

# THE RETURN OF... SPIDER-MAN

JAN • 64  
\$1.95 US  
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MARVEL  
SPIDER-MAN  
GROUP

HER NAME  
IS

POISON!



DIRECT EDITION



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JRJR  
+ AW



Stan Lee presents:

His given name is Peter Parker. While in high school he was bitten by a radioactive spider and endowed with amazing powers, which he has since used to protect the innocent and battle evil. Now he calls himself Ben Reilly, and, as a costumed crimefighter, he continues his crusade... for he understands that with great power comes great responsibility!

# The Game of Life

Howard Mackie / John Romita, Jr. / Al Williamson / Dick Giordano / Al Milgrom  
Story and Art

Kevin Richard Sperring  
Tinsley AND Lomarcraft  
Colorist: Lesters

Milbou's Hus  
Separations Editor: Eric Bob  
Bob Schleyer  
Tom Goldsmith  
Eric Bob





EXCUSE  
ME, OFFICER,  
BUT DID THE  
BOY SAY HE  
THOUGHT HIS  
MOTHER WAS  
STILL IN  
THERE?

I KNOW  
YOU MEAN  
WELL, SPIDER-  
MAN, BUT YOU'RE  
EXHAUSTED.  
BESIDES...

...NO  
ONE COULD  
STILL BE  
ALIVE IN THAT  
INFERNO.



...PLEASE.

NYC  
EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL  
SERVICES

I  
WISH I  
COULD,  
KID.

I  
REALLY  
DO.

BECAUSE  
I KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO  
HAVE NO  
ONE...

...AND NO  
CHANCE FOR A  
NORMAL LIFE.



ALMOST NO ONE PAYS ATTENTION TO THE AMBULANCE AS IT SPEEDS AWAY FROM THE FIRE SCENE.



ALMOST NO ONE

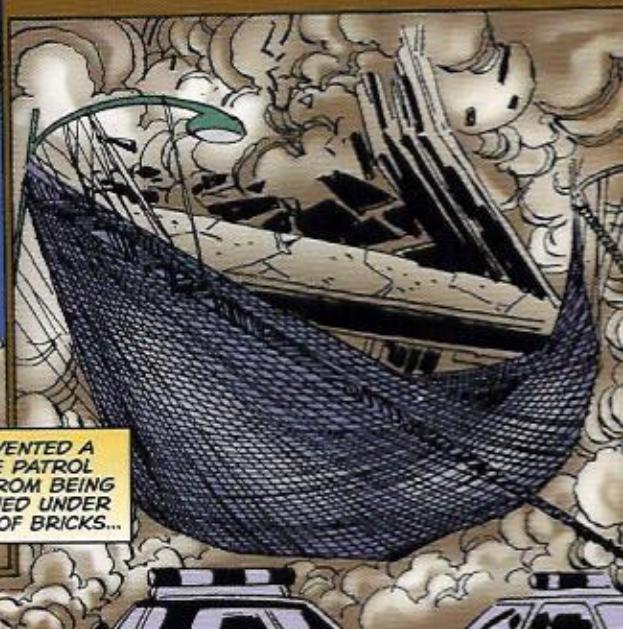


BUT SOMEONE HAS HIT YOU!

I AM EL TORO NEGRO.

AND THE BOY IS MINE!





...AND IN THE PROCESS, SAVED  
THE LIVES OF TWO POLICE  
OFFICERS SITTING WITHIN.

THAT  
COULD  
BEEN US,  
PARTNER.





