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PREVIOUSLY

in SPIDER-GIRL



With Chesbro acting as her liaison, Spider-Girl learns that the Black Tarantula has hired Elektra to train her in the martial arts and that he has also established Team Spider to help her capture Canis and Lady Octopus. Spider-Girl also trades in her traditional, red, blue & web-covered costume for a new black & white one.



When Canis and Lady Octopus attempt to organize a crime summit, a member of Team Spider falls in combat.

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"A TASTE FOR TREACHERY!"



For the past several days, you've been playing a most dangerous game.

You asked an international criminal called the *Black Tarantula* to help you capture *Lady Octopus* and *Canis*.

Great plan...

Except for the part where June almost lost her life!

What's happened to you, May?

Since when is capturing bad guys more important than protecting lives?

A cold shower fails to wash away your guilt and a few minutes later...

Daddy?

What are you doing up so early?

Making coffee and cranberry pancakes for my favorite neighborhood wall-crawler.

It's obvious from your recent behavior that something major is going down.

As much as your mother and I are curious, we have faith in your judgment and agreed not to pry.

We just want you to know that you're not alone.

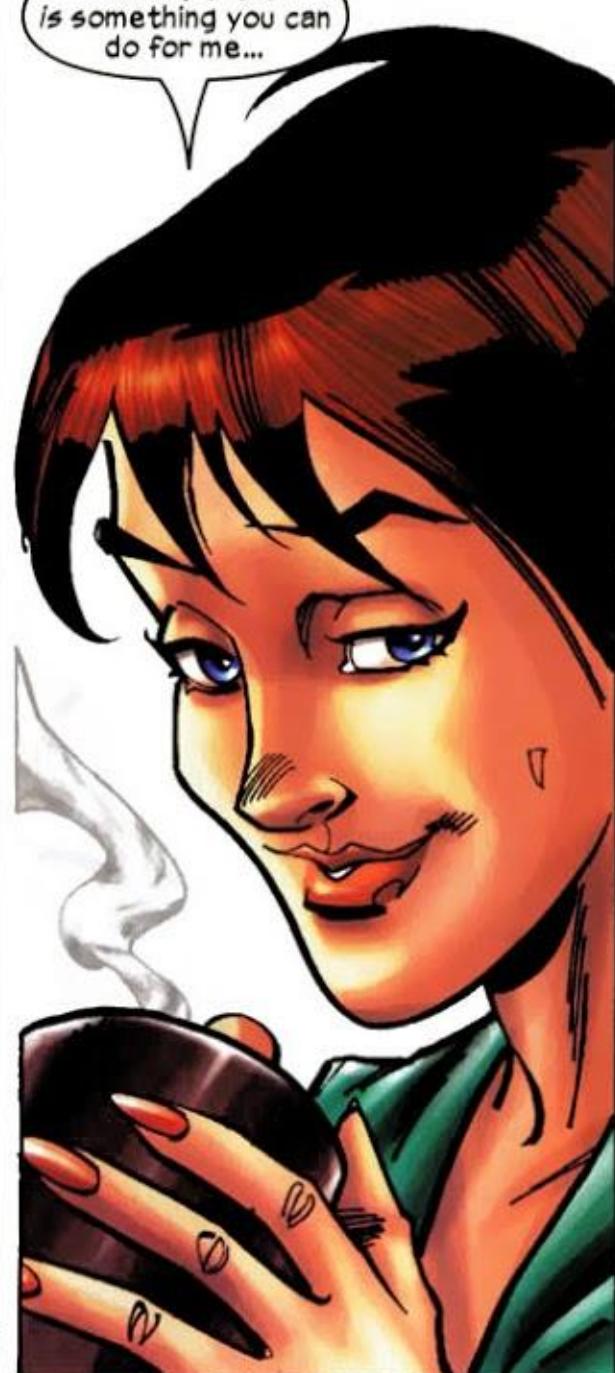
You can talk to us about anything, hon. We'll always be there for you.

Daddy, I...

I love you, too.

You could use a hearty breakfast for... well... wherever you go every morning at 5:30.

Y'know, there is something you can do for me...



His name
is **Canis**--

--and he once dreamed of
becoming the new **Kingpin**
of Crime.

(That was before
Spider-Girl sent
him to prison.)

He recently escaped custody, but his
attempts to regain control of his criminal
empire have all met with failure.

(Thanks, once again,
to Spider-Girl.)

His fate and
dream now rest
in the hands of
his new partner--

--the woman called
Lady Octopus.

