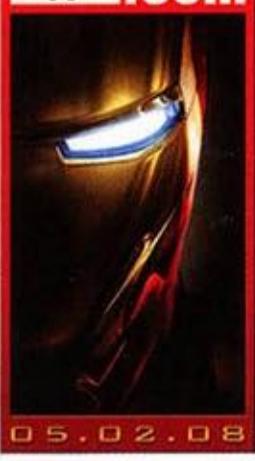


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When she suddenly learns she's a mutant, **Sara Hingle** struggles to accept the truth until **Mayday Parker** reveals that she was also born with special abilities.



A mysterious woman named Araña secretly helps the **Hobgoblin**, who is attempting to overthrow the **Black Tarantula**, the current leader of the underworld. **Spider-Girl** later ruins his plans, but still feels guilty when she fails to prevent the murder of **Charlie Kurkle**.



While her brother recovers from an operation to correct a hearing problem that she accidentally caused, Mayday seeks solace in the arms of her former boyfriend **Gene Thompson**, promising to do whatever is necessary to make the relationship work.

SCRIPT, PLOT & PENCILS

**Tom DeFalco &
Ron Frenz**

INKS

Sal Buscema

COLORS

**Bruno Hang
Impacto Studios**

LETTERER

Dave Sharpe

COVER COLORS

Paul Mounts

PRODUCTION

Irene Lee

EDITOR

Molly Lazer

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Joe Quesada

PUBLISHER

Dan Buckley

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THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE

My name is May "Mayday" Parker and I am the daughter of Spider-Man.

He used to be one of the world's greatest super heroes until a career-ending injury forced him to mothball his webs.

He still fights crime as a forensics investigator for the NYPD...and is a pretty cool dad, overall.

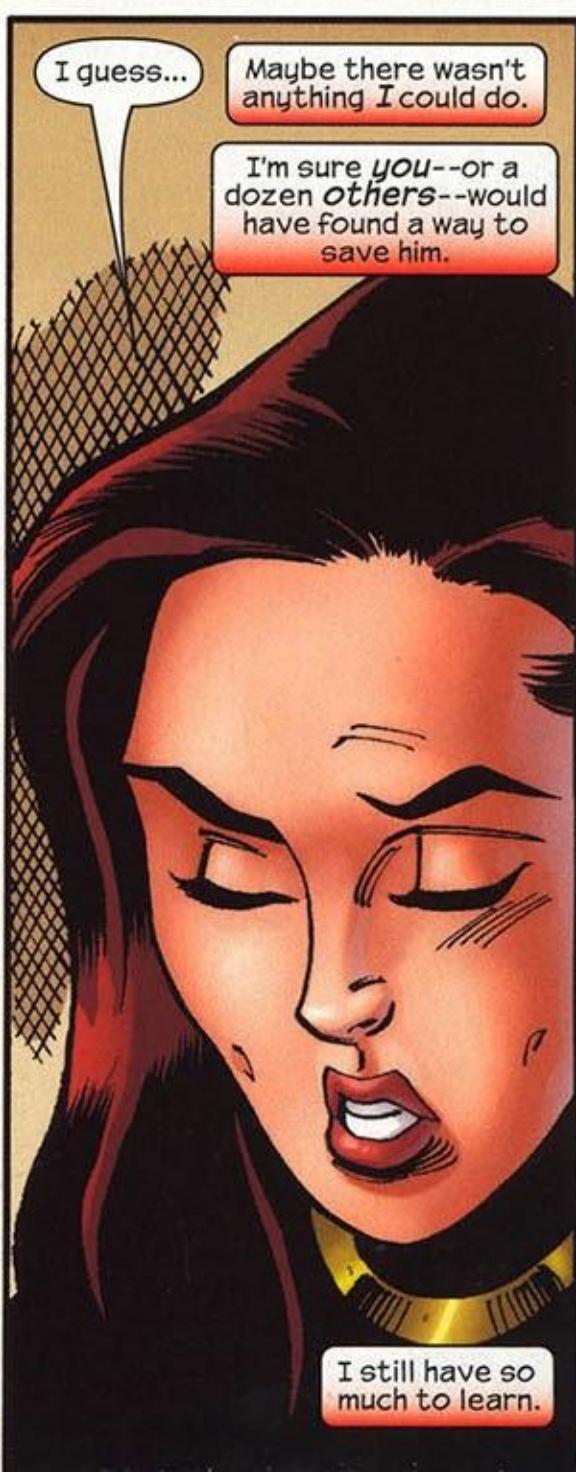
Unfortunately, he's no Rachael Ray.

