

MARVEL
PSR 515

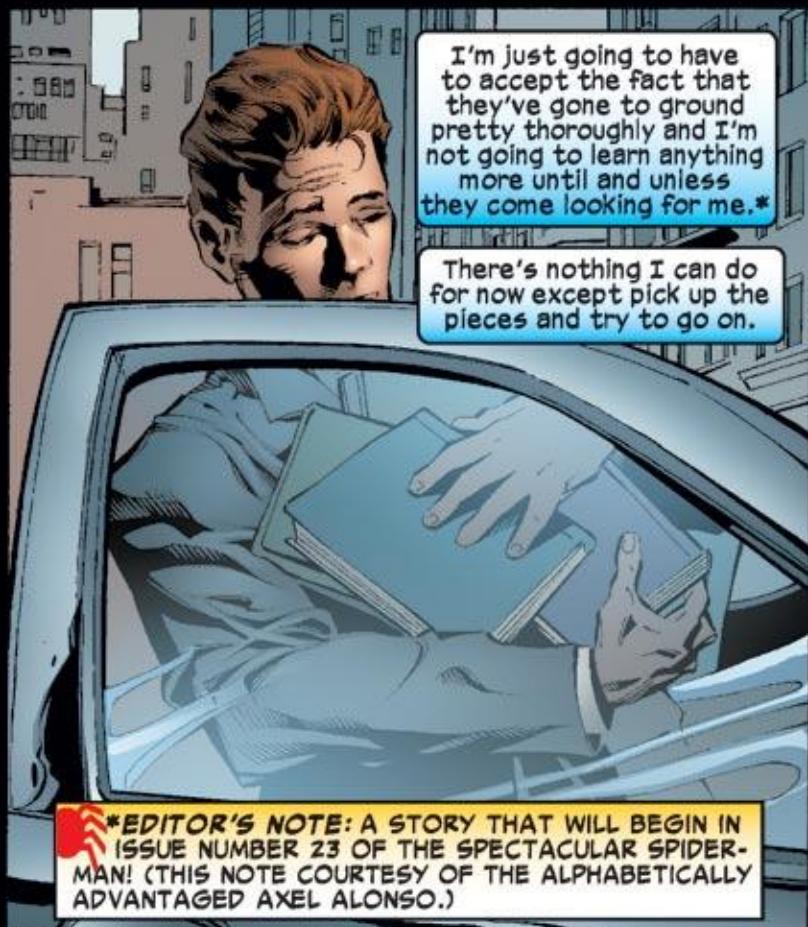
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

STRACZYNSKI
DEODATO JR
BROOKS



SKIN-DEEP

PART 1 of 4



*EDITOR'S NOTE: A STORY THAT WILL BEGIN IN ISSUE NUMBER 23 OF THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! (THIS NOTE COURTESY OF THE ALPHABETICALLY ADVANTAGED AXEL ALONSO.)

SKIN DEEP

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI
WRITER

MIKE DEODATO
PENCILS

JOE PIMENTEL
INKER

MATT MILLA
COLORIST

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

WARREN SIMONS
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

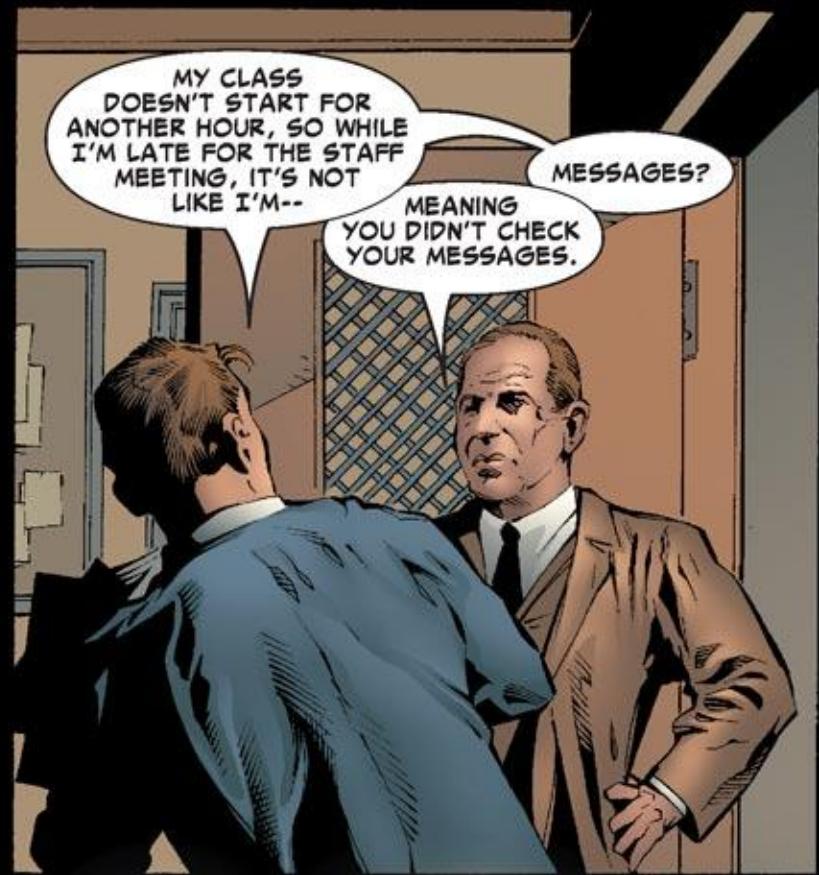
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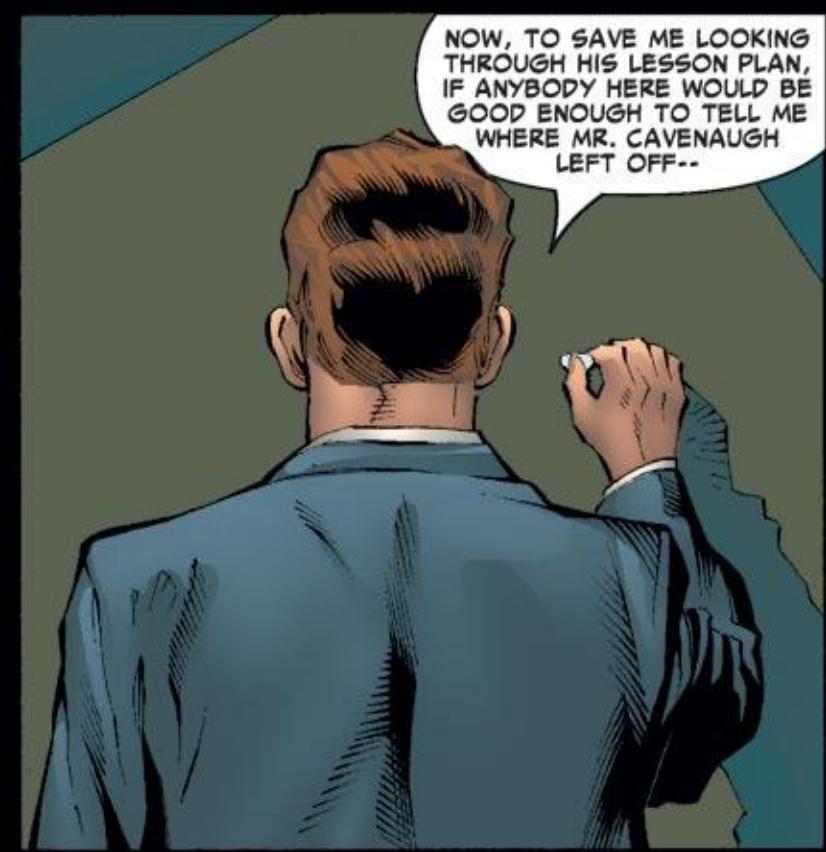
MARK BROOKS
PENCILS

