CHARACTER ASSASSINATION PART 3 OF 4

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GUGGENHEIM
ROMITA JR.
JANSON
WHITE

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

REFUSED

JR JR + JANSON + WHITE

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THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND *NEWS* DAY!

THE DB

THE SPIDEY-CAPTURE HAS SURGIN' POLLS FOR HOLL'S, WHILE CROWNE'S DOWN 'CROSS TOWN! THE DB WANTS BILL HOLLISTER TO KNOW WE MAY HAVE DISAGREED BUT WE'VE ALWAYS DEFENDED HIS INTEGRITY. MORE AT THEDBONLINE.COM

FEBRUARY 19TH, 2009 • THURSDAY

MISTAKEN IDENTITY!

With New York City on the eve of a Mayoral election, Spider-Man, beaten soundly by Menace, finds himself in chains for a string of murders he didn't commit. Worse (and unbeknownst to the webbed wonder), his roommate and new friend, Officer Vin Gonzales, seems to be the guilty party when Carlie Cooper, CSI wunderkind, tracks a baggie of Spider-Tracers to his room. When she confronts Gonzales, she finds he's not alone in his crimes – he and partner Alan O'Neil are clearly part of a bigger plot...

Vin's not Peter Parker's only friend with a guilty conscience. After trouncing Spider-Man and leaving him in police custody, Menace escaped to a Hollister Campaign office and was caught by Harry Osborn as he reverted to his human form – Lily Hollister! Can our hero clear his name **and** uncover the wheres and whys of his friends' betrayal before the election results are in? How's he gonna get out of jail anyway?!

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TRIAL BY HURRY? SPIDER-MAN IN COURT TODAY!

By Betty Brant

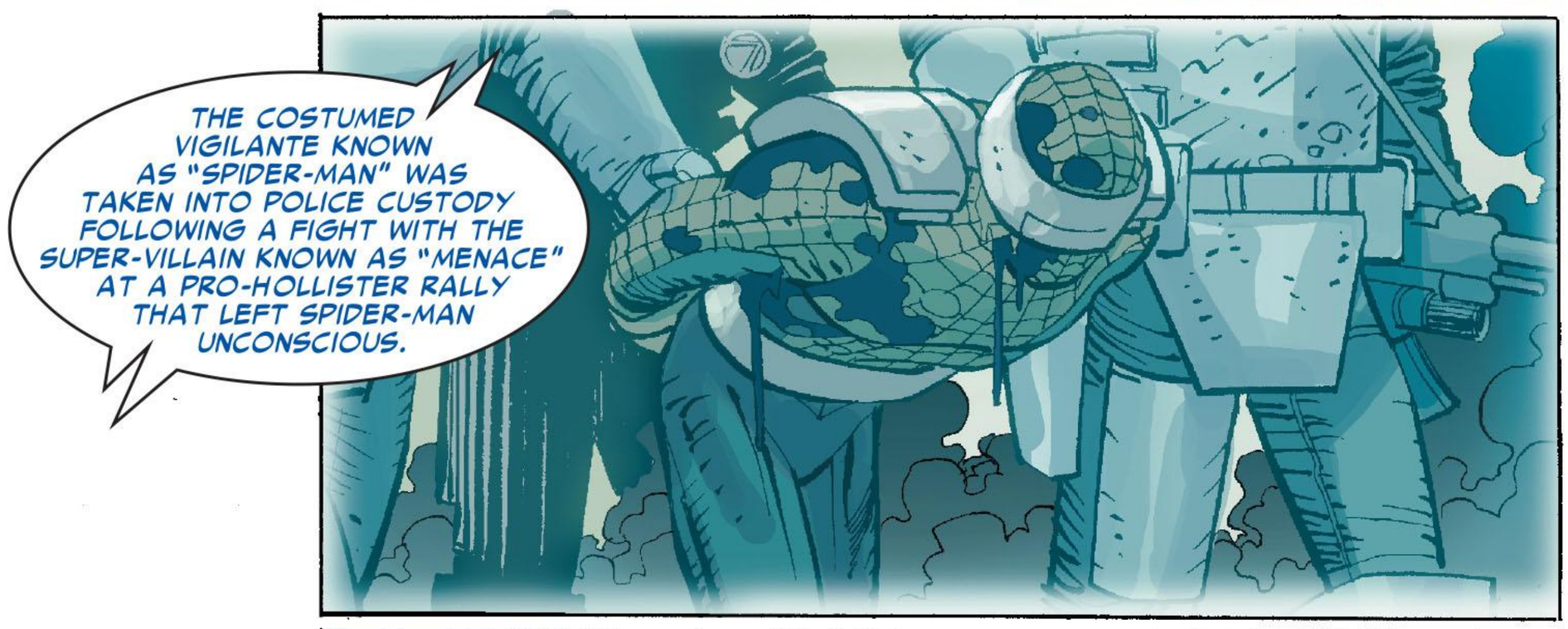
With the vigilante Spider-Man finally caught for his accused role in the so-called Spider-Tracer killings, the courts seem intent on rushing his trial through, concurrent with this Tuesday's election. At the risk of editorializing, this reporter thinks even the masked citizens of our city deserve a fair trial. No word yet on who will defend Spider-Man, or if he's yet been unmasked, but sources close to...

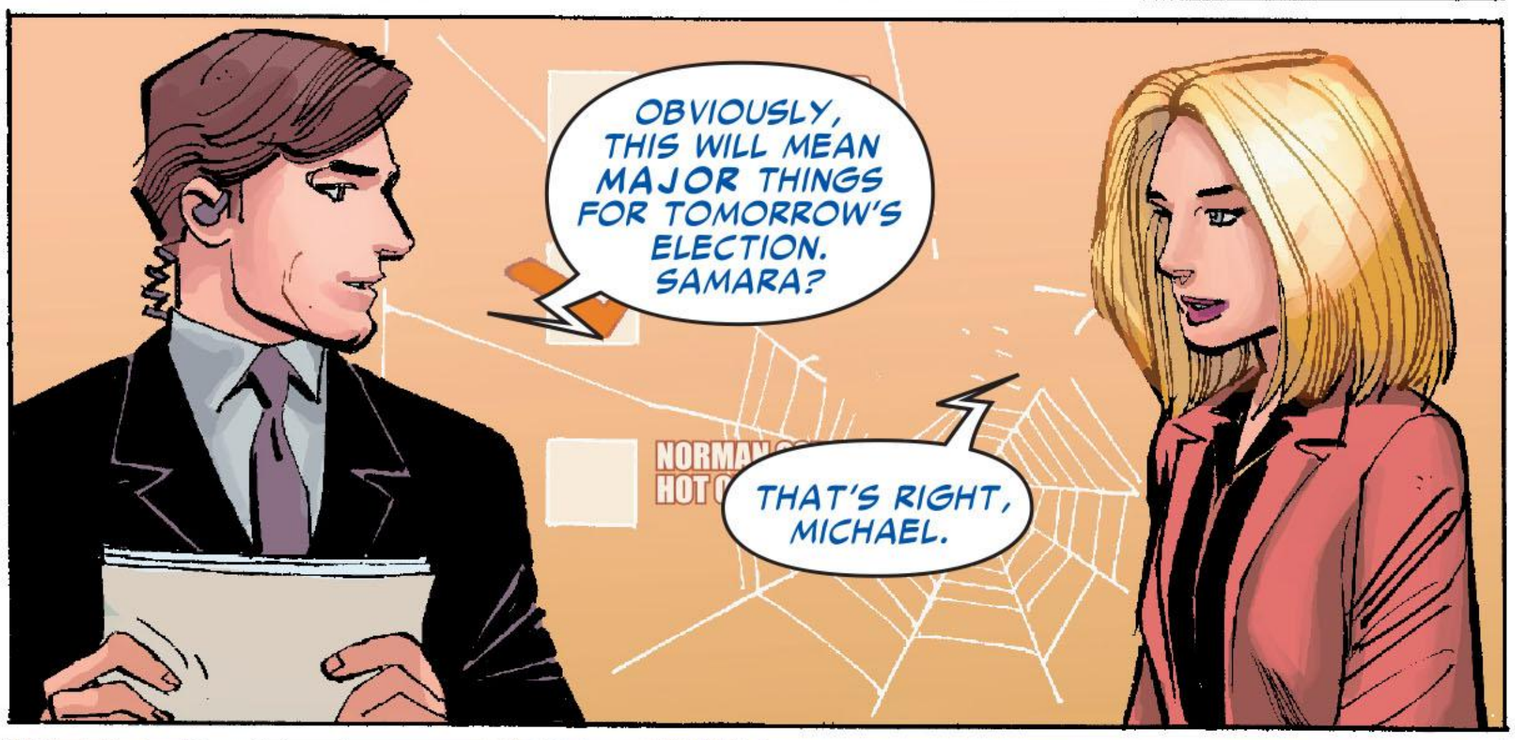
(more on page E14)

