

THE RETURN OF... THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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JAN # 407
MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN
COMICS

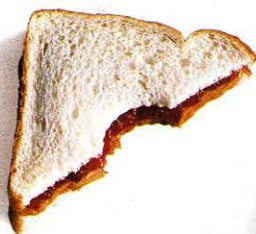


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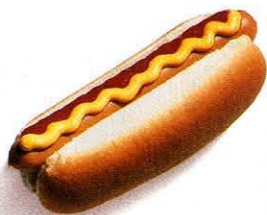
SAND TRAP!



1.

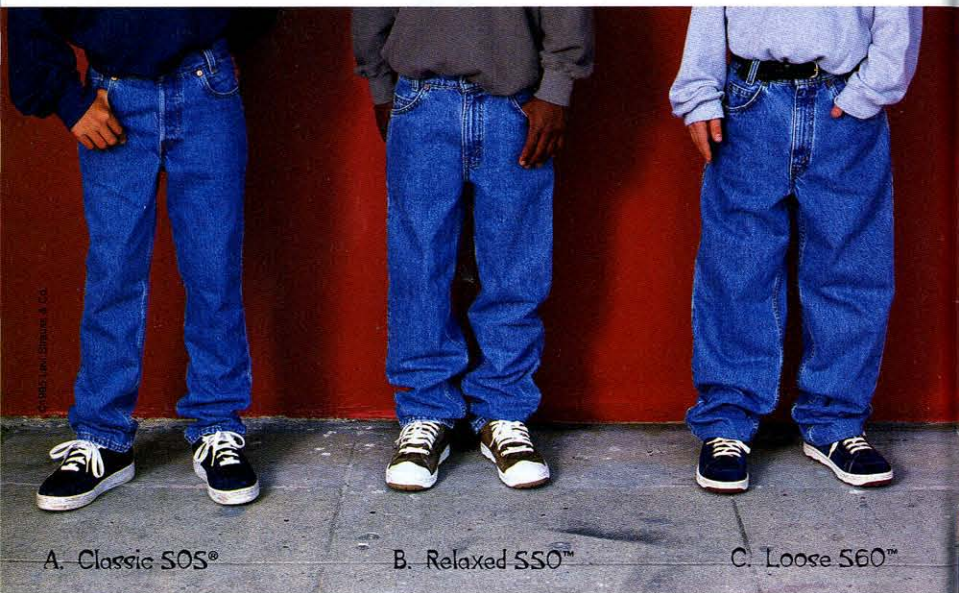


2.



3.

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HIS GIVEN NAME IS **PETER PARKER**. WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL HE WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER AND ENDOWED WITH AMAZING POWERS, WHICH HE HAS SINCE USED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT AND BATTLE EVIL. NOW HE CALLS HIMSELF **BEN REILLY**, AND, AS A COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTER, HE CONTINUES HIS CRUSADE... FOR HE UNDERSTANDS THAT WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

FINAL

I'M
 A LITTLE
 DISAPPOINTED
 WITH THIS FRONT
 PAGE, JOE.

THE
 HEADLINE'S A
 REAL GRABBER,
 BUT THIS GRAPHIC
 DOESN'T REALLY
 JUMPOUT AT
 ME.

DAILY BUGLE
 THE PICTURE NEWSPAPER

50c

Partly cloudy, chance of snow. High 25-30. Details p. 2

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SPIDER-MAN?!?

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. 1, No. 467,
 January, 1996. (ISSN #0274-5232) Published
 by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese,
 President, Stan Lee, Publisher, OFFICE OF
 PUBLICATION: 367 PARK AVENUE
 SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND
 CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK,
 NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING
 OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright ©
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 and \$2.05 in Canada. Subscription rate
 for 12 issues: \$23.40 U.S.; \$35.40 for-
 eign, and Canadian subscribers must
 add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST
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 DANBURY, CT 06813
 1979. TELEPHONE #
 (203) 743 5331. Printed
 in the U.S.A.



Questions surround the fate of original
 wall-crawler! Stories begin on page 3.

written by
 TOM
 DeFALCO
 penciled by
 MARK
 BAGLEY
 inked by
 LARRY
 MAHLSTEDT
 lettered by
 BILL
 OAKLEY
 colored by
 BOB
 SHAREN
 computer seps by
 MALIBU
 edited by
 BOB
 BUDANSKY

BLASTS FROM THE PAST!



FRANKLY, I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T PULL ONE OF PARKER'S OLD ACTION SHOTS OUT OF THE FILES!

SPEAKING OF PARKER, YOU HEAR ANYTHING SINCE HE AND HIS WIFE WENT OFF TO HAVE THEIR BABY?



GOD...

WHAT A REVOLTING THOUGHT!

IT'S A REAL POSSIBILITY! AFTER ALL, THE ORIGINAL GUY DISAPPEARED A FEW WEEKS AGO!

WASN'T HE RECENTLY SIGHTED IN PORTLAND, OREGON?



UNCONFIRMED! BUT WE DO KNOW SOMEBODY WEARING A NEW VERSION OF HIS COSTUME WAS SPOTTED NEAR CENTENNIAL UNIVERSITY LAST WEEK!

MAYBE HE JUST GOT TIRED OF THE OLD SUIT...

I CERTAINLY HAD ENOUGH OF IT!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?!

I THOUGHT YOU SWORE OFF CIGARS!



NOT A WORD.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ON THIS LEAD STORY, JONAH?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S A NEW SPIDER-MAN IN TOWN?



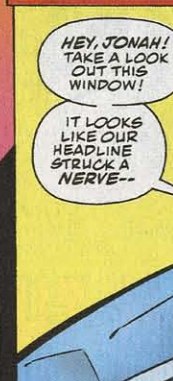
harumphh~

I... DID!



I GUESS SOME OLD HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK.

YEAH! THEY'RE A LOT LIKE OLD PREJUDICES!



HEY, JONAH! TAKE A LOOK OUT THIS WINDOW!

IT LOOKS LIKE OUR HEADLINE STRUCK A NERVE--



"--AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES CURIOUS ABOUT SPIDER-MAN'S CURRENT SITUATION!"

THE STREETS ARE PRACTICALLY BOILING OVER WITH WILD AND CRAZY RUMORS ABOUT MY OL' WEB-HEADED HOMEBODY!

MAYBE SPIDEY AND I HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN THE BEST OF BUDS OVER THE YEARS, BUT HE RECENTLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME...*

*AS SHOWN IN SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED #5.