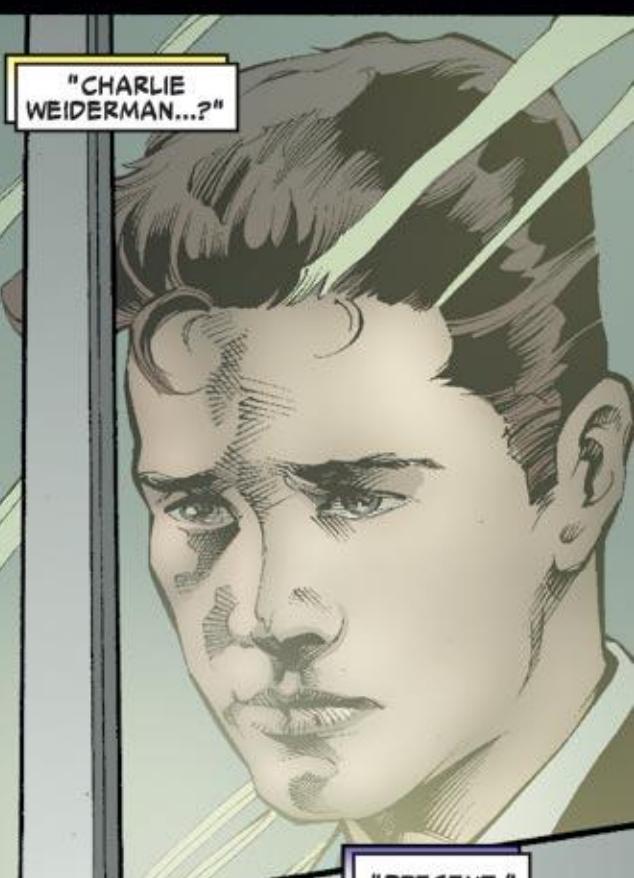
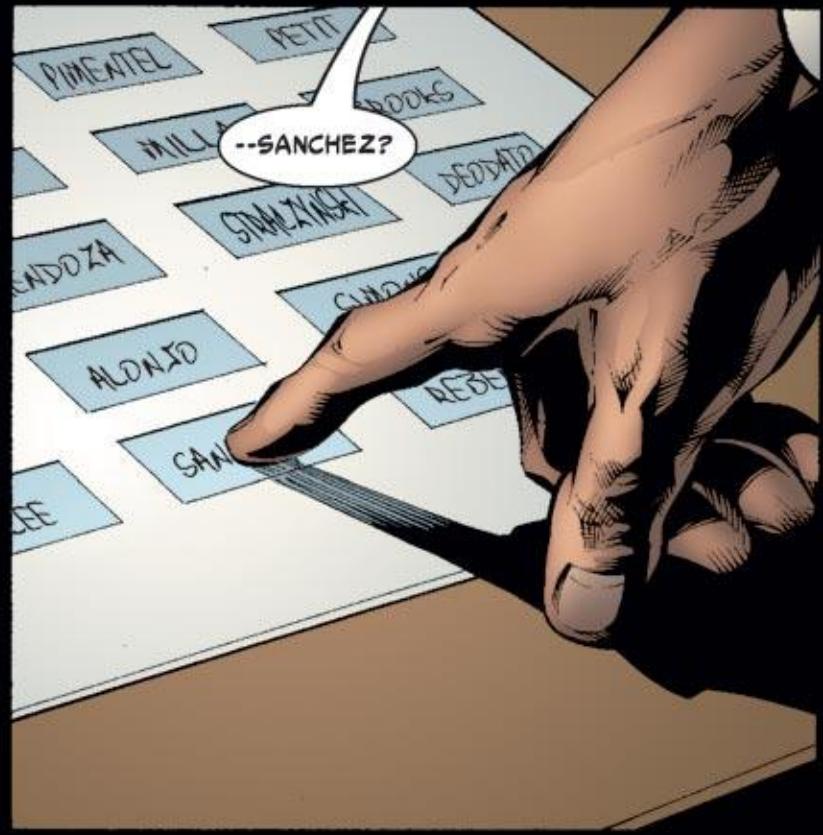
JAIME MENDOZA
INKER

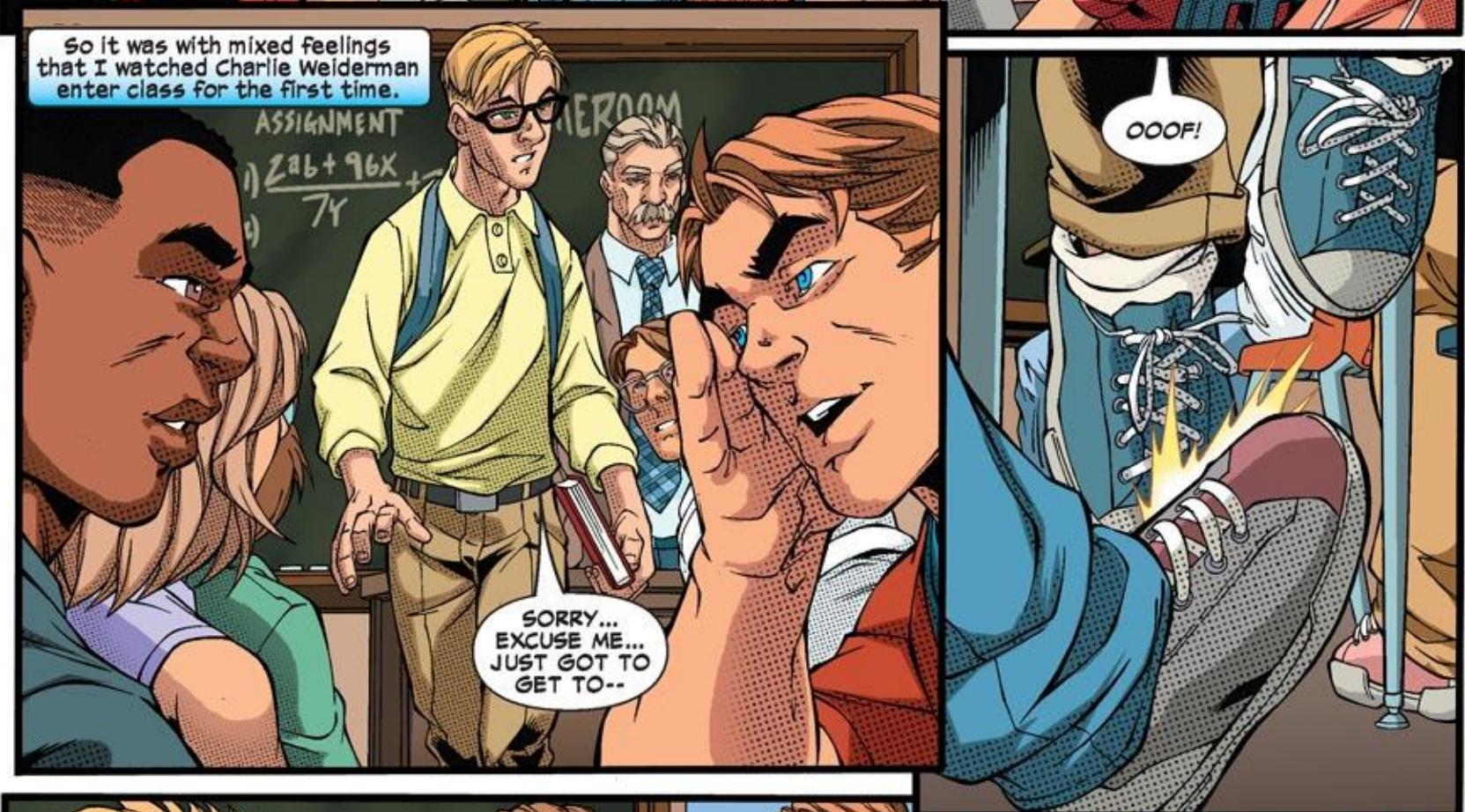
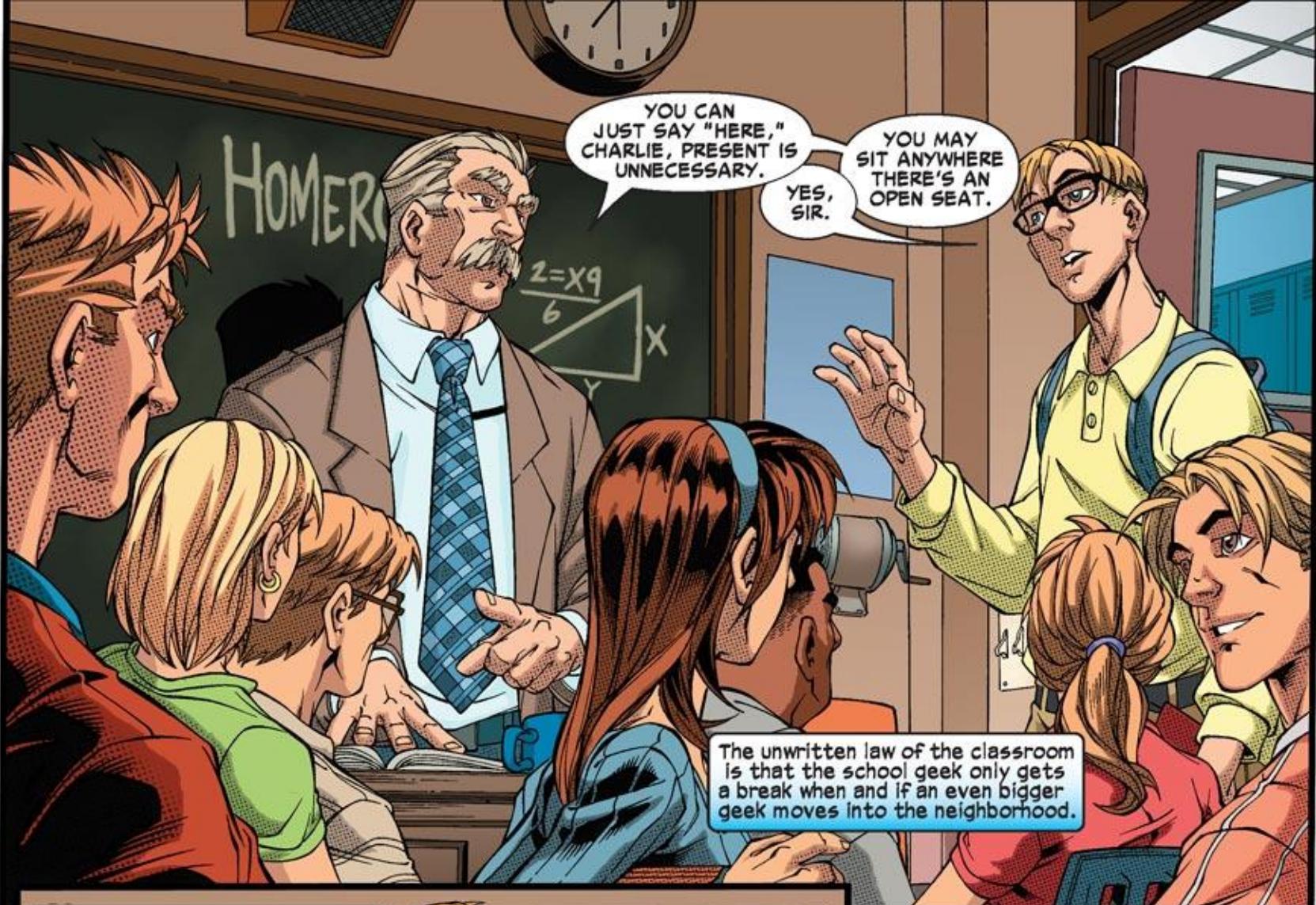
BRIAN REBER
COLORIST

