

ONE MOMENT IN TIME

the AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN



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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



**WOMEN
of
MARVEL**

After many months of missed connections, Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson sat down, one-on-one, to discuss their marriage and why it never came to be.



When the U.S. government passed the Super Human Registration Act, Peter signed with the encouragement of Tony Stark (Iron Man) and publically unmasked to set an example to heroes everywhere. That decision backfired as Peter became disillusioned and left Stark's camp.

With his secrets revealed, Peter's loved ones were quickly targeted by assassins working for the Kingpin of Crime, Wilson Fisk. One killer succeeded in shooting Peter's Aunt May, the woman who raised him since he was a young boy... and the person he cares most for in the world.

Thanks to Peter's efforts, May managed to cling to life, but this didn't stop others close to Peter from becoming a target...simply for their connection to him.

After rescuing MJ and her Aunt Anna from another attacker, Peter took her to the Sanctum Sanctorum, home of the Sorcerer Supreme...Dr. Strange, where he makes one final plea for help, make the world forget that he's Spider-Man.

Taken aback by the magnitude of the request and its implications, Strange's consciousness retires to the Astral plane to think it over ... and to secretly confer psychically with fellow heroes Mr. Fantastic and Iron Man.

What they decide now may change the world.

ONE MOMENT IN TIME

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (ISSN #0274-5232) No. 641, October, 2010. Published Thrice Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, L.L.C. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2010 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. \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$5.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.99 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40666537. 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 THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 5187 BRENTWOOD, TN 37024. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-8158. FAX # (615) 377-0525. subscriptions@marvel.com. ALAN FINE, EVP - Office Of The President, Marvel Worldwide, Inc. and EVP & CMO Marvel Characters & Co.; DAN BUCKLEY, Chief Executive Officer and Publisher - Print, Animation & Digital Media; JIM SOKOLOWSKI, Chief Operating Officer; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Talent Management; MICHAEL PASCIULLO, VP of Merchandising & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Director of Publishing & Editorial Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; ALEX MORALES, Publishing Operations Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Ron Stern, VP of Business Development, at rstern@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158. Manufactured between 08/18/2010 and 08/27/2010 by R.R. DONNELLEY, INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.

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CAN WE STOP NOW? I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS ANYMORE.

ALL IT DOES IS PROVE THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT ONE BAD DECISION AFTER ANOTHER.

FROM THE DAY I LET UNCLE BEN GET KILLED, TO THAT NIGHT AT DOC STRANGE'S HOUSE.

BUT THAT'S LIFE, PETER. WE MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS WE CAN AND WE LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES.

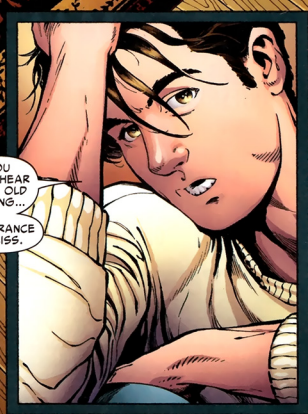
YEAH, BUT THIS ONE WAS SIMPLE, I HAD A FIFTY-FIFTY SHOT--

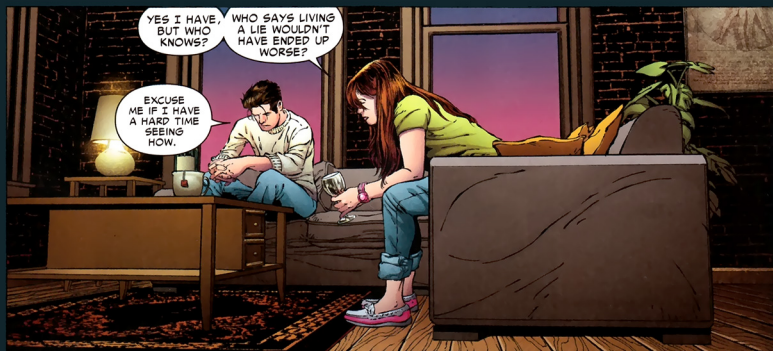
--AND I PICKED WRONG.

WHY DOES TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING ALWAYS BLOW UP IN MY FACE?

WHO SAYS IT WAS THE WRONG CHOICE?

YOU EVER HEAR THAT OLD SAYING...
...IGNORANCE IS BLISS.





"LIKE HE WAS ASKING
FOR PERMISSION OR
SOMETHING FROM
A HIGHER POWER."

WHY ALL
THE MYSTICAL
MUMBO JUMBO,
STRANGE? COULDN'T
THIS HAVE
WAITED UNTIL
MORNING?

FORGIVE
ME, TONY, BUT
BRINGING BOTH OF
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESSES
HERE TO THE ASTRAL
PLANE SEEMED THE
BEST WAY TO
EXPEDITE THIS
CONVERSATION.

I'LL TRY
TO EXPLAIN
THAT TO MISS
SEPTEMBER
ONCE WE'RE
DONE.

