

**CHARACTER ASSASSINATION** PART 1 OF 4

**MARVEL**  
584 .com

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IT STARTS  
HERE!



GUGGENHEIM  
ROMITA JR.  
JANSON  
WHITE

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# THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!

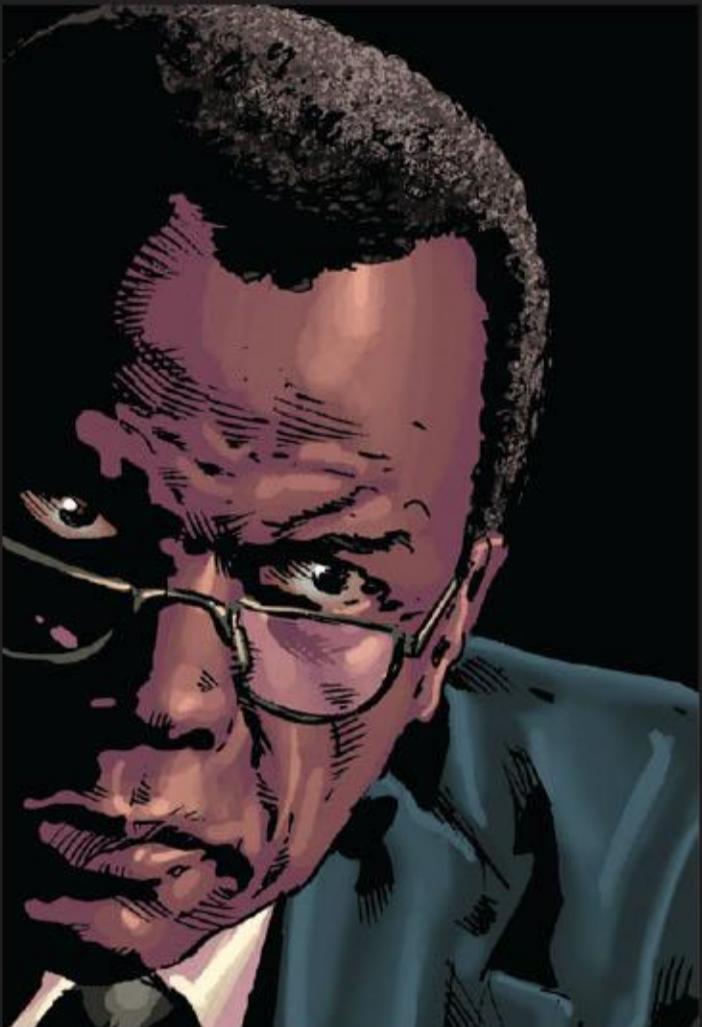


ELECTION DAY TUESDAY! POLS FIGHTIN' AS POLLS TIGHTEN CROWNE TO DO FIVE BOROUGH SWEEP WHILE HOLLISTER "WORKS AT A SOUP KITCHEN" IN CROWN HEIGHTS (NICE NAME, HUH?!) MORE COVERAGE ON PAGE Y13!

JANUARY 21, 2009

WEDNESDAY

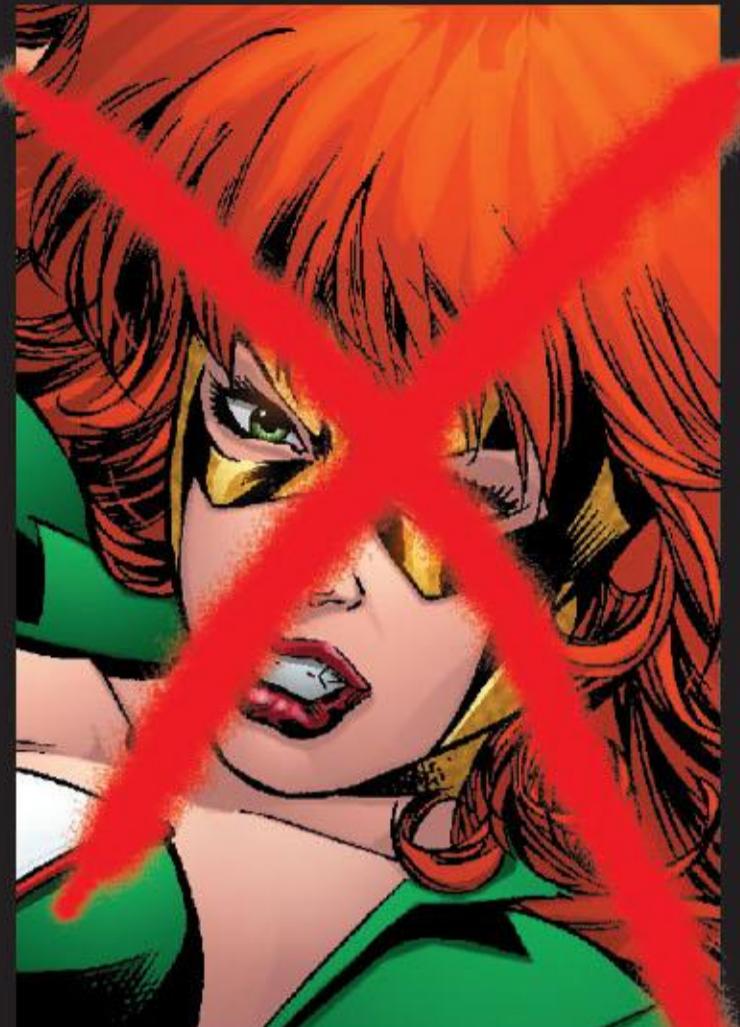
## WHO IS MENACE?



BILL HOLLISTER



RANDALL CROWNE



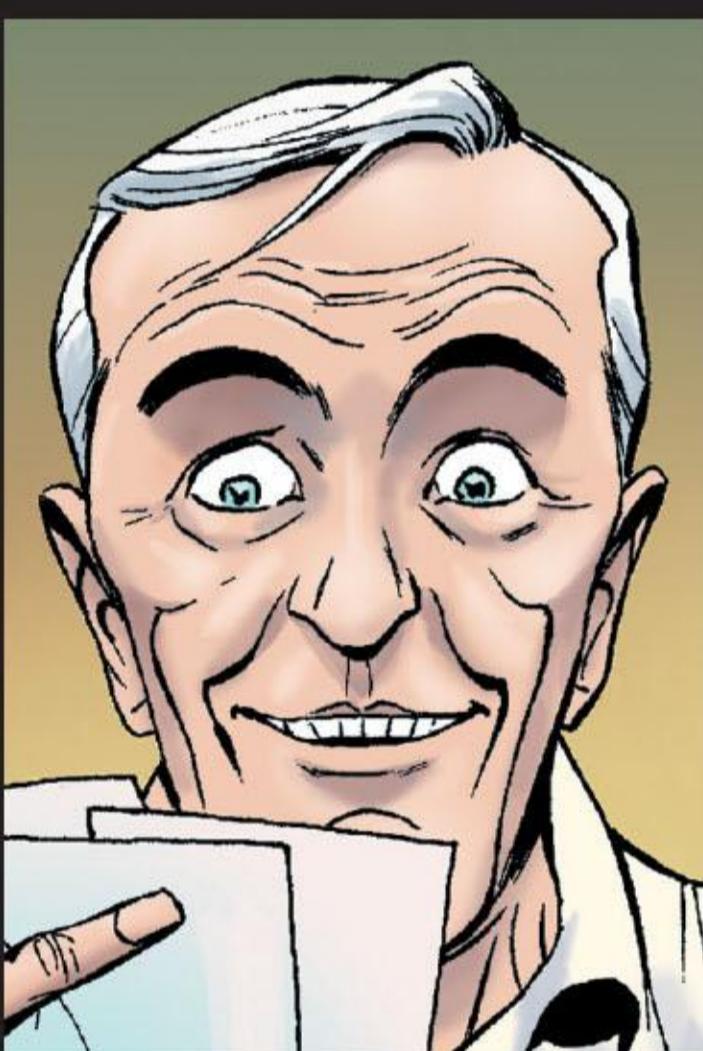
JACKPOT



CARLIE COOPER



VIN GONZALES



DEXTER BENNETT



LILY HOLLISTER



HARRY OSBORN

The question has plagued Spider-Man since this gray goblin first entered his life, killing Mayoral Candidate Lisa Parfrey. Who is this twisted freak? And why is he so invested in the mayor's race? At first he seemed to target anyone running against Randall Crowne, a billionaire real estate developer backed by Dexter Bennett, publisher of The DB! – a newspaper whose sales have skyrocketed thanks to Menace's machinations. His primary target has been straight-arrow Councilman Bill Hollister, father of the beautiful Lily Hollister, Harry Osborn's girlfriend. But in a recent attack on Hollister in his home, Menace implied he was actually out to *help* the Hollister campaign. Whose side is he really on? One thing's for certain – Menace isn't done yet.

### HUNT FOR SPIDER-TRACER KILLER HEATS UP

By Betty Brant

The hunt for accused serial killer and illegal vigilante Spider-Man is on, according to Detective Quentin Palone, lead investigator of the so-called "Spider-Tracer" murders. The seemingly random killings share only one common trait – each victim has one of Spider-Man's famed "Spider-Tracers." The first victim was a John Doe pulled from the East River, but Palone's men, officers Alan O'Neil and Vin Gonzales, spotted Spider-Man over the second victim, Sean Boyle, a wanted felon...

(Continued on Page L19)

WELCOME BACK. I'M MICHAEL LEVIN.

## TWO IN ONE

AND I'M SAMARA SAFFIAN.

AND YOU'RE WATCHING "TWO-IN-ONE," THE PROGRAM THAT TAKES A HARD-HITTING LOOK AT BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUES THAT HIT HARDEST.

TODAY'S ISSUE, NEW YORK CITY'S MAYORAL RACE.

POLLS OPEN TWO DAYS FROM NOW, MICHAEL.

AND IT'S BOUND TO BE A NAIL BITER BETWEEN THE TWO CANDIDATES.

YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT. EVER SINCE RANDALL CROWNE STAKED HIS POLITICAL REPUTATION ON THE END OF THE SO-CALLED "SPIDER-TRACER KILLINGS" LAST MONTH, HIS OPPONENT BILL HOLLISTER HAS SUFFERED AN ODD REVERSAL OF POLITICAL FORTUNE.

RANDALL CROWNE

"LAST MONTH"  
A.K.A. ASM #571  
--WONKISH WACKER

IT'S ALMOST UNFAIR, SAMARA, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WITH CROWNE BEING PERCEIVED AS TAKING A STANCE AGAINST THE TRACER KILLINGS...

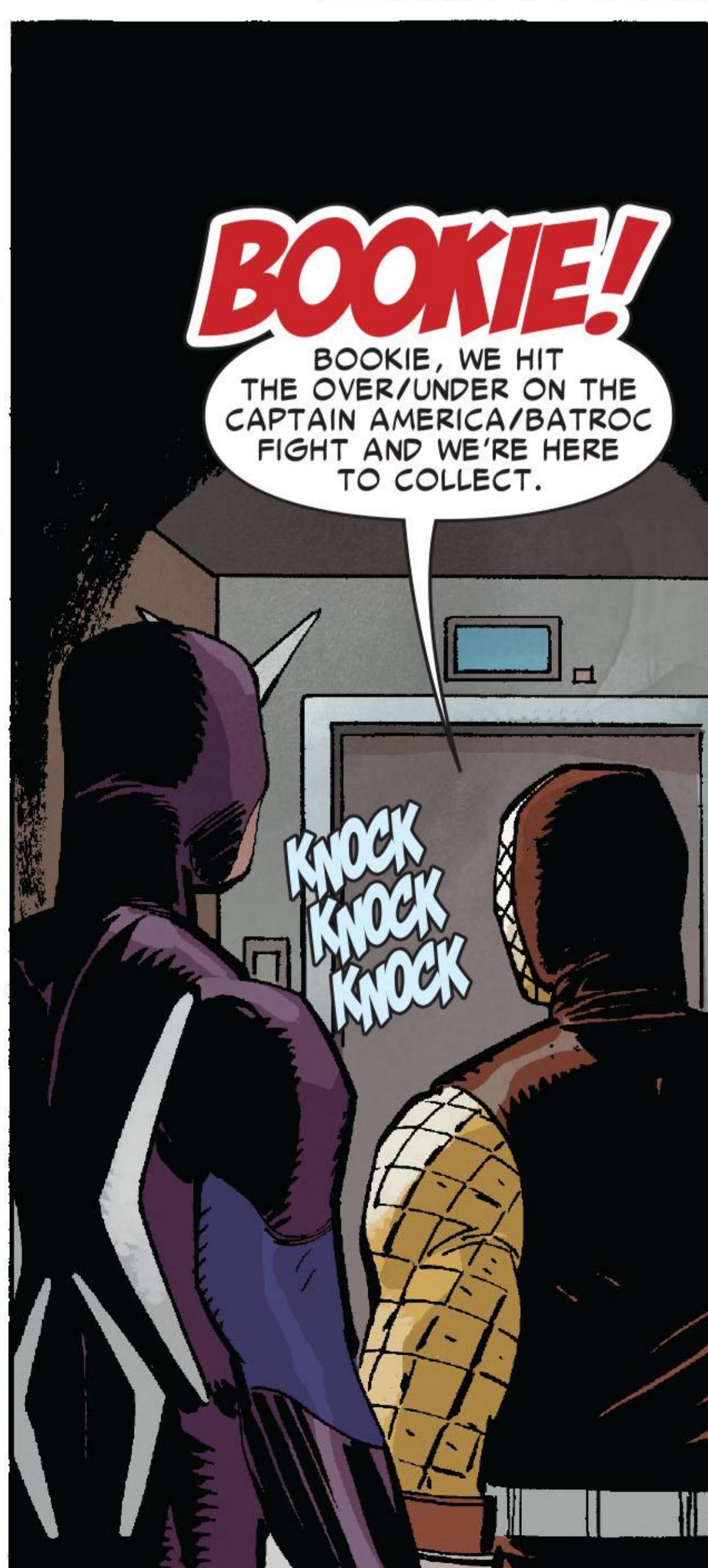
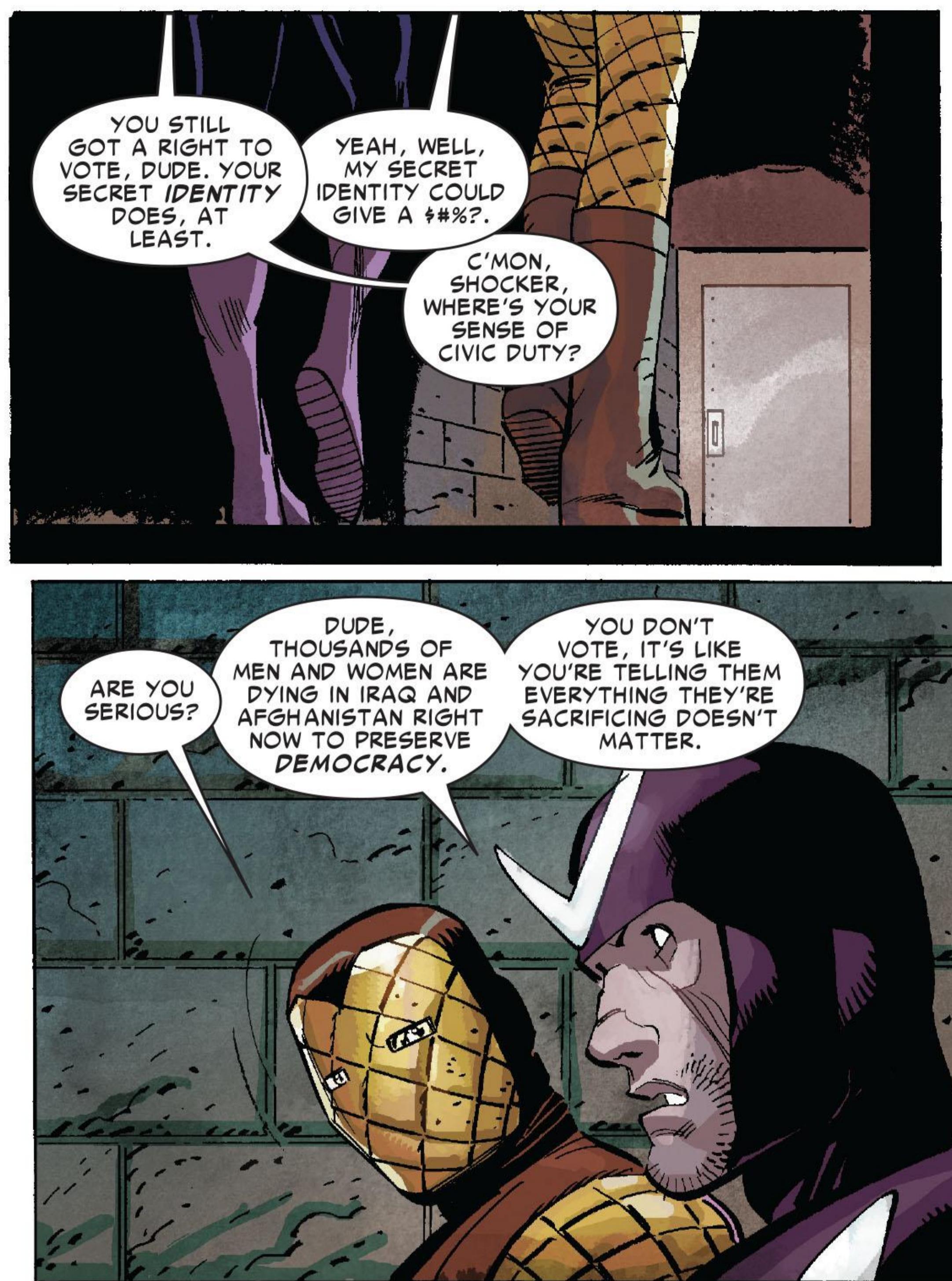
...THEY'VE BECOME AN ALBATROSS AROUND HOLLISTER'S POLITICAL NECK.

