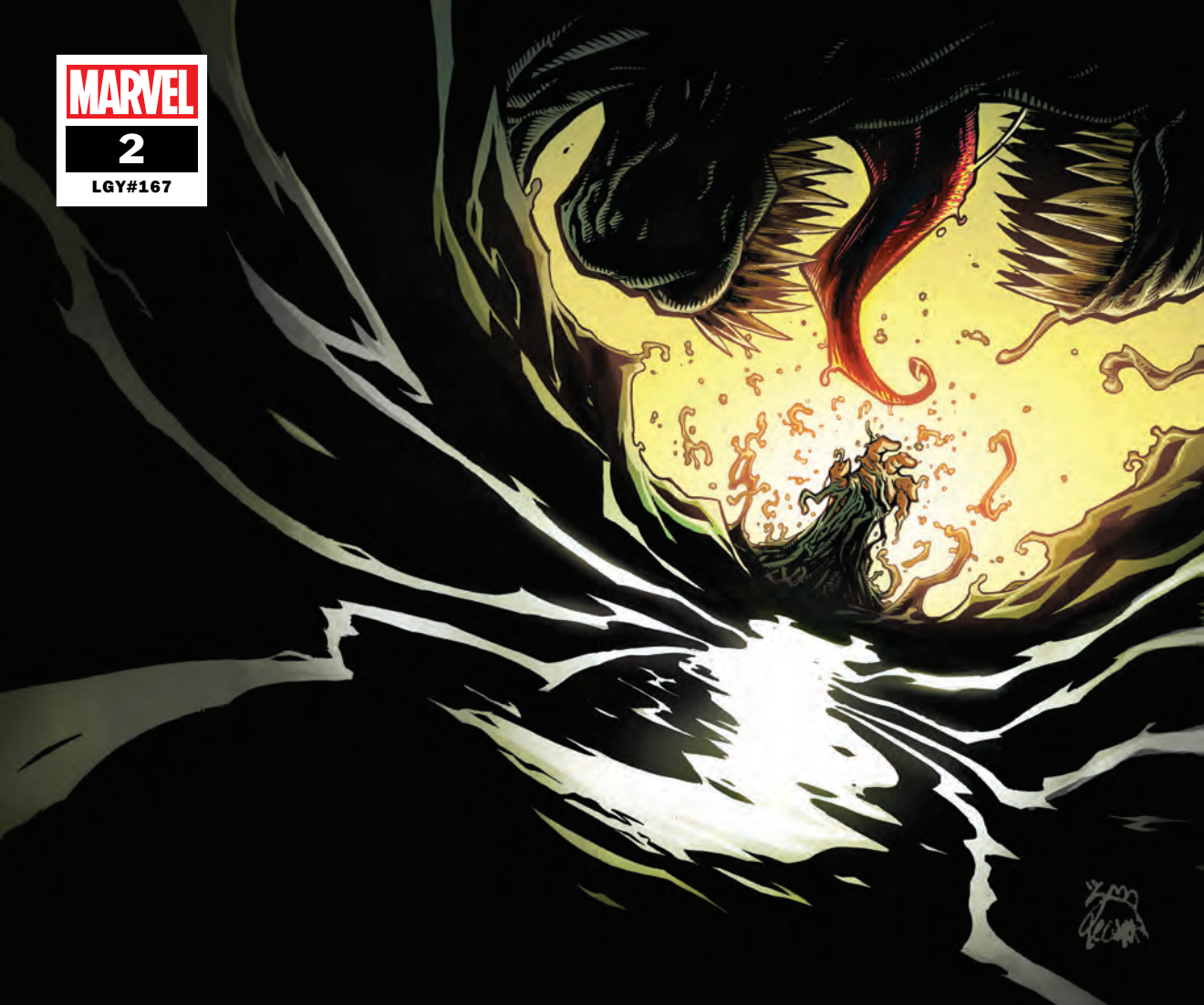


**MARVEL**

**2**

**LGY#167**



*Frank Martin*

# VENOM

**DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN**

RATED T+  
\$3.99 US



**BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!**

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

AFTER DISCOVERING IT INTENDED TO MAKE THEIR UNION PERMANENT, HE REJECTED THE CREATURE, WHICH SOON FOUND A NEW HOST IN DISGRACED REPORTER **EDDIE BROCK**.

