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STRACZYNSKI  
ROMITA JR  
HANNA

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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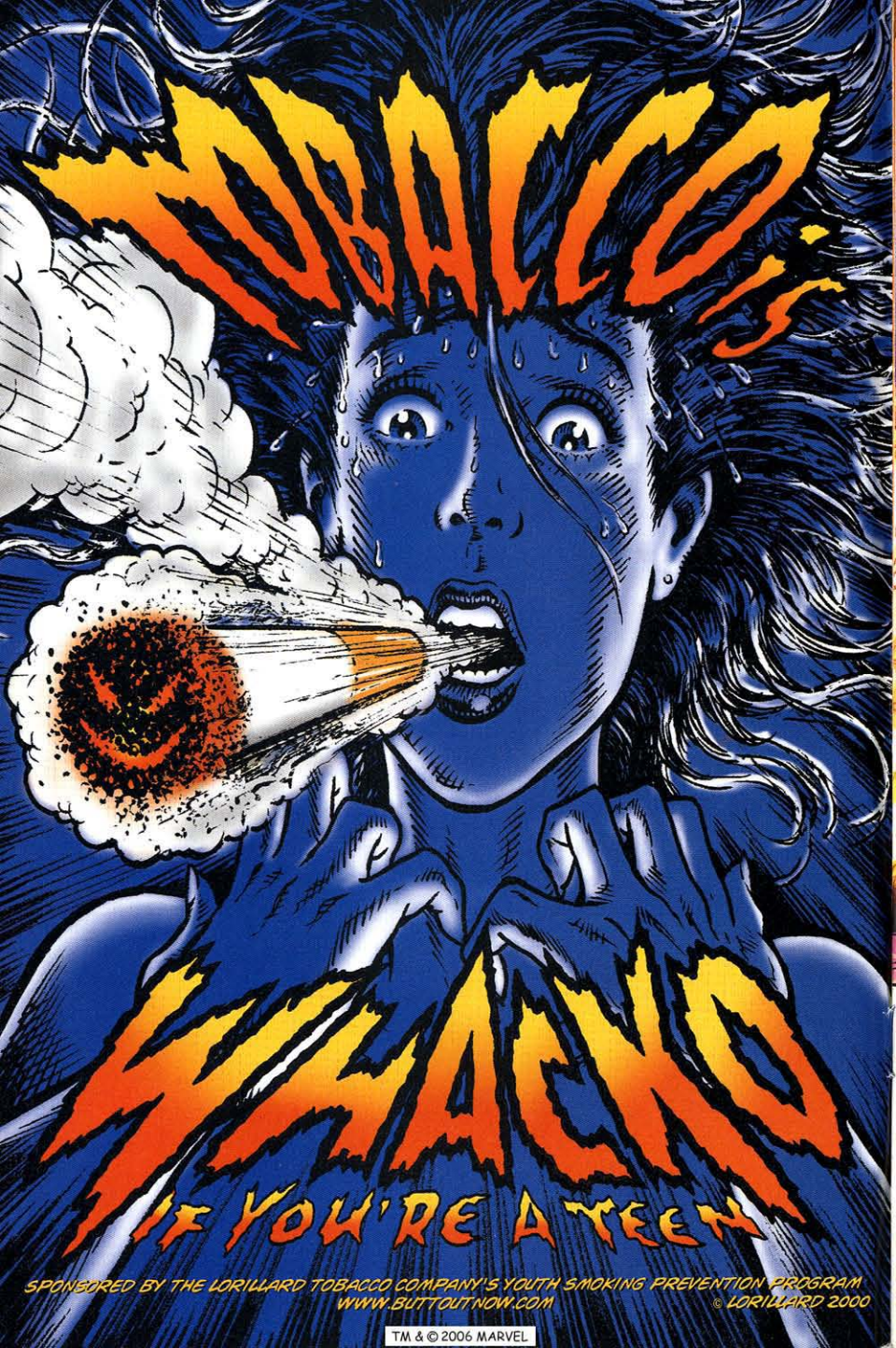
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Mysterio, with his long black hair and purple face paint, stands in a blue suit over a white shirt. He is surrounded by intense orange and yellow flames. In the background, a building is partially visible.