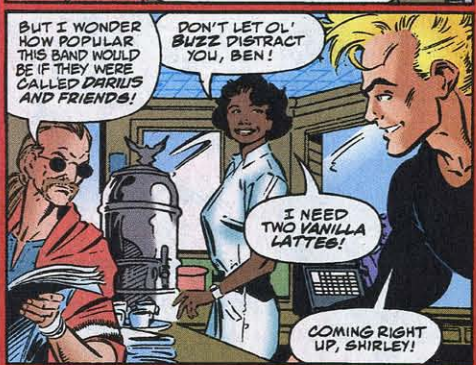
IT'S TIME I RETURNED THE FAVOR!

I OWE IT TO HIM TO LEARN WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON!

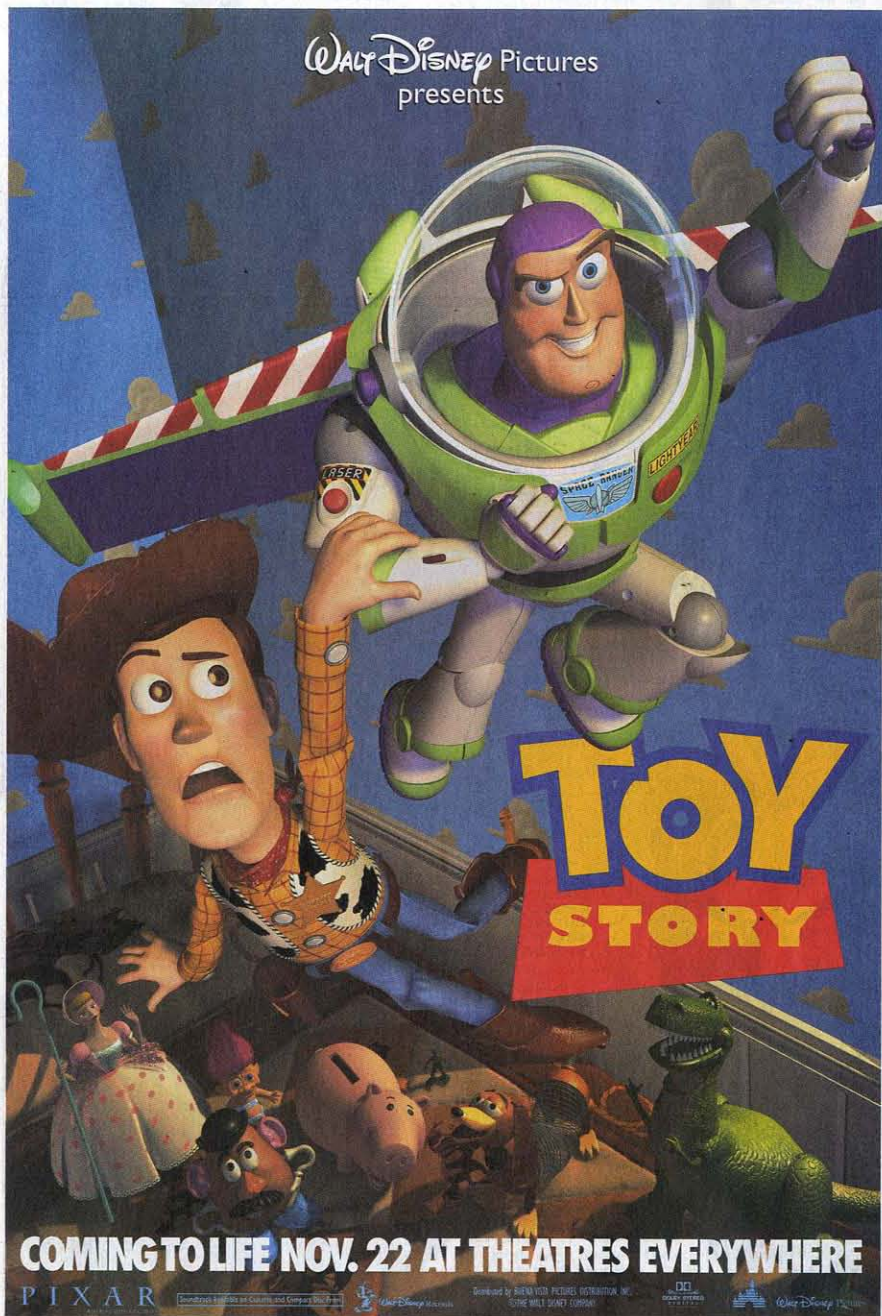
IS HE MERELY TRYING TO UPDATE HIS LOOK... OR HAS SOMEONE ELSE COPPED HIS GIG?!

IF HE'S ANYWHERE NEAR MANHATTAN, HE'S BOUND TO SEE OR HEAR ABOUT MY FLAMING INVITATION--

--AND ONLY THE REAL SPIDER-MAN WILL KNOW THE LOCATION OF OUR REGULAR MEETING SITE!



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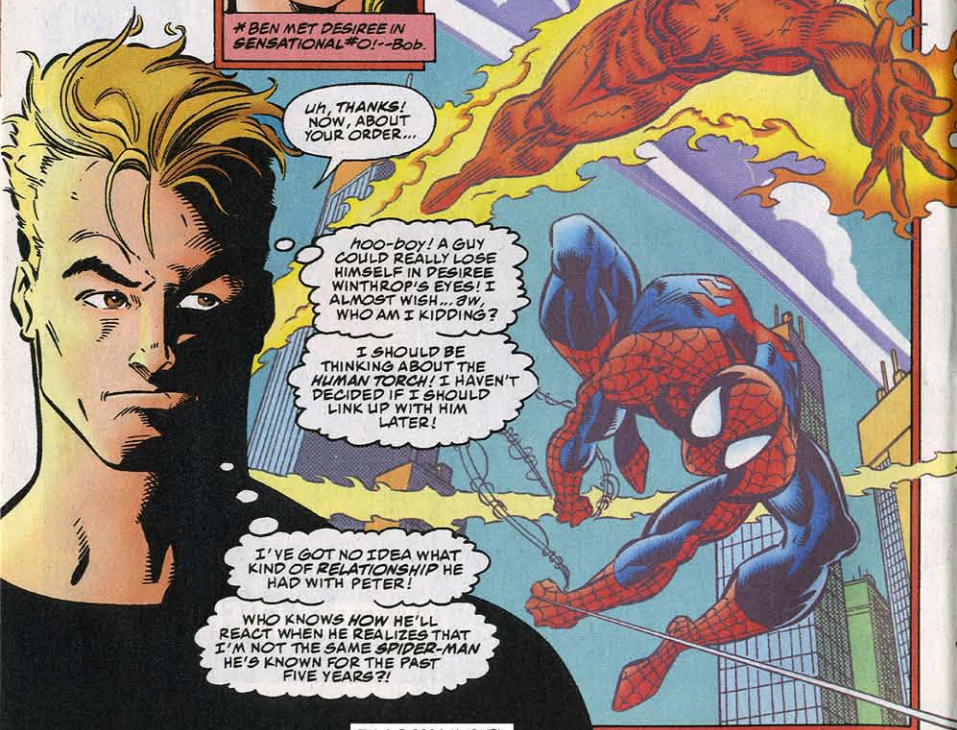
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AT THAT VERY
MOMENT, AT THE
EAST 53RD STREET
ADDRESS OF THE
SYMKARIAN
EMBASSY...