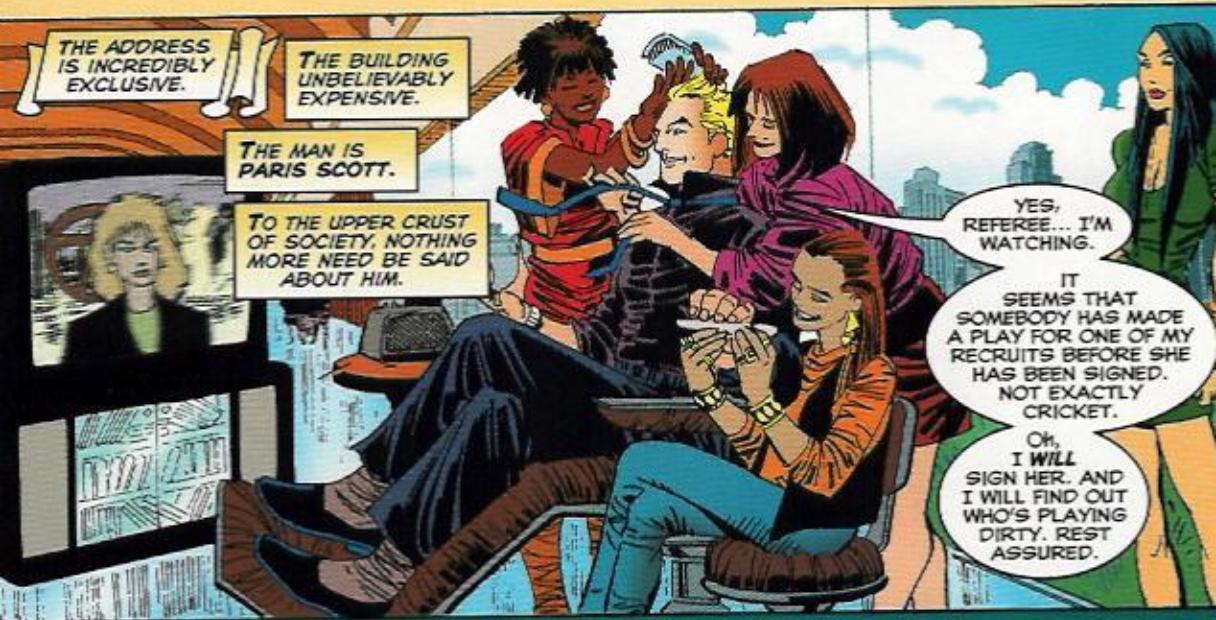
POISON MET THE OTHER SPIDER-MAN IN  
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #4 - ERIC.





THOUGH HE DOES HAVE A POINT, YOUNG BEN. YOU COULD GLEAN MUCH MORE OF WORLD AND LOCAL EVENTS FROM A DAILY PERUSAL OF THE NEWSPAPER THAN YOU COULD EVER GET FROM THE IDIOT BOX.





...AND THE WORLD...AND SPIDER-MAN... WILL LEARN THAT MYSTERO IS THE GREATEST SHOWMAN OF ALL.

LOWER  
MANHATTAN.

THERE,  
JUST PUT YOUR  
JOHN HANCOCK  
ANYWHERE AT THE  
BOTTOM OF THE  
LEASE THERE,  
HONEY.

AND  
IF THERE IS  
ANYTHING ELSE YOU  
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT  
THE BUILDING... YOU  
JUST COME ASK  
TILDE, YOU  
HEAR?

I  
THINK  
I'LL BE  
FINE.

THEN I'LL BE LEAVING  
YOU ALONE THEN,  
SWEETIE.

SEE  
YOU AROUND THE  
BUILDIN'.

SHOOT! FORGOT  
TO GIVE HIM THE  
SECURITY  
KEY!

YEAH...  
LIKE THERE'S  
ANY SECURITY  
IN THIS  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD!

NICE...  
PRIVATE...  
RELATIVELY CLEAN  
AND...

...WHILE  
THE VIEW ISN'T  
MUCH...

...YOU  
CAN'T  
BEAT  
THE CONVENIENCE TO  
TRANSPORTATION.

NOW I'VE  
GOT TO GET TO  
THE HOSPITAL AND  
CHECK ON POISON  
AND HER SON.

HELLO?

BEN?

NOW  
HOW'D HE  
GET OUT OF  
HERE WITHOUT  
ME SEEING  
HIM?



ALL OF US AT SCOTT ENTERPRISES DO HOPE YOUR UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE HAS NOT SOURED YOU ON NEW YORK.



THOUGH MR. SCOTT DOES EXPECT YOU TO HONOR THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. IN RETURN WE PLEDGE OUR SUPPORT OF ALL OF YOUR HOSPITAL COSTS... AND OUR AID IN THE RECOVERY OF YOUR SON.

THE FINAL CONTRACT, THE RULES OF THE GAME AND A COSTUME ARE IN THE BOX.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY, MADAM.

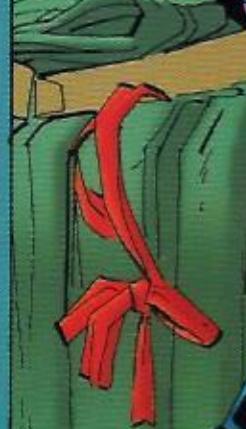


A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WHOA!  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
MUCH BETTER!



NO THANKS TO YOU.  
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...



RRNG



HELLO?

EL TORO  
NEGRO? WHERE IS  
MY --

YES.

ANYTHING.  
JUST DO NOT  
HURT HIM.

I'LL  
FIND  
IT.

Poison,  
WHERE DOES  
HE HAVE CARLOS?  
I'LL GO. I KNOW  
EL TORO.

HE  
CAN'T BE  
TRUSTED.

AND  
YOU  
CAN?

NEVER  
AGAIN!

I  
WILL GET  
MY SON BACK...  
JUST STAY  
AWAY!



I  
CAN'T DO  
THAT.

I  
OWE IT TO  
THE BOY.



