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# THE HEROIC AGE



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THE AMAZING  
**SPIDER-MAN**  
ISSUE #631

MARVEL

# BUGLE GIRL

by  
BETTY BRANT



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SEARCH

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Chris Bachalo – Pencils (pg. 9-22)

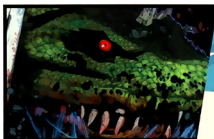
Townsend, Mendoza,  
Bachalo – Inks (pg. 9-22)

Antonio Fabela – Color

VC's Joe Caramagna – Letterer

Bachalo & Townsend – Cover

Doug Braithwaite – Variant Cover



## INNOVATIONS AT PHELCOR!

Phelcorp executive Brian King cont to impress stockholders. His dec have led to an increase in the com scientific research departments. King's guidance, Phelcorp exe authorized the implementation o program studying lizards. [more...](#)



**IS HOPE LOST?** – It is heart that Bugle Girl by reports that the NYPD on the rescue efforts in Mattie Franklin and Cas They are now pursuing recovery operation. [more](#)



**AUNT MAY – ANTI-MAY?** – May Parker, local hero and beloved staple of Martin Li's F.E.A.S.T. center, has come under fire from F.E.A.S.T. regulators for "abusive language and behavior"... [more...](#)

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May's  
Day

Dear Jay,

Where have you been? The vows said "till death do us part" not "till the little lady yells one too many times." ALLGHT! What a life. What. A. LIFE.

I don't know what it is, but ever since we got back from our honeymoon I've been fed up with work. The F.E.A.S.T. center is supposed to HELP the needy and all, but who'd think the needy would be so \*needy\* -- maybe if they'd helped their darn selves they wouldn't need to bleed Mr. Li dry. How that man manages to stay so positive is beyond me.

But I suppose I should be used to freeloaders by now. My no-good nephew Peter could teach a masters class in dropping the ball on family. Even when he tries to help, he hurts. He let his idiot friend Harry Osborn live in my house, and shockingly it ends up on fire. Well, who'd see that coming?

I wish he'd have a single responsible person in his life. I'd thought he'd date that nice police officer he knows, Carlie. But no, he's probably running around town with some bad luck hussy out to cheat men out of their last dime.

Anyway, I left some wheatcakes on the stove for you. Eat them when you're home (I'll KNOW if you don't).

--May

P.S. Did you read about Dr. Curt Connors in the paper? That reptilian maniac is working for Phelcorp pharmaceutical. Change your heart medication brand right away.

started to lose sleep

ted  
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eate  
lost  
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rained  
o, and  
nger at  
ndence,  
ind the

stume is  
ing Carlie  
ardy, the  
licated.

s full with  
has slowly



# South Bronx.



MY NAME IS KAINE.  
I NEVER RUN  
FROM ANYTHING.

I CAN SEE GLIMPSSES  
OF THE FUTURE. A  
GIFT OF THE MAN I  
WAS CLONED FROM.



I HAVE THOUGHT MANY  
TIMES OF THE DAY THIS  
GIFT WOULD SHOW ME MY  
DEATH, AND HOW I WOULD  
ACCEPT IT GLADLY.

BUT THIS  
GIRL...

...STANDING IN THE  
PLACE I CALLED MY  
**HOME** ATOP THE MURDERED  
BODIES OF MY FELLOW  
TRANSIENTS...



I HAVE  
BEEN WAITING  
FOR YOU...

I GOT  
BORED.

...SHE BRINGS WITH  
HER A FUTURE-FLASH  
OF DEATH  
PERVERTED. DARK  
CEREMONIES  
STINKING OF MILK  
AND EXCREMENT.



MY NAME IS KAINE.  
I NEVER RUN  
FROM ANYTHING.



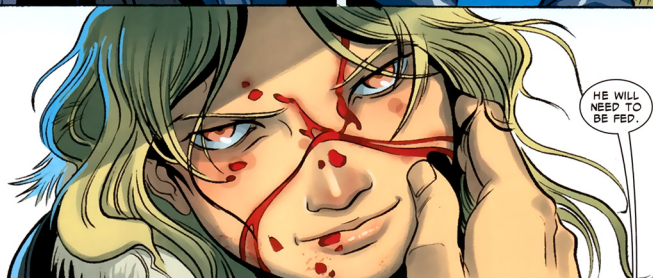
TONIGHT I MAKE  
AN EXCEPTION.











