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SOMETHING CAN STOP THE JUGGERNAUT!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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LEE
WEEKS
2008
MILL
WHITE

BUGLE GIRL

by
BETTY BRANT



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GALE, KELLY, SLOTT, VAN LENTE,
WAID & WELLS – WEB-HEADS

SEARCH

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W.E.B. M.I.A.? Casandra Webb, the alleged psychic known as Madame Web, has been missing for several months now. Very few clues at the scene – CSI experts claim 'The kidnapper must have had the precision of a jungle hunter, we can't find any tracks...' more...



MARK-O' CAINE! Juggernaut, the mystical-gem-empowered super-criminal and half-brother of famed Mutant Rights advocate Charles Xavier, was seen just outside the city last night. The unstoppable force has lain low since severing ties with the X-Men. What's his next move? more...



IS RED/HARRY A RED HERRING?? It's been weeks since Norman Osborn's only son moved in with TV Personality Mary Jane Watson, and the scandal sheets can't get a single picture of the two together. Are they dating? Or is it a front? MJ's been taking phone calls from a mysterious suitor...you'll never believe who HE is! more...



Face the unemployment line, True Believers, Peter Parker's out of a job! When he forged a photo to exonerate his boss, Mayor J. Jonah Jameson, from being wrongly accused of creating the new Vulture, ol' Flattop Jameson himself fired Parker for violating journalistic ethics. Blacklisted from the photo game and with a sparse resume (thanks to his night gig as New York's Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man), Pete's out of work.

Beyond the professional, Pete's personal and super hero lives are in a downward spiral. His Aunt May publicly shamed him for his many failings (though what Pete doesn't know is that she's been slightly infected by Mr. Negative's dark force powers); his ex-fiancee Mary Jane Watson has barely spoken to him; his new friend Carlie Cooper thinks he's a total flake for never making time for her; and lately, his worst enemies have been returning with a vengeance, revamped, revived and ready to destroy him.

All in all, it's been a rough couple of months – and Pete's coming close to losing his grip altogether. At war with an unstoppable gauntlet, even Peter Parker may throw in the towel...before something stops him.

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SOMETIMES,
BEING SPIDER-MAN
IS A REAL PAIN.
LITERALLY.

ARRGH!

BACK DURING MY WONDER
YEARS, AN IRRADIATED SPIDER
BIT ME--AND SCRAMBLED MY
GENES. IT WAS LIKE GOING
THROUGH PUBERTY TIMES TEN.

MY STRENGTH AND
AGILITY INCREASED
EXPONENTIALLY.
I COULD WALK
UP WALLS.

AND I
GAINED THIS WEIRD
"SPIDER-SENSE."

A SLIGHT CHANCE OF
DANGER MAKES MY SCALP
TINGLE. AN IMMEDIATE
THREAT MAKES MY HEAD
BUZZ. THE FEELING I'M
GETTING RIGHT NOW...?

TOTAL SPIKE
BETWEEN THE
EYES.

OOO...
FIREWORKS!

PETER?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

STAR
HAIR
SALON

Pinkie's
PIZZA

THAT'S NOT
FIREWORKS.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT IT IS...



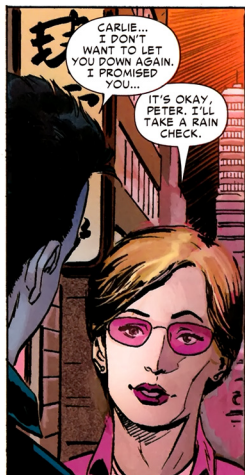
WHAT'S
WRONG?

...BUT I THINK
IT'S SOMEHOW
THE **SOURCE**
OF MY PAIN.



WRONG...?
DUNNO, CARLIE.
GOT A STABBING
PAIN...ALL OF A
SUDDEN...RIGHT
BETWEEN MY
EYES.

OUCH!
SOUNDS LIKE
A CLUSTER
HEADACHE. MAYBE
WE SHOULD SKIP
DINNER.



