

M A R V E L C O M I C S

SPIDER-GIRL

41



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The daughter of the original 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!
Stan Lee Presents...

SPIDER-GIRL™

FUNERAL FOR A **FIEND!**

A TALE OF TRAUMA AND TRAGEDY BY

Tom DeFalco & Pat Olliffe

Script, Plot & Pencils

Al Williamson • Inker

John E. Workman • Letterer

Christie Scheele & Heroic Age

Colorists

Jeff Youngquist & Marc Sumerak

Assistant Editors

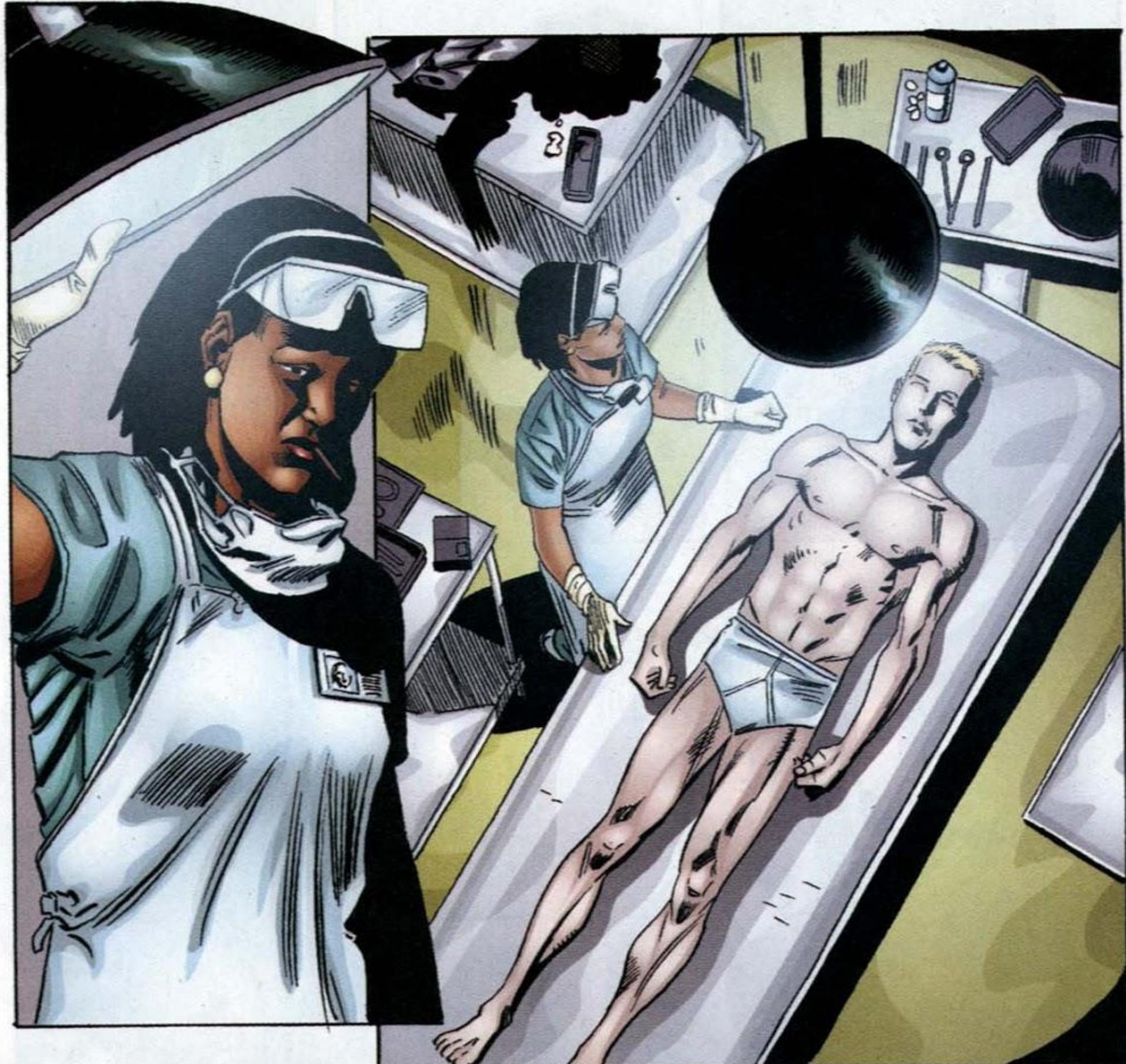
Tom Brevoort • Editor

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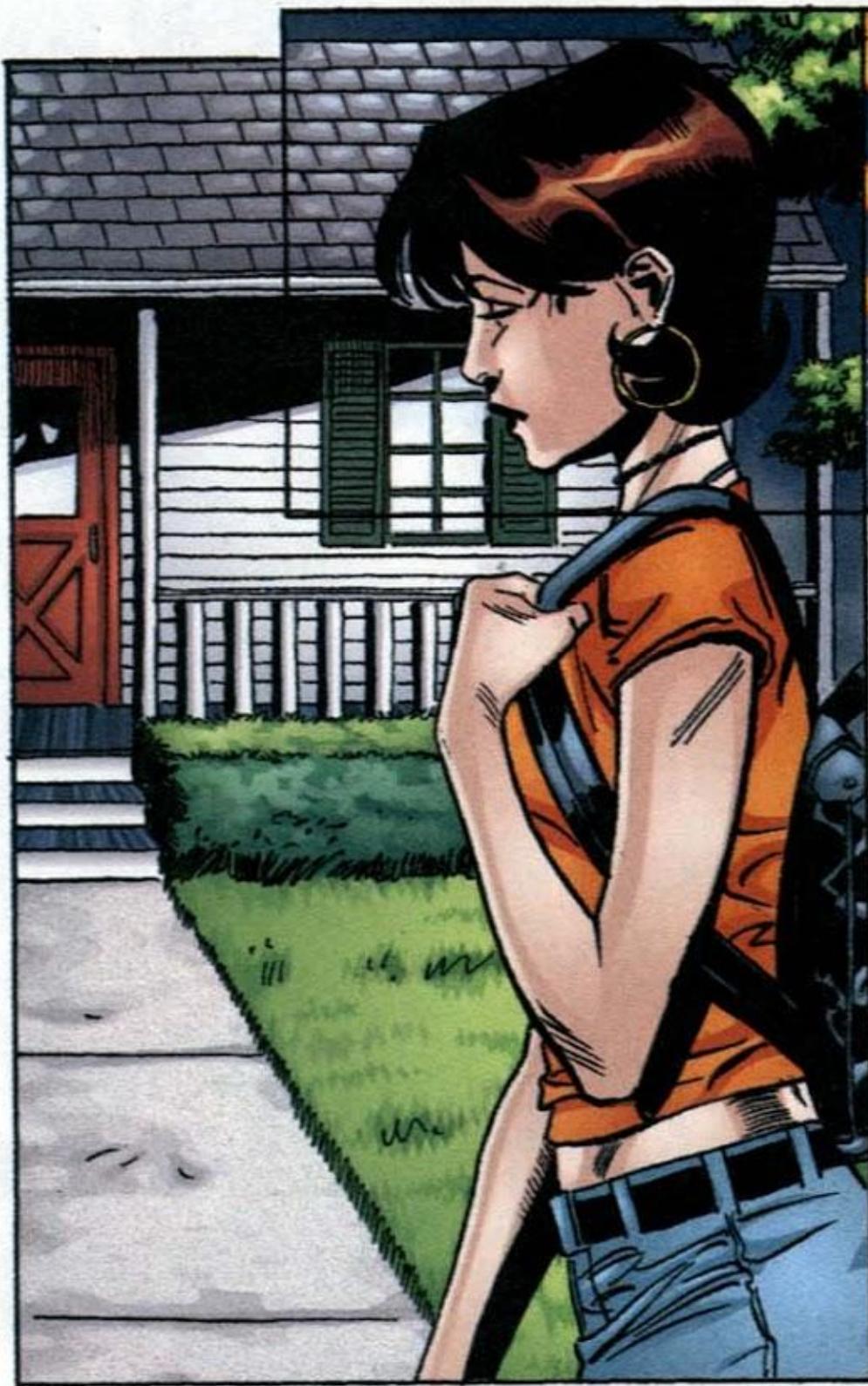
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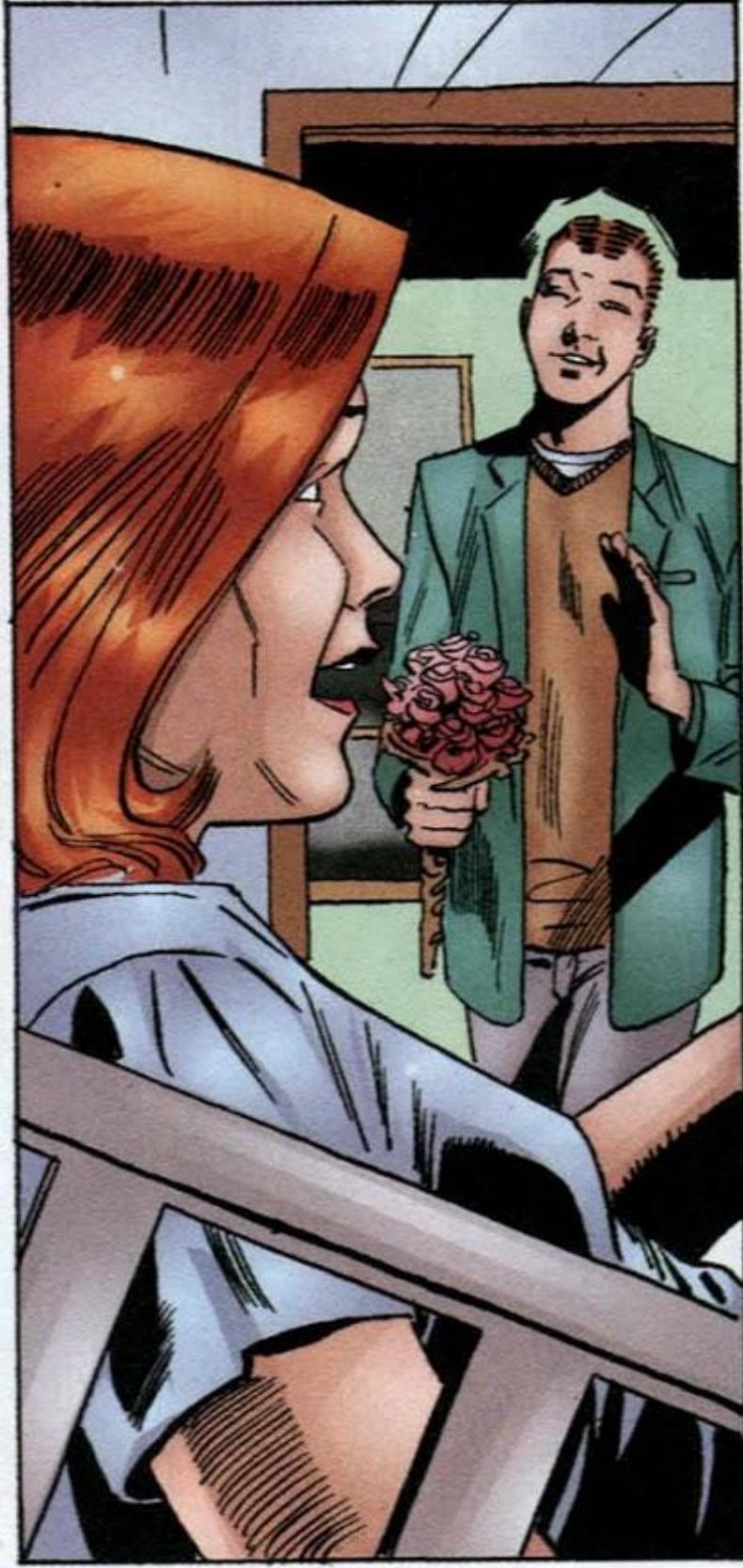
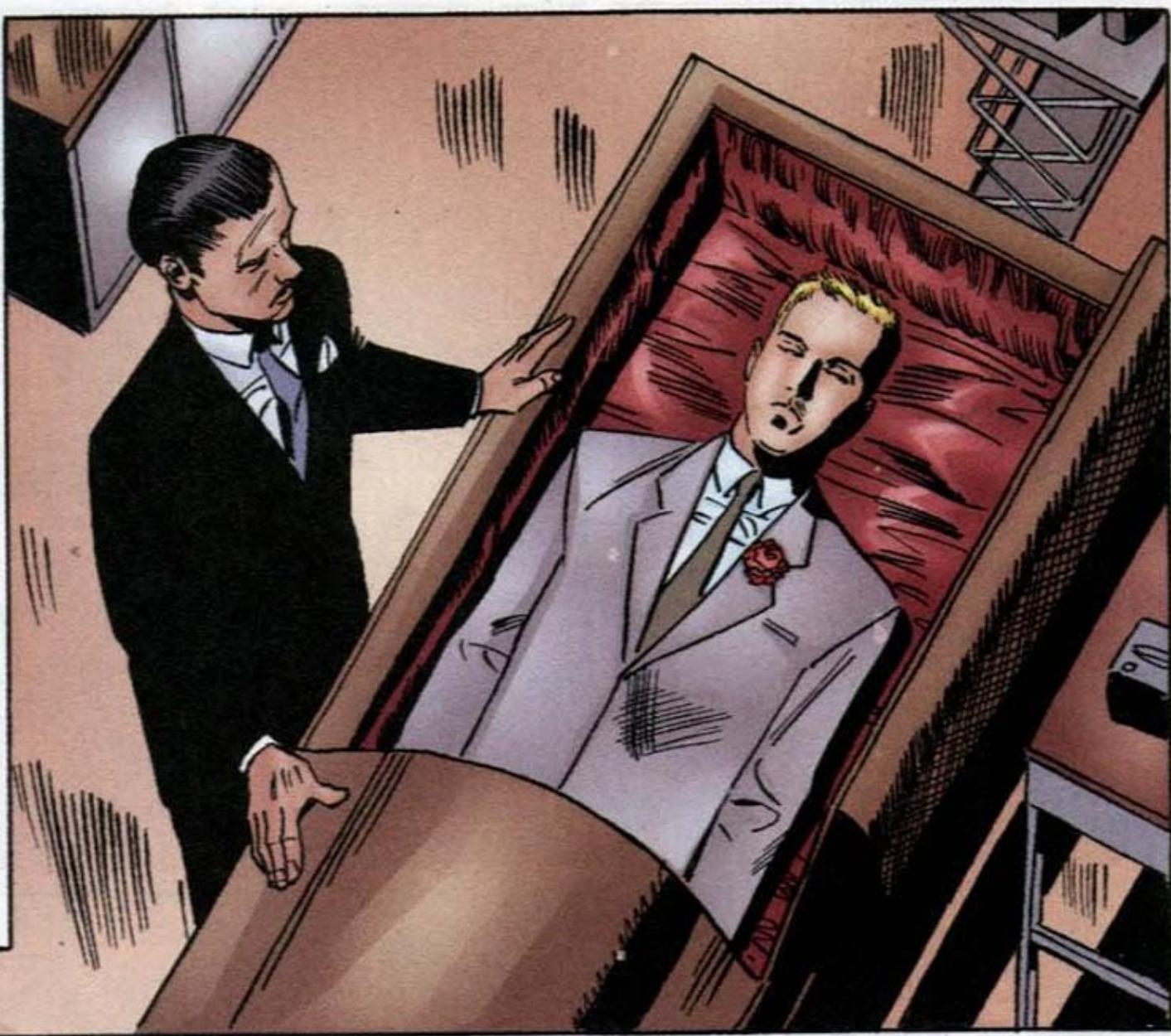
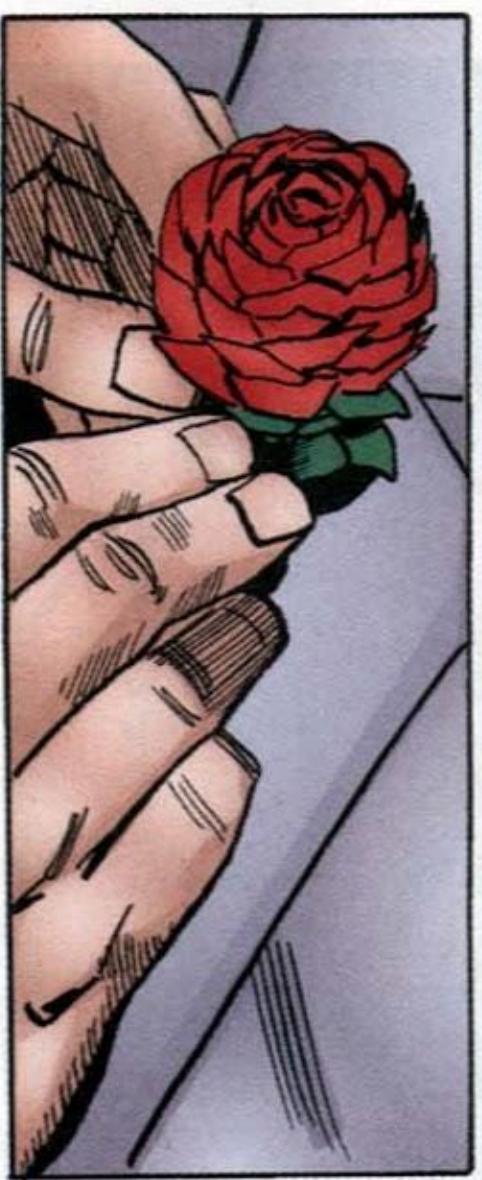


