

**MARVEL**

**3**

**MARK WAID**  
**JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ**  
**WITH ÁLVARO LÓPEZ**

# HISTORY OF THE **MARVEL** UNIVERSE



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# HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

At the end of existence, Franklin Richards asked Galactus to tell him the story of their universe as they wait for its heat death. Galactus began with the first stirrings of life and left off with the fateful space mission that would result in the formation of the Fantastic Four. Now, the story continues...

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HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE No. 3, November 2019. Published Monthly by MARVEL WORLDWIDE, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 135 West 50th Street, New York, NY 10020. BULK MAIL POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2019 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$4.99 per copy in the U.S. (GST #R127032852) in the direct market; Canadian Agreement #40688537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$26.99; Canada \$42.99; Foreign \$42.99. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO HISTORY OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTIONS P.O. BOX 727 NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040. TELEPHONE # (888) 511-5480. FAX # (347) 537-2649. subscriptions@marvel.com. DAN BUCKLEY, President, Marvel Entertainment; JOHN NEE, Publisher; JOE QUESADA, Chief Creative Officer; DAVID BOGART, Associate Publisher & SVP of Talent Affairs; TOM BREVOORT, SVP of Publishing; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Sales & Marketing; JEFF YOUNGQUIST, VP of Production & Special Projects; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; ALEX MORALES, Director of Publishing Operations; DAN EDINGTON, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Vito DeBellis, Custom Solutions & Integrated Advertising Manager, at vdeb@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 888-511-5480. Manufactured between 08/23/2019 and 09/02/2019 by CENVED, RICHMOND, VA, USA.

ON AN ILL-FATED SPACE MISSION, FOUR ASTRONAUTS--**BEN GRIMM**, **REED RICHARDS**, REED'S FIANCEE, **SUSAN STORM**, AND HER BROTHER, **JOHNNY**--WERE BOMBARDED BY COSMIC RAYS FAR TOO POWERFUL FOR THE SHIELDS ON RICHARDS' SHIP TO WITHSTAND.

THEIR BODIES CHANGED PRACTICALLY, GIVING THEM SUPERHUMAN POWERS AND ABILITIES.

REED RICHARDS:  
**MR. FANTASTIC.**

JOHNNY STORM:  
**THE HUMAN TORCH.**


SUSAN STORM:  
**THE INVISIBLE GIRL.**

RICHARDS, GUILTY OVER HOW HE'D ALTERED HIS FRIENDS' LIVES, REFUSED TO LET THEM BE FEARED BY THE WORLD AS FREAKS. INSTEAD, HE TURNED THEM INTO A GROUP OF SUPER HEROES IN COLORFUL COSTUMES WHO EMBRACED A LIFE OF CELEBRITY AND GLAMOUR.


BEN GRIMM:  
**THE THING.**

TOGETHER, THEY HERALDED A NEW AGE OF HEROES AS THE **FANTASTIC FOUR.**







ON A SOUTHWESTERN TEST SITE, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST **BRUCE BANNER** WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION OF HIS GAMMA BOMB.




IN NEW YORK, JOHNNY STORM DISCOVERED AND REAWAKENED NAMOR, WHO HAD BEEN WANDERING THE EARTH IN AN AMNESIAC STATE FOLLOWING AN ATTACK BY AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS FATHER'S.



NAMOR, SUFFERING FROM A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE AFTER YEARS AS A LAND DWELLER, WAS NO LONGER AN AMERICAN ALLY.



REUNITING WITH THE ATLANTEAN RACE, HE ONCE AGAIN DECLARED AN ONGOING WAR ON THE SURFACE WORLD.



BLAMING HIS FORMER COLLEGE COLLEAGUE FOR AN ACCIDENT THAT SCARRED HIS FACE, **VICTOR VON DOOM** SWORE VENGEANCE ON RICHARDS' FANTASTIC FOUR.



HIS HIGH-TECH ARMOR WITH ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART DEFENSES QUICKLY MADE HIM THEIR MOST FORMIDABLE FOE--**DOCTOR DOOM**.



AS THE RADIATION SETTLED IN HIS SYSTEM, BANNER'S BODY WOULD RESPOND TO STRESS BY TRANSFORMING INTO THE **HULK**, A RAGING BEHEMOTH WHOSE LEVEL OF INTELLIGENCE WAS CONTINUALLY IN FLUX BUT WHOSE STRENGTH FOLLOWED ONE RULE: THE Madder HULK GOT, THE STRONGER HE GOT.

