

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR

MARVEL
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Straczynski
Kirkham
Leisten

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



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Garcia
06



"I BEGIN TO SEE WHY
YOU'VE GONE THROUGH
FORTY-SEVEN VERSIONS OF
YOUR IRON MAN ARMOR."

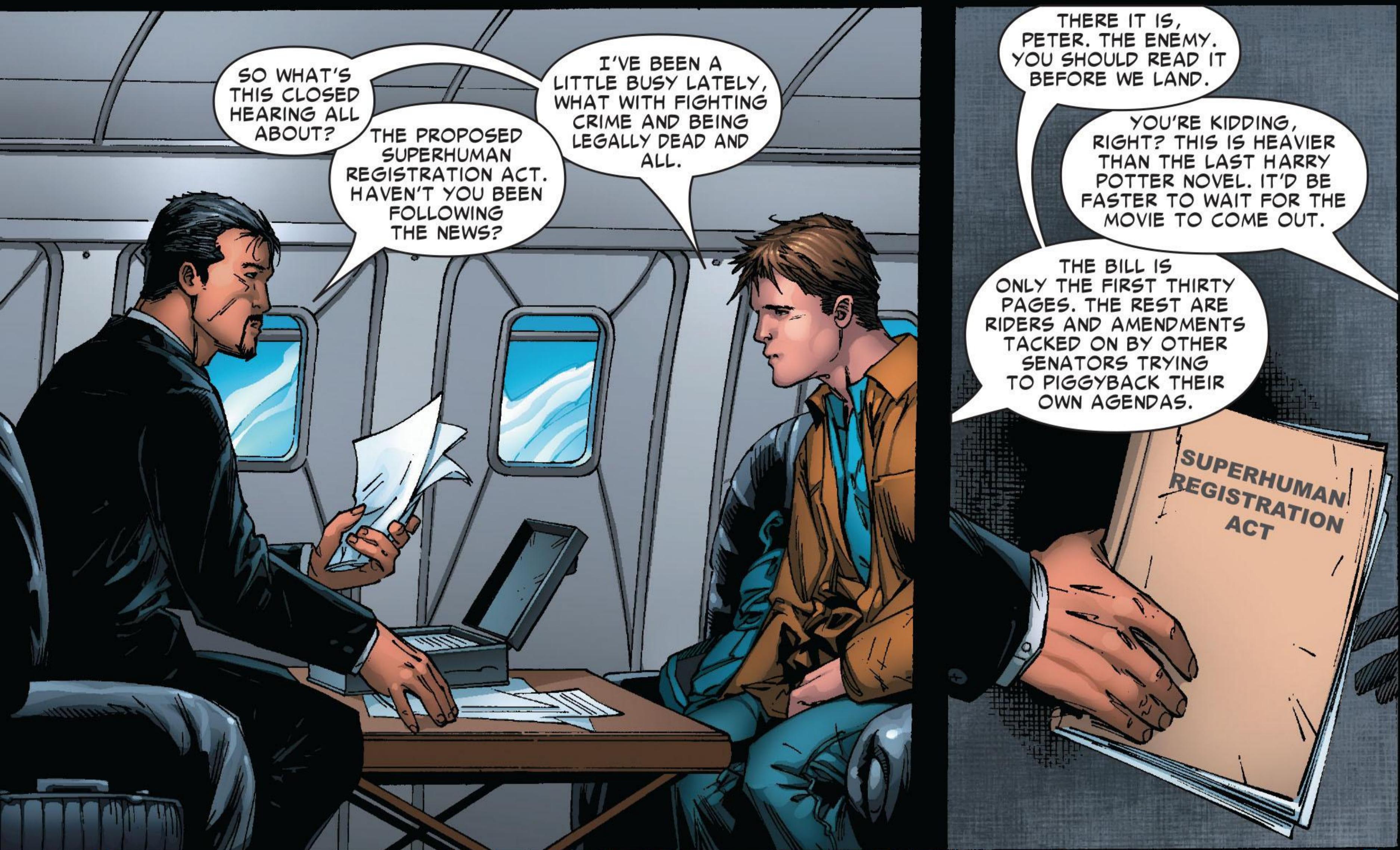
"FORTY-NINE."

"WHATEVER."



Mr. Parker Goes to Washington

PART TWO OF THREE



"BECAUSE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE OTHER OPTIONS IS JUST DOWNRIGHT UGLY."

EDITOR'S NOTE: SOME OF US AT MARVEL DISAGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT, AND FEEL THAT MANY OF THOSE OPTIONS ARE PERFECTLY REASONABLE.

EDITOR'S NOTE: OKAY, BUT THE REST OF US DON'T FEEL THAT WAY.

EDITOR'S NOTE: WHO ASKED YOU?

EDITOR'S NOTE: LOOK, WE'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THIS--

EDITOR'S NOTE: YOU'RE NOT LISTENING--

MEET BACK HERE IN TWENTY MINUTES?

DONE AND DONE, BOSS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: NO, YOU LISTEN! I'M TIRED OF YOU ROLLING IN HERE EVERY DAY AT NOON, DRINKING ALL THE COFFEE WITHOUT MAKING A FRESH POT, TAKING THREE-HOUR LUNCHES, AND THEN THINKING YOU CAN COME IN HERE AND TELL ME HOW TO--

EDITOR'S NOTE: SSSSH! WATCH IT, QUESADA'S COMING DOWN THE HALL!

EDITOR'S NOTE: MOVE ALONG, NOTHING HERE TO SEE.

OKAY, PETER, HERE'S A RUNDOWN OF YOUR UPGRADES.

EDITOR'S NOTE: YEAH, JUST THE WHOLE MARVEL UNIVERSE ABOUT TO IMplode.

EDITOR'S NOTE: WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP!?!?

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...I'VE ADJUSTED THE FABRIC SO IT USES A LIQUID METAL NANO-FIBER THAT CAN MORE OR LESS DISAPPEAR WHEN NOT NEEDED.

SO YOU CAN WEAR IT UNDERNEATH YOUR ORDINARY CLOTHES AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT. IT RESPONDS TO NEUROCHEMICAL IMPULSES, SO ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS THINK IT THERE--

--AND IT'LL BE THERE.

COOL.

THE NANO-FIBER CAN ALSO CONFORM TO OTHER STYLES YOU'VE AFFECTED OVER THE YEARS.

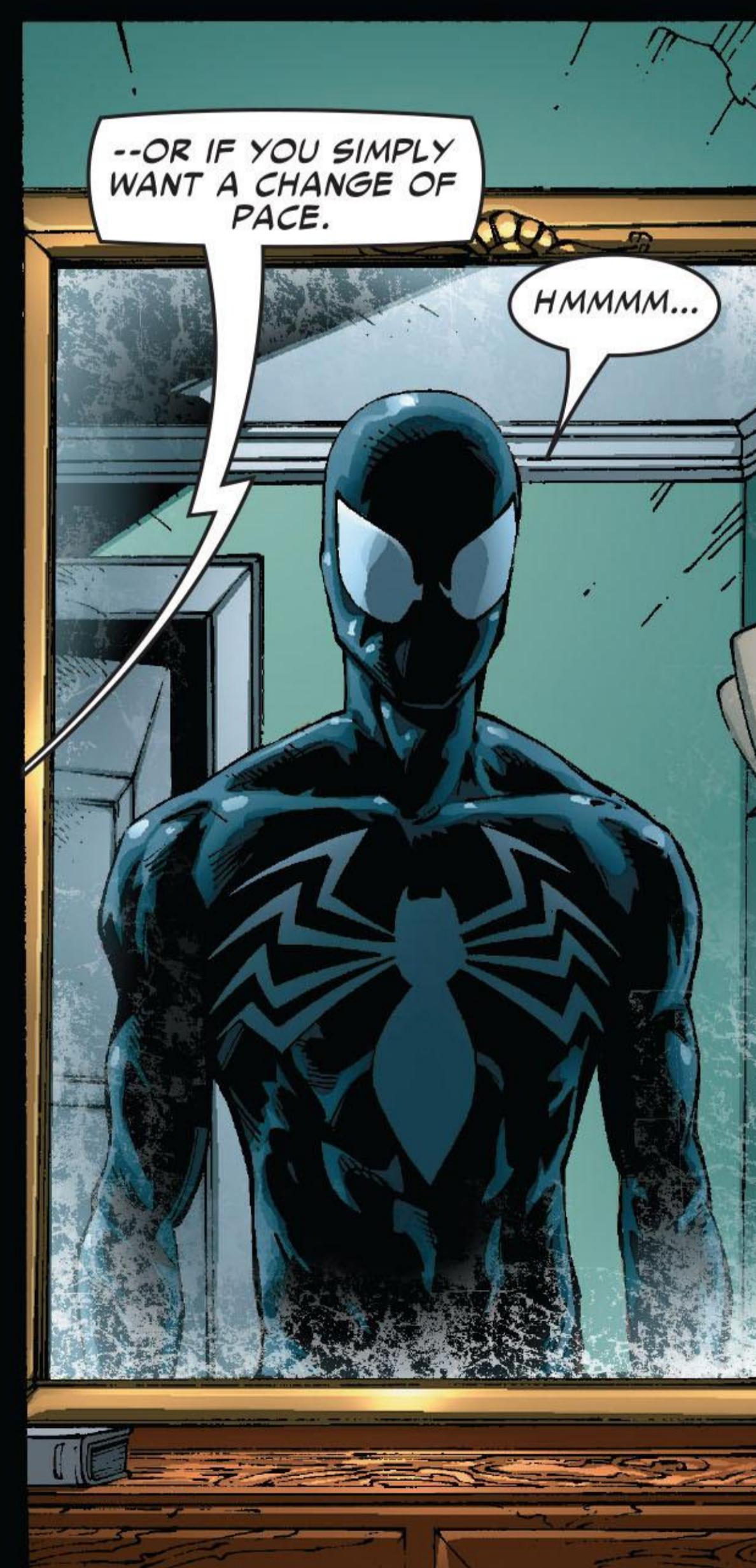
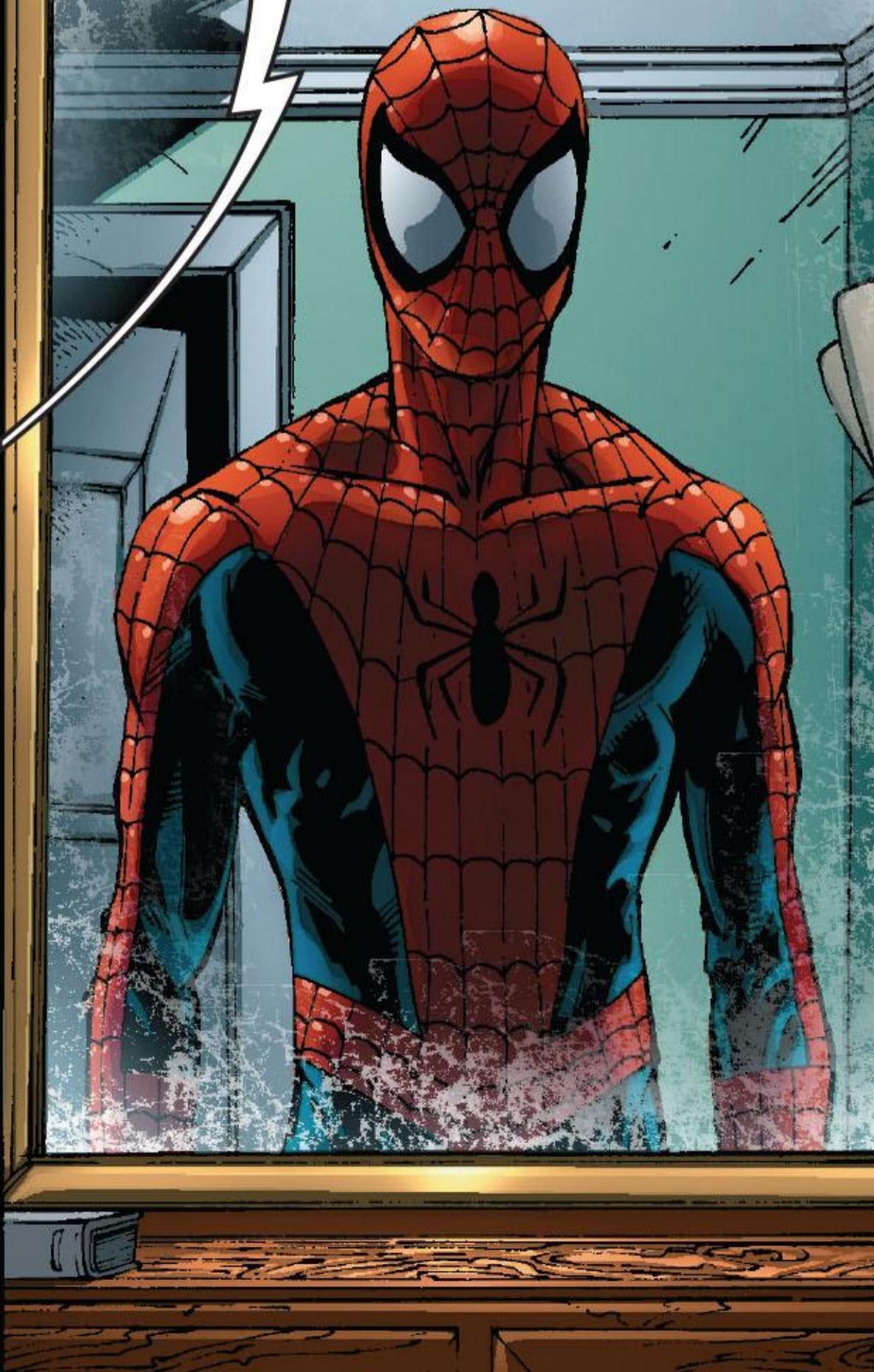
IN CASE YOU WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE SOUPED-UP VERSION--

