Spider @-@ Man

Spider @-@ Man is a fictional superhero appearing in American comic books published by Marvel Comics existing in its shared universe . The character was created by writer @-@ editor Stan Lee and writer @-@ artist Steve Ditko , and first appeared in the anthology comic book Amazing Fantasy # 15 (Aug. 1962) in the Silver Age of Comic Books . Lee and Ditko conceived the character as an orphan being raised by his Aunt May and Uncle Ben , and as a teenager , having to deal with the normal struggles of adolescence in addition to those of a costumed crime @-@ fighter . Spider @-@ Man 's creators gave him super strength and agility , the ability to cling to most surfaces , shoot spider @-@ webs using wrist @-@ mounted devices of his own invention , which he calls " web @-@ shooters " , and react to danger quickly with his " spider @-@ sense " , enabling him to combat his foes . And later in his life founded his own company call Parker Industries .

When Spider @-@ Man first appeared in the early 1960s , teenagers in superhero comic books were usually relegated to the role of sidekick to the protagonist . The Spider @-@ Man series broke ground by featuring Peter Parker , the high school student behind Spider @-@ Man 's secret identity and with whose " self @-@ obsessions with rejection , inadequacy , and loneliness " young readers could relate . While Spider @-@ Man had all the makings of a sidekick , unlike previous teen heroes such as Bucky and Robin , Spider @-@ Man had no superhero mentor like Captain America and Batman ; he thus had to learn for himself that " with great power there must also come great responsibility " ? a line included in a text box in the final panel of the first Spider @-@ Man story but later retroactively attributed to his guardian , the late Uncle Ben .

Marvel has featured Spider @-@ Man in several comic book series , the first and longest @-@ lasting of which is titled The Amazing Spider @-@ Man . Over the years , the Peter Parker character has developed from shy , nerdy high school student to troubled but outgoing college student , to married high school teacher to , in the late 2000s , a single freelance photographer . In the 2010s , he joins the Avengers , Marvel 's flagship superhero team . Spider @-@ Man 's nemesis Doctor Octopus also took on the identity for a story arc spanning 2012 ? 2014 , following a body swap plot in which Peter appears to die . Separately , Marvel has also published books featuring alternate versions of Spider @-@ Man , including Spider @-@ Man 2099 , which features the adventures of Miguel O 'Hara , the Spider @-@ Man of the future ; Ultimate Spider @-@ Man , which features the adventures of a teenaged Peter Parker in an alternate universe ; and Ultimate Comics Spider @-@ Man , which depicts the teenager Miles Morales , who takes up the mantle of Spider @-@ Man after Ultimate Peter Parker 's supposed death .

Spider @-@ Man is one of the most popular and commercially successful superheroes . As Marvel 's flagship character and company mascot , he has appeared in countless forms of media , including several animated and live @-@ action television series , syndicated newspaper comic strips , and in a series of films . The character was first portrayed in live action by Nicholas Hammond in the 1977 television movie Spider @-@ Man . In films , Spider @-@ Man has been portrayed by actors Tobey Maguire (2002 ? 2007) and Andrew Garfield (2012 ? 2014) , while Tom Holland portrays the character in the Marvel Cinematic Universe , first appearing in Captain America : Civil War in 2016 . Reeve Carney starred as Spider @-@ Man in the 2010 Broadway musical Spider @-@ Man : Turn Off the Dark . Spider @-@ Man has been well received as a superhero and comic book character and is usually ranked as one of the greatest comic book characters of all time alongside DC Comics characters such as Superman and Batman .

Publication history

Creation and development

In 1962 , with the success of the Fantastic Four , Marvel Comics editor and head writer Stan Lee was casting about for a new superhero idea . He said the idea for Spider @-@ Man arose from a

surge in teenage demand for comic books , and the desire to create a character with whom teens could identify . In his autobiography , Lee cites the non @-@ superhuman pulp magazine crime fighter the Spider (see also The Spider 's Web and The Spider Returns) as a great influence , and in a multitude of print and video interviews , Lee stated he was further inspired by seeing a spider climb up a wall ? adding in his autobiography that he has told that story so often he has become unsure of whether or not this is true . Though at the time teenage superheroes were usually given names ending with " boy " , Lee says he chose " Spider @-@ Man " because he wanted the character to age as the series progressed , and moreover felt the name " Spider @-@ Boy " would have made the character sound inferior to other superheroes . At that time Lee had to get only the consent of Marvel publisher Martin Goodman for the character 's approval . In a 1986 interview , Lee described in detail his arguments to overcome Goodman 's objections . Goodman eventually agreed to a Spider @-@ Man tryout in what Lee in numerous interviews recalled as what would be the final issue of the science @-@ fiction and supernatural anthology series Amazing Adult Fantasy , which was renamed Amazing Fantasy for that single issue , # 15 (cover @-@ dated August 1962 , on sale June 5 , 1962) . In particular , Lee stated that the fact that it had already been decided that Amazing Fantasy would be cancelled after issue # 15 was the only reason Goodman allowed him to use Spider @-@ Man . While this was indeed the final issue , its editorial page anticipated the comic continuing and that " The Spiderman [sic] ... will appear every month in Amazing . "

