

MARVEL[®]
COMICS



SPIDER-MAN[®]

MAY '96 411

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



BLOOD
BROTHERS
PART 2 OF 6

PETER
PARKER:
MARKED
FOR
DEATH!



05 >

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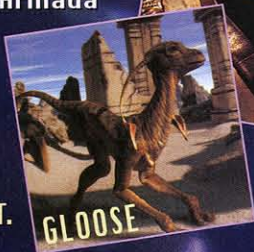
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□ DAILY BUGLE □

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

GOTCHA!

SPIDER-MAN ROBS CITY MORGUE

STORY BEGINS PAGE 3

RAISE
YOUR GLASSES,
PEOPLE!

LET'S
ALL DRINK
A TOAST TO
TRUTH, JUSTICE
AND THE DAILY
BUGLE!

**\$100,000
FOR RETURN
OF STOLEN
SKELETON**



THIS
PICTURE IS
CONCRETE PROOF THAT
SPIDER-MAN IS THE
SICK AND PERVERTED
MENACE I'VE ALWAYS
CLAIMED HE
IS --

-- AND
ONCE MY
FORENSIC EXPERT
GETS HIS HANDS ON
THAT MISSING SKELETON,
WE'LL PROBABLY BE
ABLE TO CONVICT THE
WEB-SWINGER OF
MURDER!

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DRINK UP! I WANT EVERYONE TO CELEBRATE! THAT MISERABLE WALL-CRAWLING WEASEL IS FINALLY FINISHED IN THIS TOWN.

SOME CELEBRATION -- PAPER CUPS AND BLACK COFFEE FROM THE OFFICE URN!

YOU'D THINK THE OLD SKINFLINT COULD HAVE AT LEAST SPRUNG FOR A QUART OF LOW-FAT MILK!



HATE TO SPOIL THE FESTIVITIES, JONAH! I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH THE POLICE COMMISSIONER...

...FURIOUS IS A MILD WAY OF DESCRIBING HIS REACTION TO THAT \$100,000 YOU POSTED FOR THE RETURN OF THE SKELETON WHICH SPIDER-MAN STOLE!

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM, JOE?



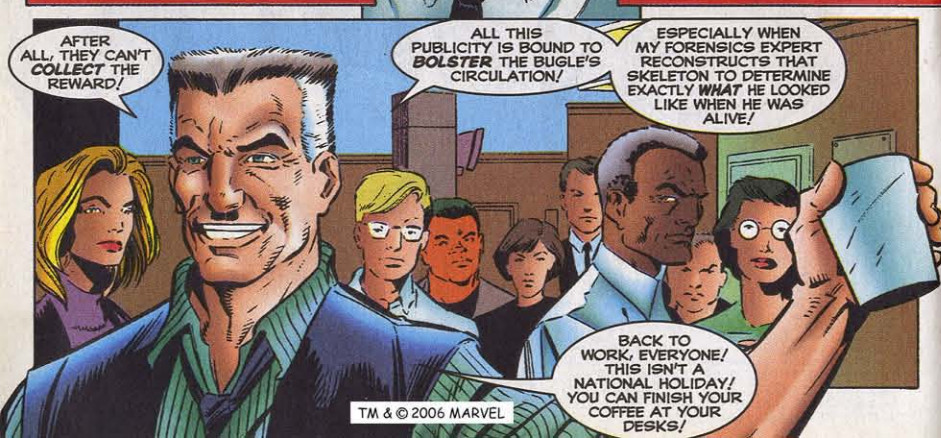
HE'S AFRAID YOU'LL ATTRACT EVERY CRACKPOT AND WOULD-BE MERCENARY IN THE AREA --

-- AND, FRANKLY, I AGREE!



THIS STUNT WILL ONLY HAMPER THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION OF THE POLICE!

THAT ISN'T MY INTENTION! I'M HOPING THE COPS ARE THE ONES WHO FIND THE SKELETON!



AFTER ALL, THEY CAN'T COLLECT THE REWARD!

ALL THIS PUBLICITY IS BOUND TO BOLSTER THE BUGLE'S CIRCULATION!

ESPECIALLY WHEN MY FORENSICS EXPERT RECONSTRUCTS THAT SKELETON TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE WHEN HE WAS ALIVE!

BACK TO WORK, EVERYONE! THIS ISN'T A NATIONAL HOLIDAY! YOU CAN FINISH YOUR COFFEE AT YOUR DESKS!

STAN LEE PRESENTS A TALE FEATURING
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

BLOOD BROTHERS PART 2 OF 6

TARGETS!

WHEN! Almost missed that web-line!

DAY-DREAMING some thirty-odd stories above the ground could prove very HAZARDOUS to a web-slinger's health!

But I just can't get JESSICA out of my mind!

It was traumatic enough to learn that she's the daughter of the BURGLAR who murdered my Uncle Ben way back at the beginning of my career --

-- but she recently managed to snap a PICTURE of me while I was changing into my CIVILIAN IDENTITY!

She could tell the entire world that I'm BEN REILLY!

