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#12

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BYRNE
KRYSSING**



DIRECT EDITION

01211

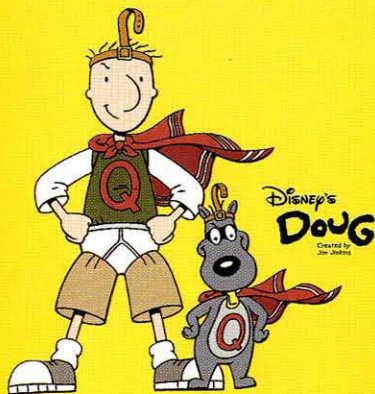


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RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX!

PART
1 of 2

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And look out for all kinds of stuff you've never seen before.
Remember, Sabrina has joined the gang... surprises are part of her job.

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Created by Paul G. Jones

Disney's
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MOUSE
WORKS**



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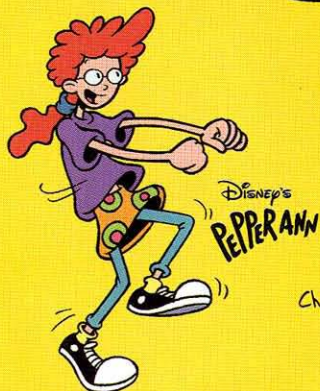
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The Animated Series.

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He's Big! He's Green!
He's just in time for breakfast!

Post
Kids!

REPTAR CRUNCH

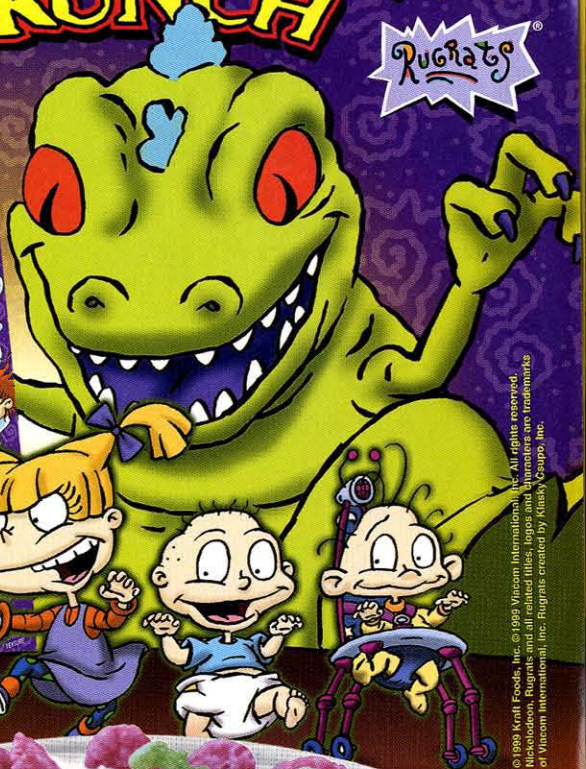
NICKELODEON®

Rugrats®

LIMITED EDITION

REPTAR CRUNCH

SWEETENED RICE CEREAL



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At a demonstration on Radiation, high school student PETER PARKER was bitten by an Irradiated Spider from which he gained the Arachnid's incredible Abilities. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his Great Powers in the service of his fellow man, because he learned an invaluable lesson: With Great Power must also come Great Responsibility. Stan Lee Presents THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in:

ANOTHER RETURN OF THE SINISTER SIX!

WHY IS IT THAT MY DAYS ALWAYS HAVE TO BEGIN THIS WAY?

ALL I WANTED WAS TO MAKE AN EARLY EXIT FROM MY JOB AT TRICORP, SO I COULD GET HOME, GROVEL INTENSELY AND SEE IF MY SUPER-MODEL WIFE CAN FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SUCH A BIG FAT LIAR!

BUT NO.

MY BOSS CATCHES ME DUCKING OUT EARLY, GIVES ME ANOTHER LECTURE ABOUT HOW I'M SKATING ON THIN ICE UNLESS I START PAYING ATTENTION TO MY RESEARCH PROJECTS. AND THEN, WHEN I DO GET OUT THE DOOR...TWO HOURS LATER...

...I FIND MYSTERIO, MASTER OF ILLUSION, CONJURING SOME SORT OF MAJOR STORM AROUND THE WORLD TRADE CENTER AND SCARING A QUARTER OF THE CITY HALF TO DEATH!

SO NOW I'M GOING TO BE EVEN LATER... AND MARY JANE IS GOING TO BE EVEN MORE MAD AT ME... AND...

MYSTERIO?!

I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD! *

HOWARD MACKIE / JOHN L. BYRNE
story and art

BEATTY & RAMOS
inks

JOE ROSAS
colors

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

* See events in the now classic DAREDEVIL #7 -- Rail-without-fear

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ER...
MYSTERIO...NO
OFFENSE HERE,
OR ANYTHING,
BUT...

...WHAT'S
GOING ON
WITH YOU
LATELY?


I MEAN...
I HEARD YOU'D
KILLED YOURSELF
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF DAREDEVIL...
AND I KNOW THAT
GUY DOESN'T
FALL FOR THE
ILLUSION THING
TOO EASILY.

EXACTLY
HOW HE DOES
IT IS BEYOND
ME!

BUT YOU
KNOW...THAT
WHOLE FLASH
THOMPSON PERFECT
WORLD THING...AND NOW
THIS...WHATEVER
THIS IS SUPPOSED
TO BE?

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?





I KNOW THIS
ISN'T HAPPENING!

IT'S AN
ILLUSION!

JUST LIKE THE
STORM AND
EVERYTHING
ELSE ABOUT
MYSTERY!

THE GUY'S JUST
PLAYING ME!



HE'S NOT
FALLING!

HE'S NOT
GOING TO
DIE!

NOT ON MY
WATCH --!



FWAM

BOOM



AND
YET...

THERE'S
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
ABOUT HIM.

IT WAS TRUE
EVEN THE
LAST TIME I
FACED HIM.

MAYBE...
NAH!

HE'S
DEAD!



SPIDER-MAN
KILLED
MYSTERIO!

JUST
LIKE HE DID
TO THAT
JOEY Z
GUY!

COME ON,
PEOPLE! LET'S
USE OUR HEADS.
THIS IS MYSTERIO!
MASTER OF ILLUSION!
HE'S NOT DEAD --

W
O
O
O
O



OKAY.

I'M JUST
GOING TO LET
THE POLICE
SORT THIS
WHOLE THING
OUT.



WHY DO I
EVEN BOTHER?

JONAH AND HIS EDITORIALS
IN THE DAILY BUGLE HAVE
GOT THIS ENTIRE CITY SO
CONVINCED THAT I'M ONE OF
THE BAD GUYS THAT IT
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO.

I'M NEVER GOING
TO BE ACCEPTED
AS A HERO.



AND HOW MUCH
BETTER OFF
WOULD I HAVE
BEEN IF I'D JUST
GIVEN UP THE WHOLE
SPIDER-MAN THING?

A GOOD AND
CHALLENGING JOB
THAT I LOVE, A
GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL
WIFE THAT I LOVE
EVEN MORE! MY LIFE
WOULD BE PERFECT...

...EXCEPT FOR
THE WEBS.

OH, WELL...
TIME FOR
GROVELING:
STAGE TWO!

Get Ready To



Watch Out for Rock Monsters!

Mine Deep Underground



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NOW WOULD THAT BE THE SPIDER-MAN I KNOW, OR THE ONE WHO ISN'T YOU?



WAIT!

MAYBE THEY'RE THE SAME!

I WOULDN'T KNOW!



MJ, IF YOU'D JUST LET ME EXPLAIN...

PETER, OUR LIFE TOGETHER HAS BEEN **NOTHING** BUT ENDLESS EXPLANATIONS.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT ANY MORE.



BEING MARRIED TO SPIDER-MAN IS WORSE THAN BEING MARRIED TO A POLICEMAN.

