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GAGE
HAWTHORNE
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BELLAIRE

THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN



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BONUS DIGITAL EDITION — DETAILS INSIDE!



THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN

OTTO OCTAVIUS! KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS AS DOCTOR OCTOPUS, OCTAVIUS HAD A LIFE-ALTERING EXPERIENCE WHEN HE SWAPPED MINDS WITH HIS SWORN ENEMY, SPIDER-MAN! BY TAKING ON SPIDER-MAN'S MISSION, OCTAVIUS ALSO ABSORBED HIS SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE REDEDICATED HIMSELF TO SELFLESS ACTS ON BEHALF OF INNOCENTS, BUT HIS SENSE OF SUPERIORITY MADE OTTO A DIFFERENT KIND OF HERO.

IN A SHORT TIME, THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN HAS PROVEN TO BE A SINGULARLY EFFECTIVE PROTECTOR OF SAN FRANCISCO. AND, WITH THE OVERSIGHT OF HIS HORIZON UNIVERSITY COLLEAGUE ANNA MARIA MARCONI, WHO BELIEVES OTTO IS WORKING TO LEAVE HIS SUPER VILLAIN PAST BEHIND, HE'S ALSO IMPROVED HIS SO-CALLED "PEOPLE SKILLS." HE'S PROGRESSED FROM A DISASTROUS DATE WITH ANOTHER COWORKER, EMMA, IN WHICH HE "OVERSHARED" HIS ENTIRE HISTORY, TO MULTIPLE SUCCESSFUL TEAM-UPS WITH LESSER, ALBEIT MORE FAMOUS, HEROES. SURELY HIS ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PANTHEON OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS IS INEVITABLE.

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...SO FOR
SAVING OUR CITY
AND ITS PEOPLE FROM
THE ALIEN THREAT
OF **TERRAX**...

...FROM THE
DEMONIC EVIL OF **MASTER
PANDEMONIUM**...

...AND, MOST
RECENTLY, FROM THE
INVADING ARMY OF FROST
GIANTS, ENSURING THAT SAN
FRANCISCO EXPERIENCED NOT
A SINGLE CASUALTY IN
THE **WAR OF THE
REALMS**...

...IT IS MY
PLEASURE AND
PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT
THE KEY TO THE CITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO TO OUR
VERY OWN FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
PROTECTOR...

...**THE
SAN FRANCISCO
SPIDER-MAN!**





**HORIZON
UNIVERSITY.**

**LAB OF DR. ELLIOT TOLLIVER.
A.K.A. THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.**

OKAY,
WHAT WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?

THERE WAS
NO EMERGENCY.
WHY'D YOU RUSH
OFF?

BAH.
I HAVE
NO STOMACH
FOR SUCH
PUFFERY.

**HORIZON
UNIVERSITY**

I ATTENDED
AT YOUR INSISTENCE,
BUT IT BECAME CLEAR THE
MAYOR WOULD DRONE ON
INTERMINABLY.

A WASTE OF
PRECIOUS TIME
I COULD DEVOTE TO
MY TEACHING OR
RESEARCH.

QUITE FRANKLY, ANNA MARIA,
I AM SURPRISED YOU PUT ANY
STOCK IN EMPTY CEREMONY
OF THAT NATURE.

I WOULDN'T
CALL IT EMPTY. THIS
CITY'S BEEN THROUGH A
LOT. THEY COULD USE
A CELEBRATION.

THEN
LET THEM
CELEBRATE.
I HAVE MORE
PRESSING CONCERNS.

BUT YOU ALWAYS WHINE ABOUT
HOW NO ONE RESPECTS YOU
OR APPRECIATES WHAT
YOU DO.

NOW YOU'VE
FINALLY GOT WHAT YOU
WANTED. WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

I...WANT
THE ABILITY TO
DO MY JOB AS WELL
AS POSSIBLE. THAT
IS ALL.



EMMA.
EXCUSE MY HASTE.
I DID NOT EXPECT
TO SEE YOU.

HELLO,
OT--UH,
ELLIOT.



DOCTOR MARCONI.
COULD YOU GIVE US
A MINUTE?

GLADLY.
FAIR WARNING:
HE'S BEING
EXTRA EXTRA
TODAY.



EMMA, I HAVE
APOLOGIZED FOR THE
EVENTS OF OUR DATE.
IF I'VE DONE ANYTHING
TO MAKE YOU FEEL
THREATENED, I'M
SORRY--

NO, OTTO.
I'M THE ONE
WHO'S HERE TO
APOLOGIZE.



YOU SAVED
THE WHOLE CITY
FROM THOSE GIANTS.
AND BEFORE THAT,
ALL THE DEMONS.
INCLUDING ME.

I KNOW I
REACTED BADLY
WHEN YOU TOLD ME
THE TRUTH ABOUT
WHO YOU ARE.

AND I STILL
HAVE...*QUESTIONS*...
ABOUT THE STUFF YOU
DID AS DOCTOR OCTOPUS
AND HOW IT SQUARES
WITH WHO YOU
ARE NOW.



BUT...
YOU'VE EARNED
THE BENEFIT OF
THE DOUBT.

CAN WE
TRY AGAIN?
A DEMON-FREE
DINNER THIS
TIME?



WHAT IS **WRONG** WITH EVERYONE?

FAWNING OVER ME AS THOUGH I'M SOME SORT OF--



I DO NOT BELIEVE ANOTHER DINNER IS IN ANYONE'S BEST INTERESTS, EMMA.

AND I SUGGEST YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT MANNER OF **DYSFUNCTION** MIGHT SPUR YOU TO DESIRE SUCH A THING.

EXCUSE ME.



I WISH TO BE **UNDISTURBED...**

...BY ANY MORE FOOLISHNESS.



OKAY, YOU DIDN'T LIE.

BUT ISN'T THAT KIND OF--

YEAH. BEYOND HIS USUAL BRAND OF WEIRD.

I'M STARTING TO THINK SOMETHING'S **REALLY WRONG...**