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# DARK REIGN the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

KELLY  
CHECCHETTO  
CHUCKRY

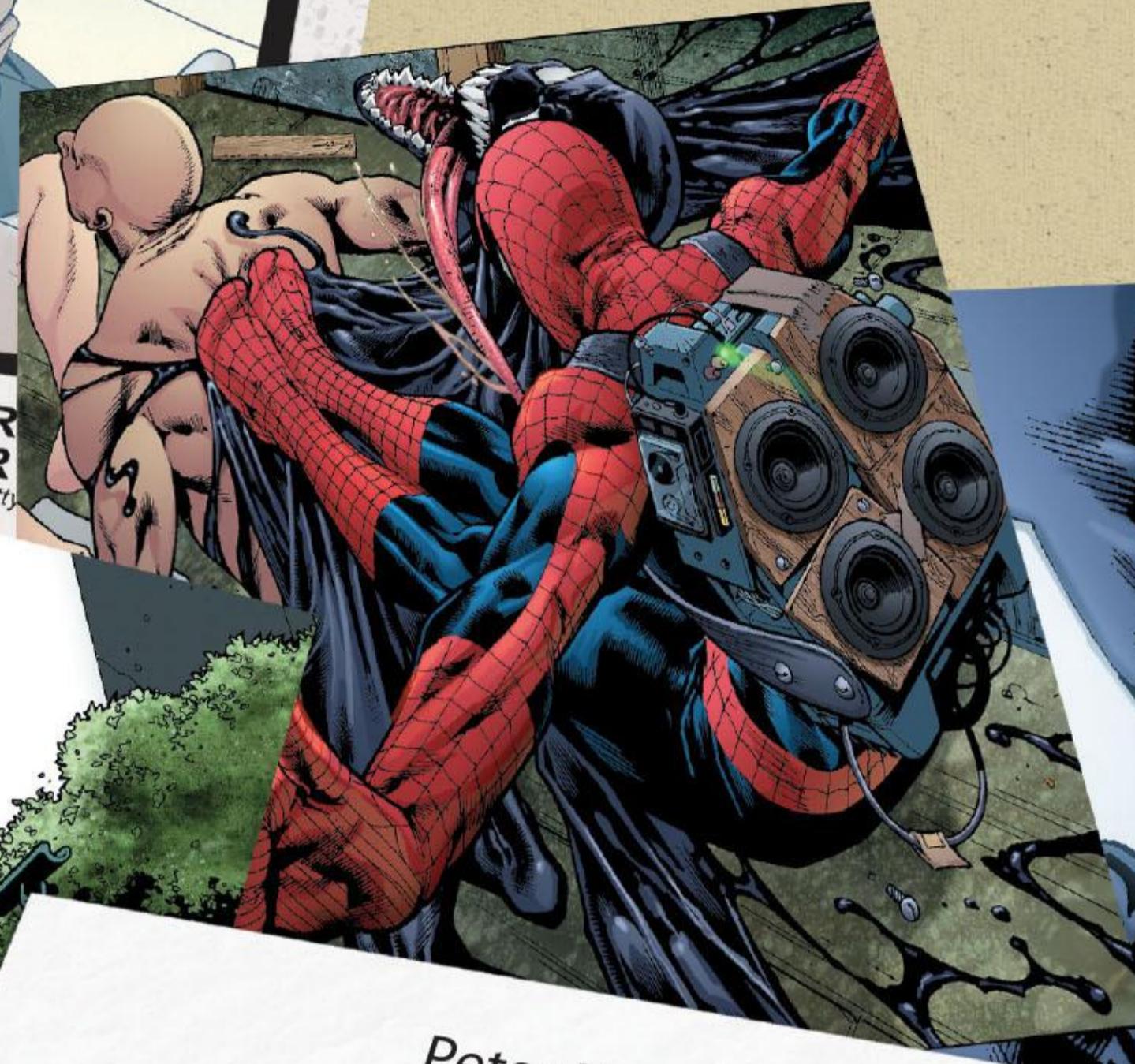
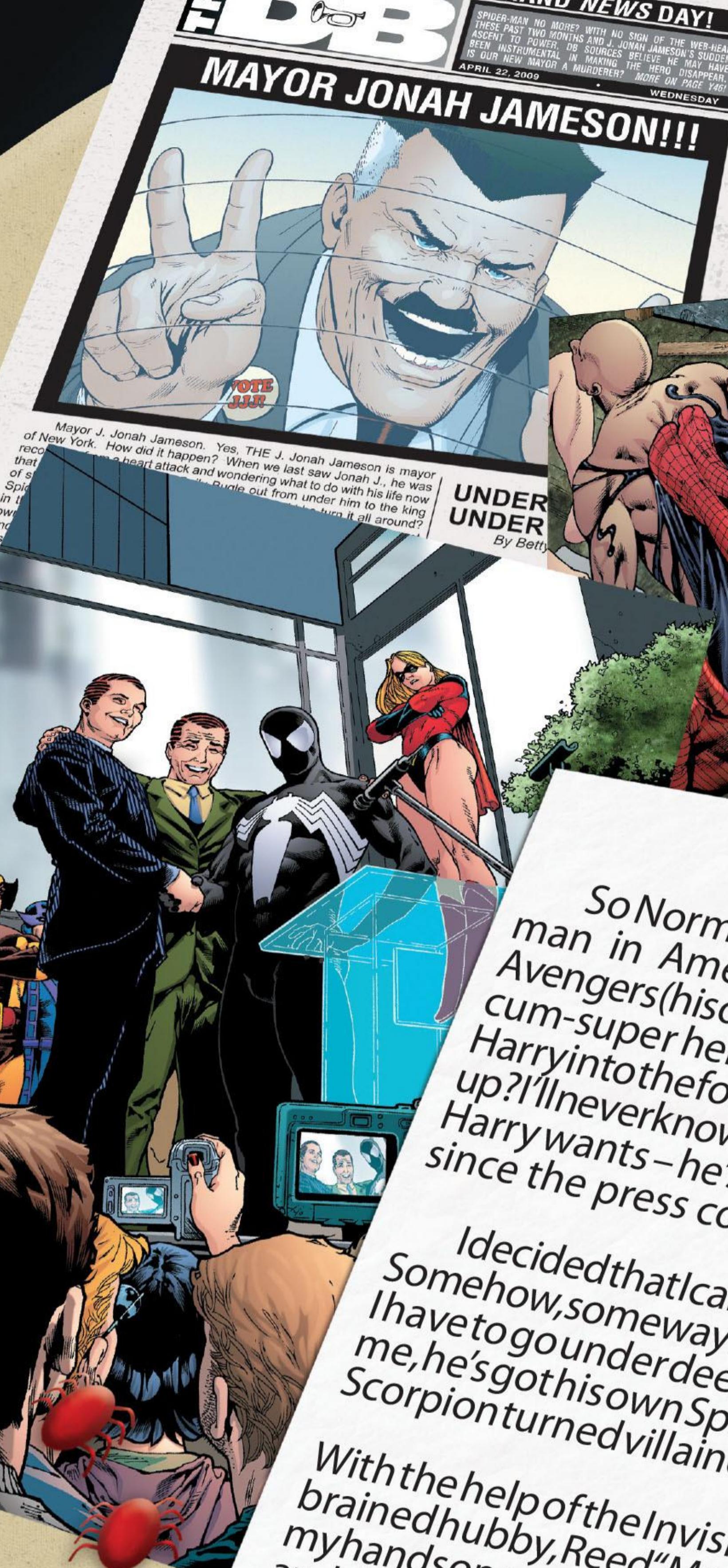


