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BACK OFF!

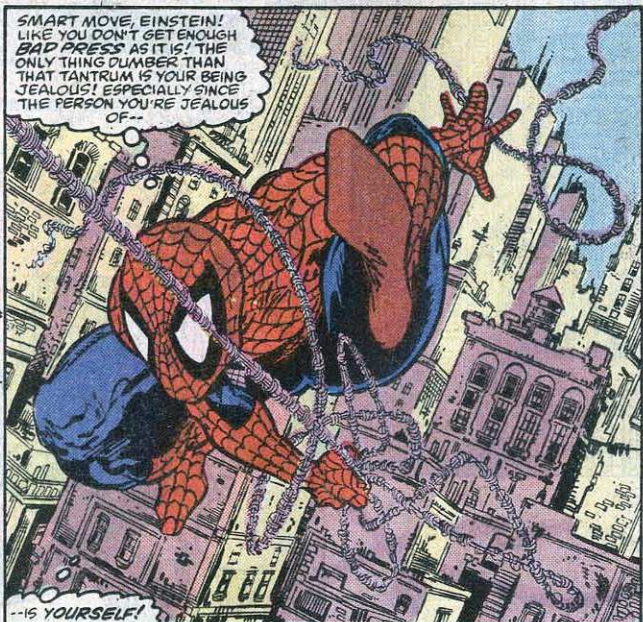
NOW!

THWIP

MICHELINIE MCFARLANE PARKER SHAREN SAUCRUP D'FALCO
STORY ART LETTERING COLOURS INK

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BUT I
CAN'T
HELP
IT.

I'M PETER
PARKER! AND
THAT PHOTO BOOK
"WEBB" IS MADE
UP OF PICTURES I
TOOK OF MYSELF
WHILE I WAS
SPIDER-MAN!

I'M GETTING GOOD MONEY FOR
PROMOTING THE BOOK AS PETER
PARKER, AND I'M ALSO GETTING
A KICK OUT OF THE FAME--WHICH
I GUESS IS WHY I REGRET
SHARING THE SPOTLIGHT...
EVEN WITH MYSELF!

I HAD TO GO INTO
ACTION AS SPIDEY
IN CALIFORNIA,* BUT
FROM NOW ON--

--I'M GOING
TO TRY TO KEEP
MY ALTER EGO'S
PARTICIPATION
TO A MINIMUM!

* SEE LAST
ISSUE. --J.S.

AH!
THERE
IT IS!

"Look Ma, no more wires."

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MY WEBBED-UP
BUNDLE OF
CIVILIAN
CLOTHES!
I'D BETTER GET
CHANGED

IT'S
STILL A
HOOT
TO GO
INTO
ACTION
AS
SPIDER-MAN--

--BUT
WITH A
WIFE
LIKE
**MARY
JANE**
TO GO
HOME TO
NOW,
THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN I'M
REALLY
GLAD TO
GET OUT
OF THIS
COSTUME!

WHILE ELSEWHERE...

I'LL REALLY BE
GLAD TO GET BACK
INTO COSTUME!

HEY, WHADY
KNOW? IT'S
BUCK MITTY!

YEAH... DA
BIG-UN
OF ALCATRAZ!
HAW-HAW!

Y HMPH: THE LOCAL
BRAIN DEAD?

LET 'EM
SCOFF!

FOR, THOUGH THE
JUDGE COMMITTED
MY SENTENCE TO
"TIME SERVED,"
MY INCARCERATION
KEPT ME TOO LONG
FROM MY SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH. AND,
MORE IMPORTANTLY--

--FROM
MY
REVENGE!

SOON, HOWEVER, THE WORLD
SHALL ONCE MORE TREMBLE
BEFORE THE AWESOME
ENTOMOLOGICAL ON-
SLAUGHT OF--

--HUMBUG!

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WHILE AT THE BEDFORD TOWERS CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE, ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...

KNOX KNOX

MARY JANE?
IT'S PETER!

