

MARVEL®

78

THE DAUGHTER OF SPIDER-MAN®



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DIRECT EDITION

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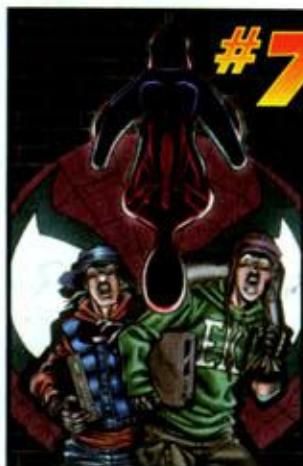
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PREVIOUSLY

in

SPIDER-GIRL



#74

After Lady Octopus breaks Canis from jail and buries Spider-Girl alive in the New York sewers, Mayday decides to form an unholy alliance with the Black Tarantula. Meanwhile, a woman named Élan DeJunae claims to be married to Mayday's friend, Normie Osborn.



#75

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



#76

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



#77

After Lady Octopus sets Canis up to be assassinated, Spider-Girl discovers she's secretly in league with the Black Tarantula.

Script, Plot & Pencils
Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz

Finished Art
Sal Buscema

Artists Emeritus
Pat Olliffe &
Al Williamson

Letterer
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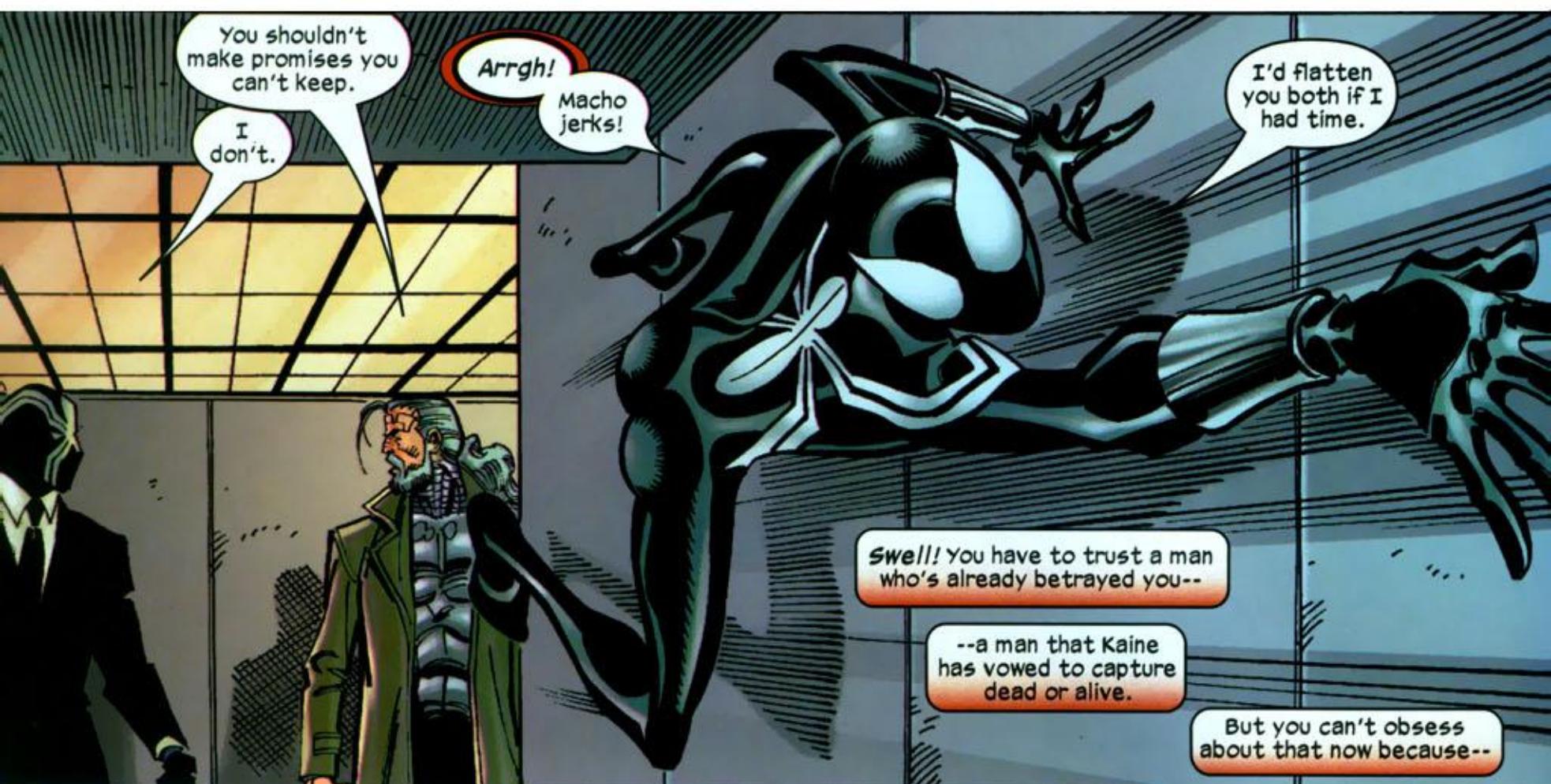
THE PEOPLE PLAYED BY GAMES!





