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**COMICS**



#24

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**ROWITA JR**  
**GREEN**

**DIRECT EDITION**



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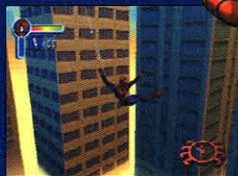
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# SPIDER-MAN

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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

I WANT YOU TO TAKE JILL TO SAFETY NOW!

THE RANGER AND I WILL HANDLE WARD AND THESE CREATURES... WHATEVER THEY ARE!

NO, ARTHUR, YOU TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND GET OUT OF HERE FAST.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE THINGS ARE THAT WARD HAS BACKING HIM UP, OR WHAT IS GOING ON WITH HIM, BUT...

...THEY LOOK MORE MY SPEED!

GENTLEMEN!

THERE IS NO NEED TO QUARREL AMONGST YOURSELVES.

THE WEB-SPINNER HAS KEPT TABS ON HIS FRIEND INVESTIGATOR ARTHUR STACY, WHO HAD SEARCHED FOR SENATOR STEWART WARD -- WITH THE INTENT TO KILL HIM, CLAIMING WARD WAS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE.

NOW, SPIDEY STANDS WITH STACY, HIS DAUGHTER JILL AND ARTHUR'S COMPANION, THE MYSTERIOUS RANGER, AS THE MUTATED FIGURE OF WARD APPEARS, FLANKED BY INHUMAN ENTITIES IN HIS SERVICE.

THAT'S THE ROLLIKIN' RECAP, AND AWAAAAH WE GO...

MY ALIEN FRIENDS, THE Z'NOX, AND I ARE GOING TO GET AROUND TO TAKING CARE OF YOU ALL.

THE REAL FUN IS JUST BEGINNING. FOR YOU... AND FOR THIS WORLD.



## DISTINGUISHED

IS THIS  
THE BEST YOU  
AND THE RANGER  
HAVE TO OFFER,  
ARTHUR?

I WOULD  
HAVE EXPECTED,  
WITH ALL THESE YEARS  
OF PREPARATION  
AND OBSESSION, YOU COULD  
HAVE COME UP WITH  
SOMETHING MORE  
EFFECTIVE.

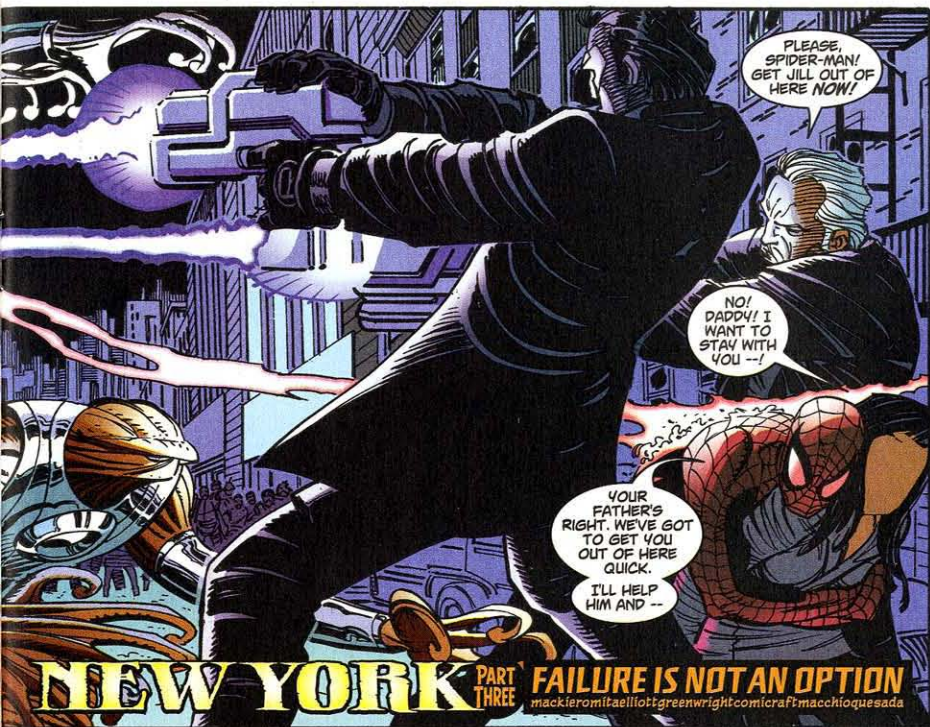
TAKE  
HIM, MY  
FRIENDS.

LEAVE THE  
OTHERS... KILL  
THEM... INFECT  
THEM... I DON'T  
CARE. BUT ARTHUR  
COMES WITH  
US.

## D GENTLEMAN FROM















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WHAT IT TAKES  
TO FACE THE WALL?



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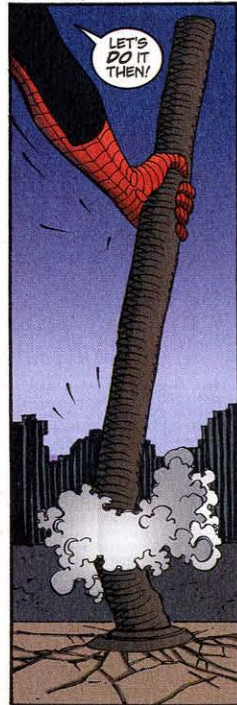


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וואס זאגסטו?

וואס זאגסטו?



HEY!  
WHERE'RE YOU  
GOING?

THEY JUST  
TOOK OFF. THE  
LOOK IN THEIR EYES...  
LIKE THEY WERE  
**SCARED** OF ME.  
THIS IS GETTING  
WEIRDER.

AND  
SUDDENLY  
I FEEL  
**BEAT.**

I MEAN CAN'T --  
MOVE -- MY -- ARMS  
EXHAUSTED.

EVEN IF I **DID**  
KNOW HOW TO FIND  
WARD AND ARTHUR... I  
WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO  
DO ANYTHING IN  
THIS STATE.