UH-UH.
HANDS
ARE FULL.

LOSE YOUR
KEY, HON?

SEE?

SILLY. GUESS YOU HAD TO USE
ALL YOUR SPIDER-STRENGTH
TO HAUL THAT HEAVY LOAD UP
HERE, HUM?

NO. NOT
ALL OF IT.

LOOKS LIKE THIS
IS OUR DAY FOR
VISITORS.

KNOX KNOX

WHY, MR.
CAESAR!

PLEASE,
CALL ME
JONATHAN.

I SAVED
SOME FOR
LATER.

MAYBE
SOMEONE'S
BRINGING ME
ANOTHER
ROSE.

I HEARD YOU'D
RETURNED FROM
LOS ANGELES,
MY DEAR, AND
I WANTED
TO WELCOME
YOU BACK--



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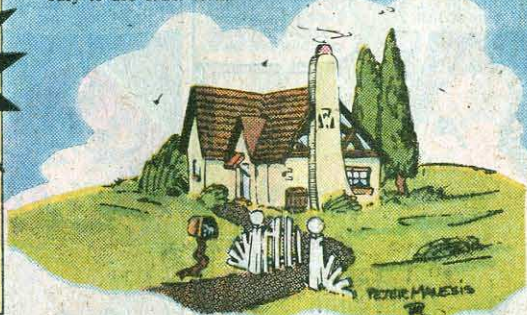
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NIGHT SETTLES OVER MANHATTAN, AS A SLEEK FIGURE BOUNDS NIMBLY FROM ROOF TO ROOF. HER NAME IS FELICIA HARDY, BETTER KNOWN AS THE BLACK CAT.

AND HERE'S IS A MISSION OF THE HEART!

I HOPE SPIDER-MAN APPRECIATES THIS! I MEAN, I KNOW WE BROKE UP AND ALL-- THAT'S WHY I WENT TO EUROPE TO THINK THINGS OUT!

BUT NOW I'M BACK, AND I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE SPIDER-MAN ANOTHER CHANCE!

LUCKY GUY!

THERE'S HIS CHELSEA STREET DIGGS NOW!

BATHROOM'S ALL STEAMY. LOOKS LIKE HE JUST FINISHED A SHOWER.

GOOD.

I LIKE MY MEN SQUEAKY-CLEAN!

SURPRISE, LOVER!

YEEEP!

HEY!

WHERE'S PETER PARKER?

B-B-BEATS ME, LADY! MY NAME'S HAL! I-I JUST MOVED IN A COUPLE WEEKS AGO!

OH.

NEVER MIND.



I KNEW I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN BROOKLYN!

SPIDER-MAN MUST HAVE MOVED BECAUSE THAT APARTMENT HOLDS TOO MANY MEMORIES! HE COULDN'T STAND LIVING THERE WITHOUT ME! AND THAT MEANS HE STILL LOVES ME!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO FIND HIM!

AND SHE WILL.

SOME OTHER DAY.

BUT THIS IS THURSDAY.

IN CLEVELAND?

WHERE PETER PARKER HAS COME TO GIVE A SHORT SPEECH FOLLOWED BY AN AUTOGRAPH SESSION.

AND WHERE HE NOW WAITS FOR A LOQUACIOUS JOURNALISM PROFESSOR TO FINISH HIS INTRODUCTION...

MAYBE I SHOULD SWALLOW A NET.

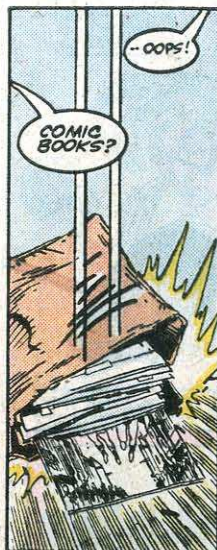
THE BUTTERFLIES IN MY STOMACH ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND!

MR. PARKER? UH, COULD YOU SIGN MY COPY OF "WEBS," SIR?

