

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



**THE AMAZING**

# SPIDER-MAN

## RICOCHET

**JUN**  
**#435**

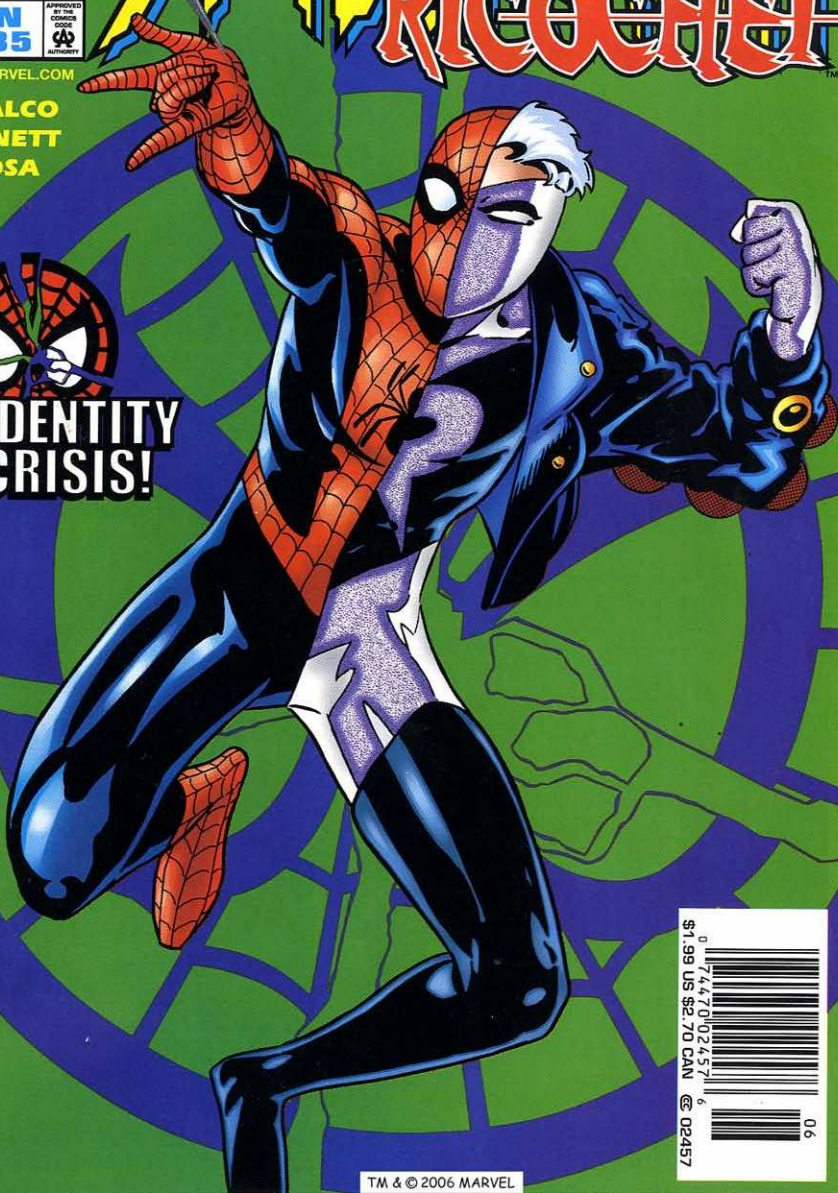


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HEY, IT'S  
THE EVER-  
AMAZING

# SPIDER-MAN!

A true hero at heart, Spider-Man has dedicated his life to preventing injustices against the innocent.



**M**et Peter Parker, once a brilliant, though meek, high school student, orphaned as a child and reared by his doting Uncle Ben and Aunt May. At a science fair, Peter was bitten by an irradiated spider and gained the proportionate strength, speed, agility and early warning "spider-sense" of that arachnid. He used these powers for personal fame and fortune as a masked Spider-Man. But when Peter failed to stop a criminal who later killed his beloved Uncle Ben, the youth's costumed identity took on a far deeper significance. He realized that with great power there must also come great responsibility. So Peter Parker became the wall-crawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle — The Amazing Spider-Man!

## RICOCET

A new identity assumed by Peter Parker in the absence of his Spider-Man guise.



## BLACK TARANTULA

A shadowy South American crime-lord who has apparently lived for centuries. The Tarantula has come to New York to personally try and take control of the city's criminal element.



## DELILAH

The Rose's primary enforcer, she is a super-powered woman who has been set on the trail of Spider-Man several times, though she has failed to destroy him.



## ROUGHHOUSE

An Asgardian rock-troll who has come to Earth and fought against the X-Men's Wolverine.



## BLOODSCREAM

A vampire-like elf who has teamed with Roughhouse against Wolverine.





## PREVIOUSLY IN

**D**ue to the five million dollar bounty on his head, placed there because of a false murder charge, Peter Parker was unable to continue being Spider-Man and assumed a new identity -- Ricochet!



**A**s the newest hero in town, Ricochet encountered the Deadly Delilah and joined forces with her in her quest for vengeance against the Black Tarantula, who recently crushed her in battle.



**M**eanwhile, the Black Tarantula has met with two other top crime lords to decide how New York City should be divided among them.



The Rollicking Ricochet and Deadly Delilah have their own ideas about the presumed division...



Beethoven born  
(the composer, not the dog)

Fire extinguisher invented  
(Cro-Magnons everywhere celebrate)

# THE MOST GIGANTIC GOOF-UPS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

1171

The Tower of Pisa built. 1172: It starts to lean. 1172 1/2: a bunch of builders look for new jobs



1492

Christopher Columbus discovers America (then gets his eyes checked—he was aiming for China, y'know)



32,000 BC

Cro-Magnon man builds first indoor fire (33,714 years before the fire extinguisher gets invented)



1751

The Liberty Bell made by some English dude, then cracks the first time it's rung (obviously the British are tip-top at tea, pretty crummy at smelting)



1998

## CHIPS AHOY! FORGETS THE CHIPS!

1,000 bags of Chips Ahoy! chocolate chip cookies got out with no chips. And instead of re-naming them something lame like "Ahoys," we're offering a \$1,000 reward for every chipless bag you find (that's a buck for every missing chip). Yep, this just may be the sweetest mistake ever made.



[www.chipsahoy.com](http://www.chipsahoy.com)

No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Open to U.S. residents. Must redeem winning game piece for reward. Prizes must be claimed by June 15, 1998. 1,000 winners in all. For free entry method and rules, see marked packs. \*1,000 chips in 18oz or larger bags. ©1998 Nabisco, Inc.

Declaration of Independence  
(and John Hancock becomes a star)

Chocolate chip born  
(kiss everywhere celebrate)



THE AMAZING  
Stan Lee  
presents  
SPIDER-MAN

# FUN'N GAMES WITH THE ★FOUR★STAR★SQUAD!★

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN  
BEING A FRIENDLY  
NEIGHBORHOOD SUPER  
HERO JUST AIN'T ALL IT'S  
CRACKED UP TO BE!

NEEDLESS TO SAY, TONIGHT  
IS CERTAINLY ONE OF 'EM...

SOMEONE'S  
BEEN DOGGIN' US  
EVER SINCE WE WERE  
RELEASED ON BAIL,  
BLOODSCREAM.

I THOUGHT  
I SAW 'IM DUCK  
BEHIND THIS  
FORKLIFT, BUT NO  
ONE'S HERE!

WHAT  
TROUBLES THEE,  
ROUGHHOUSE?

WHY  
DOST THOU  
FRET AND RAGE  
AT EVERY  
SHADOW?

BE  
AT EASE, MY  
FRIEND! WE HAVE  
NOTHING TO FEAR.  
ONLY A MADMAN  
WOULD RISK OUR  
WRATH.

SWELL! ONE MORON  
ALSO SPOTS ME.

THE OTHER  
DISPARAGES  
MY SANITY.

