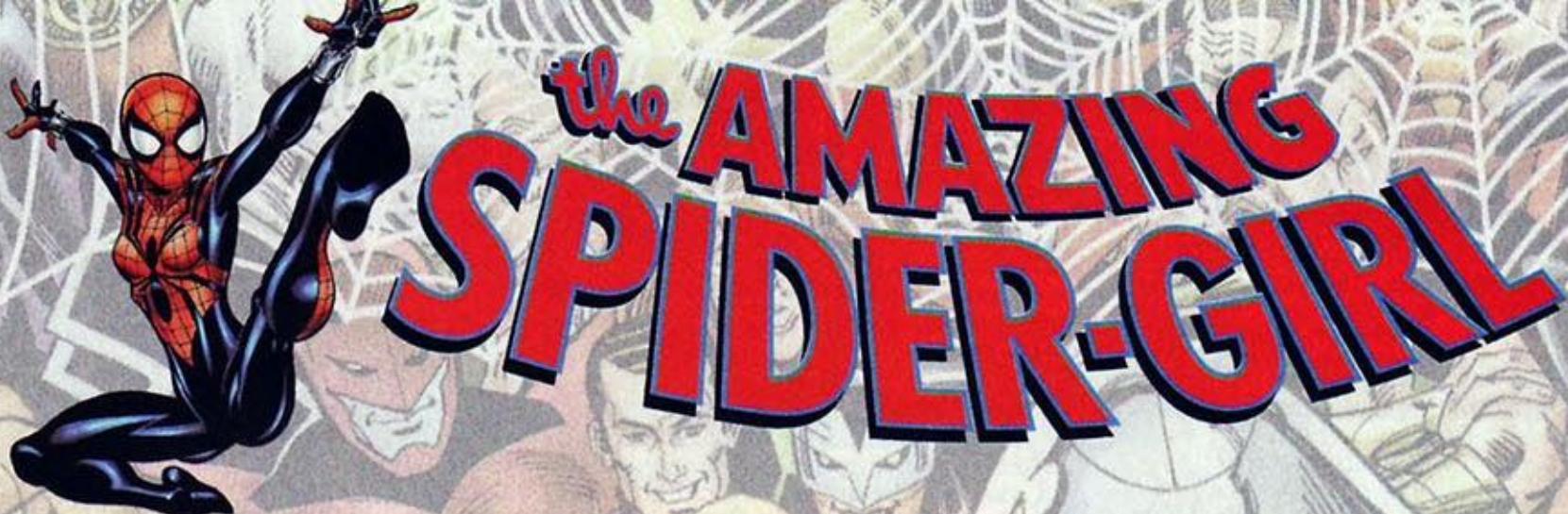


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Spider-Girl first burst on the scene in *WHAT IF...?* #105, which was cover-dated February, 1998. Her first story was supposed to be her only story, like the vast majority of other *WHAT IF...?* tales. While a sequel was certainly possible, Ron Frenz and I weren't holding our breaths. Imagine our surprise when we were asked to do twelve issues of *SPIDER-GIRL* a few months later and to create a few companion titles as well. That was our assignment--twelve issues! Ron ended up doing the *A-NEXT* series (mainly because of the chance to do Kevin Masterson as the new Thunderstrike). Somehow or other we managed to con Pat Olliffe and the legendary Al Williamson into producing *SPIDER-GIRL*. (Hey, it was only going to be twelve issues--right?) Anyway, as we were finishing up our twelve, we were asked to do a few more... and a few more after that...and then even more. Until here we are, ten years later, with *AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL* #15 (cover dated February 2008), celebrating the 10th anniversary of her first appearance. *SPIDER-GIRL* has been canceled and un-canceled time and again. It has become the little comic that could and it owes its very existence to the most loyal fan base in the history of comics. This issue is dedicated to the fans that helped keep Spider-Girl alive!

Thanks for being there!
Tom D.

PREVIOUSLY...

To save her baby brother **Ben** from the Carnage Symbiote, Spider-Girl employed a sonic blaster, but the discharge affected Ben's hearing.

Meanwhile, convinced that Spider-Girl works for his enemy, the **Black Tarantula**, the **Hobgoblin** enlisted the aid of **Mindworm**, a mutant with psychic powers. While Mindworm established a psychic link with Spider-Girl, Hobgoblin learned that only a legendary weapon called the "Heart of the Spider" can destroy the Black Tarantula.

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Dark Destiny!

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

Tomorrow is my anniversary.

Well... kind of.

For as long as I can remember, my parents and I have called it "May's Special Day!"

I never knew why.

Nor did I care...as long as there was plenty of cake.

But I think I finally understand why this particular day is so important to my parents.

I was kidnapped as a baby--

--and I'm pretty sure it's the day I was returned.

I plan to mark the occasion this year by getting my parents something special.

That's why I stopped by Outrageous Arnie's Appliance Outlet--

--and stumbled upon a robbery in progress.

I'm warning you--
STAY BACK!

KEEP BACK, LADY!

Let me think about that for a second...

NO!

Rather not.

How's that for decisiveness?

THOMP!

ZUFFT!

I've had a major case of the guilts ever since I accidentally destroyed my baby brother's hearing.

Careful, Mister--!

You don't want to mess up *Outrageous* Arnie's monitor madness.

Yeah, I've already caused enough damage for a thousand lifetimes.

Uh-oh! My spider-sense is warning me of danger.

Someone's trying to sneak up behind me.

No problem!

TWAKK!

I'm real efficient at stomping a handful of second-rate stooges.

I just fail where it really counts--

--when it comes to protecting the people I love.

Elsewhere...

Interesting...

Thanks to the psychic link I recently established with Spider-Girl...

I sense intense feelings of guilt.

They seem centered on a younger sibling.

A brother, I think...

I assume you can use it to our advantage.

Of course.

Although I have to give the girl credit, Hobgoblin. Her will is surprisingly strong.

It will take me awhile to pierce her subconscious.

Take all the time you need, Mindworm.

I want this job done correctly.

I believe she may know the secret of the legendary "Heart of the Spider."

If we can trick her into revealing it, I will possess the power to eliminate the Black Tarantula--

--and become the new KINGPIN OF CRIME!



What a
LOSER!

I can't believe that publicity hound, *Outrageous Arnie*, tried to reward me with a 10% discount coupon on a single item--

--and wanted me to appear at a press conference so that he could award it to me.

Too bad I couldn't find anything for my parents.

I'll never forget the expression on his face when I told him I'm strictly a Target girl.

Maybe I'll see something tomorrow.

Right now I'm due at another command performance.

I'm supposed to be meeting some friends at *Café Indigo*--

--and I'm late, as usual.

Odd! My spider-sense is tingling again...

It doesn't feel like I'm in any real danger.