I DON'T MEAN TO BE PUSHY, BUT I HAVE TO LEAVE EARLY AND I'D HATE MISSING YOUR AUTOGRAPH.

NO PROBLEM. HERE YOU GO.

THANK--



**INTERLUDE:
CHICAGO.**

THE HIGH-RISE
OFFICE OF ONE
WILLIAM DUKANE...

MR. DUKANE WASN'T
EXPECTING YOU
TODAY, MR. CARSON.



ROLAND CARSON? I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
IN MACAO. WHAT
CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'M
AFRAID
I HAVE
TO TAKE
YOUR
PLACE
BILLY.

NOTHING
PERSONAL.

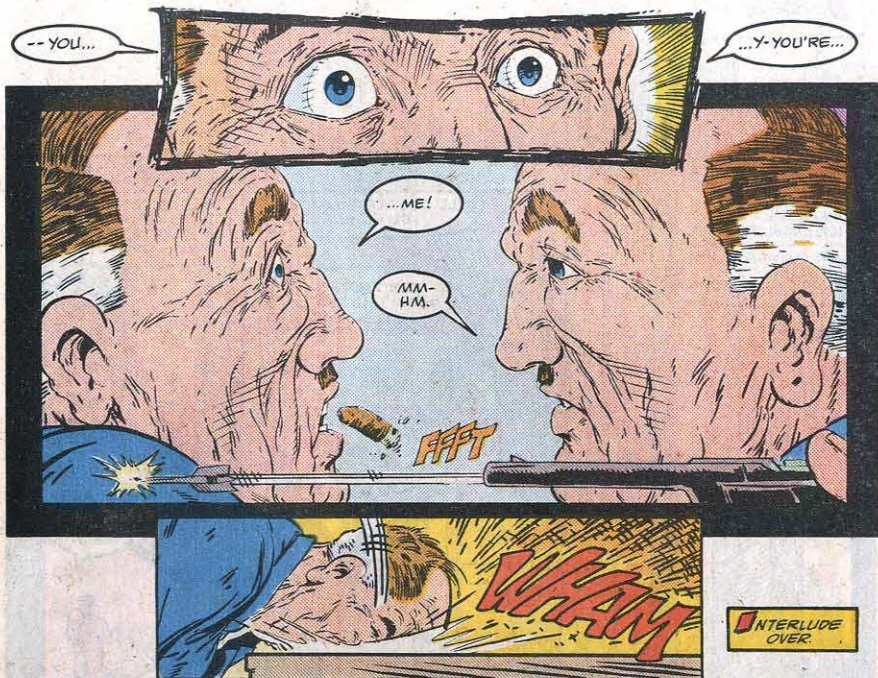
SEE HERE,
OLD BOY,
HOSTILE
TAKE-
OVERS ARE
NOTHING
TO JOKE
ABOUT!

I'M NOT JOKING.
AND THIS TAKEOVER
WON'T BE
HOSTILE.

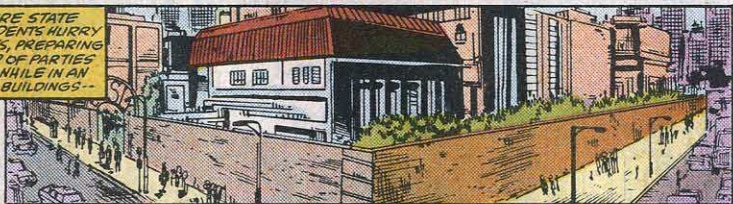
YOU'RE GOING
TO GIVE ME
YOUR COMPANY!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE UP TO,
CARSON, BUT
I'M CALLING
SECURITY
RIGHT THIS--

