

532



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

CIVIL
WAR™

STRACZYNKI

GARNEY

RIGHT NOW....

The War at Home

PART ONE OF SIX



"HOW BAD IS IT, BOSS?"

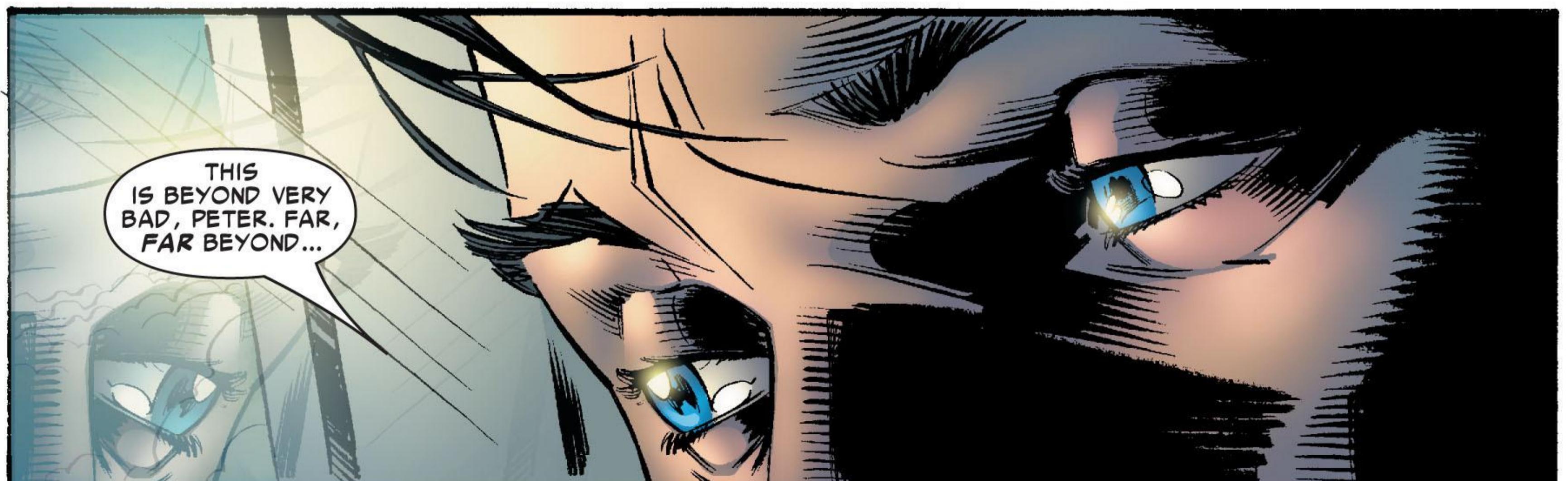
I DON'T KNOW, PETER. THE LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS IN STAMFORD ARE STILL SORTING THROUGH THE DEBRIS LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS.

DEPENDING ON HOW MANY WERE KILLED, THIS IS BAD...OR IT'S VERY BAD.

DO WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

"IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF POWERS. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO WAS FIGHTING, AND ABOUT WHAT."

"THINGS GOT...OUT OF CONTROL."



TWO HOURS LATER...

"IN EVERYONE'S LIFE, PETER, THERE'S AN 'IT'... YOUR WIFE LEAVES YOU, OR YOU GET CANCER. THERE'S YOUR LIFE BEFORE 'IT' AND YOUR LIFE AFTER 'IT'."

"9/11 WAS AN 'IT' OF NATIONAL MAGNITUDE."

"AND STAMFORD... IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER ONE."

"LOOK AT THEM, TONY--"

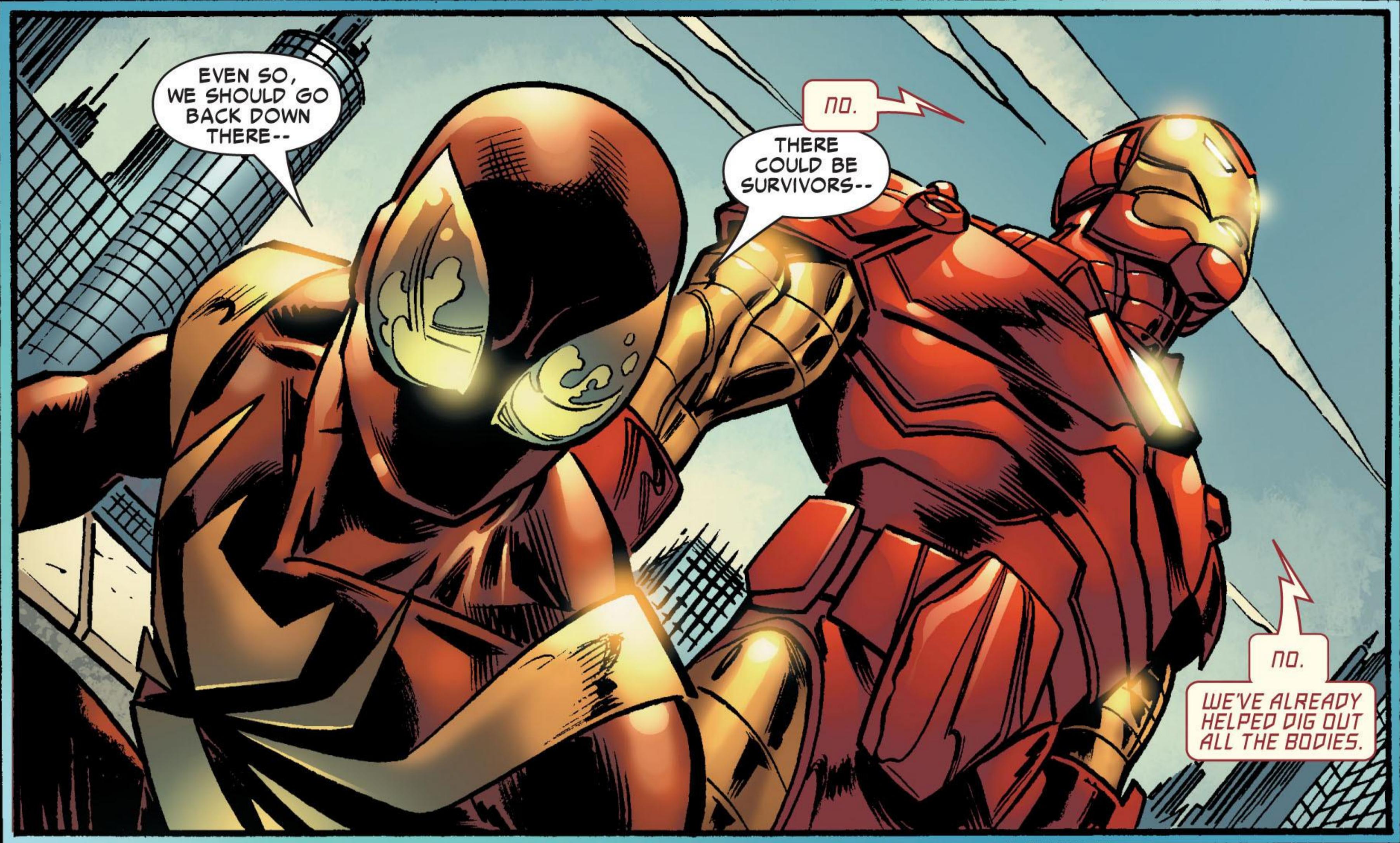
THEY
HATE US.

I DON'T
BLAME THEM.

--THE WAY THEY'RE LOOKING AT US, THE RAGE IN THEIR EYES, IT'S AS IF THEY THINK WE'RE RESPONSIBLE.

AND WHY NOT? NO, WE'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE. BUT WE'RE IN THE SAME FRATERNITY OF POWERS.

WE'RE THE SECOND COUSINS OF THE GUYS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THEIR LOVED ONES.



THREE HOURS LATER...

"--SO WE COULD TALK ABOUT IT AS SOON AS HE GOT BACK."

TONY--

THIS IS THE WHITE HOUSE, NOT CHURCH, PETER. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WHISPER.

SAYS YOU.

I AM SO OUT OF MY LEAGUE. I'M JUST A KID FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, TONY. WHAT AM I DOING IN--

--THE WHITE HOUSE.

I THINK I GOTTA PEE.

MR. STARK, THE PRESIDENT WILL SEE YOU NOW.

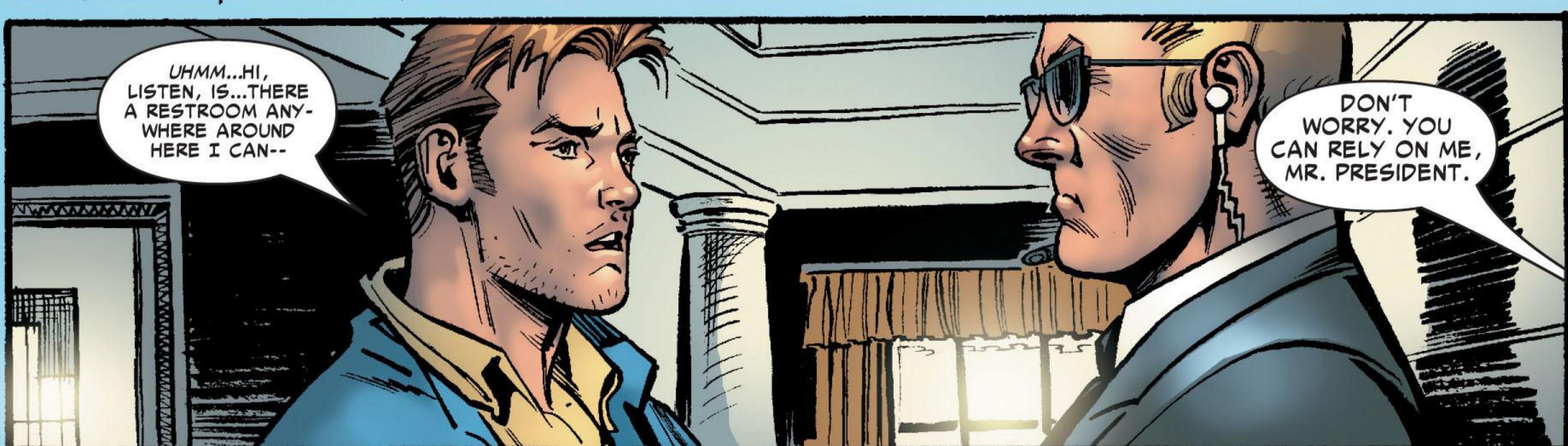
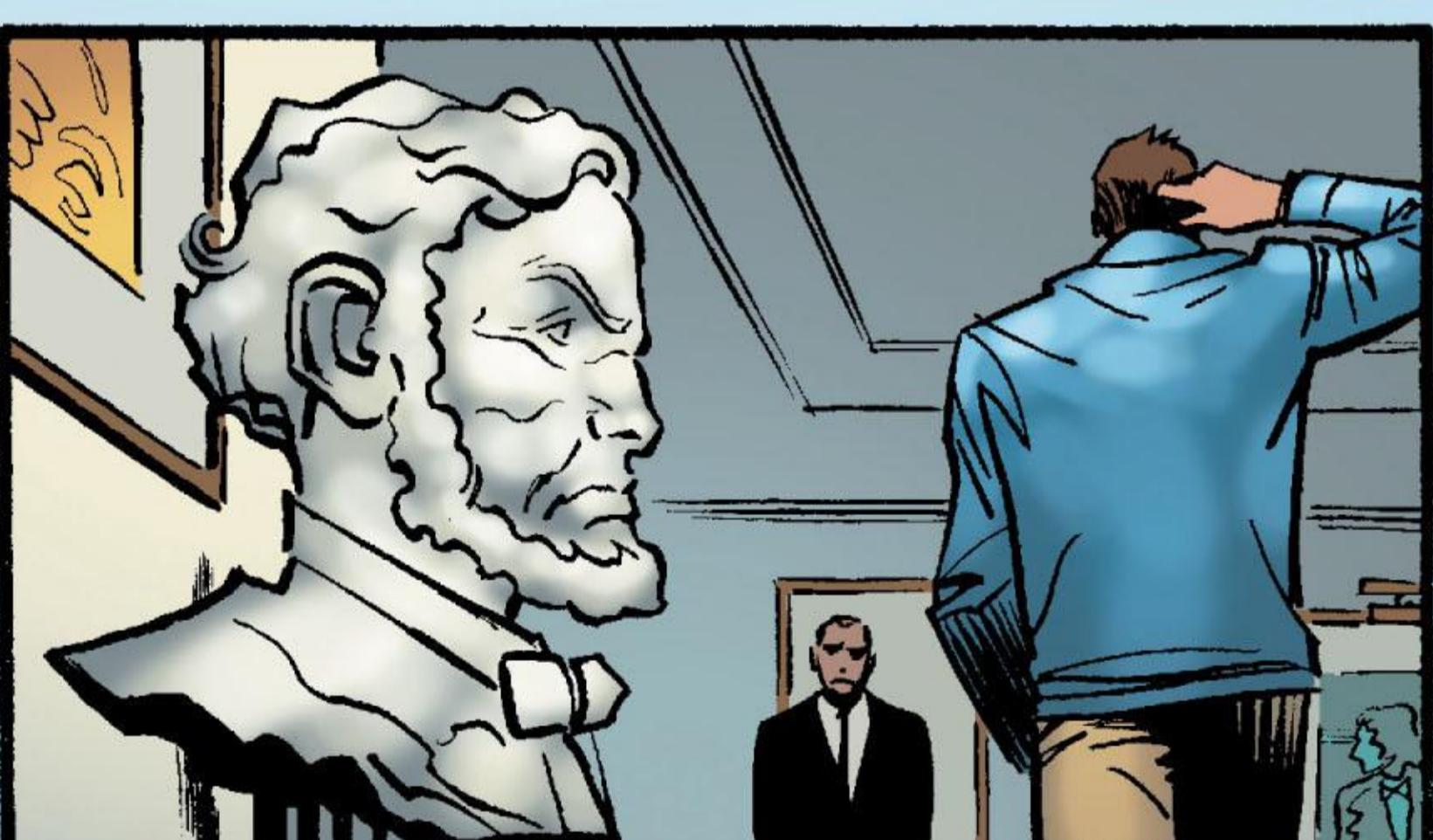
I'LL JUST BE A FEW MINUTES, PETER. WAIT HERE.