CARLIE...
I DON'T
WANT TO LET
YOU DOWN AGAIN.
I PROMISED
YOU...

IT'S OKAY,
PETER. I'LL
TAKE A RAIN
CHECK.

LOOK, MY
FATHER USED
TO GET CLUSTER
HEADACHES. I
KNOW HOW BAD
THEY ARE.



YOU'RE STILL
STRESSED OUT
OVER LOSING YOUR
JOB, AREN'T
YOU?

THE LAST
THING EITHER
OF US NEEDS IS
YOU GRIMACING
OVER **MOO
SHU PORK**.

GO HOME...
TAKE IT EASY
UNTIL THIS
PASSES.



'KAY...
I'LL CALL
YOU...

WOW. THAT WAS
DIFFERENT. I'M NOT
USED TO FRIENDS
MAKING MY EXCUSES
FOR ME.



I WISH **CARLIE COOPER**
HAD BEEN AROUND WHEN
I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I REALLY NEEDED A FRIEND
LIKE HER BACK THEN...!



SHE'S UNDERSTANDING,
AND SHE'S AS SCIENCE-
GEEKY AS I AM. I CAN
MAKE A JOKE ABOUT
**SCHRÖDINGER'S
CAT**, AND SHE GETS IT.



I AM **DEFINITELY**
HONORING THAT
RAIN CHECK!



BUT FIRST,
I GOTTA DEAL
WITH THE PAIN...
MY WAY.



Y-E-A-H, THAT **MUST**
BE THE SOURCE OF THE
DANGER. LOOK AT IT
GO, LIKE A...METEOR?

CAN'T BE! A METEOR
THAT SIZE WOULD HIT
LIKE A BABY NUKE--



--AND I THINK THAT LEVEL
OF DANGER WOULD MAKE
MY HEAD EXPLODE.



WHAT **ARE**
YOU, MR.
U-F-O?

AND **WHERE**
ARE YOU
HEADED?



**CENTRAL
PARK?**

O-KAY...



HUNH... SPIDER-SENSE BUZZ IS STARTING TO EASE A BIT. DID THE THREAT **BURN UP?** SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY CHANGED.

I KNOW I'M GETTING CLOSE. TIME TO STASH MY STREET CLOTHES OUT OF THE WAY...



...AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.



HELLO, **SCORCHED EARTH!**

THANKS FOR LEAVING SUCH AN EASY TRAIL TO FOLLOW.



I SURE HOPE THIS ISN'T A CAST-OFF INFANT ROCKETED TO EARTH FROM A DOOMED PLANET. I'M NOT READY TO PLAY FOSTER FATHER TO...



UH-OH.

THAT'S NO SPACE-BABY. I THINK I RECOGNIZE THOSE **SIZE-30S.**

NO...IT **CAN'T** BE...

...BUT IT
IS! IT'S THE
JUGGERNAUT!

SOMETHING
CAN STOP THE
JUGGERNAUT!?

BUT
WHAT?
WHO?!

ROGER STERN
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ARTIST

DEAN WHITE
COLOR ARTIST

**VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

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GALE, KELLY, SLOTT, VAN LENTE, WAID & WELLS WEB-HEADS

IS HE
ALIVE...?

CAN'T TELL IF HE'S
BREATHING. I'M NOT
SURE HE EVEN **NEEDS**
TO BREATHE.

THIS GUY'S THE
HARDEST NUT
I EVER TRIED
TO CRACK.

HE JUST ABOUT
CRACKED **ME** THE
FIRST TIME I TRIED
TO STOP HIM.

★ IN AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN #229-230
--1982 STEVE.

AND THE SECOND
TIME DIDN'T GO
MUCH EASIER...
EVEN WITH THE **X-MEN**
BACKING ME UP. ★

★ IN MARVEL
TEAM-UP #150
--1985 STEVE.

JUGGERNAUT'S TOUGH
IN ARMOR OR OUT. OF COURSE,
THE LAST TIME WE SERIOUSLY
FOUGHT, I WAS ALSO BATTLING
A BAD CASE OF VERTIGO.
THAT DIDN'T HELP AT ALL.

