



GIANT SIZED **30TH** ANNIVERSARY OF
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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**SPIDEY vs. VENOM:
THE FINAL
CONFRONTATION!**



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Stan Lee Presents:

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

ISSUE
375

Thirty years and six months ago, a hero called Spider-Man burst upon an unsuspecting world in the fifteenth and final issue of AMAZING FANTASY magazine. But although A.F. was not to see the light of day again, the web-swinging adventurer touched a chord among readers of the mag. They demanded he return—and return he did. In his own magazine.

Thirty years and no months ago, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 appeared on the stands and history was once again made—by the same character. To help him in his solo mag debut, he had the help of the *Fantastic Four* and the hatred of the *Chameleon* and the family *Jameson*.

As the years have gone on, Spider-Man has become one of the most popular and recognizable fictional figures in or out of comics, with one of the greatest casts of friends and enemies. To celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of his eponymous, ongoing adventures, we proudly present the following tales. The first of these pits him, in an epic-length confrontation, against his most formidable foe of today. The others pay homage to some great moments in Spidey history...and foreshadow tumultuous events of the future.

The past is prologue. Enjoy.



"The Bride of Venom"

by David Michelinie, Mark Bagley, and Randy Emberlin pg. 2

"True Friends"

By Tom DeFalco, Pat Olliffe and Mark McKenna pg. 38

"The Monster Within"

by Eric Fein and Dan Panosian pg. 45

"Echoes"

by Terry Kavanagh, Aaron Lopresti, and Don Hudson pg. 53

The Spider's Web,

by our amazing readers pg. 61

Mike Lackey
assistant editor

Danny Fingeroth
editor

Tom DeFalco
editor in chief

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BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**

BROOKLYN: THE "THRILL WORLD" AMUSEMENT PARK, CLOSED FOR THE SEASON. A COLD WIND SNAPS BANNERS AND SENDS DEBRIS SKITTERING -- HINTS OF A TEMPEST DRAWING NEAR.

WHILE IN A STORAGE BUNKER BELOW THE DESERTED GROUNDS, A STORM OF A DIFFERENT SORT HAS ALREADY ARRIVED!

RICHARD AND MARY PARKER, THE PARENTS OF PETER PARKER -- NO MORE! FOR NOW...



The **BRIDE of**
VENOM

DAVID MICHELINIE
WRITER

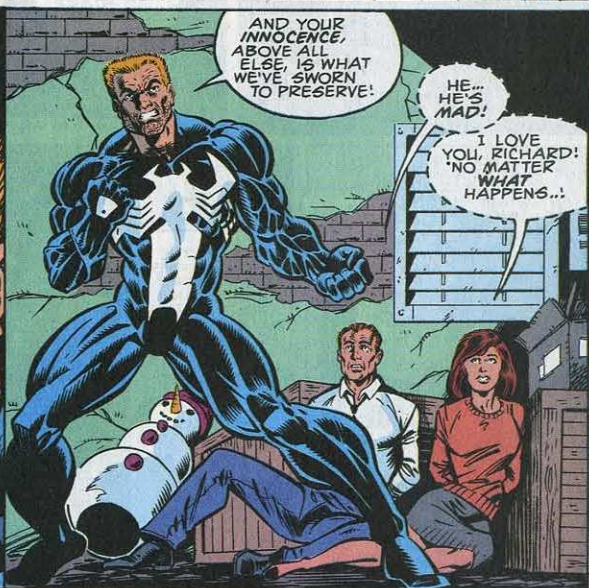
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RANDY EMBERLIN
INKER

BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

STARKING & PARKER
LETTERS

DANNY FINGEROTH & TOM DE FALCO
EDITOR CHIEF





MANHATTAN.

I HATE THIS!



I GET MY PARENTS BACK AFTER THINKING THEY'RE DEAD FOR TWO DECADES

--ONLY TO HAVE THEM KIDNAPPED BY VENOM? MY WORST ENEMY!

THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE, AND I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHERE TO START LOOKING!

* LAST ISSUE. --DANNY

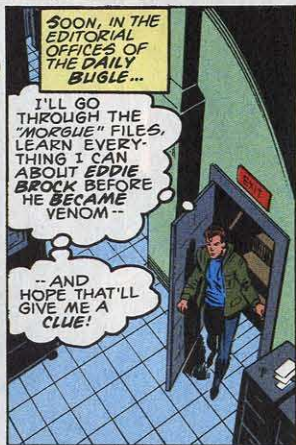


MAYBE I'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK AS PETER PARKER!



IF NOTHING ELSE, I'LL GET TO WEAR CLOTHES VENOM HASN'T SHREDDED YET!

AT LEAST THEY'RE HERE WHERE I LEFT 'EM, IN MY HANDY WEB PACK.



SOON, IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

I'LL GO THROUGH THE "MORRIS" FILES, LEARN EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT EDDIE BROCK BEFORE HE BECAME VENOM--

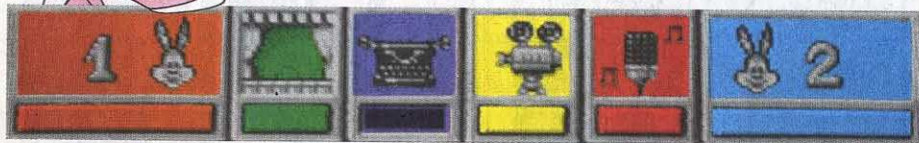
--AND HOPE THAT'LL GIVE ME A CLUE!



AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT JONAH HASSLING ME FOR NEWS PHOTOS-- HIS DOOR'S CLOSED! GUESS HE'S WORKING ON SOMETHING--



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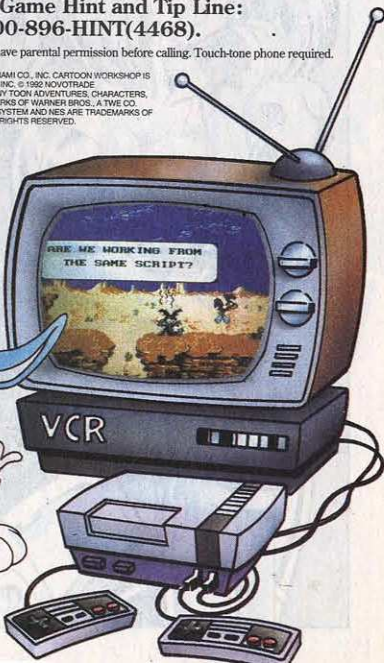
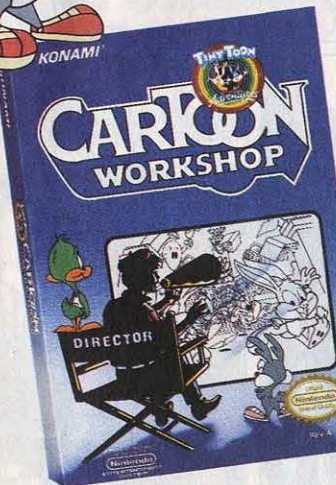


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"-- SENSITIVE! "

DON'T GIVE ME THAT DIPLOMATIC HOGWASH! YOU OVERPAID SNOB!

I WON'T TALK TO SOME PRISSY PREP SCHOOL UNDERLING! YOU PUT SILVER SABLE HERSELF ON THE LINE --



-- RIGHT NOW!



THE SYMKARIAN EMBASSY, LOWER MANHATTAN.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, UNCLE MORTY. I'LL TAKE IT.



HEAR THIS, JAMESON: I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PROVIDE YOU WITH HOURLY REPORTS! YOU CONTRACTED WITH SILVER SABLE INTERNATIONAL TO HIRE THE WILD PACK, AND THEY'RE ON THE JOB...



...YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME WHEN THEY'RE FINISHED! -- CLICK --

WHY, THAT ARROGANT, ICE-BLOODED--!



EASY, BOY. SILVER SABLE'S A PAIN, BUT IF HER OPERATIVES DO WHAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO, THE BUGLE WILL HAVE THE STORY OF THE YEAR!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AT A 34TH STREET HIGH-RISE...

THAT'S RIGHT, MS. WEYING --



-- THERE'S A YOUNG MAN TO SEE YOU. SAYS HE'S FROM THE DAILY BUGLE.

YOU KNOW MY POLICY, CARLTON; NO REPORTERS-- EVER!



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games was Bart's Nightmare!
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SHE DOES; AND THEN, AS IF IN REACTION TO HER RESURRECTED PAST... SHE BEGINS TO SPEAK.

NO ONE EXPECTS DIVORCE; IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU PLAN FOR, LIKE BIRTHDAYS, OR GRADUATIONS.



BUT LOVE CAN BLIND YOU EVEN IF YOUR EYES ARE WIDE OPEN. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE--



--EDDIE AND I WERE IN LOVE!