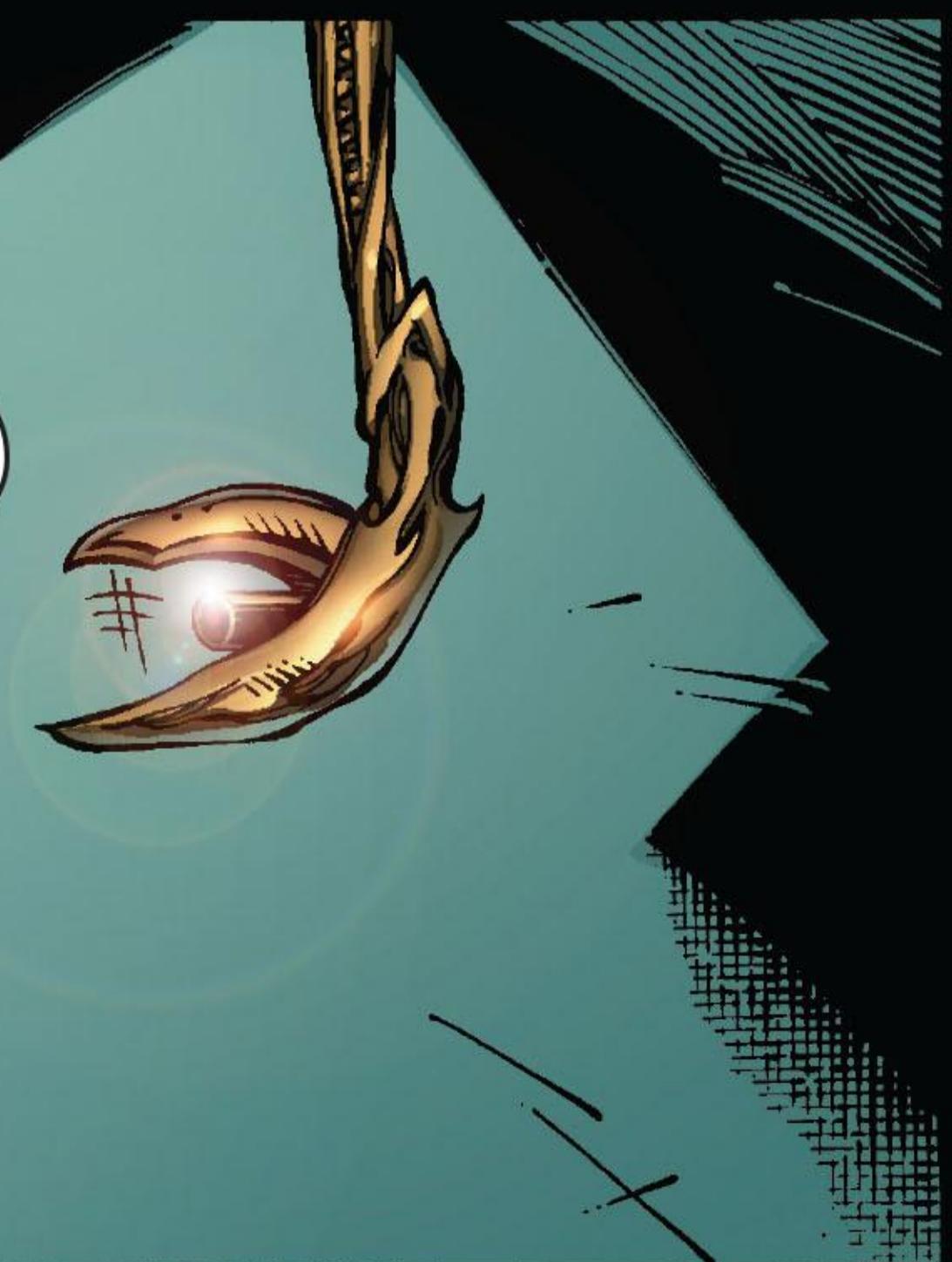
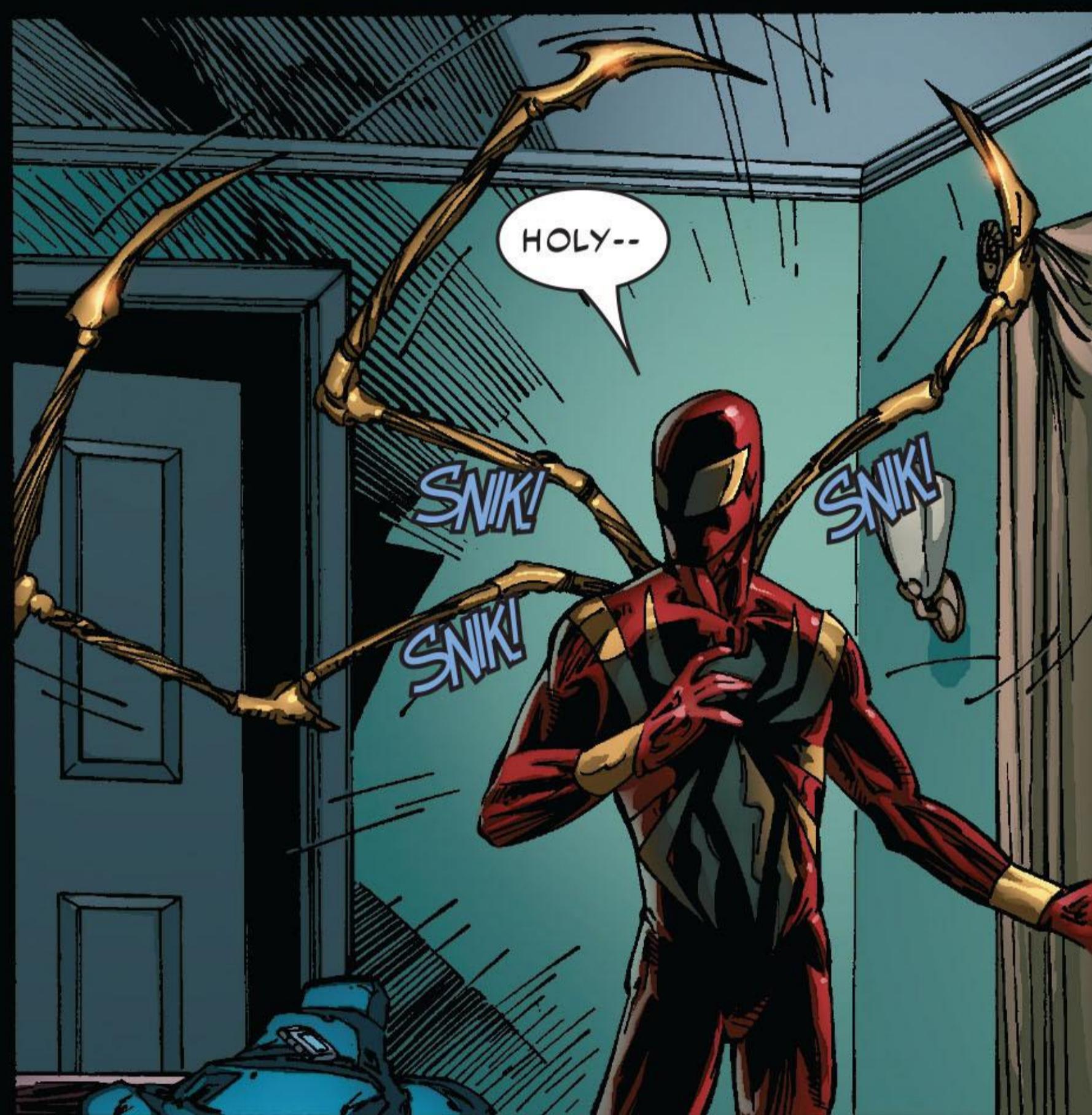
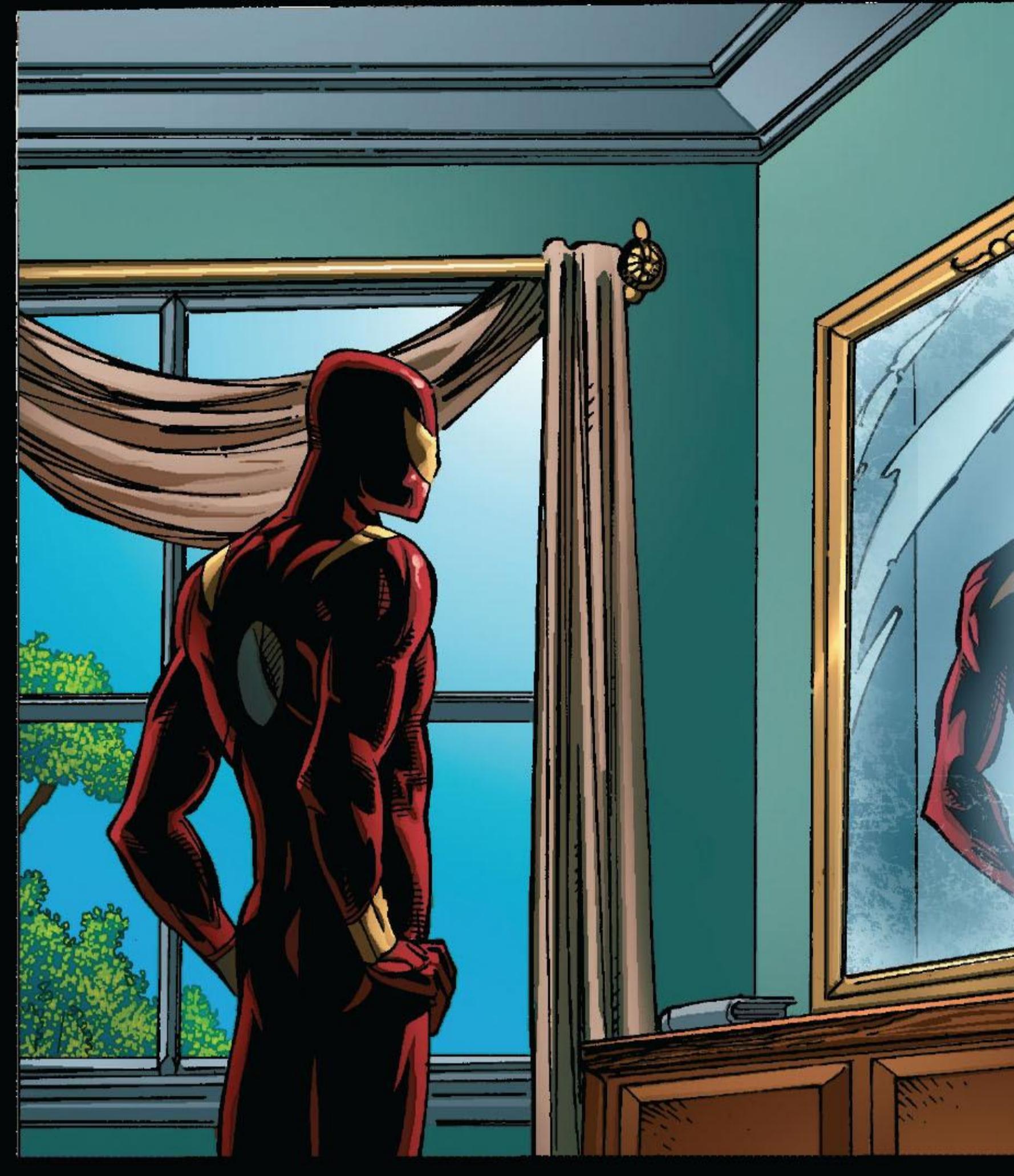
--OR IF YOU SIMPLY WANT A CHANGE OF PACE.

