

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man (2016) #13
“Days of Deception, Pt. 3: If Only Miracles Grew on Trees”

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[Page 1]

[Full splash page; a tactical display, similar to Auntie Dot of Halo: Reach, of Manhattan Island.]

Tactical AI: Our enemy is more devious than we gave them credit for.

The Symbiotes have trapped all current military forces within Manhattan by destroying all ground transportation across the Hudson River, and installed a communication jamming device somewhere within the city. The Symbiotes have also breached the Baxter Building, infecting the accomplice of Spider-Man, Silk.

Thankfully, a solution has been planned. In order to prevent additional nationwide casualties, the UN has come to a unanimous conclusion; In 72 hours, should no alternative solution be provided, orbital defenses will be redirected upon Manhattan island with a high-yield firing solution.

The first efforts to redirect Geosynchronous Orbital Grid Beta-Sigma 3 will commence in 48 hours.

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[Panel 1: Similar to the SSM vs. Avengers panel in SSM #8. Peter, Reed, Johnny, Sue and Felicia are trying to restrain the newly-infected Cindy. SymbioCindy is weaving through the fire blasts, webbing, and stretched limbs that are being applied in the vain attempt to contain her. Peter is still unmasked, having lacked time to put it back on in #12.]

Peter: Focus, people! We need to get that thing off her before she tears the building apart!

Johnny! Put some heat on her!

Johnny: Working on it! She's slippery!

SymbioCindy: It's like you aren't even trying!

This host is making us stronger! Faster!

And best of all?--

[Panel 2: The Symbiote turns around, cackling.]

SymbioCindy: What a weak will your sidekick has, Parker!

Just... so incredibly easy to manipulate and meld her mind!

I could get used to such a easily-influenced host.

[Panel 3: Peter sucker-punches SymbioCindy, knocking several teeth out.]

Peter: Get off my sidekick!

SymbioCindy: So you only speak in commands!

Cute!

[Panel 4: SymbioCindy grips Peter by the face, slamming him against the floor.]

Peter: Gah!

SymbioCindy: Now if you'll excuse me...

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[Panel 1: SymbioCindy has lept up towards an air vent, ripping off the cover as the Johnny helps Peter up.]

Reed: She's escaping into the vents. Johnny, stop her!

[Panel 2: SymbioCindy vanishes into the vent, just as Johnny's fireball hits.]

[Panel 3: Peter, Johnny and Sue leap out the door, charging towards the stairwell.]

Peter: There's only one thing that's important to the Symbiotes right now. Getting our sonic defenses offline. They'd send one of their guys to shut them down!

Sue! Johnny! You're with me!

Sue: We're right behind you!

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[Panel 1: The generator room. A wide shot of the Baxter Building's antimatter reactor, which is a large dome-shaped object that has a distinctly glassy surface with a purple glow on the interior. SymbioCindy has wandered inside, having kicked off the vent cover, cracking the glass.]

[Panel 2: Peter, Sue and Johnny burst into the room, Sue throwing a grenade at their foe.]

Peter: She's going to go for the generator! Johnny, heat her up!

Johnny: No can do, Pete. If I let loose here, I set off the antimatter. This whole place goes, not to mention half of Manhattan.

Peter: Sue! Get that sonic rifle up here and stop her!

[Panel 3: SymbioCindy lunges for the crack, her fingers sharpened.]

SymbioCindy: No! I won't be denied!

For the glory of-

[Panel 4: A narrow-beam sonic blast knocks Cindy out of the Symbiote, but not before the Symbiote manages to breach the containment field.]

[Panel 5: Peter lunges for Cindy, having caught her and covering her just before the purple antimatter splurges from the reactor.]

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[Panel 1: Peter and Sue clamber next to the reactor, Sue with a pair of welding tools, and Peter taking a piece of sheet metal from the wall. Silk is still unconscious in the background, while Human Torch takes off.]

Reed [comms]: We have a breach!

Two dozen Symbiotes have broken through! I won't be able to hold them off by myself!

Peter: Johnny, get up there and help Reed! Sue and I will contain the breach and restore power!

Johnny: I'm on it!

[Panel 2: Peter and Sue weld the sheet metal over the breach, the wisps of antimatter left floating away like fire.]

Sue: Breach is sealed. Power should be returning any minute now.

Peter: Good work, Sue.

I'm gonna get up there and help the others with our uninvited guests.

Think you can take it from here?

Sue: Absolutely. I'll get Cindy to the med-bay after I'm done.

