



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

FLASHBACK

PETER PARKER SPIDER-MAN

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COMICS
CODE



MINUS
1
JULY

THE MACABRE MYSTERY OF THE
PROTO-GOBLIN!

WHAT ARE THE
DREADED SECRETS
OF NORMAN OSBORN?™

WHERE WILL THE CLUES
LEAD THE STALWART
STACY BROTHERS?

AND
HOW WILL
IT AFFECT THE
LIFE OF YOUNG

**PETER
PARKER?**

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DIRECT EDITION

9991

SALUTATIONS,
SPIDERPHILES!

I DON'T
MIND ADMITTING IT,
YOUR PAL STAN LEE
IS SO GLAD TO BE WITH
YOU THAT I CAN'T
STOP WIGGLING
MY WEBS IN
DELIGHT!

IF YOU'RE
WONDERING WHY
I'M HERE -- (NO MATTER
WHERE I AM PEOPLE WONDER
WHY I'M THERE!) -- IT'S TO
JOIN THE MIGHTY MARVEL
FLASHBACK
SERIES --

-- TO HELP
YOU THRILL TO
THE ASTONISHING
EVENTS IN THE LIFE
OF A CERTAIN SPECIAL
STUDENT BEFORE HE
BECAME THE
WORLD'S FAVORITE
ARACHNID!

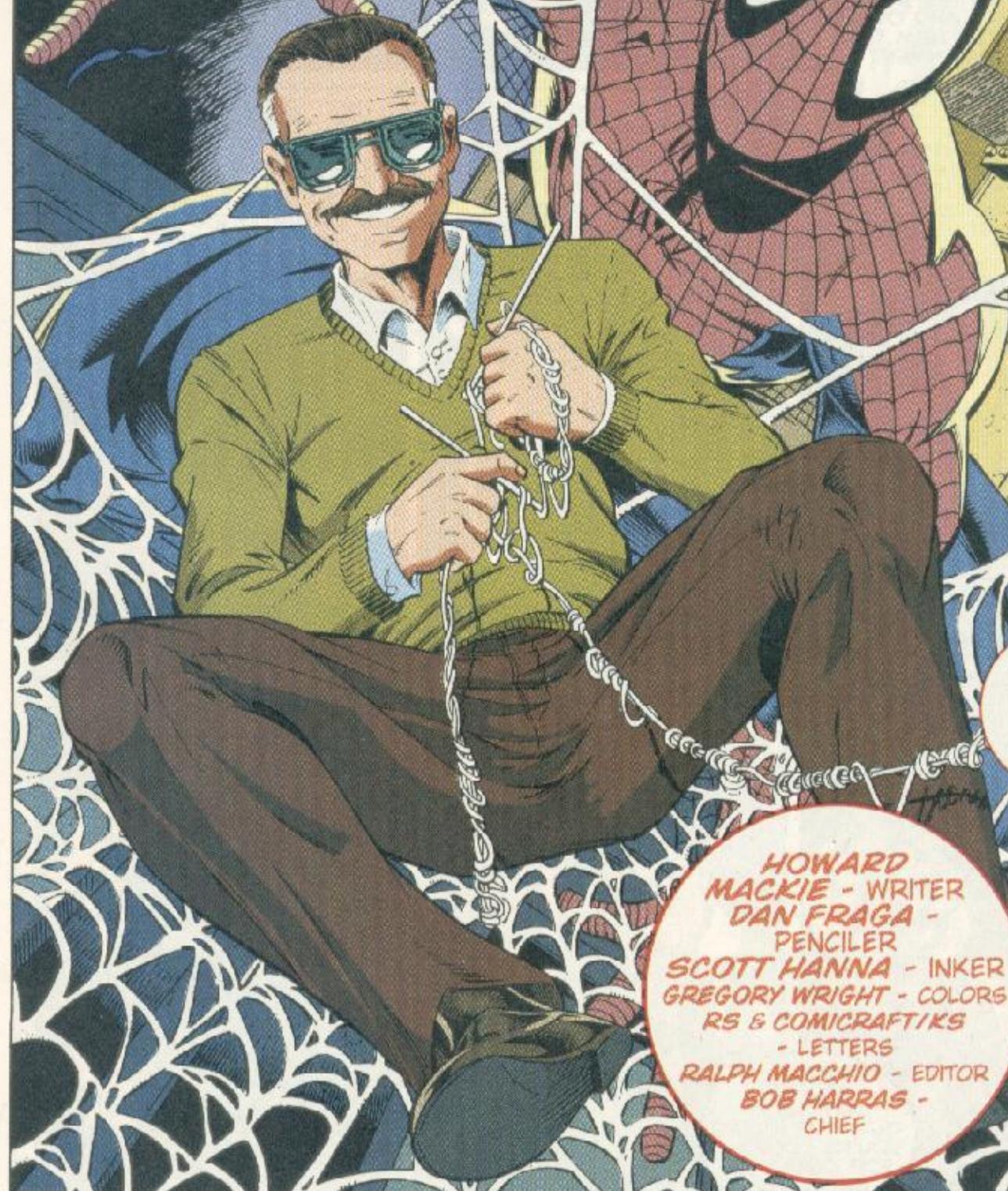
EVENTS
THAT ARE
DESTINED TO
HAVE A SHOCKING
EFFECT ON THE
LIFE OF PETER
PARKER.

