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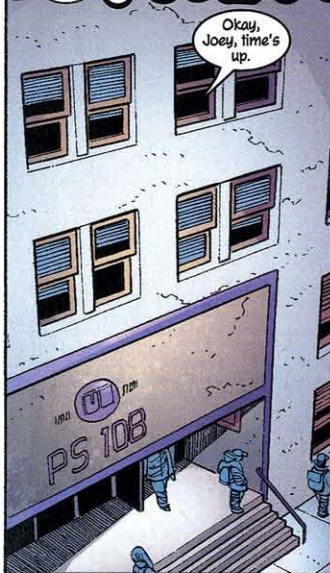
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STAN  
LEE  
presents:

# The Life & Death of Spiders



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Had to come to class, because I can't turn my back on the kids like Joey, so much like me at that age. But I've been looking over my shoulder every two minutes.

Waiting. Because no way is this over yet.

She followed me all the way from the Astral Plane, where she picked up my scent and came after me, the wasp to my spider, natural enemies. I can't believe she'd stop now, not after we went toe-to-toe across town.

I've met some bad-news guys in my time, but everything in me, every spider-sense I've got, was screaming that this one's bad straight through.

Malicious. Mean. Spiteful. Twisted. I think she enjoys doing this, enjoys tearing her prey apart.

One way or another.

Then the solution is officially a stable medium. Congratulations.

Yaaaaayyy! I got a stable medium!

Which, let me tell you, in an age of psychic hotlines, isn't easy.

So you're sure you turned off the Bunsen burners?

Because if the school burns down, they're almost certainly going to take it out of my paycheck.

Totally.

Okay, I'm going back -- You can handle it.

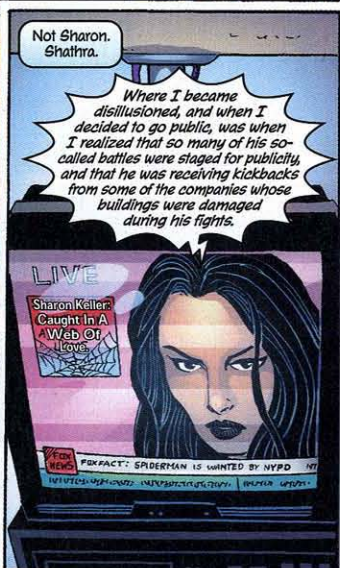
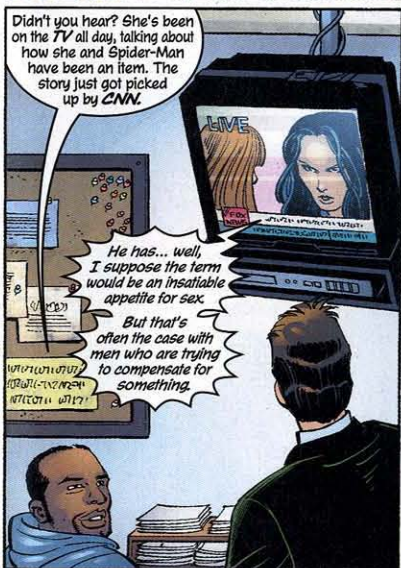
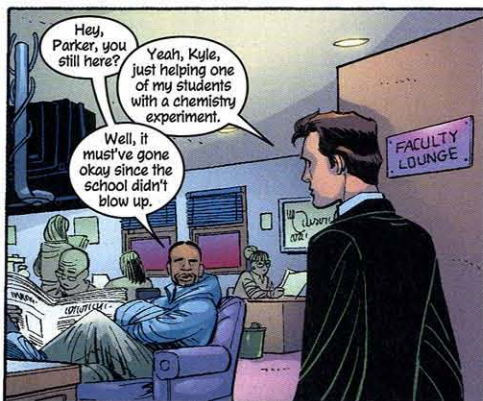
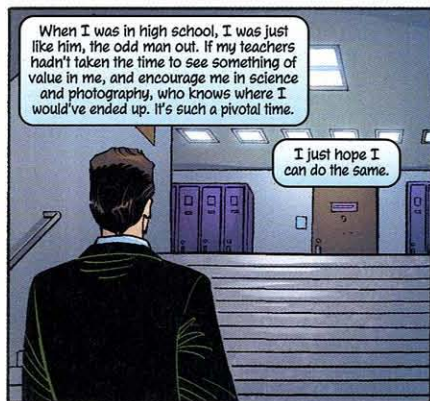
No, really, it's off.

