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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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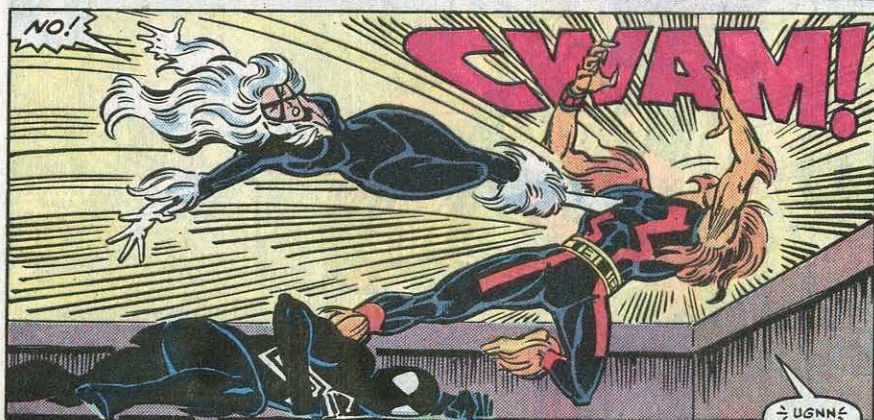
SPIDER-MAN IS
STILL HELPLESS!
UNCONSCIOUS---

BAH! A VICTORY LIKE
THIS BRINGS NO PLEASURE
TO PUMA--BUT THE WEB-
SWINGER MUST DIE! AND
SO, HE SHALL...

MERE MOMENTS AGO, THE EVER-
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
DISLOCATED HIS LEFT ARM WHEN
HE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY ATTACKED
BY THE MAN-BEAST KNOWN AS
PUMA! AFTER HEROICALLY SHOW-
ING HIS ARM BACK INTO PLACE,
OUR HERO FINALLY SUCCEMBED
TO THE INCREDIBLE PAIN! AND NOW...

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
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I SENSE DANGER--!



WHAT COULD IT BE--?

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY! MAYBE I'M JUST JUMPY.

HE'S FAST--! I BARELY GOT DOWN IN TIME!



NO NEED TO CONTINUE THIS BATTLE NOW! I'M ONLY BEING PAID TO KILL SPIDER-MAN. WHY SHOULD I KILL THE CAT FOR FREE?

I'LL RETURN LATER ...AFTER I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO REFRESH MYSELF!



MEANWHILE...

EASY DOES IT, LOVER. YOU'RE HOME NOW.

YEAH...

THANKS, CAT. I MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT YOU.



MY ARM'S STILL THROBBING.

BUT AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WRESTLE WITH MY COSTUME TO GET A LOOK AT IT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS--



UNNNN? SPIDER--! WHAT IS IT?

MY COSTUME--!

IT USUALLY OBEYS MY EVERY THOUGHT, BUT IT'S NOT RESPONDING TO MY MENTAL COMMANDS--!



I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT TO LEAVE ME--!

UNNNN?

AT LAST! IT'S STARTING TO MELT OFF ME...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND ...IT NEVER GAVE ME A PROBLEM BEFORE! WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH IT?

ARE YOU KIDDING/? LOOK AT IT SNAKING ACROSS THE FLOOR LIKE THAT--!

WHAT COULD BE RIGHT WITH IT?

YOU'VE BEEN MEANING TO GET IT CHECKED OUT BY REED RICHARDS EVER SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT BACK FROM THAT WAR AT THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE!

I KNOW, BUT MY LIFE HAS BEEN SO CRAZY LATELY THAT I HAVEN'T HAD TIME.

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER MAKE TIME.

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HEY! MY ARM DOESN'T LOOK AS BAD AS I FEARED--!

IT'LL PROBABLY BE AWFUL SORE FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE!

THAT'S GREAT!

WHAT A DUMP! I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MY SPIDER REALLY LIVES HERE IN HIS CIVILIAN IDENTITY!

GUESS I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND SPIDER. WHY WOULD HE EVER WANT TO BE A NORMAL PERSON LIKE PETER PARKER, WHEN HE COULD BE SPIDER-MAN ALL THE TIME?

