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the AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL® CARNAGE IS HERE!



DIRECT EDITION

RATED A



The daughter of Spider-Man, May "Mayday" Parker, has inherited her father's amazing powers. Possessing the proportionate strength, speed and agility of a spider, as well as the ability to cling to walls, she now follows in his web-lines.



the AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL

May "Mayday" Parker isn't your average sixteen-year-old. Her father--Peter Parker--currently works as a forensic scientist for the Midtown Police Department, but used to be the amazing Spider-Man. When she discovered that she had inherited her father's powers, May donned a costume and became the stunning Spider-Girl!



When a covert S.H.I.E.L.D. strike force, led by the **Contessa Valentina Allegro De Fontaine**, attempts to steal the specimen, Spider-Girl intervenes.



Special Agent Weadon's team of former super-criminals--which is currently composed of the mysterious **Kaine**, the electrified **Killerwatt**, the pliable **Mr. Abnormal** and super-strong **Earthshaker**--is ordered to help **Agent Maria Hill** guard a powerful bio-weapon called Specimen 297.



The specimen manages to escape during the battle, acquires an unsuspecting host, and the symbiotic killing machine called **Carnage** is reborn!

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AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL (ISSN #1933-6888) No. 10, September, 2007. Published Monthly by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. APPLICATION TO MAIL PERIODICAL POSTAGE RATES IS PENDING AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. 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. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.75 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate (U.S. dollars) for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Canada \$37.00; Foreign \$39.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 110 NEWBURGH, NY 12550. TELEPHONE # (800) 217-9158. FAX # (845) 457-5029. subscriptions@marvelsubs.com. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and CMO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, Senior VP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, VP of Business Affairs & Editorial Operations; JIM BOYLE, VP of Publishing Operations; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Managing Editor; SUSAN CRESPI, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Joe Maimone, Advertising Director, at jmaimone@marvel.com or 212-576-8534. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

Midtown
High...

Cougars
rule!

Central High
is gonna crush
Midtown on
Sunday.

Those
weenies will
go ballistic
when they get
a look at
Smiley.

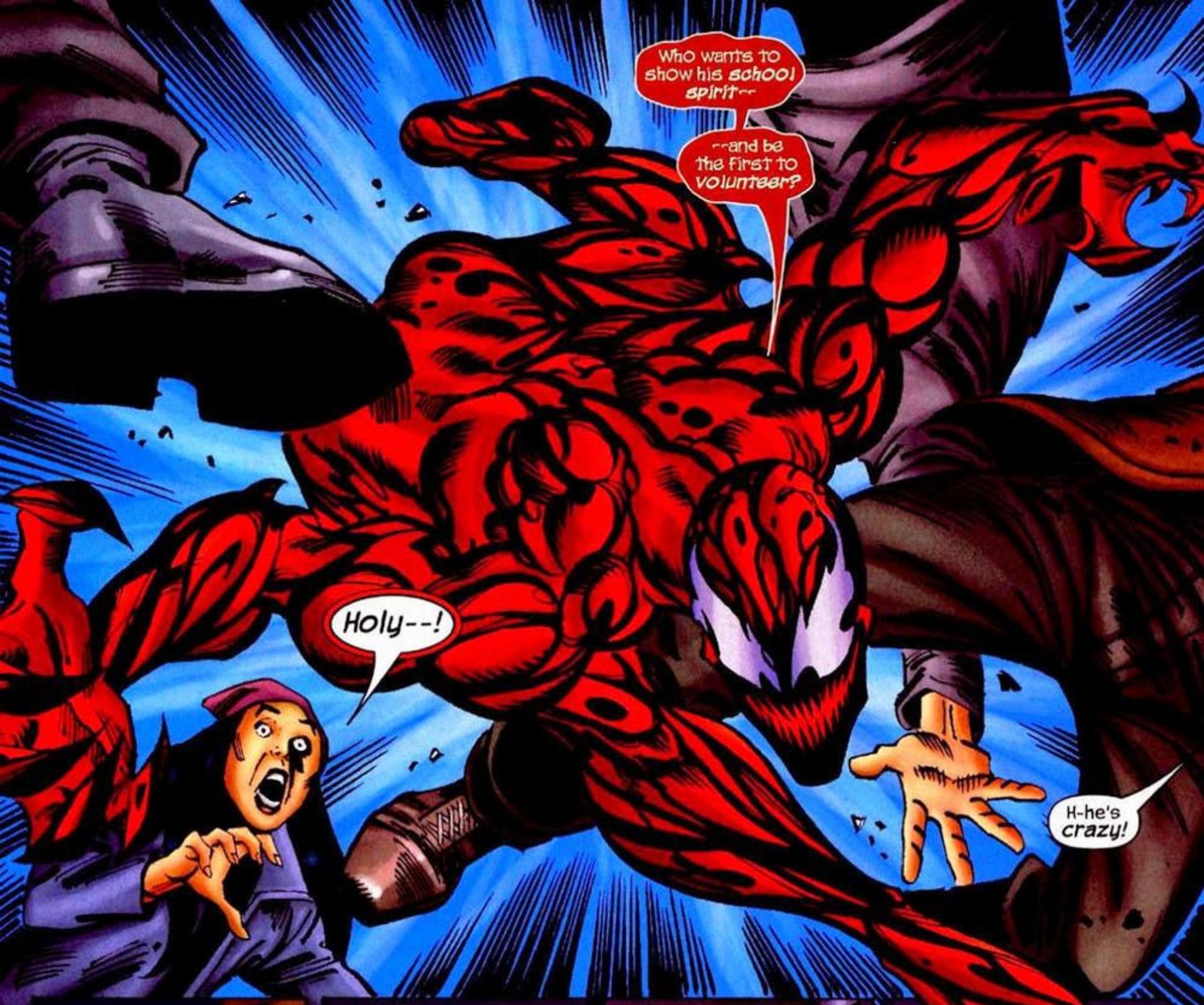
SKRU-TCH!