MAYBE THE ONLY CERTAINTY IN POLITICS, MICHAEL, IS THAT...

"...THE VOTERS ARE NEVER CERTAIN."

SO WHO'RE YOU GONNA VOTE FOR?

1:03 AM. 53 HOURS UNTIL  
POLLS OPEN.



# CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

...KILL  
HIM.

MARC GUGGENHEIM | JOHN ROMITA JR. | KLAUS JANSON | DEAN WHITE  
WRITER PENCILS INKS COLORS

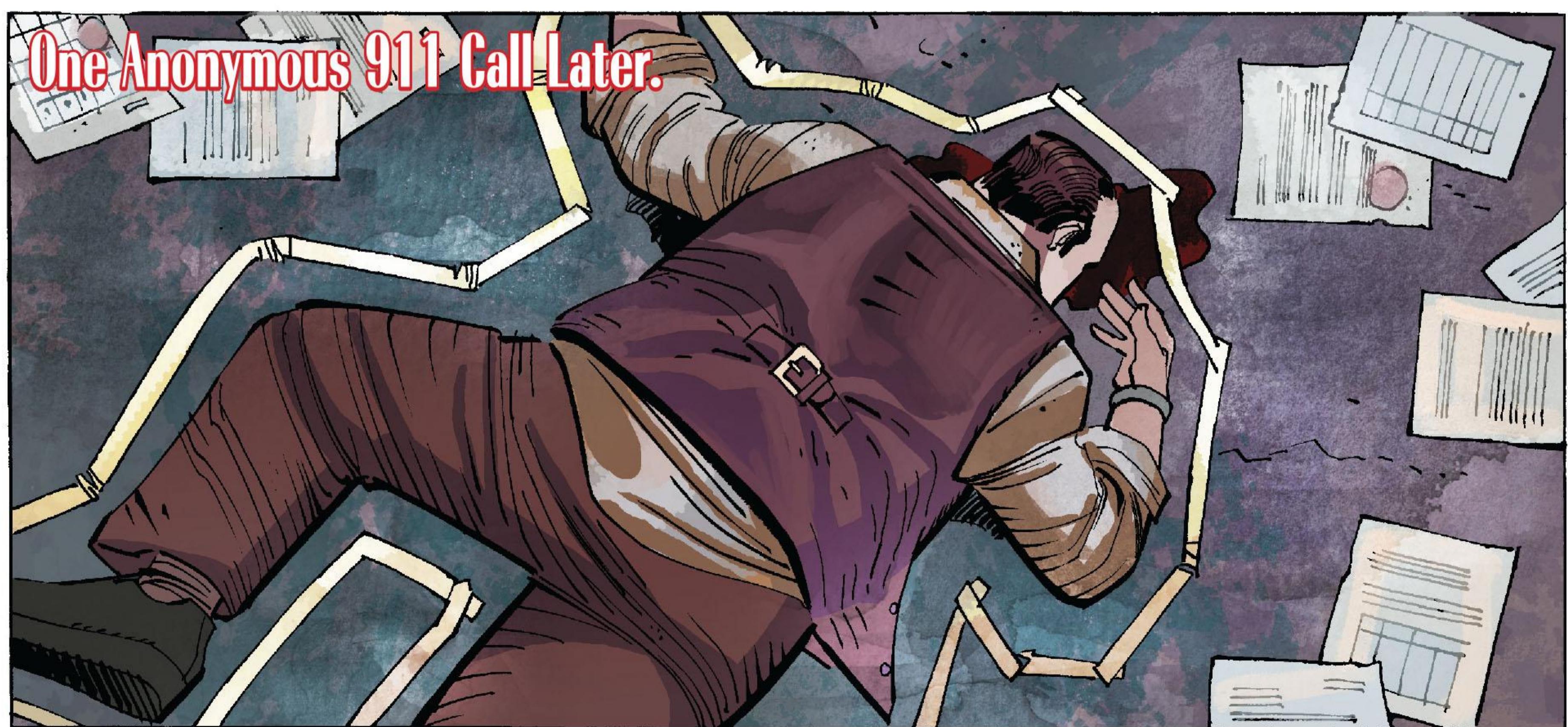
VC'S CORY PETIT | TOM BRENNAN | STEPHEN WACKER  
LETTERS ASST. EDITOR EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT | JOE QUESADA | DAN BUCKLEY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF PUBLISHER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM & SLOTT SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST



One Anonymous 911 Call Later.



WHAT'RE YOU  
THINKING,  
STACY?

WHAT, YOU MEAN  
APART FROM THE FACT  
THAT WHOEVER DID THIS  
PERFORMED A PUBLIC  
SERVICE?

YEAH, I  
WAS THINKING  
SOMETHING ALONG  
THE LINES OF CAUSE  
OF DEATH.

WELL, IT'LL  
TAKE AN AUTOPSY  
TO KNOW FOR SURE,  
BUT I'M THINKING  
BLUNT FORCE  
TRAUMA.

THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
THINKING,  
TOO.

MOTIVE-  
WISE, YOU'VE  
GOTTA FIGURE IT'S  
WHOEVER OWES THE  
MOST MONEY  
TO HIM.

CSU FIND  
HIS BETTING  
BOOK YET?

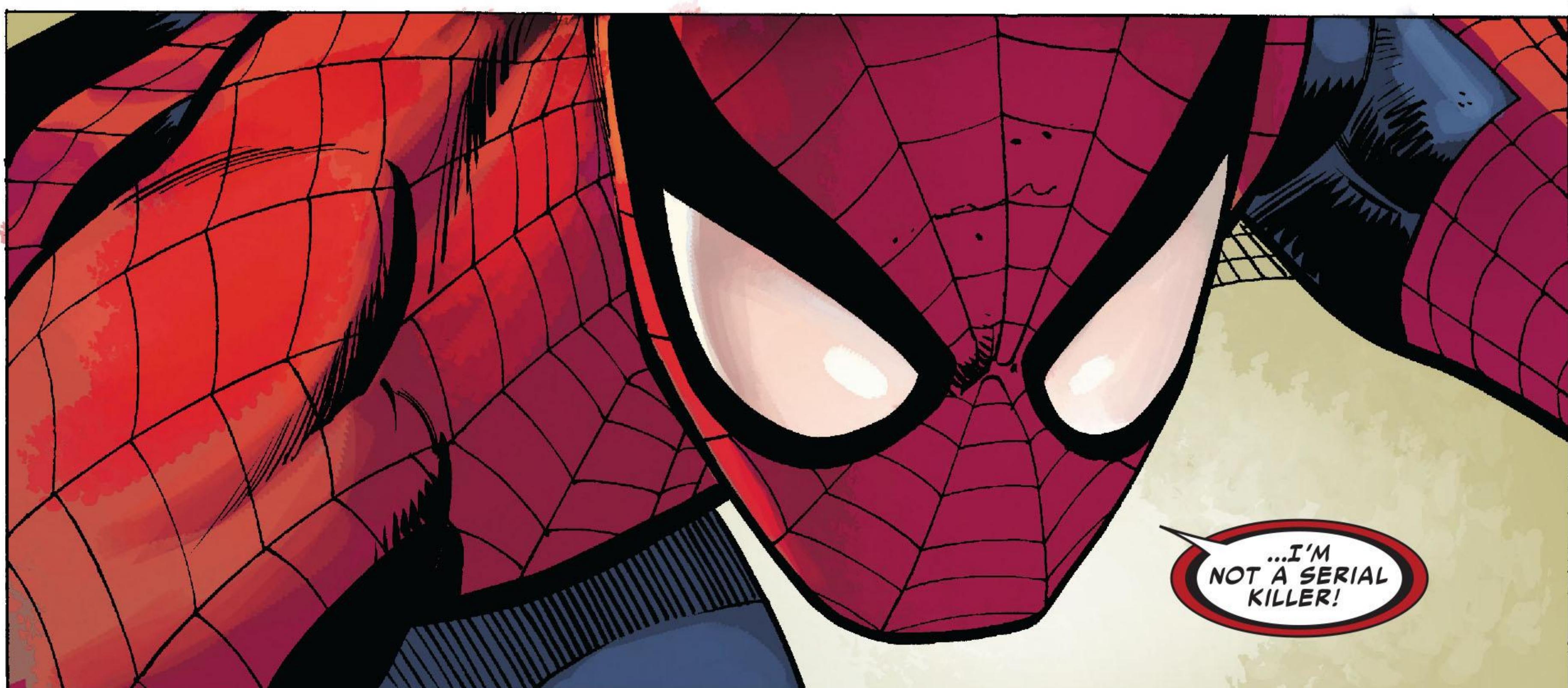
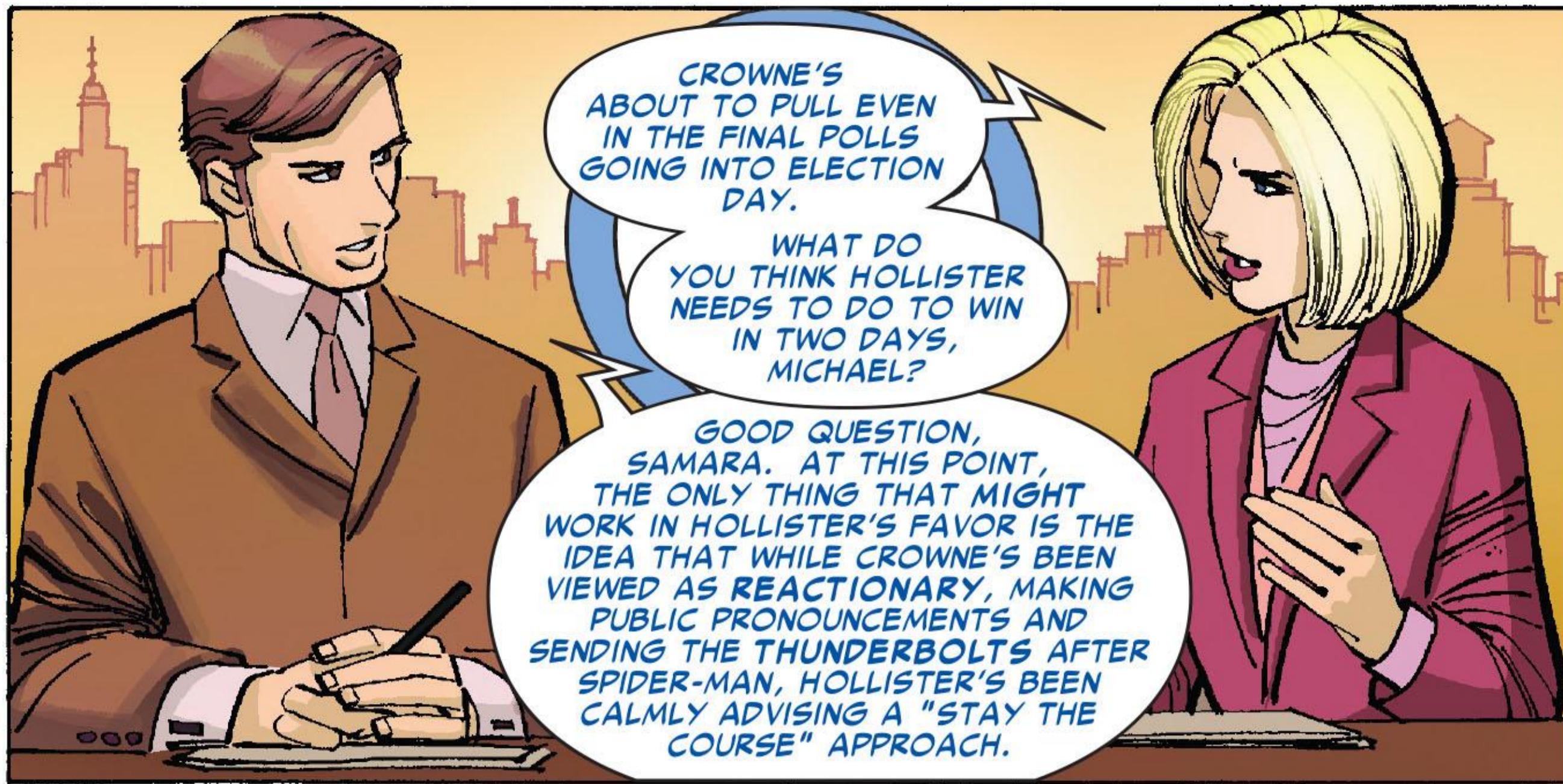
YEAH. HE  
KEPT EVERYTHING  
ON A BLACKBERRY,  
BUT IT'S ALL  
ENCRYPTED.

