



BATMAN & SPIDER-MAN

DC COMICS



NOLAN '97
KESEL

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BATMAN & SPIDER-MAN NEW AGE DAWNING

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-- DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE RIPPED THROUGH SOUTHERN INDIA, KILLING NEARLY TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE. THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT--

-- SECOND WEEK OF TERRITORIAL FLOODING IN THE MIDWEST--WITH THOUSANDS FORCED OUT OF THEIR HOMES BY--



-- TENSIONS ROSE WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN A JERUSALEM MOSQUE EARLY THIS MORNING, KILLING FORTY PEOPLE AND SPARKING HOURS OF RIOTING BY--

-- CAN'T YOU SEE THE SIGNS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS? IT'S THE END. THE END OF ALL THINGS.



THERE'S ONLY ONE HOPE FOR US. ONLY ONE MAN WHO CAN SAVE US FROM THE FIRESTORM THAT'S COMING.

LOOK UP CHILDREN OF SIN! LOOK UP--



"--AND SEE THE SAVIOR."

THE CITY LIES IN AN UNCHARTED VALLEY IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF TIBET, NESTLED BETWEEN TOWERING PEAKS THAT DEFY MAN AND TOUCH THE HEM OF HEAVEN.

HERE THERE IS NO SUFFERING, NO HUNGER, NO WANT. HERE ALL LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.



BUT THE ARCHITECT OF THIS HEAVEN-ON-EARTH DOESN'T SEE HIMSELF AS GOD OR DEVIL.

JUST A MAN.

HE HAS LIVED LONGER THAN MOST OF US WOULD EVER DREAM OF LIVING, WOULD EVER WANT TO LIVE.

AND THERE ARE TIMES HE WONDERS WHY HE ENDURES. WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER TO EMBRACE EXTINCTION? TO SURRENDER HIS BURDENS TO OBLIVION?

AND THEN HE REMEMBERS:



REMEMBERS CENTURIES
OF PAIN AND BLOOD AND
AFFLICION.

REMEMBERS HIS VISION
OF A BETTER WORLD,
PURGED OF SIN AND
INSANITY.

REMEMBERS HIS
DAUGHTER'S INNOCENT
EYES -- ON THE NIGHT SHE
WAS BORN.



HE KNOWS WHAT HE HAS TO
DO. HE KNOWS THE LIVES
THAT WILL BE LOST IF HIS
PLAN IS TO SUCCEED.



BUT IT MUST
SUCCEED--IF THIS
WORLD IS TO
SURVIVE.



FOR A MOMENT,
DOUBT FLICKERS IN
THOSE ANCIENT EYES.
PERHAPS, DOUBT
WHISPERS, YOU ARE
MAD. PERHAPS YOU
ARE AS CORRUPTED
AS THE EVIL YOU SEEK
TO EXTINGUISH.



BUT HE WRESTLES DOUBT
TO THE GROUND, SNAPS
ITS NECK, SPITS IN ITS
FACE.



THERE IS NO ROOM FOR
DOUBT IN THIS WORK. HE
MUST CLING TO BELIEF.
TO FAITH.



TO THE
FUTURE.

ONCE, WALKING DOWN THESE MAGICAL PARISIAN STREETS FILLED HER WITH JOY. BUT THERE'S NO JOY IN HER HEART NOW: JUST WORRY, AND SORROW, AND ICI FEAR.

IT'S NOT FAIR, VANESSA FISK THINKS, TO ENDURE THIS BY MYSELF. IT'S NOT FAIR TO HAVE TO FACE THE DARKNESS...

...SO ALONE.

"GROW OLD ALONG WITH ME--"

WILSON...?

"--THE BEST IS YET TO BE."

"THE LAST OF LIFE--"

--FOR WHICH THE FIRST WAS MADE."



YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

MARY JANE PARKER WOULD BE LYING IF SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER HUSBAND.

