SPIDER-GIRL®

59

DEFALCO
OLLIFFE
BUSCEMA

The daughter of the original 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! Stan Lee presents... **SPIDER-GIRL!**

FORGIVENESS!

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

The world may think *Spider-Girl* is a hero, but you know *better*.

GETWELL SOON

You're the reason why *Courtney Duran* is in a coma right now.

Your best friend might *die*--

--and it's all *your* fault!

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Poor Mr. and Mrs. Duran!
They've been so good to you over the years.
How can you bear to face them after what you did to their only child?

You met Courtney on your first day of pre-school.
Your mother dropped you off on the way to work and you cried for hours and hours.
Some nasty second-grader wandered into your classroom and took an instant dislike to you.
He began to pull your hair while the teacher's back was turned.
Courtney immediately came to your aid and bit him on the leg.
You've been best friends ever since.

And how do you reward her years of loyalty when she asks a simple favor?
You ditch her!
She just wanted you to help her pick out a dress for a school dance--
--but you couldn't be bothered.
You were out playing Spider-Girl--
--while she was bleeding in the street!

The car never would have hit her if you'd been there.
If you valued friendship more than web-swinging!
You could have protected Courtney, like she once protected you--
--but you failed her!
You FAILED!

She won't *fail* this time.

A baby girl was placed in her care a long, long time ago.

It was her responsibility to nurture that child and guard her from harm.

Instead, she delivered that baby into the hands of a madman.

Allison Mongrain has come to atone for the past.

The original *Green Goblin* was the monster who masterminded the abduction of *May Parker* when she was a baby.

He died nearly fifteen years ago--

--but it looks like his *grandson* has decided to continue the family business.

DAILY BUGLE

NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

GREEN GOBLIN RETURNS

Young *Norman Osborn*, or *Normie* as he seems to be called by his associates, appears to have taken *more* than his name from his infamous grandfather.

This time Alison won't fail!

She will protect her former charge from the curse of the *Osborns*--

--even if she has to commit *murder!*

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Have you seen *May*?

I assume she's at the hospital, Peter.
I'll be dropping by myself... after my doctor's appointment.
That's *today*?
I... I'd forgotten in all the confusion.

I'm not surprised. *My God!* Courtney practically grew up in this house. I can't even imagine how the *Durans* are coping!
If *anything* ever happened to May--!
M-Maybe we should re-think this whole *Spider-Girl* thing.

We already tried to stop our daughter from playing hero, and you know how well that turned out. That's one of the reasons why I decided to come out of retirement--
--so that I could be there to protect her!
I'm not so crazy about *that* idea, either!
We've discussed this to death, Mary Jane.

The *Fantastic Five* went to great expense to build a *bionic leg* so that I could become *Spider-Man* again.
I owe it to *them*-- and *myself*-- to see this through.
I...
Never mind.

What time's your sonogram?
Three o'clock.
Meet you there.
Promise?
Wouldn't miss it for the world!

Uh-oh!
MIDTOWN MEDICAL CENTER

There's Moose! He must be devastated about-- oh, no!
What's Brad Miller doing here?
Hey, Brad! I...
I'm kinda surprised to see you here.
Then you're an even bigger jerk than I thought!

Look, man, I know we've been squabbling, but you've always been my bestest bud.
I... I love you, Moose, and I...
I am so sorry about Courtney!

I've been acting like a real butthead lately, and I hope you can forgive me.
I'd do anything for you and Court.
I hope you know that!
B-Back at you, man!

Talk about a class act!
Considering everything that's gone down between those two, it took real courage for Brad to lay himself out like that!
Small wonder you've had a crush on him since grade school!

Give the gentlemen a little space, May!
You don't want to be around when they go all macho and start the arm-punching.