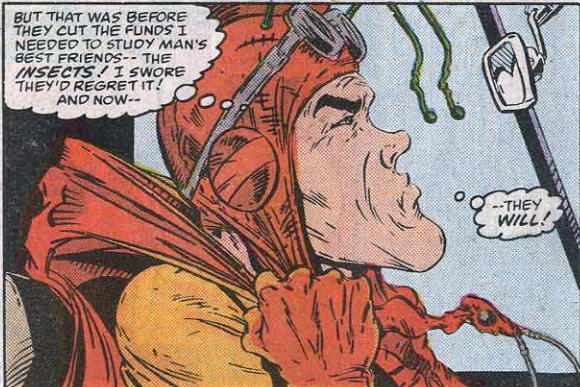
--EH?! HOW
DARE YOU--



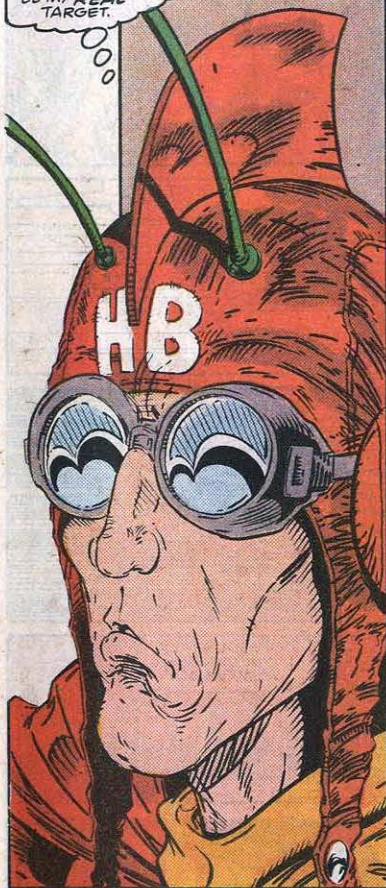
T.G.I.F. AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, STUDENTS HURRY THROUGH CLASSES, PREPARING FOR A WEEKEND OF PARTIES AND PASTIMES. WHILE IN AN ALLEY BETWEEN BUILDINGS--



--BUCK MITTY PREPARES FOR JUSTICE!



I ORIGINALLY BECAME
HUMBUG TO GAIN
ALTERNATE FINANCING
FOR MY RESEARCH, *
BUT E.S.U. SHOULD
BE MY REAL
TARGET.



*IN WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #19-- J.S.

AND
SINCE
SOME
RARE
PAINT-
INGS
ARE ON
LOAN
TO THE
ART
DEPART-
MENT--

--I'LL
JUST
STEAL
THEM,
SELL
THEM--



--AND
THE
UNIVER-
SITY WILL
FUND MY
RESEARCH
ANYWAY!

THAT SHOULD BE THE
LOCKED DOOR TO THE
ART STORAGE ROOM.

MY CHANNELING
HELMET AND CASSETTE
BANDOLIERS ARE SET!
THOSE DEADBOLTS
WON'T STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST THE AMPLIFIED
SHRIEK OF--



WHEEEEEEEEN

--THE MEADOW SPITTEBUG!





HOWEVER,
WHILE MAY
PARKER IS BEING
LEFT IN THE
TRUST OF THE
METROPOLITAN
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY,
ANOTHER
TRAVELER
HAS COME
HERE--



--TO AN ALLEY
BEHIND THE E.S.U.
PHYSICS BUILDING...

THEY'RE CURRENTLY
PERFORMING ELECTRON
EXCITATION EXPERIMENTS
IN THE SONICS LAB!



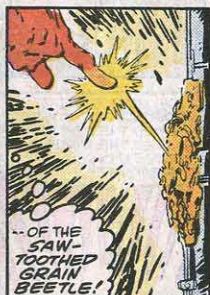
AND THAT MEANS THERE'LL
BE A FORTUNE IN SUPER-
CONDUCTIVE CERAMICS
IN THE LAB SAFE!



A
FORTUNE
THAT
WILL BE
MINE
ONCE
THE
ALARM
SYSTEM--



-- FALLS
BEFORE THE
DELICATE
TRILL--



-- OF THE
SAW-
TOOTHED
GRAIN
BEETLE!



