America's most exciting super-hero captured by the world's most dreaded super-villain!

You are helpless, Spider-Man! I warned you that the power of Doctor Octopus is far greater than yours!

Can anything that lives defeat the mighty Doctor Octopus??

A book-length super-thriller! Spider-Man faces his most powerful foe: "Dr. Octopus!"
SPIDER-MAN VERSUS Doctor OCTOPUS

THE STRANGEST FOE OF ALL TIME...

DOCTOR OCTOPUS

THE ONLY ENEMY EVER TO DEFEAT SPIDER-MAN!

IN THIS EPIC TALE... SEE THE HUMAN TORCH!

FANTASY! THRILLS!

AND NOW BEGIN!

STORY BY: STAN LEE
ART BY: STEVE DITKO
LETTERER: JOHN DUFFY

X-219
A story has to start somewhere, so let's begin with a lonely warehouse, in the dead of night, where we find a robbery taking place...

Hold it, you guys! I think I heard somethin'!

Relax, Charlie! It was probably just a mouse!

Suddenly, the most awesome image in crime-fighting appears on the wall directly above the startled thieves...

Mouse? You've never seen a mouse like this before!

Look... it--it's...

Don't be shy, fella! You can say my name! It's Spider-Man!

Get 'im! There are three of us! He can't take us all!

Ugh!

Brother, you're living in a fool's paradise!

Oof!

Minutes later...

Some big criminal mastermind you are!

Aw, shaddup! Whoever expected Spider-Man to butt in!

And, not far away...

It's almost too easy! I've run out of enemies who can give me any real opposition! I'm too powerful for any foe! I almost wish for an opponent who'd give me a run for my money!

Look, Joe! Spider-Man's been here! And how!
AND LITTLE DOES SPIDER-MAN SUSPECT THAT HIS FRIVOLOUS WISH IS ABOUT TO COME TRUE! FOR, AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

HERE COMES DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

DOCTOR OCTOPUS, WHY DO THEY CALL HIM THAT? WATCH! YOU’LL SEE IN A MINUTE!

SEE? IT’S THAT ESPECIALLY-DESIGNED CONTRAPTION HE WEARS, WHICH ENABLES HIM TO PERFORM HIS EXPERIMENTS BEHIND THE LEAD WALLS WHICH SHIELD HIM FROM RADIATION!!

HE CREATED THAT GET-UP HIMSELF, AND HE’S THE ONLY SCIENTIST PERMITTED TO WEAR IT. HE’S THE MOST BRILLIANT ATOMIC RESEARCHER IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY!

YES, SUCH A MAN IS OTTO OCTAVIUS, BETTER KNOWN TO HIS CO-WORKERS AS DOCTOR OCTOPUS! LET US WATCH AS HE CONDUCTS A NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT...

MY ARTIFICIAL EXTRA ARMS PERMIT ME TO WORK SAFELY WITH VOLATILE CHEMICALS WHICH ARE FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO TOUCH WITHOUT PROTECTION!

THOUGH OTHERS FEAR RADIATION, I ALONE AM ABLE TO MAKE IT MY SERVANT!

BUT NOTHING IS EVER PERFECT, NOT EVEN THE PROJECTS OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS! AND, AS THE UNSUSPECTING ATOMIC GENIUS CONDUCTS HIS EXPERIMENT...

LOOK! THE RADIATION-METER HAS GONE WHACKY! SOMETHING IS WRONG! THERE’S GONNA BE A BLOW UP!

SOUND THE ALARM!
But the warning, alas, is given too late! And before the alarm can be sounded...

Then, after the flames and smoke have partially cleared...

Doctor Octopus is still breathing! I hope we've reached him in time!

Even though he's alive, he's absorbed a great deal of radiation—poor guy!

In the hours that follow, after exhaustive tests...

The x-rays show an uncertain amount of brain damage! I'm afraid his mind has been permanently damaged!

We can't remove those artificial arms of his yet! The radiation has caused them to adhere to his body in some strange way!

Finally, days later, the injured scientist recovers consciousness...

What am I doing here? Let me up! I must return to my work!

No! You've been very ill! You must stay in bed! You need the rest!

But the brain of Dr. Octopus—the brain which has been damaged by radiation—reacts in a bitter way...

