

AS A CHILD, JESSICA DREW'S FATHER RESCUED HER FROM A FATAL ILLNESS USING A SERUM OF SPIDER BLOOD. THE CONCOCTION NOT ONLY CURED HER, BUT GRANTED HER ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, ENHANCED AGILITY AND SPEED, AND THE ABILITY TO FIRE BIOKINETIC "VENOM BLASTS" FROM HER FINGERTIPS. SHE HAS WORKED AS AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF HYDRA, AND A SPY, BUT YOU CAN CALL HER...

SPIDER-WOMAN

JESSICA DREW IS THE MASTER OF MULTITASKING: SHE'S A SINGLE MOM, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, AND A SUPER HERO! LUCKILY SHE HAS *DAILY BUGLE* REPORTER BEN URICH AND REFORMED CRIMINAL ROGER GOCKING--A.K.A. THE PORCUPINE--TO HELP HER OUT WITH EVERYTHING FROM DIRTY DIAPERS TO SUPER VILLAINS.

THOUGH ROGER TRIED TO LEAVE HIS CRIMINAL LIFE BEHIND, HE COULDN'T ESCAPE COMPLETELY. THE PORCUPINE WAS A FRANCHISEE OF THE HOBGOBLIN, TO WHOM ROGER OWED A DEBT--WHICH HE PAID WITH HIS LIFE! WHEN JESSICA DISCOVERED THAT ROGER HAD BEEN KILLED, SHE WAS LEFT HEARTBROKEN...AND COMMITTED TO AVENGING HIS DEATH.

HOWEVER, WITH ONLY RETRIBUTION ON HER MIND, JESS GOT IN OVER HER HEAD...UNTIL A MYSTERIOUS STRANGER STEPPED IN: ROGER HIMSELF! HE'D FAKED HIS OWN DEATH AND KEPT AN EYE ON HER FROM AFAR, AND THE ONLY THING JESS NEEDED TO MOURN WAS HIS BEARD [R.I.P. ROGER'S BEARD]. OVERJOYED AT HIS SURVIVAL, JESS FINALLY GAVE IN TO HER FEELINGS FOR HIM AND GAVE ROGER A BIG ONE RIGHT ON THE LIPS--BUT THE ROMANCE ONLY LASTED UNTIL THE HOBGOBLIN CAME BACK TO COLLECT...



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I'M UPSIDE DOWN, MAN.

JESSICA DREW JUST KISSED MY FRIGGIN' MOUTH.

BRAIN'S BURNING UP FROM IT STILL. CAN'T HELP IT.

CAN'T STOP SMILING.

SHE TURNED HER HEAD, SMASHED HER FACE INTO MINE AND LIKE--

--SMOOCHED ME FOR REAL.

THINK I CAN DIE HAPPY NOW.



AND SEEING AS HOW I'M DANGLING DOWN UNDER HOBGOBLIN'S GLIDER--

--HEADED FOR WHATEVER TORTURE HE'S GOT COOKED UP--

--DYING HAPPY MIGHT BE THE BEST OL' PORCUPINE CAN HOPE FOR.



ARE YOU ABOUT READY FOR THE END OF OUR PARTNERSHIP, ROGER?

I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, HOBGOBLIN, MAN. BUT I GOTTA KINDA DOUBT.

HEH HEH HEH...

MUST BE SMARTER THAN YOU LOOK, GOCKING.

IT'S LIKE I TOLD JESS: IF HOBGOBLIN WANTS ME DEAD...



...HE'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.

PROBLEM IS, I'M NOT SO SURE IT'S ABOUT ME THIS TIME.

SPIDER-WOMAN HAS BEEN UP IN HIS BUSINESS ALL WEEK, MAN. HITTING HIS FRANCHISEES. ROOTING HIM OUT LIKE SHE DOES.

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT...

...THE MORE IT SEEMS LIKE I'M NOT THE FISH HERE.

JUST THE BAIT.



LAST I SAW, JESS WAS LYING BELLY DOWN ON THE BLACKTOP...

...WATCHING MY HELPLESS BUTT GET YANKED UP INTO SKY.



