



THE RETURN OF KAINE Part 3 of 4

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



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BAGS
MAHLSTEDT
ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH

DEADLY GAMES!

His given name is **Peter Parker**. While in high school he was bitten by a radioactive spider and endowed with amazing powers, which he has since used to protect the innocent and battle evil. Now he calls himself **Ben Reilly**, and, as a costumed crimefighter, he continues his crusade... for he understands that with great power comes great responsibility!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS: THE **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!**

THE RETURN OF KAIN **Part**
3 of 4

OF WAGERS AND WARS

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Most people in this city
have at least one
SKELETON in their closet.

Theirs may only be
a figure of speech...



SEE SENSATIONAL
SPIDER-MAN #2
FOR DETAILS - Bob.

I blame the JACKAL for this mess!

He started it five years ago...when he CLONED me.

My clone and I fought!

I lost --

-- and was left for DEAD in a Brooklyn smokestack!

Believing himself to be me, my clone made a real life for himself as PETER PARKER.

He even married MARY JANE, an old girlfriend of mine, and they're presently expecting their first child.

Me, I ended up calling myself BEN REILLY --

-- and bumming around the country!

My only friend during all that time was a geneticist named SEWARD TRAINER.

MAN! I could really use his help and understanding now!

But the poor guy recently blew his mind in CYBERSPACE --

-- and he's presently in a COMA!

I don't know WHEN -- or IF -- he'll ever recover!

Workers recently found it while they were demolishing the very same Brooklyn smokestack where Pete dumped me.

What is it?

How'd it get there?

If it's the original clone, WHY do I remember being inside the smokestack?

And, where does PETE fit into all this?!

WOA! My brain's starting to overheat from question overload!

I wish I could ditch all this jazz, and just gentle down with my lady JESSICA --

-- but I have no time to think about ROMANCE!

Nope, I've got work to do...

...of the WEB-SPINNING variety!



While I was chauffeuring MR. BONES back to my apartment, I accidentally ran across an old acquaintance...



...KAINE!



OH, MAN! Someone must have had WALL-CRAWLING in mind when this building was designed --

-- with such a user-friendly AIR SHAFT!



A psychotic SERIAL KILLER who also happens to be a disfigured CLONE of me created by the JACKAL!

Kaine was causing a sharp increase in CASUALTY CLAIMS when I spotted him!

He was in the middle of a major PUNCH-OUT with the RHINO!

WHY -- ?!

Don't know!

Don't care!

They both belong behind bars as far as I'm concerned!



AT THAT VERY
MOMENT, IN THE
SPRAWLING BEVERLY
HILLS RESIDENCE OF
FINANCIER JAMES
JOHNSMEYER...

IS YOUR
SPEAKER PHONE
MALFUNCTIONING,
JAMES? I KEEP
HEARING A
TWAKKING
SOUND!

THWAK

HARDLY,
YASSAF! I'M
MERELY PRACTICING
MY GOLF SWING ON
MY NEW VIDEO
RANGE!

JAMES!
YASSAF! I DON'T
MEAN TO BE RUDE,
BUT A BEAUTIFUL AEGEAN
CLIME IS WASTIN' AWAY
WHILE I'M STUCK ON
THIS CONFERENCE
CALL!

I
BELIEVE
WE WERE
DISCUSSIN'
SPIDER-
MAN --!

PAST
HISTORY HAS
THE WEB-SWINGER
WITH JAMES'S NEW
PLAYER, THE ONE
CALLED
KAINE!

CHU
RAISES AN
INTERESTING
ISSUE.

DO WE
PROCEED WITH
KAINE'S INITIATION
AS PLANNED --
CANCEL HIS FIRST
MATCH -- OR
FACTOR SPIDER-
MAN INTO THE
PROCEEDINGS?

GENTLEMEN!
GENTLEMEN! WE
ARE ALL SPONSORS
IN THE GREAT GAME
BECAUSE IT AMUSES
US TO PIT OUR SUPER-
POWERED PAWNS
AGAINST ONE
ANOTHER!

I PROPOSE
WE INCLUDE THE
WALL-CRAWLER AS
A WILD CARD IN A
FIRST BLOOD
MATCH!

AN
EXCELLENT
SUGGESTION,
JAMES! NICOLAS
AND I CAN ALSO
CONTRIBUTE OUR
OWN HUMBLE
PLAYERS!

SOUNDS
LIKE FUN,
CHU!

ALL
RIGHT...
WHO WANTS
TO LAY THE
FIRST
WAGER?!

JUST THEN, IN A LOWER WEST SIDE WAREHOUSE THAT HAS BEEN RIGHTSIZED COMPLETELY OUT OF BUSINESS...

KAIN --?

THERE'S NO SIGN'A PURSUIT!

WHERE ARE YE,
KAIN?

WE CAN'T BE STAYIN'
HERE! WE MAY HAVE LOST THE
RHINO FOR NOW --

-- BUT I'M BETTIN'
WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE
LAST'A HIM!

HOW DID HE FIND US THE FIRST TIME, SHANNON?

I'M WISHIN' I COULD TELL YE!
ALL I KNOW IS THAT JAMES JOHNSMEYER
IS A MAN'A VAST RESOURCES --

-- AND HE WON'T BE TAKIN'
KINDLY TO YUUR REFUSAL T'REPRESENT
HIM IN THE GREAT GAME!

YE NEED T'REST!
T'REGAIN YUUR STRENGTH!

GET SOME SLEEP!
I'LL STAND GUARD!

WHY SHOULD I
TRUST YOU, SHANNON?

ARE YE DAFT,
MAN?

IN CASE YE
DIDN'T NOTICE,
I DIDN'T EXACTLY
ADVANCE MY OWN
CAREER WHEN I
HELPED YUUR
ESCAPE!

SEE
SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN
#251 - Bob.

A MAN LIKE JOHNSMEYER LIVES FOR THE GREAT GAME, AN' HE'LL NEVER --

OH!



HOPE I HAVEN'T COME AT A BAD TIME!

