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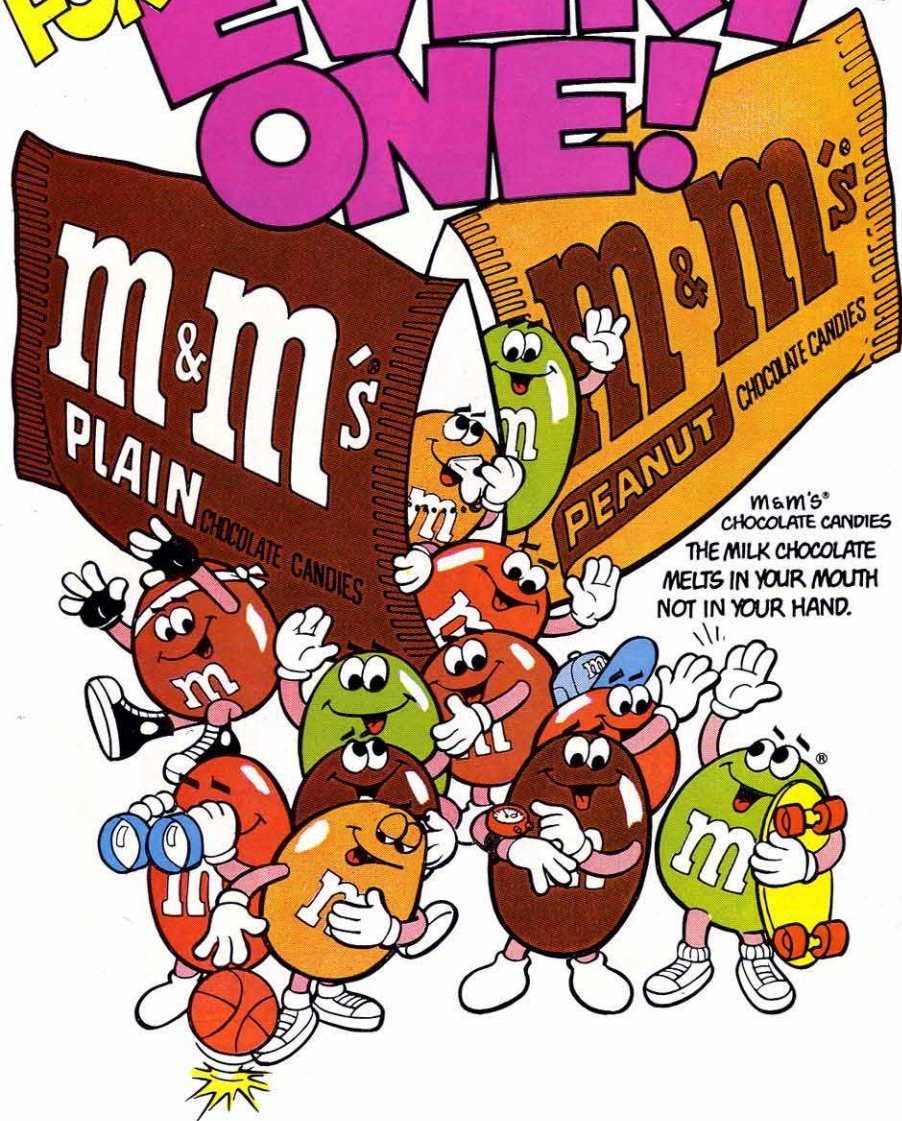
the **AMAZING** **SPIDER-MAN**

THIS IS IT!
THE RETURN
OF THE
HOBGOBLIN!



IN THIS
ISSUE: **THE ORIGIN**
OF SPIDER-MAN!
THE ORIGINAL, UNABRIDGED
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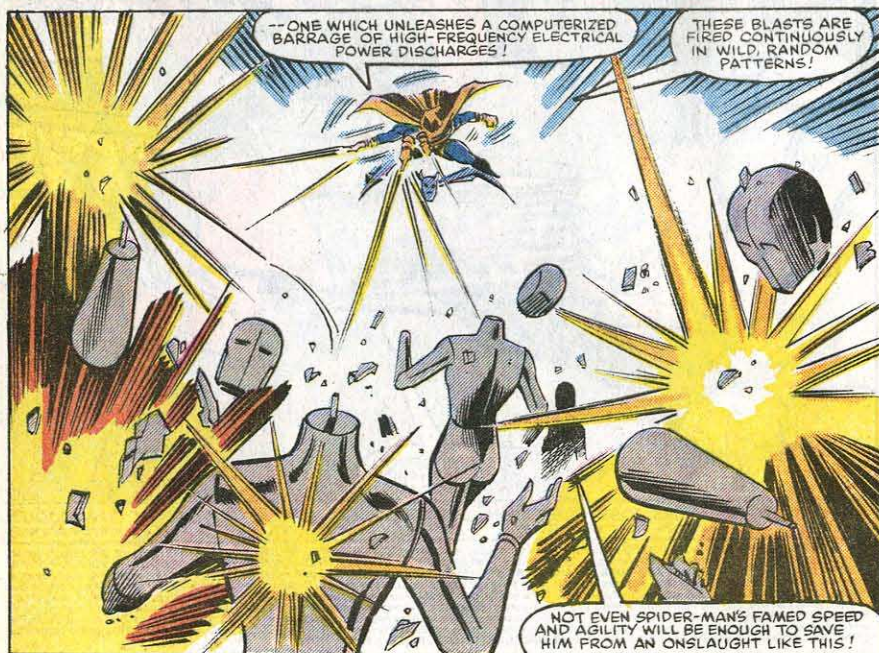
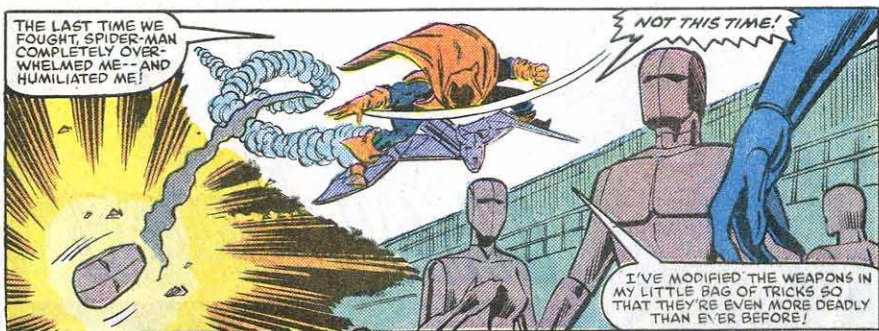
STAN LEE PRESENTS:

"THE CHOICE AND THE CHALLENGE!"



TOM DEFALCO RON FRENZ JOSEF RUBINSTEIN JOE ROSEN NEL YOMTOV JIM OWSLEY JIM SHOOTER
WRITER PENCILER FINISHED ART LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

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...DID WE FOLKS?

**WELCOME HOME!
SURPRISE!!**



MINUTES LATER...

BUT, MAY, THIS MUST HAVE COST--

HANG THE COST!

YOU JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY YOURSELF-- OR ELSE!



THAT'S TELLING HIM, LADY!

I'M GLAD PETER INVITED ME TO THIS LITTLE SHINDIG. EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF... EXCEPT PETE.

HE'S BEEN SO MOODY THE PAST FEW DAYS, MAYBE IT'S TIME WE TALKED...



BRIGHTEN UP, TIGER! A FEW MORE STORM CLOUDS LIKE THE ONE HANGING OVER YOU, AND THE CITY WOULDN'T HAVE A WATER SHORTAGE.

SORRY, MARY JANE, GUESS I HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH FUN LATELY.

WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU?



IT'S ALL MY FAULT NATHAN ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL. I FAILED HIM, JUST LIKE I'VE FAILED SO MANY OTHERS...

