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WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?



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AS LONG AS WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER, I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL FIND IT MUCH MORE CONVENIENT TO STORE SOME OF YOUR EQUIPMENT HERE-- RATHER THAN TO RETURN TO YOUR OWN SECRET HEADQUARTERS WHENEVER YOU NEED SOMETHING!



YES...

OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T DREAM OF LEAVING ANYTHING HERE THAT WOULD ENDANGER YOU AND YOUR MEN--JUST SOME SPARE COSTUMES AND A FEW GOBLIN GRENADES!

AS YOU WISH...



I JUST WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME.

WE ARE PARTNERS, AFTER ALL. WITH YOUR POWERS AND MY CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION, NOTHING CAN STOP US FROM SEIZING CONTROL OF ALL THE MAJOR GAMBLING INTERESTS IN THIS CITY!

WE NEED EACH OTHER, HOBGOBLIN...



...FOR NOW!

BY THE WAY, I HOPE EVERYTHING WORKS OUT WELL WITH THIS OSBORN BUSINESS. I KNOW IT'S ALL VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU.

YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, ROSE! I'VE ALREADY PHONED HARRY OSBORN TODAY! HE KNOWS WHERE AND WHEN TO MEET ME LATER!



HE'LL BRING ME WHAT I WANT!

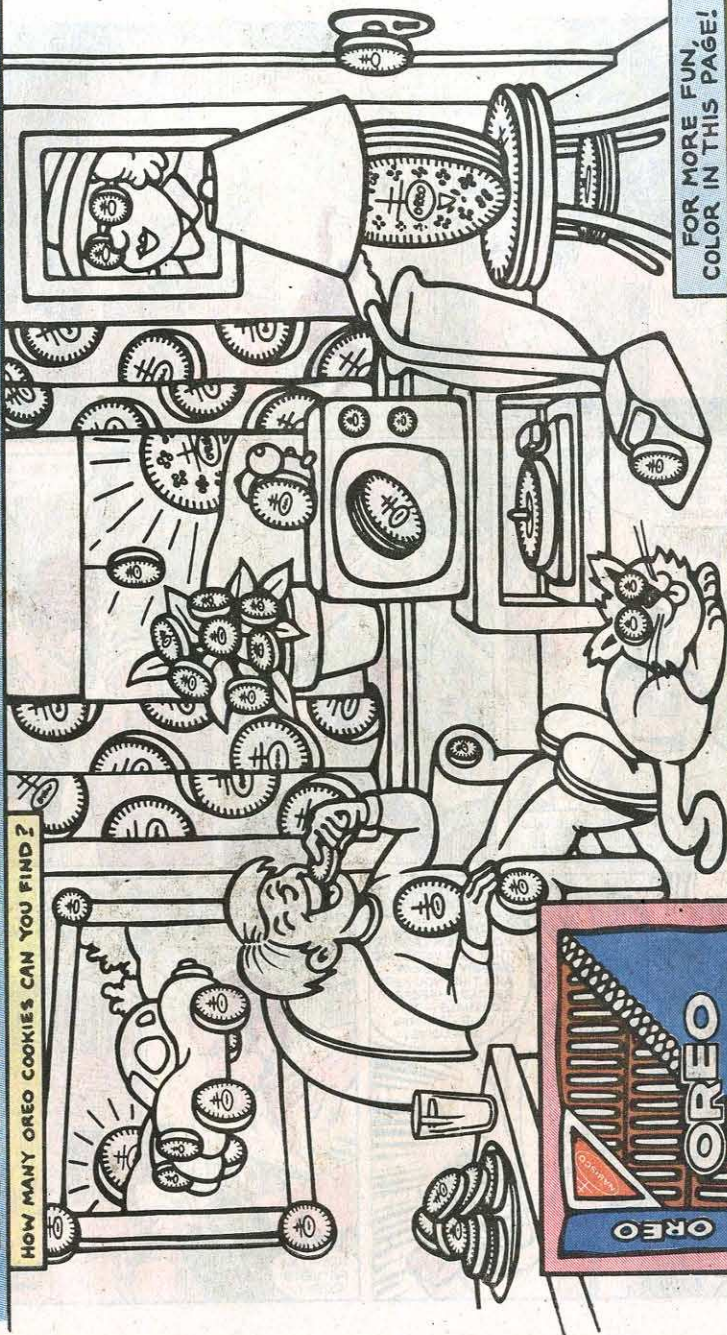
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IT'S AN ANTIQUE WHICH HAS BEEN PASSED
DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON FOR FOUR
GENERATIONS! I WONDER IF...