Uhhhh... Dad?
Is your spider-sense tingling?

It should be.
Wha--?!?

You set your oven mitt on fire...again.





Meanwhile, in a secret temple in lower Manhattan...

What have you learned from our sources in the police department?

Though the newspapers are heralding the raid as a coup, most of the major crime bosses are already free on bail--

--and face minor, if any, charges.

What of the Black Tarantula?

He was never even present.



The only significant arrest appears to be *Deadspot*, an international assassin.



It also appears that the *Hobgoblin* has gone into hiding--

--and his associate, the mutant known as *Mindworm*, was found dead a few blocks from the scene.

Thank you, Acolyte.

Looks like your plan to lure the *Black Tarantula* into a trap failed, Araña.

I still believe she may eventually prove useful to us, Michael.

I knew you couldn't depend on *Hobgoblin* or *Spider-Girl*.

He's totally unreliable and she's too green.

Though young and inexperienced, *Spider-Girl* shows enormous potential.

She just needs a good teacher.



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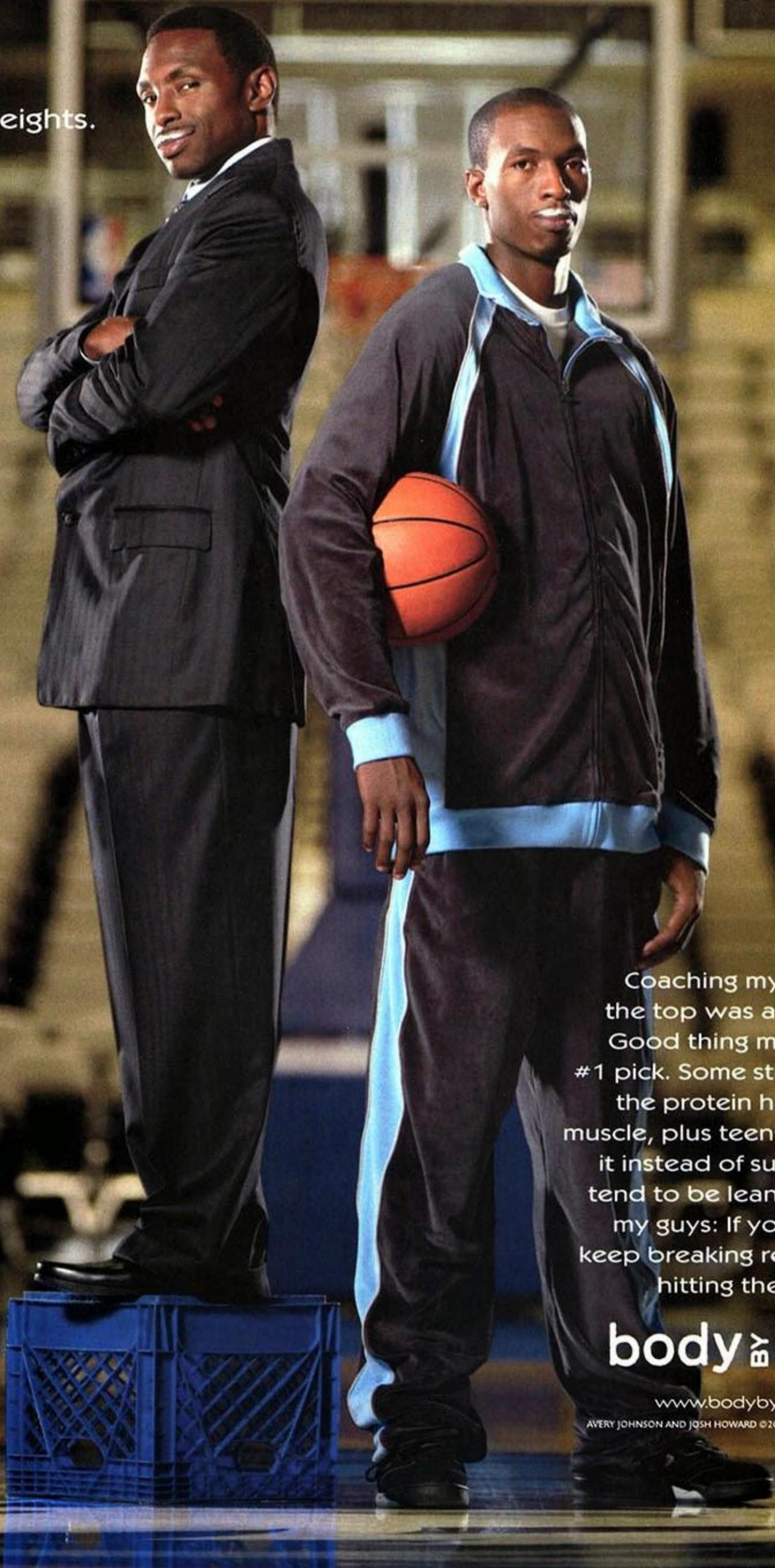






got milk?