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--Raptor
needs you!

That's...
uhhh...far
enough.

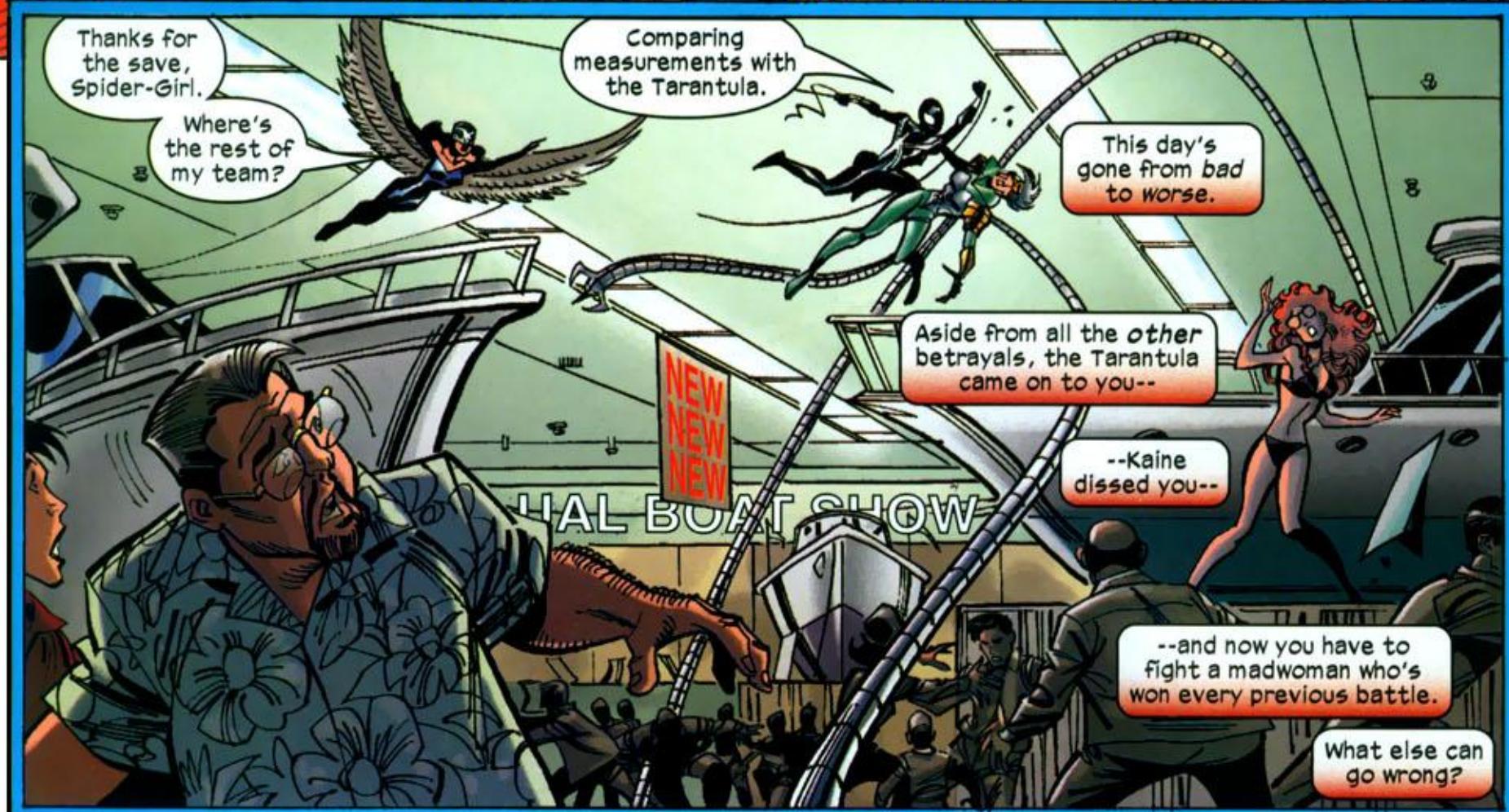
Boat Show Boat Show

You're...
errr...under
arrest.

They
sent you
alone?
Interesting!

Someone
must be very
annoyed with
you, little
girl.

THWAK



We have a problem!

What is it, June?

The support squad and I just arrived at the dockside warehouse where our intel reported that *Canis* was holding his crime summit.

Our mission was to back up *Spider-Girl*, but she's not on site.



There is another super-team present--

