Maximum Carnage #1 of 14

***Carnage Rising!***

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Peter Parker/Spider-man – Kletus Kasady/Carnage - Mary Jane – Officer Resnick – Aunt May – Robertson – Shriek – Dr. Poutnella – Dr. Landis – Archie – J Jonah Jameson – Ms. Cashing – News reporter – Liz Allen

***Ravencroft, a maximum security institution devoted to the study and incarceration of the criminally insane.***

**Kletus Kasady *(singing)***

Here comes the bride, all dressed in white. I wish it was red! Then you would all be dead!

**Officer Resnick**

Real funny, Kasady! You’re a regular weird Al Yankovic with an emphasis on the weird!

**Kasady**

Thank you, officer Resnick! I sincerely hope that I can someday return the courtesy you’ve shown me, by destroying you quickly and with minimal agony!

**Resnick**

In your dreams sicko! Here is your man Dr. Pournella. Cletus Kasady or Carnage, as he is better known in the popular press.

**Dr. Landis**

Is it really necessary to conduct experiments on such a dangerous subject, Pournella? The man is a convicted killer who used to dress up in some tacky red costume!

**Dr. Pournella**

Relax Dr. Landis, Kasady’s been residing in the vault, the government’s facility for superhuman criminals. They have given him a clean bill of health. Except for an unexplained anomaly which keeps registering in his blood tests.

**Kasady**

Ohhh! Sounds pretty scary! There is something different about my blood! There’s a monster living within it! Be careful! You don’t want to accidently set it free!

**Dr. Pournella**

There are monsters within all of us, Mr. Kasady. But only certain rare individuals like yourself give free vent to them. Your anomaly may be a manifestation of a chemical imbalance which causes mental instability. If we can isolate and analyze it, we may eventually learn to treat individuals like you.

**Kasady**

And people call me crazy! You should have listened doc! I warned you! There really is a monster hiding within me! You test tube jockeys are all the same. You can’t accept the truth when it’s staring you in the eye! The monster is far more than a wild pair of Long Johns! It’s become a living part of me, and we were merely biding our time!

***The symbiote starts to break through Kasady’s strait jacket.***

**Kasady**

Hey Resnick! Remember how I said I’d go easy on you?

***The Carnage symbiote has reformed itself and breaks through the strait jacket.***

**Carnage**

I LIED!

You should have known better than to trust a raving lunatic! I am the ultimate insanity! I am CARNAGE!

**Dr. Landis**

Call security! Get some reinforcements down here!

**Carnage**

Oh goody, I could use a few more victims! These guards are all used up! There are just you two doctors left! WHOOPS! Make that one! Any last words Dr. Pournella?

**Dr. Pournella**

Let me help you, Mr. Kasady! I’m your only hope! I can ease your pain! I’ve devoted my entire life to curing people like you. And ridding the world of serial killers!

**Carnage**

I am deeply touched by your obvious sincerity doctor Pournella! Unfortunately your entire life has been a sick joke! A total WASTE! Not only have you irresponsibly released the worst serial killer of all, but I’m going to celebrate my newfound freedom by slaying every inhabitant within your precious institute!

***Meanwhile Peter Parker attends the funeral of Harry Osborn with family and friends.***

**Parker**

*Family. Sometimes having a family can be pure aggravation! But there are occasions when you desperately need your family or what passes for it. Occasions like the birth of a child or the funeral service of a recently departed friend. There’s Felicia Hardy with Flash Thompson. She’s the only one here aside from Mary Jane who knows that I’m secretly Spider-man. I can feel her eyes staring into the back of my head, demanding to know the real story behind Harry’s death. How can I tell her or anyone else the truth?*

**J. Jonah Jameson**

Can you believe this pitiful turnout Robertson? Young Osborn may not have been the man his father was, but he was a business leader in this community!

**Robertson**

You can’t blame anyone for not coming, Jonah! Harry died under the cloud of being the Green Goblin!

**J. Jonah Jameson**

If you ask me, that web-slinging menace is responsible for this tragedy and I intend to prove it!

**Parker**

*In his own twisted way, Jolly Jonah isn’t wrong.*

**Aunt May**

I always liked Harry! He was such a well-mannered and polite boy!

**Parker**

Mary Jane, we should pay our last respects to Liz.

**Mary Jane**

You talk to her. After what Harry tried to do to you, to all of us, I just wouldn’t know what to say. Have you noticed how their son keeps glaring at us? It’s like he blames us for Harry’s death.