I'VE GOT TO  
REGROUP... GRAB  
A FEW MINUTES  
SHUT-EYE AND THEN  
FORMULATE A PLAN.



**L**ATER THAT  
NIGHT...

AT THE GATES OF AN  
OSBORN INDUSTRIES  
FACTORY...

...THE GRINNING GARGOYLE KNOWN  
AS THE GREEN GOBLIN ENGAGES  
IN BATTLE WITH ONE OF THE ALIEN  
RACE KNOWN AS THE AAKON.



...A GOBLIN WHO HANDLES  
HIS PUMPKIN BOMBS  
CLUMSILY AND WHO RIDES  
HIS GLIDER TENTATIVELY...



...GOBLIN KNOCKED  
EASILY FROM HIS  
PERCH.

FROM WHERE HAS HE  
SUDDENLY APPEARED?

WHY HAS NEW YORK  
CITY SUDDENLY BECOME  
A STOMPING GROUND FOR  
ALIEN SUPER-CRIMINALS?

AND WHEN WILL SPIDER-MAN  
FINALLY BECOME AWARE OF  
THE GOBLIN'S RETURN? \*

\* For answers to all these questions  
check out the SPIDER-MAN: REVENGE  
of the GREEN GOBLIN limited series  
and MAXIMUM SECURITY #1 for all the  
gory details. -- Repulsive Ralf.

THE GREEN GOBLIN AND SOME  
SORT OF ALIEN-LOOKING DUDE?  
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING  
ON HERE?

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S A COP  
IN MIDTOWN AND SAYS THIS  
KINDA CRAZY STUFF IS  
HAPPENING ALL OVER THE  
PLACE. NO ONE KNOWS  
WHAT'S GOING  
DOWN!

YEAH?  
WELL, I DON'T  
CARE!

THESE  
COSTUMED MOOKS  
AREN'T MESSING  
WITH THE PLANT  
ON MY WATCH.

LET'S TAKE  
'EM OUT AND --

FRZZATT

MY  
EYES! I  
CAN'T SEE!  
I --

HAHAHAHAHA!

HAHAHA!



LATER, IN THE DOWNTOWN APARTMENT PETER PARKER SHARES WITH RANDY ROBERTSON...

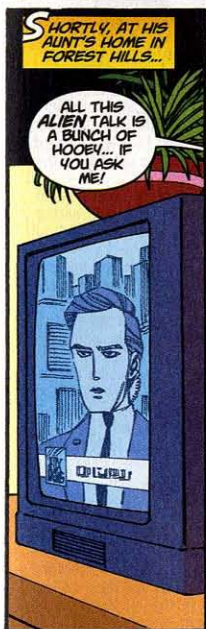


I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME THESE DAYS. I FALL ASLEEP AND FEEL WORSE WHEN I WAKE UP.

I'VE GOTTA GRAB SOME FOOD AND GET ON TO FINDING WARD AND ARTHUR.









## ON SALE NEXT WEEK

## BISHOP #15

The last X-Man and Professor X return! And so does the assassin known as Deathbird! By Joseph Harris & Georges Jeanty!

## CAPTAIN AMERICA #36

A Maximum Security tie-in! It's your typical day in Manhattan: demonstrations, traffic jams... and an army of aliens! By Dan Jurgens!

## CAPTAIN MARVEL #12

A Maximum Security tie-in! The vengeful son of Yon-Rogg strikes! By Peter David & Chriscross!

DAREDEVIL VISIONARIES:  
FRANK MILLER Vol. 1

This 256-page collection reprints the beginning of Frank Miller's acclaimed run with the Man Without Fear!

## DARKDEVIL #2

Continuing the origin of the MC2 mystery man! Plus: what will happen when Kaine is captured by the Brotherhood of Scribes? By Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz!

## INCREDIBLE HULK #21

A Maximum Security tie-in! Is there an alien conspiracy on Earth? That's what Joe Fixit wants to know—so he invades Area 51! By Paul Jenkins & Kyle Hotz!

## IRON FIST/WOLVERINE #2

Can anything stop K'un Lun from teleporting on top of Tokyo? Iron Fist and Wolverine are gonna try! By Jay Faerber & Jamal Igle!

## MAXIMUM SECURITY #2

It's action on all fronts as the Fantastic Four, the Avengers and the world's super-powered defenders battle a horde of alien criminals! By Kurt Busiek & Jerry Ordway!

## PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN #24

A Maximum Security tie-in! Spidey becomes an unwilling subject of an alien experiment that unleashes a horror on New York City! By Paul Jenkins & Mark Buckingham!

## SENTRY #4

While Mr. Fantastic and Spider-Man explore the mystery of the Sentry's existence, the Golden Guardian pays a visit to Tony Stark and Charles Xavier! By Paul Jenkins & Jae Lee!

## THUNDERBOLTS #45

A Maximum Security tie-in! Meteorite's personality problems come to a head when she confronts the Kree Supreme Intelligence! By Fabian Nicieza & Mark Bagley!

## X-MAN #70

Queen Madelyne's true identity is revealed as we learn how Nate Grey became the 21st Century's mutant shaman! By Steven Grant & Ariel Olivetti!

## X-MEN #107

A Maximum Security tie-in! The X-Men search for their mentor, Professor X—but he's on the other side of the galaxy! By Chris Claremont & Leinil Yu!

MARVEL  
SPOTLIGHTDAREDEVIL VISIONARIES:  
FRANK MILLER

Writer/penciler Frank Miller changed the way an entire generation looked at comic books. Importing film noir sensibilities into super hero slugfests, Miller populated the shadowy streets of Hell's Kitchen with femme fatales, perps, mobsters and assassins. Transforming Matt Murdock from a wise-cracking mystery man into a dark and driven angel of justice, Miller took readers on a midnight ride from pool halls to penthouses. Now Marvel begins a must-have, three-volume collection of his historic run on DAREDEVIL! He even drew a new cover for the collection!

