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# The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SIDE-BY-SIDE  
WITH  
**CHANCE!**





# DON'T JUST STAND THERE. FIRE BACK!



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POWER**  
AND THE SOLDIERS OF THE FUTURE™

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Figure, jet and videotapes each sold separately.

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**EVER HAVE ONE OF  
THOSE DAYS...?**

YO! MISTER!  
THERE'S SOMEONE  
RIDIN' ON TOP O'  
YOUR TRUCK!!

AW GEEZ! THIS  
ALWAYS WORKED  
BEFORE!

**SURVIVAL  
OF THE  
HITLIST!**

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HEY, KID! SHHHHH! I'LL  
GIVE YOU A QUARTER!

HOW DO I GET  
INTO THESE  
THINGS?

NUTS! I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW  
I GOT INTO *THIS* ONE!

I WAS TRYING TO MAKE A  
BUCK BY TAKING PHOTOS OF A  
SECRET **ARMS SHIPMENT**  
LAST NIGHT, WHEN A COSTUMED  
GUNK-FOR-HIRE CALLED  
**CHANCE** TRIED TO  
STEAL IT!

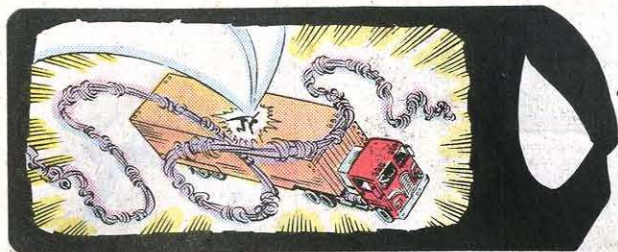
A FREAK POWER BLACKOUT  
LET **CHANCE** ESCAPE WITH THE  
WEAPONS, BUT NOT BEFORE I  
TAGGED HIM WITH A  
**SPIDER-TRACER!**

I SPENT  
ALL MORNING  
CRISSCROSSING  
MANHATTAN, TRY-  
ING TO PICK UP A  
SIGNAL FROM  
THE TRACER--

--UNTIL THIS  
16-WHEELER  
STARTED MY  
SPIDER-SENSE  
BUZZING LIKE  
A SMOKE  
DETECTOR  
AT **GEORGE  
BURNS'S**  
HOUSE!







THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED TO FOLLOW THE TRUCK, TO CATCH CHANCE WITH THE GOODS!

BUT I DIDN'T COUNT ON THIS TRAFFIC JAM-- OR ON A KID WITH A MOUTH AS BIG AS THE HOLLAND TUNNEL!



ALL RIGHT, YOU! GET DOWN!

PERFECT...

UHM, YOU MAY FIND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE, OFFICER, BUT THERE'S A MASTER CRIMINAL INSIDE THIS TRUCK!



AND JUST BECAUSE I'M IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY--

--I'M GOING TO LET YOU ARREST HIM!

THAT'S BIG O'YA.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY, DRIVER?



THE CREEP'S BLOWIN' SMOKE, OFFICER. I'M JUST HAULIN' BUILDIN' SUPPLIES.

FOR CARLTON DRAKE.

DRAKE? THE WALL STREET BIGWIG?



YOU'D BETTER HAVE PROOF WEBSLINGER!

BLAST! I COULD RIP THE DOORS OFF THE VAN AND SHOW HIM, BUT CHANCE MIGHT COME OUT SHOOTING!

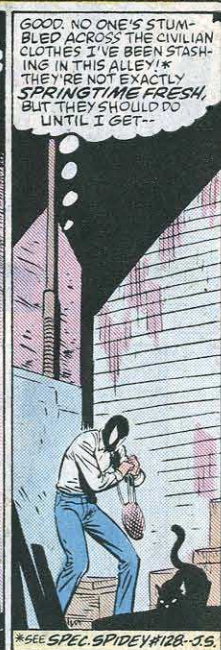
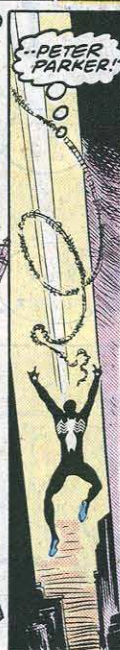
I, UH, DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D TAKE MY WORD?

THAT DOES IT! MOVE IT OUT, DRIVER! AND AS FOR YOU, HOTSHOT--



--NEXT TIME GET YER FACTS STRAIGHT!







# DON'T BE FURIOUS! GET CURIOUS!

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AT THAT MOMENT, PETER PARKER FINDS BRIGHT LIGHTS AND HOT SOUNDS DEFINITELY APPEALING.

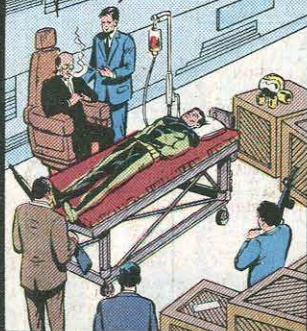
BUT AS DUSK LOWERS OVER NORTHERN NEW JERSEY THE ONLY LIGHTS SEEN THERE COME FROM A 16-WHEELER PULLING UP TO A HEAVILY-GUARDED GATE, WHILE THE ONLY SOUNDS--



-- ARE THOSE OF CONSPIRACY!

LOOKS PEACEFUL, DOESN'T HE?

MAYBE NOW, MR. DRAKE, BUT WHEN CHANCE WAKES UP AND FINDS WE NEVER INTENDED TO PAY HIM FOR THOSE WEAPONS, THAT WE TRICKED HIM INTO BEING OUR PRISONER--



-- HE COULD BE TROUBLE!

