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SPIDER-GIRL

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#19

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DEFALCO
OLLIFFE
WILLIAMSON

ABSOLUTELY
NOT!

(BUT WE GET TO
SEE WHAT LIFE
WOULD BE LIKE
IF SHE WERE!)

DIRECT EDITION

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STAN LEE PRESENTS THE STUNNING SPIDER-GIRL!

FANTASIES!

IRONIC,
ISN'T IT?

YOU WERE WITH
YOUR UNCLE
PHIL ONLY A FEW
MINUTES AGO,
PRACTICING THIS
VERY KICK.

BUT YOU
WERE
BORED.

INSTEAD OF
CONCENTRATING
ON THE MANEUVER,
YOU WERE DAY-
DREAMING.

(TOO BAD YOU
DIDN'T KNOW
YOU'D SOON
RUN INTO
THIS--!)

YOUR NAME IS MAY "MAYDAY"
PARKER, AND YOU ARE THE
DAUGHTER OF THE ORIGINAL
SPIDER-MAN.

TOM DEFALCO--WRITER PAT OLLIFFE--PENCILER AL WILLIAMSON--INKER
JIM NOVAK--LETTERER CHRISTIE SCHEELE--COLORIST
MIKE MARTS--EDITOR BOB HARRAS--EDITOR IN CHIEF

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YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY BACK TO SCHOOL, WEB-SWINGING HIGH ABOVE THE CITY STREETS, WHEN YOU SPOTTED THESE COSTUMED CRAZOID.



THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE SOLDIERS OF THE SERPENT--



--AND THEY SEEM PRETTY DETERMINED TO TORCH THIS LOW-INCOME NEIGHBORHOOD.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE MEN?



WHY ARE THEY SO FULL OF ANGER AND HATE?



WHAT SPURS THEM TO SUCH VIOLENCE AND CRUELTY?



AND HOW CAN YOU EVEN HOPE TO END THIS CYCLE OF SAVAGERY--

--BY FIGHTING WITH THEM?!

IF ONLY YOU'D INHERITED
A MAGIC WAND--



IF ONLY YOU HADN'T BEEN BORN
WITH SUPER-POWERS--!



YOU'D FILL YOUR
DAYS WITH HAPPY
THOUGHTS--



--INSTEAD OF HASTILY
THROWN PUNCHES!

WITH JOY AND
COMPASSION--

--INSTEAD
OF BRUTAL
BARBS!



