

MARVEL

87

DEFALCO  
FRENZ  
BUSCEMA

THE DAUGHTER OF SPIDER-MAN®

# SPIDER-GIRL

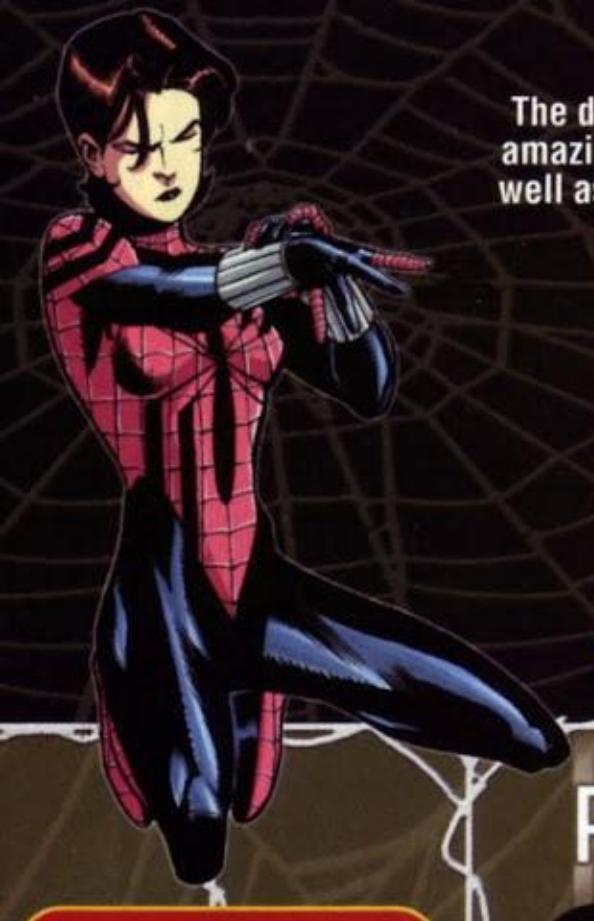


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THE FANTASTIC  
ALL NEW FIVE ???



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

## PREVIOUSLY

Script, Plot  
& Pencils  
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Ron Frenz

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--just as the cosmically-powered Apox, the Omega Skrull, returns to enact his revenge on the Fantastic Five.



After saving Normie Osborn from the Venom symbiote, Spider-Girl is shocked when he decides to keep it and exploit its power--



Franklin "Psi-Lord"  
Richards  
Telepathy and Telekinesis  
Son of Mr. Fantastic and  
the Invisible Woman



Alyce "Rad" Grimm  
Cosmic Rays  
Daughter of the Thing



Jacob "Grim" Grimm  
Super-strength  
Son of the Thing



Kristoff "Doom"  
Vernard  
Super-scientist  
Former ward of Doctor  
Doom



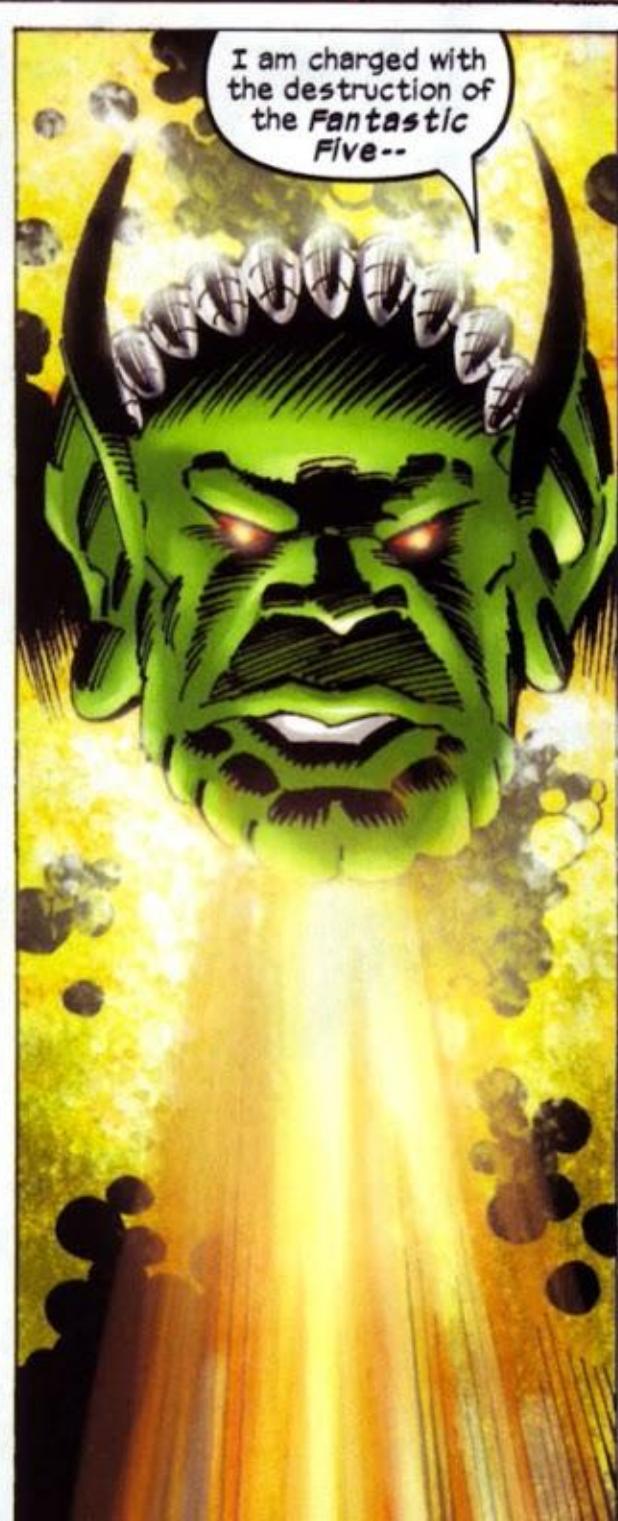
Torus "Super-Storm"  
Storm  
Changeling with heat  
powers  
Son of the Human Torch  
and Ms. Fantastic