BUT MY BOSS OFFERED ME A MAJOR BONUS TO FLATTEN THE TWO OF YOU BEFORE ANYONE ELSE CAN!

FLATTEM



YOU ARE A FOOL TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE MANIPULATED FOR THE VICARIOUS PLEASURE OF OTHERS, RHINO!

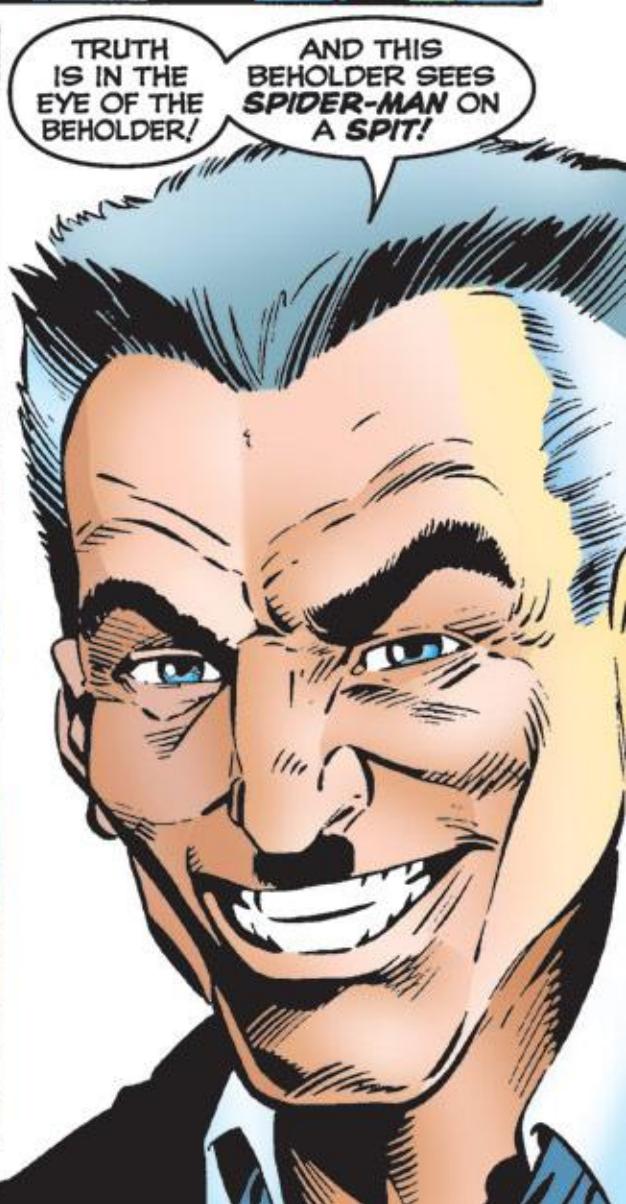
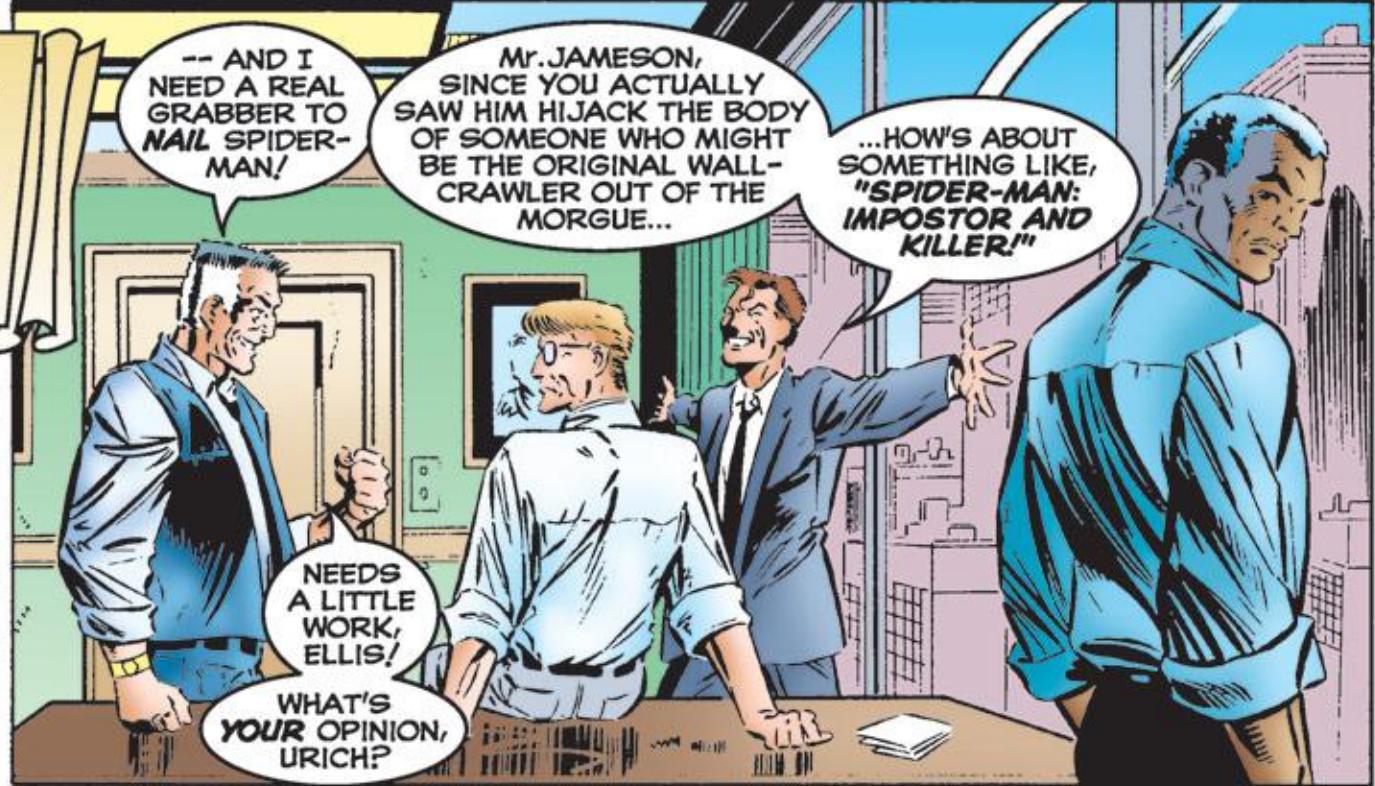
YOU'RE ENTITLED TO YOUR OPINION, KAIN!

