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# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



VERIK  
LAPSEN  
9-27-89

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# Become the ultimate warrior in the ultimate war.

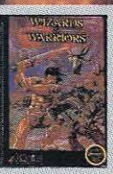
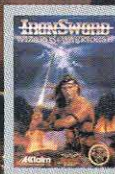
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THE WAR GOES ON.

MAKING THIS A BUSY NIGHT FOR FRANK CASTLE. THE WEAPONRY IN HIS SOPHISTICATED BATTLE VAN HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED IN EARLIER SKIRMISHES--

--FORCING HIM TO STAND ALONE ON THIS ISOLATED NEW JERSEY ROAD TO AIM A ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE AT A CAREENING PARAMEDIC AMBULANCE WITH SOLITARY DETERMINATION.

WEEEAEEEEEAEEEEEEEE

AS THE GENTS INSIDE QUICKLY NOTICE.

WHA--?! TH- THAT GUY'S POINTIN' A FREAKIN' BAZOOKA AT US!

SMOKE 'IM!

BUT THE OCCUPANTS ARE RATTLED, PANICKED.

TO SAY NOTHING OF BEING LOUSY SHOTS.

BLAM  
BLAM  
BLAM

765

THEY MISS

CHOOM

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 330, March, 1990. (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing 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 except fortnightly June, July and August. Copyright © 1990 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: \$12.00 U.S.; \$17.00 Canada; and \$24.00 foreign. 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 condition 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 MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 8TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.



Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



# THE POWDER CHASE



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HE EARN'S IT!





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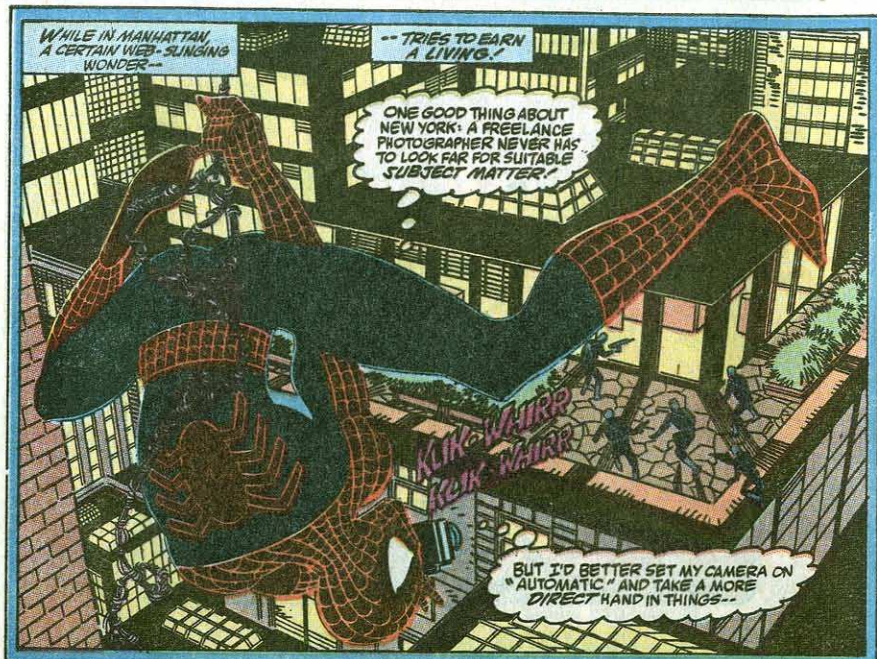
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SKLEESH



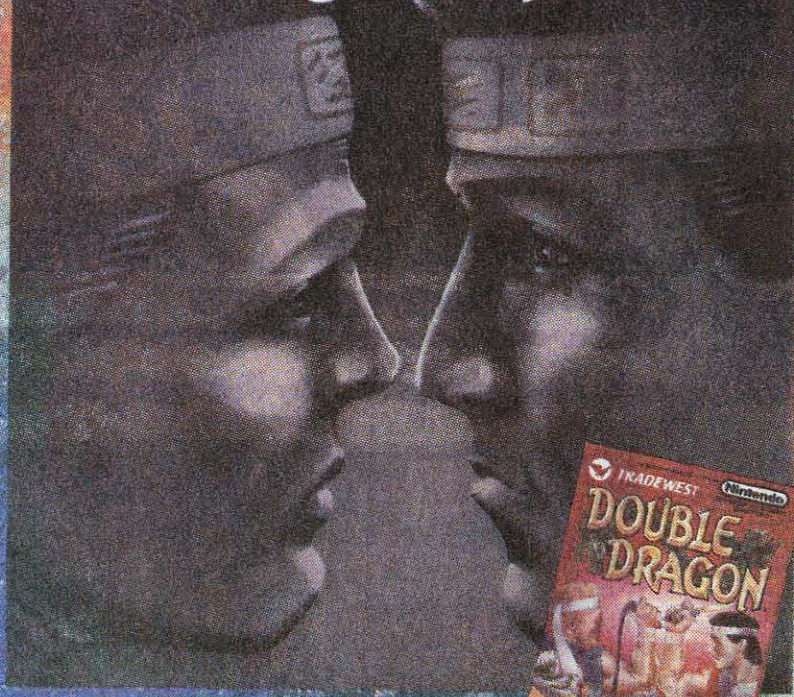
--YOU LOOK  
ALL WET  
TO ME!







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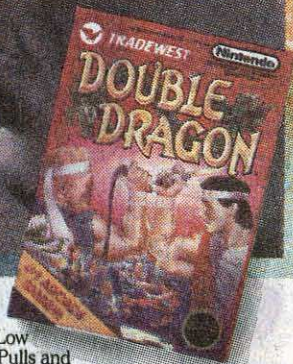
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AND SOON, AFTER A PHOTO-FULL CAMERA HAS BEEN RETRIEVED?

CRIME IS UP-- WAY UP. I ALMOST WISH I STILL HAD THE **CAPTAIN** UNIVERSE POWERS TO FIGHT IT!