I'VE BEEN SCREWING UP A LOT LATELY. **TOO MUCH!** MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO HANG IT ALL UP.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE UP BEING **SPIDER-MAN!**



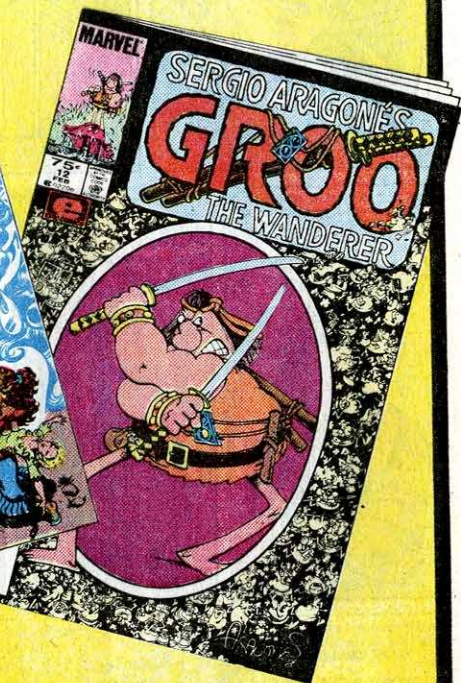
IT'S A DECISION I'VE MADE BEFORE BUT, THIS TIME, I'M FINALLY CONVINCED THAT I'VE OUTGROWN THE WHOLE SCHTICK!



EPIC FANTASY



FOR
CLASSIC
ADVENTURE...

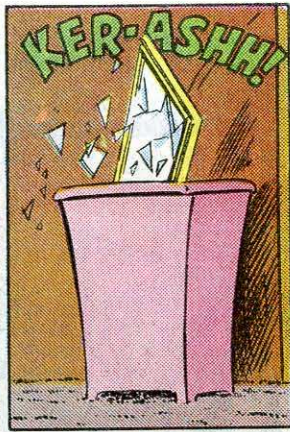


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AND the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WITH TIPS ON WAYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

YOUR
BODY
BELONGS
TO YOU,
AND YOU
HAVE A
RIGHT TO
DECIDE HOW
AND WHEN
ANYONE
TOUCHES
YOU!

IF SOMEBODY
TRIES TO TOUCH YOU
IN WAYS THAT DON'T
FEEL GOOD OR SEEM
RIGHT, **SAY NO!**

YEAH! AND
BE SURE TO
TELL
SOMEBODY,
TOO!

AND, DON'T FORGET, IF
THE FIRST PERSON YOU TELL
DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEEP
TELLING UNTIL YOU FIND
SOMEONE WHO DOES!

AND REMEMBER,
IF THIS HAPPENS, IT'S
**NOT YOUR
FAULT!**

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SPIDER-MAN!

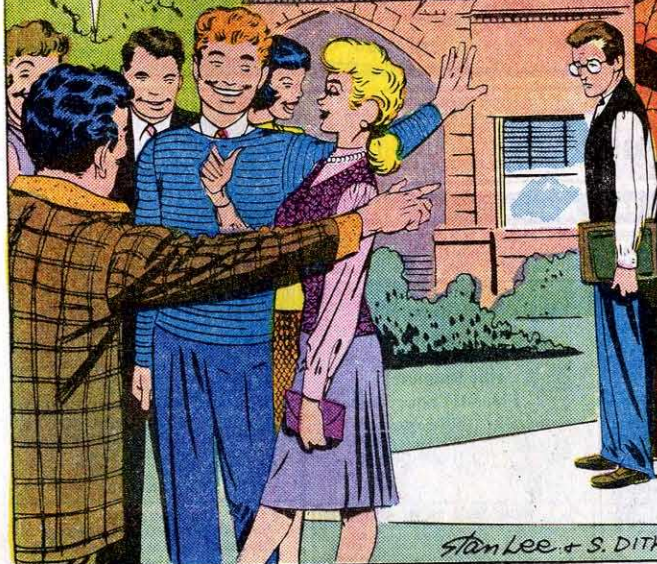


LIKE COSTUMED HEROES? CONFIDENTIALLY, WE IN THE COMIC MAG BUSINESS REFER TO THEM AS "LONG UNDERWEAR CHARACTERS"! AND, AS YOU KNOW, THEY'RE A DIME A DOZEN! BUT, WE THINK YOU MAY FIND OUR **SPIDER-MAN** JUST A BIT... DIFFERENT!

SAY, GANG,
WE NEED ONE
MORE GUY
FOR THE
DANCE! HOW
ABOUT **PETER
PARKER** OVER
THERE?

ARE YOU
KIDDIN'?
THAT
BOOKWORM
WOULDN'T
KNOW A
CHA-CHA
FROM A
WALTZ!

**PETER
PARKER?**
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MIDTOWN
HIGH'S ONLY
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AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED, PETER PARKER WAS FAR FROM BEING THE BIGGEST MAN ON CAMPUS! BUT, HIS UNCLE BEN THOUGHT HE WAS A PRETTY SPECIAL LAD...

YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' ME, PETEY! I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE-- AND IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL!

GOSH, UNCLE BEN-- YOU'RE WORSE THAN A ROOM FULL OF ALARM CLOCKS!



AS FOR PETE'S AUNT MAY, SHE THOUGHT THE SUN ROSE AND SET UPON HER NEPHEW!

I COOKED YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST, PETEY-- WHEATCAKES!

DON'T FATTEN HIM UP TOO MUCH, DEAR! I CAN HARDLY OUT-WRESTLE HIM NOW!



THE FACULTY AT MIDTOWN HIGH WAS ALSO FOND OF THE CLEAN-CUT, HARD-WORKING HONOR STUDENT!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PARKER, AND YOU'RE SURE TO RATE A SCHOLARSHIP WHEN YOU GRADUATE!

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!



BUT ALAS, OTHER TEENAGERS CAN SOMETIMES, UNWITTINGLY, BE SO VERY CRUEL TO A SHY YOUNG MAN...

SALLY, I, EH, WAS WONDERING IF YOU'RE BUSY TONIGHT...?

PETER, FOR THE UMpteenth TIME, YOU'RE JUST NOT MY TYPE...



...NOT WHEN DREAM BOATS LIKE FLASH THOMPSON ARE AROUND!

I ADMIRE YOUR GOOD TASTE, DOLL! GET LOST, BOOKWORM!



LOOK, THERE'S A GREAT NEW EXHIBIT AT THE SCIENCE HALL TONIGHT! WOULD ANY OF YOU LIKE TO GO WITH ME?

SCIENCE HALL! HAH!

YOU STICK TO SCIENCE, SON! WE'LL TAKE THE CHICKS!



YES, FOR SOME, BEING A TEEN-AGER HAS MANY HEART-BREAKING MOMENTS!

SEE YOU AROUND, BOOKWORM!

GIVE OUR REGARDS TO THE ATOM-SMASHERS, PETER!



SOME DAY I'LL SHOW THEM! --SOB-- SOME DAY THEY'LL BE SORRY! --SORRY THAT THEY LAUGHED AT ME!



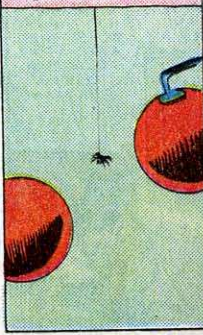
SCIENCE EXHIBIT

EXPERIMENTS IN RADIOACTIVITY
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ROOM 30

AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER, PETER PARKER FORGETS THE TAUNTS OF HIS CLASSMATES AS HE IS TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER WORLD-- THE FASCINATING WORLD OF ATOMIC SCIENCE!



BUT, AS THE EXPERIMENT BEGINS, NO ONE NOTICES A TINY SPIDER, DESCENDING FROM THE CEILING ON AN ALMOST INVISIBLE STRAND OF WEB...



A SPIDER WHOM FATE HAS GIVEN A STARRING, IF BRIEF, ROLE TO PLAY IN THE DRAMA WE CALL LIFE!



ACCIDENTALLY ABSORBING A FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVITY, THE DYING INSECT, IN SUDDEN SHOCK, BITES THE NEAREST LIVING THING, AT THE SPLIT SECOND BEFORE LIFE EBBS FROM ITS RADIOACTIVE BODY!



A-A SPIDER! IT BIT ME! BUT, WHY IS IT BURNING SO? WHY IS IT **GLOWING** THAT WAY??