AT LEAST WE CAME
TO A SORT OF TRUCE
AT THE END OF THAT
LITTLE DUSTUP. ★

★ IN PETER PARKER:
SPIDER-MAN #84
--1997 STEVE.

AH, FOUND
A **PULSE**.

WHAT
HAPPENED TO
HIS **HELMET?**

I ONCE ALMOST
DISLOCATED SOMETHING,
TRYING TO PRY THAT POT
OFF HIS HEAD--

--BUT FROM THE
LOOKS OF THINGS,
SOMETHING
SHREDDED IT!

WEO-WEO-
WEO

SIRENS...
CLOSING WAY
FAST.

TIME FOR ALL
GOOD LITTLE
SPIDERS TO SCURRY
OUT OF SIGHT--

--BEFORE THE
POLICE ARRIVE
AND BLAME **ME**
FOR THIS.

NOTHING MORE
I CAN DO FOR
JUGGY ANYWAY.

THIS
WAY!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE
THE ONLY ONE WHO
NOTICED THAT SOMETHING
BIG AND BRIGHT SLAMMED
INTO THE PARK.

GOT TO HAND IT TO NEW YORK'S FINEST. THEY HAVE THE AREA CORDONED OFF IN NO TIME...



HEY, OFFICER! WHAT'S UP?



WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? GET BACK--!

IT'S COOL. I'M A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR FRONT LINE. WANNA SEE MY PRESS PASS?



I WON'T GET IN ANYONE'S WAY...I WORK FROM A DISTANCE.



POLICE CAN BE SO REASONABLE IF YOU MAKE NICE...AND AREN'T WEARING A MASK.

EVEN BETTER, EVERYONE'S TOO BUSY TO RUN A CHECK ON MY JOB STATUS.



LOOKS LIKE THE **CODE: BLUE** SPECIAL UNIT HAS THEIR HANDS FULL GETTING JUGGERNAUT OUT OF THAT TRENCH.



WHILE THEY DO
THEIR THING,
I DO MINE...

THEY BETTER
KEEP THAT LIFT
BALANCED...

KLIN KLIN

"...ACCORDING TO HIS
SHEET, JUGGERNAUT
WEIGHS CLOSE TO
HALF-A-TON!"

YOU GOT
THAT RIGHT.

KLIN

WHAT
GIVES WITH
HIM,
ANYWAY?

LAST I
HEARD, HE WAS
S'POSED TO BE
PERFORMING
COMMUNITY
SERVICE.

IZZAT SO?
WELL, MAYBE HE
GOT HIT WHILE HE
WAS PICKING UP
TRASH ALONG
THE HIGHWAY.

HEH! GOOD
ONE, KID, BUT
IF THIS WAS A
HIT-AND-
RUN...

...WHO
THE DEVIL
WAS THE
HITTER?

177A Bleecker Street, The Next Day.

THE SEEMINGLY DESERTED
TOWNHOUSE OF DOCTOR
STEPHEN STRANGE.

BRING
RING

GOOD
MORNING,
SPIDER-MAN.

WONG...?

HOW'D YOU
KNOW IT WAS
ME? I HAVE I.D.-
BLOCK ON
THIS CELL.

I WAS
TOLD TO
EXPECT YOUR
CALL.

YOU WISH
TO CONSULT WITH
DOCTOR STRANGE
ON THE MATTER OF
CAIN MARKO, THE
JUGGERNAUT.

RIGHT.

LOOK, I
KNOW DOC HAS
BEEN THROUGH SOME
CHANGES LATELY,
BUT I COULD
REALLY USE
HIS HELP.

REGRETFULLY,
THE DOCTOR IS
UNAVAILABLE. HE
IS...ON ANOTHER
CALL.

BUT HE
LEFT WORD THAT
YOU HAVE THE
WHEREWITHAL TO
ACCOMPLISH WHAT
YOU WISH.

GOOD LUCK,
SPIDER-MAN. MAY
THE VISHANT! BE
WITH YOU.