Anyway, I gotta go or my mom'll have a cat. Thanks again, Mr. Parker.

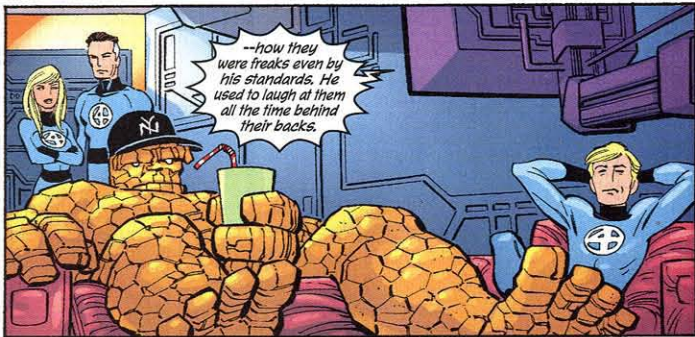
It's okay, Joey. You have a lot of potential. I want to make sure that potential has the chance to be realized.

See you in class Monday.











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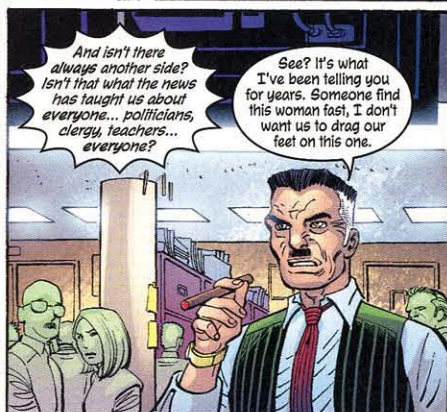
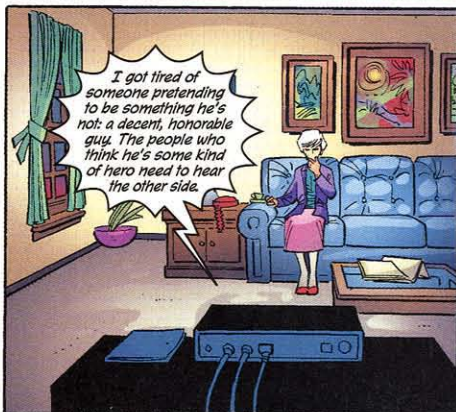
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So we'll definitely be following this story as it develops.



That we will, Susi. Looks like another role model, for some at least, bites the dust.

In other news --

--a couple in Vancouver, British Columbia claim to have bred the world's first singing cat.



Our correspondent reports --




I've been away too long.



It's started.





A full-page comic book illustration of Spider-Man swinging through a city at night. He is in a dynamic pose, suspended in the air with his arms outstretched. He is wearing his iconic red and blue suit with a spider emblem on the chest. The background is a dense urban landscape with various skyscrapers and buildings. The sky is a deep purple and blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The lighting is dramatic, with highlights on Spider-Man's suit and the city buildings.

I'm so angry I can't even see. I web my way across the city on instinct and rage.

I know where the studio is. I know where she is.

I try to form a coherent thought. I can't.

So I say the hell with it and give it over to the rage.

Let it burn.

Let it burn.

She's going down.















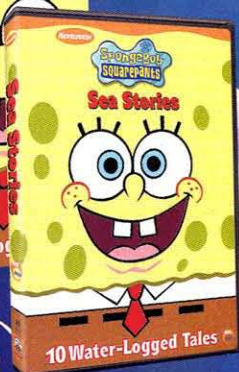
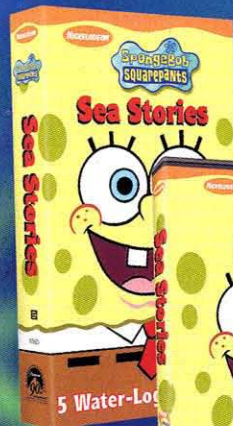






# THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE.

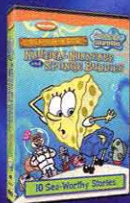
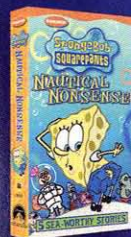
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I heart  
heal berries

My parents  
went to  
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and all I got  
was this  
stupid t-shirt!

