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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THE MARK OF
KAIN
PART TWO OF FIVE



BAGS &
MAHLSTEDT

PETER PARKER:
FUGITIVE!

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CONTINUING THE EPIC
SAGA BEGUN IN WEB
OF SPIDER-MAN #124!

MARY JANE!

PETER...?!

BEN...?

MARY JANE...
YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN
TO ME! I... I AM PETER...
BUT NOT THE PETER YOU
MARRIED!



THAT MAN...
IS A FRAUD! HE
STOLE MY LIFE... STOLE
EVERYTHING -- WHILE I
WAS LOCKED AWAY FOR
FIVE LONG YEARS!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M
SAYING?

I'M THE
REAL PETER
PARKER!

THIS COULD BE HER HUSBAND... SOMEHOW ESCAPED FROM JAIL, MIND FINALLY COLLAPSING FROM THE PRESSURES OF THIS NIGHTMARE-YEAR.

...IT DOESN'T MATTER.

PETER... BEN... WHOEVER YOU ARE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

NOT NOW!

HE'S AFTER ME, DO YOU UNDERSTAND? HE'S AFTER ME!

THE NAME, IMPOSTOR--

OR IT COULD BE PETER'S CLONE... BEN REILLY... PLAYING SOME KIND OF MIND-GAME SHE CAN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND. THE SAD TRUTH IS, AT THIS MOMENT...

--IS KAINE.

STEP AWAY FROM HIM, MARY JANE. THAT'S NOT YOUR HUSBAND. PETER'S STILL IN PRISON.

AND HE'S NOT BEN REILLY, EITHER. REILLY'S WITH SEWARD TRAINER.

YOU'RE LYING! YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO--

THIS... MAN CRAWLED OUT OF A POD... IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE JACKAL'S LABORATORY. HE'S ANOTHER ONE OF WARREN'S CLONES.

IF THERE'S A THREAT HERE--

--HE'S IT.

DON'T TRUST
HIM! DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM!

I SWEAR TO
YOU... I SWEAR
TO GOD--

IF... IF YOU
ARE PETER... THEN
PROVE IT!

HELP
ME! PROTECT
ME!

--I AM
PETER
PARKER!

YOU'VE GOT
TO BELIEVE
ME!

I ALWAYS
HAVE, MARY
JANE.

AND
I ALWAYS
WILL!

THA!

WIM!







IF ANYONE CAN
FIND HER, SAVE
HER, HE THINKS,
IT'S ME.

THE ONE...
THE TRUE...

...THE ONLY...

SPIDER-MAN

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE MARK OF KAIN
~PART TWO~

DOWN IN THE DARKNESS

J. M. DEMATTEIS / MARK BAGLEY / LARRY MAHLSTEDT
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COLORIST LETTERER
WOLF PACK with SALVADOR MANCHA
INTERIOR COLOR
DANNY FINGEROTH / BOB BUDIANSKY
EDITOR GENETIC MANIPULATION



RYKER'S ISLAND.

HIS "PARENTS" DIE,
HIS CLONE RETURNS.
HE FACES DEATH
THEN CHEATS IT.
LOSES AUNT MAY.
GAINS AN UNBORN
CHILD.

HIS AUNT LEFT HIM WITH
AN EXTRAORDINARY
LEGACY. AN EXTRA-
ORDINARY GIFT: HER
BLESSINGS ON HIS LIFE
AS SPIDER-MAN.



SITTING HERE IN THIS COLD CELL, HE REALIZES THAT DESPITE THE TUMULT OF THE PAST YEAR--OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF IT--HE'S NEVER HAD SO MUCH HOPE.

A LESSER MAN WOULD HAVE CRUMBLED UNDER THE STRAIN--BUT NOT PETER PARKER.

HE'S BEEN TO THE EDGE OF THE ABYSS, FOUGHT HIS WAY BACK... AND HE'S NOT MAKING THAT JOURNEY AGAIN.



THAT, COMBINED WITH THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE GROWING INSIDE MARY JANE, FILLS HIM WITH A SENSE OF APPRECIATIVE AWE... AND A DETERMINATION TO NOT JUST SURVIVE...

HE BELIEVES, TO THE BOTTOM OF HIS SOUL, THAT HIS NAME WILL BE CLEARED. THAT HE AND MARY JANE WILL FINALLY HAVE THE "HAPPILY EVER AFTER" THAT THEY...

...BUT TRIUMPH.

I BRING YOU A MESSAGE--

...DESERVE.

