

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**



**AUG**  
**#94**



**MACKIE**  
**ROMITA JR.**  
**HANNA**

**PETER PARKER**

# SPIDER-MAN

SOMEONE DOESN'T  
WANT SPIDEY TO KNOW  
THE **TRUTH...**



...AND HE'S **BIG,**  
**MAD,** AND  
**DANGEROUS!**

**DIRECT EDITION**




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CAN  
THE LIFE OF  
ONE MAN MAKE  
THE DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES OF  
COUNTLESS  
OTHERS?

YES  
IT CAN.

I  
KNOW.

I HAVE  
SEEN.

I AM UATU,  
**THE WATCHER**,  
ASSIGNED TO THE  
SOLAR SYSTEM IN  
WHICH EARTH  
RESIDES.

SINCE THE  
DAWN OF TIME I,  
AND OTHERS OF MY  
RACE, HAVE UNDERTAKEN  
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF  
OBSERVING ALL THE  
MARVELS WHICH  
UNFOLD IN YOURS AND  
COUNTLESS OTHER  
GALAXIES.

OUR  
SOLEMN OATH --  
BROKEN ON RARE  
OCCASIONS -- IS  
THAT WE OBSERVE  
BUT NEVER  
INTERFERE.

THE LIFE OF  
PETER PARKER, A  
SEEMINGLY ORDINARY  
MAN WHO BECOMES  
THE EXTRAORDINARY  
**SPIDER-MAN**, HAS  
OFTEN PIQUED MY  
CURIOSITY.

TODAY, HIS  
LIFE IS ABOUT TO  
BE DRAWN TOGETHER  
WITH THAT OF JILL STACY,  
BECAUSE OF EVENTS SET  
IN MOTION BY THE DEATH  
OF ONE SEEMINGLY  
**INSIGNIFICANT**  
INDIVIDUAL.

A  
MAN CALLED  
**JOEY Z!**



I HAVE WITNESSED THE STORY ABOUT TO UNFOLD... AND SEEN IT END IN AN INFINITE NUMBER OF WAYS.

TRIUMPH, TRAGEDY AND EVERYTHING INBETWEEN.

FREQUENTLY, REALITY FRAGMENTS, AND THERE ARE MANY POSSIBLE OUTCOMES.

I HAVE WITNESSED THEM ALL.

BUT THIS IS THE **PRIME REALITY**, AND HERE, THERE CAN BE BUT ONE TRUE ENDING.

AS PETER PARKER TOSSES AND TURNS, WRACKED BY THE NIGHTMARES OF JOEY Z'S DEATH...

...HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYRIAD POSSIBILITIES WHICH EXIST FOR HIM AND JILL STACY.

THIS IS FOR THE BEST. FOR REALITY, THE **PRIME REALITY**, CANNOT BE CHANGED.

**No!**









# WHO WAS JOEY Z?



PLEASE,  
M.J...



JILL IS  
ONE OF MY BEST  
FRIENDS, PETER. IT  
WOULDN'T KILL YOU  
TO TRY AND BE  
NICE.



I'M NICE!  
WHO SAYS  
I'M NOT  
NICE?

IT'S JUST  
THAT YOU **KNOW**  
SHE'S GOING TO PIN  
ME DOWN AND START  
ASKING ABOUT GWEN.



DEAL  
WITH IT!

NOW  
LET ME SLEEP.  
I DON'T HAVE  
ANY CLASSES  
UNTIL NOON  
TODAY.



IT IS  
KIND OF IRONIC  
THAT I SPEND A GOOD  
DEAL OF TIME AS PETER  
PARKER AVOIDING JILL  
STACY, BUT AS SPIDER-MAN,  
I'M RELYING MORE AND  
MORE ON ARTHUR  
STACY'S HELP.

MAYBE  
M.J'S RIGHT.  
MAYBE IT'S TIME  
I DEALT WITH  
JILL.