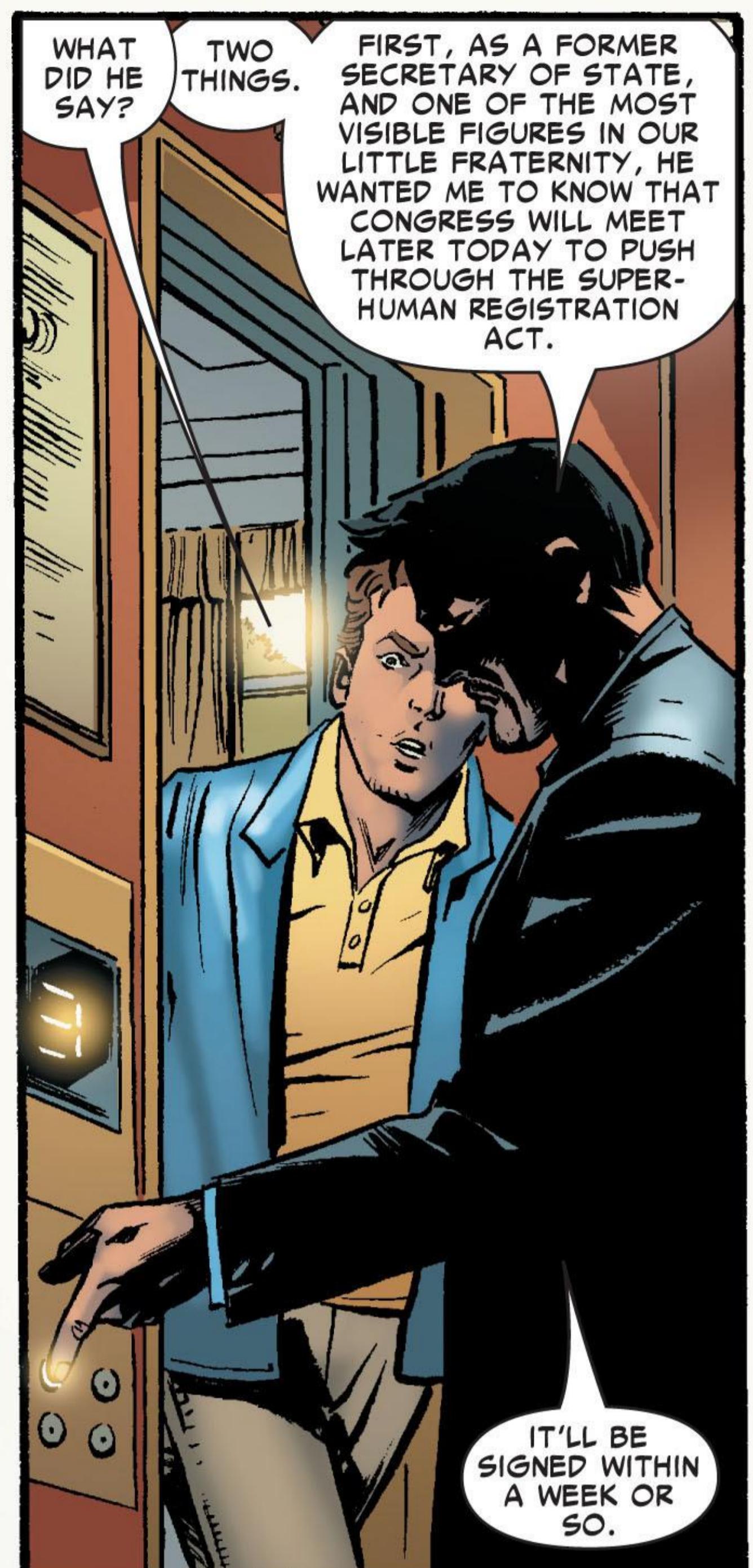
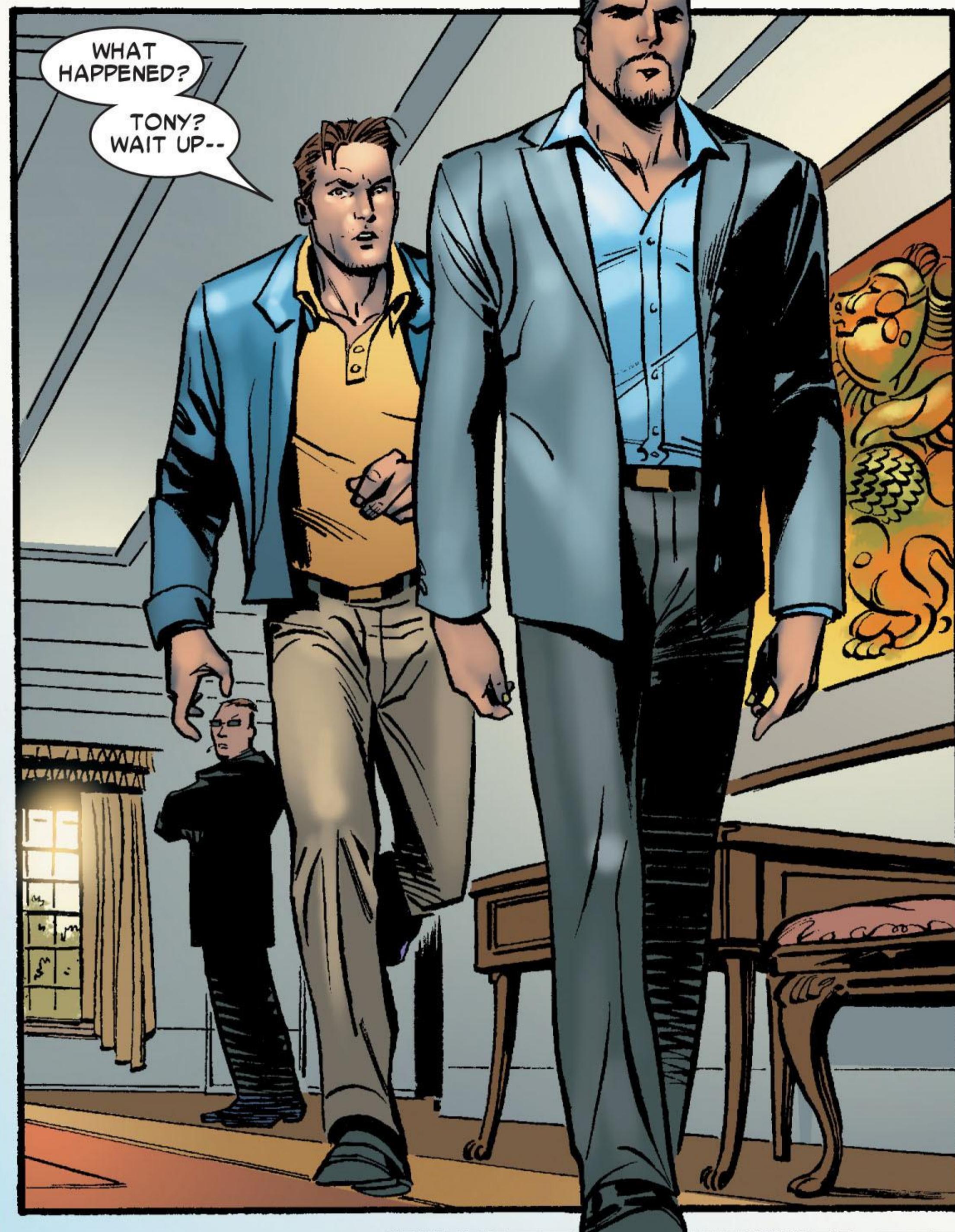
TRY NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING BREAKABLE.

YESSIR.

UHMM...HI,
LISTEN, IS...THERE
A RESTROOM ANY-
WHERE AROUND
HERE I CAN--

DON'T WORRY. YOU
CAN RELY ON ME,
MR. PRESIDENT.





HE ASKED ME,
STRAIGHT-UP, IF I
WAS BACK TO BEING
IRON MAN.

AND
YOU--

I TOLD
HIM YES,
PETER.

YOU
WHAT?

THE
PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED
STATES ASKED
ME A QUESTION,
PETER.

I TOLD
HIM THE
TRUTH.

I TOLD
HIM I WAS
IRON MAN.

BUT THAT'S
NOT THE WORST
OF IT, PETER. NOT
TODAY. NOT BY A
LONG SHOT.

NOT FOR
ME--

--AND
NOT FOR
YOU.

BUT...I HAD
NOTHING TO
DO WITH WHAT
HAPPENED AT
STAMFORD.

DOESN'T
MATTER.

THE WORLD
WHERE THAT MADE A
DIFFERENCE JUST ENDED.
THE RULES HAVE CHANGED,
AND ONCE THE PRESIDENT
SIGNS THAT ACT, THOSE
RULES BECOME LAW.

HERE'S HOW
IT'S GOING TO
WORK FROM THIS
DAY ON, PETER:

"EVERYBODY--EVERYBODY--IN A MASK IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE IT OFF, REVEAL HIMSELF, AND REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT."

"GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS?"

"YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, PETER--"

--RIGHT NOW, IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT, FOR AS LONG AS WE REMAIN ANONYMOUS--

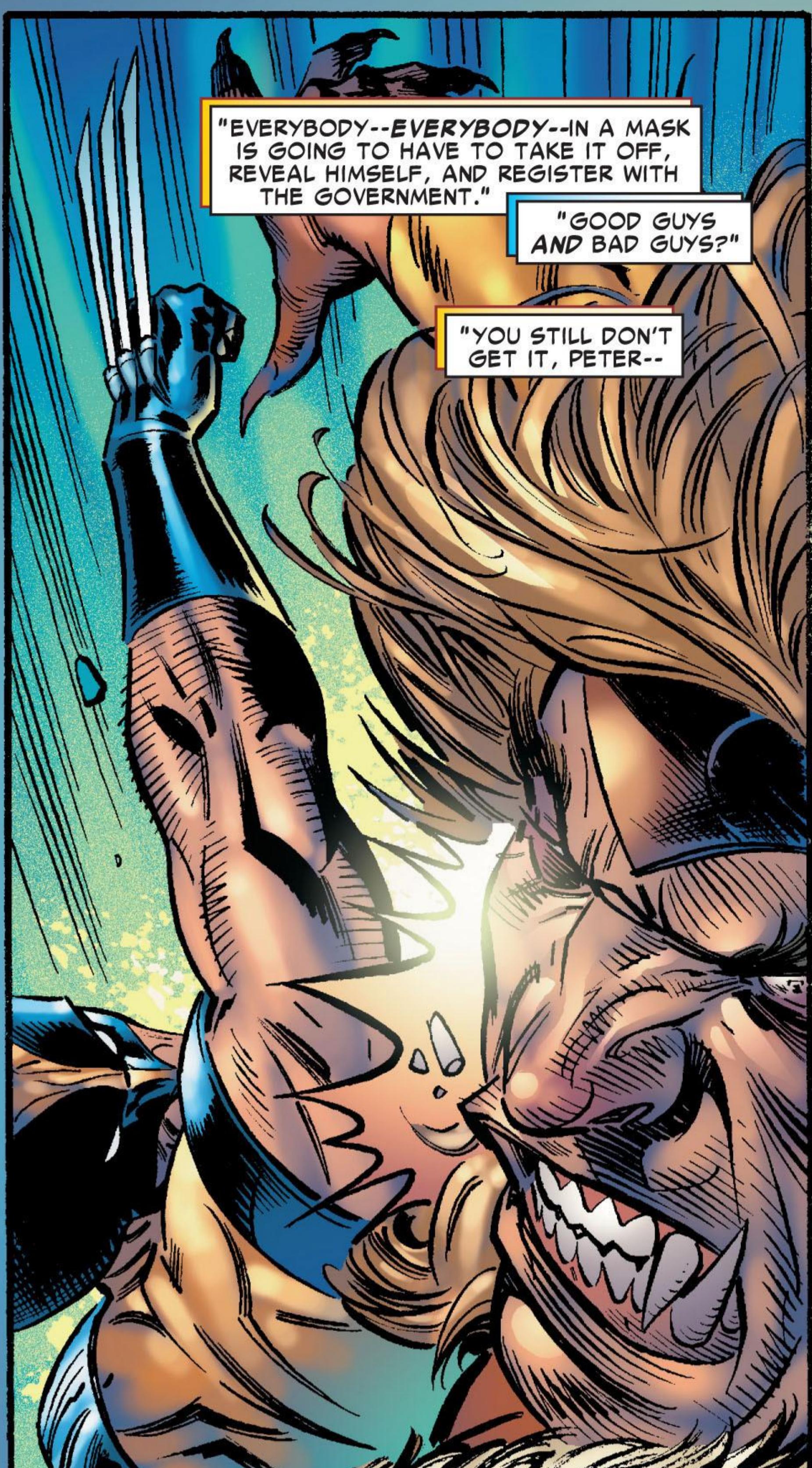
--WE'RE ALL BAD GUYS.

"THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COMPLY WILL BE HUNTED DOWN AND ARRESTED... ALONG WITH ANYONE WHO AIDED OR ABETTED THEM IN KEEPING THEIR IDENTITIES SECRET."