AT LEAST A POLICEMAN'S WIFE WOULD GET A CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

I'M JUST TOO YOUNG...

...AND NOT IN THE MOOD.

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK INSIDE. I'VE GOT THE PRESS...A PHOTO SHOOT...AND A FLIGHT IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...

BULPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 20TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

The outlaw camp of refugees has been laid waste by the Chronomancer's army of time-warping automatons. Because Bishop didn't act, the blood of children has been spilled. But now the Last X-Man is going after his hated enemy... and he's not going alone! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEATY!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The evil organization known as Hydra is about to detonate a bomb that will obliterate half of New York City! And to stop the explosion, Captain America will have to go through both the Absorbing Man and his old enemy Crossbones! By TOM DEFALCO and RON FRENZ!

DAREDEVIL

Introducing ECHO, a new villain so strange you'll swear you're hearing her name over and over and over...! Meanwhile Cupid slaps MATT MURDOCK upside the head as a new romantic interest enters his still shattered life. By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA!

FANTASTIC FIVE

Determined to solve the mysterious disappearance of Mr. Fantastic and the Invisible Woman, the wingless Wizard sends his Warriors to kidnap Franklin Richards! Unfortunately for the bad guys, the Richards' boy has a date with a certain web-spinning stunner! By TOM DEFALCO and PAUL RYAN!

GALACTUS THE DEVOURER

Earth's heroes witness the rebirth of one of the Devourer's former heralds... the Silver Surfer?! And things go from bad to worse as the Surfer leads the hungry Galactus straight for the homeworld inhabited by his former love, Mantis! By LOUISE SIMONSON and JOHN BUSCEMA!

HULK

Framed by Tyrannus for the deaths of hundreds of innocents, the jade giant becomes the most hated — and hunted — figure in the Marvel Universe! First it was the Avengers; then it was Wolverine — now Bruce Banner's attempts to clear his name lead to a confrontation with the Thing! By PETER GARNERY!

PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN

Senator Stewart Ward frames Spider-Man as a criminal and strikes a secret deal with the Sinister Six (with new teammate Venom!) to hunt down — and kill — the web-slinger! And our beloved and bedeviled hero may be a sitting duck as the Mary Jane and stalker scenario reaches its unbearable final! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLTS

The mystery behind the Thunderbolts' new headquarters is unveiled! The truth behind Jolt's recent behavior comes to light! And two much-requested characters return to the series! By KURT BUSIEK and MARK BAGLEY!

X-51

M-Tech's mechanical mainstay goes for a round of 'Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots' when he collides with the premier artificial being in the Marvel Universe — the amazing AVENGER known as the VISION! By MIKE HIGGINS, KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT

X-MAN

Threnody's back — but she ain't quite what she used to be! The deadly mutant wants something from X-Man, but is it his love — or his life? By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER!

X-MEN

What is his connection to the force that has been stalking the X-Men for months — and what is his interest in Polaris? And while our heroes watch this crisis, elements from 'The Shattering' begin to form a very frightening pattern — one that has dire implications for a group of mutants known only as... The Twelve! By ALAN DAVIS!

X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM

While Charles Xavier makes contact with the young students who will become the X-Men, and the man called Magneto consolidates his own deadly team, a new hate group attacks the minority that the scientific community calls mutants. Their methods? Terrorism, destruction and murder! By JOE CASEY and STEVE RUDE!

Hi, Heroes!

I know something? I suddenly realize I'm a Soapbox junkie! I'm hooked on reading your letters and writing the answers. I've become a fanatic about giving away No-Prizes. It's a habit that I can't break. I can't stop myself! I've already written about half a dozen new columns this week; in fact, it's now July 24th and this one won't see print till some time in October, and I still can't stop! Can any of you help me? Does anyone have a cure? Or, is this to be my fate till the end of my days? Well, enough with the soul-searching; I can't wait to read, relish and absorb the next few letters...

Let's start off with a provocative one from Panagiotis Halatsakos of Athens, Greece...

"Why doesn't Marvel do more animated feature movies, like Disney does?"

Hey, Panny, doesn't Disney have enough problems? Can you imagine how it would shake 'em up if they had to compete with mighty Marvel? But I'll let you in on a little secret, if you promise not to tell any of the other zillion readers of this column. We actually are developing an animated feature based on one of our most colorful and glamorous characters. I'll tell you more as soon as the info becomes available. Now that you're a No-Prize Laureate, I know you can be counted on to keep it secret!

What'll you bet that Chris Penepef of Rush, NY is a closet statistician? Here's why...

"I read that over 4,000 characters have appeared in Marvel Comics. Are those only major characters like heroes, villains and supporting characters (like Aunt May), or does it also include 'extras' like a random criminal that Spider-Man might web up?"

Forget the 'extras,' Chris. If we included them, too, the total would probably exceed a gazillion. But you're gonna have to take



my word for it — after all this writing, I'm just too tired to sit down and have to start counting them all over again.

I'm now gonna prove something you'll find hard to believe. I'll show that I can answer a letter briefly. Let's see one from Jeffrey M. Judd of Centerville, OH for example...

"Many writers have further developed the characters you, Jack Kirby and the rest of the original Marvel bullpen have created. One development that always intrigued me is the revelation that Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch are Magneto's children. Did that relationship ever occur to you while you were writing the X-Men and the Avengers?"

No, Jeff.

How's that? Brief. Succinct. Efficient. Right to the point. Typical of my own economical nature. And now, the piece de resistance, the moment you've been brazenly awaiting — our emotion-charged mailing address: Soapbox, Marvel, 387 Park Ave S, NY NY 10016, plus our award-winning e-mail call letters: stan@stan.com. I'm heartbroken. I suddenly realize we've come to the end. I've no room left to write any more. Alas, we have to leave each other when there's so much left to say. Well, I'll seek solace in the fact that there's always next ish. So, till then, I wish you a most heartfelt—

EXCELSIOR!

Stan

Stan Lee



Who's the best sidekick for Wolverine?

Shadowcat? Nightcrawler? Elektra? Jubilee? Cannonball? Marvel wants to know your opinion on this and other subjects near and dear to a Marvelite's heart! Every Monday, make your voice heard to all of Marveldom!

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This week's chat schedule!

10/21 @ 9:30pm ET

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST CHAT with Writer, KURT BUSIEK and Editor, TOM BREWSTER!

10/25 @ 8pm ET

SPIDER-MAN and THOR Penciler — JOHN ROMITA, JR.!

AOL Keyword: Marvel

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation

Refer to Keyword: Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule for latest schedule.

SOULPEN BITS #23

BUT, YOU'RE A PAPERBOY NOW, EH SPIDEY? THAT'S A HECK OF A DIRTY JOB!

DIRTY? IT'S NOT DIRTY!



SURE IT IS! LOOK AT HOW MUCH NEWSPRINT COMES OFF ON MY FINGERS FROM HOLDING JUST ONE NEWSPAPER. YOU MUST BE COVERED BY THE END OF YOUR PAPER-ROUTE!



WELL, SURE, CYCLOPS... IT GETS ON MY HANDS AND FINGERS, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE...



...WHOA!



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HULK

INVISIBLE
WOMAN

STORM



SPIDER-MAN



THOR



IRON MAN

CAPTAIN
AMERICA

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VISITING

JUST

ELSEWHERE...

THE BAR HAS
NO NAME.

NO LIQUOR
LICENSE.

AND A VERY
SELECT, IF
NEFARIOUS,
CLIENTELE.

IT IS HERE THAT
THE SANDMAN
HAS CHOSEN THE
FIRST OF SEVERAL
VERY IMPORTANT
MEETINGS HE WILL
HAVE THIS EVENING.

SANDMAN!





LATER...

TEN MINUTES AGO THIS FEDERAL RESERVE DEPOSITORY WAS ATTACKED BY SEVERAL HEAVILY ARMORED MEN.