ME, I JUST SEE MYSELF AS FREELANCE MUSCLE!



THOUGH THE SHARP CLACKING OF MANUAL TYPEWRITERS HAS GIVEN WAY TO THE NUMBING BUZZ OF COMPUTERIZED WORD PROCESSORS, THE DAILY BUGLE REMAINS A NEWSPAPER IN THE GRAND OLD TRADITION...

HEADLINES SELL PAPERS --



No trace of KAINES
or the RHINO!

You'd think in this day and age
there'd be easier ways to REACH
OUT and SLAM your favorite baddie!

They should all be required to
carry CELL PHONES, or be
plugged into the INTERNET!

YEAH! A VILLAINS ON-LINE service
would certainly relieve my stress!

HEEY! Those
news helicopters
seem to be in
an awful hurry!

Could my favorite
bruisers be
committing MASS
MAYHEM in another
part of the city?

Only one way
to find out --!

THWIP

THWAP



And AWAAAAY
we go --!

MEANWHILE,
ELSEWHERE...

FOR A
GUY WHO
DOESN'T WANT
TO PLAY THIS
GAME --

-- YOU
PUT UP ONE
HECK OF A
FIGHT!

OTHERS
ONCE PULLED
MY STRINGS, RHINO!
MADE ME DANCE TO
THEIR PERVERSE
MACHINATIONS!

NO
MORE!

NEVER
AGAIN WILL
KAINE BE
ANY MAN'S
PAWN!

I STRIKE
ONLY FOR MY
FREEDOM!

MY
LIBERTY!

HEY!
YOU'RE NOT
LEAVING UNTIL
I COLLECT MY
BONUS!

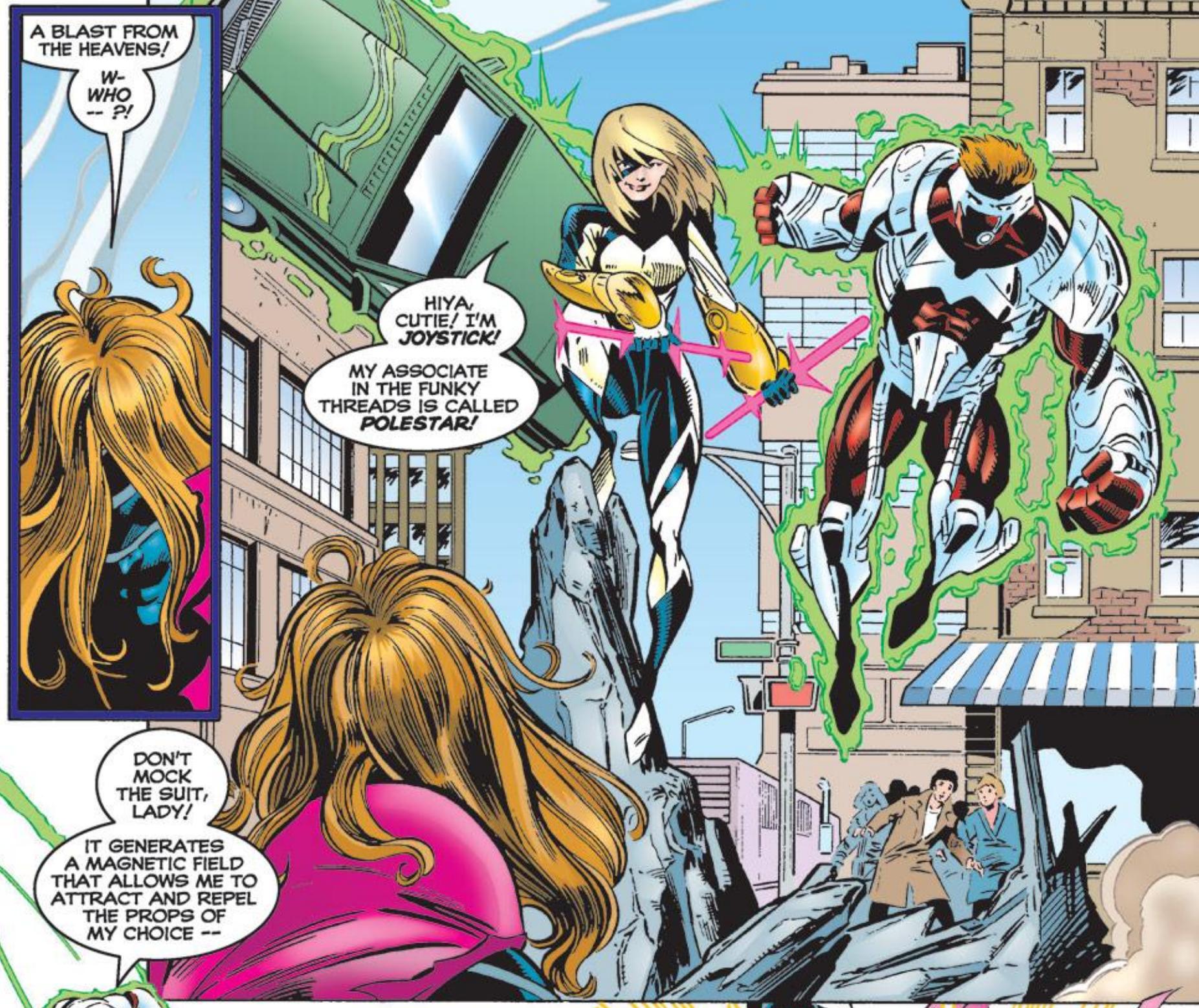
SAVE
YOURSELF
FURTHER
MISERY,
RHINO!