PS & COMICRAFT/LA Letters GREGORY WRIGHT Colors  
**HOWARD  
MACKIE  
JOHN ROMITA JR  
SCOTT HANNA**  
Story & Art  
RALPH MACCHIO Editor BOB HARRAS Chief













ELSEWHERE...

YOU  
FAILED.

I KNOW,  
BUT IT WASN'T  
MY FAULT!

YOU  
FAILED.

YOU  
DIDN'T TELL  
US THAT THE  
OLD GUY WAS  
GOING TO BE  
SUCH A HARD  
CASE!

YOU  
FAILED.

GIVE  
ME ANOTHER  
CHANCE AND I'LL  
TAKE HIM  
OUT!

YOU  
FAILED.

SHUT  
UP! I DON'T  
CARE!

I KNOW THE PRICE OF  
FAILING YOU AND I'M  
TELLING YOU I'LL  
SEE **YOU** DEAD  
FIRST!



MMMPH!

**PTOOM**  
**PTOOM**



YOU ARE NOT  
GOING TO FAIL  
AGAIN.





HE PASSED OUT ON ME, BUT I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM LATER, KINGPIN.

THANK YOU, OX, BUT YOU ARE A BIT PREMATURE WITH THE REINSTATEMENT OF MY FORMER TITLE.

DA NAME BELONGS TO YOU AND YOU ALONE.

TRUE, BUT WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO BEFORE I CAN ONCE AGAIN RECLAIM THIS CITY AS MINE.

ALL OF OUR WORK ELSEWHERE WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NAUGHT IF WE ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL HERE.

TO THAT END, WE MUST CONTINUE THE PURSUIT OF OUR OLD NEMESIS. STACY IS A LOOSE CANNON. HE POSES A DANGER TO MY OPERATION.

AND NOW WE HEAR HIS DAUGHTER IS SNIFFING AROUND ABOUT JOEY Z.

IT'S GOING TO BRING HER TOO CLOSE TO US. SHE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO OUR RETURN TO THE CITY.

OUR POSITION, FOR THE TIME BEING, IS A DELICATE ONE.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

OF COURSE YOU WILL. YOU ALWAYS DO...

...EVER SINCE MY MEN FOUND YOU BARELY ALIVE IN THAT ALLEY MANY MONTHS AGO.\*



LATER THAT DAY, PETER PARKER AND BETTY BRANT MEET IN THE DAILY BUGLE MORGUE...

WHO WAS THIS GUY, PETER?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT.

WELL YOUR FRIEND JILL DID A BETTER JOB DIGGING UP THIS JOEY Z'S PAST THEN ANY OF OUR "INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS."

I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD HAVE COME UP WITH AS MUCH AS SHE DID, IF SHE HADN'T LEFT HER FOOTPRINTS ALL OVER CYBERSPACE.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO SUGGEST SHE HIT JONAH UP FOR A JOB AFTER SHE GRADUATES.

I OWE YOU FOR THIS ONE, BETTY!

YOU OWE ME FOR PLENTY MORE THAN *THIS* ONE, PETER.

THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST OF IT. WILL YOU *LOOK* AT THIS STUFF? I THOUGHT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A LOW LEVEL STREET CRIMINAL.

SO DID I.

WHAT NOW?

NOW I TRY TO FOLLOW JILL'S TRAIL AND CATCH UP TO HER BEFORE --

**PARKER!** THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE HIDING OUT DOWN HERE!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF WITH THOSE PLANTMAN PICTURES?

THEY WERE COMPLETELY OVERDEVELOPED! I NEED YOU BACK IN THE DARK ROOM NOW!

SORRY, JONAH! GOT NO TIME!

WHAT?! PARKER! GET YOUR SORRY TAIL BACK HERE NOW!





A SHORT TIME LATER...

THIS IS AMAZING! THE GUY WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE!

IF JILL IS GOING TO START DIGGING INTO THIS GUY'S BACKGROUND...



