

**MARVEL**  
PG 46 487

STRACZYŃSKI  
ROMITA JR  
HANNA

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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*Score ONE for the  
good guys.*



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*With Fillmore on the team, it's all good.*



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J. MICHAEL  
STRACZYNSKI  
words  
JOHN ROMITA JR.  
pictures  
SCOTT HANNA  
inks  
BRIAN HABERLIN  
colors  
RS & COMICRAFT'S  
JIMMY BI  
letters

STAN  
LEE  
presents:

# UNNATURAL ENEMIES

JOHN  
MIESEGAES  
assistant  
editor  
AXEL  
ALONSO  
editor  
JOE  
QUESADA  
chief  
BILL  
JEMAS  
president

So let's run a  
summary of the week's  
work, shall we?

Saw MJ in California  
but didn't get her back.

Check.

Saw Doc Ock in California,  
beat the guy who stole his tech,  
but didn't get Ock himself.

Check.

While I was in California, I forgot  
to send my check to the telephone  
company and even though it's just a day late,  
they've cut off my long distance service.

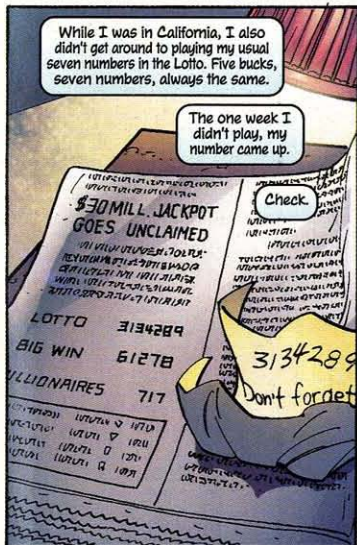
Again.



While I was in California, I also  
didn't get around to playing my usual  
seven numbers in the Lotto. Five bucks,  
seven numbers, always the same.

The one week I  
didn't play, my  
number came up.

Check.



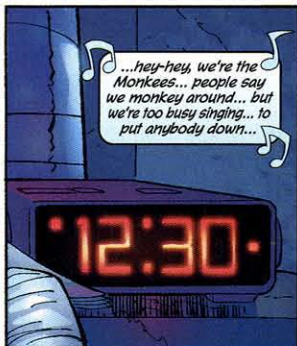
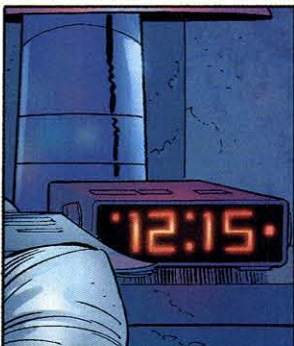
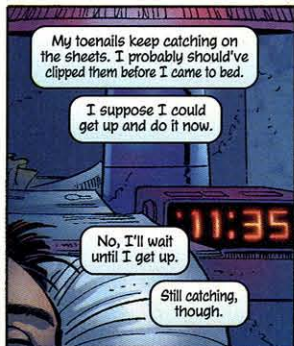
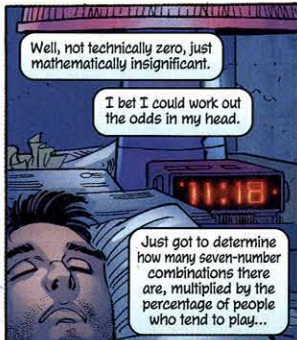
I look at it all, I look for  
the common denominator,  
and I think I've figured out  
what the problem is.

The problem  
is California.

Which probably makes  
me the last guy in the  
country to finally figure  
that one out.











AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (ISSN #0274-5232) Vol. 2, No. 46, December, 2002. Published monthly by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 10 East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2002 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.25 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852); Canadian Agreement #4066837. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$37.00; Foreign \$39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, CO MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 30 NEWBURGH, NY 12551. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 566-7020. subscriptions@marvel.com. PETER CUNEO, Chief Executive Officer; AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer; GUY KHRYO, Chief Information Officer; DAVID BOGART, Managing Editor; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Russell Brown, Executive Vice President, Consumer Products, Promotions and Media Sales at 212-576-8561 or rbrown@marvel.com







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A little...



Do you consider *this* a little?



What you are, and what you will be. Depart this plane. *Now*.

Who are you?



YEEEEEOOOOWWWW!

Okay, so maybe more than a little.



Thing is, it all worked out in the end.

So it may have seemed at the time. But there is a profound difference between *seems to be* and *is*.

I remember the first time I went swimming in the ocean. My father explained that when we were in the city, or on the street in front of our home, the odds were small that we would be attacked by tigers. The ocean was full of unknown dangers gliding just beneath the surface, quick and unpredictable.

