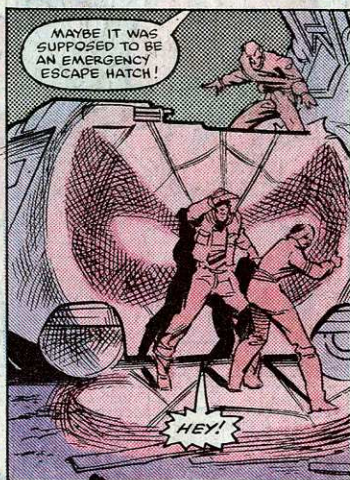
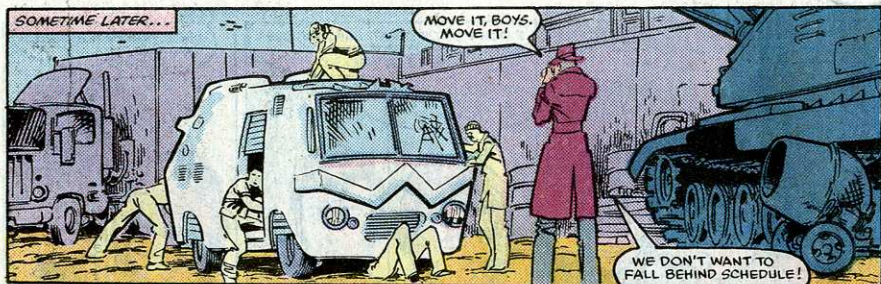
I CAN'T LET AUNT MAY GO DOWN AGAIN--BUT THE HOBGOBLIN IS A RUTHLESS KILLER!

~ HARRUPPH~
WONDER WHERE HE WENT--

"--AND WHY?"

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ANYWAY?

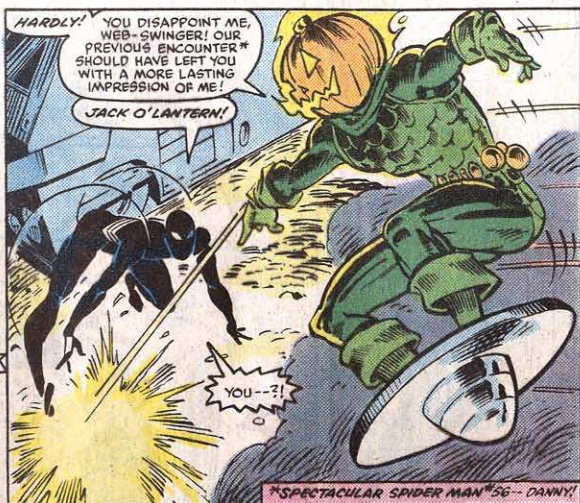
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? WHAT?!





I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!







LOOKS LIKE IT'S FOLLOW THE LEADER TIME AGAIN! IT'S REAL OBVIOUS THAT JACK'S JUST TRYING TO SEPARATE ME FROM THE VAN--

-- BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE TRACER I PLANTED ON IT!

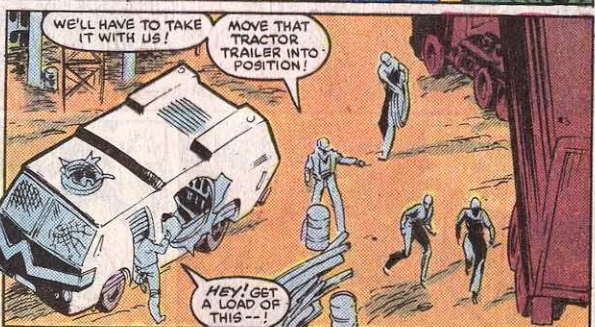
HERE I COME-- READY OR NOT!



WHEW! THERE GOES ONE TOUGH DUDE!

HE'S THE BOSS'S PROBLEM NOW! WE'VE GOT OUR OWN WORRIES!

THERE'S NO TIME TO FINISH STRIPPING THE VAN HERE!



WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT WITH US!

MOVE THAT TRACTOR TRAILER INTO POSITION!

HEY! GET A LOAD OF THIS--!



THAT DASH-BOARD JUST LIT UP LIKE A VIDEO ARCADE!

IT'S THE AUTO-GUIDANCE SYSTEM! SOMETHING MUST HAVE ACTIVATED IT!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--!!



BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE WHITE WAGON ROARS INTO LIFE!

WHAT THE--?!

VROOM!



LOOK OUT!

IT'S TAKING OFF BY ITSELF!

WE BARELY HAD TIME TO LEAP FROM THE CAB!



WH--WHERE DO YOU THINK IT'S HEADING?!

I DUNNO. SOMEONE MUST BE DIRECTING IT BY REMOTE CONTROL-- BUT WHO?!





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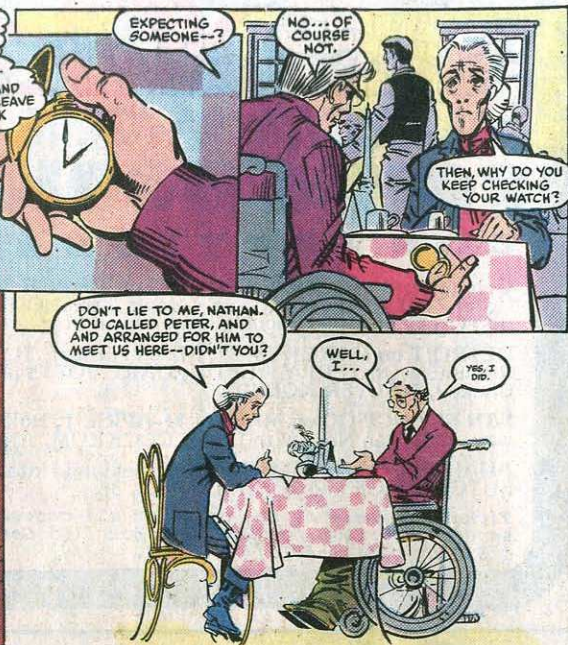
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AND HE'S
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LISTEN, POWER MAN'S
NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, SO
WE HAVE A FEW SECONDS
TO TALK.

THE PROBLEM IS, HE
FOUND OUT THAT SOME
OF YOU AREN'T BUYING
OUR MAGAZINE* AND
THAT'S MAKING HIM...
WELL, MAD.

WHEN HE
GETS MAD,
HE BREAKS
THINGS.

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I GAVE A SPEECH...

...at a press conference at the giant Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada, a few weeks ago. The press conference was to announce the new line of Marvel Comics computer games being launched by Adventure International, Inc. My speech went something like this:

Hi, there! I'm Jim Shooter, Editor in Chief of Marvel Comics. Unlike myself, my speech is very short. Marvel Comics is number one in adventure stories, and Adventure International, Incorporated is number one in computer adventure games. Together we're going to conquer the world. Thank you!

Scott Adams heads up Adventure International, and he is to computer games as Stan Lee is to comics. He is *the man*. Scott is also a Marvel Comics fan, as are a whole bunch of the people who work for him down at his Florida base of opera-

tions. They wanted their games to be right on — as closely woven into the Marvel Universe and continuity as possible. So, editor Bob Budiansky, creative genius John Byrne and I got together with Scott to plot out the entire game series and a matching set of comics — a Limited Series — which links it to the mainstream of Marvel.

HYPE BOX

MARVEL FANFARE #15 —

Okay, true believers, this is it! **BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH** returns to **MARVEL** with a full-length *Thing* tale that he's written and illustrated! Barry's a genuine living legend in the comic world, and if you remember his classic *Conan* tales you know why. If not, here's your chance to see how he earned that reputation. Don't miss it — there's no telling when you'll get another!

ALPHA FLIGHT #12 — Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated story of the year — and the most fearfully dreaded! This issue, a member of *Alpha Flight* will *die*! Written and drawn by **JOHN BYRNE**.

What we (mostly John) came up with, I think, is great!

The game series is called the *Questprobe Series*. The first game featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange will be on sale about May 1st at places which sell computer software and at your local comics shop. Every three months or so thereafter, another *Questprobe* game

featuring a Marvel star will be released.

The first issue of our *Questprobe Limited Series* of comics, also featuring the Hulk and Doctor Strange (of course) will be on sale April 24th. And, of course, every three months or so thereafter, whenever a new game debuts, the corresponding *Questprobe Limited Series* comic book will also be released.