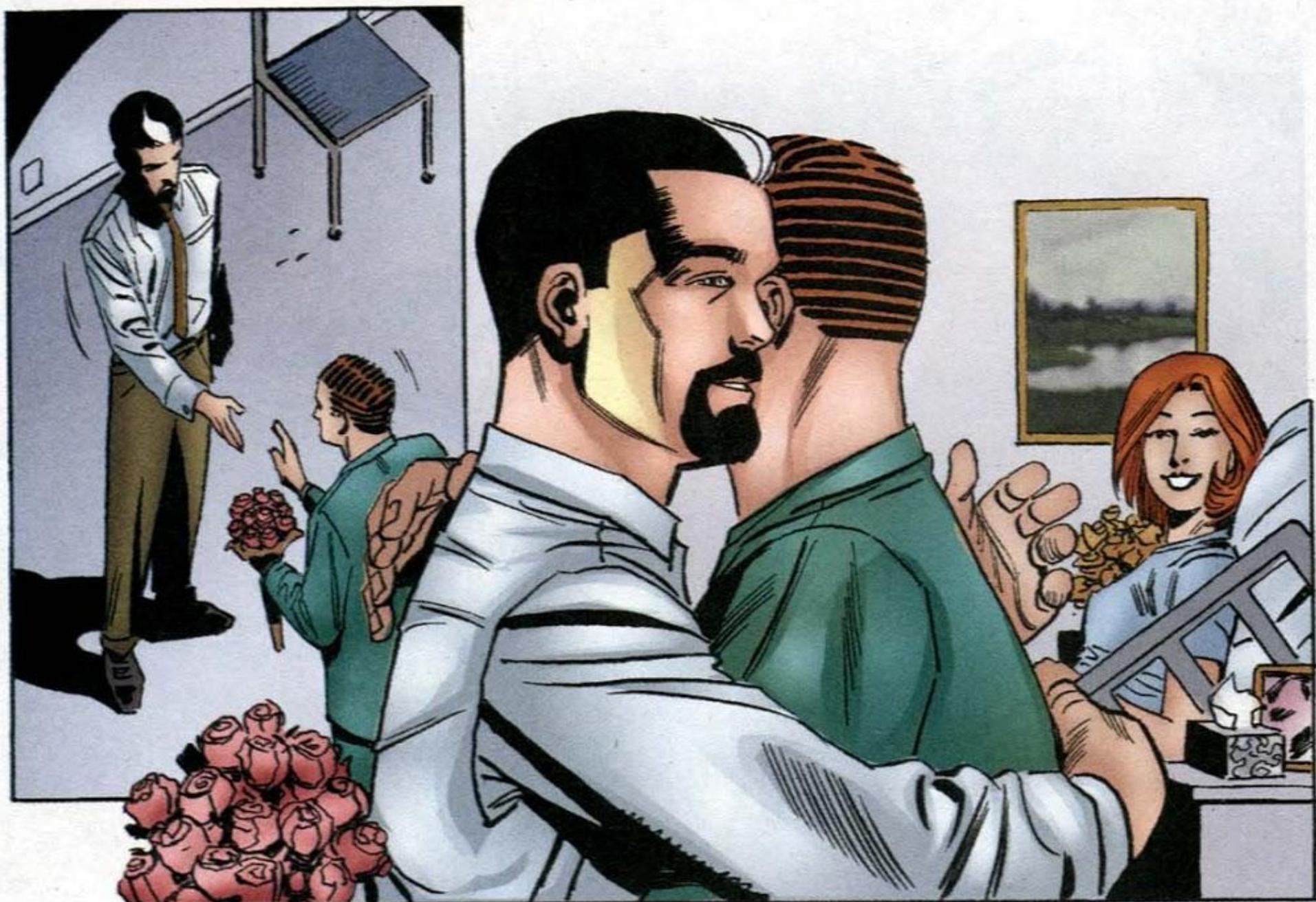
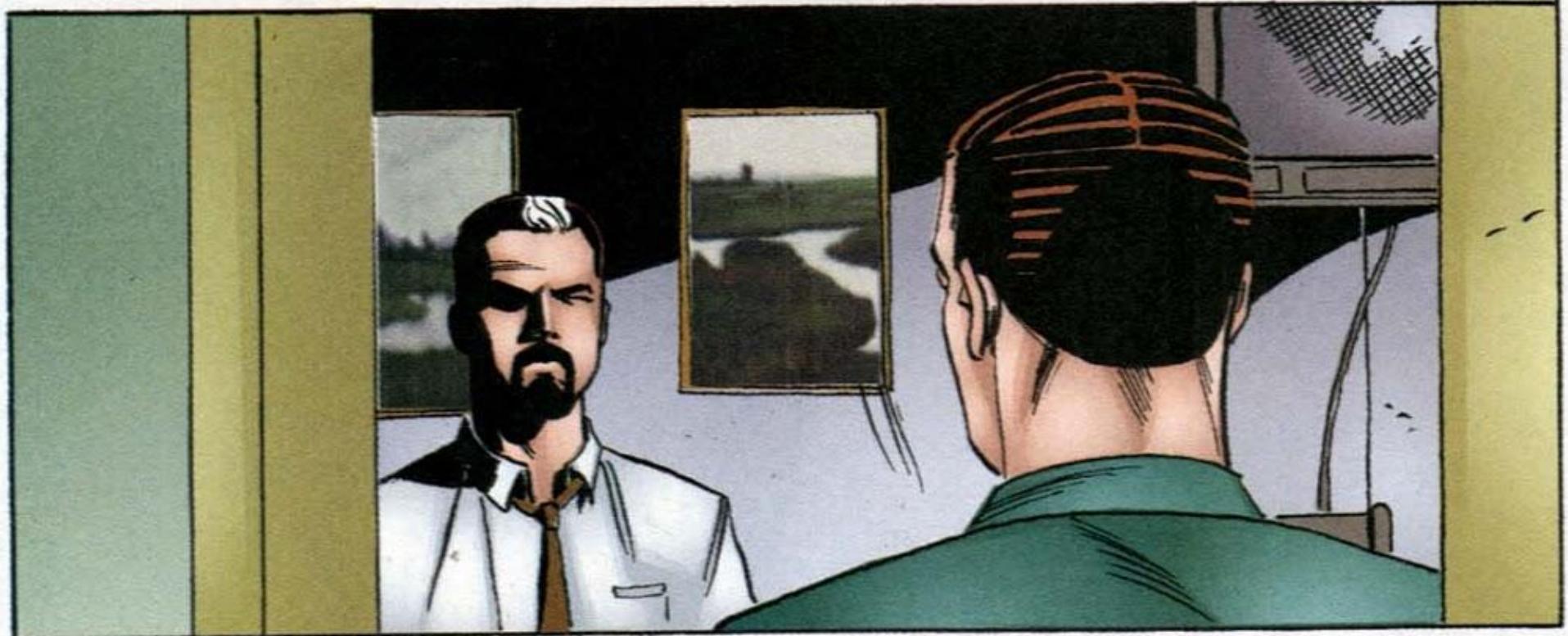