"HE WAS SMART, WITTY, WITH A BOYISH CHARM THAT SWEPT ME OFF MY FEET."



"IT WAS A SIDE HE USUALLY KEPT HIDDEN, ESPECIALLY FROM HIS FATHER. CARL BROCK HAD LITTLE USE FOR THE FRIVOLOUS..."



"...OR FOR EDDIE, SADLY ENOUGH."

"I THINK THAT'S WHY EDDIE WORKED SO HARD TO BE A STAR REPORTER-- AND WHY HE WAS CRUSHED WHEN HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED IN A SCANDAL."



"THAT SEEMED TO BE THE FINAL WEDGE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON; DISINTEREST BECAME EMBARRASSMENT... AND FOR EDDIE, SHAME."



"A PART OF EDDIE DIED THEN, AND WAS REPLACED BY SOMETHING A LITTLE... MAD."



THE BOY WAS GONE.



BUT I STILL REMEMBER...

... HOW HIS EYES USED TO SHINE WHEN HE'D TAKE ME TO A FAIR, OR AN AMUSEMENT PARK. "THRILL WORLD" WAS HIS FAVORITE.



THANKS, ANNE. YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

FUNNY... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER TOLD ANYONE THAT BEFORE.

HAVE I? OLD MEMORIES
RAISE OLD QUESTIONS.

DID I REALLY DO
EVERYTHING I
COULD TO HELP
EDDIE? EVERY-
THING?

IS THERE
ANYTHING I
COULD DO...
NOW?



MOMENTS LATER...

TAXI!



PERCH THREE TO
EAGLE'S ROOST!
DOVE'S TAKING
FLIGHT!

WILL PURSUE
AND ADVISE!



BETTER LOCK AND
LOAD, GENTS! I'VE GOT
A FEELING WE'RE ABOUT
TO BE LED RIGHT TO
THE TARGET!



THRILL WORLD:
WHERE A WET,
HEAVY SNOW
BEGINS TO FALL...

I COULD BE
WASTING
MY TIME.



BUT THIS FEELS RIGHT. IF
THIS PARK IS LINKED TO
EDDIE'S OBSESSION WITH
HIS CHILDHOOD, AND HIS
PARENTS--



--IT SEEMS
LOGICAL
THAT HE MIGHT
BRING MY
PARENTS HERE!

GUESS I'LL
KNOW SOON
ENOUGH....!



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* BROKEN BY VENOM
LAST ISSUE. --DANNY



BULLPEN BULLETINS

FROM THE MIKE

All right! All right! Enough already. The secret's out. What secret, some of you are still asking? The SECRET DEFENDERS that's what. So why am I making such a stink about this comic? I'm just crazy about the Defenders! Growing up wouldn't have been the same without this off-beat team part of my reading experience. Also, it just happens to be the hottest comic coming out of my office this month. Keep in mind, my other books, CAPTAIN AMERICA, QUASAR, DR. STRANGE, THOR, and the FANTASTIC FOUR UNLIMITED aren't exactly slouches either.

Due to circumstances beyond his control, Doctor Strange isn't as powerful as he once was, but he still has the ability to detect trouble in our world. Now he needs help from some of the most mighty heroes to battle new and startling menaces. Each and every month you'll get an opportunity to see what team he'll assemble next.

Oh, so you are tired of team-ups! This isn't any ordinary team-up book. Characters that have never even met each other will get the chance to battle alongside one another. Ever wonder what Nomad would say to Darkhawk the first time he met him? What about Wolverine's reaction to Spider-Woman? Aha! You're curious now! Now what if I told you it's being written by long time Doc scribe, Roy Thomas? How about penciling by sizzling newcomer, Andre Coates with inking by Don Hudson?

If I haven't grabbed your attention by now, I'm one lousy salesman. The first issue is on sale now. It's got a red foil stamped cover so you can't miss it. Hey, while you are at it, let some of your friends in on our little secret.

Take it easy,

Mike R.

Mike Rockwitz

Baby, it's cold outside! It's so cold, even Iceman has goosebumps!

Since it's so nippy outside, we thought this would be a good time to flash back to last Thanksgiving, just in time for the Macy's parade where we find our newest assistant editor, **James "Professor" Felder**, who's not exactly what'd you'd call a cold fish — he's more like a cool cat — marching with the NYU pipe band, playing his bagpipes all the way. And you thought only the balloons were filled with hot air!

November still makes us feel as cold as Captain America in an iceberg, so we'll go back even further to last October 31, and give you the results of our annual Hal-

loween Extravaganza. Nobody gets left out in the cold at this little shindig. A high-point of the party is the Marvelympics, a highly competitive series of events designed to make us all look like idiots, including such terrifying contests as Bobbing for Comics, the Silver Sable Wrap, and the ever-popular Draw the Doofus!

The winners of this year's costume contest were Bullpenners **Darren Auck** as Sidney the Not-So-Super Skrull, **Dawn** and **Steve Geiger** of the Production Department as Ka-Zar and Shanna, **Kevin Tang** of

the Direct Sales Department as Robin 3, and Director of Marketing/ Consumer Products Division **Maggie Trujillo** as New York's newest superheroine, Staten Island Girl! Other stand-outs included **Glenn Herdling** as Spider-Man, and intern **Chuck Kim** as the 1970s Luke Cage, who ensured that we'd all have a sweet Christmas.

October is still a bit frigid for our tastes, so let's go back even further to those warmer, carefree days of last summer. It occurs to us that we never did give the final standings of the 1992 Marvel Softball season ... and if you got a look at our stats, you probably wouldn't have reported them, either! Team captains

David Wohl and **Rob Tokar** were feeling lower than the Mole Man's foot fungus after the abysmal team standings this year. The final record for the Marvel Punishers this year was 3-7, with the Marvel-DC rivalry ending at two games to one in favor of our Devastating Competition.

This past Marvel softball season left many feeling cold as ice. Maybe that's because, like our characters, we're so used to playing hardball. But let's leave behind those dreary summer days, and make our way back to the present. As we once again pass October, we find a couple more former bachelors have quit the single life, cold turkey! First up is NOMAD assistant editor, **Hector Collozo**, who married the lovely **Lisa Lopez**. As Hector put it, "I married her so I could gain U.S. citizenship and guarantee my future at Marvel."

The other October wedding was that of Marveloid Emeritus and Arachne for life **Jim Salicrup**, who had a Topps secret wedding of his own to the lovely **Paulette Powell**. Jim's busy with a gum-snapping comic line of his own these days, but he has a long history with Marvel and the Bullpen page, so we didn't want to give him the cold shoulder.

Well, we have more cold, hard facts for you, but we'll just put our ideas in cold storage till next week. Till then, remember, no matter how cold it gets outside, nothing beats the feeling of warmth you get when you read a Marvel comic!

THE BULL'S EYE

by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker



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HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK

- ☐ **A-1 #4 of 4:** Not the steak sauce, still the popular British anthology!
- ☐ **BARBIE FASHION #27:** Skipper is crash-dieting! Barbie to the rescue!
- ☐ **CODENAME: GENETIX #3 OF 4:** With the prerequisite Wolverine guest appearance to call U.S. customs!
- ☐ **DEATH'S HEAD 2/KILLPOWER: BATTLELITE #4 OF 4:** Wait, does it have a Wolverine appearance? You betcha!
- ☐ **DEATHLOK #21:** Deathlok needs brain surgery! But the surgeon is ... Siegel!
- ☐ **DIGITEK #4 OF 4:** This one's got so much action, it doesn't even need a Wolverine appearance!
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #51:** If Rintrah dies, will that mean burgers for everyone?
- ☐ **DR. WHO CLASSIC COMICS #3:** This comic is like a time warp to classic Dr. Who adventures!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #374:** The new

- ☐ **Fantastic Four battle the old Fantastic Four!** It's four times the fun!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER/BLAZE: SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6:** Ghostie and Blaze give the devil his due as they confront Mephisto!
- ☐ **HELLRAISER #20:** Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean solve a crossword puzzle of death!
- ☐ **THE INCOMPLETE DEATH'S HEAD #3 OF 12:** Death's Head goes on a scavenger hunt!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK! FUTURE IMPERFECT #2 OF 2:** Wait till you see George Perez's vision of the future! It's Hulk-errrr!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #290:** Tony Stark is back with an all-new armor in this 30th anniversary bonanza!
- ☐ **MARVEL REQUIRE #3:** Still free! Still great!
- ☐ **MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION #36:** Dr. Strange Bladet!