WHAT WIFE WOULDN'T WORRY IF HER HUSBAND'S HOBBY WAS RUNNING AROUND THE CITY IN A PAIR OF TIGHTS, FIGHTING HOMICIDAL MANIACS?

BUT SHE'S LEARNED TO TRUST PETER. TO TRUST HERSELF.

AND TO TRUST THEIR LOVE MOST OF ALL.

SHE HAS A PROFOUND FAITH IN THAT LOVE TO SUSTAIN THEM... AND PROTECT THEM BOTH FROM HARM.

ROMANTIC? CERTAINLY. UNREALISTIC? NOT ONE BIT.

FOR ALL THE DANGERS THEY'VE FACED TOGETHER, FOR ALL THE TRAGEDIES THEY'VE ENDURED, MARY JANE VIEWS HER LIFE AS MAGICAL, ENCHANTED A MODERN-DAY FAIRY TALE.

HOW COULD IT NOT BE-- FOR A WOMAN WHO'S MARRIED TO--

THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN.



I'M SURE IT
RELATES TO HIS WEIGHT
PROBLEM. ALL THE
KIDS PROBABLY MADE
FUN OF HIM BACK
IN GRADE SCHOOL--

-- SO HE NEEDS
TO COMPENSATE FOR
HIS FEELINGS OF
VESTIGIAL CHILDHOOD
ANXIETY AND INTENSE
INFERIORITY BY--

THWIP

I CAN'T BELIEVE
IT!

I SPEND ALL THIS TIME
DEVELOPING A SOPHISTICATED
PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF
THE KINGPIN--

WHAP!

-- AND NO
ONE'S

EVEN
LISTENING
TO--

-- ME...?



HMM...



SHE'S DOWN THERE SOME-
WHERE, WAITING FOR HIM.

JUST KNOWING
THAT SHE'S HERE
IN GOTHAM...

...IN HIS CITY...

...INFURIATES
HIM.

BECAUSE WHEREVER
SHE WALKS -- THE
DEMON IS NEVER FAR
BEHIND.

HAS HE EVER FACED AN
OPPONENT MORE FORMI-
DABLE THAN RAS AL
GHUL?

AND HAS HE EVER LOVED
A WOMAN MORE DEEPLY
THAN HE LOVES THE
DEMON'S DAUGHTER--

TALIA?



THE BATMAN ISN'T ONE FOR INTROSPECTION AND SELF-ANALYSIS...

...AND YET EVEN HE HAS OFTEN WONDERED WHAT IT IS ABOUT TALIA THAT TOUCHES HIS HEART SO.

DOES HE SEE HER AS A REFLECTION OF HIMSELF... OF THE BOY HE ONCE WAS? FOR TALIA, LIKE BRUCE WAYNE, WAS NEVER GRANTED A TRUE CHILDHOOD; WAS ROBBED OF PURITY AND INNOCENCE.

RAISED IN THE SHADOW OF RAS AL GHUL'S CORRUPTED SOUL, SHE HAS BEEN A PRISONER OF HIS OBSESSIVE NEED TO CONTROL NOT JUST THE FATE OF THE WORLD...

...BUT THE FATE OF HIS ONLY CHILD.

DO I THINK, HE MUSES, THAT I CAN SAVE HER, HEAL HER--EVEN THOUGH I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE...



BUT HE'LL FIND
HER. HE HAS TO.

FOR HER SAKE...
FOR HIS OWN...

...AND FOR THE
SAKE OF THE
WORLD.

WELCOME
TO NEW YORK,
MY DEAR.

IT'S A PLEASURE
TO FINALLY MEET YOU,
FACE TO FACE.

THE
PLEASURE
IS MINE,
MR. FISK.

OUR BUSINESS
DEALINGS HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL... AND
LUCRATIVE... FOR BOTH
OF OUR ORGANIZATIONS.

I TRUST THAT
THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO BE SO.

OF COURSE,
THEN-- TO
BUSINESS.

DOPALMA...
SOME PRIVACY,
PLEASE.

NOW.

