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**PETE PARKER™**

# SPIDER-MAN

**THE MOST**  
**INTENSE**  
**SPIDEY STORY**  
**OF THE YEAR!**

# FREEFALL!

**DIRECT EDITION**



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TRAPPED IN AN ELEVATOR WITH NORMAN OSBORN, THE ONLY MAN I CAN TRULY SAY I HATE, HIS INNOCENT GRANDSON, NORMIE AND ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS, BETTY BRANT.

SMOKE IS POURING, BETTY'S INJURED, NORMIE IS SCARED TO DEATH AND EVERYONE'S ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL IS IF I REVEAL THE POWER I POSSESS AS SPIDER-MAN TO THE VIDEO CAMERAS... CAMERAS WHICH APPEAR TO STILL BE WORKING.

BY THE LOOK ON NORMAN'S FACE... HE'S LOVING THE PRECIPITANT I'M IN AND KNOWS I'LL DO THE RIGHT THING.

HOW DO I GET MYSELF INTO THESE SITUATIONS?

A GOOD QUESTION, MISTER PARKER!

BUT IN ORDER TO GIVE THE READERS THE ANSWER, WE'LL HAVE TO BACK UP SEVERAL HOURS TO THE BEGINNING OF OUR STORY...



EARLY THAT DAY...

GOOD FOR YOU, MISTER MAYOR!

MY LIFE WAS BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A MARTIN SCORSESE MOVIE LATELY.

IT SEEMED LIKE EVERYWHERE I TURNED THERE WAS ANOTHER JOEY Z WANNABE POPPING OFF A FEW ROUNDS FROM A GUN.

GANG WARS CAN GET A LITTLE TIRING AND, WITH STRAY BULLETS FLYING THROUGH THE AIR, ARE WAY TOO DANGEROUS FOR CIVILIANS.

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
MAYOR DECLARES WAR ON GUNS

SOMETIMES I MISS THE OLD DAYS WHEN THE BAD GUYS ALL WORE SPANDEX AND WANTED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MAYOR IS NOT MY NUMBER ONE FAN...

... I'M GOING TO HELP HIM IN ANY WAY I CAN!

SPEAKING OF WHICH...



PETER PARKER  
StanLee  
presents:  
SPIDER-MAN

# FREE FALL

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







YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE CITY? YOU NEVER SEEN ANYONE CHASED BY THE COPS BEFORE?

NOW GET OUTTA MY WAY BEFORE I STEP ON YER HEADS!

THERE IS NO WAY THE POLICE ARE TAKING ME IN!

MY, MY, MY. YOU ARE A GROUCHY ONE!

IT COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT CRATE YOU'RE HAULING AROUND. IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE CHAFING.

I KNOW THAT WHEN MY COSTUME GETS WET SOMETIMES IT RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY AND I GET A LITTLE IRRITABLE TOO, SO WHY DON'T YOU PUT THAT THING DOWN AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT --



SHUT UP!

I MAY BE FROM OUT OF TOWN, SPIDER-MAN, BUT I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU!

YOU AND YOUR SMART MOTOR MOUTH!

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!



I'M TELLING YOU -- IT'S THE CHAFING.

MAYBE A LITTLE TALCUM POWDER --





NOW  
SEE...

... *THIS*  
IS A START!  
I'M *MORE* THAN  
HAPPY TO HOLD  
THIS THING  
FOR YOU.

MAYBE  
NOW YOU'LL  
BE A LITTLE  
LESS CRANKY  
AND FEEL LIKE  
TALKING!



NOT  
REALLY.

JUST  
WANTED YOUR  
HANDS FULL, SO I  
COULD START TEARING  
INTO THE COPS WITHOUT  
YOU GETTING IN  
THE WAY.

REALLY?  
THEN I  
THINK...



... YOU'RE  
JUST GOING TO  
HAVE TO TAKE THIS  
CRATE OF YOURS  
BACK!



OUCH!  
THAT'S  
GOTTA  
HURT!

WE'VE  
GOT IT FROM  
HERE!  
SECURE  
THE CONTENTS  
OF THE CRATE,  
MEN!





IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS SPIDER-MAN'S WORDS PROVE TRUE.