- ☐ **Domino!**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #48:** Introducing a brand-new villain ... Deadzone!
- ☐ **MOTORMOUTH:** Harley and Killpower leap back in time, before the days of Wolverine!
- ☐ **MYST-TECH WARS #1 of 4:** The Marvel U.K. Heroes, in their own tea-tossing limited series!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #78:** Ed Marks does some "in country" fighting!
- ☐ **NEW WARRIORS #33:** With Cloak & Dagger, Turbo, Darkhawk and more!
- ☐ **PUNISHER 2099 #2:** Jake Galloway continues to hunt for his family's killers!
- ☐ **PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #52:** With Punny's old buddy "Joe" from 'THE 'NAM!
- ☐ **SILVER SURFER #78:** Before his corpse even gets cold, Morg is resurrected!
- ☐ **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**

- ☐ **#198:** With the original X-Men and the resuscitated Professor Power!
- ☐ **SPIDER-MAN TPB: THE COSMIC ADVENTURES:** You'll believe a Spider-Man can fly!
- ☐ **WILLIAM SHATNER'S TEKWORD:** Created by the man who is not Kirk!
- ☐ **THOR #460:** The original Thor is back, and he's fighting mad!
- ☐ **TOXIC CRUSADERS #1 OF 4:** They're gross, but they still get girls!
- ☐ **VENOM #2 OF 6:** Once he was a villain — now he's the toughest hero of all!
- ☐ **WARHEADS #10:** The Warheads are trying to destroy Mephisto! These guys get all the easy jobs!
- ☐ **X-FORCE #20:** What's the secret of Cable's space station? And does it get HBO?
- ☐ **X-MEN CLASSIC #81:** Reprinting a battle with the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants!



YOU USUALLY
RUN FROM US.

NOT THIS TIME, BROCK! BUT IF
YOU'VE HARMED MY MOM AND
DAD, YOU'LL WISH I HAD RUN!

HOW SILLY.
WE DON'T WANT
TO HURT THEM;
WE WANT TO
PROTECT
THEM--

--FROM
YOU!

WHAT?!

WE WERE INNOCENT
ONCE, AS BLAMELESS AS
YOUR DEAR PARENTS--

--UNTIL YOUR
MEDDLING
RUINED
THE MAN WE
USED TO BE!

AS LONG AS RICHARD AND
MARY WERE IN THAT RUSSIAN
PRISON, THEY WERE SAFE
FROM YOUR CORRUPTING
INFLUENCE!

BUT NOW, IT'S UP TO
US TO KEEP THEM
PURE!

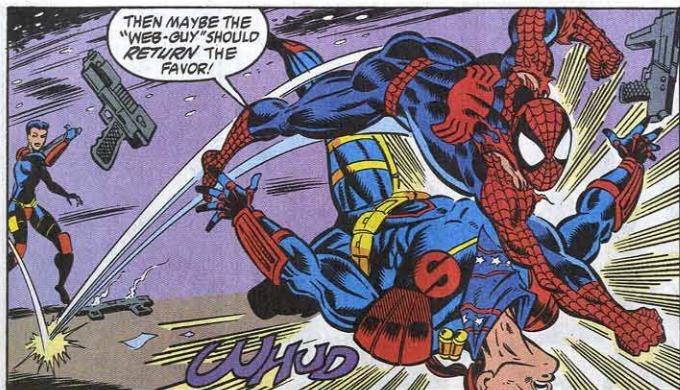












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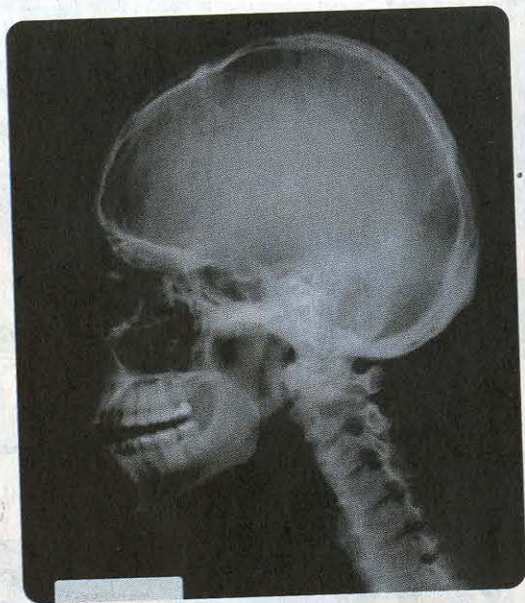
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Brain Transplant, \$39.99.*

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SQUARESOFT™

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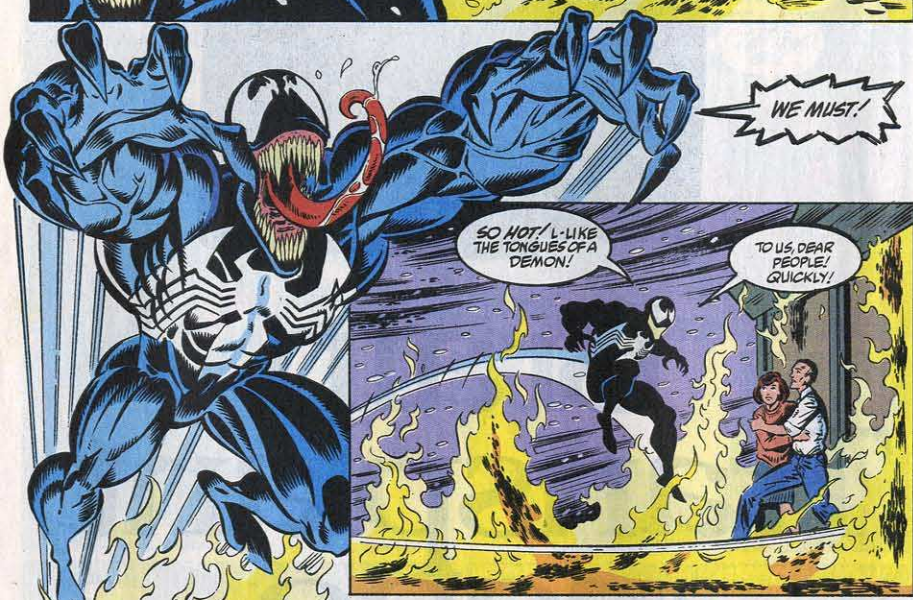
THE PARKERS
--LOOSE?

A--AND SURROUNDED BY FIRE,
ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT CAN
HURT US!

PERHAPS...
EVEN KILL
US!

WE CAN'T...
W-WE JUST
CAN'T--!

WE MUST!



SO HOT! I-LIKE
THE TONGUES OF A
DEMON!

TO US, DEAR
PEOPLE!
QUICKLY!

HOLD
TIGHT!

WE PROMISED
NOTHING WOULD
HARM YOU!

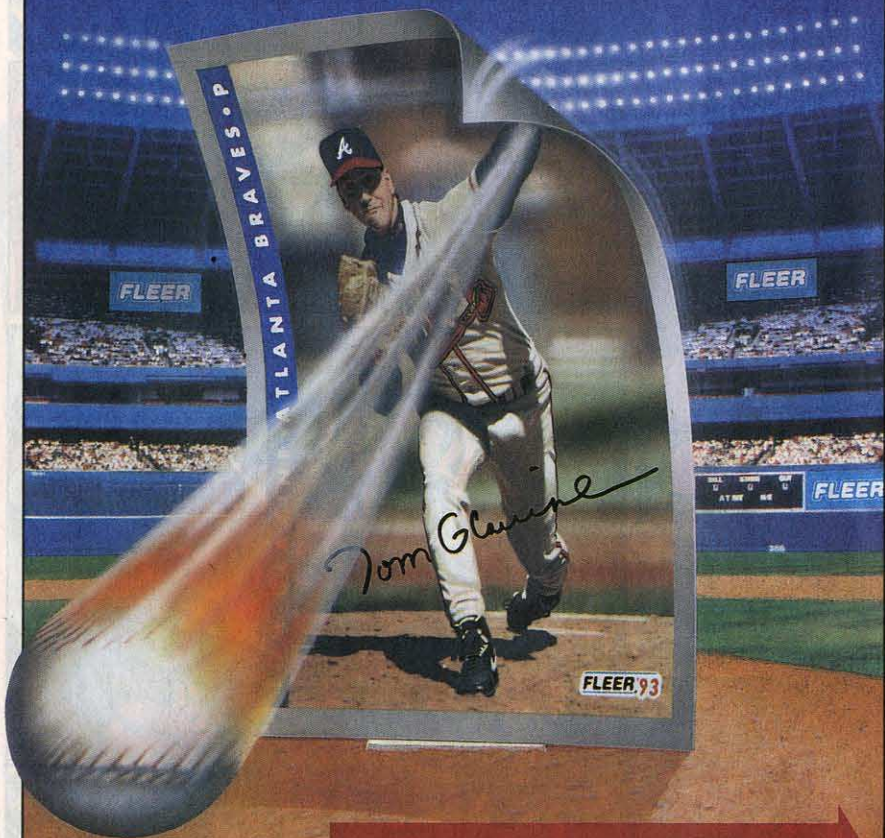
TAKE CARE OF THEM,
ANNIE! WE'LL BE
BACK SOON!

