

# ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER, CRESSKILL, NJ.

APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT.

YES, MRS. AGGARWAL, I'M WITH HER RIGHT NOW. WE'RE JUST ARRIVING AT ENGLEWOOD AND I'M GONNA STAY WITH HER.

I AM JANET VAN DYNE, AND THIS IS MY NIGHTMARE.

AS SOON AS I HAVE A ROOM NUMBER, I WILL LET YOU KNOW.

I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW SUE STORM DID IT. THE IDEA OF HAVING KIDS IN THE SUPER HERO LIFE TERRIFIED ME.

NO, MRS. AGGARWAL, I PROMISE I WON'T LEAVE HER SIDE UNTIL YOU GET HERE.

AND HERE I AM, DOING IT WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S KIDS.

AS FOR MINE... SHE'S A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR.

NADIA, DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?

NO.

BUT I THINK THE BIGGEST BRUISES MIGHT BE INTERNAL.

I ALSO FAILED TO PROTECT MY FRIEND, BOBBI, WHO NOW HAS A BROKEN LEG.

DON'T WORRY, GIRLS, I'M ABOUT 99 PERCENT OF THE WAY TO BEING A SUPER-SOLDIER. THIS WILL HEAL QUICK.

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT--

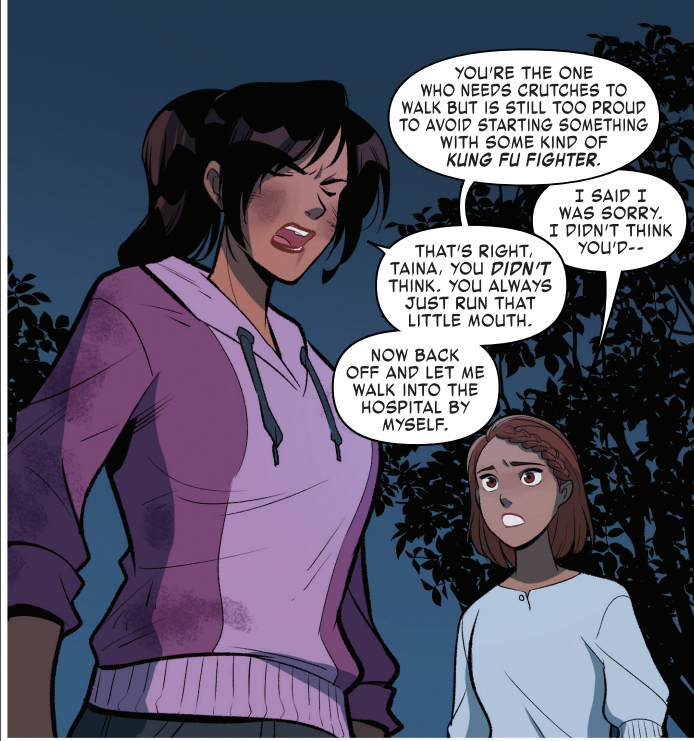
GET OFF ME! I SAID I CAN DO IT MYSELF.

I DON'T EVEN NEED TO BE AT THE HOSPITAL. I JUST TOOK A COUPLE OF PUNCHES.

ALEXIS, YOU GOT BEATEN UP BY A SUPER HERO. LET THEM HELP YOU.

NOW LOOK WHO'S TALKING!





YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS CRUTCHES TO WALK BUT IS STILL TOO PROUD TO AVOID STARTING SOMETHING WITH SOME KIND OF KUNG FU FIGHTER.

I SAID I WAS SORRY. I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D--

THAT'S RIGHT, TAINA, YOU *DIDN'T* THINK. YOU ALWAYS JUST RUN THAT LITTLE MOUTH.

NOW BACK OFF AND LET ME WALK INTO THE HOSPITAL BY MYSELF.



I UNDERSTAND WHERE ALEXIS IS COMING FROM, BECAUSE I'M THERE MYSELF.

YOU FEEL LIKE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT PEOPLE, BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES...WELL... IT'S NOT ALWAYS THAT EASY.

TAINA NEEDS A HUG, BUT I DON'T GIVE IT TO HER BECAUSE I KNOW NADIA WILL BE THERE FOR HER.



BUT TO MY SURPRISE...



...SHE'S NOT.

DON'T GET ME WRONG, I NOTICED. IT BUGGED ME. MAYBE NOT AS MUCH AS IT SHOULD HAVE, BUT MAYBE THAT'S HINDSIGHT.