MR. GABRIEL, YOU'VE BEEN A BOARD MEMBER OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION FOR YEARS. YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW--



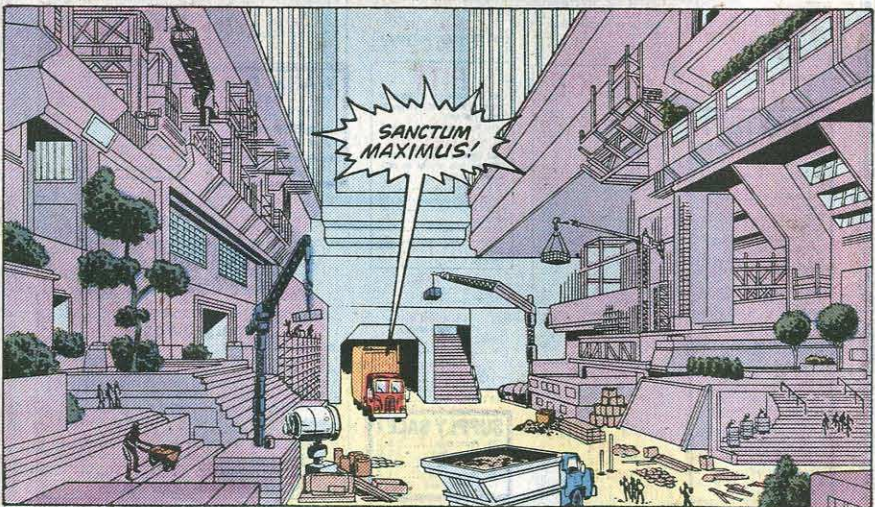
-- THAT WE PREPARE FOR ANY EVENTUALITY, LIKE IT OR NOT, CHANCE WILL BE A NEW ELEMENT--



-- IN OUR BOLDEST, MOST PROFITABLE VENTURE EVER!



SANCTUM MAXIMUS!





WHILE IN NEW YORK, THE NIGHT GROWS OLD--

THE  
MIDNIGHT  
CLUB

STOP SQUIRMING, PETER!  
YOU ACT LIKE YOUR  
MOTHER DRESSED  
YOU, NOT ME!

SORRY, M.J.  
I'LL TRY TO  
LOOK COOL.  
ER, HOT?  
WHATEVER...

OH, LOOK!  
THERE'S  
EDDIE! HI,  
EDDIE!

THE  
COMEDIAN?  
YOU KNOW  
HIM?!

SURE  
HE'S A REAL  
SWEETHEART.

ONCE  
YOU GET  
PAST HIS  
BODYGUARDS!

POKE!

EMJAY! WE'VE JUST GOTTA HAVE  
ONE NUTTY LITTLE DANCE!

PAUL!  
GOOD TO  
SEE YOU!

I HEARD YOU TIED  
THE KNOT. THIS MUST  
BE THE LUCKY CAT!

UH-HUH, WOULD YOU  
MIND, PETER?

UH, NO!  
GO RIGHT  
AHEAD!

WOW, I MAY NEVER  
FIT INTO MARY  
JANE'S WORLD  
COMPLETELY--

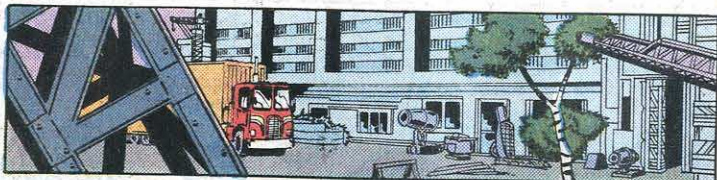
-- AND  
BECOMES THE  
PROPERTY OF  
THE YOUNG.

THANKS,  
BABE

-- BUT IT  
SURE IS  
A FUN  
PLACE TO  
VISIT ONCE  
IN A WHILE!



NEW JERSEY: CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SMALL CITY HIDDEN BENEATH A GARGANTUAN CAMOUFLAGED DOME.



WHILE INSIDE ONE OF THE COMPLETED BUILDINGS...

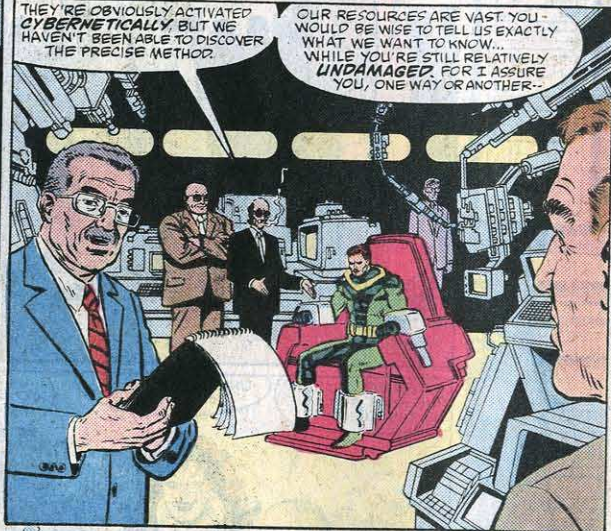
WE BROUGHT YOU HERE IN ORDER TO DUPLICATE YOUR **WRIST BLASTERS** AND **ANKLE JETS**. HOWEVER, OUR SCIENTISTS CAN'T SEEM TO FIND ANY **TRIGGER MECHANISMS**.



THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY ACTIVATED **CYBERNETICALLY**, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DISCOVER THE **PRECISE METHOD**.

