

THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING 4!

MARVEL
590 .com

SLOTT
KITSON
FARMER
WHITE

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!



YOUNGLOVE, OLDLOVE - CITY POLL FINDS MORE COUPLES UNDER 30 HAVE A GOOD CHANCE AT STAYING TOGETHER AS HOLLISTER & OSBORN - BUT MORE RETIREES ARE FINDING LOVE AGAIN, AS DATING IS UP IN THE OVER-60 SET!

APRIL 1, 2009

WEDNESDAY

THE FANTASTICS!



The Fantastic Four and Spider-Man have a relationship dating back to the Webhead's earliest days, when he tried to join the team in hopes of getting a solid paycheck. Although Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, The Thing and The Human Torch couldn't have Spidey join their ranks, the team has become one of Spider-Man's closest support networks. Spidey even counted the Torch amongst his closest friends. But since Spider-Man went AWOL for a few months after the events of the Superhuman Civil War, he's steered clear of the First Family of crimefighting. Why has he left them behind?

On the home front, Peter Parker's friends aren't faring too well. Harry Osborn was forced to take down his own fiancée, Lily Hollister, when he discovered she was secretly the malevolent Menace, and his roommate, Vin Gonzales, is currently in protective custody for exposing an NYPD conspiracy to frame Spider-Man for murder. With his life on the brink, maybe it's time he gets out of town for a while. And what better than a road trip with some old friends?

ELECTORAL DYSFUNCTION!

By Betty Brant

With the deadline for the outgoing mayoral administration to step down having past, city Public Advocate Blake Tower, next in line in city order of precedence, took over as Acting Mayor of the City of New York last week while both political parties scrambled to find nominees for the emergency runoff election later this month. Names hurled around range from philanthropist Martin Li to Damage Control CEO Walter Declun. About the only names not mentioned were the names on the minds of all New Yorkers: Randall Crowne and Bill Hollister, the nominees in the fall general election. But though both stepped aside for this new election, any number of dark horse candidates have stepped up, including...

(more on page A11)

A Couple Years Ago...

ALMOST THERE.

JOHNNY,
COULD YOU MOVE
A LITTLE TO
THE RIGHT?

TAKE IT
ALREADY!

QUERY:
PLACE PHOTO IN
WHICH FILE?

FRIENDS
AND FAMILY.

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE.
SAY "UNSTABLE
MOLECULES."

FWASH

UNSTABLE
MOLECULES.

SPIDER-MAN & THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN

FACE FRONT

Our Trip To The
Macroverse



PART ONE: TOGETHER AGAIN... FOR THE FIRST TIME

DAN SLOTT
WRITER

BARRY KITSON
PENCILS

MARK FARMER
INKS

DEAN WHITE
COLORS

VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA
LETTERS

TOM BRENNAN
BEWITCHED

STEPHEN WACKER
BOthered

TOM BREVOORT
BEWILDERED

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

GALE, SLOTT, GUGGENHEIM, WAID & KELLY - WEBHEADS

THE MACROVERSE.
A REALITY ABOVE
OUR OWN. HOW DO
YOU DO IT,
REED?

HOW DO
YOU KEEP
FINDING NEW
WORLDS TO
EXPLORE?

TECHNICALLY,
SUE, THIS IS A
DIFFERENT DIMENSION.
BUT IF IT'S WORLDS
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR...

I BELIEVE
THOSE ORBS IN
THE UPPER
ATMOSPHERE ARE
POCKET SOLAR
SYSTEMS.

TINY SUNS,
BABY PLANETS,
MICRO-MOONS,
ASTOUNDING. THEY
DEFY ALL PHYSICAL
LAWS...

AND THAT AIN'T
ALL. CHECK IT OUT,
STRETCHO. ON THIS
WORLD, HOTDOGS
GROW ON TREES.

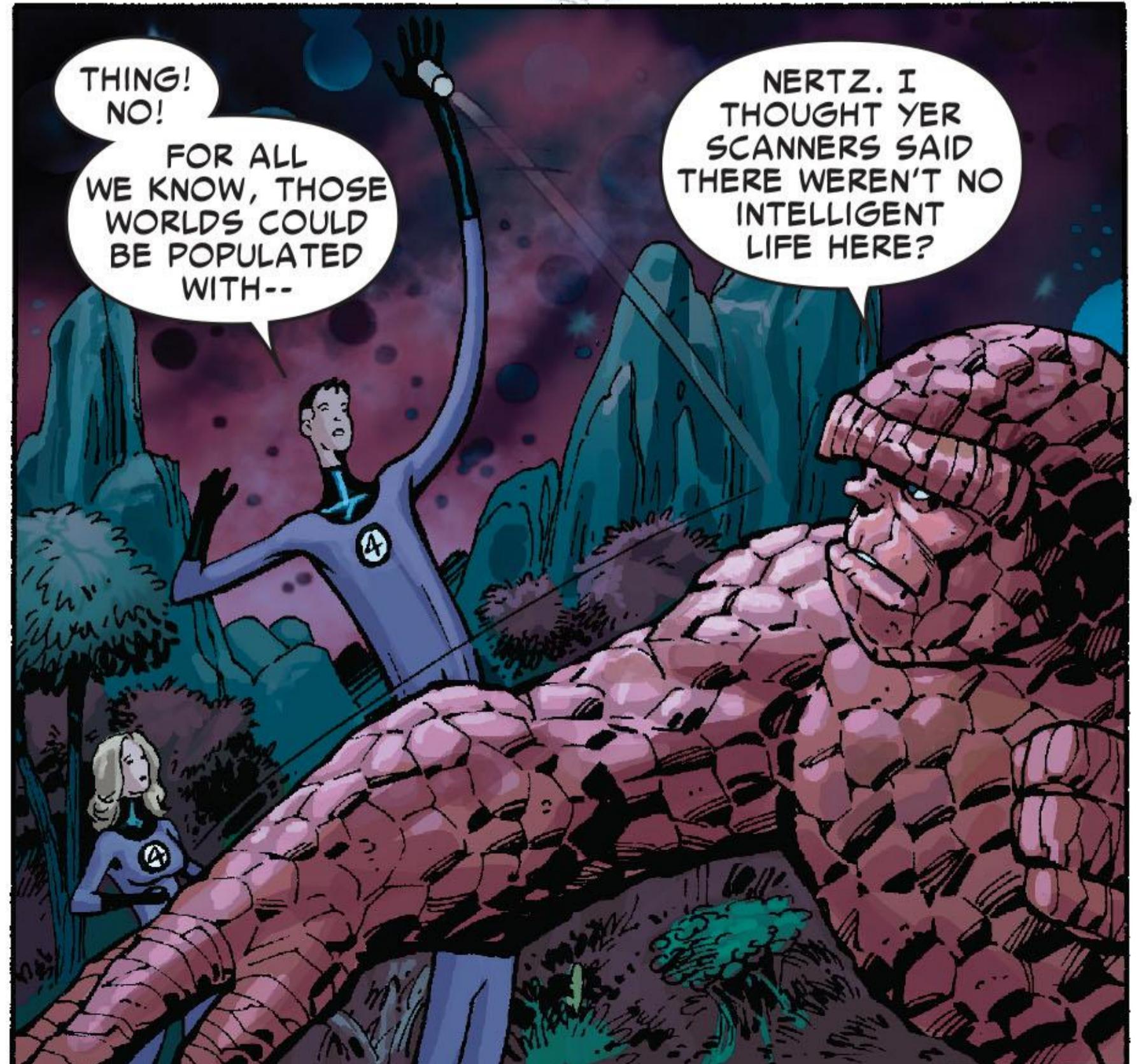
BEN,
THOSE ARE
FROM YOUR
RATION
PACK.

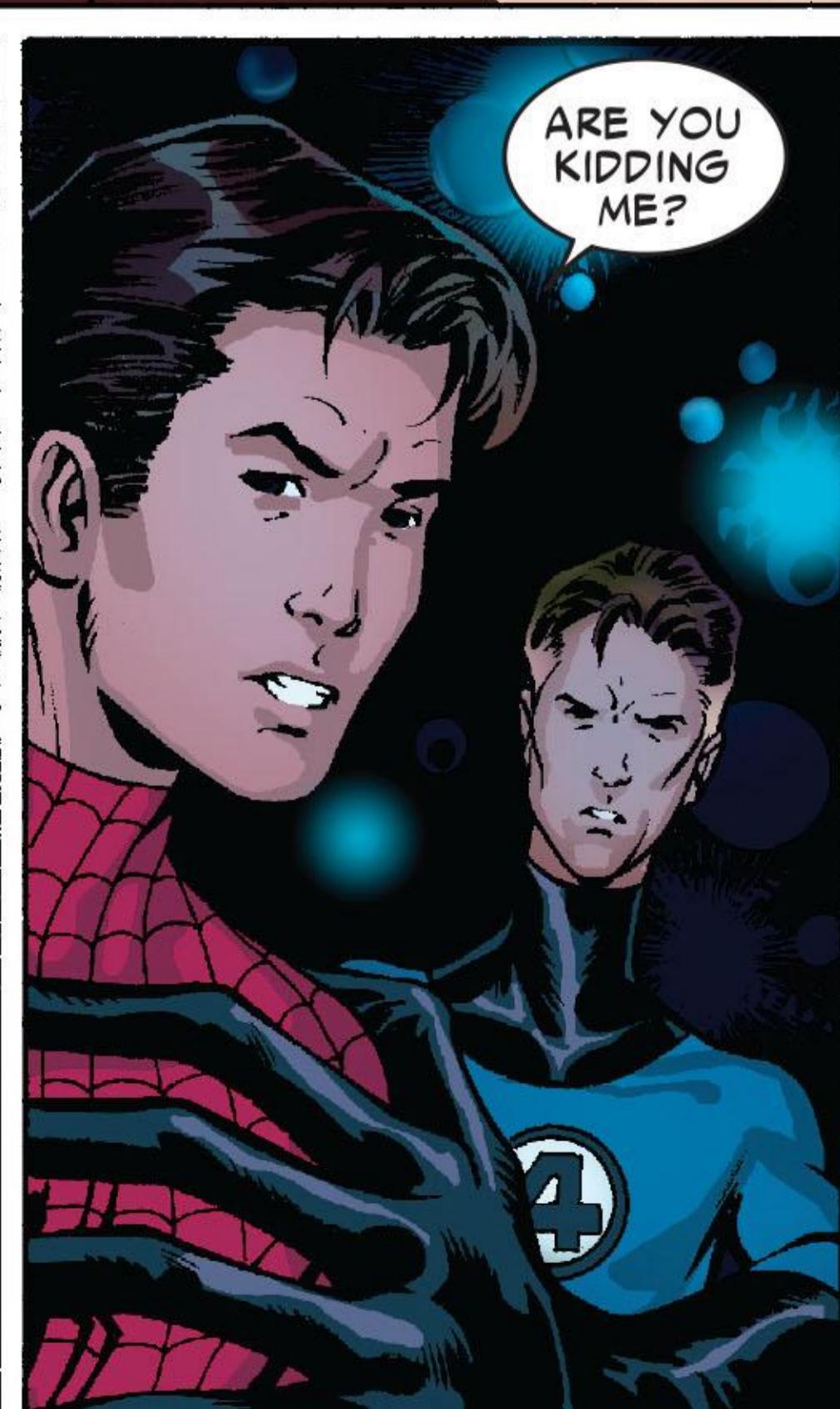
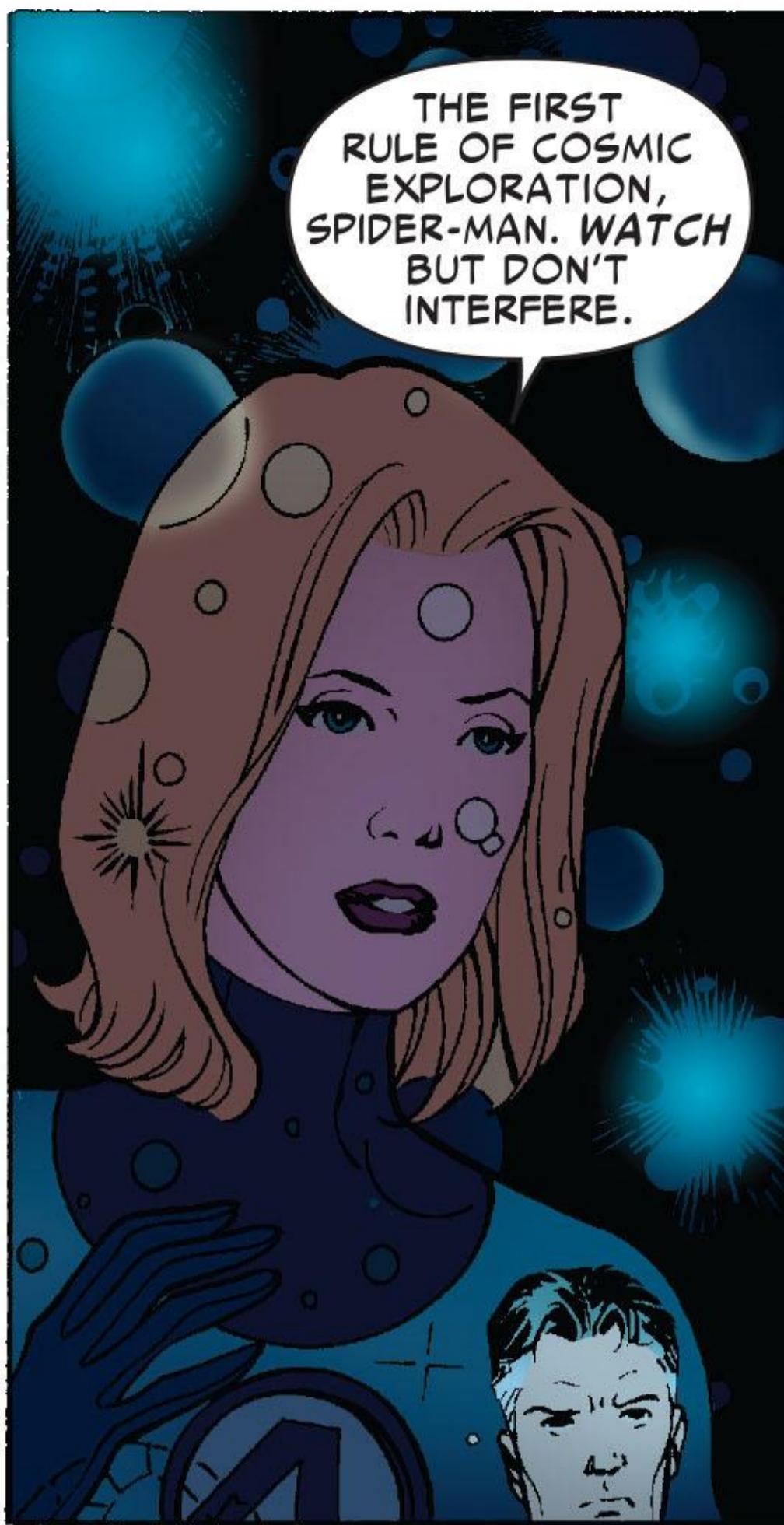
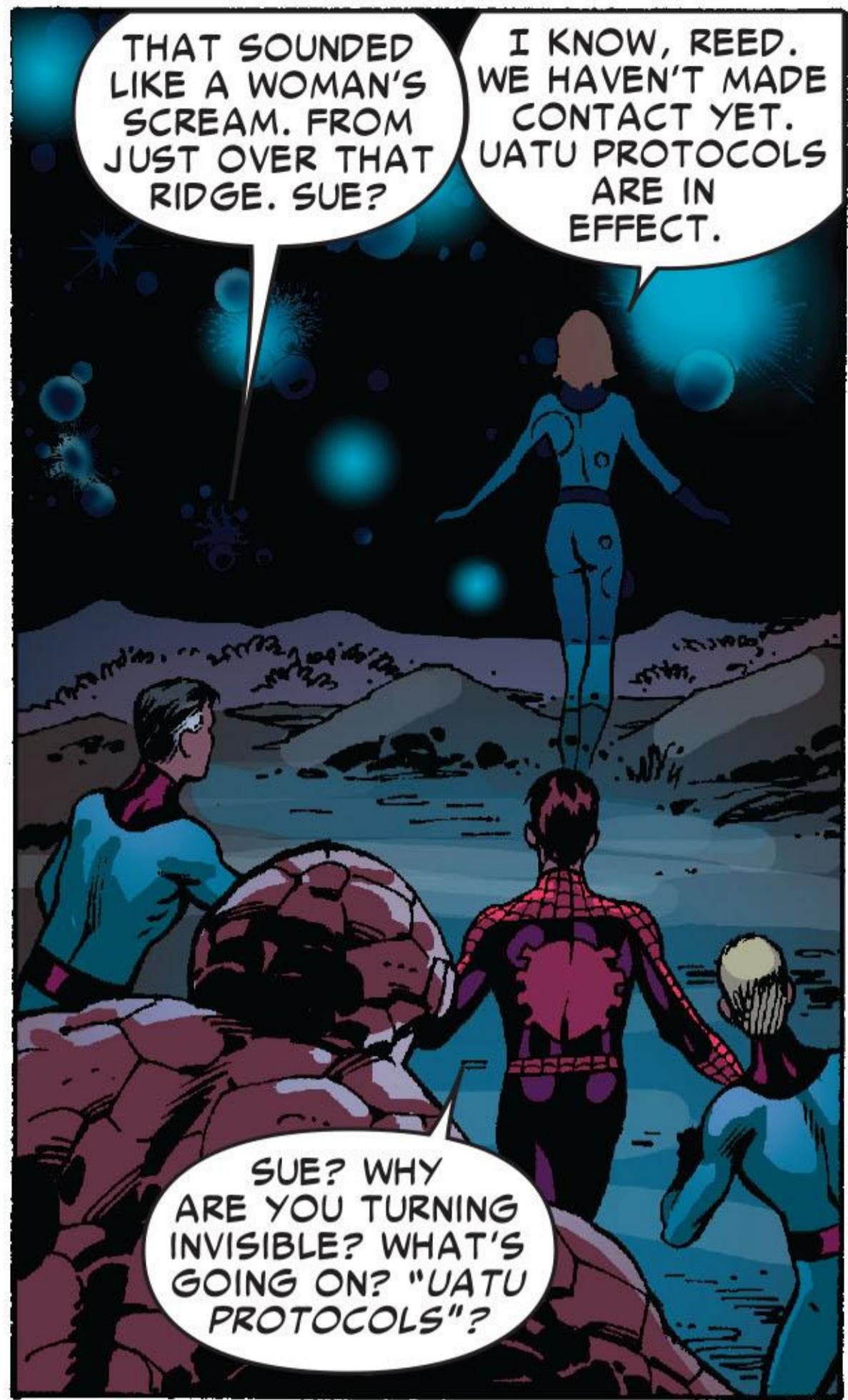
HEH.
TECHNICALLY
THEY'RE FROM
YOURS. I
ALREADY ATE
MINE.

