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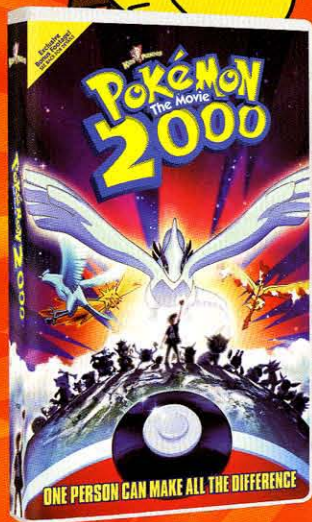
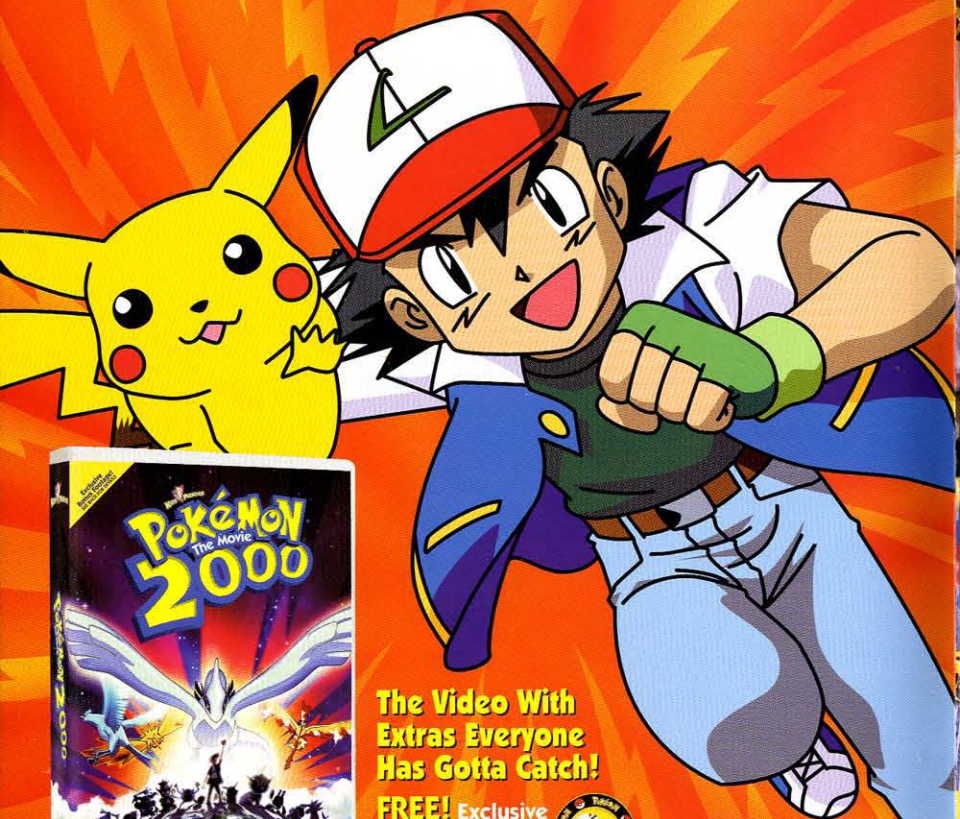
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AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT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

I can still hear
his voice.

Echoing in
my mind.

As if it were
yesterday.

As if I were
still a child.

NORMAN!

**COME
HERE!**

**BE A
MAN!**

**BE AN
OSBORN!**

**Darkness
Clinging**

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN ROMITA JR.
SCOTT HANNA
STORY AND ART
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS
RICHARD S. & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI LETTERS
LARA CASTLE ASS'T EDITOR RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF

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But it was long ago and I was a child. And I was very afraid.

COME ON, BOY - DON'T DELAY. A LITTLE DARKNESS NEVER HURT ANYBODY.

