

MARVEL
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SPIDER-MAN

NOV. '96 417



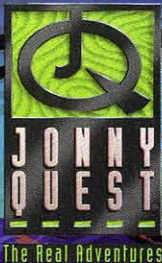
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

TRAVELLER
and SCRIER™

EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW IS
WRONG!



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STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN
SECRETS!

TOM DEFALCO Writer
RON GARNEY Penciler
AL WILLIAMSON Inker

In Memory of
MARK GRUENWALD
He Knew ALL the Secrets

A SNARLING WIND NIPS
JUDAS TRAVELLER LIKE
A FAMISHED WOLF.

TRAPPED WITHIN A MAELSTROM OF
MADNESS, HE TRIES TO SCREAM --

-- BUT BARELY MANAGES
A CHILLING WHISPER!

B-BEWARE --!

EVEN AS THAT SINGLE
WORD ESCAPES HIS
LIPS, THE GREAT ABYSS
SEIZES TRAVELLER --

RICHARD STARKINGS and **COMICRAFT/LA** Lettering
BOB SHAREN Colors **GRAPHIC COLORWORKS** Enhancement
RALPH MACCHIO Editor **BOB HARRAS** Chief

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® Vol. 1, No. 417, November, 1996. (ISSN #0274-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.10 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: \$22.00 U.S.; \$34.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127002852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING INC./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT 06813 1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743 9331. Printed in the U.S.A.



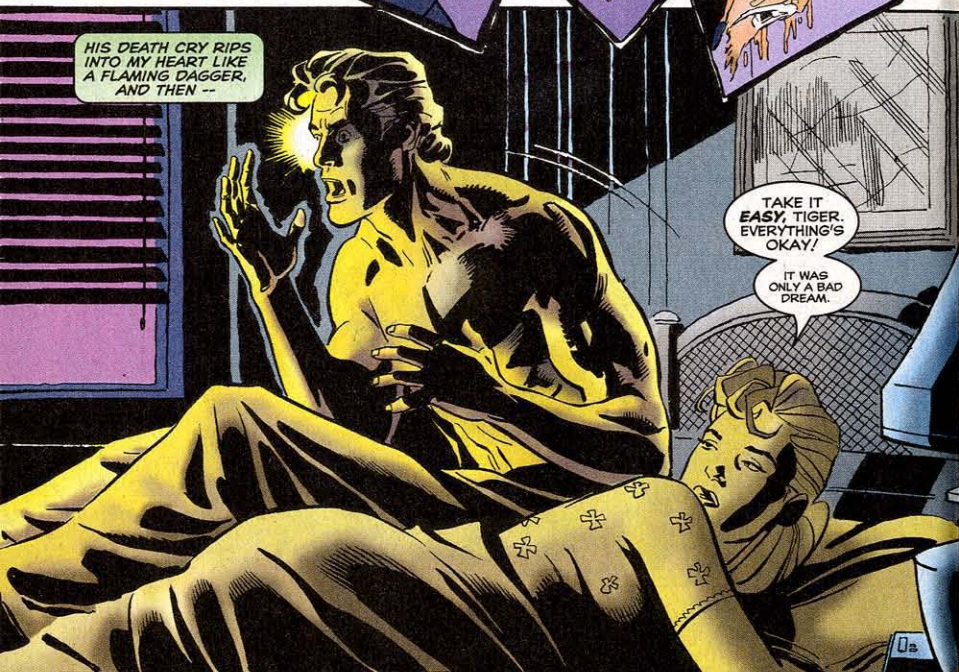
-- AND BEGINS TO CONSUME HIM!

WE HAVE BOTH BEEN BETRAYED, SPIDER-MAN!

MANIPULATED AND PLAYED FOR FOOLS!

BEWARE!

HIS DEATH CRY RIPS INTO MY HEART LIKE A FLAMING DAGGER, AND THEN --



TAKE IT EASY, TIGER. EVERYTHING'S OKAY!

IT WAS ONLY A BAD DREAM.



Uh... S-SORRY IF I WOKE YOU, MARY JANE.

YOU DIDN'T.

LITTLE MAY IS ALSO HAVING A RESTLESS NIGHT.



I THINK OUR DAUGHTER IS ANXIOUS TO BE BORN.

IT'S ABOUT TIME.



EVEN AS I SNUGGLING WITH MY WIFE AND ATTEMPT TO COMFORT MY CHILD, MY MIND DRIFTS BACK TO TRAVELLER --

-- AND THE
WARNING HE
TRIED TO
DELIVER!

SHEET **BWAM**

GAME'S
ALREADY OVER,
CHAKRA.

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
BOONE AND I
WOULD TRACK
YOU DOWN.