MY HEAD-- IT FEELS STRANGE! I-I NEED SOME AIR!

LOOKS AS THOUGH OUR EXPERIMENT UNNERVED YOUNG PARKER!

TOO BAD! HE MUST HAVE A WEAK STOMACH!



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I FEEL-- DIFFERENT! AS THOUGH MY ENTIRE BODY IS CHARGED WITH SOME SORT OF FANTASTIC ENERGY!



WRAPPED IN HIS THOUGHTS, PETER DOESN'T HEAR THE AUTO WHICH NARROWLY MISSES HIM, UNTIL THE LAST INSTANT! AND THEN, UNNOTICED BY THE RIDERS, HE UNTHINKINGLY LEAPS TO SAFETY-- BUT WHAT A LEAP IT IS!





WHAT'S COME OVER ME! I- I'M SCALING THIS WALL JUST AS EASILY AS I CAN **WALK!**



MOMMY! LOOK AT THE MAN WALKING UP THE SIDE OF A BUILDING!

THAT'S THE LAST HORROR MOVIE I TAKE **YOU** TO, YOUNG MAN!



IT'S **INCREDIBLE!** I REACHED THE ROOF IN JUST A FEW SECONDS!

WHAT'S **THIS??** I CRUSHED THIS STEEL PIPE AS THOUGH IT WERE **PAPER!**



IT'S THE **SPIDER!** IT **HAS** TO BE! SOMEHOW -- IN SOME MIRACULOUS WAY, HIS BITE HAS TRANSFERRED HIS OWN POWER -- TO ME!



I CAN WALK DOWN THIS CABLE AS EFFORTLESSLY AS THE SPIDER ITSELF CAN GLIDE ALONG ITS WEB!



I-I'VE GOT TO HAVE TIME TO THINK! I'VE GOT TO PLAN **WHAT TO DO** WITH THIS UNBELIEVABLE ABILITY WHICH FATE HAS GIVEN ME!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

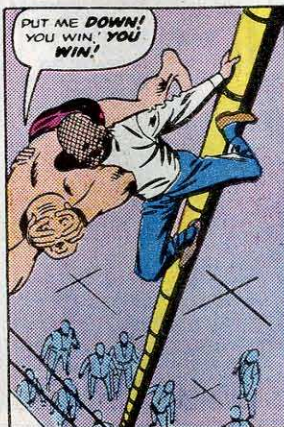
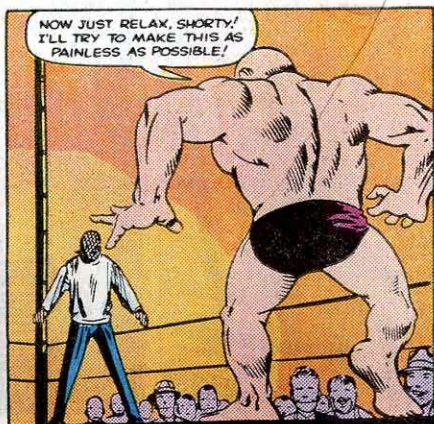
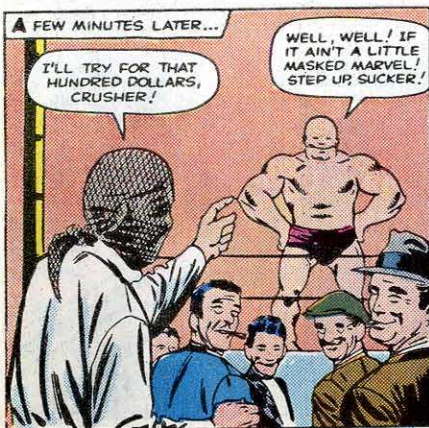
HHMM... THIS WILL BE A GOOD CHANCE TO TEST MY POWER AGAIN!

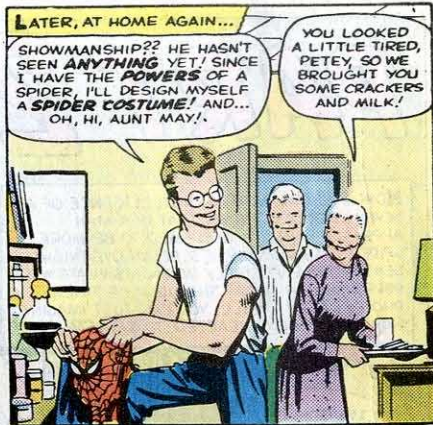
\$100
TO THE
MAN WHO
CAN STAY
IN THE
RING
THREE
MINUTES
WITH
CRUSHER
HOGAN



FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT, PETE RACES BACK HOME, AND...

I'LL PUT ON SOME OLD CLOTHES, AND LEAVE MY GLASSES HERE! BUT--WHAT IF I FAIL? I DON'T WANT TO BE A LAUGHING STOCK! I- I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO **DISGUISE** MYSELF!





PART 2

NOW ANYBODY WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF A SEVEN YEAR OLD KNOWS THAT IF A MAN APPEARED ON TV WHO SEEMED TO BE MORE SPIDER THAN HUMAN, HE'D BE AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION! ESPECIALLY WHEN HIS FEATS WERE PERFORMED WITHOUT THE HELP OF TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY! WELL, YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE HOW THE PUBLIC REACTED TO **SPIDER-MAN!**

I'M SEEIN' IT WITH MY OWN EYES, AND I **STILL** DON'T BELIEVE IT!



SURE THEY LOOK AMAZED, INCREDULOUS, AWESTRICKEN, WOULDNT' **YOU???**



AFTER ALL, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME **YOU** SAW A MAN WITH HIS OWN FANTASTIC SPIDER WEB???



OKAY, SPIDER-MAN -- CUT! THAT'S ENOUGH! DON'T SHOW 'EM **TOO MUCH!** LEAVE 'EM BEGGIN' FOR MORE!



AS HIS FIRST TV SPECTACULAR ENDS, PETER PARKER BREATHES THE FIRST SWEET SCENT OF FAME AND SUCCESS!

I'M FROM **LIFE!**
WE'LL PAY ANY
PRICE FOR A
PICTURE SPREAD!

SIGN WITH
ME! I'LL PUT
YOU IN THE
MOVIES!

WAIT! WE WANT AN
INTERVIEW!

SEE MY AGENT,
BOYS! I'M BUSY!



WHEW! RID OF
'EM AT LAST!
HEY! WHAT'S
GOIN' ON??

**STOP! THIEF! STOP
HIM!** IF HE MAKES
IT TO THE ELEVATOR,
HE'LL GET AWAY!



**MADE
IT!**

I'M SAFE NOW! THAT
COP CAN NEVER GET
DOWN TO THE LOBBY
AS FAST AS I CAN IN
THIS HIGH-SPEED EX-
PRESS ELEVATOR! LUCKY
THAT GOON IN A COSTUME
DIDN'T STOP ME!

WHAT'S **WITH** YOU,
MISTER?? ALL YOU
HADDA DO WAS TRIP
HIM, OR HOLD HIM
JUST FOR A MINUTE!

SORRY, PAL! THAT'S
YOUR JOB! I'M **THRU**
BEING PUSHED AROUND
--BY ANYONE! FROM
NOW ON I JUST LOOK
OUT FOR NUMBER ONE
--THAT MEANS--**ME!**



I
OUGHTTA
RUN
YOU IN--

SAVE YOUR
BREATH,
BUDDY! I'VE
GOT THINGS
TO DO!



AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...

PETER, YOU KNOW
THAT MICROSCOPE
YOU'VE ALWAYS
WANTED? YOUR
UNCLE AND I
BOUGHT IT FOR
YOU THIS
AFTERNOON!

GOSH,
THAT'S
TERRIFIC!



YOU'RE
THE
GREATEST
FAMILY
ANY
FELLA
EVER
HAD!

THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES
WHO'VE EVER BEEN KIND
TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT
THAT **THEY'RE** ALWAYS
HAPPY, BUT THE REST
OF THE WORLD CAN GO
HANG FOR ALL I CARE!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE **SPIDER-MAN** BECOMES THE SENSATION OF THE NATION!