THE
AMBASSADOR
INFORMS ME
THAT OUR NEW
RECRUITS HAVE
ARRIVED--

--AND THEY HAVE
ALREADY REPORTED
TO THE GYM!

SWELL!

ANY SPECIAL
INSTRUCTIONS--?

GO EASY
ON THEM.
THEY'RE NEW TO
FIELD WORK.

GOTCHA!

I GUESS
YOU WANT ME TO
RUN A STANDARD
ENDURANCE
TEST.

AND SO,
SHORTLY...

WELCOME TO
AMERICA... AND THE
WILD PACK!

AS YOU ALL KNOW,
SILVER SABLE
INCORPORATED IS
SYMKARIA'S MAJOR
INDUSTRY!

OUR SECURITY
SERVICES ARE IN
DEMAND AROUND
THE ENTIRE
WORLD!

YOU CITIZENS HAVE ALL
WORKED HARD FOR A
PLACE ON THIS TEAM!

A FIELD ASSIGNMENT
IS AN HONOR... A PRIVILEGE... NOT A BIRTHRIGHT!

YOU MUST CONSTANTLY
PROVE THAT YOU ARE THE
VERY BEST SYMKARIA
HAS TO OFFER!

YOU MUST
BE STRONG,
COURAGEOUS
AND VIGILANT!

AN ATTACK
COULD COME AT ANY
TIME--

ADVERTISEMENT

9 A.M. S



ULTRA

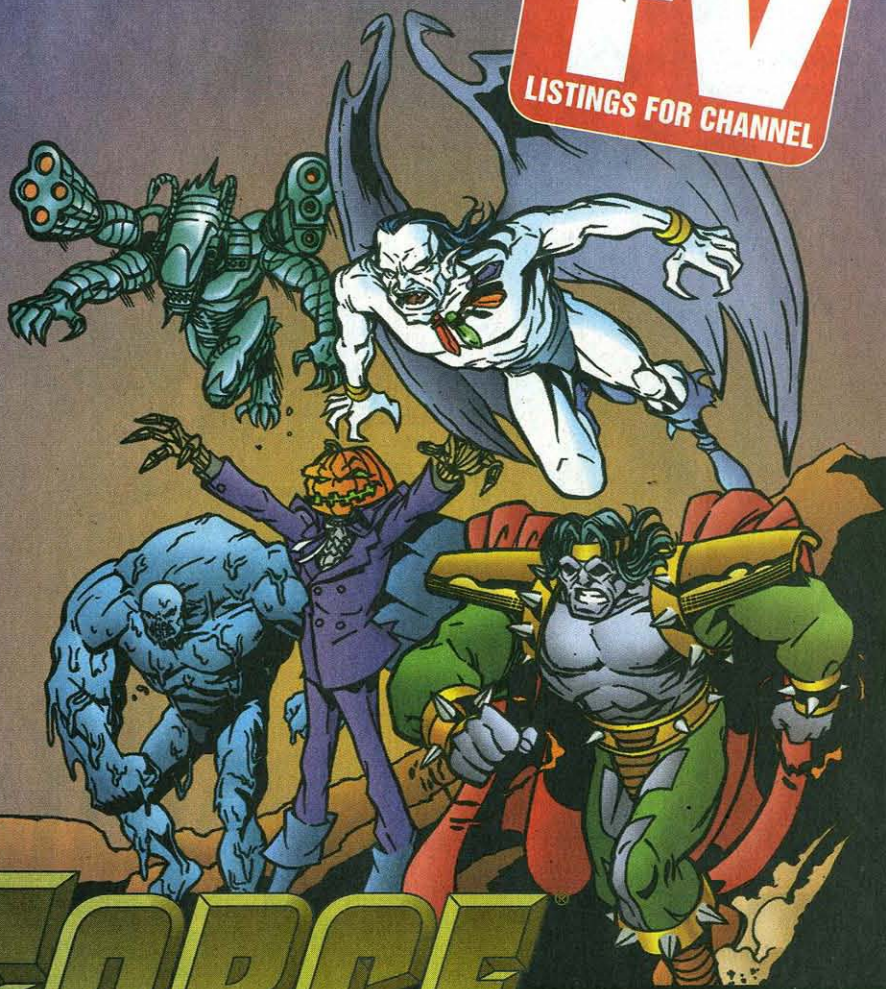
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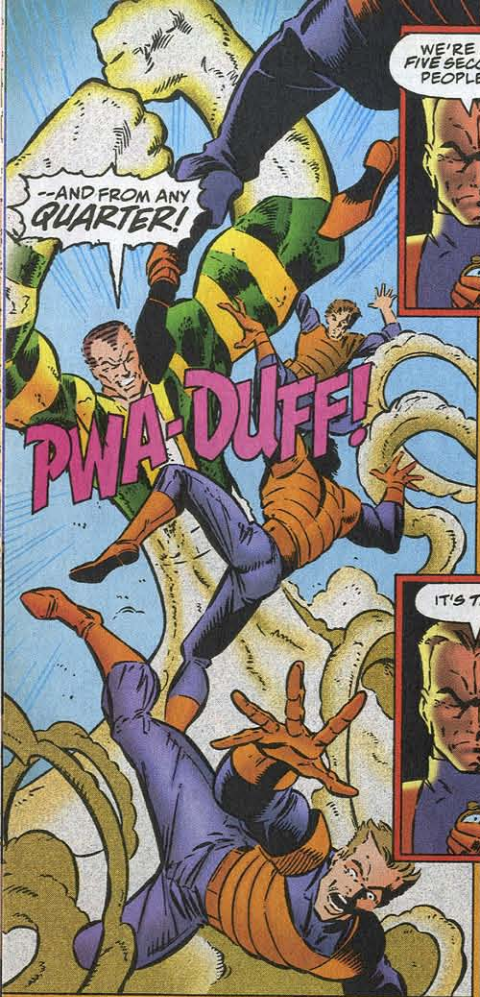
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WE'RE AT FIVE SECONDS, PEOPLE...



IT'S TEN...



AND CLOSING ON FIFTEEN...



KILL THE CLOCK!

YOU GUYS DID OKAY FOR YOUR FIRST TIME OUT!

uh... THANKS!

MY PLEASURE!

I'M SURE...!



THIS GROUP SHOWS
REAL POTENTIAL,
SILVER!

