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SPIDER-MAN

DEFALCO
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PREVIOUSLY

in SPIDER-GIRL



Spider-Girl accidentally shrinks her costume in a clothes-drying mishap before being crushed by Lady Octopus in their second savage confrontation. After Lady Octopus breaks Canis out of jail, Spider-Girl is almost buried alive in the New York sewers before she decides to form an unholy alliance with the Black Tarantula.

With Chesbro acting as her liaison, Spider-Girl learns that the Black Tarantula has hired Elektra to train her in the martial arts and that he has also established Team Spider to help her capture Canis and Lady Octopus. Spider-Girl also trades in her traditional red, blue & web-covered costume for a new black-&-white one.

Stan Lee Presents... Spider-Girl in: "Keeping the Faith"

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#75

"KEEPING THE FAITH!"

Your name is May "Mayday" Parker and you are the daughter of Spider-Man.

A few hours ago, you decided to change your look and bought yourself a new costume--a sleek little black-and-white number!

Unfortunately, you forgot to warn your parents.

Big mistake, girl!

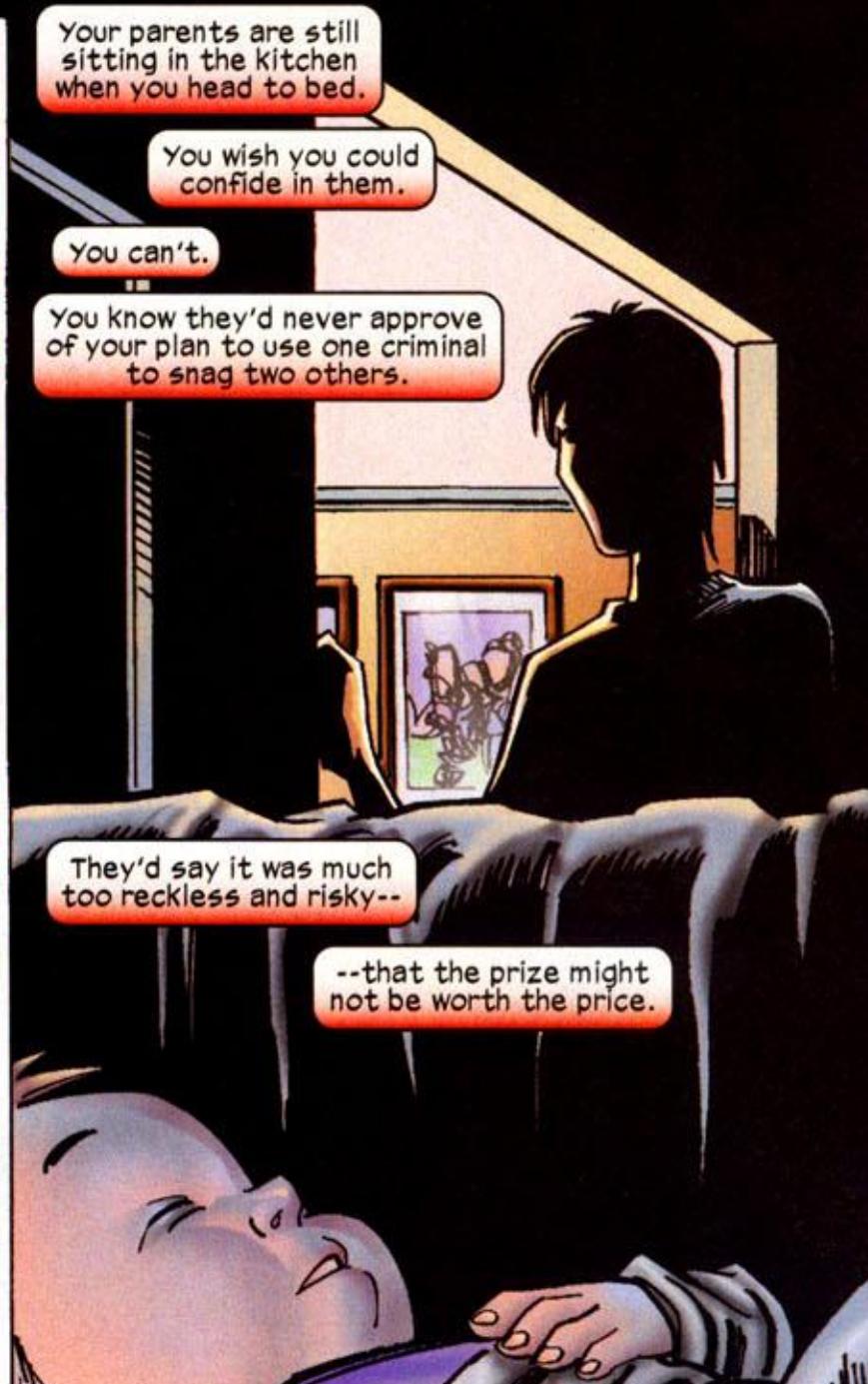
Very big mistake!











Morning comes
much too soon...



Do you think she suspects, master?

What are you prattling about, Chesbro?

Spider-Girl, master. Not only did she miss her morning lesson with Elektra, but she failed to give an adequate excuse to June.

And why should Spider-Girl explain herself to an underling?

