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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
Mayhew
Van Lente
Reed
Pulido
Paquette
Ross
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

RED HEADED STRANGER
Epilogue

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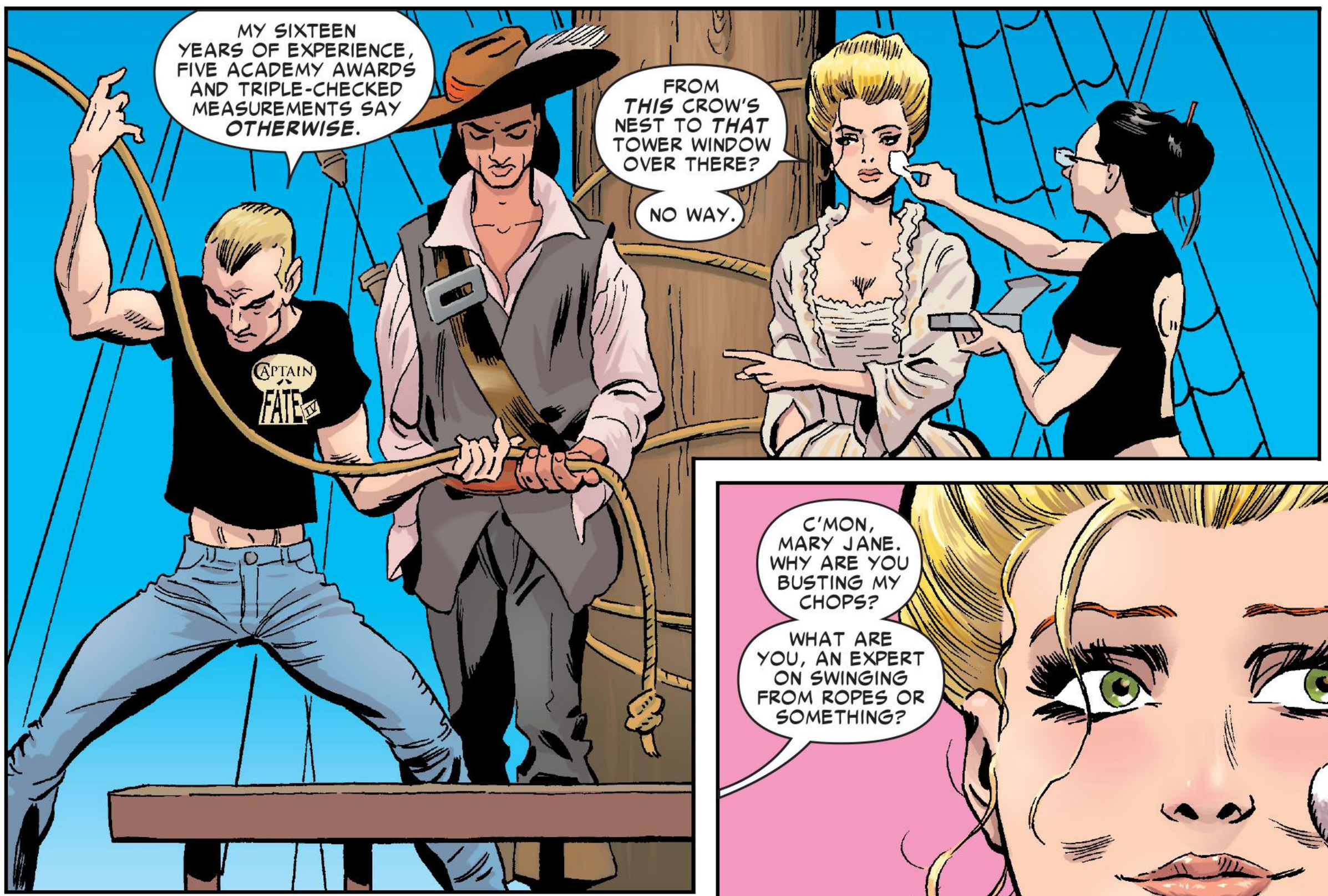
Chapter One

The Bahamas. Six Weeks Ago.

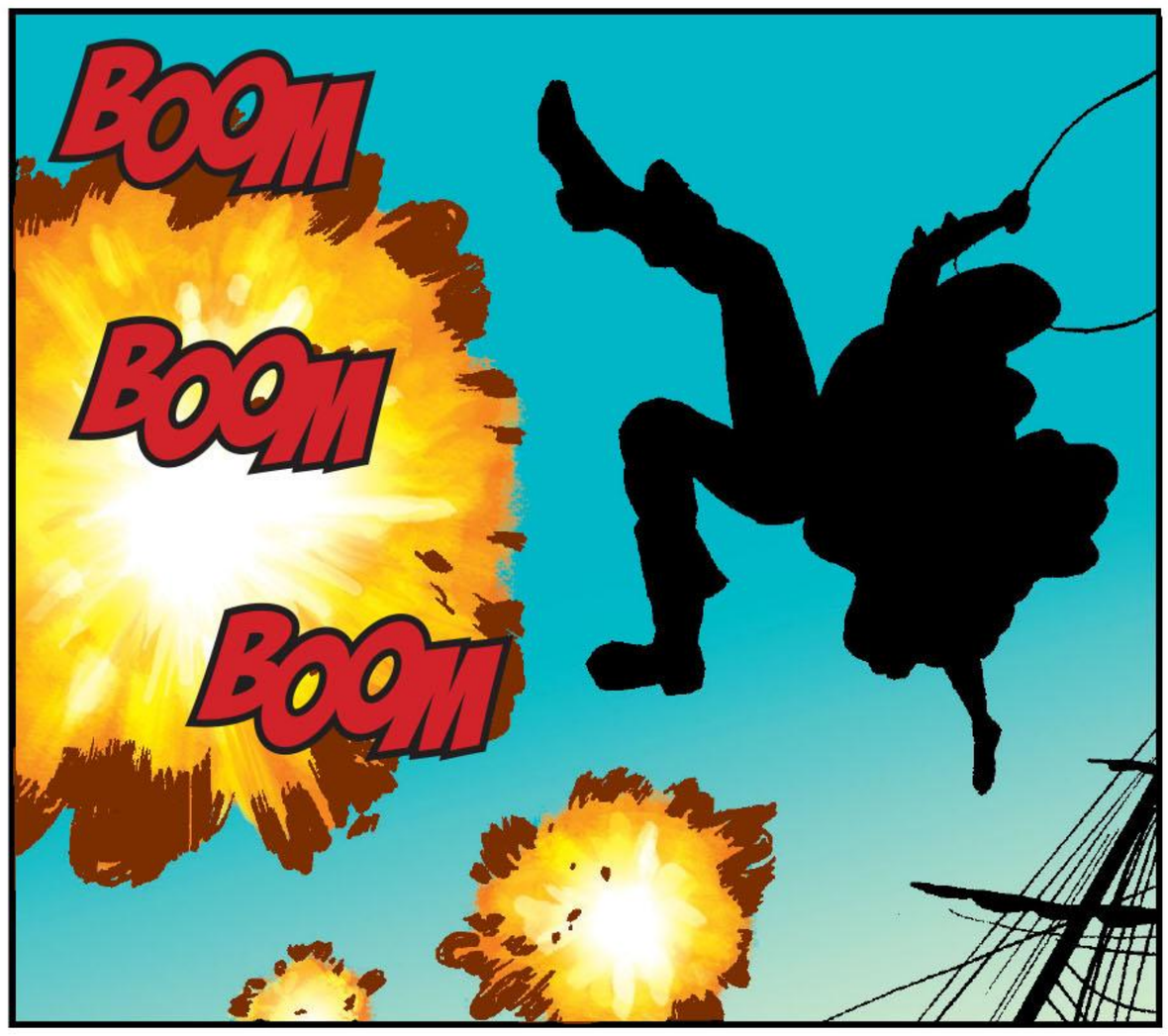
ROPE'S TOO LONG.

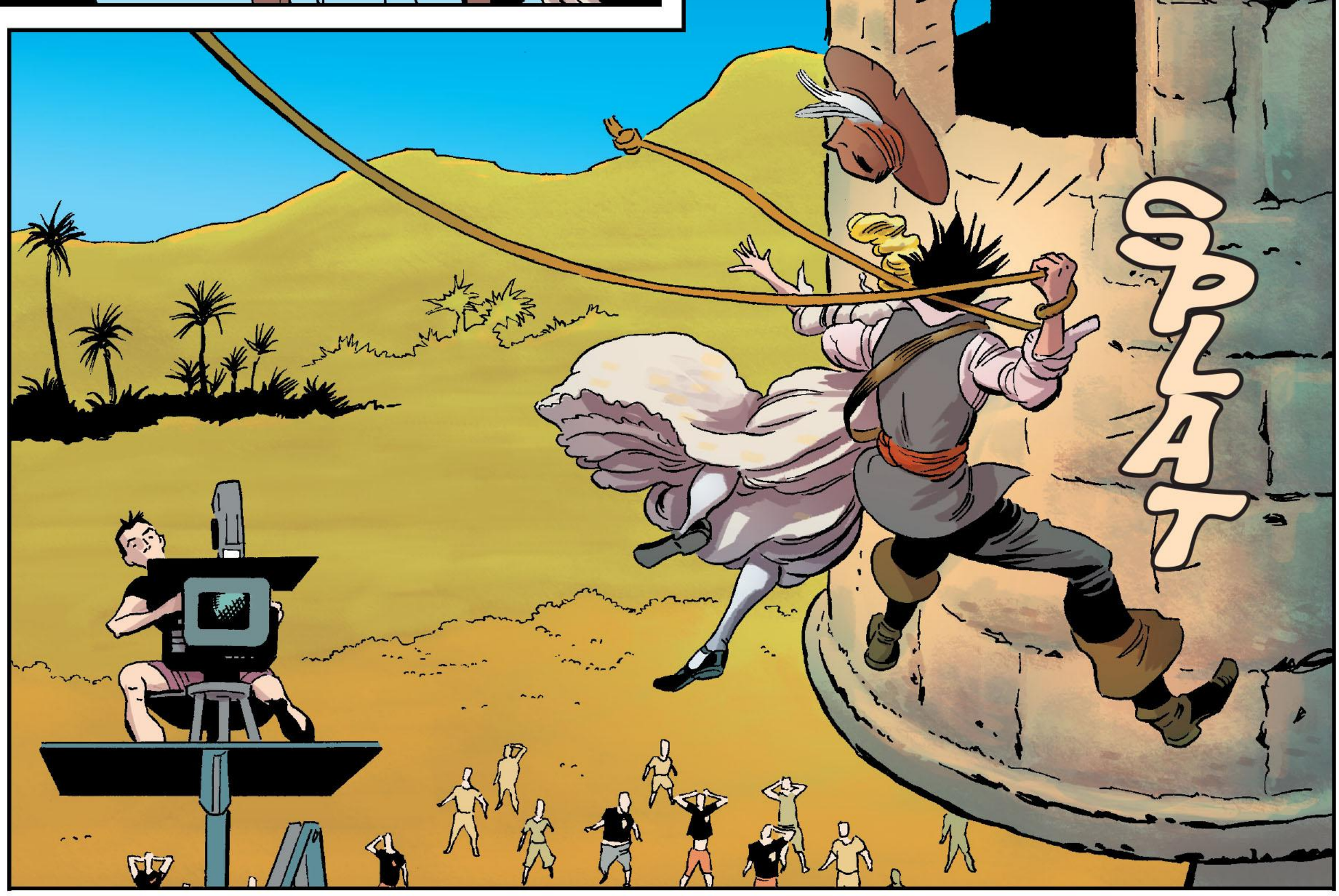
BOSS



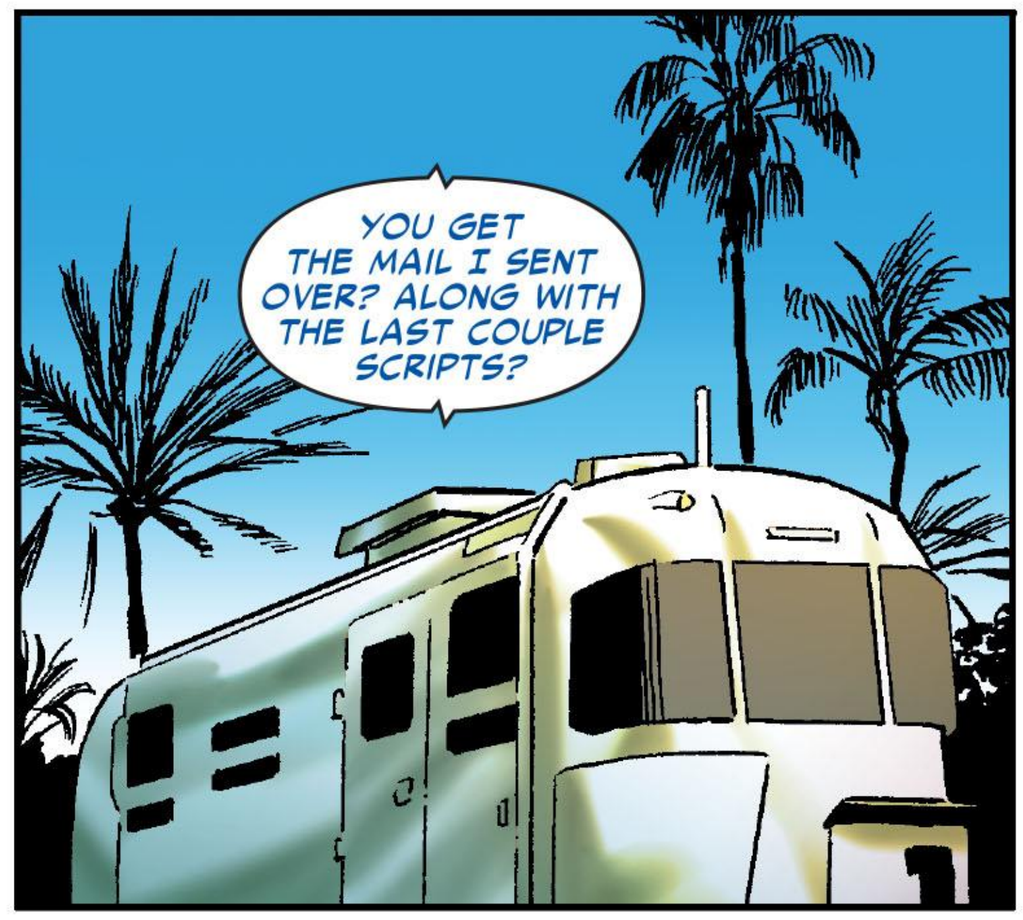
Minutes Later.
CAPTAIN FATE
ACTION!

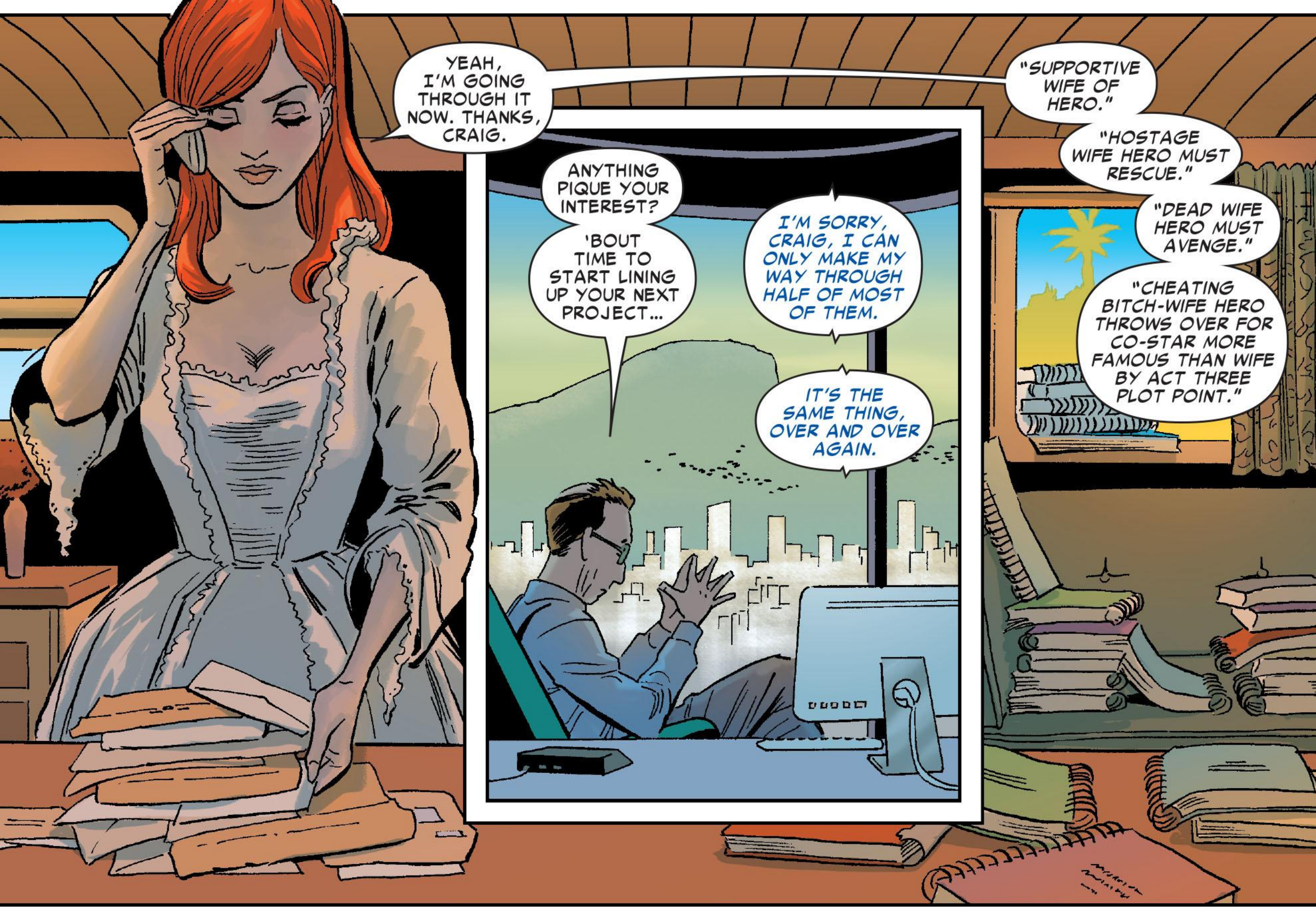
PUM
BOOM


BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

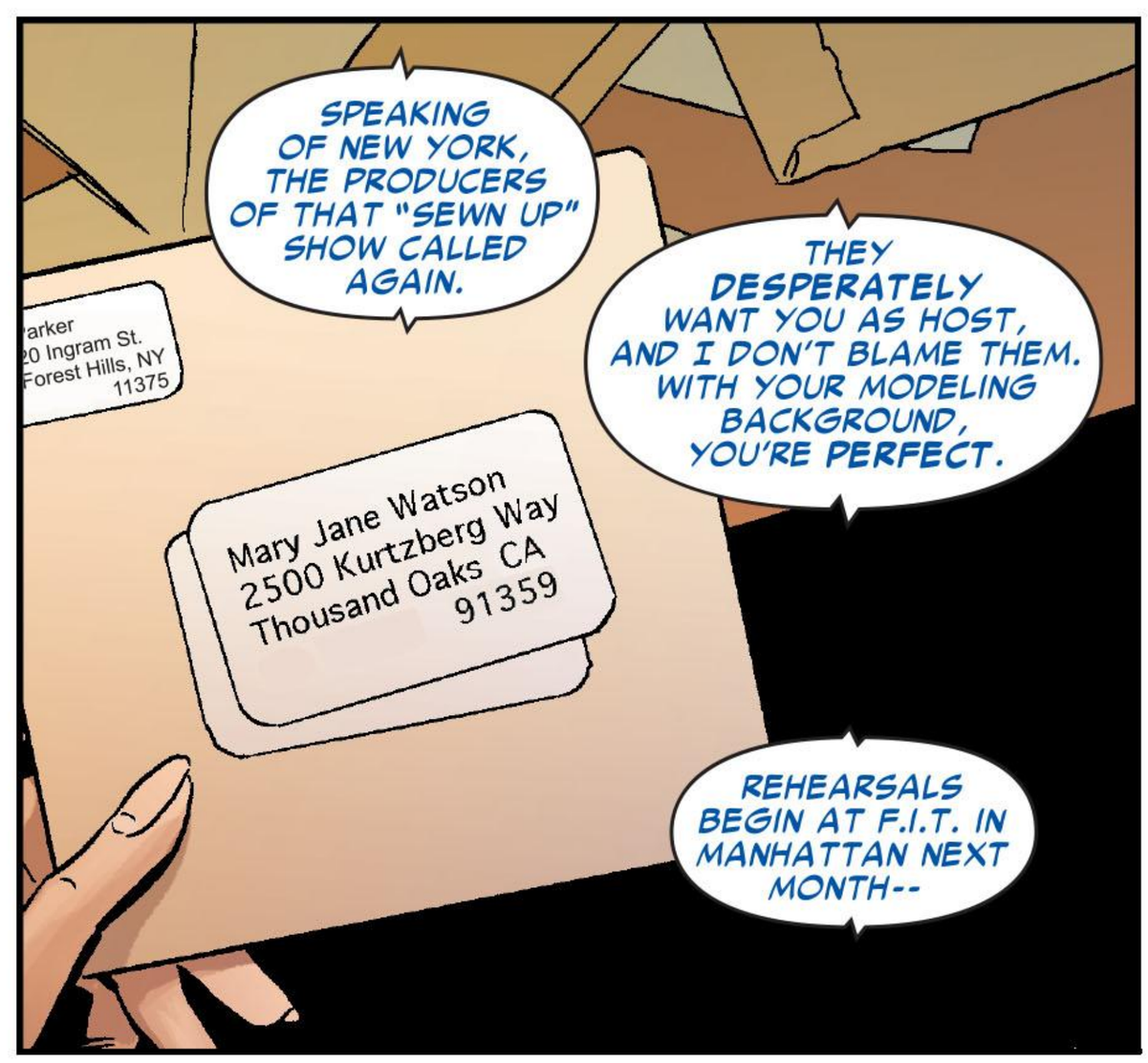

SPLAT

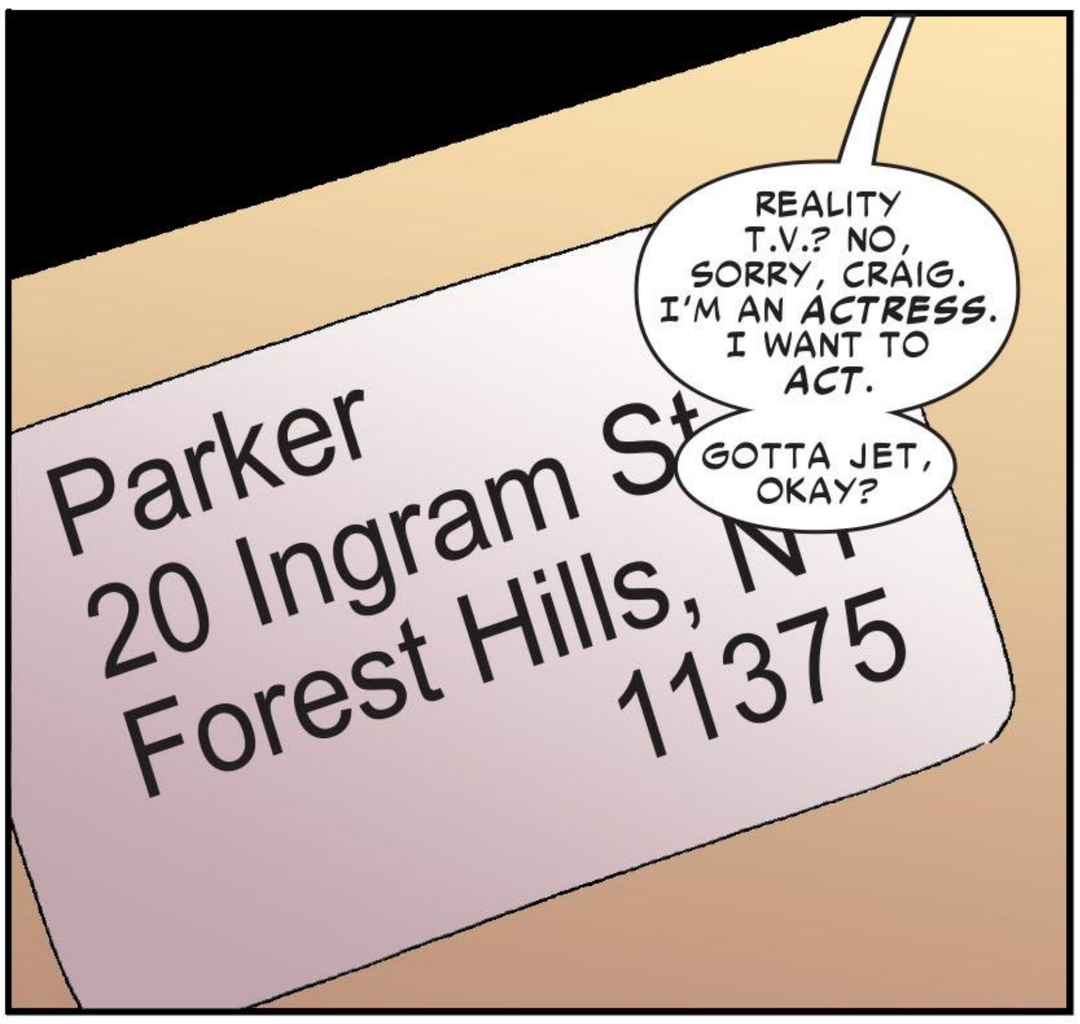
COR BLIMEY! YOU WAS RIGHT!
HOPE KEIF'S OKAY--HE'S BEEN ME STUNT DOUBLE ON ME LAST FOUR PICTURES!
I'LL BE IN MY TRAILER.

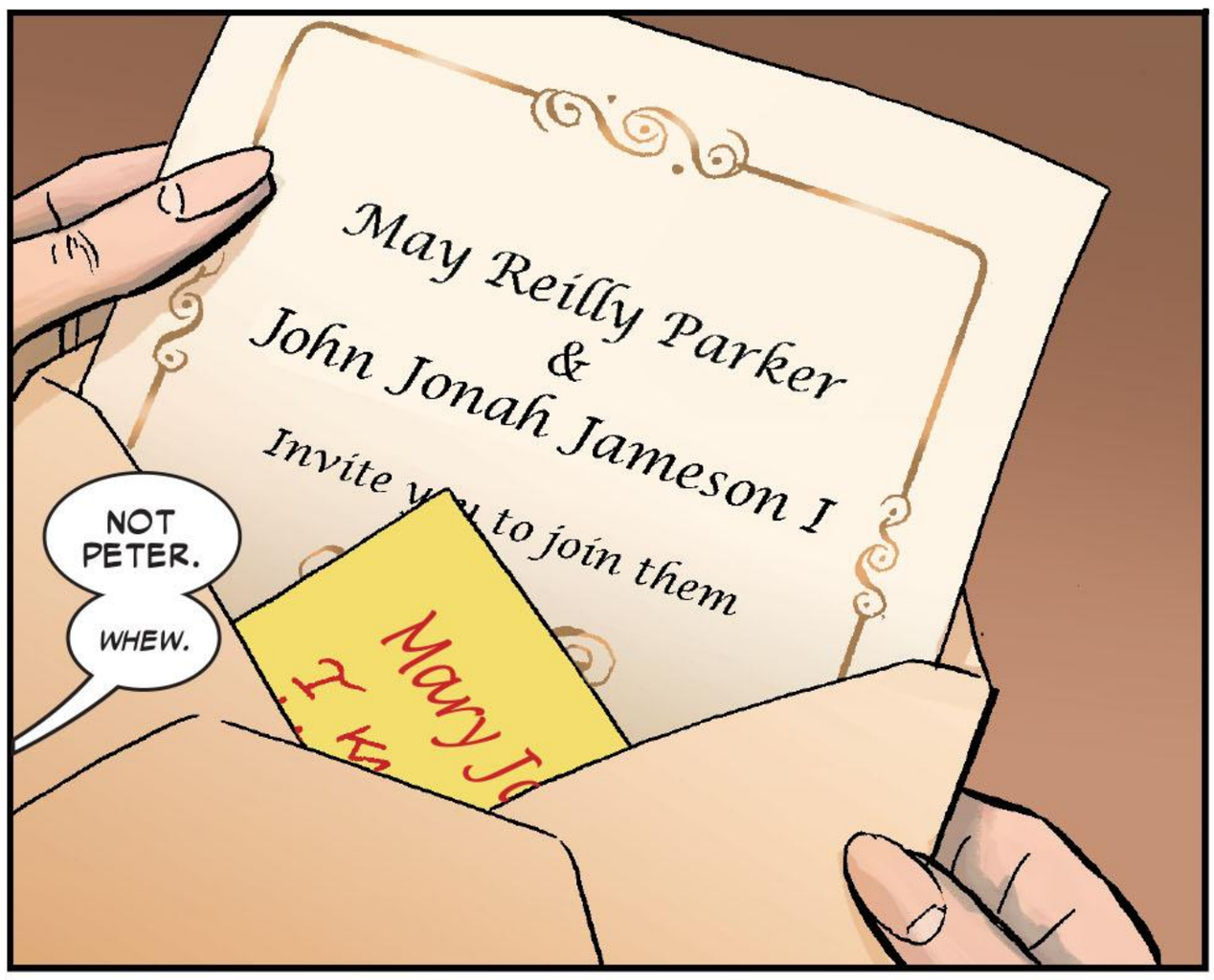

YOU GET THE MAIL I SENT OVER? ALONG WITH THE LAST COUPLE SCRIPTS?

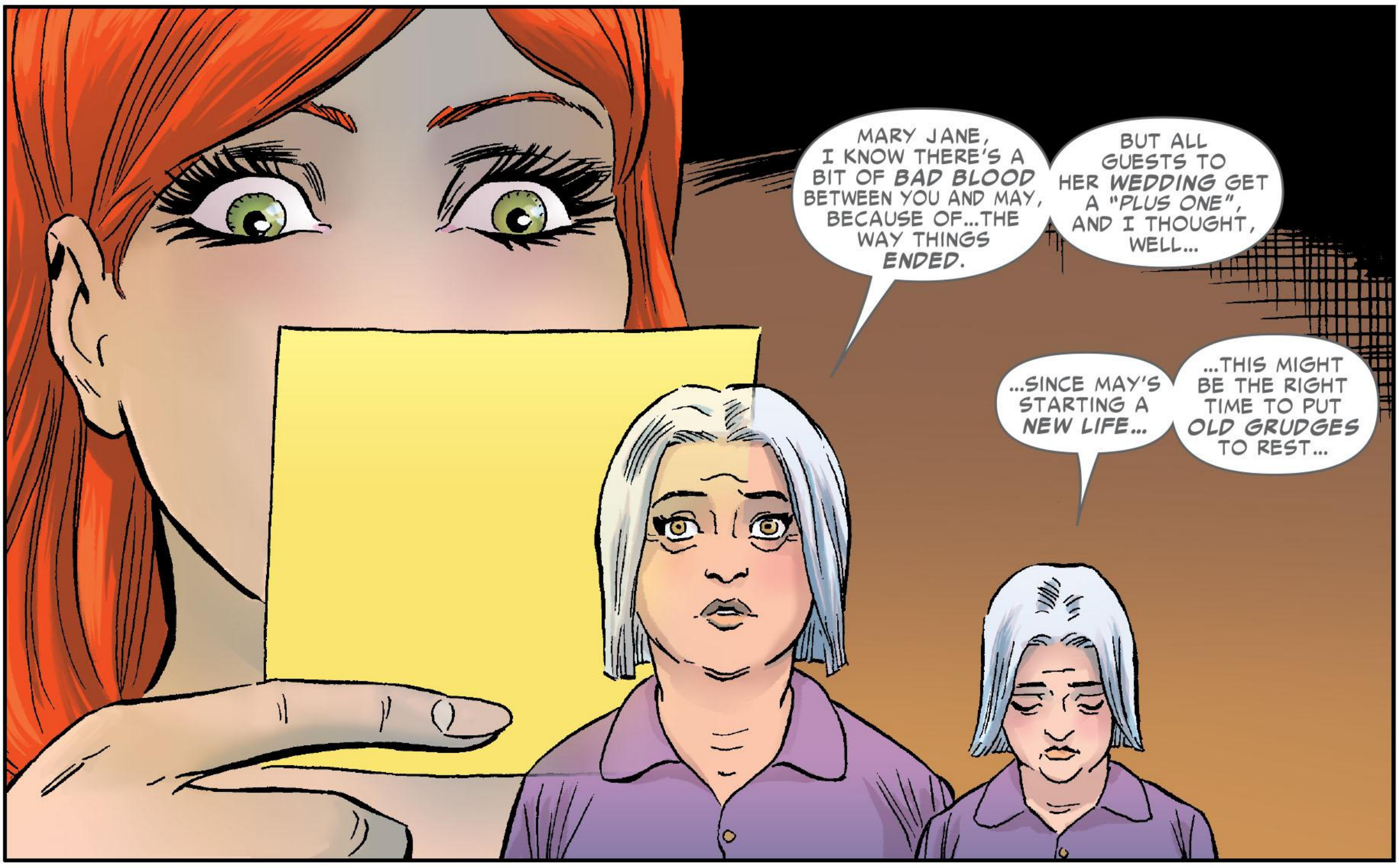

YEAH, I'M GOING THROUGH IT NOW. THANKS, CRAIG.
ANYTHING PIQUE YOUR INTEREST?
'BOUT TIME TO START LINING UP YOUR NEXT PROJECT...
I'M SORRY, CRAIG, I CAN ONLY MAKE MY WAY THROUGH HALF OF MOST OF THEM.
IT'S THE SAME THING, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
"SUPPORTIVE WIFE OF HERO."
"HOSTAGE WIFE HERO MUST RESCUE."
"DEAD WIFE HERO MUST AVENGE."
"CHEATING BITCH-WIFE HERO THROWS OVER FOR CO-STAR MORE FAMOUS THAN WIFE BY ACT THREE PLOT POINT."