WRITTEN BY
TOM DE FALCO

PENCILED BY
MARK BAGLEY

INKED BY
LARRY MAHLSTEDT
AND AL MILGROM

COLORS BY
BOB SHAREN

LETTERED BY
RICHARD STARKINGS
COMICRAFT

SEPARATED BY
MALIBU'S HUES

EDITED BY
RALPH MACCHIO

CHIEFED BY
BOB HARRAS



My life already has enough **COMPLICATIONS!**

The truth is, even though I call myself **REILLY**, my real name is **PETER PARKER!**


For the past five years, my **CLONE** --

-- or at least the guy I **THOUGHT** was my clone --

-- has believed he was **ME**, and has been using my **NAME!**


Unfortunately, relations between me and **PETE** have gotten somewhat **STRAINED** recently...

...mainly because of my pal, **SEWARD TRAINER!**



I was hoping to get a line on his disappearance --


-- by scoping out his **GENETICS LAB** this morning!



No such **LUCK!** The place is completely **DESERTED** --

-- and all of his **SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT** has been dismantled!

To make matters worse, **Seward** has apparently **VANISHED!**



On the off-chance he eventually **SENDS** for these crates --

-- I waste a **SPIDER-TRACER!**

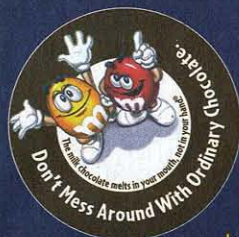
Seward was the only one who stood by me during my five **LOST YEARS!**

He helped me **SURVIVE** my darkest time!

It's now my responsibility to return the favor!

I've got to find him!

He wouldn't be missing unless he was in serious **TROUBLE!**



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To create this tasteful work of art, all you need are "M&M's"[®] Plain Chocolate Candies. (If you don't have any now, tear this

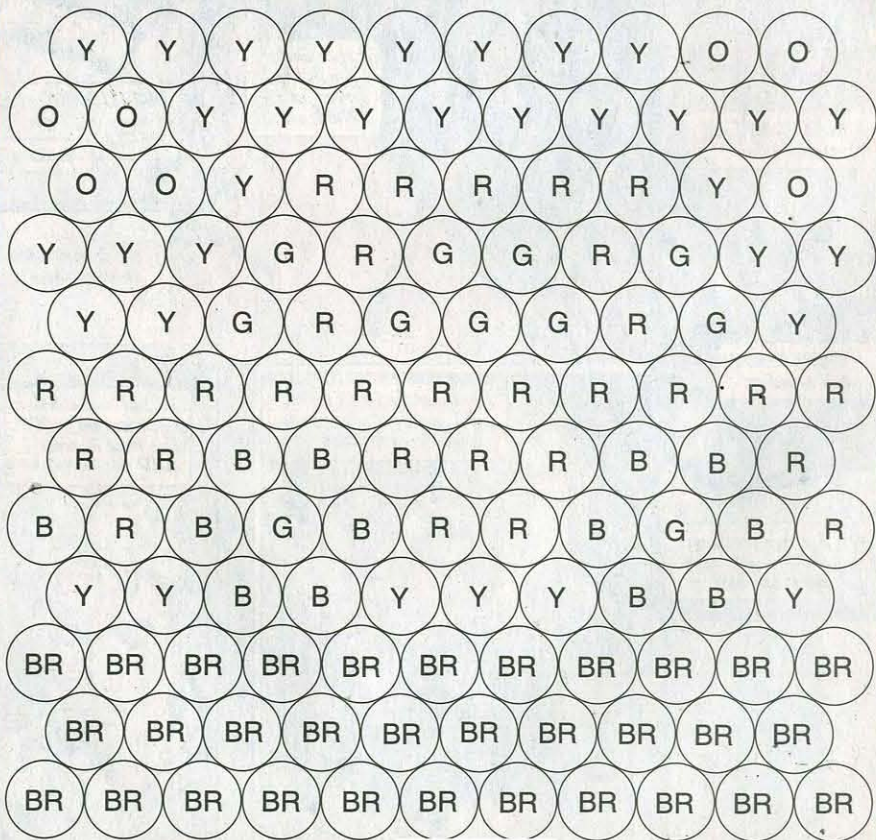
page out and save it for when you do.) Just put an "M&M's"[®] candy in each circle: yellow for "Y," orange for "O," blue for "B," red for "R," green for "G," and brown for "Br." If you run out, use crayons to color in the rest of the circles. Good luck finishing the picture before you finish your "M&M's"[®] chocolate candies!


"WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?"

"I DON'T KNOW. BUT I BET IT GOES FAST."



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I kill a very
frustrating
HOUR or so --

-- confirming
the FACT --

-- that I HAVEN'T got
the slightest idea --

-- WHERE Seward
could be hiding!

And then, realizing
that I've got to get
ready for work --

-- I head for my
friendly neighborhood
APARTMENT!

After being on the bum
for five years, it is
50000 very cool to have
a PLACE I can finally
call my own!

A place where
I can RELAX,
spread out my
THINGS, and...

THAT TELEVISION --!
It was a gift from
JESSICA!

Jessica --!

NO! I won't think
about her now!

I'm due at the DAILY GRIND,
and I just can't allow her to
dominate my thoughts!

I'll just switch into
my civvies, and -- ODD!
This place is really
COLD this morning!



There's my
landlady --!

She always
tells me to
report any
problems,
and so...



HEY,
TILDE --!

HATE TO
BOther YOU SO
EARLY IN THE DAY,
BUT THERE DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE
ANY HEAT IN MY
APARTMENT.

NO
HEAT?

NO
HEAT,
YOU
SAY?