AND, ONE EVENING AS PETER PARKER RETURNS HOME FROM A PERSONAL APPEARANCE...



A POLICE CAR! IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE! WHAT CAN BE WRONG??



BAD NEWS, SON--YOUR UNCLE HAS BEEN SHOT--MURDERED!

UNCLE BEN --DEAD! NO! NO, IT CAN'T BE!



WHO DID IT?? WHO SHOT HIM??

IT WAS A BURGLAR--YOUR UNCLE SURPRISED HIM! BUT DON'T WORRY, LAD! WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED! HE'S IN THE OLD ACME WAREHOUSE AT THE WATERFRONT! WE'LL GET HIM!



YOUR AUNT IS NEXT DOOR--THE NEIGHBORS ARE LOOKING AFTER HER! WAIT--

I'VE GOT TO GO! I'VE GOT TO GET HIM!



I KNOW THE OLD ACME WAREHOUSE! IT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS! A KILLER COULD HOLD OFF AN ARMY IN THAT GLOOMY, OLD PLACE!



BUT HE WON'T HOLD OFF--**SPIDER-MAN!**





By the way, true believer, all of the captivating coloring was done by our own ever-lovable Andy Yanchus!

NEW YORK CITY'S
CENTRAL PARK...

I DON'T GET IT. IF YOU ORIGINALLY BECAME SPIDER-MAN
OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY-- WHY QUIT NOW?

MAYBE I FINALLY
REALIZED I'M
WASTING MY LIFE
TRYING TO LIVE UP TO
THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

OR, MAYBE I'M JUST
TIRED OF TRYING TO
BE THE WORLD'S
KEEPER.

I WAS NEVER MUCH GOOD
AT IT ANYWAY. I WAS
ALWAYS SCREWING UP.

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE
ALREADY SUFFERED BECAUSE
OF ME AND MY OVERBLOWN
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"I'M THE REASON GWEN
STACY DIED."

"WANT A RECENT EX-
AMPLE? MY AUNT MAY KNEW
NATHAN LUBENSKY WAS IN
SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
SHE BEGGED ME TO KEEP
AN EYE ON HIM."

"BUT, SPIDER-
MAN HAD OTHER
RESPONSIBILITIES--"

"THEN, THERE'S JEAN
DEWOLF, A NEW YORK CITY
POLICE CAPTAIN, MURDERED
BY A LAW AND ORDER
FANATIC WHO THOUGHT
SHE WAS TOO SOFT ON
CRIMINALS..."

"IT WAS WHILE I WAS
CHASING JEAN'S KILLER
THAT MY WORST POSSIBLE
NIGHTMARE BECAME
A REALITY."

"THE S/W-EATER TRIED
TO BLOW ME AWAY. I
INSTINCTIVELY LEAPED
TO SAFETY--"

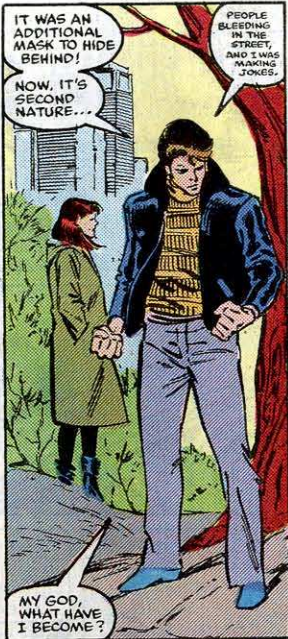
"THE ORIGINAL GREEN
GOBLIN HAD DISCOVERED
MY SECRET IDENTITY. HE
WANTED TO STRIKE
BACK AT ME. TO HURT
ME! HE SETTLED FOR
GWEN..."

"SHE NEVER EVEN KNEW
THAT HER BOYFRIEND WAS
SPIDER-MAN."

"--AND COULDN'T BE THERE
TO STOP A GANG OF
THUGS FROM ALMOST
BEATING HIM TO DEATH!"

"BUT, I CAN'T QUITE SHAKE
THE FEELING THAT HER
WELL-KNOWN ASSOCIATION
WITH ME WAS ONE OF THE
THINGS THAT POINTED
HER OUT TO HIM."

"--BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP
HIM FROM PULLING THE
TRIGGER, AND FIRING INTO
THE CROWD!"



MEANWHILE...

IT'S NO
USE...

...I CAN'T
REACH FLASH
THOMPSON, OR
MY HUSBAND,
NED.

AND I CAN'T SEEM TO
CHOOSE BETWEEN
THEM EITHER!

I LOVE NED. I REALLY DO!
BUT FLASH IS SO LOVING
AND DEVOTED...

ANYBODY SEE
LANCE BANNON
AROUND?

I JUST DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO!

BETTY, HAVE
YOU FINISHED
TYPING THAT
LETTER TO...

HEY, ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT? YOU LOOK
A LITTLE SHAKY.

I... I'M
ROBBIE...
REALLY!

LOOK, I DON'T MAKE
IT A HABIT OF BUTTING
INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S
LIVES, BUT YOU AND I
HAVE BEEN TOGETHER
FOR A LONG WHILE...

I KNOW YOU AND
NED ARE HAVING
YOUR PROBLEMS
NOW. IS THERE
ANYTHING I CAN
DO TO HELP?

OH, ROBBIE,
I FEEL LIKE
SUCH A
FOOL--

--DRAGGING MY PERSON-
AL PROBLEMS INTO THE
OFFICE LIKE THIS!

IT'S JUST THAT NED
TAKES HIS JOB AS A
REPORTER VERY
SERIOUSLY. HE WORKS
SO HARD-- **TOO
HARD**-- THAT HE
DOESN'T HAVE
ANY TIME LEFT
FOR ME!

THERE IS ONE THING
YOU COULD DO, THOUGH.
STOP GIVING HIM
THOSE UNDERCOVER
ASSIGNMENTS WHICH
TAKE HIM AWAY FOR
DAYS OR WEEKS ON
END.

UNDERCOVER
ASSIGNMENTS?
**WHAT UNDER-
COVER ASSIGN-
MENTS?!**

WHY DON'T
YOU STEP INTO
MY OFFICE
FOR A FEW
MINUTES?
I'D LIKE TO
CHAT...

AND, I JUST
CAN'T DEAL
WITH THAT
ANYMORE.



I'VE HAD ENOUGH!



THOUGH I LOVE FLASH, I WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO HUMILIATE ME. IF HE PREFERS THAT OTHER WOMAN, THEN--



NOK! NOK!

OH, NO! IF THAT'S FLASH COME BACK TO APOLOGIZE--!



GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS NED LEEDS.

I'M LOOKING FOR FLASH THOMPSON.

THAT WOMAN'S HUSBAND-- THE POOR MAN! THE PAIN OF HER BETRAYAL IS STILL SEETHING IN HIS EYES!

F-FLASH ISN'T HERE.



WHEN DO YOU EXPECT HIM BACK?

I DO NOT KNOW...

...NOR DO I CARE!

I... SEE.



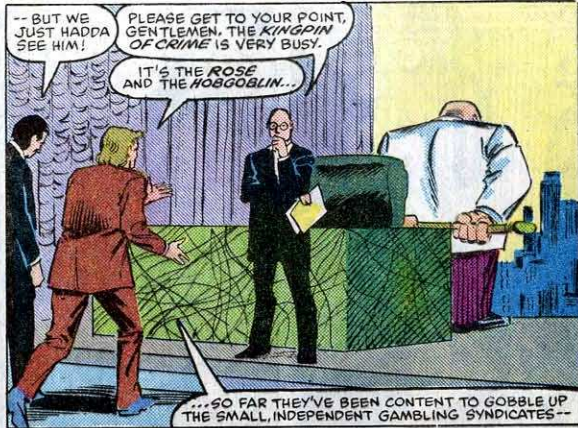
IF HE SHOULD RETURN, TELL HIM I WAS LOOKING FOR HIM.