# Family Business









At the far side of the galaxy, a Skrull Worldship orbits in anticipation...

Master, Apox has activated the signal flare--!



# SPWONING!

Torus, will you please stay out of the way?

B-but I wanna help.

Everyone clear on the plan?

I know my part! Avengers Assem--oops! Sorry about that.

Franklin doesn't even crack a smile.



You probably wouldn't be joking if a cosmically-powered alien was trying to slaughter your family.

# KWASER!



Well done, Spider-Girl! While Apox is stunned, my energy damper will--

Out of my way, Doom!

I want to get in some last licks as Super-Storm!





--heavy  
hitters?!

Thanks for  
welcoming me  
aboard, Nova.

We can use  
your expertise,  
Earth Sentry.

I recognize the design of  
the Skrull Worldship, but  
I've never encountered  
anything like this  
force-field before.

My initial analysis  
seems to indicate that  
it is somehow drawing  
additional energy from  
the sun.

**Big deal!** Just  
get me back to Earth,  
and I'll smash the  
stupid thing.

What are the Skrulls planning? If  
they just wanted to destroy the  
F5, why didn't they just blast  
the headquarters?



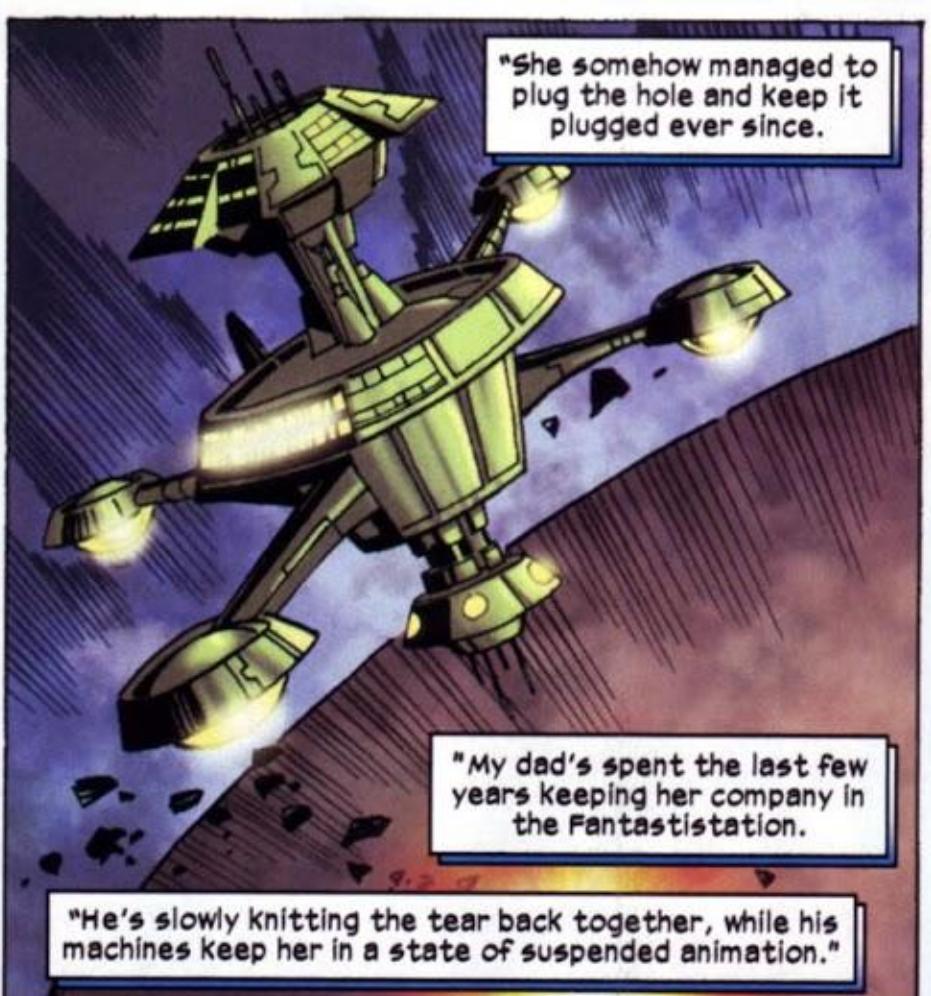
--the *Fantastic Five* may  
not be their only target!"