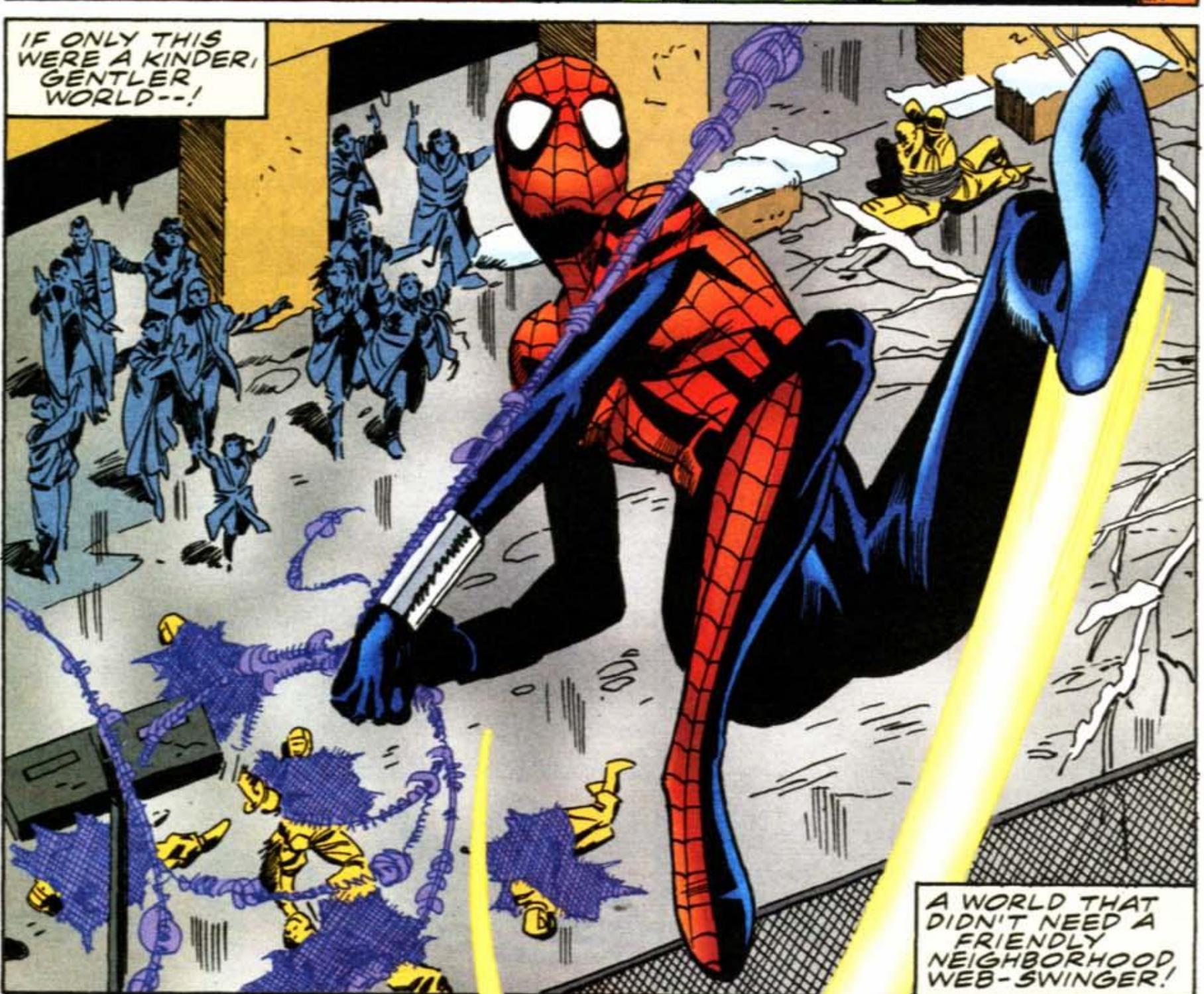
IF ONLY YOU COULD DEFEND
THE RIGHTEOUS--



--WITHOUT
RESORTING TO
VIOLENCE--



--AND
CLOBBERING
THEIR
OPPRESSORS!



IF ONLY THIS
WERE A KINDER,
GENTLER
WORLD--!

A WORLD THAT
DIDN'T NEED A
FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
WEB-SWINGER!

IF ONLY YOUR PARENTS
HADN'T RAISED YOU
TO HAVE A SENSE OF
RESPONSIBILITY--!

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO
GIVE UP YOUR LUNCH
PERIOD TO TRAIN WITH
UNCLE PHIL.

--AND YOUR
GIRLFRIENDS
AND BOYS--

YEAH, LIFE
WOULD CERTAINLY BE A
LOT MORE
PLEASANT--

--IF ONLY...

YOU'D BE FREE TO
DEVOTE ALL YOUR
TIME AND ENERGY
TO YOUR STUDIES
AND BOYS--

--AND THE
LATEST
FASHIONS
AND
BOYS--

--AND, OF COURSE,
YOU MUSTN'T
FORGET BOYS!

THE END
...FOR NOW!

JIMMY YAMA IN *WISHES!*

SOMETIMES
I HATE MY
LIFE.

BEING AN
AVERAGE
AMERICAN
TEENAGER
IS NO FUN.

IT'S BORING AND
FRUSTRATING--

--AND I REALLY
WISH I'D BEEN BORN
WITH POWERS AND
ABILITIES FAR
BEYOND THOSE OF
REGULAR MORTALS.

I KNOW I'D
MAKE A GREAT
SUPER
HERO.

ESPECIALLY IF
I COULD DO
SOMETHING
COOL, LIKE
IF I COULD
SHRINK LIKE THE
ASTONISHING
ANT-MAN--

--OR FLY LIKE THE
SENSATIONAL
STINGER!

I'D TRACK DOWN EVERY
CRIMINAL I COULD FIND--

--AND
SECRETLY
SPY ON
THEM AS
THEY
HATCHED
THEIR EVIL
SCHEMES!

SOMETIMES
I WISH I
POSSESSED
SUPER-
STRENGTH--

--LIKE THE
INCREDIBLE
HULK OR THE
UNSTOPPABLE
J2!

BUT I
WOULDN'T
ABUSE MY
POWER.

I KNOW I'D BE FORCED TO
FIGHT MONSTROUS FOES--

--AND GO
UP AGAINST
UNBEATABLE
ODDS!