THREE MINUTES AGO, BEFORE THE POLICE COULD ARRIVE, THE ROBBERS ESCAPED WITH SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF CASH AND GOLD.

BUT THERE WAS MORE IN THE VAULTS THAN THEY COULD CARRY OFF.

NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE SCAVENGERS OF THE NIGHT TO ARRIVE.

NOW IS THE TIME OF...

...THE VULTURE!

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE COME TO, HUH, VULTURE? PICKING AT THE LEFTOVERS OF OTHERS?

I EXPECTED BETTER OF SOMEONE AS SMART AS YOU, PAL!

YOU! WHAT DO YOU WANT, SANDMAN? PULL YOUR OWN HEISTS!

I'VE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU, TOOMES.

SOMETHIN' BETTER THAN THESE TABLE SCRAPS.

SOMETHIN' YOU SHOULD REALLY BE ABLE TO SINK YOUR TALONS INTO.

SPEAK TO ME.

IF I DON'T LIKE WHAT I HEAR -- I MAY PLUCK OUT YOUR EYES.

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AND LATER STILL...

HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

THERE'S NOT EVEN A CHANCE THAT MJ AND I COULD TALK THINGS THROUGH WITH ALL THOSE HANGERS ON LURKING AROUND.

I KNOW THIS WILL PASS. SHE AND I HAVE BEEN THROUGH WORSE... MUCH WORSE, BUT --

-- WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT? NOT MY SPIDER-SENSE, BUT... LIKE SOMEONE WALKING OVER MY GRAVE.

THAT WAS TOO WEIRD.

THIS STALKER THING HAS GOT ME SPOOKED. I FEEL SO HELPLESS...

VENOM, DOC OCK, GREEN GOBLIN -- THEM, I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE, BUT...

...ONE LONE NUT CASE AND I'M STUMPED.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT IF I COULD FIND THIS GUY I COULD START MAKING THINGS RIGHT WITH MJ.

BUT HOW TO FIND HIM?

HE COULD BE RIGHT AROUND THE NEXT CORNER AND I WOULDN'T KNOW HIM IF I SAW HIM.

I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP.

IF ONLY ARTHUR STACY WAS AROUND. HE'S A PRIVATE EYE. HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO.

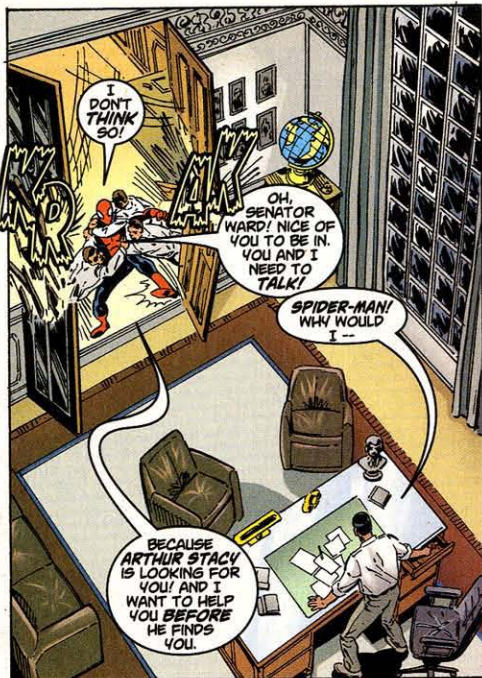
HMM? ARTHUR? WELL...IF I CAN'T FIND THE STALKER...

...MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TURN MY ATTENTION TOWARD ARTHUR AND HIS OBSESSIONS.



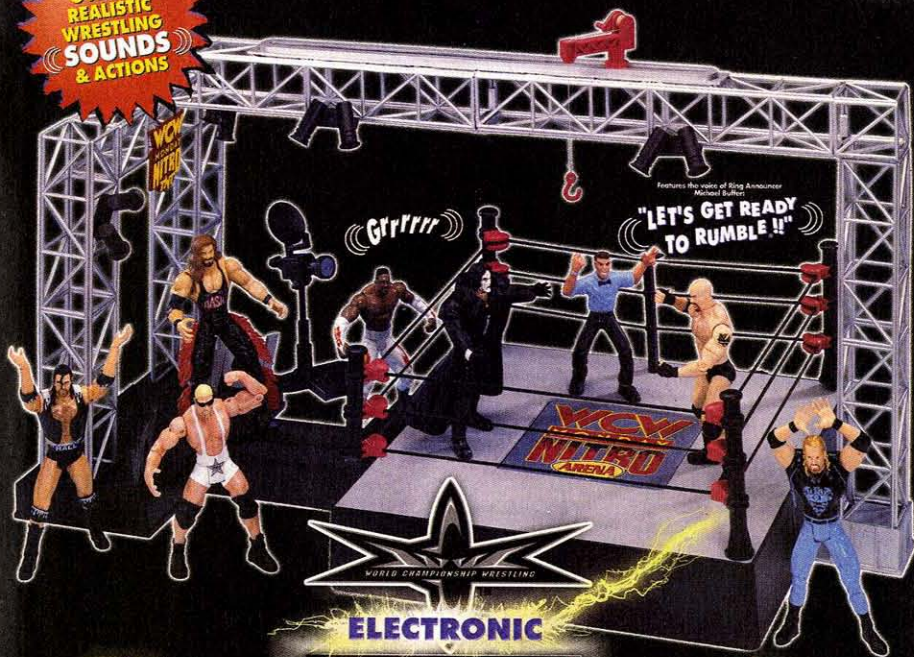
AT THAT MOMENT, AT THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF SENATOR STEWART WARD...

HOLD IT! FREEZE!



HEAR THE ROAR!

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ding-ding-ding!

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A SHORT TIME
LATER...

HE IS CALLED
ELECTRO.

CURRENTLY HE IS
AT ONE WITH THE
ELECTRICAL FIELD
COVERING THIS
SMALL SECTION
OF EARTH.



HE CAN SENSE
EVEN THE SMALLEST
DISTURBANCE
WITHIN IT.

AND STRIKE
OUT WITH
UNBRIDLED
POWER!



OW!

CUT IT OUT,
ELECTRO! IT'S ME!
SANDMAN!



WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?! YOU
GONE OFF THE
DEEP END OR
WHA --



GO
AWAY.

YEAH,
YEAH, YEAH!
LISTEN... I'M PUTTIN'
THE SINISTER SIX BACK
TOGETHER
AND --

I SAID...



**GO
AWAY!**

WILL YOU
JUST LISTEN?
WE'RE GOING TO
KILL DOC OCK... MAKE
LOTS OF MONEY...
MAKE A NAME
FOR OURSELVES!
IT'LL BE US...
NOT HIM!



YES.





BE IT EVER
SO HUMBLE...

...THERE'S NO
PLACE LIKE
HOME.

ESPECIALLY IF IT
COMES COMPLETE WITH
ARMED BODYGUARDS
WATCHING YOUR
FRONT DOOR...



PRESS AND PAPARAZZI
WATCHING EVERYTHING
ELSE...

AND MORE GUESTS
THAN YOU CAN SHAKE
A STICK AT!

IT TOOK ME AN HOUR
TO GET INTO MY OWN
HOME TONIGHT.



HAD TO CHANGE OUT
OF THE WEBS IN SOME
DARK ALLEY AND THEN THE
BODYGUARDS WANTED
TO STRIP-SEARCH ME.

WOULD HAVE BEEN IN
TROUBLE IF AUNT
MAY HADN'T COME
TO THE RESCUE.



BUT AT LEAST I'M
GETTING SOME
QUALITY TIME WITH
MY WIFE!

IF QUALITY
MEANS...



...NOT TALKING
TO ONE ANOTHER.





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Wednesday, September 23, 1999

New York's Finest Daily Newspaper

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PLUS: YOUR MAP TO THE EVENT! (SEE LAST PAGE OF INSERT)

MARVEL COMICS HEROES REBORN DOOMSDAY

Samantha Dunbar has seen her city nearly swallowed by the ocean... now she's about to witness another shocking event!

