



PETER PARKER



SPIDER-MAN



COLD-BLOODED
CRAVING!

DIRECT EDITION



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STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS:

The Love of a Woman

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN ROMITA Jr./SCOTT HAMMA
Story & Art

RICHARD S./KOMIKRAFT/VS Letters
GREGORY WRIGHT Colors

GCW Separations
RALPH MACCHIO Editor
BOB HARRAS Editor in Chief

THE F TRAIN
HEADING
TOWARD QUEENS...

MY NAME IS
MARY JANE
PARKER.

ONE HALF OF
PETER AND
MARY JANE.

WE'RE YOUNG...

...IN LOVE...

...AND WE'VE BEEN
TROUGH MORE
STUFF THAN PEOPLE
TWICE OUR AGE.

THAT COULD HAVE
A LOT TO DO WITH
THE FACT THAT MY
HUSBAND IS...

...PETER PARKER,
SPIDER-MAN!

Jan 1973 30

98...

7:30 PM

HE GIVES ME
PLENTY TO WORRY
ABOUT, BUT...

....IT WASN'T
ALWAYS THIS
WAY.

THERE WAS A
TIME WHEN WE
WERE JUST A
COUPLE OF YOUNG
KIDS IN LOVE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT WAS ONLY A
FEW YEARS AGO.

WAY BEFORE
I KNEW OR
CARED ABOUT
SPIDER-MAN.

IT WAS JUST ME,
PETER, GWEN
AND HARRY.

AND WE KNEW
HOW TO PARTY.

THOSE WERE
THE DAYS.

BEFORE
SYMBIOTIC
KILLERS...



...OR MECHANICALLY-
ENHANCED MADMEN.

BEFORE GOBLINS
AND SCIENTIFIC
VAMPIRES OF
EVERY SIZE, SHAPE
AND COLOR.

BEFORE...

...THE PAST CAME
BACK TO HAUNT
US TIME AND
TIME AGAIN.

OOPS!

LOOKS LIKE I
COMMITTED THE
CARDINAL SIN OF
THE NEW YORK
SUBWAY SYSTEM...

...I LET IT BE
SEEN THAT I
WASN'T PAYING
ATTENTION.

THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR
TROUBLE.

ALL I'D HAVE
TO DO IS WAKE
PETER UP AND...

...THESE THREE
WOULD BE
SPITTING WEBS
FOR WEEKS.

BUT THAT
ISN'T GOING
TO HAPPEN.

PETER NEEDS
HIS REST.

I'M STILL WORRIED
ABOUT THE BITE HE
TOOK FROM THE
VAMPIRE, MORBIUS.


THEY'RE TRYING
TO SCARE ME WITH
THEIR STONE
COLD LOOKS.

IF THEY ONLY KNEW
THAT I'VE STARED
DOWN WORSE THAN
THEM IN THE FACE...

...THEY'D KNOW
ENOUGH...

...TO LEAVE.





EMPIRE STATE
UNIVERSITY.

I AM MORBIUS, THE
LIVING VAMPIRE.

I DIFFER GREATLY FROM
THE UNDEAD CREATURES
OF SUPERNATURAL LORE.

I AM A MAN, UNAFRAID
OF RELIGIOUS ICONS
OR GARLIC.


A MAN, A ONCE
CELEBRATED
SCIENTIST, WHO
SUFFERED FROM
AN INCURABLE
BLOOD DISEASE.

IN MY ARROGANCE I SOUGHT
TO TEMPT THE LAWS OF
NATURE AND CURE MYSELF
BY BINDING MY BLOOD CELLS
TO A SUBSTANCE DISTILLED
FROM THE BODIES OF BATS.

VAMPIRE
BATS.

IN SUCCEEDING, I
LEARNED THAT THE
CURE WAS WORSE
THAN THE DISEASE
ITSELF.

IN A ROOM
LONG UNDER
CONSTRUCTION.



DEATH WOULD HAVE
BEEN FAR EASIER THAN
THE HELLISH EXISTENCE
I HAVE COME TO LIVE.


NOW I AM
MUCH MORE
THAN A MAN.

AND, IN MANY
WAYS, MUCH LESS.



LIKE THE LEGENDS OF THE
VAMPIRE... I AM STRONGER
THAN MAN.

AND LIKE THE
LEGEND...



... I HUNGER
FOR BLOOD!



MY HUNGER IS SATIATED FOR THE MOMENT, BUT MY TORMENT HAS ONLY BEGUN.