OUR RESOURCES ARE VAST. YOU WOULD BE WISE TO TELL US EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW... WHILE YOU'RE STILL RELATIVELY **UNDAMAGED**. FOR I ASSURE YOU, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

YOU ARE A UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL, CHANCE. A CRIMINAL-FOR-HIRE WHO DOES NOT **CHARGE** FOR HIS SERVICES. RATHER, YOU **WAGER** YOUR FEE AGAINST YOUR SUCCESS. TO YOU, **RISK IS ALL**.



NEVERTHELESS, I SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER THE UNFAVORABLE **ODDS** INHERENT IN YOUR PRESENT SITUATION.



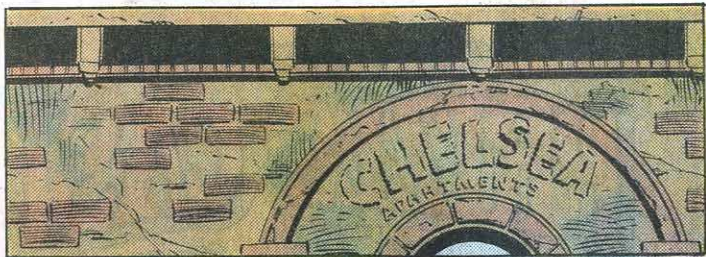
--YOU WILL TELL US.

WANNA BET?





CHELSEA  
STREET:  
AN EARLY  
MORNING  
MOON  
SHINES  
INTO A  
TOP FLOOR  
APARTMENT.



WHERE A COUPLE, NEWLY WED, LIES  
EASY AND TALKS, AS NEWLY-WEDS  
ARE WONT TO DO...

DIDN'T  
WORK, HUM,  
TIGER?

THE CLUB WAS FABULOUS,  
MARY JANE, AND I'D LIKE  
TO DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME.  
BUT NOW THE MUSIC'S  
STOPPED AND REALITY'S  
STILL HERE.

I KNOW  
THAT SOME-  
WHERE,  
SOMEONE'S  
GOT A SHIP-  
MENT OF  
STOLEN  
MILITARY  
WEAPONS...

-- AND I CAN'T HELP WORRYING  
ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO BE DONE  
WITH THEM... WHO'S GOING TO BE  
KILLED WITH THEM.

I JUST CAN'T RUN AWAY  
FROM IT, SOMEHOW, I'VE  
GOT TO FIND CHANCE!

I... I  
UNDERSTAND,  
PETER. JUST...

...BE  
CAREFUL,  
OKAY?





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BRIGHTENS THE  
DOWNTOWN  
SKYSCRAPER  
SERVING AS  
HEADQUARTERS  
FOR THE  
CITY'S HARDEST  
WORKING  
NEWSPAPER.

# DAILY BUGLE

AN INSTITUTION WHOSE BACK-ISSUE  
"MORGUE" CURRENTLY FUNCTIONS  
AS A RESEARCH HIDECA FOR ONE  
PETER PARKER...

MY ONLY CLUE IS THE  
NAME, "EARLTON DRAKE."  
I'VE READ EVERYTHING  
WRITTEN ABOUT THE MAN  
IN THE LAST FEW YEARS BUT  
HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING  
EVEN VAGUELY SINISTER.

THERE WERE HINTS  
OF POLITICAL MANIPULATION,  
INSIDER STOCK DEALS, THE  
USUAL STUFF YOU FIND  
ABOUT MOST WEALTHY,  
POWERFUL MEN--

-- BUT THE ONLY  
OUT-OF- THE-  
ORDINARY ITEM  
WAS THE WITH-  
DRAWAL OF  
SUPPORT FOR AN  
AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH  
PROJECT AT  
EMPIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY.

AND THE ONLY THING  
STRANGE ABOUT THAT  
WAS THAT IT HAD BEEN  
A VALUABLE TAX  
WRITE-OFF-- AND NO  
REASON WAS GIVEN  
FOR THE WITHDRAWAL!

THANKS,  
EARL.

SURE  
THING,  
PETE.

EXCUSE ME A  
MINUTE, MS.  
THOMPSON

PETER! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU  
AROUND FOR AWHILE. HEAD-  
ING OUT TO GET US SOME  
MORE FREELANCE  
PHOTOS?

MAYBE  
LATER,  
ROBBIE.  
RIGHT  
NOW--

-- I'M GOING  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL!



EMPIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY:  
ONE OF NEW  
YORK'S FOREMOST  
INSTITUTES OF  
HIGHER LEARNING



AND A SOURCE OF FOND  
NOSTALGIA FOR PETER  
PARKER. HE REMEMBERS  
HIS UNDERGRADUATE DAYS,  
THE CAREFREE LIFE, THE  
EXCITEMENT OF DISCOVERY

THUS HIS SMILE IS BOTH  
GENUINE AND WIDE AS  
HE ENTERS THE  
REGISTRAR'S OFFICE...



-- AND SHARES THAT  
SMILE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT, ANNIE DEITZ...

I'VE CALLED UP THE INFORMATION  
YOU WANTED, PETER. BUT SINCE  
YOU AREN'T A STUDENT ANY-  
MORE, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED  
TO LOOK AT IT.

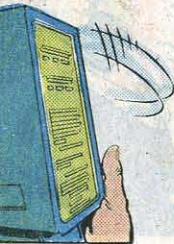
I HOPE  
YOU'LL  
REMEMBER  
THAT WHILE  
I'M OFF  
POWDERING  
MY NOSE.  
FOR, SAY,  
FIVE  
MINUTES?



THANKS,  
ANNIE.

AND, ONCE ALONE...

HMM. THE SUPPORT  
DRAKE WITHDREW  
WAS A RENT-  
FREE LEASE.



