STILL ONLY 399¢
545
DEC
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
ONE MORE DAY
PART 4 OF 4
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
QUESADA 2009
ISANOVE
'NUFF SAID!
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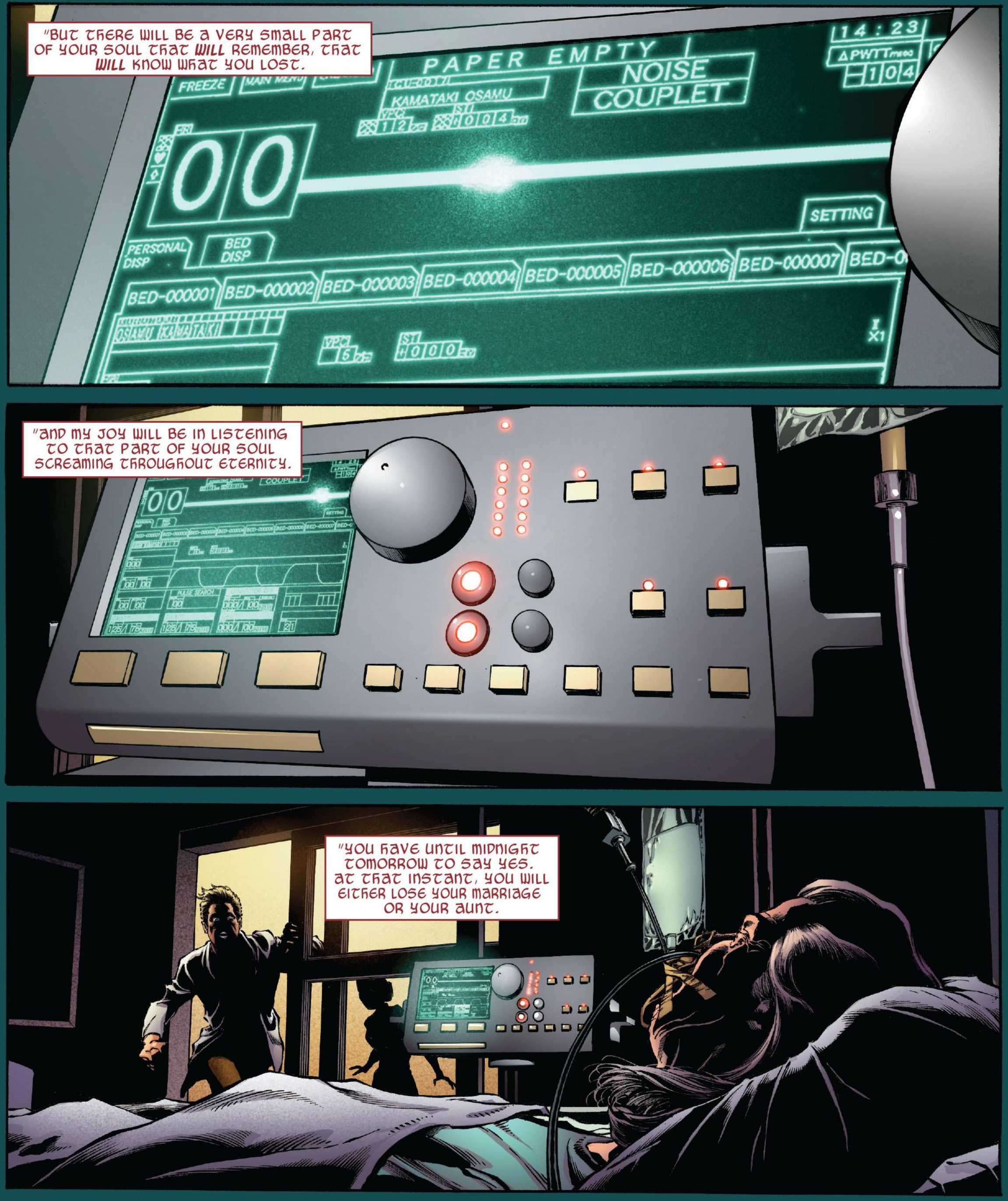
"YOU WILL NOT CONSCIOUSLY REMEMBER THIS BARGAIN, OR THIS MOMENT, OR THE LIFE YOU LIVED TO THIS POINT.

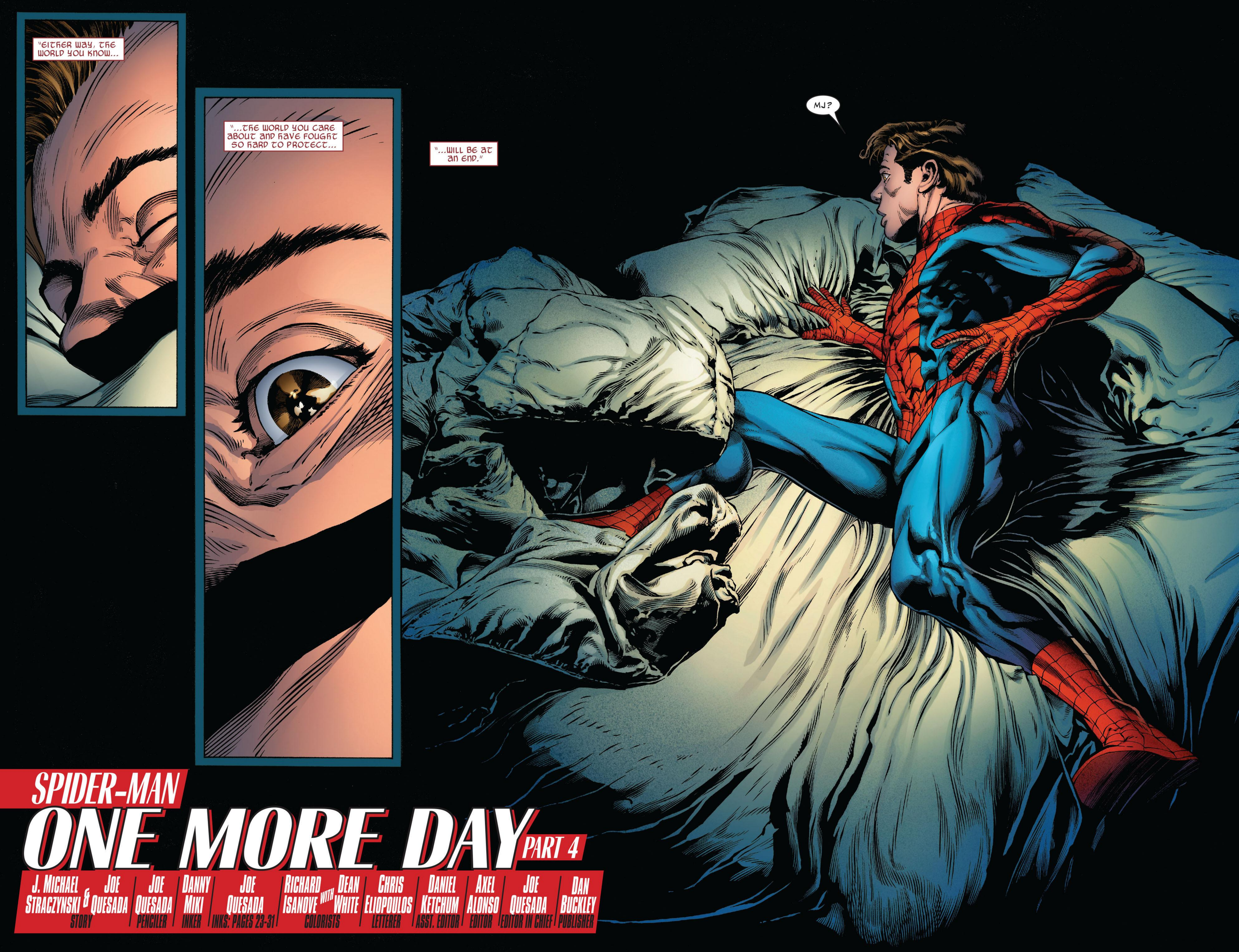
BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

"BUT THERE WILL BE A VERY SMALL PART OF YOUR SOUL THAT *WILL* REMEMBER, THAT *WILL* KNOW WHAT YOU LOST.



"AND MY JOY WILL BE IN LISTENING TO THAT PART OF YOUR SOUL SCREAMING THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

"YOU HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT TOMORROW TO SAY YES. AT THAT INSTANT, YOU WILL EITHER LOSE YOUR MARRIAGE OR YOUR AUNT.


"EITHER WAY, THE WORLD YOU KNOW...
"...THE WORLD YOU CARE ABOUT AND HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD TO PROTECT...
"...WILL BE AT AN END."
MJ?
SPIDER-MAN
ONE MORE DAY PART 4
J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI & JOE QUESADA STORY
JOE QUESADA PENCILER
DANNY MIKI INKER
JOE QUESADA INKS: PAGES 23-31
RICHARD ISANOVE WITH DEAN WHITE COLORISTS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS LETTERER
DANIEL KETCHUM ASST. EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

MJ--
SHHH...DON'T TALK FOR A MINUTE, OKAY? JUST--
-- I'LL BE OKAY, BUT JUST... DON'T TALK FOR A SECOND, PLEASE?

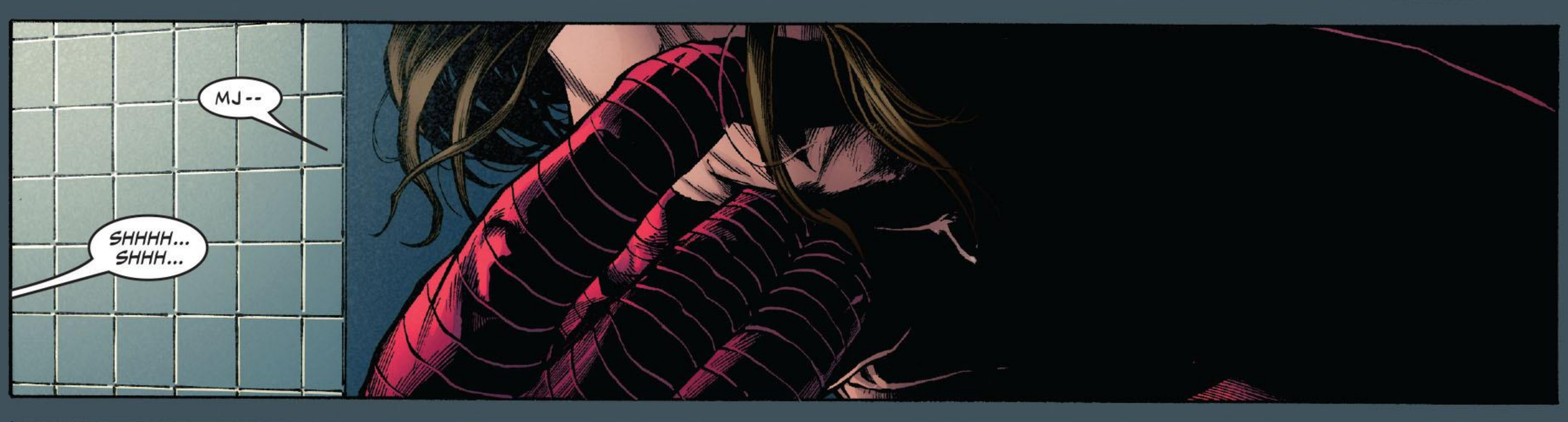
FIRST QUESTION. DO--
--HHUCHHH
SORRY. I'M TRYING SO HARD TO--
FIRST QUESTION. DO YOU THINK...CAN HE...MEPHISTO...REALLY DO WHAT HE SAYS HE CAN?

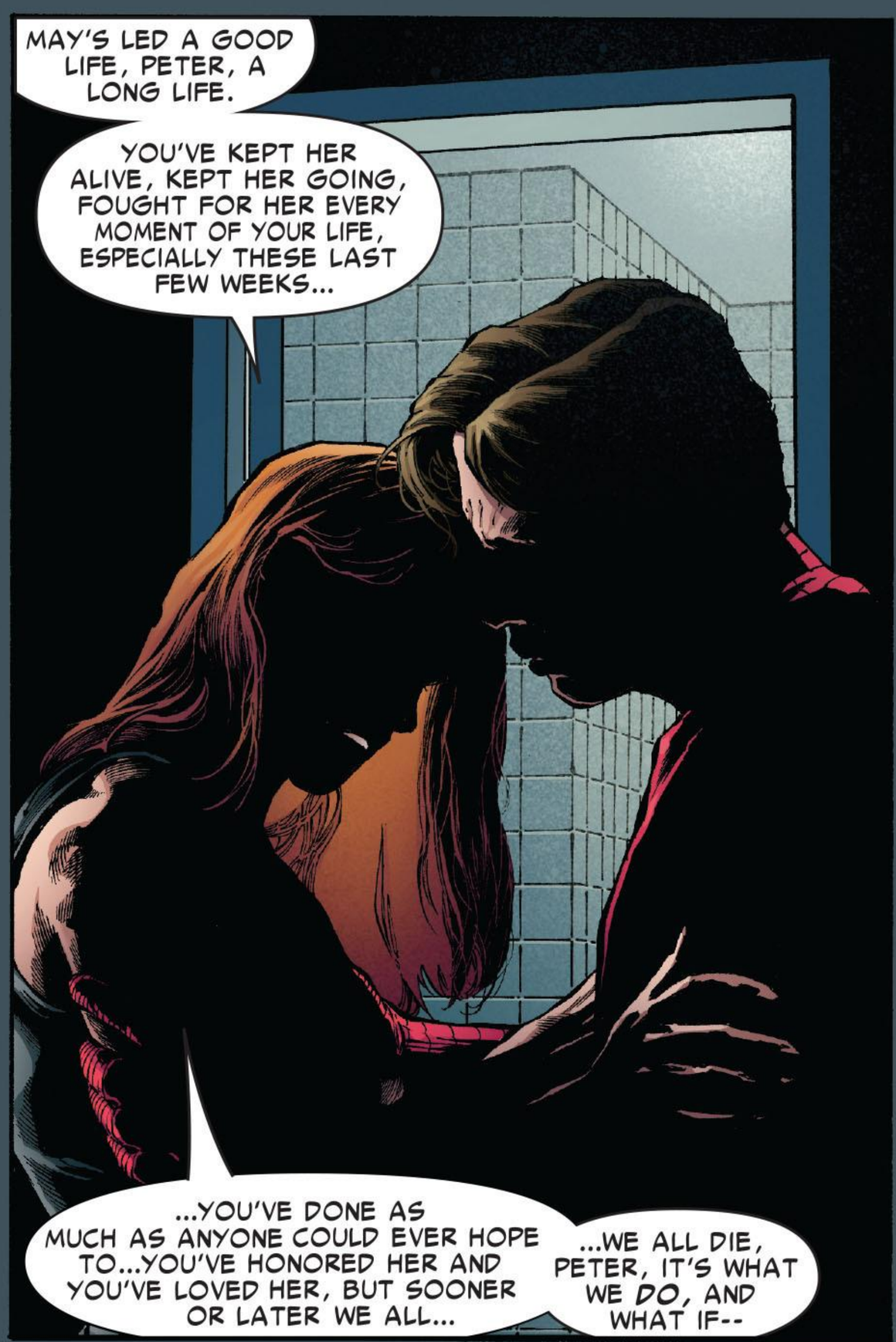
I DON'T.
BUT THIS IS ALL WE HAVE.

ARE YOU--
DON'T. LET ME... I HAVE TO GET THROUGH THIS IN MY OWN WAY, OKAY?
OKAY.

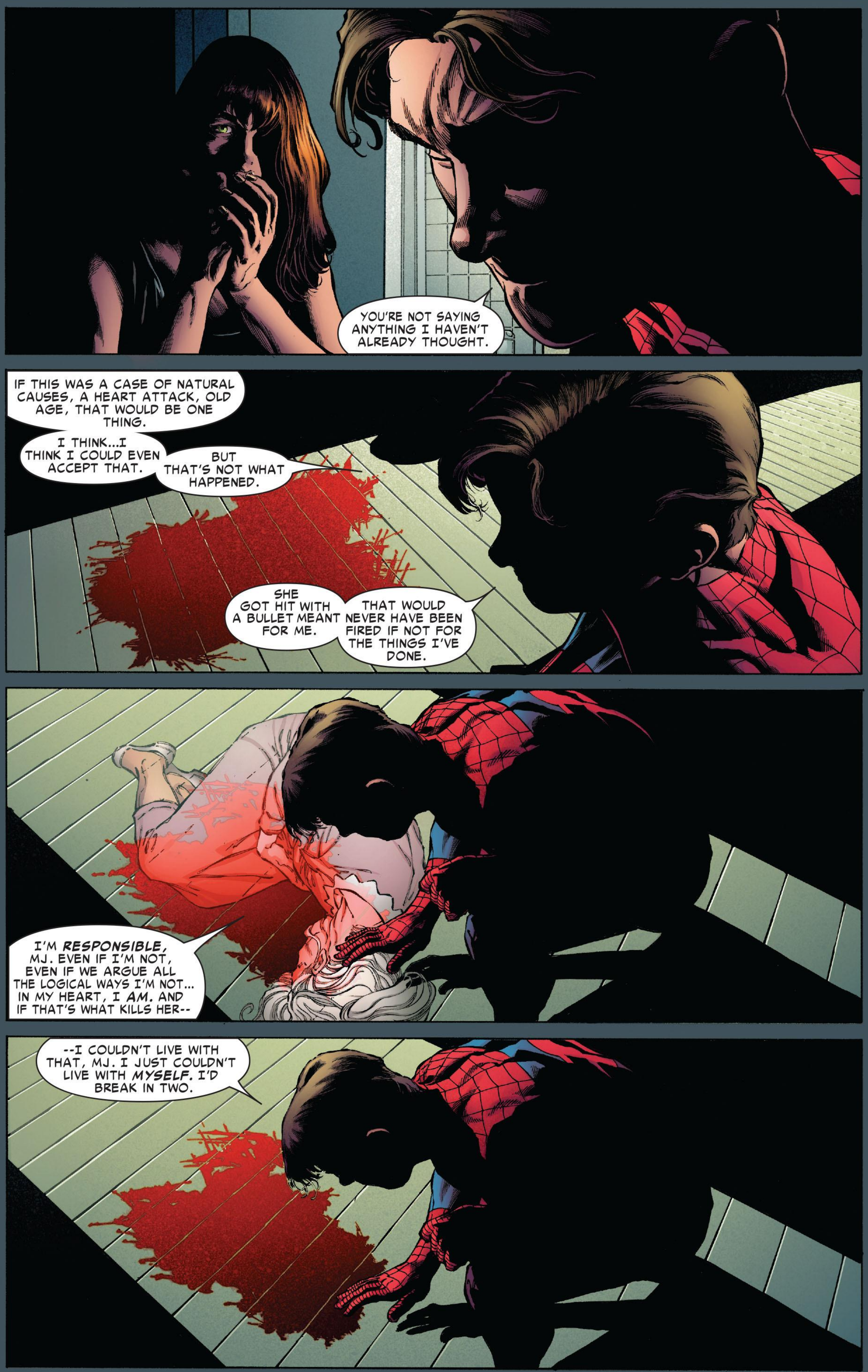
DON'T TOUCH ME. I'M NOT...IT'S NOT THAT I'M...I JUST...I NEED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER, AND I CAN'T IF YOU--
OKAY.

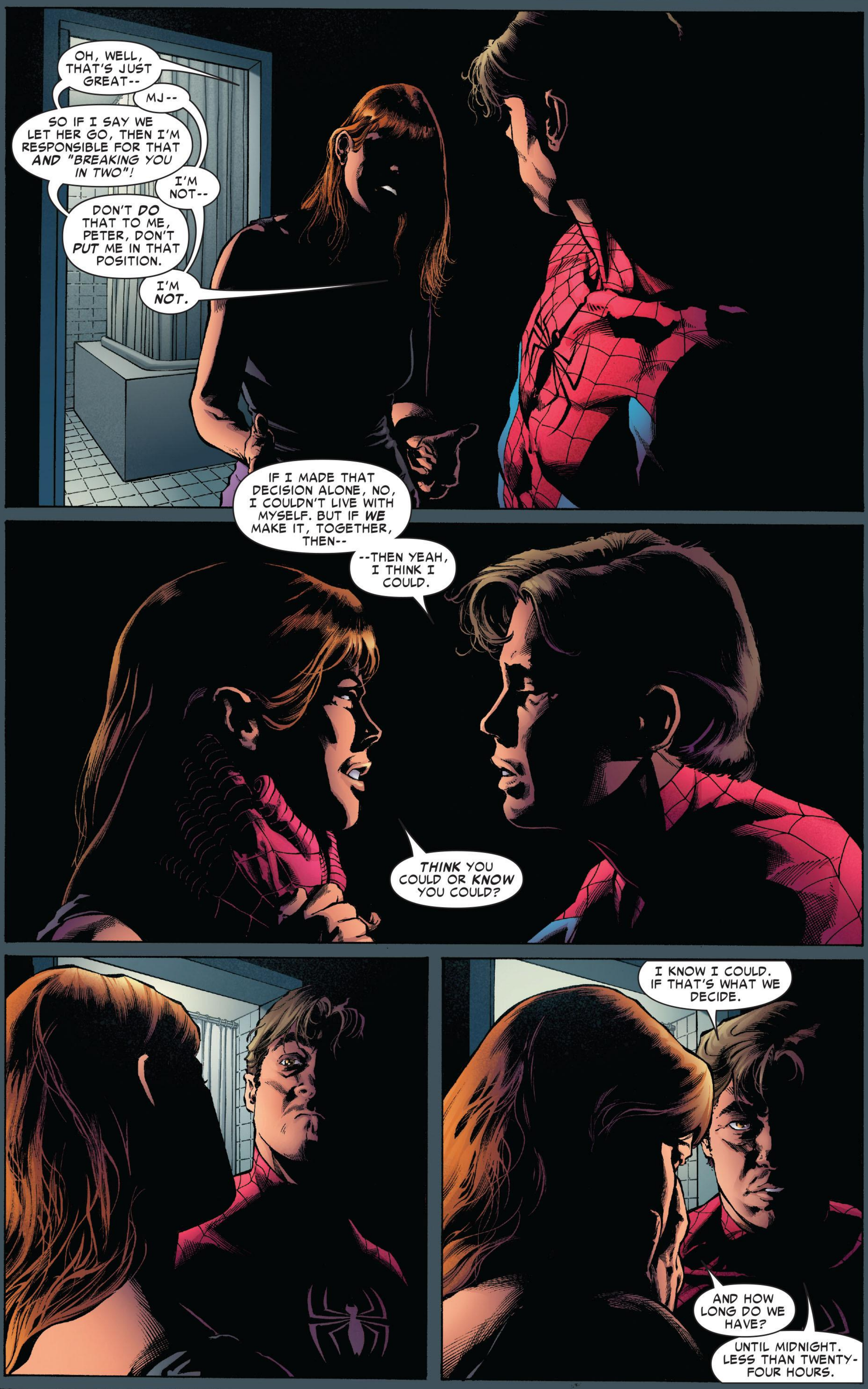
I DON'T...I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, PETER...I'M GOING TO BE VERY SELFISH AND I'M GOING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, AND I DON'T...I DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME FOR ASKING THIS.
I COULD NEVER--

