



#22

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# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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DIRECT EDITION

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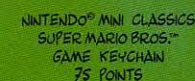
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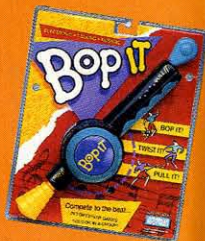
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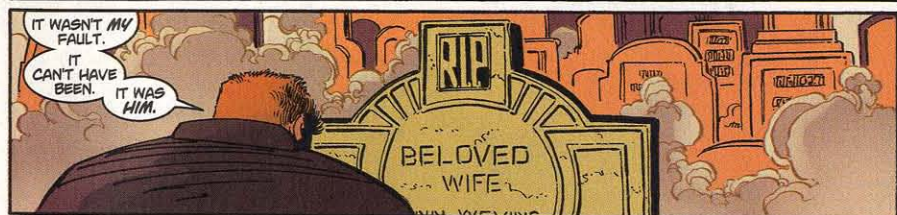
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A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS 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!

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WE  
ARE GOING TO  
HAVE OUR  
VENGEANCE.

VENOM EATS  
SPIDER-MAN'S  
HEART  
TONIGHT!

ER...  
EXCUSE ME,  
MR. BROCK,  
BUT...

HOWARD  
MACKIE  
JOHN  
ROMITA Jr.  
SCOTT  
HANNA  
story and art  
GREGORY  
WRIGHT  
colors  
RS &  
COMICRAFT's  
TROY PETERI  
letters

RALPH  
MACCHIO  
editor  
BOB HARRAS  
chief



...I AM AFRAID THAT YOUR PERSONAL VENDETTA IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT FOR THE MOMENT.

WHAT?!

WHO'S CRAZY ENOUGH TO INTERRUPT US?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT I'M A PARTY WHO IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE SPECIAL SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ALIEN COSTUME.

I WOULD SIMPLY LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE IT A BIT MORE CLOSELY.

OH... THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN! WE ARE GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO LOOK AT US REAL CLOSE!

EXCELLENT.

# GENTLEMAN FROM

WHAT?

1956-2000

HOW?

ARRRGH!

NOOOO! YOU... CAN'T --

OH, YES, MR. BROCK... APPARENTLY I CAN.

NOW WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, MY ALIEN FRIEND?

WITHOUT YOU, BROCK IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SOCIOPATHIC, WASHED-UP JOURNALIST.

SHALL WE BEGIN?

