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SHRIEKING PART THREE the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IN THE
AFTERMATH OF
TRAGEDY --

-- PETER PARKER™
NO MORE!

MARK + RANDY
after
JAZZY JOHNNY

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNIID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

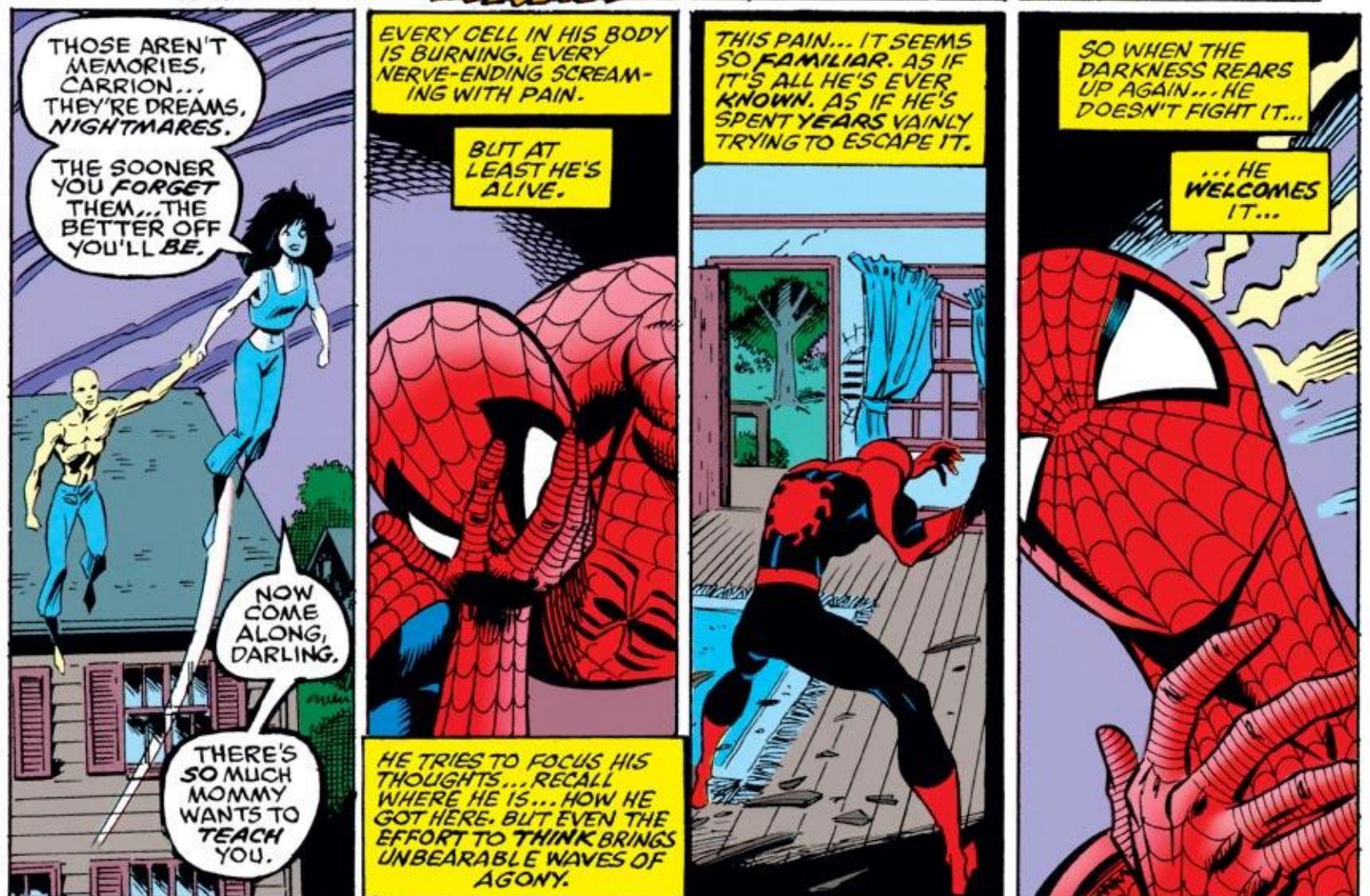
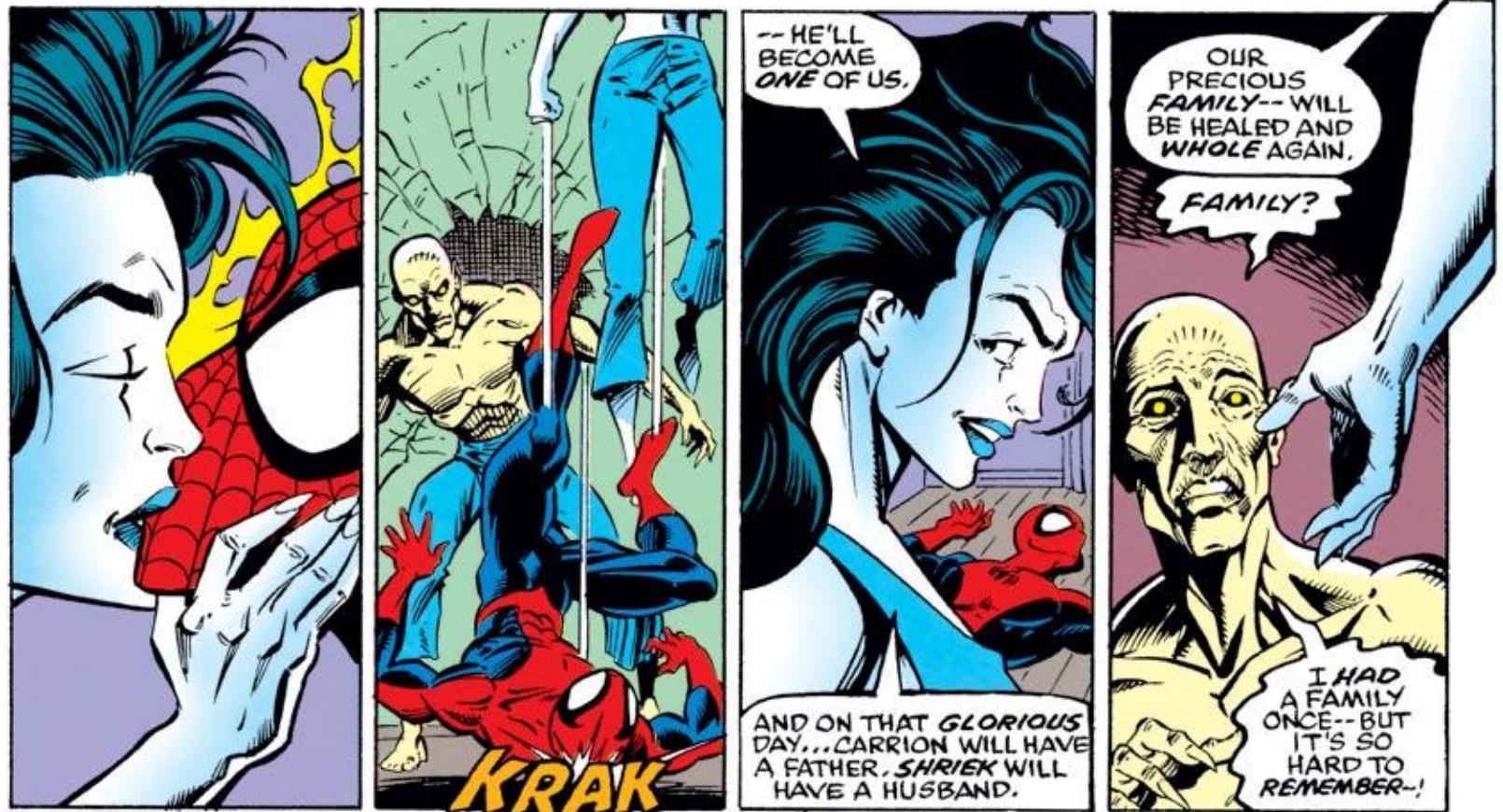
Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



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...INTO
OBVIOUS.