HEROES REBORN: DOOMSDAY #1

4 of 23



HEROES REBORN: DOOMSDAY #1

5 of 23

IF I'D STOPPED TO THINK, I'D HAVE STOPPED PERIOD.

THIS IS BEYOND CRAZY.

BUT I'M FOLLOWING MY INSTINCTS...

...AND THEY'VE SERVED ME PRETTY WELL THESE PAST MONTHS SINCE THE WORLD WENT TO HELL.

I MEAN, UNLIKE EVERYONE I EVER KNEW, I'M STILL ALIVE.

AND SINCE THE FIGURE DROPPED PRETTY MUCH RIGHT ON MY DOORSTEP...

...CURIOSITY SENDS ME INTO THE WATER AFTER HIM TO SEE WHO IT IS.

PRETTY IMPRESSIVE ENTRANCE. HIS DESCENT THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE GENERATED SO MUCH HEAT FROM FRICTION THAT THE WATER AROUND HIM IS BOILING.

MY BRAIN TELLS ME THIS IS MY CUE TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROVERBIAL CAT, AND GET BACK TO THE SURFACE, WHERE I BELONG.

UNDERWATER IS ATLAN TURF.

AS FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED, THE ONLY GOOD AIR-BREATHER...

IS A DEAD ONE. THAT'S WHEN I GET CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A DECENT LOOK...

NO MORE BUBBLES!

BUT HOW COULD HE HAVE BLOWN OFF SO MUCH HEAT SO QUICKLY?

GOOD LORD! THAT GAUNTLET!

HEROES REBORN: YOUNG ALLIES #1

3 of 22

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, YOU ARE REMAINED INTO THE CUSTODY OF SHIELD!

NO! LEAVE THEM ALONE!

SURRENDER YOURSELF PEACEFULLY, KID COLT, AND THE RESISTANCE OCCUPANTS OF THE DEAD ZONE WILL BE GIVEN FAIR ACCOMMODATIONS!

LISTEN TO YOUR JACKBOOT SLANG! RESISTANCE OCCUPANTS ARE JUST A BUNCH OF POOR, RADIATION-BURNED PEOPLE TRYING TO SURVIVE!

YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS AREN'T A HOTEL. JUST LABS WHERE YOU CAN POKE AND PROD THE GAMMA RADIATION IN THEM.

TURN 'EM INTO HULKING MONSTER ARMIES!

END THIS RESISTANCE OR THE CONTAMINATED WILL BE CLEANSED.

IF THEY COME WITH US THEY WILL BE GIVEN SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICAL AID.

IN EXCHANGE FOR WHAT? THEIR SOULS?

HOW CAN I JUST HAND THEM OVER TO YOU? SHIELD USED TO STAND FOR SOMETHING GOOD -- NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.

I KNOW WHAT YOUR LABS ARE LIKE!

YOU SAY YOU'RE DOIN' IT TO HELP INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE GAMMA-BURSTS.

BUT... I KNOW WHAT THOSE LABS ARE LIKE.

WHAT THE --?

CRASH! BOOM!

SOMEONE THREW A ROOF ON US?

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

WHAT WOULD CAP DO?

HEROES REBORN: YOUNG ALLIES #1

4 of 22

SOMETIMES, THE ANSWERS AREN'T EASY.

WHO'S BLOCKING THE SUN?

Uh-Oh.

SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO PICK A SIDE --

-- AND KICK SOME BUTT!

YOU FEEBS ARE SO TOAST!

LAME ENTRANCE LINE.

OH, AND YOUR USUAL IS BETTER?

LEAST I SAVE IT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

AND THIS DOESN'T COUNT?

IT'S BUCKY!

AND?

AND TORO! NOT MY FAULT THEY ALWAYS FORGET THAT PART!

FRY ME... I'M RUNNING FROM THESE CRUNCHERS FOR HOURS AND YOU TAKE 'EM DOWN IN SECONDS!

Um... NOT TO LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH --

NO PUN INTENDED?

-- BUT WHAT'RE THE YOUNG ALLIES DOIN' LAD

**HOOKEED?
YOUNG ALLIES IS ON
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...THE --?!

STEWART?
YOU CALLED ME.
AND DOCTOR
OCTOPUS RARELY
STANDS ON
CEREMONY.

YES!
I --

NO.
THAT WAS
NOT A
QUESTION.

WE HAD AN
UNDERSTANDING.
YOU WERE NEVER
UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE
TO CALL ME FROM
YOUR OFFICE
PHONE!

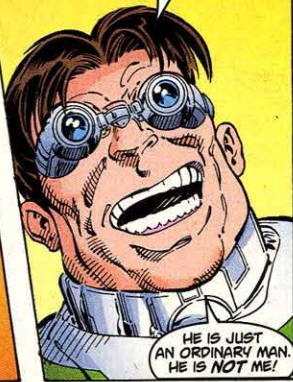
YOU SUMMONED ME
FOR THIS? RISKED
EVERYTHING FOR --

-- CORRECT ME IF I'M
WRONG, BUT YOU ALWAYS KNEW
STACY WOULD GO OVER THE EDGE,
DIDN'T YOU? YOU **SOADED** HIM IN
THIS DIRECTION. LEFT HIM
NO CHOICE. WHY THE
SUDDEN FEAR?

YOU ARE
VALUABLE TO
ME, STEWART...
AND I DO WANT
TO HELP YOU, BUT
DO NOT TRY MY
PATIENCE!

I'M
SORRY!

IT WAS
SPIDER-MAN! HE
CAME TO MY OFFICE
TONIGHT! TOLD
ME THAT ARTHUR
STACY IS GOING
TO TRY AND
KILL ME!



HE IS JUST
AN ORDINARY MAN.
HE IS NOT ME!



YOU
DON'T KNOW
HIM.
I WAS A
FOOL TO
PLAY THIS
GAME WITH
HIM OF ALL
PEOPLE.

ENLIGHTEN
ME ABOUT
MISTER
STACY...

...AND
MAYBE I'LL
ATTEND TO
HIM FOR
YOU.



I'M SORRY,
JILL... PAUL... NOT
EVEN SURE IF
I CAN DO
THIS.

ONLY I
REALLY KNOW
WHAT A THREAT
WARD IS TO
HUMANITY.

IT'S HIS
LIFE AGAINST
THE COUNTLESS
MILLIONS HE MIGHT
DESTROY.

BUT DO
I HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO
PULL THIS
TRIGGER?
DO I?



SO,
ARTHUR...



...FEEL LIKE
TALKING?

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THERE'S REALLY NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.

SURE THERE IS!

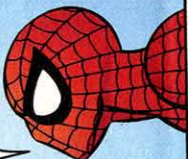
WE CAN START WITH THE GUN...

...MOVE ALONG TO THE BLACK PAJAMAS...

...AND THEN SQUEEZE IN THE WHOLE --

-- ASSASSINATION THING! OH, YEAH... IF YOU CAN THROW IN ANYTHING YOU'VE GOT ON WHAT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL IS DOING *HANGING* AROUND WITH DOC OCK, THAT WOULD BE NICE.

TELL ME ABOUT WARD, ARTHUR.



NO.

EXCUSE ME? LOOK, DON'T YOU THINK YOU OWE ME AT LEAST THAT MUCH? HOW BAD COULD IT BE?

VERY BAD.
I --

SPIDER-MAN, WHAT'S WRONG?





THAT!

THAT BEING
KRAVEN THE HUNTER
LEADING A BAND OF
HALF A DOZEN NINJA
ASSASSINS OF THE
HAND DOWN THE SIDE
OF WARD'S
BUILDING.

AND
THAT MAKES
NO SENSE
AT ALL!
YOU STAY
HERE!