ARRRRRRRR

# NEW

# YORK

PART ONE









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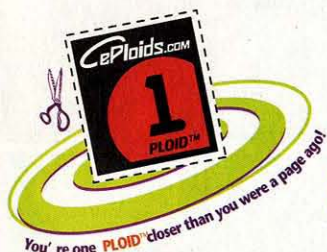
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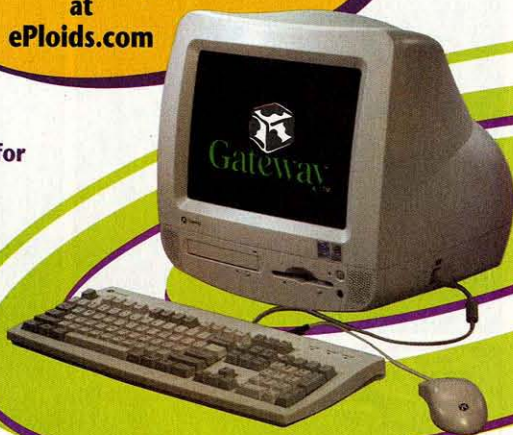
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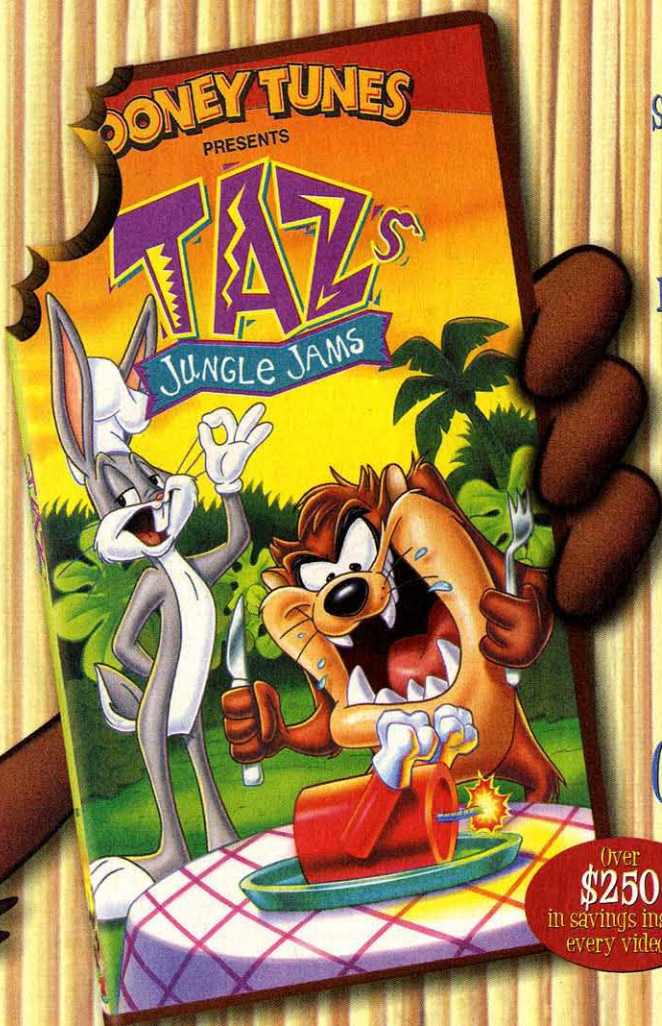
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LATER, AT THE HOME OF THE STACY FAMILY IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...







I'VE GOT TO GO OUT.

I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR YOUR BROTHER.

IF ANYONE ELSE... AND I MEAN ANYONE... SHOWS UP AT THIS DOOR...

...YOU PAGE ME. WE CAN TRUST NO ONE.



I KNEW ARTHUR WAS OVER THE EDGE A FEW WEEKS AGO.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT THAT THIS MAN, WHO I HAVE ADMIRERD SO MUCH UP UNTIL THIS POINT, COULD EVEN THINK ABOUT MURDERING A MAN IN COLD BLOOD.

HE TRIED TO ASSASSINATE SENATOR WARD BACK THEN. \*

I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS WARD'S DONE... OR WHAT ARTHUR THINKS HE'S CAPABLE OF DOING... THERE'S ALWAYS GOT TO BE ANOTHER WAY OF HANDLING IT.

\* Back in Issue #12  
--- Recappin' Rail.



IF PAUL DOESN'T SHOW UP IN THE NEXT HOUR... YOU CALL ME ON MY CELL PHONE!

DAD! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO ARE YOU GOING TO MEET?

YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME SOMETHING!

THE LESS YOU KNOW... THE BETTER.



PETER?



ARTHUR... WAIT.



FOR WHAT, PETER? FOR HIM TO KILL MORE PEOPLE?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS THAT MAN IS. NO ONE DOES.







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D.C....

THE OFFICES  
OF SENATOR  
STEWART  
WARD OF NEW YORK.



I'M  
SORRY, MS.  
STRONG, BUT THE  
SENATOR IS OUT OF  
TOWN. CAN I TAKE  
A MESSAGE? IS THIS  
SENATOR KELLY  
BUSINESS?



NO... I  
MUST TALK TO  
STEWART...  
IT'S  
EXTREMELY  
IMPORTANT.  
DO YOU  
KNOW WHEN  
HE'LL BE BACK?  
WHERE HE  
IS?