# Blue-Hills-Restaurant.

GREENWICH VILLAGE.

SO THIS  
IS WHAT THIS  
FEELS LIKE...

CARLIE SAID  
SHE'D BE HERE  
AT EIGHT.

I WAS HERE  
AT EIGHT.

I MADE THE  
RESERVATION  
FOR EIGHT. BUT  
ACCORDING TO  
THE MAITRE D'...

SIR,  
EIGHT WAS  
A VERY LONG  
TIME AGO.

HEH. I  
GOTCHA.  
SORRY,  
FOLKS.

OUCH. AND HOW MANY  
PEOPLE HAVE I STOOD  
UP IN MY DAY? I HAVEN'T  
BEEN FEELING **NEARLY** AS  
GUILTY AS I SHOULD BE.

THEN AGAIN, I USUALLY HAVE  
AN **EXCUSE**. I'VE GOT A  
NAGGING SUSPICION CARLIE'S  
JUST GETTING BACK AT ME FOR  
ALL THE TIMES I BLEW HER OFF.

WELL, HERE SHE IS. I  
WONDER IF SHE'S AS  
**TERRIBLE** AT MAKING  
EXCUSES AS I AM...

*Beep Beep*

CARLIE?

I'M SO  
SORRY, PETER.  
I GOT A CRIME  
SCENE AND  
I HAD TO  
TAKE IT.

IT'S CURT  
CONNORS.  
THERE'VE BEEN  
MULTIPLE  
HOMICIDES AT  
HIS LAB.

ARE YOU  
OKAY?

YES, BUT  
I'M SORRY.  
I CAN'T  
TALK...

IT'S BAD,  
PETER.











# Greenwood Heights, Brooklyn.

15 MINUTES LATER.

NO.

HERE  
BIL EEE  
NEST?

NO NO  
NO...

WEAK VOICE  
KAH NRRS

PLEASE...

NOT THIS...

COLD ONE  
MAKE STRONG  
VOICE

SMALL ONES  
HEAR VOICE  
BEHIND EYES

OH,  
GOD...THAT  
SMELL.

I KNOW  
THAT SMELL.  
OH...

WE TAKE  
NEST  
KAH NRRS

OH,  
THANK  
YOU.



HELLO,  
CURT.

I KNOW  
YOU. I KNOW  
YOU'LL PROTECT  
MY SON.

GRRRRRR

HE KNOWS  
IT TOO.





I'M TALKING TO YOU, CURT. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

YES...

I NEED YOU TO FIGHT HIM. HE'S ALREADY KILLED SIX PEOPLE.

OH, GOD... I'M SO SORRY

I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM GET TO YOUR SON, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. I KNOW YOU CAN FIGHT HIM.

I KNOW. PLEASE KEEP TALKING. I KNOW...

YOU'RE A MAN, CURT. YOU'RE CURT CONNORS.

I'M A MAN.

KAH NRRS MAKE QUIET!

I'M A MAN. MY NAME IS CURT--

QUIET MAMMAL BRAIN!

KRICH!!

CONN--

KAH NRRS HIDE IN MAMMAL BRAIN

KRICH!!

GRRAARRRR!!

KAH NRRS  
TAKE SLEEP  
NOW

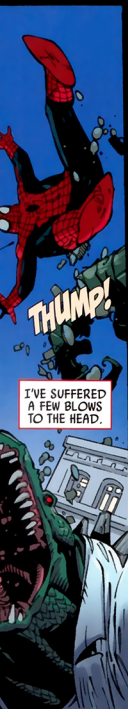
THOUGHT TALKING  
TO HIM WAS GOING  
TO WORK FOR  
A SECOND...

I KNOW, I  
KNOW... I'M PRETTY  
DENSE FOR  
A COLLEGE  
GRADUATE.

LINGH!!