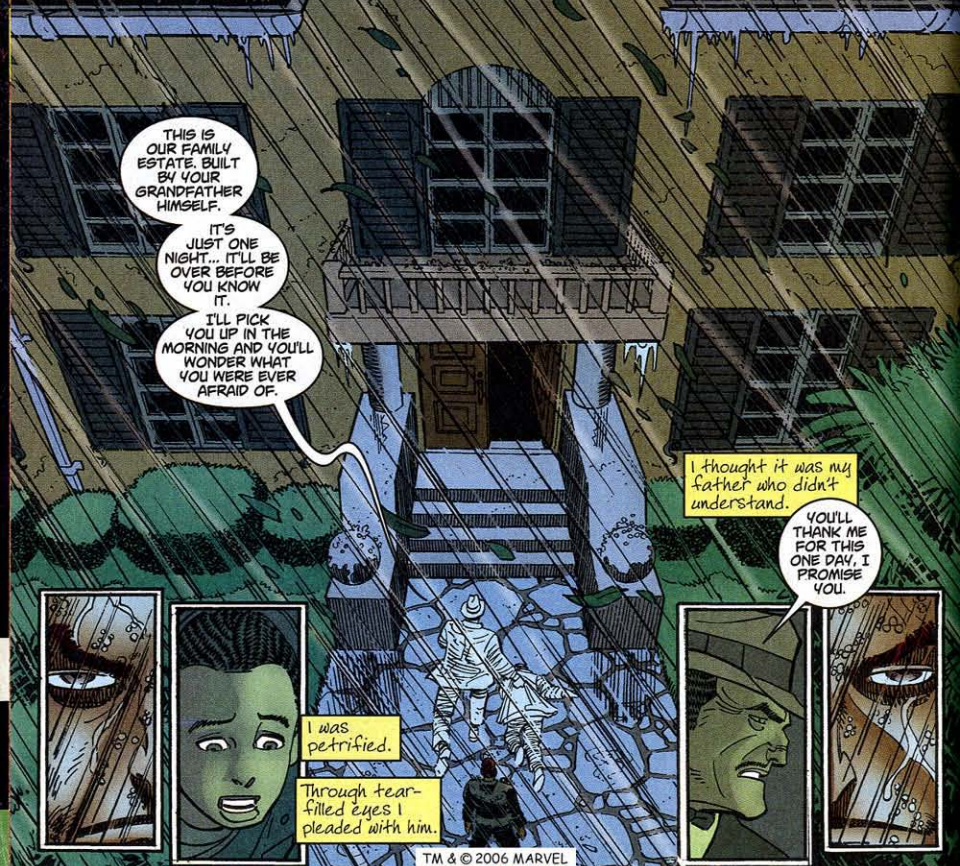


Afraid of the dark. Afraid of the house.

But more afraid of my father.

YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN, SON.

I PROMISE YOU, THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.



THIS IS OUR FAMILY ESTATE. BUILT BY YOUR GRANDFATHER HIMSELF.

IT'S JUST ONE NIGHT. IT'S OVER BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.

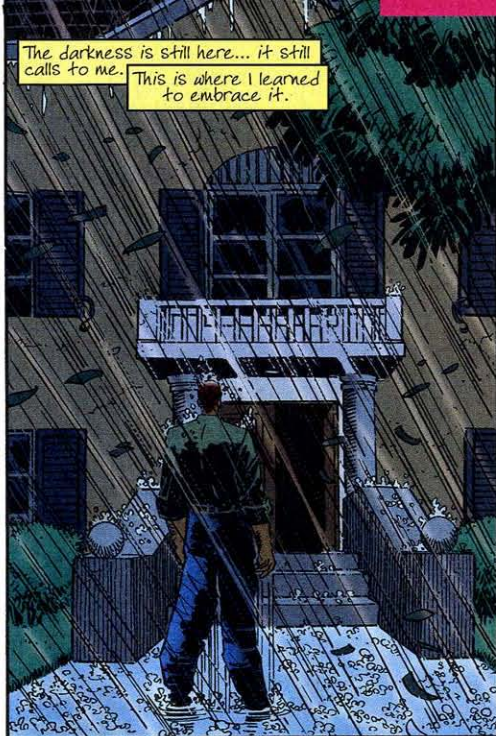
I'LL PICK YOU UP IN THE MORNING AND YOU'LL WONDER WHAT YOU WERE EVER AFRAID OF.

I thought it was my father who didn't understand.

YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS ONE DAY, I PROMISE YOU.

I was petrified.

Through tear-filled eyes I pleaded with him.



The darkness is still here... it still calls to me.

This is where I learned to embrace it.



I made friends with the shadows within our familial home...

...and within my soul.

I entered a fearful, sniveling little brat. But when I emerged... how I saw things differently then.



My father was right. I should have thanked him when I had the chance.

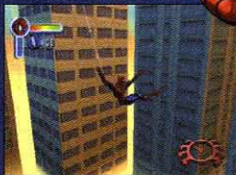






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GREENWICH VILLAGE

THIS WAS NICE, RANDY. YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO SHOW ME A PART OF THE MANHATTAN LIFESTYLE I'VE NEVER SEEN.



