

- » Exploring how Peter Parker became Spider-Man (and changed the media landscape)
- » Discovering that super-powers are a blessing and a curse
- » Meeting the friends, foes, and lovers of Spider-Man
- » Looking at how Spider-Man has changed the Marvel Universe

Chapter 1

Who Is Spider-Man?

“**T**hough the world may mock Peter Parker, the timid teenager, it will soon marvel at the awesome might of . . . SPIDER-MAN!” With these words from the cover of 1962’s *Amazing Fantasy* #15, one of the most iconic heroes in history was born.

If you’re old enough to be reading this book, chances are good that you’ve at least heard of Spider-Man. Next to a certain man of steel and dark knight, Marvel’s wall-crawling, web-slinging, wise-cracking super hero is probably the most recognizable masked hero of all time. From live-action cinematic blockbusters and decades of animated series to an ocean of merchandise and even a 1970s rock album (please seek out *Spider-Man: Rock Reflections of a Superhero*), Spider-Man has become an inescapable part of global culture. Not bad for a kid from Queens.

And it all began in the pages of the Marvel comic books. Those stories are where the character of Spider-Man was born, and where Spider-Man’s story continues to be told. The Spider-Man of Marvel Comics is the foundational version of the character, and all the movies, cartoons, video games, and toys are built on his continuing adventures. This book focuses on Spider-Man’s expansive history as found in the comic books, because if you know the essentials of the Web-Head’s comic book history, you can better understand the character’s roots no matter what format you encounter him in. And to begin to understand Spider-Man, the details of his origin story are worth examining.

Looking back, you may be surprised to see just how many aspects of Spider-Man's character were already there, fully formed, in those brisk 11 pages in *Amazing Fantasy* #15. The details of that first story by writer Stan Lee and artist Steve Ditko continue to drive new narratives over 60 years later. You have Peter's ever-present troubles in love and money and his adoring relationship with his Aunt May. Peter's struggle to live up to his Uncle Ben's memory. His quick wit and the vengeful streak that pops up again and again in the decades to come. And of course, that classic Spider-Man costume, which has managed to resist any major, lasting design changes since its creation.

More than any other facet of the character's story, the origin of Spider-Man has been told again and again. Across films, books, cartoons, games, and more, the events that turned Peter Parker into Spider-Man have been updated and reimaged for each new audience. Yet they all contain a trio of story pillars that first appeared in Spider-Man's 1960s debut and defined the character for decades after: a spider, a thief, and a tragedy.

Peter Parker: The Original Web-Head

Before Spider-Man the hero, there was Peter Parker the outcast. Making his first appearance in the lead tale of *Amazing Fantasy* #15 (shown in Figure 1-1), Peter is a shy, picked-on kid from Forest Hills, Queens, who has more interest in going to the science fair than the prom. From his very first appearance, "Midtown High's Only Professional Wallflower" is ignored by girls, ridiculed by his classmates, and literally pushed around by high school bullies like sporty letterman Flash Thompson. The only places Peter finds solace are in the science lab and in the company of his adoptive family.

Peter is raised by his elderly Aunt May and Uncle Ben, who stepped in after Peter's parents passed away. Despite their meager means, May and Ben do their best to instill the shy young Peter with a confidence and kindness that would've made his late parents proud. His jovial parental figures give young Peter all the affection and support (and homemade wheatcakes) that he can't find in the outside world.

Still, Peter is every bit the stereotypical square, hiding behind large glasses, a clean-cut vest and tie, and an armful of books. In that original *Amazing Fantasy* tale Peter is a rueful and resentful teen, angry at his isolation and eager to see his tormenters get their comeuppance. And soon he'll have the power to show them all.



FIGURE 1-1:
The first look
the public ever
got of Spider-
Man was Jack
Kirby's iconic
cover image.