Regardless , Lee received Goodman 's approval for the name Spider @-@ Man and the " ordinary teen " concept , and approached artist Jack Kirby . As comics historian Greg Theakston recounts , Kirby told Lee about an unpublished character on which he had collaborated with Joe Simon in the 1950s , in which an orphaned boy living with an old couple finds a magic ring that granted him superhuman powers . Lee and Kirby " immediately sat down for a story conference " , Theakston writes , and Lee afterward directed Kirby to flesh out the character and draw some pages . Steve Ditko would be the inker . When Kirby showed Lee the first six pages , Lee recalled , " I hated the way he was doing it ! Not that he did it badly ? it just wasn 't the character I wanted ; it was too heroic " . Lee turned to Ditko , who developed a visual style Lee found satisfactory . Ditko recalled :

One of the first things I did was to work up a costume . A vital , visual part of the character . I had to know how he looked ... before I did any breakdowns . For example : A clinging power so he wouldn 't have hard shoes or boots , a hidden wrist @-@ shooter versus a web gun and holster , etc . ... I wasn 't sure Stan would like the idea of covering the character 's face but I did it because it hid an obviously boyish face . It would also add mystery to the character ....

Although the interior artwork was by Ditko alone , Lee rejected Ditko 's cover art and commissioned Kirby to pencil a cover that Ditko inked . As Lee explained in 2010 , " I think I had Jack sketch out a cover for it because I always had a lot of confidence in Jack 's covers . "

In an early recollection of the character 's creation , Ditko described his and Lee 's contributions in a mail interview with Gary Martin published in Comic Fan # 2 (Summer 1965) : " Stan Lee thought the name up . I did costume , web gimmick on wrist & spider signal . " At the time , Ditko shared a Manhattan studio with noted fetish artist Eric Stanton , an art @-@ school classmate who , in a 1988 interview with Theakston , recalled that although his contribution to Spider @-@ Man was " almost nil " , he and Ditko had " worked on storyboards together and I added a few ideas . But the whole thing was created by Steve on his own ... I think I added the business about the webs coming out of his hands . "

Kirby disputed Lee 's version of the story , and claimed Lee had minimal involvement in the character 's creation . According to Kirby , the idea for Spider @-@ Man had originated with Kirby and Joe Simon , who in the 1950s had developed a character called the Silver Spider for the Crestwood Publications comic Black Magic , who was subsequently not used . Simon , in his 1990 autobiography , disputed Kirby 's account , asserting that Black Magic was not a factor , and that he (Simon) devised the name " Spider @-@ Man " (later changed to " The Silver Spider ") , while Kirby outlined the character 's story and powers . Simon later elaborated that his and Kirby 's character conception became the basis for Simon 's Archie Comics superhero the Fly . Artist Steve Ditko stated that Lee liked the name Hawkman from DC Comics , and that " Spider @-@ Man " was an outgrowth of that interest .

Simon concurred that Kirby had shown the original Spider @-@ Man version to Lee , who liked the idea and assigned Kirby to draw sample pages of the new character but disliked the results ? in Simon 's description , " Captain America with cobwebs " . Writer Mark Evanier notes that Lee 's reasoning that Kirby 's character was too heroic seems unlikely ? Kirby still drew the covers for Amazing Fantasy # 15 and the first issue of The Amazing Spider @-@ Man . Evanier also disputes Kirby 's given reason that he was " too busy " to also draw Spider @-@ Man in addition to his other duties since Kirby was , said Evanier , " always busy " . Neither Lee 's nor Kirby 's explanation explains why key story elements like the magic ring were dropped ; Evanier states that the most plausible explanation for the sudden change was that Goodman , or one of his assistants , decided that Spider @-@ Man as drawn and envisioned by Kirby was too similar to the Fly .

Author and Ditko scholar Blake Bell writes that it was Ditko who noted the similarities to the Fly . Ditko recalled that , " Stan called Jack about the Fly " , adding that " [d] ays later , Stan told me I would be penciling the story panel breakdowns from Stan 's synopsis " . It was at this point that the nature of the strip changed . " Out went the magic ring , adult Spider @-@ Man and whatever legend ideas that Spider @-@ Man story would have contained " . Lee gave Ditko the premise of a teenager bitten by a spider and developing powers , a premise Ditko would expand upon to the point he became what Bell describes as " the first work for hire artist of his generation to create and control the narrative arc of his series " . On the issue of the initial creation , Ditko states , " I still don 't know whose idea was Spider @-@ Man " . Kirby noted in a 1971 interview that it was Ditko who " got Spider @-@ Man to roll , and the thing caught on because of what he did " . Lee , while claiming credit for the initial idea , has acknowledged Ditko 's role , stating , " If Steve wants to be called co @-@ creator , I think he deserves [it] " . He has further commented that Ditko 's costume design was key to the character 's success ; since the costume completely covers Spider @-@ Man 's body , people of all races could visualize themselves inside the costume and thus more easily identify with the character . Writer Al Nickerson believes " that Stan Lee and Steve Ditko created the Spider @-@ Man that we are familiar with today [but that] ultimately , Spider @-@ Man came into existence , and prospered , through the efforts of not just one or two , but many , comic book creators " .