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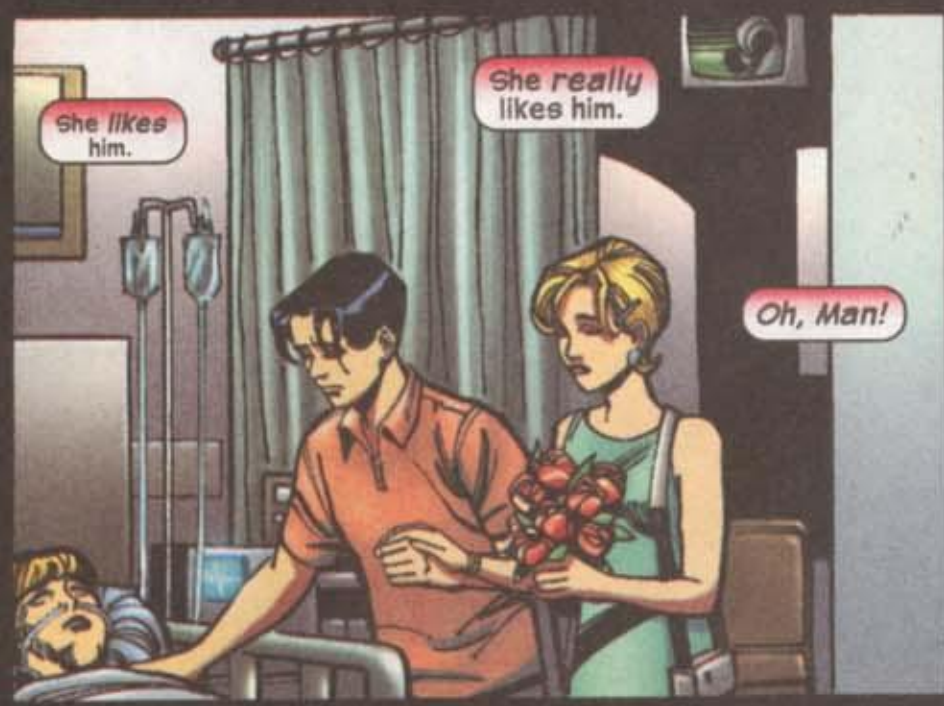
If only you hadn't been out looking for *Kaine* when Courtney--
Any change, May? Is she awake, yet?
Afraid not, Jimmy.
You, Courtney and Jimmy Yama used to hang together all the time--
--but things changed after you discovered your spider-powers.

Sometimes you wish you could just turn back the clock!
I... I'm going to check on her... and say hello to her parents.
Great!
Like you really want to baby-sit *Heather Noble!*
How's it going, Heather?

How do you *think*, Parker?
Look, I can't really say that I was all that friendly with Duran...
But I sat next to her in Math...
And she was always *nice* to me.

Jimmy's a mess. Duran's real important to him...
And he... he's real important to me.
I... I'd better see if he needs me.

Oh, Man!


She *likes* him.
She *really* likes him.
Oh, Man!

÷hffft÷
He is called *Kaine*, and he's *bored* out of his ever-loving mind.

He is a man of action-- a *hunter*-- who has spent the past few days shadowing a particularly tedious individual.
Though he usually lays claim to a strict code of honor, this wasn't always true.
He used to be an indiscriminate killer-for-hire and took great delight in torturing one specific individual.

His life changed when that man was murdered by the late *Norman Osborn*.
That's when Kaine first started on the road to atonement, seeking forgiveness for an unforgivable past...
That's when he first met *Alison Mongrain*, the woman who helped Osborn steal the *Parker* baby.

Enraged by her complicity, Kaine left Mongrain to die.
An action he eventually grew to regret.

He recently learned that she'd returned to *New York*--

--and he can easily guess *why!*

Normie, I...
I really want to thank you for storing my stuff while I...
Hey, it's the least I can do.
How you holding up, Blackie?
I...
I can't believe this is really happening.

I... I still don't understand why the District Attorney insists on putting me behind bars.
I told her I was through with crime.
How could I ever agree to *surrender* to the police?
I'll never survive prison.
Why don't I just *run*?

Running isn't the answer, Blackie. You need to get this behind you so that you can build a new life for yourself.
Where's Spider-Girl?
I thought she'd be here.
I spoke to her last night.

She has some personal business, but *promised* to meet us at the police station.
She'll be there when you turn yourself in.

What a LIAR!

He told the *Fantastic Five* that he was coming out of retirement because of his *sense of responsibility*.

He told *Mary Jane* it was to protect *May*.

He told his daughter she *needed* his help.

He lied to *everyone*--*including himself!*

The simple truth is that he missed being *Spider-Man*.

He missed the *joy* and utter *freedom* of--

Uh-oh!

Hi there!

Hate to interrupt your afternoon stroll, but I'll be hunting the elusive *Spider-Girl* later--

--and I need *bait*.

Say, you don't look like the same *Spider-Man* I fought a few months ago.

I'm not.
He was an inexperienced teenager.
I'm the *real* deal.

And I really take exception to anyone who *threatens* my daughter.

You should talk!
The first rule of good parenting is that you never, *ever* discipline *someone else's* child.
The young man you just clobbered happens to be *my son*.

My only son, I might add--
--thanks to your daughter!
You blame *Spider-Girl* for the death of *Crazy Eight*?!