She shouldn't... but it is her way.

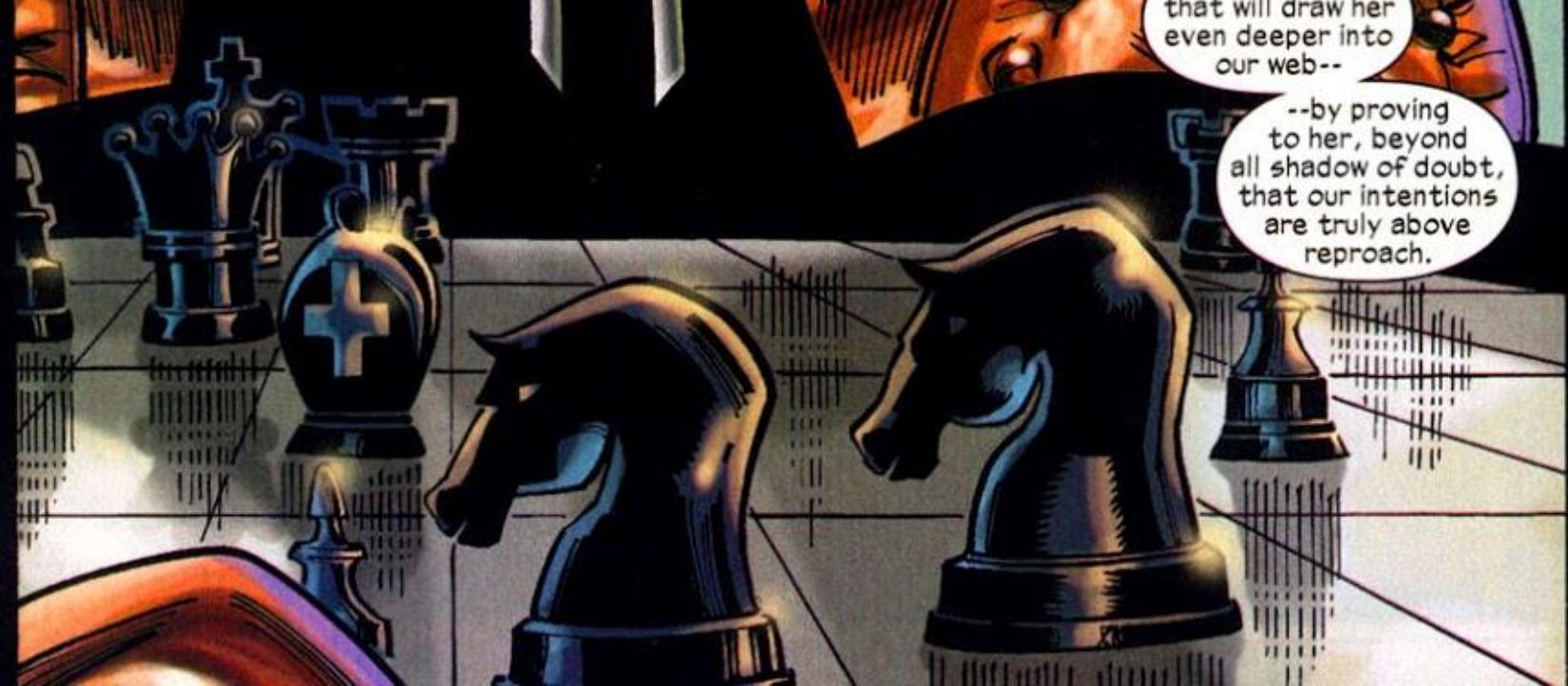
If I have my way, you will see even greater changes over time.

However, I trust your instincts.



I have a plan that will draw her even deeper into our web--

--by proving to her, beyond all shadow of doubt, that our intentions are truly above reproach.



During the course of the school day, your mind keeps drifting back to your mom--

--her reaction to your new costume--

--and the "bad experience" she once had.

You sometimes forget that your parents had lives and adventures before you were born. Lives you'll never know or understand. Secret lives...

Hey, Sandra.

Parker.

I see Sandra Healy's still freezing you out.

You have a gift for understatement, Courtney.

You shouldn't take it personally, May. It's not your fault that you learned her boyfriend was using her for a punching bag.

I still can't believe she's going back to him. She must have more issues than the Daily Bugle.

What's she thinking? Why would anyone deliberately put herself in such danger?

Speaking of boyfriends, there's yours--!

Hey, Moose! Where have you been today?

We keep missing each other.

Sorry, Court, but I've been kind of busy. Got a few things on my mind.

You want to talk about it over a coffee or something?

Nah, can't do it today. Maybe tomorrow.

What's that all about?

Something's bothering that boy. I wonder what-- Oh, great!

I...I'm sure she has her reasons.

Uhhh... Okay.

You need to excuse me, Courtney. I have to take this call.

You feel guilty for deserting Courtney, but June finally picked up a reliable tip on this crime summit thing.

Still, you can't help but wonder if Moose is just having an off day--

--or is he also living a secret life?

Not that you have time to worry about that now.

You're scheduled to meet June in an hour--

--which barely gives you time to score a new costume.

Should you get another black-and-white or go traditional?