SO IT MIGHT  
BE A WHILE BEFORE  
WE CRACK THE CODE  
AND GET A LIST OF  
SUSPECTS.

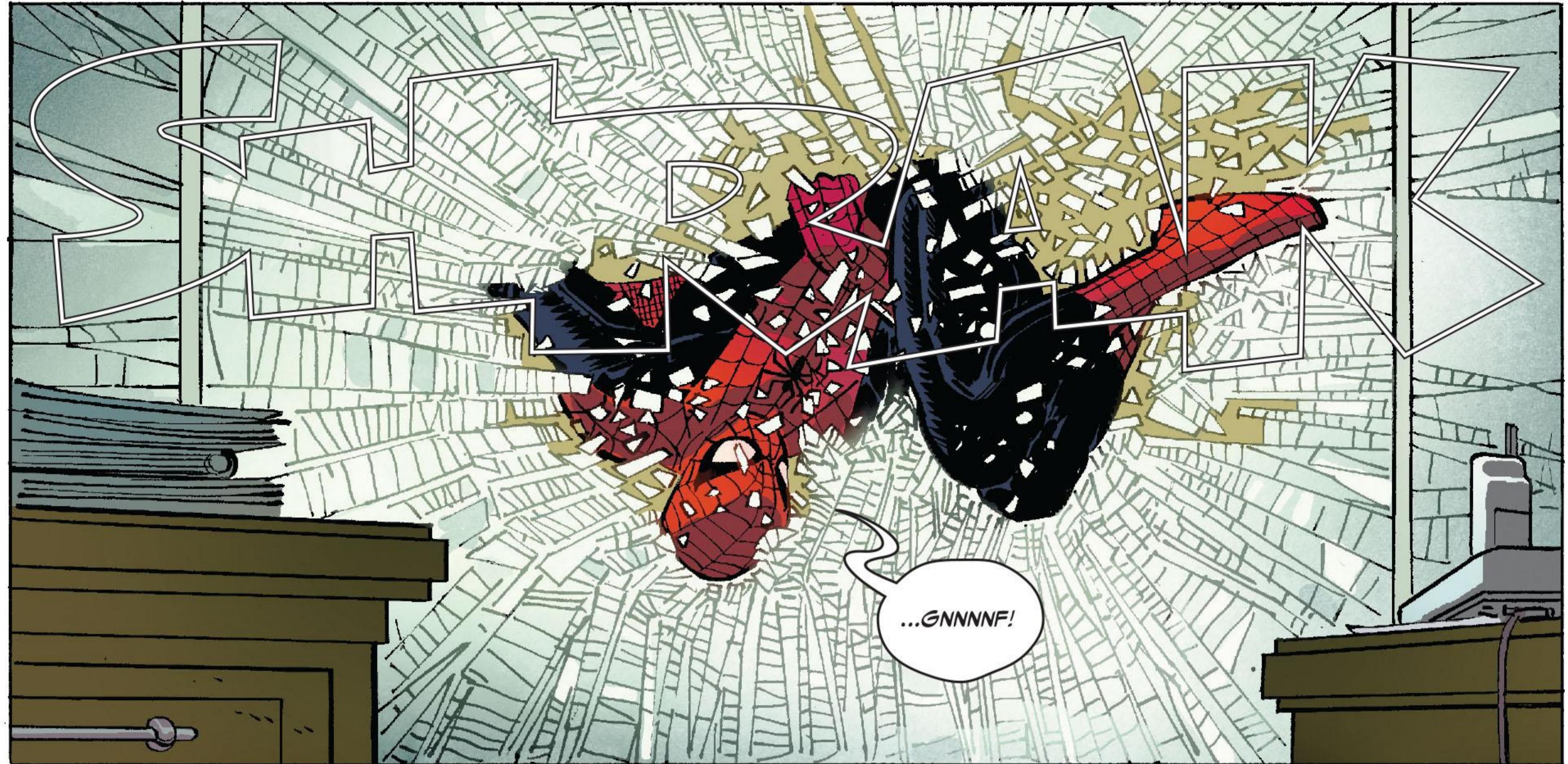
ACTUALLY,  
BRETT, I DON'T  
THINK IT'S GONNA  
TAKE THAT  
LONG.

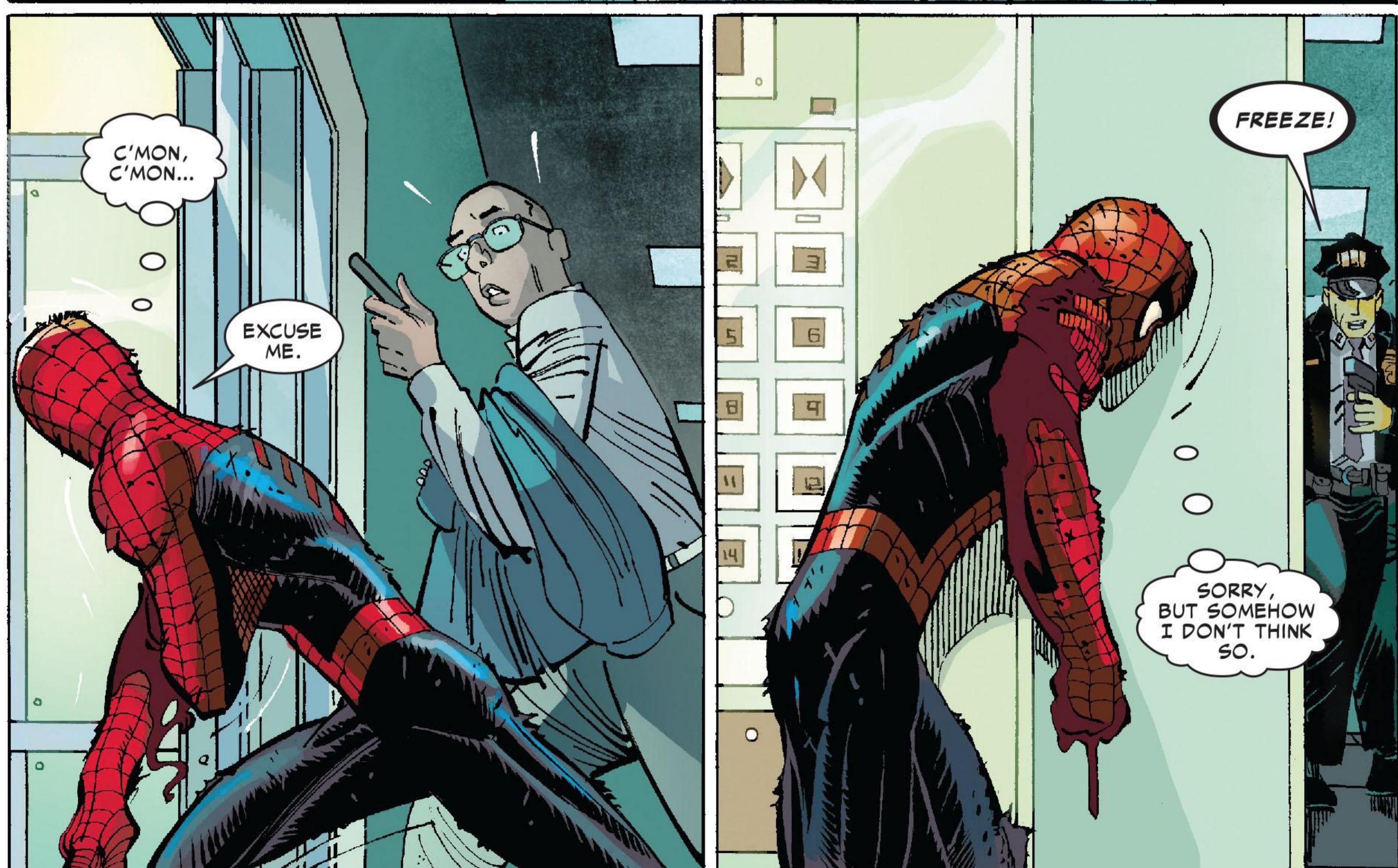
AND I DON'T  
THINK WE'LL  
NEED A LIST.