Thank you
for agreeing to
meet me, Mr.
DeWells.

I'm a simple
businessman who only
wants to enhance
profits.

When Wilson
Fisk--may he rest in
peace--ran the under-
world, everyone made
money.

He kept the
authorities off our
backs and provided a
certain stability.

So you
say.

I'm still not
convinced.

You should
talk to him in
person.

He's holding
a reception later
this afternoon. All
of the city's major
crime bosses will
be there.

I urge you
to attend.

With all
due respect, Mr.
DeWells, my guy is the
only one with enough
power and vision to
do the job.

He can also provide
protection, worldwide
distribution and all the
muscle you need.

What makes
your guy qualified to
replace Fisk?

You don't want
to be on his bad side
if he does become
the new Kingpin.

You're starting to annoy me.



You have no time to think, girl.

You can't hesitate.

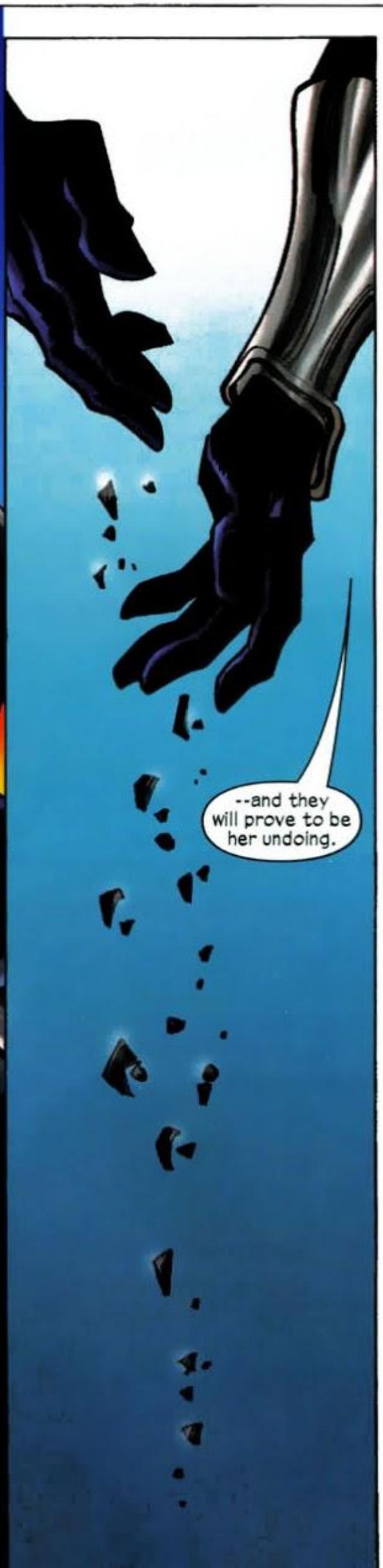
You must rely on your instincts and move!

MOVE!

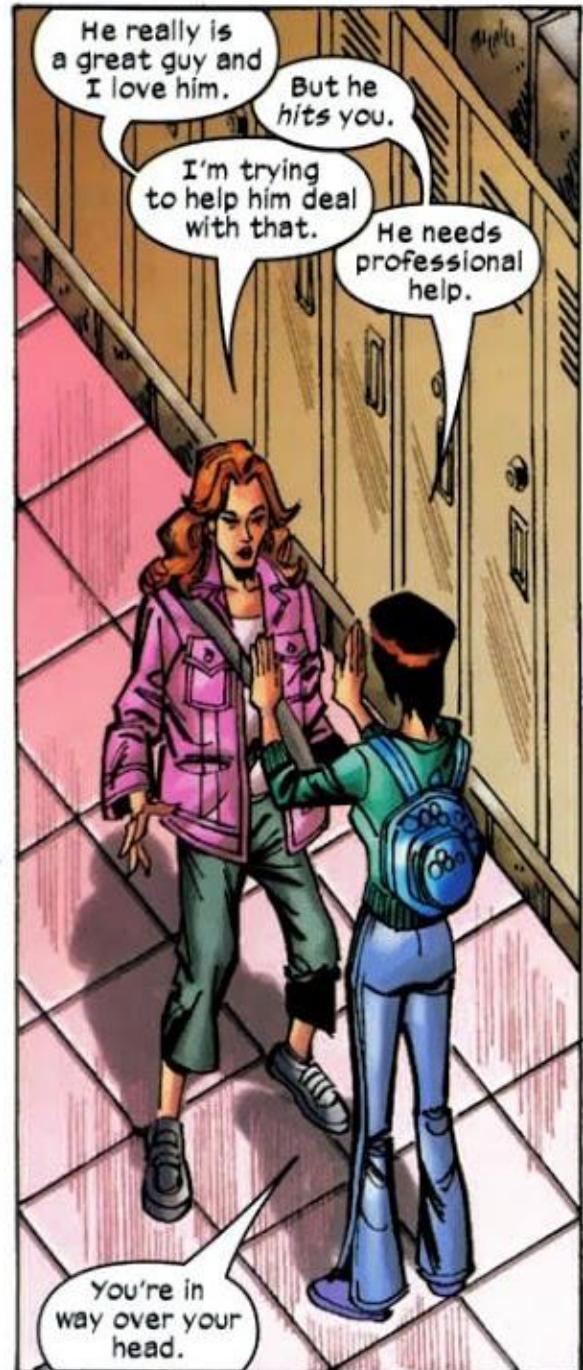
One of the advantages of pairing with the *Black Tarantula* is that he provides great support--

