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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

CHANCE ENCOUNTER!



McFARLANE
87



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**CHOCOLATE
FUN FOR
EVERYONE!**



**"THE MILK CHOCOLATE MELTS IN
YOUR MOUTH - NOT IN YOUR HAND"®**

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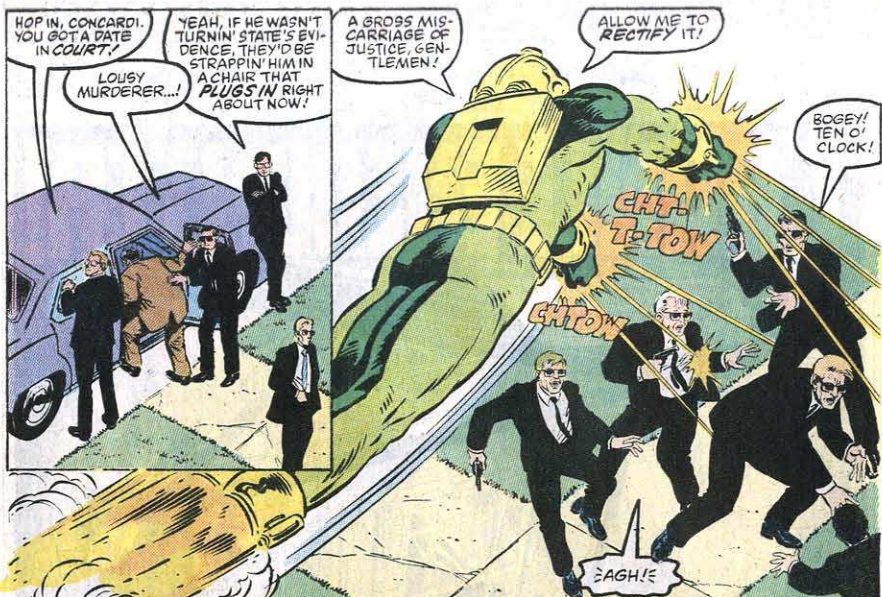
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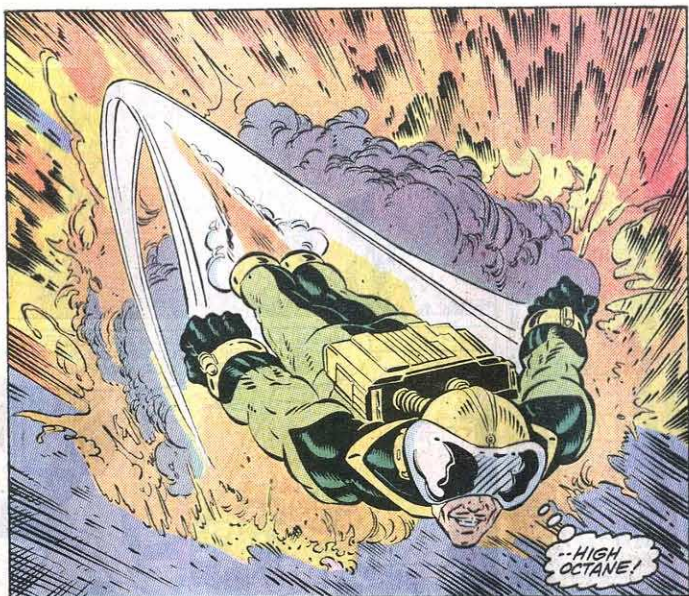
YONKERS: HIGH ABOVE WHAT
WAS, UNTIL TODAY, A U.S.
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
"SAFE" HOUSE...

NINE AGENTS.
AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
SENTRIES POSTED AT
ALL ACCESS POINTS.
WONDERFUL!

I SHOULD BE
HOME BEFORE
LUNCH!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 298, March, 1988. (ISSN 0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate \$9.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.



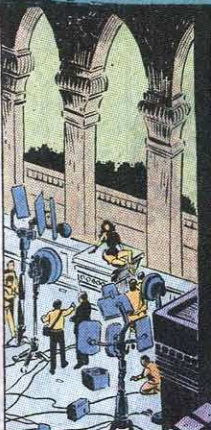


MR. TREECE? CHANCE HERE. I'M HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I'VE WON OUR WAGER-- ORIN CONCARD! WON'T BE TESTIFYING AGAINST YOU!

I'LL BE BY TO PICK UP MY \$10,000 MOMENTARILY!

A SATISFIED SMILE BLOSSOMING BENEATH HIS PENCIL-THIN MUSTACHE, CHANCE ROCKETS SOUTH TOWARD MANHATTAN--

--PASSING HIGH OVER THE CLOISTERS--



--BUILDINGS OF ANCIENT ELEGANCE CURRENTLY SERVING AS A BACKDROP FOR MORE MODERN BEAUTY--

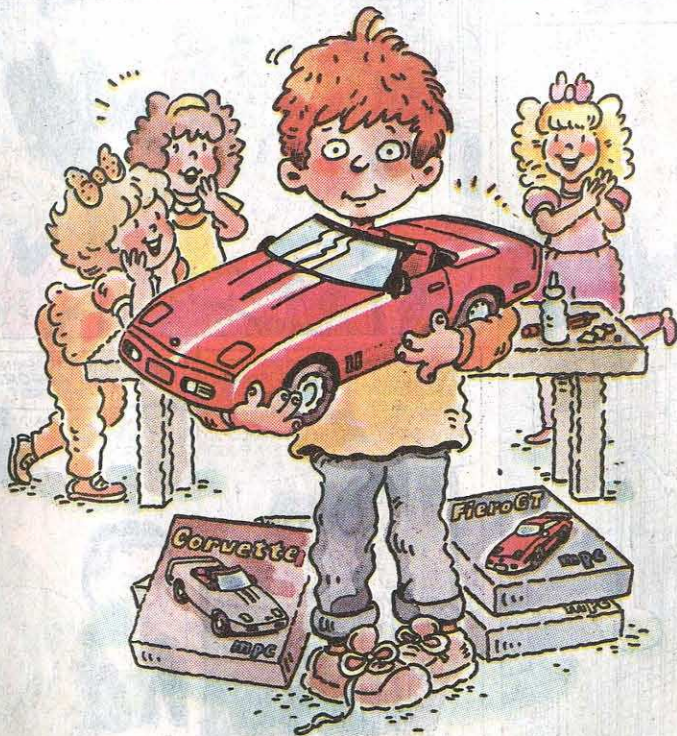
-- IN THE FORM OF FASHION MODEL MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER.



CLICK! WHIRR! R!



BODY BUILDER



Maybe it's a truck body. Maybe a racing car body. But whatever model you're building, you want it to look the best. That means putting in a ton of care and concentration. And paying particular attention to the details.

And when it comes to details, no one out-muscles MPC. Details are MPC's strength. You see, at MPC spe-

cial effort is given to insure that every car or truck is 100% authentic.