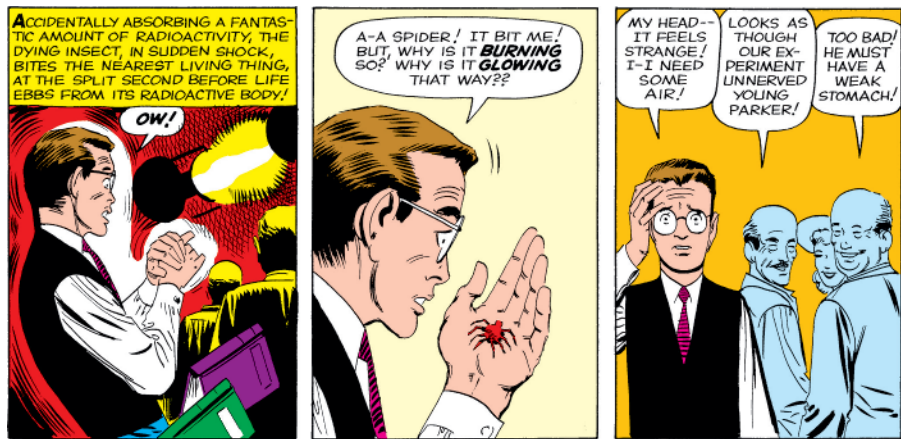
Story by Stan Lee, Art by Jack Kirby & Steve Ditko

Along came a spider

Peter's life (and the global media landscape) is forever changed during a visit to a local science experiment. While his high school frenemies are off having frivolous fun, Peter decides to visit a public science demonstration.

Distracted by the marvels of radioactivity, Peter fails to notice a glowing spider that has crawled onto his hand. By an incredible twist of fate, the otherwise normal arachnid has traveled through the experiment's radioactive rays before landing on Peter. Then, in a fateful moment, the spider bites him, as shown in Figure 1-2.

FIGURE 1-2: Even in the moment that will change his life forever, Peter Parker can't help but get bullied.



Story by Stan Lee, Art by Steve Ditko

Immediately Peter can feel himself changing. As he quickly discovers, the spider's strange, radioactive bite has blessed him with a host of miraculous powers. Peter finds he's been endowed with the proportionate strength and agility of a spider, crushing metal pipes and slinking along wires with ease. His senses are heightened to supernatural proportions, helping him dodge out of the way of a speeding car. And most astonishingly, he can walk on walls — just like a spider.



REMEMBER

Though it's later suggested that Peter's life-changing spider bite was part of a grander mystical design, in its original conception it was a simple twist of fate. It could've happened to anybody. In this regard, even in his earliest moments, Spider-Man stood out from many of his comic book contemporaries and predecessors. Peter wasn't a brawny soldier or a flying alien or a hardboiled detective. He was just a skinny kid burdened with what came to be known as "that old Parker luck."

The character's relatable, everyday quality made Spider-Man an instant hit with readers just as much as his amazing powers did. But his new powers and popularity weren't without their consequences.

The masked marvel

As Peter comes to grips with his strange new abilities, he quickly learns that power alone doesn't make a hero. In another relatable touch, Peter's first thought after gaining super-powers isn't to fight crime. Instead, he sees an opportunity to earn some cash. Peter's money troubles become a recurring struggle for the character (arguably his greatest foe), and that theme began here.

Even in his first adventure, Peter is looking for a way to earn some money with his new abilities. "\$100 TO THE MAN WHO CAN STAY IN THE RING THREE MINUTES WITH CRUSHER HOGAN" reads the sign that catches Peter's eye. Still grappling with his bizarre powers and afraid of being embarrassed if he loses the fight, Peter dons his first costume.

Dressed in some old clothes and a featureless head covering, the "little masked marvel" gets in the ring with the muscular Crusher Hogan. Compared to the broad might of the muscular wrestler, scrawny Peter-in-disguise seems like he's doomed to a pummeling. But this assumption only makes the fight more unbelievable as the masked fighter easily defeats Hogan, leaping around the ring and picking up the larger man like he's a doll. The crowd goes wild.

Immediately after his remarkable performance, Peter is approached by a promoter who encourages him to show off his amazing abilities on TV. Full of excitement and confidence from his victory over Crusher Hogan, Peter heads home to build his brand and put the finishing touches on his soon-to-be-famous alter ego.

Peter leans into the spider-powers. Using his whiz kid scientific genius, he engineers wrist-mounted web-shooters and a special web-fluid that let him dangle from any surface, just like a spider. He also upgrades his wrestling disguise, designing the very first version of his iconic web-covered red-and-blue suit. And for the first time, Peter christens himself "Spider-Man."

Climbing the walls and shooting his miraculous webs, the Spider-Man leaves studio audiences speechless. Behind the mask, Peter lets all the adoration go straight to his head. After years of being kicked around by Flash Thompson and his ilk, Peter finally found the power and respect he'd envied for so long.