WEIRD,
HUH? EVER
SINCE WE GOT
HERE, MY FLAME'S
BEEN BURNING
BLUE. WHAT
GIVES?

LET'S SEE...
THERE COULD
BE GASSES IN THE
AIR. A SHIFT IN THE
VISIBLE SPECTRUM.
OR...

...MAYBE IN
THE MACROVERSE
FIRE'S PSYCHO-PYRO-
KINETIC. LIKE SOME
KIND OF "MOOD-
FLAME".







...LET'S
SAVE THE DAY.
AGAIN.

LISTEN TO
HIM. POOR MR.
FANTASTIC. ALL
MOPEDY 'CAUSE
SCIENCE CLASS
IS OVER.

C'MON!
THIS IS THE
FUN PART!
RIGHT,
SPIDEY?

HEY,
YOU DON'T
HEAR ME
COMPLAINING.

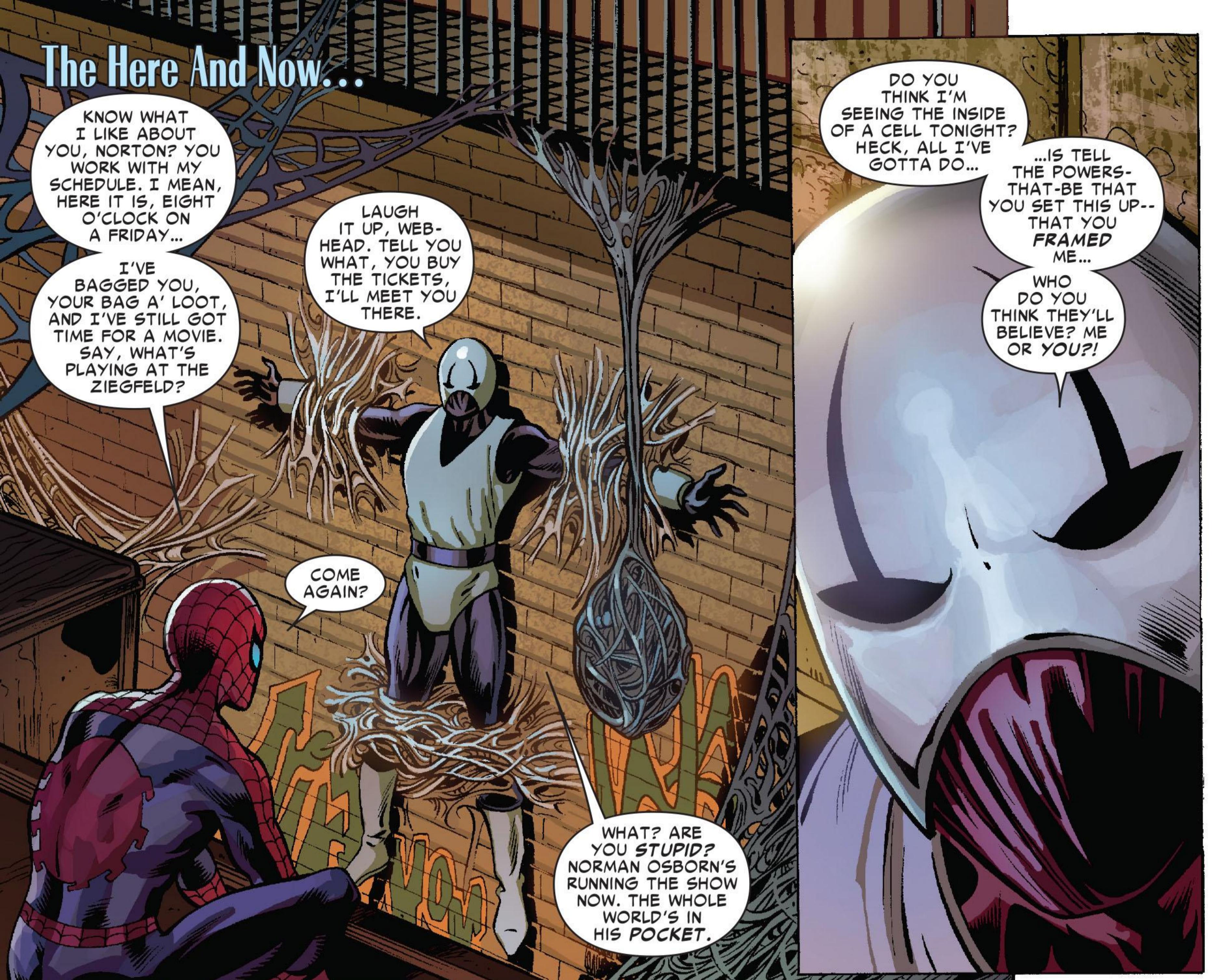
THAT'S
A FIRST. SO
PARKER, NOW THAT
YOU'VE HAD A
TASTE OF THE "LIFE
FANTASTIC" ...

...HOW ARE
YOU EVER
GONNA GO BACK
TO YOUR HUM-
DRUM SPIDER-
WORLD?

OH, YOU
KNOW ME,
MATCHSTICK,
I'LL MUDDLE
THROUGH.