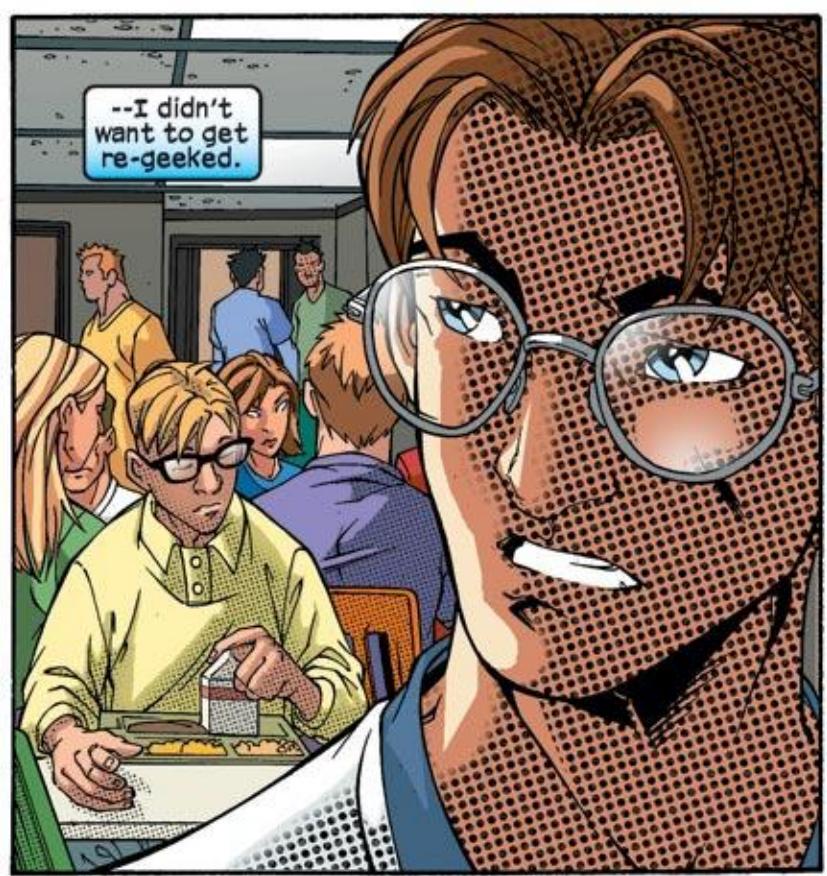


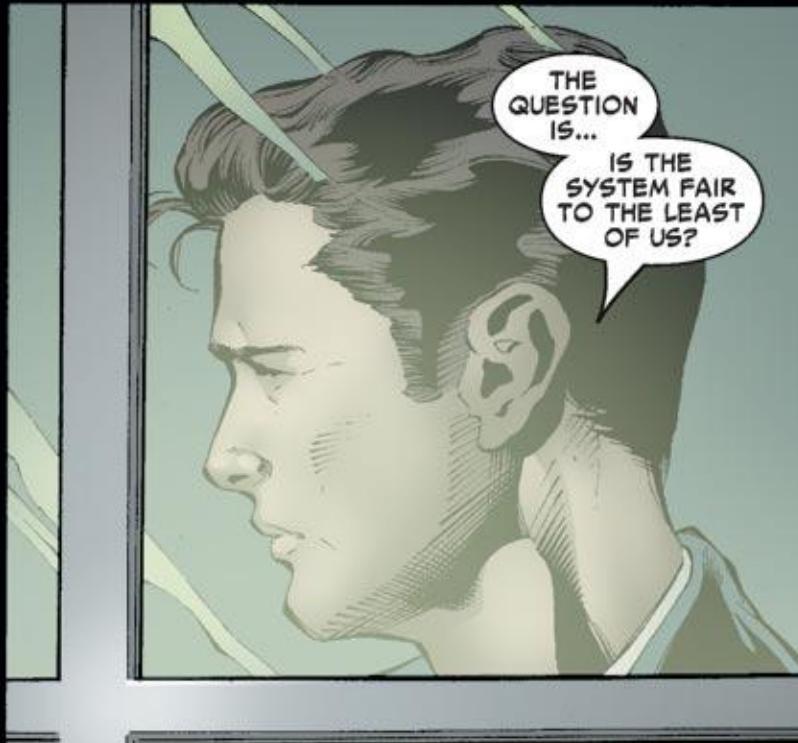


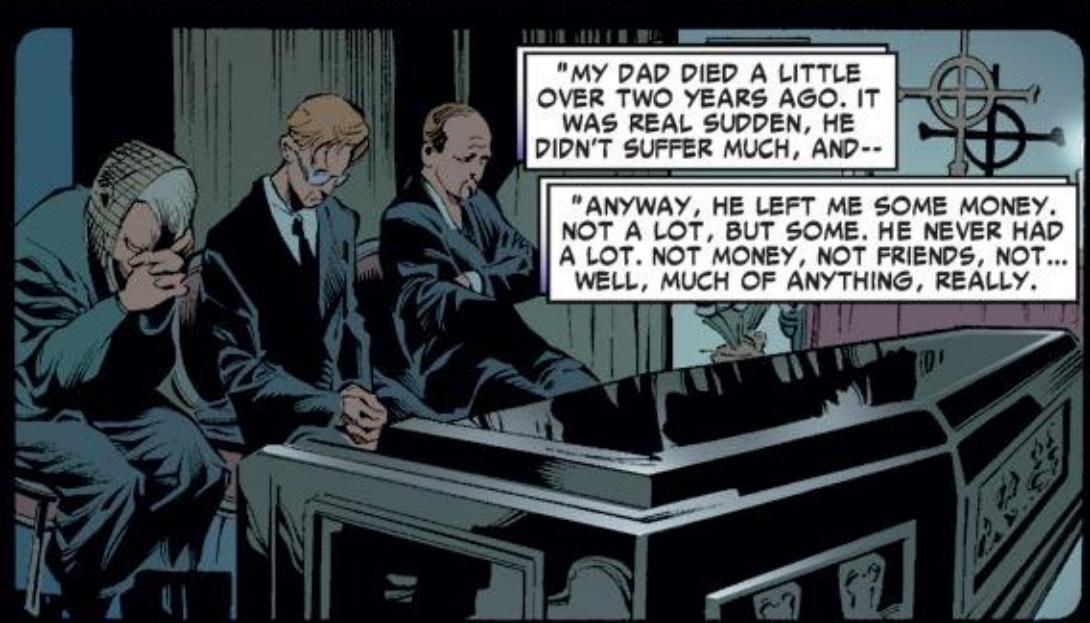
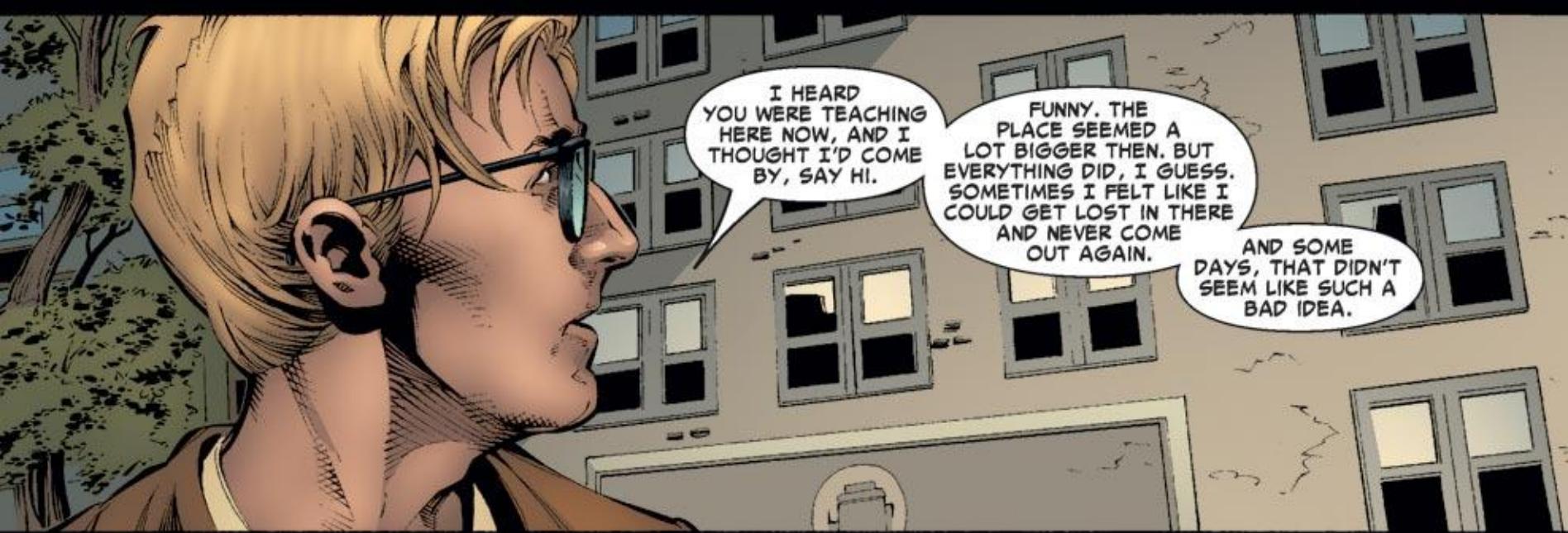


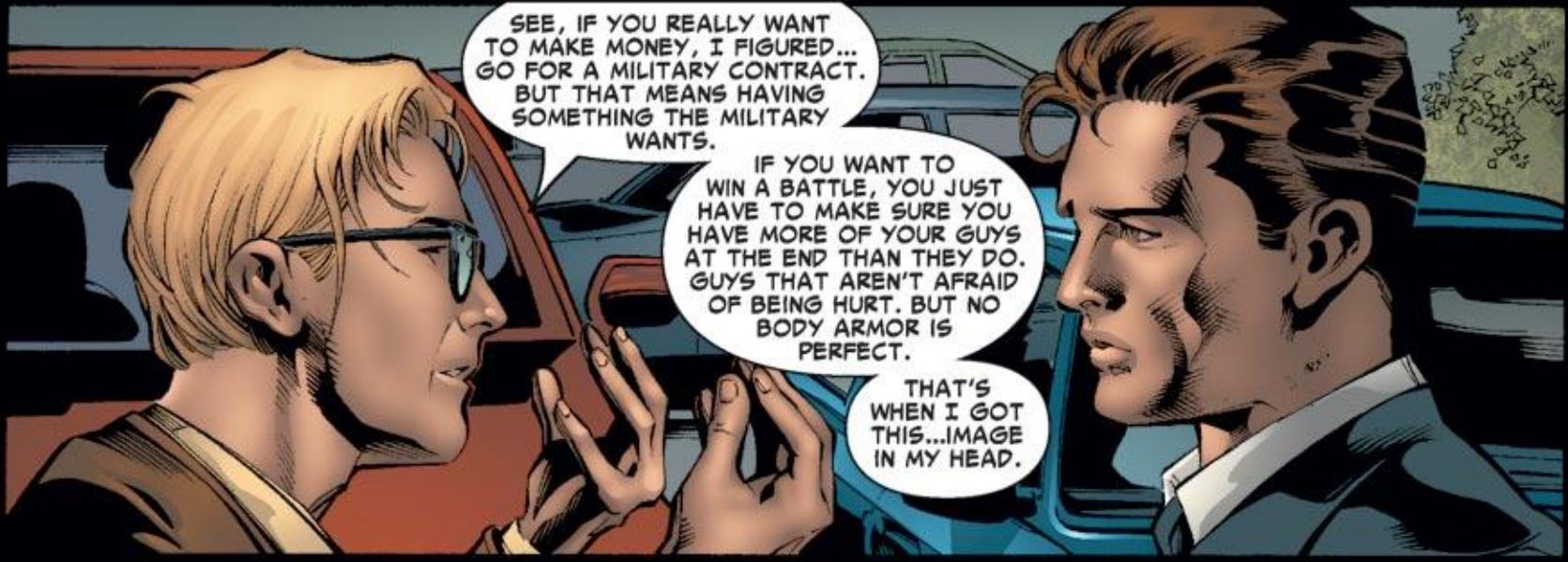


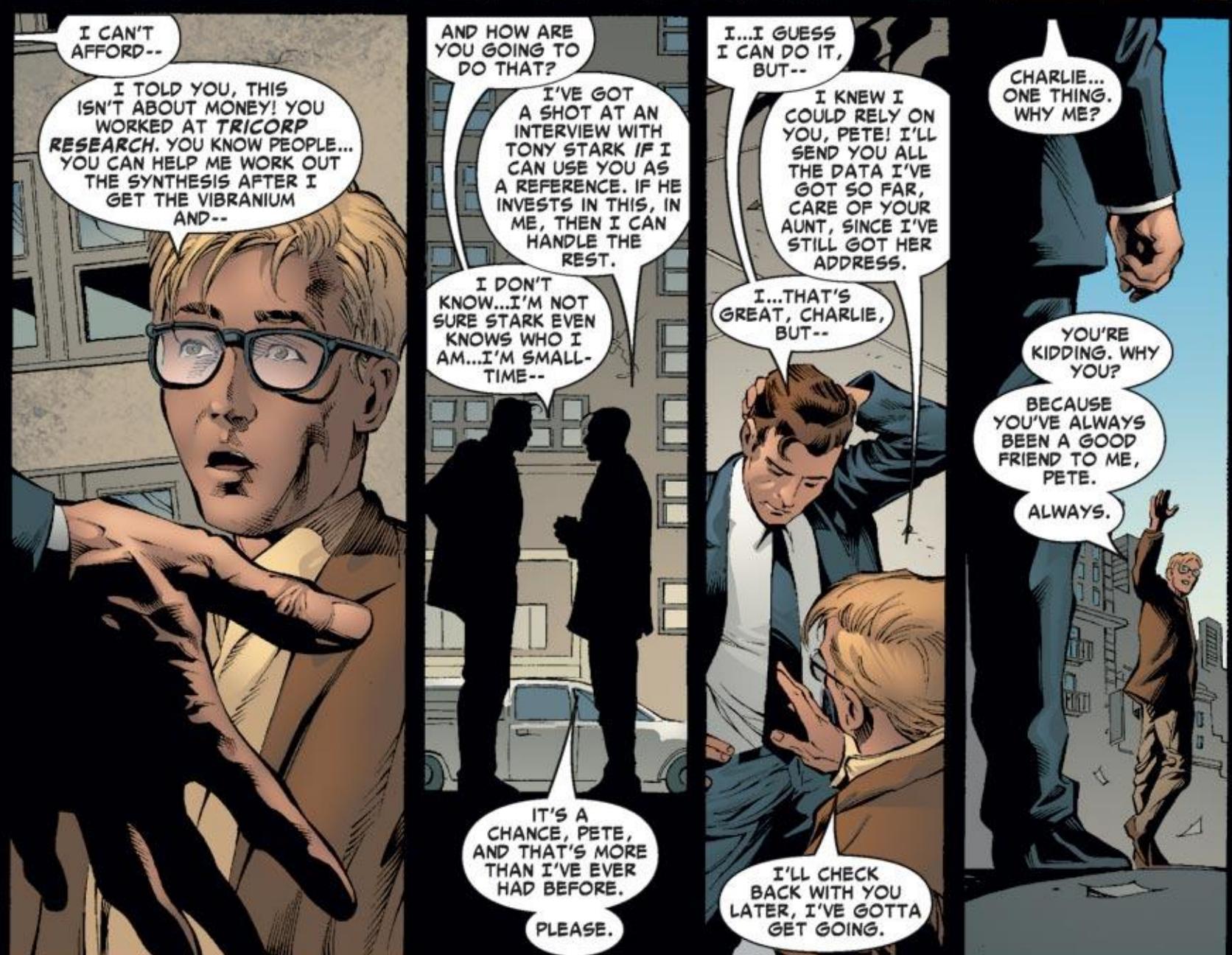












The thing about being the school's resident Geek Supreme, especially in the months before my life was changed forever by the bite of a certain irradiated spider, is that you'd give just about anything to make it stop.



