

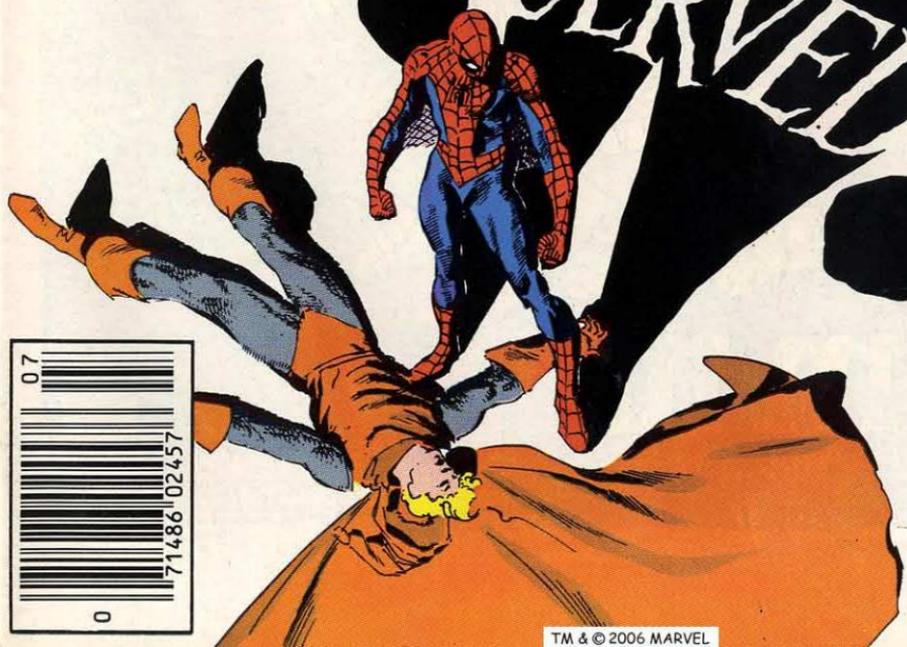
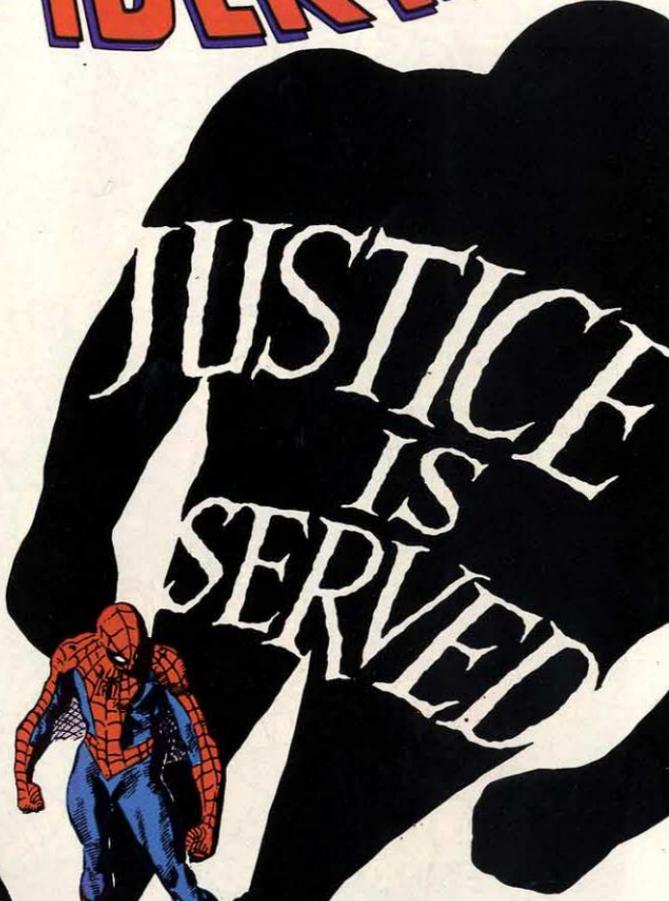
**MARVEL**  
**25<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**