I'M GOING
TO SEE IF I CAN
FIND OUT WHAT IS
GOING --
-- OH,
BOY!



GOOD
EVENING,
SPIDER-MAN!

THIS IS
A PLEASANT
SURPRISE!

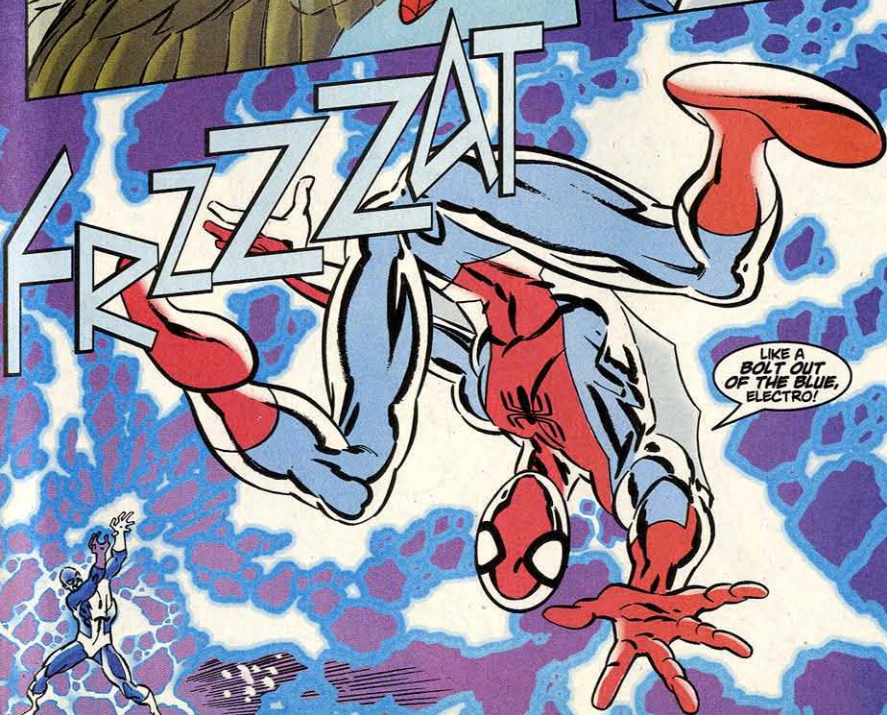
SHWAK
SHWAK

I WASN'T
INFORMED THAT
THE PICKINGS HERE
TONIGHT WOULD BE
QUITE SO
BOUNTEOUS!

OH, COME ON,
VULCHY! GIANT
VULTURES!

THIS IS JUST
RIDICULOUS!

YOU'VE
NEVER HAD
OVERSIZED
BIRDS --





SO NOW THE GOOD SENATOR HAS REALLY ATTRACTED THE BIG GUNS!

KRAVEN...
VULTURE...
ELECTRO...
ILLUSORY
BIRDS...

I AM
SEEING A
PATTERN
HERE

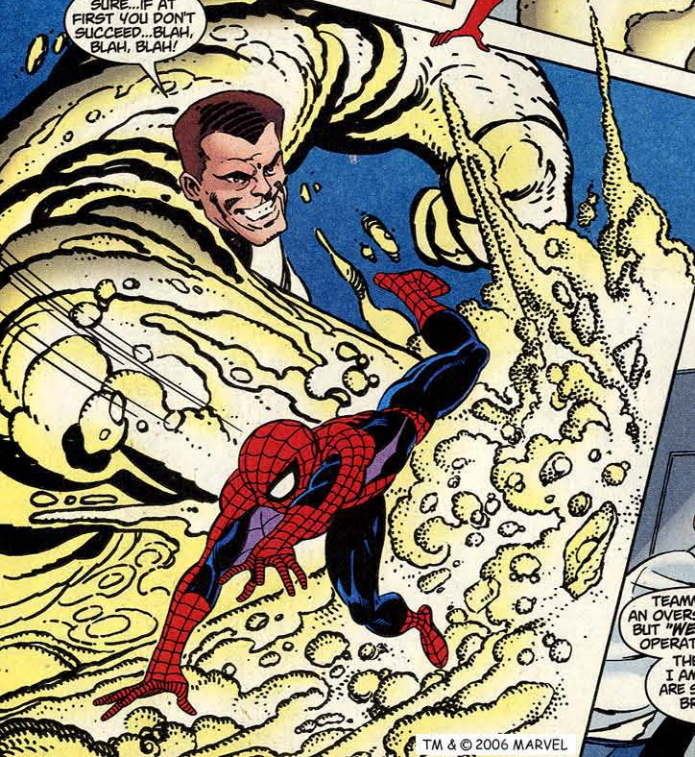
YEAH...
SURE...IF AT
FIRST YOU DON'T
SUCCEED...BLAH,
BLAH, BLAH!



YEAH,
WELL...YOU
AINT GOIN' TO
BE SEEING MUCH
ELSE!

SANDMAN?!
YOU TAKING
ANOTHER PASS
AT WARD?!

See Amazing
Spider-Man #4 --
Remember'n' Raif.



THIS WAS
NOT PART OF
THE PLAN.
OCTAVIUS! DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS!

THEY WERE
YOUR TEAMMATES,
WEREN'T THEY?



TEAMMATES IS
AN OVERSTATEMENT.
BUT "WERE" IS THE
OPERATIVE WORD.

THE SINISTER SIX, AND
I AM ASSUMING THERE
ARE SIX OF THEM, WERE NOT
BROUGHT TOGETHER
BY ME.





STAY AWAY FROM THE GUN WEARING THE LEOPARD SKIN TIGHTS AND CARRYING THE REALLY SHARP KNIVES!

FINE!

ANY PLAN CAN STAND A LITTLE REFINEMENT!



I'M FLEXIBLE!

I CAN ADAPT! THINK ON THE RUN!

I...

...AM STILL TALKING TO MYSELF!



BAWHUMPF



MYSTERY?
I THOUGHT
YOU...

NO, YOU
AREN'T HIM,
ARE YOU?

YOU WILL
NOT LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO
FIND OUT,
OCTAVIUS.



COME HERE,
SENATOR. YOU
DON'T WANT TO
SEE WHAT IS GOING
TO HAPPEN
NEXT!

ZZZZAT



I'M
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE! THIS
WAS NEVER
PART OF THE DEAL!

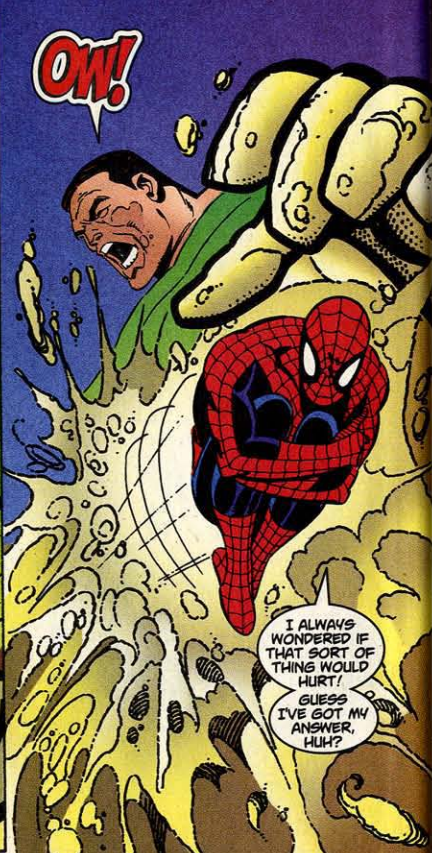
ANY
OF THE
DEALS!

YOU'RE A
DEAL-MAKER,
SENATOR...
...AREN'T
YA?



SANDMAN!
I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU'RE
BEING PAID,
BUT I'LL --

SAVE IT!
THIS IS ABOUT
MORE THAN MONEY!
NOW THAT I WENT
BACK TO MY OLD WAYS,
I CAN KNOCK OVER A
BANK WHENEVER
I WANT.



