

RADIOACTIVE  
**SPIDER-GWEN**™



LATOUR  
VISIONS  
RENZI

**MARVEL** 005

AS A TEENAGER, GWEN STACY WAS BITTEN BY A MUTATED SPIDER. THE BITE TRANSFORMED HER, GRANTING HER AMAZING POWERS: A PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER. TO THE RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK, SHE IS THE DANGEROUS VIGILANTE CALLED SPIDER-WOMAN, BUT YOU KNOW HER AS...

# SPIDER-GWEN

PREVIOUSLY...



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SPECIAL THANKS TO  
CK  
RUSSELL

MONTHS  
AGO...

CAPTAIN CASTLE,  
I WANT YOU TO TAKE  
OVER THE SPIDER-  
WOMAN HUNT.

IT'S  
GOING TO TAKE  
A LOT OF HOURS.  
ARE YOU UP  
FOR IT?

"HELLO?  
CAPTAIN CASTLE,  
ARE YOU STILL  
THERE?"

FRANK,  
You're never here. Maybe you never  
were. Don't look.

"FRANK?  
FRANK, WHAT  
DO YOU  
SAY?"

-Maria.

"I SAY YES,  
MR. MAYOR--"

**NOW...**

"--I'LL TAKE THE JOB."

I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT IT. I'M DONE.

IT'S JUST WHISKEY AND PICKLE JUICE, GEORGE.

ASK YOUR DAUGHTER, THE KIDS LOVE "PICKLE BACKS."

"THE KIDS"? THIS IS A COP BAR, MIKE.

MALE PATTERN BALDNESS IS THE DRESS CODE.

BESIDES, GWEN'S NOT LIKE ANY KIDS YOU'D KNOW.

GEEZ, WELL EXCUSE ME, THEN...

...DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD KILL YA TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.

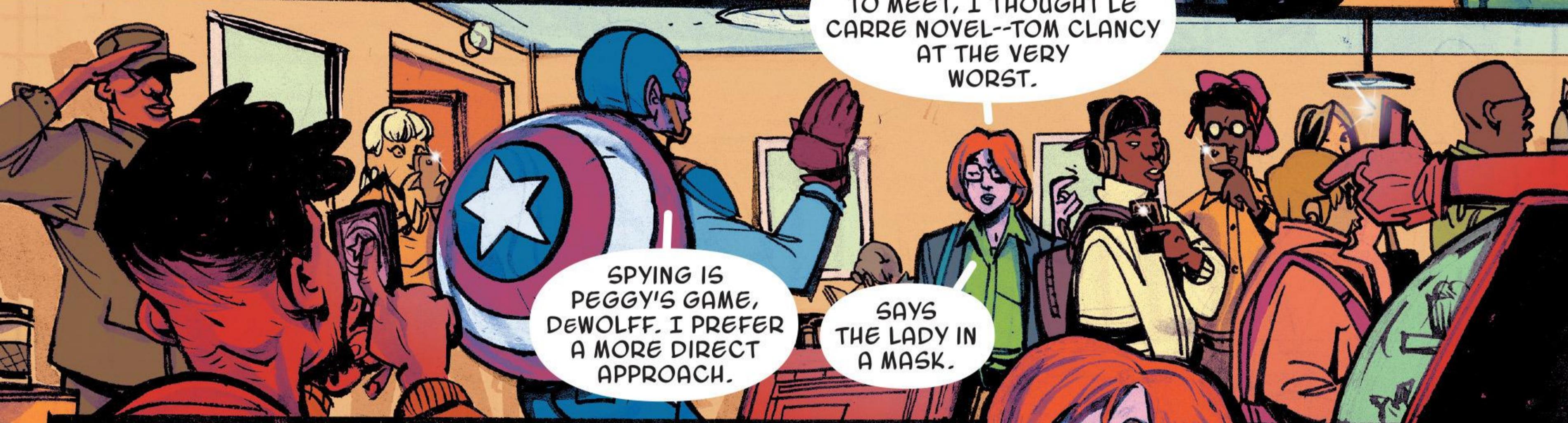
HEH.  
IT AIN'T GETTIN' KILLED THAT SCARES ME, MIKE.

**MATTHEW MURDOCK**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.

The devil you know..."  
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phone 212 666 9999

IT'S WHAT COMES AFTER.





AFTER OUR LITTLE ADVENTURE WITH SPIDER-WOMAN, I LOOKED INTO YOUR CASE.