"THEIR ASSETS WILL BE FROZEN, THEIR HOMES SEIZED."

"AND FINALLY, THEY WILL BE JAILED. IMPRISONED."

"SOME, POTENTIALLY, FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME."



THIS IS GOING TO SPLIT THE POWERED COMMUNITY RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, PETER. AND I HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.

I STAND WITH YOU, TONY. I TOLD YOU THAT. I MADE A PROMISE. I DON'T DO THAT SORT OF THING LIGHTLY.

I KNOW.

PETER, I HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING THE OTHER POWERS REGISTER. IF I DON'T, SOMEONE ELSE WORSE WILL. AND FRANKLY... I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT THIS POINT.

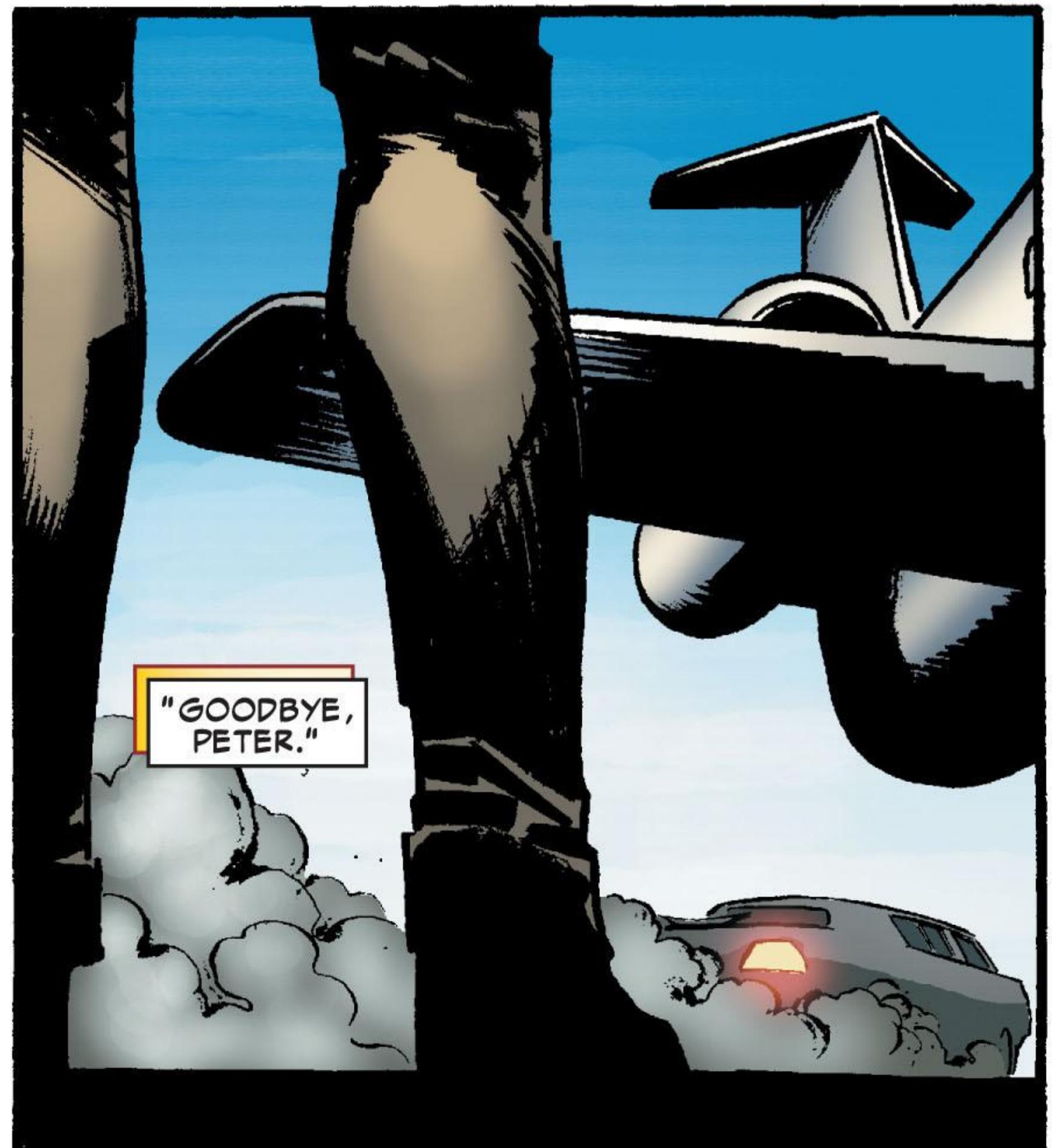
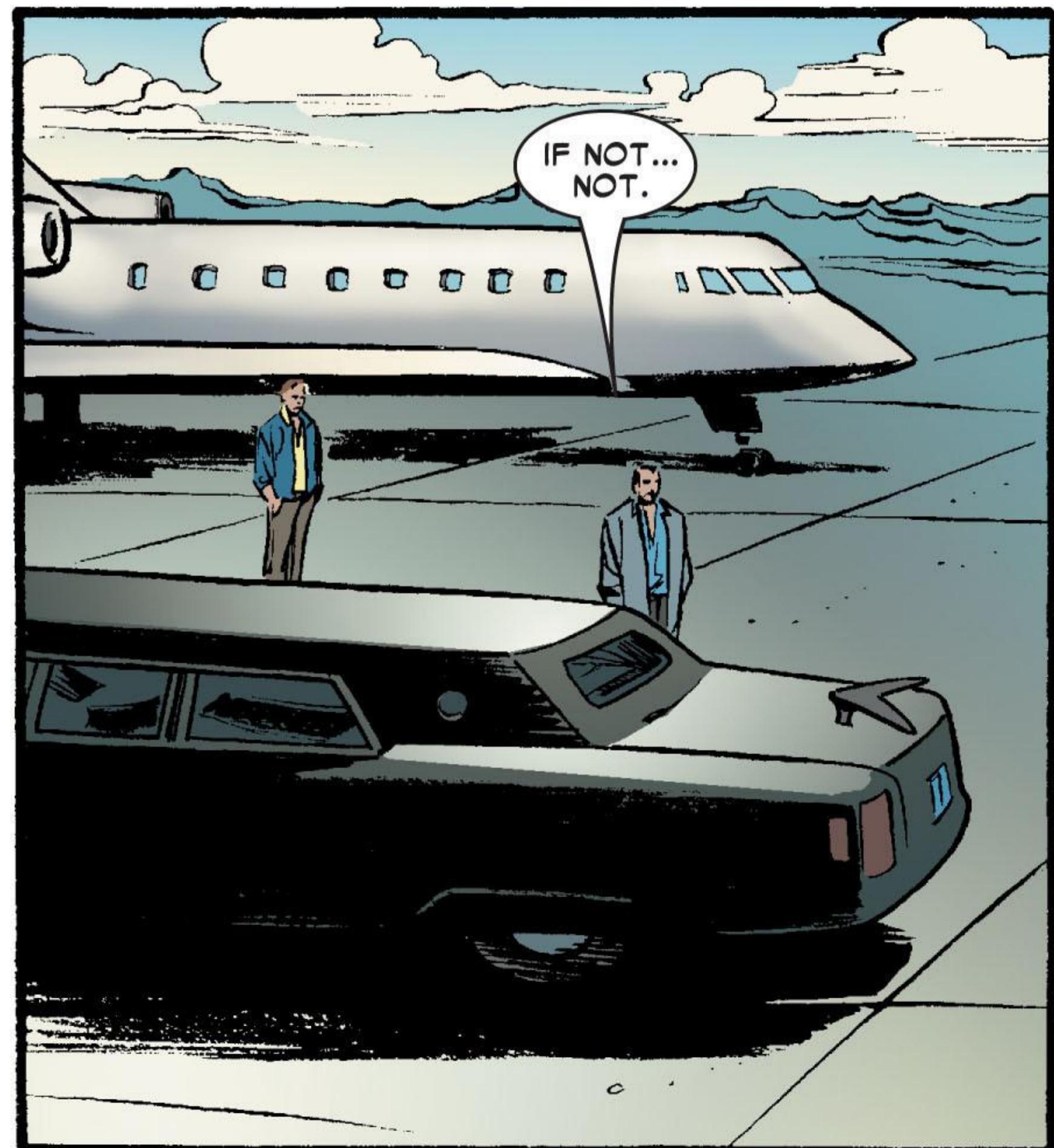
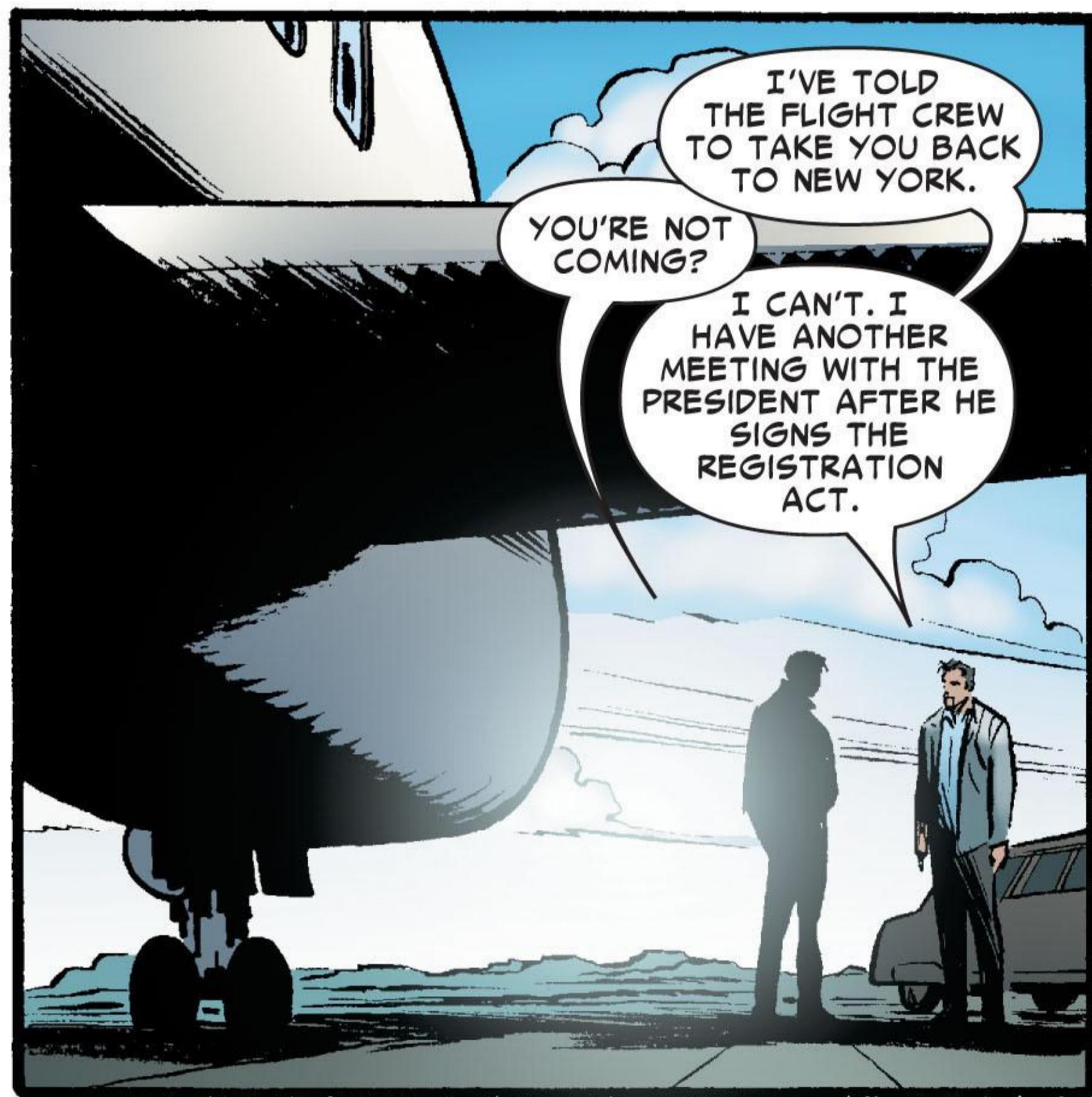
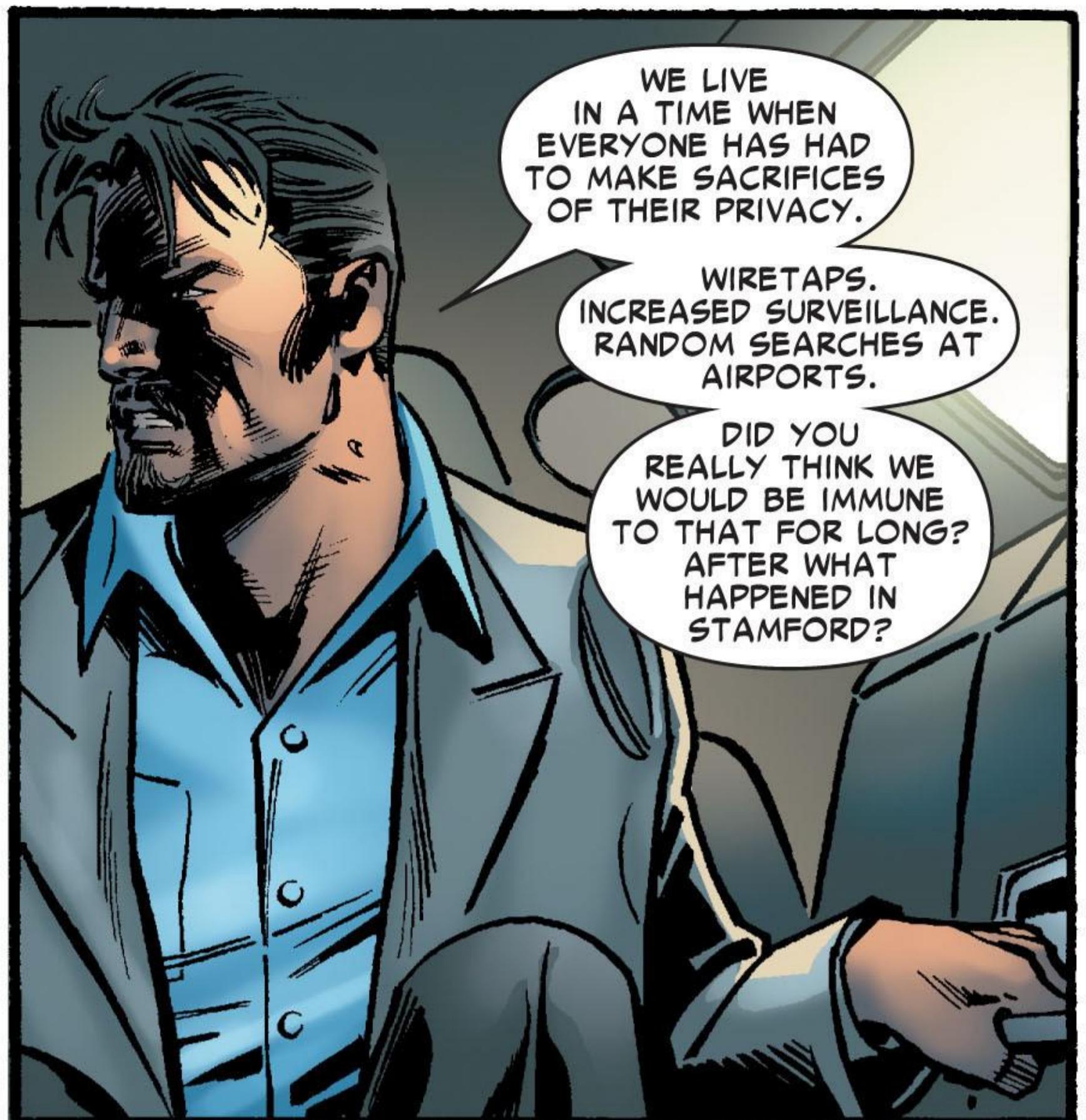
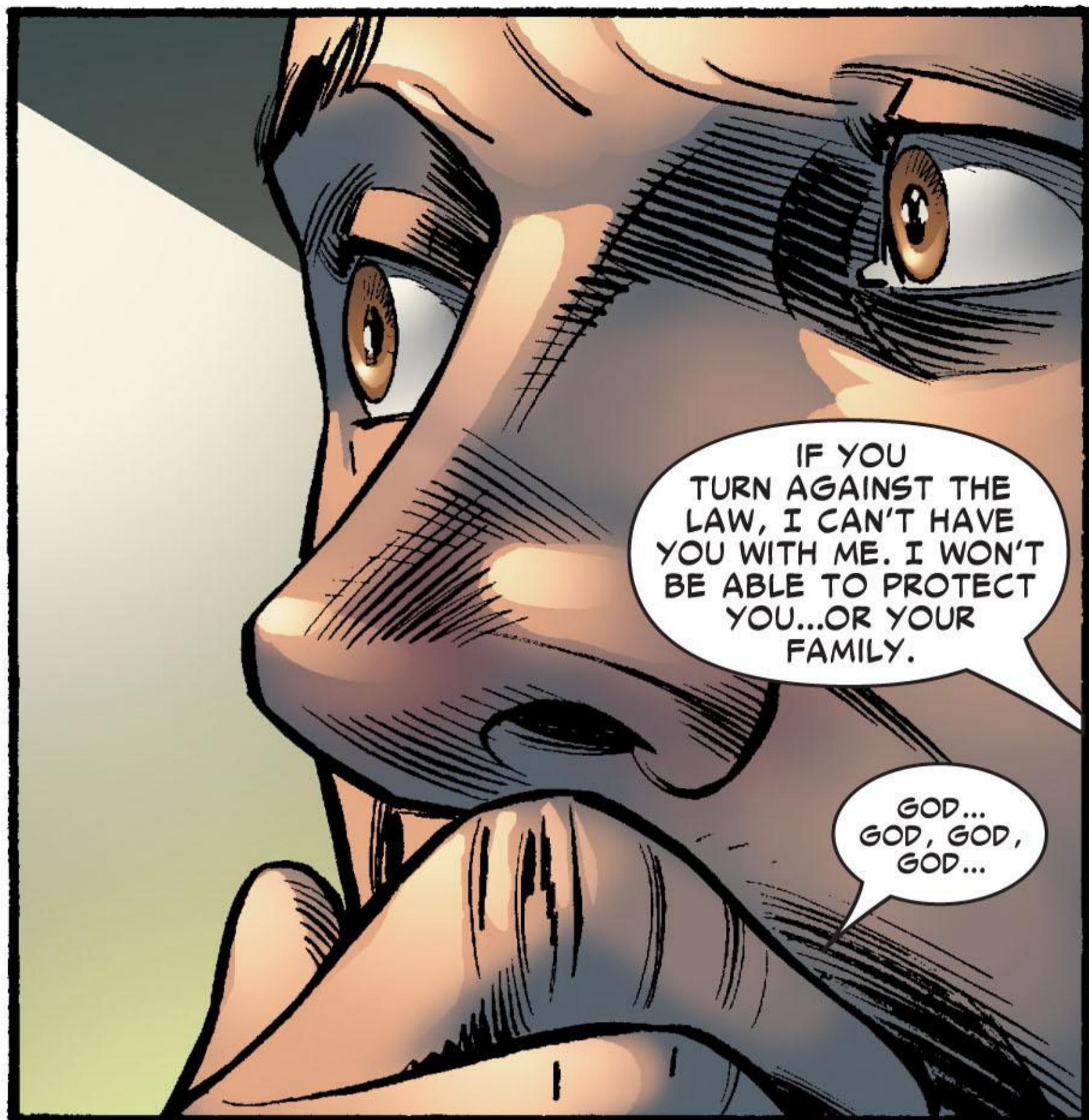
I WANT YOU AT MY SIDE, PETER. BUT I NEED YOU AS BOTH PETER...AND SPIDER-MAN.