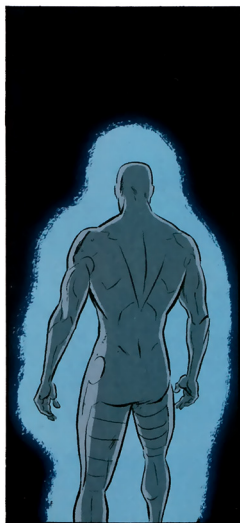
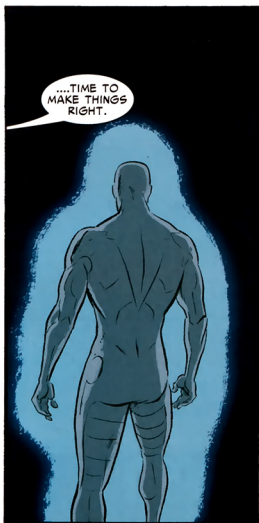


ONE MOMENT IN TIME

CHAPTER FOUR: SOMETHING BLUE











WE
NEED
TO FIX
THIS.

I NEED
TO FIX
THIS.

WE
ALL NEED
TO FORGET
THIS EVER
HAPPENED.

NO!



WE
CAN'T DO
THAT.

STEPHEN, WHEN
MEMORY OF THE
SENTRY WAS WIPED FROM
EXISTENCE, YOU WERE
THE ONLY PERSON WE
CHARGED WITH THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF
REMEMBERING.

IN
RETROSPECT,
THAT DECISION WAS
SHORTSIGHTED
AND CARELESS.

WHAT IF
SOMETHING
HAD HAPPENED TO
YOU? WHAT IF YOU
HAD BECOME UNFIT
TO BE THE
SOLE PERSON TO
POSSESS THAT
KNOWLEDGE?



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING,
REED?

WHAT I'M
SAYING IS THAT IF
WE'RE TO DO THIS,
IF WE **THREE** ARE
RESPONSIBLE--

--THEN
WE **THREE** MUST
REMEMBER AND
BE ITS
GUARDIANS.

I DON'T
KNOW, REED,
WE'VE CAUSED THE
KID SO MUCH
GRIEF TO BEGIN
WITH.

NOTHING
GOOD COULD
COME FROM US
KNOWING.



PERHAPS,
BUT CERTAINLY
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE MIGHT
HAPPEN IF WE
DON'T.

AND I'D
ARGUE THAT
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE **WILL**
IF WE DO.





STRANGE'LL
HIT HIS COSMIC
RESET BUTTON
AND EVERYONE WE
KNOW AND LOVE
WILL BE SAFE
AGAIN--

--YOU'LL
BE SAFE
AGAIN.



THE
WEIGHT OF THE
SPIDER-MAN'S
WORLD OFF OUR
SHOULDERS.

I HONESTLY
DON'T KNOW HOW
YOU'VE DONE IT, MJ...
HOW YOU'VE PUT
UP WITH IT FOR
SO LONG.



"YOU WERE THE
FIRST TO KNOW.
WHAT WERE YOU,
SIXTEEN,
SEVENTEEN?"

"ALL THOSE
YEARS YOU KNEW
MY SECRET AND
I HAD NO IDEA.

"ALL THOSE
YEARS..."

"ALWAYS IN
DANGER, ALWAYS
FEELING LIKE YOU
WERE COMING
IN SECOND."



I NEVER
MEANT FOR IT
TO BE THAT
WAY.



BUT
AFTER TONIGHT,
IF STRANGE
COMES
THROUGH--



"--WE
CAN START
OVER."

WOW,
I MEAN, WOW,
I WASN'T
EXPECTING THAT.
I MEAN--



STEPHEN,
TONY RUNS THE
GREATEST RISK HERE.
YOU'RE ASKING HIM
TO PUSH HIS ABILITIES
IN WAYS HE
NEVER HAS.



I'M FULLY
AWARE OF
THAT.

WE WILL ALL
BE PUSHING AT
BOUNDARIES. WE
ARE ALL
AT RISK.



NO, NO,
IT'S NOT THE
RISK THAT HAS ME
CONCERNED, I'M JUST
WORRIED THAT--
WELL--

--THAT I
WON'T BE UP TO
THE TASK.



IT'S THE
ONLY WAY,
TONY.

STRANGE AND
I WILL BE FUSING MAGIC
AND RADICALLY UNSTABLE
DIGIGENETIC VIRUSES IN
VERY DANGEROUS AND
UNNATURAL WAYS.

THE ANAMNESIS
STORM THAT ARISES FROM
THIS FUSION SHOULD HAVE THE
ABILITY TO WIPE ALL HISTORY,
RECORDED, REMEMBERED OR
OTHERWISE OF PETER'S
UNMASKING.

BUT THE
STORM WILL BE
ERRATIC AS IT IS
POWERFUL AND WE
HAVE NO WAY OF
CONTROLLING
IT.

BUT, YOU--
YOU AND THE EXTREMIS
THAT RUNS THOUGH YOUR
VEINS SHOULD HAVE THE
ABILITY TO CONTROL IT--
TO FOCUS IT--AND TO
BROADCAST IT ON
THE MASSIVE SCALE
NECESSARY.

WE NEED
YOU TO BE
THE CARRIER,
TONY.



WE
NEED YOU TO
INFECT THE
WORLD.



WELL,
WHEN YOU
MAKE IT
SOUND SO SEXY,
HOW CAN I
RESIST?



THIS IS SERIOUS
BUSINESS, TONY. YOU
COULD SUFFER SEVERE
COMPLICATIONS AND
POSSIBLE DAMAGE
TO YOUR
BRAIN.