THE SUIT CAN ALSO BLEND INTO A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS. THE DARKER THE BACKGROUND, THE BETTER THE CAMOUFLAGE.

BUT I'VE SAVED THE BEST PART FOR LAST.

HMMMM...





SO TELL THE TRUTH,
BOSS...WAS THAT BIT WITH
THE WALDOES YOUR VERSION
OF "PULL MY FINGER"?

I
THOUGHT
YOU'D BE
AMUSED.

I WAS...
AFTER I PEELED
MYSELF OFF THE
CEILING.

AND YOU'LL
BE SEEING A BILL FOR
THE DAMAGES REFLECTED
ON YOUR DIAMOND
AMERICAN EXPRESS
CARD.



"JUST A MOMENT'S AMUSEMENT SINCE
THINGS ARE GOING TO GET VERY SERIOUS,
VERY QUICKLY, AND THERE MAY NOT BE
MUCH ROOM FOR LEVITY LATER ON."

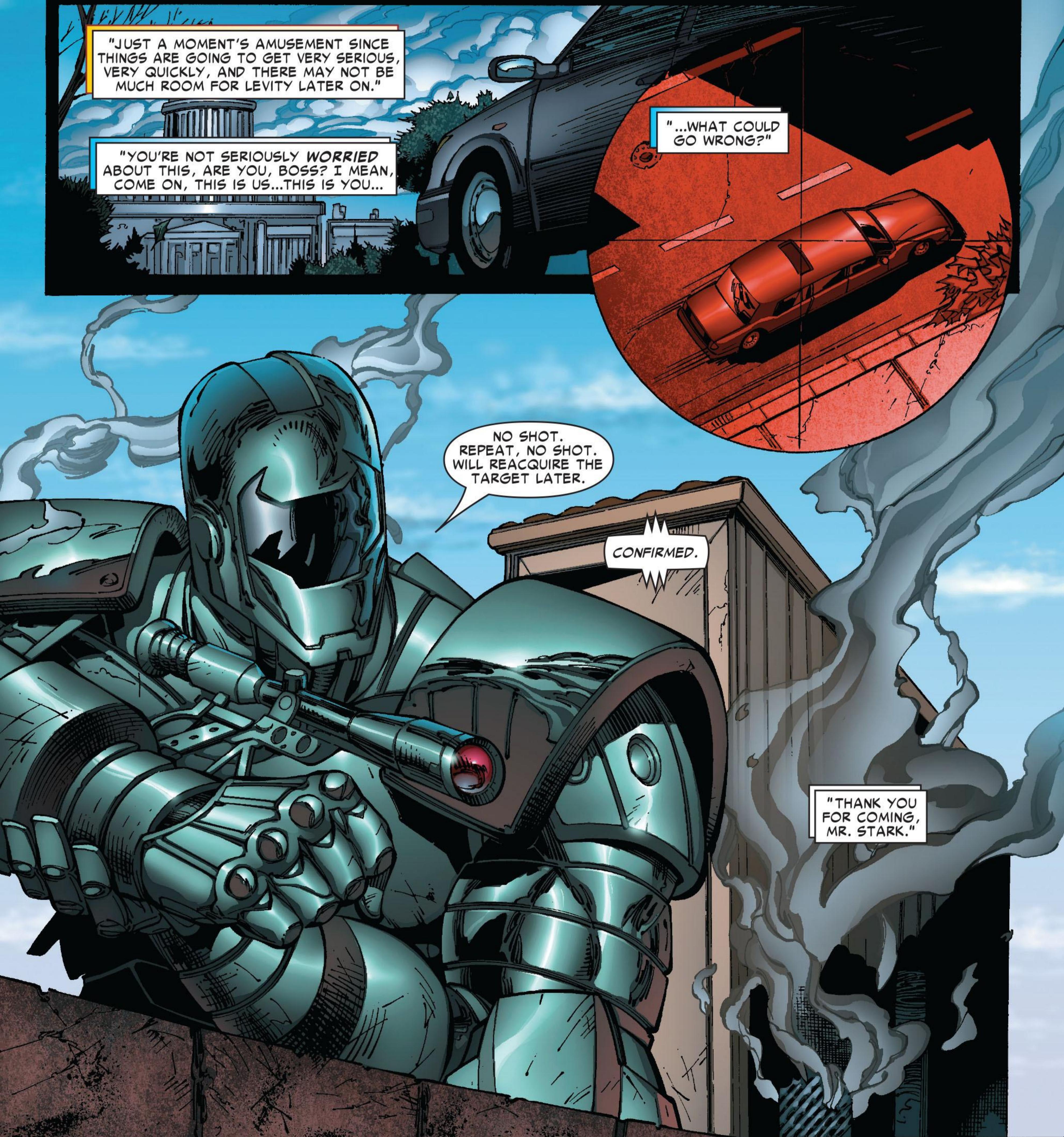
"YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY WORRIED
ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU, BOSS? I MEAN,
COME ON, THIS IS US...THIS IS YOU..."

"...WHAT COULD
GO WRONG?"

NO SHOT.
REPEAT, NO SHOT.
WILL REACQUIRE THE
TARGET LATER.

CONFIRMED.

"THANK YOU
FOR COMING,
MR. STARK."



WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE YOU HERE TODAY, BOTH IN YOUR ROLE AS AN INDUSTRIALIST, A FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND, OF COURSE, AS IRON MAN.

FORMER IRON MAN, SENATOR DICKERSON.

YES, OF COURSE, WHAT WAS I THINKING?

OH, WAIT, I KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING.

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD GIVE THAT SAME ANSWER IF YOU WERE UNDER OATH, WHICH CARRIES WITH IT THE PENALTY OF PERJURY?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT, MR. STARK?



I SAY...
...THAT THE SENATOR CAN PUT ME UNDER OATH IF HE SO WISHES. BUT THAT WAS NOT THE UNDERSTANDING WHEN I WAS ASKED TO APPEAR HERE. IF I AM TO TESTIFY UNDER OATH, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO RECESS UNTIL I CAN BRING IN COUNSEL TO APPEAR WITH ME.

THAT IS STANDARD PROTOCOL WHEN SPEAKING UNDER OATH, IS IT NOT?

SO THIS YOUNG MAN IS NOT COUNSEL?

NO, SIR. THIS IS PETER PARKER, AN ASSOCIATE AT STARK INDUSTRIES, WHO I HIRED FOR BOTH HIS SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE AND HIS WORK AS A PHOTOJOURNALIST CHRONICLING A NUMBER OF POWERED HEROES OVER THE YEARS.

UHMM... HI.
YOU'LL SPEAK WHEN YOU'RE SPOKEN TO, SON.
YESSIR.

WELL, NEXT TIME, THEN, I SUPPOSE.

BECAUSE I THINK IT VERY LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME, MR. STARK.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S PROCEED.

THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR WHITMORE.



MR. STARK,
THE PRESENCE WITHIN
THE UNITED STATES OF
SUPERHUMANS, OR SUPER
HEROES, AS SOME CALL THEM,
WAS MOST PRONOUNCED IN THE
YEARS AFTER THE SECOND
WORLD WAR, STARTING
AROUND 1946.

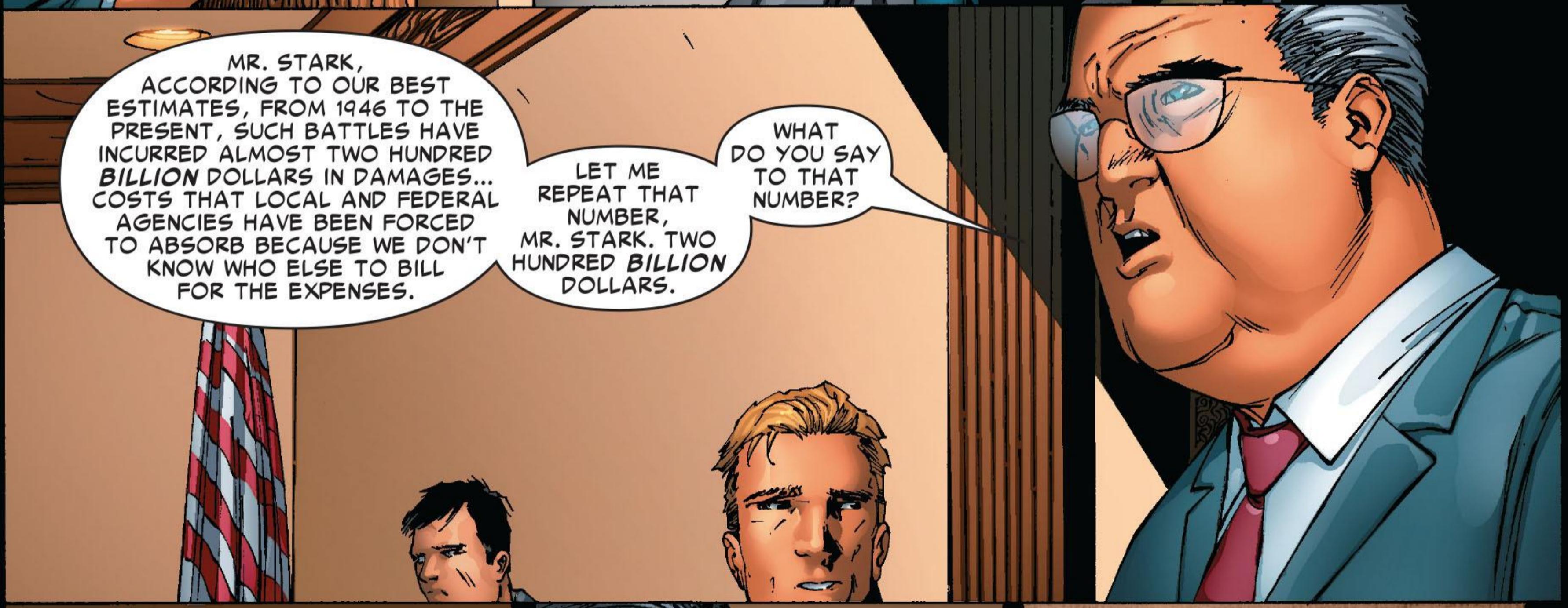


"THESE INDIVIDUALS, OPERATING
IN DISGUISE, THEIR IDENTITIES
UNKNOWN, FREQUENTLY ENGAGED
IN BRUTAL CONFLICTS IN WHICH
SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE WAS DONE
TO LIFE AND PROPERTY."