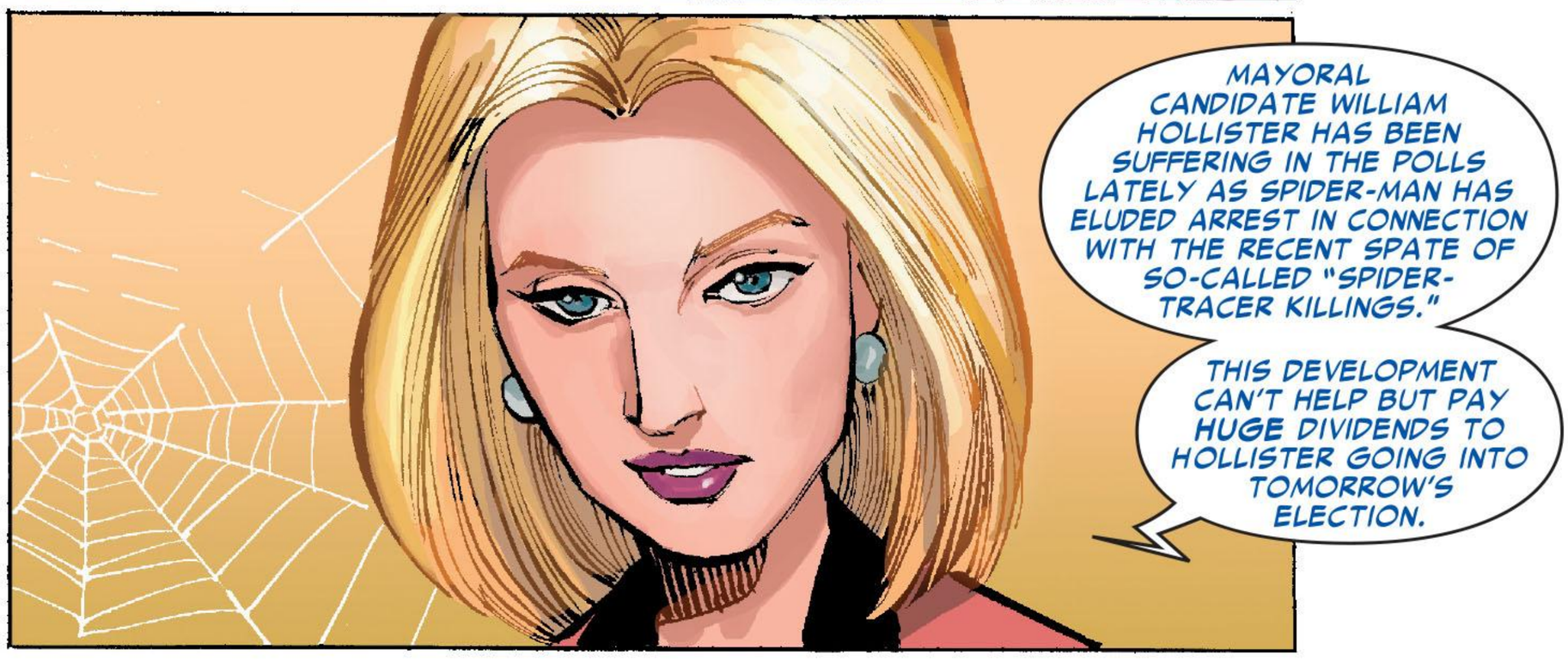
Brant! This article's gotta go! -DB

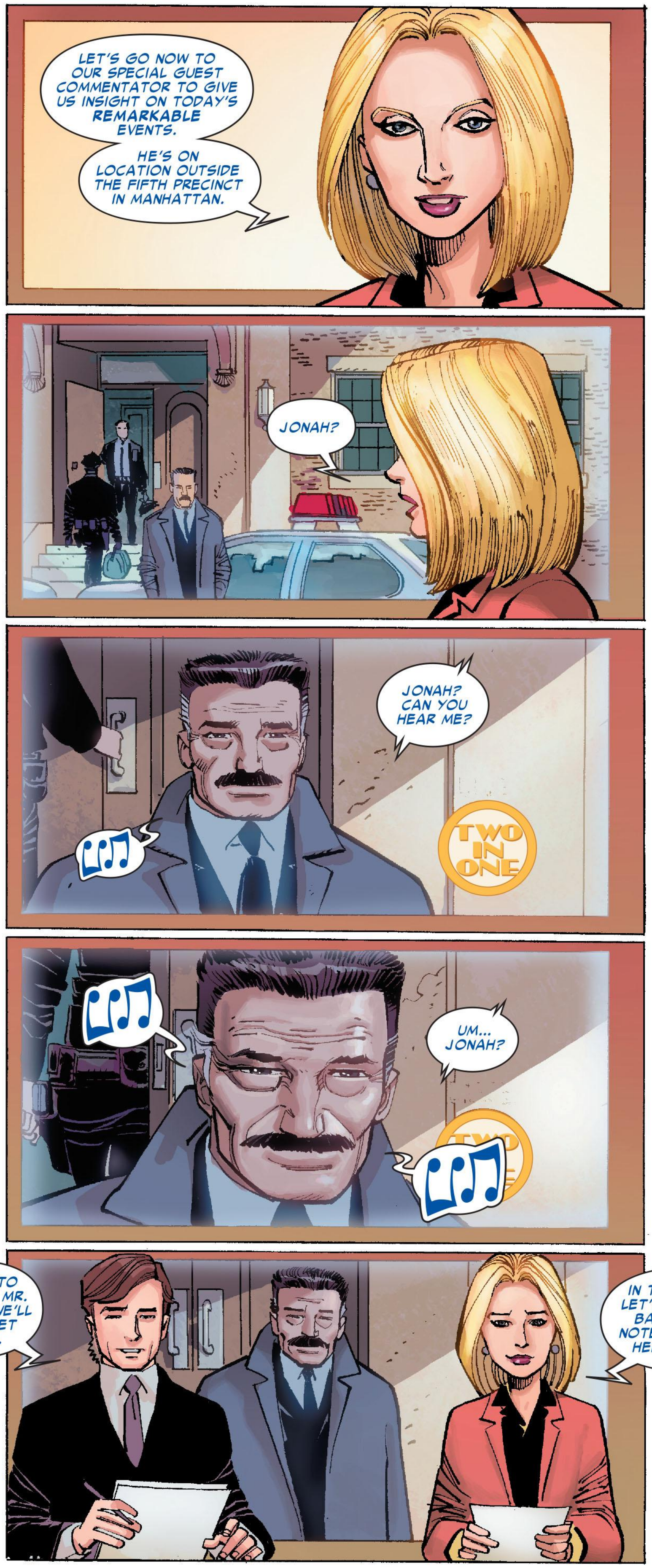
TWO-IN-ONE IS BREAKING INTO REGULAR LOCAL PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL REPORT...
I'M SAMARA SAFFIAN.
AND I'M MICHAEL LEVIN.