OUTSIDE OF A WIFE HE'S BARELY SEEN SINCE HIS KID WAS BORN, THERE'S NOTHING IN CASTLE'S FILE.

THAT MORE THAN BOthered me, so I did some digging.

TURNS OUT BETWEEN HIS TOUR OF DUTY AND THE N.Y.P.D., CASTLE WORKED FOR TONY STARK.

HE MADE THE ONLY THING STARK SELLS MORE OF THAN OVER-PRICED COFFEE. WAR.

HE WAS A MERCENARY, PART OF "WAR MACHINE," STARK'S OWN PRIVATE ARMY.

STARK®  
BUCKS

SO? IT DOESN'T TAKE SHERLOCK HOLMES TO FIGURE OUT HE'S A LITTLE OVER THE--

WE BOTH SAW SPIDER-WOMAN IN THAT TUNNEL, JEAN. SHE'S NO KILLER.

SHE'S A HERO.

FRANK CASTLE ISN'T.

SO WHAT? THE GOOD SHE'S DOING NOW IS SUPPOSED TO ERASE HER PAST?

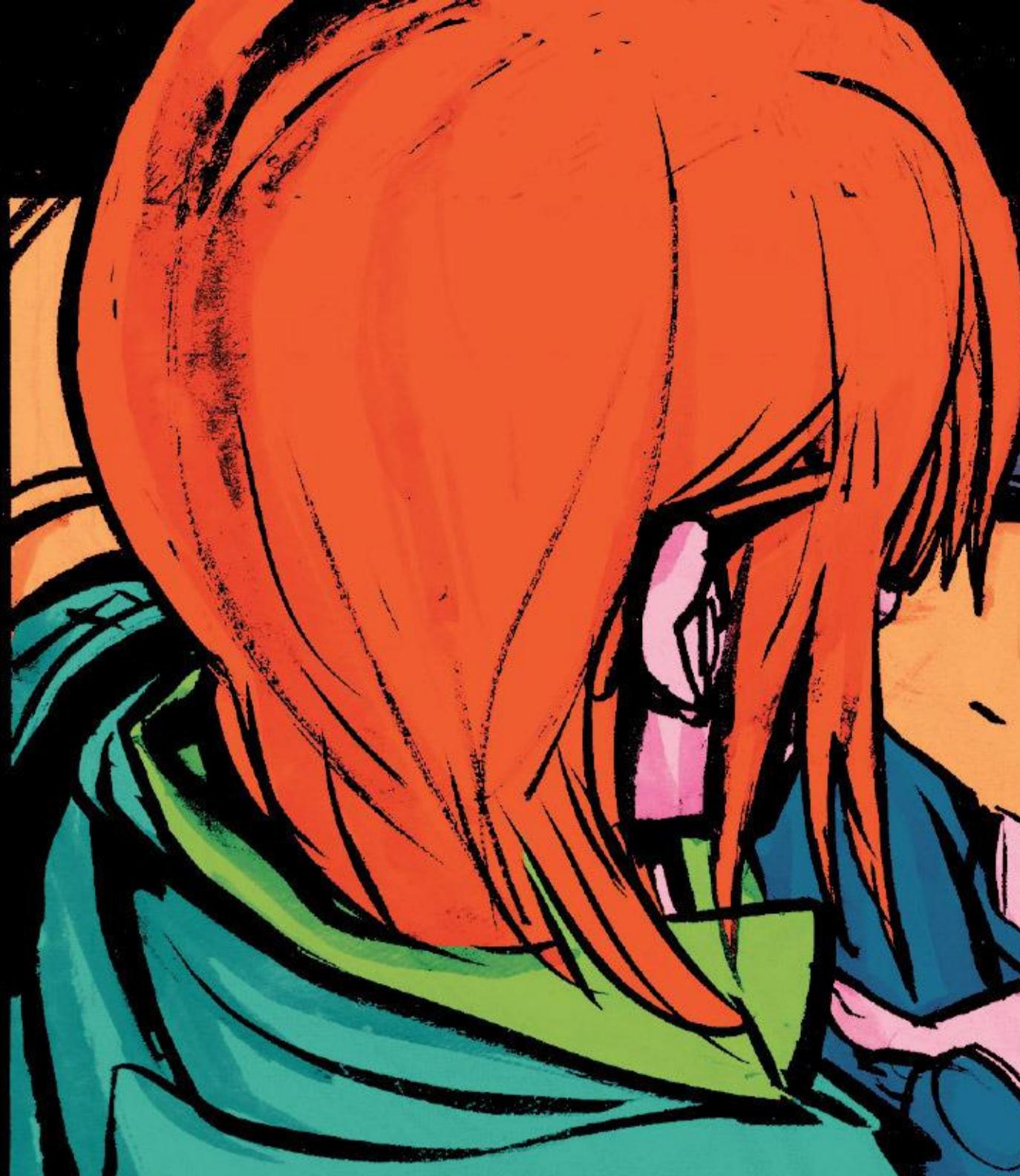
I LOOKED BACK INTO THE MIDTOWN HIGH INCIDENT LIKE YOU SUGGESTED.