I WOULD ALWAYS FIND A
WAY TO PERSEVERE--

BUT I'D NEVER
GIVE UP!

NEVER
LOSE
HOPE!

--UNTIL I
SCORED
ANOTHER
WIN FOR
TRUTH,
JUSTICE
AND...UHHHH...
WHATEVER!

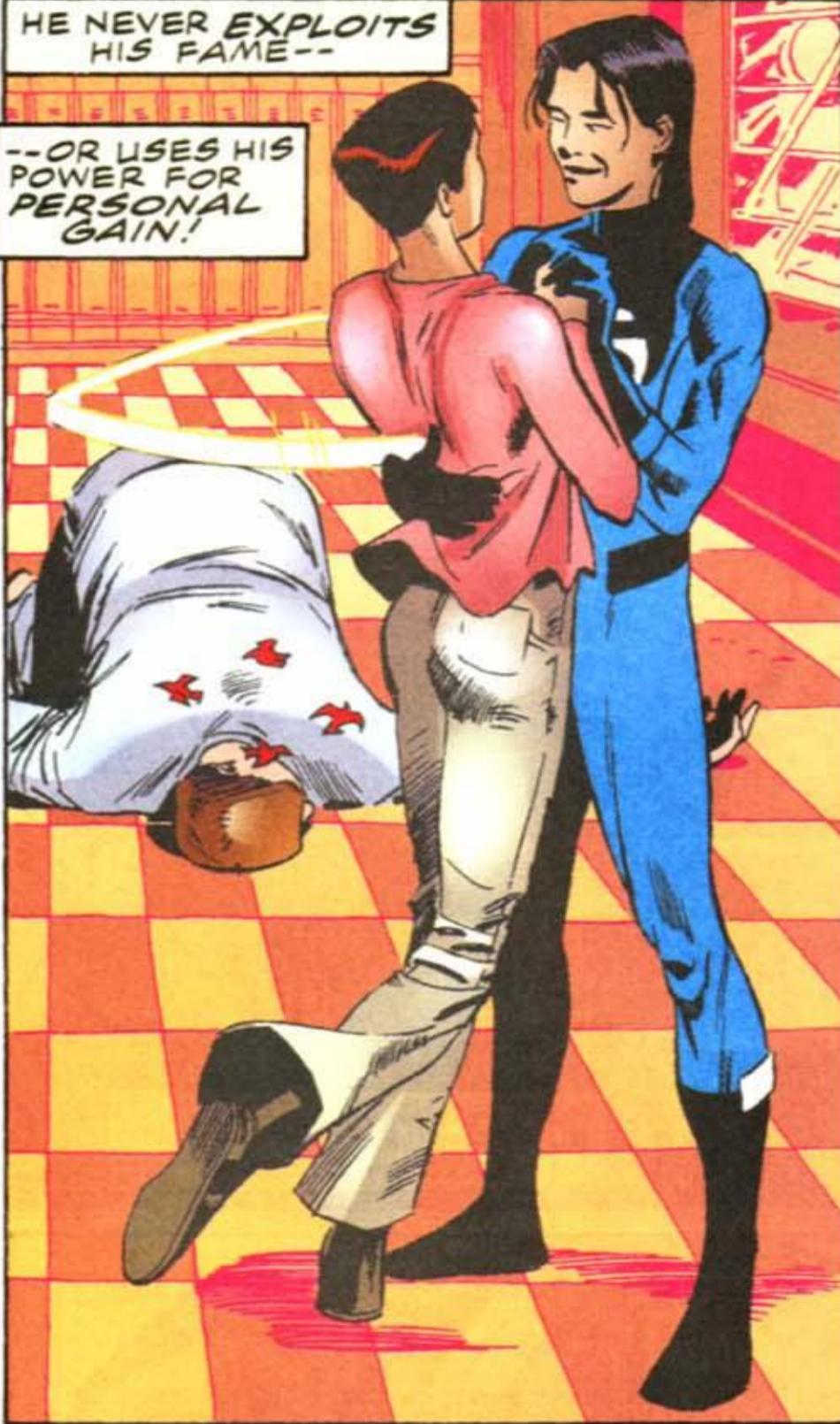
OF COURSE, A REAL
HERO ALWAYS ACTS
WITH HONOR--

--INTEGRITY--

--AND
RESPONSIBILITY!

HE NEVER EXPLOITS
HIS FAME--

--OR USES HIS
POWER FOR
PERSONAL
GAIN!