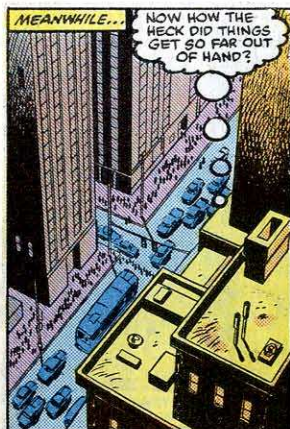


WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.



DEADLY SERIOUS BUSINESS!





YOU'LL EAT MY FIST, JERK!



GO HOME, LEEDS. FLASH THOMPSON IS THROUGH TAKING BULL-- FROM YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE!



YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, THOMPSON!



I SWEAR YOU'LL PAY!!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

SHA SHAN, WHERE ARE YOU, GIRL?



WE'VE GOT TO TALK!

SHA SHAN--?!



HEY! ALL OF HER CLOTHES-- GONE!!

SHE'S CLEARED OUT! DESERTED ME!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT I COULDN'T DEPEND ON HER WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN!

THAT MISERABLE LITTLE WITCH! IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON HER AGAIN--!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO DON MY COSTUME AGAIN.



BUT, I MUST BE CALM! COOL! DETACHED! CAN'T LET EMOTIONS RULE MY ACTIONS!

GOT TO CLEAR MY MIND OF ALL OUTSIDE DISTRACTIONS, SO THAT I ACT LOGICALLY AND WITHOUT ERROR.



MY PLAN IS SIMPLICITY ITSELF, BUT I WON'T LET MYSELF GROW OVERCONFIDENT.



ONLY A FOOL HOLDS HIS VICTORY PARTY ON THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS CONTEST!

AND, THE HOBGOBLIN IS NO MAN'S FOOL!



I MUST LURE SPIDER-MAN OUT INTO THE OPEN, SO THAT I CAN EASILY DESTROY HIM!

THE PORT AUTHORITY BUS TERMINAL WILL CERTAINLY PROVIDE ME WITH AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION--



--ONCE I STIR UP THE PROPER AMOUNT OF HYSTERIA!

DANNY, LOOK! IT'S THAT HOBGOBLIN CHARACTER! THERE ARE ENOUGH OUTSTANDING WARRANTS ON HIM TO PAPER THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA!

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TAKE ON ONE OF THESE COSTUMED FREAKS EVER SINCE I JOINED THE FORCE!

COME ON, SUCKER-- MAKE MY DAY!



NO.

YOU MAKE MINE!

PWOOM!

ZUGNNE

G-GAS! CAN'T BREATHHHH



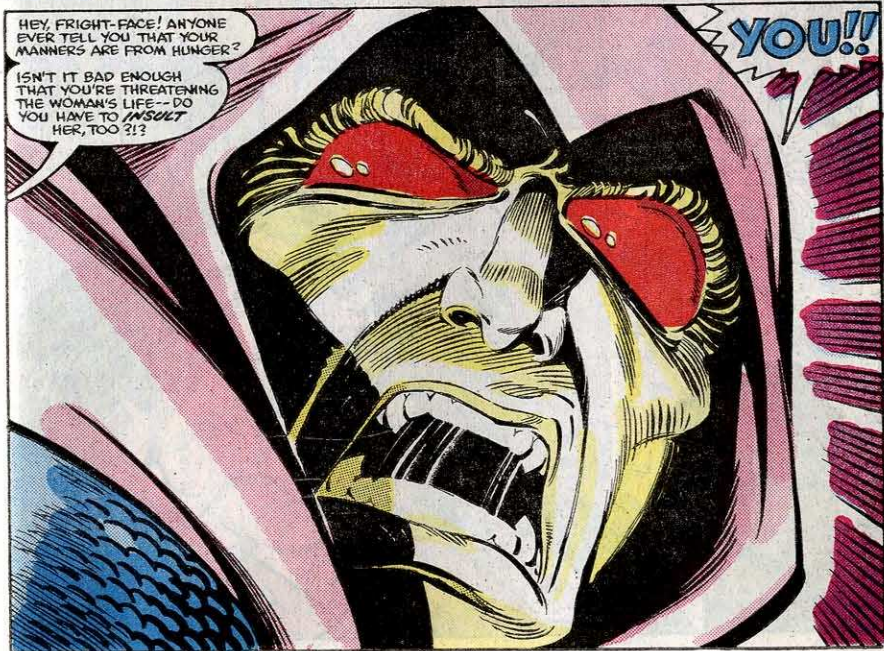
THIS IS GOING MUCH TOO QUICKLY!

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THAT THESE SIMPLE POLICEMEN WOULD BE NO MORE THAN A MOMENTARY DISTRACTION TO ONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL GET THE MEDIA INVOLVED!









SPIDER-MAN!
SO YOU'VE
FINALLY DARED
TO COME OUT
OF HIDING!

IT'S ABOUT TIME.
I WAS STARTING TO
GROW IMPATIENT! AND,
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN
DISASTROUS FOR
THIS YOUNG GIRL!

PUT HER DOWN,
HOBGOBLIN! YOUR
GRIPE IS WITH
ME, NOT HER!

SHE'S ALREADY
SERVED HER PURPOSE
BY DRAWING ME OUT!

THERE'S NO
NEED TO HURT
HER NOW!



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

AS LONG AS I HAVE HER, YOU ARE EFFECTIVELY HELPLESS!

YOU CAN'T ATTACK ME WITHOUT ENDANGERING HER!

HE'S RIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO?!



HEY! THAT GIRL--!

I RECOGNIZE HER NOW! *SHA SHAN*-- FLASH THOMPSON'S GIRLFRIEND!

IS IT ONLY A COINCIDENCE THAT HOBGOBLIN GRABBED HER, OR--?



AIEEE!!

SILENCE, WOMAN! I MUST CONCENTRATE!

DIDN'T PLAN THIS VERY WELL!

CAN'T ACTIVATE MY *COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE* WHILE I'M HOLDING THE GIRL!



SO, FOR THE TIME BEING--

--I MUST RELY ON MY MORE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONRY!



YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING, HOBBY!

A GUY WITH THE SPEED AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER CAN EASILY AVOID--



OHMIGOSH!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!

WHEN I INSTINCTIVELY DODGED THAT PUMPKIN GRENADE--



"--I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE BELOW!"



THWIPP

I KNOW I'M LEAVING MYSELF OPEN TO ATTACK--



"--BUT I JUST CAN'T LET ANYONE ELSE GET INJURED BECAUSE I FAILED-- BECAUSE I WAS CARELESS!"

TAWAK!



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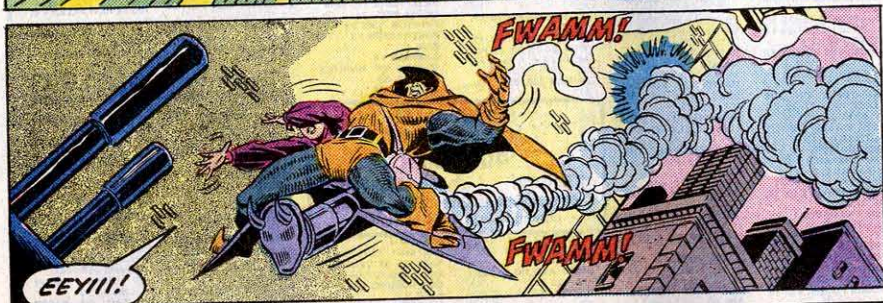
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CLOGGING THAT BLASTER WAS A REAL BONEHEADED STUNT! HOBGOBLIN'S BODY ARMOR PROTECTED HIM, BUT SHA SHAN COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!!

EVEN SO, I MAY BE ABLE TO SNAG HER WHILE HOBGOBLIN'S STILL DISORIENTED!



NO!

YOU CAN'T HAVE HER THAT EASILY!



AND, YET, PERHAPS I HAVE ALREADY ALLOWED HER TO BURDEN ME FOR FAR TOO LONG A TIME?

DO YOU TRULY WANT THIS WOMAN, SPIDER-MAN?