EVEN IF PARKER WAS THAT LIZARD. IF HE CHANGED LIKE THOSE MEN WE SAW IN THE TUNNEL--

--NO ONE THERE SAW ANYTHING OTHER THAN PARKER DEAD AT SPIDER-WOMAN'S FEET.

AND WITHOUT EVIDENCE, SHE'S GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT.

WELCOME TO AMERICA, CAPTAIN.



IT'S  
NOT A DEAD  
END.



THE LIZARDS  
IN THE TUNNEL WERE  
BIO-ENGINEERED BY A  
SPY CELL KNOWN  
AS S.I.L.K.

BUT THE  
ROOTS OF THE  
LIZARD MUTAGEN IS  
IN THE RESEARCH  
DR. CONNORS DID  
IN HIS DAYS AT  
OSCORP--

--BEFORE  
HE RETIRED TO  
TEACH AT MIDTOWN  
HIGH.



SOMEONE  
UNIQUELY POSITIONED  
TO KNOW PARKER, CONNORS  
AND S.I.L.K. HANDED  
S.I.L.K. THAT  
RESEARCH.



THAT  
SOMEONE IS  
HARRY OSBORN.  
MIDTOWN HIGH GRAD.  
CHILDHOOD FRIEND  
OF PETER PARKER.  
HEIR TO  
OSCORP.

AGENT OF  
S.H.I.E.L.D.



WAIT. ARE YOU SAYING  
WHAT I THINK  
YOU'RE--

OSBORN WAS  
THERE THE DAY  
SPIDER-WOMAN FOUGHT  
THE LIZARD. THE DAY  
PETER PARKER  
DIED.

AND NOW HE'S  
MISSING. ALONG  
WITH THE LIZARD  
MUTAGEN.

I NEED  
EVERYTHING YOU HAVE,  
DETECTIVE.

EVERY THREAD.  
EVERY THEORY.  
EVERY LEAD.

WE HAVE TO  
FIND AGENT OSBORN  
BEFORE HE FINDS  
SPIDER-WOMAN--

--BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS."

FALCON--  
ZZT--FALCON, COME IN. WHAT'S YOUR SIT REP, SOLDIER?  
WHAT'S--

STAB OUT  
ODIN'S EYEEEEE!  
WATCH THAT RAVEN  
FLYYYYY!!

WHAT'S  
THAT DAMNED  
NOISE?!

YOU ARE  
THE GODDDDD OF  
THE LIEEEEEE!

OH  
NOTHING,  
DIRECTOR  
CARTER...

ONLY THE  
GREATEST  
MUSIC I'VE  
EVER HEARD.

I KNOOOOW,  
RIGHT? YOU SHOULD  
SEE THE VALKYRIES  
LIVE.

THEY SMASH  
A PAPER MACHE  
GOAT WITH MJOLNIR!  
IT BLEEDS QUESO  
CHEESE AND  
SALSA!

AUGGGH!  
STUPID CELL PHONE!  
GOTTA BE HERE! I  
JUST SAW IT!

=SIGH=  
SAM, PLEASE...CAP  
NEEDS YOU.

WHERE ARE  
YOU ON THE OSBORN  
LEAD?

I'M AT  
THE STACY GIRL'S  
APARTMENT. BECAUSE  
SHE'S THE LAST PERSON  
WHO WAS SEEN WITH  
OSBORN.

HER  
ROOMMATE, BETTY, IS  
LOOKING FOR A NUMBER  
TO CONTACT STACY  
OR OSBORN.

HER  
ROOMMATE  
IS...

