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# the AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL



DIRECT EDITION

RATED A



\$2.99 US \$3.05 CAN

The daughter of 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.

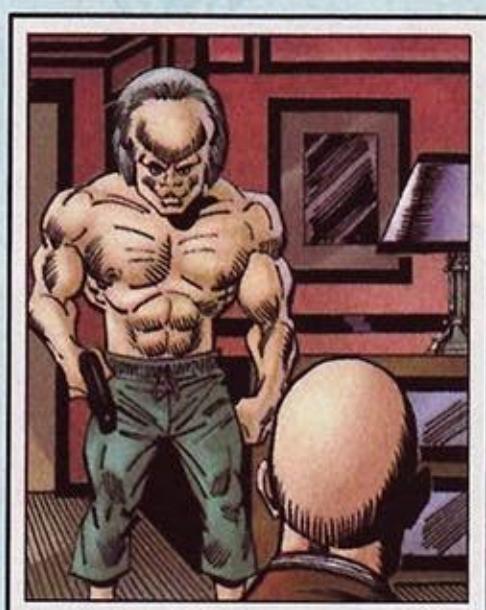


# the AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL



When the **Carnage Symbiote** takes control of a former classmate, **Spider-Girl** destroys it before **Moose Mansfield** can infect his father in a desperate attempt to cure the man's cancer.

Her father later freezes during the battle, forcing Spider-Girl to employ a sonic blaster to save her baby brother **Ben**, but the discharge affects the baby's hearing.



Meanwhile, convinced that Spider-Girl works for his enemy, the **Black Tarantula**, the **Hobgoblin** enlists the aid of **Mindworm**, a mutant with psychic powers.

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# THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY!

My name is Roderick Kingsley, although I am far better known as the Hobgoblin.

Like most successful entrepreneurs, I adhere to a strict and simple business plan--

--that employs crime to achieve wealth, power and prestige.

My long-term goal is to seize control of the underworld and become the new, undisputed Kingpin of Crime.

But first, I must eliminate the current ruler, a South American mobster named the Black Tarantula--

--which is why I have sought this hidden temple.

I-it's the HOBGOBLIN!

We must protect the HIGH PRIESTESS!

Interesting!

Even though you wear blindfolds, you can somehow sense my identity--

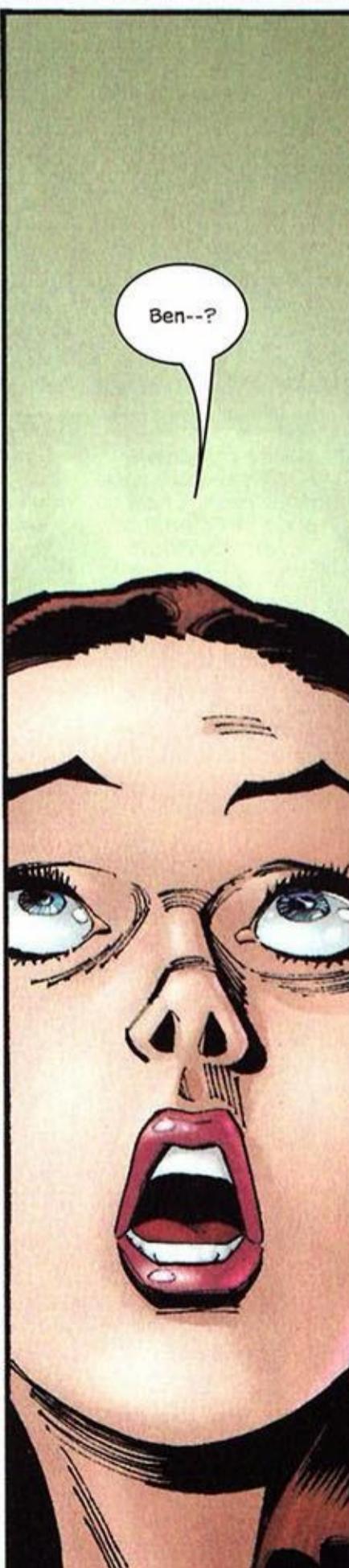
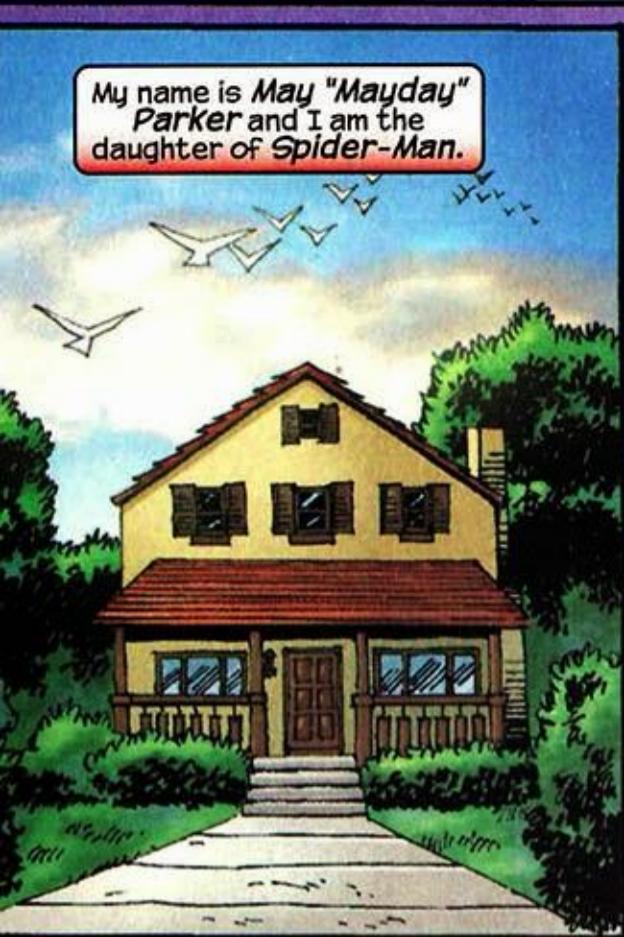
--but you have totally misinterpreted my intentions.