[Panel 3: Large panel. The Baxter Building is turning into a warzone. Peter, Reed, Johnny and Felicia are all grappling with multiple Symbiote-infected people. Peter has just slammed one of his attackers into three more, while kicking another into two more. Johnny is creating a ring of fire to keep them from gaining any more ground, and Reed is binding several of them together. Felicia, however, is struggling to defeat even one, despite pouring her best efforts into her fight, as is MJ, using a metal pole to bash a Symbiote across the face.]

Peter: This is all of them?

Reed: Yes. We sealed the exits after they got in.

Peter: Good.

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[Panel 1: As Felicia downs the last Symbiote, Peter turns aggressively towards the hallway.]

Peter: That's the last of them. Eject them out of the grav cannon. Burn them.

I don't care.

Sue [comm]: Peter, you're gonna wanna get down to the medbay.

It's Silk.

[Panel 2: Peter rushes down the hallway, full on sprint, as the others follow.]

[Panel 3: Cindy is strapped to a series of machines, each one monitoring a different vital, including brainwave activity, heart rate, and so on, but on a much more precise level.]

Peter: How is she?

Sue: Not too good.

The Symbiote didn't do much. What it did do is set off some kind of chemical reaction inside of her. Shot her healing factor to astronomical levels.

Peter: We've been having that problem on my end. Been giving her a pill that mimics my blood.

We've been looking for a cure ever since, but no such luck on that front. I only figured out about half of the formula.

[Panel 4: Peter's head rises, his eyes burst open in epiphany.]

Peter: Stark!

Sue: Pardon?

Peter: Tony said that he would work on a cure for Cindy when she joined the Mighties. There's a chance that he got around to working on it before the Symbiotes decided to jump him. Or, at the very least, a formula of some kind.

[Panel 5: Peter pulls on his mask, walking out of the lab, Reed and MJ right behind him.]

Peter: We can't afford any more losses.

I've got to get to Avengers Tower.

Reed, open up the skylight.

MJ, you ever felt like shooting a sonic cannon?

MJ: Never tried it.

Peter: Trust me, you'll love it.

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[Panel 1: Peter, Reed and MJ stand in the center, Peter stretching his web-slingshot, ready for takeoff, Reed is at the controls, while MJ is pointing the sonic cannon upwards]

Peter: See that Symbiote? Just shoot it and I'll be home free.

Reed: Opening the skylight in 3...2...1....

[Panel 2: As Peter springs upwards, pulling his mask fully on as MJ fires the sonic cannon.]

Peter: Love ya, Red.

MJ: Love you too, tiger.

[Panel 3: The sonic blast hits the Symbiote, knocking it off the side of the Baxter Building as Spider-Man swings out.]

Spider-Man: Nice shot.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man crouches on a rooftop, his webline flinging back to it's phantom anchor point. The sky has turned a mixture of ash gray and blood red, something like the animation cel for Batman: The Animated Series.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Holy hell.

How did the situation get so bad so fast?

[Panel 5: Spider-Man is still on his perch, but the POV is downwards towards the battle, which has gotten much more desperate. Lasers are flying everywhere, bodies are strewn in the street, and smoke is rising from the streets, with multiple buildings either collapsed completely or suffering major structural damage.]

Spider-Man [capt]: They've already fallen past Columbus. It's a slaughterhouse.

But... no bodies.

No... they're not killing. They're getting hosts. They're just wearing our guys down.

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man leaps over the rooftops, sparks of flame licking the air around him.]

Spider-Man [capt]: I can't stop to help them.

They're doing what they can. I'm not going to make a difference down there. Besides, I have my own mission.

[Panel 2: Cap is leading the charge against the Symbiotes, as heroes struggle to maintain momentum. Firestar, Quake, Rom and Toxin are keeping the majority of the Symbiotes at bay, while Falcon is pinned against the wall and Daredevil is on the ground, moaning in pain.]

Cap: Keep pushing, people! We can't let them gain much more ground! We'll hit the edge eventually if we can't stop them.

Spider-Man [capt]: Stark. He'd have prepped for Venom in some way.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man perches on a rooftop, the shadow covering him in a way similar to his own black suit.]

Spider-Man [Capt]: After all.

He would've prepared for me going rogue. What would've stopped him from prepping for me teaming up with one of my bad guys?

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man swings towards Stark Tower, the lights on the tower shut off, including the Stark logo on the tower.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Looks like power to the city is down. Including Avengers Tower.