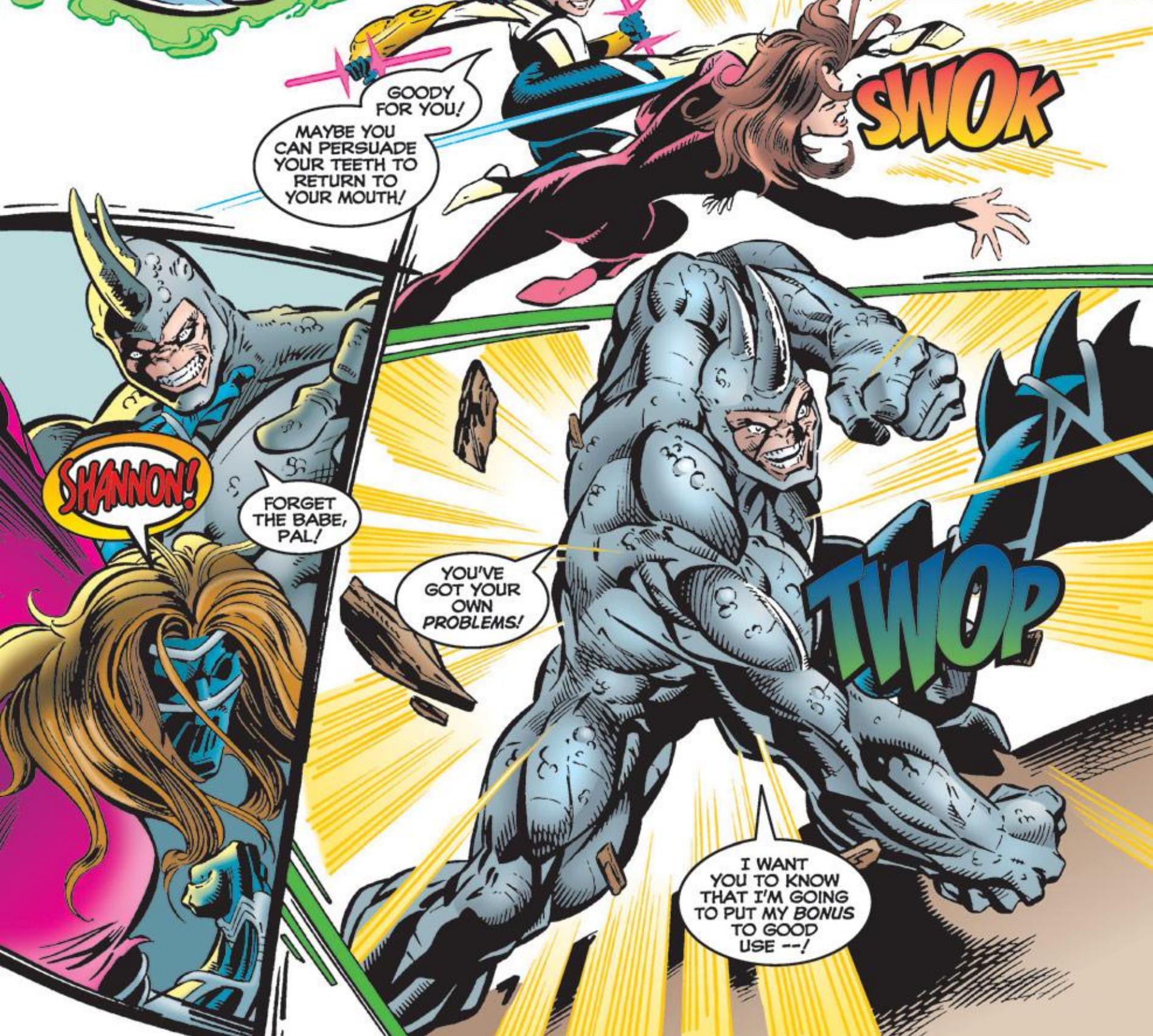
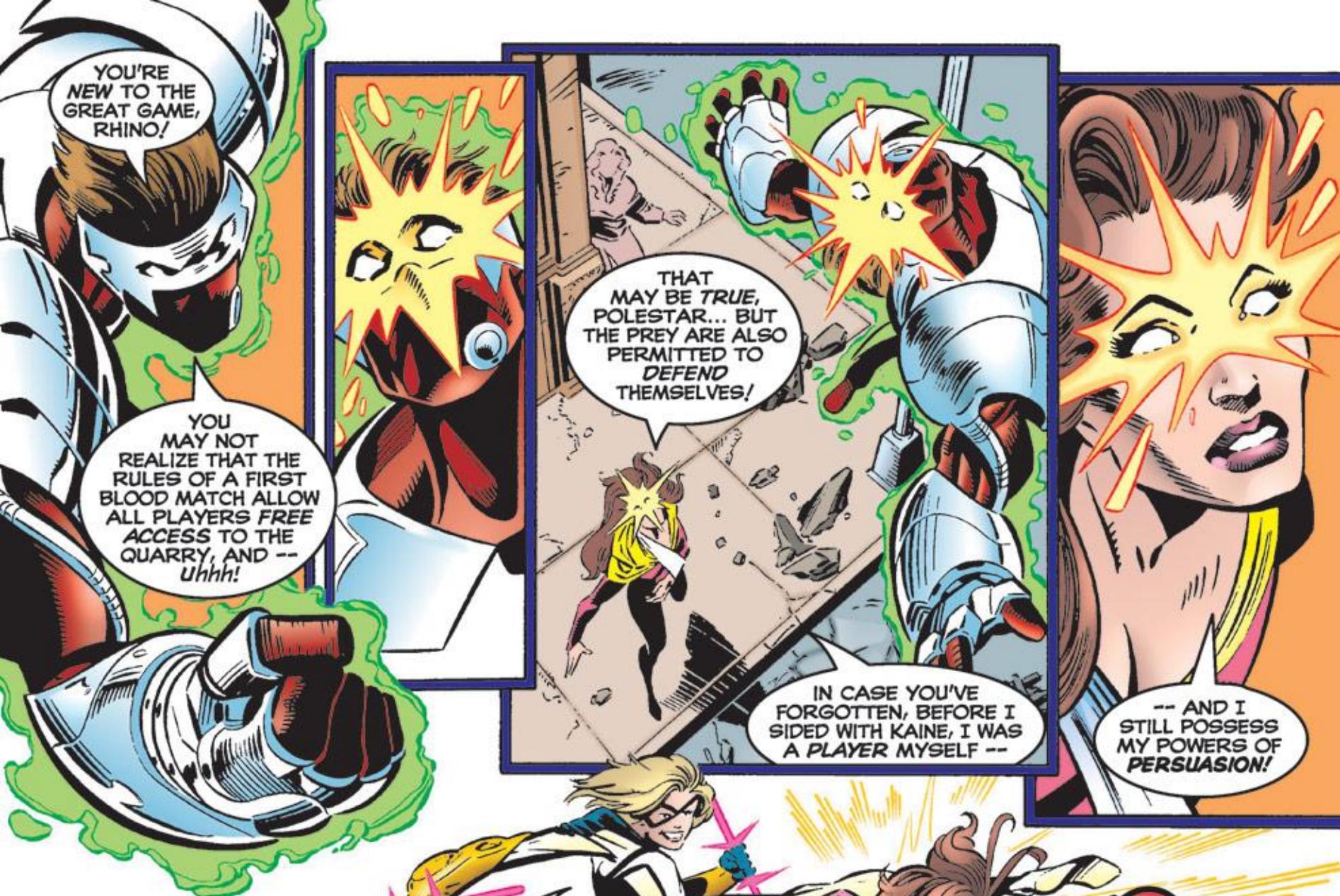
I HAVE
NO DESIRE TO
CONTINUE THIS
POINTLESS
BATTLE!