You really
want to freak
OUT the
Midtowners?

Serves
'em right.

Forget
the effigy!

LET'S USE REAL
CORPSES!



Comes the CARNAGE!

Forest Hills...

My name is May "Mayday" Parker and I am the daughter of Spider-Man.

A few days ago I promised my parents that I wouldn't take any unnecessary risks as Spider-Girl--

--and now I find myself in the sewers--

--looking for an unstoppable bio-weapon--

--with a rogue team of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents.

Yo, Contessa! Is there anything else you can tell me about this mysterious Specimen 297?

Like--oh, just for argument's sake--why you tried to hijack it?

I'm afraid that information is classified.



Meanwhile...

Move along!
There's nothing
to see here.

Have a heart,
pal, and give us
a comment.

You already
got it, pal--
move
along!

This is
Tiffany Bright in
Forest Hills.

I'm on
the scene
of an apparent
armored car
robbery.

Details are
still sketchy, but
according to eye-
witness reports a
gang of heavily
armed gun-
men...



What a
circus!

And there are
too many clowns
wearing sunglasses
after dark.

The area's
crawling with
spooks.

Why wasn't I
notified the govern-
ment was conducting
an operation through
my neighborhood?

I'm not at
liberty to disclose
that information
due to national
security concerns,
Captain Ruiz.



T-the police
might have aided
us, Agent Hill.

I...I don't
understand why you
didn't cooperate
with them.