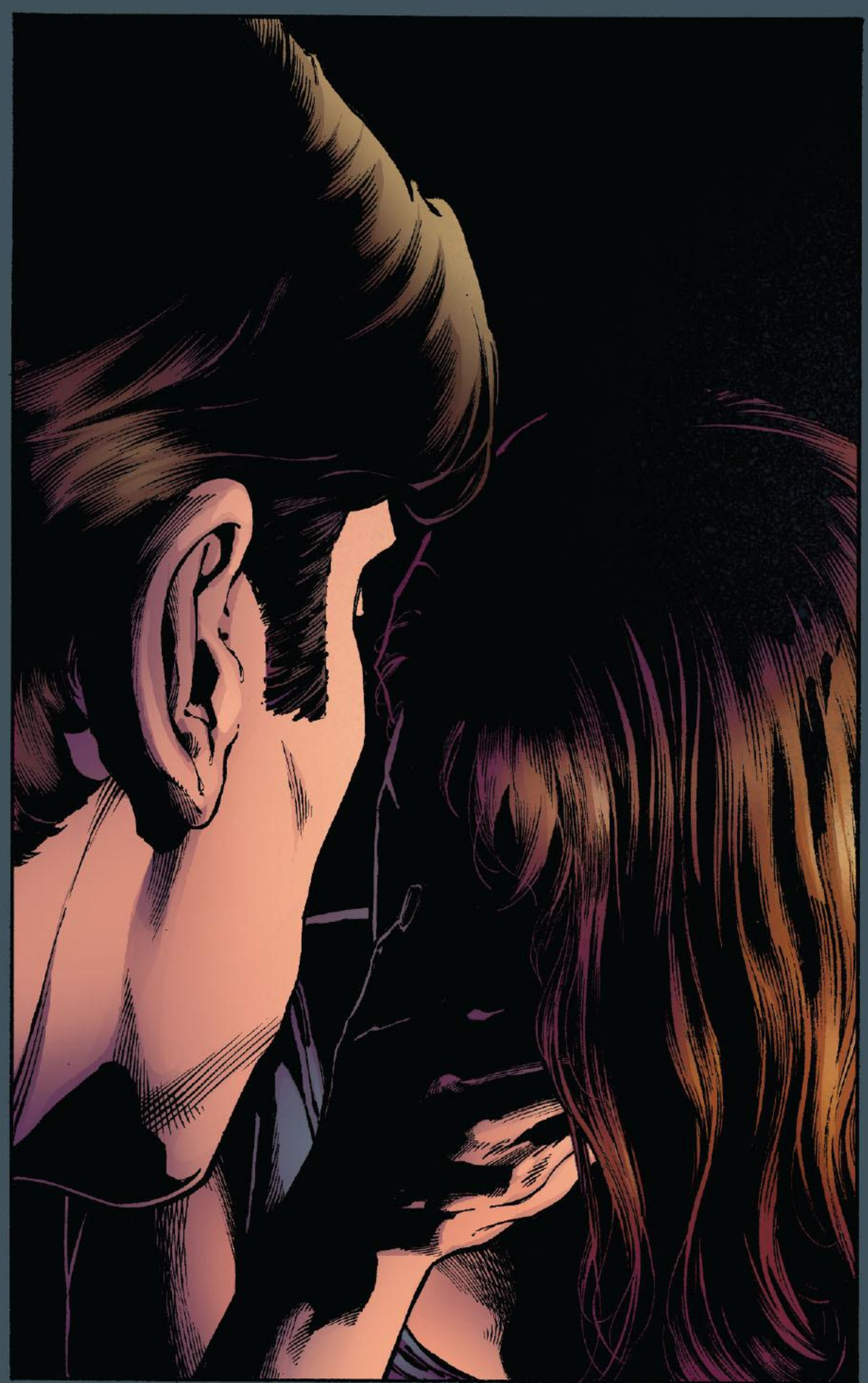
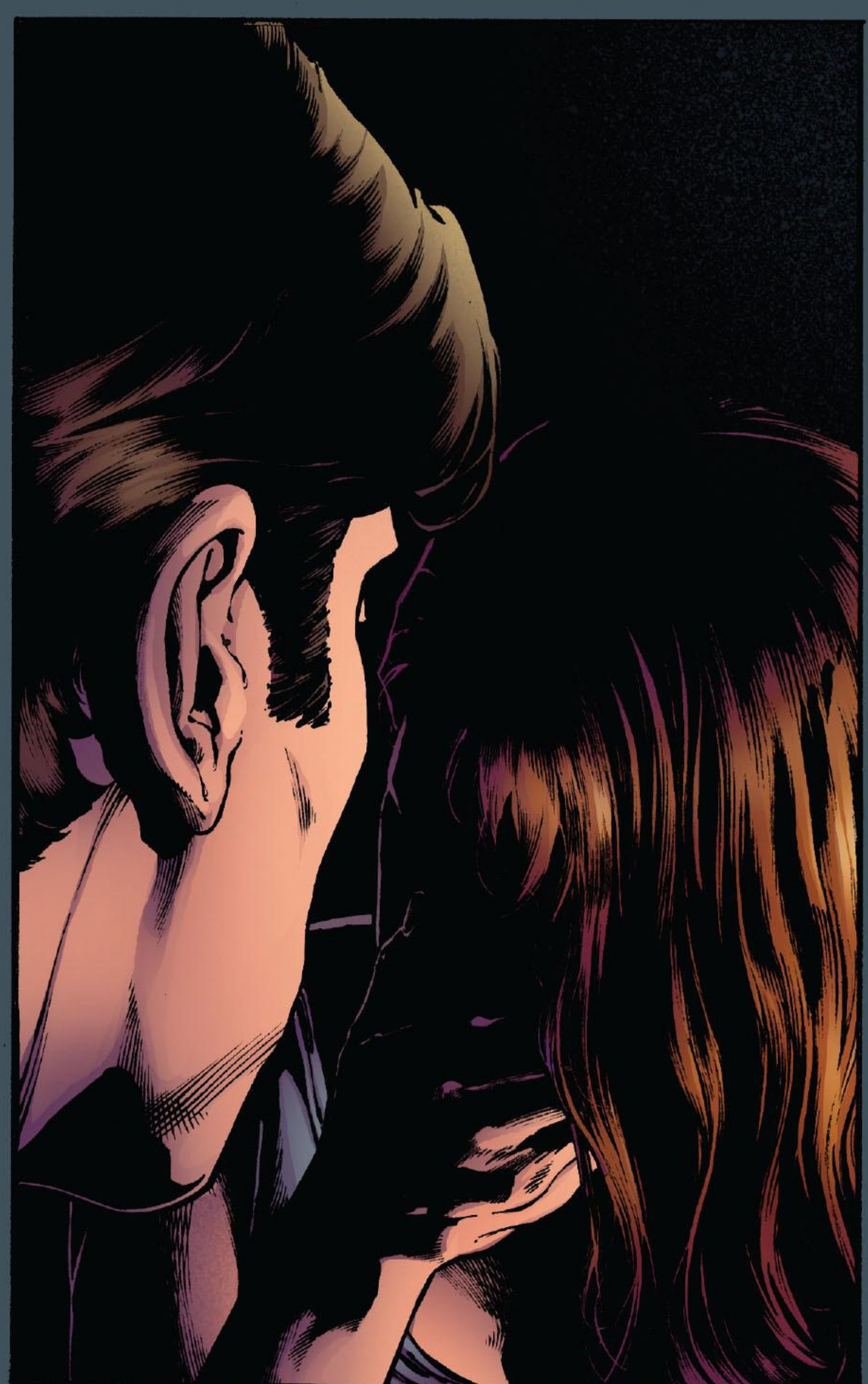
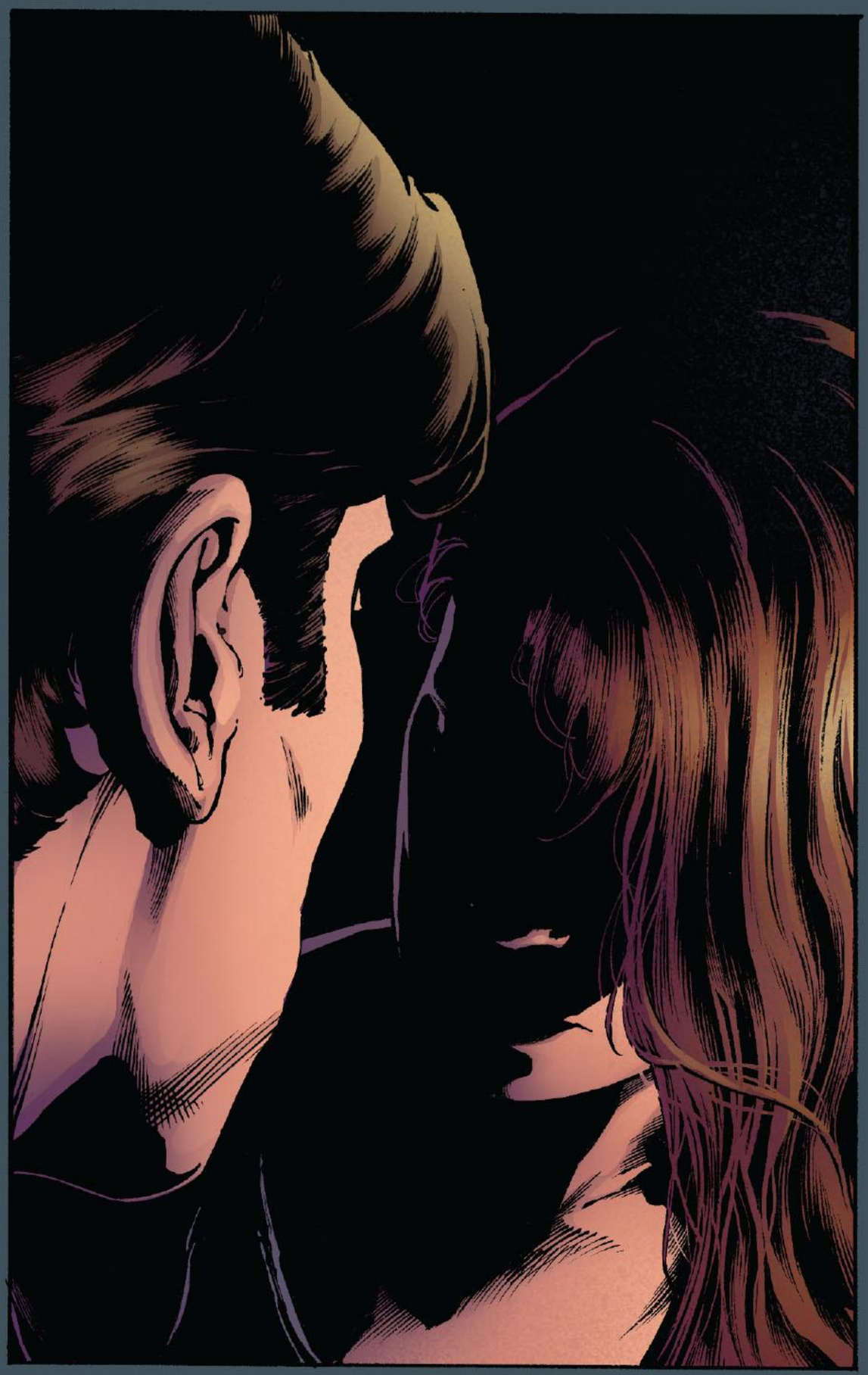
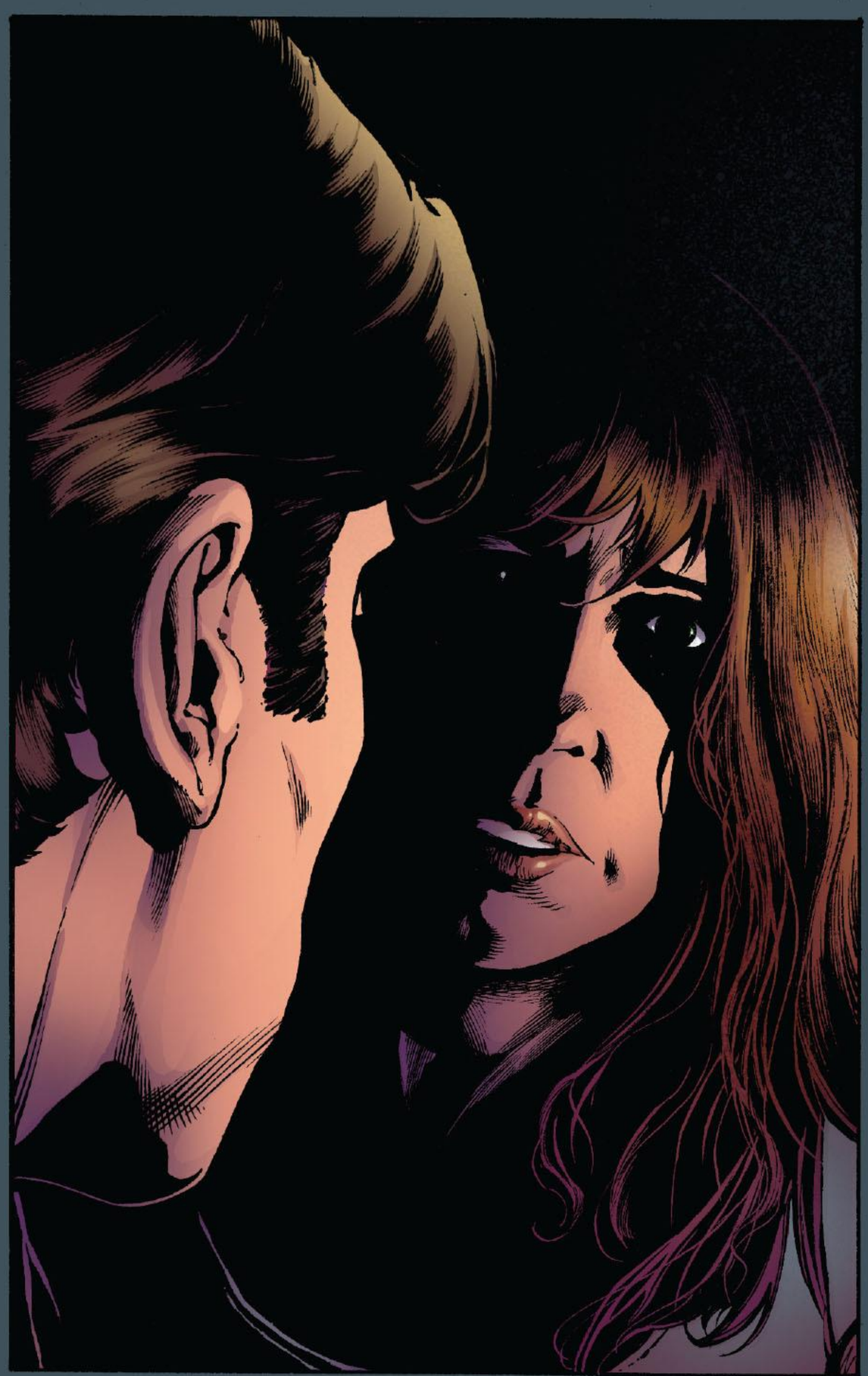

MJ--
SHHHH... SHHH...


MAY'S LED A GOOD LIFE, PETER, A LONG LIFE.
YOU'VE KEPT HER ALIVE, KEPT HER GOING, FOUGHT FOR HER EVERY MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE, ESPECIALLY THESE LAST FEW WEEKS...
...YOU'VE DONE AS MUCH AS ANYONE COULD EVER HOPE TO...YOU'VE HONORED HER AND YOU'VE LOVED HER, BUT SOONER OR LATER WE ALL...
...WE ALL DIE, PETER, IT'S WHAT WE DO, AND WHAT IF--

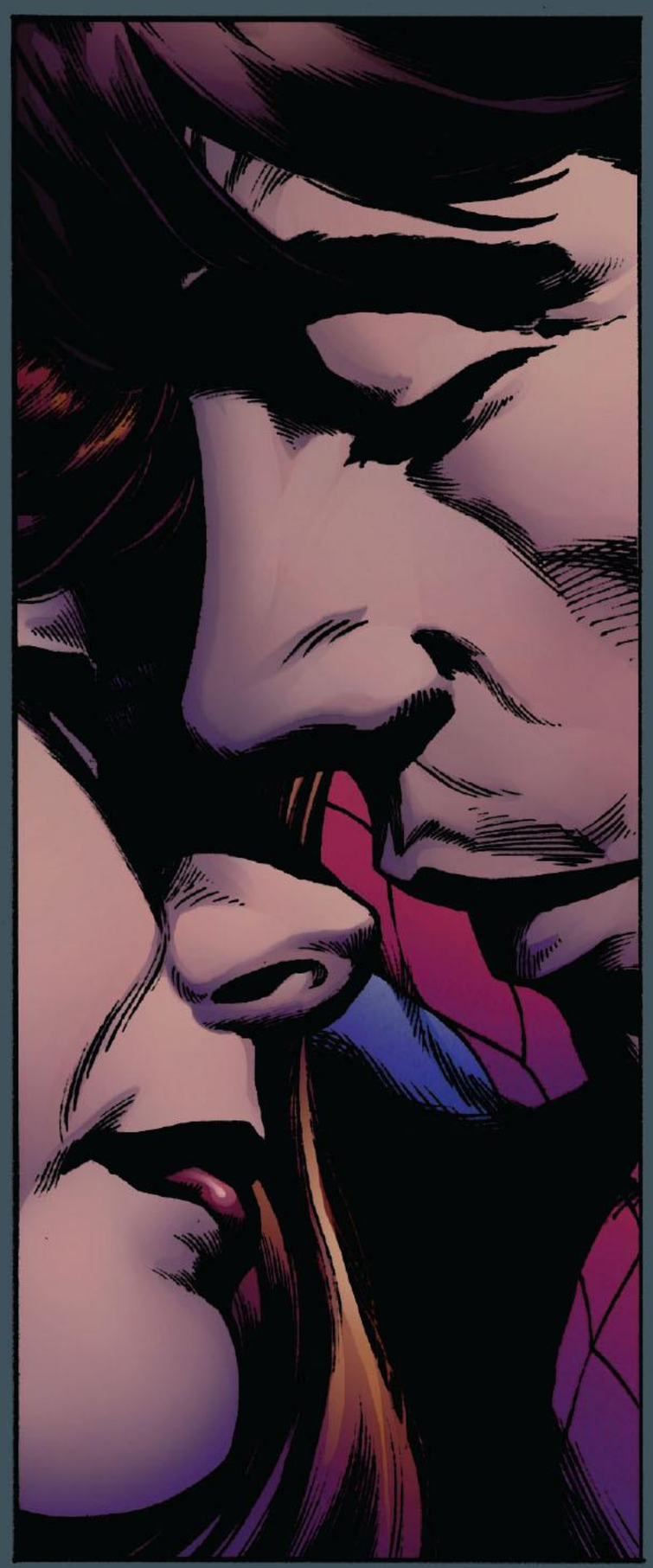
--WHAT IF THIS IS JUST HER TIME?
YOU'VE ALWAYS TRIED SO HARD TO DO THE RIGHT THING BY HER...
WHAT IF THIS TIME, THE RIGHT THING...IS LETTING GO?


YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING I HAVEN'T ALREADY THOUGHT.
IF THIS WAS A CASE OF NATURAL CAUSES, A HEART ATTACK, OLD AGE, THAT WOULD BE ONE THING.
I THINK...I THINK I COULD EVEN ACCEPT THAT.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED.
SHE GOT HIT WITH A BULLET MEANT FOR ME.
THAT WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN FIRED IF NOT FOR THE THINGS I'VE DONE.
I'M RESPONSIBLE, MJ. EVEN IF I'M NOT, EVEN IF WE ARGUE ALL THE LOGICAL WAYS I'M NOT... IN MY HEART, I AM. AND IF THAT'S WHAT KILLS HER--
--I COULDN'T LIVE WITH THAT, MJ. I JUST COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF. I'D BREAK IN TWO.

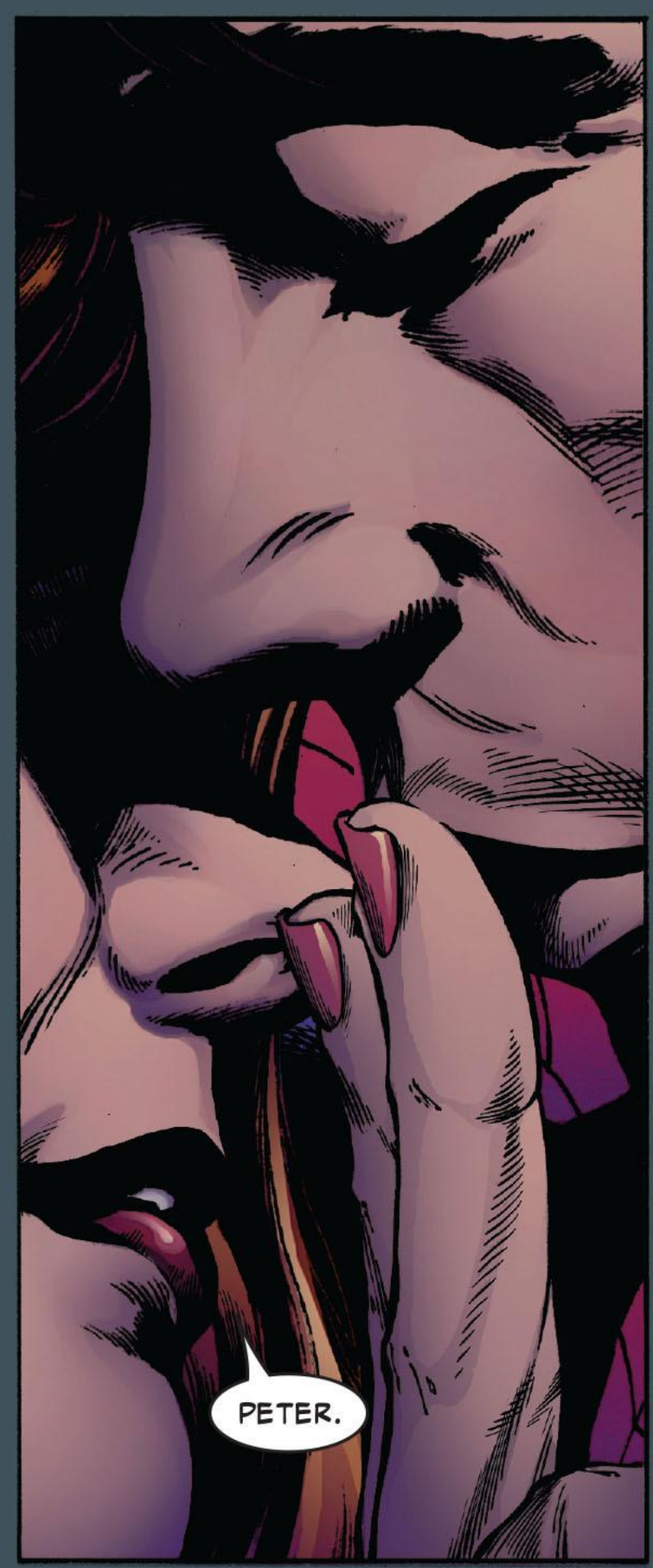

OH, WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT--
MJ--
SO IF I SAY WE LET HER GO, THEN I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT AND "BREAKING YOU IN TWO"!
I'M NOT--
DON'T DO THAT TO ME, PETER, DON'T PUT ME IN THAT POSITION.
I'M NOT.
IF I MADE THAT DECISION ALONE, NO, I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF. BUT IF WE MAKE IT, TOGETHER, THEN--
--THEN YEAH, I THINK I COULD.
THINK YOU COULD OR KNOW YOU COULD?
I KNOW I COULD. IF THAT'S WHAT WE DECIDE.
AND HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?
UNTIL MIDNIGHT. LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

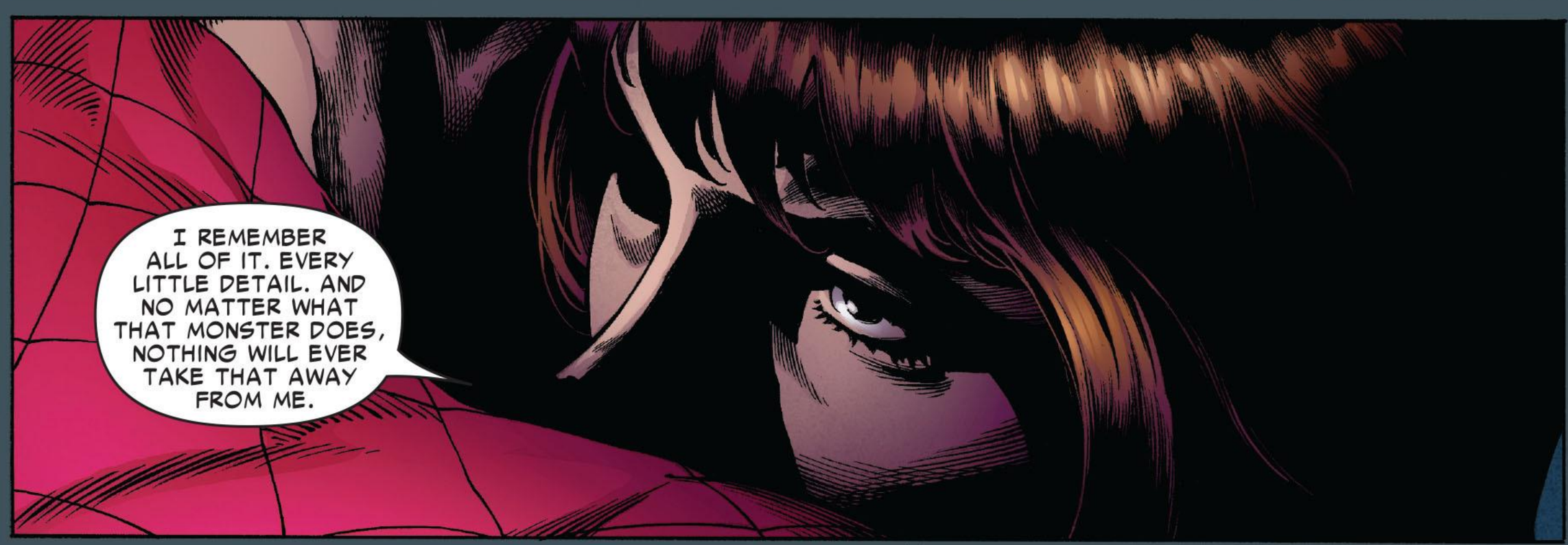





HEY, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN--
SHHH.