BUT I'M HAVING TO MAKE DO WITH LEG-WORK AND SMARTS. I'VE USED MY **PETER PARKER** CONTACTS AT THE DAILY BUGLE, AND UNDERWORLD SOURCES AS SPIDER-MAN--

THINGS ARE GETTING KINDA **TENSE** AROUND HERE. REPORTS HAVE IT THAT MORE DRUGS THAN EVER ARE BEING SHIPPED OUT OF COLOMBIA, BUT NONE OF IT IS HITTING THE **STREETS!**

JUNKIES AND DEALERS ARE GETTING SO DESPERATE, THEY'RE EVEN RAIDING **EACH OTHER!** LIKE IN THAT PENTHOUSE ATTACK!

-- BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH MUCH. JUST LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT DRUG RAID TONIGHT.

THE ONLY REAL LEAD I'VE GOT IS SOMETHING ABOUT A SHIP BRINGING SPECIAL "PRODUCE" INTO BROOKLYN TOMORROW. AND IF THAT DOESN'T PAN OUT--

--IT'S GOING TO GET MIGHTY **LOVELY** ON THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER!



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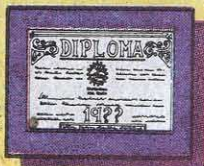
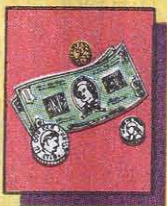
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SPEAKING OF  
LOVELY...



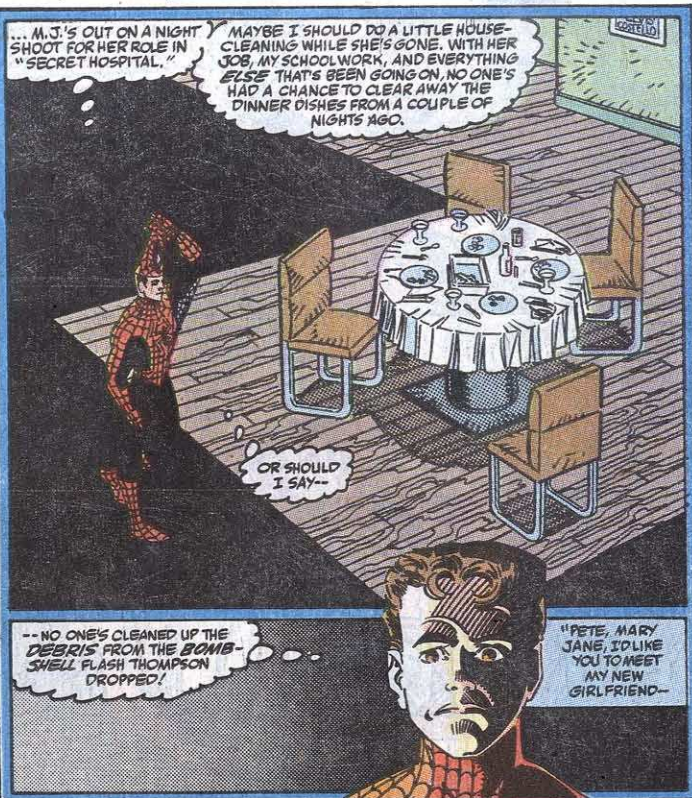
HI, HONEY!  
I'M HOME!

MARY  
JANE?

OH, YEAH, I  
FORGOT...

... M.J.'S OUT ON A NIGHT  
SHOOT FOR HER ROLE IN  
"SECRET HOSPITAL."

MAYBE I SHOULD DO A LITTLE HOUSE-  
CLEANING WHILE SHE'S GONE. WITH HER  
JOB, MY SCHOOL WORK, AND EVERYTHING  
ELSE THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, NO ONE'S  
HAD A CHANCE TO CLEAR AWAY THE  
DINNER DISHES FROM A COUPLE OF  
NIGHTS AGO.



OR SHOULD  
I SAY--

-- NO ONE'S CLEANED UP THE  
DEBRIS FROM THE BOMB-  
SHELL FLASH THOMPSON  
DROPPED!

"PETE, MARY  
JANE, ID LIKE  
YOU TO MEET  
MY NEW  
GIRLFRIEND--



"-- FELICIA HARDY! "

HEY, PAL--

HUH? WHAT THE  
BLOODY BLUE BLAZES  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE!



-- EASE UP! WHAT'S  
YOUR PROBLEM?

MY  
PROBLEM?!

HOW CAN  
I TELL HIM--





-- THAT FELICIA IS REALLY THE **BLACK CAT**! THAT SHE WAS ONCE OBSESSIVELY IN LOVE WITH **SPIDER-MAN**!

SHE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT I WAS MARRIED, AND IS TRYING TO GET BACK AT ME BY MESSING WITH MY BEST FRIEND!

WE'VE, UM, MET MS. HARDY BEFORE, FLASH.

PETER WAS JUST, AH, SURPRISED TO SEE HER AGAIN.



WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DINNER?

PLAY ALONG, PETER--FOR FLASH'S SAKE! WE'LL FIGURE THINGS OUT LATER!



THIS SUSHI IS DELIGHTFUL, MARY JANE. I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE VERY BEST DISHES...

... ARE SERVED COLD.



TALK ABOUT HASSLES WE DON'T NEED!

MJ AND I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TALK IT OVER YET, BUT I'VE A FEELING THINGS ARE GOING TO GET A LOT WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER!



AH-AH, PETER. NO FAIR  
READING AHEAD!

**BREET  
BREET  
BREET**

THE VAULT:  
COLORADO'S PRISON FOR  
SPECIAL INMATES.

I-IT'S EDDIE BROCK!  
HE TIED HIS VAULT  
UNIFORM TO THE  
SECURITY CAMERA  
IN HIS CELL--

--A-AND HUNG  
HIMSELF!

BROCK JOINED WITH AN ALIEN  
SYMBIOTE TO FORM VENOM,  
ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S DEAD-  
LIEST FOES! THEY ACTUALLY  
MELDED TOGETHER!