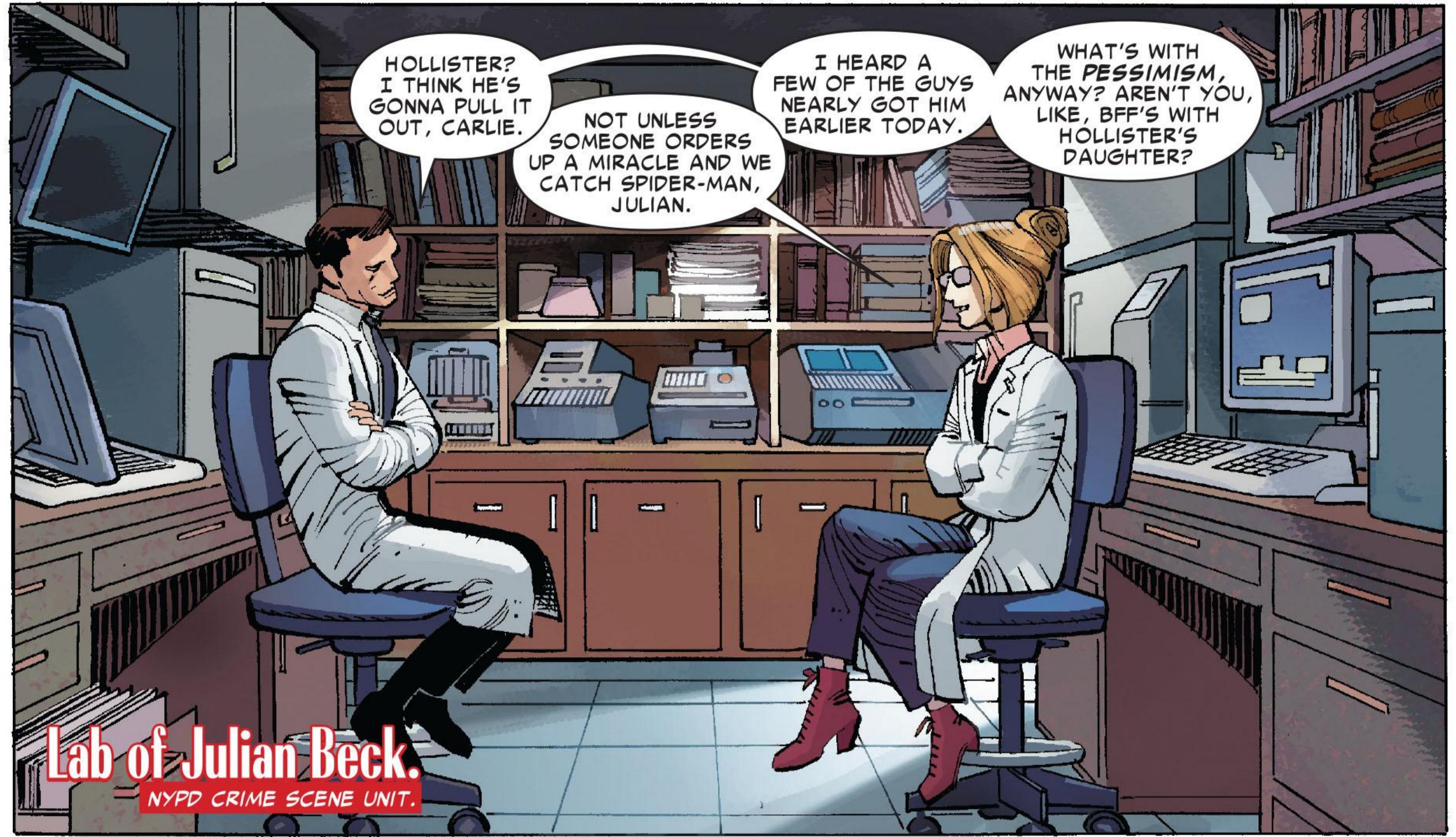




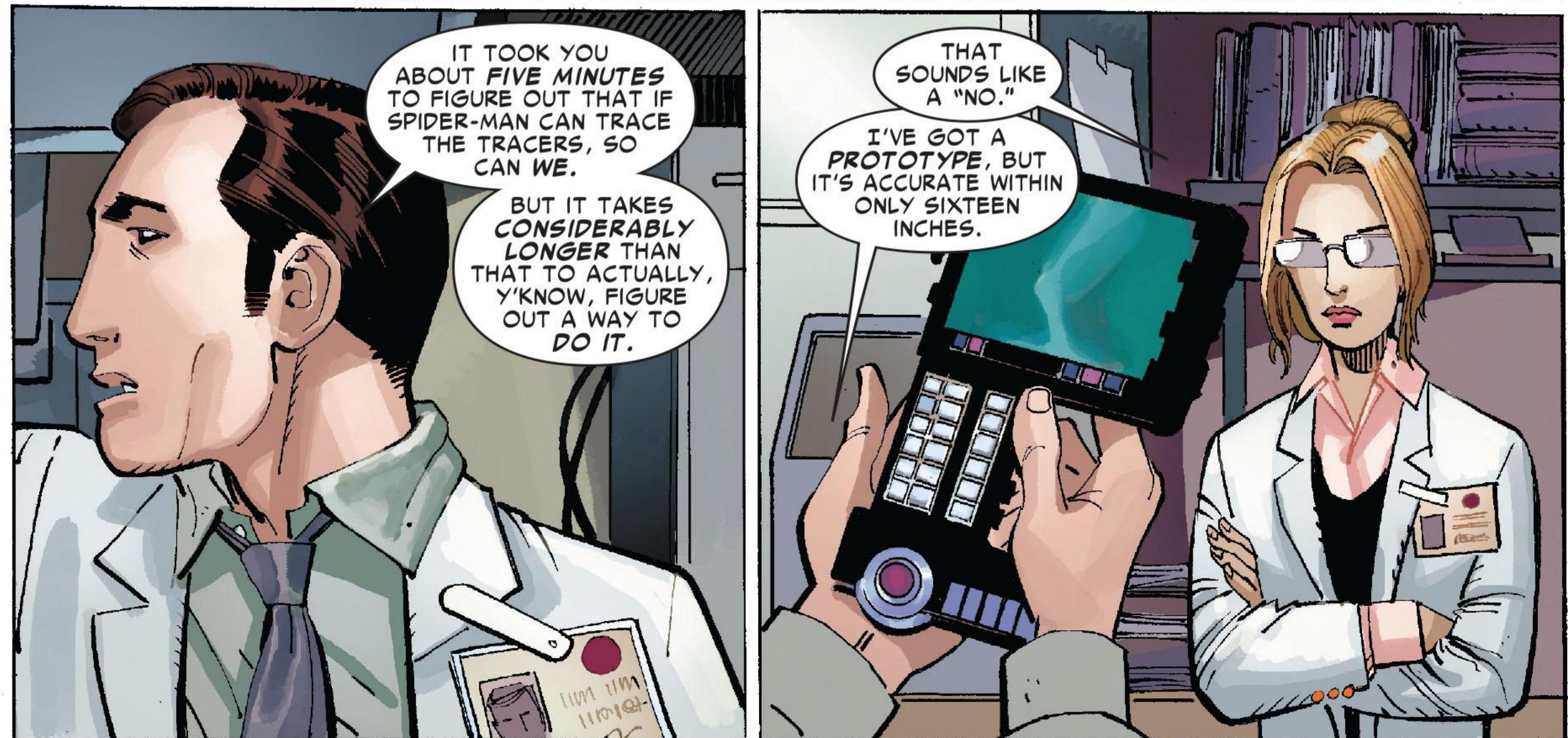
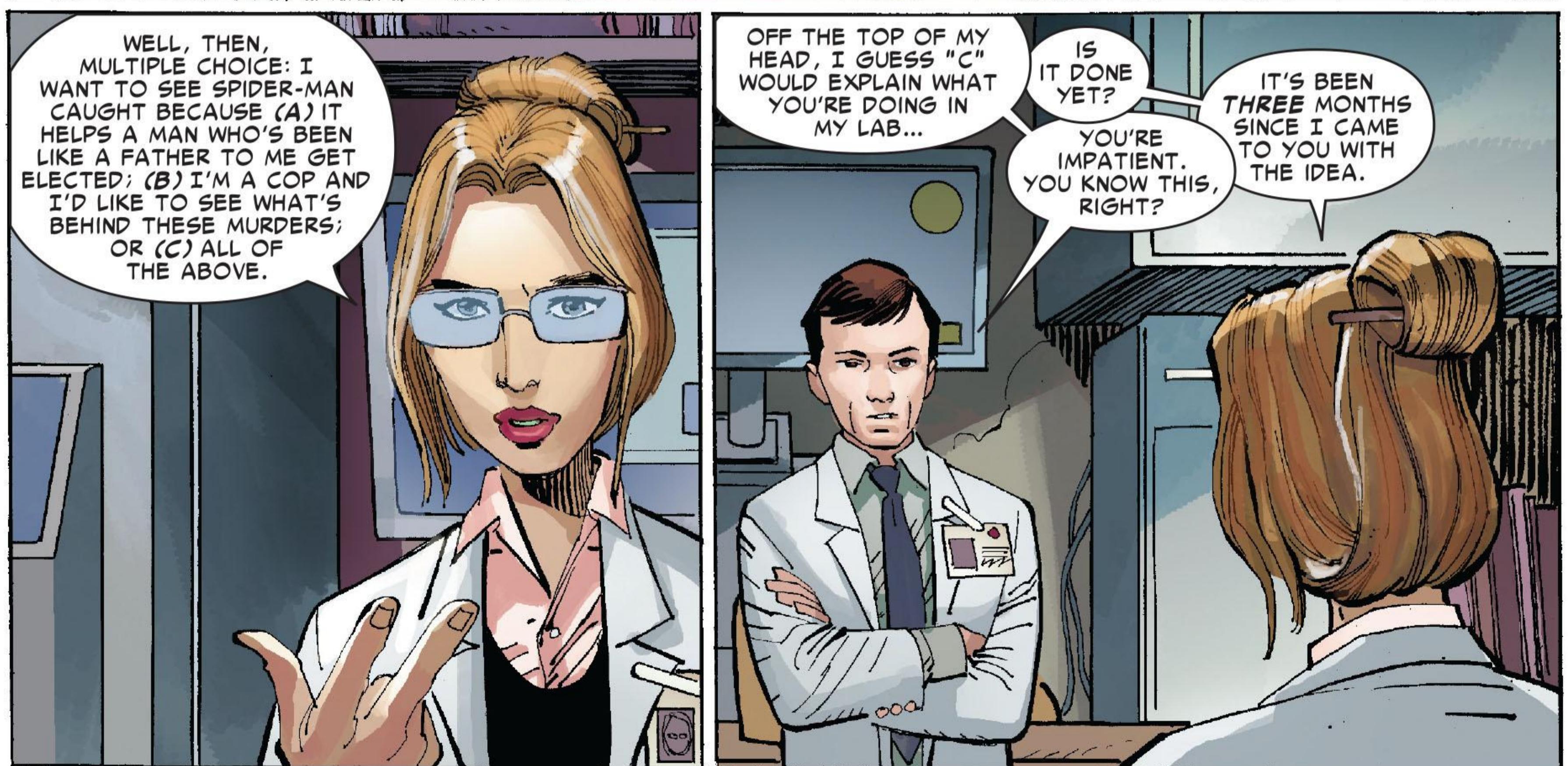


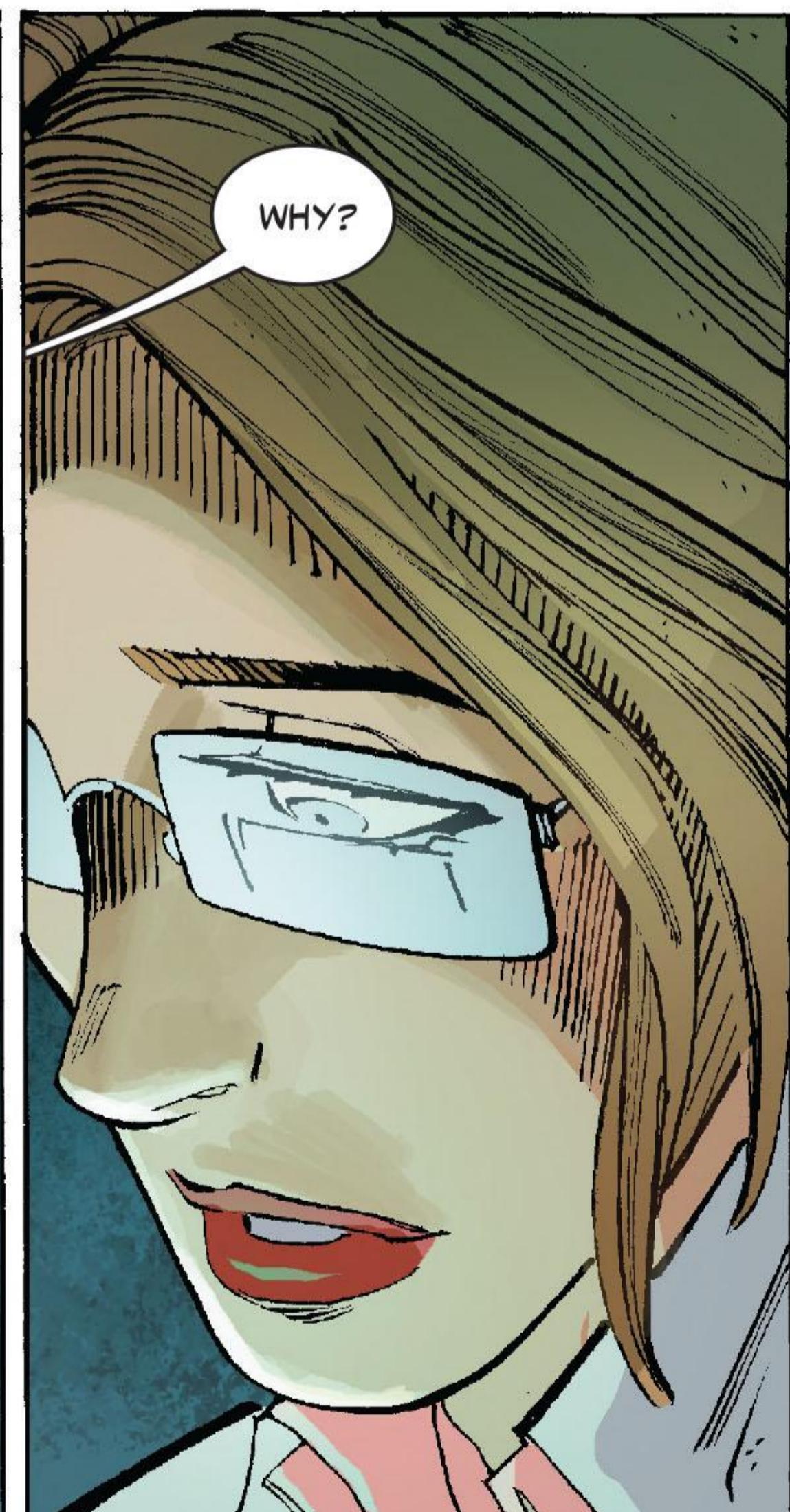
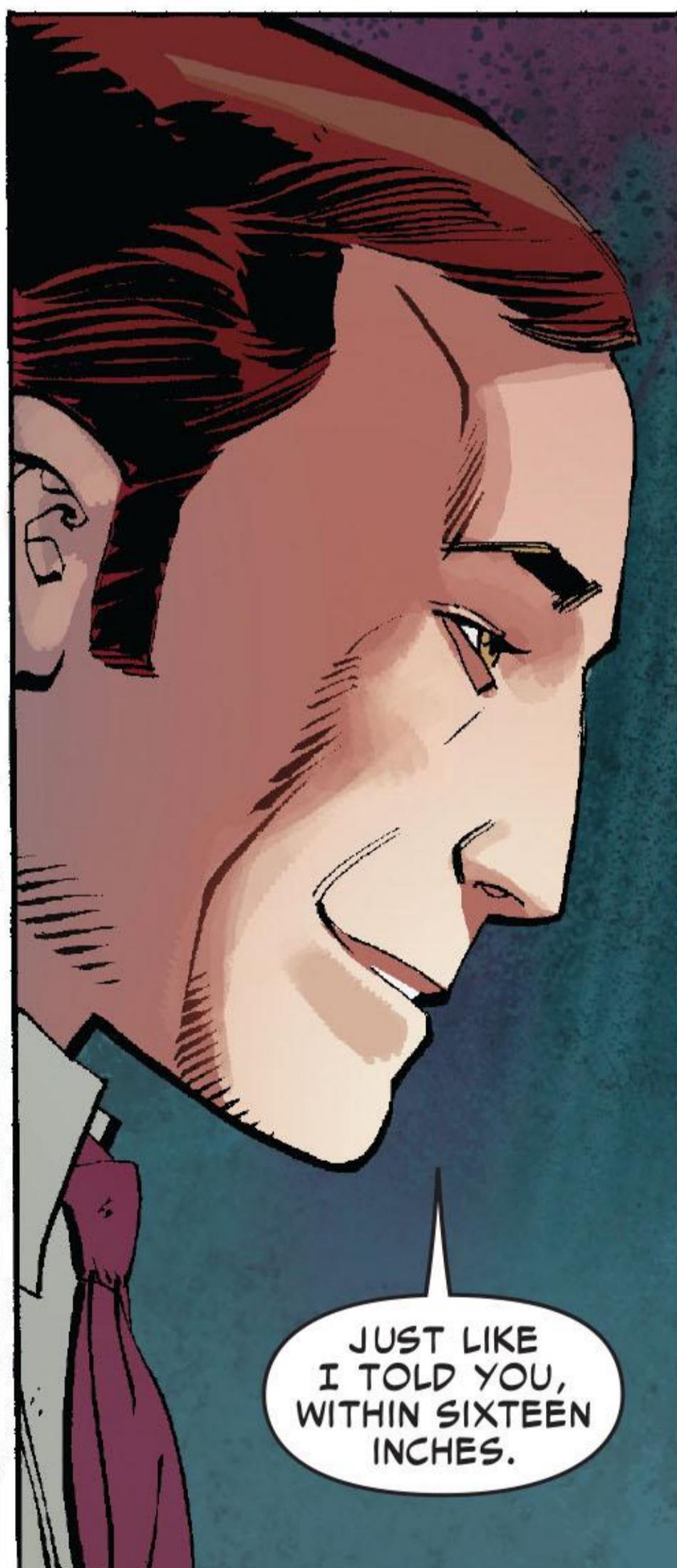
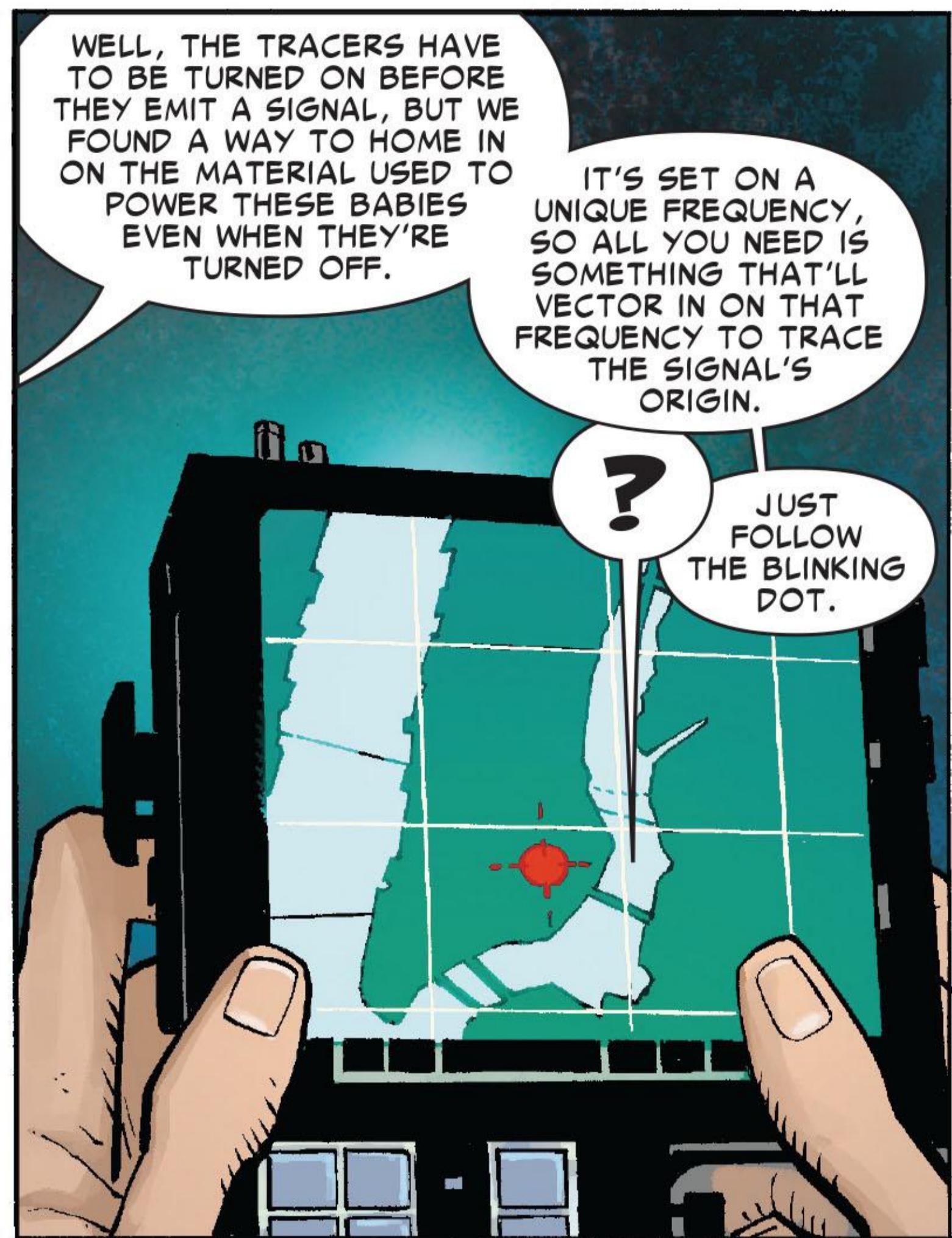
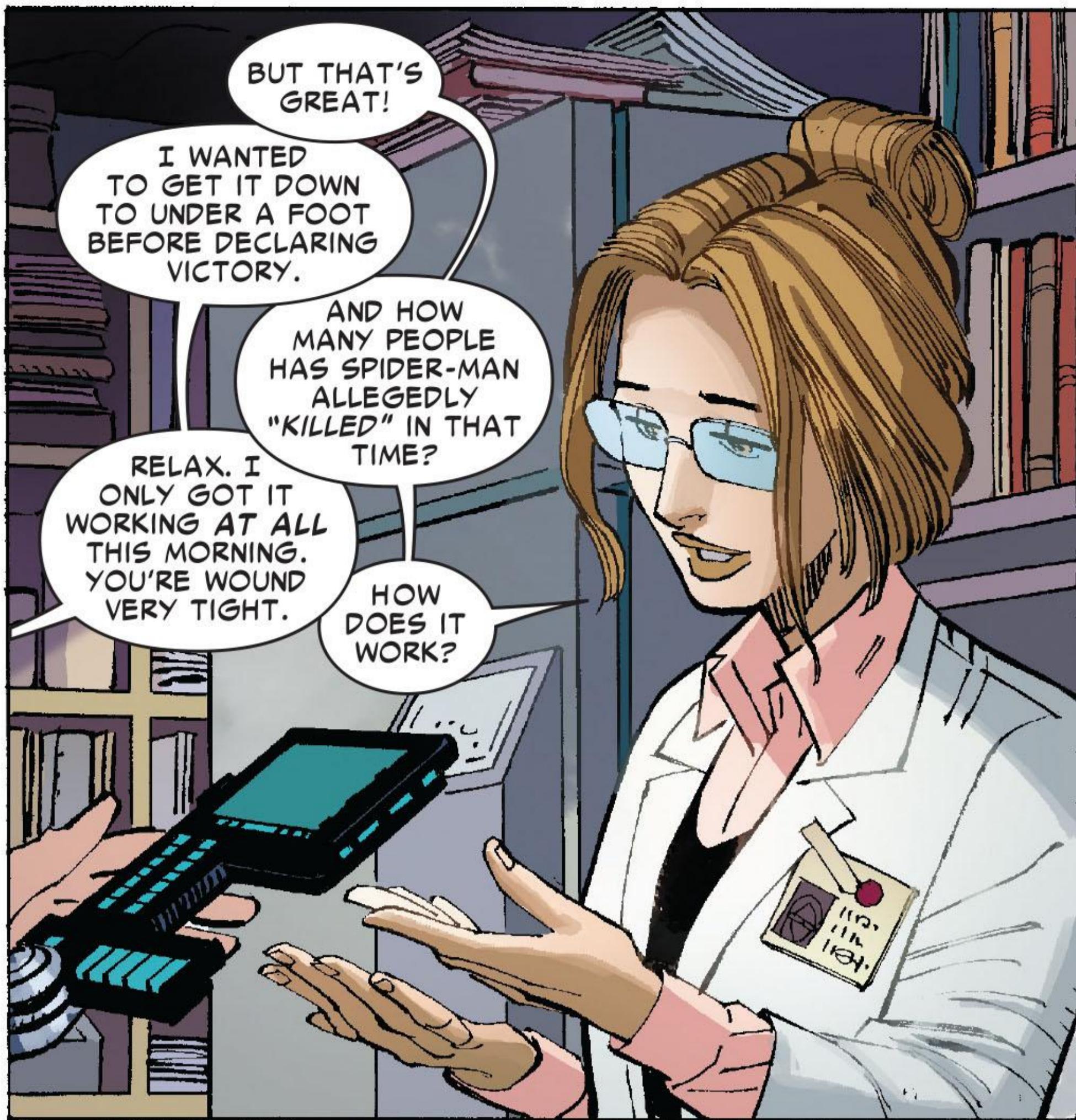