AMERICAN  
SON 3 OF 5

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!

MAYOR JONAH JAMESON!!!



Peter Parker's P.O.V.

So Norman Osborn's the most powerful man in America - he's in charge of the Avengers (his own team of homicidal maniacs-cum-superheroes) and has brought his son Harry into the fold. How did he get Harry to join up? I'll never know, but he must have something Harry wants - he's acted like a man possessed since the press conference.

I decided that I can't let Norman win anymore. Somehow, somehow I'm taking him down. Even if I have to go under deep cover to do it - and lucky me, he's got his own Spider-Man, (my ol' sparring Scorpion turned villainous Venom, MacGargan).

With the help of the Invisible Woman and her big-brained hubby, Reed "Mr. Fantastic" Richards, I got my hands on a symbiote-emulating black costume and clobbered Gargan but good. Now I'm in Avengers Tower disguised as Gargan, undercover as part of Norman's malevolent Seven - and they're talking up a new project called "American Son." I'm getting the feeling I showed up at just the right time...



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# Avengers Tower

BASTION OF JUSTICE...SORT OF.

THIS COUNTRY...IS SCARRED. AND THOUGH THE WOUNDS MAY BE CLOSED, THEY STILL STING.

THANKS TO ABUSES BOTH FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN, WE ARE UNSURE WHERE TO PUT OUR LONG-NEGLECTED FAITH.

WE DON'T KNOW WHO TO CALL FRIEND OR FOE... AND BY "WE" I MEAN THE SHEEP, OF COURSE.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE MY ENEMIES ARE AT ALL TIMES.

THE AVENGERS ARE NOT IMMUNE TO THIS NATION'S MALAISE. MY FAULT ENTIRELY.

YES, THE SHEEP WANTED HEROES, AND I PROVIDED, GOOD SHEPHERD THAT I AM...

BUT I DIDN'T GIVE THEM THE RIGHT HERO...YET.

HOLY @#\$%&


THUS, NORMAN OSBORN SHOWS ME THE ONLY REAL ADVANTAGE OF POSING AS VENOM...

I CAN SWEAR IN PUBLIC WITHOUT IT WINDING UP ON YOUTUBE.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

# AMERICAN SON

PART 3



AVENGERS...  
YOUR SOON-TO-  
BE TEAMMATE. A  
HOMEGROWN RED,  
WHITE AND BLUE  
HERO...

AMERICAN  
SON.

MY  
SON.

AGAIN,  
I SAY...

HOLY  
\$%&@!

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VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letters

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GALE, GUGGENHEIM, KELLY,  
SLOTT & WAID webheads

THE IRON PATRIOT UNDOUBTEDLY REPRESENTS AMERICA'S STRENGTH...

...BUT RESEARCH SHOWS US TIME AND AGAIN THAT THE SHEEP ALSO NEED TO SEE AMERICA'S HEART.

CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS THAT HEART... IF NOT ALSO THE HEART OF THE AVENGERS--

GARGAN. KEEP UP.

--UNFORTUNATELY, THE CAP RUNNING AROUND THESE DAYS ISN'T MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER.

SO SCREW HIM. WE'RE MAKING OUR OWN.

THE SUIT WILL HANDLE DEFENSIVE AND COMMUNICATIONS ABILITIES, BUT LIKE THE LAST "SUPER-SOLDIER," OUR AMERICAN SON WILL BE...AN ENHANCED HUMAN.

OSBORN, MOVE!

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S BEEN A NIGHTMARE OF TRIAL AND ERROR.

THE "SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM" DOESN'T PLAY NICELY WITH "GOBLIN JUICE."

HOW EASY WOULD IT BE? HOW EASY TO MOVE A MICRO-SECOND SLOWER..?

TO WATCH THAT GRIN GET RIPPED OFF BY HIS OWN LITTLE SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT?

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST... I'M STARTING TO THINK LIKE ONE OF THEM.

WHY GARGAN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED--

YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS TO YOUR OWN SON...?

DON'T BE AN IDIOT.

MONSTERS BREED MIRACLES. WE HAVE STABILIZED THE FORMULA. FINALLY.

ALL THAT REMAINS ARE A FEW PRACTICAL TESTS AND THEN WE'LL BE READY.

NO OFFENSE, BUT ENHANCEMENTS OR NOT, I DON'T THINK THIS IS EXACTLY HIS... SPEED.

ISN'T THAT ADORABLE. YOU'RE TRYING "THINKING."

HARRY IS MORE THAN CAPABLE OF RISING TO THE CHALLENGE...

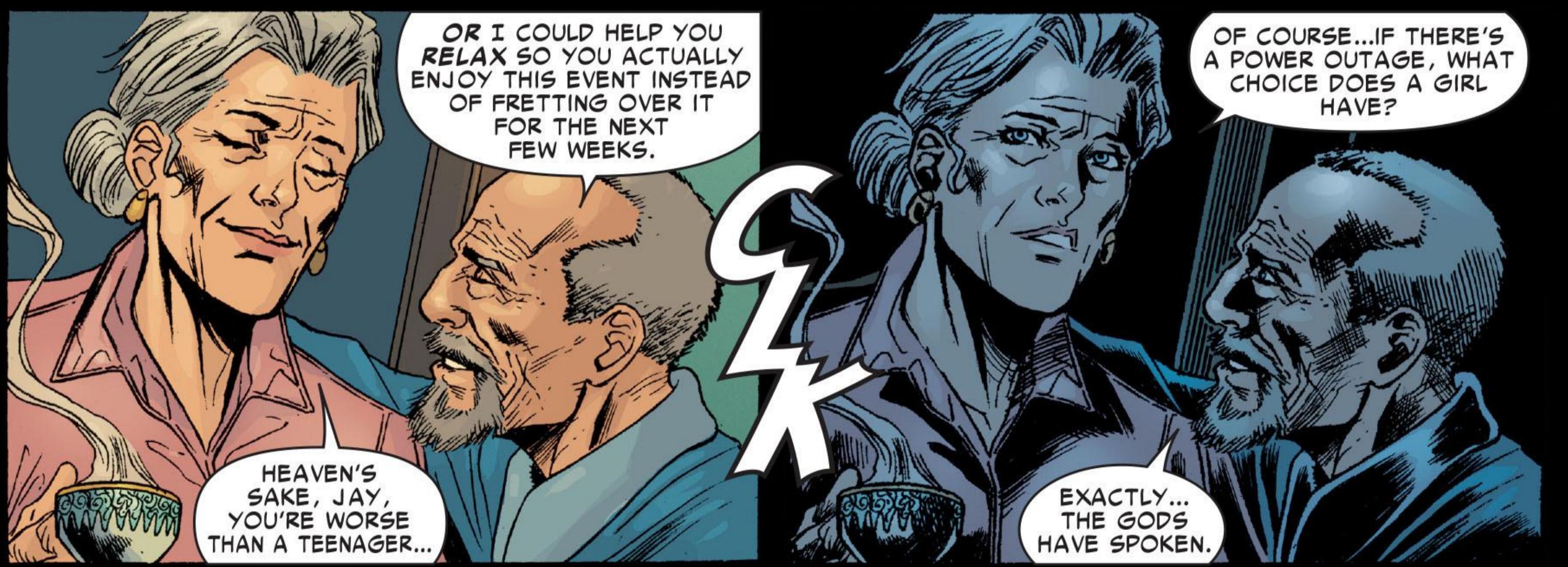
ONCE HE'S PROPERLY MOTIVATED.

**Elsewhere in  
the tower...**



# Forest Hills, Queens...

A LITTLE  
LATE FOR  
WORK, ISN'T  
IT, MAY?



I ALWAYS  
KNEW THERE WAS  
SOMEONE WATCHING  
OVER ME.

WHAT  
SHALL IT  
BE...?

SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE?

SOMETHING  
GREAT?