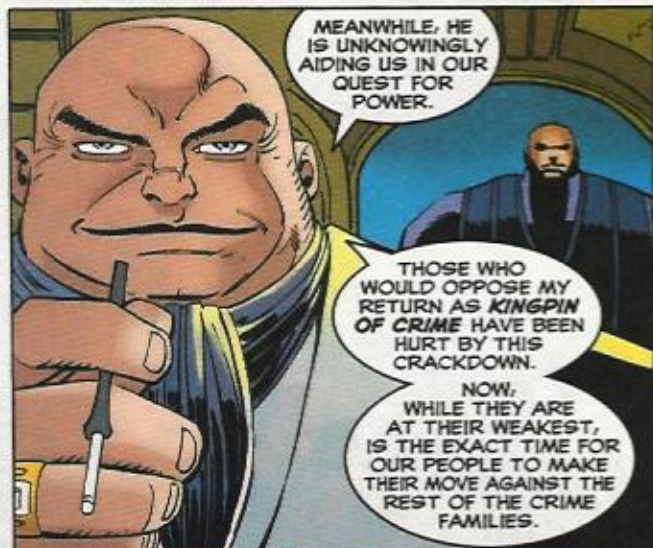


MEANWHILE...

ISN'T IT FUNNY THE WAY THE STRANGEST THINGS CAN PLAY INTO OUR PLANS.

IF I DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE AND I WOULD EVENTUALLY BE BANGING HEADS...

... I'D HAVE TO SAY I DO RESPECT THIS MAYOR.



THESE OTHER ALLEGED CRIME LORDS HAVE ALL COME TO RELY OVERMUCH ON GUNS.

I RELY ON PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO POSSESS **UNIQUE** TALENTS.

THEY GET THE JOB DONE MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY.

MAKE IT HAPPEN, OX, MY... ASSOCIATE.

CONSIDER IT DONE, **MR. FISK**.

SOON THIS CITY WILL BE MINE AGAIN.



LATER, OUTSIDE  
THE DAILY BUGLE...

Er...  
HOLD ON,  
MARY JANE... I  
THINK I'VE GOT A  
FEW BUCKS FOR  
A CAB...  
SOMEWHERE.

I'M  
PRETTY  
SURE I  
DO.

WAIT!

HERE  
IT...

... IS.

THANKS, PETER,  
BUT A DOLLAR ISN'T  
EVEN GOING TO  
GET ME ON THE  
SUBWAY.

YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT TO  
DO SOMETHING ABOUT  
OUR FINANCIAL  
SITUATION.

WE'RE KILLING OURSELVES  
BETWEEN SCHOOL AND  
WORKING, VOLUNTEERING,  
THE OCCASIONAL SAVING  
THE WORLD AND...

... WE'RE BARELY MAKING ENDS  
MEET. WE'VE GOT TO START  
HELPING AUNT ANNA OUT WITH  
THE HOUSE. I KNOW SHE  
SAYS THINGS ARE FINE, BUT  
THINGS ARE TIGHT FOR  
HER, TOO.

SHE IS ON A FIXED  
INCOME AND HAS BEEN  
MAKING NOISES ABOUT GOING  
BACK TO FLORIDA. I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'D  
DO IT IF WE HAD TO REALLY PAY RENT.

I'M TRYING, M.J. IT'S WHY I'M MEETING  
BETTY BRANT HERE ON A SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON. SHE'S GOT SOME FREELANCE  
ASSIGNMENTS THAT SHE'S WILLING  
TO THROW MY WAY.

I KNOW YOU ARE,  
PETER. MEANWHILE,  
WE'LL MAKE IT WORK  
SOMEHOW.

WE'RE  
STILL YOUNG  
AND WE'VE GOT  
OUR ENTIRE  
LIVES AHEAD  
OF US.

RIGHT NOW, I GUESS  
I'M HOOFING IT BACK  
TO ESU TO MEET  
JILL.

I GUESS I COULD ASK  
BETTY TO LOAN ME  
A FEW BUCKS  
UNTIL --

NONSENSE!





I WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT!

PLEASE! HERE'S A HUNDRED DOLLARS. TAKE IT.



I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE YOUNG AND A LITTLE SHORT ON FUNDS.

I INSIST THAT I BE ALLOWED TO HELP YOU IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN!



SUCH OLD FRIENDS OF THE OSBORN FAMILY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER UNNECESSARILY.