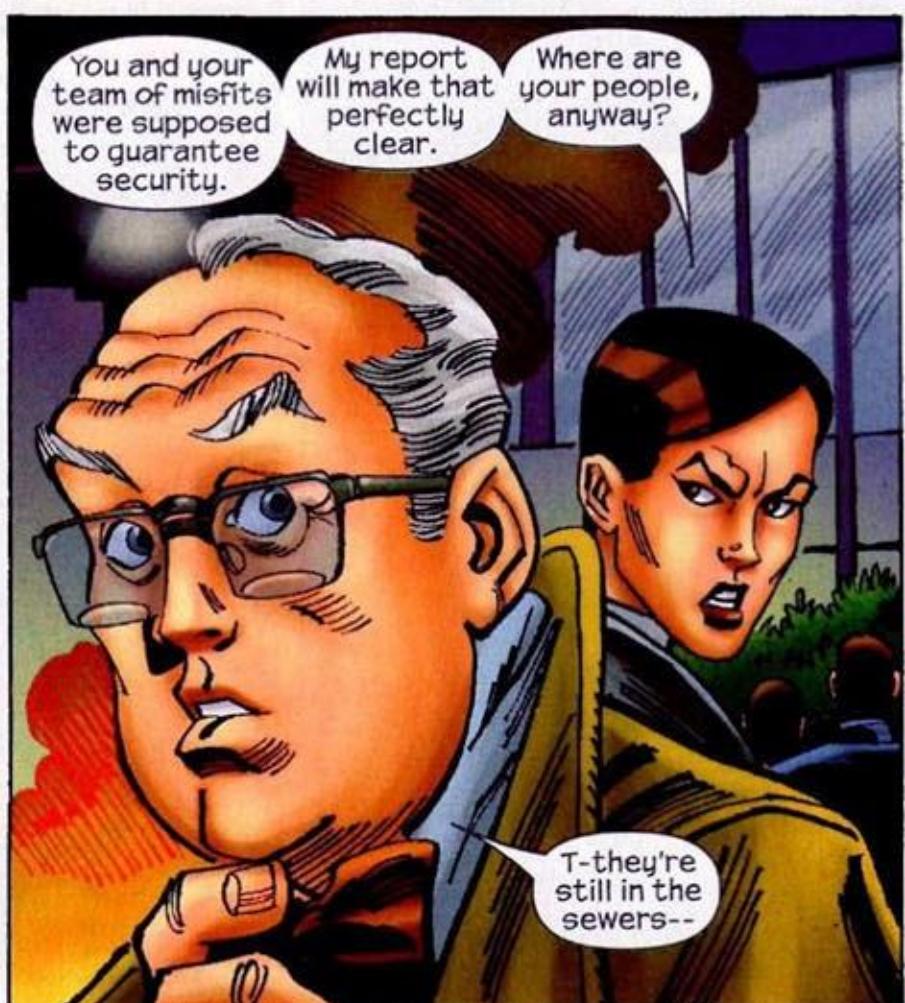
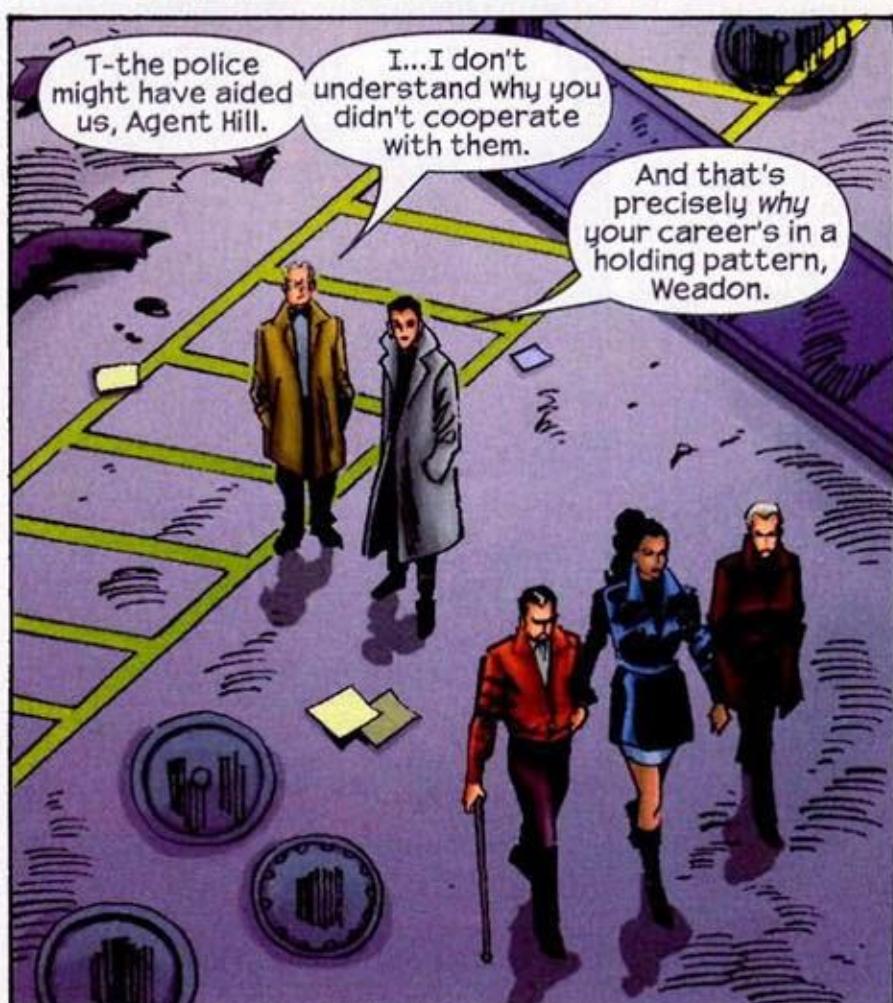
And that's
precisely why
your career's in a
holding pattern,
Weadon.

