



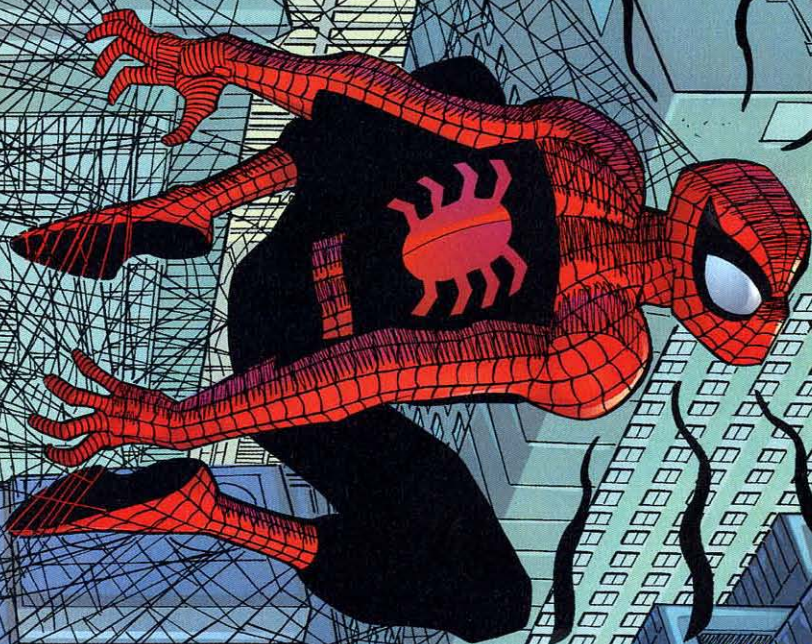
THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



#28

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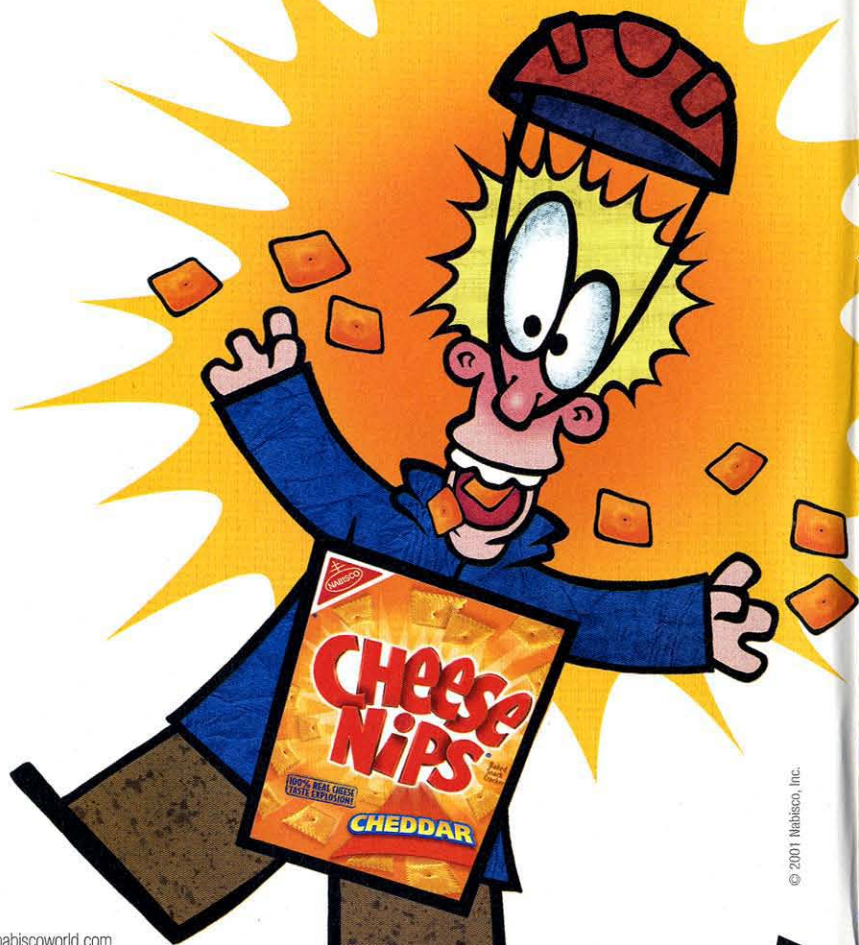