YOU'RE
GONNA DIE
FOR DARING TO
BETRAY THE
HOST!

IT WAS THE HOST
WHO DID THE
BETRAYING,
MEDEA!

YOU AND
THE OTHERS
TURNED AGAINST
TRAVELLER!

DON'T
PLAY **DUMB**
WITH US, CHAKRA!
TRAVELLER MAY
CLAIM TO BE OUR
LEADER --

-- BUT
WE ALL KNOW
WHO REALLY
CALLS THE
SHOTS!

I...I
CAN'T TURN
MY BACK ON
JUDAS!

I WON'T
ALLOW THAT...
THAT **MONSTER**...
TO IMPRISON
AND TORTURE
HIM!

IT **AIN'T**
LIKE YOU
GOT A LOT
OF CHOICE,
GIRL!

WRONG,
MEDEA!

YOU AND
BOONE MAY
BE THE **WARRIORS**
OF THE TEAM WE
ONCE SHARED, BUT
I AM **HARDLY**
DEFENSELESS!

AND I
SHALL FIND A
WAY TO **FREE**
TRAVELLER!

**BLAST THAT
WITCH!**

SHE'S
GETTING
AWAY --!

THAT
SHOULDN'T
BE A PROBLEM...

... TO SOMEONE
WHO CLAIMS
HE CAN TRACK
ANYONE...
ANYWHERE.

MEDEA, YOU CAN
KISS MY --

OH!

DIDN'T
NOTICE
YOU IN THE
SHADOWS,
NACHT.

YOU SHOULDN'T
BE SURPRISED, MR.
BOONE. OUR EMPLOYER
REQUIRES DETAILED
NOTES ON EVERY
OPERATION --

-- AND I FEAR
HE WILL BE VERY
DISPLEASED WITH
YOUR FAILURE TO
APPREHEND **CHAKRA**.

FIRST THINGS FIRST, YA GOTTA LOOK FOR THE BURST.

Can hidden amongst all these mega hang-tennin' wave-warriors is a pack of

Starburst

Yea, these chillin' cowboys can't resist the kicking, awesome, fruity taste of **STARBURST®** Fruit Chews either. But one of 'em dropped a pack into these monster-sized shark-infested waters and we can't find it. See if you can, but do it quick, those sharks look hungry!

FIND THE **Starburst**
SNAG IT UNDER:

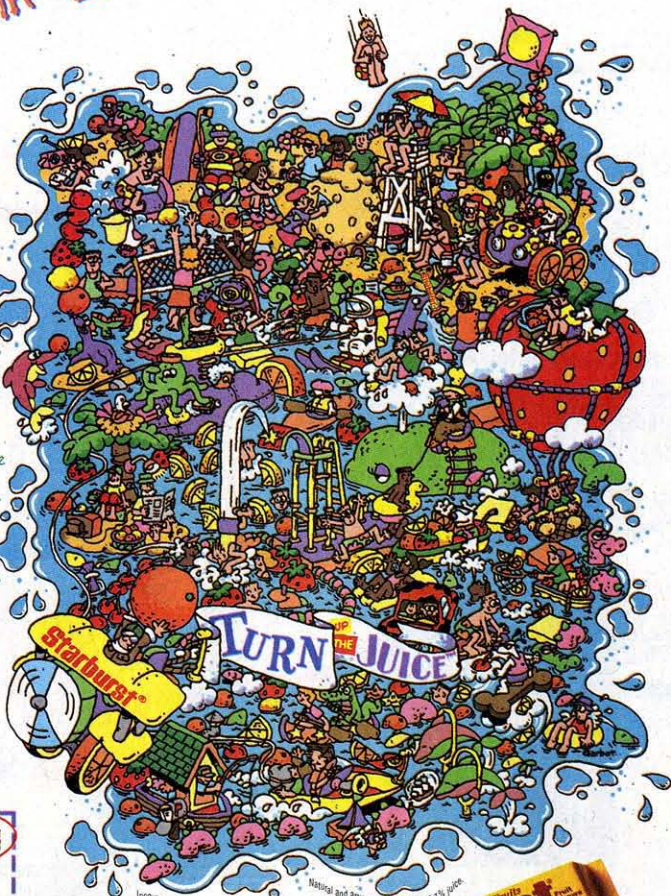
5 minutes = starfish

3 minutes = dolphin

2 minutes = cliff diver

30 seconds = **BIG KAHUNA**

* Hey, see if your friends can do any better!



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UP THE
JUICE**™

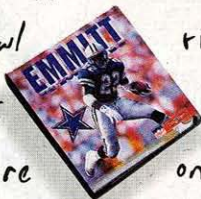


When I was your age, Kids

said to me, Emmitt,
You're too small to
play football. But
nothing could stop me.