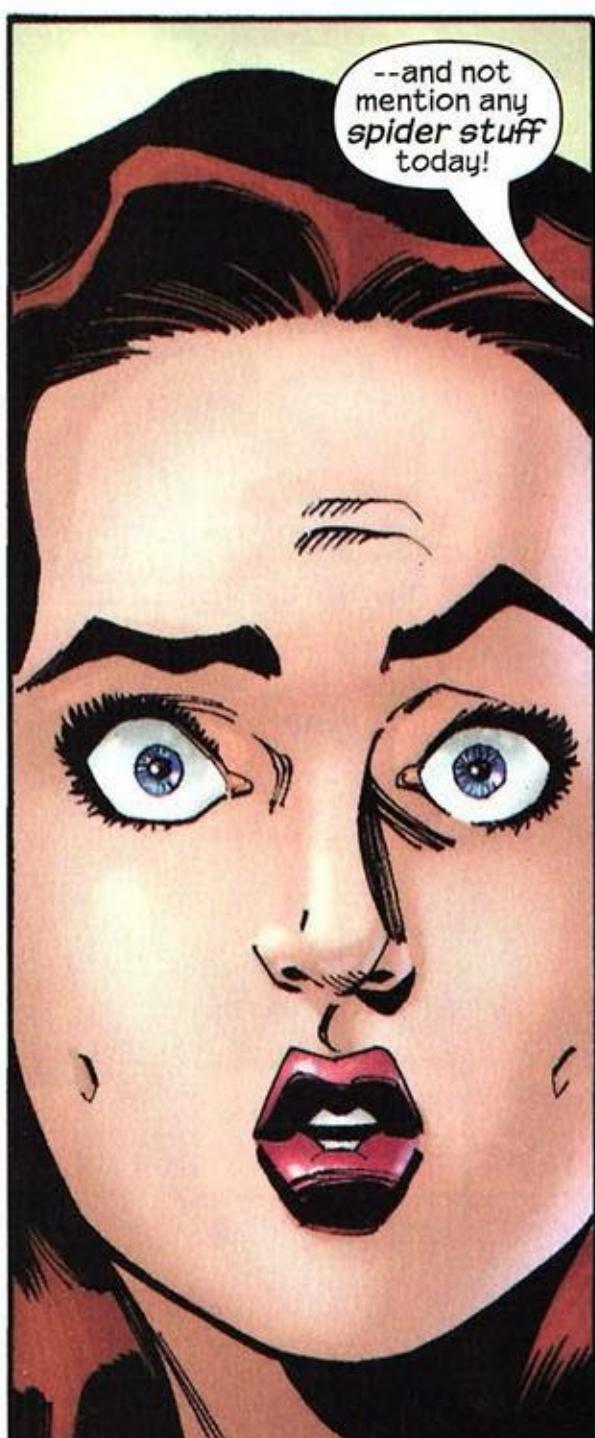
My name is May "Mayday" Parker and I am the daughter of Spider-Man.

I'm also the one who may have accidentally destroyed my baby brother's hearing.

Hey, Benji-boy! I've got your favorite juice here...



Please tell me  
I'm hallucinating!



Out of respect for my mom, I shut my mouth and link up with Davida...who, of course, knows about Ben's hearing problem.

Hey, I'm sure your little bro will be just fine.

Medical science can accomplish miracles these days.

I hope so...

Not that I blame him! I did prevent him from saving his dad from cancer.

Of course, the cure would have transformed the man into a monster by exposing him to the *Carnage Symbiote*...

Something bothering you, May?

You know you can tell me anything.

Yeah, I do...

By the way, Courtney wants us to meet her at Moose's later.

He has some big announcement.

How can I face Moose, knowing how much he hates Spider-Girl?

Maybe it's time I finally took Davida into my confidence and...

T-that DOG!

What are you--oh, no!

NO!

I-it's Gene Thompson!

Yeah, and it certainly didn't take your ex long to move on--to Simone DeSantos of all people!



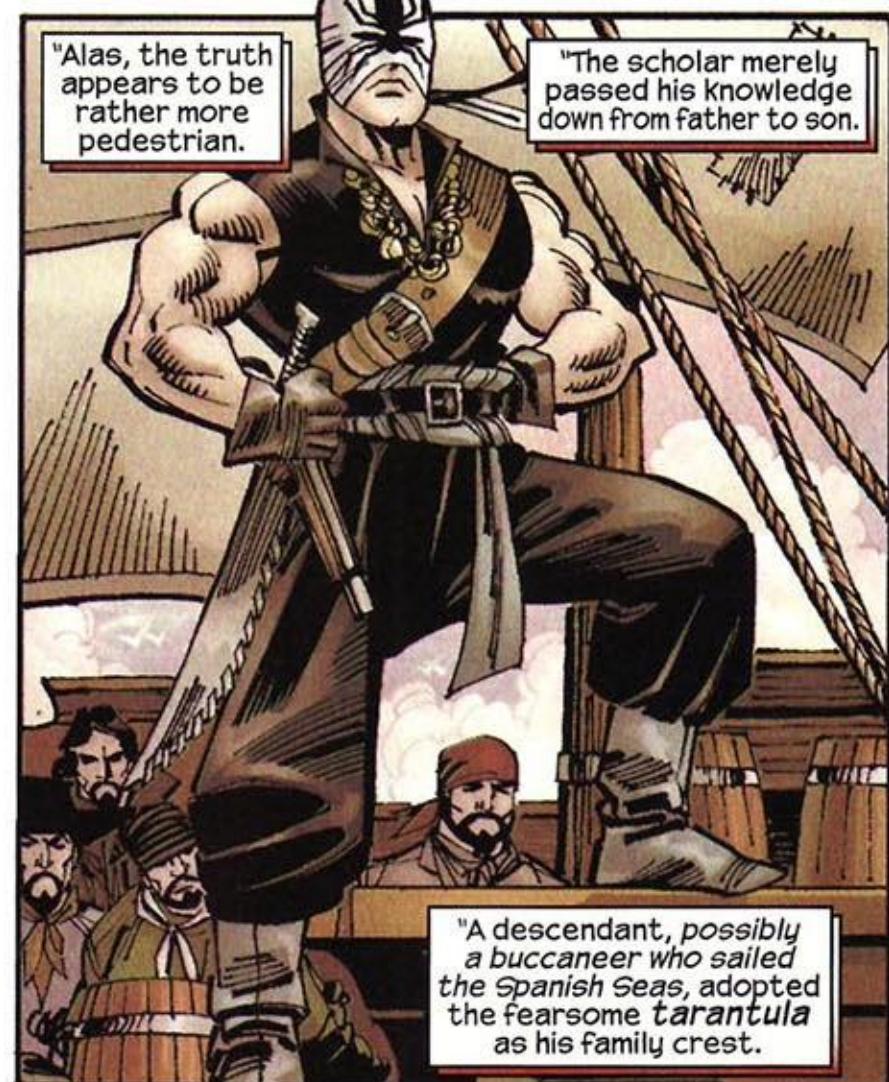
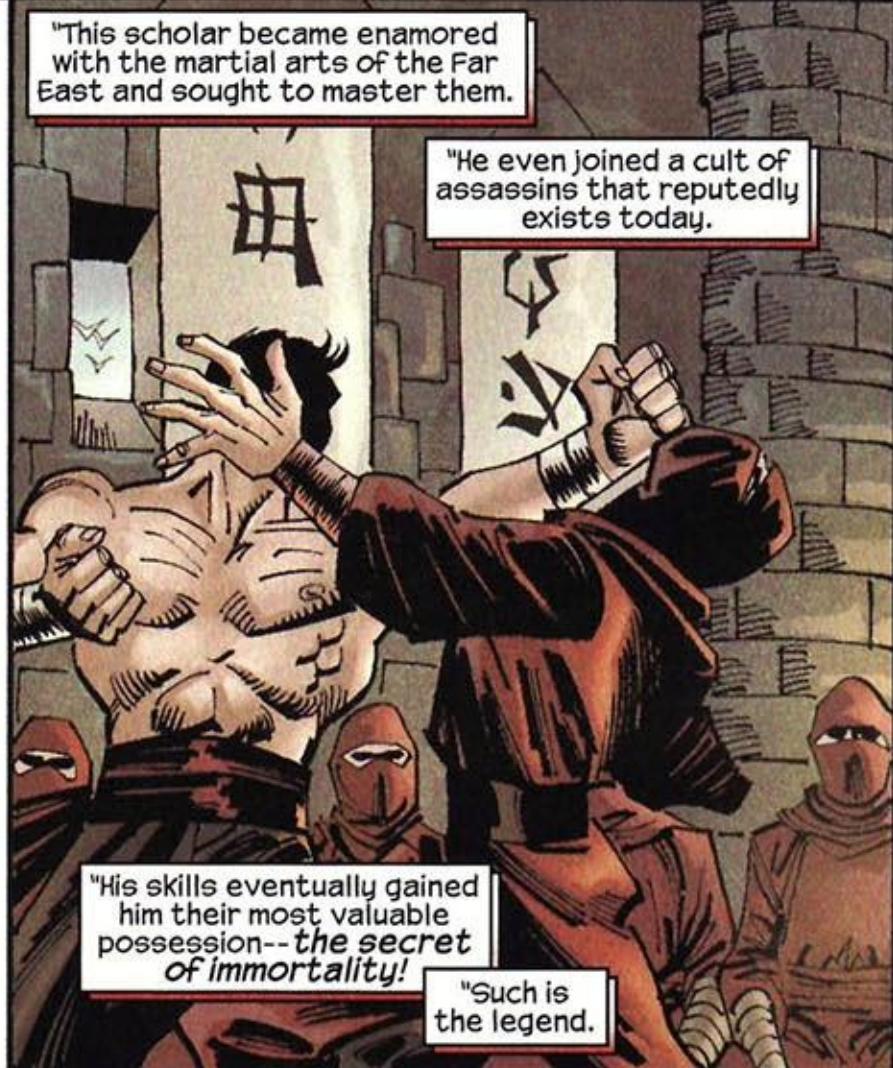
Meanwhile...