WELL, THIS IS
JUST DANDY.

...AND NONE OF THE
OTHER SUPER-TYPES WHO
MIGHT TALK TO ME ARE
EVEN PICKING UP. ISN'T
THAT ALWAYS THE WAY?

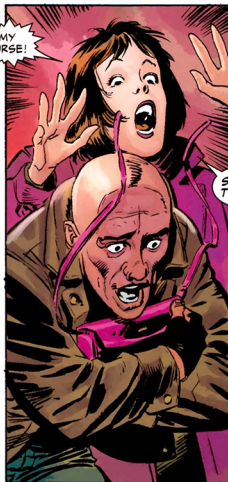
DOC'S OUT OF
TOWN...PROFESSOR X'S
VOICEMAIL WAS OUT
OF SERVICE...

CHARLES XAVIER, FOUNDER
OF THE X-MEN AND
JUGGERNAUT'S STEPBROTHER
--SOCIAL-REGISTER WACKER.

ONCE AGAIN,
I'M ON MY OWN.
OH, WELL...



...THAT'S
LIFE IN THE
BIG CITY.



MY
PURSE!

STOP!
THIEF!



WHA--?!

THWIP



YOU
HEARD THE
LADY!



NOW, HANG
TIGHT AND
THINK ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE.



H-HE--!
Y-YOU--!

IT'S
OKAY. I'D
NEVER HURT
YOU--



--AND HE
WON'T BE GOING
ANYWHERE FOR
AT LEAST AN
HOUR.

TH-THANK
YOU...




OKAY, BACK
TO WORK. THINK,
PARKER...

WHO IS CAPABLE OF
TAKING DOWN THE
JUGGERNAUT? THE **SILVER
SURFER**? DOESN'T SEEM
LIKE HIS STYLE.




THE HULK? BOY,
I HOPE NOT. I NEVER
KNOW WHAT I'M
GOING TO FACE
WITH...THAT...GUY...


WHAT
THE--?!



OKAY, PARKING
AROUND WASHINGTON
SQUARE HAS ALWAYS
BEEN AT A PREMIUM,
BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS.



I DOUBT THAT DETROIT'S
TESTING A FLYING S.U.V...
THAT WOULD HAVE MADE
THE "INTERNETS."



LOOKS OCCUPIED.
THIS SHOULD BE
INTERESTING...



'MORNING,
FELLA. THAT
MUST'VE BEEN
SOME PARTY.

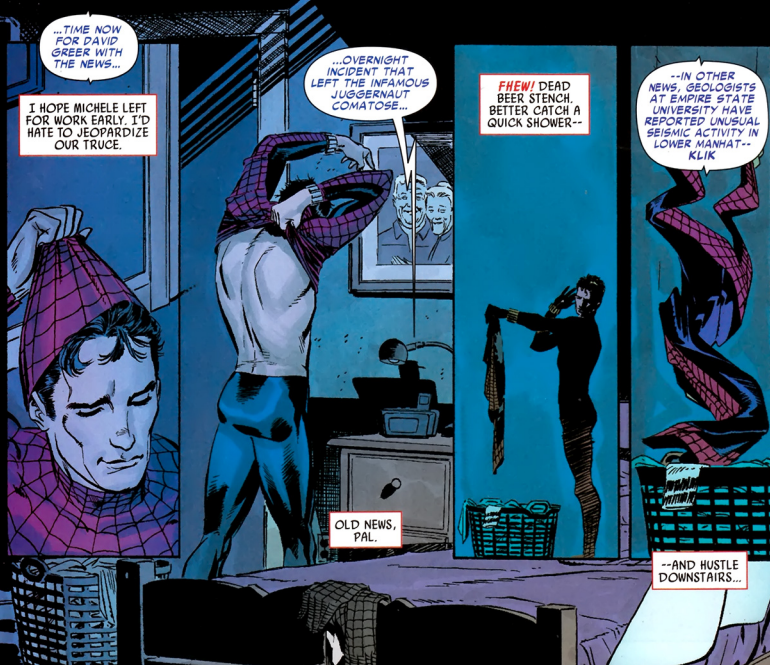
WOO!