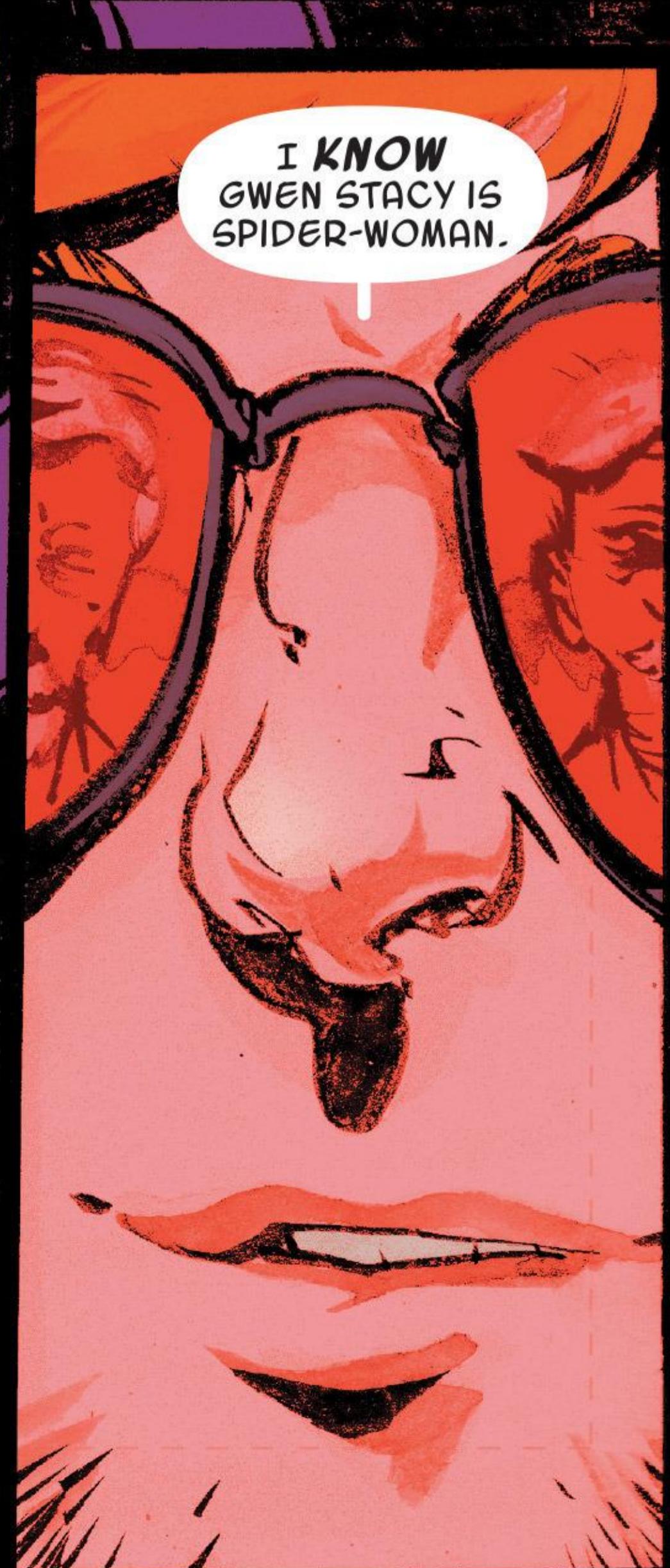


SO,  
CAPTAIN STACY.  
AT LAST--

--IT'S JUST  
YOU, ME--AND  
THE MOON OVER  
MANHATTAN.

DO WATCH  
YOUR STEP. THE  
ROOF IS LEAKIER  
THAN YOUR  
DEPARTMENT.





I SUSPECTED AS MUCH AFTER SHE SAVED YOU FROM ALEKSEI AT THE MARY JANE'S CONCERT.

SO I TESTED MY THEORY BY SENDING THE VULTURE.

HE FAILED, OF COURSE, BUT NOT BEFORE PIECING TOGETHER HER SECRET.

A SECRET HE'S SINCE ATTEMPTED TO BARGAIN HIS WAY OUT OF PRISON WITH--

AND IN DOING SO LIKELY CONFIRMED FRANK CASTLE'S OWN SUSPICIONS.

LUCKILY, I NOW REPRESENT TOOMES. HIS SILENCE WON'T BE A--

YOU STILL HAVEN'T SAID WHY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

OH, C'MON, CAPTAIN. WHO HATES THE POLICE MORE THAN ME?

WHO ELSE HAS ANY HOPE OF STOPPING THEM? WHO ELSE CAN--

USE GWEN AS HIS FOOT SOLDIER?