New Heights.



Coaching my team to the top was a tall order. Good thing milk was my #1 pick. Some studies suggest the protein helps build muscle, plus teens who choose it instead of sugary drinks tend to be leaner. Like I tell my guys: If you want to keep breaking records, keep hitting the glass.

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Manhattan...

Everything ready?

Yes, mistress.

The one called
Spider-Girl is often
spotted in Forest
Hills--

--and usually
between the
hours of three
and ten.

Sounds
like she's a
student.

You know
what to do.

Hit the
rooftops--

--especially
around the local
high schools.

Is this really
necessary?

Even if you
establish contact
with the girl, there's
no reason to assume
she'll join us--

--and plenty
to assure she
won't.

I love that
streak of
optimism.

It's one of
your more
endearing
qualities.

I'm
serious,
Araña...

If she ever
finds out what
we're really
planning...

Relax,
Michael.

I can
handle a
teenage
girl.

Besides,
we can use
her.

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the Spider Society
used you?



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Forest Hills...





Forget it!

No way!

My life is already too complicated.

I need to stretch my limbs and clear my head--

--and come up with a great excuse to explain why I ditched Gene's practice.

I also need to figure out the best way to improve my spider-skills and--hey!

Is that clown spying on me?

Guy's probably a bird watcher.

Can't blame him for being distracted by the neighborhood web-swinging.

A second bird watcher?!?

Different rooftop.

Same M.O.

Whoa!

I'm suddenly getting all Simone, thinking the whole world revolves around me.

Still, my spider-sense did flag him and--

Coincidence?!