I carried on.

Now I have 8,956 yards rushing,
3 Super Bowl rings, and
a notebook with
my picture on it.



Revenge is awesome.

Carry the ball.

Carry the notebook.

Carry on. #22

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PLAY FOOTBALL
like Emmitt Smith

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FORGET TRAVELLER.
HOW ARE THINGS
ON THE HOME
FRONT?

DID I
MENTION
AUNT ANNA IS
MOVING IN WITH
US TO HELP
WITH THE
BABY?

SOUNDS
COZY.

RIIIIIIGHT!



BY THE WAY, BEN, MARY JANE'S
SISTER IS SLATED AS LITTLE
MAY'S **GODMOTHER** --

-- AND WE'D LIKE
YOU TO BE HER
GODFATHER.

M-ME --?!



WHY NOT?

COORDINATION ISN'T
A PREREQUISITE.



Y-YOU TIMED
THAT ON
PURPOSE.

CONSIDER
IT PAYBACK FOR
THE MARRIED
GUY CRACK.

I'M
ASSUMING
YOU'LL STAND
UP FOR LITTLE
MAY.

I... I'D BE
HONORED!

**BEEP
BEEP
BEEP**



SINCE
WHEN DO
YOU CARRY A
BEEPER?



SINCE MARY JANE
ENTERED HER THIRD
TRIMESTER --

-- AND I LOST
MY STAFF JOB AND
NEED TO BE ACCESSIBLE
TO THE **DAILY BUGLE** FOR
FREELANCE PHOTO
ASSIGNMENTS.

THANKS FOR RESPONDING
SO QUICKLY, PETE. **JOHN
JAMESON** HAS BEEN
TRYING TO REACH
YOU.

HE'S
HOPING THAT
YOU CAN HELP
HIM FIND A WAY
TO CONTACT
SPIDER-MAN...



THIS IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!

OUR MUTUAL EMPLOYER WILL BE **FURIOUS** WHEN HE LEARNS THAT CHAKRA ESCAPED THE HOST.


CALM YOURSELF, GAUNT.

ACCORDING TO MR. NACHT, BOONE AND MEDEA ARE STILL ON THE TRAITOR'S TRAIL.


THEY'D BETTER SUCCEED THIS TIME. WE WORK FOR A MAN WHO DOESN'T EVEN CONSIDER **DEATH** A VIABLE EXCUSE FOR FAILURE!



HE WANTS TRAVELLER AND CHAKRA NEUTRALIZED BEFORE THEY CAN INTERFERE WITH HIS PLANS FOR **SPIDER-MAN**.



IT SHALL BE AS HE DESIRES, GAUNT. NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I AM DUE AT A MEETING WITH **THE ROSE**...



ADDITIONAL AID HAS ALREADY BEEN ENLISTED TO PURSUE **CHAKRA**.


AND, AS FOR TRAVELLER --



"-- YOU MAY ASSURE OUR MASTER --"



"-- THAT JUDAS IS PRESENTLY IN A POSITION."




"-- WHERE HE CANNOT EVEN SAVE HIMSELF!"

I USED TO LOVE MOMENTS LIKE THIS -- SWINGING HIGH ABOVE THE CITY -- PRACTICALLY FLYING!

BUT THAT'S WHEN I WAS THE SWINGER... INSTEAD OF THE SWINGEE.

FOR FIVE YEARS, I THOUGHT I WAS THE REAL PETER PARKER... THE REAL SPIDER-MAN.

THEN I LEARNED I WAS ACTUALLY HIS CLONE.




THOUGH I STILL HAVE THE PARKER NAME, BEN REILLY IS NOW THE MAN WITH THE WEBS.

SOMETIMES I'M MORE THAN A LITTLE JEALOUS...

... THAT'S WHEN I THINK OF MARY JANE, LITTLE MAY AND THE FUTURE WE'LL SOON BE BUILDING TOGETHER.

BUT I STILL MISS SWINGING OVER THE CITY!



ASIDE FROM BEING THE SON OF THE BUGLE'S PUBLISHER, JOHN JAMESON IS ALSO THE HEAD OF SECURITY AT RAVENCROFT, AN INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.

THANKS FOR COMING!

IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH ONE OF THE INMATES?

PLEASE DON'T TELL US **CARNAGE** PULLED ANOTHER DISAPPEARING ACT.

BITE YOUR TONGUE!

YOU HAVE A VISITOR, SPIDER-MAN.

SOMEONE WHO ONCE RAN INTO YOU HERE AND HOPED SHE COULD REACH YOU.

SHE CALLS HERSELF **CHAKRA**!

