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#21

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THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



**MACKE
LARSEN
BEATTY**

**SHOWDOWN
WITH THE
SPIDER-SLAYERS!**

SEPT



09

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THE FUTURE IS GUMMI

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-STRIKEN 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!

SLAYERS TO THE LEFT OF ME...

MY NAME IS
PETER PARKER.

AT LEAST THAT'S THE
NAME OF THE GUY
BENEATH THE SPIDER-MAN
MASK!

ALL I WANTED TO
DO WAS EARN SOME
EXTRA CASH BY TAKING
SOME PICTURES FOR
J. JONAH JAMESON
AND THE DAILY BUGLE.

IT'S ONE OF THE
MANY THINGS I DO
TO TRY AND MAKE
ENDS MEET.

AS USUAL A BAD
GUY SHOWED UP.

HIS NAME IS
ALISTAIR
SMUTHE...
HE AND I GO
WAY BACK...

HE CONTROLS THE
LITTLE DEVILS CALLED
THE SPIDER-SLAYERS.

HE SET
THE WHOLE
THING UP.

HE'S STILL BLAMING
ME FOR HIS FATHER'S
DEATH MONTHS BACK...
HIS POP WAS THE
ORIGINATOR OF THE
SPIDER-SLAYERS.

THE MECHANICAL THING
STUCK ONTO THE FRONT
OF MY FACE TRYING TO
SUCK MY BRAINS OUT
THROUGH MY EYES WOULD
BE ONE OF THEM.

HOWARD MACKIE
ERIK LARSEN
JOHN BEATTY
RODNEY RAMOS
story and art

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

GREGORY WRIGHT
colors

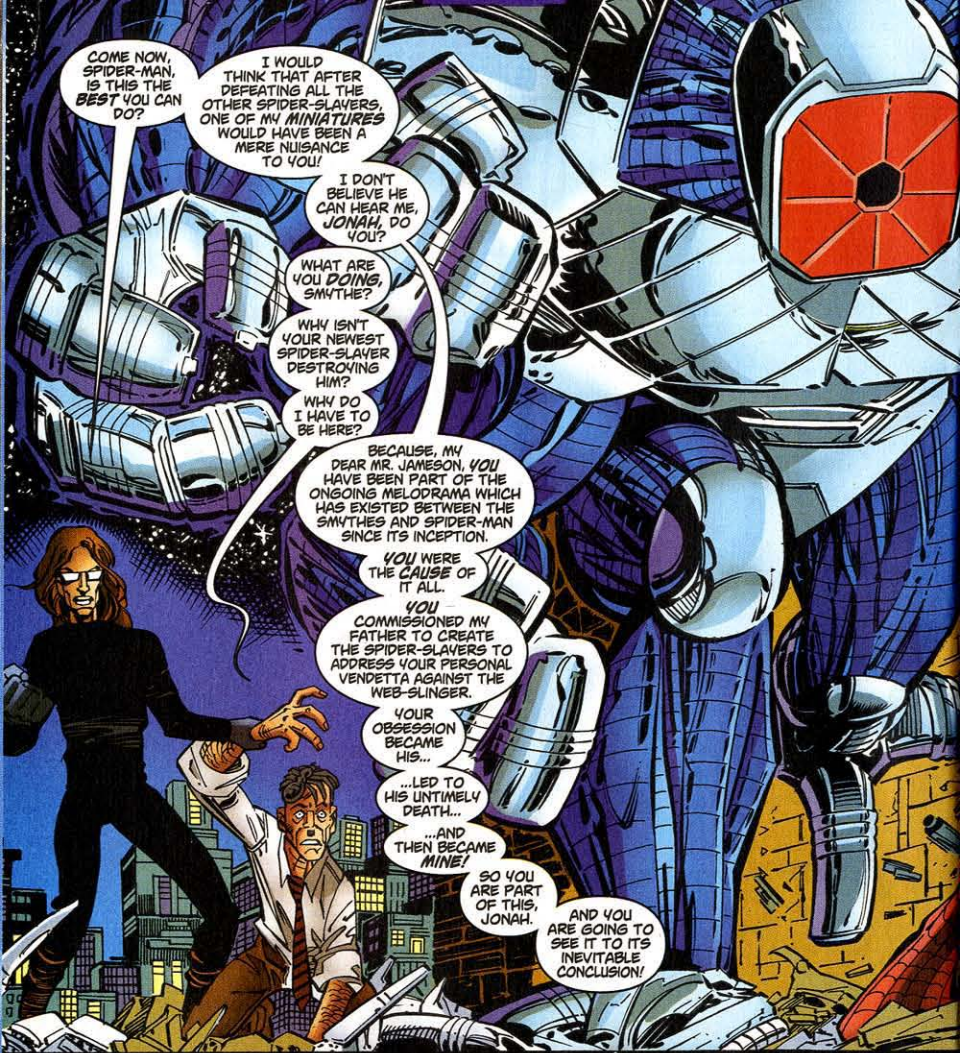
RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

THERE'S GOT TO BE
A BETTER WAY TO EARN
SOME EXTRA CASH!