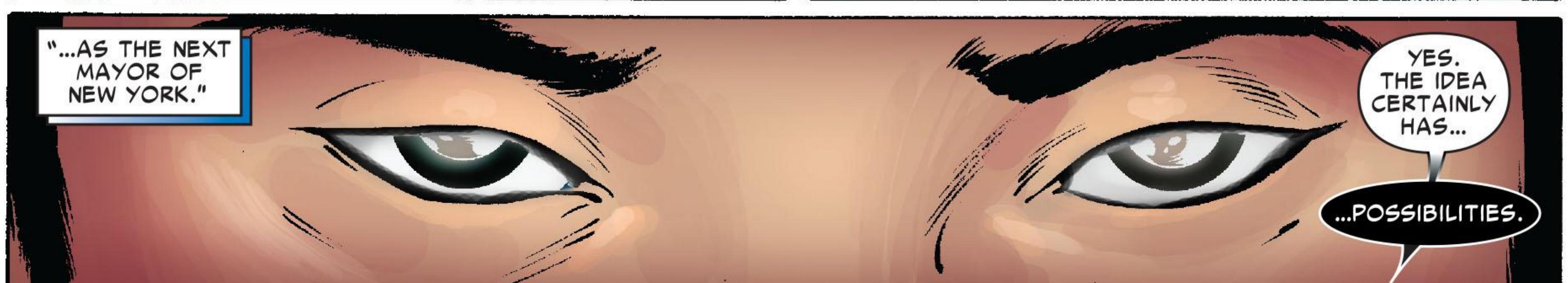
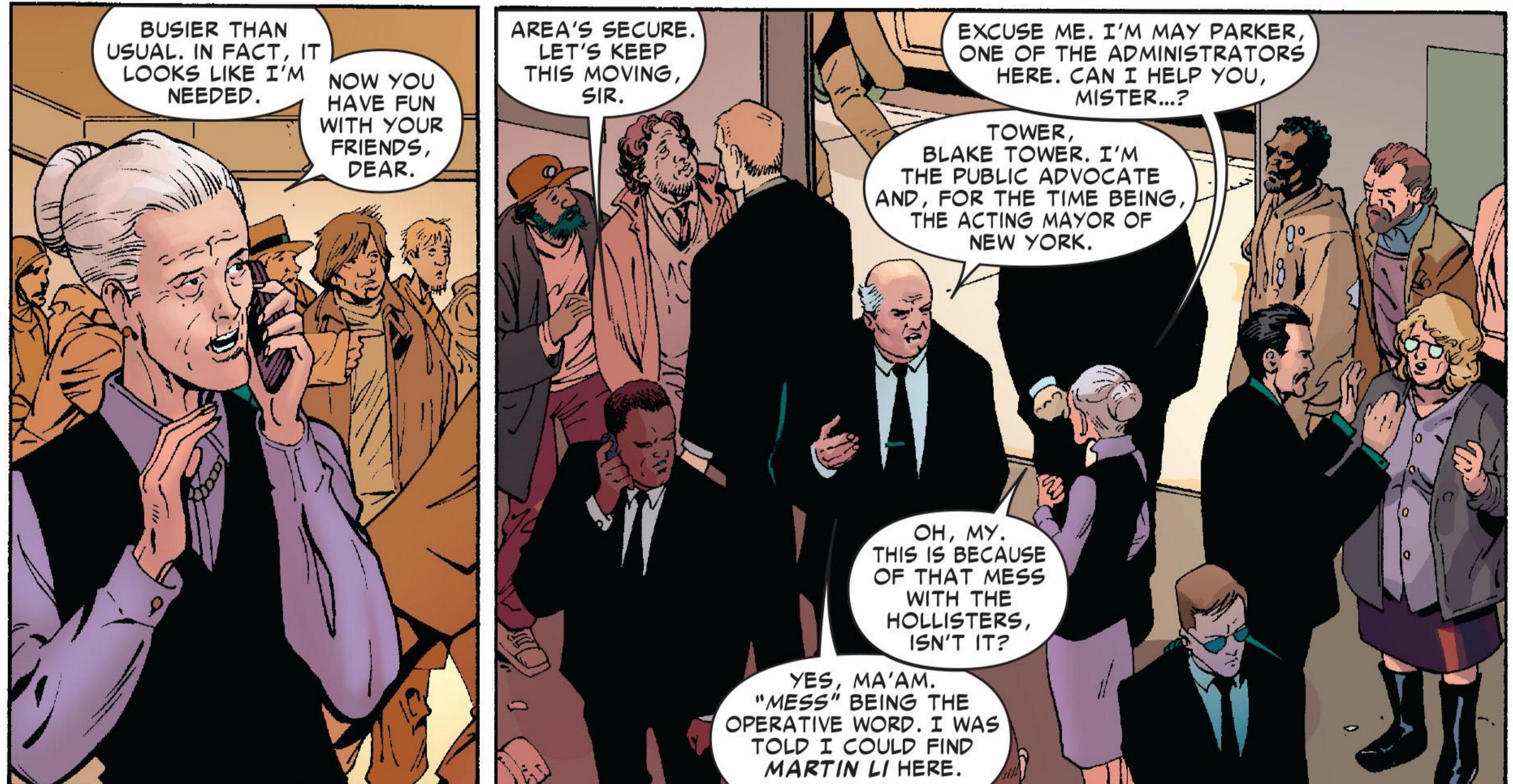
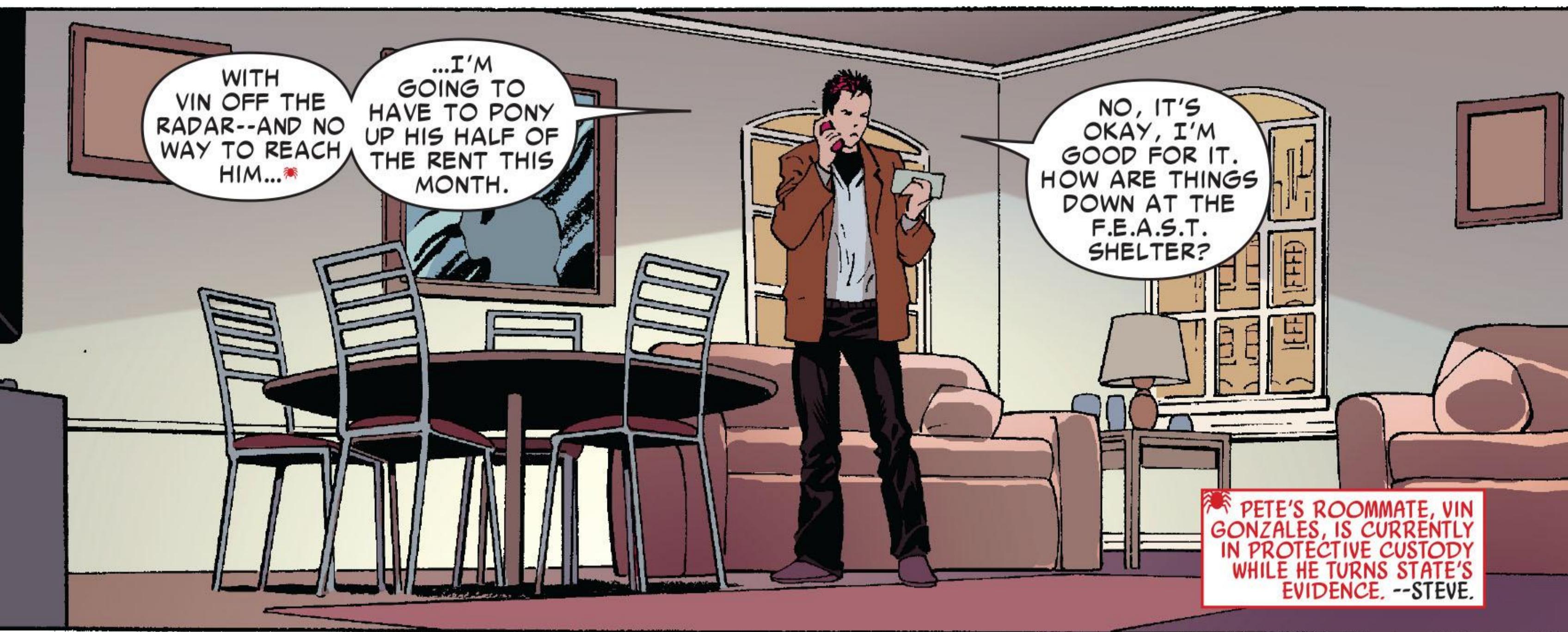


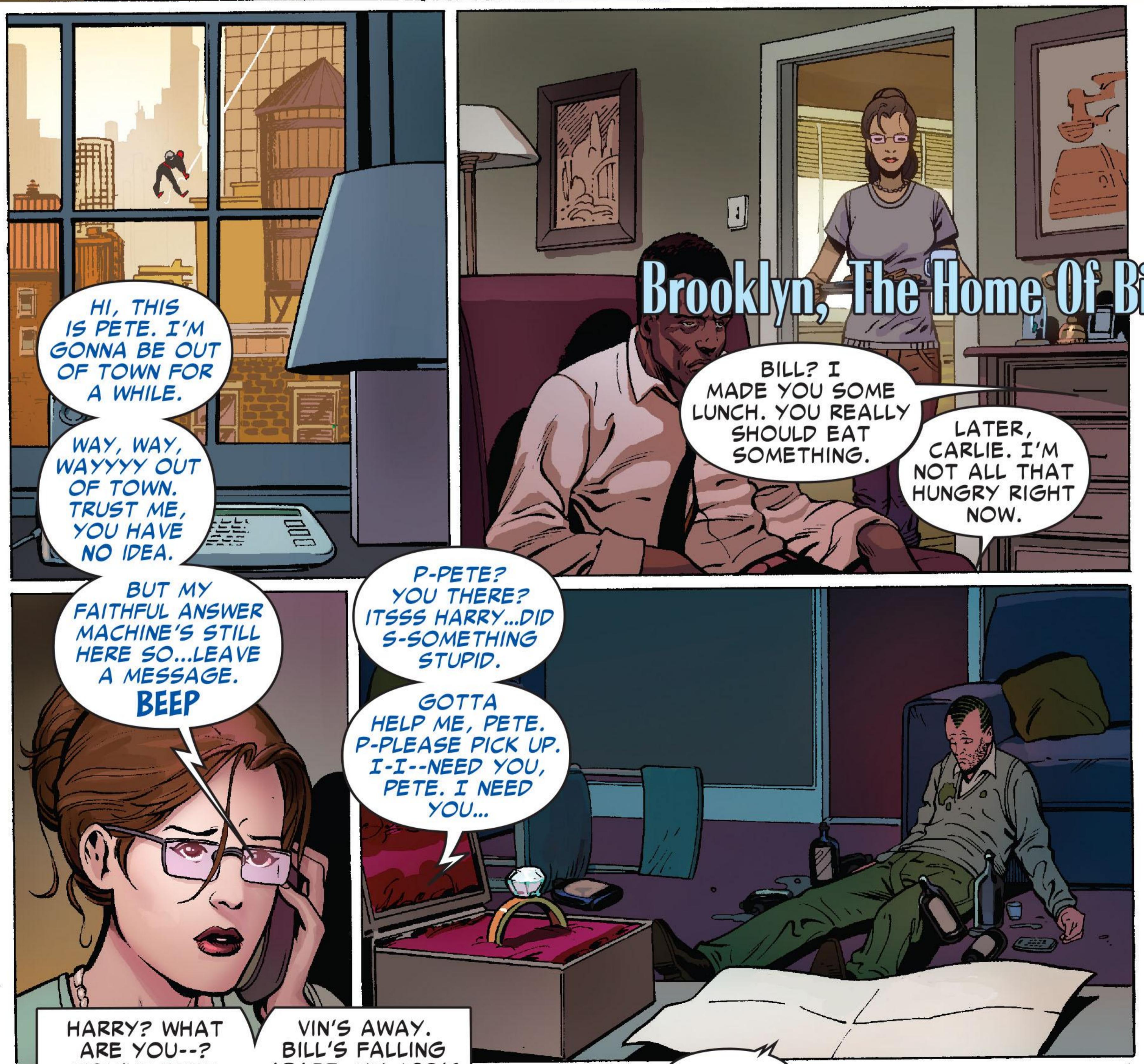
The Here And Now...



