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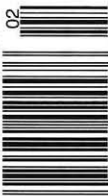
THE
OTHER™

EVOLVE
OR DIE

PART 9 OF 12



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PlayStation 2



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THE



OTHER

EVOLVE
OR DIE

PART 9 OF 12

PREVIOUSLY IN

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN #21



Spider-Man is dead...or is he?

After a vicious battle with the enigmatic Morlun, the web-slinger was beaten, bloody, and missing an eye. But when Morlun attempted to deliver his final deathblow and literally "feed" on Spider-Man, Spidey reanimated in a burst of fury and unleashed the full force of his totemic powers. The predator suddenly became the prey, and Morlun perished—his life-force consumed, his body dissipating into dust.

The final effort ended Spider-Man's life as well...or so it seemed.

Something has now emerged from Peter Parker's cadaver, leaving behind a broken window in Avengers Tower and a hollow shell of a corpse. Now, whomever—or whatever—escaped has formed a cocoon in preparation for its next stage...

"EVOLUTION"

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ANY
SIGN
OF
HIM?

NEGATIVE. GOING
UP 48TH STREET FOR
ANOTHER PASS.

COPY
THAT.



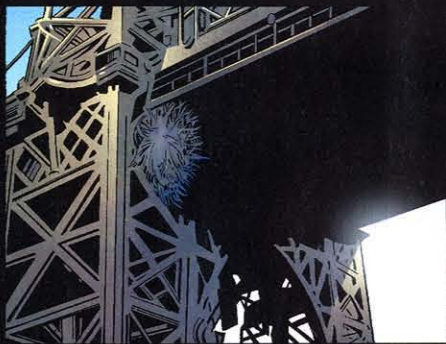
HE SAID
HE'S COMING
AROUND FOR
ANOTHER SWEEP.

STEVE, A
GUY CAN'T GO
LEAPING OUT OF A
TWENTY-STORY
WINDOW WITHOUT
SOMEBODY
SEEING HIM.

WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT WAS,
LUKE. WHATEVER WAS
IN THAT ROOM WITH
PETER'S BODY...

IT COULD
HAVE BEEN...IT
COULD BE...
ANYTHING.





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HUGGHHH...
HUGGHHH...



LITTLE
SPIDER...

...LITTLE
MAN...

...DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND.



NEVER
UNDERSTOOD.

WHAT YOU
WERE.

WHAT
YOU ARE.

WHAT YOU ARE
BECOMING.



YOU WERE
BICCEP. THE
VENOM WAS
INSIDE YOU.

THE
SPIDER
WAS INSIDE
YOU.

BUT YOU
COULDN'T FACE
THAT... COULDN'T
ACCEPT THAT...

AND WHAT
DO WE DO WITH
THOSE PARTS OF
US WE CANNOT
FACE, CANNOT
ACCEPT?





YOU DID IT... BECAUSE I PUT THE SPIDER OUTSIDE YOU. THE SPIDER... WAS JUST... A PIECE OF CLOTH.

AN EMPTY HUSK, FROM WHICH YOU COULD EMERGE HUMAN, NORMAL, AS THOUGH THE SPIDER WAS NOT STILL INSIDE YOU.



PUTTING IT ON... MEANT THAT YOU COULD TAKE IT OFF.



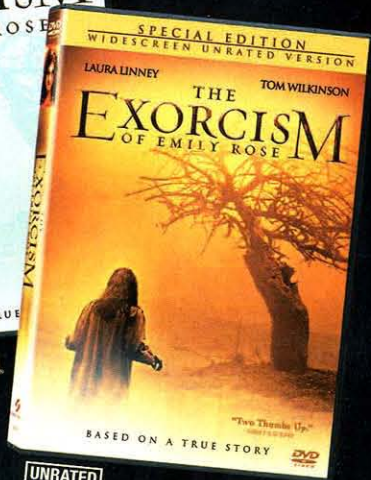
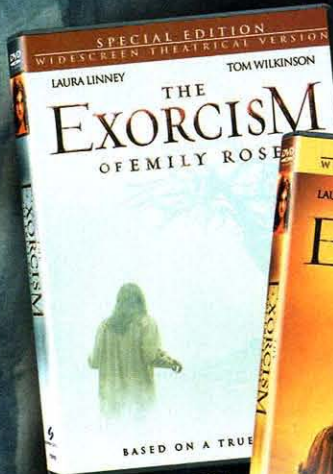
BUT NOW... THE SPIDER... HAS TAKEN YOU OFF.



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Frightening Scenes,
Disturbing Content



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YOU **CREATED** THE **GIFT** THAT YOU HAD BEEN GIVEN AS THOUGH IT WERE A **TOY**.

YOU DID NOT **LOOK TOO DEEPLY** INTO WHAT YOU HAD **BECOME** OR WHAT YOU COULD DO.

YOU COMMITTED THE **CRIME...OF SUPERFICIALITY.**



"THE CHILD NEVER **ASKED**, AND THE MAN NEVER **RECURSED** TO THE QUESTION--"

"--WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU **MERGE** A **MAN...WITH A SPIDER?**"



STRENGTH, SENSES, AGILITY, ADHESION, THE WEB.