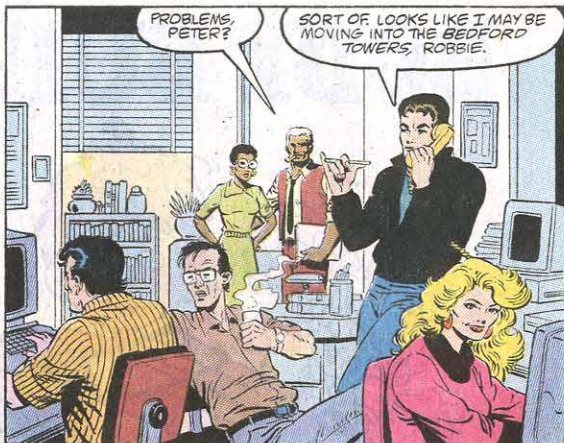
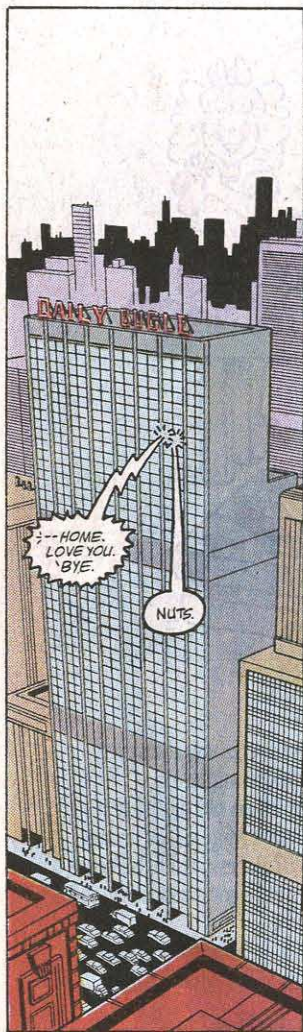
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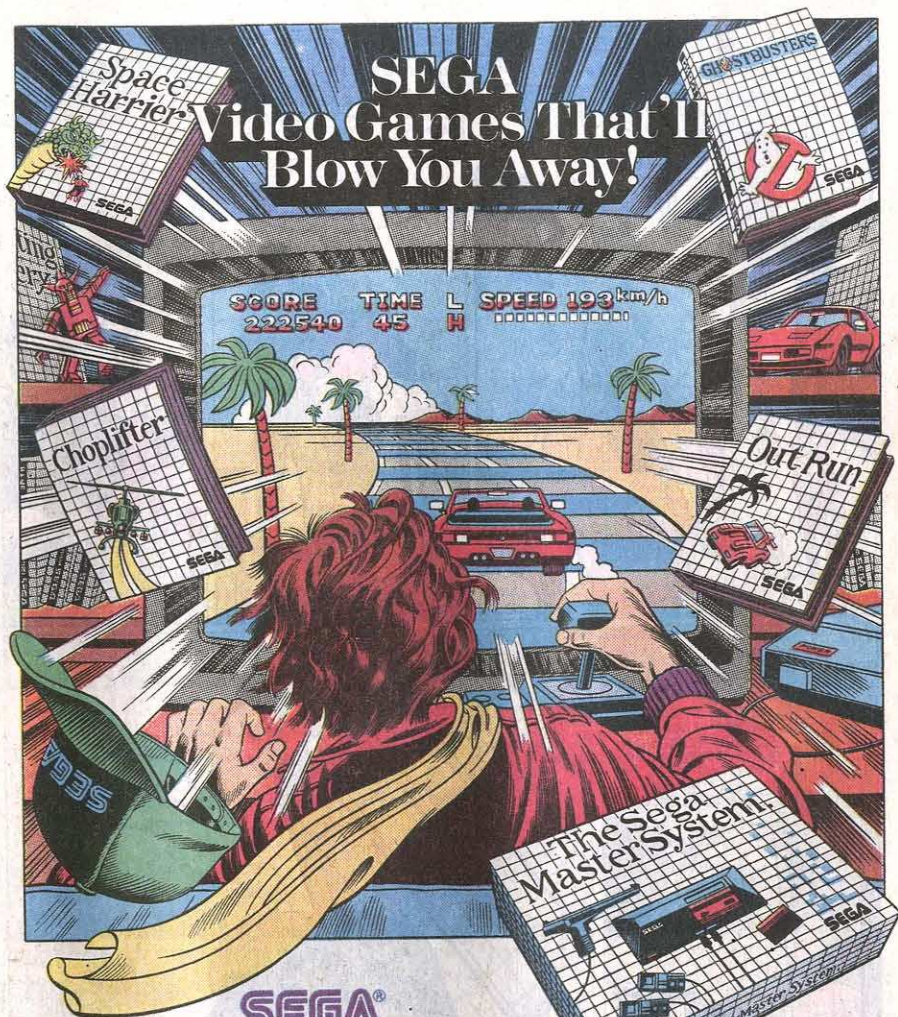
So if it's a great body you want to show off, get an MPC Model Kit.

Just like the real thing. Only smaller.

mpc
ERTL

HOURS LATER, THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING, HOME OF NEW YORK'S CRUSADING DAILY NEWSPAPER, WHERE FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER PETER PARKER RETRIEVES A RECORDED MESSAGE...





SEGA®

The Challenge Will Always Be There.



Now SEGA explodes into your own home!

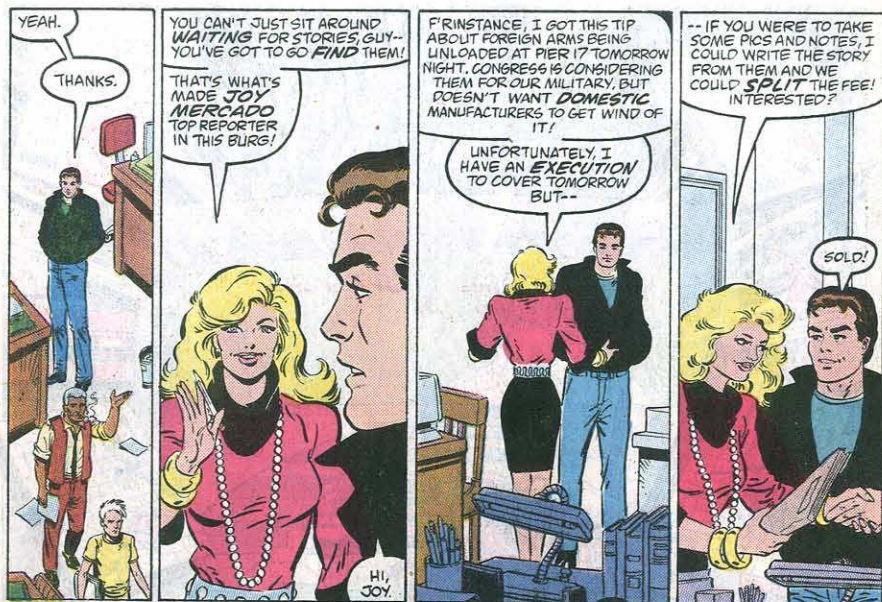
With more games than ever. More levels of play. More responsive controls. Plus, SEGA has digital sound, and graphics that are so real, you'll swear you can smell the burning rubber.

Just imagine—the ultimate in arcade excitement loose in your living room.

SEGA's gonna blow you away!

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AND SOON, IN A DESERTED STAIRWELL...



NEVERTHELESS, AFTER A SHORT, AFFORDABLE WEB-SWING TO CHELSEA STREET--

-- AND HE DROPS THROUGH A ROOFTOP SKYLIGHT INTO THE COMFORTABLE CHAOS HE CALLS--

-- "HOME."

WHAT A MESS!

THIS PLACE WAS SMALL EVEN BEFORE MARY JANE MOVED SOME OF HER STUFF IN! AND NOW--HEY, WHAT AM I COMPLAINING ABOUT?

-- SPIDER-MAN'S SPIDER-SENSE ASSURES HIM THAT NO ONE IS WATCHING--

MJ'S BEEN COMPLETELY **UPROOTED**! SHE'S TRYING TO KEEP HER CAREER GOING WHILE LIVING OUT OF BOXES, AND ALL I THINK OF IS **ME**.