According to the legends that surround him, the *Black Tarantula* is supposed to be both invincible and immortal.

But he is more myth than man.

I...I don't understand.

Patience, my friend, and you will...



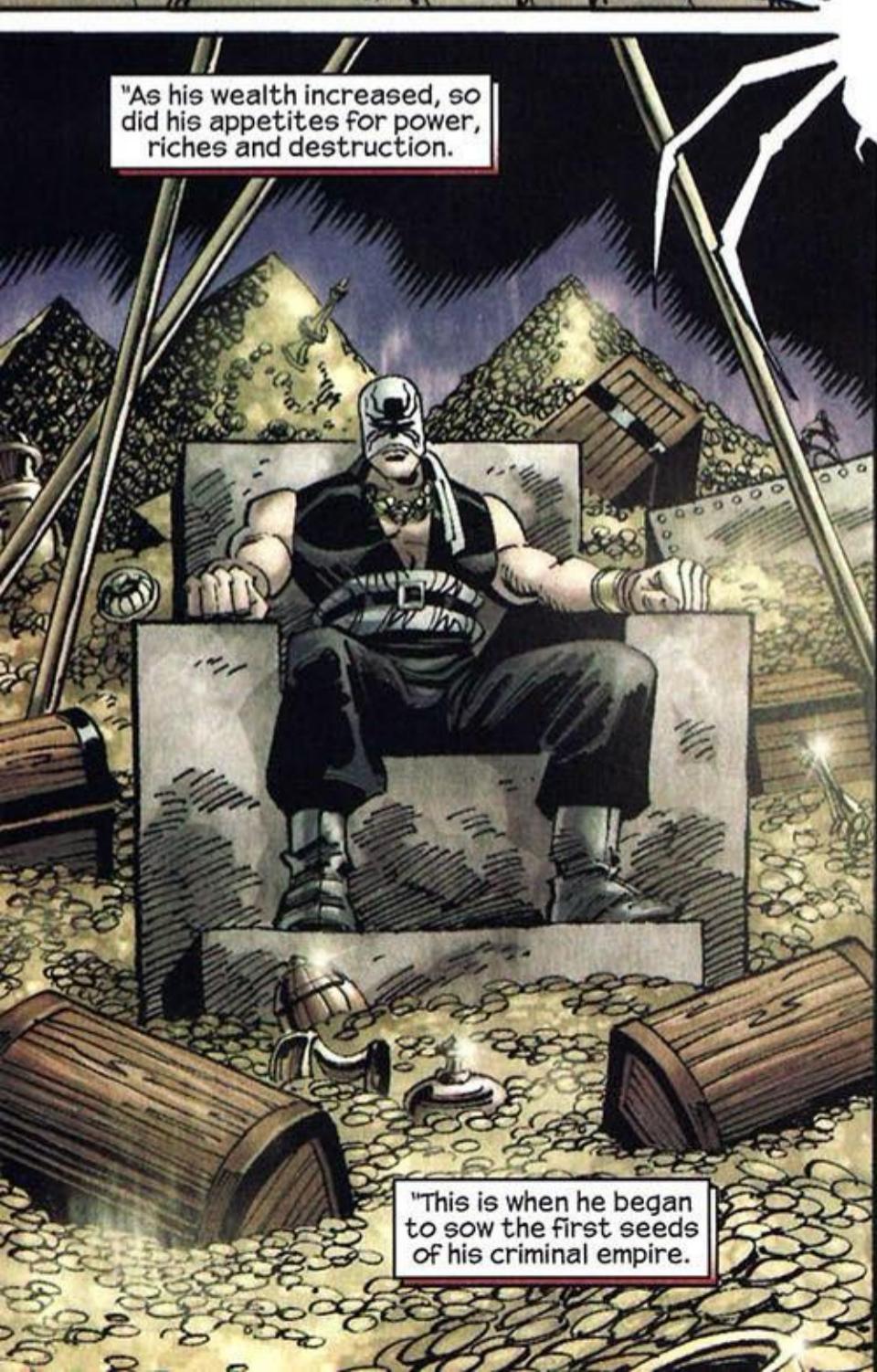
"We believe that either he-- or one of his sons-- eventually learned of a forbidden **ritual of power** that enhanced his physical prowess.



"He is said to have gained the strength of a thousand men and many other amazing abilities.



"As his wealth increased, so did his appetites for power, riches and destruction.



"This is when he began to sow the first seeds of his criminal empire.

"He also turned on his Spanish masters.



"Instead of sending them their usual annual tribute--

--he shipped them the torn and desecrated bodies of their own envoys.

The Tarantula was now a true pirate in every sense of the word, a merciless rogue without King or country.