**Parker**

*Harry used to be my closest friend but he became twisted. As the Green Goblin, he would have gleefully destroyed me. Yet, he died while saving my life. Poor Liz is an emotional wreck. She’s been leaning very heavily on her brother and that must be a weird experience for a former criminal like the Molten Man.*

Liz I...

**Liz Allen**

Oh, Peter, I hope you know how much Harry truly loved you. He always said his happiest days were when you two were roommates. I know that things have been difficult lately and that you and Mary Jane have been planning to move from the building we all shared but Harry would have wanted you to stay.

**Parker**

We’ll talk. *Harry was my best friend and my greatest enemy. I would have done anything to help him. And yet I was forced to use all my power against him. He was practically family. But he was determined to destroy everyone I loved including himself. Friends, foes and family-how did they ever manage to get so confused and jumbled together?*

***Meanwhile back at Ravencroft...***

**Carnage**

Come on guys! Put a little more effort into it! I’m sure you can fight better than this! I need the practice! I want to be at my best for my long-awaited reunion bouts with Spider-man and Venom!

I’d really hate for them to think I’ve been slacking off the past few months! The pressure of constantly producing for one’s peers is simply incredible! They’ll both come after me as soon as they learn of my escape! Unless I play it smart and GO AFTER THEM!

***Carnage hears applause in one of the cells down the hall.***

**Carnage**

What’s this? I seem to have acquired a cheering section. What kind of nutcase would egg me on? A real winner from the looks of that reinforced door. Oh well! A faint heart never won anything except a dull and boring life!

**Shriek**

Hey! Why’d you suddenly stop making those people give screams of pain and torture? I was really into those high pitched vocals, man! I’m a big fan of your work!

**Carnage**

Hmm, something tells me that you’re my kind of lunatic!

**Shriek**

My name’s Shriek. Wow, those blades of yours are simply wild! This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship! Cut me free! I can’t wait to join your psycho circuit!

**Carnage**

Why should I share my action?

**Shriek**

You have nothing to lose and so much to gain. Besides haven’t you heard that two can destroy as well as one?

***Just then at the home of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Parker...***

**Mary Jane**

I’m sorry for the way I acted at the service but I just wasn’t ready to face Liz after all that’s happened.

**Parker**

She doesn’t want us to move.

**Mary Jane**

What did you tell her?

**Parker**

I said we would have to talk.

**Mary Jane**

Yes we do.

**Parker**

Mary Jane, I know you’re under a lot of stress but you should not start smoking. Think of what it’s doing to your health! We just attended one memorial service! Please don’t make me attend yours!

**Mary Jane**

I can quit whenever I want, don’t confuse the issues Peter! Harry might still be alive if he had taken up smoking instead of being the Green Goblin! What about your health, Peter? Harry was one of your oldest friends, but he could have easily destroyed us both! Your life is in constant jeopardy as long as you’re Spider-man.

**Parker**

What do you expect me to say Mary Jane? You’re 100% right! But I can’t ignore the great power that I was given, and believe me, I’ve tried!

**Mary Jane**

I know, and your sense of responsibility is an unconquerable quality.

**Parker**

Then what should I do?

**Mary Jane**

Take a break. Stop being Spider-man for the next week or two. We both need a chance to slow down and chill out from the constant stress. Maybe take a vacation where Spider-man won’t show up.

**Parker**

All right...if that’s all you want, I’ll try.

**Mary Jane**

Oh, thank you Peter!

***Meanwhile somewhere across town...***

**Carnage**

He floats through the air with the greatest of ease! This daring young man who is infested with fleas! What was a nice lady like you doing in a place like Ravencroft?

**Shriek**

I was enjoying a little harmless destruction when I ran into this really weird dude who warped my mind. The docs were trying to glue it all back together but they seemed to be missing a few necessary pieces.

**Carnage**

Ha, I hate when that happens! Sounds like you’ve got a score to settle.

**Shriek**

So true! What’s your tale of woe?

**Carnage**

I used to be your standard shy, underachieving criminal until some bureaucratic mistake stuffed me in a holding cell with Eddie Brock! Eddie was my kind of people, a real psycho but I was still planning to get him when an unexpected visitor came calling. An alien symbiote which latched onto him to re-create Venom. Unfortunately for them, in their rush to escape, they accidently left a little souvenir behind. A smart cookie like you can guess what happened next. Life would have been so grand if Spider-man and Venom hadn’t put aside their own differences. I still might have beaten the both of them if that wall-crawling creep hadn’t cheated! He resorted to sonic waves which caught Eddie and me completely by surprise.