SO HOW COULD  
BROCK BE ALONE--  
AND NAKED?!

THIS UNIFORM'S JUST  
CLOTH! SENSORS CON-  
FIRM IT!

MY  
ARMOR'S  
SENSORS  
DETECT NO  
LIFE SIGNS!  
SHUT OFF  
THE SONIC  
BARRIER  
GUARDING  
THE DOOR!

AND MY FINGERS  
CONFIRM YOUR  
SCANS: NO PULSE!

EDDIE  
BROCK  
IS DEAD!

B-BUT  
THEN--

-- WHATEVER  
HAPPENED TO THE  
ALIEN?!

A GOOD  
QUESTION...



...FOR ANOTHER TIME.

BUT NOW, PEACE REIGNS OUTSIDE A NEW JERSEY WAREHOUSE

WHILE INSIDE...

CHAKA  
CHAKA  
CHAKA  
CHAKA

CALICO M-950,  
SEMI-AUTOMATIC  
9mm NATO, 100-  
ROUND HELICAL  
MAGAZINE.

THE ANTI-  
GUNNERS ARE  
GONNA LOVE  
THIS!

YOU ALWAYS FIND  
THE PERFECT TOOLS  
FOR MY WAR ON CRIME,  
MICROCHIP.

THANKS.

MY PLEASURE, FRANK.  
I JUST WISH IT WAS AS  
EASY TO FIND INFO ON  
WHERE ALL THESE DRUGS  
ARE BEING DIVERTED!

THAT POWDER YOU  
BROUGHT IN LAST NIGHT  
WAS DEFINITELY COLOMBIAN,  
BEING SHUTTLED UP FROM  
PHILLY. BUT I DON'T  
KNOW WHY.

ON TOP OF THAT, I'VE BEEN  
TRACING THE ROUTE OF A  
PRODGE SHIP DOCKING IN BROOKLYN  
TONIGHT. ONE THAT STARTED OUT  
UNDER ANOTHER NAME, AND  
REGISTRATION, AT NONE OTHER  
THAN PUERTO COLOMBIA!

BUT EVEN WITH ALL MY SKILLS,  
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND  
WHO'S BEHIND IT ALL. THERE  
ARE SOME INCREDIBLY POWERFUL  
FORCES AT WORK HERE, FRANK.  
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT  
THEY WERE!

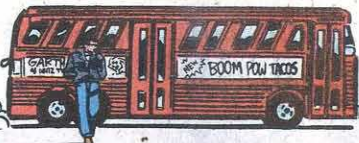
DON'T WORRY, MICRO.  
WE'LL KNOW.

TONIGHT.



BUT BEFORE TONIGHT THERE'S THIS AFTERNOON -- AND A SHORT BUS RIDE TO FOREST HILLS...

I DIDN'T TELL AUNT MAY I'D BE DROPPING BY, I WANTED IT TO BE A--



-- SURPRISE? --

AMBULANCE! IN FRONT OF AUNT MAY'S HOUSE!

AND SOMEONE ON A STRETCHER!



AUNT MAY!

AUNT MAY!

PETER?

O-OVER HERE, DEAR.



AUNT MAY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, PETER, I-I'M FINE. IT... :SNIFF:...

...IT'S NATHAN!



HE HAD ANOTHER OF HIS SPELLS. HE SHOULD BE FINE, BUT THE BURTONS NEXT DOOR ARE TAKING ME TO THE HOSPITAL TO BE WITH HIM A WHILE. I'M SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR VISIT...

NATHAN LUBINSKY'S A GROUCH, BUT MAY LOVES HIM. HIS TERMINAL HEART CONDITION IS REALLY ROUGH ON HER.

