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THE DEATH OF THE
ARACHKNIGHT?!

SPIDER-MAN

"TORMENT"
PART FOUR OF FIVE

NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES
YOU
KILL HIM—
LIZARD
LIVES!

McFARLANE



DEAD.

YOU THOUGHT
HE WAS DEAD.

ASSUMED,
AND ABUSED
YOUR SECRET
IDENTITY.

THE HUNTER
HAD KILLED
HIMSELF.
COMMITTED
SUICIDE.

-- OR THE
FEVER
SEEMINGLY
BURNING
YOU ALIVE.

HE CAN'T
BE BACK
FROM THE
GRAVE!

NOW HE
WAS
BACK.

PUT A GUN
TO HIS
HEAD.

HE CAN BEAT
ANYODDS, THE
SICKLY
SMIRK
TELLS US.

HE HAD
BURIED
YOU ALIVE
FOR TWO
WEEKS.

YOUR MIND
SAYS THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE.

MAYBE IT'S
THE POISON
RAGING
THROUGH
YOUR BODY--

BUT YOUR
MIND SAYS
SOMETHING
IS WRONG.

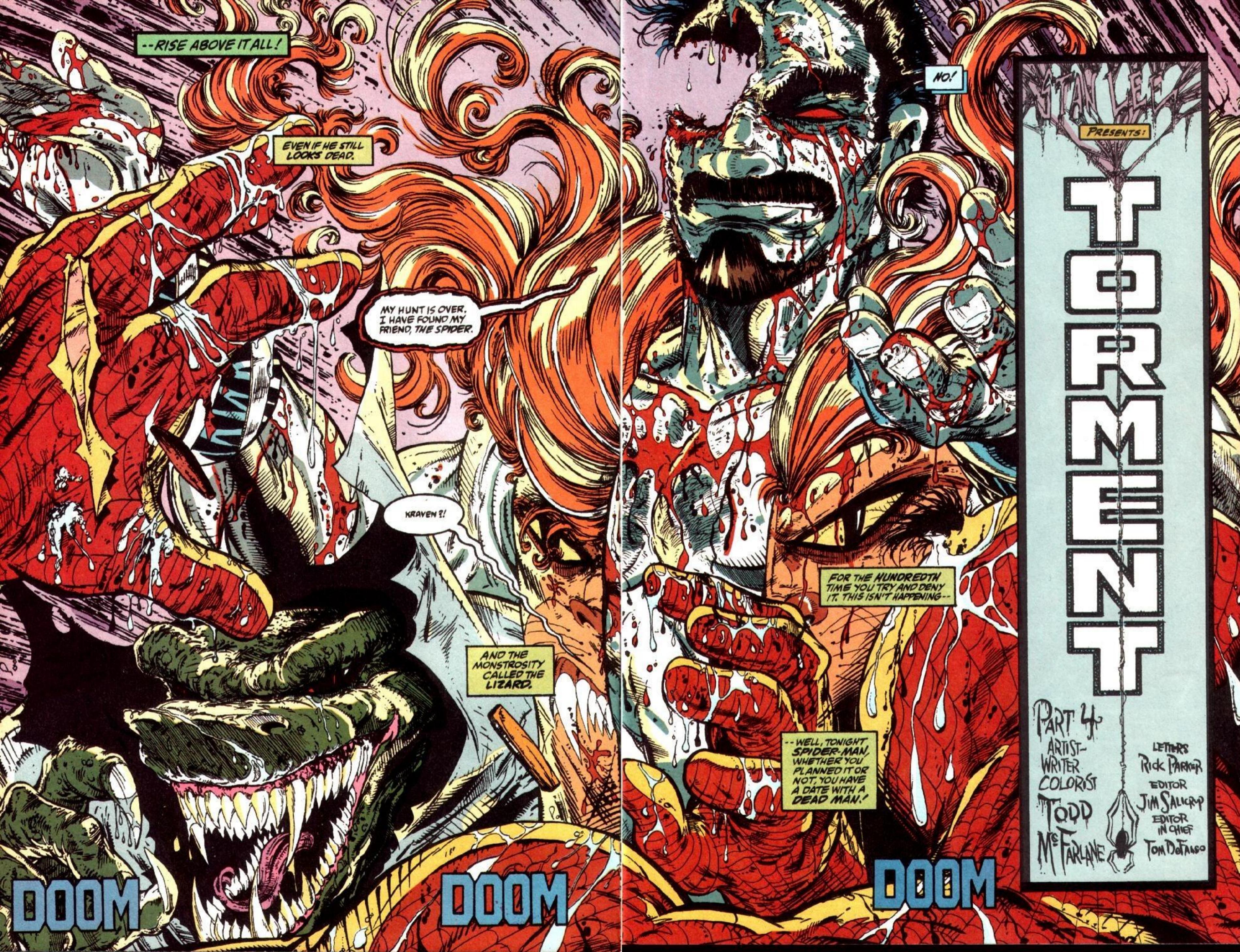
AGAINST
DEATH--

AGAINST
SPIDER-MAN.

DOOM

NO MATTER
WHAT,
HE WILL
ALWAYS--

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YOU'RE NOT
PREPARED FOR
THIS, AT LEAST,
NOT NOW.

DOOM

YOU CAN'T
BREATHE.

CAN'T
SEE.

LITTLE
BY
LITTLE.

THAT
NAME WILL
NOT ALLOW
YOU TO
GIVE UP.

CLOSER.

SO YOU
FIGHT.

EVER
CLOSER.

THE WEIGHT
OF THE
DARKNESS
BECOMES
TOO
HEAVY.

INCHING
UPWARD.

AS YOU SPRawl
ABOUT IN THE TIDE
OF GARBAGE...

-- YOUR SANITY
BEGINS TO
DESERT YOU.

BLACKNESS ENVELOPES
YOUR MIND, PULLING AT
THE VERY FIBERS OF
CONSCIOUSNESS.

YOU ARE
BEING
BURIED
AGAIN.

MARY
JANE.

DOOM



DOOM DOOM

MERELY SOME INSANE