You and your
team of misfits
were supposed
to guarantee
security.

My report
will make that
perfectly
clear.

Where are
your people,
anyway?

I'll settle for
your hairdresser.
Her, I definitely want
off the streets.



--on the
trail of the
hijackers!"

Ah jus' gotta
say...these boys
surely did come
prepared.

Yeah, for once
I agree, *marble mouth*.
It's like they had weapons
specifically designed
to take *us* out.

An
interesting
theory...

Remind me to
ask about it when
we catch them.

Any idea
which tunnel
they took,
Darkdevil?

It appears
they used them
all, Kaine.

However,
I did find one
interesting
clue...

Appears
they ran into
an Old friend
of ours.

Wonderful.

D

Just wonderful!

Bad enough I can't find any sign of Specimen 297--

--the Contessa and her crew seem to have vanished, too.



I suppose I could return to the scene of the crime--

--but, even from a distance, I couldn't miss the massive police presence--

--and I know my dad's working nights this week.

Might as well take the Contessa's advice and forget all about Specimen 297--

--at least for the next few hours.

I need to switch into my civvies--

--and join the girls at Indigo.

Go ahead! Tell us what you saw...

I-it was horrible. I went to the Midtown Medical Center.

I was hoping to confront Moose and find out what was going on with our relationship.

He was there with another girl and--

The dirty, two-timing DOG!

Let's not rush to judgment, Davida.

Moose could be perfectly innocent.

Yeah, a teenage boy with another girl--I doubt innocence ever factors into that equation.

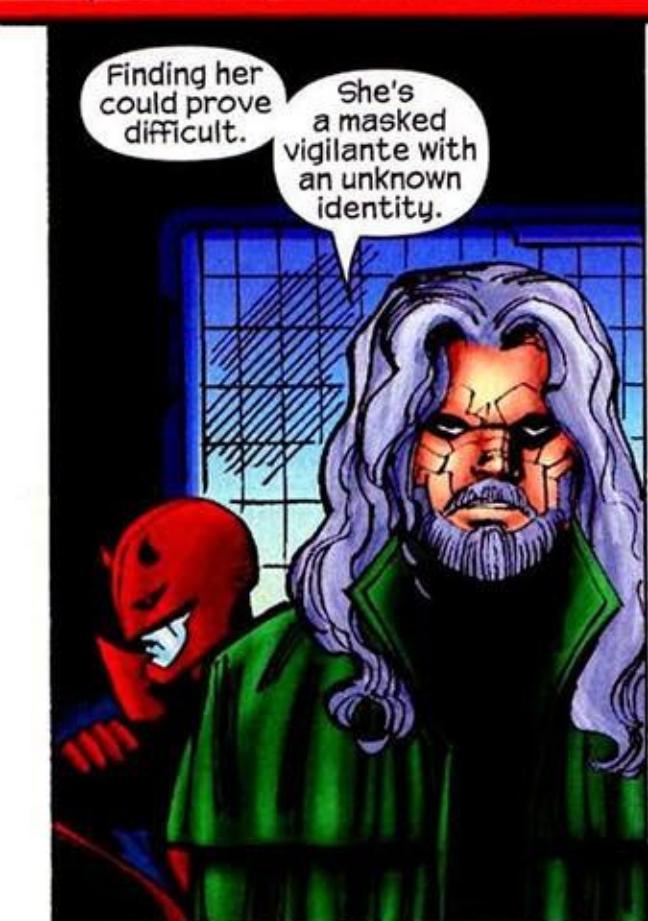












Twenty minutes later...