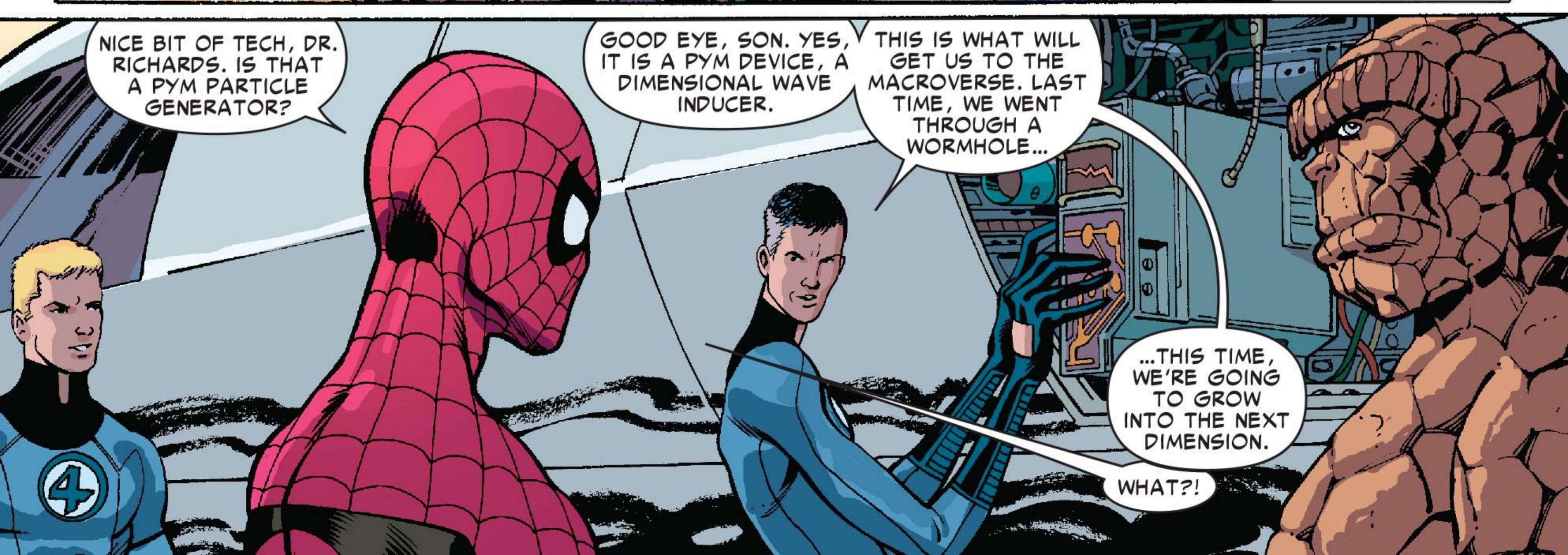


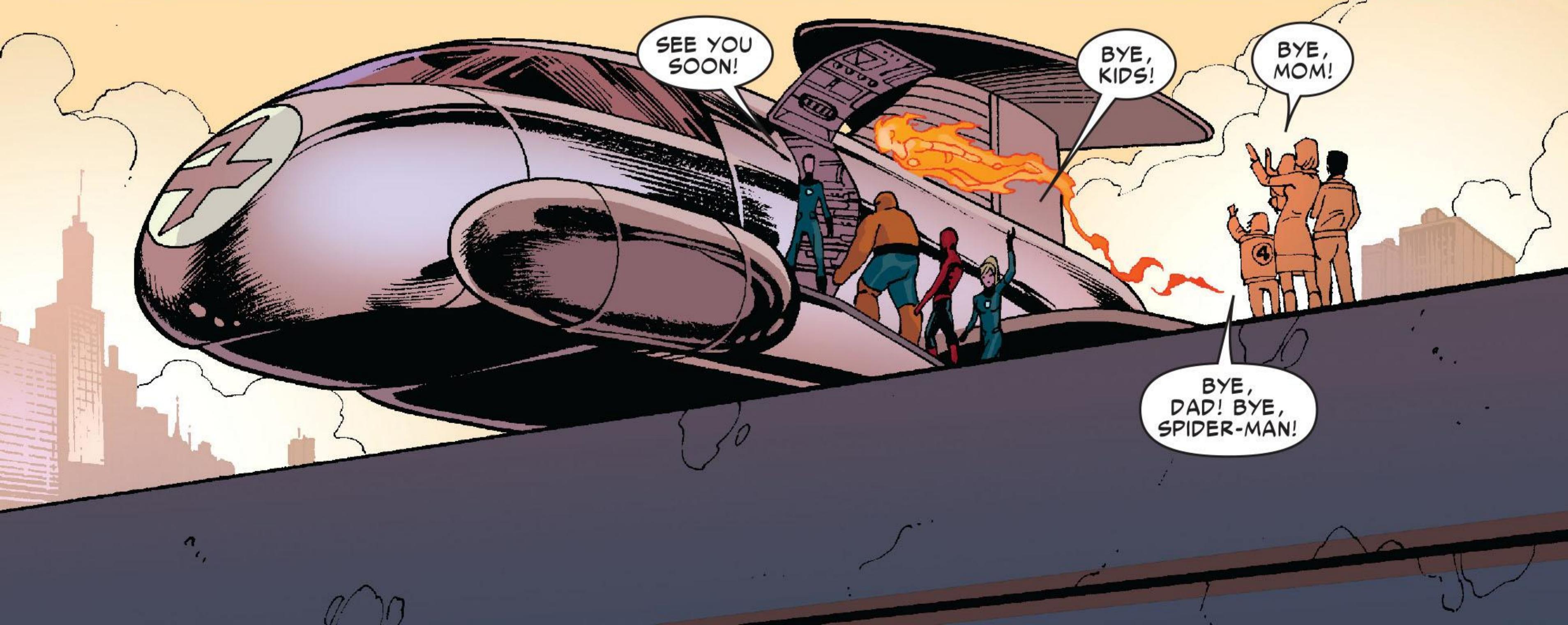
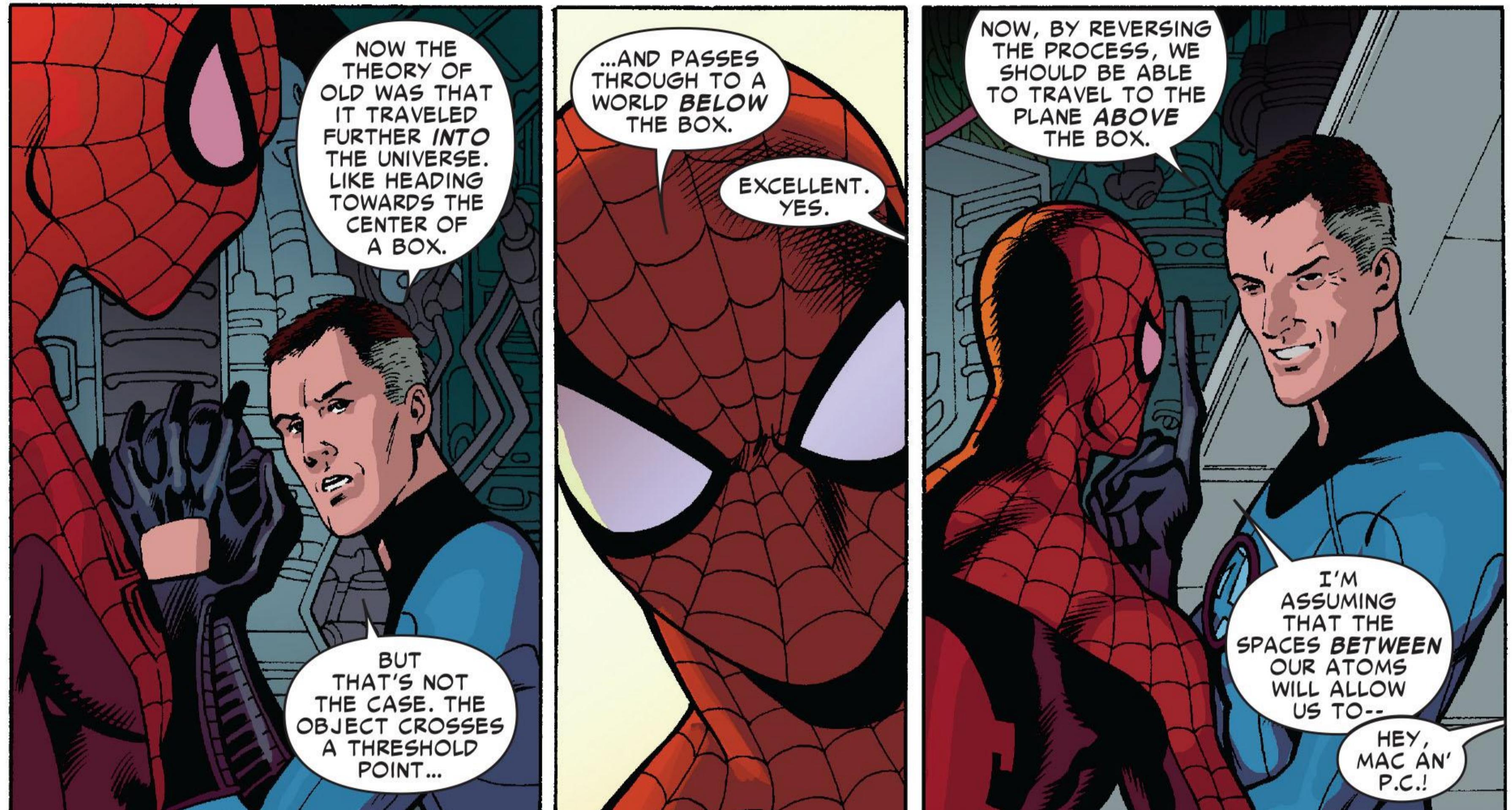






The Baxter Building, home to the Fantastic Four.





STARTING
ENLARGEMENT
PROCESS. STRAP
YERSELVES
IN!

HERE WE
GO, TEAM.
INFINI-BUS ONE
DEPARTING
IN 3...2...1...

OOH.
THAT FEELS
WEIRD.

WOO! WOO!
WOOA!
I CAN
SEE MY
HOUSE FROM
HEEEERE!

WOO! WOO!
WOOA!

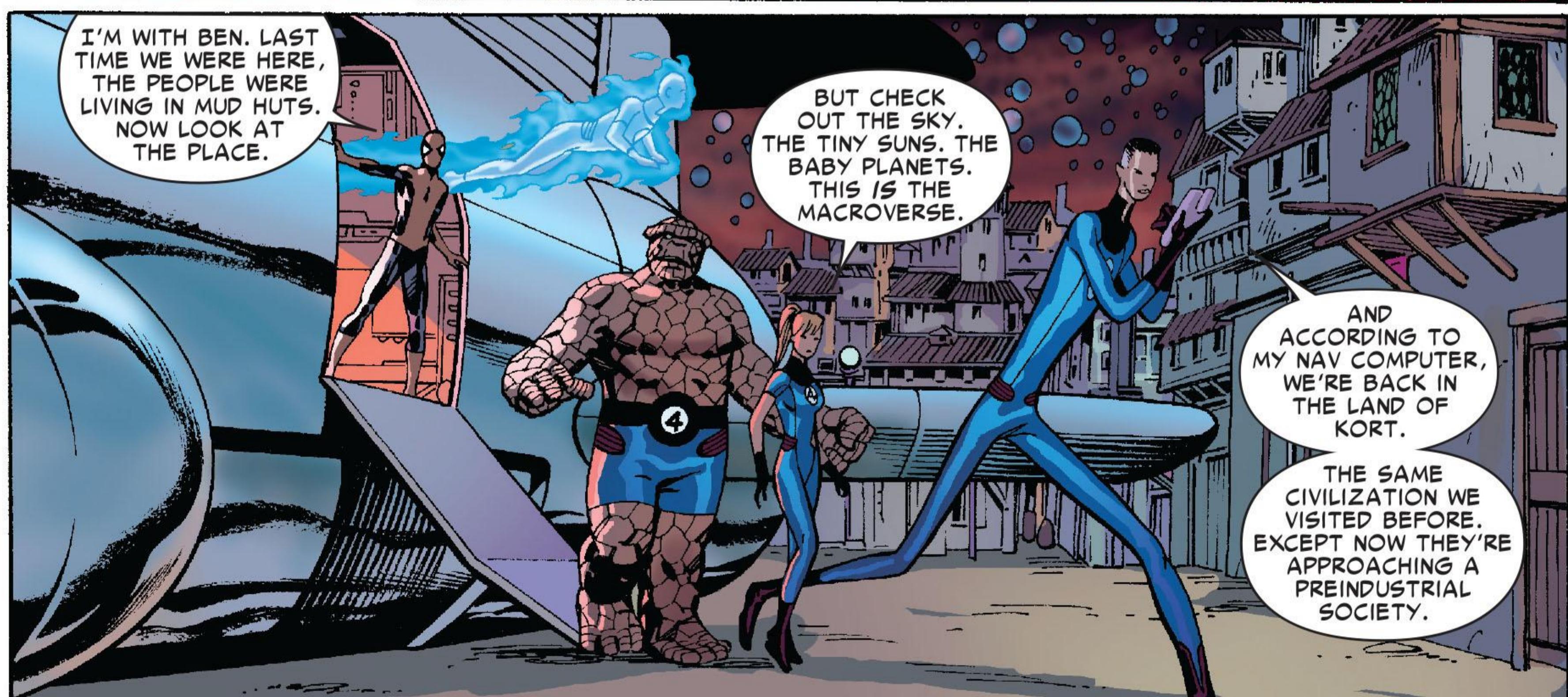
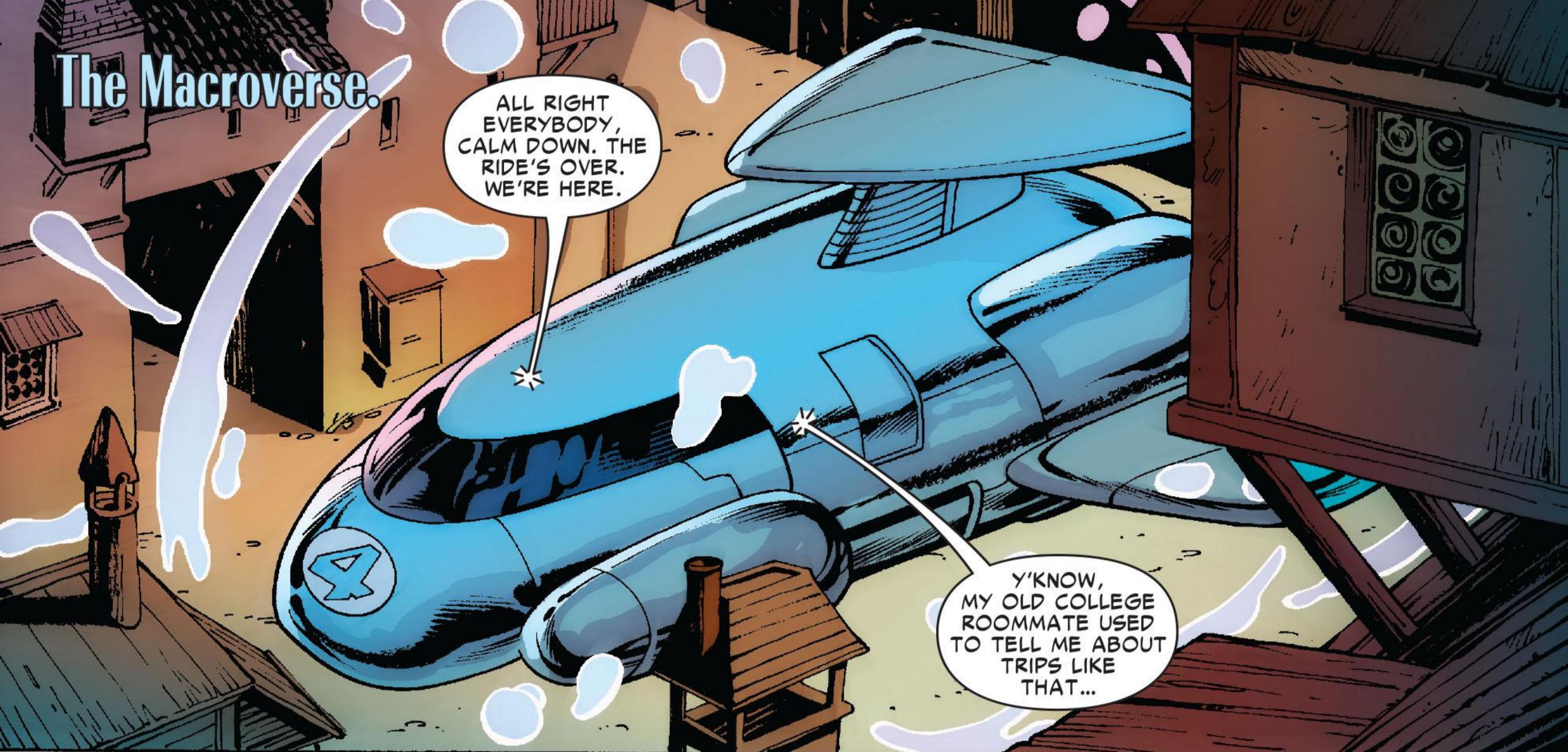
AND
YESTERDAY'S
LUNCH.