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-STRICKEN 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

# ALL FALL DOWN

OKAY, QUICK INVENTORY WHILE MY HEAD'S STILL CLEARING.

ARRIVE IN TIME TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM FIRE. CHECK.

JUST BEEN HIT HARDER THAN ANYBODY'S EVER HIT ME BEFORE. CHECK.

BAD GUY STANDING THERE, WAITING FOR ME TO FIGHT BACK. CHECK.

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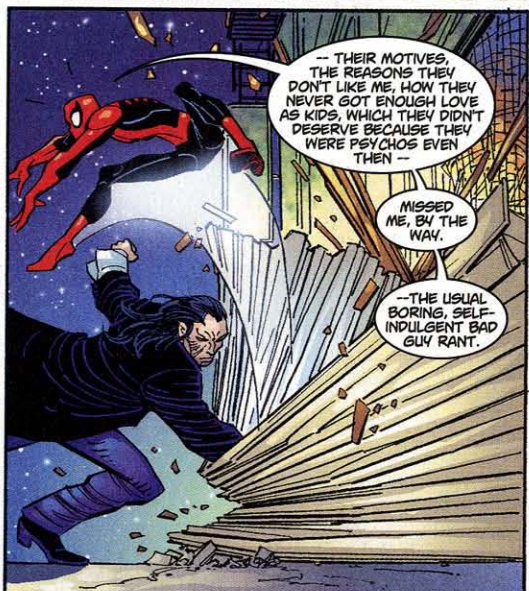
WILLINGNESS TO OBLIGE?

BIG OL' CHECK.









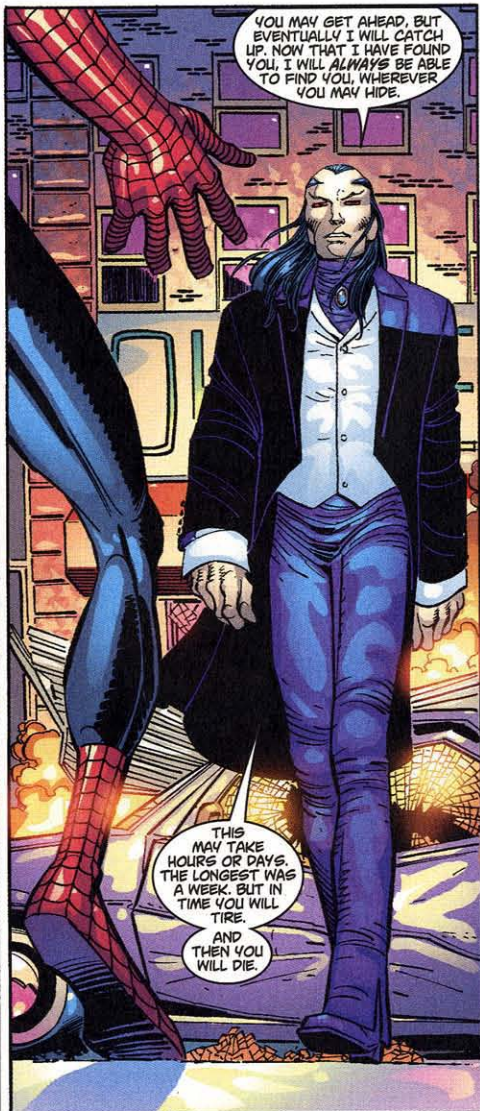




HERE IS  
HOW IT WILL  
HAPPEN.

YOU WILL  
RUN. I WILL  
PURSUE.

I  
DO NOT TIRE.  
I DO NOT GROW  
WEARY. I DO NOT  
GIVE UP.