CARNAGE--?

I take it you recognize the name.

Unfortunately,

He's a deadlier, more uncontrollable and powerful symbiote than our old friend Venom.

I knew the thieves were somehow connected to S.H.I.E.L.D.

You don't get chased by those jokers across five continents without recognizing their moves.

The only thing going for us is the fact that *this Carnage* is only a chip off the original block.

God help the world if there's another 296 of them running around.

Why would they transport such a lethal biohazard through a populated area?

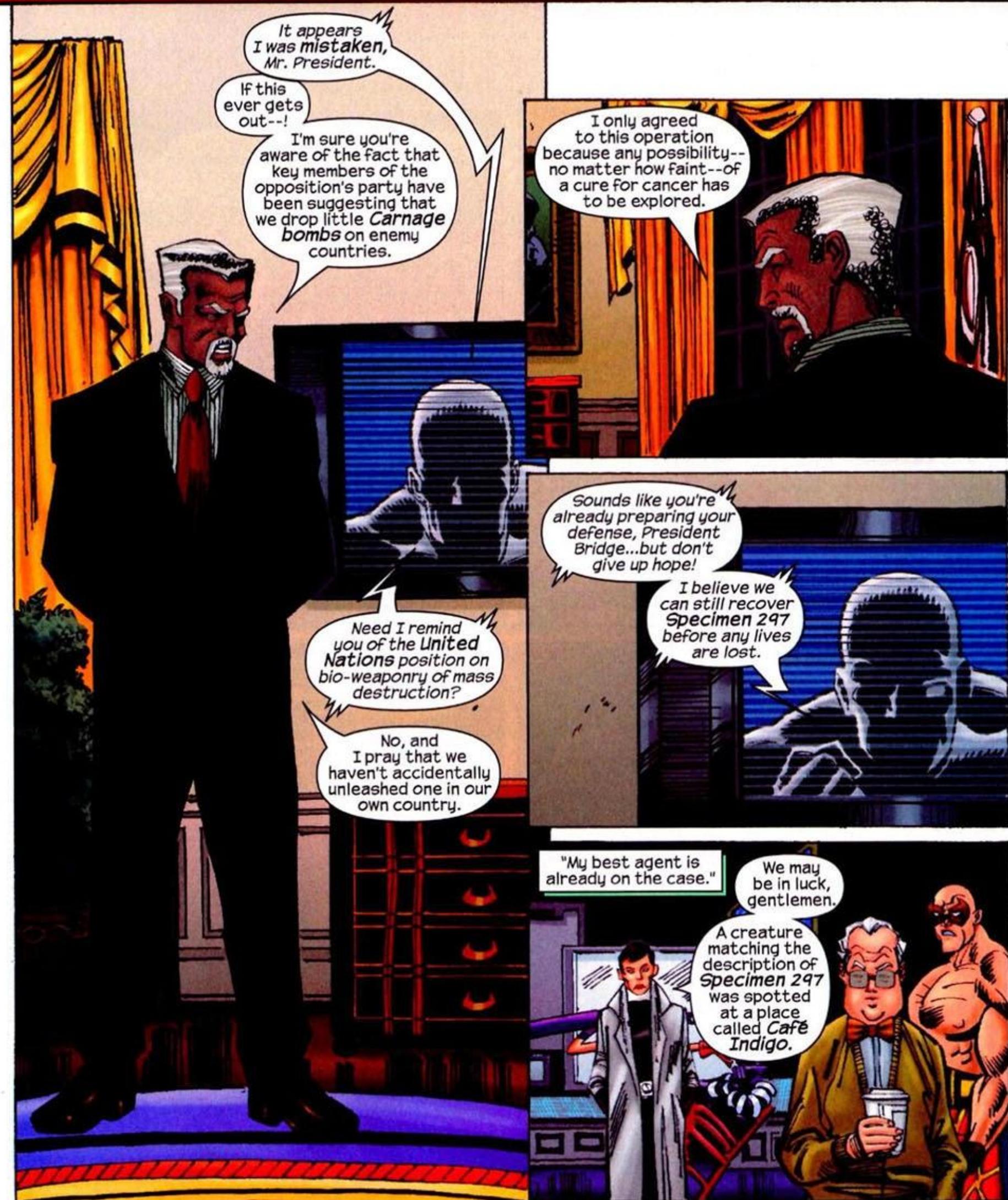
So much for that idea!