MAYBE A NICE
PAPER ROUTE?!

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COME NOW, SPIDER-MAN, IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

I WOULD THINK THAT AFTER DEFEATING ALL THE OTHER SPIDER-SLAYERS, ONE OF MY MINIATURES WOULD HAVE BEEN A MERE NUISANCE TO YOU!

I DON'T BELIEVE HE CAN HEAR ME, JONAH, DO YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SMYTHE?

WHY ISN'T YOUR NEWEST SPIDER-SLAYER DESTROYING HIM?

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE HERE?

BECAUSE, MY DEAR MR. JAMESON, YOU HAVE BEEN PART OF THE ONGOING MELODRAMA WHICH HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE SMYTHES AND SPIDER-MAN SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

YOU WERE THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.

YOU COMMISSIONED MY FATHER TO CREATE THE SPIDER-SLAYERS TO ADDRESS YOUR PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE WEB-SLINGER.

YOUR OBSESSION BECAME HIS...

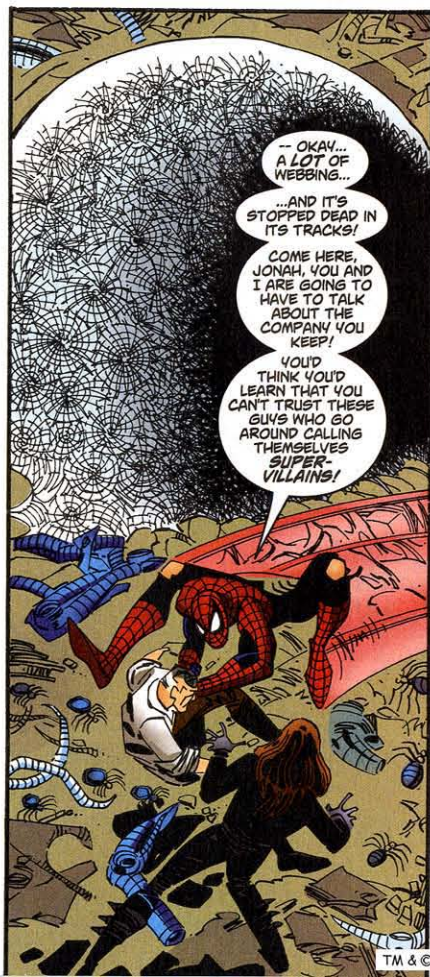
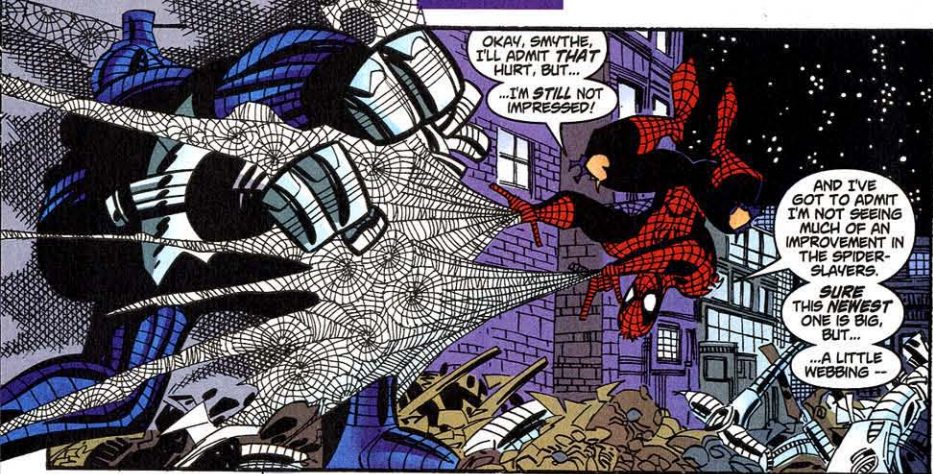
...LED TO HIS UNTIMELY DEATH...

...AND THEN BECAME MINE!

SO YOU ARE PART OF THIS, JONAH.

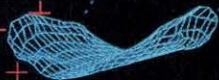
AND YOU ARE GOING TO SEE IT TO ITS INEVITABLE CONCLUSION!



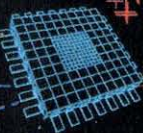


WHICH CHIP CAN TELL YOU HOW FAST YOU RUN?