BUT RIGHT NOW,
THERE'S SOME-
THING WE HAVE
TO... DEVOUR!





NOW PITCHING FOR FLEER, ATLANTA'S TOM GLAVINE.



EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Three More Glavine Cards By Mail.

Complete your Tom Glavine subset by sending us 10 Fleer '93 Baseball
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Braves Ace Stars In Fleer's First Two-Series Baseball Set Ever!

Series I couldn't hold all the excitement! So, you'll find players from the Rockies and Marlins, along with many other stars and rookies, exclusively in Series II. In both 360-card basic series, you get 3 hot subsets: "Superstar Specials," "League Leaders" and "Round Trippers." And you also get Major League quality, Fleer style. Glossy UV coating. Silver metallic borders. Color coding by team. Full stats. Bold graphics. And color-enhanced photos.



Basic Card Back



Basic Card Front

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They're gold foil stamped. UV coated. Randomly inserted. And you gotta collect both series to get 'em all. In wax packs, you'll find 6 new "Pro-Visions™" art cards. 6 "Golden Moments™." At least 36 "Major League Prospects." And 24 Fleer "All-Stars." Plus—look for 20 "Team Leaders" cards in rack packs. And, only in jumbo packs, the new 20-card 1993 "Rookie Sensations."



"All-Stars" card
(12 NL in Series I, 12 AL in Series II).



"Team Leaders" card
(10 AL in Series I, 10 NL in Series II).



"Pro-Visions™" card
(3 in Series I, 3 in Series II).



"Rookie Sensations" card
(10 in Series I, 10 in Series II).



"Major League Prospects" card
(at least 18 different cards in each Series).

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These very-limited-edition "Career Highlights" cards feature a one-of-a-kind design with gold foil stamping and UV coating. And Tom has personally autographed over 2,000 of them for random insertion.



These 3 cards are not available in any packs!

FLEER
A Game In Every Pack.

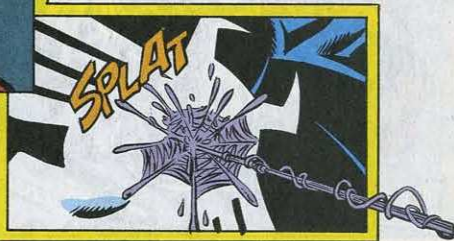
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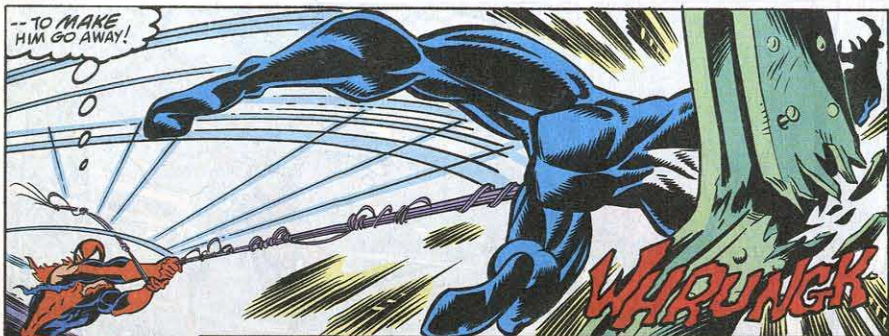


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*No purchase necessary for a chance to win a Tom Glavine signature card. Send a SASE to: "Glavine Signature Card," P.O. Box 1849, Church Hill, MD 21650. One request per envelope, mailed separately and received by 8/30/93. Winner may omit return postage.
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ODDS: Tom Glavine signed card (all packs and mail-in offer) 1:29,000 packs. Odds of finding limited-edition subset cards vary in the different pack types and range from 1:9 to 1:54 packs.









CHUD



CA...C-CAN'T...
BREATHE!
H-HEAD'S...
SPINNING...!

AWWWW,
DID WE
BWEAK DA
IDDY-BIDDY
SPIDER?



WRONCH

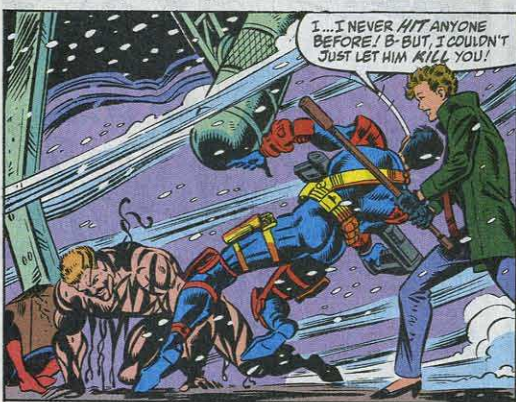


GOOOOOOOO!

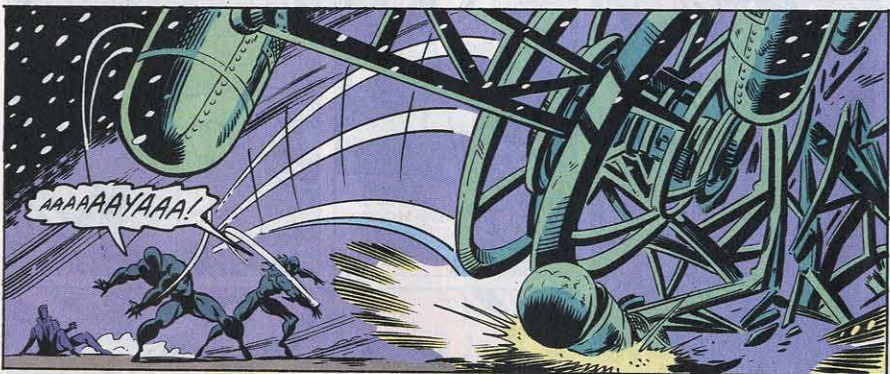
C-CAN BARELY... MOVE!
N-NO... AIR... LEFT...!

G-GOT
TO... FIGHT...!
GOT... G-GOT
TO...

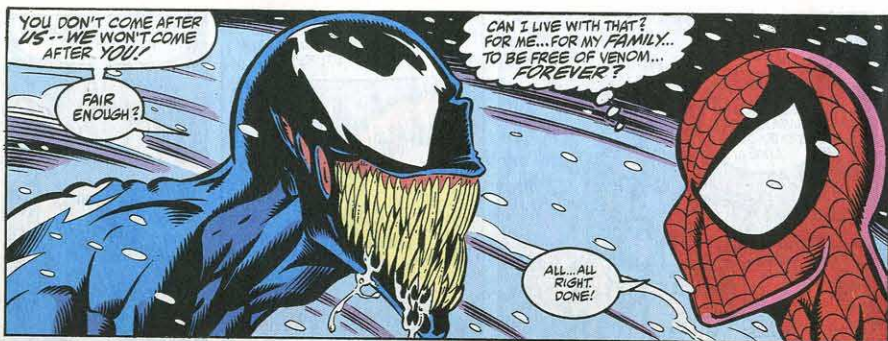
MOM...?













TIME WILL TELL! BUT IF YOU CAN'T WAIT, FIND THE ANSWER IN VENOM'S VERY FIRST LIMITED SERIES -- LETHAL PROTECTOR-- ON SALE NOW!

AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, BE HERE NEXT ISSUE WHEN CARDIAC SQUARES OFF AGAINST STYX & STONE-- WITH SPIDEY CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE! (HEY, YOU DIDN'T THINK WE WERE GONNA LET YOU CATCH YOUR BREATH, DIDJA?)

BENEATH HIS MIRRORED LENS, TEARS SEAR THE EYES OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN AS HE VIEWS THE FLAMING DEBRIS WHICH LITTERS THE DOCK BENEATH HIM...

TEARS OF AN
INNOCENCE
LONG LOST...

TEARS WHICH COULD ONLY BE SHED FOR...

**"TRUE
FRIENDS !"**



I'VE BEEN SEARCHING
FOR THE HUMAN TORCH
EVER SINCE I HEARD THAT
HE HAD ACCIDENTALLY SET
FIRE TO EMPIRE STATE
UNIVERSITY!

I...I WAS HOPING THAT
I COULD HELP HIM... BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE I'M ALREADY
TOO LATE!