I'M SORRY, MS. STRONG,  
BUT I AM NOT AT LIBERTY  
TO RELEASE THAT  
INFORMATION.

NOT  
EVEN TO ONE OF  
SENATOR KELLY'S  
ADVISORS.



I TOLD YOU THIS  
HAS **NOTHING**  
TO DO WITH  
KELLY!

THIS IS  
ABOUT ME AND  
STEWART!



WE...  
I... I HAVE  
TO SPEAK TO  
HIM.

IT'S  
EXTREMELY  
URGENT.



PLEASE  
HAVE HIM CALL  
ME AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.

YES,  
MA'AM.



YOU DID THIS TO  
ME, STEWART...  
I KNOW YOU  
DID...



...BUT  
WHAT DID  
YOU DO?

WHAT?!





# THIS COULD BE

INSTANTLY  
WIN  
SPECTACULAR  
PRIZES!



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## 50 First Prizes

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Watch!



## 500 Second Prizes

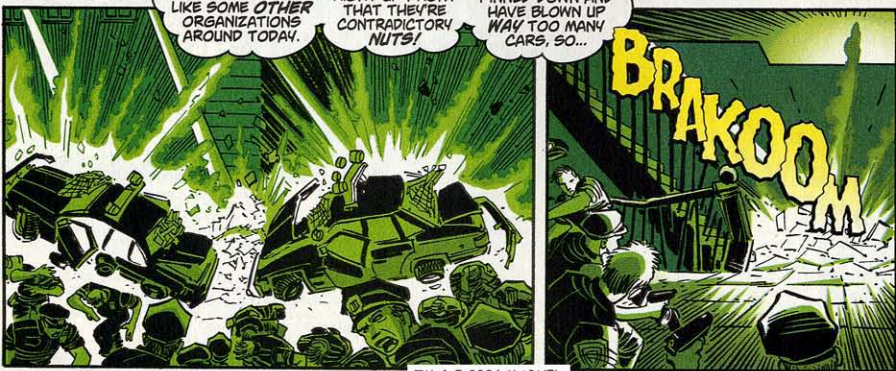
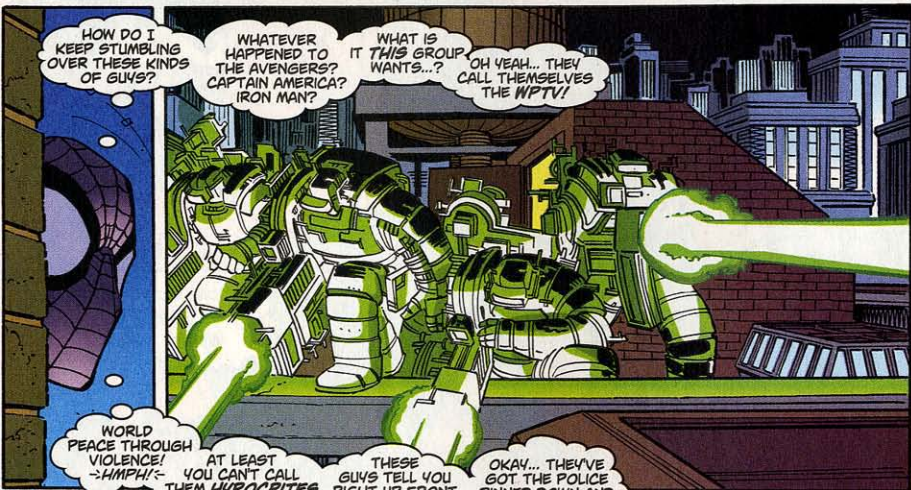
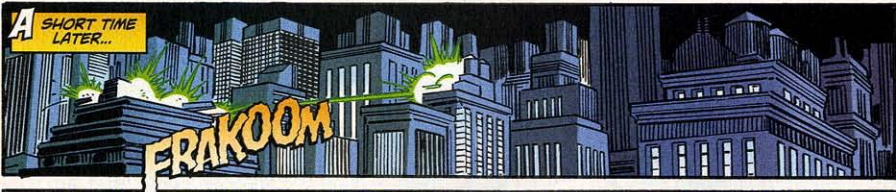
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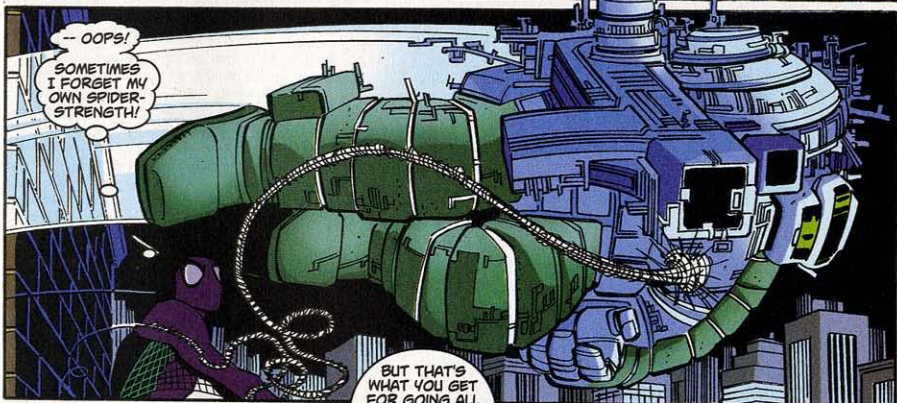
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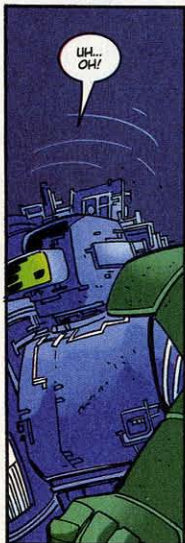
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IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MY FRIEND.