OKAY... I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT, BUT... ONLY "NICE?"

I WAS KIND OF HOPING FOR SOMETHING MORE.

ONE STEP AT A TIME... OKAY?

OKAY.

SO... HOW'S PETER DOING? THE ROOMMATE THING WORKING OUT WITH YOU GUYS AFTER ALL THIS TIME?



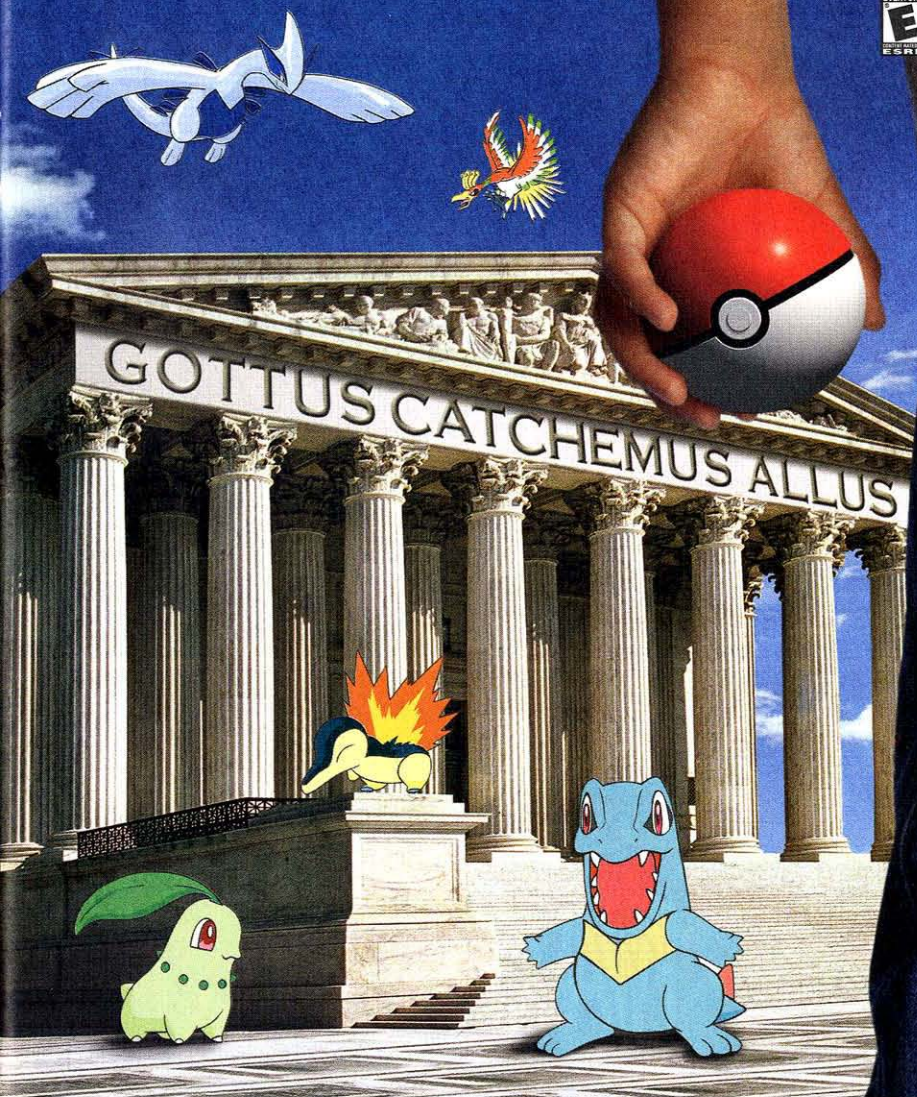
YOU KNOW WHAT? HEY, I GOT AN IDEA. HOW ABOUT TONIGHT, JUST FOR A CHANGE, WE FORGET ABOUT PETE AND TALK ABOUT US?

OKAY. SORRY.



GLORY! WE... ER... WE'VE GOT TO... I... A...





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Game and System sold separately except where bundled.