AND RODNEY  
DANGERFIELD  
THINKS HE HAS  
ISSUES WITH  
RESPECT!

FUN'N GAMES  
WITH

TOM  
DEFALLO  
WRITER

JOE  
BENNETT  
PENCILER

BOB LAROSA  
INKER

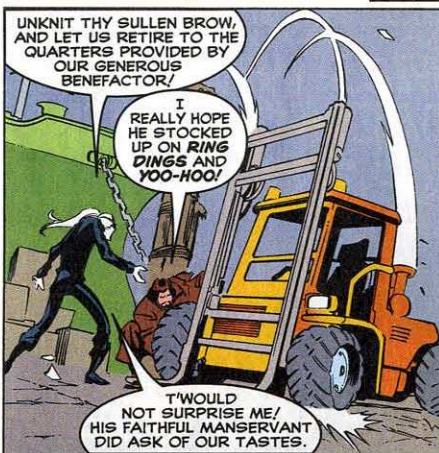
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UNKNIT THY SULLEN BROW,  
AND LET US RETIRE TO THE  
QUARTERS PROVIDED BY  
OUR GENEROUS  
BENEFACTOR!

I  
REALLY HOPE  
HE STOCKED  
UP ON **RING  
DINGS** AND  
**YOO-HOO!**

T'WOULD  
NOT SURPRISE ME/  
HIS FAITHFUL MANSERVANT  
DID ASK OF OUR TASTES.



ANY CHANCE THE  
BOAT IS WIRED FOR  
CABLE?

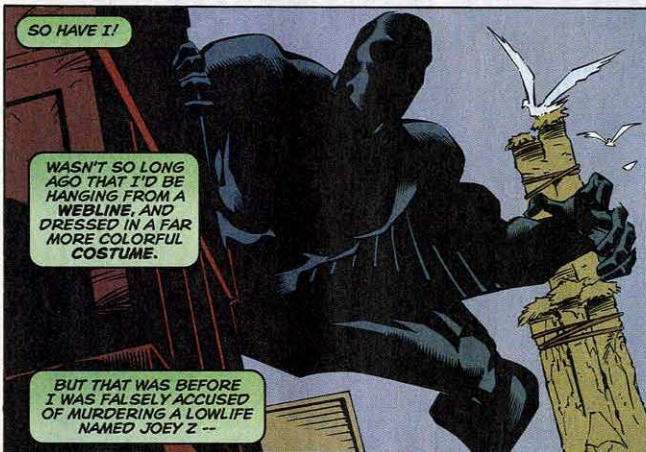
I  
AIN'T SEEN AN  
EPISODE O' **SOUTH  
PARK** SINCE WE'VE  
BEEN LOCKED  
UP.

RING  
DINGS?

YOO-HOO?

SOUTH  
PARK?

HOO-BOY! **SUPER  
VILLAINS** REALLY  
HAVE CHANGED  
WITH THE YEARS.



SO HAVE I!

WASN'T SO LONG  
AGO THAT I'D BE  
HANGING FROM A  
WEBLINE, AND  
DRESSED IN A FAR  
MORE COLORFUL  
COSTUME.

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE  
I WAS FALSELY ACCUSED  
OF MURDERING A LOWLIFE  
NAMED JOEY Z --



-- AND THE **DAILY BUGLE**  
PUT A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR  
BOUNTY ON MY HEAD

WITH HALF THE  
CITY HUNTING FOR  
**SPIDER-MAN**,  
IT SEEMED  
PRUDENT  
TO ASSUME A  
NEW IDENTITY.



AND SO  
I DID!

FOUR OF  
THEM IN  
FACT!

WHILE THAT MAY SEEM A  
TAD EXCESSIVE, I'M NOT  
THE FIRST SUPER JOCK  
TO TRY THIS TRICK.

EVEN IF ONE OR MORE  
OF MY NEW LOOKS GETS  
BLOWN, I'LL ALWAYS  
HAVE A FALLBACK.

PRETTY  
CRAFTY.  
Huh?!





I  
THINK  
YOU'RE  
NUTS!

YOU KNEW THESE  
TWO LEG-BREAKERS  
WORKED FOR THE  
**BLACK TARANTULA**...  
AND YOU STILL  
TRAILED  
THEM?!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, MARY JANE?  
BETWEEN MY SPIDER-SENSE AND  
THIS COSTUME, I FIGURED THEY'D  
NEVER CATCH A GLIMPSE  
OF ME.

EXCUSE  
ME! I KEEP  
FORGETTING THAT  
YOU CAN BLEND INTO  
SHADOWS WHENEVER  
YOU'RE **THE DARK**!

**DUSK!**

PARDON ---?!

I CALL MYSELF  
**DUSK** WHEN I'M IN  
THIS COSTUME!

WHATEVER!

MAYBE  
I CAN'T KEEP  
ALL YOUR NAMES  
STRAIGHT --



-- BUT I DO REMEMBER  
THAT THE **BLACK TARANTULA**  
GAVE YOU A MAJOR BEATING  
RECENTLY!

AND THAT'S  
WHILE YOU WERE  
STILL A WEB-  
SWINGING  
WONDER!



HEY! HE CAUGHT  
ME ON AN OFF  
DAY.

IT  
HAPPENS!

MAYBE  
SO, PETER,  
BUT  
IT TOOK YEARS TO  
DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS  
AS **SPIDER-MAN**.



YOU HAVE NO REAL  
FIGHTING EXPERIENCE  
IN ANY OF THESE NEW  
IDENTITIES.

NOT TRUE! I'VE ALREADY  
TAKEN ON THE LOOTER, THE  
VULTURE, THE TRAPSTER  
AND BLASTAAR!

ALL  
RIGHT! SO YOU  
WON A FEW MINOR  
SKIRMISHES --!

MINOR  
SKIRMISHES ---?!



DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THE  
**HORNET**, **PRODIGY**, **DUSK** OR  
**RICOCET** CAN GO TOE TO  
TOE WITH AN INHUMAN,  
KILLING MACHINE  
LIKE THE **BLACK  
TARANTULA**?!





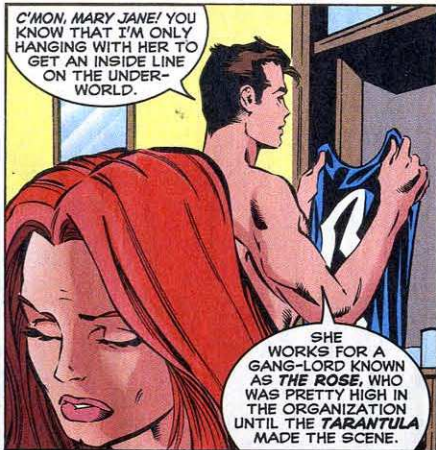
WAY TO GO, PRETTY LADY! YOU JUST SCORED FOUR FOR FOUR!

I KNOW... AND I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE LIGHT OF YOUR FEARS.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M IN A RUSH. I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET **DELILAH** IN AN HOUR!

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT, MISTER! I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

Ah, YESS... **DELILAH!** AS IF THINGS WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, YOU'RE NOW CONSORTING WITH A BEAUTIFUL ASSASSIN!



C'MON, MARY JANE! YOU KNOW THAT I'M ONLY HANGING WITH HER TO GET AN INSIDE LINE ON THE UNDER-WORLD.

SHE WORKS FOR A GANG-LORD KNOWN AS **THE ROSE**, WHO WAS PRETTY HIGH IN THE ORGANIZATION UNTIL THE **TARANTULA** MADE THE SCENE.



IT'S ALMOST FUNNY TO THINK THAT YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE A CROOK IN **TWO** OF YOUR FOUR IDENTITIES.

HOW ON EARTH DO YOU MANAGE TO KEEP EVERYTHING STRAIGHT?