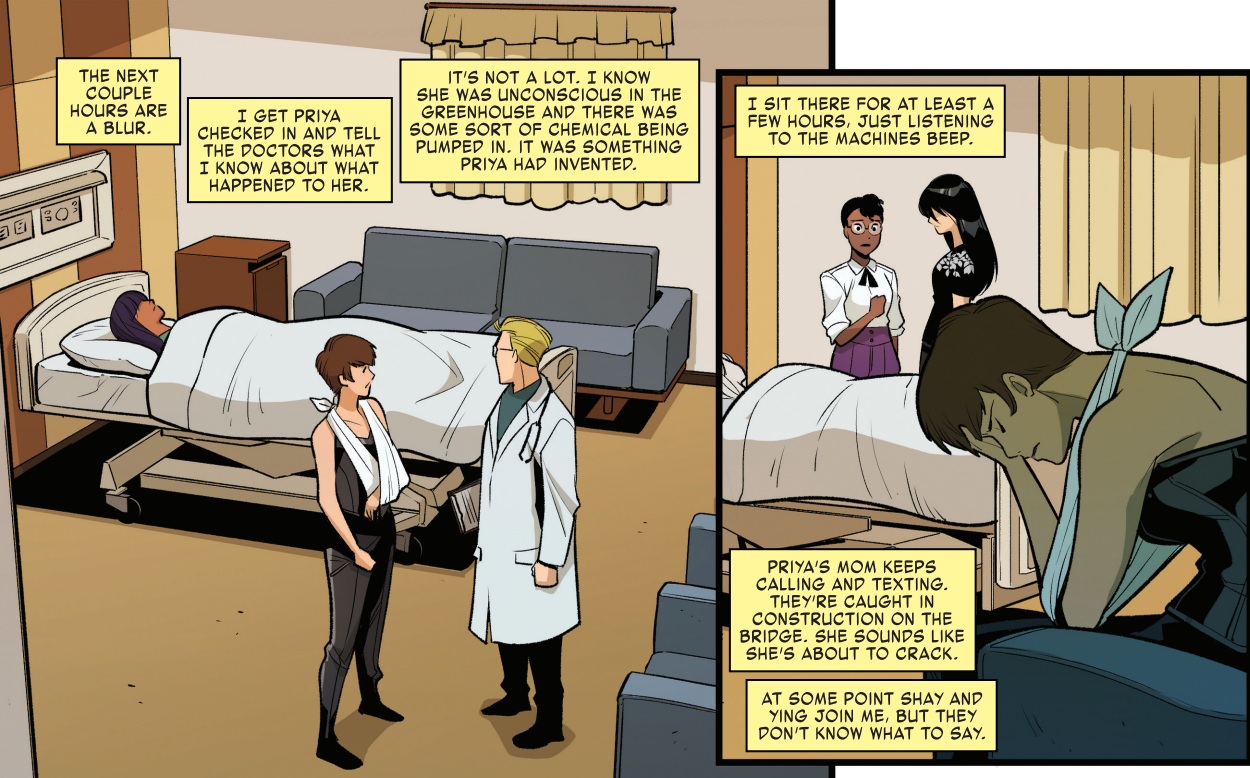
COMPARED TO EVERYONE ELSE, NADIA WAS FINE...RIGHT?



COME ON, KID. LET'S GET YOU CHECKED OUT TOO.

YEAH.





THE NEXT COUPLE HOURS ARE A BLUR.

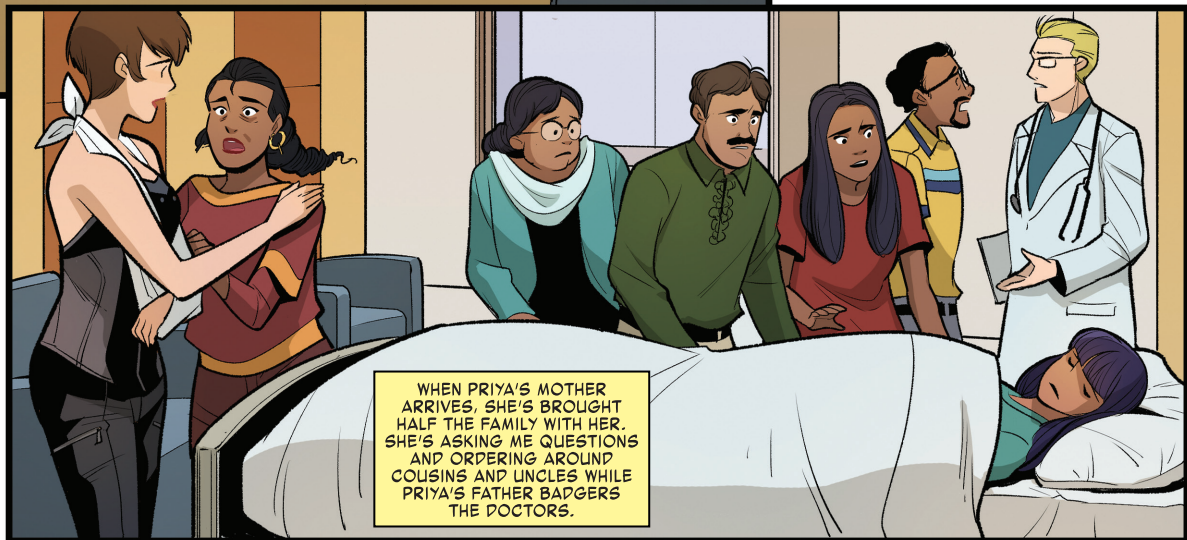
I GET PRIYA CHECKED IN AND TELL THE DOCTORS WHAT I KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.

