MARVEL COMICS

1996

64 BIG PAGES

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN '96

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

OSBORN INTRIGUE!

THE BLACK COSTUME!

KRAVEN'S REVENGE!

THE RETURN OF AUNT MAY!

CAPTAIN STACY AND GWEN!

DIRECT EDITION

00111

7 59606 04352 1

$2.95 US $4.15 CAN

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT **PETER PARKER** GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**

TOM DEFALCO RON FRENZ script & plot & pencils | JOHN ROMITA, SR. finished art | JOHN COSTANZA, letterer BOB SHAREN, colorist | GLENN GREENBERG assistant editor | TOM BREVOORT editor | BOB HARRAS editor in chief

HEART & SOUL!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® '96. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Published annually. Copyright © 1996 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.95 per copy in the U.S. and $4.15 in Canada. GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. Printed in the U.S.A.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

--IN YOUR FACE!
GAAK
URRK
LOOKS LIKE YOU STIFFS ARE ON THE EXPRESS TRAIN TO SIESTA-VILLE!
SWEET DREAMS!
I-IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
H-HOW'D HE KNOW THEY WERE MUGGING PASSENGERS?!
THAT WOMAN WOULD BE REAL SURPRISED TO LEARN I WAS SEATED RIGHT BESIDE HER!
THESE FIVE CLOWNS SET OFF MY EVER-RELIABLE SPIDER-SENSE WHEN THEY FIRST ENTERED!
SO I SLIPPED BETWEEN SUBWAY CARS, SWITCHED INTO MY FIGHTING TOGS, AND VOILA'!
LAST STOP, WEB-HEAD!
OH, GOODY! I HATE BEING COOPED UP ON A LONG SUBWAY RIDE!
AT HOME I'M ACTUALLY A PUT-YOUR-FEET-ON-THE FURNITURE TYPE OF GUY WHO REALLY LIKES TO STRETCH OUT!
FWAK!

FOUR DOWN, AND ONE TO-- OH, NO!

BACK OFF, HERO! YOU'RE THROUGH DISSING ME AND MY PACK!

ANOTHER MOVE, AND THIS DOLL IS DEAD!

THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE I COULD REACH HIM BEFORE HE FIRES... BUT THE RISK IS TOO GREAT!

BUT, EVEN AS SPIDER-MAN HESITATES--!

LEAVE MISTY ALONE! DON'T HURT HER!

TAKE ME INSTEAD!

YOU CRAZY, MAN? I CAN BLAST YOU, AND KEEP THE GIRL!

SORRY, CHARLIE! HER BOYFRIEND'S LITTLE DISTRACTION BOUGHT ME THE PRECIOUS SECONDS I NEEDED TO LEAP ACROSS THIS CAR--

KWOK!

-- AND DELIVER A LITTLE LOVE PAT OF MY OWN!

I'M ALMOST SORRY THIS RUCKUS ENDED SO QUICKLY!

I BARELY HAD TIME TO IMPRESS THE CROWD WITH MY RAPIER-LIKE WIT!

AND, SPEAKING OF BEING IMPRESSED--!

THERE'S A TRUE HERO IF I EVER SAW ONE!

A NORMAL MAN-- WITHOUT ANY POWERS OR SPECIAL ABILITIES-- WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVES!

RETRIEVING HIS CLOTHES FROM THE SUBWAY CAR'S ROOF, OUR HERO RESUMES HIS CROSSTOWN JOURNEY IN HIS OWN INIMITABLE STYLE...

S'FUNNY, SEEING THAT GUY JUMP TO HIS GIRLFRIEND'S DEFENSE KIND OF REMINDS ME OF MARY JANE AND PETE.

PETE?! I GUESS IT'S EVEN FUNNIER THAT I STILL THINK OF MY CLONE AS PETE--

--EVEN THOUGH I'M THE REAL PETER PARKER!

MUCH DIFFERENT...

SLOWLY, LIKE THE TENTATIVE TOUCH OF A NEW LOVE, MEMORIES GENTLY CARESS THE MIND OF BEN REILLY.

MEMORIES ALSO POSSESSED BY THE MAN HE PRESENTLY CALLS PETE.

MEMORIES OF A FAR SIMPLER TIME, AND OF A CERTAIN AFTERNOON ON THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

BRO-THERR! GET A LOAD OF THOSE TWO!

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE STUCK IN A PERPETUAL HALLMARK MOMENT!

C'MON, MARY JANE! I THINK IT'S REAL COOL THE WAY PETER PARKER AND GWEN STACY ARE SO INTO EACH OTHER!

MAYBE YOU AND I SHOULD THINK ABOUT GIVING THIS EXCLUSIVITY THING A WHIRL!

YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER, HARRY OSBORN!

LIKE I REALLY BELIEVE A MILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY AND A SOCIAL WHIRLWIND COULD EVER SURVIVE AS A COUPLE!

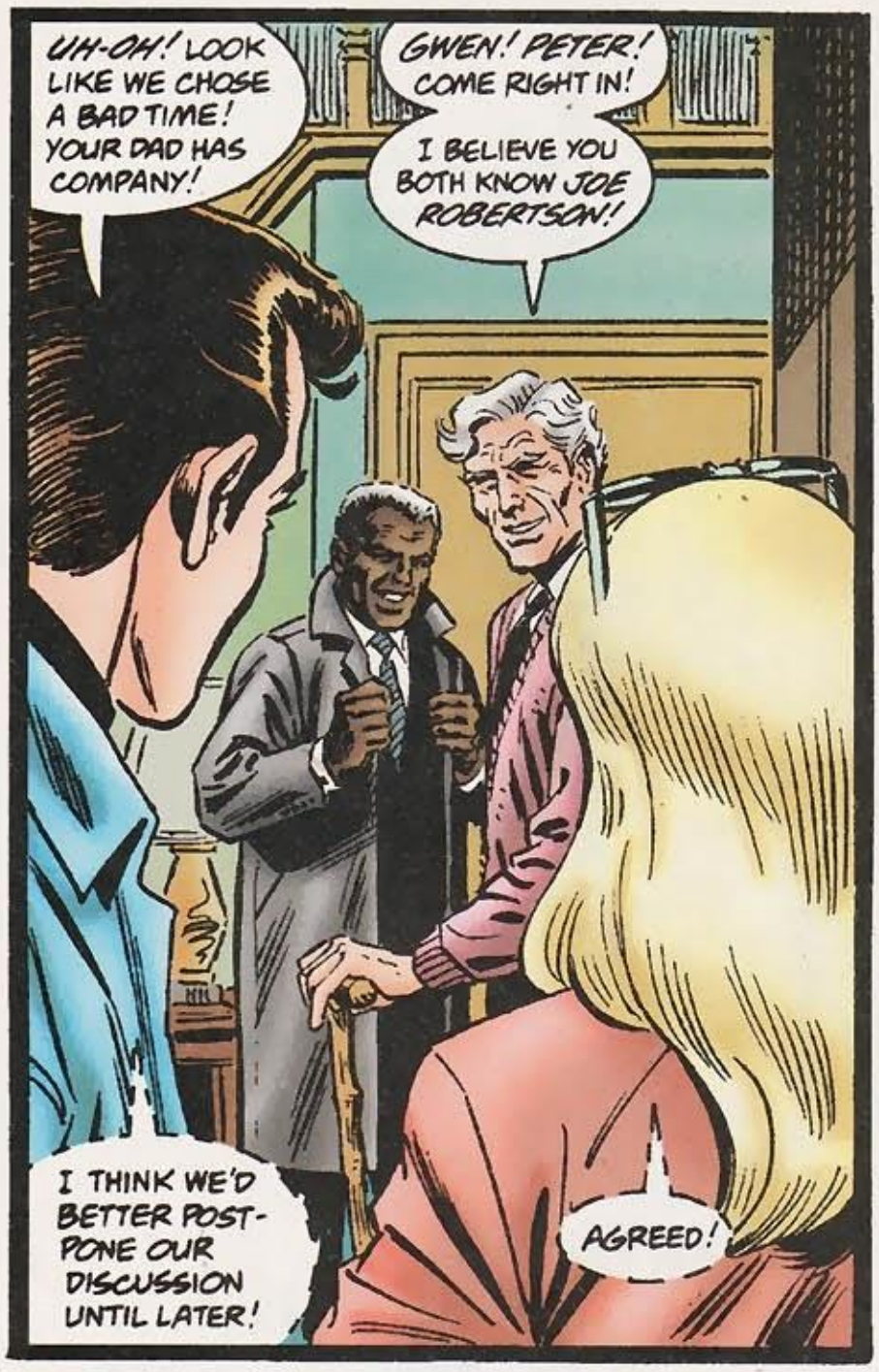
IT IS TO LAUGH!

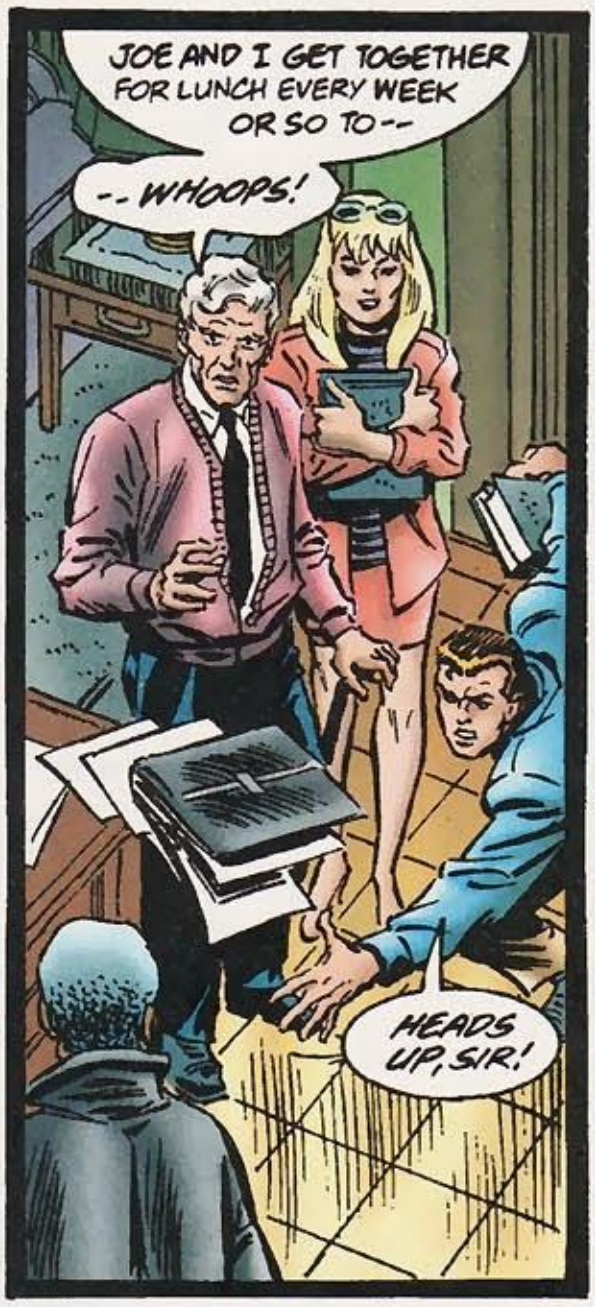
BUT I... I WAS SERIOUS!