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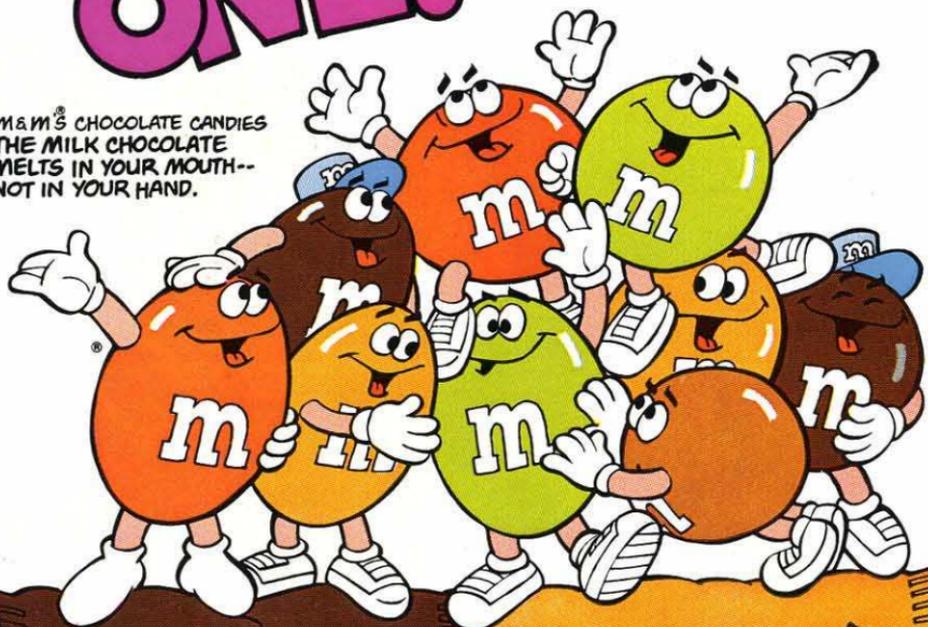
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# "If This Be Justice--"

"THOMPSON, POPULARLY KNOWN BY HIS HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME OF 'FLASH', WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AFTER HIS BATTLE WITH SPIDER-MAN AND IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD WITHOUT BAIL."

"CLOSE FRIENDS OF THOMPSON'S PROFESSED ASTONISHMENT THAT THOMPSON WAS UNMASKED AS THE COSTUMED CRIMINAL 'HOBGOBLIN'. ONE ANONYMOUS SOURCE STATED, 'HE WAS ALWAYS AN OBNIVIOUS SON-OF-A-GUN, BUT THIS? WOW!'"

"AND WOW TO YOU COMMUTERS. IT'S 8:45 AM HERE ON WNBC RADIO. IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY AT WORK, YOU'D BETTER BE GETTING READY TO GO."

TOM DEFalco -- PLOT  
PETER DAVID & JO DUFFY -- SCRIPT  
MIKE HARRIS -- PENCILS  
VINCE COLLETTA -- INKS  
PARKER & ROSEN -- LETTERS  
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JIM OWSLEY -- EDITOR  
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR IN CHIEF



"AND IF SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS ARE YOUR CUP OF TEA, HERE'S AN ITEM OF INTEREST... A LOT OF THEM HAVE BEEN DYING LATELY."

"IN RECENT MONTHS, SUCH DISREPUTABLE CHAPS AS THE ENFORCER, MIRACLE MAN, MEGATAK AND THE MELTER HAVE BEEN BLOWN AWAY, BUT THAT'S *NOTHING* COMPARED TO A RECENT SLAUGHTER NEAR LAKE ERIE--"



"WHERE 17, MAYBE 18 BAD GUYS WERE MOWED DOWN. CAPTAIN AMERICA\* IS REPORTED TO HAVE AN INTEREST, BUT AS FAR AS THIS DJ'S CONCERNED--"

\* SEE CAPTAIN AMERICA # 519, ON SALE NOW-- OWZ.



"WE SHOULDN'T BE SHEDDING ANY TEARS, RIGHT? KILLERS, MURDERS, RAPISTS, AND MUGGERS DESERVE WHAT THEY GET, RIGHT?"



THERE, THE MASK FITS PERFECTLY.



"ALL THE BADDIES APPARENTLY WERE KILLED BY THE SAME TYPE OF WEAPON-- A HIGH-POWERED GUN WITH ARMOR-PIERCING SHELLS... AND ALL AT CLOSE RANGE."

"POLICE BELIEVE EITHER THIS ALLEGED 'SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORD' IS FRIENDLY WITH A LOT OF NASTIES..."



"OR ELSE HE'S A MASTER OF DISGUISE. THE MAIN QUESTION IS..."



"WHO'S HIS NEXT TARGET? ANY GUESSES OUT THERE, LISTENERS?"



TO WHAT? STAB HIM IN THE BACK, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DID? YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT. THANK YOU.





HMM, ROBBIE HAS COMPANY... KATE CUSHING, THE CITY EDITOR, AND BETTY'S REPORTER-HUSBAND, NED LEEDS.

I WONDER IF NED'S CONTRIBUTING TO BETTY'S SURLY MOOD?

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, MR. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, SIR?

YES, PETER. FIRSTLY, NICE JOB ON THAT PHOTO. THAT'S PART OF WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

KATE HERE HAD A THOUGHT WHEN NED MENTIONED THAT YOU AND FLASH WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.



WHAT ROBBIE'S PUSSYFOOTING AROUND, PARKER, IS THAT WE WANT YOU TO CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW WITH FLASH THOMPSON. HIS LAWYER'S ALREADY OKAYED IT...



WAIT A MINUTE, I'M NO WRITER.



REWRITE CAN NURSE-MAID THE PIECE, PETE. ONLY THING IS, WE HAVE TO ALLOW FLASH'S LAWYER TO OKAY IT BEFORE IT'S PRINTED.