THANK YOU, NORMAN, BUT...

... I'LL WALK.



HEY THERE, NORMIE! IT'S BEEN AWHILE.

HI, M.J.!

GRANDPA TRIES TO HELP, BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST TOO DARN PROUD. YOUNG NORMAN.

LET'S POP UP TO GRANDPA'S OFFICE.



HE KEEPS TWISTING THE KNIFE OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

EVER SINCE HE'S RETURNED AND BEGUN REPAIRING HIS DAMAGED REPUTATION, NORMAN'S TAKEN A PERVERSE PLEASURE IN MAKING MY LIFE MISERABLE.

THE WORLD THINKS OF HIM AS A MISUNDERSTOOD PHILANTHROPIST, BUT I KNOW BETTER.

I'VE SEEN HIM AS THE GREEN GOBLIN!



THE ELEVATOR'S HERE! YOU COMIN', PETER?

NOT NOW, LITTLE GUY, I'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE.



THE LAST THING I NEED IS TO BE STUCK IN AN ELEVATOR WITH NORMAN AND THAT SMIRK OF HIS.

I'D RATHER TAKE THE STAIRS.



A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE DAILY BUGLE, PETER AND ACE REPORTER, BETTY BRANT, CONFER.

THE MAYOR'S CRACKDOWN ON GUNS IS GOING TO BE GREAT FOR THE CITY, PETER, BUT...  
...IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN BETTER FOR US.

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ORDERS FROM SOMEONE WHO USED TO BE JONAH'S SECRETARY...

...I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE FREELANCE WORK YOU CAN HANDLE.

I APPRECIATE IT, BETTY.

DON'T. WE'RE BOTH GOING TO WORK OUR TAILS OFF.

I CAN HANDLE THAT.

I KNOW YOU CAN. OR I WOULDN'T BE MAKING YOU THIS OFFER.

THAT AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.

OKAY, SIS, SO WHAT'S IT LIKE AROUND HERE WITH NORMAN IN CHARGE.

DON'T ASK.

THERE ARE DAYS THAT I DON'T WANT TO GET OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING.

SLOWLY AND INSIDIOUSLY HE'S TURNING THE BUGLE INTO THE NORMAN OSBORN PUBLIC RELATIONS MACHINE.

IT'S NOT WHAT I SIGNED ON FOR PETER, BUT I FEEL AS THOUGH I OWE THE BUGLE TOO MUCH TO QUIT NOW.

BETTY, DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY? IT'S SUNDAY, AND HE --

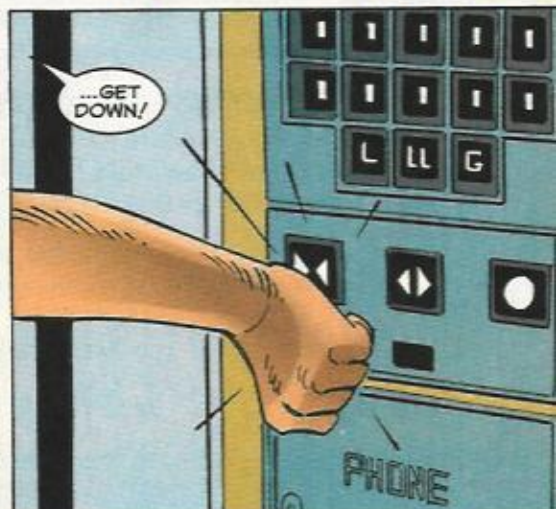
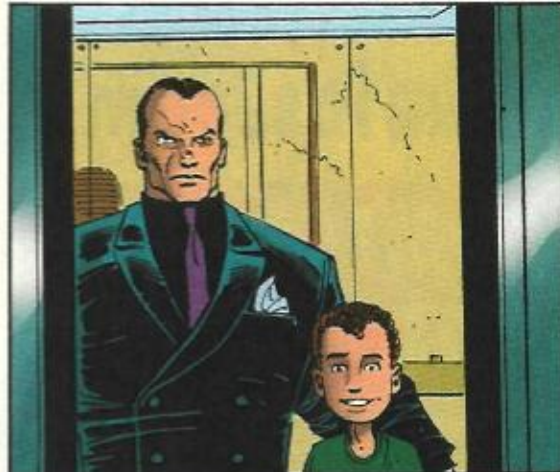
LOOKS SUSPICIOUS? ALREADY ON IT, PETER. I AM THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER HERE.