WHAT'S THE USE? I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND TO THINK A FOX LIKE MARY JANE WATSON WOULD EVER WANT TO BE TIED DOWN WITH ME!

I MAY HAVE BIG BUCKS AND A SPLASHY CAR, BUT CHICKS WANT A GUY THEY CAN DEPEND ON!

SOMEONE LIKE PETE!





Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

EVEN AS PETER PARKER RETURNS TO ESU, WE'LL MOSEY ACROSS TOWN TO THE CORPORATE HEAD-QUARTERS OF OSBORN MANUFACTURING...

YOU READY FOR LUNCH, DAD?

I-I'M AFRAID... I'VE GOT TO CANCEL, SON!

I... I HAVE THIS HORRIBLE MIGRAINE... AND A PILE OF WORK ON MY DESK!

YOU SEEM TO BE COMING DOWN WITH A LOT OF HEADACHES LATELY! IT COULD BE SERIOUS!

MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH DOC FINGEROTH!

NO... I... I CAN'T SPARE THE TIME!

BUT YOU NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, BOY?

I SAID NO DOCTOR!

O-OKAY, DAD!

WHATEVER YOU SAY!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU. I WAS JUST HOPING WE COULD HANG OUT.

I COULD REALLY USE YOUR ADVICE.

SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, SON?

THERE'S THIS GIRL... I REALLY LIKE HER... BUT SHE DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME!

A GIRL?! YOU DARE SQUANDER MY PRECIOUS TIME ON SOME SILLY COLLEGE BOY CRUSH?!

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO GROW UP, HARRY? WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY BE-COME A MAN?!

IF YOU EVER INTEND TO CONTINUE THE OSBORN LEGACY... YOU'VE GOT TO STOP PLAYING THE WHIMP-ERING CRY BABY... AND TOUGHEN UP!

YOU NEED TO START PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE! YOUR LIFE NEEDS DIRECTION! A GOAL!

NICE GUYS DON'T FINISH LAST! THEY NEVER EVEN FINISH!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE STACY RESIDENCE...

AS MUCH AS I ENJOY THESE LUNCHES TO COMPARE NOTES ON SPIDER-MAN--

--ALL WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR THEM ARE EXPANDING WAIST-LINES!

IT'LL TAKE TIME -- TO SAY NOTHING OF CALORIES--TO UNCOVER HIS SECRET IDENTITY!

DID YOU READ THAT FILE I SENT LAST WEEK?

THE BENJAMIN PARKER MURDER?

TRAGIC! ALTHOUGH IT DOES EXPLAIN HOW THE WEB-SWINGER FIRST LINKED UP WITH PETER.

IT'S ALSO THE FIRST TIME SPIDER-MAN AIDED THE POLICE!

BEFORE THAT HE WAS SOME KIND OF TELE-VISION PERFORMER!

THAT PARTICULAR MURDER MUST HAVE HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON HIM.

HE EVEN APPROACHED ME, AND ASKED TO BE MADE A SPECIAL DEPUTY SHORTLY AFTER IT OCCURRED!

WHEN YOU CONSIDER ALL THE TIMES SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN SIGHTED NEAR THE ESU CAMPUS, I BELIEVE HE MAY BE A CLASSMATE OR EVEN A CLOSE FRIEND OF YOUNG PARKER.

IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE!

I'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK TO THE DAILY BUGLE!

J. JONAH JAMESON EXPECTS A FULL DAY'S WORK FROM HIS EMPLOYEES--

--AND THAT MEANS ALL TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, JOE.

AFTER I'VE HAD A CHAT WITH MR. PARKER!

GWEN, MY DARLING, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SPEND MUCH TIME WITH YOU AND PETER. WHEN WILL YOU BE SEEING HIM AGAIN?

WE'RE MEETING AT THE COFFEE BEAN LATER.

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US? I KNOW HE'S ANX-IOUS TO TALK TO YOU.

I'D BE DELIGHTED!

EVEN AS GWEN ATTEMPTS TO PHONE PETER, WE'LL BRIEFLY RETURN TO THE OFFICE OF NORMAN OSBORN...

MR. OSBORN, I HAVE PROFESSOR WARREN ON LINE THREE.

TELL HIM I'M IN A MEETING-- AND CAN'T TALK NOW!

HE WANTS TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR HIS SCIENCE GRANT!

HOLD ALL CALLS FOR THE NEXT HOUR OR SO!

I MUSTN'T BE DISTURBED!

SLAMMING HIS OFFICE DOOR, OSBORN IMMEDIATELY GIVES VENT TO HIS FRUSTRATIONS...

I SACRIFICE EVERY-THING -- PUTTING MY HEART AND SOUL INTO BUILDING A GLOBAL EMPIRE FOR MY SON -- BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE THE NECESSARY STRENGTH TO RULE MY VARIOUS ENTERPRISES!

HE'S A PAMPERED, SPINELESS, WEAK-WILLED COWARD!

AND THAT'S ALL HE'LL EVER BE... UNLESS I FORCE HIM TO CHANGE!

THAT'S IT! I HAVE NO CHOICE!

I MUST ORCHES-TRATE A SITUATION WHERE HE HAS TO TAKE CHARGE -- WHERE HE'S GOT TO PROVE HIMSELF!

I'LL MAKE A MAN OUT OF HARRY!

EVEN IF IT KILLS HIM!

* EDITOR'S NOTE: unless you've been living in another universe, you already know that Norman Osborn is secretly the ever-wily Green Goblin!

And, even though he doesn't actually appear in this issue, we couldn't resist letting Rampaging Ron and Jazzy Johnny show their version of the jolly jade one!

SOMETIME LATER, IN A MUCH LESS DESIRABLE SECTION OF TOWN, JOEY EARS PLIES HIS TRADE--

--SURREPTITIOUSLY EAVESDROPPING ON THOSE AROUND HIM.

ADD ANOTHER TWENTY, AND YOU'RE ON!

TWO DOZEN FELL OFF A TRUCK!

I JUST GOT SPRUNG FROM THE JOINT, AND COULD USE SOME FAST CASH!

IT'S A SIMPLE GIG, DIETZ! WE GOTTA SPOOK SOME COLLEGE KIDS.

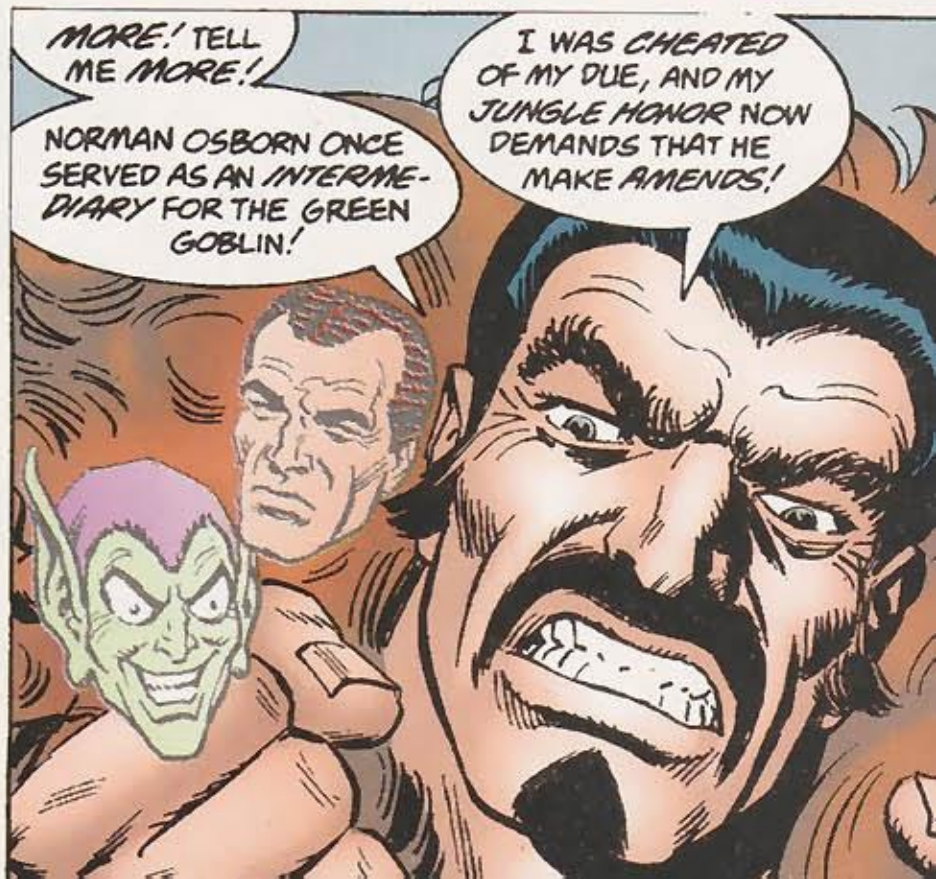
SEE THIS PICTURE

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

NO, RAJAH!
YOU MUST NOT POLLUTE YOUR BODY WITH THE FLESH OF THIS SNIVELING FOOL!