Gonna have to get in the hard way.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man lands on the roof of the tower, next to an access hatch.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Everything on this tower runs on electricity. No such thing as pencil and paper in here.

Which means Stark probably had a back-up generator installed in the tower. If he did anything, it was plan ahead.

And if I turn the power on, the Symbiotes will notice me. Gonna have to make this quick.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man has opened the hatch, jumping in.]

Spider-Man: Here's to hoping I have one hell of a head start.

[Panel 4: As the hatch closes, a line of black webbing fixes itself to the piece of metal right next to said hatch.]

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man is hunched over an access vent, peering down into the barely-illuminated space beneath him.]

Spider-Man: Okay, I lived in this tower for almost half a year. Unless Tony's made some major changes to the interior, his generator room should be...

[Panel 2: Spider-Man has pulled away the vent cover, noting the slowly pulsating glow of the backup generator.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Here.

Peter Parker, you should be proud of yourself.

[Panel 3: As Spider-Man's webbing dab hits the generator switch, we see several lights coming on in the background.]

Spider-Man: Bingo.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man climbs up the vent, climbing to another vent cover.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Symbiotes will be on top of Avengers Tower any minute now. Gonna need to make this quick.

[Panel 5: Spider-Man pokes his head into the nearest room, his lenses widening.]

Spider-Man: Whoa.

Knew Stark was prepping for me going rogue, but...

Never imagined he'd have gone this far.

[Page 11]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man has stepped into the room, seeing dozens of devices meant to suppress him, built with Stark Tech.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Spider-Sense jammers. Electro-netting. Backup Hydraulics.

Stark must've thought I'd put up one helluva fight if I ever went rogue.

Not to mention all of the sonic tech in here. He must've really been worried about Venom's influence. Seismic Charges, white-noise grids, molecular-level acids.... If Tony was right about anything, it was how dangerous the Symbiotes are.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man turns around, a loud clanging noise coming from the vents outside.]

Spider-Man: Eep!

Okay, gonna have to think fast. I can't overpower him, and he's had forever to set up Stark Tower as his personal pad. He knows this armory is here, and that I'd come gunning for the tech in this room.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man rubs his fingers against his chin, deep in thought.]

Spider-Man: But... he wouldn't expect me to go for....

Yeah. I can work with this.

[Page 12]

[Panel 1: Venom crashes into the middle of the floor, pieces of the vent splinters raining around him as he lands.]

Venom: Let's see. All of my least-favorite toys...

[Panel 2: Venom rips open the door to the Anti-Spider armory, the room empty and pitch black save the light from the hallway.]

Venom: ...You're too easy to predict, Par-

What?! He's not here!

[Panel 3: Venom looks behind him to see Spider-Man behind him, with welding goggles on and holding a smoking solder.]

Spider-Man: Sure I am. Just have to know where to look.

And yeah, I know I'm wearing goggles. At least it ain't a top hat.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man swings away, dropping the solder on the floor and the goggles flying off of his face as he swings away, Venom busting the doors off of their hinges in pursuit.]

Spider-Man: So, you up for a little game of tag?

You're it.

Venom: Get back here, Parker!

Spider-Man: I don't think that's how the game works, Brock!

Venom: There is no more Brock in here!

I'm VENOM!

Spider-Man: Right. And I'm Evel Knievel.

[Page 13]

[Panel 1: Spider-Man's foot is visible from a wall further down the hall from Venom's POV, who is still chasing him.]

Spider-Man: Boy, Symby, you really carbo-loaded while you were getting your little kum-bayah together! Don't tell me you didn't exercise!

Venom: You keep forgetting, Parker! You and I used to be the same person!

And when you start cracking jokes non-stop?

Well, that means you have a plan!

[Panel 2: Venom grips the floor, ready to make a sharper turn, when he sees the trap Peter has set off-panel.]

Spider-Man: Oh, you **do** know me so well.

Well, allow me to explain.

[Panel 3: Venom has ground to a halt, frowning as though he's simply being pranked, as Spider-Man explains to him what is going on.]

Spider-Man: See, I like to think I'm a pretty smart guy.

[Panel 4: Spider-Man is standing next to a large contingent of Iron Man armors, all remotely controlled by rudimentary functions and holes in the backs of their heads from Spider-Man hotwiring them.]

Spider-Man: Figured I should stretch my brain a bit. Give hacking Stark Tech a try.

[Panel 5: Close-up of Spider-Man's face, his one visible eye narrowed.]

Spider-Man: Beat the puzzle. What do I win?

