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EVEN A GHOST...

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...CAN FEAR
THE NIGHT!



THE NEXT DAY.



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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

"EVEN A GHOST CAN FEAR THE NIGHT!"

STARRING THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN!

SILENT AS A LIVING SHADOW,
HE SWINGS THROUGH THE NIGHT.

THE BALCONY BECKONS
IN THE MOONLIGHT, AND
HE KNOWS THAT HIS
MISSION NEARS COM-
PLETION.

SOON, HE WILL
BE RICH...

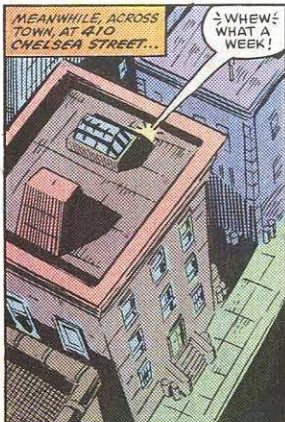
... RICH BEYOND ALL
DREAMS OF AVARICE!

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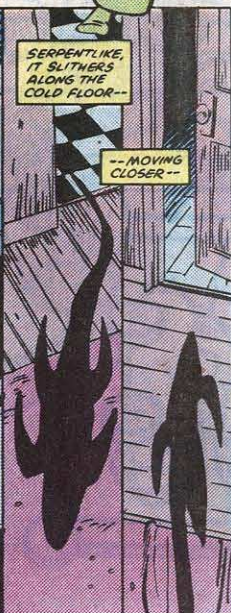
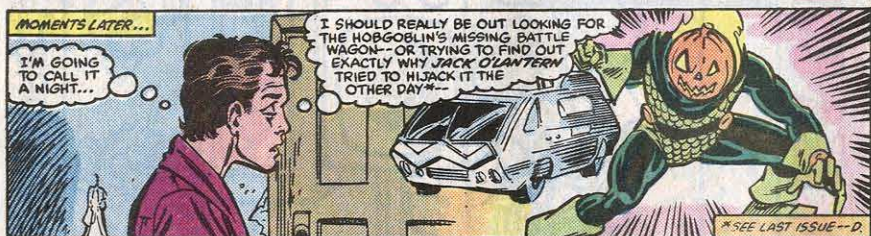
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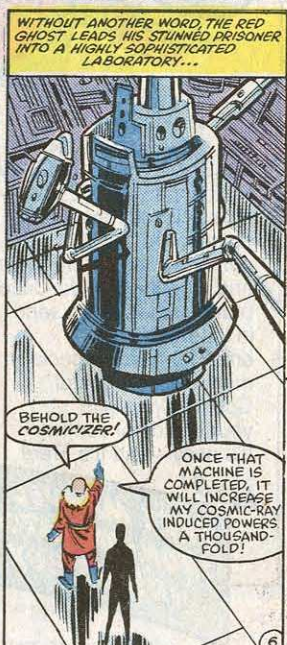
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MY PRESENCE IN THIS CITY IS A SECRET, AND MUST REMAIN SO!

I SHALL REMAIN HERE, WHERE IT IS SAFE, WHILE YOU SECURE THE FUNDS I NEED!

MY APES WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T BETRAY ME!

THIS IS CRAZY! INSANE!

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BUT YOU WILL DO WHAT I ASK...

...OR YOU WILL DIE!

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THE NEXT DAY...

BWAM!
BWAM!
BWAM!



ALPHX



OPEN UP PARKER!
I KNOW YOU'RE
IN THERE!

HUHH--?!



BWAM!
BWAM!

WHO CAN
THAT BE--
AT THIS
HOUR?!

MUST BE AROUND
MIDNIGHT! I COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN ASLEEP
FOR MORE THAN AN
HOUR OR TWO!

ALL RIGHT!
I'M COMING...
I'M COMING...



MRS. MUGGINS! WHAT ARE
YOU DOING UP SO LATE?

"LATE"?! THE ONLY THING
LATE AROUND HERE IS
YOUR RENT!

IT'S ONLY SEVEN O'CLOCK AT
NIGHT! WHAT WERE YOU
DOING IN BED? YOU SHOULD
BE OUT MAKING MONEY!

SEVEN
O'CLOCK?!

GOOD GOSH!
I MUST HAVE
SLEPT THROUGH
THE ENTIRE DAY!



WHAT
ABOUT
MY
RENT?