WHEN WE GET DOWN TO THE LOBBY I'LL HAVE SECURITY CHECK HIM OUT.

HERE'S OUR ELEVATOR NOW.

DING













DON'T WORRY, BETTY, THE AUTOMATIC BREAKS SHOULD STOP US.

THERE WE GO. NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS WAIT HERE FOR HELP --



KRAKK



Oh, NO!  
THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

NITRO'S BLAST MUST'VE DISLODGED A BUNCH OF STUFF FROM ABOVE.  
THIS IS GOING TO BE BAD. REAL BAD!



TH KUNK

BETTY! NORMIE!  
GET DOWN!



ARGH!





AS THE SOBS OF THE YOUNGEST OSBORN FILTER THROUGH THE SMOKE AND RUBBLE...

... THE VILLAINOUS NITRO, EMPLOYING POWERS WHICH THE ALIEN KREE GRANTED HIM, RECONSTITUTES THE SCATTERED MOLECULES OF HIS BODY IN AN ALLEY FAR BELOW THE DEVASTATION.





WHILE INSIDE  
THE DEMOLISHED  
ELEVATOR SHAFT...

KAFFE  
KAFFE ARE  
YOU ALIVE,  
PARKER?

YES,  
NORMAN.

BARELY.  
HAVING TROUBLE  
BREATHING. FEELS  
LIKE A COUPLE OF  
RIBS ARE BROKEN.

SO... WHAT  
ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO  
ABOUT THIS,  
HERO?

DO YOU  
SUPPOSE THE  
SECURITY CAMERAS  
WERE TAKEN OUT IN  
THE EXPLOSION?

PERHAPS  
THERE IS A GATHERING IN  
THE LOBBY OF THIS BUILDING  
WATCHING OUR EVERY MOVE.

IS IT  
TIME FOR THE  
WORLD TO KNOW  
ABOUT OUR LITTLE  
SECRETS AND  
OUR HIDDEN  
STRENGTHS?

ARGH!

I, TOO,  
EXPERIENCED  
THE SAME PAIN  
WHEN I TRIED  
TO SLIP FROM  
BENEATH THE  
RUBBLE. IT'LL TAKE  
A HERCULEAN  
EFFORT TO FREE  
OURSELVES, PETER...

... AN EFFORT  
WHICH COULD ONLY  
BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH  
THE ENHANCED PHYSICAL  
STRENGTH OF OUR  
ALTER EGOS.

AND  
WOULDN'T THAT  
PROVIDE QUITE THE  
SHOW FOR THOSE  
IN THE LOBBY.

MAYBE THE  
VIDEO FEED IS  
ALREADY MAKING  
ITS WAY ON TO  
THE LOCAL NEWS.

QUITE A PREDICAMENT, ISN'T IT?  
YOUR BEAUTIFUL FRIEND APPEARS  
TO NEED EMERGENCY ATTENTION,  
AND YET THE ONLY CHANCE SHE  
STANDS IS IF YOU SHOW THE  
CAMERA YOUR HIDDEN  
SPIDER-STRENGTH.






CAN'T...  
BUDGE IT!

WHAT  
ABOUT YOU,  
NORMAN? DON'T  
YOU HAVE ANYTHING  
TO LOSE? YOU COULD  
UTILIZE YOUR OWN  
GOBLIN STRENGTH  
TO GET US OUT  
OF HERE.



NO. I  
COULDN'T DO  
THAT. I'VE SPENT  
FAR TOO MUCH TIME  
REPAIRING PREVIOUS  
DAMAGE DONE TO MY  
REPUTATION.




BESIDES,  
YOUNG NORMAN IS  
STRONG... AN OSBORN  
THROUGH AND THROUGH.  
HE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT  
SOMETIMES THERE'RE  
SACRIFICES WHICH *MUST*  
BE MADE FOR THE  
FAMILY.



BUT YOU,  
PARKER... HOW  
DOES IT FEEL TO,  
ONCE AGAIN, LET  
A FRIEND  
DOWN?




YOU SEEM  
TO HAVE QUITE A  
HISTORY OF FAILING  
YOUR FRIENDS  
AND LOVED  
ONES.