They're jealous of me! They want to keep me from my work! But I'll show them! I'm stronger than any of them!

The window is barred! They're trying to make a prisoner of me! The fools! No one can hold Doctor Octopus against his will! No one!
I DID IT!! MY ARMS DID IT!
THEIR STRENGTH IS INCALCULABLE!
THEY CAN DO ANYTHING!!

I’VE GOT TO BREAK THOSE BARS!

SOMEHOW, MY MECHANICAL ARMS HAVE ALMOST BECOME A PART OF ME!
THEY OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND! WITH SUCH POWER AND MY BRILLIANT MIND,
I’M THE SUPREME HUMAN BEING ON EARTH!

MINUTES LATER...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, DR. OCTOPUS?
YES! COME IN! SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND YOU!

WHAT IS IT? YOU... OH, NO! NO!
HA-HA! YOU DON’T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE? BUT IT’S TRUE! I’M ALL-POWERFUL!
FROM NOW ON, I GIVE THE COMMANDS HERE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLisher OF THE DAILY BULGLE...

I WANT PICTURES OF THE INJURED SCIENTIST, DR. OCTOPUS, BUT NO ONE IS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE BLISS PRIVATE HOSPITAL ANY MORE!

I NEVER HEARD OF ANY HOSPITAL KEEPING PEOPLE OUT! DON’T WORRY, J.J.! I’LL GET THOSE PIX FOR YOU!

MY BEST MEN HAVE TRIED AND FAILED! BUT SO FAR, YOU’VE SUCCEEDED IN EVERY ASSIGNMENT! I CAN’T IMAGINE HOW A TEENAGER LIKE YOU DOES IT!

OUR AGREEMENT, J.J., IS THAT YOU’RE NEVER TO ASK ME HOW I DO IT!

JUST HAVE A CHECK READY FOR ME WHEN I BRING BACK THE PIX OF DR. OCTOPUS!

HE DOESN’T SUSPECT PETER PARKER, THE TEEN-AGER HE ASSIGNED TO THE JOB, IS GONNA HAVE SPIDER-MAN DO IT!
AND SO...

HERE'S THE PLACE!
STRANGE THAT IT'S
LOCKED AND NOBODY IS
ADMITTED! WHAT KIND
OF A HOSPITAL IS IT,
ANYWAY?

WELL, THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY TO
FIND OUT... AND SPIDER-
MAN'S JUST THE CAT
to do it!

THESE SUCTION FINGERS OF MINE
WILL GET ME UP THE WALL IN NO
TIME! BOY, IT'S GREAT BEING
SPIDER-MAN! I CAN DO ALMOST
ANYTHING!

THE ONLY PROBLEM
IS--MY JOBS ARE TOO
EASY! I'D WELCOME A
LITTLE COMPETITION
ONCE IN A WHILE!

AND AS HE STEADILY CLIMBS
UP THE SHEER OUTER WALL,
LITTLE DOES SPIDER-MAN
DREAM THAT HE IS SOON TO
GET FAR MORE "COMPETITION"
THAN HE EVER BARGAINED FOR!

SECONDS LATER...

ALMOST THERE!

HOLY MACKERAL! WHAT'S
THAT?

SILENCE! NOBODY IS TO SPEAK
WHEN DR. OCTOPUS SPEAKS.
Peering unseen through the large picture-window, Spider-Man witnesses a strange, unexpected sight...

You can't keep all of us prisoners forever, Doctor Octopus! We've done what you asked-- gotten you all the equipment you wanted! When will you let us go?

My powers, no one can resist me! You'll remain to serve me until I no longer need you-- and not before!

Well, well! So the good Doc has flipped his lid, eh? Well, this is just what I've been hopin' for-- a little action!

But this is mad! You have no right-- right? You dare speak to me of right?

I have the right to do anything-- as long as I have the power! And if you doubt my power, here is a small sample...

No! Don't let me down!

Looks like it's time for Spider-Man to join the party before he really hurts that fella!

Hold it, Doc! How about pickin' on someone who can fight you back?

Spider-Man!

Well, I sure ain't Albert Schweitzer!

You dare speak flippantly to me! You fool! When I'm finished with you, you'll sing a different tune!
YOU DON'T THINK THOSE DUMB-LOOKING FLAPPERS OF YOURS CAN MOVE FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH SPIDER-MAN? DO YOU?