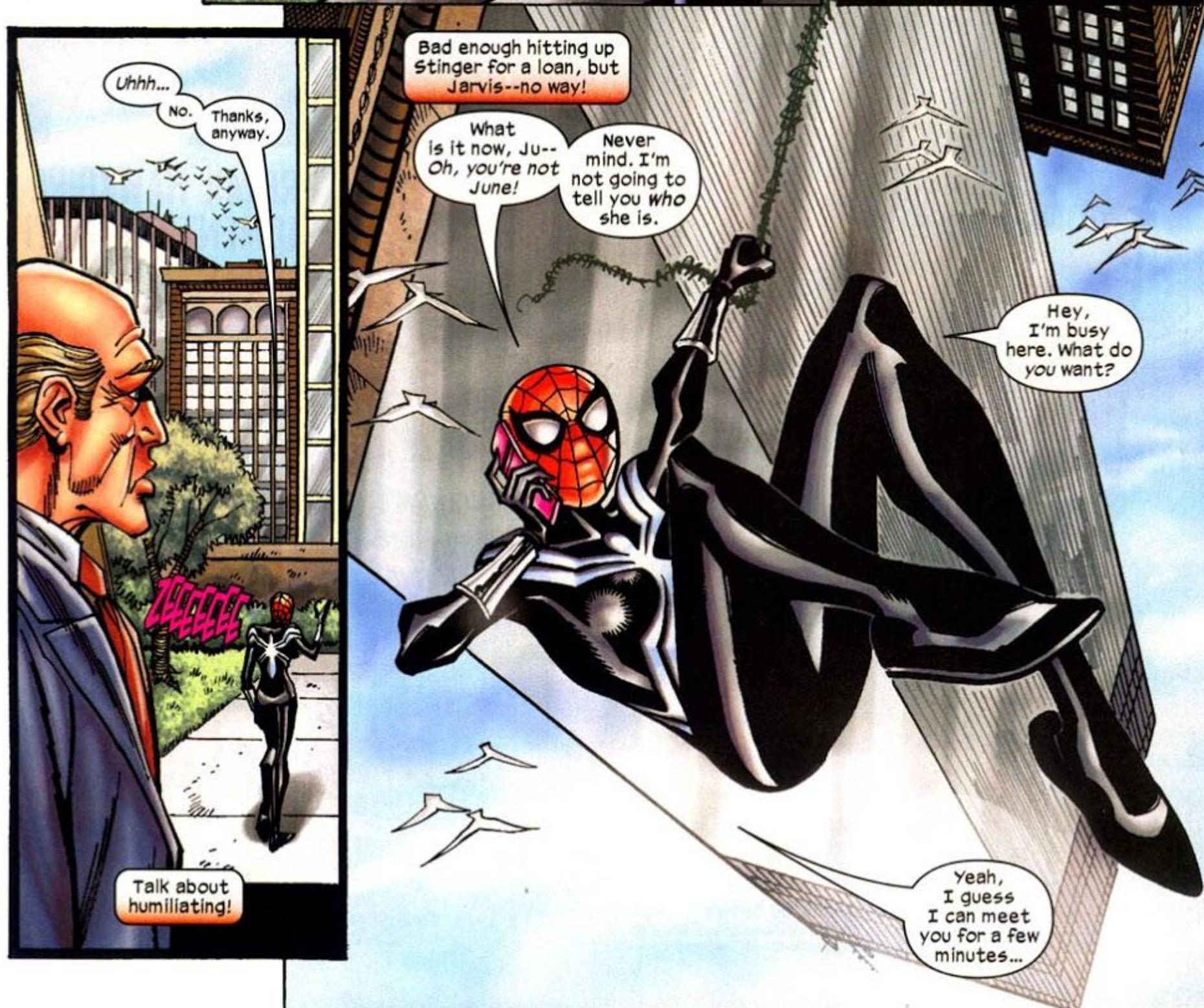
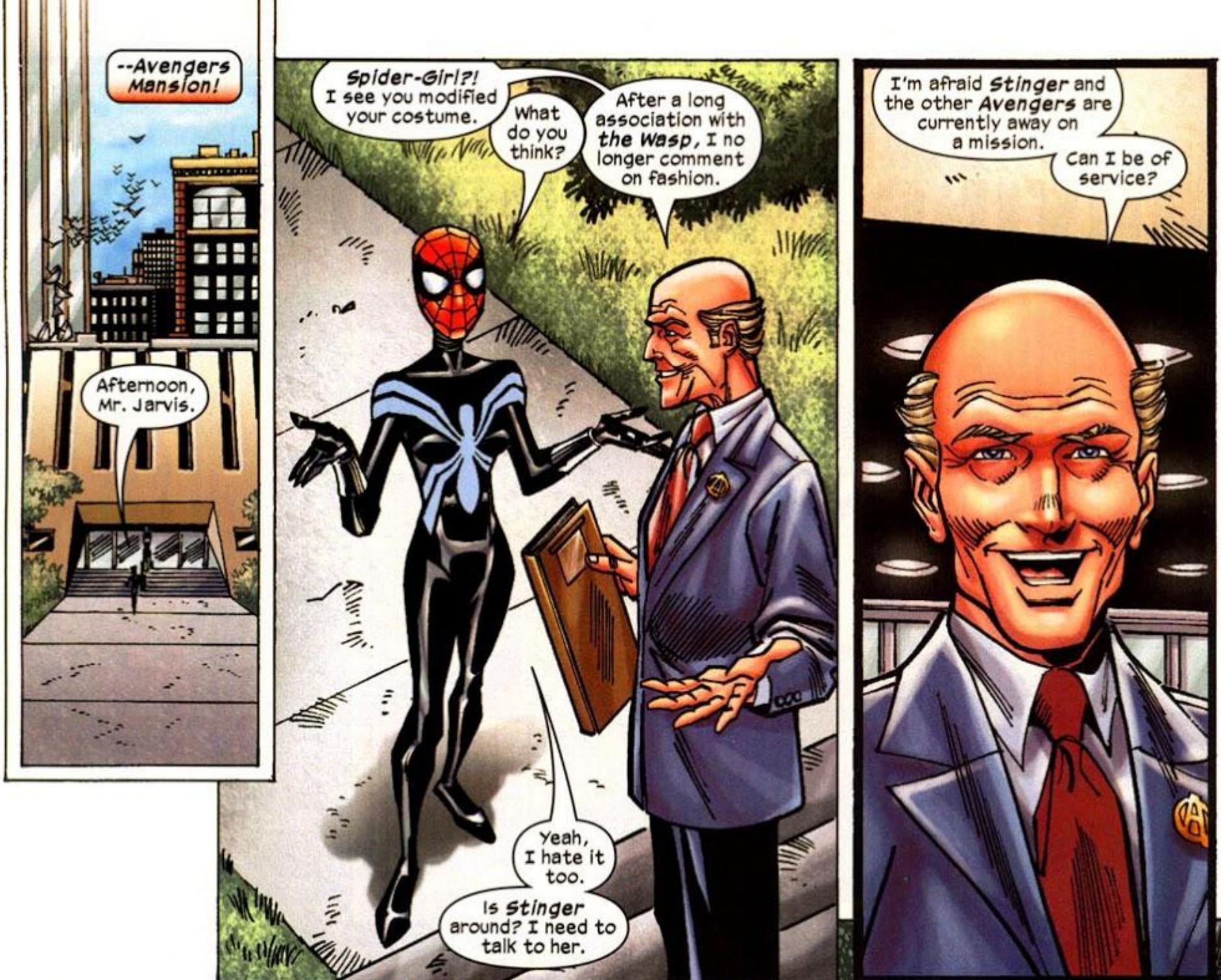
Here's another one--did you change your look because you're secretly ashamed of being associated with the Black Tarantula?



