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SPIDER-MAN



DIRECT EDITION



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HYDRESS HILLS
CEMETERY.

SALEM FIELDS

THE NIGHT SKIES ABOVE THIS QUEENS
NEIGHBORHOOD ARE AGLOW WITH FLAMES
WITHIN THE ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND
WHICH DEFINES IT.

FOR THE PAST TWO HOURS LOCAL
FIRE FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN BATTLING
THE BLAZE TO NO AVAIL.

WATER HAS NO
EFFECT ON IT.

RUMORS BEGIN TO SPREAD
THAT AN ANCIENT FORCE HAS
RETURNED TO THE CEMETERY
ONCE MORE.

A FORCE OF VENGEANCE
IS ONCE AGAIN BORN IN
FIRE AND BLOOD.

LET THOSE WHO WOULD
SPILL INNOCENT BLOOD
ONCE AGAIN TREMBLE
IN FEAR FOR...





GHOST RIDER.
THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE,
IS REBORN AGAIN!

IT
BEGINS
ANEW.

RRROO!

I RIDE
AGAIN... FOR
VENGEANCE!



RETURN AGAIN

MEANWHILE, ON
A SOMEWHAT
LIGHTER NOTE...

THE SPIDER-
HUNT IS OVER.

THE IDENTITY CRISIS
IS A RECENT MEMORY.

THE FIVE MILLION DOLLAR
BOUNTY HAS BEEN LIFTED
FROM THE FABLED WEB-
SLINGER'S HEAD, FOR HE
HAS BEEN CLEARED IN THE
MURDER OF THE SMALL TIME
CROOK KNOWN AS JOEY Z.

ALL IN ALL,
SPIDER-MAN --

EEEEEHHA!

-- IS HAPPY TO
BE WHO HE IS!

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IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!
NOW TO START REPAIRING MY SULLIED REPUTATION.



LET'S SEE... WHERE TO START?

A SHORT TIME LATER...



HERE YOU GO, MA'M. YOUR LITTLE MUFFIN IS AS SAFE AS THE DAY HE WAS BORN.

WHAT A DEAR SWEET BOY. IT'S A SHAME YOU FEEL THE NEED TO COVER YOURSELF WITH THOSE AWFUL WEBS.

AND...

...YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT THIS THE NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE TO BREAK INTO SOMEONE'S APARTMENT, BUDDY!

HELL!

THEY'LL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH, BUT...

AS WELL AS...

COME ON, FELLAS, QUIT SQUIRMING, HOLD ON TIGHT, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE WE'RE ON AN AMUSEMENT PARK'S SCARY RIDE.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS INSIDE THE VEHICLE UNTIL IT COMES TO A COMPLETE STOP!



MOMMY!
DID YOU SEE US? IT'S
SPIDER-MAN!

ISN'T IT
COOL?!

YES,
HONEY!
I'M JUST SO
GLAD YOU'RE
SAFE.

NOW
LET'S BACK
AWAY FROM THE NICE
MAN... QUICKLY NOW!

OKAY,
WEBS, WE'VE GOT IT
FROM HERE.

WHY DON'T
YOU MOVE IT ALONG
BEFORE WE RUN YOU
IN FOR... FOR
OBSTRUCTION OR
SOMETHING.

YOU DON'T ALL HAVE
TO RUSH IN AND
THANK ME AT
ONCE.

REALLY...

...YOU
DON'T.

AFTER EVERYTHING... THEY STILL
DON'T TRUST ME. **NORMAN
OSBORN**, THE EMBODIMENT OF
PURE EVIL, IS CONSIDERED THE
GREATEST THING SINCE SLICED
BREAD, AND **ME**...? I'M NOT
GOING TO WORRY ABOUT IT.

AT
LEAST I
DON'T STILL
HAVE HALF THE
CITY PICKING
UP GUNS AND TRYING
TO HUNT ME DOWN. I CAN LIVE
WITH A LITTLE NEGATIVE PRESS.

NOTHING IS GOING TO
DAMPEN THE GOOD
MOOD I'M
IN.

HEY!