I SAW FIFTEEN
SECONDS! HOW LONG
BEFORE THEY LAST
TWENTY?

GIMME A WEEK--
MAYBE TWO--TA
HARDEN 'EM UP!



DAILY - BUGLE
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
SPIDER-MAN?

HAVE
YOU SEEN
TODAY'S
DAILY
BUGLE?

THE LEAD STORY COULD
BE A STUNT BY
JAMEGON TO BOLSTER
HIS SAGGING
CIRCULATION.

STILL, I'M
TEMPTED TO
INVESTIGATE...



YER
KIDDIN'! I
THOUGHT
WE DIDN'T DO
FREEBIES!



WE
DON'T!

THIS COMES
UNDER THE
HEADING OF
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT!

THOUGH HE WAS NOT ONE
OF OUR REGULAR FREE-
LANCERS, THE OLD
SPIDER-MAN OFTEN
PROVED A USEFUL
ALLY.



IT BEHOOVES US
TO LEARN IF HE
HAS, INDEED,
BEEN
REPLACED.



ME? DON'T
BE SILLY!

I HOPE YOU
AIN'T PLANNIN'
TA RUN AN
ENDURANCE
TEST ON HIM!

THAT'S
YOUR
JOB!

THUS, SOMETIME
LATER...

ALMOST SIX O'CLOCK!
TIME TO RENDEZVOUS
WITH THE OL' WEBHEAD!

I JUST HOPE
HE SHOWS!



BOY! I'M GOING TO FEEL
LIKE A REAL JERK IF THIS NEW
COSTUME JAZZ IS JUST SOME
CRUMMY ATTEMPT AT SOME
FREE PUBLICITY!



What's the best part of
Peanut Butter Crunch's taste?

It's all...

Peanut
butter



PEANUT BUTTER

PEANUT BUTTER



peanut
butter

PEANUT BUTTER

PEANUT BUTTER

PEANUT BUTTER



PEANUT BUTTER



peanut
butter

PEANUT BUTTER

PEANUT BUTTER



the Crunch that Screams



AGENT 14 TO SYMKARIA ONE!
I AM TRACKING
THE HUMAN
TORCH!



HE IS
CURRENTLY
MOVING TO
THE WEST...IN
THE DIRECTION
OF AGENT
27!

I GOT HIM,
AGENT 14--



--AND HIS FINAL
DESTINATION
APPEARS TO BE
THE STATUE OF
LIBERTY!

BUT, EVEN AS THIS CRITICAL
BIT OF INFORMATION IS
QUICKLY RELAYED TO
SILVER SABLE...



HI-HO,
FLAME-BRAIN!
THERE'S NO NEED TO
BURN UP THE SKIES
FOR LITTLE OL'
ME!

SPIDER-MAN!
I SEE YOU GOT MY
MESSAGE!

WHO COULD
MISS IT? YOU'VE
GOT ABOUT THE
WORST CASE OF
SUBTLETY DEFICIT
DISORDER I'VE
EVER SEEN!

WHAT'S THE BIG
EMERGENCY?

I'VE RECENTLY
LEARNED THAT YOU
ARE IN SERIOUS
DANGER!



SOMEONE
INTENDS TO
KILL YOU!

REALLY?

YOU GOT
ANY IDEA
WHO--?

AS A
MATTER OF
FACT, I
DO--!

LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE
IN THIS GREAT
CITY, I HATE
YOU!

YOU'RE
TOO FAST!
TOO STRONG
AND
AGILE!

I COULDN'T RISK
GIVING YOU A FIGHTING
CHANCE, SO I DELIBERATELY
LURED YOU UP HERE WHERE I
HAD THE ADVANTAGE!

YOU
ARE TOAST, MY
FRIEND! YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY AVOID MY
DEADLY FLAME!

AARGHH!

NIGHTY-NIGHT,
PEABRAIN!

IT'S A
LOOOONG
WAY TO THE
GROUND--


YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT AN
INSUFFERABLE
INSECT! A WALL-
CRAWLING
FREAK!

--AND
IT'S THE
LAST TRIP
YOU'LL EVER
MAKE!

**HA-
HA-
HA!**

NOT BAD! NOT
BAD AT ALL!

ALTHOUGH
I SUPPOSE THE
DIALOGUE COULD
USE SOME
SHARPENING!



SUCH A
PITY IT WASN'T
REAL!

THE DIGITAL IMAGERY
TRANSMISSION CHIP WHICH
ARMADA RECENTLY APPROPRI-
ATED FOR MEX... IS FAR
MORE EFFECTIVE THAN I
EVER DARED DREAM!

IN A MANNER WHICH
WOULD BOGGLE THE MIND
OF A LESSER INTELLECT, IT
CONVERTS BRAIN WAVES
INTO DIGITIZED SIGNALS
WHICH ANY NORMAL TELE-
VISION CAN TRANSLATE
INTO SOUND AND
PICTURES!

I CAN CREATE
INSTANT
PROGRAMMING!
USING MY OWN
THOUGHTS! MY
OWN FANTASIES!

WRITERS!
ACTORS! SETS!
AND COSTLY
PRODUCTION
FACILITIES WILL
HAVE BECOME
OBSOLETE!

I CAN LITERALLY
CREATE AND SUPPLY
A COMPLETE TELE-
VISION NETWORK WITH
THE POWER OF MY OWN
MIND!

IN THIS AGE OF
INFORMATION...

...THE GREATEST
POWER BELONGS TO
WHOEVER RULES THE
AIR WAVES!

AND SOON--
VERY SOON--
THAT SHALL BE
MYSTERIO!

AND I WILL CELEBRATE
BY ACHIEVING A LONG-
CHERISHED DREAM...

...THE TOTAL
DESTRUCTION OF
SPIDER-MAN!

*SEE SENSATIONAL
SPIDER-MAN #0
FOR DETAILS --Bob.



THERE! I
HOPE YOU FEEL
BETTER!

I FLUFFED
YOUR PILLOW AND
STRAIGHTENED YOUR
BLANKET!

CAN YOU HEAR
ME, SEWARD? DO
YOU EVEN KNOW
I'M HERE?



WHERE
ARE YOU,
MAN? IS YOUR
MIND STILL
WANDERING
THROUGH CYBER-
SPACE?

YOU GOTTA WAKE
UP! YOU JUST GOTTA!
THE LONGER YOU REMAIN
IN THIS COMA, THE LESS
CHANCE YOU HAVE OF EVER
REGAINING THE FULL
USE OF YOUR BODY!



I... I'LL STOP IN AGAIN
TOMORROW, PAL!



WHAT A LIFE! I HAVE
A FAKE NAME, A DEAD-
END JOB, AND MY ONLY
FRIEND IS IN A COMA!

I GUESS
THINGS COULD
ALWAYS BE
WORSE!