You can play and enjoy each game without ever reading the comics (and without having played any of the other games in the series). And, you can read and enjoy the comics (which we'd do even if there were no games, frankly. They're that good!) without playing the games. Lucky for me, I've had this fear of computers ever since I was bitten by a pocket calculator as a child. But, of course, it's *better* if you partake of both the comics and the games — so, hey, enrich the experience, why don'tcha? Go for the gusto!

The game graphics, by the way, are designed by top Marvel artists.

All right, enough of this! Now you know what's going on. Make up your minds what you're doing and go do it! And be sure to let us know what you think...

TILL NEXT MONTH...

Hang in there! Stay well and come back, 'cause heavens knows, we need you!

Best



Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #208
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #17
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #23
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #295
- ☐ THOR #345
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #19
- ☐ CRYSTAR #8
- ☐ THOR #345
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #19
- ☐ CRYSTAR #8
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #38
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #297
- ☐ AVENGERS #245

- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #160
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #165 — Reprinting "Bring Back My Goblin to Me" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #27
- ☐ X-MEN #183
- ☐ ROM #56
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #107
- ☐ G.I. JOE #25
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #268
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #143 — Featuring *Spider-Man* and *Starfox*
- ☐ IRON MAN #184
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #92
- ☐ DEFENDERS #133

- ☐ STAR WARS #85
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #12
- ☐ THE THING #13
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #101
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #16
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #15
- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #24
- ☐ COYOTE #8
- ☐ ASSORTED GOODIES
- ☐ X-MEN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting the Phoenix saga from *X-Men* #'s 129-137, by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BYRNE, and TERRY AUSTIN.



TALK! WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE HOBGOBLIN?

WHY DID YOU TRY TO HIJACK HIS BATTLE WAGON?

THE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS WILL STARTLE YOU, WALL-CRAWLER!



HOWEVER, I CHOOSE NOT TO REVEAL THEM-- NOW!

OH, NO!

BZ!TT!



BLA-OOM!

EYII!



WHAT A JERK I AM!

MY SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME THAT JACK WAS UP TO SOMETHING--



-- BUT I JUST ASSUMED HE'D TRY TO ATTACK ME AGAIN!

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT HE'D AIM FOR THOSE ELECTRICAL CABLES INSTEAD!

GOT TO MOVE FAST! THOSE ARE LIVE WIRES, AND THAT WOMAN IS STANDING IN A PUDDLE OF WATER--!



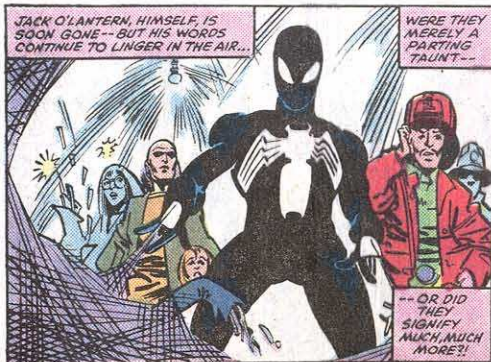
YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE, SPIDER-MAN!

I KNEW YOU'D RELEASE ME IF OTHERS WERE ENDANGERED!



FAREWELL FOR NOW, WEB-SPINNER!

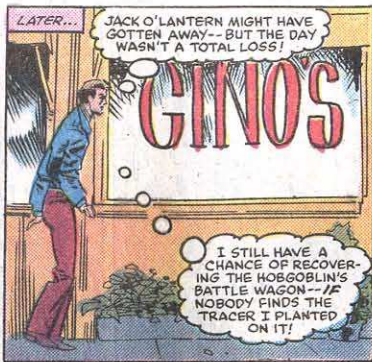
I'LL GIVE YOUR REGARDS TO THE HOBGOBLIN!



JACK O'LANTERN, HIMSELF, IS SOON GONE-- BUT HIS WORDS CONTINUE TO LINGER IN THE AIR...

WERE THEY MERELY A PARTING TAUNT--

--OR DID THEY SIGNIFY MUCH, MUCH MORE?!



LATER...

JACK O'LANTERN MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY-- BUT THE DAY WASN'T A TOTAL LOSS!

GINO'S

I STILL HAVE A CHANCE OF RECOVERING THE HOBGOBLIN'S BATTLE WAGON-- IF NOBODY FINDS THE TRACER I PLANTED ON IT!