I SHOULD DO SOMETHING FOR HER, TO LIFT HER SPIRITS. SOMETHING CRAZY... UNEXPECTED...

... DUMB.

HMMM...

WITH APOLOGIES TO THAT GUY IN PYGMALION--

-- "I THINK I'VE GOT IT."

AND THUS, AS
EVENING ARRIVES--

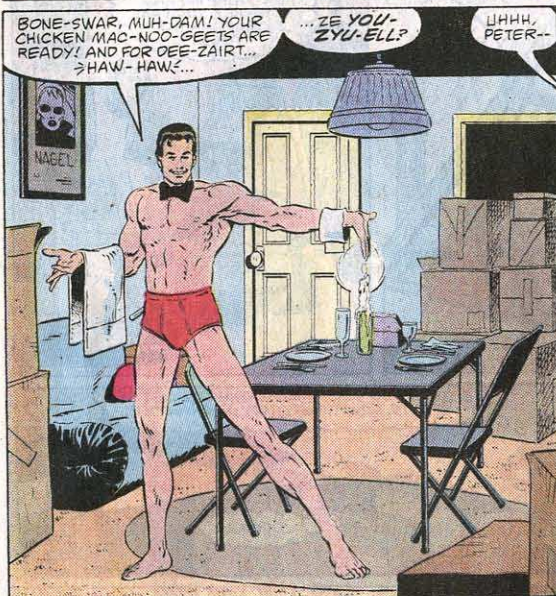


-- AND A DELICATE HAND
FITS A KEY INTO A RABSON
DEADBOLT LOCK...



PETER?
IT'S ME--
HUH?

PETER?!



BONE-SWAR, MUH-DAM! YOUR
CHICKEN MAC-NOO-GEETS ARE
READY! AND FOR DEE-ZAIRT...
HAW-HAW...

...ZE YOU-
ZYU-ELL?

UH-HH,
PETER--



--I-I BROUGHT
SANDY HOME TO
MEET YOU.

HI!



EEY!

UH, H-HELLO,
THERE!

S-S-SO NICE
TO BE MET, 'ER--

--SCUSE
ME?



OH, MARY JANE,
HE IS CUTE!

UH-HUH.

AND GOOD FOR A FEW
LAUGHS, TOO!



Season's Greetings from Nec!!

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8230-8239 8240-8249 8250-8259 8260-8269 8270-8279 8280-8289 8290-8299 8300-8309 8310-8319 8320-8329 8330-8339 8340-8349 8350-8359 8360-8369 8370-8379 8380-8389 8390-8399 8400-8409 8410-8419 8420-8429 8430-8439 8440-8449 8450-8459 8460-8469 8470-8479 8480-8489 8490-8499 8500-8509 8510-8519 8520-8529 8530-8539 8540-8549 8550-8559 8560-8569 8570-8579 8580-8589 8590-8599 8600-8609 8610-8619 8620-8629 8630-8639 8640-8649 8650-8659 8660-8669 8670-8679 8680-8689 8690-8699 8700-8709 8710-8719 8720-8729 8730-8739 8740-8749 8750-8759 8760-8769 8770-8779 8780-8789 8790-8799 8800-8809 8810-8819 8820-8829 8830-8839 8840-8849 8850-8859 8860-8869 8870-8879 8880-8889 8890-8899 8900-8909 8910-8919 8920-8929 8930-8939 8940-8949 8950-8959 8960-8969 8970-8979 8980-8989 8990-8999 9000-9009 9010-9019 9020-9029 9030-9039 9040-9049 9050-9059 9060-9069 9070-9079 9080-9089 9090-9099 9100-9109 9110-9119 9120-9129 9130-9139 9140-9149 9150-9159 9160-9169 9170-9179 9180-9189 9190-9199 9200-9209 9210-9219 9220-9229 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AND, 4½ MINUTES LATER,
AT THE EXCLUSIVE PENT-
HOUSE RESIDENCE OF ONE
NICHOLAS POWELL...

WIN A FEW,
LOSE A FEW.
STILL--

--THE \$500 I LOST
TO THAT CABBY WAS
NOTHING, NOT WHEN
COMPARED TO THE
PULSE-QUICKENING
THRILL OF THE
GAMBLE ITSELF!

FOR LIFE IS
PULL AT BEST,
AND IS MADE
TOLERABLE
ONLY BY RISK.
THE GREATER
THE RISK,
THE GREATER
THE WORTH.

THE GREATER
THE VERY
APPRECIATION
OF LIVING.

THAT'S WHY I
NEVER CHARGE
FOR MY SERVICES.
RATHER, I
WAGER THEM
AGAINST MY
SUCCESS.

AND THAT'S
WHY I
ORIGINALLY
BECAME--

PLIP

--CHANCE!

CODE 6-4-7: TRACE
AND CONTACT MOST
RECENT CALLER.

SECONDS PASS;
ELECTRICITY
HUMS. THEN...

SO GOOD OF YOU
TO RETURN MY CALL,
MISTER... AH...
"CHANCE."

I'M CARLTON DRAKE,
AND I HEAD AN
ORGANIZATION CALLED
"THE LIFE FOUNDATION."
A CERTAIN MR. TREECE
SAID YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO HELP US WITH
A LITTLE PROBLEM. A...

...\$20,000
PROBLEM?

MY
FAVORITE
KIND.

WHERE
SHALL WE
MEET?

THE EVENING
AGES, GROWING
SLOWLY INTO
FULL NIGHT WHILE
IN A CLUTTERED
LIVING ROOM ON
CHELSEA STREET...

IT WAS REALLY GREAT
MEETING YOU, PETER. NOW
I HAVE SOMEONE TO
PICTURE WHEN MARY JANE
TALKS ABOUT YOU.

JUST PICTURE
HIM *WITH* THE
ROBE, OKAY,
SANDY?

WELL, I'LL *TRY*.
LISTEN, GOOD LUCK
ON GETTING INTO
THE *TOWERS*. LET
ME KNOW, HUH?

SURE,
SANDY. I'LL
CALL YOU
NEXT
WEEK.

GNIGHT.

NOW, "MONSIEUR!"
WHAT WAS THAT
ABOUT... *DESSERT*?

AW-HAW! ZE PREETY
MUH-DAM HAS ZE
SHARP MEE-MO-REE,
NAW?

BUT OF COORZ, WE HAF
SOMEZING SPECIAL ON ZE
MENU TONIGHT. SOMEZING
JUST FOR *VOUS*.

EET
EES
CALLED...

...ZE VENUS
BUTTERFLY!

ODO, I'LL
TAKE *TWO*.

PLAMP

UPTOWN.

MISTER
MACVAY?

THE
ENDICOTT
BUILDING.

AYE?

WHERE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE LIFE FOUNDATION HOLDS A
CLOSED-DOOR SESSION.

AM I TO UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU HAVE *QUALMS*
CONCERNING MY CHOICE
OF AN OPERATIVE?

THAT I HAVE, SAR.
THIS CHANCE LADPIE
FITS OUR NEEDS,
A'RIGHT, BUT HE'S
A WEE BIT
FLASHY FER
ME.

OUR CURRENT
VENTURE COULD
FAIR BE
COMPROMISED
IFN TOO MUCH
ATTENTION
WAS TO BE
DRAWN TO IT!



POINT TAKEN, MR. MACVAY.
BUT CHANCE COMES HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED, FOR HIS
EFFICIENCY AS WELL AS HIS
PROFESSIONALISM.

I BELIEVE WE CAN
TRUST HIM TO EXERCISE
THE PROPER DEGREE
OF, SHALL WE SAY--



--SUBTLETY?