WARD... YOU KNOW WHO HE IS... YOU KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO.

YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM EVER SINCE I CONFIRMED HE WAS OUR OLD "FRIEND." I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.



WE BOTH DID. BUT HE'S NOT. AND HE'S MORE DANGEROUS NOW THAN HE EVER WAS.

THE PROJECT. EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY FOR BEING SO WORRIED ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S HAPPENING.

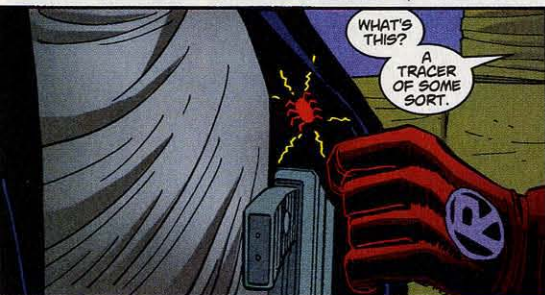
AND NOW HE'S THREATENING MY KIDS... THREATENING US ALL.



SO IT'S UP TO US... AGAIN.

TAKE MY WORD FOR IT... IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE TO HIM, THOUGH.

AND HE'S BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP GOING TO GUYS LIKE DR. OCTOPUS, THE WIZARD AND THE SANDMAN FOR HELP.



WHAT'S THIS?

A TRACER OF SOME SORT.

1 SHORT TIME LATER AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THE SPIDER-TRACER SIGNAL JUST STOPPED.

I HOPE IT MEANS ARTHUR FOUND IT AND THAT SOMETHING DIDN'T HAPPEN TO HIM.

REGARDLESS, NOW I HAVE NO IDEA OF HOW TO FIND HIM. INSTEAD OF JUST WASTING ENERGY...

...I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT, AND REMEMBER ARTHUR'S A VERY CAPABLE MAN.



YOU'RE SLIPPING, ARTHUR. IN THE OLD DAYS YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS GET BY YOU.

A SPIDER... HOW?



DON'T WORRY... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. I HAVE A FEELING IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.



MEANWHILE...