I HAVE
EATEN.

AS I WAS
SAYING--
TO
BUSINESS.

HEY, WAIT
A MINUTE, BOSS,
I AIN'T GONNA
LEAVE YOU ALONE
W/--

CRASH



MR.
FISK--

CALL ME
WILSON--

MR. FISK, YOU OWN
THIS CITY. FROM THE LOWLIEST
MOBSTER TO THE HIGHEST POLI-
CITIAN, THERE IS NO ONE...
NOTHINGS... IN NEW YORK
THAT IS NOT UNDER YOUR
CONTROL--

--EVEN IF THOSE
YOU ARE CONTROLLING
OFTEN REMAIN UN-
AWARE OF IT--

MY... EMPLOYER IS A MAN
OF A SIMILAR BENT. HE
FEELS A KINSHIP WITH
YOU.

AH, YES--YOUR
MYSTERIOUS
EMPLOYER. IN ALL
OUR DEALINGS YOU
HAVE NEVER ONCE
IDENTIFIED HIM.

WHY DO I SENSE
THAT THE TIME YOU'RE
SPEAKING OF... IS
RAPIDLY
APPROACH-
ING?

OUR TRANSACTIONS WITH
YOU HAVE HELPED EACH OF OUR
ORGANIZATIONS REMAIN
FISCALLY HEALTHY. BUT WHAT
I HAVE COME TO PROPOSE
TO YOU TODAY--

--IS SOMETHING THAT
TRANSCENDS THE
MERE FINANCIAL.

THAT IS BECAUSE
HE DOES NOT WISH TO BE
IDENTIFIED. WHEN THE
TIME COMES--IF THE
TIME COMES--YOU
WILL MEET HIM.

I'M
INTRIGUED.
GO ON.

WE HAVE SEVERAL
SHIPMENTS COMING INTO
YOUR CITY. WE WANT THEM
TO ARRIVE SAFELY, WITHOUT
INTERFERENCE FROM
CUSTOMS--OR ANY OTHER
AGENCIES--

INCLUSIONS,
PERHAPS, MY
OWN?

PERHAPS.

WE WILL GLADLY
PAY THREE TIMES
YOUR USUAL FEE.

AND WHAT
ARE THESE
MYSTERIOUS
SHIPMENTS?

THAT, I AM AFRAID, I CANNOT TELL YOU. WE-

YES. YES. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

YOU'RE LEAVING...?

THE GUEST QUARTERS ARE YOURS FOR AS LONG AS YOU'D CARE TO USE THEM. BUT YOUR GENEROUS OFFER, I'M AFRAID, HAS TO BE DECLINED.

WHAT? WHY?

AS LONG AS YOUR TERROR WAS CONFINED TO FOREIGN SHORES, I HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

BUT IF, AS I SUSPECT, YOU ARE THINKING OF IMPOSING YOUR MADNESS TO MY COUNTRY... MY CITY...

I AM NOT UNAWARE, TALIA, THAT I HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS.

GOOD DAY.

WE ARE NOT TERRORISTS, MR. FISK~ THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU.

OUR AIM IS NOT CHAOS, BUT RECLAMATION. REDEMPTION.

RESURRECTION.

RESURRECTION.

I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP.

NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO, BAT.

MISS ME?

STILL SORELY LACKING IN THE WITTY REPARTEE DEPARTMENT, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT WE DO ISN'T AMUSING.

YOU'RE DRESSED UP LIKE A BAT... I'M DRESSED UP LIKE A SPIDER-

-- AND YOU DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN IT?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO KEEP TABS ON WHAT KINGPIN'S BEEN UP TO. PLAYING FOOTSY WITH SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL CRIME CARTEL, APPARENTLY.

I DON'T SEE THE HUMOR IN THEM.

I TAILED THE WOMAN FROM THE AIRPORT.

NO.

THEY'RE OUT OF JOHNSON!

WHATCHA LISTENING TO? METS GAME?

GUESS NOT.