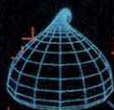
A. Potato Chip



B. Micro Chip



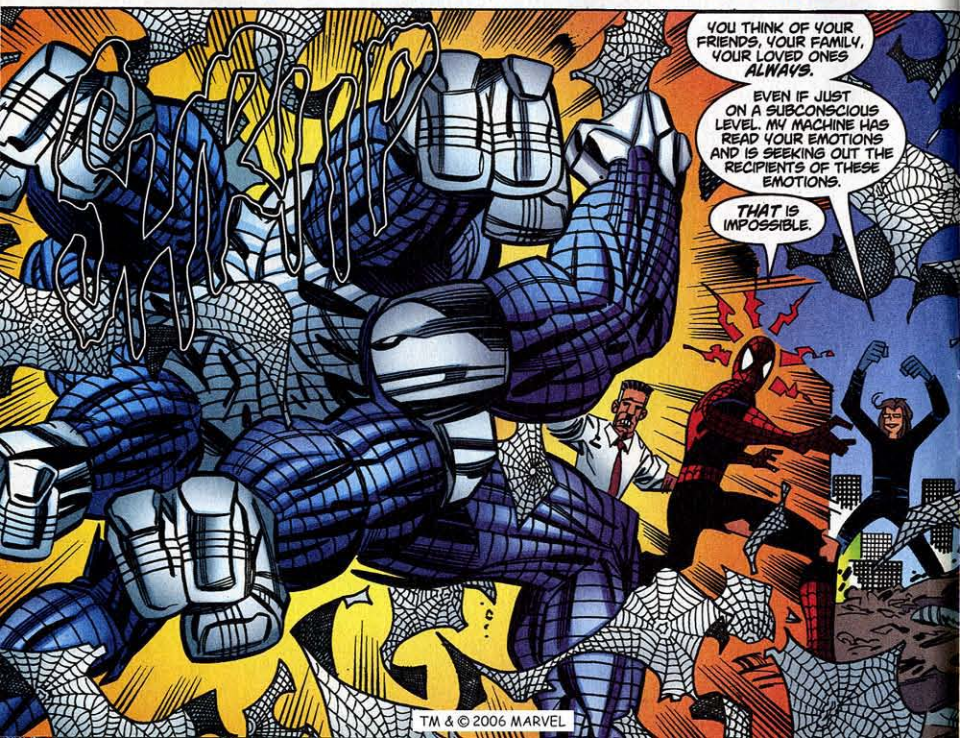
C. Chocolate Chip



If you guessed A or C, you must be out to lunch! Only the micro chip in Traxx measures how fast you run and how high you jump. The other chips just taste good on a peanut butter sandwich.

TRAXX
reebok





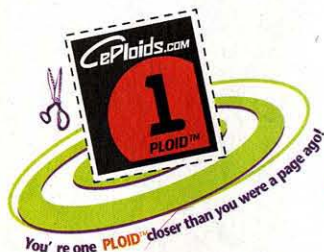
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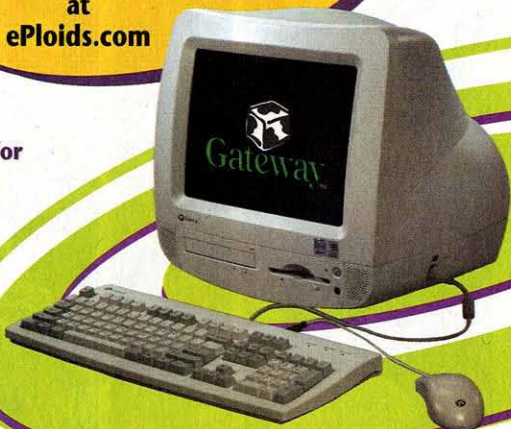
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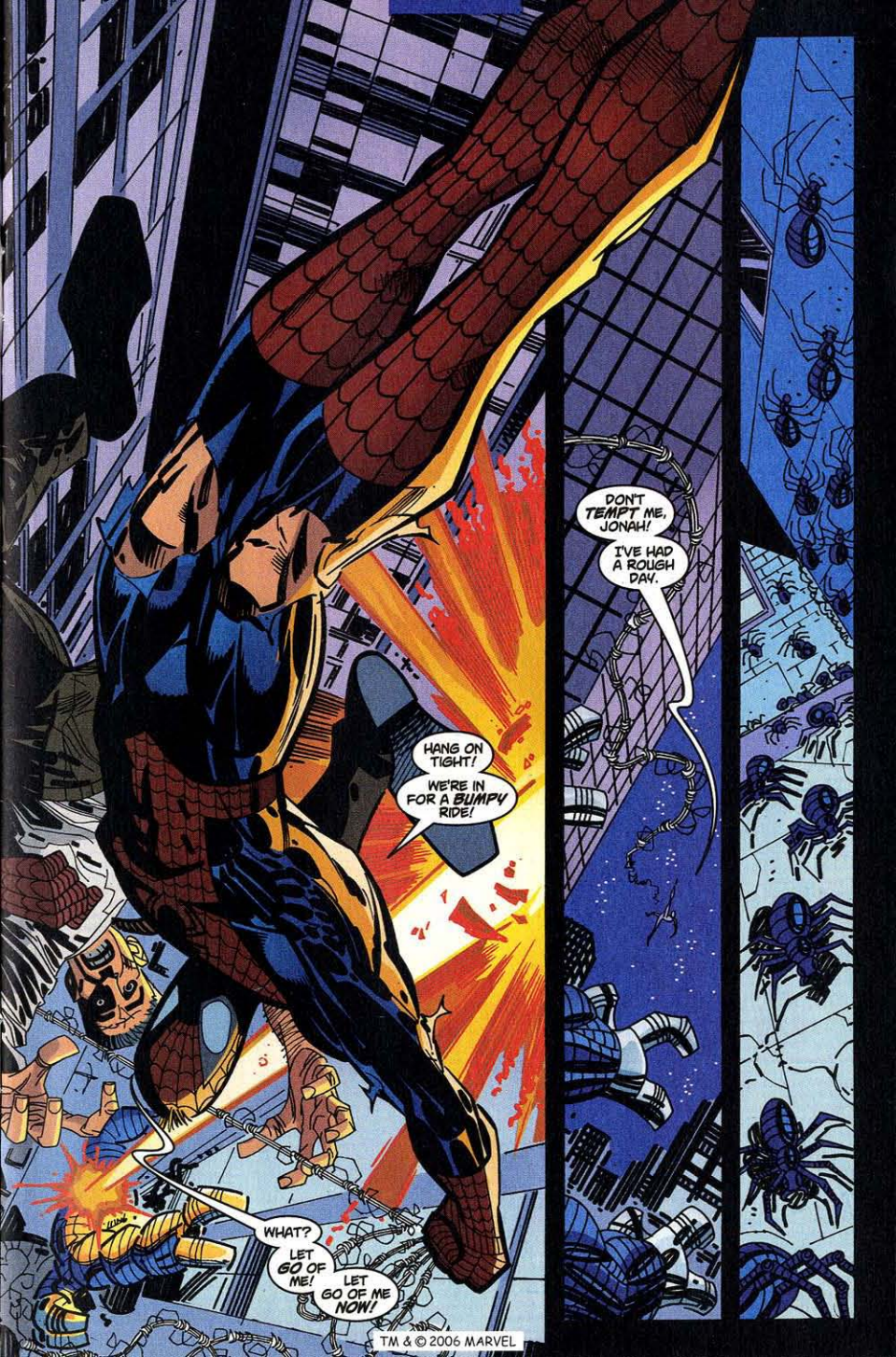
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DON'T
TEMPT ME,
JONAH!