And if the day comes when the target gets moved off your back because a new one arrives...you'd do almost anything to keep it from finding you again.



OOOF!
OW! GET OFF!
GET OFF!

I may have been the proverbial 98-pound weakling, but Charlie was all elbows and awkwardness. Compared to him I was an N.F.L. linebacker.

Well, you know...mostly.

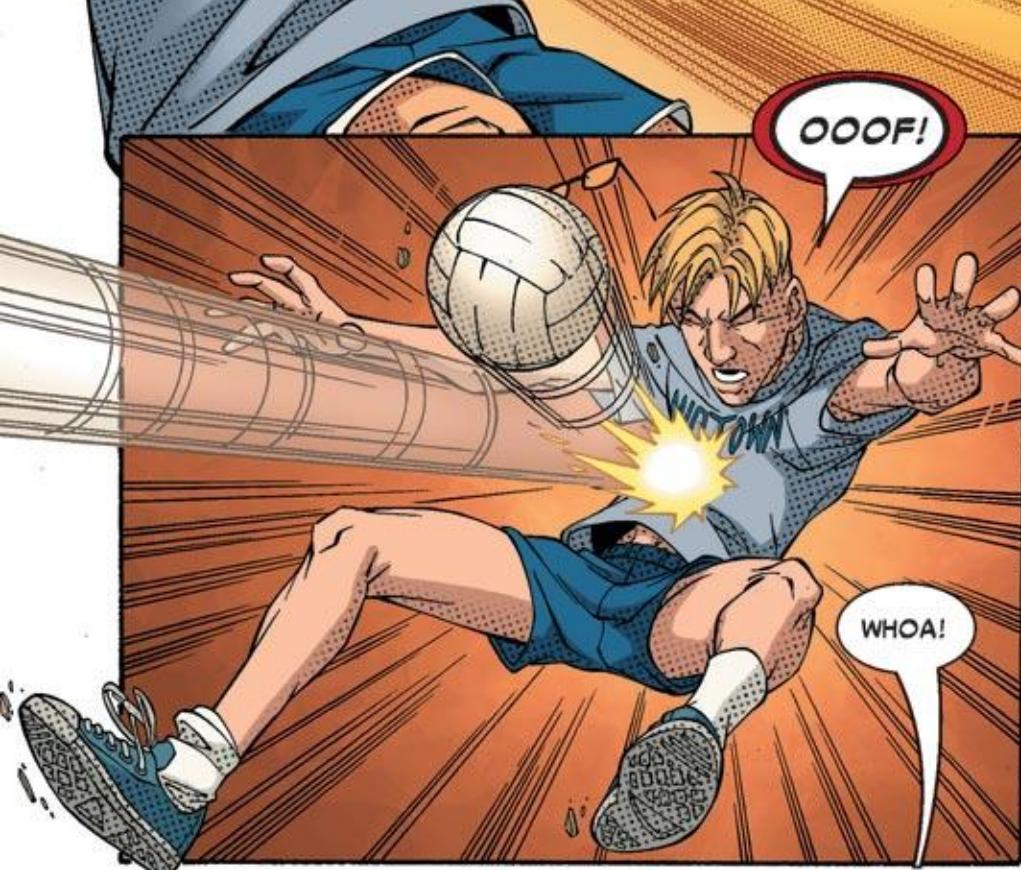
JERK! YOU LET IT GET RIGHT PAST YOU!

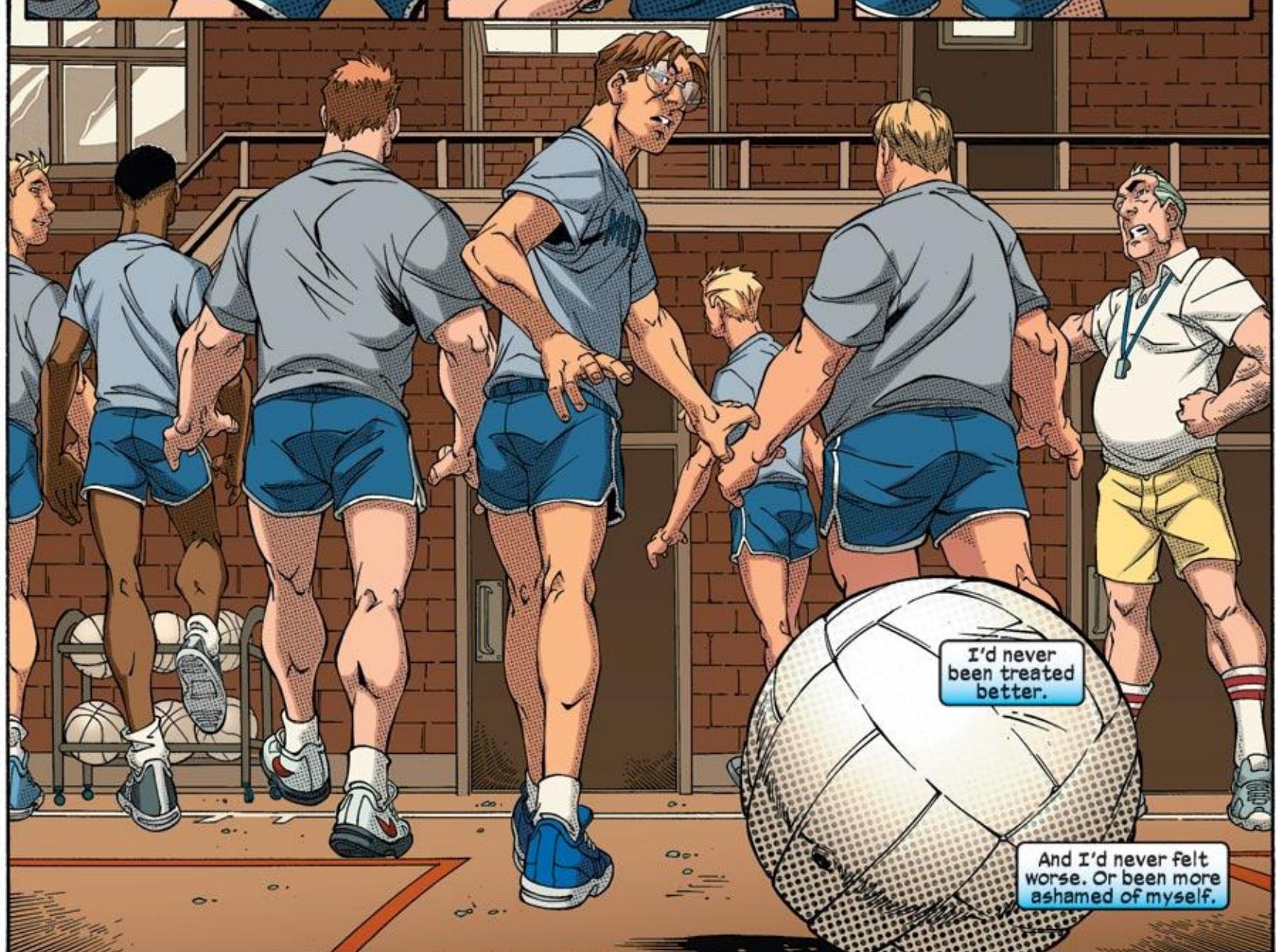
He was in the middle of one of those growth spurts, where your feet and hands are bigger than usual and never where they're supposed to be.