Determined to punish him for his flagrant betrayal, his Spanish masters subjected others to the **rite of power** and hurled them against the Tarantula--

--but none possessed the necessary skill or raw strength to defeat him.

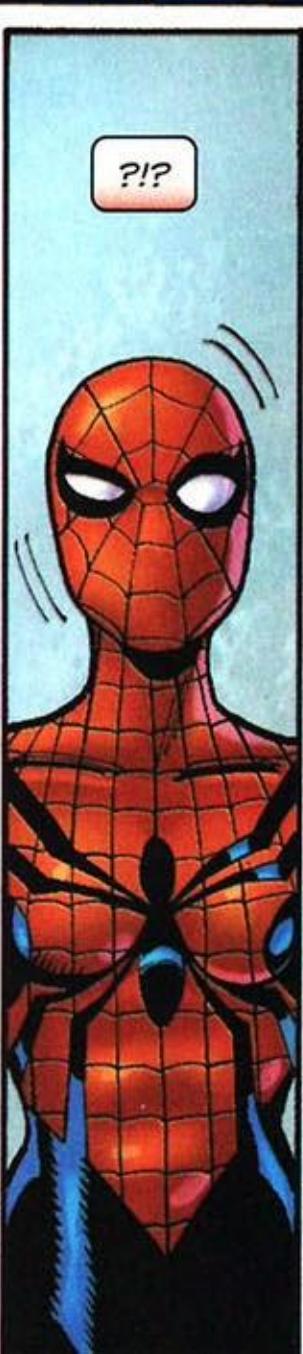
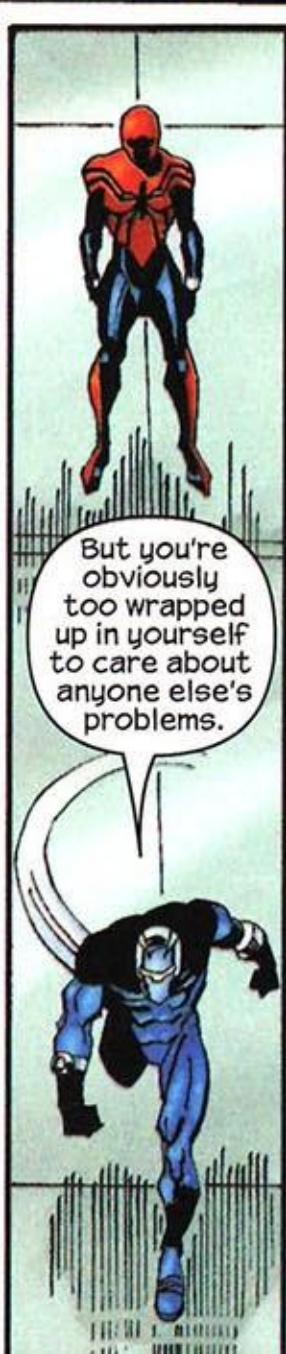
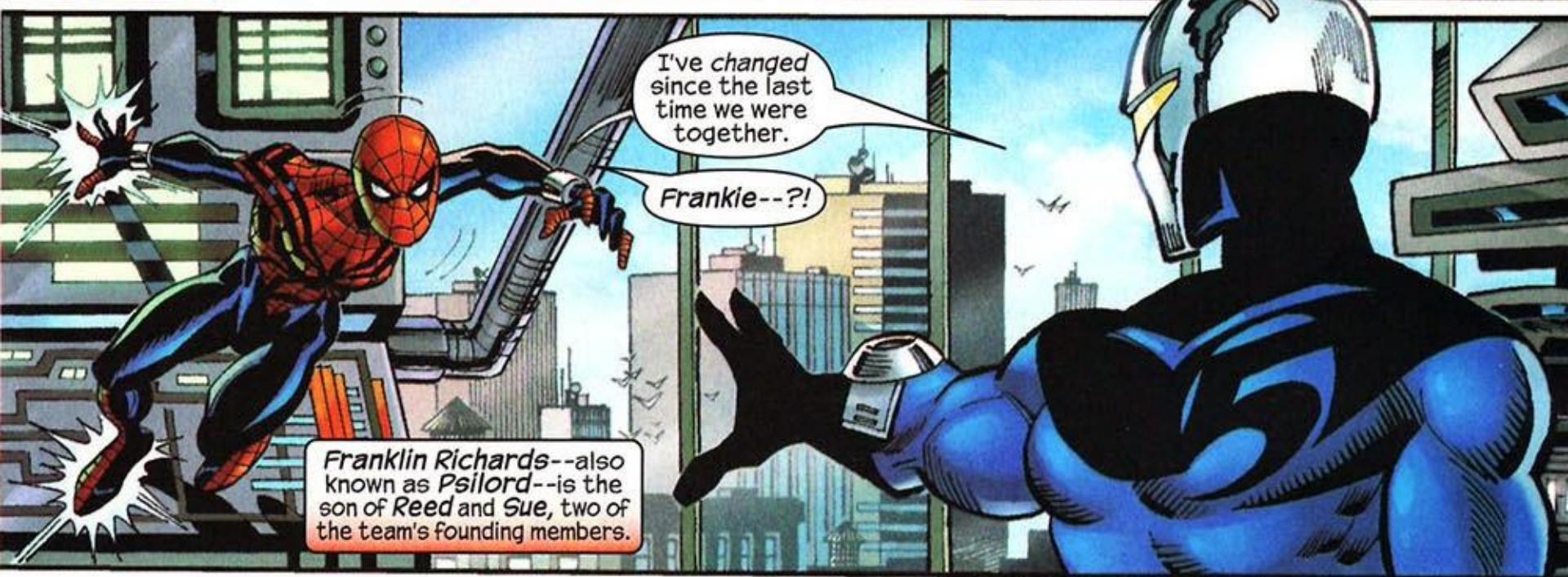
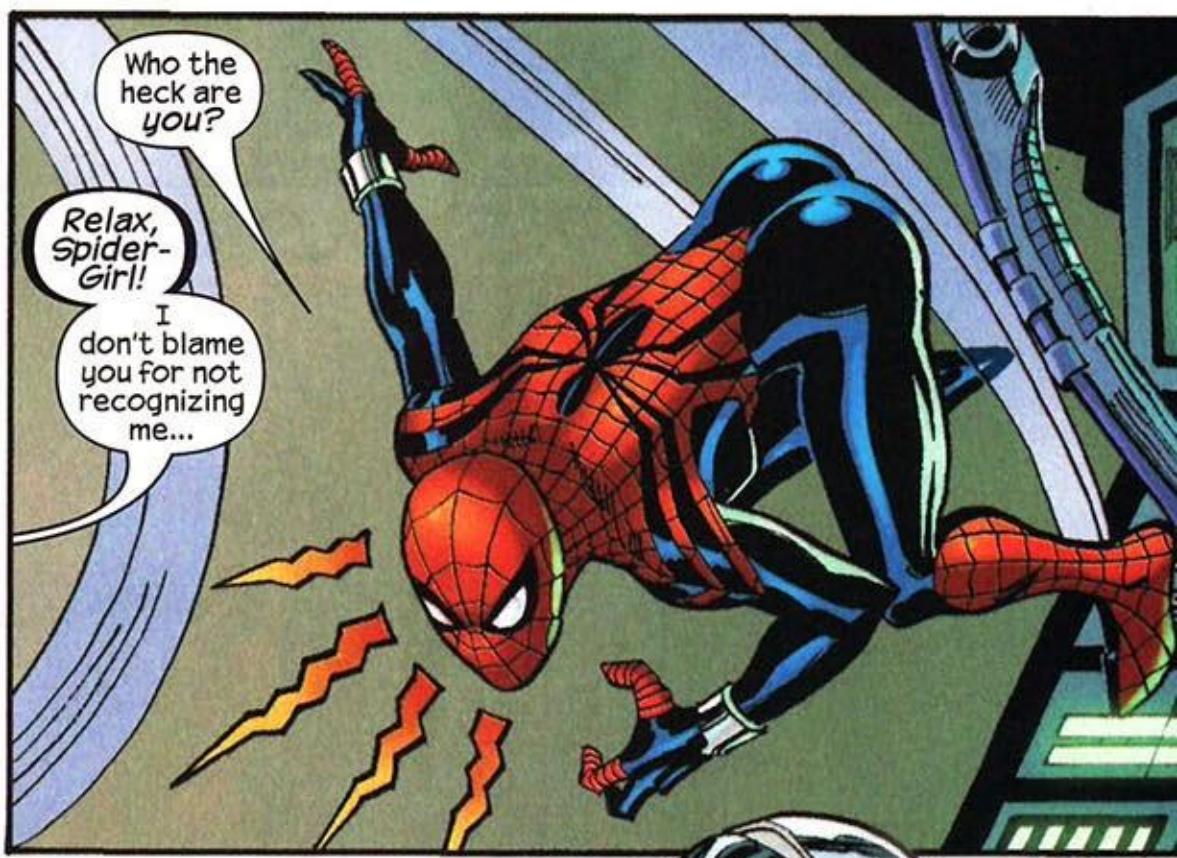
Since all men eventually die, the Tarantula followed the example of his scholarly ancestor--