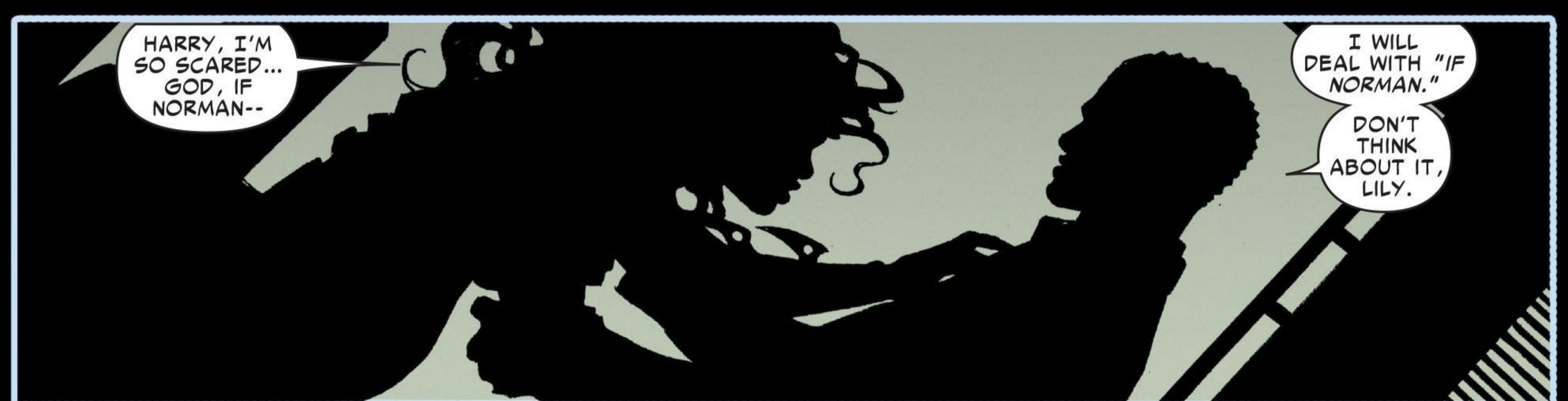
SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE?

SOMETHING  
GREAT...?

SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE...?

NO.

MOST  
DEFINITELY...  
SOMETHING  
GREAT.



"DAD"  
AND I BOTH  
CHEATED DEATH  
BECAUSE OF THE  
GOBLIN SERUM IN OUR  
BLOOD. IF I KNOW HIM  
AT ALL, HE'S FOUND A  
WAY TO MAKE SURE IT  
DOESN'T HAPPEN  
AGAIN...

...BECAUSE  
THERE'S NO  
WAY HE WOULD  
LET YOU RUN AROUND  
AS MENACE WITHOUT A  
WAY TO NEUTRALIZE  
THE SERUM...JUST  
IN CASE.

I CURE  
YOU, KILL  
MENACE... NORMAN  
HAS NO REASON  
TO KEEP YOU  
AROUND.

THEN  
THE THREE  
OF US WILL  
DISAPPEAR.

YOU MAKE  
IT SOUND SO  
EASY...BUT YOU  
MAY NOT WANT  
ME BACK.

MY  
BODY'S...  
CHANGING.

THEN  
I'LL WORK  
FASTER.

TAKE  
THIS. IT WILL  
GET YOU INTO THE  
RESTRICTED LEVELS  
WITHOUT NOTIFYING  
THE SECURITY  
LOGS...

AND  
NORMAN'S  
OFFICE ISN'T  
SECURE. HE LETS  
TOO MANY  
PEOPLE IN.

WHATEVER  
YOU'RE LOOKING  
FOR, CHECK THE  
PRIVATE LEVELS. NUMBER  
TWENTY-FIVE IS A  
GOOD PLACE TO  
START.

AND  
PLEASE, HURRY...  
'CAUSE WHATEVER'S  
HAPPENING TO ME...  
MUST BE HAPPENING  
TO OUR--

I'M NOT  
GOING TO LET  
YOU DOWN, LILY.  
I SWEAR IT. I'LL  
CURE YOU OR  
DIE TRYING.

DON'T  
SAY IT, LILY.  
PLEASE.

JUST  
DON'T.

## Elsewhere...

I ESTIMATE THAT YOU'LL BE WELCOMING HARRY TO THE TEAM IN A FEW DAYS. TRAINING WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

I EXPECT PROFESSIONALISM FROM ALL OF YOU, EVEN YOU, HAWKEYE.

AIN'T GONNA BE ME TINKLES ON THE BOSS'S SON. TRUST ME.



GARGAN, YOU'RE FIRST SHIFT ON MONITOR DUTY TONIGHT. I WANT TO TEST THE NEW FACILITY ON TWENTY-FIVE

CAN I ALSO BE FIRST SHIFT ON MS. MARVEL DUTY? WE'LL TEST HER OUT ON WHATEVER FLOOR YOU WANT...OR DESK...OR--

WHEN I REMOVE YOUR HEAD AND IMPLANT IT IN YOUR INTESTINES, THIS IS "WHY."

WHAT A TEASE.

ANNND...THE OSCAR FOR "BEST PORTRAYAL OF A PSYCHOPATHIC MULTI-PERSONA IN A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP" GOES TO...