Whatever! You can only guess how ridiculous you look right now.

The last costume wiped out your savings.





Okay,
I'm here--

--although I must
say it's pretty weird to
see you guys together.
I thought you hated
each other.

Darkdevil is an occasional ally...and
a costumed vigilante with the powers
of a demon and the soul of a hero.

Kaine is a former mercenary
who presently heads a top secret
government super-team.

The only
thing I hate is that
new costume. You
need to invest in a
mirror, girl.

There's
something odd
about--that's one
of your father's
old masks!

I recognize the
eyepieces. Yours are
more pointed at
the tips.

Very good,
Kaine.

Women like
men who pay
attention.

We
also like men who
get to the point...
so what do you
want?

My people heard
that the **Black Tarantula**
is in town and that you're
somehow tied up with
him.

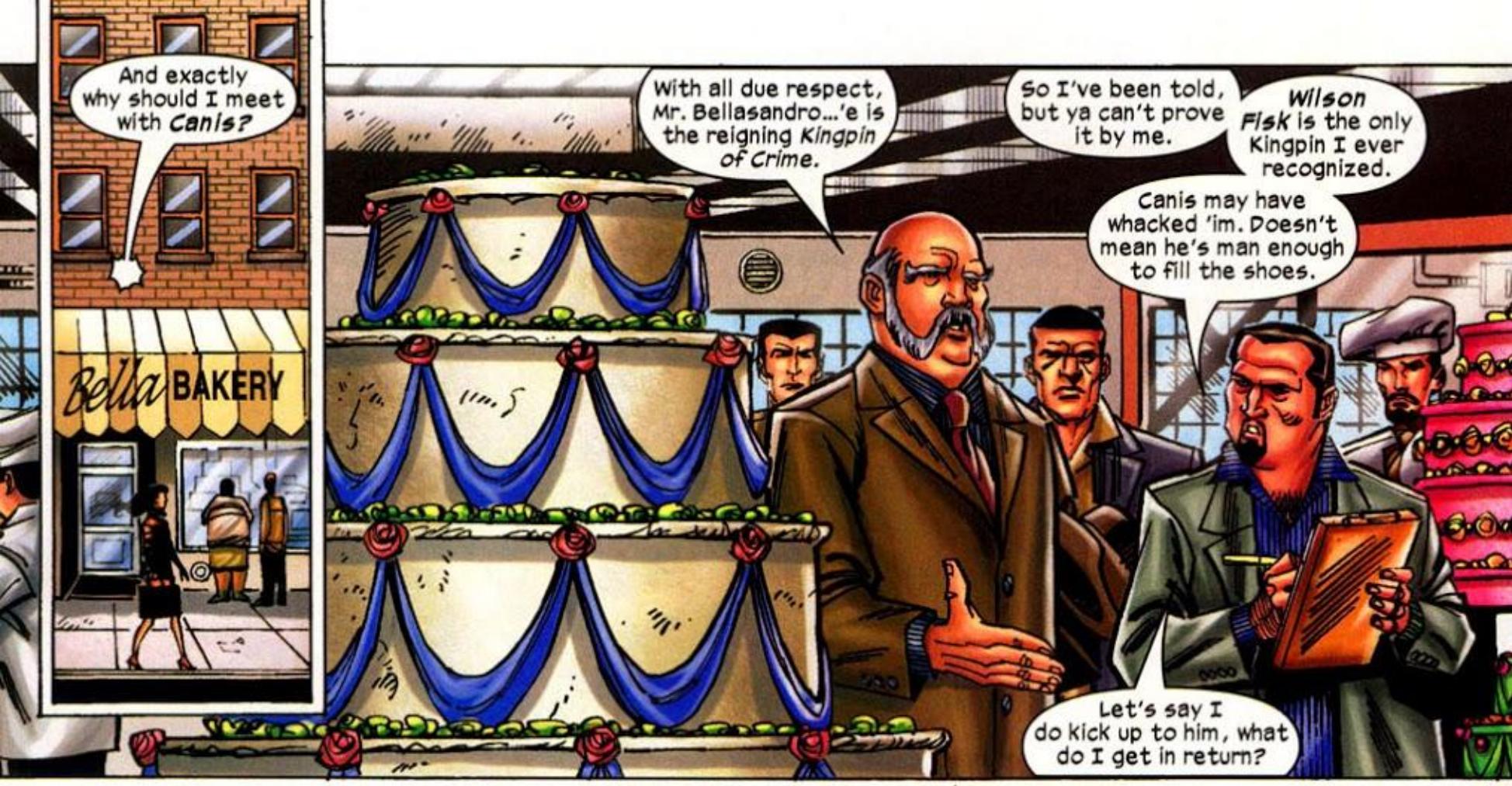
The new costume
adds credibility to
the rumor.

Care to
comment?

Why should I?
Do you tell me all
your secrets?







You failed to reach Normie on your cell and that worries you.

--making you sluggish and impairing your judgment!

Almost got'er!

Your lack of sleep also seems to be catching up--

Almost only counts in horse-shoes, my friend.

Although you guys bear an uncanny resemblance to a distinctive part of a horse's anatomy.

