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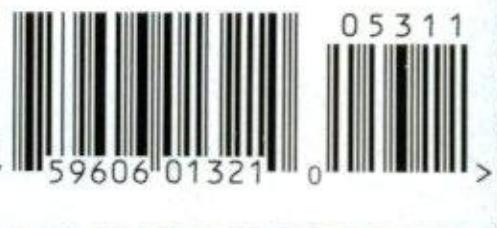
THE EXILE RETURN! PART 4 OF 4

Tony Wolf 1/4

THE SCARLET SPIDER'S
GREATEST MOMENT
OF GLORY...

THE
FALL OF
VENOM!

DIRECT EDITION



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STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE SCARLET SPIDER

NEW YORK CITY...

SCARLET SPIDER INC.

THIRTY SECONDS AGO, THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN DUBBED THE SCARLET SPIDER BELIEVED HIS RAGE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ENABLE HIM TO BEAT VENOM.

NOW HE REALIZES THAT THAT WASN'T NECESSARILY TRUE.

DIE, IMPOSTOR!

SO THIS IS HOW MY RETURN TO MANHATTAN... TO A LIFE THAT NEVER BELONGED TO ME... ENDS?

STRANGLED TO DEATH WITH THE HOOD OF MY OWN NEWLY CREATED COSTUME?

GUESS I DESERVE IT.

I'M ONLY A CLONE!

"WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #119. --DANNY

THE AWESOME CONCLUSION TO THE EXILE RETURNS

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SCOTT HANNA finishes
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STORMS

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WEREN'T YOU GALLANT, TRYING TO DEFEND THE FEMALE SYMBIOTE FROM DYING AT OUR HANDS? ... ?!

... NOW WE'LL SLICK THE MARROW FROM BOTH YOUR BONES!

NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN IN MY WAY, YOU FAKE!

THE REAL SPIDER-MAN WOULD HAVE PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT.

HE WOULD HAVE LOST ANYWAY...

... BUT STILL WOULDN'T HAVE DIED SOON EASILY!

JUST RELAX... YOU'LL BE
DEAD
SOON!

HE'S RIGHT. MIGHT AS WELL STOP STRUGGLING.

THIS END WAS INEVITABLE AS SOON AS I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO COME BACK TO NEW YORK... STUPID ENOUGH TO PUT ON A COSTUME... STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY AND PLAY HERO!

JUST RELAX AND GO WITH --

NO!

THERE'S ANOTHER LIFE AT STAKE... THE FEMALE... SHE APPEARS TO BE HUMAN.

I CAN'T LET VENOM KILL HER. CAN'T LET HIM RUN WILD IN THIS CITY...

... ENDANGERING INNOCENT LIVES LIKE...

CAN'T TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT!

SHE DIDN'T RAISE ME THAT WAY!

BWAM

CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
SPIDER-MAN
HAS LET VENOM
ROAM FREE.

VENOM
SPOKE OF
THEM HAVING
SOME SORT
OF DEAL!

CAN'T
BELIEVE THAT
SPIDER-MAN
WOULD LET A
MONSTER LIKE
THIS LOOSE
ON THE
STREETS...

WON'T
...BELIEVE
IT!

YUMMM!

LOOKS LIKE THE
LITTLE PHONY IS
GOING TO GIVE US
A FIGHT AFTER
ALL!

WHRAAK

MORE
THAN A
FIGHT!

I'M
PUTTING
YOU AWAY
FOR
GOOD...

KWAM

...OR I'M
GOING TO DIE
TRYING!

AT THE DAILY BUGLE,
KEN ELLIS BURNS
THE
MIDNIGHT
OIL.

HE IS A MAN
DRIVEN BY HIS
CAREER.

A MAN DETERMINED TO GET AN
INTERVIEW WITH THE HERO HE HAS
DUBBED THE SCARLET SPIDER.

A MAN COMMITTED
TO ADVANCING HIS
CAREER.

ELLIS.

BEAT IT!
CAN'T YOU
SEE I'M
TRYING TO
WRITE
A --

MISTER
JAMESON.

DON'T SWEAT
IT, KID. I KNOW
WHAT IT'S LIKE
WHEN YOU'RE IN
THE MIDDLE OF
SOMETHING.
HARD TO LET
IT GO, huh?

JUST
WANTED TO
TELL YOU
YOU'RE DOING
A GREAT
JOB.

KEEP
IT LIP.

JUST STAY
OBJECTIVE, SON.
DON'T LET THE
STORY CONSUME
YOU.

TAKE
IT FROM ME...
IT DOESN'T
HELP
THINGS.

YEAH...
RIGHT!

TIMES SQUARE...

