

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man (2016) Spotlight
"Black Cat: The Felicia Hardy Complex"

Writer: Mohammed Jaafar

Assistant Writer: Neil Bogenrieder

Editor: Mark Alford and Ashley Stapleton

Preferred Art Team: Joey Vazquez

[Panel 1: We get a view of Felicia's apartment. A good deal nicer than Peter and MJ's apartment (I'd argue One Olympic Place or something a little lower-tier, but let's just say it's somewhere in the upper-middle class range of quality of life.) We see Felicia enter through the window, carrying a small bag on her shoulder.]

Felicia: And another score for Little Miss Hardy.

[Panel 2: Felicia has pulled out her treasure, a small statue of a cat, and is holding back a cheer. Think your daughter getting her first car, and just picture Felicia in that same suppressed giddiness.]

Felicia: I love my job.

Felicia [cap]: I know what you're thinking. A lot of people in my line of work say that.

And that's because it's true.

[Panel 3: We get a shot of Felicia's bedroom. She tosses off her domino mask as she enters the room, and begins unzipping her costume. We also get an internal monologue with Felicia, with the captions being black and white.]

Felicia [cap]: So, my name is Felicia Hardy. Better known as Black Cat. I'm... well, I'm a cat burglar.

And... that's all you need to know about me. That's all there *is* to me.

[Page 2]

[Panel 1: We see Felicia exit her shower, wearing only a bathrobe that looks a little small on her. Not exactly played as straight cheesecake, but does go to show that she isn't exactly hiding her sexuality.]

Felicia [cap]: Oh, one more thing. I like to chase Spiders on rooftops. Just kind of a thing that happened one day. Turned out that was probably the most important year of my life.

[Panel 2: Fel plops down onto her bed, letting out a huff of exhaustion.]

Felicia [cap]: Okay, bored now.

[Panel 3: We see Felicia staring up at the ceiling, absolutely lost regarding her next move.]

Felicia [cap]: It's been three hours.

If I don't find something to do, I-

[Panel 3: Felicia looks over to her nightstand, to see her phone buzzing. She's quite surprised that the universe answered her call this quickly.]

Felicia [cap]: Wow. Thanks, universe.

[Page 3]

[Panel 1: Small panel where Felicia answers her phone playfully.]

Felicia: Helllloo?

[Panel 2: Much larger panel. Peter is just outside Annie's room, where we see her sound asleep in her bed. Peter is freshly shaved, and slowly slipping on his Spider-Man costume.]

Peter: Hey, Felicia. It's Peter.

Felicia [phone]: I can tell. You have the voice and the number. What's up?

Peter: Okay, I'm asking for a big favor here, but I need you to watch Annie for a bit. It's date night for me and MJ, and the usual suspects aren't available for the job.

[Panel 3: Felicia has caught onto Peter's desperation, a sly grin on her face, looking off to the side of her room.]

Felicia: Hmm, I dunno, Pete, I think I have a full calendar ahead of me....

[Panel 4: We see what Felicia was looking at: a calendar, stuck on the month of November, with no markings on it.]

Felicia: Yeah, looks like I'm jam-packed. I might not be able to...

[Page 4]

[Panel 1: We cut back to Peter, who is pinching the bridge of his nose.]

Peter: Felicia, MJ and I have one night a month to do this kind of thing, and we're really looking forward to it.

Please don't make me beg...

[Panel 2: Felicia knows she's winning. Her cheeky smirk from earlier has grown considerably.]

Felicia: Okay, so let's say I do take you up on your offer. Because every girl has her price.

Peter [phone]: 'Licia, I'm married. I'm not doing this, let alone with the person my wife trusts the least.

Felicia: ...It doesn't **have** to be my usual fare.

Breakfast at, say, eight? Your place?

Peter [phone]: ...Fine. I'm willing to work with you here. I'll take you up on it.