LESS THAN 33 HOURS UNTIL MANHATTAN'S MAYORAL ELECTION AND A BOMBSHELL.
SPIDER-TRACER KILLER
ELECTION DAY UPDATE
NORMAN OSBORN: HOT OR NOT?


THE COSTUMED VIGILANTE KNOWN AS "SPIDER-MAN" WAS TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY FOLLOWING A FIGHT WITH THE SUPER-VILLAIN KNOWN AS "MENACE" AT A PRO-HOLLISTER RALLY THAT LEFT SPIDER-MAN UNCONSCIOUS.


OBVIOUSLY, THIS WILL MEAN MAJOR THINGS FOR TOMORROW'S ELECTION. SAMARA?
THAT'S RIGHT, MICHAEL.


MAYORAL CANDIDATE WILLIAM HOLLISTER HAS BEEN SUFFERING IN THE POLLS LATELY AS SPIDER-MAN HAS ELUDED ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT SPATE OF SO-CALLED "SPIDER-TRACER KILLINGS."
THIS DEVELOPMENT CAN'T HELP BUT PAY HUGE DIVIDENDS TO HOLLISTER GOING INTO TOMORROW'S ELECTION.

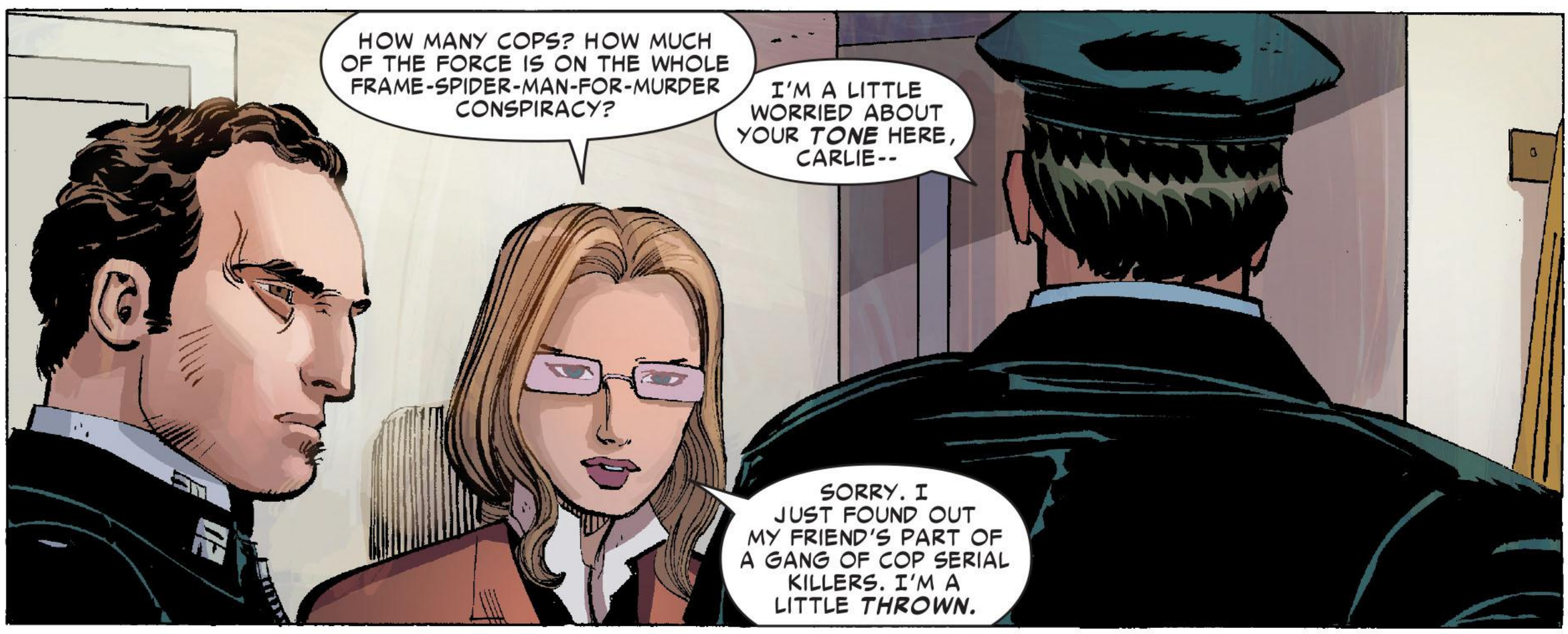

LET'S GO NOW TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST COMMENTATOR TO GIVE US INSIGHT ON TODAY'S REMARKABLE EVENTS.
HE'S ON LOCATION OUTSIDE THE FIFTH PRECINCT IN MANHATTAN.
JONAH?
JONAH? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
TWO IN ONE
UM... JONAH?
WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST MR. JAMESON. WE'LL TRY TO GET HIM BACK.
IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S TAKE A LOOK BACK ON OTHER NOTEWORTHY SUPER HERO ARRESTS...

Fifth Precinct.
32 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
1881
SPIDER-MAN!
SPIDEY!
SPIDER-MAN!
OVER HERE!
DID YOU DO IT?!
GET A COMMENT?!
THINK YOU'LL GET OFF?!
HOW MANY'D YOU KILL?!
SPIDER-MAN!
WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
HAVE YOU SOLD THE MOVIE RIGHTS?!
5th PRECINCT

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION PART 3
MARC GUGGENHEIM WRITER | JOHN ROMITA JR. PENCILS | KLAUS JANSON INKS
DEAN WHITE COLORS | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | TOM BRENNAN ASST. EDITOR | STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
GALE, GUGGENHEIM & SLOTT SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST
SPIDER-MAN!
SPIDER-MAN!
C'MON, OVER HERE!
WHO WAS YOUR NEXT VICTIM GONNA BE?!
WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
WHY?!
SPIDER-MAN --!
"YEAH, I DON'T BELIEVE IT, EITHER.

