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BRAND NEW DAY

the AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

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GALE
JIMENEZ
LANNING
COX

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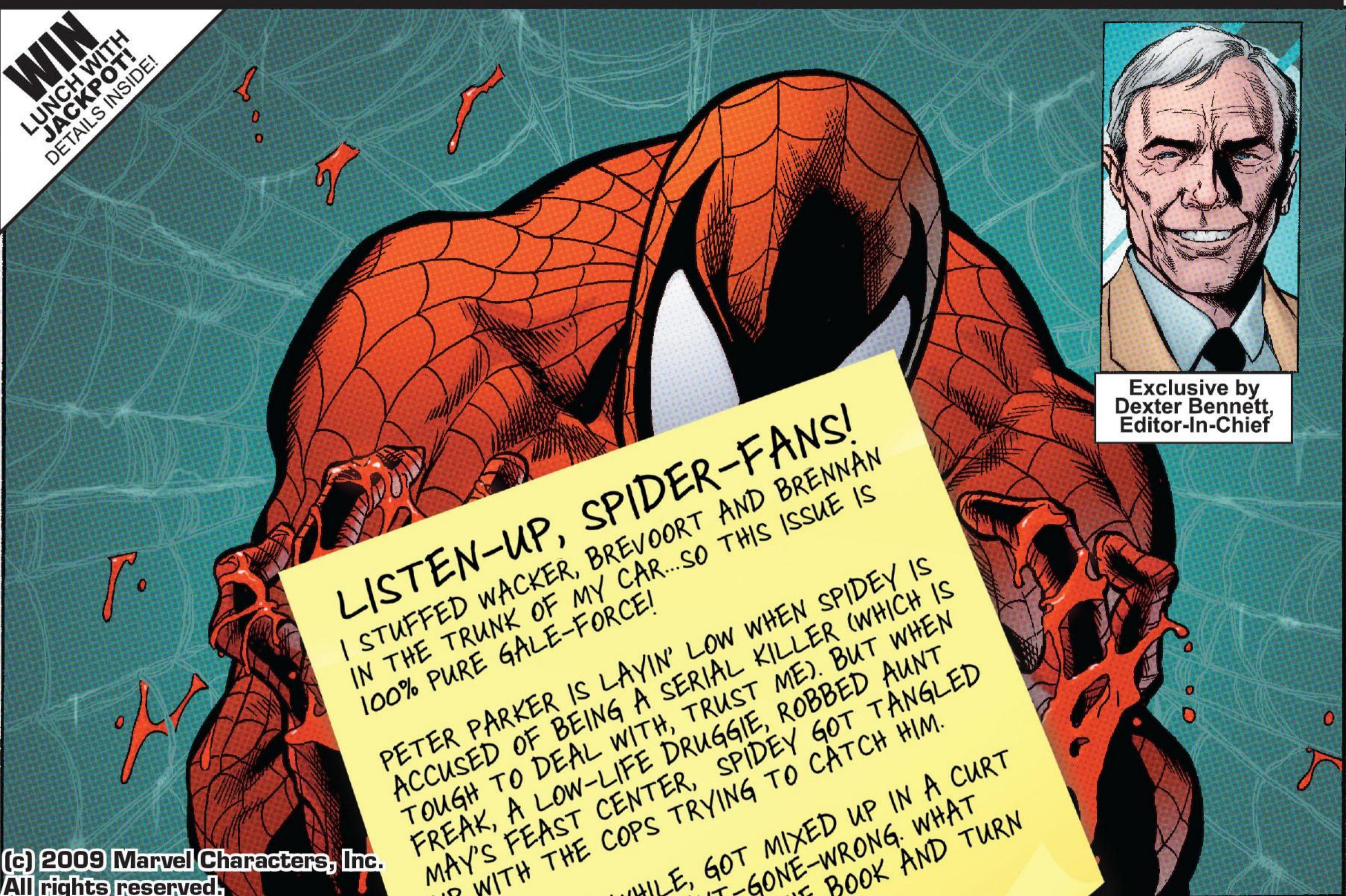
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF SPIDER-MAN



WEIRD WEATHER AHEAD:
CHANCE OF SNOW BY THE
END OF THE WEEK! TIPS
ON HOW TO SURVIVE!

50 CENTS • THURSDAY

SPIDER-MAN: SERIAL KILLER!



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Lisa Parfrey

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Councilwoman Lisa Parfrey, a candidate for mayor, will be buried in a private ceremony at Forest Hills Cemetery. Parfrey, 52, was found savagely murdered three days ago after being kidnapped from a political debate at the Apollo Theatre by a mysterious superhuman known as Menace. Menace is the only suspect in the brutal killing. Parfrey's tragic demise shocked the...

CONTINUED ON A-3

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POLICE TIE SPIDER-MAN TO RECENT MURDERS!

EXCLUSIVE TO THE DB!

In off the record conversations with DB staffers, police have confirmed that Spider-Man is the key suspect in the string of recent murders that has shocked this city. Although police have been reticent to discuss the specifics of the murders, so-called "Spider Tracers" have definitely been found on each victim, leaving no doubt as to the involvement of Spider-Man. Spider-Man is already wanted for violations of...

CONTINUED ON A-2

WHILE ATTENDING A DEMONSTRATION IN RADIOLOGY, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A SPIDER WHICH HAD ACCIDENTALLY BEEN EXPOSED TO **RADIOACTIVE RAYS**. THROUGH A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE, PETER SOON FOUND THAT HE HAD **GAINED** THE SPIDER'S POWERS...AND HAD, IN EFFECT, BECOME A HUMAN SPIDER! FROM THAT DAY ON HE WAS...

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

FREAKOUT!

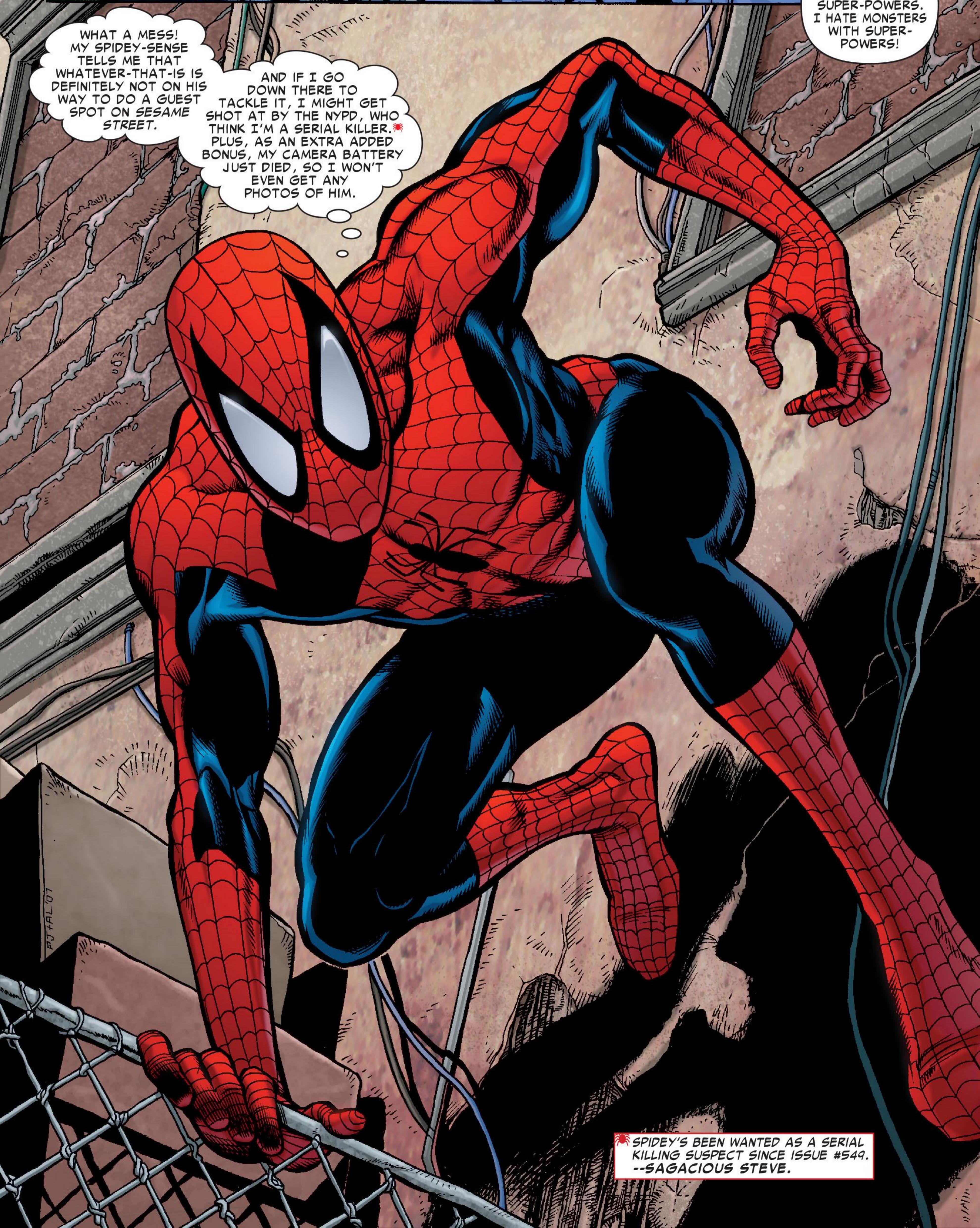
BOB GALE | PHIL JIMENEZ | ANDY LANNING
WRITER | PENCILS | INKS

JEREMY COX | VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA | TOM BRENNAN | STEPHEN WACKER | TOM BREVOORT | JOE QUESADA | DAN BUCKLEY
COLORS | LETTERS | ASSISTANT EDITOR | FREAK | EXECUTIVE EDITOR | EDITOR IN CHIEF | PUBLISHER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS
SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST

AAARGHH!!!