THOUGH WE HAVE OPPOSED EACH OTHER IN THE PAST, I AM HERE ON THE BEHALF OF THE **TRAVELLER...**

HE IS IN GREAT DANGER!

WE TALKING ABOUT THE GUY WHO FLATTENS ARMIES WITH A GLANCE?

ANYBODY TOUGH ENOUGH TO SWEAT HIM IS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

THE POWER WHICH JUDAS WIELDS IS NOT ALL IT SEEMS.

DON'T WORRY, LADY. WE'LL HELP YOU.

WE --?!

I... Uh... GUESS I COULDN'T CONVINCE YOU TO INCLUDE A... PHOTOGRAPHER... ON THIS GIG.

NOT ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO BE A FATHER!

CAN'T BLAME ME FOR TRYING!

HE DITCHED ME!

BEN

DITCHED

ME!

OKAY, MAYBE HE'D PROMISE
MARY JANE TO KEEP ME OUT
OF THE SPIDER-BIZ...

... MAYBE MY POWERS ARE STILL
CUTTING IN AND OUT...

... MAYBE I SHOULD BE
FOCUSING ON MY NEW
PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES...

BUT HE STILL SHOULDN'T
HAVE DITCHED ME!

BET THE BOZO DOESN'T
EVEN REALIZE I PLANTED A
SPIDER-TRACER ON HIS BACK.

PETER! LOOK WHO
ARRIVED WHILE
YOU WERE
GONE!

I DIDN'T
KNOW SHARON
STONE WAS
IN TOWN!

ENOUGH OF
YOUR NONSENSE,
YOUNG MAN. GIVE
ME A HUG!

IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU, ANNA.
YOU LOOK
TERRIFIC.

FOR
AN OLD
BROAD!

I DIDN'T
SAY THAT!

YOU
WOULDN'T BE
STANDING... IF
YOU DID.

I HOPE YOU TWO DON'T
THINK I'M BUTTING
IN. I FIGURED YOU
COULD USE A HAND
WITH THE NEW
BABY --

TRUE!

EVEN IF THEY DO
DITCH YOU ON
OCCASION.

-- AND FAMILY
SHOULD NEVER HAVE
TO ASK FOR HELP.

YOU
SURE YOU
GOT THE RIGHT
ADDRESS?

THIS
PLACE LOOKS
LIKE IT'S BEEN
CLOSED FOR
MONTHS.

TRUST
ME! I AM
CERTAIN THAT
JUDAS IS
NEAR.

I STILL
CAN'T BELIEVE
I'LL BE MUCH HELP.
I'VE SEEN TRAVELLER
EXHIBIT POWER ON A
NEAR COSMIC
LEVEL.

IT WAS
AN **ILLUSION!**
WHILE JUDAS
DOES POSSESS
LIMITED **PSIONIC**
POWERS --

-- HIS
PRIMARY
TALENT IS
THE ABILITY TO
ALTER PEOPLE'S
PERCEPTIONS
OF REALITY.

GETTT
OOOUT!

YOU MEAN
EVERYTHING
WAS **FAKE** --?

NOT
EVERYTHING!
MANY OF THE
MANIFESTATIONS
YOU WITNESSED...

...WERE THE
RESULT OF
TECHNOLOGY
SUPPLIED BY
SCRIER.

JUDAS IS A WORLD-
RENOWNED CRIMINAL
PSYCHOLOGIST, BUT
HIS OBSESSION WITH
THE **NATURE OF EVIL**
EVENTUALLY BROUGHT
ON A **NERVOUS**
COLLAPSE --

I'VE OFTEN
WONDERED
HOW THAT
JOKER FITS IN.

LET ME
GUESS--
SCRIER WAS
A **PATIENT**.

-- AND THE
INITIAL INDICATIONS
OF HIS LATENT
MUTANT SKILLS.

NOT
QUITE.

UNLIKE
TRAVELLER,
SCRIER IS FAR
MORE THAN HE
APPEARS!

DETAILS!
I WANT
DETAILS!

SCRIER
POSSESSES AS
MANY DIFFERENT
AGENDAS AS
HE DOES --

CHAKRA --
MOVE!

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
YOU, MEDEA? YOU
HAD A CLEAR SHOT
AT THE WEB-
HEAD!

GET
OFF MY
BACK,
BOONE!

IT AIN'T
MY FAULT HE
LEAPED AT THE
EXACT MOMENT
I FIRED.