THEIR UNION GRANTED EDDIE POWERS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER UNIQUE ABILITIES. TOGETHER, THEY NOW FIGHT CRIME AS THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED...

# VENOM

A DARKNESS HAS AWAKENED IN EDDIE BROCK'S ALIEN SYMBIOTE. IN RECENT WEEKS, IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO CONTROL AND HAS EVEN DISOBEYED ITS HUMAN HOST.

DURING AN INADVERTENT CONFLICT WITH THE VILLAINOUS JACK O'LANTERN, THE SYMBIOTE BECAME EXCEPTIONALLY VIOLENT AND SPOKE ALOUD IN A LANGUAGE EDDIE HAS NEVER HEARD BEFORE.

ONLY AFTER BEING AMBUSHED BY A MAN NAMED **REX STRICKLAND** DID VENOM LEARN THE TRUTH — THAT HIS SYMBIOTE WAS NOT THE FIRST TO LAND ON EARTH.

REX, A FORMER SOLDIER, REVEALED THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD DISCOVERED AN ANCIENT SYMBIOTE CREATURE YEARS AGO. ALONG WITH THE OTHER MEN IN HIS PLATOON, HE VOLUNTEERED TO RECEIVE A SMALL SAMPLE OF IT.

BUT WHEN VENOM STAGED A DARING RESCUE TO SAVE REX'S SQUADMATES FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. CUSTODY, HE FOUND THAT THE MEN REX ONCE KNEW WERE ALL DEAD — COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THEIR SYMBIOTES AND GUARDING SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH WORSE...

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IT'S BEEN EIGHTEEN HOURS SINCE I SENT BROCK ON A MISSION TO SAVE MY BROTHERS.



AND TEN HOURS SINCE HE LAST MADE CONTACT.



I FEAR THE MISSION AND MY FRIENDS, ARE LOST.




THAT'S THE HEART OF ALL OF THIS, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?



ON THE INSIDE.



BENEATH THE BLACK...



AND I BEGIN TO QUESTION WHAT I HAVE DONE TRUSTING THIS MAN I HAVE NEVER MET, AND KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.



WHO IS EDDIE BROCK?



I DIG  
INTO  
HIM...

I FIND MORE QUESTIONS.

MOTHER  
DIED IN  
CHILD BIRTH.  
CATHOLIC  
AS HELL.  
ONLY CHILD.

FATHER  
WAS RICH,  
BUT LOST  
IT ALL  
AFTER  
EDDIE WAS  
INVOLVED  
IN SOME  
SORT OF  
ACCIDENT  
WHEN HE  
WAS A KID.



WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, EDDIE?



KID'S SMART.  
GOES TO  
COLLEGE.  
GETS A GIG AT  
THE DAILY  
GLOBE.  
WRITES ABOUT  
MURDER.

UNSOLVED  
STUFF.  
SERIAL  
KILLERS.  
THAT KIND  
OF THING.

WHY ARE YOU SO ATTRACTED TO THIS STUFF?



ONE DAY HE  
WRITES THE  
WRONG THING  
ABOUT THE  
WRONG GUY.  
GETS  
@#%\*-CANNED  
FROM THE  
PAPER.

FALLS OFF  
THE FACE OF  
THE EARTH.

WHERE DID YOU GO?

SHOWS BACK  
UP WITH A SLICK  
NEW ALIEN  
COSTUME.  
CALLS HIMSELF  
VENOM.

A SUPER  
VILLAIN IN NEW  
YORK TRYING  
TO KILL  
SPIDER-MAN.



WHY HIM? WHAT THE HELL DID SPIDER-MAN DO TO YOU?



BUT BLINK  
AN EYE, AND  
NOW HE'S A  
GOOD GUY  
IN SAN  
FRANCISCO  
TRYING TO  
PROTECT  
PEOPLE.

WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH FOR THE INNOCENT?

LOTS MORE THINGS LIKE THAT, IN BETWEEN AND AFTER.

CANCER.

ANTI-VENOM.

CARNAGE.

TOXIN.



BORN AND UNBORN AND REBORN.

OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

MAYBE THAT'S THE REAL STORY OF EDWARD ALLAN BROCK...

...THE MAN OF A THOUSAND SECOND CHANCES.



THE COMEBACK KING.