--and, using a mystical ritual known only to his family, passed his many skills and powers to the next generation.

While the superstitious among us believe that the Black Tarantula is immortal--

--we have determined that 'he' is actually a series of individuals who share the same bloodline."





\*Or read the F5's recent mini-series--*Magnificent Molly*.

Hurt and more than a little puzzled by Franklin's outburst, I head back to Forest Hills.



I wish I knew what was bothering him.

He must be seriously stressed to lash out at me like that.



Although his words did hit home. Maybe I am a little too wrapped up in my own--

HELP ME-- please!

Shut your mouth, lady--  
--or I'll close it PERMANENTLY!

T-take anything you want, but please don't harm my baby.



Back-- OFF-- YOU--  
--ANIMALS!

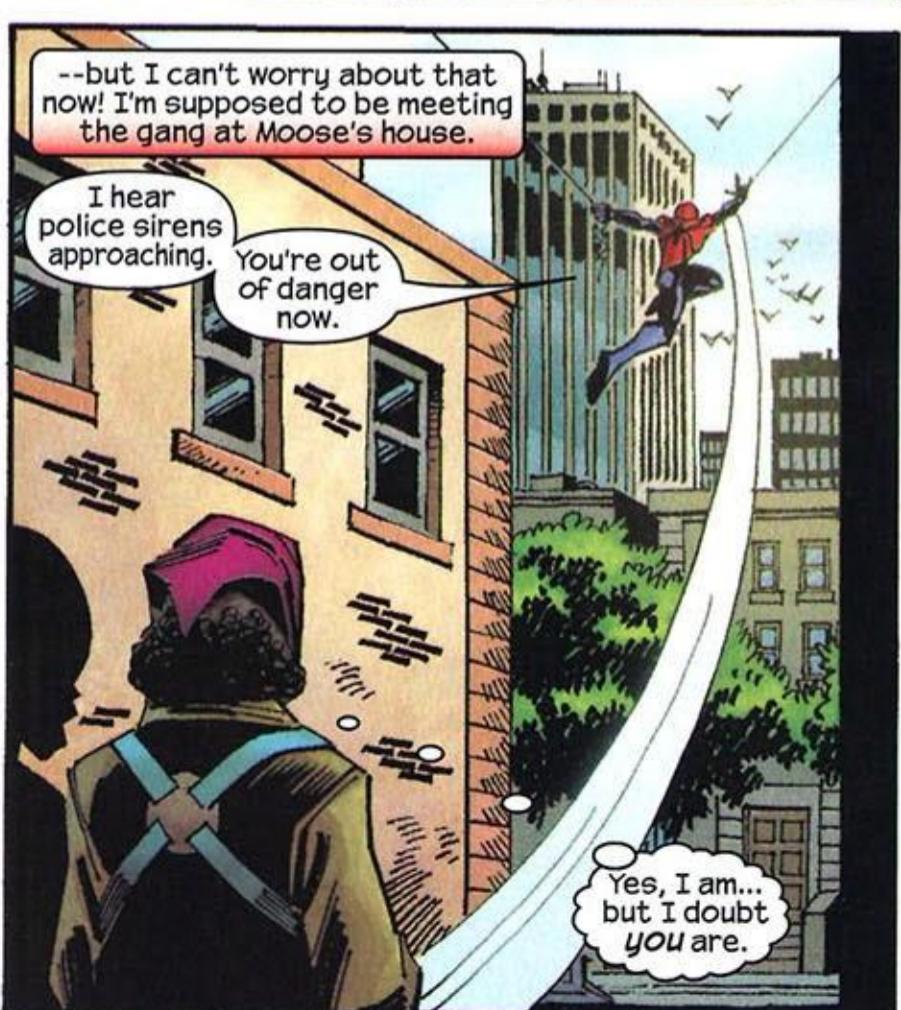


What's wrong with you?

This is MY neighborhood!

No one threatens women and children here.

THWAKKK!



Meanwhile...

With all  
due respect,  
Priestess...

Do you seriously  
expect me to believe  
that no Tarantula has  
ever been bested?

Not  
at all.

Over the  
centuries, many  
have tasted  
defeat.

Some have  
even perished  
in combat.

Both the  
amazing Spider-Man  
and the teenage crime-  
fighter called Araña  
reportedly overpowered  
the father of the current  
Tarantula.

Araña?! I  
don't believe  
I'm familiar  
with her.