MUST I LIVE MY LIFE IN THE SHADOWS, SURROUNDED BY A LINE OF NEVER-ENDING CORPSES?

NO!

THIS MUST
END NOW.

MY DISEASE IS TAKING
A NEW COURSE. I CAN
FEEL IT. THE HUNGER
COMES ON ME SOONER
THAN EVER BEFORE.

I HAVE RETURNED TO
THIS CITY SEEKING OUT
ONE WHO CAN HELP ME.

ONE WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF
RARE BLOOD DISORDERS
MORE THAN RIVALS MY OWN.

DR. ANDREA
JANSON.

SHE WAS WITHIN
MY GRASP LAST
NIGHT, BUT SPIDER-
MAN INTERFERED.

I MUST
FIND HER.

I MUST MAKE HER
UNDERSTAND THAT
SHE HAS TO HELP ME.

MY SUFFERING
MUST END. NOW.





LATER THAT EVENING...

NO.



ARGH!
NO... NO...
NO!

THIS
ISN'T
RIGHT.

I SHOULD
HAVE INSISTED
THAT PETER SEE A
DOCTOR FOR THE
BITE HE GOT FROM
MORBIUS.

BUT
HE'S ALWAYS SO
CONCERNED ABOUT
PROTECTING HIS
SECRET IDENTITY.



NOT
FOR HIMSELF,
BUT FOR
ME AND HIS
FRIENDS.

HE'S
AFRAID
SPIDER-MAN'S
ENEMIES WILL
STRIKE AT US
TO GET TO
HIM.



PETER/
EVERYTHING'S
FINE. YOU'RE
JUST HAVING A
NIGHTMARE.

NO...
IT'S **NOT** FINE.
IT'S **NEVER**
FINE.



NOOO!



THEY ALWAYS COME BACK,
MARY JANE. NO MATTER
HOW MUCH I TRY TO STOP
THEM... THEY ALWAYS
COME BACK.

MORBIUS
IS STILL OUT
THERE. I'VE GOT
TO FIND HIM
BEFORE HE KILLS
AGAIN.

PETER,
YOU'RE TIRED,
YOU HAD A
NIGHTMARE,
PLEASE GO BACK
TO BED.

YOU'RE BURNING UP.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT A
FEVER FROM THE BITE
MORBIUS GAVE YOU.

YOU'VE
GOT TO GET TO
BED. WE'VE GOT TO
CALL A DOCTOR.



I CAN'T. I'VE GOT TO GO OUT THERE. GOT TO FIND HIM.



I'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY, M.J.



YOU UNDERSTAND.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I BEEN HERE?

WATCHING PETER SWINGING AWAY TOWARD DANGER AND...

... ME WAITING PATIENTLY BY A WINDOW -- PRAYING FOR HIS SAFE RETURN.



SEEMS LIKE THE STORY OF MY MARRIED LIFE.



NOT THIS TIME!

I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT AROUND ALL NIGHT AND WONDER IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD.

NO MORE.



THAT SHOULD DO IT, MS. BRANT.

AND IF I MAY GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE, MS. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER... TAKE IT EASY.

I'M TIRED OF STITCHING YOU UP WHEN YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO A STORY.

Oh... COME ON, DOC, YOU LOVE IT.

I'LL SEE YOU IN A WEEK TO REMOVE THE STITCHES.

THE NURSE TELLS ME THERE'S A MR. THOMPSON WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE.

FLASH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I HEARD THAT YOU WERE HURT, AND WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY.

HEARD? HOW?

I JUST HEARD. ANYWAY... I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE A LIFT HOME OR SOMETHING.