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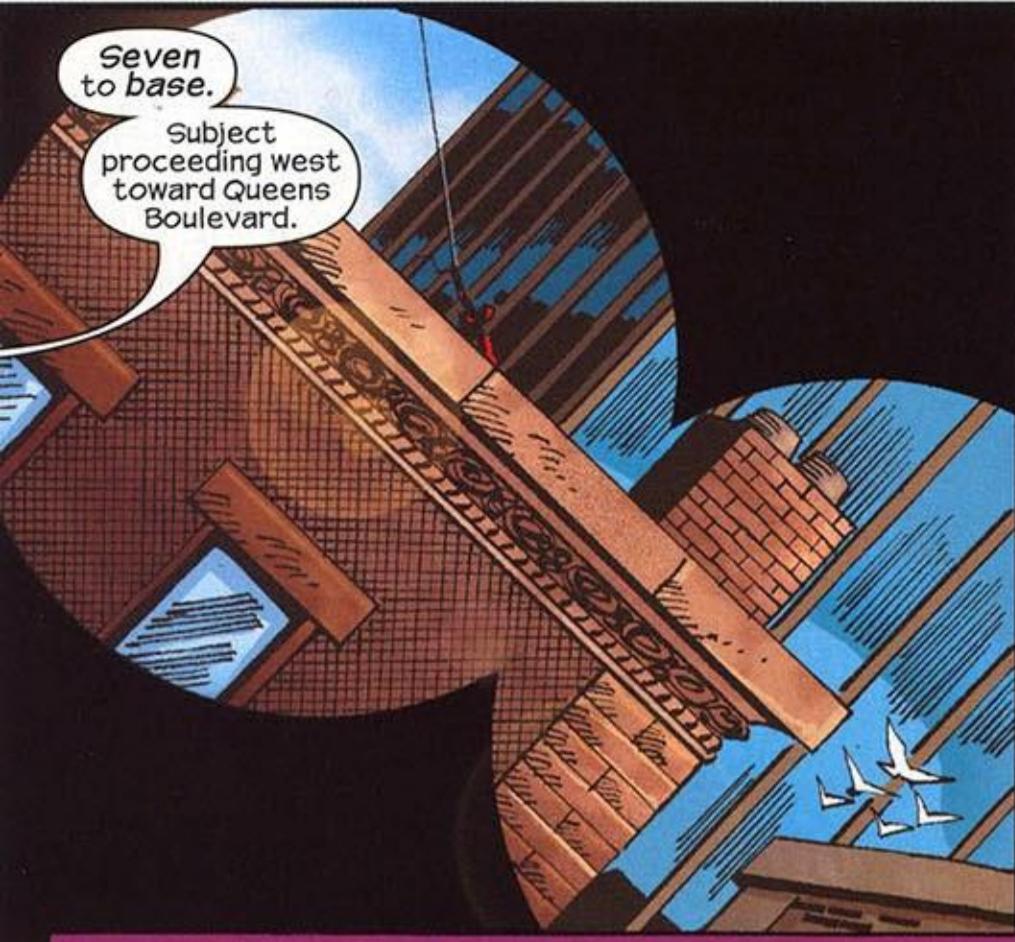
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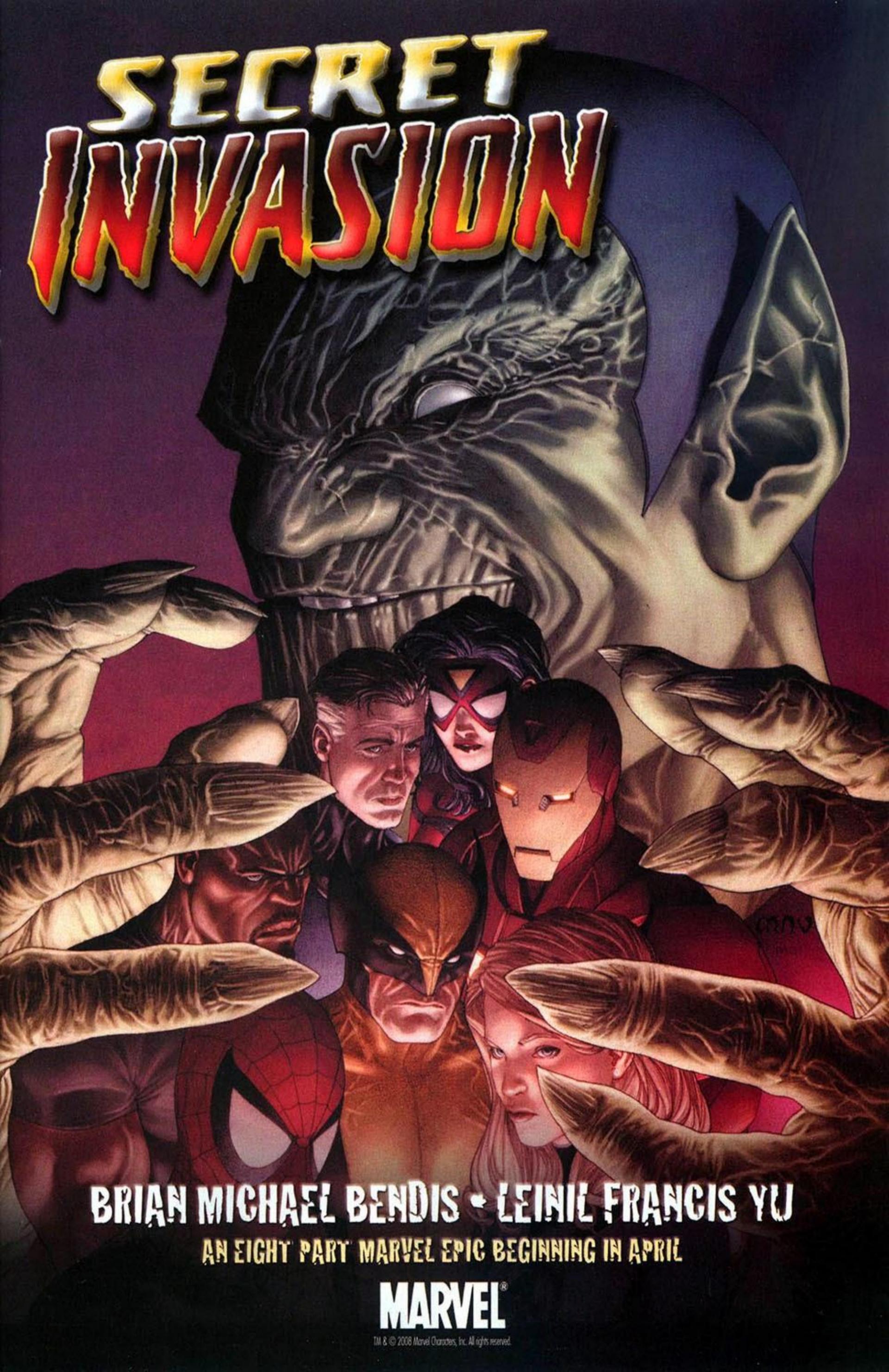
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giant



Araña is just another wannabe web-slinger as far as I'm concerned.