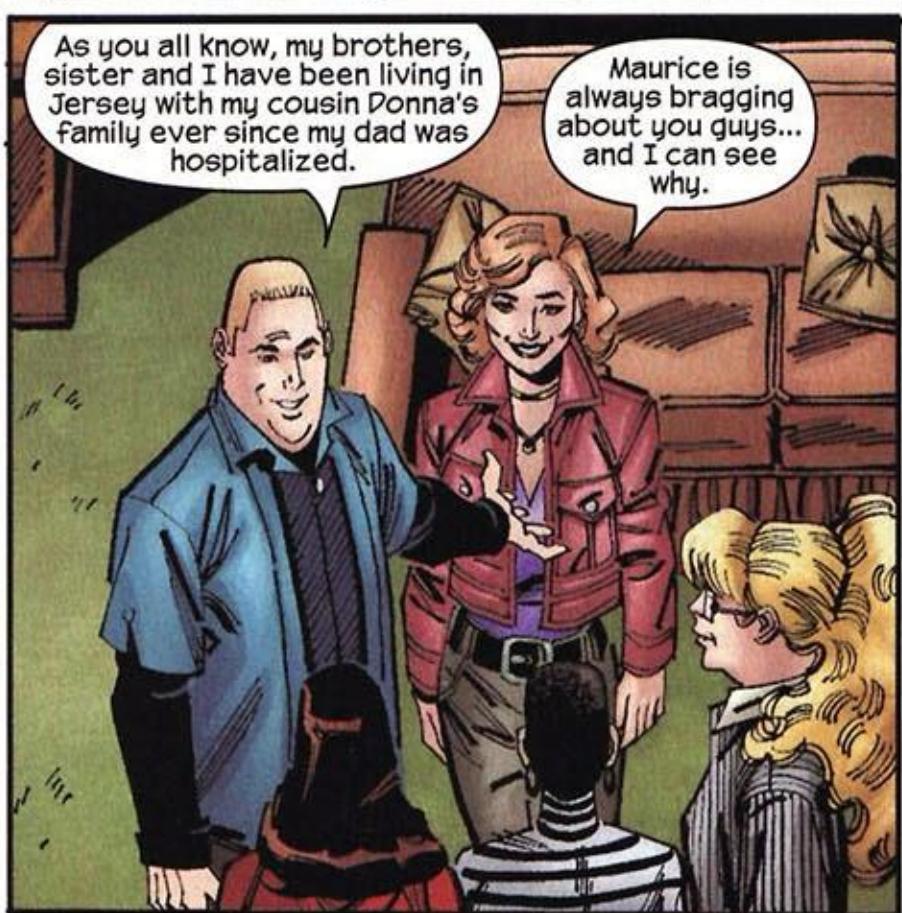
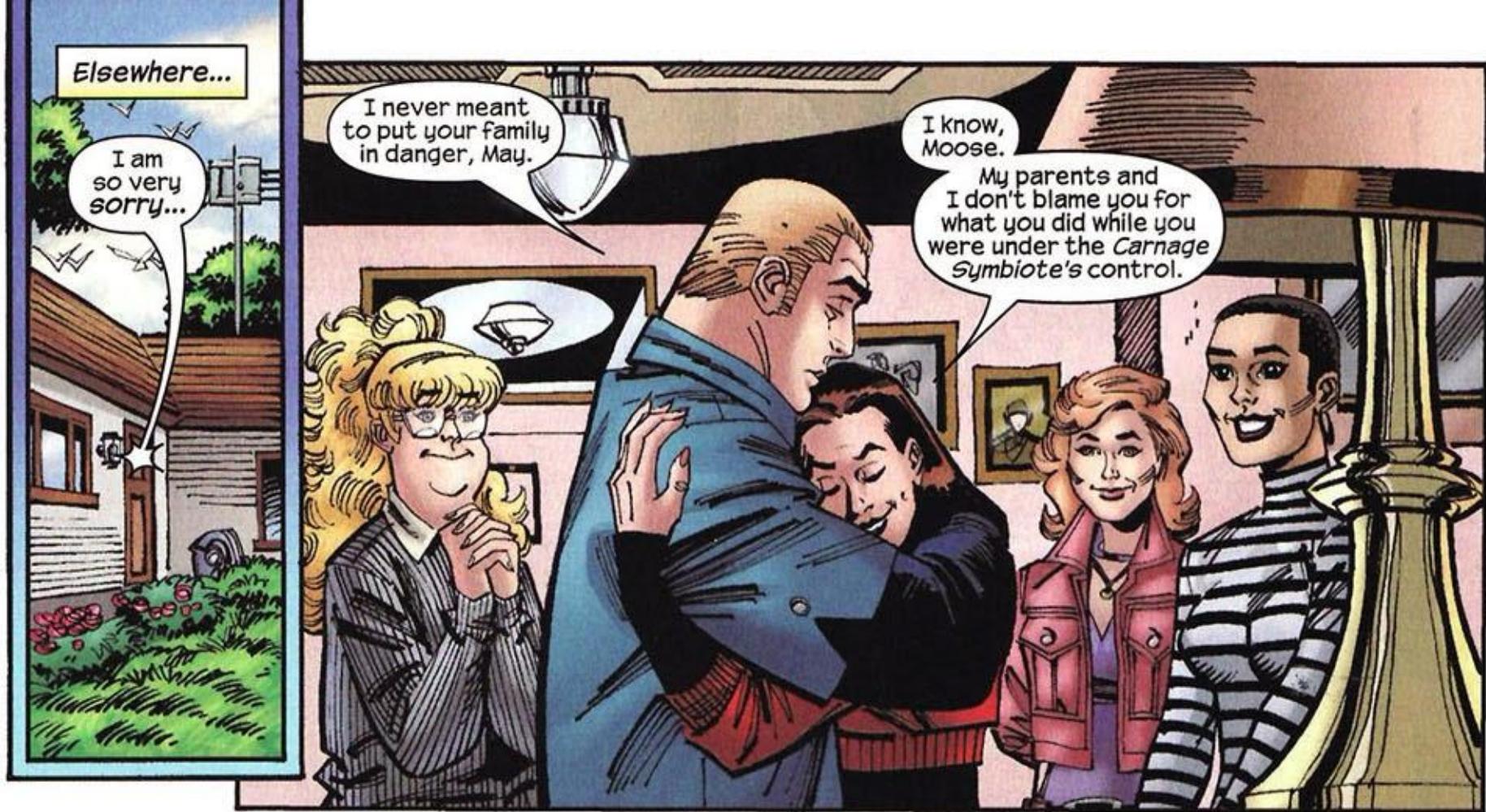
Few  
are.  
  
She usually  
operated in the  
shadows and the  
public heard little  
of her exploits.

