

MARVEL
COMICS



PRELUDE

APR
#90



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MACKIE
ROMITA JR
HANNA

PETER PARKER

SPIDER-MAN



DIRECT EDITION

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\$1.99 US \$2.80 CAN





It Started on YANCY STREET...

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

R.S. & COMPANY'S
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GREGORY
WRIGHT
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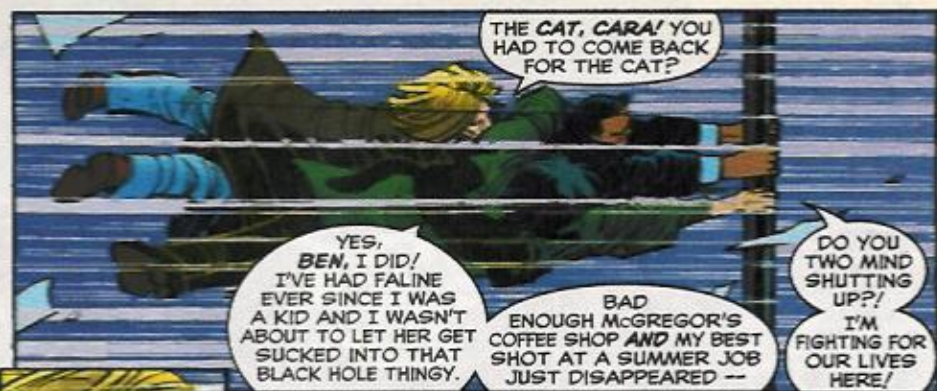
Again!

"GO, PETER.
HELP THEM."

"BUT, JUST
FOR ONCE... BE
CAREFUL!"

"YOU
KNOW ME."

"UNFORTUNATELY...
I DO!"



THE CAT, CARA! YOU HAD TO COME BACK FOR THE CAT?

YES, BEN, I DID! I'VE HAD FALINE EVER SINCE I WAS A KID AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET HER GET SUCKED INTO THAT BLACK HOLE THINGY.

BAD ENOUGH MCGREGOR'S COFFEE SHOP AND MY BEST SHOT AT A SUMMER JOB JUST DISAPPEARED --

DO YOU TWO MIND SHUTTING UP?! I'M FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES HERE!



CHILL, DUNCAN! DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY TALKING. YOU JUST HOLD REAL TIGHT 'TIL THIS THING PASSES.



GUYS! I DON'T THINK I CAN HOLD ON MUCH MORE.

ARE WE GOING TO DIE?

NO ONE DIES HERE! WE STICK TOGETHER... WE SURVIVE!



MY SENTIMENTS EXACTLY!

SPIDER-MAN!

DON'T HURT US, MAN! WE --



YEAH... I HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO, SO I THOUGHT I'D WANDER INTO THE MIDDLE OF A SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON AND KILL THREE TEENAGERS WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES!

BE QUIET AND HANG ON.

DESPITE WHAT THE PAPERS SAY... I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

AND WHEN WE'RE DONE HERE ...



...IF YOU COULD CLUE THE POLICE IN TO THAT FACT...

...I'D BE MIGHTY GRATEFUL I THINK THEY DON'T TRUST ME.

"DO YOU THINK IT
COULD BE MY MASK?"

I'M TELLING
YOU, SARGE,
I CAN HIT
HIM FROM
HERE!

OR YOU COULD
NAIL ONE OF THE
CIVS.

LET IT
PLAY OUT.
WE'LL NAIL HIM
AFTER THIS THING
BLOWS OVER AND
THE KIDS ARE OUT
OF HARM'S
WAY.

SARGE?
WHAT IS THIS
THING?

YOUR
GUESS IS AS
GOOD AS MINE.

HOLD
ON!

I'M
TRYING, BUT MY
JACKET... WE...
I...

...HELP US...
PLEASE!

NO!

THEY'RE
GONE!
SUCKED
INTO THAT
BLACK HOLE.

IT'S
CLOSING.
GOT
TO GO AFTER
THEM.

SORRY,
MARY JANE.

I'VE
GOT TO --

NO!



SHOC?!

NEW
YORK'S NEWEST
SUPER GUY!

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

I'VE GOT
TO HELP THOSE
THREE KIDS,
BEFORE --


SEE ISSUE #80
-- Ruff --

NOT
WITHOUT
ME.

I
OWE YOU FOR
YOUR HELP WITH
THAT MADMAN
CROWN!®

BESIDES,
THIS ENERGY
ANOMALY SEEMS
TO BE SOMEHOW TIED
INTO THE SOURCE
OF MY OWN
POWERS.

