

SPIDER-MAN:

“Killing Spiders”

By

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PAGE ONE:

Page One, Panel One

We open with a close-up of a twelve-year-old Peter Parker sitting on a couch and looking very sad. Sitting next to him is an adult man. We can see the adult’s arm resting around Peter, but the majority of his body is off-panel.

1) PETER: I guess I don’t really know why I did it.

Page One, Panel Two

Flashback. Peter is standing by himself next to his school’s sign. The sign reads: “MIDTOWN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.” Peter is staring enviously at a clique of students nearby.

2) CAPTION: “It’s just that no one talks to me at school.”

Page One, Panel Three

Peter sits alone in the crowded cafeteria.

3) CAPTION: “And I have to eat lunch by myself.”

Page One, Panel Four

Peter’s face brightens as he hears another student call to him.

4) CAPTION: “And all I ever wanted to hear was:”

5) JASON (OFF-PANEL): Hey, Peter, come over here!

PAGE TWO:**Page Two, SPLASH**

We're on the school courtyard. Class bullies, Jason Cronin, Todd Schaper, and Patrick Krebs, are all staring at a spider in its web. Peter approaches the trio (This is also the ideal place to put the story credits).

- 1) JASON: Check out this spider.
- 2) TODD: It's huge!
- 3) PATRICK: I told you this place was full of them! I told you!

PAGE THREE:

Page Three, Panel One

Focus on Peter as he studies the spider.

1) PETER: It's a garden spider. *Argiope aurantia*. You can tell by the colors, black and yellow.

Page Three, Panel Two

Jason snatches the glasses off of Peter's face.

2) JASON: Good to know, smarty-pants.

3) JASON: Lend me your glasses.

Page Three, Panel Three

Jason and the others turn their back on Peter.

4) PETER: What are you gonna do?

Page Three, Panel Four

Shot of the bullies as they try use the glasses to focus the rays of the sun.

5) JASON: I'm gonna use your glasses and I'm gonna burn this bug like an ant.

6) TODD & PATRICK (Simultaneously): Cool!!!

Page Three, Panel Five

Close-up on an anxious and hesitant Peter.

7) CAPTION: "I know I should have done something. I should have stopped them, but I... I just couldn't."

PAGE FOUR:**Page Four, Panel One**

Peter and the bullies hear their teacher, Ms. Furnari, calling for them.

1) MS. FURNARI (OFF-PANEL): Come inside, class. Lunch period is over.

Page Four, Panel Two

Jason and the gang are still trying desperately to burn the spider.

2) TODD: This is taking too long!

3) PATRICK: You're not doing it right!

Page Four, Panel Three

Jason tosses Peter's glasses to the ground.

4) JASON: Aw, forget the glasses.

Page Four, Panel Four

Jason lifts up his foot.

5) JASON: Let's use my shoe.

Page Four, Panel Five

Close-up on Peter. There is a look of terror and disgust on his face as he watches the bug get squashed.

6) SFX: Splat!

PAGE FIVE:**Page Five, Panel One**

The bullies examine their kill as Peter stares at the ground, crestfallen.

1) TODD: Gross.

2) PATRICK: It had black blood! I told you it had black blood!

Page Five, Panel Two

Ms. Furnari suddenly appears before the group.

3) MS. FURNARI: What's going on here?

Page Five, Panel Three

The bullies scuffle off toward the classroom. Pete stays behind with a defeated look on his face.

4) JASON: Nothing, Ms. Furnari. We were just going back to class.

Page Five, Panel Four

Ms. Furnari, noticing Peter's sadness, puts a hand on his shoulder.

5) MS. FURNARI: What's wrong, Peter?

Page Five, Panel Five

Close-up on Peter as he stares at the squished bug.

6) PETER: Nothing.

Page Five, Panel Six:

Back to present day. Peter is still sitting on the couch, telling his story.

7) PETER: I did nothing.

8) PETER: I let those kids squish the spider because... I don't know why.