SHANNON
AND I MERELY
WISH TO VANISH
BEFORE THE
AUTHORITIES
CAN --

B
A
Z
A
H

UNGH!





GOING TO BUY MY MOTHER ONE OF THOSE BIG-SCREEN TVs!

ISN'T THAT SWEET--!

I HOPE YOU'LL ALSO SPRING FOR THE PREMIUM CABLE CHANNELS!

IT WOULD BREAK HER HEART IF SHE MISSED YOUR STARRING ROLE ON COURT TV!

SPIDER-MAN

DO NOT INTERFERE SPIDER-MAN! I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR AID!

W-WHERE'D YOU COME FROM-?!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, A LITTLE BIRDIE BROUGHT ME!

I REALLY HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU, HANDSOME... BUT YOU AND I AREN'T EXACTLY ON THE SAME SIDE!

Lh Oh!





Back in SCARLET SPIDER #2. - Bob



HE LIES
UNMOVING --

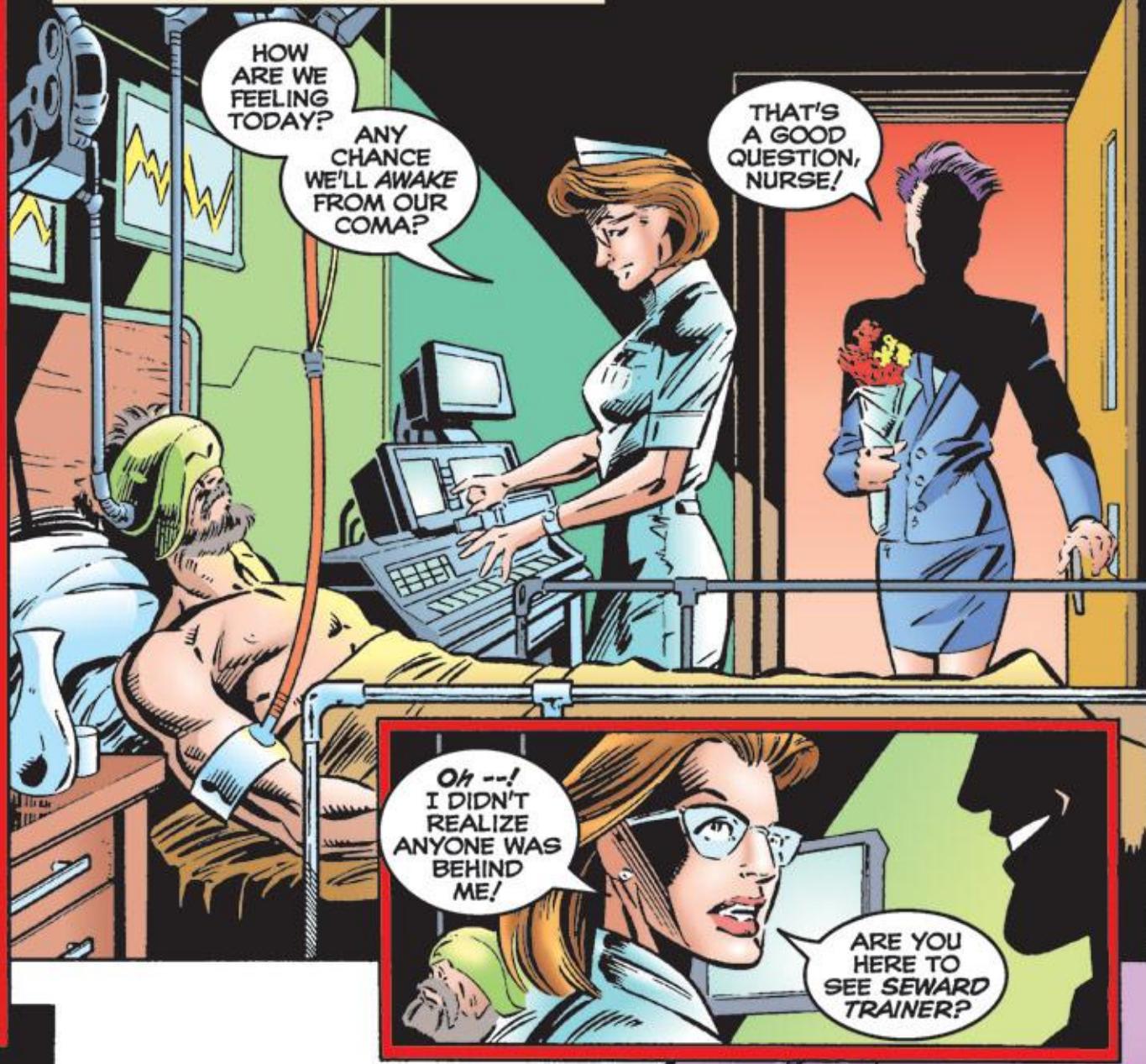
--UNCONSCIOUS --

-- HOOKED TO MACHINES WHICH NOTE
HEALTHY LIFE SIGNS BUT DETECT
ABSOLUTELY NO HIGHER BRAIN FUNCTION!

HOW
ARE WE
FEELING
TODAY?

ANY
CHANCE
WE'LL AWAKE
FROM OUR
COMA?

THAT'S
A GOOD
QUESTION,
NURSE!



I AM
HIS
DAUGHTER...
CAROLYN!*

I'LL
BE AT THE
NURSES STATION
IF YOU NEED
ME.

THANK
YOU. I MUST
MAKE THE MOST
OUT OF EVERY
PRECIOUS MOMENT
I SPEND WITH
FATHER.

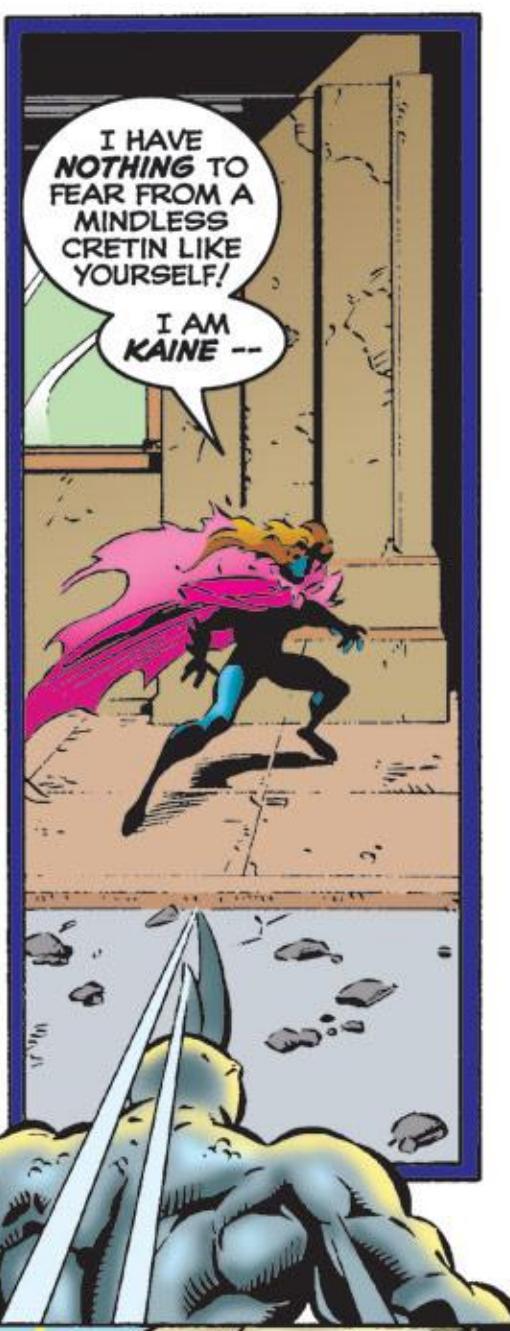
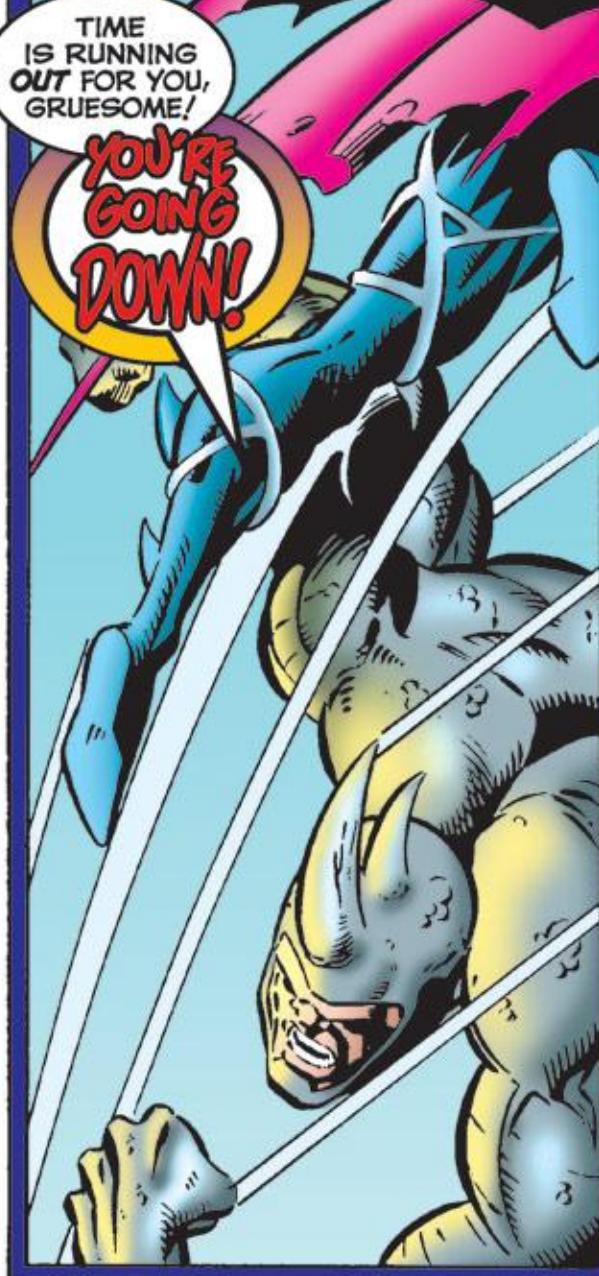
HE'S
SO PALE...
SO FRAGILE AND
VULNERABLE! IT'S
PRETTY OBVIOUS
THAT...