YOU MAY GET AHEAD, BUT  
EVENTUALLY I WILL CATCH  
UP. NOW THAT I HAVE FOUND  
YOU, I WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE  
TO FIND YOU, WHEREVER  
YOU MAY HIDE.

THIS  
MAY TAKE  
HOURS OR DAYS.  
THE LONGEST WAS  
A WEEK. BUT IN  
TIME YOU WILL  
TIRE.

AND  
THEN YOU  
WILL DIE.

BUT I  
GIVE YOU  
MY SOLEMN  
WORD.

IT'S  
NOTHING  
PERSONAL.







SEE?  
ALREADY WE  
HAVE SOMETHING  
IN COMMON.

IT IS,  
HOWEVER, QUITE  
NECESSARY.

OH.



WAITAMINITT... YOU'RE  
SAVING YOU'RE GONNA  
KILL ME AND IT'S  
NOTHING PERSONAL?

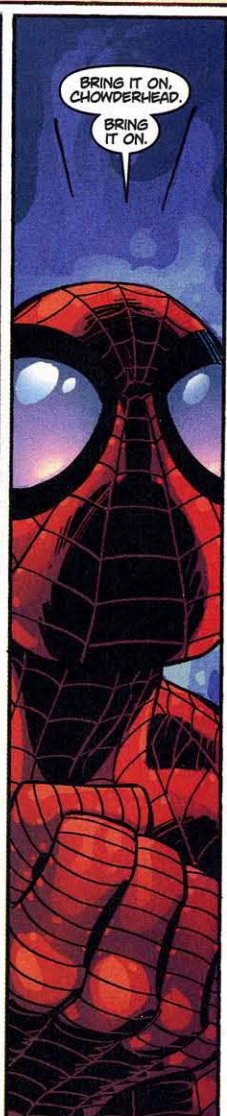
NOTHING  
PERSONAL?



LISTEN, BUDDY, I'VE FOUGHT EVERY  
KIND OF NUTBALL ON THE PLANET.  
I'VE FOUGHT FREAKS, MUTANTS,  
ALIENS AND HIGH-TECH GANGS...  
HECK, I'VE FOUGHT MY  
OWN COSTUME.

AND YOU  
KNOW WHAT?  
YOU'RE THE  
FIRST ONE  
WHO'S REALLY  
TICKED ME  
OFF.

YOU  
WANT  
ME?



BRING IT ON,  
CHOWDERHEAD.

BRING  
IT ON.



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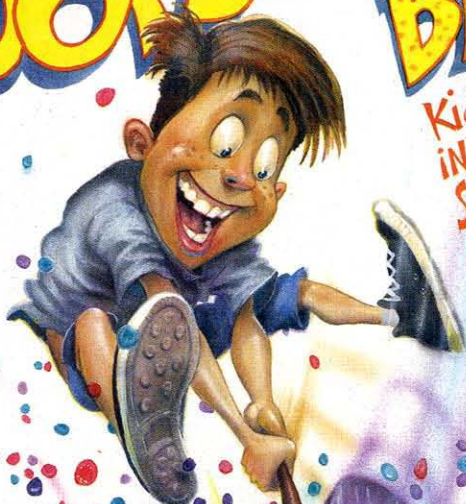
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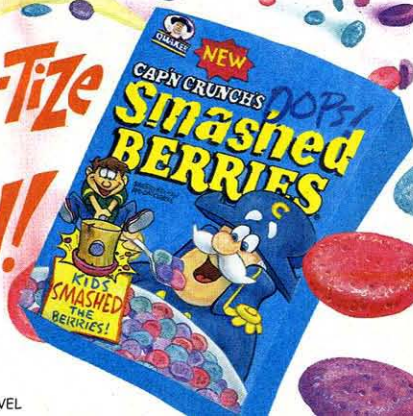


# OOPS! SMASHED BERRIES

KIDS SMASHED 'EM  
IN THE FACTORY  
SO YOU CAN FIT  
MORE IN YOUR  
MOUTH!!



CRUNCH-A-Tize  
ME  
CAP'N!