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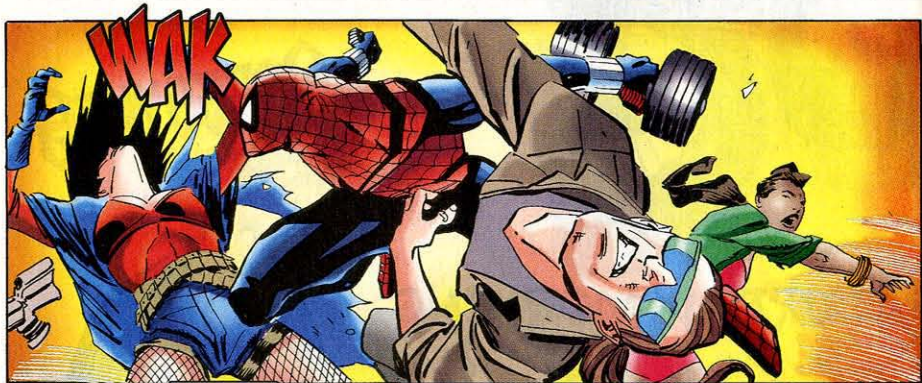
GARGOYLES
The
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SATURDAY MORNING

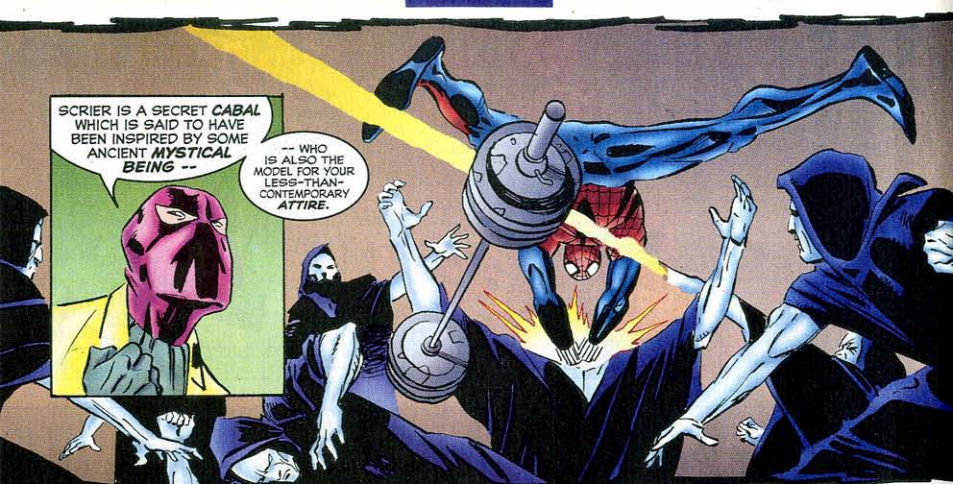
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SCRIER IS A SECRET **CABAL**
WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE
BEEN INSPIRED BY SOME
ANCIENT **MYSTICAL**
BEING --

-- WHO
IS ALSO THE
MODEL FOR YOUR
LESS-THAN-
CONTEMPORARY
ATTIRE.




YOUR CULT WAS HEADED
FOR EXTINCTION UNTIL
SIX OR SEVEN
YEARS AGO --

-- WHEN
YOU FELL UNDER
THE SHADOW OF AN
UNKNOWN MASTERMIND
WHO DREAMED OF BECOMING
THE EUROPEAN COUNTERPART
TO OUR **KINGPIN OF
CRIME.**



HE HONED
YOUR **FIGHTING**
SKILLS, AND UPDATED
YOUR **ESPIONAGE TECHNIQUES**,
AND OUTFITTED YOU WITH
SOPHISTICATED
ARMAMENTS!

ACCORDING
TO MY SOURCES,
YOUR ANNUAL BUDGET
FOR WEAPONRY **EXCEEDS**
MOST SMALL
NATIONS.

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man in a blue hoodie and mask, crouching on a rooftop. He is surrounded by several large, white, skeletal figures that look like giant hands or fingers reaching out from the shadows. The background is a bright yellow sky. Spider-Man is looking down at the ground, and the skeletal figures are reaching towards him.

"HOWEVER, THOUGH YOUR ORGANIZATION APPEARS TO BE WELL-TRAINED, WELL-FUNDED, WELL-INFORMED AND WELL-ARMED --

"-- I'M JUST NOT CONVINCED YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO **SUCCEED** IN THE AMERICAN CRIME MARKET!"

WHA--
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

FAMILY SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO ASK FOR HELP --



-- NOR
SHOULD THEY
DITCH EACH
OTHER!

OKAY!

I WAS
WRONG!

GIMME
A BREAK
ALREADY!

THE
POOL --!

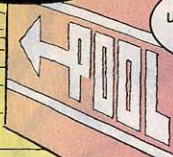
I SENSE
JUDAS WITHIN
THE POOL!

WE MUST
FREE HIM BEFORE
THE **SCRIERS**
REGROUP!