The way I heard it, he was killed by one of Funny Face's associates.

There you go-- *blaming my poor son again!*

Listen to me, Angel Face, there's no need for us to--

Oh, no!

Tell me this *isn't* happening--!

He strains, trying to free his bionic foot.

Big Brain had warned him that it might malfunction, but he was too stubborn to--

Can you believe *this?*

He's *stuck.*

What a loser!

Oh, man!

This guy's not coming loose.

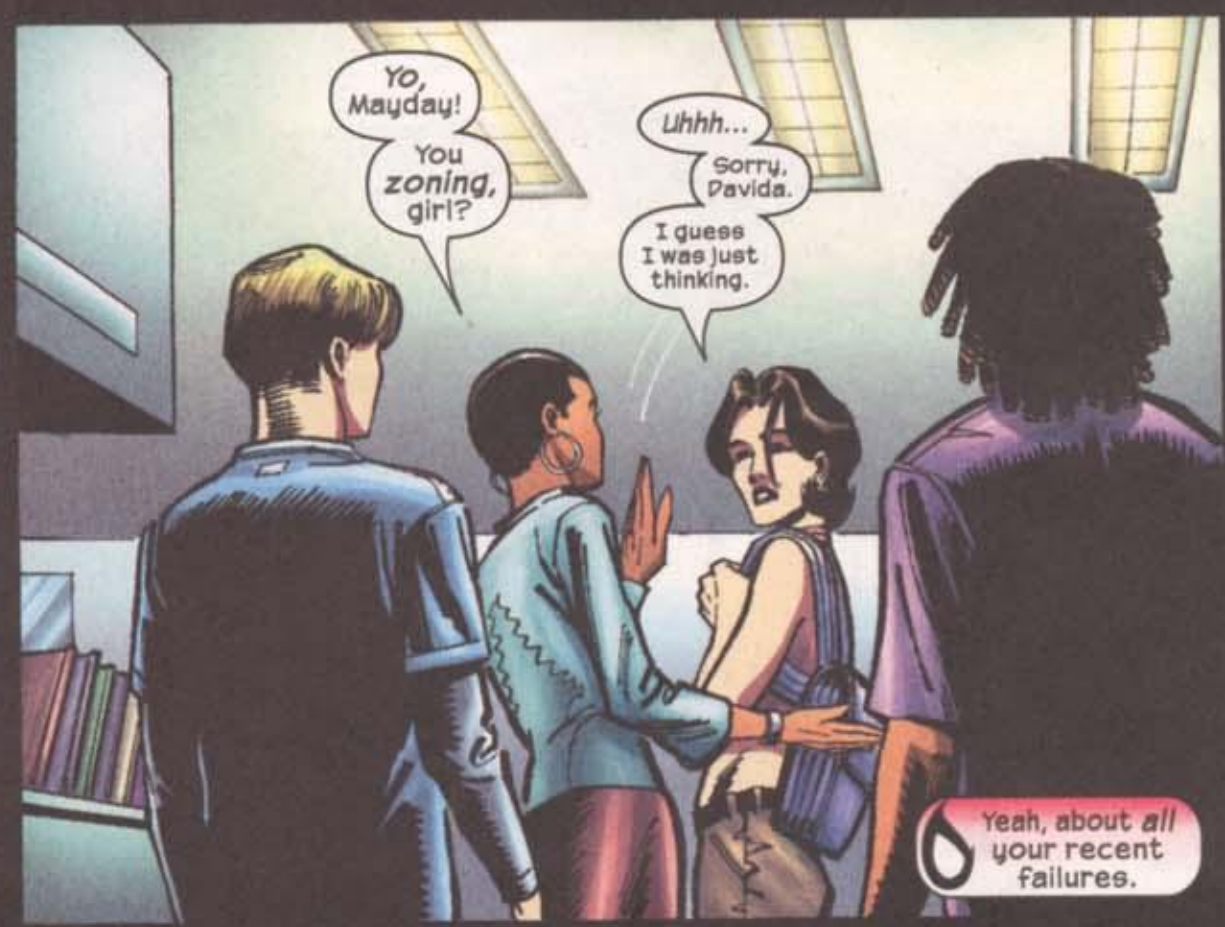
We may have to blast him free.

Whatever! You know what you have to do now...

Don't worry, mom!

I'm pretty confident that I can attract Spider-Girl's attention.

Reality to Parker--!
MIDTOWN MEDICAL CENTER


Yo, Mayday!
You zoning, girl?
Uhhh...
Sorry, Davida.
I guess I was just thinking.
Yeah, about all your recent failures.