...I'M BEAT!







...I MIGHT AS WELL SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY.

AHHH!  
THERE WE GO!

POLICE  
SIRENS!  
MUSIC TO MY EARS.

THEY MAY HATE ME AND CALL ME A COSTUMED VIGILANTE, BUT...

...SOMETIMES I SEE A NOTABLE EXPRESSION OF RELIEF ON THE FACES OF NEW YORK'S FINEST WHEN SPIDEY SHOWS UP ON THE SCENE.

OF COURSE, THEN THEY START SHOOTING AT ME AND TRY TO ARREST ME, BUT YOU CAN'T ASK FOR EVERYTHING!

# SAINT PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL...

LEAVE ME ALONE!

I HAVE TO GET IN THE CHURCH!

HAVE TO TALK TO GOD!

I AM ALONE NOW... MY WIFE GONE... MY OTHER TORN FROM ME BY THAT CREATURE...

...I NEED GUIDANCE!

YOU NEED TO BE PUT AWAY FOR LIFE, BROCK! AND THAT IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO --









NICKELODEON

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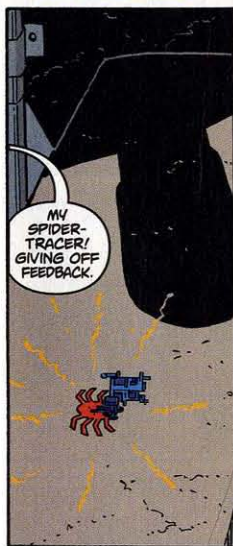
**U-watch!**  
September 11-15, 4-5pm\*  
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\*ET/PT. Other areas consult local listings.  
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AT THAT MOMENT...

COME  
NOW...

...IS BEING  
SEPARATED  
FROM BROCK  
REALLY SO  
PAINFUL?

THE MAN IS A BUFFOON.  
A SOCIOPATHIC THUG.

I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO  
BELIEVE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP  
YOU SHARED WITH HIM WAS  
TRULY SYMBIOTIC.

I, ON THE OTHER  
HAND AM A UNITED STATES  
SENATOR. I AM REVERED BY  
MANY.

MY NOD CAN  
CRUSH OR IMPEDE VITAL  
LEGISLATION. AND I LOVE  
THAT POWER. BUT THAT PALES  
BESIDE WHAT I WILL DO NOW!

YOU WILL LEARN AS  
MUCH FROM ME AS I  
HOPE TO LEARN  
FROM YOU.

IT IS THE  
UNIQUE UNION WHICH  
YOU SHARE WITH YOUR  
HOST WHICH IS OF PRIMARY  
INTEREST TO ME.

YOU SEE... I  
AM CURRENTLY  
SHARING MY BODY  
WITH AN ALIEN LIFE  
FORM.

NOT ONE NEARLY  
AS SOPHISTICATED AS  
YOUR OWN... MORE  
OF A VIRUS ACTUALLY.

BUT STILL, I  
THINK THERE  
ARE THINGS YOU  
CAN TEACH  
US.

SHALL WE  
BEGIN?







Dear Spider's Web,

I must say that the in-continuity Spider-books have been improving tremendously since the second year of Volume II began. There are still all sorts of dangling plot threads from the first year and from Volume I, but some of those are beginning to be dealt with now, and we're seeing some new directions in the book.

**AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #13** was a joy to look at, pairing one of my fave pencils with one of the definitive artists for my favorite character handling the inks. It was a beautiful book, all around... a little uneven. On some pages the linework looked like John Byrne and on others (particularly those focusing on Liz Osborn) it looked like vintage John Romita, Sr. Still, when you have two styles of that caliber, I can't find much to complain about. Aside from the lines, I'm curious as to whether John tried to give this book a Romita "flavor" in his layouts. The scene with Liz pondering the history of the Goblin in her limo and the fight between Spidey and the Green one around the Roosevelt Island tram, in particular, looked like Romita solo pages.