Like everyone who ever called herself Spider-Woman.

Why do they do it?

What's the big attraction?

Who really wants to be burdened by so much responsibility?

You're not the only one who knows subway routes.

I arrived at the last station in plenty of time to greet you.

You shouldn't have troubled yourself.

I mean, seriously.

You're far more arrogant than I anticipated, hermanita.

Lost in my own thoughts, I ignore the puzzled crowds who point at me from the passing platforms.

I sit through a couple of stops--

--until a nagging tingle rivets my attention.

I know you're just trying to goad me into fighting back.

Congratulations!

We have a WINNER!

TWOKKKKK!

Congratulations!

We have a WINNER!



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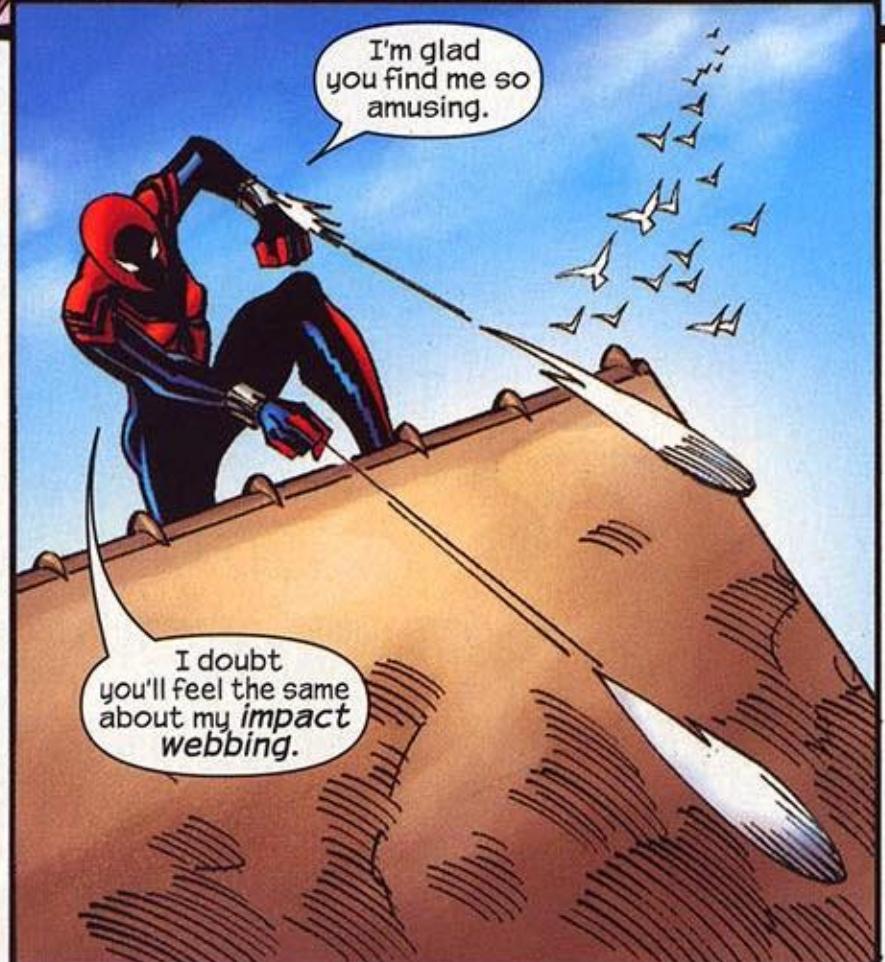
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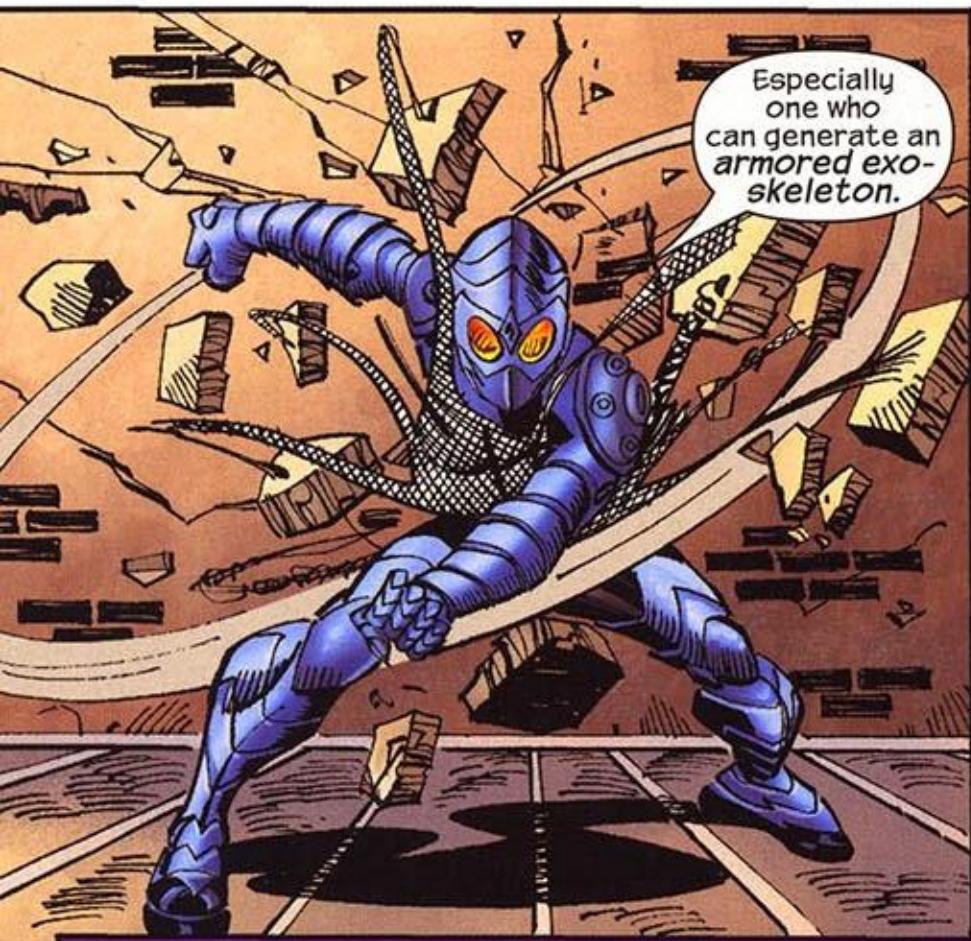
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LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