WE'RE
MIXING SCIENCE
AND THE ARCANES
HERE IN VIOLENT AND
DANGEROUS WAYS
WE NEVER DREAMED
OF BEFORE...

...AND WE
DON'T KNOW
WHAT EXTREMIS
IS COMPLETELY
CAPABLE OF.



YEAH,
WELL, I'M
PRETTY SURE
I DO.



THE CLOCK
IS TICKING,
BOYS. WHAT ARE
WE WAITING
FOR?

LET'S
MAKE THIS
HAPPEN!

"I KNOW
YOU CAN'T
HEAR ME
RIGHT NOW--"



--BUT
I KNOW
YOU'D THINK
THIS IS THE
RIGHT THING
TO DO.

RIGHT?



I MEAN
WE'LL BE
ABLE TO GET
ON WITH OUR
LIVES.

AND WHO
KNOWS, NOW
THAT YOU
WON'T REMEMBER,
MAYBE
SOMEDAY--



NO, WE'RE
NOT DOING THIS!
YOU CAN NEVER, EVER
ASK ME TO MARRY YOU
AGAIN. PLEASE, DON'T
EVER PUT ME IN
THAT POSITION
AGAIN.

NOT
UNLESS YOU'RE
THINKING ABOUT
GIVING UP THAT
COSTUME.

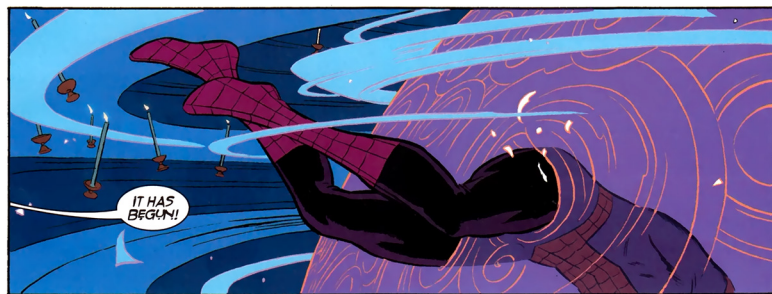
IF YOU
CAN LIVE WITH
THAT, THEN I
THINK I'M STRONG
ENOUGH TO LIVE
WITH THIS.



OH,
GOD!

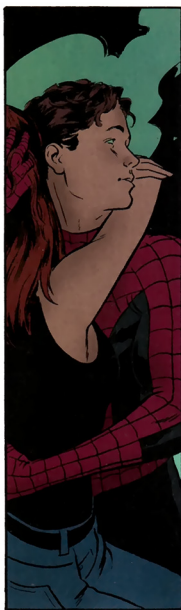
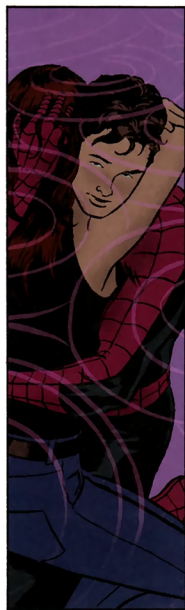
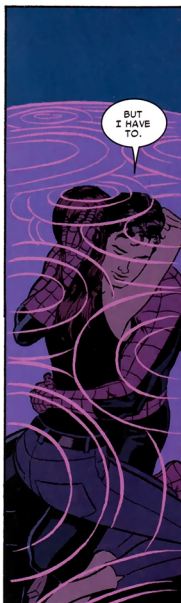
PETER!









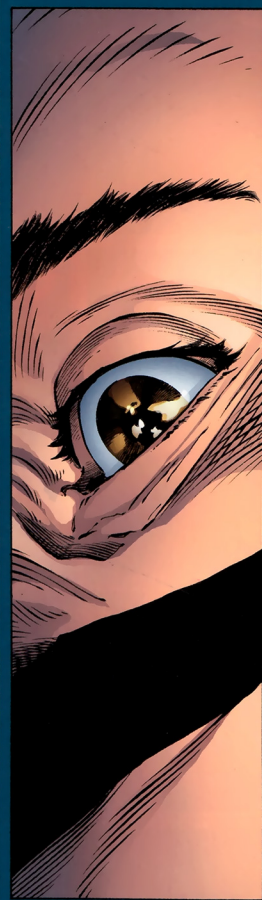




C'MON,
BABY.

LET'S
GO.



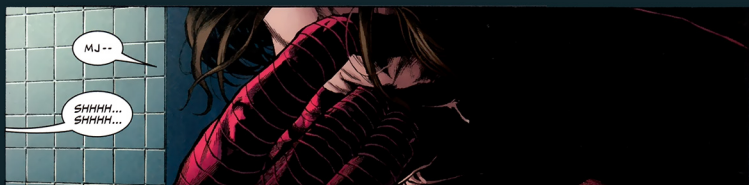






I DON'T...I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, PETER...I'M GOING TO BE SELFISH HERE AND I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING AND I DON'T... I DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME FOR ASKING THIS.

I COULD NEVER--



MJ--

SHHHH...
SHHHH...



YOU
KNOW HOW
MUCH I LOVE
YOU--

YOU'VE
DONE AS MUCH
AS ANYONE COULD
EVER HOPE OVER THESE
LAST FEW WEEKS TO
KEEP US SAFE, BUT
THIS...THIS
"THING".