BUT I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

I RUSHED ALL THE WAY UPTOWN-- ON THE OFF-CHANCE THAT AUNT MAY AND NATHAN WERE STILL HERE, BUT NO--



--LUCK?!

SO, YOU FINALLY GOT HERE, DID YOU? WELL, YOU'RE TOO LATE!

YOUR AUNT LEFT OVER AN HOUR AGO-- *IN TEARS!*

I STAYED BEHIND TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF MY MIND!



NATHAN, I'M SORRY BUT--

BUT *WHAT--?* NOTHING COULD JUSTIFY YOUR THOUGHTLESSNESS! YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO CALL!

YOUR AUNT REALLY LOVES YOU, BOY-- AND SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FUTURE-- BUT, AFTER TODAY, SHE'S CONVINCED THAT YOU DON'T CARE A FIG ABOUT HER!



I USED TO THINK YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT YOUR AUNT, PETER. MAYBE I WAS WRONG...

MAYBE I NEVER KNEW THE REAL YOU, AFTER ALL.

THE END... FOR NOW!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10018

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Bob, ya done us proud.
We're still getting mail on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248, the issue my assistant Bob DeNatale oversaw while I was off conventioning. "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," by Stern, Frenz and Austin, was one of the best received stories of Assistant Editor's Month — if not the best received — and it inspired an outpouring of emotion from our readers that genuinely touched us.

The following letters are the merest tip of the mountain of mail we received, but they are a representative sampling. Thank you, one and all, for writing. Thank you, Roger, Ron, and Terry, for this most unique tale.

Like I said, Bob, ya done us proud.

Dear Bob,

I have collected THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN for more time than I care to remember, and I always thought that the death of Gwen Stacy was one of the most shocking stories I ever read. Now issue #248 is released — and I have to say "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" was one of the most original and touching creations I've ever read. It now ranks as one of the best Spider-Man stories ever. Excellent!

Lon Vennard
3880 NW, 79 Ave.
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Dear People,

"The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" portrayed Peter Parker as a real person better than any Spider-Man story I've seen for years. I was moved by that story in a way I have not been by any Spider-Man story since issue #33.

Roger Stern did a superlative job writing that story. I have read it several times over the last two days, and there is simply no element of the story that is less than perfect. The way the story is told, partly with text (the newspaper column), partly with an interplay of words and pictures, and partly just with pictures takes full advantage of the capabilities of the medium. In particular the newspaper column rings true; it would be completely believable if it were run in any daily newspaper. Stories like that make me believe in the Marvel characters.

I know that Roger is leaving SPIDER-MAN, and I think that all of us to whom Peter Parker is important are sorry to see him go. Thanks very much, Roger, for all the good Spider-Man stories, and particularly for "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man."

Bill Turner
1043 Auburn Road
Groton, NY 13073

Dear Roger, Ron and Terry,

Issue #248 of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN saw what most undeniably be Peter Parker's most heroic, admirable act since

his career as a super hero began. Never before have I read such a sensitive, beautiful story. In my book, Roger Stern rates as Marvel's finest writer.

I read "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" and I cried. I cried as I have never cried before. I cried for all the Tims of the world who don't have a Spider-Man to ease their pain. Thank you for the most tender and memorable comic I have ever read.

Jake Horsley
Bishop Burton
North Humberstone
England

Dear Roger, Ron and the rest,

I was so emotionally moved by your story, "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," that I felt compelled to write and tell you so.

I've read comics since I was 12, and some were very, very good, with meanings and messages far beyond the obvious. But now, 20 years later, the "Kid" story got to me like no other. Congratulations on a job well done.

Bill Chappell
990 Orange Ave.
Daytona Beach, FL 32014

Dear Marvel,

I have just finished reading THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248, and I loved it!

"The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" was wonderful. It was one of the best stories I have ever read.

It was extra-special to me because my grandfather died of stomach cancer and a close friend of the family died of leukemia.

I have collected comic books for almost three years, but if I could have only one book it would be that one.

Patsy Harrell
1069 W. Ocean View Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23503

Dear Mr. DeNatale,

For "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," accept my sincere gratitude and appreciation. It was the best treatment of a terminal disease I've ever seen in a comic book. Roger Stern may have written the tale, but you deserve equal credit for demanding and publishing it.