--like hiring *Elektra* to tutor you in the martial arts and to help sharpen your fighting prowess.









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--but you keep brushing him off (along with everyone else in your usual circle) to hang with the spandex set.

I'm here, Kaine.

What'cha want?

The federal boys think *Canis* is getting ready to make his power play.

They also believe the *Black Tarantula* plans to hijack the proceedings.

Kaine is a former mercenary--and enemy of your dad--who presently heads a top secret government super-team.

Did I miss something, Kaine?

Canis is an escaped felon.

There are at least a dozen warrants out for Lady Octopus.

And the bureaucrat you answer to is only focused on the Tarantula?

My orders are to bring in the *Black Tarantula*--dead or alive!

I thought you joined this agency to atone for your past crimes.

Doesn't murder count?

It isn't murder, Darkdevil--
--if it's sanctioned by the government.

Y-You're serious.

You really would kill the *Black Tarantula* without a second thought.

What can I say?
He's international. It's a jurisdictional kind of thing.

I have a job to do, Spider-Girl.

You don't want to get in my way.



Darkdevil doesn't speak until long after **Kaine** is gone...

You shouldn't be surprised. Kaine may seem all sorts of cuddly now, but you know his history.

You should take his advice and stay out of his line of fire.

Darkdevil is an occasional ally with the powers of a demon and the soul of a hero.

That could be a problem.

Darkdevil, I... I may need a favor.

A tense conversation and a few minutes later...

Talk to me, April.

What's the latest word on this crime summit?