ENEMY WITH AN
UNKNOWN PLAN.

IN THAT
MOMENT...

ILLUSIONS,
-- CREATED
WITH THE
HELP OF
ANCIENT
INCANTATIONS --
GIVE WAY TO
REALITY.

-- THE
SPELL
IS
BROKEN.

FOR THIS IS
NO DEAD MAN
THAT TORMENTS
OUR HERO.

PERFECT.

DOOM

EVERYTHING HAS TURNED OUT PERFECT.

DOOM

SHE CACKLES INTO THE NIGHT.

SOMEONE IS CONTROLLING IT.

LET US GO.

DOOM

AT HER SIDE IS THE TRANSFORMED FIGURE OF DR. CURT CONNORS. --

DOOM

WITH AN UNSPOKEN COMMAND, THE LIZARD TURNS. INSTINCTS, WANTING TO LEAP FORWARD AND TEAR APART THE HERO, ARE HELD IN CHECK.

--NOW KNOWN AS THE LIZARD!

DOOM

SINCE ITS REAPPEARANCE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO, THE USUALLY TALKATIVE CREATURE HAS NOT UTTERED ONE SYLLABLE.

DOOM

SOMEHOW, THIS CREATURE LIVES ONLY TO SERVE ITS NEW MASTER.

BUT IT CAN SMELL THE BLOOD OF ITS ENEMY-- THE SPIDER--

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

NOW!

-- HOW LONG IT WILL CONTINUE TO OBEY, NO ONE KNOWS.

DOOM

NEITHER DOES SHE!

DOOM



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WHA--?!

WHERE

AM

1?

NEW YORK.

UPPER EAST SIDE.

**AND FOR THE
MILLIONTH
TIME -- WHAT'S
GOING ON?!**

**AWAKE ALREADY? YOUR
PERSISTENCE IS
ADMIRABLE.**

--WHO--
--ARE--
--YOU--

THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR
ABOUT HER--
CAN'T PINPOINT.

**DOOM
DOOM**

WRONG!!

STOP!

THE
CREATURE
FREEZES.

DOOM

SOON, MY
PET, YOU
WILL FEAST.