But far as I can tell, my symbiote managed to mutate my cells through one of the cuts I had gotten during the battle. I’m not sure how, but I can now generate a dead ringer for the symbiote!

**Shriek**

That’s cool. But the best thing is we get to do a revenge riff!

**Carnage**

It’ll be a new experience for me! You don’t get many rematches when you destroy your enemies. I do believe there’s a spider in that alley! Let’s go squash it!

***A six-armed spider-man with claws from the Infinity War, jumps at Carnage and Shriek from a trash can.***

**Carnage**

Hey, I’m supposed to be the monster here! Last time I checked, Spider-man only had two arms!

**Shriek**

Correct me if I’m wrong Carnage but this is definitely not the Spider-man you’re looking for.

**Carnage**

Picky, picky! It was an honest mistake! I mean, aside from me, Spidey and Venom, exactly how many web-swinging stooges are there in the world?

***The Spider-man Doppelganger tries to fight but Carnage easily contains him in his symbiote.***

**Carnage**

You know, while I was locked in the vault, I heard some goofy rumours about a pack of evil duplicates from outer space and...nah! It’s all too phoney for words! He could be one of them though.

**Shriek**

Don’t hurt him, Carnage. He’s kind of cute in a sick and utterly deranged sort of way.

**Carnage**

Get over it, Shriek, mayhem is what I do!

**Shriek**

Not this time!

***Shriek fires a sonic blast at Carnage making him drop the Doppelganger.***

**Carnage**

A sonic blast?! I didn’t know you could do that!

**Shriek**

Every woman likes to keep a few secrets, Carnage and that’s not all I want to keep!

**Carnage**

Oh all right...old six-arms makes three! He can keep you company while I attend to some personal business.

***Meanwhile back at the Parker residence...***

**Mary Jane**

Trust me; it’s the perfect way to begin our little impromptu treat away at home.

**Parker**

Chinese take-out is hardly what I had in mind.

**Mary Jane**

A lady has to have her priorities mister and food currently tops that list. Try to remember the fortune cookies this time!

***Parker leaves to pick up their order.***

**Parker**

*MJ was right! We both need to kick back from the strain of the past few weeks. And the shock of Harry’s sudden death. Some serious rest and relaxation is certainly in order.*

Do you have an order for Parker?

**News reporter**

Over fifty are estimated dead.

**Archie**

Extra ginger sauce, right?

**Parker**

That’s us! *Sounds like trouble on the radio.*

**News reporter**

The authorities have disclosed few details about the bizarre massacre which has claimed the lives of the staff and inmates at the Ravencroft institute.

**Parker**

*Ravencroft. But that’s where...oh no!*

**Archie**

You’re all set pal! I’ve even included extra fortune cookies for your lovely bride?!

***Parker leaves in a hurry before he can take his order.***

**Parker**

*I’ve tried to keep tabs on Kasady ever since the cops carted him off after our last battle! Some doctor recently caused a minor jurisdictional flap between the state and the feds when she requested a transfer to Ravencroft. Who am I kidding? It’s got to be him! He’s somehow found a way to reunite with his symbiote. Why not? Venom has certainly pulled off that trick, no matter how impossible it seemed at the time! It’s all so frustrating! Every enemy I’ve ever fought seems to return at some point or another no matter how decisively I beat them! They always come back! It’s like I’m destined to keep fighting them over and over again! I’ll never see the last of them! Except for Harry.*

***Spider-man swings through the streets of New York looking for Carnage.***

**Spider-man**

WHOA! What’s wrong with me? I reacted instinctively as soon as I heard the news, and never even stopped to consider Mary-YIPES! My spider-sense is warning me of danger!

***A bolt of lightning almost hits Spider-man.***

**Spider-man**

Whew! Someone almost had an order of fried web-head to go! Whoever fired that blast is standing in the shadows up ahead! I can see a few figures. But I can’t quite see who.

**Shriek**

You run around in web-covered spandex and you think I’m weird. Sic him!

**Spider-man**

Oooh boy! It’s the Spider Doppelganger and some weird looking lady! I have a registered trademark to protect! What’s your excuse? *I barely managed to leap out of the creature’s path! I don’t dare underestimate him! He may not be the world’s deepest thinker but he possesses enhanced variations on my powers!*

***Spider-man continues dodging the Doppelganger’s attacks.***

**Spider-man**

*Who’s the woman and what’s her connection to this orthodontic nightmare? He used to live with the Demogoblin. The Doppelganger recovers a lot faster than I anticipated! Maybe I can turn the way he keeps lunging at me to my advantage.*  *I’ll just present a tempting target and pray that my timing is...*PERFECT!