"... WHOEVER IS AFTER ARTHUR IS GOING TO BE THE LEAST OF HER PROBLEMS!"

THIS IS WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR!

SOMEWHERE IN HERE I KNOW I'M GOING TO FIND SPIDER-MAN!



THUS THE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE BEGIN THEIR SEARCH THROUGH THE MANY CORNERS OF THE HIDDEN LIFE OF JOEY Z, WHILE TAKING DIFFERENT PATHS.

SPIDER-MAN EMBARKS ON A PATH FRAUGHT WITH DANGER.



WHILE JILL UNCOVERS A MYSTERIOUS WORLD FILLED WITH MARVELS...

SURE. I HEARD OF JOEY Z, SWEET-HEART.

I THINK HE USED TO RUN WITH A GANG FROM DOWN ON DELANCY STREET WHEN WE WUZ BOTH KIDS. HE WAS ONE TOUGH AND ORNERY SO AND SO. OF COURSE...

... THAT'S BEFORE MRS. GRIMM'S BOUNCIN' BABY BOY, BENJY BECAME THE EVERLOVIN' THING!

TAKE A TIP FROM ME AND STAY AWAY FROM THE GUY... HE'S POISON!

NOW, IF YA'LL EXCUSE ME, ME AN' MY NEW FRIENDS GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE LOCAL BOYS IN BLUE!



THE DAY WILL COME WHEN  
YOU WILL **PAY** FOR THIS  
EFFRONTERY, SPIDER-  
MAN!

OOH! **THREATS!**  
HAVEN'T HAD  
ONE ALL  
DAY!

NOW I'LL  
ASK YOU ONCE  
MORE, SILVERMANE,  
WHO WAS **JOEY Z**?

ANOTHER  
ONE ASKING  
ABOUT HIM? THE  
GIRL WAS CERTAINLY  
EASIER ON THE  
EYES --

THE  
GIRL? WHERE  
IS SHE? IF YOU  
HURT HER  
I'LL --

YOU  
SHOULD KNOW  
BETTER THAN TO GIVE  
AWAY A WEAK SPOT TO  
SOMEONE LIKE ME, SPIDER-  
MAN. BUT I WILL NOTE  
THAT THE GIRL MEANS  
SOMETHING TO YOU.

AND  
SHE WAS A BIT  
MORE PLEASANT.  
BUT DON'T WORRY...  
I TOLD HER WHAT I  
KNEW AND SENT HER  
ON HER WAY.

**JOEY Z**  
WAS A FLOATER. HE  
HAD A HAND IN **EVERYBODY'S**  
BUSINESS. I'M NOT SURPRISED  
THAT SOMEONE TOOK IT UPON  
THEMSELVES TO SEE TO IT THAT  
HE WOULDN'T REVEAL **ALL** THE  
SECRETS HELD IN HIS HEAD.

ALL THE  
SECRETS?

ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN  
HE GOT INVOLVED  
WITH SHAW AND THE  
HELLFIRE CLUB...

...A  
MOST BIZARRE  
ESTABLISHMENT.  
AND A BIT SNOBBISH  
FOR MY TASTE.

NOW GET  
OUT OF MY FACE  
HERE BEFORE I  
CALL THE COPS  
ON YOU!

THE HELLFIRE  
CLUB?

ANYBODY  
WHO IS ANYBODY  
IN THIS TOWN GETS TO  
PASS THROUGH THOSE  
FRONT DOORS, BUT  
THERE ARE STORIES  
ABOUT THE **INNER  
CIRCLE**...

I KNOW THE X-MEN HAVE  
BEEN MIXED UP WITH  
SOME OF THESE  
PEOPLE.

WHAT  
COULD A GUY  
LIKE **JOEY Z** HAVE  
TO DO WITH  
MUTANTS?

I DON'T  
KNOW IF I EVEN  
WANT TO KNOW WHO  
THIS GUY WAS  
ANYMORE!