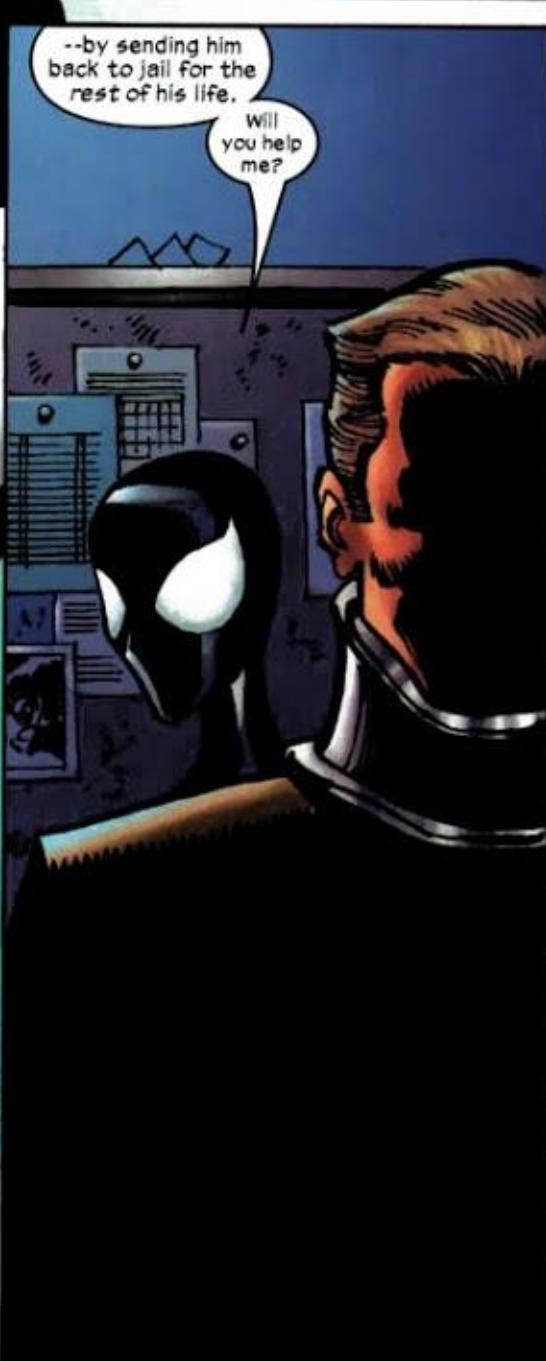
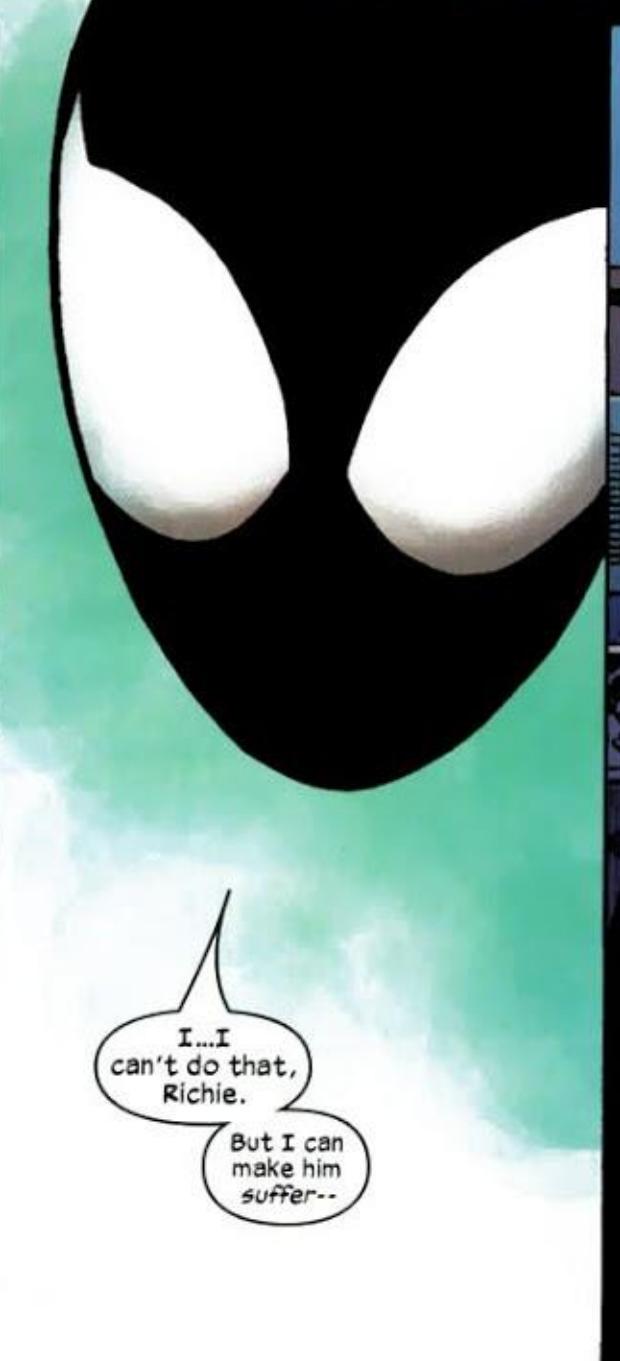
We're still trying to nail the location.

I'll call you as soon as one of our contacts comes through.

Yeah, you do that--

--while I look up an old friend.

Handsome Richie Valentine is a middle management crime boss in the Canis crime family...



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At that moment,
in a ballroom
within the Jacob
K. Javits
Convention Center...

The world lost a great leader a
few months ago when **Wilson**
Fisk was laid to rest.

Many have
tried to replace
Fisk.

All have
failed.

The result
has been
chaos--

--and
millions in lost
revenue.

Thank
you for
coming.

BOAT SHOW



With your support,
I will bring **order** to
the New York
underworld.

I am
called the **Black**
Tarantula--

--and my
organization
is already known
and feared
throughout Europe
and South
America.

Are
there any
questions?

How will your
distribution network
benefit us?

The world grows
smaller with each
passing day.

Cars, jewelry,
DVDs and furniture
hijacked in New York
today can be on the
streets of Brazil
within forty-eight
hours.

The authorities
in this country won't
be looking for the serial
numbers of electronics
stolen in France.









Boy,
have you got
the **WRONG**
GIRL!

H-HOW?!