A TALE OF THE
WEB-SWINGER
WHICH DIRECTLY
FOLLOWS THE EVENTS
OF FANTASTIC FOUR #313
PRESENTED BY STAN LEE
WRITTEN BY TOM DEFAZZO
PENCILED BY PATRICK OLLIFFE
INKED BY MARK McKENNA
LETTERED BY DAVE SHARPE
COLORED BY R. WITTEKSTADTER
EDITED BY DANNY FINGEROTH



OH! FLAMEFACE IS IN **SERIOUS** TROUBLE! THE ENTIRE CITY HAS MOBILIZED AGAINST HIM... AND THAT INCLUDES **SILVER SABLE** AND HER **WILD PACK**!

LOOK AT YOU--DEFEATED BY A SINGLE FOE!

YEAH, BUT **JOHNNY STORM** IS A MEMBER OF THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** AND--

EXCUSES ARE THE REFUGE OF THE INCOMPETENT AND INEFFECTIVE, **BATTLESTAR**!

YOU PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HIGHLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS!

I EXPECT BETTER RESULTS! YOU AREN'T PAID TO FAIL!



WHEW! SABLE'S ABOUT AS SMOOTH AS JOLLY J. JONAH JAMESON WHEN IT COMES TO EMPLOYEE RELATIONS!

EASE UP, LADY! YOUR CREW MAY BE TOP DRAWER, BUT THE **TORCH** IS IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN!



DOES THIS MEAN I CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT?

SHE WANTS TO HIRE ME, BUT... HOW... HOW CAN I TURN AGAINST THE **TORCH** ?!

AND YET... SOMEONE COULD GET HURT... OR WORSE... IF HE ISN'T STOPPED!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?

I NEED TO THINK! I STILL HAVE TO SORT OUT MY LOYALTIES!

I JUST KNOW THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO CALL OUT THE **BIG GUNS**... THE REALLY **BIG** GUNS!



I REALLY FEEL FOR THE TORCH!
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE
OUTSIDER-- TO BE HUNTED
AND FEARED!

BUT I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM--
AND CONVINCE HIM TO SURRENDER
TO THE AUTHORITIES-- FOR HIS
OWN GOOD!

CONSIDERING WHAT'S
HAPPENED SABLE AND HER
CREW-- I WON'T HESITATE TO
USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY
TO SUBDUCE HIM!

"BUT THE FF DIDN'T GET THEIR REPUTATION
AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST FIGHTING TEAM
BECAUSE THEY WON IT IN A LOTTERY..."

WHAA--?! A PLEXIGLASS
CAGE! DROPPED FROM
THE CEILING!

THEY'LL BE REAL
IMPRESSED WHEN
THEY SEE HOW EASILY
I CAN BREAK INTO
THEIR SKYSCRAPER
HEADQUARTERS!

S'FUNNY, THIS WHOLE
THING REMINDS ME OF
THE FIRST TIME I
FOUGHT THE TORCH!

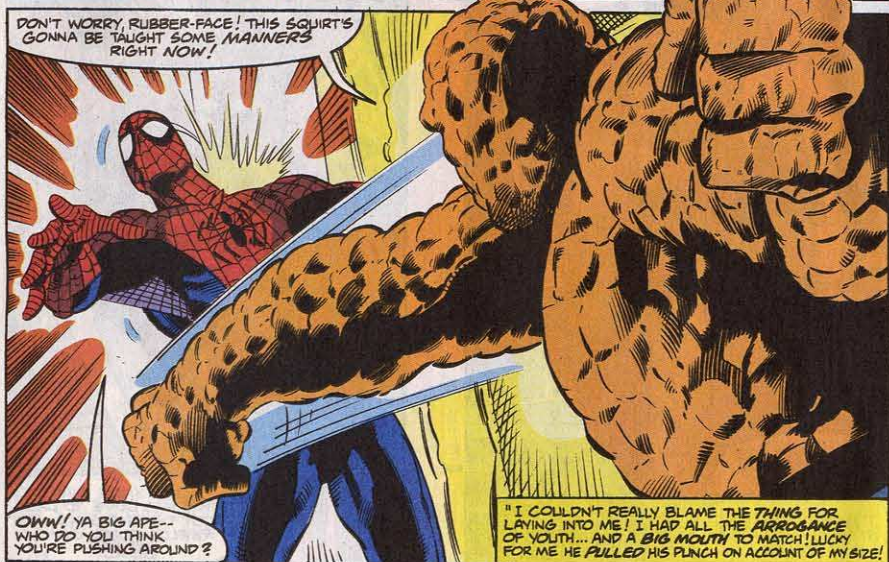
I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE
SOME MONEY BY JOINING
THE FANTASTIC FOUR SO...



"UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS
STILL GETTING USED TO MY
POWERS IN THOSE DAYS,
AND COULDN'T RESIST
SHOWING-OFF..."

THIS GIZMO
MAY KEEP OUT
THE RIFFRAFF
BUT IT'S A JOKE
TO ME!

THAT DEVICE COSTS
THOUSANDS! IF
YOU WRECK IT!



DON'T WORRY, RUBBER-FACE! THIS SQUIRT'S
GONNA BE TAUGHT SOME MANNERS
RIGHT NOW!

OWW! YA BIG APE--
WHO DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE PUSHING AROUND?

"I COULDN'T REALLY BLAME THE THING FOR
LAYING INTO ME! I HAD ALL THE ARROGANCE
OF YOUTH... AND A BIG MOUTH TO MATCH! LUCKY
FOR ME HE PULLED HIS PUNCH ON ACCOUNT OF MY SIZE!

"EVEN MR. FANTASTIC WENT EASY ON ME..."

NOW HOLD IT, SON! WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANY STRANGERS-- AT LEAST NOT TILL WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING ABOUT!

THWIP

WHO'S FIGHTING? JUST CONSIDER THIS A LITTLE EXHIBITION!

"THAT'S ABOUT WHEN MY SPIDER-SENSE KICKED IN..."

DANGER BEHIND ME! HAVE TO MOVE FAST!

"IT WAS THE INVISIBLE WOMAN, BUT I MANAGED TO CATCH HER LASSO... AND GIVE HER A REAL SPIN FOR HER MONEY!"

"I WAS REALLY STARTING TO FEEL COCKY, BUT THEN..."

THE PARTY'S OVER YOU ANIMATED INSECT! I'LL SETTLE YOU NOW!

THE TORCH!
HE'S GOT ME IN A CIRCLE OF FLAME!

"I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW CASUALLY, HOW EFFORTLESSLY, HE GLIDED ACROSS THE ROOM... LIKE I WAS BARELY WORTH THE EFFORT!"

"HE WAS SO SMUG, SO SUPREMELY SELF-CONFIDENT... THAT I INSTANTLY KNEW IT WOULD BE MY LIFE'S MISSION TO TAKE HIM DOWN A FEW PEGS!"



"USING MY SPIDER-LIKE AGILITY, I EASILY LEAPED OVER HIS CHILDISH TRAP..."

"BUT THEN EVEN I COULD LAUNCH MY OWN ATTACK--!"



HERE, YOU OVERSIZED JUMPING BEAN... IF YOU LIKE THAT CEILING SO MUCH, YOU CAN HAVE A HUNK OF IT... WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!



"THAT'S WHEN I FIRST BEGAN TO REALIZE THE TRUE POWER OF THE HUMAN TORCH... AND REALLY STARTED TO WISH THAT I HAD QUIT WHILE I WAS AHEAD!"



WHEN? JOHNNY AND I WERE PRETTY WILD IN THOSE DAYS, BUT LIFE SEEMED SO SIMPLE THEN...

"ASIDE FROM THE **FANTASTIC FOUR**, I STILL HADN'T FOUGHT ANYONE WHO COULD DEFEAT ME... BUT THEN I MET **DOCTOR OCTOPUS**... AND RECEIVED THE **SHOCK** OF MY LIFE!"

I'M **HELPLESS!** CAN'T FIGHT ALL THOSE ARMS AT ONCE!

WHERE ARE YOUR BRAVE WORDS AND TALANTS NOW, SPIDER-MAN?

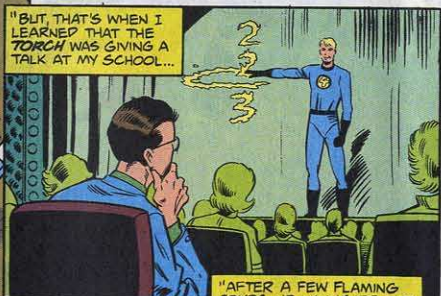


"TO ADD TO MY HUMILIATION, **OCK** TOSSED ME AWAY LIKE A SACK OF RANCID GARBAGE!"

WHAT DO I DO NOW? IS THIS THE END OF SPIDER-MAN?



"BUT, THAT'S WHEN I LEARNED THAT THE **TORCH** WAS GIVING A TALK AT MY SCHOOL..."