I'VE HAD
A ROUGH
DAY.

HANG ON
TIGHT!
WE'RE IN
FOR A BUMPY
RIDE!

WHAT?
LET
GO OF
ME!

LET
GO OF ME
NOW!



A SHORT TIME LATER...

I THINK WE LOST IT.

COME ON!

I HATE THESE THINGS! PHONES SHOULD HAVE WIRES AND BE CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER!



WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO CALL, JONAH. THE SCORPION, MAYBE? YOU DID HELP GET HIM IN THE "I HATE SPIDER-MAN BUSINESS," TOO.

I'M TRYING TO GET HOLD OF MY WIFE AND SON TO WARN THEM TO RUN!

SMYTHE IS GOING TO STRIKE OUT AT THEM... I'VE GOT TO WARN THEM!

BUT WE'RE STUCK BETWEEN BUILDINGS AND I CAN'T GET ANY RECEPTION ON THIS BLASTED THING.



I NEED YOUR HELP TO GET ME UP HIGHER.



EXCUSE ME? YOU NEED MY WHAT? JUST DO IT!

HERE YOU GO, JONAH, ON THE SPIDEV EXPRESS. CLEAR RECEPTION IS JUST MOMENTS AWAY...



NOT SO FAST! I'M LOSING THE...



...PHONE!

YOU BLASTED MORON!

NOW THOSE MINIATURE SLAYERS ARE GOING TO KILL MY WIFE AND SON!

YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE! I'LL --

-- GET BACK HERE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I KNOW WHERE JONAH AND MARLA JAMESON LIVE.

I'VE GOT TO GET TO THEM FIRST... EVEN BEFORE I TAKE CARE OF MY OWN.

THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO STRAND JJJ ON THE NEAREST ROOF, SO I CAN TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.

GET READY TO CRUMBLE.

GODZILLA

2000

TriStar Pictures presents a TOHO PICTURES INC. production "GODZILLA 2000"

STARRING: TAKEHIRO MURATA MADMI NISHIDA HIROSHI ABE SHIRO SANO MUSIC BY TAKAYUKI HATTORI SPECIAL EFFECTS BY KENJI SUZUKI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SHOGO TOMIYAMA
SCREENPLAY BY HIROSHI KASHIWABARA & WATARU MIMURA DIRECTED BY TAKAO OKAWARA