MAYBE THAT'S
BECAUSE THERE WERE
NO FUNDS
TO BACK UP THAT
BUM CHECK YOU
GAVE ME FOR
THE RENT!

WHOA!
THERE'S
GOTTA BE A
MISTAKE --!



I'LL SAY
THERE'S A
MISTAKE -- AND
I MADE IT -- WHEN
I RENTED TO A
DEADBEAT
LIKE YOU!



I DON'T WANT TO
HEAR ANY SAD
STORIES, REILLY!
COME UP WITH THE
CASH, OR YOU'LL BE
OUT ON YOUR
BUTT!

TAKE
IT EASY,
TILDE! I
PROMISE
I'LL MAKE
GOOD!



Talk about an unexpected
development --!

I'd better hit the **BANK**
on
my way to work, and find
out **WHAT** went wrong!

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TRUST ME,
MARY JANE...
THERE'S NO
MISTAKE!

J. JONAH
JAMESON WAS SO
PLEASED WITH THAT
PICTURE I SNAPPED OF
BEN AND THE SKELETON,
HE'S WILLING TO COVER
OUR HOTEL EXPENSES
UNTIL THE END OF
THE WEEK --

-- AND HE'S
ALREADY
BOUGHT OUR
RETURN FLIGHTS --
COACH, OF COURSE,
BACK TO
PORTLAND!

LET'S
TRY TO
TRADE THOSE
TICKETS FOR
AN EARLIER
FLIGHT,
PETER!

MAYBE
WE CAN
EVEN LEAVE
TONIGHT!

YOU KNOW I CAN'T GO NOW,
HONEY! BEN AND I RECENTLY
LEARNED THAT THERE'S A
GOOD POSSIBILITY THE
SKELETON IS HIS
ORIGINAL CLONE!*

BIG
DEAL!

BIG DEAL!
IT CERTAINLY
IS A BIG DEAL!

AS SHOWN IN
SENSATIONAL SPIDER-
MAN #5 -- Riii!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
ACCORDING TO THE TESTS WHICH
BEN AND I RAN IN TRAINER'S
LAB A FEW MONTHS AGO, I'M
SUPPOSED TO BE THE
CLONE!

THAT'S
WHY I'VE GOT TO
FIND SEWARD! HE MAY HOLD
THE KEY TO THIS MYSTERY!

FORGET IT,
PETER! IT ISN'T
IMPORTANT!

I CAN'T, MARY JANE! I CAN'T!
IF THAT SKELETON'S THE REAL
CLONE... WHO AM I?

THE
MAN I
LOVE!

YOU
HAVE TO
FACE FACTS,
PETER. YOU
LOST YOUR
POWERS.

YOU
CAN'T PLAY
SUPER HERO
ANYMORE!

BEN IS
SPIDER-MAN.
HE'S THE ONE
WITH THE COSTUME...
THE ONE WHO
NOW SHOULDER
THAT GREAT
RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU ONLY
HAVE A DUTY
TO ME... AND
YOUR UNBORN
CHILD!



I TRUST
YOU WILL FIND THESE
ACCOMMODATIONS
SUITABLE, DOCTOR
TRAINER.



ALL OF
THE RESOURCES
OF THE **MULTIVEX**
CORPORATION ARE
AT YOUR
DISPOSAL!



WHILE THIS
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUIT CERTAINLY
HAS ITS ADVANTAGES,
I CANNOT EXPRESS
HOW EAGER I AM
TO BEGIN THE
REGENERATION
PROCESS!



ARE YOU
ABSOLUTELY
CERTAIN YOU CAN
REPAIR MY DAMAGED
BODY... **REVIVE** MY
FADING HEALTH
AND VITALITY...
AND **RESTORE** ME TO
MY PHYSICAL
PRIME?!



I... I
BELIEVE SO,
SIR!



YOU
HAD BETTER DO
MORE THAN MERELY
BELIEVE, MY
FRIEND...



...YOU HAD BETTER
DELIVER!



FAILURE
WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED!

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- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MAN X-Man
- ☐ MEN X-Men

Spider-Man

- ☐ AMZ The Amazing Spider-Man
- ☐ GOB Green Goblin
- ☐ SSM The Sensational Spider-Man
- ☐ PKK The Spectacular Spider-Man
- ☐ SPI Spider-Man

The Edge

- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ GHR Ghost Rider
- ☐ INC Incredible Hulk
- ☐ PNS The Punisher

Conan

- ☐ CNNConan
- ☐ CTS Conan The Savage

Marvel Heroes

- ☐ AVE Avengers
- ☐ CAM Captain America
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ SIL Silver Surfer
- ☐ THR Thor

2099

- ☐ D99 Doom 2099 A.D.
- ☐ F99 Fantastic Four 2099 A.D.
- ☐ G99 Ghost Rider 2099 A.D.
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I just can't tolerate another **DILEMMA** in my life!

Ah... HERE'S THE PROBLEM, MR. REILLY!

THE IRS HAS FLAGGED YOUR ACCOUNT BECAUSE OF AN **ANOMALY** WITH YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER!

SO, HOW DO I GET MY MONEY?

This is just **GREAT!** Seward established that number, and he's the only one who can fix it!

But I have a more pressing **HASSLE** now --!

My account has more than **ENOUGH** to cover Tilde's check, and I expect the **BANK** to stand up for me!