**WHIP, DRIBBLE, SPIKE,
HURDLE, BOMBARD,
DIVE, PASS, EVADE,
DUNK, HURL, LOOP,
STAB, DEFEND, SHOOT,
ESCAPE, ATTACK, JUMP**

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AND PLAY YOUR HEART OUT.**



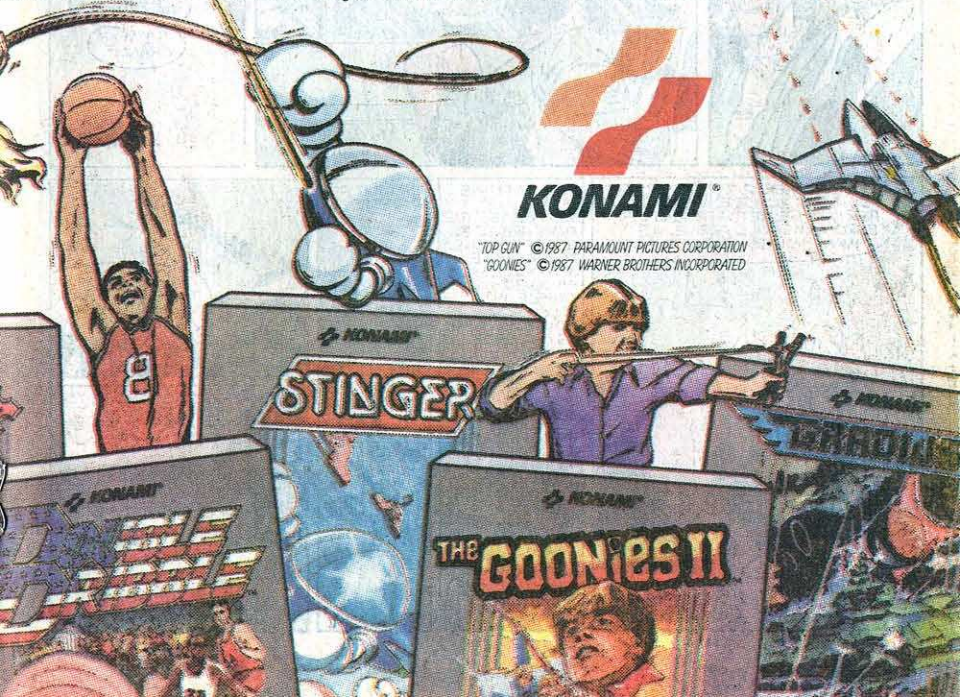
**IN, RESCUE, DUCK,
D, SCREEN, ROLL,
SPRINT, RAID,
LEAP, CAPTURE,
NOT, INVADERS, BLAST,
JUMP, AND SWERVE.**

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**TAP
TAP
TAP**

WHAT
THE--?

GOTT IM
HIMMEL!

GOOD EVENING! I
HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND THE RATHER
NONSTANDARD
ENTRANCE.

BUT I'VE FOUND THAT
DOORMEN AND SECURITY
GUARDS CAN BE MOST
ANNOYING WHEN PLACED
ON A WITNESS
STAND.



THESE
WINDOWS **DO**
OPEN?

YOUR CONSIDERATION
IS ADMIRABLE. WE WERE
JUST DISCUSSING THE
NEED FOR RESTRAINT.



YOU MUST
BE **DRAKE**.

I'M
CHANCE.



SO I GATHERED. I'LL GET TO THE
POINT, SIR: TOMORROW EVENING, AT
PIER 17, A SECRET SHIPMENT OF
EURO ARMS WILL ARRIVE. WE
WANT YOU TO **STEAL** IT FOR US.

THAT'S
TOO BAD. I MAY
BE A MURDERER,
BUT I HAVE
MY STANDARDS.

I DON'T
WORK FOR
TERRORISTS.

REALLY, DO WE
LOOK LIKE
HEATHENS? THE
ARMS ARE TO BE
USED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR DEFENSE,
WITH NO CIVILIANS
INVOLVED. MR.
TREECE WILL
VOUCH FOR OUR
HONESTY, AS WELL
AS OUR WAGER OF
OF--



--TWENTY-FIVE
THOUSAND
DOLLARS?

OH. THAT'S
DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE
ON!



SHHHROW

MS. CAPUTO, IN
THE EVENT THAT
CHANCE IS
SUCCESSFUL--



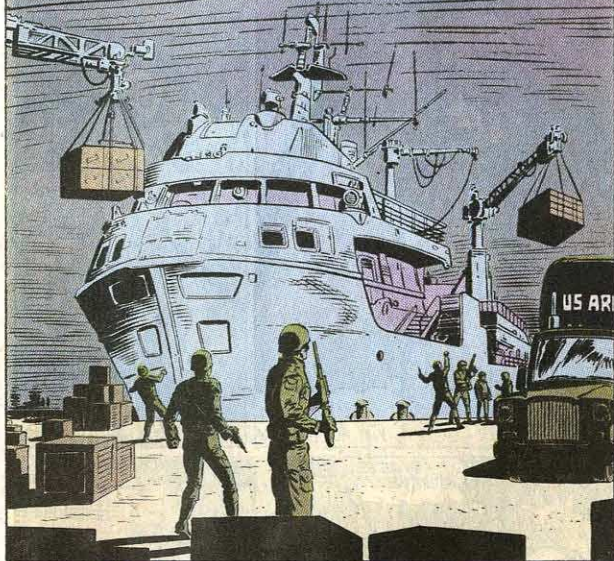
--DO REMEMBER TO
DEDUCT THE PRICE
OF A NEW **CARPET**
FROM HIS FEE, WON'T
YOU?

A DAY PASSES, FILLED WITH STORIES TO BE TOLD ANOTHER TIME.

AND AS A NEW NIGHT SETTLES OVER THE HUDSON RIVER, A VOLATILE CARGO IS TRANSFERRED FROM SHIP TO SHORE UNDER THE CAREFUL GAZE OF AN ELITE MILITARY GUARD.

WHILE NEARBY, AN UNAUTHORIZED PAIR OF EYES WATCHES THE WATCHERS...

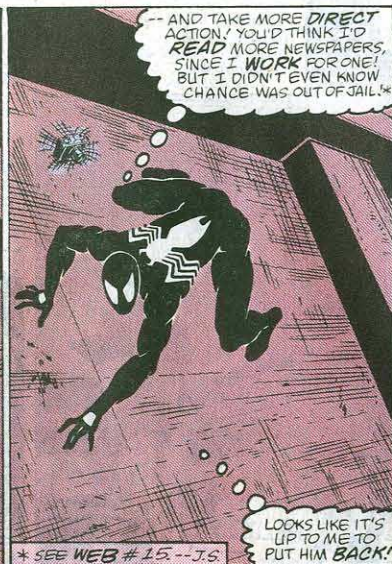
JOY'S INFO WAS RIGHTON THE MONEY! I'LL WAIT UNTIL A FEW MORE CRATES HAVE BEEN UNLOADED, THEN TAKE SNAPS OF--





CHANCE!