SHE APPROACHES
A BASIN OF WARM,
WET, SHIMMERING
BLOOD.

THE LIQUID POTION CONTAINS TWO
ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS --
LIZARDS AND SPIDERS.

LILIUM

DEFYING THE
GODS --
SHE LAUGHS!

CRIMSON GORE SPUTTS IN
SMOOTH ARCS ACROSS THE
STILL BLACKNESS OF THE
ANCIENT SANCTUARY.

**DOOM
DOOM**

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POWER COURSES THROUGH THE RED LIQUID.

POWER TO CONTROL.

TO TORMENT.

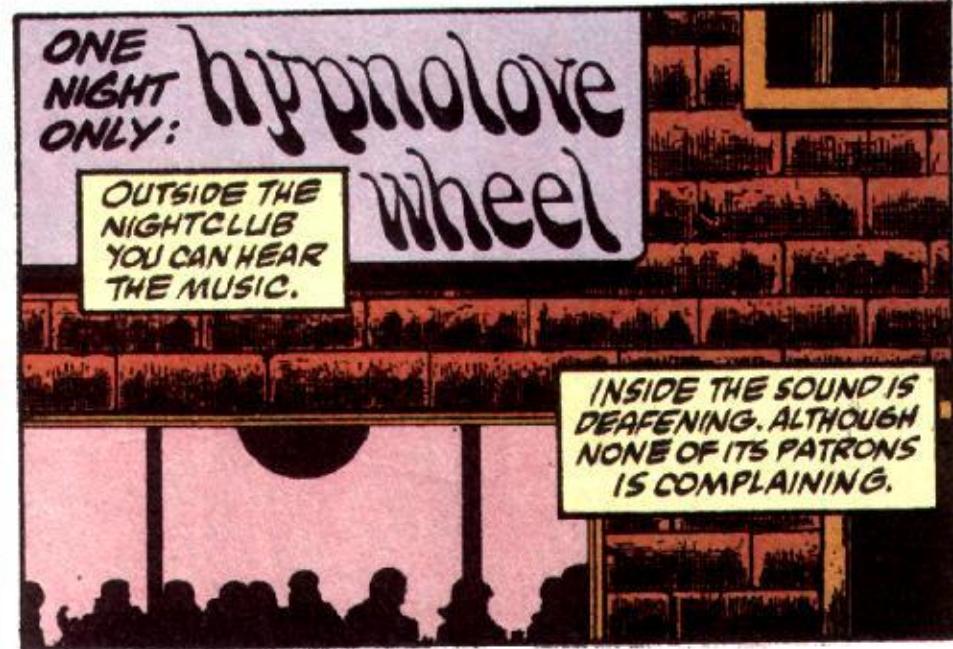
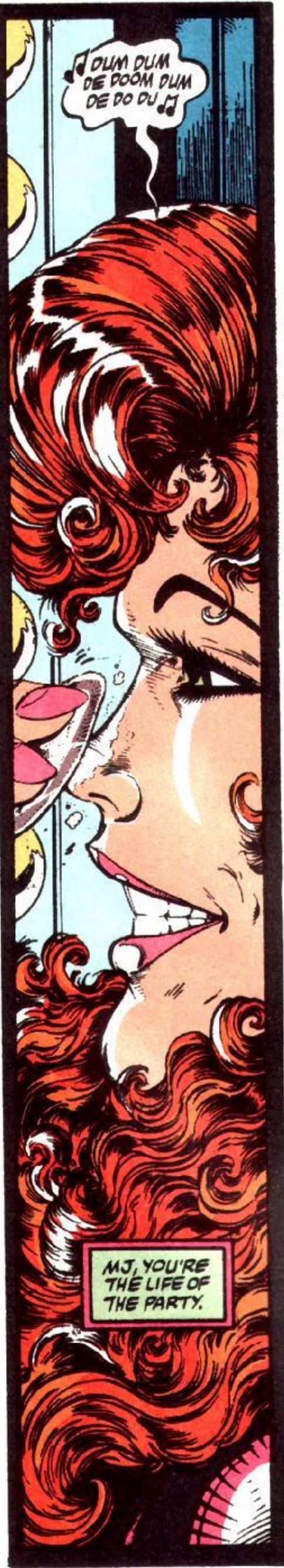
TO UTTERLY TOY WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS, TO SATISFY SOME INSATIABLE NEED.

