



SHRIEKING

THE
FINALE!

INSIDE:
THE SPIDER-MAN
MYSTERY
DEEPENS!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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PRESENTS

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THE INCREDIBLE HULK™

HE'S BIG, HE'S MEAN, HE'S GREEN...

...AND YOU WOULD BE TOO IF YOU WERE BLASTED BY GAMMA RAYS THAT TURNED YOU INTO A HUGE, POWERFUL, GREEN CREATURE EVERY TIME YOU GOT A LITTLE TICKED-OFF. SO COME ON, GIVE HULK A HAND BATTLING CLASSIC MARVEL VILLAINS LIKE RHINO, TYRANNUS, ABSORBING MAN AND THE LEADER! HULK WILL PROVIDE THE BRAWN, YOU PROVIDE THE SKILL AND BRAINS FOR HOURS OF THE MOST HULKED-OUT ACTION YOU'LL EVER BE A PART OF.

Oh... oh, the Leader has given mild mannered Bruce Banner another migraine... and you know what that means!
AAAAAAARRRRRRRRGGGGGHHH!!!!



Travel high above the city with Hulk and help him put a serious hurt on Rhino and his henchmen!



Take to the streets, where you and Hulk kick some serious cyborg-butt!



COME ON... IF YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUGH ENOUGH!

Teleported to The Leader's lair, you and Hulk face his Bio-Tech Mutants.



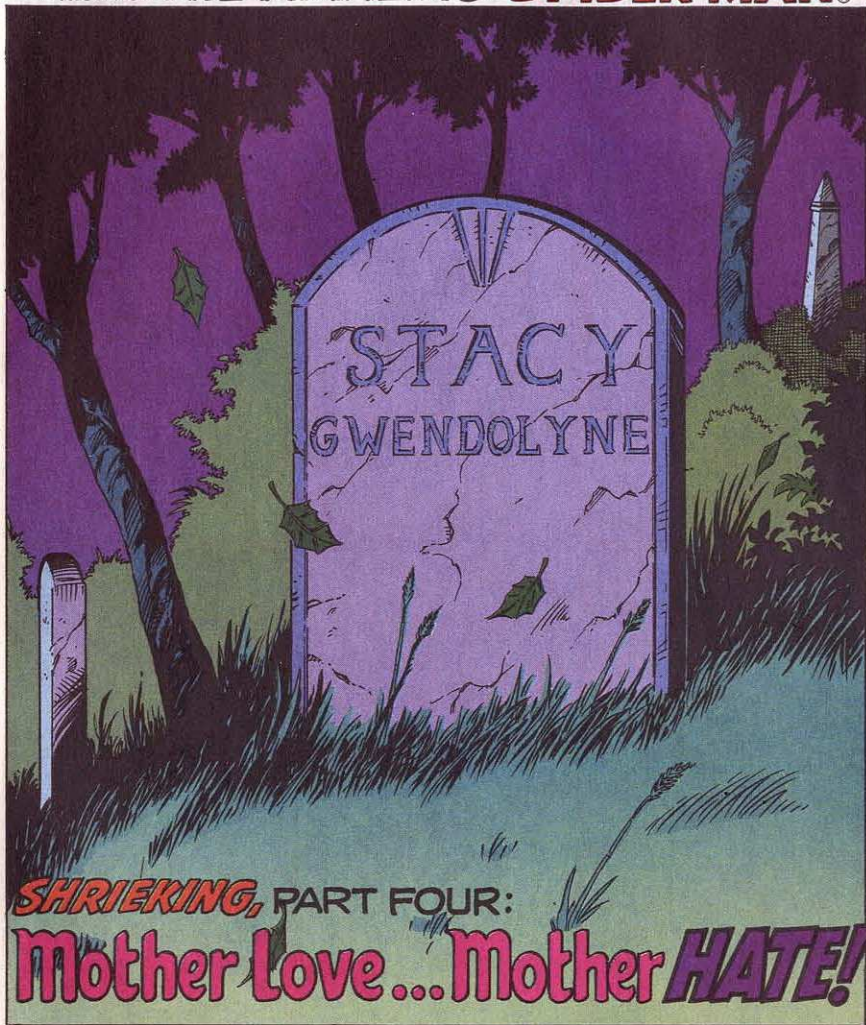
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Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**



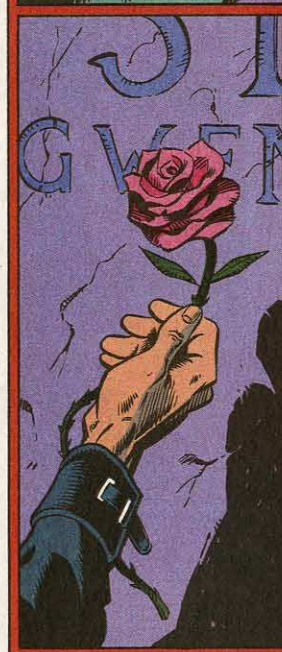
SHRIEKING, PART FOUR:
Mother Love... Mother HATE!

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IF I'VE TOLD
YOU ONCE, I'VE
TOLD YOU A
THOUSAND
TIMES--

--HE'S
MINE!

SH
RAK
K
K

--HE'S
NOT
YOUR
SON--

ONCE HE WOULD
HAVE HAD A
FUNNY LINE...A
CLEVER QUIP TO
CONCEAL HIS FEAR
AND TENSION.

THOOM!

NOW HE'S
SILENT AS
DEATH.

HE BATTERS SHRIEK
BACK WITH ONE SWIFT
AND MERCILESS BLOW...

...CUSHIONS
BEATRICE MCBRIDGES
FALL WITH A QUICK-
LY-WOVEN WEB-
CUSHION...