BACK, MY PET! BACK TO YOUR CAGE!
SO COMMANDS KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
ONCE AGAIN I HAVE PROVEN THAT I AM FASTER, STRONGER AND FAR DEADLIER THAN ANY MERE JUNGLE TERROR!
T-THANKS FOR SAVING ME, MR. K!

WHY ARE YOU HERE, YOU QUIVERING JACKAL?
I GOT NEWS...
ABOUT OSBORN!


MORE! TELL ME MORE!
NORMAN OSBORN ONCE SERVED AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR THE GREEN GOBLIN!
I WAS CHEATED OF MY DUE, AND MY JUNGLE HONOR NOW DEMANDS THAT HE MAKE AMENDS!

WHILE JOEY EARS BECOMES JOEY THE MOUTH, WE'LL ZIP OVER TO THE DAILY BUGLE, WHERE J. JONAH JAMESON IS HIS USUAL SUNNY SELF...

THESE PICTURES STINK, PARKER! THEY'VE GOT NO HEART! NO SOUL!

YOU'LL NEVER IMPROVE AS A PHOTOGRAPHER UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR YOUR CRAFT.

DON'T HOLD BACK, JJJ. TELL ME HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

YOU WANT THE PIXS OR NOT?

I COULD TAKE THEM OFF YOUR HANDS AT HALF THE USUAL RATE.

MAKE IT 75% OR NO DEAL.

SOLD, BUT YOU'RE EXPLOITING MY GENEROUS NATURE!

;WHEW: ARM-WRESTLING DOCTOR OCTOPUS IS EASIER THAN NEGOTIATING WITH JJJ, BUT HE DID STRIKE A CHORD.

FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY IS ONLY A SIDELINE TO ME, AND I'VE NO REAL COMMITMENT TO IT.

WHY WRITE AN ARTICLE ON THE GREEN GOBLIN, NED?

IT'S FASCINATING TO RESEARCH SOMEONE SO DETERMINED TO ESCAPE THE RESTRAINTS OF SOCIETY, BETTY.

HI, PETER! RUNNING INTO YOU AT THE STACYS WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

UH... YEAH!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU AND THE CAPTAIN WERE FRIENDS.

WE OFTEN COMPARE NOTES.

IN FACT, YOUR NAME CAME UP IN TODAY.

GEORGE HAS AN INTERESTING THEORY ABOUT SPIDER-MAN'S SECRET IDENTITY WHICH I ASSUME HE'LL DISCUSS WITH YOU.

WITH...

ME?!

FOR THE NEXT HOURS, OUR MAIN MAN WANDERS THE STREETS, HIS MIND A STORM-TOSSED SEA FULL OF FEAR AND MISGIVING...

WITH BOTH ROBBIE AND STACY ON THE CASE, MY SECRET IDENTITY IS BOUND TO BE BLOWN!

THEY'LL RUIN ANY CHANCE I HAVE FOR A NORMAL LIFE--

abandon all hope enter

THE Coffee Bean

--AND THERE'S NO TELLING THE EFFECT IT'LL HAVE ON AUNT MAY!

WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T AVOID EITHER ONE OF THEM FOR LONG.

I NEED MY FREE-LANCE JOB AT THE BUGLE...

AND I...

I THINK I LOVE GWEN!

;WHEW: I WONDER HOW GWENDY WILL FEEL IF THE WORLD SUDDENLY LEARNS MY SECRET--

--AND HER OWN FATHER IS THE ONE WHO EXPOSES IT!

LOOKS LIKE I'M THE ONLY GUY WITH WORRIES ON THE MIND.

YOU OKAY, HARRY?

I...UH... I'M FINE, PETE!

SURRRE, YOU ARE...

AND JOLLY JONAH IS THE WEBHEAD'S BIGGEST FAN!

THE POOR GUY'S GA-GA OVER MARY JANE WATSON, AND I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HIM.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, PERSONABLE, AND THE LIFE OF EVERY PARTY.

ROLL UP YOUR TONGUE, HAND-SOME!

THAT REDHEAD IS STRICTLY OFF LIMITS WHERE YOU'RE CONCERNED.

WHAT REDHEAD?! I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR A CERTAIN GORGEOUS BLONDE.

KEEP THAT THOUGHT!

I HATE TO SPRING THIS ON YOU, LOVER BOY, BUT I COULDN'T REACH YOU WHEN I PHONED YOUR APARTMENT.

REMEMBER THAT LITTLE CHAT WE WANTED WITH MY DAD?

WE'RE ABOUT TO GET OUR CHANCE!

H-HE'S... HERE?!

IN THE FLESH!

GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, PETER.

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME TAGGING ALONG.

UH...

NOT AT ALL...

SIR.

CAPTAIN STACY SEEMS PRETTY RELAXED. NOT AT ALL LIKE A MAN ABOUT TO DROP A MAJOR BOMBSHELL.

MAYBE HE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT I'M--

MY SPIDER-SENSE IS SUDDENLY BUZZING LIKE MAD--

--AND THOSE THREE STOOGES ARE THE CAUSE!

SOMETHING WRONG, PETER? YOU SUDDENLY LOOK A LITTLE NERVOUS.

I...I JUST REMEMBERED THAT I PROMISED TO CALL MY AUNT MAY TONIGHT.

WHY DON'T YOU TWO GRAB A TABLE? I'LL JOIN YOU LATER.

HURRY BACK, HOT STUFF!

DISCARDING HIS SHOES, PETER QUICKLY SLIPS OUT A CONVENIENT BACK WINDOW...
I'VE GOT TO HURRY! FROM THE WAY MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS BLASTING--
--THAT TRIO IS OBVIOUSLY PLANNING TROUBLE!
I'LL FEEL LIKE A REAL HEEL IF ANYONE GETS HURT--
--BUT I ALMOST WELCOME THIS INTERRUPTION!
I NEED TIME TO PREPARE FOR CAPTAIN STACY!
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M MORE NERVOUS ABOUT DISCUSSING GWEN OR MY DUAL IDENTITY!
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S BOUND TO NOTICE MY ABSENCE WHEN SPIDEY MAKES THE SCENE, AND--
UH-OH! MORE TROUBLE--!
OH, NO! IT'S KRAVEN THE HUNTER!
HE'S STRONGER THAN A CHARGING RHINO, AND TWICE AS DEADLY!
HE HASN'T SPOTTED ME YET, BUT--OHMIGOSH! IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALSO HEADED TOWARD THE COFFEE BEAN! BUT WHY?! WHY?!

AND, AT THAT EXACT INSTANT...

BOAM!

YOUR EVENING JUST GOT A HECK OF A LOT MORE *INTERESTING*, BOYS AND GIRLS--

--BECAUSE WE'RE HERE TO COLLECT YOUR *CASH* AND *VALUABLES!*

T-THIS CAN'T BE *REAL!*

THERE'S ONLY *THREE* OF THEM! LET'S RUSH 'EM! THEY CAN'T FIGHT US *ALL!*

NO! NO! TOO MANY OF YOU WILL BE WOUNDED, OR WORSE!

STAY *CALM*, EVERYONE! WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF WE DO AS THEY SAY!

DADDY, THAT GUNMAN IS *STARING* AT YOU--!

WAY TO GO, POPS! EVERYBODY'S GONNA BE JUST FINE--

--*EXCEPT YOU!*

REMEMBER *ME*, STACY? MY NAME'S *DIETZ*... PHIL DIETZ... AND YOUR *TESTIMONY* SENT ME AWAY!

I'D GIVEN UP *HOPE* OF EVER RUNNING INTO YOU AGAIN WHEN I HEARD YOU RETIRED, BUT *NOW*--!

SCREAMS ARE COMING FROM MY DESTINATION!

MY ARRIVAL IS WELL TIMED!

WAIT! THE WIND SHIFTS... AND MY JUNGLE-TRAINED SENSES SUDDENLY PERCEIVE... AN *ENEMY!*

I HOPE THAT'S NOT YOUR OH-SO-SUBTLE WAY OF TELLING ME THAT I NEED A STRONGER *DEODORANT!*

JUST MY LUCK! I PUT MY TRUST IN SECRET--

--AND IT BLABBED!

YOU?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

GIVE ME A BREAK, JUNGLE MAN!

EVEN WE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD WEB-SPINNERS GET THE OCCASIONAL HANKERING FOR HOT COFFEE AND FRESH DONUTS!

I'LL INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME--

--BUT ONLY IF YOU ORDER DECAF!

KRAVEN USUALLY WORKS ALONE... BUT HIS UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE... MUST BE RELATED TO THOSE STICK-UP STOOGES I SPOTTED EARLIER!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME SO EASILY, SPIDER-MAN!

I POSSESS THE SPEED OF A STRIKING COBRA, AND--

:UGNNN:

SKWAK!

BIG DEAL! I'VE GOT THE FOOT OF A VERY ANNOYED WALL-CRAWLER!

BAH! YOUR PUNY EFFORTS CANNOT STOP ONE WHO HAS STUNNED THE MIGHTY BULL APE WITH A SINGLE BLOW!
MAYBE NOT--
--BUT I STILL DESERVE AN A FOR EFFORT!
I'M ONLY WASTING TIME OUT HERE! WHILE I'M TRADING PUNCHES WITH GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE--
--GWEN AND HER FATHER COULD BE IN SERIOUS DANGER!
I'VE GOT TO TAKE CHARGE OF THIS FIGHT--
--AND MOVE US TOWARD THE COFFEE BEAN!
FOOL! WHILE YOU WERE HESITATING, I DISABLED YOU WITH A DOUBLE-BARRELLED BLAST OF MY PARALYZING RAY!
ZTAK!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, TARZAN!
I SAW YOU REACHING FOR YOUR BIG BUG-ZAPPER, AND TIMED MY LEAP TO AVOID THE BRUNT OF IT!
NOW, IF ONLY YOU'LL CHARGE FORWARD--!
I ONLY CAME HERE TO SPITE AN OLD ENEMY!
DEFEATING YOU IS AN UNEXPECTED BONUS!
YAHOO! YOU REALLY GOTTA LOVE A VILLAIN WHO KNOWS HIS PART AND FOLLOWS HIS STAGE DIRECTIONS!