BUT LET'S  
NOT KID  
OURSELVES...





THUMP!

I'VE SUFFERED  
A FEW BLOWS  
TO THE HEAD.



KNNCH



SWOOSH



HOPEFULLY  
ONE MORE  
WON'T HURT.



SMALL  
ONES.



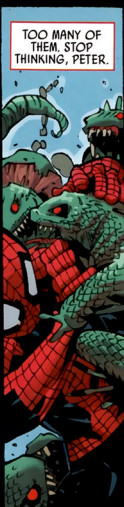
LISTEN BEHIND  
LITTLE EYES.

SUBMIT BECOME  
MASTER WILL



SUBMIT  
BECOME  
MASTER  
WILL

SUBMIT  
BECOME  
MASTER  
WILL



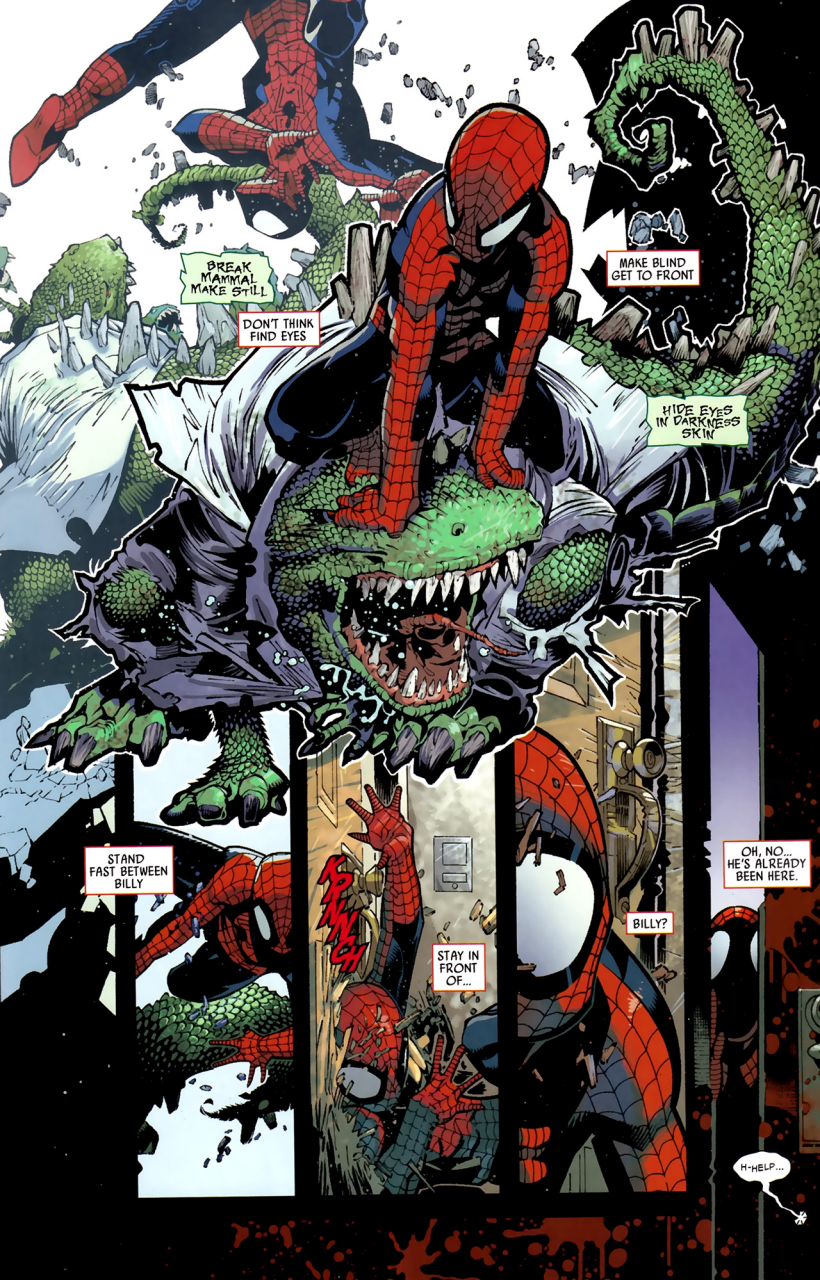
TOO MANY OF  
THEM. STOP  
THINKING, PETER.