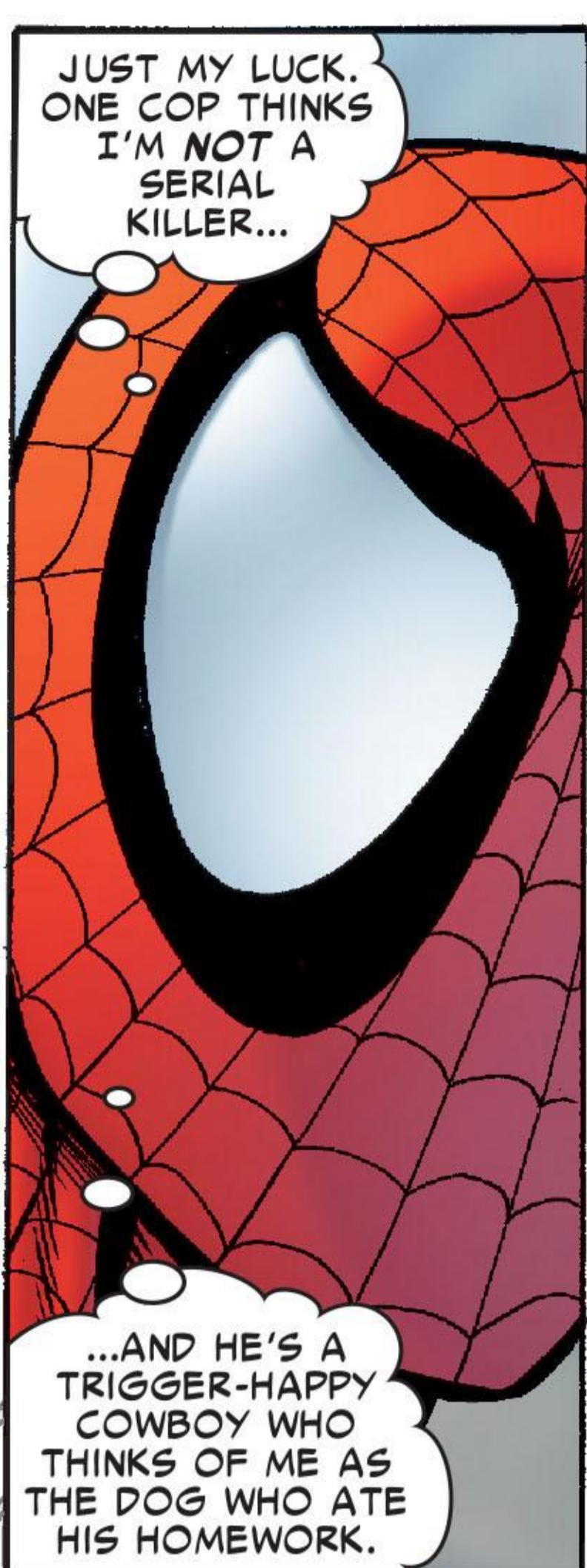


HOWEVER, AS ALL WELL-READ MARVELITES KNOW, MONSTERS THAT CAN BE KILLED BY ORDINARY BULLETS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, AND THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.



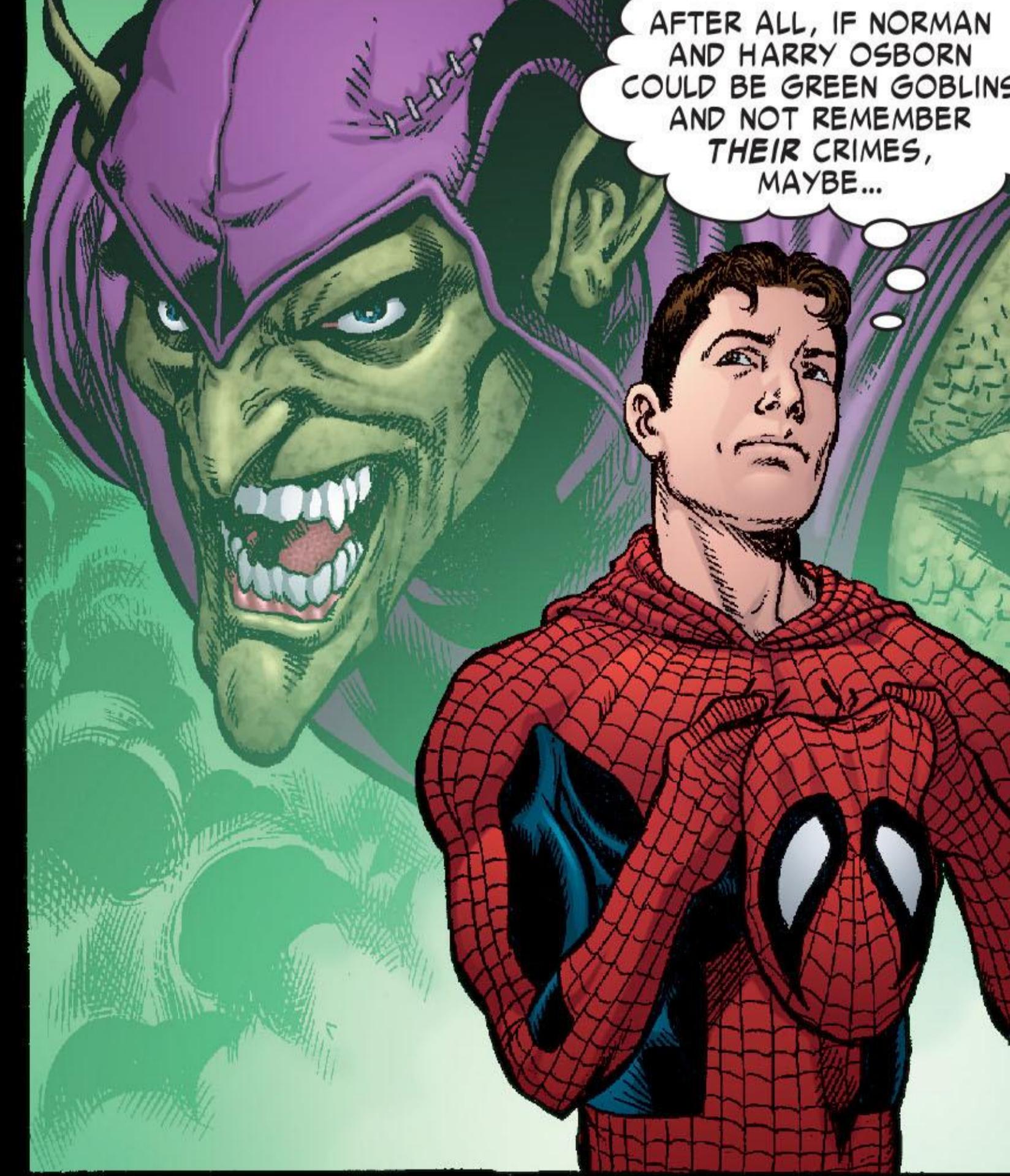
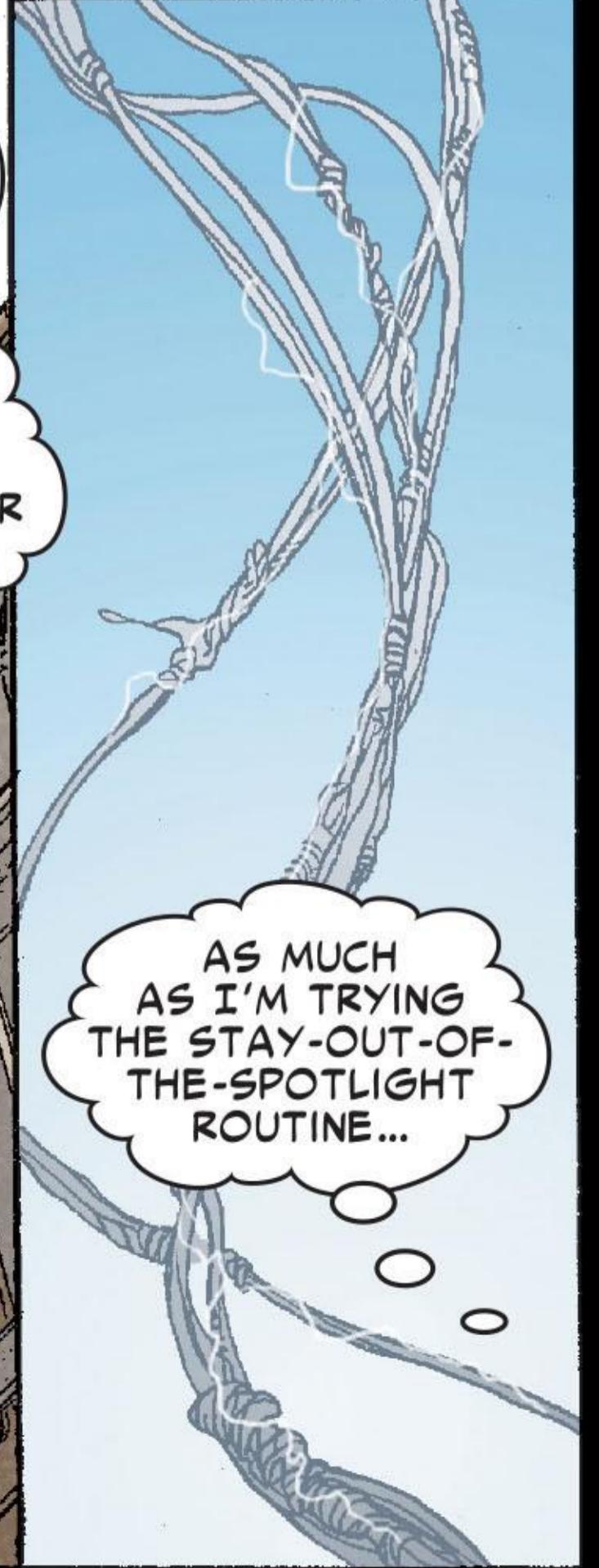
AS FREAK FLOATS DOWNSTREAM, HIS BLOOD, INFECTED WITH DR. CONNORS' EXPERIMENTAL ANIMAL STEM CELLS, FORMS ANOTHER CHRYSALIS AROUND HIM. SO WE CAN BE SURE WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HIM...