YEAH...WELL I ALWAYS WONDERED IF I RIPPED YER ARMS OFF IF YA COULD...COULD...

COME ON! YOU CAN COME UP WITH A GOOD ONE! I'VE GOT FAITH IN YOU, SANDY. THERE'S A FUTURE FOR YOU IN STAND-UP COMEDY.

I'M GONNA --!

SEE! YOU WENT AND LOST IT!

ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE, SPIDER-MAN!

I REQUIRE YOUR AID.

EXCUSE ME?
COULD YOU SPEAK UP A LITTLE?

DID YOU...
DOCTOR OCTOPUS...
SAY THAT YOU REQUIRE ME...THE EVER-LOVIN' SPIDER-MAN...TO HELP YOU?



A comic book illustration showing the character Venom, a large black muscular figure with a white spider emblem on his chest and a wide, toothy grin, strangling Spider-Man. Spider-Man is in his classic red and blue suit, looking up at Venom with a determined expression. The background is filled with stylized, swirling pink and purple clouds. A speech bubble from Venom is in the top left, and three promotional text boxes are at the bottom.

...I WAS
WONDERING
IF ANYONE
MINDED IF **WE**
JOINED THE
PARTY?

OUR STORY CONTINUES IN PETER PARKER #12
VENOM JOINS THE SINISTER SIX!
(HOW LONG IS THAT GOING TO LAST?)

LEARN MORE ABOUT
SENATOR WARD AND
HOLD YOUR BREATH AS
MARY JANE'S STALKER
KICKS INTO OVERDRIVE
AND DON'T MISS:

**THE BIGGEST
SPIDEY/SINISTER SIX
SLUGFEST EVER!**

...QUENTIN
BECK.

STUNT
MAN.

ACTOR.

SPECIAL
EFFECTS
TECHNICIAN.

YOU ARE
PROBABLY
MORE FAMILIAR
WITH THE CRIMINAL
IDENTITY OF...

...MYSTERIO.

A LIFE, AND
DEATH WHICH
HAS BEEN PLAYED
OUT AS AN OPEN
BOOK AMONGST THE
TABLOIDS, CRIME JOURNALS
AND LESS REPUTABLE
PAPERS.

BUT...

...CAN
YOU BELIEVE
EVERYTHING
YOU READ?

WITH
MYSTERIO...
CAN YOU BELIEVE
EVERYTHING YOU
SEE? CAN YOU
LEARN THE TRUTH
WITHIN THE
FICTION?

**LET
THERE BE
LIGHT!**

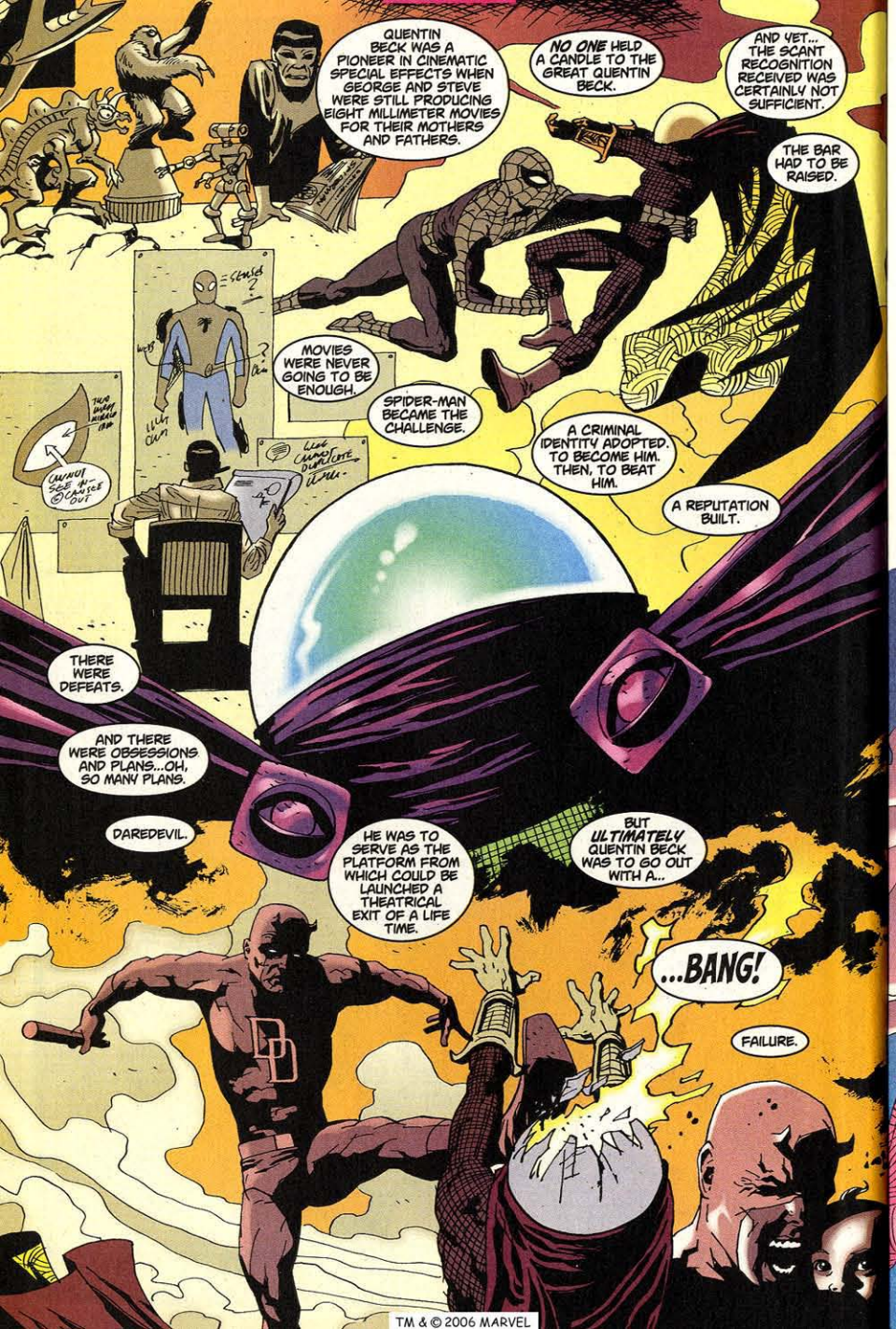
HOWARD MACKIE / SEAN PHILIPS
story and art

JOE ROSAS
colors

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief



QUENTIN BECK WAS A PIONEER IN CINEMATIC SPECIAL EFFECTS WHEN GEORGE AND STEVE WERE STILL PRODUCING EIGHT MILLIMETER MOVIES FOR THEIR MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

NO ONE HELD A CANDLE TO THE GREAT QUENTIN BECK.

AND YET... THE SCANT RECOGNITION RECEIVED WAS CERTAINLY NOT SUFFICIENT.

THE BAR HAD TO BE RAISED.

MOVIES WERE NEVER GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

SPIDER-MAN BECAME THE CHALLENGE.

A CRIMINAL IDENTITY ADOPTED. TO BECOME HIM. THEN, TO BEAT HIM.

A REPUTATION BUILT.

THERE WERE DEFEATS.

AND THERE WERE OBSESSIONS AND PLANS...OH, SO MANY PLANS.

DAREDEVIL.

HE WAS TO SERVE AS THE PLATFORM FROM WHICH COULD BE LAUNCHED A THEATRICAL EXIT OF A LIFE TIME.

BUT ULTIMATELY QUENTIN BECK WAS TO GO OUT WITH A...

...BANG!

FAILURE.

OR WAS
IT?

DID
MYSTERIO
REALLY DIE
BY HIS OWN
HAND THAT
DAY?



OR WAS IT
JUST ANOTHER
IN A SERIES OF
ILLUSIONS?