YEAH.

HUH?

LET ME
GUESS--







...TO MY FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
LAUNDRMAT.

WHILE I SUDS MY DUDS,
I CAN USE THE FREE **WI-FI**
TO CHECK FOR LEADS. I
CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT
JUGGY'S ATTACKER--WHOEVER
IT WAS--MEANS BIG TROUBLE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE
INTERNET ISN'T PROVIDING
MUCH MORE THAN THE USUAL
CONSPIRACY THEORIES.



I WISH I COULD
ACCESS THE OLD
AVENGERS ARCHIVES...

AH,
LAUNDRY'S
DONE.

BRRRRRT



I LOVE THIS PLACE.
WITH JUST ONE LONE
SECURITY CAMERA, IT'S
EASY TO BLOCK THE
VIEW OF MY FRESHLY
LAUNDERED SPIDER-SUIT.



HELLO,
AMAR
HERE...

TRINA? I
CAN HARDLY
HEAR YOU.

YOUR
SIGNAL'S
BREAKING
UP.

WELCOME TO
THE 21ST
CENTURY, PAL.



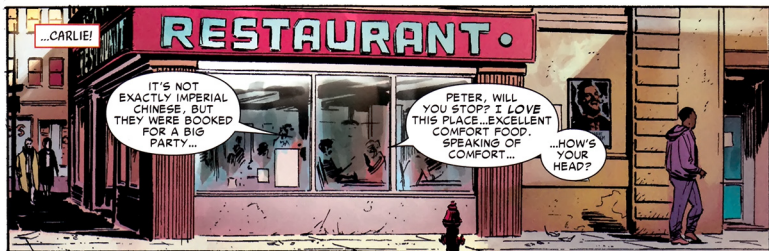
THAT'S
BETTER...
WHAT?
NO...

...NO, DO
NOT INVITE
HARI AND
YASMINE.
WHY?
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
HOW THEY STOOD
US UP FOR
DINNER?



DINNER?

OMIGOD...

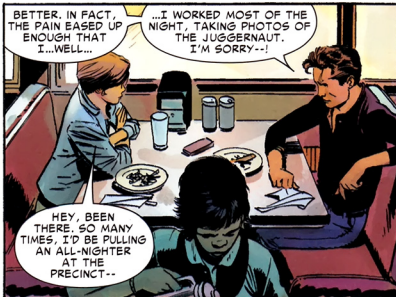


...CARLIE!

IT'S NOT EXACTLY IMPERIAL CHINESE, BUT THEY WERE BOOKED FOR A BIG PARTY...

PETER, WILL YOU STOP? I LOVE THIS PLACE...EXCELLENT COMFORT FOOD. SPEAKING OF COMFORT...

...HOW'S YOUR HEAD?



BETTER. IN FACT, THE PAIN EASED UP ENOUGH THAT I...WELL...

...I WORKED MOST OF THE NIGHT, TAKING PHOTOS OF THE JUGGERNAUT. I'M SORRY..!

HEY, BEEN THERE. SO MANY TIMES, I'D BE PULLING AN ALL-NIGHTER AT THE PRECINCT--



--FEELING ALL-IN--AND THEN, GET A SUDDEN RUSH OF ADRENALINE. WHENEVER THAT HAPPENS, YOU JUST GO WITH THE FLOW.



SO, C'MON, FEED MY MORBID CURIOSITY! WHAT'D HE LOOK LIKE?

JUGGERNAUT? BAD, ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE BAD.

YOU HEARD ANYTHING NEW ON HIS CONDITION?



ONLY THAT HE'S BEEN SLIPPING IN AND OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. I DON'T THINK HE'S SAID ANYTHING, BUT NO ONE ON THE FORCE IS SURE.

HE'S BEING HELD AT THE OLD INWOOD ARMORY, PENDING THE OUTCOME OF A TURF WAR WITH THE FBI. NYPD'S BEEN LOCKED OUT UNTIL IT'S SETTLED.