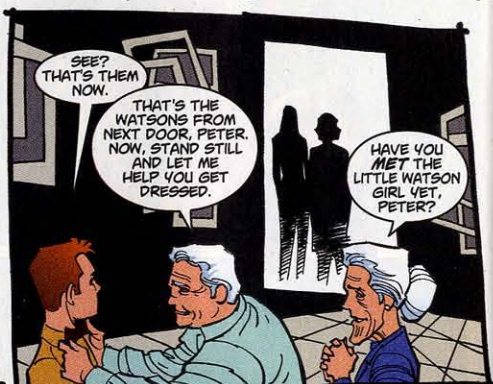
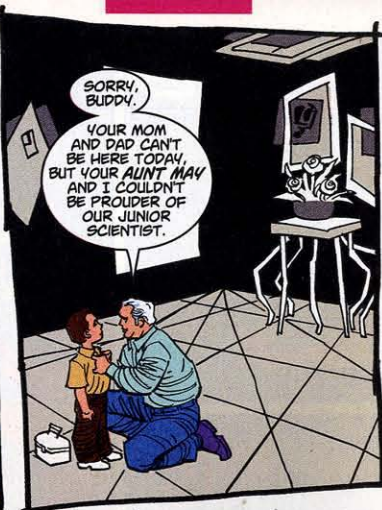
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to run, dance and fish.**



**No, you can't tell Pikachu
to do your homework.**



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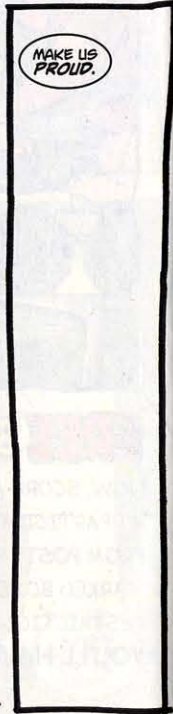
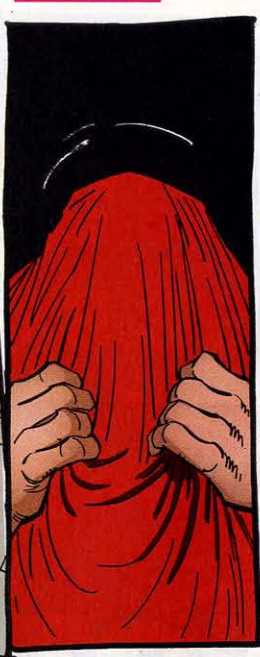


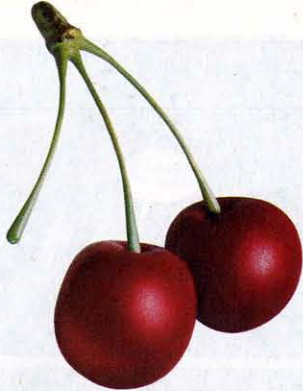
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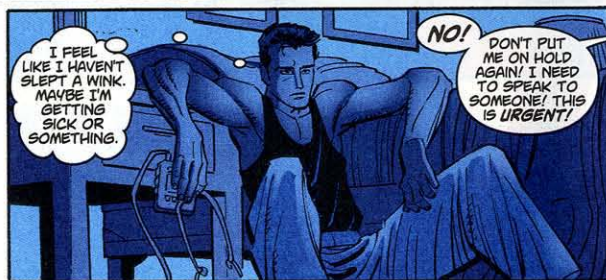
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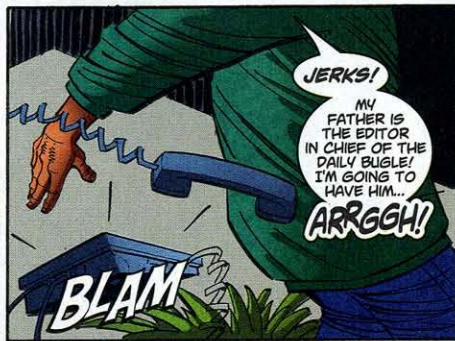




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1 HERO



1 MISSION



Disney**1**.com

...SPIDER-MAN!

IT WOULD BE
JUST LIKE NORMAN
TO STRIKE AT ME
THROUGH MY FRIENDS.

HE'S ONE OF
THE FEW MEN ALIVE
WHO KNOWS MY SECRET
IDENTITY.

I THOUGHT AFTER
THAT PSEUDO-MYSTICAL
GATHERING OF FIVE
CEREMONY HE PERFORMED,
HE WENT EVEN FURTHER
OFF THE DEEP END THAN
HE'S EVER BEEN.

THOUGHT
HE WAS GONE
FOR GOOD.