HA! WITH
INSECTS AS
MY ALLIES--

-- NOTHING
CAN STOP
ME!

MATTER OF FACT,
NOTHING DOES.



UNTIL, IN A TOP
FLOOR LAB...

THERE'S
THE SAFE!
NOW, WITH
THE PROPER
APPLICATION
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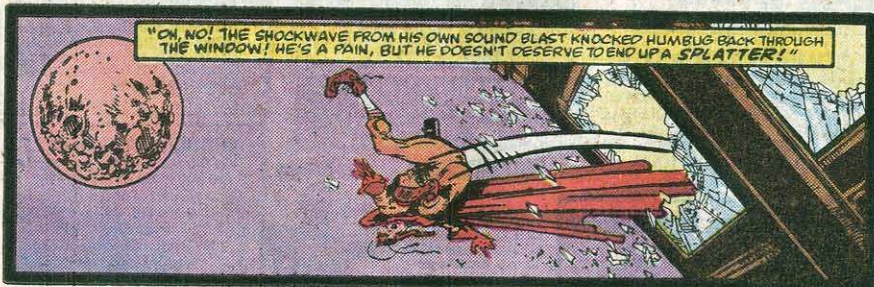
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TWP

TAKE IT
EASY! I'LL
LOWER YOU
TO THE
GROUND!

LOOK!
HERE
COMES
THE
CAVALRY!

AHA! MY MEANS OF
ESCAPE! AS SOON AS THOSE
GUARDS LEAVE THEIR
CARS--

--THE ROAR OF THE
BLOODSUCKING CONE-
NOSE WILL IGNITE THEIR GAS
TANK, PROVIDING A PERFECT
DISTRACTION!

NUTS! GOTTA LEAVE
HUMBUG! DOUSE THAT
FIRE IN THE PLAZA FOUNTAIN
BEFORE SOMEONE GETS
HURT!

TWP

SSSSS

NOW TO
FIND--

HEY, SPIDEY!
THE "RED
BARON" JUST
DUCKED INTO
THE SCIENCE
BUILDING!

THANKS!



RULING THE INDUSTRY

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Always figured we X-MEN led charmed lives — That, no matter what, we'd pull through, live forever. The joke sure was on me."

—Kitty Pryde, *Shadowcat*
EXCALIBUR #1

ITEM: We know your startled sensibilities are still reeling from last month's amazing announcement of how mighty Marvel's upper editorial echelon has recently undergone an upheaval. But wait — there's more! We've recently added three new frantic faces to our chaotic core of assistant editors, and they are: Joshing James DiGiovanni (a recent graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut who will be assisting Battling Bobbie Chase), Agonizing Andrew Perry (one of our former college interns who has been paired with Credible Craig Anderson)

and Sassy Sara Tuchinsky (who worked as an Epic intern and now serves with Grouchy Gregory Wright in our Special Projects Department.) Let's give our terrific trio a hearty welcome! After all, the assistants of today are your editors of tomorrow!

ITEM: Hyboria's astral over the June wedding of Marvel's own Jubilant Geoff Isherwood (the incredible embellisher of a certain well-known Cimmerian) and writer/artist (Red) Sonja Skarsfjeld. So raise your flagons and unleash a tumultuous toast to a match made in Valhalla!

ITEM: Let's all give a rousing welcome to the two newest additions to mighty Marvel's baby brigade! IRON MAN penciler Jackson Guice and his winsome wife Julie announced the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Diane, who arrived on February 16... and Ron Wagner (of G.I. JOE penciling fame) and his scintillating spouse Cindy happily informed us that little Nikki bounced into their lives on March 5. Congratulations to all four proud parents!



Pro file: TERRY KAVANAGH

Editor: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, EXCALIBUR, SPEEDBALL, WOLFPACK (LS), and HERO (LS)

Marvel freelance credits (past): ANIMAX and KICKERS, INC.

Marvel freelance credits (present): SOLO AVENGERS Stories.