MR. STARK,
ACCORDING TO OUR BEST
ESTIMATES, FROM 1946 TO THE
PRESENT, SUCH BATTLES HAVE
INCURRED ALMOST TWO HUNDRED
BILLION DOLLARS IN DAMAGES...
COSTS THAT LOCAL AND FEDERAL
AGENCIES HAVE BEEN FORCED
TO ABSORB BECAUSE WE DON'T
KNOW WHO ELSE TO BILL
FOR THE EXPENSES.

LET ME
REPEAT THAT
NUMBER,
MR. STARK. TWO
HUNDRED BILLION
DOLLARS.

WHAT
DO YOU SAY
TO THAT
NUMBER?



MY RESPONSE
TO THAT NUMBER...IS
ANOTHER NUMBER.

FORTY-
SEVEN.

FORTY-
SEVEN.
FORTY-
SEVEN WHAT?

FORTY-
SEVEN OCCASIONS
ON WHICH SUPER HEROES
PREVENTED THE ENTIRE
NORTH AMERICAN
CONTINENT FROM BEING
VAPORIZED, CONQUERED
OR NUKED BACK INTO
THE STONE AGE.

THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE BUDGET
FOR 2006 ALONE IS 419
BILLION DOLLARS.

TWO HUNDRED
BILLION, OVER SIXTY YEARS,
IS THREE HUNDRED MILLION
PER YEAR. THAT'S LESS
THAN THE PENTAGON SPENT
JUST THIS YEAR ON CERAMIC
BODY ARMOR.

FOR SAVING
THE ENTIRE NATION,
FORTY-SEVEN TIMES
OVER.

I THINK
WE'RE GETTING
OFF CHEAP,
SENATOR.

THAT'S A VERY PRETTY SPEECH, MR. STARK, BUT IT DOESN'T REALLY ADDRESS THE POINT. WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, DON'T WE?

YES, SIR.

SO THESE SELF-PROCLAIMED HEROES ALSO MAKE MISTAKES?

AND DON'T YOU THINK THEY SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THOSE MISTAKES?

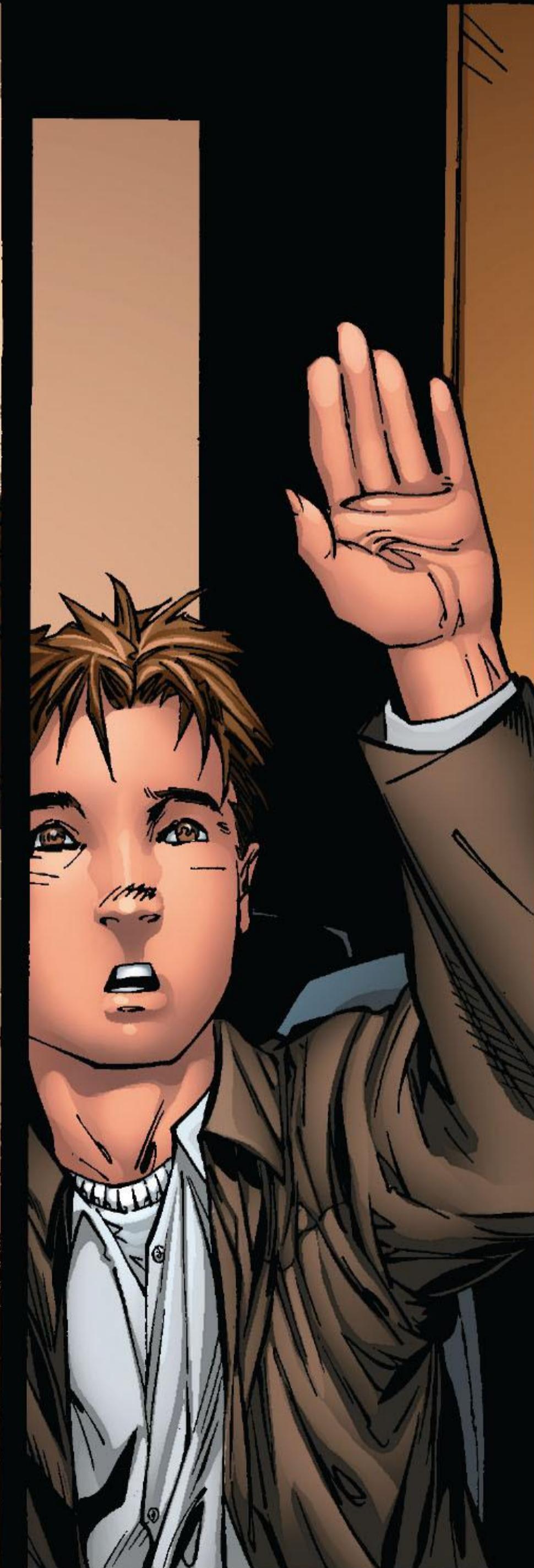
YES, SIR.

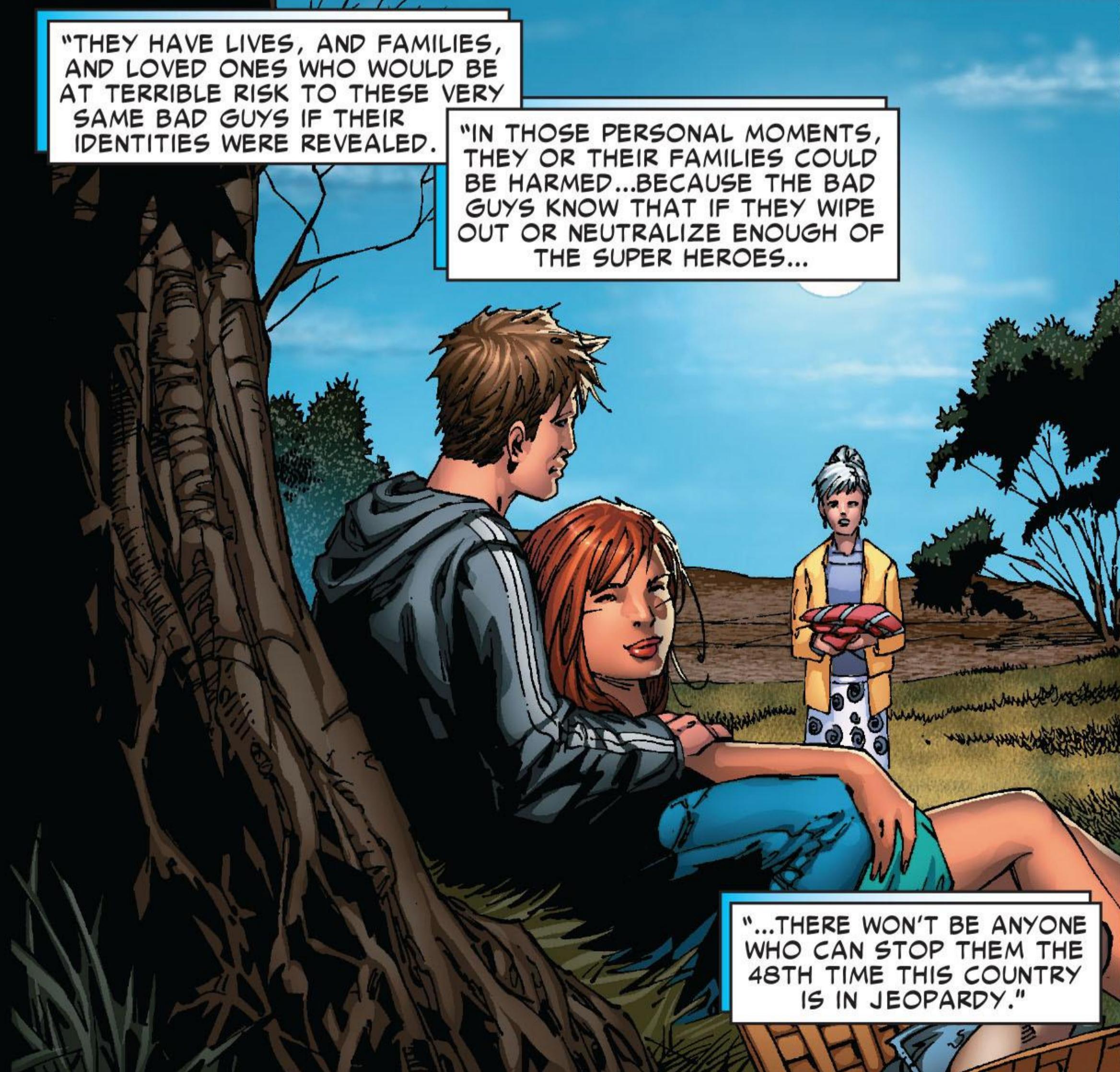
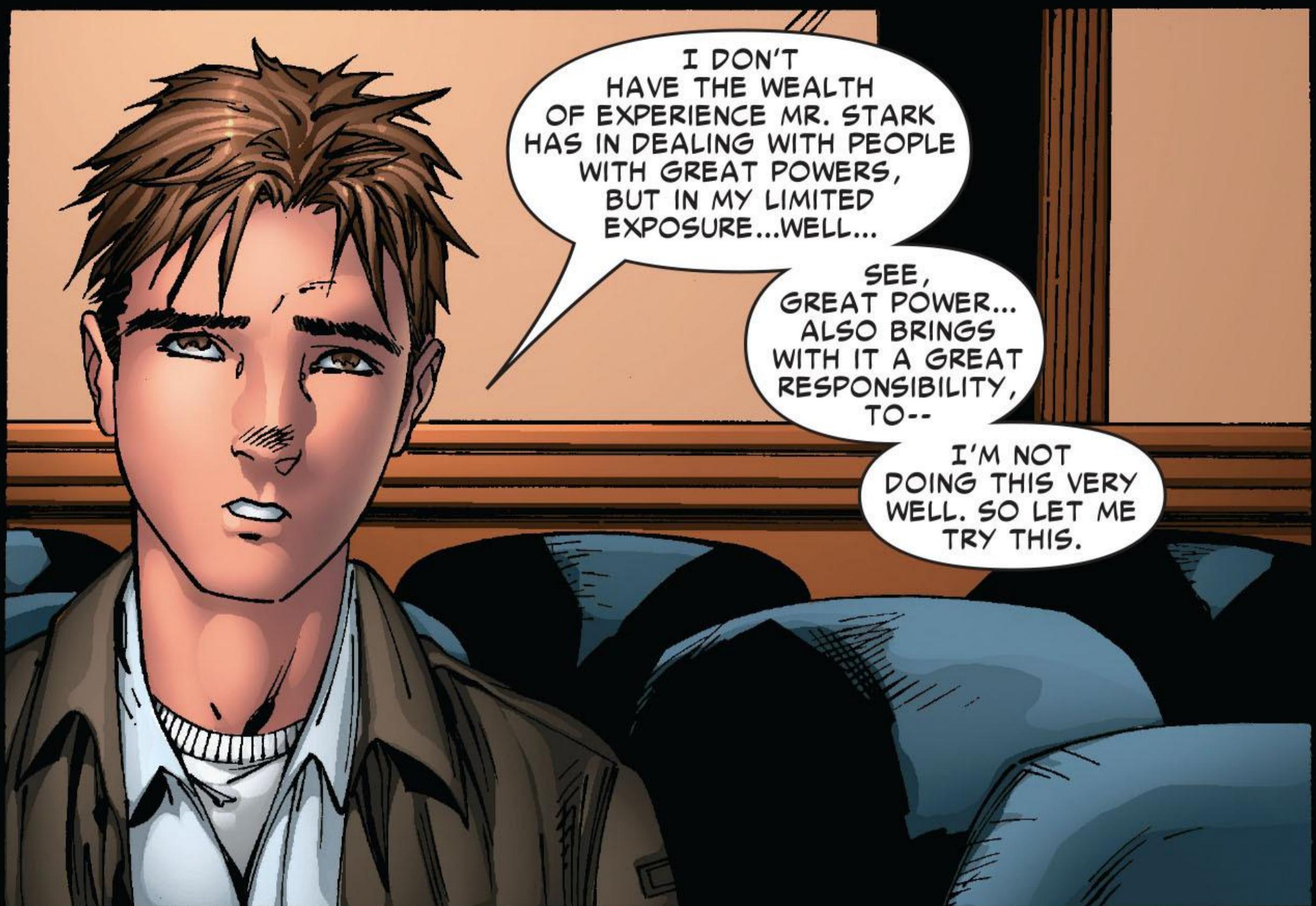
DOCTORS HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE AMA, PILOTS HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE FAA...HECK, TAXI DRIVERS HAVE TO REGISTER WITH THE LOCAL DMV...SO THAT IF THERE'S AN ACCIDENT, THEY CAN BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