SHE BEGINS TO DRIFT, BARELY AWARE OF SPIDER-MAN NOW, HER MIND IS ELSEWHERE.

IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE, THE MYSTERIOUS WOMAN CLOSES HER EYES--

-- AND LISTENS TO THE RHYTHM OF THE MAGIC.

DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM DOOM



--"BEAT"

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

TALK TO
ME--LADY,
TELL ME--
ALL YOUR
PLANS.
ISN'T THAT--
WHAT YOU--
BAD GUYS--
LIVE FOR?

SHE'S--
A SICK--
ONE

WHY IS--
SHE DOING--
THIS?

WHY?!

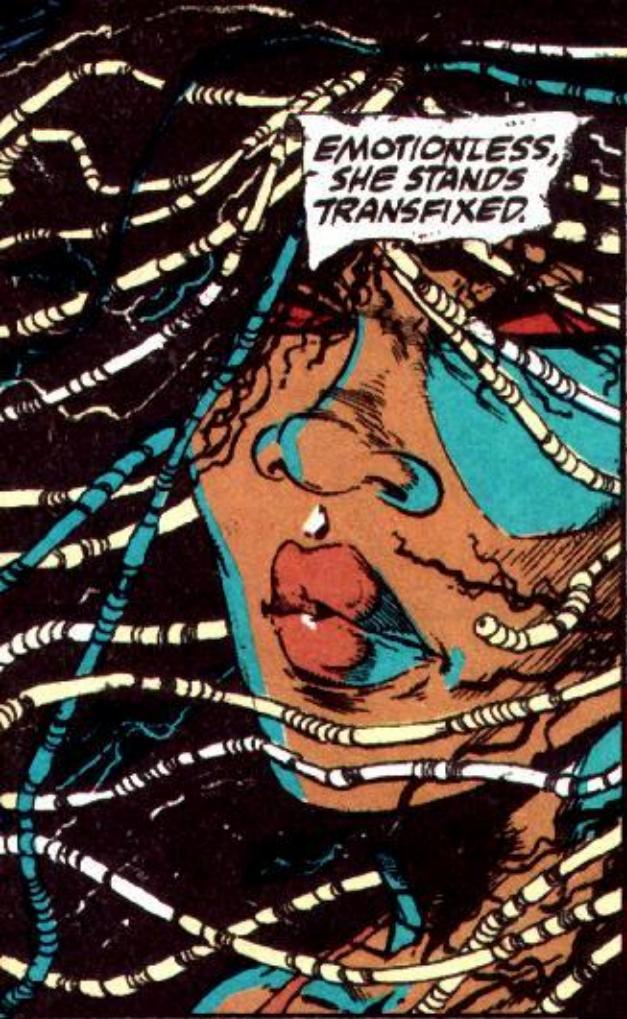
SHE
STANDS
UNMOVING.

NO--
GOOD--

THE
POISON,
THE
BEATINGS--

WHAT'S--IT
ALL FOR--?

AND THE DOC--WHERE
DOES HE--COME INTO--
ALL OF THIS--



EMOTIONLESS,
SHE STANDS
TRANSFIXED.



HER MIND SKIRTING
BACK IN TIME, TO A
SMALL CARIBBEAN
ISLAND, WHERE
MAGIC IS RULER OF
THE LAND.



WHERE DREAMS ARE
NOT MADE, BUT
DESTROYED.



THE POWER
THAT THE
TRIBAL HEADS
WIELDED
MADE HER
ENVIOUS.



SO SHE STUDIED,
GIVING OF HERSELF
TOTALLY.



EMBRACING
THE WAYS OF
EVIL.



BEING DRAWN
DEEPER AND
DEEPER INTO
THE DARKNESS.



SHE SAVORED
EVERY RITUAL.



KNOWING THAT
SHE WOULD
SOON BE HER
OWN MASTER.