EISNER-NOMINATED COMIC SCRIBE, JASON AARON

MARVEL: So, first off, welcome to Marvel! How's it feel being a Marvel exclusive creator?

JASON AARON: Feels like I'm a kid who's just been given access to the world's biggest, coolest toy chest. In other words, I'm loving every minute of it. Marvel has a ton of characters that fit my sensibilities as a writer, so I'm looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship.

MARVEL: Your first Wolverine arc just started, hot on the heels of the acclaimed Messiah Complex. How did you score that?

JA: Well, the story I did for Wolverine #56 was very well-received, so editor Axel Alonso asked me to come back and do some more. The first story I ever had published was in the pages of Wolverine, so it was a nice bit of serendipity to find myself here again.



MARVEL: What are you bringing to the Mystique/Wolverine dynamic?

JA: Mostly a lot of anger and violence. Wolverine seems determined to kill Mystique, but she's not making it easy for him. In fact, she's throwing everything she possibly can at him. Like Wolverine, Mystique has been around a long, long time, and you don't get to be that old while living the kind of life she's lived without being a thoroughly dangerous individual, as we'll see.

MARVEL: Ghost Rider is another title you took over. What do you think of the direction Daniel Way took the character in, revealing him to be an angel rather than a demon?

JA: It left me in a great spot to be able to take things in a bit of a different direction, to introduce new challenges and new enemies, while still retaining the same action-fueled horror story feel that Ghost Rider fans have come to know and love. So while he may be an angel now, if you thought for a second that Ghost Rider was about to lose his edge, you're dead wrong.

If anything, things are only getting more and more wild from here on out.

MARVEL: There's been a long debate over who should be Ghost Rider: Johnny Blaze or Danny Ketch. Which do you think made the better Ghost Rider, Danny or Johnny?

JA: I'm totally partial to Johnny Blaze as Ghost Rider. To me, he's just always been the more compelling character, mainly because of how he's so tortured by the mistakes of his past, like say, selling his soul to the devil, that's a pretty big one. But I enjoyed the '90s Ghost Rider series too and we will be re-introducing some elements from that series in a very big way.