YOU DON'T, YOUNG MAN! NOT UNTIL THE **IRS** IS SATISFIED!

With my assets frozen, my only hope of paying **RENT** --

-- is to ask my boss for an **ADVANCE** on my salary!



AFTERNOON, SHIRLEY! I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I HANG MY JACKET.

T-THAT'LL BE FINE, BEN.

Is it my imagination... or are those two guys giving me the **HAIRY EYEBALL**??!

I wonder who they are --

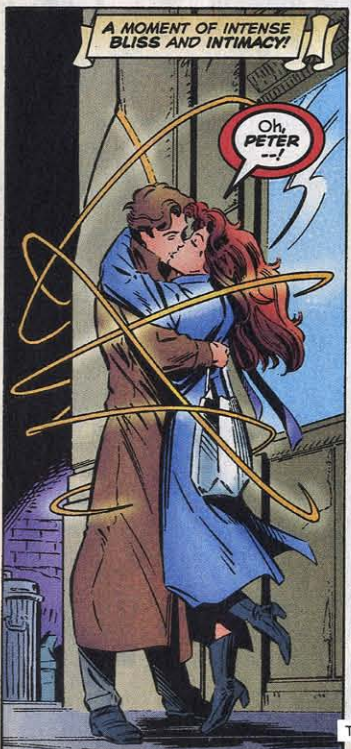
-- and why **SHIRLEY** seems so nervous?!

UH-OH! I just noticed that I still have Jessica's **SHOULDER BAG** in my locker!

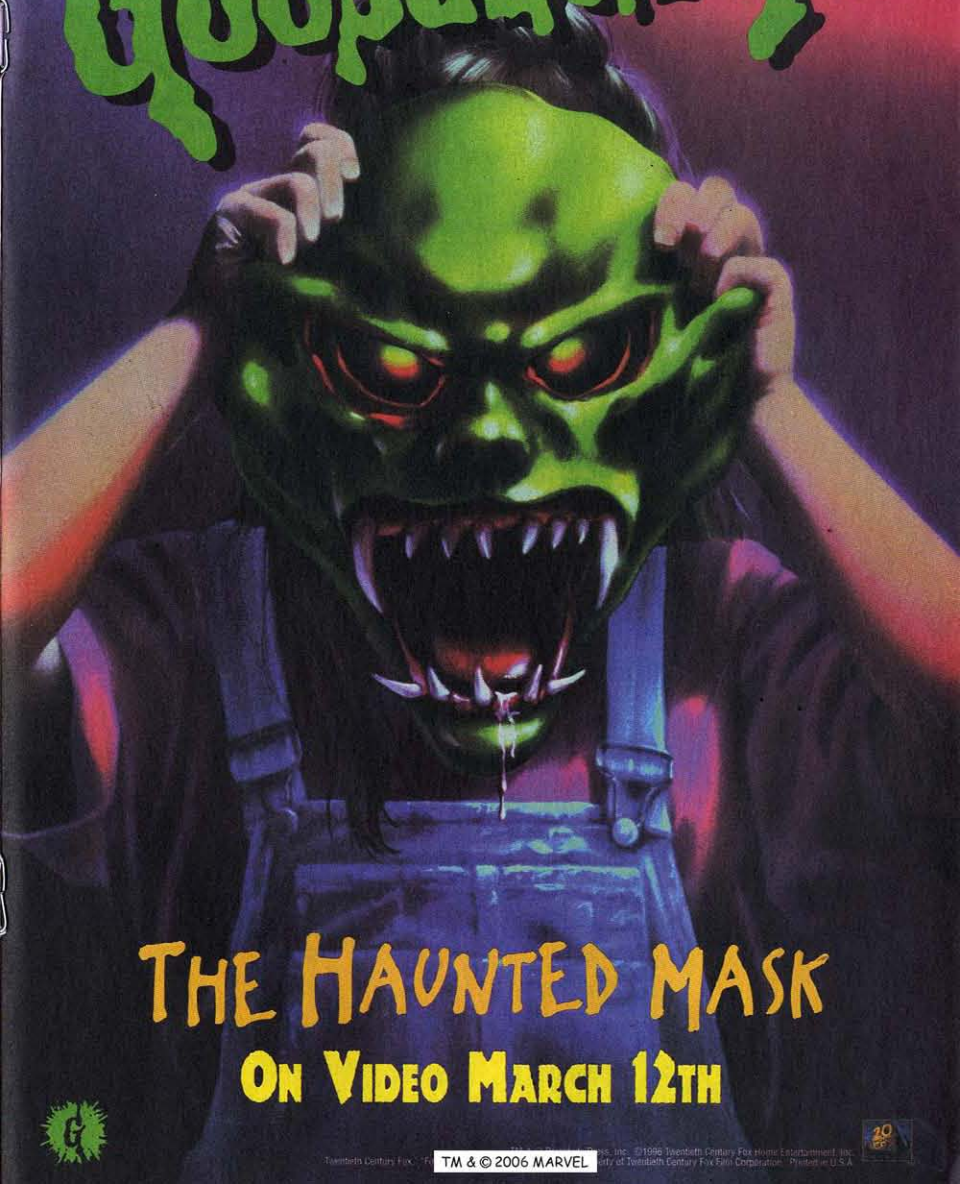
But I can't worry about **HER** now --!