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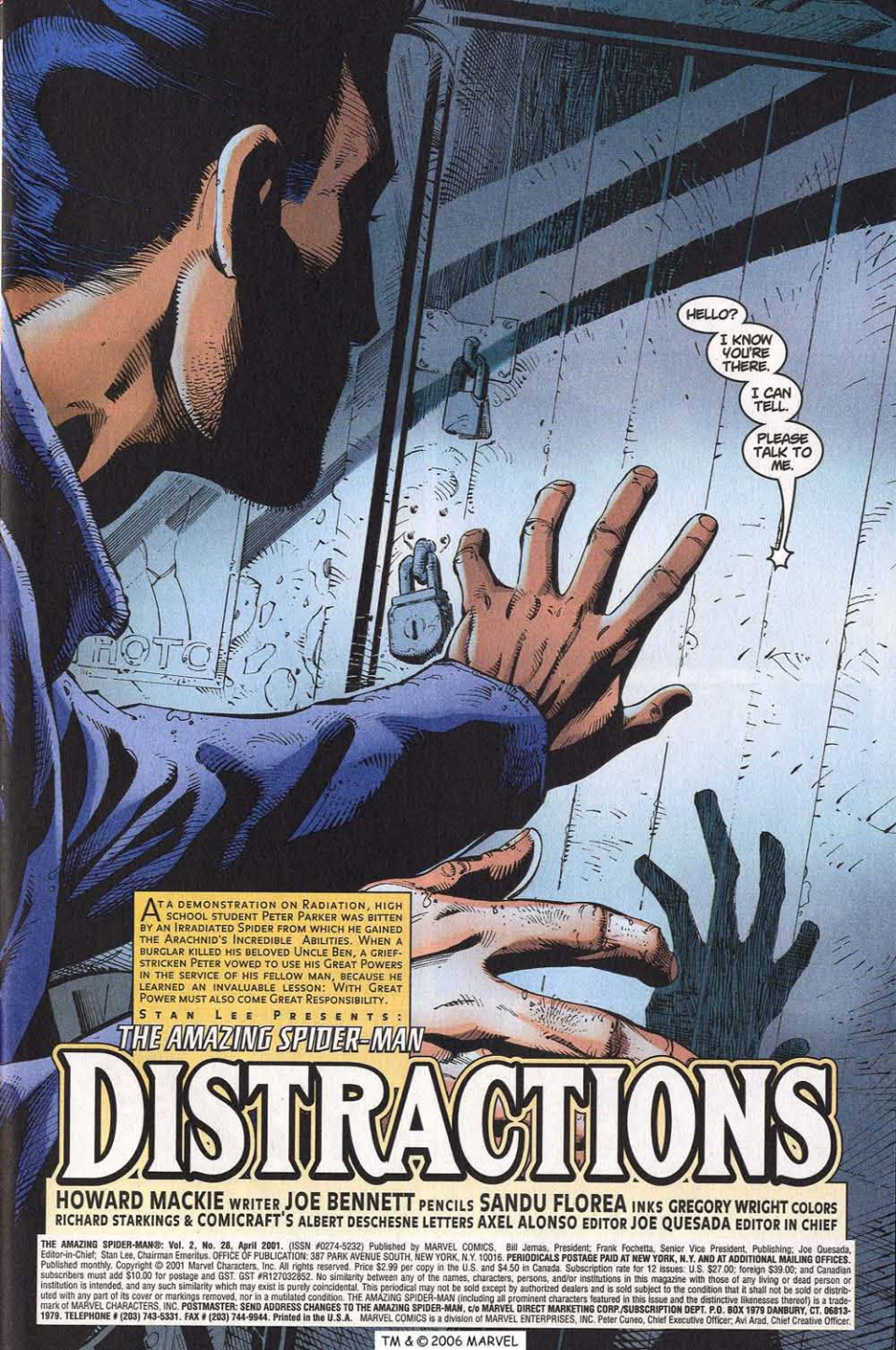
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THERE.