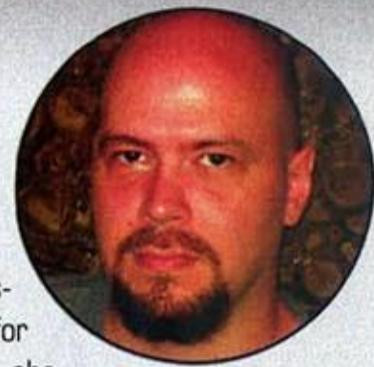
MARVEL: Secret Invasion is coming, and it seems you've caught Skrull fever, too, with a tie-in arc in Black Panther. Can you tease what's going on there?

JA: Quite simply, it's Wakanda versus the Skrulls, in a battle for the ages. Think *Braveheart*, but with green skin.

MARVEL: If you could make only one person in the Marvel U. a Skrull, who would it be and why?

JA: Matt Fraction. Because he's just too good of a writer to be human.

'Nuff Said!



MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Hey, Spider-Girl Gang!

Wow, ASG #15 was a really fun and exciting story! I am so very impressed that you managed to squeeze all those beloved characters into it. It was great seeing Meagyn, Sandra, Funny Face, Fury, Seth and all the rest again, even if it was just for a panel or two. And Moose is coming back? Awesome! And Hobby and Mindworm make a great team! Page 11 gave me the BIGGEST laugh I've had in months, and I really needed a good laugh. I sometimes used to wonder if you guys made Spider-Girl's life a little too rough, but sometimes life imitates art. I want to personally thank you for thoroughly entertaining me with this issue. Thank you so much. Spider-Girl is a wonderful person whom I enjoy watching. The stories and characters are worth investing myself emotionally, and Spider-Girl and her adventures are worth cheering for. Did I forget to mention I thought this was a great issue? Here's to another ten years, guys!

John Koerner
Panama City, FL

We're actually aiming for another TWENTY, John.

Dear Molly, Tom, Ron, Sal, et al.,

I just had to write in and tell you how good AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #17 was. I really love the way the subplots are picking up steam, from Mayday finally getting a bit suspicious of Drasco, to the good prognosis on Benji's hearing, to--shock!--a possible reconciliation with Gene Thompson!

Also, Ron Frenz's art really shone! It's always good, but this time it was spectacular. That full-page splash of Hobgoblin against the lightning is going to go down as one of the most iconic images of Roderick Kingsley since way, way back when he first became Hobby. And who ever put in the big KRAKA-BOOM!, that was a very nice touch; reminded me of Walt Simonson's THOR.

Until Roddy joins Project Runway, make mine MC2!

John Dillon
Sedalia, MO

Don't tell anyone, John, but there are more than a few Project Runway fans on the Spider-Girl team.

Dear Tom, Ron, Sal and Molly,

With ASG #17 you really hit another one out of the park. SPIDER-GIRL harkens back to the great comics of yesterday, in this instance paying homage to the classic

Ditko/Lee story, "The Mystery of the Man in the Crime-Master's Mask" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #26. I'm sure with Tom writing it, that the homage was intentional. And with no disrespect to Ron, Ditko did it better, but Ron did a great job re-imagining that final page.

I want to let you know that after reading my old issues for years, my niece has finally asked me to buy her a copy of her own because the copy I was passing on to her was being demolished by her friends.

Keep up the great storytelling and Make Mine Marvel!

Jeff Ghearing
Wellston, OH

Tell your niece that she needs to convince her friends to buy their own copies, Jeff.

Dear Spider-Girl,

First of all I want to congratulate everyone for the ten-year anniversary of SPIDER-GIRL. I know I'm a little late, but I get my comics on a monthly basis here in Holland. I've been collecting comics for about 20 years now and I've been enjoying this title for half of that time.

I'm really glad SPIDER-GIRL made it this far as it is my favorite title in the Spider books, and I'm the proud owner of the full run, including WHAT IF...? #105 from so many years ago.

A few years ago I was forced to sell off 90% of my comic book collection because I just did not have enough room in my house anymore. I also had to stop buying some titles, but SPIDER-GIRL was one of the titles I could not bid goodbye to. It is still the first book I read when I get my monthly dose.

I really like the way this title has stood out all these years and the stories are getting better and better.

I will definitely keep on getting this title and hope to see a lot more of the Black Tarantula, and I actually hope that he and Spider-Girl will end up with each other some time in the future.

Keep up the good work! You already got me hooked up for life.

David Homma
Almere, The Netherlands

You make us blush, David! All we can say in response is...