THOOM!

...THEN TURNS
BACK TO
SHRIEK, HIT-
TING HER
AGAIN...

...AND
AGAIN...

THOOM!

...AND
AGAIN...

JUST CAN'T
GET THAT
CRUNCH
OUTTA YOUR
HEAD!



MAJOR
CRUNCH EFFECT

...TILL SHE FALLS.

BRUTAL JUSTICE:
IT'S NEVER
BEEN PETER
PARKER'S
STYLE.

BUT, AS FAR AS
THE MAN BEHIND
THE MASK IS
CONCERNED...

...PETER PARKER
IS DEAD. NOW
AND FOREVER...

...HE IS THE
SPIDER.

YOU HURT
MY MOTHER!
I'LL KILL YOU
FOR THAT!

MALCOLM--

NO!

SPIDER-
MAN IS OUR
FRIEND!
HE'S TRYING TO
HELP US!

I'LL
KILL
YOU!

I... I'M SO
CONFUSED.
YOU SAY YOU'RE
MY MOTHER--

--AND... WHEN I
LOOK IN YOUR
EYES, LISTEN
TO YOUR VOICE,
IT SEEMS
TRUE!

YET SHE...
SHE SAYS
SHE'S MY
MOTHER,
TOO! SAYS
THAT SHE
LOVES
ME... THAT
SHE'D DIE
FOR ME!

I DON'T
KNOW

WHO

TO

BELIEVE!



Would you Joe Montana on (We couldn't c



35 5TH PRIZES:
Sega video game machine.



24
3RD PRIZES:
*Wilson's
authentic
Joe Montana
jersey.*



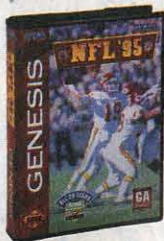
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spend the afternoon with Joe Montana.*

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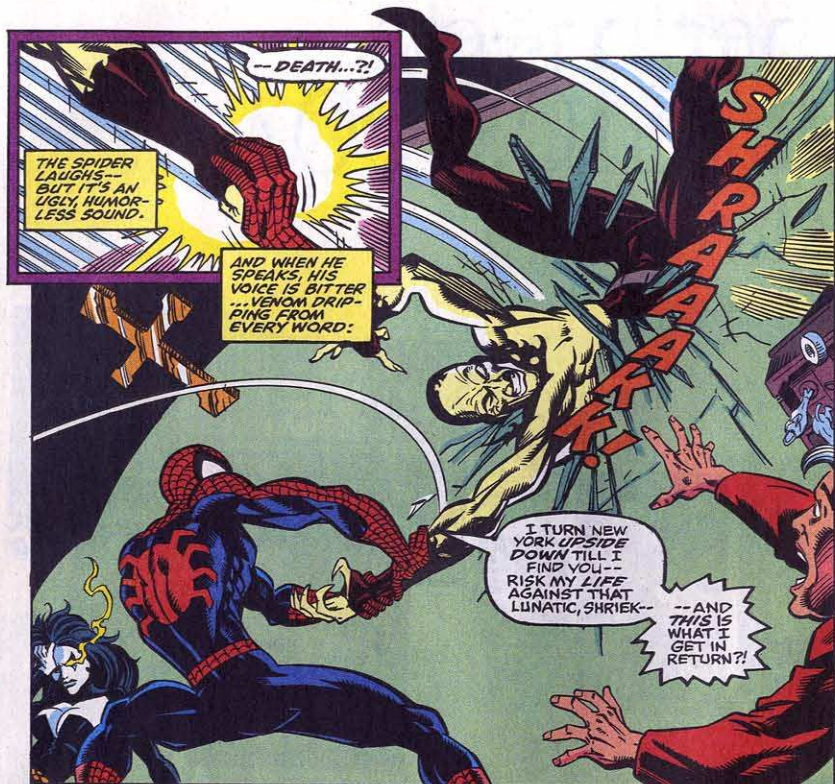
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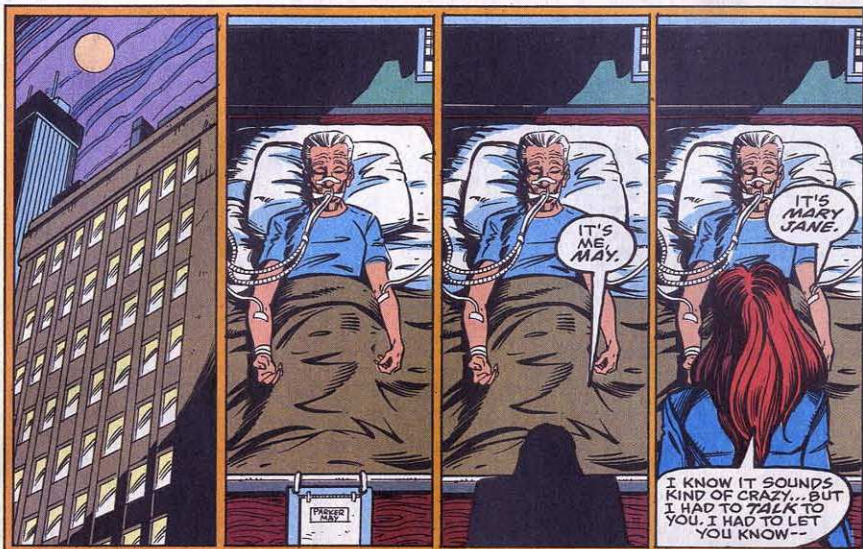
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--WHY I'M GOING AWAY.

THE WHOLE WORLD'S COLLAPSING AROUND US, YOU HAVING THIS **STROKE**... IT'S BEEN THE FINAL STRAW FOR PETER --

--AND FOR ME.