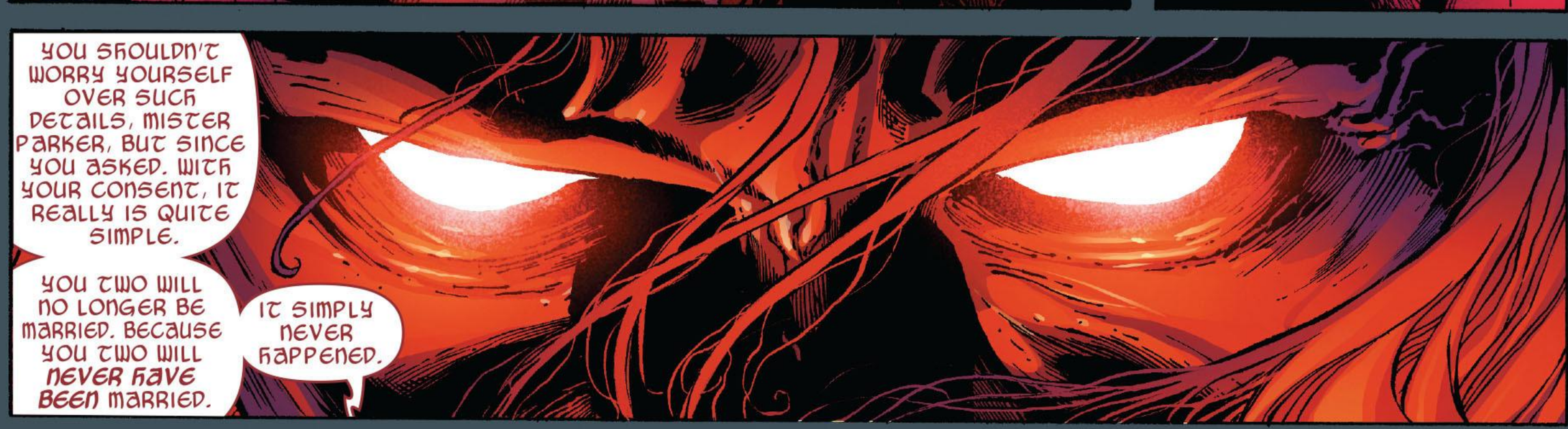
HOW ABOUT THE TIME--

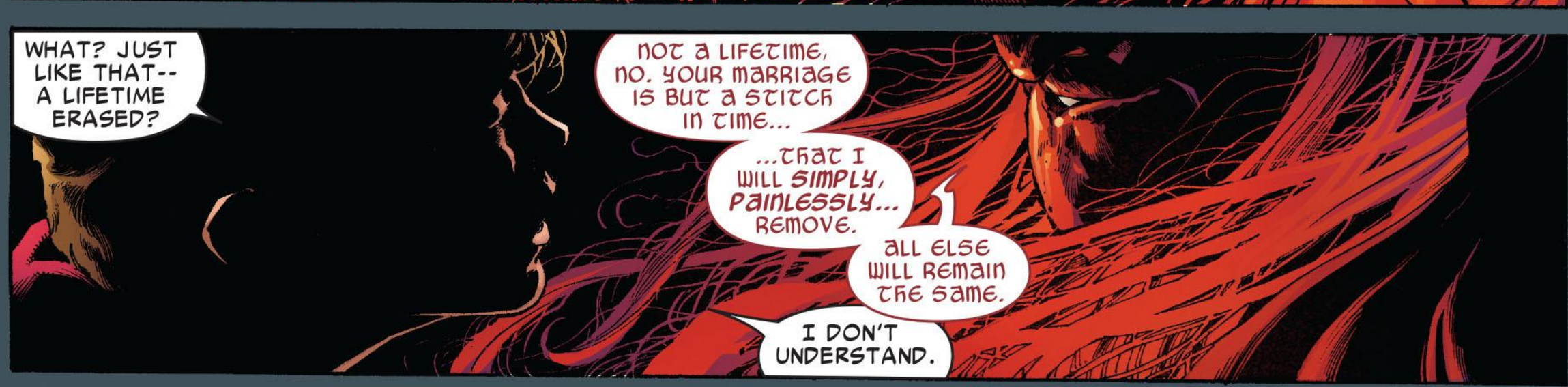

PETER.

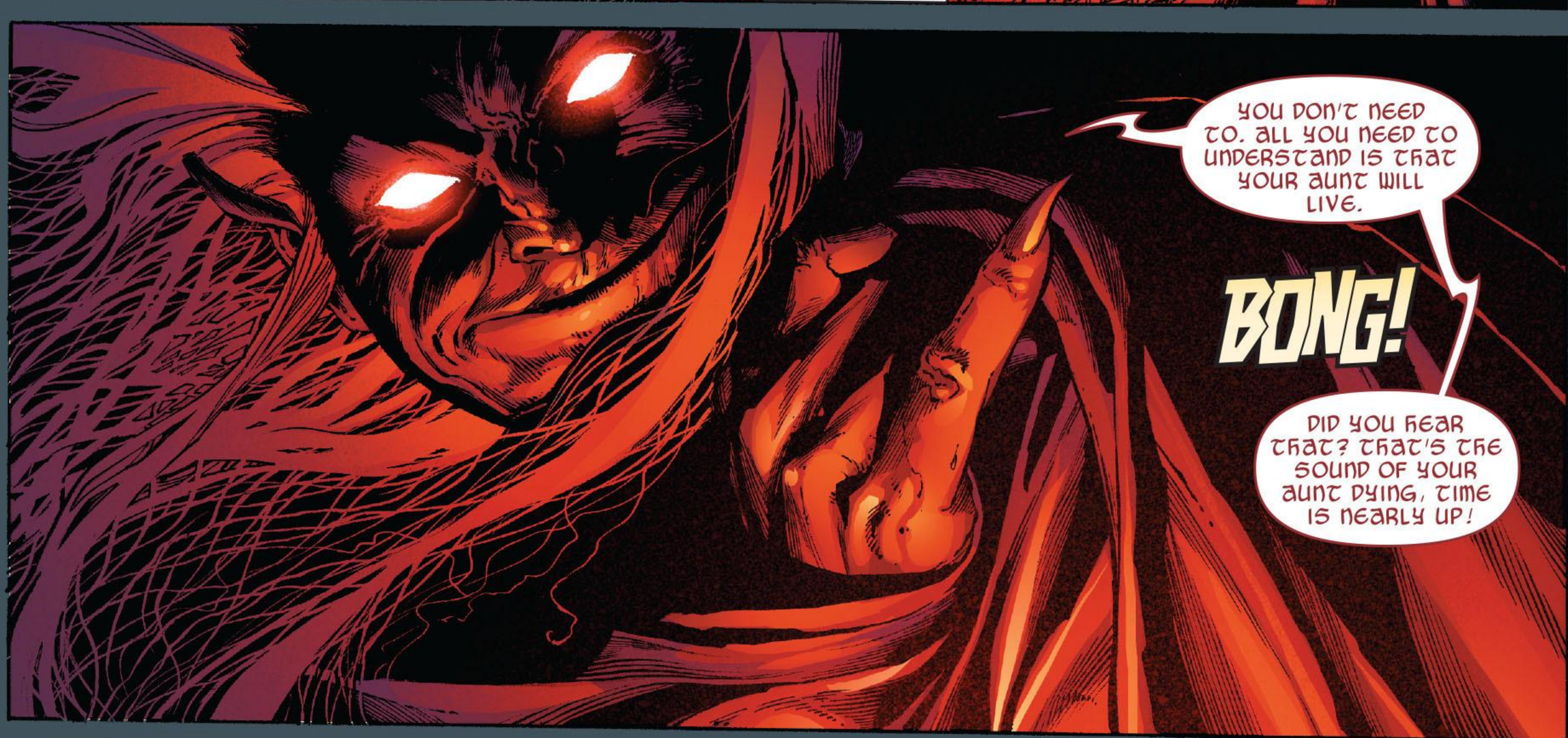

I REMEMBER ALL OF IT. EVERY LITTLE DETAIL. AND NO MATTER WHAT THAT MONSTER DOES, NOTHING WILL EVER TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME.

MJ, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO--
OH, GOD, PETER! OH, GOD--AHUH, HUUH.
BONG!

TELL ME EXACTLY.
HOW DOES THIS WORK?

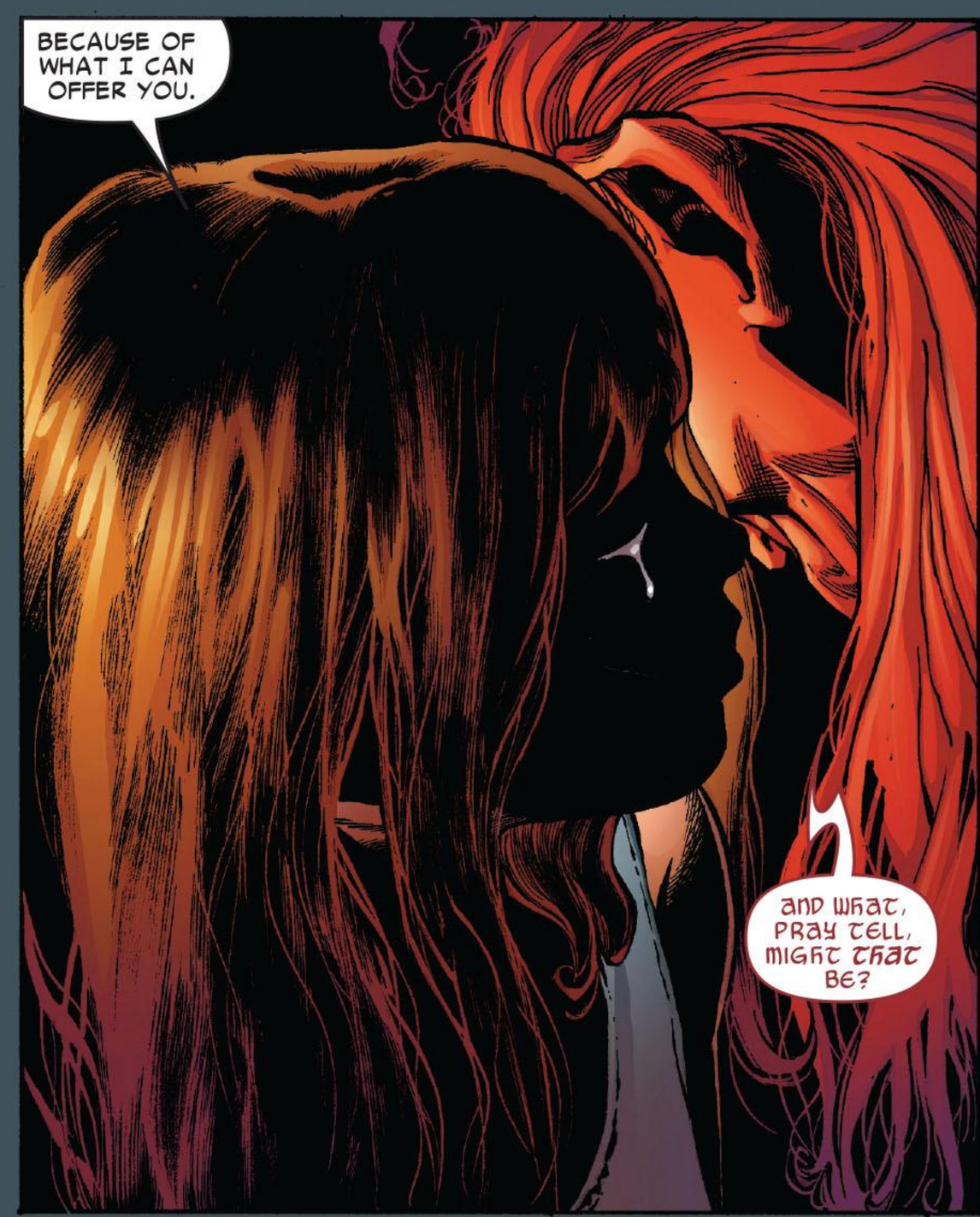

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY YOURSELF OVER SUCH DETAILS, MISTER PARKER, BUT SINCE YOU ASKED. WITH YOUR CONSENT, IT REALLY IS QUITE SIMPLE.
YOU TWO WILL NO LONGER BE MARRIED. BECAUSE YOU TWO WILL NEVER HAVE BEEN MARRIED.
IT SIMPLY NEVER HAPPENED.


WHAT? JUST LIKE THAT-- A LIFETIME ERASED?
NOT A LIFETIME, NO. YOUR MARRIAGE IS BUT A STITCH IN TIME...
...THAT I WILL SIMPLY, PAINLESSLY... REMOVE.
ALL ELSE WILL REMAIN THE SAME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

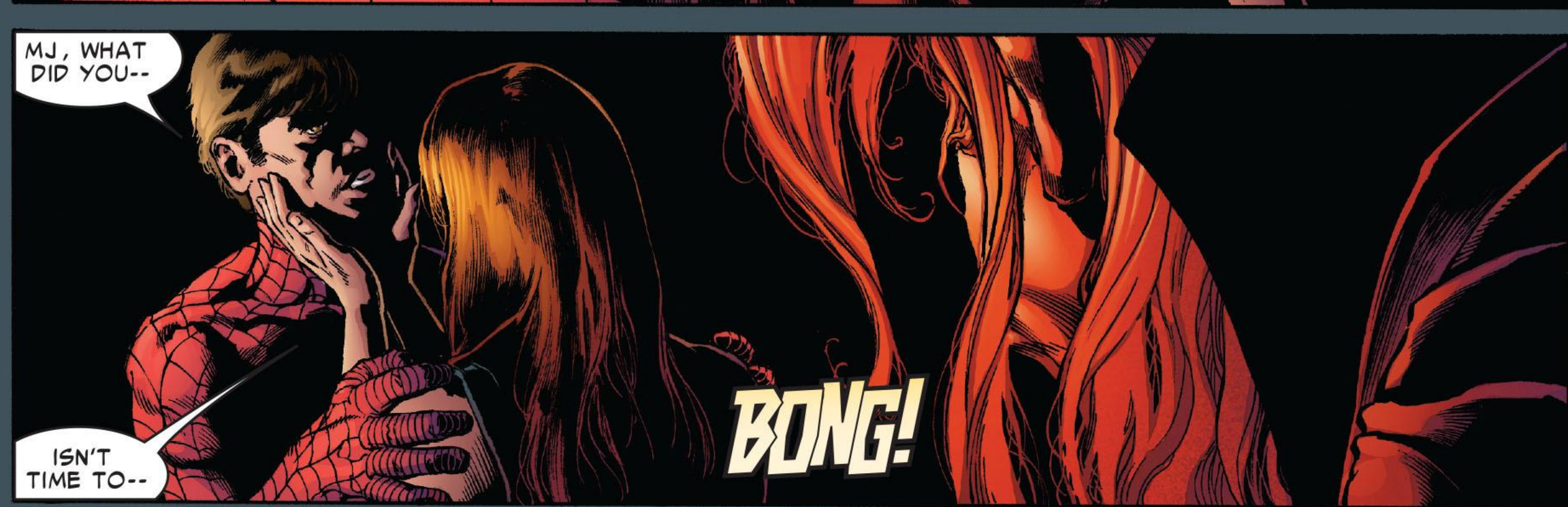

YOU DON'T NEED TO. ALL YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT YOUR AUNT WILL LIVE.
BONG!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE SOUND OF YOUR AUNT DYING, TIME IS NEARLY UP!

YOU DO REALIZE THAT NONE OF THIS, NOT A STITCH OF THIS RESOLVES ANYTHING!
SO YOU SAVE MAY, THEN WHAT?
SHE WAS SHOT BECAUSE HE MADE HIS IDENTITY PUBLIC, THE WORLD KNOWS HE'S SPIDER-MAN. WHAT'S TO STOP SOME OTHER LUNATIC FROM SHOOTING HER AGAIN?
LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO YOU, MRS. PARKER.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT FOR A SECOND TO ASK YOURSELVES WHY? WHY I CHOSE YOU TWO OUT OF ALL PEOPLE?
IT'S BECAUSE YOURS IS THE RAREST LOVE OF ALL.
PURE, UNCONDITIONAL AND MADE HOLY IN THE EYES OF HE WHO I HATE MOST.
A LOVE LIKE YOURS COMES ABOUT BUT ONCE IN A MILLENNIA AND TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM HIM...
...TO DENY HIM...
...IS A VICTORY LIKE NONE OTHER IMAGINABLE.
SO IF THAT'S ALL IT TAKES, CONSIDER HIS IDENTITY FORGOTTEN.
MJ, I DON'T KNOW--
BONG!
THE ANSWER IS YES, YOU MONSTER!
MJ, WAIT!
HOW... EXPECTED.
WELL, THEN, WE SHOULD--
WE'RE NOT DONE YET.

YOU'RE GOING TO PUT HIS LIFE BACK JUST AS IT WAS. YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE AT HAPPINESS.
AND WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?


BECAUSE OF WHAT I CAN OFFER YOU.
AND WHAT, PRAY TELL, MIGHT THAT BE?

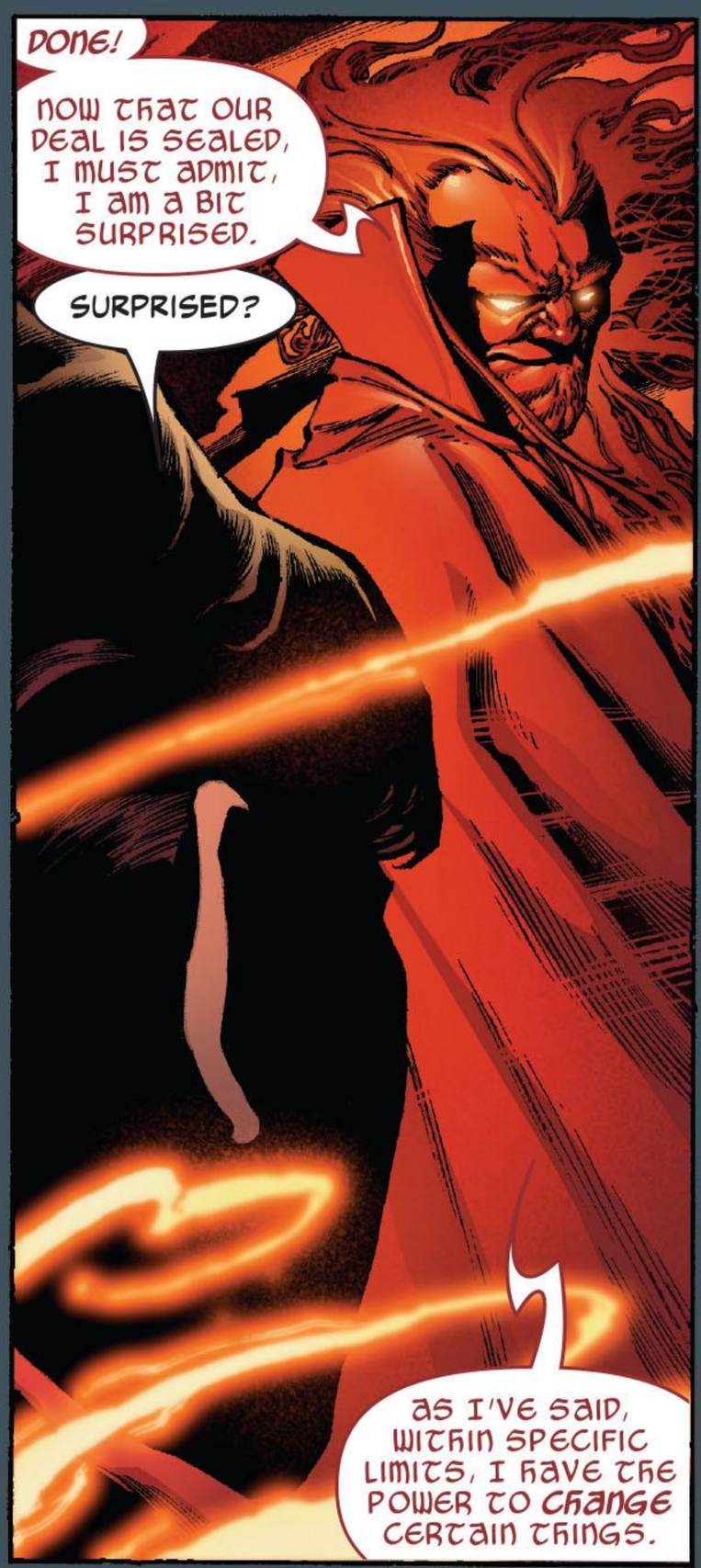
MJ?


MJ, WHAT DID YOU--
ISN'T TIME TO--
BONG!

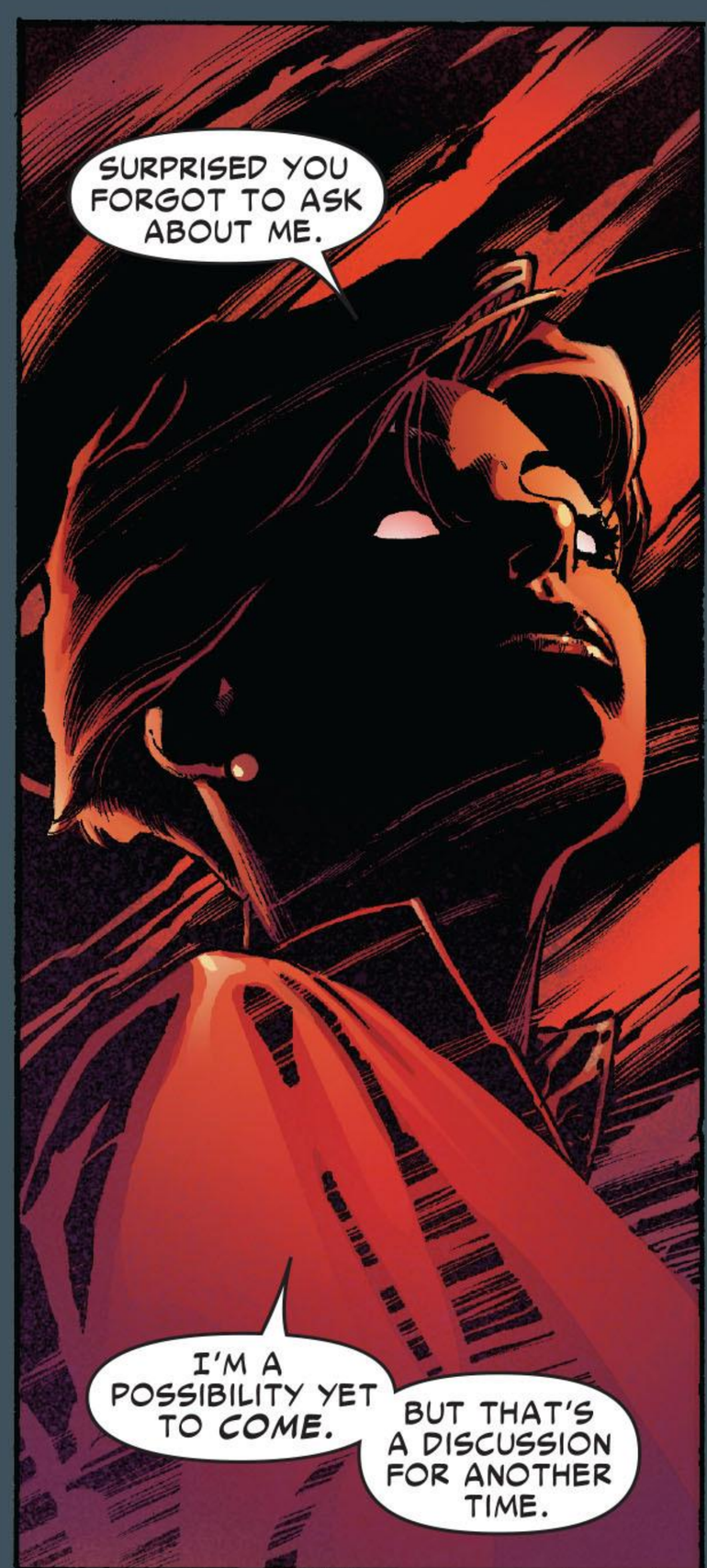
SHE'S RIGHT, TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND YET ONLY ONE OF YOU HAS AGREED TO MY TERMS.
I CAN'T GO ANY FARTHER WITH THIS. WHAT SAY YOU, MR. PARKER?

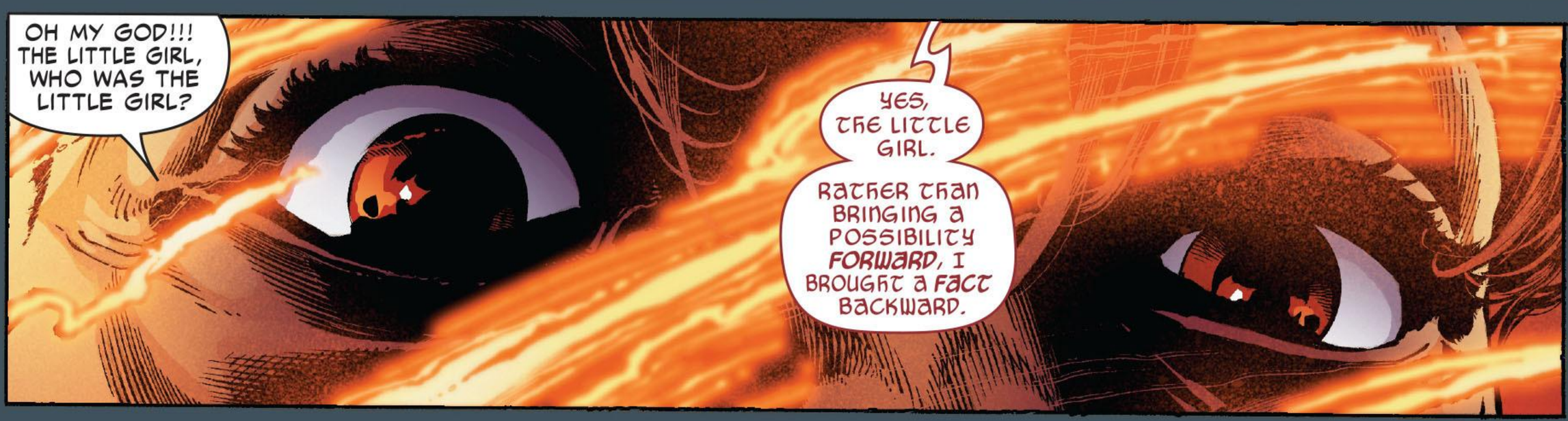
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY. IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OKAY. GO ON NOW, SAVE MAY.
BE THE HERO.
BE MY HERO.

NYRAAARGH!
DO IT.


DONE!
NOW THAT OUR DEAL IS SEALED, I MUST ADMIT, I AM A BIT SURPRISED.
SURPRISED?
AS I'VE SAID, WITHIN SPECIFIC LIMITS, I HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE CERTAIN THINGS.