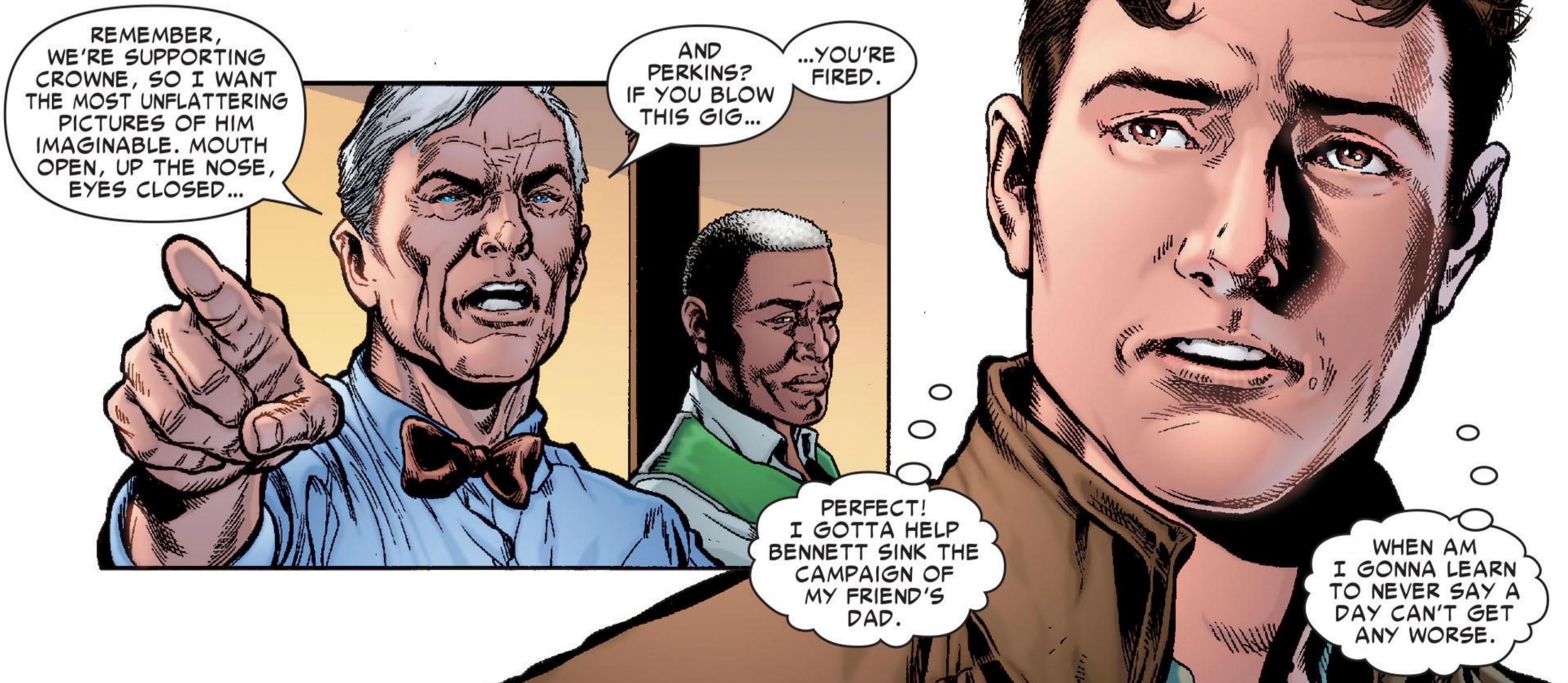
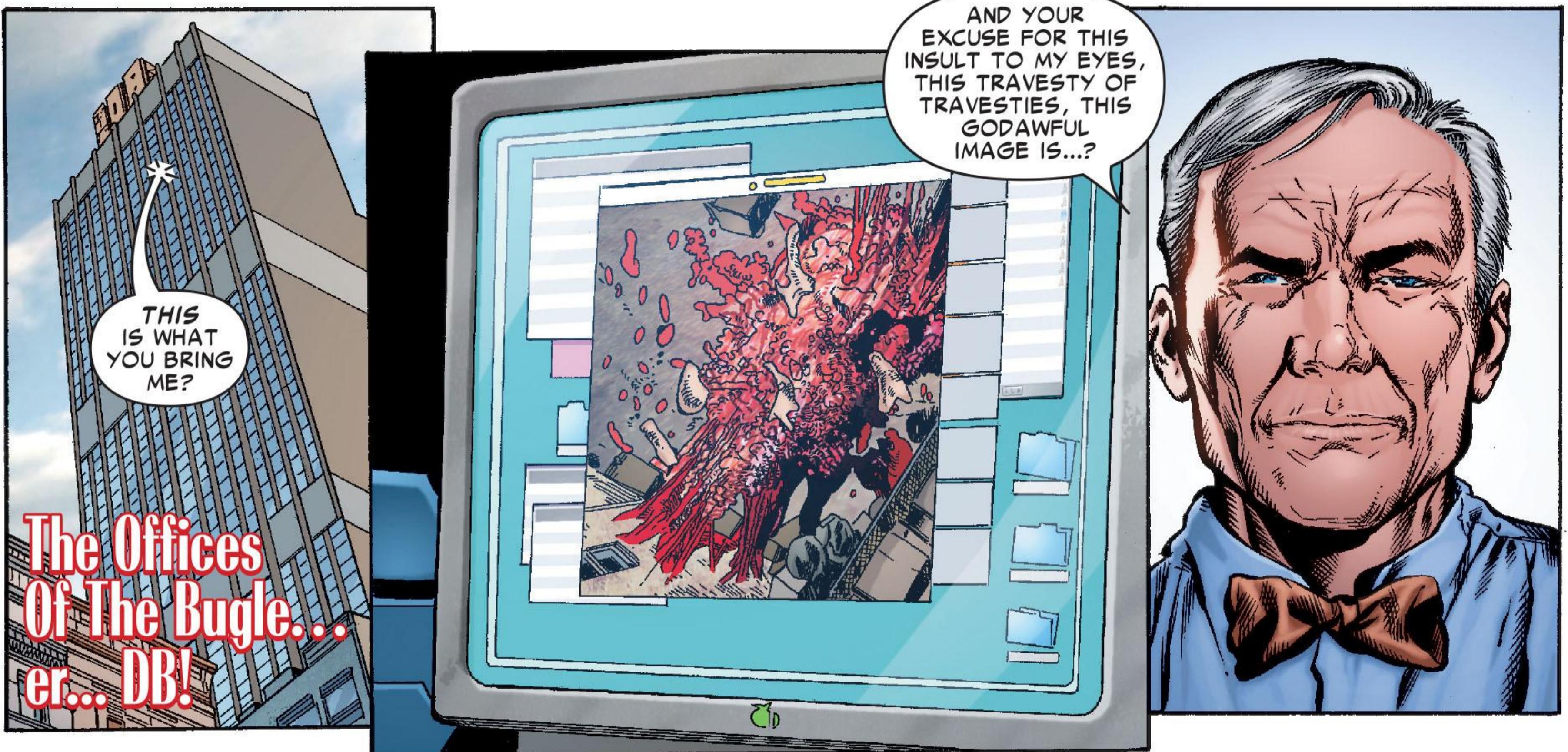
"WHEN YOU'VE BEEN A COP AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOOD GUYS AND THE BAD GUYS, VIN."