SO MUCH FOR CASUAL OBSERVING! GOT TO WEB MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA IN POSITION--



-- AND TAKE MORE DIRECT ACTION! YOU'D THINK I'D READ MORE NEWSPAPERS, SINCE I WORK FOR ONE! BUT I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW CHANCE WAS OUT OF JAIL!*

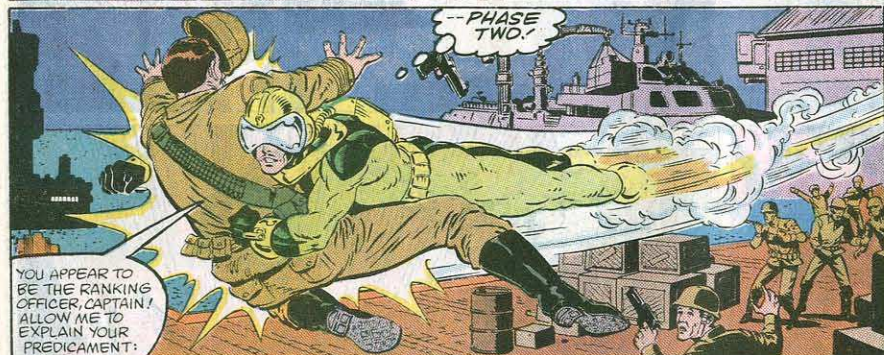
LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO ME TO PUT HIM BACK!

* SEE WEB # 15 --J.S.



HOWEVER, BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN ACT...

GUESS I'VE MILKED THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH! NOW FOR--



--PHASE TWO!

YOU APPEAR TO BE THE RANKING OFFICER, CAPTAIN! ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN YOUR PREDICAMENT:



WHAT MY POWER-BLAST IS DOING TO THAT RADAR TOWER, IT WILL NEXT DO TO AN AMMO CRATE!

THE SHRAPNEL ALONE WILL SLAUGHTER HALF YOUR MEN!



UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU CHOOSE TO COOPERATE.

CEASE FIRE!

THAT'S AN ORDER!

WISE DECISION-- WEST POINT?

ALL RIGHT, JULIO. YOU MAY SURFACE NOW.



ONE OF THESE PARANORMALS IS GOING TO KILL A MILLION PEOPLE...



STARBRAND



D.P.7



PSI-FORCE



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5.95

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INC. POSTAGE AND HANDLING!



A



B



C



D



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PLEASE PRINT - THANKS!

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☐ SPIDER-MAN™ B ☐ PUNISHER™ D ☐ SPIDER-MAN™ F

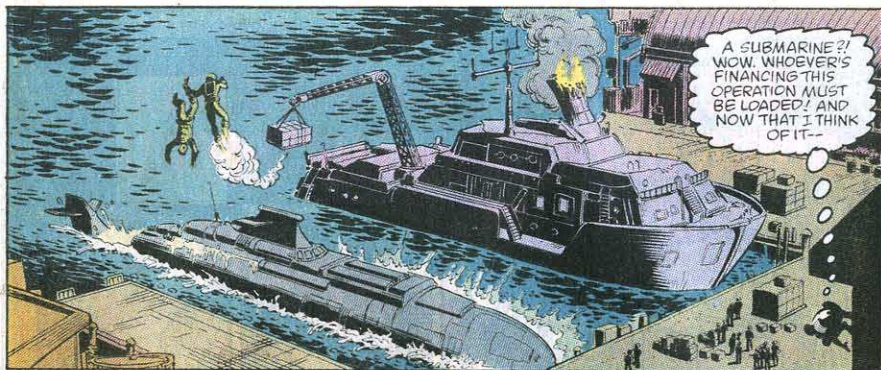
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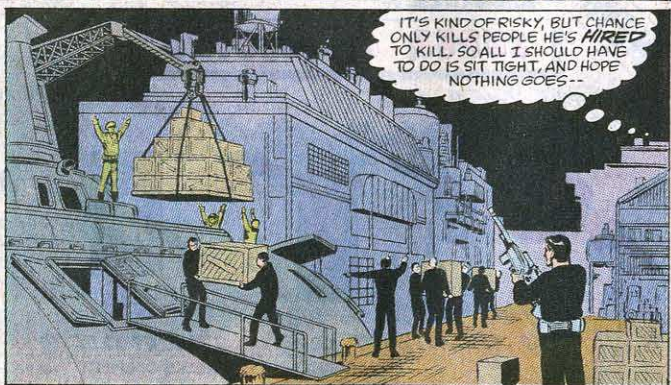
A SUBMARINE?!
WOW, WHOEVER'S
FINANCING THIS
OPERATION MUST
BE LOADED! AND
NOW THAT I THINK
OF IT--



--MAYBE I CAN TURN THIS INTO
SOME EXTRA MONEY MYSELF!
I MEAN, I'VE ALREADY GOT
SHOTS OF CHANCE STEALING
THE MUNITIONS.



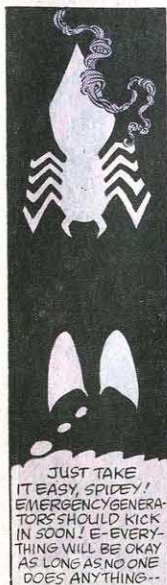
IF I LET HIM
GO, THEN FOLLOW
HIM AND TAKE
PICTURES OF
SPIDER-MAN
GETTING THE
WEAPONS BACK,
I COULD SELL
TWO STORIES
AND DOUBLE
MY PAYCHECK!

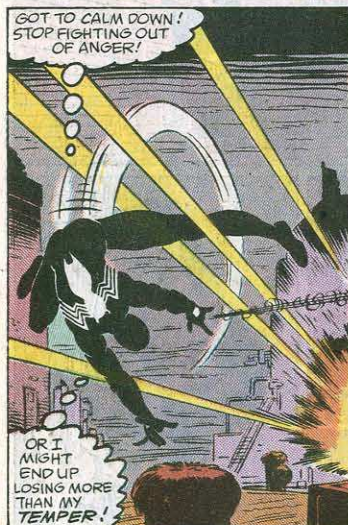


IT'S KIND OF RISKY, BUT CHANCE
ONLY KILLS PEOPLE HE'S HIRED
TO KILL. SO ALL I SHOULD HAVE
TO DO IS SIT TIGHT, AND HOPE
NOTHING GOES--

--WRONG? TH--THE LIGHTS! THEY'VE
ALL GONE OUT! B-BUT NEW YORK HASN'T
HAD A BLACKOUT IN OVER A DECADE!*

* FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THIS
ONE, SEE X-FACTOR #25.--J.G.





ACID DARTS AT THE BASE OF THAT CRANE ARM SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

SHISSSS

BLAST! HAVE TO HIT CHANCE WITH A SPIDER-TRACER!

I'LL GO AFTER HIM ONCE I TAKE CARE OF THAT--

--CRANE!!

--WATER!

WHEW!
NO EXPLOSION!

AGH!! CAUGHT THE ARM, BUT THE AMMO'S STILL FALLING! G-GOTTA SWING IT OVER THE--

SNAP

THE DISTRACTION SUCCEEDS; CHANCE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. SPIDER-MAN WILL SEARCH FOR HIM LATER.

BUT NOW, AS EMERGENCY GENERATORS FLOOD THE DOCK WITH LIGHT, THE MAN IN THE MASK HAS OTHER CONCERNS...

WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, SPIDER-MAN. WITHOUT IT, THIS SOLDIER MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!

YEAH, BUT IF I HADN'T BEEN SO HUNG UP ON MAKING MONEY--

-- HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN WOUNDED AT ALL!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The very least you could have done was offer me a cup of coffee before you tried to kill me!"