Our line-wide crossover continues with all barrels blasting! No matter who your favorite hero is, the odds are you'll find them here, neck-deep in extraterrestrial invaders! It's like getting the entire Marvel Universe all in one book! The Fantastic Four! The Avengers! Professor X and his Cadre K! Skrulls! Ego, the living planet! Face it, Tiger, you just hit the jackpot!

MAXIMUM  
SECURITY #2

So who is this guy that rates a column in the world famous Bullpen Bulletins? Travel with me, if you dare, through my secret origin...

• When I was six, I confronted a snake in the driveway because I thought my store-bought Spider-Man costume gave me super powers. Luckily, my mom pulled me back into the car before the viper went for my eyes.

• In the 3rd grade my mom brought a Spidey birthday cake to school, making me the coolest kid in my class... well, at least for a day.

• In the fifth grade I bought my first Frank Miller DAREDEVIL... which blew my little 10-year-old mind.

• In high school I organized a mass viewing of a movie starring a certain Dark Knight.

• In college I wrote thesis papers like "Woman Of Steel: A Feminist Critique Of Modern Super Hero Comic Books"—and didn't flunk out!

I grew up reading and loving comic books—all comic books—especially those that featured costumed crime fighters with feet of clay (a.k.a. Marvel heroes).

To some degree I'm you... but through some quirk of fate I made a dream come true and have been working at the House of Ideas for the last six years. I'm here in the meetings when new titles are given the green light. I'm here in the hallways when a creators say, "Hey, I always wanted to tell this story..." And now, every Monday night at marvel.com I'm going to share what I hear and see in The House with you.

I'm Your Man @ Marvel.  
(Manatmarv.aol.com)

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AUNT MAY...  
...I'VE GOT TO USE THE BATHROOM.



YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS, YOUNG MAN. NO NEED TO STAND ON FORMALITIES WITH ME.

AND MAKE SURE YOU PUT THE SEAT BACK DOWN!

YES, MA'AM!

THIS'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT A WINDOW AND...



...GET BEHIND WHATEVER IS LURKING OUT THERE.



YOU? THE RANGER?  
HOW DID YOU...?



FIND YOU... SPIDER-MAN? I KNOW THINGS YOU CAN BARELY CONCEIVE.

WE ALL HAVE OUR SECRETS, BUT YOURS IS SAFE WITH ME.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



I THOUGHT YOU COULD USE HELP IN TRACKING STEWART WARD AND ARTHUR DOWN.

AND I THOUGHT YOU NEEDED TO KNOW SOMETHING. YOUR SKIN... HAS IT BEEN ITCHY LATELY?



SO...?

YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED... WE BOTH HAVE.





WARD DID IT.  
IT'S WHY HE DIDN'T BOTHER WITH US. THE DAMAGE HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE.  
OUR DEATH WARRANTS SIGNED.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?  
IT'S JUST A RASH. IT'S --  
FAR MORE THAN THAT.

WE, AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON WE'VE COME IN CONTACT WITH SINCE WE FOUGHT WARD ARE DYING. INFECTED WITH AN ALIEN PATHOGEN.

THE INFECTION WILL SPREAD UNLESS WE CAN GET TO WARD AND CREATE AN ANTIDOTE.

YEARS AGO STACY, WARD AND I WERE COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RETRIEVE THE PATHOGEN WHEN IT FELL INTO THE HANDS OF AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUP CALLED HYDRA.

INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT THE PATHOGEN MAY HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE TISSUES OF DEAD **EXTRATERRESTRIALS** HYDRA DISCOVERED.



ARTHUR NEVER BELIEVED THE BIO-TOXIN WAS OF ALIEN ORIGIN. BUT WARD'S EYES EERILY LIT UP WHENEVER THERE WAS TALK OF THE ALIENS.

WARD PRETENDED TO BE ONBOARD FOR THE MISSION, BUT AS SOON AS WE'D REACHED THE PATHOGEN, HE STOLE A VIAL OF IT AND RAN. IN A GUNFIRE EXCHANGE, WE BELIEVED WARD WAS KILLED.

WE WERE WRONG.



MY AUNT...



...RANDY...  
GLORY...

ALL INFECTED BY YOU, BUT THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT SOONER OR LATER. IT APPEARS TO BE PART OF WARD'S PLAN.

I WANT TO HEAR IT ALL, FROM THE BEGINNING.

I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT WARD.

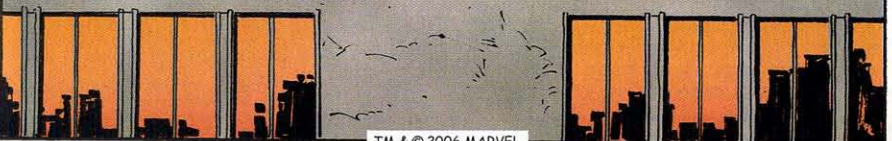


"FINE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING."

"IT'S NOT JUST ARTHUR'S LIFE AT RISK NOW."



# BUGLE





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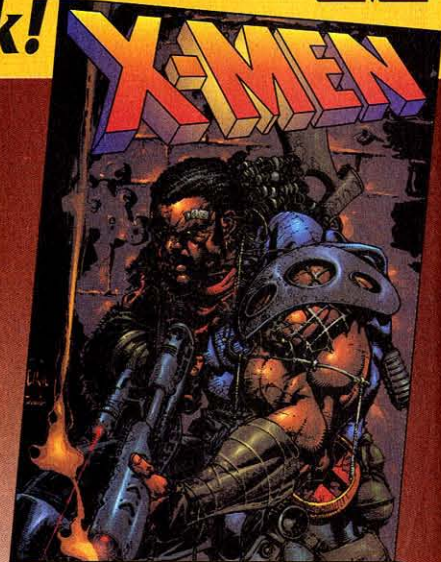
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### X-MEN

- ☐ **BSH** Bishop  
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"IT APPEARS THAT THE PATHOGEN IS AIRBORNE."