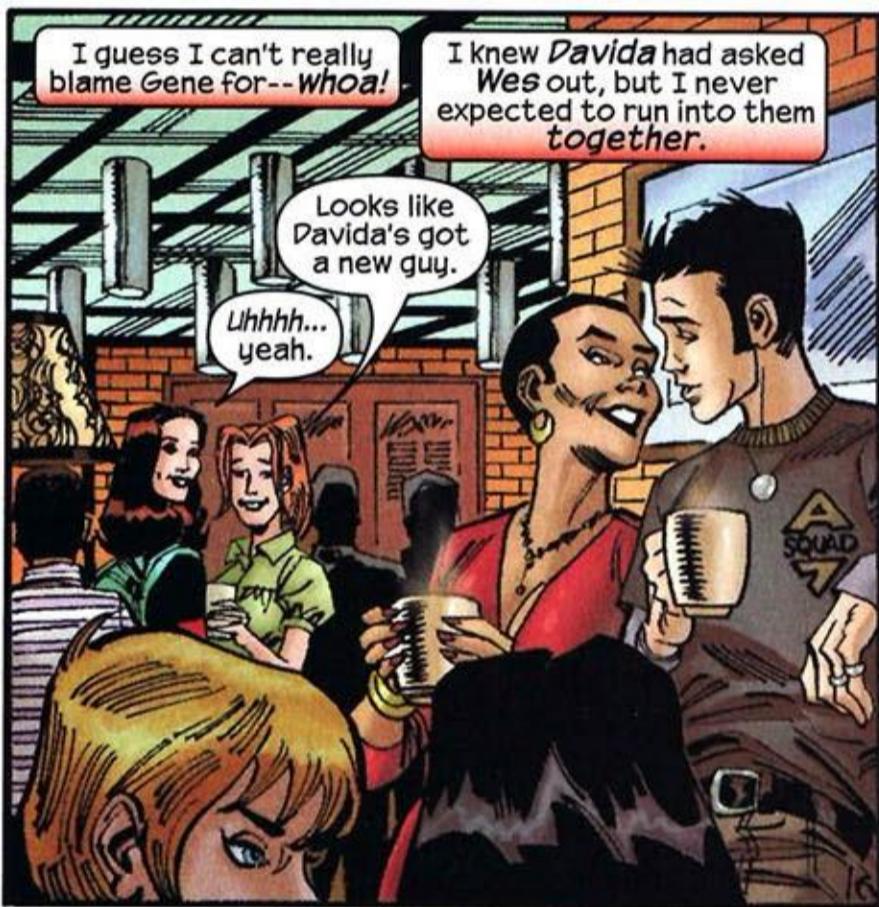
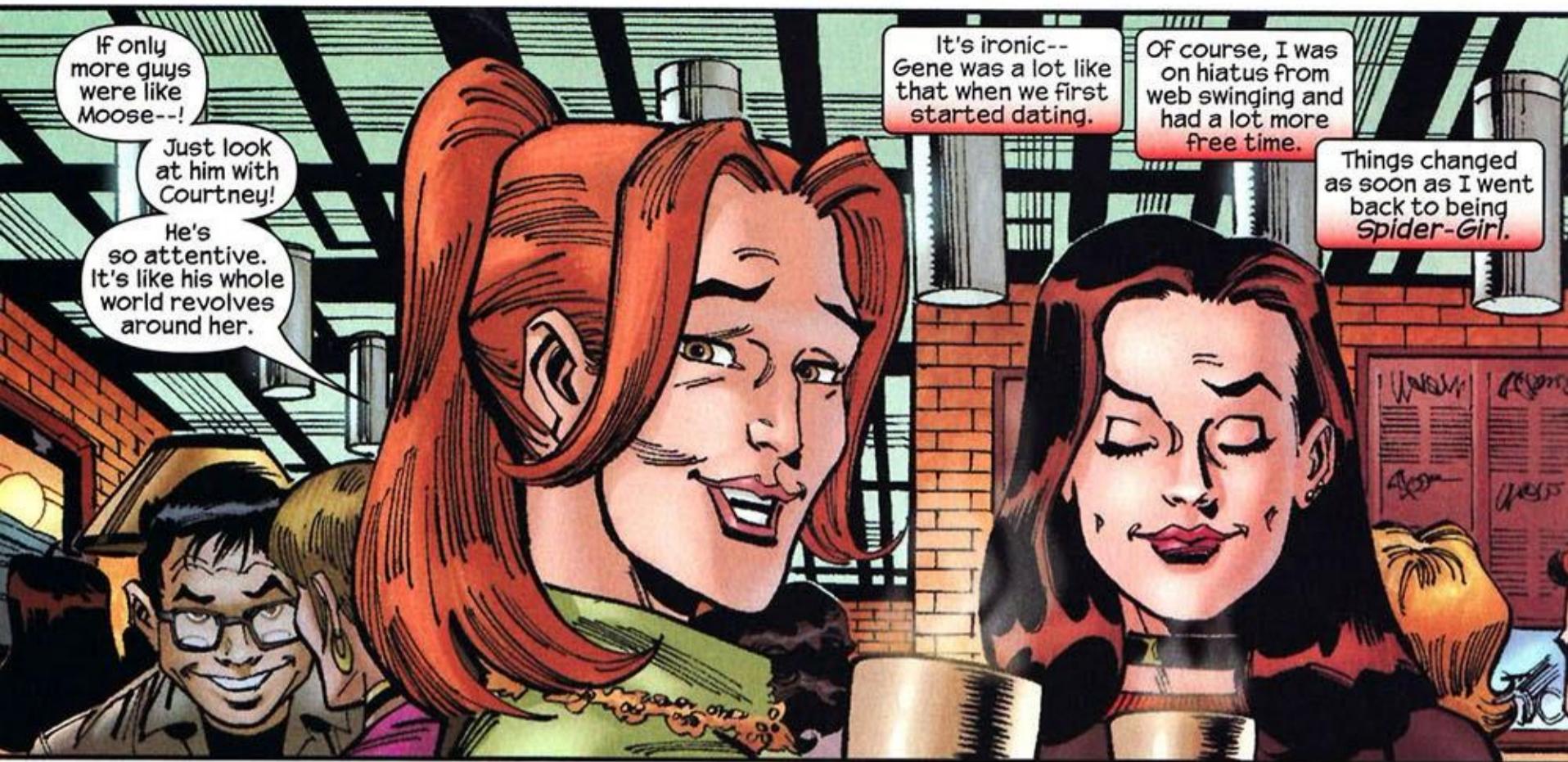
Odd!

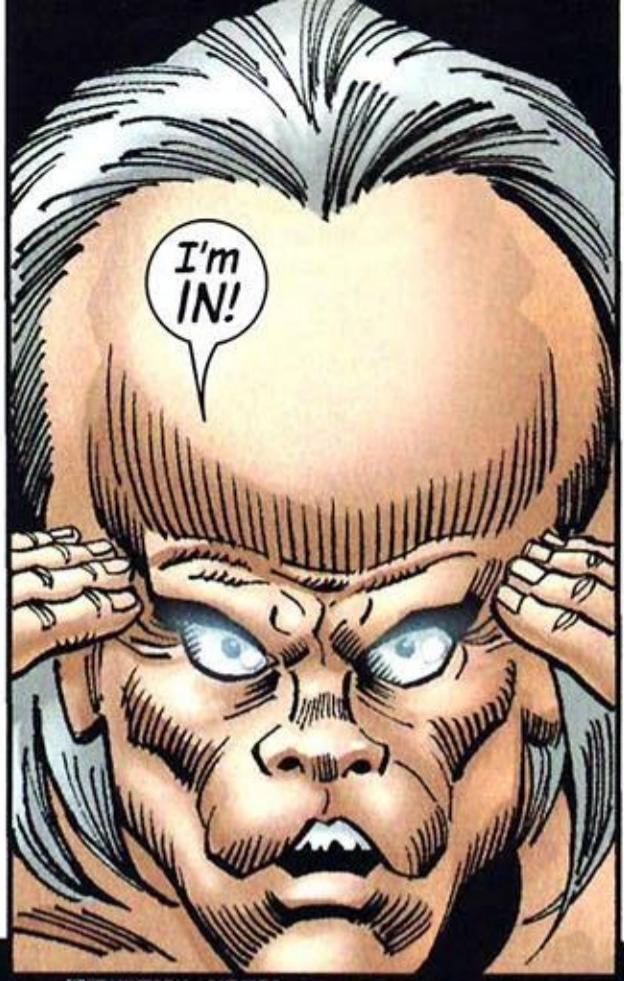
Very odd!

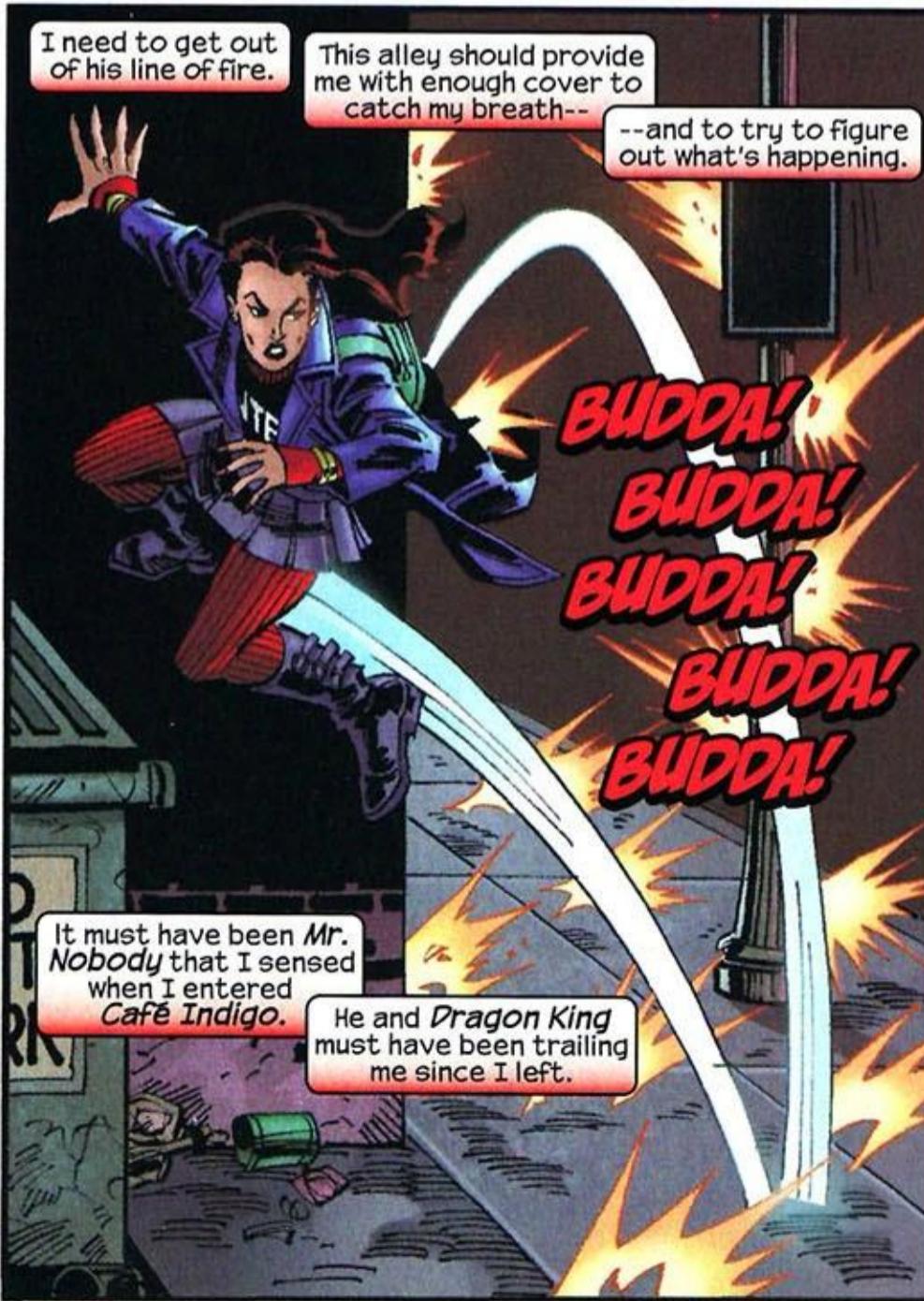
But something's a little off.