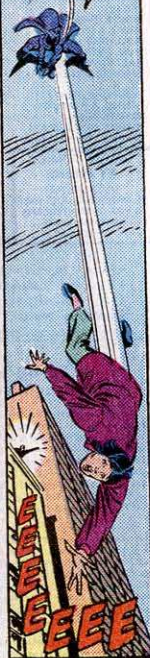
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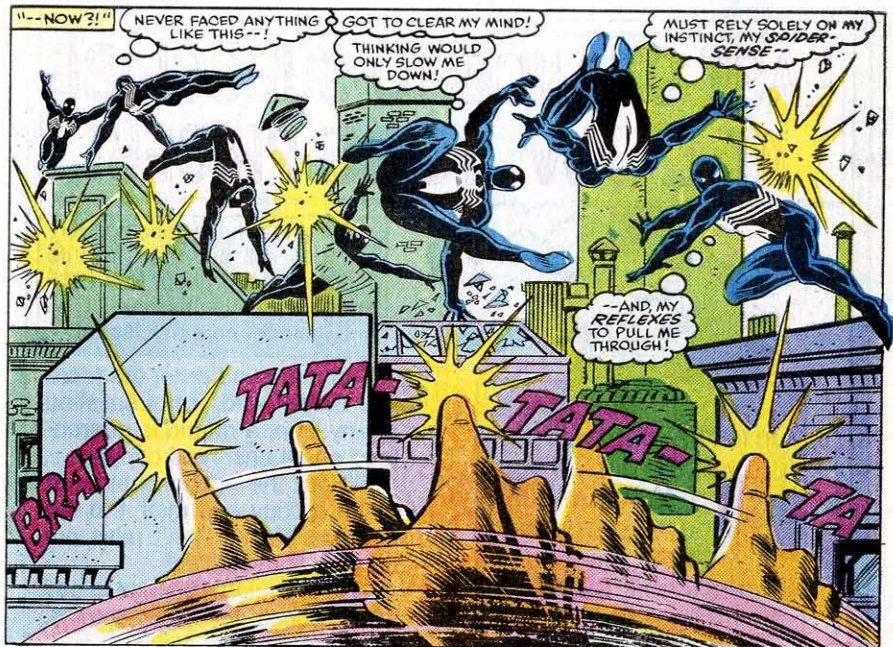


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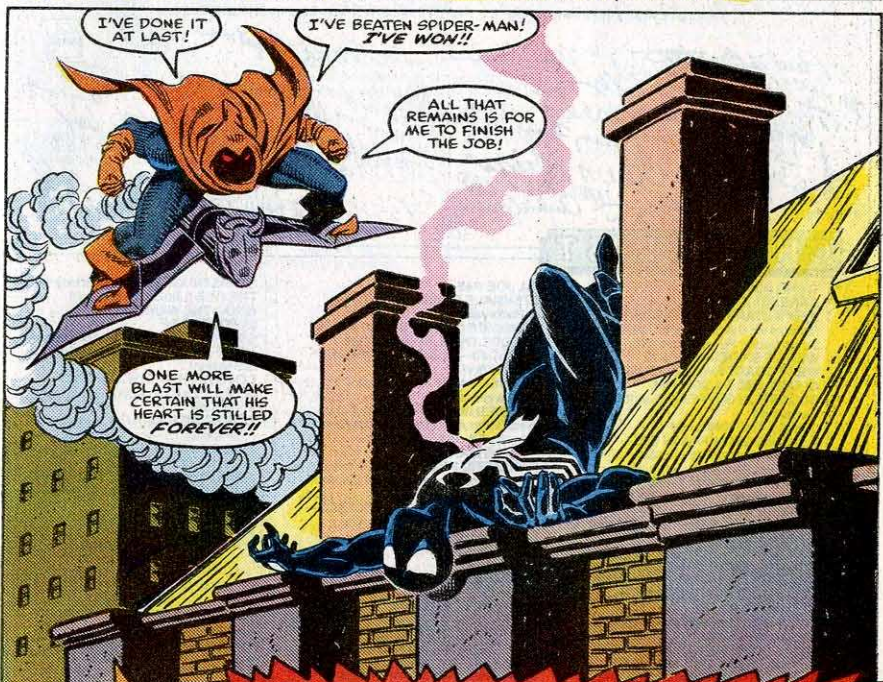
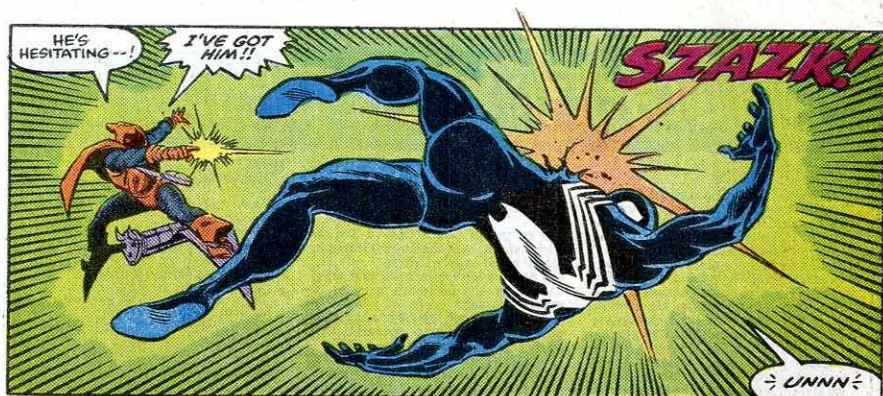
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

Dear Santa,

I've been a pretty good boy this year, if you don't count August. Actually, except for the incident with the Exploding Cantaloupe (Chris Claremont's nose is healing nicely) I was pretty well behaved. Oh, sure, I admit that I put those two goats wearing babushkas in Bob Layton's hotel room in Houston, but as it turned out, Bob, Billy, and Nanny became fast friends. They still write. Also, I can explain the kiddie pool full of lime Jell-O. But not here.

Anyway, I promise I'll never leave an exploding cantaloupe lying around again. How was I to know that Chris was passing by and in the mood for a Boston cooler? It

was an accident that he got it. It was meant for a more deserving party. So, give me a break, huh?

Here's what I want for Christmas:

A castle like Doctor Doom's (but on Park Avenue) so I can say my house is almost as big as John Byrne's.

A hammer like Thor's to use for making fine adjustments on certain members of the creative staff.

A tight-fitting hat, like the one Magneto used to wear, to keep my head from swelling while reading the rave mail.

Steel-hard skin like Luke Cage's for when the occasional hate letter comes in from the occasional irate fan or com-

debitor.

100 pairs of stretch socks.

That's enough. But while I'm at it, please bring Chris a tea cozy to keep his nose warm until it's all better, and Bob a goat's cheese cookbook.

Oh, and one more thing. Please give a dozen exploding cantaloupes to you-know-who over at you-know-where.

Sincerely yours,

Shoof

lim S

And, on a slightly more serious note . . . **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** from all of us at Marvel Comics!

CHECK LIST

- ❑ **THING #33**
- ❑ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ❑ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars* II cross-over!
- ❑ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ❑ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ❑ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ❑ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #1**
- ❑ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ❑ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars* II cross-over!
- ❑ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ❑ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ❑ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ❑ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ❑ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ❑ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
- ❑ **WISCON AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #6**
- ❑ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #1**—Direct from hit Saturday morning TV show, "Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends," and into her own comic! Guest-starring the New Mutants and the X-Men!
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- ❑ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Geel!
- ❑ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ❑ **AVENGERS #255**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ❑ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ❑ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ❑ **X-MEN #233**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars* II cross-over!
- ❑ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #122**
- ❑ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**

- ☐ **Q.I. JOE #45**
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—Betrayals!
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- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this Secret Wars II cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
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- ☐ SAVAGE TALES #3

EPIC COMICS

- ❑ **SWORDS OF THE SWASH-
BUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard
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WOOD!
- ❑ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping
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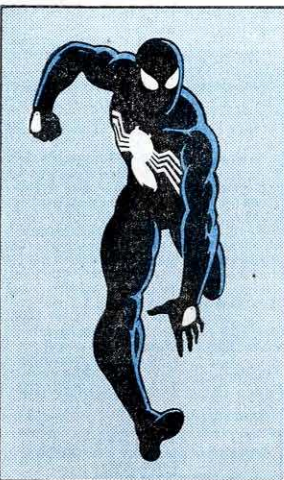
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- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpion Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #6**—Could this be the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

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- GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE—Why is New York called "Fun City"? Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)



THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

In case you haven't heard the news, **Marvel Comics** will be celebrating its *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary* this year.