YEAH! I OWE
JOHNNY STORM!
I MIGHT HAVE GIVEN
UP BEING
SPIDER-MAN IF
NOT FOR HIM!

THE HUMAN
TORCH AND I MAY
NOT HAVE BEEN THE
CLOSEST OF FRIENDS
OVER THE YEARS!

WE'VE PROBABLY
FOUGHT AGAINST
EACH OTHER AS MANY
TIMES AS WE'VE
TEAMED UP!

BUT WE ALWAYS SEEM
TO RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES!
WE ALWAYS MANAGE TO COME
THROUGH FOR EACH OTHER...IN
GOOD TIMES AND BAD!

WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN I POSSIBLY HELP HIM NOW?

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT NO SPEECH, NO MATTER HOW PERSUASIVE, WILL CONVINCE JOHNNY TO YIELD TO THE AUTHORITIES... AND THAT'S HIS ONLY HOPE!

IT ALL SEEMS SO HOPELESS... BUT I... I CAN'T... I WON'T TURN MY BACK ON HIM!

OF COURSE, OL' FLAME BRAIN NEVER SET FIRE TO A UNIVERSITY BEFORE, OR FLED FROM THE POLICE!

HE'S IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, AND IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE THE LONGER HE'S ON THE RUN!

FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, I'VE GOT TO DO THE RIGHT THING BY HIM!

I'LL FORCE THE TORCH TO SURRENDER, IF NECESSARY!

EVEN IF IT MEANS BEATING HIM INTO SUBMISSION!

EVEN IF IT MEANS HE'LL END UP HATING ME!

JOHNNY NEEDS ME MORE THAN EVER! I CAN'T FAIL HIM! BUT THIS WON'T BE EASY!

I COULD USE SOME MAJOR LEAGUE ASSISTANCE, AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO GO FOR IT... THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF DOCTOR STRANGE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN
FANTASTIC FOUR #374!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS
A MAJOR
TURNING
POINT IN
THE LIFE OF
JOHN
JAMESON!

THE MONSTER WITHIN

IN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER
AS THE PUBLISHER OF THE
DAILY BUGLE, J. JONAH
JAMESON HAS WAGED MANY
A CRUSADE FOR WHAT HE
BELIEVED WAS RIGHT--

--FOR
THE
GOOD
OF
THE
PEOPLE.

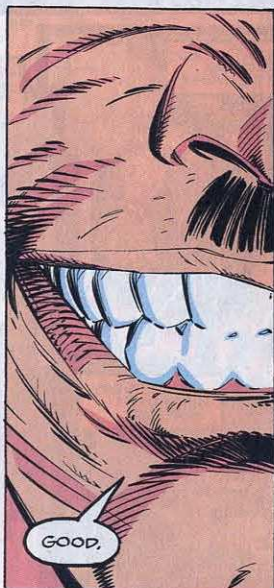
BUT NONE HAVE BEEN AS
DIFFICULT AS THE ONE HE
WAGES TODAY--FOR THE
HEART AND MIND OF ONE
PERSON, ONE MAN.

HIS SON,
JOHN
JAMESON.



ERIC FEIN -
WRITER
DAN PANOSIAN -
ARTIST
JOE ROSEN -
LETTERER
TOM SMITH -
COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH -
EDITOR
TOM DEVALCO -
EDITOR IN CHIEF







THAT SHOULD BE ME DOWN THERE, NOT JAKE AUSTIN.

EASY, JOHN. YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE YOUR FATHER.



"MY CAPSULE MALFUNCTIONED. IF IT WASN'T FOR SPIDER-MAN, I WOULD HAVE DIED THAT DAY."

"HE SAVED ME DESPITE MY FATHER'S HATRED OF HIM."

"IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE I WENT FROM SUCCESS TO FAILURE."

"AND WHEN I TRIED TO REDEEM MYSELF BY TAKING ON A HIGH RISK SPACE MISSION, I FOUND MYSELF CURSED BY A MOON-GEN--"

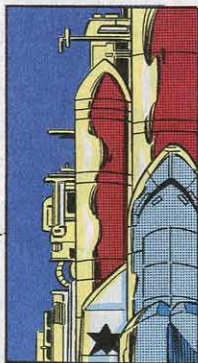
--BECOMING THE MAN-WOLF.

"AGAIN, IT WAS SPIDER-MAN WHO SAVED ME. HEALED ME."

I'VE SPENT MY TIME SINCE THEN LIVING A LIE, AFRAID TO TAKE RISKS, REFUSING TO FOLLOW MY HEART.

ATTENTION. THE COUNT-DOWN HAS BEGUN...

10
9
8
7
6
5

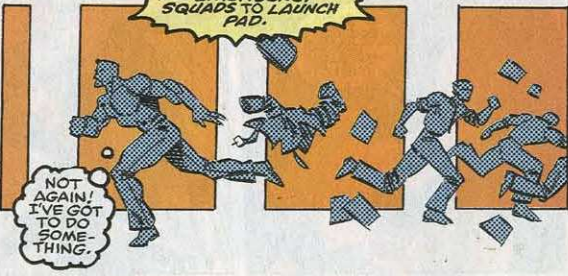


CONTROL, THIS IS AUSTIN. I HAVE A FAULT IN MY NUMBER TWO ENGINE. I REPEAT: ENGINE MALFUNCTION!

I AM ENACTING ABORT PROCEDURES-- OH, NO!



EVACUATE BASE! ALL EMERGENCY SQUADS TO LAUNCH PAD.



NOT AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.



THROUGH THE STENCH AND THE SMOKE HE STAGGERS--

--A FEW MOMENTS AGO HE WAS JUST A MAN--

--BUT NOW, HE'S A MONSTER, RAW AND ANGRY.



E-EASY, BUDDY. Y-YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT--



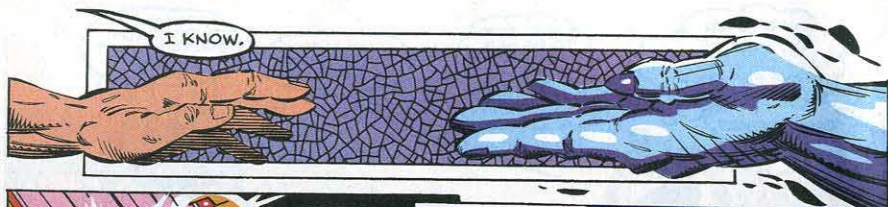
HALT! ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL BEYOND THIS POINT.



TAKE A HIKE.







I KNOW.



I'LL HELP YOU. YOU WON'T BE ALONE.

HEY, JAMESON. YOU SAVED THE DAY. YOU'RE A HERO.



NO.



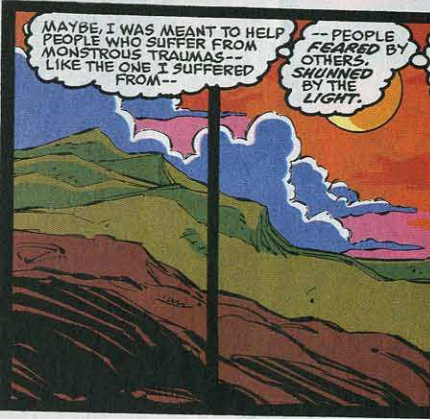
I JUST HAVE A BETTER HOLD ON MY MONSTER THAN SOME.



I GUESS THAT'S IT. CRISIS AVERTED. EVERYONE GOES HOME, BUT WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE ME?

I WASN'T CUT OUT FOR THE DESK JOCKEY GRIND.

MAYBE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY COULD POINT A DIRECTION OF SOME SORT. I MADE A DIFFERENCE IN ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE. THAT HAS TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING.



MAYBE, I WAS MEANT TO HELP PEOPLE WHO SUFFER FROM MONSTROUS TRAUMAS-- LIKE THE ONE I SUFFERED FROM--

-- PEOPLE FEARED BY OTHERS, SHUNNED BY THE LIGHT.

NOT EXACTLY WHAT DAD HAD IN MIND BUT HE'LL LEARN TO ACCEPT IT... EVENTUALLY.



THE END...?

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ECHOES...

TERRY KAVANAGH WRITER	AARON LOPRESTI PENCILER
DON HUDSON INKER	JON BABCOCK LETTERER
DANNY FINGEROTH EDITOR	KENEE WITTERSTAETTER COLORIST
	TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

WHEN THE
HUNTER
HUNTS...

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, BIRTHDAY
BOY--GETTING TOO
OLD TO WANT TO
FIGHT DEATH
ANYMORE?

THIS PARTY WAS
MY IDEA, CHUMP--
YOU'RE JUST
SPENT FROM: 2001:
HOISTING TOO
MANY BREWS...

