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STRACZYNski
ROMITA JR
HANNA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



THE BOOK OF
EZEKIEL:
CHAPTER THREE

Have to stay
conscious. Have to
focus. Have to--

Have
to--

Have to...
what?

Die
here.

I'm going
to die here.

THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

CHAPTER THREE

J. MICHAEL
STRACZYNSKI
STORY

JOHN
ROMITA JR.
PICTURES

SCOTT
HANNA
1-19
INKS

SCOTT
KOBISH
20-23
COLORS

VIRTUAL CALLIGRAPHY'S
CORY PETIT
LETTERS

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How did
I--
Yes--

Ezekiel.

Came to me...came to me in New York, tried to talk me into coming to South America...said the supernatural menaces that had been coming after me were coming again, hard--

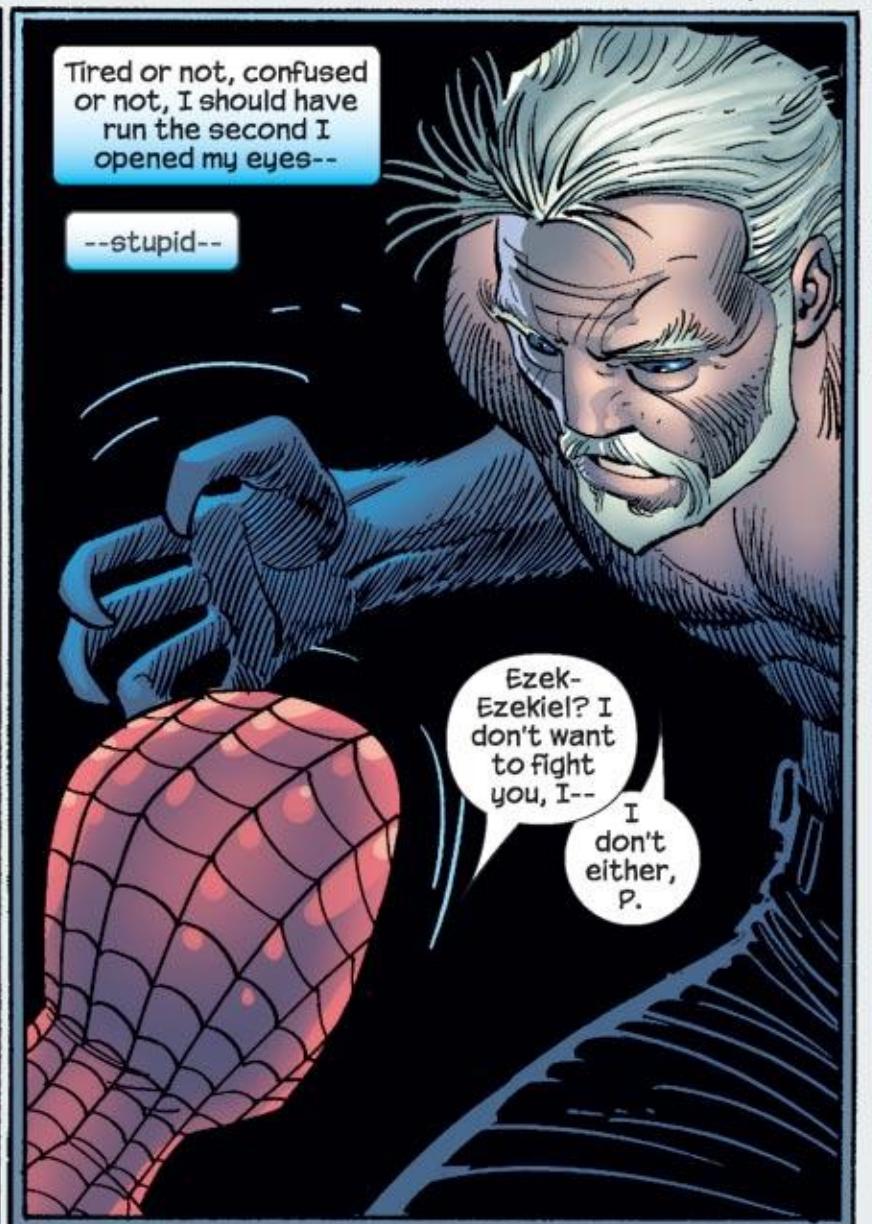
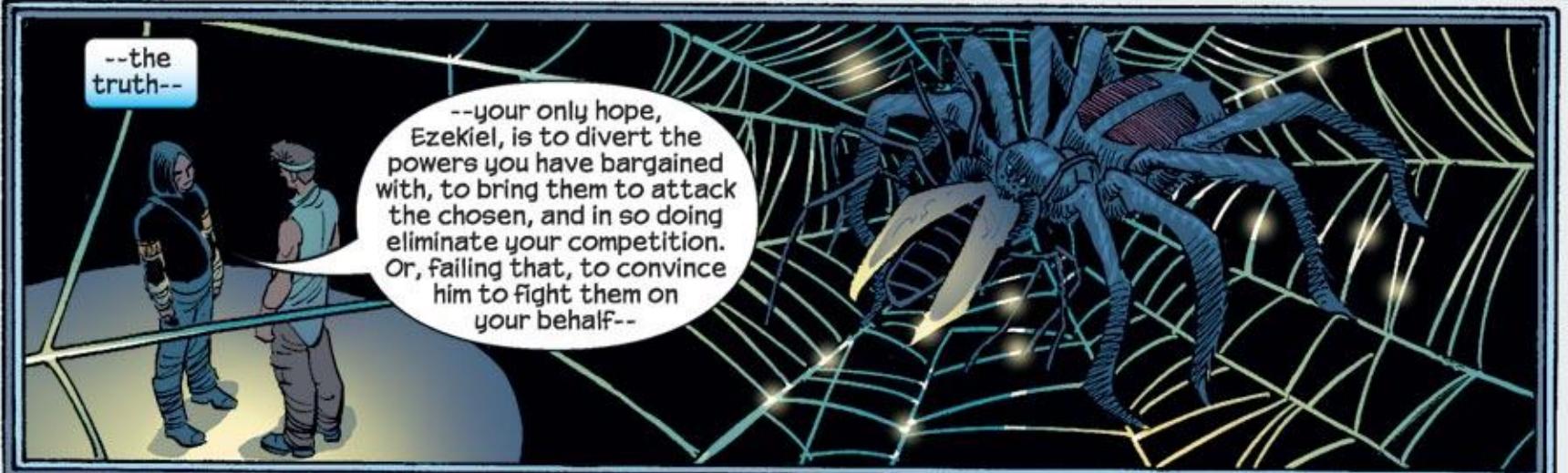
--but he was lying. They weren't coming after me. They were coming after him. He used--

--used
me.