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TELL.

PLEASE
TALK TO
ME.

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

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WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?

I'M TIRED... I JUST WANT TO GO HOME... TO MY HUSBAND...



...TO MY LIFE.



ANSWER ME, WHY? PLEASE!



I THINK I'LL GO CRAZY IF YOU DON'T.



HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?

WHERE AM I?

OH, GOD, PLEASE... JUST TELL ME SOMETHING.



I JUST...
...WANT TO GO HOME.



PLEASE?

HELLO?



NO... DON'T GO.
PLEASE.





YOU INTO WICCA, P?

"WICCA"?

'CAUSE...
I... AM... A...
WITCH!



AND RIGHT NOW
I AM CASTING
A MAJOR
SPELL ON YOU,
FRENCHIE.

HEY --
YOU FEELING
OKAY? LOOKING A
LITTLE FLUSHED THERE.
I'M GONNA CRANK
UP THE BOX AND
GET US BOTH
A DRINK.

YOU KNOW...
I'D LIKE THAT,
BUT... ER... I
CAN'T... NOT
TODAY.



I GOT... ER... I GOT
AN APPOINTMENT...
THAT'S RIGHT!

I'VE
GOT AN
APPOINTMENT
THAT I'VE GOT TO
MAKE, BECAUSE...
IF I DIDN'T...

...THAT
WOULD BE
BAD.

BUT... ER...
MAYBE WE CAN
GET TOGETHER SOME
OTHER TIME. GO OUT...
GRAB SOME FOOD...
DO A MOVIE... OR...
ER... SOMETHING
IN PUBLIC!



-SNIFF-
SNIFF-

OOOH! I
LIKE THE WAY
YOU THINK,
PEPE!

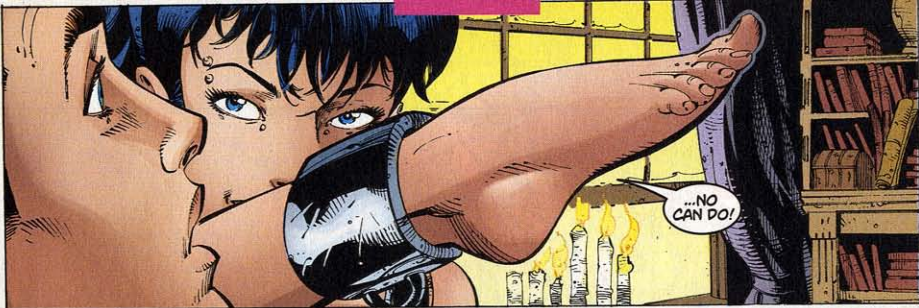
-SNIFF-

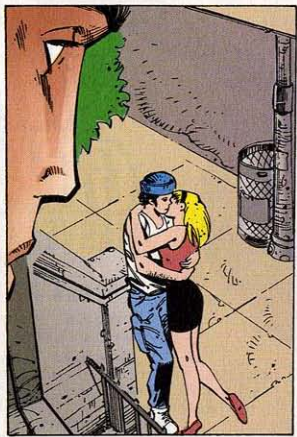
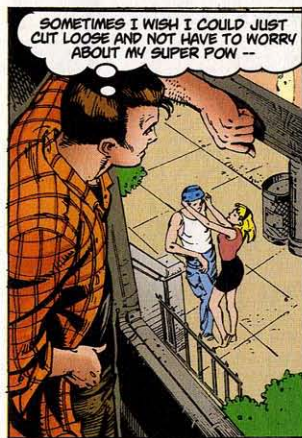


BUT
ABOUT THE
GOING OUT
THING...