LISTEN  
TO YOUR  
SPIDER-  
SENSE.



SURVIVE.



BREAK  
MAMMAL  
MAKE STILL

DON'T THINK  
FIND EYES

MAKE BLIND  
GET TO FRONT

HIDE EYES  
IN DARKNESS  
SKIN

STAND  
FAST BETWEEN  
BILLY

**BOING**

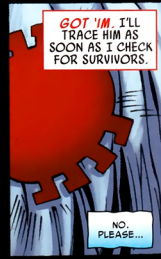
STAY IN  
FRONT  
OF...

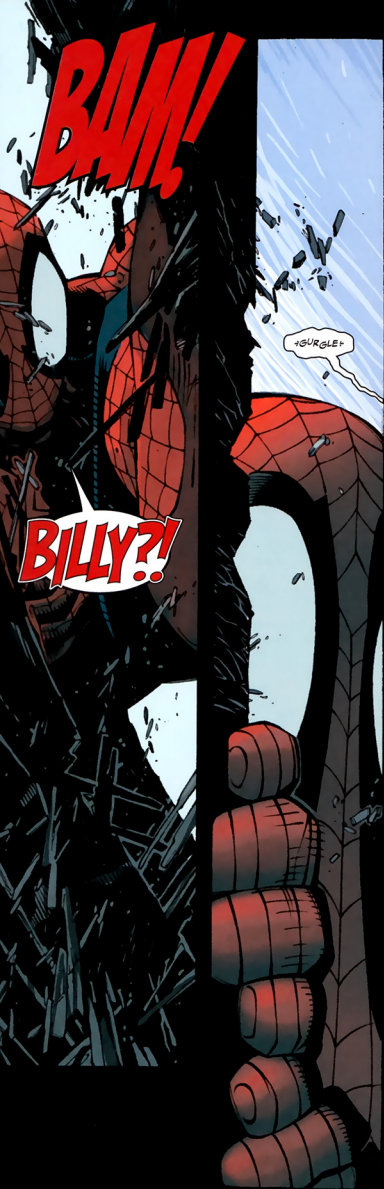
BILLY?

OH, NO...  
HE'S ALREADY  
BEEN HERE.

M-HELP...











MA'AM,  
HANG ON. I'M  
GOING TO CALL  
FOR HELP.

"COUGH"

CAN YOU  
TALK? IS BILLY  
CONNORS IN  
THE HOUSE?

SHE  
TOOK  
HIM.

...SHE  
WAS J-UST  
A LITTLE  
GIRL.

SHE?!

JUST  
A LITTLE  
GIRL...

HNHNHN.  
HNHNHN.

STOP  
YOUR  
CRYING.

YOU  
SHOULD BE  
THANKING  
ME.

I DIDN'T  
HAVE TO  
LET YOU  
WATCH.

OH,  
GOOD. HE  
CAUGHT YOUR  
SCENT.





STOP!  
STOP!

NO  
KAH NRRS

COLD ONE  
STRONGEST  
MALE!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN  
IT.

STO--!

STOP!  
STOP!

NO  
KAH NRRS

COLD ONE  
STRONGEST  
MALE!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN  
IT.

STO--!

STOP!  
STOP!

NO  
KAH NRRS

COLD ONE  
STRONGEST  
MALE!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN  
IT.

STO--!

STOP!  
STOP!

NO  
KAH NRRS

COLD ONE  
STRONGEST  
MALE!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN  
IT.

STO--!

STOP!  
STOP!