I DREAMED OF THIS MOMENT, STACY... EVERY NIGHT... WHILE I ROTTED IN THAT MISERABLE PRISON!

MOVE BACK, GWEN! I'M THE ONE HE WANTS!

NO, DADDY! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

DO SOMETHING, HARRY!

ME--?!

ARE YOU CRAZY, DIETZ?

THIS AIN'T THE PLAN! NOBODY WAS SUPPOSED TO GET HURT!

BUT I OWE THIS CREEP!

WHERE IS PETER? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?

IS HE LAYING SOMEWHERE... INJURED OR UNCONSCIOUS?!

KWA-KWASH!

I DID IT! I MANAGED TO DIRECT OUR PLUNGE EXACTLY AS PLANNED!

LOOK OUT! IT'S SPIDER-MAN AND SOME OTHER LUNATIC!

WHAT IS THIS--VILLAINS NIGHT?!

NOW COMES THE REALLY HARD PART, AND MY TIMING MUST BE PERFECT--!

BY TWISTING MY BODY IN MIDAIR, I CAN SHIFT OUR POSITIONS--

--AND LET KRAVEN SLOW OUR MOMENTUM WITH HIS FACE!

HERE'S HOPING HE HAS A REALLY GOOD DENTAL PLAN!

TWA WAP!

SPIDER-MAN PROVIDED ME WITH A MUCH NEEDED DISTRACTION!

SNAAK!

:UNNNHHH:

I MAY BE RETIRED, BUT I'M FAR FROM HELPLESS!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

If you haven't ridden with *Ghost Rider* for a while, you might want to jump back on board, because this book is revving up its engines and getting hotter than Hellfire!

The changes began with G.R.'s cool new costume—but that was just the beginning! Editor *James Felder* revealed, "Ghost Rider is finding out about his dark, troubling past, and he's gaining fuller knowledge of his powers!" In addition to his awesome new abilities, G.R. is also getting a new penciler! As *Salvador Larroca* finishes up his run, newcomer *Pop Mhan* will be popping the wheelies in this book from now on! And believe us, you've never seen artwork like this before!

James also raved about upcoming stories by writer *Ivan Velez*. "We've got a big, cool story with *Blackheart*. After that comes a story with *Devil Dinosaur* and *Moon Boy*, as they try to send *Howard the Duck* back home!" Sounds like there's no telling *who's* gonna show up next in this book, or what will *happen* next! Further down the line is a *big* change for original Ghost Rider *Johnny Blaze!* And it's all part of a major campaign to make Ghost Rider the scariest guy in the Marvel Universe!

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT: ADAM KUBERT

Adam Kubert, regular penciler on WOLVERINE for the last three years, has been drawing professionally since he graduated in 1981 from the School of Comic Art established by his father, legendary comics artist *Joe Kubert*. In recent years, he has risen through the ranks to become one of today's hottest comic book superstars, working on such high-profile projects as the ONSLAUGHT: MARVEL UNIVERSE one-shot, where he had the chance to draw all the classic Marvel heroes.

"I got to see why so many artists have an affinity for drawing the Marvel characters," he notes of his experience on ONSLAUGHT. "They're very colorful and have a lot of personality!" That certainly seems to apply to *Wolverine*, about whom Adam says, "I like his attitude. That, plus the fact that he's small, which puts him at a slight disadvantage. It makes the character interesting, more of an underdog."

When he's not putting in ten-hour days to produce a page a day, Adam enjoys fishing, skiing, para-sailing, and sky-diving. Adam has three kids - *Max*, *Elizabeth*, and *Jay*, and one wife, *Joyce*. Adam's advice to aspiring comic artists? "Work real hard, and follow your own instincts. Don't bend to the current whims of what is popular!"

AVENGERS: THE LEGEND

There came a day when the most powerful heroes on Earth banded together against a common foe, and on that day was born...the Mighty *Avengers!* For over thirty years, they have triumphed against alien armadas, lethal lava men, and time-tossed terrors! Next week, we celebrate the glory and the grandeur of the team in AVENGERS: THE LEGEND, a 48-page one-shot written by ace historian *Peter Sanderson*, with art by many of comicdom's top talents, from the last three decades of Avenging action!

AVENGERS: THE LEGEND covers every aspect of the Avengers, from their best and worst villains, to a round-up of the entire membership, to secrets of Avengers Mansion! It also includes top secret blueprints so you can build and fly your own Quinjet or forge your own Avengers Identi-card! Peter summed up the book by saying, "If you're a new reader, this book will teach you everything you need to know about the Avengers! If you're an old-timer, you'll get the chance to relive a lot of great memories!"

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

CHECKLIST FOR AUGUST 28

2099: WORLD OF TOMORROW #2 New adventures of *X-Men 2099* and *Spidey 2099!* By *Ben Raab*, *Joe Kelly* and *Pascual Ferry!*

AVENGERS: THE LEGEND #1 Celebrating over thirty years of the Earth's Mightiest Heroes! By *Peter Sanderson* and Various Artists!

IRON FIST #2 (of 2) *Iron Fist* faces his greatest challenge at the hands of the *Steel Serpent!* By *James Felder* and *Robert Brown!*

MARVEL FANFARE #2 The *Hulk* and *Wolverine* vs. the *Wendigo!* By *Joe Kelly* and *Pop Mhan!*

SILVER SURFER #121 The *Surfer* battles the *Uni-Lord* for control over his own body! By *George Perez* and *Scot Eaton!*

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #239 The *Lizard* leads an army of reptiles against *Spidey!* By *Todd DeZago* and *Luke Ross!*

VENOM: THE HUNGER #3 *Eddie Brock* must hunt down his crazed symbiote—and he just may have to kill it! By *Len Kaminski* and *Ted Halsted!*

WOLVERINE #106 *Wolvie* is closer to regaining his humanity, but *Elektra* may lose hers! By *Larry Hama* and *Val Semeiks!*

WOLVERINE '96 *Wolvie* teams with *Sunfire* to hunt for Japan's greatest weapon: *Red Ronin!* By *Jeph Loeb* and *Ed McGuiness!*

X-FORCE #59 You thought *Onslaught* was tough? Wait for Operation: Zero Tolerance! By *Jeph Loeb* and *Adam Pollina!*

X-FORCE/YOUNGBLOOD *Dazzler* and *Longshot* join the fun as the two teams fight *Mojo!* By *Eric Stephenson* and *Steven Platt!*

X-MEN: PRYDE & WISDOM #2 (of 3) *Kitty Pryde* and *Peter Wisdom's* adventure of epic proportions continues! By *Warren Ellis* and *Terry Dodson!*

X-MEN VS. BROOD DAY OF WRATH #2 (of 2) The only way the *X-Men* can save the Earth is to kill the *Brood Queen!* By *John Ostrander* and *Brian Hitch!*

[WISH LIST]

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF ACROSS THE COFFEE BEAN, WITH THE ACCURACY OF A GUIDED MISSILE!

NO!

NO!

HEADS UP, SIR!

MY THANKS, SPIDER-MAN!

YOU'RE CERTAINLY A HANDY LAD TO HAVE--

PWAP!

--AROUND?!

MOVE IT, HARRY! YOU'RE NOT A COWARD! YOU'RE NOT RUNNING OUT ON ANYBODY! YOU'RE JUST... UH... GOING FOR HELP!

THAT'S IT! YOU'LL CALL THE POLICE, AND BE A HERO, AND--

YOU ARE THE ONE I SEEK!

GYAA-AAHH!

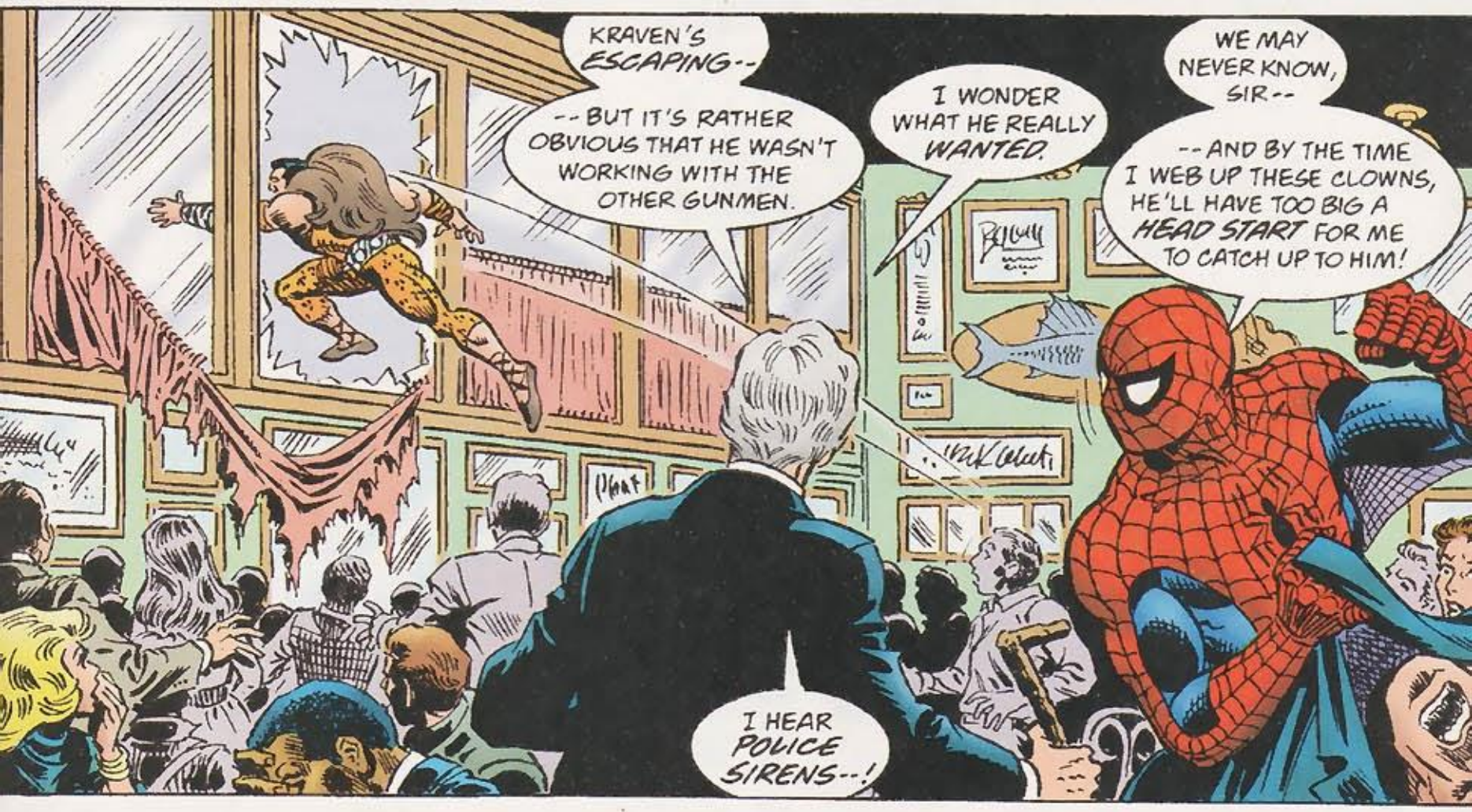
P-PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

P-PLEASE DON'T!