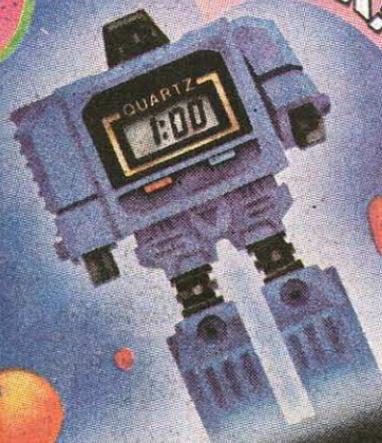
OF COURSE, WE CAN ALWAYS "FORGET" THAT PART OF THE DEAL, RIGHT, ROBBIE? CRIMINALS DON'T DESERVE ANY KIND OF PROMISES TO BE KEPT.

I MEAN, THOMPSON WAS ALWAYS AN OBNIVIOUS SON-OF-A-GUN, RIGHT? IT'S ABOUT TIME HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVES.



WHAT FLASH "DESERVES" NED IS IRRELEVANT. THE DAILY BUGLE HONORS ITS DEALS, UNDERSTOOD?

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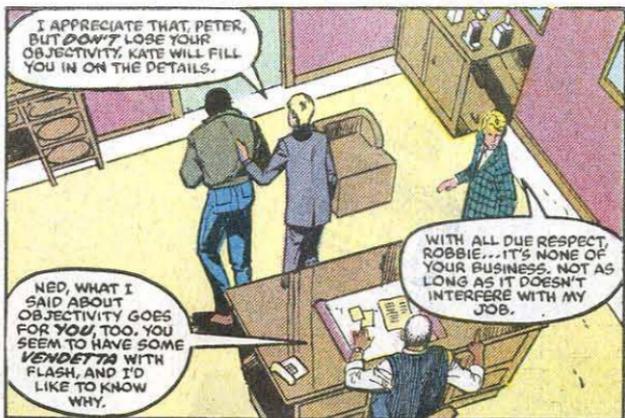
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Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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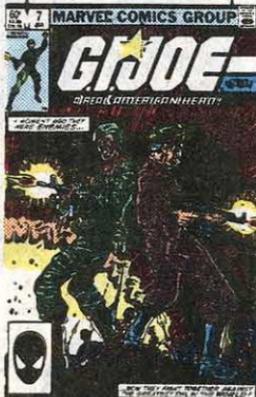
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... PETER PARKER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, APPROACHING THE POLICE STATION WHERE FLASH IS INCARCERATED.

I'VE KNOWN FLASH FOR YEARS, AND HE'S BEEN CONSISTENT: A FREQUENT THORN FOR PETER PARKER, AND ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S STAINCHEST SUPPORTERS.

IN LATER YEARS WE BECAME FRIENDS... THEN RECENTLY, HE STARTED TO ACT ERRATICALLY--AROUND THE TIME THE HOBGOBLIN SHOWED UP.

HE BECAME INSANELY JEALOUS REGARDING ME AND HIS GIRLFRIEND SHA SHAM, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE TURNED HUMAN AGAIN. ACTED LIKE MY PAL...EVEN CONVINCED ME THAT HE HAD ALWAYS HAD MY BEST INTERESTS AT HEART, EVEN WHEN HE MADE LIFE MISERABLE FOR ME IN HIGH SCHOOL.

AND I, LIKE A SAP, BOUGHT IT. BUT HE WAS SO CONVINCING. THEN AGAIN, PSYCHOPATHS USUALLY ARE.

SO, IF HE IS THE HOBGOBLIN--WHICH LOOKS LIKELY-- THEN I DON'T OWE HIM ANYTHING, EXCEPT MAYBE A PUNCH IN THE MOUTH.

BUT I KEEP WONDERING, WHAT IF IT'S A SETUP? IF IT IS, THEN HOBGOBLIN'S RUNNING LOOSE AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP. SO EITHER I HELP FLASH, WHO MAY BE A MAJOR ENEMY OF MINE...

OR I STAY OUT OF IT AND LET FLASH ROT IN JAIL, AND PRAY I'M NOT MAKING A MISTAKE.





THAT COP SET OFF MY SPIDER-SENSE. I WONDER WHY. MAYBE IT'S HIS GUN.



SURE. THAT'S PROBABLY IT.



SOON, IN AN INTERROGATION ROOM...

SO IS FLASH GOING TO PLEAD INNOCENT OR WHAT?

HE'S INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY, PETER, OR DIDN'T THEY TEACH THAT TO YOU AND FLASH IN SCHOOL?

FRANKLY, WE HAVEN'T DECIDED. BUT IF FLASH MAINTAINS HIS INNOCENCE, HE'LL NEED THE SUPPORT OF ALL HIS FRIENDS.



FRIENDS? HOW CAN I CALL SOMEONE WHO I THINK MAY HAVE TRIED TO BLOW ME TO BITS A FRIEND?

FRIENDSHIP STARTS WITH TRUST. I CAN'T TRUST FLASH. HOW CAN I HELP HIM? DO I WANT TO?