C-CAN
DEFINITELY SEE
YESTERDAY'S
LUNCH...

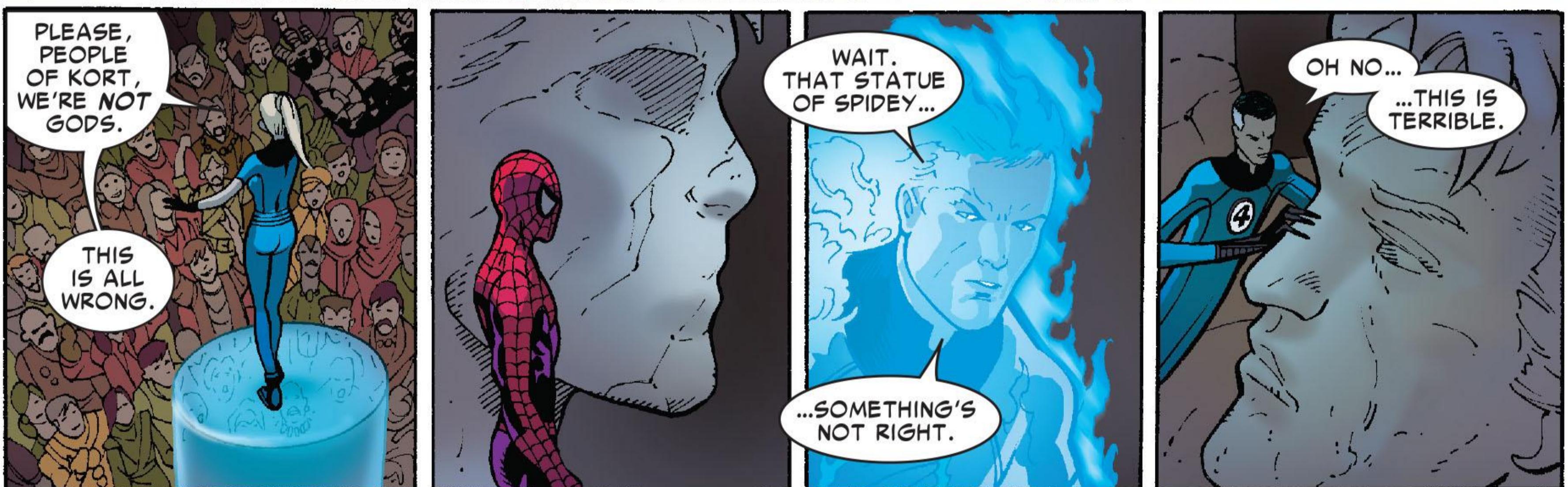
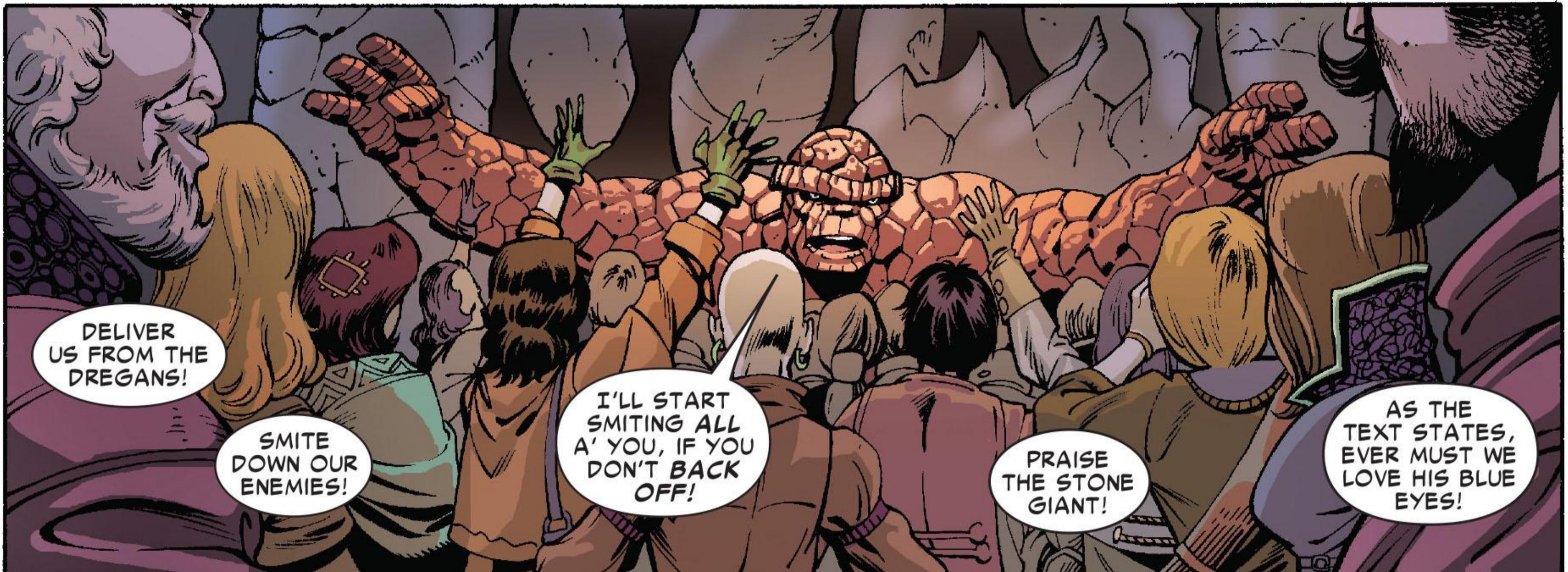
STOMACH
CONTENTS
DEPARTING
IN 3...2...

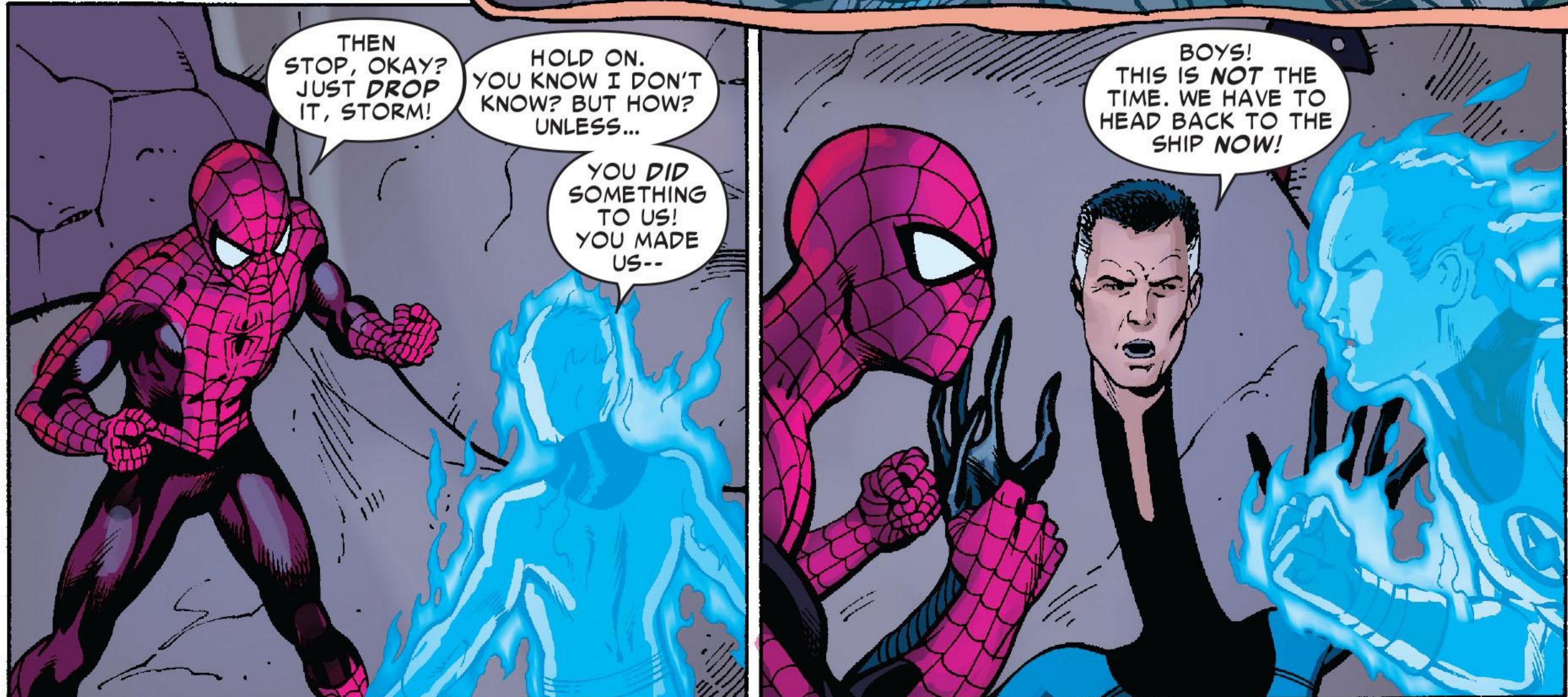
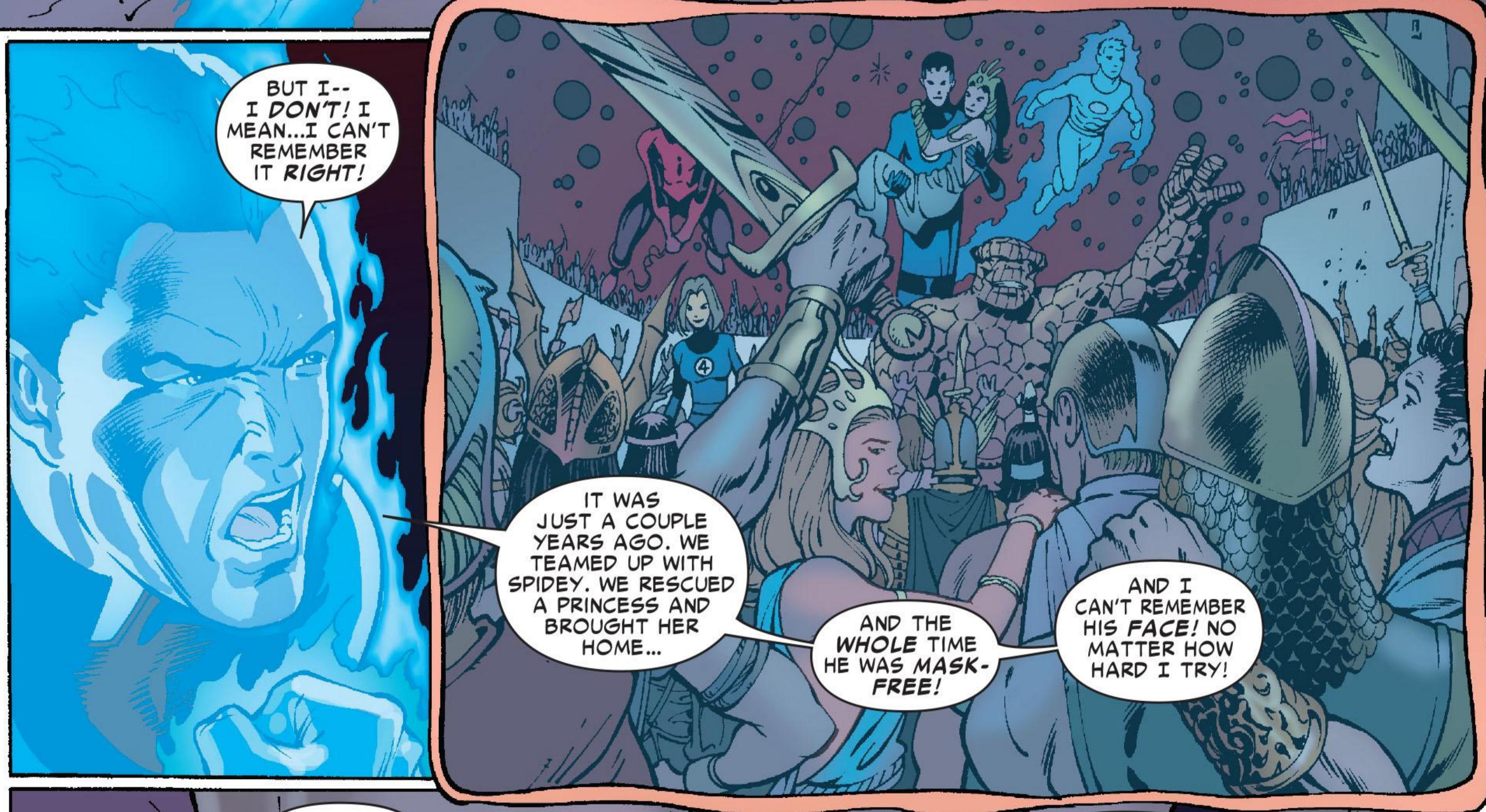
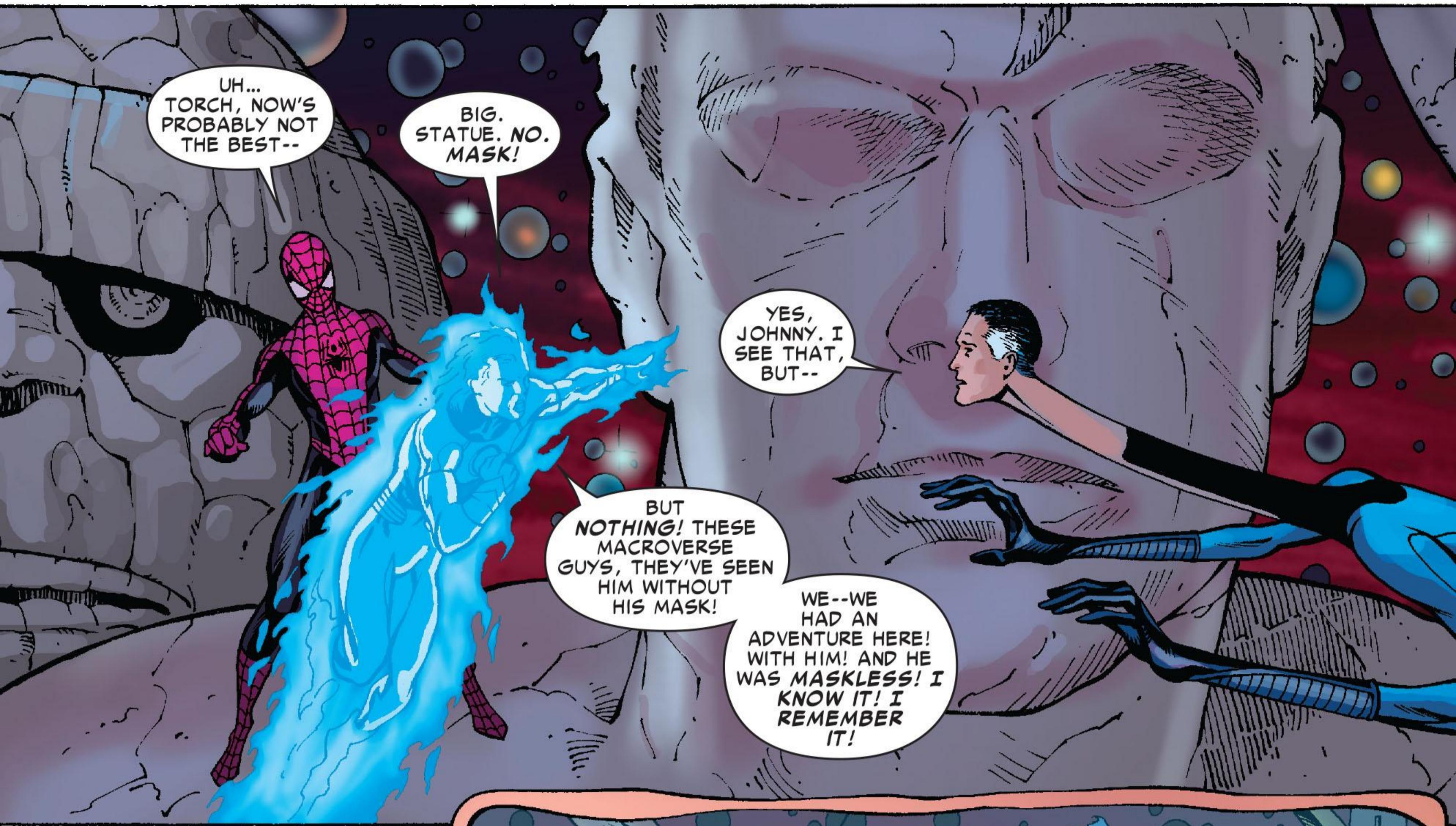
SPIDER-MAN,
STOP IT. YOU'RE
WORSE THAN THE
CHILDREN.