SERIOUSLY, GONZALES, HIDING THE TRACERS UNDER YOUR *BED?*

IN A *LOCKBOX*, AL. BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
HOW MANY?
WHAT?

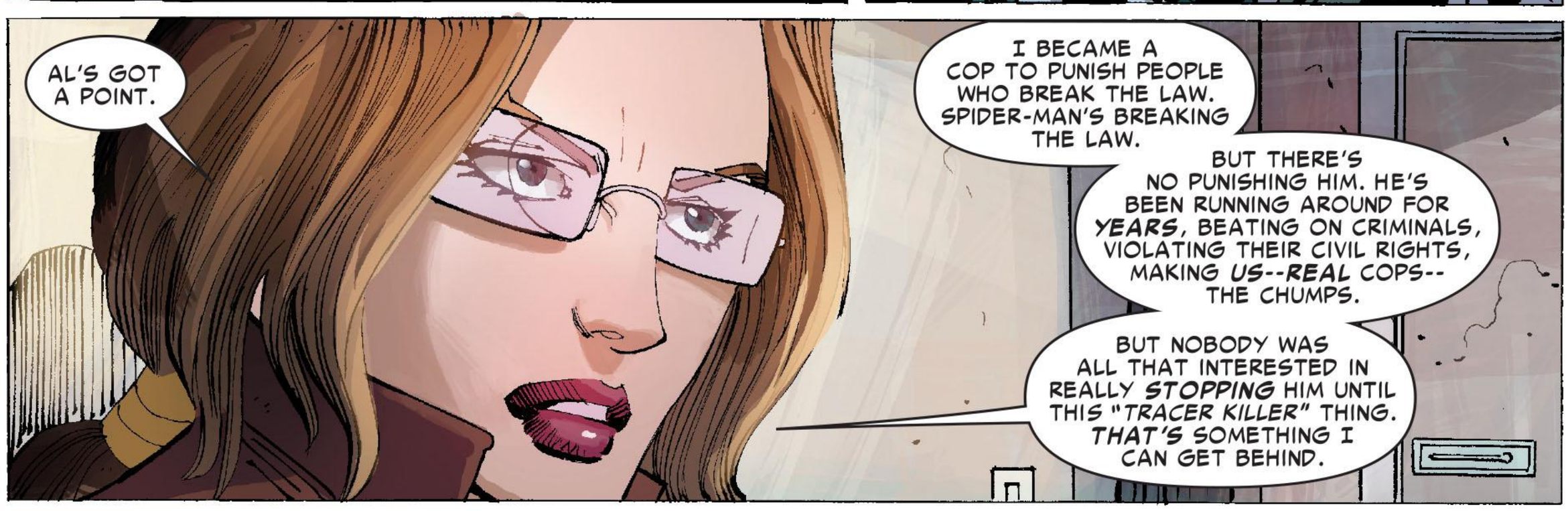

HOW MANY COPS? HOW MUCH OF THE FORCE IS ON THE WHOLE FRAME-SPIDER-MAN-FOR-MURDER CONSPIRACY?
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR *TONE* HERE, CARLIE--
SORRY. I JUST FOUND OUT MY FRIEND'S PART OF A GANG OF COP SERIAL KILLERS. I'M A LITTLE *THROWN.*

NO ONE'S BEEN *KILLED*, ALL RIGHT? ALL WE DID WAS PLANT *TRACERS* ON PEOPLE WHO WERE *ALREADY DEAD.*
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING ILLEGAL--
ARE YOU KIDDING ME, VIN? DID YOU JUST *SLEEP* THROUGH POLICE ETHICS AT THE ACADEMY?
WHAT ABOUT TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE?
WHAT ABOUT OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE?
WHAT ABOUT *FRAUD?*

SPIDER-MAN'S A LAWBREAKER, CARLIE. HE'S A *VIGILANTE* WHOSE METHODS INTERFERE WITH OURS. SO WE DECEDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
WE DECIDED WE NEEDED TO GET PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST HIM SO WE COULD GET HIM OFF THE STREETS AND DO *JOBS.*

AL, SHE DOESN'T NEED TO--
I WANT IN.

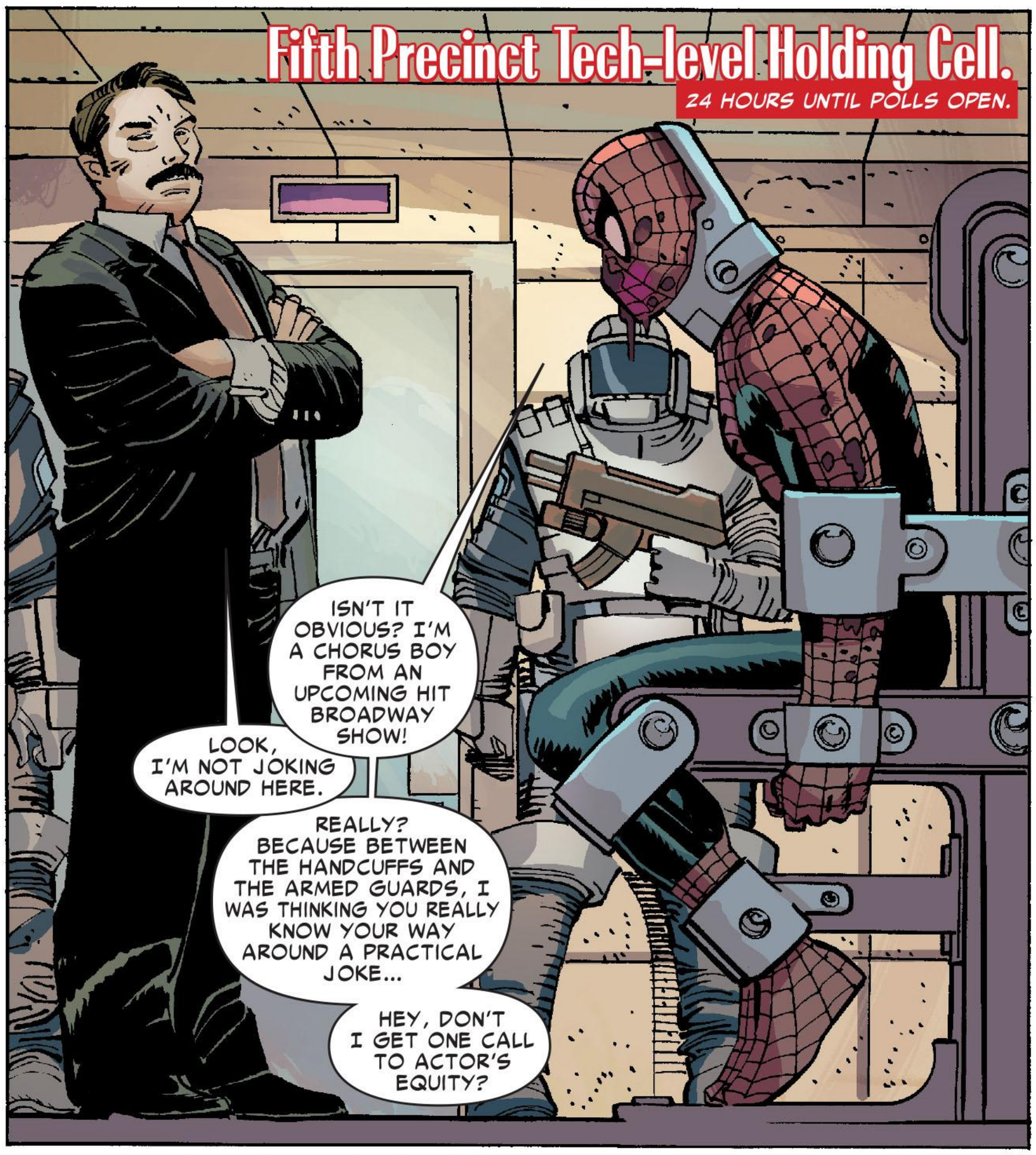
EXCUSE ME?