OF COURSE HE'S HIDING HERE ON THE FRONT LINES THAT MASK--

--AND I'M OUT HERE ON THE FRONT LINES ALONE.

OH, I USED TO HIDE. I WAS A **MASTER** AT IT.

HAD A MASK AS GOOD AS PETER'S. I WAS CAREFREE MARY JANE, THE PARTY GIRL. IF I HAD A PROBLEM, I JUST STAYED OUT ALL NIGHT DANCING AND LAUGHING--



--TILL I PUSHED THE PAIN AWAY.

IF THAT DIDN'T WORK, THERE WAS ALWAYS MY **ACTING**. LIFE GOT TOO TOUGH... I JUST LOST MYSELF IN THE **PART**.



GUESS THAT'S WHAT **PETER'S** BEEN DOING LATELY. **BIG** TIME.



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BUT I
HAVE TO
DO THIS.



I HAVE
TO GO
HOME.



SHE WONDERES HOW THIS
COULD HAVE HAPPENED.



HOW DID HER SON TURN
INTO A MONSTER?



HER HOME
INTO A
BATTLE-
FIELD?



BEATRICE MCBRIDE'S LIFE HASN'T BEEN AN EASY ONE. HER HUSBAND DIED WHEN MALCOLM WAS ONLY FOUR. THERE WASN'T MUCH MONEY... SO SHE WORKED TWO JOBS, WENT BACK TO SCHOOL.

HOW MANY TIMES
DID SHE WANT TO
GIVE IN-- TO
BITTERNESS? TO
DESPAIR?



AND SHE
WOULD
HAVE...



...IF SHE
DIDN'T HAVE
HER FAITH
TO SUSTAIN
HER.

FAITH IN SOMETHING BIGGER. A FORCE OF
LOVE THAT BINDS EACH HEART.



IN THOSE MOMENTS OF
QUIET PRAYER, THE WORLD--
NO MATTER HOW CHAOTIC--
IT PREVIOUSLY SEEMED...

...SUDDENLY
TRANSFORMED
INTO A PLACE OF
QUIET JOY,
SERENE ORDER.



BUT
THERE'S
NO ORDER
NOW.









WOMAN--

--ARE
YOU AS
CRAZY
AS I
AM?!

IF YOU
SO MUCH
ASTOUCH
THOSE
HANDS--



--YOU'LL
DIE!

DO YOU
THINK MY LIFE
MATTERS?
DO YOU THINK
I WOULDN'T
SACRIFICE
MYSELF A
THOUSAND
TIMES OVER--



--TO
SAVE
MY
CHILD?



YOU...YOU REALLY LOVE HIM.
IT'S...IT'S NOT JUST AN ACT;

YOU
REALLY
LOVE
HIM.

HOW CAN
I HATE YOU--
--WHEN
YOU LOVE
HIM SO MUCH?



BUT...
BUT I--



THERE WAS A LITTLE GIRL; BEATEN DOWN, TERRIFIED, ABUSED.



AND SHE WOULD HIDE SOMETIMES, IN THE OLD CHURCH ACROSS THE STREET FROM HER HOUSE.



HIDE IN THE SHADOWS, FINDING COOL COMFORT FOR A FEW HOURS.



FORGETTING THE VOICES THAT SCREAMED, THE SWEATY HANDS THAT TOUCHED AND HIT.



COCOONED IN A FRAGILE PEACE --AND GRASPING, HOWEVER TENUOUSLY...



...A FAR MORE FRAGILE HOPE.



CAN ANYONE SAY WHO THAT LITTLE GIRL WOULD HAVE BECOME HAD THAT COMFORT CONTINUED... HAD THAT HOPE BEEN NURTURED?

PERHAPS A WOMAN NOT UNLIKE BEATRICE MCBRIDE.

A WOMAN ABLE TO CARE SO DEEPLY, SO SELFLESSLY...

...THAT SHE WOULD UNHESITATINGLY SACRIFICE HERSELF...

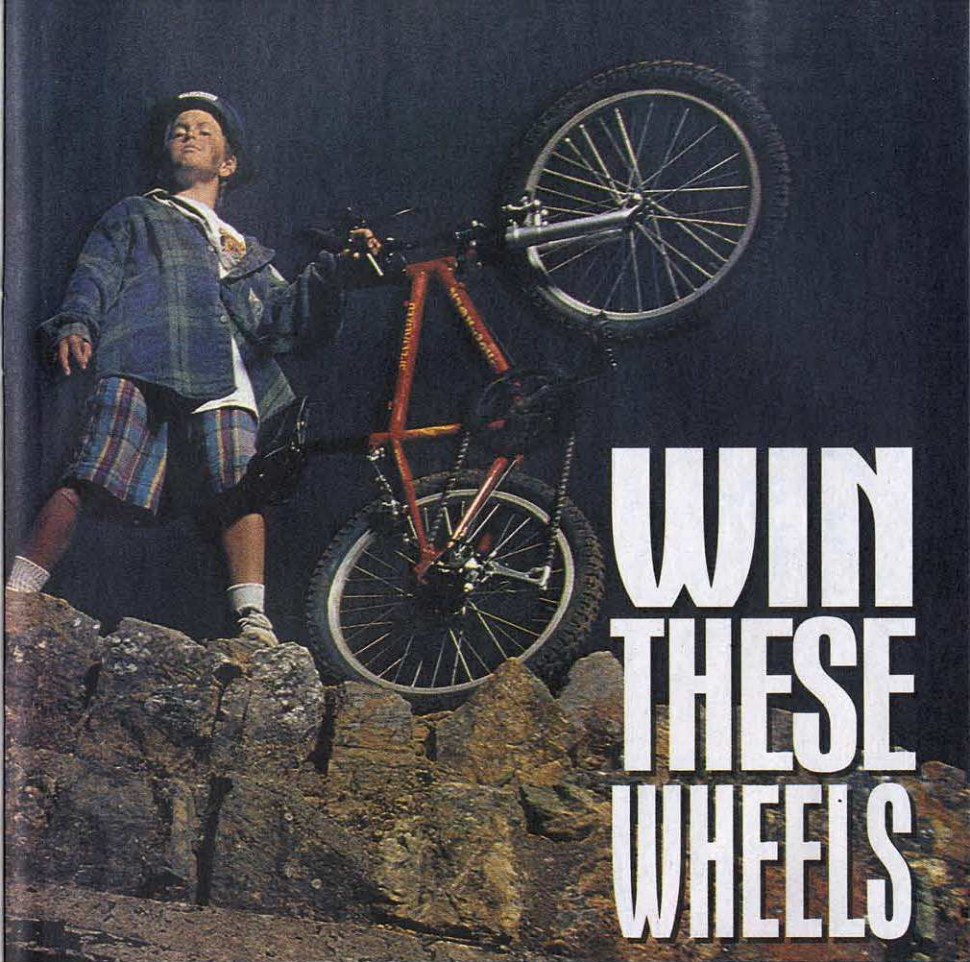
SPIDER-MAN-- LOOK! LOOK!