SURPRISED? DOCTOR OCTOPUS IS FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU DREAMED! FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN YOU!

HEY!! WHA...?

DON'T LET THAT ONE LUCKY PUNCH GO TO YOUR HEAD, PAL! I'VE A FEW MORE SURPRISES!

AH! MOST INGENIOUS OF YOU! YOUR SPIDER'S WEB!!

BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, HOLDING ONLY TWO OF MY ARMS ISN'T ENOUGH! I STILL HAVE MORE!

NO TIME TO SHOOT MY WEB AGAIN! HE'S FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!

BUT I CAN STILL GRAB HIS OTHER ARMS!

OOF! IT TAKES ALL MY STRENGTH! HE--HE ALSO HAS SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH.

MY WEB! HE SNAPPE-- IT! NOBODY HAS EVER DONE THAT BEFORE!

AND NOW, SPIDER-MAN, I GROW BORED WITH THIS GAME! MY TIME IS TOO VALUABLE!
NOW, WATCH ME TRAP A SPIDER IN A WEB OF MY OWN—A WEB MADE OF MY NEW-FOUND ARMS! YOUR STRENGTH IS MERELY THAT OF A SPIDER, BUT MINE IS THE ENERGY OF AN ATOM, BORN OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT!

YOU DARED TO MOCK ME BEFORE! WHY AREN'T YOU MOCKING ME NOW? WHERE ARE YOUR BRAVE WORDS AND TAUNTS NOW, SPIDER-MAN?

I'M HELPLESS! CAN'T FIGHT ALL THOSE ARMS AT ONCE! DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT! HE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME!

OR DO YOU REALIZE YOU'VE FINALLY MET YOUR MASTER? AND NOW, YOU CAN LEAVE THE WAY YOU ENTERED! YOU'RE NO THREAT TO ME!

WEAK, GREGG, JUST BARELY CONSCIOUS, SPIDER-MAN HAS HIS FALL BROKEN BY A TREE, AS HE FINALLY SLUMPS TO THE GROUND... IN DEFEAT!
HE BEAT ME! I-I NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
I DIDN'T EVEN GIVE HIM A GOOD FIGHT! HE COULD'VE FINISHED ME OFF ANY TIME HE WANTED TO!

WHAT DO I DO NOW? I'VE NEVER BEEN BEATEN BEFORE! BUT THIS TIME, MY SPIDER POWERS WERE NOT ENOUGH! IS THIS THE END OF SPIDER-MAN?

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, AT THE HOSPITAL...

EVEN THOUGH I DEFEATED SPIDER-MAN, MY PRISONERS ESCAPED DURING THE FIGHT? I MUST LEAVE BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE!

WITH MY ARMS, I CAN GO ANYWHERE... DO ANYTHING! FENCES CAN'T STOP ME! NO ONE CAN CATCH ME!

NOW THAT I HAVE REACHED MY OBJECTIVE, ANY UNLOCKED WINDOW WILL FURNISH AN ENTRANCE FOR ME!

THE SECURITY POLICE AREN'T APT TO NOTICE AN EXTRA PIPE OR TWO UP ON THE CEILING! ONCE HE'S GONE, I CAN ACT FREELY!
THIS IS WHAT I'M AFTER! THE BRAIN CENTER OF THE ENTIRE ATOMIC LAB! ONCE I TAKE IT OVER, THE GREATEST SOURCE OF ATOMIC POWER IN THE NATION WILL BE MINE!

IT'S AN EASY MATTER FOR DOCTOR OCTOPUS TO UNLOCK A DOOR!

OUT! ALL OF YOU! I'M TAKING OVER NOW! D-DID YOU SEE THAT? IT WAS DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

BUT WHAT'S HE UP TO?

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW! BETWEEN MY OWN SUPER-STRENGTH AND THE ATOMIC POWER WHICH IS MINE TO COMMAND HERE, I'M THE STRONGEST MAN ALIVE!!

BUT FIRST I'LL GIVE THE WORLD A DEMONSTRATION OF MY STRENGTH! I'LL DESTROY PART OF THIS PLANT AND REBUILD IT TO SUIT MYSELF!

AND SO...