WHAT IF HE IS THE HOBGOBLIN, BUT ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS? LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, THE GREEN GOBLIN. THEN DOESN'T HE DESERVE MY AID?

JUST BLINK IF YOU'RE CONSCIOUS, PETER.

I WANT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SEE HIM... ARE YOU SYMPATHETIC TO FLASH'S CAUSE?



DO YOU WANT TO HELP HIM?

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WHEN I DESIGNED MY WEB SHOOTERS, I NEVER TOOK METAL DETECTORS INTO ACCOUNT.

MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE A PLASTIC SET OF SHOOTERS FOR TRAVEL, AND GOING TO VISIT IMPRISONED SUPER-VILLAINS.



NOW, NOW, MR. P... REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD DENISE BOY-WITH-THE-ACCENTED-E. YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.



IT'LL MATCH THE HOLE IN MY HEAD.

THERE, ALL MY CARTRIDGES AND WEB-SHOOTERS ARE WEBBED UP IN THIS SACK. NOW TO STASH 'EM.



BOY, I BET CAPTAIN AMERICA NEVER HAS TO GO THROUGH THIS.



UH OH.



SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME JUST IN TIME. I'M NOT *ALONE* ANYMORE.

IT FEELS SO ODD BEING IN THIS POLICE STATION AGAIN. I HAVEN'T SET FOOT IN IT SINCE THE WHOLE SIN-EATER BUSINESS.



I SUPPOSE IT SHOULDN'T HAVE, BUT THAT WHOLE MESS SORT OF GOURDED ME ON THE COPS. THAT'S HARDLY FAIR, THOUGH, YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON THE POLICE...

HEAVEN HELP US IF THEY EVER GIVE UP ON US...



ELSEWHERE--

THERE IT IS. THE POLICE STATION WHERE MY SISTER WAS A CAPTAIN...

CAPTAIN JEAN DEWOLFF.



SHE WAS THE BEST COP I EVER KNEW. HONEST. DEDICATED.

LOOK AT THEM DOWN THERE. GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS. THEY SHOULD BE MOURNING HER, BUT INSTEAD THEY'RE GOING ON AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED.



COPS! THEY MAKE ME SICK. IT WAS A COP WHO KILLED MY SISTER, BLEW HER TO PIECES.

AND MY FATHER WAS A TOP LEVEL COP. A CRAZY MAN WHO, FOR HIS OWN TWISTED PURPOSES, POSSESSED MY MIND AND PERVERTED MY POWERS...

THE POWERS OF--

--THE WRAITH!



THEY TOOK THE ONLY GOOD COP AMONG THEM AND DESTROYED HER, LIKE THEY ALMOST DESTROYED ME. BUT I'M GOING TO GET THEM FOR WHAT THEY DID TO HER. TO US.

THE SIN-EATER, A COP TOOK HER AWAY FROM ME. HE THOUGHT, SINCE I WAS OUT IN CALIFORNIA I WOULDN'T FIND OUT. BUT I DID!



AND NOW THE WRAITH, A HERO, IS GOING TO GET BACK SOME OF WHAT WAS TAKEN FROM HIM. AND I'M GOING TO GET IT IN BLOOD!

BRIAN DEWOLFF. A YOUNG MAN. A HEROIC MAN. DRIVEN NOW BY DEMONS ONLY HE CAN SEE. HIS SISTER WAS A TOUCHSTONE FOR REALITY. WHEN HE LOST HER, HE LOST...



THE DAY WE BOXED IN HIGH SCHOOL... I PUNCHED YOUR LIGHTS OUT.

NO. I CAME HERE TO SAY THAT MAYBE NEITHER OF US IS A PRIZE PACKAGE. MAYBE WE OWE IT TO EACH OTHER TO PUT ASIDE ALL THE STUFF FROM THE PAST-- AND WORK TOGETHER TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS. 'CAUSE THE BOTTOM LINE IS... WE'RE FRIENDS NOW.

THANKS, PETE. I ~~MEAN~~ IT. SO... LET ME TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENED.



BUT I JUST WANT TO SAY... I'M GLAD YOU'RE REALLY INTERESTED IN HELPING ME, AND NOT JUST GETTING A STORY FOR THAT RAG YOU WORK FOR, RIGHT, PETE?

RIGHT?



AN HOUR LATER--

HEY, JACK! HOW MANY DAYS DOES THIS MAKE?

THIRTY-SIX, BERT. THIRTY-SIX DAYS WITHOUT A CIGARETTE.

IT ONLY GETS EASIER. LOOK-- MY HAND BARELY TREMBLES NOW.

WISH I HAD YOUR WILL POWER, JACK BRENNAN.



GETTING THE WILL POWER WAS EASY-- AFTER I SAW MY LUNG X-RAYS.

IT FEELS GOOD, THOUGH. I FEEL LIKE I CAN BREATHE EASIER-- THAT DEATH ISN'T CREEPING UP ON ME.