I HIT HIM WITH  
EVERYTHING I'VE  
GOT.

HE KEEPS  
COMING.





I HIT HIM  
WITH EVERYTHING  
I CAN FIND.

HE KEEPS  
COMING.

HE DOESN'T TALK.  
HE DOESN'T SNARL.  
DOESN'T YELL, GLOAT,  
PREEN, CACKLE,  
THREATEN OR MOCK.

HE JUST KEEPS  
COMING.









HAVE TO DRAW HIM AWAY FROM POPULATED AREAS. HE MAY BE ABLE TO CLIMB, BUT I'LL BET AUNT MAY'S FAVORITE CHAIR HE CAN'T... DO...



...THIS!



FIFTEEN STORIES UP AND TWO BLOCKS DOWN. THAT OUGHT TO BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BEAT THIS GUY.



IT'S NOT LIKE HE SEEMS TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS. HE CAN'T BURST INTO FLAME. HE DOESN'T HAVE TENTACLES, WINGS, CROCODILE TEETH... I'LL BET HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD.

HE'S JUST REALLY STRONG.

REALLY, REALLY STRONG.



BUT SO AM I. AND UP HERE THERE'S NOBODY TO GET IN THE WAY. NO CIVILIANS TO --



CAN'T BE... NOBODY'S THAT --



— FAST.

WHUNF!



HEY! HEY!  
HEEEEEY!!!



WEB-SHOOTERS!  
CAN'T GET TO MY  
WEB-SHOOTERS!

ARE YOU  
INSANE?!  
WE'LL BOTH  
DIE!





**WIN!**

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a white and blue sports jersey, is smiling and holding a black microphone. He is standing in a garage filled with various sports equipment, including soccer balls, a basketball, a football, and a bicycle. In the foreground, a clapperboard is held up, displaying the 'Trolli' logo and the text 'GUMMI CANDY', 'Camera: 2', and 'Scene: YOUR GARAGE!'. A hand is visible holding the clapperboard. In the background, another person wearing a yellow helmet and a blue shirt is partially visible, also smiling. The scene is brightly lit, creating a cheerful and energetic atmosphere.

Camera: 2

Scene: YOUR GARAGE!

**2nd PRIZES (2000):** Trolli Gummi Candy

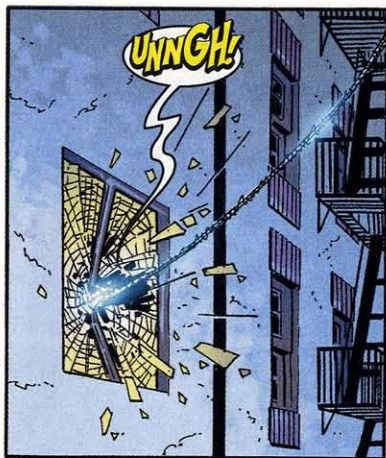
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GOT TO PUT SOME ROOM BETWEEN US... DRAW HIM AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS AGAIN.



HE KEEPS COMING... SILENT, SO SILENT. I FIND MYSELF ALMOST WISHING HE WOULD TALK TO ME... THAT HE'D SAY SOMETHING, ANYTHING... BECAUSE VANITY IS A WEAKNESS AND RIGHT NOW --



-- I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WEAKNESSES.



MY ONLY CHANCE FOR NOW IS TO STAY AHEAD OF HIM AS MUCH AS I CAN.



THIS IS GONNA HURT --



-- REAL --



...BAD...





-- SO I'M TELLING YOU, PAUL, I SAID TO THIS GUY, THIS NETWORK WEASEL, I SAID, BUDDY, THIS IS A CONVERSATION THAT CAN ONLY END IN A GUNSHOT.



CLAD  
CLAD  
CLAD  
CLAD



LETTERMANS ON... SO WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR... THREE HOURS? HOW CAN HE KEEP GOING? THIS IS INSANE.