--and they are in the process of turning *Canis* and his associates over to the authorities.

Do you have any idea what happened to *Spider-Girl*?



Your guess is as good as mine.

Hold on, June! I just picked up a report on our police scanner.

Spider-Girl is allegedly battling Lady Octopus at the Javits.

T-The Javits Convention Center?!

Is something wrong, Chesbro?

More than you can possibly imagine, April. Please tell June and her team to return to base.

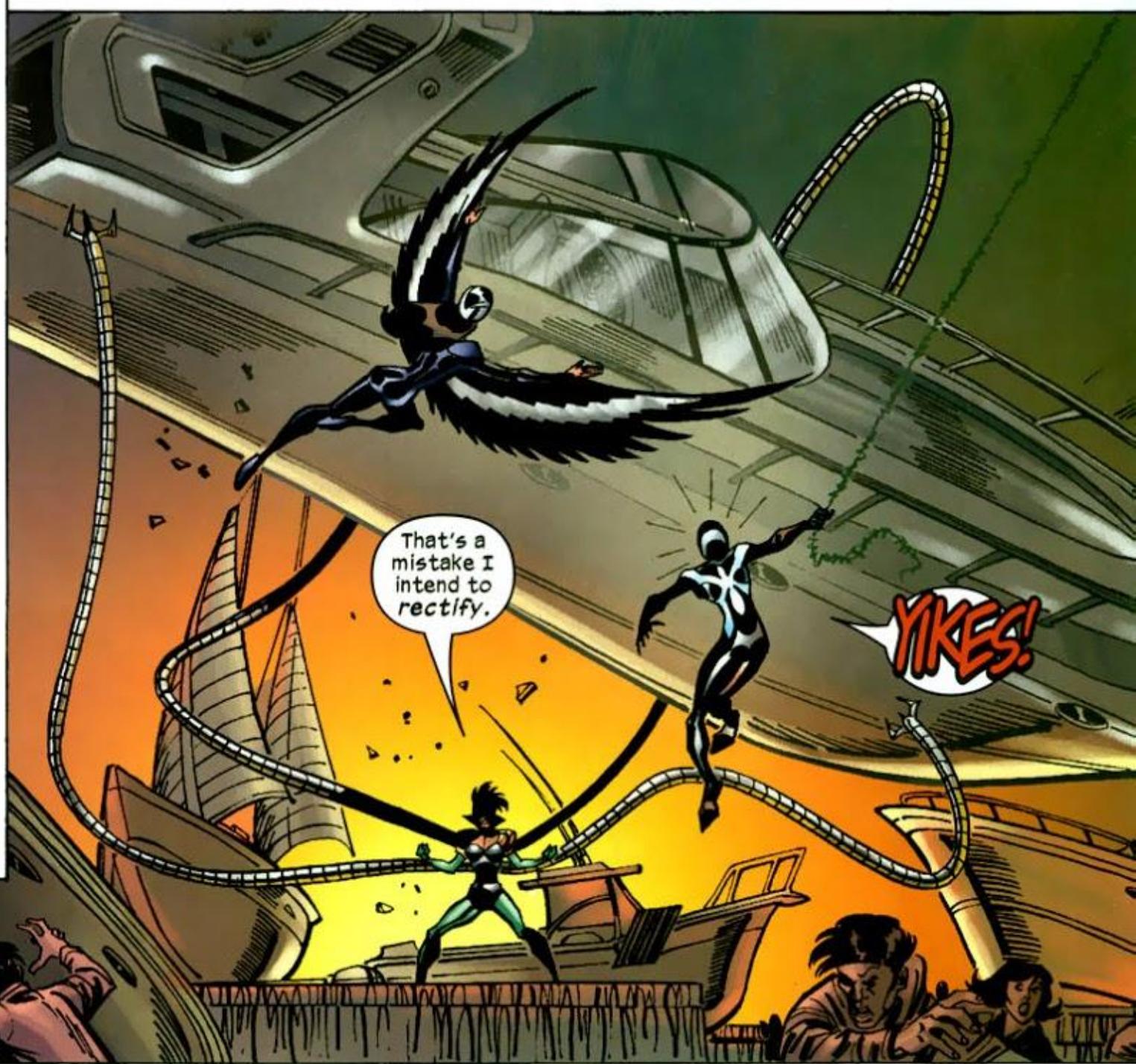
I think Team Spider is about to lose its funding.