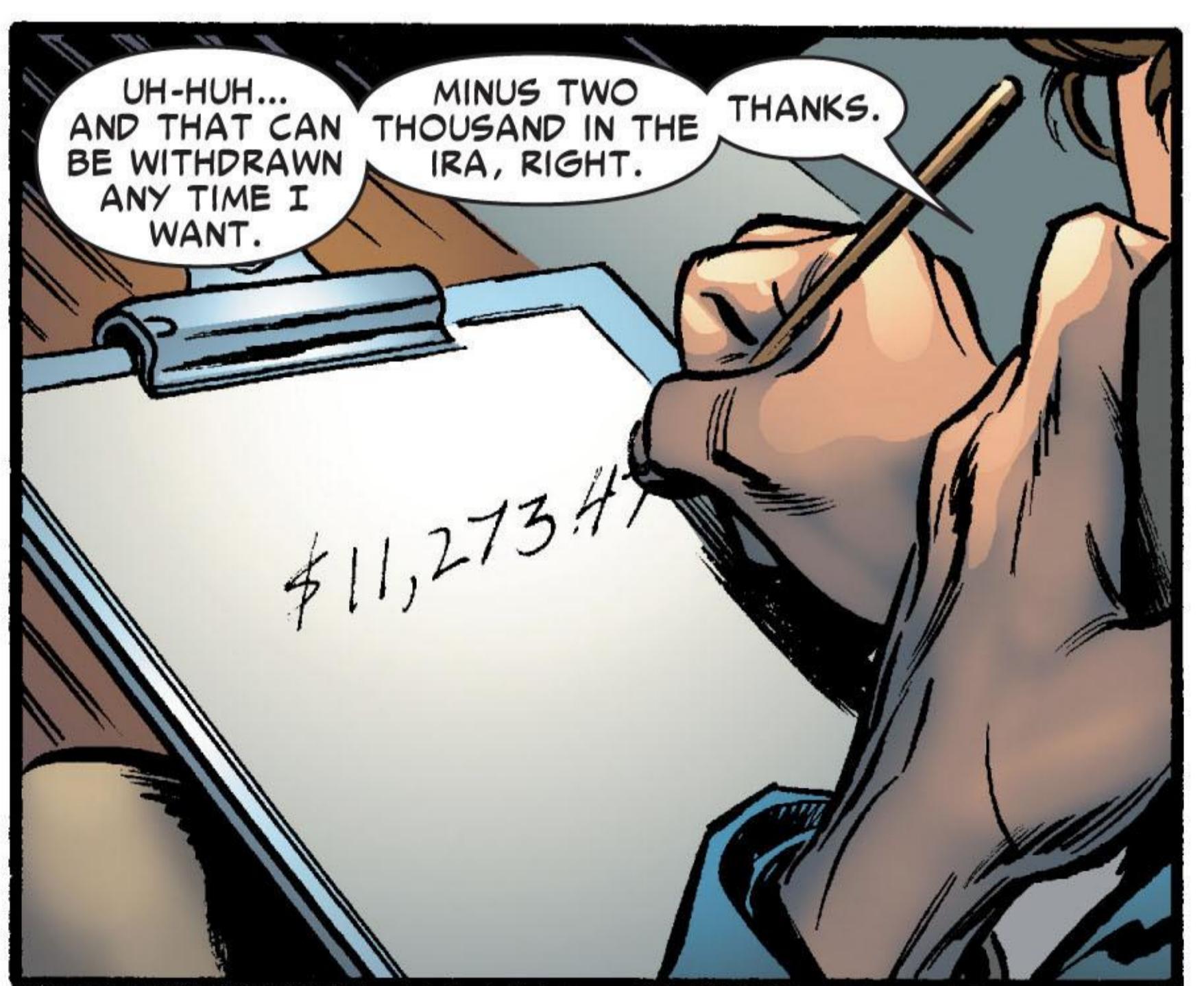
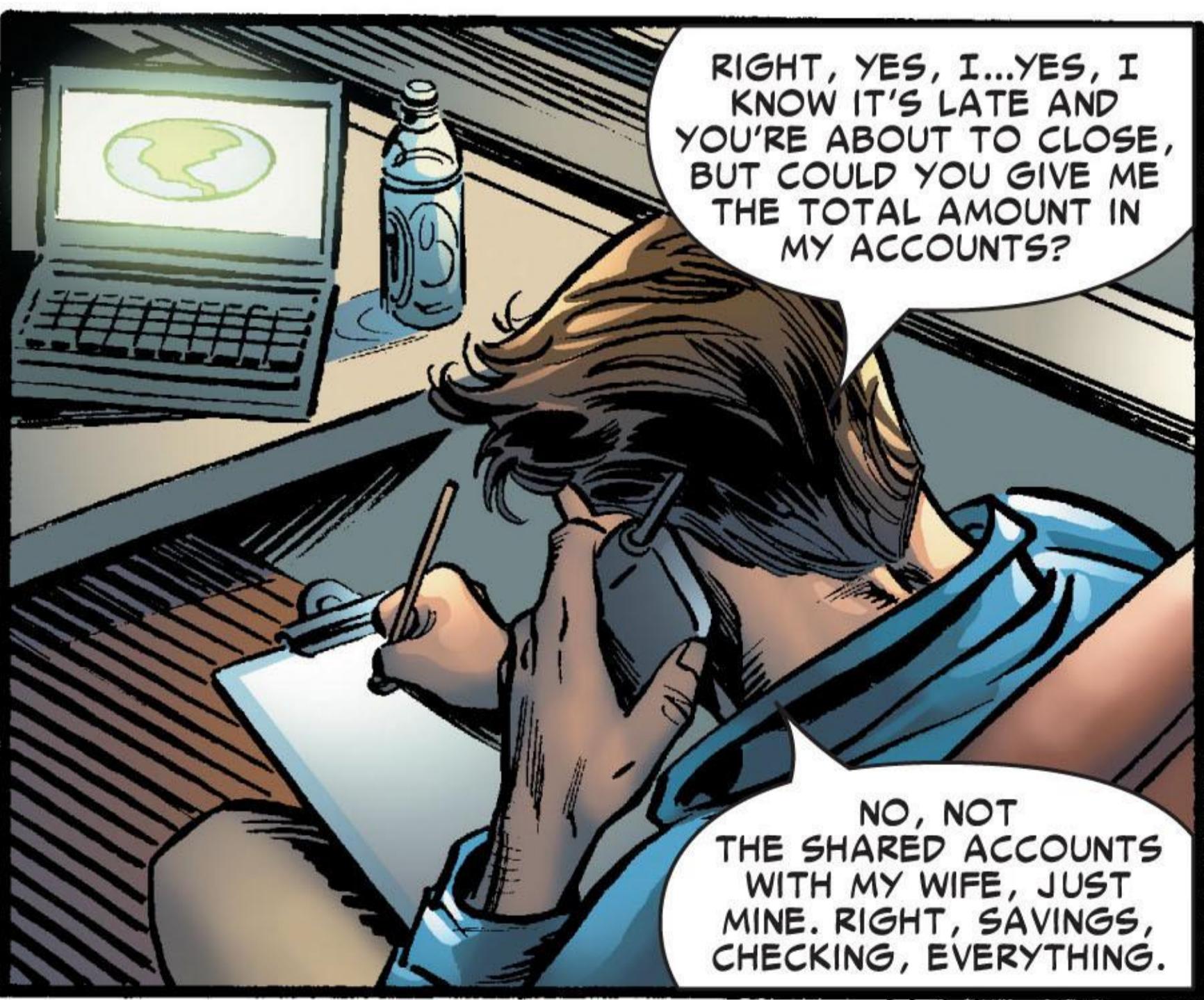
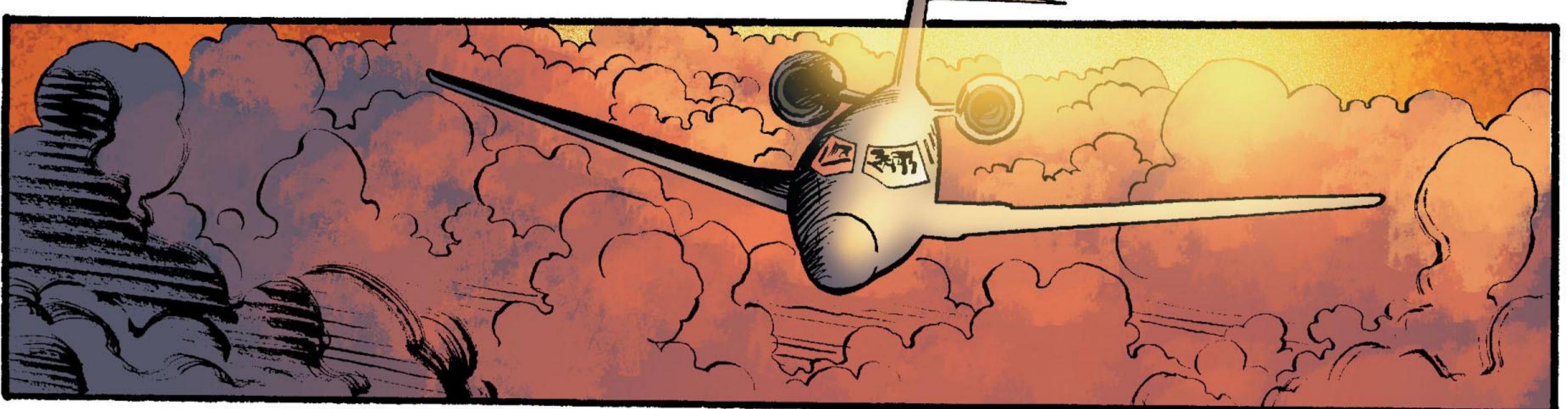
OPENLY.