YES...

HE IS
STABLE, BUT
HIS CONDITION
HASN'T CHANGED.
I ASSUME YOU'D
LIKE SOME
PRIVACY.

* We know her better as the new
DOCTOR OCTOPUS, last seen in
SPECTACULAR SCARLET SPIDER
#2—Dr. Bob!

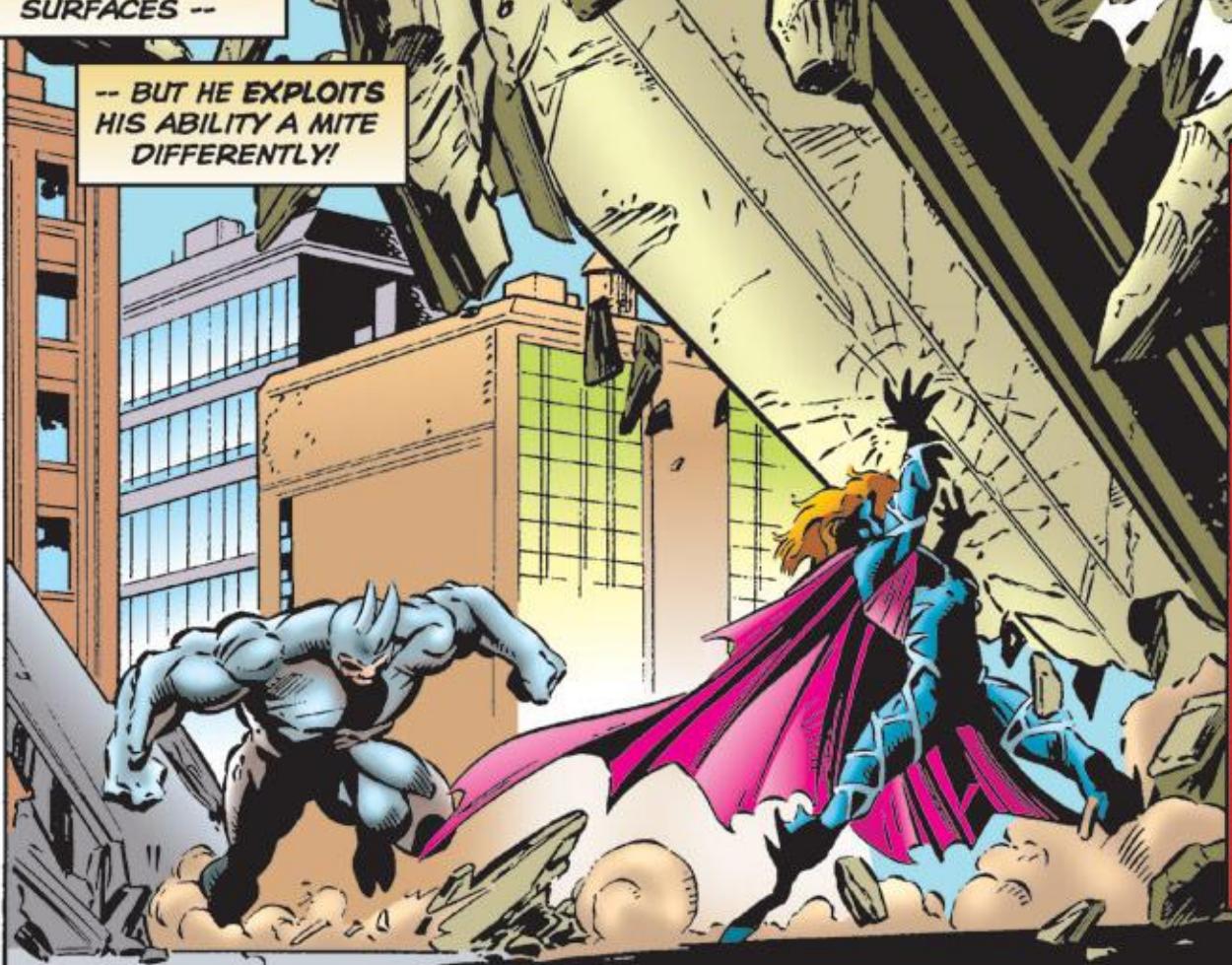
... HE
WILL NOT
SURVIVE MUCH
LONGER!