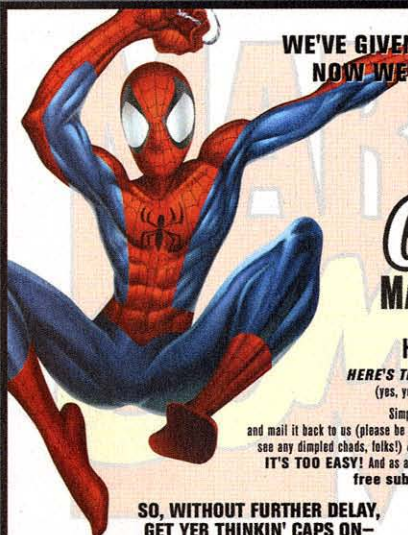
GRAB IT AND GO...
ANYWHERE.





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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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VOTE BEFORE ALL OF MARVELDOM
ASSEMBLED? STAND UP AND BE
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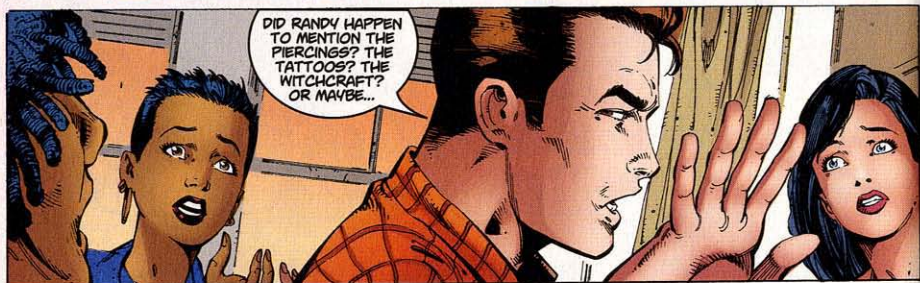
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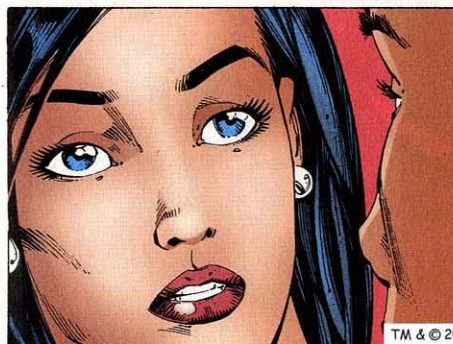
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LATER THAT NIGHT...

MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. MAYBE I DO HAVE TO START MOVING ON WITH MY LIFE.

BUT NOT WITH CONVICT FELONS.

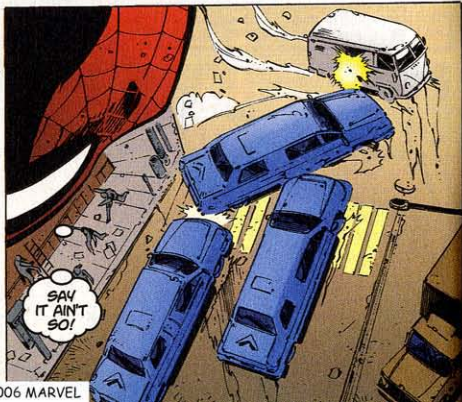
AND NOT NOW!

IT JUST FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE HAS BEEN SO HEAVY FOR SO LONG.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS. I --



WHAT'S THIS? THE DULCET TONES OF GUNSHOTS?



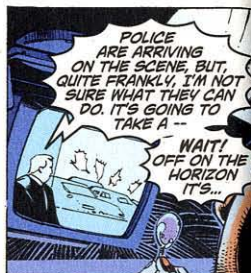
SAY IT AIN'T SO!



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PTOOMPTOOMPTOOMPTOOM



JIMMY-6?

SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT, DESPITE HIS BEST INTENTIONS, HE COULDN'T STAY CLEAN AFTER TAKING OVER HIS FATHER'S CRIME FAMILY. HE COULDN'T STAY STRAIGHT.

YOU KNOW... ONE OF THESE DAYS I SHOULD TAKE THE BAD GUYS UP ON THIS KIND OF THING AND LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER.

THIS AINT YOUR FIGHT, SPIDEY! THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND THE KINGPIN'S FREAKS.