I CAN'T...DON'T ASK THAT OF ME. ANYTHING ELSE, BUT NOT THAT.

IT'S NOT ME ASKING, PETER. IF YOU DON'T UNMASK, YOU'LL BE JUST LIKE THE OTHER POWERS WHO DEFY THE LAW.

WANTED CRIMINALS. HUNTED. JAILED. NOT JUST YOU, BUT MJ AND YOUR AUNT, BECAUSE THEY'D BE CONSIDERED ACCOMPLICES.





RIGHT NOW...

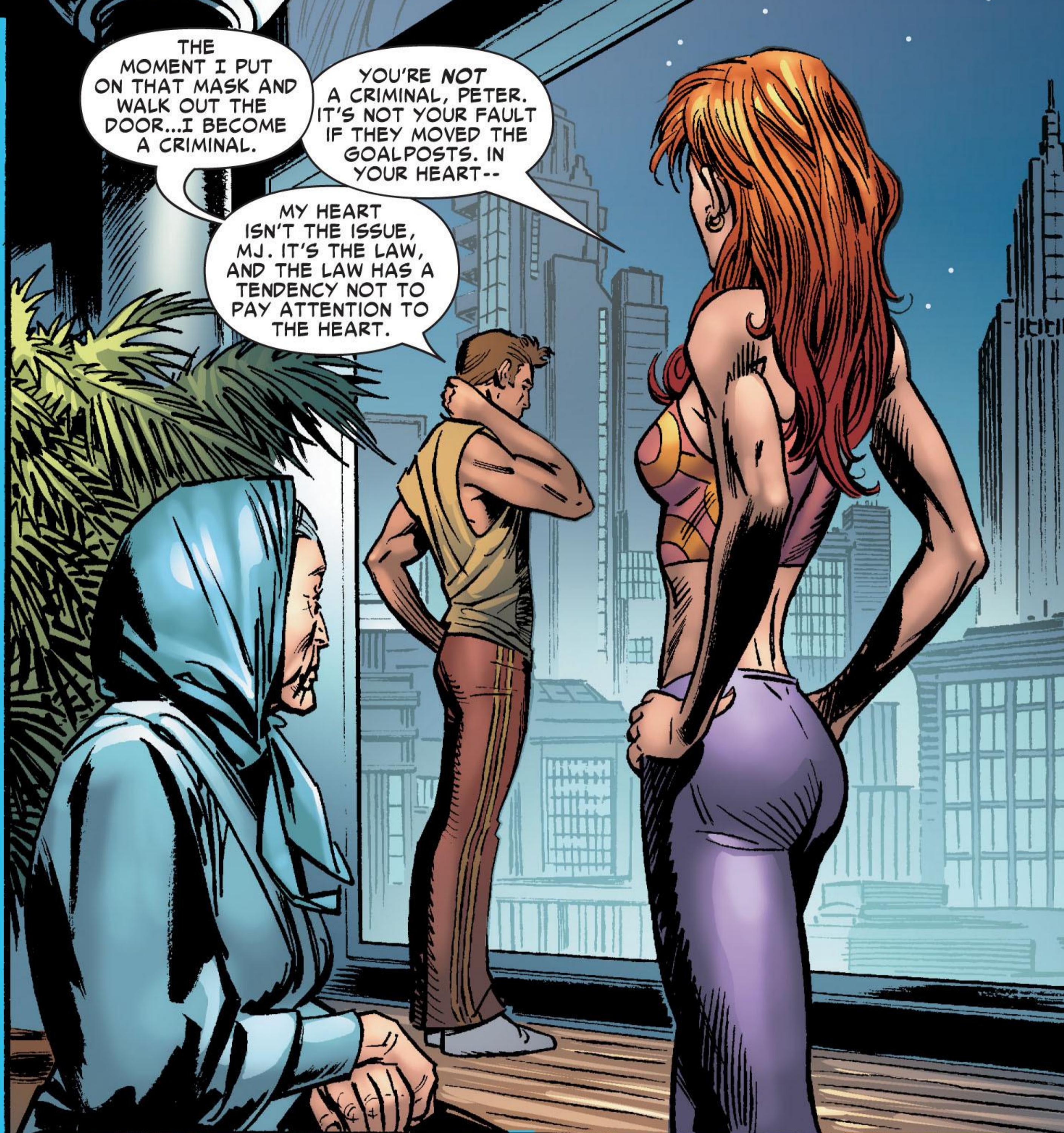
BECUSE,
DEPENDING ON
WHAT WE DO HERE
IN THE NEXT FEW
HOURS--

--IN A
FEW DAYS, THERE
MAY NOT BE A SPIDER-
MAN ANYMORE.

THE
MOMENT I PUT
ON THAT MASK AND
WALK OUT THE
DOOR...I BECOME
A CRIMINAL.

YOU'RE NOT
A CRIMINAL, PETER.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT
IF THEY MOVED THE
GOALPOSTS. IN
YOUR HEART--

MY HEART
ISN'T THE ISSUE,
MJ. IT'S THE LAW,
AND THE LAW HAS A
TENDENCY NOT TO
PAY ATTENTION TO
THE HEART.



OKAY, THEN LET'S LOOK
AT OUR OPTIONS. IF YOU
GO ALONG WITH THIS...IF
YOU GO PUBLIC...DOES
THAT REALLY SOLVE THE
PROBLEM?

IS TONY
GOING TO EXPECT
YOU TO HELP HUNT
DOWN WHOEVER
DOESN'T COME OUT
OF THE CLOSET?

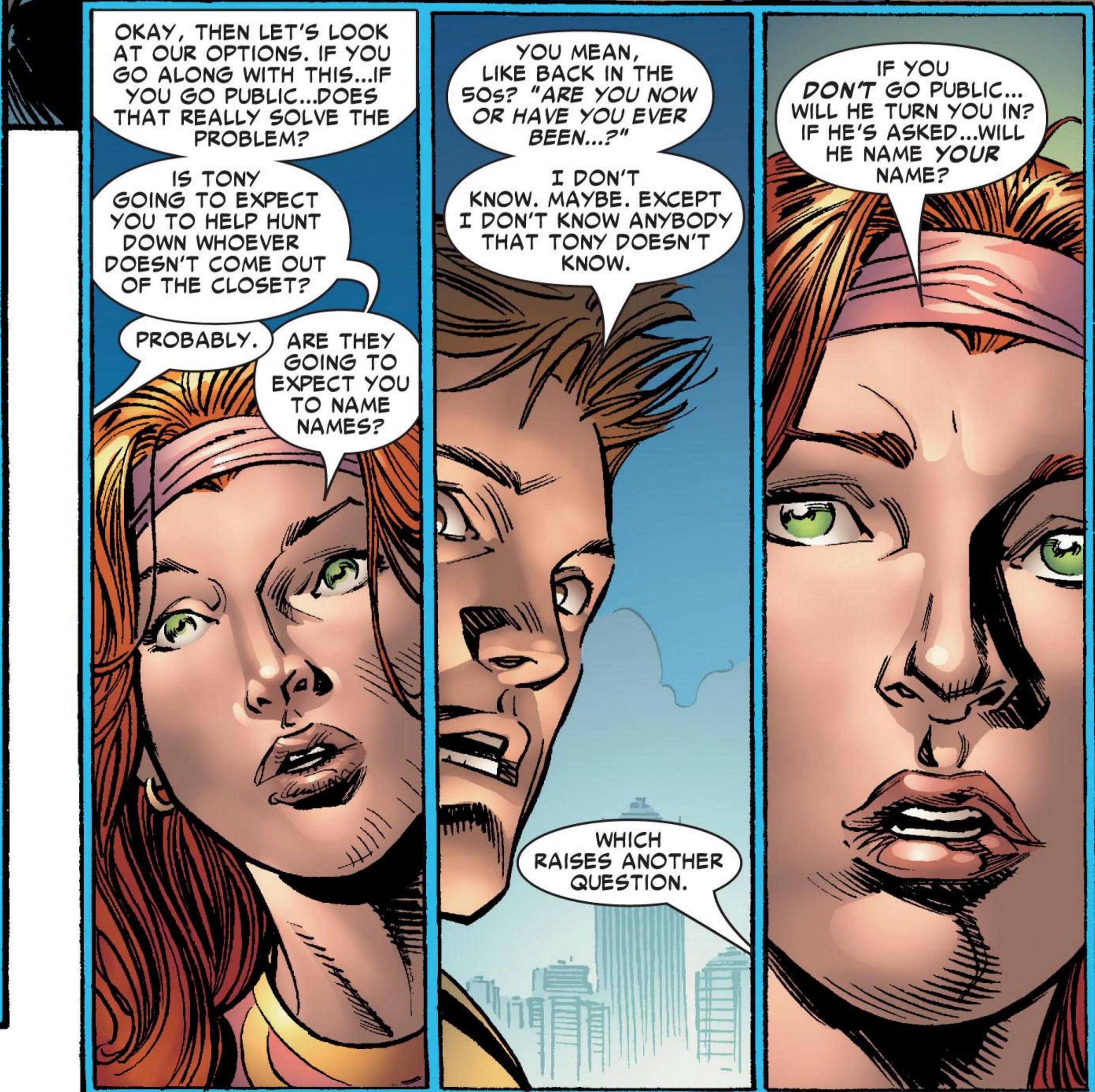
PROBABLY.
ARE THEY
GOING TO
EXPECT YOU
TO NAME
NAMES?

