



"Big Time Super Hero"

A Short by
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Based on *Spider-Man*,
created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko

Short #3
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"Big Time Super Hero"

OPEN ON:

A GRAINY, BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO

Of Spider-Man perched atop a speeding car. The photo is from an odd angle, and is blurry.

JONAH (O.S.)
What is this crap?!

PULL BACK and we find ourselves in:

INT. DAILY BUGLE - JONAH'S OFFICE

A rather dull office, filled with framed newspaper headlines, and even a few awards, though most are store bought.

J. JONAH JAMESON stands back to us, looking out the window. The photo sits on his desk along with a half dozen or so others. They're equally as grainy as the one.

JONAH
A whole week and our entire staff
of photographers can't get a single
decent shot of this nut-job?

He turns back to ROBBIE, BETTY BRANT, and a few PHOTOGRAPHERS gathered on the other side of his desk.

JONAH
What am I paying you people for?

PHOTOGRAPHER #1
We're lucky to get what we've got.
He's not exactly posing for us.

ROBBIE
He might if you'd stop running
those smear articles about him.

JONAH
Do me a favor, Joey. Don't speak
unless spoken to.
(then)
Miss Brant, anything from the free-
lancers?

BETTY
They all quit, remember?

Jonah flops back down into his chair.

JONAH

Lazy bastards. So hard to find good help these days.

(beat)

What about tomorrow's headline?

BETTY

We're still going with *The Spider-Man menace*, last I heard.

JONAH

No, it's old. He needs a new name. Something new. Something fresh.

PHOTOGRAPHER #2

Arachno-Man?

Jonah raises an eyebrow.

JONAH

Too cheap.

PHOTOGRAPHER #1

What about ultimate?

JONAH

Ultimate Spider-Man? What the hell kind of lame-ass excuse for a title is that?

PHOTOGRAPHER #1

No, *Ultimate-Man*.

Jonah stares at him.

JONAH

You're fired.

ROBBIE

We can't change his name, Jonah. We didn't give it to him.

JONAH

What are you, his press agent? Tell him to come in for an interview and we'll call him whatever he wants!

BETTY

Maybe we can put out a reward. Cash for pictures of Spider-Man. Someone's bound to show up.

JONAH

And risk getting hit with a law suit when some wacko jumps off a roof after the guy? Not gonna happen! I'd just assume pay *him*!

Jonah stops, thinking.

JONAH

That's it.

PHOTOGRAPHER #1

What is?

JONAH

We'll pay him.

ROBBIE

To do what?

JONAH

What do you think, Mickey? Bring him in, sit him down for an interview, take a few snap shots.
(beat, proud smile)
It's the perfect idea!

BETTY

Um... sir. How exactly are we supposed to get in touch with him?

Jonah slams his hand down on his desk.

JONAH

Looks we just found our page one!

Uncertain looks all around.

JONAH

Well, what are you waiting for, Arbor Day? Get to work!

The room begins to clear out.

PETER (PRE-LAP)

No.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKER HOME - FRONT PORCH - AFTERNOON

PETER sits on the front steps, along with Robbie.

ROBBIE

Pete, it's money in the bank.
Besides, what better way to let
people know you're not a psycho-nut-
killer in a luchador costume?

Peter raises an eyebrow.

PETER

People think that?

ROBBIE

You gotta read the paper, man.

PETER

I mean, they actually said psycho-
nut-luchador killer?

ROBBIE

Well, not in those exact... no, but
nobody knows what to make of you. I
mean, can you blame them?

Peter nods. He can't help but see Robbie's point.

PETER

I'll think about it.

ROBBIE

Well think fast. Jonah's...

He's cut off by the sounds of police sirens in the distance.

They share a knowing look as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. MANHATTAN - AFTERNOON

Smack in the middle of the city, police cars surround a small
store. Dozens of officers have gathered, their guns drawn.

One of them speaks with a megaphone:

OFFICER

I repeat, come out with your hands
up! Nobody needs to get hurt here!

CUT TO:

INT. STORE - CONTINUOUS

A MASKED GUNMAN stands near the door. Behind him, several CUSTOMERS and the STORE CLERK have been bound by their hands and feet, and placed in a corner.

GUNMAN
Go to hell!

He quickly FIRES several shots toward the officers.

BACK TO:

EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE STORE

The officers dodge the bullets, ducking behind their cars. Several more shots are fired, but suddenly, they stop.

The officers look up slowly.

INT. STORE

The Gunman is trying to fire, but it's not working.

ANGLE ON THE GUN

And the barrel, clogged with webbing.

SPIDER-MAN (V.O.)
You know, I've been at this all weekend. All damn weekend.

BACK TO SCENE as the Gunman looks up, stunned.

Perched atop the main desk is SPIDER-MAN.

SPIDER-MAN
And you have got to be the dumbest loon with a gun so far.
(beat, thinks back)
Well, there was the guy in the ice cream truck... and the other guy with the Spongebob hat.

The Gunman takes aim briefly, they realizes and throws the gun to the ground. He takes out a knife.

SPIDER-MAN
Seriously, dude. It's broad daylight! Couldn't you have waited until it was a *little* dark outside?