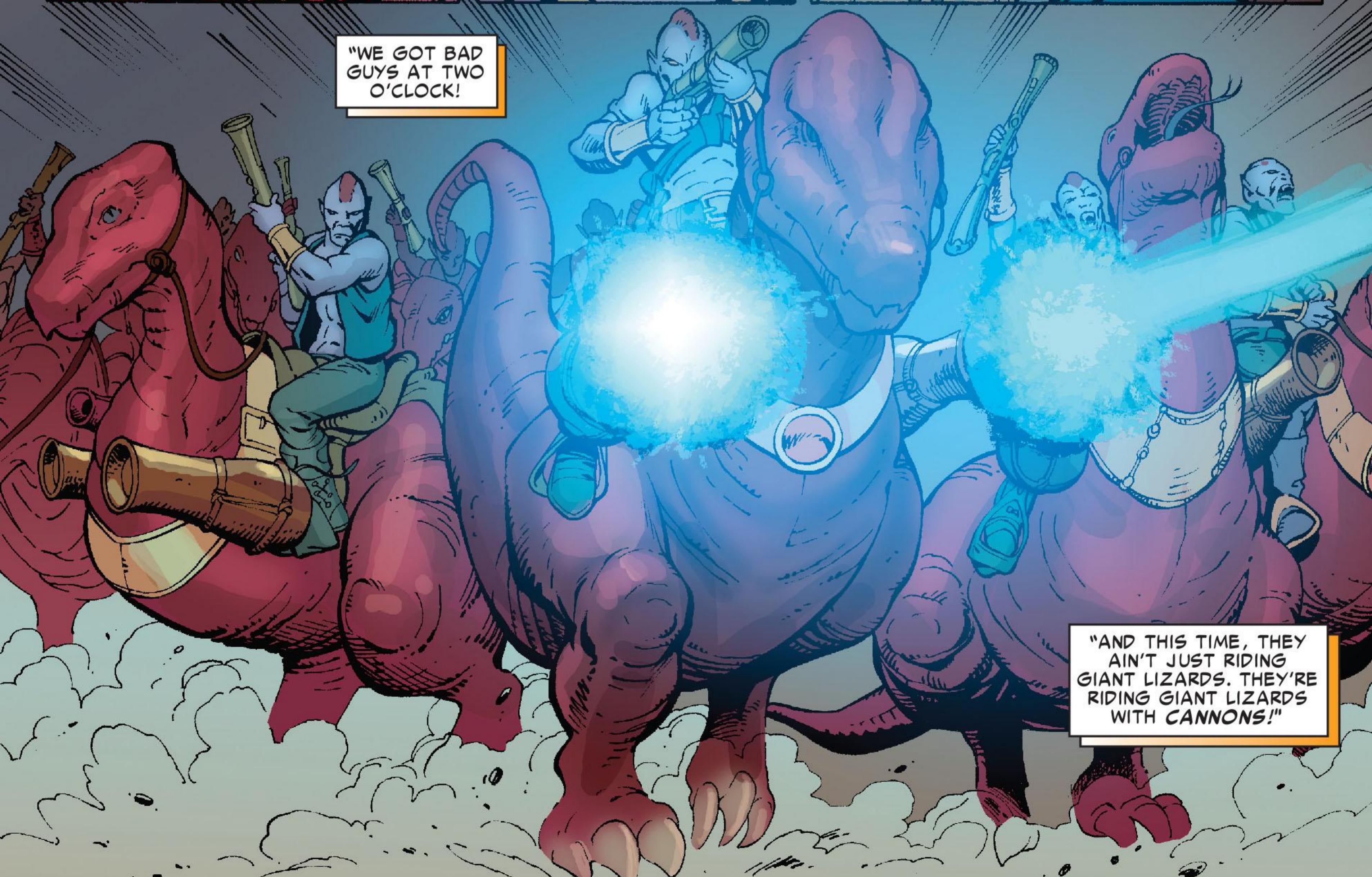
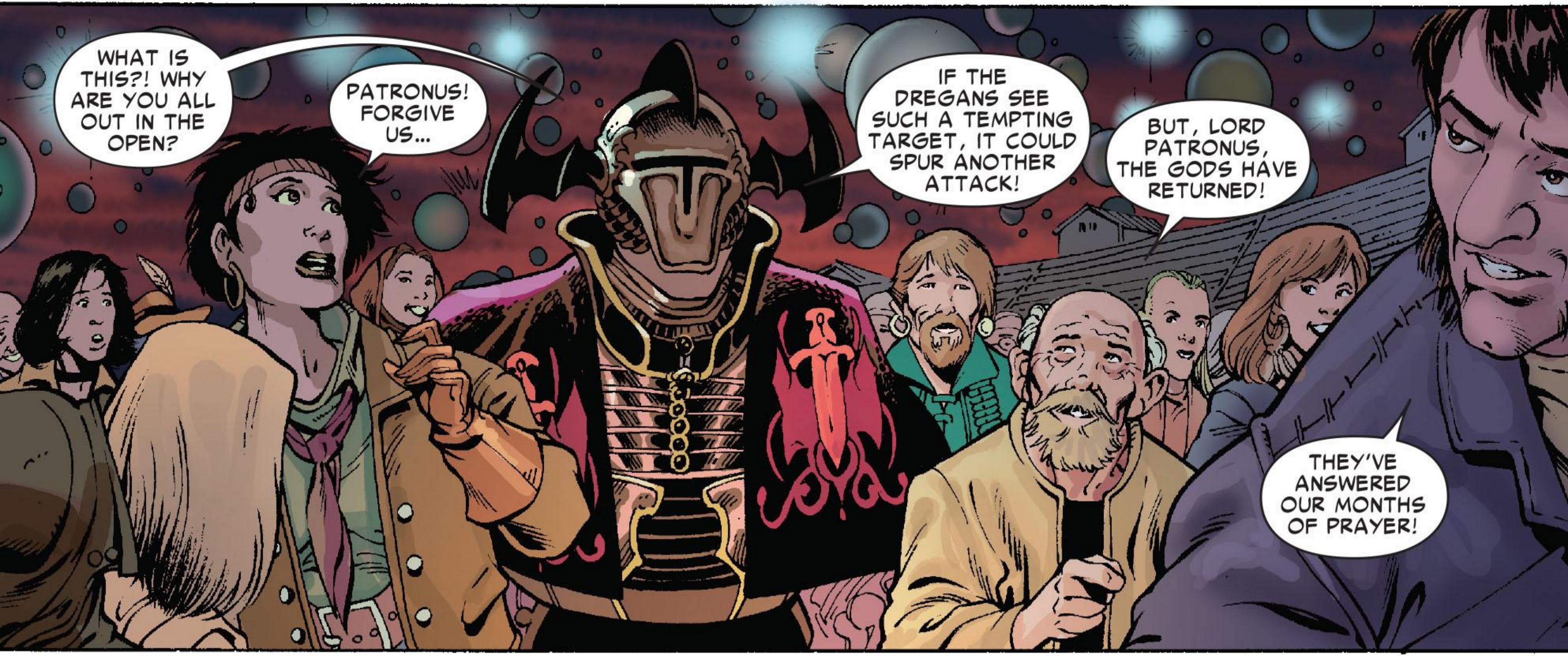
The Macroverse.