= = = Commercial success = = =

A few months after Spider @-@ Man 's introduction , publisher Goodman reviewed the sales figures for that issue and was shocked to find it to have been one of the nascent Marvel 's highest @-@ selling comics . A solo ongoing series followed , beginning with The Amazing Spider @-@ Man # 1 (cover @-@ dated March 1963) . The title eventually became Marvel 's top @-@ selling series with the character swiftly becoming a cultural icon ; a 1965 Esquire poll of college campuses found that college students ranked Spider @-@ Man and fellow Marvel hero the Hulk alongside Bob Dylan and Che Guevara as their favorite revolutionary icons . One interviewee selected Spider @-@ Man because he was " beset by woes , money problems , and the question of existence . In short , he is one of us . " Following Ditko 's departure after issue # 38 (July 1966) , John Romita , Sr. replaced him as penciler and would draw the series for the next several years . In 1968 , Romita would also draw the character 's extra @-@ length stories in the comics magazine The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man , a proto @-@ graphic novel designed to appeal to older readers . It only lasted for two issues , but it represented the first Spider @-@ Man spin @-@ off publication , aside from the original series ' summer annuals that began in 1964 .

An early 1970s Spider @-@ Man story led to the revision of the Comics Code . Previously , the Code forbade the depiction of the use of illegal drugs , even negatively . However , in 1970 , the Nixon administration 's Department of Health , Education , and Welfare asked Stan Lee to publish an anti @-@ drug message in one of Marvel 's top @-@ selling titles . Lee chose the top @-@ selling The Amazing Spider @-@ Man ; issues # 96 ? 98 (May ? July 1971) feature a story arc depicting the negative effects of drug use . In the story , Peter Parker 's friend Harry Osborn becomes addicted to pills . When Spider @-@ Man fights the Green Goblin (Norman Osborn , Harry 's father) , Spider @-@ Man defeats the Green Goblin , by revealing Harry 's drug addiction .

While the story had a clear anti @-@ drug message , the Comics Code Authority refused to issue its seal of approval . Marvel nevertheless published the three issues without the Comics Code Authority 's approval or seal . The issues sold so well that the industry 's self @-@ censorship was undercut and the Code was subsequently revised .

 In 1972 , a second monthly ongoing series starring Spider @-@ Man began : Marvel Team @-@ Up , in which Spider @-@ Man was paired with other superheroes and villains . From that point on there have generally been at least two ongoing Spider @-@ Man series at any time . In 1976 , his second solo series , Peter Parker , the Spectacular Spider @-@ Man began running parallel to the main series . A third series featuring Spider @-@ Man , Web of Spider @-@ Man , launched in 1985 to replace Marvel Team @-@ Up . The launch of a fourth monthly title in 1990 , the " adjectiveless " Spider @-@ Man (with the storyline " Torment ") , written and drawn by popular artist Todd McFarlane , debuted with several different covers , all with the same interior content . The various versions combined sold over 3 million copies , an industry record at the time . Several limited series , one @-@ shots , and loosely related comics have also been published , and Spider @-@ Man makes frequent cameos and guest appearances in other comic series . In 1996 The Sensational Spider @-@ Man was created to replace Web of Spider @-@ Man .

 In 1998 writer @-@ artist John Byrne revamped the origin of Spider @-@ Man in the 13 @-@ issue limited series Spider @-@ Man : Chapter One (Dec. 1998 - Oct. 1999) , similar to Byrne 's adding details and some revisions to Superman 's origin in DC Comics ' The Man of Steel . At the same time the original The Amazing Spider @-@ Man was ended with issue # 441 (Nov. 1998) , and The Amazing Spider @-@ Man was restarted with vol . 2 , # 1 (Jan. 1999) . In 2003 Marvel reintroduced the original numbering for The Amazing Spider @-@ Man and what would have been vol . 2 , # 59 became issue # 500 (Dec. 2003) .

 When primary series The Amazing Spider @-@ Man reached issue # 545 (Dec. 2007) , Marvel dropped its spin @-@ off ongoing series and instead began publishing The Amazing Spider @-@ Man three times monthly , beginning with # 546 @-@ 548 (all Jan. 2008) . The three times monthly scheduling of The Amazing Spider @-@ Man lasted until November 2010 when the comic book was increased from 22 pages to 30 pages each issue and published only twice a month , beginning with # 648 @-@ 649 (both Nov. 2010) . The following year , Marvel launched Avenging Spider @-@ Man as the first spinoff ongoing series in addition to the still twice monthly The Amazing Spider @-@ Man since the previous ones were cancelled at the end of 2007 . The Amazing series temporarily ended with issue # 700 in December 2012 , and was replaced by The Superior Spider @-@ Man , which had Doctor Octopus serve as the new Spider @-@ Man , having taken over Peter Parker 's body . Superior was an enormous commercial success for Marvel , and ran for 31 @-@ issue before the real Peter Parker returned in a newly relaunched The Amazing Spider @-@ Man # 1 in April 2014 .