And
then--

--then darkness,
and the voice--

--the voice,
old, so old--

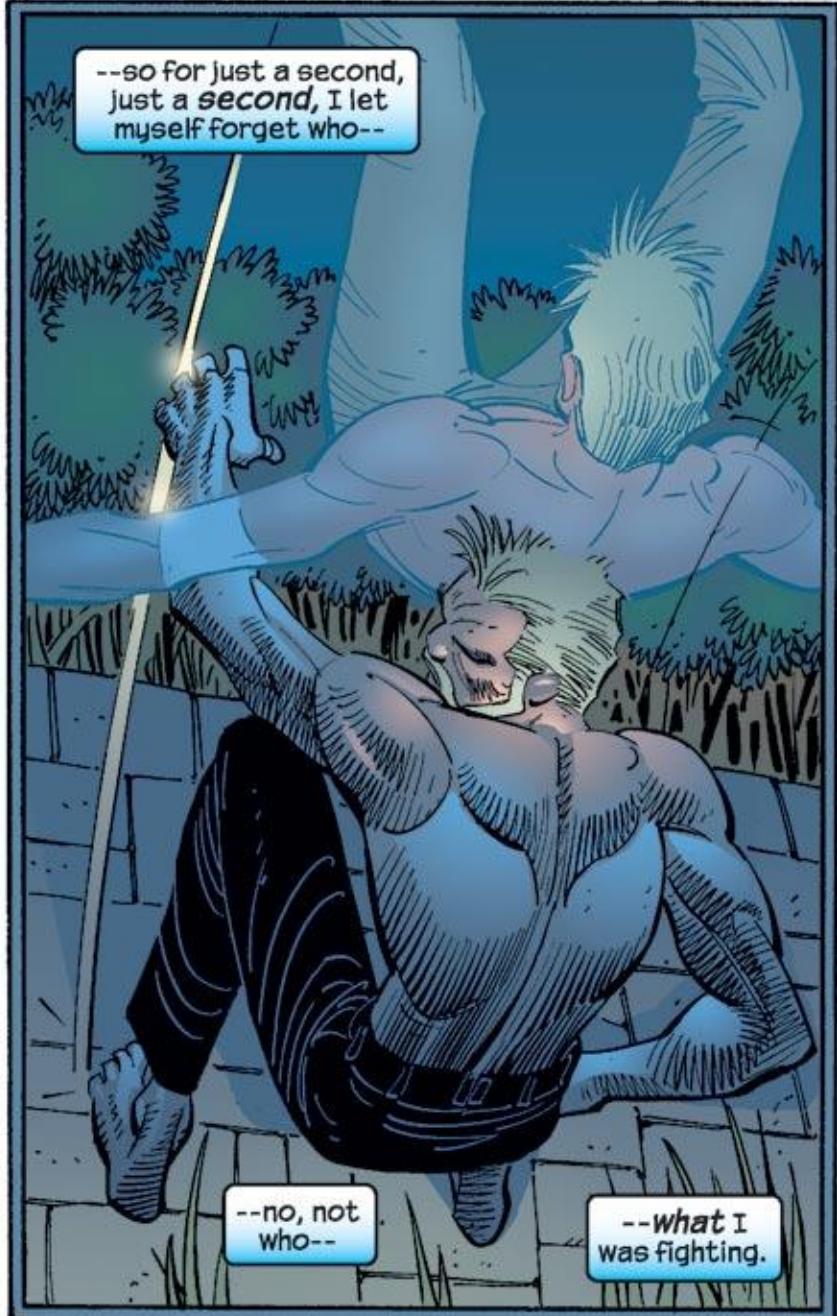




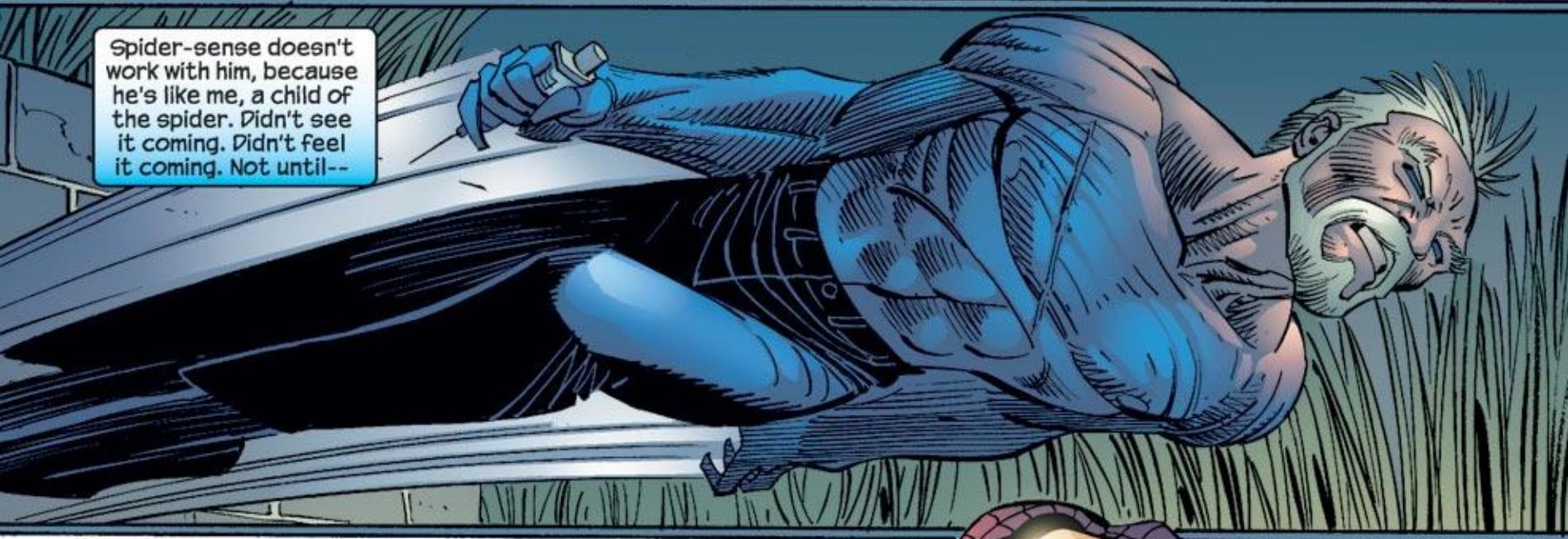
A move like this, with anybody else, I'd have a four-second window to move...they'd hit the floor, get up, turn--



--so for just a second, just a *second*, I let myself forget who--



Spider-sense doesn't work with him, because he's like me, a child of the spider. Didn't see it coming. Didn't feel it coming. Not until--



AAAAGGH!!

Too late.



Don't fight it, P...you'll only hurt yourself. It's a neural toxin, designed to slow your reflexes to a crawl...you can't fight it.



Can't breathe--burning up--

I lose the mask... doesn't matter... not here....

Just come with me...I don't want this to hurt more than necessary.



I don't want to die... not here, not now....

...not like this. In the dark. In the dirt.

...not like this...



Muscles feel like rubber.
Doesn't matter. Fight
through it.

Fight.

Fight.

You were
chosen for
your rage.

Who could
be a better hunter
than one who had
been prey?