BAH! I THOUGHT I COULD BALANCE THE SCALES WITH YOUR FATHER BY STRIKING AT YOU--

--BUT THE LION WINS NO HONOR BY TERRORIZING A SNIVELING JACKAL!
BACK AWAY FROM THAT PREPPIE, FUZZY!
HE'S MY SAFE PASSAGE OUTTA HERE!
YOU DARE THREATEN KRAVEN WITH A MERE SHOTGUN?!

BAH! I HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH INDIGNITIES FOR ONE DAY!


KRAVEN'S ESCAPING--
--BUT IT'S RATHER OBVIOUS THAT HE WASN'T WORKING WITH THE OTHER GUNMEN.
I WONDER WHAT HE REALLY WANTED.
WE MAY NEVER KNOW, SIR--
--AND BY THE TIME I WEB UP THESE CLOWNS, HE'LL HAVE TOO BIG A HEAD START FOR ME TO CATCH UP TO HIM!
I HEAR POLICE SIRENS--!

YOU BETTER GO, SON.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ASKED ANY EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS.
YEAH...
RIGHT!

THAT WAS WEIRD!
I DON'T KNOW IF CAPTAIN STACY SUSPECTS THE TRUTH--
--BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'D NEVER BETRAY ME!

BARELY A HALF HOUR LATER AT OSBORN MANUFACTURING...

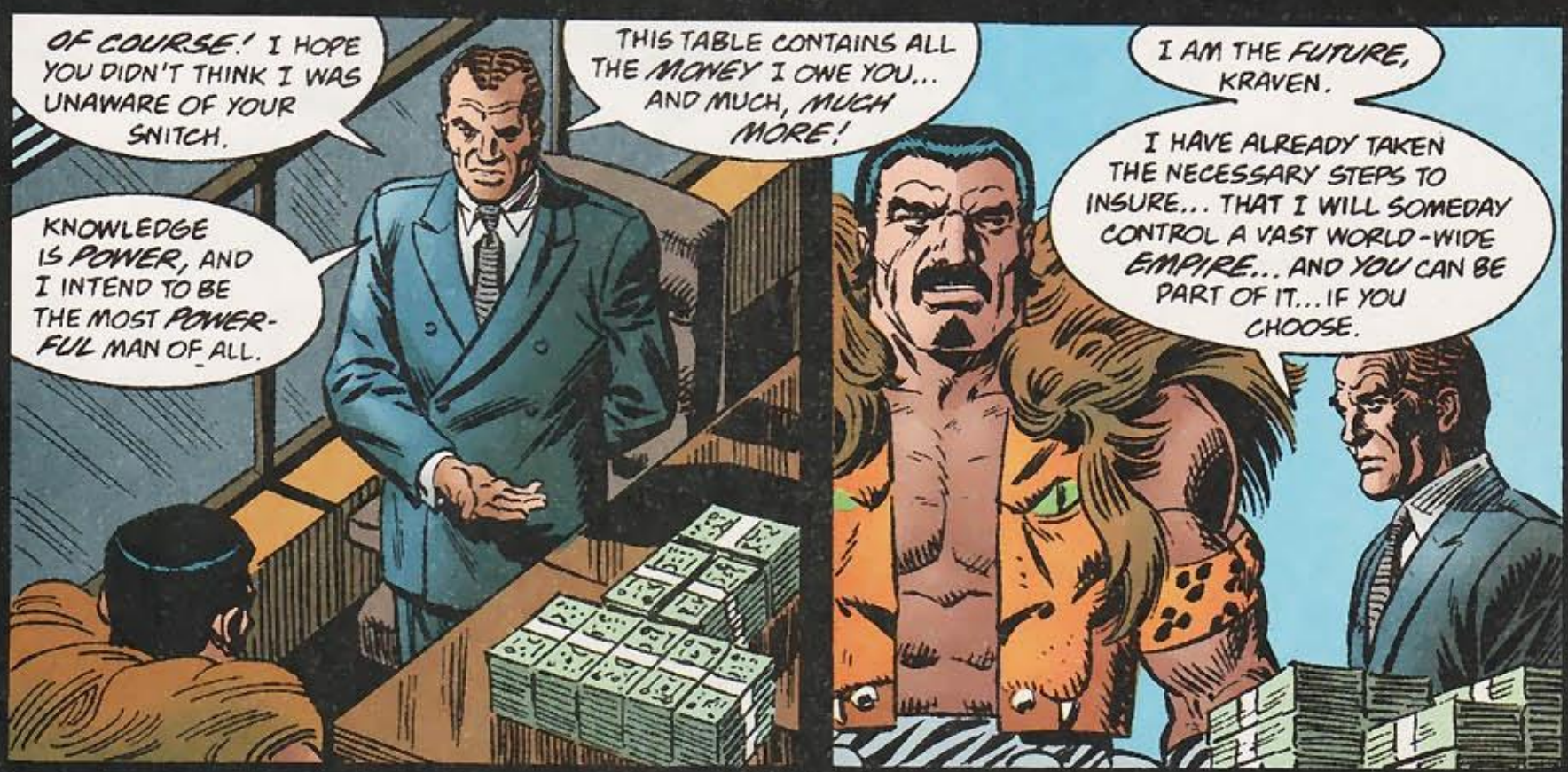
OSBORN! IT IS TIME KRAVEN WAS GIVEN HIS JUST DUE. YOU MUST PAY FOR HAVING CHEATED ME.

I HAVE COME FOR YOU!

AS I KNEW YOU WOULD.

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE.

Y-YOU WERE EXPECTING ME?!



EVEN AS KRAVEN HEADS HOME (AND OUT OF OUR LIVES), WE'LL REJOIN OUR FRIENDS AT THE COFFEE BEAN...

YOU OKAY, MARY JANE?

NO THANKS TO YOU, CURLY!

YOUR LACK OF ACTION... MIGHT HAVE SPELLED DISASTER... IF NOT FOR SPIDEY.

YOU SAY THE WEBHEAD SUBDUED THE GUNMEN, AND DROVE KRAVEN AWAY?

YES, OFFICER. AND I, FOR ONE, OWE HIM MY LIFE!

DADDY, LOOK! IT'S PETER! HE'S BACK!

GWENDY--!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? DID THOSE AWFUL MEN HURT YOU?

NO, I... I'M FINE... BUT I... UH... MISSED MOST OF THE ACTION.

IT DOESN'T MATTER! SO LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE AND HERE!

WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE, PRETTY LADY?

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU SINCERELY CARE FOR MY DAUGHTER, MR. PARKER...

IS THAT ENOUGH? DO I DARE ALLOW HER TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH SPIDER-MAN?!

IF I CAN UNCOVER YOUR SECRET, SO CAN OTHERS--

--AND HER LIFE WILL BE IN CONSTANT JEOPARDY!

AND YET... IT APPEARS GWEN HAS ALREADY MADE... HER OWN DECISION!

I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST YOU, MR. PARKER... TO USE YOUR VAST POWER TO KEEP HER FROM HARM.

AND, FOR MY LITTLE GIRL'S SAKE, I PROMISE TO KEEP YOUR SECRET--

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

STAN LEE PRESENTS
AN UNTOLD TALE OF
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
by
FABIAN NICIEZA & STEVE LIGHTLE
WRITER
AL WILLIAMSON · NEL YOMTOV · PENCILS
INKER · COLORS · JACK MORELLI
GLENN GREENBERG · TOM BREVOORT · LETTERS
ASST. EDITOR · EDITOR · BOB HARRAS
SLEEPLESS
MARRIED.
MARRIED?
MARRIED!
PETER PARKER, YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD HUSBAND--?
I'M MARRIED.

SPIDER-MAN IS AN ADULT NOW.
BAUWRRABAUWRARABAUWRRAA
I FEEL LIKE I JUST DRANK A SLURPEE AT 90 MILES AN HOUR.
COMING HOME WAS A LITTLE WEIRD.
SHARING A CLOSET. A SHOWER. A LIFE.
HELP!
BRAIN NUMBED.
THE HONEY-MOON WITH MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER
(ooa!)
WAS COOL.
Aah! THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
CASTING ASIDE ALL THOSE CHILDISH FEARS OF THE OL' BALL AN' CHAIN--
--AND SLIDING COMFORTABLY INTO A ROUTINE OF WEB-SWINGING, NICE-OLD-LADY-HELPING, ITCHY-SPANDEX-WEARING
ACTION!
WEB-LINE SLIDES OUT, SNAGGING HIS FEET--
--A SOUND COMES OUT OF HIS THROAT LIKE A A DISHWASHER GURGLING.
I GIVE THE LINE A SOFT YANK AND HE TUMBLES...
FLESH VERSUS CONCRETE. GUESS WHO WINS?