THESE WERE THE **SIMPLEST TOOLS** WHICH YOU HAD BEEN GIVEN. THE ONES A **CHILD** WOULD FIND **EXCITING...**

...AND **STOP** BEFORE ANYTHING **MORE EXCITING** BUT **ALSO MORE DISTURBING** WAS **DISCOVERED.**



"ONLY AT THE **END** DID THE **ANSWER** TO THAT QUESTION **BECOME APPARENT.**"



YOU... WERE **DEAD.**

THE **SPIDER...** WAS **NOT** THE **SPIDER...** REFUSED TO **DIE.**



"AND SO THE **SPIDER...FED.**"

"IT TOOK FROM THE **ONE...WHAT** IT TRIED TO **TAKE** FROM THE **SPIDER.**"





IF PRESSURE'S PUSHING YOU TO GET HIGH
AND GET INTO THINGS YOU'RE NOT REALLY INTO...
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO PUSH BACK.

PRESSURE

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EMBRACE
US.







STEREOTYPE



THAT WHOLE "EVERYONE'S DOING IT" THING
WHEN IT COMES TO BEING A TEENAGER
AND GETTING HIGH?
JUST ANOTHER STUPID STEREOTYPE.

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PETER...!

MJ...
MAY...
I'LL
NEVER LEAVE
YOU AGAIN.
NEVER.
NEVER.
NEVER.

"THERE ARE SOME
THINGS YOU HOPE FOR,
BUT YOU NEVER DARE
SPEAK OUT LOUD..."

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...WHEN TONY AND I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, AND REALIZED THAT THE WINDOW HAD BEEN BROKEN FROM THE INSIDE-OUT, WE THOUGHT MAYBE--

--MAYBE THERE WAS SOME KIND OF REGENERATION PROCESS UNDERWAY, SINCE YOUR POWERS COME FROM A SPIDER, AND SPIDERS SHED THEIR SKIN ONCE IN A LIFETIME.



BUT WE DIDN'T...COULDN'T... SAY ANYTHING, IN CASE WE WERE WRONG, BECAUSE IF WE WERE...I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S A WORD FOR SOMETHING THAT CRUEL.

I KNOW, I KNOW...
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, STEVEN.



HEY.

HEY.

I MISSED YOU. I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

I KNOW, I'M SORRY.



IF YOU EVER DIE ON ME AGAIN...I'LL KILL YOU.

DEAL.

SO, PETER...



...WHEN WE THOUGHT YOU WERE...GONE...WE DISPOSED OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE EITHER MAY OR M.J.

THAT'S HIS FANCY WAY OF SAYING WE DITCHED ALL YOUR SPIDER-GUY OUTFITS.

ALMOST ALL OF THEM.

WE WERE SAVING ONE FOR... WELL, FOR THE MEMORIAL.

YOU CAN HAVE THAT ONE BACK NOW.



ANYWAY, SINCE IT WAS MY CALL, I THOUGHT I'D MAKE UP FOR IT.

SO WHEN YOU'RE READY, I THOUGHT I MIGHT HELP YOU WITH A BIT OF A REDESIGN. I HAVE SOME IDEAS THAT YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING. I--

BOSS, IT'S A GREAT IDEA, AND I APPRECIATE IT, AND I JUST MAY TAKE YOU UP ON THAT...

BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT--



--I'M TAKING THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF.





"BUT AS YOU GO, GIVEN THIS LAST CHANCE, REMEMBER ONE THING..."



"THE MAN DIED. THE SPIDER WAS REBORN."

"I... WAS REBORN."



"SO THE QUESTION IS... ARE YOU YOU?"

"OR ARE YOU ME?"

"ARE YOU THE MAN WHO DREAMED OF BEING A SPIDER?"

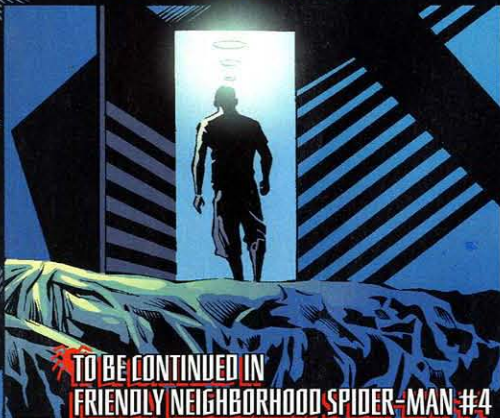
"OR THE SPIDER WHO DREAMED OF BEING A MAN?"



"ARE YOU
THE ONE..."



"... OR ARE
YOU THE
OTHER?"



**TO BE CONTINUED IN
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN #4**

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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OTHER

:EVOLVE OR DIE

IN TWO WEEKS, IN *FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN* #4, A POWERFUL NEW FOE SURFACES FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE!

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AND RETURN HERE IN ONE MONTH FOR *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* #528 FOR MORE ANSWERS AND A FEW NEW QUESTIONS!

J. Michael Straczynski and Mike Deodato unravel **THE OTHER** in its final chapter.



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