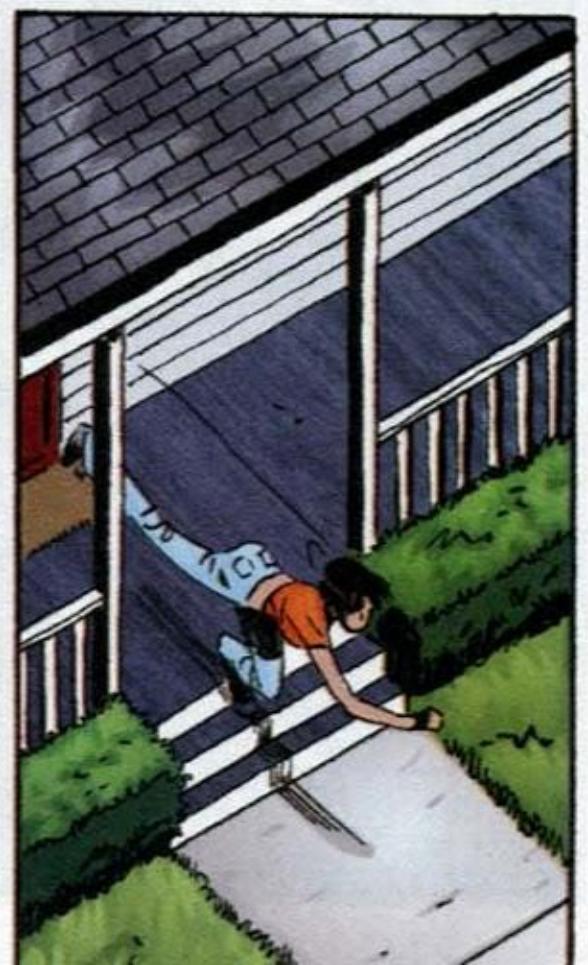














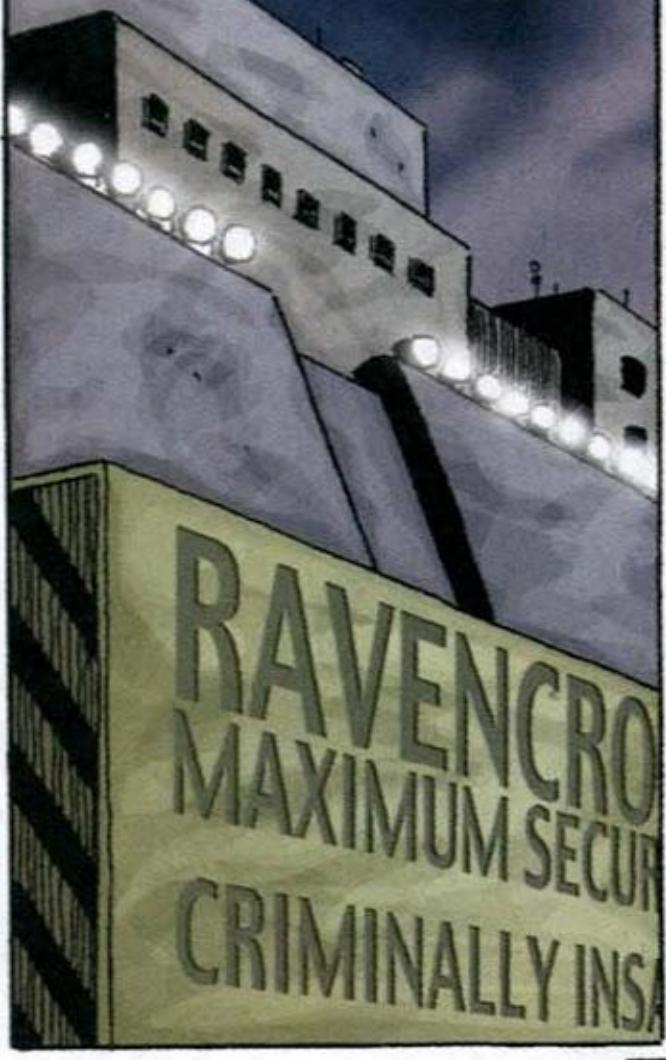






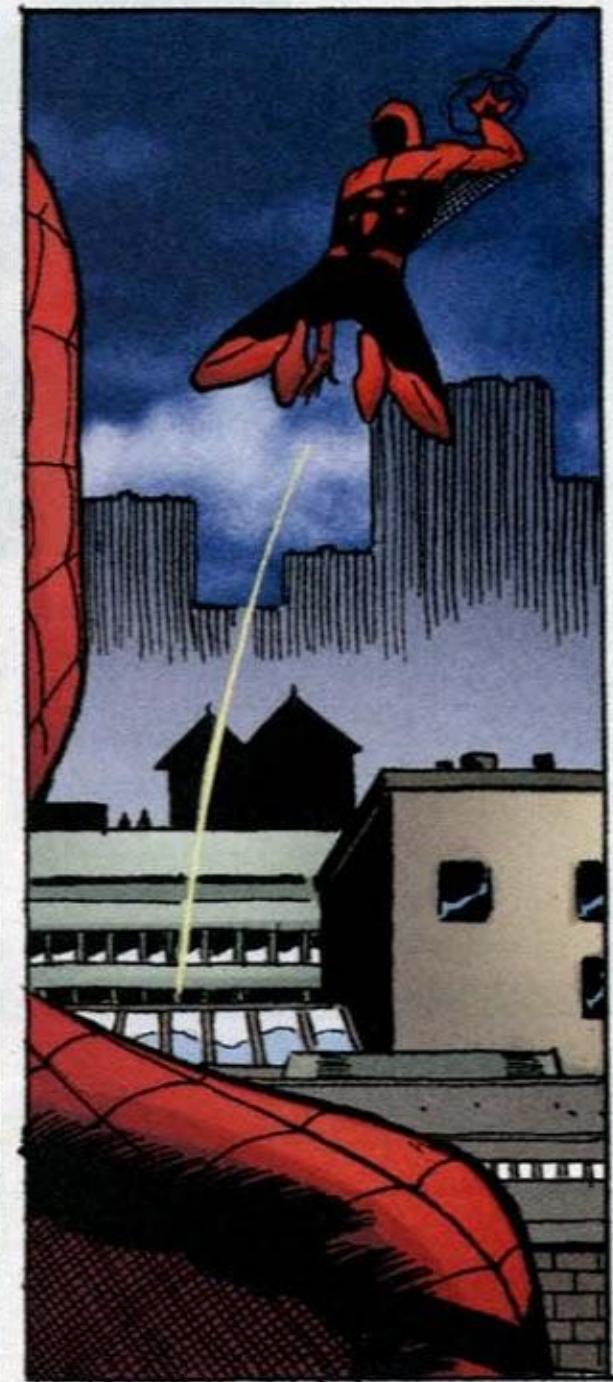


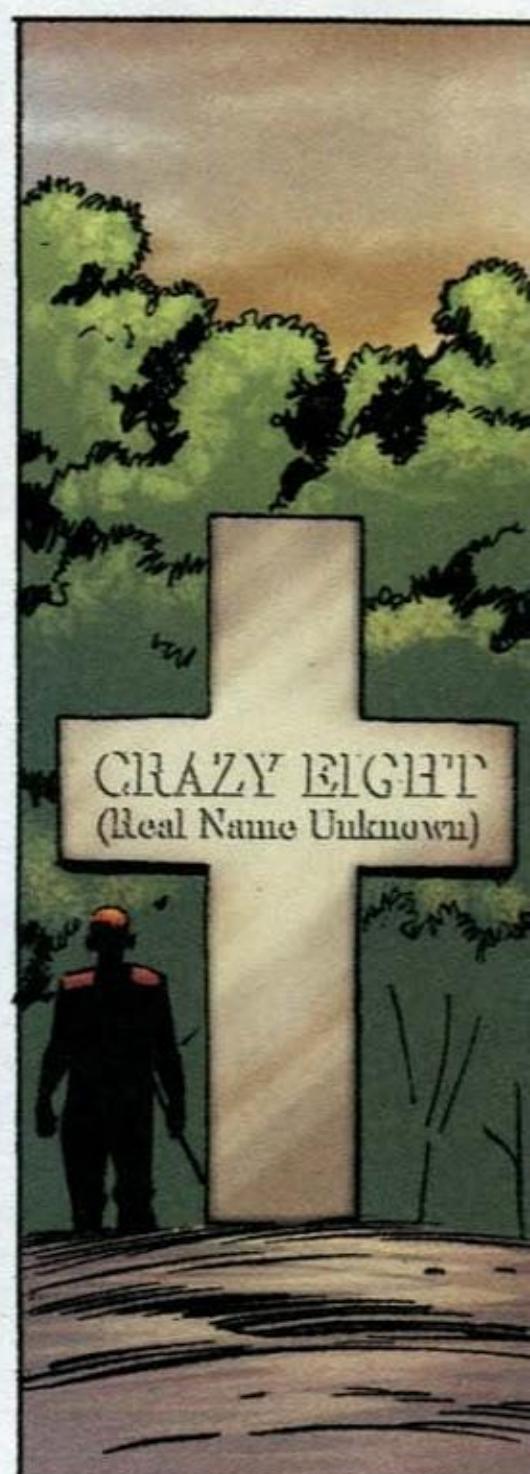
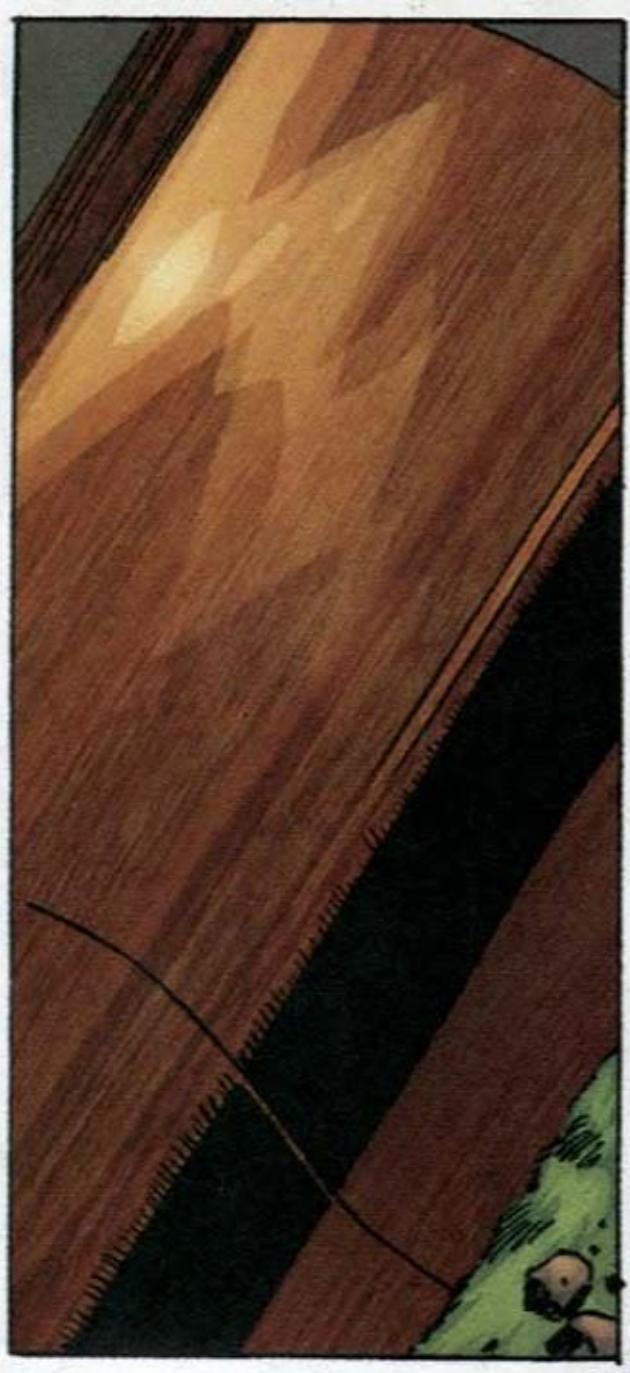