Stop! Thief!

However, Spider-Man's entertainment career is short-lived as fate has one more tragic twist in store for poor Peter. As a preening Peter leaves the station, still dressed in his Spider-Man costume and shooin' away fans, he nearly collides with a fleeing thief. Blind with smug pride, Spider-Man simply lets the fugitive slip by and escape. The pursuing police officer chides him for not intervening when he could've, but Spider-Man tells him it wasn't his job (see Figure 1-3).

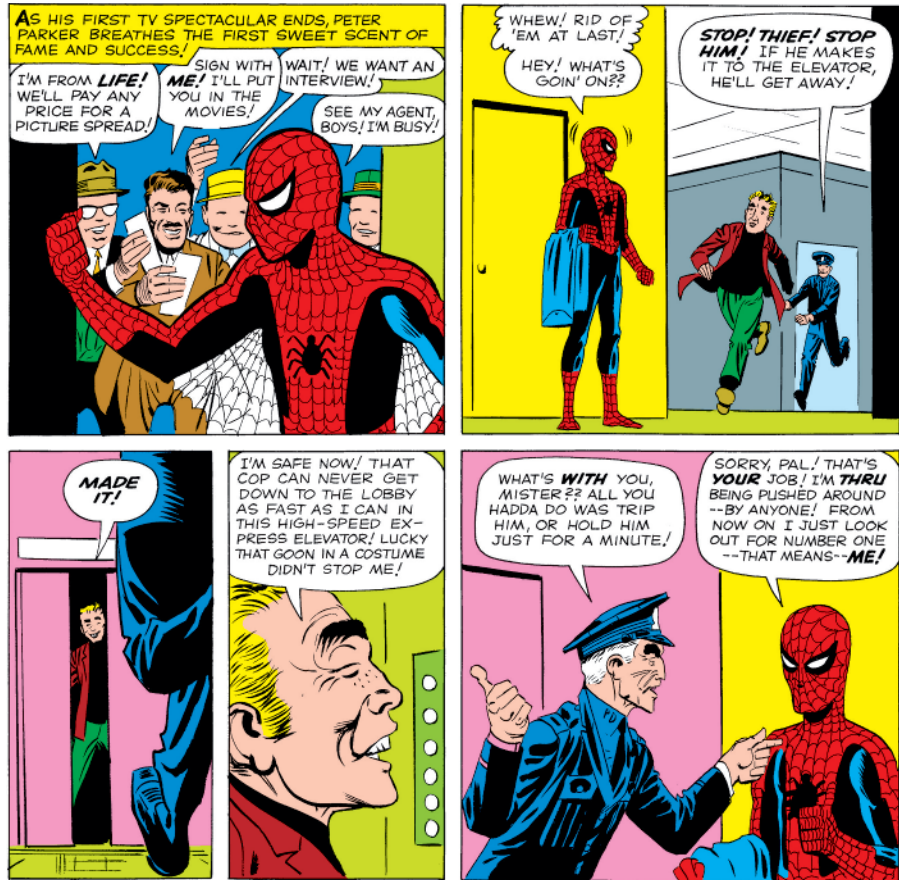


FIGURE 1-3:
With great
arrogance
comes grave
consequences.

Story by Stan Lee, Art by Steve Ditko

For a time, Peter's chance encounter with the fleeing criminal just seems to have been another bit of New York City happenstance. Spider-Man's star continues to rise as he performs to larger and larger crowds, gaining national attention. Peter's self-serving road to fame seems to be laid out before him.

One day Peter arrives home to find a police car outside the humble house in Queens that he still shares with his kindly aunt and uncle. The officer on the scene notifies a visibly shaken Peter that his Uncle Ben has been murdered, shot by a burglar. The grieving teen is overcome with rage. Peter knows he doesn't have the power to catch his uncle's murderer and exact vengeance, but Spider-Man does.

From darkness, a hero

On learning of Uncle Ben's murder (see the preceding section), Peter suits up and chases the fleeing culprit to an abandoned warehouse where the police already have him cornered. Sneaking up on the murderer, Spider-Man knocks him out cold, only to discover the chilling truth: Uncle Ben's killer is the same thief Peter allowed to flee back at the TV station!