ON SEVERAL  
HUNDRED ACRES OF  
PRIME FOREST  
LAND--

-- IN NORTHERN  
NEW JERSEY--  
AND JERSEY  
WAS WHERE  
THAT SHIPMENT  
OF "BUILDING  
SUPPLIES" WAS  
HEADED!

BETTER  
CALL  
MARY JANE.



LET HER  
KNOW I'LL  
BE LATE FOR--

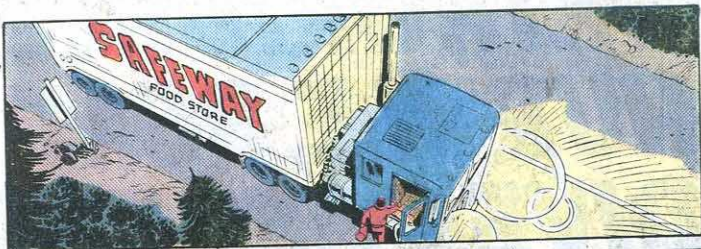
-- NO. SHE'D  
JUST  
WORRY.

I'LL  
TELL  
HER  
LATER.





**STATE ROAD 62:** A NORTH-BOUND TRUCKER RELEASES A LONE HITCH-HIKER TO THE NEW JERSEY WILDERNESS.



A TRAVELER WHO THEN TURNS AND CAUTIOUSLY ENTERS THE TWILIGHT-DIMMED WOODLANDS...

BUS GOT ME TO THE NEAREST TOWN. HAD TO TUMB MY WAY HERE, THOUGH. SHOULD BE CLOSE TO THE AREA SHOWN IN THE E.S.U. RECORDS. I JUST HOPE...



-- WHOA! EITHER THIS IS A FACTORY OUTLET FOR GUARDS A-US, OR I'VE HIT THE JACKPOT!

TIME TO GO TO WORK...



THWIP





**WHIP, DRIBBLE, SPIN,  
HURDLE, BOMBARD,  
DIVE, PASS, EVADE,  
DUNK, HURL, LOOP,  
STAB, DEFEND, SHO  
ESCAPE, ATTACK, JU**

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AND PLAY YOUR HEART OUT.**





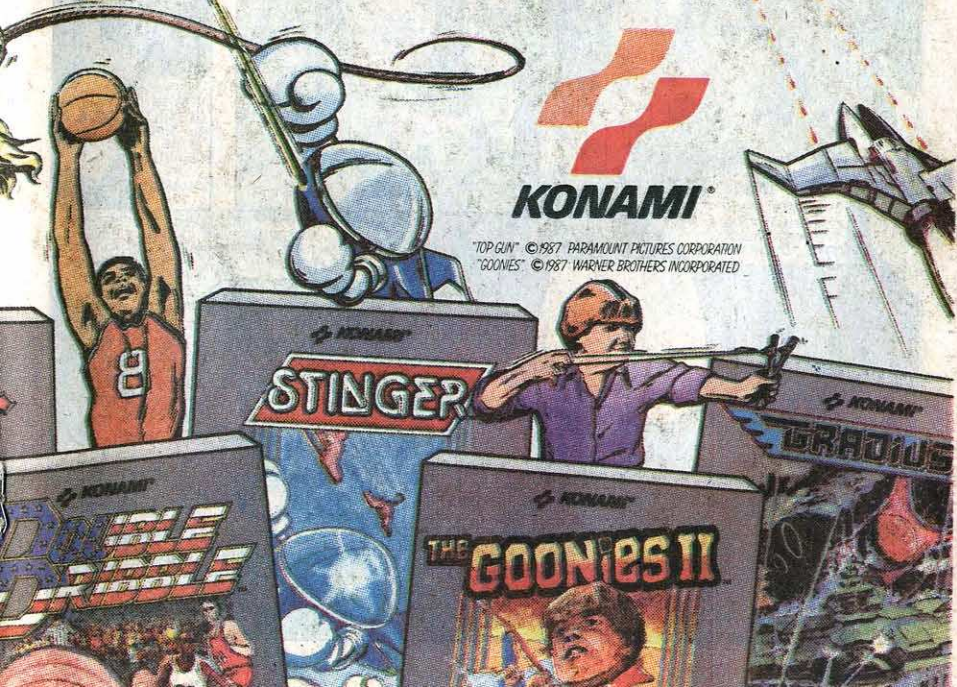
**IN, RESCUE, DUCK,  
D, SCREEN, ROLL,  
SPRINT, RAID,  
LEAP, CAPTURE,  
NOT, INVADERS, BLAST,  
JUMP, AND SWERVE.**

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ARMS WERE PROBABLY  
STOLEN BY SOME OFF-  
THE-WALL PARA-  
MILITARY GROUP!  
MAYBE EVEN  
TERRORISTS!

HAVE  
TO FIND  
OUT  
WHAT  
THEY'RE  
UP TO!

THEN FIGURE  
SOME WAY TO KEEP  
THEM FROM GOING  
THROUGH WITH--

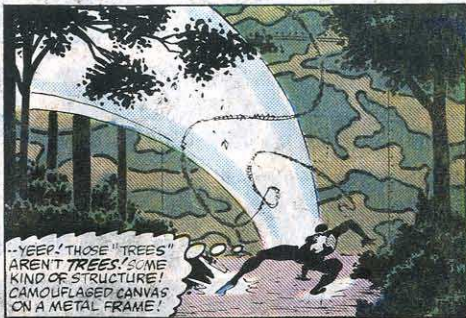
--YEEP! THOSE "TREES"  
AREN'T TREES! SOME  
KIND OF STRUCTURE!  
CAMOUFLAGED CANVAS  
ON A METAL FRAME!