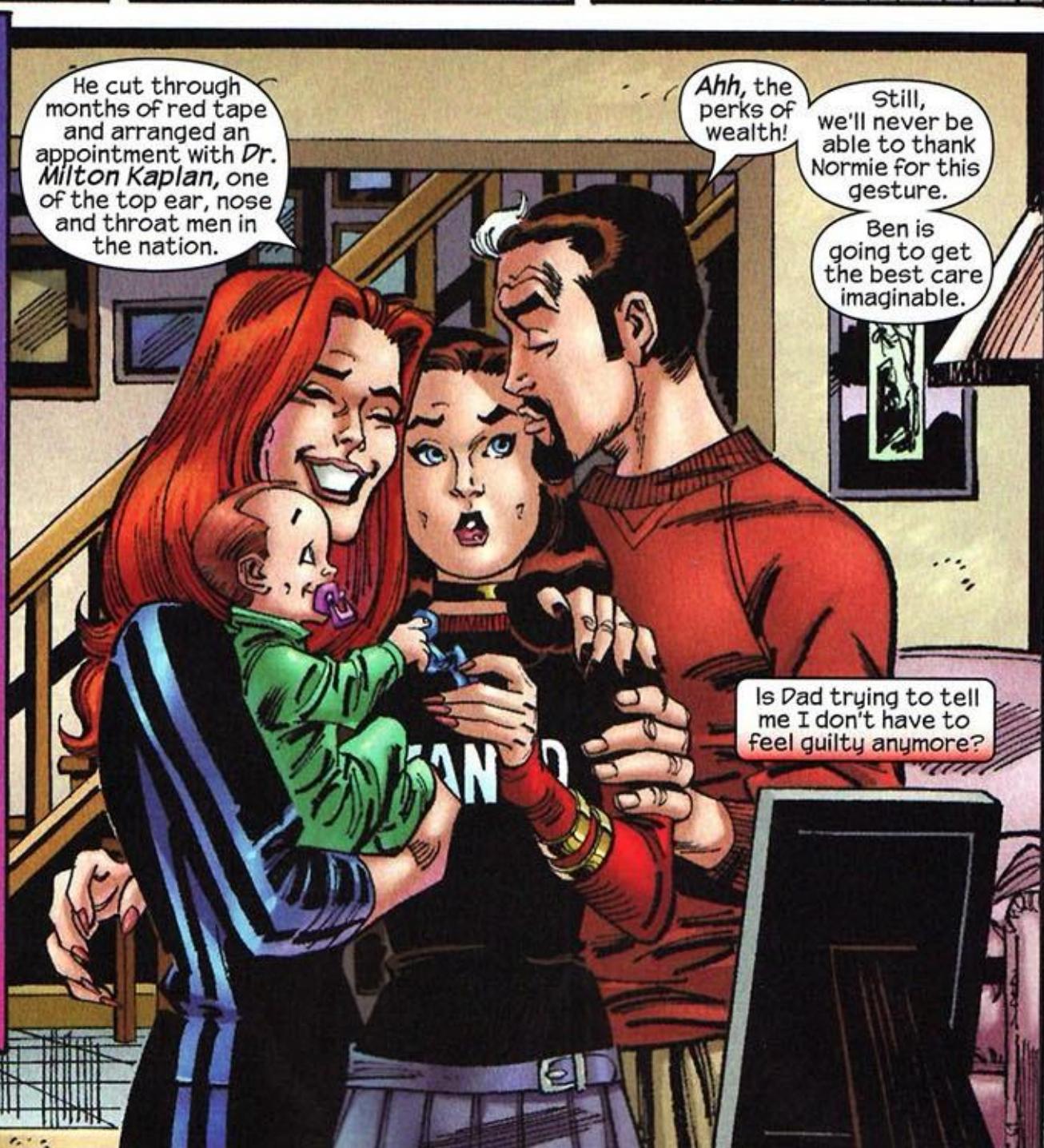












I wish I could snap my guilt off like a light switch.

But I can't.

I can't even find the right time to tell my parents that Ben's spider-powers have recently begun to emerge--



--which could become a major problem if Dr. Kaplan notices them.

And then there's Dragon King and Mr. Nobody...



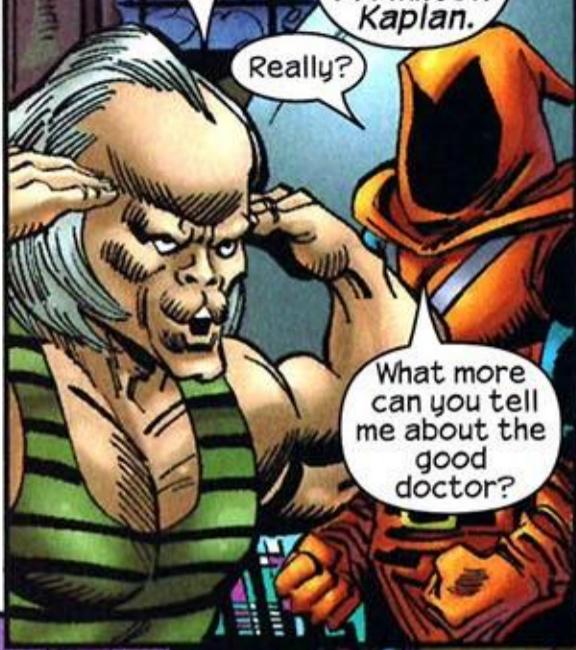
If they know my secret identity, the whole family's in danger.

Her mind is churning with grotesque images of Dragon King and Mr. Nobody--

--and she also seems inordinately concerned about a Dr. Milton Kaplan.

Really?

What more can you tell me about the good doctor?



Not much, but he seems to be connected to that younger sibling. Wait! We're in luck...

"She's turning in for the night.



"Her natural defenses are slowly beginning to weaken.



"Yes..."



D-did I fall asleep with my mask on?

Whaaa--?!

But I never--
hey!

This
ISN'T my
costume.

It isn't
even my
BODY.

EWWW,
GROSS!

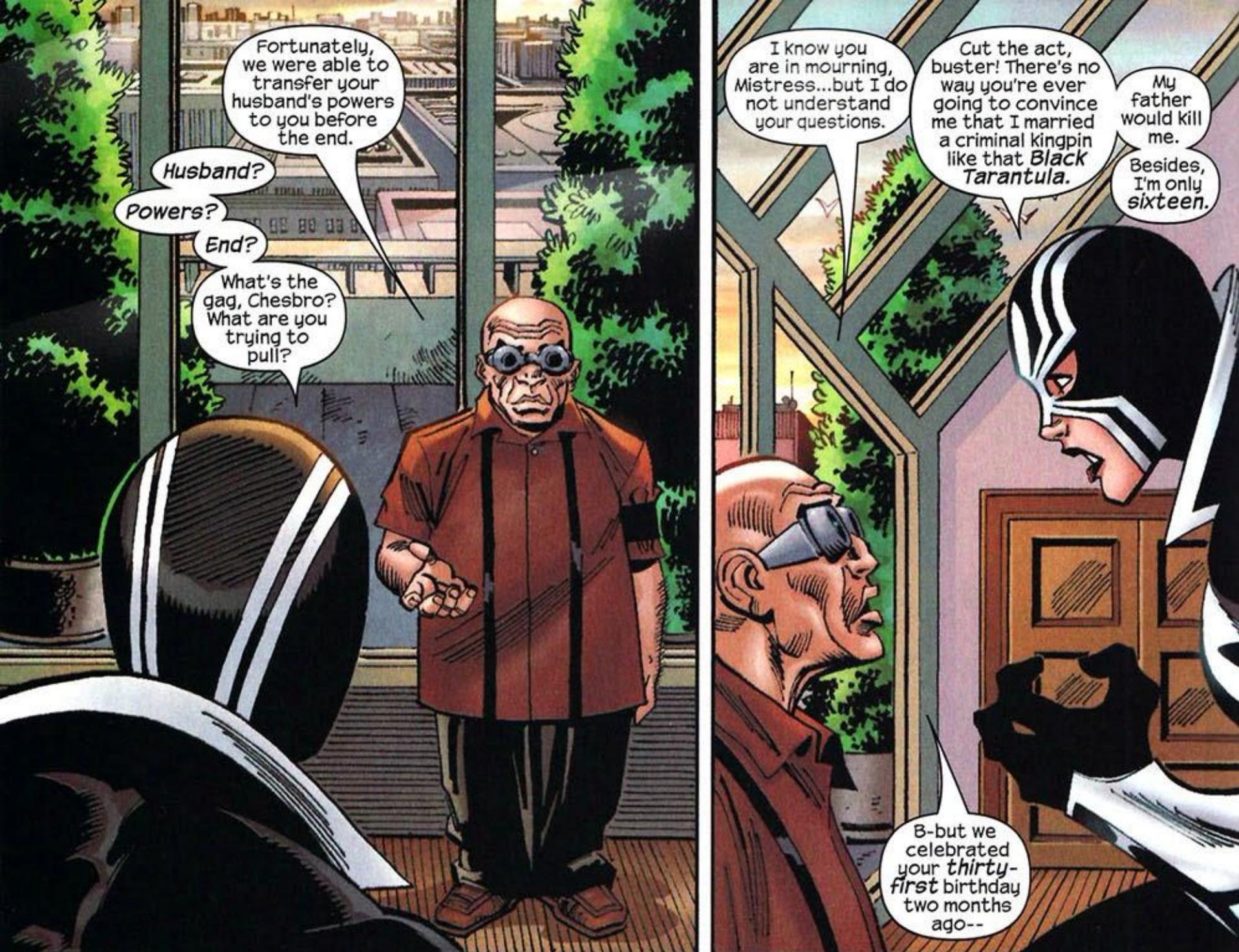
I...
I've become
the BLACK
TARANTULA.

H-how did I
become the Black
Tarantula?