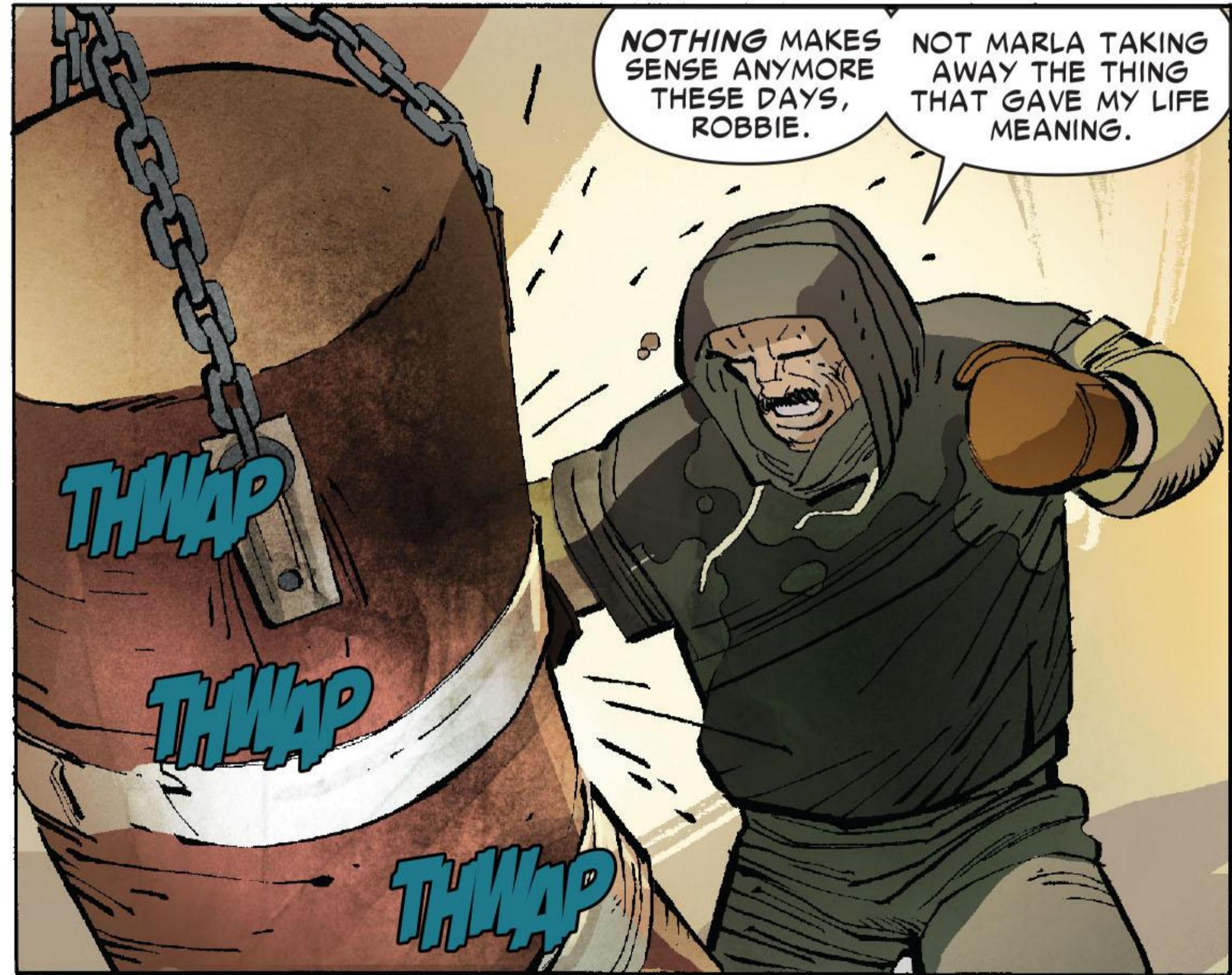
## Lab of Julian Beck. — NYPD CRIME SCENE UNIT.

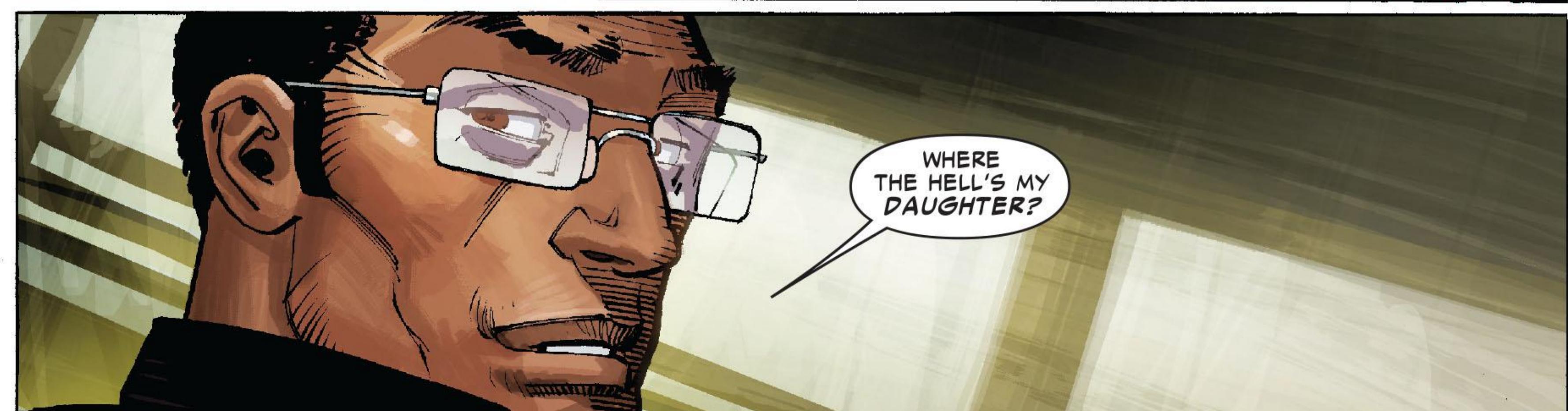
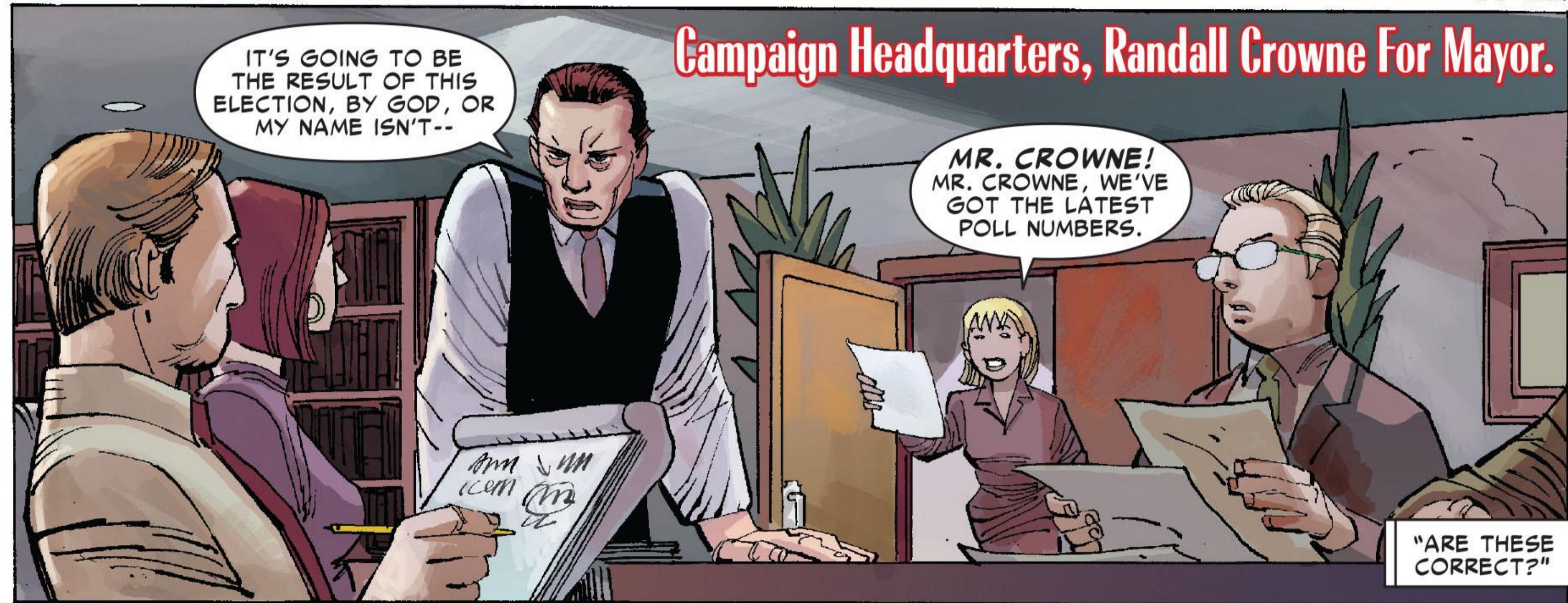
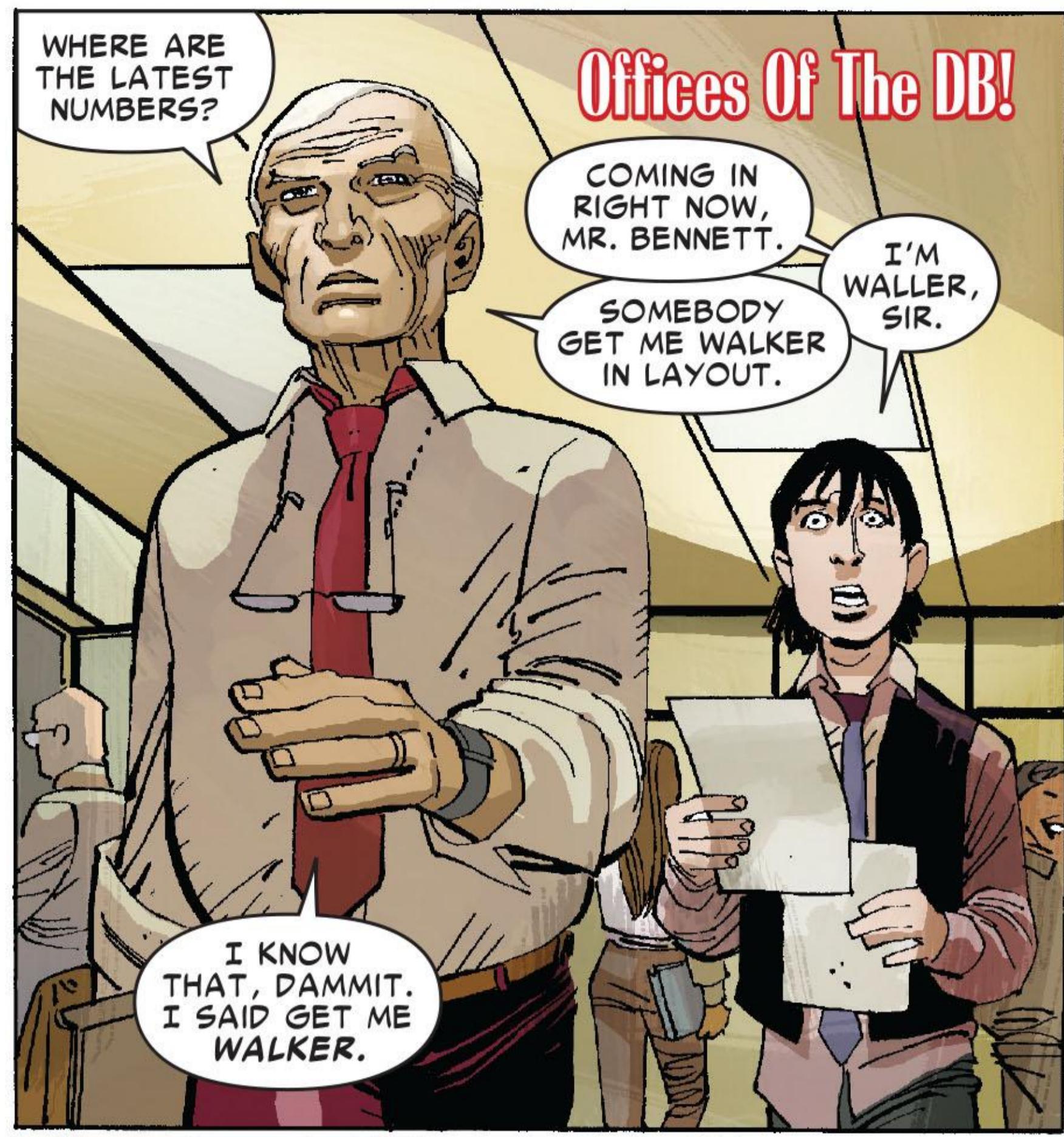