Thanks for being there!
Tom D.

NEXT ISSUE:



Mayday a cheerleader?



American Dream #1 & 2

Our star-spangled sentinel is surprised when a hunt for a missing fiancée leads to an unexpected battle.

MOLLY LAZER
EDITOR

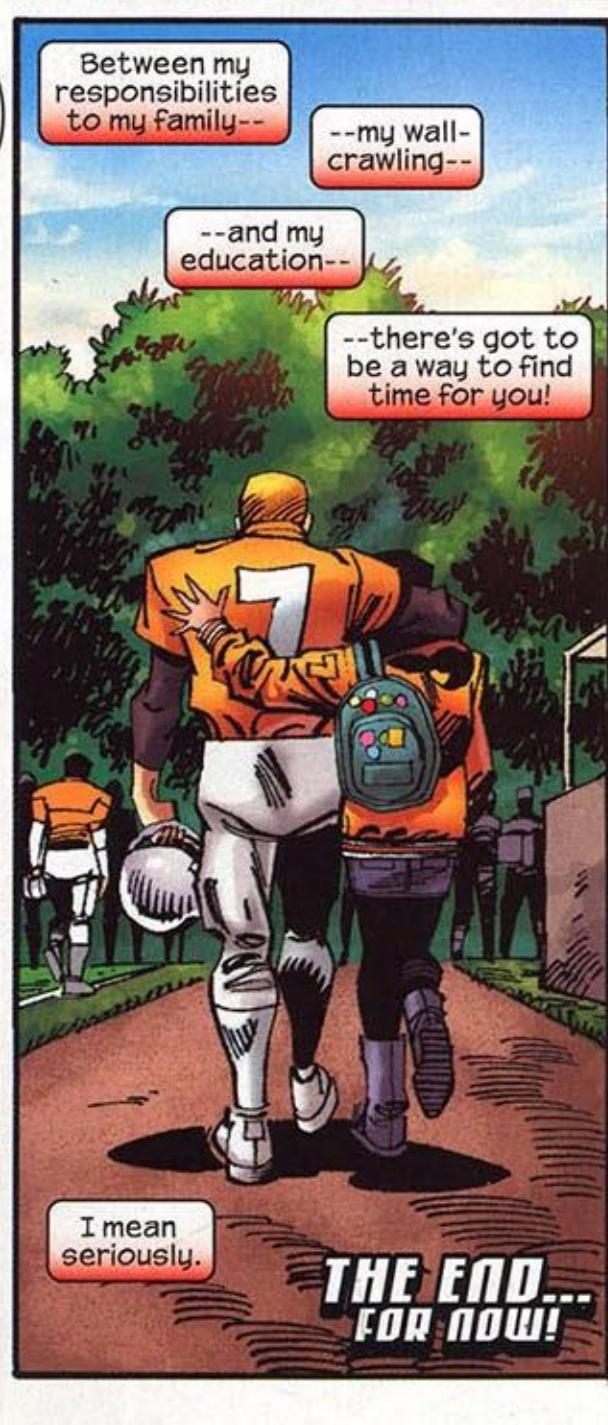
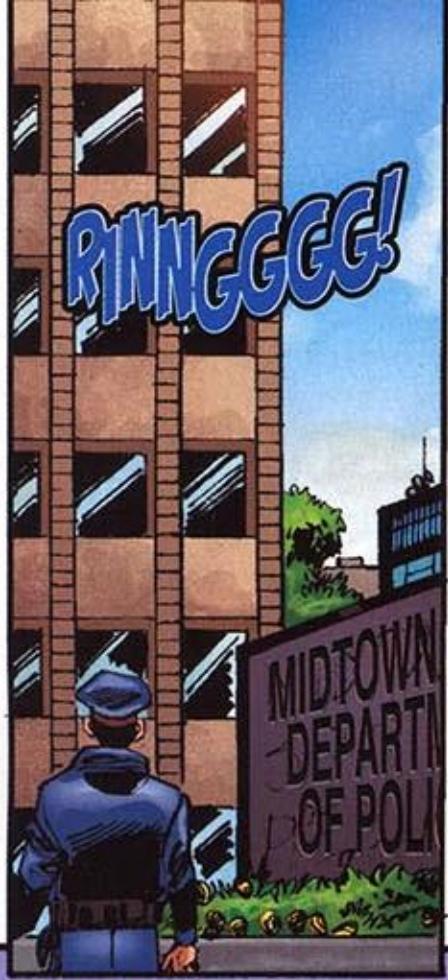
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