NOPE!

NEVER!

THAT WOULD
BE WRONG!

TOTALLY AND
IRREDEEMABLY
WRONG!



COURTNEY DURAN IN
IF I WERE SPIDER-GIRL

MARKETING RULES THE BUSINESS WORLD--

--AND THAT INCLUDES THE HERO BIZ!

A FEW OF THE MORE ESTABLISHED SUPER TEAMS--LIKE THE FANTASTIC FIVE--HIRE MAJOR FIRMS TO SPIN THEIR MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC.

BUT YOUR AVERAGE SUPER-PERSON DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE.

IF I WERE A SUPER HERO-- SOMEONE LIKE SPIDER-GIRL-- I'D TAKE THE PROPER STEPS TO FAST-TRACK MY CAREER.

SUG
NO ONE WOULD EVER LABEL ME A FREAK, MISFIT OR MENACE.



MY FIRST PRIORITY WOULD BE A NEW COSTUME.

SOMETHING A LITTLE LESS CONFINING--

--THAT COULD BE SPUN OFF INTO A FULL LINE OF CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES!

(AND, OF COURSE, I'D DEFINITELY WANT THE ADDED DRAMA OF A CAPE!)

THEN, I'D SEEK OUT SOME CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS.

I'M SURE THE MAJOR AUTO MANUFACTURERS WOULD LINE UP FOR A CHANCE TO MASS-PRODUCE AN OFFICIAL SPIDER-MOBILE.

I'D ALSO DESIGN A LINE OF NON-LETHAL WEB-WEAPONRY THAT COULD BE SOLD TO LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES--

--AND LICENSED FOR TOYS!

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES WITH MAJOR COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE COMPANIES WOULD BE ANOTHER MUST--

STATUS: ESCAPED

GREEN GOBLIN

--SO THAT I COULD BARTER MY EXPERTISE AND ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE LATEST IN HIGH-END EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAMS.

I'M NOT BIG
ON THE WHOLE
ATHLETIC
THING--

INSTEAD OF WASTING
MY TIME WITH
SHORT-TERM
SOLUTIONS--

-- SO I'D DEFINITELY AVOID
THE TRADITIONAL FIGHT
ROUTE WHEN IT CAME TO
MY SUPER-VILLAINS.

-- I'D PROMOTE
THE LONG-TERM
BENEFITS OF
COMMUNICATION
AND
COOPERATION.

(TO SAY NOTHING
OF A QUICK
SURRENDER!)

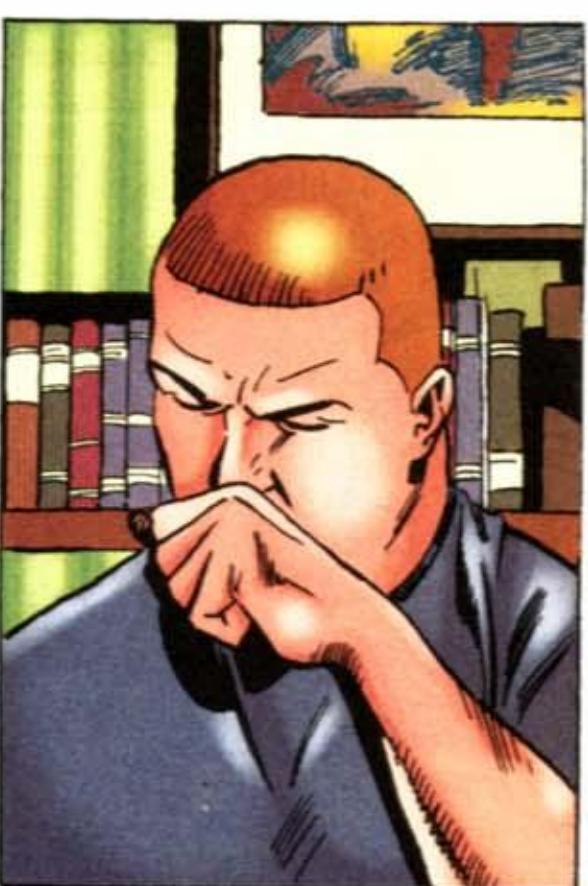
BEST OF ALL, IF I WERE SPIDER-GIRL,
I'D HANG WITH THE COOLEST HUNKS OF
ALL--

-- GUYS LIKE
THUNDERSTRIKE,
FREEBOOTER,
AND PSILORD!

THE END
...FOR NOW!