[Page 14]

[Panel 1: As the Iron Man armors swarm Venom, Spider-Man bolts down the hall.]

Venom: Rragh! You think a bunch of tin cans are gonna stop me from ripping you apart?!

Spider-Man: Only if they buy me enough time to get what I need and run.

Have fun chewing on metal.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man rips open the elevator doors, light pouring into the empty shaft.]

Spider-Man: The steak's not up for searing.

[Panel 3: As the Symbiote-Infected Avengers arrive, Venom tears up an armor, crushing an arm joint in his mouth and a helmet in his hand.]

Venom: What're you standing there for?

[Panel 4: Venom licks his teeth hungrily.]

Venom: Let's see if we can't catch 'im.

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man swings out of the elevator shaft, racing down the hall as he lets go of the web-line.]

Spider-Man: If Tony was gonna keep any of his promises, it would be this one.

Even he wouldn't make a promise to fix a dying kid without keeping it.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man leaps onto a glass window inside the building, leading to Tony's private lab, which is a combination of both messy and clean, scaled in how important something looks.]

Spider-Man: This was Tony's lab before I left. And if I know Tony like I think I do, he'd be too comfy to bother moving it.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man rips the handprint scanner off of the wall, the door opening for him.]

Spider-Man: If he had anything that would be used to fix Cindy, it'd be in...

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man picks up a tablet in the mess of a room, staring at it through his mask.]

Spider-Man: -Here.

[Panel 2: A close up of the tablet, which has chicken scratch variables and genetic sequences in an equation, which looks barely completed to a quarter of what it should be, given the complexity.]

Spider-Man [capt]: This has to be it. But it doesn't look like Stark got very far.

There's maybe a third of what should be there. At most.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man's lenses shoot open, a lightbulb going off in his head.]

Spider-Man [capt]: Wait a minute.

Those variables... at the beginning of the sequence.

They.. they match up with the formula I've been writing.

This is the last piece of the puzzle!

Stark, if I wasn't married, I would probably kiss you right now!

[Panel 4: Iron Man's Symbiote-Infected armor slams into Spider-Man, slamming him into a computer, the screen shattering on impact.]

Spider-Man [Capt]: Guh!

Oh, yeah. Also have to take into account that you've got a Symbiote in your system now.

So, I take back the whole 'I could kiss you' bit.

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man wrestles free of Iron Man's grip, crushing his faceplate with his right hand.]

Spider-Man: Sorry for breaking your suit, Tony. Can't afford to fix it, though. That's on you.

[Panel 2: Venom has climbed down the shaft in pursuit as well, but is still being harassed by the Iron Man armors under remote control.]

Venom: There you are.

[Panel 3: Spider-Man 360's Spider-Woman and Black Panther, who have just entered the fray.]

Spider-Man: Who said I was trying to hide? Or run?

[Panel 4: Spider-Man hits another panel, labeled "Tower Defenses Master Control.", before continuing to fight, this time against an approaching Vision.]

Spider-Man: Besides, cavalry is coming.

Alright, Vision! Your turn!

[Pages 18 and 19 Double page spread.]

[Panel 1: Takes up the top of the page. Venom and the Mighties are now engaged against a swarm of Iron Man armors and laser turrets, while Spider-Man is deftly dodging, making his way over to a disabled Iron Man armor.]

Venom: Pretty soon you'll run out of things to throw at me. And I don't even get tired. So you're just spitballing me with these.

Spider-Man: Oh, I wouldn't worry about running out of punching bags any time soon.

[Panels 2 and 4 are Spider-Man hacking into the Iron Man armor, while Panels 3 and 5 are Venom slashing through armors like paper.]

[Panel 6: Spider-Man ties two wires together, completing the circuit.]

Spider-Man: I hope this works.

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[Panel 1: Spider-Man picks up the Iron Man armor, struggling with the heavy weight he's carrying.]

Spider-Man: Sorry, Tony. Hate doing this to ya, but I'm alive and you're probably dead and/or probably not even there. So, in my book, that makes you fair game.

[Panel 2: Spider-Man throws the armor at Venom, who has just finished ripping through another armor set.]

Spider-Man: Time to test out your new bomb functionality.

Fly, baby!

[Panel 3: Close up of Venom, a look of terror on his face.]

Venom: Oh, sh-

[Pages 21 and 22]

Double page spread. One glorious show of Stark Tower's upper five floors exploding, nobody seen escaping as the flames consume the five floors.

[The Days of Deception Continue....]