EVERY CREDIT MIGHT AS WELL READ, "WITH MARY JANE WATSON AS 'THE GIRL.'"
I MEAN, IF I WANTED TO PLAY THE WIFE I WOULD HAVE STAYED IN NEW Y...

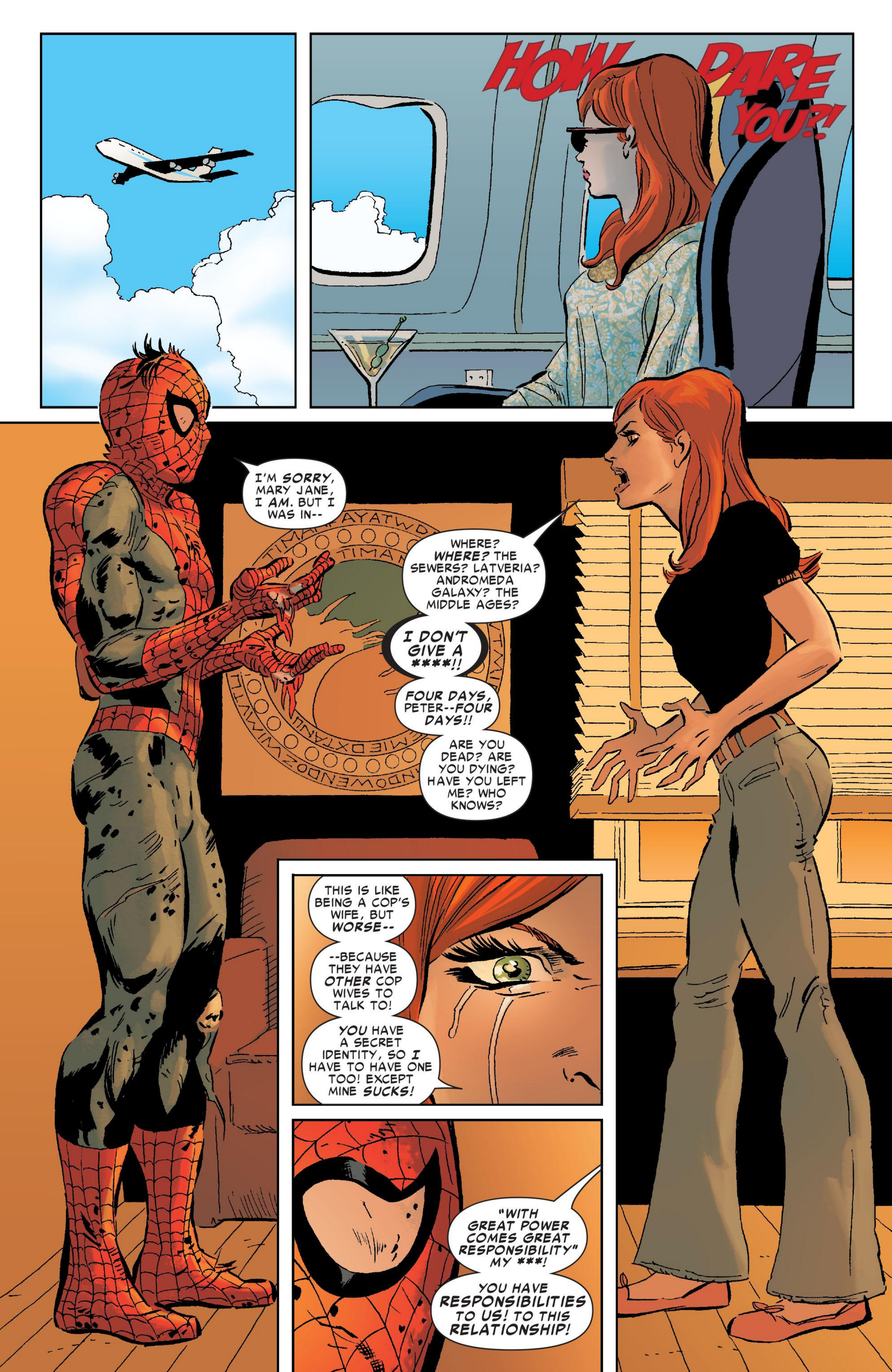

SPEAKING OF NEW YORK, THE PRODUCERS OF THAT "SEWN UP" SHOW CALLED AGAIN.
THEY DESPERATELY WANT YOU AS HOST, AND I DON'T BLAME THEM. WITH YOUR MODELING BACKGROUND, YOU'RE PERFECT.
Mary Jane Watson
2500 Kurtzberg Way
Thousand Oaks CA
91359
REHEARSALS BEGIN AT F.I.T. IN MANHATTAN NEXT MONTH--

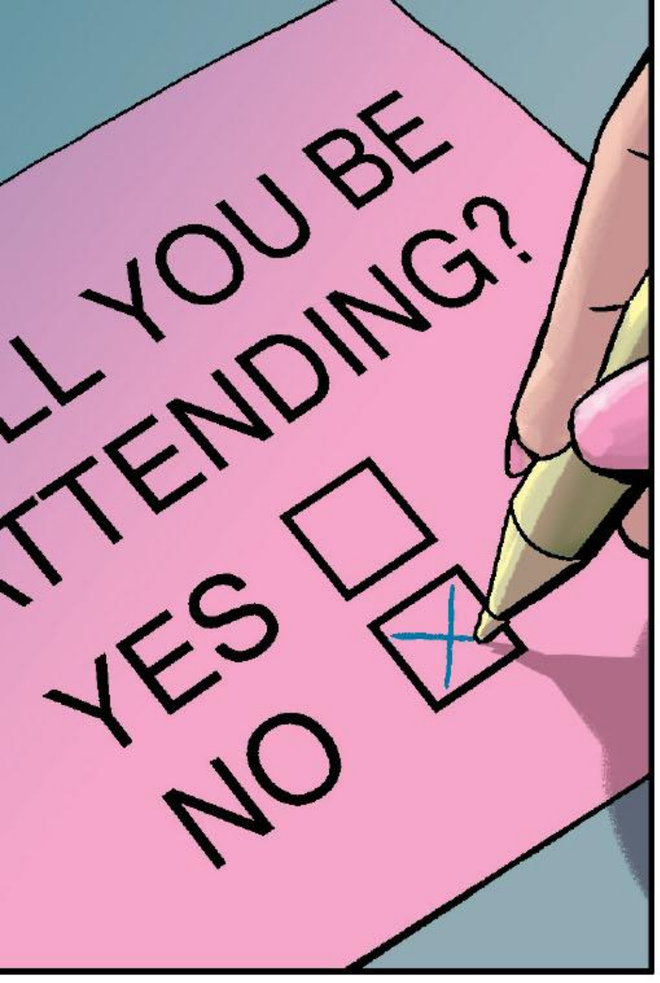

Parker
20 Ingram St
Forest Hills, NY
11375
REALITY T.V.? NO, SORRY, CRAIG. I'M AN ACTRESS. I WANT TO ACT.
GOTTA JET, OKAY?

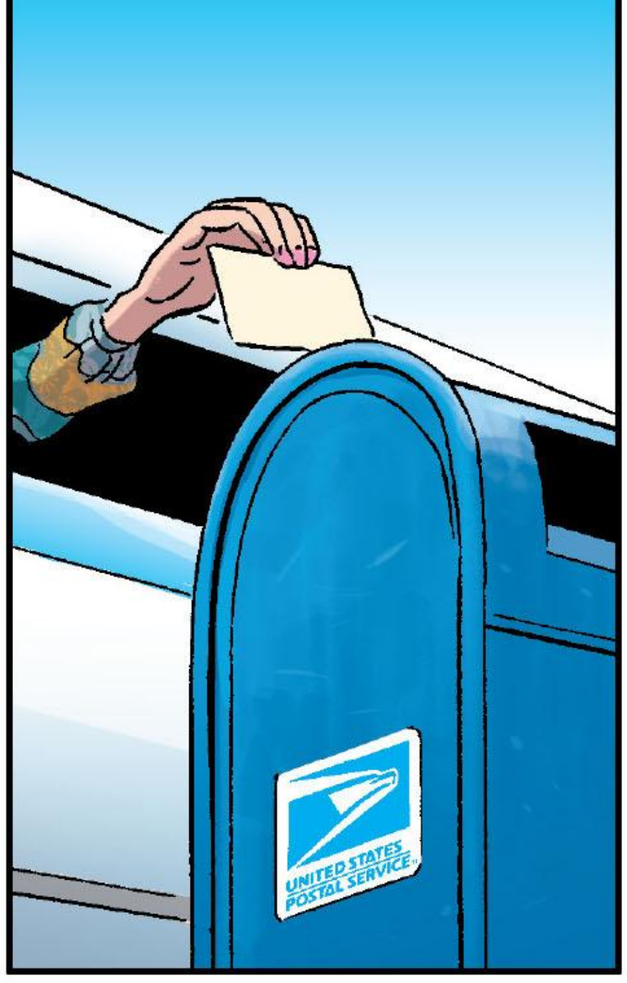

May Reilly Parker
&
John Jonah Jameson I
Invite you to join them
NOT PETER.
WHEW.

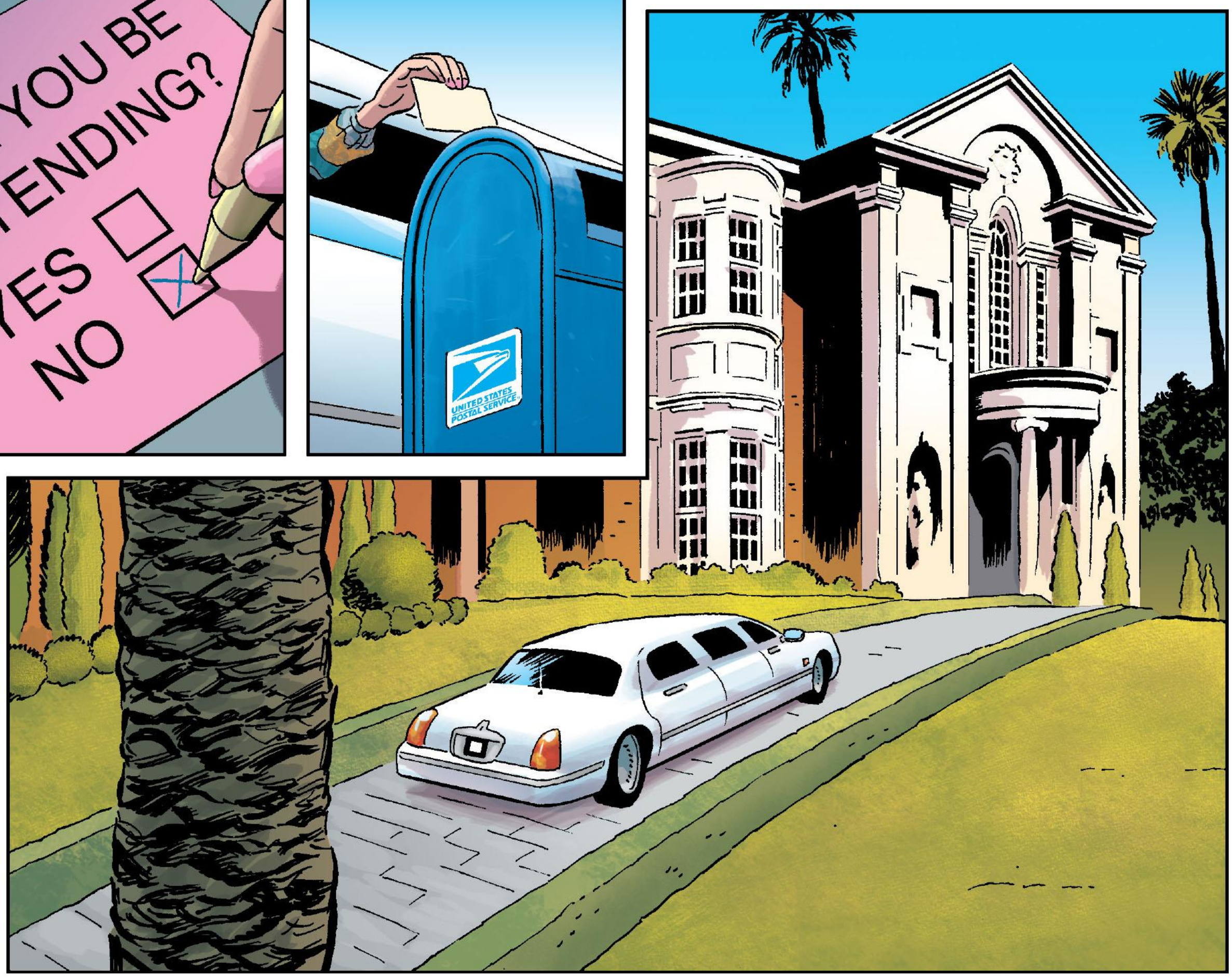

MARY JANE, I KNOW THERE'S A BIT OF BAD BLOOD BETWEEN YOU AND MAY, BECAUSE OF...THE WAY THINGS ENDED.
BUT ALL GUESTS TO HER WEDDING GET A "PLUS ONE", AND I THOUGHT, WELL...
...SINCE MAY'S STARTING A NEW LIFE...
...THIS MIGHT BE THE RIGHT TIME TO PUT OLD GRUDGES TO REST...

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING?
YES
NO


HOW DARE YOU?!
I'M SORRY, MARY JANE, I AM. BUT I WAS IN--
WHERE? WHERE? THE SEWERS? LATVERIA? ANDROMEDA GALAXY? THE MIDDLE AGES?
I DON'T GIVE A ****!!
FOUR DAYS, PETER--FOUR DAYS!!
ARE YOU DEAD? ARE YOU DYING? HAVE YOU LEFT ME? WHO KNOWS?
THIS IS LIKE BEING A COP'S WIFE, BUT WORSE--
--BECAUSE THEY HAVE OTHER COP WIVES TO TALK TO!
YOU HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY, SO I HAVE TO HAVE ONE TOO! EXCEPT MINE SUCKS!
"WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY" MY ***!
YOU HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO US! TO THIS RELATIONSHIP!

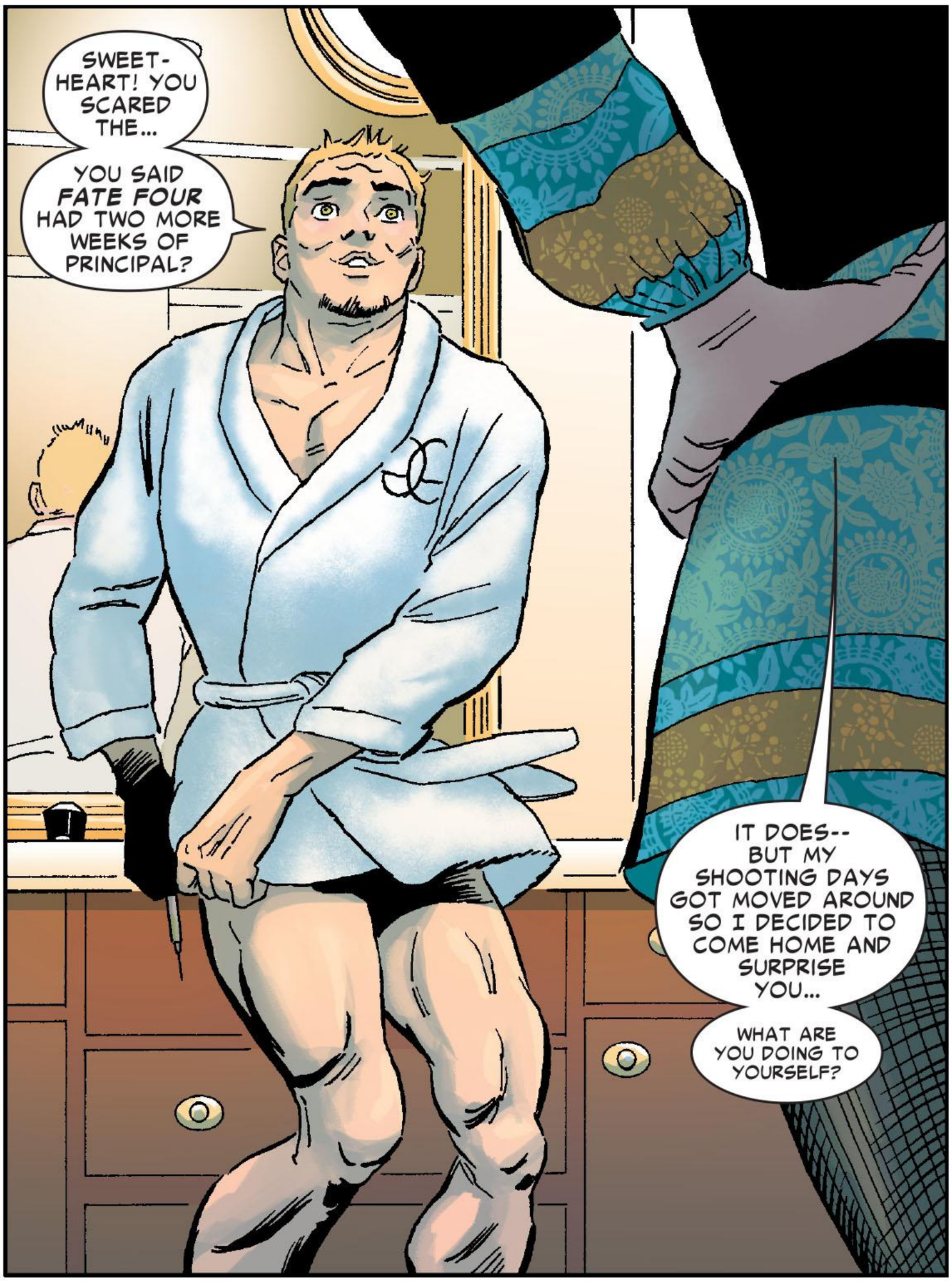

LL YOU BE
TTENDING?
YES
NO

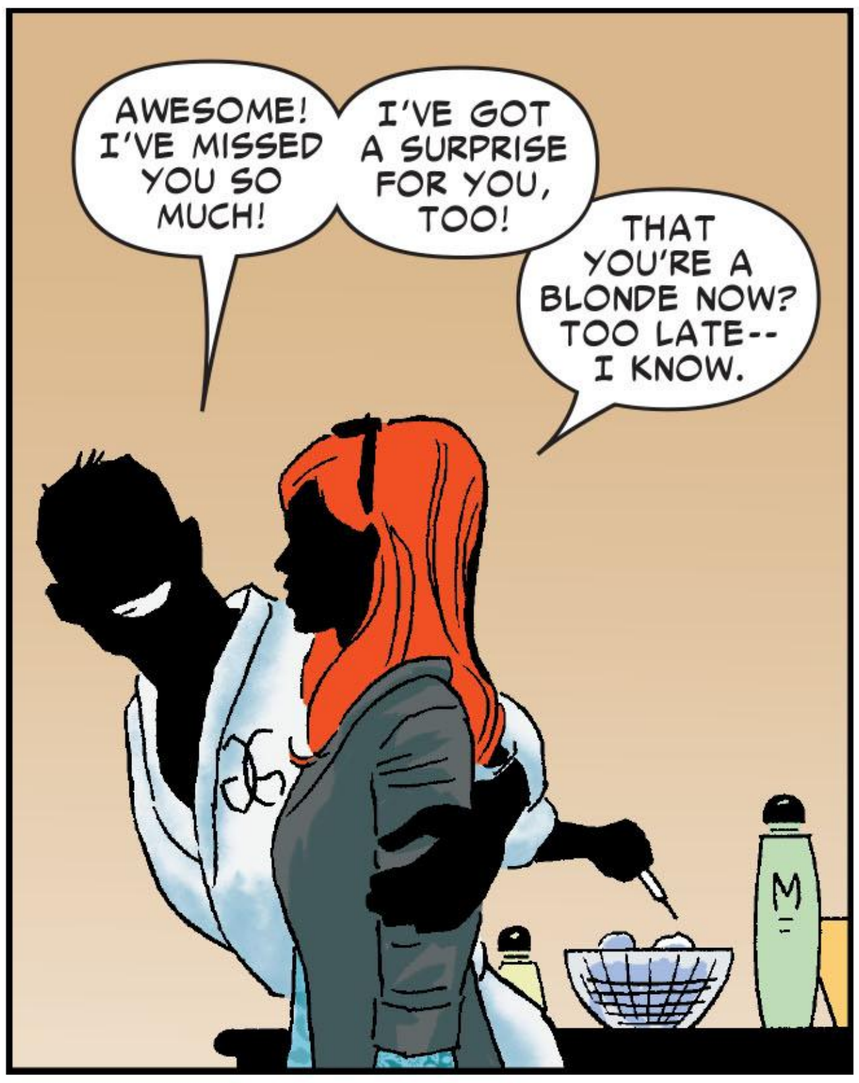

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE



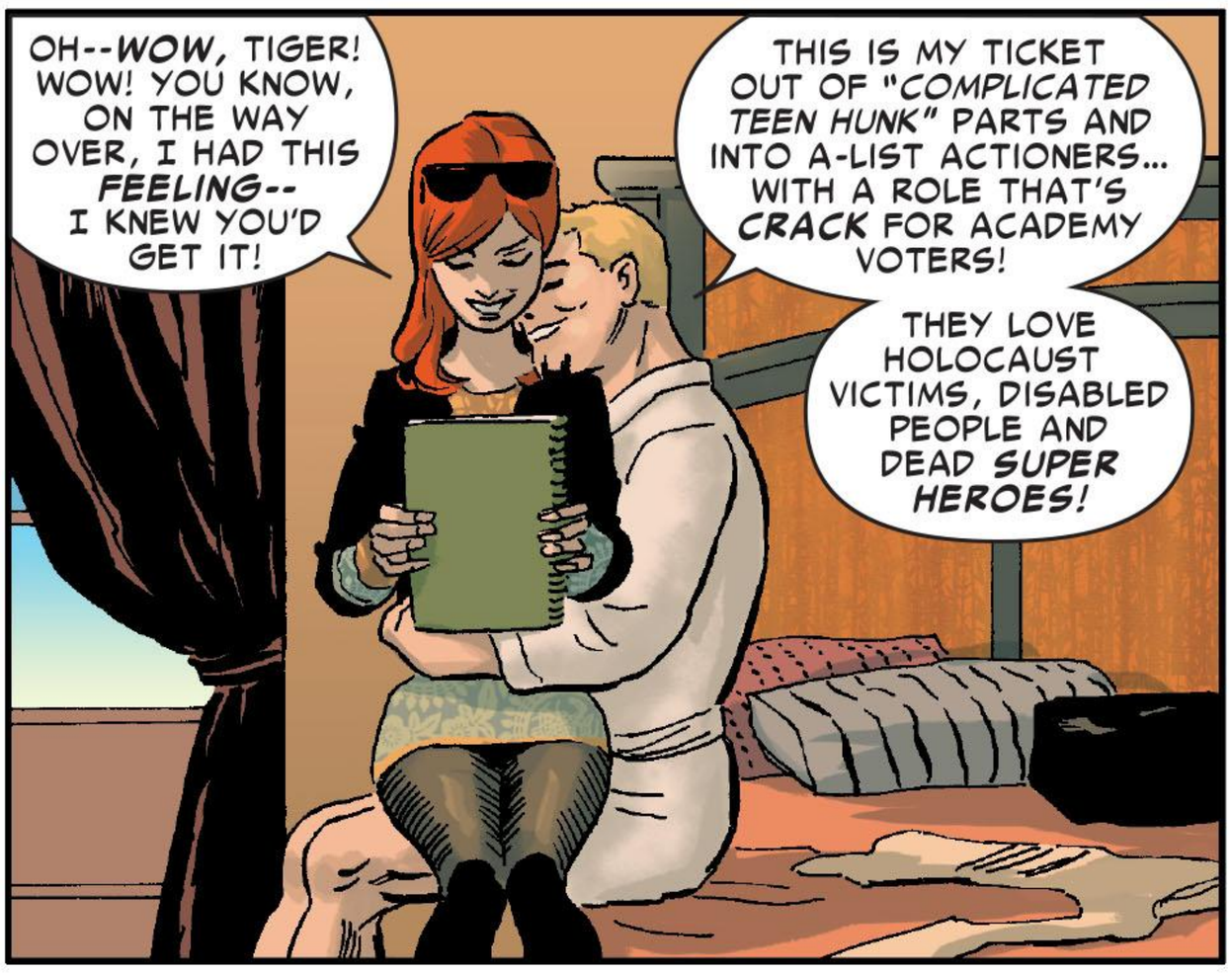
BOBBY?

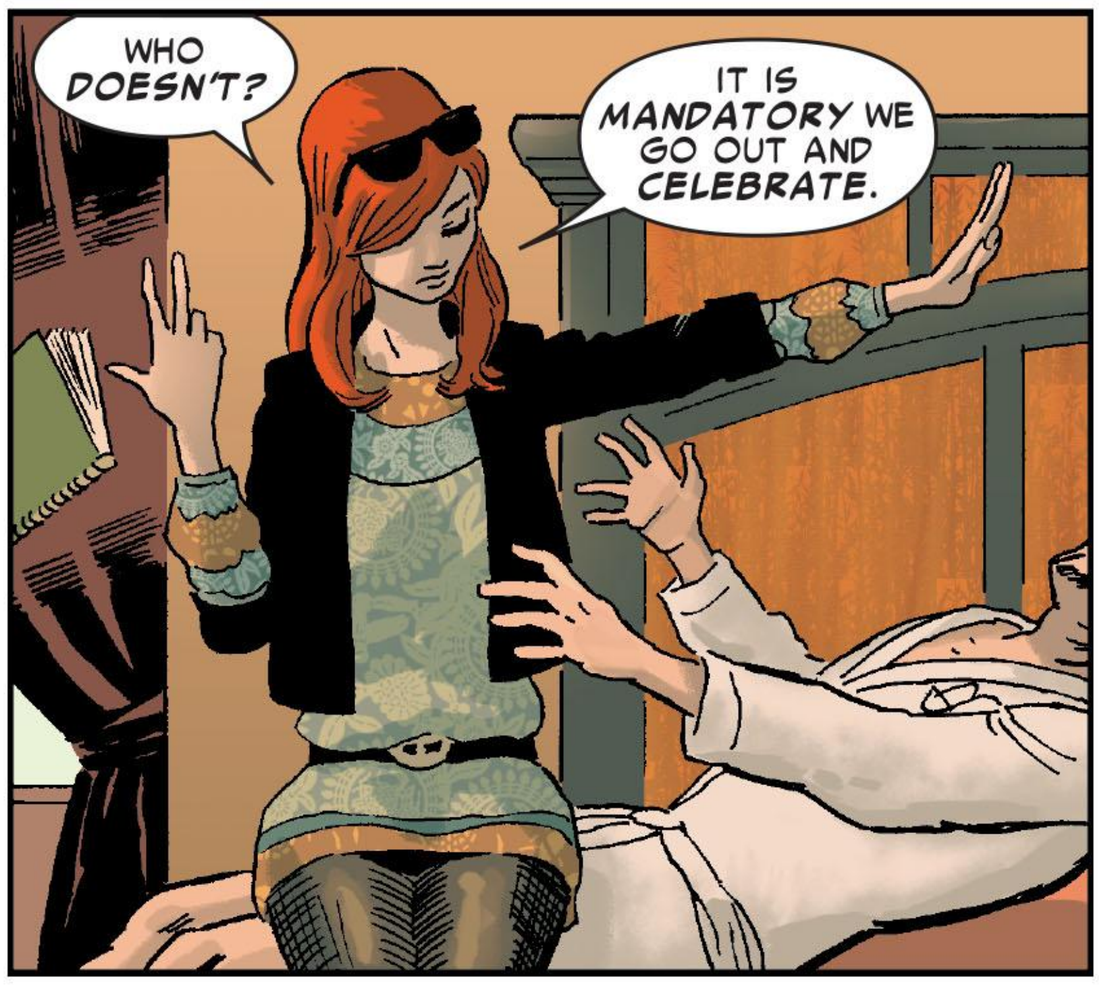
BOBBY?
MJ!

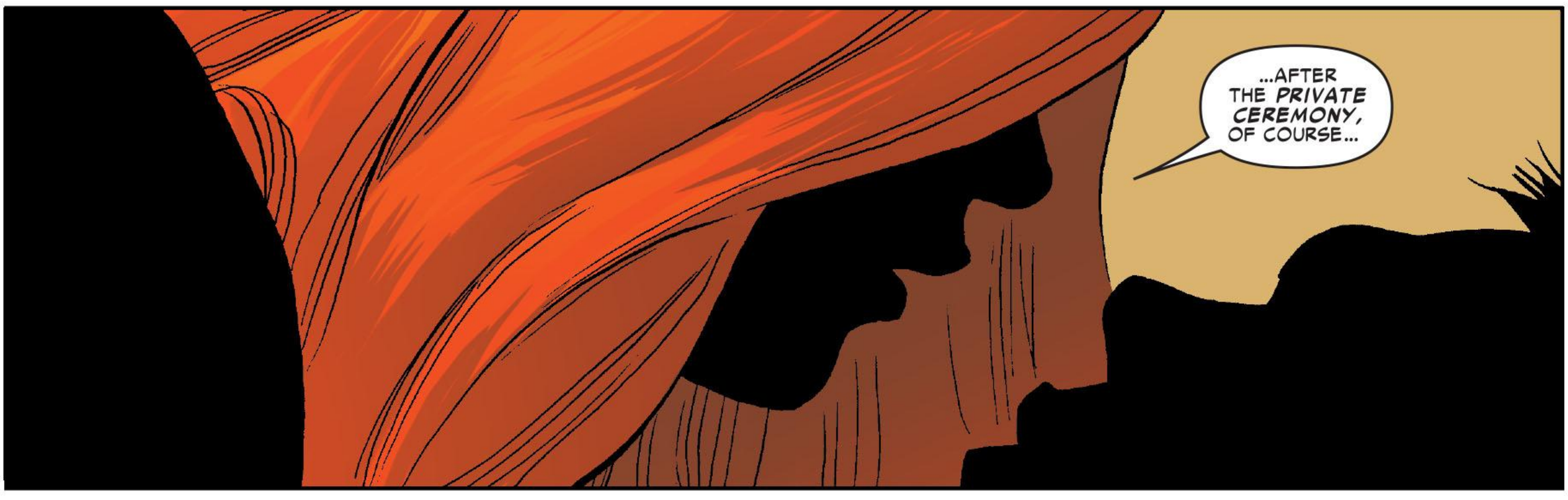

SWEET-HEART! YOU SCARED THE...
YOU SAID *FATE FOUR* HAD TWO MORE WEEKS OF PRINCIPAL?
IT DOES-- BUT MY SHOOTING DAYS GOT MOVED AROUND SO I DECIDED TO COME HOME AND SURPRISE YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO YOURSELF?


AWESOME! I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU, TOO!
THAT YOU'RE A BLONDE NOW? TOO LATE-- I KNOW.