21

22

23

24

25

SPIDER-MAN! WOW. I JUST WANT TO THANK THE ACADEMY. I WAS SO SURE THIS WAS GOING TO JULIA ROBERTS...

POOP.

"SO...HARRY! SORRY WE HAD THAT BLOWUP ABOUT HOW YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE AND ALL..."

"BY THE WAY, YOUR CRACKED-OUT MANIAC OF A DAD WANTS TO 'ROID YOU UP AND THROW YOU IN ARMOR SO YOU CAN BE THE POSTER CHILD FOR THE EVIL AVENGERS."

AND WE DON'T EVEN DARE ASK THE REAL QUESTION... "WHAT AM I GONNA DO IF HARRY WANTS THE JOB?"

PING

DAMN IT, HARRY. WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?

SINCE I'M CLEARLY SUCH A SUPER-GENIUS.

I BLINK  
AND THERE  
HE IS.

THERE'S  
NO SOUND.  
NO WARNING.  
NO NOTHING.

SPIDER-SENSE  
IS THE ONLY THING  
THAT KEEPS MY  
HEAD ATTACHED  
TO MY NECK.

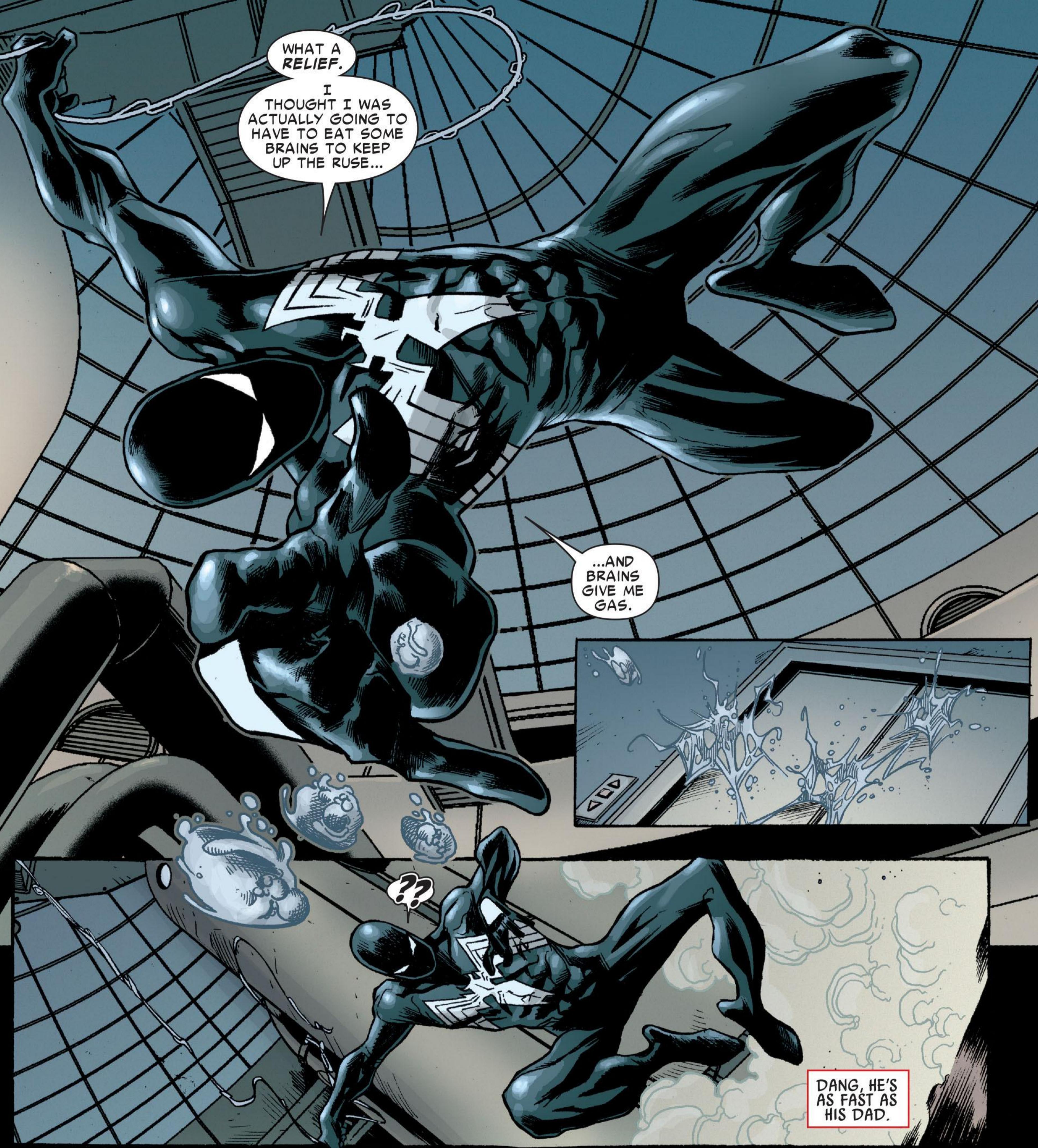
"MONITOR  
DUTY," YOU  
TOOL.  
CUTE  
COSTUME...