My hobbies are: Semi-legal.

The single work of which I am most proud is: Pretty darn good.

My pet peeves are: Almost housebroken.

My place of birth is: Not yet a shine.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: A long story.

My oddest habit is: Not suitable for print.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: A nineteen-year-old.

The reason I got into comics was: Extremely interesting.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: In grammar school.

My favorite performers are: Double-jointed.

The last good book I read was: \$5.95.

The last good movie I saw was: \$4.00.

The biggest influences on my work include: My creditors.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: A great frustration to me.

The worst part of my job is: Not done yet.

When nobody's looking I like to: Try and get their attention back.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: Top-secret.

CHECKLIST

- DAREDEVIL #259
- MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE ANNUAL #4
- WEST COAST AVENGERS #37
- WOLFPACK Limited Series #3
- EXCALIBUR #1
- G.I. JOE #77
- G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #14
- WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #43
- THE UNCANNY X-MEN #255
- THE BLACK PANTHER Limited Series #4
- STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #22
- WHAT THE—? #3
- TALES OF G.I. JOE #10
- NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series #4
- CAPTAIN AMERICA #346
- SOLO AVENGERS #11
- SPEEDBALL #1
- STRANGE TALES #19
- THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #306

- THE NEW MUTANTS #68
- ALPHA FLIGHT #63
- MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #4
- THE X-MEN ANNUAL #12
- MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #67
- THE INCREDIBLE HULK #348
- MARVEL TALES #216
- THE AVENGERS #296
- THE PUNISHER #12
- THE SILVER SURFER #16
- THE UNCANNY X-MEN #236
- WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4
- MARVEL FANFARE #40
- X-TERMINATORS #1
- THE FANTASTIC FOUR #319
- IRON MAN #235
- THOR #396
- THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #307
- THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #143
- TRANSFORMERS #45

- X-FACTOR #33
- CLOAK & DAGGER #1
- THE 'NAM #23
- MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #5
- WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL #3

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- THE 'NAM MAGAZINE #3
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- CONAN THE BARBARIAN #211
- G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE #12
- CONAN SAGA #17
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INTERLUDE:
CHICAGO--A
REPRISE.

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND,
SARAH.
MR. DUKANE
HAS BEEN
ACTING SO
STRANGE
LATELY.

CANCELING HIS
APPOINTMENTS,
HAVING THESE
AFTER-HOURS
MEETINGS, AND
SOME OF THE
MEN HE'S BEEN
SEEING!

WHY, THE *SUN-
TIMES* SAYS THEY
COULD BE LINKED
TO ORGANIZED
CRIME! IT'S
ALMOST LIKE MR.
DUKANE--

"--JUST ISN'T
HIMSELF THESE
DAYS!"

A QUARTER OF A
MILLION? ON JUST
YOUR WORD?

MR. LARSON,
MONEY
MEANS
NOTHING
TO ME.

PROVIDE
THE SERVICES I
REQUIRE, AND YOU'LL
BE PAID WELL. AS FOR
MY RELIABILITY, ONLY
A FOOL--OR PERHAPS
SOMEONE WITH A
VERY SINCERE DEATH
WISH--WOULD DARE
QUESTION THE WORD
OF--

THE
CHAMELEON!

GUESS WHO SPIDEY MEETS IN CHICAGO? BE HERE IN TWO WEEKS
FOR.... "THE THIEF WHO STOLE HIMSELF!"

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SALICRUP'S SECTION



Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's another tribute to Superman! The Man of Steel has turned fifty and it seems the whole blasted world is celebrating the birthday of the granddaddy of all super heroes.

Come June 17th, none other than Stan (the Man) Lee and the Amazing Spider-Man will be among the many guests honoring Superman's creators, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, at the big Superman Exposition taking place in Cleveland, Ohio.