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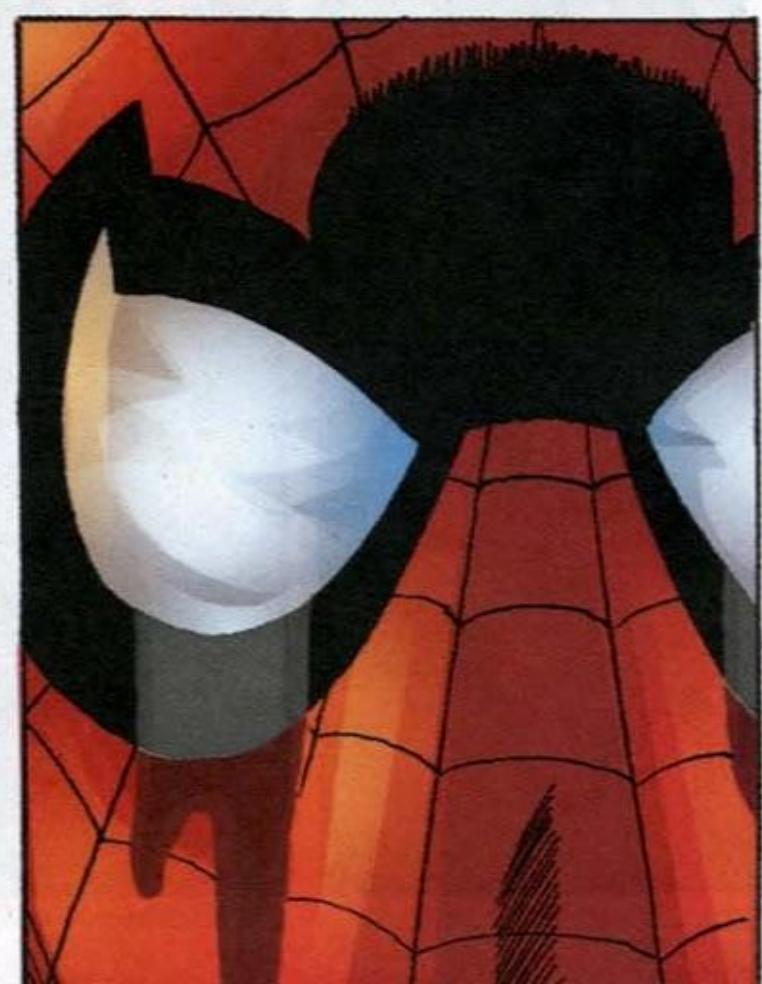
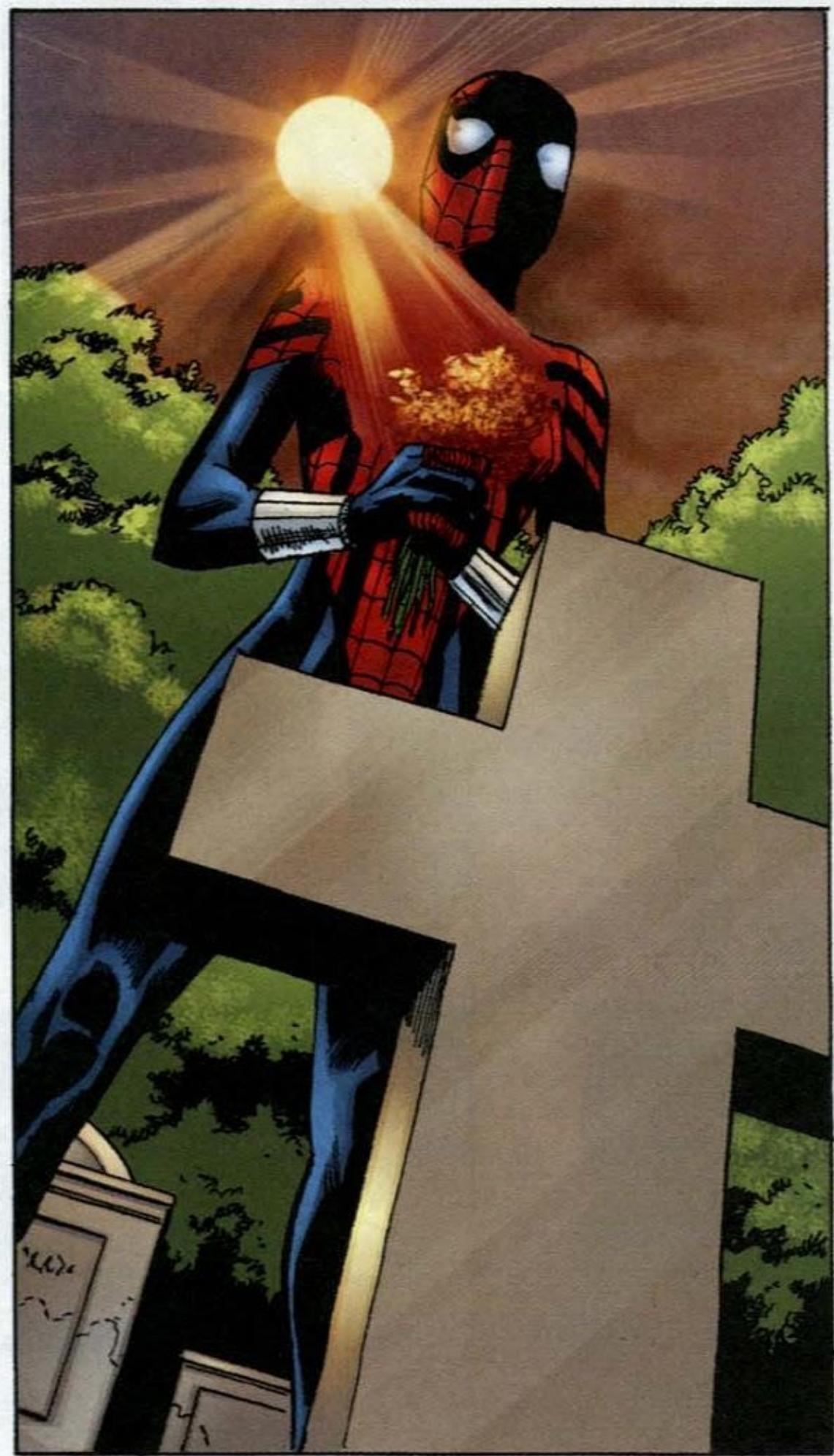
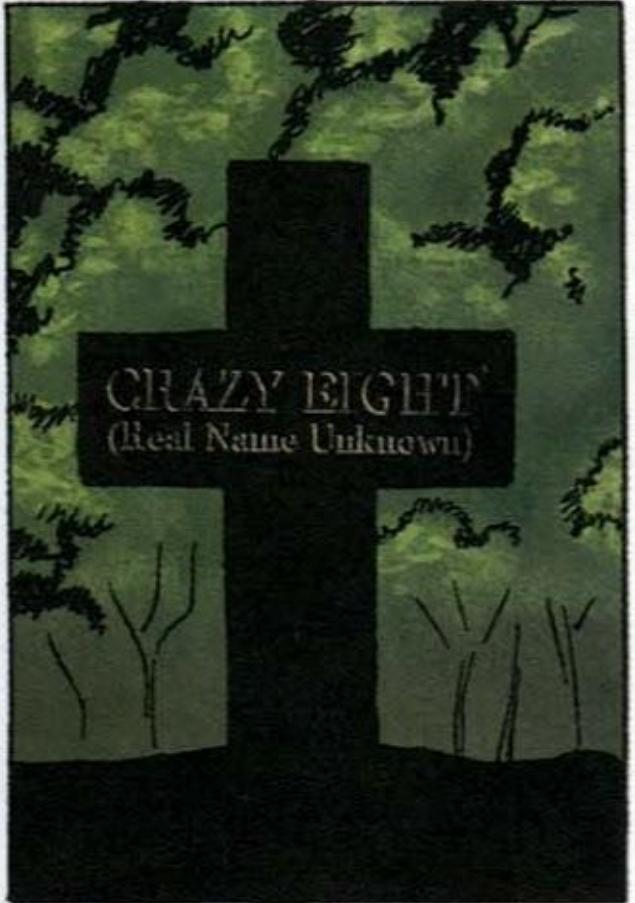
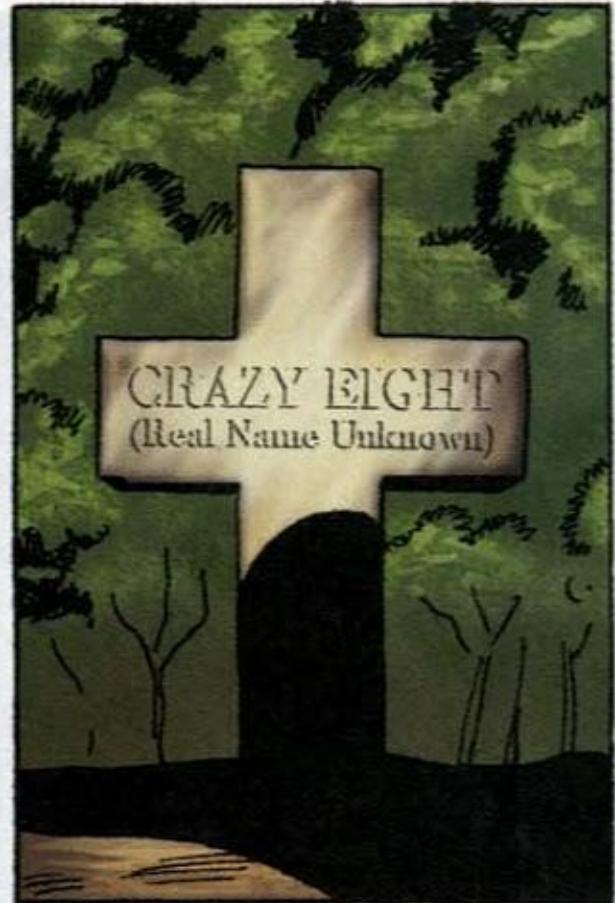
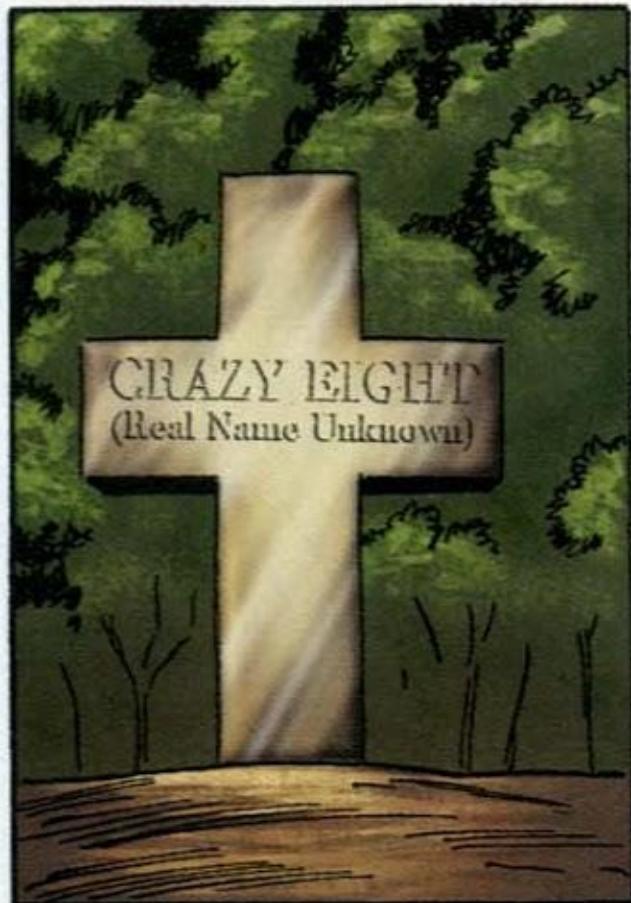