I WAS
HALFWAY
ACROSS THE
CITY WHEN I FELT
IT PULLING AT ME.



LOOK, YOU NEED SOME
WAY TO GET BACK. I
THINK I'VE GOT IT.



TAKE THIS. I'LL TRY AND KEEP THIS
RIFT FROM CLOSING
COMPLETELY.

WHEN
YOU'VE GOT
THEM, SQUEEZE
THIS AND I'LL TRY
TO PULL YOU
BACK.

TRY?

NOW YOU
HAVE TIME FOR
QUESTIONS?

GO!



GONE.



THAT'S
ABOUT AS
CAREFUL AS
I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE,
PETER.

A SPLIT
SECOND
LATER...

...REALITY CHANGES
FOR SPIDER-MAN
AND THE THREE
TEENAGERS FROM
YANCY STREET.

WHERE
ARE WE?

I DON'T
KNOW, BUT
WE'VE GOT TO
TRY TO STICK
TOGETHER!

POOR
KIDS. THEY'VE
GOT TO BE SCARED
OUT OF THEIR
MINDS.

MY HEART
IS PUMPING
PRETTY GOOD
AND I RECOGNIZE
THE PLACE.

MADE A
TRIP THROUGH
NOT TOO LONG
AGO... DURING THE
RETURN OF THE
HEROES FROM
THAT STRANGE
UNIVERSE.

I
THINK I HEARD
REED RICHARDS CALL
THIS THE **DISTORTION FIELD**. A
PORTION OF SUBSPACE WHERE
MATTER IS CONVERTED INTO
ANTI-MATTER... AND
VICE VERSA.

IT LEADS TO
THE NEGATIVE ZONE,
ANOTHER PORTION OF SUB-
SPACE WHERE EVERYTHING
IS COMPOSED OF
ANTI-MATTER.

BUT WHY DID
THAT PINHOLE OPEN
UP BETWEEN THE TWO
UNIVERSES?

IS IT
A **NATURAL**
PHENOMENON,
OR...

...WHO AM I
KIDDING? YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE A GENIUS LIKE
Mr. FANTASTIC TO FIGURE
OUT THAT I NEVER HAVE
THAT KIND OF LUCK!



I'M GUESSING
NOT.

I'M THINKING A GOOD
OLD-FASHIONED, GEORGE
LUCAS INSPIRED, REBELS
VERSUS THE EVIL EMPIRE
REBELLION IS TAKING PLACE.

AS MUCH AS I'D LOVE
TO JUMP INTO THE FRAY,
SINCE I DO LOVE A
GOOD FIGHT, BUT...




OOPS!
PROBLEM
SOLVED!

THE BAD GUYS WOULD
BE THE ONES BLASTING
THE BUILDING WITH WOMEN
AND CHILDREN AND...



...LEADING THE
THREE KIDS AWAY
AT GUNPOINT.





...IT REALLY IS HARD TO TELL
WHO ARE THE GOOD GUYS
AND WHO ARE THE BAD.

NOT TO MENTION THAT
I'VE GOT THREE STRAY
EARTH TEENS WANDERING
AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...

...AND THAT CAN PLAY
HAVOC WITH INTERGALACTIC
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

GUESS I KNOW
WHICH SIDE I'M
GOING TO BE ON!

WHOA! SOMEONE SEEMS
TO HAVE SPOTTED THE
ALIEN OUTSIDER **AND**
MY DANGER SENSE
SEEMS TO BE ON
THE FRITZ!

I'VE GOT MORE TRICKS
UP MY SPIDER-SLEEVE THAN
THESE ALIENS HAVE EVER
DREAMED OF!

FINE! A
MINOR SET-
BACK. I CAN
DEAL WITH
IT!

PTOOM

PTOOM



SO MUCH FOR DIPLOMACY!

TIME TO SHOW YOU ALL WHY I'M CALLED THE WEB...

BUT FIRST I'LL TRY A LITTLE DIPLOMACY!

TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER! I COME IN PEACE --

...SLINGER?

GREAT! APPARENTLY PASSING THROUGH THE DISTORTION FIELD HAS INTERFERED WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE AND MY WEB-SHOOTERS!

GUESS IT'S JUST GOING TO BE ME, MY FISTS AND --



-- WHO THE --?

EXCUSE ME!

I WAS HANDLING IT!

AND, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING...

...WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

THIS BATTLE IS **NOT** YOUR CONCERN, OFF-WORLDER!



ACTUALLY... IT IS!

I TRAVELED A LONG WAY TO RESCUE GUYS DRESSED JUST LIKE THESE THREE KIDS JUST DRAGGED OFF. I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THEM.