Twenty-five years of Marvel Comics!! I almost can't believe it's been that long.

I first discovered **Marvel** when I was eleven or twelve years old. I had gone down to the local soda shop to see what was new on the comic book racks. I was bored, and really hoped to find something exciting to read. I found *Fantastic Four* #3 and #4... and I've been hooked on **Marvel** ever since!

My favorite character has always been a certain friendly neighborhood web-slinger whom I met in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy* #15. (Yes, I was one of the lucky ones who actually bought a copy of *Spider-Man's* very first appearance.)

That story has been reprinted in this special anniversary celebration. Since this particular issue is the very first *Spider-Man* book to be published this year, we figured we'd give you a unique opportunity to see where *Spider-Man's* been, and to glimpse where he's headed.

Marvel has made a lot of magic in the past twenty-five years. Hopefully, the best is yet to come. Who knows, maybe you'll be writing this column—or one like it—twenty-five years from now. I wish you luck!

Thanks for being there!
Tom DeFalco

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

I've just finished reading issue #271 and I enjoyed it. The art was excellent and the story was the same. The creative team on *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* really works well together.

Just a few suggestions; I think *Spider-Man* needs another male buddy who he can get close to and talk with. Since Harry Osborne left that's been a position needing to be filled.

Also, I agree with other correspondents that J.J.J. should make amends with *Spider-Man*. That old *Jonah-hates-Spidey* subplot is wearing thin.

Please let *Spidey* go back to school and finish his education. In my opinion this will mark the end of the first age of *Spider-Man* and let his adult life flourish.

Also, I hope Peter's relationship with Mary-Jane goes somewhere this time.

Well, until *Spidey* wears an "S" on his chest, Make Mine *Marvel*!

The Reader
2943 Rosewood Cr.
Port Coquitlam BC
Canada V3B-3L8

For more on the *Jonah-Spidey* feud, don't miss *WEB OF SPIDER-MAN* #13, on sale now!

True Believers,

I just got *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #272, and it knocked my socks off. The art was superb and the storyline was excellent. *Spidey* seems to be a pretty slick character (pun intended). I only have one complaint... I WANT MORE HOBGOBLIN!! *Hobby* is one of my favorite villains, because he doesn't mess around. I read all of your *Spider-Man* titles. ASM #s 269 and 270 were excellent also. *Firelord* has a terrible tenure, doesn't he?

Christopher Kirshon
5621 S. Greenfield
Portsmouth VA 23703

More *Hobgoblin*, Christopher? Well... okay. If you insist.

Dear *Spider-Man*,

Something wonderful has happened to *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN*. It comes in the form of *Sal Buscema* and *Kyle Baker*. *Spider-Man* #272 was utterly fantastic. From splash page to the last page I was enthralled by the art and the story. I'd like to give a special compliment to *Nelson Yontov* and his superb coloring job.

A quick word about *Slyde*: He's great. *Slyde* is one of the most unique villains to surface in a long time. It's refreshing to see a villain who doesn't want to hurt other people (well, physically, anyway). I hope he'll be popping up again in the near future.

There seems to be a small controversy concerning the gold notebook *Spider-Man* took out of the trashcan. Here's what I'd like to see happen. Peter should cash in the notebook, spend some of it on Aunt May and her halfway house, and pay any hospital bills for *Nathan* (if *Medicare* doesn't take care of them). Then, I'd like to see *Spider-Man* donate whatever's left to a worthy cause. I feel this way Peter won't feel as guilty about taking the notebook in the first place. Also, he'll be helping a lot of people and he might even help himself, smoothing relations with Aunt May, and *Spider-Man's* public image might improve.

Kevin J. Frey
2821 S. Blackstone Ave
Minneapolis MN 55416

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #14 sounds like it's got your number, Kevin. It features the debut of new regular writer *David Michelinie* and inker extraordinaire *Kyle Baker*! And *WEB* #14 begins a 2-part tale that will end with the ultimate resolution of the gold notebook controversy!

Dear Editors,

The premiere of *Slyde* in *THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #272 was fabulous! *Slyde* has some very unique abilities and provides *Spidey* with a very formidable foe! *Slyde* might even

make a good hero if he decides to reform. Whatever the case, bring *Slyde* back soon! He's terrific!

Jeff Mitchell
c/o Du Vorwerk
1579 Grandview A.E.
Maplewood MN 55109

Dear *Arachnoids*,

Just a friendly letter to let you know how much I enjoyed #272. *Slyde* seems to be an interesting character, but what's real interesting is his costume.

When we see Mr. *Beacher* claim that his new coating is frictionless, I could envision the massive response you would receive over this new discovery. *Beacher* claims that nothing will stick to this miraculous discovery. If this is true, then now is *Slyde's* uniform able to "hold onto" the frictionless stuff?

If something is frictionless, NOTHING would be able to adhere to such a substance, no matter what was done to it. So *Slyde* can't have his uniform "covered" with a frictionless substance.

Also, if *Slyde's* boots are "covered" with this substance, he wouldn't be able to run or negotiate a sharp curve as shown on page 5, panel 4. If you're wondering why, take a peek into a physics book and look under *Newton's* first law of motion.

When I thought about writing this letter, I intended on getting real technical about the "curve" I mentioned above (i.e., weight, coefficient of friction, speed, etc.) but I have changed my mind and let you guys "SLYDE". Maybe because I have spared you from such an attack, perhaps a coveted No-Prize will appear in my mailbox?

Jim Puga
311 E. Street
Broderick CA 95605

Very astute reasoning, Jim, but you neglected to address the real test required to receive a much-coveted No-Prize: that is, you didn't come up with an explanation as to how *Slyde's* frictionless fabric really does work. After all, such complexities are far too sticky for us poor overworked editors!

Dear *Web-Heads*,

I just thought I'd drop you a line about *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #272. The debut of *Slyde* was interesting, to say the least. He has great potential, and I'm sure he'll become a major *SPIDER-MAN* villain. I can't wait for next issue for two reasons:

- 1) The *Puma* will be returning. He's my favorite villain next to the *Hobgoblin*.
- 2) Next issue will be a SECRET WARS II crossover.

By the way, did *Ron Frenz* draw the epilogue for this issue? It looked like his work.

Oh yeah, I think I found out who *Nathan's* "friend" is. First, take a look at *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #271. The guy *Nathan* talks to in the alley is wearing a hat and the shape of the hat looks familiar. Then, in *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #272, there is a vase of roses in *Nathan's* room from a "friend".

Now who do we know that wears a hat and has an obsession with roses? Of course! *The Rose*! Am I right? Until *Spidey* makes up his mind on which costume to wear, MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Larry Baranski
32372 Bristol Ct.
Fraser MI 48026

Right *Frenz*, wrong *Rose*.

Dear *Marvel*,

I'm writing on behalf of issues 271 and 272. Issue 272 was great! *Slyde* is a good villain for *Spidey*. *Sal Buscema* is a great penciler. Keep him. By the way, how fast can *Slyde* move in that suit of his?

Now, issue 271, that's a different story. I'm not going to say how great it was (although it was superb), but to ask some questions regarding

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the Hobbogoblin. On page 15, Peter's Spider-Sense goes off. Why? 'Cause of Lance Bannon, or perhaps Hobby. Maybe? On the next page we see Ned and Betty having a fight. Could Ned's outrage be due to prolonged exposure to the Goblin formula, like what happened to Norman?

The point I'm trying to make is that I think Hobby is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds. Well, until the Hobbogoblin takes up basketball, make mine Marvel.

Heath Vinyard
6925 N Gaiety Pl
Tucson AZ 85741

Well, Heath, by the end of this issue's climactic struggle, you won't have to guess any longer.