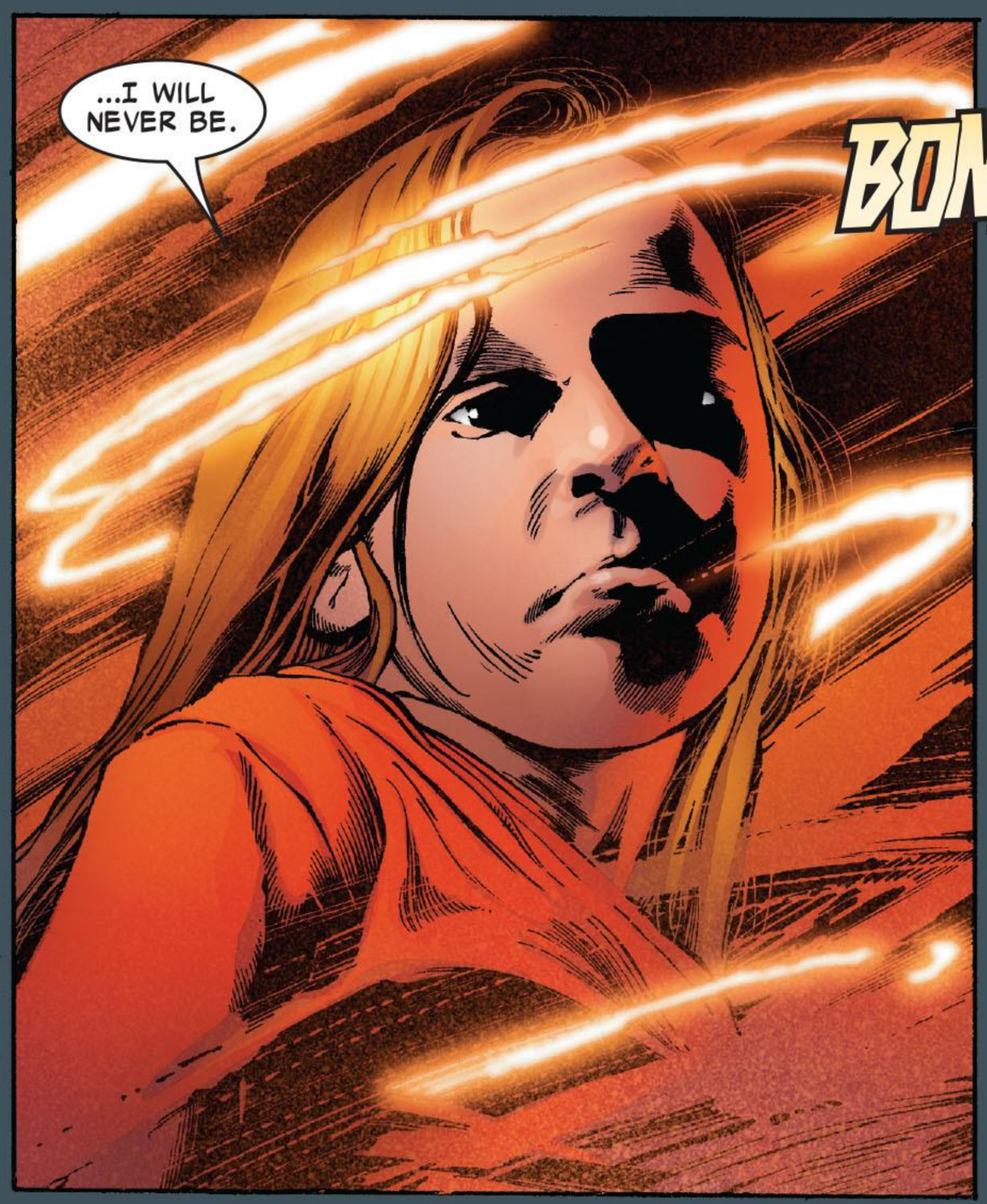
SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES TO CHANGE ONE BIG THING IS TO CHANGE ONE LITTLE THING...
AND TURN A POSSIBILITY INTO A PROBABILITY INTO A FACT.
THOSE YOU MET YESTERDAY WERE SUCH POSSIBILITIES.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND IT INSTRUCTIVE TO MEET THEM.
YES, I'M SURPRISED...


SURPRISED YOU FORGOT TO ASK ABOUT ME.
I'M A POSSIBILITY YET TO COME.
BUT THAT'S A DISCUSSION FOR ANOTHER TIME.

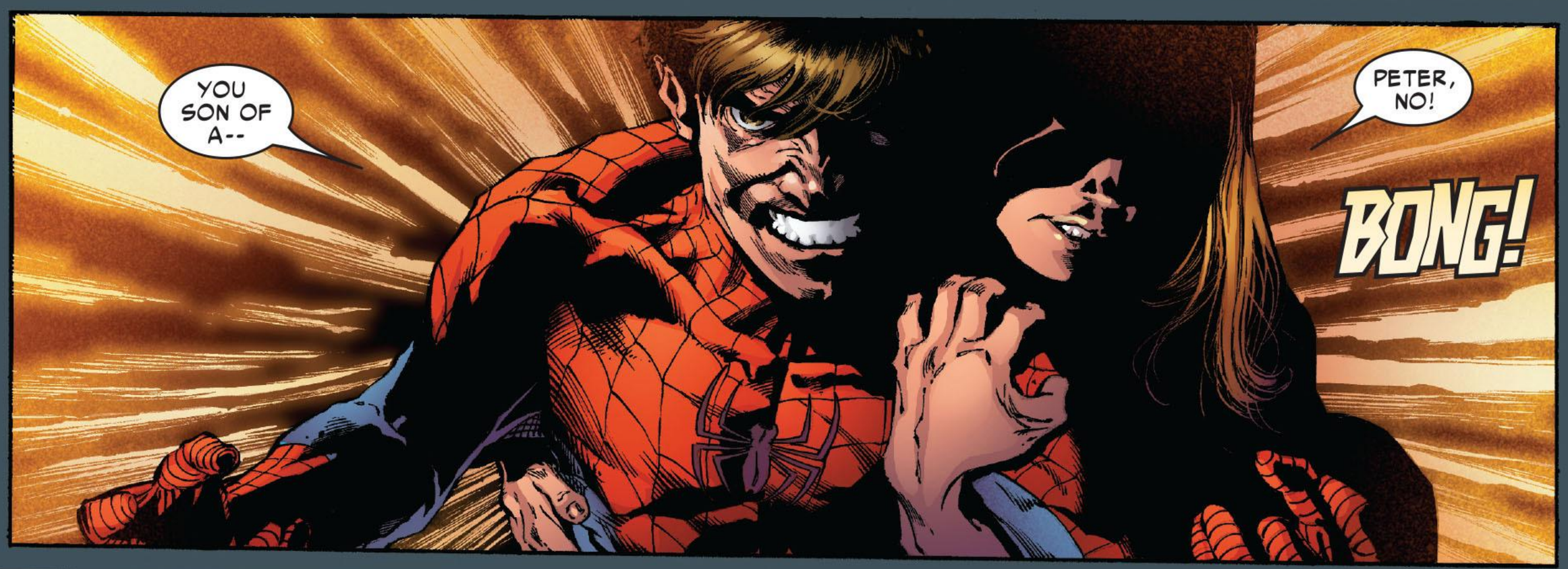

OH MY GOD!!! THE LITTLE GIRL, WHO WAS THE LITTLE GIRL?
YES, THE LITTLE GIRL.
RATHER THAN BRINGING A POSSIBILITY FORWARD, I BROUGHT A FACT BACKWARD.

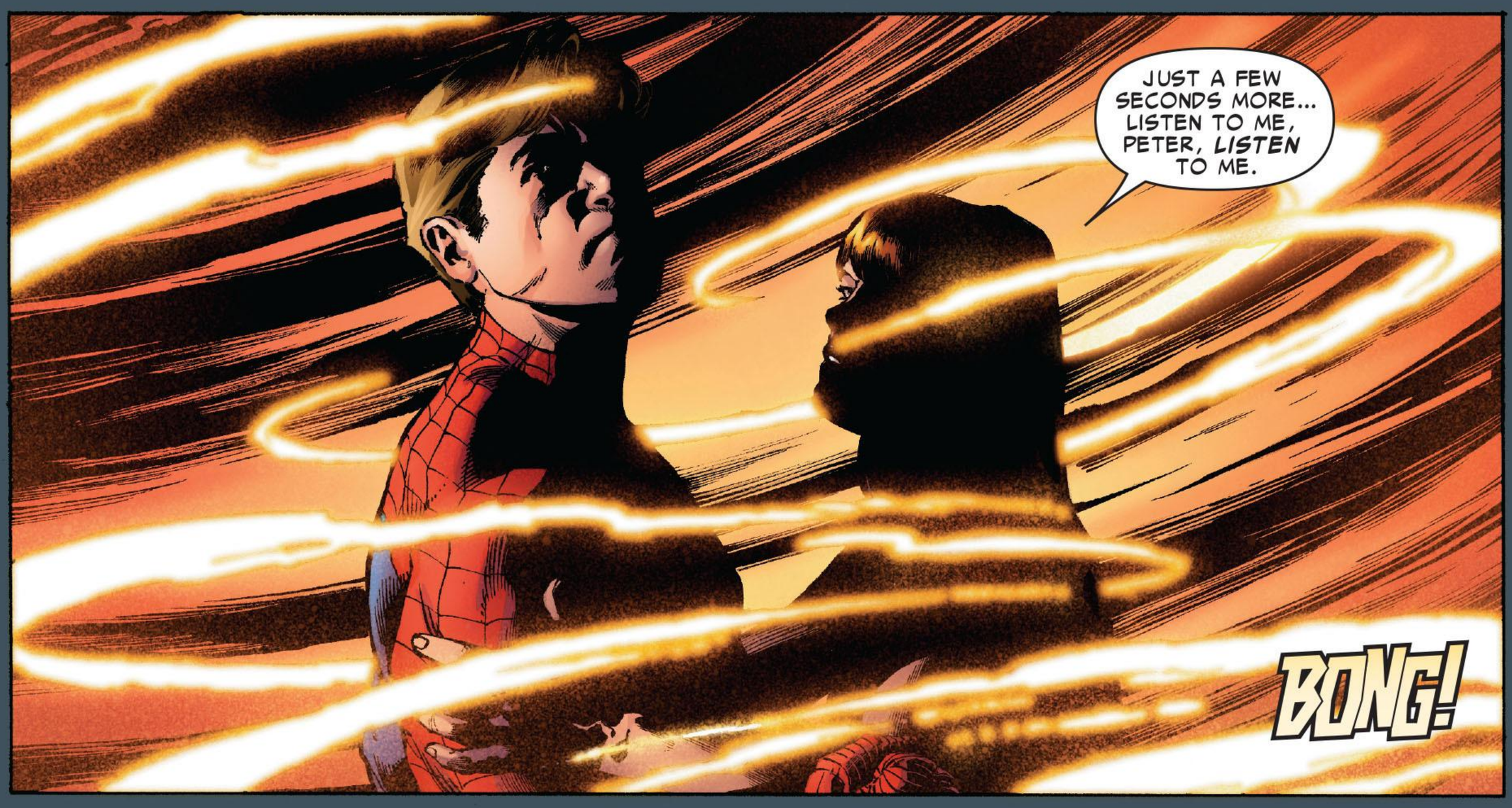
I'M THE CHILD YOU TWO WILL NEVER HAVE NOW THAT YOU'VE DECIDED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF YOUR AUNT.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST OF *BOTH* OF YOU. NOW THAT YOU'VE OPTED TO SAVE YOUR AUNT...
PETER, OH MY GOD.

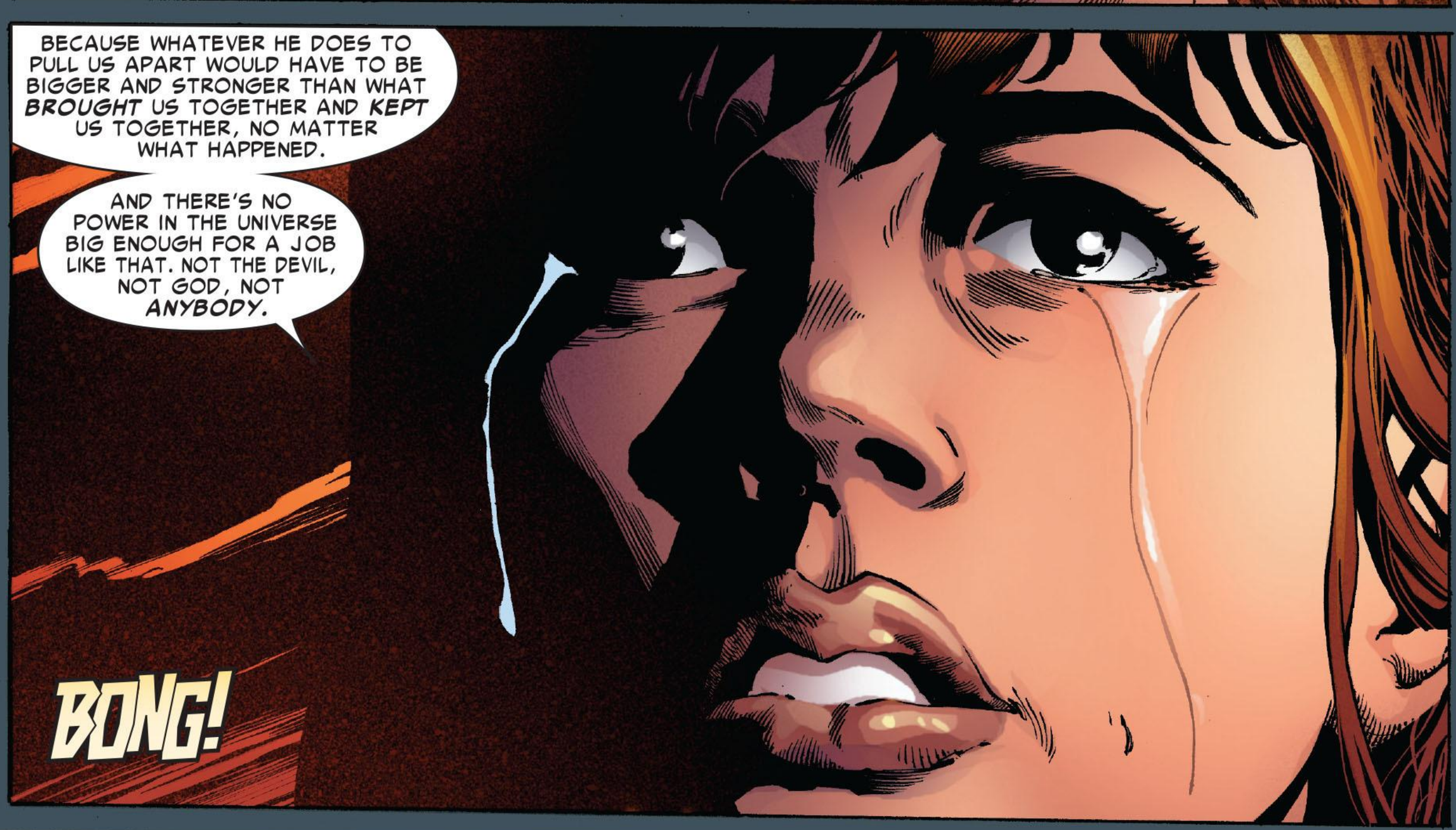

...I WILL NEVER BE.

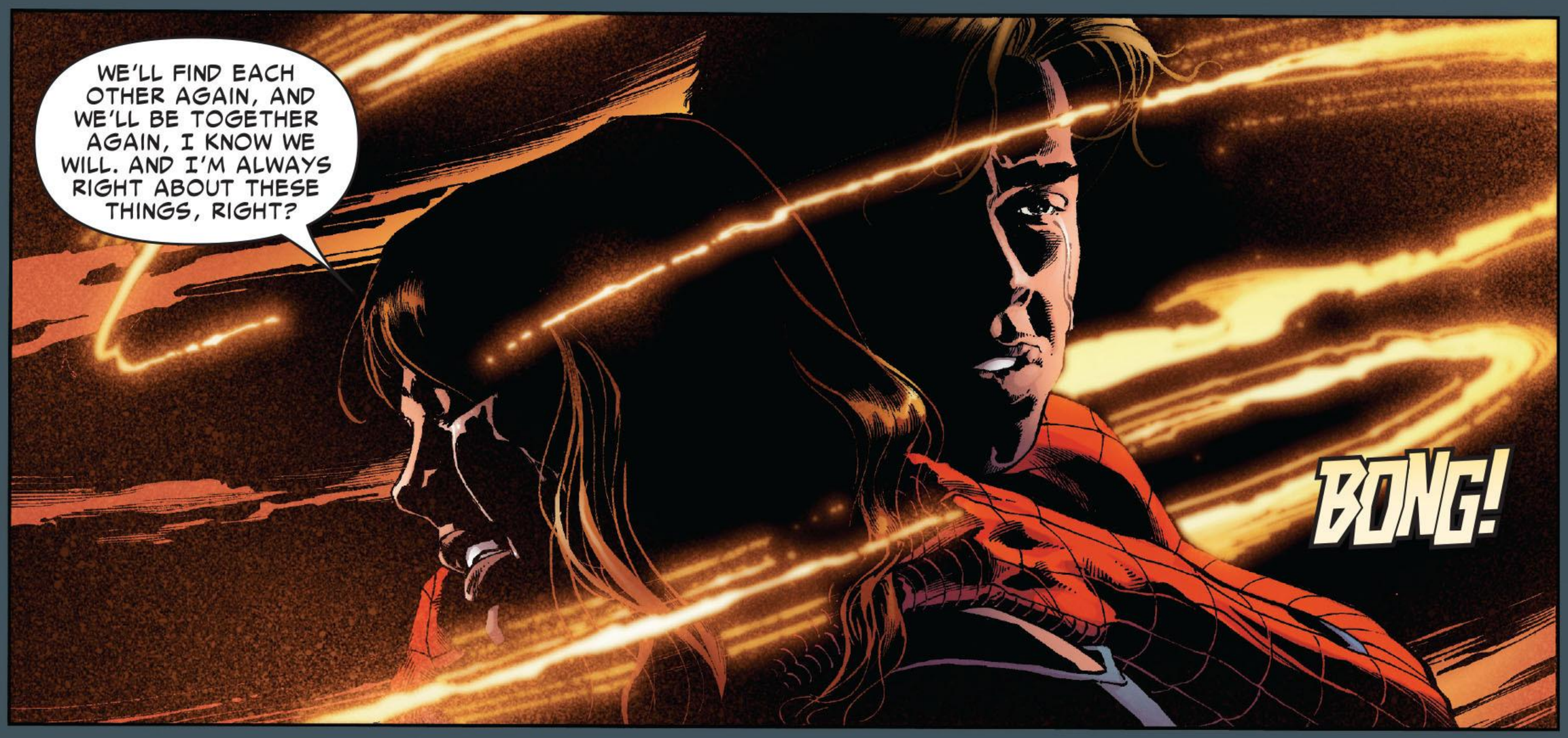
BONG!
SHALL WE?

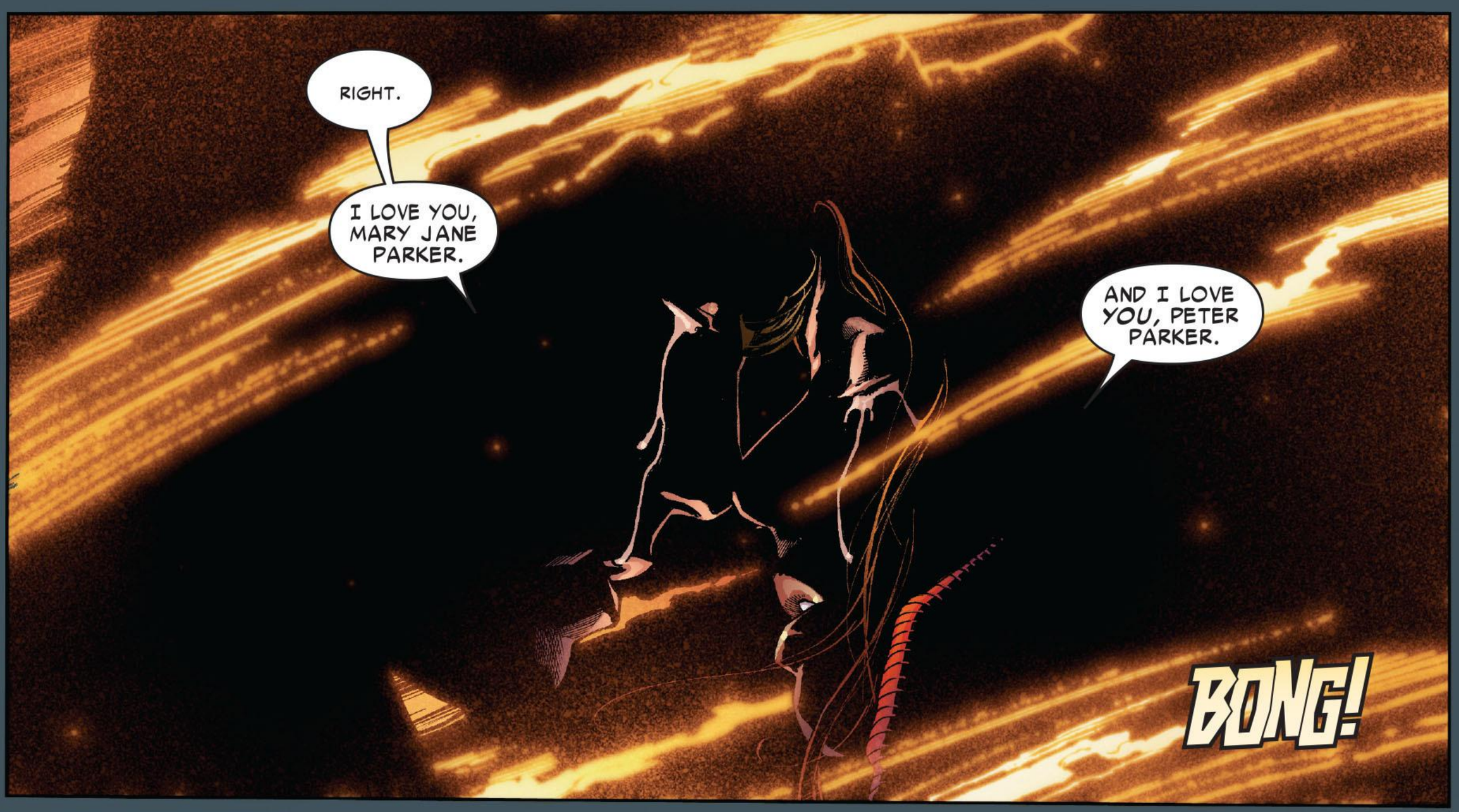

YOU SON OF A--
PETER, NO!
BONG!

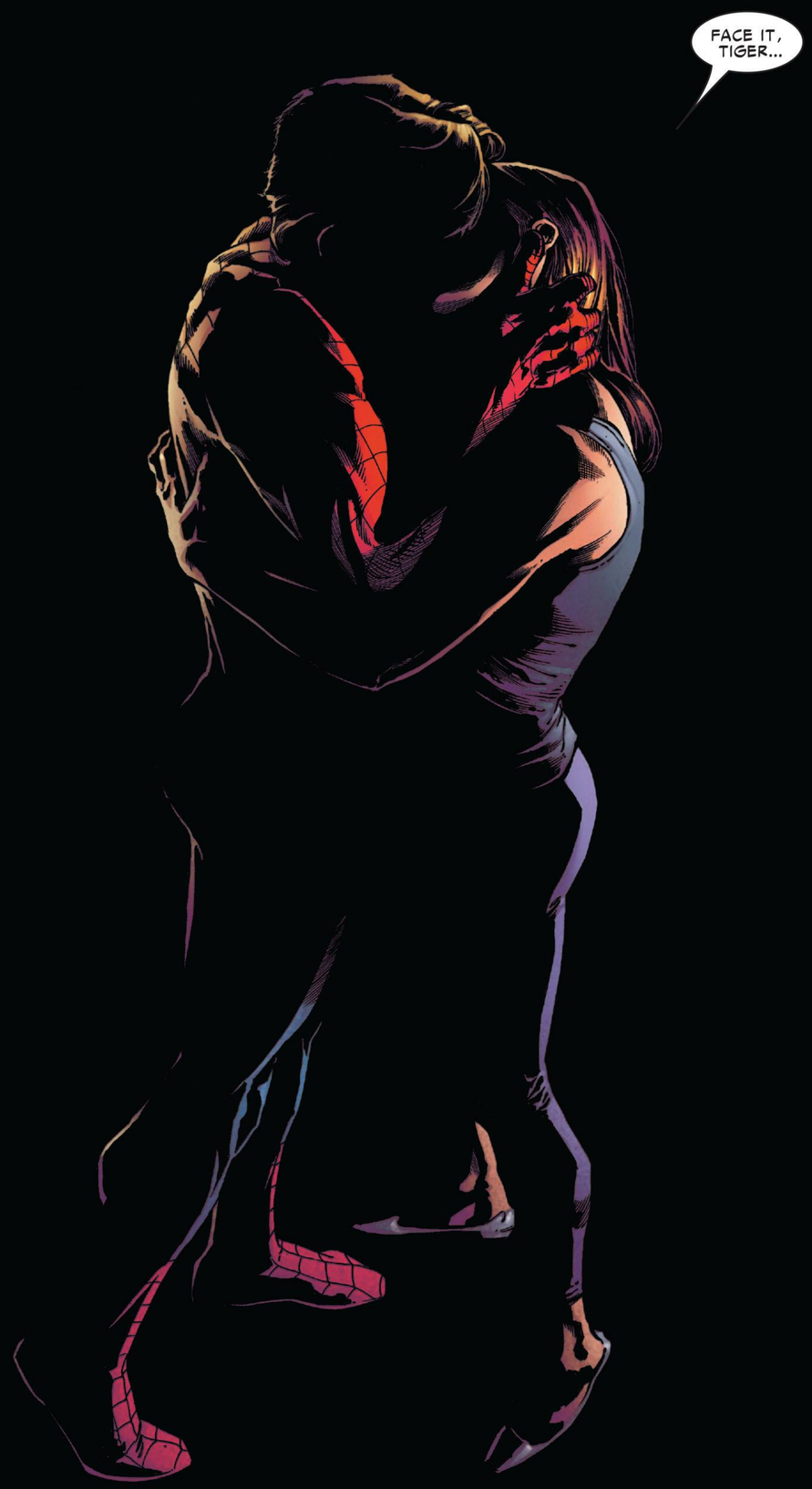

JUST A FEW SECONDS MORE... LISTEN TO ME, PETER, *LISTEN* TO ME.
BONG!