...IN THE NAME OF LOVE.

THE VIRUS-- IT'S GONE!

SHE TOOK IT AWAY!

HE'S ALL RIGHT!



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BUT SHRIEK'S NOT.



SPIDER-MAN HAS SEEN HER USE HER PSYCHIC POWERS TO PULL THE DARKNESS UP FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE HUMAN MIND.



BUT THIS TIME, HE REALIZES, SHE'S TAKEN IT ONE STEP FURTHER.

DRAWN THE DARKNESS INTO HERSELF--AND THE CARRION VIRUS WITH IT.

SHE'S DYING.



LET HER DIE, THE SPIDER WHISPERS. IF YOU DON'T, SHE'LL BE BACK--TO HURT THEM...TO HURT YOU.

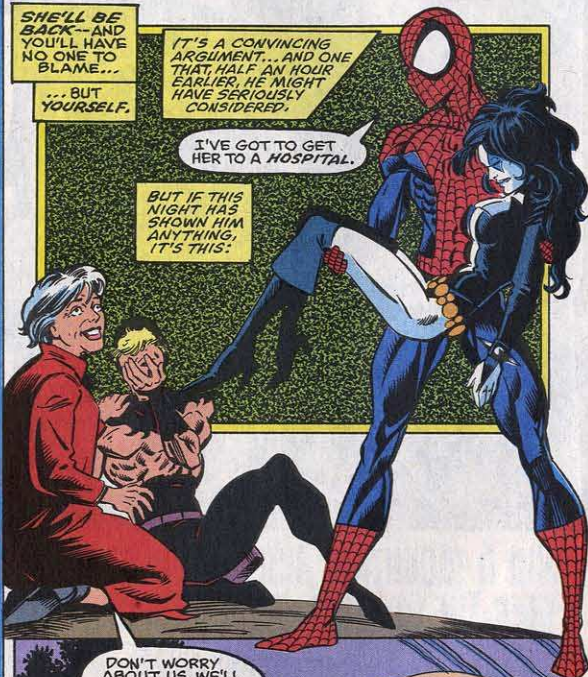
SHE'LL BE BACK--AND YOU'LL HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME...

...BUT YOURSELF.

IT'S A CONVINCING ARGUMENT...AND ONE THAT, HALF AN HOUR EARLIER, HE MIGHT HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO A HOSPITAL.

BUT IF THIS NIGHT HAS SHOWN HIM ANYTHING, IT'S THIS:

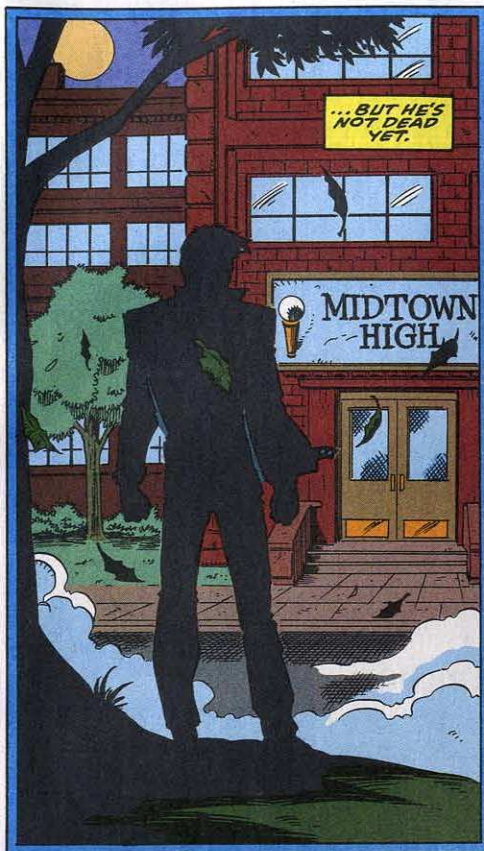


DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE MALCOLM BACK TO RAVEN-CROFT--

--YOU HELP SHRIEK.

PETER PARKER MAY BE BURIED ALIVE...





BULLPEN BULLETINS

Question of the Month

If you could be any super hero, which one would you be?

Chuck Dixon (PUNISHER writer): Captain America. I would've liked to have seen the World War II years and still experienced laser discs!