AT LEAST I CAN TAKE
SOME COMFORT IN THE
FACT THAT I KNOW WHO
I REALLY AM!

OKAY! I HAVE THE
WHOLE EVENING AHEAD
OF ME... WHAT SHOULD
I DO?

TRY TO GET A LINE
ON THAT MISSING
TECHNOLOGY WHICH
ARMADA RECENTLY
RIPPED OFF?

FIND A DECENT
APARTMENT?

CATCH A
MOVIE?

WHIP UP
SOME MORE
WEB FLUID?

HAVE A
LEISURELY
DINNER?

OR, ENJOY A
NIGHT OUT WITH A
CERTAIN FLAME-
COVERED CLOWN?

FOR ME...
THEY USUALLY
ARE!



LIBERTY ISLAND FERRY
HE WILL BE HERE

AND SO...

STAY TOGETHER, CLASS!

LEWIS IS BREATHING ON ME, MRS. PLATT!

AM NOT!

WHY DID I VOLUNTEER TO BE A CLASS CHAPERONE?

KILLER SHARKS ARE EASIER ON THE NERVES THAN SECOND GRADERS!



BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A SCHOOL OUTING.

MAYBE...

...BUT WE'RE NOT HERE TO ENJOY THE SIGHTS!

SPIDER-MAN CAN'T FLY LIKE THE TORCH. IF LIBERTY ISLAND IS THEIR RENDEZVOUS POINT, HE MAY BE ON THIS FERRY.

HOW SHOULD I PLAY HIM?

I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.



OKAY! YOU'RE THE BOSS!

THIS IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE A BIG WASTE OF TIME, BUT I CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO CHECK IT OUT!

WHO KNOWS? IT COULD BE WORTH A FEW LAUGHS TO SEE JOHNNY STORM AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, AND-- WHOA!

THAT BIG BRUISER AHEAD OF ME! HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN OVER FIVE YEARS, BUT I'D KNOW HIM ANYWHERE--



--THE SANDMAN!



HE MUST BE HERE BECAUSE OF THE TORCH'S MESSAGE!

HOW'D HE STUMBLE ON OUR MEETING SITE? IS HE AFTER ME OR JOHNNY?

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS FERRY IS FILLED WITH CHILDREN, WHICH HE CAN USE AS HOSTAGES!




I READ SOMEWHERE THAT THE SANDMAN HAD JOINED A HIGH-TECH MERCENARY GROUP A FEW YEARS BACK!

WISH I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THAT ARTICLE!



THE OTHER PETER PARKER LIVED A FULL LIFE WHILE I WAS GONE! A LOT OF THINGS CHANGED!

THE SANDMAN'S BEING HERE COULD BE PERFECTLY INNOCENT, BUT I CAN ONLY GO BY MY OWN PAST EXPERIENCE!



NO SIGN OF THE
WEB-GUY! WHAT
IF HE DOESN'T
SHOW?

HOLD ON,
BIG FELLA!
YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO WAIT
FOR THE NEXT
FERRY!

NO LIABILITY
INSURANCE IS BIG
ENOUGH TO COVER BOTH
A CLASS FULL OF KIDS
AND A KNOWN SUPER-
VILLAIN ON THE SAME
BOAT!

THEN I'LL
ONLY HAVE TO
PAY YOU STRAIGHT
TIME FOR THIS
EVENING'S WORK!

SPIDER-MAN!!
I'M REAL GLAD
YOU FINALLY
POPPED UP!

NOW I CAN
BILL THE ENTIRE
NIGHT AT MY FIELD
COMBAT RATE!

uh, YEAH...
WHATEVER YOU
SAY!

LOOK, I DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME
IS, SANDMAN...

... BUT I WANT
YOU AND YOUR
BLONDE CUTIE
TO BACK AWAY
FROM THE
FERRY!

BLONDE CUTIE?!

OBOY! HE'S REALLY
IN FOR IT NOW!

TEST HIM...
TO THE
MAX!

GOTCHA!



YOU TRYIN' TA
COMMIT SUICIDE, WEBS?
WHERE ARE YOUR BLASTED
MANNERS?!

EVEN
DOCTOR DOOM
TREATS SILVER
SABLE WITH MORE
RESPECT!

SILVER SABLE?!
I THOUGHT SHE LOOKED
FAMILIAR! I ONCE SAW
HER ON LETTERMAN!

SHE'S SOME KIND
OF INTERNATIONAL
BOUNTY HUNTER!

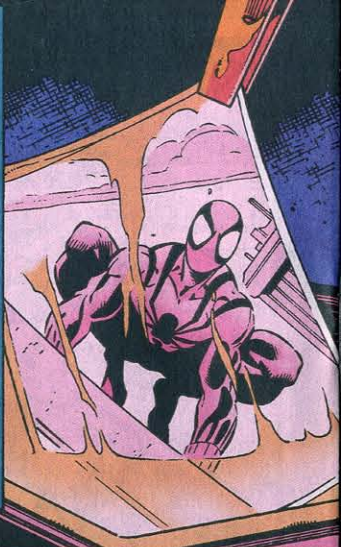
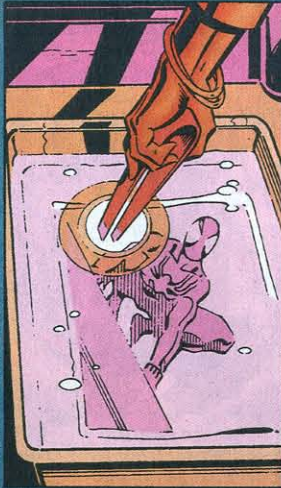
DID SOMEONE
HIRE HER AND THE
SANDMAN? SOMEONE
LIKE ARMADA... OR
HIS MYSTERIOUS
EMPLOYER?!

HECK! WITH MY LUCK,
THE SUSPECTS COULD
RANGE ALL THE WAY FROM
THE NEW DOC OCK TO
BARNEY, THE PURPLE
DINOSAUR!

AT LEAST I'VE MANAGED
TO LURE SANDY AWAY
FROM THE KIDS! NOW ALL
I HAVE TO DO IS FIND A
WAY TO KEEP HIM FROM
REARRANGING MY EVER-
ADORABLE FACE!

YEAH...
THAT'S
ALL!

MEANWHILE, ACROSS
TOWN, AT CENTENNIAL
UNIVERSITY...



WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
AMINIQUE?

THESE STILLS ARE
TOTALLY FANTABULOUS,
JESSICA! I'LL BET YOU'RE
THE ONLY PHOTO-BIRD IN
THE ENTIRE CITY WHO'S
MANAGED TO SNAP THE
NEW SPIDER-MAN!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD
CONSIDER PULLING A...
WHAT IS HIS NAME? THE
GUY WHO'S ALWAYS
BYLINING THE SPIDER-
SHOTS FOR THE DAILY
BUGLE--?