I LOVE HIM. I DO! BUT NOW THAT HE'S TAKEN OFF HIS MASK, I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO LOOK AT HIM...

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WHAT--?!

I HAVE MY OWN PLANS FOR THE WEB-SWINGER!*

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I BELIEVE THIS HIT WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE ROSE!

*AND YOU'LL KNOW WHAT PLANS THE KINGPIN IS REFERRING TO, IF YOU KEEP READING OUR COMPANION MAGAZINE, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN--D.

ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN ME AND THE ROSE. IT'S TIME HE LEARNED THE FACTS OF LIFE...

...AND DEATH!

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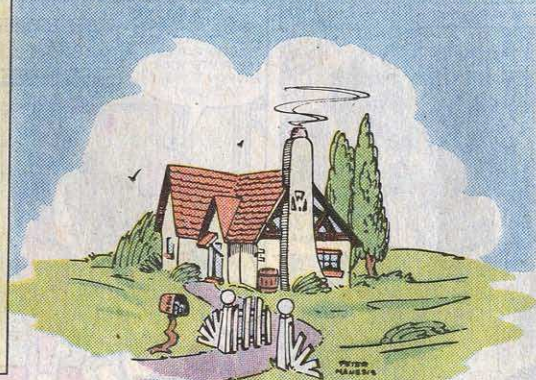
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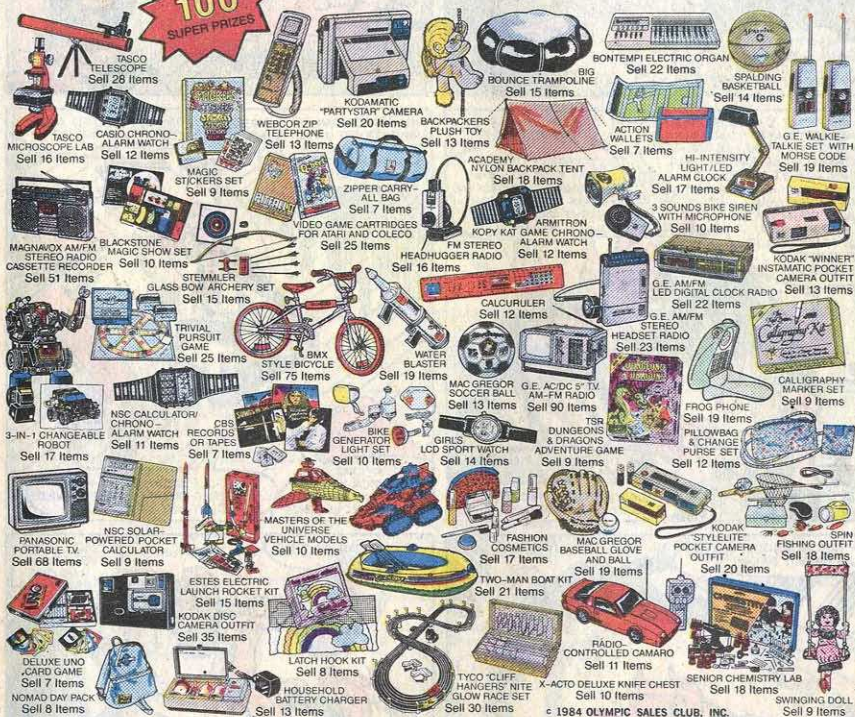
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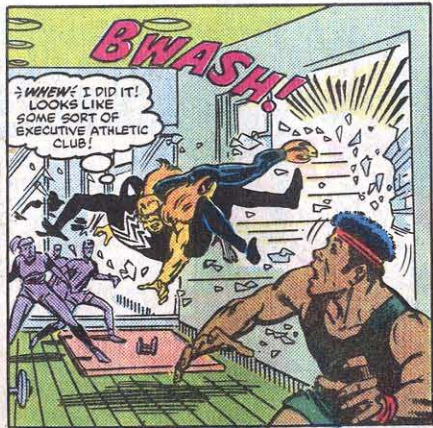
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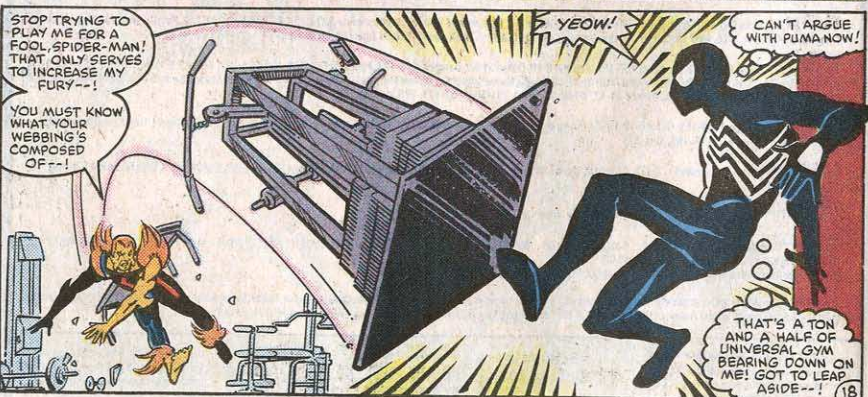
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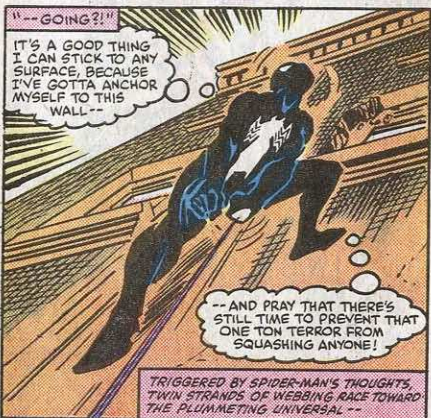