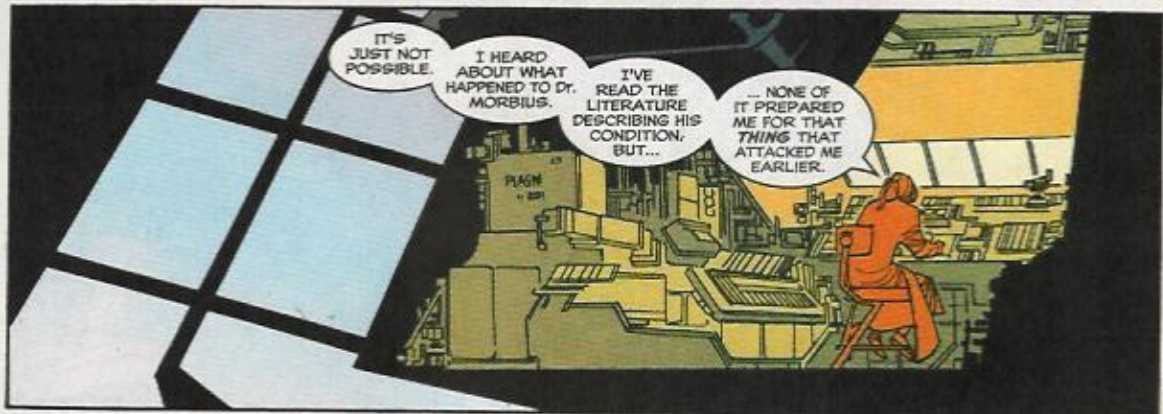
I ALREADY CALLED A FRIEND.

Oh. OKAY. I KNOW THIS IS AWKWARD. I'LL SEE YOU.

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I CALLED YOU SOMETIME?

I DON'T KNOW, FLASH...

SURE, I UNDERSTAND. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.



MEANWHILE...

MORBIUS.

GOT
TO FIND
HIM BEFORE
HE KILLS
AGAIN.

E.S.U.
CAMPUS.

HE'S
GOT TO BE
THERE SOME-
WHERE.

GOT
TO CLEAR
MY HEAD
AND --
-- EVERYTHING'S
SPINNING.

MISSED!

THIS AIN'T
GOOD!

THWIP



MEANWHILE...

STOP
RIGHT THERE,
LADY!

?

I
MEAN YOU NO
HARM, Dr. JANSON.
MY NAME IS Dr. MICHAEL
MORBIUS AND I HAVE COME
NOT TO FEED, BUT TO SEEK
YOUR HELP. YOU SEE...
ONCE, I, TOO --

I
KNOW ALL
ABOUT YOU, Dr.
MORBIUS.

IT WAS
YOUR CASE
WHICH LED ME
DOWN THE ROAD
MY RESEARCH
HAS TAKEN.

EXCELLENT. IT WILL SAVE
TIME NOT TO
REPEAT MY LIFE
STORY.

AND
TIME IS OF
THE ESSENCE,
DOCTOR.

MY
DISEASE IS
PROGRESSING.
THE "FEEDINGS"
SATIATE MY HUNGER
FOR SHORTER
AND SHORTER
PERIODS OF
TIME.

ALREADY
I CAN FEEL THE
SANGUINARY CRAVING
STIRRING WITHIN. AND
AS IT DOES... I LOSE ALL
SEMBLANCE OF SELF.
I HUNGER.

ALL
I NEED TO
KNOW IS THE
ANSWER TO ONE
QUESTION... WILL
YOU HELP
ME?

DON'T
LIE TO THE
WOMAN,
MORBIUS!

YOU
DON'T WANT ANY
HELP!

?



YOU
LIKE WHAT
YOU ARE!

IF
YOU DIDN'T...
YOU WOULD HAVE
STOPPED LONG
AGO!

NO!

HEY! DON'T
INTERRUPT
ME WHEN I'M
SPEECHIFYING!
NOW WHERE
WAS I?

Oh,
YEAH! I
CAN'T CONTINUE
TO ALLOW YOU TO KILL
OVER AND OVER AGAIN
WHILE PRETENDING
CONTRITION
FOR YOUR
SINS.

THIS
IS NOT
TRUE!

I
WILL STOP
YOU AND PUT
YOU AWAY FOR
GOOD!

YOU DO
NOT UNDER-
STAND!

OUTSIDE...



IT AIN'T SAFE
FOR YOU ON THIS
CAMPUS, LITTLE
LADY.

THERE'S A MUTANT
FREAK WANDERING
AROUND KILLING
PEOPLE.

WE'RE WITH THE
**FRIENDS OF
HUMANITY...**

...AND WE'RE
GONNA PROTECT
NORMALS FROM
THE GENETIC
FREAKS...

...THAT
KILLED
THE GREAT
GRAYDON
CREED AND
OTHERS.

THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED
YOUR PROTECTION OR
YOUR HATE-FILLED
RHETORIC.

NOW,
IF YOU'LL
EXCUSE
ME...

WE'RE
NOT GIVING YOU
A CHOICE,
LADY!