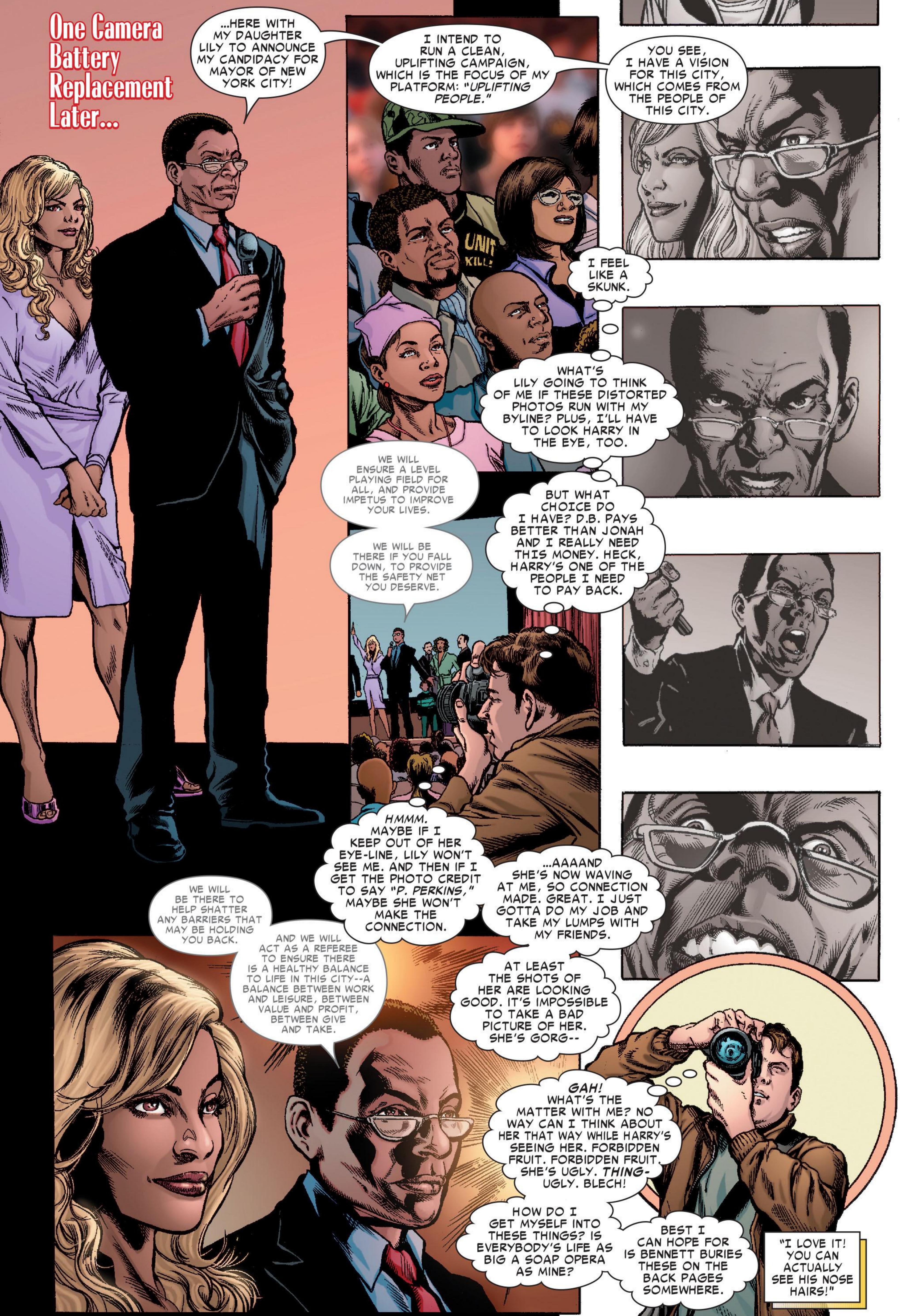


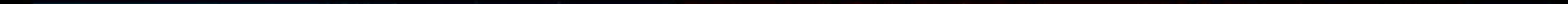
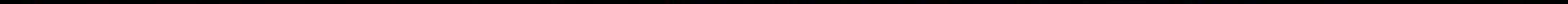
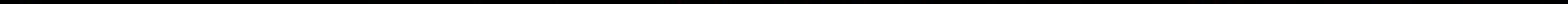
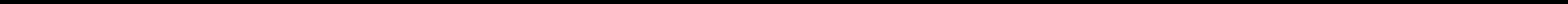
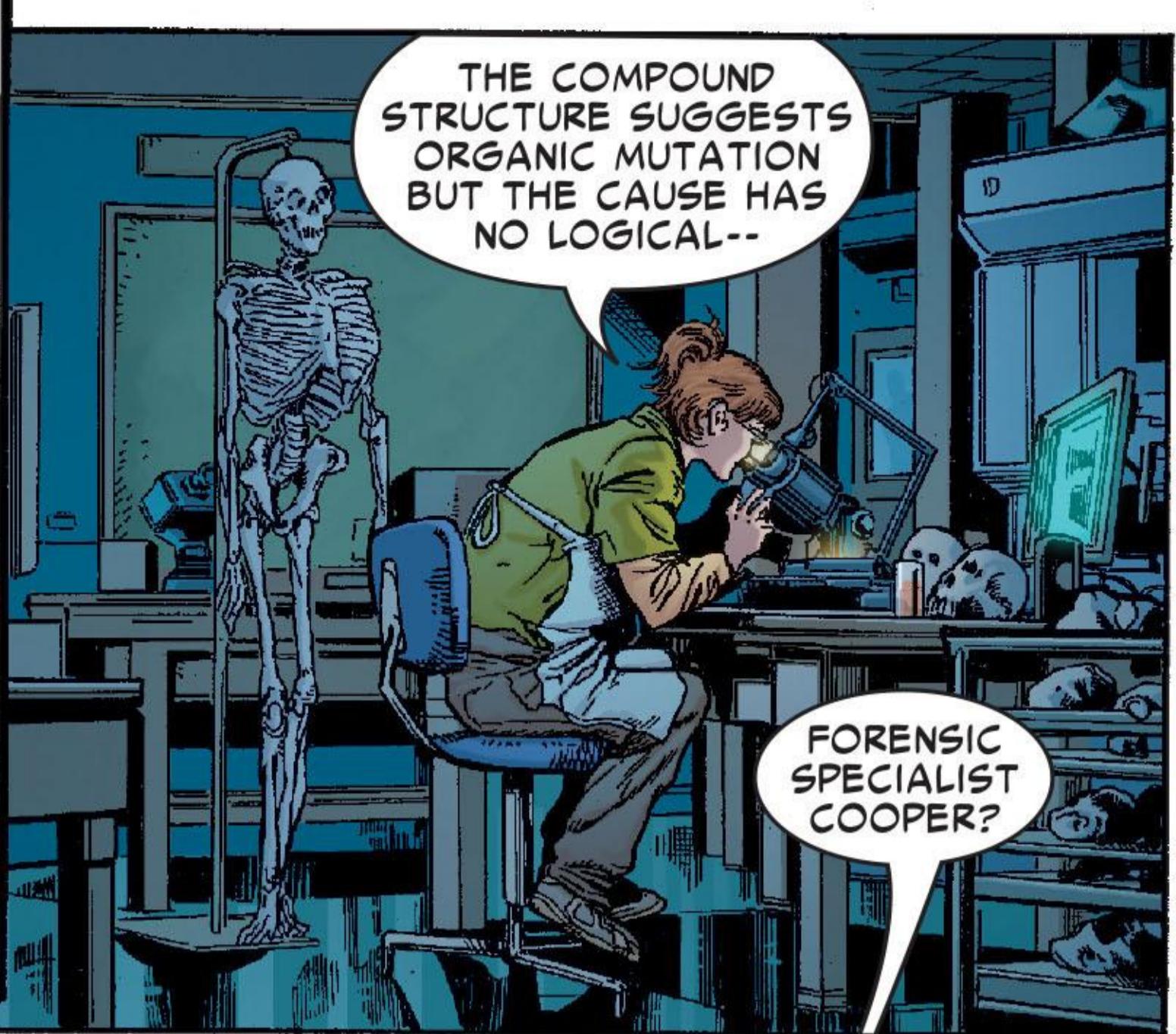
The Bar With No Name.





One Camera Battery Replacement Later...





OH, MAN, MY HEAD HURTS...WHERE AM I? I'M INSIDE OF SOMETHING...LIKE A TRUNK...

A TUNNEL? HOW THE &%\$# DID I GET HERE? LAST THING I REMEMBER IS HEAVING IN THAT ALLEY AFTER I SHOT UP THAT "SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL."

HOLY \$#@%! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HANDS??

I MUST BE SICK! MY HEAD DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT EITHER...

AND MY LEGS...THEY FEEL STRONGER. FUNNY... CAN'T FEEL THE WATER TEMPERATURE...

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY FACE, TOO. IF ONLY I COULD SEE MYSELF.

SOMEBODY MUSTA FOUND ME PASSED OUT AND PUT ME IN THIS SUIT! MAYBE THAT #\$@% RAYMOND AND HIS DRUG GANG. OR SPIDER-MAN.

YEAH! HE'S GONNA ANSWER FOR THIS. JEEZ, IT FEELS LIKE IT'S PART OF ME...

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? I CAN SMELL EVERYTHING!

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

-SNIFF- HEY--WAIT-- PEANUT BUTTER! I CAN SMELL IT FROM OUT HERE! AND I'M STARVING!