"--GOING?!"

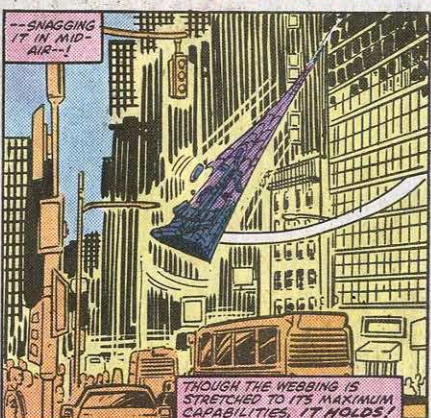
IT'S A GOOD THING I CAN STICK TO ANY SURFACE, BECAUSE I'VE GOTTA ANCHOR MYSELF TO THIS WALL--

--AND PRAY THAT THERE'S STILL TIME TO PREVENT THAT ONE TON TERROR FROM SQUASHING ANYONE!

TRIGGERED BY SPIDER-MAN'S THOUGHTS, TWIN STRANDS OF WEBBING RACE TOWARD THE PLUMMETING UNIVERSAL--



--SNAGGING IT IN MID-AIR--!



THOUGH THE WEBBING IS STRETCHED TO ITS MAXIMUM CAPABILITIES, IT HOLDS!

BUT...

ARGH-- PAIN IN MY ARM--! UNBELIEVABLE! BUT I GOTTA HOLD ON--!

RIPPP!

OH, NO! THE WALL CAN'T CAN'T SUPPORT THE ADDED WEIGHT! I'M BEING PULLED FREE--!



QUAMM!

IF SPIDER-MAN HADN'T DIVERTED THAT THING--!

WHAT ABOUT THE WEB-SWINGER HIMSELF?





Bulpen Bulletins

JIM STARLIN TRIED TO KILL ME!

In the very first issue of *Dreadstar*, a column I wrote was published, telling of a perilous trip by intertube down the rapids of the mighty Escopus river, conducted by Mr. James Starlin, during which I nearly lost my tube and might have drowned. Jim, I thought, kicked my tube back toward me at that critical moment, thereby saving me from a watery death, or at least embarrassment.

I was wrong.

The tube-kicking, it seems clear now, was an accident. Or, perhaps he meant to kick it away from me and simply through egregious, blundering incompetence mistakenly kicked it the "wrong" direction.

No matter. His true colors have, at last, been shown — and they bear, my friends, the well-known symbolic image of death... Mr. Yuck! Or something like that.