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W-WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

QUIET DOWN, SONNY BOY! YOU LACK THE PROPER POSITIONING TO DEMAND ANSWERS!

BRAMER! ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN YOU CONFIRMED THE CORRECT TARGET?!

NARDI HAS GOT A POINT, CHIEF! NOBODY IN HIS RIGHT MIND HIRES A CYBERNETICALLY-ENHANCED MERC SQUAD LIKE **CELL-72** TO TAKE OUT TWO AVERAGE CIVILIANS!

IT ISN'T GOOD BUSINESS TO QUESTION THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR CLIENTS, **ANDROS!**

BESIDES, WE WERE WARNED THAT THE MAN IS MUCH MORE **POWERFUL** THAN HE APPEARS!

WHATEVER! LET'S JUST GET TO IT! I'M HUNGRY, AND I DON'T WANT TO WASTE ANY UNNECESSARY TIME!

AT EASE, LASHER! I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE!

THIS MISSION HAS VERY STRICT PARAMETERS, AND I WON'T JEOPARDIZE THEM BECAUSE YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO FILL YOUR FACE!

LET MY WIFE GO!
SHE'S PREGNANT,
AND IT'S OBVIOUSLY
ME YOU WANT!

SORRY, KID! WE ALL KNOW SHE'D
HEAD FOR THE NEAREST PHONE,
DIAL THE LOCAL LAW, AND -- HEY!
NOBODY GAVE YOU PERMISSION
TO DODGE THAT
BLOW!

RUN!
MARY
JANE!
RUN!

B-BUT,
PETER ---!

DON'T
ARGUE!
JUST GO

GO!
GO!

LASHER ---

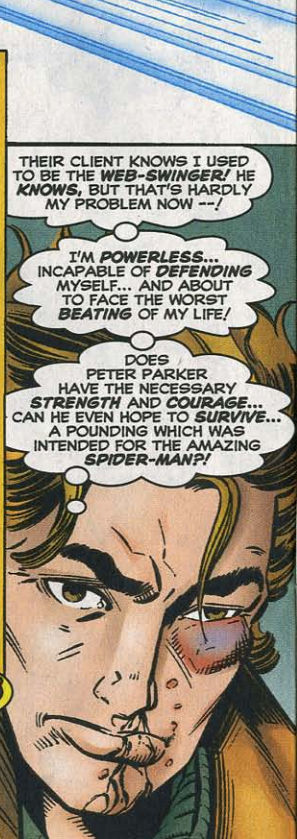
CAREFUL YOU
DON'T BIND HER
TOO TIGHTLY WITH
YOUR CYBER-
WHIPS!

NEITHER SHE
NOR HER CHILD IS
TO BE INJURED
AT THIS TIME!

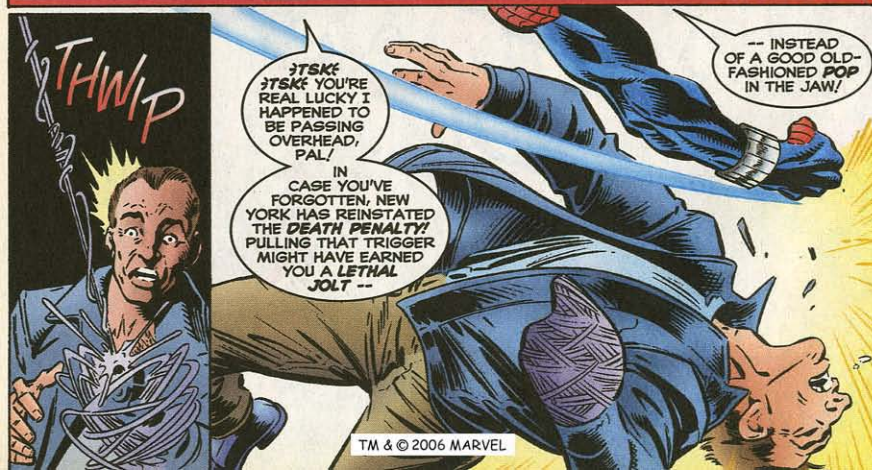
THE MAN,
HOWEVER,
IS OPEN
GAME!

I ALREADY
SNAGGED HER,
BRAMER!

CRASH!







T-THAT
WAS SPIDER-
MAN --!

W-WHY
WOULD HE HELP
USP ACCORDING TO
THE DAILY BUGLE, HE'S
SOME SORT OF GHOUL
WHO'S WANTED BY
THE POLICE!

I
DON'T
CARE WHAT
THEY SAY,
HE'S A
HERO!

A HERO --?!

Not me!

S's funny, I may be
the real PARKER --

-- But Peter's still
the one I think of
as the real HERO!



■ **AVENGERS #397:** Continued from HULK #440! The Avengers are going to hand the Leader his head! Featuring the final fate of the Hulk! By Terry Kavanagh/ Mike Deodato Jr./Tom Palmer!

■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #451:** Captain America: expatriot! Steve Rogers, stripped of his citizenship, has to stop Machinesmith from launching World War 3! By Mark Waid/Ron Frenz/Denis Rodier!



■ **CAPTAIN MARVEL #6:** Marv is on a lifeless world—but the planet's inhabitants don't know they're dead! Can Cap convince them to shuffle off this mortal coil? By Fabian Nicieza/ Ed Benes!