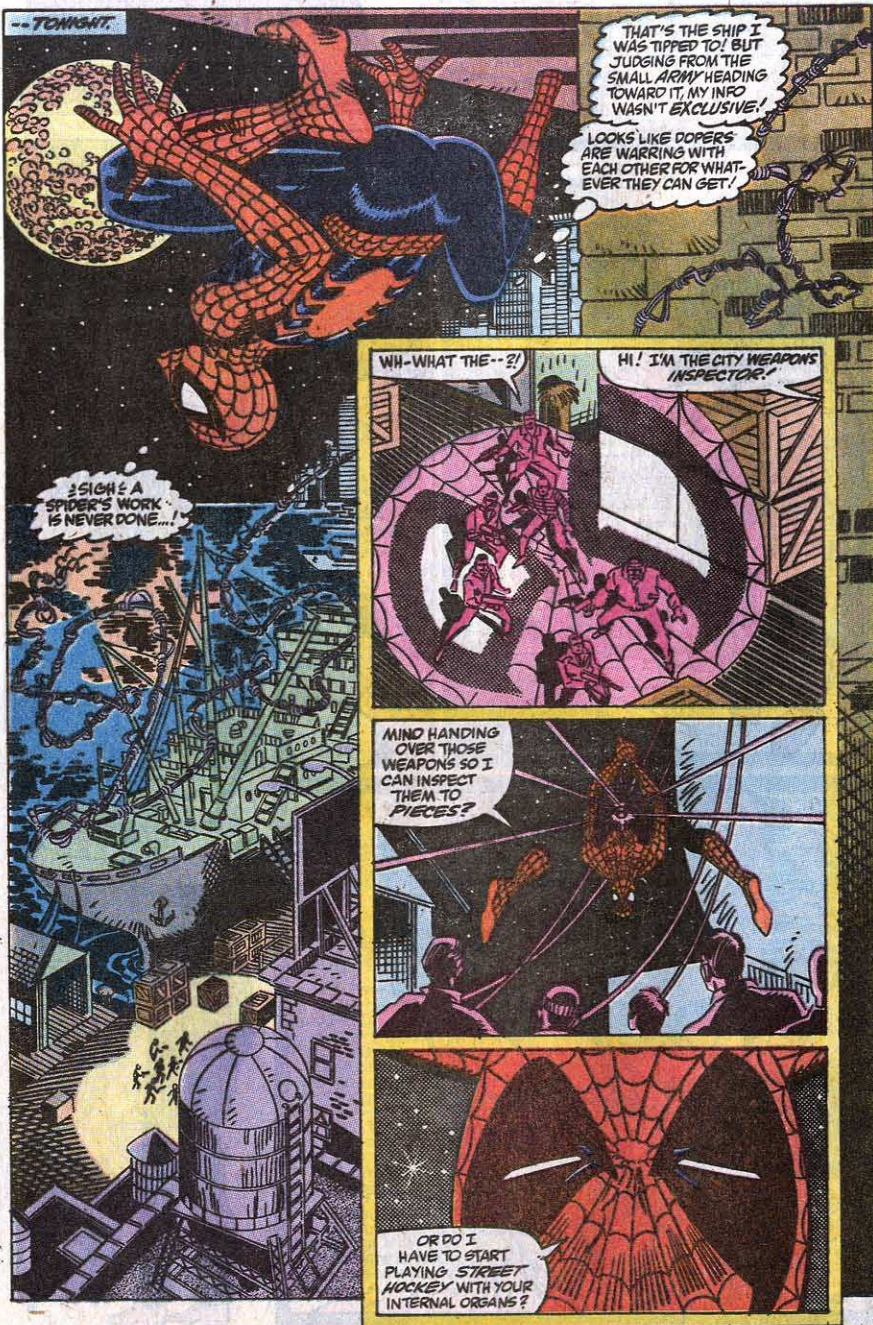


THAT'S OKAY, AUNT MAY. I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW, AND WE CAN GO SEE NATHAN TOGETHER.

BUT BEFORE TOMORROW THERE'S (YEP YOU GUESSED IT)--



-- TONIGHT.



THAT'S THE SHIP I WAS TIPPED TO! BUT JUDGING FROM THE SMALL ARMY HEADING TOWARD IT, MY INFO WASN'T EXCLUSIVE!

LOOKS LIKE DOPERS ARE WARRING WITH EACH OTHER FOR WHAT-EVER THEY CAN GET.

SIGH: A SPIDER'S WORK IS NEVER DONE...

WH-WHAT THE--?!

HI! I'M THE CITY WEAPONS INSPECTOR!

MIND HANDING OVER THOSE WEAPONS SO I CAN INSPECT THEM TO PIECES?

OR DO I HAVE TO START PLAYING STREET HOCKEY WITH YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS?







I DON'T WANT TO! I'M HERE FOR THE SAME REASON!

THEN THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS.

WITH YOUR ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER? COUNT ON IT! BUT, LOOK--

-- I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CONSIDER LEAVING THE GUNS BEHIND?

REALLY, SPIDER-MAN...



...THIS IS NO TIME FOR LEVITY!

NUTS.



THE WAY THIS GUY BURNS AMMO--

AS LONG AS YOU STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

-- HE MUST HAVE STOCK IN THE COMPANY!

TH BOOM  
TH BOOM

BOORRRP  
BOORRRP



# GREAT EASTERN CONVENTIONS

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- 3 LONG ISLAND, N.Y. -**  
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- 4 SAN FRANCISCO, CA. -**  
SHERATON S.F. AIRPORT - Broadway, Exit off Route 101 North
- 4 WORCESTER, MASS. -**  
SHERATON WORCESTER HOTEL, 500 Lincoln St., Rte. I-290 at Exit 20
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HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, 2 Albany Street
- 10 ALBANY, N.Y. -**  
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- 11 WAYNE, N.J. -**  
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- 17 PARAMUS, N.J. -**  
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- 18 N.Y., N.Y. -**  
ROOSEVELT HOTEL, 46th St. and Madison Ave.
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- 24 & LOS ANGELES, CA. -**  
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- 25 SPRINGFIELD, N.J. -**  
SPRINGFIELD HOLIDAY INN, 304 Rte. 22 West, 4 m. West of G.S. Pkwy.
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"COURSE, CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THE "WELCOMING COMMITTEE" THAT JUST POPPED UP--

--A GENEROUS AMMUNITION ALLOWANCE COULD BE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE!



I JUST WISH HE DIDN'T SEEM TO ENJOY HIMSELF SO MUCH!



YO! PUNISHER! THINGS ARE GETTING A LITTLE HOT AROUND HERE!

GOT ANY SUGGESTIONS?