SHRIEKING, PART THREE: The **COCOON!**

FOREST HILLS.



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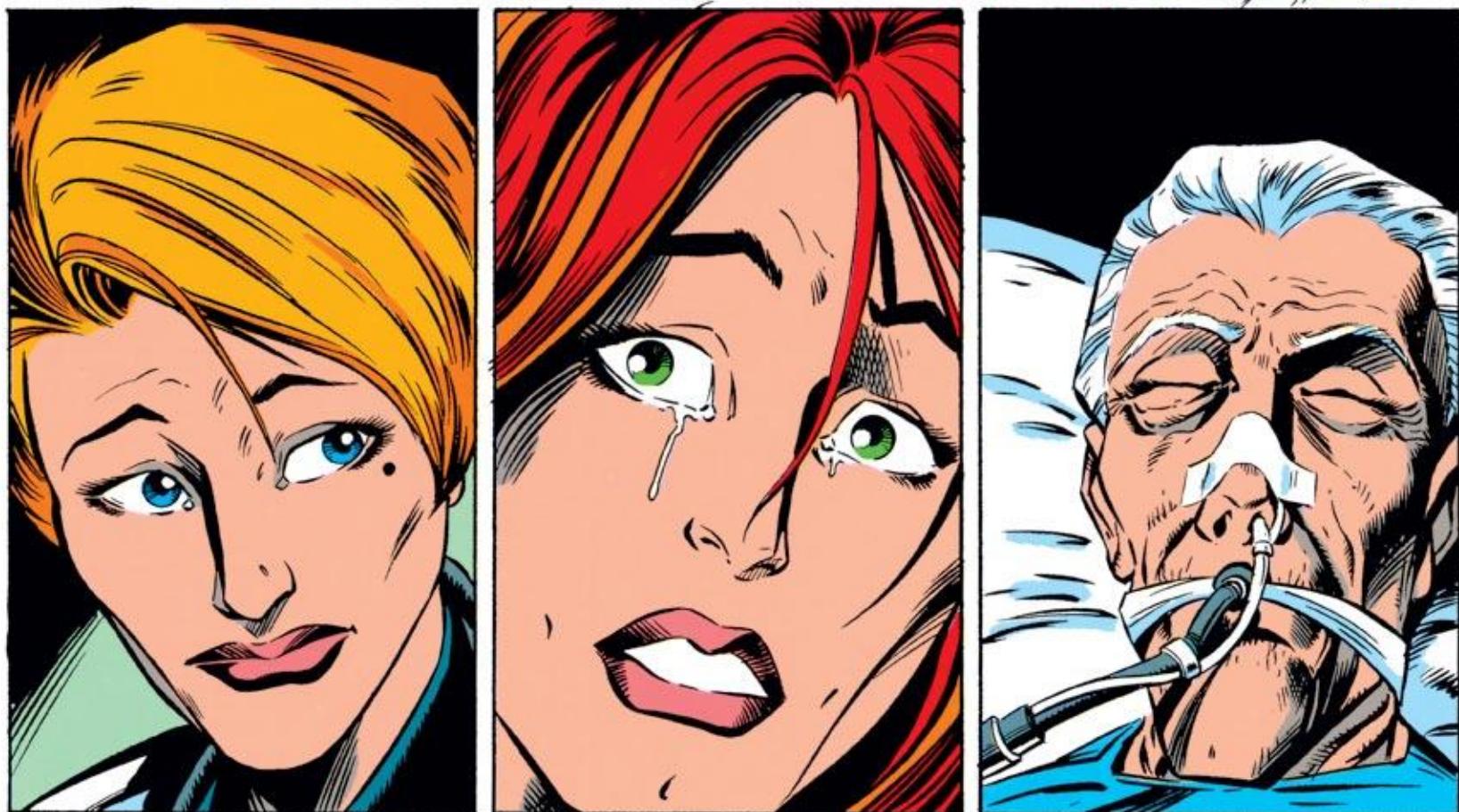
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ASKED TIME AND AGAIN BY DOCTOR KAFKA TO DETAIL THE CHILDHOOD ABUSES SHE ALLUDED TO, FRANCES BARRISON WOULD TURN A BLANK EYE KAFKA'S WAY...