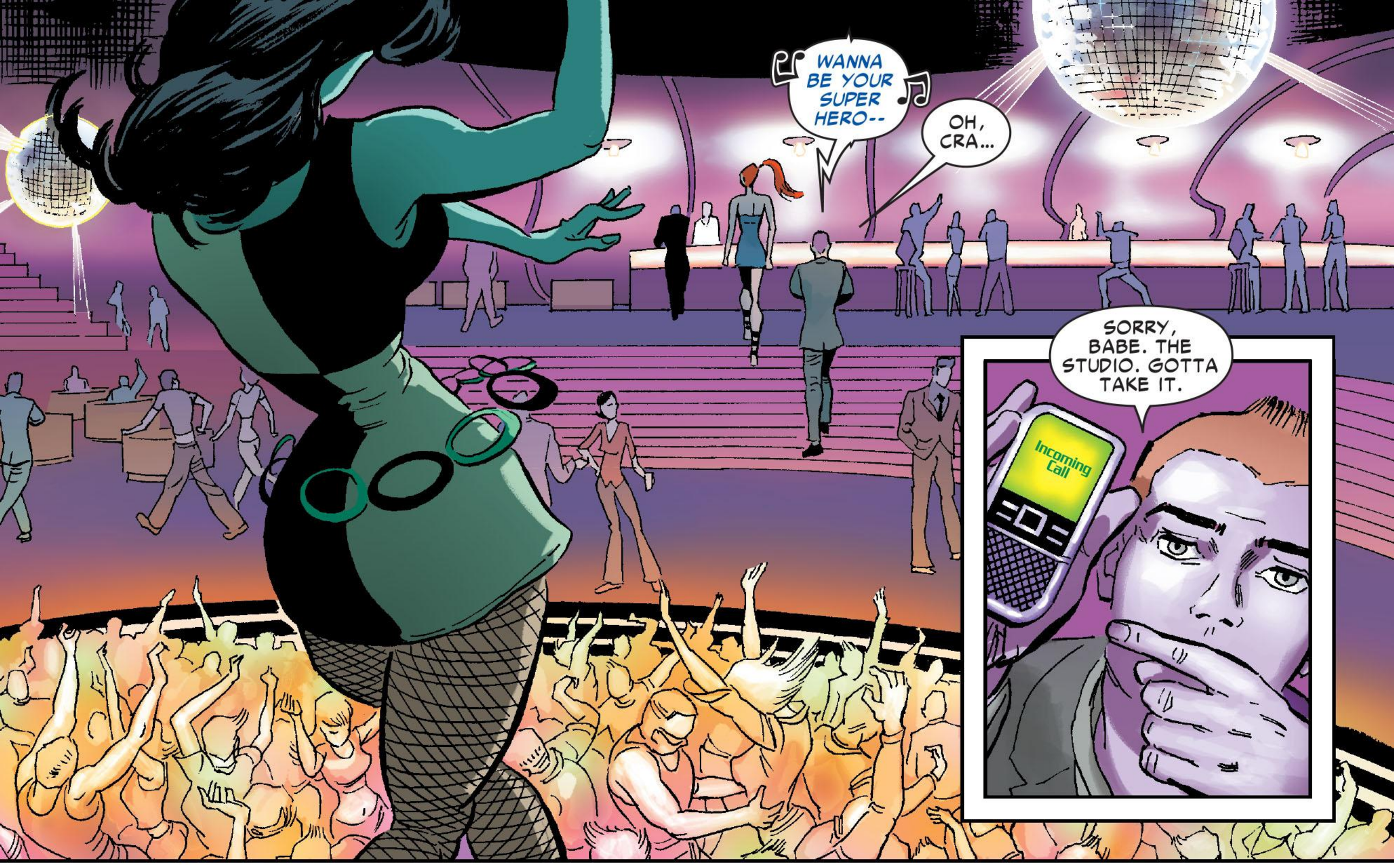
ACTUALLY-- *YEAH! I GOT* IT, M.J.
ME. NOT PINE. NOT EFRON. NOT KITSCH.
BOBBY CARR IS PLAYING *STEVE ROGERS!*
THE DAY AMERICA DIED
By
Brian Lazarus


OH--*WOW*, TIGER! WOW! YOU KNOW, ON THE WAY OVER, I HAD THIS *FEELING*-- I KNEW YOU'D GET IT!
THIS IS MY TICKET OUT OF "*COMPLICATED TEEN HUNK*" PARTS AND INTO A-LIST ACTIONERS... WITH A ROLE THAT'S *CRACK* FOR ACADEMY VOTERS!
THEY LOVE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, DISABLED PEOPLE AND DEAD *SUPER HEROES!*


WHO *DOESN'T?*
IT IS *MANDATORY* WE GO OUT AND *CELEBRATE.*

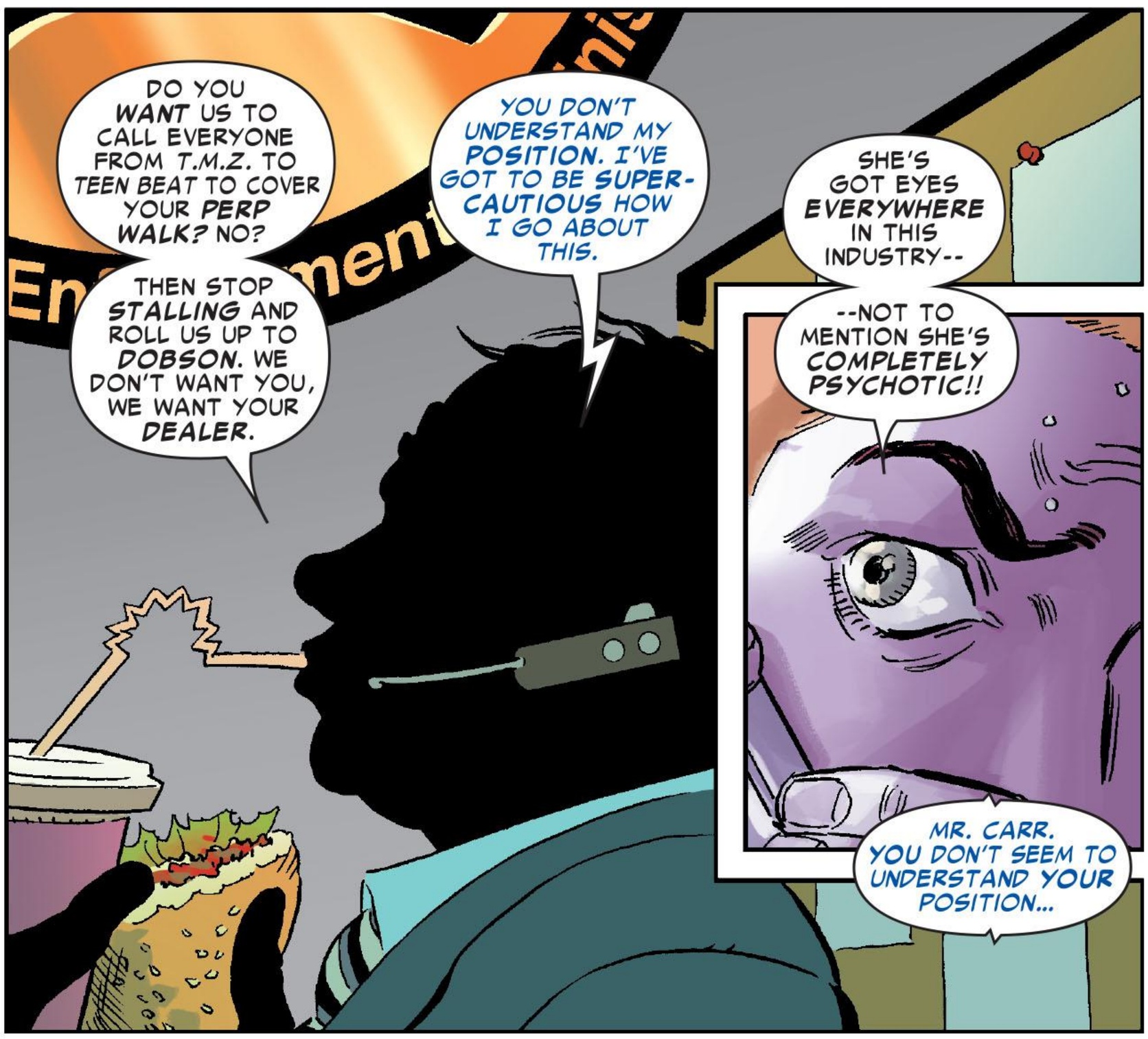

...AFTER THE *PRIVATE CEREMONY,* OF COURSE...

PORSCHE
HOLLYWOOD
BOBBY--
--BOBBY, OVER HERE--
THAT A KORS, M.J.?
--CARR'S BULKING UP TO PLAY THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN AMERICA IN THE UNAUTHORIZED BIG-BUDGET BIOPIC HELMED--
--HIS MAIN SQUEEZE, RECENTLY EXPOSED AS RECOVERING SUPERMODEL MARY JANE WATSON--
HOLLYWOOD


WANNA BE YOUR SUPER HERO--
OH, CRA...
SORRY, BABE. THE STUDIO. GOTTA TAKE IT.
Incoming Call

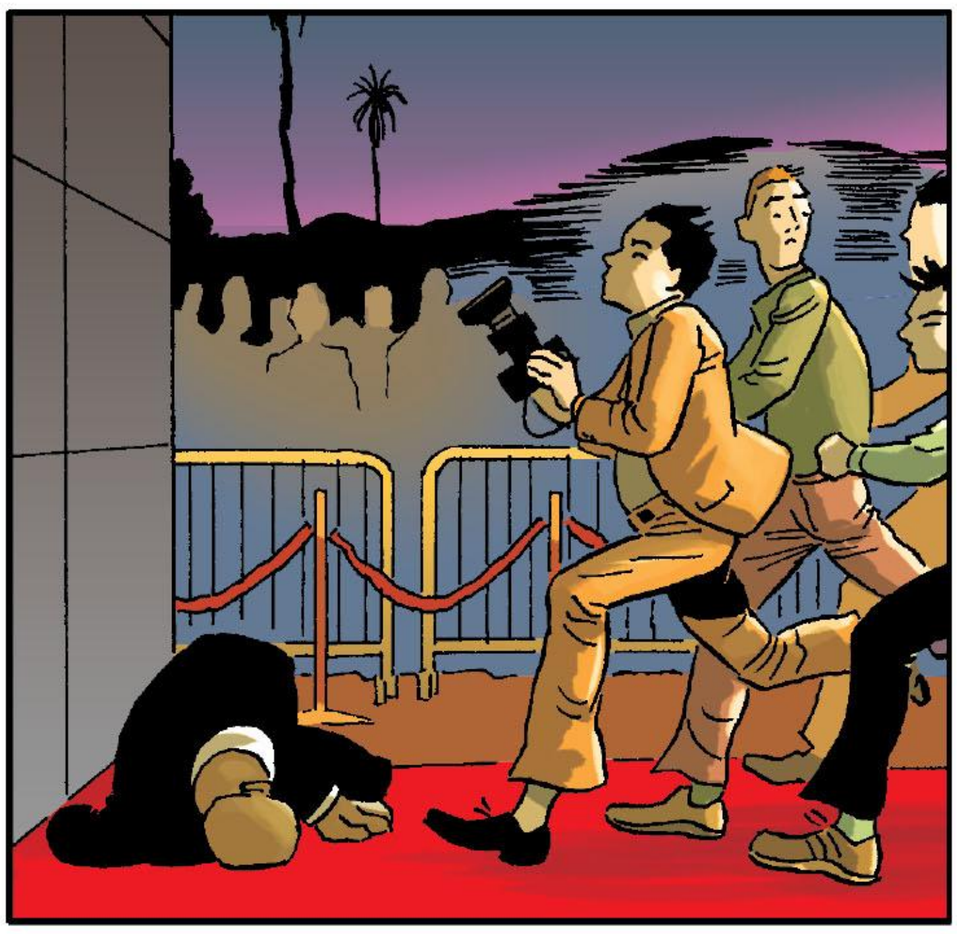
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
YOU PEOPLE SPEAK ENGLISH?
I TOLD YOU. I'M WORKING ON IT.
AND YOUR CONSTANT HOUNDING IS NOT HELPING--

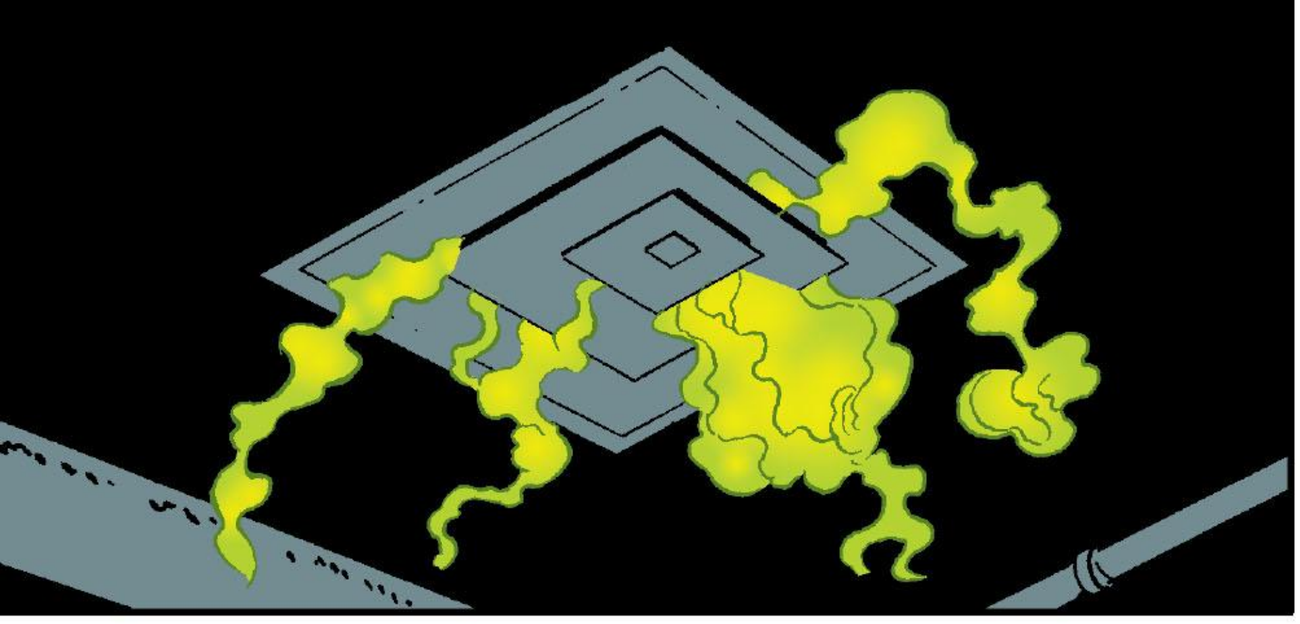
U.S. Department of J
Drug Enforcement Admin
MISTER CARR.
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO PRISON?

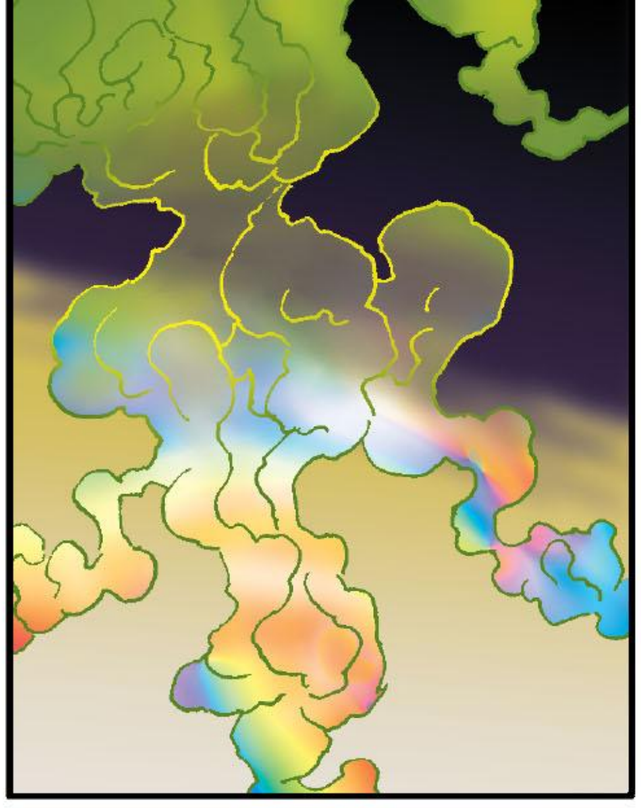

DO YOU WANT US TO CALL EVERYONE FROM T.M.Z. TO TEEN BEAT TO COVER YOUR PERP WALK? NO?
THEN STOP STALLING AND ROLL US UP TO DOBSON. WE DON'T WANT YOU, WE WANT YOUR DEALER.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY POSITION. I'VE GOT TO BE SUPER-CAUTIOUS HOW I GO ABOUT THIS.
SHE'S GOT EYES EVERYWHERE IN THIS INDUSTRY--
--NOT TO MENTION SHE'S COMPLETELY PSYCHOTIC!!
MR. CARR. YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION...

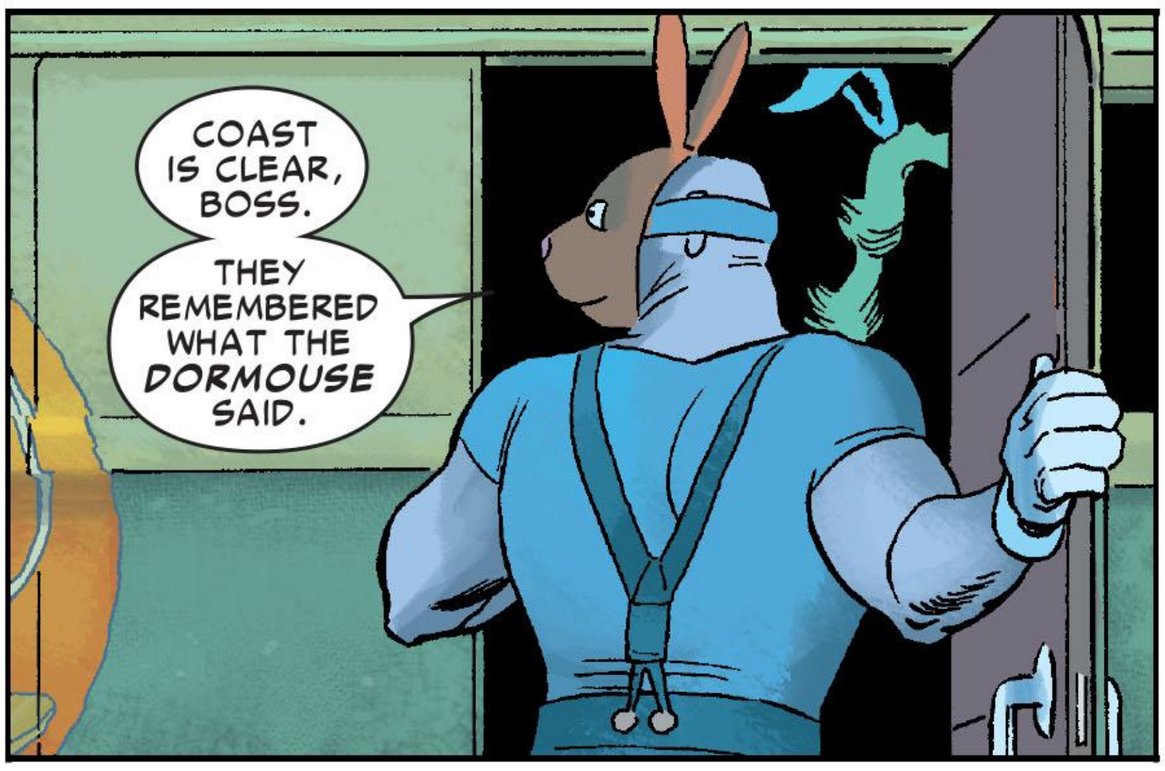
"...I'M NOT THE GUY WHO TRIED TO SNEAK FIVE HUNDRED MILLILITERS OF MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE ONTO THE RED-EYE TO J.F.K. IN HIS SOUL PATCH GROOMING KIT."

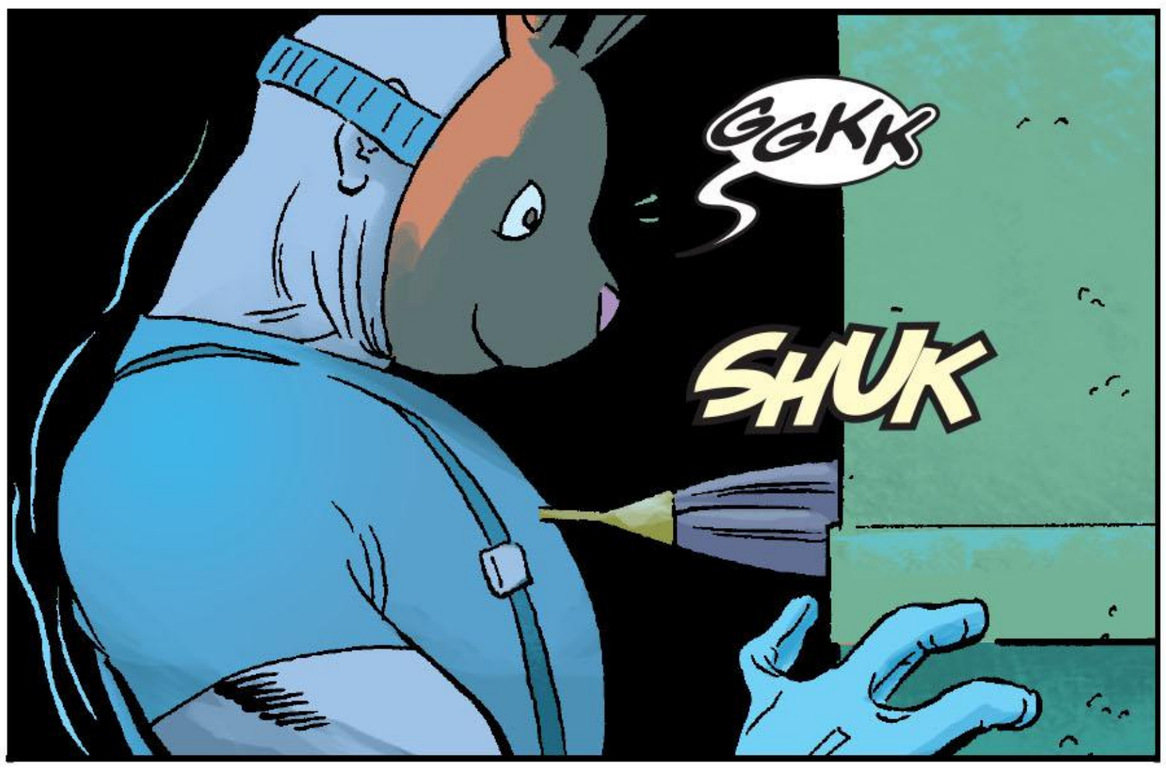
SKREEEEECH



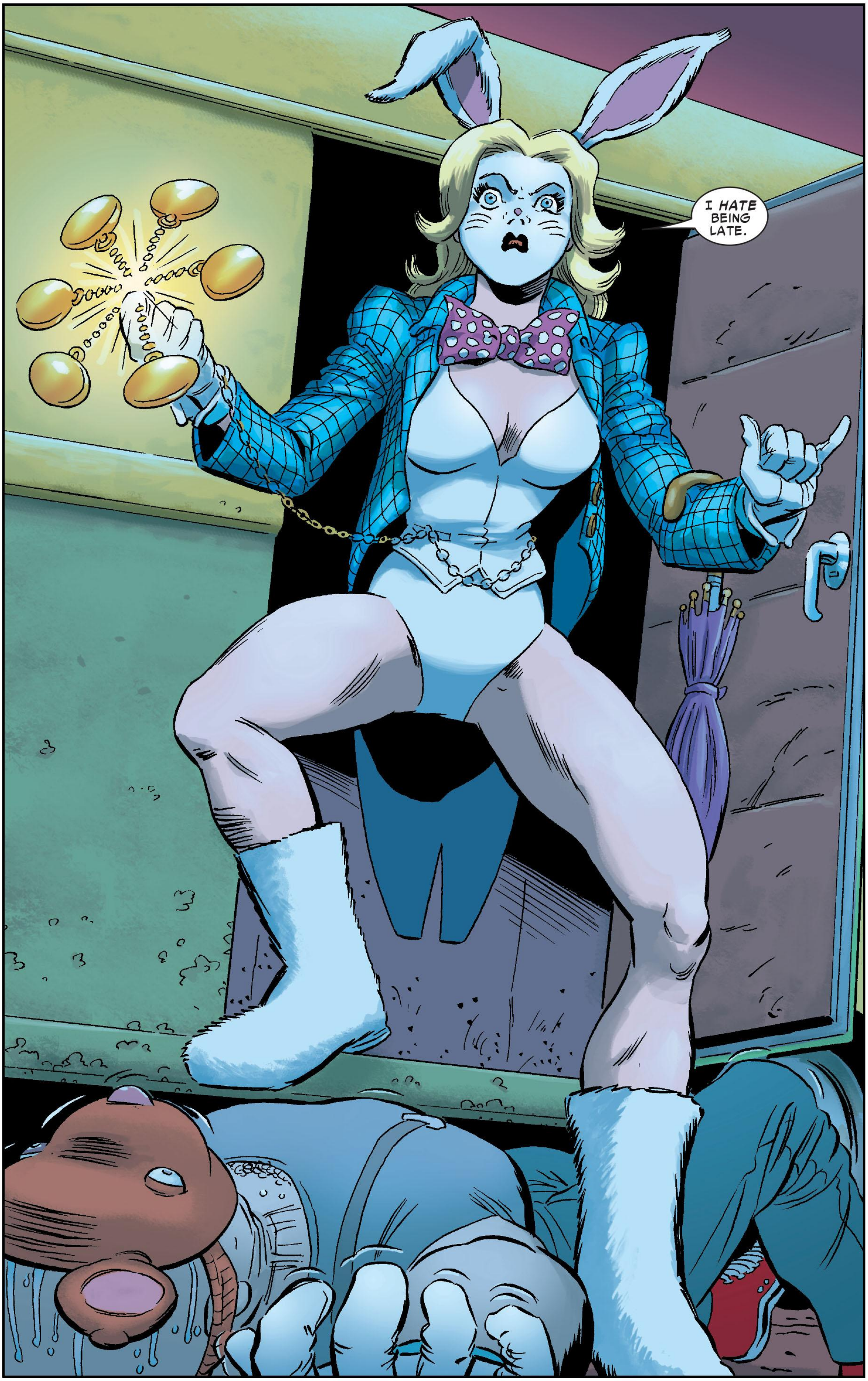


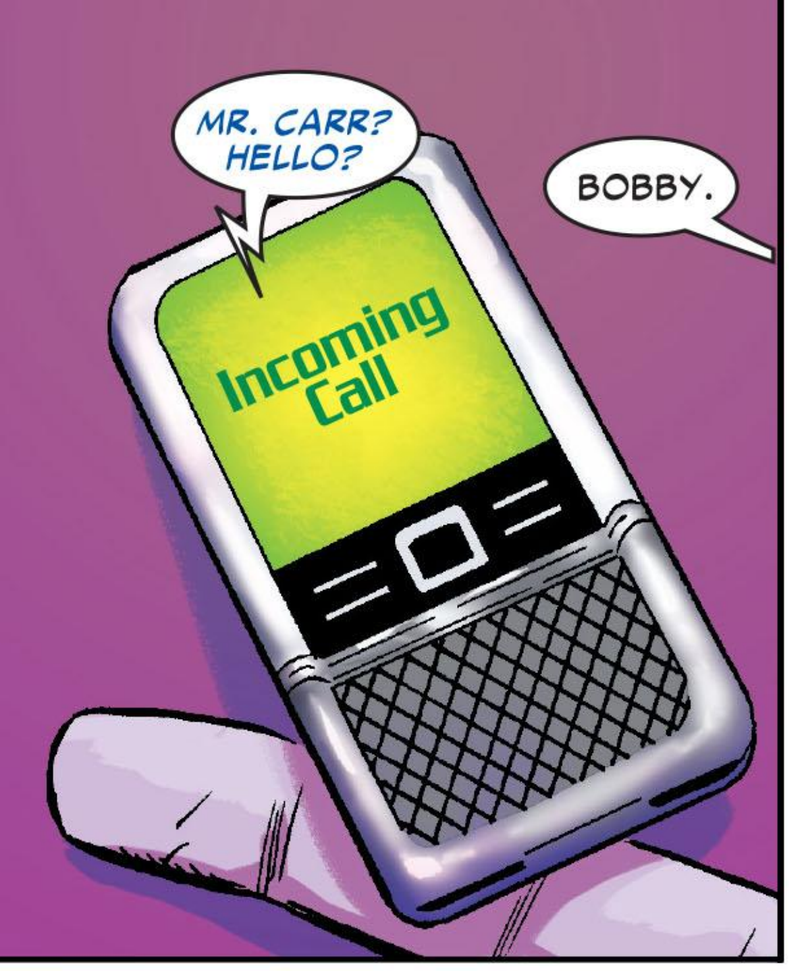



COAST IS CLEAR, BOSS.
THEY REMEMBERED WHAT THE *DORMOUSE* SAID.

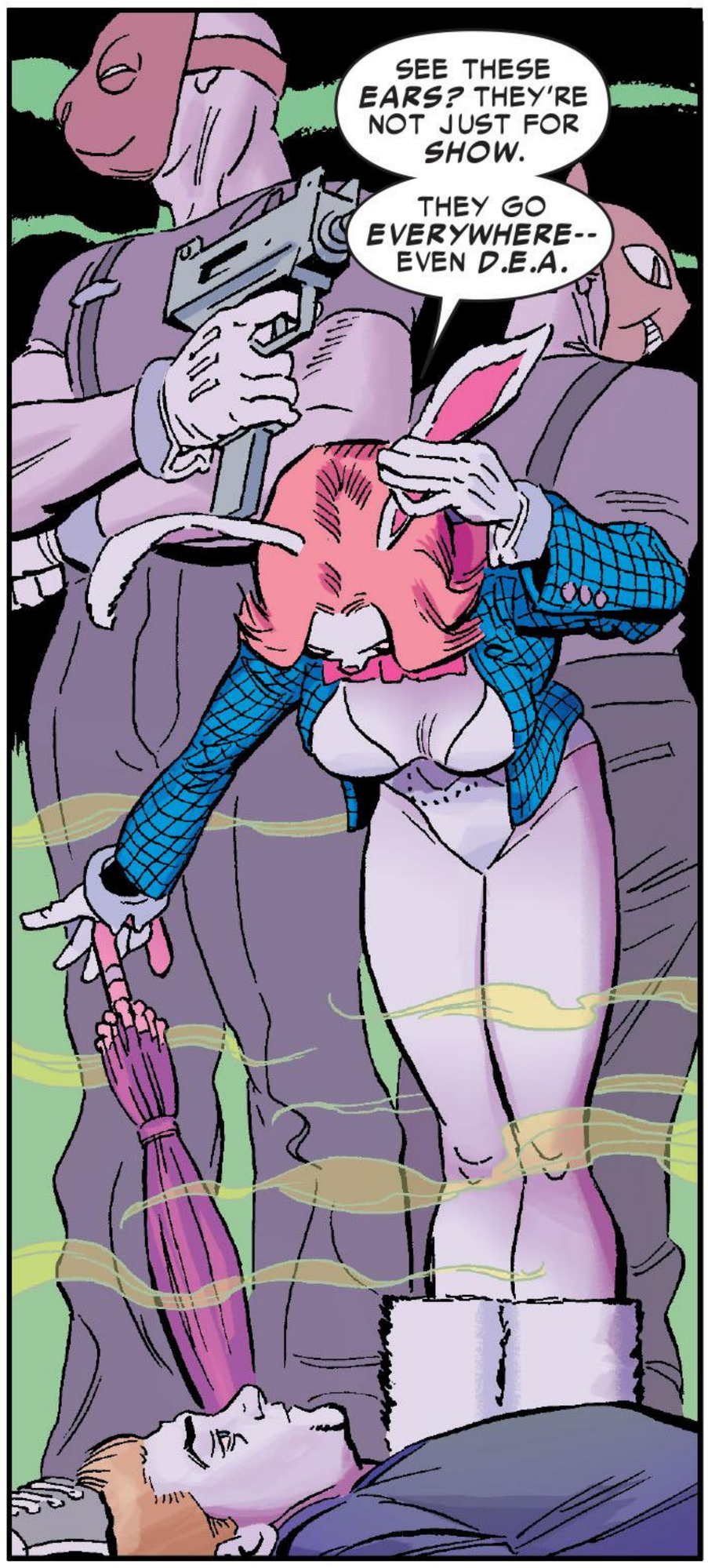

GGKK
SHUK

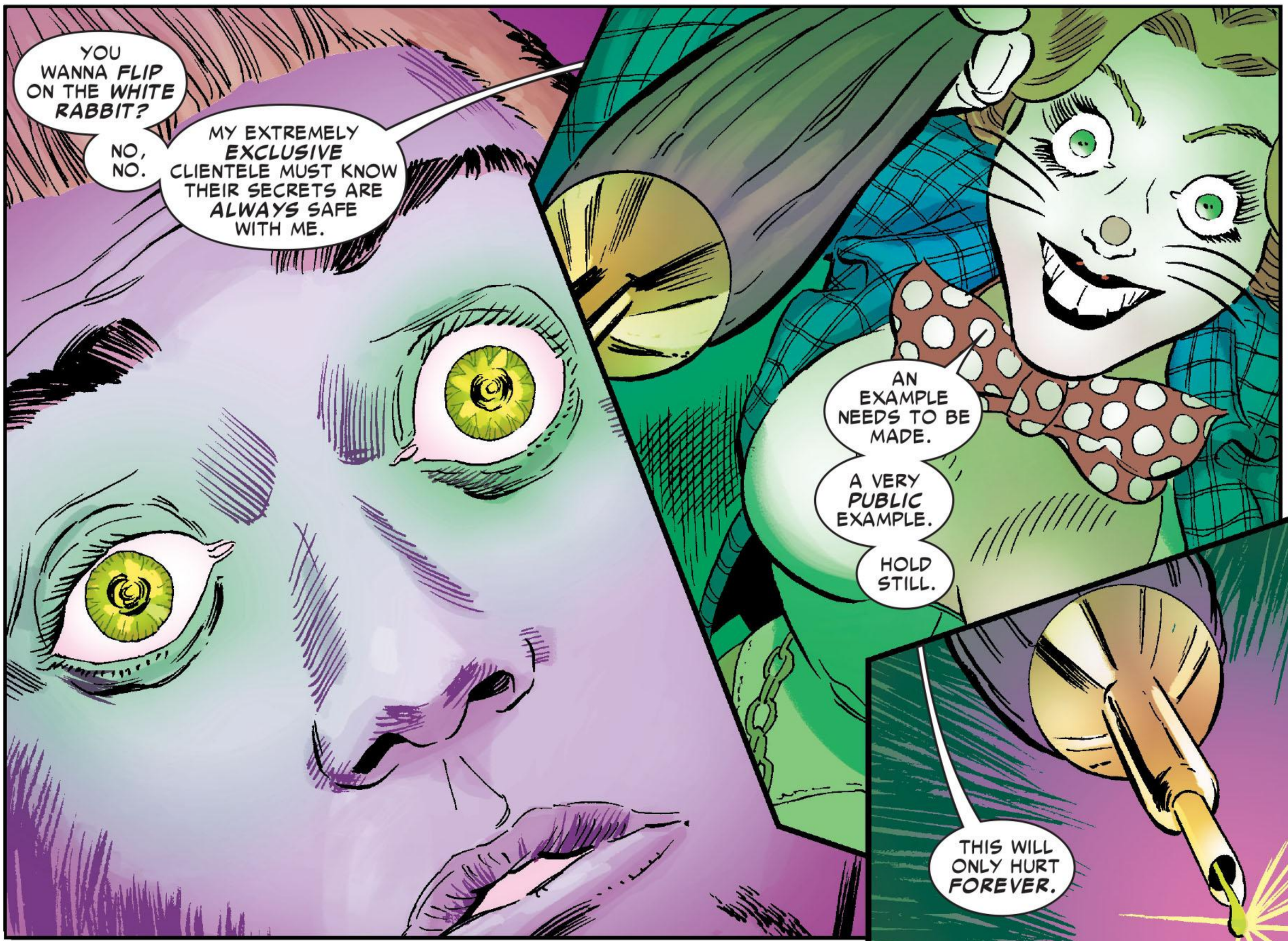
WE'VE *DRILLED* THAT OPERATION TIME AND AGAIN.
IT *SHOULD* TAKE *SEVEN* SECONDS.
TK-TK-TK-KLIK
YOU TOOK *TWELVE*.
SO NOW I'M *LATE*.