WILD  
ARMS 3



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I hit her with everything I've got. I'm not holding back anymore.



She did worse than hit me. She hurt me in the deepest part of myself. My self-respect. My heart.

Listening to her, I wanted to be sick. Or take a bath.



Now as the rage fills me so that I'm half blind with fury, I want only one thing.



I want to kill her. For the first time in my life, I want to kill something. Because that's what she is. A thing. Inhuman. Monstrous.





I want to grind her bones to powder with my bare hands. Fighting on sheer instinct. Not thinking, just fighting.



And it feels good. It feels --

Aaaaaghhh!




Shush -- don't let him hear you!

Aaaaaahhhh! Monster! Monster, Mommy, monster!



What's he pointing at me for? I'm not the monster, I --




A large comic book panel showing Spider-Man in his red and blue suit, crouched in the center of a city street. He is surrounded by a dense, chaotic web of spider webs that fill the air and cover the surrounding environment. In the background, a red car and a blue car are visible, both partially obscured by the webs. Spider-Man's expression is one of confusion and concern. Three speech bubbles are present: one at the top left, one at the top center, and one at the top right.

...ohmygod... what have I done? What was I thinking?

I wasn't thinking. I was acting on instinct. It's as if I --

Little man gone. Only spider now.

A close-up panel of the character Venom. He is shown from the chest up, with his long, black, hair-like tendrils flowing around his head. His eyes are glowing with a bright blue light. He has a menacing, almost smiling expression. The background is dark and filled with more webs.

She wanted me angry. She wanted me to lose control. Wanted me to be like her.

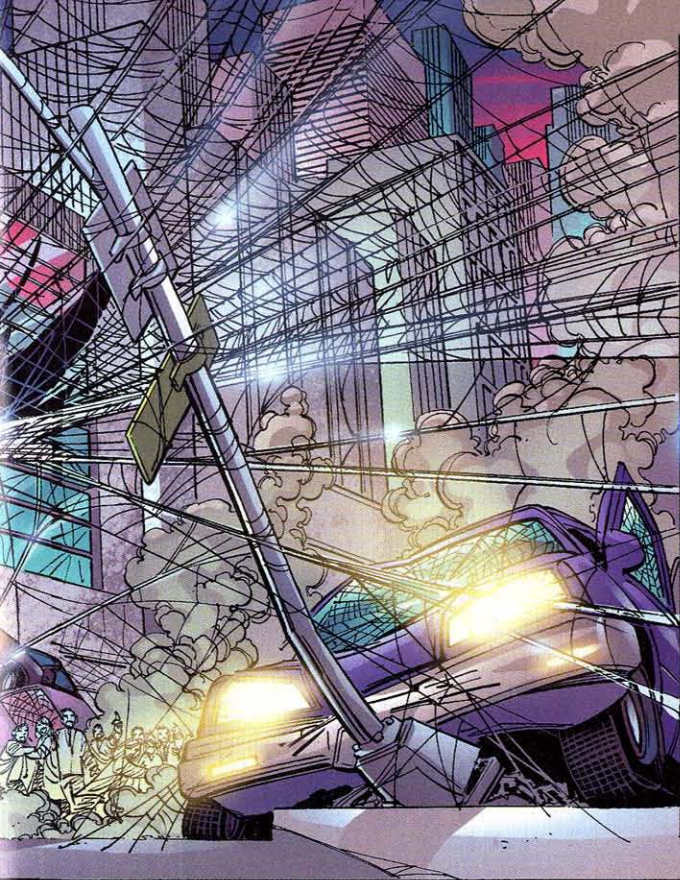
Spider to her wasp.

A panel showing Venom in a dynamic pose. He is crouched low to the ground, with his body angled towards the right. His eyes are glowing blue. The background is a mix of red and black, with some white smoke or clouds at the bottom. The overall tone is dark and intense.

Natural enemies.

Pure and unambiguous.





Shathra  
sent the man  
away.

Now Shathra  
and little spider are  
just what they are,  
and nothing they  
are not.

Now little  
spider is  
ripe.



Because what mother  
feeds impure food  
to her children?

I'm still running on  
instinct; have to get out of  
here, clear my head.





Worry about  
cleaning up  
the mess later,  
when I --



Hggggg...



Aaaaaahhhh!