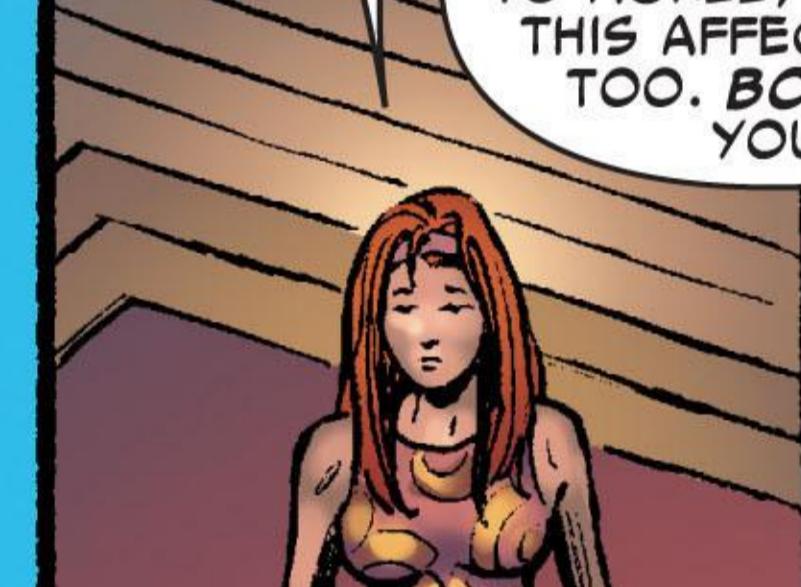
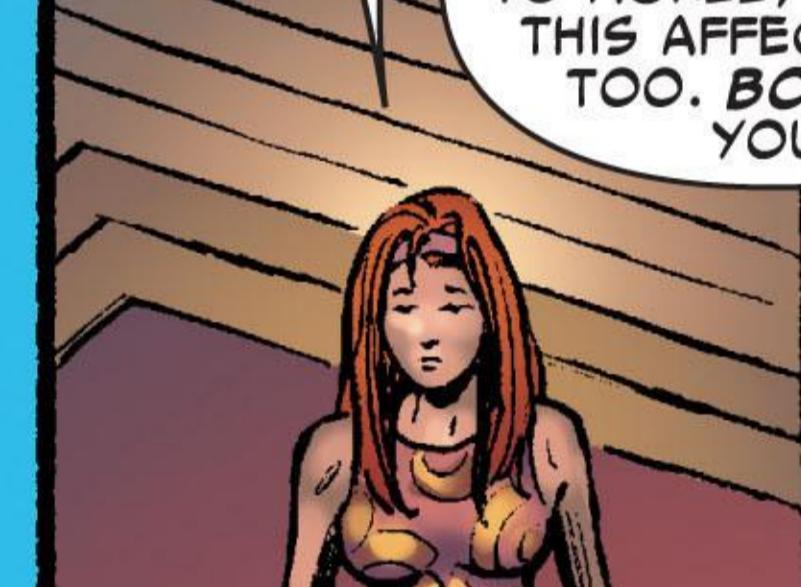
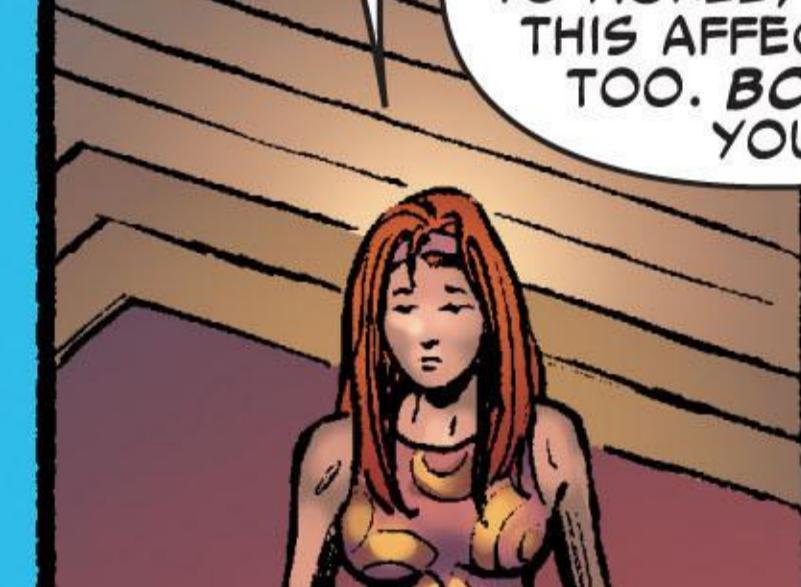
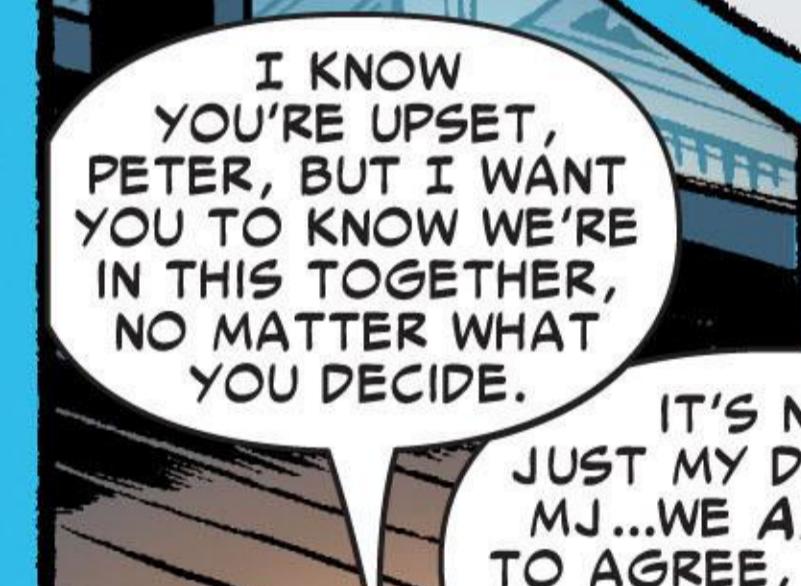
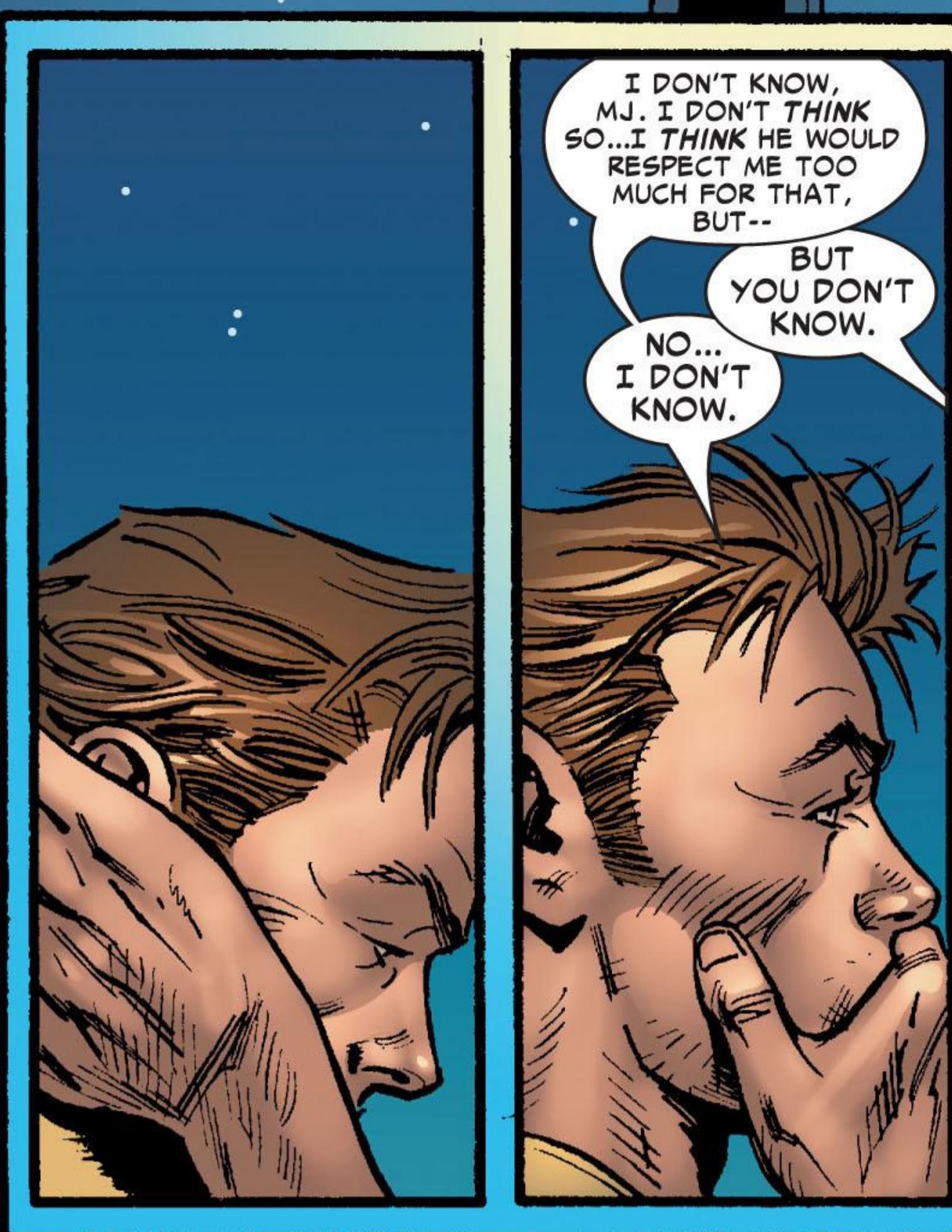
YOU MEAN,
LIKE BACK IN THE
50S? "ARE YOU NOW
OR HAVE YOU EVER
BEEN...?"

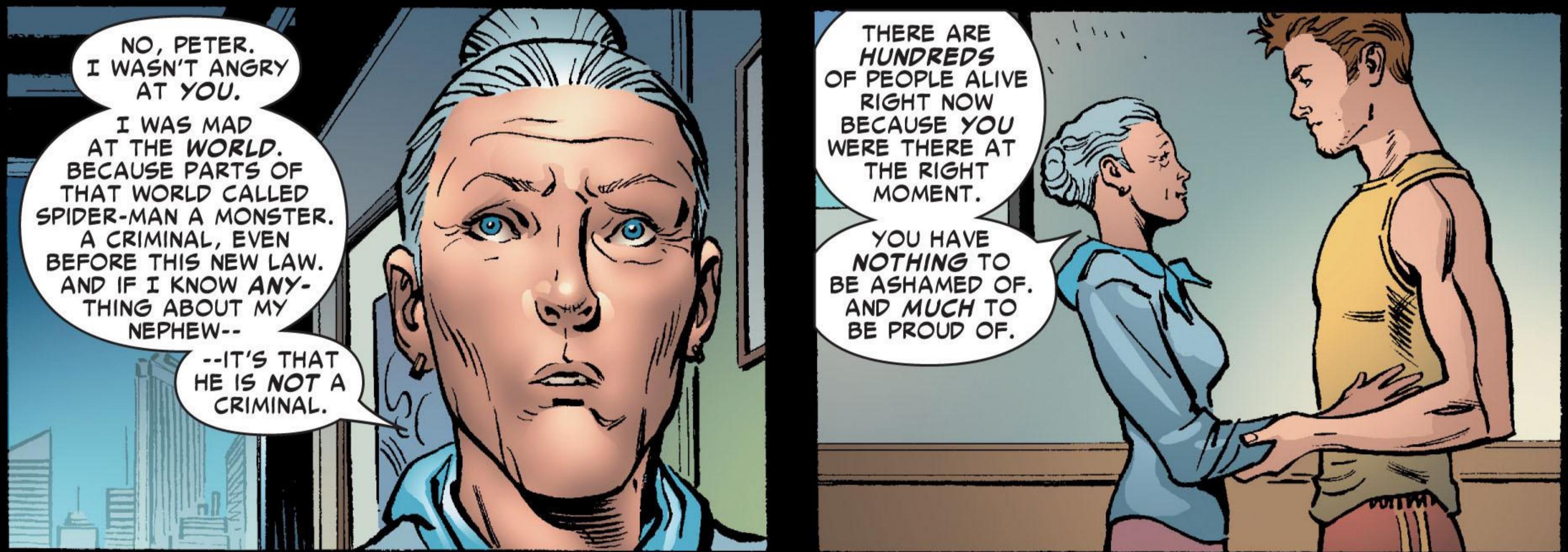
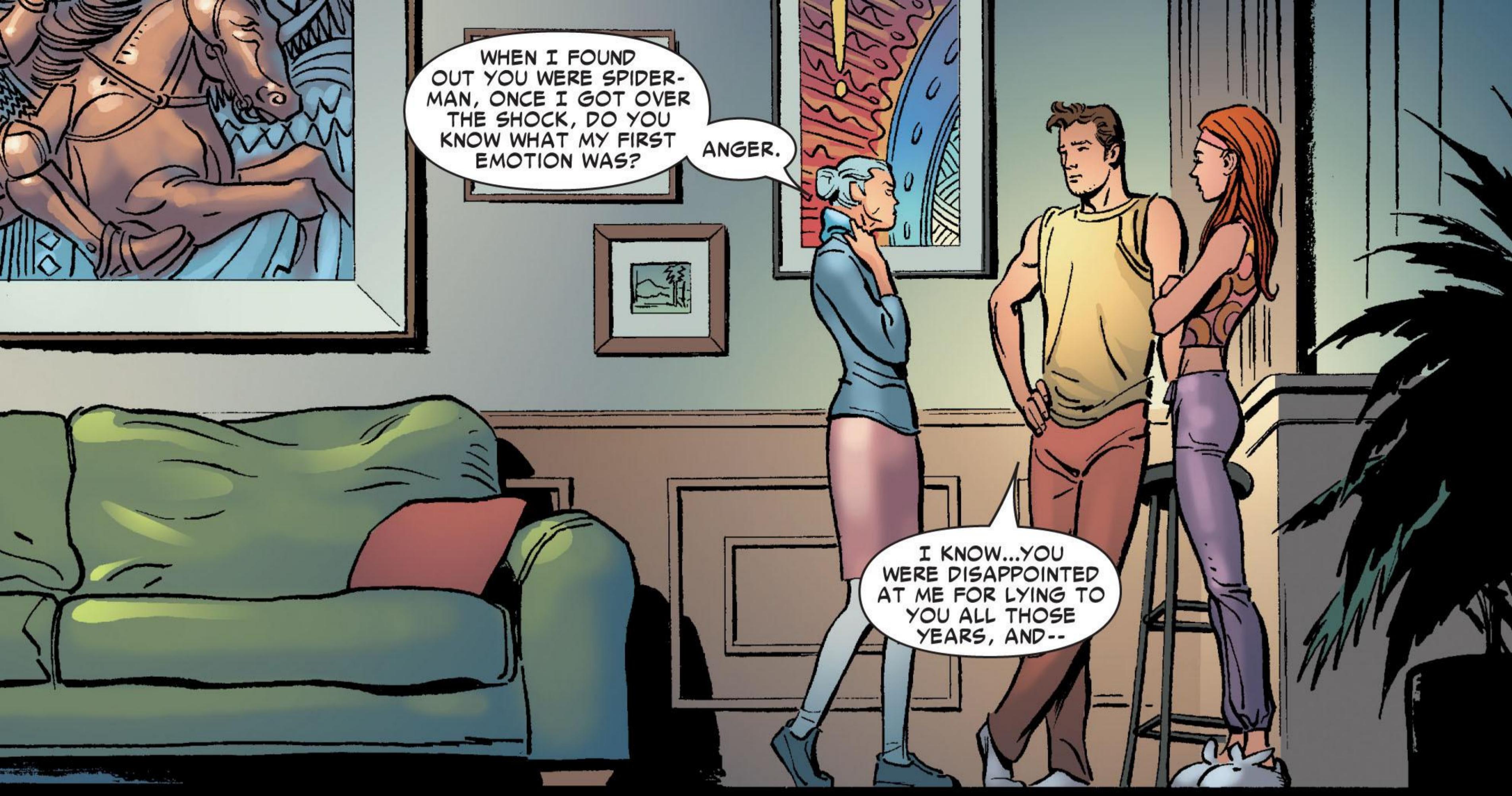
I DON'T
KNOW. MAYBE. EXCEPT
I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY
THAT TONY DOESN'T
KNOW.