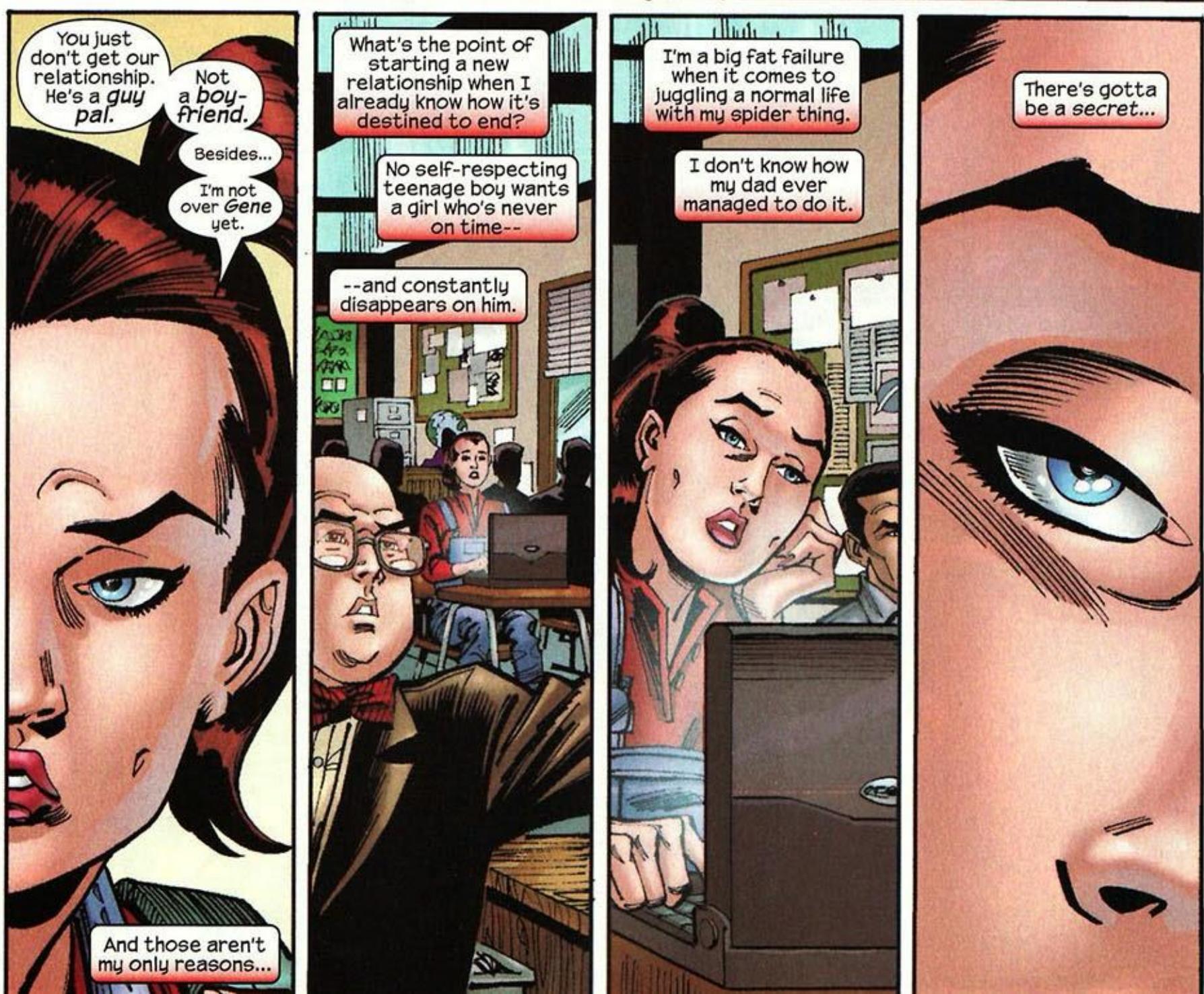
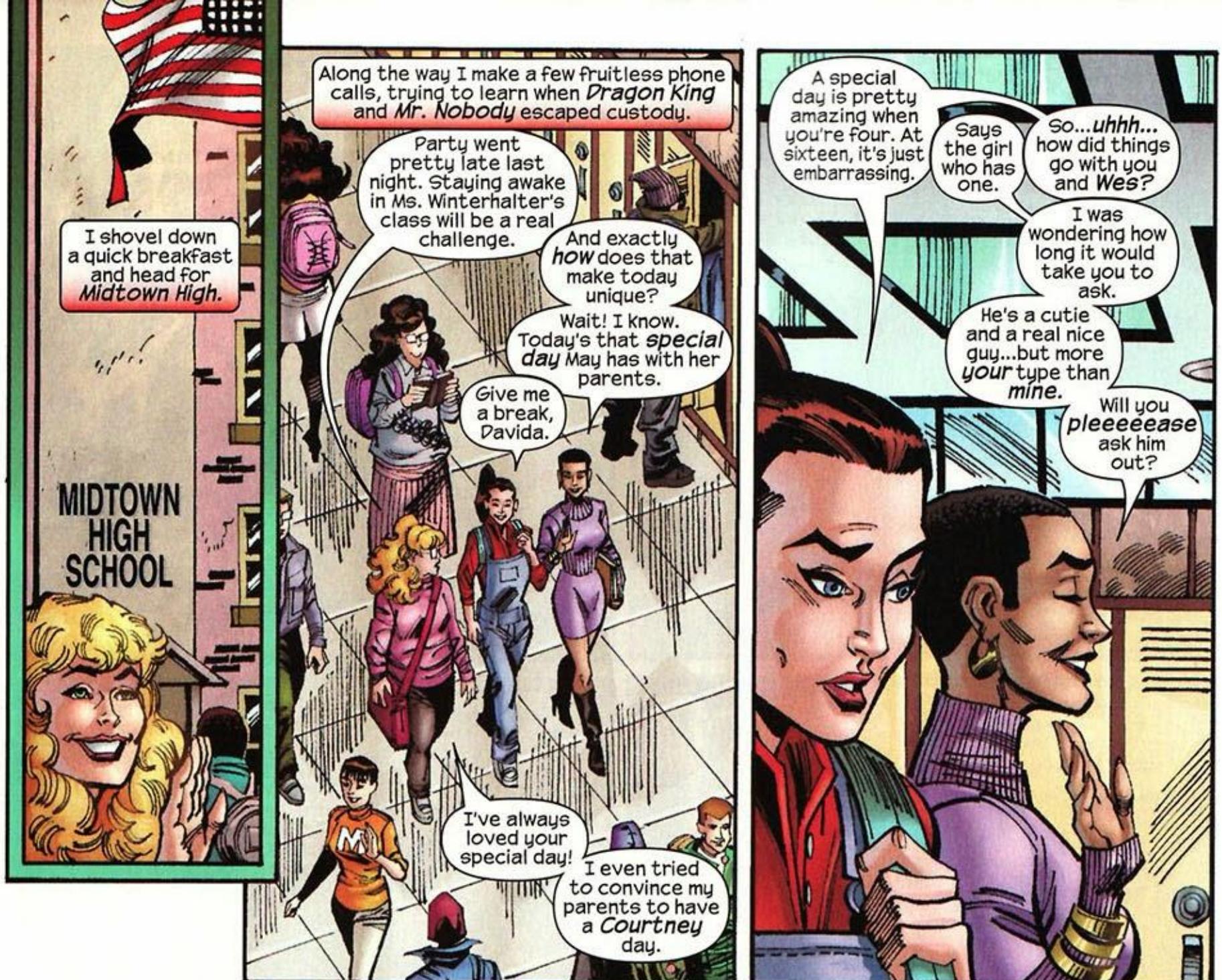
Why
ME?!

It can
be rather
disconcerting
at first,
Mistress.