AND IT
ALL HAPPENS
IN A SENSES-
STAGGERING
SAGA WE
CALL...

STAN LEE PRESENTS

A PRE LUDE IN RED

EVENTS
THAT ARE PART OF
THE TANGLED WEB IN
THE LIFE OF PETER
PARKER.



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MACKIE - WRITER
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RS & COMICRAFT/KS
LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO - EDITOR
BOB HARRAS -
CHIEF

THE QUEENS, NEW YORK
HOME OF POLICE CAPTAIN
GEORGE STACY...

ARE YOU TELLING ME
YOU DON'T BELIEVE
THEY EXIST,
GEORGE?

BEINGS
WITH SUPER-
POWERS WHO
ARE CAPABLE OF
OVERTHROWING
HUMANITY?

NO,
ART... I
DON'T!

I'M TELLING YOU,
GEORGE, THAT'S
WHERE YOU SHOULD BE
FOCUSING YOUR
INVESTIGATION.

THEY DO
EXIST, AND OTHERS
LIKE THEM. THE
GOVERNMENT --

PLEASE,
ART, CAN WE
GET THROUGH
ONE CONVERSATION
WITHOUT YOU TURNING
TO GOVERNMENT
CONSPIRACIES
AND COVER-
UPS?

F.D.R. KNEW ABOUT
THE PEARL HARBOR
ATTACK, THE KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION,
AREA 51...

...NOT EVERYTHING
IS A CONSPIRACY,
ART. YOU HAVE THE
POTENTIAL OF BEING
A HIGHLY RESPECTED
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
AND SECURITY EXPERT,
BUT NOT IF YOU KEEP
TALKING LIKE
THIS.

MAYBE NOT, BIG BROTHER,
BUT THE TRUTH IS THE
TRUTH AND I HAVE
CONTACTS THAT
TELL ME THAT THE
MUTANT SITUATION
IS ABOUT TO BLOW
UP IN ALL OF
OUR FACES.

AND
ALL I'M
SAYING IS
THAT THE KILLER
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR COULD BE
TIED INTO
IT.

MUTANTS,
ART? WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?
I'M
LOOKING
FOR A
KILLER.
A
SERIAL
KILLER AT
THAT.



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IT STANDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE BIG APPLE AS A CAPITALISTIC IDEAL.

A COMPANY STARTED BY ONE YOUNG MAN, A DREAM AND RUTHLESS AMBITION.

IT IS OSBORN INDUSTRIES, CULTURE LOVERS, AND IT IS WHERE OUR STORY TRULY BEGINS.



HOW YA DOIN', CAP'N? SORRY TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM THE FAMILY AND ALL --

MORELLI!

YEAH... SORRY, CAP'N.
ONE OF OUR CRUISERS SPOTTED A SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL LURKIN' AROUND THE GATES OUTSIDE THE OSBORN PLANT.

THE OFFICERS TRIED TO STOP THE INDIVIDUAL FOR QUESTIONING AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ATTACKED.

HOW ARE THE MEN?

GET ME THEIR HOME NUMBERS. I'LL CALL THEIR FAMILIES MYSELF.

NOW WHAT ABOUT THE SUSPECT?

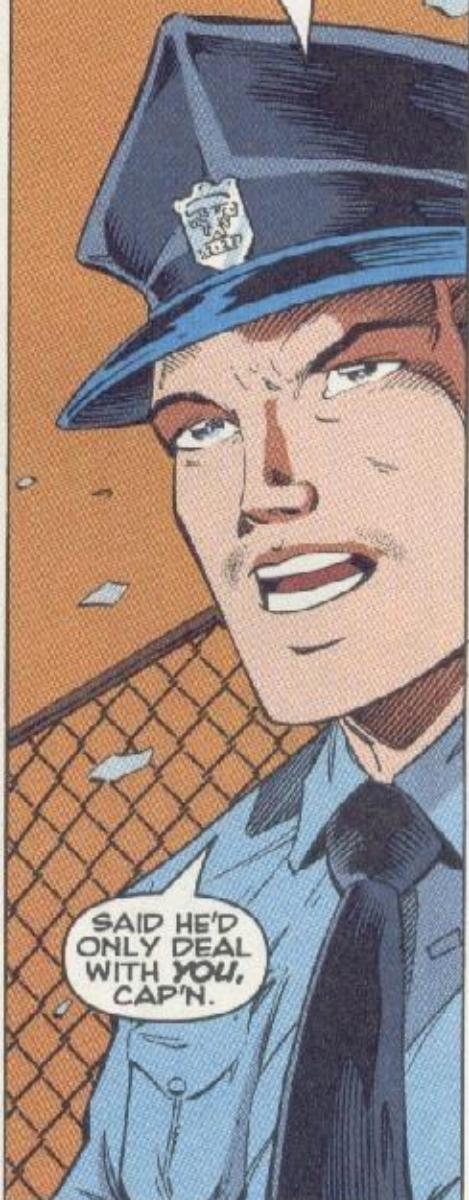
Pretty bad, CAP'N, BUT THE PARAMEDICS THINK THEY'LL PULL THROUGH.