Dear Web-Shooters,

I am a new-comer to the comic-book world (about 4 months). With the exception of some old Spider-Man books, I had never collected two comic books in a row in my life. The first comic book I picked up three months ago was an AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I didn't know what I had been missing! I would like to thank Marvel and the makers of AMAZING—and WEB—for welcoming me into the Marvel Universe. Now my favorites are SECRET WARS II, AMAZING, and WEB. My first AMAZING was #266. What a way to start! It was great. I loved the SECRET WARS II tie-in. The Firelord series was good, too. Until Mr. Fantastic's arms fall off, make mine Marvel!

Jeff Ham
412 Hickory Tree Circle
Seffner FL 33584

Welcome aboard, Jeff!

Dear Stan Lee,

Whatever happened to the spider that bit Peter Parker? You know, the one that turned him into the Amazing Spider-Man?

I know that it probably died, but did it have any offspring? It seems likely that it did. Are there any more Spider-Man out there?

Ray Herbert and Cliff Crawford
PO Box 3362
Bryan TX 77806

It's dead, Jim . . . er, Ray and Cliff. See this issue's special re-representation of the original Marvel masterpiece!

Dear AMAZING, SPECTACULAR, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN,

I have a few suggestions:

- 1) Could you, like, have more Spider-Man comic books? Even though every other hero can only fight one villain a month, I think Spider-Man should be able to fight 4 or 5 villains a month. It's only fair.
- 2) Why doesn't every hero have 2 or 3 suits? Why wear out one look? Besides, it would help the heroes because it would confuse the villains.

And:

- 3) Could you have more SECRET WARS crossovers? It's good to confuse people who don't get SECRET WARS and leave them hanging on some stories.

Brian Edgar
1420 Hodges
Independence MO 64032

Dear Web-Heads,

Here are my comments about issue 272. I loved the cover. The cover's drawing was better than the book's artwork. I liked the new character, Slyde. He's got new appeal and good promise to be a great villain or even a hero. With his frictionless costume, he should be a great match for Spider-Man. All Slyde needs is some experience. Give him some. Don't let him disappear. The story was good overall and the artwork was fair. I'm glad you put D.A. Tower in the story. I hadn't seen him for awhile. Tower got the tape even though Slyde grabbed the money. I'm glad to hear that Spider-Man thinks he's going to

come first. Who believes that one? Not me. He should clear this fight between Aunt May and himself, though. I can't wait until next issue for the Spider-Puma team-up at the Beyonder. I'll be here. Also, get Hobbogoblin back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I've narrowed his identity to three people: Ned Leeds, Flash Thompson, or Lance Bannon. But wouldn't this be a shock: the secret identity of the Hobbogoblin is Aunt May Parker!

Carl Zeitler
426 S. Elmwood
Oak Park, IL 60302

WHO TOLD YOU?

Dear Marvel Madman,

I loved ASM #273! I also can't wait to read the continuations in PPTSSM #111 and then back to ASM #274 for the conclusion! I'm really intrigued to find out how this confrontation will end with the Beyonder. I'm a fairly recent collector of Spideys, but I have to admit that they are my favorite mags. I really enjoy the new black-and-white Spidey dude, and I hope that they are around for much, much longer. By the way, I noticed that in ASM #271 page 16, panel 4, there was a poster in the far right corner of the panel. It read "Spider-Man, Old and New". I happen to have that poster, and I noticed that you included Aunt May's face under Spidey's right leg! How could that be if the poster was sold in New York with Spidey around? Oh, well, in closing, forever MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!!

Michael Schafar
1100 State Street
New Orleans LA 70118

Dear Marvel People,

Way to go! You people are great, fantastic, and awesome. Why am I saying these nice things about you great people? Because you're putting my favorite Web-Slinger and my favorite Puma and my favorite person from Beyond all together in one Amazing mag! Way to go!

Jonathan Romeo
1708 Capistrano Dr.
Knoxville, TN

Dear Jim, Tom, and Ron,

"To Challenge the Beyonder" is a neat title for the story. In issue #273 you really got me wanting more. Like Spider-Man should take the \$100,000, or at least cash in the notebook. Give me a break, for almost half a year I've been wanting to know what is going to happen to the notebook, and yet two books have dragged it on. I love the way you combine the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and this title together, while you leave PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN up to date but let it get into its own complicated plots. Also lately I've noticed a lot of light 'em and leave 'em enemies. Firelord, Manta-slayer, and Slyde were fought quicks where we found little to do with the villain. Firelord at least we have heard of before.

I also hear that the identity of Hobbogoblin is soon to be revealed. Just because we find out who he or she is, that character does not need to be written off. That's just my thoughts, so keep Spidey swinging. And how about some good, long, action-packed four-issue sagas against an interesting villain. And I don't count the Beyonder as a villain. So until next time . . .

Matthew Paul
381 Lincoln Street
Lexington MA 02173

Dear Creative Staff,

ASM #273, as great a comic as it was, as stupendous and inspired the writing and art was therein, still failed to divert me from the true important continuing storyline: the identity of the Hobbogoblin.

In this, and most recent issues, you have dropped various hints that the Hobbogoblin is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds. You may have fooled some readers, but after months of back-issue reading, I have deduced that the Hobbogoblin must be . . . Timothy Byrnes! . . .

Mary Jane's father? . . . Richard Fisk? . . . oh, heck, I don't know who he is.

Michael Pointer
Raleigh NC 27622

See next issue, Michael. You'll figure it out.

Greetings, Tall One and crew,

Let us examine the clues in the Hobbogoblin case.

He is used to dealing in power, although not of a physical nature. He could be a politician. He has criminal connections of a minor and very secret nature. He could still be a politician. His sanity is slipping. This results from a family history of insanity. He also has a schizoid son with an evil alter-ego. He also has a reason to seek revenge against Spidey. This leads us back to the son whom Spidey brutalized while under the influence of the Spider-Lizard radiation. Everything points to only one man . . .

The Hobbogoblin is Senator Robert Martin (PPTSSM #38 and 39). I would like to thank the academy if I receive the famous No-Prize.

Jimmy Walker
2689 Addison Dr.
Doraville GA 30340

WHO TOLD YOU?

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6. Full name and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, managing editor, Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Jim Shooter, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: John Buscema, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
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(Signed) Thomas Costello — Business Manager

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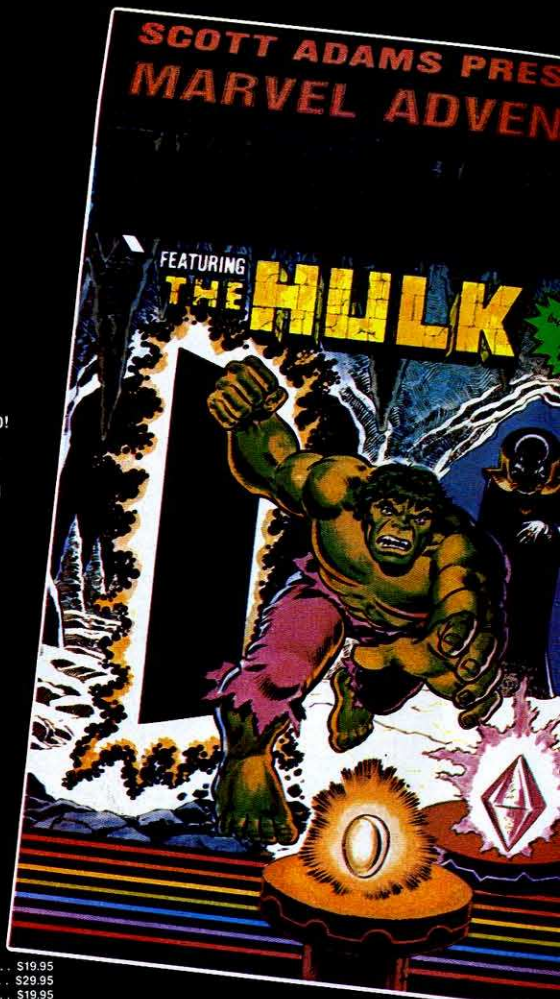
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