I *KNOW*, IN MY HEART OF HEARTS, THAT YOU AND I WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE TOGETHER.
WHATEVER HE THROWS AT US, WHATEVER HE DOES, WHATEVER HE *UNDOES*, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BONG!

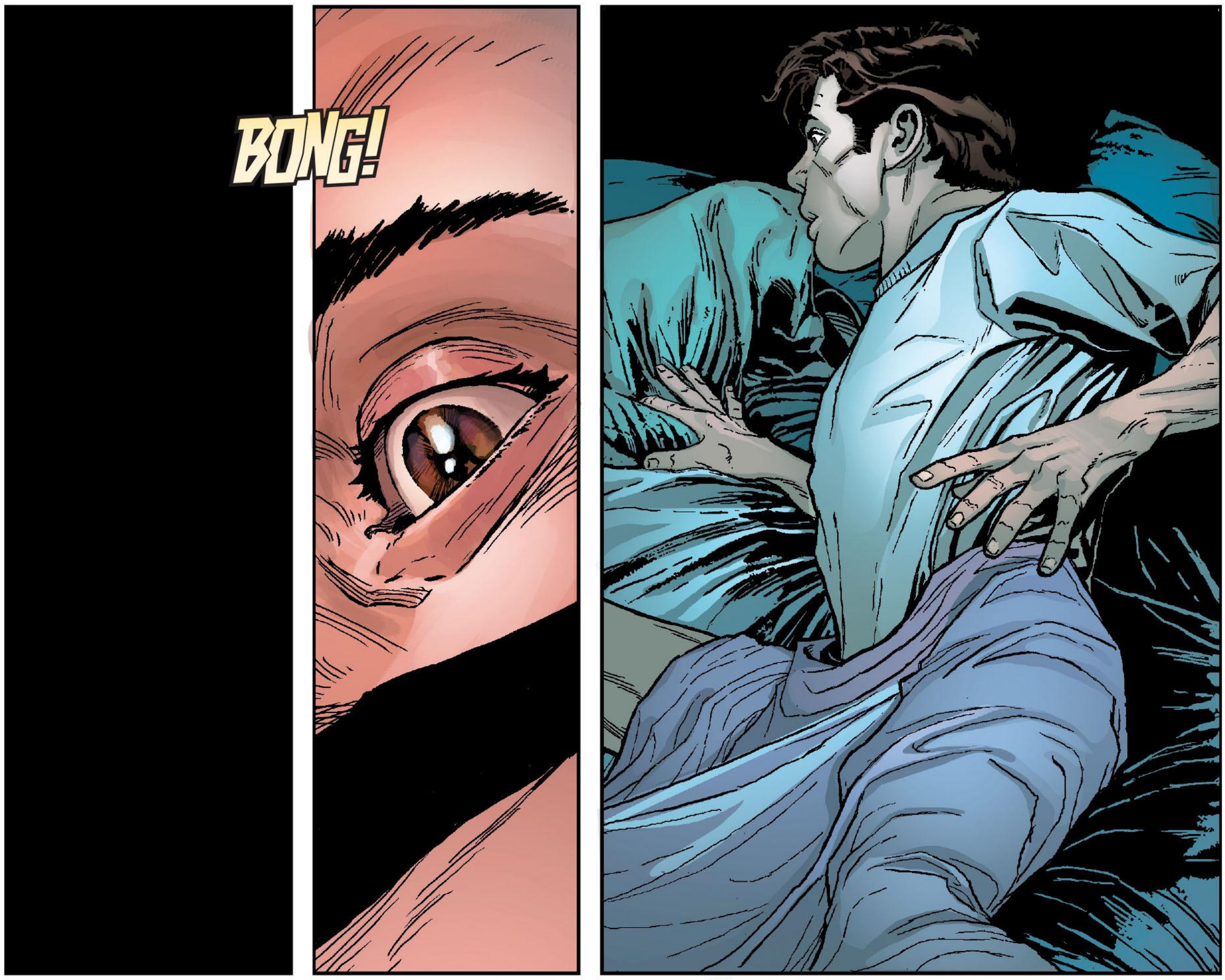

BECAUSE WHATEVER HE DOES TO PULL US APART WOULD HAVE TO BE BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN WHAT *BROUGHT* US TOGETHER AND *KEPT* US TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED.
AND THERE'S NO POWER IN THE UNIVERSE BIG ENOUGH FOR A JOB LIKE THAT. NOT THE DEVIL, NOT GOD, NOT *ANYBODY*.
BONG!


WE'LL FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN, AND WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN, I KNOW WE WILL. AND I'M ALWAYS RIGHT ABOUT THESE THINGS, RIGHT?
BONG!


RIGHT.
I LOVE YOU, MARY JANE PARKER.
AND I LOVE YOU, PETER PARKER.
BONG!


FACE IT, TIGER...

"...YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT."


BONG!

÷YAWN÷ ANOTHER UNEVENTFUL NIGHT FOR PETER PARKER. JUST LIKE I LIKE IT.

OH, MAN, LATE!

HOW IS IT I CAN GET TO BED EARLY AND STILL SLEEP PAST MY ALARM?
GOOD MORNING--÷UHRRM÷ RATHER, GOOD AFTERNOON, TIGER!

I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO WAKE YOU, YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED MORE PEACEFUL.
I WISH YOU WOULD HAVE. BIG DAY TODAY.

BUT I'LL FORGIVE YOU 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO DARN CUTE.
MMMWHAA!
AND I'LL FORGIVE YOUR CHEEKINESS IF YOU SIT YOUR TUSH DOWN AND HAVE A DECENT BREAKFAST FOR A CHANGE.

SORRY, AUNT MAY, GOT TO GO. OW, OW, OW, HOT, HOT, HHHHHOT!
PETER!

NO TIMEFF TO SIFFT, AUNFFT MAY, RUNNING LAFFTE.
LATE FOR WHAT?
BIG WELCOMFF HOMFF, SURPRITH PARTY TODAY, EVERYONE'S GOING TO BE THERE. I WANFF TO GET THERE BEFORE EVERYONE YELLTH "THURPRISE!" THATH THE BESFF PART.

PETER PARKER!
LOVFF YOUFF!!!

SLOW DOWN, YOU MOVE TOO FAST, YOU GOTTA MAKE THE MOMENT LAST, JUST KICKIN' DOWN THE COBBLESTONES, LOOKIN' FOR FUN AND...

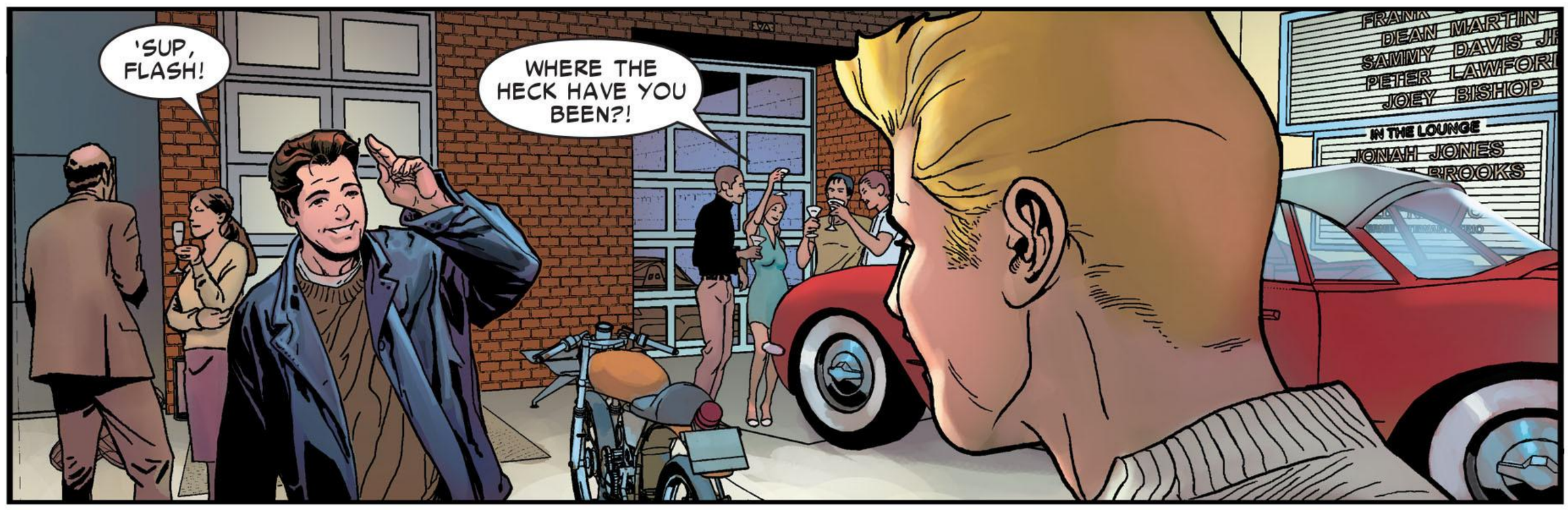
TOWERS
FEELIN' GROOVY! LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA!

HI, I'M HERE FOR THE PARTY!
ELEVATOR ON THE RIGHT, PUSH PENTHOUSE. YOU BETTER HURRY OR YOU'LL MISS THE "SURPRISE"--THAT'S THE BEST PART.
I KNOW, I KNOW.

DING!

WOW!

SWANKY DIGS.
PARKER!

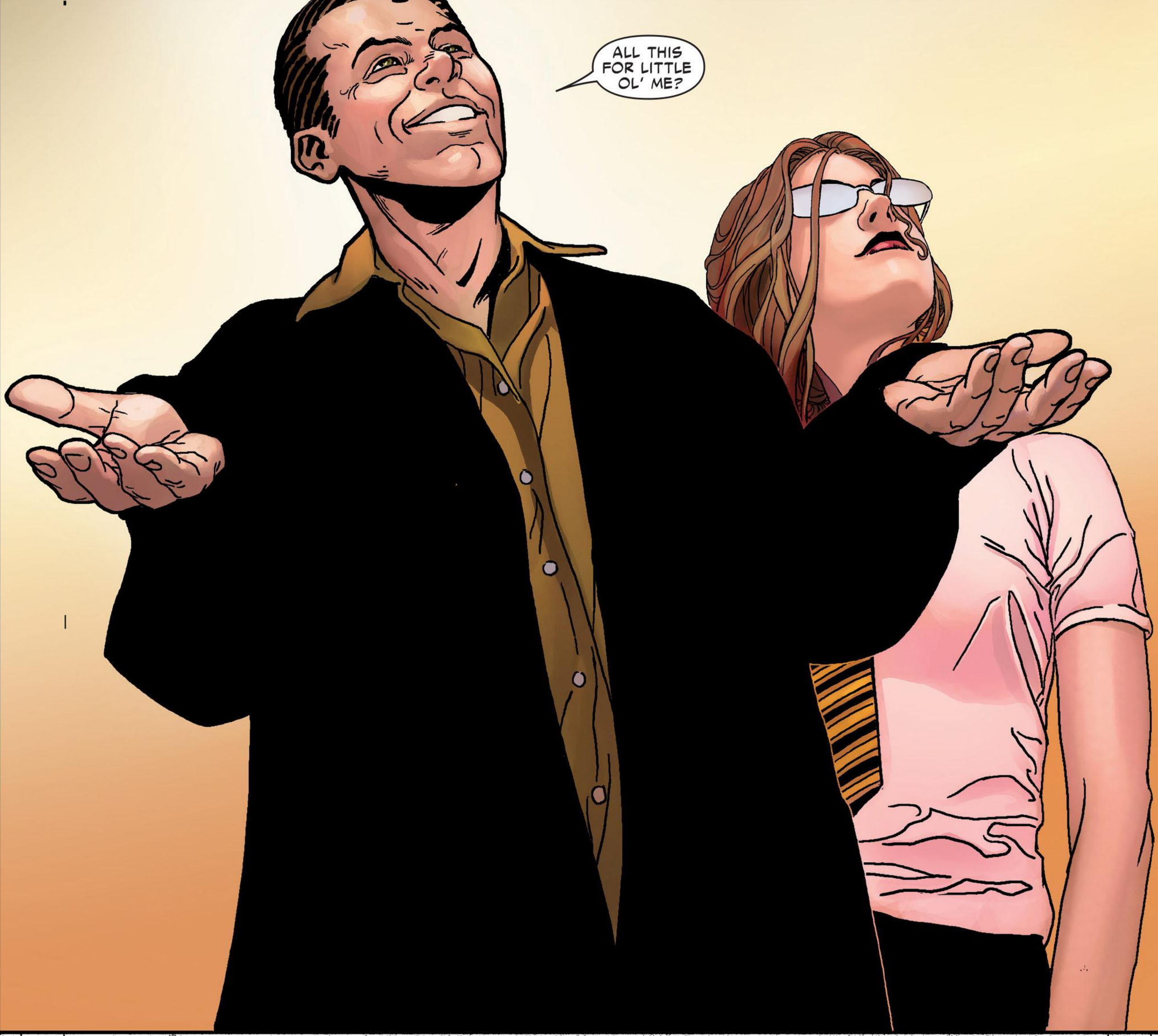

'SUP, FLASH!
WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN?!
DEAN MARTIN
SAMMY DAVIS
PETER LAWFORD
JOEY BISHOP
IN THE LOUNGE
JONAH JONES

YOU ALMOST MISSED THE "SURPRISE," AND THAT'S THE BEST PART.
I KNOW, I KN--

YIKES, AWKWARD! THINGS STILL FROSTY WITH MJ, HUH?
YEAH, I GUESS YOU CAN SAY THAT. I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'LL EVER FORGIVE ME FOR--
SHHHHHH, EVERYBODY!

SHHHHHH, SHHHHH, QUIET, THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE HERE!
DING!

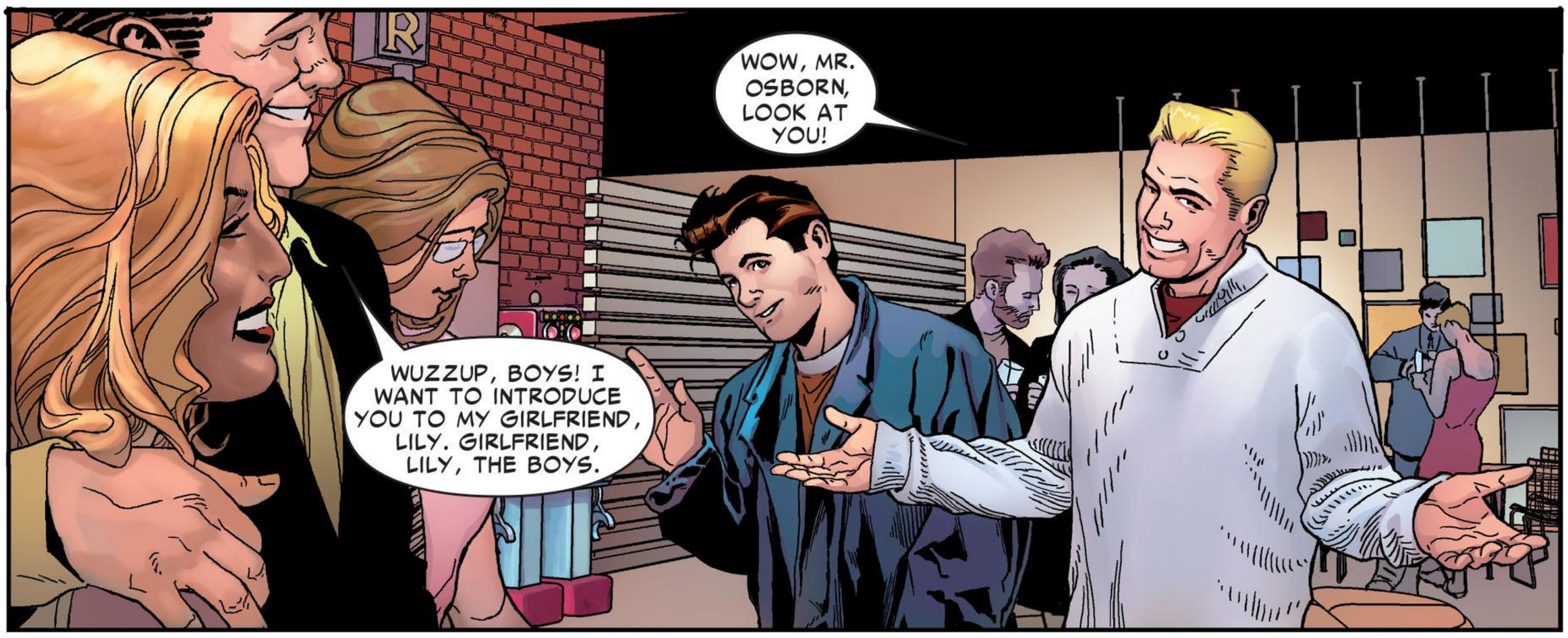
SURPRISE!!!


ALL THIS FOR LITTLE OL' ME?

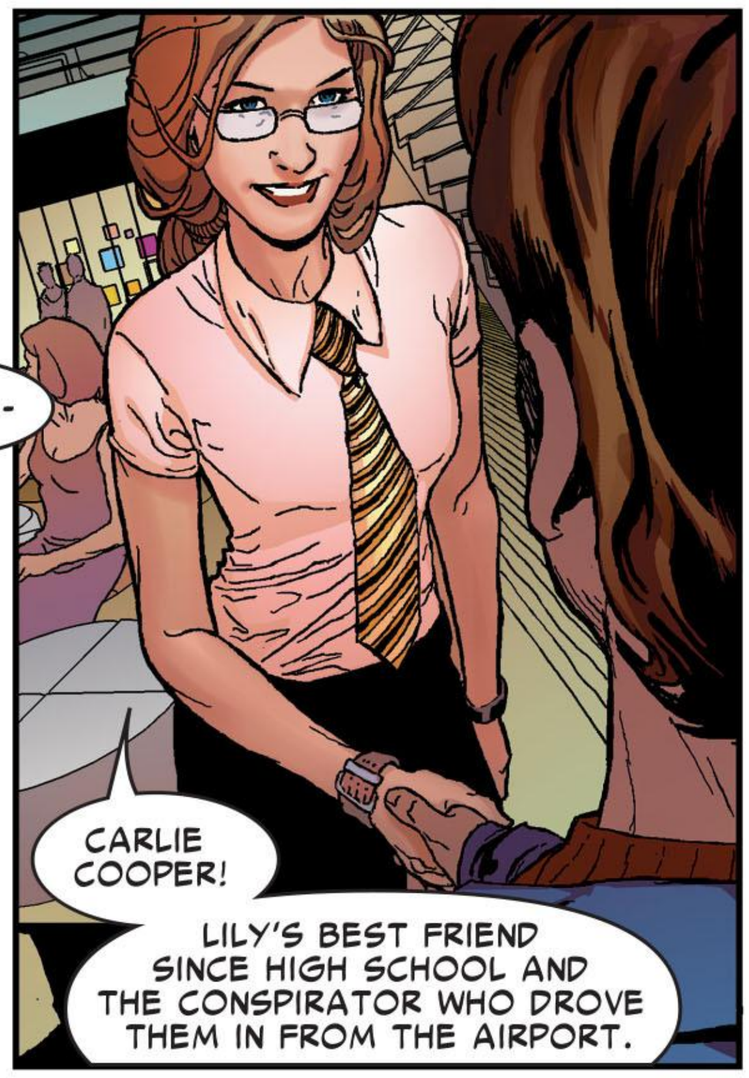
HAAAAA-RRY!
L
I
C
U

THERE THEY ARE!

WHOA!
WHO'S THAT?
COME ON, BABE, I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS.
FIGURES.

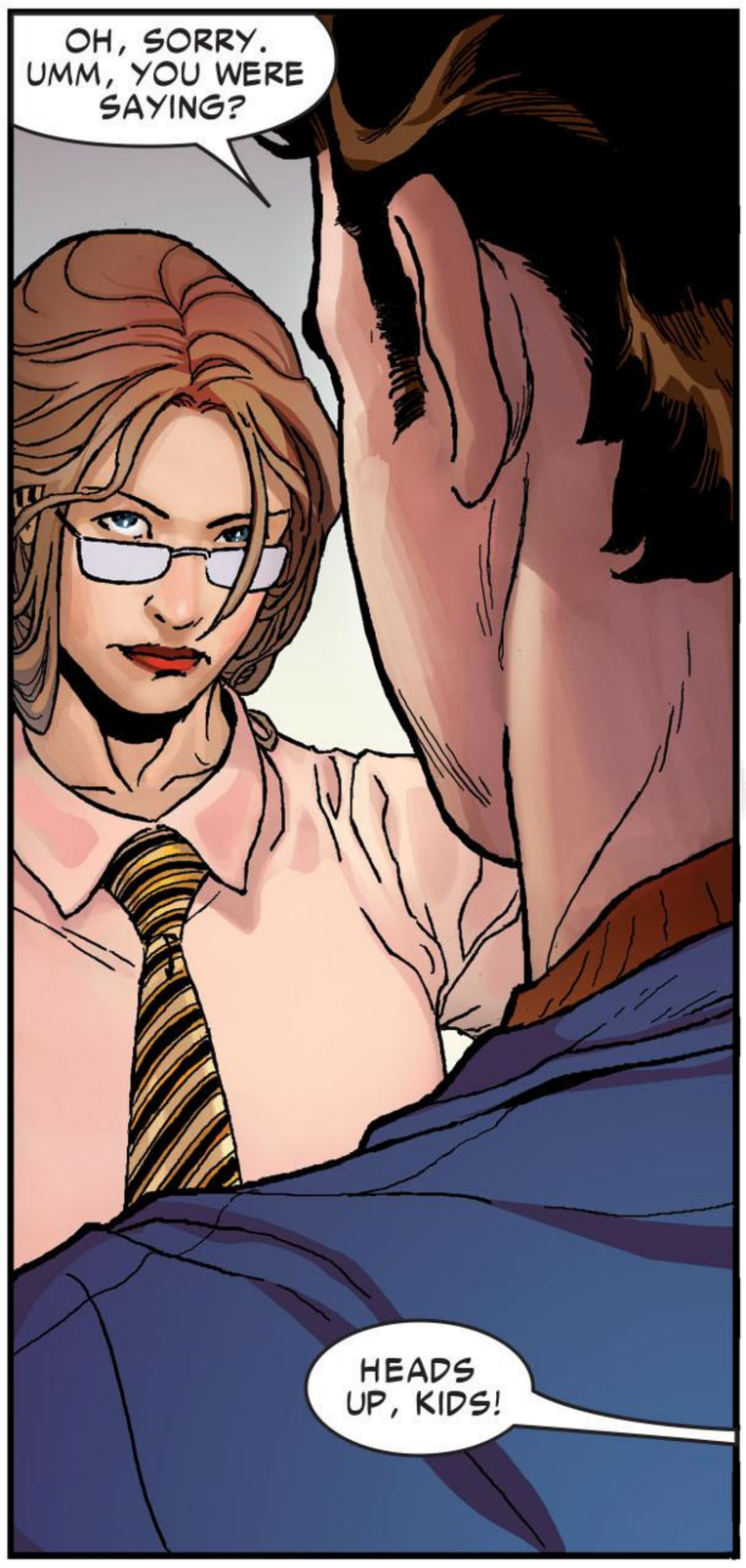

WUZZUP, BOYS! I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIEND, LILY. GIRLFRIEND, LILY, THE BOYS.
WOW, MR. OSBORN, LOOK AT YOU!

LILY, LILY HOLLISTER.
PETER PARKER, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
HEY, ISN'T YOUR DAD--?
HI!
OH, HI--

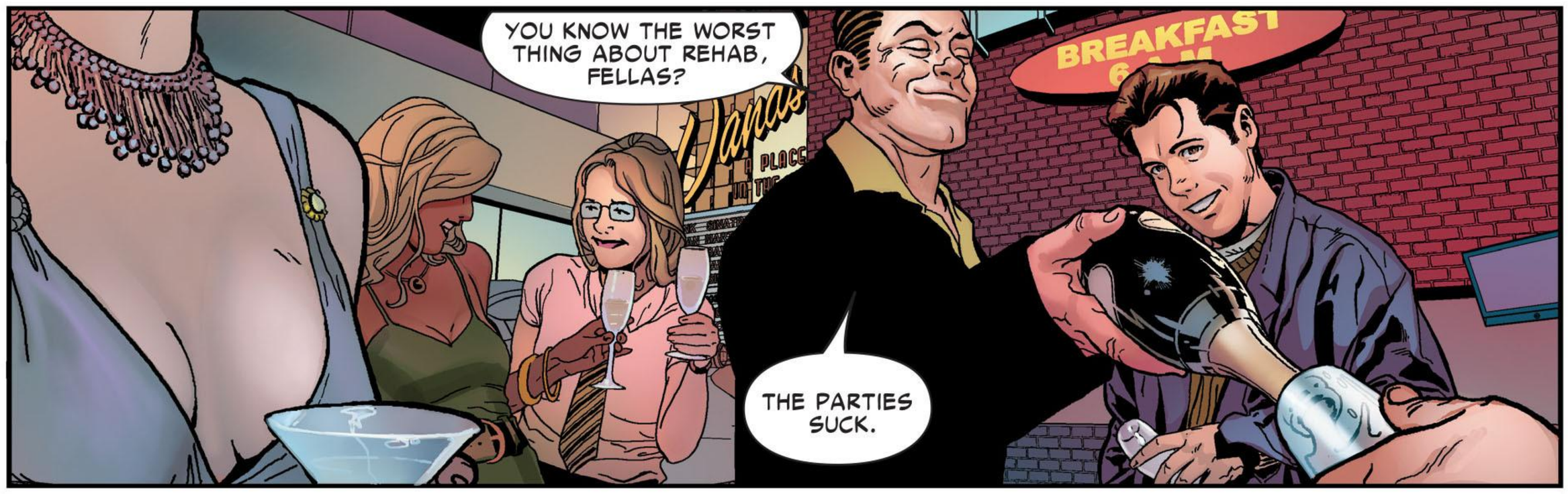

CARLIE COOPER!
LILY'S BEST FRIEND SINCE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE CONSPIRATOR WHO DROVE THEM IN FROM THE AIRPORT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HARR--?
UM, HELLO?