WHAT
THE HECK
YOU DOIN' ON
MY ROOF, YOU
FREAK? GET OUTTA
HERE BEFORE I CALL
THE COPS ON YA!

YOU
HAVE A NICE
DAY TOO,
SIR!

IT'S
GREAT
BEING
ME!

FOREST
HILLS,
QUEENS...

ARTHUR STACY,
INTERNATIONALLY
KNOWN PRIVATE
INVESTIGATOR,
SITS IN HIS HOME
OFFICE AND
CONTEMPLATES
HIS LIFE.

KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK!
ANYBODY
HOME?

HOW
YOU DOING
THERE, YOUNG
FELLA? WHAT CAN
I DO FOR YOU
TONIGHT?

I THINK
YOU'VE DONE
PLENTY ALREADY,
ARTHUR.

IT WAS YOU
WHO HELPED ME
STAY CALM AND ON THE
TRACK OF THE TRAPSTER.

YOU HELPED ME CLEAR MY NAME OF
MURDER AND GET BACK MY LIFE.
I'M HERE TO MAKE GOOD ON MY
PART OF THE BARGAIN.

YOU WANT TO
TALK ABOUT THE DEATHS
OF YOUR BROTHER GEORGE
AND YOUR NIECE GWEN. YOU
WANT TO KNOW HOW NORMAN
OSBORN WAS INVOLVED IN IT
ALL... I'M ALL YOURS.

THANKS, YOUNG FELLOW,
BUT MAYBE ANOTHER
TIME.

EXCUSE
ME?

"ANOTHER
TIME?"

CORRECT ME
IF I'M WRONG,
ARTHUR, BUT
SOMETHING IS
NOT RIGHT
HERE.

EVER SINCE
YOU ARRIVED BACK
IN TOWN, YOU'VE BEEN
AFTER ME TO TALK ABOUT THE
DEATHS OF GEORGE AND GWEN.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

IT'S MY SON, PAUL,
AND MY DAUGHTER,
JILL. HE'S MOVING
OUT OF THE HOUSE
TODAY, AND SHE'S
BEEN OBSESSED
WITH... YOU.
BUT...

...IT'S PERSONAL AND
I'LL HANDLE IT. I JUST
NEED YOU TO PROMISE
TO STAY OUT
OF IT.

I
UNDERSTAND.

AFTER ALL WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH,
EVEN HE REALLY
DOESN'T TRUST
ME.

MEANWHILE,
OUTSIDE...

I THINK
THE PAPER IS
COMING TOGETHER,
JILL. A COUPLE OF
MORE WEEKS AND
WE SHOULD BE
JUST ABOUT
DONE.

I HOPE
SO, **MARY JANE**,
I FEEL AS THOUGH
WE'VE BEEN SPENDING
EVERY WAKING
MINUTE ON THIS
THING.

SOME TIME
SOON I'D LIKE
TO GET A LIFE
BACK.

MEANWHILE...
WHAT DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT
THIS JOEY Z.
GUY?

EXCUSE
ME?

YOU KNOW... THE
GUY THAT SPIDER-MAN
WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE
KILLED. I THINK THERE'S
SOMETHING THERE. MAYBE
IT'S CRAZY, BUT THE
CONNECTION
BUGS ME.

LIKE MAYBE,
IF I COULD FIND OUT
A LITTLE MORE ABOUT
HIM, I COULD GET CLOSER
TO SPIDER-MAN AND FIND
OUT ABOUT HOW MY
COUSIN GWEN
WAS KILLED.

SPIDER-MAN
WAS CLEARED OF --

Oh, COME
ON **MARY JANE**,
DON'T YOU
THINK --

IS THAT
PAUL? HE'S
MOVING?

IT'S
NEWS TO
ME?

PAUL,
WHAT'S GOING
ON?
WHY ARE
YOU --?

DON'T PULL
THE NAIVE YOUNGER
SISTER ROUTINE, JILL.
YOU *KNOW* WHY
FATHER AND I CAN'T
LIVE UNDER THE
SAME ROOF.

THE
REAL SURPRISE
SHOULD BE THAT IT
LASTED THIS LONG.

I'LL
SEND YOU MY
NEW ADDRESS.