IF A CAB DRIVER HAS TO REGISTER IN CASE THERE'S A FENDER-BENDER, WHY SHOULD WE EXEMPT INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN DO SUCH TREMENDOUS DAMAGE?

WELL, MR. STARK? DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER FOR THAT?

NO, SENATOR. I'M AFRAID I DON'T.





"...BUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE ASPIRED TO THOSE JOBS. MOST SUPER HEROES NEVER ASKED FOR THESE POWERS, NEVER WANTED THEM. BUT ONCE THEY HAD THEM--

--THEY KNEW THAT THEY HAD TO DO WHAT WAS **RIGHT** IN A SYSTEM THAT WOULD NEVER ALLOW THEM TO OPERATE OPENLY.

"THEY'RE TRYING TO HELP, SENATOR."

BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLER IF THEY COULD REGISTER, PRIVATELY AND SECURELY, WITH AN AGENCY THAT WOULD THEN ALLOW THEM TO DO WHAT YOU DESCRIBE OPENLY AND **LEGALLY**?

IF YOU WERE, SAY, ANT-MAN, WOULDN'T IT BE A **COMFORT** TO YOU TO KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE WERE YOUR **ALLY**, NOT YOUR **ENEMY**?

IF ANYTHING, YOU MAY HAVE JUST MADE THE MOST COMPELLING CASE OF ALL FOR JUST THE KIND OF REGISTRATION WE'RE DEBATING HERE TODAY.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

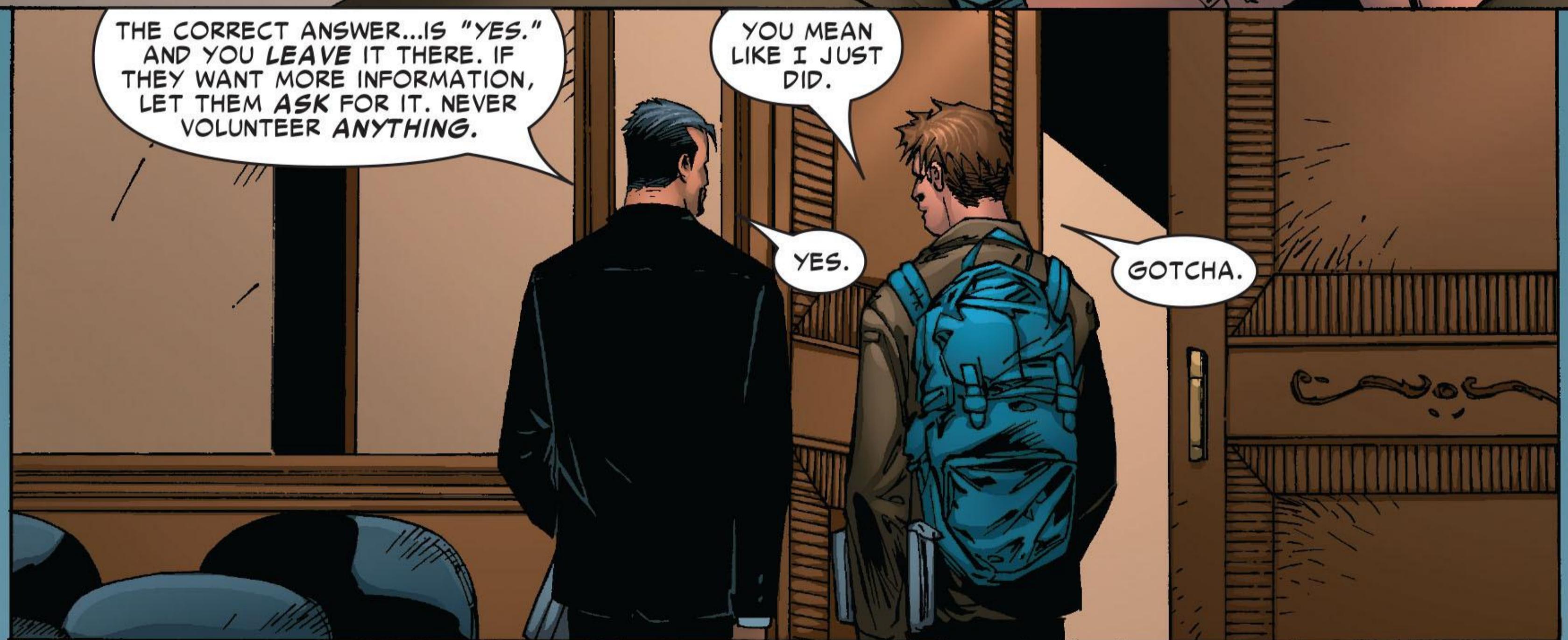
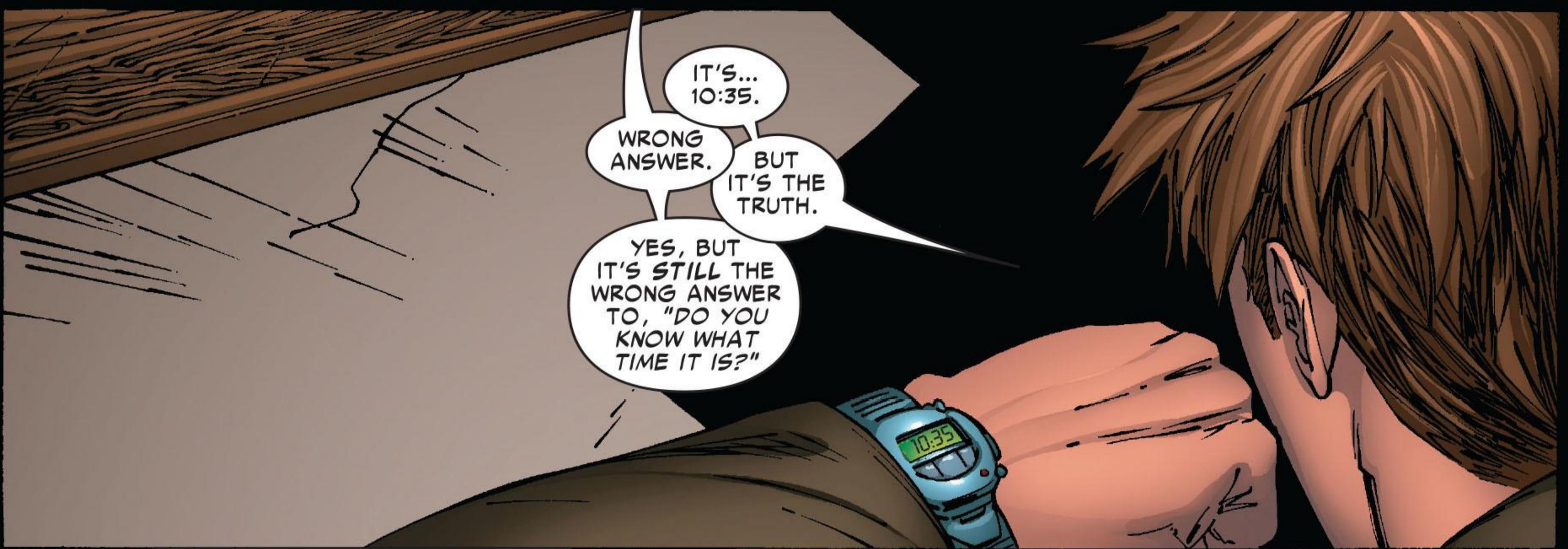
I--