GOT
TO LET MY
SPIDER-SENSE
DO ITS
JOB.

YESTERDAY
I WAS RUSTY...
LET MY FEAR OVER-
RIDE THE SPIDER-
SENSE... AND HE
ALMOST GLUTTED
ME. *

NICE
MOVE, LITTLE
FAKER!

HOW'S
YOUR STOMACH
FEELING?

BETCHA
IT HURTS
TO BOUNCE
AROUND LIKE
THIS, huh?

IT'S
GOING TO HURT
EVER MORE WHEN
I STRANGLE YOU
WITH YOUR OWN
INTESTINES!

GOING
TO MAKE YOU
PAY FOR
IMITATING
HIM!

GOING
TO KILL YOU
AND EAT YOUR
BRAINS!

THIS
GUY IS
SICK!

BLT HE'S
RIGHT. THE
STOMACH IS
KILLING ME.

THE
PAIN IS
TIRING ME
OUT!

NEED
TO SLOW
HIM DOWN
A BIT.

* LAST ISSUE -- O.



MEANWHILE...

THE SPIDER
SOUGHT TO
CONTAIN ME,
FATHER.

HE TRIED
TO HAVE ME
IMPRISONED...
CAGED LIKE SOME
BROKEN AND
SHAMED
BEAST!

A KRAVINOFF
WILL NOT BE
BROKEN!

I
USED OUR
WEALTH TO
GET OUT OF
PRISON,
FATHER.

AND
NOW, I, THE
GRIM HUNTER,
SON OF KRAVEN,
SWEAR TO
YOU...

HERE LIES
GERGE
KRAVINOFF

VENGEANCE
FREE AT LAST

... THE
HUNT WILL
CONTINUE.

AND
EITHER
THE
SPIDER...
OR I...

... WILL
DIE!

WHILE...

EXHAUSTED...
STOMACH KILLING
ME... STITCHES
MIGHT RIP
OPEN...

GOT
TO BE
STRONG.

I'M
STARTING TO
BELIEVE I MIGHT
ACTUALLY BE
ABLE TO BEAT
HIM.

GOT TO
LET HIM WEAR
HIMSELF OUT
WHILE I
REGAIN SOME
STRENGTH.

CAN'T
WORRY ABOUT
IT... HE'S GOING TO
TEAR THROUGH THE
WEBBING SOON...
GOT TO BE
ALERT...

IT'S
GOING TO
HAVE TO BE
BRUTAL...

... VENOM
WILL HAVE
IT NO OTHER
WAY.

STILL
CAN'T ACCEPT
THAT SPIDER-
MAN MADE A
DEAL WITH
HIM.

HAS HE
CHANGED SO
MUCH SINCE I
RECEIVED HIS
MEMORIES...
HIS
VALUES?

OR IS IT
ME WHO'S
CHANGED?

WELL,
IN ABOUT
ANOTHER
MINUTE I'LL
HAVE A
CHANCE
TO SEE
WHETHER
I'VE CHANGED
ENOUGH TO
DEFEAT THE
LIKES OF
VENOM.

WITHIN THE COCOON...

HE'S TRYING TO STOP US!

STOP US FROM DOING THE RIGHT THING.

TRYING TO MAKE US OUT TO BE THE VILLAIN.

THEY ALL DO THAT!

TRY TO MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

BUT I AM!

HE'S THE FAKE!

HE MUST DIE!

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH...

POLICE DETECTIVE JACOB RAVEN SITS AT HIS WINDOW SEAT, APART FROM THE REST OF THE DETECTIVES IN THE HOMICIDE BUREAU.

HIS THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE.

ON A KILLER WHO HAS ELUDDED HIM FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

A KILLER HE IS DETERMINED TO BRING TO JUSTICE.

RAVEN, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE THIS --

-- LOOKS LIKE YOUR MAN HAS SHOWN UP IN NEW YORK CITY!

SAME MARKINGS ON THE FACE AS HE LEFT ON... ON...

