

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 BIO-ORGANIC WEBBING, AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



ALTHOUGH THE SYMBIOTE'S PAST EXPERIENCES AND HOSTS HAVE GIVEN IT A FODNESS FOR EARTH AND TAUGHT IT HOW TO BE A HERO, HIS NEW HOST IS BOTH AMBITIOUS AND SELFISH, PUTTING ITS REHABILITATION IN JEOPARDY. LEE IS ALSO DIFFERENT IN THAT INSTEAD OF THE SYMBIOTE CONTROLLING HIM...*HE CAN CONTROL IT.*

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VENOM No. 2, February 2017. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2016 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$9.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40968537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO VENOM, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. ALAN FINE, President, Marvel Entertainment; DAN BUCKLEY, President, TV, Publishing & Brand Management; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Operations, Publishing & Partnership; C.B. CEBULSKI, VP of Brand Management & Development, Asia; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing, Publishing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vit DeBellis, Integrated Sales Manager, at vdebells@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 11/25/2016 and 12/06/2016 by LSC COMMUNICATIONS INC., GLASGOW, KY, USA.



IT WAS WHEN I STEPPED OFF THE ELEVATOR THAT I FELT THE COLD FIST IN MY STOMACH START TO CLENCH.




I'D MANAGED TO TALK MY WAY UP TO THE FLOOR. THAT'S EASIER THAN YOU'D THINK.



THE *CASE* IS WHAT GOT ME THE REST OF THE WAY.



SOMETHING THIS VALLIABLE OPENS A LOT OF DOORS.



IT CAN
ALSO GET
YOU KILLED.



SO, THEY TELL ME THE THING LAST NIGHT WENT BAD, AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE IT OUT ALIVE.



THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT, BLACK CAT.



"SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT"? YOU WERE **THERE**. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

YEAH!



I KNOW WE WALKED INTO A SITUATION WHERE THE BUYER HAD NO INTENTION OF ACTUALLY **BUYING**, WHICH IS A FAILURE ABOVE MY PERSONAL PAY GRADE.

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S **OUR** FAULT.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I SAID I WASN'T THE ONE PAID TO SET THIS MEET UP. I WAS PAID TO **COMPLETE** IT.



I WASN'T ABLE TO DO THAT, SO I BROUGHT YOUR MERCHANDISE BACK TO YOU.

A DAY LATER, THOUGH. WHY DIDN'T YOU GET WORD TO US RIGHT AWAY?

HOW WOULD I HAVE DONE THAT? MY ONLY CONTACT TO YOU WAS KILLED IN THAT ALLEY.

IN THE ALLEY WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, AND OUR PEOPLE ON THE POLICE FORCE TELL US THAT THOSE MEN DIED OF SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN GUNSHOTS.

CARE TO TELL US WHAT YOU WERE DOING ALL NIGHT?