A month or so ago, Jim again lured me to his palatial country estate, this time for "a relaxing weekend of winter sport."

He took me snowmobiling. My first time. Rocketing, almost, mountain goat-trails completely out of control at sixty miles an hour — that, I didn't mind.

It was a little worrisome when Jim's co-conspirator, one Berni Wrightson, a highly skilled and experienced snowmobiler hurtled headlong off the trail and slaughtered a thick tree that one day would have been mighty oaks with my machine and his body.

What a mess.

Undaunted, trusting my "friend" Jim Starlin, I followed him onward, leaving Berni's corpse in the corpse (or so we thought) — later it turned out, he survived. The corpse was the only corpse.

Starlin led me at high speed to the very peak of Mt. Macho.

For a moment, we stopped, poised on the brink of a sheer cliff. Then, seeing a certain weird, evil gleam in his eyes, I said those three fatal, famous last words...

"You're not serious."

Next thing I knew, I was plunging down a vertical cliff face, five hundred yards straight down, clinging to what might as well have been a large, hi-tech metal sculpture by Skidoo. I'm not going to say he pushed my machine over the precipice, because it all happened so fast that who can really be sure? But, I submit to you, that no sane individual would take that plunge unpushed, or of his own free will.

Which is why Starlin followed me over of his own free will, shrieking his "death laugh" (patent pending) like the hysterical, crazed maniac he is.

Of course, he merely followed to cover up his deed — to make it look as though we'd both just gotten foolishly, suicidally careless. He, no doubt, was counting on that uncanny invulnerability which protects raving lunatics to save his life!

Ah, but fate cheated him. He survived all right, but somehow, as I plummeted, feeling all the while like Wile E. Coyote, I maintained control — and, as the cliff curved out into rocky meadow, I was still in the saddle, facing (as Stan Lee often commanded) front. I rode it out, and made it down the mountain.

The whole experience was worth it — because now I know. I know!

Jim Starlin is a killer.

Now, at last, I understand *Dreadstar*.



Vanth Dreadstar vs. the Lord High Papal — to the death, of course! But, you'll never guess the ultimate outcome! Nothing will ever be the same again after "Resolution" in issue #14 of *Dreadstar*, on sale in early July at your local comics specialty store. Just \$1.50.

CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #16
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #211
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #20
- ☐ DAZZLER #34
- ☐ KA-ZAR #34 — What happens to a comic book character when his book is cancelled? Well, you can find out here... 'cause this is the last issue of Ka-Zar.
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #6
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1 — Machine Man in the year 2020! See Hype Box.
- ☐ THE MUPPETS #1, 2 & 3 — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the new movie "The Muppets Take Manhattan," three-pack.
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL #7
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #257 — The secret of Spidey's new costume revealed!
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #298
- ☐ THOR #348
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #22
- ☐ POWER PACK #3
- ☐ MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1 — Now available on newsstands! See Hype Box.
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #67

- ☐ U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #12
- ☐ THE LAST STAR FIGHTER (Limited Series) #1, 2 & 3 — The world's greatest video game player is appointed savior of the universe! Really! Adapted from the new movie.
- ☐ SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ IRON MAN ANNUAL #7
- ☐ AVENGERS #248
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #163
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #168 — Never before reprinted... until now! "Never Step on A Scorpion," by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, first presented in Amazing Spider-Man #29!
- ☐ OW #59
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #110
- ☐ G.I. JOE #28
- ☐ KULL THE CONQUEROR #6 — Now bi-monthly!
- ☐ TEMPLE OF DOOM (Limited Series) #2 — Marvel's official adaptation of the new Indiana Jones movie.
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #300 — Double-size spectacular!
- ☐ X-MEN #186 — Illustrated by guest-artists Barry Windsor-Smith and Terry Austin!
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #271
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #146 — Featuring Spider-Man and Nomad.

By the way, watch for our full-color video presentation! It brings you up to date on all that has gone before in the entire Metamorphosis Odyssey-Dreadstar series! And it includes a shocking interview with Berni Wrightson in regards to his absolutely magnificent *Frankenstein* illustrated novel! It's probably being shown at your local comics shop now! If it's not, demand it!