HE ESCAPED. RAN INTO THE OSBORN PLANT.

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, MAN?

SIR, THAT'S THE THING OF WHY WE HAD TO NOTIFY YOU.

IT'S MR. OSBORN. HE WON'T LET US THROUGH THE GATES AND HE WOULDN'T TALK TO ANY OF US.



A FEW MINUTES
LATER...

NORMAN! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING TO
ME? MY MEN HAVE
A JOB TO DO
HERE.

I'M WELL AWARE OF
THAT, GEORGE. YOU
KNOW I HAVE THE
UTMOST RESPECT
FOR THE BOYS IN
BLUE, BUT...

...I
SIMPLY CAN-
NOT ALLOW THEM
ON MY PREMISES
UNESCORTED,
GEORGE.

OSBORN
INDUSTRIES
IS ENGAGED IN
SEVERAL HIGHLY
SENSITIVE RESEARCH
PROJECTS AND I WOULD
BE REMISS IF I ALLOWED
YOU HERE WITHOUT BEING
ACCOMPANIED BY MY
SECURITY CHIEF.

HOW WOULD IT LOOK FOR
ME TO ARREST ONE OF THE
CITY'S MOST PROMINENT
CITIZENS? YOU'RE PUTTING
MY JOB, NOT TO MENTION
OUR FRIENDSHIP, IN
JEOPARDY.

YOU ARE
PUTTING ME
IN A VERY UN-
COMFORTABLE
SITUATION,
NORMAN.

AS FOR
THE LATTER... I
APOLOGIZE. AS FOR
THE FORMER... THAT
IS SOMETHING YOU WILL
HAVE TO TAKE UP WITH
MY LAWYER, GEORGE.

BUT... THAT APPEARS
TO BE UNNECESSARY.
MY NEWLY APPOINTED
HEAD OF SECURITY
IS ARRIVING
NOW.

I BELIEVE YOU'VE
HAD SOME DEALINGS
WITH HIM IN THE PAST,
GEORGE.

INDEED
I HAVE.

SORRY IF I'VE MISSED THE
FUN. NOT EVERYBODY HAS THE
LUXURY OF ZIPPING THROUGH
TRAFFIC WITH A SPINNING
RED LIGHT ATOP THEIR
CAR LIKE MY BIG BROTHER.

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CAVERNOUS EXPANSE OF THE OSBORN FACILITY, THE TWO STACY BROTHERS SEARCH OUT THEIR ELUSIVE PREY...

ART, YOU'RE REALLY NOT NEEDED HERE.

YOU ARE ON MY TURF, GEORGE. OSBORN WANTS YOU TO HAVE AN ESCORT... I'M STAYING.

JUST TRY TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY AND LET US DO OUR JOB.

BY THE BOOK, CAPTAIN STACY, SIR!

THIS PLACE IS LIKE A MAZE. THIS GUY COULD ELUDE US IN HERE FOR --

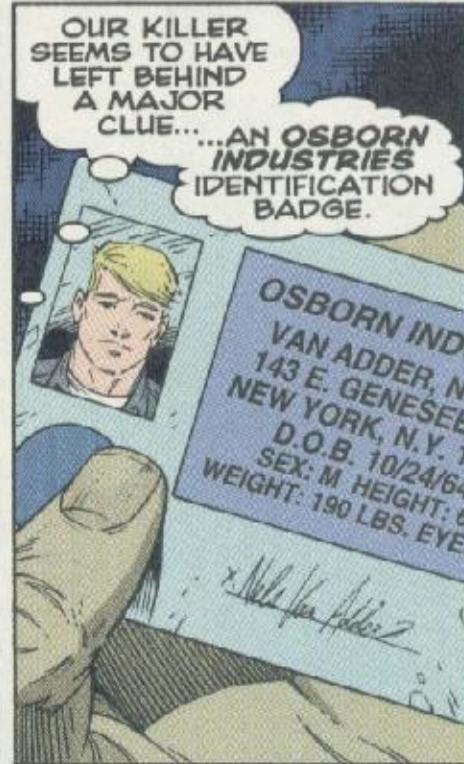
FAN OUT.

YEAH, BIG BROTHER. I'M GETTING THE SAME FEELING YOU ARE. WE ARE CLOSE.

AARRGH! OFFICER DOWN!