"RAPIDLY SPREADING FROM PERSON TO PERSON UNTIL, SOON..."



"...THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE INFECTED."



"THE DEATH TOLL WILL BE INCREDIBLE. THE BLACK DEATH WILL PALE IN COMPARISON."

"ALL THESE YEARS TRACKING WARD DOWN, WATCHING HIS POLITICAL RISE, AND I NEVER IMAGINED THAT THIS WAS HIS PLAN."



"DIDN'T THINK *ANYONE*... NOT EVEN HIM... WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH RUTHLESSNESS."



"BUT WHY? WHAT DOES HE STAND TO GAIN FROM THIS?"



"WHY? BECAUSE IT WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE HAS ALWAYS CRAVED... POWER."

"I'M SURE HE HAS A CURE ALREADY IN HIS HANDS."



"AND, AS THE SOLE SOURCE OF SUCH AN ANTIGEN, NATIONS WILL HAVE TO BOW AND DO HIS BIDDING."

"IT'S THE ONLY THING THE MAN HAS EVER WANTED. THE ALIEN BEING WHO CONTACTED WARD CHOSE HIS SUBJECT WELL. WARD WOULD BETRAY EVEN THE HUMAN RACE FOR POWER."



"ARTHUR AND I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO, ON OUR ESPIONAGE MISSION IN EUROPE. \*

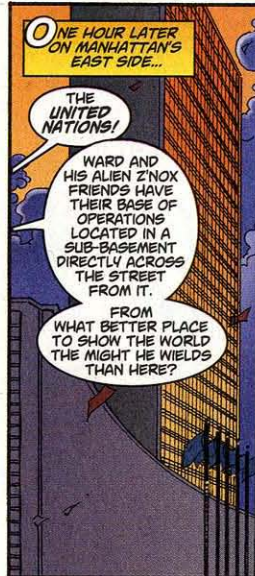
See Last Issue.  
-- Recallin' Ralf.



"YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE IT WHEN ARTHUR ASKED YOU TO, SPIDER-MAN."

"BUT I DIDN'T, RANGER, AND YOU'RE JUMPING AHEAD. I NEED TO HEAR IT ALL, FROM THE BEGINNING. NOW."





ONE HOUR LATER ON MANHATTAN'S EAST SIDE...

THE UNITED NATIONS!

WARD AND HIS ALIEN Z'NOX FRIENDS HAVE THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS LOCATED IN A SUB-BASEMENT DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM IT.

FROM WHAT BETTER PLACE TO SHOW THE WORLD THE MIGHT HE WIELDS THAN HERE?

BUT IF WARD WAS INFECTED BY THIS PATHOGEN ALL THOSE YEARS AGO... HOW COME HE DIDN'T DIE?

AND, IF S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD HIM IN QUARANTINE, HOW DID HE ESCAPE?

THE MAN YOU KNOW AS STEWART WARD WAS A TRAINED GOVERNMENT AGENT. S.H.I.E.L.D. UNDERESTIMATED HIM. THAT'S NOT EVEN HIS REAL NAME.

AND THE REMAINING Z'NOX SAW TO HIS SURVIVAL... BELIEVING THE PATHOGEN WAS ACTUALLY SAFER IN WARD'S BODY.

Strategic Hazard Intervention  
Espionage Logistics Directorate,  
the world's premier spy agency  
— R.A.I.F.

THE PATHOGEN WAS ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED BY THE Z'NOX AS A FAILSAFE DEVICE TO DESTROY THE EARTH IF THEIR INITIAL INVASION FAILED. HYDRA MERELY MODIFIED IT.

WHAT NO ONE KNEW WAS THAT ONE OF THE Z'NOX HAD SURVIVED THE EXPLOSION OF THEIR SHIP AFTER THE X-MEN THWARTED THEIR ATTEMPTED INVASION OF EARTH.

WARD WAS CONTACTED BY THAT Z'NOX AND OFFERED THE ONLY THING THAT EVER APPEALED TO HIM... POWER! MILLIONS... BILLIONS OF LIVES MEANT NOTHING TO HIM... AS LONG AS HE WAS GIVEN THAT GIFT.

Way back in X-MEN #65,  
Vol. 1— Ralf-thussah.



THAT WORKED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE Z'NOX AS WELL.

BUT WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ARTHUR?

WARD BELIEVES ARTHUR'S GUNSHOT BROKE THE VIAL AND INFECTED HIM. BUT THE Z'NOX DID IT. IT WANTED A HOST FOR THE BIO-TOXIN.

EVERYTHING WARD HAS DONE LATELY... HIS CONTACTING DOCTOR OCTOPUS, THE WIZARD... IT WAS ALL IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A WAY TO GET THE PATHOGEN OUT OF HIS BODY AND INTO SOME OTHER CARRYING HOST. AND THE Z'NOX DIDN'T OBJECT AS LONG AS WARD REMAINED LOYAL.

I BELIEVE THE ARRIVAL OF THE SECOND Z'NOX -- AS PART OF WHATEVER CRAZINESS IS HAPPENING TODAY -- PROVIDED WARD WITH THE MEANS TO THAT END.



AND WHAT BETTER HOST COULD WARD IMAGINE THAN THE MAN HE HAS BLAMED FOR HIS PRECIPITANT ALL ALONG... ARTHUR STACY.

PLUS... I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING MORE... SOMETHING PERSONAL BETWEEN THEM. ARTHUR NEVER TOLD ME.



IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM.