= = Fictional character biography = =

 In Forest Hills , Queens , New York , high school student Peter Parker is a science @-@ whiz orphan living with his Uncle Ben and Aunt May . As depicted in Amazing Fantasy # 15 (Aug. 1962) , he is bitten by a radioactive spider (erroneously classified as an insect in the panel) at a science exhibit and " acquires the agility and proportionate strength of an arachnid " . Along with super strength , Parker gains the ability to adhere to walls and ceilings . Through his native knack for science , he develops a gadget that lets him fire adhesive webbing of his own design through small , wrist @-@ mounted barrels . Initially seeking to capitalize on his new abilities , Parker dons a costume and , as " Spider @-@ Man " , becomes a novelty television star . However , " He blithely ignores the chance to stop a fleeing thief , [and] his indifference ironically catches up with him when the same criminal later robs and kills his Uncle Ben . " Spider @-@ Man tracks and subdues the killer and learns , in the story 's next @-@ to @-@ last caption , " With great power there must also come ? great responsibility ! "

 Despite his superpowers , Parker struggles to help his widowed aunt pay rent , is taunted by his peers ? particularly football star Flash Thompson ? and , as Spider @-@ Man , engenders the

editorial wrath of newspaper publisher J. Jonah Jameson . As he battles his enemies for the first time , Parker finds juggling his personal life and costumed adventures difficult . In time , Peter graduates from high school , and enrolls at Empire State University (a fictional institution evoking the real @-@ life Columbia University and New York University) , where he meets roommate and best friend Harry Osborn , and girlfriend Gwen Stacy , and Aunt May introduces him to Mary Jane Watson . As Peter deals with Harry 's drug problems , and Harry 's father is revealed to be Spider @-@ Man 's nemesis the Green Goblin , Peter even attempts to give up his costumed identity for a while . Gwen Stacy 's father , New York City Police detective captain George Stacy is accidentally killed during a battle between Spider @-@ Man and Doctor Octopus (# 90 , Nov. 1970) .

In issue # 121 (June 1973) , the Green Goblin throws Gwen Stacy from a tower of either the Brooklyn Bridge (as depicted in the art) or the George Washington Bridge (as given in the text) . She dies during Spider @-@ Man 's rescue attempt ; a note on the letters page of issue # 125 states : " It saddens us to say that the whiplash effect she underwent when Spidey 's webbing stopped her so suddenly was , in fact , what killed her . " The following issue , the Goblin appears to kill himself accidentally in the ensuing battle with Spider @-@ Man .

Working through his grief , Parker eventually develops tentative feelings toward Watson , and the two " become confidants rather than lovers " . A romantic relationship eventually develops , with Parker proposing to her in issue # 182 (July 1978) , and being turned down an issue later . Parker went on to graduate from college in issue # 185 , and becomes involved with the shy Debra Whitman and the extroverted , flirtatious costumed thief Felicia Hardy , the Black Cat , whom he meets in issue # 194 (July 1979) .

From 1984 to 1988 , Spider @-@ Man wore a black costume with a white spider design on his chest . The new costume originated in the Secret Wars limited series , on an alien planet where Spider @-@ Man participates in a battle between Earth 's major superheroes and villains . He continues wearing the costume when he returns , starting in The Amazing Spider @-@ Man # 252 . The change to a longstanding character 's design met with controversy , " with many hardcore comics fans decrying it as tantamount to sacrilege . Spider @-@ Man 's traditional red and blue costume was iconic , they argued , on par with those of his D.C. rivals Superman and Batman . " The creators then revealed the costume was an alien symbiote which Spider @-@ Man is able to reject after a difficult struggle , though the symbiote returns several times as Venom for revenge .

Parker proposes to Watson a second time in The Amazing Spider @-@ Man # 290 (July 1987) , and she accepts two issues later , with the wedding taking place in The Amazing Spider @-@ Man Annual # 21 (1987) . It was promoted with a real @-@ life mock wedding using models , including Tara Shannon as Watson , with Stan Lee officiating at the June 5 , 1987 , event at Shea Stadium . However , David Michelinie , who scripted based on a plot by editor @-@ in @-@ chief Jim Shooter , said in 2007 , " I didn 't think they actually should [have gotten] married . ... I had actually planned another version , one that wasn 't used . "

In a controversial storyline , Peter becomes convinced that Ben Reilly , the Scarlet Spider (a clone of Peter created by his college professor Miles Warren) is the real Peter Parker , and that he , Peter , is the clone . Peter gives up the Spider @-@ Man identity to Reilly for a time , until Reilly is killed by the returning Green Goblin and revealed to be the clone after all . In stories published in 2005 and 2006 (such as " The Other ") , he develops additional spider @-@ like abilities including biological web @-@ shooters , toxic stingers that extend from his forearms , the ability to stick individuals to his back , enhanced Spider @-@ sense and night vision , and increased strength and speed . Peter later becomes a member of the New Avengers , and reveals his civilian identity to the world , furthering his already numerous problems . His marriage to Mary Jane and public unmasking are later erased in another controversial storyline " One More Day " , in a Faustian bargain with the demon Mephisto , resulting in several adjustments to the timeline , such as the resurrection of Harry Osborn , the erasure of Parker 's marriage , and the return of his traditional tools and powers .