Thunderstrike, I've  
called Avengers Mansion  
and requested additional  
support.



We're going to  
need all the help we  
can get, Mainframe.  
This force-shield is  
resisting everything J2  
and I are throwing  
at it.







And that isn't even the bad news...

The force-field that's currently surrounding our building appears to be absorbing solar energy at an alarming rate.

It is growing appreciably hotter with each passing minute.

I believe the field is actually a **solar bomb** that will reach critical mass in approximately two point three hours.

Is it powerful enough to take out the whole building?

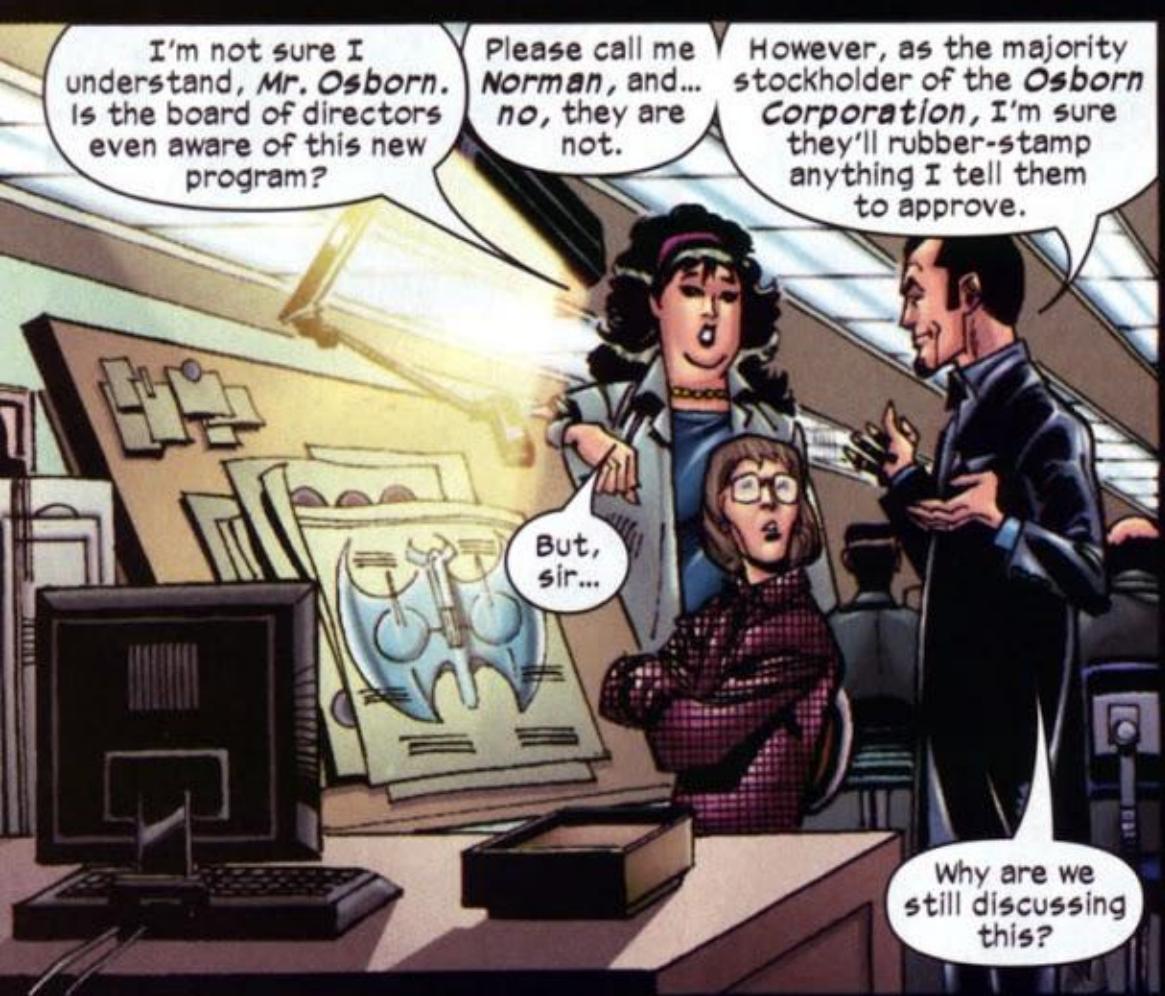
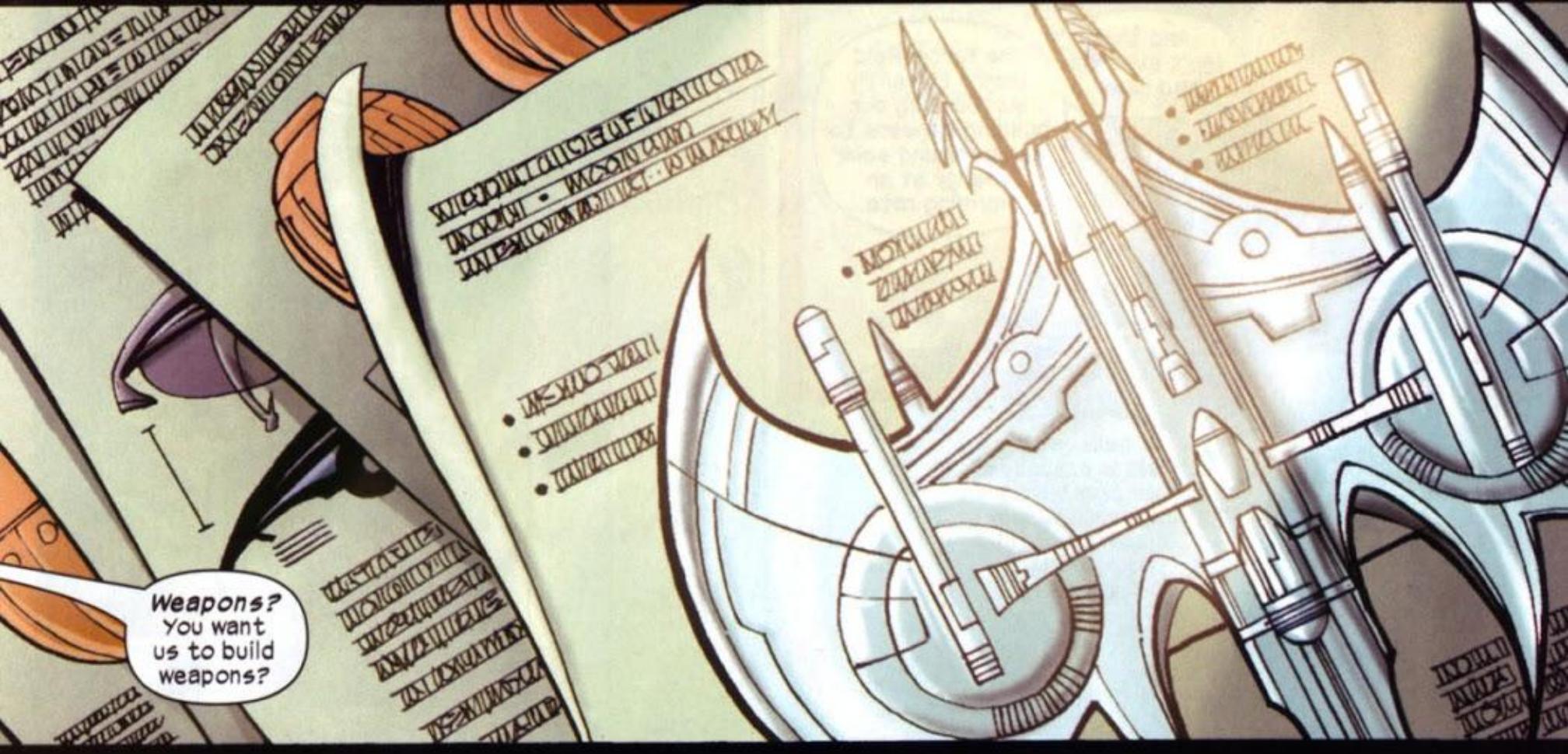
Along with the entire *Island of Manhattan*.