MOOSE
MANSFIELD IN

DEEP THOUGHTS!



:Ahem:

INTERESTING
LITTLE TOY
YOU HAVE THERE,
MR. OSBORN.

THAT'S
SPIDER-
GIRL,
RIGHT?



NORMIE OSBORN IN **THE DREAM!**



BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 16TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

Lurking in the shadows the Clan Hellfire conspires to stop the Chronomancer and restore the world to the simpler place it once was. The key to their plan is Bishop, and they're giving him their help... whether he wants it or not! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEANTY!

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Determined to locate a missing Sharon Carter, Captain America heads into the Savage Land! And what he finds there will amaze you! Plus: The shocking secret of what S.H.I.E.L.D. is hiding in their warehouse! All this, and the villainy of Count Nefaria! By DAN JURGENS and ANDY KUBERT!

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Can Moondragon help Captain Marvel master his newfound — and uncontrollable Cosmic Awareness? And where Moondragon travels, can Drax the Destroyer be far behind?! Plus: More problems for Rick Jones and Marlo! By PETER DAVID and CHRIS CROSS!

DAREDEVIL

One man can put the Kingpin behind bars, but can Daredevil find him in a race against the clock? Meanwhile, to defend his own life, Wilson Fisk must take the stand — and reveal secrets from his past! Plus: The new villain called Echo throws DD a beating just for good luck! By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA!

INCREDIBLE HULK

The only hope that Bruce Banner has to halt the monstrosity ravaging his mind is to unite the various components of his shattered psyche! But can any threat bring together the savage Hulk, the gray model, the intelligent version and Banner himself? And before it's all over, a new Hulk — different from all others — will stand revealed! By PAUL JENKINS and RON GARNEY!

MARVEL SELECTS: SPIDER-MAN

Relive the magic with the series that presents classic moments in the life of Spider-Man! This issue reprints AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (Vol. 1) #103, in which Spider-Man, for the life of Gwen Stacy, battles the monstrous Gog in the Savage Land! By ROY THOMAS and GIL KANE!

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

Venom hunts the Sinister Six! Picking up on the action in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16, Peter Parker must find out if J. Jonah Jameson finally knows his secret identity. But he may not have much time to check in with the Daily Bugle's publisher because Venom has some unfinished business with Jameson! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.!

THUNDERBOLTS

Hawkeye faces both a turning point and a new Thunderbolt! The only hope the Thunderbolts have of helping their former teammate Abe Jenkins is by bringing down the new Beetle and blackmailing the Commission! But will Hawkeye compromise his morals to save his friend — and will his partners discover that he lied about the Commission's pardon? By FABIAN NICIEZA and MARK BAGLEY!

X-51

Faced with the danger he posed to both man and mutantkind, X-51 has made a noble sacrifice — and battles on in cyberspace! Now the Machine Man must purge the mutant-hating Sentinel programs from his system — or lose himself forever! By KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT!

X-MAN

Trapped on another world, Nate Grey fights to liberate imprisoned aliens from forces the likes of which he's never imagined! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER!

X-MEN

The Children Of The Atom find their mutant powers stripped away! But where does that leave the X-Men? Wolverine, who has just recovered his adamantium, is dying. A no-longer-icy Bobby Drake and Hank McCoy (sans his blue fur) are trapped in war-torn Genosha — with a suddenly very human Magneto! By ALAN DAVIS and BRETT BOOTH!

#7

#28

#4

#12

#13

#4 of
12

#16

#37

#9

#62

#99

Hi, Heroes!

I know you're as eager as I to meet all our new No-Prize Laureates, so let's get right to their questions as we dispense our whirlpool of wisdom for a grateful mankind.

I'll bet Rachid Yahya of the Bronx, NY, has been watching a lot of old TV reruns...

"Did you base Spidey's J. Jonah Jameson on Lou Grant from the Mary Tyler Moore show? They're both journalists and are both grumpy but decent inside."

Funny you should mention that, Rachid. Ed Asner is actually a friend of mine. But no, I didn't base JJJ on Ed's Lou Grant portrayal. I actually based him on (sound of trumpets, please!) my own grumpy and grouchy but extremely loveable self.

Here's a query from Matt Birch of Kingsport, TN to bring out the scientist in us...

"If Captain America's shield is painted red, white and blue, wouldn't the paint peel off when it's blasted or whacked? Maybe Dr. Myron McLean mixed the paint with the vibranium alloy."