—HAWKEYE
SOLO AVENGERS #5

ITEM: The King of Comics celebrated his seventeenth birthday this past summer, and a fortunate few of us boomer Bullpeners were on hand to join with well over a hundred top comics professionals in the festivities. The King, of course, is none other than Jack Kirby, co-creator of the Fantastic Four, Thor, Hulk, and dozens and dozens of other Marvel superstars (as well as scores of characters for virtually every major comics cosmos there ever was). Jack has made an indelible imprint upon the entire comics medium, and nowhere is that more evident than on Jack's most enduring co-creations here at Marvel. Anyway, several of Jack's closest cronies (led by Mark Evanier of GROO fame) decided to throw him a surprise winking dinner in the San Diego Comics Convention and managed to invite over a hundred people and managed to keep it a secret from The King. (Of course, it helped that they let Jack's lovely wife, Roz, in on the secret!) Jack was led to believe he was going to a small private get-together, but when he walked in, he was surprised by a reception fit for a King! With a live band, giant cake, special program book, and hundreds of well-wishers, it was a birthday bash that was memorable, fun-filled, and touching. Special King-size kudos also go to Greg Thackerston,

Mike Thibodeaux, Steve Rude, Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, Scott Shaw, and Richard Howell for helping to organize it all. Honorary King's men all! We all love you, Jack — here's to seventy more!

ITEM: It's Editorial Turnover time yet again. After 2½ years as an assistant editor, Rosemary McCormick, Marvel's favorite blushing Britisher, has decided to leave these hallowed halls in order to become an elementary school teacher. Teaching has been a longtime love for Rosemary and when the opportunity to trade in her comic books for textbooks came along, she reluctantly decided to go for it. (If you don't remember that R.M. worked with Carl Potts, then with Bob Budiansky, two points off!) We're going to miss the redheaded Ms. M. — never again will we have the opportunity to glimpse her and fellow red-head and assistant editor Joanne Spaldino talking in the hall and call out, "Red Alert! Red Alert!" Best of luck, Ro. We can only think of about a million people who would love it if their teacher once worked for Marvel!

ITEM: Taking Rosemary's place as Bob Budiansky's assistant is a fellow by the name of Dwayne McDuffie. Dwayne's led a checkered life prior to his making the Marvel scene — he's sold stories to television,

skits to the Second City comedy troupe, and in his spare time has picked up a Master's degree in Physics, and Bachelor's degrees in English Literature, Film Criticism, and Dramatic Writing. And now he'll bring all that knowledge and experience to bear here at Mighty Marvel. Welcome aboard, Dwayne!

ITEM: There's nothing that pleases comics creators more than a little media recognition for their comics work — and by media, we mean the mass communications systems other than comics. Staffer Mark Gruenwald was the recipient of just enough media attention the other week to make his already bulbous head swell to twice its normal size. In the space of one week, both the *Washington Post Magazine* and the National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* program heard about his current controversial storyline in CAPTAIN AMERICA and interviewed him about it and its bearing (if any) on the recent Iran-Contra Affair. Okay, Mark — you got your name in print again so get back to your desk. (What's that? Your swollen head still won't fit through your office door? Somebody get a crowbar!)

ITEM: Whoops! We have no room for this month's checklist. Maybe next time . . .

Pro File on: CARL POTTS

Editor on: PUNISHER, ALPHA FLIGHT, POWER PACK, STRANGE TALES, STRIKEFORCE, MORITURI, CAPT. JUSTICE.

Marvel freelance credits (past): Writing and/or penciling and/or inking on: 'LAST OF THE DRAGONS' for EPIC ILLUSTRATED (soon to be a major graphic novel collection), DR. STRANGE #63, MOON KNIGHT, FANFARE portfolio, plus a handful of covers on a variety of titles.

Marvel freelance credits (present): ALLEN LEVON (packager/creator), STRANGE TALES #9 cover, SHADOWMASTERS Ltd. Series (writer), SPELLBOUND Ltd. Series (co-creator & inker), a Spider-Man story for FANFARE (writer) and a bunch of other top secret stuff.

My hobbies are: Maintaining marine aquariums, martial arts, Kishin paint games, sleeping in awkward positions.

The single work which I am most proud of is: That's too tough to call.

My pet peeves are: Unprofessional people, smokers in enclosed public places, delayed airline flights.

My place of birth was: Oakland, Calif. (Land of Enchantment, and true home to the Raiders.)

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Keeping a married pair of AMPHIBIPRON OCELLARIS alive and healthy for over seven years now. How many people do you know can say that?



My oddest habit is: Occasionally taking Ralph Macchio seriously.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Kevin Costner.

The reason I got into comics was: I loved them since I was knee high to a grasshopper.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: An Indian.

My favorite performers are: Jane Siberry, Sandie Shaw, Kirsty MacCall, Sandi and the Sunsets, Nazzy, Hollies, Beatles, John Wilkins, Frances Ruffelle, Sonny Chiba, Yoshio Milne.

The last good book I read was: FISHES OF SRI LANKA, MALDIVES ISLANDS, and MOMBASA by Dr. Warren E. Burgess and Dr. Herbert R. Axelrod. Also WILD CARDS by various science-fiction writers.

The last good movie I saw was: NOT SUPERMAN IV.

The biggest influences on my work include: Stan Lee, Steve Ditko, Akira Kurosawa, most American illustrators from Pyle to Cornwell, Gustav Klimt.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write and draw a regular series for a long run.

The worst part of my job is: Dealing with late freelancers.

When nobody's looking I like to: Crack my knuckles.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I count myself to be very lucky to work in such a fun and creative environment.

THE REAL ORIGIN OF THE WOLFPACK!

1983 — It had been bugging me, as I worked on the mutant books, that many Marvel Comics teams had jet and/or mutant and/or mad and/or credit cards, and this didn't seem to represent a lot of kids in the world. Breakdancing was just getting hot, and so was graffiti art; the South Bronx scene was exploding in the media. I found the kids involved in it to be very courageous, to be heroes and started asking around for someone interested in writing a comic book series about that world, a world very far from the money-easy world of the X-Men, the Avengers, and the Fantastic Four. A world far away but nonetheless populated by heroes. Then, in the summer of '84, I was at a comic book convention in Houston, and Ron Wilson showed me a drawing of the heroes I had been envisioning. It was a beautiful drawing of the Wolfpack, wearing their colors and their "look." Ron had a whole scenario typed up as to who and what the Pack

was, and we knew we had something exciting. Back in New York, we got together and began to talk. With the help of former Marvel editor, Mike Cortin, who's now working for our Distinguished Competition, we began painting Wolfpack's world. What kind of heroes would they be? They couldn't go out and stop a kid from breaking into a store, because they knew the kid; maybe they knew he was stealing because his dad was a drunk who had taken the family's welfare check. Maybe they knew his gang, and stopping him would only start a gang war. Those were the kinds of folks we had about the Pack.

Writer (and another former Marvel editor) Larry Hama took all this talk and came back with a new scenario. The pack now had faces, names, personalities, and the South Bronx had a real shape and feel to it. Larry created the 'Nine' and the 'Ten' and an age-old battle where the Bronx

was an often used battleground. He brought in stories that made us cry and stories that made us laugh.

Then we really started making comics.

Tom DeFalco recently read the first three issues and decided that the most spectacular way to launch this series was to combine these stories into a single graphic novel. The novels on the stands now, and a twelve-issue limited series will soon follow. If you really like Wolfpack, we can always make a regular monthly series.

Ron Wilson, Larry Hama, John Figueroa (another writer on the series), Kyle Baker (whose killer ink keeps the book looking hot), and I are anxious to hear how you feel about the Pack.

—Ann Nocenti
September 1987

Look for our spectacular new Spider-Man Balloon and
mighty Marvel Universe Float in this year's
Macy's THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE November 26 on network television!!!



SPIDER-MAN BROODS.
MIDNIGHT ARRIVES.
WHILE AT THE ENDICOTT
BUILDING, PRIVATE
POWER SUPPLIES
PUSH BACK THE
DARKNESS...