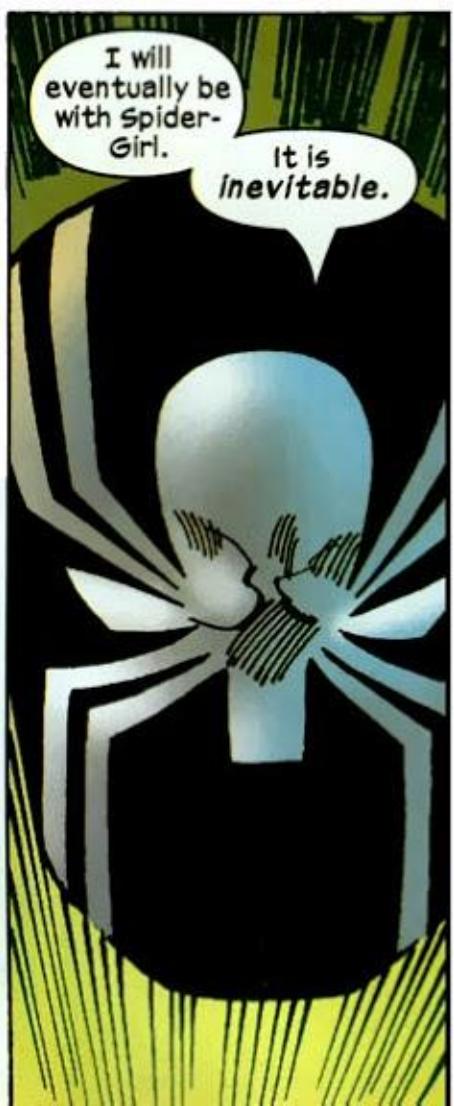




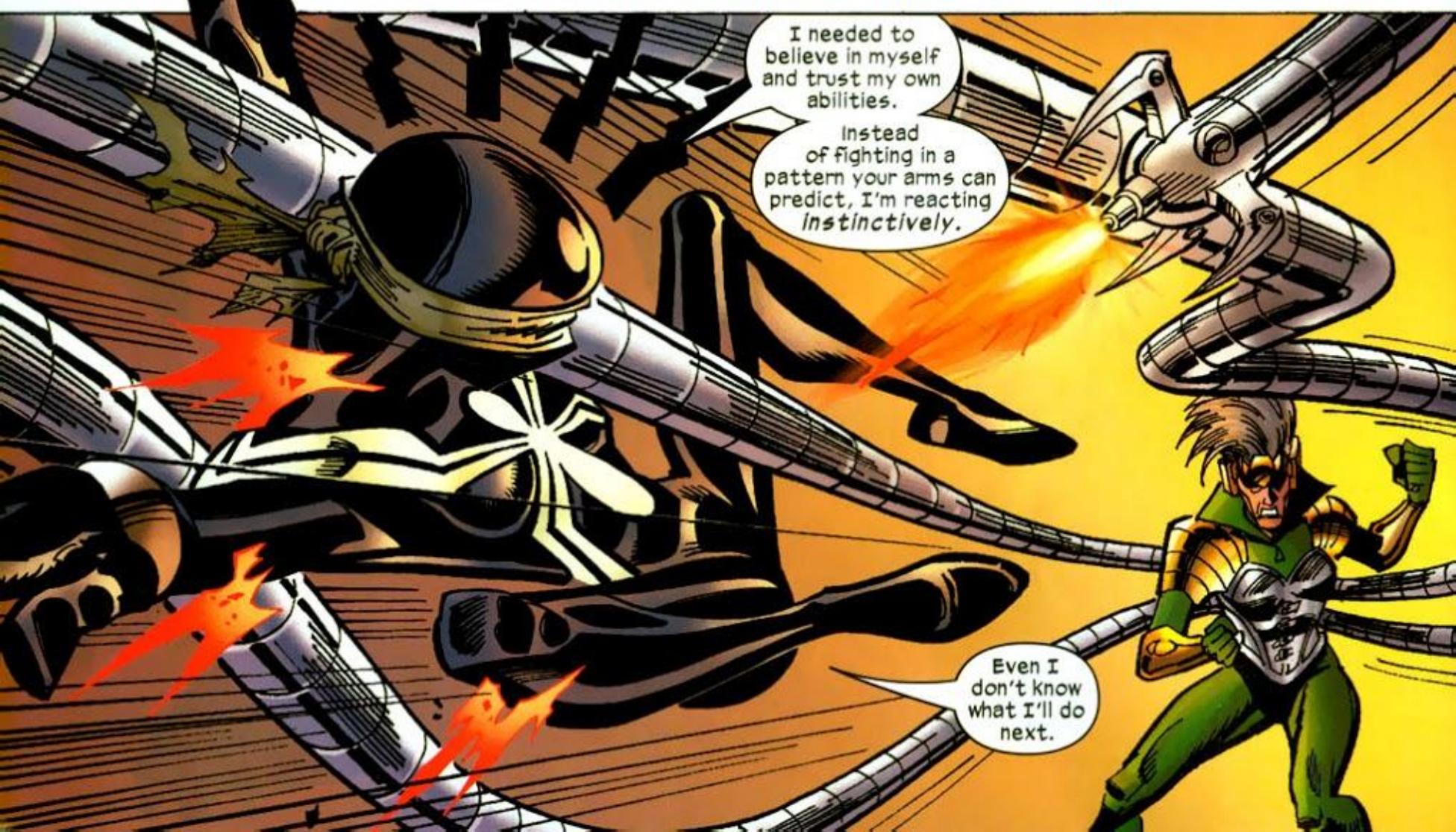












I know it's a wild and crazy way to conduct a fight, but--hey!

This isn't possible!

I'm far more experienced and powerful.