FINALLY, THINGS ARE LOOKING GOOD--

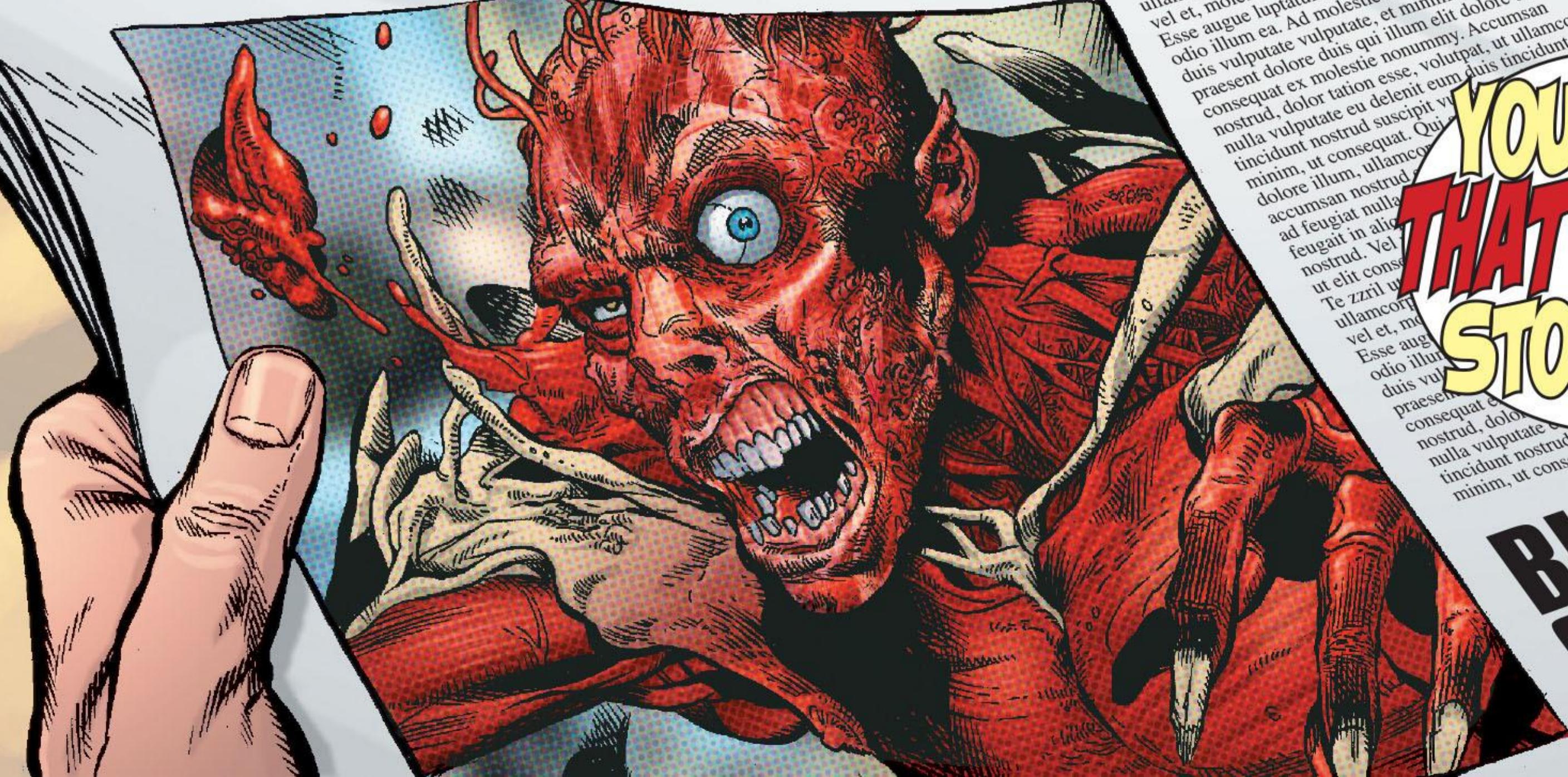


WHAT
THE HELL
HAPPENED
TO ME?!

YOU'RE
RESPONSIBLE,
SPIDER-MAN! AND
YOU'RE GONNA
PAY!

EVERYBODY'S
GONNA PAY!

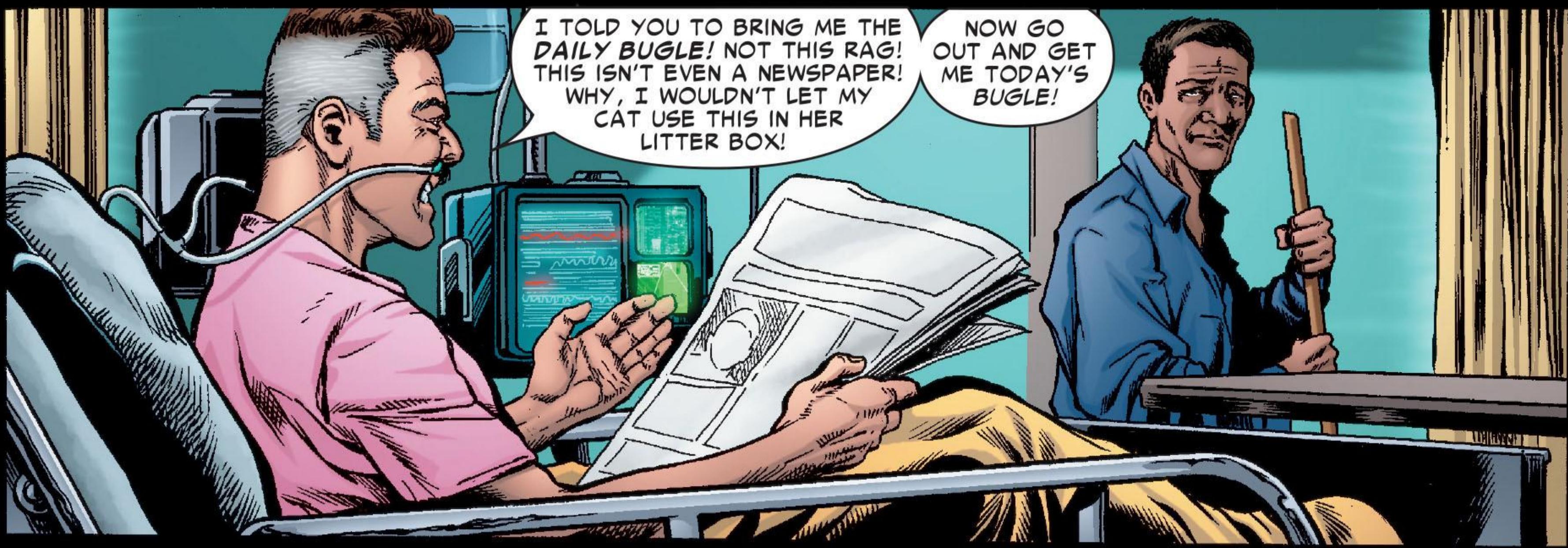
Mt. Sinai Hospital. Manhattan.



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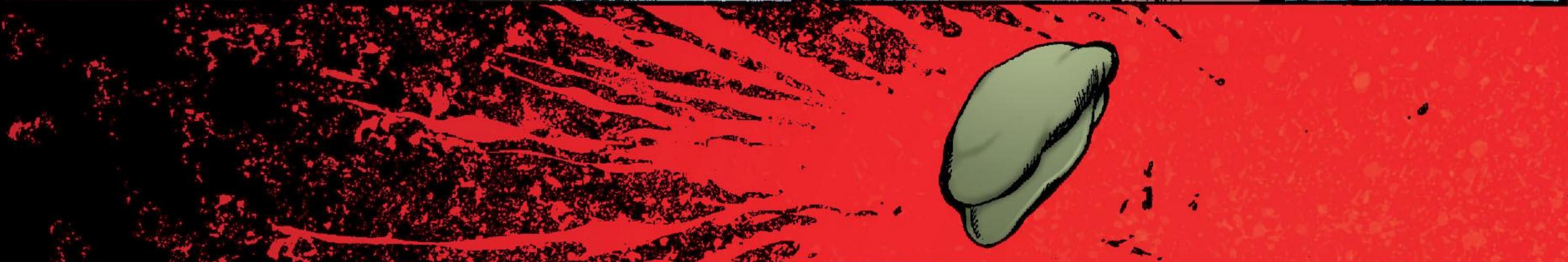
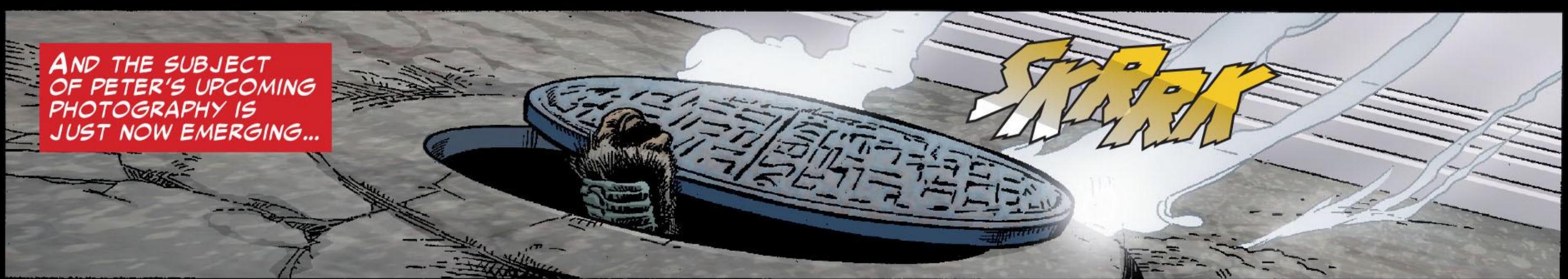
The image features a large, stylized text in yellow and red. The words 'YOU CALL' are in yellow, 'THAT A LEAD' are in red, and 'STORY?!?' are in yellow. The text is set against a white background with a black outline, and it appears to be part of a larger graphic or comic panel.

BLIZZARD ON THE WAY?





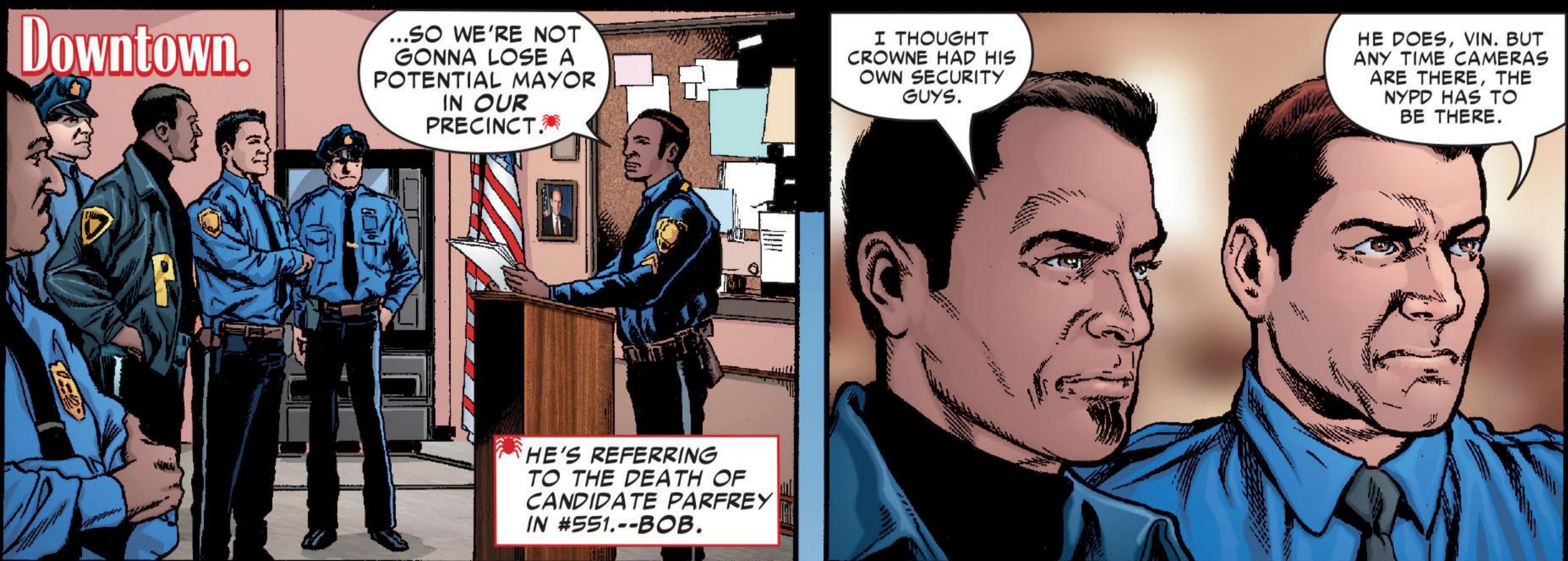
AND THE SUBJECT
OF PETER'S UPCOMING
PHOTOGRAPHY IS
JUST NOW EMERGING....