THEY'RE NOT A CRIME CARTEL.

THEN WHAT ARE THEY?







THE CHEMOTHERAPY WILL
KEEP HER ALIVE, MR.
FISK, FOR A WHILE.

BUT WE'RE FIGHTING THE
INEVITABLE. YOUR WIFE IS
GOING TO DIE. SHE--



DOCTOR--

URK!!



-- YOU'RE
FIRED.



...DISPOSE
OF HIM.

THEN
TELL RIZZO
TO FIND
ANOTHER
DOCTOR.



IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
LIKE THIS.

HOW DARE YOU COME HERE,
TO MY PRIVATE QUARTERS! HOW--

HE CAN SAVE HER.

WHAT?

MY EMPLOYER...
MY FATHER--
CAN SAVE
MRS. FISK'S
LIFE.

WHO
IS HE? TELL
ME!





RA'S AL GHUL
IS A MADMAN--

-- WHOSE DREAM OF A
"BETTER WORLD" IS ONE IN
WHICH ALL WILLS ARE SUB-
JUGATED TO HIS. ALL MEN,
ALL NATIONS, UNDER HIS
CONTROL.

NOT LONG AGO, HE NEARLY
MURDERED NINE-TENTHS OF THE
EARTH'S POPULATION IN THE
NAME OF HIS "HOLY" CAUSE.
I STOPPED HIM THEN--

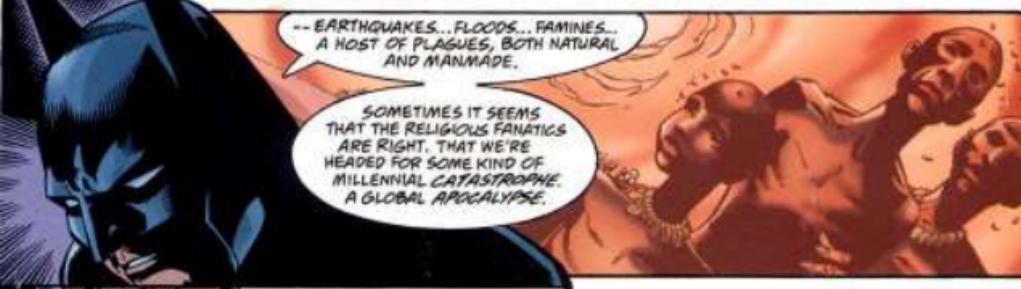
-- AND I'LL
STOP HIM
AGAIN.

RA'S AL GHUL
IS A VISIONARY--

-- WHO SEEKS TO USHER
IN A GOLDEN AGE... SO THAT
ALL OF HUMANKIND MAY LIVE
IN PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

MANY TIMES HE HAS ATTEMPTED
TO SAVE THIS DYING PLANET, TRANS-
FORM HIS VISION INTO REALITY. BUT
HE HAS BEEN THWARTED BY MEN
OF LIMITED INTELLECT-- AND
VENGEFUL HEARTS.

THIS TIME
IT WILL NOT
BE SO.









WHAT...
IS THIS...
CURE?









SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, WILLIE-- BUT RIZZO AND MCKAY NEVER QUITE MADE IT TO THE PLANE.

Y'SEE, THEIR JAWS HAD A HEAD-ON COLLISION WITH OUR FISTS!

YOU KNEW?

HOW COULD I NOT?

MY DAUGHTER IS PERFECT IN ALMOST EVERY WAY, BATMAN. BUT HER JUDGMENT IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED-- WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.

LOGIC DICTATED THAT SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE YOU-- AND THAT YOU, IN TURN, WOULD FOLLOW HER... TO ME.

I'M STOPPING YOU HERE AND NOW, RA'S. AND THIS TIME I'M STOPPING YOU FOR GOOD.

YOU-- WOULD DARE JEOPARDIZE MY WIFE'S LIFE... FOR YOUR PETTY CONCERN'S?

"PETTY"?

