

**MARVEL
COMICS**

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!

PETER PARKER

SPIDER-MAN

**SEPT
#83**



VERTIGO!

MACKIE

ROMITA JR.

HANNA

\$1.99 US \$2.80 CAN



DIRECT EDITION
08311

SOMEWHERE IN THE
EMPIRE STATE
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING...

I REALLY
APPRECIATE
YOUR MAKING THIS
DOUBLE SESSION
APPOINTMENT, DR.
REANDEAU.

I THINK
IT'S GREAT
THAT THE COLLEGE
OFFERS REDUCED RATES
ON THERAPY. OTHERWISE
I DON'T KNOW HOW
I'D AFFORD
IT.

PETER
AND I ARE
JUST BARELY
SCRAPING BY NOW
THAT WE'VE DECIDED
TO COME BACK
AND GET OUR
DEGREES.

ARE
YOU SURE
YOUR HUSBAND IS
GOING TO BE ABLE
TO JOIN US
TODAY, MARY
JANE?

ABSOLUTELY!

I MADE SURE
I REMINDED HIM
THAT WE HAD THIS
SCHEDULED.

DO YOU OFTEN
HAVE TO REMIND
HIM OF SUCH
THINGS, MARY
JANE?

NO.

WELL,
SOMETIMES.

PRETTY
MUCH.

IT'S NOT THAT
HE'S A FLAKE OR
ANYTHING.

ACTUALLY,
IT'S JUST THE
OPPOSITE.

PETER IS SO
RESPONSIBLE.

HE TAKES
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR EVERY-
THING.

IT'S AS
IF HE CAN'T BE
HAPPY UNLESS HE'S
SAVING THE WORLD.

BUT HE'S ALWAYS
BEEN LIKE THAT.
FOR AS LONG AS
I'VE KNOWN
HIM.

WE
MET BACK
WHEN WE WERE
BOTH FRESHMEN.
IT SEEMS LIKE SO
LONG AGO, BUT
WITH PETER, LIFE
CAN MOVE SO
FAST...

...IT
MAKES
MY HEAD
SPIN!



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
DESCRIBES VERTIGO AS...

...I.A. THE SENSATION OF
DIZZINESS, B. AN INSTANCE
OF SUCH A SENSATION, 2. A
CONFUSED, DISORIENTED
STATE OF MIND.

RIGHT NOW, AS HE HANGS
ON FOR HIS LIFE HIGH ABOVE
THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN
AND WATCHES THE WORLD
AROUND HIM SPIN OUT OF
CONTROL...

...SPIDER-MAN
KNOWS THE
DICTIONARY
DOES NOT LIE.



A Spider-Man comic book cover. Spider-Man is hanging from a ledge on the left. The background is a stylized, angular cityscape in shades of green, yellow, and blue. A large orange title 'SPIDER-MAN' is on the right. A circular logo at the top center reads 'PETER PARKER PRESENTS Stan Lee SPIDER-MAN'. Several text boxes and a speech bubble are on the left, and a credits block is on the right.

PETER PARKER
PRESENTS
Stan Lee
SPIDER-MAN

THE DAY BEGAN FOR
PETER PARKER,
SPIDER-MAN, LIKE
ANY OTHER.

LATE FOR
SCHOOL.

A RUN IN WITH
AN IRRITATING
CLASSMATE.

CALLED INTO SUPER-HEROIC
ACTION WHEN AN ANTI-MUTANT
RIOT BROKE OUT ON THE
E.S.U. CAMPUS.

...HE SUFFERED HIS
LATEST IN A SERIES OF
BOUTS OF VERTIGO.

SPIDER-MAN
IS A HERO.

BUT RIGHT NOW,
ALL HE CAN DO IS
ASK HIMSELF...

...WHY
DO I FEEL SO
AFRAID?

SPIDER-MAN

HOWARD MACKIE
WORDS

JOHN ROMITA Jr.
PICTURES

SCOTT HANNA
INKS

**RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT/KS LETTERS**

GREGORY WRIGHT
COLORS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS

*THIS ALL HAPPENED
LAST ISSUE—
Rescuing Alf.

THIS CAN'T
BE HAPPENING
TO ME!

MY HEART IS
RACING... HEAD
SPINNING OUT OF
CONTROL... I CAN'T
BRING MYSELF
TO MOVE!

I
AM SO
AFRAID I'LL
FALL.

WAIT!
THERE'S
A WINDOW
OPEN UP
THERE.

I
CAN MAKE
IT!
THIS IS
NOTHING
TO ME!

I'M
SPIDER-MAN!

I
SWING
OVER THIS
CITY EVERY
DAY!

I'VE
BEEN DOING
IT EVER SINCE I
WAS BITTEN BY THAT
RADIOACTIVE SPIDER
AND GAINED ITS
ABILITIES.

I
AM NOT
AFRAID OF
HEIGHTS!

THIS IS ALL
SOME SORT OF
REACTION TO THE
BITE I RECEIVED
FROM MORBIUS,
THE LIVING
VAMPIRE.*

I AM
NOT GOING
TO LET THIS
GET THE BEST
OF ME!