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE LEAD SHIELDING! IT'S BEEN LOWERED! THE RADIATION IS STARTING TO ESCAPE!

LOOK! THE GIANT MACHINES ARE RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL--AS THOUGH SOME MADMAN IS GUIDING THEM!

THERE'S TOO MUCH PRESSURE IN THE MAIN VALVES! THE PIPES ARE OVERHEATING... EXPLODING! IT ISN'T SAFE TO STAY HERE!
But, within minutes, the source of the trouble is made known, and...

We've got to reach Doctor Octopus somehow!

We can't! He's set up electronic barriers all over the place!

And, before long, the entire plant is evacuated, except for...

They realize I cannot be stopped and have given up trying! I've won! The plant is mine! I am now in complete control!

The foremost brains of the nation's armed forces and security agencies confer feverishly but to no avail...

We've never been up against anything like this before! A brilliant scientist, with superhuman powers on a mad rampage!

If we can't stop him, then we must see that innocent people are not injured!

And so, the order goes out—no one is allowed in or out of the atomic plant...

Can't figure out why they post sentries here! If Dr. Octopus tries to get out, how can we stop him?

Meanwhile, what of teen-age Peter Parker, alias Spider-Man?

Poor Peter's been moping in his room for hours! I wish he'd tell me what's wrong?

I'm a failure! Spider-Man is a joke... a nothing! There's the phone!

Mr. Jameson? No, I won't be able to get the pictures of Doctor Octopus! No, I probably won't be able to get any more! Sorry—yeah... good bye!

Peter, dear, what's wrong? I can't bear to see you so unhappy! Is there anything I can do to help?

No, Aunt May... it's... it's my own personal problem! I'll get over it! Got to leave now—time for school!
HELLO, PETEY... SAY, WHAT'S WITH HIM? HE DIDN'T ANSWER!

AND THERE'S NO ONE I CAN TALK TO... NO ONE WHO'D UNDERSTAND!

PETE, DID YOU HEAR THE BIG NEWS? THE GOVERNOR'S ASKED THE FANTASTIC FOUR TO TRY TO CAPTURE DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

AND HE'S DOWN IN THE DUMPS! LOOKS LIKE HE LOST HIS FAVORITE TEST TUBE!

THEY'RE BUSY WITH ANOTHER CASE, BUT THEY SENT THE HUMAN TORCH TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO! HE'S SPEAKING TO OUR ASSEMBLY TODAY!

WHAT HE CAN DO! HE'S SPEAKING TO OUR ASSEMBLY TODAY!

LATER, AT THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY...

I WAS ASKED HERE TO TACKLE DOCTOR OCTOPUS! BUT I'VE USED MY FLAME SO MUCH RECENTLY, I HAVE TO WAIT A FEW DAYS TO LET IT GET STRONG AGAIN! WHILE I'M WAITING, YOUR PRINCIPAL ASKED ME TO ADDRESS YOU...

IF ONLY I HAD HIS POWER... HIS CONFIDENCE... BUT THAT'S EASY WHEN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEATEN!

NOW FOR A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION! I CAN'T APPLY MY TOTAL FLAME, BUT HERE ARE SOME FIERY FIGURES FOR YOU!

THIS IS WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS WHEN THE THING HELPS ME WITH MY HOMEWORK! I GET RESULTS LIKE THIS!

223

THEN, AFTER A FEW MORE COLORFUL DEMONSTRATIONS...

NOW, FOR A PARTING THOUGHT! STICK TO YOUR SCHOOL WORK AND DO YOUR BEST IN YOUR STUDIES! DON'T BE DISCOURAGED IF IT SOMETIMES SEEMS TOUGH! THE IMPORTANT THING IS NEVER GIVE UP! REMEMBER THAT-- NEVER GIVE UP!

ABILITY ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH! IT'S ONE LESSON I'VE LEARNED FROM MY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE'S TALKING TO ME!

EVEN THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE HAD DEFEATS-- BUT WE ALWAYS COME BACK! OUR MOTTOS IS NEVER SAY DIE!

HE'S RIGHT! BY GOLLY, HE'S RIGHT!

LATER, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TORCH'S LECTURE...