THWIP!

THWIP!

Don't shoot! I surrender. If you guys are cops, I want my lawyer.

If ya ain't the law, I'm sure we can make a deal.

Shut up! We work for Spider-Girl and she doesn't make deals with scum.

Disarm that creep and put him with the rest of his crew.

The boss will probably want to question him.

Ohmigosh! I just realized something. These guys haven't committed any crimes. We attacked them without provocation.

They're crooks and you're a costumed vigilante--that's good enough for me!

By the way, are you going to change costumes every time we get together?

Remember that raise I promised you? You can just forget it until you-- Oh, no!

He's taken
a HOSTAGE!

No
problem.

I can
still take
him out.

No,
June--
NO!

Listen to your
masked friend, m'dear.
There's no need for anyone
to get 'urt. I just want
to walk away.

That's not going to happen and
you know it. Someone must
have already called the
cops.

Even if
we let you
go, you'll never
get past
them.

I advise you
to drop the gun
and call a lawyer.

Sorry, I 'ave too
many outstanding
warrants--

--and my governor's
not big on failure.

I'd never
survive the night
in jail.

What have
you done?

How did you let things
get so far out of hand?

What's
the call,
boss?

Should
I take my
shot?

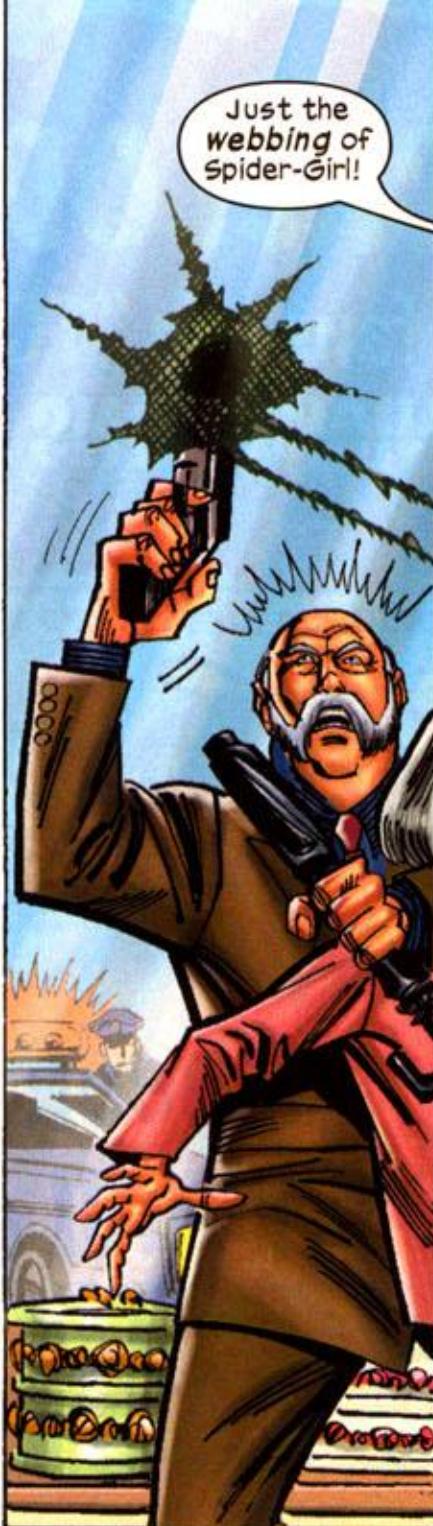
NO!