MOTHER--?

...AND SAY, IN A DEAD, DRONING VOICE: "I DON'T REMEMBER."

WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, KAFKA WOULD AGAIN ASK--COMPASSIONATELY, TENDERLY--ABOUT THE MEMORIES, AND BARRISON WOULD AGAIN STARE, DEAD-EYED, AT THE DOCTOR, CLAIMING NO RECOLLECTION.

THE FACT WAS, KAFKA REALIZED, THAT BARRISON WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. HER CONSCIOUS MIND HAD BLOCKED OUT THE DETAILS OF THE HORRORS HEAPED UPON HER.

THEN--SOMETIMES FOR HOURS ON END-- SHE WOULD SCREAM AND CLAW AT HERSELF; WRITHE AND TREMBLE AND HOWL.

MOTHER... PLEASE--

--STOP!

BUT IN THE SHADOWS OF THE UNCONSCIOUS, THE TRUTH FESTERED AND BOILED, PUSHING AT THE FRAGILE BARRIERS SHRIEK'S PSYCHE ERECTED TO PROTECT ITSELF.

THEY'RE PUSHING NOW.

HER BODY, TOO, REMEMBERS WHAT THE MIND CHOOSES TO DENY. EACH HAND THAT TOUCHED HER, EACH PHYSICAL DEGRADATION, HAS LEFT ITS IMPRINT ON HER SKIN--SEEPING DEEP INTO EVERY MUSCLE, BONE, AND CELL.

AND IS IT ANY WONDER THAT HER "SON" COWERS IN TERROR, HIS "MOTHER'S" OUTBURST TRIGGERING MEMORIES OF HIS OWN...

IS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, THAT FRANCES BARRISON SHRIEKS--SEEKING TO WASH THE DISEASE OUT AND AWAY...

...ON SONIC WAVE AFTER SONIC WAVE?

...MEMORIES OF ANOTHER MOTHER--ONE FAR KINDER, FAR SANER THAN THIS TORMENTED SOUL?

SHE SENSES CARRION'S CONFUSION...

...SENSES HER "CHILD" SLIPPING AWAY...

CARRION... DARLING... WHAT IS IT?

...AND THAT REALIZATION PULLS HER BACK FROM THE HEART OF HER MADNESS.

BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OF LOSING THE ONE SOUL IN THE WORLD WHO'S BECOME THE FOCUS FOR HER DESPERATE NEED FOR LOVE...

Y-YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER!