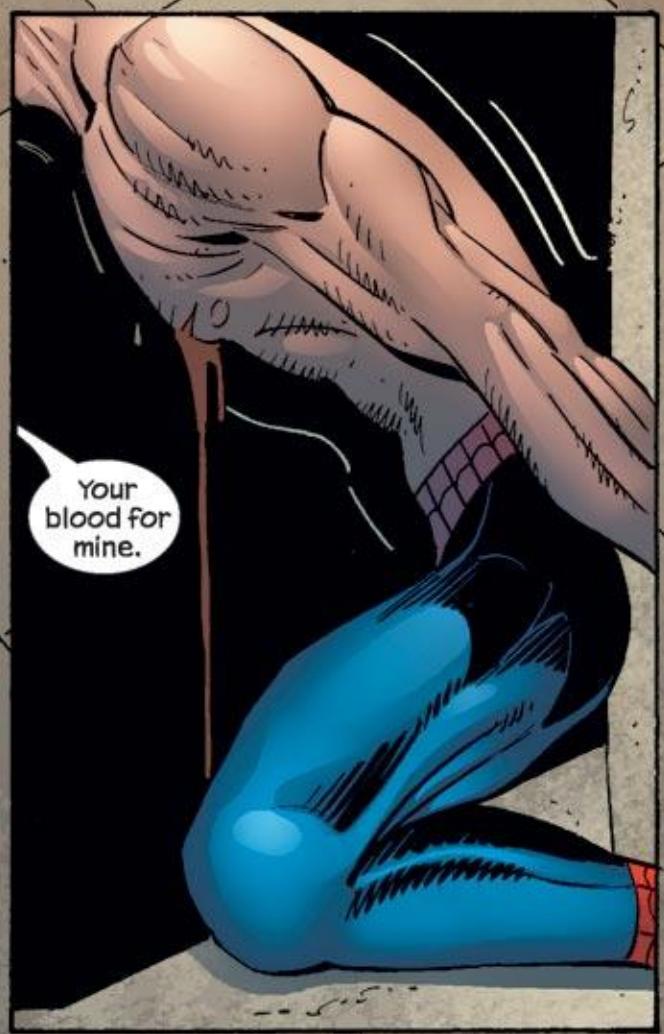
Someone who would be driven to fight back against the dark forces sent by the world, who would never stop even though they were bigger and more and perhaps even stronger than he was.

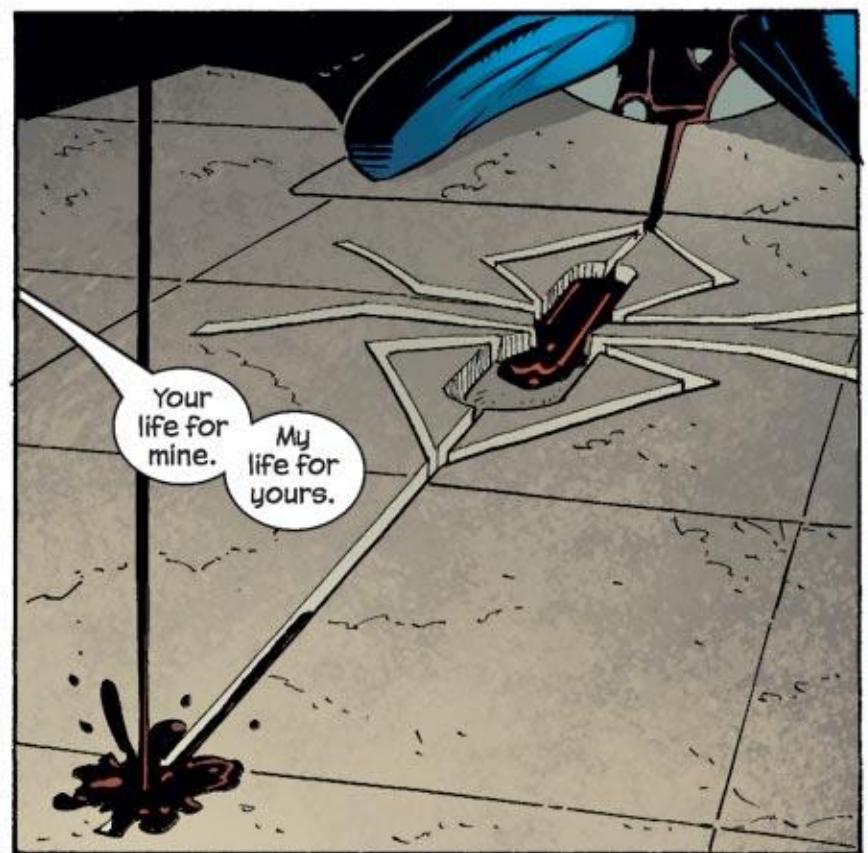
Because having once been prey, he would never allow himself to become such again.

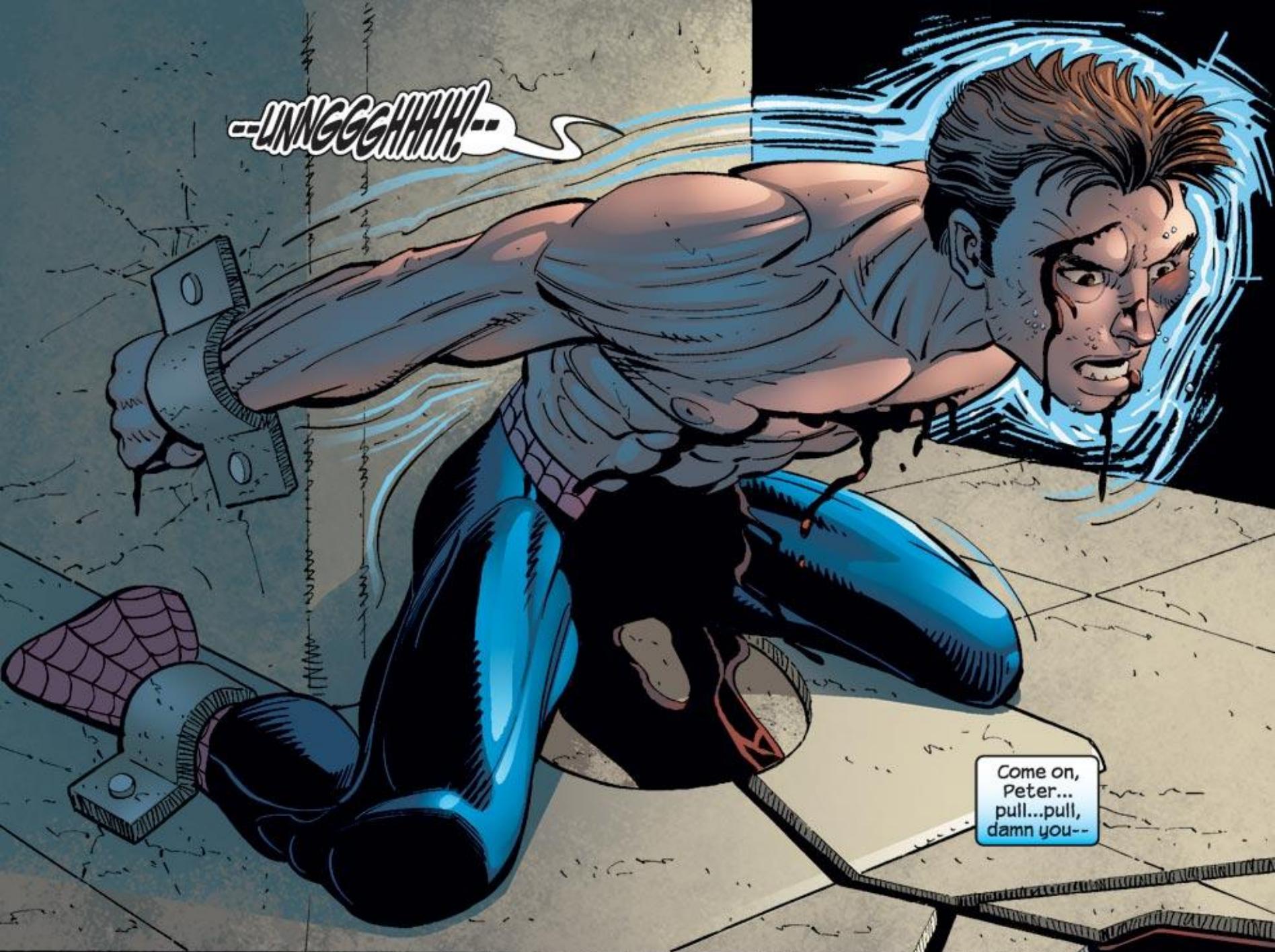
Would never surrender.