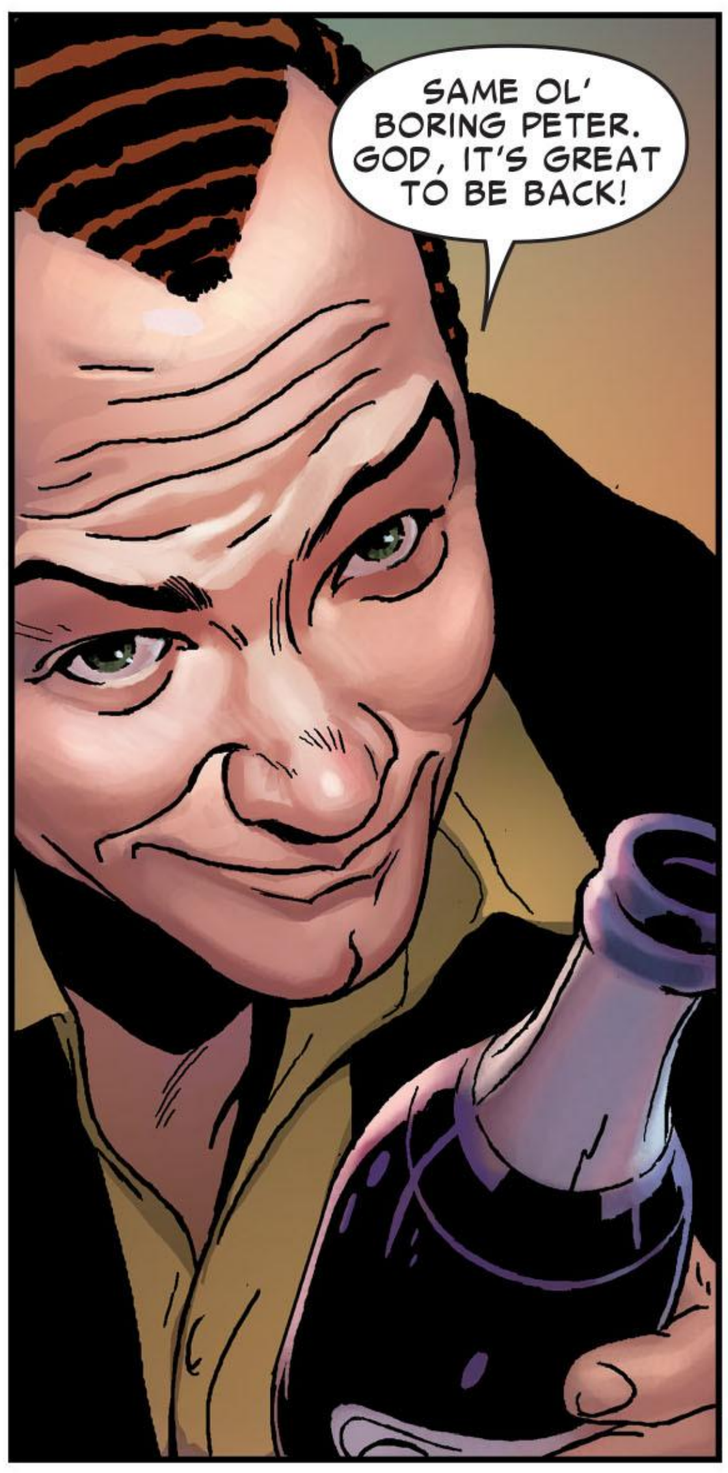
DING!
HELLOOOOO?


OH, SORRY. UMM, YOU WERE SAYING?
HEADS UP, KIDS!

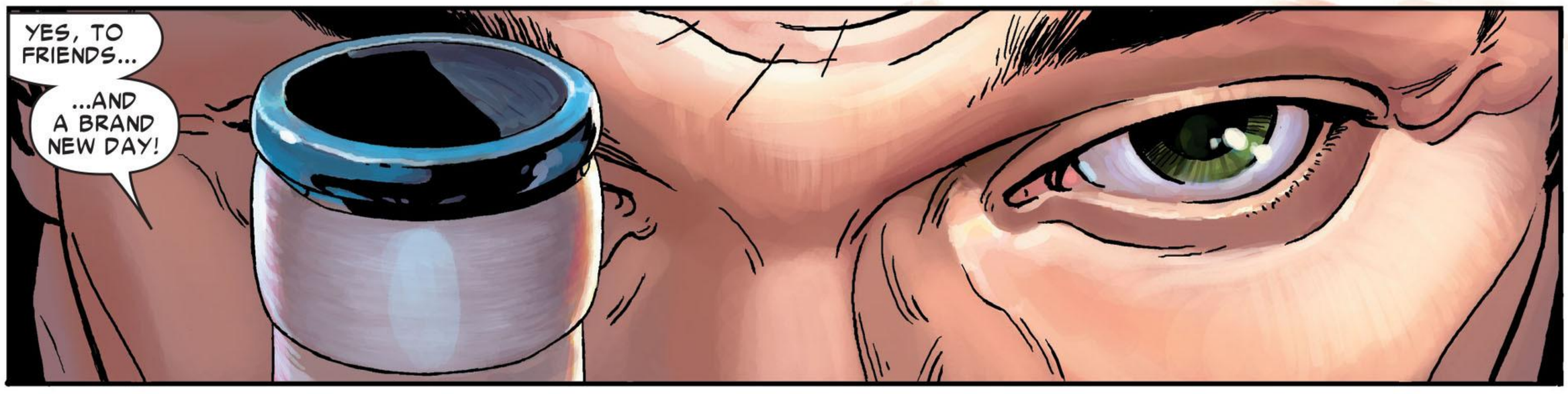
A MAN DOESN'T LIVE IN EUROPE FOR AS LONG AS I DID AND NOT GET TO TOAST WITH HIS BEST PALS.


YOU KNOW THE WORST THING ABOUT REHAB, FELLAS?
BREAKFAST
THE PARTIES SUCK.

NAH, I'M GOOD.


SAME OL' BORING PETER. GOD, IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

WELL YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ALWAYS SAY, HARRY, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL AND HE APPEARS.
TO FRIENDS NEW AND OLD, AND A NEW DAY!


YES, TO FRIENDS...
...AND A BRAND NEW DAY!

A BRAND NEW DAY!
TO JMS!
FROM THE MARVEL GANG!

SPIDER-MAN: ONE MORE DAY

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #545

PART 4 of 4

STORY: J. Michael Straczynski and Joe Quesada
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INKER: Danny Miki
INKER: PAGES 22-31: Joe Quesada
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AUNT MAY PROFILE

WRITERS: Jonathan Couper-Smartt, Mike Fichera and Peter Sanderson
EDITOR: Cory Levine

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21

PLOT: Jim Shooter
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SPECIAL THANKS to Tom Brevoort, Yana Chapkis, Susan Crespi, Justin Gabrie, and Raphael Rodriguez

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MAY PARKER

HISTORY: May Reilly was a strikingly beautiful but naïve young woman who lived with her parents in Brooklyn during a nationwide depression. When May's father walked out, her mother raised her begrudgingly — not bothering to conceal the fact that she saw May as nothing more than an unwelcome burden.

When May was a young woman, two men vied for her affection. One was a flashy, wealthy man named Johnny Jerome; the other, a carnival barker named Ben Parker. May believed she was in love with Johnny, whom she thought offered her more promise during the time of economic hardship than did Ben. Ben warned May that Johnny was actually a criminal, but she dismissed Ben's warnings as jealous slander. One day, however, Johnny unexpectedly proposed to May, saying he wanted them to leave together right away. May heard the police on the street, and realized something was wrong. Ben stormed in, telling May that Johnny had just robbed a jewelry store, and had shot a man who tried to call for help. May then realized Johnny was indeed a criminal, and rejected his proposal. Johnny was captured by the police and convicted for murder and burglary.

May Reilly set aside her fantasies about marrying someone well-to-do financially and began to make decisions about the direction of her life. Coming to appreciate Ben Parker, and his devotion to her, May fell in love with him. She married Ben, and their life together was peaceful and happy.

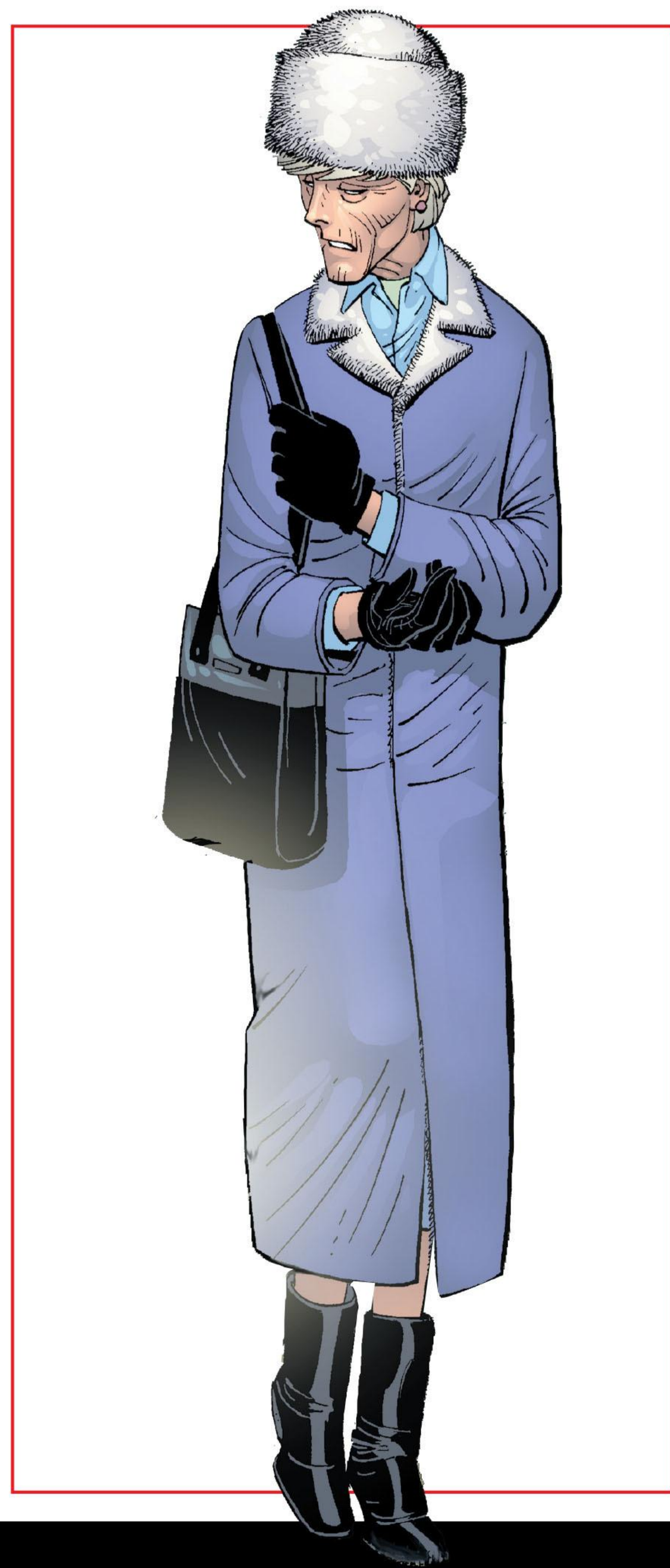
During their time dating, they were often saddled with Ben's much younger brother, Richard. So after Ben and May married, they chose to remain childless — free from the worries youngsters can bring. Richard and his wife, Mary, however, brought a son into the world named Peter.

Unexpectedly, Ben and May doted on their nephew; the young boy particularly captivated Ben. When Richard and Mary — secretly government agents — were called overseas on an assignment, May and Ben happily took Peter into their home until his parents could return. When word arrived that Richard and Mary had been killed in a plane crash in Algeria, they were designated as Peter's legal guardians. Since Richard and Mary were secret agents, Peter was temporarily held while Ben and May's backgrounds were thoroughly investigated; they were given full custody of Peter at the memorial service for Peter's parents. At first May was overwhelmed with the responsibility, even angry with Richard and Mary for dying and leaving her and Ben with the challenge of bringing up Peter at such a late stage in their life. Yet her heart could not help but be touched by how kind and thoughtful Peter grew to be. May became like an overprotective mother to sensitive Peter and together, the three became a true family.

As he matured into his teens, little did May or Ben realize that the science-loving, socially awkward Peter had, by way of a radioactive spider-bite, become the daring and colorful Spider-Man they watched on television. As Spider-Man, Peter had become an overnight sensation in the entertainment world. After a television appearance, Spider-Man saw a guard chasing a thief in the studio building. Though the guard asked Spider-Man for help, the costumed youth ignored him and allowed the burglar to get away.

One fateful night at the Parker residence in suburban Forest Hills, Queens, that same burglar came seeking hidden assets worth millions of dollars belonging to a previous owner of the Parker home, gangster "Dutch" Mallone. While in jail, the burglar had been a cellmate of the elderly Mallone, and learned of the treasure from Mallone's mumbling while he slept. Ben and May had a small quarrel that night, and Ben left the house to take a walk, leaving the front door unlocked. In his absence, the burglar easily entered the Parker home.

REAL NAME: May Reilly Parker
ALIASES: May Morgan; formerly May Reilly
IDENTITY: No dual identity
OCCUPATION: Retired; former landlady, housewife
CITIZENSHIP: USA
PLACE OF BIRTH: Brooklyn, New York
KNOWN RELATIVES: Ben Parker (husband, deceased), Albert and Claire Reilly (parents, deceased), Peter Parker (Spider-Man, nephew), Mary Jane Watson-Parker (niece-in-law), Richard and Mary Parker (brother-in-law and sister-in law, deceased), Horace Reilly (paternal uncle, deceased)
GROUP AFFILIATION: Forest Hills Public Library; formerly Gray Panthers
EDUCATION: High school graduate
FIRST APPEARANCE: Amazing Fantasy #15 (1962)



Art by John Romita Jr.

Ben returned home and discovered the burglar, who manhandled May for the exact location of the cache. When Ben furiously ordered the burglar to unhand her, the burglar panicked, fatally shot Ben, and fled to a warehouse where he was ultimately caught by Spider-Man. Before May could call for an ambulance, Ben told May he loved her and died. It was this incident which initially aggravated May Parker's weak heart condition which has caused her serious health problems over the years. Guilt-ridden for previously allowing the burglar to pass, Peter's attitude towards life and his superhuman abilities radically changed after that night, devoting his life to selfless heroics. For years afterwards, May too harbored guilt thinking had she not argued with Ben, perhaps her husband would still be alive.

Art by Sean Chen

May was left to continue her life without Ben's strength — a life further complicated by financial woes, her own ever-failing health and the strange new secrecy with which Peter conducted his affairs. To help his aunt pay the bills, including the escalating costs of her various medications, Peter took a job photographing himself as Spider-Man for the Daily Bugle. May was worried about her fragile nephew, taking pictures so close to the most dangerous of super-powered battles. For Peter, lying to his aunt became a painful — yet seemingly necessary — way of life.

Merely by being in the company of Daily Bugle secretary Betty Brant, May was kidnapped by Doctor Octopus (Otto Octavius) during the first attack of the Sinister Six. Though Betty was Doc Ock's intended target, he treated May so well she never realized the charming scientist was actually a deadly villain.

Soon after Ben's death, May became seriously ill and was hospitalized, requiring a blood transfusion. Though not a blood relative, Peter was a suitable match for May; after a moment of hesitation, uncertain what his radioactive blood would do to his aunt, Peter agreed to give May the transfusion. May was restored to health, and recuperated in Florida. Sometime later, the radioactivity in her bloodstream began to kill May. Aided by Dr. Curt Connors, Peter overcame many obstacles through the underwater headquarters of Doctor Octopus in order to deliver a serum, ISO-36, which stopped her blood from deteriorating, and saved her life.

For a long time, May's neighbor and best friend, Anna Watson, conspired with May to introduce Anna's niece, Mary Jane Watson, to Peter, but both teenagers resisted. Finally, Peter could put off meeting Mary Jane no longer, and was attracted to her at first sight. Thus began the courtship of Peter and Mary Jane.

Peter greatly reduced his need to deceive his aunt when he relocated to an apartment in Manhattan, while Anna Watson moved in with May. Though Peter and May now lived farther apart, many of Spider-Man's battles still took place dangerously close to May. The wall-crawler's web seemed to be inextricably woven into May's life. The Beetle (Abner Jenkins) took May as a random hostage, and Spider-Man again rescued her.

Just when life had begun to quiet down, May inherited a Canadian island that was the site of a uranium mine and small commercial reactor. Doctor Octopus charmed May into a sudden wedding, with the aim of acquiring the island's valuable atomic resources for his own nefarious ends. But the intervention of Hammerhead resulted in the destruction of the island and the apparent death of May's groom-to-be. Later, the Green Goblin (Harry Osborn) captured a confused May after he uncovered Spider-Man's secret identity, but May was rescued unharmed, none the wiser as to her nephew's exploits.

The shock of seeing the apparent return of Peter's murdered girlfriend, Gwen Stacy (actually a clone created by Professor Miles Warren, the Jackal) sent May back to the hospital. There she was confronted by the Scorpion (Mac Gargan) whom the Jackal, knowing Spider-Man's identity, directed to May; May indignantly scolded the Scorpion after Spider-Man defeated him. While Peter and Mary Jane grew closer than ever during this time, the apparent return of "Gwen" derailed their romance. May supported Mary Jane, encouraging her to fight for her man, much the way May had to be assertive while dating shy Ben Parker to bring about their engagement. Mary Jane, however, later rejected Peter when he proposed to her, and moved to Florida.

Despite her nagging ill health, May maintained an iron will. However, while taking part in a rally at City Hall with senior citizen activist group, the Gray Panthers, she suffered a mild heart attack and was sent to Newhope Memorial Hospital. As she continued her convalescence at the Restwell Nursing Home, the burglar who had killed her husband was freed from prison. Still seeking the treasure hidden in the Parkers' home, the burglar forced the head of the nursing home (Mysterio posing as Doctor Ludwig Rinehart) to fake Aunt May's death so she could be interrogated without the interference of her doting nephew. When Peter discovered the truth, his fury was so terrifying that the burglar died of a heart attack. More tragic was the fact that all May's suffering was over nothing: silverfish had long since eaten the treasure.

May returned to Forest Hills after recovering sufficiently and set up her home as a boarding house, taking in half a dozen paying houseguests. During this time, Peter and May's relationship hit a low point. When Peter decided to drop out of his graduate studies at Empire State University, May was so upset she stopped speaking to him for a time, but the two eventually reconciled. Among May's borders was Nathan Lubensky — a charming, wheelchair-bound gentleman she had met at the nursing home. The two were engaged until May witnessed a cold, cruel side to Nathan who caused the death of a mugger who had invaded their house after Spider-Man had already webbed the crook; May called off the wedding. Despite this, Nathan's final act proved his affection for May: he died to prevent her from becoming a hostage of the Vulture (Adrian Toomes).

Mary Jane returned to New York, and May was overjoyed when she and Peter were married. While the newlyweds lived in Manhattan, May decided to close the boarding house and live alone. She shared

Art by Mark Buckingham

a few dates with mailman Willie Lumpkin during this time. May was astonished to be reunited with Richard and Mary Parker, Peter's parents. While they were convincing to Peter, May's doubts were confirmed; they were actually replicoid duplicates, created by the Chameleon as part of Harry Osborn's complex revenge schemes.

Shortly thereafter, Peter believed he had lost his aunt when she seemingly died of old age. However, he was unaware of the depths to which the original Green Goblin, Norman Osborn, had sunk. Norman had kidnapped May and replaced her with a genetically adapted actress. While Norman lost what remained of his sanity — taking part in the mystical ceremony, the Gathering of Five — his former agent, Alison Mongrain, aided by Joseph "Robbie" Robertson, revealed May's location to Peter. Peter rescued his aunt and defeated the crazed Green Goblin, whose plans for the real May were never fully revealed.

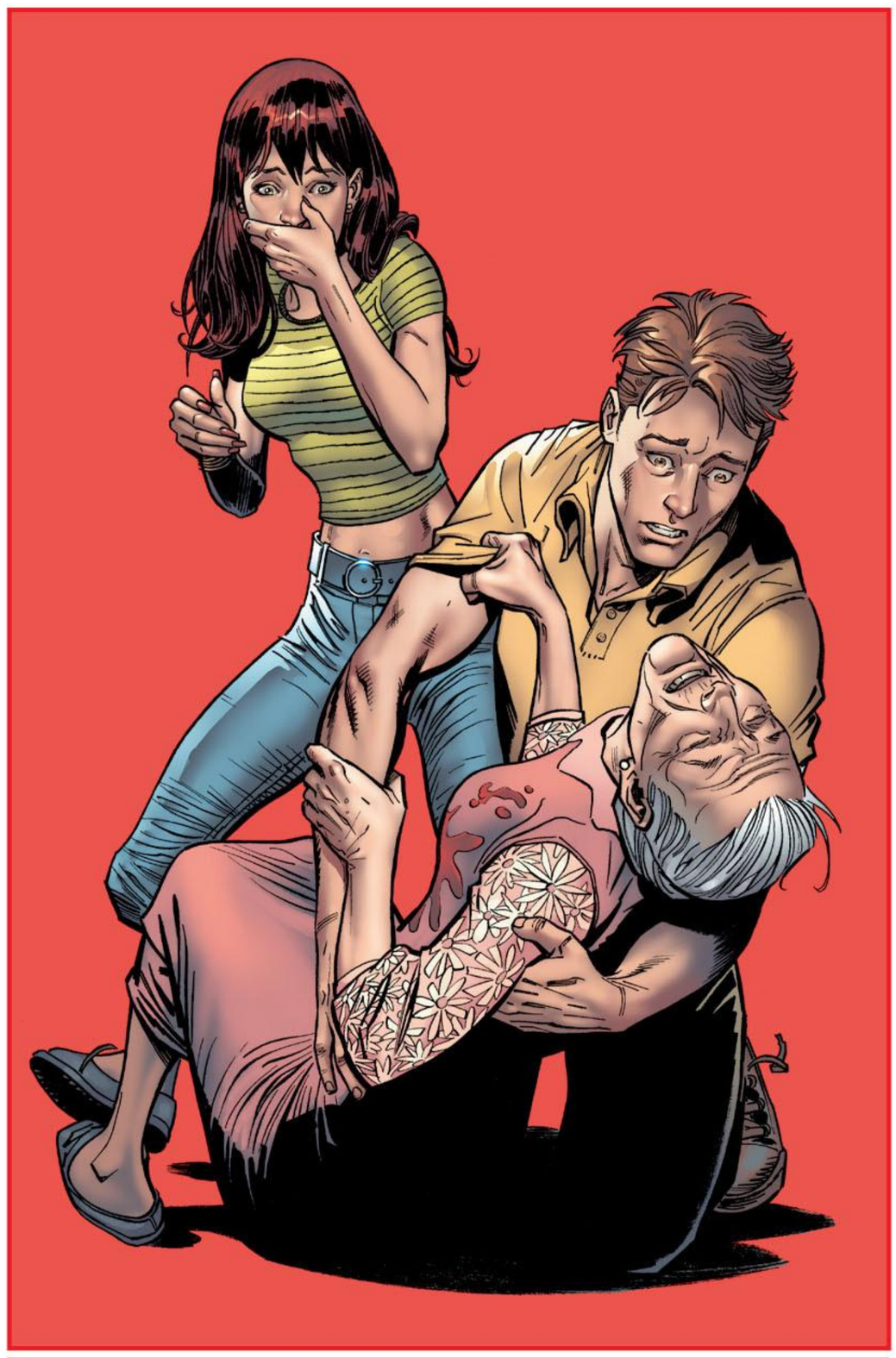
After May returned, she struggled to regain her place in Peter's life. It was with Mary Jane's reported death (though secretly kidnapped by the mysterious "Stalker") that Peter again realized the strength he and May could give to each other. Though Mary Jane was rescued, she and Peter separated for a time; Peter relied on May to help him through the difficult times of loss — as they had helped each other many years before.

Arriving at Peter's apartment one afternoon, May finally learned the truth her nephew had so long concealed. Battered and bruised, Peter was asleep in bed with his Spider-Man costume and equipment tossed on the floor. After spending a whole day dealing with her newfound knowledge, May finally confronted Peter and began to break through a lifetime of deception. Seemingly stronger than ever, May was driven to improve Spider-Man's public image and determined to understand Peter's alter ego. With the lies behind them, May and Peter's relationship deepened like never before — reborn through a new level of honesty and trust. Mary Jane returned to Peter, and she and May were partners caring for Spider-Man.

When Norman Osborn was finally jailed, publicly revealed to be the Green Goblin, he had May captured by the Scorpion and buried in a sleep-like state as ransom for his liberation from jail. Spider-Man complied, freeing Osborn and rescuing May. More tragedy struck May as her home in Forest Hills was burned down by Charlie Weiderman, a vengeful former classmate of Peter's. While Spider-Man joined the Avengers, May was invited to move into the luxurious Stark Tower to live with Peter and Mary Jane. There she befriended and began dating Edwin Jarvis, the Avengers' butler. During a date with Edwin, her beloved husband reappeared. This Ben Parker was, in fact, taken from an alternate universe (Earth-6078) by the Hobgoblin (Robin Borne) of an alternate Earth in the year 2211. Rejected by the horrified May, Ben fled and was ultimately killed.

Art by John Romita Jr.