THE IDEA
OF IT, I'M
HAVING TROUBLE
WITH--WHAT
IF--



--WHAT
IF--OH,
PETER.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS TRIED
SO HARD TO DO
THE RIGHT
THING.

WHAT IF
THIS TIME
THE RIGHT
THING--

STOP,
JUST
STOP!

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO
SAY.



YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING THAT I HAVEN'T ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT.

THIS IS BIG AND I KNOW THAT THERE COULD BE RAMIFICATIONS OR FALLOUT, BUT--

IF THIS WAS A CASE OF JUST ME BEING ALONE IN THIS WORLD WITH NO ONE TO CARE FOR, NO ONE WHO CARED IN RETURN, THAT WOULD BE ONE THING.

I WOULD LEAVE IT ALONE AND ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.

BUT THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS.

MAY GOT HIT WITH A BULLET MEANT FOR ME.

A BULLET THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FIRED IF NOT FOR THE THINGS I'VE DONE.



BUT THEN WHEN THEY WENT AFTER AUNT ANNA... AND THEN--YOU, I FINALLY SAW IT. IT WAS NEVER GOING TO STOP.

YOU WERE RIGHT, MJ. I'M RESPONSIBLE. EVEN IF I TRY TO TELL MYSELF THAT I'M NOT...IN MY HEART, I KNOW I AM.

BUT I WAS OFFERED A CHANCE TO CHANGE IT AND I TOOK IT! IF I HADN'T--



--I COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT, MJ. I JUST COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF. I'D BREAK IN TWO.

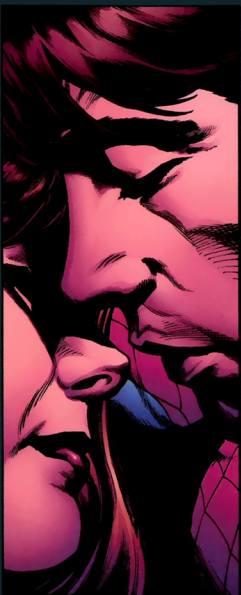
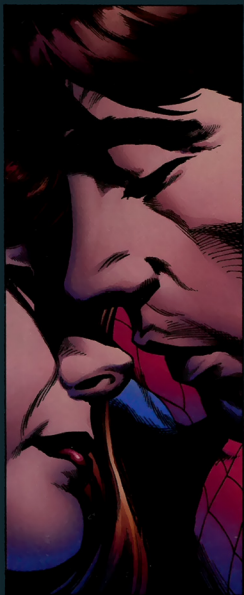








I JUST
WANTED TO
FORGET.

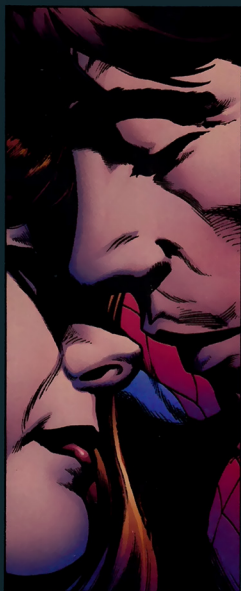


HEY,
YOU.



I KNOW
IT'S A LOT,
BUT IT'S GOING
TO BE OKAY.
JUST GIVE
IT TIME.

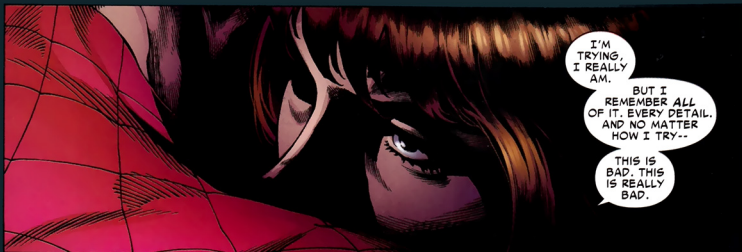
SHHH.



COME
ON, MJ,
IT'S--



PETER!
STOP!



I'M
TRYING,
I REALLY
AM.

BUT I
REMEMBER ALL
OF IT. EVERY DETAIL.
AND NO MATTER
HOW I TRY--

THIS IS
BAD. THIS
IS REALLY
BAD.



MJ, WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

OH, GOD,
PETER! OH,
GOD--AHUH--
HUUH.

I KNOW
I PROMISED--
AHUH--I PROMISED
YOU I WOULD
NEVER--OH
GOD!

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?

BREEEEP!

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man and Mary Jane Watson. Spider-Man is on the left, looking up at Mary Jane, who is on the right, looking down at him. They are in a dark setting. Spider-Man's hands are on Mary Jane's arms.


THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND,
WHAT MORE DO I
HAVE TO DO? I'VE
FIXED IT.

YES, BUT
FOR HOW
LONG?

PETER,
LOOK AT ME.
YOU KNOW WHAT
I'M TALKING
ABOUT.


**BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!**

A close-up comic book panel of Mary Jane Watson. She has a distressed expression, with a tear visible on her cheek. Her hair is brown and styled with bangs.

HOW LONG--
HOW LONG BEFORE
YOU MAKE A MISTAKE?
BEFORE SOMEONE RIPS
OFF YOUR MASK OR
FIGURES OUT WHO
YOU ARE?

AND THEN
WHAT? THE
CYCLE STARTS
ALL OVER
AGAIN?

**BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!**

A close-up comic book panel of Mary Jane Watson, continuing from the previous panel. Her expression is one of deep concern and fear. A tear is still visible on her cheek.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I DIDN'T
ALWAYS KNOW
THAT BEING
SPIDER-MAN'S GIRL
WAS A RISKY
THING.

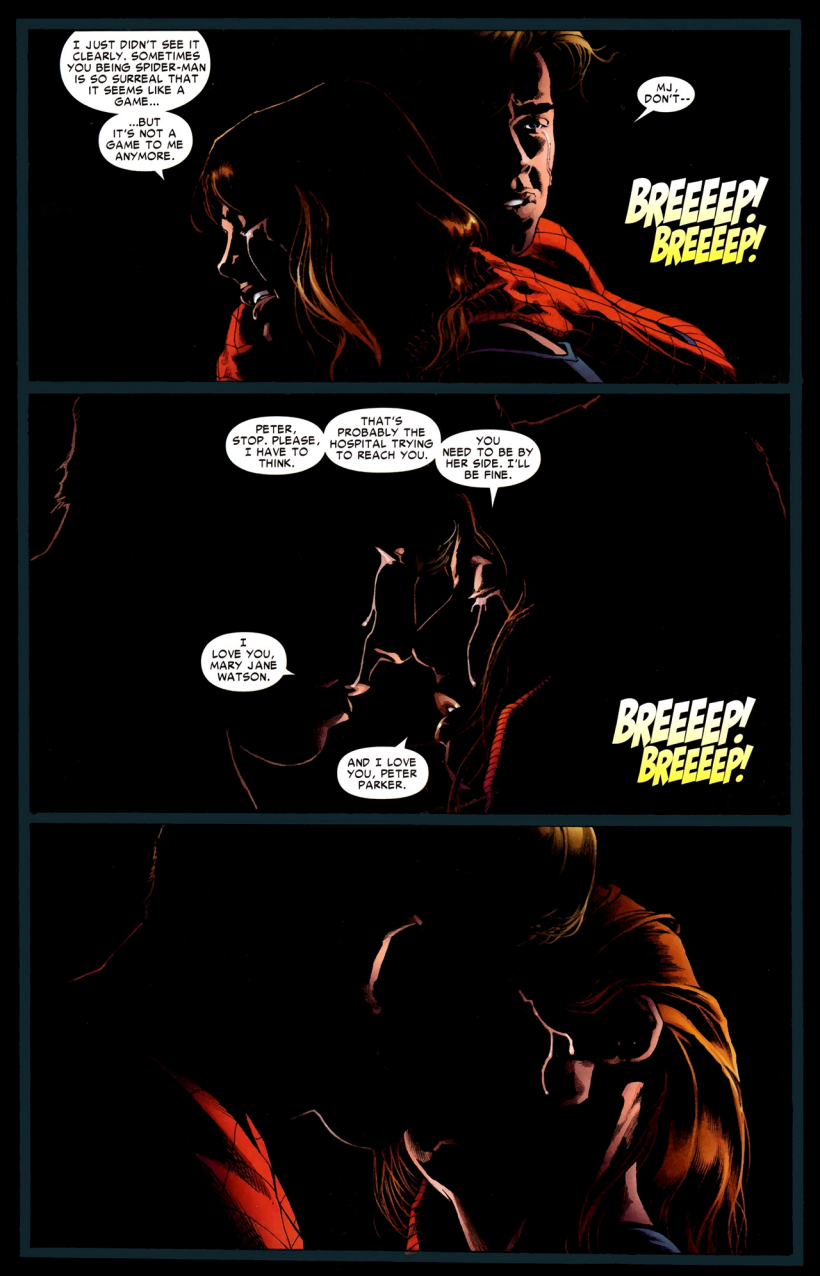
BUT, AFTER
MAY--AND ANNA--
AND AFTER THAT
MANIAC SAID HE
WAS GOING TO GO
AFTER MY ENTIRE
FAMILY...

...INNOCENT
PEOPLE,
PEOPLE WHO HAD
NO IDEA YOU WERE
SPIDER-MAN--
IT WASN'T
UNTIL THEN--

--UNTIL THAT
VERY MOMENT,
THAT I TRULY KNEW
WHAT SPIDER-MAN'S
GIRL MEANT. IT'S
NOT YOU PUTTING
THEM IN
DANGER...

...IT'S
ME!

**BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!**

A comic book panel showing Spider-Man and Mary Jane Watson in a dark, dramatic setting. Spider-Man is on the right, looking towards Mary Jane on the left. The lighting is low, with highlights on their faces and Spider-Man's suit. The background is dark and indistinct.

I JUST DIDN'T SEE IT
CLEARLY. SOMETIMES
YOU BEING SPIDER-MAN
IS SO SURREAL THAT
IT SEEMS LIKE A
GAME...

...BUT
IT'S NOT A
GAME TO ME
ANYMORE.

M.J.,
DON'T--

**BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!**

PETER,
STOP. PLEASE,
I HAVE TO
THINK.