WHERE IN
LIFE DOES THE
ILLUSION END AND
THE REALITY
BEGIN?



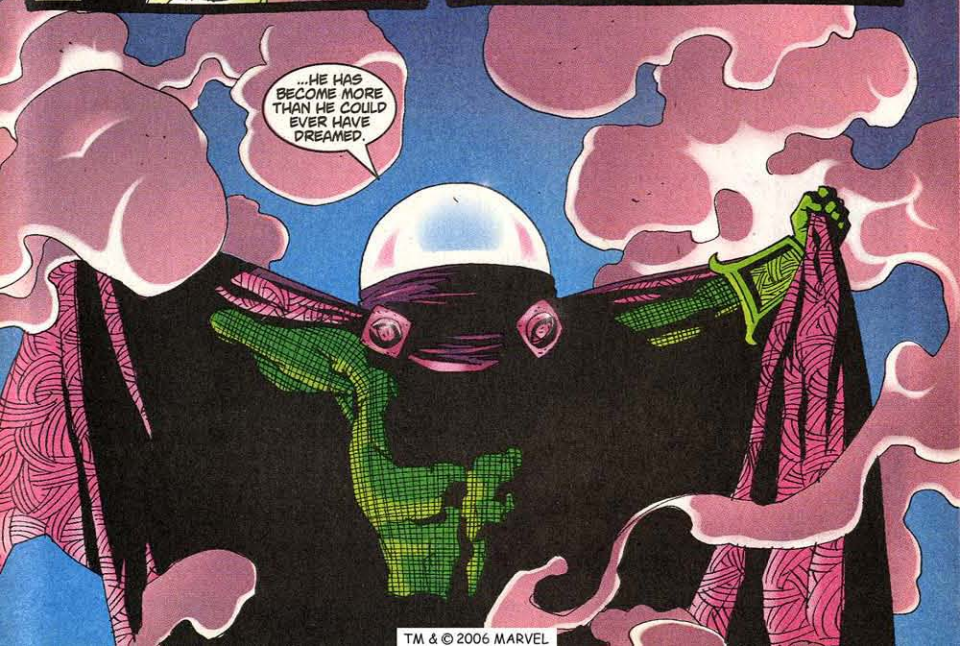
OR
MAYBE...JUST
MAYBE...

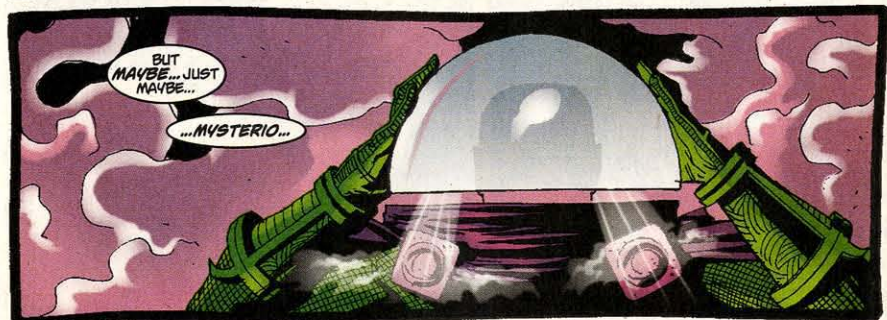
...IN **DEATH**
QUENTIN BECK
HAS TRANSCENDED
THE EARTHLY
PLANE.

MAYBE...



...HE HAS
BECOME MORE
THAN HE COULD
EVER HAVE
DREAMED.





...WHO AM I?

**THE
END**

Dear Spider's Web,

The two-part "Perfect World" storyline was a rather interesting look at a supporting character who has been around since page one. It seems that Flash has taken over Peter's former role of "bad luck kid" in recent years and I hope the end of this story paves the way for better things ahead for him. I also hope, just like Peter does, that the explanation of when and how Peter and all the others were captured is explained in *Mysterio's* next appearance.

I also wish to address the issue of Peter hiding the fact that he is again swinging through the city as everyone's friendly neighborhood Spider-Man from Mary Jane. I really want Mary Jane to react in a realistic way to Peter's betrayal when she finds out. In lying to Mary Jane, Peter is cheating on her but instead of with a woman, he does it as Spider-Man. And when I say realistic, I don't mean to say that I want them to get a divorce, only that I don't believe the issue should be glossed over. But knowing Howard Mackie, I'm sure he's got a resolution cooked up that I couldn't even begin to dream of. Hey, it might be a good time for Aunt May to figure out that Peter is Spider-Man. Maybe? Could be?

Richard Scranton
Jacksonville, FL

Glad you enjoyed "Perfect World" so much, Richard. Is Flash's run of hard luck over? Maybe, maybe not. As for how *Mysterio* managed to spirit everyone away, you'll just have to wait and see.

You're clearly not alone in your comments on Peter's current situation with his secret ID, either. As you've seen in recent issues, though, there has been some progress on this subplot, with more to come!

Dear Spider's Web,

The ending to the "Perfect World" storyline was unexpected indeed. At first, *Mysterio* had entered my mind as the "Man Behind the Curtain," because it fit his modus operandi. However, I quickly tossed this theory out on account of his current battle with *Daredevil*. Also, it appeared that the diabolical plot was beyond his abilities. Judging from *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #7-8, as well as the aforementioned *DAREDEVIL* story arc, it is apparent that Mr. Quentin Beck has improved his powers and gone from being a bitter man to an evil one. Well, good for him; it makes his character much more interesting.

One preemptive gripe I have, though, is that it looks as if the kidnapping of Peter's family and friends will be swept under the rug, never to be mentioned again. Please don't let this happen. Something this traumatizing and its subsequent effects should be explored, at least for one issue. I have faith in Howard Mackie that it will.

Terence Connors PMM
Rochelle Park, NJ

Sweep story events under the rug? Would we do that? Certainly not! Or at least not on purpose.

Glad to hear you like the amped-up *Mysterio*, too, although you're right the only one to applaud his decision to "choose evil," as it were. That's really not being very

supportive of Mr. Beck, now, is it?

Dear Ralf,

At first, I was going to let this pass by. Then I decided, "What the heck, I'll get this and the preceding issue and read all of 'Perfect World' in one sitting, because that's the only way I'll get a handle on this wacky plot."

Turns out, this was absolutely necessary. I for one was not prepared for a revamped, upgraded *Mysterio*. (I don't read *DAREDEVIL*, so I had no idea he'd been over there and that Kevin Smith had done the upgrading. Bravo.) So this guy kidnaps Peter, Mary Jane, Aunt May, Flash, et al., and puts them in some bizarre VR fantasyland attuned to Flash's brainwaves, wherein Flash is the big hero, Spidey's the sidekick, and everyone else wants to form a fan club for Flash. This much we understood: Flash had never completely gotten over his hero-worship of Spidey, but wished he was as much "the man" in people's eyes as he was the "Big Man on Campus" in school. *Mysterio* preyed upon this, but what's with *Mysterio's* obsession with unmasking the webhead? This is new, and it's not something that comes out of that opening storyline over in *WEBSINNERS*, or at least I don't think it does.

What bugs me majorly is the restoration of Flash as a bully-type who has no use for Peter or anyone else, and this is after he and Peter had been friends for years. This is easily explained away as the result of Flash being shocked back to reality so abruptly after living in that fantasy world. What apparently has happened is that some deep-rooted jealousy between Peter and Flash over Mary Jane has come to the surface, and Flash has had trouble dealing with this. The VR only made things worse.

It hasn't been a year since the relaunch, and already we've seen Sandman go back to being a villain and we've seen the apparent dissolution of a long-running friendship. Venom is on the horizon, and we already know he's reverted to his "evil" ways. What's next? Putting Black Cat back on the wrong side of the law? I hope not. Felicia Hardy is to Spider-Man what Catwoman is to Batman. "Nuff said there. Scorpion's in the on-deck circle, and he too has been upgraded in terms of power, but the jury's out on him. Doctor Octopus has been dealt with, most recently over in *SPIDER-WOMAN*, and Kingpin lurks in the shadows. What about the Vulture? Chameleon? Hammerhead?