--FROM TRAVELLER.

CHAKRA--?







I'VE BEEN BRUTALIZED AND VICTIMIZED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THE KAINES OF THIS WORLD...

TAKE CONTROL.



...BUT IF CHAKRA WAS TELLING THE TRUTH-- WHAT CHOICE DOES HE HAVE?

D-BLOCK

HE CAN'T JUST SIT IN JAIL DOING NOTHING-- WHEN HIS WIFE'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE.

NOT JUST MY WIFE, HE REMINDS HIMSELF. MY CHILD!

AND IF CHAKRA LIED? IF THIS IS-- AND THE POSSIBILITY IS VERY STRONG -- ANOTHER OF JUDAS TRAVELLER'S MANIPULATIONS AND MIND GAMES?

THEN HE WILL HAVE BROUGHT PETER PARKER'S LIFE CRASHING DOWN IN FLAMES.

"PARKER DID IT," THE WORLD WILL SAY. "AND HE RAN LIKE A COWARD."

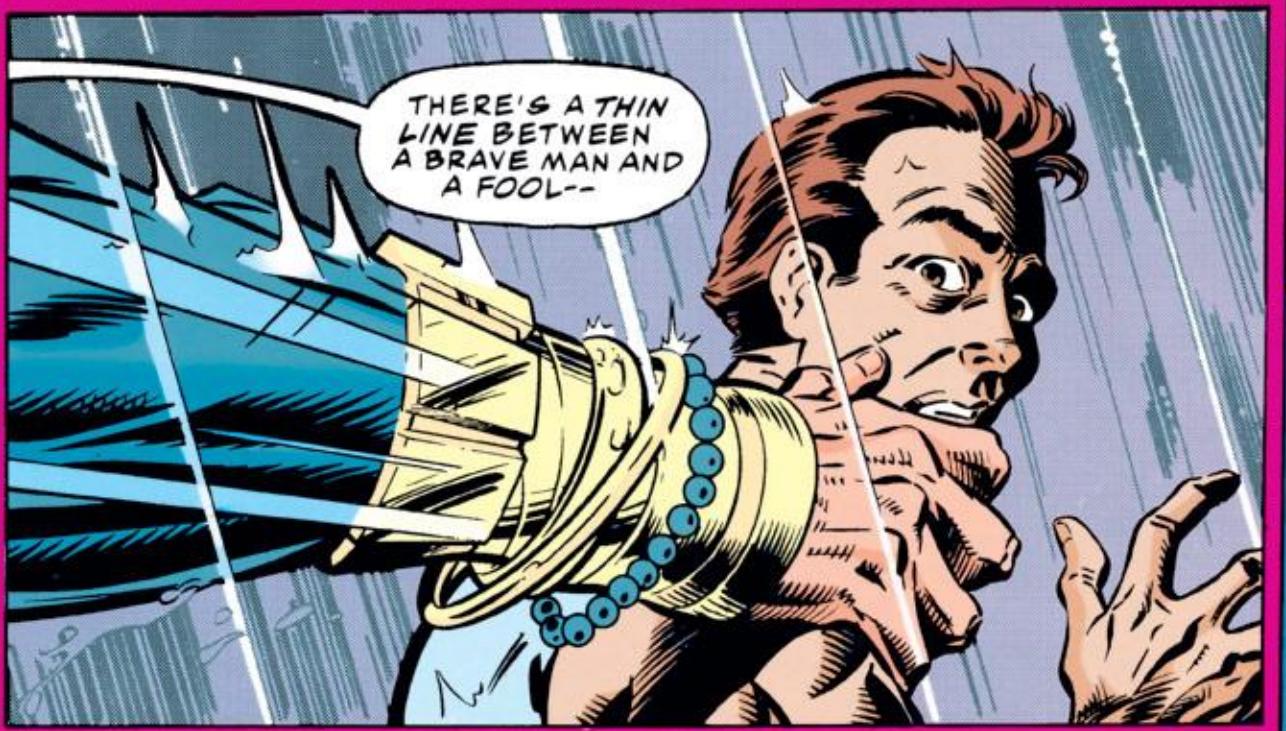
FIVE TIMES HE ALMOST TURNS BACK, READY TO SKITTER UP WALLS, THROUGH SHADOWS; READY TO SLIP SURREPTITIOUSLY BACK INTO HIS CELL.



HE KNOWS THAT AN ESCAPE LIKE THIS CAN ONLY BE SEEN AS AN ADMISSION OF GUILT.