SO FLASH DOESN'T KNOW HOW HE GOT TO WHERE HE WAS, OR HOW HE GOT INTO THE HOBGOBLIN'S SUIT, OR WHERE ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT WAS IN HIS APARTMENT CAME FROM.

THAT'S IT. FLASH CLAIMS HIS MIND IS A COMPLETE BLANK.

WORKS FOR ME.



DON'T FORGET-- I WANT TO SEE THAT ARTICLE BEFORE IT SEES PRINT.

YOU BET, SHARON. I'LL BRING IT TO YOU MYSELF.



AND HE DOES IT...

GOT MY WEB SHOOTERS  
GOT MY CLOTHES WEBBED  
TO MY BACK-- I'M SET.

BUT NOW WHAT? I  
CAN'T JUST GO DASHING  
THROUGH THE POLICE  
STATION. I'LL HIT TOO  
MANY INTERRUPTIONS.

WHICH  
GIVES ME  
ONE OPTION. I'LL  
STAY UP HERE  
IN THE CEILING  
FRAMEWORK...

... GO  
THROUGH  
THE AIR  
DUCTS...

... AND PRAY  
THAT MY SPIDER-  
SENSE WILL BE ABLE  
TO PICK HIM OUT.

THIS IS NUTS!  
I'M REACTING  
TO EVERYTHING...  
ELECTRICAL WIRES...  
SERVICE REVOLVERS...  
PRISONERS IN  
CELLS...

THERE'S DANGER  
EVERYWHERE!  
I'LL NEVER...

...  
DIE  
WAIT!

YEAH?

MR. THOMPSON?



WH-WH-  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?

WH-  
WHY--?

I  
HAVEN'T  
DONE  
ANYTHING!!

I SWEAR..



WHOA! I MUST BE  
GETTING CLOSE... MY  
SPIDER-SENSE IS  
SUDDENLY TINGLING  
LIKE CRAZY!



JUSTICE  
IS--



SPIDER-MAN!

UH-UHN,  
CHUCKLE'S.  
NOT NICE.

TILL THE COURTS  
DECIDE THE MAN'S  
GUILTY, HE'S GOT  
NOTHING TO BE  
PUNISHED FOR!

NOW, PUT THE GUN DOWN!

DIDN'T ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU IT'S NOT POLITE TO POINT?

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, SPIDER-MAN WAS MY HERO... AND NOW HE'S SAVED MY LIFE...



...EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS WHAT I'M HERE FOR!



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

SPIDER-MAN... ASSAULTING ONE OF THE UNIFORMED MEN!!



SWAT COPS! \* THIS CAN'T LOOK GOOD TO THEM.

AND SINCE I DOUBT THEY'RE GOING TO LET ME EXPLAIN... OR LISTEN IF FLASH TRIES TO TELL THEM WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON HERE...

\*SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS--OWZ.

PUT HIM DOWN AND BACK AWAY SLOWLY, OR--!



OOOF!

I GUESS I'D BETTER JUST FIND MY OWN WAY OUT.



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THE HOBGOBLIN CAN WAIT TILL ANOTHER DAY!

NOW, IF I'M CORRECT, THIS BOX CONTROLS THE DOORS OF THE CELLS OF THE RANK-AND-FILE PRISONERS, AND--



-- AH!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ATTENTION ALL OF YOU MEN! I AM THE SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD!

NO DOUBT YOU HAVE HEARD OF ME...

...AND OF WHAT I DO TO YOUR KIND.

NOW BEGONE, QUICKLY, OR I'LL DO IT TO YOU.



I'M GONE!

I'M OUTTA HERE!

I'M HISTORY!

WAIT UP!

HEH-HEH.



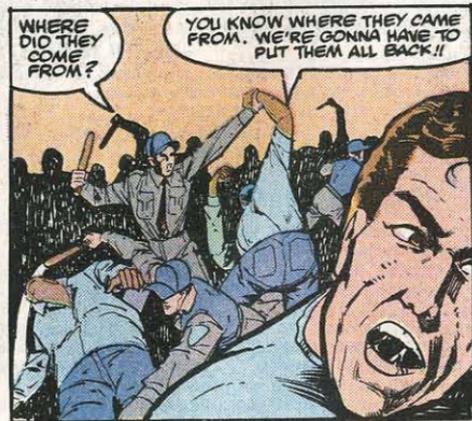
GET HIM!!

MOTHER!

UH-OH!



GUESS I'LL JUST LET THEM SETTLE THIS AMONG THEMSELVES.



WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

YOU KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM. WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO PUT THEM ALL BACK!!



UH-OH... REIN-  
FORCEMENTS  
FOR THE GOOD  
GUYS... AND THEY  
BROUGHT TEAR  
GAS!



OKAY, EVERYONE!  
PUT UP YOUR HANDS!

AGHCK!



THUS ENDETH  
THE RIOT...

OF COURSE, THAT GAS CAN'T  
DO MUCH TO ME IF I HOLD MY  
BREATH, GET OUT OF HERE  
FAST...

... AND MAKE SURE  
ANY COP WHO TRIES  
TO STOP ME GETS A  
GOOD WHIFF OF IT!