Wow, it's great when a No-Prizer actually furnishes the answer along with his question. I can't improve upon your Dr. McLean theory, so you've got it, Bunk!

Now I'll prove I can be brief and to the point as I answer a most difficult and complex question posed to me by Gabriela Steren of Buenos Aires, Argentina...

"Here's a question that's been going 'round my mind for some time. Why is it that the male comicbook characters in your books don't have lips?"

They do! Haven't you noticed they're always talking?

Do you think Bart Leavens of Low Moor, IA secretly desires to be an optometrist?

"Stan, I have a quick question about



Corner a CELEBRITY in a Marvel Chat!

Wanna rap with some of Marvel's top talent? You'll need to check out Marvel's weekly chats! Whether you're looking for your favorite writer, artist, or editor -- we've got you covered! Each week, you can ask questions, make comments, or engage in a lively rap session with the comics star of your choice! It's all on AOL itself for the latest schedule or at the bottom of every Bullpen Bulletin -- like this one!

AOL Keyword: **Marvel**

This week's chat schedule!

2/16 @ 9pm ET -- Tentative GAMBIT and BISHOP editor -- MIKE MARTS!

2/17 @ 9:30pm ET EARTH's MIGHTIEST CHAT with writer, KURT BUSIEK and editor, TOM BREVOORT!

2/21 @ 8pm ET COMICS LEGEND -- JOHN ROMITA, SR.!

AOL Keyword: **Marvel**

All Chat schedules subject to change/cancellation
Refer to Keyword: **Marvel > Astral Plane > Chat Schedule** for latest schedule.

BULLPEN BITS #40

HEY, COLOSSUS... DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DRAW A PICTURE OF ME?



OKAY, COOL! BUT DRAW ME A LITTLE TALLER, OKAY?



AND MAYBE NOT SO SCRUFFY LOOKING.



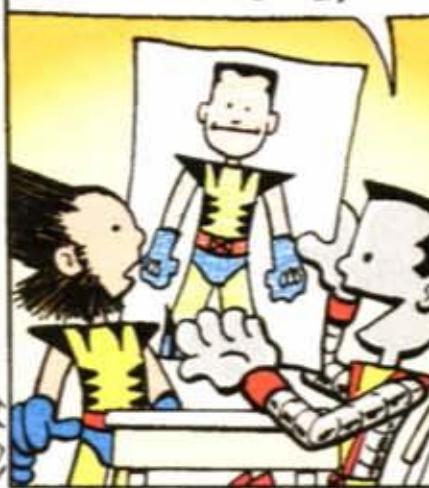
TELL YA WHAT... JUST MAKE ME LOOK AS COOL AS POSSIBLE.



YOU GOT IT, WOLVERINE.



VERY HANDSOME, YES?



BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO



your glasses. Are you near-sighted or far-sighted? On second thought, do you wear them to keep your identity a secret?

Just between us, Bart, the problem with my eyes is -- I've got astigmatism. Living here in Los Angeles, I love being in the sun and it's too much trouble to change from my regular glasses to sun glasses, so I take the lazy way out and just wear the sunglasses all the time. I'm afraid there's not much chance of keeping my identity a secret since my name and my caricature seem to be splashed all over the place! Besides, I like being a celebrity, even if my wife is the only one who thinks I am!

Andrew Vogt of Ft. Collins, CO writes to share a matter of grave concern with us...

"What are Reed Richards and Iron Man doing about Marvel's 'YK2 virus'?" Hey, Andy, after fighting villains like Dr. Doom and Galactus, do you think a measly YK2 virus'll bother our superheroes? They'll let Irving Forbush handle it!

Well, that wraps it for this ish, True Believers! I wish we could visit longer, but I'm probably better off quitting while I'm ahead -- there's always the chance that the next batch of questions'll be too tough to handle, even for Stan (the poor man's Professor X) Lee! So till next ish, remember -- Buy Marvel! -- we've got rent to pay!

Excelsior!
Stan Lee



Stan's Soapbox
Marvel Comics,
387 Park Ave South
NY, NY 10016
stanfanz@aol.com



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IT BEGINS KIND OF LIKE ANY TRADITIONAL FAIRY TALE, IN ONE OF THOSE GLORIOUS BROTHERS GRIMM WONDERLANDS...

OSBORN INDUST

"A KIND AND GENEROUS KING RULES THIS PARTICULAR CASTLE, AND HE IS LOVED BY ALL HIS SUBJECTS."