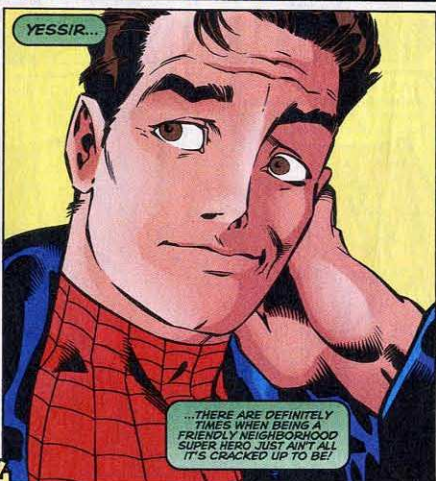
WHAT CAN I SAY?

I'M BLESSED WITH A QUICK WIT AND A RAZOR-SHARP MIND!

REALLY--P!



CARE TO REPHRASE THAT ANSWER?



YESSIR...

...THERE ARE DEFINITELY TIMES WHEN BEING A FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SUPER HERO JUST AIN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!



A blue, stylized hand is shown holding a red apple in its palm and a Twix bar in its fingers. The background is split horizontally into a yellow top half and a dark brown bottom half.

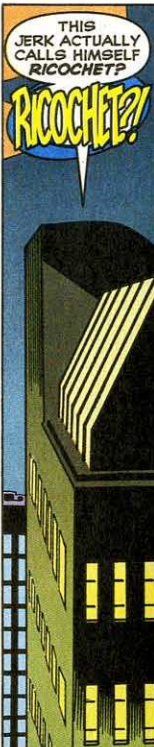
**EVE SHARED  
THAT APPLE  
AND LOOK WHAT  
HAPPENED.**

**DON'T YOU  
MAKE THE SAME  
MISTAKE!**



**two for me. none for you.™**





THIS  
JERK ACTUALLY  
CALLS HIMSELF  
**RICOCHET?**

**RICOCHET?**

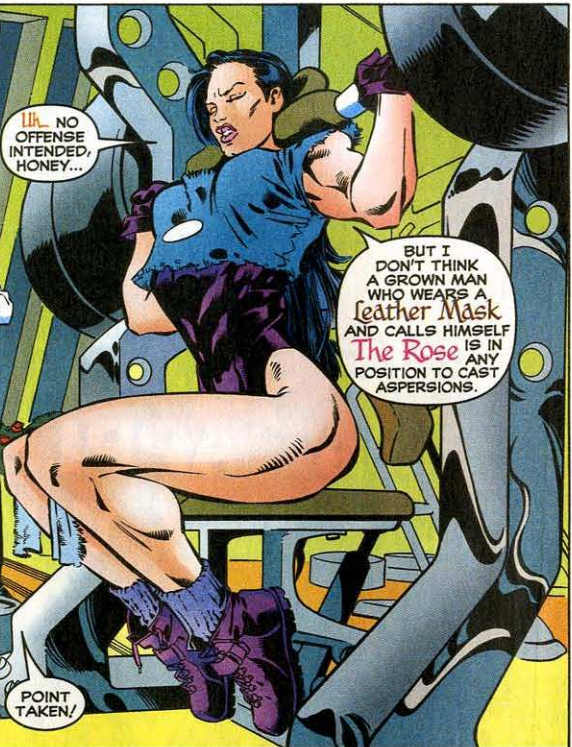


WHAT KIND OF  
STUPID NAME IS  
THAT?

BET HE'S  
FRENCH!

Uh... NO  
OFFENSE  
INTENDED,  
HONEY...

POINT  
TAKEN!



BUT I  
DON'T THINK  
A GROWN MAN  
WHO WEARS A  
**Leather Mask**  
AND CALLS HIMSELF  
**The Rose** IS IN  
ANY  
POSITION TO CAST  
ASPERSIONS.



CAN HE BE  
TRUSTED?

ARE YOU  
**Crazy?**

HE'S A  
HIRED HAND  
WHO'D BETRAY  
HIS OWN MOTHER  
FOR THE RIGHT  
PRICE.

SOUNDS  
LIKE **OUR** KIND OF  
PEOPLE, DELILAH!



HE'LL SERVE HIS  
PURPOSE.

EXCELLENT! OUR ILLUSTRIOUS  
BOSS OF BOSSES, DON FORTUNATO,  
RECENTLY GAVE THE BLACK TARANTULA  
PERMISSION TO OPERATE IN THIS CITY.



I, OF COURSE,  
MUST OBEY  
THE DON'S  
WISHES.

BUT  
A LOOSE  
CANNON LIKE  
**RICOCHET** --?



I  
TREMBLE  
TO THINK OF  
THE **TROUBLE**  
HE MIGHT  
CAUSE!





or get out

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IMPRESSIVE, MY FRIEND! MOST IMPRESSIVE! MANY HAVE CHALLENGED THE WEB-SWINGER! FEW HAVE EVER MANAGED TO DEFEAT HIM! AND NONE AS DECISIVELY AS YOU!



THE BLACK TARANTULA IS HUMBLLED BY YOUR COMPLIMENTS, DON FORTUNATO.

MY FATHER -- GOD REST HIS SOUL -- USED TO WARN ME THAT A MAN WHO USED THE ROYAL "WE" OR REFERRED TO HIMSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.

YOUR FATHER SOUNDS LIKE AN INTELLIGENT MAN!

WE THINK YOU SHOULD ALSO ADD "MEN WHO WEAR MASKS"!

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

BECAUSE YOU, TOO, ARE INTELLIGENT!



WHERE IS THE ROSE?

I THOUGHT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO JOIN US.

HE'LL BE HERE.

THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A MAN WITH YOUR VAST... EXPERIENCE... WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED MORE PATIENCE OVER THE YEARS.



I'M SURE I CAN ENTERTAIN YOU UNTIL HE ARRIVES.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO HEAR A MOST FASCINATING STORY WHICH WAS RECENTLY RELATED TO ME...



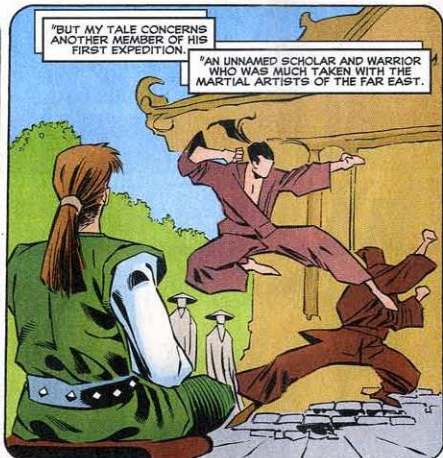
WHAT KIND OF STORY?



A TALE SET IN AN EXOTIC LAND, RICH OF ADVENTURE --

-- AND A PRIZE MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD!









EUBOEIA, AN ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN SEA...

WE HAVE DONE WELL.

OUR GLORIOUS MASTER WILL BE PLEASED.



WE, OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF **SCRIBERS**, NOW POSSESS THE DELICATE **TREASURE** WHICH HE ONCE ENTRUSTED INTO THE CARE OF **ALISON MONGRAIN**.



SINCE THE WOMAN IS OF NO FURTHER USE TO OUR MASTER, AN APPROPRIATE **ACCIDENT** MUST BE ARRANGED.

IT IS ALREADY DONE, BROTHER.

WE PLANTED A **BOMB** ON HER YACHT.

VERY EFFICIENT, BROTHER. THE MASTER WILL NOT ABIDE ANY LOOSE ENDS.



WHAT A **COINCIDENCE!**



I HAPPEN TO BE A **LOOSE END** MYSELF --

-- AND IT IS MY FERVENT DESIRE TO **ELIMINATE HIM!**



**HELP!**

WE'VE BEEN  
SCRAMBLED--

--BY  
ALIENS  
FROM OUTER  
SPACE!