IF YOU AINT WILLING TO WHACK 'EM... JUST STAY OUTTA THE WAY!



BUT JIMMY... I OWE HIM. HE'S HELPED ME OUT IN THE PAST... BOTH AS PETER PARKER AND SPIDEY, SO --



MARY! YOU TAKE JAMES AND GET OUTTA HERE... NOW!



JIMMY'S WIFE AND KID!

THE ENFORCERS... THEY WOULDN'T...

NOT AN INNOCENT MOTHER AND CHILD... WOULD THEY?



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Gotta Have Sweet?





JEEZ! I'M GETTING TOSSED AROUND LIKE A RAGGEDY ANN DOLL!

I SHOULDN'T BE HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE WITH THESE GUYS.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?



... YES YOU HEARD ME, SPIDER-MAN IS DOWN.

AND NOW HE'S JUST SITTING THERE, STARING AT AN OLD BILLBOARD WHILE THE ENFORCERS --



THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!



GOT TO CLEAR MY TRY TO STAY HEAD. FOCUSED.

I CAN STILL GET AHEAD OF THE ENFORCERS... GET BETWEEN THEM AND JIMMY BEFORE...

SPIDER-MAN IS UP!



IS IT JUST ME, OR HAS ANYONE ELSE WONDERED IF THOSE WEBS COME FROM HIS HANDS OR ARE SOME SORT OF MECHANICAL DEVICE?



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A SHORT TIME
LATER...

ARM'S
STILL SORE, BUT
LUCKILY THE BULLET
JUST GRAZED IT.

IF MEMORY
SERVES, THIS IS
WHERE JIMMY-6
WAS LAST
HOLED UP.



FROM
THE LOOKS OF
ALL THE
MUSCLE...
...HE
STILL IS.

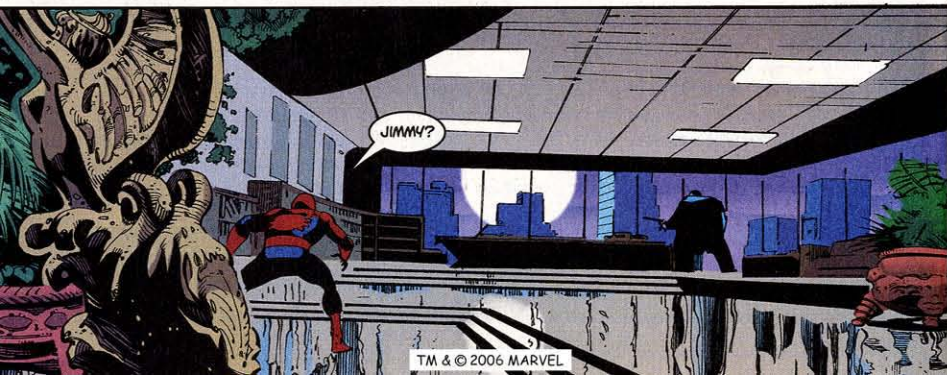


ALWAYS FELT JIMMY AND
ME HAD A LOT IN
COMMON.

HE GOT
DRAGGED INTO THE
FAMILY BUSINESS... SAW THE
POWER THAT CAME WITH IT...
AND FELT A SENSE OF
RESPONSIBILITY TO DO
THE RIGHT THING.

ALWAYS
DID RIGHT
BY ME.

IF HE'S
IN TROUBLE...
I OWE HIM.



JIMMY?



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WHO -- ?

TOOM TOOM TOOM TOOM TOOM



ER...
BY THE
WAY... YOU
MISSED!



OH... IT'S JUST
YOU.
CAN
I HAVE
MY GUN
BACK?



ME? I'M FINE.
THANKS FOR YOUR
CONCERN.

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE, JIMMY?
WHERE ARE YOUR
WIFE AND
KID?

THEY'RE
SAFE. DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
IT.

I'M GONNA
HANDLE IT. IT
ENDS TONIGHT...
AFTER I WHACK
FISK.