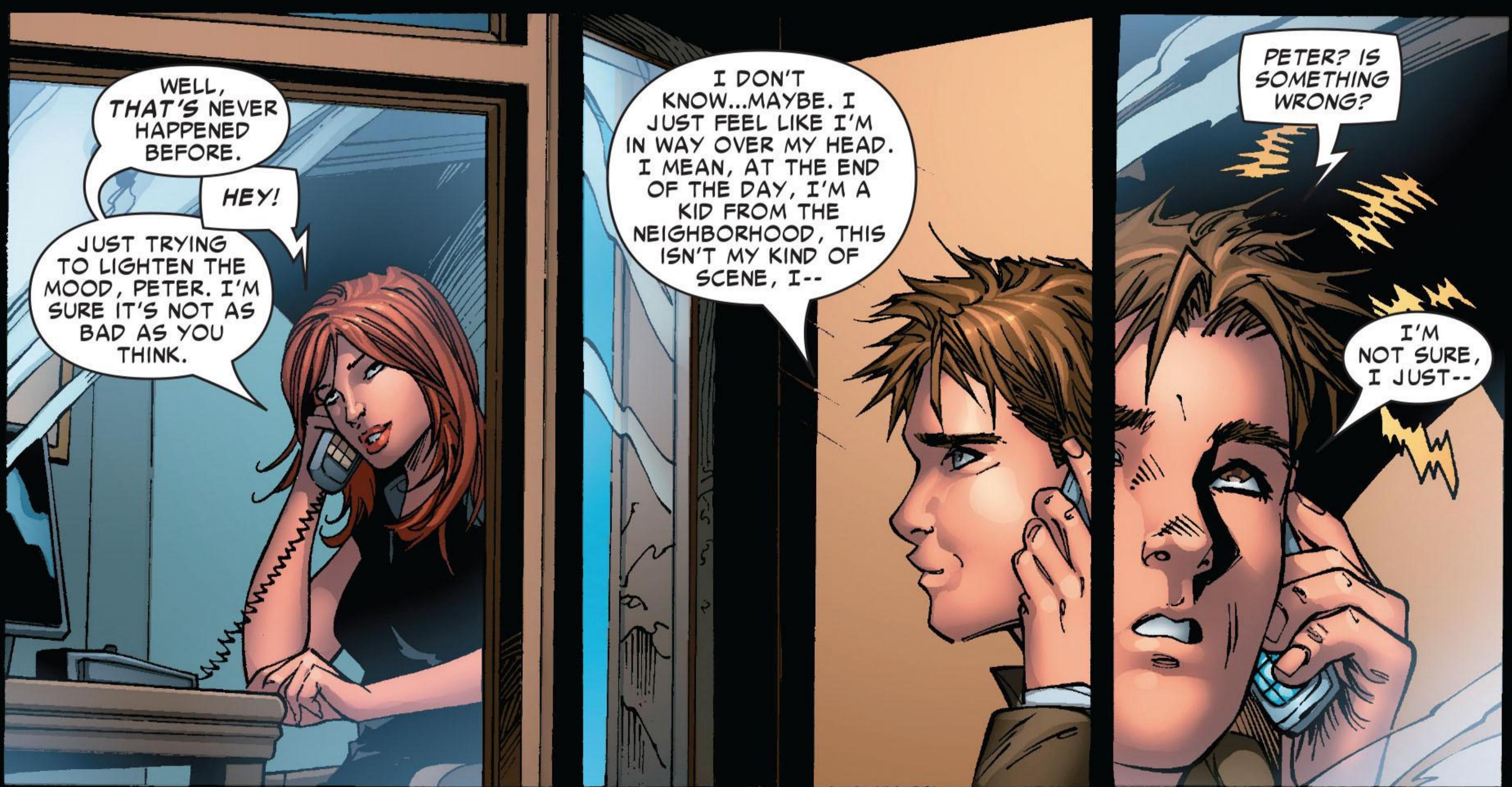
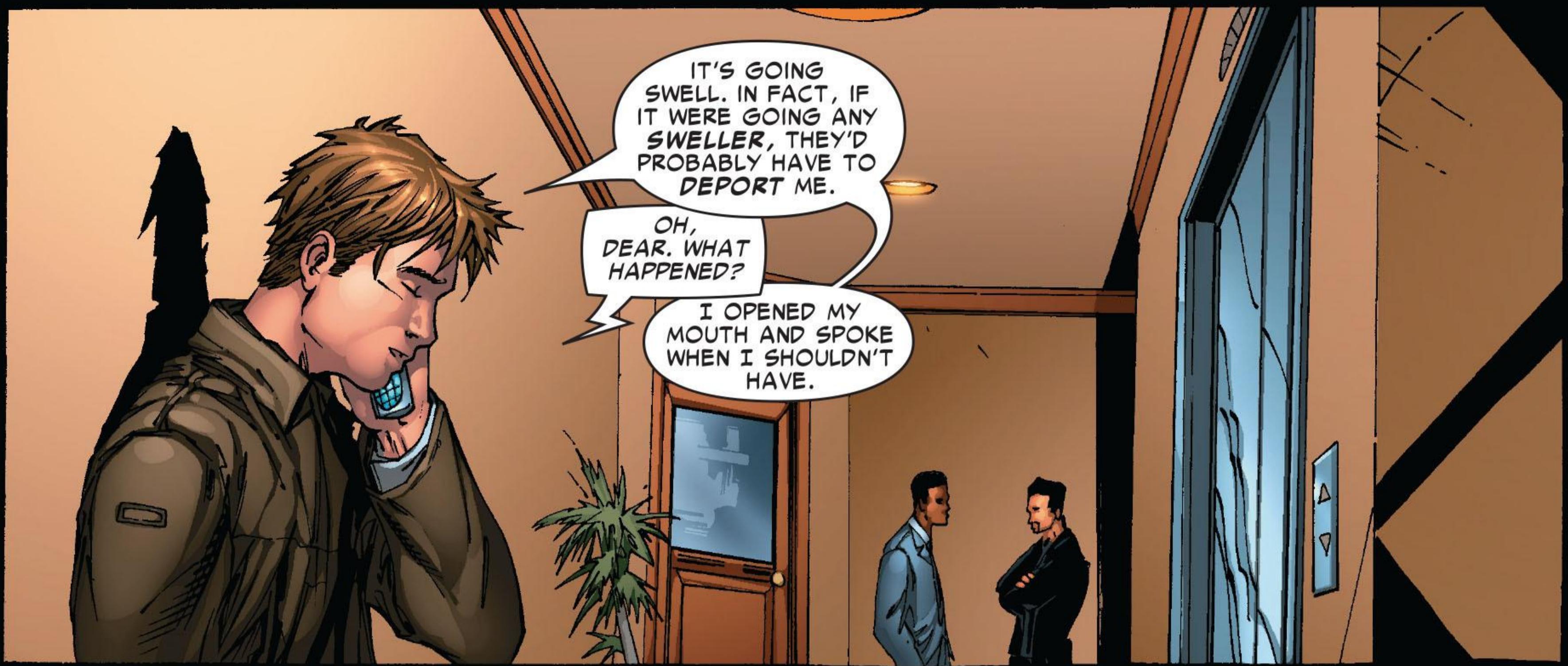
--PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ELSE.

I AGREE.

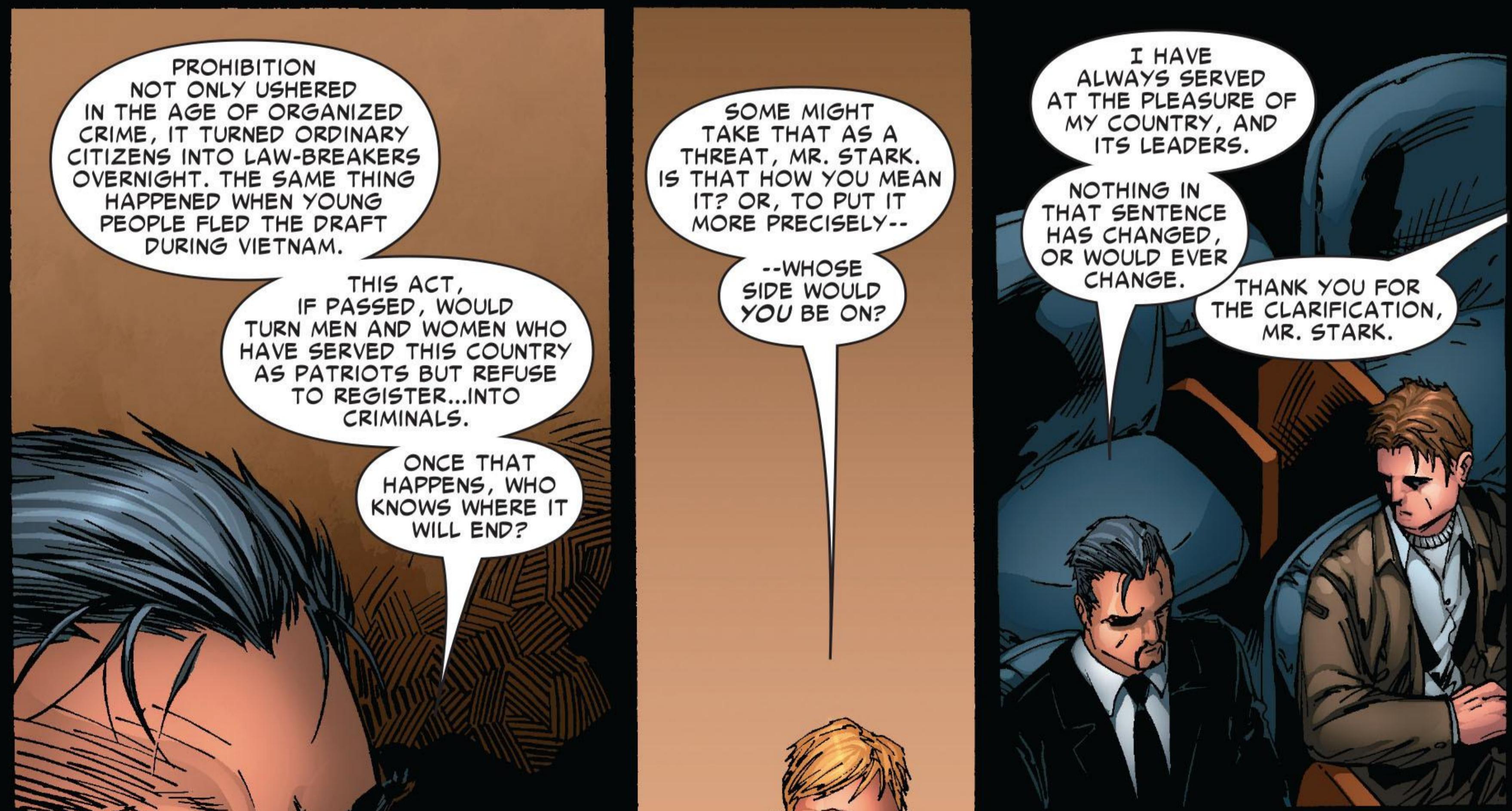
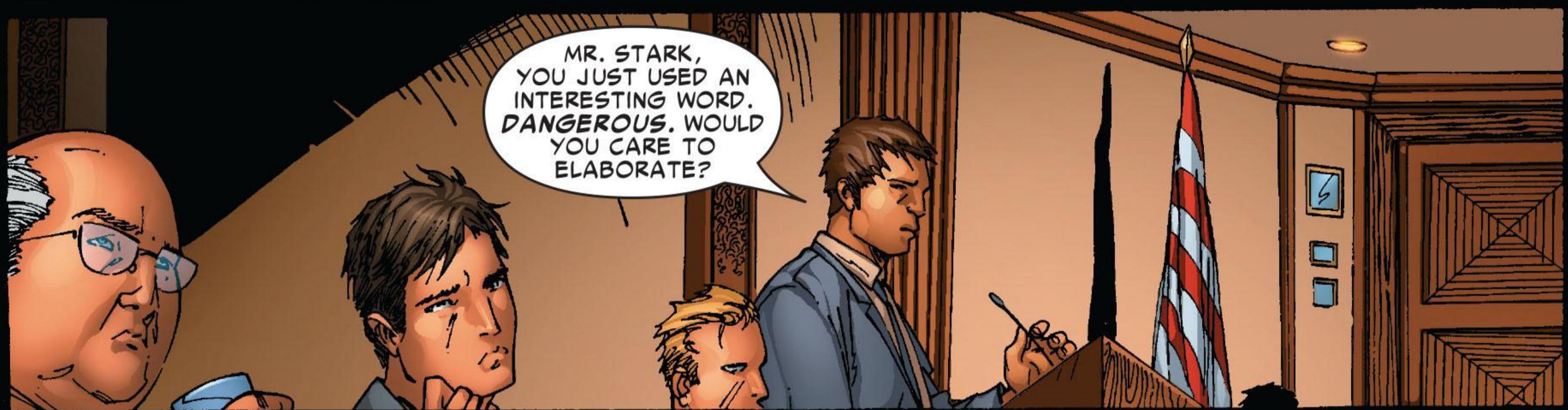
THEN I SUGGEST A TEN-MINUTE RECESS.

BANG!