May supported Peter's decision to publicly unmask for the sake of Tony Stark and the Superhuman Registration Act. Peter later regretted his decision, and withdrew his support for Stark. A fugitive from the law, Peter moved into a seedy motel with May and Mary Jane. When the incarcerated Kingpin (Wilson Fisk) learned of Spider-Man's identity, he dispatched a sniper to the motel. Peter saved Mary Jane from the sniper's bullet, but May was struck instead. In a coma, May was hospitalized under her maiden name. In the same hospital as the cancer-stricken Eddie Brock (formerly Venom), May was nearly murdered by the deranged Brock. With May still in a coma, Peter discreetly offered May another transfusion of his blood, but the effort failed. Hoping to revive his aunt, Peter contacted the comatose May via the psychic Madame Web, but May seemed complacent about her fate. As the police investigated the suspicious nature of May's gunshot injury, Peter and Mary Jane were forced to break the law to move May to another hospital. After Peter violently demanded Tony Stark help pay for May's hospital bills, Stark remorsefully sent Jarvis to deliver two million dollars. Still, May's doctor offered little hope for her recovery. Desperate to prevent the death of another loved one due to his life as Spider-Man, Peter seeks any and all means to save the life of his precious aunt.

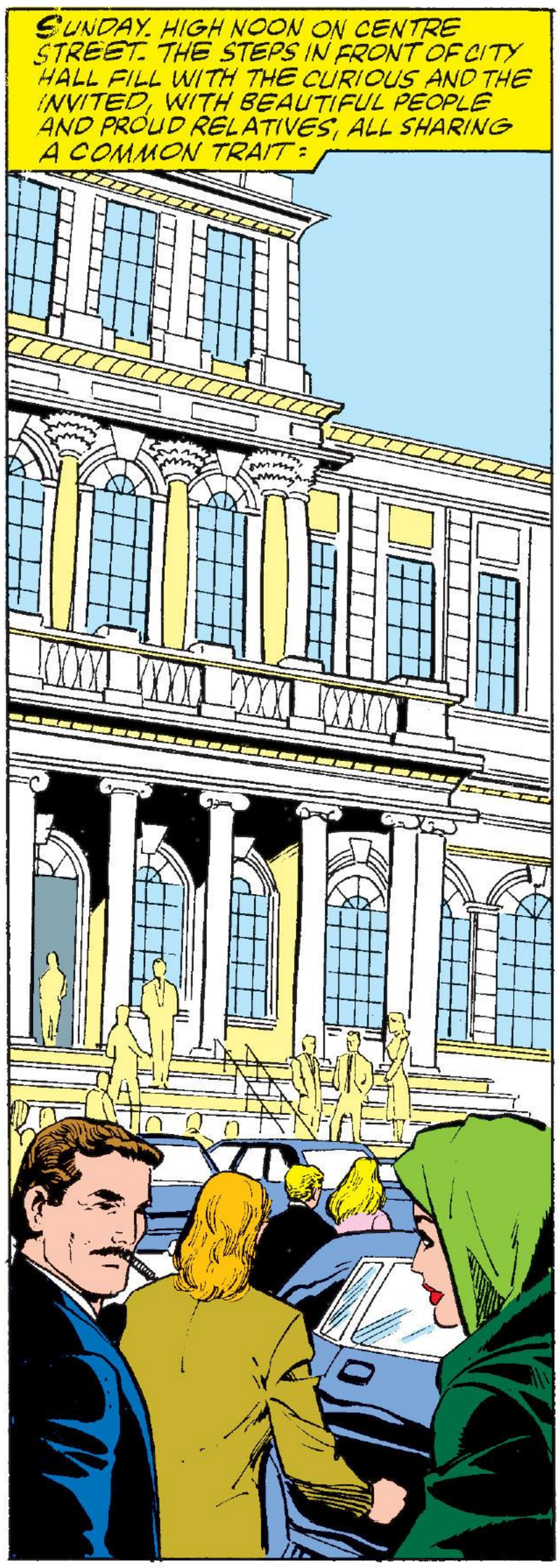


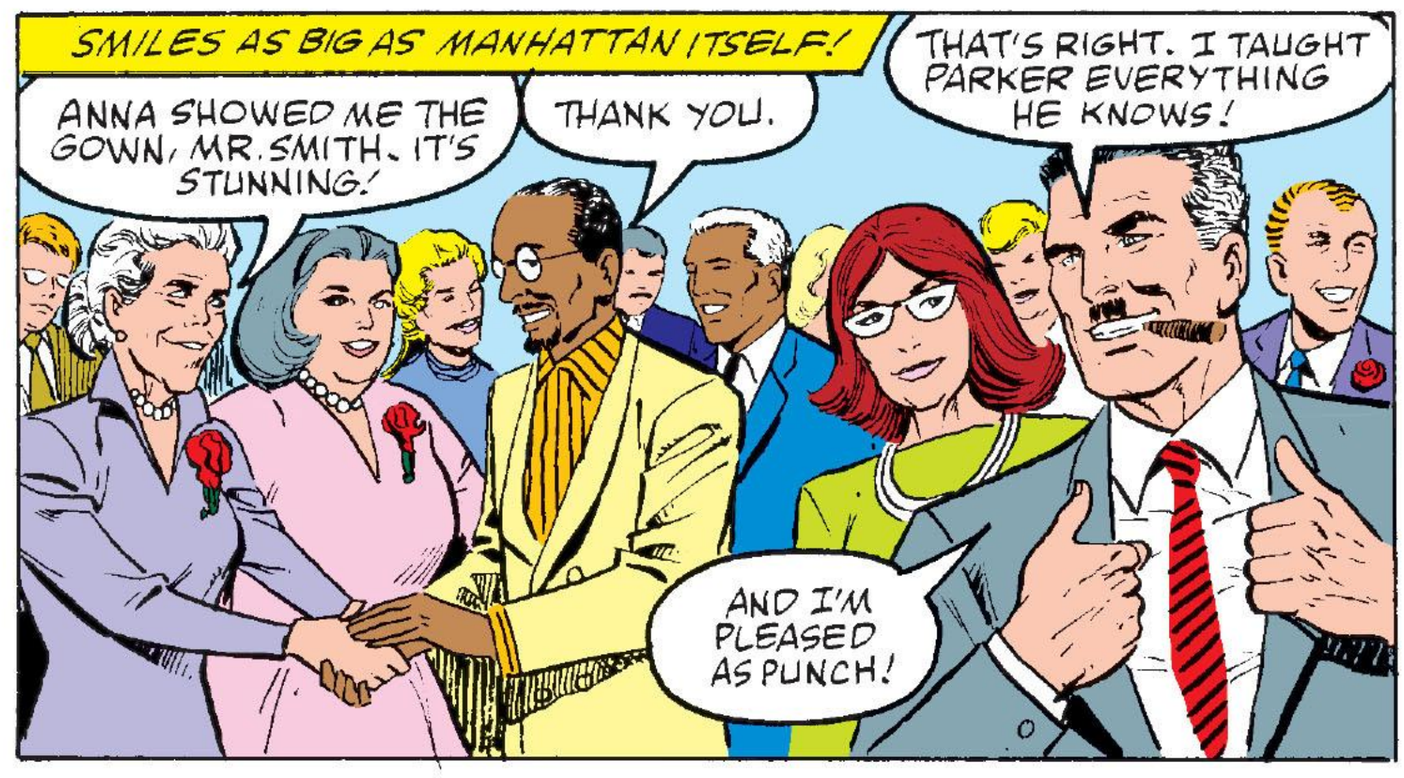
Art by Ron Garney

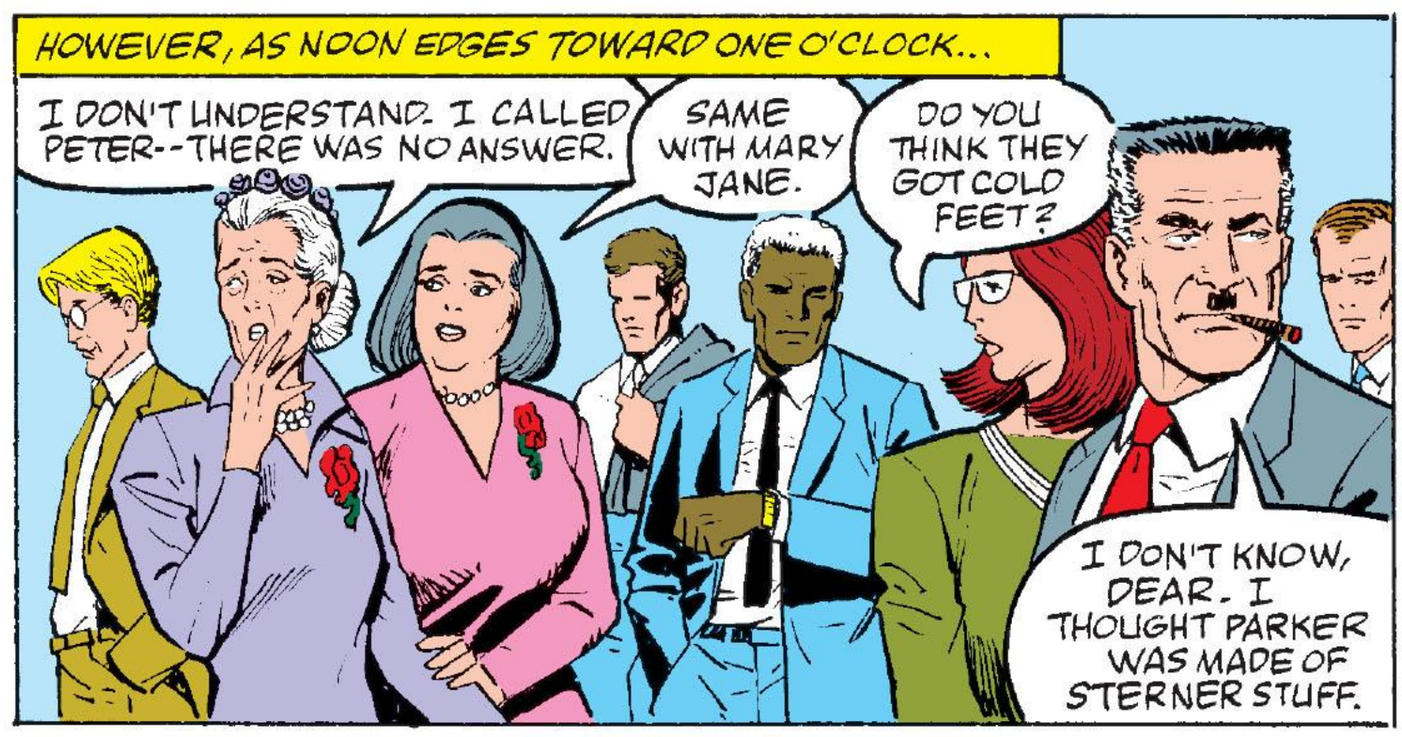
HEIGHT: 5'5" **EYES:** Blue
WEIGHT: 110 lbs. **HAIR:** White (formerly blonde)

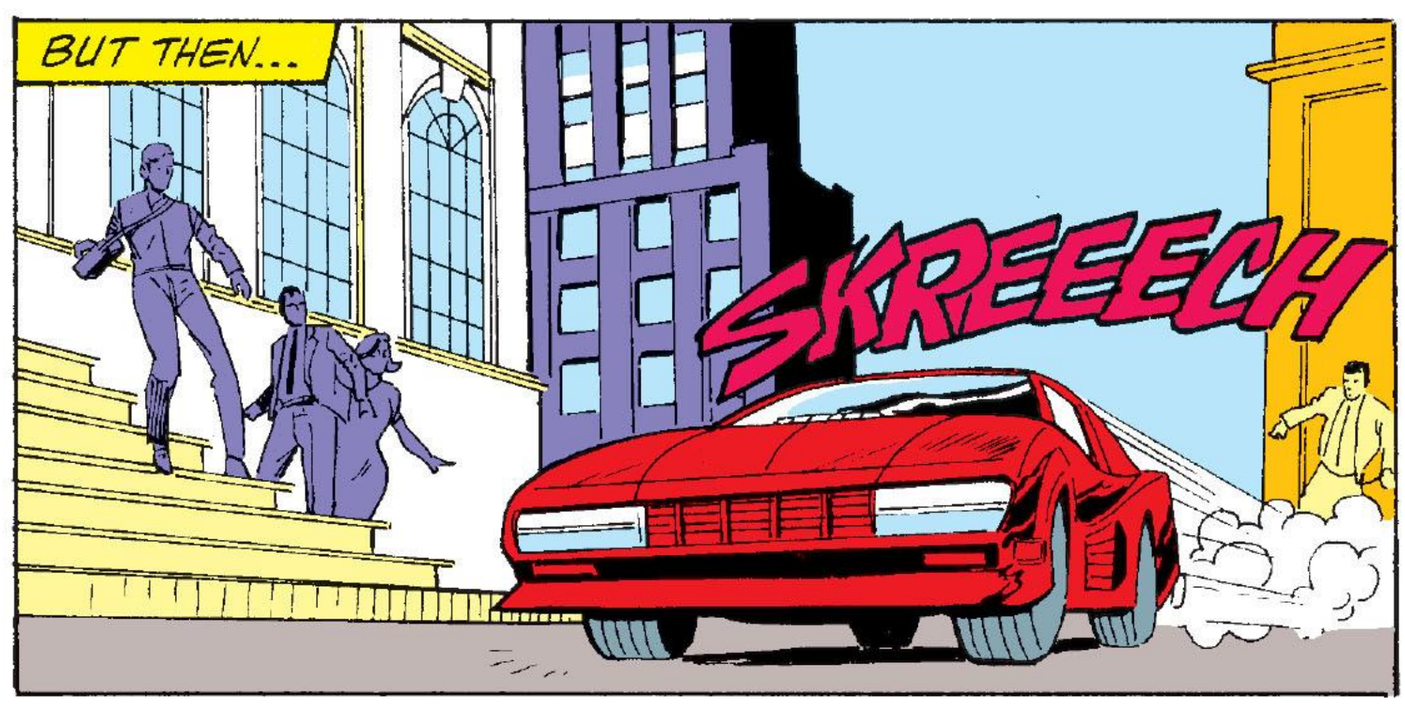
ABILITIES/ACCESSORIES: May Parker typically possesses the normal human strength of a woman her age, height and build who engages in occasional mild exercise. She is currently in a feeble condition.

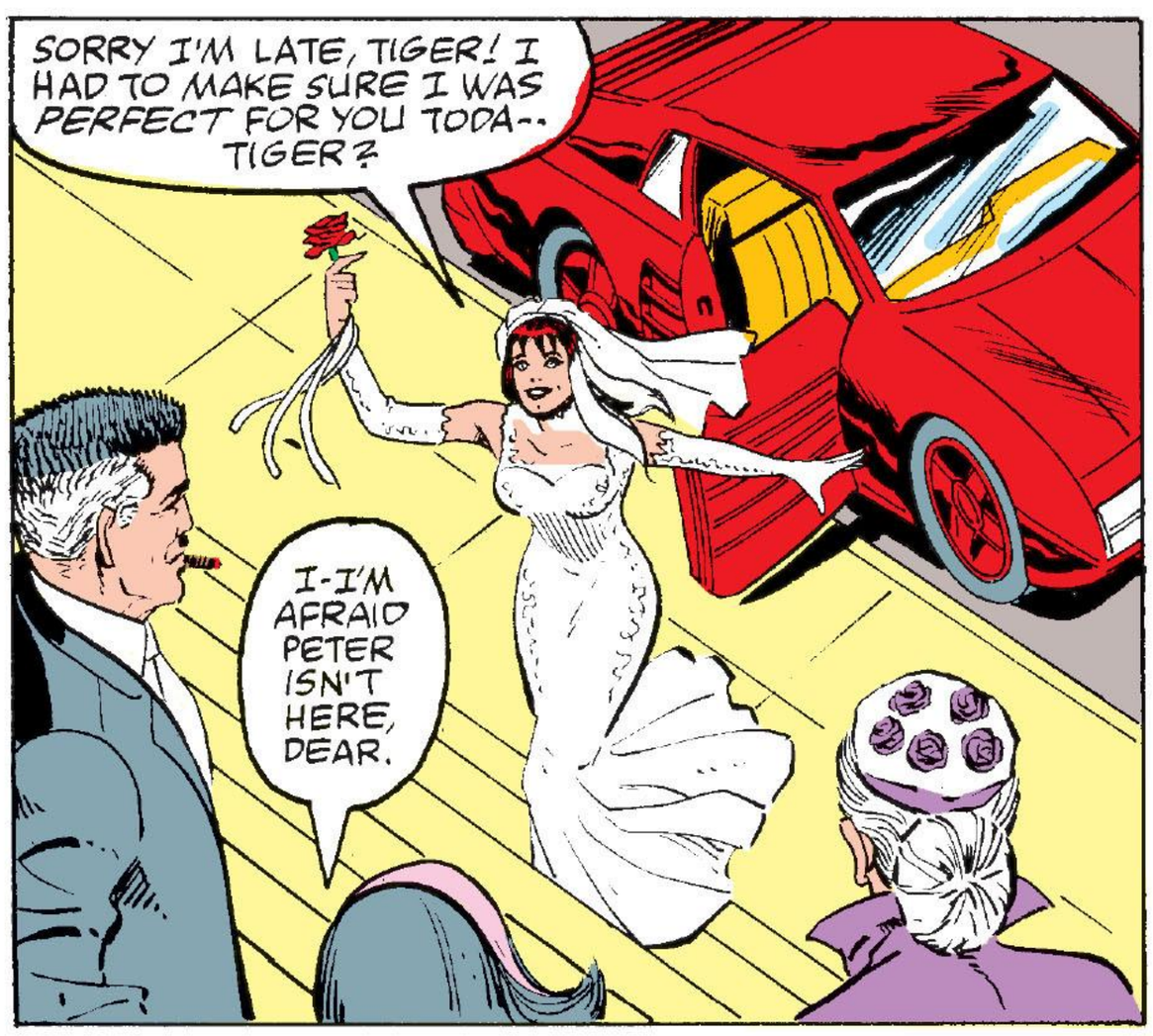
SPECIAL BONUS: REPRINTING THE WEDDING OF PETER PARKER AND MARY JANE WATSON


SUNDAY. HIGH NOON ON CENTRE STREET. THE STEPS IN FRONT OF CITY HALL FILL WITH THE CURIOUS AND THE INVITED, WITH BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE AND PROUD RELATIVES, ALL SHARING A COMMON TRAIT:

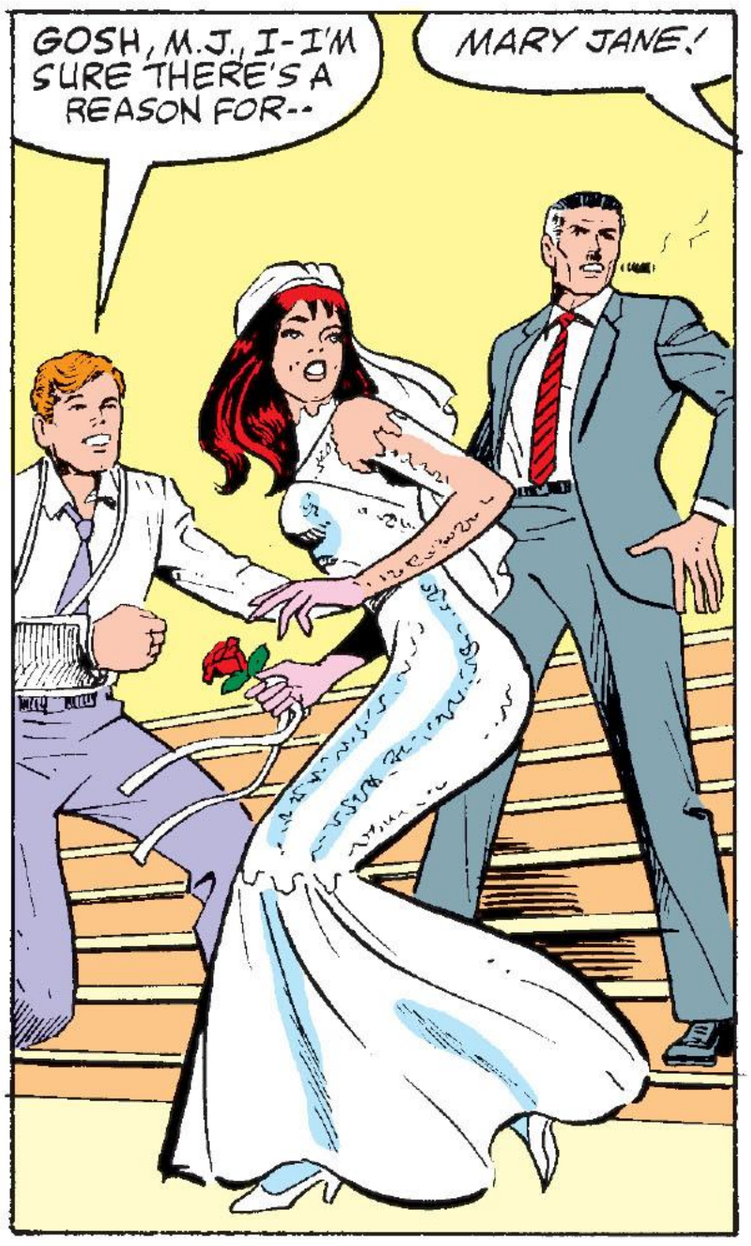

SMILES AS BIG AS MANHATTAN ITSELF!
ANNA SHOWED ME THE GOWN, MR. SMITH. IT'S STUNNING!
THANK YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT. I TAUGHT PARKER EVERYTHING HE KNOWS!
AND I'M PLEASED AS PUNCH!


HOWEVER, AS NOON EDGES TOWARD ONE O'CLOCK...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I CALLED PETER--THERE WAS NO ANSWER.
SAME WITH MARY JANE.
DO YOU THINK THEY GOT COLD FEET?
I DON'T KNOW, DEAR. I THOUGHT PARKER WAS MADE OF STERNER STUFF.

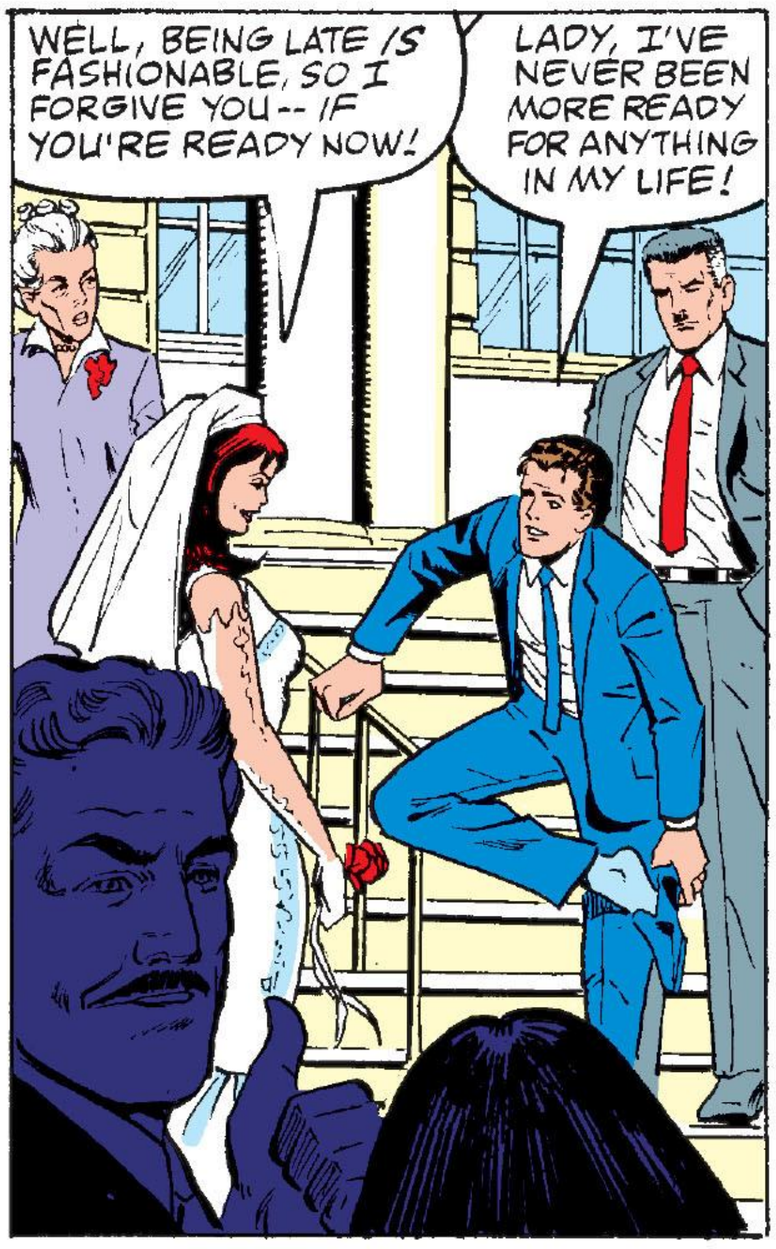

BUT THEN...
SKREEECH


SORRY I'M LATE, TIGER! I HAD TO MAKE SURE I WAS PERFECT FOR YOU TODA-- TIGER?
I-I'M AFRAID PETER ISN'T HERE, DEAR.