NOT THAT
NORMAN EVER
STAYS DOWN
FOR LONG.*

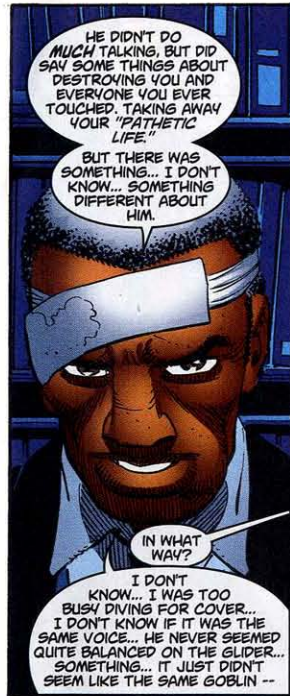
HOW COULD
I HAVE BEEN SO
BLIND? TO NOT
SEE THE SIGNS OF
HIS RETURN?

HAVE I REALLY
BEEN SO BURIED IN
MY OWN LIFE SINCE
MARY JANE... SINCE
SHE DIED... THAT I
COULDN'T SEE ALL THE
DAMAGE THE GOBLIN
HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN
CAUSING AROUND
THE CITY?

To find out how Norman came
back THIS time check out: **THE
REVENGE OF THE GREEN
GOBLIN** limited series. On sale
now -- Repetitious Ralf.











SEVERAL HOURS
LATER...



JUST
LIKE IT WAS
WHEN I WAS
A KID.

ALWAYS
WATCHING.

WAITING FOR
MY DAD TO COME
HOME.

POOR LITTLE
GUY'S COMPLETELY
CONVINCED... I
GUESS I KNOW HOW
HE FEELS.

"I'VE GOT TO
HEAD OUT TO
QUEENS."

"I NEED TO
SEE AUNT MAY
TONIGHT."



JUST
BEING HERE
MAKES ME FEEL
BETTER.



THE YARD... THIS
TREE... THIS
HOUSE!



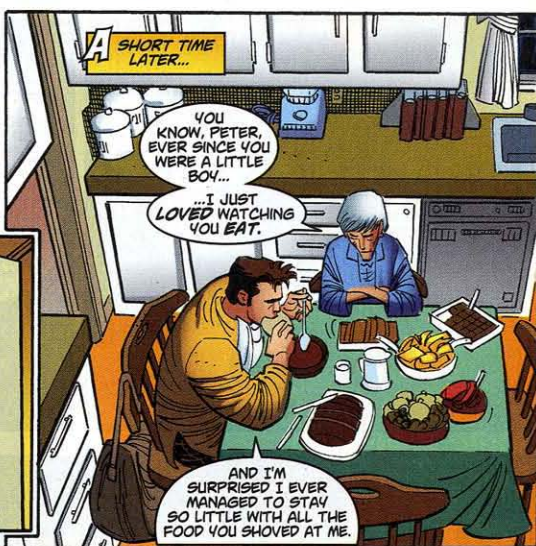
IT'S
HOME.

ALWAYS
SO BRIGHT...
SO WARM AND
INVITING.
I LOVE
WALKING
THROUGH THIS
DOOR.



DING
DONG







WHAT YOU NEED IS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP... A HOT BATH IN THE MORNING AND A BIG BREAKFAST.



OH YEAH... WHAT I NEED IS MORE FOOD!

OH, AUNT MAY, I KEEP FORGETTING TO COPY THIS CD OF UNCLE BEN AND HIS BARBERSHOP QUARTET ONTO TAPE FOR YOU!

SORRY... BUT I'VE REALLY BEEN ENJOYING LISTENING TO IT. I MUST PLAY IT FIVE OR SIX TIMES A DAY.



THAT'S OKAY, DEAR. DO IT WHEN YOU HAVE THE TIME.

I ALWAYS HAVE THE MEMORIES OF BEN SINGING RIGHT TO ME.

AS NICE AS IT WAS OF CHARLIE ABBOTT'S GRANDSON TO SEND IT TO ME... I PREFER THE WAY I HEAR BEN'S VOICE IN MY HEAD.

I'LL...
->YAWN->
DO IT SOON...
PROMISE.



THAT WOULD BE NICE, DEAR.



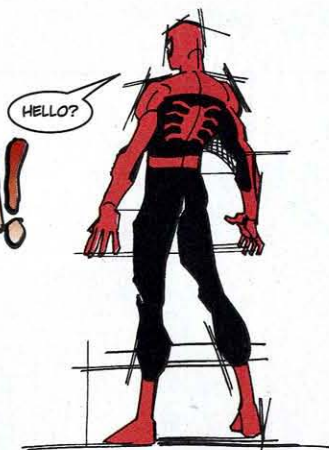
NITE, AUNT MAY.