HYPER BOX

- ☐ MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #1 — You think you're grouchy after oversleeping? Then check out Machine Man — he's been asleep for nearly 40 years, and he is fit to be tied! It's now the year 2020, but some things never change. Firstnstance, Gears Garvin is still alive and kicking, and there's this second-generation superhero running around who looks awfully familiar! Who is he? Why did Machine Man sleep so long? And will he remember to set his alarm clock properly next time? For the answers to these and other vital questions of our day, be sure to read "He Lives Again," written by TOM DeFALCO, with lay-outs by HERB TRIMPE and finishes by BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH!
- ☐ MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES #1 — Who are the Makers, anyway? That's what the Micronauts want to know. Suffice it to say, though, that when the Makers finally reveal themselves, the Microverse will never be the same again! This is the book that was so popular in comics shops that we couldn't keep it a secret from the newsstands — so it's available there now, too! "Shadow of the Makers" is written by PETER B. GILLIS, penciled by KELLEY JONES, inked by BRUCE PATTERSON, and it's got a special, painted cover by original Micronauts artist MICHAEL GOLDEN!
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #1 — He's a slightly eccentric, jolly-ben eating time-traveler — and now he's got his own monthly Marvel comic! The Doctor Who, of course, and if you want to find out why his British TV show is the longest running in BBC history... read this comic! This issue features the beginning of the *Star-beast* story, written by MILLS & WAGNER and illustrated by DAVE GIBBONS; plus "Return of the Daleks," written by STEVE MOORE and illustrated by PAUL NEARY and DAVID LLOYD — plus an article on the history of Doctor Who illustrated by Thor artist WALT SIMONSON! And it's printed on Baxter paper, to boot!

- ☐ IRON MAN #187
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #95
- ☐ DEFENDERS #136
- ☐ STAR WARS #88
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #15
- ☐ WHAT IF #47 — "What If Loki Had Found Thor's Hammer?"
- ☐ DOCTOR WHO #1 — The star of the most popular TV show in Britain gets his own Marvel comic! See Hype Box.
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #104
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #19
- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #3
- ☐ DREADSTAR #13
- ☐ SIX FROM SIRIUS #2
- ☐ ASSORTED GOODIES
- ☐ SUPER SPECIAL #32: THE MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN — The complete adaptation of the new Muppet movie!
- ☐ GRAPHIC NOVEL #11: DAZZLER: THE MOVIE — The Dazzler's mutant powers are revealed to the world! Written by JIM SHOOTER, penciled by FRANK SPRINGER and inked by VINCE COLLETTA!



HOW DID PUMA REACT TO THE NEWS THAT WE WERE CANCELING HIS CONTRACT?



REAL GOOD.

IN FACT, HE LOOKED A LITTLE RELIEVED...

I TRUST YOU INFORMED HIM THAT HE WILL BE ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED FOR HIS TIME--?



YEAH! HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT, TOO!

WHAT ABOUT THE KINGPIN, BOSS? ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH MUSCLING YOU AROUND?



ONE MUST BE A REALIST IN THESE MATTERS, MR. JOHNSTON. THE KINGPIN OF CRIME CURRENTLY HOLDS ALL THE CARDS. IT WOULD BE PURE SUICIDE TO DEFEY HIM.

PERHAPS THAT CAN CHANGE...WITH MY HELP!

WHO--?!

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM...



HOBGOBLIN!

FOR A SEEMINGLY ETERNAL INSTANT, THE ROSE STUDIES THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE WHO HOVERS IN THE AIR BEFORE HIM!

AND THEN, BENEATH HIS LEATHER MASK, THE ROSE BEGINS TO SMILE! AND PLAN--!

AT THAT EXACT MOMENT, A TAXI DISCHARGES A PASSENGER AT 410 CHELSEA STREET...

HOME AT LAST! THAT TUGGLE WITH PUMA LEFT ME SO WRECKED-- THAT I BARELY HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH TO CHANGE INTO MY CIVVIES-- AND FLAG DOWN THIS HACK!



WHEW! WHAT A DAY! MY BACK IS KILLING ME, AND MY ARM FEELS WORSE!