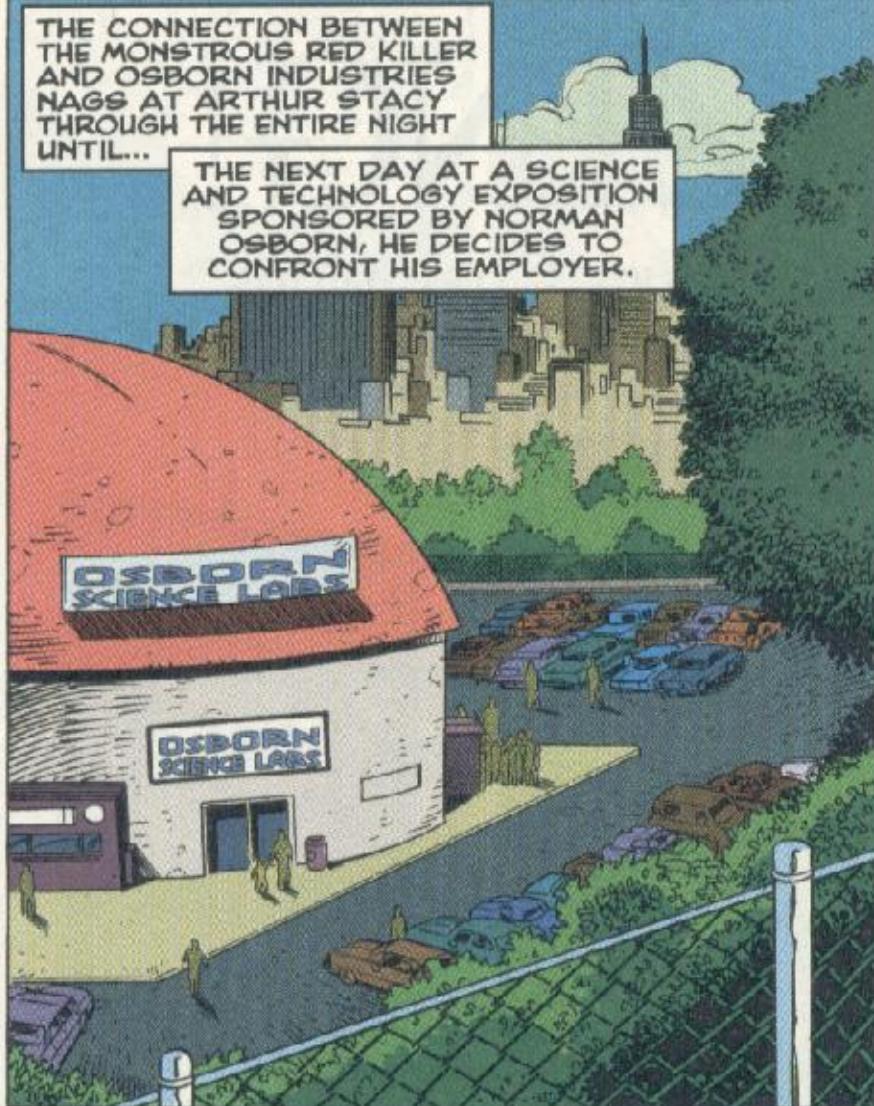






THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE MONSTROUS RED KILLER AND OSBORN INDUSTRIES NAGS AT ARTHUR STACY THROUGH THE ENTIRE NIGHT UNTIL...

THE NEXT DAY AT A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION SPONSORED BY NORMAN OSBORN, HE DECIDES TO CONFRONT HIS EMPLOYER.



NORMAN! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE REGARDING YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT.

NO TIME, ARTHUR. I'VE GOT A SPEECH TO MAKE.

IT WON'T TAKE A MINUTE.

WHAT IS IT?



I WAS WONDERING IF YOU KNEW OF A MAN BY THE NAME OF NELS VAN ADDER?

VAN ADDER? AH YES...

A DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE. WE LET HIM GO MONTHS AGO.

THE THING IS I FOUND AN OSBORN INDUSTRIES I.D. BADGE WITH THE MAN'S NAME AFTER YESTERDAY'S ATTACK.

WHAT IS IT YOU'RE IMPLYING, ARTHUR?

LET ME MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR, ARTHUR. OSBORN INDUSTRIES IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH.



NO IMPLICATIONS, NORMAN. I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT TYPE OF WORK VAN ADDER DID FOR THE COMPANY.

WE'RE ENGAGED IN DOZENS OF PROJECTS, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH, ARE FAR ABOVE ANY LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC COMPREHENSION YOU MIGHT HAVE.

EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.



WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SON?

PETER,
SIR. PETER PARKER.



AND WHO DID YOU
BRING WITH YOU
TODAY, PETER?

YOU HAVE A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN HERE, FOLKS. YOU BRING HIM UP TO OSBORN INDUSTRIES FOR A TOUR OF THE BIO-RESEARCH LAB.



...FIERCE COMPETITORS.



THAT IS WHAT OSBORN INDUSTRIES IS ALL ABOUT, ARTHUR.