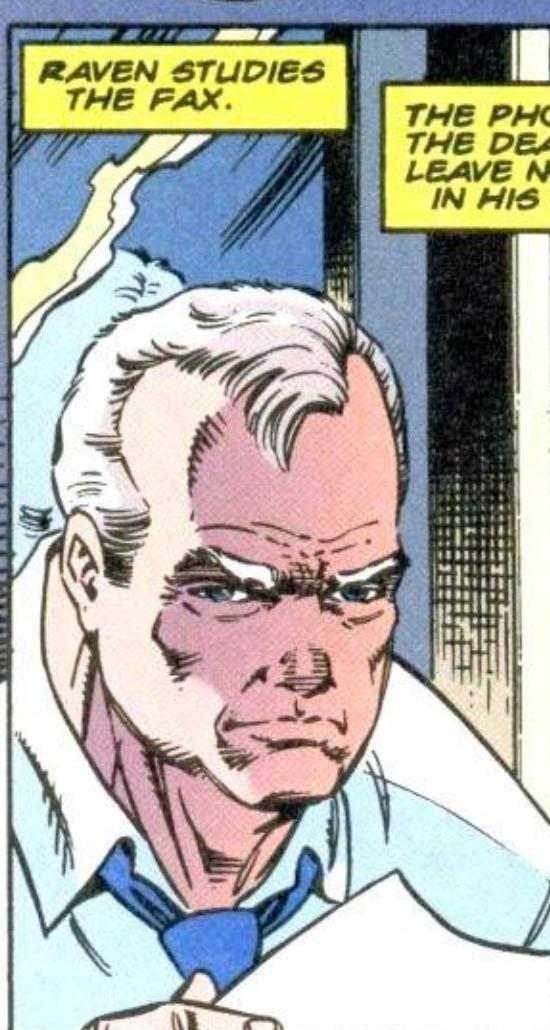
TAKE IT, JACOB. IT'S YOURS.

RAVEN STUDIES THE FAX.

THE PHOTOS OF THE DEAD BODIES LEAVE NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND.

IT'S HIM.

IT'S HIM.



THIS
IS IT.

THE
WEBBING'S
ABOUT TO
GIVE.

GOT
TO WORK ON
THE FORMULA TO
MAKE IT A LITTLE
STRONGER
FOR FUTURE
USE.

IF
I HAVE A
FUTURE!

WE'RE
FREE!

HOPE
YOU'VE
ENJOYED YOUR
REST, LITTLE
SPIDER,
BECAUSE...

NAP
TIME IS
OVER!



ELSEWHERE...

PLEASE,
GAVIN, DO NOT
DO THIS!

SORRY,
LITTLE
BROTHER...

...YOU
LET ME
DOWN.

SOMEONE
PLEASE SEE TO
IT THAT MY BROTHER
IS GIVEN A PROPER
FUNERAL. AND
HAVE
FLOWERS
SENT IN MY
NAME.

YES,
MISTER
THORPE.

NOW, ON TO
BUSINESS.

I HAVE
RETURNED FROM
MY TRIP ABROAD
AND AM NOW --

-- WITH MY
BROTHER'S
DEMISE --

-- OFFICIALLY
BACK IN CHARGE OF
OUR ORGANIZATION.

I WANT REPORTS
ON ANY POTENTIAL
INTERFERENCE WITH
OUR DAY TO DAY
OPERATION.

POLICE
OFFICERS,
DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS,
ANY COM-
PETITORS.
I WANT
NAMES.

SPIDER-
MAN HAS BEEN
KNOWN TO SLOW
THINGS DOWN.

EXCELLENT,
SIR.
NOW...

...HOW DO
WE GO ABOUT
ELIMINATING
THIS SPIDER-
MAN?



BACK IN TIMES SQUARE...

IS THAT THE
BEST
YOU'VE
GOT?
WE
HARDLY
FLIT
IT!

YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO PUT A LITTLE
MORE OOMPH
INTO THE OLD
PLINCHEROOS IF
YOU'RE GOING TO
LIVE THROUGH
THE NIGHT!

HE'S
RIGHT.

I'M
THROWING
EVERYTHING
I'VE GOT AT
HIM AND IT'S
HAVING NO
EFFECT.

HIS
COSTUME
IS ABSORBING
ALL THE
BLOWS.

HE IS
HERE.

AND THINGS
AREN'T GOING
WELL FOR HIM.

THIS IS
GOOD.

TIME
TO SAY
NITEY-NITE,
LITTLE
FAKER! YOU
LOSE!

THIS
IS GOING
TO BE
TRICKY,
BUT...

...I'VE
GOT
NOTHING
LEFT TO
LOSE.

NOT
YET.
THOOOP

A COUPLE OF
LITTLE VITAMINS?
IS THAT THE
BEST YOU CAN
DO?

WHAT
WAS THAT?
WHAT... DID...
YOU...



...DO...

...TO...

COO...
CUS!

SHOT
THE IMPACT
WEBBING
BETWEEN THE
COSTUME AND
THE MAN
WITHIN.

"...NOW I JUST
SIT BACK AND
WAIT FOR IT TO
DO ITS THING.

IF THEY'RE
PARTNERED
THE WAY
I READ
ABOUT...

"SPREAD OUT...
GROW AND..."

"PUSH THE
LIVING COSTUME
AWAY FROM
THE MAN."