OH, PLEASE. FACE IT, CAPTAIN. SHE ALREADY IS.

OUT THERE RISKING HER NECK--

--ALL BECAUSE YOU DRILLED YOUR DAD COP NONSENSE INTO HER SKULL.

THE SPIDER THAT BIT GWEN STACY DIDN'T MAKE HER SPIDER-WOMAN.

YOU DID.

B.W.P.

YEAH.  
I CAN SPOT  
AN OVERRIDING  
PARENT A MILE  
OFF.

BEING  
RAISED BY  
NINJAS KINDA  
SORTA DOES  
THAT TO YOU.

NINJAS?!  
YOU SON OF A  
#@\$%, YOU SET  
ME UP!

EASY  
ON THE TRIGGER,  
TARANTINO.

IF WE WANTED  
IT, YOUR DEATH  
WOULD'VE COME  
LONG AGO.

AS QUICK  
AND QUIET AS A  
HUMMINGBIRD  
FART.

THEY'RE  
NOT HERE FOR  
YOU.

WELL, I MEAN--  
THEY ARE HERE **FOR**  
YOU, IN A MANNER OF  
SPEAKING.

THEY'RE  
JUST NOT HERE TO  
KILL YOU.

FRANK  
CASTLE?!

YOU CAN'T!  
YOU CAN'T  
KILL FRANK  
CASTLE!

HEH.

THAT'S  
WHERE YOU'RE  
WRONG,  
CAPTAIN--

--I'M  
THE ONLY ONE  
WHO CAN.

"AND THAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
US, STACY.

"I CAN.

"I WILL.

"I WILL KEEP  
GWEN SAFE.

"I WILL TRAIN HER  
PROPERLY. GIVE  
HER THE TOOLS  
SHE NEEDS...

"...SO THAT MEN  
LIKE CASTLE WILL  
NEVER HURT HER."

"THIS IS MADNESS,  
MURDOCK! I DON'T  
CONTROL MY  
DAUGHTER. SHE'S--"

"HER OWN  
PERSON?"

"MY, MY, AREN'T  
WE PROGRESSIVE  
ALL OF A SUDDEN,  
CAPTAIN?"

"WHAT'S NEXT, WHEAT  
GRASS SMOOTHIES  
FOR BRUNCH?"

"BE HONEST, GEORGE.  
YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT  
FROM ANY OTHER PARENT."

"YOU BELIEVE  
YOU KNOW WHAT'S  
BEST FOR YOUR CHILD.  
BUT DEEP DOWN--"

--YOU'RE JUST  
TRYING TO SPARE  
THEM **YOUR** SINS."

WHICH IS  
A PARENT'S  
JOB, OF COURSE, TO  
UNDERSTAND THE  
COST OF SIN.

TO MAKE  
THE HARD  
CHOICES SO THAT  
THEY DON'T  
HAVE TO.

SO LET'S  
SEE WHAT KIND  
OF PARENT YOU  
ARE, SHALL WE,  
CAPTAIN?

WHAT  
KIND OF  
SINNER?

NO. NEVER.  
I WON'T. I REFUSE  
TO MAKE THAT--

HAH! LOOK  
AGAIN, CAPTAIN!  
THOSE MAD, VACANT  
EYES! THOSE  
FOAMING  
TEETH!

AT  
THAT BEAST  
FACING **NINJAS**  
WITH HIS BARE  
HANDS!

THAT IS  
YOUR ENEMY'S  
**TRUE FACE!**

FRANK  
CASTLE'S LIFE  
IS IN **YOUR**  
HANDS.

IT'S YOUR  
**CHOICE**. HE LIVES  
OR DIES ON YOUR  
COMMAND.

A MAN LIKE CASTLE  
IS **NOTHING**. TO ME OR  
MY BUSINESS--

BUT YOU?  
WE BOTH KNOW  
THE PAIN HE CAN  
CAUSE YOU.

SO SPARE  
US THIS TIRED  
ANGEL VS. DEVIL  
ROUTINE.

YOU CAN  
EITHER LET THAT  
MONSTER LIVE, AND  
PRAY THE BLIND SQUIRREL  
OF JUSTICE FINALLY  
FINDS ITS NUT.

"OR YOU CAN DO  
THE **RIGHT** THING--

--WHAT A **MAN**--WHAT  
A **FATHER** DOES TO  
PROTECT HIS FAMILY--

--AND PUT  
THAT SICK DOG  
DOWN."