How many of you remember Spider's two Titanic team-ups with Superman? When J. Jonah Jameson met Perry White? When Doc Ock joined forces with Lex Luthor? When Irving Forbush shared a bowtie with Bizarro Superman? (Just kidding about that last one.) Yep, these two blue-and-red clad guys go back a few years, and it only seemed right that we acknowledge the ol' guy's birthday. Hope you liked it.

Dear Spider-People,

Let me begin by saying that I am 32 years old. With just a little amount of reasoning, you can see that I discovered comics when Spider-Man was very young. I wasn't one of the fortunate few who purchased AMAZING FANTASY #15, but I had become an official Spidey fan around issue #10. (Too bad I didn't have the good sense to save those early ones.)

So, 20+ years have gone by and issue #300 is here. Things have changed. Peter attended high school, so did I. Then he went on to college, so did I. I got married, so did Peter. I liked the way Parker aged. His aging process was a lot slower than mine, but he's not the same kid anymore.

While some things have changed, others have stayed the same. I can tell you that I felt a grateful wave of nostalgia when I turned the last page of #300 and saw the good old red-and-blue costume was back.

I guess what this whole letter is about is to say, "Thank you." Thanks to all the people who made Spider-Man while I was growing up. And though Spidey has never heard of me, to me he seems like a friend.

I guess that's what they call a "True Believer."

Philip Egoner
Merrickville, IN

You better believe it, Phillip.

Dear Jim, David, Todd, etc.,

I guess I'll start by saying that THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is the best it has been in four or five years. The art has been totally unbelievable ever since Todd came on. Now that we're finished with all the fill-in stories in all three of the Spidey-Mags, I think it is time to get back down to the regular storylines and get rid of stories like Spider-Man playing a game of football to save the world. I first want to say that you should tie up some of the strings that have been floating around the magazine for the past couple of years. There are a couple of plots left dangling that have really been bugging me. The one that is bugging me the most has to be the one from when Nathan was beat up. I don't know if it was forgotten or if you decided to just save it for a later date (come on, it's been two and a half years!). Roger Stern also started a plotline almost five years ago with the Mad Thinker. If you don't resolve these stories, I'll do something drastic.

I also want to say that I loved issue #300 and that I want to see more of this type of story. In spite of the fact that I loved the story, I have to report a major error. You gave The Daily Globe as the newspaper at which Venom had worked. The problem with this is that it is impossible. The Daily Globe folded in issue #210. But since I am such a continuity freak (not to mention the fact that I've always wanted a No-Prize, hint, hint), I've come up with an excuse. When the paper was shut down, the owners had decided to sell it and have some money to live on. It was bought and restarted as soon as possible, with an all-new staff, to again start competing with The Daily Bugle. If this doesn't get me a No-Prize, nothing will.

Please don't think that I only wrote this letter because I wanted a No-Prize, because I would have written even if there were no mistakes. Keep up the good work.

Bob Putnam
455 S. Harvard
Villa Park, IL 60181

Kinder words hath n'er a No-Prize been deserveth of more. (That means it's in the mail, Bob.)

Dear Mr. Salicrup,

I'll try and keep my comments short and as painless as possible:

Subject—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300.

Comments—Story: very, very stupid.

Art: very, very good (though, perhaps a bit too reminiscent of A.

Thank).

John.

John Robertson III
(no address given)

Who should be flattered more, Todd McFarlane or Art Adams?

Dear David, Todd and Jim,

Thank you! THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 was really as much a celebration as a comic to celebrate about. Finally Mr. Parker has married the beautiful Mary Jane (even more so when drawn by Todd), finally he's got a super-villain worthy of both parts of the word (this Venom is a real creep), and finally we get a SPIDER-MAN anniversary issue that is well worth the extra size and price.

Guys, I have been a fan of Spider-Man (and Peter and Mary Jane [especially Mary Jane]) since I was a little kid, but in the last few years, the stories have gone the way of the stories of that super-guy at the other company until a year or so ago. The writers were just going through the paces. Don't get me wrong, there have been some good stories (like "The Death of Jean DeWolff" and the Kraven six-part), but mostly, the titles had lost their kick.