DON'T WORRY! I JUST GOT
A BIG CHECK FROM THE
DAILY BUGLE--I'LL PAY YOU
AS SOON AS IT CLEARS!

I'VE HEARD
THAT SAD SONG
BEFORE! I'LL BE
BACK!



SHORTLY...

FINALLY
GOT RID
OF HER!

STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE I
WASTED THE
ENTIRE DAY
IN BED!



I WAS REALLY HOPING I COULD DROP
IN ON MY AUNT MAY TODAY--BUT I
GUESS IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR
THAT NOW.

I KNOW IT'S
FUTILE, BUT I'M
GOING TO TRY
CALLING HER--

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JUST THEN, A
MERE FIFTEEN
BLOCKS AWAY...

THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING
TO ME!

LAST NIGHT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE MY
FINAL JOB! I'D PLANNED
TO RETIRE! WHAT WENT
WRONG?

MUST REMAIN CALM!
CAN'T PANIC! THE APES
WILL TEAR ME APART
IF THINGS DON'T RUN
SMOOTHLY!

STILL DON'T UNDER-
STAND WHY THE
GHOST NEEDS SOME-
ONE LIKE ME TO
LEAD THEM--

--UNLESS HIS FEAR OF
THE OUTDOORS IS
GREATER THAN
HE LET ON!

SURE! I'LL BET HE'S
AGORAPHOBIC! THAT
WOULD EXPLAIN WHY
HE NEVER LEAVES
HIS APARTMENT!

I KNOW THAT ONE
OF YOU IS A SHAPE-
CHANGER-- BUT
WHICH ONE?

GRRRR!

THERE'S THE JEWELRY
STORE HE ORDERED
US TO ROB.

ER...
RIGHT.

LISTEN CLOSELY! WE'VE
GOT TO GET DOWN TO
THE STREET --

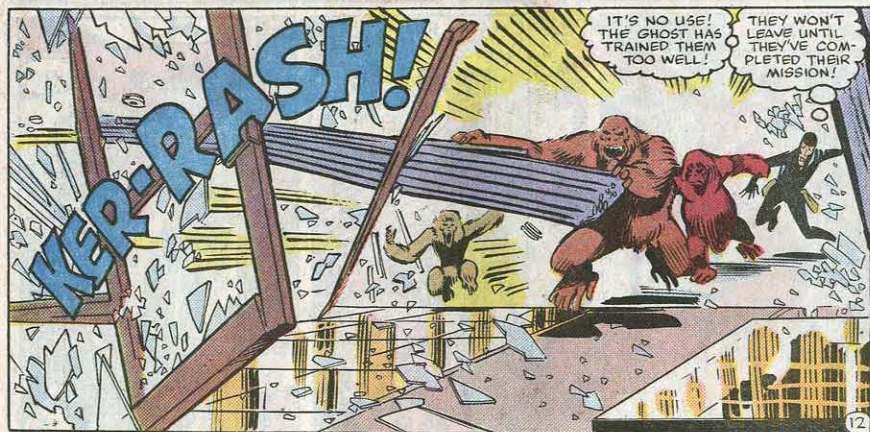
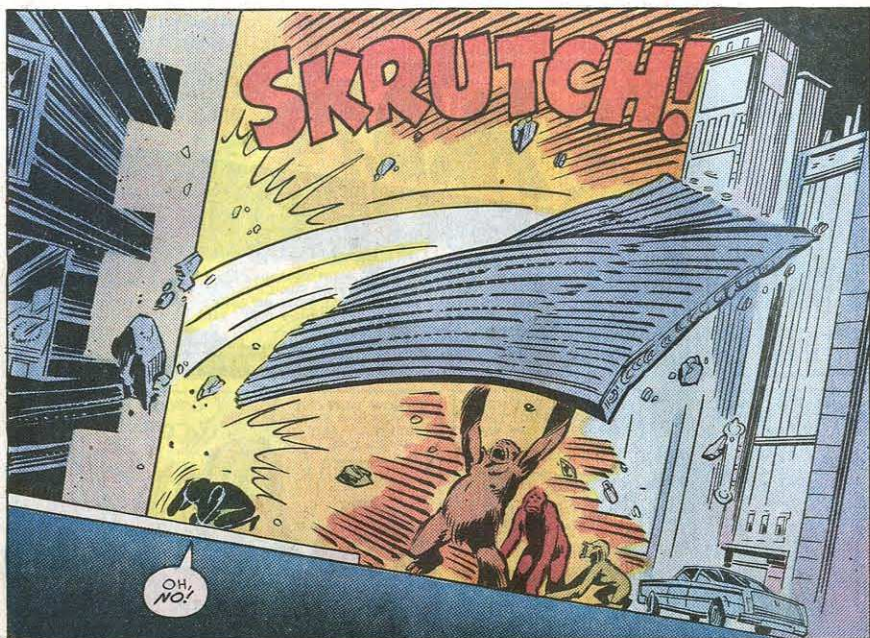
--AND I WANT
YOU TO TAKE US!"