Peter's anger turns to remorse as the knowledge that he could've prevented Uncle Ben's death sweeps over him (see Figure 1-4). All Spider-Man's superhuman power and fame have failed to save one of the most important people in Peter's life. More than even the moment that he receives his powers, this crushing twist is what defines Spider-Man's origin.



REMEMBER

Leaving the murderer hanging from a length of webbing (another motif that becomes one of Spider-Man's calling cards), Peter wanders off into the darkness. He's finally learned the lesson that truly marks the birth of the hero readers know as Spider-Man: With great power there must also come great responsibility. Even if Uncle Ben didn't say it (in a very Stan Lee-esque touch, the famous line is supplied by the unnamed narrator).

Peter's quest to live up to that ethos and make his uncle proud — as well as the acrobatic wall-crawling and the instantly recognizable costume — are what have helped Spider-Man remain popular for more than 60 years.

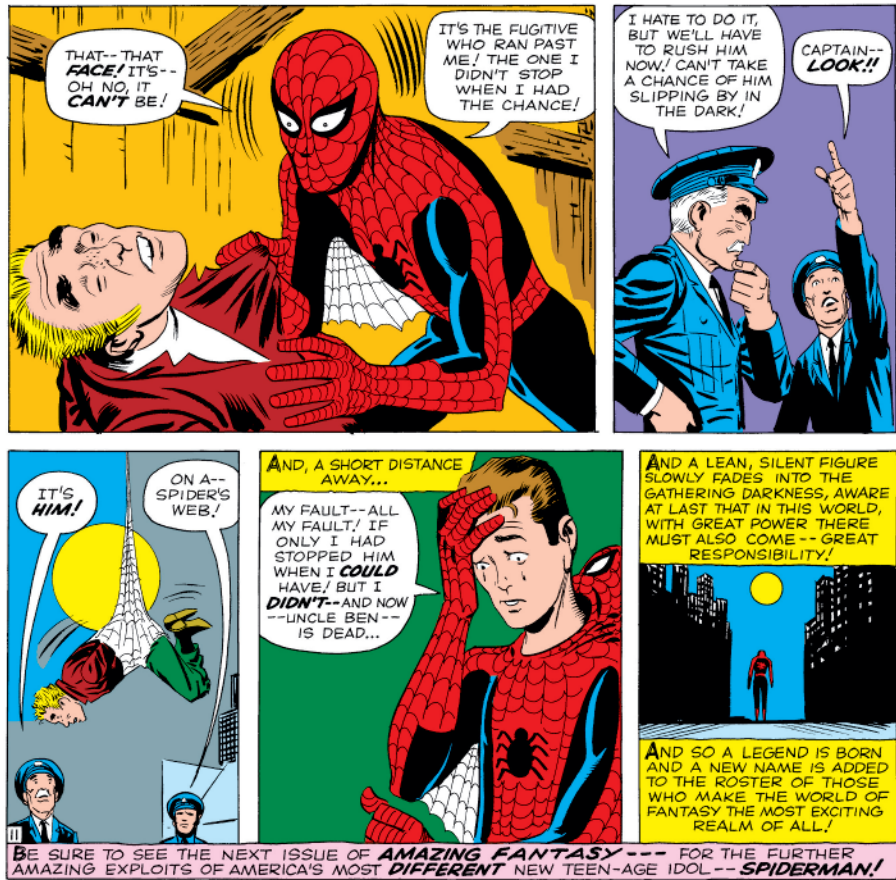


FIGURE 1-4: Peter realizes he could've prevented Uncle Ben's death.

Story by Stan Lee, Art by Steve Ditko

HOW OLD IS SPIDER-MAN?

How old is Spider-Man? It's a complicated question.

When Peter Parker was first introduced, he was just a student in high school. Since then, he's gone to college, started a career, gotten married, had his marriage erased by demonic magic, died, come back to life, traveled the Multiverse, and saved New York City and the Marvel Universe countless times. And depending on the artist, he doesn't look a day over 30.

As of this writing, Spider-Man has been around for 63 years in the real world, but despite his continuing comic book adventures, the character barely seems to have aged. This discrepancy hasn't gone unnoticed by readers over the years, leading to a fair amount of fan speculation.