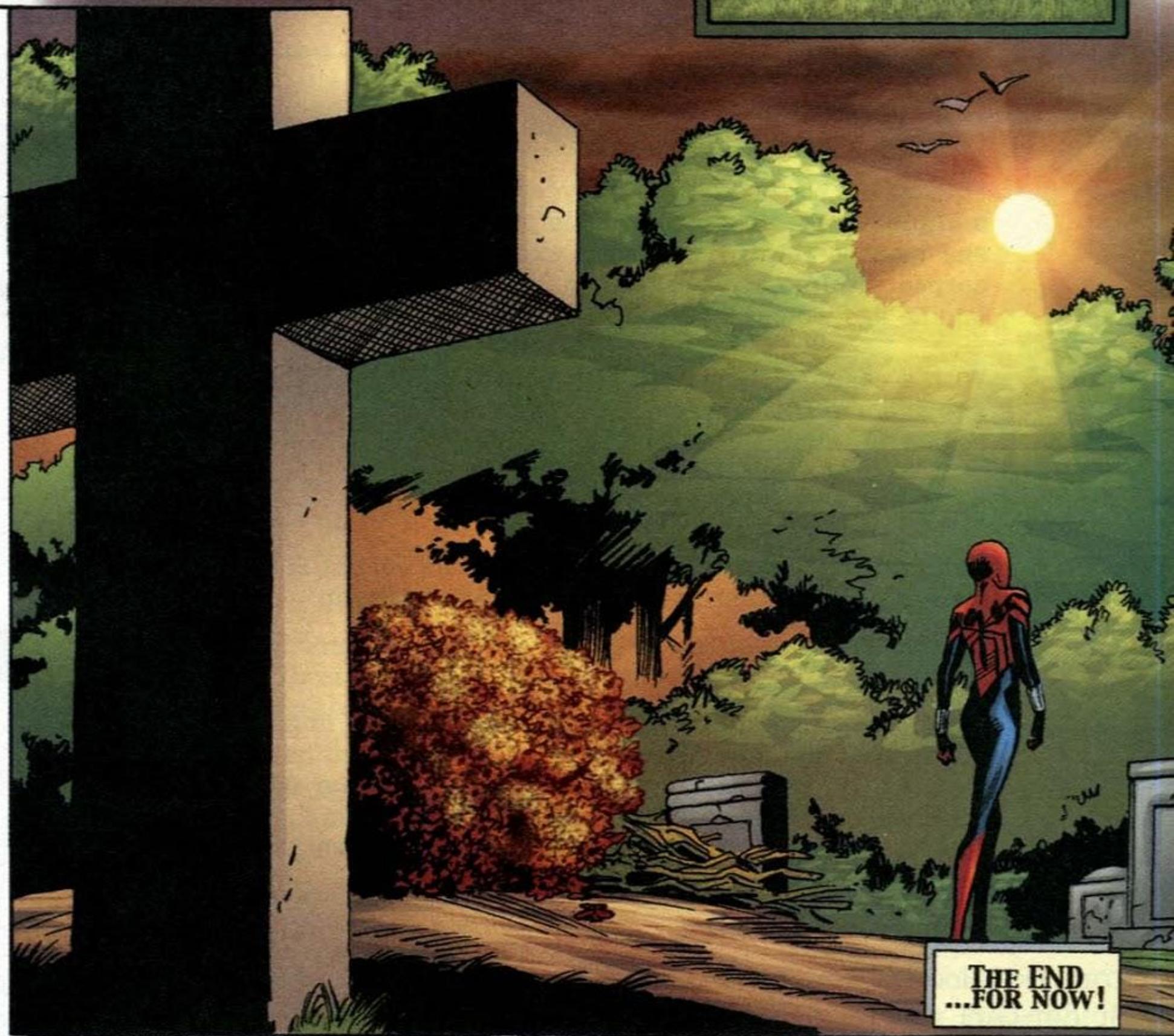
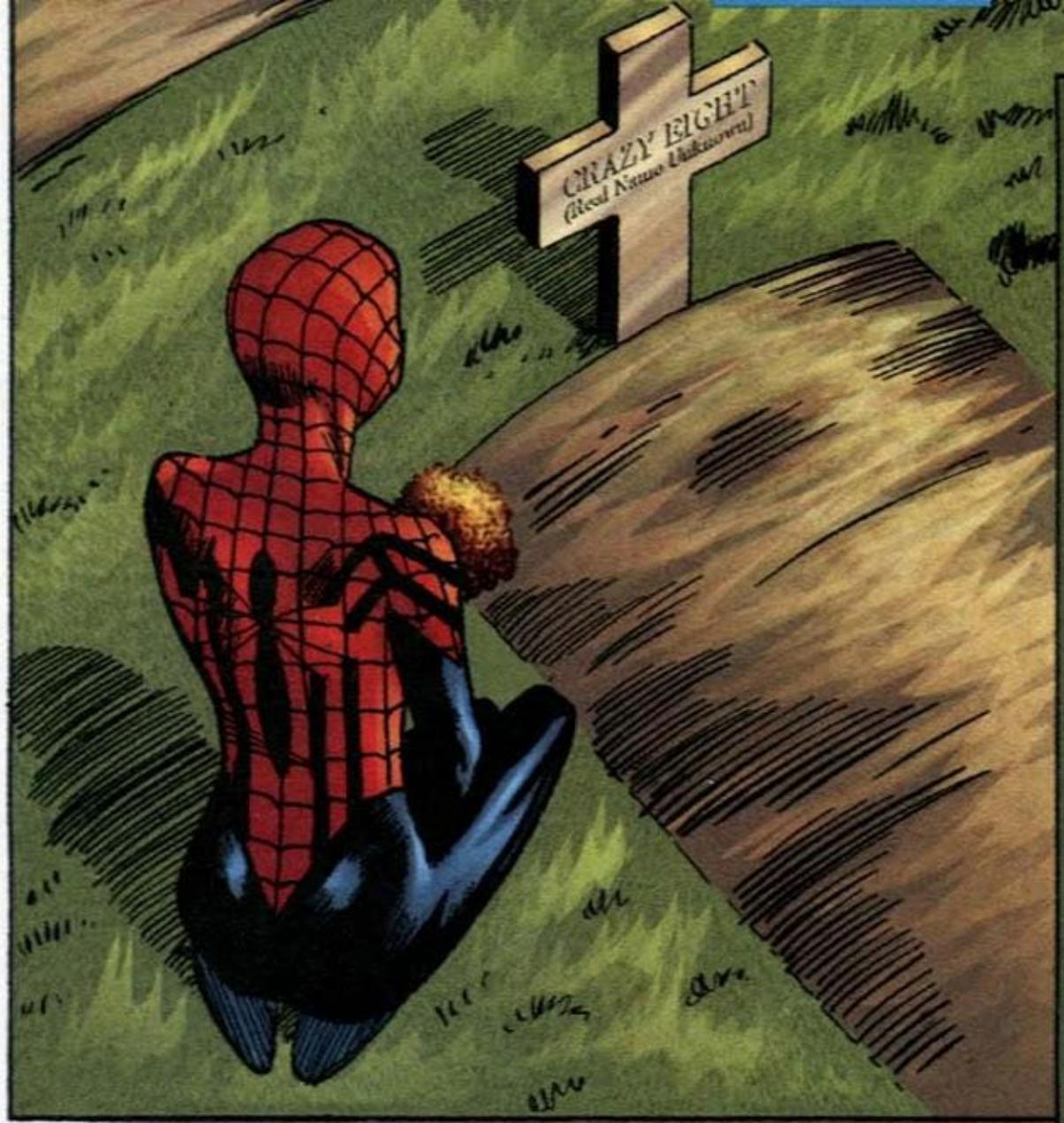












'NUFF SAID

We dared them.