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THAT SPEECH! I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU SAID TODAY! IT MEANT A LOT TO ME! OH, SURE-- SURE! GLAD YOU ENJOYED IT, FELLA!
LIKE A MAN POSSESSED, PETER RACES HOME TO THE PRIVACY OF HIS ROOM, AND...

I GUESS IF THE FANTASTIC FOUR COULD BE DEFEATED, AND THEN GO BACK FOR MORE, SPIDER-MAN CAN, TOO!

OKAY, DOCTOR OCTOPUS, THIS IS IT!! NOW THAT I KNOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE, YOU WON'T HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SURPRISE ON YOUR SIDE AGAIN!

THIS IS ONE EASY WAY TO GET PAST THOSE SENTRIES BELOW!

HEY! DID YOU JUST SEE SOMEBODY FLYING ABOVE US?

SOMEONE FLYING ABOVE US? ARE YOU SOME KINDA NUT OR SOMETHIN'??

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I LANDED SAFELY ON THE ROOF WITHOUT BEING STOPPED!

NOW, TO GET AS CLOSE AS I CAN TO DOCTOR OCTOPUS BEFORE HE DISCOVERS ME!

BUT THE STRANGE SCIENTIST HAS EYES EVERYWHERE, AND...

IT'S SPIDER-MAN AGAIN! WELL, THIS TIME HE WON'T BE SO LUCKY! THIS TIME I'LL FINISH HIM FOR GOOD!
FROM NOW ON, I ALLOW NO ONE TO INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS! I WILL PERMIT NO ONE TO DEFY ME!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT...

MY SPIDER SENSES WARN ME OF DANGER BEHIND ME!

NICE TRY, DOCTOR OCTOPUS! BUT I'M READY FOR YOU THIS TIME!

WITH MY SPIDER SENSES FULLY ALERT, AND MY SPIDER MUSCLES IN TOP CONDITION, HE CAN'T POSSIBLY HURL THOSE ELECTRONIC BOLTS FAST ENOUGH TO HURT ME!

HE KNOWS MY EVERY MOVE! HE MUST BE WATCHING ME ON SOME SORT OF TV HOOK-UP! WELL, I'LL JUST GO SOMEWHERE OUT OF RANGE... AS ONLY I CAN!

HE'S FOUND A WAY TO EVADE MY ELECTRONIC SCANNERS! HMM... HE'S CLEVERER THAN I THOUGHT!
BUT I'LL DEFEAT HIM WITH MY ALL-POWERFUL ARMS, AS I DID BEFORE! HE WON'T ELUDE ME NOW!

AH, THERE'S WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR--THE CHEM LAB!

I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE FINDS ME!

THERE!! IT'S DONE!

AND NOW THIS WIRING'LL SUIT MY PURPOSE JUST FINE!

MUSTN'T MAKE A MISTAKE! DOCTOR OCTOPUS WON'T GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!
I still can't be sure this will work, but I've got to try it!

Now to find Doctor Octopus!

Once again, at the last split-second, Spider-Man's spider instinct saves him from sudden defeat...

Hah! I've got you, Spider-Man! Wha-?

Oh, no, you don't!

Moving with every ounce of speed he possesses, Spider-Man manages to loop one of his hastily constructed devices around two of Doctor Octopus' arms before another arm, striking out, forces him to drop the second device...

Ohh!

But Spider-Man has super-human strength, even as Doctor Octopus, and he recovers from the blow in seconds, in time to dive out of harm's way...

Now to get out of reach and watch what happens!

You hope to defeat me with a foolish thing like this? You must be mad!

Oh, I see! It's a chemical which fuses my metal arms together! Hmm... clever!

But I can take care of that easily... after, I dispose of you for good!
SLOWLY, inexorably, DR. OCTOPUS forces SPIDER-MAN back against the wall, blocking his web with his swiftly-moving arms...

HA-HA! Even your fast-shooting web isn't quick enough for me!

Moving like a person possessed, SPIDER-MAN whips his legs around one of DOCTOR OCTOPUS' tentacle arms, while he seizes the other free arm with both of his powerful hands...

GOT YOU!

BUT NOT FOR LONG!

That blasted web! It's spread out over my glasses! I--I can't see! Can't get it off!

Even though he can no longer see me, his other arms are now around me--pulling me toward him with incredible strength!