Freddie Mendez (assistant editor): Bullseye. I like the fact that he can take anything and make it into a weapon. If you had that power, you'd never have to be afraid of anyone!

Bob Budiansky (executive editor): Spider-Man. I always thought it would be cool to swing around the city on webs!

Julie Bell (Marvel Trading Cards): Storm, because she flies, she's into nature, and she's really tough!

Tom Morgan (IRON MAN penciler): I would be Iron Man, because then I could accessorize some extra arms onto my armor to help me with deadlines!

Sarra Mossford (associate editor): The female Nova — Frankie Raye, because she has flaming hair and she gets to fly around the galaxy. I'd like to explore the universe, and see sights that no one has ever seen before!

Steve Skroce (CABLE penciler): I would be Longshot, because he's the luckiest guy in the Marvel Universe! He gets to score with all the chicks!

Frank Turner (JUSTICE Limited Series inker): I'd be the Vision, because then I could go anywhere I wanted to!

Chris Ivy (inker of the upcoming HULK 2099 monthly): I would pick the Vision. Ever since I was twelve years old, I've liked the idea of walking through walls!

Malcolm Davis: Professor Xavier. I like what he represents, and what he's trying to do, ethically and morally. He works with different races, people with different talents and abilities ... I try to do that in my own life — work with people from different backgrounds. I'm well-known for that. I think Xavier is the personification of what Marvel is all about. I wouldn't want to read minds, though — you don't want to know what some people are thinking!

Craig Brasfield (JUSTICE Limited Series penciler): Machine Man. If I didn't need food, sleep, or love, maybe I could get a regular book!

Glenn Greenberg (assistant editor): I'd be the Hulk, because I have a bad temper and I like to smash things!

NEWSLINE

ITEM! Last month saw the debut of Marvel Made, our very own in-house line of specialty products! In the past, items like porcelain figures and watches were licensed out to other companies to produce. Now we'll be producing some of those nifty goodies on our own! The difference? We'll be able to cater products especially to hardcore Marveloids, offering up fan-favorite characters in products designed by our finest artists!

Bonnie Berryman is our Manager of Specialty Projects, and she's the one who decides what Marvel Made will come up with next! Here's a rundown of the Marvel Made Products on tap for 1994: June: Wolverine watch and Graduation Ring for Xavier Institute, Class of '94. July: Coldest porcelain Gambit figurine. (All of our porcelain products are designed by the outstanding Randy Bowen studios!) August: Maximum Carnage watch, and the first in a series of porcelain bookends depicting classic confrontations: Spider-Man vs. Venom set. Up next: Hulk vs. Thing bookends, due this fall. Later in the year will be a Wolverine porcelain figurine, and at Christmastime, watch for a Spider-Man

tree ornament!

Remember, if it doesn't say Marvel Made, it won't get your pulse pounding! **ITEM!** The Marvel Softball Season is under way as you read this, and under the auspices of team manager/stat man **Rob Carosella**, there are no less than four games to be played against our friendly arch-rivals, the DC Bullets. If you should happen to be in central Park on July 12, August 11, or September 1, check out the North Meadow after 8 p.m. and catch some of Marvel's finest playing America's favorite pastime (other than reading comics)!

ITEM! Okay, first there was the BATMAN/PUNISHER book, then the Marvel-DC softball games, and now the most unexpected intercompany crossover of all — the marriage of Marvel's lovable convention coordinator **Tammy Brown** to DC editor **Kevin Dooley**. The couple took their solemn vows on May 21, and then took off on a honeymoon which somehow landed them in the audience of *The Tonight Show* on June 3 where host Jay Leno had them on camera for some silliness. Congrats to the fun couple from Marveloids and DCeekers everywhere!

HYPE BOX

If you haven't read the **SECRET DEFENDERS** lately, you're in for a surprise! According to new co-writer **Tom Brevoort** (with **Mike Kanterovich**), this book is now "the weird, strange, funky, off-beat Marvel Universe book!" The current storyline features popular mutants Archangel and Iceman, as well as Iron Fist and Giant-Man, in battle with the sinister **Swarm!** Up next: **Venom** and **Spider-Woman!** Tom wanted to tell us more about the **SECRET DEFENDERS**, "but it's a secret!"



NOW ON SALE

- **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #393: Showdown with Carnion and Shriek! By DeMott/Bagley/Emberlin!
- **BARBIE** #45: Barbie and the Pink Sox play ball in a league of their own! By Sato/Rausch/Tengahl!
- **BLACKWOLF** #4: The team gets a new member — a Sentinel! By Harding/Medina/Anderson!
- **CONAN CLASSIC** #4: Conan will never forget the Tower of the Elephant! By Thomas/Windsor-Smith/Busscema!
- **DEADPOOL** #2 OF 4: The mouths that roared: Deadpool battles Banisher! By Wald/Churchill/Minor!
- **DOCTOR WHO** #215: Alien