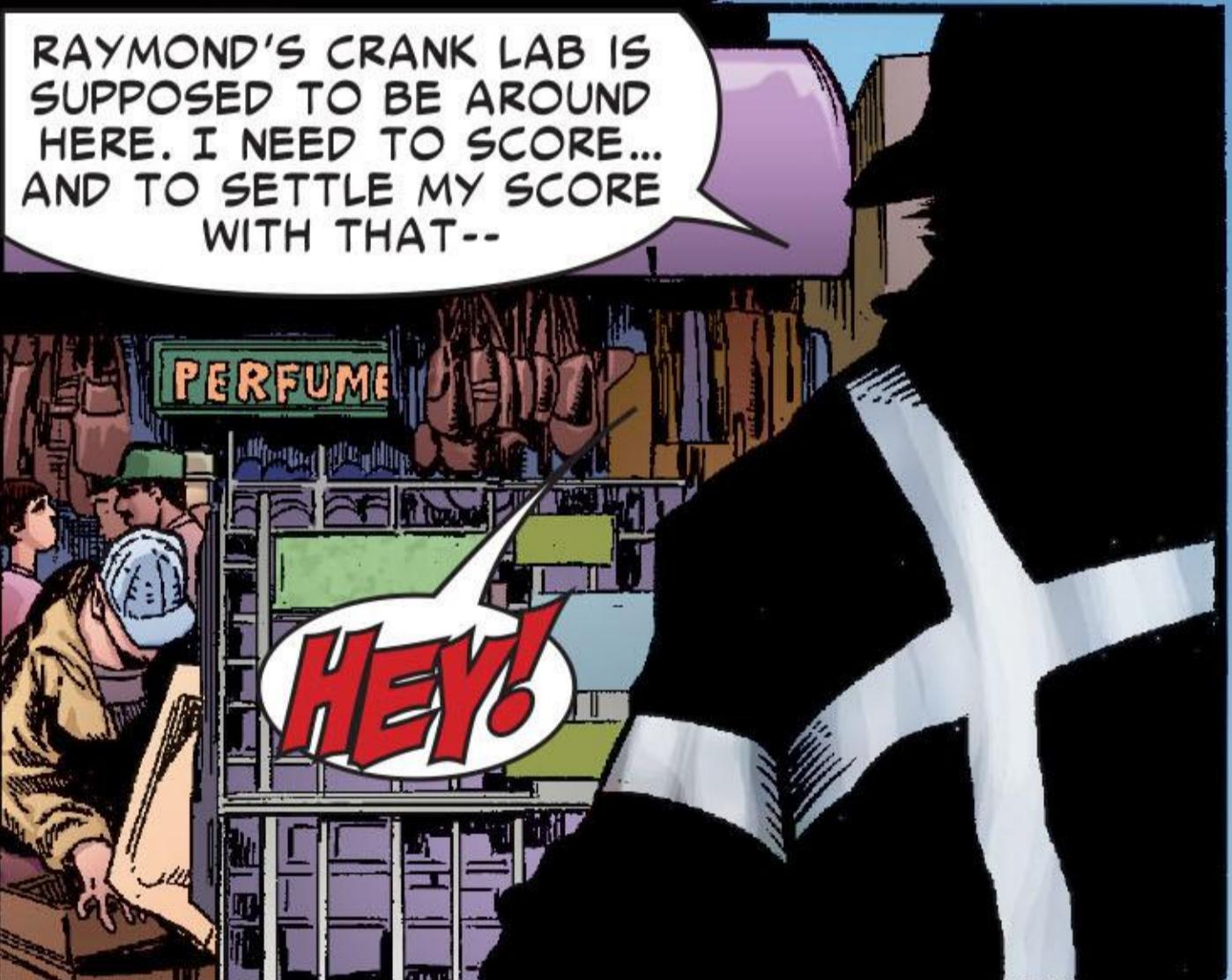
The 7 train. Manhattan-bound.



Downtown.



RAYMOND'S CRANK LAB IS SUPPOSED TO BE AROUND HERE. I NEED TO SCORE... AND TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH THAT--

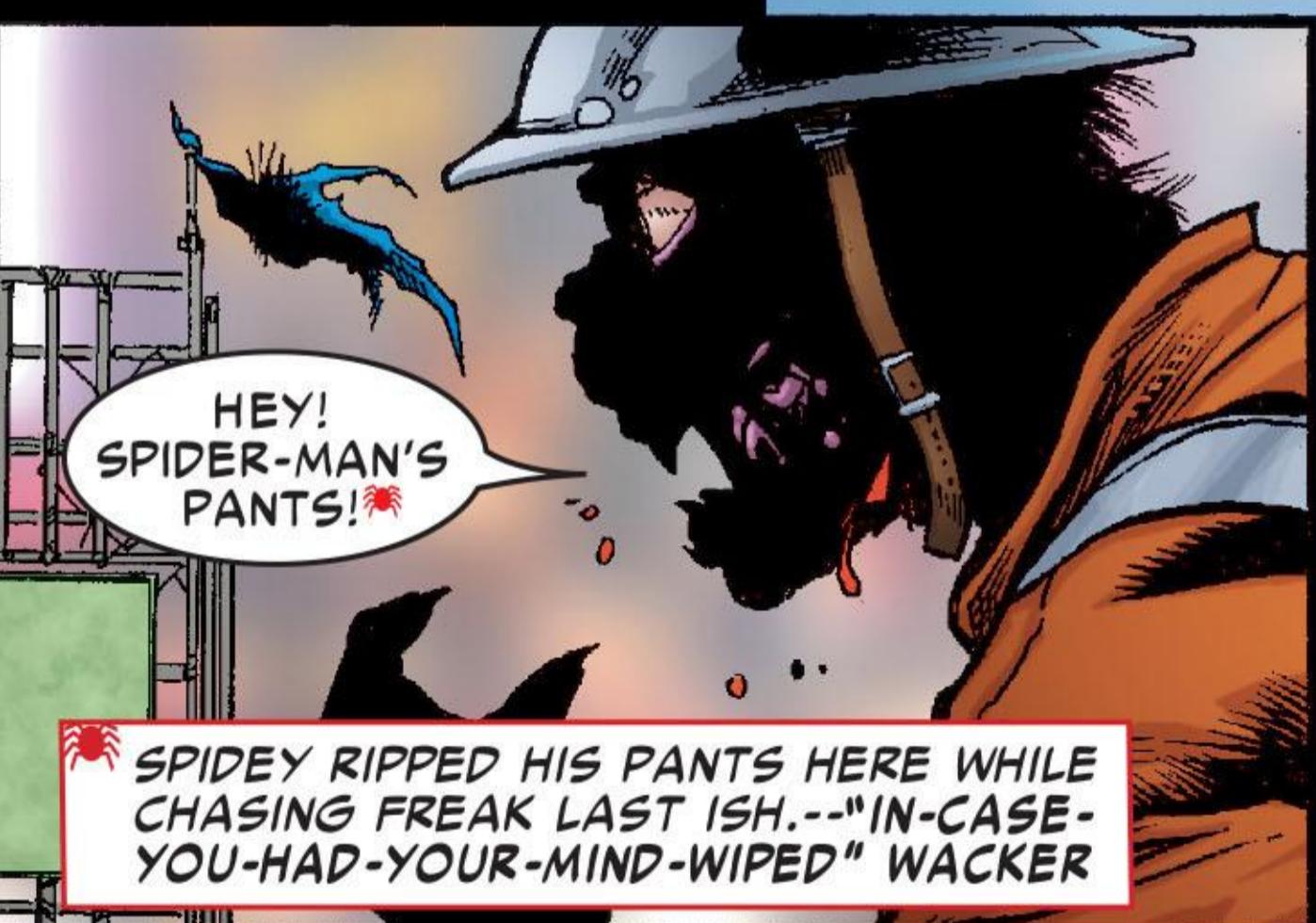


"YOU SHUT IT DOWN?!? I GOT ORDERS TO FILL, MAN!"