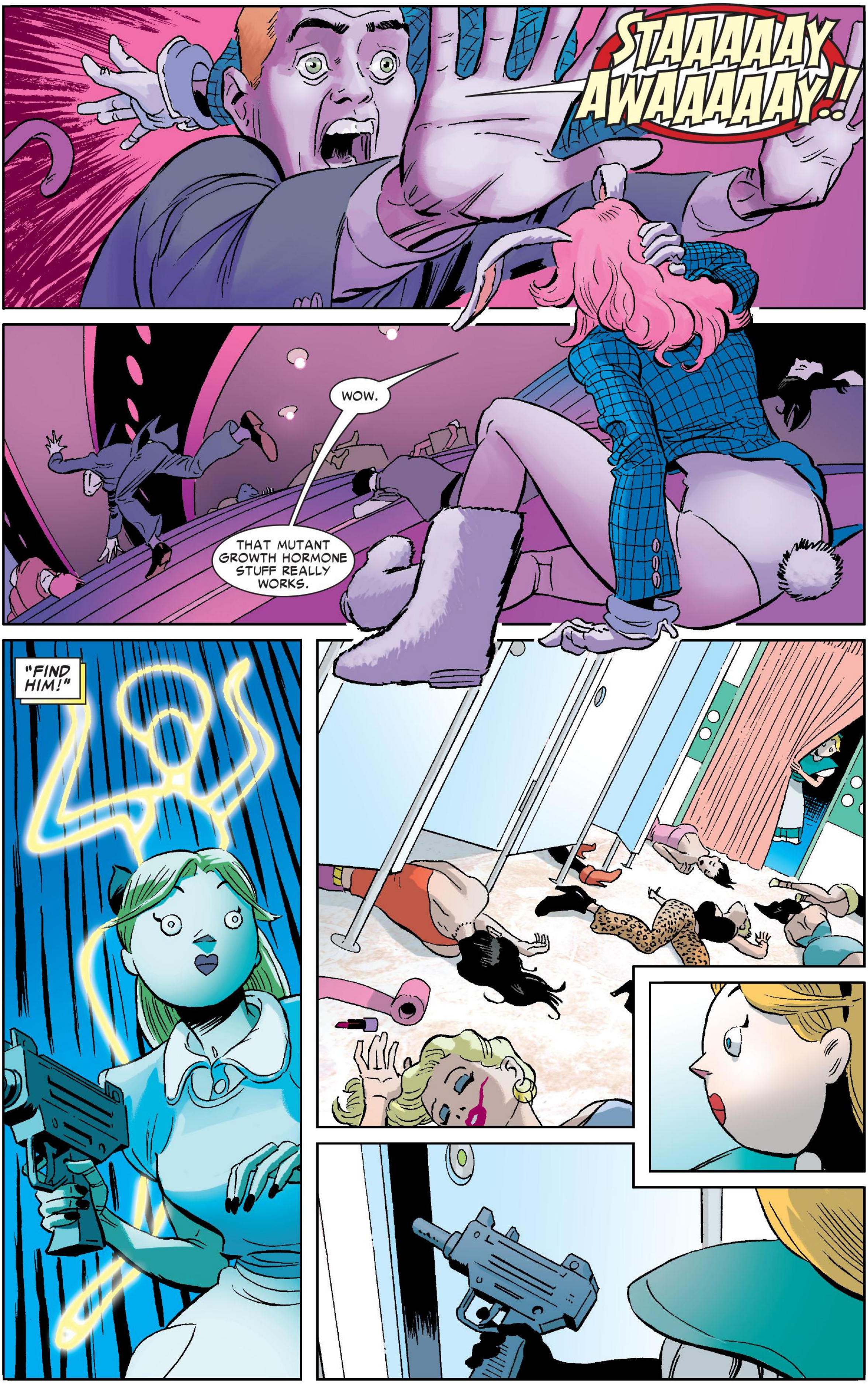

I HATE BEING LATE.

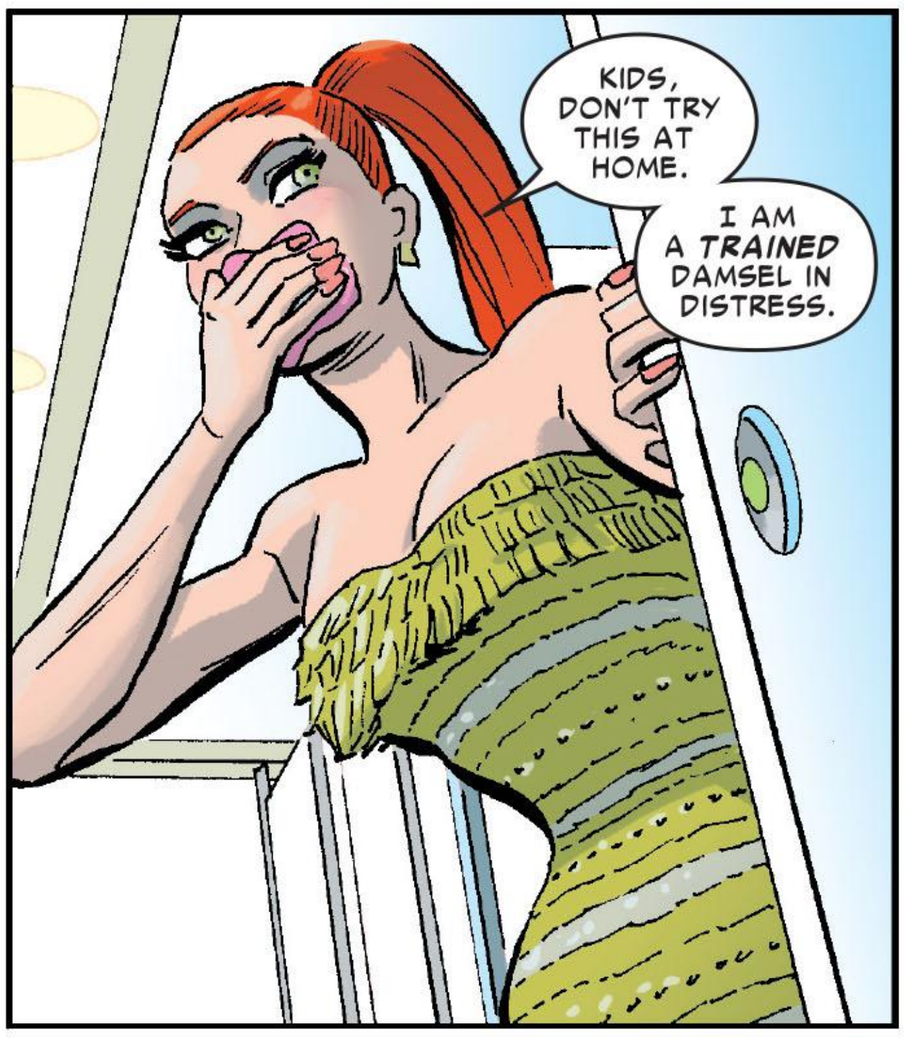

MR. CARR? HELLO?
Incoming Call
BOBBY.

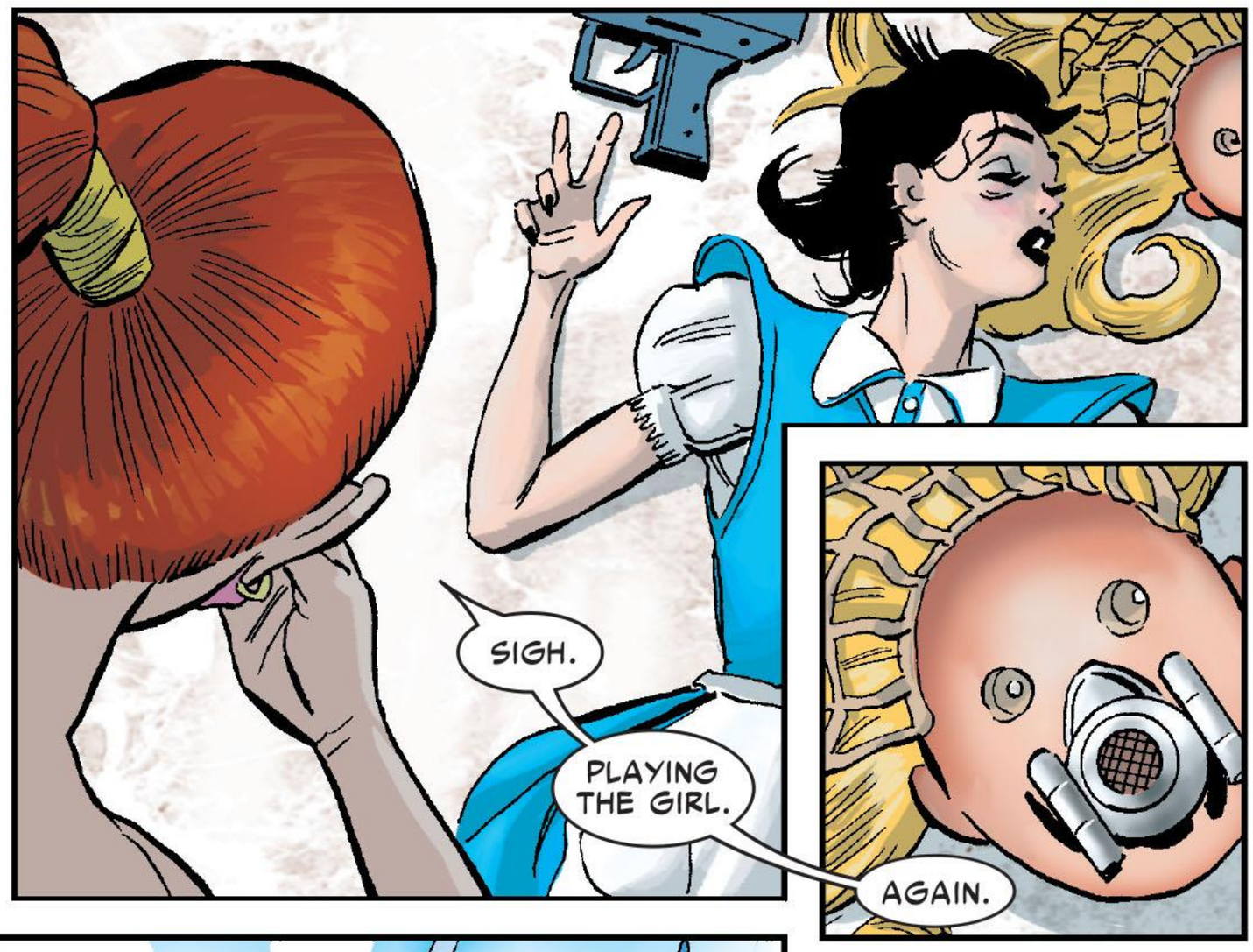
BOBBY, BOBBY, BOBBY.
Incoming Call


SEE THESE EARS? THEY'RE NOT JUST FOR SHOW.
THEY GO EVERYWHERE-- EVEN D.E.A.


YOU WANNA FLIP ON THE WHITE RABBIT?
NO, NO.
MY EXTREMELY EXCLUSIVE CLIENTELE MUST KNOW THEIR SECRETS ARE ALWAYS SAFE WITH ME.
AN EXAMPLE NEEDS TO BE MADE.
A VERY PUBLIC EXAMPLE.
HOLD STILL.
THIS WILL ONLY HURT FOREVER.


STAAAAAY AWAAAAAY!!
WOW.
THAT MUTANT GROWTH HORMONE STUFF REALLY WORKS.
"FIND HIM!"



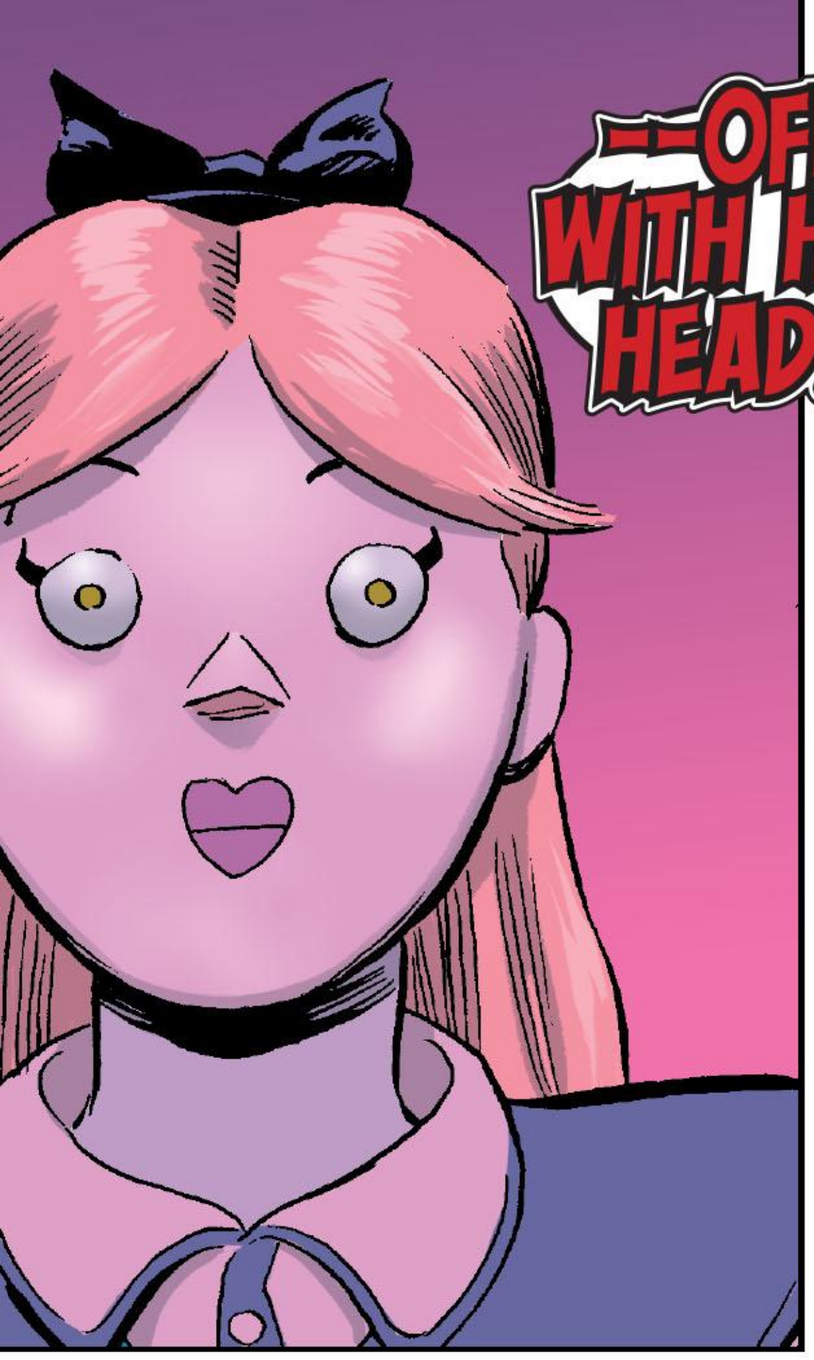


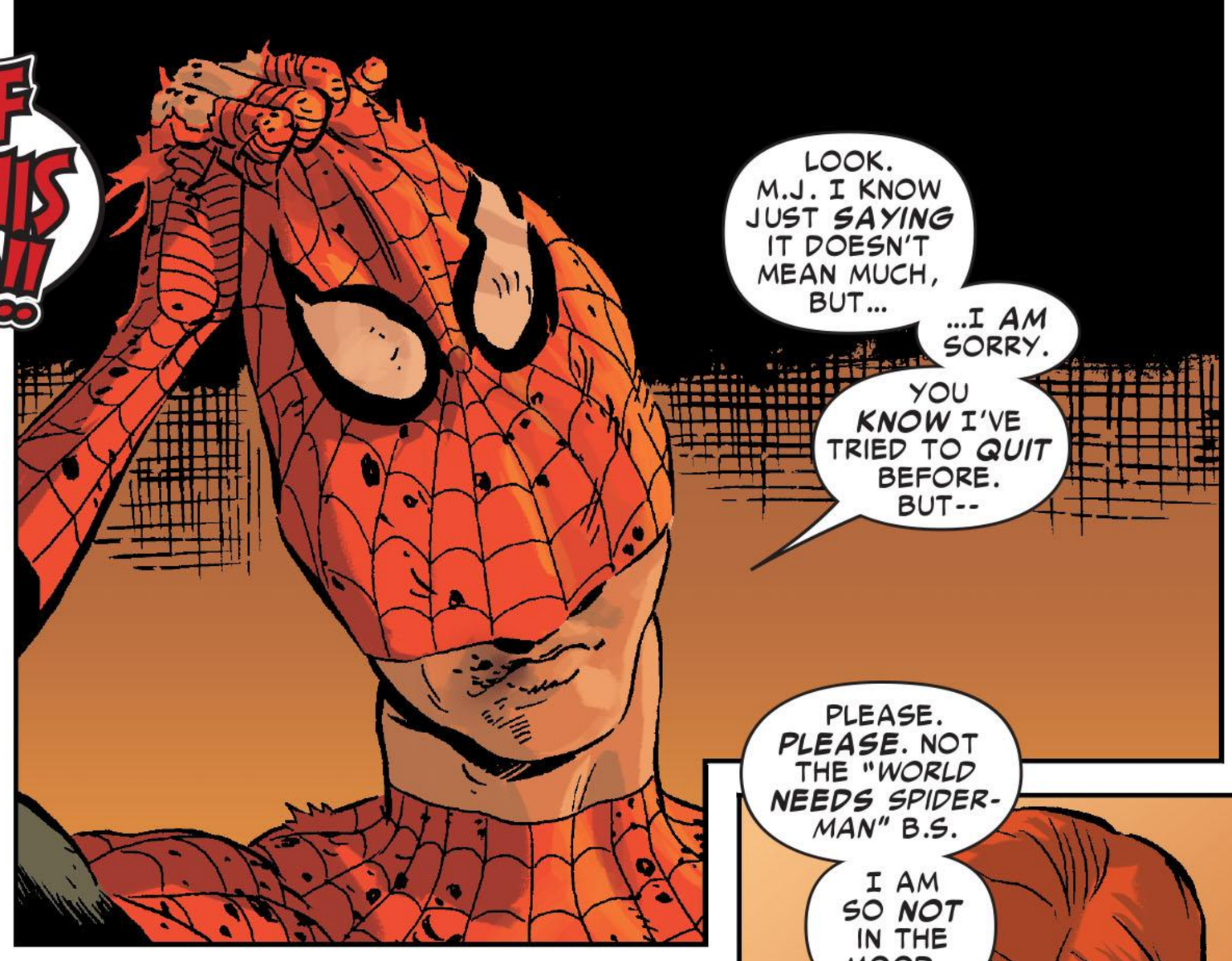
I AM NOW THREE HUNDRED AND FORTY SECONDS BEHIND SCHEDULE, THANKS TO YOU!!

TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!!

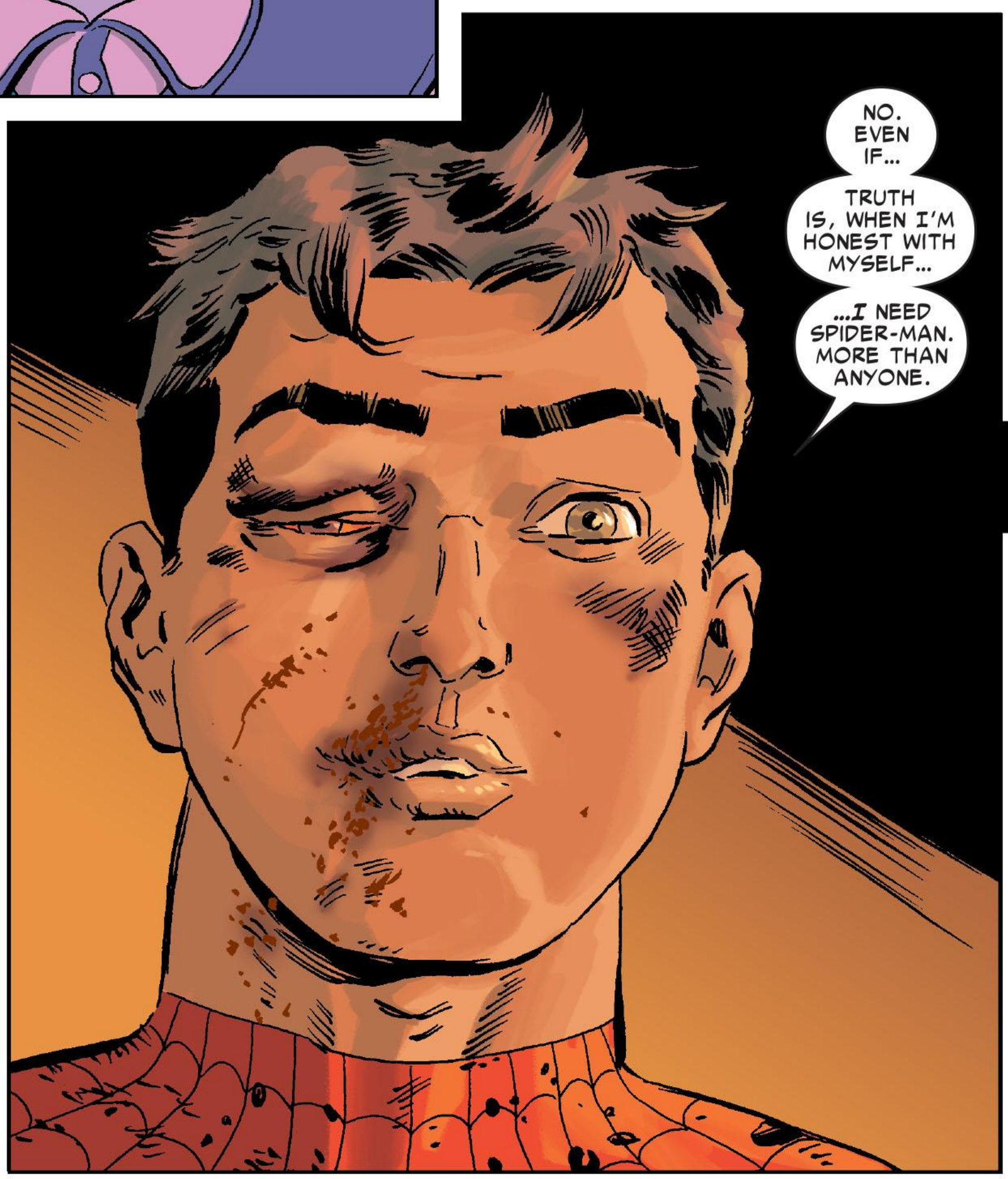
I HAVE CLIENTS TO SEE TONIGHT!!

NOW, ONCE AND FOR ALL--

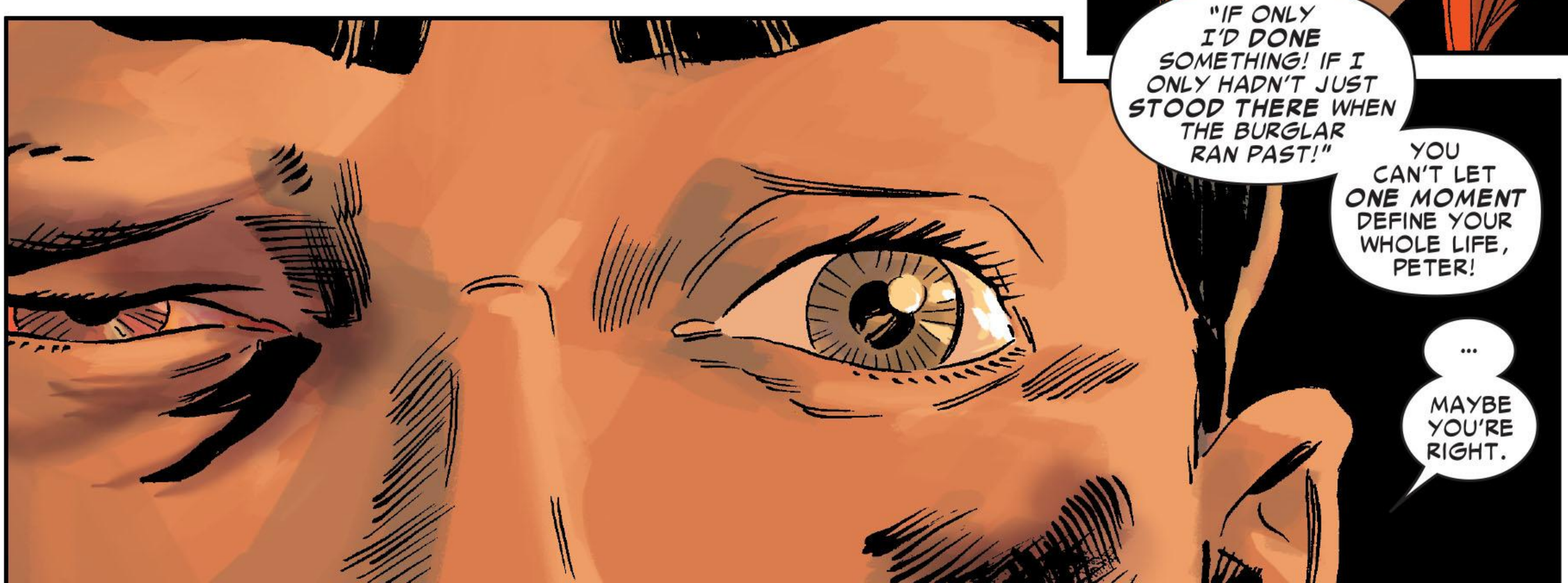

--OFF WITH HIS HEAD!!

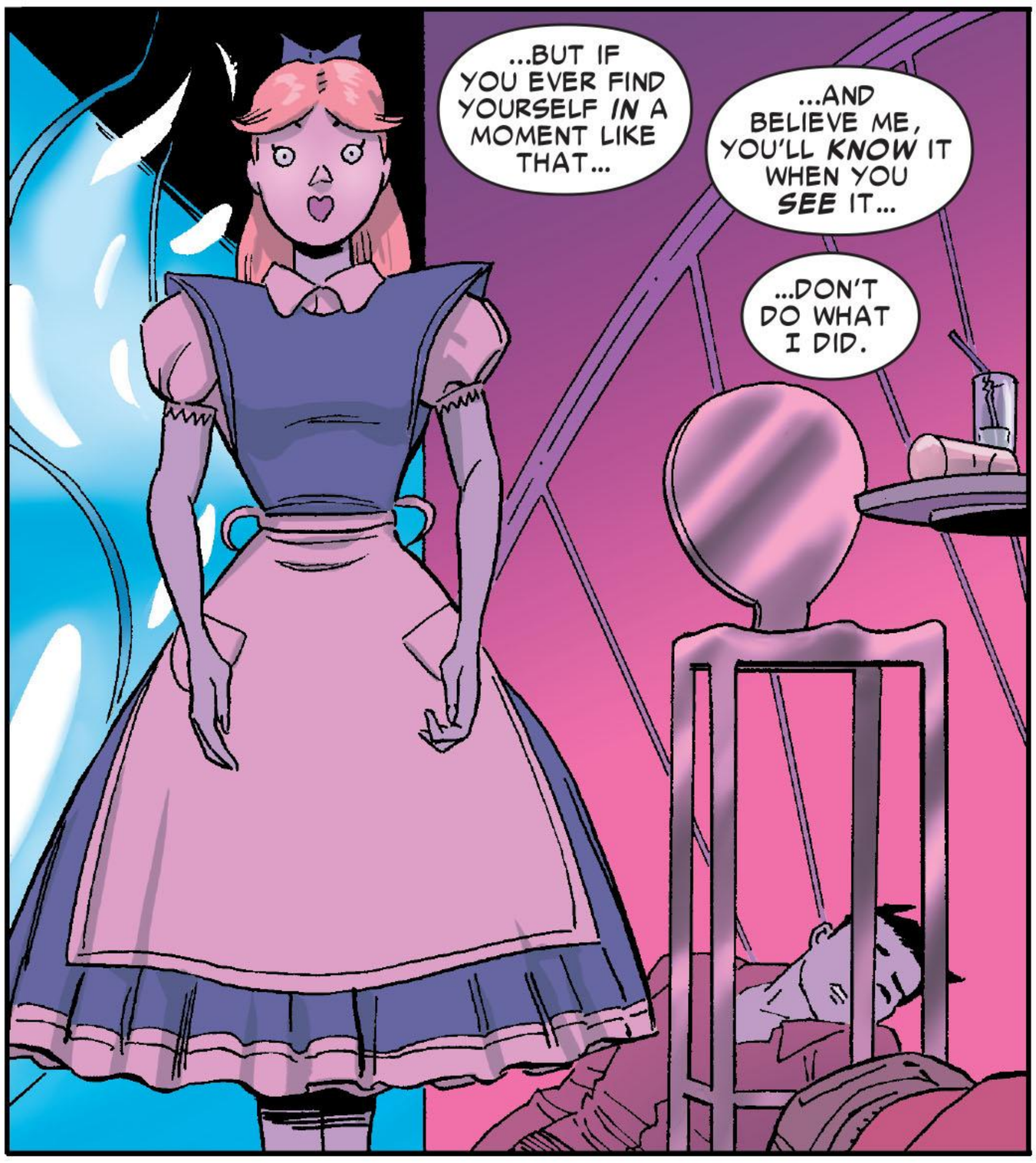

LOOK. M.J. I KNOW JUST SAYING IT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH, BUT...
...I AM SORRY.
YOU KNOW I'VE TRIED TO QUIT BEFORE. BUT--

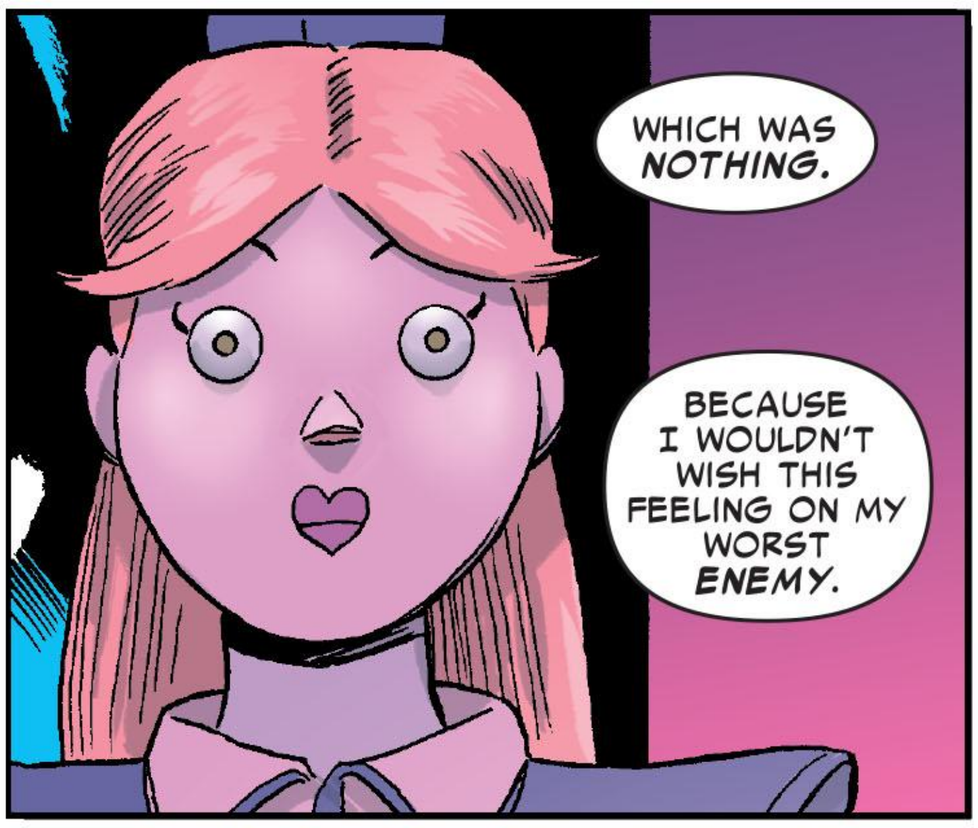
PLEASE. PLEASE. NOT THE "WORLD NEEDS SPIDER-MAN" B.S.
I AM SO NOT IN THE MOOD--

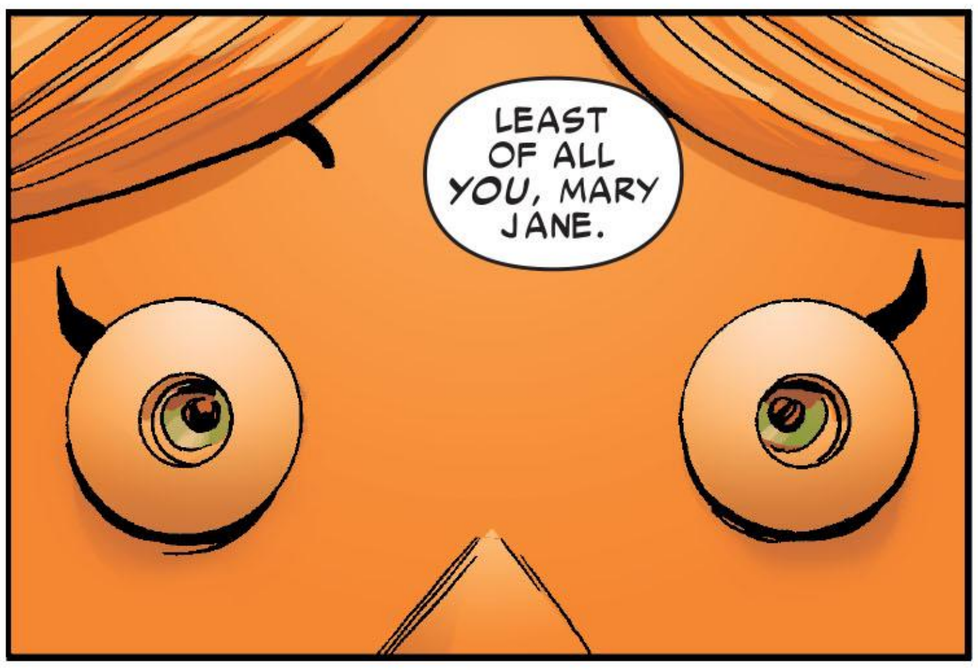

NO. EVEN IF...
TRUTH IS, WHEN I'M HONEST WITH MYSELF...
...I NEED SPIDER-MAN. MORE THAN ANYONE.