The most definitive framework used to answer this question is a sliding timescale for the Marvel Universe, where the time that has passed since an event remains static as real time progresses. At the moment, the reality of the Marvel Universe exists around 15 years since the launch of the Fantastic Four's rocket. So in Marvel time, events like Peter being bitten by a radioactive spider only happened around 15 years from when you're reading Spider-Man's adventures, whether that's in 2000, 2025, or beyond. This logic puts Spider-Man somewhere in his early 30s.

Numerous in-universe resets of reality itself may also have affected any hard dates around Peter's age. But in general terms, the character of Spider-Man is most often presented as being in his late 20s.

Remember: The most common answer to the question of Spider-Man's age, and often the most productive, is simply not to think about it too hard. Keeping Spider-Man and other long-running heroes' ages somewhat murky allows those characters to stay relatable for generation after generation, taking part in new types of stories indefinitely. In other words, Spider-Man is always as old or young as he needs to be.

More Power, More Problems

Following the popularity of Spider-Man's origin story in *Amazing Fantasy* #15, *Amazing Fantasy* #16 never arrived. Instead, *The Amazing Spider-Man* #1 debuted early the next year. *Amazing* marked the continuing adventures of Peter Parker, Spider-Man, now a committed hero striving to live up to his uncle's memory. But mostly just trying to get by.

Spider-Man's adventures, told across dozens of comic series and miniseries and thousands of individual issues, continue to unfold today. And just as it was in his 1962 debut, Spider-Man's story has been a blend of superhuman heroics and Peter's everyday challenges. For every foiled robbery, there's a late mortgage payment for Aunt May's house to be dealt with. For every slobber-knocker with villains like Electro or Kraven, there's a missed date with Mary Jane Watson. And when those two worlds collide, as they inevitably do, it often leads to perilous or tragic outcomes.

Bring on the bad guys

Throughout Spider-Man's history, he's amassed a roster of villains and criminal adversaries who are just as complex and relatable (in their own ways) as the wall-crawler himself. Spider-Man's rogues' gallery is one of the most colorful, and empathetic, of any super hero. Figure 1-5 shows you some of them (clockwise from bottom left, Electro, Lizard, Mysterio, Rhino, Sandman, Doctor Octopus, Shocker, Green Goblin, Venom, and Vulture.)

- » **Hoodlums and crooks:** Spider-Man's most common enemies have always been the endless parade of low-level criminals, robbers, and crooks whose petty crimes he effortlessly foils. Although these nameless hoodlums may seem like filler characters, they're always a good reminder of that first nameless burglar who killed Uncle Ben and ultimately led to the creation of Peter's heroic alter ego. No matter how world-ending or cosmic the threats Spider-Man faces, he never loses sight of the everyday impact of the small-scale crimes he busts.
- » **Organized crime:** In his quest to fight crime across New York City, Spider-Man has made frequent enemies of organized criminals, running up against street gangs; the Maggia crime families; and figures like the Kingpin (now better known as spider-friend Daredevil's archnemesis) or Mr. Negative (a cursed gang leader who is more often at war with himself than his rivals).
- » **Super-foes:** A colorful cadre of super-powered villains has also bedeviled Peter since his earliest days wearing the mask. And like Spider-Man himself, a number of his recurring enemies have some kind of animal or insect theme, from the Scorpion, a spiteful hood armed with a deadly mechanical tail, to the brutish Rhino, a Russian enforcer who will steal anything or hurt anyone in his quest to remove his impenetrable rhinoceros costume.



Story by Mark Millar, Art by Terry Dodson and Rachel Dodson & Laura Martin

FIGURE 1-5:

These are just some of the villains who have dedicated their lives to the destruction of Spider-Man.

» **Archenemies:** The true archnemeses are that class of villain who have impacted not just Spider-Man but also those close to Peter Parker. These are enemies like Doctor Octopus, a scientist driven mad after being fused to a quartet of robotic arms. He's repeatedly turned Peter's life upside down over the years and even taken over Peter's body for an extended period. Or Eddie Brock, once Peter's journalistic rival, who became the host of the Venom symbiote (a deadly species of shape-shifting alien parasite), a dark shadow of Spider-Man himself.



REMEMBER

But few of Spider-Man's enemies compare in importance to Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin, shown in Figure 1-6. Like so many of Spider-Man's foils, Norman gained superpowers and a psychotic alternate identity as the result of botched super-science. From behind his monstrous goblin mask, Norman has terrorized Spider-Man and his loved ones for decades. The Green Goblin's villainy resulted in the death of Peter's college girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, in 1973's *Amazing Spider-Man* #121, one of the few moments of tragedy in Spider-Man's history to rival the death of his uncle. Though Norman died not long after these events, the Green Goblin (and Norman himself) has returned again and again to try and squash the spider — and anyone else in his orbit. It's very annoying.