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WHAT IT TAKES
TO SURVIVE?**



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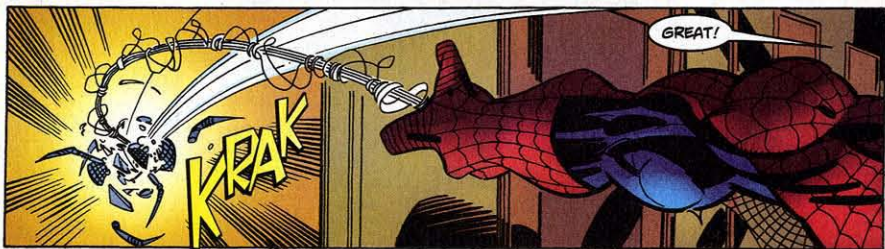
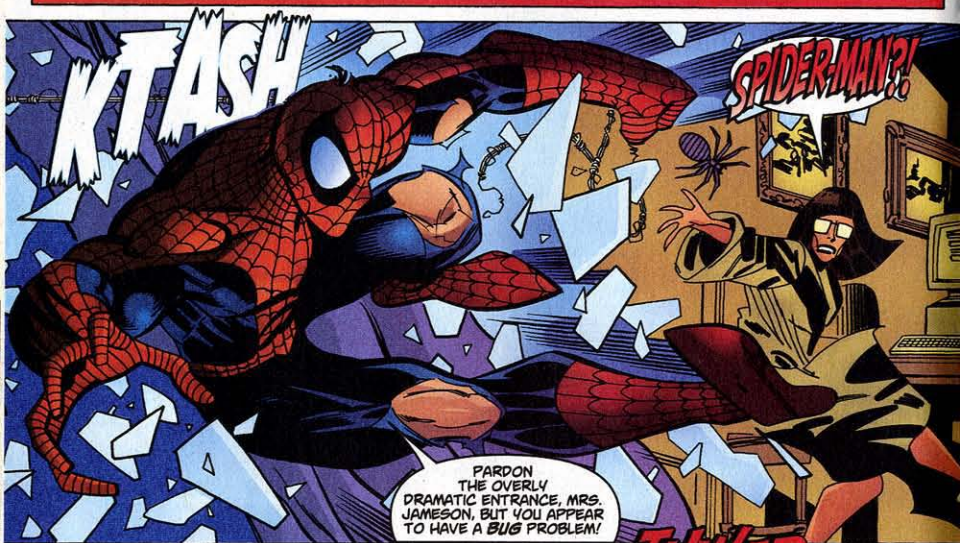
Screen shots taken from PlayStation® game console gameplay.
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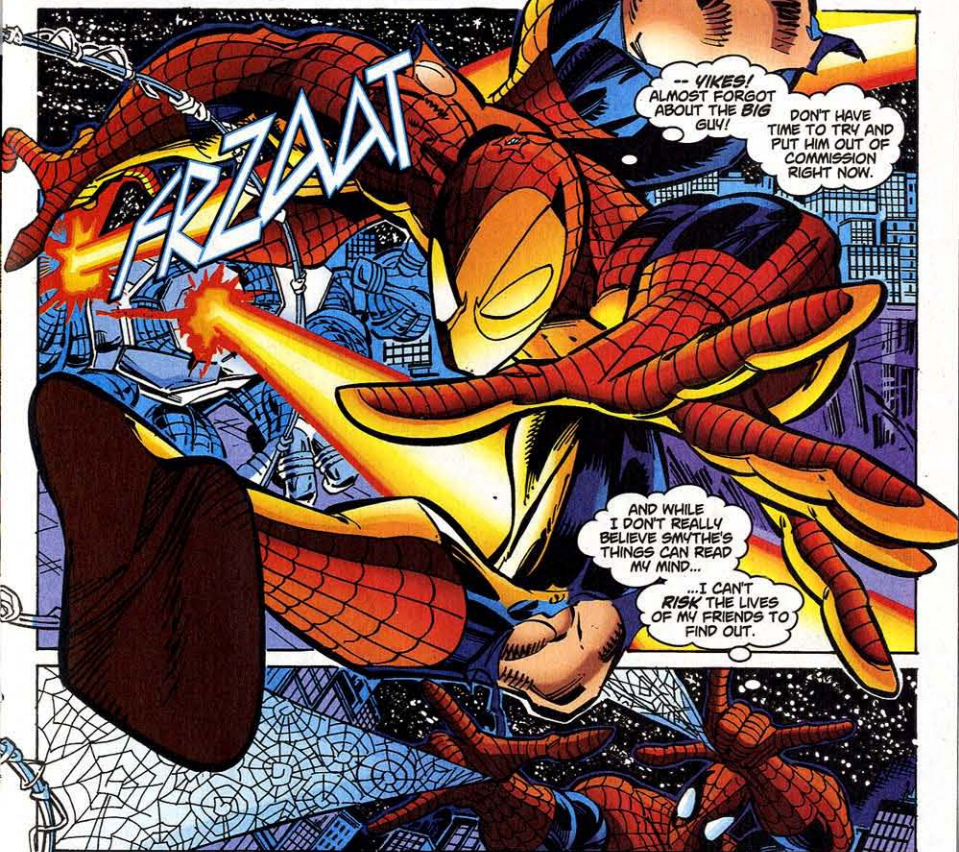
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AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOME OF JONAH AND MARLA JAMESON...

...THE SPIDER-SLAYER RECEIVES A RADIO SIGNAL AND...

...CREEPS EERILY CLOSER TO MARLA JAMESON.





THIS COULD BE

INSTANTLY
WIN
SPECTACULAR
PRIZES!