I AM WELL AWARE OF YOUR PROCLIVITY TOWARD THINGS CONSPIRATORIAL, ARTHUR, BUT...

...YOU ARE WAY OFF BASE ON THIS ONE.

THIS DISCUSSION IS OVER.

I SUGGEST, IF YOU'RE UNHAPPY WITH YOUR EMPLOYMENT, AT OSBORN INDUSTRIES...

...YOU MOVE ON.



LATER THAT EVENING,
ARTHUR STACY SEEKS
SOLACE IN THE BOTTOM
OF A LIQUOR GLASS...



THE PRIVATE LABORATORY WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO NORMAN OSBORN'S PARTNER, DR. MENDEL STROMM...

AH... I DO SO LOVE THIS VIEW.

AND TO THINK, SOME DAY, ALL THAT OUT THERE...

...WILL ALL BE MINE!

STROMM WAS A GENIUS AND YET HE WAS CARELESS ENOUGH TO ALLOW ME TO FRAME HIM FOR EMBEZZLEMENT AND TO SEIZE CONTROL OF ALL HIS INVENTIONS.

HERE I STAND, HAVING BARELY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF ALL THAT WAS STROMM'S.

HIS NOTES ARE UNDECIPHERABLE IN THEIR CURRENT STATE. THE LAST PROJECT HE WAS WORKING ON REMAINS A MYSTERY TO ME.

I'VE TORN THIS LABORATORY APART LOOKING FOR HIS NOTES AND I STILL CANNOT FIND THEM.

MY OWN EXPERIMENTS HAVE BEEN TANTAMOUNT TO FAILURE COMPARED TO HIS.

AND NOW THIS ENTIRE VAN ADDER MESS!

IT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE!

IT MUST ALL BE MINE! STROMM'S SECRETS MUST BE MINE!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME, NORMAN?

NELS,
HOW DID YOU
GET IN HERE?
NO ONE --

NO ONE ELSE ALLOWED THEMSELVES TO BE YOUR GUINEA PIG, NORMAN.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

I CAN'T GO HOME TO MY WIFE, CAN'T EVEN LOOK IN A MIRROR.

AND THE THINGS I'VE DONE -- ALL THOSE PEOPLE I'VE KILLED. I DIDN'T WANT TO, NORMAN! I HAD NO CONTROL!

YOU HAVE TURNED MY LIFE INTO A NIGHTMARE, NORMAN.

NOW, NOW, NELS, WE'LL SET EVERYTHING RIGHT.

AND YOU CANNOT HOLD ME SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT.

UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT?

YEARGH!

HMM. THE TRANS-MUTATIONS SEEM TO BE PROGRESSING MORE QUICKLY THAN ANTICIPATED.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE OBTAIN ANSWERS...

LOOK AT ME, NORMAN!

I AM BARELY HUMAN ANYMORE!

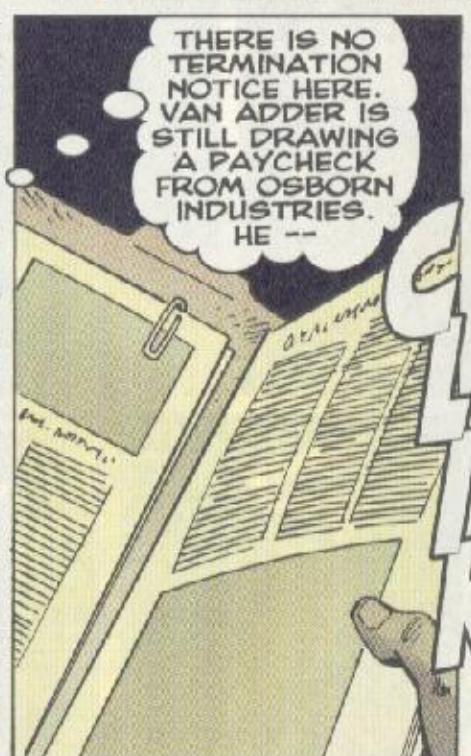
I AM --

NOW, I'LL REMIND YOU THAT YOU VOLUNTEERED TO HELP ME WITH EXPERIMENTING BEFORE WE HAD A STABILIZING REAGENT.