JUST  
WANT TO  
FIND JILL  
AND GET OUT  
OF HERE.



A SHORT  
TIME LATER...

I DON'T  
KNOW IF SHE'S  
IN THERE OR NOT. AND  
GIVEN THAT **SEBASTIAN  
SHAW**, THE GUY WHO RUNS  
THE CLUB, HAS GOT AN  
EVEN SCARIER REP THAN  
THE PLACE ITSELF...

... NOT TO  
MENTION THOSE  
TWO BRUISERS  
WHO ARE PASSING  
THEMSELVES OFF  
AS DOORMEN!

THIS  
IS GOING TO  
CALL FOR A LITTLE  
FINESSE AND LOTS  
OF STRATEGIC  
PLANNING!











Mr. SHAW... PLEASE!

MEMBERS ONLY, MISS.



WHAT ARE YOU HIDING, SHAW?



HIDING FROM *YOU*? VERY LITTLE I ASSURE YOU.

BUT I HAD HEARD THAT THE MAN IN QUESTION HAD DIED. *THIS* DOES NOT SURPRISE ME. I WOULD SUGGEST YOU LET THE DEAD STAY DEAD, YOUNG LADY.

THAT IS ALL I WILL SAY.



JILL? WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO NOW?

THERE'S A GUY BY THE NAME OF MEL PHISTO OR MATT PHISTO OR SOMETHING THAT I HEAR JOEY Z HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH. I'VE GOT TO TRY AND FIND HIM.

JILL WAIT! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?



BECAUSE JOEY Z IS A LINK TO SPIDER-MAN. I NEED TO FIND HIM.

WHY?

BECAUSE, OTHER THAN YOU, SPIDER-MAN IS THE ONLY LINK I HAVE TO MY COUSIN GWEN'S DEATH.



I WANT TO KNOW, PETER. I *HAVE* TO KNOW. AND *YOU* WON'T TALK TO ME.




SHE WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, PETER, AND MY COUSIN.

WE BOTH LOVED HER DEARLY AND I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT HER.


YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S TALK.



A large comic book panel showing Peter Parker and Gwen Stacy walking down a city street. Peter is on the left, wearing a yellow t-shirt and dark pants, with a black strap across his chest. Gwen is on the right, wearing a purple dress and a brown jacket. In the background, there are city buildings and a street sign.

AND TALK  
THEY DO.

TWO YOUNG  
PEOPLE WITH -- AS  
THEY DISCOVER --  
MUCH IN COMMON.

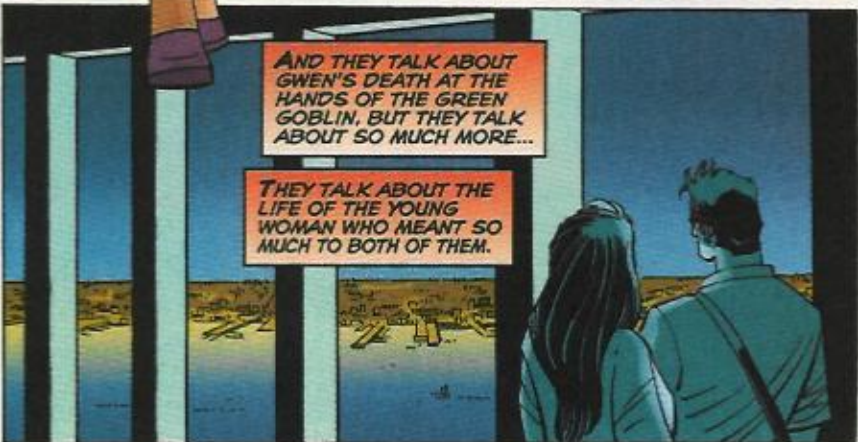
A small inset panel showing Peter and Gwen walking away from the viewer on a city street. Peter is wearing a yellow shirt and Gwen is wearing a purple dress. They are walking past a building with the letters "MON R" and "MUS" visible.