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, TUB-BALL, BUT I THINK WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HERE -- IS THE LIVES OF EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE!

I DIDN'T THINK EVEN YOU COULD STOOP THAT LOW!

I'LL KILL YOU,
DO YOU HEAR ME?!!
I'LL--

YOU MUST LEARN
TO CONTROL YOUR FURY,
MR. FISK. THESE TWO
ARE NOTHING MORE THAN
MINOR ANNOYANCES--

-- AND, AS
SUCH, THEY ARE
BENEATH MEN
LIKE US.

LEAVE THEM
TO MY UNDERLINGS.
WE HAVE MORE
PRESSING MATTERS
TO ATTEND TO.

LOOK AT THESE
GUYS! I FEEL LIKE
HOPE AND CROSBY
IN "THE ROAD TO
UTOPIA"!

ACTUALLY--

--IT WAS "THE
ROAD TO MOROCCO"

AH-HA! I
KNEW WE HAD SOME-
THING IN COMMON
BEYOND OUR LOVE
OF TIGHTS!

YOU'RE
INTO OLD MOVIES,
TOO, HUH?

YOU MUST'VE BEEN
PRETTY CUTE, WADDLING
AROUND IN YOUR DIAPERS--
CHASING THE JOKER
ACROSS THE PLAY-
GROUND!

I WAS--
WHEN I WAS
YOUNG.

CHOK

YOUNG? SOMEHOW
I CAN'T PICTURE YOU
EVER BEING
YOUNG!







YOU SEEM ANXIOUS, DISTRACTED.
ARE YOU NOT PLEASED THAT MY FATHER
HAS OFFERED YOU THE CURE FOR YOUR
DISEASE?

THE LIFE YOU
FEARED LOSING-- WILL SOON
BE RETURNED TO YOU.

I SUPPOSE
IT WILL.

BUT...?

BUT SOMETIMES I THINK
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN PARIS, AWAY
FROM HIM. BETTER TO BE DEAD-- THAN
CAUGHT UP IN WILSON'S WORLD OF MURDER
AND TREACHERY AGAIN.

I TRUST
YOU FIND THE
ACCOMMODATIONS
SATISFACTORY...?

WHAT?
YES-- I...
SUPPOSE
SO.

BUT IT IS CLEAR
THAT YOU LOVE
HIM.

WITH ALL MY
HEART AND SOUL.
WITH EVERY CELL
IN MY BODY.

A PARADOX?

ALL LOVE IS
A PARADOX,
ISN'T IT?

MY HUSBAND HAS
DONE THINGS THAT HAVE
SICKENED ME BEYOND WORDS-- AND YET I KNOW
A SIDE OF HIM THAT NO
ONE ELSE DOES--

A TENDERNESS... A
GENTLE SPIRIT... THAT HE
HIDES FROM ALL EYES
BUT MINE.

I KNOW WHAT
IT IS TO LOOK INTO
THE EYES OF
A MON-
STER--

-- AND
FIND THE
SOUL OF AN
ANGEL.

YOU
MEAN-- YOUR
FATHER?

AND
ONE
OTHER.

IT IS MY BLESSING...
AND MY CURSE... TO
HAVE GIVEN MY HEART
TO TWO MEN WHO
STAND WORLDS...
UNIVERSES...
APART--

THEIR WAR HAS
NEARLY TORN ME TO PIECES...
AND YET I CANNOT CHANGE
HOW I FEEL.

NOR, I
SUSPECT, WOULD
YOU WANT TO.

I HAVE BEEN AWARE OF YOU FOR SOME YEARS NOW, MR. FISK.

WE INHABIT DIFFERENT WORLDS-- AND YET I SEE IN YOU THE SAME SPARK THAT ONCE LIT AN UNQUENCHABLE FIRE IN MY SOUL-- UNCOUNTED YEARS AGO.

SO IT'S TRUE... THAT YOU'VE LIVED FOR CENTURIES...?