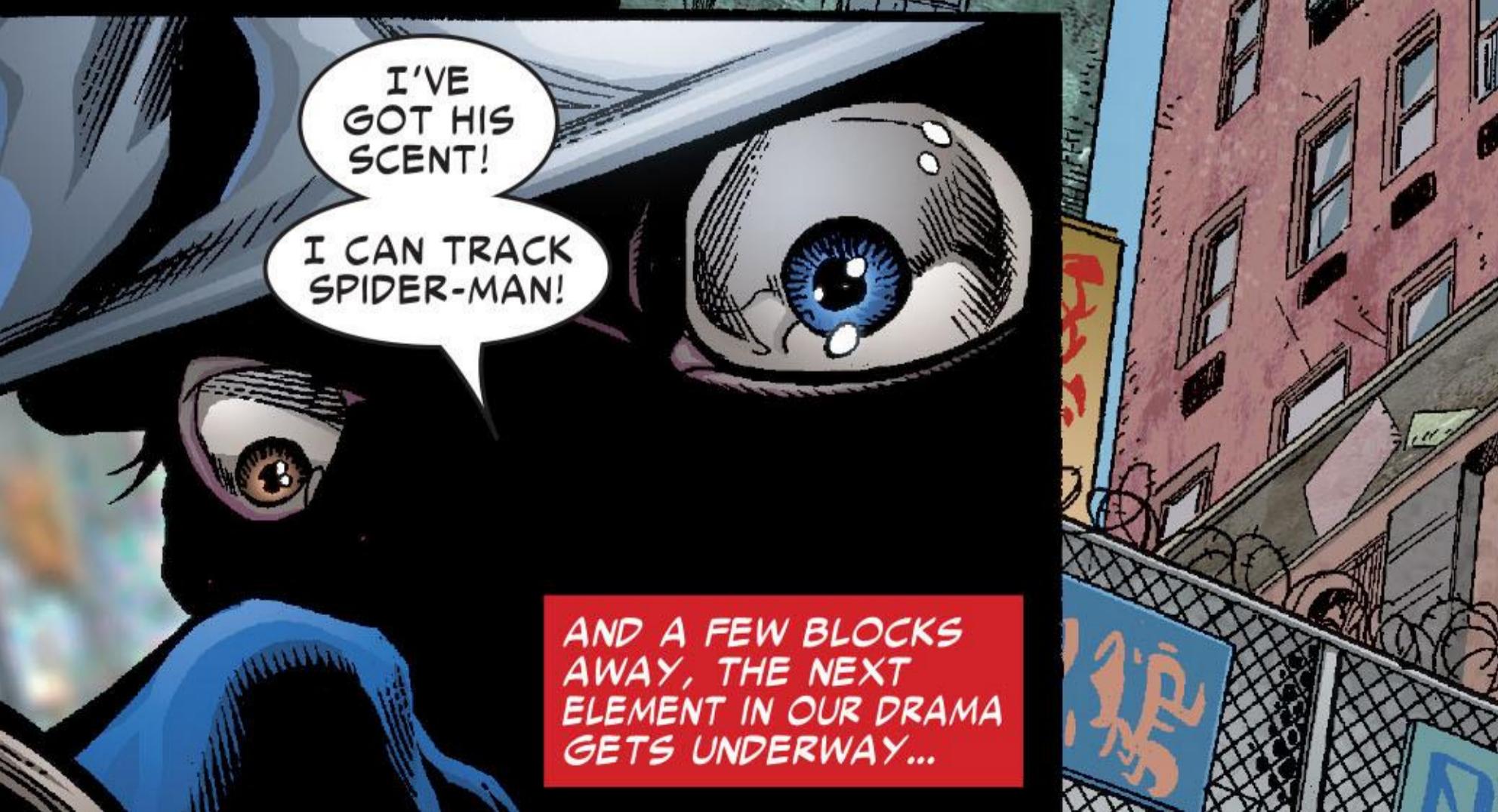
VENTILATOR'S BUSTED, RAYMOND. CAN'T OPEN THE WINDOW-- FUMES'LL BRING THE PO-POS.

WELL, I NEED A SUITCASE FILLED UP NOW.

AND I NEED TO BREATHE.



SPIDEY RIPPED HIS PANTS HERE WHILE CHASING FREAK LAST ISH.--"IN-CASE-YOU-HAD-YOUR-MIND-WIPE" WACKER



AND WITH THE #7 TRAIN ARRIVING ON TIME (IT IS FICTION, AFTER ALL!), ALL THE PIECES ARE IN PLACE, GATHERED AT RANDALL CROWNE'S CAMPAIGN EVENT....

...BECAUSE BUSINESS IS NOT A DIRTY WORD!

BUSINESS MEANS JOBS AND A BIGGER TAX BASE! A RISING TIDE FOR ALL CITIZENS!

THEY CALL THIS ART? MY FOUR-YEAR-OLD COULD DO BETTER.

IS MY SPIDEY-SENSE TINGLING BECAUSE THIS GUY'S A CROOK...

...OR--

SPIDER-MAN! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE!

I CAN SMELL YOU! AND YOU'RE GONNA DIE, YOU SONUVA--

OHMYGOD!

ANOTHER MONSTER!

AND HE CAN SMELL ME? I GUESS I NEED A NEW DEODORANT.

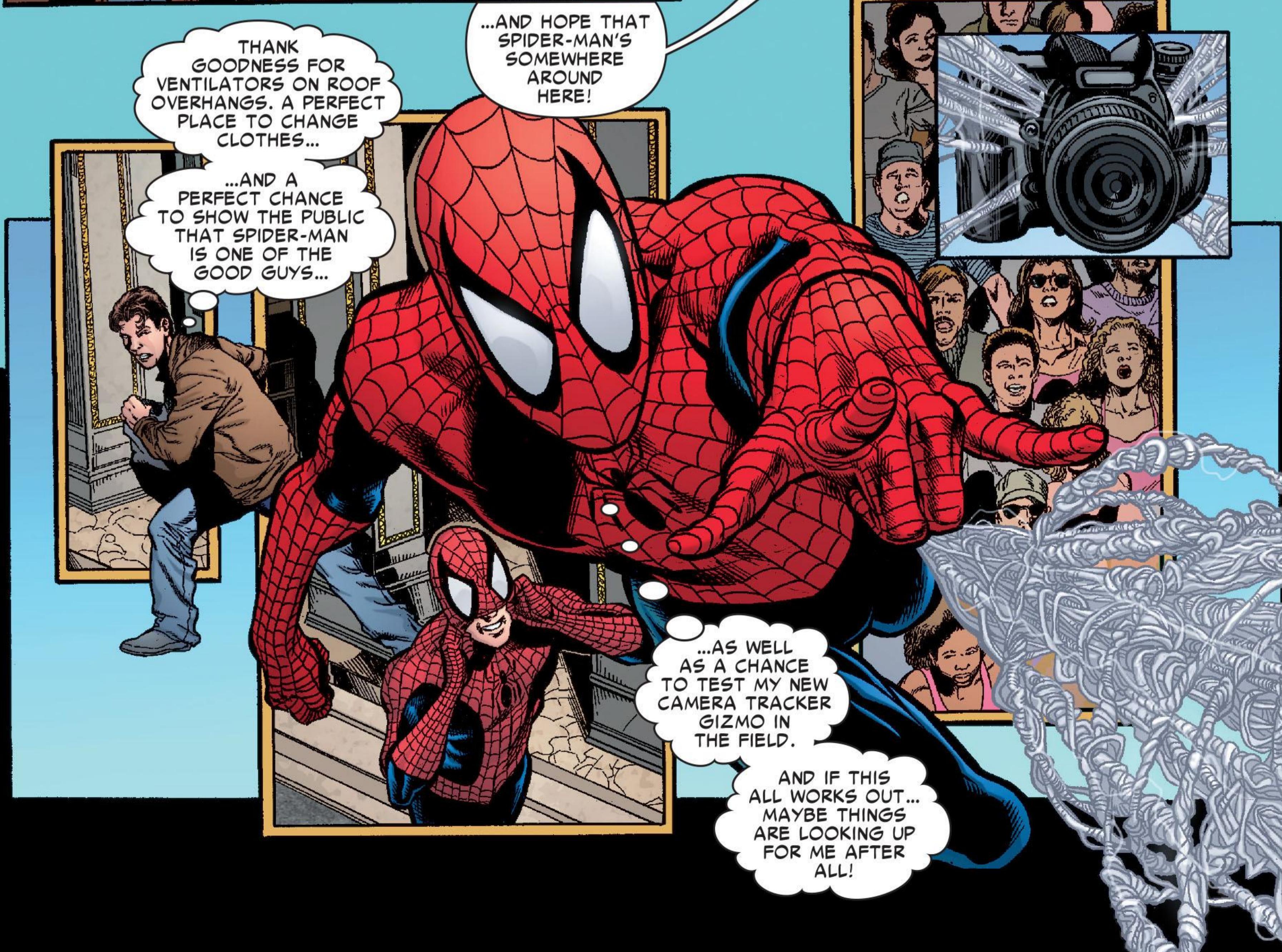
LOOKS LIKE "THE BABE" WAS RIGHT, AL. AND THIS NEW MONSTER EVEN TALKS.

YOU KNOW THE PROCEDURE, PARTNER...