UGH! IT'S
LOCKED!

THERE MUST BE A KEY TO IT AROUND
SOMEWHERE, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE
THE TIME TO GO LOOKING FOR IT!



KRR-RASH!

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MY FATHER
ONCE SHOWED ME A SECRET COMPART-
MENT WHICH IS HIDDEN BEHIND THAT
WOODEN PANEL...



FIVE SECONDS IS ALL HARRY OSBORN
NEEDS TO SMASH THROUGH THE PANEL,
AND THEN...

AT LAST! ONE OF
MY FATHER'S
JOURNALS!
I JUST PRAY IT'S
ENOUGH TO SATISFY
THE HOBGOBLIN!



WHIM! IT'S MAINLY DEVOTED TO A
LIST OF PROPERTIES!



SOME
OF THEM
SEEM
FAMILIAR...

OF COURSE! THEY WERE THE SITES OF
A SERIES OF RECENT BREAK-INS... WHICH
OCCURRED ABOUT THE TIME HOBGOBLIN
MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE!

DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THOSE
BREAK-INS, THE AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED
A NUMBER OF SECRET ROOMS... ROOMS
WHICH PROBABLY HOUSED MY FATHER'S
GREEN GOBLIN EQUIPMENT.



THIS BOOK MUST BE A
MASTER LIST OF ALL
HIS HIDING PLACES!

MOMENTS LATER...

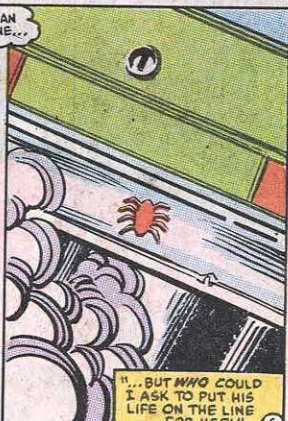


'EVENING,
MR. OSBORN!

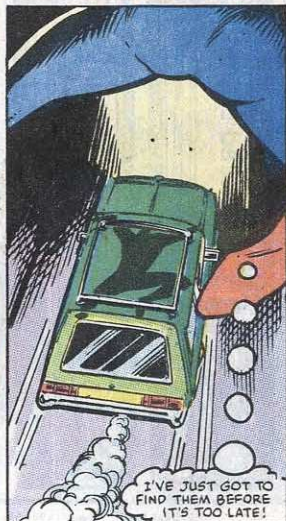
GOOD
NIGHT,
TED!

I CAN'T BE SURE HOBGOBLIN
WILL GIVE ME THE GIRLS IN
EXCHANGE FOR THE JOURNAL!
I'VE GOT TO BE PREPARED
FOR TROUBLE--!

I HATE THE IDEA OF FACING THAT MADMAN
ALONE! I WISH I COULD TURN TO SOMEONE...
ANYONE... FOR HELP...



"...BUT WHO COULD
I ASK TO PUT HIS
LIFE ON THE LINE
FOR ME?!"



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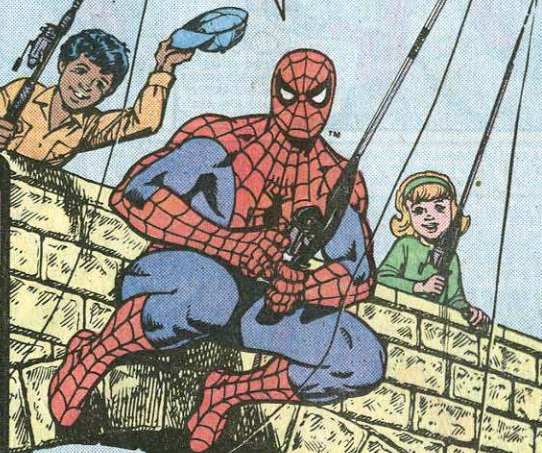
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JUST THEN, ACROSS TOWN...

WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR AWAY ON A MISSION, THE BAXTER BUILDING STANDS EMPTY TONIGHT, DARK AND SILENT.

INSIDE THE XENO-BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AND EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CONTAINMENT FACILITY...

THE ENTITY, WHICH HAD BEEN SPIDER-MAN'S LIVING COSTUME, STIRS AS IF FROM A RESTLESS SLEEP.

IT SENSES A PUZZLING ANOMALY--

* SEE THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES-- DANNY!

-- AN INTRUDER HAS BREACHED RE HEADQUARTERS!

HAVING ALREADY BYPASSED A HUNDRED ALARM SENSORS, THE STRANGE DEVICE HAS GUIDED ON A SEEMINGLY RANDOM PATH THROUGH THE DESERTED BUILDING, EVENTUALLY ARRIVING HERE.

W/IN FANTASTIC FOUR #274--DANNY!

CAUTIOUSLY, THE ENTITY TELEPATHICALLY REACHES OUT TO THE MOVING DEVICE...

PROBING!

PROMPTING!

SUGGESTING!

THE ENTITY'S MENTAL ENTREATIES APPARENTLY HAVE NO EFFECT BUT THE DEVICE DOES DEEM IT WORTHY OF FURTHER STUDY!

A MICRO-DRILL BEGINS BORING AN INVISIBLY SMALL HOLE IN THE ENTITY'S PLASTEEL CYLINDER...

AND THEN...

INSTANTLY SEIZING THIS UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY THE ENTITY BURSTS FORWARD!

AT LAST! AT LONG LAST, IT IS FREE AGAIN!

FREE!

AND LET SPIDER-MAN BEWARE--!

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GOING
BONKERS!

SOMETHING FRUITY
IS GOING ON
AROUND HERE!

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CHEWY OUTSIDE,
SUPER FRUITY
INSIDE!

I'VE HEARD OF
BIG FRUIT TASTE,
BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

WATCH
FOR
FALLING
BONKERS

ALL 3 FLAVORS
BONK ME OUT!

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AT THAT MOMENT
IN NEW YORK'S
CENTRAL PARK...

WHERE IS HE? HE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN HERE TWENTY
MINUTES AGO!

I HOPE NOTHING'S
GONE WRONG!

SUDDENLY...

GOOD
EVENING,
MR. OSBORN!
I MUST
APOLOGIZE
FOR MY TARDI-
NESS!

BUT I THOUGHT IT PRUDENT
TO SURVEY THE AREA BEFORE
MAKING MY APPEARANCE! I
DIDN'T WANT OUR MEETING
DISTURBED BY ANY UNIN-
VITED GUESTS!

HE...STREAKED OUT OF THE
SKY SO SWIFTLY, SO SILENTLY!
I NEVER EVEN SAW HIM COMING!

I SEE THAT YOU'VE ONLY
BROUGHT ONE JOURNAL!
YOU OBVIOUSLY HOLD THE
LIVES OF YOUR WIFE AND
MS. WATSON IN LOW
REGARD!

IT WAS THE
ONLY ONE I
COULD FIND,
BUT DON'T
SELL IT
SHORT!

THIS COULD BE THE
MOST IMPORTANT
JOURNAL OF ALL!

THE LAST
ENTRY IS DATED
ONLY A WEEK BE-
FORE MY FATHER
DIED!

IT CONTAINS
A COMPLETE
LISTING OF ALL
HIS SECRET
HIDEAWAYS!

THAT SOUNDS
MOST INTRIGUING!

GIVE
IT TO
ME!

NO!

I WANT TO
SEE LIZ AND
MARY JANE
FIRST!

VERY
WELL...

DARTING FORWARD, THE
HOBGOBLIN STUNS HARRY
WITH A SUDDEN BLOW
TO THE CHIN...

FWAM!

=UNNN=

I'LL TAKE
YOU TO THEM
...RIGHT NOW!