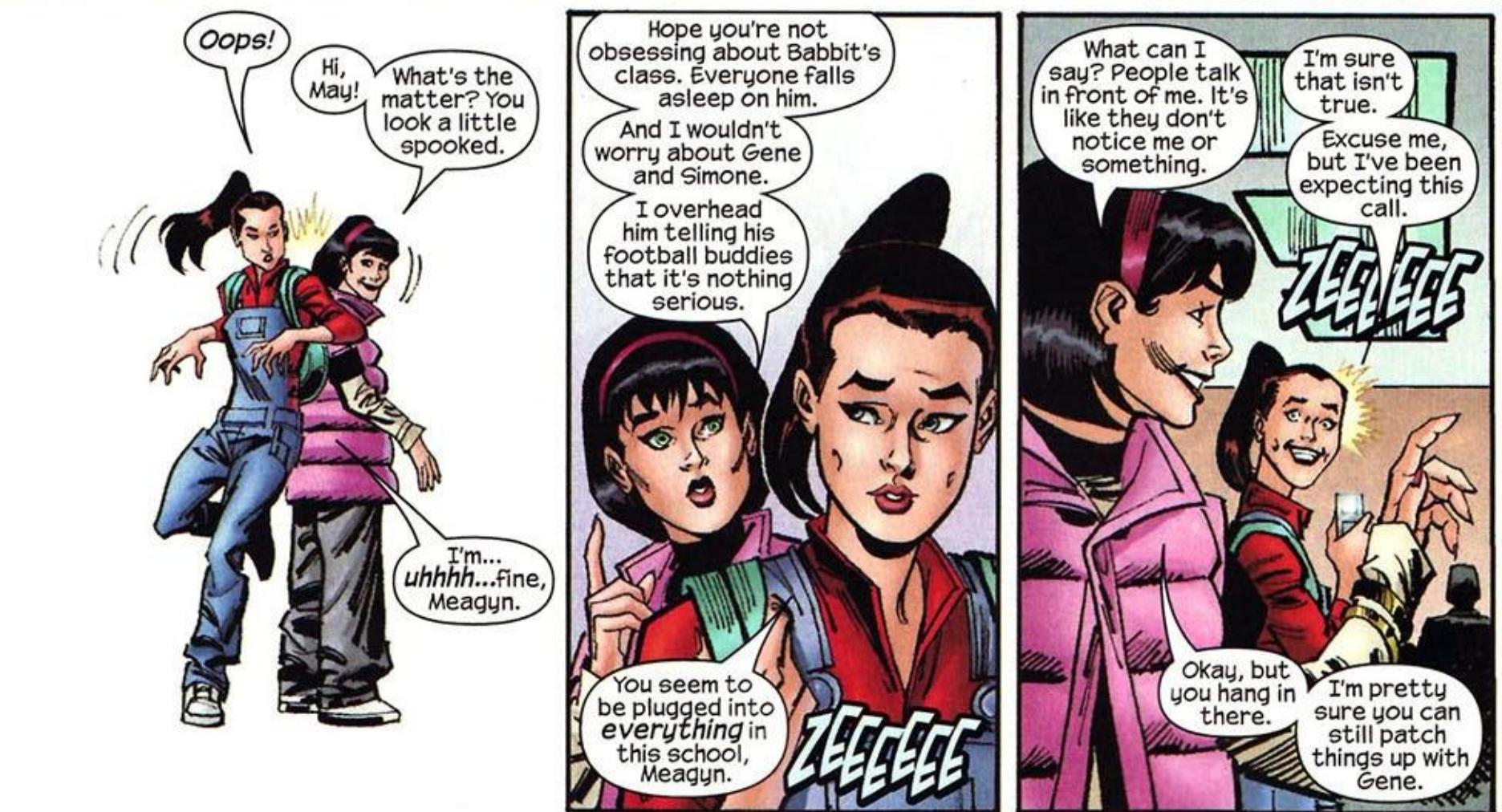
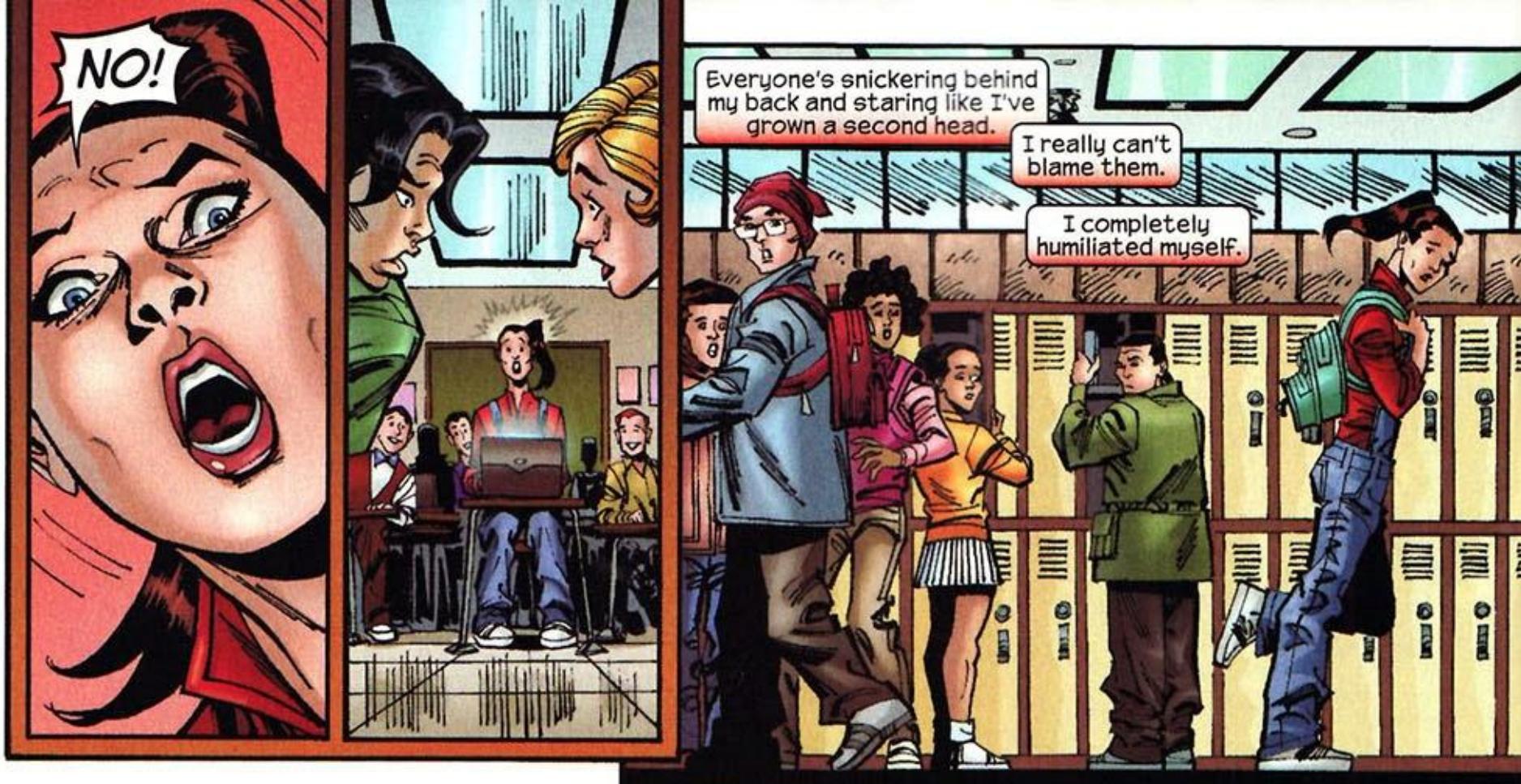












Terrific! My love life has hit a new nadir. I've been reduced to accepting advice from Meagyn Brady.

Mom--?

How'd things go with the doctor?

They didn't.

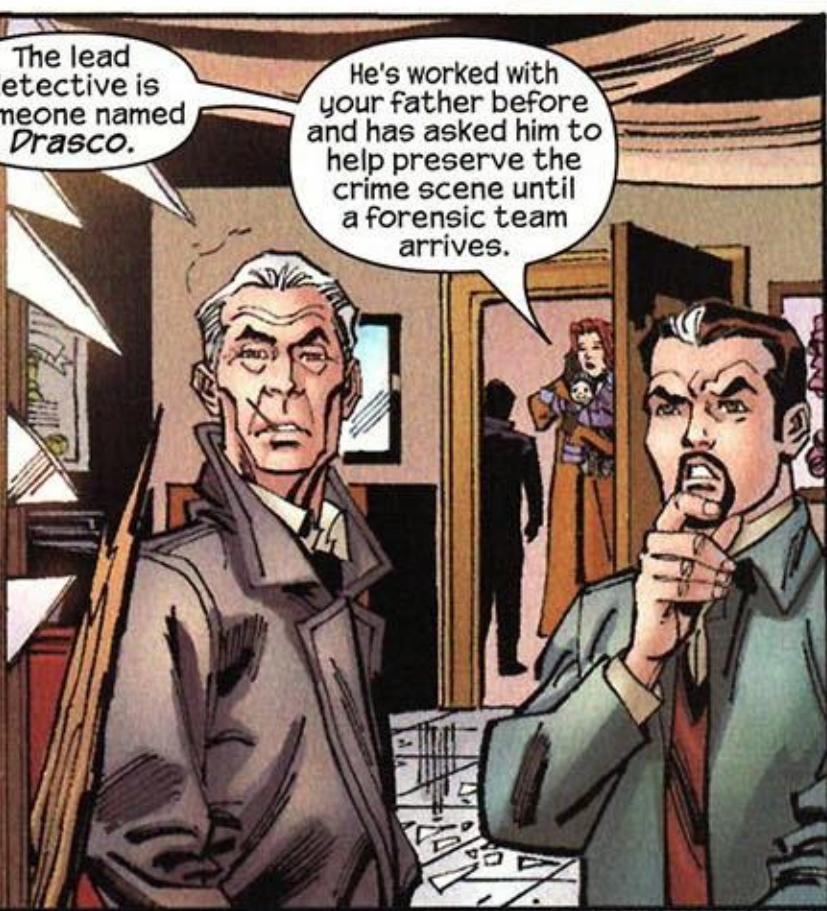
You're not going to believe this, but Kaplan appears to have been kidnapped.

The people down the hall heard a ruckus and his office is in shambles.



The lead detective is someone named Drasco.

He's worked with your father before and has asked him to help preserve the crime scene until a forensic team arrives.



Kidnapped--?!

It isn't paranoia...if they really are out to get you.

Yo, May! I heard about you zonking out in Mr. B's class.

If the spider thing is keeping you up nights, maybe you need a helping hand...



I certainly do, Felicity. I need you to run a computer search on a hearing specialist--a Dr. Milton Kaplan!

Let me know if there's anything hinky about the guy--criminal connections, gambling problems, whatever!

I...errrr... was actually hoping for a more proactive role.

Felicity Hardy is one of the few outsiders who know I'm Spider-Girl.

At least I thought it was a few.

I'm not so sure after last night.

You want to help me on this or not?

You can count on me.

Fine! I'll call you later.



Seems like Felicity still wants to become my teen sidekick.

As IF!

I'm only a teenager myself.

I need a boyfriend--not a sidekick!

I also have to call Uncle Phil.

Phil Urich may not be a blood relation, but he's the next best thing, and he works with my dad in the police lab.

Hey, Kiddo! I was wondering when you'd call back.

I looked into Dragon King and Mr. Nobody like you asked...

They were both in their cells as of this A.M.

Are you sure?

Absolutely! I had a friend eyeball them for me.

What's the latest on the Kaplan kidnapping?

That one's a puzzler. No one has any idea *why* he was snatched or *who* did it.

What's your interest?

He was supposed to examine Benjy.

YIKES!

What's happening?

Mr. Nobody needs a special harness to teleport and I doubt it's hiding in his cell.

If he and Dragon King didn't attack me last night--*who did*?

And, though I realize the whole world doesn't revolve around me--

--I'm convinced that I'm somehow responsible for Kaplan's kidnapping.

I've got to find the man.

For Ben's sake--

--and my own!