YES. BUT DO NOT ENVY ME MY LONGEVITY. EACH YEAR HAS BEEN A BURDEN... AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN I CAN TAKE MY FINAL REST.

THEN WHY DO YOU GO ON?

IN OTHER WORDS... YOU WANT TO CONTROL IT-- THE WAY I CONTROL MY CITY.

I DO NOT DO THIS FOR PERSONAL GRAM. I HAVE ALREADY AMASSED MORE WEALTH THAN EVEN YOU CAN IMAGINE.

WEALTH IS ONE THING. POWER IS QUITE ANOTHER.

HUMANITY IS BLIND AND STUPID, MR. FISK. THE RACE WILL DESTROY ITSELF IF IT IS NOT TAKEN IN HAND -- TOLD WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO DO IT.

AND YOU'RE JUST THE MAN FOR THE JOB, EH?

INDEED. AND YOU, I BELIEVE--

--ARE JUST THE MAN TO HELP ME.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M REALLY A CITY BOY AT HEART. CONCRETE, BIG BUILDINGS, BAD AIR-- THAT'S THE LIFE FOR ME.

ACCORDING TO THE MAP, THERE SHOULD BE TUNNELS NEARBY.. THAT WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THE VALLEY--

-- BUT THE STORM'S TURNED US AROUND SO MANY TIMES--

HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN EVEN TRUST THAT MAP? I MEAN, CONSIDER THE SOURCE...

WE CAN TRUST IT.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

CALL IT A... GUT FEELING.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

HERE, GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

IS THIS NECESSARY...

LOOK, CLIMBING IS MY FORTÉ. I WANT TO SCARE THE HELL OUT OF SOMEBODY, I'LL DEFER TO YOU...

--BUT YOU'RE TALKING TO A GUY WHO STICKS TO THINGS. I MEAN NOTHING SHORT OF AN AVALANCHE IS GONNA KNOCK ME--

RRUMMMMM

--DOWN...?

ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!

RUMMMMMMM



YOU SEEM SURPRISED,
MR. FISK. BUT IT IS LOGICAL.
DON'T YOU THINK?

WHEN THE WORLD IS
MINE, I WILL NEED MEN
OF LIKE MINDS TO ADMINISTER
MY JUDGMENTS... TO RULE
ACCORDING TO MY WISH. YOU
HAVE CONQUERED A CITY.
JOIN ME-- BECOME MY
DISCIPLE--

-- AND YOU
WILL HAVE A
WORLD TO CALL
YOUR OWN.

YOU LURED
ME HERE, DIDN'T
YOU-- TO MAKE
ME THIS RIDICU-
LOUS OFFER...?

YOU NEVER HAD
ANY INTENTION OF CURING
VANESSA'S CANCER! YOU
USED MY WIFE'S
ILLNESS--

I DID NOT USE YOUR
WIFE'S DISEASE, MR. FISK--
I CREATED IT... HERE IN
MY LABORATORIES.

A MANMADE VIRUS
THAT MIMICS CANCER...
AND YET IS COMPLETELY
CURABLE--

--TO SERVE
YOUR OWN
DELUDED ENDS!

--IF, OF
COURSE, ONE
KNOWS WHAT
THAT CURE IS.

YOU--

--BASTARD!

POKOW

WHAT KIND
OF MAN COULD
DO SUCH A
THING?

YOU...?

WHAT KIND
OF MAN IS CAPABLE
OF SUCH DEPRAVITY...
SUCH CRUELTY?



I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.



MARY JANE--!



MARY JANE! MARY JANE! MARY-



--JANE--!

WELCOME BACK.



HOW--
HOW LONG
WAS I--?

JUST
A FEW
MINUTES.



A FEW
MINUTES
TOO LONG.

YOU KNOW
SOMETHING
I DON'T?

JUST
A... GUT
FEELING.



THEN ALL WE NEED
IS FOR YOU TO GIVE MY WIFE
THE ANTIDOTE -- AND OUR
BARGAIN WILL BE
SEALED.