HERE IT COMES!
WHAT?
CUE UNCLE BEN! THE PATRON SAINT OF FOREST HILLS!
CUE THE GUILT!


"IF ONLY I'D DONE SOMETHING! IF I ONLY HADN'T JUST STOOD THERE WHEN THE BURGLAR RAN PAST!"
YOU CAN'T LET ONE MOMENT DEFINE YOUR WHOLE LIFE, PETER!
...
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.


...BUT IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF IN A MOMENT LIKE THAT...
...AND BELIEVE ME, YOU'LL KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT...
...DON'T DO WHAT I DID.


WHICH WAS NOTHING.
BECAUSE I WOULDN'T WISH THIS FEELING ON MY WORST ENEMY.


LEAST OF ALL YOU, MARY JANE.

BRRRAAAAAP
WHAT? NO!
HURRY, BOBBY!
GINNY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? TRAITOR!
KILL THEM BOTH!!

...
M.J.?
CREAM MACHINE
LESS TALK!
MORE RUN!
?
FSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
CREAM MACHINE
AAAAUUGGH!!
GO! GO! THEY'RE DOWN THERE!

THAT WAS THE WHITE RABBIT, BOBBY! "UNAUTHORIZED PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTOR TO THE STARS!"
LISTEN--
I GO AWAY TO SHOOT A MOVIE FOR A MONTH AND YOU GET MIXED UP WITH--

LISTEN TO ME. THE COPS ARE GOING TO WANT TO QUESTION US, BUT YOU DON'T TELL THEM A THING UNTIL WE TALK TO MY LAWYER, GET OUR STORIES STRAIGHT--
WHY WOULD WE NEED TO--

I HAD NO CHOICE. THEY WANTED A SPECIFIC BODY TYPE FOR ROGERS! M.G.H. WAS THE QUICKEST WAY FOR ME TO GET THAT!
I HAD TO MAKE A LEAP! I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR MY USUAL PARTS! MY CAREER HAD ALREADY STARTED TO PLATEAU!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE!

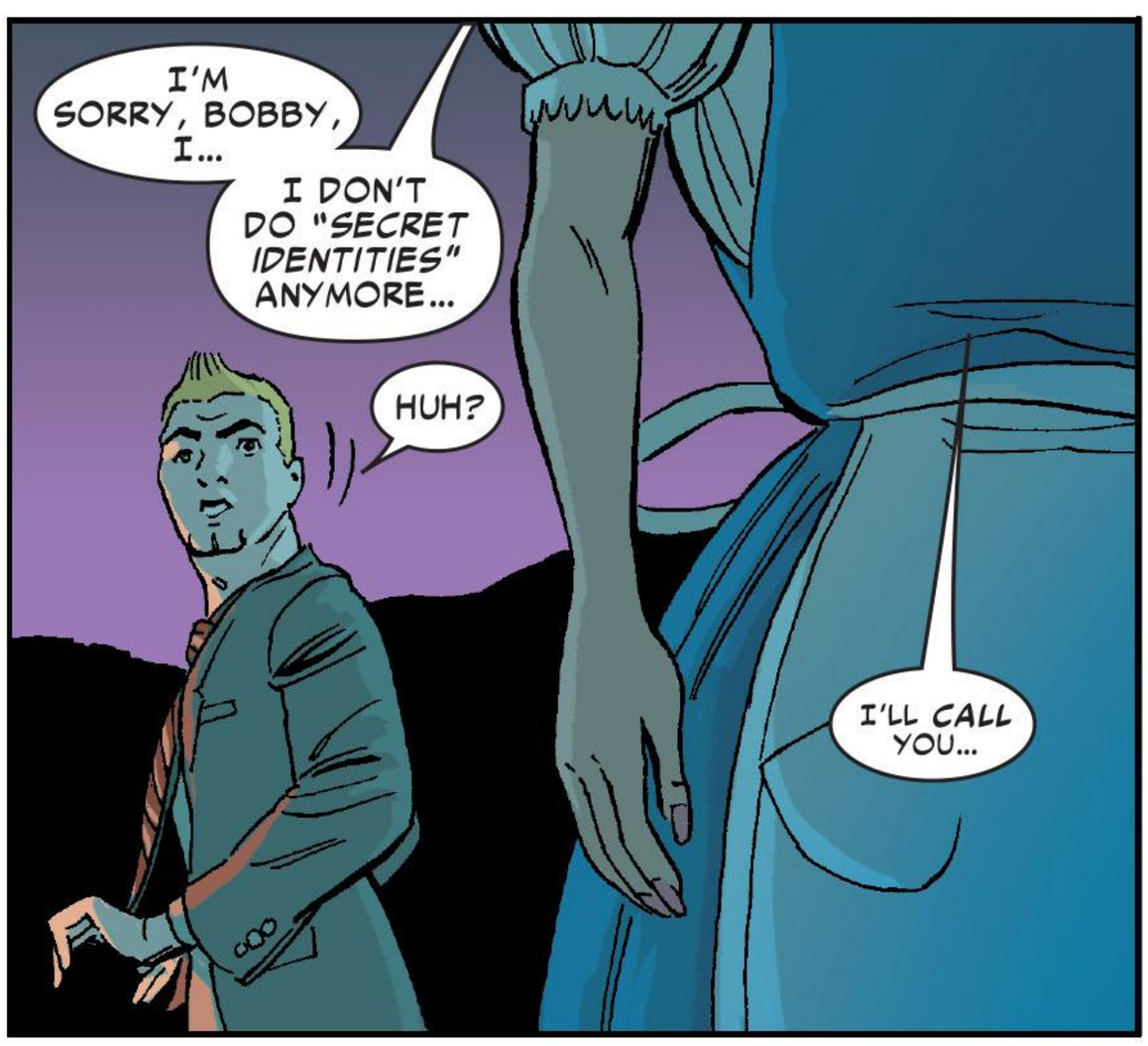
PARDON ME?
HONEY. AW, GEEZ. LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO OFFEND YOU. I LOVE YOU. BUT...

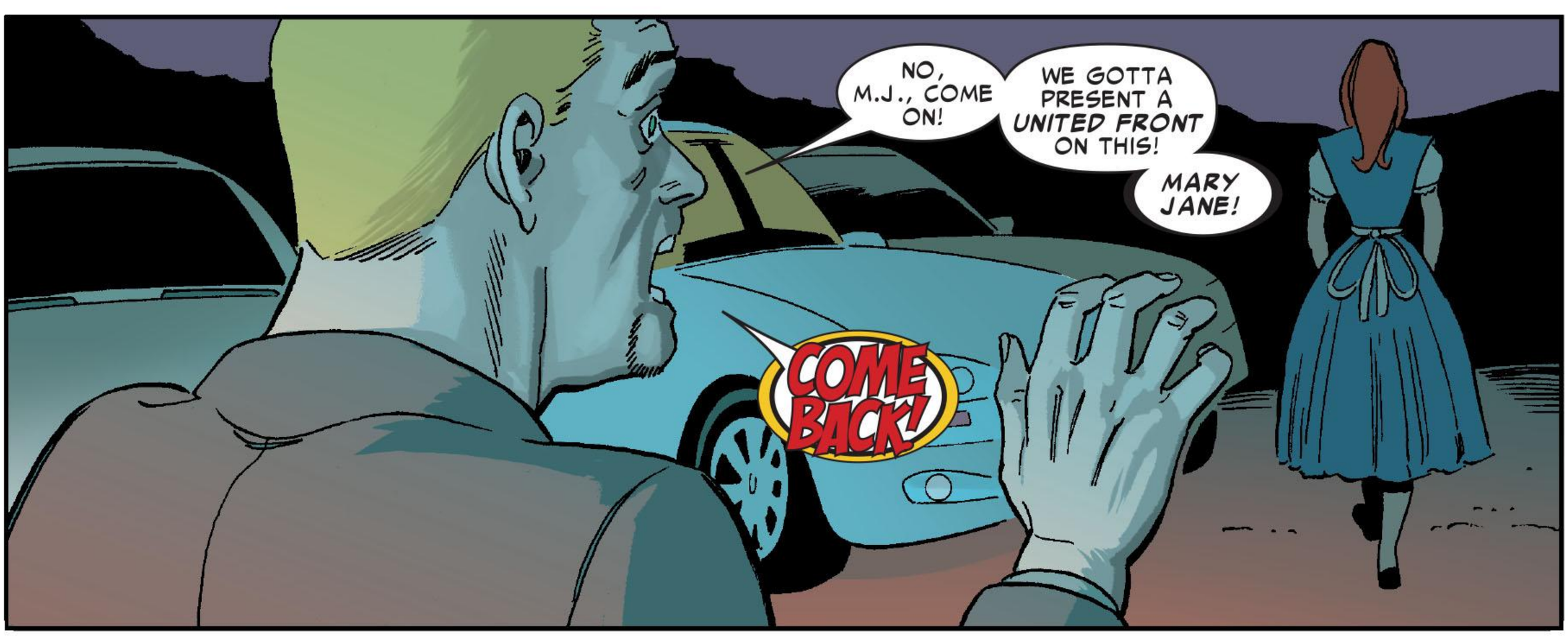
...CAPTAIN FATE FOUR? SERIOUSLY?
THE HALF-LIFE FOR EX-MODELS IN THIS TOWN...
YOUR WINDOW IS CLOSING, THAT'S ALL I'M GONNA SAY. I ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH!

I SEE.
AND HOW LONG HAS MY... EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL WEIGHED SO HEAVILY ON YOUR MIND?
SEE? THIS IS WHY MY THERAPIST SAID I SHOULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT THE M.G.H.

"SHE SAYS THERE'S ALWAYS TENSION IN A RELATIONSHIP...
"...WHEN THE ONE PARTNER IS SO MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THE OTHER."

OH, GREAT. THEY CAUGHT HER...THAT'S JUST GREAT! NOW SHE'S GONNA SPILL HER GUTS...
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY TO SPIN THIS. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE STUFF WAS SHE WAS GIVING ME...DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ILLEGAL...


I'M SORRY, BOBBY, I...
I DON'T DO "SECRET IDENTITIES" ANYMORE...
HUH?
I'LL CALL YOU...


NO, M.J., COME ON!
WE GOTTA PRESENT A UNITED FRONT ON THIS!
MARY JANE!
COME BACK!

OKAY, SOUND? GREAT.

WE'RE SITTING DOWN WITH THE BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED HOSTESS OF THE NEW SYNDICATED FASHION REALITY SHOW "SEWN UP"...

...DOUBLE-THREAT SUPERMODEL AND ACTRESS MARY JANE WATSON. THANKS FOR GIVING US A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR TIME, M.J.

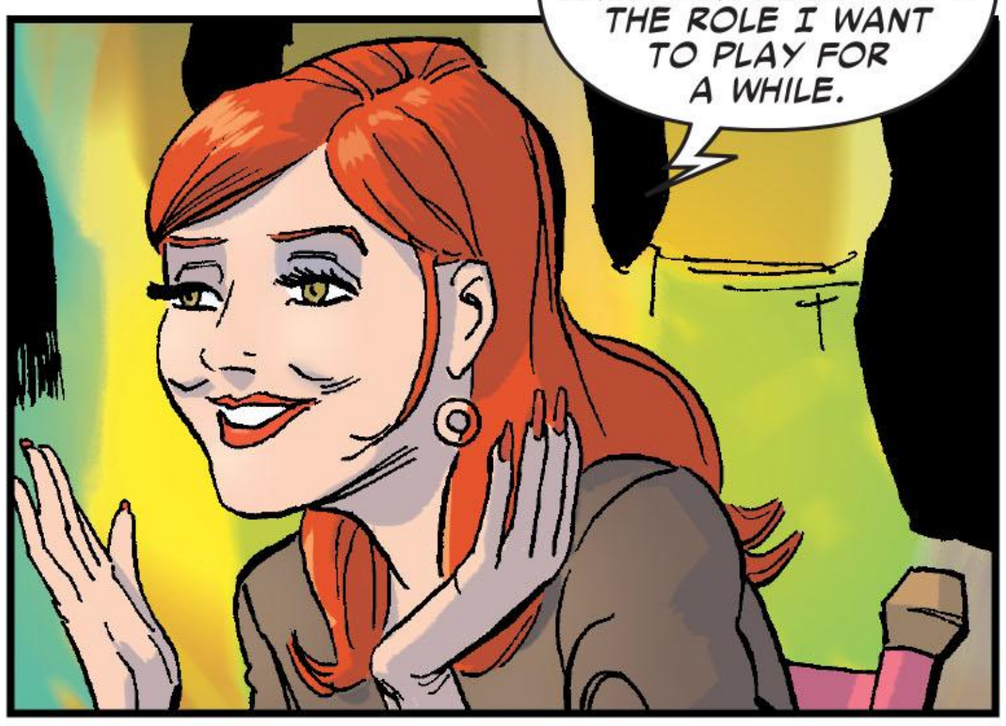
SO, YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR NATIVE **NEW YORK** TO BEGIN FILMING AFTER SOME TIME ON THE LEFT COAST. WHY THE CHANGE?

OH, YOU KNOW, ONCE I HEARD THE PREMISE OF THE SHOW, I FELT IT WAS JUST SO COMPELLING, I IMMEDIATELY TOLD MY AGENT I WANTED TO BE A PART OF IT.

YOUR ACTING CAREER WAS JUST STARTING TO TAKE OFF, THOUGH. ANY REGRETS, GIVING THAT UP?

NOT AT ALL. HONESTLY, THAT WHOLE SCENE...IT'S NOT REALLY "ME," YOU KNOW?

MY GREATEST CREATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN **MARY JANE WATSON.** THAT'S THE ROLE I WANT TO PLAY FOR A WHILE.



HA HA! WELL SAID.

THERE **WAS** SOME "PAGE SIX" TALK THAT A **FAILED LOVE AFFAIR** HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU LEAVING THE BIG APPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE. ANY TRUTH TO THAT?

WOW, YOU GUYS ARE GOOD.

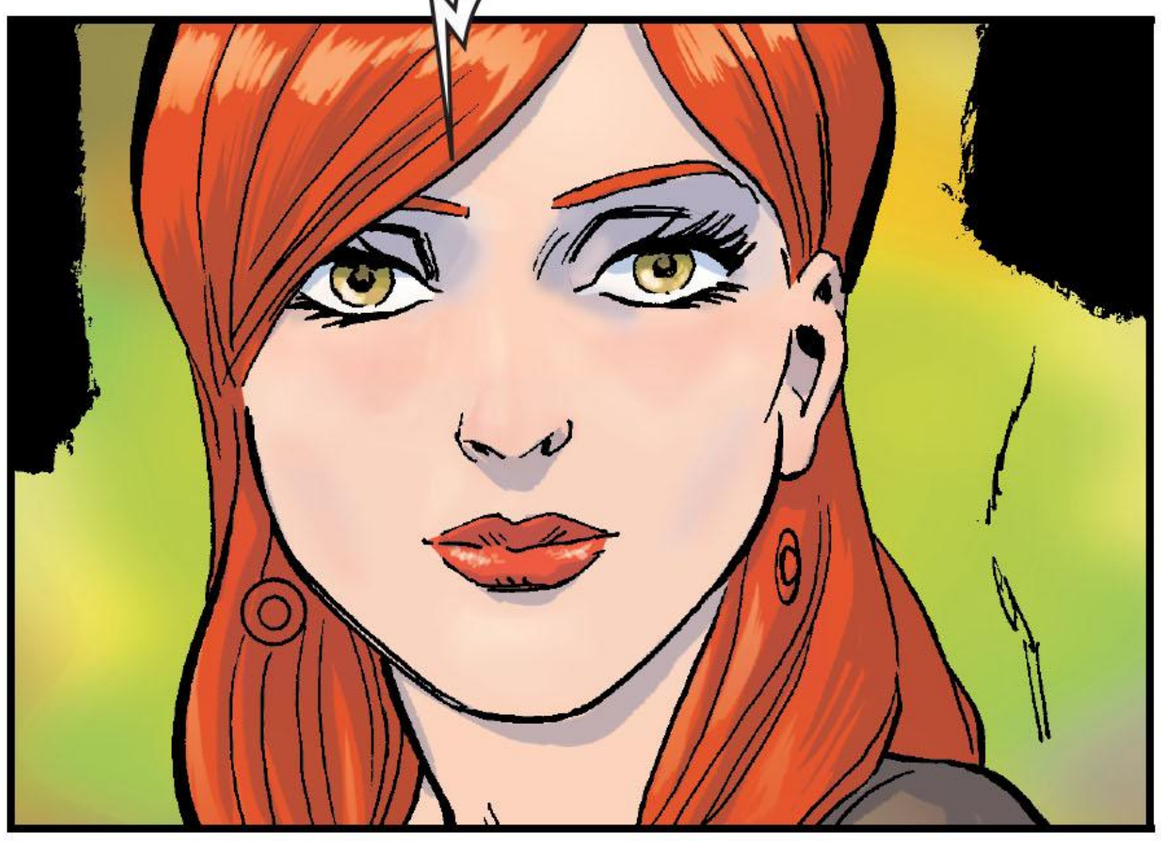
THAT'S WHY WE GET THE BIG BUCKS.

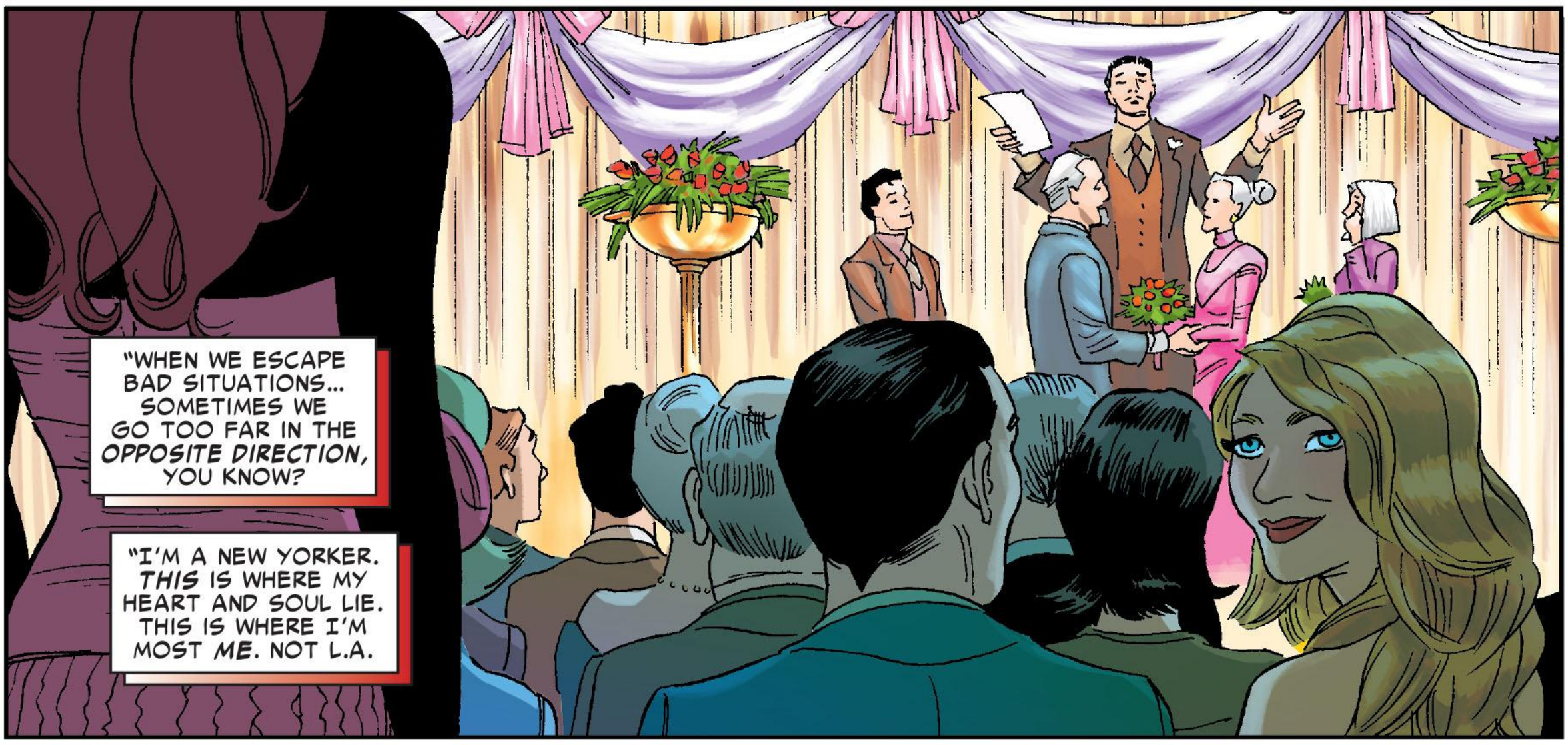
WELL, YOU GOT ME.

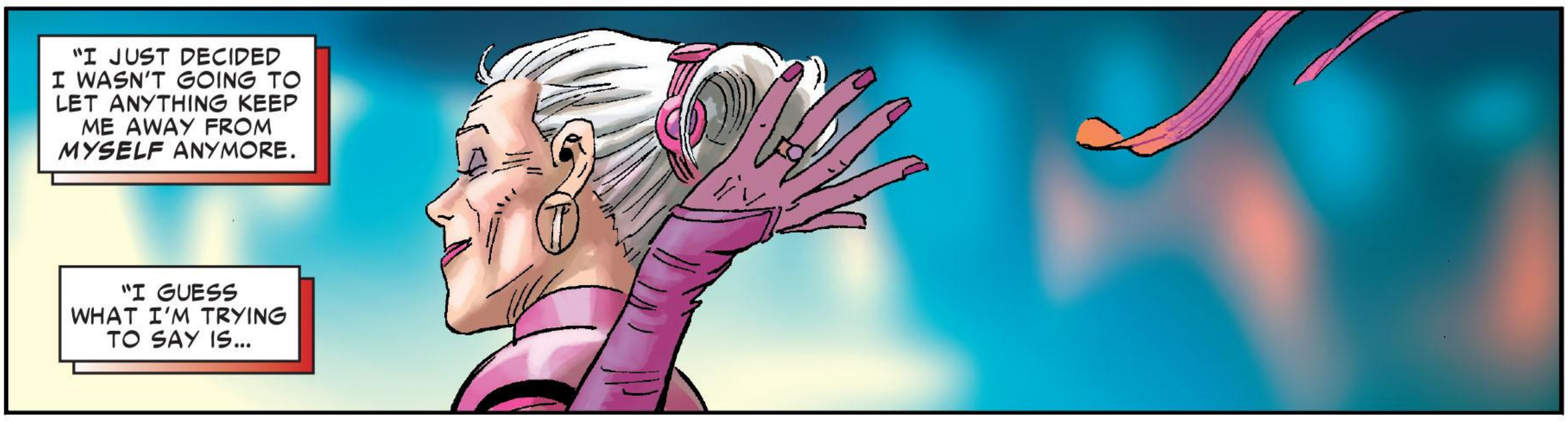
BUT THAT'S ALL BEHIND ME NOW.

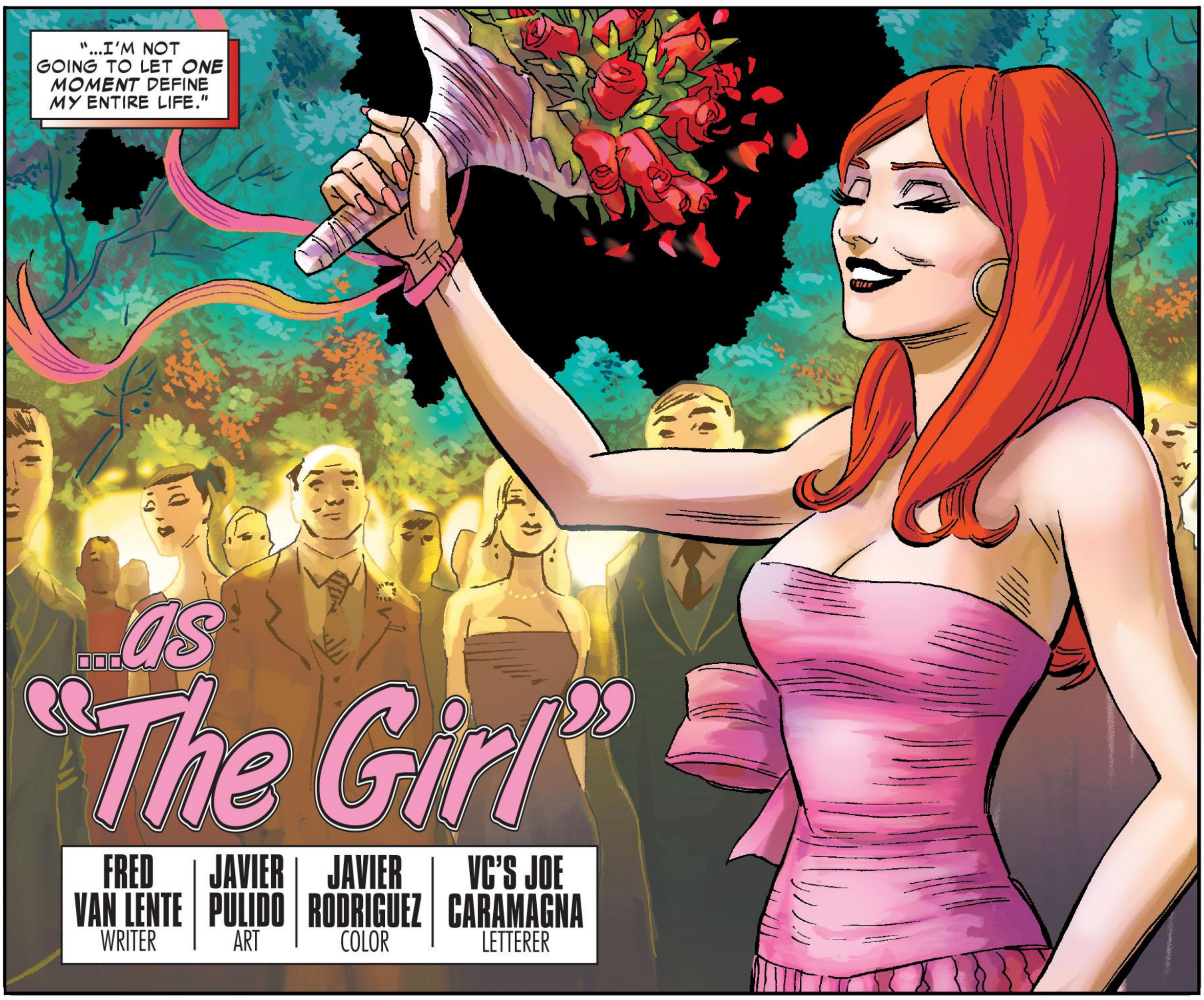
OR, I GUESS...BY COMING **BACK**, I AM PUTTING IT BEHIND ME NOW.

HOW SO?

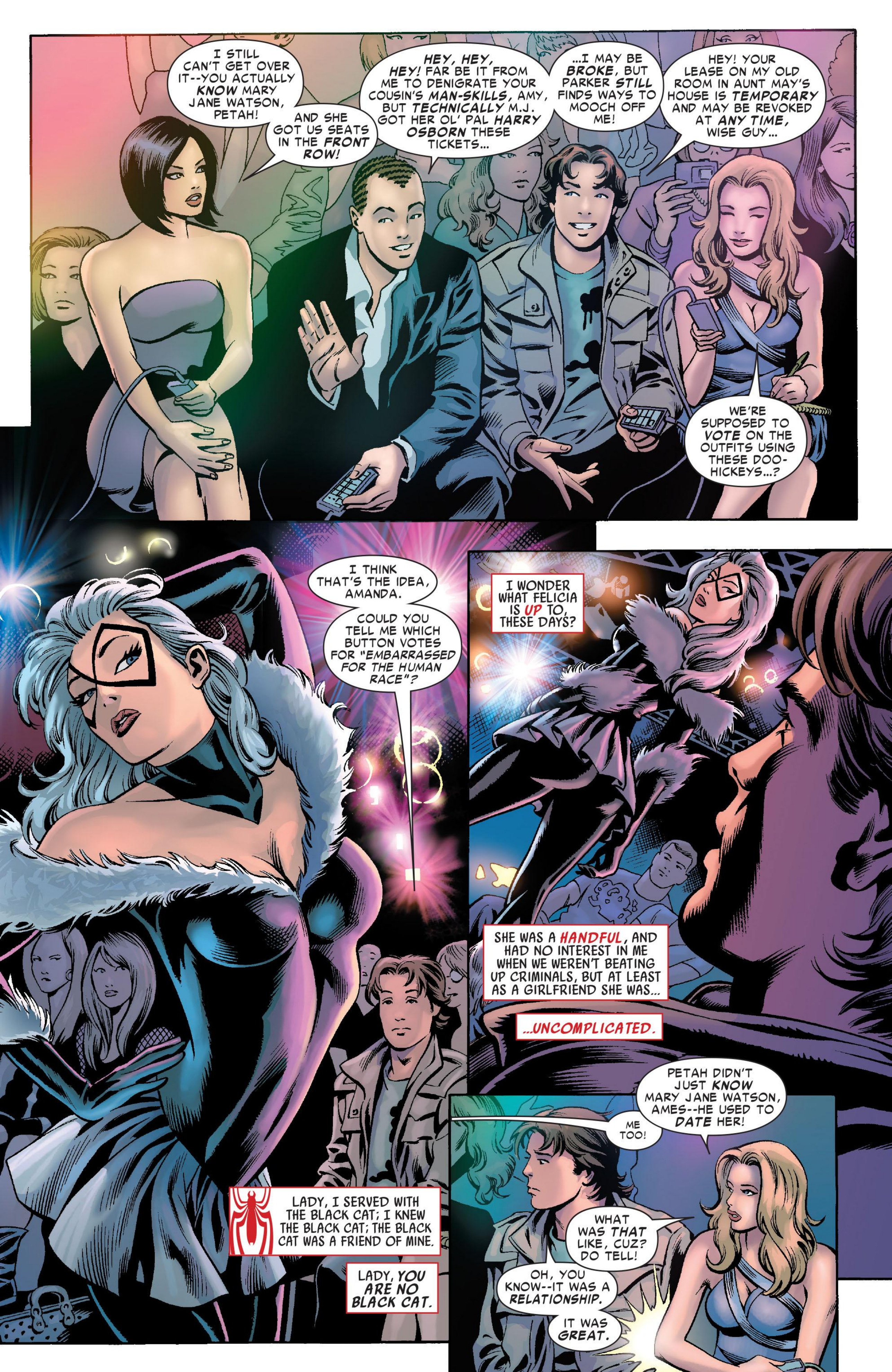



"WHEN WE ESCAPE BAD SITUATIONS... SOMETIMES WE GO TOO FAR IN THE *OPPOSITE DIRECTION*, YOU KNOW?
"I'M A NEW YORKER. *THIS* IS WHERE MY HEART AND SOUL LIE. THIS IS WHERE I'M MOST *ME*. NOT L.A.