WELL, IF THEY'RE CARRYING CONTRABAND, IT'S PROBABLY STOWED *BELOW*! SO HOW'S ABOUT WE SEE IF THINGS ARE A BIT COOLER--



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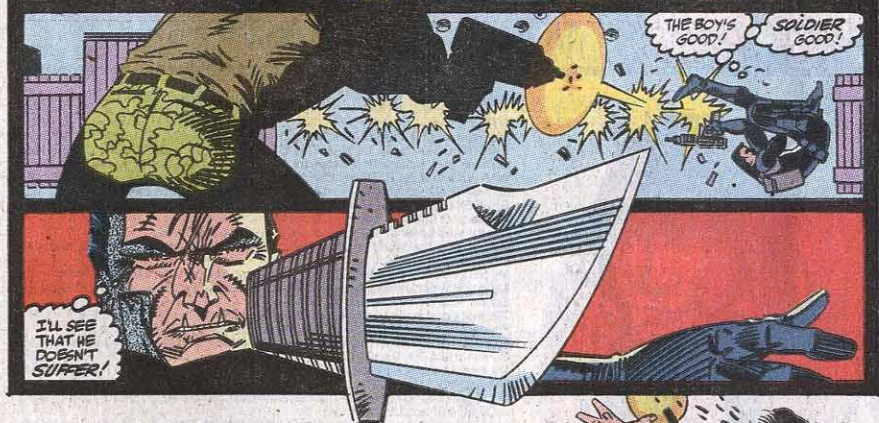
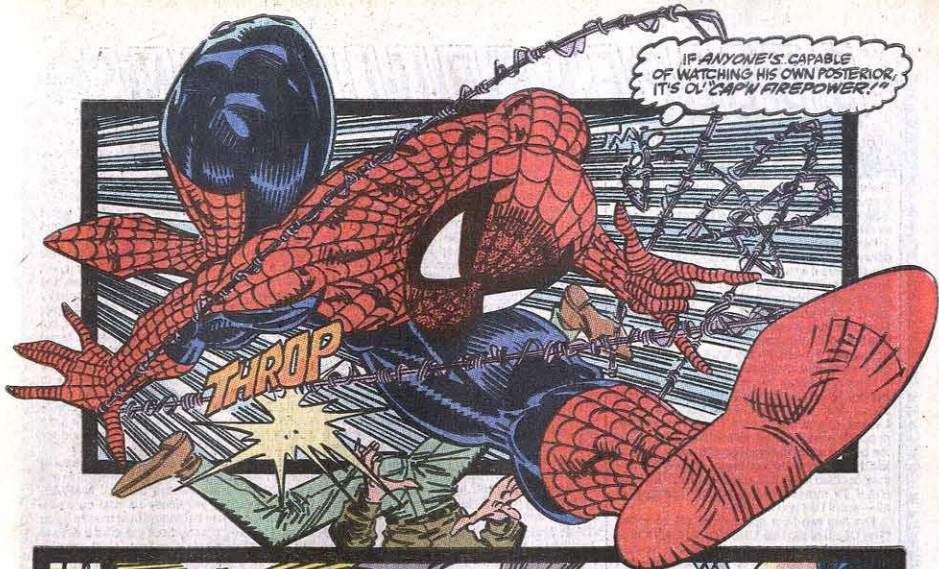
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# BULPEN BULLETINS

## STAN'S SOAPBOX

The way I see it, what's the point of having me at your beck and call with these senses-staggering Soapboxes if they don't give you some top-priority news before the rest of the world gets it? Well, I finally learned something that might be considered a scoop, so this is as good a time as any to share it with you. But remember, it's secret information, very hush-hush, and extremely privileged, so don't go blabbin' it all over town. If any DC converts happen to be reading this over your shoulder, crumple it up and swallow it before the poor, misguided souls can realize what's happening. I mean, it's the least you can do for the Bulpen that loves ya!

Okay now, here's the skinny. I happened to be wandering around the hall at New World Television, just as usual, when Merry Michael Levine, one of my favorite TV vice-presidents, popped up and yanked me into his office, telling me he had some exciting news. It seems he had just heard from the top brass at NBC-TV that they decided to air two additional INCREDIBLE HULK TV movies! And here's the best part of all—wait! I tell you the titles!

The first two-hour spectacular will be called "The Death of the Hulk!" How about that?!! Now, you're probably wondering what the second show can be after we've killed our rollickin' rampager in the first one! Well, there's really only one possibility, isn't there? I mean, what else could it be but—"The Rebirth of the Hulk"??? Those may not end up being the exact titles, but they'll give you the idea!

And there you have it, the advance announcement of the year! Think how you'll impress your friends and confound your foes with this priceless bit of tantalizing trivia! But don't embarrass me with your lavish expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Just be with us again next ish, 'cause it's lonely out here without you!

Excelsior!

*Stan*

**ITEM:** Next month we'll be changing two things on every Marvel Comics cover. One thing will be immediately obvious, so we won't even bother to mention it. The other isn't as obvious, so we'll let you in on it right now. For some crazy reason comic book covers have always been dated months in advance. The issue of THE UNCANNY X-MEN published in June would be dated October, for example. Starting next year, as we enter the nineties, we'll only be dating our covers one measly month in advance. So if you're the type of person who pays attention to this sort of minutiae (And what self-respecting Marvel Zombie isn't?), this explains why we've been dating issues MID-DEC or MID-NOV, it was our sneaking way of catching up with reality!

**ITEM:** Ceiling all Peter David fans! If your monthly dose of Peter's prose in THE INCREDIBLE HULK has been leaving you panting for more, you'll be glad to know that Ace Books has recently published *Howling Mad* by the self-same Mr. David. It's a werewolf story with a twist, instead of a man turning into a wolf, it's about a wolf turning into a man! Talk about high concept! We haven't read the book yet, but we're hoping when Peter sees this nifty plug he'll pass out free copies to all his Bulpen buddies.

**ITEM:** Speaking of books, our very own Sid Jacobson, editor of our Star line of comics, just had his second novel published by St. Martin's. It's called *Another Time and Publisher's Weekly* called it, "an absorbing tale of thwarted desire and driving ambition played out within the social turmoil of Depression-era America. Chronicling the rise of Will Jaffe, a young congressman from New York, the story moves across the country, unfolding a dramatic turn of events that parallels the upheaval of the times. The novel's panoramic sweep encompasses the politics of Washington, the glamour of Hollywood, the tragedy of the dust bowl, and the struggles of organized labor. Set against the historic backdrop of the New Deal, and peopled with such real-life figures as Franklin D. Roosevelt and Louis Howe, the plot moves quickly, as the main characters are hounded by destructive passions."

And if you want to find out exactly what kind of destructive passions, you'll have to buy Sid's book at your favorite bookstore. So who says comic book editors can't write serious novels?

**ITEM:** Speaking of books, mystery writer Robert Crais recently dropped by the Bulpen to have a top-secret chat with Spider-Man editor Jim Salicrup and John Romita. We can tell that his latest *Elvis Cole* novel has just been published in hardcover, and that Stan Lee had this to say about the last one: "The *Monkey's Raincoat* is terrific! Not only is it a dynamite plot with more twists and turns than a corkscrew, but the characters are absolutely sensational. I read every page with a smile on my face. Never was I more sorry to see a story end. The *Monkey's Raincoat* is sheer delight from beginning to end." And that's why we call him Smilin' Stan! We'll give you one more clue about Crais's secret mission—in the new book, *Elvis Cranks* from a Spider-Man coffee mug. 'Nuff said for now.