IT'S NOT A LOT. I KNOW SHE WAS UNCONSCIOUS IN THE GREENHOUSE AND THERE WAS SOME SORT OF CHEMICAL BEING PUMPED IN. IT WAS SOMETHING PRIYA HAD INVENTED.

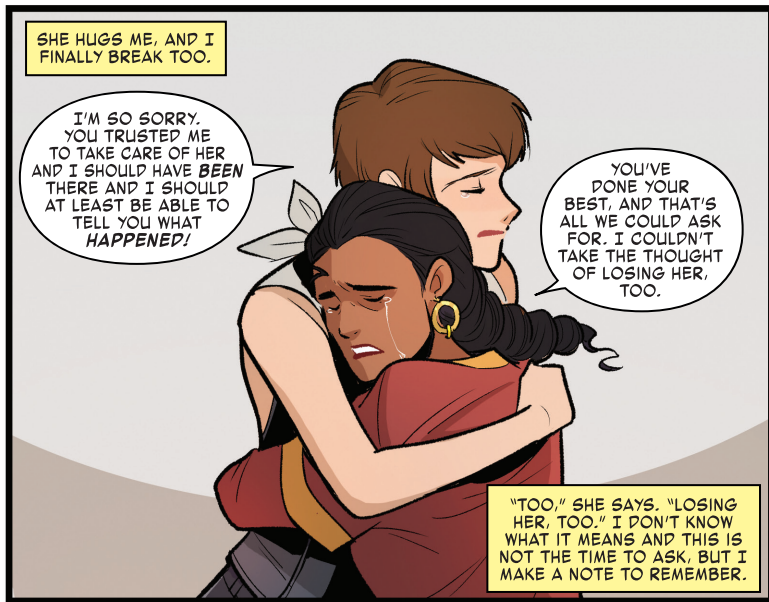
I SIT THERE FOR AT LEAST A FEW HOURS, JUST LISTENING TO THE MACHINES BEEP.

PRIYA'S MOM KEEPS CALLING AND TEXTING. THEY'RE CAUGHT IN CONSTRUCTION ON THE BRIDGE. SHE SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO CRACK.

AT SOME POINT SHAY AND YING JOIN ME, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.



WHEN PRIYA'S MOTHER ARRIVES, SHE'S BROUGHT HALF THE FAMILY WITH HER. SHE'S ASKING ME QUESTIONS AND ORDERING AROUND COUSINS AND UNCLAS WHILE PRIYA'S FATHER BADGERS THE DOCTORS.

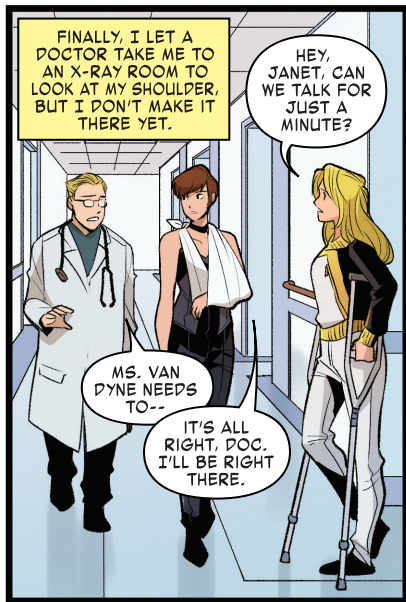


SHE HUGS ME, AND I FINALLY BREAK TOO.

I'M SO SORRY. YOU TRUSTED ME TO TAKE CARE OF HER AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE AND I SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED!

YOU'VE DONE YOUR BEST, AND THAT'S ALL WE COULD ASK FOR. I COULDN'T TAKE THE THOUGHT OF LOSING HER, TOO.

"TOO," SHE SAYS. "LOSING HER, TOO." I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS AND THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ASK, BUT I MAKE A NOTE TO REMEMBER.



FINALLY, I LET A DOCTOR TAKE ME TO AN X-RAY ROOM TO LOOK AT MY SHOULDER, BUT I DON'T MAKE IT THERE YET.

HEY, JANET, CAN WE TALK FOR JUST A MINUTE?

MS. VAN DYNE NEEDS TO--

IT'S ALL RIGHT, DOC. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