FIVE TIMES HE PUSHES ONWARD.





--AND
I BELIEVE
YOU'VE JUST
CROSSED
IT!

TRAVELLER!

DIVE INTO THAT
WATER... AND ALL
YOUR HOPES FOR
THE FUTURE WILL
SINK-- AND VANISH
FROM SIGHT.

WHAT
DO YOU
CARE??

IF THERE'S
ANYTHING I LEARNED
ABOUT YOU LAST TIME...
IT'S THAT PEOPLE DON'T
MATTER TO YOU! WE'RE
JUST CHESS PIECES
FOR YOU TO MOVE
AROUND!

LAB RATS
FOR YOU TO
EXPERIMENT
ON!

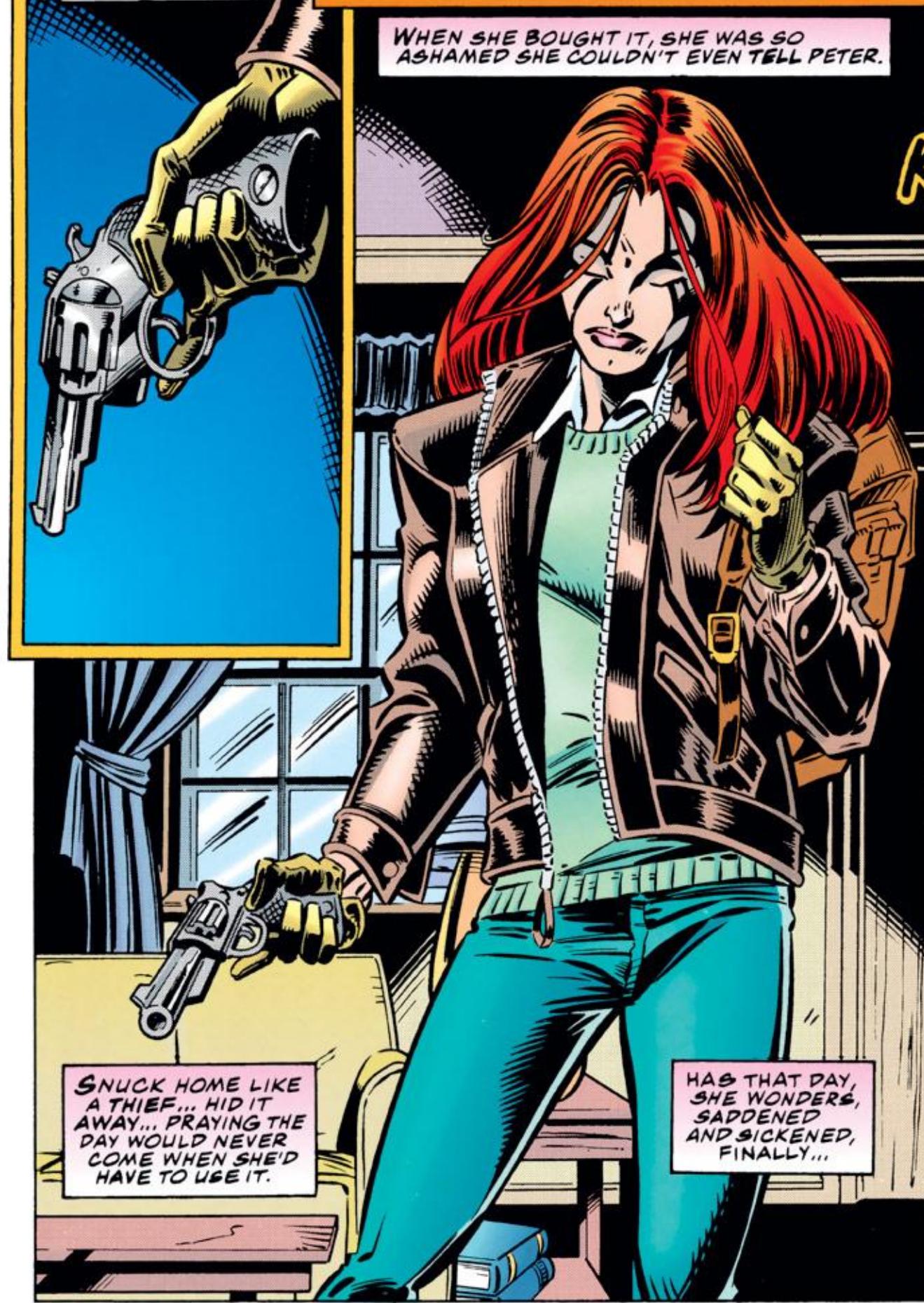
PERHAPS I DON'T
CARE. OR PERHAPS I
CARE... MORE THAN YOU
COULD EVER IMAGINE.
WHATEVER THE CASE, I
HAVE COME TO ASSURE
YOU THAT MY HERALD'S
WARNING... WAS
TRUE.