SORRY, WE CAN'T LET A BEAUTIFUL
NORM BABE WALK AROUND AT
NIGHT WHILE MUTANT FREAKS ARE
KILLING PEOPLE
RIGHT AND
LEFT.

IT
WOULDN'T
BE RIGHT!





IT'S OVER,
MORBIUS!

NO
ONE ELSE
IS GOING TO
DIE AT YOUR
HANDS!

WHY
WILL YOU
NOT BELIEVE
ME?

I WANT
NOTHING MORE
THAN TO BE
CURED OF MY
AFFLICTION.

AFFLICTION?

IS IT AN
AFFLICTION
THAT CAUSES YOU
TO PREY ON INNOCENT
HUMAN BEINGS AND
DRAIN THEM OF
THEIR VERY LIFE'S
BLOOD?

COME ON,
MORBIUS/ WE
BOTH KNOW IF YOU
WANTED HELP... IF
YOU WANTED
BLOOD...

...YOU
COULD GET
IT WITHOUT
KILLING!



NO!

YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE HUNGER THAT DRIVES ME -- THE IRRESISTIBLE CRAVING!

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY FEED!

I MUST KILL!

IT IS FROM THIS THAT I NEED RELEASE!



AND NOW, SPIDER-MAN, YOU HAVE DELAYED ME TOO LONG.

YOU HAVE FANNED THE FLAMES OF MY HUNGER AND MY DESIRE.



I MUST EXTINGUISH THE FLAMES WITH YOUR BLOOD...

...AND WITH YOUR LIFE!

I AM SORRY.

WE'LL GIVE YOU BOTH SOMETHING TO BE SORRY ABOUT, YOU MUTIE FREAKS!



THAT WAS A MISTAKE.



GET AWAY FROM THEM BOTH!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR...

RON!

STAND BACK, BABE...



...THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY KNOW HOW TO HANDLE MUTIES!

KRAK

KRAK

HE'S NOT FALLING.

HELP!
EEARCH!



NO... I AM NOT.

BUT YOU WILL!



THE MUTIE IS BITING BO'S NECK! HE'S KILLIN' HIM!

WHAT DO WE DO?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO...



OKAY, MORBIUS! THIS IS WHERE I START OUT THE "I'M SICK - I'M TIRED - YOU'RE A KILLER - I'M A GOOD GUY - I CAN'T, BUT I MUST - HE'S A BAD GUY, BUT I WON'T LET HIM DIE THING" AND JUST KICK SOME VAMPIRE BUTT!

NOW CUT IT OUT!

YOU'RE MAKING ME GET ALL MORBID AGAIN AND I HATE THAT!

I'M ACTUALLY A FUN-LOVING SUPER-HERO.

IF YOU REALLY WANT HELP... FINE... I'LL GET YOU HELP!

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT, SPIDER-MAN.

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT.

IF YOU HAD LET ME QUELL MY HUNGER WITH THIS BIGOT'S BLOOD...

...YOU WOULD HAVE SAVED YOUR OWN LIFE!



M.J., YOU MIGHT WANT TO TURN YOUR HEAD...

...THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET REAL UGLY.

SHUT UP!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN JOKE AROUND AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

IT'S WHAT I DO! YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME, DID YOU?



STAND ASIDE, WOMAN. I WISH YOU NO HARM.

I BELIEVE THAT. I REALLY DO, BUT I WILL NOT LET YOU KILL SPIDER-MAN.

I SAID SHUT UP, SPIDER-MAN!

MJ, DON'T --

I BELIEVE THAT YOU, DOCTOR MICHAEL MORBIUS, ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE BEAST WHICH IS RAGING WITHIN YOUR MIND AND BODY.

STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SWALLOW THE PAIN AND MAKE A CHOICE.

RIGHT HERE...RIGHT NOW.

ARE YOU A MAN WHO WANTS HELP, OR...

...A MONSTER?



SHE IS RIGHT, DOCTOR MORBIUS.

IF YOU WANT MY HELP YOU MUST CHOOSE TO FIGHT THE BEAST WITHIN.



I'VE BROUGHT A PACKAGE OF BLOOD FROM MY LAB--

-- FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME IT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR PHYSICAL NEED FOR BLOOD, BUT NOT FOR YOUR DESIRE FOR THE KILL.

TAKE IT AND I'LL HELP YOU.

DO OTHERWISE...



...AND YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

YOUR CHOICE.



GOOD CHOICE. BUT...