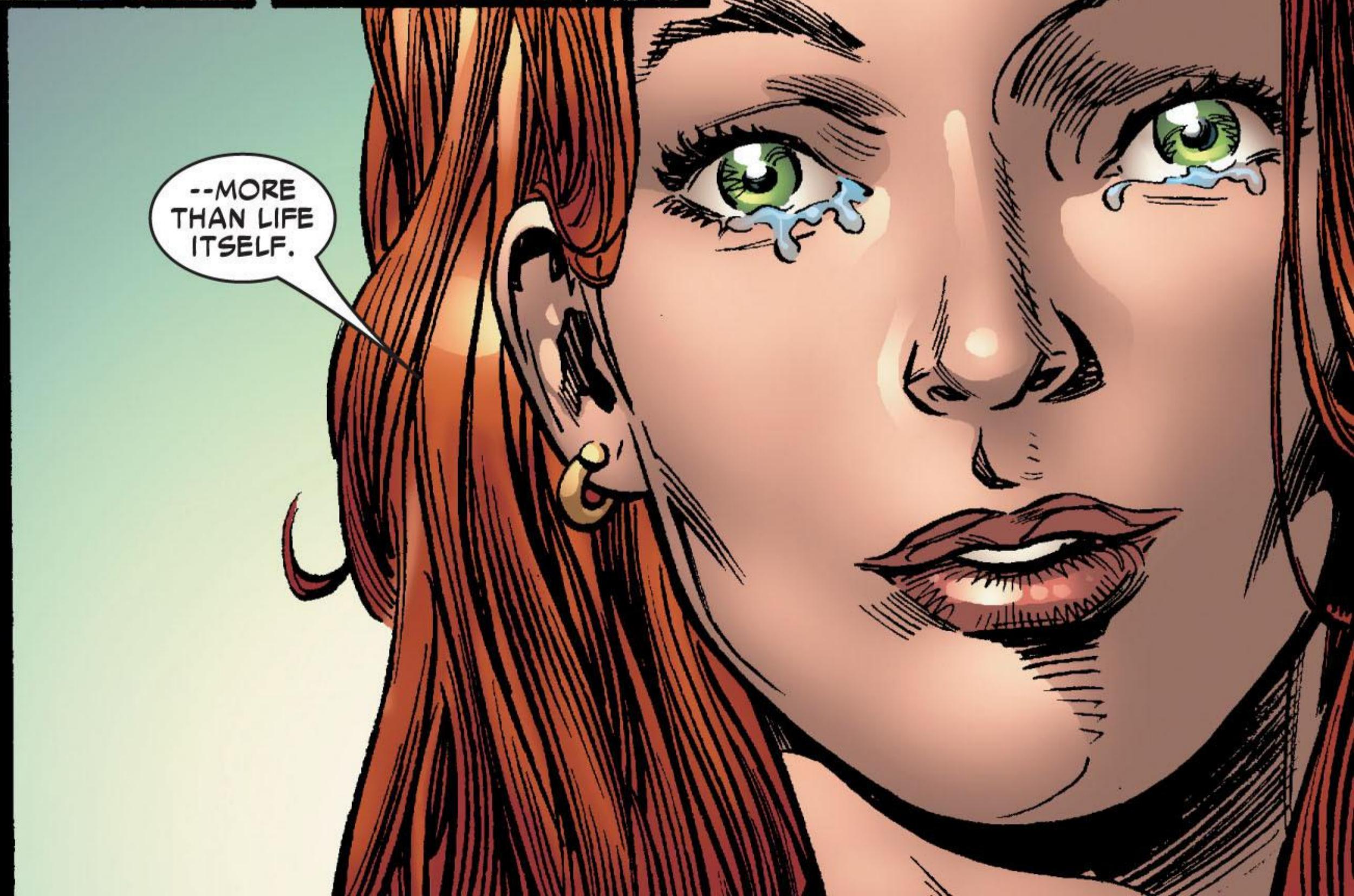
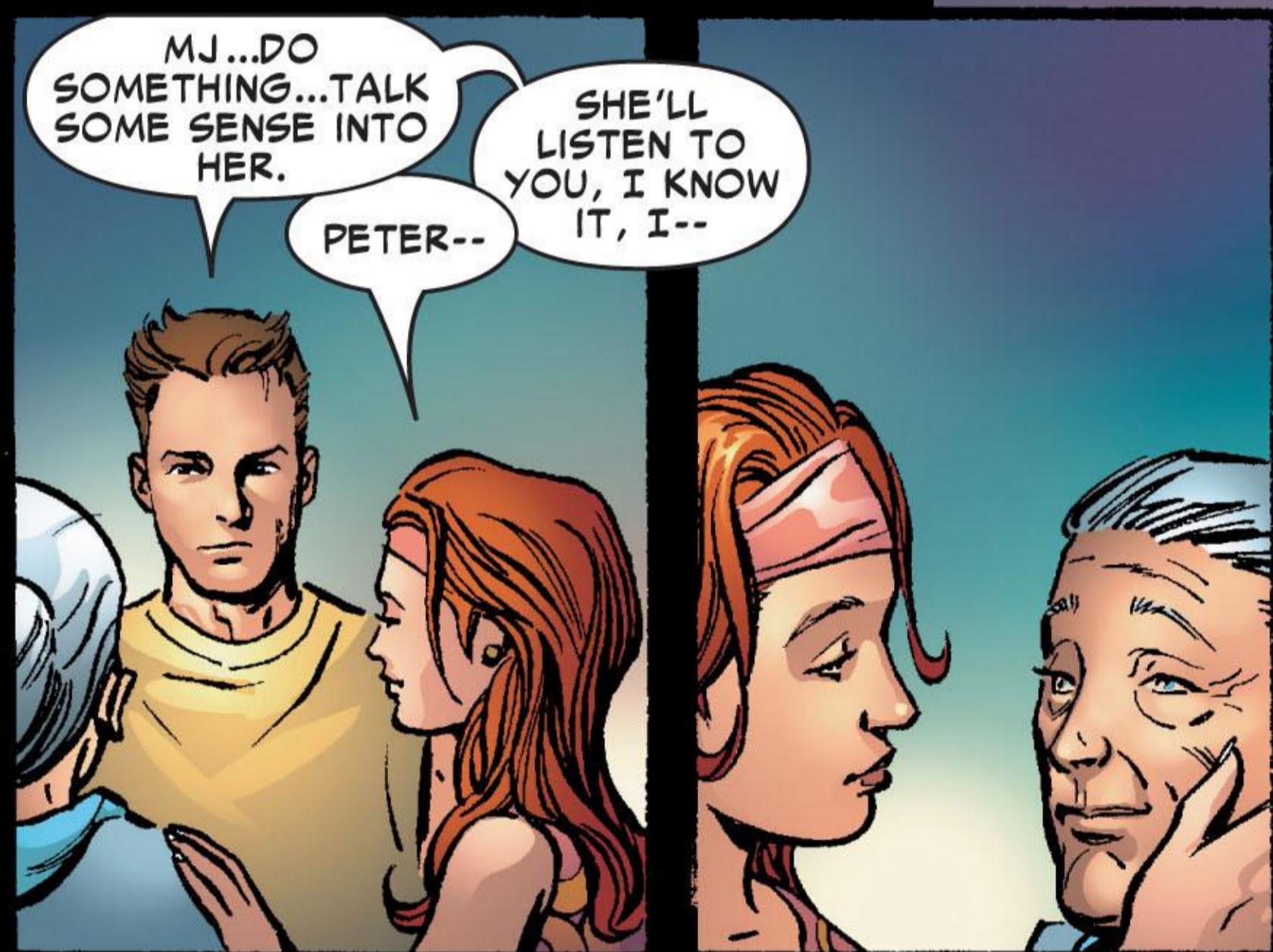
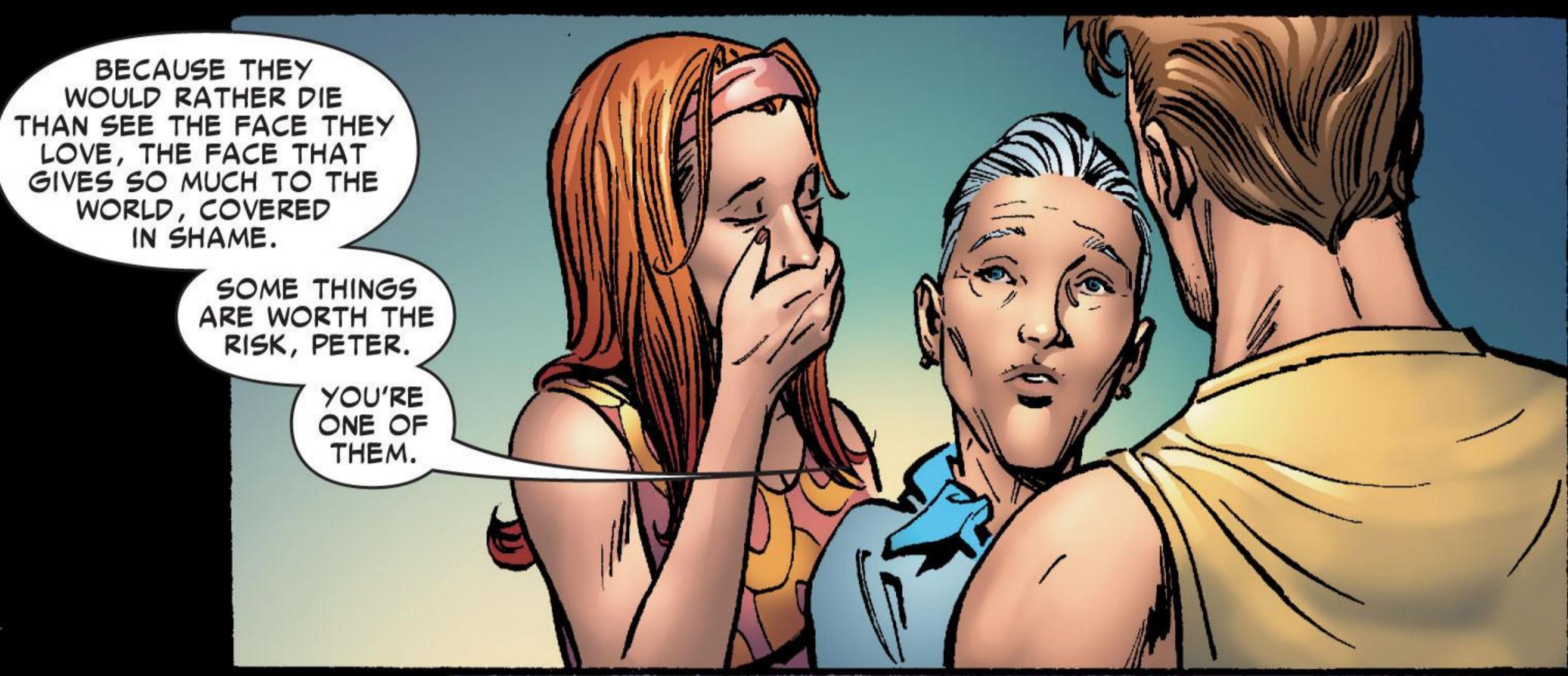
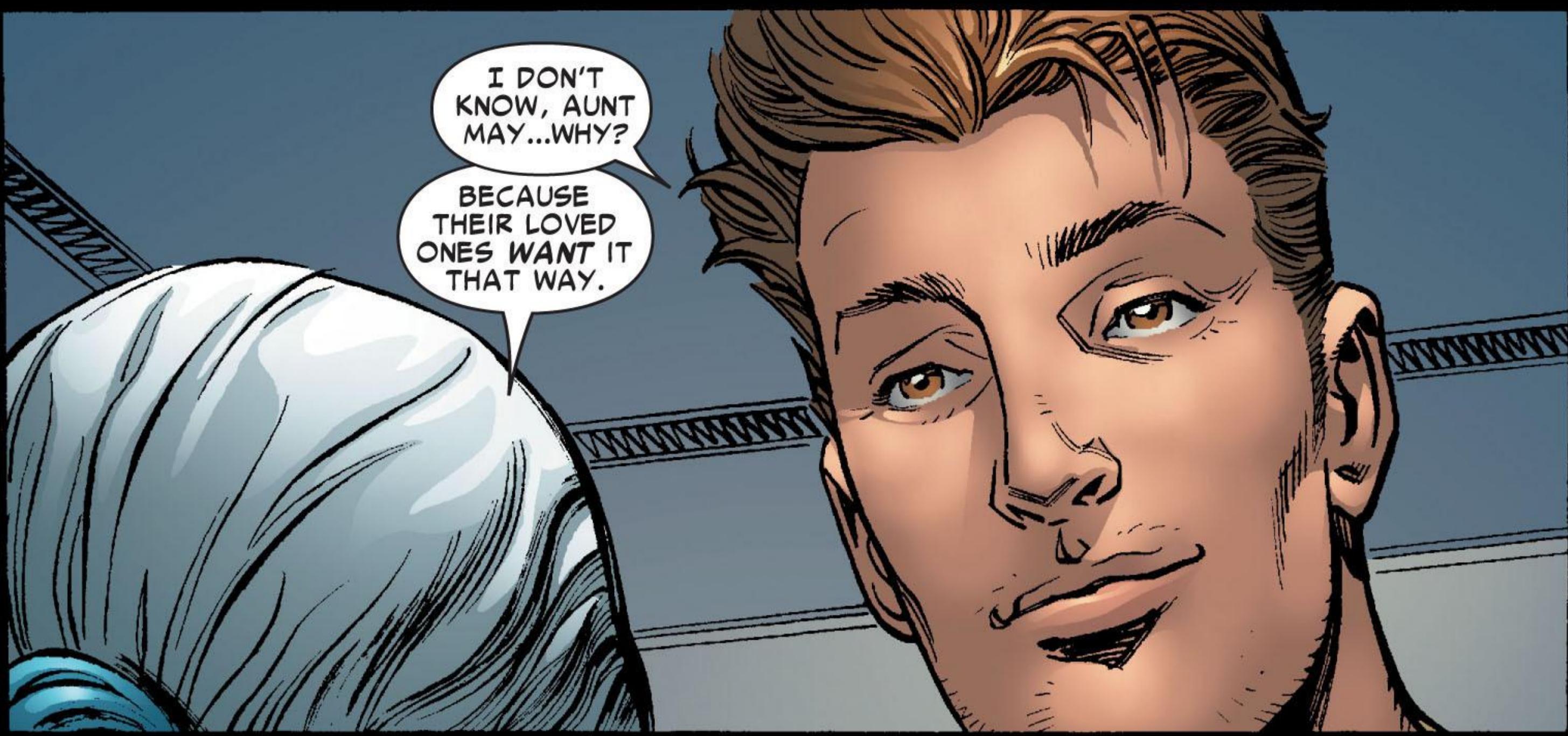
IF YOU
DON'T GO PUBLIC...
WILL HE TURN YOU IN?
IF HE'S ASKED...WILL
HE NAME YOUR
NAME?