IF YOU REALLY WISH
TO **HELP**, OFF-
WORLDER --

-- YOU WILL AID ME IN FENDING
OFF THE IMPERIAL TROOPS
WHILE MY FORCES LAUNCH
AN ATTACK ON THEIR
FORTRESS.

YOUR
THREE FRIENDS
WOULD HAVE
BEEN BROUGHT
THERE.

HELP
US... AND WE
WILL HELP
YOU.

DUSK!

THE
EMPEROR
HAS OFFERED TO
REWARD WELL THE
MAN WHO BRINGS IN THE
REBEL LEADER'S HEAD!



YOU'RE
SOUNDING
LIKE MY KIND OF
GUY, DUSK,
BUT...

...YOU
WANT TO
FILL ME IN ON
EXACTLY WHAT
CAUSE I'M
FIGHTING
FOR?

I'D HATE
TO WIND UP ON
THE **WRONG** SIDE!



THE IMPERIAL FORCES
ARE USING A WEAPON
WHICH WILL RIP THROUGH
THE SPACE/TIME
CONTINUUM AND ALLOW
THEIR ARMIES TO
CONQUER ANOTHER
DIMENSION...

...THAT
WHICH I BELIEVE
TO BE **YOUR**
DIMENSION!

AND IN
THE PROCESS
THIS PLANET, **MY**
PLANET WILL BE
DESTROYED.

WE ARE
FIGHTING FOR
THE VERY EXISTENCE
OF THIS WORLD
AND...

...QUITE
POSSIBLY,
THAT OF
YOURS!

**GOOD
CAUSE!**



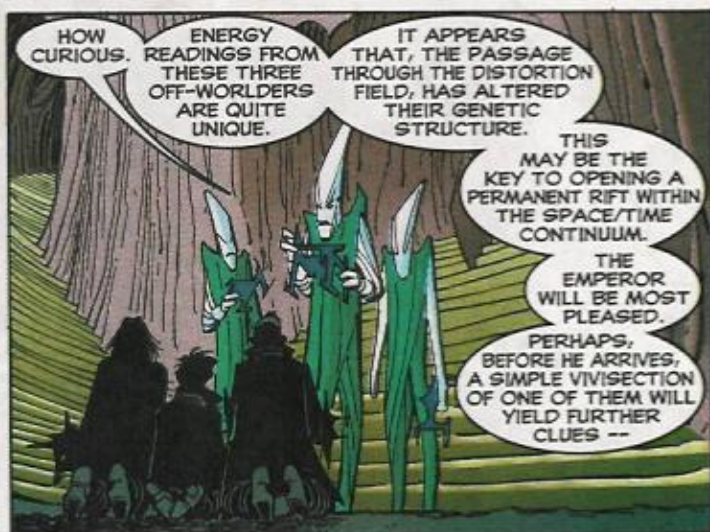
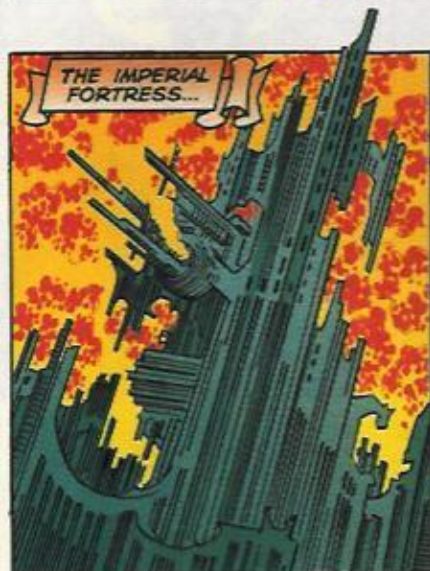
ARRGH!



I'M ON IT!
THIS ARMOR SEEMS PRETTY STURDY!









BEN! CARA! STAY TOGETHER.

WE CAN DO THIS! WE CAN ESCAPE! WE CAN SURVIVE!



YOU SURE? THEY'RE KINDA BIG, DUNCAN!

BIG AND SLOW! WE'LL --



OOOLPH!

HOPE I'M NOT STEALING YOUR THUNDER, KID.



AND, IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I'M SURE YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY, BUT...



...I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT MIND AN ASSIST.

YOU!

YOU DARE ENTER THE FORTRESS?

YES... I DARE!



AND I BROUGHT SOME FRIENDS!

GAME OVER.



NOT...
...YET!

AT LAST
WE MEET,
DUSK!

YOU! YOU
HAVE BEEN A
THORN IN MY SIDE FOR
TOO LONG. I SHOULD
HAVE CRUSHED YOU
AS I CRUSHED YOUR
PARENTS... INSTEAD OF
ATTEMPTING TO
MERELY EXILE
YOU.