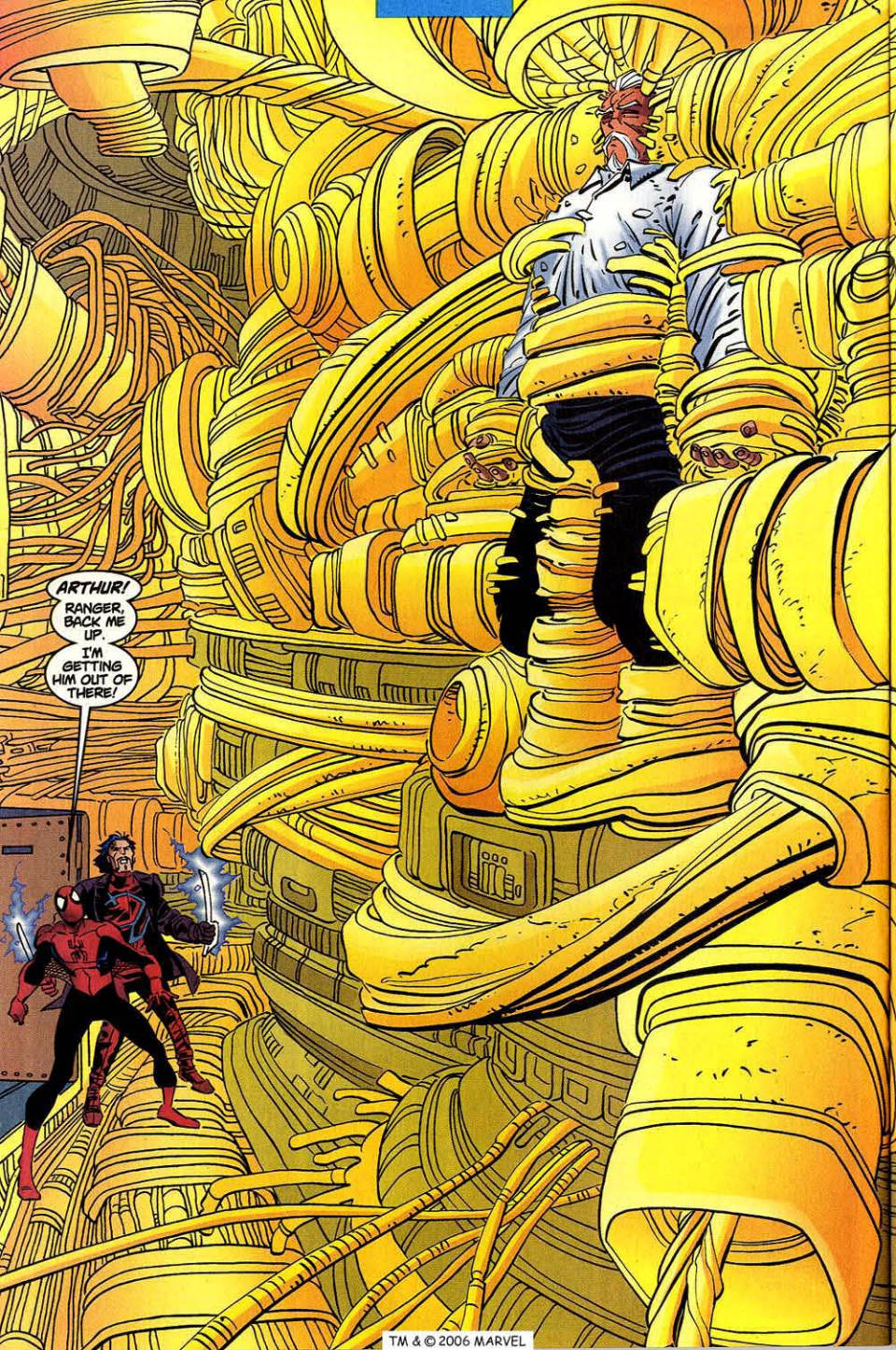
YOU HAVE AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS, SPIDER-MAN.

THANKS. I WORK AT IT.



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HERE. READY... SET... GO --!






ARTHUR!  
RANGER,  
BACK ME  
UP.

I'M  
GETTING  
HIM OUT OF  
THERE!





NO, SPIDER-MAN...  
FREEDING ME IS THE  
LEAST IMPORTANT  
THING RIGHT  
NOW.

YOU'VE GOT  
TO FIND WARD AND  
GET THE ANTIDOTE...  
OR WE ARE ALL  
GOING TO DIE,  
ANYWAY.

YEAH... RIGHT, ARTHUR. I  
WILL... AFTER I GET YOU  
LOOSE FROM THIS  
STUFF.


OOLPH! THIS  
STUFF IS LIKE STEEL!  
RANGER, I'M GOING  
TO NEED A HAND  
UP HERE!

ARTHUR IS  
SPEAKING THE  
TRUTH, SPIDER-MAN.  
WE ARE ALL GOING  
TO DIE.



FREE HIM... DON'T FREE  
HIM... HIS FATE REMAINS  
THE SAME.


EXCELLENT. NICE TO  
SEE THAT WE ARE ALL  
REASONABLE MEN...  
SO TO SPEAK.



YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO GET  
AWAY WITH THIS,  
WARD.


BUT  
I ALREADY  
HAVE.

MY ZNOX ALLIES  
HAVE PROVIDED THE  
NECESSARY KEY TO UNLEASH THE  
PATHOGEN WHICH HAS BEEN TRAPPED  
IN MY BODY FOR SO LONG.



AND SALVATION CAME WHEN AN  
ALIEN COMMISSION IMPRISONED  
TWO ZNOX SCIENTISTS ON  
THIS PLANET ALONG WITH A  
HORDE OF OTHER ALIEN  
CRIMINALS.

NOT MUCH OF A  
POLITICIAN, ARE YOU, WARD? NOT  
VERY PERSUASIVE IF YOU COULDN'T  
EVEN ENLIST THE AID OF CRIMINALS  
AND MADMEN IN THIS SCHEME  
OF YOURS!