MAYBE IF SPIDER-MAN DISAPPEARS, HE'LL GO BACK TO WHEREVER HE GOES WHEN I'M NOT AROUND TO ATTACK.



I NEED JUST A LITTLE TIME TO CATCH MY BREATH, TO --



-- OH MAN... OH, THAT'S --



NO... COME ON, NO WAY, NO...



...WAW.

I SAID, NOW THAT I HAD FOUND YOU, I COULD ALWAYS FIND YOU.



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- ☐ PUN Punisher
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their destiny  
and free the island.



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TECHNIC









7-11 PM (e/p)



What do you think  
you're doing?

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watching the same thing you did as a little kid?

# Scary.

FRIDAYS 7-11



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NETWORK**







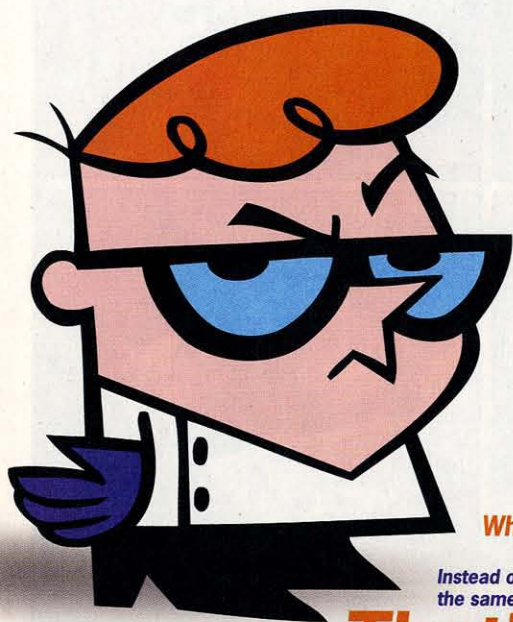






7-11 PM (e/p)

FRIDAYS 7-11



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you're doing?

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the same thing you did as a little kid?

**That's stupid**



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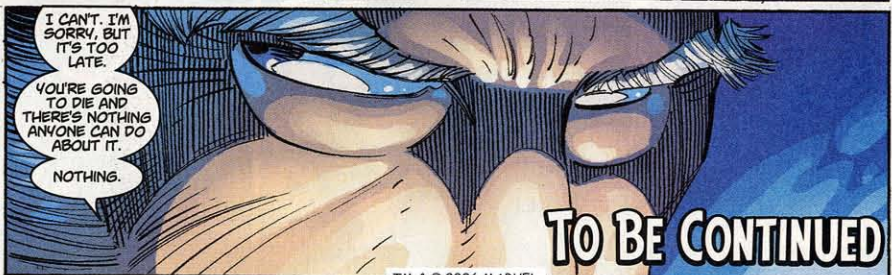
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**CARTOON  
NETWORK**













7-11 PM (e/p)



What do you think  
you're doing?

Instead of Johnny Bravo, you're watching  
the same thing you did as a little kid?

**Not pretty.**

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Spider-Web,

"Did the radiation enable the spider to give you these powers? Or was the spider trying to give you powers before the radiation killed it?" I'll be darned if that wasn't the single most original bit of Spider-Man plot since I've been reading about him. And I checked it against AMAZING FANTASY #15 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1. Neither says that spider actually caused the powers in the first place!

Are you going to allow this sort of rampant creativity to run through Marvel's?

Sean Kieffeld  
Via Internet

That's a hypothetical question -- right, Sean?

Spider-Crew,

WARNING: reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30 will result in great bursts of excitement and temporary insanity. Please be advised.

Issue #30 blew me away! The whole "Which came first? The radiation or the power?" story arc getting me so excited, I think I let out a few shouts of sheer joy -- which got some strange looks from my family. I'm sure.

Matt J. Kaufenberg  
Miltona, MN

Dear Spider-Web,

J. Michael Straczynski was right when he said once that Peter Parker is the main character in this book -- not Spider-Man. That being said, this title looks like it might be going someplace very interesting, and although I will miss the presence of Spidey's more popular villains (JMS has basically said he won't be using them, right?), I look forward to seeing what he will do with a new cast of characters.