Aaah, WHO AM I KIDDING?
NOTHING I DO IS GOING TO GET MY MIND OFF THE CHANGES I'VE GONE THROUGH.
MJ AND I ARE MARRIED NOW. HUSBAND AND WIFE.
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE ONE DAY, MOTHER AND FATHER?
IF WE DO EVER HAVE KIDS, CAN I KEEP ON BEING SPIDEY?
PEN
I MEAN, MY OWN MOM AND DAD WERE GOVERNMENT AGENTS.
I LOST THEM WHEN I WAS A BABY.
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT WEARING THESE TIGHTS IS SERIOUS -- AND DANGEROUS BUSINESS.
HOW FAIR AM I BEING TO MJ, ALSO?
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS GETTING INTO WHEN SHE GOT HITCHED, BUT STILL--

--DOES THAT MAKE IT ANY **EASIER** FOR HER?

I NEVER TOLD **AUNT MAY** ABOUT MY BEING SPIDER-MAN BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HOW **SHE** WOULD WORRY.

WHAT KIND OF LIFE WILL IT BE FOR MJ, PACING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT--

--NEVER KNOWING IF I'M GOING TO COME HOME IN THE MORNING--

--LIGHT'S ON? HER MODELING SHOOT MUST'VE ENDED EARLY.

MAYBE SHE'S INSIDE RIGHT NOW --TERRIFIED-- AFRAID--

BLEECTHH!

...SPITTING?

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

"...FOR UNCLE BEN."
BEN PARKER
HE WAS
LOVED

KRAK

MORNING. TIME TO GET BACK TO THE GRIND.

DAILY BUGLE

THAT MEANS HITTING THE DAILY BUGLE UP FOR SOME FREE-LANCE PHOTO ASSIGNMENTS...

--SAID TERRANOVA IS BACK.

--IRON MAN'S ON LONG ISLAND--

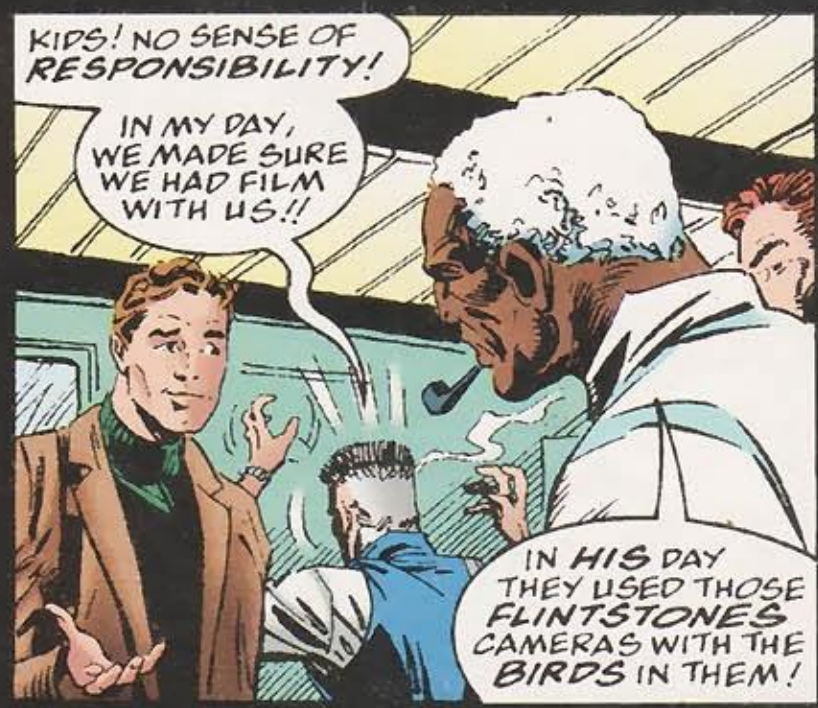
ROBBIE?

--SO SHE SAID "SHOW ME"--

--"DOWN-SIZING"--? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

ANYONE SEEN ROBBIE?

TO THINK, WHILE I WAS GONE, I ACTUALLY MISSED THIS PLACE.



THE RIDE WITH ELLIS IS INTERESTING.

HE WEARS ARROGANCE LIKE A TAILORED SUIT.

BUT IN A WAY, IT MAKES THE GUY ALMOST ENDEARING.

ALMOST.

ONCE WE GET THERE, IT LOOKS LIKE A BUST.

HOMICIDE HAS TAKEN OVER.

YELLOW BARRIER TAPE SPELLS N-O TO MOST REPORTERS.

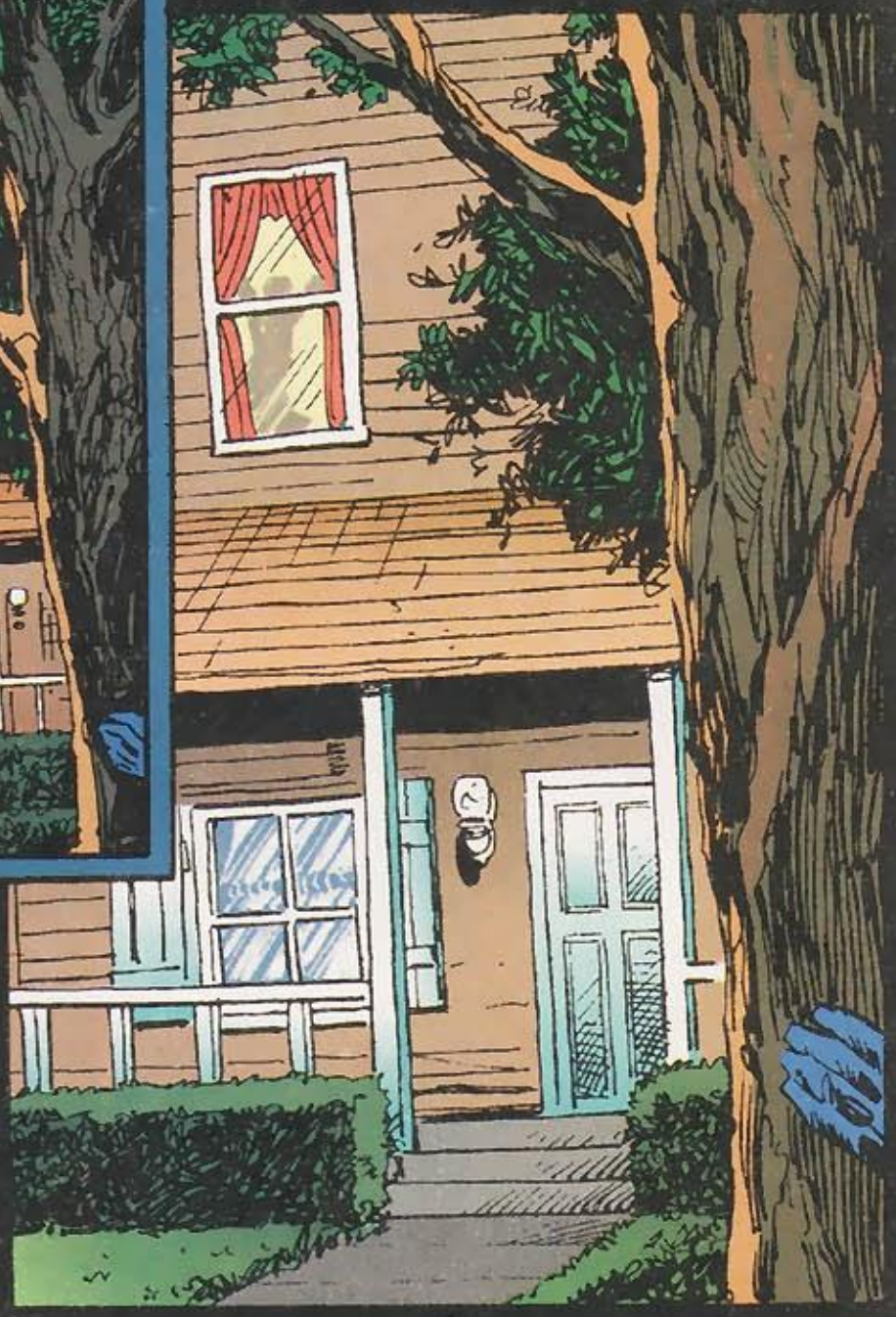
THE BEAT COP IS A LOOKER, SO ELLIS MAKES LIKE PUDDING -- SMOOTH.

THERE ARE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO HAVING BEEN BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER...
KLIK whrrrr
KLIK whrrrr
KLIK whrrrr
YOU GET ANYTHING GOOD?
THINK SO.
ANGLED FROM THE ROOF THROUGH THE WINDOW.
I LIKE YOUR STYLE, PARKER.
I CAUGHT THE BODY AND THE COPS SIFTING EVIDENCE...
DAILY BUGLE
DID YOU GET ANY-THING?
DINNER WITH THAT BABE OF A COP IS WHAT I GOT.
SMOOTH AND LUMPY. WHAT A COMBO.
PARDON?
NEVER MIND...