THIS JOURNAL IS DEFINITELY AUTHENTIC! I RECOGNIZE NORMAN OSBORN'S DISTINCTIVE SCRAWL!

NO TIME TO READ THROUGH ALL OF THESE ADDRESSES NOW! I'D BEST PICK UP YOUNG OSBORN--



"--AND BE ON MY WAY!"

I REALLY HATE MYSELF FOR USING HARRY AS BAIT LIKE THIS, BUT THE LIVES OF MARY JANE AND LIZ ARE ALSO AT STAKE!

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE...

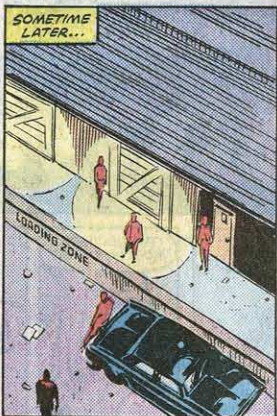


...DID I?



NOW, COMES THE TRICKY PART!

I'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT... WITHOUT LETTING THE HOBGOBLIN SPOT ME!



SOMETIME LATER...

LOADING ZONE



HEY, LADIES! I'VE GOT A VISITOR FOR YOU!

UNN?

HARRY--!



DARLING, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I GUESS SO! I JUST SCREWED THINGS UP AGAIN...AS USUAL!

HARRY, LISTEN--! DOES PETER PARKER KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?



PETER--?! NO, OF COURSE NOT! WHY WOULD I INVOLVE HIM IN THIS MESS?

YEAH, SURE...



"...WHY WOULD YOU?"











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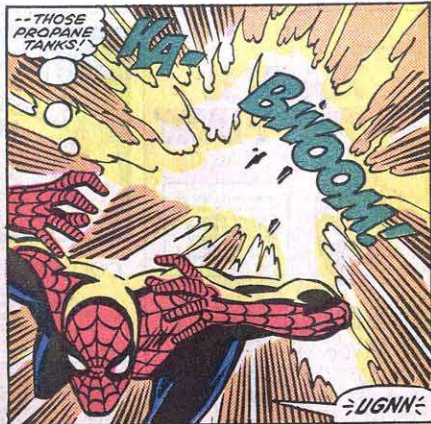
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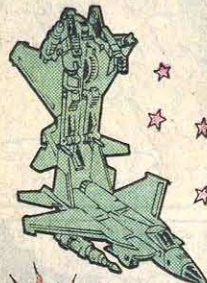
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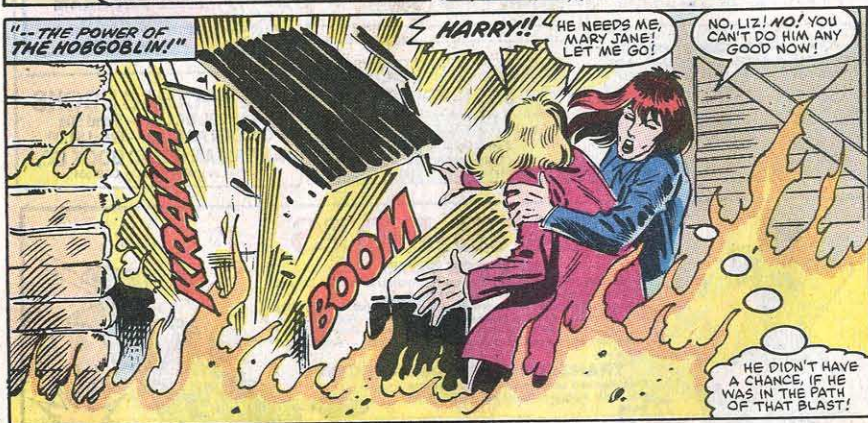
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Bullpen Bulletins

"PERSONALS!"

That's the title of the story which is begun, but not finished, in *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book*, in case you didn't know. That's the book in which I, the Editor in Chief of *Mighty Marvel*, give everyone out there who wants to be a comic book creator a chance to try out his or her skills under simulated professional working conditions, and, possibly to create professional quality samples to submit to us (or any other company) when applying for a job. The *Try-Out Book* provides pages to color, to ink, to letter, to script, and to draw. Also, since I deliberately left out the ending of the story therein, the *Try-Out Book* gives a would-be comics creator a chance to try his hand at plotting — devising a way out of the mess in which I leave Spider-Man.