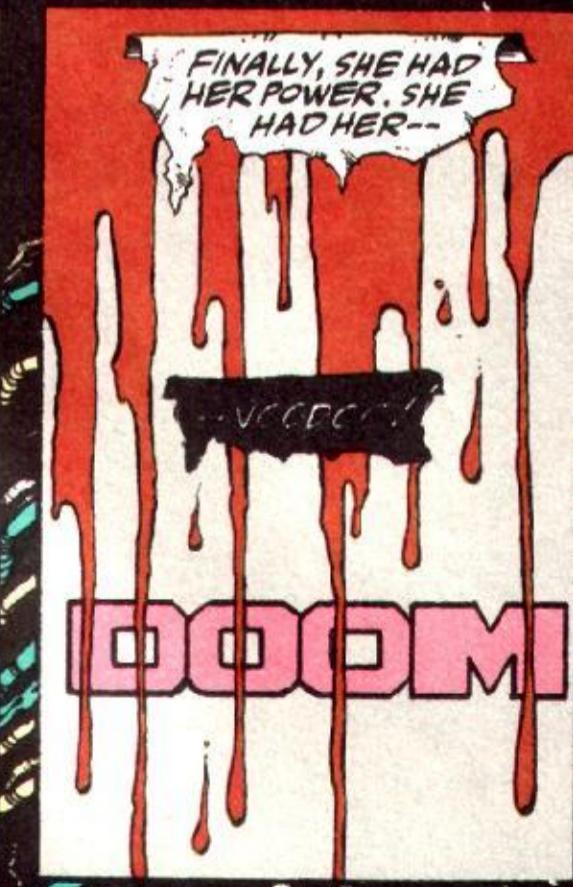
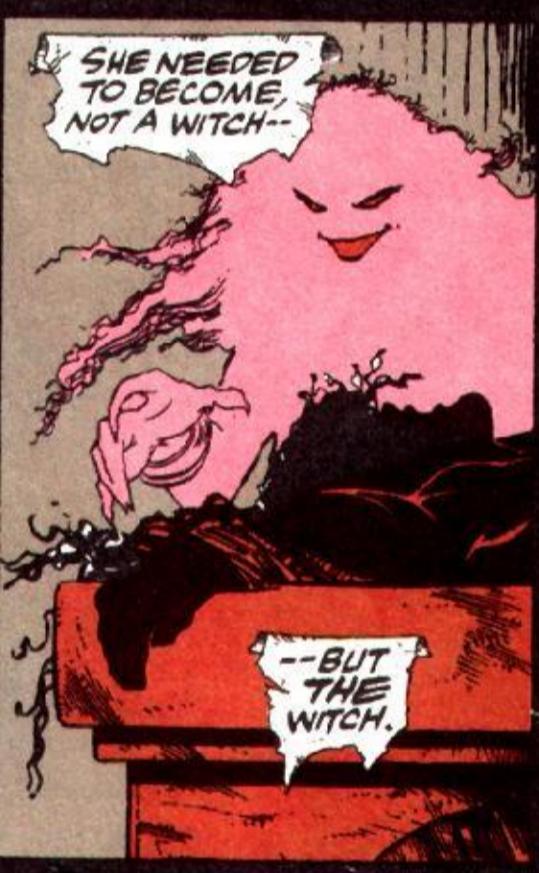
THEN CAME THE
SACRED, CEREMONIAL
BAPTISM.



BEFORE THE
NIGHT WAS
OVER --



-- SHE HAD HER
FIRST KILL.



AT PRESENT, THE NUMBER
OF SOULS SHE HAS TAKEN
IS STAGGERING.