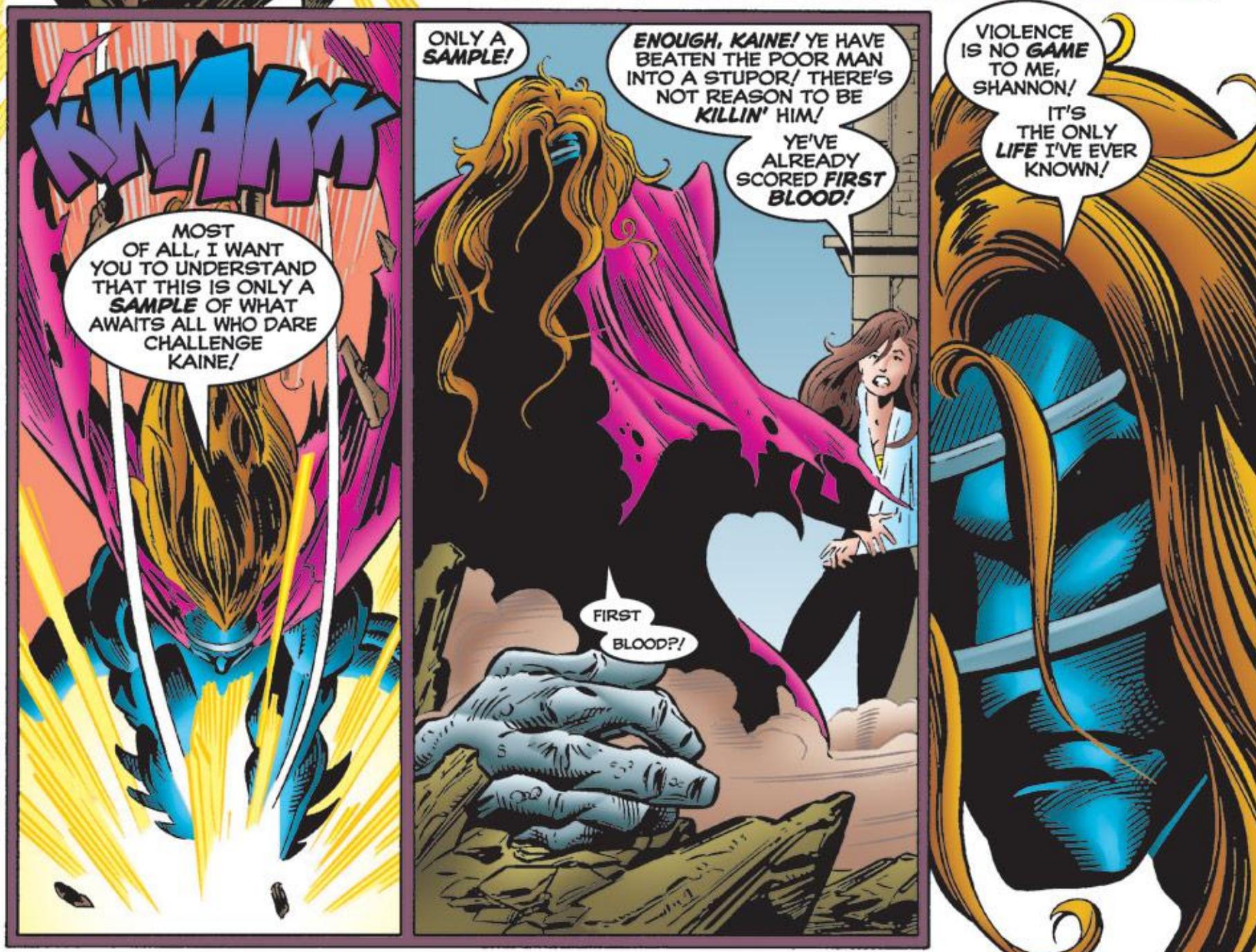


KRAKOON

LIKE THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN, KAIN
CAN ALSO STICK TO
SURFACES --

-- BUT HE EXPLOITS
HIS ABILITY A MITE
DIFFERENTLY!









I
HEAR
YOU, ALL
RIGHT!

PWASSWOK

YOU
SOUND LIKE
EVERY OTHER
CORPORATE
WEASEL WHO
DANGLES FROM
THE HIGH WIRE
OF OFFICE
POLITICS!

IF YOU
WANT THE
PERKS THAT
COME FROM LIVING
IN THE FAST LANE,
DON'T WHINE WHEN
THE TIME COMES
TO **PAY** YOUR
TAB!

AT
LEAST
YOU HAD A
CHOICE ABOUT
PLAYING THIS
STUPID
GAME!

ME --
ALL I WANTED
WAS TO CLEAR
A PAIR OF
PSYCHOS
OFF THE
STREETS!

WHAT
DO I HAVE
TO SHOW
FOR MY
EFFORTS?

YOU
AND THE
RHINO!

THANKS
TO YOU
AND JOY-
STICK...

...KAIN
AND HIS
LADY FRIEND
ARE STILL
FREE!



SOMETIME
LATER, ON
THE WEST
COAST...

WONDERFUL!
KAINES INITIAL
MATCH WAS EVEN
MORE PROFITABLE
THAN WE'D
HOPED!

I
AM FEELING
EXCEPTIONALLY
GENEROUS, MY DEAR.
YOU MAY HAVE YOUR
CHOICE OF THE
SPOILS...

YOU'D
BETTER GET OFF
THE LINE, SHANNON!
WE MUSTN'T MAKE
OUR PATSY
SUSPICIOUS!

I
HAVE
ALREADY BEGUN
MAKING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR HIS **NEXT** AND
POSSIBLY **FINAL**
GAME...

WOULD
YOU PREFER
THE **WINTER PALACE**,
THE **PAGODA** OR
THE **AEGEAN MANSION**?

BY
THE WAY...
WHERE IS OUR BOY?

HE'S
SCOUTIN' US
UP A REFUGE, Mr.
JOHNSMEYER!

FIGURED
IT WAS SAFE
T'CHECK IN WHILE
HE WAS GONE, BUT I
CAN'T STAY FOR
LONG!

A
CHALLENGE
THAT I BELIEVE
IS DESTINED
TO CONQUER
KAINE!

YOU'D
BETTER GET OFF
THE LINE, SHANNON!
WE MUSTN'T MAKE
OUR PATSY
SUSPICIOUS!

I
HAVE
ALREADY BEGUN
MAKING ARRANGEMENTS
FOR HIS **NEXT** AND
POSSIBLY **FINAL**
GAME...

The RHINO is one of my strongest foes, but I should have realized that he'd go down a lot easier than KAIN!

That maniac has spent too many years TORTURING me, filling my life with MISERY.

He's managed to ELUDE me once again...

...but NOT for long!

During the battle, I took a moment to tag Kaine's date with a SPIDER-TRACER!

The signal's coming in LOUD and CLEAR!

This is it --! My final showdown with KAIN! And hopefully, my chance to put this crazy GAME out of commission once and for all!

Hope my UNDERWEAR is in relatively decent shape!

Otherwise, I'll be real embarrassed if I'm the one who ends up in a HOSPITAL --

-- or the MORGUE!

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK IN
SPIDER-MAN #66!