WHICH
RAISES ANOTHER
QUESTION.



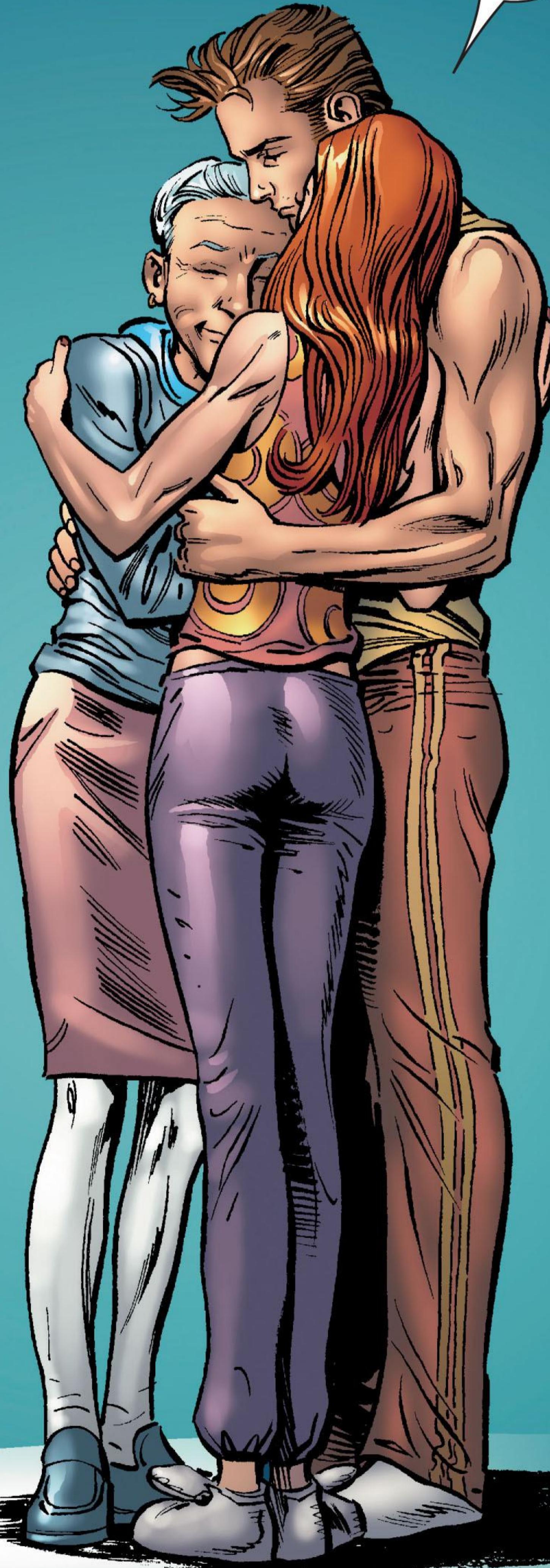








GO
GET 'EM,
TIGER.



FOUR DAYS LATER...

I used to wonder which would be harder...having no one to believe in you--

--or someone who believes in you so much that their love could burn you to the ground. Someone who knows you can give more than you think you can.

Not just love.
Ferocity.

I think I finally figured that one out. But this one--

Just over one hour until the plane leaves.

I can't do it. I can't.

I've spent so many years hiding this...I just can't do it.

I'll swing by the bank, cash in my accounts...come up with a fake name...head north, to New England or Canada.

Once things calm down, I can come back, or send for MJ and May.

That's it, then. It had to be unanimous, and I vote not to--

PETER?

I KNOW YOU HAVE THAT NICE NEW SUIT TONY MADE FOR YOU, BUT I STITCHED THIS UP FOR YOU DURING THE NIGHT.

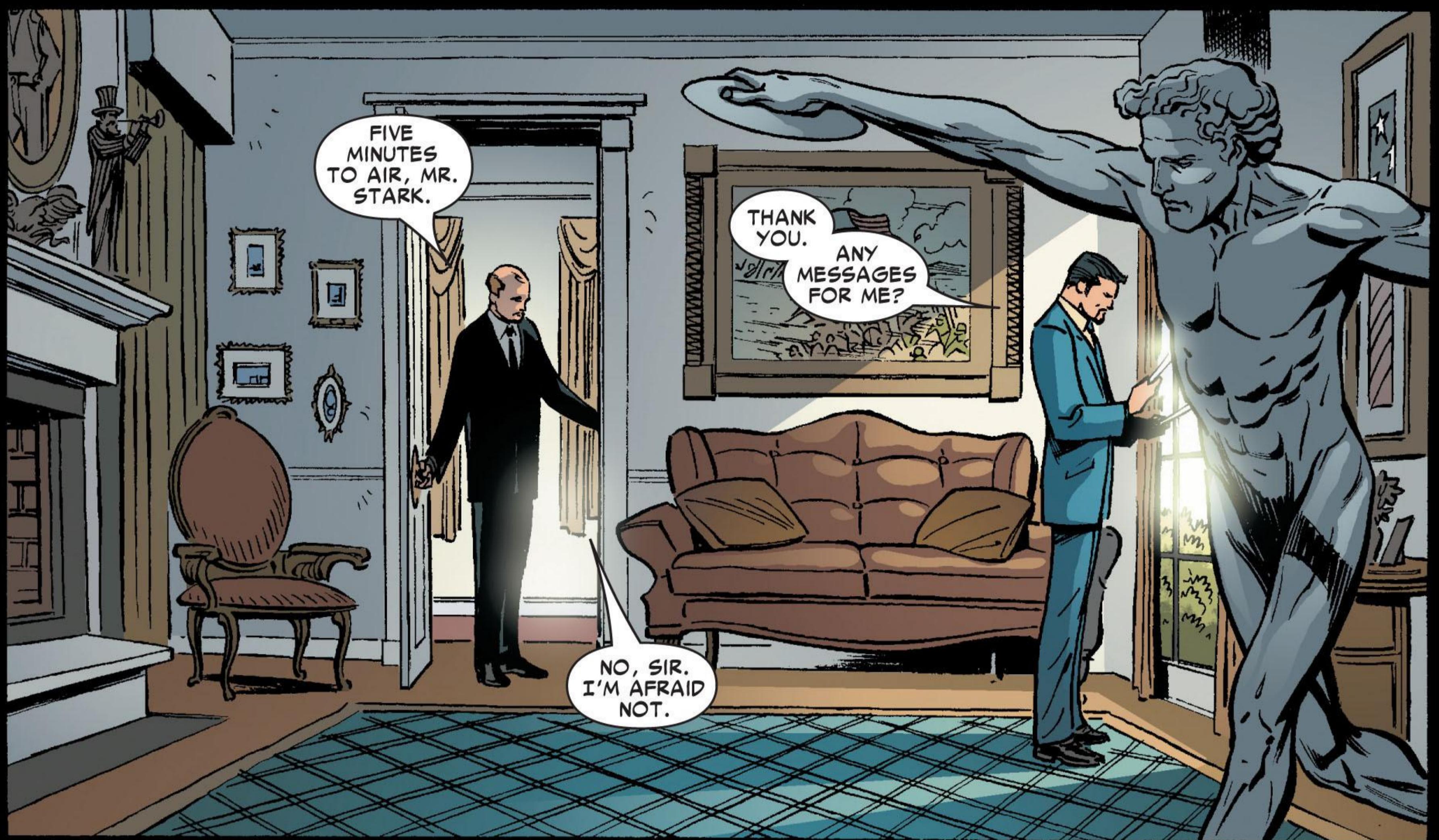
THIS WAY THEY'LL KNOW FOR SURE IT'S YOU WHEN THEY SEE YOU.

BEN, AND THEN YOU, ALWAYS SAID, "WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."

AND RESPONSIBILITY MEANS YOU DON'T RUN AWAY WHEN SOMEONE ASKS, "WHO DID THAT?"



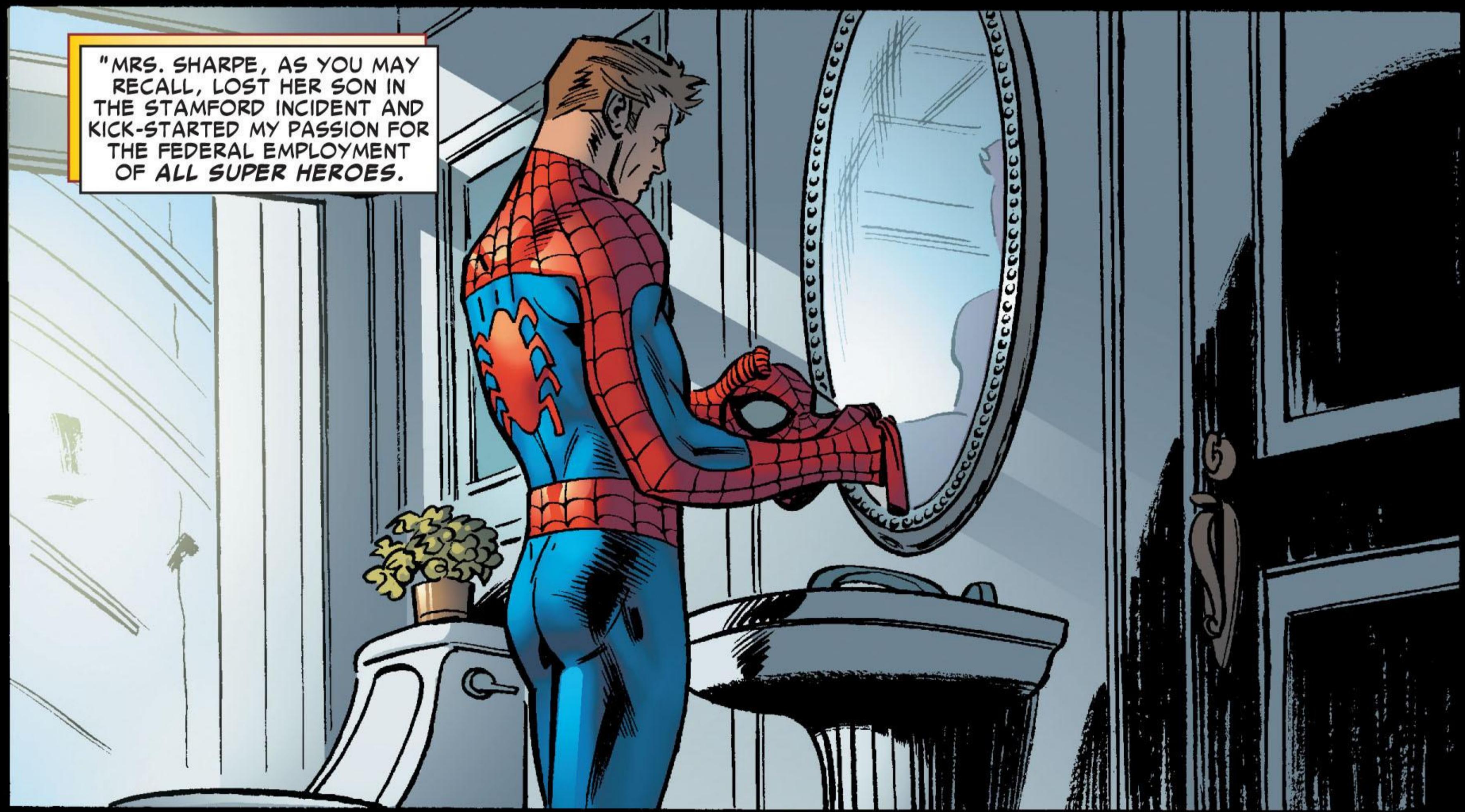
NEXT MORNING...



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'M SURE I DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ONE OF THE LEADING LIGHTS OF THE PRO-REGISTRATION MOVEMENT, MRS. MIRIAM SHARPE.



"MRS. SHARPE, AS YOU MAY RECALL, LOST HER SON IN THE STAMFORD INCIDENT AND KICK-STARTED MY PASSION FOR THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OF ALL SUPER HEROES."



"LIKEWISE, I'M PRETTY SURE SPIDER-MAN NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION."





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