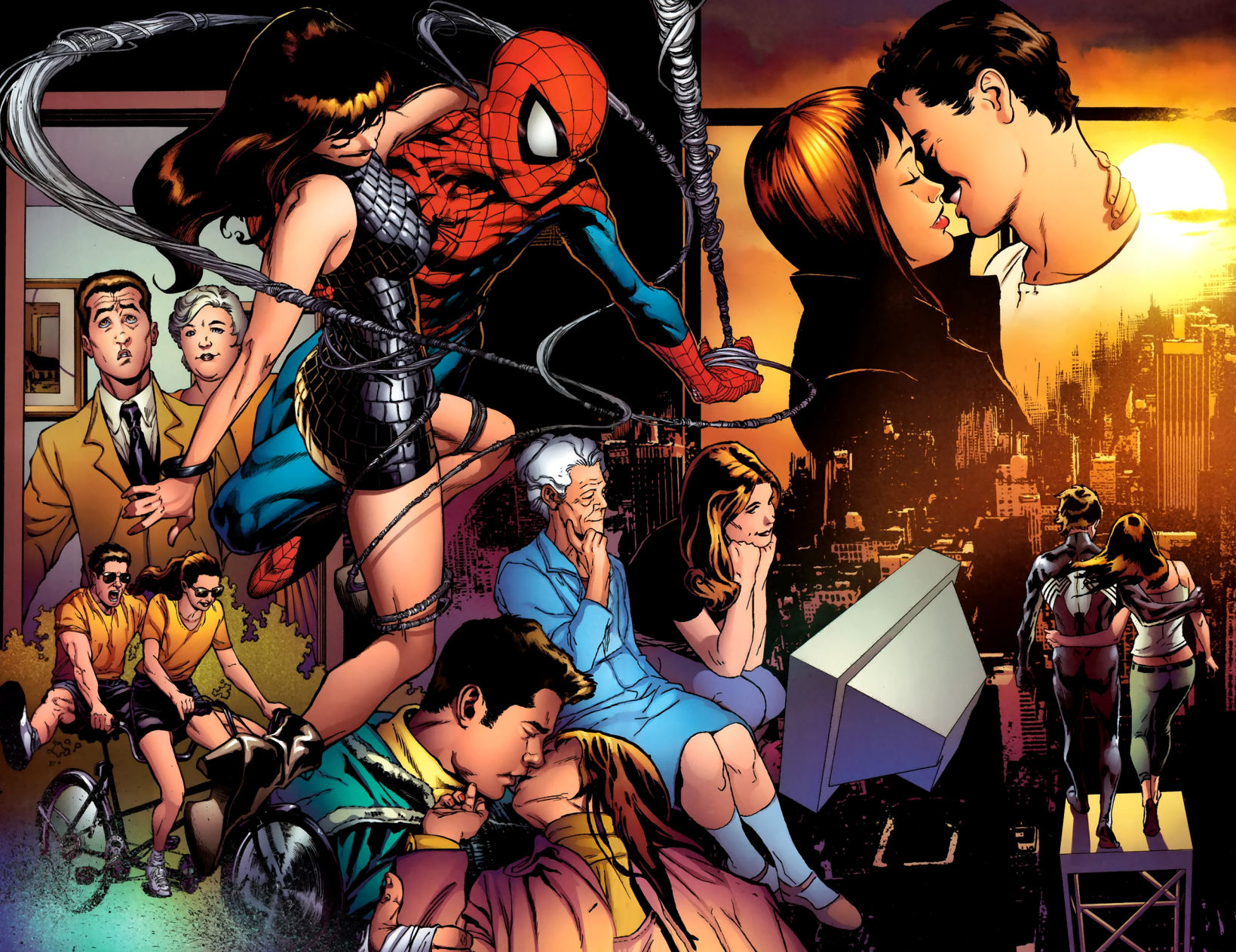
THAT'S
PROBABLY THE
HOSPITAL TRYING
TO REACH YOU.

YOU
NEED TO BE BY
HER SIDE. I'LL
BE FINE.

I
LOVE YOU,
MARY JANE
WATSON.

AND I LOVE
YOU, PETER
PARKER.

**BREEEEP!
BREEEEP!**





"FACE IT,
TIGER..."



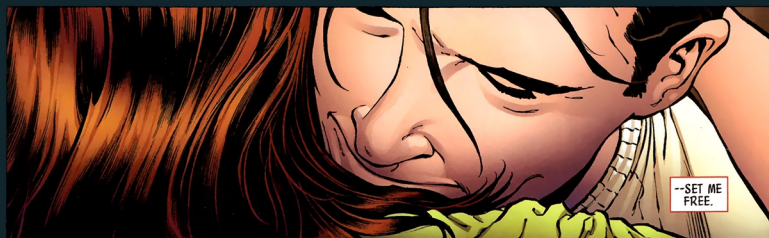
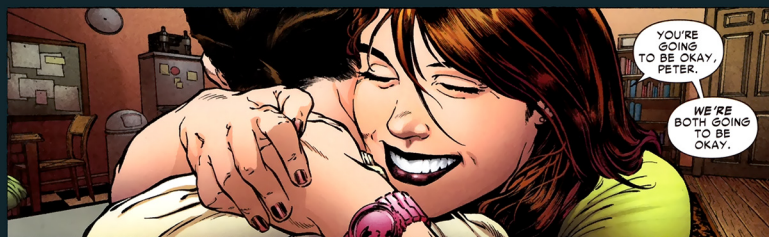


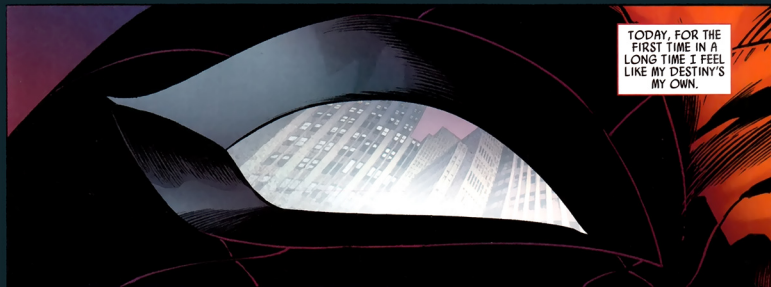
"I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BY AS SOON AS SHE CAN."