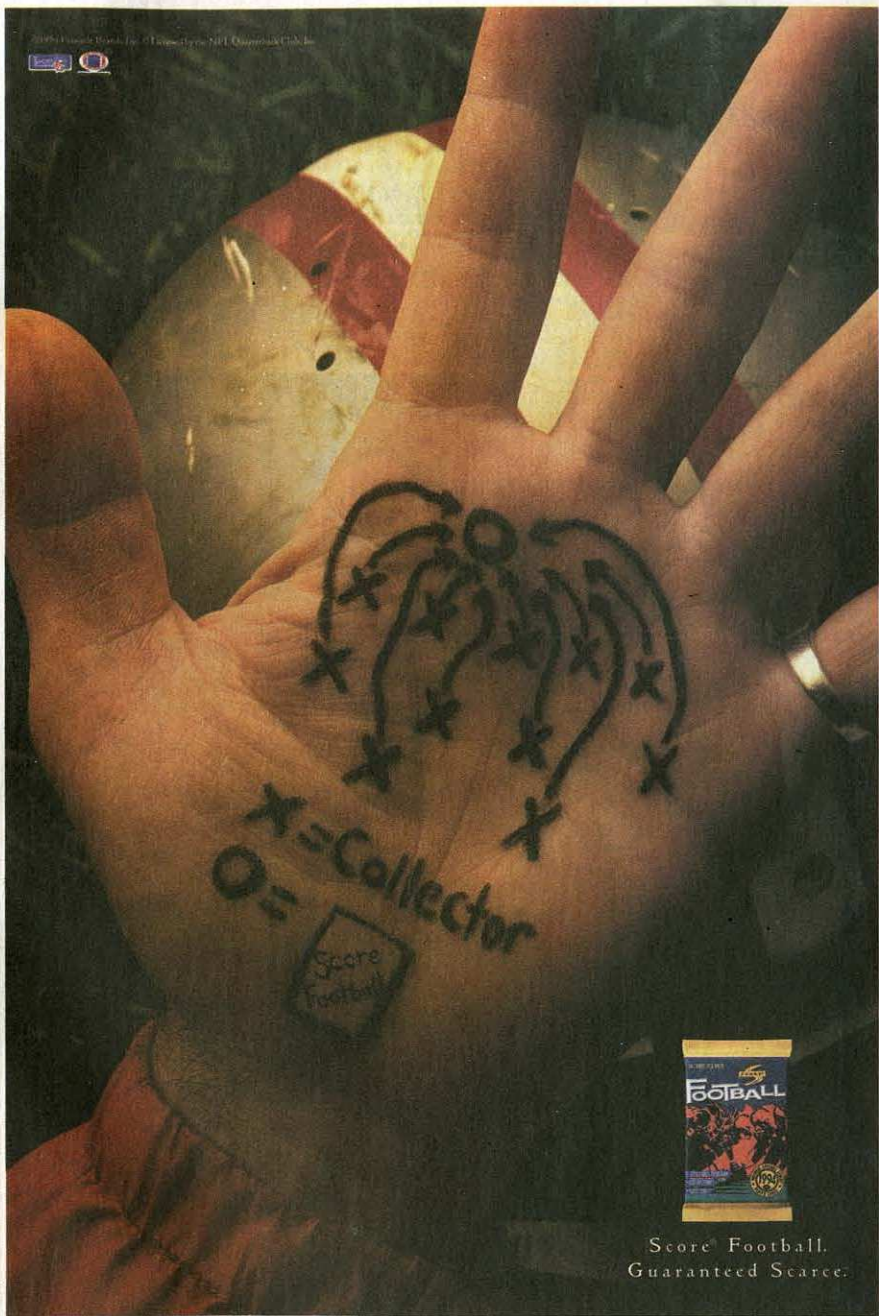
- insects! Who to devour: The Doctor! By Briggs/Andrew!
- **GHOST RIDER** #53: When Blackout returns, GR is left in the dark! By Mackie/Larocca!
- **GHOST RIDER ANNUAL** #2: You have nothing to fear but ... the Scarecrow! By Ellis/Saitaris/Wintermy!
- **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY** #52: Charlie-27 is now prisoner! #102564: By Gallagher/West/Montano!
- **THE LITTLE MERMAID** #1: Ariel swims the seven seas in search of adventure! By Robbins/Wishire/Hunt!
- **MACHINE MAN** 2020 #2: You

- don't need 2020 Vision to see how great it is! By DeFalco/Trimmer/Windsor-Smith!
- **NIGHT THRASHER** #14: The history of Night Thrasher and Silhouette! By Slott/Purcell!
- **PUNISHER WAR ZONE** #31: Frank sails on the River of Blood! By Dixon/Kubert!
- **RAVAGE** 2099 #22: Ravage faces a family feud! By Mills & Skinner/Mehm/Adams!
- **SECRET DEFENDERS** #19: With Archangel and Iceman against **Swarm!** By Brevoort & Kanterovich/Wyler/Judson!
- **SILVER SABLE** #28: Silver and Chen team up to stop a serial killer!

- By Wright/Pursell/Eisendr!
- **WAR MACHINE** #6: It's time for Rhodes to pay the Death toll! By Kermis/Geecko/Ekundu!
- **WOLVERINE** #65: Cable and Wolverine join forces to rescue the X-Men! #46 pages! By Hanna/Kubert!
- **X-FACTOR** #105: Double-sized issue with triple the number of mutants! By DeZango/Duursema/Milgrom!
- **X-MEN ADVENTURES SEASON 2** #6: Bishop and Cable race to stop the mutant virus! By Macchio/Hebert!
- **X-MEN: THE EARLY YEARS** #5: The Angel — prisoner of Magneto! By Lee/Kirby!

SOLOS IN MC PRESENTS ... NOVA TAKES ON SHATTERFORCE ... SPIDEY VS. THE SON OF KRAVEN ...

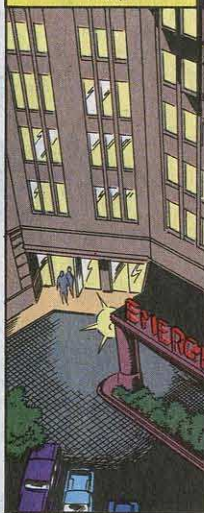
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HE FEELS FOR HER--
AND IT ASTONISHES
HIM.



AFTER ALL SHE'S DONE,
ALL SHE'S PUT HIM
THROUGH, HOW CAN HE
POSSIBLY FEEL COM-
PASSION FOR THIS
WOMAN?