WHAT
IS HIS
PROBLEM?

IT'S...
IT'S...JUST
THE WAY HE
IS.

HE'LL BE
FINE.

BUT WHY
IS HE ALWAYS
SUCH A --

I'VE
GOT TO GO,
M.J. I'LL SEE YOU
TOMORROW.

SURE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WHAT A
CLASSIC BLOW-
OFF.

THERE IS
SOMETHING WRONG
WITH PAUL THAT JILL
DOESN'T WANT TO
TALK ABOUT.

WE ALL KNEW THAT HE WAS
INVOLVED WITH THAT FRIENDS
OF HUMANITY HATE GROUP A
WHILE BACK, BUT THIS SEEMS
LIKE SOMETHING MORE,
SOMETHING DARKER.

I'M STARTING
TO SOUND LIKE
PETER! SEEING
CONSPIRACIES
AND COSTUMED
VILLAINS AROUND
EVERY CORNER.

SPEAKING
OF PETER...

HE'D HAVE A
FIT IF HE KNEW
I WALKED HOME
ALONE THROUGH THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD.

THIS IS
EXACTLY
THE KIND OF
PLACE WHERE —

BOO! EEEK!

PETER!
YOU JERK!

YOU SCARED ME HALF
TO DEATH AND...
...YOUR FANCY
UNDERWEAR IS
SHOWING.

LOOKS
LIKE SOME-
ONE CHANGED
A LITTLE TOO
QUICKLY!

OOPS!
BUT...WHO
CARES?

WE'RE
YOUNG...
IN LOVE...
AND...

...FULL
OF LIFE!

PETER!

WHAT IS UP WITH YOU TONIGHT, P --?

CALL ME TIGER! IT'S SEEMS LIKE FOREVER SINCE YOU CALLED ME TIGER!

COME ON, MJ, LET'S START ACTING OUR AGE FOR A CHANGE.

SOME-TIMES I FEEL LIKE WE ACT AS THOUGH WE'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.

BESIDES WHICH MY SPIDER-SENSE WOULD WARN ME IF ANYONE WAS WATCHING NEARBY! THE CITY LIKES ME AGAIN!

MOSTLY.

WHAT, AGAIN?

THEY NEVER LIKE YOU! YOU'RE CONFUSING NOT TRYING TO KILL YOU FOR FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WITH HERO WORSHIP.

YOU KNOW ME, I'M ALL FOR HAVING FUN, BUT...

...LET'S NOT SET OURSELVES UP FOR DISAPPOINTMENT.

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT TO BE... WANT TO BE... SPIDER-MAN, BUT... CAN'T YOU DO IT A LITTLE LESS CONSPICUOUSLY. AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW THAT NO ONE ELSE IS TRYING TO KILL YOU?

WHAT'S THIS? MARY JANE PARKER, PARTY GIRL EXTREME, BECOMING A WET BLANKET?

I KNOW I GET CARRIED AWAY WITH MY OVER-WHELMING SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT...

...LET'S TRY AND FORGET ABOUT IT FOR THE NIGHT.

LET'S BE RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE FOR A CHANGE!

COME ON, MJ, THINGS ARE STARTING TO TURN AROUND FOR US... LET'S ENJOY IT WHILE WE'RE STILL YOUNG.

REALLY... WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

I WISH YOU HADN'T SAID THAT.

PETER? PETER, WHAT'S WRONG?

SPIDER-SENSE GOING CRAZY! GET...

FWOOSH
...DOWN!



YOU HAD TO ASK, DIDN'T YOU?

MARY JANE...
Er...

LET ME GUESS... YOU WANT TO GO OUT PARTYING UNTIL THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING.

NO?

OKAY... WHAT? YOU'VE GOT TO GO PROVE TO THE CITY THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?

YOU KNOW, DESPITE HOW I SOUND SOMETIMES, I DO LOVE YOU AND...

...I RESPECT YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER KNOW FOR DOING WHAT YOU DO.

GO GET HIM, TIGER!

YOU ARE THE BEST!

YEAH... I AM.

A SHORT
TIME LATER...

WHAT
IS THIS ALL
ABOUT?