AS THEY STROLL THROUGH THE  
VERY STREETS WHICH PETER HAD  
SO OFTEN WALKED WITH GWEN --

A small inset panel showing Peter and Gwen walking across a stone bridge over a river. The background shows a city skyline with a large building and a clock tower.

-- PETER FINDS MEMORIES  
HE HAS LONG SUPPRESSED.

PLEASANT MEMORIES OF HIS  
YOUTH AND OF HIS LOVE.

A small inset panel showing Peter and Gwen standing on a rooftop or balcony, looking out over a city skyline at night. Peter is on the right, wearing a yellow shirt, and Gwen is on the left, wearing a purple dress.

AND THEY TALK ABOUT  
GWEN'S DEATH AT THE  
HANDS OF THE GREEN  
GOBLIN, BUT THEY TALK  
ABOUT SO MUCH MORE...

THEY TALK ABOUT THE  
LIFE OF THE YOUNG  
WOMAN WHO MEANT SO  
MUCH TO BOTH OF THEM.





THANK YOU, PETER.

I REALLY NEEDED THIS.

YOU KNOW, JILL, SO DID I.



I...Um...WE SHOULD HEAD ON HOME. TRY AND FIND YOUR FATHER.

YEAH...WE SHOULD...AND CALL MARY JANE.

YEAH.



SPIDER-SENSE GOING CRAZY!

JILL, I THINK YOU BETTER --



DO NOT TRY AND BE A HERO, PAL!



YOU KISS THIS WALL UNTIL WE ARE GONE WITH THE GIRL, OR YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO GET HURT.



WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HER?

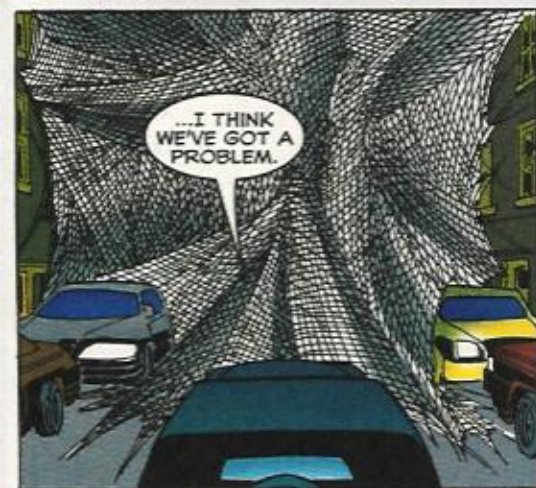
JILL!

**RUN!**













LIKE A  
SPIDER'S WEB  
PERHAPS?

SORRY  
ABOUT THE MESS,  
BUT YOU KNOW THIS  
BRIDGE AND I HAVE A  
HISTORY WITH THE STACY  
FAMILY AND ANOTHER BATTLE  
ON TOP OF IT WOULD HAVE  
BECOME CLICHE, SO...

GET  
THE BROAD  
OUTTA  
HERE!  
I'LL  
HANDLE  
THIS!



I WAS KIND  
OF HOPING FOR  
SOME RAZOR SHARP  
REPARTEE, BUT I  
GUESS I'M BARKING  
UP THE WRONG  
SUPER-VILLAIN.  
Heh?

FWAM



NONE OF  
THIS JUMPING  
AROUND GARBAGE.  
I REMEMBER --  
THAT'S WHAT  
YOU ALWAYS  
DO.

I'LL  
FIGHT YOU,  
YA LITTLE BUG,  
BUT IT'S GOT TO  
BE MAN TO  
MAN.

ROCKO,  
IF HE DON'T  
FIGHT ME LIKE  
A MAN...

...WHACK THE  
DAME RIGHT WHERE  
SHE STANDS.

MAN  
TO MAN,  
Huh?

JUST  
ONE QUESTION,  
BRICKS FOR  
BRAINS...

















## EPILOGUE