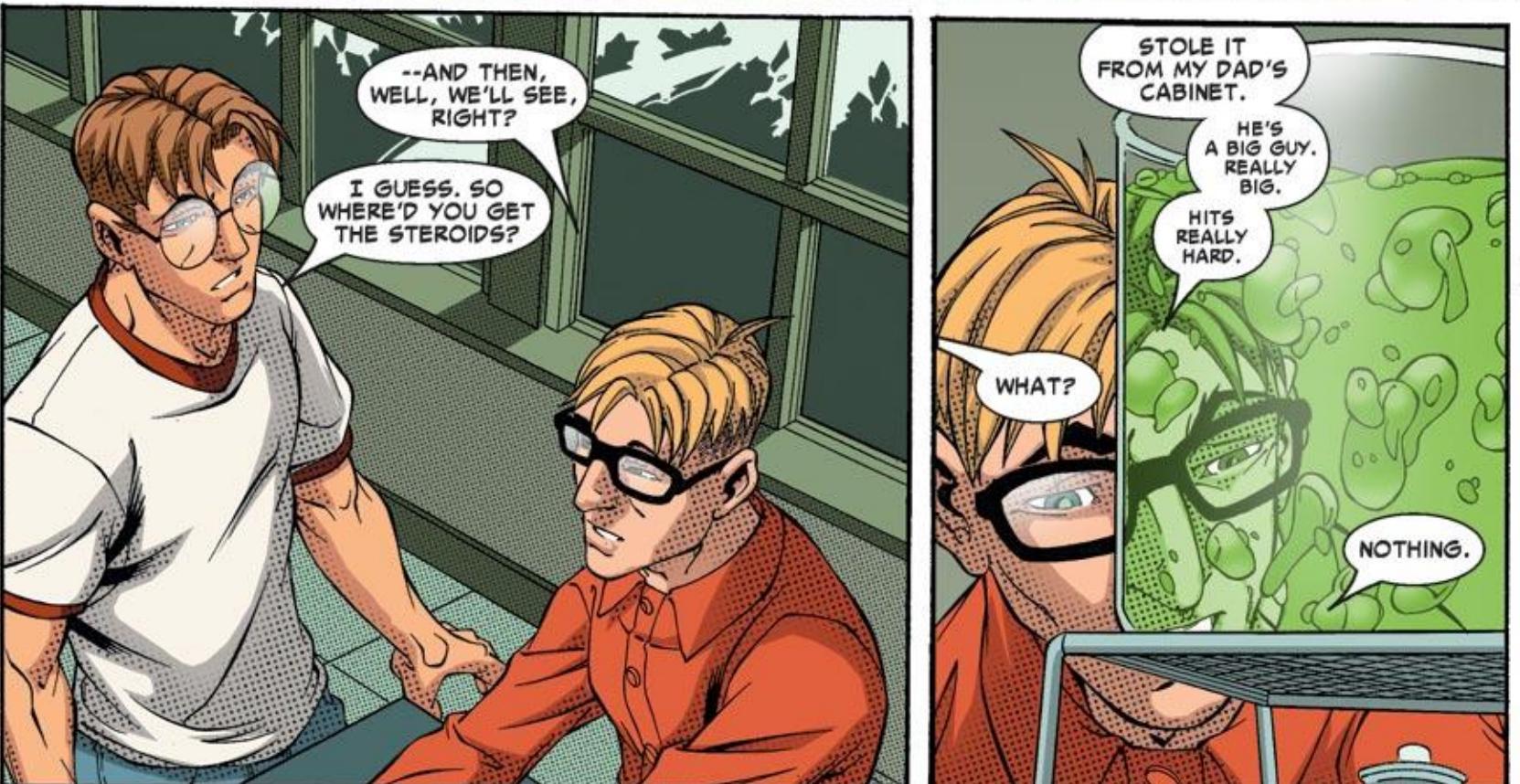
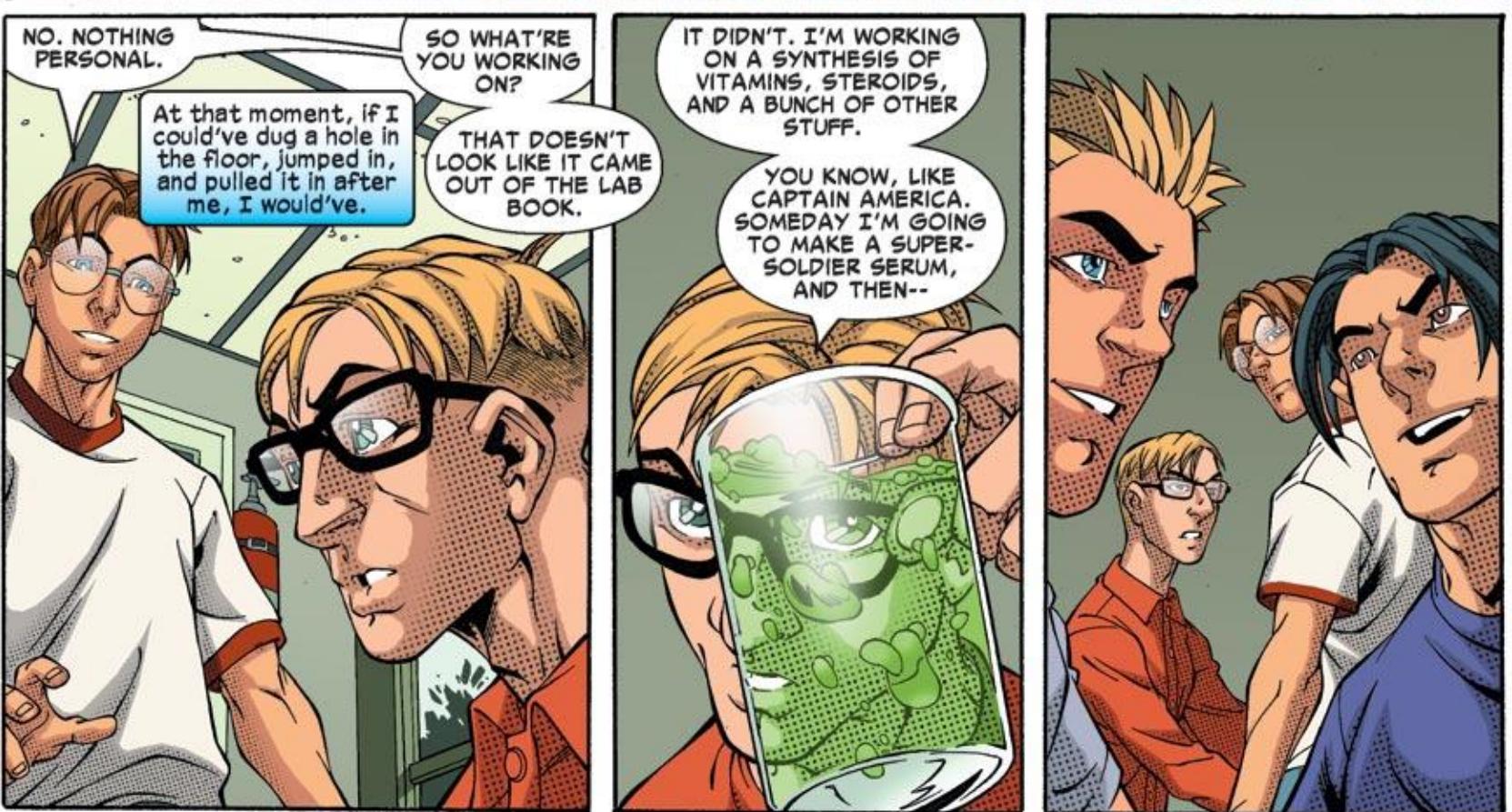
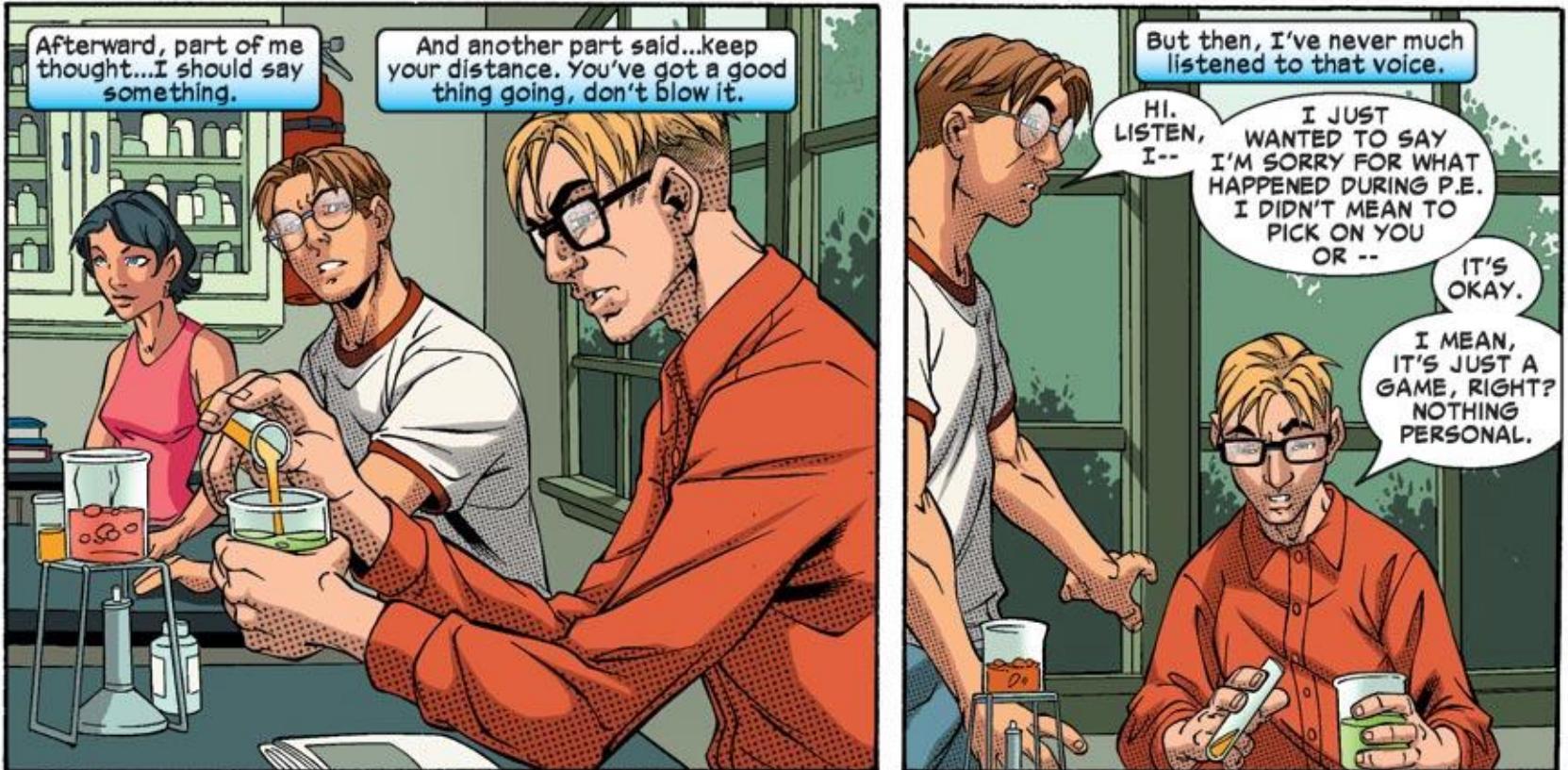
YEAH!
GOT IT!