HE'S USING HIS FUSED ARMS LIKE A CLUB! I CAN'T RETREAT ANY FURTHER! MY BACK IS TO THE WALL! I'VE GOT TO TAKE A DESPERATE CHANCE!

Then, before Doctor Octopus can make another move, SPIDER-MAN shoots his amazing web directly at the startled scientist's face...

I should have realized sooner, Octopus, the best defense is a smashing offense!
AH... THERE!! I GOT THEM OFF!
I'VE GOT HIS TWO FREE ARMS APART! BUT I DARE NOT LET GO OF THEM!

GIVE UP, FOOL! SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL HAVE TO LET GO, AND THEN I'LL HAVE YOU!
I'VE GOT ONE CHANCE... BUT I'VE GOT TO TIME IT TO THE SPLIT-SECOND OR I'M FINISHED!

SUDDENLY, SPIDER-MAN LETS GO OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS' ARMS AND, AT THE SAME INSTANT, LASHES OUT WITH A SMASHING RIGHT!

NOW!
I HAD TO LET HIM GO, AND THEN STRIKE FASTER THAN HE COULD MOVE!

I DID IT! I KNOCKED HIM OUT!
STRANGE THAT AN OLD FASHIONED PUNCH TO THE JAW DEFEATED THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAIN I'VE EVER FACED!

BETTER NOT TAKE AN CHANCES!
I'LL WRAP MY WEBBING AROUND HIM MANY TIMES WHILE HE'S OUT! HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SNAP THIS!

LATER, AT THE SENTRY POST OUTSIDE THE ATOMIC PLANT...
CAPTAIN! WE'VE BEEN HEARING NOISES INSIDE THERE! LIKE A FIGHT!

SOMEONE MUST HAVE SNEAKED PAST US AND LOOK! OVER THERE!
IT'S THE SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN!

There he is! He's waving to us to come on!

CAREFUL, PAL! NO TELLING WHAT'S GOIN' ON!

You're tellin' me! I'm gonna shoot first and ask questions later!

Look! It's Doctor Octopus! He's all tied up and helpless!

Don't just stand there! Get me out of this!

The authorities will be able to handle Doctor Octopus now!

But I still have one more thing to take care of... as Spider-Man!

Minutes later, the dramatically costumed super-hero climbs the sheer wall of a nearby hotel...

He's somewhere in this hotel! I'll find him easily!

My spider sense tells me that his room is just ahead!
AND INSIDE THE ROOM IN QUESTION...

GOOD NEWS, TORCH! YOUR TEMPERATURE IS DOWN AND YOUR VIRUS IS GONE! BY NOW, YOUR FLAME SHOULD BE WORKING AT FULL STRENGTH!

GREAT, DOC! I WANNA SHOW MY PARTNERS IN THE FANTASTIC FOUR THAT I CAN TACKLE DR. OCTOPUS ALONE!

FLAME ON!

AND NOW FOR-- RELAX, TORCH! DR. OCTOPUS HAS BEEN CAPTURED ALREADY!

THANKS TO YOU, TORCH, OCTOPUS IS SAFELY UNDER WRAPS! AND I OWE YOU ADDITIONAL THANKS BECAUSE IF NOT FOR YOU, SPIDER-MAN MIGHT'VE BEEN FINISHED, TOO!

Huh?

SO LONG, TORCH! SEE YA AROUND, PAL!

FLAMIN' FIREBALLS! I DON'T GET IT! WHAT DID I DO??

The next day, the Human Torch gives a pulse-pounding demonstration of his full powers before returning to his headquarters...

WISH SPIDER-MAN WAS STILL AROUND TO JOIN ME IN THIS SHOW! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE CUT OUT TO!

NOW THERE'S MY IDEA OF A HERO! THE HUMAN TORCH-- AND A GUY LIKE SPIDER-MAN, TOO! WHY DON'TCHA WATCH AND SEE WHAT A REAL MAN IS LIKE, BOOKWORM?

Someday I'll tell you why, loud mouth! AND I'M SURE GONNA ENJOY IT! YES SIR, IT'S GONNA BE A REAL PLEASURE!

AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, A CASE ENDS WITHOUT PETER PARKER DELIVERING ANY PHOTOS TO MR. JAMESON! BUT, RIGHT NOW, PETER COULDN'T CARE LESS!