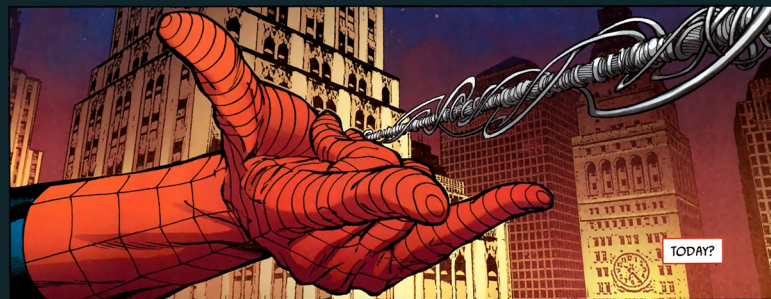




TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME I FEEL LIKE MY DESTINY'S MY OWN.



LIKE I CAN TAKE ON ANYTHING LIFE HAS TO THROW ME.



TODAY?



TODAY FEELS
LIKE A BRAND
NEW DAY!

Fin.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: DAVID MICHELINIE,
JIM SHOOTER, PAUL RYAN, VINCE
COLLETTA, RICK PARKER, BOB SHAREN,
JOE STRACZYNSKI, STEVE MCNIVEN,
DEXTER VINES, MORRIS HOLLOWELL, RON
GARNEY, BILL REINHOLD, MATT MILLA
AND SARAH DAKESIAN.

AND MOST
OF ALL...
STAN, STEVE,
AND JOHN.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



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Important Note! Folks, due to some scheduling snafus, this issue of Spidey (#641) is on-sale the exact same day as the NEXT issue of Spidey (#642 for those of you who can't add "1" to a number).

So don't leave the story without picking up ASM #642 and Part One of the villain-filled epic "Origin of the Species"!

We start off this week's column with a letter from some guy who fancies himself a big Hollywood big shot. Turns out that Greg Mottola, director of hysterical movies like *Superbad* and *Adventureland*, is a longtime Marvel fan going all the way back to the 1970s.

Well apparently when you write and direct films you have a lot of free time because I walked into the office this week and found this Giant-Sized complaint of an e-mail flashing in my inbox!

Dear Spider-Mail,

In the April 1977 issue of "Peter Parker: The Spectacular Spider-Man" (#5), a letter of mine was printed in response to a contest to name the letters page of this fledgling Spidey title. My suggestion read as follows:

PETER PARKER'S SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAIL
Gregory Mottola
Dix Hills, NY 11746

One cannot argue that my submission was brilliantly clever. Sure enough, a few issues later, the letters page was officially changed from "Peter Parker's Pad" (lame) to "Spectacular Spider-Mail" (ingenious!).

Yet, to this date, I have yet to receive any sort of honor or even acknowledgement of my contribution to the Spider-Man legacy. This disillusioning experience from my youth led me to turn my back on my true calling of becoming a comic book artist.

Instead, I now toil in the trenches of the disreputable motion picture business. I don't know how you can sleep at night.

'Nuff said!

Greg Mottola
New York, NY

p.s. Attached please find my treatment for a Howard The Duck reboot.

Look, pal, I don't care how many times I've seen your movies or how closely they resemble the life of assistant editor Tom Brennan, you've got a LOT of nerve barging into my letter column after so many years.

It ain't 1977 anymore, ya Three's Company-lovin', Pet Rock ownin' disco freak! That comic doesn't even exist anymore, so what do you expect me to do?

I got a book to run in the here and now. I can't be expected to follow through

on some letter column naming contest from before I was BORN! (Brennan, why are you snickering? I'm young!)

And before you start thinking you can go over my head, Mister "Auteur," believe me I got friends in high places here and what I say go--

--Hey, everyone! It's Spidey's favorite writer Stan Lee! What are you doing here, St--ARRGGHHH!!!! MY HANDS!!! MY FACE!!! MY EYES!!!!

Howdy, gang... Smilin' Stan Lee here.

I was spending a beautiful night at home here at Stately Lee Manor watching my recent appearance on the CBS comedy *Big Bang Theory* when my "Obnoxious Spider-Man Editor" alarm went off. So as your self-effacing servant, I rushed right over to help protect you fans from Steve's sardonically scornful sarcasm.

For awhile now, I've thought it was high time I stepped in to help whip Steve into shape, remind him of the loyal Marvel minions we humbly serve and... most importantly... answer the justifiably disappointed young Mr. Mottola.

Greg, if you were promised a prize for that fantastic name and didn't get it, then that is indefensible! As my first order of business, I award to you the official No-Prize printed at the bottom of this very page.

Go ahead and cut it out, frame it and hang it on your wall (and if that means you have to go out and buy an extra copy of this Spider-Man comic to read, then I'm sure the accountants won't mind!)