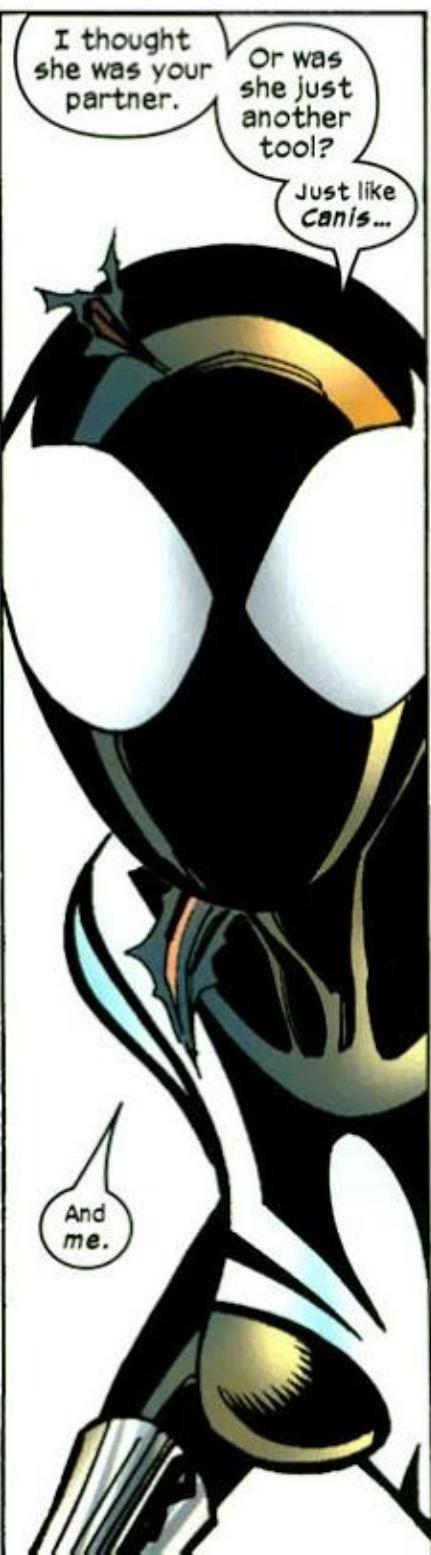
Yeah, but that's the biz!

In case you haven't heard the news, lady--

I'm always open to new ideas.

--IT'S A SPIDER-GIRL WORLD!

KREEE-SHAKWOOOM!





The authorities soon take charge of the Black Tarantula and Lady Octopus--

--and paramedics attend to Kaine, his crew and a dozen or so unlucky civilians.

You, however, slip out during the confusion and return to *Team Spider* headquarters.

Chesbro is already gone... along with April and June.

All that remains is a bouquet of flowers--



--a congratulatory note--

--a few million unanswered questions--

--and a closet full of costumes--

--or was he merely playing you, again?

And why--why-- did you ever get involved with him in the first place?

Could you have defeated Lady Ock without the martial arts training supplied by the Tarantula?

Did he really surrender because he didn't want to fight you--

Now that you've tasted the darkness, girl--

--can your life return to normal?

Will you ever be able to go back to being that friendly neighborhood wall-crawler?



YAHOO!

Only time
can tell.

In the meanwhile,
you need to cut
loose, spin some
new webs and
reconnect with
some old friends...

Hello,
Spider-Girl.
I am
so glad you
called.

This is Elan
and I want you
to be the first
to hear the big
news.

RINGGG!

Norman and I
have decided to
renew our wedding
vows.

R-Really?

I...
I suppose
congratulations
are in order.

Can you put
Normie on? I
want to wish him
my best.

Oh, I'm
afraid he can't
come to the
phone.

He's a little
tied up at the
moment.

The
End
...for
now!