Unfortunately, I'm no detective.

I haven't the slightest idea how to conduct an investigation.

So I'm going to rely on a little help from my friends...







Unlike some of my friends, I don't have any confidential informants--

--and I'm not experienced when it comes to forcing information out of criminal contacts.

I'm a friendly neighborhood super hero--

--not a dark and brooding vigilante type.







Talking to Doc's astral projection is just plain weird.

Although, knowing him, he probably does it on purpose.

I wonder what he meant when he said--

He seems to like playing the all-knowing lord of mystic mumbo-jumbo.

I wonder if he has any idea how much it creeps me out.

Hello, Spider-Girl.

Have you missed me?

I-it's FURY, the Goblin Queen!

Is she the kidnapper?

Oh, no! My spider-sense must be on the fritz again.

It should have warned me.

Gotta duck! She's swooping down.

Here's my chance to try a stunt I've been aching to try.

I need to plant my feet on the girder--

--and employ my ability to repel objects.

SKWAKK!



No time to recover.

Must go limp and hope for the best.

Ouch! That's one stunt I hope I never have to re--ohmigosh!

I don't believe it! It's Spyral, the master of time and space...

La Fantome, the felon of fashion...

Bitter Frost...

What is this--a surprise party?!

Klaw, the world's greatest cat burglar...

Kodiak, the Zen assassin...

Reverb...

And the Brothers of the Scrier.

CRASH!

How is this even possible?

The majority of these people should be in jail.

It's like someone's dredged up everyone I've ever fought.

The odds are overwhelming, but I can't give up.

How did so many escape?

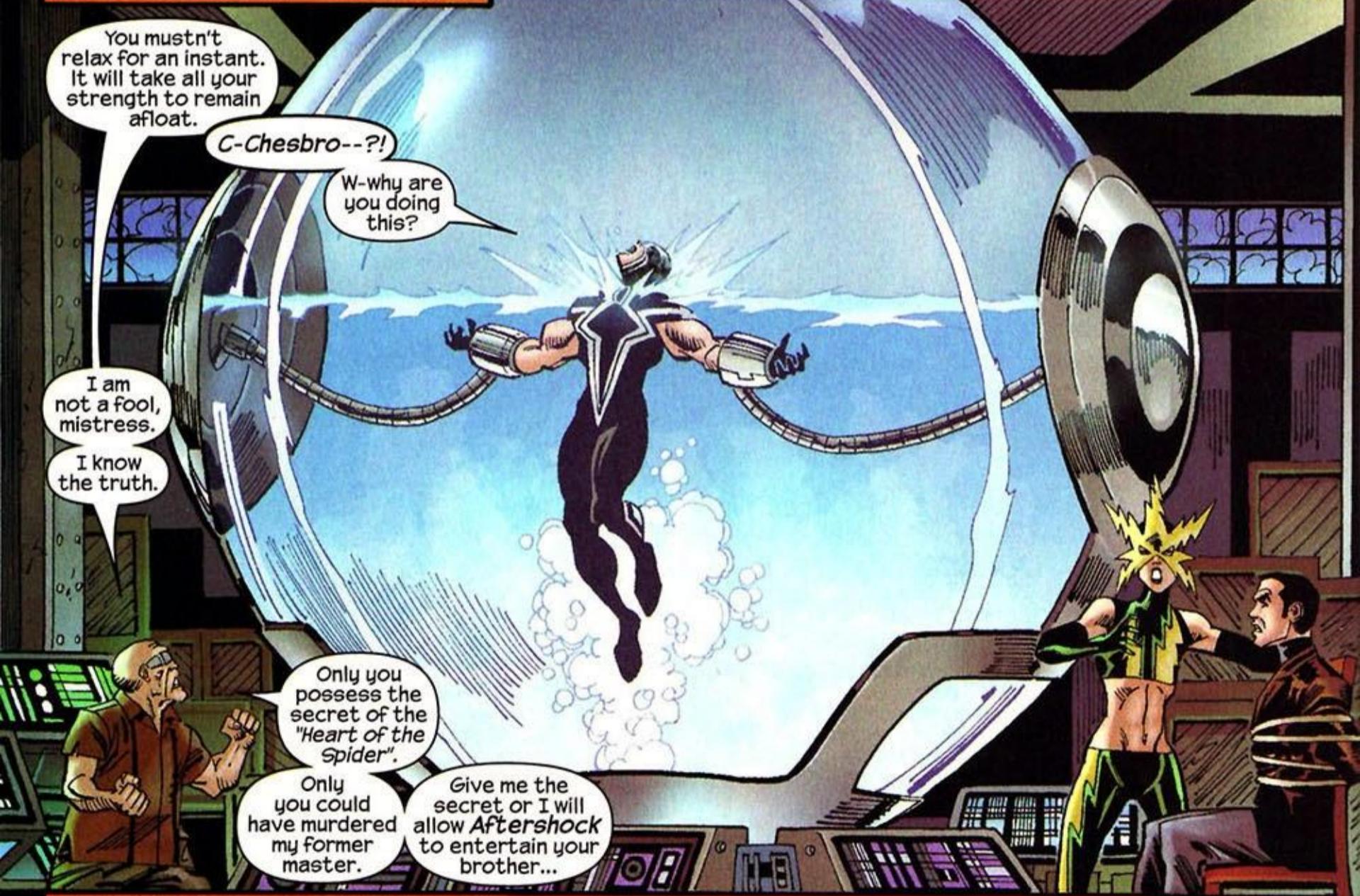
I won't surrender.

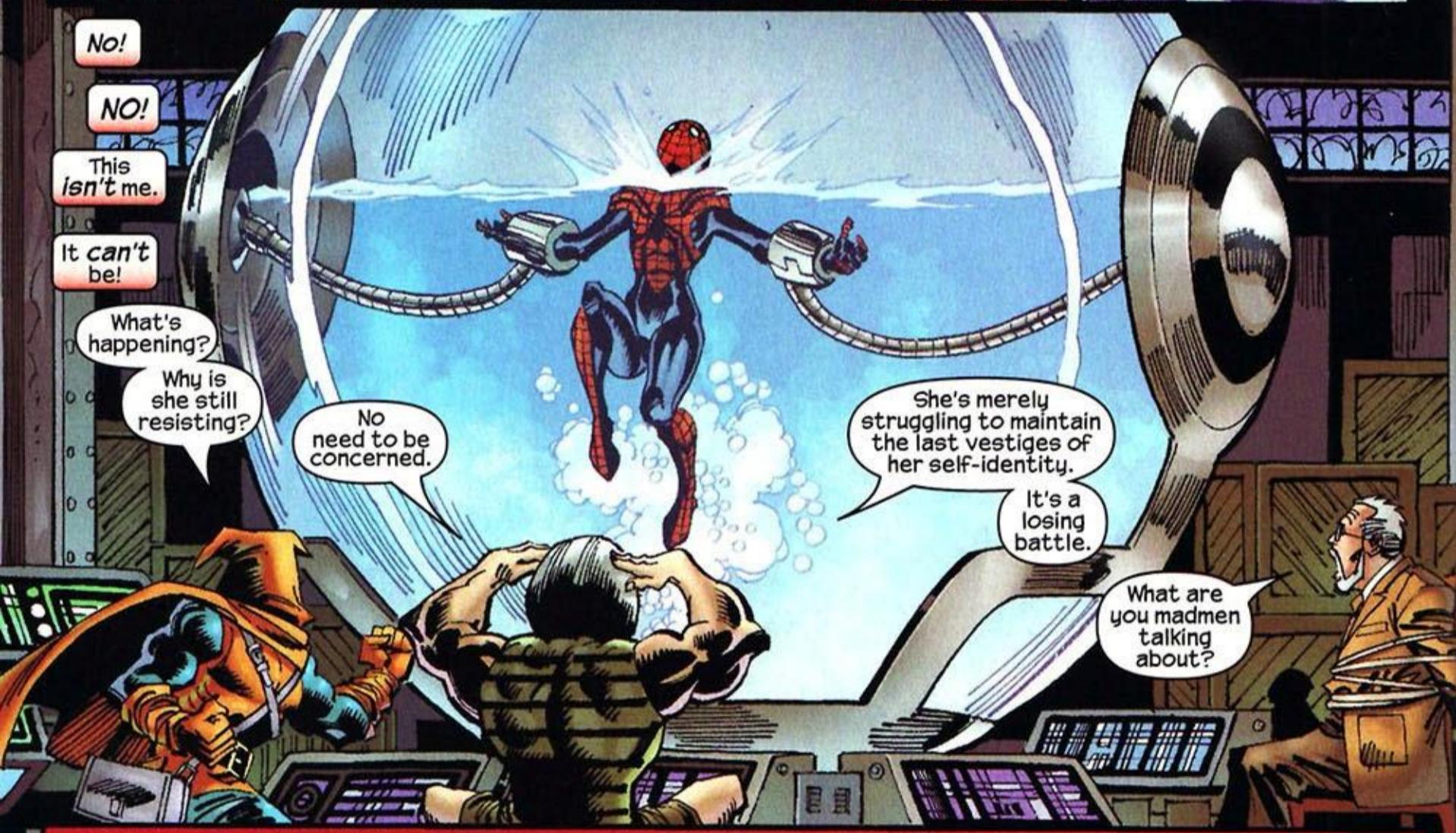
Mere determination cannot survive against the unrelenting power of Apox, the Omega Skrull!

Or the sinister cunning of Seth, the serpent god of death!

THWACK!

Unnnnnnn...





Doesn't seem like I have much choice.

I have to follow my heart.

Have to believe in myself.

W-what's she doing?
Why is she allowing herself to sink?

I... I'm not sure.
She has somehow managed to retreat inside herself.

Got to anchor myself to the floor--

--and try to get some leverage.