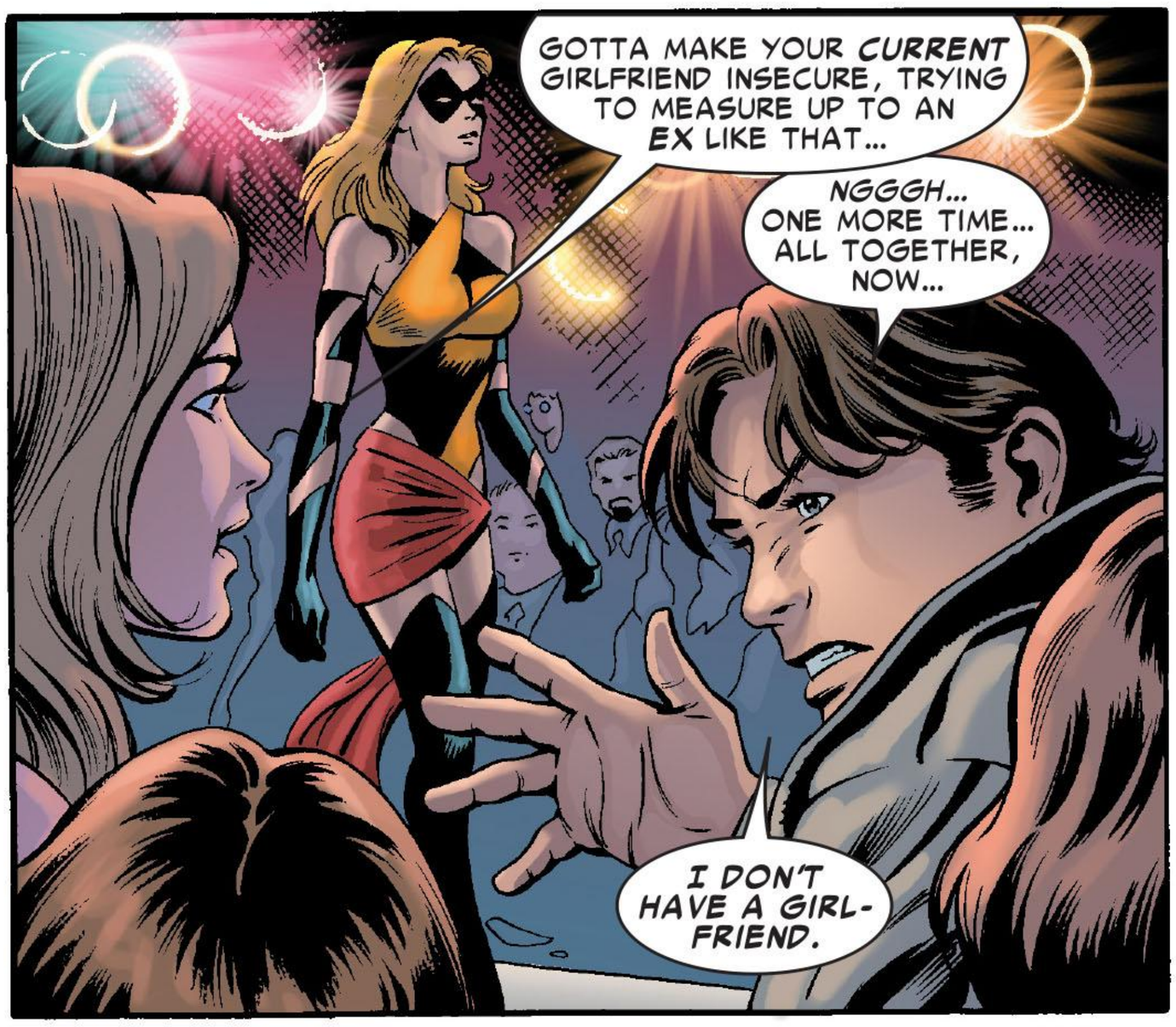

"I JUST DECIDED I WASN'T GOING TO LET ANYTHING KEEP ME AWAY FROM *MYSELF* ANYMORE.
"I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

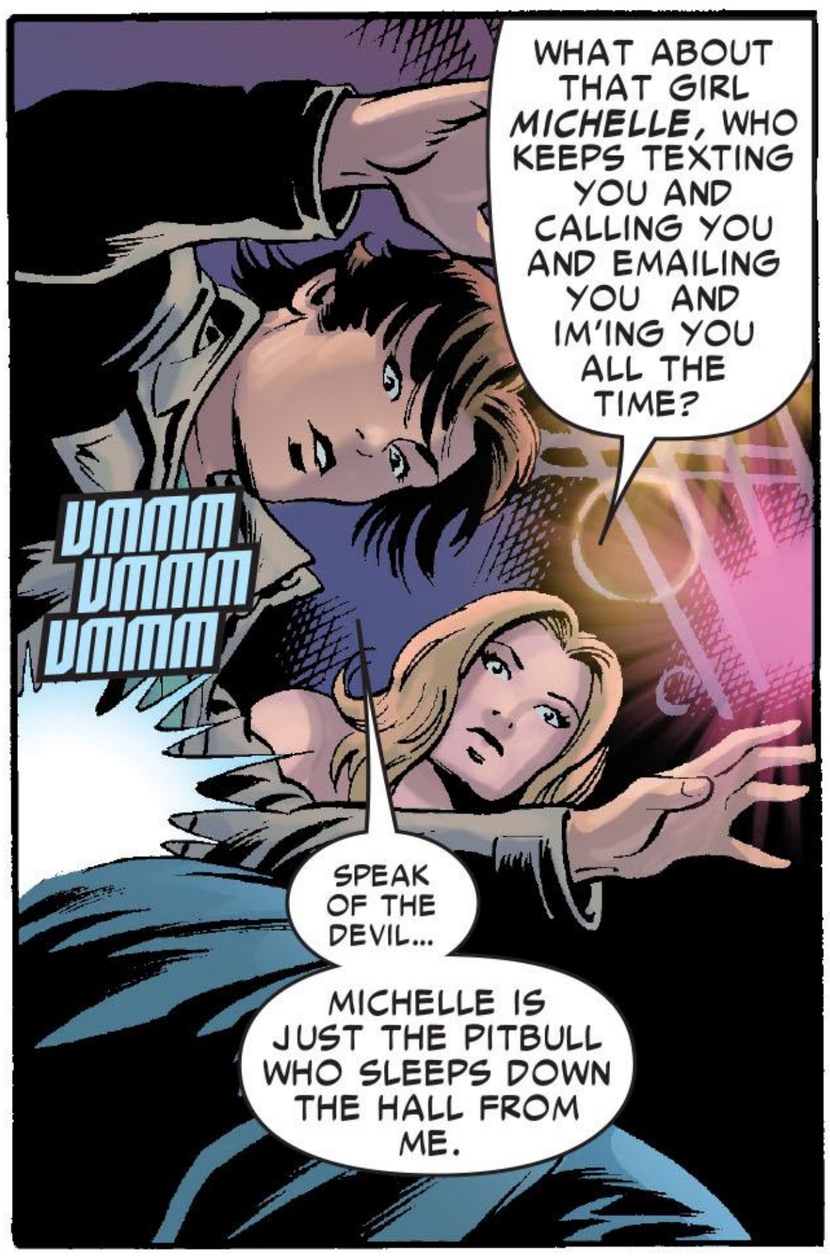

"...I'M NOT GOING TO LET *ONE MOMENT* DEFINE *MY* ENTIRE LIFE."
...as "The Girl"
FRED VAN LENTE WRITER
JAVIER PULIDO ART
JAVIER RODRIGUEZ COLOR
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA LETTERER

Chapter Two
Now.
TODAY OUR DESIGNERS HAD TO COME TO THE "RESCUE" OF SOME OF NEW YORK'S SEXIEST SUPER HEROES BY INVENTING BRAND-NEW LOOKS FOR THEM!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
LET'S SEE HOW THEY DID!
MODELS STINK
FRED VAN LENTE writer
LUKE ROSS pencils
RICK MAGYAR inks
ROB SCHWAGER colors
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letters
AS ALWAYS, THE GRADES GIVEN BY OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS WILL BE COMBINED WITH OUR AUDIENCE POLL TO SEE WHICH OF OUR CONTESTANTS HAS THIS CHALLENGE...
..."SEWN UP!"

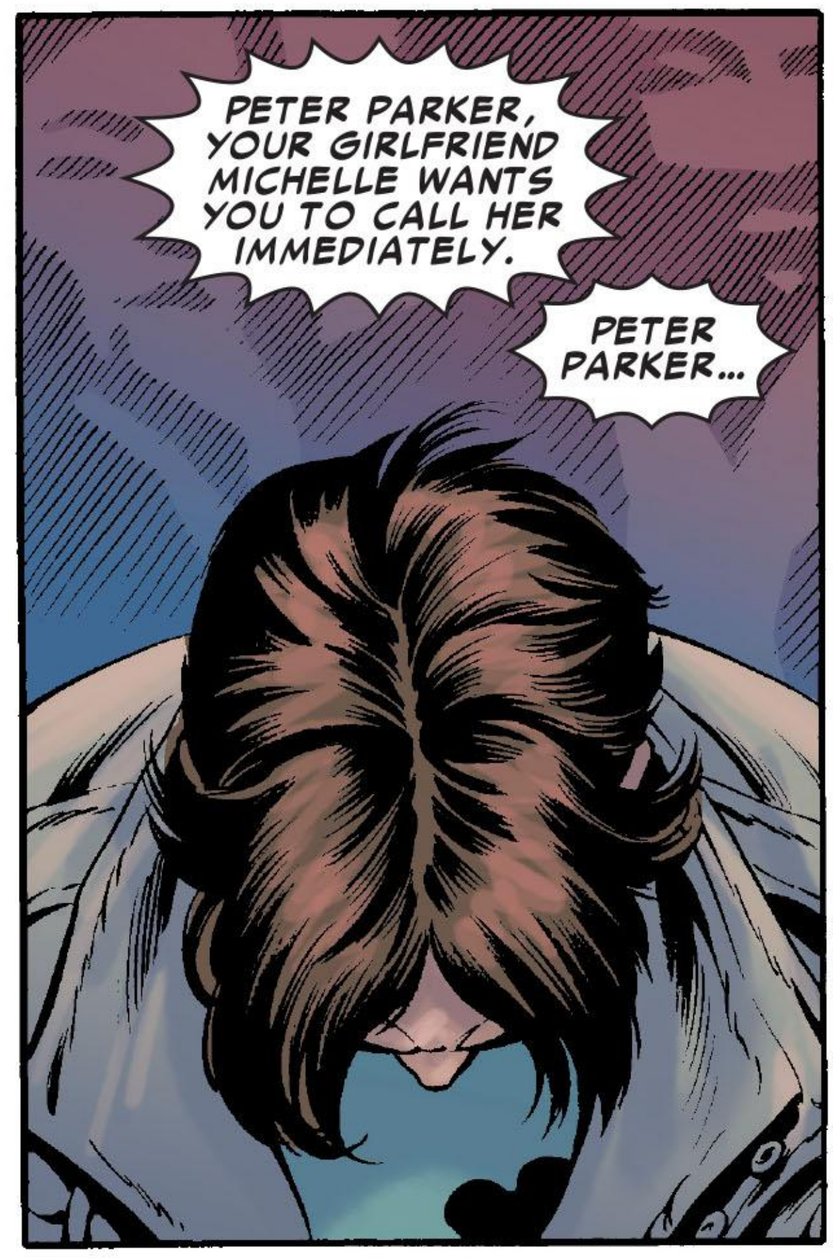

I STILL CAN'T GET OVER IT--YOU ACTUALLY KNOW MARY JANE WATSON, PETAH!
AND SHE GOT US SEATS IN THE FRONT ROW!
HEY, HEY, HEY! FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DENIGRATE YOUR COUSIN'S MAN-SKILLS, AMY, BUT TECHNICALLY M.J. GOT HER OL' PAL HARRY OSBORN THESE TICKETS...
...I MAY BE BROKE, BUT PARKER STILL FINDS WAYS TO MOOCH OFF ME!
HEY! YOUR LEASE ON MY OLD ROOM IN AUNT MAY'S HOUSE IS TEMPORARY AND MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME, WISE GUY...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO VOTE ON THE OUTFITS USING THESE DOO-HICKEYS...?
I THINK THAT'S THE IDEA, AMANDA.
COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH BUTTON VOTES FOR "EMBARRASSED FOR THE HUMAN RACE"?
LADY, I SERVED WITH THE BLACK CAT; I KNEW THE BLACK CAT; THE BLACK CAT WAS A FRIEND OF MINE.
LADY, YOU ARE NO BLACK CAT.
I WONDER WHAT FELICIA IS UP TO, THESE DAYS?
SHE WAS A HANDFUL, AND HAD NO INTEREST IN ME WHEN WE WEREN'T BEATING UP CRIMINALS, BUT AT LEAST AS A GIRLFRIEND SHE WAS...
...UNCOMPLICATED.
PETAH DIDN'T JUST KNOW MARY JANE WATSON, AMES--HE USED TO DATE HER!
ME TOO!
WHAT WAS THAT LIKE, CUZ? DO TELL!
OH, YOU KNOW--IT WAS A RELATIONSHIP.
IT WAS GREAT.

UNTIL IT WASN'T.


GOTTA MAKE YOUR CURRENT GIRLFRIEND INSECURE, TRYING TO MEASURE UP TO AN EX LIKE THAT...
NGGGH... ONE MORE TIME... ALL TOGETHER, NOW...
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND.


WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL MICHELLE, WHO KEEPS TEXTING YOU AND CALLING YOU AND EMAILING YOU AND IM'ING YOU ALL THE TIME?
VMMM VMMM VMMM
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
MICHELLE IS JUST THE PITBULL WHO SLEEPS DOWN THE HALL FROM ME.

THERE. IT'S OFF. PEACE IN OUR TIME.
SHE IS NOT--NOR WILL SHE EVER BE--MY GIRLFRIEND.


PETER PARKER, YOUR GIRLFRIEND MICHELLE WANTS YOU TO CALL HER IMMEDIATELY.
PETER PARKER...

CUT! CUT!!
WHO LEFT THE P.A. SYSTEM ON?!
THAT DOES IT!!
I'M PUTTING A FORK IN THIS THING ONCE AND FOR ALL...

MROW! WH-CHTIK!
SHE'S NOT MY GI...
OH, I GIVE UP.

HE'S SEPARATING FROM THE OTHERS.
BUT STILL--THIS MAY NOT BE THE RIGHT TIME TO STRIKE. TOO MANY *INNOCENTS* AROUND.
LAST TIME I TRIED TO TAKE THIS DIRTBAG OUT, *BYSTANDERS* GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE. THERE WERE INJURIES.
I TRACKED THE REILLY CLAN TO FOREST HILLS, *QUEENS* FROM BOSTON.
I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEIR *BLACK SHEEP* TURNED UP.
I SWORE THEN I'D *NEVER* ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN *AGAIN.*
AVENGING INNOCENTS--MY INNOCENT *FAMILY,* MURDERED BY BEN REILLY--IS *RAPTOR'S* WHOLE REASON FOR EXISTENCE!
RAPTOR MISTAKES PETER PARKER FOR HIS CLONE, BEN REILLY. BUT SINCE YOU READ ASM ANNUAL #36, YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT. RIGHT?--WACKERPEDIA
HMMM...
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?

WE SHOULD GET BACK-- AMANDA'S GONNA WONDER WHY WE BOTH RAN OUT SO SOON AFTER PETER.
WHEN HE TALKED ABOUT DATING HIS ROOMMATE-- I DON'T KNOW HOW I KEPT FROM CRACKING UP!
ME NEITHER...
TOO SOON TO TELL YOUR SISTERS, YOU THINK?
SOON'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, HANDSOME... YOU'RE MY HOUSEMATE AND MY COUSIN'S BEST FRIEND...
WHATEVER THIS IS, IT'S MORE FUN 'CAUSE IT'S OUR ILLICIT LITTLE SECRET...
OF COURSE.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS.
BEN REILLY TOOK MY LOVED ONES FROM ME.
AND PAPA ALWAYS TAUGHT ME...
...TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY.

The Apartment of Peter Parker and Michelle Gonzales.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE DINNER WITH THE SENIOR PARTNER OF MY FIRM AND HIS--

I WAS OUT WITH THE SWEDISH WOMEN'S WATER POLO TEAM FOR ALL YOU KNOW, MICHELLE!

AND IT'D STILL BE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

BECAUSE WE ARE NOT DATING!! WE WERE NEVER DATING!!

YOU KNOW, I'M GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF YOUR GAMES.

GAMES? WHAT GAMES? GAME OVER! I'M TAKING MY BALL AND GOING HOME!

FIRST WE HOOK UP AT YOUR AUNT'S WEDDING RECEPTION, WHICH WE AGREE WAS A MISTAKE--*

IT WAS A MISTAKE! IT WAS A MISTAKE!

THEN, WHEN I TRY AND TOSS YOU OUT, YOU START SWAPPING SPIT WITH ME ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR--**

* ASM #601 ** #603 --THE LOVE EDITOR

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO SAY THIS...

BUT AT THIS POINT...SCREW MY SECRET IDENTITY...

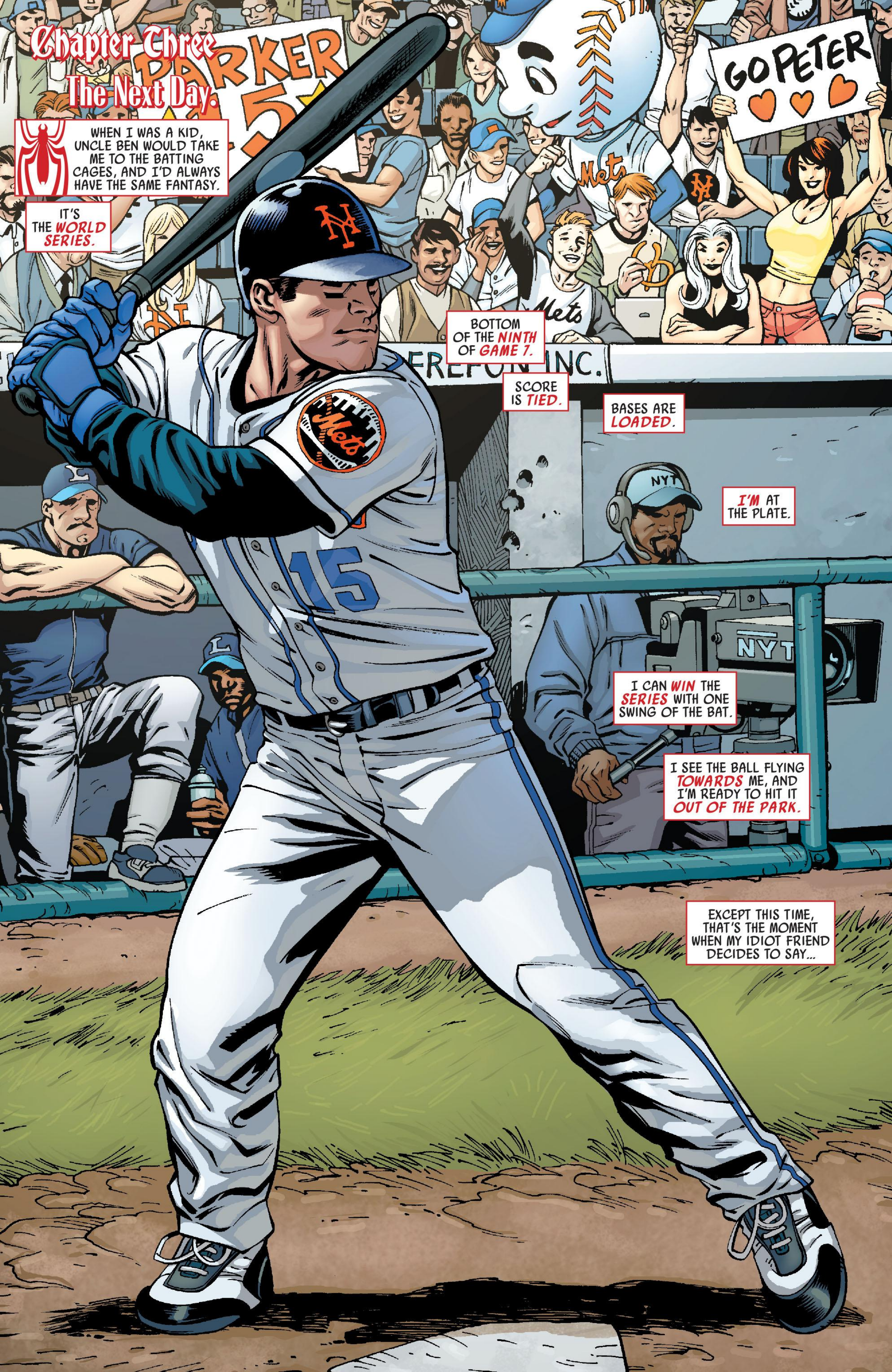
÷SIGH.÷ THAT WASN'T ME, MICHELLE!

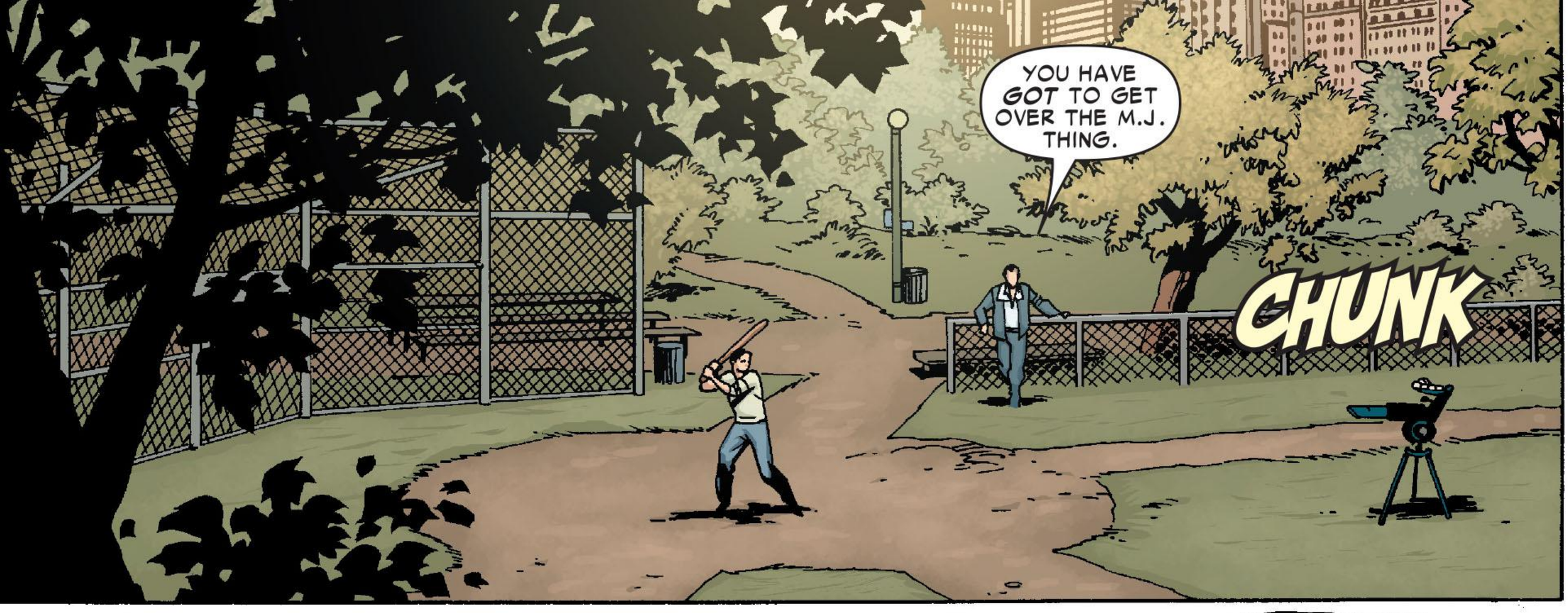
I KNOW IT SOUNDS COMPLETELY INSANE...

...BUT YOU WERE REALLY MAKING OUT WITH THE CHAMELEON. A SUPER VILLAIN--A MASTER OF DISGUISE--POSING AS ME.

I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH SOONER.

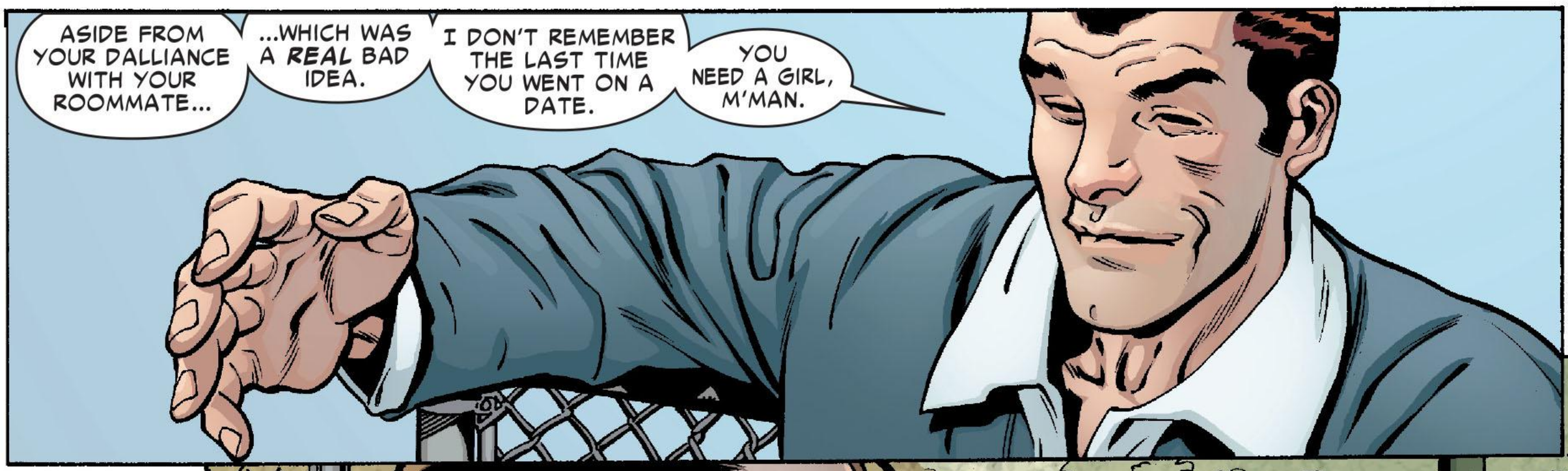
WHAAAM
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE COME UP WITH A STUPIDER STORY TO BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE!
YOU'RE PATHETIC! I'M BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU!
DROP DEAD!
WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE, I SUPPOSE I COULD HAVE DODGED THAT.
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST PEACE AND QUIET I'VE HAD IN DAYS.
EXCEPT FOR THAT MOUSETRAP ON MY BACK.
EH.
SHE IS PRETTY HOT THOUGH.


Chapter Three
The Next Day.
WHEN I WAS A KID, UNCLE BEN WOULD TAKE ME TO THE BATTING CAGES, AND I'D ALWAYS HAVE THE SAME FANTASY.
IT'S THE WORLD SERIES.
BOTTOM OF THE NINTH OF GAME 7.
SCORE IS TIED.
BASES ARE LOADED.
I'M AT THE PLATE.
I CAN WIN THE SERIES WITH ONE SWING OF THE BAT.
I SEE THE BALL FLYING TOWARDS ME, AND I'M READY TO HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK.
EXCEPT THIS TIME, THAT'S THE MOMENT WHEN MY IDIOT FRIEND DECIDES TO SAY...
GO PETER
PARKER
NYT


YOU HAVE GOT TO GET OVER THE M.J. THING.
CHUNK

I--
WHO--
WHIFF

WHAT?!

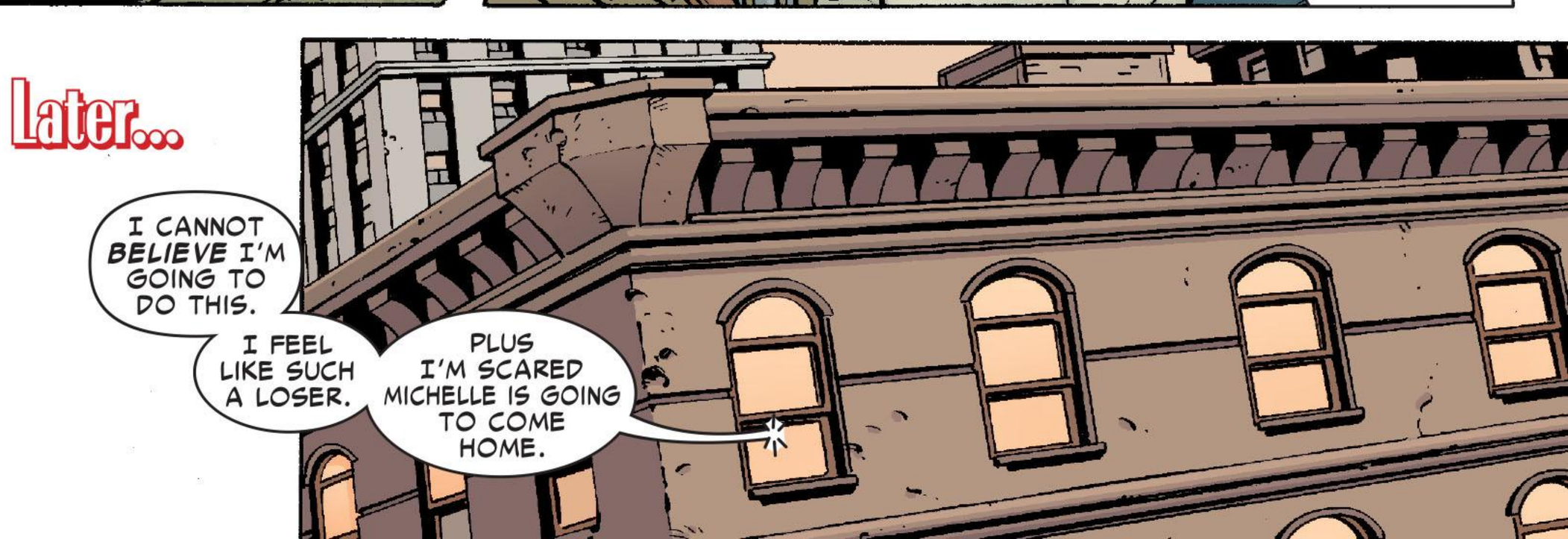

ASIDE FROM YOUR DALLIANCE WITH YOUR ROOMMATE...
...WHICH WAS A REAL BAD IDEA.
I DON'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU WENT ON A DATE.
YOU NEED A GIRL, M'MAN.

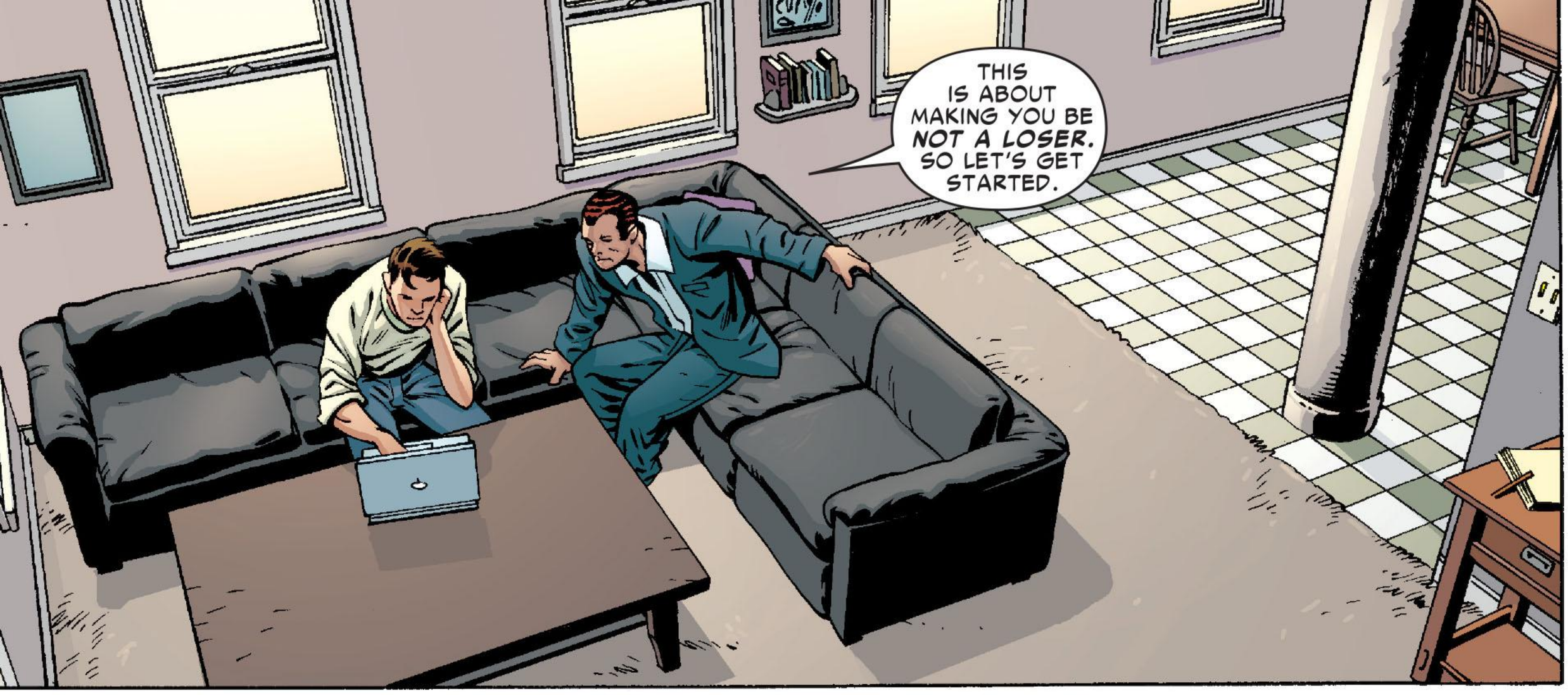
AND IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SOME LONG-DRAWN-OUT RELATIONSHIP, MR. COMMITMENT.
GOOD, HARRY. BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ONE OF THOSE.