ON A NORMAL BUSINESS DAY, THIS WAREHOUSE SERVES AS AN IMPORT/EXPORT CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ITEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

Pretty dull stuff.

BUT THIS IS NOT A NORMAL BUSINESS DAY.

AND THE EVENTS THAT ARE ABOUT TO TRANSPARE...

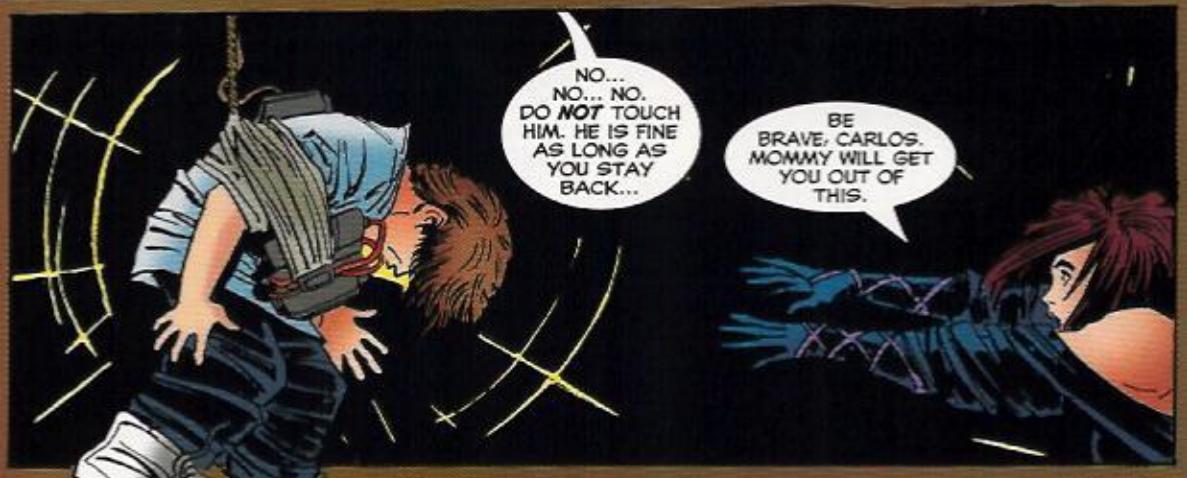
...ARE GOING TO BE ANYTHING BUT DULL!

SCRUNCH

SHOW YOURSELF,  
EL TORO NEGRO!

I AM HERE!  
AND I WANT MY SON!





WHAT DO  
YOU WANT  
WITH  
ME?

YOU HAVE BEEN APPROACHED TO BE A PLAYER IN THE **GREAT** GAME BY MR. SCOTT... EVEN AMONGST THE REST OF THE SPONSORS, HE IS A MAN OF INCREDIBLE RESOURCES.

YOU WILL PICK UP THE PHONE... IT WILL DIAL HIS PERSONAL LINE AUTOMATICALLY... AND YOU WILL INFORM HIM YOU WILL NOT PLAY FOR HIM.

THE CONTRACT HE OFFERS YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE. IT WILL BE MINE. FOR I DESERVE TO PLAY WITH THE BEST.

THEN YOU AND YOUR SON CAN GO BACK TO MIAMI. AND WHEN YOU ARE OUT OF THE WAY... I WILL PLAY FOR SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT? THIS IS CECILIA CARDINALE. I HAVE DECIDED **NOT** TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

NO. I WILL NOT CHANGE MY MIND.

GOOD-BYE.

IT'S DONE. LET MY SON GO.

**Poison! No!**

YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM! HE'S NOT GOING TO LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE! I KNOW HIS KIND...









...TO BE  
**REMOVED!**

THE ENERGY THAT IS RELEASED FROM POISON'S BODY FILLS THE WAREHOUSE WITH A RADIANCE BEYOND THE KEN OF HUMAN BEINGS.

EL TORO NEGRO, CARLOS, AND EVEN POISON HERSELF MUST CLOSE THEIR EYES TIGHTLY AGAINST IT.

AND WHEN THEY REOPEN THEIR EYES...



...SPIDER-MAN IS GONE.

ONLY A SMOKING PILE OF ASH REMAINS WHERE HE ONCE STOOD.



I HAVE DONE WHAT YOU HAVE ASKED.

LET MY SON GO.

I WILL NOT MOVE AGAINST YOU... I SWEAR.

BESIDES... I COULD NOT SUMMON UP THAT MUCH POWER AGAIN. NOT WITHOUT CAUSING MY OWN DEATH.

GOOD. THAT MAKES THIS NEXT PART EASIER.

I CANNOT LET YOU LIVE. SOMEONE WOULD RECRUIT YOU... OR YOU WOULD HUNT ME DOWN... SEEKING REVENGE.