ONE WAY
OR THE OTHER,
WE'RE GOING
TO BRING A
LITTLE COLOR
TO THIS PLACE,
GUYS...

AND THIS
WHOLE GRAVEYARD'S
THE CANVAS FOR
OUR STATEMENT,
BAGG--

SPIDER-MAN
SLAIN
BY THE
HUNT

MR. SERGE
KRAVING

FEST
FEST
FEST

...THE PREY PRAYS.






YET THE PRIMAL
FEAR OF THE
STILL-IMMATURE
PREY SOMEHOW
STRIKES A
RESPONSIVE
CHORD--

--RECALLING A VIVID MEMORY
OF THE YOUNG HUNTER'S OWN
STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE IN THE
EUROPEAN URBAN JUNGLE...

...WITH THE AID
OF ANOTHER OF
NATURE'S
PREDATORS.



WHILE ONE PURSUED
THE PASSIVE PATH OF
DECEPTION, THE
OTHER HONED HIS
AGGRESSIVE STEALTH
SKILLS--



--AND TOGETHER
BOTH SURVIVED
THE HUNT...



... BUT NOT
FOREVER.

YAAAAAEE!



THAT PAINT'S
NOT GOING TO
COME OFF--!

HERE LIES
SERGEI
KRAVINOFF
WOMAN'S FIGHT
PRIDE

WE HAVE TO
DO SOMETHING
OR HE'LL KILL
GARY...

GARY'S ALREADY FAINTED... AND
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM AWAY
FROM KRAVEN BEFORE--

HAUNTINGLY,
THE ALL-TOO-
HUMAN
LOYALTY
OF HELPLESS
PREY ECHOES
BACK TO
PROUDER
DAYS...

...AND THE TRIUMPHANT
BONDING OF THE
FELLOW PREDATOR
IN YEARS GONE BY.

THE HUNTER AND
HIS LIFE-LONG
COMRADE-IN-ARMS
EXCHANGED VALUABLE
BLACK-MARKET
POACHING TROPHIES
FOR STATE-OF-THE-
ART SPORTING
WEAPONRY...

--WAS DESTINED
TO LEAD THE
PHYSICAL
PROMISE OF
THE OTHER INTO
A HUNT
BIGGER THAN
BOTH...

...AND THE
HUNT
WAS STILL
PURE.

BUT,
TRAGICALLY,
THE MENTAL
ABILITY OF ONE
PREDATOR--

...IN THE FORM OF
THE SPIDER.





BUT BOTH DEAD
AND LIVING VICTIMS
OF THIS FATEFUL
HUNT...

KRAKA.



AND AT LEAST ONE
SURVIVOR CANNOT
HELP BUT RECOGNIZE...



...CARRY THE
SCARS TO
THEIR
GRAVES.



...THAT EVEN
THE DEATH
OF THE
HUNTER...



...ONLY BROUGHT
NEW LIFE TO
THE HUNT
ITSELF.



AND AS LONG
AS THE SPIDER
STILL EXISTED
IN ANY FORM AT
ALL...

...PREDATOR AND PREY
ALIKE WOULD CONTINUE
TO SUFFER.

--AND MAN HE
DEFINITELY IS
NOT GHOST OR
SPIDER... OR
EVEN HERO OR
VILLAIN, FOR
THIS FLEETING
MOMENT.

IMPOSSIBLY,
TAINTED
TEARS FALL
FROM THE
EYES OF
THIS SUDDENLY
LONELY MAN--

BUT, FINALLY...

AS WE
LEARNED ONLY
TOO WELL FROM
EACH OTHER,
SERGEI, GUILT
HAS NO PLACE
IN THE
HUNT...

...BUT
TONIGHT
IS FOR THE
HUNTER.

KIK



AND THE
HUNT WON'T--CAN'T--
DIE WHILE THE
CHAMELEON
LIVES.

MY OWN
SELFISH
MACHINATIONS
ORIGINALLY PUT
YOU ON SPIDER-
MAN'S TRAIL
ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO,
OLD FRIEND...

...AND, IN
KRAVEN THE HUNTER'S
NAME, I'LL SEE THIS
THROUGH TO THE
BITTER END.



THE SPIDER'S
HIDE WILL SOON
HONOR YOUR
MEMORIAL--

-- BUT OUR PREY MUST
FIRST DANGLE HELP-
LESSLY IN MY NET
BEFORE I SPRING THE
FINAL TRAP...

AND SO,
IN HIS
OWN WAY--

--EVEN THE
PREDATOR
PRAYS...

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MIKE LACKEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

Dear Danny and David,

I think that you're making a big mistake with this storyline involving Peter Parker's parents and the Red Skull. I don't mean that it's a bad idea, though I'm generally disappointed with resurrections (whether true or false). I mean you're literally making a mistake.

It is well established that the Red Skull with whom Richard and Mary Parker were associated was not the original Nazi, Johann Schmidt, but rather his Communist imitator, Albert Malik. When the Parkers were killed (?) the original Red Skull was still in suspended animation in Germany. He had nothing to do with the Parkers. And Malik, the second Red Skull, was killed by Scourge some time ago (in CAPTAIN AMERICA #347) after being defeated by Hawkeye in SOLO AVENGERS #6.

So why, in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #367, were the Parkers' names in the computer system of the original Skull? Either you all have something very clever planned or you've just based a major storyline on a massive continuity error.

Bradford R. Poston
4075 East River Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

We always have something clever planned, Bradford! Don't you think the original Red Skull, being the mastermind that he is, would usurp everything his "stand-in" learned during his long sleep?

Dear Spider-folks,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #367 was a very interesting issue. I enjoyed seeing Spidey and Solo take on the Red Skull's forces.

There was, however, one problem with this issue—the inclusion of ULTIMATUM. While ULTIMATUM used to have ties to the Red Skull, it no longer does. Flag Smasher, the founder of ULTIMATUM, purged it of all agents loyal to the Skull a while back. If you need evidence of this, check out CAPTAIN AMERICA #394. On pages 8 and 9 of that issue, you see all the organizations with ties to the Red Skull. ULTIMATUM is not there.

The only reason I can see for ULTIMATUM agents working for the Skull is that they were impostors used to falsely implicate Flag Smasher's organization.

Aside from this one point, I found issue #367 to be very enjoyable. Let's see more of the Red Skull in future issues.

Ben Herman
New Rochelle, NY

Wow! Two Captain America fans in a row! Ben, you're partially correct about the Red Skull's ULTIMATUM agents, but they're not really impostors. Do you really think the Red Skull would allow Flag Smasher to disrupt his plans by eliminating every renegade ULTIMATUM agent?

Dear sir,

While it's been nice to see some of Spidey's older foes, the current Spider-Slayers storyline remains completely unimpressive. Although the Black Cat showed potential this issue, the

overall characterizations have been rather dull of late, giving us the same old rehash of past issues, with the portrayal of Mary Jane being unforgivable at best. Not since Gwen Stacy has there been a supporting character of this stature, but it would seem the Powers-That-Be are determined to screw her up.

I'm also totally unintrigued by the Richard/Mary Parker subplot. They were more interesting dead.

I am, however, enjoying Mark Bagley's work here. His Spidey is strongly reminiscent of the Ross Andru/John Romita days and is second only to Steven Butler's rendition. While I enjoy Sal Buscema's and Alex Saviuk's versions over on SPECTACULAR and WEB, this is the Spider-Man I grew up on.

The only other redeeming quality of recent issues has been the J.M. DeMatteis back-ups, and "The Web" was certainly no exception. While Aunt May has always been among the more prominent of the Spidey cast, she has also been one of the least developed on a personal level, and this look into her past was greatly appreciated.

Marson Fedrick
P.O. Box 514
Ellisville, MS 39437

Stick around, Marson! The next few issues should wipe away any doubts you have about the current storyline!

Dear Spider-Men,

This is my first time writing to you and I'd like to say your comic is great! I started collecting ASM in 1989 during the "Assassin Nation Plot" and I've gotten almost every issue since. I'd like to compliment Mark Bagley and Bob Sharen for their excellent work on the book.

I got a nice surprise in issue #368 when Felicia returned. I hope you can somehow have her get back her Black Cat powers. I think Spidey will need all the help he can get against these robots.

I am eagerly awaiting issue #369 to come out so I can see Mr. Bagley's rendition of Electro. I'm sure it'll be great!

I am only 11 years old and I don't receive a large allowance from my parents. With the price of comics at \$1.50 (Canadian) plus G.S.T., I can't get my three favorite titles every month. Why is the price so high now?

In closing, I'd like to ask anyone who likes Spider-Man comics to write me. In my opinion, ASM is the best comic around.