For a more detailed look at Spider-Man's foes, see Chapter 5.



Story by Dan Slott, Art by Alex Ross

FIGURE 1-6:

Again and again, the Green Goblin has returned to destroy everything Spider-Man holds dear.

Welcome to the *Daily Bugle*

Iron Man (who debuted a year after Spider-Man in 1963) always has a fortune to fund his impervious suits of armor. The Fantastic Four has Reed Richards's patents and inheritance to fall back on. Even Captain America presumably has the VA to turn to. But despite the unbelievable powers of a human spider and a genius-level intellect, poor Peter Parker has always had to rely on a day job just like everyone else.

Throughout his history Peter has held a number of jobs to pay the rent, including as a scientist, a high school teacher, an inventor, and an Avenger, to name just a few. But the first, and easily the most impactful, of Peter's civilian careers was his position as a photographer at the paper of record in Marvel's New York City, the *Daily Bugle*.

Peter's employment at the *Bugle* begins somewhat ironically. The paper, led by cigar-chomping rage-aholic J. Jonah Jameson, has branded Spider-Man a dangerous vigilante and even offered to pay good money for pictures of the masked menace. Because Jameson's smear campaign swiftly ended Spider-Man's performance career, Peter takes it upon himself to take pictures of his alter ego, and soon he's earned an actual position as a photographer at the paper. Peter's long career at the *Bugle* gave him access and alibi to many of the city's criminal proceedings that he could then address more directly as Spider-Man.

Throughout the years Peter Parker has been affiliated with the *Bugle* in one form or another, and it's where he meets some of his most ardent allies. Some of his more impactful colleagues include the following:

- » Ned Leeds, a reporter and friend of Peter's who goes on to have a long and complicated history with Spider-Man and his close circle of friends
- » Betty Brant, Jameson's acerbic assistant, who becomes one of Peter's first loves, even as she ends up in the arms of other men in Peter's orbit
- » Ben Urich, the hard-boiled investigative reporter who helps Spider-Man dig up evidence when he isn't helping his other super-buddy, Daredevil
- » Robbie Robertson, a career *Bugle* editor who always stands up for Spider-Man in the face of Jameson's relentless media attacks

As Peter moves into other jobs, he eventually finds some financial success, even building and briefly becoming CEO of the Parker Industries corporation (technically, that was Dr. Octopus in Peter's body). But that old Parker luck always kicks in again before long, and Peter is back living paycheck to paycheck.



REMEMBER

Peter's money troubles may be a headache, but the generations of readers who have related to his very human struggles wouldn't have it any other way.

Flip to Chapter 4 for more info on Peter's/Spidey's friends and acquaintances.

Friends gone bad

Just as Spider-Man has been feared and misunderstood by the very public he fights to save, those close to Peter have been just as likely to turn on him. Peter

has earned the title of “friendly neighborhood Spider-Man” with his large network of civilian friends and loved ones. But in Spider-Man’s world, even friendship becomes an opportunity for trouble, and throughout his history Peter’s allies have occasionally become enemies.

Perhaps the most notorious example of this sad cycle is Harry Osborn, son of the original Green Goblin. Harry becomes one of Peter’s closest friends during his college years, but he always seems destined to inherit his father Norman’s criminal legacy. When Harry finally becomes a villainous new Green Goblin in the 1990s, Spider-Man is there to try and help his friend back to sanity, even if he doesn’t succeed. In the 2000s Harry is reborn as one of Peter’s close friends before again being accused of turning to the dark side. However, this situation proves to be just part of a larger ruse designed to play on the many betrayals Spider-Man has experienced.