AND YET HE DOES--
HOPING THAT, ONCE HER
CONDITION IS STABIL-
IZED AND SHE'S BEEN
TRANSPORTED BACK
TO RAVENCROFT...



...FRANCES BARRISON
CAN TAKE THE FIRST
HALTING STEPS BACK
TOWARD HEALTH--
AND SANITY.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
HE WONDERES, I DON'T
WANT TO FEEL... I DON'T
WANT TO CARE... AND YET...

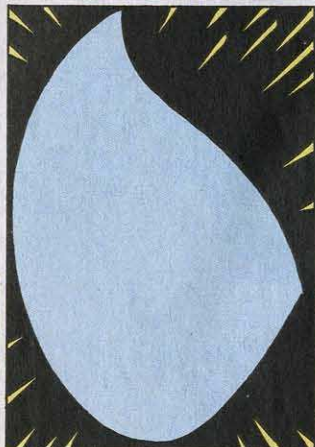
...I CAN'T
SEEM TO
STOP
MYSELF.



I WRAP MYSELF
IN A COCOON,
HIDE MYSELF
BEHIND A MASK,
AND, FOR ALL
MY EFFORTS,
PETER PARKER
STILL REFUSES
TO SURRENDER.



MAYBE
UNCLE BEN
AND AUNT
MAY DID
THEIR JOB TOO
WELL. MAYBE--



THE SAME HOSPITAL!

RACING HERE--SHRIEK'S SURVIVAL HIS ONLY CONCERN--IT DIDN'T EVEN OCCUR TO HIM THAT THIS IS WHERE THEY'D TAKEN MAY, OR PERHAPS HE UNCONSCIOUSLY CHOSE FOREST HILLS HOSPITAL--KNOWING JUST THAT.

RIGHT NOW IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT MATTERS IS THE LOVE THAT FLOODS HIM AS HE LOOKS IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AT THAT CHERISHED, FAMILIAR FACE.

AT FIRST HE PANICS--SURE SHE MUST BE DEAD. SHE'S SO PALE, HE THINKS. SO STILL! THEN, RELIEVED, HE NOTICES THE GENTLE MOVEMENT OF HER CHEST AS SHE BREATHES.

THE SPIDER IS AFRAID TO GO IN, WANTS TO TURN AND RUN, BACK INTO THE COOCONING DARKNESS.

YES, HE REALIZES, SHE'S ALIVE. BUT EACH OF THOSE GOSSAMER BREATHS--COULD BE HER LAST.

BUT THE PLAN REFUSES.

HE'S AGITATED.
CONFUSED. BUT HE
KNOWS NOW THAT
IT'S TIME TO STOP
RUNNING.



IT'S TIME
TO COME
HOME.

(NO, THE SPIDER
WHISPERS YOU'RE
SAFE WITH ME!
DON'T BE A FOOL!
DON'T LET YOUR-
SELF CARE!)



ALL HE
WANTS
NOW IS
TO HOLD
HIS WIFE
IN HIS
ARMS...

...TELL HER HE'S
SORRY. TELL HER
TO HELP HIM
THROUGH THIS
AWFUL TIME.

(IF THE MASK COMES
OFF, THEY'LL CLAW
OUT YOUR EYES! IF
YOU OPEN YOUR
HEART...)



Dear Peter
I don't know if
you'll even find this.
I don't know when-
or if - you're ever
coming home.
But, if you read this,
I hope you can under-
stand why I'm doing
this... why I'm going
away. You have to do
what's right for you...
and I have to do
what's right for me.
I'll call soon.
mg



(...THEY'LL TEAR
IT FROM YOUR
CHEST!)



ALONE AND
UNMOVING,
HE SITS...

THOUGHTS OF MALCOLM MCBRIDE, REUNITED
WITH HIS FAMILY... OF FRANCES BARRISON,
WHO, EVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF HER MADNESS,
FOUND COMPASSION AND LOVE... OF HIS
AUNT MAY SLOWLY FADING... HIS WIFE
SWIFTLY RETREATING.

THEY CRY AND CRY-- BUT
HE TURNS A DEAF EAR,
SHUTS THEM OUT, PUSHES
THEM DOWN-- INTO THE
GRAVE WHERE THEY BELONG.

PARKER'S
GRAVE.

...STARING
DOWN AT
THE LIGHTS
-- AND THE
LIVES--
BELOW.

SO MANY THOUGHTS
CRY OUT FOR HIS
ATTENTION.

NEVER AGAIN WILL HE
ALLOW THE MAN'S
VOICE TO SWAY HIM;
THE MAN'S HOPES TO
SEDUCE HIM. NEVER
AGAIN WILL HE SHOW
HIS FACE TO THAT
CRUEL AND MERCILESS
WORLD DOWN THERE.

THE MASK
STAYS ON.
THE HEART
STAYS COLD.

NOW AND
FOREVER,
HE VOWS...

...I AM
THE SPIDER.

NEXT: AMAZING'S
CHAPTER OF
"POWER AND
RESPONSIBILITY."
IT'S SPIDER-HISTORY
IN THE MAKING!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MARK BERNARDO
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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

SPIDER-MAN MYSTERY ALERT!

As you've seen in this issue, the Mystery Man (already glimpsed in the recent issues of the monthly Spider-titles) has made it to New York, and the shocking revelation of his identity -- and his inevitable confrontation with Peter Parker -- loom ever closer! Follow him next into the landmark 50th issue of SPIDER-MAN, for another piece of the puzzle (as if Spidey's first major battle with the son of Kraven and the eye-catching holographic foil-stamped cover weren't enough of an enticement!), then pick up SPECTACULAR #216 to see the stranger unmasked -- and face-to-face with Peter Parker! It's all the kickoff to what's sure to be the most talked-about storyline of the year! (Or did we mention that already? Can you tell we're excited?)