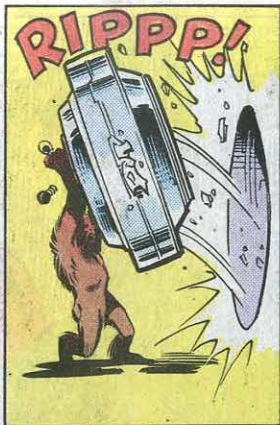
WHAT A RIDE! MY
STOMACH MAY NEVER
RECOVER FROM IT!

STAY BACK!
IT'LL JUST TAKE
ME A MOMENT
TO PICK THESE
LOCKS, AND--

HEY!

DON'T--!











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AAARGH!!

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NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, I'D LIKE A TOUR OF THE PLACE!

WHERE'S THE LITTLE SPIDER'S ROOM?

STOP HIM!

WISH I WAS HALF AS CONFIDENT AS I SOUND--

--THESE GUYS ARE TOUGH!

WHEN IT COMES TO RAW POWER, THEY'RE IN A LEAGUE WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

AH! FROM THE FOX'S DESCRIPTION, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR-- THE COSMICIZER!

I'VE GOTTA DESTROY IT BEFORE THE GHOST CAN USE IT TO INCREASE HIS POWERS!

UH-OH! HERE COMES THE GORILLA AGAIN!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE STRONG ONE OF THE GROUP!

MAYBE I CAN USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

GRRRR!

"GRRR"? YOU'LL NEED BETTER ONE-LINERS THAN THAT--

--TO BE INVITED TO THE SPIDER-MAN CELEBRITY ROAST!

BWAM!

KA-VWOOM!

GOOD SHOT, BONZO!

I THOUGHT I COULD TRICK YOU INTO DEMOLISHING YOUR BOSS'S BABY!

20

NOOOO!

MONTHS OF LABOR-- GONE IN AN INSTANT!

Bullpen Bulletins

A TRAGIC MISTAKE . . .

Well, maybe not really tragic, but, anyway — a few months ago I was talking about being down in Florida visiting *Adventure International*, where they make the best darn computer games in the whole wide world, and I mentioned that a programmer named John Anderson made some favorable comments about our now-legendary Assistant Editors Month.

Oops.

It seems that the fellow I spoke to was in reality, Mr. Mark S. Murley, who's a Documentation Manager for A.I. as well as a Marvel Comics fan for nearly twenty years! John is a very nice guy, don't get me wrong — but it was Mark with whom I spoke about Assistant Editors Month! Sorry guys! From now on, I promise to keep the names straight.

WHICH BRINGS UP QUESTPROBE . . .

Have you seen the first issue of our *Questprobe* Limited Series? We're doing this series in conjunction with *Adventure International*, which, if you don't know, is a division of Scott Adams, Inc. They're doing corresponding computer games to go with our comics — which by the way, are hot stuff all by themselves.

Whether you get along with computers or not, I think you'll like this series — especially since issue #1 marks the return of *John Romita* the elder to mainstream Marvel comics. He's finishing and inking the pencil layouts of Mark Gruenwald. The story featuring the Hulk is by Bill Mantlo, and if this thing isn't a collectors' item, I've never seen one.



THREE TITLES KILLED!

Yes, it's true. Issue #34 of *Ka-Zar*, issue #38 of *Moon Knight* and issue #59 of *The Micronauts* will be the last of those series. Why? Because those three titles were Marvel's three Direct Market-only books, sold exclusively at comics specialty shops. They were made all-direct as an experiment to find out whether or not the Direct Market was strong enough to support titles all by itself. Turned out it is — all three titles sold very well — which is why we now publish

a whole bunch of stuff like *EPIC Comics*, deluxe reprint specials, and *Graphic Novels* exclusively for that market. However, the experiment is over — we've found out what we want to know — so we're cancelling *Ka-Zar*, *Moon Knight* and *The Micronauts*. So much for them. They served their purpose. They blazed the trail for the likes of *Dreadstar*, *Coyote* and *Void Indigo*. Yep, no need for them anymore . . . not in their special experimental, Direct-Market only format anyway, which is why . . .