THERE'S NOTHING TO  
CRY ABOUT! YOUR GAS  
MASK IS FINE...

... EXCEPT FOR THE  
FACT THAT  
YOU'RE NOT  
WEARING IT  
ANYMORE!



EXIT THE SUPER  
HERO STAGE RIGHT...

... IN PURSUIT OF  
THE NUTCASE!



I SENSE TERROR FROM THIS  
BUILDING-- PANIC CONFUSION  
AND FEAR!

NOW  
IS THE  
TIME!

NOW THEY'LL  
ALL FEEL THE  
POWER OF THE  
WRATH!

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HEY, BUDDY,  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DONE UP FOR?



IT'S YOU WHO'S DONE FOR...

YOU AND EVERYONE  
LIKE YOU... RESPON-  
SIBLE FOR MY SISTER'S  
DEATH!!

== YEARGHK ==



I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH--

--TO KNOW  
THAT MY TRIP  
HERE HASN'T  
BEEN WASTED  
AFTER ALL!

AND WHO  
ARE YOU?!



I AM THE  
SCOURGE!

LEARN  
MY NAME...

...AND  
DIE!



JUSTICE IS  
SERVED!!

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

# M

Tom DeFalco ...

... has gotten very philosophical ever since he finished reading *Secret Wars II*. Apparently, being exposed to my keen insights upon human nature, my observations on *The Meaning of Life*, and my reflections upon the relationship of man and god has changed him somehow. It wasn't so bad the first couple of weeks when he was just walking around with his hands folded, lost in existential pondering—but then he saw *Super Bowl XX*.

"I've got it," he announced as he arrived at work on Super Bowl Monday. "I, too, have keen insight into human nature, and I have devised a way to improve office morale as well as the quality of our work."

"Office morale's fine," said I, "and everybody's already doing the best he, she, or it can."

"Picture this," Tom continued, undaunted, "are you ready? **Cheerleaders!** What do you think? Huh?"

"You mean... girls with pom-poms?"  
"And guys with megaphones! No sexism here!"

"But..."  
"Think of it! For the inkers, they'd be shouting 'hold that line!' For the letterers, it'd be 'gimme an m! Gimme an a!'"

"Gimme a break!" I screamed. "Why don't you go lie down, Tom! The pressure of being Executive Editor is getting to you. You need rest. Or a shrink. Or something."

Crushed, Tom shambled away. I wondered if I'd been too rough on him.

But, then, later, I saw him delivering his latest script for *The Amazing Spider-Man* to editor Jim Owsley's office. He ran it into the room...

... and he spilled it.  
Good grief.

## On Another Note ...

While out in Denver recently I happened to catch a performance by six of the most talented musicians I have ever seen—**Bill Wesley, Wes Makey, Windall Armour, Rob Chamberlin, Steve Espinoza, and Curtis Bushey**. Together, they're...

### The Hit City Band

I understand that they'll have a syndicated TV show starting up in March called *Hit City*. Figures. Also, they'll be on the road soon, so watch for them in your town.

I never met these guys before, none of them are my relatives, and no, they don't have pictures of me in a Compromising Situation. I'm giving them this plug because they're just plain **fantastic**. When they make it big, remember, you heard about 'em here first.

## The New Universe!

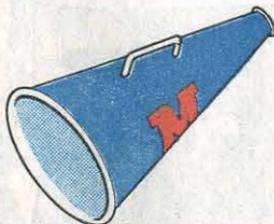
Eight exciting new titles will be launched this summer, four in July and four in August. Together, they form the foundation of the **New Universe**. Twenty-five years ago Stan Lee and several extremely talented artists brought forth the *Marvel Universe*. Now, in honor of the silver anniversary of their achievement, we're creating another Universe, unlike anything ever created before. You'll have to see it to believe it. Watch this space for more information.

Thanks ...

... for your support. Be well.



Jim Shooter  
Editor in Chief



## CHECKLIST

- CLOAK AND DAGGER #7
- DAREDEVIL #232
- WEST COAST AVENGERS #10—On the trail of the missing Ben Grimm, with special guest star, the Thing!
- NEW MUTANTS #41
- SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #11
- WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #16
- CONAN THE KING #35
- ALPHA FLIGHT #36—With the Avengers!
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #319—More than a score of Marvel villains are wiped out when the Scourge comes to town!
- POWER PACK #24
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #277—Watch out! It's the Scourge!
- VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #10—Guest-starring the Inhumans!
- FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #8—The real scoop on what happened in issues #126-147!
- THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #8—"M's" the letter!
- AVENGERS #269
- CONAN THE BARBARIAN #184
- ETERNALS #10—With the Mighty Thor!
- G.I. JOE #49—The origin of the

- Cobra Emperor!
- INCREDIBLE HULK #321
- MARVEL TALES #189
- POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #124—Alone in the Ninja Compound!
- SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #6
- X-MEN #207
- MARVEL SAGA #8—Iron Man gets his golden armor and the FF are bankrupt, while the Angel tries out his wings!
- FANTASTIC FOUR #292—Versus Adolph Hitler!
- IRON MAN #208
- PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #116
- THOR #369
- TRANSFORMERS #18
- X-FACTOR #6—Revealed at last: The master of the evil mutants!
- SECTAURS #7
- MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #4—Spidey and his partners swing into action in issues #60-82!
- DOCTOR WHO #22
- STAR WARS #106

### MARVEL MAGAZINES

- MARVEL AGE #40
- MARVEL FANFARE #27—BILL MANTLO and TONY SALMONS bring you a Daredevil extravaganza!

- SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #125
- SAVAGE TALES #5—The only place to go for hard-hitting adventure!

### EPIC COMICS

- ELFQUEST #12
- SWORDS OF THE SWASH-BUCKLERS #7—Their only hope is... Cap'n Kidd!
- THE ONE (Limited Series) #6—The One fights the Other for the control of the Human Race!
- GROO THE WANDERER #17
- BOZZ CHRONICLES (Limited Series) #3

### STAR COMICS

- MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #2—The Comet Warriors drop in on He-Man and Orko, but when the Meteorb Legion arrives, things really get hot!
- PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #8—Featuring "Kumono My House or Pigs Over Tokyo!"
- EWOKS #8—Logray battles the evil witch Morag!
- MUPPET BABIES #8—Gonzo celebrates Camilla's birthday... in Featherland!
- CARE BEARS #5—It's the story of the very first Care Bear!







## THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY  
EDITOR  
ADAM BLAUSTEIN  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

## VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

Thursday, December 19, 1985. Now, by the time this is printed that date will be ancient history. At press time, however, this day is being remembered as *The Day Of Doom*: With the Christmas rush upon us (printers take holidays, y'know), Adam and I were responsible for nudging several Spider-projects through production and off to press. Failure would mean this issue would arrive late. Since you're reading this, you know we made it, and all is well. But I just thought you should know how close to the line we were. We were *real* close.

Adam and I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most important (if unsung) bullpeners on our crack squad of experts: Under the unparalleled direction of Anne Dunean (Ms. Organization & Compensality 1985) and her Ace Assistant, Phil Falz, the lone production artist has faced incredible, unrealistic deadlines, demanding editors, and even an Editor in Chief or two, and has come through every single time. Don't ask me how she does it. I have a feeling she's secretly *The Beyonder*, and I wouldn't want to give her away.

She's done a tremendous job and would all be lost without her. Especially on *The Day Of Doom*. So Adam and I would just like to say thanks to Bolestous Barbara Johnston, our ace Cover Production Artist.

See, Barbara? Who says nobody appreciates you? Come on by after work. Adam and I'll buy you a milk.

Jim Owsley

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To Tom and the gang,

I really got a kick out of ish 274. The art by Ron & Joe was great, & I was glad to see Mr. Romita Sr. back, if only as a contributor.

The story was fun, even though it featured the Beyonder, who I'm not really crazy about. What started getting me psyched was seeing Gwen Stacy again. I just hope seeing her doesn't screw Pete up too bad (he's got enough problems).

The high point was the Green Goblin, who I'm a real fan of. I feel that Hobgoblin is a fair successor for Norman Osborn & son, but he needs the maniacism (in the pathological form) of Norm. Hobgoblin is a great character, & I'm looking forward to next ish when we discover Hobbie's true identity as (get ready) J. Jonah Jameson!

Anyway, keep up the innovation of 274, and tell Jim I love the editing.

Chris Johnson  
Providence, RI

Dear Web-Singers,

ASM #274 was nothing short of terrific! Stan the Man himself would have been proud of this ish. If a man who commits a felony is a felon, then Tom DeFalco is an iron, because the irony in this story was too much for words! I mean, *Mephisto* battling in the camp of life? And with Spider-Man as his champion, to boot? Incredible! And of course, poor Peter's luck is so bad that here he was, a pawn in a cosmic game of chance with the fate of the Universe resting on his shoulders and he never even knew what the heck was going on!

It was also a great thrill to see the work of old-timer Jack Furry credited in a Marvel mag. As a longtime fan of his Golden-Age creation, *THE BLUE WHIZ*, I'm very glad to see that he's still in the business. Keep 'em flyin', Jack!

before I go, I just wanna say it's been one heckuva quarter century with you guys, and here's to many more! Excelsior!

A.B. Hassan  
(no address given)

Dear Spider-Scholars,

Two nights ago I read AMAZING #274. It was GREAT!!!! Since SECRET WARS II started, I wasn't really impressed with the Beyonder schtick, so I just didn't pick up SW II and read the tie-ins that I usually collected. I thought they were okay, but AMAZING #274 was the best.

The next day, I went to Sunday School (I'm 14) and there we talked about the Holocaust, and how God seemed to be testing the Jews. Our teacher brought up a chapter of the Bible titled Job. It was about how Satan had challenged God that he couldn't find one man who would not lose faith in God above all. So God accepted the challenge, Job was plagued with the death of his family and his livestock, and he got boils all over his body. Instantly I saw the resemblance of the stories, and decided to write you (something I usually don't do because they've never gotten printed, which means no reply), and congratulate you on a tale well woven.