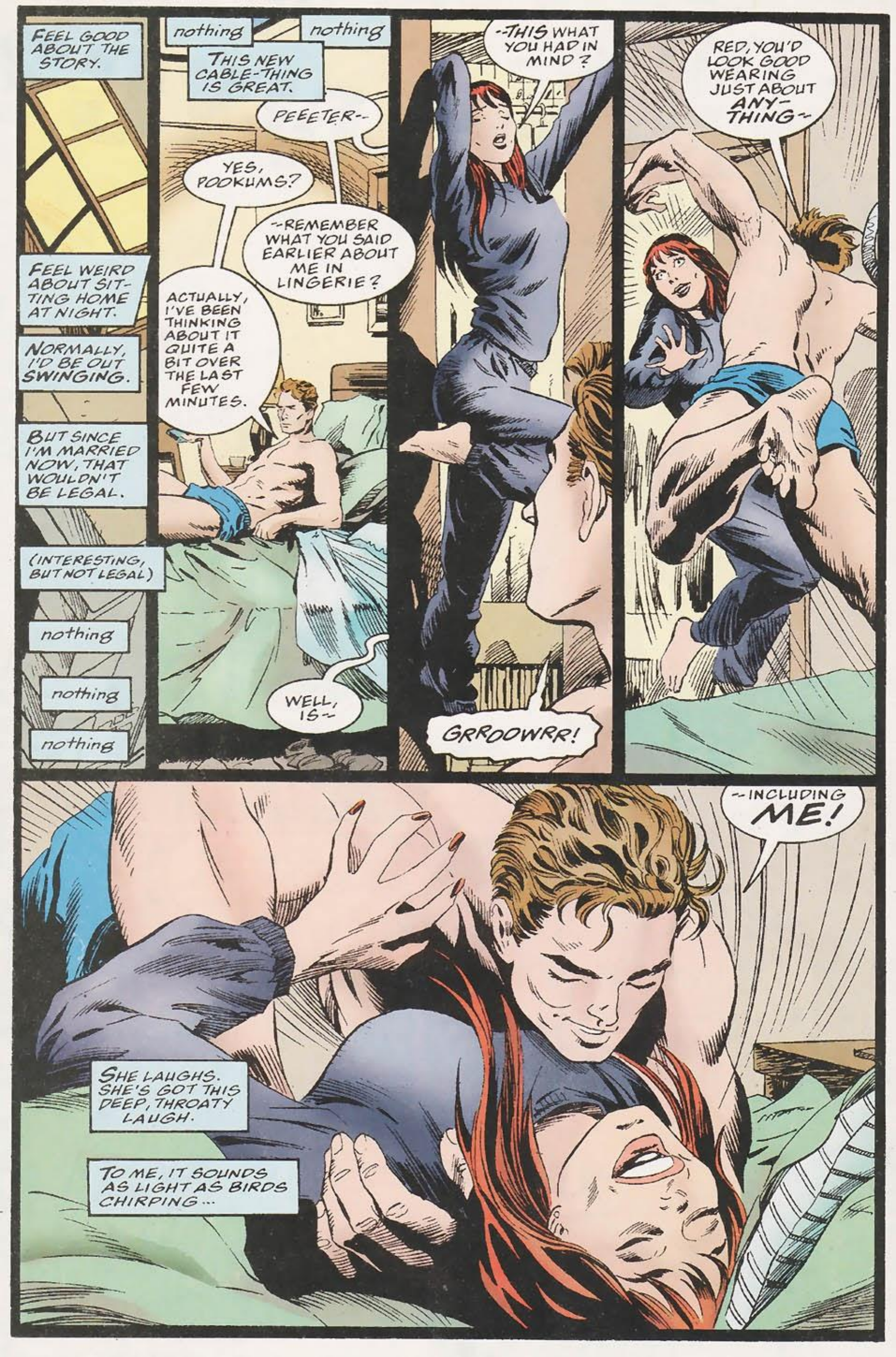
WE HEAD BACK INTO MANHATTAN TO WORK THE STORY...
...WITHOUT A CLUE THAT PRETTY SOON THE STORY WAS GOING TO BE WORKING US--
--OR MORE SPECIFICALLY, ME.
TAC-TEAM TWO, STAND BY...
TAC-TWO READY--
--JUST GIVE THE WORD, CRU.
JENNIFER deVILLE, AFFECTIONATELY (SHE HOPES) NICK-NAMED CRUELLA BY HER UNIT, FEELS THE HOT CHILL OF ANTICIPATION...
KACHASHK
MOVE IN!
THEY'RE AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ANTI-TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.
GUN-SMUGGLING RUSSIAN MOBSTERS DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHANCE AGAINST THEM.
THESE GUN-RUNNERS HAVE BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO TEACH AN OLD COMMUNIST DOG NEW CAPITALIST TRICKS.
THAT MEANS THEY'RE SMART ENOUGH TO SURRENDER.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

HOME OF MAY PARKER.
QUEENS, NEW YORK...



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline


FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE STORY.
FEEL WEIRD ABOUT SITTING HOME AT NIGHT.
NORMALLY, I'D BE OUT SWINGING.
BUT SINCE I'M MARRIED NOW, THAT WOULDN'T BE LEGAL.
(INTERESTING, BUT NOT LEGAL)
nothing
nothing
nothing
nothing
THIS NEW CABLE-THING IS GREAT.
PEEETER--
YES, POOKUMS?
--REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER ABOUT ME IN LINGERIE?
ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT QUITE A BIT OVER THE LAST FEW MINUTES.
WELL, IS--
--THIS WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND?
GRROOWRR!
RED, YOU'D LOOK GOOD WEARING JUST ABOUT ANY-THING--
--INCLUDING ME!
SHE LAUGHS. SHE'S GOT THIS DEEP, THROATY LAUGH.
TO ME, IT SOUNDS AS LIGHT AS BIRDS CHIRPING...

NO.
NO...
WHAT?
SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING --LIKE A CUISINART TURNED TO PUREE--
--WARNING ME--
MJ-- INTO THE BATHROOM-- QUICKLY-- HIDE IN THE TUB!
BUT--!
NOW!
SCARED HER. DIDN'T MEAN TO...
SHE'S NOT USED TO THIS...
...THE LIFE I LEAD--
--WHERE DECISIVE ACTION MEANS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
GRAB MY WEB-SHOOTERS --HIT THE SKY-LIGHT--
--WHOEVER IS THREATENING ME MUST KNOW MY SECRET...
-- SO WHY BE SO COY?
MIGHT AS WELL FACE WHOEVER IT IS HEAD--
--ON?
SFSHSHHSSSSSSSSS
A MISSILE?
SOMEONE IS FIRING A MISSILE AT ME. GO FIGURE...

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

I CATCH THE MISSILE TEN FEET FROM AN APARTMENT BUILDING...
BY THE TIME I GET BACK HOME, MJ IS GONE.
NO BLOOD. THE COPS SAY THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
MEANS MJ HASN'T BEEN HURT BECAUSE SHE'S BEING HELD FOR RANSOM.
AND THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR THE GOOD NEWS.
ELLIS SHOWS UP WITH A HARD CASE IN TOW.
FLASHES SHIELD CREDS. SAYS SHE'S IN CHARGE.

THE COPS DON'T ARGUE.
MR. PARKER? MY NAME IS CRU.
SOUNDS LIKE BRENDA VACCARO GARGLING GRAVEL.
THIS ATTACK HAS TO DO WITH YOUR PARENTS.
SHE CATCHES MY GLANCE.
ELLIS... I'M OFF THE RECORD RIGHT NOW. GO TALK TO THE COPS.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PARENTS DID FOR A LIVING, THEN?
THEY WERE SHIELD AGENTS.
THEY DIED ON ASSIGNMENT.
WHAT DOES KIDNAPPING MY WIFE HAVE TO DO WITH THEM?

THIS IS GREGORI ANATOLOVICH.
FORMER KGB MASTER ASSASSIN.
HIS OPERATIVE CODENAME WAS THE DEADMAKER. HE LIVED UP TO HIS NAME.
BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN, YOUR PARENTS LEARNED HE WAS A DOUBLE-AGENT WORKING FOR HYDRA.
YOUR PARENTS USED THAT INFO TO BARTER WITH THE SOVIETS.
GOT THEM TO RELEASE THREE OF OUR CAPTURED AGENTS.
AND ANATOLOVICH?
LIFE-TIME TRIP TO THE WORST PLACE ON THE WORST PLACE ON EARTH.
A SIBERIAN PENITENTIARY.

SO WHAT--? THIS GUY ESCAPED AND WANTS REVENGE?
SURE, THAT WOULD WORK, 'CEPT FOR ONE THING...
...THE DEAD-MAKER DROPPED DEAD ELEVEN YEARS AGO WHILE HE WAS STILL IN PRISON.
THE LOWER EAST SIDE...
WHERE ARE WE?
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?
DON'T PROVOKE THEM, MAY.
VAT OUR BOSS VANT EES FOR YOU TO BE QUIET.
BUT MARY JANE--EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BLINDFOLDED WHEN WE WERE BROUGHT HERE--
--THERE IS SOMETHING SO FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS PLACE.
DON'T SAY ANY-THING ELSE, MAY.

IT IS THE HOME OF THE MAN AND VOMAN WHO RUINED MY LIFE!
AS YELL IT SHOULD, MRS. PARKER.
MAN AND-- WE'RE IN RICHARD AND MARY PARKER'S OLD APART-MENT!
THIS IS WHERE PETER LIVED AS A BABY!
AND VHERE THE SON OF THE FATHER VILL DIE!
JUST AS HIS FATHER KILLED MINE--
--SO SHALL THE SON OF GREGORI ANATOLOVICH KILL PETER PARKER!!

CRU DRAGS ME TO AUNT MAY'S HOUSE...
THERE WAS AN ATTACK ON HER AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT!
WIFE. SURROGATE MOTHER. TOO MUCH PULLING ME IN TOO MANY DIRECTIONS.
BARELY ANY SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.
WHERE WOULD HE GO -- TO COMPLETE THE FAMILY-VENGEANCE SCHTICK?
ONLY ONE PLACE I CAN THINK OF...
YOUR UNCLE'S HEADSTONE WAS DESECRATED.
LEAST A DAY AGO, FROM THE IMPRESSIONS IN THE GRASS.
WE HAVE AGENTS SCOURING ALL THE RUSSIAN SECTIONS OF BRIGHTON BEACH AND JERSEY CITY.
HOW FAR ARE A BUNCH OF EX-KGB GONNA GET WITH AN OLD LADY AN'A KNOCKOUT REDHEAD?
THEY'RE NOT BEING TAKEN ANY-WHERE.
IF IT'S ME HE WANTS, HE'S GOING TO WAIT UNTIL I COME TO HIM.
FINE, THEN -- IF HE WANTS ME -- THEN THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM!
(SORT OF.)

I REMEMBERED ONE MORE PLACE THAT HAD THE PARKER NAME ATTACHED TO IT.
A PLACE I'D NEVER EVEN KNOWN ABOUT-- OR AT LEAST DIDN'T REMEMBER...
... UNTIL I'D FIRST LEARNED THE TRUTH ABOUT MY PARENTS A FEW YEARS AGO.
THAT LED ME TO ASKING AUNT MAY SOME QUESTIONS.
THAT LED HER TO GIVING ME SOME ANSWERS.
I ASKED: WHERE DID I USED TO LIVE BEFORE MOM AND DAD DIS-APPEARED?
SHE ANSWERED...
...RIGHT HERE!

YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE!

MY FATHER LOST TO ME-- MY MOTHER AN OUTCAST--

--ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT THE PARKERS DID!

I MADE UP FOR THE SINS OF MY FATHER--

--I BECAME WHAT HE NEVER WAS --PERFECT SOVIET CITIZEN!

AND FOR THAT, I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO REGAIN MY FAMILY'S HONOR!

HONOR AIN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE, BUBBLES!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON REGAINING YOUR FAMILY'S SENSE OF HUMOR!

KAKRASHKK

KRAKK

GOTTA TELL YOU, FROM WHERE I'M STANDING--

'SCUSE ME.

PARDON ME.

--THAT'S IN WORSE SHAPE THAN THAT MUSTY OLD HONOR STUFF!

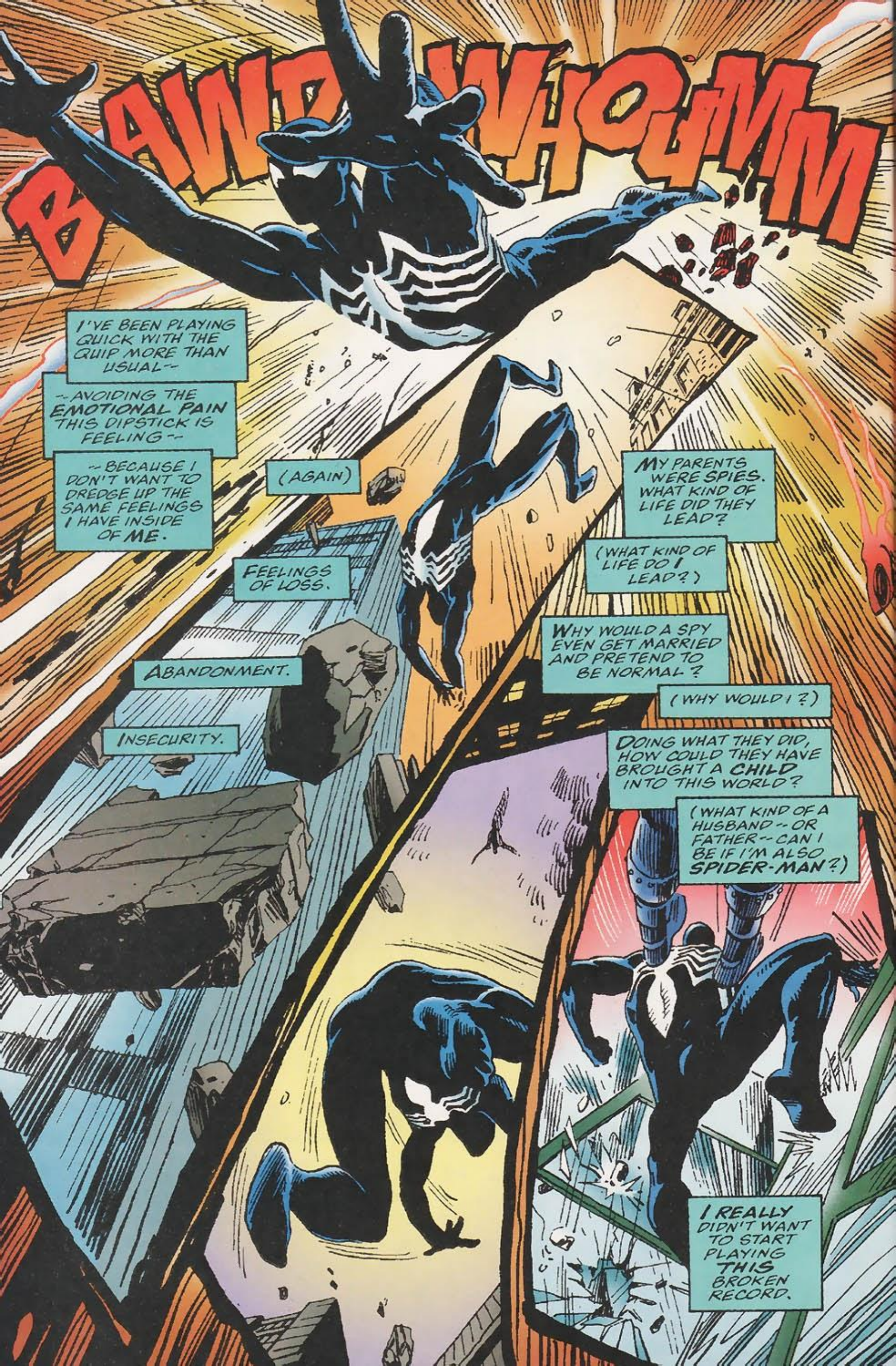
Hmmm...

...aaahh.

NICE FORM, MRS. PARKER-WATSON!

WAIT--I THINK I SAW THIS ON THE BATMAN TV SHOW--
--WHILST I DANCE WITH THE GUYS IN THE CAT HATS AND STRIPED SHIRTS--
--THE EVIL-DOER MAKES HIS GET-AWAY!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO STOP HIM?
OF COURSE I AM. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY FIRST.
I'M FINE.
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NEPHEW WAS MARRIED TO MARY JANE?
Uh--READ IT IN THE WEEKLY WORLD INQUIRER.
RIGHT NEXT TO SOME KOOKY STORY ABOUT A GUY WHO CRAWLS ON WALLS AND THEN WALKS INTO AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE FOR KICKS!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
AH CONTRAIRE, MY BOLSHEVIK FRIEND--
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
CLIKKA-
KSHOW
--I ACTUALLY GET GREEN STAMPS FOR EACH KGB-FRONTED KIDNAPPING I FOIL!
SIX MORE AND I GET A BLENDER!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT GUY MOVE!

DUDE--
--WHAT KIND OF BUG BIT YOU?
NEVER MIND. IT MUST BE THE SAME BUG THAT GOT UP YOUR--
Shikkt
FLEEEK
CLOSER THAN NORELCO!
I'VE BEEN IN WORSE SPOTS--- REALLY!
slamm
OUCH.
OKAY--
--TIME TO--
--DO A LITTLE DANCE--
--MAKE A LITTLE LOVE--
--GET DOWN TONIGHT!
OR AT THIS RATE--
--GO DOWN TONIGHT!
SKRNCH
THAT SOUNDED MORE LIKE IT!
ENOUGH--
Fssst


BAWD WHOUMM
I'VE BEEN PLAYING QUICK WITH THE QUIP MORE THAN USUAL--
--AVOIDING THE EMOTIONAL PAIN THIS DIPSTICK IS FEELING--
--BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO DREDGE UP THE SAME FEELINGS I HAVE INSIDE OF ME.
(AGAIN)
FEELINGS OF LOSS.
ABANDONMENT.
INSECURITY.
MY PARENTS WERE SPIES. WHAT KIND OF LIFE DID THEY LEAD?
(WHAT KIND OF LIFE DO I LEAD?)
WHY WOULD A SPY EVEN GET MARRIED AND PRETEND TO BE NORMAL?
(WHY WOULD I?)
DOING WHAT THEY DID, HOW COULD THEY HAVE BROUGHT A CHILD INTO THIS WORLD?
(WHAT KIND OF A HUSBAND--OR FATHER--CAN I BE IF I'M ALSO SPIDER-MAN?)
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO START PLAYING THIS BROKEN RECORD.

WALLOWING IN MISERY CAN BE SO DISTRACTING.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO INVOLVE YOURSELF!
I TOLD YOU--IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BLENDER!
THESE ARE MATTERS OF FAMILY AND HONOR AND LOSS!
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF SUCH THINGS?
WHERE'S A GOOD JOKE WHEN YOU NEED ONE?
LAND ON SOMETHING, PETEY...
...BEFORE THAT KNIFE DIGS INTO YOU.
Oommph!
THERE YOU GO. IRONY OF IRONIES. THE BRIDGE.
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, DEADMAKER--BUT DO YOU?
YOUR FATHER WAS A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY... WHAT KIND OF LEGACY IS THAT TO DEFEND?
BRAK
AND HOW DOES HURTING THE PARKER FAMILY GIVE YOU ANYTHING IN RETURN?
BUT IS HE OUT OF HATE?
I have... lost more than you can know...
HE'S OUT OF GAS.

WE HAVE A LOT MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK.
ON THIS VERY BRIDGE-- ON THAT STANCHION OVER THERE--
GWEN.
--I LOST A WOMAN I LOVED.
BECAUSE OF MY OWN STUPIDITY, I LOST THE CLOSEST THING I EVER HAD TO A FATHER.
AND I NEVER KNEW MY OWN PARENTS...THEY DIED WHEN I WAS A BABY--
--AND AT FIRST... I ALSO THOUGHT THEY WERE DIS-HONORABLE PEOPLE.
BUT I USED ALL OF THAT PAIN TO DRIVE ME FORWARD NOT PULL ME BACK.
I STILL HAVE A FAMILY--NOW I HAVE A WIFE--AND I HAVE NOTHING BUT TOMORROW TO LOOK TOWARDS.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SHOW FOR EVERY-THING YOU'VE LOST?
SILENCE.
SIRENS BELOW. POLICE AND FEDS.

NO YESTERDAYS HE WOULD WANT TO CALL HIS OWN.
NO TOMORROWS TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
S.H.I.E.L.D.
I HAVE... NOTHING.
THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD.
MAYBE NOT.
MAYBE SO.
YOU ARE WHAT YOU MAKE YOUR-SELF!
THINK ABOUT IT.
EASY FOR ME TO SAY. HE'S GOING TO JAIL WHILE I'M GOING TO SEE --
...MY FAMILY.
GOOD AS NEW, BEN.
MARRIAGE, LIKE FAMILY, IS FOREVER, PETER.
I KNOW.
AND I WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.
"TILL DEATH DO US PART" ISN'T REALLY ACCURATE, IS IT?
NO. LOVE CANNOT BE PARTED BY ANY-THING.
End.