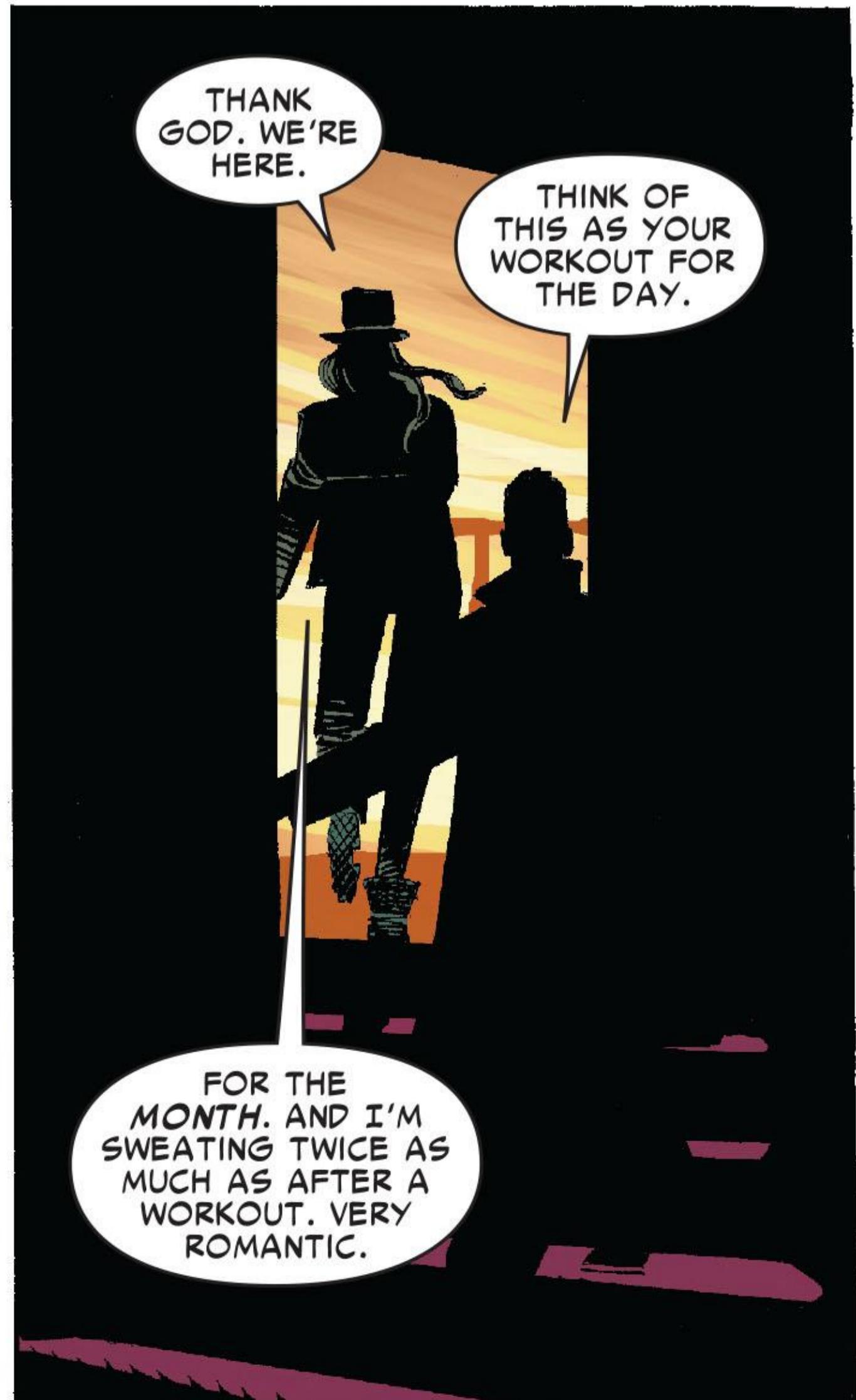
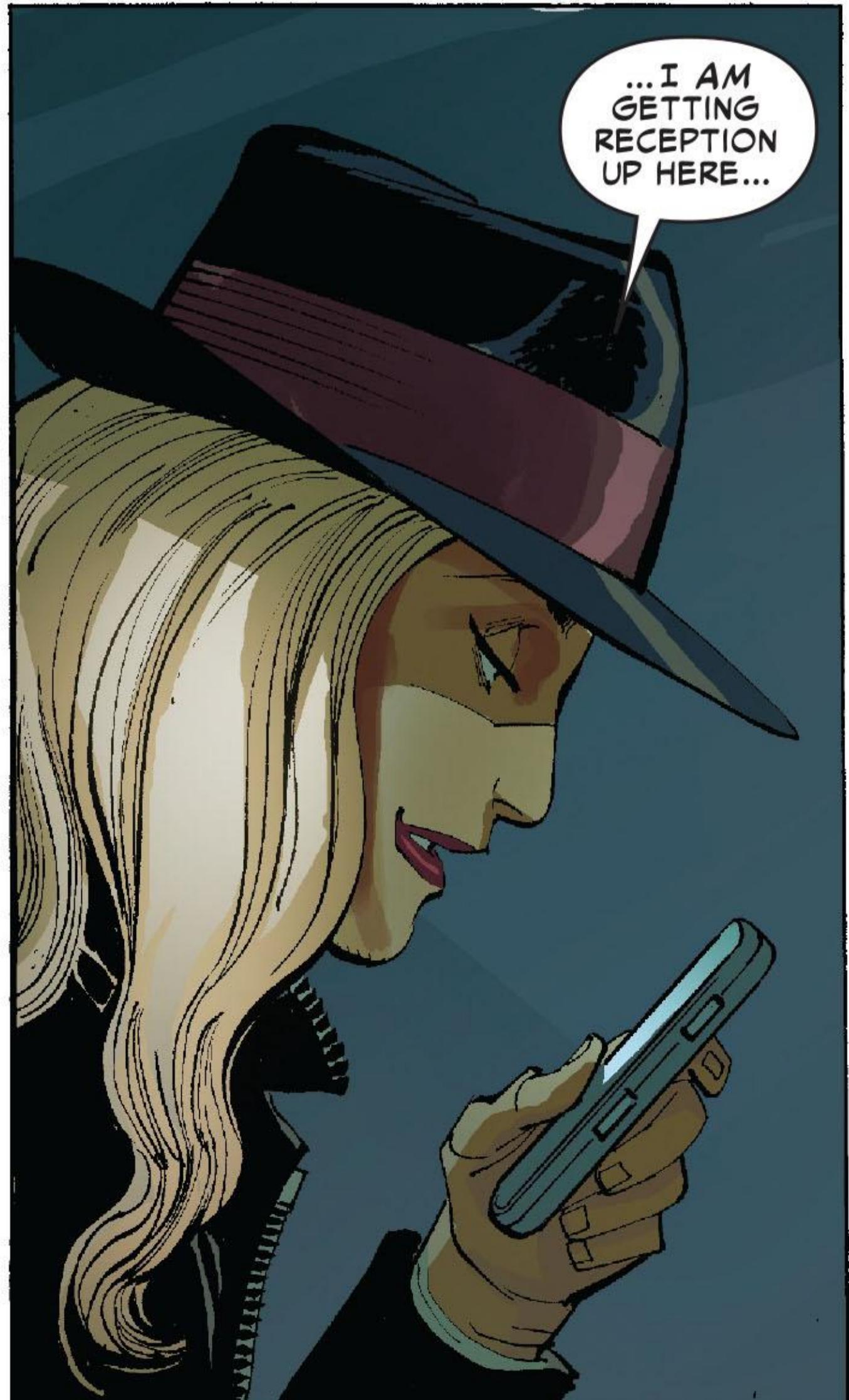
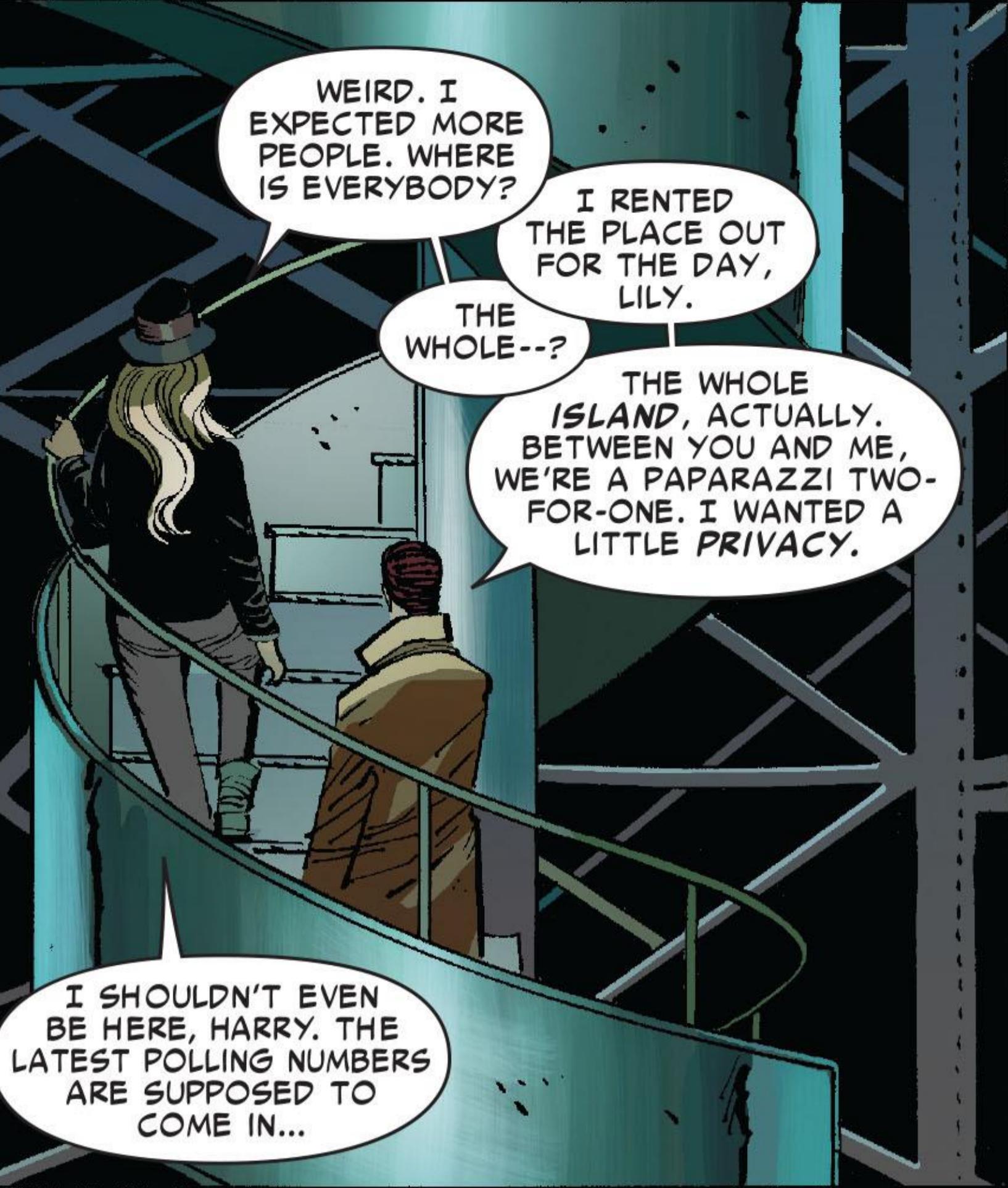