That storyline came at the behest of editor @-@ in @-@ chief Joe Quesada , who said , " Peter being single is an intrinsic part of the very foundation of the world of Spider @-@ Man " . It caused unusual public friction between Quesada and writer J. Michael Straczynski , who " told Joe that I was going to take my name off the last two issues of the [story] arc " but was talked out of doing so

. At issue with Straczynski 's climax to the arc , Quesada said , was

 ... that we didn 't receive the story and methodology to the resolution that we were all expecting . What made that very problematic is that we had four writers and artists well underway on [the sequel arc] " Brand New Day " that were expecting and needed " One More Day " to end in the way that we had all agreed it would . ... The fact that we had to ask for the story to move back to its original intent understandably made Joe upset and caused some major delays and page increases in the series . Also , the science that Joe was going to apply to the retcon of the marriage would have made over 30 years of Spider @-@ Man books worthless , because they never would have had happened . ... [I] t would have reset way too many things outside of the Spider @-@ Man titles . We just couldn 't go there ....

 Following the " reboot " , Parker 's identity was no longer known to the general public ; however , he revealed it to other superheroes. and others have deduced it . Parker 's Aunt May marries J. Jonah Jameson 's father , Jay Jameson . Parker became an employee of the think @-@ tank Horizon Labs . In issue # 700 , the dying supervillain Doctor Octopus swaps bodies with Parker , who remains as a presence in Doctor Octopus 's mind , prompting a two @-@ year storyline in the series The Superior Spider @-@ Man in which Peter Parker is absent and Doctor Octopus is Spider @-@ Man . Peter eventually regains control of his body . Following Peter Parker 's return , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man was relaunched in April 2014 . In December 2014 , following the Death of Wolverine comic book , Spider @-@ Man became the new headmaster of the Jean Grey School and began appearing more prominently in X @-@ Men stories , taking Wolverine 's role in the comic Wolverine and the X @-@ Men .

= = Personality = =

 As one contemporaneous journalist observed , " Spider @-@ Man has a terrible identity problem , a marked inferiority complex , and a fear of women . He is anti @-@ social , [sic] castration @-@ ridden , racked with Oedipal guilt , and accident @-@ prone ... [a] functioning neurotic " . Agonizing over his choices , always attempting to do right , he is nonetheless viewed with suspicion by the authorities , who seem unsure as to whether he is a helpful vigilante or a clever criminal .

 Notes cultural historian Bradford W. Wright ,

 Spider @-@ Man 's plight was to be misunderstood and persecuted by the very public that he swore to protect . In the first issue of The Amazing Spider @-@ Man , J. Jonah Jameson , publisher of the Daily Bugle , launches an editorial campaign against the " Spider @-@ Man menace . " The resulting negative publicity exacerbates popular suspicions about the mysterious Spider @-@ Man and makes it impossible for him to earn any more money by performing . Eventually , the bad press leads the authorities to brand him an outlaw . Ironically , Peter finally lands a job as a photographer for Jameson 's Daily Bugle .

 The mid @-@ 1960s stories reflected the political tensions of the time , as early 1960s Marvel stories had often dealt with the Cold War and Communism . As Wright observes ,

 From his high @-@ school beginnings to his entry into college life , Spider @-@ Man remained the superhero most relevant to the world of young people . Fittingly , then , his comic book also contained some of the earliest references to the politics of young people . In 1968 , in the wake of actual militant student demonstrations at Columbia University , Peter Parker finds himself in the midst of similar unrest at his Empire State University .... Peter has to reconcile his natural sympathy for the students with his assumed obligation to combat lawlessness as Spider @-@ Man . As a law @-@ upholding liberal , he finds himself caught between militant leftism and angry conservatives .

= = Powers , skills , and equipment = =

 A bite from a radioactive spider triggers mutations in Peter Parker 's body , granting him superpowers . In the original Lee @-@ Ditko stories , Spider @-@ Man has the ability to cling to walls , superhuman strength , a sixth sense (" spider @-@ sense ") that alerts him to danger , perfect balance and equilibrium , as well as superhuman speed and agility . The character was

originally conceived by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko as intellectually gifted , but later writers have depicted his intellect at genius level . Academically brilliant , Parker has expertise in the fields of applied science , chemistry , physics , biology , engineering , mathematics , and mechanics . With his talents , he sews his own costume to conceal his identity , and he constructs many devices that complement his powers , most notably mechanical web @-@ shooters . This mechanism ejects an advanced adhesive , releasing web @-@ fluid in a variety of configurations , including a single rope @-@ like strand to swing from , a net to snare or bind enemies , and a simple glob to foul machinery or blind an opponent . He can also weave the web material into simple forms like a shield , a spherical protection or hemispherical barrier , a club , or a hang @-@ glider wing . Other equipment include spider @-@ tracers (spider @-@ shaped adhesive homing beacons keyed to his own spider @-@ sense) , a light beacon which can either be used as a flashlight or project a " Spider @-@ Signal " design , and a specially modified camera that can take pictures automatically .