AND FROM THE  
LOOKS OF THOSE  
WIRES, IT'S RIGGED  
WITH BOOBY-TRAPS  
OR ALARMS! I  
HAVE TO GET  
IN, BUT HOW--

--LIGHT!  
A GATE  
OPENING!  
BUT THAT  
STILL  
LEAVES  
THE  
GUARDS  
TO--

--HAMM. GATE'S  
OPENINGS TO LET  
THAT PICKUP IN!

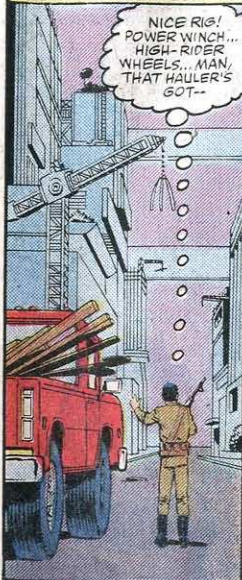
I DIDN'T HAVE  
MUCH LUCK RIDING  
ON TOP OF A TRUCK  
IN MANHATTAN,  
BUT MAYBE...





MOMENTS LATER, WITHIN  
SANCTUM MAXIMUS...

NICE RIG!  
POWER WINCH...  
HIGH-RIDER  
WHEELS... MAN,  
THAT HAULER'S  
GOT--



-- EVERYTHING!



CAN'T SEE MUCH  
FROM HERE, THOUGH.  
HAVE TO TRUST MY  
SPIDER-SENSE. WAIT  
FOR THE DRIVER TO  
SLOW FOR A TURN,  
THEN--



--ROLL--

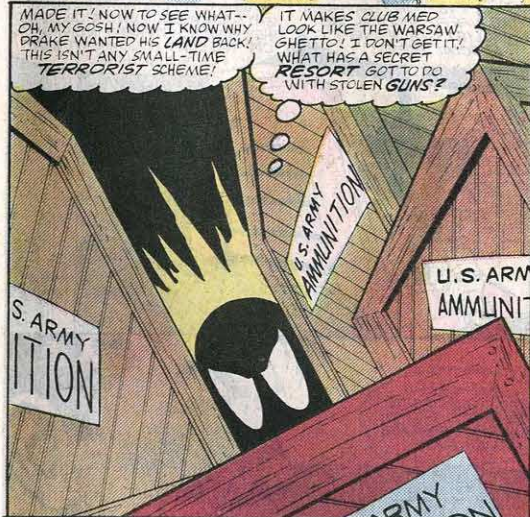
--FOR--

--COVER!



MADE IT! NOW TO SEE WHAT--  
OH, MY GOSH! NOW I KNOW WHY  
DRAKE WANTED HIS **LAND** BACK.  
THIS ISN'T ANY SMALL-TIME  
**TERRORIST** SCHEME!

IT MAKES CLUB MED  
LOOK LIKE THE WARSAW  
GHETTO! I DON'T GET IT!  
WHAT HAS A SECRET  
**RESORT** GOT TO DO  
WITH **STOLEN GUNS**?



WAIT  
A SEC!  
SPIDER-  
SENSE  
TINGLING!  
BUT  
NOT FROM  
**DANGER**!

I'M  
PICKING UP A SIGNAL  
FROM A **SPIDER-  
TRACER**! AND  
THAT COULD  
ONLY MEAN--









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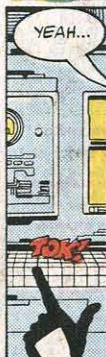
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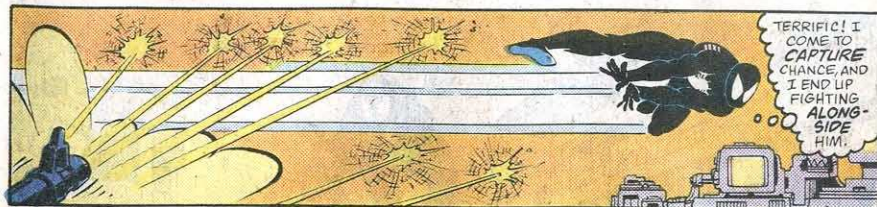
## IRON MAN

73-76, 78, 79, 82-85, 87-95,









TERRIFIC! I  
CAME TO  
CAPTURE  
CHANCE AND  
I END UP  
FIGHTING  
ALONG-  
SIDE  
HIM.

AND THEY SAY,  
**POLITICS** MAKES  
STRANGE BEDFELLOWS!!



**TUNK**



**SPLAM**



MY LASERS AND  
CONCUSSION BLASTS  
ARE A BIT  
**POWERFUL** FOR  
SUCH A CONFINED  
SPACE, SPIDER-MAN!

WHAT SAY  
WE MOVE  
THE PARTY  
OUTSIDE?



YEAH, I GUESS IT *IS*  
BAD FORM TO TRASH YOUR  
HOST'S LABORATORY!



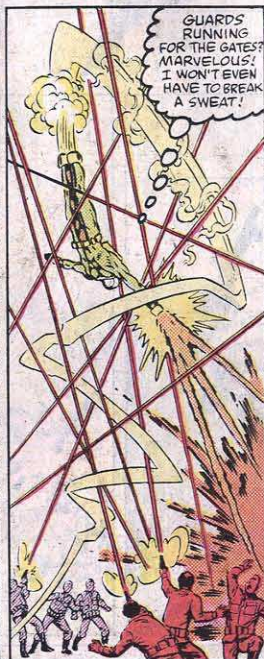


'COURSE, WHEN YOU'RE TRASHING THE HOSTS, TOO, THE POINT'S KINDA MOOT!