YOU KNOW, PETER... YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A GOOD BOY...

ZZZZZZ

HAHAHEE HEE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!



HAHAHEE HEE!
HAHAHAHAHAHA!

BE
STRONG,
SON.

MAKE US
PROUD.







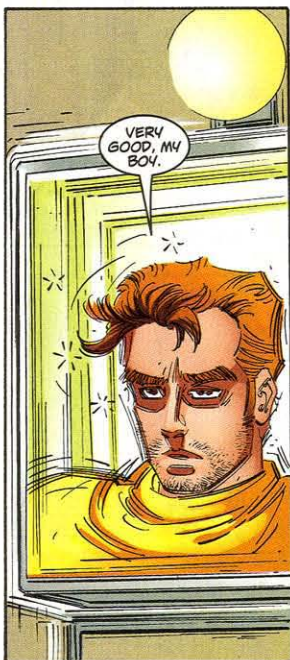












THERE IS
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID
OF.

YOU'RE
GOING TO
MAKE ME
PROUD.



TIME TO
WAKE UP,
SON.

I'VE GOT
YOU. THERE'S
REALLY
NOTHING TO
BE AFRAID
OF... I KNOW...
I'VE BEEN
THERE.

OF COURSE, I
WAS YOUNGER
THAN *YOU* WERE WHEN
I ENTERED THE HOUSE
AND HEARD THE CALL
OF THE DARKNESS,
BUT...

...THERE'S
NOTHING TO BE
DONE ABOUT IT NOW.
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK
HARDER WITH *YOU*
BECAUSE *YOU'RE*
OLDER.

YOU'RE
INSANE,
NORMAN.

YOU
MAY WELL BE
RIGHT.

BUT LET'S
NOT GET OFF ON THE
WRONG FOOT. WE'RE
HERE TO HELP *YOU*
FIND YOUR WAY.

THE
DARKNESS
WILL SAVE *YOU*,
MY BOY. I
PROMISE *YOU*
THAT.

IT DID ME...
TWICE!

THE FIRST
TIME, WHEN I
WAS A CHILD... IT
KEPT ME SAFE
AND TOOK AWAY
MY FEARS.

THE SECOND
TIME WAS WHEN
I GOT IMPALED ON
MY GOBLIN GLIDER...
YOU REMEMBER
THAT, DON'T
YOU?

YOU
MIGHT CALL
IT A NEAR DEATH
EXPERIENCE. I WAS
HEADING DOWN THAT
TUNNEL... TOWARD
THE LIGHT,
WHEN...

...THE
DARKNESS
CALLED ME BACK.
TOOK A LEFT TURN
AND IT SAVED
MY LIFE.

AND IT
WILL DO THE
SAME FOR *YOU*,
MY BOY.

YOU'LL
SEE.

Back in *Amazing Spider-Man*
Vol.1 #122 -- Recallin' Ralf.



THEY'RE NEVER COMING BACK, ARE THEY?

NO, SON. THEY'RE NOT.

I WISH I'D BEEN ABLE TO KNOW MY DAD.

I UNDERSTAND, PETER, BUT YOU KNOW I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED YOU LIKE A SON TO ME. DON'T YOU.



I KNOW, UNCLE BEN, BUT I'M GOING TO LOSE YOU, TOO... SOON. AND THEN WHO WILL I HAVE? WHO'S GOING TO TEACH ME STUFF?

PETER?

COME TO ME, SON!

DADDY?

IS THAT YOU?

HAVE YOU COME BACK?

YOU'RE GOING TO DO FINE, SON.

GO AHEAD, PETER.

DO THE RIGHT THING.

MAKE US PROUD.



COME TO ME, SON!

THE RESIDENCE OF
LIZ OSBORN...





SORRY TO DISRUPT YOUR DREAMS, M' BOY, BUT IT IS TIME TO GET TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

I'M NOT PLAYING ANY MORE OF YOUR GAMES, NORMAN.

NO MORE GAMES.

YOU CAN LEAVE ANY TIME YOU LIKE.

THE DARKNESS DOESN'T APPEAL TO YOU...

...THEN GO FIND THE SAFETY OF THE LIGHT.

GO.

I WILL NOT TRY TO STOP YOU.

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT...

...THERE IS SOMETHING ENTICING ABOUT THE DARKNESS.



IT'S NOT NEARLY AS COLD AS PEOPLE MAKE IT OUT TO BE.

RATHER... COMFORTING.



IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WE ALL BEGIN AND END IN DARKNESS.

PAIN ONLY COMES FROM THE LIGHT OF DAY.

LIFE, AND ALL ITS HORRORS, ARE REVEALED IN THE LIGHT.



TAKE
SUNLIGHT AS AN
EXAMPLE.

YOU HAVE
TO SQUINT YOUR
EYES, PUT ON SUN
BLOCK, SWEAT,
AND THEN
WHAT...

...SEEK OUT
THE SHADE. THE
MEREST HINT OF
THE DARKNESS.

SHUT UP,
NORMAN.
I'M
LEAVING.

NO ONE IS
STOPPING
YOU, M'
BOY.

DADDY,
IS THAT
YOU?

WHERE ARE
YOU, DADDY? I'M
SCARED. HAVE YOU
COME BACK TO
HELP ME?

NORMIE?

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING, NORMAN?
WHAT KIND OF TWISTED
GAME ARE YOU PLAYING
WITH YOUR OWN
GRANDSON?

THE BOY
NEEDS A FATHER,
PETER. EVERY BOY
NEEDS A FATHER.
I'M JUST TRYING TO
GIVE HIM WHAT
HE NEEDS.

HELP
HIM IF YOU
WISH.

YOU COULD
NEVER --

IF NOT
ME...

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...THEN WHO?



DADDY!



THIS IS WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT, NORMAN?



HOW CAN ONE MAN BE SO SADISTIC?

BAD ENOUGH YOU HAVE TO ATTACK MY FRIENDS TO GET AT ME.



DADDY... PLEASE!

BUT NOW YOU'RE TERRORIZING YOUR OWN GRANDSON.



I DID NO SUCH THING, M' BOY.

ESPECIALLY NOT TO YOUR FRIENDS.



I SAW
WHAT YOU
DID.

TO THE
BUGLE. THE
STACYS, RANDY
AND GLORY.

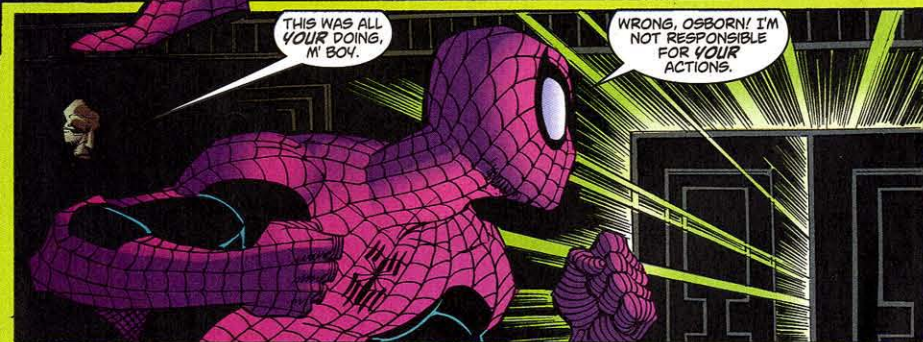
DID YOU?
DID YOU
REALLY?

HELP ME,
DADDY.

DADDY!



NOT
EVERYTHING
IS AS IT
APPEARS.




THIS WAS ALL
YOUR DOING,
M' BOY.

WRONG, OSBORN! I'M
NOT RESPONSIBLE
FOR YOUR
ACTIONS.




I
WOULDN'T
BE SO SURE
OF THAT IF
I WERE YOU,
PETER.



DON'T RUSH
TO JUDGMENT,
M' BOY. THE LIGHT
ONLY BRINGS
PAIN.

TRUST
ME.



TRUST
YOU? I'D
HAVE TO BE
AS CRAZY AS
YOU ARE.



I ONLY
WANT WHAT'S
BEST FOR YOU. IT'S
THE DARKNESS THAT
SOOTHES... THAT
COMFORTS...

...THAT GIVES
THE OSBORNS OUR
STRENGTH. HARRY COULDN'T
BEAR THE POWER OF THE
DARKNESS. IT PROVE HIM
MAD -- KILLED HIM. I
HAVE HIGHER HOPES
FOR YOU.



NEWSFLASH
NORMAN: I'M NOT
AN OSBORN.



FRZZAAT



MAYBE
YOU'RE A
LOT MORE
"OSBORN"
THAN YOU
THINK.

A SHORT TIME
LATER...



I
TRIED TO
WARN YOU,
MY BOY.



THE LIGHT
BRINGS AGONY.
ONLY THE DARKNESS
OFFERS ANY
COMFORT.