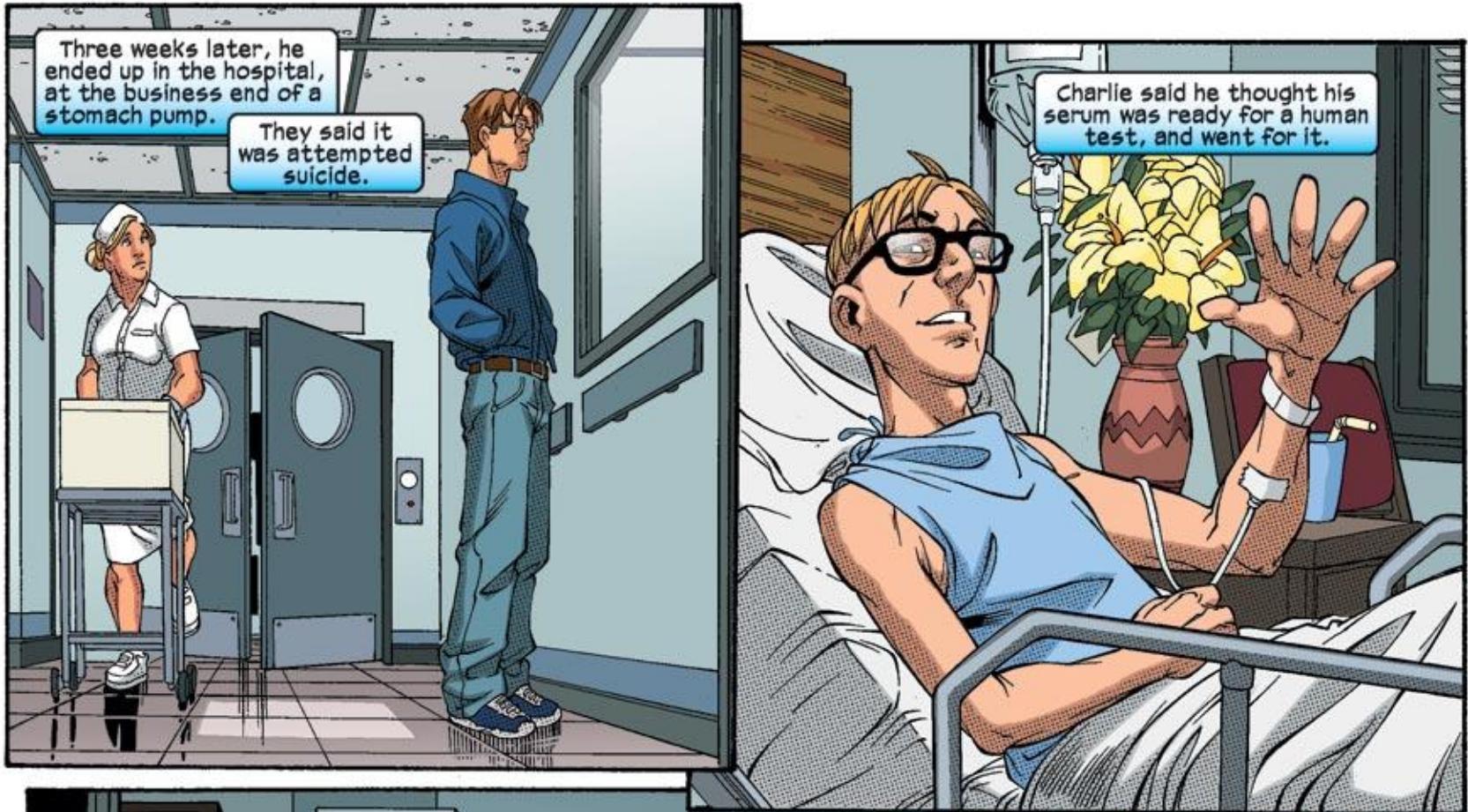
He was so bad nobody really seemed to notice me...and I was totally okay with that.

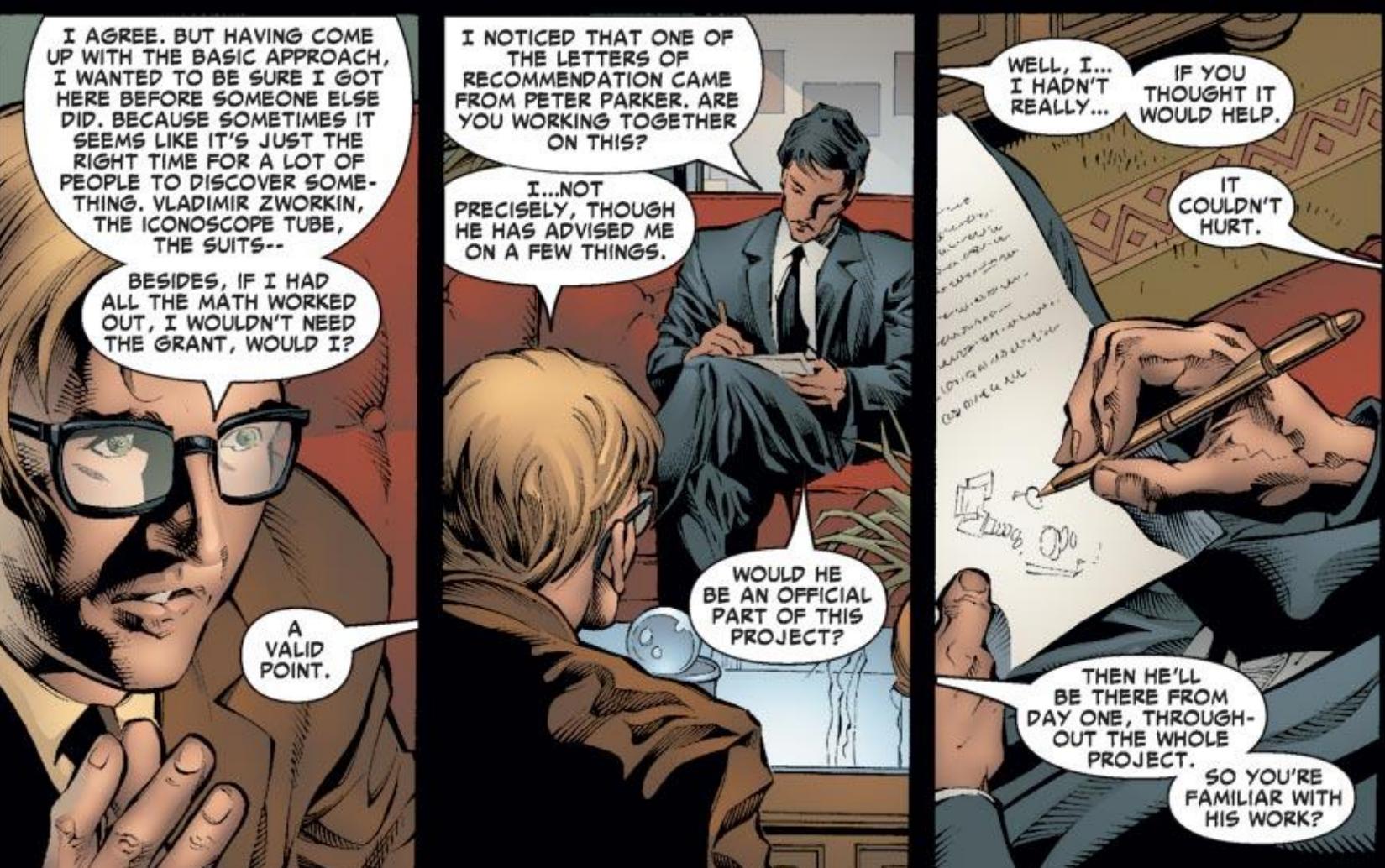
There are benefits to not being seen.