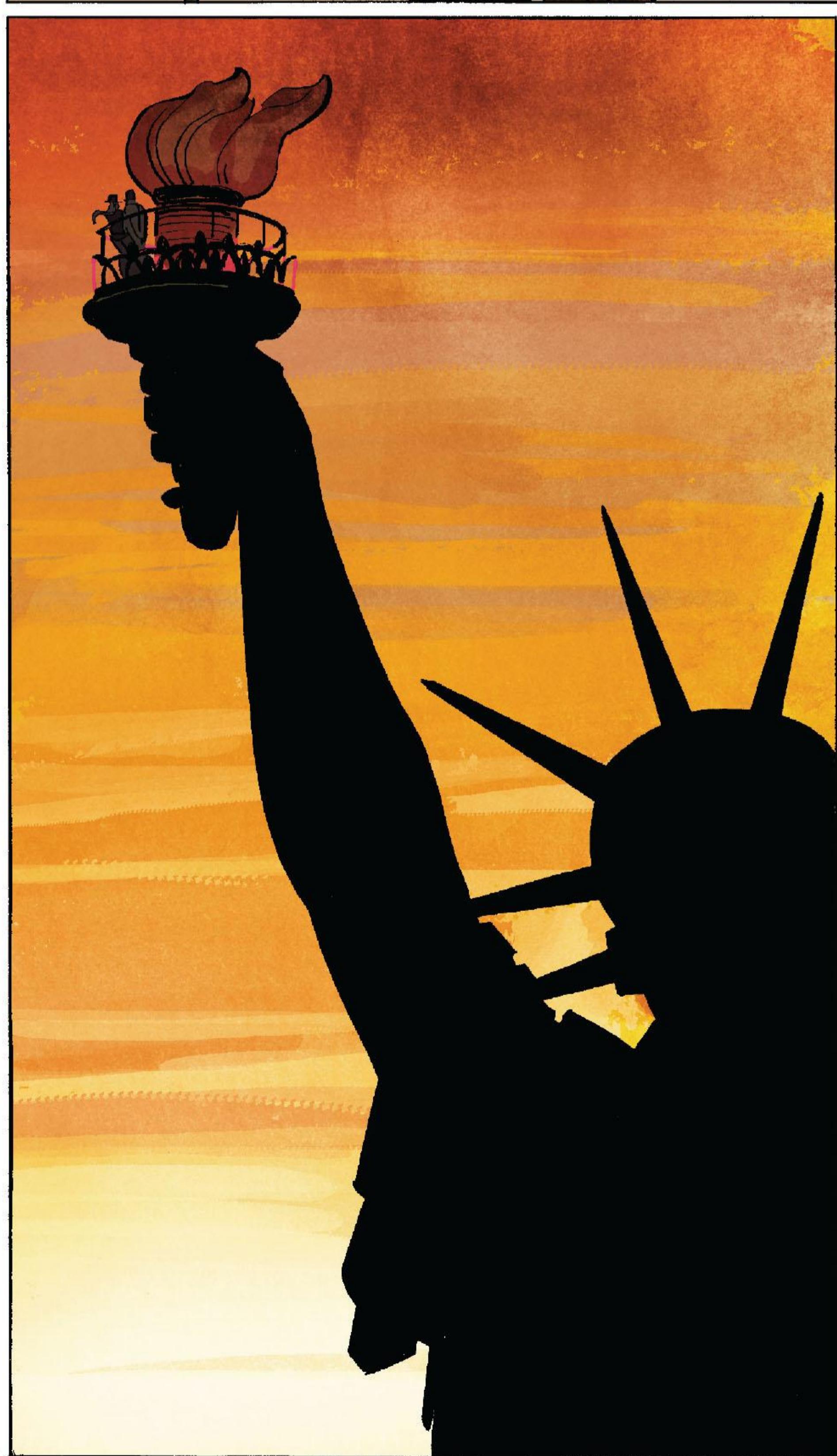
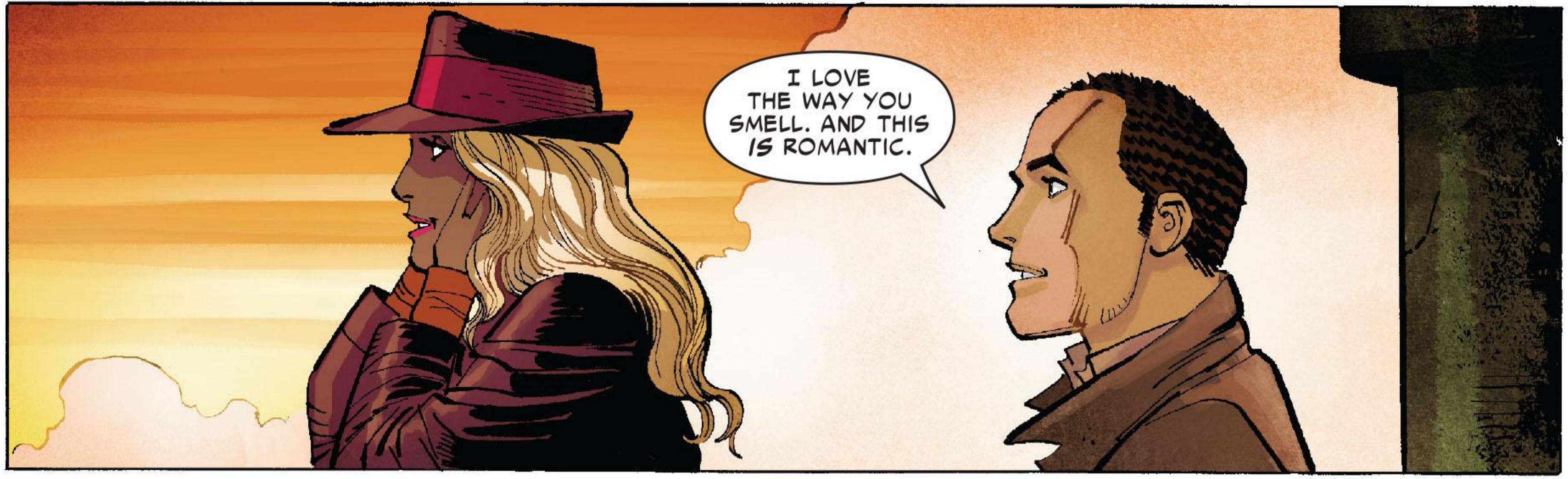














# Alphabet City, New York.

CASA DE PETER PARKER AND  
OFFICER VIN GONZALES.

--JUST  
SAYING, I  
DIDN'T SIGN  
ON FOR  
THAT.

DAMN  
STRAIGHT  
WE'RE GONA  
TALK ABOUT  
IT.

YEAH, I'M  
HEADED TO THE  
HOUSE NOW...

THANKS, I  
REALLY DIDN'T  
KNOW WHEN THE  
EIGHT-TO-  
EIGHT SHIFT  
STARTED.

I SAID WE  
WERE GONA  
TALK, DIDN'T  
I?

I'LL SEE  
YOU IN TWENTY  
MINUTES.

THOUGHT  
VIN'D NEVER  
LEAVE.

THANK YOU  
SPIDEY-SENSE  
FOR THE  
WARNING.

OKAY, I NEED,  
LIKE, THE LONGEST  
SHOWER IN HUMAN HISTORY,  
FIFTEEN TYLENOLS AND A  
TRIP TO THE NIGHT NURSE  
TO PATCH ME UP.

IN  
EXACTLY THAT  
ORDER...SINCE  
THE TYLENOL AND  
SHOWER'S  
CLOSEST...

SHOWER'S  
GONNA GET BLOOD  
EVERWHERE. GLAD  
VIN IS PULLING THE  
NIGHT TOUR TONIGHT.  
GIVE ME TIME TO  
CLEAN IT ALL UP...

"...BEFORE HE  
GETS HOME."

THIS HAS TO BE  
A MISTAKE. MAYBE  
JULIAN'S PUNKING ME,  
SENDING ME TO PETE  
AND VIN'S  
APARTMENT.

AND I KNOW  
I'M JUST ADDING  
TO THE MISTAKE  
BY USING THEIR  
SPARE KEY LIKE  
THIS.

THE  
SHOWER?

I WATCHED  
VIN LEAVE, SO  
IT MUST BE...

THWIP

PETER--?

UM...YEAH.  
HI, CARLIE.  
I'M, UH, IN THE  
SHOWER.

DON'T  
COME IN!!!

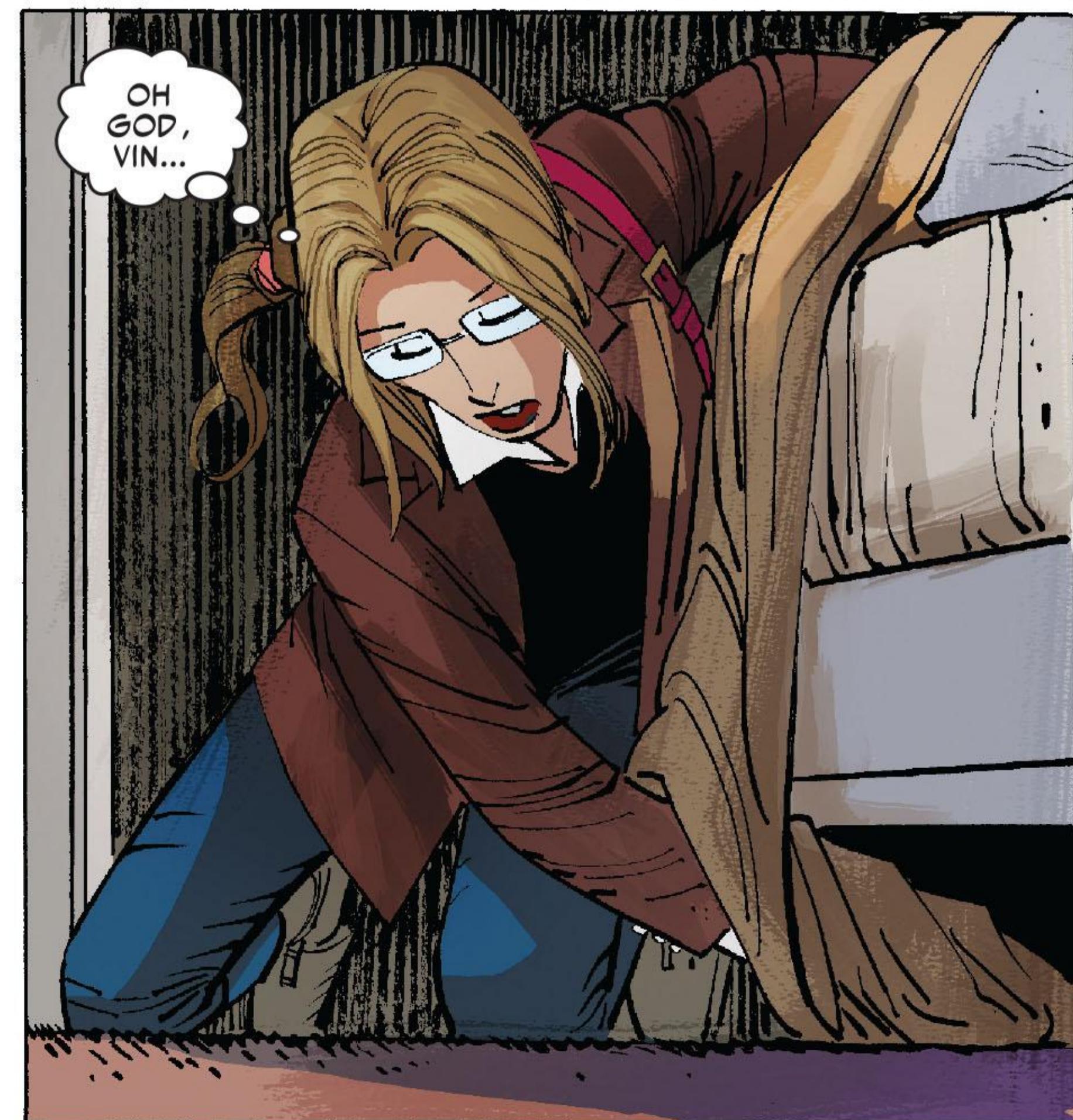
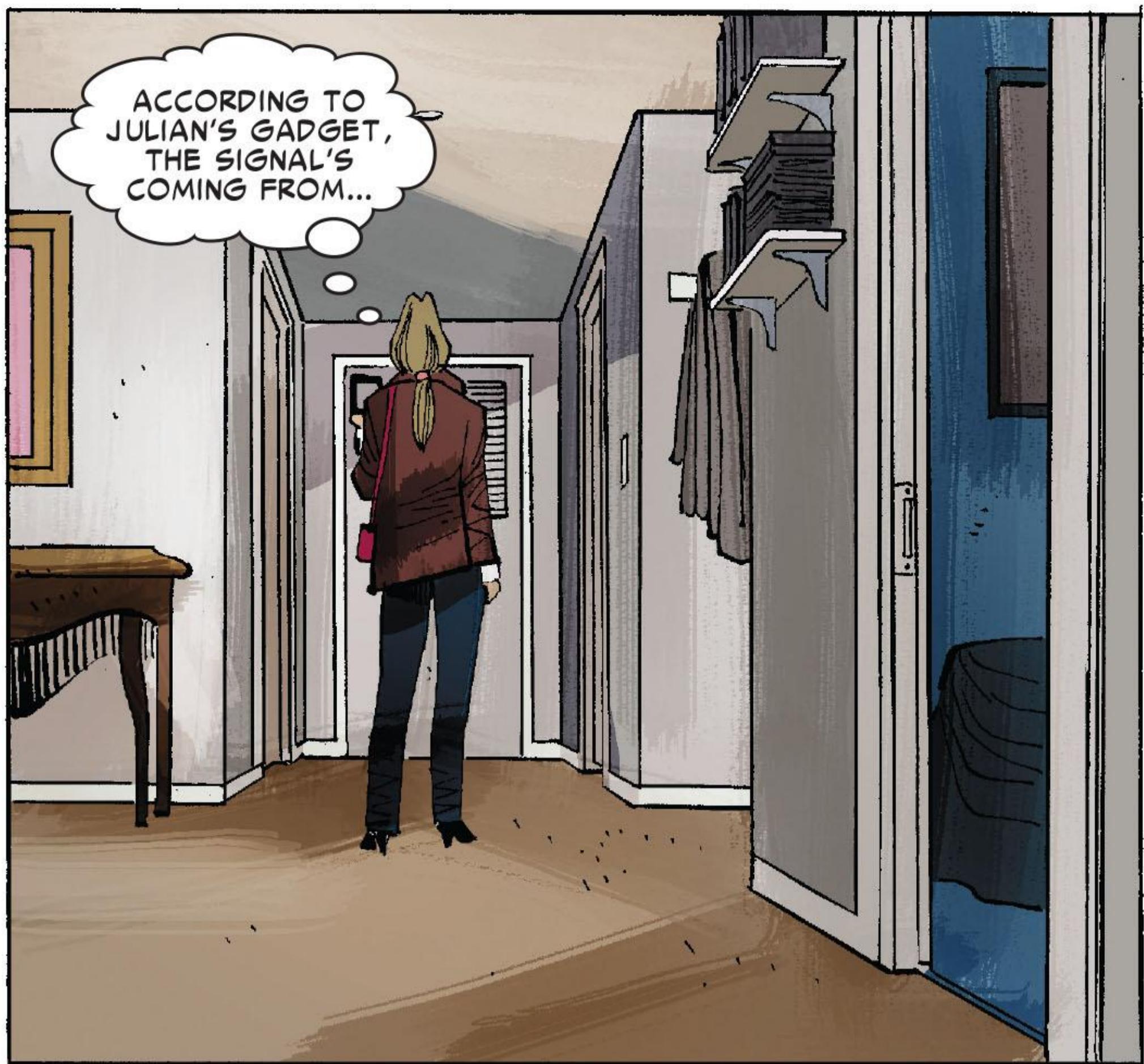
NAKED!  
NAKED!  
NAKED!