Dear Spider-Maniacs,

I just read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #387, and the word for it is "astounding!"

The Vulture's new costume is, to say the least, cool! So is this plotline with the mysterious "janitor" (although anyone who doesn't know it's the Chameleon needs to read more comics).

The last page really gave me the willies! But after thinking about it, I believe I can offer three theories as to the true identities and motives of Peter's parents. Here goes:

Theory #1: Fakes! They're henchmen of the Chameleon who were treated with the same shape-shifting surgical process he was, and now are part of his revenge scheme.

Theory #2: Fakes! They're virus-created "clones," who are either henchmen of Miles Warren (who is secretly alive), or another enemy who somehow obtained a set of the good doctor's notes.

Theory #3: Genuine article! They were brainwashed by the Red Skull (the real one, who's been known to do such things), and sent off to destroy Spidey. After all, doesn't the Skull hate Spidey for foiling his "Assassin Nation Plot" some time back?

Brian Corvello
42 Winston Drive
Washington, CT 06794

Thanks for the commentary, Brian! Good guesswork, though none of your theories on the true nature of the "parents" were on the money. However, you were among the many who did correctly guess the Chameleon's identity.

Dear Spider's Web,

I just put down ASM #387, and felt that I had to write. The "Lifethief" storyline has so far been great, and I can't wait for the conclusion. Although I'll be saddened

to see David Michelinie leave, I'm sure that whoever takes over will more than make up for the loss.

The team of Bagley and Emberlin is one of the best to come along in a long time. I rank them up there with Byrne/Austin and Kirby/Sinnett. I just hope you guys keep them around for as long as possible.

My congratulations to the whole team on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Every month, a great piece of work is put out by all. The only criticism I have is regarding the Vulture's new costume. If it ain't broke, don't fix it!

Before I go, I'm looking for pen pals, especially from any Marvel fans in Guadalajara in Mexico. I'm Mexican, so it's okay to write in Spanish!

I'm eagerly awaiting the next issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I know I won't be disappointed.

Oscar Lepe
2876 16th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

We hope this helps in your quest for pen pals, Oscar! We're always happy to help Marvelites reach out to each other across the miles!

As for your comments, we think that J.M. DeMottels, our new scribe (and no stranger to Spidey), is carrying on the momentum that David gave this book quite well, and also doing some of the absolute best work of his career. Let us know if you agree!

On the art front, we also think that you'll flip over our new inker who makes his debut in next month's issue: Larry Mahlstet, the guy who did such fantastic work over the Bag man's pencils back in NEW WARRIORS, is coming aboard to help usher Spidey into his latest era of greatness. And what of Randy Emberlin, our intrepid inkmeister for the past several years? He'll be moving over to join the team on our sister title, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN, embellishing over that mag's all-new penciler, Steven Butler (of SILVER SABLE and AMAZING ANNUAL #28 fame)! It just proves you can take the inker away from Spidey, but you can't take the Spidey out of the inker!

Dear Spider's Web,

"Lifethief" is one of the best stories I've read in a long time. I've just read #387, and loved the cover, the Vulture's new costume, and especially the mystery! The storyline with Peter's parents is one of the best Spidey mysteries of all time, mainly because you didn't ruin it by giving away too many clues too early on. Ever since their return, they've seemed legit. Nothing menacing whatsoever until they found out Peter's secret this issue. I'm guessing they have some vendetta against Spider-Man, but didn't know Peter was him until now. That would explain

why his spider-sense didn't go off. I must confess I have no idea why someone who didn't know Peter was Spider-Man would pose as his long-dead parents to get at Spidey... unless they really are Peter's parents working for the Red Skull or somebody. Boy, it's gonna be a long 30 days till next issue!

Then there's the other mystery on page 22. The second Sanchez was obviously the Chameleon, as was that weird janitor. Why would he want the Juvenator? Well, in issue #386, it said that the Juvenator can transfer life energy into a dead host, like Kraven's corpse! Could this be what Chameleon meant in issue #375, when he said that "the hunt won't -- can't -- die while the Chameleon lives"? Just a theory...

Michael Prichard
108 Joann Drive
Dothan, AL 36301

Read #386 a little closer, Michael! It was never stated that the Juvenator could reanimate dead tissue, just that it could transfer life energy from one source to another, possibly renewing cell structure, as it did when it temporarily transferred some of Spidey's life energy to the Vulture's aged, diseased cells. All clear? Not a bad guess, though! We're anxious to hear what you come up with on the current mystery figure winding his way through all the Spidey books! In any case, you don't have too much longer to wait for the answer!

NEXT ISSUE: Chapter two of "Power and Responsibility," the all-Spidey-titles crossover that sets the stage for the avalanche of events that take us to the historic issue #400! The action begins in WEB #117, where the Mystery Man plays an active role in our storyline, as a powerful new villain -- the mysterious Traveller -- takes over Ravencroft Institute and threatens to kill all of its inmates... unless Spider-Man stops him! The catch is that if Spidey does stop him... the inmates all go free! It's the ultimate crisis of conscience for Peter Parker, as he is finally pushed past the brink of insanity! How does the Mystery Man fit in? Pick up next issue and all will be revealed!

And not only that --but all four Spidey books next month will be available in two editions -- a regular, non-enhanced version, and an enhanced "flip book" with two enhanced foil covers, and a top-secret, extra-special back-up feature echoing events in the main story! Don't dare miss the events that will change the course of Spider-history forever!

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