I AM MOST
IMPRESSED,
ROSE.

FEW HAVE
UNCOVERED THE
TRUE SECRET
OF **SCRIER**.

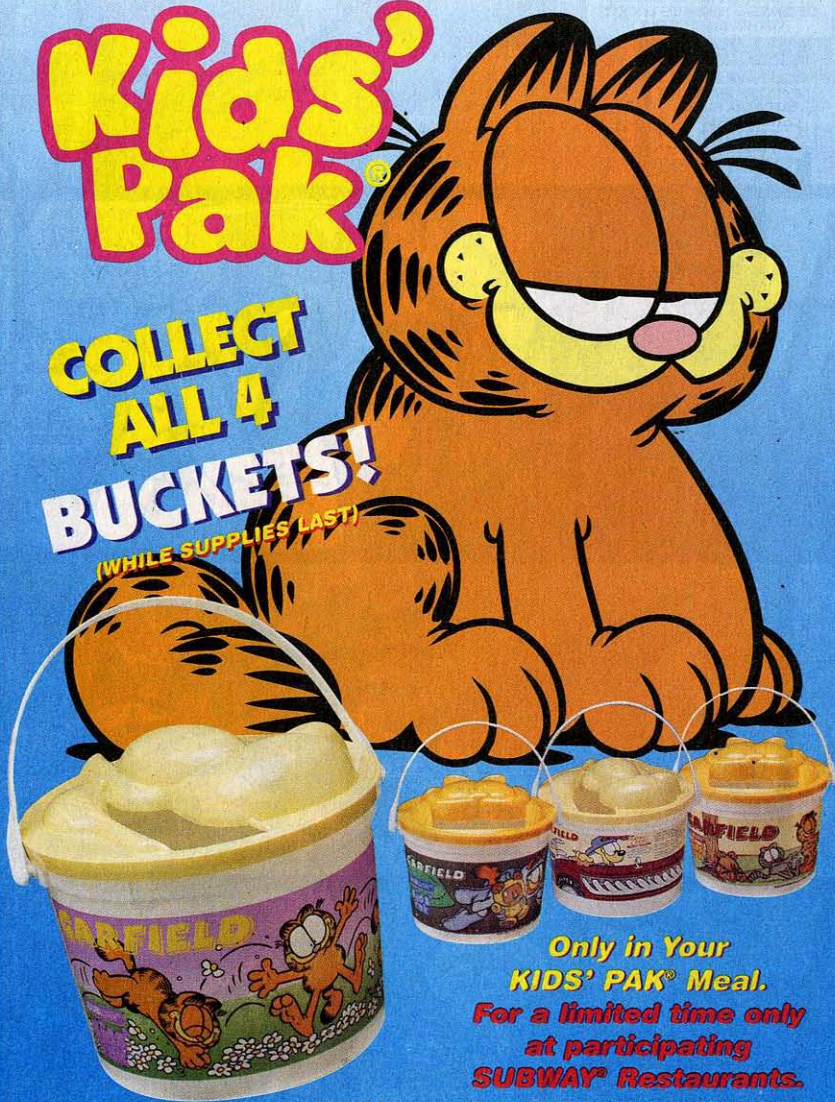


FEWER HAVE
WE ALLOWED TO
SURVIVE WITH THIS
KNOWLEDGE.

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ALL 4
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Spider-Man, wearing a blue suit with red webbing, is being pulled by thick metal chains. He is suspended in the air, with a large orange and red structure in the background. The scene is filled with white smoke or steam.

"EVERY MAN IS ENTITLED TO HIS PRIVATE MYSTERIES."

"THE UNSPOKEN DREAMS... AND THE BARELY ACKNOWLEDGED DESIRES... WHICH LIE LOCKED WITHIN EACH SOUL."

"YOU HAVE DARED EXPOSE *MINE*... BUT YOU ALSO CONCEAL HIDDEN TRUTHS."

Richard Fisk, a purple-skinned man in a yellow suit, stands next to a woman in a purple suit. They are in a room with large windows. Fisk is speaking to Spider-Man, who is lying on the ground.

MY RESEARCH TELLS ME THAT YOU ARE A MAN OF MANY NAMES...

RICHARD FISK.

THE SCHEMER.

THE BLOOD ROSE.

Spider-Man, in his blue suit, is lying on his back on a green lawn. He is surrounded by white smoke or steam. A large, dark, shadowy figure is visible in the background.

AN INTERESTING LIST.

ALL FORMER IDENTITIES OF THE SAME MAN.

HOWEVER, I DO NOT CLAIM TO BE RICHARD FISK.

NOR CAN YOU PROVE OTHERWISE.

SOME DAYS ARE WHACKED FROM THE
MOMENT YOU STEP OUT OF BED.