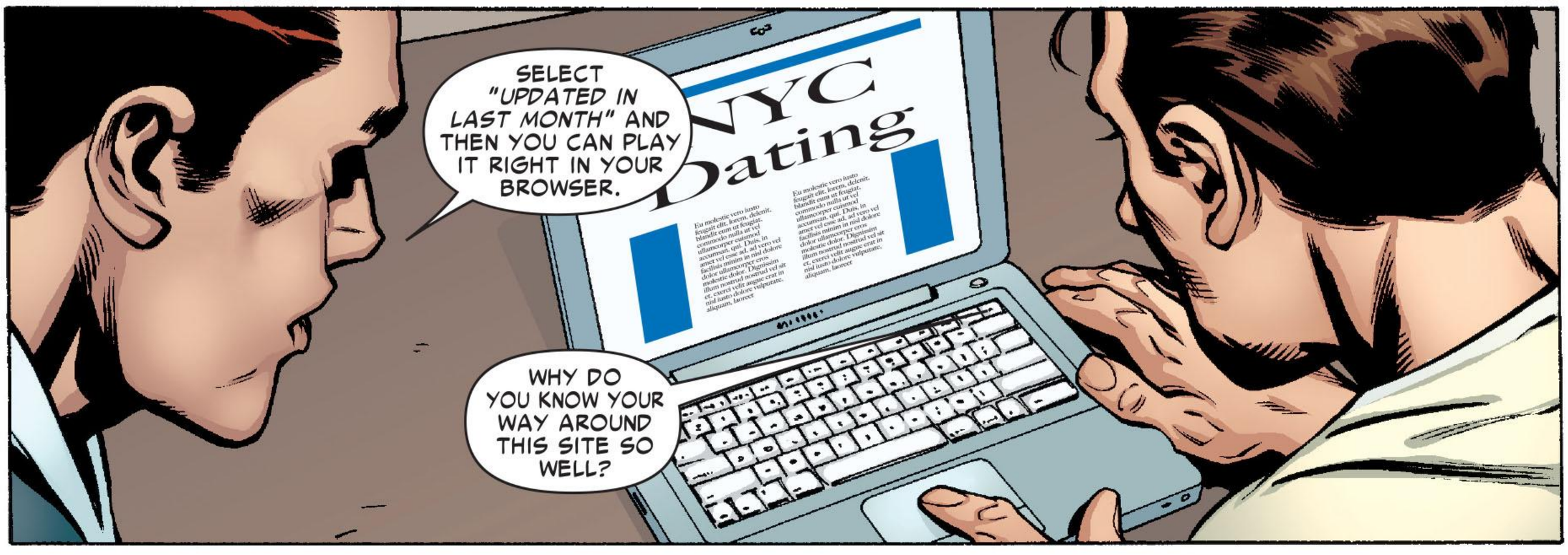
I JUST... I WORRY ABOUT YA, BUDDY. THAT'S ALL. I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY--
CHUNK

PETER! BALL!

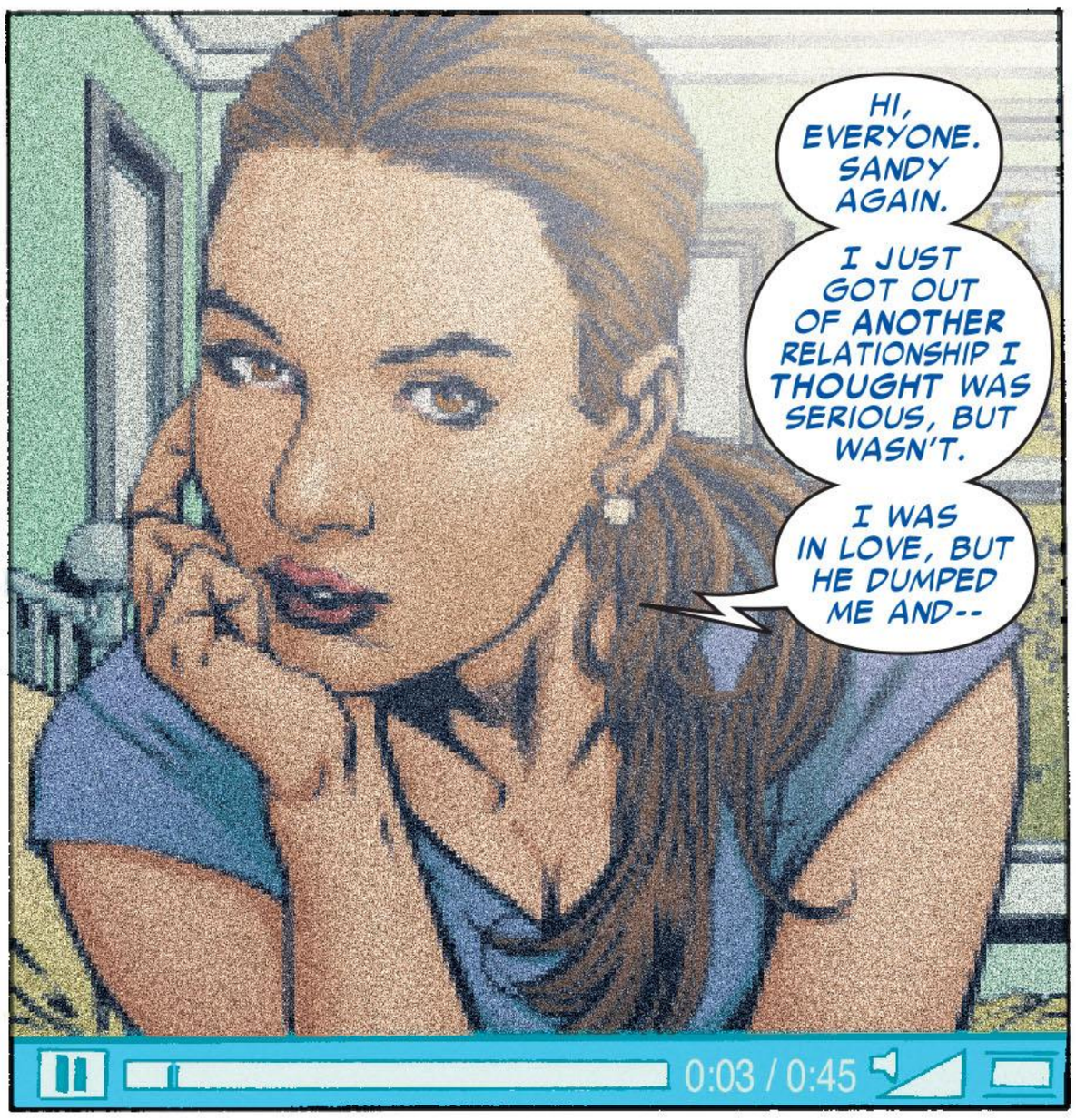
KRAK
KA-KUNG
DO I NOT LOOK HAPPY?
YOU LOOK... FINE?
NOW JUST LET UNCLE HARRY LET YOU FEEL HAPPY.


Later...
I CANNOT BELIEVE I'M GOING TO DO THIS.
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A LOSER.
PLUS I'M SCARED MICHELLE IS GOING TO COME HOME.

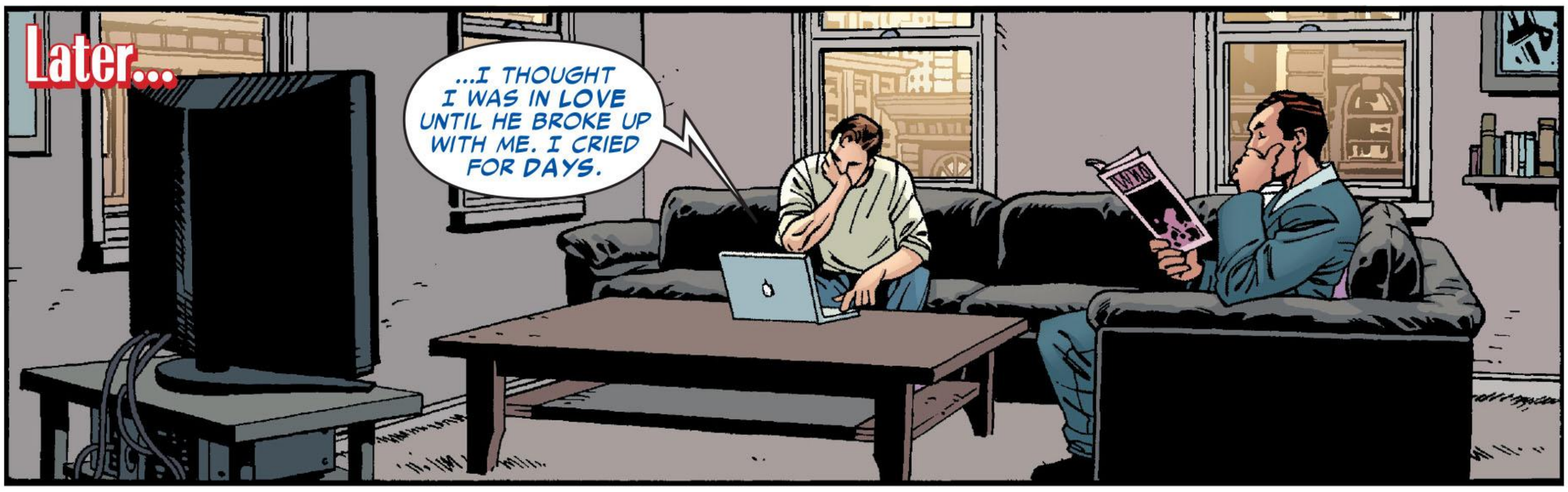

THIS IS ABOUT MAKING YOU BE NOT A LOSER. SO LET'S GET STARTED.

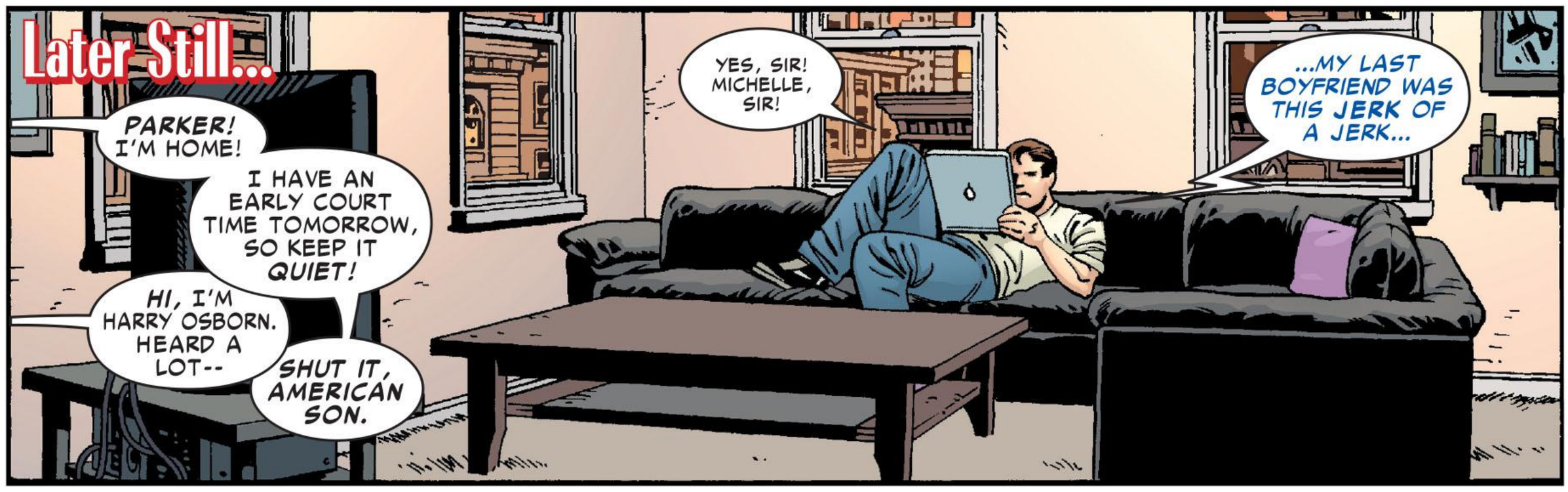

SELECT "UPDATED IN LAST MONTH" AND THEN YOU CAN PLAY IT RIGHT IN YOUR BROWSER.
NYC Dating
WHY DO YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THIS SITE SO WELL?

JUST PICK A GIRL.
WHERE DID YOU MEET LILY ANYWAY?
PARKER...
PICK. A. GIRL. ANY GIRL. PICK ONE AT RANDOM EVEN!
FINE.
KLIK


HI, EVERYONE. SANDY AGAIN.
I JUST GOT OUT OF ANOTHER RELATIONSHIP I THOUGHT WAS SERIOUS, BUT WASN'T.
I WAS IN LOVE, BUT HE DUMPED ME AND--
0:03 / 0:45

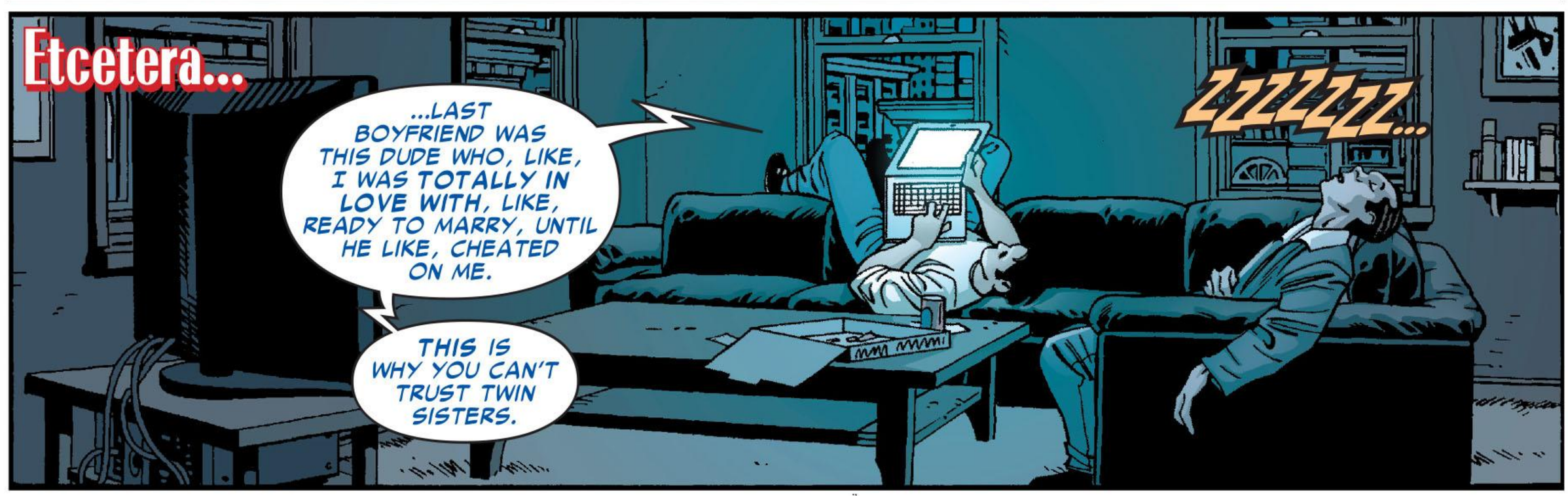
OH NOOOO. SHE WAS GIVING THE "MY RELATIONSHIPS ALWAYS END IN DISASTER" SPEECH. I'VE BEEN ON THAT DATE. IT'S NOT FUN.
OKAY THEN.
NEXT GIRL.
KLIK


Later...
...I THOUGHT I WAS IN LOVE UNTIL HE BROKE UP WITH ME. I CRIED FOR DAYS.


Later Still...
PARKER! I'M HOME!
I HAVE AN EARLY COURT TIME TOMORROW, SO KEEP IT QUIET!
HI, I'M HARRY OSBORN. HEARD A LOT--
SHUT IT, AMERICAN SON.
YES, SIR! MICHELLE, SIR!
...MY LAST BOYFRIEND WAS THIS JERK OF A JERK...

Even Later Later...
...I COULD NOT STOP CRYING FOR A MONTH WHEN MY LAST RELATIONSHIP ENDED. NOW I AM, HOW DO YOU SAY, JUST LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME. NO COMMITMENTS.
I JUST WANT TO BE MARRIED WITHIN A YEAR.

And So On...
...AND SURE I TALKED ABOUT KILLING MYSELF AFTER HE LEFT ME, BUT I'M SORT OF OVER THAT NOW AND READY TO MOVE ON, OKAY?
OH, AND I LIKE TO DRESS UP LIKE VARIOUS POKEMONS.

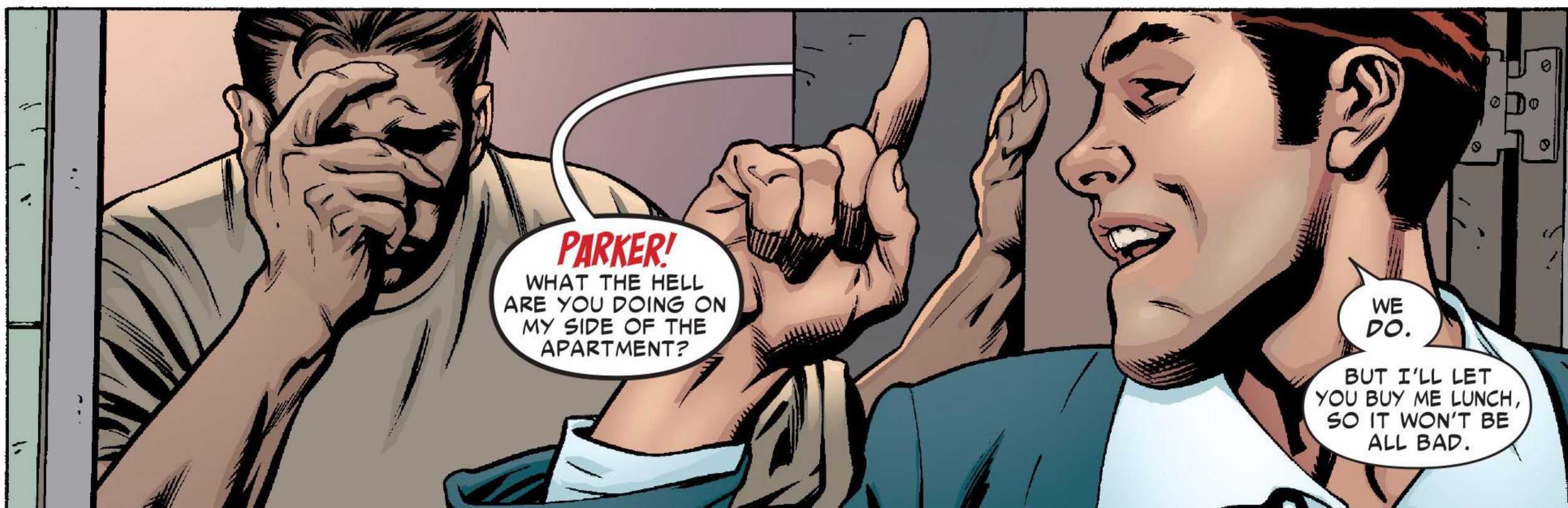

Etcetera...
...LAST BOYFRIEND WAS THIS DUDE WHO, LIKE, I WAS TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH, LIKE, READY TO MARRY, UNTIL HE LIKE, CHEATED ON ME.
THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T TRUST TWIN SISTERS.
ZZZZZZ...

I BUY YOU A MEMBERSHIP TO A DATING SERVICE AND YOU CAN ONLY FIND GIRLS WHO TALK ABOUT THEIR EX-BOYFRIENDS?

IS THIS THE FAMOUS PARKER LUCK, OR DID YOU ACTUALLY TYPE "BAD IDEA" INTO THE SEARCH FILTER?
YAAAWN
MAYBE THIS WHOLE THING JUST ISN'T FOR ME, HARRY.

OH, MAN. SUN'S COMING UP.
I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN TO THE COFFEE BEAN AND GET THINGS OPENED.

SWING BY LATER?
NOT IF WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT MY PITIFUL DATING LIFE.


PARKER! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING ON MY SIDE OF THE APARTMENT?
WE DO.
BUT I'LL LET YOU BUY ME LUNCH, SO IT WON'T BE ALL BAD.

Later That Morning...

MOVE IT!

HEY, GUN-ARM, I THINK THERE'S BEEN A *MIS-UNDERSTANDING!*

THE FOLKS THAT OWN THE JEWELRY STORE YOU WERE JUST IN?

THEY THINK MAYBE YOU ACCIDENTALLY ***SHOT LIGHTNING*** AT THEM INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM ***MONEY*** FOR ALL THAT STUFF YOU CARRIED OUT THE DOOR!

UNNFFF!

AH, PARK AVENUE, I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU TO MAKE ME FEEL POOR.

I'M NOT SURE MY WALLET CAN EVEN AFFORD TO *SWING PAST THIS PLACE*, LET ALONE *WALK INSIDE.*

HEY, I CAUGHT THE GUY THAT STOLE THIS STUFF.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT BACK BEFORE THE POLICE GOT HERE.

OH! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

JUST DOING MY PART TO MAKE NEW YORK--

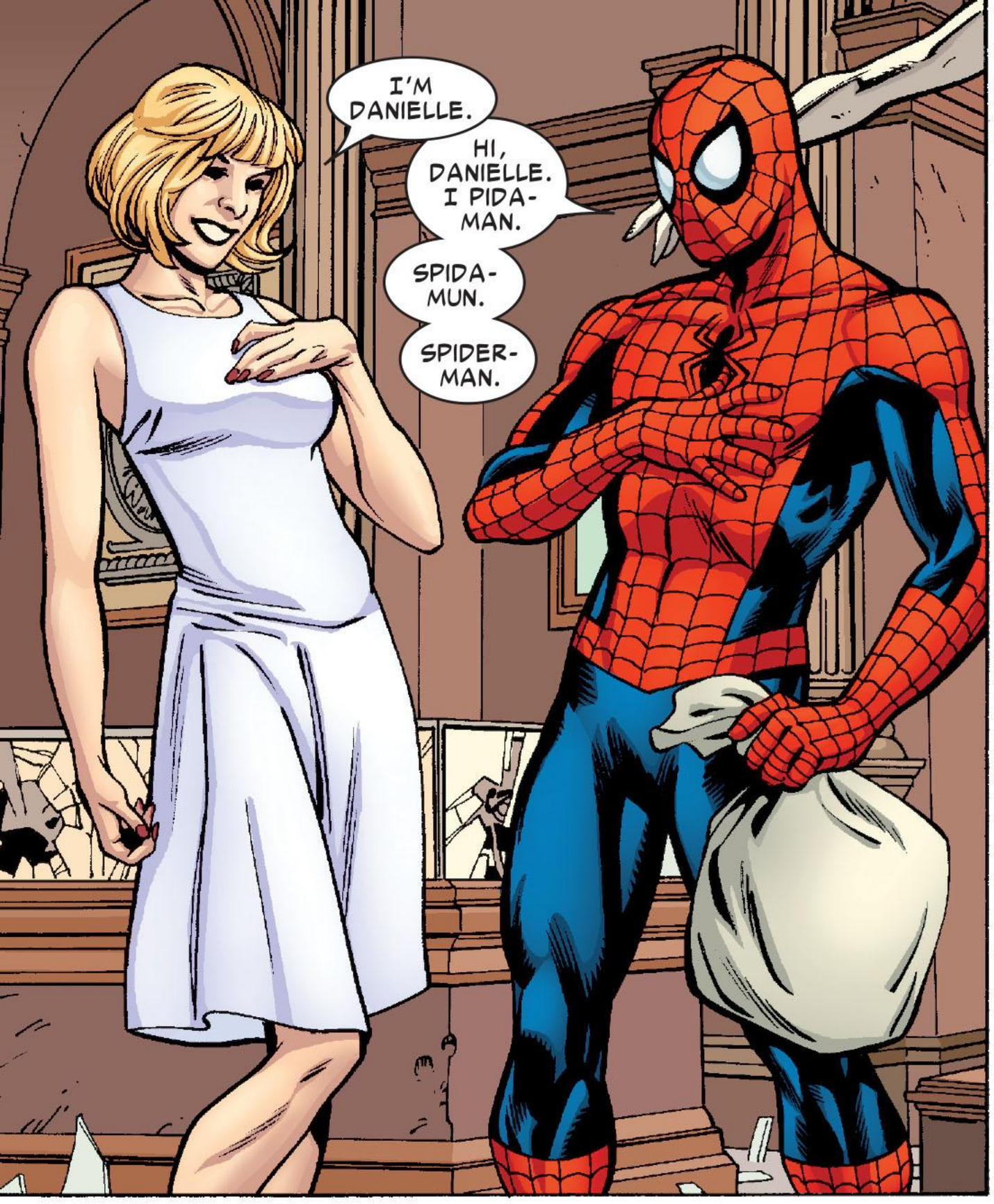
I...

HI.

HI.

DID MY VOICE JUST CRACK?

YES.



ALWAYS LIKED YOU ON T.V. YOU'RE FUNNY.

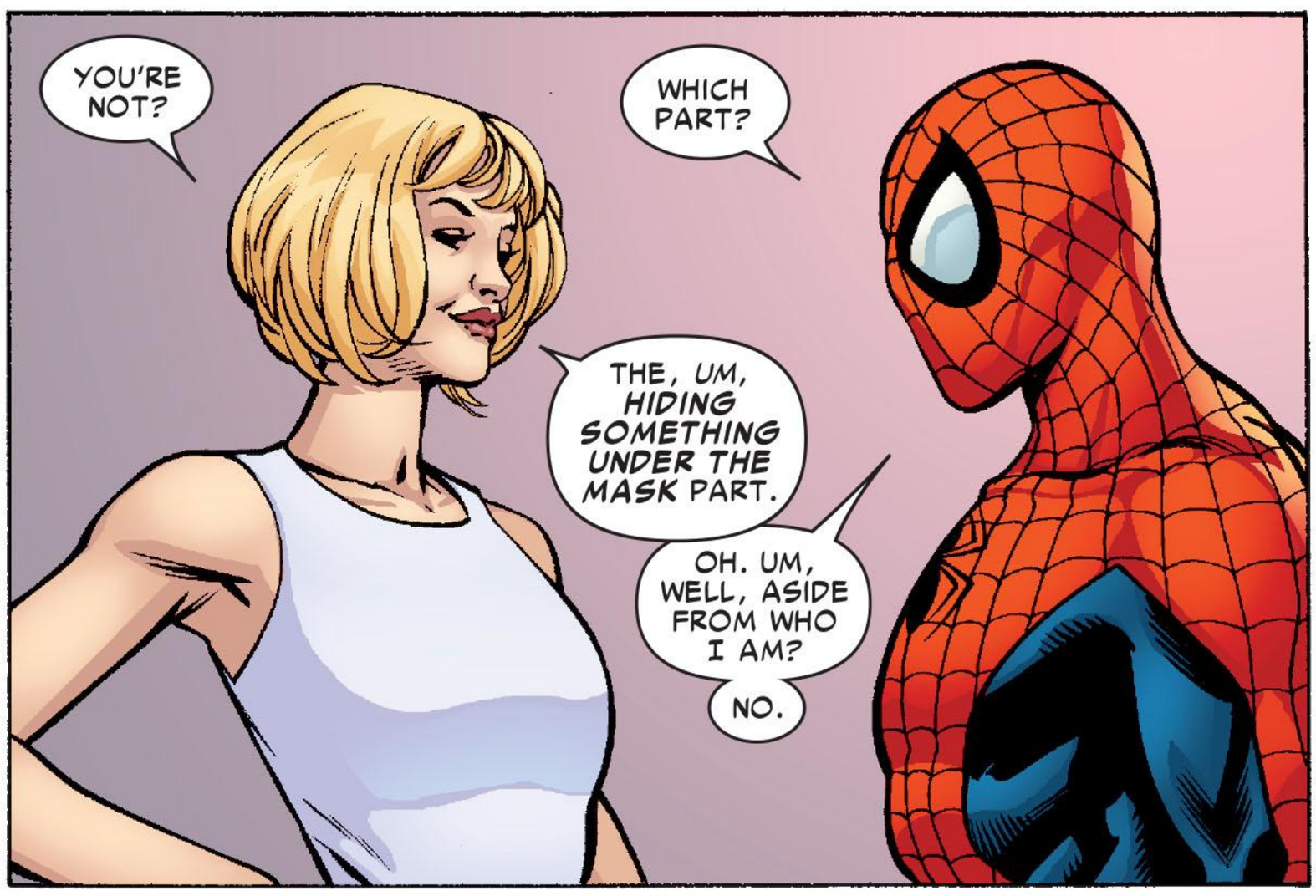
HEH... YEAAAAH.

"FUNNY."

ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

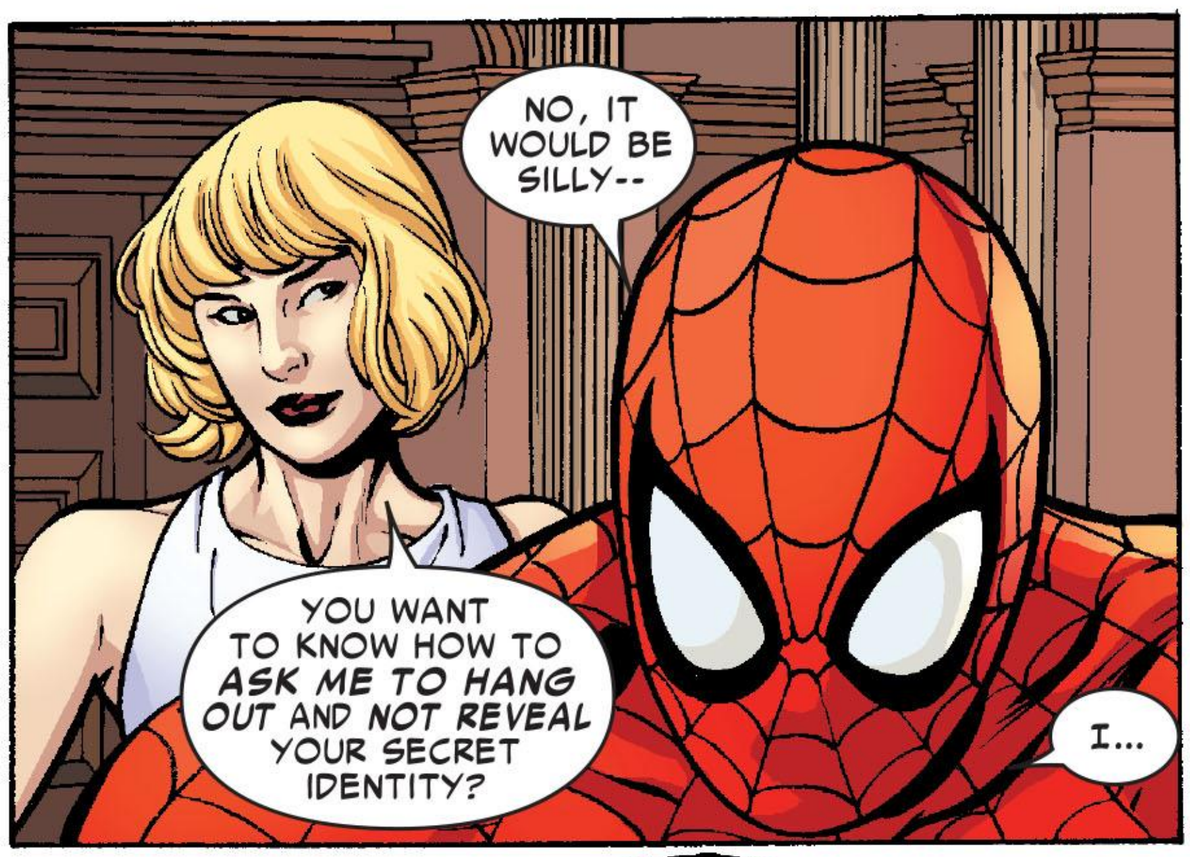
WOW.
YOU JUST SAT THAT DOWN, AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN CHECK TO SEE IF I *STOLE ANYTHING.*
IF YOU STOLE ANYTHING...
OUT OF THE BAG OF *STOLEN THINGS.*

NO, I MEAN--
MOST PEOPLE ASSUME I'M *HIDING SOMETHING* BEHIND THE MASK, AND SO I'M PROBABLY A *CROOK* RUNNING A *SCAM* PRETENDING TO BE A SUPER HERO.

