

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man (2016) #11
“Days of Deception, Pt. 1: Off Come the Blinders”

Writer: Neil Bogenrieder

Assistant Writer: Mohammed Jaafar, Shaun Martineau and Jarod Cordes

Editor: Mark Alford

Preferred Art Team: Stefano Caselli and Marte Gracia

[Page 1]

[Panel 1: Large panel silhouette shot. Peter opens the door to his lab, light pouring over the table in the center.]

Peter [capt.]: So, let's go over the current crisis at hand.

My sidekick fought Rhino, and he had a Symbiote attached to him.

The weird thing? It wasn't Venom. Heck, it wasn't even Rhino. It was a symbiote with Skrull DNA that looked like Rhino. Now, we're on a hunt to figure out how many other Symbiotes are here, and what they want.

[Panel 2: Peter is sitting in front of a large monitor, looking at multiple waypoints on a map of Manhattan.]

Peter [capt]: We've found two more Symbiotes, before they've gotten attached to any hosts. So far, we've only found them on Manhattan Island.

[Panel 3: Peter looks over to a lab table, where the sonic cannon that the FF built is resting, stripped to the wiring.]

Peter [capt]: I had Reed send me over a Sonic cannon like the one that we used on Venom's home planet. I told the FF to prep for anything involving the Symbiotes.

They told me they'd seal the Baxter Building and arm the building with sonic defenses.

[Panel 4: Peter has a welding mask on, fusing metal plating onto the sonic cannon.]

Peter [capt]: I tried calling Iron Man's Avengers, but they haven't picked up yet.

Either they're out of town on a mission or they're not wanting to talk to me.

[Page 2]

[Panel 1: Peter holds the sonic cannon in his hands, lifting the welding mask off his face.]

Peter: Maybe I'm just being paranoid.

But I'm going to go out on a limb and say that the paranoia is justified.

If the Symbiotes are involved, it means trouble. Mix that in with the Skrulls, or even those Dire Wraiths from when I was in college, even by association, and that's basically disaster waiting to happen.

[Panel 2: Peter closes the lab door and locks the door with his hand-print.]

Peter [capt]: I think I need to take some time off from this.

Look at things from a fresh perspective.

[Panel 3: Peter walks out of Horizon just as the logo glows, the sun setting behind him.]

Peter [capt]: Hopefully I can get to the bottom of this before it's too late.

Otherwise, we're all screwed.

[Panel 4: Tiny panel. In a sewer drain, a black strand of goo raises out of the drain.]

[Page 3]

[Panel 1: The Parker family apartment. Peter walks in, carrying a bag of groceries in his hand, and looking at his watch.]

[Capt: The Parker Family Apartment.]

Peter [capt]: *sigh* 8:00.

With all of this Symbiote stuff going on, I've been getting home later and later.

I need to get over that.

Add that to the list of things on my "To-Fix" list.

MJ: Peter?

[Panel 2: MJ is walking out of their bedroom, yawning as she puts her hand on the door frame.]

MJ: Hey, you just get back?

Peter: Yeah. I went to the store and-

MJ: Shhh. Tired. Just put Annie to bed.

[Panel 3: Peter looks down, looking at the floor in shame.]

Peter: I'm... I'm sorry. I haven't been here enough. When did this all go downhill?

MJ: Hey, don't beat yourself up. What you're doing is important. And you still come home every night, instead of cooping up in that lab of yours.

Let's just go to bed, hm?

Peter: ... Yeah, okay.

[Panel 4: Peter lowers his head just enough for MJ to kiss him on the crown of his head.]

[Page 4]

[Panel 1: Large panel. Spider-Man is web swinging over a street, passersby pointing at him as he swings by.]

[Capt]: The Next Day

Spider-Man [capt]: Let's see. That's two bank robberies. One runaway car. And three cats stuck in trees.

Jeez, really slow day today.

Maybe I should be looking harder? I feel like breaking Matt's record for most purse snatchers nabbed.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man looks downwards when he hears several car horns, lenses wide.]

Spider-Man: What the?!-

[Panel 3: Spider-Man swings down and grabs a woman standing out in the middle of the street.]

Spider-Man: It's all right! I got you.