Damn it... feeling  
when I should have  
been thinking... back's  
on fire, spreading --







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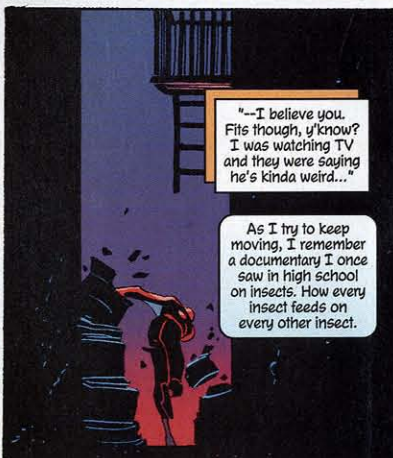


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I remember watching a spider-wasp sting a spider, and follow it until the paralysis stopped it dead in its tracks. And I thought how awful, knowing you were dead, but you weren't dead yet.

I told myself it's just the way it is in the insect kingdom. Everything feeds on everything else. It's just nature's way.

I don't want to die. Not like this.

Not like an insect. Trapped. Waiting to die.

--and the hot guy says to the kangaroo, "We don't serve food here! This is a hat store! Can't you read?"

And the kangaroo says, "Listen, if I could read, I would've asked for a menu!"

--snicker!--

Head's getting fuzzy from the sting. I think about people joking while insects die all around them, not even aware of the war going on under their feet, in the walls.

My fingers are numb. I can't feel my face anymore.

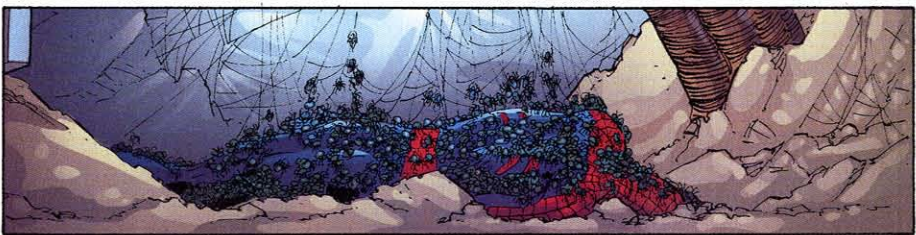
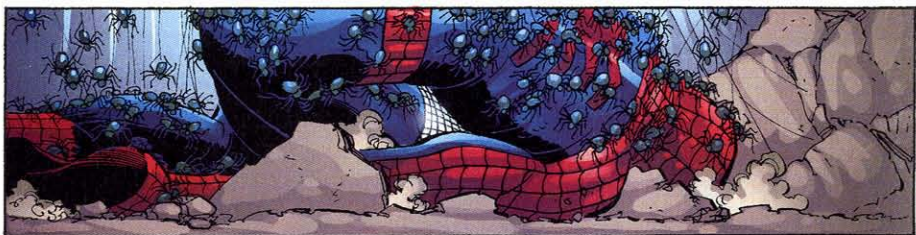
I keep crawling on instinct.

Insect instinct.

End of the road.  
End of the web.  
End of the --

Can't keep my eyes open. Can't crawl any further. Just want to sleep. I feel myself letting go of my body.





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**TO BE CONTINUED**

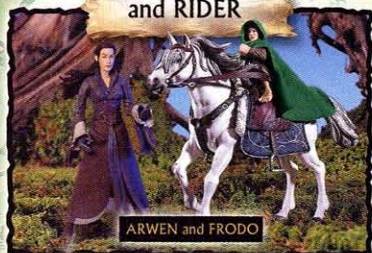


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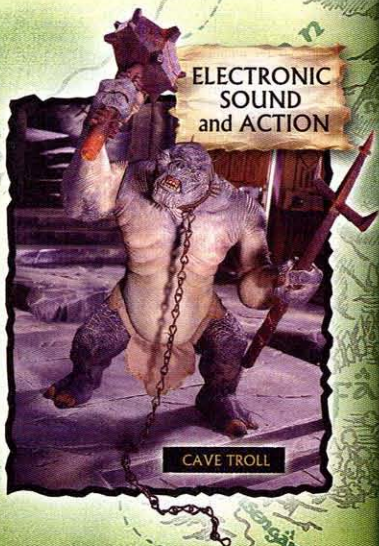


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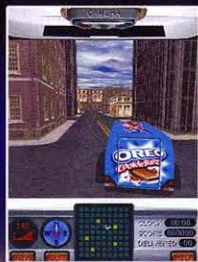
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