BUT THAT'S NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

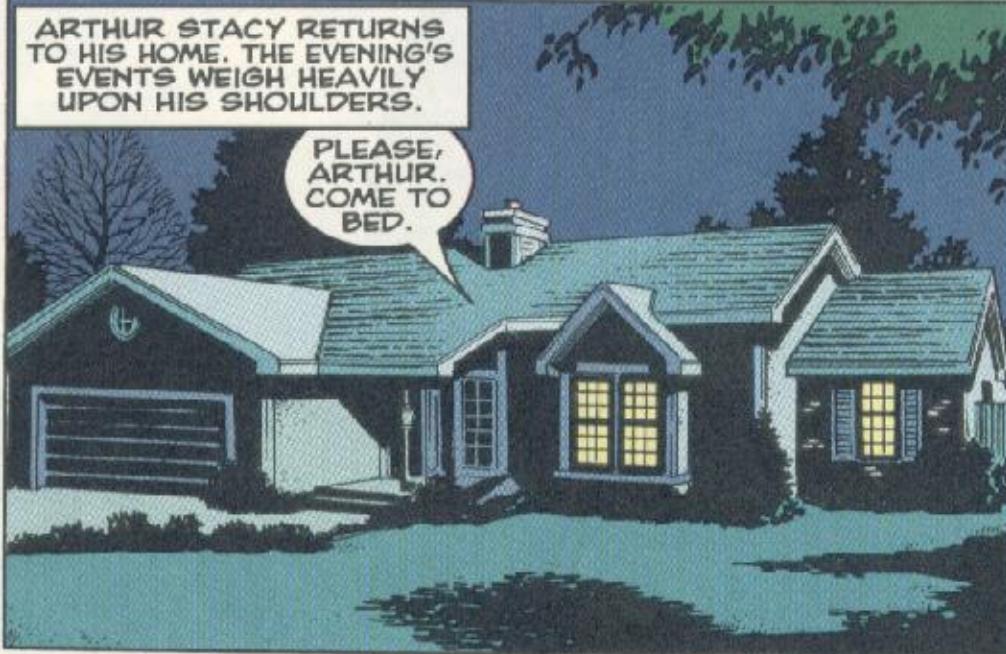
...NO MATTER WHAT THE RISKS.

A SHORT TIME LATER
IN NORMAN OSBORN'S
PRIVATE OFFICE SUITE...



ARTHUR STACY RETURNS TO HIS HOME. THE EVENING'S EVENTS WEIGH HEAVILY UPON HIS SHOULDERS.

PLEASE,
ARTHUR.
COME TO
BED.



LOSING THIS JOB ISN'T THE END OF THE WORLD.

AS NICE AS THE SALARY IS, YOU WERE NEVER CUT OUT TO BE A SECURITY GUARD.

YOU'RE NOT YOUR BROTHER AND I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE.

YOU HAD THAT OFFER IN ENGLAND. WE CAN START ALL OVER. IT WILL ALL BE FINE... I PROMISE.



THANKS, NANCY.
I LOVE YOU.

NOW GO UP TO BED. I'LL BE UP IN A MINUTE.



NORMAN IS DIRTY.

I JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE YET.

MAYBE IF I CALLED GEORGE... TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM...

...WHO AM I KIDDING?