Now Spider-Man is back! Not only in his old costume (face it, guys, the black was great, but you've already got one Punisher. It's just not...Spidey) but to the difference this time always had. That extra kick, the way it boldly goes where...Yeah, yeah, I'm getting carried away. But look, even if heroes have been married before, this is different. This is Peter, the perpetual teenager/high school-college student/photographer we're talking about. This guy grew with me. He married everybody's school sweetheart (I was sorry for Gwen when she died, but I always did like Mary Jane better. Did you see the last panel on page 177? I'm in love again).

And the best of all, not only are the stories back, but the art is back as well. There is no one these days that can draw as good as Todd. He is fantastic (heck, he even got me to buy THE HULK). Don't let him leave Spider-Man!

Anyway, I just wanted you to know how pleased I was with the "Venom" story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300. Thank you, guys, for bringing Spider-Man back.

Here's looking at you guys for another 25 years!

Emiliano Feliberti III
P.O. Box 4282
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919

...And beyond!

Dear Jim and Glenn,

Congratulations on a terrific 300th issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Mr. McFarlane drew a great cover to celebrate the occasion. This issue's cover is an excellent example of Todd's understanding of the body language that helps make the Spider-Man character unique. There were many examples of this understanding throughout the issue, including the final full-page illustration. I also like Todd's version of the webbing, which makes it look a bit more scientifically feasible. Jim, when I met you at the Chicago Comiccon last summer, you said you were trying to have Todd strike a balance between his extremely experimental Infinity Inc. style and the more standard style he has used on other assignments. I commend you for coming close to striking this balance but ask that you encourage Todd to be a bit more radical. C'mon, let's see some figures and objects jumping out of panels! That's what makes McFarlane McFarlane!

Let's not forget Mr. Michelinie's excellent work. I particularly enjoyed his showing us several very different sides to Mrs. Mary Jane Watson-Parker—the victim, the lovelorn, the actress/celebrity. It was nice to have a brand-new villain for this special anniversary issue and, in the greatest of Marvel traditions, David did a good job of giving him strong, fresh motivations for committing his criminal acts.

After all of the recent inventory stories in all the Spider-Man titles, it was nice to have one that, while it stood firm on its own, fit in well with other Marvel continuity, by leading directly out of the last issue and tying in not only to earlier issues of AMAZING, but also into issues of WEB and SPECTACULAR, into SECRET WARS, into SPIDER-MAN VERSUS WOLVERINE, and even into recent FANTASTIC FOUR issues by showing the Thing in his most recent mutation.

While I'm opposed to the return of the red-and-blue Spider-Man costume (it seems that Marvel is breaking its word to the readers, as back in WEB #15, we were promised, "This is it: the end of the red suit." I also personally like the black one better.), I must say that all of the events of "Venom" together justified Peter's wish to return to it.

All in all, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 was a wonderful treat for someone who's been a fan of Peter Parker ever since issue #162. What's next?

Frank Balkin
Filmm Writing Dept.
School of Cinema-TV
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089

Glad you asked, Frank...

Next issue: A decidedly different Chameleon attempts to become Chicago's greatest crime lord. But guess who happens to be there promoting a certain book?

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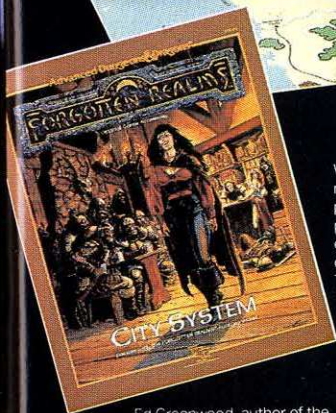
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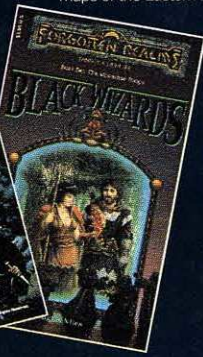
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