• WHICH LEAVES HIM
WIDE OPEN FOR A
STINGER!

AAARRRRGGH

THAT
HURT!



HE'S TURNING
THE TIDE OF
THE BATTLE.

HE ALWAYS
WAS THE
LUCKY ONE.

YOU
CAN'T KILL
US!

YOUR
WEBBING AND
YOUR STINGERS
ONLY MAKE US
ANGRY!

NOT
LOOKING TO
KILL YOU!
JUST SETTING
UP...

...THIS
SHOT!

ALWAYS
LUCKY.

WE
WILL GNAW
ON YOUR
SPINE FOR
THAT!

YOU
CAN'T BEAT
US!



THINK AGAIN!

YOU'RE
DONE!



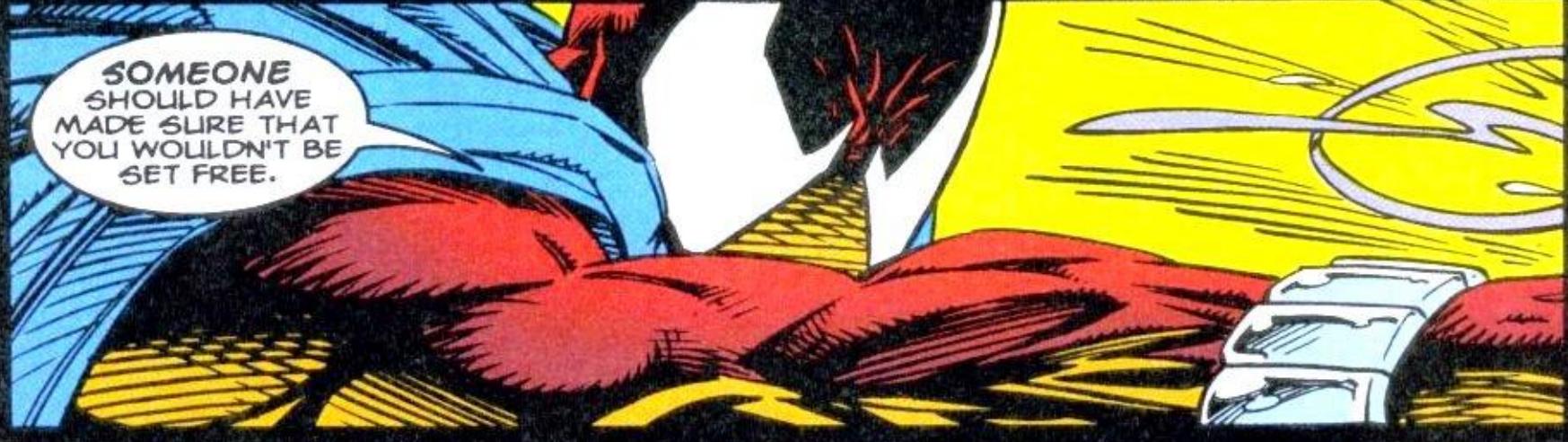
EVEN WHEN
HE SHOULD
HAVE DIED...



SOMEONE
SHOULD HAVE
DONE THIS TO
YOU LONG
AGO.



...HE
FOUND
LIFE.



SOMEONE
SHOULD HAVE
MADE SURE THAT
YOU WOULDN'T BE
SET FREE.



NOW HE HAS
RETURNED,
TAKEN ON
ANOTHER
COSTUME...



I'M THE
SOMEONE TO
FINALLY
DO IT!



...AND NOW
I'VE TAKEN
A COSTUME
AS WELL...

FOR NOW
I'LL WAIT.

HIS TIME
WILL COME
SOON
ENOUGH.

THEN HE'LL
BE GIVEN
THE MARK OF
KAINE!

I WATCH.

I WAIT.

BUT
SOON...

...VERY
SOON...

THE
COSTUME
NOW?

GREAT!
I CAN'T
CATCH A
BREAK
TONIGHT!

THOUGH WEAKENED
BY THE BATTLE,
THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE
REACTS TO DEFEND
THE UNCONSCIOUS
EDDIE BROCK.

IT REACHES OUT TO
THE ENTITY WHICH
DEFEATED ITS HOST...

...SEEKING TO
ENGULF...TO
DESTROY IT.

CONTACT
IS MADE.

IMMEDIATELY, THE
SYMBIOTE SENSES
SOMETHING FAMILIAR
ABOUT REILLY.

A SYMBIOSIS.

SENDING OUT
MORE TENDRILS,
IT SEEKS A
BONDING.

AND
THEN...





NEX + ISSUE

THE RETURN OF THE
GRIM HUNTER
AND... WHO IS
KAIN E?