C'MON,  
CAPTAIN--

--IT'S  
TIME TO OPEN  
SCHROEDINGER'S  
BOX.

DOES FRANK  
CASTLE **LIVE**  
OR **DIE**?



YOU'RE WRONG,  
MURDOCK. I KNOW  
MY DAUGHTER.

KNOW  
HER WITH ALL MY  
HEART. TRUST HER  
WITH EVERYTHING  
I'VE GOT.

AND  
SHE TRUSTS  
ME.

YOU  
WANT TO GAMBLE,  
MURDOCK? WELL, I'M  
CALLING YOUR  
BLUFF.

AND IF  
I DON'T ALLOW  
IT, NEITHER WILL  
YOU, RIGHT?

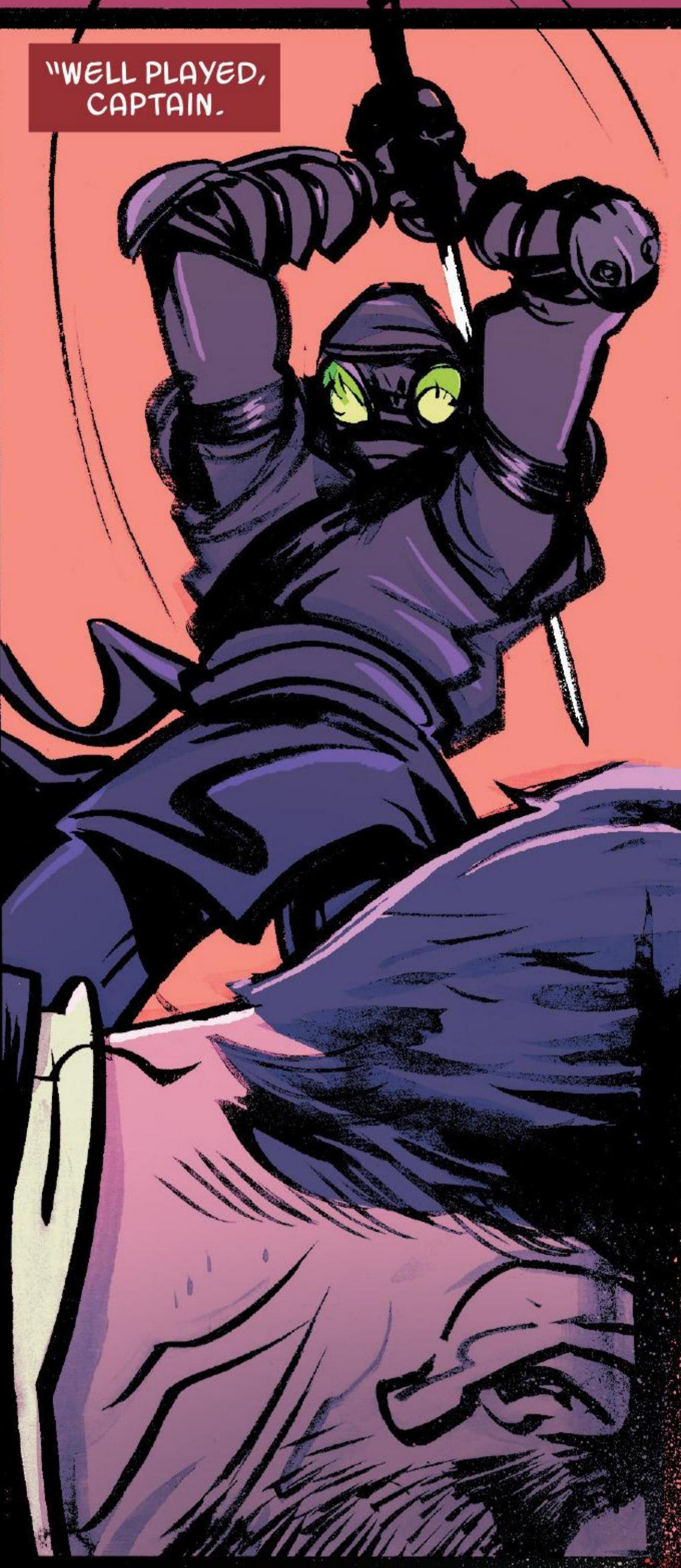
"BECAUSE KILLING  
ME OR CASTLE SHOWS  
YOUR CARDS. IT PUSHES  
YOU ALL IN."

"IT SHOWS YOUR  
TRUE FACE."

"WELL THIS IS MY  
FACE, MURDOCK."