Hi! I don't know if you remember me. I'm Richie Robertson.
Yeah, you're JJ's friend.
That's right, and I just want you to know how sorry I am to hear about your other friend.

Yeah.
Me, too.
You know how I feel about Courtney.
Yeah...
You used to think Jack Jameson was using Court to get to you, but they became friends. Real friends! He actually seems to be open and honest with her--

--which is totally out of character for him!
The guy is a total dog when it comes to girls.
You got a minute?
We need to talk.
Don't do it, girl!

You already know that you can't trust him.
He ditched you the last time you fell under his spell--
--but he does have the dreamiest eyes!
Uhhhhh...
Okay.

Oh... No.

This *can't* be good!

His real name is *Phil Urich*, but-- *thanks to the costume and equipment supplied by Normie Osborn*-- the world knows him as the new *Green Goblin*.

Though he generally likes being a super hero--

--Phil occasionally wishes he'd taken up chess instead.

Hey, mister!

You got any idea *who* caused this mess?

All I know is that he was dressed like some kind of clown--

--and he kept shouting about a final showdown with *Spider-Girl!*

The Goblin feels his stomach tighten as he remembers the last time he fought *Funny Face*--

--and was humiliated by *Angel Face*.

Even as he calls for backup, he realizes that he must also find a way to contact *Spider-Girl*--

--even though it's her fault the *Faces* are free.

I probably owe you an apology.
Probably?
Okay, I admit I messed up.
Do you?
I shouldn't have been dating other girls behind your back.
Really?
You're not going to make this easy for me.
Why should I?

Because we belong together. Face it, May! You and I have real chemistry.
Is that what you choose to believe?
I know it, girl-- and so do you!
You're awfully confident.
I have reason to be. I can see it in your eyes.

Look, I know that Brad Miller has been sniffing around you lately--
--but that's only because Heather dumped him.
What does Brad have to do with us?
Absolutely nothing... because I'm the only guy for you.

Come on, May! Be honest with yourself and admit that--
Oh, great!
I...
I need to take this!
RINGG
Saved by the cell!

Odd! That phone looks exactly like the one Phil Urich showed you the other day.
This better be important.
What--?!
Phil said his new super-team bought a bunch of them so that they could stay in contact with each other.

But JJ isn't a super hero.
He couldn't be a member of the Warriors.
It just isn't possible.
Is it?!

If Phil's the Goblin, JJ could be either *Darkdevil* or *the Buzz!*
Get a grip, girl!
Your imagination's in overdrive.
He has more chance of being *Santa Claus.*

Just 'cause you have a secret identity doesn't mean he does.
You're sure it was *Funny Face?*
Hey, I can't see the evidence from where *I'm* standing.
Okay, okay-- *settle down, Goblin!*
I believe you.

I can be there in maybe half an hour to forty-five minutes.
What do you want from me, man?
It's going to take me that long to call my costume by remote control.
Listen, I'll be there as soon as I can-- *okay?*
Oh, gosh! It's *true!*
It's really TRUE!

Don't be a hero, man! Wait for me!
It's a safe bet that *Angel Face* is also in the area and you're no match for the two of them.
Where can I find you?

You listen carefully--
--smiling because your costume is easily tucked within your backpack.

Funny Face and Angel Face are your responsibility.

You had a chance to capture them a few weeks ago--

--but you *failed!*

You felt partially responsible for the death of *Crazy Eight*--

--and didn't want to add to the grief of his mother and brother.

Instead of battling them into submission like a good little super hero, you offered them a deal--

--their freedom in exchange for a promise to go straight.

You shouldn't have been so surprised to discover they *lied.*

They are *criminals,* after all.

You blew it, girl!

You allowed those two lunatics to continue their *crime spree*--

--to *rob* and *threaten* innocent people!

You acted *irresponsibly*--

--and that's a burden you'll carry *forever!*

Where *is* she?
POLICE
Midtown South
Things rarely work out the way we hope they will, Mr. Osborn. I'm afraid we can't wait any longer.
D-Do I have time to go to the bathroom, Mr. Tyne?
Spider-Girl should be here by now.
Maybe something important came up and she can't make it.
But she *promised* to be here.
This will only take a few minutes, Ms. Drago-- or should I call you *Raptor*?
That's up to Assistant District Attorney Mauve Kolecki, Blackie.
Will you do the honors, Sergeant Spillane?
Hands behind your back.
Are cuffs really necessary?
Standard procedure, ma'am.
After you've been read your rights, we'll announce your surrender in a small press conference.
Nobody said anything about a press conference.
This isn't right.
They wouldn't be treating Blackie like a common criminal if Spider-Girl were here.
Where is she?!