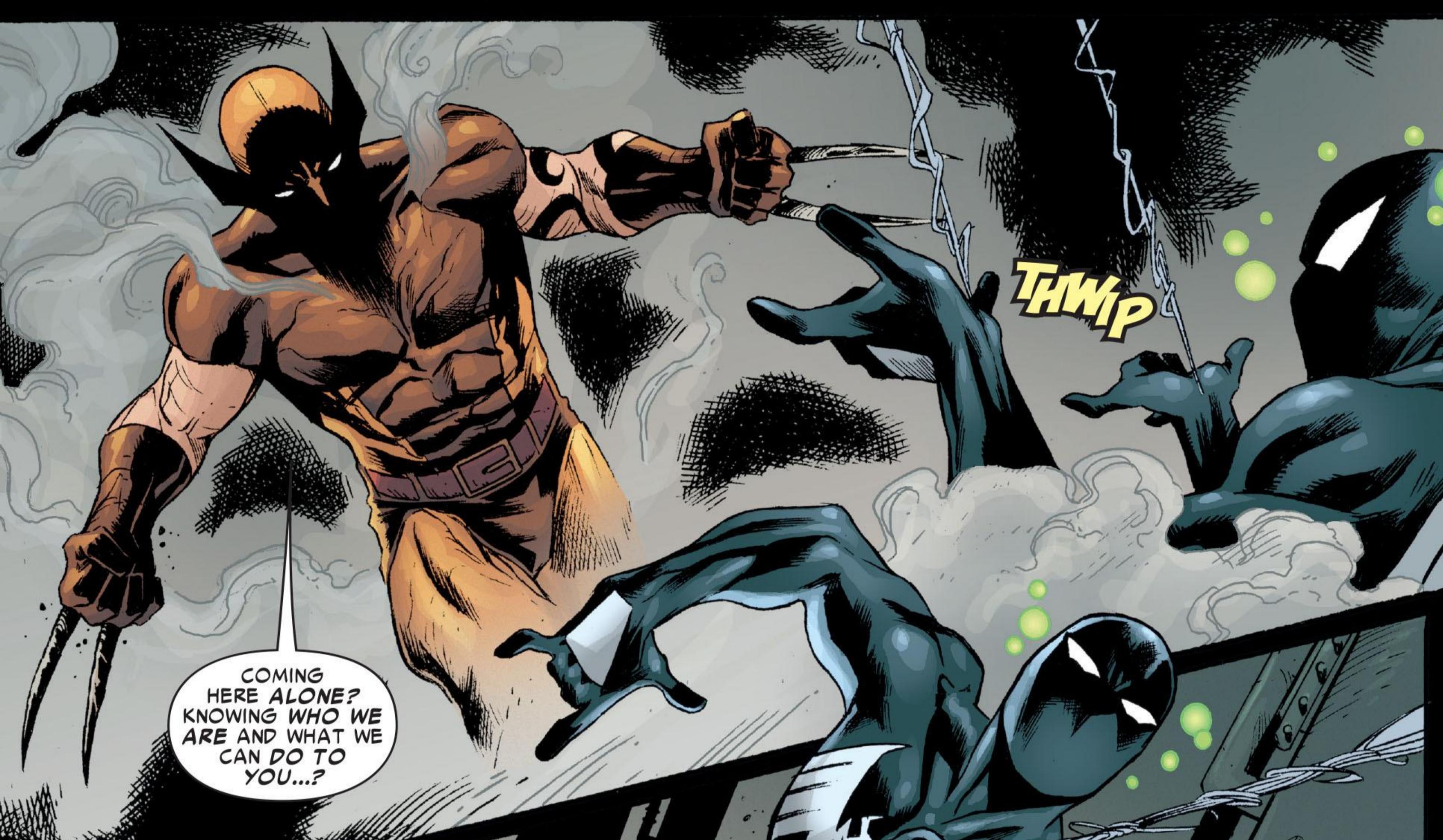
...BUT YOU  
FORGOT TO  
DO SOMETHING  
ABOUT THE  
SMELL.

YOU'RE  
TOO CLEAN  
FOR GARGAN.

GUESS JULIA  
GETS THAT OSCAR  
AFTER ALL.

FIGURES.  
SHE **ALWAYS**  
WINS.







EVERWHERE, HE'S EVERYWHERE AND  
NOWHERE AND WHY CAN'T I TAG THIS  
SLIMY WOLVERINE WANNABE--?

YOU  
SHOULD  
STOP  
NOW

I WANT  
TO MAKE  
SURE

THERE'S  
ENOUGH  
OF YOU

FOR  
OSBORN  
TO

PLAY  
WITH.

-HENK-

AND  
THERE'S A  
RIB.

PERHOMONES  
MESSING WITH  
MY FEELINGS,  
PERCEPTIONS...

THINK!

MAYBE I CAN STEAL A PAGE  
FROM MY FIGHT WITH THAT  
NEW VULTURE LAST WEEK. TAKE  
AWAY THE PERCEPTION...

...LEAVE IT ALL  
TO SPECTACULAR  
SPIDER-SENSES...

...AND PRAY HE  
DOESN'T DECIDE  
TO MIX THINGS UP  
AND USE A GUN.

BTW, I  
SPOKE TO  
YOUR DAD THE  
OTHER DAY...

...HE  
WANTED  
ME TO REMIND  
YOU NOT TO PICK  
YOUR NOSE WITH  
YOUR CLAWS OUT.  
HE WORRIES  
SO.