No one
dies on my
watch.

I applaud the sentiment
Cheers, and 'ope you can back
it up.

It'll take the
wisdom of Solomon
to get us out of
this mess.

Should
I take my
shot?





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What's up?
We have a little surprise for you.

Please accept this gift with our compliments.

We didn't know if you preferred your new black-&-white costume or wanted to return to your conventional look--

--so we stocked BOTH!

WOW!

I don't know what to say, other than **thank you** and--

--let's get back to work!



Hi,
everybody. Here's
a brand-new feature
that I could only
call...

SPIDER-GIRL AND HER AMAZING FRIENDS

It only seems
fitting that I begin
with my oldest and
dearest friend.

MIDTOWN
HIGH
SCHOOL

Courtney Duran

MIDDLE NAME: Marie

HOMETOWN: Forest Hills, Queens, NY

CURRENT BOYFRIEND: Moose Mansfield...
although she's also had major crushes on
Jimmy Yama and Franklin Richards.

FAVORITE MOVIES: The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

FAVORITE AUTHOR: Laurell K. Hamilton

FAVORITE ENTERTAINER: Justin Timberlake

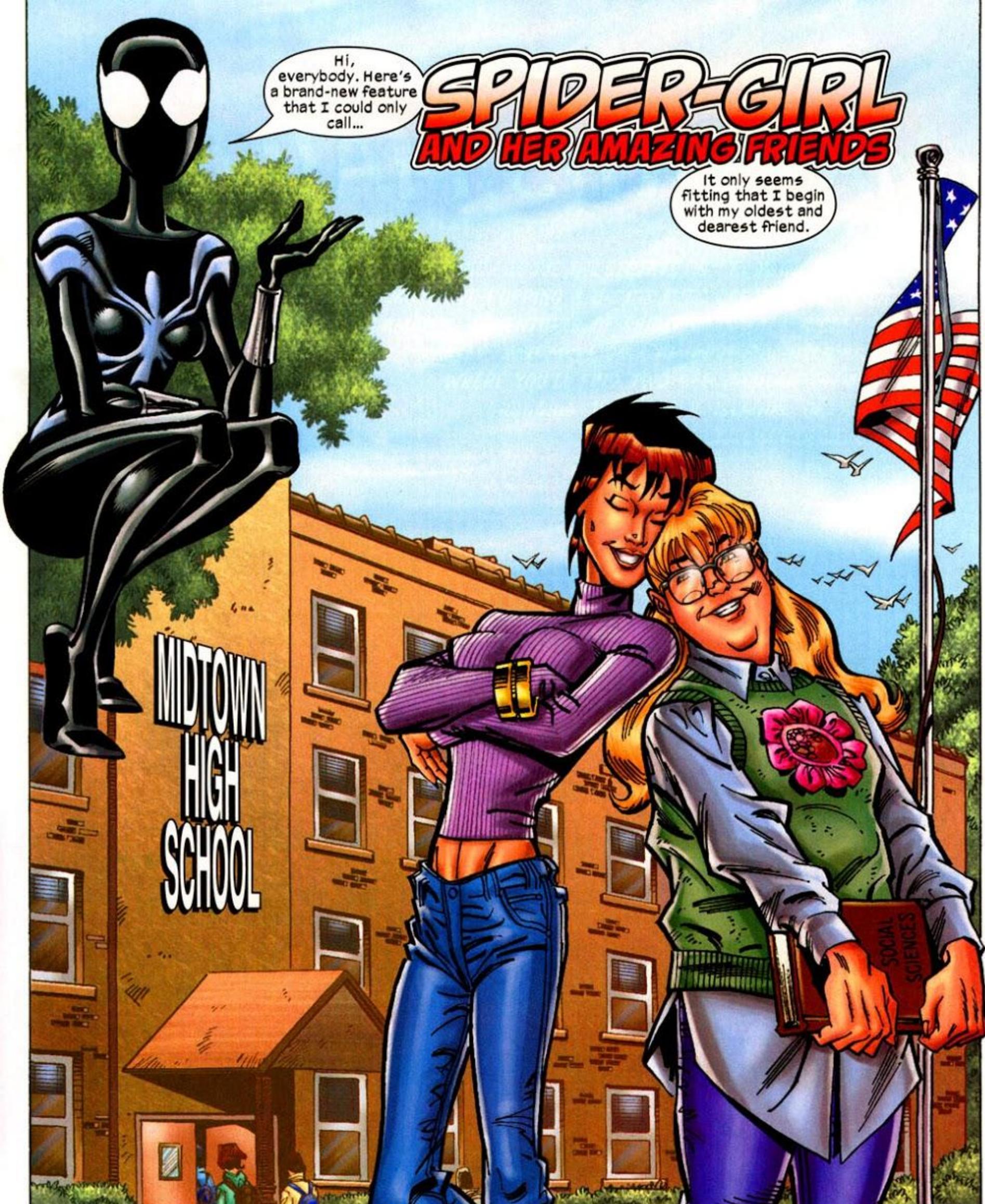
FAVORITE SUPER HERO: Psi-Lord (Franklin Richards, of course!)