THIS WAS SURELY ONE.

PINBALLING AROUND THE ROOM...

... BEN AND CHAKRA ARE BARELY
KEEPING ALIVE WHEN I FINALLY
DRAG TRAVELLER FROM THE POOL.

THAT'S WHEN THINGS
GO TOTALLY GONZO...

ENOUGH!

THIS
MADNESS
MUST
CEASE!

I HAVE BEEN
BETRAYED,
MISUSED AND
MANIPULATED --

-- AND I
WILL HAVE
VENGEANCE!

THIS DAY BEGAN
WITH A DREAM --

-- AND SEEMS
DESTINED TO END
IN A NIGHTMARE!



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IT'S HARD TO
BE A HERO**

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A full-page comic book illustration. Spider-Man is in the center, in a dynamic pose with his arms raised. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair, wearing a red dress and a green shawl, is screaming with her hands near her face. The background is a fiery orange and red landscape with jagged yellow lightning bolts. Several black silhouettes of Spider-Man are scattered throughout the scene, suggesting a sequence of events or multiple perspectives. The entire scene is framed by a thick red border.

IN A FEW HOURS, BEN AND
I WILL BE SIPPING CAFE
LATTES IN THE DAILY GRIND.

AS HE PASSES A WOODEN
STIRRER, HE'LL CASUALLY FILL
ME IN ON THIS ENTIRE SCENARIO.

I'LL LEARN HOW THE
SCRIERS GATHERED
THE HOST AROUND
JUDAS TRAVELLER --

-- AND SECRETLY EXPLOITED
HIS MUTANT TALENTS.

BUT NOW...

... NOW I CAN ONLY
STAND TRANSFIXED
WITH THE OTHERS!

I'M FILLED
WITH AWE...

... AND MORE THAN
A LITTLE FEAR!

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169MDR

AN INSTANT LATER,
SANITY (OR A REASONABLE
FACSIMILE) RETURNS...

WHEW!

TRAVELLER
SHOULD REALLY
MIX A LITTLE
MODERATION IN
WITH HIS MIND-
BENDING!

JUDAS!

JUDAS!

I AM
UNINJURED,
MY LOVE...

... BUT
WE DARE
NOT TARRY
HERE!

NOT SO FAST,
PALLY. THE POLICE
WILL NEED YOU GUYS.

I FEAR --THAT IS SIMPLY
UNACCEPTABLE!

HEY!
I THOUGHT
YOUR POWERS
WERE A
SHAM --!

WE ONLY
DISCUSSED THE
TRAVELLER'S
ABILITIES...

... NOT
MINE!

BEWARE, SPIDER-MAN!
BEWARE! THE MADMAN
BEHIND SCRIER... THE
MONSTER WHO PULLED MY
STRINGS... HAS ALSO
ORCHESTRATED
AGAINST YOU!

YOU

MUST

BEWARE!

WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT?

I HAVEN'T
GOT A
CLUE --

-- BUT
MY GUT IS
WARNING ME
THAT --

-- WE
GOT MAJOR
HEARTACHE ON
THE HORIZON!

POUL



THE ROSE
DECLINED OUR
INVITATION?

HE WILL
NOT NEGOTIATE
WITH, AS HE PHRASED
IT, "A FACELESS
UNDERLING."

HOWEVER,
HE DID REQUEST
A MEETING WITH
THE MASTER.

OUT OF THE
QUESTION!

WHAT
DO *YOU*
HAVE TO
REPORT,
NACHT?

THINGS
DID NOT GO
AS PLANNED.

TRAVELLER
AND CHAKRA
ESCAPED.

BOONE, MEDEA AND
THE REMAINING *SCRIBERS*
ARE NOW IN POLICE CUSTODY.

DO NOT BE OVERLY CONCERNED
WITH THESE MINOR
ANNOYANCES,
GAUNT.

THE *BROTHERHOOD
OF SCRIBER* WILL RISE
AGAIN, AND CONTINUE
TO SERVE THE
MASTER.

PERHAPS,
IT WILL...

... YOU,
HOWEVER,
WILL NOT.

AS I
OFTEN TOLD
YOU...

... OUR EMPLOYER
HAS A ZERO
TOLERANCE FOR
FAILURE.

Next Month
AT LONG LAST -- GAUNT'S
MYSTERIOUS EMPLOYER IS
REVEALED... AS PETER
AND MARY JANE FACE
THEIR GREATEST CRISIS!