AL'S GOT A POINT.
I BECAME A COP TO PUNISH PEOPLE WHO BREAK THE LAW. SPIDER-MAN'S BREAKING THE LAW.
BUT THERE'S NO PUNISHING HIM. HE'S BEEN RUNNING AROUND FOR YEARS, BEATING ON CRIMINALS, VIOLATING THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS, MAKING US--REAL COPS-- THE CHUMPS.
BUT NOBODY WAS ALL THAT INTERESTED IN REALLY STOPPING HIM UNTIL THIS "TRACER KILLER" THING. THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN GET BEHIND.

WHAT HAPPENED TO "POLICE ETHICS" AND "OBSTRUCTION" AND ALL THAT OTHER STUFF?
IT'S CRAP.
COPS USED TO BEAT CONFESSIONS OUT OF SUSPECTS. SOME STILL DO.
THE POINT BEING, SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BREAK THE LAW TO UPHOLD IT.

I'M NOT NAIVE AND YOU GUYS NEED MY HELP FOR HIDING--
--WE'LL THINK ABOUT IT, COOPER.
MEANTIME, THOUGH, YOU KEEP THIS ALL TO YOURSELF.

"SO WHO ARE YOU REALLY?"


Fifth Precinct Tech-level Holding Cell.
24 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? I'M A CHORUS BOY FROM AN UPCOMING HIT BROADWAY SHOW!
LOOK, I'M NOT JOKING AROUND HERE.
REALLY? BECAUSE BETWEEN THE HANDCUFFS AND THE ARMED GUARDS, I WAS THINKING YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND A PRACTICAL JOKE...
HEY, DON'T I GET ONE CALL TO ACTOR'S EQUITY?

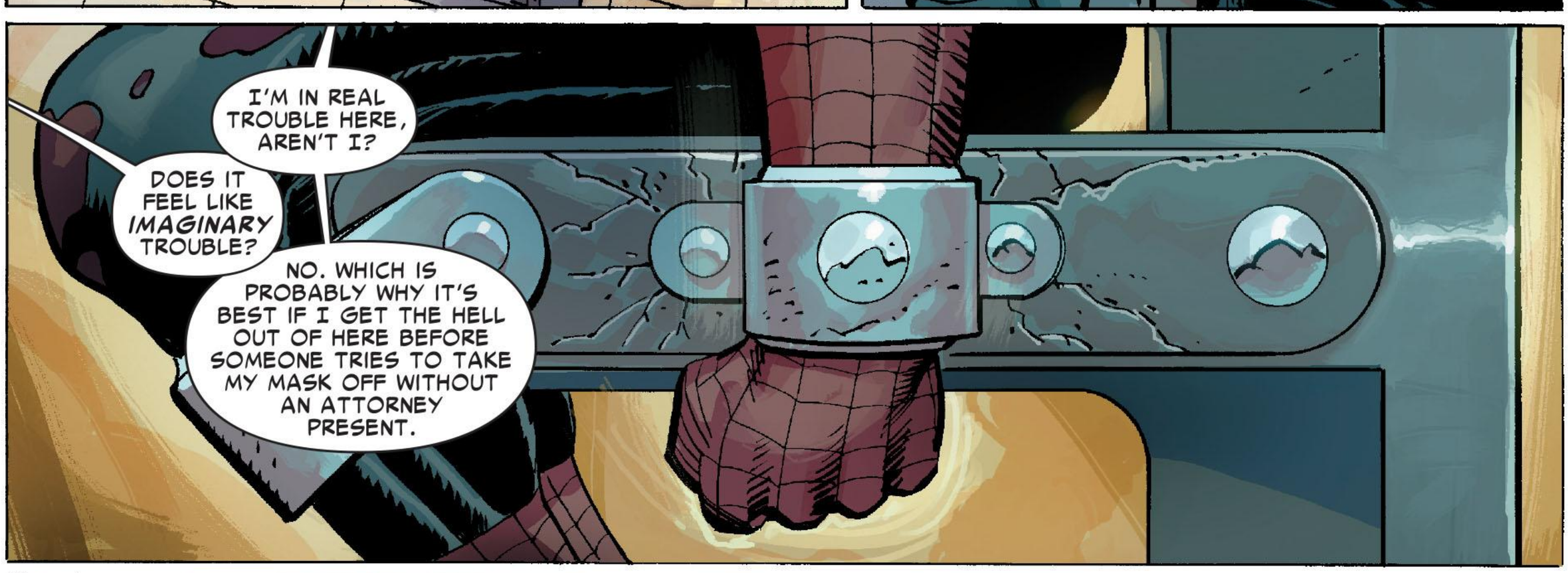
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME ABOUT THE HANDCUFFS. WE'LL DO THIS THE EASY WAY--
WAIT.
PALONE! GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY CLIENT.

RIGHT NOW. I'M NOT KIDDING AROUND.
THANK YOU, SWEET MERCIFUL KARMA.