GHOST
RIDER'S FLAMES
SEEM TO BE
BURNING OUT OF
CONTROL.

THIS WAS
NOT PART OF HIS
M.O. THE LAST TIME
WE RAN INTO ONE
ANOTHER.

FOR
SOMEONE
WHO GOES OUT
OF HIS WAY TO
PROTECT THE
INNOCENT,
HE --

HELP!

SPEAKING
OF WHICH...

"...THAT
ABANDONED
BUILDING!"

"COULD GHOST
RIDER'S FLAMES
HAVE IGNITED IT
BY ACCIDENT?"

"A KID IS TRAPPED
INSIDE. FAMILY
MUST HAVE BEEN
SQUATTING AT
THE PLACE."

"THERE IS NO WAY THE
FIREMEN WILL BE ABLE
TO REACH HIM."

"GUESS THIS IS MY
NIGHT TO AID NEW
YORK'S BRAVEST."

SEEMS TO BE
AN AWFUL LOT OF
FIRES IN THE
CITY TONIGHT...
COINCIDENCE?

CAN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THE WHY RIGHT
NOW. JUST A QUICK
SWING TO THE ROOF
AND THE KID WILL
BE AS GOOD
AS --

OOPS!

KRAK

Oh, BOY!

DADDY!
HELP ME! 3KOFF!
3KOFF!

CONNER! I'VE GOT
TO... PLEASE... LET
ME HELP MY
BOY!

YOU
READY
TO BLOW
THIS JOINT,
KID?


SPIDER-MAN!

THWIP







OKAY...
THAT WASN'T
TOO
HARD.



THE GUY IS SOME SORT
OF LIVING SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE...
ESSENTIALLY A FLAMING SKELETON
THAT CAN DO ANYTHING *INCLUDING*
RIDE THAT BIKE OF HIS ACROSS
WATER... AND HE SEEMS TO
BE OUT OF CONTROL.



EXACTLY
WHAT AM I
GOING TO
DO TO STOP
HIM ONCE I
FIND HIM?



NO TIME
FOR SELF
DOUBTS,
BECAUSE...

"...HE'S
HERE!"

GET
AWAY FROM
ME!
PLEASE!

I AM A
SERVANT OF
VENGEANCE,
BUT...

...I HAVE
NO CONTROL
OVER THE
FORCES OF
HELLFIRE!

WHY
WAS I
REBORN AGAIN?
WHY HAVE I
BEEN CALLED
FORTH
AGAIN?

34TH
STATION
MTA 400

SO
MANY
QUESTIONS
SPINNING
THROUGH
MY HEAD.

SO
MANY TRUTHS
AND LIES
MIXED
TOGETHER.

NOBLE
KALE, THE
LORD OF THE
DARK REALM,
MEPHISTO,
BLACK-
HEART...

LIES
WITHIN
LIES WITHIN
LIES!

THE PAIN...
CANNOT THINK...
CANNOT...

NO!

VENGEANCE
DOES NOT
THINK...

...IT
ACTS!

TCHINK



HELLO
THERE,
GHOST
RIDER!

REMEMBER ME?
YOUR **FRIENDLY**
NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN!

I WAS
WONDERING IF
YOU COULD DOUSE
THE FLAMES FOR
A LITTLE WHILE,
SO THAT YOU AND
I COULD
TALK —

SO
MUCH FOR
TALKING.

THRAK



LEAVE...
NOW.

THE
PAIN IS TOO
GREAT... THE LIVES
OF INNOCENTS ARE
AT STAKE... SOON, IF
I DO NOT ACT, THE
STREETS WILL BE
RUNNING WITH
BLOOD!

HATE
TO BREAK THIS TO
YOU, GHOST
RIDER, BUT YOU'RE
STARTING TO
SOUND LIKE A
BROKEN
RECORD.



THWIP

INNOCENT
BLOOD, YADDA
YADDA, SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE, YADDA
YADDA. I HAVE
HEARD IT ALL
BEFORE,
BUT...

...AT
LEAST, IN THE
PAST, YOU DIDN'T
BURN DOWN
HALF THE TOWN IN
THE PROCESS.