TOO BAD...

...BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN GET IN TO SEE HIM.

Upper Manhattan.

THE INWOOD ARMORY
HASN'T BEEN USED
FOR MUCH OF
ANYTHING IN YEARS.

LOOKS LIKE THE FEEDS
HAVE THROWN TOGETHER
A PRETTY TIGHT CORDON
AROUND THE OLD PLACE.

I THINK THOSE ARE
ARMY RANGERS
ON THE ROOF.

THAT'S IT, GUYS...
KEEP SCANNING
THAT PERIMETER.

DON'T LOOK
UP...DON'T
LOOK UP...

FTEP

DID
YOU HEAR
THAT?

HEAR
WHAT?



IT CAME FROM OVER HERE.

THERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

CHECK THE CHIMNEY.



CLEAR.

MUST'VE IMAGINED IT.

THEY ALWAYS CHECK THE CHIMNEYS. MAKES SENSE...



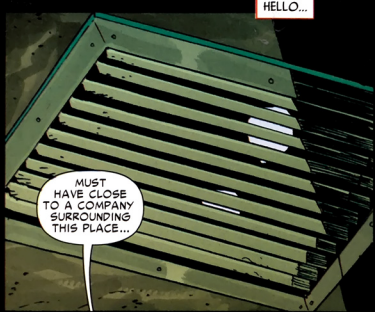
...NO ONE EXPECTS SANTA TO SKINNY DOWN A VENT.

WE SPIDER-MEN, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE A SVELTER LOT--AND MUCH MORE AGILE.



CRAZY IF YOU ASK ME.

AHA! JUST AS I HOPED, THEY HAD TO SLAP SECURITY TOGETHER SO QUICKLY, THEY DIDN'T TAKE TIME TO STICK SENSORS IN THE VENT SYSTEM.



HELLO...

MUST HAVE GLOSE TO A COMPANY SURROUNDING THIS PLACE...



...AND FOR WHAT? TO GUARD SOME BIG GOON WHO CAN'T EVEN SIT UP?

THAT "GOON"...



--ONCE RIPPED THROUGH DOWNTOWN LIKE IT WAS MADE OF TISSUE PAPER.

WE'RE HERE TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WALL.

THANKS FOR THE DIRECTIONS. LET'S SEE...



...HERE
WE ARE.

CAREFUL...
NOT
TOO FAR.




I'M NOT QUITE
READY FOR MY
CLOSE-UP.

ONE SECURITY
CAMERA...
NO SOUND.



THEN
AGAIN--



--THEY DID MAKE
SURE THAT THE BIG
GUY WAS TUCKED IN
TIGHT, DIDN'T THEY?



AND FROM
THIS VANTAGE, ONE
CAMERA COVERS MOST
OF THE CHAMBER.



STANDARD PORTS...
GOOD, I CAN
WORK WITH THIS.



LET'S SEE...
WHAT'S IN MY
CAMERA?



BETTER NOT
USE THIS
MEMORY CARD.

IF I HAVE TO BUG
OUT, I DON'T WANT
TO LEAVE ANY
IMAGES BEHIND.



FORTUNATELY,
I HAVE A SPARE.
NOW...



...WE JUST RUN
A FEED FROM THE
SECURITY CAM
TO MY DIGITAL...



...RECORD A VIDEO
LOOP OF JUGGERNAUT
IN SITU ONTO THE
SPARE CARD...



FILM

...ATTACH
IT THUSLY...



...AND NOW, AS
FAR AS THE ARMY'S
MONITOR IS
CONCERNED--

--I'M THE LITTLE
SPIDER-MAN WHO
ISN'T THERE.



MARKO?
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

IT'S ME...
SPIDER-
MAN...



...REMEMBER
HOW THE
AVENGERS AND
I HELPED YOU
FIGHT THE
EXEMPLARS?

WE WERE
ALL ON THE
SAME SIDE
THEN...



IN AVENGERS
VOL. 3, #24-25
--ZAK STEVE

SPIDER-
MAN...?