= = Other versions = =

Due to Spider @-@ Man 's popularity in the mainstream Marvel Universe , publishers have been able to introduce different variations of Spider @-@ Man outside of mainstream comics as well as reimagined stories in many other multiversed spinoffs such as Ultimate Spider @-@ Man , Spider @-@ Man 2099 , and Spider @-@ Man : India . Marvel has also made its own parodies of Spider @-@ Man in comics such as Not Brand Echh , which was published in the late 1960s and featured such characters as Peter Pooper alias Spidey @-@ Man , and Peter Porker , the Spectacular Spider @-@ Ham , who appeared in the 1980s . The fictional character has also inspired a number of deratives such as a manga version of Spider @-@ Man drawn by Japanese artist Ryoichi Ikegami as well as Hideshi Hino 's The Bug Boy , which has been cited as inspired by Spider @-@ Man . Also the French comic Télé @-@ Junior , which published strips based on popular TV series , produced original Spider @-@ Man adventures in the late 1970s ; artists included Gérald Forton , who later moved to America and worked for Marvel .

= = Supporting characters = =

Spider @-@ Man has had a large range of supporting characters introduced in the comics that are essential in the issues and storylines that star him . After his parents died , Peter Parker was raised by his loving aunt , May Parker , and his uncle and father figure , Ben Parker . After Uncle Ben is murdered by a burglar , Aunt May is virtually Peter 's only family , and she and Peter are very close .

J. Jonah Jameson is depicted as the publisher of the Daily Bugle and is Peter Parker 's boss and as a harsh critic of Spider @-@ Man , always saying negative things about the superhero in the newspaper . Despite his role as Jameson 's publishing editor and confidant Robbie Robertson is always depicted as a supporter of both Peter Parker and Spider @-@ Man .
Eugene " Flash " Thompson is commonly depicted as Parker 's high school tormentor and bully , but in later comic issues he becomes a friend to Peter . Meanwhile , Harry Osborn , son of Norman Osborn , is most commonly recognized as Peter 's best friend but has also been depicted sometimes as his rival in the comics .
Peter Parker 's romantic interests range between his first crush , the fellow high @-@ school student Liz Allan , to having his first date with Betty Brant , the secretary to the Daily Bugle newspaper publisher J. Jonah Jameson . After his breakup with Betty Brant , Parker eventually falls in love with his college girlfriend Gwen Stacy , daughter of New York City Police Department detective captain George Stacy , both of whom are later killed by supervillain enemies of Spider @-@ Man . Mary Jane Watson eventually became Peter 's best friend and then his wife . Felicia Hardy , the Black Cat , is a reformed cat burglar who had been Spider @-@ Man 's girlfriend and partner at one point .

= = = Enemies = = =

Writers and artists over the years have established a rogues gallery of supervillains to face Spider @-@ Man . In comics and in other media . As with the hero , the majority of the villains ' powers originate with scientific accidents or the misuse of scientific technology , and many have animal @-@ themed costumes or powers . Examples are listed down below in the ordering of their original chronological appearance : Note : Alter ego characters who are the most high profile in the supervillain alias but others have shared that supervillain name are in bold . Indicates a group team .

= = = = Archenemies = = = =

Unlike a lot of well known rivalries in comics book depictions . Spider @-@ Man is cited to have more than one archenemy and it can be debated or disputed as to which one is worse :
^ Doctor Octopus is regarded as one of Spider @-@ Man 's worst enemies and archenemy . He has been cited as the man Peter might have become if he had not been raised with a sense of responsibility . He is infamous for defeating him the first time in battle and for almost marrying Peter 's Aunt May . He is the core leader of the Sinister Six and has also referred himself as the " Master Planner " . (" If This Be My Destiny ... ! ") Later depictions revealed him in Peter Parker 's body where he was the titular character for a while .
^ Norman Osborn using the Green Goblin alias is also commonly described as Spider @-@ Man 's archenemy . Mostly after he is responsible for setting up the death of Spider @-@ Man 's girlfriend in one of the most famous Spider @-@ Man stories of all time which helped end the Silver Age of Comic Books and begin the Bronze Age of Comic Books . He was thought to be dead after that but writers help bring him back from the 1990s and he returned to plague Spider @-@ Man once more in the comic books (such as being involved of the killing of Aunt May) and other heroes (such as the Avengers) . He is also a enemy of Spider @-@ Man sometimes just as Norman and not just only as the Green Goblin .
^ Another character commonly described as archenemy is Venom . Eddie Brock as Venom is commonly described as the mirror version or the evil version of Spider @-@ Man in many ways . Venom 's goals is usually depicted as trying to ruin Spider @-@ Man 's life and mess with Spider @-@ Man 's head when it comes to targeting enemies . He is one of the few villains depicted as unbeatable to Spider @-@ Man without a few weaknesses . Venom is also one of the most popular Spider @-@ Man villains . This popularity has led him to be an established iconic character of his own with own comic book stories .