That brilliant maneuver has, apparently, left a lot of people frustrated. I've gotten tons of mail from people wanting to know how the story ends. The honest answer is . . . I don't know!

However, I've got yet another brilliant maneuver up my sleeve to solve this problem. Here's what we're going to do:

— Run a *Try-Out Contest* and choose the best new penciler, inker, scripter, letterer, colorist, and you guessed it, plotter!

— Let our *Try-Out Contest* winners finish the story, "Personals!" begun by myself, John Romita, Jr., Al Milgrom,

Jim Novak, and Christie Scheele in the *Try-Out Book*, and . . .

— Publish the finished story in a Special Edition of *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

How about that?

Details of the contest and info on how you can buy *The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book* can be found elsewhere in this comic book! You don't have to buy a *Try-Out Book* to enter the contest (at \$12.95, it's not cheap!), but it does contain lots of useful information which may be helpful. Samples on your own paper will do.



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GRAPHIC NOVEL #14 — SWASHBUCKLERS. It's about a rowdy band of pirates that sail the seas between planets! **SWASHBUCKLERS!** It's about a desperate battle to save Earth from the deadly threat of "The Colonizers!" **SWASHBUCKLERS!** It's about time you run down to your bookstore to get your own copy of this masterpiece by BILL MANTLO / BUTCH GUICE (the team that raised the MICRONAUTS, to new

heights of adventure!)! Soon to be an EPIC COMICS series!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — The destructive villainy of Juggernaut and Black Tom together would cause any normal man to head for the hills. Even a super hero would think twice about taking them on! Fortunately, Spider-Man and the X-Men have no such doubts, and the battle is on! LOUISE SIMONSON (writer) and GREG LAROCQUE, MIKE ESPOSITO, and VINNIE COLLETA (artists) really knocked themselves out on this final-issue extravaganza! It even sports a BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH cover! But how can this be the end of **MARVEL TEAM-UP**? Well, all good things must come to an end, as they say, to make room for something better! Be here in two months for the first issue of an all-new, all-great **SPIDER-MAN** title!

POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — He helped our Luke Cage into the Marvel

CHANGES!

Jim Owsley has been promoted from Assistant Editor to Editor of the *Spider-Man* titles, replacing Danny Fingeroth, who, after eight years in the editing biz has bailed out to become a writer (exclusively for Marvel, natch!). Things have improved already with Owsley in command. No, I'm not talking about the comics. Danny's is a tough act to follow, though I'm sure Jim will do just fine. I'm talking about the office. Gone is Dishevelled Danny's messy workspace. Here, apparently to stay, is Jim's high-tech, high-class editorial environment, complete with chrome-and-glass desk, custom lighting, chairs, potted palms and, get this, a reclining patio lounge chair with matching beach ball.

Hmm.

It's certainly cleaner looking, but you know, Danny's piles of junk and heaps of papers did have a certain repulsive charm. Sometimes, late at night, I'd swear they moved by themselves . . .

Oh, well. Congratulations to both of you guys!

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT . . . !

. . . will be coming your way next month right here in this column! It concerns a certain short-but-mighty barbarian . . .

Keep warm!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #20
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #215
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #24
- ☐ RED SONJA #6
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #10 — Fantastic Four, Avengers, X-Men, Hulk, Kiaw, Doom, Galactus. Beyond Awesome!
- ☐ ICEMAN (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ BUCKAROO BANZAI (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #302
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #26
- ☐ POWER PACK #7
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #5
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #10
- ☐ DR. STRANGE #69
- ☐ CRYSTAL #11 — The end of an epic! See Hype Box.
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #304
- ☐ AVENGERS #252
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #167
- ☐ X-MEN #190