SO, I
THINK IT'S
BEST
IF —

WHAT
YOU THINK
MATTERS
NOT...

THINK

SHIP





YOU
ARE TOO
LATE,
SPIDER-
MAN.

THE TIME
HAS COME FOR
THIS CITY TO BE
CLEANSED
IN FIRE.

NO MORE
MUTANT OR
SUPER-NORMAL
ABERRATIONS
SUCH AS
YOURSELF.

A NEW
AGE IS
DAWNING.

THE FIRES
SHALL LIGHT
THE NIGHT SKY
AND FROM THE
ASHES SHALL
RISE --

GIVE ME
A BREAK!
YOU'RE WAY TOO
EARLY FOR THE
MILLENNIUM!

YOU
MOCK THAT
WHICH YOU COULD
NOT HOPE TO
COMPREHEND!



SO YOU
DIE!

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA



IF I HAD
A NICKEL FOR
EVERY TIME I
HEARD THAT ONE
I'D HAVE...
WELL, I'D
HAVE...



...A WHOLE
BUNCH OF
MONEY!

SO,
GHOST RIDER,
OLD BUDDY...

05:02:57...

SORRY FOR THE
MISUNDERSTANDING,
BUT HOW'S ABOUT YOU
JUMP ON THAT FLAMING BIKE OF
YOURS AND ZIP THIS TICKING
TIME BOMB INTO THE
MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN
REAL QUICK.

EVEN
WITHOUT BEING
ATTACHED TO THE
GAS MAIN THIS THING
WILL DO SOME MAJOR
DAMAGE TO THIS
SECTION OF THE
CITY.

TOO...
WEAK...
CAN'T...

NOBLE?

NOBLE KALE? WHAT ARE
YOU DOING HERE? YOU ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE TRAPPED
IN MEPHISTO'S
REALM —

I AM
NOT.

LOOK,
NOBLE, THIS
IS DAN YOU'RE
SPEAKING TO, DAN
KETCH. YOUR DESCENDANT?
THE GUY TO WHOM YOUR
SOUL WAS GRAFTED TO
FOR A COUPLE OF
YEARS. ANY OF
THIS RINGING
A BELL?

I
AM NOT
HE!

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THERE HAVE BEEN LIES. MEPHISTO,
BLACKHEART... THEY ARE BOTH
LORDS OF THE LIE. THE TRUTH
IS NOT YET KNOWN.

THIS
IS FASCINATING,
GUYS, BUT... WE'VE
GOT A SERIOUS
SITUATION
HERE.

AND, I
HATE TO SOUND
LIKE A CLICHÉ, BUT...
TIME IS RUNNING
OUT!



THE MERGING OF MAN AND DEMONIC SPIRIT TAKES ONLY AN INSTANT, BUT IN THAT INSTANT...



...DAN KETCH FEELS THE PAIN OF A THOUSAND LIFETIMES.

FLAMES IGNITE EVERY CELL OF HIS BODY UNTIL ALL THAT IS DAN KETCH IS BURNED AWAY AND...



...ONLY GHOST RIDER REMAINS.





THE
CONCUSSION
FROM THE BLAST!
THE WINDOWS!
PEOPLE WILL
BE SHREDDED
UNLESS --

THWIP
THWAP
THWIPP
THWAP

HOW
COULD ANY-
BODY HAVE
SURVIVED
THAT --

FWOOOM

VROOOM

OKAY...
HE'S NOT
ANY-
BODY!

THAT'S
OKAY, GHOST
RIDER!

DON'T
HAVE TO SAY
THANKS!
JOIN THE
CROWD!

LET'S
GET TOGETHER
SOMETIME FOR
DRINKS!

BYE.

THIS
SHOULD
FINALLY PROVE
TO THE CITY
THAT I AM
ONE OF THE
GOOD GUYS
AGAIN!

THE NEXT DAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
JONAH'S RUNNING
AN EDITORIAL LINKING
SPIDER-MAN AND
GHOST RIDER TO
THE TERRORIST
ATTACK!

I CAN'T
CATCH A
BREAK!

HATE TO
SAY I TOLD
YOU SO,
BUT...