# FIX UP <sup>THE</sup> MIX-UP

WITH THESE **FREE STONE-AGE SCRAMBLERS!**



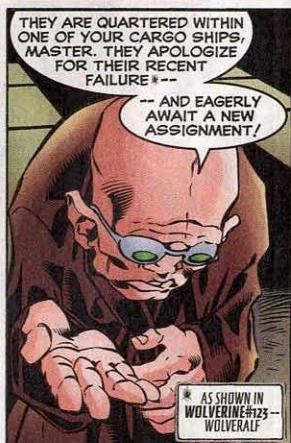
THREE  
DIFFERENT  
**SCRAMBLERS!**  
ONE IN EACH  
SPECIALLY  
MARKED BOX  
OF



**FRED AND BARNEY'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS!**

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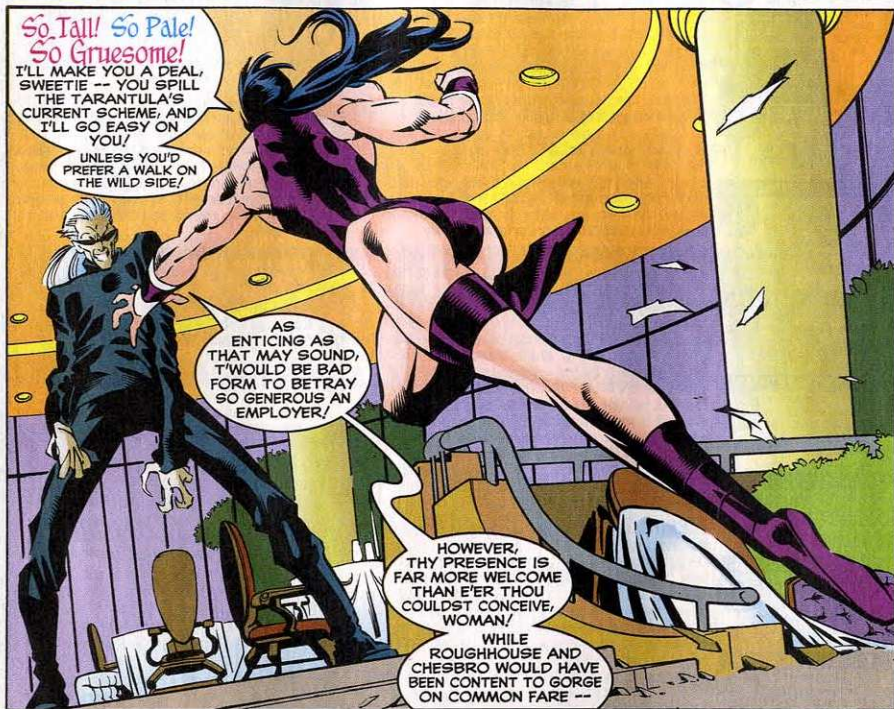




EVEN AS THE HUMAN FREIGHT TRAIN BEARS DOWN ON ME, I SPOT CHESBRO JOINING THE MAD DASH FOR EXIT.

INSTINCTIVELY, I TRY TO SNAG HIM WITH A WEB-LINE...

...THAT'S WHEN I REMEMBER THAT I... Uh... LEFT MY WEB-SHOOTERS IN MY OTHER SUIT.



So Tall! So Pale!  
So Gruesome!  
I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL, SWEETIE -- YOU SPILL THE TARANTULA'S CURRENT SCHEME, AND I'LL GO EASY ON YOU!

UNLESS YOU'D PREFER A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!

AS ENTICING AS THAT MAY SOUND, T'WOULD BE BAD FORM TO BETRAY SO GENEROUS AN EMPLOYER!

HOWEVER, THY PRESENCE IS FAR MORE WELCOME THAN E'ER THOU COULDST CONCEIVE, WOMAN!

WHILE ROUGHHOUSE AND CHESBRO WOULD HAVE BEEN CONTENT TO GORGE ON COMMON FARE --



-- MY TASTES ARE FAR MORE EXOTIC!

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW BLOODSCREAM'S POWER WORKS, BUT THE INSTANT HE MAKES CONTACT --



-- DELILAH BEGINS TO BLEED!

THERE ISN'T A MARK OR WOUND ON HER --

-- BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THE BLOOD FROM FLOWING RIGHT THROUGH HER SKIN!



MY FIRST RÉACTION IS TO SPRING TO HER SIDE, BUT ROUGHHOUSE HAS OTHER IDEAS --!

YOU THINK YA CAN AVOID ME BY BOUNCIN' AROUND LIKE A HYPERACTIVE SUPER BALL?

NO SUCH LUCK, PAL!



# BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE APRIL 15

## MAN-THING

**MAN-THING** seeks an ancient Atlantean artifact -- but he's going to have to go through the **Savage Sub-Mariner** to get it! By J.M. DeMatteis and Liam Sharpe!

## WOLVERINE

**VIPER** wants **WOLVERINE** in the worst way, and she's drafted six of the people that Wolverine cares about most to get him. Only **Kitty Pryde** and **Jubilee** remain free to help the Canuckhead. By **Chris Claremont** and **Leinil Francis Yu**.

## SEEKER 3000

Strap yourself in for the launch of an exciting new sci-fi series! It'll take you to infinity and beyond! By **Dan Abnett**, **Ian Edgington** and **Andrew Currie**!

## STAR TREK: STARLEIGH ACADEMY

Frantic final issue! **Omega Squad's** plan to trap **evil Klingon** **First Cadre** works perfectly -- until **Kovold** shows up to rescue his mates! By **Chris Cooper** and **Chris Renaud**!

## CAPTAIN AMERICA

Those shape-shifting **Skulls** are invading -- and only **Capt** stands in their way! Or does he? By **Mark Waid** and **Dale Eaglesham**!

## HEROES FOR HIRE

The **Master** unleashes an all-new team of villains -- one of the **Heroes for Hire** turns traitor! By **John Ostrander** and **Pascual Ferry**!

## INCREDIBLE HULK

**Bruce Banner** has two choices: either work for the government -- or stand trial for the **Hulk's** crimes! By **Peter David** and **David Brewer**!

## THUNDERBOLTS

The **Thunderbolts** are back on Earth -- and hunted by **S.H.I.E.L.D.**! Plus: **Zemo** plots his revenge on his former "teammate" **Kurt Busiek** and **Mark Bagley**!

## EXCALIBUR

**Legion**, the mutant that caused "the Age of Apocalypse" is back -- or is he? Could it be an even greater threat? By **Ben Raab** and **Melvin Rubi**!

## PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN

The enigmatic **Dusk** attempts to prove **Spider-Man's** innocence... and comes up against the new and improved **Trappster**! By **Howard Mackie** and **John Romita Jr.**!

## WHAT IF?!

An offbeat tale -- "What if **The Thing** had stayed in **Dr. Doom's** tiny town?" By **Bill Rosemarin** and **Anthony Castiello**!

## X-MAN

It's the long-awaited return of that ravishing redhead, **Madelyne Pryor**! Plus: **Nate** has a terrifying vision of the future! By **Terry Kavanagh** and **Mark Pajjarillo**!

## X-MEN/ALPHA FLIGHT

Concluding the never-before-seen first team-up of your favorite American and Canadian mutants in a showdown against **Baron Strucker**! By **Ben Raab** and **John Cassady**!