HOBBIES: Science Club, Role Playing Games and fantasy novels.

FIRST MEETING: I met Courtney on the first day of PK4
(Pre-school for 4-year-olds). I was feeling so absolutely
abandoned after my mother turned me over to the teacher
that I spent most of the day crying my eyes out. A nasty-
tempered second-grader decided to add to my misery by
pulling on my hair. Courtney came to my rescue and bit
the bully on the leg. We've been friends ever since.

HER BEST FEATURES: Courtney really listens to you. Her
friendship is unconditional and so is her loyalty.

HER SHORTCOMINGS: Court is too trusting and forgiving.
She often makes excuses for people who behave badly.



MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Dear Tom,

The last few **Spider-Girl** issues have been fantastic. Actually ALL issues to date have been above average, but lately you've been exceeding your usual standards! I love how Mayday is exhibiting signs of the infamous "Parker luck." Having her costume shrink in the dryer and then not being able to find a replacement in her size at the Spider Shoppe made me laugh out loud! Just because May happens to be more popular than her old man was in high school doesn't mean she can't suffer life's little indignities like the original Spider-Man. Keep it up!

A few weeks ago, I was leafing through some old issues of **Amazing Spider-Man** and came across a story you collaborated on with Ron Frenz where Spidey battles (and beats!) Galactus's herald, Firelord. Since this fight has been recognized as one of Spider-Man's all-time great battles, I was wondering if you could do a story where May has to fight Galactus's latest herald (what is Galactus up to in this universe anyway?). Of course knowing May, she'll probably reform the herald and have him/her doing volunteer work for a church by the story's end.

Michael Jung
Mesa, Arizona

An interesting suggestion, Michael, but our girl seems to have her hands full with Canis, Lady Octopus and the Black Tarantula.

Dear Marvel,

I remember years ago when I went to Waldenbooks and I read the comics on the stands. One that I really liked was Spider-Girl's debut in **What If #105**. Because I was a big fan of Spidey, I read and loved it. Looking back I wish I had bought it. When I heard that May was getting her own series I smiled. I never picked it up though. I did read one issue that I bought at the Cartoon Art Museum gift shop. I enjoyed it but didn't really follow the series. (By the way, it was the Fantastic Five issue early on in the run!) I picked up the issue where she tries to join the Avengers because it was in a pack I bought. Anyway, years went by and I heard great, great things about the series. Especially from the fans. The fans' dedication is unlike ANYTHING I have ever known. I am very impressed. I still didn't try the book out. Finally, a few weeks ago I went to a comic store that offered me membership and subscriptions. I signed up for Spider-Girl to see what all the fuss was about. After all it was a TOM DEFALCO book! And he is on with Buscema and Frenz? Two of the coolest Spidey artists! What was I thinking? Why didn't I pick it up sooner? I read **Spider-Girl #73** and loved it. I just picked up **Spider-Girl #74** yesterday. The series is great and I am with it for the long run.

Julio Barone

Welcome aboard, Julio! We're glad you finally decided to take the plunge. You owe it to all your friends and relatives to spread the word about **SPIDER-GIRL** and share the fun.

Dear Marvel,

Got my new issue of **SPIDER-GIRL #73** in the mail today! It always makes for a good day to see my fave Marvel titles in the mailbox. I sure hope "The Claw" gets sent away for a LOOONG time! (Wow, was he ever annoying!) Let's hope we never see him again! There is one person I WOULD like to see again: Felicity Hardy—whatever happened to her? I can't wait to see May's new

costume. I personally did not care for any of the ones May was looking at in the Spider Shoppe. The one she currently has is better than ANY of them!

Well, I'm going to reread S-G again. Thanks for the fun.

Mark Hopewood

Mark, if you didn't like ANY of the costumes in the Spider Shoppe, then that means—UH-OH!

Dear Marvel,

I own and have read the entire run of **Spider-Girl** thus far, and the past 4 or 5 issues have been rather disappointing when compared to its usual high standard. I feel that there's been too much Spider-Girl time and too little May Parker time. I've always loved her close relationship with her parents and her "uncle" Phil, and I feel that the comic has been rather lacking in that department as of late. I'd also absolutely love to see more of May and her friends at school. She is a teenager after all. School is an important part of her life. Courtney in particular is someone I'd like to see more of. I feel that she has a lot of potential that just hasn't been tapped. She hasn't really done anything since she got together with Moose, apart from keep May up to date with the latest school gossip or point to a newspaper and talk about something related to Spider-Girl. Jimmy and Moose haven't been up to too much lately either, and I'm eagerly waiting to see how the plot with Brad advances.