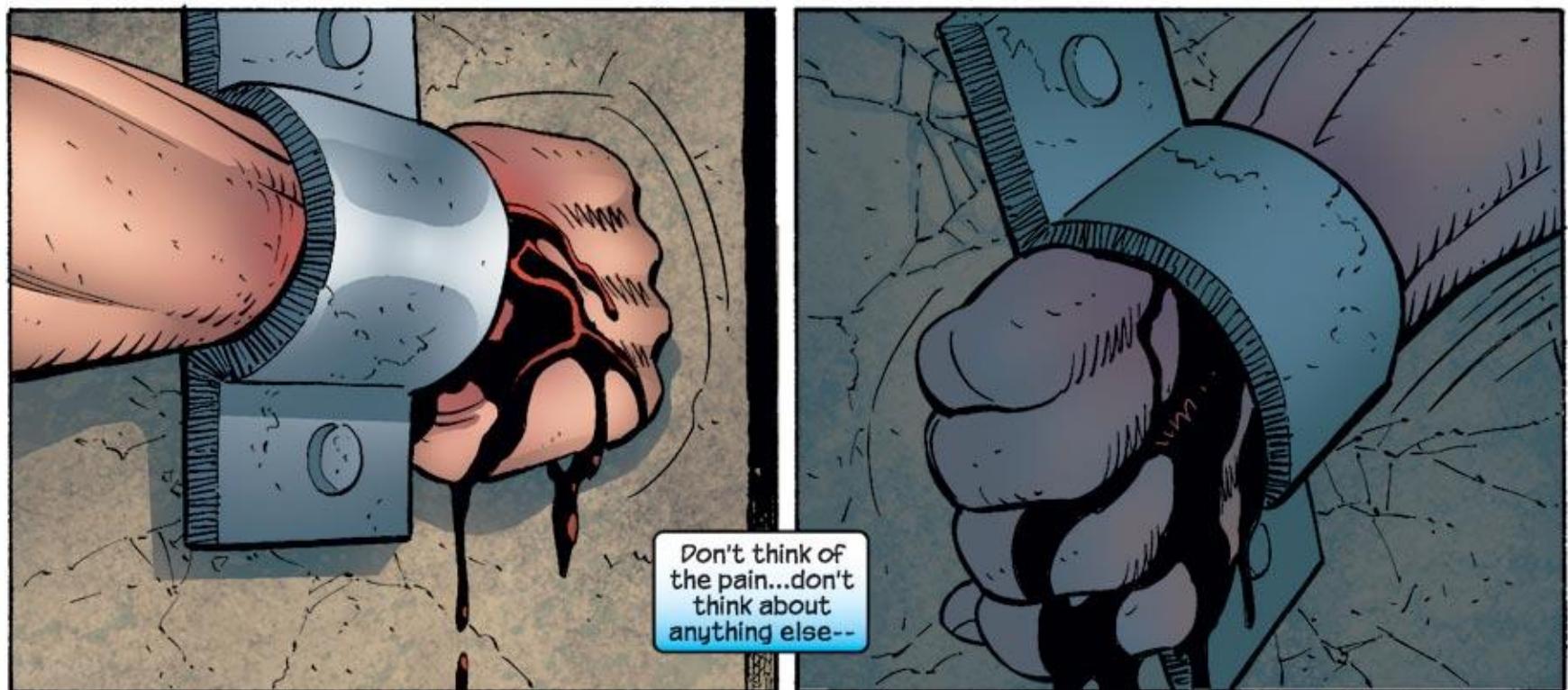
Would take death before submission.