SEE
SPECIALLY MARKED
10 OZ. CHEEZ-IT
PACKAGES
See rules for details.



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AMAZING
INSTANT WIN
GAME!



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A SPIDER-MAN COMIC!

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THE APARTMENT THAT
PETER PARKER SHARES
WITH RANDY ROBERTSON
DOWNTOWN...

SINCE WHEN
DOES ANYBODY
NEED AN EXCUSE TO
HAVE A PARTY,
LADIES?

JILL!
GLORY! YOU
GUYS HAVE BEEN
HANGING AROUND
WITH MY ROOMIE
FOR TOO
LONG!

AND SINCE
I KNOW I'M
GOING TO LOOSEN
HIM UP...

...I MIGHT
AS WELL INCLUDE
YOU TWO IN ON
THE FRIENDS
AND FAMILY
PLAN!



I THINK
I'LL START
WITH YOU,
GLORY!

DON'T
DO ME ANY
FAVORS, RANDY.
AND BACK
UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M GOING ON THIS
WILD GOOSE CHASE. THERE'S NOT A
CHANCE THAT THAT LITTLE SPIDER OF
SMYTH'S COULD HAVE
TAPPED INTO MY
MIND AND --

-- WHOA!

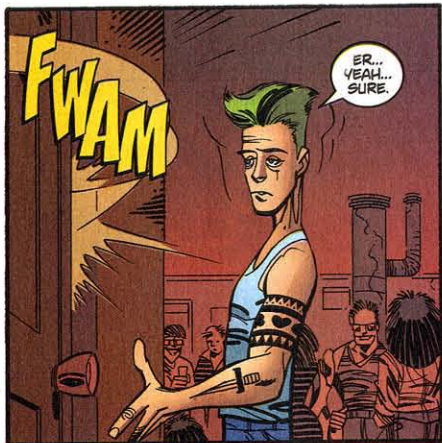
THERE'RE
THREE OF THEM
NOW, LEADING
INTO MY
APARTMENT.

WONDERFUL! FROM
THE LOOKS OF THINGS,
RANDY IS HAVING
ANOTHER ONE OF
HIS PARTIES!

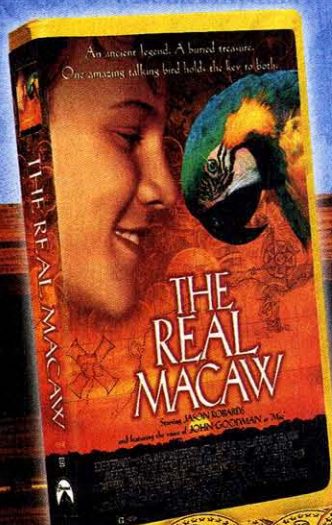
I CAN'T
RISK SHOWING UP
AS SPIDER-MAN
HERE.

I JUST DON'T
NEED TO DRAW
ANY MORE OF A
DIRECT CONNECTION
BETWEEN PETER PARKER
AND SPIDER-MAN THAN
NECESSARY...
...SO I GUESS
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO GO INTO ACTION AS
THE DYNAMIC...





MEET A PARROT WHO WON'T SETTLE FOR ANOTHER LOUSY CRACKER.



A parrot with an attitude
and a boy with a dream
are teaming up to find
a pirate's buried treasure.

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IT'S NOT THE **CLAWS.**
IT'S HOW **YOU** USE THEM.

X-MEN

TRADING CARD GAME

FIRST STRIKE:
STARTER SET- JULY 2000
BOOSTERS- AUGUST 2000



MARVEL



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A full-page comic book illustration showing Spider-Man being crushed by a giant, blue, mechanical hand. The hand is composed of various mechanical parts, including gears, pistons, and a large red flower-like structure in the center. Spider-Man is positioned at the top left, looking down at the hand. The background is a fiery orange and yellow, suggesting a city under attack. The scene is dynamic and action-packed.

THIS
KIND OF
STUFF ALWAYS
HAPPENS TO
ME!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I HAVE
ANY FRIENDS AT
ALL WITH THE WAY
I WIND UP ACTING
AROUND THEM!

I'LL WORRY
ABOUT THAT
LATER. RIGHT
NOW, I'VE GOT TO
LEAD THIS THING
AWAY FROM
HERE!



I DO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT SMYTHE HAS DONE SOME IMPROVING ON THIS YEAR'S SPIDER-SLAYER MODEL.

AT LEAST IT DOESN'T HAVE JONAH'S GRINNING FACE ON IT ANYWHERE, LIKE THE FIRST ONE DID.

THE THING JUST NEVER STOPS!

JUST KEEPS FOLLOWING ME NO MATTER WHERE --

-- HMMMM!

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO MAKE THAT WORK TO MY ADVANTAGE!



MAYBE I SHOULD GO AFTER PETER BY MYSELF... SO HE DOESN'T FEEL GANGED UP ON.

YOU? DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG PETER AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER? I'LL GO.

GIRLS! HELLO!

MAYBE WHAT PETER NEEDS IS FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO START LAVISHING ATTENTION ON HIS STUDY ROOMMATE?