NO  
KAH NRRS

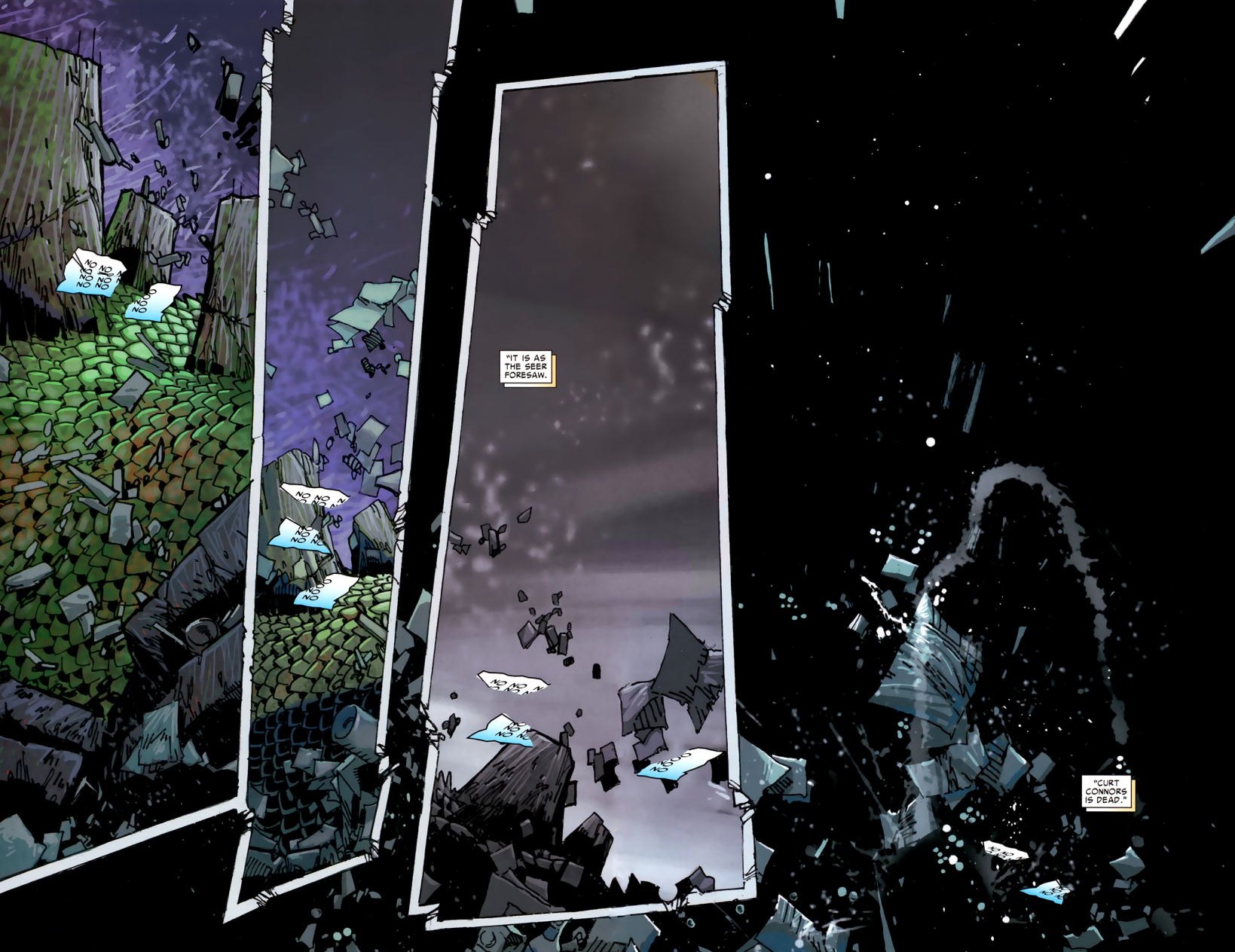
COLD ONE  
STRONGEST  
MALE!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
KNOWN  
IT.

STO--!

A comic book panel depicting a close-up of a dinosaur's mouth. The mouth is wide open, showing sharp, white teeth and a dark interior. A large, stylized sound effect, "KRAZZZ!", is written in bold, red letters across the right side of the panel. The background is a solid red color. In the bottom right corner, a small portion of a person's head and shoulder is visible, looking towards the dinosaur.

NO NO NO  
NO NO NO  
NO NO NO  
NO NO NO



"IT IS AS  
THE SEER  
FORESAW."

"CURT  
CONNORS  
IS DEAD."