I also enjoyed how Peter had to reevaluate his life a bit, and his new job as a high school teacher should be a good way of pleasing the longtime fans while still setting up new story lines.

Scott Breesie  
Toronto, Canada

Thanks, Scott, and yes, JMS has no plans to dig up old villains in this title. Back when we first spoke about his plans for the series, he reminded me of the days when AMAZING SPIDER-MAN simply churned out new and fascinating villains -- from the Green Goblin to the Lizard to Kraven to the Kingpin. JMS wants to introduce you to his own villains.

Hey, you crazy nuts,

Wow! Issue #30 was awesome!!! J. Michael Straczynski is off to a great start. About this "Ezekiel" person... Peter said that he reminded him of his Uncle Ben, so maybe... No. The thought's too absurd.

Mark Adams  
Melbourne, Australia

Interesting theory, Mark. Here's another one.

Dear Spider-Web,

Ezekiel is Peter's future. Straczynski is giving us a future version of Peter. Ezekiel is giving us a future version of the outcome of all of the decisions, and character growth, and character development that Peter Parker will go through. He is that final scene that we as readers always wonder about, but may never get to see. Straczynski is using this character and his dialogue to push Parker into the next stage of his life. Preparing him, dropping hints, all very reminiscent of some of the storytelling used in Babylon 5.

A clever use of foreshadowing, this is. Seeing the outcome of a character makes me really interested in knowing how he gets there.

I am not a regular Spider-Man reader, but I feel lucky in the fact that this story has made me think in a new way about a character, has challenged me, and has engaged me as a reader. And for that reason I will probably stay with the book now. Having seen the outcome, I really want to see the development.

Peter John Rios  
Philadelphia, PA

We got a few letters speculating the same thing, Peter. Seems many of you JMS fans are looking to anticipate his moves. Let's see it time bears you out.

Dear Spider-Web,

I was a little skeptical when I heard J. Michael Straczynski was going to write AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but he has truly impressed me. What a brilliant issue!

I like the fact that it seems there is going to be a major reworking of the origin of Peter's powers, this combined with the suspense as to the nature of the mysterious Ezekiel. I just hope and pray it isn't a c (what? nearly said the c word!).

David Horne  
Irthingborough, England

Repeat after me, David. Three words: Clone. Free. Zone.

Axel & Co.

This issue had great characterization, dialogue and humor! I roared when I read the bit about the Velcro pockets! I especially like this Ezekiel character. Please do not rush to reveal too much about him. We got a glimpse of an interesting new villain with a bit of a sense of humor to boot.

J.R. Jr. is my absolute favorite penciler today. His work blows me away each month and, for a while, it was he that kept me reading this book. The cover was none too shabby, either.

Chris Wright  
Moody, MI

Thanks, Chris. We've been really happy with J. Scott Campbell's performance as cover artist on this first story arc.

Spider-Web,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN was once a book that would make me laugh. Peter would make a comment here or there, and I would sometimes laugh out loud. Unfortunately, this title hasn't made me do that since before the Gathering of the Five.

With AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30, J. Michael Straczynski was introduced as the new writer, and the writing made me laugh out loud. Twice.

Thank you, JMS.

Ezra Gallo  
Auburn, AL

Dear Spider-Web,

I must say I am thoroughly impressed by the writing of Mr. Straczynski. Well, ecstatic is more like it. With this one issue, he has undoubtedly made me a Spider-Man fan for life. He perfectly brings out the man behind the webs -- with special note to the part where Spidey is railing on about pockets, which had me laughing for a few minutes after I put the issue down.

I must also give a heartfelt shout to Mr. Romita, who in my mind is the best penciler in the Marvel Universe. And, might I add, the cover of this issue was really cool.

Justin M. Herald  
Via Internet

Story, art and cover. Three for three. Not bad.