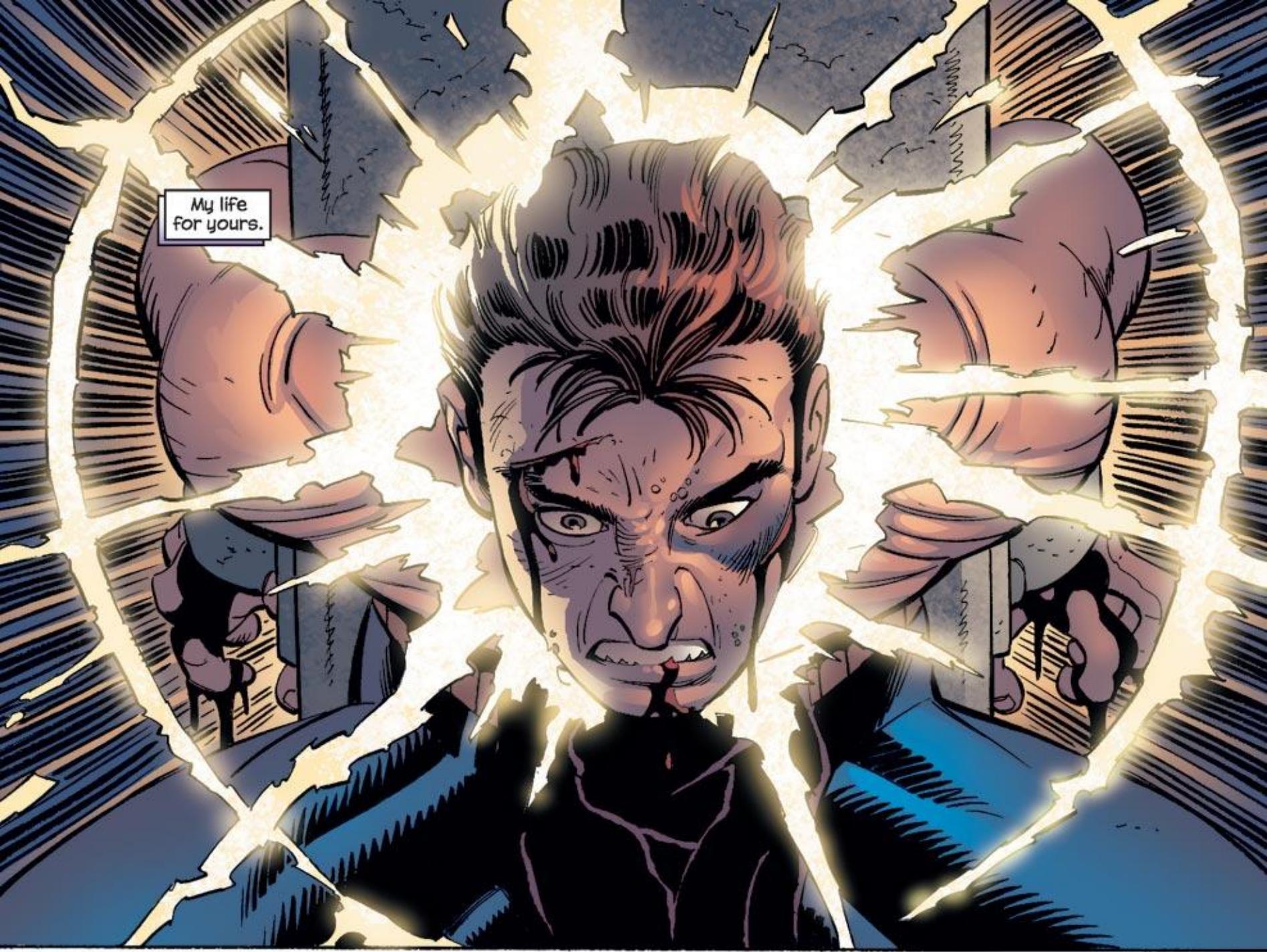




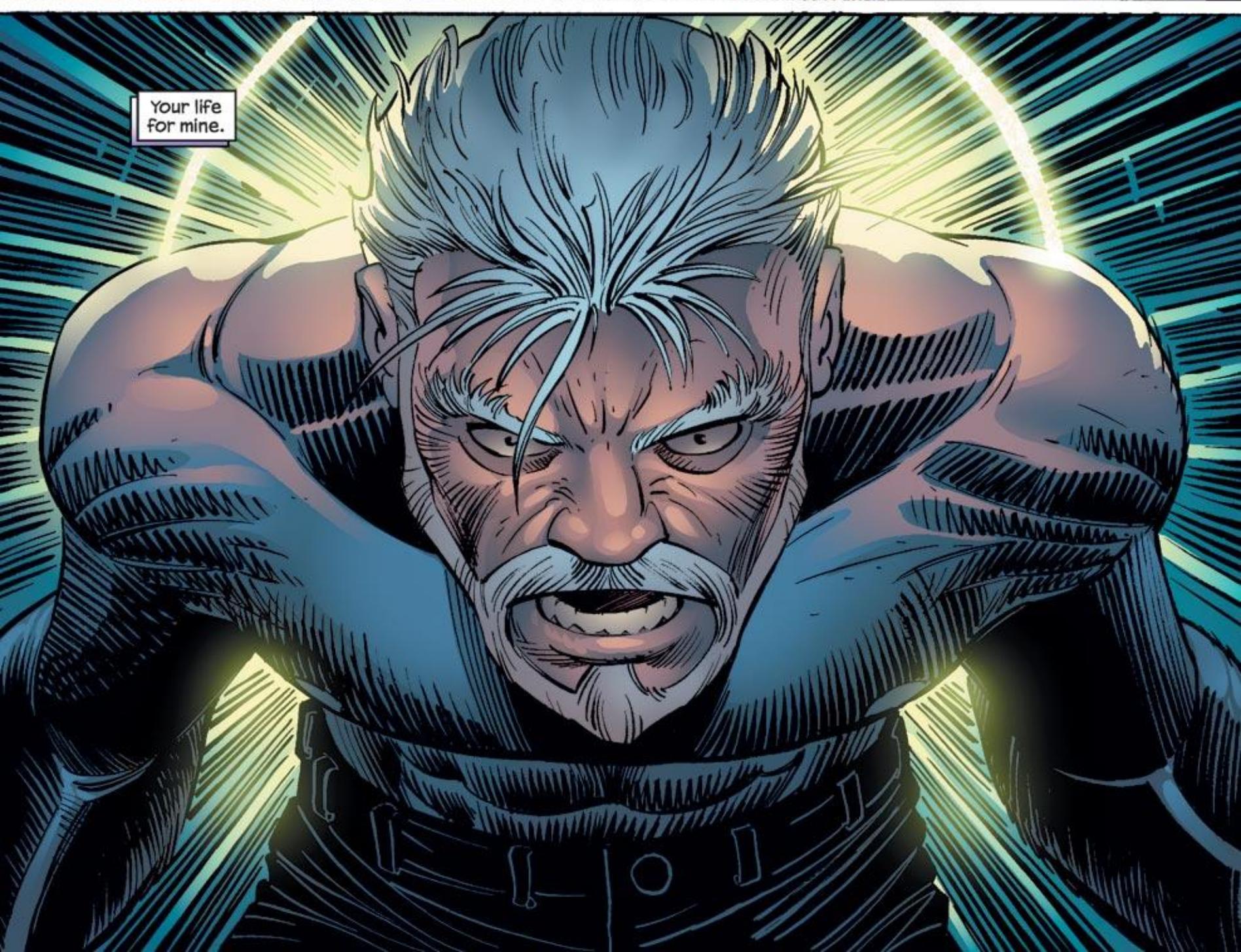








My life
for yours.



Your life
for mine.

I tried to help
but there was
nothing I could
do--

Why do I seek the power
of the Spider? So that I
can help people, without it
there's nothing I can do--

Before I can
get started I
need a base of
operations, a
company--

Look, Ezekiel, we can't
get anything done unless
the full Board of Directors
can agree on--

I know they're in trouble,
but I told them not to go,
and there's no time right
now, I can't--

I want to, but--

Nothing I
can do--

I can do it--

Can't let her down--

I love you,
Aunt May.

Can't let
this stop
me--

Depending
on me--

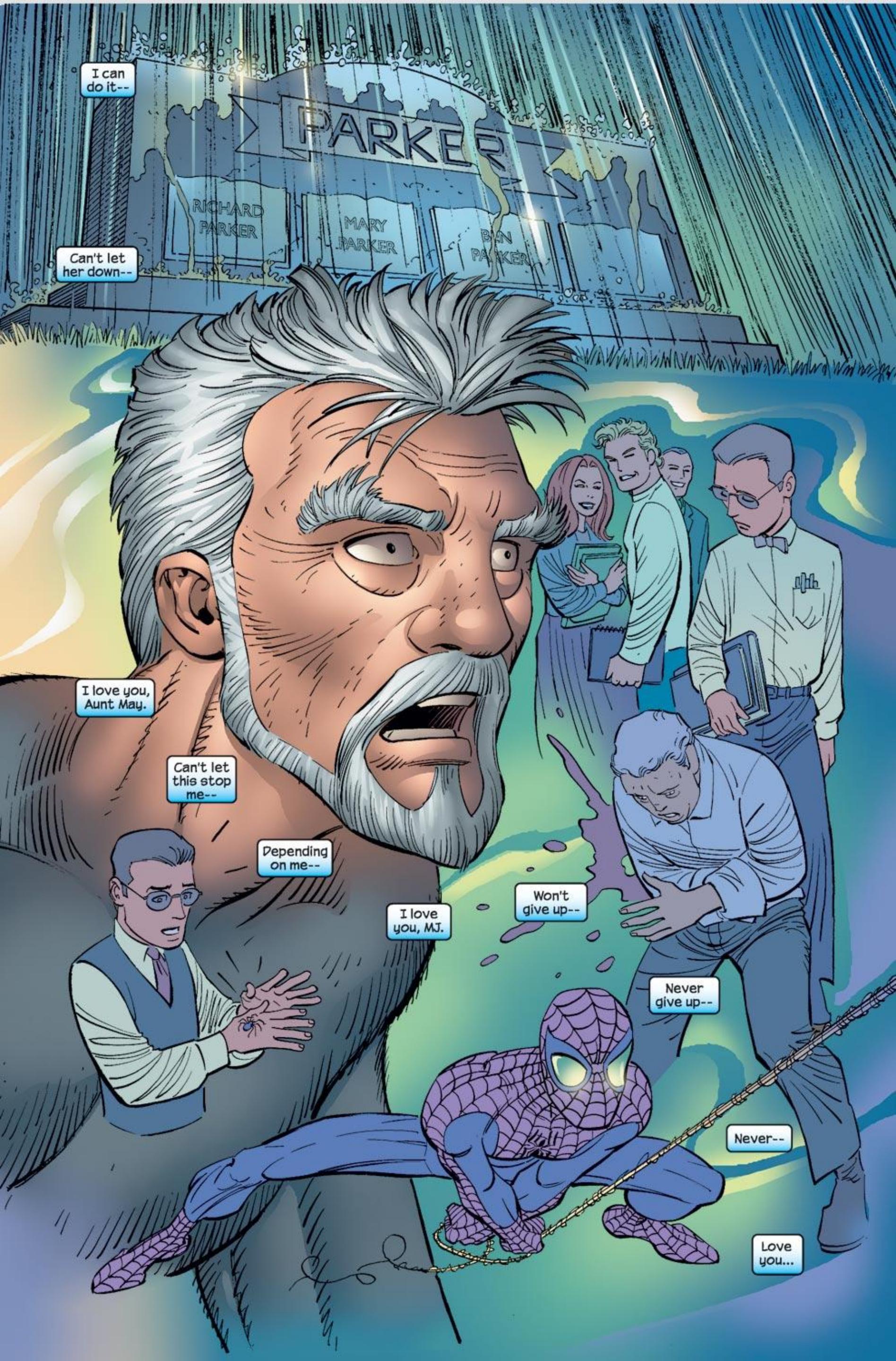
I love
you, MJ.