**ITEM!** If you like outer space action... if you're a fan of TV shows like *Star Trek* and movies like *Star Wars*... we've got the comic for you! **SEEKER 3000** is an all-new four-issue limited series blasting your way next week in a double-sized first-issue spectacular! The time is the far future. Our sun has gone nova, and the Earth has been destroyed. A starship has been launched, offering the last hope for humanity. That ship is the *Seeker 3000*, a vessel which contains the last human beings in the universe! Those of you whose memories go back to the swinging seventies will remember that **SEEKER 3000** first appeared in issue #41 of our old **MARVEL PREMIERE** mag! The new **S3K** picks up 25 years after the original comic left off. Led by the heroic **CAPTAIN SHAW**, the inhabitants of the *Seeker 3000* must learn to work together if there is to be any hope for mankind's future! But with a ship's computer inhabited by Shaw's arch-nemesis, **JASON**, and a ship filled with rebellious telepaths and genetically engineered clones, it's not going to be easy! Join our stellar line-up of talent, writers **DAN ABNETT** and **IAN EDGINGTON**, along with artists **ANDREW CURRIE** and **ART NICHOLS**, as we begin a sci-fi odyssey that takes you where no comic book reader has gone before! **SEEKER 3000**: the future is now!

**ITEM!** It's the first anniversary of the **Heroes for Hire** -- and one of them has turned traitor! Is it **IRON FIST**? **CAGE**? The **BLACK KNIGHT**? The mysterious **WHITE TIGER**? The answer awaits in **HFH #12**, and it's a shocker! This issue features a story so big, it takes 48 pages to tell it! The malevolent **MASTER** unleashes his master plan, pitting an all-new team of super-villains against the **Heroes for Hire**! If the **Heroes** fail, a deadly virus will be released, killing off a good-sized chunk of the world's population! It's a battle royal like you've never seen before, as one of the members of the **HFH** team makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the world -- and even that may not be enough! Only creators-for-hire **JOHN OSTRANDER**, **PASCUAL FERRY** and **JAIME MENDOZA** could have crafted this action-packed epic! Pick up this issue, and find out if the first anniversary of the **Heroes for Hire** will also be their last!

**ITEM!** The greatest mutant-writer of all time returns to the pages of **WOLVERINE** this month, just in time for **LOGAN's** double-sized 125th issue extravaganza! That's right, **CHRIS CLAREMONT**, the man responsible for an unforgettable 17-year stint on the **UNCANNY X-MEN**, has returned to do what he does best! And what he does is craft pulse-pounding, berserker-raging, claw-carving high adventure! In this 48-page thriller, the evil **VIPER** has set her sights on **Wolverine**, and she's drafted six of the women **Logan** cares about the most to get him! Only **KITTY PRYDE** and **JUBILEE** remain free to help **Wolverine** against the combined might of six lethal ladies: **ROGUE**, **PSYLOCKE**, **TYGER TYGER**, **JESSICA DREW**, **YUKIO**, and **PHOENIX**! This one's got more beauties than a *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue! Nobody writes a fighting female like **Chris**, and **Wolverine's** able to learn that hell hath no fury like a brainwashed woman with super-powers! As if that weren't enough, **HYDRA** and the **HAND** are gunning for **Wolverine**, too! Pick up **WOLVERINE #125** and see just how much mutant mayhem can be crammed into one comic!

**ITEM!** Remember a few months back when we ran our **LUCKY 13 SWEEPSTAKES**? Well, now it's time to announce our fortuitous 13 Third Prize winners and award them their prizes, which just so happens to be having their names appear on a **Marvel Bullpen Bulletin**! So without further ado, here they are:

**Jeffrey Love; Jerry Davison; Randy Snakeberg III; Jordan Naugle; James Locke; J.R. Emery; Doug Kline; Kennedy Williams; Marcus Wai; Daniel Huhn; Gary White; Shomari Pope; James R. Barnes**

So congratulations to all of our winners and thanks to everybody who entered. And be sure to keep your eyes peeled for more **Marvel** contests in upcoming issues of **Marvel Comics**!

## STAN'S SOAPBOX!

**H**i, Heroes!

**Marvel** must have the most inquisitive readers in the galaxy! Week after week, the ol' Soapbox is swamped with your letters containing questions about anything to do with the good ol' House of Ideas! Now it's time to open our famous No-Prize vault as we randomly select the first letter to titillate your senses and tantalize your mind...

**O**ur lucky Laureate-to-be is **Page Sausman** of **Boise, ID** who fearlessly inquires:

**"Will Marvel ever reprint on a monthly basis any of its many popular classics?"**

Not a shabby idea, **Page**. However, while I prepare to suggest it at the next top secret, closed circuit meeting of our world-famous **Marvel** think tank, you might get a kick out of our newly designed **Marvel Masterworks** books, which are on sale now. They feature all our popular classics in some of the greatest coffee-table editions you've ever drooled over! (Hey, it's my column so I can sneak in all the plugs I want!)

**G**ary Boyarski of **Saskatchewan, Canada**, stopped shivering in the cold long enough to zap me with this zinger:

**"Why did Spider-Man become Marvel's icon, and not Captain America, the Hulk, Daredevil or even the Fantastic Four?"**

It's simple, **Gar** -- none of those other guys knew what "icon" meant! Okay, okay, I apologize for that inane answer. I admit it was a cop-out. Truth is, the only ones who can answer **Gary** are you fans -- you're the ones who made **Spider-Man** the idol of millions! But don't all answer at once, hear? Take a number!

**T**ammy Miller of **Estacada, OR** asks my opinion! I mustn't let her down!

**"Should the Avengers be made up of all 'Major Leaguers' like Thor, Spidey, Iron Man and the Hulk, or should the team also include second-stringers like Hawkeye?"**

The "second stringers" are okay with me, **Tam**, but let's hope **Hawkeye** never hears what you called him! In fact, maybe we shouldn't even have printed the name of your town; whenever our angry archer buys a comic, the Soapbox is the first thing he reads!

**O**ur final No-Prize winner, **Chris Knize** of **New Canaan, CT**, thought we wouldn't notice that he squeezed in two questions for the price of one:

**"What do you expect Marvel to do in the future? Will you be making any guest appearances as a writer?"**

I figure **Marvel** will do the same in the future as we've done in the past -- try to turn out the zingiest stories and artwork from here to **Andromeda**! As for my making any guest appearances, I'm planning to do a new, original series with **John Romita Sr.** on the ever-popular **Marvel** website -- so let's all make sure our merry little modems are in working order 'cause I couldn't bear the thought of anyone missing it!

**N**ow, as our four newest No-Prizes prepare to attend their city's victory dinners, let me leave you with this terrifying tidbit -- just when you thought it was safe to go back to the internet, you can reach me at my Soapbox site: **STANZFANZ@AOL.COM**. I won't have time to answer any E-mail letters, but you can bet your beanbags I'll read every one!

Excelsior!



Stan Lee

Hey, don't stop sending your questions to our mailing address in order to qualify for No-Prizehood! Who could forget those magic words -- "Stan's Soapbox," c/o **BULLPEN BULLETINS**, **Marvel Comics**, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. Gotta go now -- just reading this notice makes me all teary-eyed!





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I'M GONNA  
SWAT YA INTO  
THE MIDDLE'A  
NEXT WEEK!

DO ME A  
FAVOR, AND AIM  
FOR THURSDAY  
NIGHT!

THAT WAY I'LL  
GET TO SEE E.R.  
BEFORE ANY OF  
MY FRIENDS!

YOU LIKE  
MEDICAL  
DRAMAS? BY THE  
TIME I'M FINISHED,  
YOU'LL BE THE STAR  
OF YOUR OWN!

MARY JANE WAS RIGHT  
EARLIER! THOUGH I'M  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
RICOCHET, I KEEP  
TAPPING MY PALM --

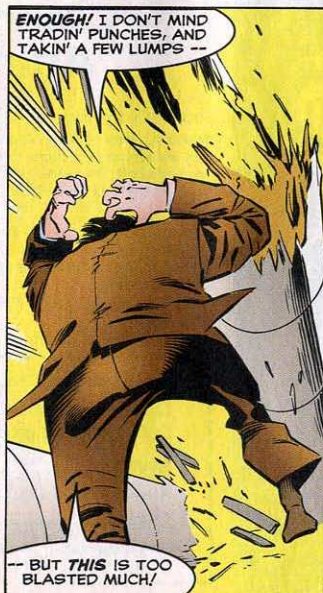
-- AND EXPECTING MY  
WEB-SHOOTERS  
TO RESPOND!