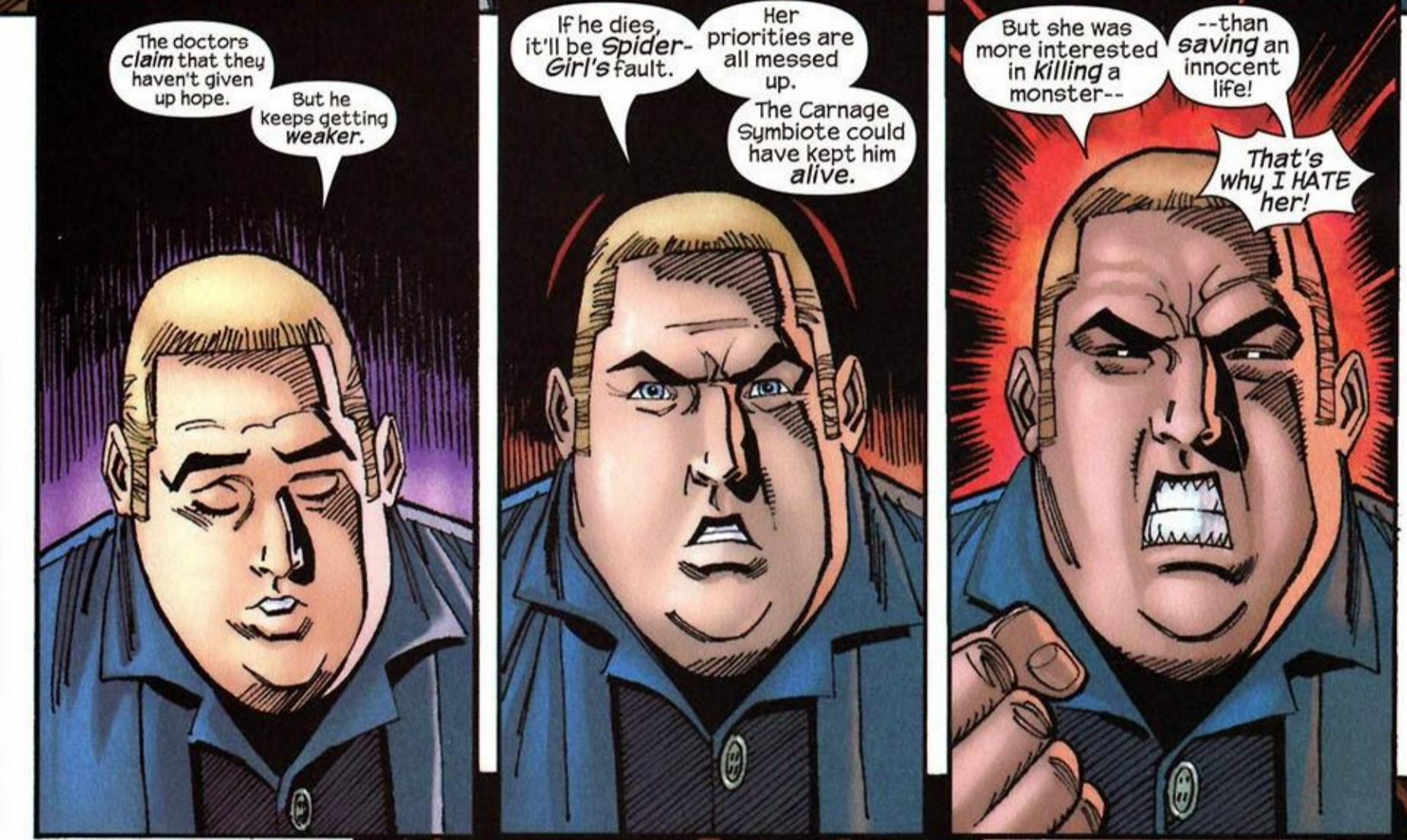
If a mere  
teenager can  
beat a Black  
Tarantula, I  
surely can.

What  
was her  
secret?

Alas, she  
took it to  
her grave.







Something puzzles me. If Spider-Man fought the last Tarantula--

--how did his daughter become the current one's ally?

I cannot answer you.

I only know that the present Tarantula goes by the name of Fabian LaMuerto--

--and he received his power from his father, Carlos.

"Fabian may be the most powerful and deadly Tarantula of them all. He is said to have interned with the league of assassins called *The Hand*--

--and he recently seized control of the notorious *Brotherhood of Scriers*."

With the aid of *Chesbro*, his chief retainer, he rules his ever-expanding criminal empire like a multinational conglomerate--

--and his assets include the New York underworld.

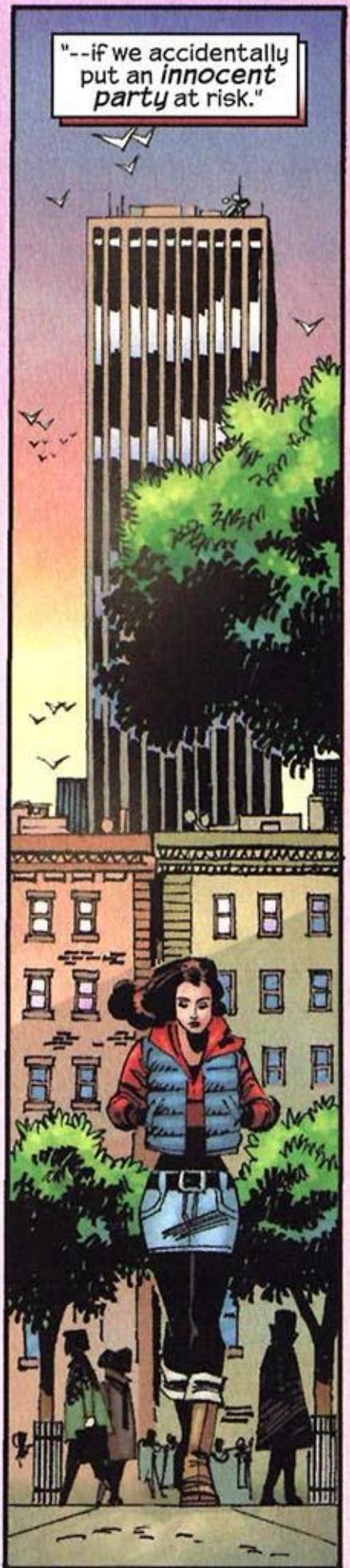
Yes, I am more than aware of that fact.

Tell me, is there any way to take him down?

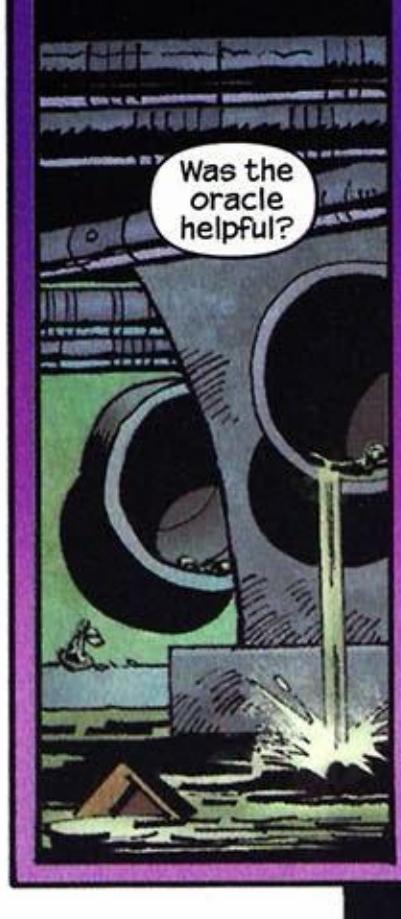
There may be one...