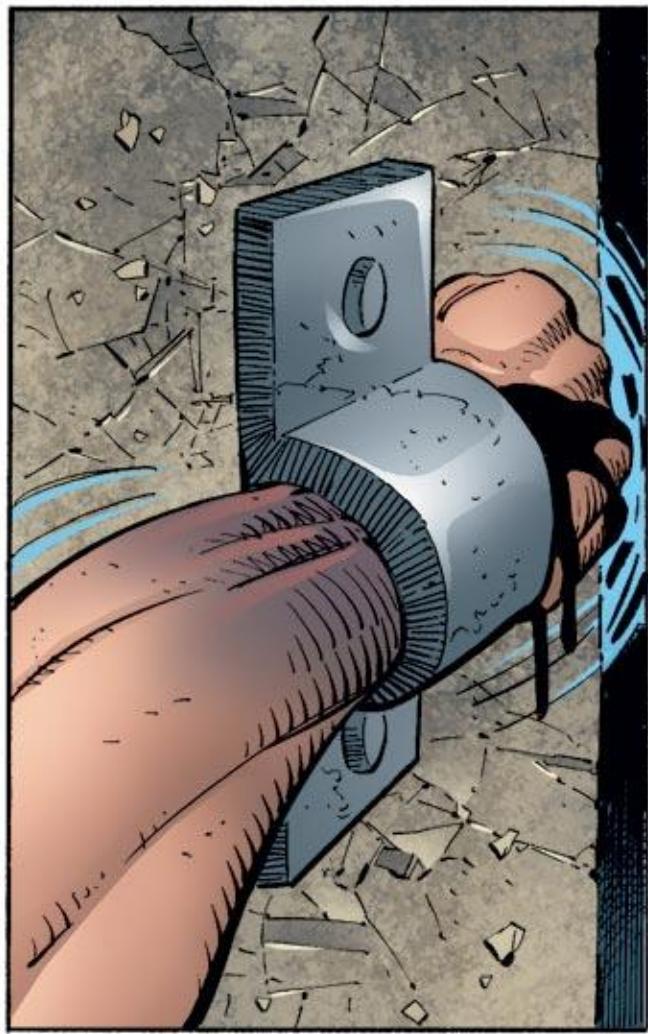
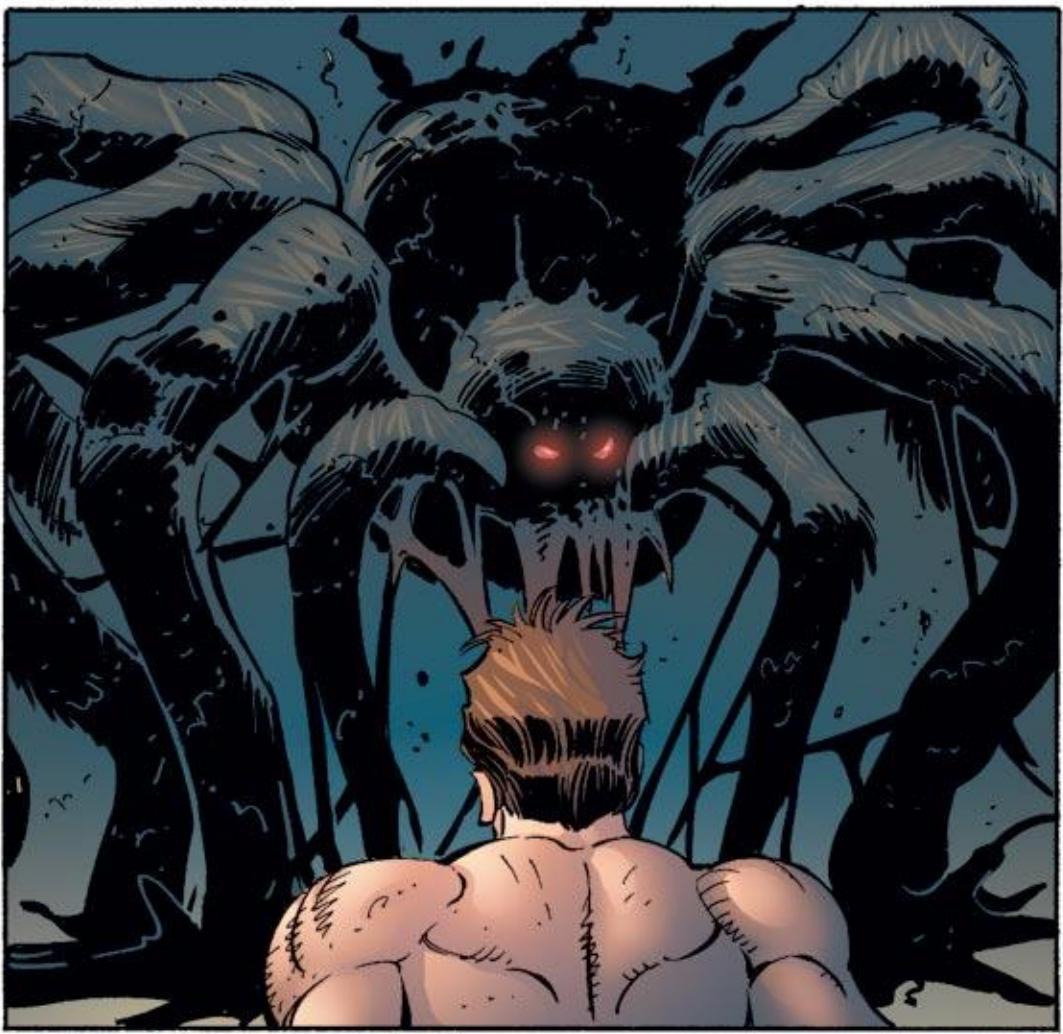
Won't
give up--