THE
KINGPIN?
WHAT'S HIS
GRIPE WITH
YOU?



ONE OF MY GUYS -- A NEW KID TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF -- KNOCKED OVER A HIGH-STAKES POKER GAME.

TURNS OUT IT WAS THE WRONG GAME. IT WAS FISK'S GAME.

OUCH.



TELL ME ABOUT IT. FISK WANTS THE NUMBSKULL DEAD, AND I DON'T SELL OUT MY PEOPLE. NOW ME AND MY FAMILY ARE THE TARGET. WONDERFUL WORLD I BROUGHT MY KID INTO, HUH?



YEAH. IT STINKS WHEN OUR LOVED ONES GET CAUGHT UP IN OUR --



I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD KILLED THE WEB SLINGER WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE, DAN!





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☐ **CAB** Cable
☐ **DDP** Deadpool
☐ **GAM** Gambit
☐ **GEN** Generation X
☐ **MTX** Mutant X
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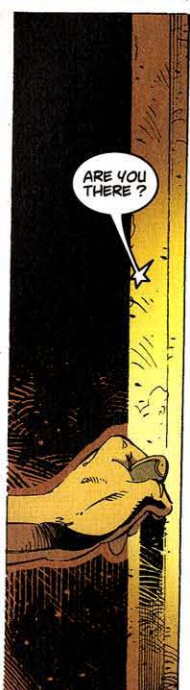
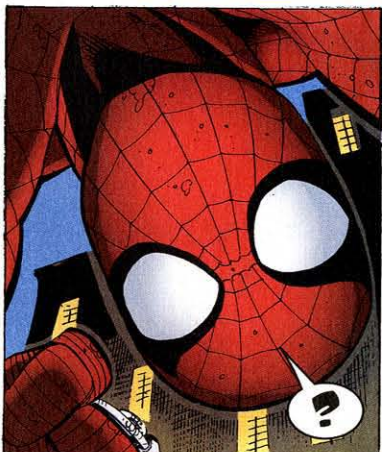
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TO BE CONTINUED... 

THE SPIDER-VERSE

Well, Spider-Fans, you asked for it, you got it! Thus begins the ultimate story arc by regular series writer Howard Mackie, a 4-part story that continues in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #29 and PETER PARKER #29 (written by Paul Jenkins, of course), and concludes in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL that's in stores in May. And it's going to be a doozy! Now on to the mail...

To the Editors of Spider-Man:

When I started collecting, Peter Parker was enjoying his "golden age." Despite his guilt over the death of Uncle Ben, Peter was never a depressing or moody character. He was a survivor, in spirit more than anything. He had bad luck, but he shrugged it off, and he had good luck, too. There was too talent on the titles then, such as Tom DeFalco, Peter David, Rick Buckler, a not-so-wooden Ron Frenz, Kyle Baker, Josef Rubenstein and Bob McLeod. There was a lot of creative energy, and the plot and characters were not static. Peter Parker was still Peter Parker, but he was a little older, a little more mature. He grew, but he wasn't "old."

The current de-gaging of Peter Parker and complete disrespect for the history of this era have really put me off. In an attempt to return Peter Parker to what he once was, the character has become someone I don't recognize at all. There are comics that I think are very vital to this character — comics that every creator that works on the book should be required to read first. One of these is AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #259, which deepened the relationship between Peter and Mary Jane, and is the first time in the series that a supporting character became as three-dimensional as the star. I remember MJ pondering to herself what role she should play in the life of a professional superhero. She was still Mary Jane, but now we understood her; there was a reason why she was the way she was and she too grew from it.

And then she was used merely for eye candy. No one knew what to do with her after they got married. The same relationship strains were used over and over, and she got annoying. But anyone who has been in a successful relationship knows that life doesn't stop being interesting at that point.

Look, Gwen's dead. Harry Osborn is dead. Peter grew up. But Mary Jane connects him to the history that we all love. So do Aunt May, Betty and J. Jonah Jameson — but they've all grown as well (read WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #13). The same stories do not need to be told over and over again. The originals were more, well, original. Don't get rid of Mary Jane, and don't keep her in Gwen Stacy's shadow. Don't discount the bond of their relationship. It's what brought me into this book, and it's what I've been holding out for by sticking around. If nothing else, she is truly his best friend.