UNNN...
IS THERE...
SOME KIND OF
POINT TO ALL
OF THIS?

YOU
DO HAVE
ONE, DON'T
YOU?



YES.
YES, I
DO.







IT WASN'T ME IN THE COSTUME, PETER.

IT WASN'T ME WHO TERRORIZED YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES.

IT WAS ALL YOU, MY BOY!

YOU ALL ALONG!

COME NOW.

ENTER THE DARKNESS.

BE A MAN.

BE AN OSBORN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
PETER PARKER #25

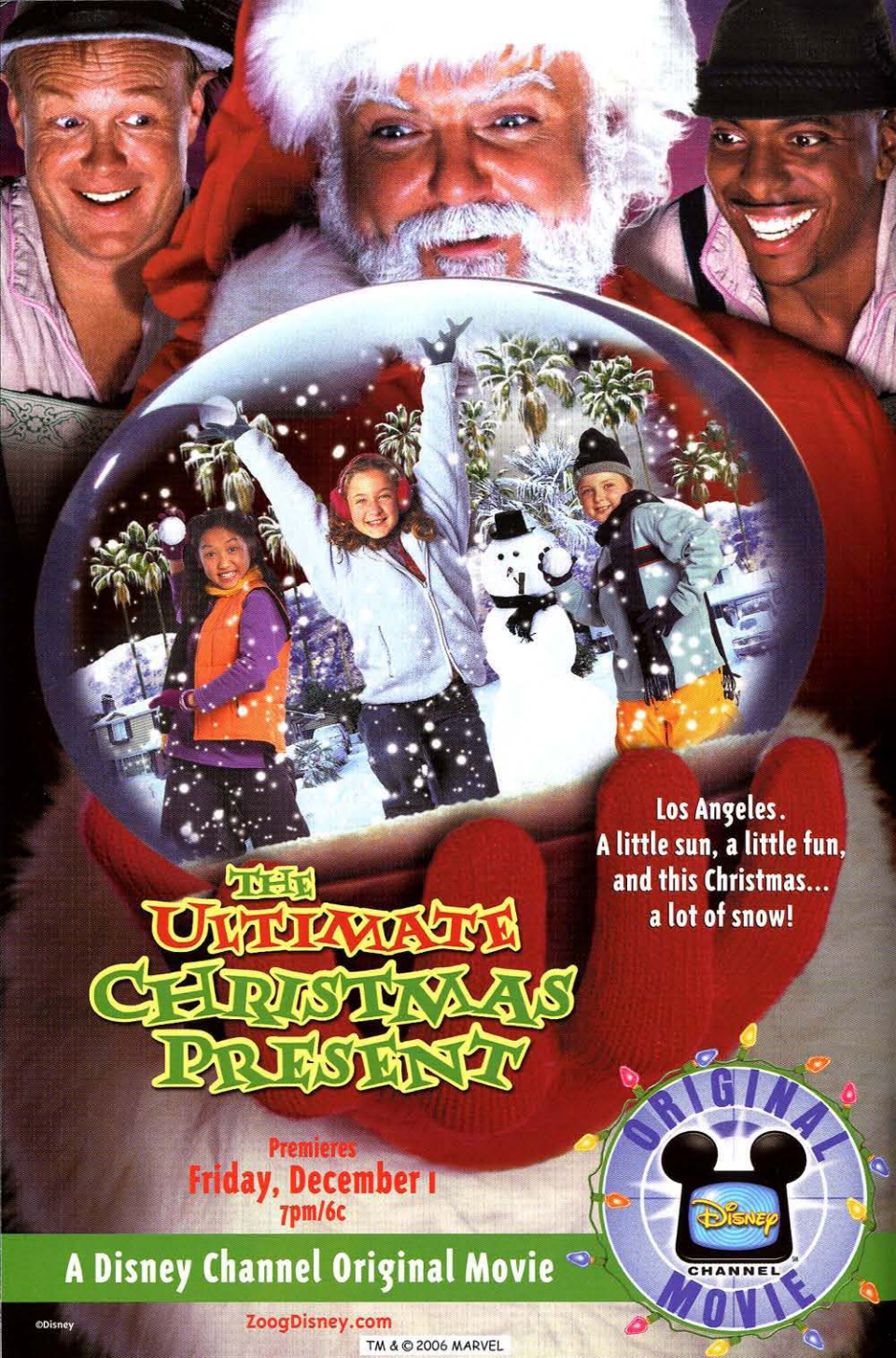


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