Swell.

Swell--?  
SWELL--?  
The fate of his parents... the city...and maybe even this entire world depends on our ability to stop a cosmically powered maniac, and all he says is "SWELL?!"

Hoo-boy! You're definitely hanging with the wrong crowd.

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More bad news, Franklin--scanners indicate that 732 civilians are also trapped within the building.

Isn't there any way to evacuate them?

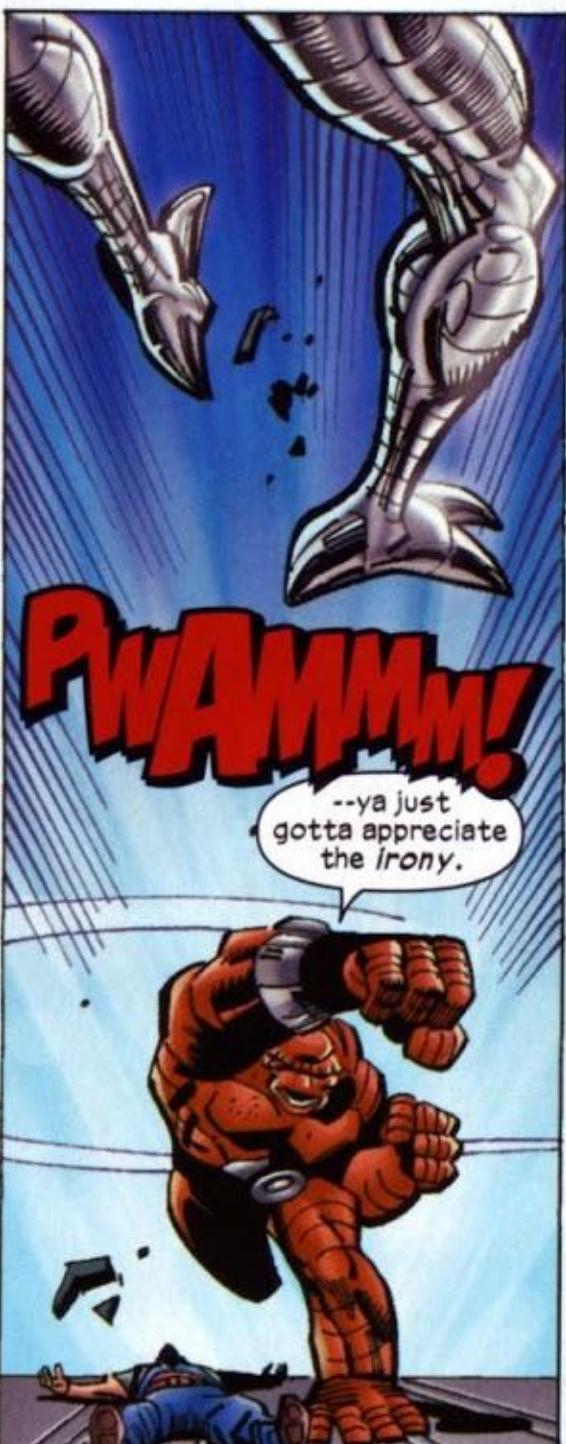
Not yet...but they probably wouldn't escape the blast radius, anyway.

I hate to bring this up--

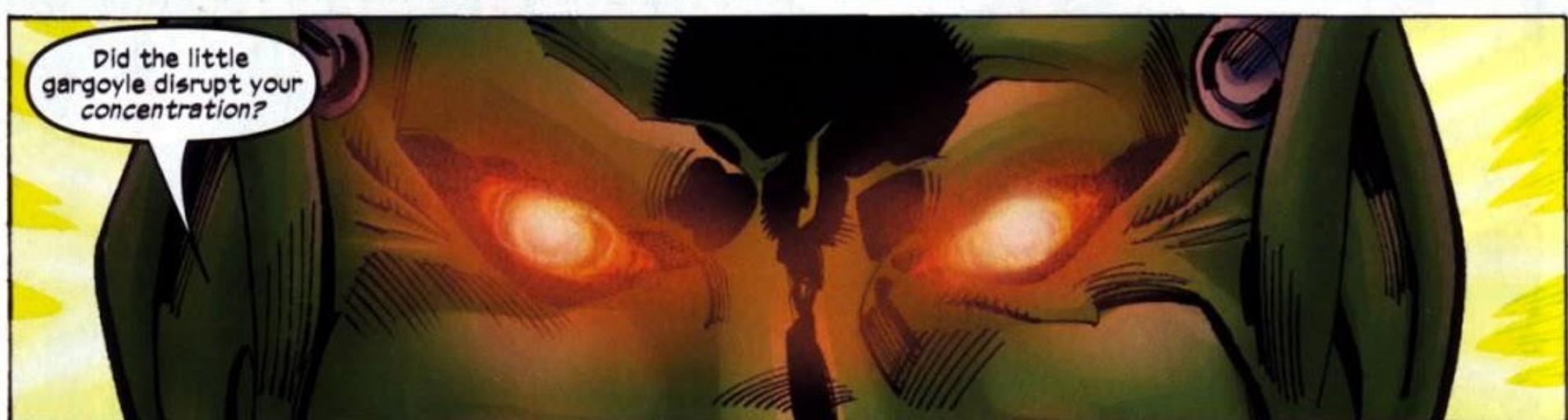
--but Apox has apparently reached the portal to the **Negative Zone**.

Your assistance was most appreciated, child--

--although I doubt your parents would approve.











THIS  
HAS  
GOT TO  
STOP!

You react instinctively, charging forward without thought or hesitation.

You've sat on the sidelines for most of this battle, acting more like a spectator than a player.

No more!

NO MORE!

Franklin lost his mother to one maniac in the Negative Zone.

You won't allow history to repeat itself on your watch.

# HOUSE OF M™



HOUSE OF M #1



SPIDER-MAN: HOUSE OF M #1

## MARVEL

United... Divided... They Fall.  
HOUSE OF M • Summer 2005

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## CUP O' JOE



***What a month, folks!***

I can say with absolute certainty that I won't have enough space to talk about all the amazing projects we've got cooking this summer in just one column. Fortunately, we have this handy-dandy weekly Cup o' Joe appearing right in your friendly neighborhood Marvel Comics! On sale this week, I'm sure you've picked up the HOTTEST title in the land: **House of M #1**. As you can see, things ain't right, and they're only gonna get worse.