TODAY I
MAKE AMENDS
FOR PAST
MISTAKES.



LORD
BLASTAAR, BEFORE
YOU GO ON, I DO
WISH TO POINT OUT TO
YOU A CERTAIN GENETIC
ANOMALY IN THE THREE
OFF-WORLDEERS WHICH
COULD HELP US WITH --



SILENCE!

Oh BOY!
WASN'T COUNTING
ON HIM BEING THE
EMPEROR!

DUNCAN,
I WANT YOU
TO FOLLOW
THESE PEOPLE.
THEY'LL GET YOU
TO SAFETY. I WILL
JOIN YOU SOON,
BUT I'VE GOT
ONE MORE JOB
TO DO.

WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO?

NOTHING
MUCH.
JUST...

...TRY NOT
TO GET KILLED
AND TO SAVE A
PLANET.



YOU WILL
FAIL ON BOTH
ACCOUNTS.

BKOOOM

THAT'S THE
BEST YOU HAVE,
BLASTAAR?

YOU KNOW
MY OLD BUDDY,
THE HUMAN TORCH
OF THE FANTASTIC
FOUR, TOLD ME YOU
WERE A HEAVY
HITTER.

AND NOW
THIS.

TO SAY
I'M DISAPPOINTED
IS AN UNDER-
STATEMENT.

YOU
MOCK
ME?

Er...
YEAH! I GUESS
I DO!

WHERE
ARE YOU,
REBEL?

COME!
FIGHT ME LIKE
A MAN!

KTONK

HOWS ABOUT
I FIGHT YOU LIKE A
COWARDLY CUR WHO
SKULKS IN THE
SHADOWS?

BY THE
WAY...

...NICE
HAIR!

I RULE
SUPREME IN
THE NEGATIVE
ZONE!

WHAT
MAKES YOU
BELIEVE THAT YOU
CAN STOP MY IMPERIAL
MARCH ACROSS
THE DISTORTION
FIELD?

YOU! AN
INSIGNIFICANT
BACKWATER
REBEL?

I LAUGH
AT YOUR
IMPUDENCE!



KEEP ON
LAUGHING,
BUT...

...WHETHER
YOU KNOW IT,
OR NOT...

...YOUR
FORCES ARE
GOING TO LOSE
TODAY!

AND ONCE
THEY DO... ONCE
WORD GETS AROUND THE
NEGATIVE ZONE THAT
BLASTAAR IS *NOT* SO
UNSTOPPABLE...

...YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
EVERY "BACKWATER"
PLANET RISING UP IN
REBELLION.

THEN
WHAT ARE
YOU GOING
TO DO?



CRUSH
THEM ALL!

AS I
HAVE COUNTLESS
WORLDS BEFORE
THIS ONE!

AS I
WILL CRUSH
YOU!



YOU
KNOW... I'M
NOT FEELING TOO
CRUSHED RIGHT
ABOUT NOW!



DUSK NEVER
ENGAGED IN IDLE
BANTER.

HE WAS
AN ENEMY TO
BE RESPECTED,
TO BE
FEARED...

...SILENT
AS BIRD OF
PREY, HE STRUCK
FROM THE
SHADOWS.

YOU ARE
AS CLUMSY AND
WEAK AS HE WAS
STEALTHY AND
POWERFUL.

IF EVER
THERE EXISTED
A MAN WHO COULD
CHALLENGE
ME...

...IT WAS
DUSK.

AND YOU
ARE CLEARLY
NOT HIM!





THIS IS COOL!

I GET TO FLY...

...AND HAVE AN ENTIRE WORLD SINGING MY PRAISES!

NOW IF I ONLY COULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CARRY SOME OF THIS GOOD WILL BACK HOME.

GUESS I SHOULD MAKE THE SPEECH NOW.

PEOPLE OF TARGUU! THE IMPERIALS HAVE BEEN ROUTED! **YOU** CAN RECLAIM OUR PLANET AND I MUST LEAVE TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT ELSEWHERE!

BUT...
WHEN THE NEED IS GREATEST...
DUSK WILL BE HERE!

AT THAT MOMENT...

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, OFF WORLDER. THE REBELLION IS GUARANTEED TO CONTINUE IN HIS NAME.

BUT IT IS FAR FROM OVER. HE, THE TRUE DUSK, MUST RETURN.

PLEASE...
FIND HIM.



YOU GUYS READY TO HEAD ON HOME.

CAN WEP CAN YOU?

HERE'S HOPING.





THE START OF A WHOLE
NEW BEGINNING...

...OR AT LEAST
FOR THE NEXT
TWO MONTHS.