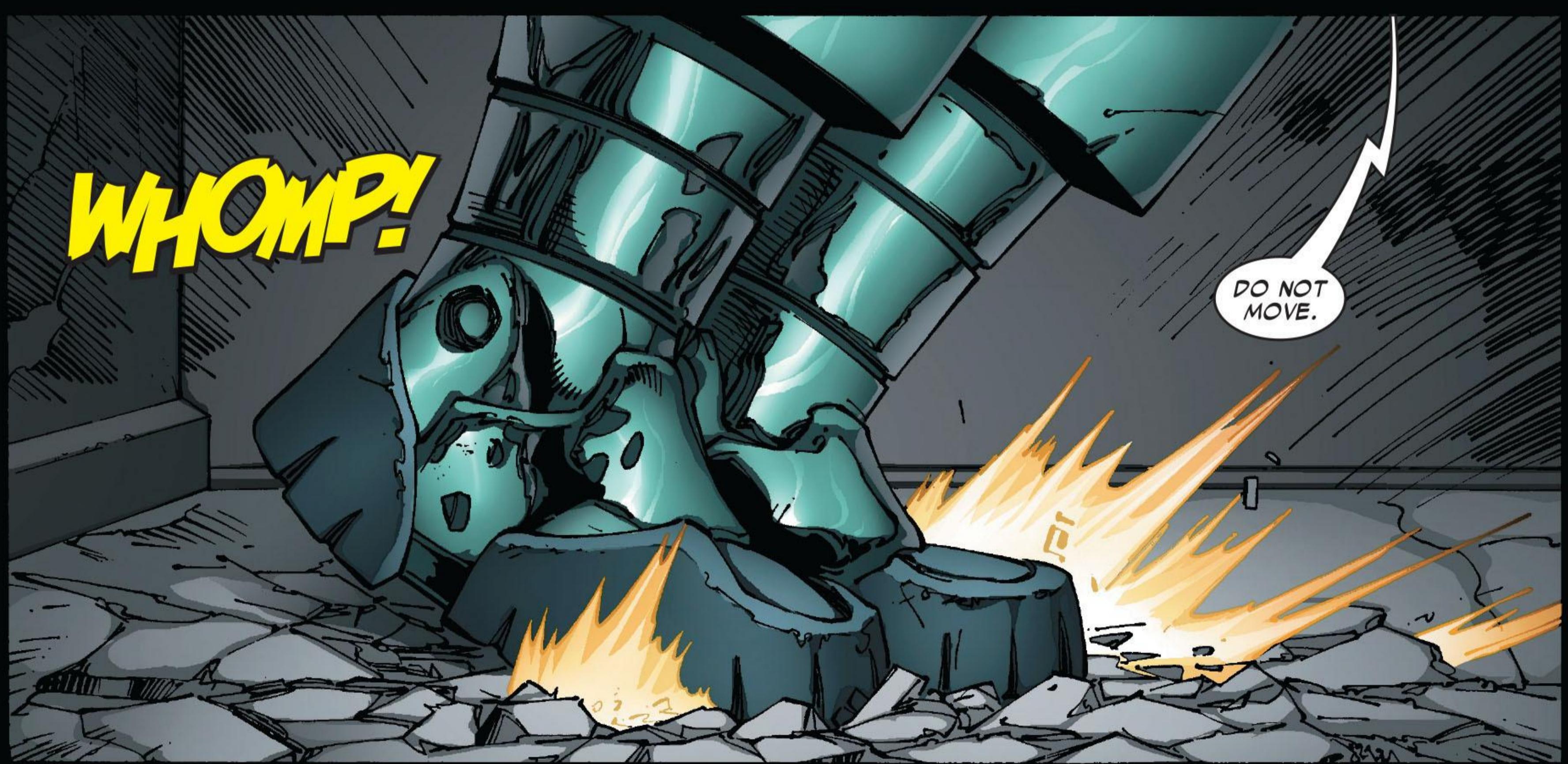




FOUR HOURS, FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...







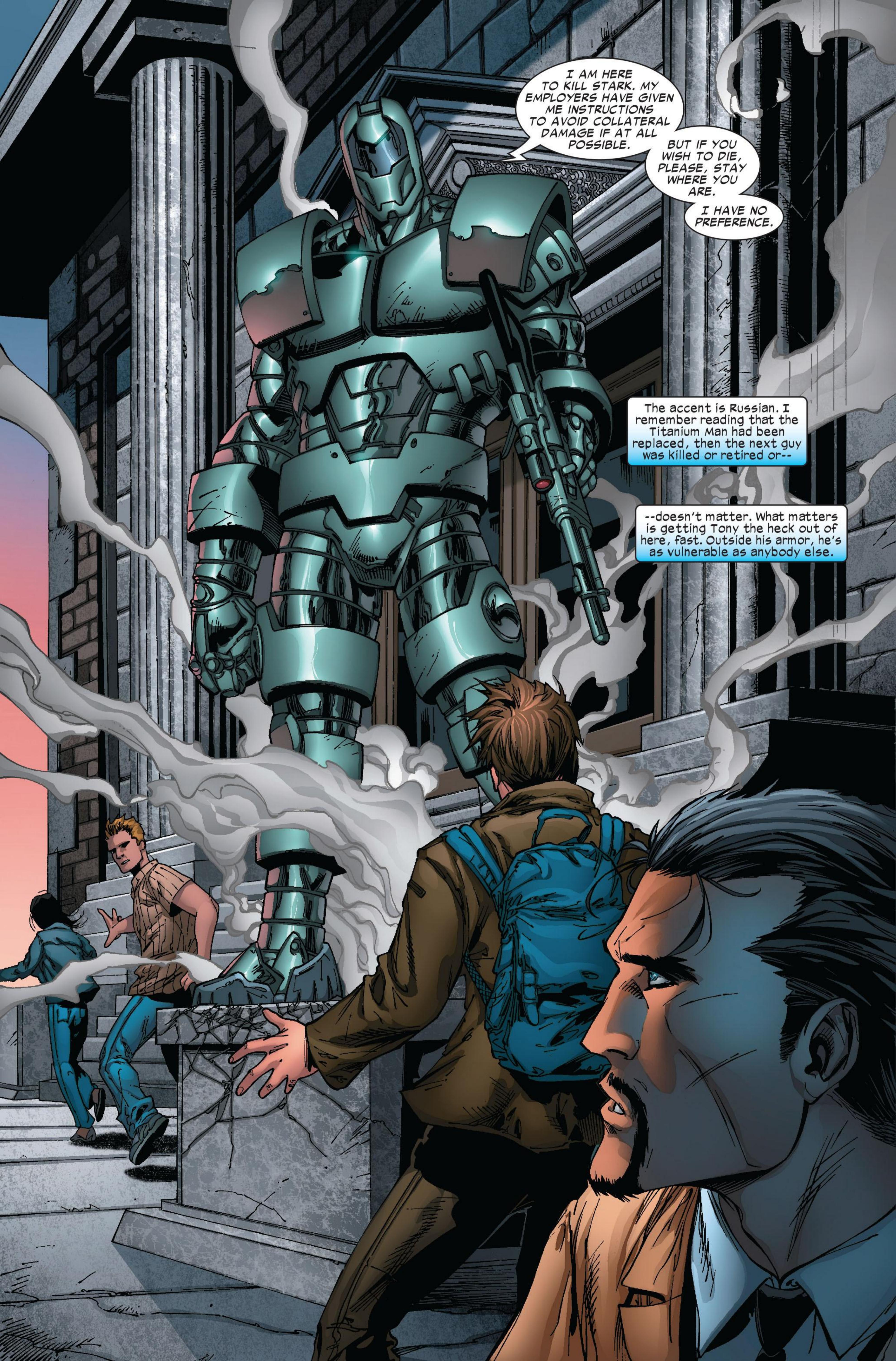
I AM HERE
TO KILL STARK. MY
EMPLOYERS HAVE GIVEN
ME INSTRUCTIONS
TO AVOID COLLATERAL
DAMAGE IF AT ALL
POSSIBLE.