HYPE BOX

TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series)

#1 — It's a battle-four million years in the making — and fought on the streets where we live! The combatants? Robots from the world Cybertron — who can change form at will to any machine they wish. And, as if you hadn't guessed already, that's why they're called . . . the *Transformers*! It's action and adventure in the Mighty Marvel Tradition by BILL MANTLO, FRANK SPRINGER and KIM DEMULDER.

HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — Four stories of swashbuckling adventure in the most exotic places in the world — and crafted with tender, loving care by the best writers and artists in the business! This book has been nearly a year in the making, and we think it's been well worth the wait! Stories by STEVE ENGLEHART, ANN NOCENTI, MIKE CARLIN and LOUISE SIMONSON. Art by JOHN SEVERIN, TONY SALMONS, GERRY TALAOC and STEVE LEALLOHA.

POWER PACK #1 — They're a new team of super-heroes! They have all-new super powers! They have a mission to save the world! And . . . they're all under age 12? Never let it be said we do things the easy way around here! They're the *Power Pack* — and they debut this month in a special, double-size issue, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON and BOB WIAK (both of *X-Men* fame), and talented newcomer JUNE BRIGMAN!

TA-DA!!!

The *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight* and *Ka-Zar* are being reborn! Restaged! *Relaunched* into the world, each in its own full-fledged all-new comics series, sold at newsstands and comics specialty shops in the time-tested traditional Marvel Comics format, priced at 60¢! It's a new beginning for some truly outstanding and deserving characters. When? **MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES** #1 goes on sale June 12th, and **THE FIST OF KHONSHU** #1 also debuts June 12th. *Ka-Zar* will come along later. Watch for him.

Those of you who didn't or couldn't follow these guys when they were all-direct, don't worry. When I say it's a new beginning for them, I mean it. You'll be able to pick right up on these guys. Of course, if you want to check out what has gone before, your local comics specialty dealer (many of whom advertise in our comics) will cheerfully help you track down back issues!

So there!

THAT'S ALL . . .

Except to warn you that next month I'll be announcing a nifty freebie, yes, as in giveaway, courtesy of us guys. What is it? How many? How big?

Stay tuned.

And stay well,

Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #14
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #209
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #18
- ☐ DAZZLER #33
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ KA-ZAR #33
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #296
- ☐ THOR #346
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #20
- ☐ POWER PACK #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #66
- ☐ U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #11
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #59
- ☐ IRON MAN #195

- ☐ THE THING #13
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #298
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- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #93
- ☐ STAR WARS #86
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #13
- ☐ WHAT IF #46 — "What If Uncle Ben Had Lived?" Starring *Spider-Man*.

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #102
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #17
- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #2
- ☐ DREADSTAR #11
- ☐ COYOTE #6

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ☐ HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ IRON MAN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting *Iron Man* #120-128.

SUDDENLY, A LOUD HAMMERING ERUPTS AT THE APARTMENT'S FRONT DOOR, AND THEN--



OPEN UP!
THIS IS THE
POLICE!

LOOK--! THE
PHONE TIP WAS
RIGHT! IT'S HIM--
THE RED
GHOST!

SO! IT APPEARS THAT
THE FOX HAS DARED TO
BETRAY ME YET AGAIN!



PEOTOR--!



THE MASSIVE
ORANGUTAN
IMMEDIATELY
RESPONDS TO
HIS MASTER'S
UNSPOKEN
COMMAND--

--IN A
MOST
SPEC-
TACULAR
FASHION!



YEOW!

WH-WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?

GO, MY FRIENDS! THE
AUTHORITIES MUSTN'T
CAPTURE YOU!



ATTEND TO THE
WALL, MIKLO!
WE WILL RENDEZ-
VOUS LATER!

FWAM!



THIS IS IS ALL
YOUR FAULT,
SPIDER-MAN!
I HOLD YOU
RESPONSIBLE!

YOU HAVE
DESTROYED THE COS-
MICIZER AND
DRIVEN
ME FROM MY HOME!

YOU HAVE DENIED ME THE PEACE
AND SECURITY THAT I SO
DESPERATELY SEEK!



YOU
SHALL
PAY!

THE RED GHOST
NEVER FORGETS
HIS ENEMIES!
NEVER!