= = Cultural influence = =

In The Creation of Spider @-@ Man , comic book writer @-@ editor and historian Paul Kupperberg calls the character 's superpowers " nothing too original " ; what was original was that outside his secret identity , he was a " nerdy high school student " . Going against typical superhero fare , Spider @-@ Man included " heavy doses of soap @-@ opera and elements of melodrama " . Kupperberg feels that Lee and Ditko had created something new in the world of comics : " the flawed superhero with everyday problems " . This idea spawned a " comics revolution " . The insecurity and anxieties in Marvel 's early 1960s comic books such as The Amazing Spider @-@ Man , The Incredible Hulk , and X @-@ Men ushered in a new type of superhero , very different from the certain and all @-@ powerful superheroes before them , and changed the public 's perception of them . Spider @-@ Man has become one of the most recognizable fictional characters in the world , and has been used to sell toys , games , cereal , candy , soap , and many other products .
Spider @-@ Man has become Marvel 's flagship character , and has often been used as the company mascot . When Marvel became the first comic book company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1991 , the Wall Street Journal announced " Spider @-@ Man is coming to Wall Street " ; the event was in turn promoted with an actor in a Spider @-@ Man costume

accompanying Stan Lee to the Stock Exchange . Since 1962 , hundreds of millions of comics featuring the character have been sold around the world .

Spider @-@ Man joined the Macy 's Thanksgiving Day Parade from 1987 to 1998 as one of the balloon floats , designed by John Romita Sr. , one of the character 's signature artists . A new , different Spider @-@ Man balloon float is scheduled to appear from at least 2009 to 2011 .

When Marvel wanted to issue a story dealing with the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks , the company chose the December 2001 issue of The Amazing Spider @-@ Man . In 2006 , Spider @-@ Man garnered major media coverage with the revelation of the character 's secret identity , an event detailed in a full page story in the New York Post before the issue containing the story was even released .

In 2008 , Marvel announced plans to release a series of educational comics the following year in partnership with the United Nations , depicting Spider @-@ Man alongside UN Peacekeeping Forces to highlight UN peacekeeping missions . A BusinessWeek article listed Spider @-@ Man as one of the top ten most intelligent fictional characters in American comics .

Rapper Eminem has cited Spider @-@ Man as one of his favorite comic book superheroes .

In 2015 , the Supreme Court of the United States decided Kimble v. Marvel Entertainment , LLC , a case concerning royalties on a patent for an imitation web @-@ shooter . The opinion for the Court , by Justice Elena Kagan , included several Spider @-@ Man references , concluding with the statement that " with great power there must also come ? great responsibility " .

= = = Reception = = =

Spider @-@ Man is well received as a comic book character , always appearing as one of the greatest comic book characters or superheroes of all time and almost always being the top Marvel Comics character . Spider @-@ Man was declared the number one superhero on Bravo 's Ultimate Super Heroes , Vixens , and Villains TV series in 2005 . Empire magazine placed him as the fifth @-@ greatest comic book character of all time . Wizard magazine placed Spider @-@ Man as the third greatest comic book character on their website . In 2011 , Spider @-@ Man placed third on IGN 's Top 100 Comic Book Heroes of All Time , behind DC Comics characters Superman and Batman. and sixth in their 2012 list of " The Top 50 Avengers " . In 2014 , IGN identified Spider @-@ Man the greatest Marvel Comics character of all time . A 2015 poll at Comic Book Resources named Spider @-@ Man the greatest Marvel character of all time . IGN described him as the common everyman that represents many normal people but also noting his uniqueness compared to many top @-@ tiered superheroes with his many depicted flaws as a superhero . IGN also noted that despite being one of the most tragic superheroes of all time that he is " one of the most fun and snarky superheroes in existence . " Empire noted and praised that despite the many tragedies that Spider @-@ Man faces that he retains his sense of humour at all times with his witty wisecracks . The magazine website also praised the depiction of his " iconic " superhero poses describing it as " a top artist 's dream " .

George Marston of Newsarama placed Spider @-@ Man 's origin story as the greatest origin story of all time opining that " Spider @-@ Man 's origin combines all of the most classic aspects of pathos , tragedy and scientific wonder into the perfect blend for a superhero origin . "

= = = Real @-@ life Spider @-@ Men = = =

Real @-@ life " Spider @-@ Men " include :

In 1981 , skyscraper @-@ safety activist Dan Goodwin , wearing a Spider @-@ Man suit , scaled the Sears Tower in Chicago , Illinois , the Renaissance Tower in Dallas , Texas , and the John Hancock Center in Chicago , Illinois .

Alain Robert , nicknamed " Spider @-@ Man " , is a rock and urban climber who has scaled more than 70 tall buildings using his hands and feet , without using additional devices . He sometimes wears a Spider @-@ Man suit during his climbs . In May 2003 , he was paid approximately $ 18 @,@ 000 to climb the 312 @-@ foot (95 m) Lloyd 's building to promote the premiere of the movie

Spider @-@ Man on the British television channel Sky Movies .

'The Human Spider ' , alias Bill Strother , scaled the Lamar Building in Augusta , Georgia in 1921 .

Fathers 4 Justice member David Chick used a Spider @-@ Man outfit to obtain publicity for fathers ' rights in London .