EXPO

This time a
little *spider*
told me--

--in the form of a tracer
supplied by my father!"

This is it,
people.

According to our
confidential informants,
the *Black Tarantula* is
in this building.

Our mission is
to take him down--
no matter who gets
in our way!

What if
the rumors
are true--

--and *Spider-Girl*
is somehow connected
to the *Tarantula*?

OAT SHO

Your
government is
counting on
you.

Big
whoop!

Then we treat
her as a *hostile* and
neutralize her.

To Be
Continued!

Hi, everybody. It's time to pull out one of my favorite snapshots from the old photo album to illustrate another installment of...

SPIDER-GIRL AND HER AMAZING FRIENDS



MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Dear Tom,

I really enjoyed the drama in **Spider-Girl #74!** Loved the thematic play between the first couple of pages and the end. My favorite moments were of her interacting with the high-school gang. This whole basketball issue is very intriguing because it poses all sorts of moral questions. Any chance we can see a lot more of Midtown High in the future? Darkdevil was very good, and I liked the way he interacted with Kaine and Spider-Girl, and was there to help her out later. My biggest concern is Mayday turning to a criminal for help, but I've got faith that she'll come to her senses in the end. Oh, and will Pat be penciling any more issues in the future?

John A. Koerner
Panama City, FL

Pat Olliffe will rejoin us for SPIDER-GIRL #80, John.

Dear Spider-Girl team,

Spider-Girl #74 was another well-written issue. I love all the twists that this title has right now. I was actually surprised to find out that woman was indeed married to Normie, at least in her country. She also is connected to Chesbro and the Black Tarantula. The Black Tarantula's interests in Mayday, Normie, Agent Weadon, and Lady Ock really make this book an enjoyable read. The progression with Lady Ock's plans to rule the underworld is also intriguing. I'm glad Canis is back in this title, along with Felicity, who disappeared for a long time. Will she try to be Spider-Girl's partner again? She doesn't seem too happy with May. I look forward to seeing the mysteries unfold in this wonderful title.

Jason Walker
Greenwich, CT

We doubt you've seen the last of Felicity, Jason.

Dear Tom and Ron,

It's over at last! **Spider-Girl #75** marked the end of May's losing streak! After the struggle Spider-Girl had with Canis and Lady Octopus (and a certain cat burglar) it was really good to see our girl take down a massive menace of mountainous malice like Kodiak.

I hope the new costume gives May her "second wind" as a crime fighter! It looks great! Ron, the art for this issue was 'MAZING! I love how the first panel of the first page and the last panel of the last page mirror each other!

Here's to another 75 issues!

John Wesley Dillon

We're actually hoping to reach SPIDER-GIRL #500, John.

Tom, Ron and the Gang.

Have 75 issues really come and gone? Yep, because I have the books and have read them multiple times...and they're great!

First, I want to congratulate you all on the fact that Mayday has seen 78 published issues (if you count **WHAT IF #105**, **Spider-Girl #1/2** and the one **Spider-Girl**

Annual). It's a testament to the wonderful character you created that she has lasted this long. (If she wasn't such a great character she wouldn't have inspired the fans to save her book three times!)

As for **Spider-Girl #75**, I really enjoyed it because of subtle things...like bringing in Electra as Spider-Girl's trainer (showing that being married to Wolverine hasn't kept her away from some shady characters), the use of the Black Tarantula (one of my favorite characters from the regular **Spider-Man** titles and I'm glad to see that his son is being used as a major crime figure and potential love-interest of May), and the continuing saga of Sandra Healey and Howard Kavanagh (which I'm glad to see wasn't resolved quite so nicely).

But the major thing I enjoyed was the fact that although Spider-Girl should know better than to rely on the word of a criminal, she still does...but with trepidation and thinking of ways to rig Tarantula's game to her advantage. It's really nice to see realistic character growth for our gal, showing how she's continuing to grow and learn from past mistakes.

As for the costume, I will admit to being hesitant because I loved seeing the Ben Reilly version of the costume in action...a nice way of keeping Ben's memory alive. I was also worried this would symbolize May becoming "grim and gritty." But the costume works...it's nice and simple in the way Peter's costume is (and the symbiote costume was) and May hasn't become grim and gritty! (Okay, okay, she maybe was a little grim due to the circumstances, but you can't really blame her!)

All in all, I thought it was a great issue. A nice start to a new storyline with loads of potential complications for our gal May.

Sheesh, who could've predicted this is where she'd be after **What If #105**? Not I!