Dear Spider-Web,

Straczynski is showing us a grownup Peter Parker who is heading in a new direction. My fear is that some fans will not like the idea, and all the events of the coming months will be explained away, and everything will return to the 40-year-old status quo.

James Fraser  
Toronto, ON  
Canada

Hey Guys!

Just wanted to let everyone involved with ASM #30 know how great it was. Straczynski did an excellent job establishing a new status quo for Peter/Spidey. Introducing a new apartment, foreshadowing a new job at the school, and introducing two of the most interesting characters to hit these pages in quite a while was a heck of a way to kick off the new era.

And J.R. Jr. and Scott Hanna have never been better in my opinion. This issue seemed to have an attention to detail, especially the cityscape and backgrounds, that harkens back to the old Spidey books many of us grew up on. For the first time in a long time, I had the feeling the characters were actually in New York City, not some generic metropolis. I sincerely hope this continues.

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

Thanks, Terence. And yes, John and Scott are turning in some fine work. Fans are noticing. This editor couldn't be happier.

Dear Spider-Web,

Straczynski did a standup job here. The characters were interesting, the dialogue was great and he has me wanting to see what happens next, which is always a good thing. I'm intrigued with this Ezekiel character. His short appearance in this issue was definitely eye opening. Can't wait to see where he goes with this. I'm also anxious to see what this Morlun character is all about. It's always nice to see a new baddie. Let's hope he's up to snuff.

Dusty Fincher  
Via Internet

So, Dusty, now that you've witnessed this issue's 22-page slugfest, does Morlun make the grade?

Spider-Web,

Heck!

Who am I talking about? Why, Peter Parker of course. This issue had it all: Pete hanging on to his personal life by his fingertips; a return of sorts to his roots; intrigue about the true nature of his spider powers; and what promises to be an interesting new villain on the horizon. All I can say is, welcome aboard, J. Michael Straczynski and keep the web fluid flowin'.

Martin Dallard  
Via Internet

Spider-Web,

It took just one issue -- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30 -- to get me to give a poop about this title again. That's right, I said poop. I am totally interested again. That's what it's all about. Anticipation of that next issue. I have it feeling back again.

JMS. Pencils = great. Cover = excellent. Mine = Marvel.

Lt. Jarrod "J-Bone" Alberich, USAF  
Via Internet

Thanks, Lieutenant. But enough with the salty sailor talk, already. Drop and give me fifty!

Dear Marvel,

Every so often in the comic world, something comes out that is so good that I get shivers down my spine. After all this time, I can finally get back into Spidey without the funky cloning, slayers and hokey villains. Hearing that J. Michael Straczynski was going to write this book was the most exciting comic moment of my life. Here's a guy that comes in and smacks Peter in the face with a plot so original that the Hulk is going to be wondering if that gamma explosion was just a case of bad gas.

Ed Hernandez  
Mt. Joy, PA

Thanks, Ed. But enough with the bathroom humor! Drop and give me fifty!

Dear Spider-Web,

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, tell me that this isn't a hoax! So many times, a great story line is started, only to have the writer opt in fear of fanboy wrath. In one issue, Mr. Straczynski has managed to fill me in on what's been happening with Peter since I've been away, and ask, as Ezekiel puts it, "the five million dollar question." To question Spidey's origin, an origin that's been basically untouched for 30 years plus, is daring, to say the least. The possibilities are endless -- if this isn't a lark.

If it isn't, and is a real change to the status quo, consider me officially hooked. Of course, seeing John Romita Jr.'s art isn't a bad thing, either, being a long-time fan of his work.

The bottom line: a great start and a new direction. Just promise me that Peter won't wake up in the shower and realize it was all a dream.

Glenn Anderson  
Via Internet

That's a promise, Glenn. Now drop and give me fifty!

**NEXT ISSUE**  
PETER DIGS DEEPER  
INTO HIS ROOTS,  
SEARCHING FOR A  
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING  
OF HIS POWERS.

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