"LOOK ME IN  
THE EYE IF  
YOU CAN--"

--SEE IF I BLINK."





"AND IT'S UP TO ME  
TO MAKE SURE SHE  
HAS THE CHANCE TO."

HSSSSSHHHHHSSSSSHH...

OSBORN?

STEP AWAY  
FROM SPIDER-WOMAN,  
OSBORN.

THIS WILL  
BE MUCH EASIER  
IF YOU--

LIEESSSSSS...

...EVERYONE  
LIESS TO  
ME...

...NO MORE  
LIESS!

OKAY,  
SON.

COME  
AND GET SOME  
TRUTH.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...

# SPIDER-GWEN

#6!



# CASTLE, FRANK

**REAL NAME:** Frank Castle  
**OCCUPATION:** Captain, NYPD  
**LEGAL STATUS:** Citizen of the United States  
**OTHER ALIASES:** None  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Queens, New York City  
**MARITAL STATUS:** Single  
**KNOWN RELATIVES:** Maria Castle (wife, estranged), Frank Castle Jr. (Son), Lisa Castle (Daughter)  
**GROUP AFFILIATION:** NYPD Special Crimes Task Force  
**BASE OF OPERATIONS:** New York City  
**FIRST APPEARANCE:** Spider-Gwen #1 (vol. 0)

**HISTORY:** Born in New York City to immigrant butchers, Frank Castle enlisted in the U.S. Marines after the events of 9/11. While on active duty he was decorated with numerous medals for his service in both Iraq and Afghanistan, including the Purple Heart, which was awarded after he and his future wife and fellow Marine Corpsman, Maria Walls, were deemed the only survivors of one of the war's deadliest firefights. The two were married in a field hospital in the aftermath.

With his tour ending and a family on the way, Castle pursued a lucrative offer to serve as part of WAR MACHINE, the personal army of billionaire industrialist, weapons manufacturer and coffee magnate, Tony Stark. During his time in the employ of Stark, WAR MACHINE's involvement in skirmishes both domestic and abroad gained them a dubious, borderline notorious reputation as bloodthirsty hired guns. The veracity of such claims is up for debate, but many WAR MACHINE missions did, in fact, put them at odds with the interests of the world peacekeeping agency known as S.H.I.E.L.D.

Returning home, Castle joined the New York Police Department and Maria soon gave birth to their first child. As the docility of their domestic life increased, Castle became more aggressive, hard-nosed and coldly detached on the street. Dubbed "The Punisher" for his propensity for over-the-top violence and his proclivity for treating suspects like enemy soldiers, he quickly became a near-mythic figure both within the NYPD and to NYC's organized crime. His notoriety reached its peak after his nearly single-handed apprehension of the "Fancy Dan Gang." His subsequent appointment to the rank of Captain and the birth of the Castles' second child, Lisa, were marked by a celebratory goldfish cracker while hiding in a dumpster on voluntary stakeout duty.

Not long thereafter, the costumed adventurer Spider-Woman was branded as the chief suspect in the murder of Midtown High student Peter Parker. Hunted by Captain George Stacy, Spider-Woman drew the attention of the Kingpin of Crime's lawyer, Matt Murdock. Seeking to make an ally of Spider-Woman, Murdock ordered an attempt on Stacy's life by the hitman Aleksei Sytsevich (a.k.a. "The Rhino").

Curiously, the plot was foiled, as Spider-Woman intervened and saved the life of Stacy, her chief pursuer. After Spider-Woman revealed her double identity as Stacy's own daughter, Gwen, Captain Stacy allowed her to flee and began the process of protecting her identity from his bosses at the NYPD. Stacy's change of position on Spider-Woman's guilt prompted the Mayor to relieve him of command and to appoint Castle as the new head of the Spider-Woman Task Force.