SURE, RANDY...

...GO SEE IF YOU CAN FIND HIM!



THAT'S A GOOD SPIDER-SLAYER!

KEEP COMING!



GOT TO GET TO AUNT MAY NOW!

SHE'S THE ONLY ONE LEFT THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT.



FOREST HILLS,
QUEENS...

♪♪♪



THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

DROPPING
THAT THING
INTO A BUILDING
BARELY SLOWED
IT DOWN AT
ALL!

THE ONLY
THING THAT
SEEMS TO BUY
ME TIME IS
WEBBING,
SO...

...WEBBING
IT IS!

THWAPP
THWAPP

NOW TO TRY
AND FIGURE OUT
HOW I CAN GET
AUNT MAY OUT OF
THE HOUSE...

...KILL THE
MINIATURE
SPIDER-
SLAYERS AND DO IT
ALL WITHOUT CAUSING
HER TO SUSPECT MY
CONNECTION TO
SPIDER-MAN!



"LIFE IS
NEVER
EASY."

**They're the 3 Musketeers.
And they're pumped up.
Just like the chocolate cargo
they're sworn to protect.
They're the...**



DEFENDERS OF THE CHOCOLATE

STARRING D'ARTAGNAN, PORTHOS AND ATHOS

PU

FOR PUMPED-UP
AUDIENCES ONLY

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IT'S PUMPED UP™

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TOO LATE!
THE
MINIATURE
SLAYERS
ARE ALREADY
INSIDE!



I'VE
GOT TO
RISK --

NUTS!
WHY
WON'T YOU
JUST STAY
DOWN?!



YOU
WANT TO
THREATEN
ME... ..FINE!



YOU
WANT TO
BEAT ME, BLAST
ME AND MAKE
MY LIFE
MISERABLE... ..NO PROBLEM!



BUT YOU
DO NOT MESS
WITH MY AUNT
MAY!
SHE HAS
NEVER HARMED
A SINGLE LIVING
CREATURE IN
HER ENTIRE
LIFE!
WAIT A
MINUTE!



SMYTHE SAID THAT THE
MINI-SLAYERS WERE
BEING FED INSTRUCTIONS
FROM A CENTRAL
UNIT.

MAYBE I'VE
BEEN PLAYING IT
WRONG ALL NIGHT
LONG. MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN RUNNING!

I SHOULD
BE STANDING
MY GROUND
AND...

...FIGHTING!







Hey, Spider-folks,

This latest romp was pretty intense! So, the Sandman is falling apart, is he? Well, good for him, he deserves it for being such a louse! But now that the Vault has been closed for some time, where do the cops keep a guy like that?

And for that matter, what makes Electro such a willing agent of Mystery? Dome-head must be hitting Max Dillon with some crazy dough. It used to be that Electro was only into his own schemes.

It's really depressing now that Pete has lost Mary Jane, his job, and everything. But I don't want to see the strip turn into a relentless downer. I don't think I can take it anymore! Maybe Pete needs a change of venue. Maybe he can hop a bus somewhere and start anew. Like Miami, Los Angeles, and Chicago. You think, maybe?

Christopher Currie

Detroit, MI
Hypestyle@yahoo.com

Well, we did try sending Peter off to Portland once, Christopher, but it just didn't take. As for where the cops keep someone like the Sandman in the post-Vault era, we would suggest he be used to shore up the eroding Fire Island beaches, but that's just us.

Dear Spider-people,

I'm confused! These days I'm not sure whether I'm reading Volume I or Volume II of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Things have been progressing well up until Mary Jane's...disappearance (I'm like Peter: I'm not convinced she's dead). Now our hero is back to "Year One." Peter has nothing but troubles, be it Aunt May's health, money worries, job problems, and of course his love life. It seems the only thing that Spider-people can do right is defeat villains. It's almost like the days when Stan was writing the book!

I'm not really complaining. "Dust in the Wind" was a great story. I could feel Sandman's torment as well as Peter's. I was glad to see Glory Grant again—I can never get enough of her! And Peter's "mistaken arrest" made me wince. But hey, even the police aren't perfect.

One important lesson to remember about this story: no matter how badly things may go, no matter how tough it gets, no matter how much bad luck you have, whatever has you down, never give up trying to make your life better! Peter's determination should be an inspiration to us all. We know that sooner or later, things will work out, and our hero will be back on track again!

Dennis J. Hamer
Omaha, NE

You're absolutely right, Dennis, the police do make do make mistakes from time to time—like the remix of "Don't Stand So Close to Me." (Insert rimshot here.)

But seriously, we're glad you found this issue and it's positive message so inspiring. Peter's undaunted courage and determination in the face of tough odds have inspired generations of comics fans...and now you, too!

Dear Spider Guys,

Wow! I don't think I've ever seen Sandman looking this bad, not even after he and Hydro-Man took a mud bath way back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217-218. Guess there's going to be a show-

down between ol' Flint and Venom somewhere along the line. I can't wait.

The appearance of an old standby like Glory Grant is always appreciated.