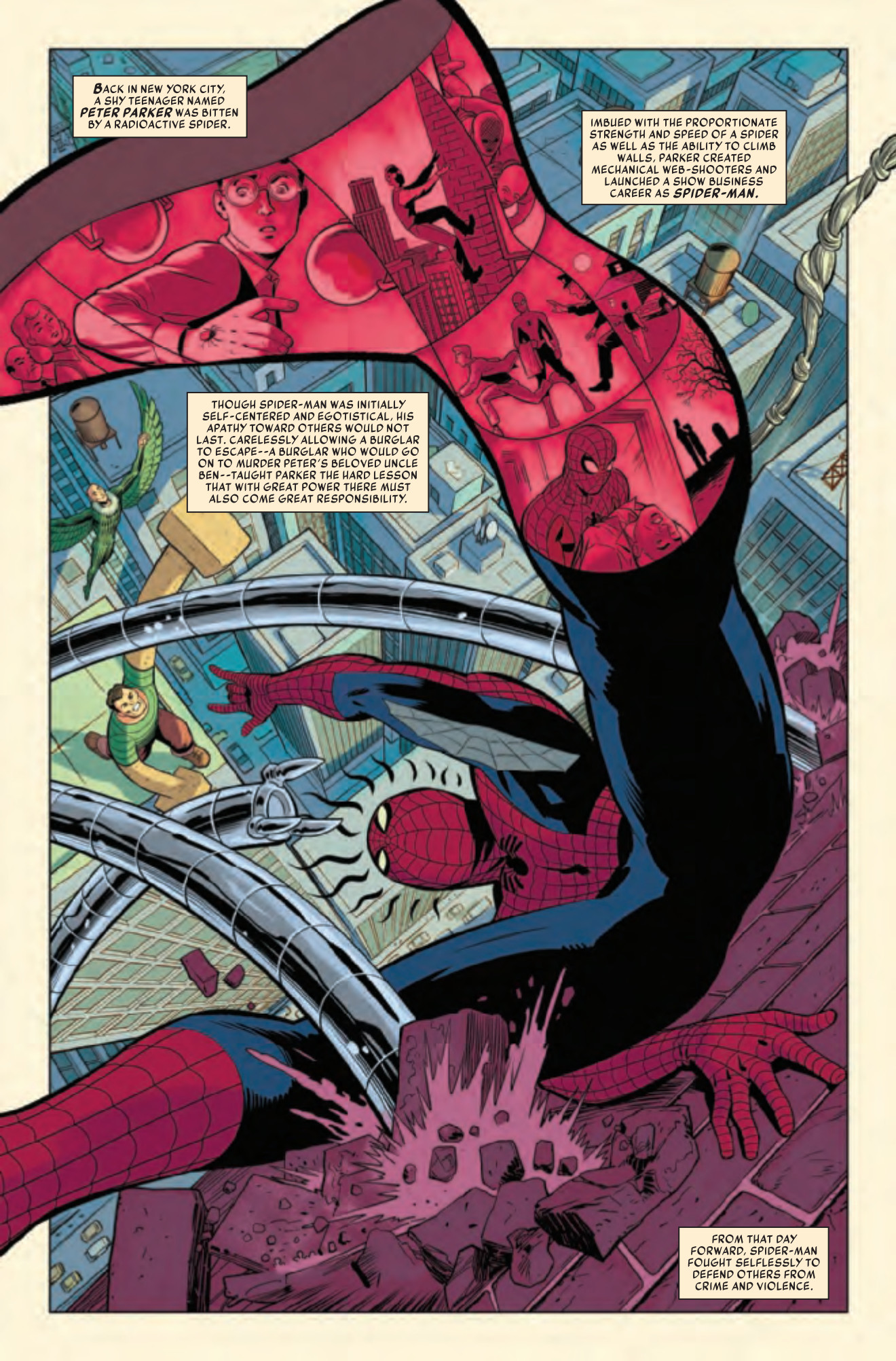
AFTER AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH ECCENTRIC SCIENTIST **HANK PYM** EXPOSED HIMSELF TO HIS OWN SHRINKING POTION, HE WAS INSPIRED TO MAKE USE OF HIS SIZE-CHANGING EXPERIMENTS.

BY COMBINING HIS "**PYM PARTICLES**" WITH A HELMET THAT ALLOWED HIM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANTS, HE BECAME KNOWN AS **ANT-MAN**.

LIKE NAMOR, DOOM WAS THE RULER OF HIS OWN KINGDOM: **LATVERIA**, A SMALL BALKAN NATION.

GRANTED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY BY HIS THRONE, DOOM USED LATVERIA AS A BASE FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONQUER THE WORLD.





BACK IN NEW YORK CITY,  
A SHY TEENAGER NAMED  
**PETER PARKER** WAS BITTEN  
BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.

IMBUED WITH THE PROPORTIONATE  
STRENGTH AND SPEED OF A SPIDER  
AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO CLIMB  
WALLS, PARKER CREATED  
MECHANICAL WEB-SHOOTERS AND  
LAUNCHED A SHOW BUSINESS  
CAREER AS **SPIDER-MAN**.

THOUGH SPIDER-MAN WAS INITIALLY  
SELF-CENTERED AND EGOTISTICAL, HIS  
APATHY TOWARD OTHERS WOULD NOT  
LAST. CARELESSLY ALLOWING A BURGLAR  
TO ESCAPE--A BURGLAR WHO WOULD GO  
ON TO MURDER PETER'S BELOVED UNCLE  
BEN--TAUGHT PARKER THE HARD LESSON  
THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST  
ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

FROM THAT DAY  
FORWARD, SPIDER-MAN  
FOUGHT SELFLESSLY TO  
DEFEND OTHERS FROM  
CRIME AND VIOLENCE.