Spider-Man [capt]: Add "Saved one woman from getting hit by a car" to the list.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man has landed, but the woman continues to walk back into the street again. Note that her eyes are glazed over and pitched slightly grey.]

Spider-Man: There we go. You're safe n-

Whadd'ya think you're doing?

Lady, you can't go back out there! I'd rather you not-

[Panel 5: Close shot of Spider-Man's mask, one lens narrowed and the other normal.]

Spider-Man: Die?

[Page 5]

[Panel 1: Decent-sized panel. Spider-Man holds out his arms and halts traffic, as the woman walks towards a covered manhole.]

Spider-Man: Wait a sec. Maybe she's trying to go somewhere.

Hey, guys! Can ya stop for a minute? I want to check something out.

Driver: What, a woman walking across the street? Those are a dime a dozen in this city!

[Panel 2: The woman has tossed the manhole cover away, Spider-Man bending over to avoid being hit and shooting a web to snag it before hitting the driver's windshield.]

Spider-Man: Whoa!

That's new.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man has picked up the manhole cover, running over to the open hole.]

Driver: Okay, scratch that, webhead- you might want to check that out.

Peter: Let's take a look-see at where you're going, lady.]

[Panel 4: Peter is hanging upside down by a web-line, looking down the sewer tunnel.]

Spider-Man: Aaand she's gone. Wonderful.

[Page 6]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man lands in the water, poking at his web shooters.]

Spider-Man [capt]: I dunno, Eddie. This is more Lizard's M.O. Can't recall any other of my other usuals sneaking down into these parts.

Then again, the circumstances are a helluva lot more different.

[Panel 2: A spotlight appears from Spider-Man's wrist as he walks through the sewer.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Horizon is really good to me. And not just because they give me a really good paycheck.

I decided when I got the gig to mod some of my gear. Mostly my web-shooters. Ditched whatever tech Stark put in them when I was on the New Avengers and gave them an overhaul.

[Panel 3: A loud CLANG grabs Spider-Man's interest, as he turns towards the source. Silent panel.]

[Panel 4: Spider-Man hugs the wall with his back as he sees the woman walking down the tunnel nearby, with a group of other people.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Found her.

And it looks like she brought company.

[Panel 5: As the woman and her group walk towards the reader, Spider-Man crawls above them, remaining hidden in the shadows, bar his lenses.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Why are you people down here?

You guys part of a cult or something?

[Pages 7 and 8]

[Double Page spread]

[The Center of the spread is a giant hole in the New York sewer system. The pipe that Spider-Man is entering is hardly a hole, with hundreds of other tunnels visible. At the bottom of this pit is a sea of black, and a gate similar to a Space Bridge. The portal is intensely glowing blue, indicating that it is activated.]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man's lenses are wide open, in horror of what he's seeing.]

Spider-Man: Nope. I was wrong.

You're part of something way worse.

[Panel 2: As the Symbiotes slide down the slope of the pit, Spider-Man stays where he is.]

Spider-Man: How did this happen? Under all of our noses? How did nobody notice?

This isn't just some rogue squad of Symbiotes. This is a staging ground.

But for what?

[Panel 3: Spider-Man leaps to a pipe above the pit, looking down on the symbiotes.]

Spider-Man [capt]: I remember that blue thing... it's the portal that Ben, Eddie, and I used to get to the Symbiote homeworld. What was it? Slipspace tech? They literally tear a hole in the fabric of space, and stretch the ends together.

Of course, they used it to invade Earth, but the technology itself is ahead of its time. For us, at least. Looks like they thought the same strategy would work again.

How many of them are here?

[Panel 4: A line of humans is being attached to symbiotes. Note their glazed eyes and somewhat unsteady movements.]

Spider-Man [capt]: They're.... Infecting people. Giving each one a custom-made Symbiote.

There's dozens of tagged people. I can't even begin to count how many other Symbiotes there are.

[Panel 5: Spider-Man's lenses are narrowed, looking down as a pitch black figure comes up behind him.]

Spider-Man [capt]: I have to get out of here. Get some kind of help. The FF, the X-Men, hell, even the Avengers if I can get to them.

Whatever they're up to, it's nothing-

[Panel 6: Spider-Man is yanked up by the head, a large, clawed hand gripping his forehead. Spider-Man's face is one of panic, his lenses sketchy in panic.]