WHY
ME?

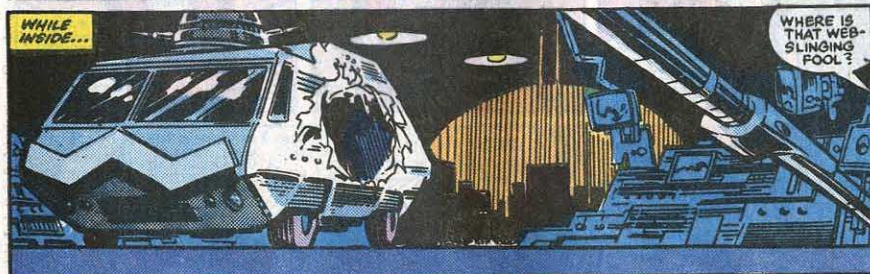
I STARTED THIS NIGHT LOOK-
ING FOR A STOLEN BATTLE
VAN--AND LOOK WHAT
HAPPENS!
SHEESH!

WHAT
ELSE
COULD
GO WRONG?



ELSEWHERE,
AT THAT
PRECISE
MOMENT...

...COLD LAUGHTER
DRIFTS OUTWARD
FROM A DOCKSIDE
WAREHOUSE...



WHILE
INSIDE...

WHERE IS
THAT WEB-
SLINGING
FOOL?



I'M VERY
DISAPPOINTED
IN HIM. HE
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN HERE
LONG BEFORE
NOW.



A PITY I
MUST NOW
PRESS ON
TO OTHER
MATTERS.



I SUPPOSE I'LL
JUST HAVE TO SET
MY TRAP AT AN-
OTHER TIME,
ANOTHER PLACE...

IT DOESN'T
REALLY
MATTER,
THOUGH.



WHEN
NEXT WE
MEET--

KRUNCH!



--SPIDER-MAN
WILL SURELY DIE!

NEXT ISSUE!

THE BLACK CAT! MARY
JANE WATSON! THE
RETURN OF THE ROSE!
AND A DEADLY NEW
SUPER VILLAIN ARRIVES
ON THE SCENE! DON'T
MISS...

"BEWARE
THE
PUMA!"

And so it begins. Starting with the story you've just read, the new regular AMAZING SPIDER-MAN team, Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz, launch the web-slinger into what I predict will be one of the most fertile, creative, exciting periods in the history of the magazine. With the spectacular inking of Josef Rubinstein putting the final touch on this and upcoming tales, I see big things coming, and it's gonna be one of my great pleasures — and honors — to be here to see it all happen. I hope you'll come along for the ride; it promises to be most enjoyable. And let us know how you like our new regular team's work. We'll be waiting.

And now, a look at the mail on issue #249...

Gentlemen,

Sensational! Splendid! Mind-blowing! And wait until I get to the good points! If that opening blitzkrieg of commendation temporarily clouded your memory, I'm speaking, of course, about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249. Fantastic!

The Hobgoblin series is superb! The art is fabulous, and the storyline is progressing brilliantly! But AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249 caught me off guard. The Kingpin rescuing Spidey? Hmmm. I like it. Vulnerability in a big mass of muscle intrigues me. The Kingpin is obviously scared of the Hobgoblin — but who in their right mind would be?

One last thing: As to who the Hobgoblin really is, there's only one person I can think of that we haven't heard from yet — the small-time burglar who killed Uncle Ben. I think he's the Hobgoblin!

Keep up the good work!

Paul McIntire
Rt.
Wolfe City, TX 75496

You must not have read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200, Paul. Otherwise you'd know that the burglar died in that issue. Of course, more than one of Spidey's enemies have kept on plugging, death notwithstanding.

Dear Roger and John,

SPIDER-MAN #249 was super! I've been collecting SPIDER-MAN for a year now, and #249 was one of the best I've ever read.

I really liked Hobgoblin and Kingpin. I hope you show more of them in future issues.

Joe Kotlik
International Falls, MN

Friends,

I haven't been reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN a lot lately, because of boredom, fiscal restraint, and a general sense that since Gwen Stacy died nothing really interesting happens in this comic, anyway. But the last few issues have interested me, especially #249. As mysteries go, the Hobgoblin mystery is fun. I don't want to know who he is — I'm enjoying the suspense too much. (My guess is that that he is Norman

Osborn himself, somehow alive again.) The supporting cast has never been better, especially the effervescent Mary Jane Watson. Harry Osborn is showing both character and complexity; so is J. Jonah Jameson.