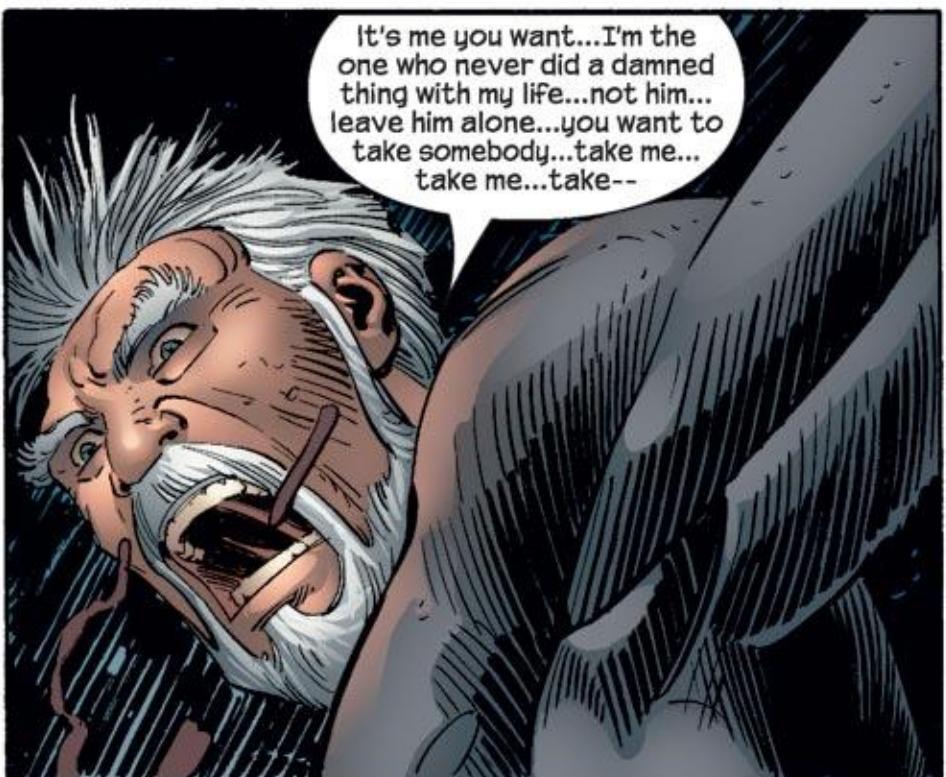
Never
give up--

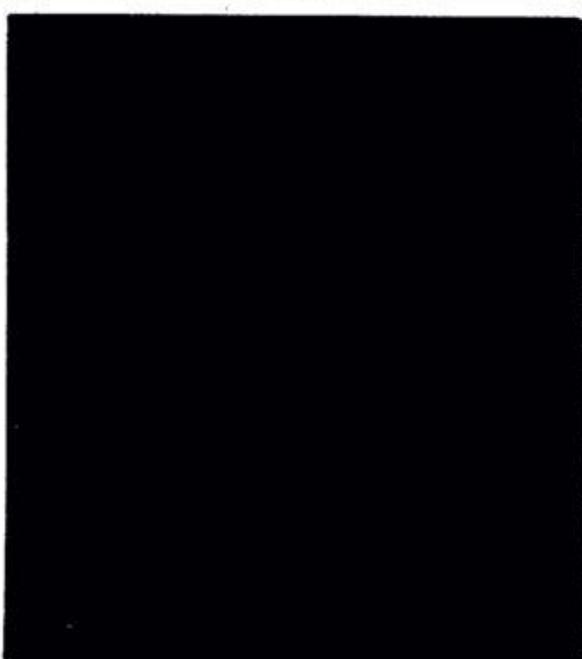
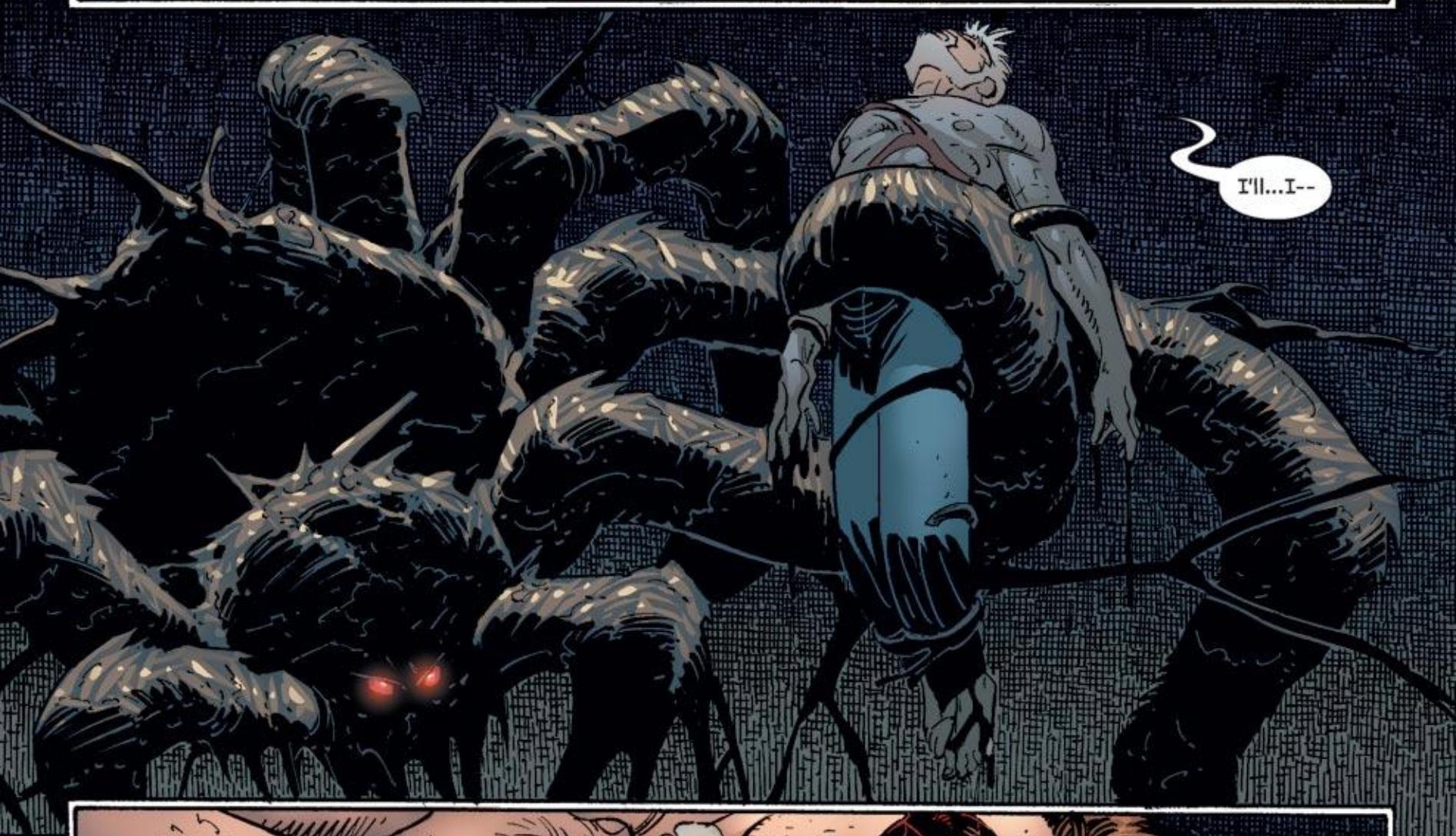
Never--