So bring her back already.

Todd Novak
Madison, WI

Dane,

Hi, I am one of Spider-Man's greatest fans. I don't think there is a superhero with as good a sense of humor as him. (Please keep it up.) But there is only one thing I don't like about Spider-Man. It's about him being married.

How can you be a superhero and be a married man at the same time? I mean, with his super powers and sense of humor, he could be getting better girls — and lots of girls! You know as in "Superboy, the Colono."

Mamoon
Via Internet

...or, say "Raff, the Colono."

No doubt, Mamoon, juggling the responsibilities of marriage and super-powers is a tricky act — and it's been well-documented in these very pages. Question is, with MJ back in the picture, how will Peter fare now?

Spidey:

There was a time when you battled Doctor Doom to a draw, held off the F.F. and X-Men, and fought Magneto to a standstill. Bring back those days.

Nuff said.

Dane Symonds
England
Via Internet

We'll do our best, Dane. As you can see from our next letter, you're not alone in your opinion...

Dear Spider's Web,

On Amazing Spider-Man #26: First, the artwork is stellar. J.R. Jr. never disappoints. On the other hand, the story just left little impact. The touch of having Peter wanting to learn more about his deceased father was nice (and I'm glad there was no references to the android impostors), but the action just seemed contrived. Suddenly, out of nowhere, we got some mysterious squid kid attacking people, then revealing he's the son of the bartender whom Pete just happened to know. Utterly predictable. And why is the Squid handling Spidey like he's a rank amateur?

And one more thing: please bring back the old Amazing Spider-Man logo with arching letters and webbing. Why you dumped that classic in the first place is anyone's guess, but let's get that baby back on the front page. So until Spider-Man gets the Ultimate treatment, Make Mine Marvel.

Keith Taylor
At Internet

Your prayers are answered, Richard. Issue #30 will mark the return of the classic logo, slightly amended, along with a brand-new trade dress. It will also mark the sensational debut of our new cover artist, whose identity we'll reveal to you next issue.

Dear Spider's Web,

New powers for Spidey! Spidey is my favorite hero and I think he's great. He has beaten Wolverine, the Fantastic Four and the X-Men in past decades, but the last 10 years have been bad. You've focused too much on the changes in his personal life.

Sure, there have been super hero stories, but they have all been based on Peter, not Spidey. For me, Peter is a big part of this book, but I hold him separate from "Spider-Man." For me, Spidey is the powers, action and adventure. I know I'm definitely being too harsh separating the two parts of the character like this, but for my next point, it needs to be done.

For Spidey to become more interesting again, the science boffin (referring to Peter, of course) needs to explore his powers. It was once said that Spidey uses manipulation of static electricity to cling to walls. Electro apparently found this out, and his intellect doesn't match Peter's, who with some work could have found this out. Maybe you could have this as a new power? Stronger webbing wouldn't hurt, either.

As statistics are now available for all characters, Spidey is no longer considered strong. In this ever-expanding Marvel Universe of super-powered beings, he needs to be.

Dane Symonds
Via Internet

As it just so happens, Dane, new series writer J. Michael Straczynski has given a lot of thought to Spidey's powers. You could say that they figure into his immediate plans.

Dear Spider's Web,

I've been collecting Spider-Man comics for nearly 30 years now. I've had letters printed in some of the other Spidey titles, but never in Amazing. I've never gone for a No-Prize, let alone won one. Here's my attempt at rectifying both of these situations at the same time... First off: a squid has 10 appendages, while "The Squid" only has eight.

Here's my "Raff-Saving" explanation. The Squid has a pair of underdeveloped limbs on its head (at least, he does on one cover) that I feel must not have completely evolved to their full potential. He doesn't have them within that issue because they are in a state of flux due to The Squid's still-mutating state.

Here's another minor goof. Spidey jokes that a "Millennium Man" would have the power of a million years. Of course, for all that a millennium consists of only 1000 years.