■ **FANTASTIC FOUR UNPLUGGED #5:** Reed, Sue, Ben, Johnny—the original FF are back—and so is Blastarr the Living Bomb-Burst! (Who invited him?) By Mike Lackey/ Adriana Melo/Tim Dzon!

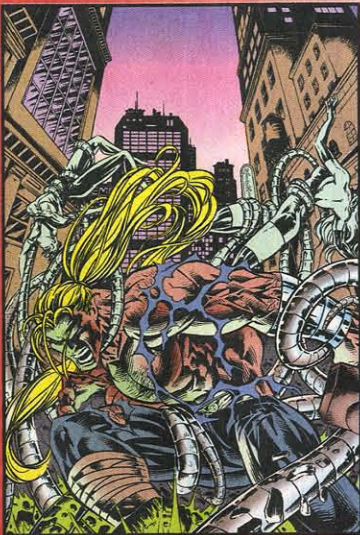
■ **SILVER SURFER #116:** Twelve aliens—each one of them possesses a piece of the power cosmic! Will the Surfer ever pull himself together—or will he stay a broken man? By George Perez/ Tom Grindberg/Bill Anderson!

■ **COSMIC POWERS UNLIMITED #5:** The return of Captain Universe! Plus the Star Masters vs. the master race of the Axi-Tun! By Greg Wright/Scott Eaton/ Don Hudson!

■ **IRON MAN #238:** The teenage Tony Stark faces the frozen fury of Frost! Plus: the final fate of Stark Enterprises! By Terry Kavanagh/ Jimmy Cheung/ Mark McKenna!

■ **AVENGERS #398:** The Avengers are attacked one by one by a mystery villain who knows all their secrets! Which baddie is behind this? Only Cap knows! By Ben Raab/Terry Kavanagh/ Mike Deodato/Tom Palmer!

■ **FANTASTIC FOUR #412:** Mr. Fantastic vs. the Sub-Mariner—the final battle! As Sue lies at death's door, Reed and Namor wage all-out war! By Tom DeFalco/Paul Ryan/ Danny Bulanadi!



■ **THOR #498:** Thor is powerless! Odin is homeless! The Absorbing Man is merciless! And special guest-star, Hercules, is clueless! By William Messner-Loeb/Mike Deodato Jr.!

■ **SILVER SURFER #115:** The Silver Surfer has been torn apart, faster than a Chevy in a chop shop! Now his body parts are being auctioned and scattered all across the galaxy! By George Perez/Tom Grindberg/ Bill Anderson!



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2) To Enter: Complete the official entry form by hand or hand print your name, complete address and zip code (P.O. box addresses are not acceptable) on a 3" x 5" card and mail in a stamped envelope to SPALDING'S NBA DREAMSTAKES, P.O. Box 1370, Young America, MN 55554-1370. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be in a separate, stamped envelope and mailed separately via first class mail. No copies, facsimiles or mechanical reproductions will be accepted. Not responsible for lost, late, damaged, misdirected, illegible or postage due mail or entries. Entries must be received no later than May 31, 1996. By participating, entrants agree to these Official Rules.

3) Drawing: Winners will be selected in a random drawing held on or about June 14, 1996 from all eligible entries received by an independent judging organization whose decisions are final and binding in all matters relating to this sweepstakes. Winners will be notified by mail.

4) Entries: One (1) Grand Prize: Family vacation for four to The Walt Disney World® Resort in Orlando, Florida. Prize consists of (a) round trip coach air transportation from major commercial airport nearest winner's residence, (b) nights, one room (based on double occupancy), (c) length-of-stay administrator's passport and travel, four tickets to an Orlando Magic regular season home game (date of game determined by sponsor's NBA game ball autographed by Shaq & Hakeem, full set of NBA team logo balls, official USA basketball game ball. Vacation subject to availability and must be completed during the 1996-1997 NBA regular season. Blackout periods and other restrictions may apply. Expenses not stated are solely the responsibility of winner. Approximate retail value (ARV) of prize not to exceed \$7,015. Ten (10) First Prizes: Official NBA game ball signed by Shaq & Hakeem, ARV \$100. Twenty-five (25) Second: Full set of NBA team logo balls, ARV \$200. Thirty-five (35) Third: NBA game ball, ARV \$50. Fifty (50) Fourth: USA basketball game ball, ARV \$40. Fifty (50) Fifth: NBA Indoor/Outdoor ball, ARV \$30. Seventy-five (75) Sixth: NBA backpack and binder, ARV \$25. Total approximate retail value of all prizes \$21,390. Odds of winning a prize depend on number of eligible entries received.

5) General Conditions: Sweepstakes open to legal U.S. residents. Employees and directors (and their immediate families and those living in their same household) of Spalding Sports Worldwide, NBA Properties, Inc., The Walt Disney Company, and any of their affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies are not eligible. Prize winners may be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility and liability release and where legal, a publicity release within 14 days of notification or prize may be awarded to alternate winner. If prize winner is a minor, prize will be awarded to minor's parent or legal guardian who must sign and return affidavit and release. Travel companions of Grand Prize winner must complete and return a liability release and where legal, a publicity release prior to issuance of travel documents. If Grand Prize winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied on vacation by parent or legal guardian. Void where prohibited.

