

YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE, AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS, THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAS RETURNED TO EARTH, BUT WAS SEPARATED FROM ITS HOST, FLASH THOMPSON, IN THE PROCESS.

WEAKENED BY THIS SEPARATION AND DESPERATE FOR A NEW HOST, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH LEE PRICE, A FORMER ARMY RANGER. THANKS TO HIS MILITARY TRAINING, LEE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPOSE HIS WILL UPON THE CREATURE. HE HOPED TO SECRETLY USE THE SYMBIOTE TO HIS ADVANTAGE TO GAIN THE FAVOR OF THE BLACK CAT AS SHE WORKS TO BECOME NEW YORK'S KINGPIN OF CRIME.

WHILE BLACK CAT MAY NOT KNOW THAT LEE IS IN POSSESSION OF THE VENOM SYMBIOTE, TWO FBI AGENTS ARE FULLY AWARE OF HIS SITUATION, AND ARE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO CAPITALIZE ON IT...

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"DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE, LEE."



"WAS CAPTURED HERE BEFORE. HELD PRISONER."



THAT'S WHY THOSE FBI STOOGES **CHOSE** THIS PLACE.

THEY KNEW I WOULDN'T RISK TRANSFORMING INTO A SLOBBERING MONSTER ON SPIDER-MAN'S **FRONT PORCH.**



DON'T LIKE BEING PRISONER.

YOU MAKE ME PRISONER, LEE.



SHUT UP. ONE OF THEM IS COMING.

AND DIDN'T YOU USED TO SOUND A LOT SMARTER?



WHERE'S YOUR PARTNER?

HE SAID IT WAS **MY** TURN TO RISK MY LIFE.



WE KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS YOU HAVE INSIDE OF YOU.

SO DO I. I TALK TO IT EVERY DAY.



YOU'RE NOT HEARING ME. THAT THING SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN GOVERNMENT CAPTIVITY. WE'RE **STUDIED** IT. WE KNOW ITS WEAKNESSES--



AND I CAN PULL YOUR LUNGS OUT THROUGH YOUR RIB CAGE. EXCEPT I WON'T, BECAUSE THEN I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT **SPIDER-MAN**, AND YOU WON'T DO ANY OF THE THINGS YOU'RE SAYING, BECAUSE YOU **CAN'T**.

NOT UNTIL I DO WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED ME TO DO. SO JUST GET TO THE POINT.



HERE'S THE POINT. WE RESEARCHED THAT THING YOU'RE WEARING. WE KNOW IT HAS A **BIO-ORGANIC MEMORY**.

WE WANT YOU TO TELL US WHO **SPIDER-MAN** IS.



YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.



HOW THE HELL WOULD I EVEN KNOW WHO SPIDER-MAN IS?

IT'S LIKE I SAID. THAT THING HAS A MEMORY. IT CAN THINK. IT WAS BONDED WITH SPIDER-MAN, SO IT KNOWS WHO SPIDER-MAN IS.

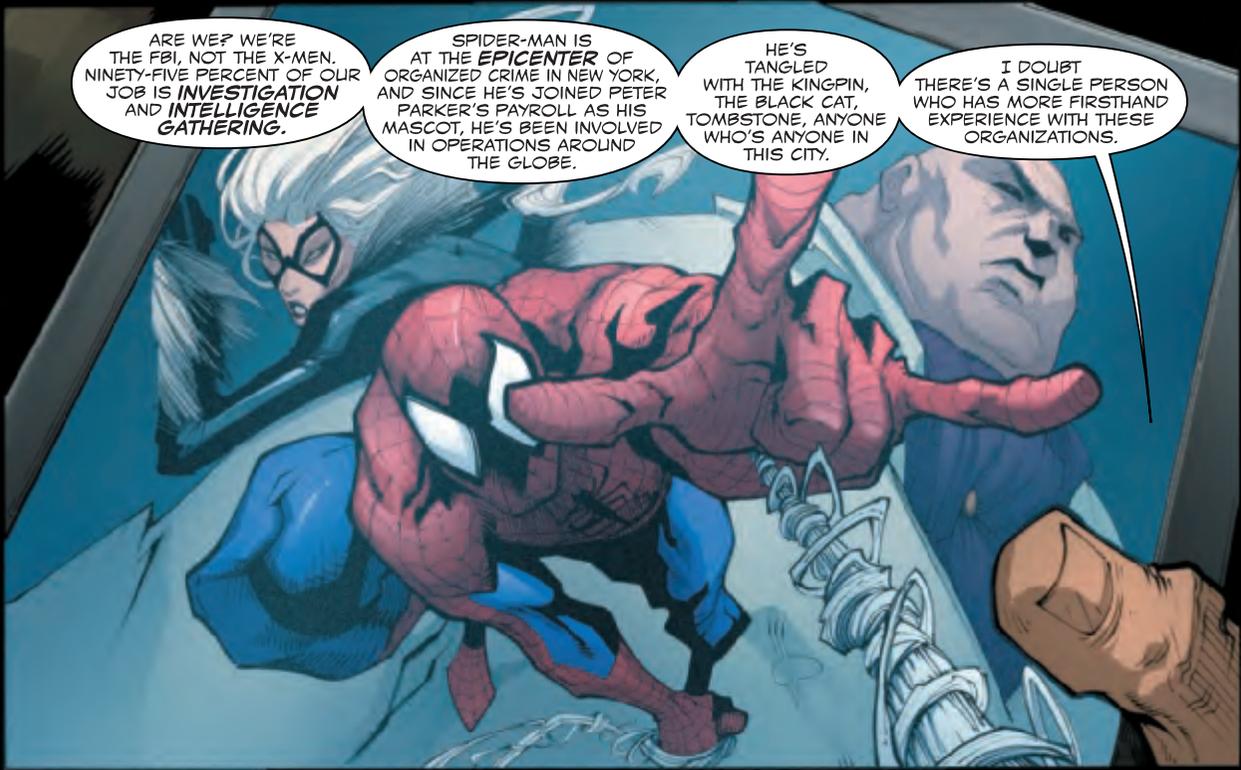


DO YOU KNOW?

I DON'T THINK SO, LEE.



WHY SPIDER-MAN? AREN'T YOU GUYS ON THE SAME TEAM?



ARE WE? WE'RE THE FBI, NOT THE X-MEN. NINETY-FIVE PERCENT OF OUR JOB IS INVESTIGATION AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.

SPIDER-MAN IS AT THE EPICENTER OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN NEW YORK, AND SINCE HE'S JOINED PETER PARKER'S PAYROLL AS HIS MASCOT, HE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE.

HE'S TANGLED WITH THE KINGPIN, THE BLACK CAT, TOMSTONE, ANYONE WHO'S ANYONE IN THIS CITY.

I DOUBT THERE'S A SINGLE PERSON WHO HAS MORE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS.



BUT DOES HE BRING THAT INFORMATION TO US? OF COURSE NOT. HE WANTS TO PLAY GAMES IN HIS PAJAMAS. AND NOW HE'S PROTECTED BY A MILLIONAIRE AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHEER FOR HIM.

YOU GIVE US HIS NAME, AND HE WON'T BE SO PROTECTED ANYMORE.