AND MY MIND IS BUZZING WITH SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!



WHY DID PUMA ATTACK ME IN THE FIRST PLACE? WHY DIDN'T HE FINISH ME OFF WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE?



WHAM! SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S INSIDE MY APARTMENT! I WONDER IF FELICIA'S BACK--?

MARY JANE--?

OMIGOSH, I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HER!

PETER--!

YOU'RE BACK! YOU'RE SAFE--!



ALL THAT CRASHING AND SHOUTING--! I THOUGHT I'D GO OUT OF MY MIND!

EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT, MJ! THOSE SOUNDS YOU HEARD WERE ONLY, ER, ONLY...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE UP ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR PHONY EXCUSES, PETER! NOT NOW--!



I KNOW THE TRUTH! THE REAL TRUTH!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'VE KNOWN YOUR SECRET FOR YEARS! UP UNTIL TODAY, I ALWAYS THOUGHT I COULD COPE WITH IT IF I EVER HAD TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND-- BUT I CAN'T! I CAN'T--!

I JUST CAN'T COPE WITH THE FACT THAT PETER PARKER IS SECRETLY SPIDER-MAN!



TO BE CONTINUED--!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DENATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #251 marked the apparent end of Spidey's arch-enemy, the Hobgoblin—and talk about response from our readers! Our mailbags were stuffed! Here are just a few of those letters:

Dear wonderful people,

Thank you ever so much for SPIDER-MAN #251. "Endings" has to be one of the most moving, gripping and totally wonderful stories you have ever produced. I think another apt title would have been "Changes." This story will open up a new era in the life of Spider-Man.

The art was excellent! The team of Frenz and Janson was superb! This has to be one of the best drawn issues I've ever seen. Everything was rendered exactly as I would have envisioned it, from the leering visage of the evil Hobgoblin to the look of our desperate hero! And the cover... words cannot describe how much I liked it! Spider-Man's clenched fist cleaving the water, reaching skyward, symbolized a lot of things about his past and future.

Marvel's comics have been better than ever these days, what with all the new ideas (notably SECRET WARS) and new creators. The old zest is back—I feel the familiar tingle of anticipation once more, and especially with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. With Roger and Tom at the helm, producing great stories like this, things couldn't be better. I enjoyed the long fight between Spidey and the Hobgoblin. I really got enthused when Spider-Man's spider-strength (which almost looked like it would fail him) allowed him to penetrate the supposedly "unbreakable" windshield of Hobby's van. J. Jonah's resignation as editor-in-chief of the Bugle was another great, new plot twist. Truly, this story was a classic.

I have no doubt that this quality of material will continue to be produced. Spider-Man is growing. He's changing more lately than he ever has before. And we, the readers, the faithful fans, will be right there with him. Looking over his shoulder. Laughing with him. Crying with him. Sharing with him. Caring with him. Growing with him. Thank you, Marvel. And keep up the good work.

Scott Erbe

830 Virginia St.
Marysville, MI 48040

Dear Danny,

Why are you taking J. Jonah Jameson out of SPIDER-MAN? I liked the old big-mouth. It won't be the same without him.

Cale Rightmire
R.D. 1, Box 150
Delta, PA 17315

Who said anything about getting rid of the old geezer? All we said was that J. Jonah Jameson was stepping down as editor-in-chief of the Bugle. He'll still be around as the paper's publisher. In fact, J.J.J. will be very much in evidence in the upcoming AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL, in a story that's so important that Stan Lee himself is going to script it (with Tom D. plotting and Ron Frenz and Bob Layton handling the art honors!) If

you're a big J. Jonah Jameson fan, Cale, you had better reserve extra copies of that issue.

Dear Spider-Makers,

What a cop-out!

I just finished reading issue #251 and I am depressed. I thought you were going to tell us who the Hobgoblin was. So what do you do instead? You wipe him out of the picture entirely!

Why are you doing this to me?

I gotta know who he is!
You gotta tell me!

What do you guys want? Stocks? Bonds? Money? I'll do anything, but just gimme a hint! Muh, willya please, willya? Don't leave me hanging here anymore!

However—all insanity aside—I thought the story was fantastic and the artwork was even better. Pat Ron and Klaus on the back for me.