I've second-guessed myself too many times.

Allowed doubts to erode my self-confidence--

--and failures to overshadow victories.

No more!

ARRRRK!

I've messed up in the past--

--and will in the future.

But I have to remember that it's all part of growing up.

All part of my hero's journey.

If I...

When I
survive...

--and keep
moving forward.

Almost
out of air.

Not that it
matters.
I'll never
stop fighting.

I'll find a
way to win.

...I'm going
to make a
concentrated
effort to trust
my instincts--

Failure is
never an
option for me
because...



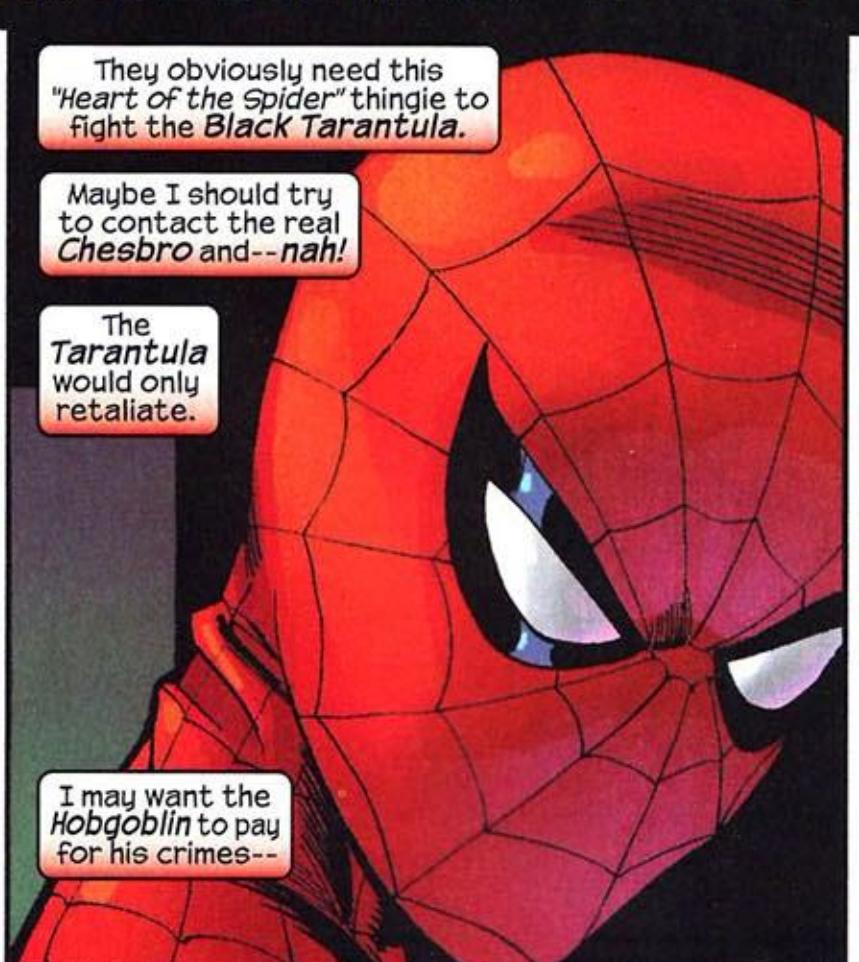
My name is May
"Mayday" Parker--

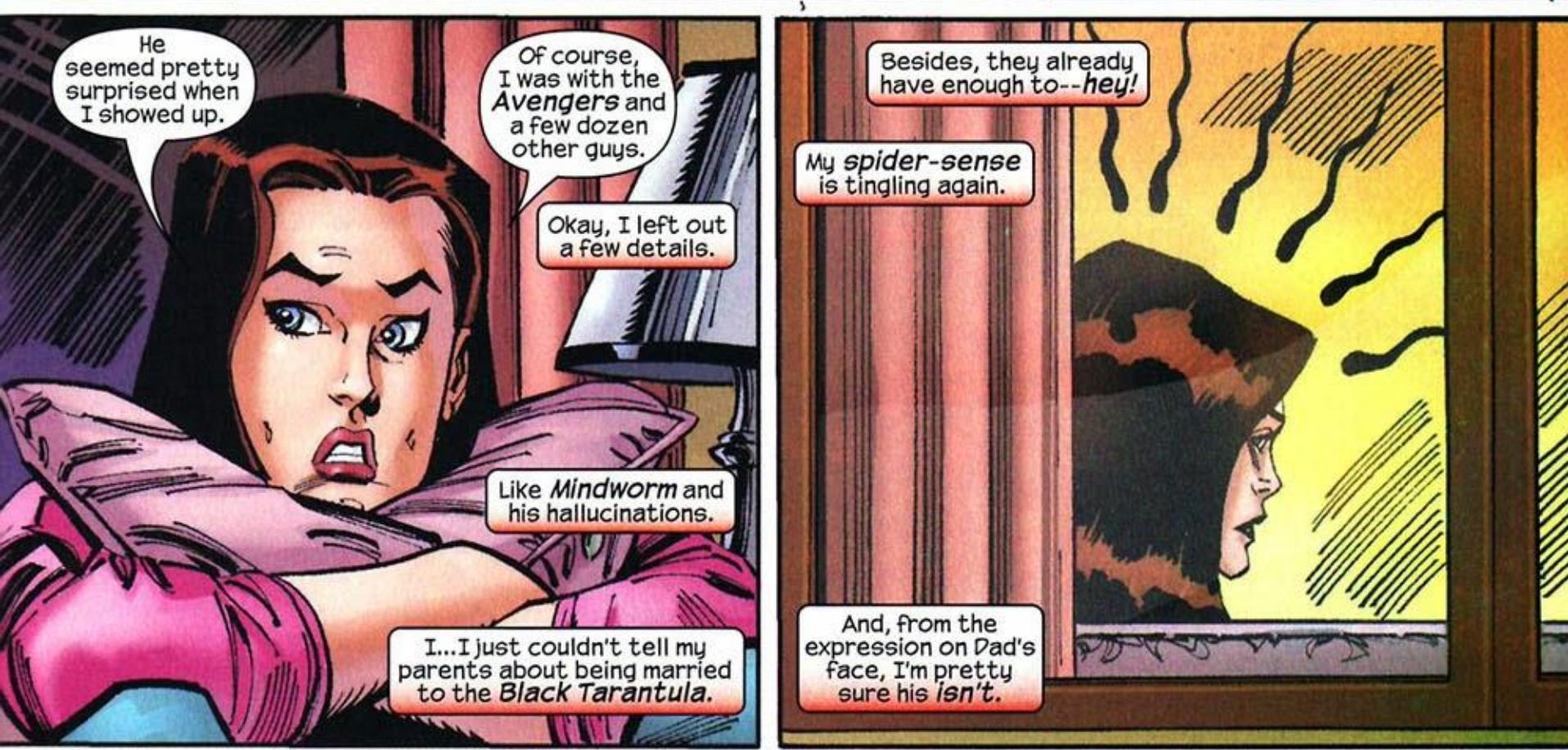
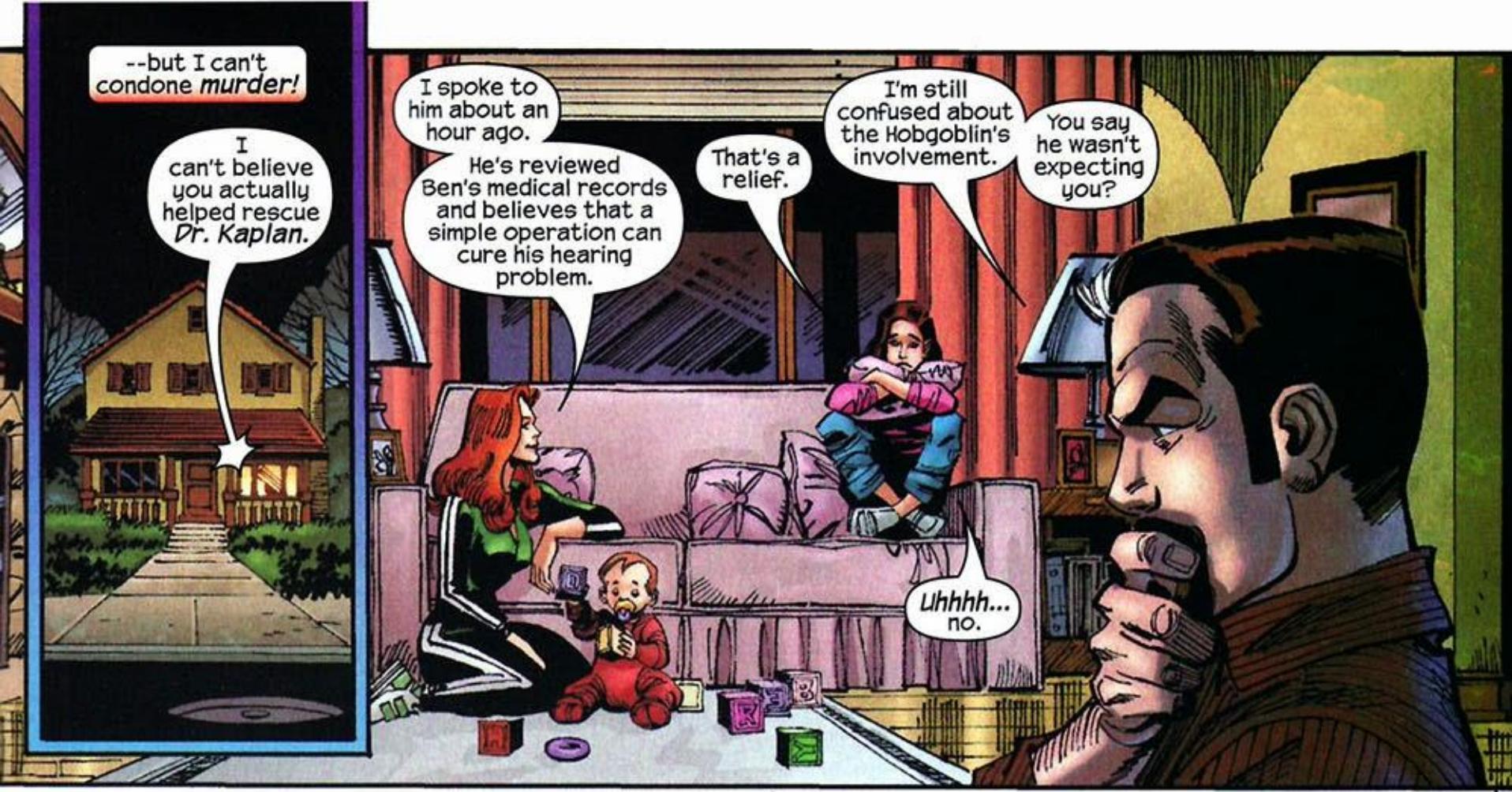
--and I am the
daughter of
SPIDER-
MAN!