DEAR, SWEET  
GWENDOLYN, YOUR  
DECEASED GIRLFRIEND  
WHO DIED SO  
YOUNG.

YOUR  
BELOVED AUNT  
MAY, WHO ASKED  
FOR SO LITTLE OF YOU  
AND RECEIVED *EXACTLY*  
THAT UNTIL SHE WAS  
TAKEN FROM  
YOU.



MY SON,  
HARRY. YOU CLAIMED  
TO BE HIS FRIEND, HIS  
CONFIDANT, AND WHEN HE  
NEEDED YOU MOST, YOU  
FAILED HIM AS YOU DO  
EVERYONE ELSE WHO  
GETS CLOSE  
TO YOU.

JUST AS  
YOU FAILED  
YOUR  
UNBORN --



SHUT  
UP,  
NORMAN!






THE  
TRUTH **DOES**  
HURT... DOESN'T  
IT, PETER?

WHAT  
ABOUT **YOU**,  
NORMAN?

WHAT  
DID YOU GIVE  
TO HARRY? WHAT  
WILL YOU DO FOR  
NORMIE?





WILL YOU  
DERIDE NORMIE  
IN THE SAME WAY  
YOU DID HARRY?  
MAKE HIM FEEL  
INADEQUATE AND  
WORTHLESS?

WILL  
YOU PASS ON  
THE SAME LEGACY OF  
AN INSANE QUEST FOR  
POWER IN THE FORM  
OF THE **GOBLIN**  
FORMULA?

HOW  
MANY OSBORNS  
NEED BE SACRIFICED  
FOR YOU?

THE TRUTH,  
NORMAN.  
IT'S PAINFUL  
FOR US  
ALL.

BUT  
**SOME** OF US,  
THOSE WHO HAVE  
A FIRM GRASP ON  
THEIR SANITY, ACCEPT  
THE TRUTH AND BEAR  
THE PAIN OF OUR  
LOSSES.

WE  
CHERISH THE  
MEMORIES OF OUR  
LOST LOVED  
ONES.

WE  
TRY NOT TO  
LET HATRED  
CONSUME  
US.

WE STRIVE  
TO BE BETTER  
THAN THOSE WHO  
CAUSED US  
OUR PAIN.

YEAH, I HAVE  
THE STRENGTH TO  
GET US OUT OF HERE,  
AND I WOULD RUN THE  
RISK OF EXPOSING THE  
THING I'VE KEPT SECRET  
FOR SO LONG IN  
DOING IT.

BUT A  
VERY WISE  
MAN TAUGHT  
ME A LESSON  
LONG AGO  
NORMAN...

... WITH  
GREAT **POWER**  
MUST COME GREAT  
RESPONSIBILITY.

WHY AM  
I DOING THIS? I  
MIGHT AS WELL BE  
SPEAKING GREEK TO  
YOU RIGHT NOW... Huh,  
NORMAN? YOU HAVE  
NO IDEA WHAT I'M  
TALKING ABOUT,  
DO YOU?

SOMETIMES...  
JUST **SOMETIMES**...  
I DO FEEL SORRY  
FOR YOU.



SO  
SHUT UP,  
NORMAN...

... I'M  
GETTING  
NORMIE AND  
BETTY OUR  
OF HERE...

... NO  
MATTER WHAT  
THE COST!

YEEARGH!

SH  
K  
U  
N  
K

THAT LITTLE MOVE  
SHIFTED THE  
ELEVATOR.

FEELS  
LIKE WE'RE  
JUST HANGING  
BY A THREAD. GOT  
TO GET NORMIE  
AND BETTY OUT  
OF HERE.

AND,  
WOULDN'T YOU  
KNOW IT, THE SECURITY  
CAMERAS WERE TAKEN  
OUT IN THE FIRST FALL.

NORMIE, I NEED YOU  
TO CLOSE YOUR EYES  
TO KEEP THE  
SMOKE OUT.

SURE,  
PETER.

UGPH!

GOOD!  
WE'RE CLOSE  
TO A FLOOR.

NORMIE, I WANT YOU TO  
HANG ON TIGHT TO BETTY,  
THINK GOOD THOUGHTS,  
AND BEFORE YOU  
KNOW IT...