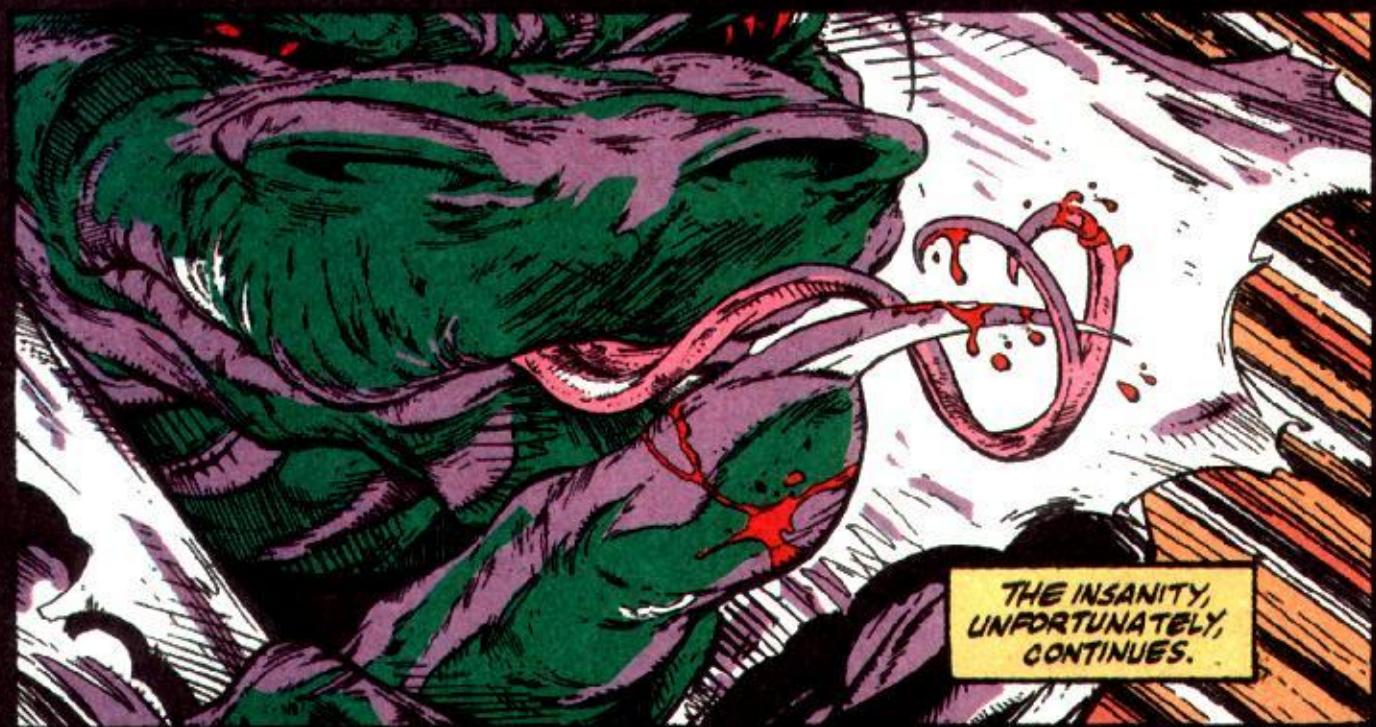


BUT TONIGHT--

-- SHE
MEANS TO
ADD ONE
MORE TO
HER LIST.

**THEN
IT
STOPS.**

THAT OF THE SPIDER.



**THE INSANITY,
UNFORTUNATELY,
CONTINUES.**



THE WITCH STANDS FROZEN,
CHANNELING THE EVIL SPIRITS
THAT SERVE HER.

THOUGHTS ARE
SCATTERED.

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

DOOM

THE CRESCENDO
BUILDS. THE
NUMBING BEAT
BECOMES A
FRENZIED
POUNDING.

THE LIZARD SHIFTS ITS
WEIGHT, SALIVA OOZES
FROM ITS TOOTHY MAW.
FINALLY, IT SHALL FEAST!

TIME'S UP, PETER!
IF YOU'RE--GOING--
TO--ACT--YOU HAD
BETTER--DO IT--

DOOM

-- NOW!

YOU'RE BOTH
CRAZY!

BUILT JUST
ENOUGH
STRENGTH.

DOOM

NOW
WHAT?!

I'VE ALREADY
FOUND OUT I
CAN'T KILL
THE LIZARD.