SOLDIERS STARTING TO PANIC!

GUESS THEY HADN'T COUNTED ON FACING SUPER-POWERED LOOTERS!



GUARDS RUNNING FOR THE GATES? MARVELOUS! I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO BREAK A SWEAT!

I TEND TO AGREE, MR. PULLMAN: THIS NEW SITUATION *DOES* CALL FOR A RATHER DRASTIC CHANGE IN STRATEGY.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO PILOT THE HELICOPTER, OR SHALL I?



HEY! WATCH YOUR LASERS! THOSE CRATES ARE FILLED WITH AMMUNITION!

I KNOW!

DRAKE MADE A WAGER, LOST, AND DIDN'T PAY!

YOU'D BE WISE TO GRAB HOLD OF ME, WEBSLINGER!



I'M ABOUT TO SHOW THESE PIKERS WHAT IT MEANS TO *RENEGE* ON--



--CHANCE!









SOME TIME LATER,  
AS THE SOUND OF  
SIRENS DRAWS  
NEAR...



THAT  
WAS  
KIND OF  
EXTREME,  
CHANCE!

PERHAPS.  
BUT IT  
WORKED!

YEAH, I GUESS. AT LEAST  
THOSE GUNS' WON'T KILL ANY  
INNOCENTS.

AND THE  
SECRET  
OF MY  
WEAPONS  
SYSTEM  
REMAINS  
A SECRET!



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, SPIDER-MAN. OF  
COURSE, THAT WON'T CHANGE THINGS WHEN WE  
MEET WITHOUT A TRUCE, BUT AT LEAST  
LET ME OFFER YOU A LIFT BACK TO  
MANHATTAN.



HMM. MARY  
JANE COULD BE  
GETTING  
ANXIOUS.  
BUS IS KINDA  
SLOW.

I ACCEPT!

HOWEVER...

YEEESH! I-I FIGURED HE HAD A  
CAR STASHED SOMEWHERE! I'M  
NOT USED TO FLYING WITHOUT  
WEBS!

SURE HOPE  
MARY JANE  
APPRECIATES  
THIS!





→ 100 ←

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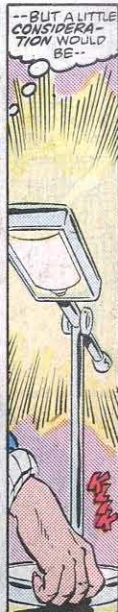
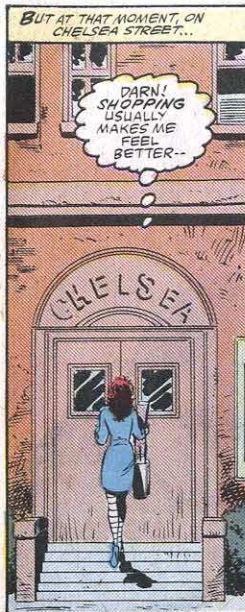
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A large, muscular, black-suited figure with white eyes and a wide, toothy grin is shown in a dynamic, lunging pose. The figure has a white 'V' logo on its chest. The background is a textured orange and yellow gradient with black cross-hatching lines.

... I'M  
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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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JIM SALICRUP  
EDITOR  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

## SALICRUP'S SECTION



### SALICRUP'S SECTION

**Sensational! Disgusting! Gross! Genius!** These were just a few of the words used to describe the controversial six-part, Kraven the Hunter saga which ran through all three Spider-Man titles this summer.

This issue we're presenting just a small fraction of the many letters we received commenting on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293. But before we get to that, I've got to give credit where credit is due. Whether you loved or hated the six-part, it must be known that it was James Owsley who originally commissioned the story to run in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. I must confess that I was the one who decided to run it through all three titles. A few subscribers, who only subscribe to one or two Spider titles, let me know in no uncertain terms how unhappy they were about only getting a few parts of the story. But, fear not, we don't have any more multi-part crossovers planned for the next year or so.

Well, I've rambled on long enough. Let's get to your comments.

Dear Jim,

You can't believe how happy I was when I saw that J.M. DeMatteis and Mike Zeck were writing and penciling THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293. I enjoyed their work exceptionally in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #31 and just as much in part 2 of this wonderful 6-part story. "Crawling" was just as good as their first part that started everything off. I was extremely glad it was done in the same format as WEB #31 as it fits Spider-Man and this particular story.

But, back to AMAZING. I think the thing I found most surprising was the total absence of Spider-Man. (I mean the true one.) After seeing him buried I almost expected to see Spidey's hand erupt from the freshly dug earth and he himself follow. But, no, all we saw climb out was a true spider. (Or are they both true?) But, it's a real eight-legged creature can do it, can't our hero? But I forget, he had a rifle bullet somewhere in his body. He couldn't just shrug that off! Look at all that is happening with him six feet under!!

This is certainly the most drastic and tragic (and fun) thing that's happened to Spidey for while (since the wedding). Thanks for another superb cover, and please keep up the truly MARVELOUS work!!

THANK YOU!!

Bill Climer

3330 Richmond-La Rue Rd.  
La Rue, OH 43032

You're welcome, Bill.

Dear Marvel,

I suppose Kraven's wearing Spidey's costume is his equivalent of eating his slain opponent's heart! Yum? Bet the New York Visitor Bureau just loved page 4! Is Vermin any relation to the sweet guy Cloak and Dagger ran into in STRANGE TALES #5?