"The heart of the spider!"









# MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Hey Gang!

First off, I just want to tell Ron Frenz that I loved the cover of AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #10. I love that he based it on the old ads for the Maximum Carnage Video game! Maximum Carnage was one of the first arcs I read when I began getting into comics years ago. I also got another nostalgic feeling from Carnage writing the message in blood on the wall. I remember that from his first appearances. That was another one of the first comics I ever read! I was really happy to see that Courtney didn't automatically jump to the wrong conclusions with Moose. Davida was more than happy to leap for her. In the negative column, I just can't see Darkdevil and Kaine working together so easily. Even if I can believe they would work together if they were forced to, I just can't see them seeking each other out. May needs to be confiding in her parents more often as well. I don't think Ben's hearing loss will turn out to be permanent, but I do think the Parkers will have some serious questions about May's judgment. I've found a lot of fault in her judgment myself over the course of both SPIDER-GIRL series. May keeps way too much to herself when her father is being supportive and is a definite resource for her. In the newest issue she put both Ben AND Moose's dad in jeopardy without a second thought.

John Dillon  
Sedalia, MO

**Teenagers--why can't they be like we were, perfect in every way!**

Dear Spider-Team,

I meant to write last month because the end of AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL #11 shocked me so much. Benji had bonded with the baby symbiote and had become that little freak thing. It truly shocked me. I've been reading SPIDER-GIRL since issue #0 of the previous series and I can't remember an ending shocking me so much. Now I've just read issue #12 and this is one of the most tense issues of the series I've read so far (possibly apart from issue #100). May had to contend with both Moose and Benji as homicidal symbiotes and stay away from the S.H.I.E.L.D. agents. It was great writing. And another shock this issue, Benji now may be deaf. I think this is a very brave and interesting move for the character. Typically, baby characters are always treated with kid gloves and since Mary Jane's pregnancy, Benji hasn't added much drama to the plot (though he is damn cute), but these recent developments are great. Not that I wished him to go deaf, but this is a very interesting move. Imagine if Ben grew up to become a deaf Spider-person! AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL has just been getting better and better. Well done, guys!

Also I want to commend you on your work on the recent AVENGERS NEXT and FANTASTIC FIVE mini-series, both of which were very good.

Are there any chances of seeing a Darkdevil and his New Warriors one-off or mini-series?

Jordan Crisp  
London, England

**Anything is possible, Jordan! At this stage our next mini-series will be a single character and dream come true!**

To the Amazing Makers of Spider-Girl and Fantastic Five,

I am a true fan of the super heroes of the MC-2 Universe! I never bought my own comics until I read AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL one fortuitous day. I've been hooked since then! I have all issues of AVENGERS NEXT, FANTASTIC FIVE and AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL. Sometimes I buy two of each issue so that I can read one over and over again (and can lend one to friends) and keep the other in pristine condition! The storylines are sharp, intriguing, and always focused! The artwork is also exceptional! I love you guys. Keep up the good work. I can't wait for the next issue!

Rina Quintos

**Thanks for all your support, Rina...and we hope all your friends will start buying two copies as well!**

SPIDER-GIRL Team:

I just got to say, what an issue! I just could not believe my eyes, I just did not know how May was going to be able to defeat Carnage, but she did! The way she fought was incredible and here I thought that little Ben was going to get it. Am I glad I was wrong. But when I saw that he may have lost his hearing, my heart broke. I just got to say keep up the good work and keep them coming. We have another 10 years to go before we let you guys alone for more stories.

Marcus Sarzalejo  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**It's hard to believe that Spider-Girl has been around so long, Marcus...and we owe this achievement to fans like you!**

Dear F5 Team,

I'm writing to express some discomfort with an event you depicted in FANTASTIC FIVE #4 where Dr. Doom obliterates every major landmark, military base, and government office in China, as well as the Premier and his entire cabinet, in retaliation for China's nuclear strike against Latveria (after Doom himself had obliterated the United Nations building in New York). Although this act certainly showed Doom's ruthlessness, the scene also felt uncomfortably like a U.S. comic expressing its own frustrations against the real world China's growing economic and military power--and using Doom to make a statement for how it felt about it.

Unlike past cosmic events like the INFINITY GAUNTLET or MC-2's own LAST PLANET

STANDING, the massive damage inflicted on China did not magically repair itself at the end of the miniseries, leaving China significantly weakened in the MC-2 Universe. I'm not sure how you plan to deal with this issue in later issues of AMAZING SPIDER-GIRL or a future F5 mini (if at all), but I have to say seeing such permanent damage inflicted onto a real country (as opposed to a fictional country like Latveria or Atlantis) is very disturbing.

I generally enjoy seeing parallels between comics and real life, particularly in Marvel's link between mutancy and racism. I also enjoy seeing comics that show characters dealing with real-life problems (particularly Spider-Girl's treatment of domestic violence). Yet when you inflict such large-scale devastation on a real country in an otherwise minor scene, your comic--which is largely seen by its readers as a source of escapism and intelligent discussion--skates dangerously close to making some blatant statements about current politics.

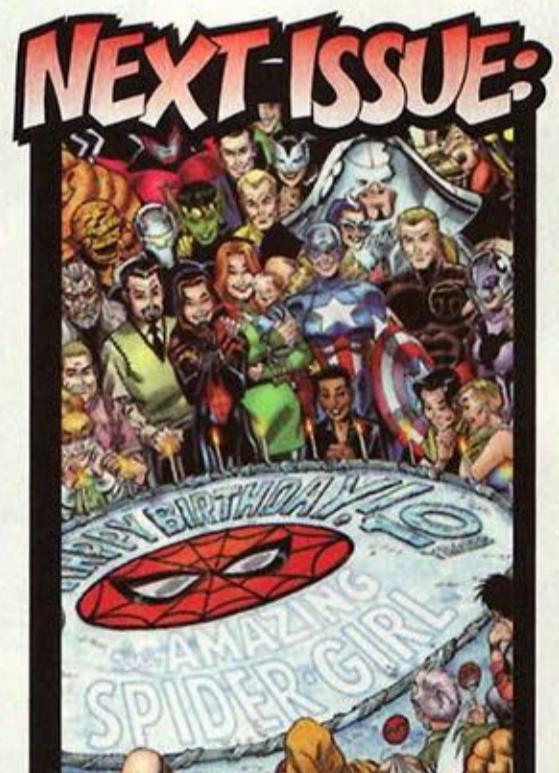
I've always admired MC-2 for depicting a non-post-apocalyptic future where people generally get along better than they have in the past. Now that MC-2's China is facing its own post-apocalypse, I would hope to see examples in your later comics of greater diplomacy, dignity, and respect between nations to show that people have become more enlightened than they have been in the past or present.

Michael Jung

**You have certainly given us a lot to think about, Michael!**

Thanks for being there!

Tom D.



**10 Years of Spider-Girl!**

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