... SO THAT BUSINESS MIGHT
PROCEED AS USUAL.

A CASH RECEIPT?
MR. DRAKE, I DOUBT
MANY BANKS WOULD
HONOR MY SIGNA-
TURE!

A MATTER OF INTERNAL
BOOKKEEPING. A MERE
FORMALITY.

IF YOU'D BE
SO KIND...?

ALL RIGHT.
FOR \$25,000
I MIGHT AS
WELL HUMOR
Y--



THAT PEN WAS A
GOOD CONDUCTOR,
SIR. HE'S OUT...
BUT STILL
ALIVE.



GOOD. THEN THE
CHARGE IN THE
STUN PLATE WAS
ADEQUATELY CALI-
BRATED. AFTER
ALL, WE DON'T
WANT MR. CHANCE
DEAD. AT LEAST--



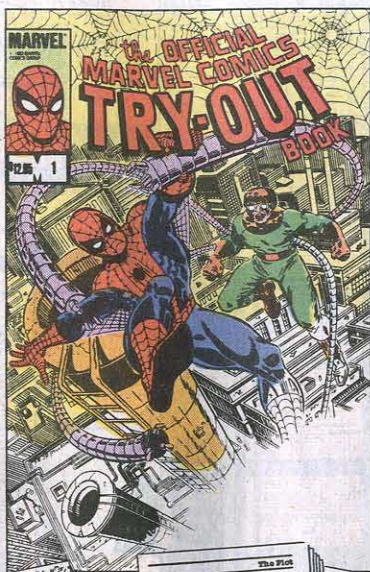
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ELSEWHERE, UNSUNG HEROES STRUGGLE TO RESTORE POWER TO THE GREATEST CITY ON EARTH.

BUT WITHIN THAT CITY, ANOTHER HERO STRUGGLES WITH A FOE HE CAN NEVER ESCAPE.

HIMSELF.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I DID. THAT I LEFT PEOPLE IN DANGER JUST TO MAKE A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, EITHER. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THOUGHT SO POORLY OF ME!

NAGEL

HUH?

DO YOU REALLY THINK MONEY MEANS THAT MUCH TO ME? THAT I CARE HOW MUCH YOU'VE GOT? PETER, YOU'RE WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN MY LIFE! YOU MAKE ME HAPPY. AND HAPPINESS DOESN'T COME WITH A PRICE TAG.

I... I KNOW THAT. BUT KNOWING SOMETHING, AND FEELING IT, AREN'T ALWAYS THE SAME THING.

THEN I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WORK A LITTLE HARDER, HUH, TIGER?

YEAH...

... I GUESS WE WILL.

Epilogue: THE SOUTH BRONX, WHERE THE WEAK BEAM OF A FADING FLASHLIGHT ILLUMINATES ONE MAN'S DESPAIR.

AND DESIRE.

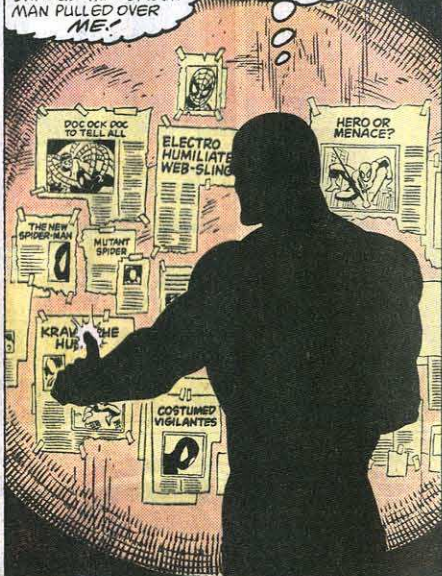
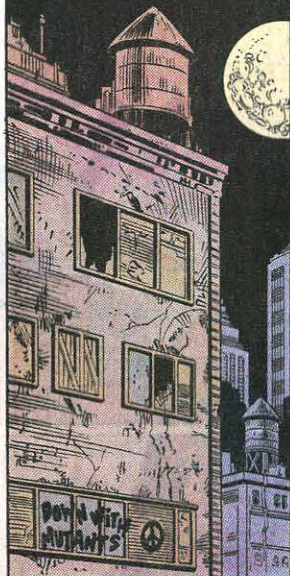
THE DARKNESS THAT BLANKETS THIS CITY IS NOTHING. **NOTHING!** NOT COMPARED TO THE SHROUD THAT SPIDER-MAN PULLED OVER ME!

HE STOLE MY LIFE... SHATTERED IT... THEN CAST IT ASIDE LIKE YESTERDAY'S NEWS!

SO IT IS ONLY FITTING, ONLY FAIR, THAT I DO THE SAME TO HIM!

AND I WILL.

OH, YES.



VERY...

...VERY...

SOON!

 NEXT ISSUE: **THE LAST CHANCE?**

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Welcome to the first in a series of columns that will give me, your friendly neighborhood Spider-Editor, a chance to talk to you directly in the letters columns of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL TALES, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and WEB OF SPIDER-MAN. If you're familiar with this column from MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE then you have an idea of what to expect. If not, you'll find out soon enough.

Sharp-eyed Spiderophiles will have noticed by now that we've changed the title of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN to the shorter and snazzier THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. We think it fits in better with the other titles. We could've changed the other titles to PETER PARKER, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and PETER PARKER'S WEB FORMULA OF SPIDER-MAN but we didn't.

You don't need sharp eyes to tell that our ever-lovin' letters columns are back this month, just in time to feature your reactions to some of the biggest events in the web-spinner's life. This past summer you might've noticed that he got married, went on his honeymoon, returned to New York City to be gunned down by Kraven the Hunter and buried alive, and after that episode he wound up in a mental institute. Hey, wouldn't you?

Well, without any further ado . . .

Dear Marvel,

Some guy in the comic shop I frequent was stunned when he saw this ish and realized you really married Spidey off! He began frantically searching for the last few issues of Spider-Man leading up to this milestone event.

I, on the other hand, remained calm, not only because I had those issues, but because I knew all along that you'd really do it! After all, a company that would change a flagship character's costume (like you did Spidey's), or the lineup of your company's flagship team (Fantastic Four), and speaking of flags, make someone other than Steve Rogers into Captain America, would hardly miss a beat breaking another convention of comics and marry off a lead character! And you didn't use the crutch of creating a parallel earth to do it, either. All these changes have taken place in the real Marvel Universe!

Nice to see Electro again! If he'd been handled correctly from his inception, I think he could have become a major baddy along the caliber of a Dr. Doom or Magneto! Page 3 proves that. But you'd think he'd have found a way to avoid the old "short-circuited by water" plot by now!

With MJ's connections through her modeling career, Pete'll have to get used to a faster and plusher lifestyle. I should be so lucky!

Flash as Pete's best man? Who'da think?

Robert Kowalski
3878 Garvin St.
Detroit, MI 48212

You think Electro was powerful in this story, Robert? Then we hope you checked out the latest issues of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN where Electro actually defeated Spider-Man! As powerful as Dr. Doom or Magneto? Maybe — and then some!

Jim and David,

Thumbs up, partners! Peter and Mary Jane in holy wedlock. Love it! Ya did good.

Richard Grace
Rochester, NY 14606

Dear Marvel,

Well, Mary Jane Watson is no more. It's Mary Jane Parker now. I'm glad those two got married. There is only one thing in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #148 and 149, a clone of Gwen Stacy was made and she left to live a new life. I don't think I have to tell you that she was Peter's first real love, even though Gwen II doesn't know that. I was wondering if we could see her again soon. I don't want Peter to dump Mary Jane for Gwen, but I would love to see Peter's face if (when?) he saw Gwen at his door. It would even be great if she could become a regular character in the three Spider-Man titles.