I wondered what MJ was up to while her husband was sparring with Kraven! Personally, I wouldn't be wasting my time in that costume of his if I had someone like MJ waiting for me! MJ has more dumb luck than she deserves, having Kraven pop up like that to save her from her own stupidity! And then to have Vermin decide to "dine" later, instead of having our redhead in the tight pants end up like the girl from page 4 did. Speaking of stupid, why am I even bothering to type this letter to a mag that doesn't even have a letters page??

Robert Kowalski  
3878 Garvin  
Detroit, MI 48212

As you can see, Robert, the ever-lovin' letters column is back and here to stay, we hope. No, the Vermin in Strange Tales was no relation to the Vermin you saw in these pages. The way we figure it, why can't two beings in the Marvel Universe have the same name? After all, you've probably met a few people named Robert in your lifetime, eh?

Dear Jim,

Both "The Coffin" and "Crawling" (WEB #13 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293) were great. J. M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck and Bob McLeod created one of the most interesting Kraven the Hunter/Spider-Man plots. The cover was a winner. I like the way DeMatteis was able to tell a little about Kraven's background. It helps me understand what made Kraven tick. I like the fact that Mary Jane knew that the Spider-Man who rescued her from the muggers wasn't her husband. Vermin managed to work well in the story. It will be interesting to see how Vermin will help or harm Kraven's plan to replace Spider-Man in the remaining series.

Charles David Haskell  
15 West 139 St. Apt. 4R  
New York, NY 10037

Well, Charles, as you no doubt have seen, Vermin was a major factor in Kraven's ultimate master plan. But in the end, it was Spider-Man's treatment of the critter who was the real hero.

Dear Jim,

I have never mutilated one of my comics intentionally. So why was it when I came home one day, happy at having found the latest two Spider-Man comics, that within one hour I was in a horrible state of depression and felt like ripping up these books? The reason was because these two books were ASM #293 and WSM #31.

I was incredulous. I went over the covers again to make sure I hadn't gotten near-sighted and picked up a horror comic satire of Spider-Man. How anyone at Marvel could allow such a repulsive thing to be put on the market is beyond me. I'm sure that when Stan Lee got Marvel going he had no idea that such a disgusting thing would come from it. Throughout years of being a Spider-Man collector I've heard it said that comics had a bad influence on people. On these they are probably right.

The small part with Spider-Man in it made no sense anyway. And some of the script! "My mind feasts on your essence like maggots on a corpse." Even for Kraven, that's a stretch. Hey, listen! If I want doom, gloom, and repulsiveness I'll go rent Texas Chain Saw Massacre.

Matthew Hovious  
(no address given)

We don't want to limit the types of stories we present in these pages. We've presented mysteries, more humorous adventures, love stories, and anything else we thought might be exciting, as long as we think the stories are well done. We strongly feel that variety is the spice of life and the last thing we want is to get into a rut by presenting the same types of stories month after month. Perhaps the Kraven story was too intense for some readers, but it was never our intention to repulse anyone. If there were disgusting elements to the storyline, it was to dramatically emphasize the themes and ideas that we were exploring. But we would never publish anything we felt was in poor taste.

Dear Spider-Makers,

In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #293 I liked a lot of Marc DeMatteis's writing within the caption boxes (there's a first time for everything) but he does fall into the "everybody just happens to..." pit that seems to plague the pages of SPIDER-MAN more than other comics. Everyone seems to be dealing with spiders and rats (i.e. Vermin). Mary Jane goes out, gets accosted and gets saved by Kraven in a spider-suit just as Vermin crawls out of the manhole... etc. Too many coincidences within one story. I know it was supposed to be for effect but it just seemed irritating to me.

I was going to refuse to buy the parts of this story in the other Spider titles because (a) I've never liked anything I've ever read by J.M. DeMatteis and (b) while comics crossovers were still a novelty even 10 years ago, they're now mostly just cheap-shot marketing tactics. But I guess this deserves a little looking into. By the way, Mike Zeck's art was very good, as always!

Well, maybe I'll end up actually liking this whole silly thing!

Tim Dwyer  
7805 Glenwood  
Overland Park, KS 66204

So what did you think, Tim? Did you wind up liking it or what? This is the kind of thing that keeps us up at night! As for the crossover being a "cheap-shot marketing tactic," we beg to differ. We felt that by running all six parts in just two months the story would have a far greater impact than if it was spread out over six months. What do the rest of you out there think? Were we wrong or did we actually do something right?

**NEXT ISSUE: Spidey confronts Venom in our double-sized 30th issue. Will he survive his 25th anniversary or do we have to start looking for a new web-spinner (hint, hint)?**









# BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Happy Holidays, you guys!"

—THE MARVEL BULLPEN

ITEM: After a half year in the nine-to-five grind as head of our peerless Production Department, Jumbo Jim Novak (once our most popular letterer) has heard the scritch of penpoints and the bubbling of inkpots and has decided to pack up his desk and hit the freelance lettering road again. So good luck, Jim — this loss is Marvel's calligraphic gain!

ITEM: Stepping into the breach Jim left will be none other than Virtuous Virginia Romita, who is currently the Traffic Manager for the entire Marvel line. She's the one who keeps track of schedules and lets editors know when the Dreaded Deadline Doom is looming. Vee-Ay has decided not to give up her Trafficking job either — she intends to manage both Traffic and Production! (Whew! It's a big job, but she is a tough lady!)

ITEM: Wait — there's still more people exchanging hats! Enidite Adam Blaustein, assistant editor in the Special Projects department, has accepted a promotion out of the Editorial rank and file. Adam's now going to be a production man — specifically, our liaison with Chemical Color, the fine people who do the color separations for our comic books. Good luck to you in your new position, Adam!