But Harry isn’t the only of Peter’s close contacts to fall to their darker impulses. Other notable examples include these:

- » Ned Leeds (see the preceding section), who goes on to battle Spider-Man as the Hobgoblin
- » Phil Urich, nephew of Ben Urich, who becomes a heroic version of the Green Goblin before taking on the mantle of the evil Hobgoblin (and eventually the Goblin Knight/King)
- » Ben Reilly, a clone of Peter Parker who works closely with Spider-Man to build his own heroic identity as the Scarlet Spider and then eventually takes on the nefarious role of the Jackal before being seduced by demonic power and becoming the villain Chasm
- » Dr. Curt Connors, a scientist who becomes friends with Spider-Man but has long struggled with a reptilian Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde duality as the monstrous Lizard

Enemies made good

On the flip side of the fallen friends from the preceding section, Spider-Man has also become allies with a number of former enemies, using his gift for hope and compassion like powers themselves. His capacity for forgiveness (born out of Peter’s own history of very understandable mistakes) has allowed Spider-Man to forge friendships with many of his foes. These warm relations don’t always last, but Spider-Man always tries to appeal to his villains’ better angels before fighting them like devils. Here are a few examples:

- » Eddie Brock, Peter’s professional rival, takes on Spider-Man’s alien costume to become the vicious Venom. But thanks in part to Spider-Man’s empathy and



TECHNICAL
STUFF

willingness to give him a chance at redemption, Venom becomes a (some-what) heroic vigilante himself. Eddie and Peter have worked together countless times over the years.

- » Flint Marko, the Sandman, has long struggled with both his criminal instincts and his existence as a man made of sand. But Peter has often worked with Marko to try and forge a more honest path, with Sandman even becoming an Avenger for a brief time in the 1990s.
- » Fred Myers, better known as the low-level villain Boomerang, is even briefly Peter's roommate, even if it's ultimately part of a larger scheme.

Web of romance

For a character as seemingly hapless as Peter Parker is, he's always had a certain kind of luck in the romance department. When he isn't being pursued by costumed madmen or fighting to get rent together, Peter has often found himself trying to navigate his relationships with the women in his life. But no matter who he's dating, Peter's life as Spider-Man gets in the way every time. Chapter 4 has more on Spider-Man's loves.

Young love

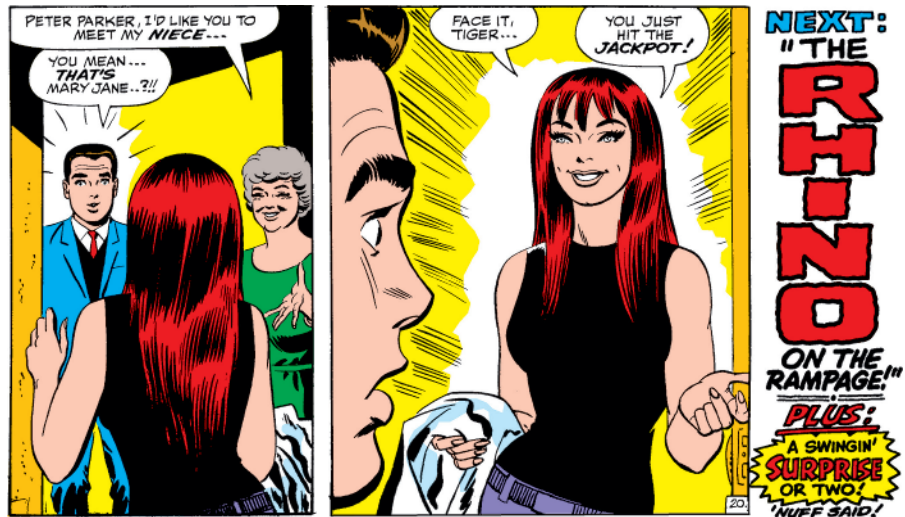
From his earliest days, Peter has nearly always been involved in some manner of romantic situationship, usually ending in disappointment. These scenarios include Peter's high school crush on Liz Allan, who goes on to marry his friend Harry Osborn; his first girlfriend, Betty Brant, who later marries his other friend Ned Leeds and even becomes involved with Peter's high school bully, Flash Thompson; and barely mentioned flings with characters like Priscilla "Cissy" Ironwood, who appears in just a handful of Spider-Man comics in the late 1970s before disappearing.

Spider-Man's true loves

Peter meets the two most enduring loves of his life during his time at Empire State University: the brainy Gwen Stacy and the extroverted Mary Jane Watson. The unforgettable introduction of Mary Jane Watson is the culmination of months of hints about a blind date Aunt May wants to set up for Peter. For a time, Peter is at the center of a will-they-won't-they love triangle with the pair until Gwen's tragic death in the influential two-part story "The Night Gwen Stacy Died" from 1973's *Amazing Spider-Man* #121–122.