- ☐ MARVEL TALES #172 — Reprinting "The Final Chapter," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #33
- ☐ ROM #53
- ☐ POWER MAN / IRON FIST #114 — Featuring a surprise guest penciler! See Hype Box.
- ☐ G.I. JOE #32
- ☐ KULL THE CONQUEROR #8
- ☐ BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #275
- ☐ IRON MAN #191
- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99
- ☐ DEFENDERS #140
- ☐ THOR #352
- ☐ STARTRIPS (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #4

- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #150 — Featuring Spider-Man and the Uncanny X-Men! Final double-sized issue! See Hype Box.
- ☐ STAR WARS #92
- ☐ DR. WHO #5

- MARVEL MAGAZINES**
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #108
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #23

- EPIC COMICS**
- ☐ CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #3
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #5
- ☐ SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #1 — In an age ancient and barbaric, they are the killer elite! See Hype Box.
- ☐ TIME SPIRITS #2

- GRAPHIC NOVELS**
- ☐ #14: SWASHBUCKLERS — Not what you might expect! See Hype Box.







NEXT
TRADE SECRET!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
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DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DONATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

Mr. Fingeroth,

Wow! It's amazing how much Tom DeFalco was able to pack into 22 pages. Lots of action and plenty of characterization, with each one handled beautifully. Issue #254 is classic comic book storytelling!

The action was thrilling, with Rick Leonardi's art giving a great visual account of Tom's script. Continuing the Hobgoblin storyline without actually using the Hobgoblin was a good touch. I was glad when the mystery villain revealed himself to be Jack O'Lantern. Hobgoblin (whom I believe will eventually reappear) should be left as a mystery a while longer.

The situation with Peter, Aunt May and Nathan was excellent. Pow! Did old Nathan Lubensky ever let Peter have it! Peter's ears will be ringing for a week!

Rod Wahowske
2307 Braidwood Rd.
Emmett, MI 48022

Dear Marvel,

I have never written to you before, but when a comic book like AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254 is done so well, I can't help writing. It was terrific, superb, and full of surprises! Josef Rubinstein's inking was excellent! Keep up the great work! Also, I can't wait to see the Hobgoblin again—he's a great foe for Spidey, and I'm sure he's still alive!

Joseph Morone
7410 Rutland
Detroit, MI 48228

Dear Tom and Danny,

Encore! Encore! You guys have done it again! You've created another Spidey classic in the overwhelming issue #254. I do believe it even tops issue #253! The combination of Tom DeFalco's story and Rick Leonardi's great penciling had beautiful results. And the new developments in Peter's life are startling. The return of Jack O'Lantern was fantastic, but I can hardly wait for the return of the Hobgoblin! With all the problems Spidey already has, the Hobgoblin's return is going to be something else! You guys have done a great job! The next few issues can't be as great as this issue, can they?

Tony Yee
325 Fairford St. West
Moose Jaw, Sask.
Canada S6H 1V8

Tony, everyone around the Bulpin is as excited about what's happening in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN as you are! Personally, I think the next few issues are going to knock your socks off, but as to how they'll stack up against issue #254—well, you'll have to let us know what you think about that!

Dear Tom and Rick,

In issue #254, Spider-Man is amazing indeed. Rick Leonardi's pencils along with Josef Rubinstein's inks depict Spider-Man as foreboding and eerie. I have finally realized the purpose of his new costume—now, for the first time in his life, Spider-Man actually looks like a spider! In every single panel of issue #254, Leonardi and Rubinstein drew the wallcrawler as I have never seen him before. The web-head looked like

a spider pouncing on his prey. In some panels, Leonardi even drew several "Spider-Men" in order to give the reader a wonderful sense of motion! Needless to say, I thought the art and script in this issue were great.

Michael Souza
Route 2
Kenyon, R.I. 02836

Dear Spiderfolk,

Okay, add my name to the three million other people who thought the Hobgoblin was going to be in this issue! Gentlemen; I'm proud of you. I like to be surprised like that. Oh, I'm sure we'll see Hobby himself in a few issues, but this was a nice way of letting us know that you haven't killed off your hottest new villain! Unless... someone else was controlling the van!

Another thing I'm proud of you for is the kind of realism with which you're handling the Aunt May subplot. This is the kind of problem a super hero should have! I hope it's fixed soon of course, but till then I can live with it.