I second Brendan Walsh's comment about MJ meeting up with Millie the Model. It's been, what, nearly 30 years since we last saw Millie? I think she's waaaaay overdue. Considering that John and Scott have done an excellent job with MJ from the jump, one would think Millie and Chili would be a bonus.

Jacob Gilbert
Troy, NY

Thanks for the well-thought-out letter, Jacob. We particularly enjoyed your psychological insights into how Flash reacted to having to leave his "Perfect World." It's one thing to have a chance to live out your fantasy, but it's altogether more embittering when it's one based solely on glories well in the past.

As for Millie and Chili...well,

don't hold your breath. Although stranger things have happened...

Dear Spider's Web,

I'm just dropping you a line to let you know how much I'm enjoying the Spider-Man revamp.

It would appear that there has been mixed reaction to *SPIDER-MAN: CHAPTER ONE*, which I suppose was to be expected. For myself, I am enjoying experiencing these stories from a modern slant and feel the new touches are valid. However, I do think the way Byrne has been dropping us into the middle of a new story straight after the last cliffhanger has led to a rather disjointed read, particular when the series is collected for the inevitable trade paperback.

I have always enjoyed Byrne's pencils but have usually found his art to be a little too sketchy when he inks himself. However, I am most impressed with the inks of Scott Hanna. I was struck this issue by the resemblance to J. Scott Campbell's artwork, particularly the panels featuring Mary Jane and Gwen Stacy (no bad thing). Of course, it doesn't hurt that your guys can actually get a book out on schedule.

I really enjoyed the last two-parter, but then I've always been a sucker for alternate universe stories, even though that was not actually the case. It was nice to see the reference to *Mysterio's* recent activities in *DAREDEVIL*, and it makes sense that his illusions should become more realistic, what with today's current CGI wonders.

Keep up the good work; as with most of Marvel's current output featuring the classic heroes, if the stories and art continue to be this enjoyable, you will have a long-term reader.

Paul Holgate
South Yorkshire, England

Nice to hear from you, Paul. Glad to see you've been enjoying the book, as well as Scott's inks over John's pencils. Unfortunately, Scott's one of the busiest inkers in comics, and something had to give. But on the bright side, we'll be welcoming Dandy Dan Green as our regular inker next issue!

NEXT ISSUE

THINGS WITH MARY JANE COME TO A HEAD NEXT MONTH! PETER PROMISES TO SEE MJ OFF AT THE AIRPORT, BUT RUNS SMACK INTO ONE OF HIS WORST FOES ON THE WAY! WILL THIS BE THE FINAL STRAW? THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KNOW FOR SURE, AND THAT'S TO ROUND UP 199 PENNIES AND SEE WHAT HOWARD, JOHN AND DAN HAVE IN STORE. RALF WILL BE BUSY TRYING TO COUNT TO 199.

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☐ **DDP** Deadpool
☐ **GAM** Gambit
☐ **GEN** Generation X
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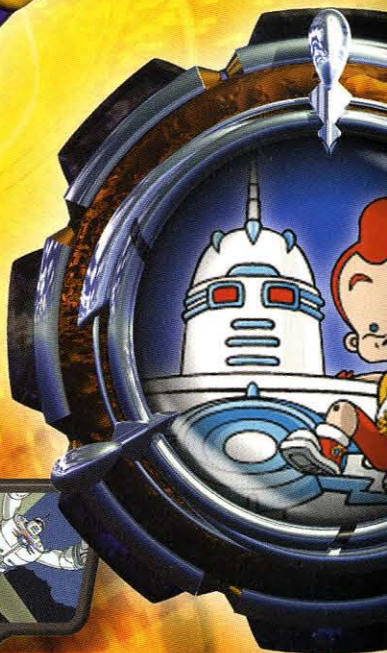
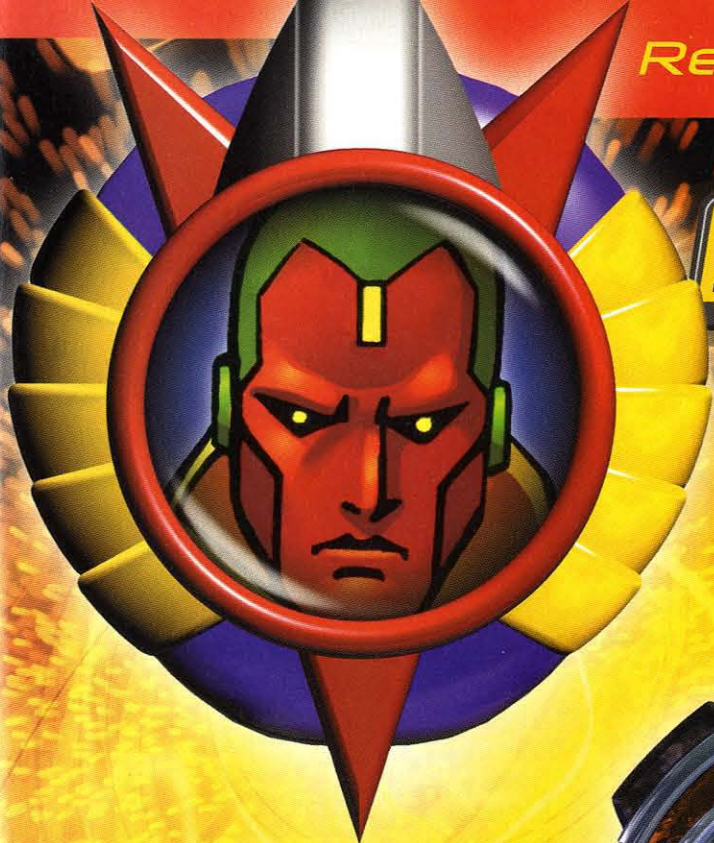
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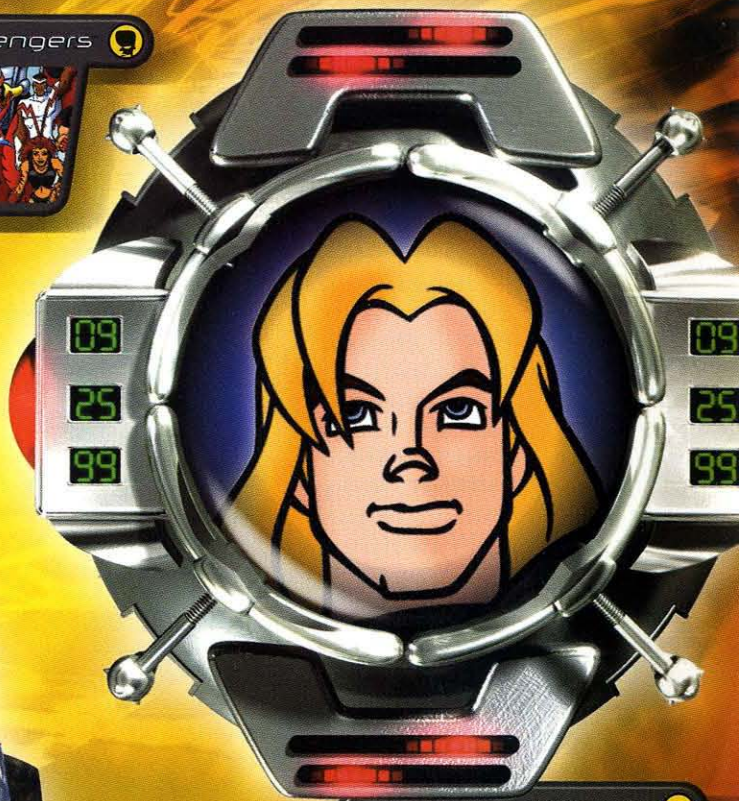
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