"DESPERATE TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT, THE KING TOILS CEASELESSLY."



"ONE DAY THE GODS SMILE UPON THIS NOBLE MONARCH--"



"AND GRANT HIM POWERS FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN!"

"ANXIOUS TO SHARE HIS GOOD FORTUNE, HE DRESSES IN HIS FINEST RAIMENT, AND SPREADS HIS JOYOUS BOUNTY ACROSS THE LAND."

"LAUGHTER AND
PROSPERITY FILL
THE KINGDOM
FOR A TIME--

--BUT ONLY FOR A
SHORT, SHORT TIME!

"JEALOUS OF THE GOOD
KING, A LIVING DARKNESS
RISES FROM THE STYGIAN
DEPTHES.

"MODELED AFTER
SOME GRISLY
INSECT, THIS
HEARTLESS
FIEND HAS ONLY
ONE DESIRE--
THE KING'S
DESTRUCTION!

"UNBURDENED BY COMPASSION
OR RESTRAINT, THE EVIL
CREATURE GLEEFULLY SACRI-
FICES COUNTLESS INNOCENTS
IN HIS GRIM PURSUIT.



"HORRIFIED BY THE PAIN AND MISERY INFILCTED UPON HIS PEOPLE, THE KING OFFERS TO EXCHANGE HIS FREEDOM FOR THEIR SAKE--

"--BUT THE MONSTER QUICKLY RENEGES ON ALL PROMISES OF PEACE AND MERCY!"



"UNDAUNTED BY THE PREVIOUS FAILURES--"



"--THE KING'S GRANDSON EVENTUALLY TAKES UP THE BANNER!"



"BUT THIS TIME THE CONFLICT IS DESTINED TO END--"

--AS IT MUST--"

--ON THE DAY THAT GOOD FINALLY TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL!

=Aheme=

ASIDE FROM SOME MINOR DETAILS, THIS IS THE SAME DREAM WE DISCUSS EVERY DAY, MR. OSBORN.



I KNOW, DR. FOWKES. BUT I THINK I'VE MADE A BREAK-THROUGH.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS DREAM REALLY MEANS TO ME.



AND WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT, MR. OSBORN?



WHAT IS THAT DEVICE, MR. OSBORN?

IT'S A FAIL-SAFE SWITCH.

REMEMBER HOW I TOLD YOU THAT MY GRANDFATHER ALWAYS PLANNED AHEAD?

SO DO I!

ONE CAN NEVER TAKE VICTORY FOR GRANTED.

I'M SORRY IF MY DREAM BORED YOU-- AND YOUR PEOPLE-- BUT THAT WAS ITS PURPOSE.

TO LULL YOU ALL INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY!



I TRULY
BELIEVE THAT
IT'S MY
DESTINY--

--TO
DESTROY
BOTH
SPIDER-
MAN AND
SPIDER-
GIRL!

YOU CAN
WISH ME LUCK
IF YOU LIKE!

THOUGH
I DOUBT I'LL
NEED IT!

THE END...
FOR NOW!

SPIDER-GIRL

Dear Spider-Girl,
SPIDER-GIRL #16 was a very enjoyable read. Tom DeFalco is doing a fine job with this book. I am sorry to hear that FANTASTIC FIVE and WILD THING are getting canceled, but I am very pleased to hear that this title is doing well. In an industry where people complain about grim plot-lines and excessive violence, titles like SPIDER-GIRL—and the other MC-2 titles—should be supported!

Robert Acquarulo
New Haven, CT

We like the way you think, Robert!

Dear Spider-2 Crew,
Any chance we'll be seeing Normie Osborn anytime soon?

Albert E. Francis

Your wish is our command!

Dear Spider-Girl,
What happened to Aunt May?
Peter Stewart

In the MC-2 Universe, she actually died and stayed dead.

Dear Spider-Girl,
After reading SPIDER-GIRL #16, I'm really starting to like JJ.

Alice Winslow
Syracuse, NY

He may already be taken, Alice!

Dear Spider-Girl,
Nova giving lectures about responsibility!
GIVE ME A BREAK!

Aaron Black
San Francisco, CA

Would you prefer the leg or the arm, Aaron?

Dear Spider-Girl,
I liked seeing Spider-Girl hang with Stinger. The best part was when Stinger explained why she became a super hero.
Gene Edwards
Muncie, IN

Who says girls just want to have fun?