???: Good to see you, buddy! Missed you.

A shame. Your Spider-Sense must be on the fritz down here.

[Panel 7: We see the newest incarnation of Venom, gripping Spider-Man by the face. The design is relatively similar to his previous designs, but with a few alterations. The first is that the symbol on his chest is moved slightly upwards and is far more angular, almost a mix between the classic symbol and the Parker Industries Spider-Symbol. His teeth are more in number, more angular, and sharper, with a larger body to boot. He's definitely enjoying having Spider-Man in his grasp, completely by surprise and out of his depth.]

Venom: I've been meaning to fix the reception in this place.

[Panel 8: A close shot of Venom, who has a maniacal grin of glee.]

Venom: And I've been looking forward to finally squashing you.

[Page 9]

[Panel 1: We see through one of Peter's lenses, where Peter's eye is looking at Venom in panic.]

Peter: No.... no way...

Brock? Did you take control of the Symbiote?

[Panel 2: Venom, irritated, smashes Spider-Man into the pipe, headfirst.]

Venom: Brock? In control? HA!

What makes you think my host will ever be in control?

[Panel 3: Spider-Man's lens is now shattered, and we can see him struggling to recover from the blow to the head, as Venom advances towards him from the background.]

Spider-Man: Well, you know, I can always hope, right?

Venom: Nope. You don't get to hope today, Spider-Man.

And you don't get to live to fight another day.

[Page 10]

[Panel 1: Spidey has grabbed his utility belt, activating his Spider-Signal (an invention I feel is personally feel is underused.) and turning it to maximum power. Venom is caught off-guard and blinded by the light.]

Spider-Man: Let's agree to disagree, huh, Symby?

I like living. You don't like me living. Whaddya say we call it a truce and you go and harass Iron Man, huh?

Spider-Man [capt]: I nearly forgot about this.

See, I came up with this little trick about a year ago. Supernova light discs.

LED strips with a higher brightness level and thinner profile.

Good for rescue operations, blinding your enemies.... Aaaand that's about it.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man has fired off a web-line, swinging back into the tunnel as Venom still tries to recover.]

Spider-Man: I'd love to stay and chat, but I'm sure that you'd try to kill me if I stuck around.

Venom: RRRRAH! PARKER!

ATTACK, MY PEOPLE!

[Panel 3: Peter is still running down the tunnel, a group of Symbiotes chasing after him.]

Spider-Man: Y'know who you sound like?

I'll give you a hint. "Decepticons, atta-"

[Page 11]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man grips the wall, just underneath the manhole, as an explosion rocks the tunnel.]

Spider-Man: Whoa!

That wasn't a normal explosion.

Gotta get up to the surface and see what's going on.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man peeks his head above the manhole just enough for his eyes, and is shocked by what he sees.]

Spider-Man: I change my mind.

I'll take my chances with the Symbiotes down there.

[Panel 3: Large panel, from Spider-Man's hiding spot. New York is a warzone. Symbiotes with hosts are everywhere, attacking random civilians as they run in terror. Cars are lying broken and trashed on the street, with one being tossed mid-air towards a building. Spider-Man is clambering out of the manhole, lenses widening at the scope of the situation.]

Spider-Man: Oh, God. This isn't happening.

???: Spidey!

[Page 12]

[Panel 1: Carlie's squad car has just pulled alongside Spider-Man, as he seals the manhole cover with his webbing.]

Spider-Man: Captain Cooper?

Carlie: Hope you can explain what's going on here, Spidey. Because we're getting reports of Venom showing up and trashing the streets. In one-hundred and fifteen different locations and counting.

Spider-Man: What they are isn't important. How we can stop them is.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man is gripping the open window of Carlie's squad car, pointing towards the street in front of her.]

Spider-Man: I need you to set up a defensive perimeter. Collapse the sewer tunnels two blocks west of here. They outnumber and outgun us. Our best bet is to slow them down until we can get some kind of outside defense mobilized.

Carlie: I'll see what I can bring to the table. Thanks for the tip.

Spider-Man: I'll leave you to it, then.

[Panel 3: Carlie leans out of her window, yelling at Spider-Man as he swings away.]