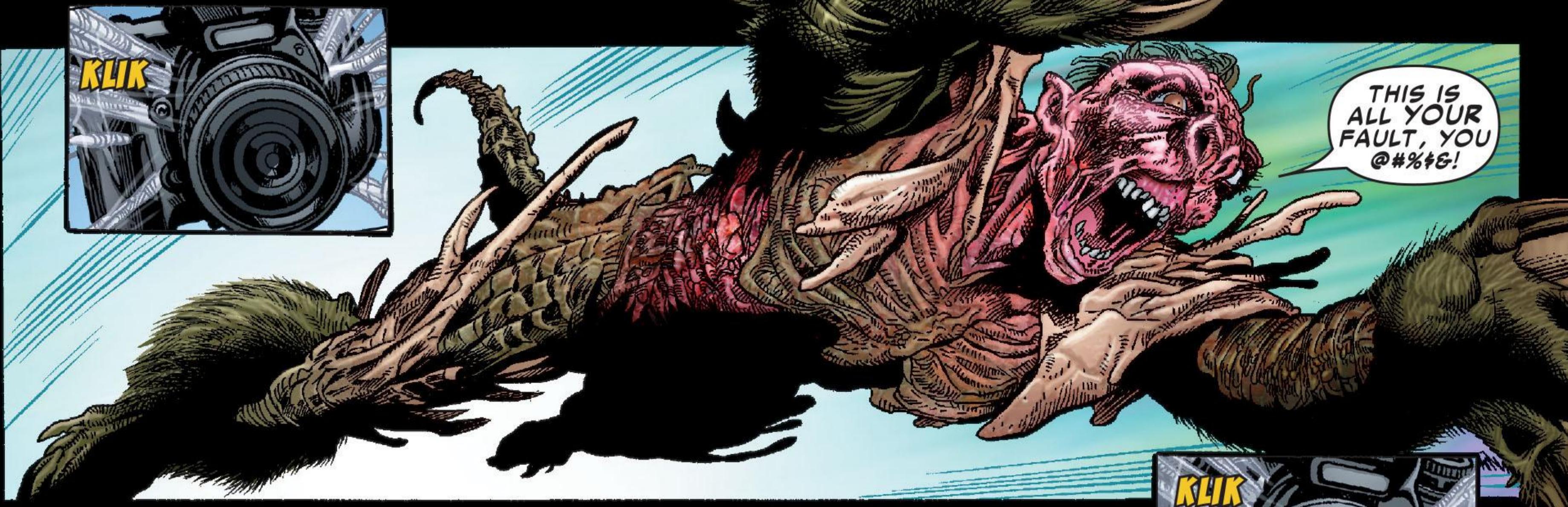
...SHOOT FOR THE HEAD!

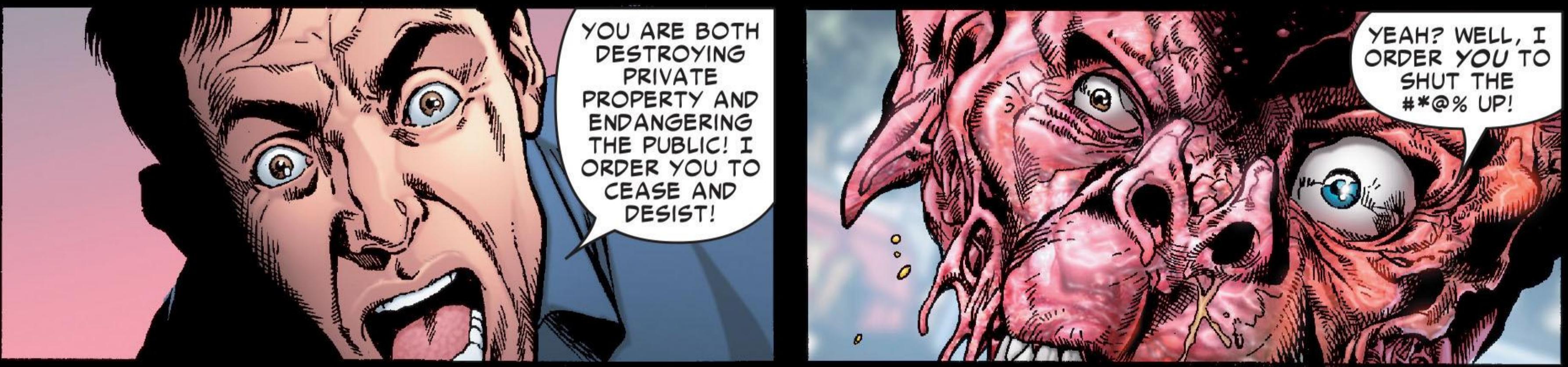


SECOND TIME'S NOT A CHARM FOR THE HEADSHOT, PARTNER. THIS ONE'S BULLETPROOF! WHAT'S PLAN B?









WILL CROWNE BECOME
NYC'S NEXT DEAD
CANDIDATE?

DO WE
HATE POLITICIANS SO
MUCH THAT WE'LL KILL
OFF ANOTHER ONE?

FIND OUT
NEXT MONTH!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to

SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM

(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Hey, Spidey Fans! This is Bob Gale, taking over from Smart-Aleck Steve who bet me a dollar I couldn't do the letter page better than him. Well, I work cheap so I'll give it a try. Do I have experience? Sure! My first published work was a letter in Tales of Suspense #98, which Steve posted on the Spidey Blog at Marvel.com in hopes of humiliating me. But a man with no shame can't be humiliated! If you missed it, here it is....

Dear Stan,

After reading the fan letters in issue #93, I knew I had to write. I can't understand why some readers keep asking questions like "Isn't it about time Iron Man's heart stopped?" or "Shouldn't Nick Fury be eligible for Medicare?" Comic-books are made for entertainment; in fact, Stan, you had said this in the first "Soapbox" section. Why can't some readers quit worrying about the age and such things of the characters, and just enjoy the books? Almost everyone knows that comic characters don't age -- "Blondie" has been the same age for some 20 years in the funnies. But I've got an answer to the age problem for you realists. Each month, you see, at most, 20 pages in the life of a super-hero. This doesn't even usually amount to a day! At an aging rate of 12 days per "year," it would take some 30 years for a character to age one year. So don't worry about the age of anybody -- just read and enjoy all the Marvels you buy!

Bob Gale,
8250 Groby
University City, Mo. 63132

Yes, it's true -- before I was an "adult" (and I use the term VERY loosely), I was a geeky fanboy who wrote letters to Marvel, nitpicked details and looked for mistakes. I eventually grew out of that (the alcohol probably had something to do with it), but thanks to the miracle of time travel (which I know a little bit about), I got a letter from that selfsame geeky fanboy about THIS VERY ISSUE!! (At least I think I did. Could be the alcohol again, I'm not sure.)...

Dear Bob (you handsome devil),

First of all, I love all your work and think Wacker should just get out of your way and let Bob be Bob. You should be the editor! Not that corporate stick-in-the-mud!

Anyway 553 was pretty good, but I think I found a major mistake (probably Wacker's fault). How come when Freak sees himself in the sewer on page 12, he doesn't remember that he got his brains blown out?

Bob Gale,
University City, Missouri

And 11 pages later, the truth can finally be told, Bobby Boy! It wasn't a mistake at all. The bullet that went through Freak's brain passed right through his cerebral cortex and wiped out his specific memory of that moment. The blast effect in the last panel of page 3 obscured that visual detail. Thanks for writing, Bob! NOW LEAVE ME ALONE!!!

Anyway, Wacker and Brennan have been forwarding me and the rest of the Spidey BrainTrust your ever-meticulous mail AND NOW -- through the miracle of typing-words-onto-a-screen--I can bring you some answers straight from the horse's mouth (as opposed to the other end you usually get with Wacker). Here we go...

Hey guys,

I just wanna say that I love that Spider-Man is nearly weekly. It really helps keep the reader in the story, so we don't sort of drift off and forget about the ol' web head for three weeks until the next issue. Also, I love that the letters page is back (can I say that? I'm only 15 and I've never seen one of these pages in a new comic my whole life). I have tons of vintage comics from my uncle, and I've seen the old letter pages and wondered why it wasn't around now...though it is here I suppose. Oh, and last of all, I just want you guys to know that half of my high school subscribes to Amazing Spider-Man and your stories make it into daily gossip, and spark in-depth arguments during lunch!

Marrek Panzarino
Winchester MA

PS: Oh, and OKAY TO PRINT if you decide to show how much you rule to the world.

Well, we were almost too modest to print this one, Marrek, not wishing to boast that we do indeed rule, but we had to express our concern: Why does only HALF of your school subscribe? What's wrong with the other half? Hey--if you can get everyone to subscribe, you'll have the first All-Spidey High School in the USA, and I'm sure we could get Marvel to do a story about it on the website!

Seriously, we're glad you like the letters page--we all like it, too. Speaking from experience, I know what a kick it is to see your writing in print, knowing that it will be forever preserved to be read by future generations...or at least your Mom. Somehow, it seems a lot more permanent than having bytes with your name on it sitting out in the internet ether...and a lot more special, too. Anyway, glad to have you aboard and we'll see you next week!

Dear Spider-Mail,

After 20 years of comics, I'm officially done with Spider-Man. Thanks for killing it...

Garry Timmons
via e-mail

Jokes on you, Garry! We're printing your letter just so you'll have to buy multiple copies for your family and friends who will want to see your name in print!

Dear Spidey-Gang,

I live in Monterrey, Mexico, and have read Spiderman Comics since #300. And yes, I was one of the "Angry Internet forum Anti-BND guys."

But I know I had to read the new Spidey to judge, so I did, and...well... I'm amazed (really).

I only write to say Jackpot isn't Mary Jane...Nooo!! But she used to have a cousin or something...also a redhead and also with a crush on Pete. (She appeared when Nathan lived with Aunt May on the Mcfarlane-Larsen era. Am I a Geek or what!!)

Good job on BND guys...keep it up. My faith is restored.

Eduardo Ancer
via e-mail

Thanks, Eduardo. Truth be told, most of us would have been "angry forum anti-BND guys" at one time too, so we're glad you gave us a chance and we're overjoyed you've repented from your anti-BND ways! The mystery of Jackpot's real identity will be explained later in the year--Guggenheim's written one helluva fine tale, but more on that later!

And that's it for me, amigos! Everything's back to normal next week...at least on the letters page. Wacker, ya overpaid assistant editor, get your goofy last name over here and get back to work...!

--Bob To The Future!
2/19/08

Cover by Jimenez, Lanning and Cox.

NEXT WEEK:



ME, PHIL AND PHIRE!

In 7 days!

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**Irene Lee
Production**

**Stephen Wacker
Editor**

**Joe Quesada
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**Tom Brevoort
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