In July, the rest of the Marvel U starts to feel the effects of the House. Keep your eyes open for our **Fantastic Four**, **Iron Man** and **Hulk House of M** issues. Also crossing into House of M are **Uncanny X-Men #462**, **New X-Men #16**, **Cable/Deadpool #17** and **The Pulse #10**. And while you're at it don't forget **Spider-Man House of M #2**! Here's a tip from your ol' pal, Joey Q, and you know how I love to help you out: you can spot the House of M stuff very easily — just look for the bins at your local retailer that are smoldering or fully enflamed. But you better hurry because they'll also be the bins that will soon be empty with "SOLD OUT" signs. And if that isn't enough, check out our **House of M Special Edition of The Pulse** — an actual newspaper edition — all for a whopping 50 cents!

Sounds exciting, huh? I can't wait until you see what happens in **House of M #2** in just TWO WEEKS!. Oh, and that last page in **House of M #3?**! Heh heh. That Bendis knows how to keep us all on the edge of our seats!

See ya in the funnybooks,

JQ  
EEK!

# MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Dear SPIDER-GIRL creators:

Just wanted to share a few thoughts I had on what makes SPIDER-GIRL so great and why she will endure (no matter what) for a very long time. Following Spider-Girl's adventures (both within the comics and in the never-ending battle to save her from cancellation) feels a lot like reliving the process that made Spider-Man such a huge hit. Like Peter, May first appeared in a comic where the character was only supposed to last a single issue (Peter in Amazing Fantasy and May in What If-?). Like Peter, May has qualities that make her the last person you'd expect to see in an ongoing comic (Peter was a nerdy kid with spider-powers--very unusual for the time--and May is a female super heroine from an alternate universe). And like her dad, May's current success comes from innovative stories by her creators as well as a fan base that constantly supports a super heroine who was almost never born and almost didn't make it this far--but did. In a lot of ways, May's a bigger underdog than her father, which makes it all the more fun and rewarding when she (and her book) succeeds. The point to all this rambling is this--Spider-Girl endures because she fills a need in the Spider- Universe (and in comics as a whole) for a heroine who is attractive but not overly sexy, strong but vulnerable enough to struggle through her problems, and optimistic but often forced to make difficult choices--basically the same need Spider-Man fulfilled but for a different audience. And that's why whether this book lasts 500 issues or (god forbid) is cancelled before the year ends, the character of Spider-Girl won't disappear easily.

Michael Jung  
Mesa, Arizona

Thanks for being there, Michael!

Dear Tom and crew,

SPIDER-GIRL #82 was an enjoyable issue, with a special appearance by my favorite villain (well, half of him, at least). It's interesting to see Venom without the moral conscience of Eddie Brock. See, IMO, the alien has become the evil of Venom, while Eddie's strength of character (yes, I said it), and moral values gave the old Venom a twisted sense of fair play and good intentions (whether the alien's influence ruined those good intentions or not, it was always Eddie who was at the core of them). So now that Eddie is dead, the alien has free rein over weaker minds. As much as I like Normie, he is a little weak-minded in how he let the Goblin legacy guide his life for so long. It is perhaps this weak-mindedness that allows Symba to have such complete control over him.

With the "new" Venom's appearance, this issue took a noticeably violent turn (another effect of not having Eddie holding the alien back?) that at times was almost a little too much. Hey, I just don't like seeing May getting beat up. But that just shows how much I've grown to like the character over this long journey with her, and how much of a threat Venom is and will be. With no moral center, the Venom symbiote will kill whenever and whoever it wants, "innocent" or not. It just needs its adrenaline high since it is, in effect, a junkie who doesn't care who it hurts as long as it gets its fix. Its willingness to kill anyone in its way is shown remarkably well in the climax of the issue in which it very quickly (and surprisingly effortlessly) destroys Darkdevil (my second-only-to-May favorite of the series).

What Mayday will do with DD seems to be the question that runs through my head more than any other. I don't think that May will take him home, or to the F5, either. The only way to heal him is in his resuscitation chamber, and the only person who knows where that is is Kaine. 'Nuff said. But what will May think of it all?

Overall, an action-packed issue with the best showing of the symbiote in years. Thanks, Tom and crew! The art was great, too. (I actually checked the cover halfway through to

make sure it was Ron. I've always liked his art, but it seemed REALLY good this issue). The coloring is much improved, BTW.

Matt Kayser  
Massachusetts

**Matt, if you're right and Normie is too weak-willed to control the symbiote, we could be headed for some major headaches in the future.**

Dear SPIDER-GIRL,

I have to hand it to you. You have seriously upped the ante with SPIDER-GIRL #82, haven't you? DeFalco has always been a marvelously balanced and real storyteller but I've never seen him craft a tale of such power and despair as this issue. The setup of the engagement party, the arrival of the team-up between Goblin Queen and Venom. And the choice of Venom's host! (The part with Venom opening his mouth showing Normie's horrified face inside sent chills down my spine.) Plus the serious wounding of Darkdevil (can he make an entrance or what?) was a welcome/hideous/depressing surprise. And let me congratulate the art team on recreating the look of Venom to a T and possibly even more horrifying than originally drawn. It is interesting that it still has that sense of honor even though it's not with Brock anymore; though I'm sure there's selfish reasons involved (as in first dibs on killing the Parker family), it is kind of touching in a twisted sense that Venom would not tell anyone else Spider-Man's true identity. Good use of black on the last page, matches the despair and ensuing hopelessness of the situation. And makes me can't wait to see how Spider-Girl and Darkdevil will get out of this one. Thank you for such wonderful storytelling! DeFalco, Olliffe, Frenz and team, you guys are the best. Since the beginning and to the end...