Just remember what you said in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #3, page 2: "His future — and theirs (meaning Mr. and Mrs. Parker) — promises to be unlike anything Peter or his eben-garbed alter-ego have ever experienced."

Rick Boney
2033 W. Sandusky
Findlay, OH 45840

Bring back the Gwen Stacy clone?
Hmm . . .

Dear Jim, David, Paul, Vince, Rick, Bob and other Jim,

What I liked about Spidey's wedding: everything.

What I didn't like: nothing.

It's been a long time since I was able to say that about a comic book! From Pete's remembrance of Gwen (Who could ever forget Gwen?) to Aunt May already knowing why Peter stopped by — the whole issue was great.

I now have two requests. First of all, let's see a real marriage. Not a marriage where they are always splitting up and getting back together, but a marriage where, whatever problems MJ and Pete encounter, they solve together. Yes, they'll fight. Yes, they'll argue. But let's see a marriage where the powers of love and stubbornness combine to overcome all the insignificant problems (or even the significant ones) that arise.

My second request is please, please, do not bring back Gwen's clone to cause marital problems. I know there was certainly no

hint that you might do that, but for some reason I think it's being planned and I think it's a mistake. Well, since my typewriter ribbon seems to be dying, I'll end here.

Until MJ gives birth to babies with six arms, Make Mine Marvel!

Daniel Wolpe
1609 Hays Ford Rd.
Narber, PA 19072

Gwen II or not Gwen II? That is the question. It's time for another one of our notorious readers' polls. Let's hear what the rest of you folks have to say!

Dear Marvel,

You've got an angry parent here. For the first time I'm wondering if I should let my kids read Spider-Man. It's great that Peter married Mary Jane after dating for 22 years, but the picture you paint of what marriage means to women is, I think, damaging. Mary Jane is a successful New York fashion model (earning what — 70 grand a year?) while Pete's a struggling freelance photographer (pulling down probably a quarter of that). So what happens when they get married? They give up Mary Jane's spacious apartment to move into Pete's tiny one; Mary Jane's jet-set friends say she's leaving her friends and her career to get married; Pete says he now has to support MJ on his small earnings.

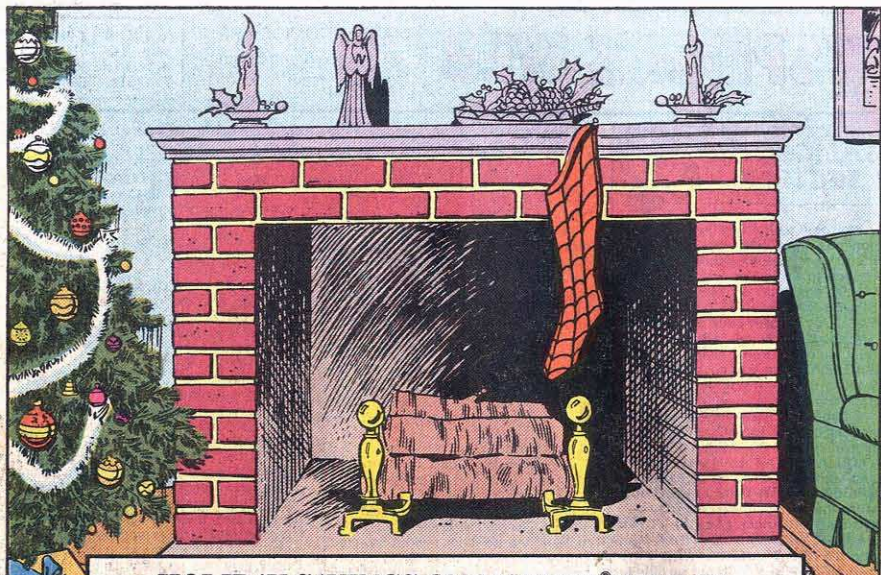
Just as a plot device, Pete's new life in the middle class would present fresh story ideas. His efforts to accept Mary Jane's modeling world while she tries to accept his adventuring would give the writers lots of new angles. Please reconsider your unfortunate direction. Maybe it's not too late for Pete and MJ to come out of their nuptial shock and realize that marriage is a way for people to keep growing — not an excuse for them to stop.

Richard Picard
New York, NY

What ever possessed you to believe that Mary Jane was giving up her modeling career, Richard? You're absolutely right about Peter's new middle-class life presenting fresh story ideas (check out this year's SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL for instance). As for MJ moving into Pete's pad, well, that's simple — his apartment has a skylight that Peter uses so he can come and go as Spidey. But have no fear — Pete and MJ will soon be moving to some fancy-schmancy apartment complex in Manhattan's upper west side. And, yes, MJ will be paying most of the rent. So keep reading. And your kids, too!

Before signing off, we'd like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who took the time to send congratulatory cards to our new Spider-spouses. But Peter and MJ are wondering — Why didn't anyone send them a toaster?

Next issue: Spider-Man and Chance battle the Life Foundation! And learn more about our mysterious villain as we prepare for Spidey's 300th issue!



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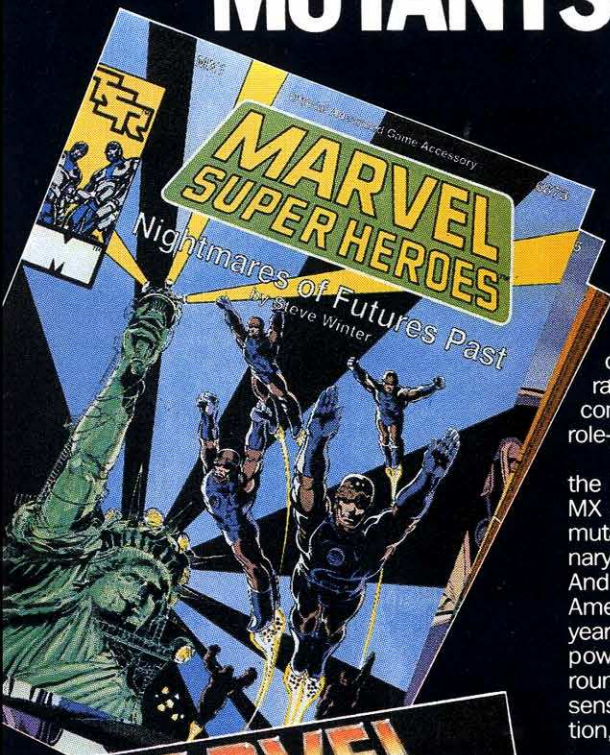
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WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MUTANTS

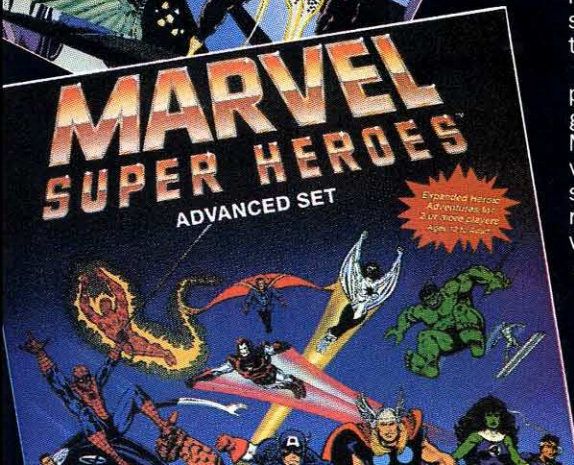


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