Ron Lamarre
485 Bourke Ave., #2F
Dorval, Quebec
Canada H9S 3W8

Consider Messrs. Frenz and Janson as good as patted, Ron.

Dear Sirs,

About AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #251—as newcomers to the Marvel world of comic magazines, we hope we aren't displaying our naivete, but who the devil is responsible for the word effects in this month's issue? We refer, of course, to the bogus use of "Bwap! Bwap!" as a word effect in describing the sound made by a sheaf of papers hitting a table top. We would recommend the use of such onomatopoeic words as "Rapi," "Tic!," "Thik!," or "Tac!" in future paper-straightening episodes involving J. Jonah Jameson—or anybody else, for that matter.

Russell G. Smidt
Daniel J. Van Oss
National Society for
Word Effect Regulation
Central College
Pella, IA 50219

Scripter Tom DeFalco wrote the word effects in question, guys and believe it or not, when the big fella straightens papers against a table top, they really do sound like that. He swears to it.

Dear Roger, John, Klaus and Danny,

I've got to admit it.
I'm stumped.

I've gone through every possible person that could possibly be lurking behind that Hobgoblin mask, and none of them seem quite right. I've considered Harry Osborn, John Jameson, Lance Bannon, Robbie Robertson, Robbie's son, Ned Leeds, Frederick Foswell, and even J. Jonah Jameson himself. Right now I'm leaning toward John Jameson or Foswell, but I doubt that either of them is right. I just hope and pray that it isn't another of those ridiculous clones. I hope you don't do that to us, Danny.

I'd like to add that this Hobgoblin epic has really revitalized Spider-Man. I feel like I'm reading those exciting tales from years past all over again, and enjoying them just as much as I did then. The time between issues seems like years. There's a great feeling of nostalgia in SPIDER-MAN these days, but also a feeling of freshness. And I can say that about very few comics.

Roger and John, I was crushed to hear you're leaving SPIDER-MAN. I beg you, if there is any possible way, stay on the title. I can't imagine anyone else doing as good a job as you two have.

I hope we never find out the identity of the Hobgoblin. It's more fun to guess!

Craig Shaw
151 Huntington Dr.
Vernon, CT 06066

Indeed, Craig. Read the next letter.

Dear Danny,

Michael Jackson is the Hobgoblin!

Michael Tisdale
Rt. 4, Box 211
Lake City, SC 29560

Well, we always knew our comics were real "thrillers"...

SPECIAL NOTE: In addition to this year's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL mentioned above you've got two more Spidey-annals coming to you this summer. The MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL's been on sale for a week now, and it features the web-slinger and Alpha Flight in a tale by Louise Simonson (who'll soon be the regular TEAM-UP writer) with art by Paul Neary and Sen DeLaRosa. The mag's also got a very unique short second feature written by our own Bob DeNatale, with art by David Mazzucchelli and Brett Breeding. And don't miss the PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL due out in about three weeks that features a momentous tale of the past and present of Peter's Aunt May... and of her wall-crawling nephew. This one's by Bill Mantlo, Kerry Gammill, and Carlos Garzon, and I think you'll truly be moved by it. That mag's also got a short second feature by DeNatale (him again!) and Ron Randall, starring the ever-strange Black Cat!

And you wondered what you were gonna do this summer!

NEXT ISSUE: At last, Spidey learns the secret of his mysterious new costume—and he doesn't like it one bit! Plus... the fantastic follow-up to Mary Jane's bombshell, guest appearances by Reed Richards and the Human Torch, the debut of the "Unknown Super Hero," and your impassioned reactions to the introduction of Spidey's new costume! See you in thirty.

Danny Fingeroth

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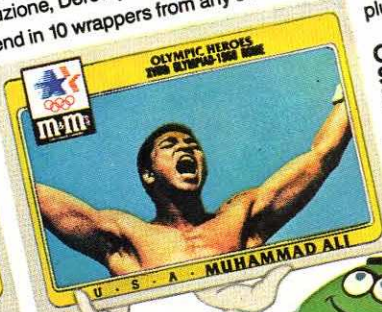
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JIM STARLIN
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