Wayne Sung  
Irvine, California

P.S. For all the action and depressing but plot-moving points of the story, DeFalco never forgets a bit of humor. Most notably this issue with the Tobey Maguire reference. Priceless! Hats off, and here's to many more!

**Wayne, you can thank rampaging Ron for coming up with that particular gag! (Yeah, he may be the funnier member of the team, but Tom still thinks he's better looking! Of course, he hasn't had his eyes checked in years...)**

To Tom and the gang,

Oh, my lord! You have all done it again! You did a Spider-Girl story that focused my attention (I am 19, not easy to do!) and made me excited for more. Most comics these days contain little development and the cliffhanger endings leave me not caring. I got to the last page of SPIDER-GIRL #83 and had a feeling of regret when I realized it was the last page. Great issue! In the day of internet, it is hard to keep a story arc a secret; however your twists keep surprising me. I loved the Goblin fight! One of the best scenes for me. The Normie/May possible romance always has me intrigued. I wonder how they will fare when the story is over?

Julio Barone

**That is the very question that's currently haunting Mayday, Julio!**

Dear Tom,

While it's been a long time since I've had any criticism towards Spider-Girl I have to admit I really didn't like how Spider-Girl #84 ended. While the parts dealing with Venom/Spider-Girl & Darkdevil were extremely entertaining and showed off your awesome writing skills, I had a bad taste in my mouth after I saw Phil get the better of Fury. In fact, I feel that Fury's credibility points just took a big nosedive. Not only did she not beat a Green Goblin knock-off, she got beat by ONE punch. Norman is rolling around in his grave! I will admit, I have a certain dislike about Phil Urich being in the Green Goblin costume. It is my belief that he has no right to defile it like he does. Until Fury deals with this

situation properly, she is a failure at being a villain!

Ken Ondracek  
Omaha, Nebraska

**One punch?!? Did you miss the part where he blew her up with a bag full of goblin grenades?**

Dear SPIDER-GIRL Magic-makers,

Thank you for giving such a great moment to Uncle Phil in SPIDER-GIRL #84. I'm proud of him! The fight between him and Fury, The Goblin Queen, was very well done! VERY interesting developments with Normie! I can't wait to see more. I see in May's expression on the last pages that she is not sure if she won this one or not. All in all, a great ending to a great story! Can't wait for Funny Face next issue! Boy, I missed him!

John Dillon  
Sedalia, Missouri

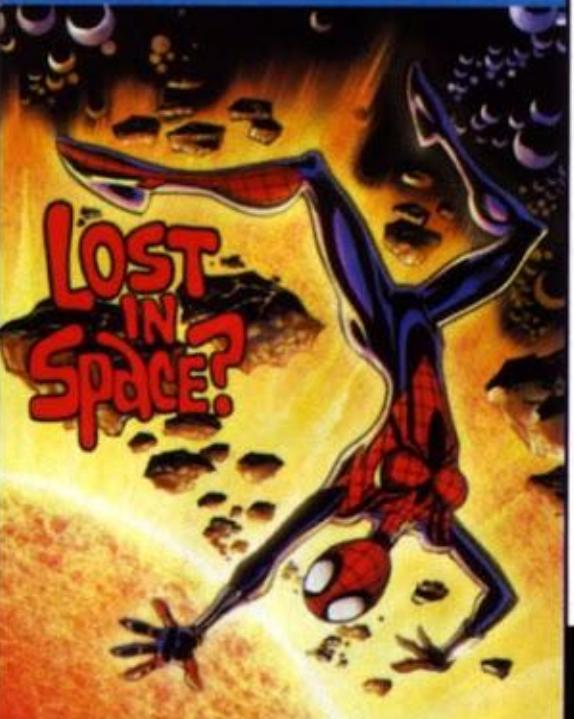
**Was he worth the wait, John?**

## ON SALE THIS MONTH...

**LAST HERO STANDING**—a five-issue weekly limited series! Spider-Girl and many of her friends are called into action when someone starts kidnapping the great heroes of the Marvel Universe! Who will live? Who will die? And who will be the last hero standing?



## NEXT ISSUE:



Spider-Girl journeys into the Negative Zone to prevent Apox from destroying the original Fantastic Four. 'Nuff said!



STEPHANIE MOORE MOLLY LAZER JOE QUESADA

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**ENOUGH!**

Of all who stood  
against me today,  
only you have struck  
with the cold and  
calculating silence  
of a true warrior  
born.