Here's my explanation: Spidey was about to complete a joke...but didn't finish his thought. He was in the middle of a battle, after all. There's another explanation, too. A much simpler one. Spidey figured... The Squid was too dumb to catch his obvious goof.

Could it be that I will receive the final No-Prize from the "Ralph Macchio era"? Now that would be quite the distinction, don't you think?

John Migliore
johnm@quic.kc.net

John, as to your complaint about how many appendages the Squid had, "what do you expect from the former Spider editor," Raff, who thought spiders had four legs — and four arms! Regarding the Millennium Man goof, we asked our erstwhile "editor" Raff, who said "Hub? I thought the millennium was an Italian seafood dish."

Not! — The Squid isn't a real squid! And who said the Millennium era? Not 1000 years old! We'll have you know that Raff's got an encyclopedia and a thesaurus — and he's not afraid to use them!

Nice try!

Dear Spider-Guys,

First of all I want to give you a thumbs-up for your work — it's great. In the beginning Spidey was a two-bit loser and we cried and got happy with him, but most of all we loved reading the comics. Later, you decided to dispose of the lovely Mary Jane and bring back those times. Nice move, but you forgot two things: 1. Peter and his character were a little more developed while being married; you just took a few steps back.

Two: Everyone loved MJ. Not the supermodel, but the sweet, spicy girl that we all loved — that fun girl that, in Stan's words, inspired an upcoming important character. Married to MJ, Peter was no longer the poor unlucky kid who was abused in High School. (In our hearts, we readers all hoped for her to one day show up in the poor kid's life; she was a symbol, showing that the even class nerd could become successful. We all wished for a girl like that for our selves.) Then someone decided to turn her into a supermodel, and she was no longer the fun girl.

So what did you do? Did you change that and return the real Golden Age of Spider-Man? No, you took the easy way and got rid of her, in a way that had no respect to the girl we all loved. When Gwen Stacy died, it meant something; that Peter can't "be there" for everyone — even if she's important to him. When MJ died, it meant nothing; it was an "oh-ho-everyone-I-care-about-is-gone-I'm-too-dangerous-to-be-with" kinda death. She meant more than that to us and deserved better.

So now you don't know what to do. Bring her back, and you get half of the comics readers mad at you; leave her alone, and in the end we all get disappointed.

Ziv Gur-Arye
Israel
Via Internet

Well, Ziv, as you can see from the final page of this issue, MJ is back. What's Howard going to do with her? Wait and see...

VOTE!

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NEXT ISSUE:

PART TWO AND THINGS ARE JUST BEGINNING TO HEAT UP!!! AFTER THAT, CHECK OUT PART THREE IN PETER PARKER #29, BY PAUL JENKINS AND GUEST ARTIST CHARLIE ADLARD. SEE YOU IN THIRTY!

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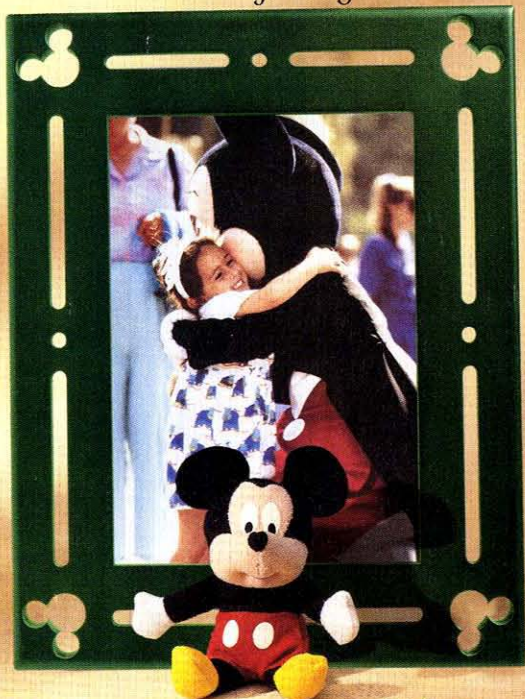


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