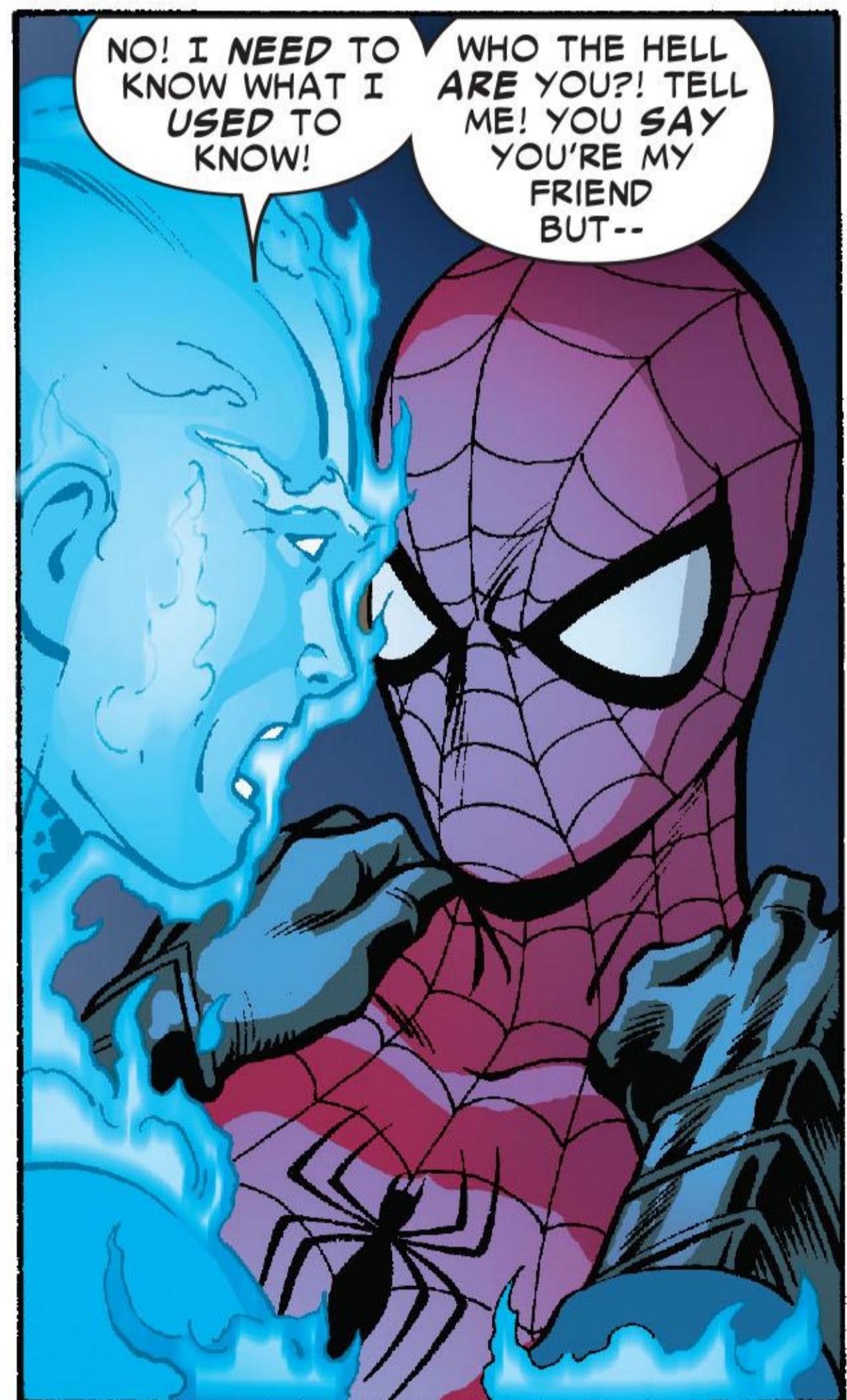
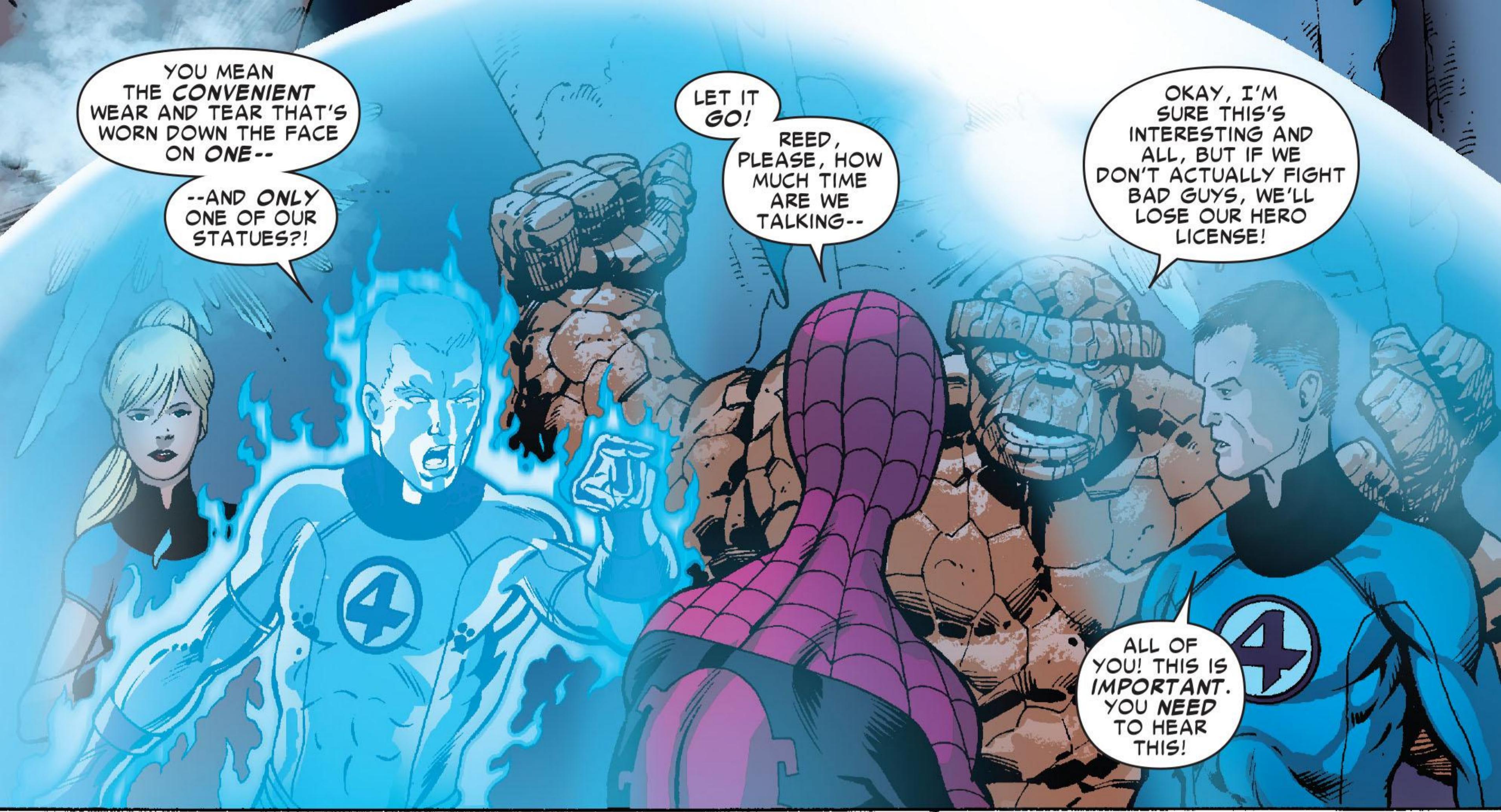


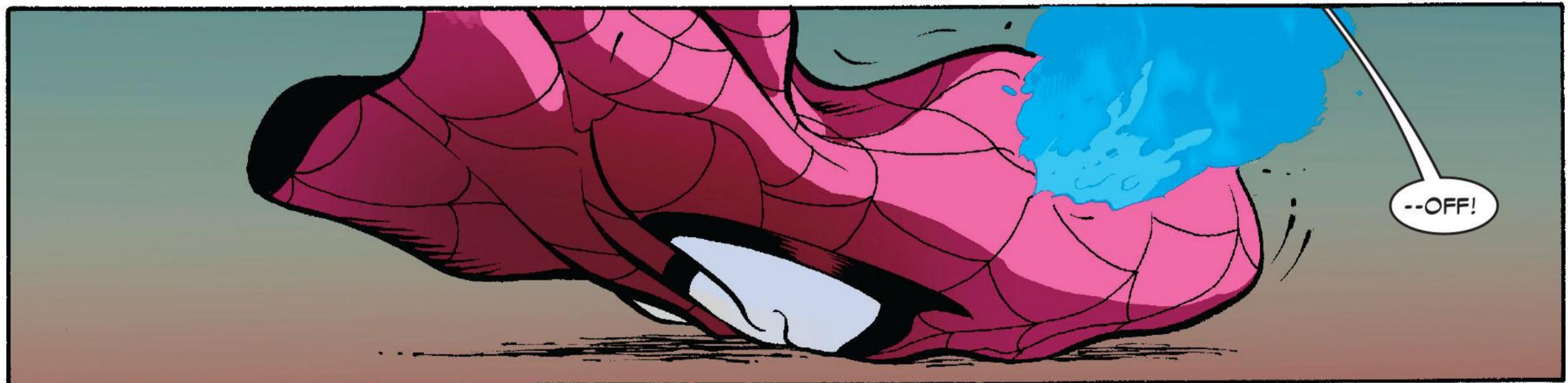
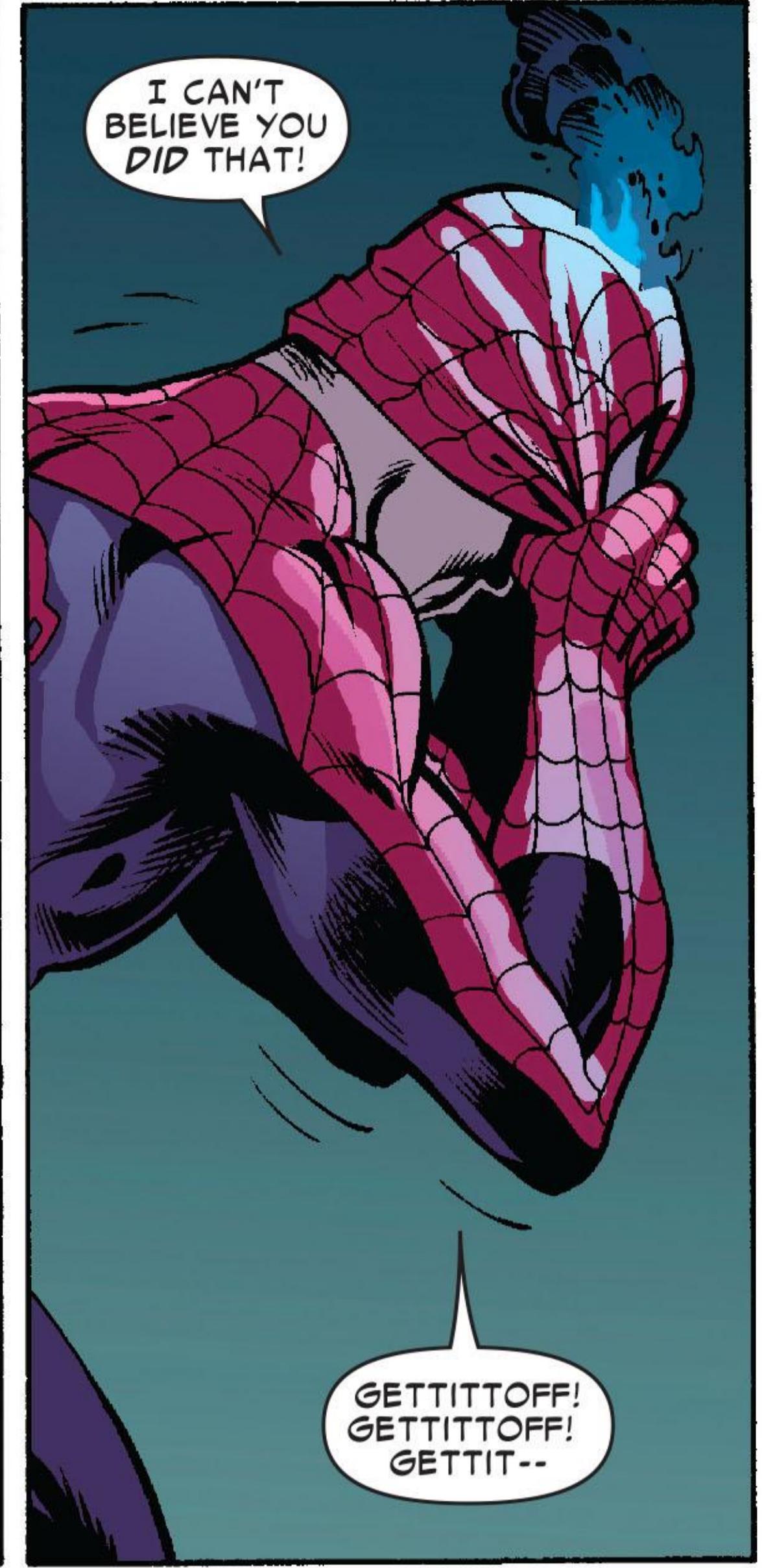
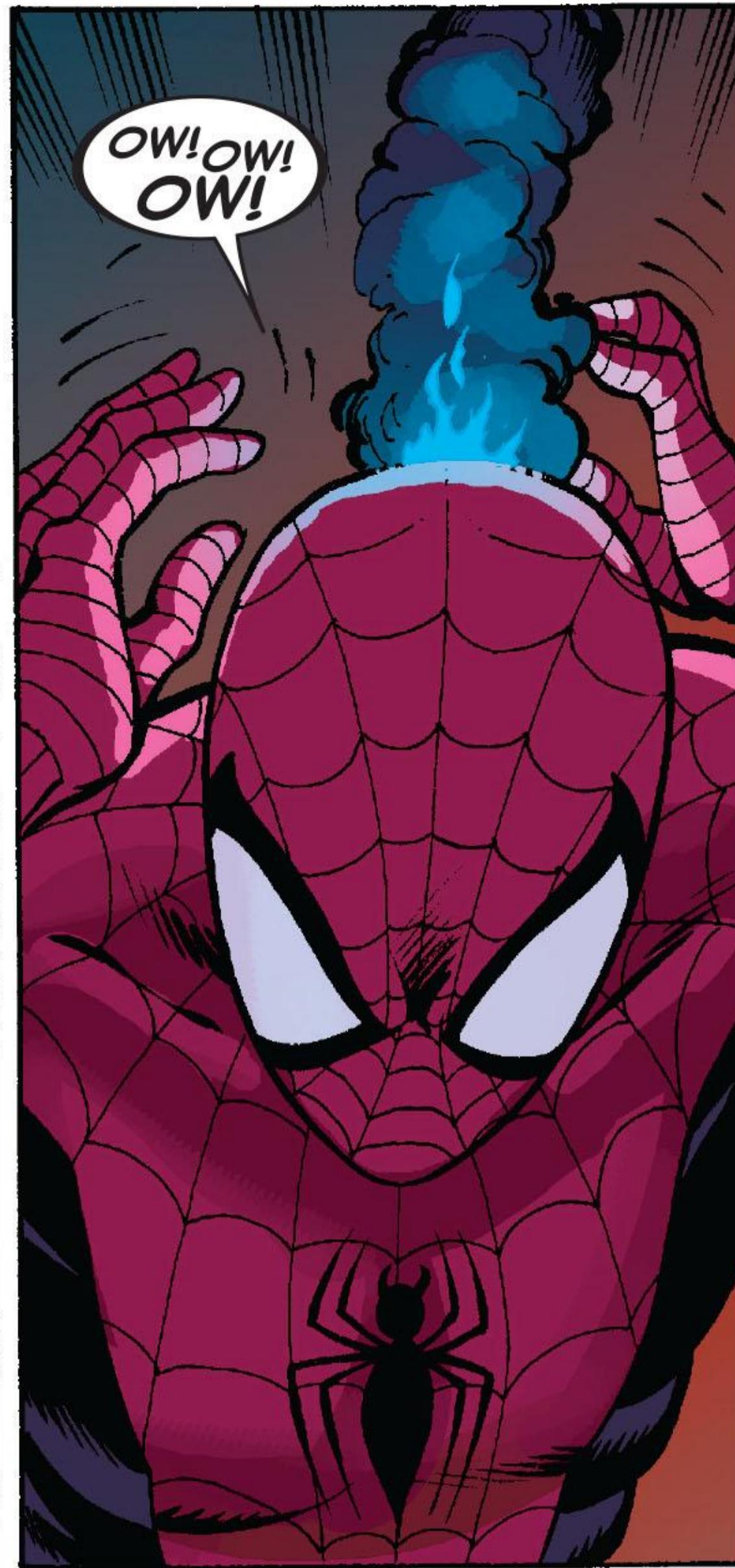
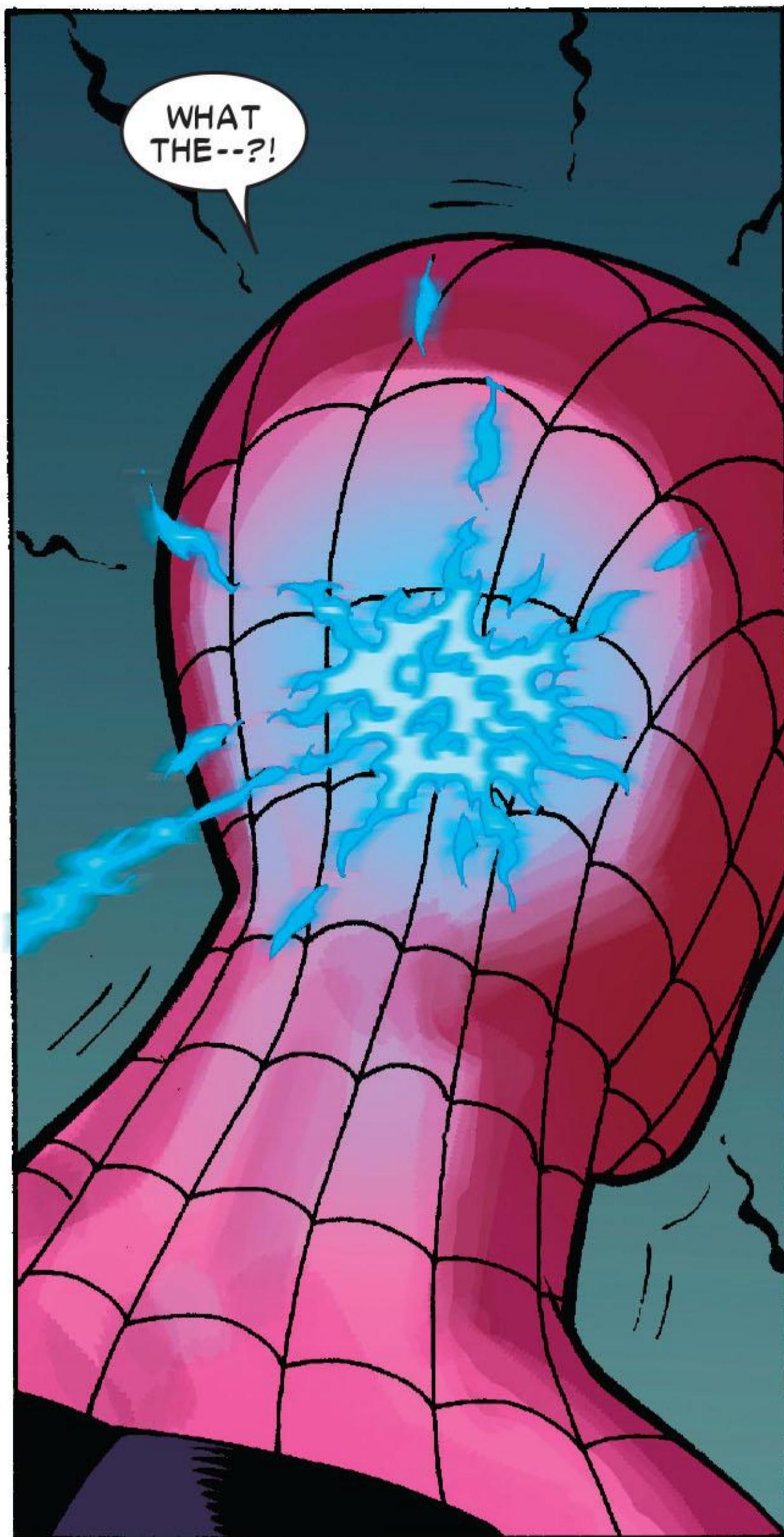