***Spider-man tosses the Doppelganger into a trash can with perfect timing.***

**Spider-man**

*Once he committed to his leap, his own forward momentum drove him directly into that trash can!*

*This is my chance! I have to keep him in that can! I can’t give him an instant to recover! If I finish this quickly I can return to Mary Jane before she realizes that I lied about my promise!*

**Shriek**

Stop it! You’re hurting my Doppel...whatever you called him!

**Spider-man**

*Meeting up with these two is all the proof I need that the pressure will never end! There will always be another menace to fight and I desperately need a break from this insanity before, OH NO!*

***The Doppelganger breaks out of the trash can and begins to fight back.***

**Spider-man**

*I allowed him to get to close and now he’s closing in for some serious damage! I can barely breathe, no time for anything fancy.*

***Spider-man ties the Doppelganger’s feet together with a web-line.***

**Spider-man**

*Ha! What do you know he fell for the old webbed foot trick! Uh oh! Behind me!*

**Shriek**

I warned you to leave him alone!

**Spider-man**

That’s the trouble with women! You never appreciate good slapstick!

***Meanwhile, back at the Parker residence...***

**Mary Jane**

*Why is Peter taking so long? I’ll bet he forgot the fortune cookies and had to go back for them. That has to be it. There’s supposed to be a mention of my soap opera “Secret Hospital” on the local news and I’d hate to...*

**News Reporter**

Reacting to the brutal tragedy at Ravencroft, the authorities have issued an all points bulletin for escaped killer Cletus Kasady!

**Mary Jane**

Oh Peter! I don’t need those cookies to know your fortune now!

***Back on the rooftops with Spidey...***

**Spider-man**

*I don’t know what’s tougher to avoid, smiley’s dentures or thunder girl’s blasts!*

**Shriek**

Watch out Doppy! He’s trying to wrap you in his sticky webs! Pull your arms back and use your strength to toss him backwards!

***The Doppelganger does as he is instructed.***

**Spider-man**

YEOW! *It was hard enough fighting him when he was just stronger and faster than me, but now she’s coaching him! I need a moment to catch my breath.*

***Spider-man dodges Shriek’s blasts.***

**Shriek**

I hate when you hop like that! No wonder Carnage wants to destroy you!

**Spider-man**

You know, Carnage?!

**Shriek**

Haven’t you heard? We’re out to get you!

**Spider-man**

*If that’s true, I’m in even worse shape than I thought! There’s no way I could take on all three of them! I’ve got to pull out all the stops before Carnage makes the scene!*

***Spider-man webs Shriek to a wall.***

**Spider-man**

*Spider-sense suddenly going wild!*

***The Doppelganger attacks Spider-man from behind.***

**Spider-man**

I left myself open to the Doppelganger!

***Spider-man falls off the rooftop and into an alley where he lands on a dumpster.***

**Spider-man**

*Doppelganger is taking her to safety and is forgetting about me...but I can’t let them escape! They’re my only link to Carnage. I’ve got to ignore the pain in my ribs. I must...keep going...even if I have to force myself! My ribs feel like they’ve been shattered, but I can’t let that stop...me.*

***Spider-man collapses to the ground in excruciating pain. At that very moment, in the editorial offices of New York’s most bombastic publisher...***

**J Jonah Jameson**

I’m telling you that Spider-man has a personal vendetta against the Osborn Family! He was involved in the death of young Harry, and I’ve always believed that he had a hand in Norman’s demise!

**Robertson**

You don’t have proof!

**J Jonah Jameson**

J. Jonah Jameson doesn’t need proof! I have my convictions, I’ll find the proof!

**Ms. Cushing**

Mr. Jameson! I’ve been searching the entire office for you!

**J Jonah Jameson**

I really wish you would handle these petty emergencies, Ms. Cushing! That’s why I pay you such a generous salary!

**Ms. Cashing**

Jonah, the police know that Cletus Kasady once took you hostage...so they phoned to warn you that he is apparently on the loose again!

**J Jonah Jameson**

Kasady is free?! Excuse me! I just remembered that I’m late for a most pressing engagement...in Tokyo!

There aren’t enough policemen in this entire city to guarantee my safety from that maniac! I’ll just grab my passport and...

***J Jonah Jameson opens the door to his office where Carnage is waiting for him.***

**Carnage**

Hello old friend, I’m BAAAAACK! Can you guess who’s going to help me go on a Venom hunt?! I’ll give you a hint! He’s turning a sickly shade of green right before my eyes!