**ITEM:** Speaking of unabashed plugs, we must mention that after 85 issues as a direct-only title (available only at selected outlets), MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE will finally be sold on newsstands everywhere beginning next month! If you haven't already checked out the official Marvel fan magazine, now's the time. Next month's issue will be previewing many of the big new projects coming your way in 1990 from Marvel, so it's an issue you won't want to miss. You'll find out about our New Series Premiere Contest, not to mention the new series themselves, plus you'll be treated to columns by Stan Lee and Mark Gruenwald, a monthly Marvel calendar, a couple of pages of Fred Hembeck craziness, the New Talent Department, and much, much more! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, it won't be the COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE Fan Award for favorite publication about comics, and now you don't have an excuse for missing a single issue!

**ITEM:** Have a happy holiday season and a Marvelous New Year! It won't be any fun without you, so stick around!

## PRO FILES

## MARIE JAVINS



**Assistant Editor on:** AKIRA, ALIEN LEGION, HAVOK AND WOLVERINE, ELSEWHERE PRINCE, STAR WARS, Moebius's BLUEBERRY Graphic Novels, ELEKTRA: ACT OF LOVE

**Marvel freelance credits (past):** Tons o' letters pages for SILVER SURFER, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, ALIEN LEGION; pasting little balloons above characters' heads for the SHADOWLINE SAGA; typing PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL SCRIPTS for Carl Potts.

**Marvel freelance credits (present):** A 6-part Firestar series for MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS and still more letters pages.

**My place of birth is:** Alexandria, Virginia

**People who knew me in high school thought I was:** Carrie

**My hobbies are:** Working on my partially finished video and radio projects, swearing off boys, and buying records

**My pet peeves are:** Antioch College, geocentric New Yorkers, Steve Buccellato

**My favorite performers are:** Daniel Johnston, Glass Eye, Shonen Knife, Moe Tucker, Scrawf, X, and Red Sovine

**The last good book I read was:** *Women, Race, and Class* by Angela Davis

**The last good movie I saw was:** *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*. If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sandra Bernhard and Billy Mumy

**My oddest habit is:** Playing lead straw in an all-utensil band with my pals Wendy Howard, Marie Arnold, Thanos Fatouros, and Eugene White.

**My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is:** Quitting my part-time job as Jane, the Party Line Monitor.

**The reason I got into comics was:** I wanted to get Archie Goodwin to sing Happy Birthday to me via a fish head.

**The biggest influences on my work include:** Abigail Adams and Madonna

**The single work of which I am most proud is:** My unfinished video of a day at Marvel starring Assistant Editor David Wohl.

**My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is:** To get every artist in comics to draw a cow for my wall of bovines.

**The worst part of my job is:** It doesn't pay me enough to open Manhattan's only rock 'n' roll-laundromat-ban-bowling alley.

**When nobody's looking I like to:** Mess with Texas.

**The one thing I really want the world to know about me is:** I hope this isn't my 15 minutes...





EVERYONE'S SNOOZING!

GUESS I'M FINISHED HERE!  
NOW--

--WHERE'D THE PUNISHER GET TO?

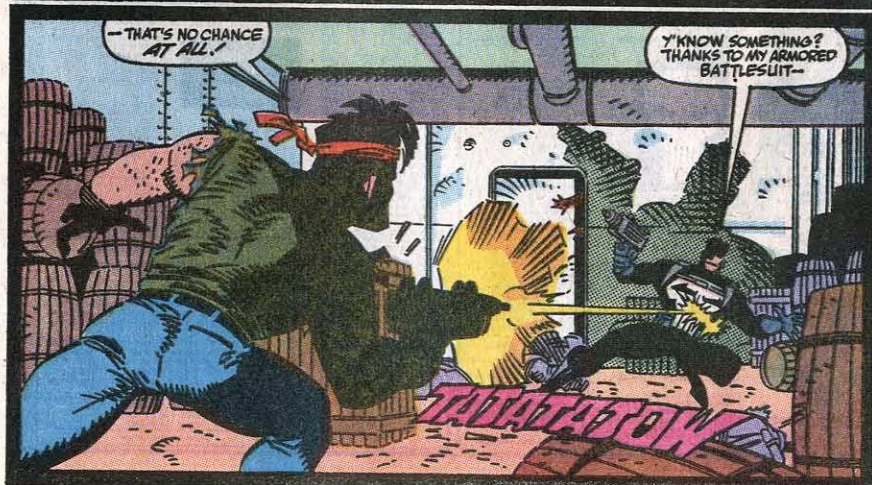
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NASTY.

BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE.

MORE THAN YOU'D GIVE THE KIDS WHO WOULD'VE PUT THIS STUFF IN THEIR VEINS! YOU CAN GIVE UP.. OR TAKE ME OUT!