THOUGHT I  
HAD THE PLACE  
TO MYSELF. WOULD  
YOU MIND--?

YEAH, I  
DON'T THINK  
"LITTLE PETER"  
IS ANYTHING I  
WANT TO SEE.

HEY,  
WHY N--

BECAUSE I  
COULD USE A  
BIT OF PRIVACY  
MYSELF.



To Be Continued...

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to

[SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM)

(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Welcome to the first part of what promises to be this winter's most talked about Spidey-story: **CHARACTER ASSASSINATION!** Marc and Johnny are heading full-steam ahead towards a lot of plot resolutions and opening up some new revelations that will definitely be turning the status quo on its head over the next few weeks, so we look forward to hear from you about the goings on going on.

In the meantime, the letters keep pouring in and I'm still cleaning out the 2008 mailbag, so let's get to some comments on 577's Punisher guest appearance as well as some other random missives I've been hanging onto:

#### Spidey-Guys:

I've been enjoying Amazing Spider-Man lately far more than I expected after the One More Day debacle. Kudos! The creative teams have been strong and unique. I especially enjoyed Paolo Rivera's uniquely classic take on the art in #577.

But I have one quibble. "All right" is two words. It's not "alright," it's "all right." I see this error all the time in your books, and I saw it twice in this issue in the first 7 pages. So all right already!

Peter Wallace  
Atlanta, GA

It's funny you mention this, Peter, because since I started at Marvel this has bugged me too and I used to correct it in every script. It's been beaten into my head that it's two words, but as it's been explained by people wiser than I, over the years the one word spelling has become acceptable and that's the way it appears in most of our books.

Any English professors out there want to weigh in on what promises to be the hottest grammar issue in the Spidey books since the classic 70s epic:

**"Spider-Man Should Of Worn You're Loser Clothes!"**

Hey Steve and Spider-Crew,

I felt compelled to write to you guys to let you know how much I truly appreciate Brand New Day. As a little girl, I watched every Saturday episode of the 90s Spider-Man TV show with my dad. I used to read his old comic books and the spider-fan websites to get all the classic stories, but I didn't begin purchasing the more recent

Spidey comics for myself until I read that Spider-Man revealed his identity during "Civil War." Clearly I see now that decision was well overdue, but better late than never.

I must say that I was upset to see Mary Jane and Peter separate; but now that everything has sort of begun anew (with occasional ties to the old stories and characters I've loved), I feel like I'm a part of the same excitement from these story lines as my dad was when he read the first wave of Spidey comics in his younger years. It's more fun to check the mailbox when you know you'll have some Spidey jokes to make you chuckle after you've read through the bills and junk mail! Thank you for renewing my love for my favorite super hero--Make Mine Marvel!

Kelly Strayer, age 23  
Via e-mail

#### Dear Spidey Mail,

One thing that's always bugged me about Spider-Man is if Peter's so smart, why hasn't he figured out how to tell when his web fluid is running low? Since he hasn't, I have the perfect solution. Why doesn't Spidey shoot pink webbing when he's about to run out, similar to how cash register paper comes out pink at the end of a roll, so cashiers know to get ready to swap? Problem solved. Plus, just think of all the good 'ol Spidey banter that will ensure!

Ben! Olson  
Indiana

Excellent idea, Ben! Consider it suggested. However, Spidey's webbing is a liquid-ish mixture rather than a solid so it'd be difficult to make sure the pink wouldn't come out when the web-shooter was still full. Look at it this way, say you had a glass filled with water and you dropped in a bit of pink food coloring. It would be impossible to put out just the pink once it started dissipating. Same theory applies.

Any scientists want to challenge me? C'mon, ya eggheads! I ain't afraid of your glasses, lab coats and MythBusters DVDs! Sure you can program a computer to think! But can you program it to love?!?!

(Ooo, I just thought of a movie idea for 1983!)



Steve and Co.

I've got to say I have been loving Spidey more than ever since the change up! Back to basics feels great. Now if you could get John Romita Jr. to draw every issue, I would be in Spider-Man heaven.

Anyway, my letter is to direct you to a HUGE mistake that was made in #577. And this isn't even a Spider-Man mistake, but it's just as serious! It has to do with the interlude with the Bookie and J. Jonah Jameson. The Bookie calls the band Slayer a "hair band."

HUH?!?!

No way is Slayer a hair band (I'm looking at you Joe Kelly). They are thrash metal! Have you heard "Reign In Blood"? They in no way, shape or form resemble anything from bands like Motley Crue and Ratt or other hair bands.

Ok, I just had to say that to set the record straight. So great work on Spidey, but not so much on heavy metal. Keep up the great stories Braintrust!

-Armando Bielma  
Fontana, CA

**Armando, I'm as upset as you are, so I went straight to Joe Kelly for his response:**

*I cause controversy everywhere I go...*

#### Dear Armando,

*Dude...you're totally right. Despite the fact they did have some serious hair back in the 80s, they rock much harder and are imbued with the touch of the dark one.*

*CLEARLY, this is the Bookie making a gross assumption in his narrative, not me. Me would NEVER make a mistake like that. Even though Me has never actually heard a Slayer disc, and maybe might have accidentally been dragged to see Poison, Warrant, and god help me White Lion back in the day...they were my brother's tickets, really....*

*I will make sure that the Bookie pays DEARLY for this affront. Long Live Metal!*

-JK

And with that let me dedicate this week's column to those titans of thrash:Slayer. Show no mercy, fellas!

**Viva Rock!**  
**Simperin' Steve**  
**12/29/08**

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# BLACK PANTHER #1

## EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW



delgado

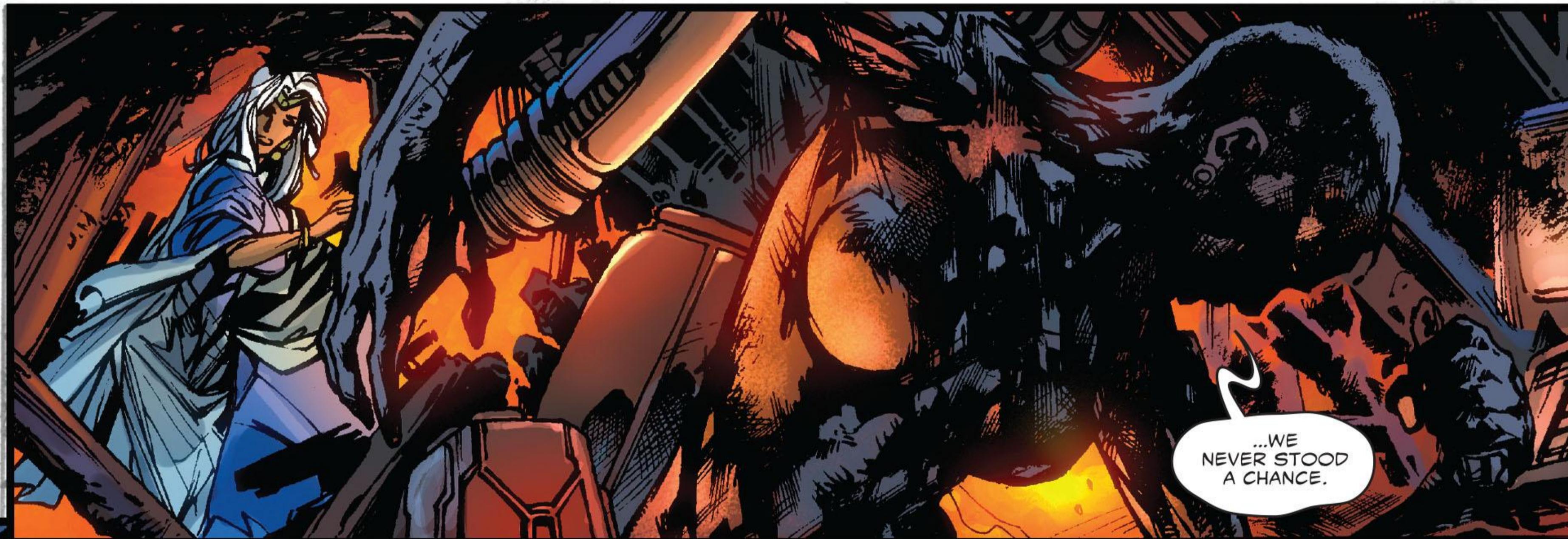
REGGIE HUDLIN · KEN LASLEY



I KNOW YOU  
WANT TO BLAST THAT  
THING OPEN, BUT LET  
THE PROFESSIONALS  
DO THEIR JOB.

I JUST...  
IS HE IN  
THERE?

LET'S  
HOPE NOT.



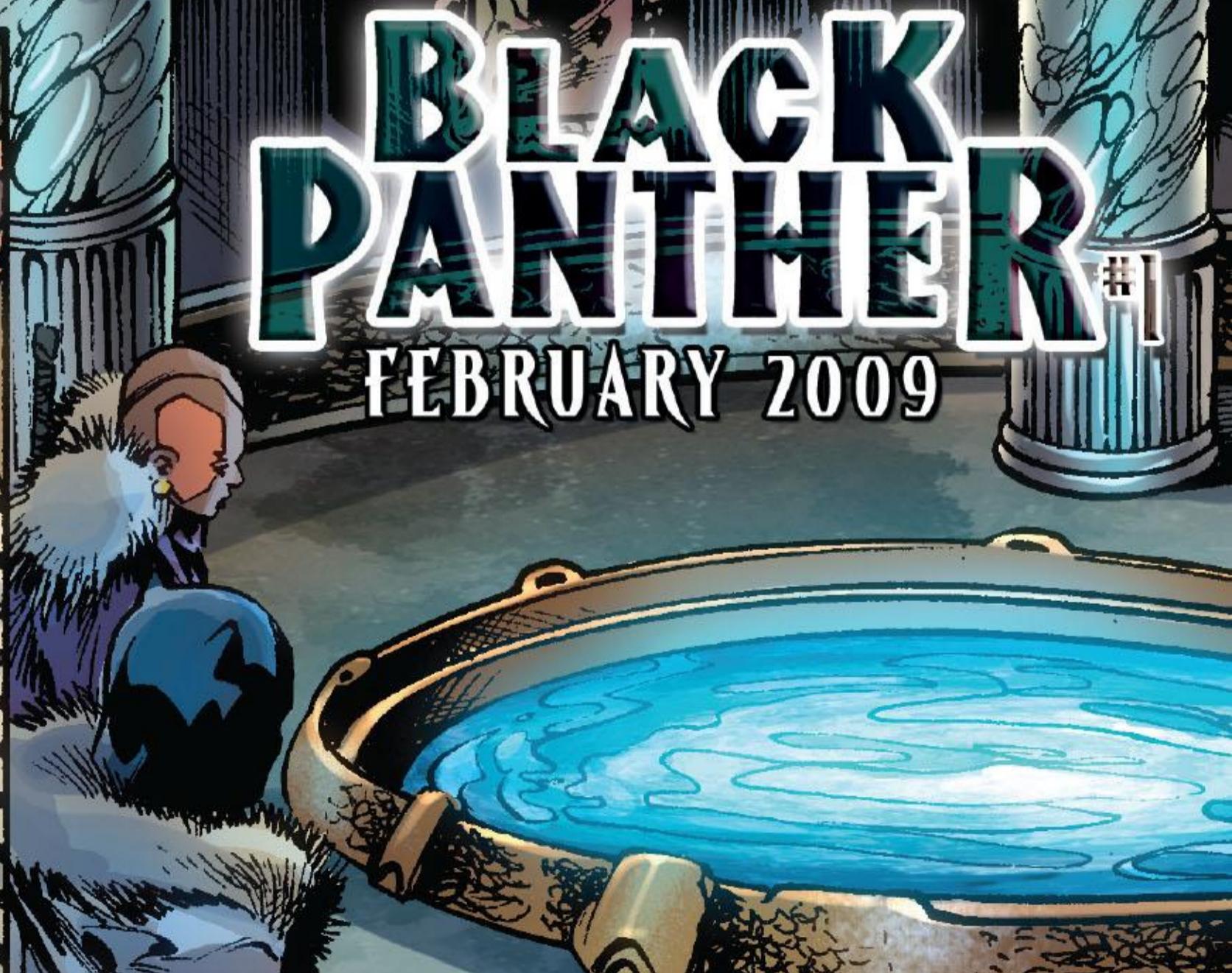


FIVE HOURS AGO...



LANDING IN  
LESS THAN FIVE  
MINUTES, YOUR  
HIGHNESS.





**BLACK  
PANTHER**  
FEBRUARY 2009