AND TO
OFFER YOU...
A BETTER
WAY.



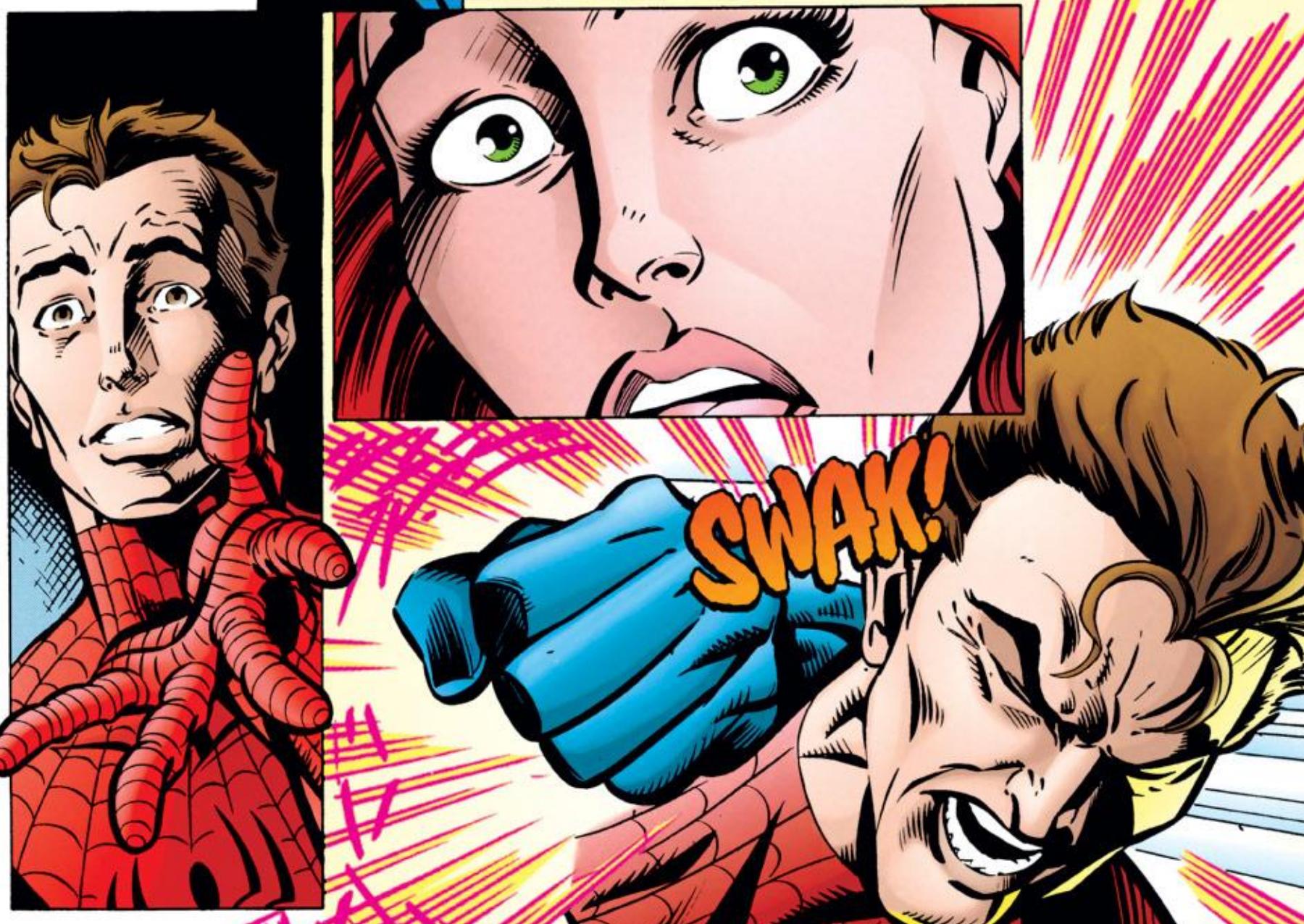


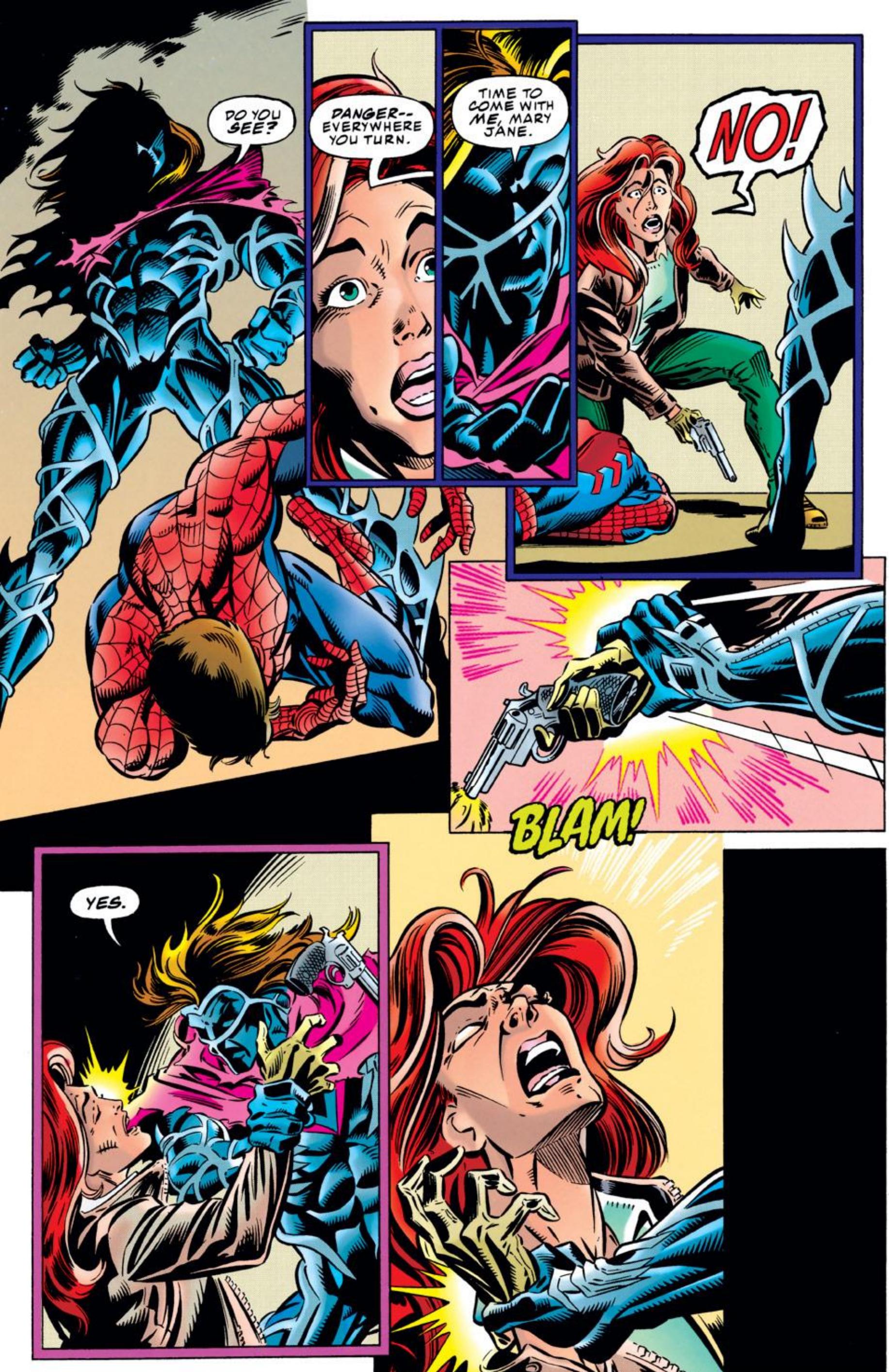
SHE THINKS ABOUT ALL THE HARDSHIPS SHE'S ENDURED SINCE SHE AND PETER WERE MARRIED.