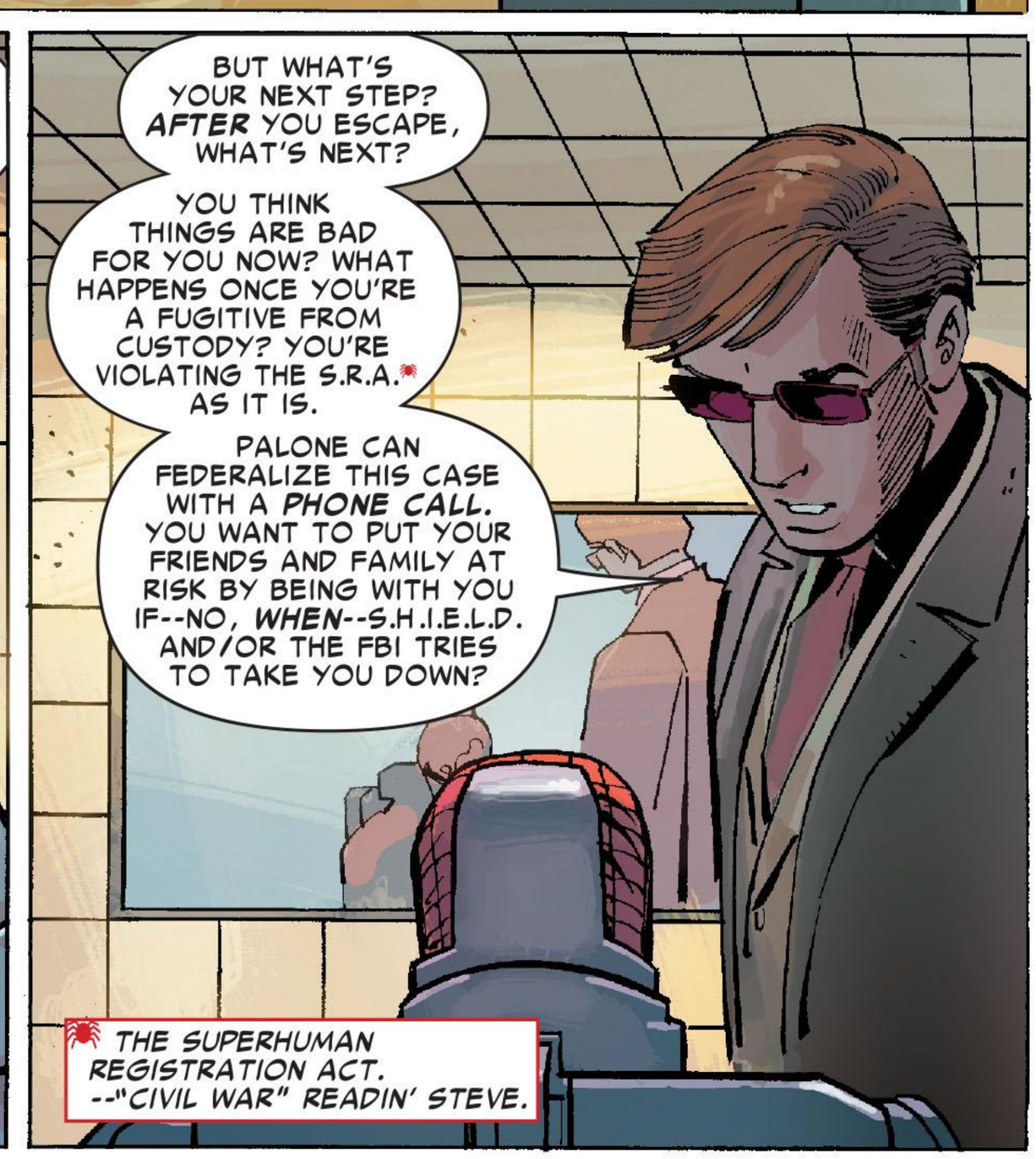
I GOT A RIGHT TO INTERROGATE MY SUSPECT FACE-TO-FACE, MR. MURDOCK.
YOU'RE SERIOUS WITH THIS?
WELL, WE'RE GONNA SEE WHAT A JUDGE THINKS ABOUT THAT.
I'M A BLIND LAWYER WITH A HISTORY OF INCARCERATION AND PERSONAL TRAGEDY.
WHAT IN THAT MAKE-UP MAKES YOU THINK I HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR?

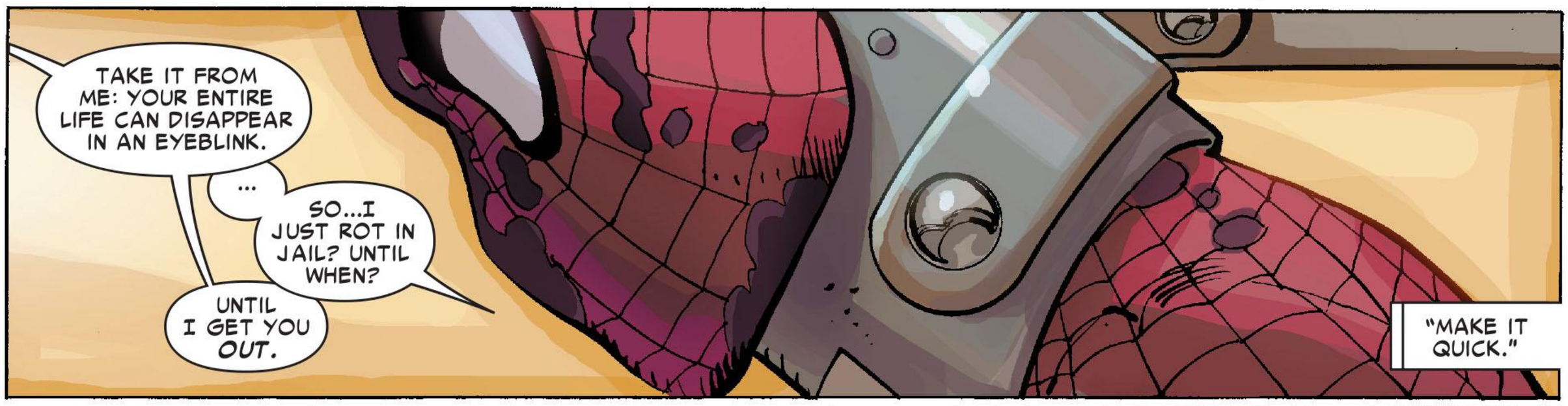
SO HERE'S WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. MY CLIENT IS GOING TO EXERCISE HIS RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT--
DARN RIGHT.
--NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THAT MAY BE FOR HIM.
YOU'RE GOING TO PROCESS HIM THROUGH CENTRAL BOOKING *WITHOUT* TAKING HIS PRINTS AND HE'S GOING TO GET ARRAIGNED.
AND IF ALL THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN *EXACTLY* AS DESCRIBED AND WITHOUT INCIDENT, I'M FILING A *1983* SUIT AGAINST YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, AND MY CLIENT WILL OWN YOUR *HOUSE*.
DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING?

I GUESS SO.
YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL MAN.
BEING BLIND, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD FOR THAT.
DETECTIVE, THE DESK JUST CALLED. THERE'S SOMEONE IN YOUR OFFICE NEEDS TO TALK TO YA.
JUST WHAT I NEED. THIS IS ONE HELL OF A NIGHT.
GET THE SPIDER READY FOR THE MOVE TO RYKER'S.