Felicia: Good. We have a deal. Hang tight. I'll be right over.

[Panel 3: Peter is holding the phone in one hand, his head in the other.]

Peter: I must be a desperate, desperate man.

[Panel 4: Peter, now dressed up, opens the door to let Felicia in, who is dressed in casual clothing.]

Peter: Hey, Felicia.

I hope this isn't too out of the way for you, but...

Felicia: Nah, we're good

[Panel 5: MJ, also dressed up, comes over to Peter, as he exits the apartment.]

MJ: Thanks for doing this for us, Fel. We owe you big time.

Felicia: No problem. You two enjoy yourself.

[Page 4]

[Panel 1: MJ points two fingers at Felicia, who simply stares at her as Peter remains unaware of what's happening behind him.]

[Panel 2: Felicia looks over at Annie, who is staring at her from her play pit. Silent panel.]

[Panel 3: The two are still in their original positions, the only change being Felicia is waving at Annie.]

Felicia: Um... hey, kid.

Annie: Woo!

Felicia: Yeah. Whatever that means. Woo.

[Page 5]

[Panel 1: Felicia sits down on the apartment couch, but only barely; she's clearly uncomfortable.]

Felicia: I have literally never been here before in my life.

Makes me wonder if your old man would be living here with..

[Panel 2: Felicia looks off to the side, slumping her shoulders with a modicum of disappointment.]

Felicia: ... If he and I were still a thing.

[Panel 3: Felicia picks up Annie, beaming as though the past several panels never happened.]

Felicia: 'Course, you wouldn't exist if that was a thing.

And you're just too cute to delete from existence. And you certainly did not get that cuteness from him.

Annie: Kitty!

Felicia: Yeah, I'm a kitty. How much did your dad tell about me?

[Panel 4: Annie sneezes and sprays a burst of saliva onto Felicia's face, who recoils in both shock and disgust.]

Felicia: Gah!

Warn me the next time you want to do that!

[Page 6]

[Panel 1: As Felicia places Annie in her crib and goes to try and find something to clean herself up with, with her back turned Annie starts climbing up the wall.]

[Panel 2: Felicia returns from the bathroom after washing away the saliva.]

Alright Annie, what other surprises do you have for me?

[Panel 3: Felicia checks on the crib, only to yell in panic when she finds it empty.]

Felicia: AGH!! The kid's missing!

[Page 7]

[Panel 1: Felicia runs over to a bag she brought with her, grabbing her Horizon Lenses.]

Felicia [capt]: Good thing I came prepared.

[Panel 2: Panel from Felicia's POV. An orange glowing, with footprints all over the ceiling, signaling where Annie has been.]

Felicia: And here's me thinking you didn't pick up anything from your father.

So, you wanna go for a walk, huh?

At least let me join you, I could use a bit of nightly air.

[Panel 3: Felicia grabs her backpack from the couch.]

Felicia: Yoink.

Time to go Spider-hunting.

[Panel 4: Felicia, now clad in her Black Cat gear, clambers out of the window, through the fire escape.]

Felicia: Well, kid, I hope you went up, because it's a really long way down.

Footprints go up. Good. I'd hate to tell your dad that you went splat on the pavement.

[Page 8]

[Panel 1: Felicia climbs to the roof, looking around.]

Felicia: Tracks go north. She can't have gotten far.

[Panel 2: Felicia runs across the rooftops, silhouette shot.]

Felicia [capt]: Hey, look on the bright side.

You said you were bored.

Maybe the universe decided it wanted to play in your favor.

Or not. You know. The universe has that way of Monkey-Pawing its way around you.

[Panel 3: Felicia runs over a news board broadcasting Fact Channel, clambering downwards as Brad Douglas speaks.]

Felicia [capt]: Ow.

Note to self: ask Peter if he can get you some of those sound-cancelling headphones he's been cooking up.