Ryan Hodgkins
28 Thompson Ave.
St. Catharines, Ont.
Canada

There are many Spider-Man fans eager to write to you, Ryan, but it would have made things easier if you had included a zip code! As for the price of comic books, well, other than non-cable television, where will you find such action-packed entertainment for such a meager price?

Yo Spider-Dudes,
Issue # 368 was beautifully done. Mark

Bagley really knows how to portray Spider-man: sleek and fast, not too bulky but not too thin. I really have to say I miss his penciling on the NEW WARRIORS. Will he ever return to it? Fat chance, huh? Well, why not just do a crossover with the New Warriors. I mean like six issues each. That would really be a blast.

Okay, about the issue. Like I said, the artwork was fantastic. I really enjoyed the metallic creatures out to get Spidey's hide and am curious as to who the try-hard Xavier look-alike is. But what I really liked about the book was the scene where the worker with the jackhammer. To me, super-heroing really pays at times like these. With guys like the jackhammer guy, fighting bad guys could be really worthwhile. I mean, even non-super heroes could learn from what happened here. When you do a good deed for someone, especially someone you really don't know, there will come a time when you will need that favor returned. Now that's worth doing a good job for.

Mel Atendido
57 Lorraine Street
Parkway Village
Quezon City, Philippines 1001

Hey, that's what Spider-Man is all about, Mel—responsibility toward one's neighbor. And you're absolutely right, that mind set does not necessarily have to be reserved just for super heroes.

Dear Editor,

Let me say that I think AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is one of the best comic books on sale now. The art is terrific and the storylines are MARVELOUS.

The reason I wrote this letter is because I think I know the identity of the mysterious figure in the epilogue. TA-DA! It's Alistair Alonso Smythe. I'm right, aren't I?

Paul Nichols
1509 Alexander SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

As you know by now, Paul, you were right on the money! Guess you picked up on the clues we laid!

Dear Danny,

So, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is again available twice a month, eh? Great news! A double helping of web-spinning wonders every thirty days. Plus, "Invasion of the Spider-Slayers" so far seems much better than last year's "Round Robin" story. For one thing, the issues are not overcrowded with countless, pointless guest stars, and for another, there is the intriguing subplot of Peter's parents. Like Peter, I'm not totally convinced that these people are the genuine item, and I still think the Red Skull has some explaining to do.

Who is the mystery man in the weird chair sending the robots after Spidey? Alistair Smythe, perhaps? Nah, too obvious! And what is the Black Cat up to? Yep, this story has me hooked. I like to see the odd appearance by Electro, Scorpion, and other classic bad guys, as long as they don't pop up too often.

David's plots and dialogue are always enjoyable, but lately he seems to be overdoing the action, allowing the characterization to slip. Mary Jane's smoking is a step in the right direction, though. And Mark B.'s art is as good as ever.

One thing—why does Spidey constantly dismiss or ignore his spider-sense? It buzzes to warn him of danger, so he should pay some attention to it. Without his extra sense, he would have been killed a long time ago.

All in all, a nice couple of issues. The real highlight was the Harry Osborn back-up story, which tied in well with SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. A regular back-up spotlighting various villains and supporting characters is a good idea. It worked well in CAPTAIN AMERICA and Spidey has no shortage of co-stars to fill the extra pages. This could also showcase the talents of some of Marvel's lesser-known artists. So go for it!

John Kelly
19 Barton Close
South Woodham Ferrers
Essex, England CM3 5UB

The back-up stories were a regular feature in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN throughout the bi-weekly storyline. And we've got a few this very issue, too! They enable us to explore some facets of the Spideyverse that sometimes get neglected, while giving David and Mark time to do relaxing things—like producing the VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR limited series that is (like we had to tell you) on sale now!

Hey!

You guys are getting on my nerves! First you kill off Tony Stark, then you bring back Peter's long-dead parents! Where does it end? How badly will you mess with your characters just to sell more comics? I've seen the charts and graphs indicating how much of the market share belongs to Marvel. Out of all the comics sold each month, 50-60 percent are Marvel titles, which is great. But does the end justify the means?

This may be comics, but some things should not happen! Peter's parents should never have been brought back. The driving force behind him being Spider-Man is guilt over his dead parents and his reluctance to stop a criminal who ended up killing his uncle. Now he's driven to do the right thing. What if Uncle Ben had never really died, but instead was used in an experiment that turned him into a cyborg. Do you see what I mean? Some things should be left alone. It's difficult to put into exact words why Peter's parents should never have been brought back, but it just doesn't seem right.

It was great to see Peter finally explode at Jonah in the back-up story of issue #368. He should have done it a long time ago. The part that gets on my nerves is that you have Jonah acting like a complete villain. He may be a jerk, but he isn't a villain! Deep down he cares about people, especially Peter and Robbie. I don't believe he is so hungry for a story that he would leech off the pain of a friend and co-worker.

Thanks for your time.

Michael Jones
P.O. Box 31
Waterboro, ME 04087

And thanks for your comments about Peter's parents, Michael. Apparently, you're a SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN fan too, since you must've found out how much

Spidey's guilt over his folks has burned within him over the years, as we discovered in "The Child Within."

All we ask is that you stick around a while and see for yourself if Richard's and Mary's return doesn't add to the intensity of Spider-Man's adventures.

Dear Marvel,

I have enjoyed the first two issues of "Invasion of the Spider Slayers" (#368-369). The stories you tell are your own, and I don't want to tell you how to write them, but I do have a problem. On page four, Mary Jane smokes a cigarette.

What writer (David Michelinie), editor (Danny Fingeroth), or editor in chief (Tom DeFalco) allowed this to happen? I don't know if you realize it, kind sirs, but SMOKING IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH! I feel for people who are addicted to smoking. My mother smoked for 35 years and quitting has been the most traumatic thing of her life. Nevertheless, the act of smoking is simply not smart and certainly not to be encouraged.

To see you portraying Mary Jane as a smoker with an attitude was disgusting. It was out of place in a Spider-Man comic and out of touch with current health trends. "I need this more than you don't." Well, that's a fine excuse.

But I can already hear your answer. "Mary Jane is a real person, and real people have real problems." Can it, please. Get rid of the cigarettes. For our health of mind.

Jason F. Smith
1366 E. 1700 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

You answered your own question, Jason. Mary Jane does have a problem, and she's going to have to face the consequences of that problem...maybe sooner than she thinks!

Dear David & Mark,

Re: "Invasion of the Spider-Slayers!" Part I and Part II

Way out cool! Bagley's artwork has gotten better and better, but I kind of miss Spidey's "nostrils" on his mask.

I remember Mark's first job on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #345 and it looked lousy and lazy. I can't believe this is the same guy! Against Larsen, Bagley wins hands down!

William Sharpe
27 Barron Street Unit 14
Stratford Ont. CANADA
N42 1E8

Dear Marvel or whoever opens this letter,

I am writing to ask you for information on some of Spider-Man's coolest and best enemies. I only started collecting comics about a year and a half ago, and I would really like to know more about Spider-Man's foes.

This letter is also to thank all the great artists, writers, editors and whoever else helps make Marvel the best comic company in the world.

Until Peter Parker gets bitten by a radioactive spider and...whoops, never mind.

Mike Holmes
2326 Harding Road
Ottawa, Ont.
CANADA K1G 3B9

Mike, being relatively new to the Marvel Universe, you may wish to pick up a valuable source of information we publish every month. It's the MARVEL UNIVERSE MASTER EDITION, and it features

biographical and bibliographical information about all our characters on loose-leaf sheets that fit neatly into a nifty binder that's also available at your local comic book store.

Dear Spider-lovers,

In response to your poll for the cast of the SPIDER-MAN MOVIE, do you know who'd make a good Spidey? Charlie Sheen! Other possibilities:

Spidey:	Jim Carrey
Mary Jane:	Nicole Kidman
Uncle Ben:	Marlon Brando
Aunt May:	Jessica Tandy
Electro:	Robin Williams
Green Goblin:	Michael Ironsides
Sandman:	Dolph Lundgren
Doc Ock:	John Lithgow

Well, I like them. Hope you do, too. Until next time...

Joey Reed
1235 Mt. Comfort #13
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Thanks, Joey! Keep those suggestions coming, folks. Maybe we'll poll some of the Spider-creators around here and print their ideal choices for the SPIDER-MAN MOVIE cast!

NEXT: While Mark Bagley takes a sabbatical to work his wondrous pencils on the VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR limited series, Jeff Johnson guest pencils issues #376 and #377, where *Cardiac*, *Styx* and *Stone* return to bedevil Spidey! And in issue #378, Mark will return to handle this mag's first chapter—Chapter 3—in the all-Spider-book 14-part "Maximum Carnage" crossover!

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