Honestly, I'm up for any kind of plot that isn't directly related to Spider-Girl and crime-fighting, particularly if they help develop May's character. The super hero battles themselves have been rather ho-hum and run of the mill—the J2 and Magus team-up issue immediately springs to mind, just the standard super hero affair without doing anything to advance the plot. The Brenda and Normie subplot has been progressing nicely though, and wowee on issue 73's cliffhanger! I'm looking forward to see where the JJ and the spider tracer plot ends up, and I find the whole Spider Shoppe thing to be rather brilliant. I don't think I've ever heard of a super hero getting a new designed costume from a shop made to cash in on them.

The art has mostly been good, although I think that Ron draws Spider-Girl a bit too skinny and her breasts too perfectly rounded. Something really bothers me about the coloring, but I just can't for the life of me pinpoint it and put it into words. It seems dark and kind of unnatural; quite often the characters' skin is overly pink (the cover to #73 is a good example of this).

I still love the series and its characters, and will continue to buy the comic, but I hope that it quickly recovers from what I find to be a small dip in quality. I'm greatly looking forward to #75 and beyond.

Lee Hiley

We're sorry we've been disappointing you, Lee. If it's any consolation, even May is starting to realize how much her spider-thing has been encroaching on her real life and she intends to make some serious changes in the future.

Dear Marvel,

I would like you to know how much I love **Spider-Girl**. This is the title that keeps me into Marvel Comics. I love the storytelling, the art, and the plot of this wonderful little comic. Please don't ever cancel it! It's too much of a good book to let it go. All it needs is proper advertising. I do hope that the new **Amazing Fantasy** isn't going to replace **Spider-Girl**.

John Petrapal

Relax, John! No other title could possibly replace

SPIDER-GIRL. You can actually enjoy both **AMAZING FANTASY** and our friendly neighborhood web-stunner!

Dear Spider-Girl team,

Spider-Girl #73 was another great issue. The Claw seems to be a great small-time villain. I wouldn't mind seeing him again in this title. He had a unique personality, and stood out among many villains I've seen in comics.

I'm excited about the plotline developing with this mystery woman who claims to be Normie's wife. I wonder if the Black Tarantula is connected to all of this because Chesbro knew something was going to happen with Normie. The mystery of the Black Tarantula's interest with Spider-Girl continues. Not only that, but Doc Ock is still on the loose. So many plotlines occur at one time, which is a reason why I love this title so much. It's also still funny how Mayday is still web-swinging in that shrunk outfit. The black costume has made its first appearance too. I'm curious how she'll end up wearing it. Anyway, another wonderful issue! Keep up the great work!

Jason Walker

Do you like the new costume, Jason?

Hello,

Regarding Spider-Girl's upcoming new costume...uh, NOOOOOOO!!!! That's the crummy old New Coke Spidey costume; it STINKS! Leave her costume alone PLEASE. This is my favorite Marvel comic; don't mess with the good stuff. The next thing you know you'll be introducing her clone Benita Reilly.

Please ditch the black costume and keep the traditional one!

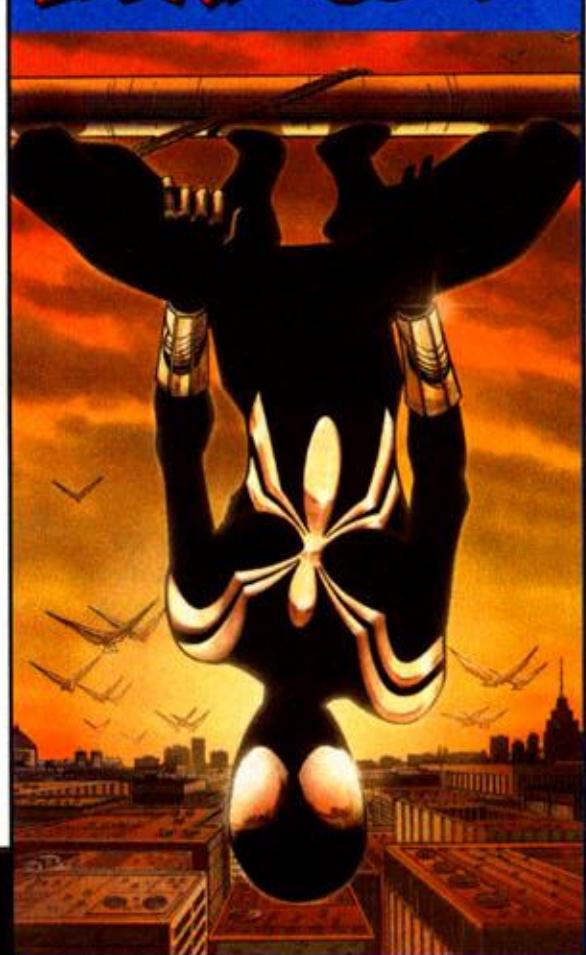
Chris Aubry

Okay, Chris, we'll vote you down as a NO on the new costume.

Thanks for being there, everyone!

—Tom DeFalco

NEXT ISSUE:



SPIDER-GIRL QUESTIONS HER LOYALTIES AS KAIN FIGHTS BLACK TARANTULA TO THE DEATH!



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