Is'nana The Were-Spider Vol. 2
By Greg Anderson-Elysèe, Daryl Toh, Walter Ostile, Lee Milewski, Kat Aldrich, and Joshua Cozine

Greg Anderson-Elysèe is a local writer whose priority is developing strong, compassionate Black protagonists and positive LGBTQIA+ representation. Anderson-Elysèe uses African and Caribbean influences to help craft his characters' backstories, experiences, and motivations. Over the next couple of days we will examine how Anderson-Elysee develops his characters in the second volume of his Is'nana run.

Before Reading:

1. Who is Lil' Rabbit referring to in trickster stories?
2. Who is Coutee referring to in trickster stories?
3. Who is Witch Mistress Five?
4. What is her relationship to Anansi?

The Hornet's Web:

5. What do Is'nana and his father fight about? (61-62)
6. On page 62, the panels change. How do they change? How do the shape, layout, and coloring choices reflect the plot and perspective? (64)
7. Leland's body is now a host for Kantite. After his form hits Gina, his wife, in front of his daughter. Jenka runs upstairs. Who does she ask for help? (67)
8. After hearing Jenka, Is'nana enters what appears to be a wall of webs. Where is he at this moment? How do the paneling and gutters reflect this in-between location? (69-70)
9. How does Gina help Is'nana? (80)
10. How does Is'nana respond to her actions? (81)
11. Why hasn't Is'nana been able to see Kantite and her companions? (82)
12. Kantite asks the Queen to inhabit "the child of the shell I wear"? Why does she recommend this transfer? (84)
13. When the Queen spits her venom at Jenka, what happens to Kantite's form? (88-89)
14. What does Gina do to the venom? (90)
15. What does Gina do to the barn with the Queen and her daughters in it? (92)
16. What does Anansi plan to do with Jenka? (99)

Analysis Questions:

17. While this comic is mostly horror with some fantasy, Anderson-Elysèe makes Is'nana's relationship with his father realistic.
    a. What is the conflict between them?

    b. How does the conflict help to develop each character? Think about what flaws and positive traits are revealed by their differing stances.
18. On page 65, the panels are shaped like honey combs to symbolize the bee's thoughts. How does this paneling layout also represent the chaos and violence of the bee's actions?
19. The creators change coloring between stories. (61)
    a. What are the different coloring Palettes?
    b. What moods are created through the palettes?
    c. How is color used to emphasize or contrast?
20. How does Jenka communicate with Is'nana? How do the creators smoothly transition between characters, who are in two separate locations without using a scene to scene transition or establishing shot? (67)
21. What unifies Is'nana and Anansi? What does this similar goal reveal about their personalities and value systems? (67-68)
22. The creators use splash pages when Is'nana enters the web portal. (69-70)
    a. What else do the creators alter to show that Is'nana and Anansi are in a different dimension?
    b. How does the use of the polyptych movement impact the reader's understanding of time and pacing during this travel?
    c. What are some of the allusions in the webway portal?
23. Anansi fights Kantite, the hornet that has turned Leland's body into a host, and Is'nana joins him mid fight. (75)
    a. How does Is'nana and Anansi's relationship mirror Jenka and her mom's relationship?
    b. How are these similarities visually represented?
24. How do the creators empower Jenka's mom? Provide at least 2 specific examples of her agency and strength.
25. Anansi is a trickster character. What are two examples of dialogue in this section that show his sarcastic, playful nature? (85)
26. When Jenka gets shot with the bee's stinger, Leland fights against his host and momentarily regains control of himself. What does this moment reveal about Leland and his value system? (88)
27. Why does Is'nana gave Queen Mmboro a eulogy? What does this action reveal about him? (98)
28. Is'nana challenges stereotypical norms of how superheroes help society. What does he do to help Gina? (101)