The Gunman (or is it Knifeman now?) Charges Spidey, taking several swings and stabs at him with the knife. Spider-Man easily dodges them all, then grabs his hand.

He snatches the knife away from him, then catches him with a HARD PUNCH to the face. The man drops to the floor.

SPIDER-MAN

See, now if you had just waited...

Spider-Man turns his attention to the hostages, lined-up against the wall. He walks over and begins to untie the ropes from their hands and feet. They're dead quiet.

SPIDER-MAN

That's right, it's your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man. Here to save the day. Not crazy luchador killer guy. Spider-Man, and don't forget the dash.

(beat)

Don't all thank me at once.

The hostages look at him, many of them looking scared.

SPIDER-MAN

Alrighty then. Have a nice...

Spidey turns, only to find several COPS in the doorway.

SPIDER-MAN

Oh, there's your guy.

He nods to the unconscious Gunman.

OFFICER

You two working together?

SPIDER-MAN

Oh yes, because friendship and unconsciousness go hand-in-hand.

OFFICER

What can you tell me about him?

SPIDER-MAN

He's... not a vampire?

The officer draws his gun...

OFFICER

Alright, smart-ass...

Spider-Man quickly leaps into the air, fires a strand of webbing out the door, and glides past the stunned officers.

In a split second, Spidey's gone.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Spider-Man jumps into view, looking back across the street at the store. The cops are leading the gunman out in handcuffs.

SPIDER-MAN
(yells out)
Be easy! He's afraid of the dark!

One of the cops quickly looks up. Spidey ducks down.

He notices something on his arm. A slight tear along his costume. Apparently, the guy had more luck with his knife than we thought.

SPIDER-MAN
Hope Jeopardy's still on.

INT. STANLEY'S APARTMENT

Looking about the same as the last time we saw it. STANLEY sits on the couch, watching TV.

ALEX TREBEK
(filtered from TV)
No, I'm sorry. The answer we're looking for is, who is Nimoy.
Leonard Nimoy.

There's a knock at the window. Stanley stands, walks over to it, and opens it, revealing Spider-Man.

STANLEY
Didn't expect to see you so soon.

SPIDER-MAN
Had a little accident.

He shows Stanley the tear in his costume.

STANLEY
Shouldn't be too tough to patch-up.
Come on in.

Spidey enters, closing the window behind him.

Spider-Man removes the top of his costume, leaving the mask, pants, and boots on. He tosses it to Stanley.

SPIDER-MAN

Do you think this costume looks like a...

STANLEY

African mountain zebra.

SPIDER-MAN

Huh?

ALEX TREBEK

Correct!

SPIDER-MAN

Oh, right. Jeopardy guy.

(beat)

Do you think people are afraid of me? I mean... in the psycho killer kind of way?

STANLEY

I don't know why they would be.

Stanley begins stitching up the costume.

SPIDER-MAN

Yeah, a friend of mine, he thinks I should do an interview. You know, to show people that I'm not crazy.

STANLEY

Before you do that, you may want to prove it to yourself.

SPIDER-MAN

You think I'm crazy?

Stanley laughs.

STANLEY

You swing around in a funny looking costume saving people you've never met. Crazy? You tell me.

SPIDER-MAN

I have my reasons.

STANLEY

Then what does it matter what other people think? You know what you stand for. You keep doing what you're doing, they'll come around.

SPIDER-MAN

I hope so. I've been at this a week
and people seem to be more scared
of me than anything else.

STANLEY

Like I said, just keep it up.
People know a good thing when they
see one. It'll just take some time.

SPIDER-MAN

I need a publicist.

STANLEY

Don't we all.

In the distance, a faint explosion is heard.

SPIDER-MAN

That didn't sound good.

STANLEY

Here, good as new.

Stanley tosses him the costume, smiles.

STANLEY

Now get to work.

Spidey slips the top back on, then heads for the window.

STANLEY

Hey, kid?
(Spidey looks back)
Keep it up.

SPIDER-MAN

Will do. Oh, and... thanks.

Spider-Man leaps out the window. Stanley follows, looks out.

STANLEY

Anytime!

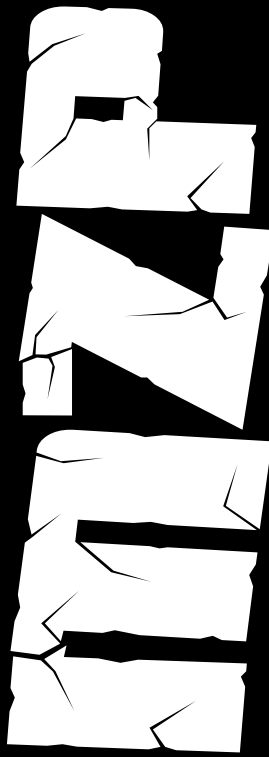
STANLEY'S NEIGHBOR (O.S.)

Shut it, Stanley!

Off Stanley's grin:

FADE OUT.

THE END



spider-man
GIFTS & CURSES

Based on Spider-Man
Created by Stan Lee & Steve Ditko

Developed for MZP by
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