AND I DOUBT SINCERELY  
WHETHER THESE CREATURES  
WITH YOU ARE ACTUALLY  
ALIENS. MORE THAN LIKELY  
THEY'RE MUTATED HUMANS  
BRED BY HYDRA.



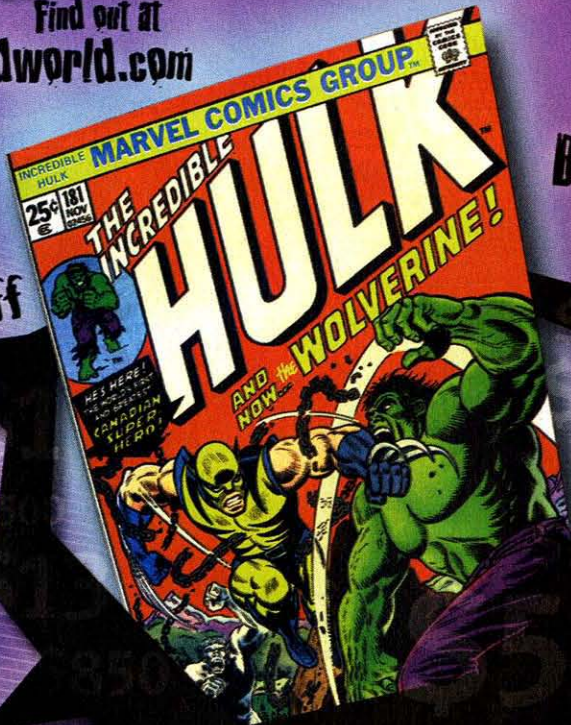




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IT'S  
ALMOST  
OVER NOW,  
ARTHUR.

THIS MACHINE  
YOU ARE CONNECTED  
TO IS FILLED WITH A  
PURE FORM OF THE  
PATHOGEN.

MY ALIEN  
COMRADES HAVE  
INFORMED ME THAT  
ONCE I PUMP YOUR  
BODY FULL OF IT, THE  
PATHOGEN IN MY BODY  
WILL BE DRAWN TO IT  
LIKE A MOTH TO A FLAME.



PERHAPS,  
NOW THAT THE  
RANGER AND  
SPIDER-MAN ARE  
HERE, I WILL AVAIL  
MYSELF OF THEM  
AS WELL.

ALL THREE  
OF YOU WILL  
THEN BECOME  
WALKING  
PATHOGENIC  
BOMBS.

THE Z'NOX  
WILL DEPOSIT YOU  
ALL IN THE MIST  
OF TOMORROW'S  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL  
MEETING AND...

... THEN  
THE REAL FUN  
BEGINS.



YOU TRULY  
ARE PATHETIC,  
WARD.

ALL THOSE YEARS  
ON THE RUN, HIDING  
YOUR SECRET,  
PLANNING AND  
PLOTING...



...AND IT COMES DOWN  
TO SOMEONE ELSE  
ARRIVING AND GIVING YOU  
THE ANSWER... SOMEONE  
ELSE HAS TO GIVE YOU  
THE POWER! THAT'S THE  
WAY IT'S ALWAYS  
BEEN.

IT ONLY  
MATTERS THAT  
I HAVE IT,  
ARTHUR.

JUST LIKE  
YOU, WARD. YOU  
COULD NEVER DO  
ANYTHING ON YOUR  
OWN. I ALWAYS COVERED  
FOR YOU ON EVERY  
MISSION. ON THE  
FIELD AND  
OFF!

EVEN  
JEAN KNEW  
IT.



IT'S WHY  
YOU COULD  
NEVER WIN HER  
OVER NO MATTER  
HOW HARD YOU  
TRIED.





WAIT A  
MINUTE! THAT'S  
WHAT THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT... ISN'T  
IT?

YOU'RE  
STILL MAD THAT  
JEAN MARRIED ME  
AND NOT YOU!  
HA HA HA!

YOU ARE  
EVEN MORE  
PATHETIC  
THAN I  
THOUGHT!



THAT'S IT,  
ARTHUR, KEEP  
HIM TALKING.

DISTRACT  
HIM.  
MAKE HIM  
MAD!



SHE  
SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
MINE!













THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
ARTHUR!

I DO  
HAVE THE  
CURE!

AND  
WITHOUT IT  
THIS ENTIRE  
PLANET CAN  
ROT!

BUT FIRST I  
WILL HAVE THE  
SATISFACTION  
OF...

...KILLING  
YOU!

WE HAVE TO  
GET TO THAT  
VIAL.

ALL OF  
THE PATHOGEN IS  
CONTAINED IN HIS BODY.  
IF THE ANTIDOTE WORKS...  
AND WE CAN INJECT IT  
DIRECTLY INTO WARD'S  
BLOODSTREAM...

**FWAM**

OKAY,  
ARTHUR, BIG  
UGLY MONSTER  
GUYS AND SAVING  
THE WORLD ARE MY  
BAILINICK.

DID I FIT  
BAILINICK INTO A  
CONVERSATION?

COOL!





OOH  
BOY!



THIS IS  
NOT GOING TO  
BE PRETTY!

GOT IT,  
BUT...



I  
COULD USE  
A HAND  
HERE!

I'M HERE,  
SPIDER-MAN!  
BUT YOU'RE  
ONLY GOING  
TO GET ONE  
CHANCE!

WHAT ARTHUR  
HAS IN MIND SHOULD  
WORK, BUT ONLY IF YOU  
CAN GET IT DIRECTLY INTO  
A MAJOR ARTERY.

IT SHOULD  
TURN WARD INTO A  
SUPER-CHARGED  
ANTIBODY MANUFACTURING  
MECHANISM  
AND --



YEAH, YEAH...  
AND SAVE THE  
WORLD.

NOW BE QUIET!  
I'M TRYING TO  
CONCENTRATE.  
TELLING ME  
TO LOCATE A  
MAJOR ARTERY  
IS EASY...

...FINDING ONE  
ON THE OTHER  
HAND...