I NEED TO PRACTICE  
MY NEW FIGHTING  
TECHNIQUES, AND  
THERE'S NO TIME  
LIKE THE PRESENT --!



WHAT THE HECK ARE  
THESE CRAZY THINGS? THEY'RE  
BOUNCIN' OFF THE WALLS, THE  
CEILING AND THE FLOOR!

BATTERING ME  
FROM EVERY POSSIBLE  
DIRECTION, LIKE A  
SWARM'A INSECTS!



ENOUGH! I DON'T MIND  
TRADIN' PUNCHES, AND  
TAKIN' A FEW LUMPS --

-- BUT THIS IS TOO  
BLASTED MUCH!



SINCE YOU WON'T  
STAND AND FIGHT  
LIKE A REAL MAN,  
I'M OUTTA  
HERE!

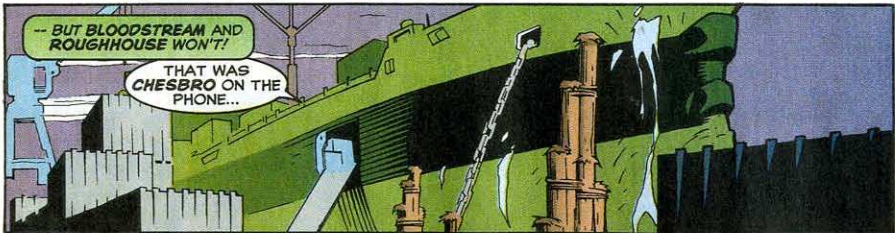
KWAKK

HE SMASHES THROUGH  
THE SIDE WALL, TAKING  
OUT A FEW SUPPORT  
BEAMS ON THE WAY!









-- BUT BLOODSTREAM AND  
ROUGHHOUSE WON'T!

THAT WAS  
CHESBRO ON THE  
PHONE...



'TIS THE WISH OF THE **BLACK  
TARANTULA** THAT WE PROCEED  
WITH THE **ABDUCTION!**

FINE BY ME --  
BUT I HOPE YA ASKED  
FOR A BONUS AFTER  
THAT MIX-UP AT THE  
RESTAURANT!

ACCORDING  
TO THE RADIO, THE  
POLICE TOOK THE BROAD  
T'THE HOSPITAL... BUT HER  
PARTNER MANAGED  
T'SKIP.

YOU THINK  
HE'LL RESURFACE?



IN TIME, BUT I DOUBT  
HE WOULD DARE INTERFERE  
WITH US AFTER -- **HOLD!**  
WHAT WAS  
THAT?

**KREAK**

PROBABLY  
JUST THE DECK  
SHIFTING --



-- BUT I'LL GIVE  
IT A **LOOK-  
SEE!**

I KNOW  
YOU DIDN'T  
BELIEVE ME, BUT  
I STILL THINK  
SOMEONE  
WAS ON T'US  
EARLIER!



AREN'T YOU  
A BRIGHT  
LAD?

**WH-WHAAA --P!**  
SOMEONE'S SPRINGING  
FROM THE  
SHADOWS --/

THE  
NAME'S **DUSK**.  
AND I'M HERE IN LIEU OF THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD WELCOMING  
COMMITTEE!

WHAT  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO SEE FIRST --  
THE LOCAL **HOSPITAL**  
OR THE CITY JAIL?





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Just take a picture of something that resembles a part of Thor's costume, Thor continuity, or Norse mythology, and mail it to Marvel. And then, in a few months, we'll assemble this new image of Thor piecing together all the photos we've received. It'll be Thor as you've never seen him before... get the picture?

## OFFICIAL SWEEPSTAKES RULES

**To Enter:** No purchase necessary to enter. To enter, submit a picture(s) of anything related to Thor or Norse mythology (i.e. a hammer, blonde hair, etc.) and send to: Marvel Comics Thor Sweepstakes, c/o Michael Pasciullo, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Entries must be received by Marvel no later than May 31, 1998. You may enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately and no mechanically reproduced entries will be accepted. Entries will not be returned. Marvel is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries. Winners will be selected no later than June 30, 1998 in a random drawing of all completed entries to be held by Marvel. The decisions of Marvel in conducting all aspects of this sweepstakes shall be final. Winners will be notified by mail no later than July 31, 1998. Odds of winning depend on the number of completed entries received. Void where prohibited.

**Prizes:** 5 Grand Prizes, 5 First Prizes, 5 Second Prizes and 10 Third Prizes will be awarded to the winners. 5 Grand Prizes consist of: A \$100 shopping spree at the comic book retailer of the winners' choice (awarded as a

check to the winner made out in the name of the retailer), a Thor Bust signed by Randy Bowen, and a copy of Thor #1 collector's edition signed by the book's creative team (described below) (Total Approximate Retail Value: \$143); 5 First Prize Winners will be awarded a Highland Mint Thor coin, 1 year subscription to Thor, and a copy of Thor #1 "sunburst variant" edition signed by the book's creative team (Total Approximate Retail Value: \$50); 5 Second Prize Winners will be awarded a Thor T-shirt and a copy of Thor #1 "sunburst variant" edition signed by the book's creative team (Total Approximate Retail Value: \$19); 10 Third Prize Winners will be awarded a copy of Thor #1 signed by the book's creative team, a Thor helmet, and a polaroid of a Marvel editor (Total approximate Retail Value: \$3). Prizes are not transferable and no substitutions will be available, except that the sponsors reserve the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value. All taxes shall be the responsibility of the winner.

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**Eligibility:** Eligibility to receive a Grand Prize will be conditioned upon the submission of a signed affidavit of eligibility and publicity/liability release. In the event any winner does not claim a prize within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the notice, or a Grand Prize winner fails to submit the affidavit and release, Marvel reserves the right to not award the prize or to conduct a second drawing to select another winner. Sweepstakes open to U.S. residents only. Employees (and their immediate family members) of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc., Toy Biz, Inc., Fleer/Skybox and their respective affiliates and advertising agencies are not eligible. For a list of major prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the above address after May 31, 1998. Allow 8 weeks for delivery.

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GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU SHROUD-COVERED FREAK!

WITH AN UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE LIKE THAT, SEE IF YOU GET YOUR COMPLIMENTARY FRUIT BASKET!



WHAT THE --?!

W-WHERE'D HE GO?

RIGHT BEHIND YOU, LUMMOX --



-- AND THIS PARTY HAS BARELY BEGUN!

WHAT TROUBLES THEE, ROUGHHOUSE?  
HAS THAT ANNOYING BOUNCING PERSON RETURNED?



IN A WORD... YES!  
AND HE'S BROUGHT A FEW FRIENDS!



BY THE WAY, YOU'D BETTER CALL ME BY THE CORRECT NAME --  
-- OR I'LL SLAP YOU WITH A SUIT FOR APPELLATION HARASSMENT!



WHAT'S GOING ON?  
HOW MANY GUYS ARE WE FACIN' --?!

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-- BUT I CAN BE A REAL STINKER AT TIMES!

AND THIS IS ONE OF THEM!

SURE, I OWE YOU STIFFS FOR DELILAH --



-- AND I STILL WANT TO LEARN WHY THE BLACK TARANTULA HIRED YOU --

-- BUT THAT SHOULDN'T STOP ME FROM HAVING A LITTLE FUN!



T-THOSE GUYS COULDN'T HAVE JUST VANISHED!

THEY GOTTA BE AROUND SOMEWHERE ---!

SINCE I DO NEED MORE PRACTICE WITH ALL FOUR OF MY NEW IDENTITIES, I FIGURED TONIGHT WOULD GIVE ME THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY --



-- TO HONE MY SKILLS!

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS, SIR!