BINGO! HE SCORES
BUCKS OFF HIS
CAMERA FOR SPIDER-
MAN SHOTS! WHY
SHOULDN'T YOU?

YOU MEAN
PARKER... PETER
PARKER?!

TAKE THE LAW INTO YOUR HANDS!



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I MIGHT HAVE COME ON A LITTLE TOO STRONG EARLIER!

MAYBE WE SHOULD BOTH CALM DOWN AND, Y'KNOW, TALK!

SURE! WE CAN KNOCK BACK A FEW BREWS--

--BUT IT'S GOTTA BE AFTER I GET THE WORD FROM SILVER!

WHO IS THIS CHARACTER?!

HE MAY BE AS STRONG AND AGILE AS THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN, BUT HIS MOVES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

HE SEEMS A LITTLE LESS EXPERIENCED--

--AND A LOT MORE LIGHT-HEARTED!

YO SANDY! CATCH THIS NEW STUNT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PERFECT!

--AND CONCLUDES WITH A SMASHING CLIMAX!

IT STARTS WITH A THIRTY-FOOT LEAP TO THE NEAREST FLAG-POLE--

COOL, huh?

WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN? YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED SOME OF ITS SUBTLE BEAUTY THE FIRST TIME OUT!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE, WEBHEAD...

...I AIN'T GONNA MISS YOU!

PROMISES, PROMISES!

I'VE GOT JUST THE THING TO INTRIGUE A BEACH-LOVING BUTTERCUP LIKE YOU ...

...A NICE, BIG WEB-BALL!

SPLUTZ!

SPLUTZ--?!

OH, NO! THAT NEW BATCH OF WEBBING I RECENTLY THREW TOGETHER IS GUMMING UP MY WEB-SHOOTERS, AND--? gakk! I'M BEING SWEEP UNDER A TIDAL WAVE OF SOLID SAND!

CAN'T BELIEVE I USED TO DREAM ABOUT BEING SPIDER-MAN AGAIN!

HOW COULD I HAVE POSSIBLY FORGOTTEN HOW MUCH I HATE DAYS LIKE THIS?!

FACE IT, JOHNNY-BOY...

...YOU'VE BEEN STOOD UP! SPIDEY'S A NO-SHOW!

EVERYBODY IN THIS CITY SAW MY INVITATION! HE MUST BE DELIBERATELY AVOIDING ME... BUT WHY?!

COULD THE BUGLE BE RIGHT FOR ONCE?

IS THERE A NEW WEBHEAD IN TOWN?

HEY! THERE'S SOME KIND OF A DISTURBANCE NEAR THE LIBERTY ISLAND FERRY DEPOT!

HAH! GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, BUDDY BOY! WHOEVER THE HECK YOU REALLY ARE, YA MAKE A DARNED GOOD SPIDER-MAN!

YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE SEASONING!

THE OTHER GUY NEVER WOULD HAVE FLOUNDERED INTO THIS TRAP!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> FFO Fantastic Force | <input type="checkbox"/> WMC War Machine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FWK Force Works | |

The X-ceptional X-Men

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAB Cable | <input type="checkbox"/> XFO X-Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXC Excalibur | <input type="checkbox"/> MAN X-Man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEN Generation X | <input type="checkbox"/> MEN X-Men |
| <input type="checkbox"/> XME Uncanny X-Men | <input type="checkbox"/> X99 X-Men 2099 |
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- | | |
|---|---|
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- | | |
|---|---|
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Gut-Splitting Laughs

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUT Beavis & Butthead | <input type="checkbox"/> REN The Ren & Stimpy Show |
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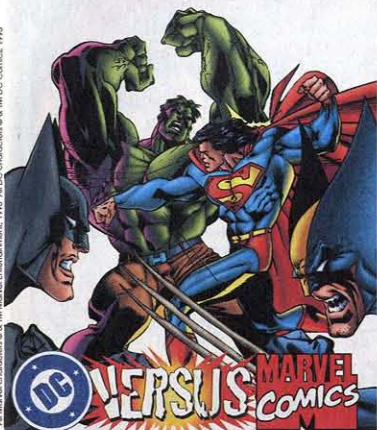
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She's seething, and shrieks her rage as she swings her head around to glare at you. You return her stare, unafraid, your sword held at the ready. Your eyes meet, and time stops as you hold each other's gaze. One . . . two . . . three . . . you leap at the same time!

She starts to draw breath—you may have a fighting chance, if you can just get to her before

SHE SPEWS FIRE . . .



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BOB'S BOX

You didn't really think Spider-Man had left the Spider-books permanently, didja? After all, did the guy in the blue tights and red cape stay dead and buried for very long? Speaking of which, world-renowned artist and writer of guys-wear-a-big-"S"-on-their-chest Dan Jurgens joins the Spidey crew to launch everyone's favorite wall-crawler's triumphant return this month!

Check out SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #0 as it kicks off the occasion, a 48-page no-ads extravaganza that sets the course of the Spideverse in an all-new direction! As he settles into a new life, with a new supporting cast, Ben Reilly finally accepts his destiny, and resumes the role he left behind five years ago! But he's putting a different spin on things, complete with a new attitude and a new costume! Spider-Man is back, and better than ever! With Dan doing the writing and penciling, and inker-without-equal Klaus Janson contributing his prodigious talents, this book is sure to be an instant classic! And if that's not enough, wait'll you see the special multiple-image lenticular art on the cover!

"The Return of Spider-Man" begins in SENSATIONAL #0 and continues in all the core titles this month. And next month SENSATIONAL becomes a regular monthly series, with Dan and Klaus remaining on board as the creative team!

The Spider-Man saga begins anew, and it only gets better from here!!

BOB BUDIANSKY
Editor in Chief, Spider-Man Group

Bob

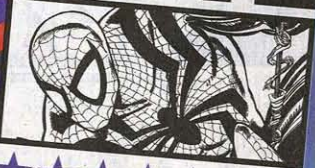
"BIOGRAPHY" PRESENTS... STAN LEE

STAN LEE, co-creator of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, the Hulk and countless other characters in the Marvel Universe, is being spotlighted on the highly acclaimed television series, "Biography," which can be seen on cable television's Arts & Entertainment Channel (A & E).

Scheduled to air during the week of December 25th, "Biography: Stan Lee, The ComiX-MAN" will feature interviews with legendary

Spider-Man artist JOHN ROMITA, SR., film directors JAMES CAMERON and JOHN SINGLETON, and other people from the entertainment industry. For the actual time and date, be sure to check your local television listings!