Brad: *In breaking news, Captain America and the Secret Avengers have engaged the Masters of Evil at Project: PEGASUS. Why Iron Man's Mighty Avengers have not also joined the fight is unknown, but details are still coming in.*

[Panel 4: Felicia lands on another rooftop, scanning the area.]

Felicia: Tracks turn right, then just stop cold.

[Page 9]

[Panel 1: Felicia looks to her right, to see a large construction site (the same one from FNSM #10), which includes a crane with a steel beam in its grip.]

Felicia: Wonderful.

I just wandered onto a live-action version of Donkey Kong.

[Panel 2: Upward shot, where Annie is hanging upside down from the beam the crane is being held in.]

Felicia [op]: Okay, found the kid.

Now I just need to find a way to get her down from there.

[Panel 3: A tiny “thump” noise is heard, as Annie’s powers glitch out and she starts falling.]

[Panel 4: Felicia bolts forward, racing to catch Annie before the concrete does.]

Felicia [capt]: That works, I guess.

A little less death-defying would be my cup of tea, but this works.

[Page 10]

[Panel 1: Felicia catches Annie in midair, over the gap between the building and the construction site.]

Felicia: It’s okay, kid-

[Panel 2: Felicia lands back-first on one of the steel beams, skidding along the surface.]

Felicia: I got youowowowowowowow!

[Panel 3: Felicia slowly get up, her back lightly smoking and dusty from the landing.]

Felicia: Okay, that landing could have gone better.

[Panel 4: Felicia holds Annie up by the arm, the latter being oblivious to what has happened.]

Felicia: You, young lady, are in serious trouble when we get back.

Annie: Weooo! Go again!

Felicia: Uh, no. You aren’t getting away with this one.

[Page 11]

[Panel 1: Felicia’s maternal rant is interrupted by a thwipping noise below her.]

Felicia: Pete?

[Panel 2: From Felicia's POV, we see Silk webbing into the construction zone, landing on the foundation.]

Felicia [cap]: Nope. Just his sidekick.

And no big Spider with her. Peter must be really dedicated to his date night.

Then again, he dragged me in. That in itself says a lot.

[Panel 3: Felicia looks downward, curious as to what Silk is doing.]

Felicia [capt]: One point I gotta make... what's she doing in a construction zone?

Oh, hell, I haven't just discovered that Peter's protege is actually a HYDRA agent and this is her base....

Right?

[Panel 4: Ground action shot of SymbioRhino charging into the construction zone, Silk rushing away from it. Silent panel save the sound effects..]

[Page 12]

[Panel 1: Felicia with a bewildered expression, Annie pointing towards the action.]

Felicia: Ah.

She picked a fight with Venom and Rhino. Good to know.

Should I start running, or?--

[Panel 2: SymbioRhino charges into the support pillars, with Silk climbing above him.]

[Panel 3: Felicia grips the vertical beam as the structure begins to tilt.]

Felicia: Okay, yeah, start running, girl.

[Page 13]

[Full splash page. Felicia firing off a grappling line, holding Annie as the building collapses under them.]

Felicia: Here's to hoping this works, or we're both seriously in trouble when Peter and MJ get home.

[Page 14]

[Panel 1: A large cloud of dust rises from behind the adjacent rooftop. No sign of either Felicia or Annie.]

[Panel 2: The dust starts to dissipate. Still no sign that they're alive.]

[Panel 3: A clawed hand grips the top of the building, with the other holding onto Annie.]

[Panel 4: Felicia pulls herself up from the side of the ledge, caked in dust, blood and in pain but still alive.]

Felicia: The pain means I'm still alive, the pain means I'm still alive, the pain means I'm still alive.

Or maybe I died and this is just Mephisto making me suffer.

[Page 15]

[Panel 1: Felicia picks up Annie, breathing a sigh of relief.]

Felicia: Alright, kiddo. Let's get you back home.