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MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Dear Marvel:

I am very pleased with the way **Spider-Girl** is going at the moment and feel that it is one of your strongest titles, which is partly due to the fantastic artistic talents of Ron Frenz and Pat Olliffe, but mostly down to Tom DeFalco's amazing writing skills. It's refreshing to have a writer stick through 70+ issues (missing only one) in these days where creative teams come and go. After all, who better to handle characters than their very creator? Tom has a great feel for his characters and with the help of Pat and Ron has made them come alive on the page. I can tell from reading **Spider-Girl** that Tom has great artistic chemistry with both Ron and Pat – this kind of chemistry can be rare and is very important to a comic. This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

Nowadays comics seem to be divided into two groups: those for teenagers and adults, and those for young children. I am sad to say that the all-age comic is becoming a rarity, especially when fantastic titles such as **Sentinel** are cancelled before the creative teams get to finish telling the stories that they have to tell. I find that **Spider-Girl** is, always has been and will hopefully continue to be a comic suitable for all ages, from 5 to 105. **Spider-Girl** transcends all age boundaries - I'd feel just as at ease giving this comic to a 7-year-old as I would to a 34-year-old. This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

It's very hard to walk into a store and pick up any comic book periodical and be able to completely enjoy it on its own. Most comics have become about story arcs – 1 issue as a beginning, 3 issues as a middle and 2 issues as an end. This in itself is not a bad thing, but it shouldn't be the ONLY thing. Each issue of **Spider-Girl** has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Any issue can be your first. All of these little stories are woven together by strong subplots (some more subtle than others) and even stronger characterization and growth. **Spider-Girl** is like a beautiful patchwork quilt, where each square is pleasing in its own right and has something to tell, whilst the whole is nothing short of breathtaking craftsmanship. This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

A lot of females in mainstream super-hero comics are sex objects, often left in the background, or are tough-talking man-hating clichés. May Parker is a pretty enough girl, but not strikingly sexy. She looks more realistic. She's clever, strong, determined and has a heart of gold. She's not forced into the background and throughout she is her own person, rather than just what other people want her to be. In my opinion **Spider-Girl** is the strongest female role model Marvel has ever had, not to mention one of the few female Marvel characters to have her own series (the only other two being Emma Frost and more recently She-Hulk – with their front covers directly targeted towards adolescent males). This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

Whilst **Spider-Girl** is not a standard Marvel universe comic, Tom DeFalco actually puts its past (every standard Marvel universe comic up until 1997) to good use rather than ignoring it altogether like many standard Marvel comics (Sandman became a villain again, Carnage became free of Silver Surfer's prison, Alyosha Kravinoff got a complete personality overhaul, Chameleon came back from the dead, The Grizzly suddenly became a villain again and Doc Connors became the Lizard again, as far as I know, all with absolutely no explanations, and that's just in **Spider-Man!**). Tom utilizes continuity as well as he can, rather than straight out contradicting it, and not once has it ever been confusing or daunting; every issue has remained completely accessible to the new reader. This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

Spider-Girl may be an "alternate future" comic, but rather than make the Marvel world even more sci-fi than it already is, and make up futuristic fashions and trends, Tom, Pat and Ron have kept the whole thing completely contemporary and left the classic Marvel continuity in the past instead. I have always felt that this was a smart move and that it makes May Parker and friends even more

realistic and relatable. This is why I love **Spider-Girl**.

Spider-Girl offers consistently great stories and art on a monthly basis with a completely unique voice.

Here's to Tom, Ron and Pat, let them bring us to issue 100 and beyond, with the stories that they want to tell.

Make Mine Mayday!

Lee Hiley
Sheffield, England

Our cheeks are glowing, Lee!

Mr. DeFalco:

I'm a longtime reader (I've been with you almost since the beginning) and **Spider-Girl** remains a favorite title and one of the most enjoyable I read every month. With that said, I have not enjoyed the book as much in recent months simply because I don't enjoy the grim and gritty feel which the book has taken, which happens to coincide with the introduction of the new costume.

On the subject of the new costume (a debate I expect to rage for months) I'm most definitely not a fan of it. It reminds me too much of the Venom symbiote and also makes May herself appear too grim and gritty for my liking. However, I know that some people like the new costume so I have a compromise to suggest. Would it not make sense to eventually (after the current story-arc) return May to her traditional uniform but, rather than get rid of the black costume, could it not work on another character? I understand that the costume may have an effect on sales, but I feel it would look better on Gerry Drew (or Felicity Hardy, but I do like the Scarlet Spider uniform so I don't want that to disappear). Is it not possible to find a way to incorporate all three costumes (whilst enjoying the focus of the book on May)?