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ON SALE THIS MONTH

SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #0

THE RETURN OF SPIDER-MAN - Part 1 of 4: It's a new life, a new supporting cast, and a new look for Ben Reilly - and for Spider-Man! That's right, the web-slinger returns in this landmark issue, with an all-new costume! *By Jurgens/Janson*

WEB OF SCARLET SPIDER #3

NIGHTMARE IN SCARLET - Part 1 of 3: The new Scarlet Spider continues on in his own title, but is he a hero or the most dangerous new villain in town? He just intends to find out! Continued in NEW WARRIORS #67! *By Skolnick/Karounos/Emberlin*

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #407

THE RETURN OF SPIDER-MAN - Part 2 of 4: Spider-Man is back, with a new costume! And when he encounters Silver Sable and the Sandman, the sparks are gonna fly! *By DeFalco/Bagley/Mahstedt*

SPIDER-MAN #64

THE RETURN OF SPIDER-MAN - Part 3 of 4: Spider-Man faces the super-villains called Poison! The web-slinger is back, but will he survive his return? *By Howard Mackie/John Romita, Jr./Al Williamson*

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #230

THE RETURN OF SPIDER-MAN - Part 4 of 4: A duo of eco-terrorists will save the environment, even if they have to kill Spider-Man to do it! *By DeZago/Buscema/Sienkiewicz & Palmiotti*

GREEN GOBLIN #4

It had to happen: The Green Goblin vs. the Hobgoblin! It's gonna be raining pumpkins! *By DeFalco/McDaniel*

NEW WARRIORS #67

NIGHTMARE IN SCARLET - part 2 of 3: Continued from WEB OF SCARLET SPIDER #3: The new Scarlet Spider is on a rampage through New York - and the Warriors are out to stop him! Guest-starring Spider-Man! *By Skolnick/Zircher/Peggy*

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN #5

The Vulture is back, and he's out to steal a top-secret weapon from the U.S. Army! Can Spidey save the day, or will he be branded as the Vulture's accomplice? *By Busiek/Oliffe/Milgrom*

SPIDER-MAN ADVENTURES #14

Beginning the run of all-new stories inspired by the hit animated TV show! Doctor Octopus returns, with a prescription for Spider-Man's destruction! *By Yomtov/Saviuk/Stall*

SPIDER-MAN: THE FINAL ADVENTURE #2 (of 4)

The murderous creature called Tendril is on the loose, and Peter Parker must share the blame! Forced to become Spider-Man one last time, Peter finds that his marriage may now be on the rocks! *By Nicieza/Robertson/Albrecht*

VENOM: ALONG CAME A SPIDER #1 (of 4)

It begins here! The storyline that redefines the relationship between Venom and Spider-Man! *By Hama/St. Pierre/McKenna*

AMAZING FANTASY #17

The young Spider-Man web-slings into action against his first super-powered foe, a young mystery vandal who's a super-villain in the making! *By Busiek/Lee*



I SOMETIMES EMPLOY
INDEPENDENT
CONTRACTORS.

THE OTHER SPIDER-
MAN OCCASIONALLY
SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY...
THOUGH HE STEADFASTLY
REFUSED COMPEN-
SATION.

PERHAPS, UNDER
THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES
AND FINANCIAL ARRANGE-
MENTS, WE COULD ALSO
WORK TOGETHER.

I'D... UH...
HAVE TO THINK
ABOUT IT!

THAT'S IT?!
THIS CLOWN STEALS
SPIDEY'S IDENTITY,
AND YOU OFFER HIM
A JOB?!



EXACTLY! I
COULD FIND A
SIMILAR POSITION
FOR YOU!



NOT INTERESTED, LADY!
THE HUMAN TORCH IS NO
STINKING MERCENARY!

PITY! YOU COULD
COMMAND AN IMPRES-
SIVE FEE.

THERE'S AN
EXPRESSION FOR A
WOMAN LIKE YOU, AND
IT RHYMES WITH OLD-
CARTED WITCH!



AS FOR YOU... I
WANT SOME QUICK
ANSWERS!

WHERE'S THE
OTHER SPIDEY?
WHY'D YOU
REPLACE HIM?
HOW'D YOU GAIN
POWERS LIKE
HIS?

GET LOST,
TORCHIE! I
DON'T HAVE TO
EXPLAIN MYSELF
TO YOU OR ANY-
ONE ELSE!

YOU CAN GO
SOAK YOUR HEAD
FOR ALL I CARE!



I BELIEVE WE HAVE
ARRIVED AT A
STALEMATE.

YOU HAVE
NO AUTHORITY HERE,
AND NO PROOF HE'D
ANYTHING WRONG!

WHAT ARE YOU--
SOME KIND OF
LAWYER?!

NO, BUT IN MY
BUSINESS, ONE IS ONLY
A SPEED-DIAL AWAY!



OKAY! MAYBE
I CAN'T FORCE
HIM TO TALK...

...BUT I INTEND
TO KEEP A CLOSE
EYE ON THIS FOURTEEN
CARAT PHONY!

**BELIEVE
IT!!**

HEY! FORGET THAT
HOTHEAD! LET'S GO
CATCH THOSE BEERS
I PROMISED!

UH...
MAYBE
SOME OTHER
TIME!

SURE! I GOT
A HUNCH SILVER
AND ME WILL BE
IN TOUCH REAL
SOON!

HOW?
I'M NOT
EXACTLY IN
THE PHONE
BOOK!

DON'T
SWEAT IT, WEBS!
WE GOT OUR WAYS!

I'LL JUST BET
YOU DO!

THE HERO-BIZ IS SO MUCH
MORE COMPLICATED THAN
I REMEMBER!

WHAT KIND
OF WORLD IS
THIS--WHERE THE
HUMAN TORCH IS
AN ENEMY, AND
THE SANDMAN
WANTS TO BE
A PAL?!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THE
FUTURE HAS IN
STORE FOR
ME!

BUT, WHATEVER
IT IS...

...I SINCERELY
DOUBT IT'LL BE
PLEASANT!

**NEXT:
MYSTERIO!**

THE SPIDER'S WEB

5% MARVEL COMICS
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NEW YORK, N.Y.
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BOB
BUDIANSKY
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MARK
BERNARD
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Dear Spider's Web,
Re: Issue #401.

There may be three Peter Parkers running around, but there's only one Mary Jane! Mr. DeMatteis did an excellent job of portraying her confusion, her fear, and inevitably, her resolve to do something about all the manipulations she has been subjected to of late. That she is still "saddened and sickened" in having to resort to a gun for protection speaks volumes about Mary Jane's moral convictions. Her reaction when the gun went off was perfectly natural and entirely realistic, having the bullet shatter that picture of her and Peter in happier times was also a nice touch.