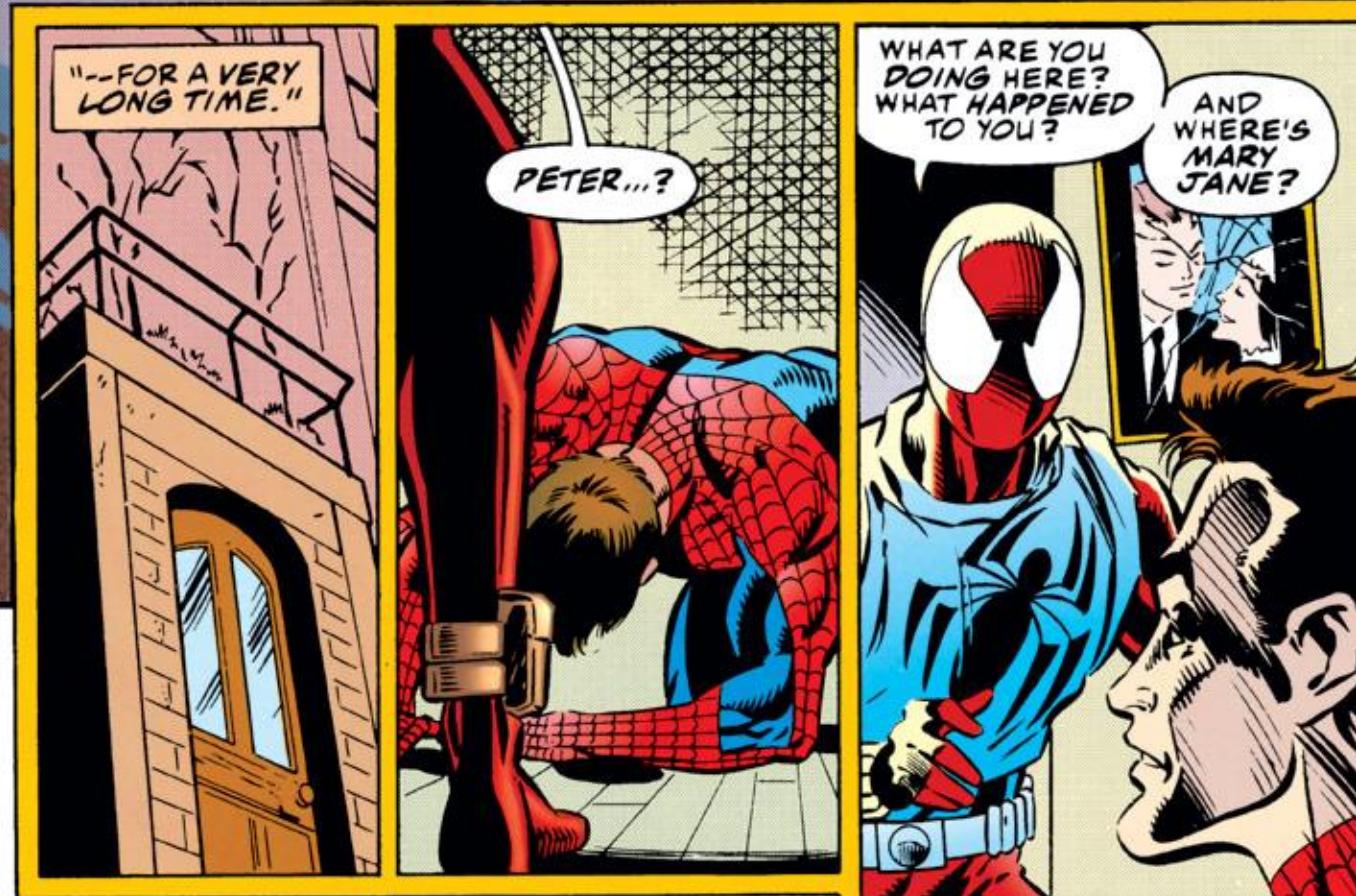


W-WHERE
AM I...?

I SUPPOSE
YOU COULD CALL
IT A... PURGATORY
OF SORTS. WHERE
LOST SOULS HIDE
FROM BOTH HELL
AND HEAVEN.

OR YOU
COULD SIMPLY
CALL IT...
HOME.

I SUGGEST YOU
GET COMFORTABLE
WITH YOUR
SURROUNDINGS, MARY
JANE. BECAUSE
THERE'S A GOOD
CHANCE YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
HERE--



THAT'S
WHAT I'D
LIKE TO
KNOW!

OH,
NO.
WHY DO
I HAVE THE
FEELING
THAT THINGS
HAVE JUST
GOTTEN--

--EXTREMELY
COMPLICATED?!

AND THE COMPLICATIONS
MULTIPLY AS "THE MARK
OF KAIN" CONTINUES IN
ONE WEEK... IN THE PAGES
OF SPIDER-MAN #58!!