I'VE BEEN
THROUGH TOO
MUCH!

HAVE
TOO MUCH
TO DO.

PAUL
STACY HAS
NO IDEA THAT
ROBIN VEGA IS
A MUTANT...

...OR
THAT SHE'S
REAL MAD AT
HIM AND THOSE
FRIENDS OF
HUMANITY
GOONS HE'S
FALLEN IN
WITH.

* BACK IN ISSUE #77
- Ruff-les.



AT THAT
MOMENT...

...UNBEKNOWNST
TO SPIDER-MAN,
AN INDIVIDUAL HAS
BEEN OBSERVING
HIS PERILOUS
PREDICAMENT...

...AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN
QUITE AN INTEREST IN
THE FINAL FATE OF THE
WALL-CRAWLING WONDER.

THIS
IS THE RIGHT
FLOOR.

AND THIS OFFICE
SHOULD PUT ME JUST
ABOUT EVEN WITH THE
WEB-SLINGER.

IT'S
BEEN A WHILE,
SPIDER-MAN.

IT'LL BE NICE
TO CATCH UP
ON OLD
TIMES.

BROCK

REAL
NICE.

MEANWHILE...

IT WAS PETER'S UNCLE BEN WHO DRILLED THIS POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY THING INTO HIS HEAD.

HE WAS KILLED WHEN PETER WAS STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.

IT AFFECTED PETER IN A BIG WAY.

DO YOU THINK HIS UNCLE'S DEATH WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN PETER'S LIFE?

Oh, MORE THAN YOU'D EVER KNOW.

DON'T GET ME WRONG -- IT'S NOT THAT I THINK IT'S A **BAD** THING -- IT'S JUST... AT TIMES...

YOU WOULD LIKE A LITTLE MORE OF YOUR HUSBAND?

YES!

WE'RE YOUNG... JUST STARTING OUT IN LIFE.

AT TIMES, **EVERYTHING** ABOUT OUR FUTURE SEEMS UNCERTAIN.

SCHOOL, FAMILY, **MONEY**... I CAN'T SAY THAT ONCE IN A WHILE I HAVEN'T WONDERED IF WE RUSHED INTO GETTING MARRIED TOO YOUNG.

BOTH OF US ARE STILL TRYING TO FIND OURSELVES, AND...

...I DON'T KNOW.

MAYBE I JUST THINK TOO MUCH.

LOOK... I LOVE PETER AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I RESPECT THE THINGS HE DOES FOR OTHERS WITHOUT TAKING **ANY** CREDIT FOR IT.

YOU CAN TELL ME **ANYTHING** WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS OFFICE, MARY JANE, AND IT WILL STAY RIGHT HERE.

I KNOW, DOCTOR, BUT... THERE ARE SOME THINGS I JUST CAN'T TALK ABOUT. NOT EVEN TO YOU.

I REALLY CAN'T.

WHERE **IS** PETER?



AT THAT MOMENT...

...PAUL STACY IS A CONFUSED YOUNG MAN.

WHAT AM I DOING?

HOW COULD I ALLOW MYSELF TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY? THREATENING ROBIN VEGA... A FELLOW E.S.U. GRAD STUDENT... ACCUSING HER OF BEING A MUTANT WHEN I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT!



I'M ABOVE THEIR HATE-FILLED RHETORIC AGAINST MUTANTS.



AND YET...

...WHY DO I FEEL AS IF I'VE FOUND MY PLACE WITH THEM?



I HATE THIS!

THE QUESTIONING... THE INDECISION... THE --



WE'VE GOT TO TALK, PAUL!

R-R-ROBIN?

THAT'S RIGHT!



ROBIN VEGA IN THE MUTATED FLESH!

A SHORT TIME AGO YOU WERE INTIMIDATING ME ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY, PAUL!

WANT TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY?

MEANWHILE, SPIDER-MAN'S HEAD STILL SPINS AS, INCH BY AGONIZING INCH, HE NEARS THE OPEN WINDOW AND THE SAFETY IT REPRESENTS.

ALMOST... THERE!

AS IF THIS VERTIGO ISN'T BAD ENOUGH...

...MY BEING IN DANGER HAS BEEN SETTING MY SPIDER-SENSE OFF CONSTANTLY.

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT? A SHADOW MOVING BEHIND THE WINDOW!

THANK GOD! HELP AT LAST!

HELLO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

THIS IS KIND OF EMBARRASSING, BUT...

...I COULD REALLY USE A HAND!

HELLO? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

IT'S STARTING TO GIVE ME A KILLER OF A HEADACHE!

I CAN HEAR YOU, SPIDER-MAN!
I JUST DON'T CARE!

ZZZZT-OOM





AT THAT
MOMENT...

YOU LOOK FRIGHTENED,
PAUL. AS THOUGH YOU'VE
NEVER ACTUALLY FACED A
WOMAN WHOSE MUTANT
POWERS ALLOW HER TO
CONVERT HERSELF
INTO LIVING METAL.



GOOD!
NOW MAYBE
YOU'LL GAIN THE
SLIGHTEST INSIGHT
INTO HOW IT
FEELS TO BE A
MUTANT.