Where is he?
What's keeping the Buzz?

A fat lot of good those cells did me!
I still can't reach Darkdevil, and Ladyhawk is on a case somewhere in New Jersey.
It doesn't matter! The Buzz and I can tackle the Faces on our own--
--if we can find 'em!
Poor Uncle Phil!
You're almost tempted to join him.

But this case is personal!
The Faces are your responsibility.
You've never been one to rely on your fists.
You try to talk first and find a peaceful solution.

But that trick didn't work with the Faces.
They played you for a fool, using your own beliefs against you.

Like a Geiger counter, your spider-sense suddenly begins to tingle, warning you that you're approaching danger.
You've found them!
So what now, girl?
Do you go the vengeance route--
--or give peace another chance?

You think this guy's jerking us about being the real Spider-Man?
Don't know.
Don't care.
He's just bait as far as I'm concerned.
Yeah.
But it would be so cool to be the guy who aced the first web-slinger.
Think about it, mom! I'd be as famous as the original Green Goblin.
More famous... since you'll also do Spider-Girl.
I wouldn't bet on that.
He speaks.
Now let's see if we can make him scream--!
LEAVE!
HIM!
ALONE!
You had decided to stick to your principles--
--and try to reason with the Faces!
At least until you saw your dad!

--*with even more violence!*

It's a realization that *sickens* you--

--even as you make it a *reality*.

You became a costumed hero to use your amazing powers to *protect* the innocent and *defend* the helpless.

Not to *fight* the bad guys or *punish* the guilty.

Whoa!
What's gotten into that girl?
She's never been like *this* before.
Just leave her to Mommy...
Listen up, Spider-Girl!
We promise not to harm *Spider-Man* if you agree to our terms.

No more *talk!*
No more *deals!*

You have only one *option*--
--*an unconditional*
SURRENDER!
KYAK!
KYAK!
KYAK!
KYAK!

T--this isn't the *same* Spider-Girl we fought a few weeks ago.

She's *changed!*

We need to back off and readjust our tactics.

Are you suggesting a retreat? *No way!* I won't give her the satisfaction.

Suit yourself, son! You can *stay* if you want--

Drawn to the warehouse by the sounds of battle, *Phil Urich* begins to shudder when he recognizes *Angel Face.*

--*but I'm out of here!*

They first fought when he was just starting out as a costumed hero--

--and she *terrified* him!

She still *does.*

But as much as he'd like to run and hide, he knows that he must face his fear.

He must prove to himself that he is worthy of Normie Osborn's trust--

--and that he is truly the *Green Goblin!*

And even as your Uncle Phil explodes into battle--

You can't use smoke grenades to *hide* from me, Funny Face.

I can track you wherever you go.

What's *happened* to you, girl?

You used to be a lot more mellow.

You happened to me...

"You and your psycho mother trampled on my trust--

"--and turned my dreams into nightmares!"

I once believed that *intelligence* was more important than *strength*.

That *ideals* mattered more than *power*!

I thought I could do *good* and make a *difference*--

--without resorting to *violence*!

THAKK!

But I was *wrong*--

"--and you and your mom rubbed my nose in my *naivete*!"

If I want to be a successful super hero, I now realize that I will only be measured by the power of my *punch*--

KWAPP!

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"--and not the strength of my character!"

You may not realize it, Funny Face--
QWOKK!
--but the only way I could stop you--

"--was to become as vicious and ruthless as you and your mom!"

I guess that means you won the real battle.
I hope you're proud of yourself.
PTHHHAAK!
Even as Funny Face falls for the final time, tears erupt beneath your mask--

--and they're still falling long after the Goblin arrives with Angel Face.

I heard what you said to Funny Face, hon.

Please don't be so *hard* on yourself.

You can only try your best and take each situation as it comes.

I believe that you'll eventually become the kind of super hero you *want* to be.

You lower your head, unable to trust your voice or face your father.

Although you do wonder if he's trying to ease your conscience--

--or *his!*

Where are you?!
Why weren't you at the police station like you promised?
The ADA took Blackie into custody and turned the whole thing into a media circus.
It was like they arrested the Kingpin or Doctor Doom.

T--that was today?!
I--it slipped my mind in all the excitement.
You FORGOT--?!
Y-You wouldn't believe the day I'm having.
Tell me where to meet you so that I can explain.