Ryan Brandt
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

We certainly didn't, Ryan. We only planned for this title to run 12 issues. We still can't believe it's lasted over six wonderful years.

Dear Spider-Team,

First of all, I've said it a thousand times and I'll say it again: this is one of the best comics on the market today. Never, and I mean NEVER cancel this book! As for the big #75...it was great! You talented folks promised a new direction and you delivered! I'm not a big fan of the new costume but Mayday's motivation for selecting it was original and worked for the character. Team Spider? I like it. It gives May a new sense of responsibility and forces her to mature. As a temporary arrangement, this story line will offer endless interesting ideas and I look forward to seeing where it's going. So, congratulations to the unequalled creative team and to us fans for helping Spider-Girl reach this milestone! Champagne all around and let's march to #100 and beyond. Keep up the great work! Spider-Girl is, and always has been, and always will be, a winner!

Andrew Salmon
Vancouver, B.C.

We're the true winners, Andrew...because of fans like you!

Dear Marvel,

I must confess: I have neither collected nor read comics in a very, very, very long time. However, the one great exception to this is your **Spider-Girl** series. I first got intrigued while surfing the Internet and discovering her. I later decided to purchase the graphic novel collecting issues #0-9 through Amazon.com and had it brought home by a relative. (I live in the Philippines.) It was one of the best literary investments I'd made in my life. I'm proud to have it on my bookshelf and will, no doubt, include it in my home's library for my children to read when I grow older. I can only say that I've fallen in love with May Parker as a character. She is a refreshing, exciting and uplifting take on the **Spider-Man** saga. She started out as a "What If?" that developed and grew on its own into something with its vibrancy and vitality. As a continuation of the Peter Parker/**Spider-Man** legacy, she offers something new and vastly different to us comic fans who have watched Peter struggle through the ages. For example, May Parker/**Spider-Girl**, loving being a super hero and seeing it as a gift—it's wonderful seeing what Peter missed out on and suffered from all those years. She is a glimpse of Peter Parker immediately taking responsibility for his powers and forever sparing herself and her family from the guilt Peter endured all his life. She has her own style, her own spirit, her own experiences as a "Spider-Person". And yet, for all those differences, she is definitely **Spider-Man**'s daughter and a super hero worth reading about.

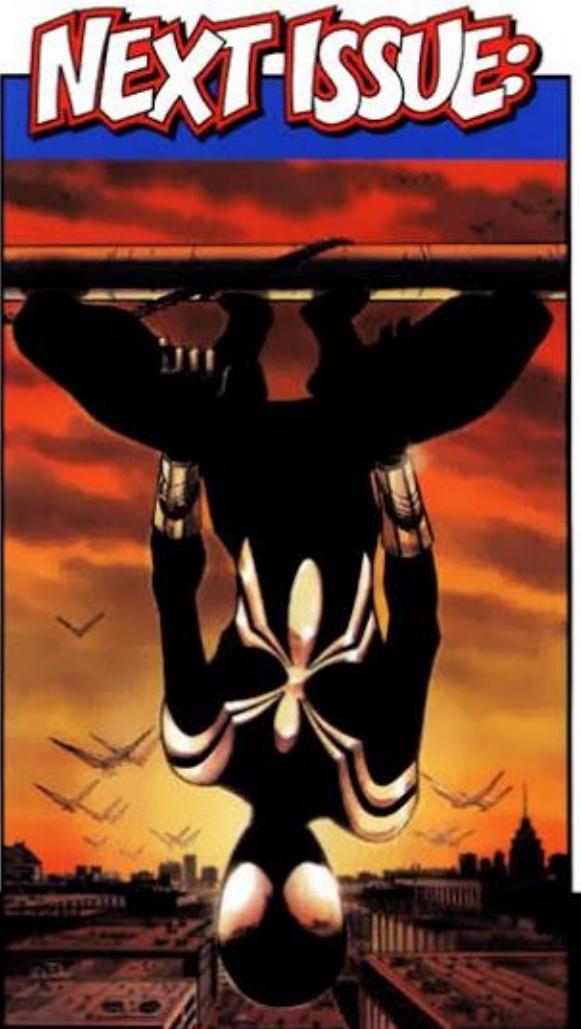
I recently purchased the Marvel Age digest of **Spider Girl: Legacy** and am looking forward to more volumes.

Javie Patag

We'll let you know as soon as more volumes are planned, Javie.

Thanks for being there, everyone!

—Tom DeFalco



SPIDER-GIRL CONFRONTS LADY OCTOPUS IN FINAL BATTLE!



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