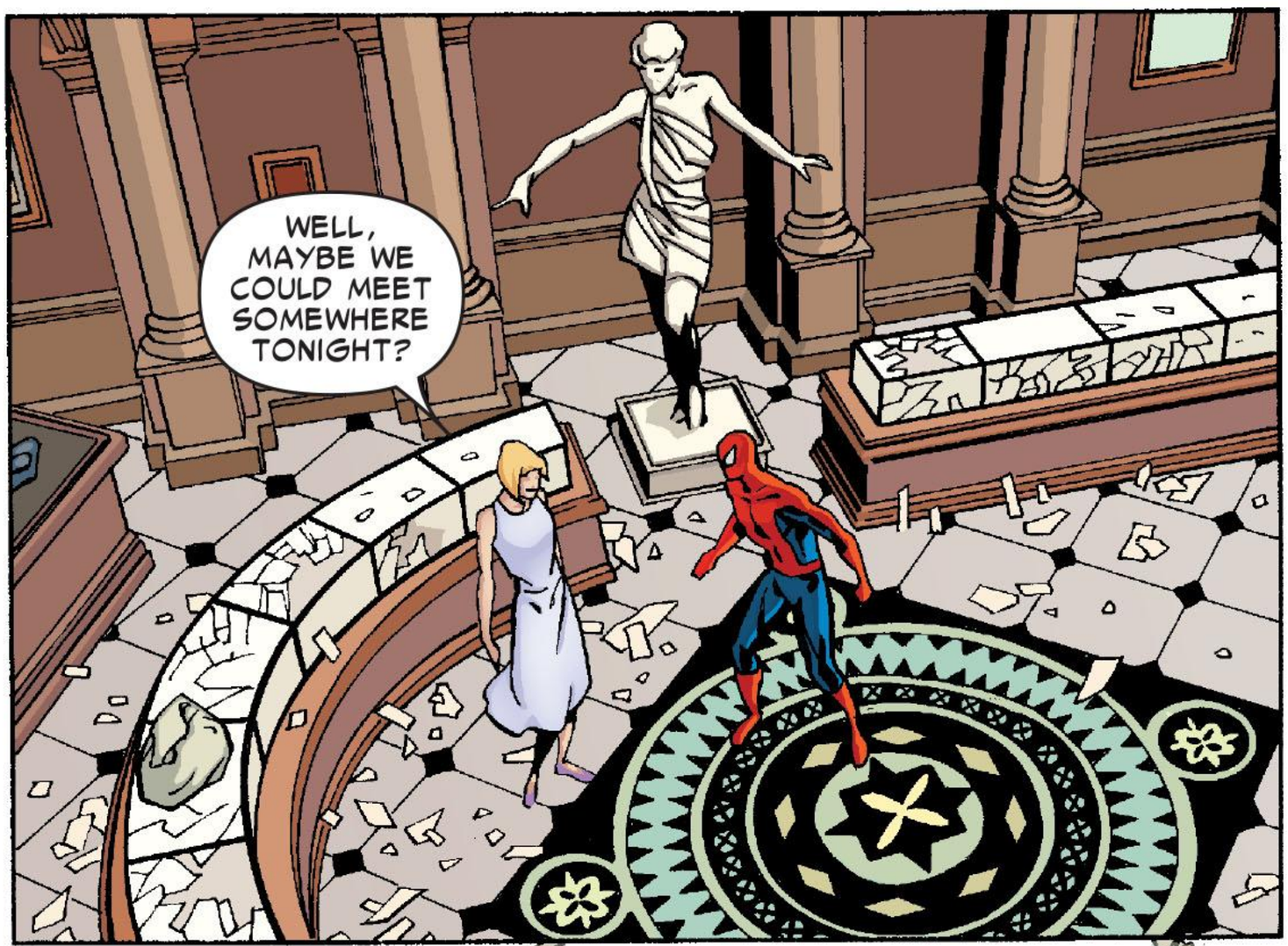

YOU'RE NOT?
WHICH PART?
THE, UM, *HIDING SOMETHING UNDER THE MASK* PART.
OH. UM, WELL, ASIDE FROM WHO I AM?
NO.

OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN...
ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M TRYING REALLY HARD TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT...
WHAT IS IT?
I OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR GETTING THIS STUFF BACK.
MAYBE I CAN HELP?


NO, IT WOULD BE SILLY--
YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO ASK ME TO HANG OUT AND NOT REVEAL YOUR SECRET IDENTITY?
I...

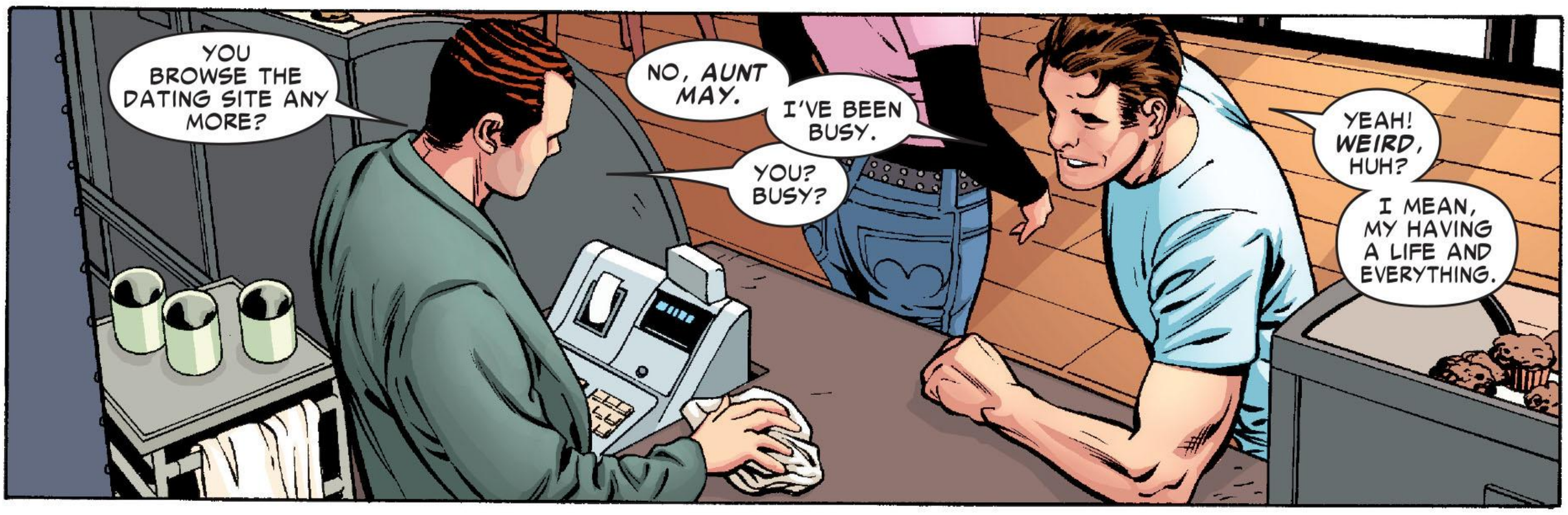
YEAH, ACTUALLY.


WELL, MAYBE WE COULD MEET SOMEWHERE TONIGHT?

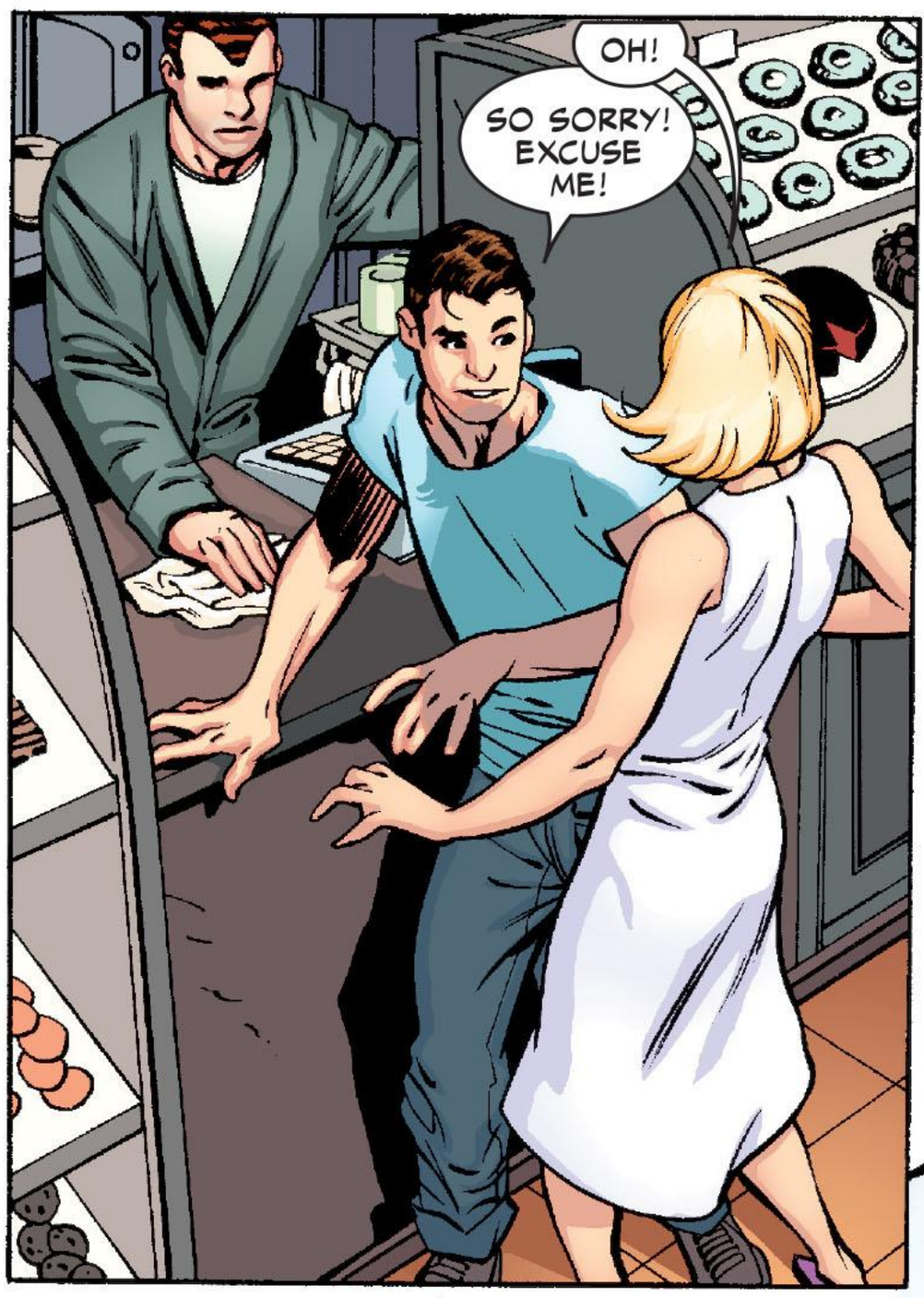
WEEOOOO WEEOOOO
OH, HEY, THERE'S THE POLICE SIRENS.
I SHOULD PROBABLY SKEEDADDLE.

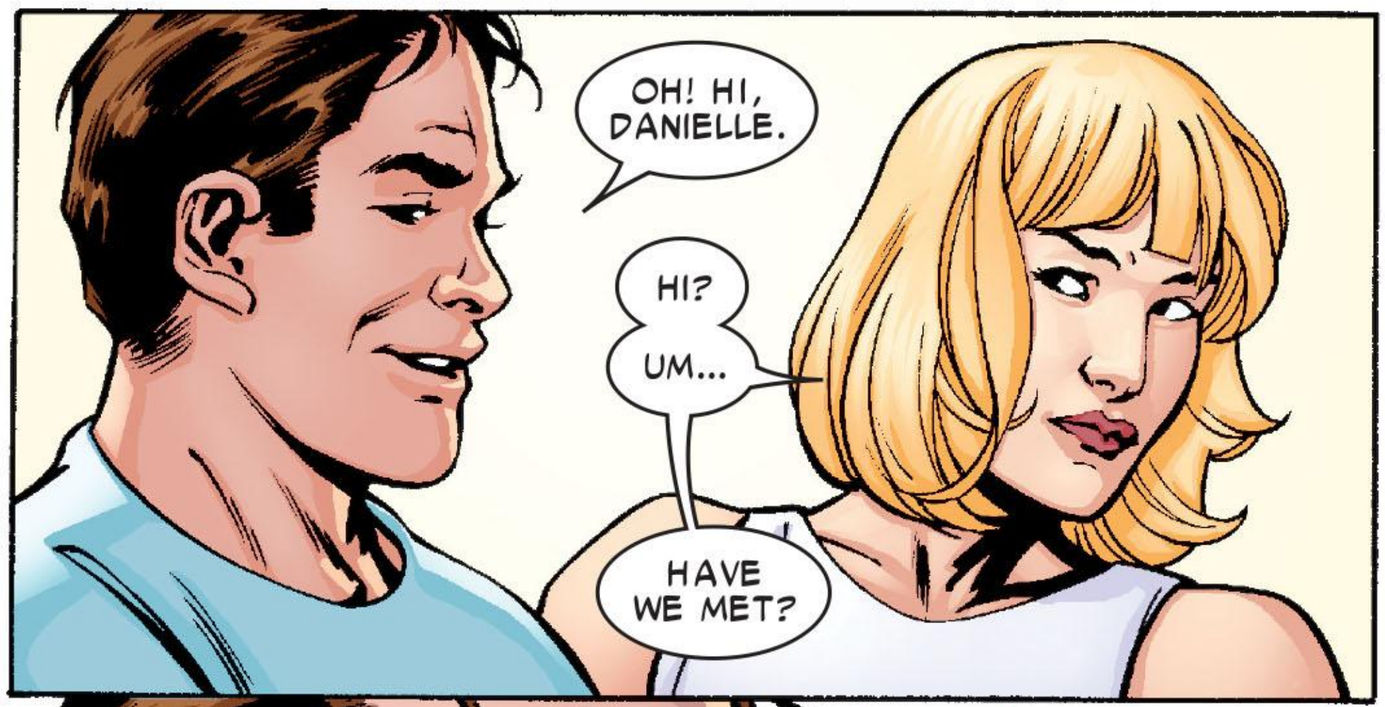
HOW ABOUT THE TOP OF THIS BUILDING? NINE O'CLOCK?
FINE JEWEL
I'LL BE THERE!

Lunchtime!
HEY, PETE.
HEY. SORRY I'M LATE. YOU GET LUNCH YET?
NOT YET.
CHRIS, I NEED YOU TO COVER FOR ME.


YOU BROWSE THE DATING SITE ANY MORE?
NO, AUNT MAY.
I'VE BEEN BUSY.
YOU? BUSY?
YEAH! WEIRD, HUH?
I MEAN, MY HAVING A LIFE AND EVERYTHING.

BUT YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW, I MIGHT HAVE MET A GIRL.
IS THAT A FACT?
CLOSE ENOUGH.
TOO EARLY TO SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT THOUGH.
OF COURSE IT IS.
GO GRAB A SEAT. I'LL BE READY FOR LUNCH IN JUST A MINUTE.


OH!
SO SORRY! EXCUSE ME!


OH! HI, DANIELLE.
HI?
UM...
HAVE WE MET?

GAH!
OH! NO... NO. I'M JUST...UH...
REALLY GOOD AT GUESSING NAMES?
OOOKAY...
...FREAK...

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
SINCE 196
SHE WAS-- NOTHING-- I JUST--
YOU'RE BEING MORE "PARKER" THAN USUAL RIGHT NOW.
WHICH I'VE COME TO LEARN I CAN NO LONGER BLAME ON YOUR AUNT'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY.
SO, HARRY...
SHE WAS KIND OF CUTE, YEAH?
INDEED SHE WAS.
ARTHUR
TAXI
WHICH IS WHY IT'S ODD THAT YOUR FIRST MOVE WAS TO CREEP HER OUT.
BESIDES, I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY MET A NEW GIRL.
36ST.
TAXI
THAT WASN'T A MOVE, NECESSARILY...
WHATEVER. I'M STARVING. LET'S GO.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.

GOING ON A DATE AS SPIDER-MAN?

DO SUPER HEROES GO ON DATES AS THEMSELVES?

ASIDE FROM JOHNNY STORM, I MEAN.

OH NO...

I'M BECOMING JOHNNY STORM!

I EXPECTED SO MUCH MORE FROM MYSELF.

THERE SHE IS.

I DON'T HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE. I COULD TOTALLY BAIL ON THIS MEETING AND BREAK HER HEART.

WHAT'S ONE MORE PERSON IN NEW YORK THAT HATES SPIDER-MAN, RIGHT?

BUT I FELT SOME SORT OF CONNECTION WITH HER AT THE STORE EARLIER.

AND THEN I BUMPED INTO HER AT THE COFFEE BEAN...

I'M NOT ONE TO BELIEVE IN SIGNS AND PORTENTS--

(I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A PORTENT IS, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...)

OK, PARKER. STOP TALKING TO YOURSELF. GO DOWN THERE AND SAY--

HI.

AH!

YAH!

SORRY, DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE--

NO! IT'S FINE.

I'LL BE *HONEST*, I WASN'T SURE YOU'D *SHOW UP*.

I ADMIT I THOUGHT ABOUT MAYBE BAILING.

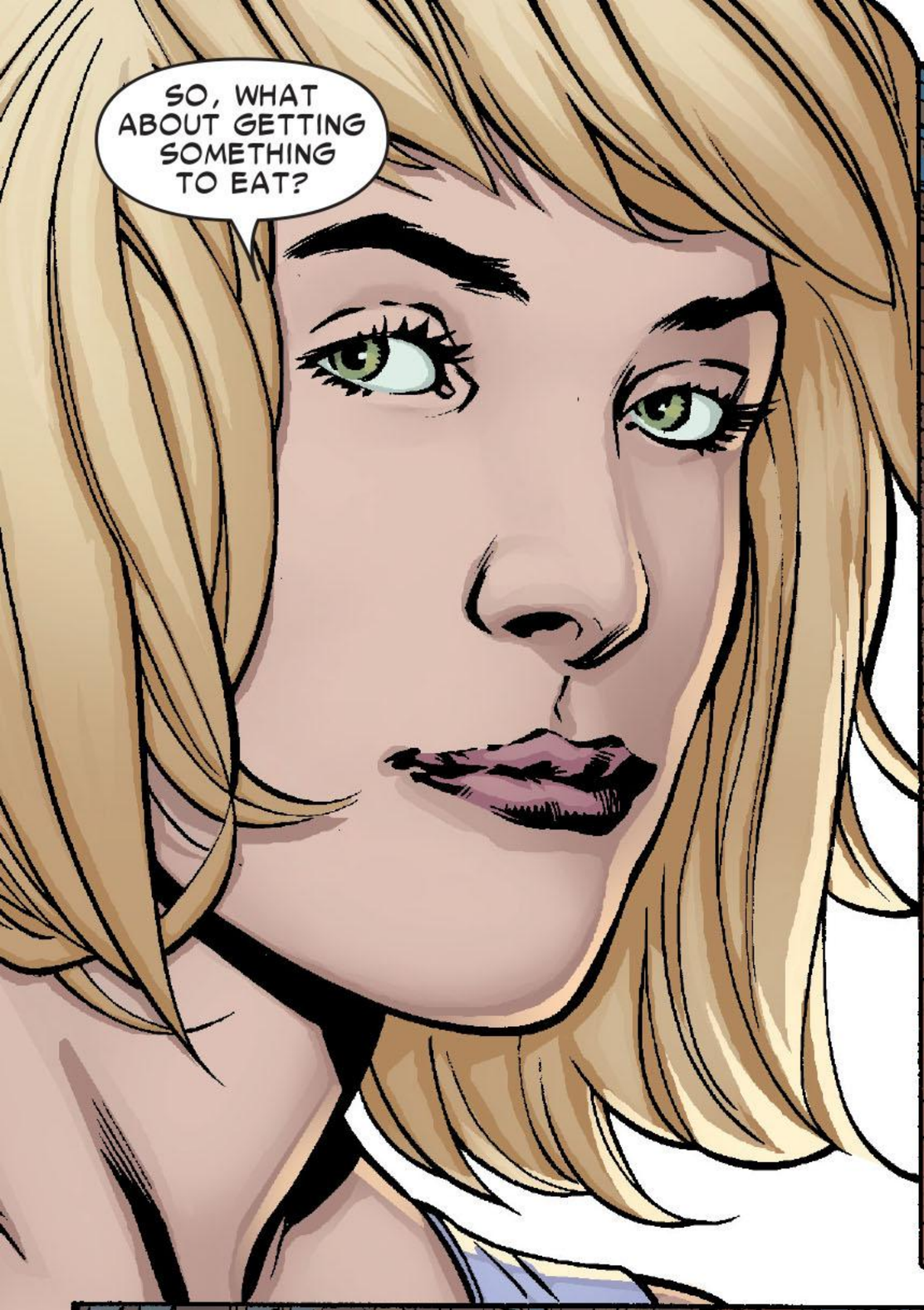
WHY?

DID YOU THINK I WAS SECRETLY A *SUPER VILLAINESS* AND THIS WAS ALL JUST AN *ELABORATE TRAP?*

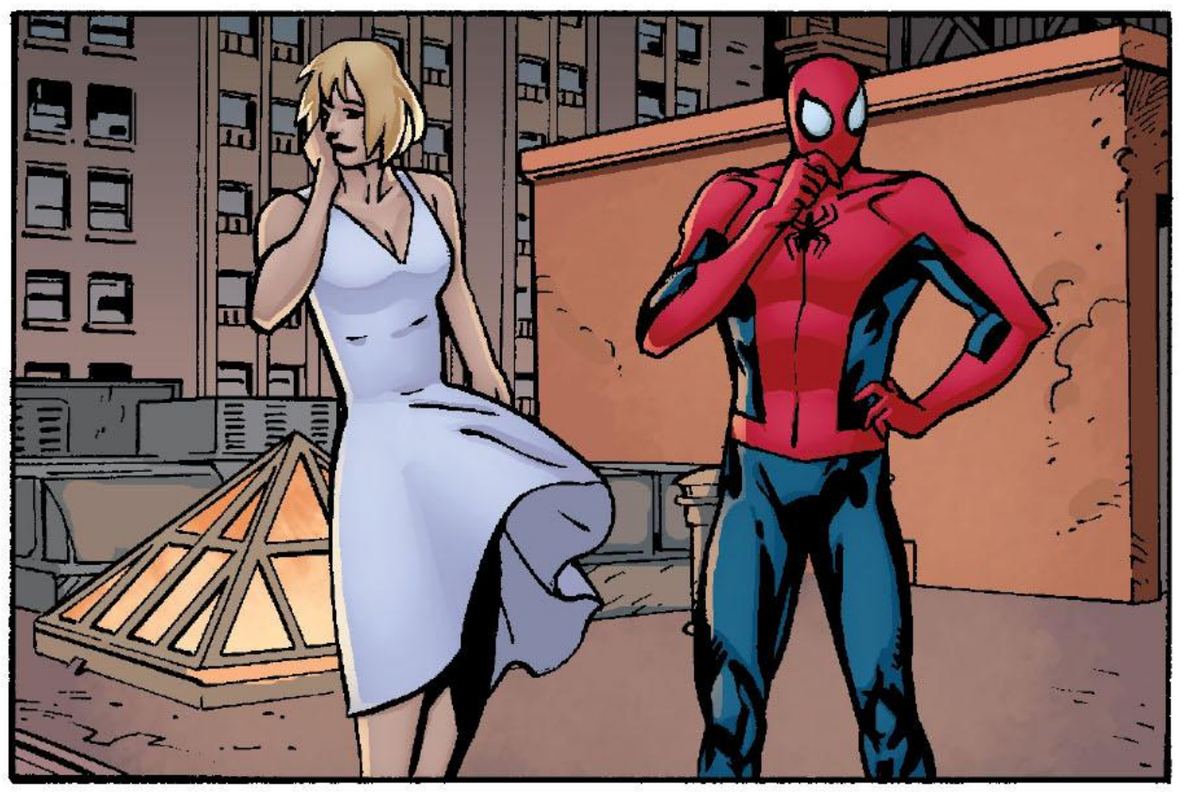
I--WOW. NO.

I ACTUALLY *HADN'T* THOUGHT OF THAT.

YOU WANNA JOIN S.H.I.E.L.D.?

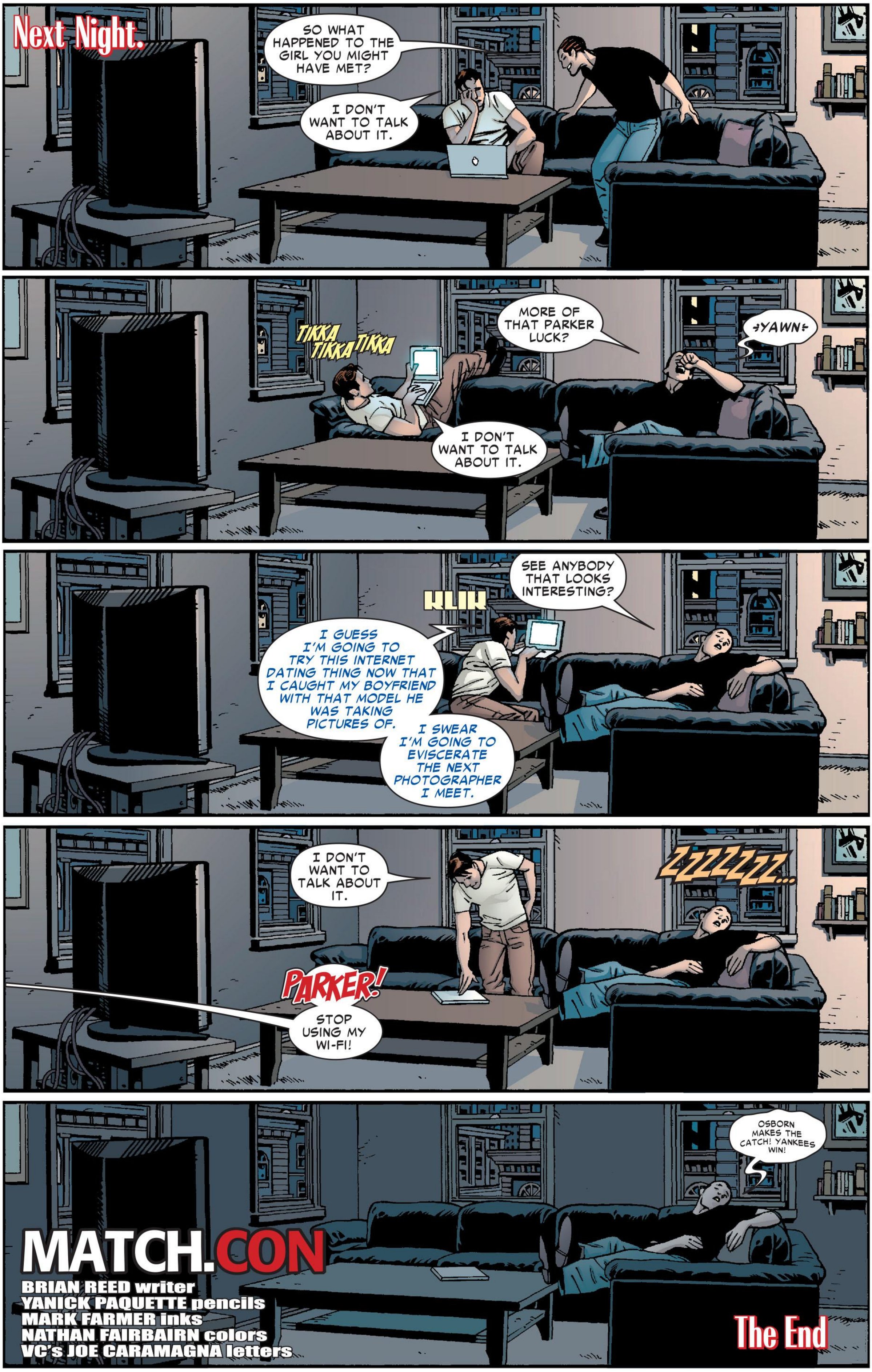

SO, WHAT ABOUT GETTING SOMETHING TO EAT?

I CAN'T EXACTLY GO WALKING INTO A RESTAURANT, WHAT WITH THE NOT BEING A REGISTERED HERO, AND THE BEING WANTED BY THE LAW AND ALL.
OH! RIGHT! DUH.
SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



MAYBE-- WE COULD--
OH. SORRY.
NO. YOU FIRST.
ACTUALLY, I'M OUT OF IDEAS.
ME TOO.

I COULD... I MEAN IF YOU WANT...WE COULD SWING AROUND?
ON A WEB?
YEAH. I'VE BEEN TOLD IT'S FUN.
OCCASIONALLY, YOU EVEN GET SHOT AT.
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY SCARED OF HEIGHTS. STANDING ON THE ROOF LIKE THIS IS KIND OF PUSHING IT TO THE LIMIT.
MAN, THOUGH, CHRIS WON'T BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IT WHEN I SAY I TURNED DOWN A WEB-SWING.
CHRIS?
YEAH. MY BOYFRIEND.
YOU-- YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
YEAH.
DOES HE KNOW YOU WERE MEETING ME TONIGHT?
YEAH!
REALLY?!
YEAH! HE'S WORKING LATE AT THE COFFEE BEAN ACROSS TOWN.
AND HE'S OKAY WITH US HANGING OUT?
OF COURSE! I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS A DATE OR ANYTHING.
RIGHT. HA! CRAZY THOUGHT.
ACTUALLY, HE ASKED IF I'D GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH.


Next Night.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIRL YOU MIGHT HAVE MET?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
TIKKA TIKKA TIKKA
MORE OF THAT PARKER LUCK?
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
-YAWN-
KLIK
SEE ANYBODY THAT LOOKS INTERESTING?
I GUESS I'M GOING TO TRY THIS INTERNET DATING THING NOW THAT I CAUGHT MY BOYFRIEND WITH THAT MODEL HE WAS TAKING PICTURES OF.
I SWEAR I'M GOING TO EVISCERATE THE NEXT PHOTOGRAPHER I MEET.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
ZZZZZZZ...
PARKER!
STOP USING MY WI-FI!
OSBORN MAKES THE CATCH! YANKEES WIN!
MATCH.CON
BRIAN REED writer
YANICK PAQUETTE pencils
MARK FARMER inks
NATHAN FAIRBAIRN colors
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letters
The End

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER

Not a lot from me this week, folks. Up until about 20 minutes ago, I didn't even think we had room for a column this issue. Plus, Brennan is out at Toronto Con! If anyone out there has a time machine, please go back a month and haul his butt back here!

Dear Spidey-Mail

I love American Son. I can say it already because I just put down issue #596 and I've got to say, man, what a twist! I didn't see it coming. Spider-Man pretending to be Venom and in the midst of his worst enemies! {Didn't think the FF had it in them}. Menace/Lily Hollister becoming pregnant, Harry siding with Norman! Spider-Man's adventures are really heating up and I can't wait to see how American Son wraps up and what the repercussions will be. I'll be reading to Amazing Spider-Man #600 and BEYOND!!!!

Khalil Beckwith
Via e-mail

Hey Spidey Office!

I just wanted to thank you guys for printing that embarrassing picture of Brennan in ASM #596. Now why would this random fanboy thank the Spidey Office for printing said picture? Why…You ask?

Well, I thank you because I was the Zombie Spider-Man that was taking a bite out of the Marvel Empire....literally. I am also glad that I was able to make Brennan feel very much self-conscious and embarrassed. Much thanks for posting my image, and you guys totally rule. See you in the funny pages!

Mike Staub
Hicksville, NY

P.S. I know this may be asking too much, but is there any way I can get a signed print of that picture, I would love to put it on my refrigerator to make my parents proud of their wacko cosplaying son.

Mike, I would do it, but truth be told…Brennan never learned to write. Try Lauren Sankovitch in the Avengers office. Rumor is she can write AND read. Man, it's great living in the future!

And now a photo from a fan named Christopher Ryan of ASM #596 on his cat.

I don't understand either.

Dear Spider-mail

Hi there. First time long time, just want to say you guys are doing a fantastic job. American Son is shaping up to be one of the best arcs I've read in a while and we're counting down to #600.

By we, I mean my daughter Isabelle and I. If Daddy has his way she'll be a little mighty Marvelite in no time.

Here's a pic of her and a copy of ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #1 signed by artist Mark Bagley. I hope this is printed so I can show her she was in an actual Marvel comic when she's old enough to appreciate it. Thanks guys!

Josh Addley
Edmonton, Alberta

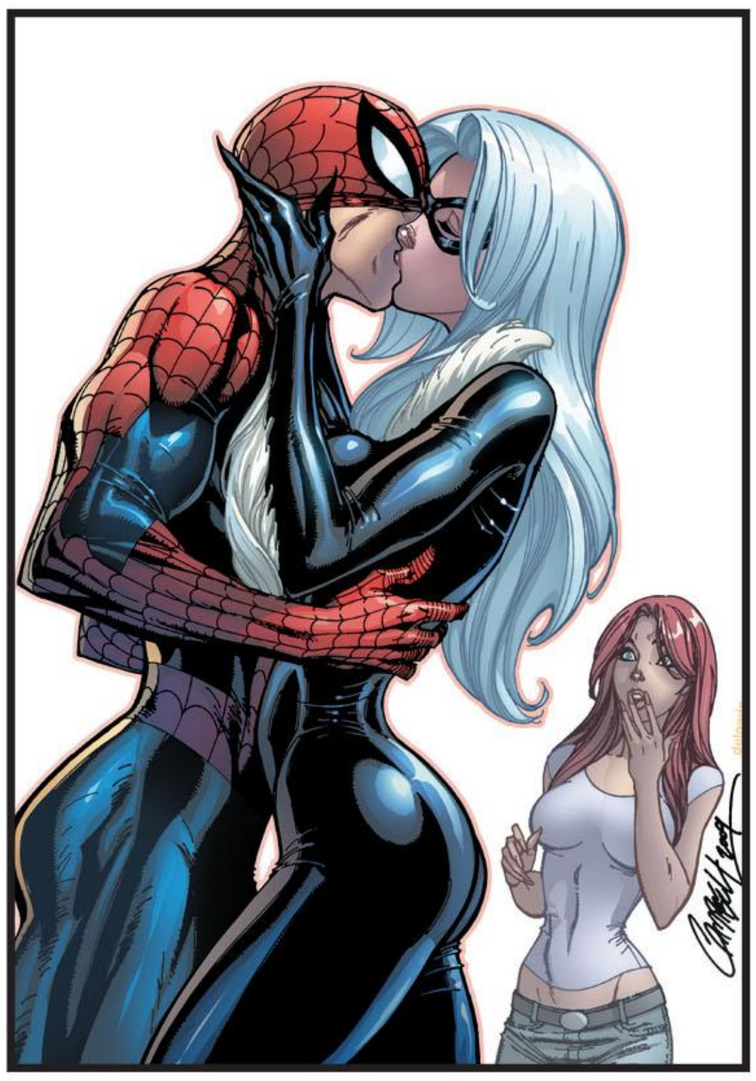
Cool, Josh! Now you have to get a copy of the ALL-NEW ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #1 and have it signed by new artist David Lafuente to complete the set!

You should also let Isabelle know that at this young age she already has more hair and is taller than Brian Bendis!

All right, folks. I'm off to cry.

Viva Templar!!!
Simperin' Steve

NEXT ISSUE:



INSERT THAT OLD JANET JACKSON SONG HERE!