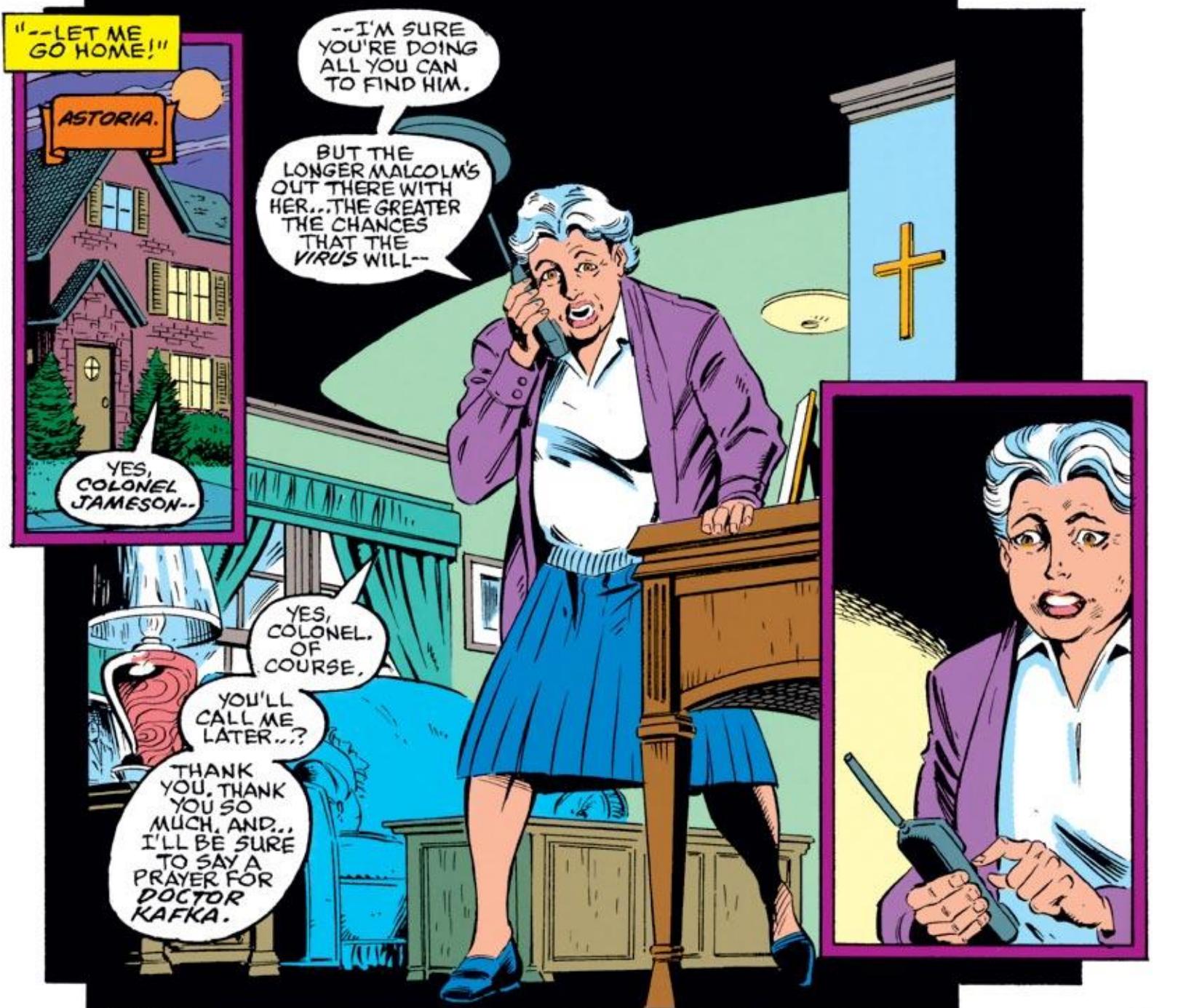
...IS EVEN MORE TERRIFYING THAN THE DEMONS OF THE PAST.

