



A STUDIO PRESS BOOK

First published in the UK in 2020 by Studio Press, an imprint of Bonnier Books UK 4th Floor, Victoria House Bloomsbury Square, London WC IB 4DA Owned by Bonnier Books Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden www.bonnierbooks.co.uk

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All rights reserved ISBN 978-1-78741-699-4 (Paperback) ISBN 978-1-78741-952-0 (eBook)



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A CIP catalogue for this book is available from the British Library Printed and bound in the UK



Ned Hartley

AN ORIGIN STORY

CAMPTER I SPIDER-MAN IN SPACE

Spider-Man had never been more scared in his life.

Under the Spider-Man mask, Peter Parker grimaced. He was hanging onto the side of a space rocket as it hurtled upwards. He was gripping on with all his might, but it felt like he was about to be pulled off the rocket at any moment and thrown back towards the ground. His Spider-Man costume felt cold against his skin.

As the rocket climbed higher and higher, he looked back down. This was a mistake. He had no way of telling exactly how far he was from the ground, but it was very, very high up.

'Hey, I can see home from here!' he said. It was true. As well as the skyscrapers of Manhattan, he could see all the way to the small suburb of Forest Hills in Queens, where he lived.

'How did you get yourself into this one, Spidey?' he asked himself.

It had all happened so quickly. Peter Parker had been on a high-school trip to see the launch of experimental space shuttle, *Osborn-6*. However, within seconds of the shuttle taking off, it was obvious that something was wrong. The shuttle was moving too slowly and alarms were sounding all around the viewing station.

Peter had raced away from the rest of his class to change into his Spider-Man costume. He was already wearing the full red-and-blue bodysuit, with a spider logo on the front, under his school clothes. Peter had quickly put on the Spider-Man gloves and boots that

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were hidden in his backpack. The Spider-Man mask had gone on last; this was the part that made him feel like he had really changed – like he had become someone completely different.

As Spider-Man, he had rushed to the Oscorp launch pad and talked to the ground-control staff. Together they had persuaded the pilot of a light jet plane to fly him close enough to jump onto *Osborn-6*.

Now he was clinging on to the side of the space shuttle for dear life.

'Spider-Man! Can you hear me?' crackled a voice in his ear.

'Yes, of course I can!' said Spider-Man, before he remembered who he was talking to. He had been given an earpiece before he took off, and he was talking to Mission Control.

'You need to find a way to separate the rocket from the capsule with the astronauts,' said the voice in his ear.

'Sure, that sounds fine,' said Spider-Man.