EDITOR'S NOTE: HOW DOES
TONY STARK KNOW PETER
PARKER IS SPIDER-MAN? SEE
NEW AVENGERS #3, OUT THIS
JANUARY, TRUE BELIEVER!



--and I had mine.

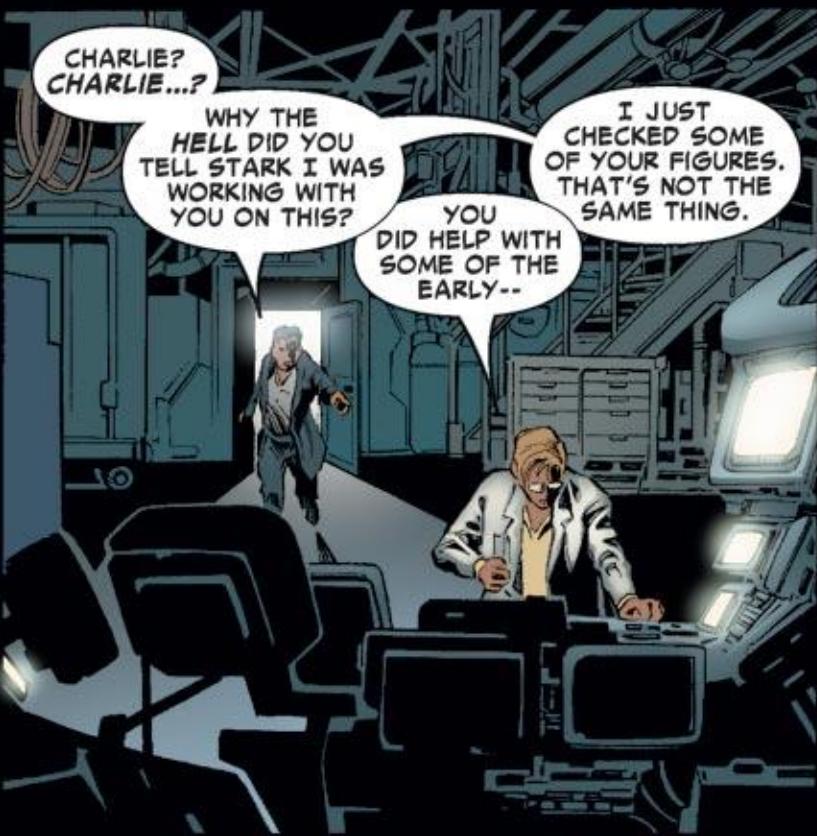
Enjoying the nightlife...

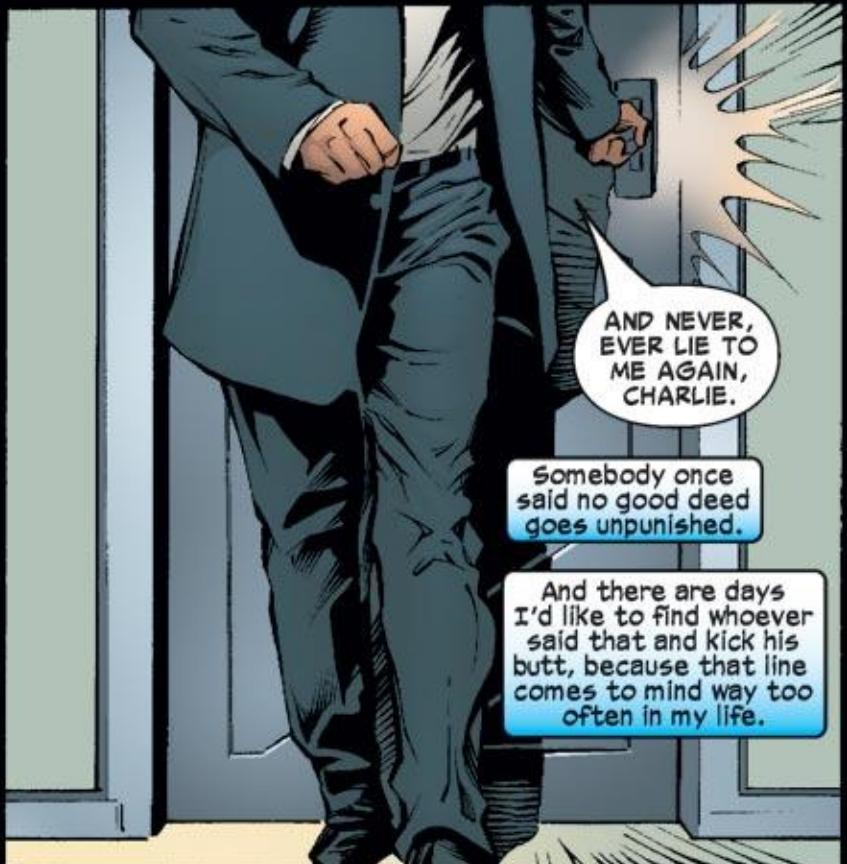
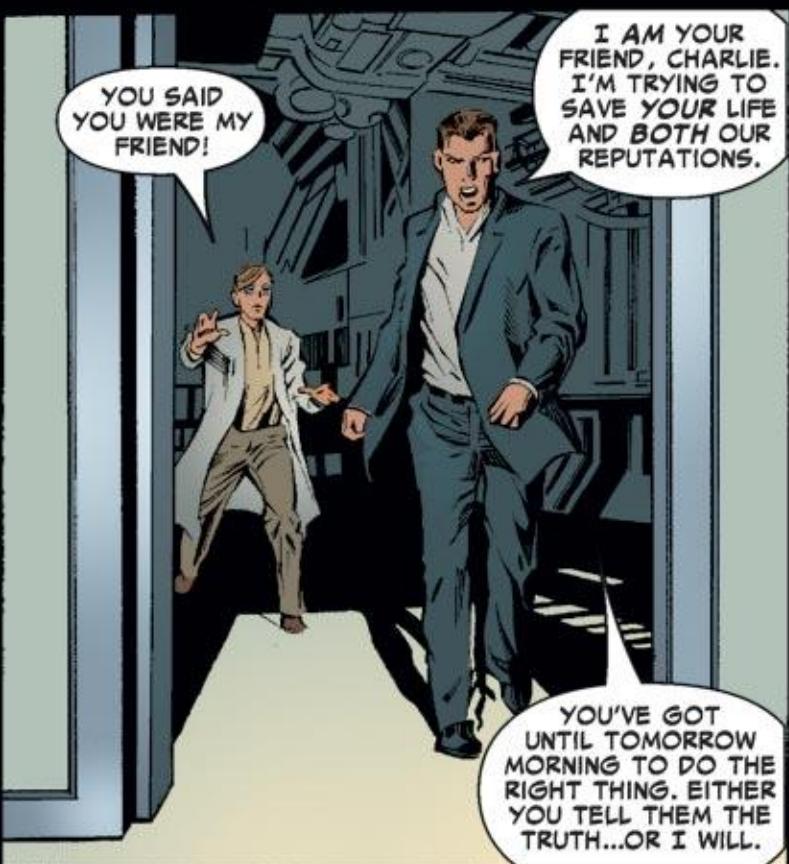
...going with MJ to rehearsals...

...great performances...

...lectures on the decline of Western civilization...

...and generally just hanging around.





If I'd had any common sense, I would have turned Charlie in right then and there. Shut down the whole thing. But I wanted to give him a chance to do the right thing, and save a little of his reputation.

Charlie had a good mind, maybe even a great mind, but he was impatient. Science requires patience. But Charlie required something else.

He had something to prove, most of it to people who had forgotten all about him by this point and didn't care one way or another.

He thought he could show them all, prove to them that he was special, that he was **SOMEONE**—

Validation.

--that he had that...spark.

...NO...



Yeah. It's true. No good deed goes unpunished.



But this one...THIS one was going to cut deep.



TO BE CONTINUED...