EVEN IN A WONDERFUL CITY LIKE OURS, IT ISN'T PARTICULARLY WISE TO WALK ALONE AT NIGHT!

I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU TO A SECURE FACILITY WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE AND WARM!

A-ANOTHER ONE?!





HEY! I KNOW YOU --!

I READ ABOUT YA IN THE *DAILY BUGLE*! YOU'RE THAT *PRODIGY* GUY!

BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED T'BE SOME KIND'A *HERO*!

HOW COME YOU'RE HANGIN' WITH A SKELL LIKE *RICOCHETT*?



ALL I CAN SAY, SIR IS THAT --



-- APPEARANCES ARE OFTEN *DECEIVING*!

BY THE WAY, YOU SHOULD REALLY WATCH YOUR STEP --

-- I SINCERELY DOUBT THE *BLACK TARANTULA* HAS ADEQUATE *LIABILITY* COVERAGE!

18



*ROUGHHOUSE!*  
*ROUGHHOUSE!*  
DIDST THOU CAUSE THAT GIANT *SPLASH*?

LET US BE GONE FROM THIS HAUNTED SCOW!



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2526 Blackstreet	3872 The Fugees	6272 Marilyn Manson	7242 Rage Against the Machine	3429 Leonardo DiCaprio
2583 Blur	4462 Gnuinewine	6285 Matchbox 20	7294 Ray J.	6951 Liv Tyler
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STINGERS!  
SEDATIVE  
STINGERS, IF YOU  
WANT TO GET  
TECHNICAL!



BUT  
THAT'S OLD  
NEWS BY  
NOW!



HORNET -- IF THAT BE THY  
TRUE NAME -- I BELIEVE  
WE CAN YET STRIKE A  
BARGAIN!

WHY  
SHOULD  
I OFFER  
YOU A  
DEAL?

HUMAN  
LIVES HANG IN THE  
BALANCE!  
THOUGH  
ROUGHHOUSE  
AND I HAVE FALLEN,  
THE **BLACK TARANTULA**  
WILL NOT BE DETERRED  
FROM HIS CHOSEN PATH!



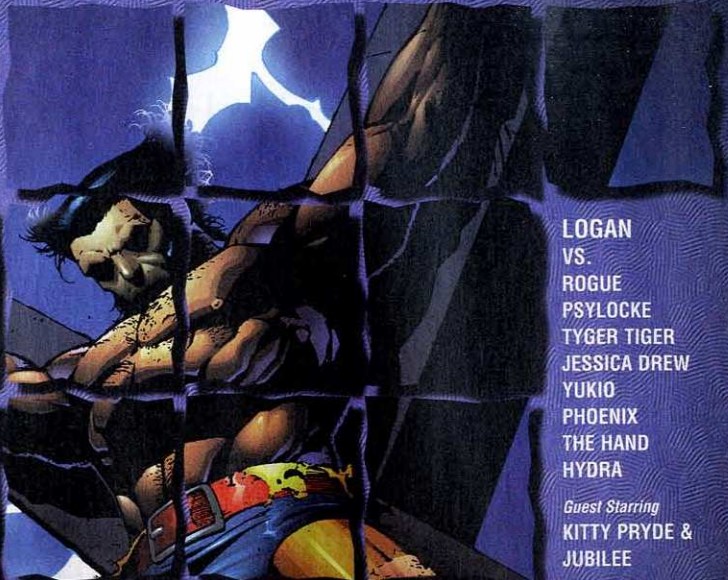
I PROPOSE A SIMPLE  
EXCHANGE...  
...KNOWLEDGE FOR  
FREEDOM!



**Wolverine**  
**#125**

(48 PAGES)

CHRIS CLAREMONT  
LIENEL FRANCIS YU



**LOGAN**  
**VS.**  
**ROGUE**  
**PSYLOCKE**  
**TYGER TIGER**  
**JESSICA DREW**  
**YUKIO**  
**PHOENIX**  
**THE HAND**  
**HYDRA**

*Guest Starring*  
**KITTY PRYDE &**  
**JUBILEE**



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**X-MEN-X**





EUBOE...

MONGRAIN?  
ALISON  
MONGRAIN?



THE PATIENT HAS  
ALREADY CHECKED  
OUT, Mr.  
ROBERTSON.

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?  
I UNDERSTAND SHE WAS  
SERIOUSLY INJURED IN  
A FREAK BOATING  
ACCIDENT.

DID SHE LEAVE  
A FORWARDING  
ADDRESS?

I AM  
AFRAID NOT!  
NOW PLEASE --  
YOU MUST MOVE  
TO THE SIDE/ WE  
HAVE TO ATTEND  
TO A POLICE  
ACTION!



A POLICE  
ACTION?

COULD IT  
POSSIBLY BE  
RELATED TO THE  
REASONS WHICH  
BROUGHT ME?



THOSE INJURED MEN --  
THEY FIT THE DESCRIPTION  
OF SCRIERS!

I WONDER IF  
THEY'RE SOMEHOW  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
MONGRAIN?

MY  
GOD --!



I RECOGNIZE  
THOSE SCARS ON  
THEIR FACES!

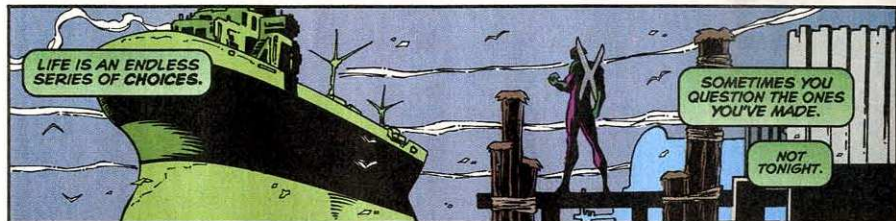
T-THEY'RE  
LUCKY TO BE  
ALIVE!



T-THAT  
MARK...

IT'S THE  
MARK OF  
KAINE!







# THE SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Spiders, Goblins, Octopi, etc.,  
Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #428:  
So poor Angelina Brancale is in a coma, having sacrificed herself in that weird Hand ritual. It's going to be a while before we see Stunner again. Who cares? Doc Ock is back!! I only started reading ASM in April of this year and I didn't even know he was dead. Thanks for bringing him back so newcomers like me can enjoy him. If Octopus isn't Spidey's all-time greatest enemy, he certainly is his most famous (infamous?). He's a classic heavy hitter.

Speaking of heavy hitters, I'm growing increasingly impressed with the Black Tarantula. I especially liked the scene in #428 in which he carved a picture in the wall with Delilah's head! I see a big future for this character. I also like the Rose. Other people think he's pretty flat, but I believe he can be outstanding with a little work. He's classy and devious (well, he could be) and his crime war against the Tarantula has kicked up quite a ruckus. Only one question concerning these guys' little helpers: Why is the Hand conspiring with the Tarantula and Madame Gwa? I thought it was established in issue #424 that the Hand (in red) and the True Believers (in green) were sworn enemies?

My praise to the team working on this title, especially Steve Skroce. His pencils aren't as crisp as those of a, say, Luke Ross, but, wow! What action! What storytelling! Take, for example, the way Spider-Man avoided getting squished by those two cars on page #5, and used one of them to ram Doc Ock on pages #6 and #7. Kudos to Tom DeFalco, as well. His scripts are loads of fun while SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and other titles have seemed rather depressing of late.

Well, the time has come to wrap things up. So, until Iron Man starts rusting, the Morlocks appear in Mademoiselle and GQ, and we see the Black Tarantula's face (actually, that just might happen), Make Mine Marvel!

Nathan Houstman  
219 13th Street  
Tipton, IA 52772

Might, and already has, Nathan! Hope you caught the Tarantula's unmasking during the Spiderhunt storyline! And if that wasn't enough of B.T. for you, take a gander at the Next Issue box!