the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to

SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Welcome back, gang, to part one of a story dealing with exactly what some of Spidey's oldest friends actually remember about his formerly public secret identity. Looks like the cat's out of the bag after that last page!

For our letter column this time out we start out with a pretty extensive report card of our first year in business.

Steve and the Brain Trust,

I wanted to write in and let you know how this grand experiment is working out in the eyes of this long time Spidey fan (I own every issue of every Spider-Man comic ever produced except for some guest appearances in other comics). I decided to wait until issues 582 and 583 hit the stands, because my biggest issues have been with Harry's return and with Peter's single status, and I wanted to see what was in store for the conclusion of Mind on Fire and the dating issue. Here's your report card:

Creative Execution Grades:

Editing: A

There have been shockingly few mix-ups and contradictions despite the rotating creative teams. Great job keeping the book coherent and keeping the talent level so staggeringly high.

Writing: B+

On an issue to issue basis, the quality is worthy of an "A", but you really have to pay a little more attention to resolving subplots in a timely manner. I know it's tough when interweaving stories from so many different writers, but resolving a subplot in a year at 3 times a month feels a lot more dragged out than a year and a half at 12 issues a year. I see that Character Assassination is going to take care of a number of the outstanding issues, but watch this in the future. (I applaud the decision to add Joe Kelly and Mark Waid to the regular rotation. How about adding Roger Stern, as well?)

Art: A+

The book has never looked better. I was nervous that the conflicting styles in a single title might feel jarring, but keeping an artist on for the entire arc has resolved this quite nicely. The change in styles is actually enhancing the feeling that each arc stands on its own. You've also been able to get some unbelievable talents to work on the book that probably never would have otherwise, since the commitment is much smaller than a recurring monthly gig. By the way, please keep Marcos Martin in the rotation. He's the finest example of a modern Ditko I've ever seen, and would already have cracked my top five favorite Spider-Artists (Bagley, Ditko, Andru, Buckingham, Romita Sr.) if his body of work was large enough.

Plot related grades:

Unmarried Peter Parker: C+ (was a C- prior to #583)

I agree that a single Peter Parker is the best way to go for the long term health of the Spider-Man franchise. I support the un-marriage of Peter and MJ (although I first started reading after they were married and accepted it without a problem, once I read the issues leading up to the actual wedding, it no longer made any sense). My biggest issue with this plot point is actually the same issue supporters of the marriage have: almost every issue you've produced could have been done with a married Peter. The obligatory mourning period is over. You've got a single Peter. DO SOMETHING WITH IT. Issue 583 was a good start to this, now you just have to build on it.

Harry's Return: C- (was a D- prior to #s 581 and 582)

I appreciate that you've finally told us the how of Harry's return, but I haven't seen enough done with Harry to convince me that it was worth overturning SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #200, which in my opinion is the second best Spider-Man comic ever (behind AMAZING #400). If you're going to bring back a long-dead cast member, the resulting stories need to be as meaningful/memorable as the death issue, or

the reader feels cheated. I'm willing to give you time on this one, but make sure Harry is prominent in the cast. I still don't really feel Aunt May's retcon has been justified (although it's getting closer), and Dark Reign is the first time I've been glad that Norman's back, so I have confidence you can make me glad to see Harry, too...

Three Times a Month Format Grades:

Story Cohesiveness: A+

It's been wonderful to have a single narrative to follow instead of three (or more) totally separate and seemingly incompatible stories in multiple titles.

Overall Quality: A+

Spider-Man has not been as consistently entertaining every issue per month since the before Marvel Team-Up first appeared in 1972. Since then, there's always been at least one book dragging the rest down, even during the best of times. This is even more true when you expand the notion to consider specials, anthologies, and all-ages books, as the ASM EXTRAS, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN FAMILY and the Marvel Adventures line easily beat out previous one-shots, SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED, SPIDEY SUPER STORIES, MARVEL AGE SPIDER-MAN and all the other previous attempts.

Extra Credit Grade for X-MEN / SPIDER-MAN #3: A++++

Thank you for bringing Ben Reilly back for the first time since he was unceremoniously killed in PETER PARKER #75. I always liked Ben (even more than Peter) and would love to see more of him. Perhaps you could let J.M. DeMatteis work his magic on Ben in ASM FAMILY every once in a while?

Keep up the good work and thanks again for taking Amazing Spider-Man to new heights of greatness.

Jason Boire
Beaverton, OR

Thanks for the thorough report card, Jason. Suffice it to say, we here at Spidey Sentral know full well there's always room for improvement. Our hope is that our best efforts become so consistent that they become the new "average" and that we keep rising to greater heights. You keep buyin' and we'll keep tryin'!

In the meantime, though, I'll get my mom to sign this and send it back to you on Monday. She told me if I got an A in editing, she'd buy me my very own assistant editor for my house! (Brennan, that bunion rub ain't gonna apply itself. Let's move, little man!)



Marvel

I have a few things I'd like to say. As you know from my past letters, I've been a long time Spider-Man fan and I think you guys have put together a lot of quality issues in the last year and I thank you for it.

As for ASM #583, I didn't enjoy the main feature as much as the back-up feature, but it's okay. It's not a big deal compared to the main reason I'm writing in.

My complaint is how the newspapers, TV, and websites promoted this book as available to the general public, but for real fans of over 20 years they weren't available.

It's really messed up that your real fan base couldn't find a copy of cover-B for its listed \$3.99. It's an insult to my intelligence because I know if you really wanted to celebrate this historical moment in American history you would have made cover B comic more attainable or just made it the main cover instead.

I know you're making a 3rd print now, but it's too late, the first prints were selling for 100 bucks or more...and what good is a 3rd printing when you been collecting first prints for years and years.

In closing you made the dealers rich, the loyal fans overpay and caused a circus by having the non-collector

wreck the market by overpaying for a book because the non-collector thinks if they bought ASM #583 and sold it one day it was going to send their kid to college. (Which it's not.) Meanwhile someone who needs the book in his 30+ year collection gets the shaft. Is it right that he has to overpay for it? I don't think so.

What do you think? I'm sure you don't care. I'm sure you know I'm right and won't print my letter, but by not doing so, Marvel admits this event was handled wrong by Marvel and Diamond and the dealers who got lucky enough to get in on this event.

I guess it just irks me because I just don't see how a fan who's been buying these Marvel books year after year, month after month, week now after week religiously plain and simple just gets screwed on this historic event after all the money you've made off your loyal fan base over the years. To me it's just not good business.

Chris Plersch
Via e-mail

Chris, I understand the frustration of wanting a comic that you just can't find. I remember back in the freshly Pearl Jam'd afternoons of 1992 trying to find that last copy of the Death of Superman in St. Louis, Mo., and seeing it at outrageous prices the day it came out. So, again, I hear ya.

From your letter, though, it seems there are some misconceptions about not only the timeline of our special Obama variant and the power we (particularly those of us actually creating the comics) have in making something that's actually collectible.

Making the Obama cover the main cover of the book was never an option. By the time we decided to do it, we already had that beautiful cover by John Romita, Sr. (inarguably one of the top Spidey artists ever) and had been advertising the comic with it as the cover.

We decided to do the Obama cover very close to the time that we had to give final orders to our printing press. We got an idea from many retailers and from Diamond (our distributor) how many extra we'd need and we made a pretty hefty print run.

Once the news hit the newspapers though, the demand skyrocketed more than we even expected. You can look back now and say, "well, you should have known!", but the truth is you never know. We could have just easily printed...for sake of argument...a million extra copies, but we would have had to pay for all of them and if the book ended up not selling, we would have taken a pretty huge financial hit and I most likely would have had to sell Brennan on Craigslist.

What we did do is work to make sure the second and subsequent prints were ready to go immediately and that each printing had a different "take" on the cover, whether it was a new joke for Spidey or new art or new coloring. That way, I felt, everyone was getting something unique and special no matter which printing you got.

For folks who just wanted the story, we also made it available for free on MARVEL.COM along with some new story pages by the original creative team and a brand new tale featuring Spidey and Captain America celebrating Abraham Lincoln.

I know none of that makes up for the fact that you couldn't get what you wanted for the price you wanted, and as a longtime reader, I appreciate where you're coming from. However, I hope you do see that this caught us all by surprise and that we're not taking your support for granted.



Outta room, so no sneak peek at next week's cover for you. Just get back here in seven days for part two of our FF adventure! Believe me it ends with a revelation you're gonna want to see to believe!

Viva Templar!
Simperin' Steve
3/13/09- uh boy, this one's late!

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Asst. Editor

Joe Quesada
Editor in Chief

Stephen Wacker
Editor

Dan Buckley
Publisher

Tom Brevoort
Executive Editor

Alan Fine
Executive Producer