Hey! That reminds me--! I'm supposed to be somewhere now. Do either of you have the time?
Yeah, I can bring up a visual display inside my helmet and--it's two forty-five.
Oh, man! I can just make it.
Then you'd better go! The Goblin and I will babysit the Faces until the cops show.

I assume you're off to meet Mom.
Wish her luck for me--!
Will do--
--and I was serious earlier.
You have great instincts, May.
You just have to learn to trust them.
Yeah... right!

She nods silently to herself.
It is only a matter of time before Normie Osborn returns to the sanitarium that's been his home for the past few months--

--and Alison Mongrain finally ends the curse of the Osborns!

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I need you to *trust* me.
Yeah--
--like that's *ever* going to happen!

I don't like the results when I put my faith in people like you.
You must *listen* to me--!
Does the name *Alison Mongrain* mean anything to you?
I'm sure your parents told you that *Norman Osborn* once kidnapped you.
She's the woman he hired to care for you.

She has somehow come to believe that Osborn's *grandson* is a threat to you, and intends to *kill* him.
And I'm supposed to believe that you care about *Normie Osborn*?
I am not the heartless *monster* that your father and so many others think I am.

I haven't been that man for many years.
Something in his tone strikes you as *sincere*--
--but you *won't*--
--you *can't* be fooled again!

The *Faces* taught you to punch first and talk later--
--but your dad told you that every situation is *different*--
--and that you should *trust* your instincts!
BTAM!
BTAM!
BTAM

No, Alison--don't!

Don't let Norman Osborn turn you into a *murderer!*

Don't let him *win!*

Spider-Girl!

Y-You *know* this woman?

Not yet...

But I want the *chance*.

You could have slammed into her, disarming her by force--

--but that somehow felt *wrong*.

Y-You're that Spider-Girl person.
I've read about you.
I don't know how you learned my name, but get out of my way.
I... I'm trying to save the world from another monster.
I won't let this boy grow up to be like his grandfather.

Put the gun down, Alison. There's no coming back from murder.
It haunts you forever.
You can never fully atone for it--
--no matter how hard you try.
I... I recognize you.

You once tried to kill me--
--just because I worked for Norman.
You hated him in those days... as much as I still do.
I'm surprised you don't want revenge, too.

I've changed...
So can you.
The boy is innocent, Alison.
He's not responsible for the sins of his grandfather.

I might have believed you once--
--but that was before he resurrected the Green Goblin!
B-But Normie isn't--

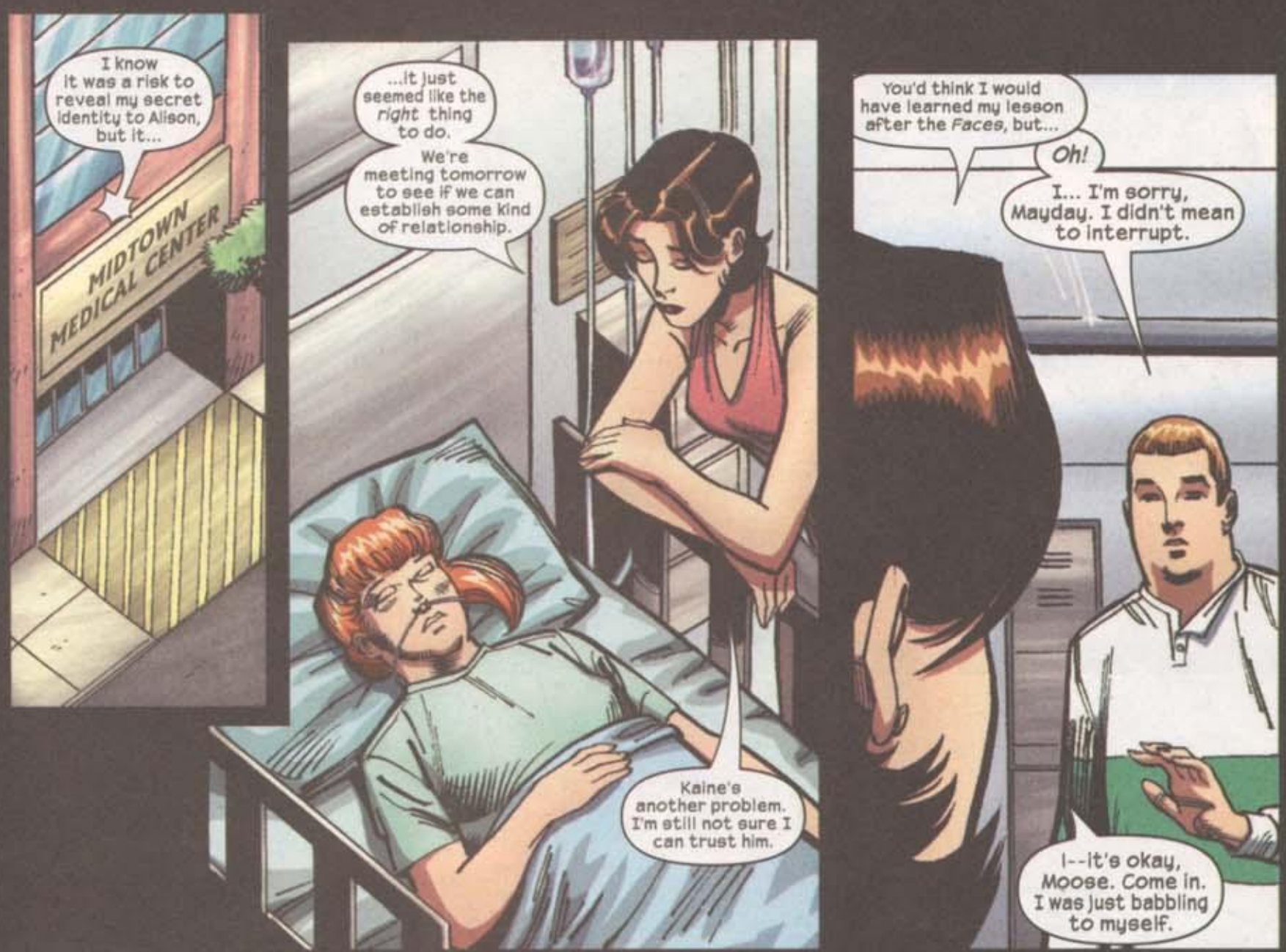
Shut up! I've heard enough. He's an Osborn! He's cursed by his grandfather's legacy of evil.
It's only a matter of time before he goes mad and hurts the child.