Winners, and if winner is a minor, winner's parent or legal guardian, agree that Spalding Sports Worldwide, NBA Properties, Inc., The Walt Disney Company, and their affiliate companies, parents, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies, and their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives and agents and their affiliates will have no liability whatsoever for any injuries, losses or damages of any kind resulting in whole or in part from acceptance, possession, misuse or use of any prize or participation in this sweepstakes. Except where legally prohibited, winners, and if winners are minors, winner's parent or legal guardian, grant permission for Spalding Sports Worldwide and those acting under its authority to use his/her name, photograph, voice and/or likeness, for advertising and/or publicity purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on all prizes are solely the responsibility of the winner. Prizes are not transferable. No prize or cash substitutes allowed, except at the discretion of the sponsor. If prize or a portion of a prize is not available, sponsor reserves the right to substitute a prize, or the unavailable portion of the prize, of equal or greater value.

6) Winner List: For a list of prize winners available after July 15, 1996, send a self-addressed stamped envelope for receipt by July 15, 1996 to SPALDING'S NBA DREAMSTAKES WINNERS LIST, P.O. Box 3062, Young America, MN 55554-3062.

7) Sponsored by Spalding Sports Worldwide, Chicopee, Massachusetts.

WHAT YOU COULD WIN: Grand Prize: Week-long Walt Disney World® Resort family vacation, 4 tickets to an Orlando Magic game, autographed Spalding NBA ball from Shaq and Hakeem, and more... **10 First Prizes:** Spalding NBA game ball signed by Shaq and Hakeem. **25 Second Prizes:** Full set of NBA team logo balls. **35 Third Prizes:** Official NBA game ball. And Lots More!!!

TO ENTER: Fill out this official entry blank and mail it to: **Spalding's NBA Dreamstakes**
P.O. Box 1370, Young America, MN 55594-1370
Entries must be received by May 31, 1996.

Look for Spalding and official NBA gear at Wal-Mart, Sears, Target, Toys-R-Us, Champs, Service Merchandise and The Sports Authority.

Name

Address


City State

Phone



SPALDING

TM & © 2006 MARVEL



Pete had the courage
to MARRY the woman
he loved --

-- and set up a REAL
LIFE for himself!

Me, I'm just a pathetic
clown who spends all my
time obsessing about
PERSONAL PROBLEMS --

-- when I should be
out SAVING LIVES!



Oh, maa-ann!

The hits just keep
on coming!

WE KNOW
WHO
YOU ARE!!

EVERYONE LOVES PEANUT BUTTER CRUNCH

NOW MORE PEANUT BUTTER TASTE!







This is GREAT!

Just GREAT!

I've lost everything except the clothes webbed to my back, and whatever's in my locker at --

-- THE DAILY GRIND?!

OHMIGOSH --!

I've got to get to the GRIND!

Whoever's lashing out at me must be aware of my JOB --

-- and may be even responsible for the phony evidence that brought the cops!

FASTER! Must
move even faster!

Every moment
is **PRECIOUS!**

Shirley and Deron
could be in serious
DANGER!

Only a very **FEW**
know my secret
identity!

One of them must be
responsible...but **WHO?**

It couldn't possibly
be **PETER** or **MARY**
JANE or **SEWARD** or...

JESSICA? Can she
hate Spider-Man
that much?

Please don't let
it be Jessica!

Only got one more **BLOCK**
to go! I'm sure everything
will be **FINE**, and everyone
will be **SAFE**, and --

AW... **NOOO!**

**BLOOD
BROTHERS**

CONTINUES IN
SPIDER-MAN
#68!

c/o Marvel Comics, 507 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

RALPH MACCHIO MARK BERNARDO

Editor

Assistant Editor

Correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please let us know.

Dear Spider's Web,

This has been the first time that I have written to any comic book. Not only that, but AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #407 was the first ASM issue I have ever bought! I'd like to compliment you all on a great comic, especially Mark Bagley for his excellent artwork. When I looked at the cover for this issue, I was pleased to see that it didn't say "part two of four" or "part one of three." This was exactly why I bought the comic. I hope you guys opt to stick with less interlocking stories in the future.

As I've said, I'm not up on Spidey these days. What's up with guys like the Rhino, Cardiac, and Doc Connors?

As long as you guys don't go overboard with the interlocking stories, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN will be the number one comic in my hands every month!

Joshua George
1258 St. Jean Street
Orlando, Ontario
K1C 7G9 CANADA

Well, Joshua, we're obviously in the middle of a big interconnected story now, but we felt that the momentous events and revelations we're building up to really required it. After "Blood Brothers" concludes in ASM #411, there are definite plans for some really cool non-connected stories in all of the Spider-titles, so stick with us so you won't miss out!

As for the characters you're asking about, Doc Connors (and his reptilian alter ego) made a return appearance in last year's SUPER SPECIALS, and Rhino played a big role in the recent "Return of Kaine" storyline. Cardiac? Good question...

Dear Spider-Folks,

While I remain a hardcore Peter Parker fan, the events of ASM #407 really fascinated me in a way no other Ben Reilly story ever has. While some books switch the character under the costume with no discernible difference, this Spider-Man is too well written (even if I don't always like what's written) to fall into that trap.

I think Mr. DeMello deserves congratulations for recognizing that while Ben may be the real Spider-Man, he hasn't actually been Spidey-Man for quite some time. I'm sure there are many people that Peter formed relationships with as Spider-Man, like the Sandman and Silver Sable in this issue, that Ben knows very little, or even nothing, about.