THERE!

SPLOOSH

YUCK!





NO!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME? I WILL KILL YOU ALL! TAKE YOU ALL OUT WITH ME!



GET ARTHUR OUT OF HERE... NOW!

I TOLD WARD YEARS AGO THAT IF HE BETRAYED US -- ONE DAY I WOULD KILL HIM!



BUT...

COME. IT'S TOO LATE TO SAVE EITHER OF THEM!

THE RANGER HAS LIVED THE BETTER PART OF HIS LIFE TRACKING WARD DOWN.

THERE IS NO WAY HE WOULD LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING THIS THROUGH TO THE END. THAT'S THE KIND OF MAN HE IS.



NOW RUN, SON, BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO...





"THE MIST! THE **ANTIDOTE** CONTAINED IN WARD'S BODY!"



"IT'S SEEPING UP THROUGH THE GROUND, SPIDER-MAN... WAFING THROUGH THE AIR."



THEN I GUESS WE'RE --

**YES!** WE'RE SAVED. THAT MIST WILL SPREAD -- PENETRATE EVERY CORNER OF THE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREA... **CURING** EVERYONE IT TOUCHES OF THE BIO-TOXIN INFECTION.

AND AFTER THIS ORDEAL, THAT'S ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE ONCE-SENATOR... A SLOWLY DRIFTING FOG.



"WEB-SPINNER, THE WORLD WAS JUST SPARED A CATASTROPHE. IT WAS BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF. AND ALL BECAUSE OF THE INSANE AMBITIONS OF ONE MAN..."



"...A MAN I ONCE WORKED WITH -- WHO I TRUSTED TO WATCH MY BACK -- BUT WHO SECRETLY SOUGHT THE GREATEST POWER IMAGINABLE."



"AND FOR A FEW SECONDS, STEWART WARD HELD THE FATE OF HUMANITY IN HIS CORRUPT HANDS. MY WORST NIGHTMARE WAS REALIZED. IMAGINE."



AND THE MOST IRONIC THING... THIS MAN WHOSE LIFE BECAME MY OBSESSION -- WHOSE LIFE I SOUGHT TO TAKE...

...YOU KNOW, I NEVER EVEN KNEW HIS REAL NAME.





Dear Spider's Web,

I've been an avid Marvel Maniac since 1985 when I picked up my first copy of GI JOE. Then, late last year, I moved. And, as life tends to do, it became quite busy and I stopped reading comics for the first time in 14 years. With a new job, a wife, and two kids to keep me occupied, I didn't miss it at first. Then, a couple of days ago at a local mall, I picked up a copy of a Spider book and flipped through it. Three little words jumped right out at me and my jaw dropped: "MJ is dead."

What? Hang on here. I love good ol' Spidey like a brother, boasting a collection of nearly every book he has appeared in except for some early issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN that cost more than my car. The poor guy has lost parents, his uncle, his aunt (briefly), a daughter, and now a wife?

I quickly made my way to the nearest comic store and bought the last few months of Spidey issues as well as some other favorites. It sure feels good to be back.

Once again, I am hooked. The old Marvel Magic never truly dies, it only fades for a brief while. I eagerly anticipate the Spider-Slayer battle and reacquainting myself with Peter and his supporting cast. Will Peter hook up with Jill Stacy? That would certainly bring things full circle and give closure to his original relationship with Gwen Stacy. But can MJ really be dead? Will we never hear that call of "Tiger" again? Or will we discover that MJ and little May are even now being held captive on an uncharted island by the maniacal Green Goblin. Spidey's most dangerous arch-foe? Ah, the anticipation is killing me.

One final note. I sure miss having four monthly Spidey books to sate my appetite. Any chance of some more web-slinging action?

Well, again I thank you for providing the greatest entertainment to be found in this or any other universe. Until Thor decides to take up carpentry with his enchanted hammer, Make Mine Marvel!

Thomas W. White  
Oak Forest, IL  
DocWho44@aol.com

Thanks for the letter, Thomas, and welcome back! We're glad that, after your brief bout with respectability, you've decided to come back and join your disreputable friends here at ol' Marvel. We all feel tremendously validated.

Seriously, though, we always enjoy receiving letters like yours, ones which remind us why we liked comics in the first place, and why we wanted to work in this wild and unpredictable industry. We're happy to have provided you with such enjoyment, and we couldn't be happier that our soap operatic saga has you on the edge of your seat. Make Ours Thomas W. White!

Hey guys,

I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed the 100-page Monster, aka AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20. The return of Alistair Smythe is deadly enough, but you know he's gonna have his latest batch of Spider-Slayers in tow, as well. This was a novel twist, though, sending all of the previous Slayers against our intrepid hero at once. This story sets up events for #21 nicely. What in the world does Smythe have planned for Peter next issue? Oy, the mind races with possibilities!

It was interesting the way Howard Mackie had Peter so focused on his own problems that he didn't realize Jonah was going through struggles of his own. However, Jonah's as tight-lipped about his feelings as he is tight-pocketed with his wallet, so how was Peter to know that, courtesy of Alistair, Maria and John were in danger? I've always found it amazing (no pun intended) how Spidey's writers can

make JJJ surlier and grumpier than normal when he is crawl-on-your-knees-and-beg-for-Mama frightened. Not only that, he is one of the biggest misquoting in the history of comics. Once again, Jonah is shown here as being "just a weak and ordinary man" (as the Jolly one himself stated in ASM #152, showed in this mammoth offering). This is what makes J. Jonah Jameson one of the most fascinating, most perplexing characters in the entire Marvel Universe.

Thanks for the "bonus stories." Steve Ditko and John Romita Sr. are without a doubt two of the monumental figures in the history of Spider-Man, but the underrated Keith Pollard knew his way around the web-slinger, too. I never thought Pollard got the credit he deserved for his work on ASM (or his work on FANTASTIC FOUR, for that matter).