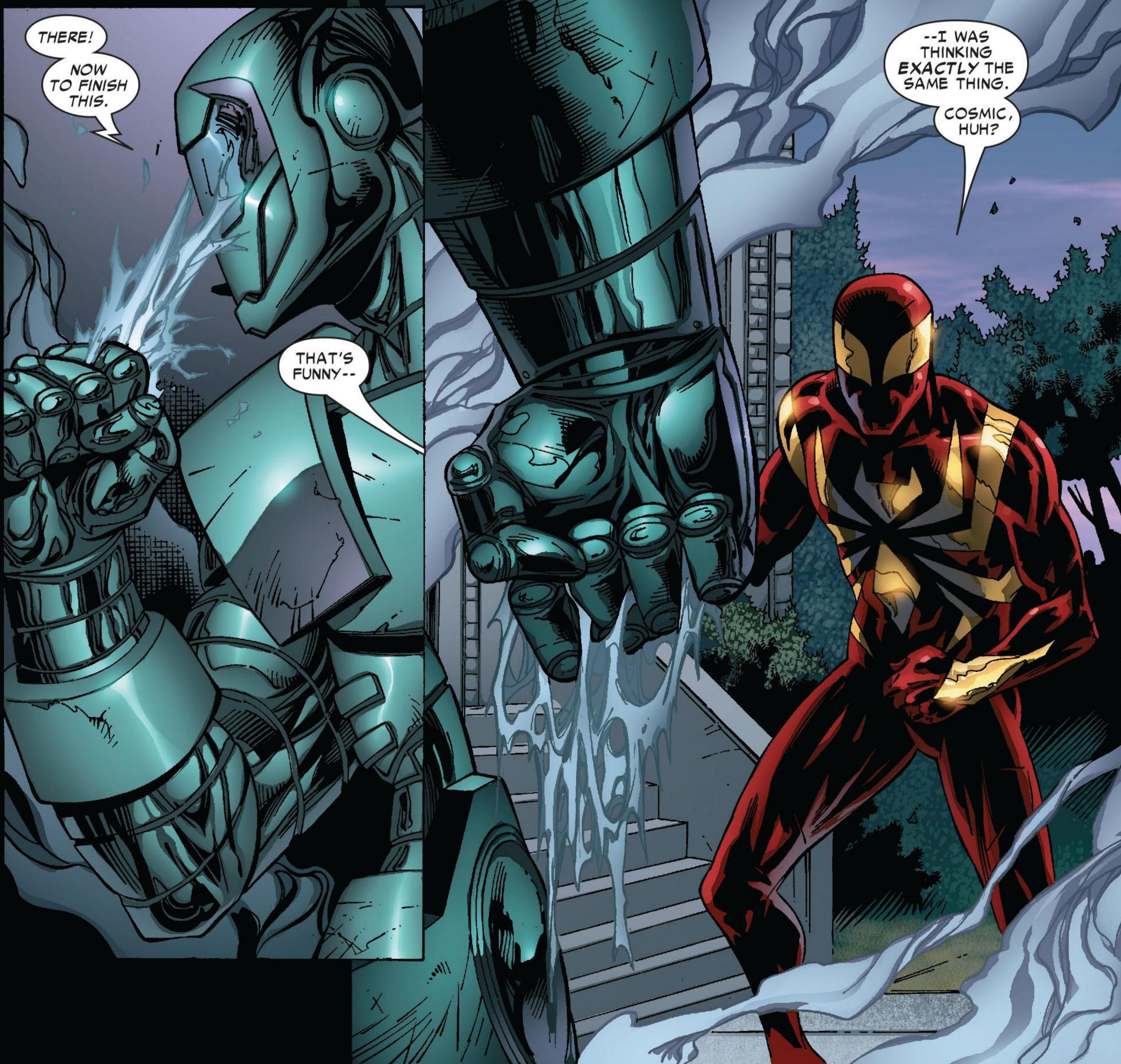
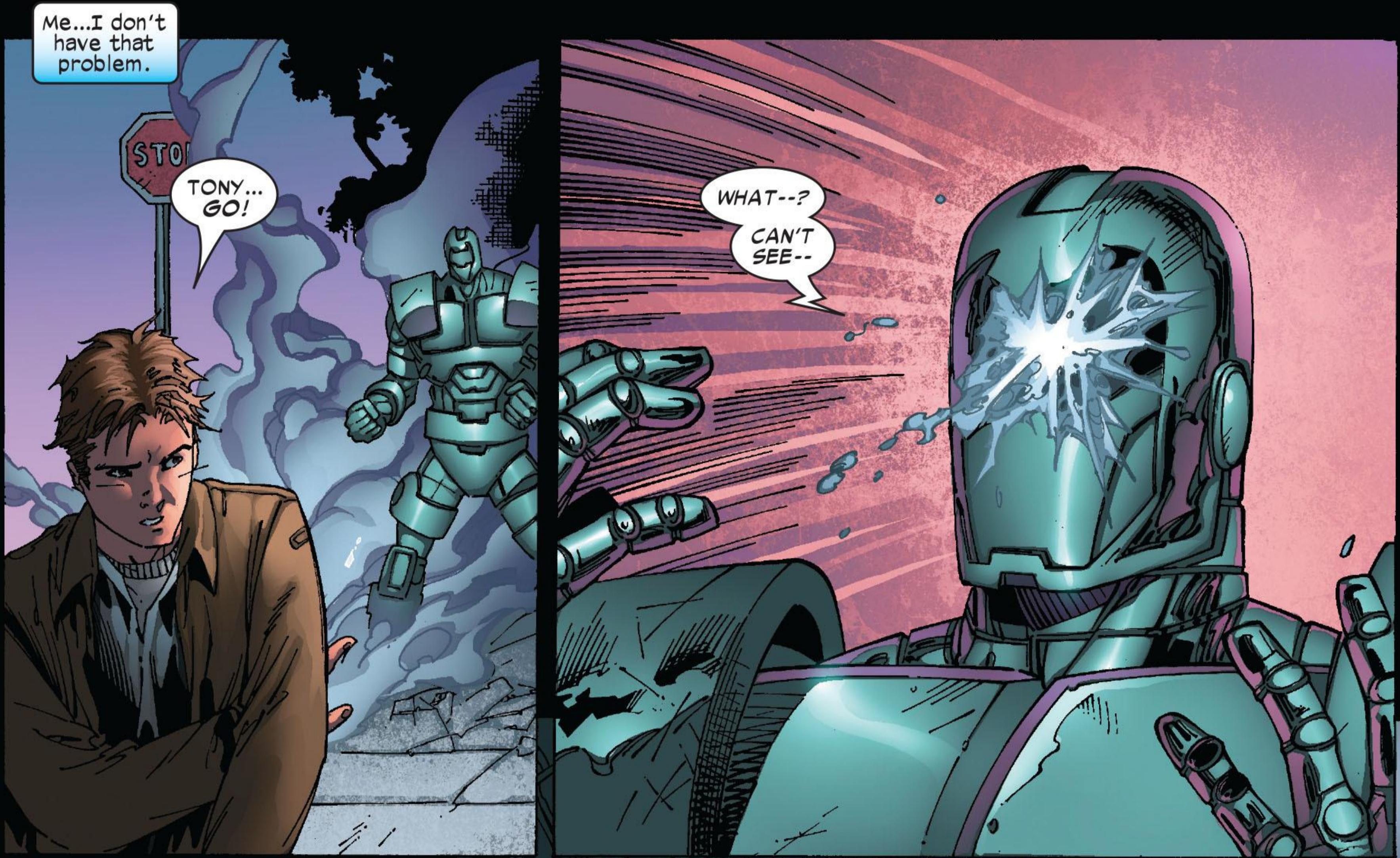
BUT IF YOU
WISH TO DIE,
PLEASE, STAY
WHERE YOU
ARE.

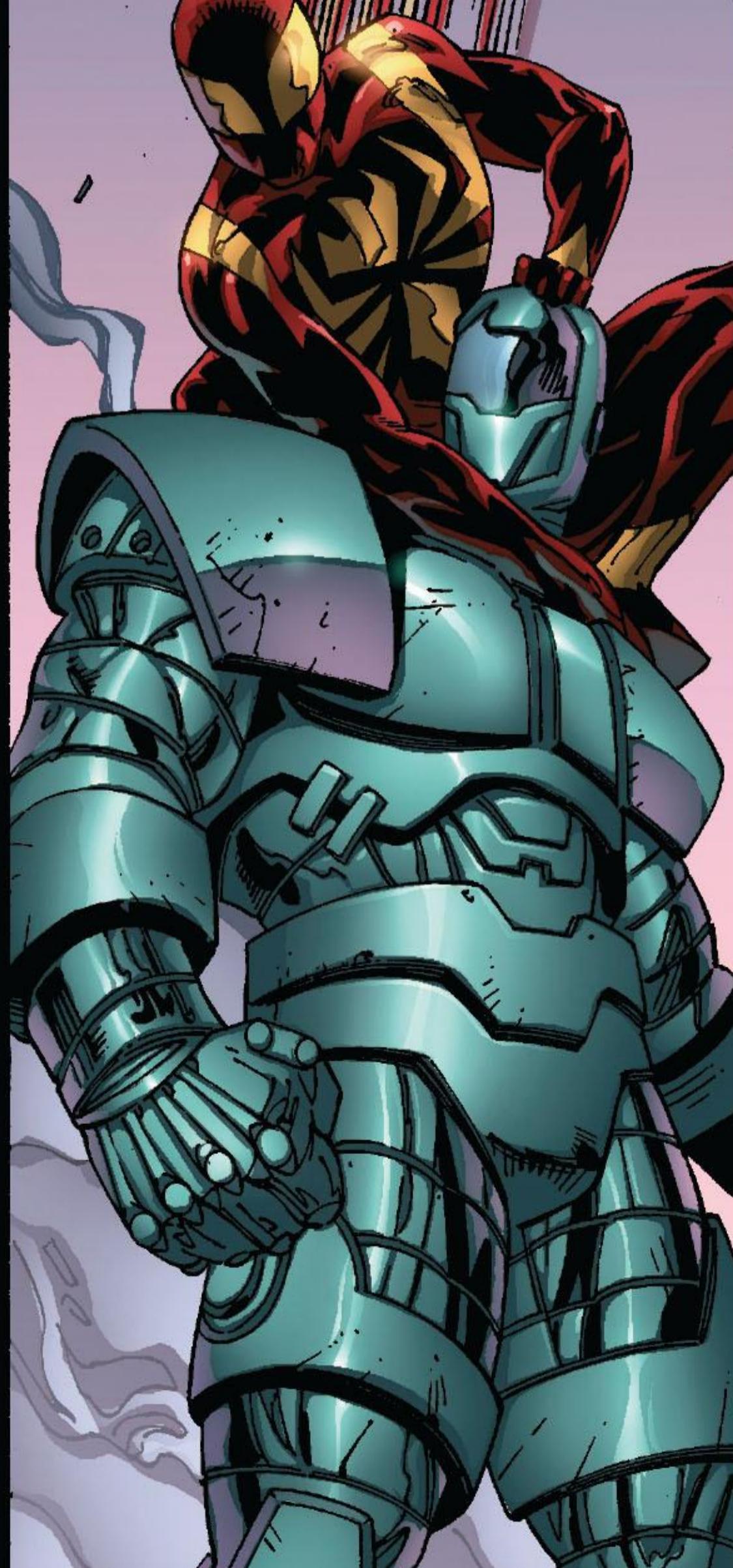
I HAVE NO
PREFERENCE.

The accent is Russian. I
remember reading that the
Titanium Man had been
replaced, then the next guy
was killed or retired or--

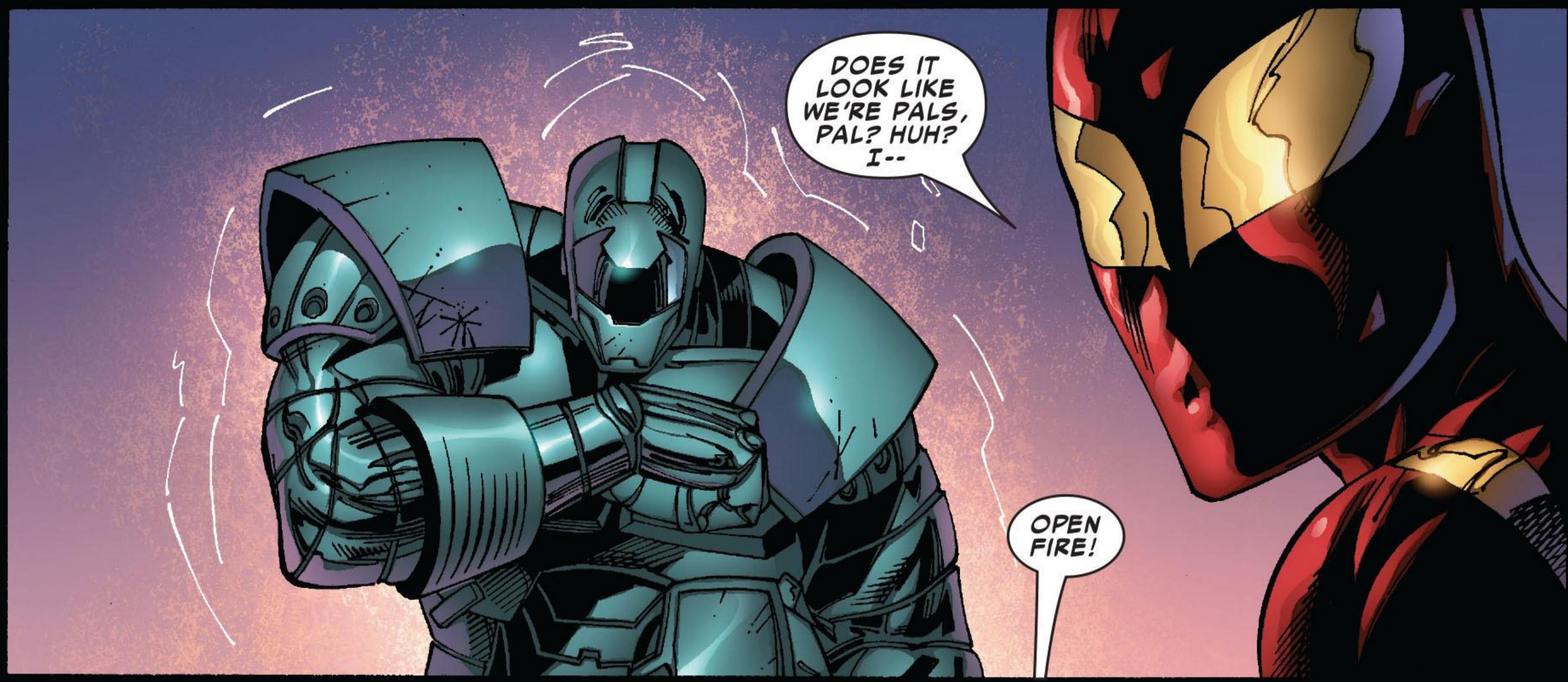
--doesn't matter. What matters
is getting Tony the heck out of
here, fast. Outside his armor, he's
as vulnerable as anybody else.











THIS ISN'T
OVER, BUDDY.
THIS FIGHT--
--IS JUST
STARTING.