Carlie: Wait a sec! Where're you going?!

You're not gonna help us?!

Spider-Man: I am helping, Captain.

[Panel 4: Close up of Spider-Man's face.]

Spider-Man: I've just gotta make sure my family is safe first.

[Panel 5: Carlie is speaking into her car's radio, her partner looking at her.]

Carlie: This is Captain Cooper to Dispatch! Whatever officers we have on duty, mobilize all of them! Get the SWAT teams down here with demolition charges!

Call in the National Guard and Air Force!

[Page 13]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man is swinging across the cityscape, as the fighting has intensified, holding his finger against his earpiece.]

Carlie [cont'd Capt]: So help me God, we are not getting taken over by black Play-Doh!

Spider-Man: Felicia, I need a huge favor. Go to my apartment. Annie and her usual sitter are there. Something tells me that Venom will go there to make me suffer. I need you to grab her sitter and get them to the Baxter Building.

Felicia [phone]: I can do that. Not like there's anything I can steal right now.

Spider-Man: Thanks. I'll see you there. Phone, dial Cindy Moon.

Cindy [phone]: Uh, boss, the city's going nutso. What's the game plan?

Spider-Man: I have a fall-back. Go to Horizon and grab the sonic cannon. Meet me at the Baxter Building.

Cindy [phone]: On it. I'm on my way to Horizon now. Question: what are **you** gonna do?

[Panel 2: Peter webs downwards, from a street perspective.]

Spider-Man: I'm going to get MJ.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man head-kicks a Symbiote, as three more notice his presence and advance.]

Spider-Man: Alright, guys! Time to tell me where MJ is!

Spider-Man [capt]: I know exactly where she is. But somebody here needs to bring some levity. Even if I'm the only one and I'm just talking to myself.

I need to keep myself on my feet. If I lose focus, I can't find-

[Page 14]

[Panel 1: A Symbiote has slugged Peter, as he tumbles several feet from the punch.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Okay, lost focus.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man looks up to see that the Symbiote-infected person has stumbled, a bunch of webbing having struck it in the face.]

Spider-Man: Okay, are the Other powers back? Because I don't recall having a spinneret in my butt.

???: Face it, Tiger-

[Panel 3: It turns out Peter's savior is Mary Jane, using the web-shooter bracelets that he gave her in the I Heart Marvel Romance series.]

MJ: -I just saved your life.

Spider-Man: Well, guess I did hit the jackpot.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man hugs MJ, who reciprocates.]

Spider-Man: You okay?

MJ: I'm fine. Almost got jumped by a few, but I started carrying these with me when you told me that Symbiotes were all over the place.

Spider-Man: Y'know something?

You're awesome.

[Page 15]

[Panel 1: Peter sweeps MJ up, Bridal style, and she is taken by surprise.]

Spider-Man: I have a plan. We're headed to the Fantastic Four. They've upped their defenses.

Felicia is gonna meet us there with Annie, and Cindy shouldn't be far behind.

You ready?

MJ: As I'll ever be.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man swings off, carrying MJ with him.]

Spider-Man: Reed, it's Peter. Get ready to start sealing up.

[Panel 3: Spiderman and MJ swing over the Baxter Building sunroof, with Spider-Man letting go of his web-line.]

Spider-Man: Alright. Looks like they're set up.

Reed! You guys ready?

[Panel 4: Spider-Man has landed, letting Mary Jane regain the use of her legs. In the background, the FF, minus The Thing, are gathered around a series of monitors.]

Reed: We're ready to seal up the building.

Johnny: Hey, MJ.

MJ: Hi, Johnny.

Spider-Man: Wait a few minutes. My sidekick and friend are still coming.

[Page 16]

[Panel 1: Peter has taken off his mask, sighing in relief, having made it to the safe zone.]

Peter: Five minutes. We wait five minutes, and if they're not here by then, we'll have to seal it off then.

[Panel 2: Peter's attention is piqued by shouting from the top of the Baxter Building.]

???: 'Scuse me! Sidekick coming through!

[Panel 3: Silk is leaping into the Baxter Building, firing off the sonic cannon. Her costume's right leg is torn, with a Symbiote recoiling from the sonic beam she's firing.]