Vinnie Bartilucci
45 Newburgh St.
Elmont, NY 11003

Dear Spider Writers,

Although I thought SPIDER-MAN #254 was great, I want to comment on the treatment of Aunt May. For years, May Parker has been in the background as Peter's loving aunt. She was always around to make our hero feel like an innocent boy, and her kindness was taken for granted. Peter never felt he had to worry her about his life as Spidey. Now, May is building a real life, and she is showing that she can disapprove of Peter's actions. She has been hoping for years that Peter would become what she and Uncle Ben had worked to allow him to be. Now she is hit with this startling news: Peter has dropped out of college.

The most tragic thing of all is that Peter offered Aunt May no explanations for his dropping out. His reason for this is that he can't tell her he is Spider-Man. I think Peter should finally tell Aunt May about his dual identity. It might clear up this mess, and it would be a selfless gesture on Pete's part. I believe it is possible for Aunt May to come up with a better reply to Peter's admission than "Oh no, my heart!" May is a mature woman, and I think she could accept this without even passing out. After all, if she could accept the news of Peter's leaving college without hitting the floor, why not this? She might even be relieved to know that Peter has become the humanitarian that she and Ben had always hoped for, rather than the uncaring, burn photographer whom she now thinks she was for a nephew. After all her years of loving kindness, Peter Parker owes it to Aunt May to tell her, finally, that he is the Amazing Spider-Man.

Long Live Aunt May!

Alan Flyer
3 Maple Dr.
Port Washington, NY 11050

What do the rest of you think of Alan's proposition?

Dear Marvel,

All my life I have bought comics, and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is my favorite. Issue #254 was another great issue, but I do not like this problem between Aunt May and Peter. I never thought I would see the day when Aunt May would be mad with Pete. Still, she has good reason. Peter's dropping out of college was the worst mistake he's ever made. But bring Aunt May and Pete back together. I don't know what Spidey would do without her.

Michael Jarrette
111 Country Club Dr.
Florida, NY 10921

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-MAN #254 was a wonderful issue with great action scenes. In fact, everything was great except for what's happening between Peter Parker and Aunt May. Why is she doing this to him? Have her lay off him. He's a good kid.

Oh yeah, is Nathan going to ask Aunt May to marry him? When are you going to let Reed Richards check out Spidey's new threats? When are you going to bring back the Hobgoblin? I need some answers!

Matt Cullen
4 Colgate Rd.
Great Neck, NY 11023

Most of your questions have been answered in the last few issues, Matt. And now, a letter of interest to all you armchair detectives out there...

Dear Tom, Danny and Jim,

In order to discover who the Hobgoblin really is, I finally decided to go through my entire Marvel collection and look for suspects. You know what? There are 243 people who could be the Hobgoblin!

Ronald Byrd
(no address given)

That's all? Check again, Ronald.

SPECIAL NOTE: This month's MARVEL TEAM-UP (on sale in two weeks) features a very special 150th issue double-sized pairing of Spider-Man and the X-Men! It's dynamite—and the last issue of TEAM-UP, too, which will be replaced the following month by the all new mag we could only call... THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN! Why the change? Not sales. They were better than ever. If you're curious, pick up MTU #149 or #150 for the explanation. Don't miss the end of TEAM-UP or the beginning of WEB, both integral parts in the modern-day mythic masterpiece that is the saga of Spider-Man!

NEXT ISSUE: The fate of Liz, Harry, and their endangered unborn child! Plus, the return of a strange, octo-tentacled adversary from the web-slinger's past and startling new developments with two black Spider-Man costumes. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #262. It's not a mag you want to miss.

Danny Fingeroth

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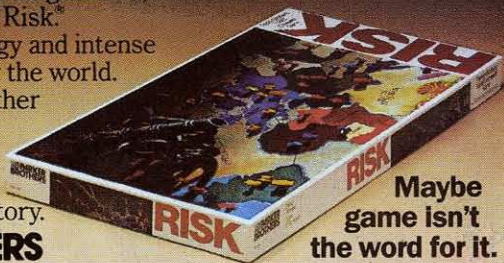


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