THE  
LIZARD IS  
MADE WHOLE,  
ANA. WE  
MUST GO.

HE'S NOT  
FINISHED. JUST  
A FEW MORE  
MOMENTS.

THE SPIDER  
WILL BE HERE  
SOON. WE ARE  
NOT TO MEDDLE  
IN THIS  
FURTHER.

I DID  
GOOD, DIDN'T  
I, ALY?

JUST A  
FEW MORE  
MOMENTS...

\*SIGH\*

...A  
FEW MORE  
MOMENTS...

TO BE  
CONTINUED...

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



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**TOM BREVOORT** EXECUTIVE EDITOR **JOE QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF

**DAN BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

WACKER-10

Has it really been 7 days already? Yeesh, gotta get outta bed then and see what's on your collective minds.

Before I start though, special thanks to Emma Rios for stepping in on a couple scenes this issue and next to buy Chris Bachalo some time for what promises to be an amazing finale of this Lizard story arc. As you can see, Emma is an amazing talent and you'll be seeing much more from her here at Marvel starting with a special Daredevil related project written by the same guy typin' the story out in this very issue Clarabelle "Zeb" Wells! Keep watching the Shadowland books for more detail.

And now onto your letters regarding Pete getting "fired" for faking photos in issue #623-624:

Dear Spider-Man crew,

Peter was completely wrong, on the second-to-last page of Amazing Spider-Man 624 when he thought "...I can't clear myself without revealing who I am under this mask." He may be thinking that what he did was "stupid," but it was far more than stupid—it was a gross breach of his professional ethics. He cannot be "cleared." He cannot be excused. He actually did doctor a news photograph. That was completely unacceptable...even if the doctored photograph was telling a true story, and Jonah was absolutely correct to denounce him.

Peter Parker is supposed to be one of the most ethical characters in the Marvel Universe. In this instance, he did not live up to his catchphrase—"With great power must also come great responsibility." In this instance, he had more power with his professional reputation as a photojournalist than with his webs and super-strength and he abused that power.

As a professor, I am relieved to see that he was immediately caught and punished for this transgression, and that it is being presented as unacceptable conduct. I very much hope that you do not plan to teach your readers that committing fraud is acceptable if you do it "for all the right reasons."

Once, when I caught students cheating on a test, I told them that character was something that was built through the choices they made, and through what they learned from the mistakes that they made. From what I could see, those students seemed to work through a process, from denying their cheating, to trying to minimize the consequences of their cheating, to apologizing for their cheating, to trying to make something positive of the experience by volunteering with a group that promoted academic honesty.

At the end of issue #624, I hope Peter is in the early stages of a similar progression. He seems entirely focused on the external consequences for his career and his reputation, while still justifying his actions to himself. I very much hope that he admits to himself that he committed fraud, and that he comes to worry more about what that means to his ethical identity than about what it means to his career or to his relationships with his friends and family. The resolution of this arc CANNOT come in Peter's somehow "clearing" his name and restoring his career. The resolution MUST come in Peter's re-asserting his commitment to the responsible use of power—all power, not just superpower—and accepting the consequences of failing to live up to that responsibility.

Anything less would severely diminish Spider-Man's status as an icon of personal responsibility.

Stephen Weinberg  
Albany, NY

Thanks to Stephen (and many others) for their great letters. It's nice hearing from journalism insiders who take this stuff seriously.

We're all well aware that Pete's actions were a serious breach of ethics which is why it's going to be long time before Pete can even consider living as a photographer again. He's been playing with fire with this kind of stuff for years (Pete staging photos goes back to the early days of

the book), but never before has been caught and in our minds Jonah was totally right.

That no-doubt-about-it guilt was one of the reasons Mark Waid gave when he pitched the idea to throw this curveball at Pete: this isn't something Pete can just clean up and move on from...this is something he has to live with as his actions over the years have finally caught up with him.

Over time this will continue to be a black mark on his life forcing him to find new ways to make a living.



