

### 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.



eet 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 wallcrawling nemesis of the criminal element; a young man determined to atone for the tragic death of his uncle

- The Amazing Spider-Man!

### **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.



### THE ROSE

A criminal mastermind whose face is hidden behind a mask, thus, his identity is a secret from all. The Rose's chief goal is the consolidation of New York's underworld behind him and the elimination of Spider-Man as a threat to his power.



#### DON FORTUNATO

Backed by the ultra-high tech weaponry of the terrorist organization Hydra, Fortunato was recently able to establish himself as New York's supreme ganglord. He has been powerful enough to keep most of the city's organized criminals in line, effectively filling the power vacuum left by the Kingpin.



#### CHESBRO

The Black Tarantula's chief lackey.



### MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER

The wife of Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and his closest confidant. She has currently returned to Empire State University as a student majoring in psychology.



### PREVIOUSLY IN

op ganglord
Don Fortunato,
gave the Black
Tarantula
permission to
operate in the
New York
vicinity. With
this approval,
the Tarantula
put a daring
plan into
operation.



HE AMAZING



Meanwhile, in several of his alternate identities, including the rollicking Ricochet, Peter Parker battled Roughhouse and Bloodscream, who he learned were hired by the Black Tarantula...

24410



...hired to kidnap several women, including Peter's wife, Mary Jane, her triend, Shantel and the Tarantula's ex-wife, Marina.



ow, having abandoned his alternate guises, because he's been cleared of the murder charge hanging over him, Peter Parker is back in the webs. And he and the Black Tarantula square off in Fortunato's Staten Island estate for all the marbles...





THE AMAZING SPIDERHAMNE Vol. 1 to 455, 467, 1981 (ISSN 1672-5525) Politized by MATRIE. COMIGS. JORGE Claiment Provided South etc. Published by Political Provided South (Inchigated South (Inchigated South (Inchigated South)). Report (Inchigated South) Report (Inchigated South) Report (Inchigated South). Report (Inchigated TM & © 2006 MARVEL



































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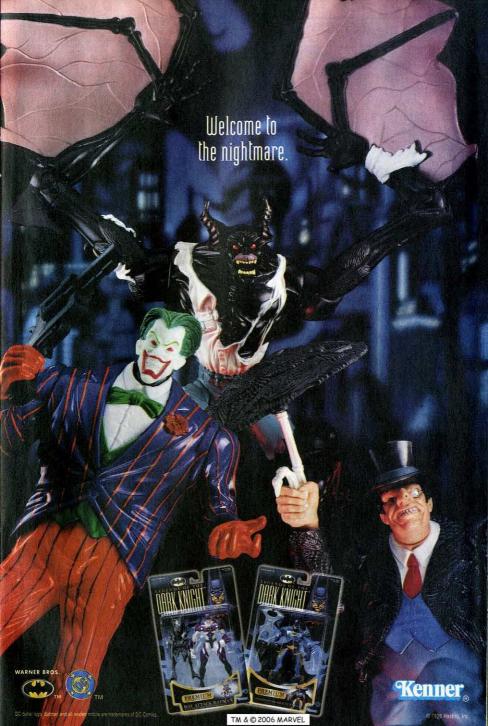




























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MANIAC NEAR YOU OR YOUR SON!

YOU OKAY? WE STILL TAKING THE KID ON A PICNIC?

























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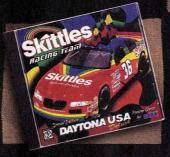
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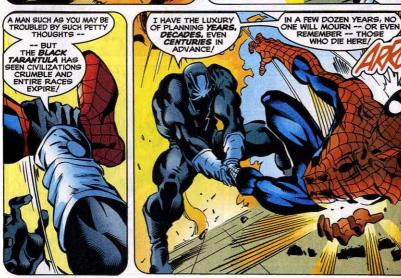


























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Dear Spider's Web. I have been reading Spidey titles since I could say, "Goo, goo, ga ga, Spidoor Mamn, buy me Mommy." (Pardon the language, but I was three; give me a break.) Anyway, I would just like to say that I haven't bought many Spidey titles for a while (my favorite comic shops keep closing down. Also, the clone storyline ticked me off. But

you've heard enough about that, haven't you, guys?), but when I read issue #425. was hooked. The Onslaught storyline upset me because killing off some of Marvel's most popular heroes and then bringing them immediately back to life (Oh, I'm sorry! They're in a different universe.) was such an obvious publicity stunt that it saddened me. Spider-Man was one of the few books I still enjoyed after Onslaught. Tom DeFalco's stories are excellent. Joe Bennett is a very good artist, although I don't enjoy his illustrations as much as I did Steve Skroce's. Okay, now let's begin with

Issue #425: Wow! Explosions. massive headaches, insulation Spidey costume, Electro, X-Man, and a non-stop fight to the finish. Gotta love it! And it's double-sized to boot!

Issue #426: An all-star cast of the Rose, Delilah, Carolyn Trainer (Lady Ock), Stunner, and a bunch of screwy True Believer ninjas (we're seeing a lot of them lately). Jokes, punches, kicks, painful neck injuries. I'm in Heaven!

Issue #427: Action-packed return of evil Ock! It's gettin' creepy now!

Issue #428: An annoying little brat, a campus-wide toga party, Mary Jane accusing Petey of being inflammatory (why would she think that?), the menace of the Black Tarantula (he scares me, Mommy!). Oh yeah, and some guy named Doctor Octopus is in it, too!

Issue #429: Spidey and Daredevil vs. Titania and the Absorbing Man. What more could you ask for? C'mon, tell me,

I'd like to say that you make a wonderful comic and that I'm looking forward to reading it for a long time into the future. I would just like to say that from now on, try to leave dead people dead. I'm also very glad to see Peter Parker back where he belongs, as Spider-Man.