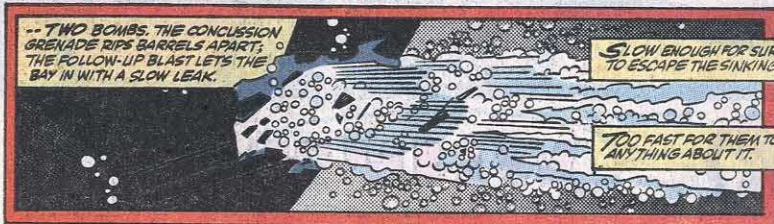
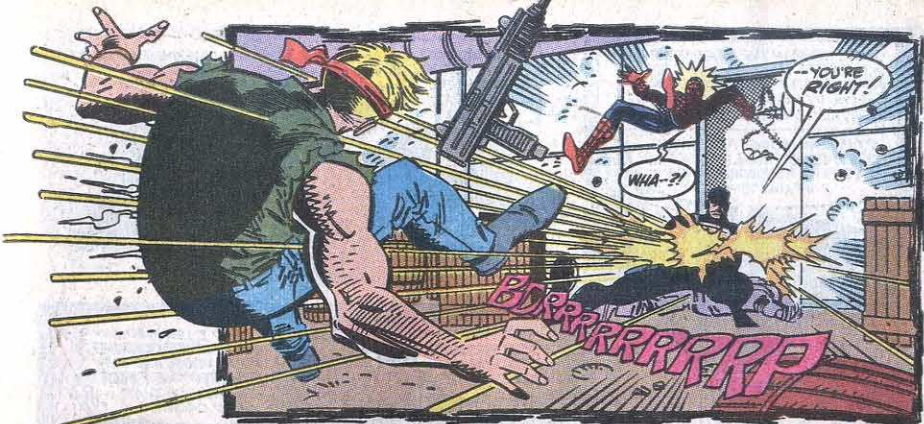
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AND LATER, IN THE REFUGE OF THE PUNISHER'S BATTLE VAN, AFTER SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT HAS TRANSMITTED PERTINENT DATA TO A CERTAIN WAREHOUSE IN NEW JERSEY...

MY FRIEND IS GOOD AT WHAT HE DOES, SPIDER-MAN. IF THOSE I.D. CODES CAN BE BROKEN, HE'S THE MAN TO--

I BROKE INTO A STRING OF COMPUTERS, FOLLOWING THE TRAIL FROM THAT PLASTIC CARD.

THE SYSTEMS BECAME MORE HIGHLY SECURED THE FARTHER I WENT.

TOO SECURED, EVEN FOR A DRUG CARTEL!

AND I LEARNED WHY WHEN I CRACKED THE FINAL CODE, AND DISCOVERED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THAT CARD CARRIER.

YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THE MILITARY ANGLE. BUT HERE'S THE KICKER: THE MAN WAS ASSIGNED TO A SPECIAL COVERT CELL --

--OF THE U.S. ARMY!

PUNISHER? I THINK YOU MAY HAVE STEPPED IN SOMETHING YOU HADN'T COUNTED ON!

I DON'T GET IT!

SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH SPIDER-MAN.

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NEXT ISSUE:

WHY?!





# THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

JIM SALICRUP  
ARACHNERD  
DAN CUDDY  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Web-spinners,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #320-321

When I first heard about the Assassination Nation Plot, my immediate reaction was "Oh great another story to keep me in suspense for a whole month until the next part comes out." Well I'm happy to say I was very much mistaken. Besides the fact that this comic is bi-weekly, each book is a story all by itself. Kudos on MacFarlane's art.

Well, until Katzenberg turns in his camera, Make Mine Marvel!!

Erik Erickson  
Rt. 1, Box 75  
Grand Marais, MN 55604

That's exactly what we tried to do with the "Assassination Nation Plot," Erik—we wanted each issue to fulfill you as a self-contained story, while individually comprising an exciting chapter in a greater storyline. Glad you liked it.

Gentlemen,

After 20 years of collecting, I think I've finally qualified for a hard-to-find No-Prize!

In issue #321 you show Silver Sable shooting one of those nefarious bad guys in the left arm (page 22). Yet that very same gentleman is holding his right arm five pages later. Now, I've heard of a bullet passing clean through, but that's ridiculous!

I know that part of receiving a No-Prize is being able to explain an apparent mistake. The only thing I could think of is that Silver Sable had to shoot the gentleman again while he was trying to escape. We just weren't privy to that scene since we were watching the rest of the action that was happening at the same time.

As always, Make Mine Marvel!

Joseph A. Dombi  
La Grange, IL 60525

Actually, Joseph, the guy was dyslexic. But we'll send you a No-Prize anyway.

Guys,

I've been reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN for as long as I've been able to read, but I've refrained from commenting until now. What I really want to comment on is the writing.

Spider-Man has always had a bizarre sense of humor (something I've always appreciated) but somehow, David Michelinie makes Spider and Peter funnier. For instance, in ish #321, Peter comments on the loft apartment "Hey, there's a skylight in the bathroom! Fabulous!" to which Harry replies, "Peter, you're weird." This scene had me rolling.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has a true sense of the outré, but what is appealing is that Spider-Man recognizes how strange the situations he finds himself in are, and makes appropriately strange comments.

I don't see this kind of humor in most other comics. It seems that artists and writers believe that they have to make a book silly to make it funny, to wit, Chris Claremont's handling of EXCALIBUR, or John Byrne's handling of SHE-HULK.

The books are funny, but at the same time, they're silly in an unappealing way.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been very well done in the past, and I have enjoyed it very much. Yet, now the book appeals to me more and I don't like it when I was younger, and at the same time, I feel that younger people love the comic every bit as much as I do. It's good to know that kids today can grow up with a Spider-Man who's as good if not better than he was when I was growing up.

Keep up the good work, gentlemen.

Eric Rice  
1930 E. 27th #22  
Oakland, CA 94606

Isn't that the true magic behind Spidey? In an age of "Dark and Gritty" and of "Silly and Absurd," the wondrous wall-crawler seems to find his niche comfortably between the two extremes.

Dear Spider-Men,

How's life? I'm writing to you about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #321 and #322. I'm going to try my hand at getting two No-Prizes in

one letter. In AMAZING #321, page 6, panel 3, Spidey says, "D train will get me to Queens pretty fast." Living in Queens, New York, I have to know where each subway line goes to and the "D" train does not go in to Queens. It goes from the Bronx then into Manhattan, and then ends in Brooklyn. But do not despair! I have just the explanation! Since Spidey usually gets around by swinging on webs, he's probably not familiar with the subway system and I doubt he can carry a subway map around. Well? Is it good enough?

The other mistake (ahem!) I found was in AMAZING #322, page 27, panel 3 and 4. The ULTIMATUM soldier had SIX fingers! My explanation for this mistake was that a certain Ultimatum was mutant born with six fingers! Well? Good? Not good? Hmmm...