I--is that who you're trying to protect?
The child you once cared for?!

She's safe, Alison.
He will never harm her.

Why should I believe you?

Because...


I know it was a risk to reveal my secret identity to Alison, but it...
MIDTOWN MEDICAL CENTER
...it just seemed like the *right* thing to do.
We're meeting tomorrow to see if we can establish some kind of relationship.
Kaine's another problem. I'm still not sure I can trust him.
You'd think I would have learned my lesson after the *Faces*, but...
Oh!
I... I'm sorry, Mayday. I didn't mean to interrupt.
I--it's okay, Moose. Come in. I was just babbling to myself.

I... I waited until I saw Courtney's parents head to the cafeteria.
I-it's so hard to face them.
They haven't said anything... but they must blame *me* for the accident.
You--?!
Why *you?*
You kidding me, Parker? This is all ***my fault!***
She wouldn't be like ***this*** if I hadn't asked her to the dance.
Don't be ridiculous!
I should have been with her when she went shopping.
Look, I may not be the sharpest pencil in the box, but ***get real!***
Sometimes bad things ***happen*** to good people, and we just have to ***deal*** with the consequences.
You're ***nuts*** to blame yourself!

Look who's talking--!

Yeah...
We're a pair all right.

W-Wha...
What's so funny?

Courtney-- you're awake!
You're really AWAKE!
YAA-HOOO!
...calm down, Moosie.
I...I didn't even realize I was asleep.
Did I miss anything?
Nope.
Not a thing.
It's been pretty boring without you.

Realizing that Court and Moose might want a moment's privacy, you slip into the hall to alert the media.
Hey, Brad! She's up. Courtney regained consciousness. She's going to be okay.
Y-You serious--?!
Oh, man!
OH, MAN!