Silk: Back! Back! Gagh!

I think that one bit me!

[Panel 4: Cindy rubs her leg where the costume is torn and a large gash is present, handing Peter the sonic cannon, which Reed inspects by stretching towards him.]

Cindy: Here you go, Mr. Parker. One Horizon-grade sonic cannon.

Anybody got some alcohol to clean this up?

Peter: Thanks Cindy. I think Reed has a medkit in the back of the room.

Reed: Yes. Johnny, please show Ms. Moon to the med kid.

Interesting upgrades, Peter. I see you narrowed the beam.

Peter: Yeah.

[Page 17]

[Panel 1: Peter's attention is piqued again by MJ, who is clearly worried.]

MJ: Peter?

Where's Felicia?

Where's Annie?

Peter: I... I dunno.

[Panel 2: Peter is pulling on his mask, prepping his webshooters, to which Reed responds by stopping him.]

Peter: Sit tight. I'm going out there to find th-

Reed: Peter, you can't. We're going to be overrun soon. Unless we seal off the Baxter Building-

[Panel 3: Peter is struggling heavily against Reed, who continues to subdue him.]

Peter: I don't give a damn! My kid is out there and I need to save her!

Reed: Peter, as a fellow father, I know what you're going through, but without you here, we have nobody with proper experience to fight the Symbiotes. We need to remain rational and keep our heads in the game,

Peter: Easy for you to say when your kid is far away from the city! Let me go!

Reed: Johnny, begin the lockdown.

Johnny: ... Yeah, on it.

[Page 18]

[Panel 1-5: A countdown from 5 to 1 as the doors close. Each one, save the last, is a shot of a different character (or two). Panel 1 is Reed and Sue, Panel 2 is of Johnny, Panel 3 is of Cindy, and Panel 4 is of Peter and MJ, hugging tightly. Panel 5 is the doors finally closing, clanging shut and the air pressurizing.]

AI: Initiating lockdown procedure in 5... 4... 3... 2... 1...

Cycle complete. Lockdown completed.

[Page 19]

[Panel 1: Peter and MJ are still hugging, both of them crying.]

MJ: Peter?

Peter: I'll think of something. I'll get our little girl back.

I promise.

[Panel 2: Peter looks out the window of the Baxter Building, the area he's looking out of becoming transparent in comparison to the rest of the pane, which is translucent with a shade of blue.]

Peter: So... we're trapped here?

Reed: Not trapped, Peter. Safe.

This was all your idea, remember?

Peter: That was before my daughter was stuck outside with no way to contact either my sitter or Felicia.

[Panel 3: The Parker Family apartment. Felicia, in her Black Cat gear, is standing in front of Annie's bed in a defensive pose, against two Symbiotes, one of whom is Annie's sitter.]

Felicia: Hope you kept that building sealed tight for now, Peter.

We might be a while.

Alright, ya freaks! You wanna get the girl, you're gonna have to go through me!

[Page 20]

[Panel 1: The Daily Bugle. Jonah and Robbie are pressing against a double door, while Betty and Ben are pushing desks to barricade themselves in.]

Jonah: Robbie! Put your back into it or you're fired!

Robbie: Honestly, Jonah? I'm more worried about my life than my career right now.

Phil! Betty! We need those desks propped up!

Phil: We're on it, Robbie!

[Panel 2: Flash is running down the street, firing off rounds from his sidearm behind him, with Symbiotes chasing him down the street.]

Flash: Can't go one damn day without something messed up happening in this city!

Come on, Spidey! Where are ya?

[Panel 3: We see Carlie and her squad fighting back against the Symbiotes, using their cars as makeshift barricades. Yuri's squad is moving in to assist in the background, with much heavier firepower, including shotguns and assault rifles.]

Carlie: This is Cooper to all available units! Hostiles are refusing to yield! We're withdrawing to 8th and Maiden!

Yuri: Here. My boys brought some heavier deterrents.

Carlie: Appreciated, Yuri, but I'm starting to think we're just throwing bodies and bullets at these things!

[Page 21]

[Full splash page. Peter and the rest of the occupants of the Baxter Building are staring out, each with their own look of despair.]

Peter: I... I think this is it.

I think this is the end.

[The Days of Deception have begun]