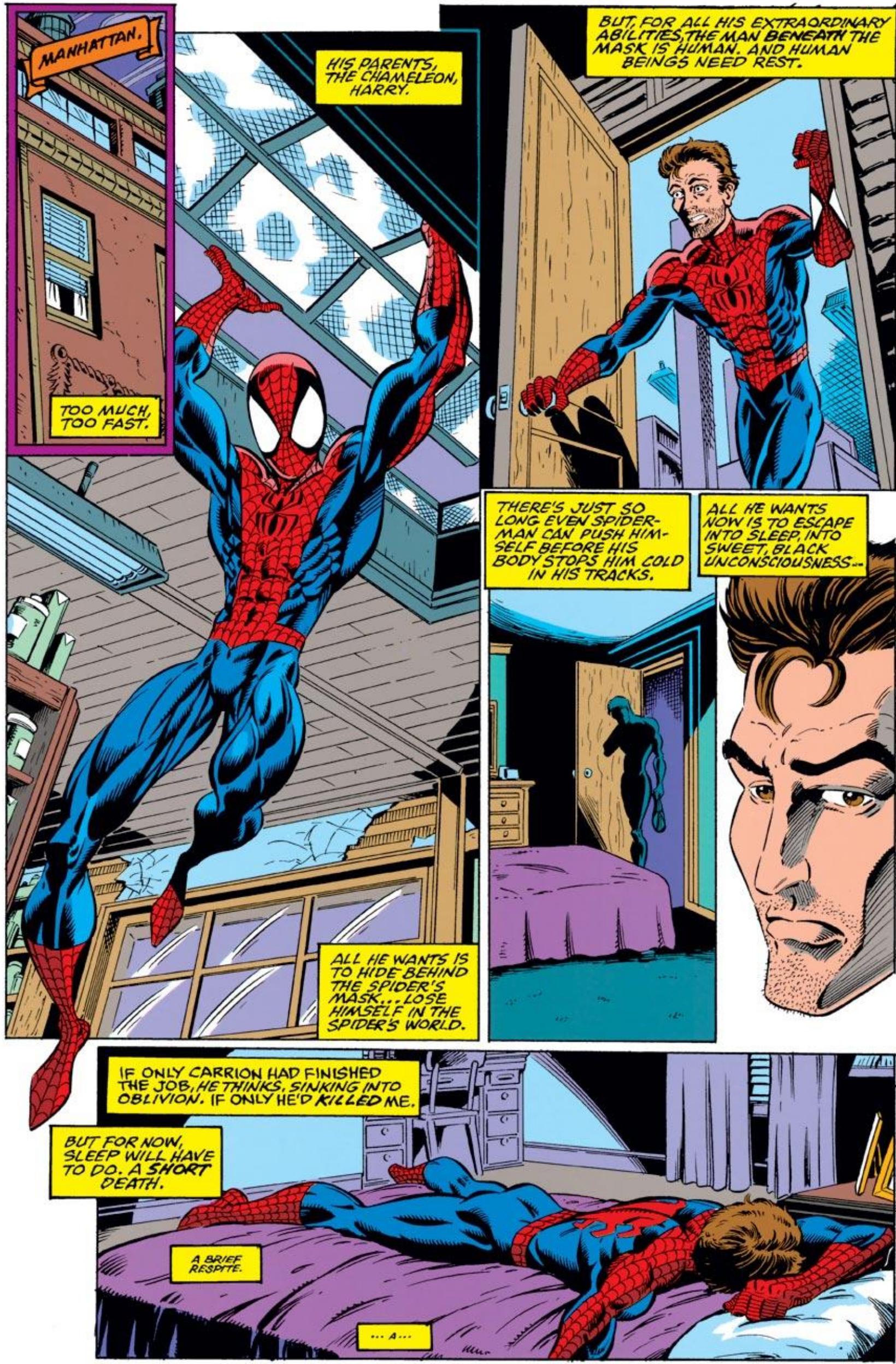
OF COURSE I AM, SWEET-HEART.

I'M YOUR MOTHER--AND I LOVE YOU!

NO, YOU'RE NOT!

BUT... IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE... IF YOU DO LOVE ME... PLEASE...



















NOW, MARY JANE
REALIZES, EVEN
THE MASK ISN'T
ENOUGH.

NOW HE HAS TO
GO DEEPER--
INTO THE DARK.
INTO THE WARM.
INTO THE SOUND-
LESS AND SOULLESS.

INTO THE
COCOON.

A PLACE OF NO
THOUGHT OR FEEL-
ING. A PLACE WHERE
PEOPLE CAN'T GET
CLOSE TO HIM. CAN'T
BETRAY HIM. CAN'T
HURT HIM.

CAN'T
DIE.

SHE STANDS, NUMB AND DISBELIEVING, FOR FIVE INFINITE,
UNENDURABLE MINUTES.

THEN, BEYOND TEARS, SHE
TURNS AND WALKS OUT OF
THE ROOM, OUT OF THE
APARTMENT...

...LEAVES
HIM THERE...

... WHERE
HE WANTS
TO BE:

ALONE...

...IN
THE
DARK.



SOMEONE DIED THERE IN THE COCOON.
SOMEONE SOFT AND VULNERABLE. SOMEONE
BRUTALIZED AND FRIGHTENED.

BUT THERE'LL BE
NO TEARS FOR
THE DECEASED.

NO
PRAYERS.

NO
REQUIEMS.

REST IN PEACE, PETER
PARKER, HE THINKS.
LONG MAY YOU ROT.

NOW AND FOREVER--