HE  
ALSO SAID TO  
TELL YOU THE  
MOHAWK IS COOL--  
FOR 1982.

AND THIS  
IS FROM A GUY  
WITH MUTTON-  
CHOPS...

...AND  
IMMUTABLE  
HELMET  
HEAD.

KRNGHHH

ZAKKKKT

SO WHEN  
THE KING OF  
THE FOLICALLY  
CHALLENGED SPEAKS...  
YOU SHOULD PUT  
DOWN THE GEL  
AND LISTEN!

SERVED.

S'WHAT  
YOU GET FOR  
SPRAYIN' PHEREMONES  
ALL OVER...WANNABE  
WOLVIE--

BEHIND--

SOMEONE  
BEHIND ME!

WHO'S  
THERE--?

SPIDER-MAN?

HARRY...

NO--I--YEAH. NOT YOUR  
DAD'S SPIDER-MAN. THE REAL...  
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD  
ME...

UNLESS  
YOU'RE DAKEN,  
THEN NOT SO  
FRIENDLY.

SORRY FOR  
THE RAMBLING.  
I LOST SOME  
BLOOD--

WHAT  
THE HELL ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?

PLANNING  
TO STASH  
THIS JERKWAD  
SOMEWHERE  
WHILE I LOOK  
FOR YOU.

YOU HAVE  
TO GET OUT  
OF HERE  
NOW.

DUDE, CALM  
DOWN.

THERE'S  
STUFF HAPPENING  
YOU NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT STORMIN'  
NORMAN AND  
WHAT HE'S GOT  
PLANNED FOR  
YOU...









To Be  
Continued...

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to  
[SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM)  
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

Hey everybody, assuming you're not crawled up in a ball on the floor in tears after that deadly cliffhanger, I hope you didn't forget to also pick up the exciting first issue of DARK REIGN: MR. NEGATIVE by Fred Van Lente and Gianluca Gugliotta. It's a fantastic 3-part look at one of Spidey's most mysterious new nemeses. It's on sale next week and I think you'll dig it.

Also look out for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN FAMILY #7 which features a beautiful tale by Roger Stern and Val Semeiks... looking at the history of Aunt May and Uncle Ben as May and Peter prepare for the big day. Read it and weep. Literally.

And now my two favorite letters of the month.

Spider-Man comics,

I like to read your comics. You are awesome. I like Spider-Man because he shoots webs and climbs walls. I have spiders. Sebastian and I like Spider-Man.

Milton Zuniga  
3rd grade

And Spider-Man likes you and your cool letter, Milton! You and Sebastian are welcome here anytime!



Dear Amazing Spider-Mail,

My daughter, Enid Jupiter, was born at home on our couch the day after Amazing Spider-Man #580 came out and I snapped this photo of her posing with the latest issue in hopes of her growing up to share my love of your fine magazine.



I'm one of those collectors that has a complete set of Spider-Man comics and all of the original 1960's Marvel-related items. I've spent twenty years compiling all of this and am well-aware that when she's old enough, Enid will probably just sell it all off for beer money.

Perhaps if she appears within the pages of The Amazing Spider-Mail, she'll think twice about undoing all of my hard work. I can only assume that an affinity for nostalgia is hereditary and she'll keep my collection going if she's physically (in ink) connected to this legacy.

I'd certainly appreciate any help in the

matter.

Gareth Kyle Gaudin  
Legends Comics & Books  
Victoria, BC

Gareth, I expect big things from Enid now. If you start reading an issue of Amazing Spider-Man to her everyday, you should be all caught up by time she's three.

And if she's HALF the beer drinker Brennan is, she'll only have an arrest record in 11 states. So good luck!



Dear Steve,

I have a simple solution to the pink web fluid idea suggested by Ben Olson in #584: divide the tank of fluid inside the web shooter into two smaller tanks, a large one for regular fluid and a much smaller one behind it for pink fluid. Then, it would be a simple engineering trick (especially for someone as smart as Spidey) to just have the smaller tank take over when the main one runs out.

Voila! Instant low-on-web-fluid indicator.

On another note about #584, there's no way Harry would be able to take Lily up the Statue of Liberty's arm - it's been sealed off for years due to low structural integrity (aka-if you climbed up there, it'd probably break off).

Anyway, keep up the awesome comic! I haven't enjoyed Spider-Man this much in years.

Martin Nixon  
Via e-mail

Martin, you underestimate the power of the Osborn name to open up and reinforce closed monuments. He obviously paid off the maintenance crew.

And next summer we'll be working on an incredibly dull 5-issue mini focusing only on that very scene! On sale soon!



Dear Webheads and Wacker,

In the current comics industry where every war, crisis, and invasion event amounts to no more than a 4th of July sparkler providing mostly fizz with an occasional spark which leaves the reader with nothing more than a charred metal stick of a story in the end, two Spidey events have been a proverbial light in the dark.

And what's more, New Ways to Die and Character Assassination have felt more like events than any of the aforementioned... and guess what? They were both contained within one title! No tie-ins necessary; just a year's worth of great one shots, 2 and 3 issue arcs of self-contained stories carrying on plot points that culminate in great, event-worthy stories.