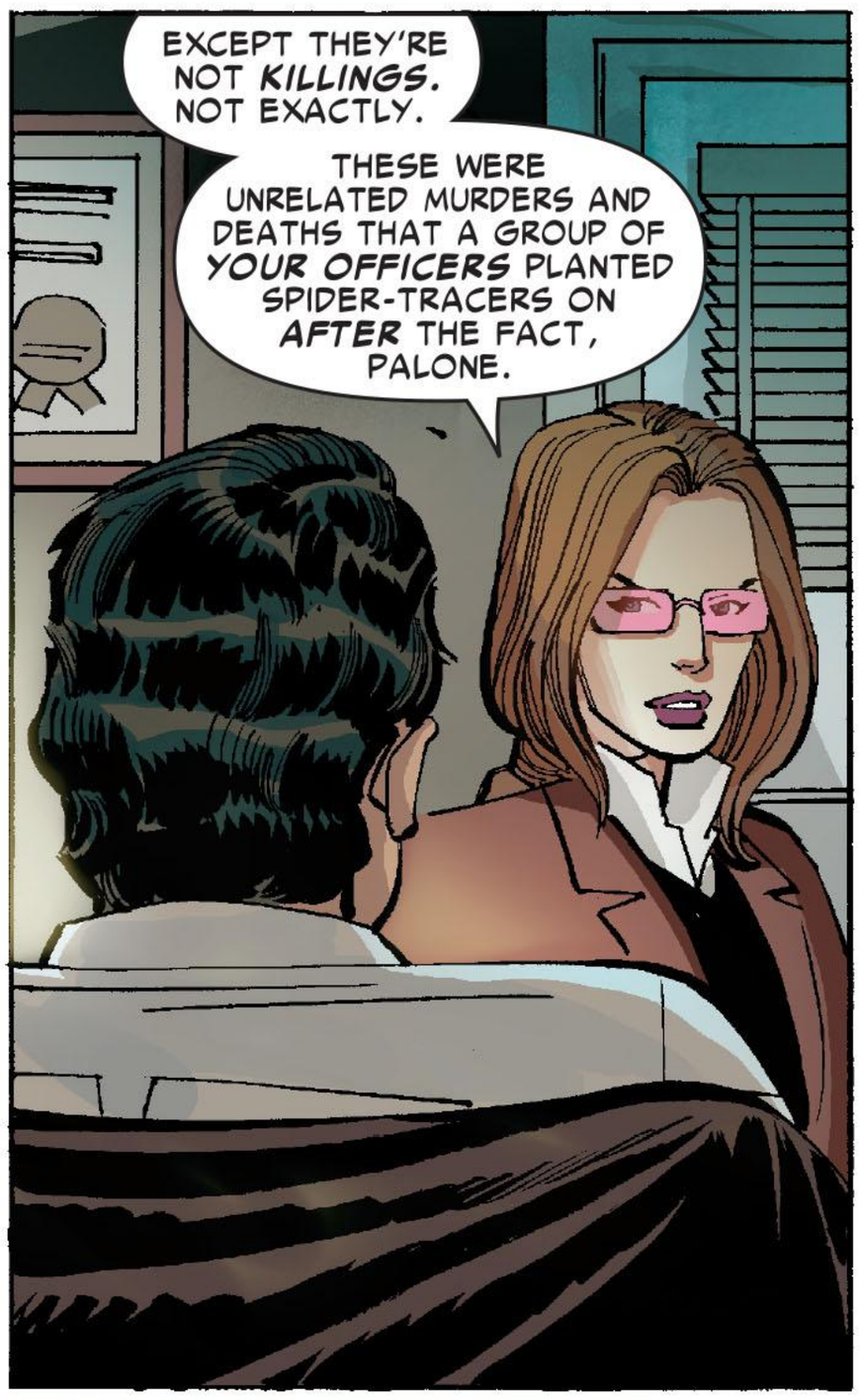

I'M IN REAL TROUBLE HERE, AREN'T I?
DOES IT FEEL LIKE *IMAGINARY* TROUBLE?
NO. WHICH IS PROBABLY WHY IT'S BEST IF I GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEONE TRIES TO TAKE MY MASK OFF WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY PRESENT.

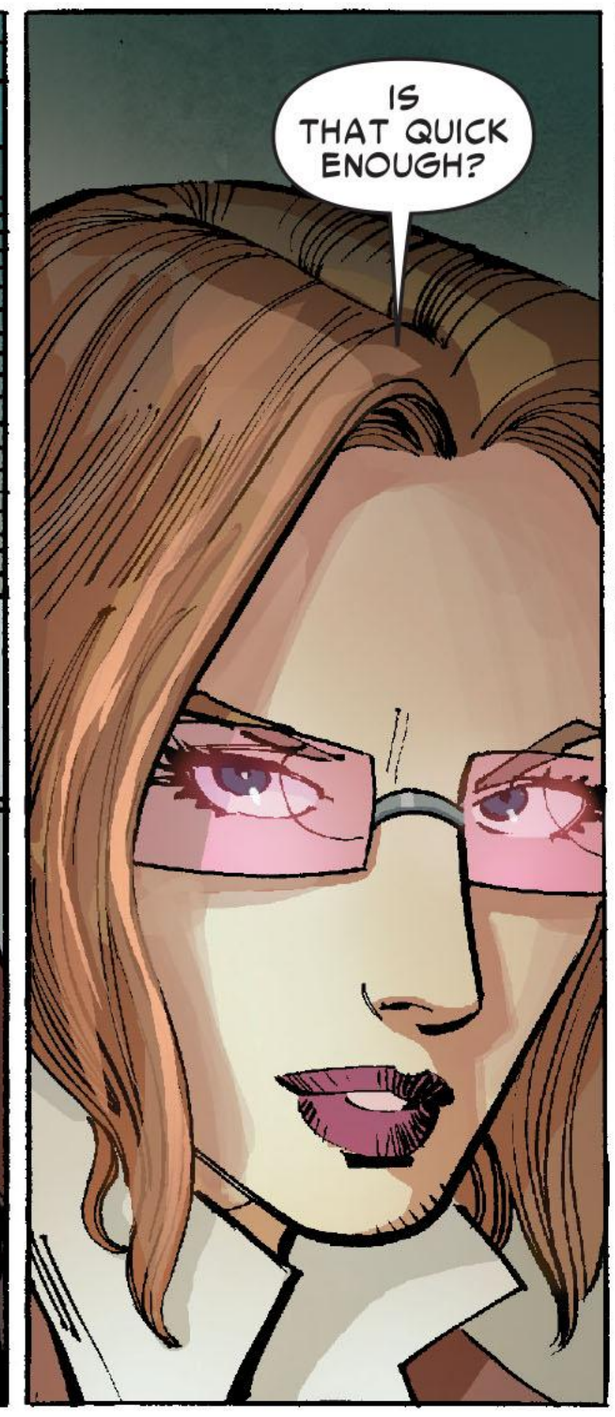
ACTUALLY, IT WOULD BE THAT *OPPOSITE* OF "*BEST*."
WHAT?
WELL, I WASN'T WILLING TO CHANCE BREAKING A NAIL, BUT...
LOOK, WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE FULLY CAPABLE OF ESCAPING FROM THIS PLACE. YOU COULD PROBABLY SHATTER THOSE RESTRAINTS ANY TIME YOU WANTED.


BUT WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP? *AFTER* YOU ESCAPE, WHAT'S NEXT?
YOU THINK THINGS ARE BAD FOR YOU NOW? WHAT HAPPENS ONCE YOU'RE A FUGITIVE FROM CUSTODY? YOU'RE VIOLATING THE S.R.A.* AS IT IS.
PALONE CAN FEDERALIZE THIS CASE WITH A *PHONE CALL*. YOU WANT TO PUT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT RISK BY BEING WITH YOU IF--NO, *WHEN*--S.H.I.E.L.D. AND/OR THE FBI TRIES TO TAKE YOU DOWN?
THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT. --"CIVIL WAR" READIN' STEVE.