THE SINKING FEELING OF NAUSEA
WE GET EVERY TIME WE COME ACROSS
THOSE FRIENDS OF HUMANITY CRONIES
OF YOURS AND THEIR HATE-FILLED
RHETORIC.

THE
FEAR OF
DISCOVERY
AND...
...OF
EXPOSURE!



THE FEAR THAT IF PEOPLE KNOW
WHO YOU ARE... THAT YOU WERE
BORN WITH A SLIGHT GENETIC
DIFFERENCE... THEY WOULD
WANT YOU
DEAD!

I
CAME HERE
TO KILL YOU
TONIGHT,
PAUL!





THIS IS *NOT* THE WAY I PLANNED ON SPENDING MY NIGHT!

WHAT DID MORBIUS DO TO ME TO MAKE ME *THIS* SICK?

I THINK MARY JANE IS RIGHT... *IF* I LIVE THROUGH THIS... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET IN TO SEE A DOCTOR.

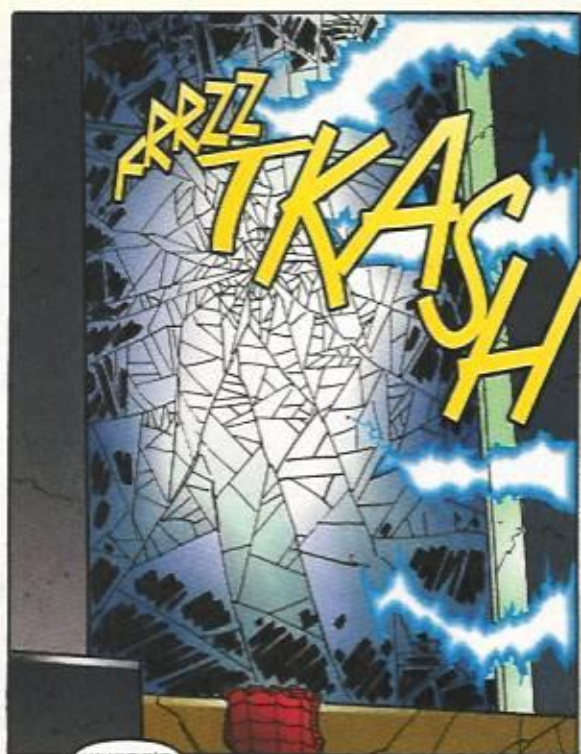
BUT WHO?

I REALLY THINK I'D BE BETTER OFF STAYING CLEAR OF DOC CONNORS AND HIS LIZARD ALIAS.

REED RICHARDS, ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE AVENGERS AND HANK PYM ARE GONE.

MAYBE I'VE GOT TO FIND MYSELF A NICE *HMO*.

YEAH... RIGHT! I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE LIZARD.



WHERE'D YOU GO?

I WAS TALKING TO YOU AND YOU WALKED OUT ON ME!



I DIDN'T EXACTLY WALK!

DON'T INTERRUPT!

I'M TRYING TO MAKE A POINT!





NO!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
THE ENTIRE LEDGE IS CRUMBLING!
CAN'T GET A HANDHOLD!



PETER AND I DON'T HAVE THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP, BUT...

WE'VE ALWAYS MANAGED TO HANG IN THERE.

WE'RE BOTH STRONG, INDEPENDENT PEOPLE.



I RELY ON PETER'S STRENGTH AND COMMITMENT AS MUCH AS HE RELIES ON MINE.



SURE, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME COMPROMISES, ON BOTH OUR PARTS, BUT...



...ISN'T THAT WHAT GOOD RELATIONSHIPS ARE ABOUT... COMMITMENT AND COMPROMISE?



I KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS...

MARY JANE...



PETER AND I WILL BE THERE TOGETHER.

...I...
...LOVE...





"...I SUGGEST YOU
START EVACUATING
THIS FIRETRAP."

"IT'S GOING
UP QUICK!"

FIRE!
EVERYONE
MOVE IT!

NOW
FOR YOU
FRIENDS OF
MINE...

...YOU
ALL SEEM
REAL INTERESTED
IN **BRANDING**
PEOPLE WITH
LABELS.

W-W-WHAT
ARE YOU DOIN',
MUTIE?

IF IT
WERE
UP TO YOU AND YOUR
KIND, YOU'D HAVE MUTANTS
WALKING AROUND BRANDED
WITH A GIANT **M** SO ALL
THE WORLD COULD
SEE.

SHAPING
MY HAND. HEATING
IT UP INTO A **BRAND**.

I
WANT YOU
AND YOURS TO
KNOW WHAT IT
FEELS LIKE TO
HAVE TO HIDE
WHAT YOU
ARE.

Wooooo!

I
WANT YOU
ALL TO KNOW
THAT I WON'T BE
THE ONLY ONE
HIDING WHAT
I AM.

OUTSIDE...

ANGELA/
MY LITTLE
GIRL! WHERE
IS SHE?

LOOK! UP
THERE!
THE KID IS
TRAPPED!

DADDY!