After Gwen's passing shakes Peter's world to its core, he finds solace and support with Mary Jane (shown in Figure 1-7), and the pair would embark on the defining relationship of Spider-Man's early history. Mary Jane becomes one of the few people with whom Peter shares his secret identity as Spider-Man, and they stand together against attacks from super villains and domestic squabbles in almost equal measure. Finally in 1987's *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, they even get married.

FIGURE 1-7:
Aunt May
introduces
Peter to Mary
Jane Watson.



Story by Stan Lee, Art by John Romita

However, in true Parker fashion, the good times can't last forever. After Aunt May is mortally wounded as a result of Peter publicly revealing his identity as Spider-Man, he and Mary Jane make a pact with the infernal villain Mephisto, trading their happy marriage to save May's life.

Romance reborn

Following the Faustian reset of his marriage to Mary Jane (see the preceding section), Peter once again finds himself in the dating pool. He becomes involved with NYPD CSI officer Carlie Cooper and on-again-off-again thief and lover Felicia Hardy, the Black Cat. Neither relationship lasts thanks to the chaos of Spider-Man's world, but fate leads Peter and Mary Jane into each other's arms again, although with no memory of their previous marriage.

Still, Mary Jane at one point becomes trapped in an alternate universe for four years before Peter and a reformed Norman Osborn can bring her back — with an alternate-dimension boyfriend in tow. So Peter’s troubles in love, and his very strange but always recognizable life, show no signs of getting any easier.

The Heart of the Marvel Universe

Thanks to his epic adventures and unmatched popularity Spider-Man has truly become the heart of the Marvel Universe. Whether he’s swinging into a battle he can’t hope to win or commiserating over a fallen comrade on a solitary rooftop, Spider-Man never fails to bring an element of grounded pathos to his adventures. Outside the Marvel Comics narrative, Spider-Man has become far and away the company’s most successful character, maintaining a level of global popularity that few characters of any medium ever achieve. That’s no coincidence.

The grounded viewpoint that has made Spider-Man so relatable to readers over the decades has made him just as relatable to the other heroes of the Marvel Universe. Over the course of his history, Spider-Man has managed to cross paths with all the major (and most of the minor) Marvel characters, creating bonds with countless heroes who are happy to team up with the web-slinger. For instance, when everyone in Manhattan gains spider-powers from infected bed bugs, the rest of the heroes of the Marvel Universe come out of the woodwork to help Spider-Man (see Figure 1-8). Not only has the Web-Head’s presence given Marvel’s titles a sales boost, but his relationships with his fellow heroes also have helped the Marvel Universe look more like “the world outside your window.”

Spider-Man’s place in the wider Marvel Universe is established all the way back in *Amazing Spider-Man* #1. There, in just his second appearance, Peter’s already trading quips with the Fantastic Four after breaking into the Baxter Building to persuade them to give him a job (they aren’t hiring). The relatability that makes Spider-Man so special is that much more pronounced in proximity to the super-science, mystical machinations, and mutant mayhem of the various pockets of Marvel’s world. Over the years Peter has forged relationships with everyone from Dr. Doom and Loki to Squirrel Girl and Ms. Marvel.

Among his closest super-hero friends are people like the Human Torch and Wolverine of the X-Men, who either compliment or contrast Peter’s cavalier attitude as Spider-Man. As one of New York’s hometown heroes, he’s also frequently teamed up with Marvel’s other street-level crimefighters like Daredevil, Luke Cage, and Moon Knight. He’s also friends with Avengers like Iron Man, Captain America, and Captain Marvel. Even wild cards like the Hulk and Deadpool can call Spider-Man a friend.



FIGURE 1-8:
The Marvel
heroes help
Spider-Man.

Story by Dan Slott, Art by Humberto Ramos and Edgar Delgado



REMEMBER

In his dealings with other heroes, Spider-Man is more often than not the voice of relative reason in a world gone mad. He's the voice of the reader, asking aloud how a kid from Queens is supposed to save the world this time or encouraging his fellow heroes to keep fighting. Even in moments of Multiverse-threatening destruction, with entire worlds on the edge of annihilation, Spider-Man is there to remind people of the human stakes — of the great responsibility the powerful heroes of the Marvel Universe all share.