What's really going on with the clone situation is, by this time, beyond speculation. Maybe that has been your editorial intention: to so muddy the waters that we give up on trying to guess what's happening, and just sit back and enjoy the story being told. Once again, as is always the case with Messrs. DeMatteis and Bagley, I can't help but do exactly that.

Mark J. Kiewlak
316 West Main Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

Part of the intention of the "Mark of Kaine" storyline was to show in no uncertain terms what a tough lady Mary Jane is. It's gratifying to see that many of you have noticed. She may need that strength in months ahead...

Dear Spider's Web,

I've been reading Spider-Man books for ten years, and this is the first letter I have ever submitted to you or any other book. As I was reading ASM #401, I came up with a guess to Kaine's identity. On page 27, as Kaine carries MJ away, there is narration that states, "the woman is his top priority." Why is Mary Jane so important to him? Because the baby she's carrying is... who else, Kaine! He's traveled back in time to save his own butt!

He already knows something is going to happen to MJ, and he can't let that happen. He's trying to save MJ from Judas Traveller, who I think is also from Kaine's time. Oh, well, it's only a theory.

Ron Cates
13255 Highway 193
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Not quite accurate on Kaine's whys and wherefores, Ron... but we had fun reading your theory anyway! Do us a favor and don't take ten years to write us again, okay? We love letters!

Dear AMAZING,

Issue #401 was... very interesting. However, if you make this third Peter Parker, the one from the pod, the real one... then I shall most certainly get Venom to eat your brains. Let the Parker who has been with MJ the last five years be the true Spider-Man.

As for Kaine, well, he's okay... but his

killing of Spider-Man's foes has got to stop! One of the best aspects of the Spider-Man mythos is the villains. Don't let great characters like Mysterio, Electro, Hobgoblin, Vulture, Chameleon, Lizard, or Sandman die. Let these characters plague Spidey forever! Especially Mysterio (my favorite)!

Mark Bagley was tremendous as usual, and I especially enjoyed the cover. Anyway, until Mysterio dies, I will be your number one fan!

Tim Wojton
297 Picture Drive
Pittsboro, PA 15236

Tim, you must be resting easier now that the third Parker has been revealed to be the clone assassin Spidercide. And Kaine is among the missing currently... but that's a mystery that's due to come to the fore real soon, like, y... next month?

A Mysterio fan, eh? We get the feeling you were pretty pleased with SENSATIONAL #0... and the no-longer-domed one makes his presence felt right here next issue!

Dear Spider's Web,

I just read ASM #402, and it was definitely a scorcher! I like Judas Traveller's mysterious presence as much as the next guy, but change his get-up! Those pearls and chains get on my nerves. And what's that thing around his neck, a lasso of some kind?

That aside, I love what you've done with Spider-Man and his entourage in the last couple of months. With all the interesting events rolling out of the woodwork every other issue, this and every other Spider-book has become a monthly must-have! It is costly, however, due to all the interlocking storylines. Will the books ever be going in their own direction again?

I can't wait to find out who the real Peter Parker is, who Kaine is, and most of all, if Mary Jane's baby will be okay! The suspense is killing me and I love it! Thank you, Mark Bagley, J.M. DeMatteis, and all the rest who worked to make this a very memorable year for the Spider-Man books. With all these new and shattering events presenting themselves, who can compete?

Yusef Tirado
94-30 58th Avenue, Apt. 2B
Queens, NY 11373

Don't know, Yusef! But the Spidey books are ready to take on all challengers!

It seems to us, and sales seem to reflect it, that the majority of readers are happy with the interlocking continuity among the Spider-titles, though we are striving hard to give each book its own identity. This very month features stand-alone stories, while still establishing the status quo of our new Spider-Man.

And Traveller's really upset that he made your "worst dressed" list. He's

probably gonna take it out on poor Spidey now! Don't you feel bad?

Well, the ever-important Statement of Ownership is looming, so join us next issue as Spider-Man has his rematch with the ruthless Armada, and the new, deadlier Mysterio plots to rule the airwaves in part two of "Media Blizzard!"

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- Title of Publication: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
- Publication No: 540-030
- Date of Filing: October 1, 1996
- Frequency of Issue: MONTHLY
- No. of issues published annually: 12
- Annual subscription price: \$22.00/12 issues
- Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
- Complete address of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: Same
- Full names and complete mailing address of publisher, editor, and managing editor: Stan Lee, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Editor: Bob Budiansky, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: N/A
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- A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 395,486. Actual no. of single issue nearest to filing date: 408,252.
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- J. Statement of ownership will be printed in the January 1997 issue of this publication.
- Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner: Mary Pope, Customer Service Coordinator (10/1/96)

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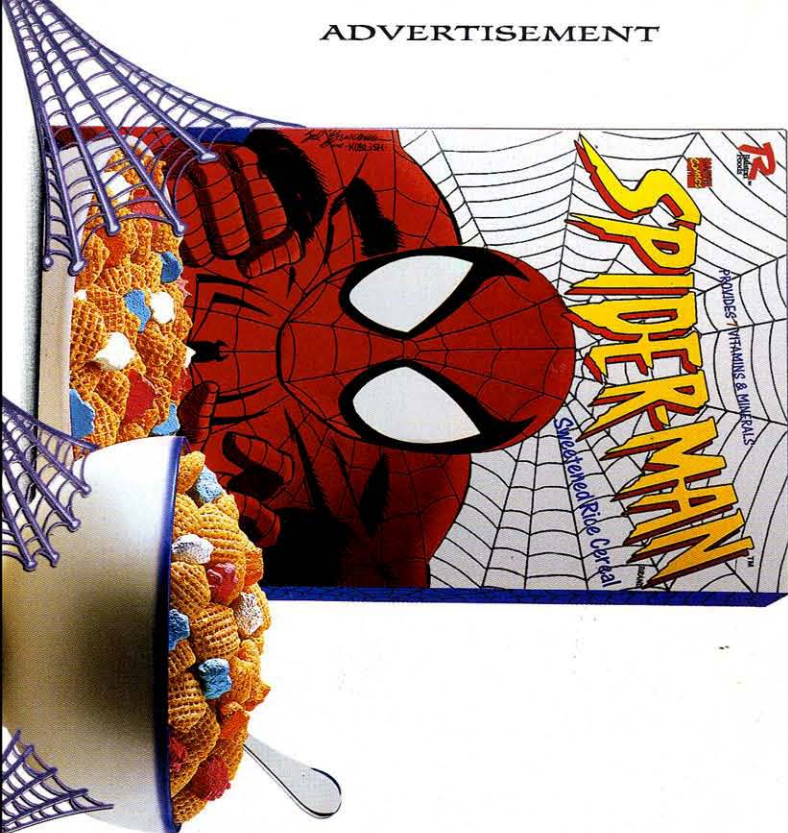
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