That's right, almost a year ago, Marvel Prez Bill Jemas and EIC Joe Quesada hatched a test for the Mighty Marvel Maestros: Since you are the best artists and writers in the biz, we challenge you to tell a story using visuals only. After all, if a picture is worth a thousand words, then a comic book filled with images only would be worth... well, more words than the Collector could count!

And if you think creating a story with no words is half the work, think again, True Believer! The writer has to craft a story using no dialogue or caption boxes to communicate information — and pencilers have to make sure their storytelling is so clear that text isn't needed to explain what's going on.

Just to show you how our Mighty Marvel Maestros met the challenge, and to give you a unique peek behind the curtain, here's the plot to the very story you just read! Just compare it to the art and you'll see how the dare was done!

Page 1

(*Indicia*): We open this story with an establishing shot of a **morgue**. A **medical examiner** is pulling on her rubber gloves as she glances toward a nearby examining table that contains a **corpse** within a body bag. (Pat, I'm thinking the ME should be a middle age woman of color, but draw whomever you want.)

With a casual detachment that borders on outright boredom—*she's done this more times than she'd care to count*—she begins to unzip the body bag.

Suddenly, a puzzled expression fills her face.

Pulling back the camera, we see that the corpse is **Crazy Eight** who is still dressed in his costume and makeup.

Page 2

(*Stan Lee presents—Story Title—Credits*): We immediately cut to the **Web Site**, the headquarters that our hero has been sharing with Normie Osborn. Dressed in her **Spider-Girl costume**, an enraged **Mayday Parker** is viciously hurling her **mask** to the floor. (Pat, Normie and Phil are also present, but need not be shown on this page.)

Page 3

Continuing her temper tantrum, Mayday lashes out—smashing some nearby prop to shards—much to the shock of **Normie Osborn** and **Phil Urich** (who still has his ribs taped and face bruised from Issue #39.)

Her anger spent, a guilt-filled Mayday looks down at the mess she's made. (She's obviously thinking about the mess she's made of her life.)

A very sympathetic Normie places a tentative hand on her shoulder, causing her to wince as if in pain.

She turns to Normie, her eyes brimming with tears—

—And collapses in his arms while a concerned Phil stands off to the side, watching helplessly.

Page 4

Back at the morgue, the ME is removing Crazy Eight's wig.

A moment later, she is pouring a solution on a gauze pad.

She uses the gauze pad to wipe off a strip of makeup from Crazy Eight's face, revealing normal skin beneath.

We'll focus on the ME as she continues to wipe off Eight's makeup.

Moments later, we pull back the camera, as the serious ME looks down at the upper part of Crazy Eight's naked torso. Without his wig and makeup, he looks like an average twenty-something year old man.

Page 5

Cut to a close-up of a very depressed **Funny Face**, tears have dripped down the front of his face, leaving tracks in his own makeup.

Pulling back the camera, we see that we are on the outside grounds of **Canis Kennels**, and a very sympathetic **Canis** is placing a tentative hand on Funny Face's shoulder, causing him to wince as if in pain.

Lashing out, a furious Funny Face hurls a surprised Canis away from him.

Using Binky to fire assorted ZAP bolts, an enraged Funny Face

gives vent to his own temper tantrum—*destroying some nearby props!*

His eyes filled with fury, Canis watches as Funny Face bounds away.

Page 6

Meanwhile, a very depressed Mayday walks toward her home.

As her **spider-sense** suddenly begins to tingle, she whips her head around toward the approaching danger—

—And is surprised to see **Nancy Lu** across the street who is obviously staring at her.

We have a close-up of an uncertain Nancy Lu who looks like she wants to come over and talk to Mayday.

Turning away from Nancy, Mayday walks into her house—

—And the scene ends with a close-up of a very disappointed Nancy.

Page 7

Cut to a bust shot of a serious **television reporter**. Behind him (or her) we see **an image of Crazy Eight**.

Pulling back the camera, we see a very serious/concerned **Jessica Drew** who is watching the television screen.

She whips her head around to see **the new Spider-Man** who is standing alone in his room. His back is toward her. He's dressed in his costume, and staring at his **Spider-Man memorabilia**. (The previously established Daily Bugle headlines, photos and whatever.)

Spider-Man continues to stare at his memorabilia—his mask totally devoid of expression.

A concerned Jessica watches as her son begins to climb the wall/or leap toward his previously established roof exit.

Pages 8-9

Cut to a close-up of a hand adjusting a **carnation** on the lapel of a suit.

Pulling back the camera, we see that an **undertaker** is looking down at Crazy Eight who lies in a plain (but distinctive so that we'll recognize it later) **coffin**. (Pat, Crazy is without his

makeup and dressed in a cheap suit.)

Cut to a pair of elevator doors that are parting to reveal a partial view of **Normie Osborn** who is carrying a bouquet of flowers.

Moments later, Normie is walking down a hospital corridor.

At the entrance of her room, he sees **Mary Jane** lying in her hospital bed.

A warm smile blooms on Mary Jane's face as she notices Normie—*she's really happy to see him!*

As he enters the room, Normie suddenly notices a very serious **Peter Parker** who was sitting off to the side, reading a newspaper. (Though it's not necessary to show the newspaper, it's a Daily Bugle with a front page devoted to Crazy Eight.)

We have a close-up of a very serious Peter—

—Followed by a close-up of an equally serious Normie. (Pat, I could be wrong, but I think this is the first time these two have faced each other since WHAT IF #105. Think two gunfighters facing off—we don't know what either is about to do—but it looks like a fight is imminent.)

Slowly, almost against his will, Peter offers his hand to Normie.

And Mary Jane's face floods with joy as the two men embrace each other.

Page 10

Cut to a hand, its fingers nervously drumming on a coffee table.

Pulling back the camera, we see an agitated Mayday who is filled with nervous energy as she aimlessly wanders her home.

Without consciously being aware of it, she turns on the television.

We have a close-up of a startled Mayday as she reacts to whatever she's seeing on the screen.

Another television reporter with **another image of Crazy Eight** is on the screen is in the panel's foreground...as Mayday storms out of the house in the panel's background.

Page 11

Sometime later, we see Mayday approaching the **Web Site**.

As she enters the building, her eyes cut toward **her Spider-Girl**

mask, which lies on the floor where she tossed it on **Page 1**.

A look of determination fills her face.

She picks up the mask—

—And pulls it on.

Page 12

Cut to a **shovel** ripping into the ground.

Pulling back the camera, we see **two gravediggers** digging a **grave**. (*Duh!*)

Cut to a close-up of an empty **Green Goblin mask**.

Pulling back the camera, we see that a very serious (and still battered) **Phil Urich** is holding and staring at the mask—obviously pondering his future in the wake of the past few issues.

Phil looks down at his taped ribs, gently touching them—to remind the readers of his recent less-than-glorious debut.

And this scene should end with a stat of the panel that shows Phil holding and staring at the mask.

Pages 13-15

Cut to a close-up of a straining **Canis**.

Pulling back the camera, we see that he is lifting an enormous prop in an attempt to straighten out the mess left by Funny Face.

Suddenly, he whips his head around to see that **the new Spider-Man** has arrived.

With a dramatic flourish, the new Spider-Man leaps toward Canis—

—Who bats him aside with a super-power backslap that sends him flying/crashing into nearby props.

Ripping the new Spider-Man to his feet, Canis begins to pound on the helpless/stunned hero—

—Hitting him again—

—And again—

—Until a **web-covered hand** stops his fist.

A surprised Canis whips his head around to face **Spider-Girl**.

Tom DeFalco
Spider-Girl #41

We have a close-up of Spider-Girl—her mask totally devoid of expression—

—Followed by a close-up of Canis. (Pat, once again—like our earlier Pete/Normie scene, which this should mirror—I want you to think two gunfighters facing off. We don't know what either is about to do, but it looks like a fight is imminent.)

Canis offers her the unconscious Spider-Man.

Spider-Girl positions the unconscious Spidey on her shoulder.

With a serious (almost feral) look in his eyes because he knows they're destined for a major face-off, Canis watches as she exits the scene in her own unique manner.

Pages 16-18

Cut-to an outside establishing shot of **RAVENCROFT**—a maximum-security institution for the super-criminally insane.

Inside the **SECURITY WING**, we see heavily armed and armored guards patrolling the hallways.

Suddenly, a wall explodes inward—*stunning a few of the guards!*

As he bounces into the scene, Funny Face fires ZAP bolts from Binky at the remaining guards.

Cut-to a **woman** in a straight jacket who is obviously reacting to the sounds of combat. Her face is hidden from us by shadows—

—But we watch as a smile begins to shine from the darkness.

In the corridor, Funny Face is using Binky to blast a heavily secured door.

Entering the room, Funny Face whips his head toward the shadowed figure of a woman who wears a straightjacket.

Standing behind the woman—whom we still can't see—he rips off the straps that bind the straightjacket.

Bending forward, her face still hidden from us, the woman allows the straightjacket to drop from her arms.

And then we get a close-up and our first view of Funny Face's

SPIDER-GIRL

Welcome back, Web-Heads! There's quite a bit of ground to cover this time around, as the SPIDER-GIRL letters page got crowded out the last couple months. But first, introductions are in order!

Our stewardship of SPIDER-GIRL started with issue #38, and we promise to do our darndest to bring you the best web-spinner we possibly can each and every month — as long as you all promise to keep showing up!