**THWOKKK!**

You have dared  
to challenge a living  
god and have won his  
grudging respect.

But I can  
tarry here no  
longer.

Redemption  
is within my  
grasp.

The Fantastic  
Five will now suffer  
the vengeance of  
APOX!



The room immediately  
depressurizes.

Though stunned and barely  
conscious, you instinctively  
plant yourself on the floor--

--and snatch hold of Franklin  
before he can be sucked into  
the howling void.



Maybe you accidentally stumbled upon this battle.



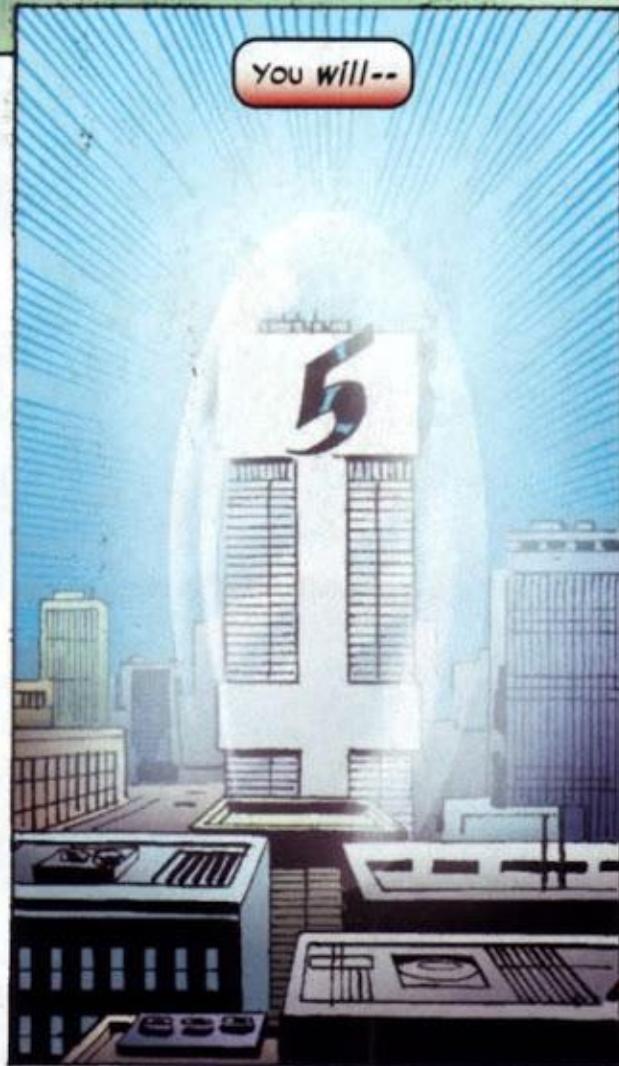
Maybe you felt overwhelmed and out of your league.



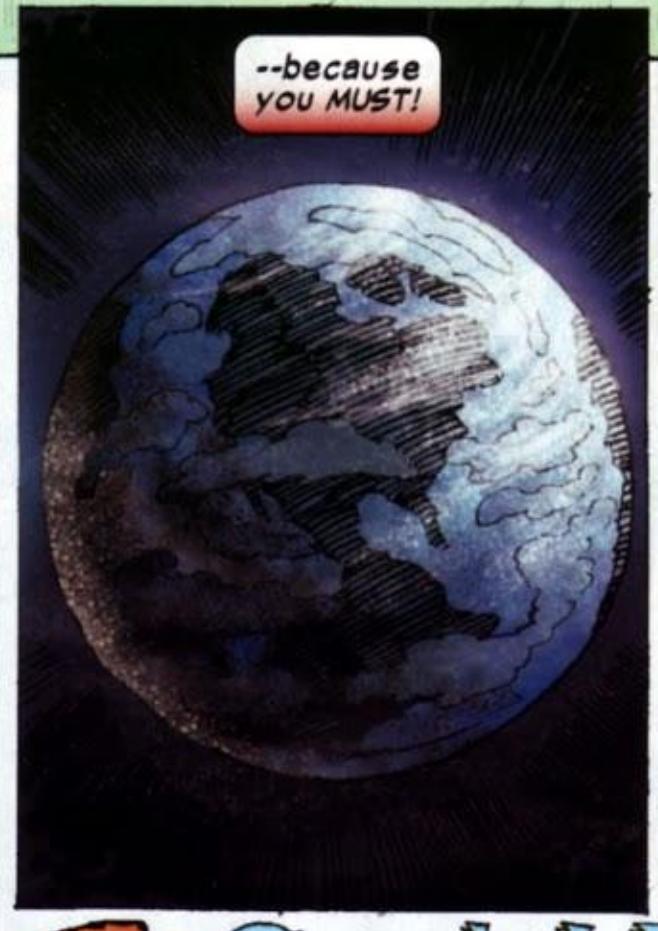
You will find a way to win the day.



You will--



--because YOU MUST!



ZB Concluded



# DC Babes

Another fine DCP scan