Hey, it looks like something may actually be done with Randy Robertson! I was sure his brief appearance in the last issue of **PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN** was nothing more than a throwaway. Thanks for surprising me. I fondly remember Peter David's stories revolving around Randy and his wife, and I was disappointed to see the relationship dissolved for what I assumed was no good reason. I hope we continue seeing more of Randy in the future, since he's definitely a supporting character who could stand some fleshing out.

I'm relatively happy with the return of the Green Goblin but I don't want to get too worked up over it. I doubt we'll get any answers as to his identity in next week's issue of **PPSM**. And (maybe it's the cynic in me, but it's a cynic that's been well-fed by a year-and-a-half of stories going nowhere) I even doubt the Spider-office knows who this new guy's supposed to be. I hope I eat my words when I pick up the next part of this story. If I do, I'm betting the new Goblin is Phil Ulrich, somehow stuck in the costume after being used as Osborn's pawn in the "Goblins at the Gate" storyline prior to the reboot.

Russ Anderson  
Baltimore, MD

Thanks for writing, Russ.

We can't say for certain if John laid those pages out in pure Romita fashion. We can confirm that it was Mr. Byrne's idea to have the living legend himself ink his final issue, so maybe he was somehow subconsciously influenced into drawing in JR Sr.'s style. Who can say for sure? Certainly not the latest Green Goblin, who was definitely not Phil Ulrich. Sorry!

Dear Spider's Web,

Like many other Spidey fans, I was excited to hear that the John Romita, Sr. was inking issue #18. I would prefer to see him penciling, but inking is the second best thing.

I don't consider myself an expert in the inking field. While some people can analyze it to death, I can hardly notice an inker's work; it's just the pencils for me. But in this issue, JR Sr.'s style was very noticeable in the inks. It made the artwork look like an awesome amalgamation of John Byrne's and JR Sr.'s styles. This is definitely the best-looking issue of the relaunched and I hope we won't be too long before we see JR Sr. grace the pages of a Spider-Man title once more.

People who haven't picked up the **ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN** volumes don't know the great JR Sr. artwork they're missing! When are we going to see a fourth volume?

Michael Bregman  
Gan-Yavne, ISRAEL

Now that's what we like to see in a letter: a nice easy job that gives us a chance for a cheap plug. Yes, Virginia (err...Michael), there will be a fourth volume of **THE ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN**, and it won't be long in coming. January is the current on sale date for this little gem, and as Michael here implies, it's a must-have for any and all Spidey fans—just like the preceding three volumes. If you don't have 'em yet, what are you waiting for? Ralf to become competent?

Dear Spider's Web,

It's probably a false hope to believe Mary Jane to be dead. Characters "die" and return so frequently—particularly in Spidey continuity—that death has little impact or credibility now. You could kill two birds with one stone if you didn't resurrect her: firstly, it would restore some belief in death scenes and secondly, it would finally end an implausible relationship.

Why do I say that? Pete and MJ are chalk and cheese. There's an old adage that opposites attract, though experience would incline one to think that that's untrue. There's always been something quaintly old-fashioned about Peter Parker. Maybe it comes from being raised by an aunt and uncle obviously separated by two generations. He dresses very conservatively, doesn't socialize much or drink; let's face it, he's a bit of a square. That isn't really a criticism. So is Captain America, perhaps the only complete hero in the Marvel Universe. Still, Peter's an introverted guy, the type who settles down early. The Spider-Man persona allows him to express his latent extrovert side, which is maybe just as well for his psychological health, as he doesn't exactly let his hair down much as Peter Parker. Even if he had inherited millions, could you see mild-mannered Pete as a playboy like Tony Stark? Not in a million years.

Anyway, this brief analysis just throws up how dissimilar he is from Mary Jane. Writers have labored to overcome the incarnations of MJ as airhead, party animal, non-committal partner (it was hard not to feel sorry for poor Harry; as if he didn't have enough problems with an abusive father, he had to fall in love with someone who avoided commitment), soap opera actress and supermodel (!), none of which contrast well with studious and soft-spoken Peter Parker. She's been loyal and was there for Peter when Gwen died, but she's a poor replacement.