The scene in the crack house was definitely unexpected and showed that the old Parker luck is still intact. The saying "No good deed goes unpunished," was never more true than here. Who is that going out the window on page 8, panel three? Between the dark hair, nice attire and Pete's reaction to the person, both Jill Stacy and Betty Brant leap to mind. Could Jill be tracking down leads on her father's disappearance or maybe Betty was researching a story on the drug trade? Whatever the case, if it was one of them, I hope she doesn't have a drug problem herself.

During the battle with Mystery and Electro, Spidey once more showed his heroism by saving Mr. Marko's butt from his two ex-partners. A classic plot device, the hero saving villain A from villain B (and C in this case), done very well here.

The last two panels of the book were very reminiscent of vintage Spidey tales of yore and brought forth a flood of fond memories.

Terence Connors P.M.M.
Rochelle Park, NJ

It's a good thing you enjoyed seeing Glory return to these pages, Terence. Something tells us you'll be seeing a bit more of the ravishing Ms. Grant in the coming months.

As for who was sneaking out the window, that remains a mystery. Stay tuned, though, if one thing is for certain, we don't leave plot threads hanging for very long around here!

Dear Spider's Web,

Like I mentioned in a previous letter awhile ago to SPIDER-GIRL, that Normie Osborn kid is always playing with a mangled Spider-Man doll! And AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000 kept the streak going! I'm just curious if the Spider-Man editors always tell the writers to show Normie with a beat-up Spider-Man doll. Whatever the case, it is a neat piece of continuity.

On the whole, the annual was pretty good. I was a little disappointed that Harry Osborn didn't come back, though. I would not mind if he returned. He could have faked his own death and stuff.

The story was good, and so was the art. I felt the person who snapped the Scrier at the end *has* to be Norman Osborn! I can't wait for his return! Go Norman!

That mangled Spider-Man doll has been a visual manifestation of Harry Osborn's hatred for Peter and his Spider-Man identity. It was always meant as an ominous hint that Harry had somehow poisoned the mind of his innocent son Normie against Peter. However, given the events of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000, that may no longer be the case.

Hi, guys,

Just wanted to point out an error I found when reading the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000 Annual yesterday.

During the flashback sequence between Peter and Harry, Peter says that Harry was his best friend in high school, and that later they went to college together.

er. This is wrong. According to my ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN trade paperbacks, Pete and Harry never even met until Pete went off to college at Empire State University.

I know that this is just a small error, but I just wanted to write in and let you guys know. Other than that, I enjoyed the issue.

Graham Garrison
Macon, GA

Thanks for pointing out the unforgivable *faux pas*, Graham. We'd hoped that this latest example of Ralf's ineptitude would skate by unnoticed. Instead, we were hit with an absolute deluge of mail pointing out this obvious gaffe. As a result, we're forcing Ralf to reread the entire run of the ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN. Come to think of it, that wouldn't be a bad idea for the rest of you out there, either...

Dear Spider's Web,

Don't do it! Don't even think of Peter working as a dishwasher! I am, of course, referring to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17. I mean, I realize I was one of the people who wanted Spider-Man back to what made him a best seller in the '70s, but this is crazy. *Much too fast*. A couple of issues ago, he was on top of the world, living in a penthouse, married to a supermodel and with a great job. Now? Nothing. You guys ever hear of rags to riches?

Anyway, I really enjoyed this issue. It was classic Peter Parker. We have Peter with a chance to get part of his life back with an important job interview and what does he do? He jeopardizes everything by playing the hero and helping the officers. I wouldn't expect anything less!

Keep the interesting stories coming and you guys will have a fan for life. Just make sure you keep Ralf out of the loop.

Robert Acquarulo
New Haven, CT

We do try our best, Robert, but Ralf manages to get just enough involved to gum up the works. We will redouble our efforts, however.

We hate to say it, but perhaps you should have been more careful what you wished for. The pendulum has indeed swung back squarely against Peter in recent months, and much more so than many would ever have expected. Makes for compelling reading though, as you yourself freely admit, Robert. Thanks for the feedback.

NEXT ISSUE:

PETER'S A DISHWASHER! NO, NOT REALLY, BUT HE MAY HAVE WISHED HE WAS WHEN HE BECAMES EMBROILED IN THE MYSTERY OF SENATOR WARD. THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS, WE'RE ACTUALLY GONNA SOLVE THIS MYSTERY FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL IN A THREE-PART EPIC THAT KICKS OFF HERE NEXT MONTH! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT JOHN ROMITA, JR. SLIDES OVER HERE TO BEGIN A NEW ERA OF GREATNESS FOR AMAZING! SO COME ON DOWN AND JOIN JOHN WITH HOWARD MACKIE AND SCOTT HANNA IN TRYING DESPERATELY TO KEEP RALF OUT OF THE LOOP!

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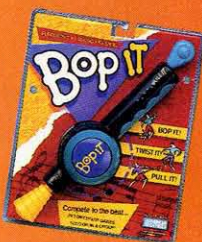
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