[Panel 2: Felicia looks over the side of the building to see Peter and Silk talking, with Peter handing Silk a concrete powder sack tied with his tie.]

Felicia: And not a moment too soon. Looks like date night's cancelled.

[Panel 3: Felicia jogs across the rooftops again, this time less than gracefully given that a child is in her arms.]

Felicia: So. Ever done a flip mid-air?

[Page 16]

[Panel 1: Felicia climbs into the Parker apartment, a green stain mixing into her costume with the dust from the construction site.]

Felicia [capt]: Guess not.

[Panel 2: Felicia grabs her discarded civvies from off the floor, quickly shimmying out of her Black Cat costume.

I have maybe forty minutes before Peter and MJ get home.

I'll just tie Annie down to something and shower quick.

[Panels 3 and 5 show Felicia showering and drying her hair, while panels 4 and 6 show Peter and MJ walking up to the doorstep and Peter walking off, kissing MJ on the head before he leaves.]

[Page 17]

[Panel 1: Felicia plops down on the couch, exhausted, Annie sitting next to her.]

Felicia: I think I pulled half the tendons in my body.

Annie: Bad, kitty?

Felicia: Nope. You're still alive.

Which means...

[Panel 2: Close up with Felicia, sighing to emphasize her worn-down state, as she holds Annie in her arms.]

Felicia: This whole little trip...

Was all worth it.

Promise me that we never talk about this again, 'kay, kiddo?

Annie: Okay, kitty lady.

[Panel 3: MJ opens the door, a bright smile on her face.]

MJ: Hey, guys!

Annie: Mommy's home!

Felicia: Hey, Red.

[Panel 4: MJ picks up Annie, letting Felicia sink into the couch a bit further.]

MJ: So! How was your day with Felicia?

Annie: Auntie Kitty and me went on an adventure!

MJ: Really?

Felicia: She considers walking down that hallway an adventure. It's uber cute.

Where's Peter?

MJ: Sorry, it's just me. Peter got a call from Horizon. He needs to go check on some lab results.

[Panel 5: Just MJ, snapping her fingers.]

MJ: You wanna just... talk?

Felicia [OP]: Talk?... You know what? Sure.

MJ: I'll get some coffee brewing.

[Page 18]

[Panel 1: Peter slowly opens the door to his apartment.]

Peter [cap]: Oh, boy, what time is it?

7:56.

Points for punctuality.

[Panel 2: Peter has opened the door, only to notice the voices in his living room.]

MJ [op]: And this one time, he tried to web me to the ceiling! We were up there until the webbing dissolved, and I think we just hung there until we were done!

Felicia [op]: Are you serious? Back when we dated he was so serious! Always went Vanilla unless he was in a really good mood.

You are so lucky. The things he could do...

Peter:

[Panel 3: MJ and Felicia both have a cup of coffee, laughing over their shared experiences with Peter. You know, that one thing every guy fears; the spouse laughing it up with the ex.]

[Panel 4: They've noticed Peter. The whole room is dead quiet.]

[Page 19]

[Panel 1: Another silent panel. A wide shot of the whole room, Peter standing next to the door. Felicia and MJ are on the other side of the room.]

[Panel 2: Close up of Peter, who's awkwardly trying to find something to say.]

Peter: So... I'll just put this away, and....

[Panel 3: Felicia and MJ, both looking at Peter.]

Both: Yeah.

[Panel 4: Peter puts the bags on the counter, Felicia and MJ watching him.]

[Page 1]

[Panel 1: Peter walks into the bedroom, closing the door behind him.]

[Panel 2: MJ and Felicia go back to their coffee]

MJ: Did I ever tell you how much of a neat freak he is?

Felicia: Tell me about it! He insisted on folding his suit up after happy hour.

MJ: Seriously?

[Panel 3: Peter has closed the door behind him. Another silent panel.]

[Panel 4: Peter is scratching his head in confusion.]

Peter [cap]: Wait, **what?**

[End]