Well, anyway they were both worth a try. MacFarlane is getting a little better. My only complaint about his art is that he draws people's faces like they were made of putty and that Spidey looks a little stiff.

Well I guess I better go... oh! I almost forgot! Hi Marco! Hi Andres! Hi (couldn't you see this coming?) Mom!

Michael Yong  
141-11 59th Ave.  
Flushing, NY 11355

Okay, okay, you get two No-Prizes. Sheesh, talk about greedy!

Dear Web-heads,

I love Spider-Man. I have been an avid reader for a long time, but I have a problem with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #322. On page 9, when Spidey and Silver Sable were talking to the Prime Minister of Symkaria and he was telling about a new lead on the assassination plot, why didn't Spidey know he was lying? His spider-sense should have gone off, not because the guy was lying, but because he represents a danger to the king and an indirect danger to Spidey. If his spider-sense had gone off, Spidey would have known the Prime Minister was lying about the lead. Explain this if you can. Ha! Ha! Ha! I got you I think.

Jim Ellison  
5056 Aster Lane  
Yorba Linda, CA 92686

Don't confuse the web-head with ol' hornhead in the red costume who can determine a lie by listening to the culprit's heartbeat. Spidey's spider-sense is a tricky thing which even he doesn't fully understand. Although it has reacted to potential danger in the past, it usually only warns him about immediate danger affecting him personally. Spidey was never in any real harm from the PRIME MINISTER at that point.

Dear Jim and Glenn,

After reading Stan Lee's letter in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #322 I am an angry, disillusioned, and confused young man. I, like many comic readers, have a certain kind of respect, even awe for the great creative minds in modern comic books. Thus I have always imagined Stan Lee as the head of a great pantheon of Marvel deities, with Tom DeFalco as his Mighty Son, Mark Gruenwald as the Mighty Tom's evil half-brother, and the other writers and artists filling out the rolls. (Most editors, incidentally, I envision as gigantic evil trolls living in the icy cold offices of Snifflesheim.)

But in his letter Stan the Man himself says he doesn't read Spider-Man! This is like saying Ray Kroc never ate at McDonald's, like saying Sam Walton doesn't like shopping at Wal-Mart. This is like saying Mary Jane Watson hates spiders!

I point to the fact that no street address was given as incontrovertible proof that the letter was forged by a disgruntled former Marvel Comics employee in an attempt to sabotage the reputation of Marvel's Peerless Publisher. Shame on you for not seeing through so simple a ploy.

Herman "Hermit" Wilson  
8208 Briarwood Ln.  
Austin, TX 78758

Sorry, Herm, but if you're a regular reader of Stan's Soapbox in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, then you already know that Stan would love to read every issue Marvel puts out, but he just doesn't have the time. It's also ironic that Spidey's creator has never been ashamed to ask our esteemed Arachnerd for his input on the daily Spider-Man comic strip.



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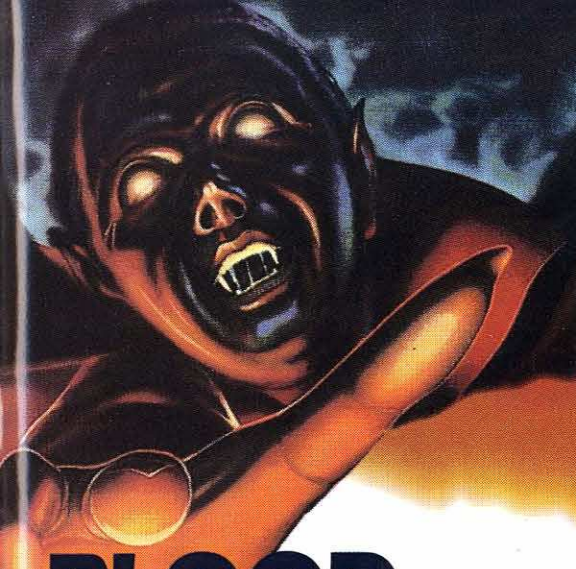
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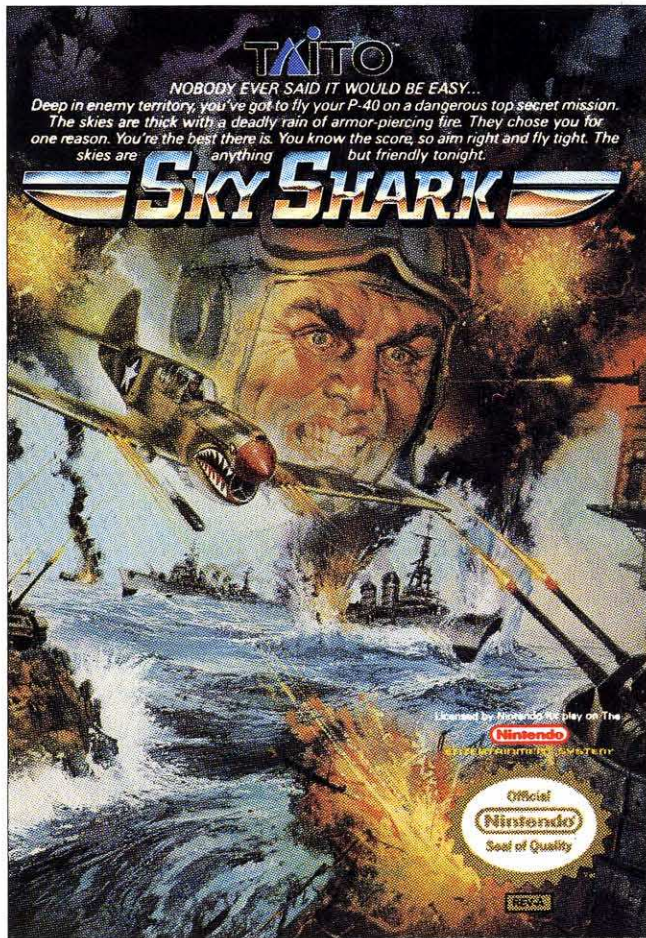
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