Sonchai Yoosabai , a firefighter in Thailand , is considered a real @-@ life Spider @-@ Man . He rescued an 8 @-@ year @-@ old boy with autism from falling off the ledge of a building by scaling it with no ropes and then rescuing the boy .

= = = Awards = = =

From the character 's inception , Spider @-@ Man stories have won numerous awards , including :

1962 Alley Award : Best Short Story ? " Origin of Spider @-@ Man " by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko , Amazing Fantasy # 15

1963 Alley Award : Best Comic : Adventure Hero title ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1963 Alley Award : Top Hero ? Spider @-@ Man

1964 Alley Award : Best Adventure Hero Comic Book ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1964 Alley Award : Best Giant Comic ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man Annual # 1

1964 Alley Award : Best Hero ? Spider @-@ Man

1965 Alley Award : Best Adventure Hero Comic Book ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1965 Alley Award : Best Hero ? Spider @-@ Man

1966 Alley Award : Best Comic Magazine : Adventure Book with the Main Character in the Title ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1966 Alley Award : Best Full @-@ Length Story ? " How Green was My Goblin " , by Stan Lee & John Romita , Sr. , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man # 39

1967 Alley Award : Best Comic Magazine : Adventure Book with the Main Character in the Title ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1967 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Costumed or Powered Hero ? Spider @-@ Man

1967 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Male Normal Supporting Character ? J. Jonah Jameson , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1967 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Female Normal Supporting Character ? Mary Jane Watson , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1968 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Adventure Hero Strip ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1968 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Supporting Character ? J. Jonah Jameson , The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1969 Alley Award Popularity Poll : Best Adventure Hero Strip ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man

1997 Eisner Award : Best Artist / Penciller / Inker or Penciller / Inker Team ? 1997 Al Williamson , Best Inker : Untold Tales of Spider @-@ Man # 17 @-@ 18

2002 Eisner Award : Best Serialized Story ? The Amazing Spider @-@ Man vol . 2 , # 30 ? 35 : " Coming Home " , by J. Michael Straczynski , John Romita , Jr . , and Scott Hanna

= = In other media = =

Spider @-@ Man has appeared in comics , cartoons , films , video games , coloring books , novels , records , and children 's books . On television , he first starred in the ABC animated series Spider @-@ Man (1967 ? 1970) and the CBS live @-@ action series The Amazing Spider @-@ Man (1978 ? 1979) , starring Nicholas Hammond . Other animated series featuring the superhero include the syndicated Spider @-@ Man (1981 ? 1982) , Spider @-@ Man and His Amazing Friends (1981 ? 1983) , Fox Kids ' Spider @-@ Man (1994 ? 1998) , Spider @-@ Man Unlimited (1999 ? 2000) , Spider @-@ Man : The New Animated Series (2003) , and The Spectacular Spider @-@ Man (2008 ? 2009) . A new animated series titled Ultimate Spider @-@ Man , starring Drake Bell , premiered on Disney XD on April 1 , 2012 .

A tokusatsu series featuring Spider @-@ Man was produced by Toei and aired in Japan . It is commonly referred to by its Japanese pronunciation " Supaid? @-@ Man " . Spider @-@ Man also

appeared in other print forms besides the comics , including novels , children 's books , and the daily newspaper comic strip The Amazing Spider @-@ Man , which debuted in January 1977 , with the earliest installments written by Stan Lee and drawn by John Romita , Sr. Spider @-@ Man has been adapted to other media including games , toys , collectibles , and miscellaneous memorabilia , and has appeared as the main character in numerous computer and video games on over 15 gaming platforms .

Spider @-@ Man was also featured in a trilogy of live @-@ action films directed by Sam Raimi and starring Tobey Maguire as the titular superhero . The first Spider @-@ Man film of the trilogy was released on May 3 , 2002 ; its sequel , Spider @-@ Man 2 , was released on June 30 , 2004 and the next sequel , Spider @-@ Man 3 , was released on May 4 , 2007 . A third sequel was originally scheduled to be released in 2011 , however Sony later decided to reboot the franchise with a new director and cast . The reboot , titled The Amazing Spider @-@ Man , was released on July 3 , 2012 ; directed by Marc Webb and starring Andrew Garfield as the new Spider @-@ Man . A sequel titled The Amazing Spider @-@ Man 2 was released on May 2 , 2014 . Most recently , Sony and Disney have made a deal for Spider @-@ Man to appear in the Marvel Cinematic Universe . Tom Holland made his debut as Spider @-@ Man in the 2016 MCU film Captain America : Civil War , before he is scheduled to star in Spider @-@ Man : Homecoming in 2017 , directed by Jon Watts .

A Broadway musical , Spider @-@ Man : Turn Off the Dark , began previews on November 14 , 2010 at the Foxwoods Theatre on Broadway , with the official opening night on June 14 , 2011 . The music and lyrics were written by Bono and The Edge of the rock group U2 , with a book by Julie Taymor , Glen Berger , Roberto Aguirre @-@ Sacasa . Turn Off the Dark is currently the most expensive musical in Broadway history , costing an estimated $ 70 million . In addition , the show 's unusually high running costs are reported to be about $ 1 @.@ 2 million per week .