ASM is starting to remind me of why I liked Spidey in the first place—wit, action, drama, and more problems than ol' Pete can shake a stick at. Wait a minute, what's this? Both Glory Grant and Jill Stacy have...ahem...feelings for our hero? (Look at Jill's painted expression when Peter leaves on page 6. Also, Glory seems to be angling for Peter to ask her out on page 10.) I think Glory's had a thing for Peter ever since they went to that carnival that was a front for Moonraker's operation in MARVEL TEAM-UP #91. Jill could present a whole new batch of problems, what with her being related to Gwen and all. It's great to see Peter's life topsy-turvy again. (Not that I want to stay that way, but it's fun nonetheless.)

Thanks for the great job, folks. Before too long, Spider-Man will be back where he belongs—right up there with AVENGERS (by the way, I loved their 100-page blowout issue too!) and the X-books. Until Doc Ock rents himself out as a coat rack, Make Mine Marvel!

Jon White  
Fessenden, ND

Okay, first off, we promise that next month, we will print no letters from anyone with the surname "White."

We can't honestly say if Glory has been harboring a crush on Peter for quite that long, Jon, but she certainly seems to be holding a candle for Pete now, doesn't she? Where could this be going, hmm?

## NEXT ISSUE:

YOU ASKED FOR IT:  
THE GREEN GOBLIN  
FLIES AGAIN, AND  
HE'S NEVER BEEN  
MORE MANIACAL!  
CAN PETER HOPE TO  
STAND UP TO THIS  
MADMAN WHEN HE'S  
BEEN EXPERIENCING  
MENTAL BLACKOUTS?  
WILL YOU BE ABLE  
TO ANTICIPATE THE  
LAST-PAGE SHOCK-  
ER? HOWARD MACKIE,  
JOHN ROMITA JR.  
AND SCOTT HANNA  
WILL BLOW YOUR  
MIND NEXT MONTH IN  
THE DOUBLE-SIZED  
#25. RALF WILL BE  
LUCKY IF HE CAN  
BLOW HIS NOSE.

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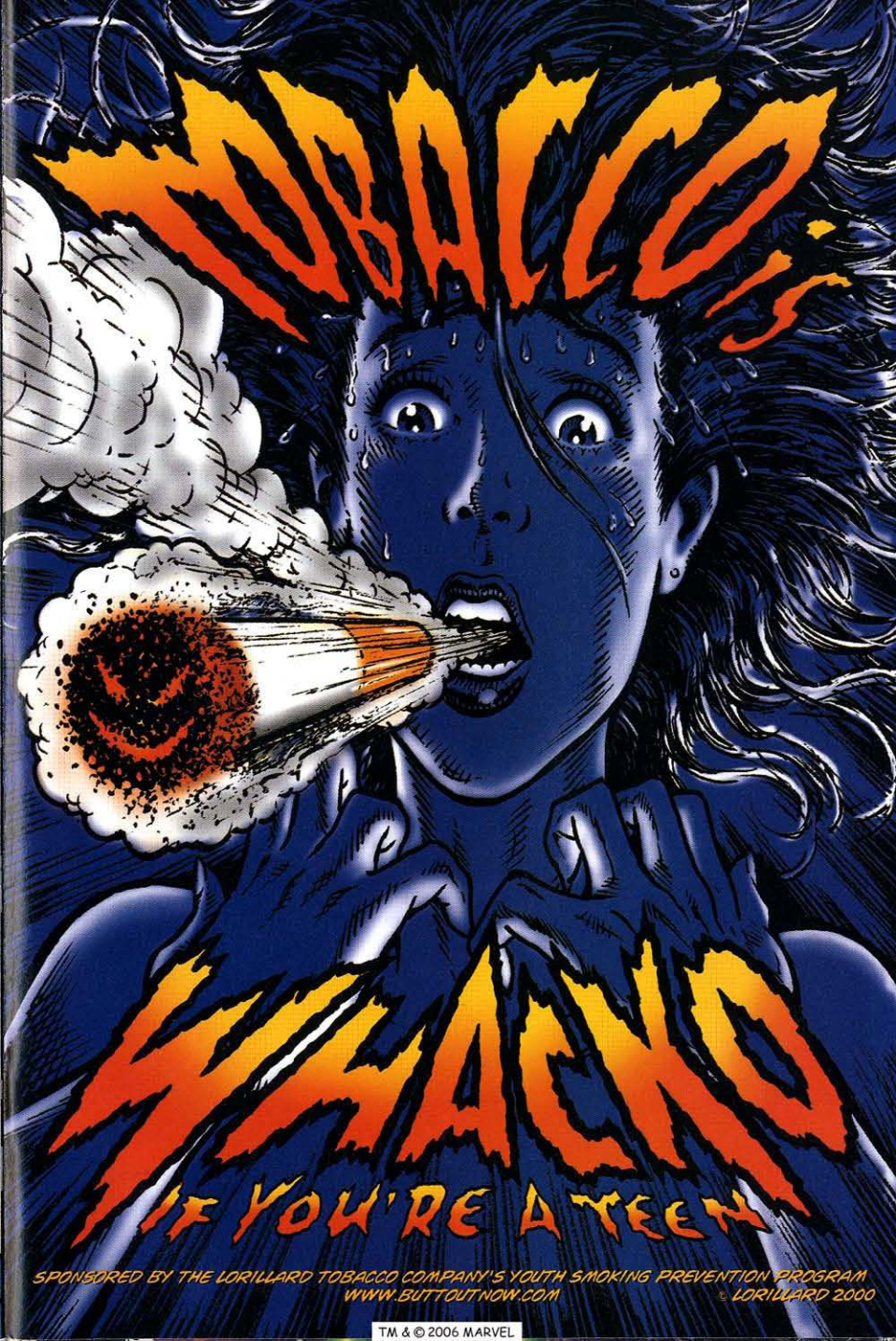
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