PAGE SIX:**Page Six, Panel One**

Pull back to reveal that the adult sitting next to Peter is Uncle Ben (although I'm sure most readers would have already assumed that by now).

1) PETER: Do you think what I did was wrong, Uncle Ben?

2) BEN: What do you think, Pete?

Page Six, Panel Two

Pete shrugs his shoulders.

3) PETER: I don't know.

4) BEN: I think you do, kiddo. Otherwise, you wouldn't have told me the story.

Page Six, Panel Three

Close-up on Uncle Ben.

5) BEN: Peer pressure's a powerful thing, Pete, especially when it seems to cure our loneliness. Just remember, if you're not being true to yourself, it doesn't matter if you're with a hundred people or none.

6) BEN: Either way, you're alone.

Page Six, Panel Four

Pull back to get both Ben and Peter in the panel.

7) PETER: I'm so sorry, Uncle Ben.

8) BEN: I know you are, Pete. You have a heart of gold and a ton of brains. Now you just have to learn to trust your heart...

Page Six, Panel Five

Ben's words continue as a caption in this panel of Peter at school. It's the following morning.

9) CAPTION: "So that you'll never have to be sorry again."

10) JASON (OFF-PANEL): Hey, Peter, come here! We found another one!

PAGE SEVEN:**Page Seven, Panel One**

Very large panel, almost a splash. It should resemble the splash on page 2. The trio of bullies is staring at a new spider in another part of the courtyard. Pete approaches the group.

- 1) PATRICK: I told you this spot was crawling with them! I told you!
- 2) TODD: Yeah, yeah. You know everything.

Page Seven, Panel Two

Close-up. Peter's face hardens with resolve.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE EIGHT:**Page Eight, Panel One**

Jason motions for Peter to hand over his glasses.

- 1) JASON: Give me your glasses. Let's try the sun thing again.
- 2) PETER: No.

Page Eight, Panel Two

Close-up on Jason. He's taken aback by Peter's refusal.

- 3) JASON: Whadda you mean, "no"?

Page Eight, Panel Three

Peter's not backing down.

- 4) PETER: Leave the spider alone.

Page Eight, Panel Four

Jason stands face to face with Peter.

- 5) JASON: Who do you think you are, the Spider-King?
- 6) PETER: You don't have to hurt it.

Page Eight, Panel Five

Jason pushes Peter to the ground.

[NO DIALOGUE]

PAGE NINE:**Page Nine, Panel One**

Peter is on the floor. Jason is standing over him.

- 1) JASON: I don't have to hurt it, I want to.
- 2) JASON: Whadda are you gonna do about it?

Page Nine, Panel Two

Shot of Jason turning around after hearing an adult's voice off-panel.

- 3) SOMEONE'S VOICE (OFF-PANEL): Nothing.

Page Nine, Panel Three

The voice belongs to Uncle Ben. Mrs. Furnari is standing behind him with an angry look on her face. It's obvious that Jason and his friends are in big trouble.

- 4) BEN: Thanks to Mrs. Furnari, he won't have to.

PAGE TEN:**Page Ten, Panel One**

Ben and Peter are walking home from school.

- 1) PETER: Why'd you come to help me, Uncle Ben? I could have done it myself.
- 2) BEN: I know you could. I just didn't want you to think you had to. No one should ever have to face bullies alone.

Page Ten, Panel Two

Peter becomes slightly downcast as he recounts the bully's insult.

- 3) PETER: Jason called me the Spider-King.

Page Ten, Panel Three

Both Ben and Peter in the panel. Ben makes light of the insult.

- 4) BEN: King, huh? Kind of a grand title for such a young kid. How about Spider-Prince or Spider-Boy?
- 5) PETER: Naw.

PAGE ELEVEN:**Page Eleven, SPLASH**

Shot from behind as Ben and Peter continue their walk back home. Ben has his arm around Peter in a fatherly fashion.

- 1) BEN: That way you could grow up and become Spider-Man one day.
- 2) PETER: That's just silly, Uncle Ben.

THE END