I don't suppose this discovery deserves a No-Prize?

Scott M. Gimpie  
139 Springridge Drive  
Berkeley Hills, NJ 07922

Sorry, Scott, no No-Prize, but you can take consolation from the fact that you're the only reader so far to notice that particular parallel. So, go ahead and award yourself a Job-Prize (which is sort of like a Fred-Prize, only more dignified!)

Dear Spidey-People,

What can I say? ASM #275 was awesome! I've been waiting with baited breath for MONTHS for the return of Spidey's deadliest enemy, and I knew it was going to be one heck of

a rematch, but even so, this ish blew me right out of my shoes!

Hobgoblin's new computerized battle system makes him possibly the most dangerous opponent our Webhead has ever faced (and that's saying a lot), since it's Spidey's Spider-Sense that gives him his largest advantage. That's how Spidey can take on foes that are much more powerful than he is (like Firelord) without getting creamed, although when he's up against someone who can cancel out or circumvent it (like Ace and now Hobgoblin) he's a whole lot more vulnerable. I think Spidey probably relies too much on his danger sensing ability, so that when he's in situations where he's deprived of it he's really in deep trouble. Maybe after this story is over, Peter might give some thought to sharpening the rest of his skills, on the realization that he depends on his Spider-Sense too much.

As far as the identity of the Hobgoblin, as of this issue it seems like you've narrowed it down to either Ned Leeds or Flash Thompson, although I did notice someone at the Bugle asking if anyone had seen Lance Bannon lately, so there may yet be some surprises left. In fact, I wouldn't put it past you sneaky Spider-Writers to make Hobby turn out to be someone else entirely, just to keep us all on our toes. Keep up the great work!

Rick Fedukulous  
1723 Wilson St.  
Newark, NJ

Dear Jim and Adam,

The latest issue of Spider-Man with the Beyonder was really good. I'm a little tired of all this Beyonder stuff and I hope he gets tired in the big finale.

I've liked SECRET WARS II from the start, but this guy's getting on my nerves. I'll bet on the heroes' names also.

The art looked a little rushed, but that's because it was such a big issue, right?

I'm familiar with everyone's names through Marvel Age, but who's Jack Furry?

Hope after SECRET WARS, our heroes look at themselves and see that there's always someone bigger than you are on the next block. Maybe it'll make them less silly about what they do.

But not Spidey!

Howard Filson  
23 Dunham's Corner  
East Brunswick, NJ

Tom,

The fanfare of your book is relatively small compared with the creative quality of it. It hasn't received the attention it deserves. On the lighter side, doesn't it feel like the Lee/Ditko days of the glorious past? The entire flavor of the book seems fresh and innovative. The Spidey of the 60's has made a comeback.

It is great to see new characters introduced that are original as well as interesting. Puma, Silver Sable, Fox, and Syde prove that. They all possess style and have their distinctive personalities. Puma reminds me of Thunderbird, who could have been a Marvel great but was killed before he could be explored. Puma has great potential who stands among the ranks of Wolverine, and if he is handled properly could become very popular. He is not the standard Indian stereotype, but a different kind of hero/villain, the first who is a businessman and an assassin. I like what you have done with him so far, but he could be implemented in other books.

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is truly a remarkable book. It is a good feeling to see writers and artists revitalize Marvel's cornerstone books, transforming dull, repetitive stories into lively, characteristic, creative ones. With FANTASTIC FOUR, THOR, and AVENGERS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has joined the ranks of comics that regained their former glory.

Wouldn't it be neat if Spider-Man met up with Shang-Chi one more time? It would be a classic rematch.

Michael Palmer  
Peru, NY 12972

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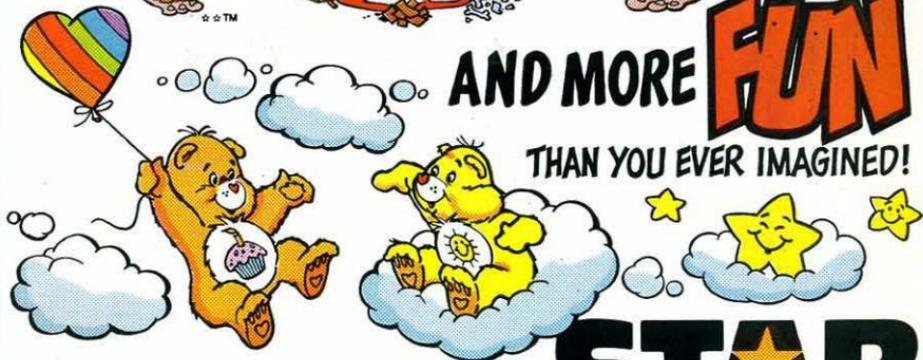
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## WITH TIPS ON WAYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL ABUSE

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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  
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