RALPH MACCHIO

Editor

JOE ANDREANI

Assistant Editor

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

Dear Spider-Man,

"Bug Story" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #413 was a superior return to the days of yore. Remember when some tales could actually be told in a single issue? I'm not complaining about the long-unfolding epis the Spider-titles have been inundated with of late; far from it, in fact. These stories have been entertaining, shocking, and suspenseful. However, sometimes a break from all the seriousness is needed, most especially in the Spider-Man books. Issues such as ASM #413 better encapsulate the true spirit of Spider-Man: light-hearted high adventure, a pinch of danger and two spoonfuls of humor. This issue hardly found room for the soap operatic "cherry on top!" It will be fun to read more self-contained storylines in the Spidey books, but I'm still hoping for a feeling of great continuity between the various titles. (And bring back Stunner!)

The toys in this issue were a veritable blast to behold. It was a joy to watch Spidey do battle with the many figures he has no doubt encountered an innumerable amount of times in the millions of households that harbor youngsters with imagination. That's to say nothing of the pleasing challenge I faced in identifying Spidey's many assailants. (Bring back Stunner!)

One thing that sticks in my mind, though, was Armada's assertion that his robots are more than just robots, in fact having individual characteristics. It may well be that he is a crackpot or needs to get out more... but what if he were right? Maybe he's actually capable of such an unfathomable undertaking. Granted, we have not been privy to any proof of sentence or the like from his gadgets; moreover, Armada hardly seems adequately skilled, yet perhaps he has a special talent? I can only but wonder how Reed Richards would have dealt with this situation. (Bring back Stunner!)

I've heard recently that Mark Bagley is not long for this. If this is indeed the case, let me thank Bags for his lengthy devotion to this book, and for living up to the adjective in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! While his reported replacement is a fine artist himself, Steve Skroce has some big shoes to fill. Now where is Bags going, and who will take over X-Man? (Bring back Stunner!)

Lastly, I'd like to comment on the eventual resolution to the Clone Saga. Of course, the Jackal is not done yet. Whether he has managed to survive, or made us yet unrevealed plans prior to his demise, if there are still questions as to the clone's identity, I rather doubt the Jackal won't have a hand in the tale. I believe Peter's spiking head pains of late are due to either a Jackalian back-up plan, or are the early signs of Pete's powers returning. The fact that Pete has been appearing regularly in what is supposedly Ben's book, coupled with the

clone's identity once again being thrown into doubt, surely signals Peter's return as the one true Spider-Man, right? This development would surely relieve many longtime readers, but leaves us with the question of what to do with Ben Reilly? My unfortunate conclusion is that rather than opt to send him back out on the road, you may choose to resolve this story with true finality, by killing Ben! It would be a worthy conclusion to Marvel's own version of the Never-Ending Story, but it would be devastating to legions of fans.

Oh, and before I go, I must warn you that I have ingeniously supplied this missive with a subliminal message, forcing your unconscious thoughts to the fore to provide the return of one of my favorite characters to the Spidey fold. Sorry, but I had to do it.

Travis "Bring back Stunner!" MacKinnon
290 Morningside Ave., Apt. #514
Scarborough, Ontario
MTE 3E9 CANADA

Subliminal messages, Travis? Gee, we never even noticed. Stunner isn't on tap in the next few months at least, but you can bet we'll get around to explaining her one of these fine issues.

And we think you'll find Mr. Skroce will fill Bags' shoes quite nicely, as did the immensely talented Ron Garney this issue and last. Let us know what you think!

As for killing Ben... c'mon! We love Ben! Haven't a lot of you come to love Ben, even if you don't think he should be in a Spidey union suit? We wouldn't be foolish enough to risk the wrath of a legion of fans yet again, would we??

Heh-heh. Keep reading...

NEXT ISSUE:

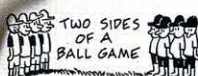
It's the penultimate chapter of "Revelations," the story that brings the entire clone saga to an unforgettable conclusion! Gant's standers revealed, and he's now a walking arsenal! Can even the combined efforts of Ben and Peter stop his mission of vengeance? Meanwhile, Mary Jane is going into painful labor, without Peter by her side, and under the watchful eye of the mysterious mastermind behind Gant! It all comes together, complete with a last panel that will have all of fandom gasping! All this, and the spectacular debut of our new art team, Steve Skroce and Bud LaRosa! You must not miss this issue!

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BREAK TIME!

Fill in each row with a five-letter word. When you're done, read down the columns for a surprise.



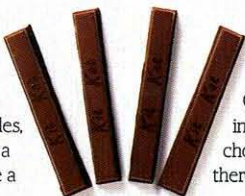
OPPOSITE OF BELOW



WHAT'S SHOWN HERE

OPPOSITE OF SOUR

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?

Find something whose name has "Kat" in it.



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EALORE
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FEARS
ANSWER

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UPN
KIDS

EVERY SUNDAY
MORNING 9AM

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