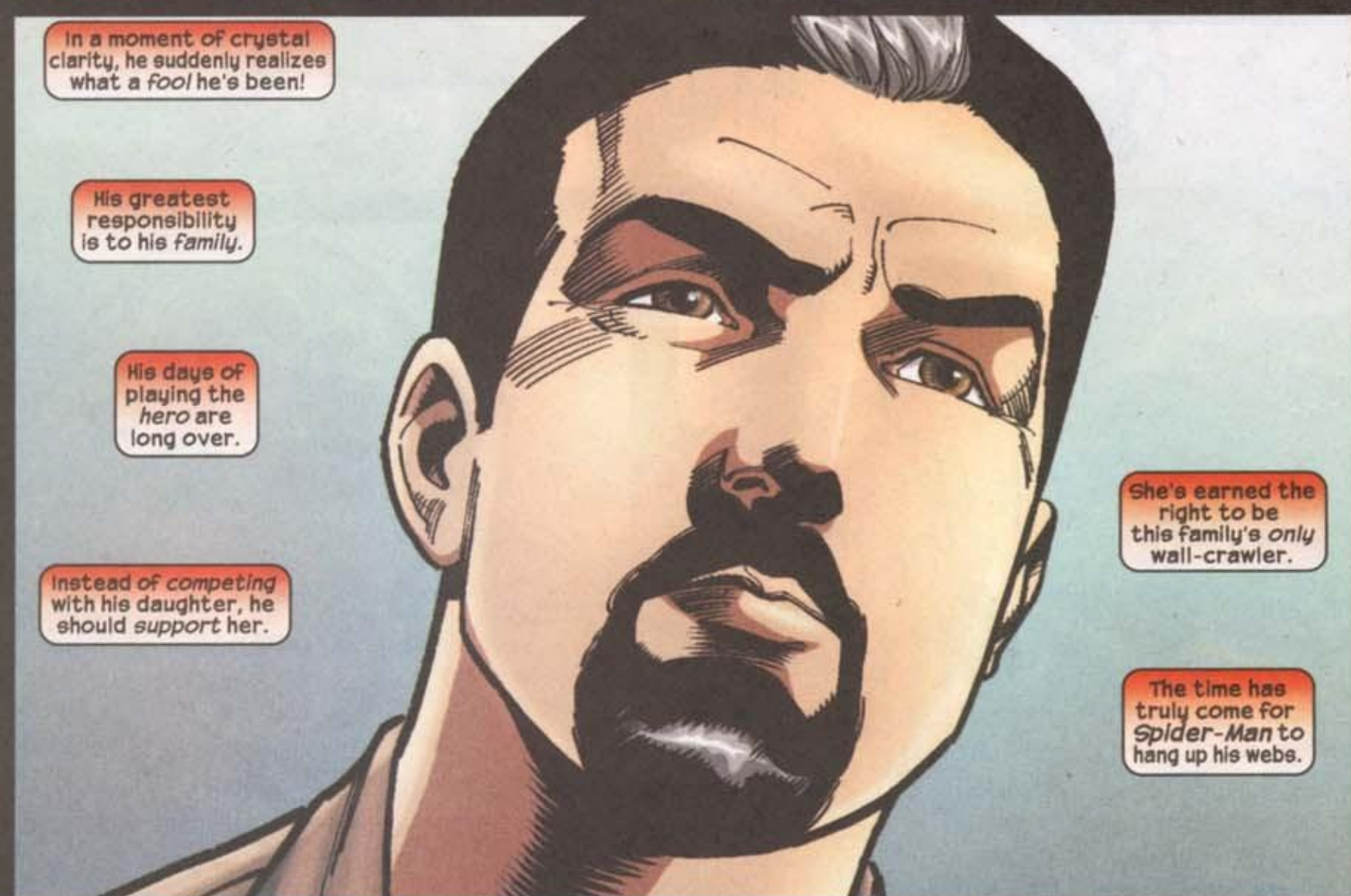
This is so great!
We've got to find her parents and tell the doctors.

Mayday, I...
I...
Your heart beats a wild tattoo as you stare into his eyes and his grip tightens.

You've had a crush on Brad Miller ever since grade school--
--and have fantasized about this moment time and again!
You almost can't believe it's really happening.
Wait'll you tell Davida!
Your first real kiss!
It's almost everything you imagined.

Almost perfect.

Almost.



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You can't believe all the *twists* and *turns* your life has taken recently.

You celebrate Courtney's return--

--while still feeling *guilty* about her accident.

You link up with *Brad Miller*--

--but are vaguely *disappointed* by the experience.

You finally capture the *Faces*--

--and are still *haunted* by every crime they committed.

You learn that you have more in common with *Jack Jameson* than you ever imagined--

--and suddenly wonder *what* you ever saw in him.

You disappoint *Normie* and *Blackie*--

--and *add* to your complications by getting involved with *Kaine* and *Alison Mongrain*.

Face it, girl-- *something's got to give!*

Like the philosopher says, *"You can only stretch a rubber band so far before it snaps!"*

You became *Spider-Girl* to help people--

--*to protect the innocent and defend the helpless!*

Yeah, but even your own father has *doubts* about you.

Maybe it's time you finally realized that you can't handle such an enormous *responsibility*--
--that you're just not *hero material*--
--that you need to concentrate on being *May "Mayday" Parker*--
--and that *this* could be the first day of the *rest* of your life!
THE END...
for now!