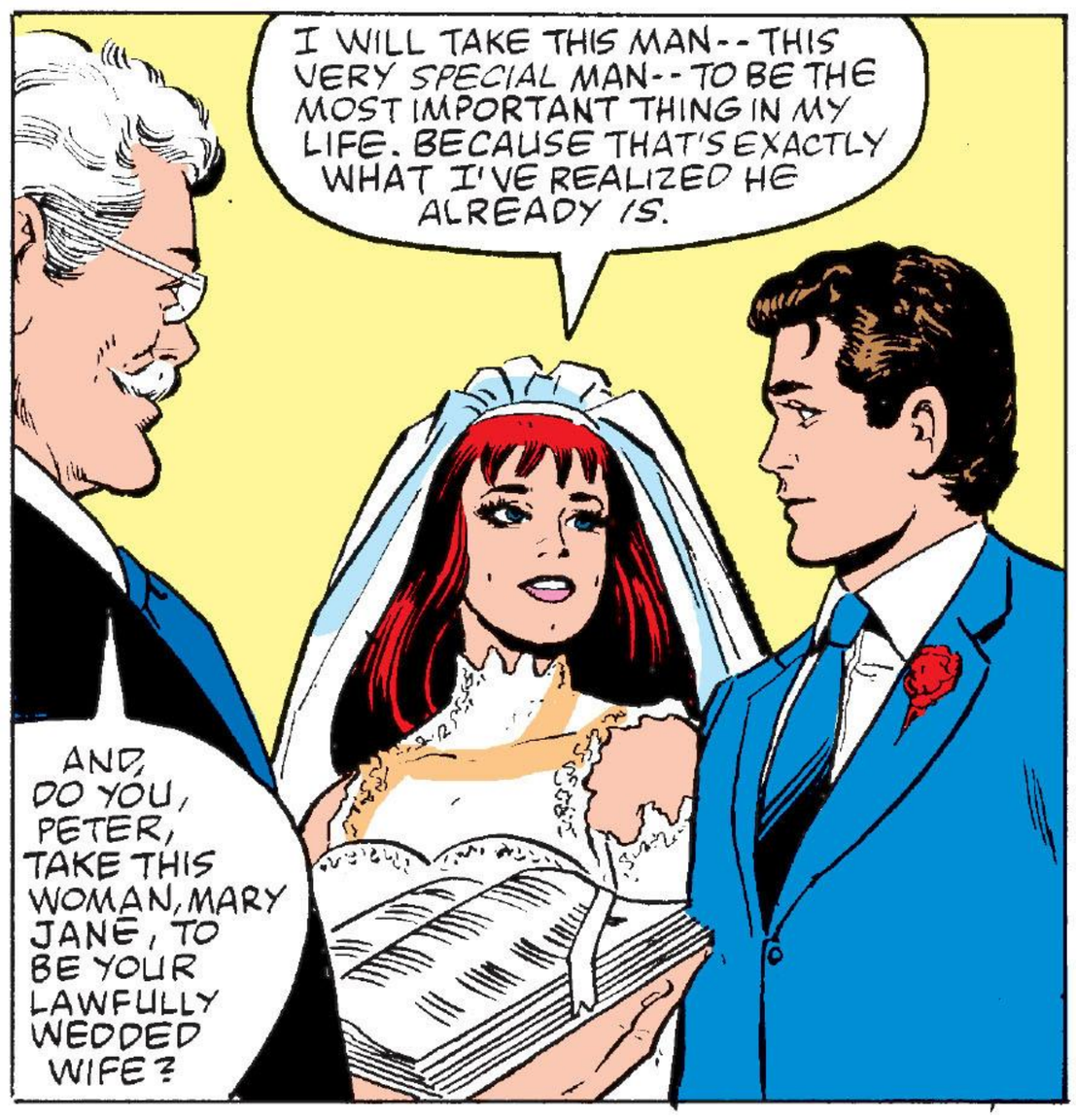
HE...
...HE'S NOT?


GOSH, M.J., I-I'M SURE THERE'S A REASON FOR--
MARY JANE!

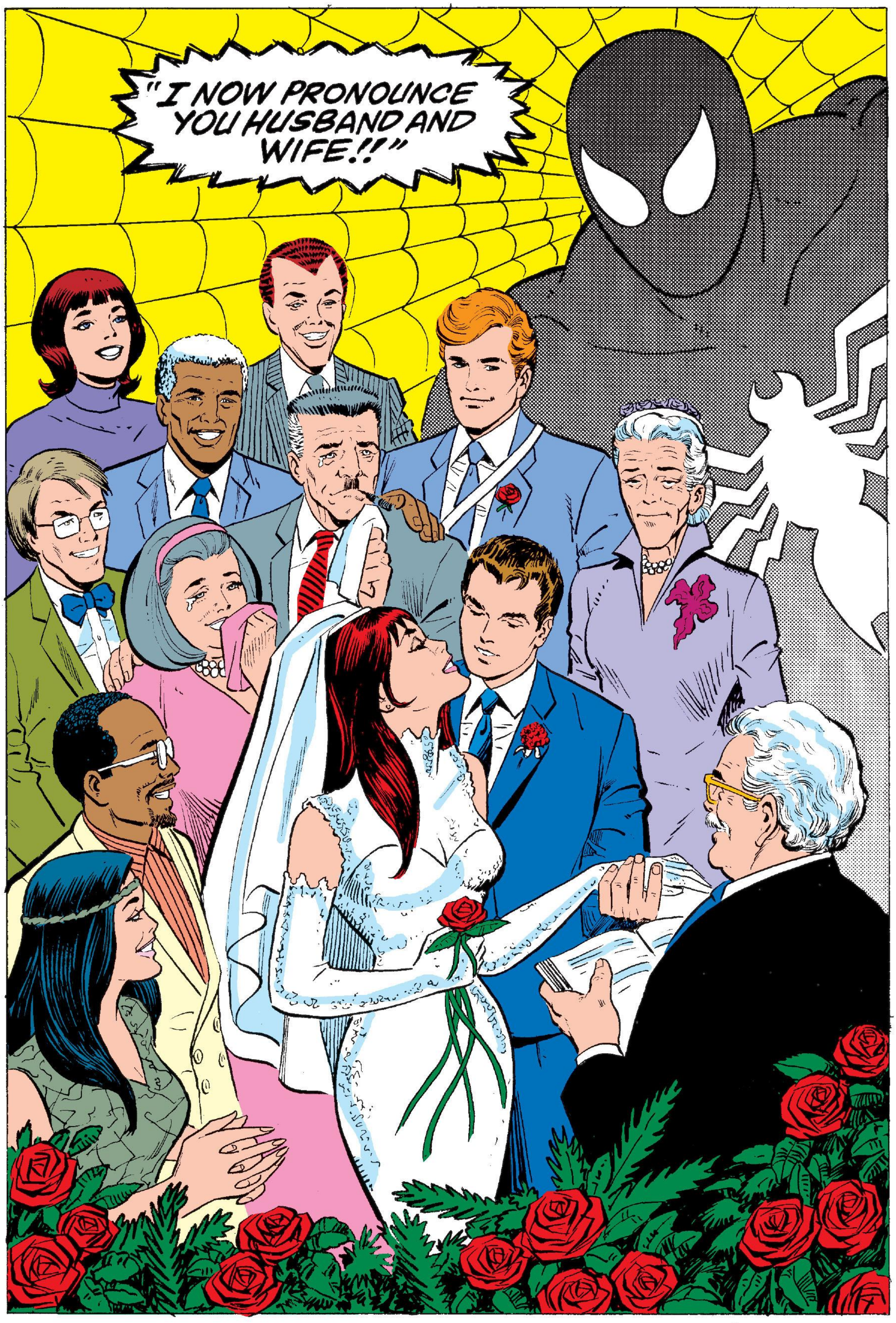
SORRY I'M RUNNING BEHIND!
I, UH, HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING DRESSED!
AND WALL-CRAWLING WITH MY SHOES ON!

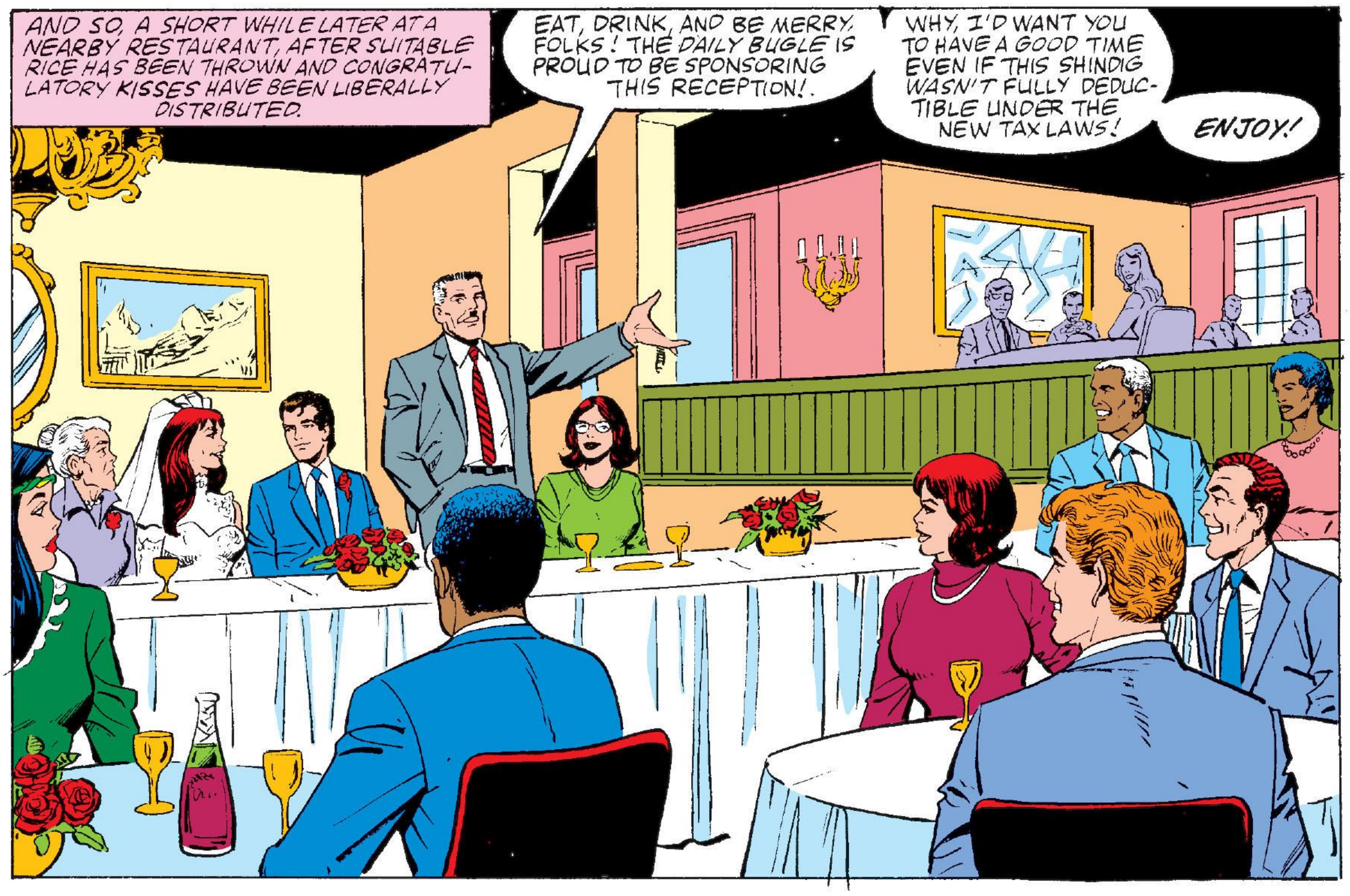

WELL, BEING LATE IS FASHIONABLE, SO I FORGIVE YOU-- IF YOU'RE READY NOW!
LADY, I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE READY FOR ANYTHING IN MY LIFE!

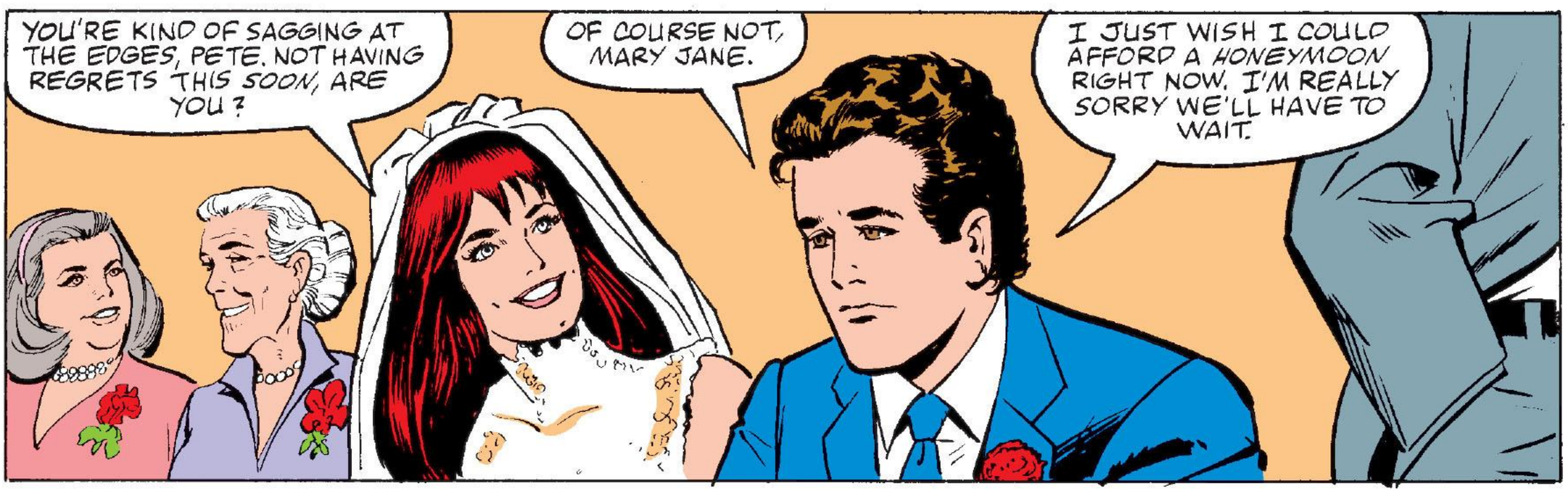
THUS THE CEREMONY BEGINS, TIME-HONORED AND TRUE. DRY EYES TURN MISTY AS WORDS ARE SPOKEN, DRAWING TWO LIVES TOGETHER IN A SACRED, UNSEEN BOND. AND AT LAST, AS THE JOYOUS OCCASION NEARS ITS INEVITABLE, MAJESTIC CONCLUSION...
DO YOU, MARY JANE WATSON, TAKE THIS MAN, PETER PARKER, TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED HUSBAND--
--TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, FOR RICHER OR FOR POORER, IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH, TO LOVE AND TO CHERISH FOR AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?


I WILL TAKE THIS MAN--THIS VERY SPECIAL MAN--TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE. BECAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE REALIZED HE ALREADY IS.
AND, DO YOU, PETER, TAKE THIS WOMAN, MARY JANE, TO BE YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED WIFE?

SHE KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE WHAT SHE'S GETTING INTO--AND SHE STILL WANTS ME! HOW COULD I POSSIBLY TURN DOWN SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
I DO.
THEN BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF NEW YORK--

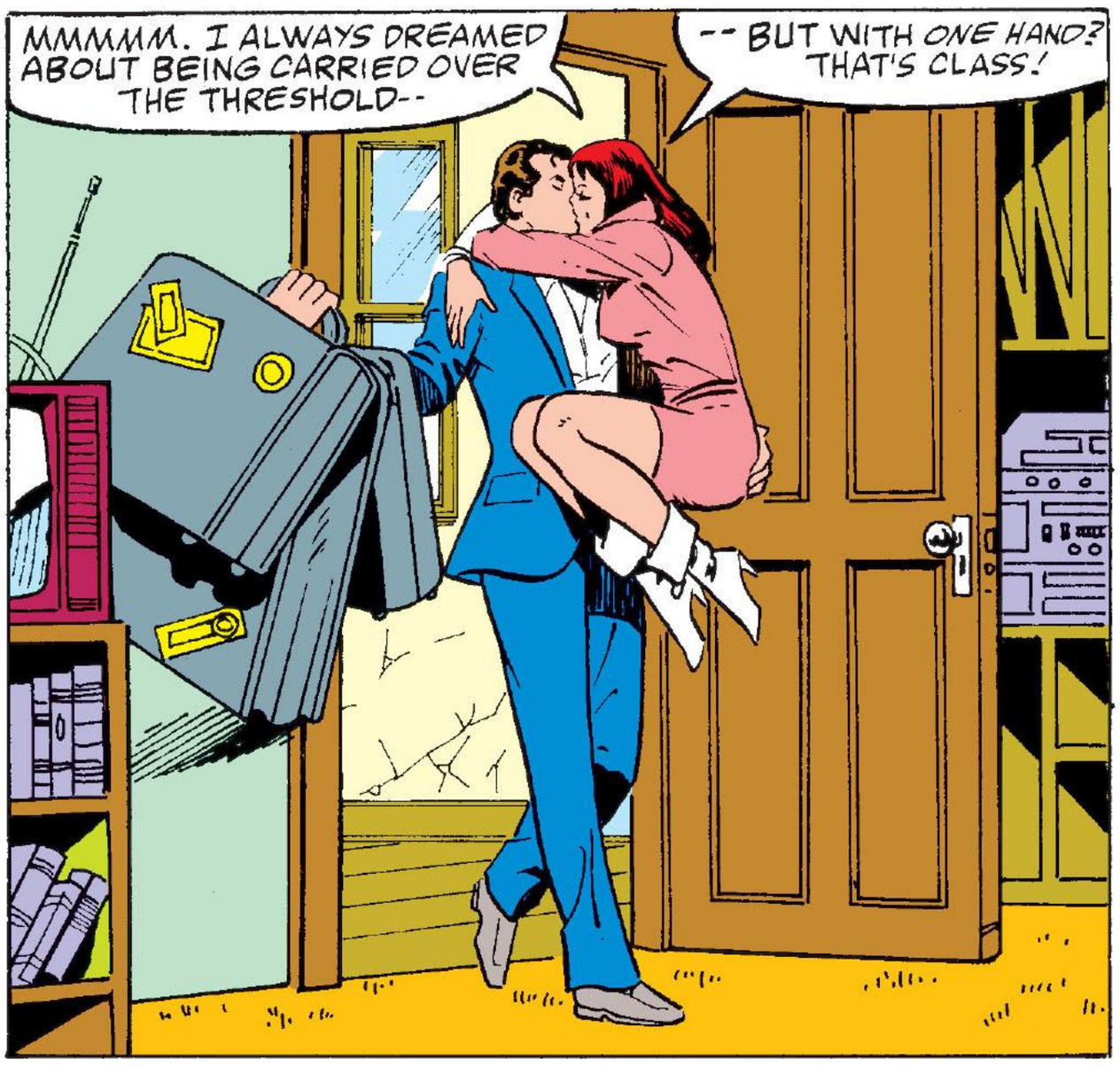

"I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU HUSBAND AND WIFE!!"

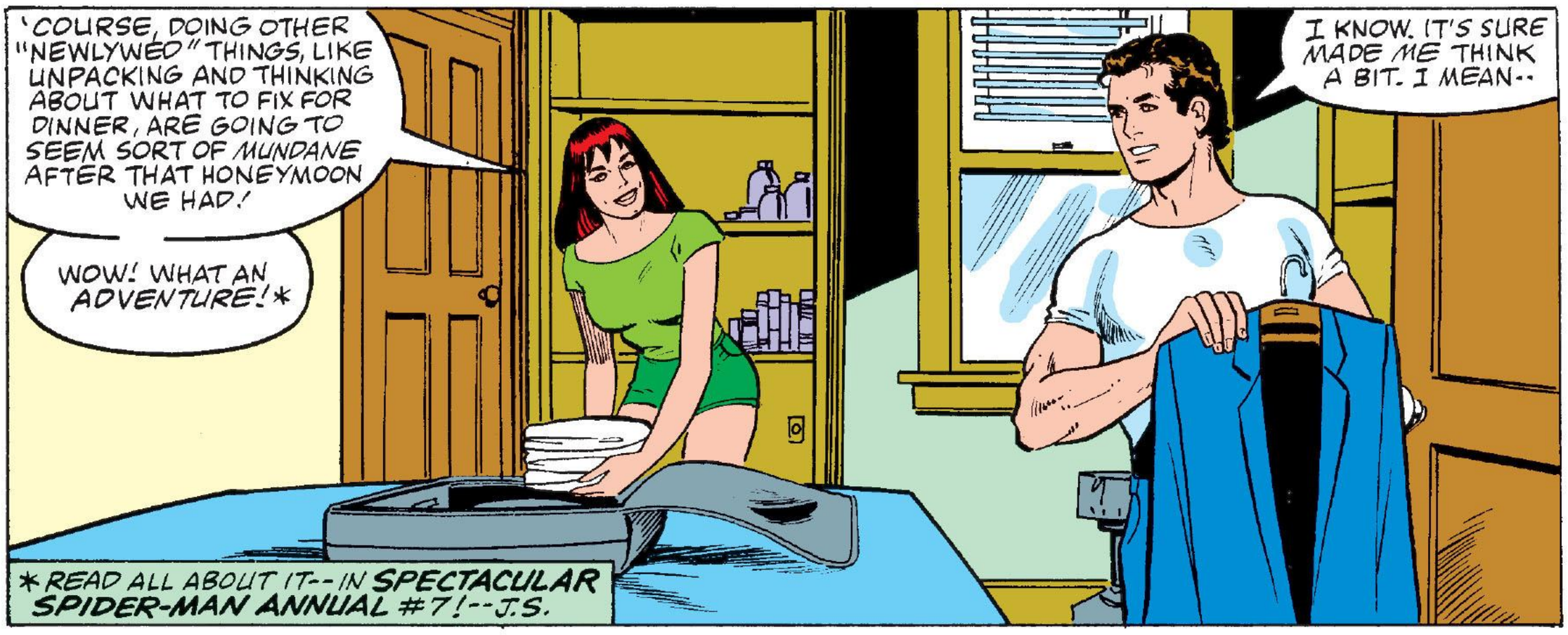

AND SO, A SHORT WHILE LATER AT A NEARBY RESTAURANT, AFTER SUITABLE RICE HAS BEEN THROWN AND CONGRATULATORY KISSES HAVE BEEN LIBERALLY DISTRIBUTED.
EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY, FOLKS! THE DAILY BUGLE IS PROUD TO BE SPONSORING THIS RECEPTION!.
WHY, I'D WANT YOU TO HAVE A GOOD TIME EVEN IF THIS SHINDIG WASN'T FULLY DEDUCTIBLE UNDER THE NEW TAX LAWS!
ENJOY!


YOU'RE KIND OF SAGGING AT THE EDGES, PETE. NOT HAVING REGRETS THIS SOON, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT, MARY JANE.
I JUST WISH I COULD AFFORD A HONEYMOON RIGHT NOW. I'M REALLY SORRY WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT.

AH, BUT WE WON'T! I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A PAIR OF FIRST-CLASS TICKETS TO PARIS HERE--AS WELL AS THE KEYS TO A PRIVATE VILLA IN THE 'BURBS!
WHAT? B-BUT, HOW?

IT WAS A WEDDING PRESENT FROM A FRIEND.
SEEMS HE WASN'T GOING TO BE USING THEM AFTER ALL...!





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"J.M.S. had the brave heart to take an icon in new uncharted waters from the moment he took the book. All-new characters, villains, scenarios and controversy on an almost monthly basis. From the on-his-sleeve emotions of 9/11, to Aunt May and Peter finally having it out, I do believe this will be remembered as one of the great runs, not only of *Spider-Man*, but of all of comics."

- Brian Michael Bendis

"I remember when he was just "J.S." Then he got the spider book, and all of a sudden he's "J.S.M." -- Joe Spider-Man. Which is clever, but they would not cash his checks. So he settled on J.M.S. That's a true story. What's also true is that J.M.S. is the hallmark of a true professional. Dedicated. Loyal. And talented. Buckets of talent as his great run on Spidey will attest, and his current run on *Thor* is furthering the legend. My favorite thing about him? He's a friend of mine. And it doesn't get any cooler than that. Congrats, J.S.M.!

- Jeph Loeb

"There are many more eloquent quotes before mine, and I won't attempt to compete with the authors of them. I can come up with two semi-intelligent words that can be construed as a compliment of Joe's run on the *Amazing Spider-Man*: Sales tripled! Thanks, Joe."

- John Romita, Jr.

"Joe has always been capable of The Big Surprise, but his run on *Amazing Spider-Man* shows that unique flair to mature, full-blown uniqueocity. You go, Joe!."

- Harlan Ellison

"I read (almost) every Marvel comic that is published each and every week. For me, it's homework, research, and, of course, fun. I usually organize my pile of 'to read' based on what films we are currently developing and what character is undergoing a renaissance in the comics. For the past six years, Joe's run on Spidey has been the one on top. I would sit and read it the moment it landed in my inbox. Joe's creative daring is an inspiration and his imaginative storytelling transcends all forms of media. My favorite J.M.S. Spidey moment also happens to be my favorite Spidey moment period: Aunt May discovers Peter's secret. It has become my mission to put that moment up on screen. Someday we will. I promise."

- Kevin Feige
Producer/President of Marvel Studios

"In case you need reminding, Joe picking up the writing duties on *Amazing Spider-Man* was a seismic moment in modern comics. He, together with *Daredevil* writer Kevin Smith, showed Hollywood that far from slumming it in comic books, these guys were having the time of their lives. Joe not only doubled the sales of Marvel's flagship book, but has been responsible for the most radical and inventive Spider-Man stories in a generation. It's true he has a silly, virtually unpronouncable name that sensible people like to reduce to three letters, but as far as Spider-Man goes I think he's up there with Stan."

- Mark Millar

"I may have difficulty spelling his name, but there's nothing difficult about praising the terrific job that Joe Straczynski has done in his truly unforgettable eight-year run of *Spider-Man* scripting. Of course, from where I sit, an eight-year run is like -- what'samatter, you didn't have the patience to stay with it for a while?

But, despite his dawdling, for Joe to have been so inventive and creative and just plain exciting during so many issues of Spidey is beyond remarkable. His stories made the web-spinner's mag sell better than ever and his far-out themes and unexpected concepts kept the readers totally hooked for all those years. Of course, my biggest regret is that I never really got to work with the guy so it's hard for me to take any credit for what he's done.

Hey, I'd like to add a lot more compliments and laudatory remarks, which Joe certainly deserves but, as I'm sure he'll understand, it's too difficult when you're consumed by envy!"

Excelsior!
(that's "Straczynski" spelled backwards)
- Stan Lee