DOOM

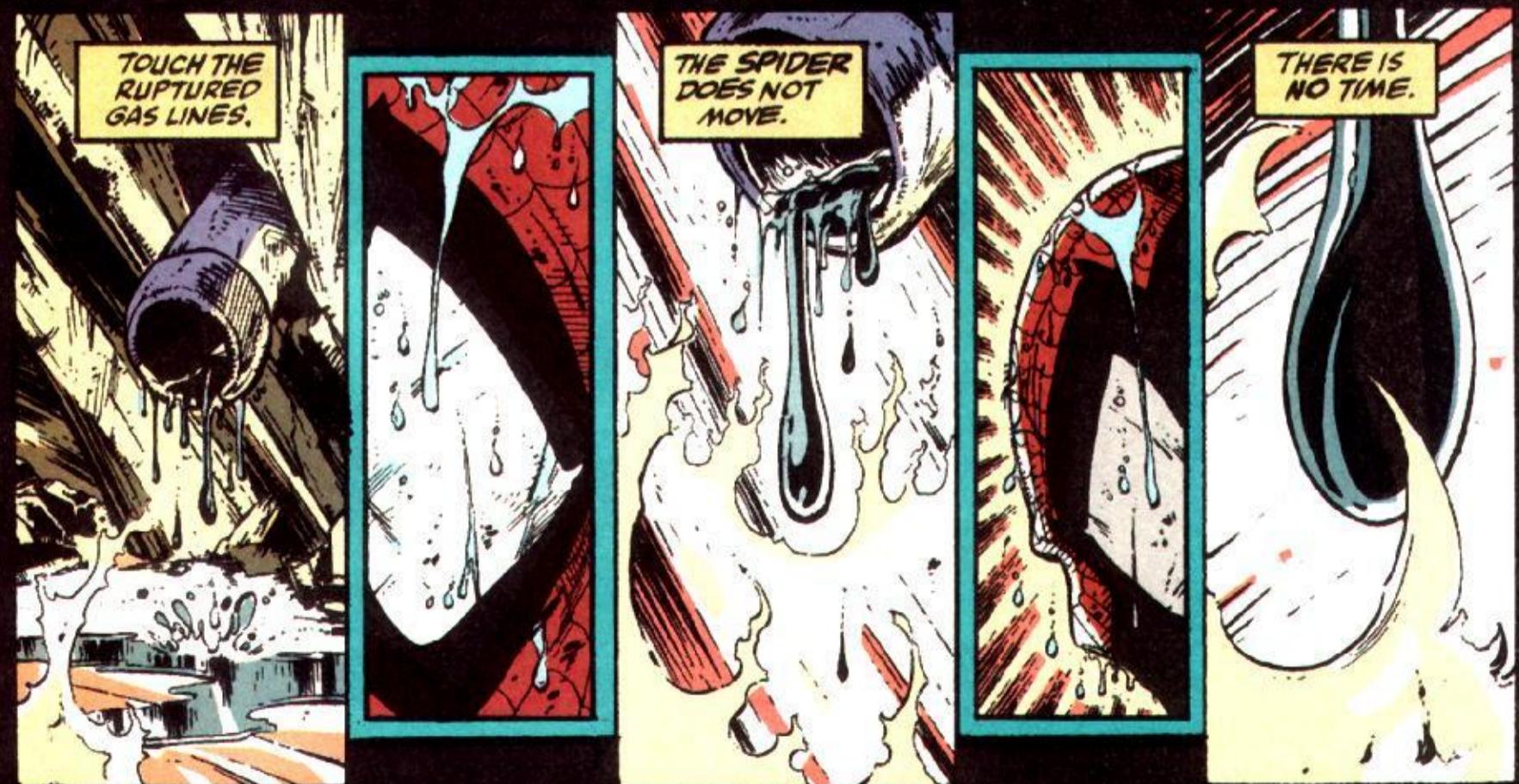
MY GUTS ARE--
STILL ON
FIRE--

-- BUT I HAVE
TO LIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO--
FIND OUT--
WHY?

WHAT IS THIS
WHOLE NIGHT
ABOUT-- ?

ANCIENT FIREPOTS
SPEW FORTH THEIR
FLAMES.

DOOM





Part 5
THE FINAL CHAPTER