In addition, I request... nay ORDER... that the combined might of Marvel's Merry Marchers be enlisted to bequeath you with this, the most highly-coveted prize in all of comicdom!

With that in mind, may I have everyone's attention?! (Even you, Quesada!)

Stand tall, Greg Mottola! Because I, Stan Lee, am ordering Stephen

Wacker and all the Assembled Marvel staff (believe me, they've all assembled in Steve's spacious office for this) to bestow upon you the rare and official title of "Fearless Front-Facer!" An honorary title bestowed for devotion to Marvel above and beyond the call of duty.

You've earned it, True Believer.

Wear the label proudly and proudly!

Now then, let me turn this column back over to Steve who has promised to treat it with the respect a page I called home for many years deserves! Don't mess it up, Wacker!

Me? I'm heading home to watch my cameo...err I mean ALL the great actors... in *Iron Man 2* several more times. (If you haven't heard, I'm thinking of starting an acting school for people who just want to be in one scene of a movie!).

Good luck, Greg and all of you readers out there in Spidey-Land. If you ever need me, I'm only a page away! (Literally in this case, since I wrote the 2-page "Spidey Sunday Spectacular" feature with Marcos Martin on the previous pages. Isn't that guy terrific?!)

Excelsior!

Sorry, Greg...and all of you. As usual, Stan is right. I've been far too hard on you griping knuckleheads and will strive to hold back on my long, drawn out sighs and never-ending eye-rolling.

At least until the next letter column!

Viva Lee!

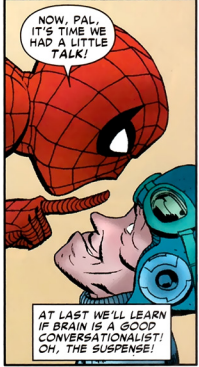
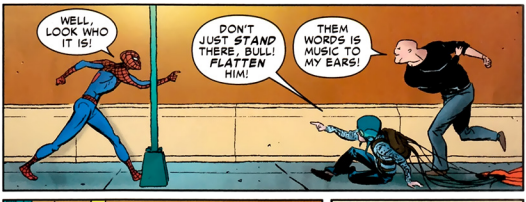
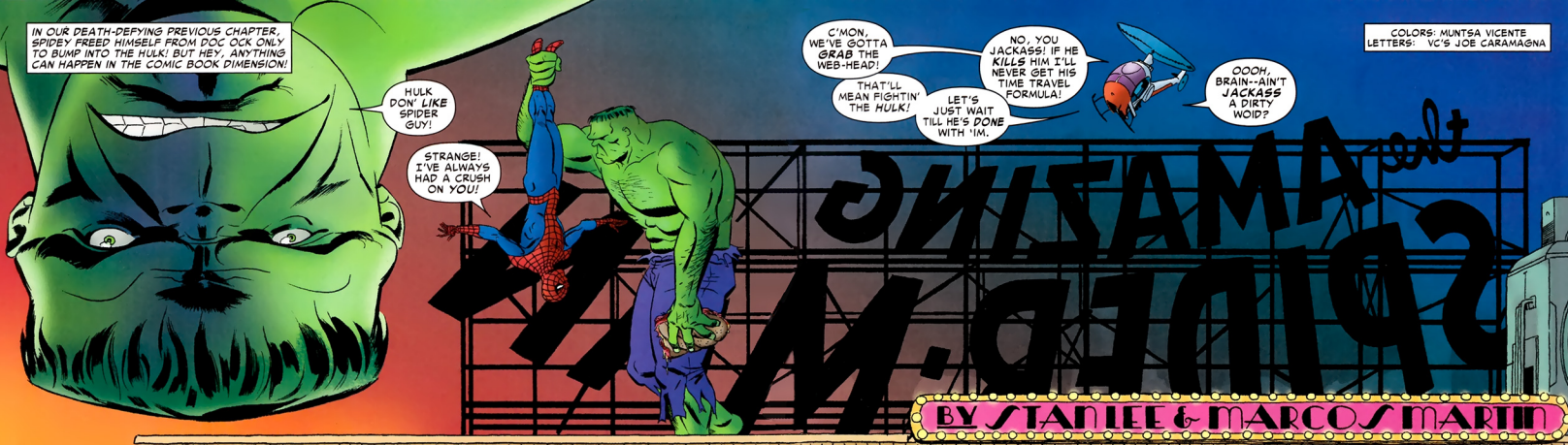
Simperin' Steve
8/19/10



HANDLE
WITH
CARE

IN OUR DEATH-DEFYING PREVIOUS CHAPTER, SPIDEY FREED HIMSELF FROM DOC OCK ONLY TO BUMP INTO THE HULK! BUT HEY, ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE COMIC BOOK DIMENSION!

COLORS: MUNTA VICENTE
LETTERS: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA



**AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN #643**

NEXT: ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES!

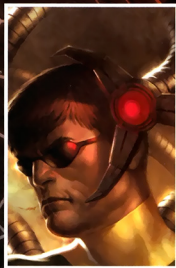


ON SALE NOW!



**THE CLASH CONTINUES!
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**TENTACLED TERROR!
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**SPIDER-MAN & THE
FANTASTIC FOUR #3**



**OLD MEETS NEW!
ON SALE NEXT WEEK!**

Special thanks to ScanDog for the variant cover!