HE'D NEVER --

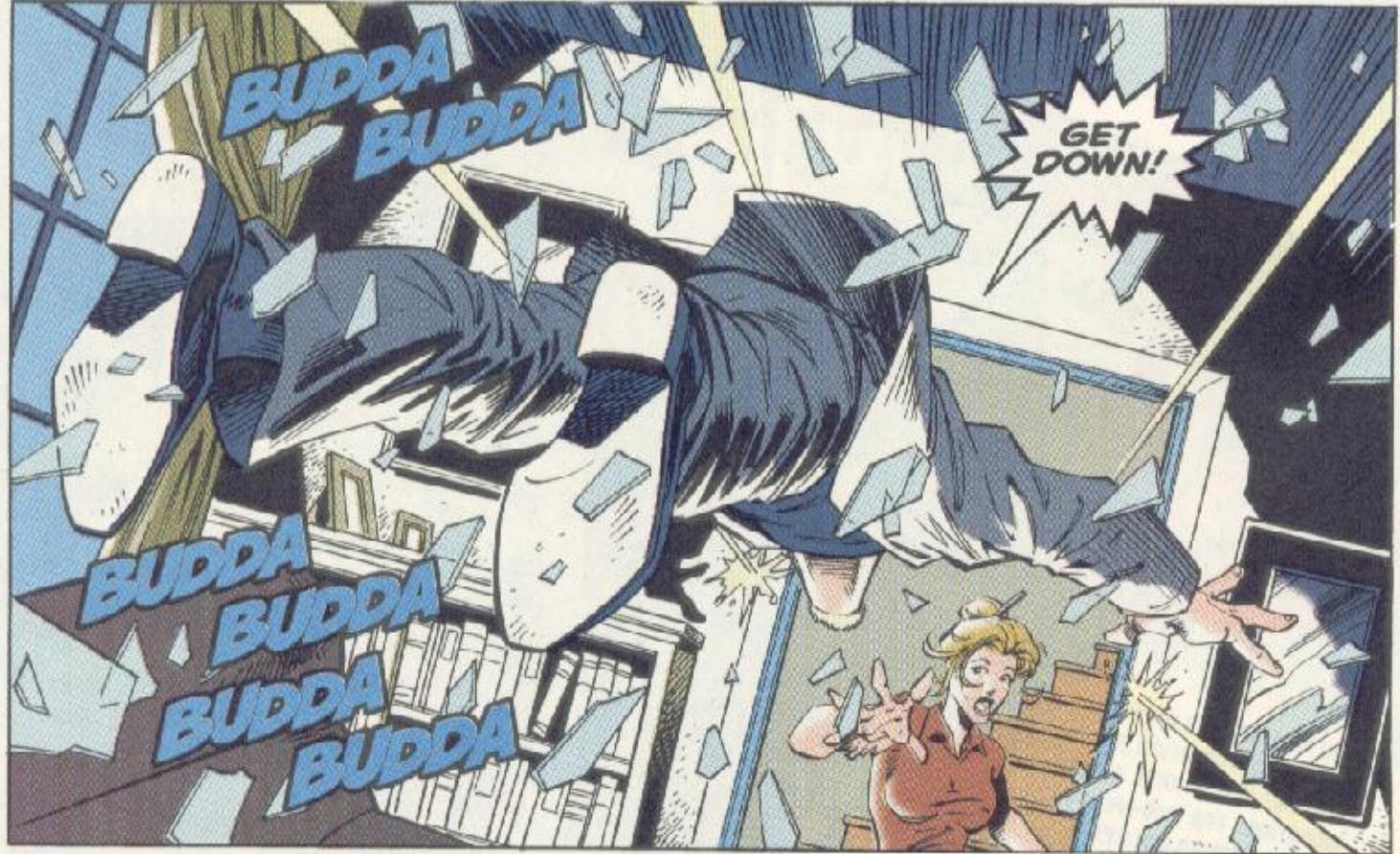
SCREEEE



HUH? A CAR HEADING THIS WAY?

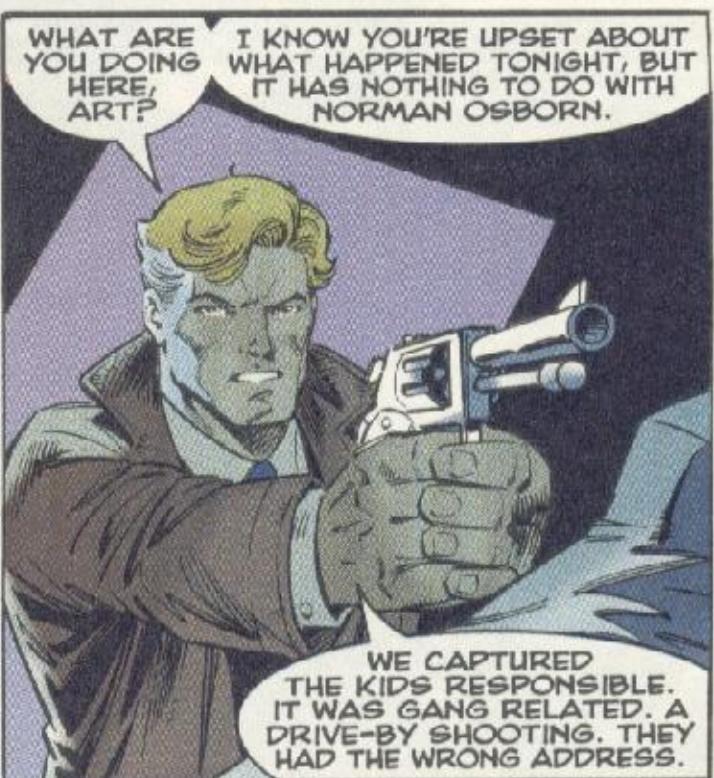
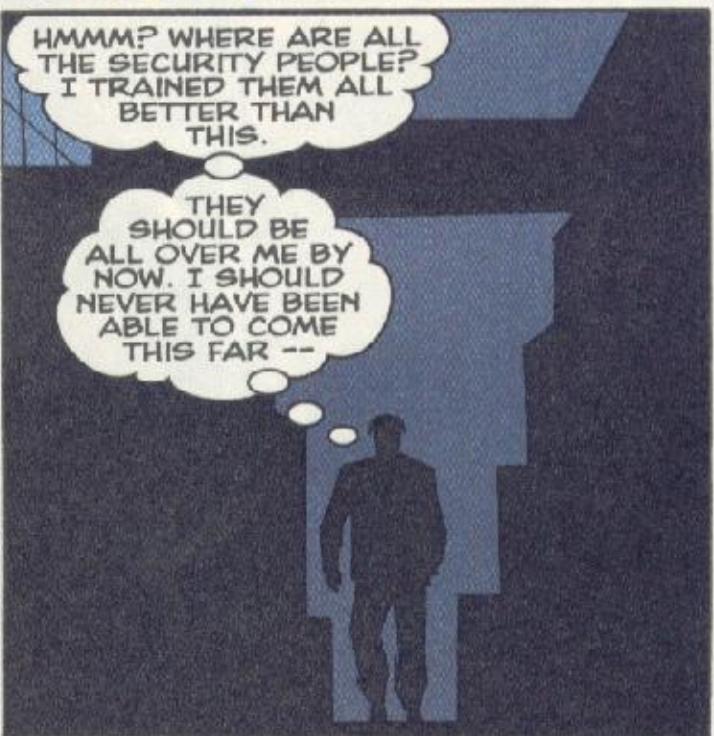
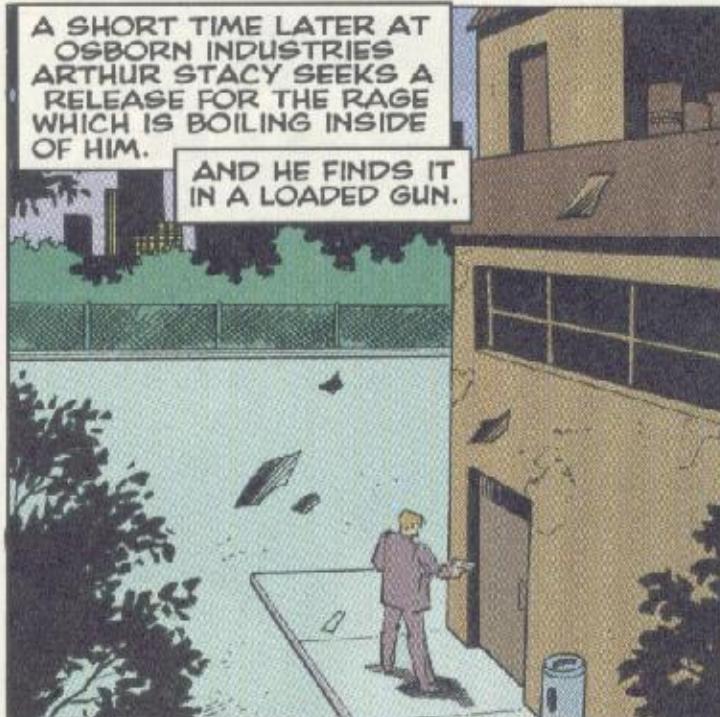
NANCY!