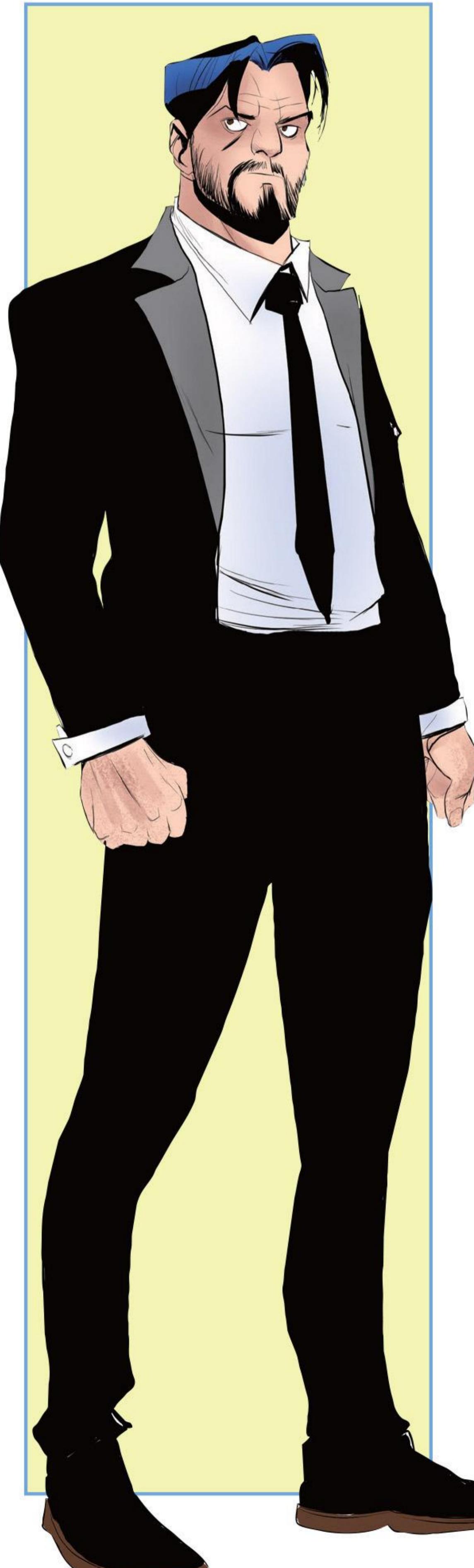
After an interrogation of The Rhino, Castle began to suspect that defense lawyer Matt Murdock was in fact secretly in charge of The Kingpin's criminal organization. A second attempt on Stacy's life by Adrian Toomes (a.k.a. "The Vulture") was again foiled by the intervention of Spider-Woman, who then faced Castle in hand-to-hand combat. Castle was defeated, but only after unmasking

Spider-Woman, revealing her to be a teenage girl. Never having met Gwen Stacy, he failed to recognize her as his fellow officer's daughter, and her identity therefore remained secret.

Miraculously shaking off the injuries sustained during the battle, Castle returned to work and began to build a case against Captain Stacy, proposing the theory that Stacy was using his intimate knowledge of the criminal underground to his own benefit and had secretly aligned with Spider-Woman, employing her as muscle in exchange for her freedom. To what extent Castle is showing his cards is anyone's guess, but Castle currently believes that proving Stacy's guilt will bait the trap for Spider-Woman — causing her to come to the police force, rather than the force having to find her. This theory, along with her own experiences with Spider-Woman have caused Castle's partner, Jean DeWolff, to doubt his true motivations and competence.

Matters were further complicated when Matt Murdock approached Captain Stacy and offered his law services to "protect" the Stacy family from Castle and the NYPD. As part of that offer and as a test for Stacy, Murdock ordered a near-deadly ninja attack on Castle, which Castle ultimately survived thanks to Stacy's intervention.

Citing his lack of involvement in their lives, Frank Castle's wife and children have left him. His life is now strictly his job. ■



**HEIGHT:** 6'1" (approximate)  
**WEIGHT:** 210 lbs. (approximate)  
**EYES:** Blue  
**HAIR:** Black

**SUPER-POWERS:** Frank Castle literally sees red when angry. Which is 99.9 percent of the time. He doesn't know the words to ANY songs.

**SKILLS/TALENTS:** Frank Castle is the recipient of multidisciplinary military training from the U.S. Marine Corps. As a Captain in the New York Police Department, he is a skilled detective and is well-versed in the latest police protocol and methodology. Additionally, he is a preternaturally precise marksman, an extremely skilled hand-to-hand combatant, an armorer, a gunsmith and an expert in field medicine.

**WEAPONS/EQUIPMENT:** Frank Castle employs an ever-changing arsenal of weaponry including various automatic and semi-automatic rifles, handguns and combat knives. He has been known to rig his own specialty devices such as the electric batons and battle vest he used in combat with Spider-Woman.

**FUN FACT:** Frank Castle keeps a private list of sarcastic action hero one-liners for future use. To date he has never used one.

Tour  
**THE SEVEN SEAS**

With

**BLACK MANTA  
EMPIRE**



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