HER BIKE'S BEEN PUMPKIN BOMBED ALL TO HELL.

MIGHT NOT EVEN RUN.

KCHK



AND IT WAS JESS WHO TOOK THE BRUNT OF THAT CRASH.

KRAK



SHE'S BEEN IN THREE SUPER FIGHTS IN THE LAST 48 HOURS.

SCRAPPED IT UP WITH A BIG DAMNED GRIZZLY BEAR.

TWICE.

KCHK
KCHK



AND TOOK A BELLYFUL OF THOSE EXPLODING QUILLS I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO SPOOKED TO USE.

SHE'S GOTTA BE HURTING. SHE'S GOTTA BE SLOWING DOWN.

PAK PAK PAK
PAK PAK PAK
PAK PAK PAK

GIVES A GUY HOPE, YOU KNOW?

MAYBE SHE'LL STAY DOWN. SIT TIGHT.



NAH, MAN... WHO AM I TRYING TO KID?

THERE'S NO QUIT IN SPIDER-WOMAN.

WROOM



JESS WON'T PAUSE.

JESS WON'T THINK.



JESS WON'T CARE.



JESS WON'T EVEN FEEL ANY OF IT.



SHE'LL BE TOO BUSY RAGING OUT.

TEETH CLENCHED.

EYES LOCKED.

NOTHING BUT WIND AND BLOOD IN HER EARS.



TOO BUSY COMING TO SAVE ME.

DO YOU HEAR THE TERM "TIRE FIRE" TOSSED AROUND A LOT LATELY, ROGER?

BECAUSE I DO. THINK IT MIGHT BE THE NEW "HOT MESS."

THIS ALBUM IS A TIRE FIRE. THAT MOVIE WAS TIRE FIRE. THE FACT CHANNEL'S NEW YEAR'S EVE WAS A TIRE FIRE.

I'VE HEARD TWO PEOPLE DESCRIBE YOU THAT WAY JUST THIS WEEK AND WELL...

SO ANYWAY, IT GOT ME THINKING. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THIS OG FIREBUG--

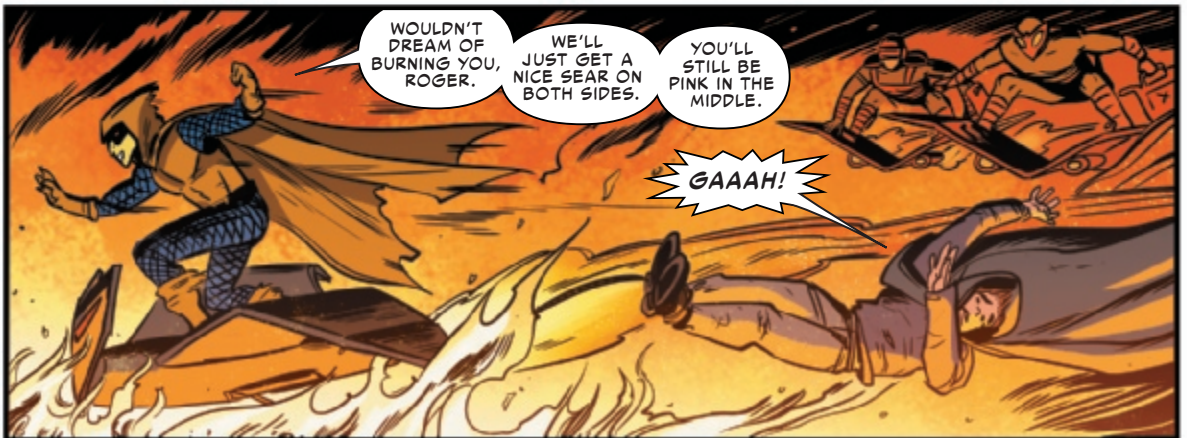


HEH HEH HEH.
--BUILT HIMSELF AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS BLAZE?



HEY! C'MON, HOBS, MAN.

DON'T BURN ME UP.



WOULDN'T DREAM OF BURNING YOU, ROGER.

WE'LL JUST GET A NICE SEAR ON BOTH SIDES.

YOU'LL STILL BE PINK IN THE MIDDLE.

GAAAHH!