THAT'S
RIGHT, BIG
GUY. AND I
WANT TO HELP
AGAIN.

TALK TO
ME. WHO DID
THIS TO
YOU?



FLYIN' GUY...
NEVER...SEEN 'IM
B'FORE...ALL
BLUE AN' WHITE...
SHINY...



DID
YOU SAY
"BLUE AND
WHITE"...?

I'M GETTING A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT THIS.



YOW!



SPIDER-
MAN?
STAND
ASIDE!

I AM HERE
TO FINISH
THE JOB I
STARTED--

--TO SLAY THE
JUGGERNAUT--

--AND
FULFILL MY
DESTINY AS

**CAPTAIN
UNIVERSE**

OBOY.

**In Two Weeks:
VENGEANCE
is MINE!**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



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As dependable as late shipping comics... the Amazing Spider-Mail is back with letters from you!

Before we get to your letters, though, let me take a second to welcome back Roger Stern, Lee Weeks and Dean White to the amazing pages of Amazing Spider-Man. This 3-part "Something Can Stop the Juggernaut" story is a sequel of sorts to one of best-remembered Spidey stories ever "Nothing Can Stop the Juggernaut," which appeared waaaaay back in issues #229 and #230 of this very magazine. It was written by Rog and drawn by Johnny Romita Junior in a time before Brennan even existed (if you even believe in Brennan). Brevoort, on the other hand, was 44 when that story came out.

And don't worry, continuity crusaders, you don't have to know that story to enjoy this one...everything you need to know has been dutifully explained for ya.

However if you're hungry for some Spidey homework, you can head over right now to www.marvel.com/digitalcomics and read those two classic tales for absolutely free! (Special thanks to the Marvel Digital Comics team of John Cerilli and Harry Go for making it possible.)

All right, Spider-obsessives, let me pull up my Slanket © see what you're on about now...

Spidey-Mail,

I'd just like to congratulate you on an Amazing (see what I did there) book. The writers are brilliant, and although the artwork may not always be to my liking, when it is good, boy is it good.

And now for a no-prize attempt. In #617, the new Rhino is looking at a wall of newspaper clippings, and one has a photograph of Rhino and Spidey fighting on the front. However, the newspaper is the DB! and not the Daily Bugle.

Now, to the best of my knowledge, Rhino and Spidey haven't crossed paths since the DB! turned into the DB!

My thoughts were that the article in the DB! was about "How heroes are destroying the world" or something like that, but the article was written after Peter quit, so Bennett couldn't find any photographer to get a decent photo of any heroes forcing the paper to use an old photo of Peter's (without paying him, of course).

So that solves the problem. Keep up the fandabeydozey work!

Oliver Hutton
United Kingdom

Great catch, Oliver. And for you clever solution, your digital No-Prize is on the way!

To the Amazing Spider-Team,

Thank you for making Amazing such a friendly neighborhood for Spidey-fans! From the moment I read Brevoort's Spider-Manifesto of '06, I had hope that it was going to be a great time to read Amazing Spider-Man. And it truly has been.

Amazing is the first comic I read each week, usually right outside the store, no matter what "event" book is getting all the attention at the time. When I read it, I am transported back to my childhood, when Spidey was dating the Black Cat, a mysterious goblin menace the city, and you could read the classic Lee/Ditko/Romita stories in the pages of Marvel Tales.

The Amazing team obviously knows and loves Spidey as much as I do. At its worst, Amazing is comfort food, the one comic I know I can rely on even if everything else that

week is disappointing. At its best, it has me giggling at a joke or the latest twist, or indignant that I might have to wait a week or two to find out what happens next. Occasionally, I am stunned, as with the fate of the DB.

Q: If I've been reading the book for so long, why am I just now writing in for the first time?

A: Dan Slott + Marcos Martin + the Fishbowl Pimp himself, Mystery!

I mean, I'm not made of stone. Slott writes crackerjack stories, knows and loves the Marvel Universe like few others, and has a knack for writing solutions to storytelling inconsistencies or inconvenient baggage.