THE ANTIDOTE
WILL BE PROVIDED...
AFTER YOU HAVE
PROVEN YOUR
SELF TO ME--

--BY
PUNCHING
IN THE
CODE--

--AND DESTROYING
YOUR CITY.

AFTER ALL, WHAT
CAN NEW YORK MATTER--
TO A MAN WHO WILL
SOON HAVE THE
WORLD?



PLEASE,
PLEASE-- NO
APPLAUSE! I'M
SO EASILY
EMBAR-
RASSED!

SPIDER-MAN!

HE MUST HAVE
FOUND THE CAVES!
BUT-- HOW?



YOU MEAN YOU
DIDN'T SEE THE SPOT
THEY DID ON 'CAVE-
STYLES OF THE
RICH AND
DICTIONARY'?

WE'LL
SOLVE THIS
RIDDLE...
LATER.

KILL
HIM--

-- THEN
SEARCH THE
FORTRESS FOR
THE RETEC-
TIVE!

KILL, KILL, KILL--
THAT'S ALL YOU SUPER-
VILLAINS EVER THINK
ABOUT!

JUST GONE I'D LIKE
ONE OF YOU JERKS TO
OFFER ME A WARM BATH
AND A PAIR OF FLANNEL
PAJAMAS!

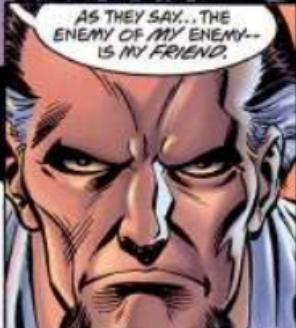
-- THEY MIGHT
LET YOU RULE THE
WORLD?

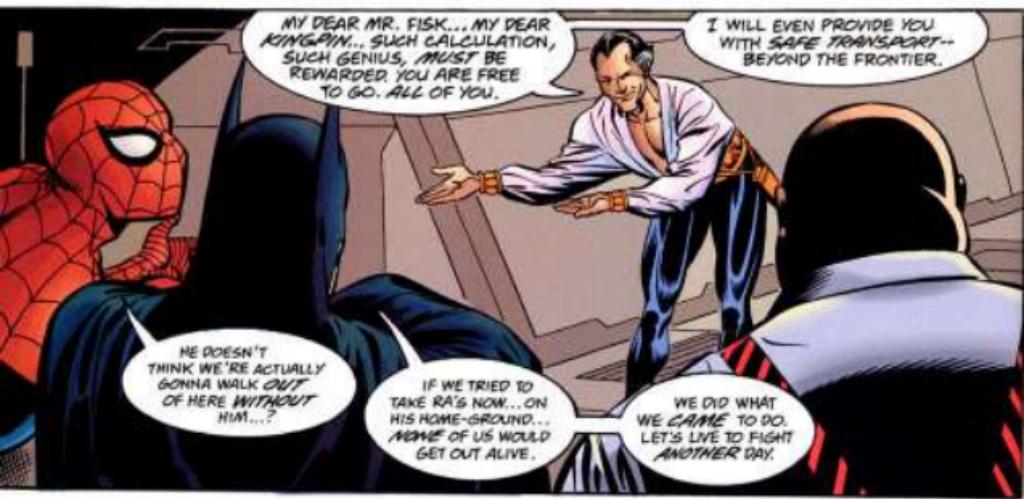
I BELIEVE
YOU WERE ABOUT
TO--PUNCH IN
THE CODE?

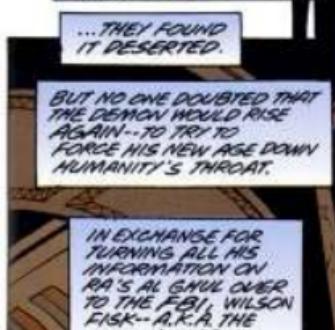
DID IT EVER
OCUR TO YOU THAT
MAYBE... JUST MAYBE
IF YOU'RE NICE TO
PEOPLE--













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