Blackmail! There is so much about Norman Osborn that we are still learning. His crimes live on after him. Seldom has the concept of a purloined journal been put to such interesting use. Good plotting, with the plausible involvement of so many, from the Kingpin to the Bugle staff.

What will change Peter's life so it will never be the same? Why, and who will do it? Yeah, you've interested me. "Hooked," I think they call it. Besides, Peter is cute in that "animal" shirt. I'll be back for #250.

Elizabeth Holden
286 Daly Ave., Apt. 3
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6G5
Canada

Dear Marvel,

What's going on with Mary Jane Watson? On page four of issue #249, our hero gets an exceptionally intense spider-sense buzz just as M.J. talks about staying in the city, and Peter reflects on having her as a friend and not a lover. Why do I get the sneaky feeling that she's going to find out about Peter and his little affair with the Black Cat?

And, speaking of Parker's lady-loves, whatever happened to Marcy Kane? She seemed to care more for him than she cared to admit... so do something about it, already!

Steven A. Stewart
354 E. First St.
San Jacinto, CA 92583

By now, you probably know that that intense spider-buzz Peter felt at the party was actually a signal from the Beyonder, calling him to the Secret Wars, now being chronicled in a very special 12-issue limited series by Jim Shooter, Mike Zeck and John Beatty. If you haven't done so already, you owe it to yourself to check it out.

As for Mary Jane Watson and the Black Cat, we can promise major developments for both of them in the near future — and we do mean major. Watch this magazine, PETER PARKER and MARVEL TEAM-UP for details.

As for Marcy Kane, we don't think she'll be around for a while, for reasons explained in the recent JACK OF HEARTS mini-series. The back issues are still available in some areas, and, with story and art by Bill Mantlo and George Freeman, it comes highly recommended.

Dear Spider-Managers,

Uh-oh!

Pete has "the most intense spider-buzz" he's ever experienced. I've a grim prediction, but one I nevertheless believe to be true — the sudden death of Aunt May must have caused it.

By the way, I Liked! You! Use! Off! One! Word! Titles! Followed! By! Exclamation! Points!

Marc Edelstein
201 E. Dillido Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

If you read the preceding letter and reply, Marc, you know why the buzz was so intense. Rest assured that dear old Aunt May is still alive and kicking.

And, as for those funky titles — We! Liked Them! Too!

Dear Spider-Guys,

This month marks my ten-year anniversary of collecting comics, so I guess it is fitting that I should finally write my first letter. My first love in comics has always been SPIDER-MAN, and I have read the title through its ups and downs. It was thus, with great happiness, that I read SPIDER-MAN #249. The issue was a classic.

Mark Howorth
2601 Warring St.
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Web-Spinners,

I have been an avid Spider follower for more than five years now. Although I have wanted to write and let you know what a great magazine SPIDER-MAN is, this is the first time I've actually gotten around to doing it.

I've been trying to figure out who the Hobgoblin is ever since his first appearance, and I think I know — it's Mendel Stromm! Who else would know about Norman Osborn's secrets and want to blackmail Osborn's old club colleagues? Who else would have both the know-how to improve the weaponry of the Green Goblin and the financing to do so? Maybe I'm wrong, but Stromm is my candidate.

Michael W. Williamson
330 W. Main St.
Cardington, OH 43315

Dear Mr. Stern,

The Hobgoblin is Mendel Stromm.

Tobin Walls
P.O. Box 65
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Dear Mr. Fingerboth, Mr. DeNatala and Mr. Stern,

Who else could have more interest in Norman Osborn's criminal activities both in and out of costume than his former partner in business? Ergo, Mendel Stromm could be the Hobgoblin.

Wilfred D. DeVoe
231 Park Drive, Apt. #18
Boston, MA 02215

Michael, Tobin and Wilfred — you may find it gratifying to know that a lot of fans agree with you. In fact, well over half of our readers who wrote us this month guessed that Stromm is the Hobgoblin. It makes perfect sense, too. Osborn sent Stromm up the river some years back for embezzlement, so Stromm has plenty of reason to be nasty. He could well be the Hobgoblin.

Next issue: Things go from bad to disastrous for the ol' web-slinger when he faces the awesome ferocity of... PUMA! Plus: You'll thrill to Mary Jane, the Black Cat, the Rose — and learn more about Spider-Man's mysterious new costume. See you then.

Danny Fingerboth

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