Still, someone with a lot of clout must have approved this operation...

The eggheads believe it may also have medical benefits and wanted to study it at a nearby laboratory.

Washington, D.C....

You assured me that there was absolutely no risk to the public.



Forest Hills, the next morning...

I never met Carnage before last night--

--but something about him seemed familiar.

Odd!

JUSTIN

It's like I should have recognized him...or her.

I know that's ridiculous.

Although he did call Kordell and Jose by name.

It was federal one-upmanship at its worst.

Something wrong, Dad?

Your father ran across some annoying federal bureaucrats last night.

That's putting it politely.

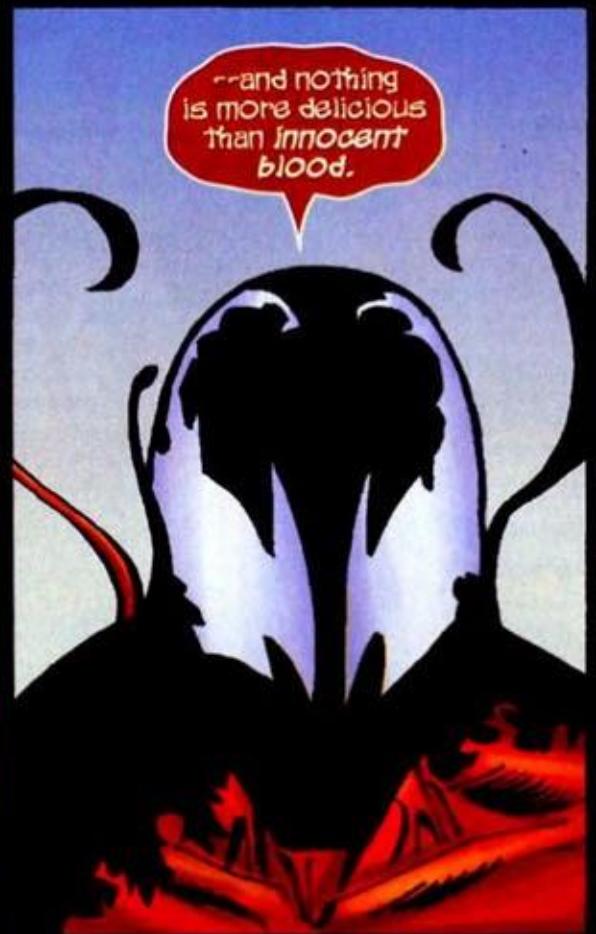




--any Worse?"

We smell
a baby--

--and nothing
is more delicious
than innocent
blood.



Easiest
diaper change
ever!

You know, Benny-boy, I know you miss my special chili, but I'm afraid your mother was right--



Wha--?!

Oh, no!

NO!

Something
tells me we'd
better head for the attic,
Kiddo.

We'll slip
out the rooftop
exit and--





MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Dear SPIDER-GIRL Creative Team,

Now that the first ASG arc is over, I want to congratulate you on a job well done. Let's go over the highlights, shall we?

Issue one was spectacular. The art was stunning, and the story was full of shocking twists and turns, like May running for student president, or May dating Gene.

Issue two was as just as good. Even with the throwaway villain (which isn't necessarily a bad thing), it managed to progress the story a bit. Kudos to Mr. Frenz for those hilarious panels with Baby Ben, and the little cartoony cloud over May in detention.

Issue three did not progress the story as much, but I didn't really care because of the great villain and May's indecision about using violence. Another great issue!