Dear Spidey Office,

I've really been enjoying the Amazing Spider-Man stories lately. The writing is spectacular, and the art style fits Spidey perfectly. It's definitely one of my favorite series' out right now. Not only are you bringing some classic Spider-Man villains back, but you're also IMPROVING them, and making them even more vicious! Not to mention introducing some new ones. I love the way it's all coming together. And may I mention, New Culture is awesome!

I have but one complaint, however. When are you guys gonna bring Venom back into the Spidey books? I'm hoping that when Siege and the Gauntlet are over, Venom will return.

Another villain I would go bonkers to see again is Carnage. I feel as though he wasn't given his due. That character has so much potential! He was one of the biggest threats Pete ever faced. Yeah, I know Sentry ripped him in half like a jerk, but there's gotta be some way you can bring the epic-ness that is Carnage back! I recall hearing of a comic that said Cletus Kasady might not have been in the symbiote at the time of his "death." It's a start!

Nonetheless, you're doing a great job entertaining us Webhead fans! Keep up the amazing work!

Ryan Caskey  
Dayton, OH



Back in #620 and #622, I accidentally ran the same letter in both columns (which in comics is known as a fire-able offense!). Anyway, rather than allowing for a mistake once every 100 letter columns, many fans took me to task, using the dual dispatches as evidence for my incomprehensible incompetence (which I warned Marvel about at the interview). One reader however, took pity on me and actually showed me how my missive mistake actually wasn't. Take it away, Matthew.

Dear Simperin' Steve,

I would like to present my case for the coveted No-Prize as it pertains to the duplication of a letter from one Sara Murphy in both issues #620 and #622 of The Amazing Spider-Man.

As the rules of the No-Prize claim that not only must one present said error, but must also state why said error is not really an error at all, I shall now render a series of events that have recently been brought before me.

New York City case #2367542

The State of New York vs. Maxwell Dillon

In this case, Max Dillon (aka Electro) caused substantial damage to the offices of Marvel Comics two days before the publication of issue #622.

On that same day, Stephen Wacker reported in sick from records we've obtained via an anonymous source.

Mr. Wacker (The Chameleon?) was reportedly seen in the office feeling very cheery on that same day according to the same source. It is hereby the assumption of this office that Electro purposely overloaded the Marvel Offices so that Chameleon could duplicate the letter of Sara Murphy, whom we believe to be an alias for none other than Sergei Kravinoff's daughter Ana.

This is the most dubious attempt yet by Kid Kraven to get attention and I hope that this warrants better security in the Marvel Offices. These are trying times indeed for everyone and the last thing we need is for nefarious infiltrations like this to

become commonplace.

Thank you,  
Matthew Allen

Ha. Great stuff, Matthew. Only a dope would print the same letter twice. My apologies to everyone...won't happen again. And now onto our next comment:

Hi Spidey People,

I just wanted to let you know that I have no qualms whatsoever with Peter occasionally getting tipsy and hooking up with women. He's supposed to be the hero readers can relate to! A guy that doesn't want to have relations EVER because of the dangers in the modern era or the supposed "wrongness" of it "bugs" me (pun intended). It's unreal! Please, let Peter be a normal dweeby guy.

Don't pay attention to these lame complaining readers that want to make Peter into some kind of eunuch. We all know Pete has morals, but let's not forget that he isn't a saint. He's supposed to be flawed and, oh by the way, a normal guy!

Okay...enough on that.

Totally unrelated but important: I appreciate the attention to detail in issue #610 when the Reilly cousins were kidnapped by that Raptor fellow. They were drawn with mascara stains running down their faces from crying. I appreciated this. Don't be fooled, guys, I promise every designer handbag reference and mascara run is appreciated by someone out there. Me.

From a girly girl that has a designer bag, wears makeup, and reads comics,

Sara Murphy  
Toledo, Ohio



Time to get back to work, literarians. Thanks once again for popping by Spidey's world. We'll see you in two weeks for Part 3 of SHED!

Viva Earth Day!  
Simperin' Steve!  
4/22/10

Regular cover by Bachalo (with lettering by Chris Eliopoulos).

Villain variant by Joe Quinones.

**NEXT!**



**(IN)HUMAN BEING!**

Send e-mail to  
[SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM)  
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)



Special thanks to ScanDog for the variant cover!