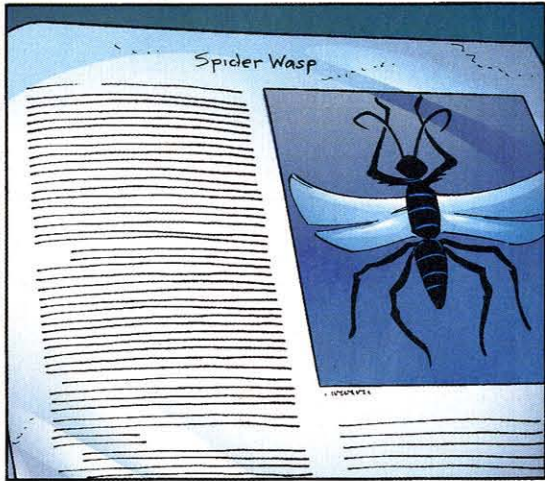
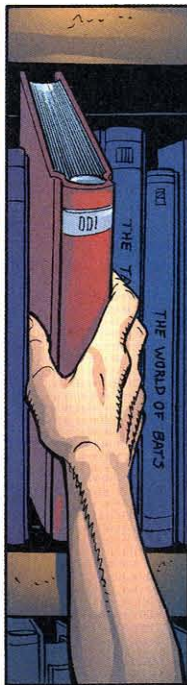
"When you enter the ocean, you enter the food chain."

Exactly.









The spider wasp is the most efficient spider-killer in the insect kingdom. Its sting quickly subdues its prey by paralyzing the spider's central nervous system. But it does not kill the spider all at once. The spider wasp carries its prey to its nest, or if the spider is too large to carry in flight, the wasp simply drags it to the nest. In order to make the spider easier to drag, some spider wasps bite off the spider's legs, often drinking the blood that leaks from the wounds. The spider wasp places a single spider in each nest, which is often constructed after catching the prey.



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"Listen, not that I'm complaining or anything, but next incarnation, just for a change of pace, you think you could have me get bitten by a radioactive Jennifer Lopez?"







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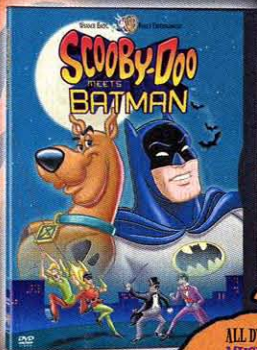
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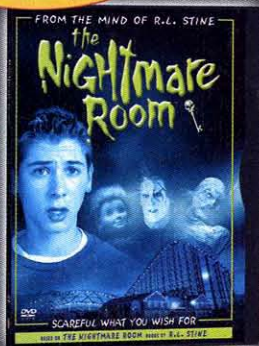




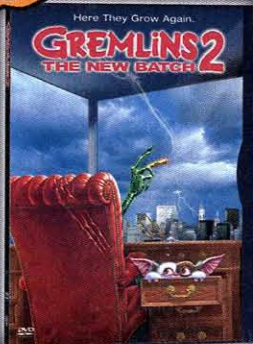
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It's been three days since the dream, and I'm starting to think that's all it was, just a dream.

I mean, yeah, that page was pretty ominous, but I've gone through that book a hundred times.

It's altogether possible that my subconscious remembered the page number and the photo. I've had a lot of free-floating anxiety lately, and my imagination may have been looking for something to give form to that anxiety.

Listen to me, I'm starting to sound like a shrink. Say, now that's an idea. Peter Parker, Psychotherapist to Super-Arch-Villains.

*"So, Doctor Doom, do you think that your name may have had something to do with your depressive personality, or did you have a --"*

What the --

Okay, no fair trying to sneak up on --

--a guy...



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Little  
one.

Little  
spider.

So far  
from home. So  
far from your  
mother.

Shathra  
smelled you on the  
other side. Followed  
the scent across  
the darkness.

Little  
one.

Little  
spider.











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All my life, I've had a thing about hitting women. I won't do it. Even with a baddie. Unless I'm totally up against the wall.



Then as she moves again, impossibly fast, I remind myself that she's *not* human... and that unless I end this fast and hard, against the wall is exactly where I'll end up.

You know what your problem is? I wear a spider costume because it's a nod to where the power came from.



It's a role. But there's a difference between wearing the colors and *playing* the part --

**WHAM**

**ZzSHHAAA--**



--and letting yourself get *buried* in the part.











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Little spider  
thought it could hide.  
But Shathra sees it,  
Shathra knows it, knows  
all about it, because  
she can *smell* it,  
she can —

Hey,  
Shathra —



It should be a  
moment to relax. To  
celebrate. Except —

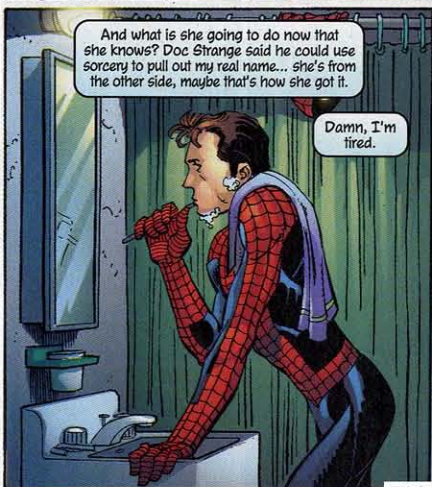


—before the car hit, she  
was smiling. And I heard  
her say, just loud enough  
for me to hear it —



"...she can smell...  
Parker..."

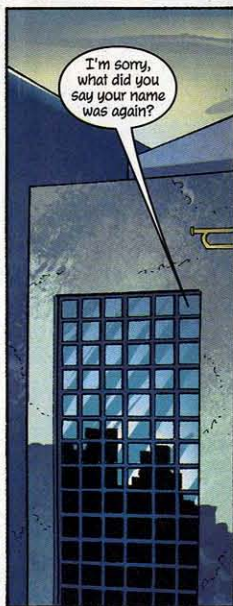














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