It's too bad that Ben and Peter

didn't think about this, and put together a "Spider-Man Handbook to the Marvel Universe," so Ben would have some sort of "cheat sheet" to help him figure out some of the changes that took place while he was gone. Apparently, Ben is going to spend quite a bit of time looking through old editions of the Daily Bugle, since Peter isn't around to answer his questions.

I am also very curious to see what the rest of the Marvel Universe will have to say about the new Spider-Man, especially the New Warriors. How is Ben going to explain his switch from Scarlet Spider to Spider-Man to his teammates, and how will that affect his membership on the team?

Ivan A. Martin
4054 70th Street
Urbondale, IA 50522-2616

As you've seen by now, Ivan, Ben Reilly has opted to not remain with the Warriors as a regular member, preferring to make a truly fresh start as Spider-Man. And as for Peter being around to answer Ben's questions about the last five years, that's a story point due to be addressed really soon... and in a way we think will surprise and please just about everyone!

Dear Spider's Web,

I've just finished reading ASM #407. I've got to say, I thought it was great! I haven't collected Spidey comics for long, but I recently bought a lot of back issues, and noticed that whereas before, Spidey was arrogant and full of wisecracks, lately he's been much too serious. Now that the clone is gone (boy, that Scarlet Spider storyline was confusing!), it's like the Spider-Man in those older issues has returned. Spidey is once again full of the smart remarks and witty jokes that, in my opinion, make his character really come alive. Please keep Spidey's sense of humor! By the way, I love the new costume!

Is Ben Reilly ever going to tell the Human Torch what happened to the other Spider-Man? It would be interesting to see a little more interaction between those two. Maybe even have another Spider-Man/Fantastic Four team-up? But whatever happens, keep those good stories coming!

Brian O'Quinn
Westminster, CO 80534

We love Spidey's sense of humor, too, Brian. It's part of his character and it's seen him through lots of hard times — and boy, is he gonna need it for the hard times ahead!

A Spidey/FF team-up? You need look no farther than SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP #3, on sale soon! It's a decidedly unique kind of adventure, written by Dan (SENSATION-AL SPIDER-MAN) Jurgens, and drawn by Bob (KRAVEN'S LAST HUNT) McLeod! Ask and ye shall receive, faithful one!

Dear Editor,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #407.

I knew Spider-Man. Spider-Man was a friend of mine. You, Ben Reilly, are no Spider-Man! Niuff said!

Jim Madley
925 Price Street
Marcus Hook, PA 19061-5237

Ge, Jim, and Ben always spoke so well of you! Boy, invoking Dan Quayle in a letters page...!

Dear Spider's Web,

Re: issue #407.

I am glad Spider-Man didn't start working for Silver Sable Incorporated. Nothing good could come from it. Spider-Man is not a hired hand. The Human Torch isn't the only one who would lose respect for Spidey if he started working for Silver Sable. Ben is not making a lot of money at the Daily Grind, but it is an honest job and his boss seems like a super lady.

Thank you for keeping Spider-Man his own man!

Robert Shortall
RR #1, Box 510, Richibucto Village
New Brunswick E1A 2N0 CANADA

Our pleasure, Robert! We go to great lengths to show that Ben Reilly, rather than just being a shadow of Peter Parker, is truly a hero in his own right. Glad to see it's appreciated.

But we hope you're not judging Peter too harshly for doing work for Sable in his days as Spidey. It was money that he sometimes desperately needed, there were no illegal activities involved (at least on Spidey's part), and he always accomplished some good on his missions for Sable. Who knows? There may still come a time when Ben needs Silver Sable's help.

NEXT:

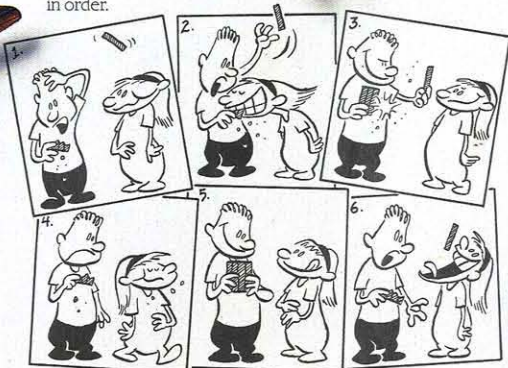
It's the harrowing grand finale of "Blood Brothers," as Spider-Man, Peter, and Mary Jane come face-to-face with the mystery menace who's been tearing their lives apart! And with the *Molten Man* also on the scene, you just know this ain't gonna go down smoothly! Everything hits the fan in 30 days, so be here ready to duck!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

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BREAK TIME!

These comic strip panels have been jumbled. Examine the pictures and put them back in order.



Find something that has hands and a face but no mouth.

Find something whose name has 'Kit' in it.

Hey, when you're finished with these puzzles, give your brain a break and have a

Kit Kat bar. Crisp wafers in creamy chocolate. What's there to think about?



Are there more round things or striped things?



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 2 |

ANSWER



Spinning in the centrifuge. Flying the shuttle. Floating in the 1/6th gravity chair.
 Navigating the manned maneuvering unit. Scarfing space food. Wrestling satellites.
 Working as a team. Learning. Dreaming in my habitat.
 Just like an astronaut. Wait. I am an astronaut.

What a trip.



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