Marcos Martin's art is beautiful, expressive, slightly retro, and full of instant classic panels and pages. That Silvermane-headshot-POW panel from #619 should be a poster, or part of a pop art exhibit.

And then there's Mystery. Maybe my favorite Spidey villain, with a ridiculous look that somehow cannot be denied. Just the idea of a Mystery story promises great visuals, twists, and an opponent who represents a mental challenge to Spidey -- something I prefer to more purely physical threats like Rhino or Shocker. As with all of the stories so far in the Gauntlet, I'm enjoying his new MO: the remote puppet master, the death-faker. It's a clever approach to comics' revolving door of death, as long as it's not over-used.

I actually love the latest Mystery isn't Beck. As much as I love the character, I always felt that he represented a missed opportunity. In his very first story, Stan gave away Quentin Beck's back story and all of his tricks. Couldn't he have left his identity and his exact nature, I don't know, a little more mysterious? He showed he could do it a few issues later when he introduced the Green Goblin. If I had one request for future Mystery stories...it's that they actually be mysterious. Don't explain everything. Leave some nagging questions open for later.

As it stands now, I don't believe any villain knows Peter's secret identity. If you ever do go in that direction again, don't make it an Osborn this time. Make it Mystery!

Imagine all the fun he could have screwing with Peter's head. The surprise reveal in #619 is one example, and he doesn't even know that character's true connection to Peter. (Or does he? Maybe you're ahead of me on this...)

Anyway, I can't wait for 620! A big thank-you to the entire Spider-Man team!

Tom Kochinski
Via e-mail

P.S. A Condorman series? Yes, please. Who doesn't want super hero action plus comedy plus globe-hopping adventure plus super-spy gadgetry? Only those who hate happiness and money. It's like a PG Kick-Ass! meets James Bond.

The original movie may not have been a blockbuster, but so what? Remaking huge hits is lazy and usually disappointing. But taking something with a great premise and actually making it work the way it deserves to -- that's exciting and potentially rewarding.

That's one member of my Condorman crusade, Tom. It's you and I against the world for the moment (and really I'm a little busy getting this book out, so it's mostly you, if I'm being honest.)

Glad you liked the beginning of the Mystery story; let us know how you felt about the rest now that you've read it. Having Mystery back on stage certainly does set up some interesting possibilities...particularly with Mystery so involved with the return of

Harry Osborn into Spidey's life. Time will tell what he has up his square sleeves.

Dear Spider-Mail,

I just want to thank you for some great stories over the past few months. I know you get a hard time from a lot of the readers out there, but I look forward to your book week in week out.

Peter's current incarnation is a very relatable character to many young men in their twenties like me. Juggling full-time work and college means I don't get a lot of free time to relax and enjoy myself which makes your book a real special treat and guilty pleasure every couple of weeks.

Just one question, EVERYONE loves Black Cat, when is she going to get her own ongoing or co-feature? Keep up the AMAZING work!

Jason Crow
London, UK

No Black Cat back up planned for the book right now, Jason. Instead we're starting a 4-issue Black Cat mini-series in June by Jen Van Meter and Javier Pulido. With covers by Amicable Amara Conner, I think the fans of the feline fatale are going to be happy. Plus her story ties into the upcoming Spider-Saga, Grim Hunt, so the deadly Kraven family won't be far behind.

On the subject of backups though we do have some planned starting next issue with a story by Mark Waid, Tom Peyer and Todd Nauck dealing with Pete's unemployment woes. Then in #629, we bring a special prologue to next month's Spider-Epic "SHED" by Zeb Wells and Chris Bachalo featuring the bloody and brutal return of...The Lizard!

So next month's gonna be big. Cancel your other comic orders for the month, because you're going to want to read these over and over!

See ya in 2 weeks!

Viva cipe!

Simperin' Steve
3/12/10

This issue's cover by Weeks and White. (Plus Anthony Dial in the Marvel Bulpen pulled the cover text together!)

NEXT!



Captain WHO?-niverse!

Send e-mail to

SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM

(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)