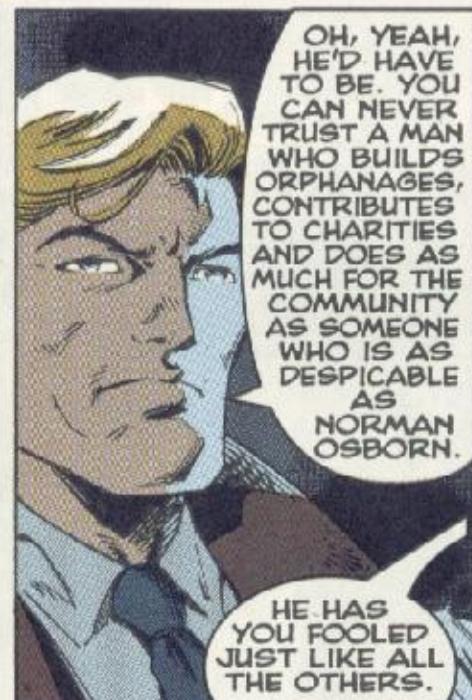




A SHORT TIME LATER AT OSBORN INDUSTRIES ARTHUR STACY SEEKS A RELEASE FOR THE RAGE WHICH IS BOILING INSIDE OF HIM.

AND HE FINDS IT IN A LOADED GUN.





MOMENTS LATER, THE STACY BROTHERS BURST IN ON A SCENE WHICH WILL HAUNT THEIR NIGHTMARES FOR YEARS TO COME.







A SHORT TIME LATER...

NELS VAN ADDER WAS A FORMER RESEARCHER FOR MY FORMER PARTNER, MENDEL STROMM.

I HAD UNCOVERED THAT NELS WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH SOME BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED BY STROMM. THE RESULTS WERE WHAT WE SAW TONIGHT.

NELS WAS ONCE A GOOD MAN. I WANTED TO HELP HIM. IN RETROSPECT, THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

OSBORN INDUSTRIES WILL MAKE COMPLETE RESTITUTION FOR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE OUTSIDE THE FACILITIES.

GEORGE, I OWE YOU MY LIFE. THANK YOU.

ARTHUR...

I TRIED, GEORGE, I REALLY DID.

I KNOW, NORMAN. AND THANK YOU.

AFTER GEORGE IS TAKEN AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE, NORMAN MAKES A STARTLING DISCOVERY IN THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF MENDEL STROMM'S DESK.

WHAT'S THIS? STROMM'S NOTES! HIDDEN WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE DESK ITSELF!

I WILL TAKE THEM TO MY HOME LAB. HIS SECRETS WILL BE MINE!

AND THAT, TRUE BELIEVERS, IS ALL PART OF THE TANGLED WEB WHICH HAS ENTWINED SPIDER-MAN IN THE PAST AND...

...WILL AGAIN ENSNARE HIM IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

AND TILL THAT HALCYON MOMENT, WHEREVER YOU GO, WHATEVER YOU DO -- THINK MARVEL!

'CAUSE WE'RE ALWAYS THINKING OF YOU!
EXCELSIOR!

END