Gwen Stacy was always better suited, in personality, background and intelligence. She also grew up with a father who was a cop, so she understands The Life, the worry of wondering if your father/husband will walk back through the door at the end of the day (or night). Stan "The Man" Lee himself has said that when he created Gwen, she just seemed so perfect for Peter that he assumed they'd get married some day. And they should have. Children would have quickly followed. Peter would be a wonderful father, doubly so since he feels the sting of not knowing his own parents. Sadly, it never happened.

Okay, maybe it's a bit harsh to blow Mary Jane to smithereens. It would just be appreciated if you'd stop trying to convince us that they make a great couple when psychological reality says they can't. Divorce would suit me fine, if for no other reason than MJ is a Stan Lee creation. After nearly 30 years, I still can't accept that these two make a plausible couple and, in fact, I'm surprised at how little I care about her. I still miss Gwen and maybe I resent MJ trying to replace her. MJ is much more like Flash Thompson: physically attractive, intelligent

but certainly not exceptionally so, non-academic, loud, outgoing, cocky, fond of attention and crowds. All the characteristics that would repel a quiet, socially awkward and insecure young man like Peter Parker.

Robert Menzies  
Barrahead, Glasgow  
SCOTLAND

Thanks for your well-thought-out analysis, Robert. Now, better get a helmet, because in the letters pages to come, we have a feeling you're about to become the target of some stinging responses.

As far as our own response, we'll have to politely disagree. While you make some valid points, we're not sure that MJ and Peter are as "opposite" as you seem to think. You may not believe that opposites truly attract, but what about people with differing characteristics complementing each other and forcing each other to grow?

Also, we can't help but feel that your characterization of a meek and shy Peter seems more rooted in the early years of this character, and doesn't represent the more confident Peter of recent years.

Dear Spider's Web,

Just thought I'd share some thoughts on the **SPIDER-MAN 2000** Annual.

I am glad that Howard Mackie was tabbed to write it instead of another writer not as familiar with the current state of the Spider-books. Howard's story was okay, though not as action-packed as we've come to expect from Marvel's Annals.

It was with great relief to discover that Harry Osborn was only a computer hologram, hopefully never to be seen again. After reading in an ad for this issue that he was coming back, I was very nervous about it. Thanks for not doing something that would have really hurt the Spider-titles.

Is Norman back? Lord, I hope so. And with any luck he's brought the new Green Goblin and Jack O'Lantern with him, so we can clear up some long-dangling plotlines. Thanks for a good book.

Terence Connors PMM  
KangtheCom@aol.com

You're welcome, Terence, but think nothing of it. That's what we get paid for!

Well, you know by now that Norman is indeed back, and at least one of your two dangling plots has been resolved. And even better, you can look forward to the other being tied up as well! None other than Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco will be tackling the identity of Mad Jack in a limited series scheduled for later this year. Look for it!

**NEXT ISSUE:**

NOT ONLY DOES THIS ISSUE TIE INTO MAXIMUM SECURITY, THE MEGA-MARVEL CROSSOVER EVENT OF THE YEAR; NOT ONLY DOES SPIDEY FACE OFF AGAINST THE HIDEOUS ALIEN RACE, THE Z'NOX, BUT FINALLY, THE SECRET CONNECTION BETWEEN SENATOR WARD, ARTHUR STACY, AND THE RANGER IS REVEALED! DON'T BELIEVE US? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS, WHEN WE'LL ALSO REVEAL THE SECRET CONNECTION BETWEEN HOWARD MACKIE, JOHN ROMITA JR. AND SCOTT LANKA! THE ONLY SECRET SEPT UNREVEALED: HOW RALF KEEPS HIS JOB!

# THE SPIDER-WEBS

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