So, until Petey divorces Mary Jane for Doctor Octopus, Make Mine Marvel!

Mark Butler 150 Dalton Street Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Why, thanks, Mark! We're blushing all over after all that praise. Thanks for the recap, though, we'd forgotten how good those issues were ourselves!

Dear Editor,

I recall a time when Spider-Man was a man named Ben Reilly and all I can say is, thank God he's not anymore. Your comics are some of the best on the market. I bought Spider-Man before the clone saga and now I am proud to say that I buy it once again. Your comics complete U-turn is fantastic.

One complaint that I have is the absence of Aunt May and little May. Please bring back at least one of those characters someday. The way the baby was written out is not something that I've enjoyed.

The most recent issue I've read is

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #429. Even when this comic has a fill-in artist, it's still great. The thought of the Absorbing Man and Titania trying to become heroes modeled after the Thunderbolts (not realizing the true secret) was rich. What a great story idea. I hope upcoming issues will bring some stories that are up to this one's caliber.

I decided not to go for the classic listed number format, even though this is my first time writing to a comic. I was wondering if you can bring Venom back as a villain or other villains like the Hobgoblin or the Kingpin. These classic villains and even more can make Spider-Man leap back to the top of the charts where it once was. I came back after the clone saga and maybe you can gain back even more new readers.

Overall, this magazine is great. Keep up the good work. Until Uncle Ben becomes the one, true Spider-Man, Make Mine Marvel!

Adam Rottenberg West Bloomfield, MI

Nice to hear from you, Adam! No need to worry about not using the hallowed "numbered question" format,

we'll answer 'em anyway! While there aren't any immediate plans for Venom right now, there's no telling when that guy's going to show up uninvited. And don't fret, when he does show his face, it will definitely be in a villainous capacity! Hobgoblin, eh? Well, just so happens that he will be making an appearance in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #259, on sale in just two weeks! Hurry off to Bob's Hobbies and Collectibles!

And while you're there, be sure to reserve your copy of SPIDER-MAN: MADE MEN, on sale in June. You did say you wanted to see the Kingpin, right? Well, that's where you'll find him, as the fat man makes his move to wrest control of the New York Underworld! It's by Howard Mackie and very talented newcomer Norman Felche, Look for it in June!

Dear AMAZING Team,

A few random thoughts on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #429:

1. I seem to recall the Absorbing Man and Titania teaming against Spidey back in Tom DeFalco's first run on this book when the Mongoose made his first showy appearance in the Marvel Universe To be honest, the whole Thunder-Girl and Lightning Bolt gag would've worked better if we hadn't seen exactly the same joke in the pages of DEADPOOL with the Great Lakes Avengers temporarily taking on the name of the Lightning Rods.

2. Although I still stand by my belief that if ever a character should have stayed dead it was Norman Osborn, I do have to admit that his malevolent manipulations are making for some very interesting storylines. I'd love to see him back in the Goblin suit a bit more regularly, however. In some senses, I guess he may feel that the Green Goblin persona has served its purpose, but I'd hate to think that now that Norman is back, we've seen the last of his costumed identity.

3. Other Norman continuity problems that need exploring are, firstly, his membership in the Legion of the Unliving in an AVENGERS ANNUAL a few years back. He also popped up in FANTASTIC FOUR just a couple of years back as a villain who was supposedly dead in our timeline, and had been plucked from the past to battle the FF (and Tom wrote that story, to boot!), so there are some very difficult continuity issues to resolve there. The other thing I'd like to see explored involving Norman is his split personality. It's been established in the past that he has two distinct personalities: his malevolent, malicious one that we all know and hate alongside a more benevolent persona. Remember back in the old days when he would go for years as a normal and well-adjusted citizen before some catalyst would revert him back to his nastier side? An exploration of this split personality would be of great interest (perhaps in SPECTACULAR where the psychological tension is more heightened?).

4. As there was a suggestion or two this month on how the letters page could be improved, I think I'll add my thoughts as well. Isn't it about time the readers know who is answering their letters? After all, I've seen complaints from Marvel editors about letter writers who use pseudonyms, but it works both ways! We like to know who we're talking to as well as you, you know! Just a thought.

Andy Oliver 38 Sycamore Avenue Unminster Essex **ENGLAND RM14 2HR** 

Why, Andy, we feel we've been very clear on who exactly is answering your letters: it's the editorial "We", of course! But "We" are very personal and private and "We" would feel very uncomfortable if you knew too much about "Us"!

As we see the Next Issue box rapidly approaching, we realize that there's not quite enough room to answer all of your comments, so we'll just add a bit about Norman. Your reservations about Norman have certainly been no secret in these, and other, pages, Andy. And, as we've said before, we certainly take those reservations very seriously. When we finally made the fateful decision to return Norman from the Land of the Unliving, so to speak, we realized that if we were to do so, the level of stories involved had to be of the absolute highest quality, or we would really be in for some nasty letters. We're glad to see that you at least have fallen under the spell of Norman's latest reign of psychological terror.

Oh, and one last thing: You don't really think you've seen the last of Norman in the Goblin suit. do you?

ETER'S BEEN THROUGH SOME RE: VAMPIRE, SIX ARMS, ETC TIME IT LOOKS LIKE IG, THIS IS ALL COURTESY OF...THE PLANT MAN? SPIDE DEFINITELY GONNA NEED S HELP FOR THIS ONE, BUT V CAN SYNCH OF GENERATION X DO TO HELP? FIND OUT IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS AS TOM DEFALCO RAFAEL KAYANAN AND LAROSA GIVE YOU THE INSEE EYE VIEW, A PERSPECTIVE THA RALF IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH

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