Dear Spider-Girl,
SPIDER-GIRL #16 didn't have a villain, a crime, a threat, a menace or even a real fight... but I enjoyed it, anyway. How do you explain that?

MIKE MARTS
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



story if we already know how it's going to end? (Or do we?!)

Johanna Davis
Chicago, IL

Sunspots?

Dear Spider-Girl Team,
Some people think Darkdevil is Ben Reilly or even Phil Urich. Others say he's Daredevil himself. I wonder if he's the son of Ben Reilly?

Fabian Negron

Hmm ...

Dear Spider-Girl,
My guess is that JJ is Darkdevil.
Justin M. Herald

Hmm ...

Dear Spider-Girl,
I'd like to comment on the theory that Darkdevil might be Nightcrawler. Nightcrawler can stick to walls, and—according to Professor X—he can also control the brimstone stench with practice.

Therefore, I agree that Darkdevil is Nightcrawler. He could have developed a friendship with Spider-Man in the fifteen years between now and MC-2.

Adam Moschell
Indianapolis, IN

Hmm ...

Dear Lady's Web,
Although I do appreciate you printing my letter in SPIDER-GIRL #16, I have a slight problem with your response. I have been a Spider-Man collector for 22 years. I know how many monthly titles he stars in, but I still think it would be a great idea if he wore the webs again. You probably have a few Spider-Man fans out there that don't read SPIDER-GIRL, but they might if Peter was back in action for a while. You could ride that train for a couple of issues, and end it with Peter realizing that he is getting too old to play "Cops and Robbers". (I can see the panel where he sees that playing super hero is for the young. He's sitting at the table, in costume, slumped over the back of the chair after a major battle in which Spider-Girl saved the day. Mary Jane tries to comfort him as he removes his mask to say, "I'm too old for this—!", followed by the interruption of your choice.)

I know this letter will never see print, but I just had to let you know how I felt. Who knows? Maybe I'm not the only one.

J. C. Simmons
Acworth, GA

You're probably not, J.C. ... but why print a

Dear Marvel,

I just got SPIDER-GIRL #1/2. Wow! What a great fight Spider-Girl and Wild Thing had. I loved it, and the artwork was great!

Jorge Ramos Dehais
San Salvador
El Salvador

Our readers deserve no less!

Dear Spider-team,

Spider-Girl is a quality book. I love the short, simple, yet interesting, stories. Keep up the good work, and I'll keep buying.

John E. Quillen
Knoxville, TN

Deal!

Dear Spider-Girl Crew,

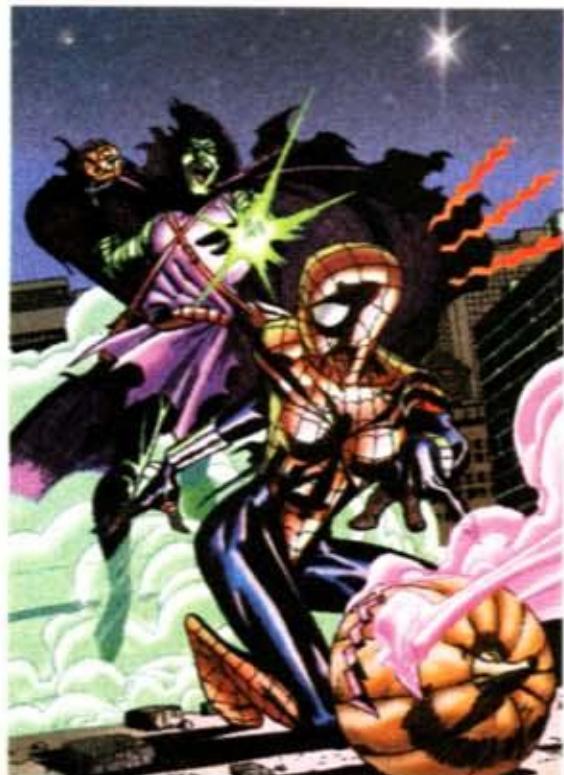
Thank you for making such an enjoyable comic book. My sisters and I fight over who gets first grab over it each month.

C. K. Coats
Talorville, MS

There's no need to fight with your sisters, C.K.! Just buy them their own copies! (And don't forget to include copies for your parents, cousins, neighborhoods and every kid in your school!)

NEXT ISSUE:

SPIDER-GIRL BATTLES THE GREEN GOBLIN WITH MORE THAN ONE SURPRISING TWIST! WUFF SAID!



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