Tom, Marc & Jeff
New to MC2

Dear SPIDER-GIRL,

My whole family (my husband, our two children and myself) just recently got into comics. I picked up SPIDER-GIRL thinking it might prove interesting. Well, I'm hooked! My first issue was #35 — but two days later, I returned to our local comic shop, That's Entertainment (I'd like to "plug" those guys, since they were helpful and good to us neophytes), and bought every back issue they had!

SPIDER-GIRL is perfect for sharing with our children, 6 and 4, as the themes aren't overly violent or "adult." They ARE quite enjoyable to adults, though!

This series has inspired even more art in our household, as well. I'm glad to see the series continued. We'll be buying every one!

Keep up the GREAT work!

Kate Robinson
(and family)
Worcester, MA

We think our web-stunner's a great role model, too, Kate. Thanks for making SPIDER-GIRL a family affair! And thanks to That's Entertainment for helping hook up the Parkers and Robinsons.

Dear SPIDER-GIRL,

MJ was feeling sick in issue #36 when she woke May up. Wait a minute! Sick as in "morning sickness"?! Is May going to have a baby sister/brother? And Felicia Hardy, a.k.a. Black Cat, a mother, too? Plus, the return of the Green Goblin! So is May going to team up with the Black Cat's daughter? Are her other friends who are super heroes going to help her out? I can't wait!

Jeffrey Eser
San Diego, CA

P.S. I'd like to see more of Kaine in the comic.

So ya wanna see a good, old-fashioned team-up, eh, Jeffrey? Spider-Girl does have some amazing friends, so ya never know!

Dear SPIDER-GIRL crew,

I think Mayday needs something to get her to sleep. Anyway, issue #36 caught me way off guard. But why didn't Normie finish her off before if he was going to be the Green Goblin again? And since Normie is the Green Goblin again, will Raptor return to crime to help him? I think she only stopped committing crimes because Normie did. I think Raptor has a crush on Normie. About the stalker: Was is Phil, Jimmy or someone else? And what is Jimmy hiding? I wonder ... I wonder why Normie is returning to crime, and whether May will be affected by that. Issue #36 really made me wonder.

Lauren Birnhak
Gwynedd Valley, PA

MARC SUMERAK & JEFF YOUNGQUIST
ASSISTANT EDITORS

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

your suggestion along to Tom DeFalco. After all, we'd love it if millions of new readers suddenly discovered our wonderful web-stunner. And hey, don't be surprised if another familiar face from Peter's past pops up in these pages before too long — one that will leave you seeing scar ... er ... red. Readers have already witnessed the return of the Black Cat — and more Spider-Women than you can shake a stick at — so anything is possible!

Hey, guys:

SPIDER-GIRL #38 was rockin'!

We saw Normie come to Spider-Girl's rescue and kick some serious butt. Crazy Eight, Funny Face, Green Goblin and Spider-Girl? What more could you ask for? I had a great time, and I'm looking forward to much more.

Tom DeFalco and Pat Olliffe are two of the top talents in the industry. The thing that sets them apart from the rest is their consistency. They not only entertain readers, but engage them, as well. I always leave SPIDER-GIRL hungry for more and sorry it's over. I'll make you a deal: Get Tom & Co. to keep cranking out issues like this one, and I'll tell as many people as possible how great SPIDER-GIRL is.

Thanks to all involved for another great read.

Robert Acquarulo
New Haven, CT

No way I could say no to a fellow resident of New Haven County, Robert. You've got yourself a deal!

SPIDER-GIRL #39:

Gotta agree with Mayday — too many "Dawson's Creek moments," and not enough Spider-Girl! Jimmy & Heather, Richie & Davida, the May/JJ/Nancy triangle, Lisa's locker problems, MJ's collapse, even the Crazy Eight/Funny Face sibling rivalry! In the words of half the cast, "uggn/arrgh!"

Well, we did get a couple pages of May and the new Spider-Man putting the smackdown on some thugs! But then ol' macho Spidey runs away screaming about infections! Get a grip, guy! Sheesh!

I got a kick out of Mr. Nobody telling Kingpin they might not be able to trust a guy called Crazy Eight! Duh!

Still can't get over the Urich/Normie team! Didn't see that one coming! At least we learned that Spider-Man's mom is Jessica Drew! I was a big fan, and have all 50 issues (April '78 to June '83) in my permanent collection!

Green Goblin is seemingly well-named! He'd have to be pretty green to take on three foes single-handed! "We have a problem!" Yeah, I'd say terminal stupidity, Normie! Bwah hahahaha!

Robert Kowalski
Hamtramck, MI

Hey, don't dis the Creek, Robert. Dawson and his hair went to my high school in Connecticut!

Dear Tom,

I always thought the stuttering and stammering in SPIDER-GIRL was because most of the characters were kids and maybe Tom thought kids talked like that. But when their gray-haired coach starts stuttering and stammering — I mean, come on.

I was away from this series nearly a year and was struck by how little it had progressed. There are some new teen characters; there's Canis (who would be better if he had a costume). But generally, the status quo is still there.

I know Pat Olliffe is coming back, but Chris Batista's work was impressive! This was my first time reading him, and his work was almost Gene Ha kind of impressive. And that's saying a lot, as Ha is maybe the best artist I've ever seen.

Generally, though, SPIDER-GIRL #39 was nothing to write home about — although I guess I'm writing to you about it. Compared to many series, though, I guess SPIDER-GIRL does have a lot to offer ...

Andrew James Shaw
Torrance, CA

We're confused, Andrew: Do you like SPIDER-GIRL, or not? You say the book has "a lot to offer," but claim it's been stuck in neutral for "nearly a year." You've told us where you think we've gone wrong; now, let us know what you think we're doing right. And why would Canis be a better character if he wore a costume? Has Logan lost any heat over in NEW X-MEN since he ditched the yellow-and-blue spandex?

Sorry to hear you're not a fan of Tom's dialogue; we think it's spot-on. I was a newspaper reporter for five years, and one fact becomes painfully clear the first

time you transcribe an interview from tape: People rarely speak perfect, fluid English — especially when they're nervous, or trying to answer questions on the fly. Why should the crazy cats in your favorite funnybook be any different?

We agree with you on one count, though: Chris Batista's got the stuff! Check out IRON MAN #49, also on sale this month, for his inspired interpretation of the Armored Avenger. Like the book you now hold in your hands, IM #49 is a 'Nuff Said silent issue — so our boy Chris had the chance to really show off his storytelling chops.

Dear SPIDER-GIRL,

Glad to hear your tales will continue to be told, with no cancellation web being spun as of right now. This letter is more for your dad than you. I've been reading his book twice as long as you've been around in comics. The deal with your mother and dad (in his book) does not sit well with me. Maybe you weren't aware they had problems in the past, and I'm not sure I'm the one who should be telling you. Anyway, I'm very glad to see them together in your future.

Ronald J. Curell
Mayville, MI

Dear Tom,

The only reason I originally picked up SPIDER-GIRL was because in this universe, Mary Jane was still alive. I'll admit, I was very intrigued by Darkdevil (where is he?) and the inclusion of one of my favorite good bad guys — or bad good guys — Kaine.

Mary Jane was shown to be alive in the regular titles, but it was too much of a challenge for the writers to keep her married to Pete.

As much as I like this title — you kill off Mary Jane, and I'm history. 'Nuff said!

Carlos M. Fernandez Jr.
Panama City Beach, FL

Ronald and Carlos: Check out Stan Lee's Spidey strip in your local newspaper for more Pete 'n' MJ. Just curious, though: What makes you guys think you've seen the last of MJ over in the core Spider-Man books? After all, she and Pete are only separated, not divorced. As for our very own corner of the Marvel Universe — don't worry, 'Los: We know exactly where Reilly Tyne's been keeping himself the past few months. Tune in next issue for another dose of Darkdevil!

Dear SPIDER-GIRL creators,

I would like to say the art on SPIDER-GIRL has been OK up till now — but how about a famous artist like Jim Lee, Art Adams, Andy Kubert or Ed McGuinness joining the team for awhile to give SPIDER-GIRL the boost she needs. Please keep Tom DeFalco as the writer, because he has done a fabulous job.

I wrote this letter because I hope this series stays around for a long time. I have every issue of SPIDER-GIRL, even her first appearance in WHAT IF...? #105. This is a great character, and I hope she stays around forever and ever! Keep SPIDER-GIRL going — because if this series is cancelled, I quit collecting Marvel.

Tony Soule

(Address withheld by request)

Jim, Art, Andy and Ed are all talented pencilers, Tony — but we'll stick with artist-extraordinaire Pat Olliffe, whose storytelling skills are second to none!

Jeff Youngquist
Assistant Editor

NEXT ISSUE:

THE BAD NEWS? THERE AIN'T GONNA BE A SPIDER-GIRL ANNUAL IN 2002. THE GOOD NEWS? MAYDAY SWINGS YOUR WAY NEXT MONTH IN AN EXTRA, 13TH ISSUE! JOIN TOM DEFALCO, GUEST-PENCILER RON FRENZ AND GUEST-INKER LIVESAY FOR SPIDER-GIRL #42 -- FOLLOWED A SCANT TWO WEEKS LATER BY SPIDER-GIRL #43, WHICH SEES THE RETURN OF OUR REGULAR ART TEAM OF PAT OLLIFFE AND AL WILLIAMSON. WOO-HA!!!

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