Issue four was a bit better than the last. It was nice to see an old character that we haven't seen in a while, and his using old villains' equipment (even though they were fakes) was an awesome idea. However, the mysterious object Mona was carrying was revealed to be a DVD, which was a bit underwhelming.

Issue five was pretty good. I liked that May deleted the video, and she left a note. May dropping out from the election caught me by surprise, which is something few comics manage to do these days.

Issue six was right up there with issue one. The cover was beautiful, and the story superb. Also, whose idea was it to put the MC-2 covers in the comic shop? That was a cool little detail. I like how much Heather's character has evolved. I remember Spider-Girl #1/2 (where she dated Jimmy so she could copy his homework) like it was yesterday! Nice fight scene, and May finally used the stingers!

All in all, a great arc, and I sincerely hope you can keep matching this level of quality. From solicits I've seen for future issues, it's still a Spider-Girl world!

Sergio B. Lopez-Valdez

You can credit meticulous Molly for those MC-2 covers, Sergio.

Dear SPIDER-GIRL Team,

I am really enjoying the new series and ASG #7 was no exception! I think Tom, Ron, Sal and all the team are doing a great job. The Hobgoblin plot has me very interested, and I can't wait to see how it turns out. The Ladyhawks' situation made for a very nice single-issue story and really added to the Ladyhawks' characters. I have a few questions:

1) Will we be seeing Pat's pencils anytime soon?

2) And how about Ron Lim, who did excellent work on the AVENGERS NEXT mini?

3) Will we be seeing any of May's older rogues gallery?

4) Any plans for an annual, as they seem to be popular again?

Aaron Scorrige
Queensland
Australia

In answer to your questions, Aaron...

1) Pat Olliffe is currently drawing NEW EXCALIBUR #22!

2) See the FANTASTIC FIVE limited series which is currently on-sale.

3) Yes.

4) We have no plans for another annual...yet.

Hello Amazing Spider-Crew,

I think it's a new golden age for comic story-telling with Brian Bendis, Mark Millar and Grant Morrison. The only problem with these guys is that you can't include the word "fun" to describe their stories, due to the darker tones of their books. That's why I decided to pick up AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #7, all the back issues (#1-#6) and the AVENGERS NEXT limited series from my local comic shop. You folks still got it and got me as a regular reader again. These books remind me of when I first started collecting comics. Great art, great stories and bright colors--these comics are FUN!

Is it just me, or is the Hobgoblin just lame? That character was only great during Stern and Romita, Jr.'s run during AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238-251. I don't think he was ever the same again. Please get rid of him and concentrate on other new characters like Black Tarantula, Funny Face and his wacky mom.

Joe Jerecic
Montreal, Quebec

What do you think of Carnage, Joe?

Dear Team Spider,

I thought AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #8 was possibly the most powerful story of the new series. Everything was done right, and the theme was really powerful. So many powerful moments, but the most gut-wrenching was the parallel between the Hingles' situation and what the Parkers were going through. I really felt for Mayday when Mr. Hingle went off on his rant about "freaks"! Sara might not know implicitly that May is Spider-Girl, but it was so wonderful that May was able to turn her around. The hope she gives to others is why I love this character.

To address the question of May's "mutancy", my opinion hasn't changed since my last letter back in SPIDER-GIRL #67 about this topic. The label is unimportant. What's important is that Spider-Girl is a hero who transcends boundaries and labels, and I hope you keep her that way. But if forced to give an opinion, I don't think she is a mutant. Her father's powers come from irradiated spider blood that has also affected his biomagnetism. That Mayday's powers didn't appear until puberty might just be because of a change in her biochemistry at the time, activating the blood. May's specialized powers (attraction/repulsion) play on the idea of heightened bio-magnetism. Also, since the source of her power is a part of her body (but also apart from her genetics), it easily explains why she lost her powers due to an electric shock from Killerwatt--it probably repolarized the bio-magnetic properties of her irradiated blood. So, no, I don't think Mayday is a mutant but rather the offspring of an altered human with a blood condition.

But, whatever, I'm not afraid to be wrong, and to grow from it. Keep on thwippin'!

John Koerner
Panama City, FL

Interesting ideas, John. What do the rest of you readers think?

Thanks for being there!
Tom D.



Who is Carnage?

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