Glad to hear you're happy with the current direction of this title. Fun is the name of the game here, especially when Titanic Tom DeFalco is around! Hope we can continue to strike that chord with you.

As for the Hand and the True Believers, yep, they are indeed mortal enemies. The trouble was, the flashback sequence you refer to was narrated by the Rose. And, as everyone knows, he's colorblind. At least, that's what the Deadly Delilah tells us. Of course, she's still a bit woozy from having her head put through a wall, so...

Hey Marvel Guys,

I'm enjoying the storylines coming from you concerning Peter. I just

don't understand why you continue to ignore his scientific aspect as Spider-Man. During the period of time when Peter and Mary Jane were in Portland, I was reminded of Pete's love of science while he was employed with GARID during SPIDER-MAN: THE FINAL ADVENTURE. Anybody who enjoys science this much would come up with something to add to his arsenal long beforehand. I mean, Ben Reilly has had a bigger impact on Spider-Man's equipment in one year than Peter has in over 30. Ben's contribution of the impact webbing was a giant leap in preparing his alter-ego for persistent opponents that come back new and improved.

Doc Ock is back for one issue, #428, and now he has a force field. Ock already has a good advantage with the four mechanical arms he used to demolish an entire block in his return. Now, this force field makes him darn near unbeatable. We've seen several of Spidey's opponents get an upgrade in their power level, such as Electro, Mysterio, Shocker, and now Doc Ock. If some of these guys are adding to their arsenals, then Pete should, too.

Peter should either incorporate Ben's design into his webbing or come up with his own ideas. Peter is a scientist first and foremost, and scientists have a tendency to adjust to adversarial situations or people that oppose them. I think it is time for Peter to make Spider-Man's life a little easier by helping him with his arsenal so he has a fighting chance against his lethal foes.  
Arnell Atkins  
Gary, IN

Peter has made adjustments from time to time, Arnell. Problem is, most of them haven't stuck. Remember the Web Armor from WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #100? However, if you've been reading diligently these past few months, you've seen Peter draw on his scientific expertise in the creation of his four new identities, especially Prodigy.

Dear Arachnights,

Some comics give you an appetizer... and forget the main course. Others remember the "meat 'n' two veg" ...but have never even heard of dessert. With AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #428, we got a full and satisfying Spider-feast—and that's what most people have come to expect! Tom DeFalco is the King of Subplots, and currently they're trundling along nicely each ish. There's impetus with each character, intrigue on every page, and I'm enjoying it! Let's detail with specifics:

Doc Ock: The respect/understanding he showed for Spidey back during "Web Of Death" may have gone for good if he truly does blame ol' Webhead for what happened to Angelina. That would be a shame, since it was a nice twist for the bad guy to view his main enemy as a challenge and their battles as "wars of wits," rather than the usual hero/villain grudge matches. Still, his anger could make him more deadly than ever, and that'll be worth seeing!

Steve Skroce: I really appreciate his radical, innovative scenes. Delilah's head carving a spider shape out of the wall, Spidey ramming Doc Ock in a car, and diving through the windshield instead of simply leaping away—these are memorable. They stick in your mind, and to me, that's a sign of a class comic book.

Jacob Conner: He's the Rose, right? Right??? (Wrong?)

Shantal: Outspoken. Independent. A keen advocate of women's rights. And destined (I hope) for a confrontation with a certain Peter Parker! A war of words between them is surely inevitable: they have opposing arguments and yet they're both partly right (Pete spends as much time as he can with MJ, but can't ignore his Spidey responsibilities; Shantal, not appreciating his dilemma, thinks Pete's thoughtless and neglectful). They can both give as good as they get, and any argument could be the most interesting meeting since a hungry Galactus called 'round Ego's place!

The finale: It was good to see Pete there for the climax, rather than Spidey, since the mask is nothing without the man behind it. And despite colorist Bob Sharen's cheeky attempt to trick us by coloring Jill's hair blonde, it was fun to see Pete alone with Jill Stacy. You've given us absolutely zero reason to think this, but...I can't shake the feeling that something is gonna happen there!

Between ASM and PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN, we're finally getting some development on the Stacy front. In fact, the entire ultra-intriguing civilian cast is enjoying major enhancement at the moment—and for as long as I've been reading, that's what I've really wanted to see.

So, yeah, ASM #428 was packed. But it was paced, too. Hey, let's face it: it was good. Thanks, Marvel.

Kevin Barron  
43 Mill Falls  
Driffield, East Yorkshire  
ENGLAND YO25 7AZ

Well, you're certainly welcome, Kev. And thank you for all the wonderful praise! We've spent quite some time developing this current supporting cast, and we're glad to see that our long-term plans have paid off.

## NEXT ISSUE:

THIS IS IT! IT'S BEEN BUILDING FOR WELL OVER A YEAR, AND NOW THE TIME HAS COME: SPIDEY GOES TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE BLACK TARANTULA! SPIDER-MAN GOT THE WEB KNOCKED OUT OF HIM LAST TIME—HAS HE LEARNED ENOUGH ABOUT THIS VICIOUS CRIME LORD TO FINALLY TAKE HIM DOWN? NEED WE SAY IT? BIT YOURSELF BACK HERE IN FOUR WEEKS TO FIND OUT! YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED TO THE RING BY TOM "TURNBUCKLE" DEFALCO, JOE "BODY BLOW" BENNETT AND BUD "LEFT HOOK" LAROSA. OUR RING GIRL WILL BE NONE OTHER THAN RALF!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT



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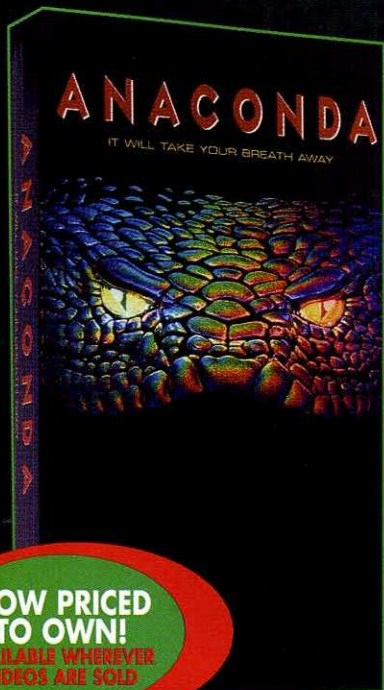
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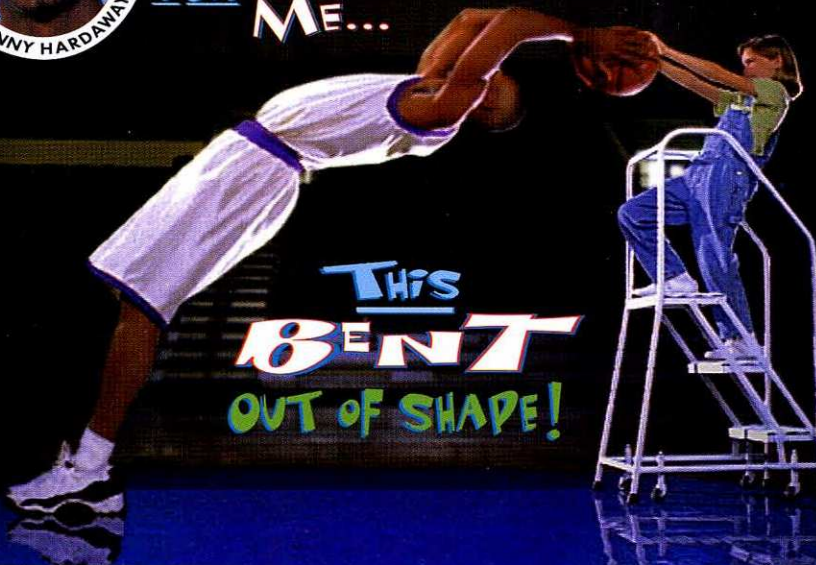






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