One thing which I feel you need to be praised for, though, is your choice of theme (whether it was purposeful or not) of this series post #60. The theme is Homer's "The Odyssey". In this it is stated that "Man cannot do it alone without the help of the Gods" and having May face opponents more powerful than she is makes for a very interesting theme. Just as Odysseus had to learn that he could not do it alone, May needs to learn the same lesson and that there is no harm in calling for aid when you're in over your head. After all no one can make it in this world alone. I look forward to seeing where you are taking this theme.

James Hunter

Thanks for giving us so much to think about, James...and we hope you'll find the next few months a little more enjoyable.

Greetings Tom, Ron, Sal, and the rest of the SG team!

At the ripe old age of 21 years I always thought I was too old for comics and I hadn't bothered to read them in my foolish youth, either. It seems that I was doomed to never read fantastic stories about superheroes, villains, and the war between good and evil. But a bit of fate and a little girl named May Parker changed that a few weeks ago as I was browsing through the art section at my local **Borders**. I happened to be looking at the trades and stumbled upon the **Spider-Girl Digest**.

"**Spider-Girl?** How lame!" was my first thought as I cracked open the book to laugh at the little girly comic that I would NEVER be caught dead reading.

Oh, how the mighty have fallen!

I was hooked from the very first page and, although I didn't pick up the digest that day, I did go out and purchase issue #75. Since then I've picked up the digest, issues #1-4, and I have plans to start a subscription at my local comic shop in the next few weeks. I will also be looking to collect every other back issue I can get my hands on. It's sort of scary how quickly this hobby developed but I guess my inner geek had been calling out May's name all along.

So thank you, thank you, THANK YOU, for all your hard work of bringing **Spider-Girl** to the fans—even when the odds are against you! I plan on doing everything I can to make sure that Marvel realizes what they have on their hands.

Gary Phillips
Phoenix, AZ

Welcome aboard, Gary...and you'll be pleased to hear that a second **SPIDER-GIRL DIGEST** is already in the works and will be appearing at all the finer bookstores and comic book shops this November.

Dear Tom,

Elektra as May's teacher? Seems odd to me. She's been established in MC-2. Married to Wolverine who's still on good terms with the X-teams, so I can't see her hiring out to a crimelord. I'd figure if she'd be teaching anyone it would be her daughter, Wild Thing. I can see how conforming totally to continuity can be a problem for the regular Marvel Comics. They've been around for almost forty-five years. But counting the **What If?** that started it all, MC-2 has had 75 issues of **Spider-Girl**, 12 each of **A-Next** and **J2**, 5 each of **Wild Thing** and **Fantastic Five**, and 3 each of **Darkdevil** and **The Buzz**. Toss in the **Spider-Girl Annual**, a couple of 1/2 issues and it's less than 120 issues total. But lately in **Spider-Girl** we've seen anti-mutant prejudice where previously mutants were in good social standing, and "Lucky" Lu joining up with the **X-People** when her origin already had her flat out refusing them.

Jason Barnett

Okay, Jason, technically Elektra was working for a crimelord, but she was also teaching **Spider-Girl**...and probably works out with her daughter on a fairly regular basis. As for Nancy Lu, what can we say? When her life changed, so did some of her previous ideas.

Thanks for being there, everyone!

—Tom DeFalco

Editor's Note:

Hey everyone, as you may all know, **SPIDER-GIRL** has been extended again. Tom, Ron, Sal, and myself would like to extend a hearty thanks to all of you fans who've written, e-mailed, posted on line, and campaigned so intently to keep little 'ol Mayday going. You all deserve a round of applause!

I'd like to put a personal thank you out there to Jeffrey Westhoff of Palatine, IL. You didn't say okay to print, but that doesn't mean I can't thank you on the letters page.

Again, to everyone reading, thank you so much for your support!

—Andy

NEXT ISSUE



JOIN US AS
SPIDER-GIRL FIGHTS FOR
THE SOUL OF
NORMIE OSBORN!



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