ITEM: And, finally, taking Adam's place in our star-studded editorial line-up is Diligent David Wohl. David's been an editorial assistant on the OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE for most of its run and also did a summer stint as Star Editor Don Daley's assistant. Dave and his comrade-in-arms, Marc Stry (who is now assisting Reliable Ralph Macchio), are proud graduates of Marvel's high school editorial intern program, and both are currently attending college after work. (Satisfied, Marc? We finally found a way to mention you on this page!)

ITEM: If we seem a bit more harried this time than usual, here's why... It's MIGHTY MARVEL MOVING MADNESS WEEK, wherein a record-breaking seven editorial teams played musical offices! First, Administrative Manager Lynn Cohen moved from the office outside Editor in Chief Tom DeFalco's designer digs to the duplex desk ten feet outside. Then, Executive Editor Mark Gruenwald moved his worldly goods into Lynn's vacated space. Next, Craig Anderson cleared out the office across the hall from Tom's so Mark's assistant editor, Gregory Wright, could take possession. Then the editorial team of Bob Harris and Bobbie Chase

packed their desks and settled into Mark's and Greg's former fortress. That left Bob and Bobbie's creative crawlspace open for Craig Anderson and David Wohl. Got all that so far? Good, 'cause we're only halfway done. Then, Michael Higgins, Mike Rockwitz, and Pat Redding gathered up their bounteous belongings, and the two Mikes moved into departing Production Manager Jim Novak's airy abode, while Pat got a sunless, but single, office to herself. That enabled Special Projects Editor Bob Duffless and his right hand man Dwayne McDuffie to headquarter themselves in the former Mikes' and Pat's office. Then, finally, the editorial team of Ann Nocenti and Terry Kavanagh (who for the whole summer have been exiled to another floor, because we were short on suitable office space) moved into Bob and Dwayne's coveted corner office. At last, the moving's done, the dust has settled, and Marvel's mighty editorial staff is all on one floor again! Hats off to Office Manager Susie Ehrenreich (who's never been mentioned in this space before — hi, Suzel!) for coordinating the whole shebang. (Now, if we could only remember where we accidentally moved all of our artwork, we could publish a few comic books!)

## PRO FILE: BOB HARRAS

Editor on: X-FACTOR, INCREDIBLE HULK, G.I. JOE, G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS, G.I. JOE DIGEST, SPELLBOUND, INHUMANS GRAPHIC NOVEL

Marvel freelance credits (past): Issues of IRON MAN, THOR, AVENGERS, THING and ROBOCOP movie adaptation

Marvel freelance credits (present): The upcoming S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series

My hobbies are: Spelunking, hang-gliding, diving off the cliffs of Acapulco, mountain-climbing in the Himalayas and (according to Joanne Spaldo) breaking hearts.

The single work which I am most proud of is: THOR #356 and a parody of ROM I wrote and drew in ROM #50.

My pet peeves are: Munchkins, especially those who belong to the Lollipop Guild.

My place of birth is: Queens, New York

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Developing an extensive collection of knitted ties (which is the envy of Archie Goodwin) and the uncanny ability to lie with the best of them.

My oddest habit is: Sitting in such strange positions that people wonder if I have a spine.



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

The reason I got into comics was: I didn't want to grow up (and I've succeeded — ask anyone who knows me).

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

My favorite performers are: Bruce Springsteen and Mark Gruenwald (whose portrayal of Mr. Mature in episode #7 of "Cheap Laifs" is incomparable).

The last good book I read was: WAITING FOR CHILDHOOD by Sumner Locke Elliott

The last good movie I saw was: FATAL ATTRACTION

The biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Macchio, Jim and Tammy Bakker, the other Ralph Macchio, Joe Biden, Jane Austen, Donald Trump and, of course, the obligatory William Shakespeare.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To get my freelance work in on time.

The worst part of my job is: Listening to Chris Claremont read his fan mail out loud (and I'm not even his editor!)

When nobody's looking I like to: Look at myself.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I never wear bow ties (despite what Ralph Macchio says).

## Checklist

- ☐ DAREDEVIL #253
- ☐ WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #373
- ☐ WEST COAST AVENGERS #31
- ☐ G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #10
- ☐ STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #17
- ☐ SPELLBOUND Limited Series #6
- ☐ TALES OF G.I. JOE #4
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #340
- ☐ SOLO AVENGERS #5
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #299
- ☐ STRANGE TALES #13
- ☐ GROO THE WANDERER #38
- ☐ THE NEW MUTANTS #62
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #57
- ☐ POWER PACK #36
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #290

- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #342
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #210
- ☐ SILVER SURFER #10
- ☐ THE UNCANNY X-MEN #228
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #205
- ☐ G.I. JOE #70
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #313
- ☐ IRON MAN #229
- ☐ THE 'NAM #17
- ☐ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #137
- ☐ THOR #390
- ☐ X-FACTOR #27
- ☐ CLASSIC X-MEN #20
- ☐ THE TRANSFORMERS #39
- ☐ MARVEL BOOKSHELF
- ☐ EXCALIBUR #1 — They're Marvel's newest and most amazing mutant team yet! Written by Chris

Claremont, penciled by Alan Davis, and inked by Pat Neary.

☐ THE PITT — The future of the New Universe is changed forever! Written by John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald and drawn by Sal Buscema and Stan Drake.

☐ ELEKTRA Trade Paperback — The Epic Limited Series re-presented in one volume! Written by Frank Miller and painted by Bill Sienkiewicz.

☐ IRON MAN Graphic Novel — Story, computer-generated art and color by Mike Saenz.

☐ THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS #5

MARVEL MAGAZINES

☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #146

☐ MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #61

☐ CONAN SAGA #11

☐ G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #9





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