My 29-year-old cousin Craig developed a dry cough a month or so after his daughter's first birthday. Craig's doctor misdiagnosed his symptoms for six weeks, so it came as quite a shock when Craig learned that he had cancer. Now he divides his time between his wife, child and skating-rink business in Kalamazoo, and chemotherapy at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Craig jokes about his condition and complains that "the cure is worse than the disease." He's lost weight but not hope. When Craig was Tim Harrison's age, his mother died of cancer, but he swears he'll beat it.

My cousin Craig is luckier than Tim Harrison. Tim will never experience puberty, college, love, marriage or fatherhood. But

thank you for introducing us to him. In 11 short pages Tim became a very real and delightful person, as well as a reminder that one need not be a costumed crime-fighter to be a hero.

Pat Floss
Boston, MA

Dear Bob,

Lately, I've been wondering why I still read comics.

Thanks for letting me know.

Jordan Marsh
Chicago, IL

Dear Roger and Bob,

I hope Stan Lee reads "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man," because if he does I'm sure he'll be very proud.

Steven Getman
9213 N. Campus
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

He did — and he is. Read on:

Dear Bob,

I just wanted to drop you a line to congratulate you on SPIDER-MAN #248.

Those two Roger Stern stories were dynamite — and "The Kid Who Collects Spider-Man" really knocked me out. The artwork by Frenz and Austin was the closest I've seen anyone come to the original Ditko.

If the readers enjoyed it as much as I did it'll be a sellout.

Excelsior!

Stan Lee
Marvel Productions Ltd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

You can't top a compliment like that, Bob. To Stan — and everyone else who wrote us — thank you so much.

NEXT ISSUE: The return of the Red Ghost (and where he goes, can the Super-Apes be far behind?) who's got a very strange problem. Plus: the introduction of the mysterious Black Fox... and more about Spidey's new duties. The story's called "Even a Ghost Can Fear the Night!" and it's written by Tom DeFalco, and drawn by the returning Ron Frenz, who now, as promised, is going to be doing full pencils, not just breakdowns. I'm betting you'll flip when you see his work — along with the sea embellishment of Josef Rubinstein (who didn't do too shabby a job this month over the brilliant guest-penciling of Rick Leonardi)! All in all, I predict AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255 is gonna be quite a package. But then, I'm a little prejudiced. Pick up a copy and let me know how you like it! See you then.

Danny Fingeroth

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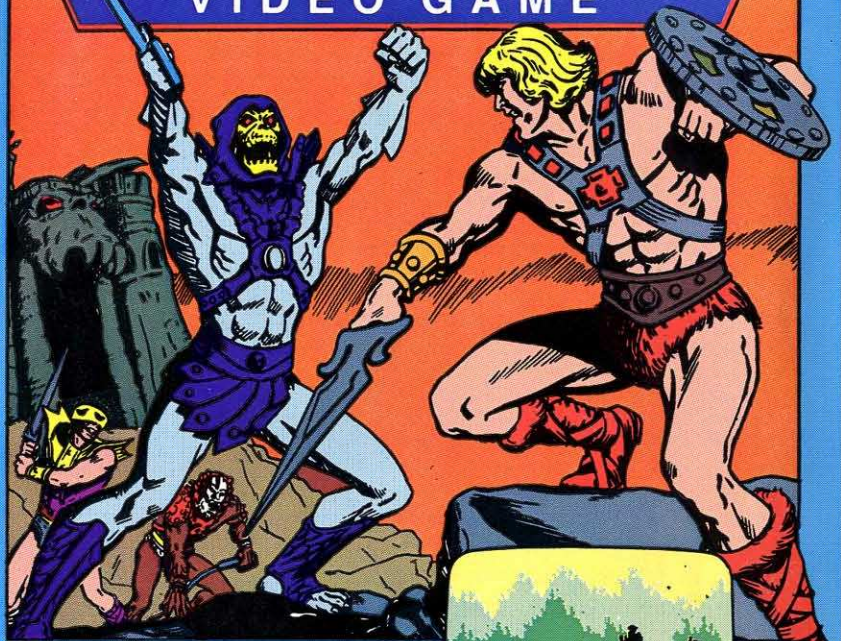
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