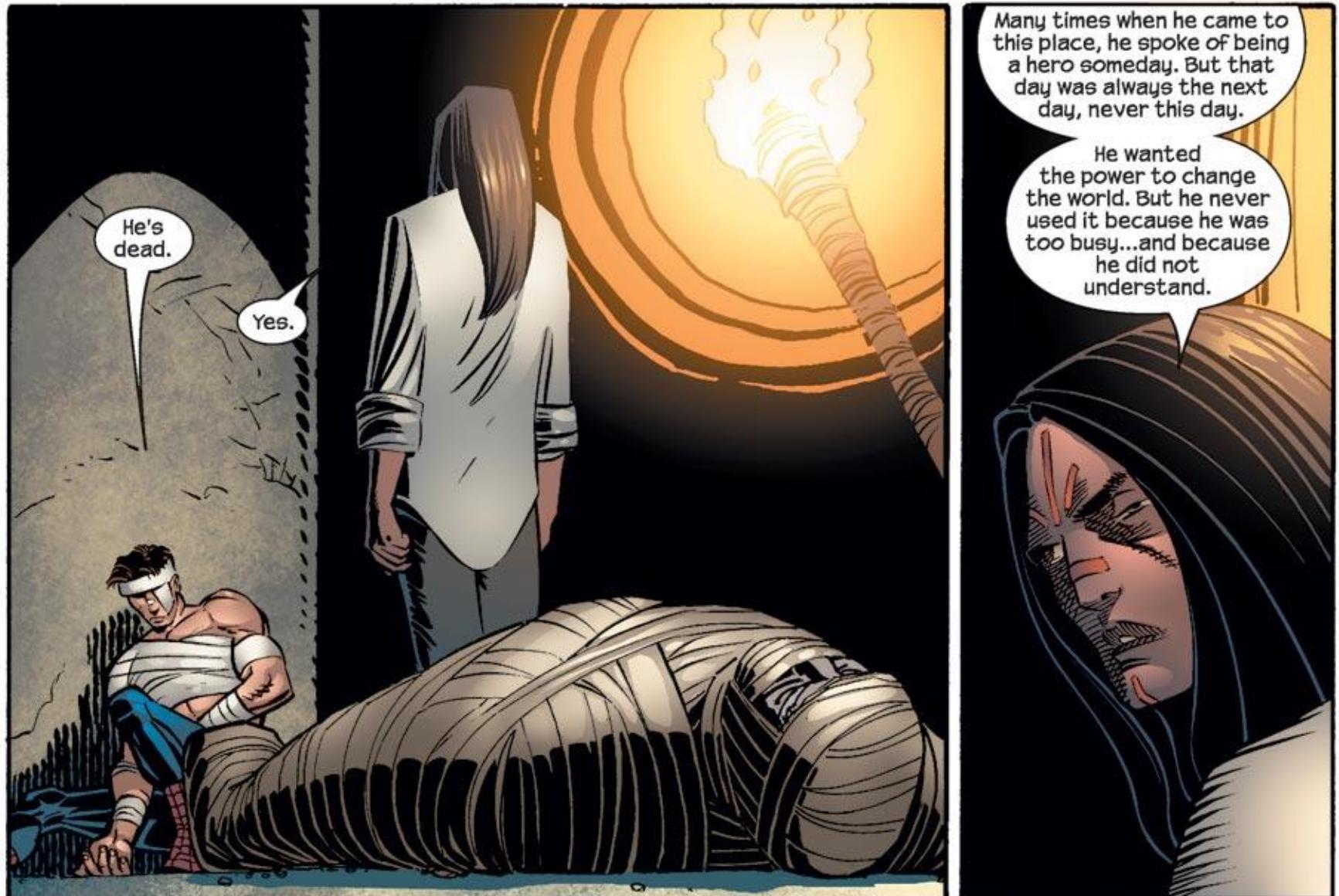
Love
you...











Many times when he came to this place, he spoke of being a hero someday. But that day was always the next day, never this day.

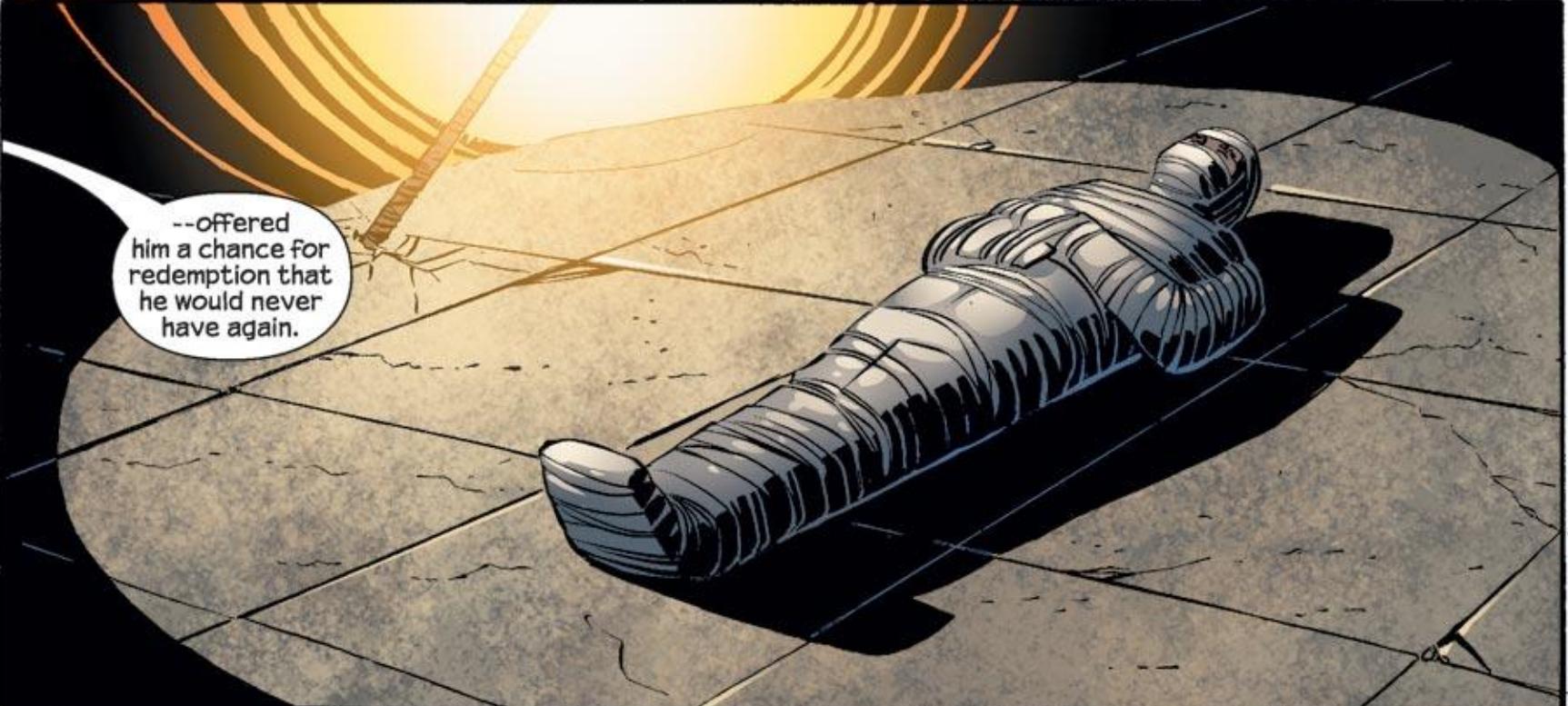
He wanted the power to change the world. But he never used it because he was too busy...and because he did not understand.





Your life for his. His life for yours. The part of *you* that went into *him* understood what the part of *him* that went into *you* never would.

Your soul triumphed over his, and in so doing--



--offered him a chance for redemption that he would never have again.



And in return, he gave you something that you thought you would never have again.

Yeah?
What's that?



Take a look around and work it out.

Well. There you are.



Wait a minute... I mean, we barely... shouldn't we at least say something?

A man's life is his statement.

He needs nothing more from us.

Okay, great, maybe he doesn't, but I do.

I still don't know the truth. I mean, all this...the spider the way I saw it in there, the spider the way I...the way it happened to me--

What's the truth? The magic, or the science?



Tomorrow the sun will come up.

You can tell me all the reasons of science that it *does* come up, the orbital mechanics, all the laws of thermodynamics.



And I can say that it *Will* come up because it is *meant* to come up.

I see no contradiction.

Do you?





Have a great vacation, John. We'll see you again when school starts.