A few moments later...





Whatever! Since it doesn't represent a threat, I'm not going to worry about it tonight.

How's that for decisiveness?

I owe you an apology, May.

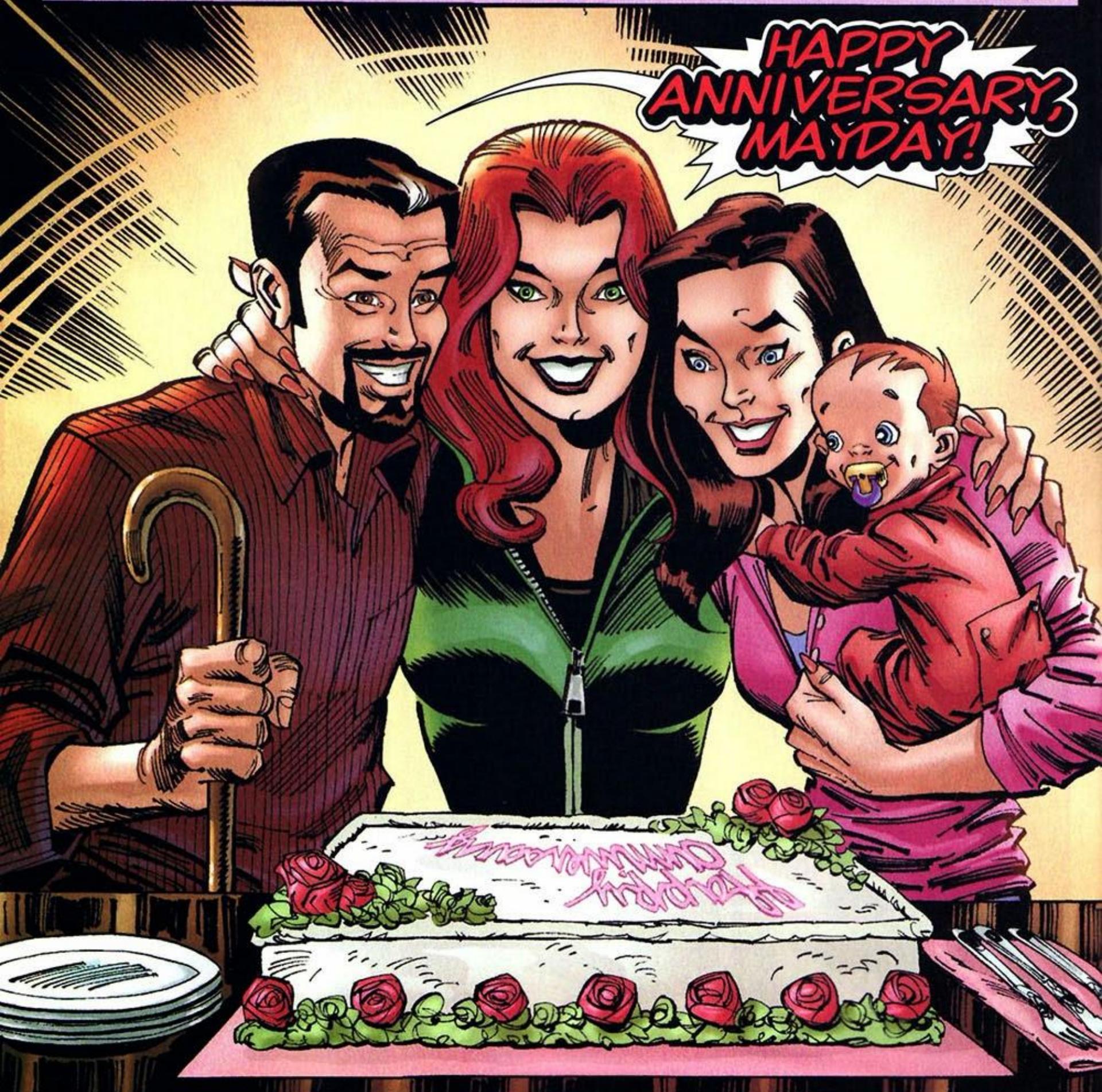
With all the confusion, I completely forgot about your special day.

That's okay.

I may have outgrown it, anyway.

Well, I certainly haven't.

I stopped by Fracano's Bakery on the way home so...



Meanwhile in
Manhattan...

We may
have a
problem,
master...



Somewhere in
South America...

What is it,
Chesbro?

According to
a reliable informant,
the Hobgoblin has
somehow learned of
the legendary "Heart
of the Spider".



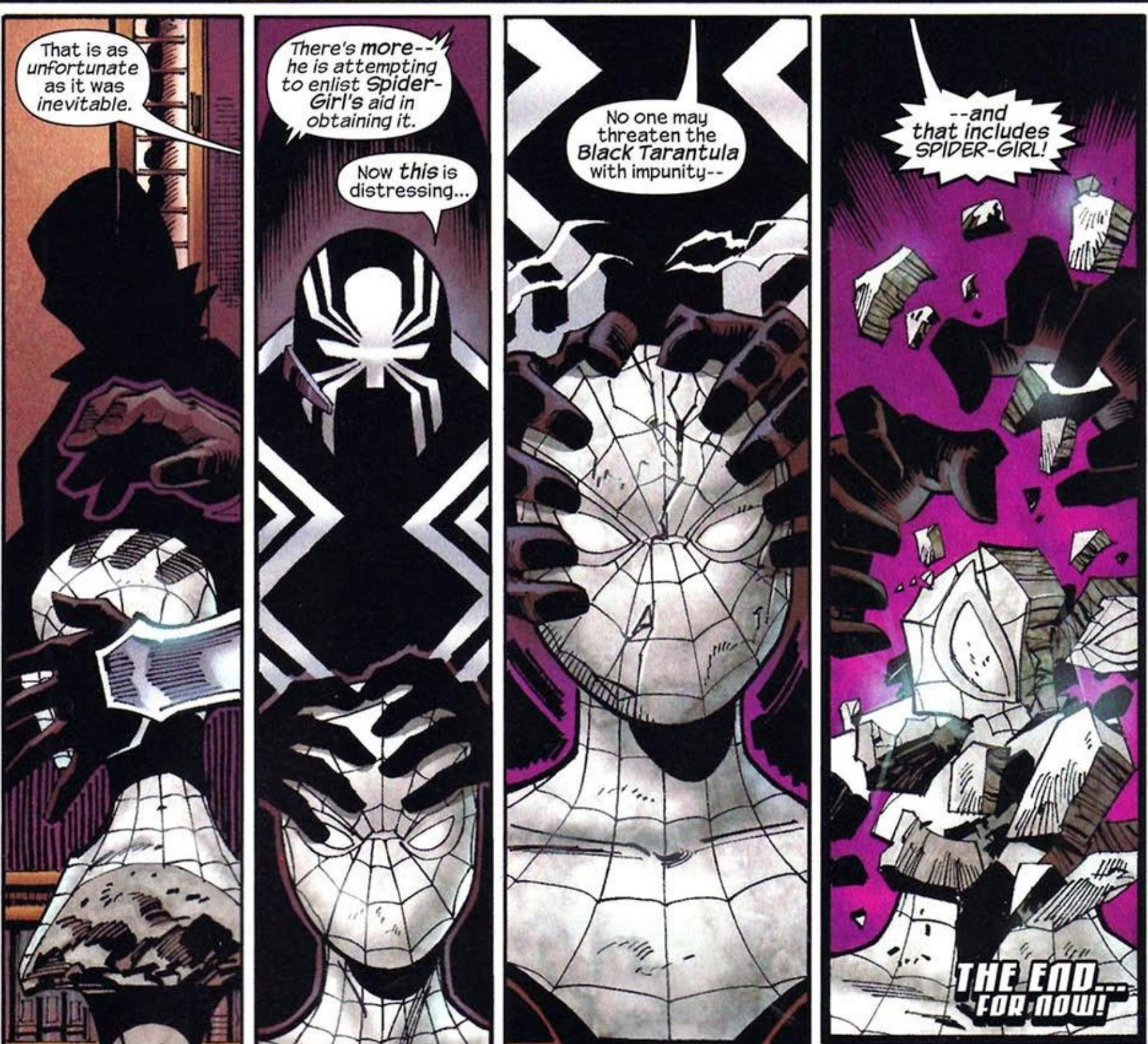
That is as
unfortunate
as it was
inevitable.

There's more--
he is attempting
to enlist Spider-
Girl's aid in
obtaining it.

Now *this* is
distressing...

No one may
threaten the
Black Tarantula
with impunity--

--and
that includes
SPIDER-GIRL!



**THE END.
FOR NOW!**



10 YEARS!
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

FROM -
Pat +
Scott