With the structure of the book, I never

feel like I'm reading a 6-issue story written in 6 issues simply for the sake of the inevitable trade. In fact, I'm still catching my breath from the last huge story and here comes another one: American Son.

Keep bringing them and I'll keep reading them. Thanks for making Spider-Man a must read book every month.

Steve from Kokomo

Thanks, Steve. We've heard a lot about "event fatigue" from fans of all stripes over the past few months and it was one of the reasons the Web-Heads have tried to keep Amazing relatively clear of some of the major events while still reflecting the things going on in the Marvel Universe.

However, it's hard to argue with the fact that these big stories work and certainly get a lot of attention. Everyone at Marvel has worked extremely hard the past couple years trying to make sure that when we do one of these big event stories, it's worth the effort (and cash!) fans were going to spend to track down the whole story. Now you can't please everyone (and I have the e-mail to prove it!), but hopefully you've found some stories you've liked along the way.

With American Son's main antagonist being Norman Osborn, we think we had a pretty good opportunity to tie Amazing into Marvel's larger Dark Reign story without it being dependent on 100 other comics.

As always though, readers will be the final judge.

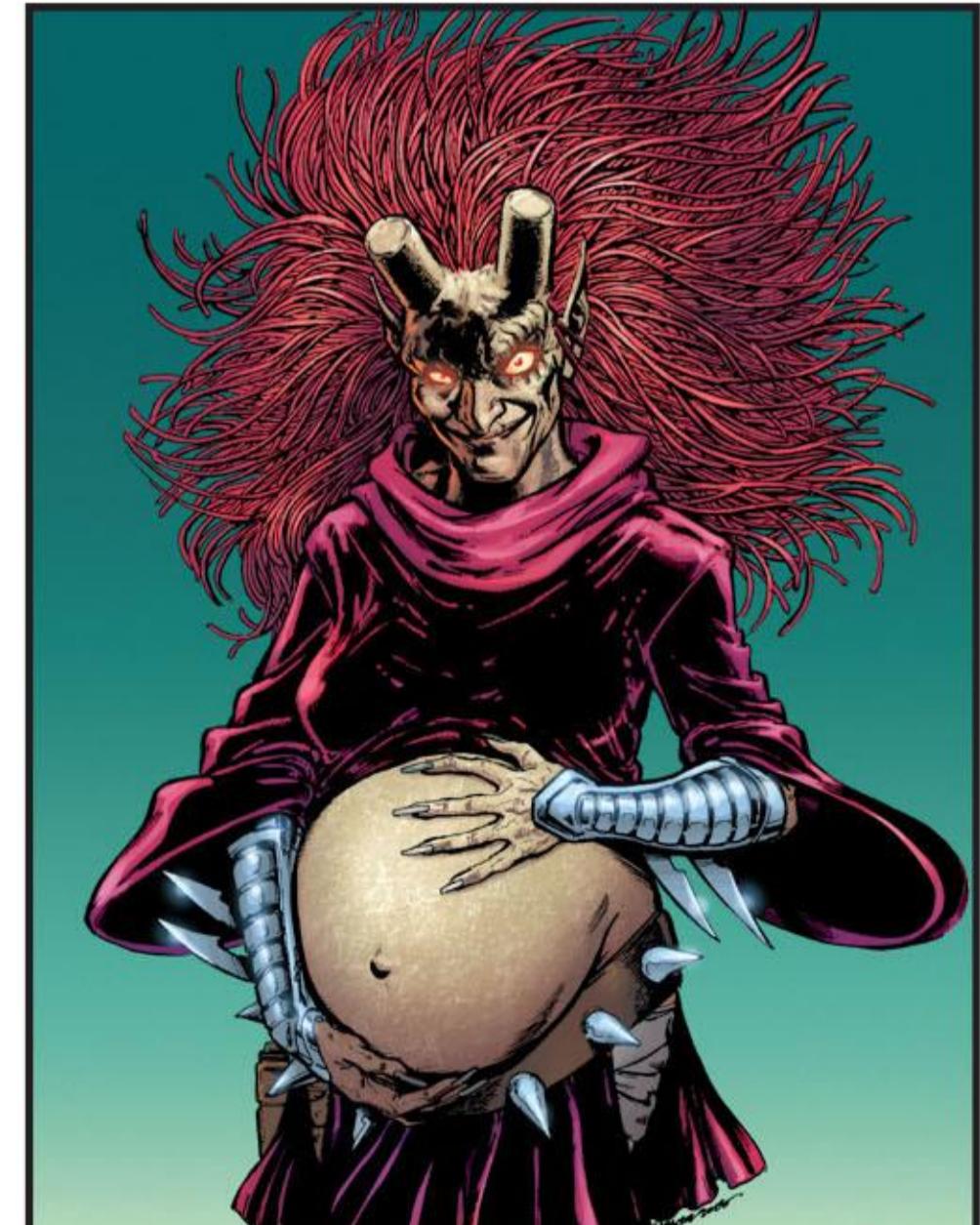


That's it, gang, see ya in a couple weeks for ASM 598!

Viva Templar!  
Simperin' Steve

This week's cover was by Phil Jimenez and Chris Chuckry.

NEXT WEEK



MUST...LOOK...AWAY!!!!

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