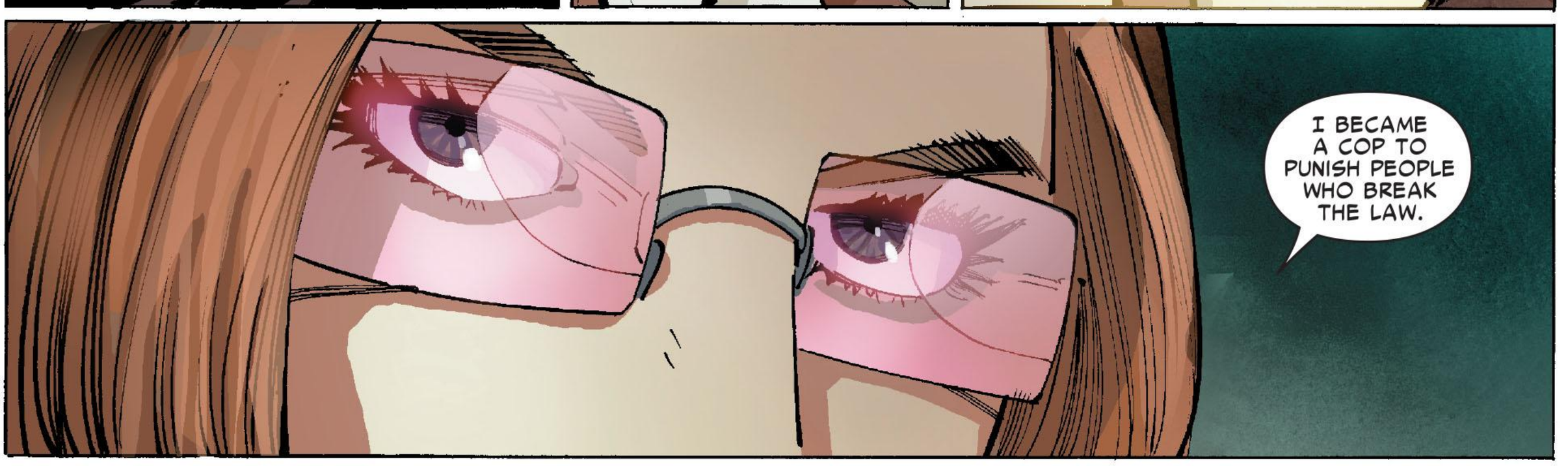

TAKE IT FROM ME: YOUR ENTIRE LIFE CAN DISAPPEAR IN AN EYEBLINK.
...
SO...I JUST ROT IN JAIL? UNTIL WHEN?
UNTIL I GET YOU OUT.
"MAKE IT QUICK."

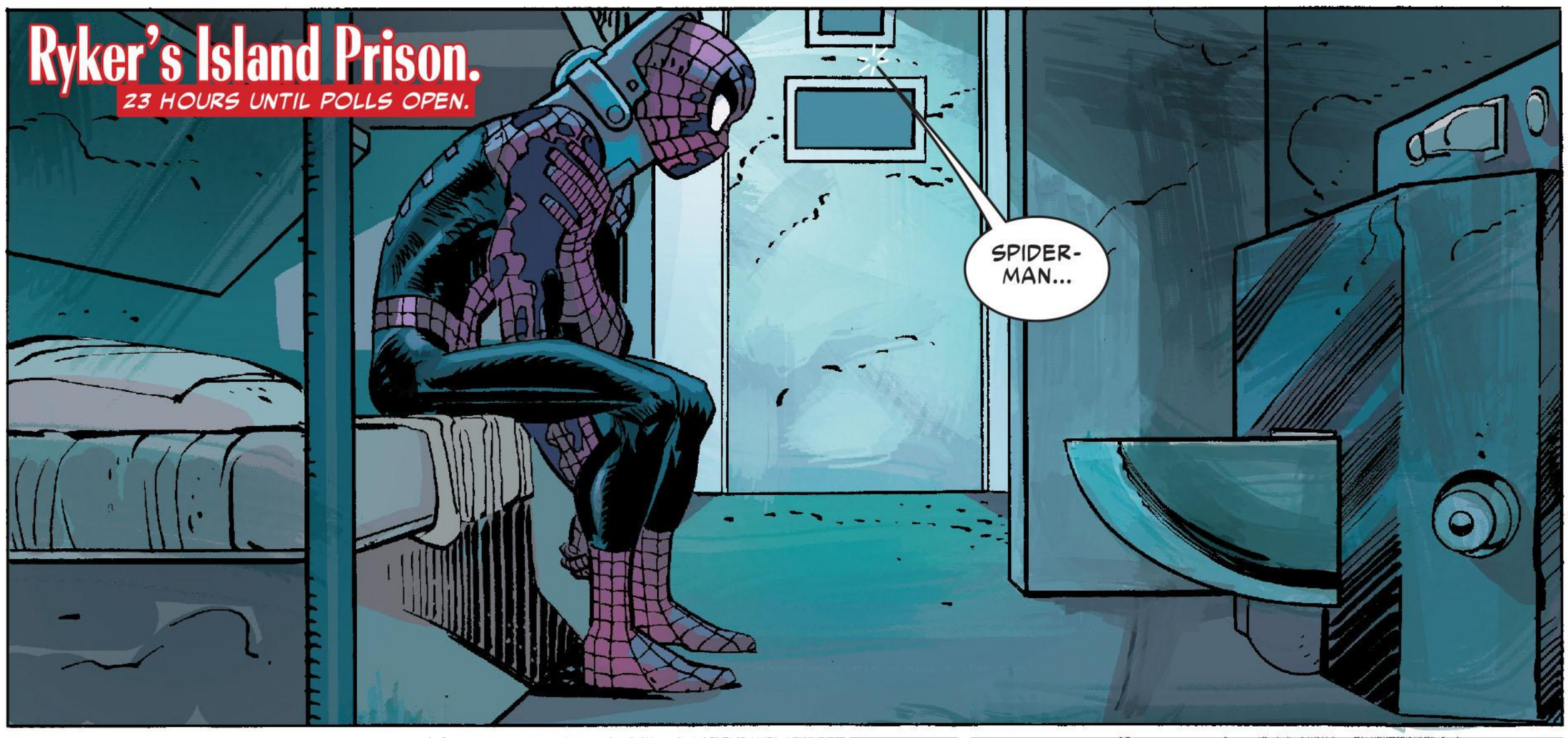
Sgt. Palone's Office.
I'M IN A LOUSY MOOD.
I KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THE "SPIDER-TRACER KILLINGS."


EXCEPT THEY'RE NOT KILLINGS. NOT EXACTLY.
THESE WERE UNRELATED MURDERS AND DEATHS THAT A GROUP OF YOUR OFFICERS PLANTED SPIDER-TRACERS ON AFTER THE FACT, PALONE.


IS THAT QUICK ENOUGH?

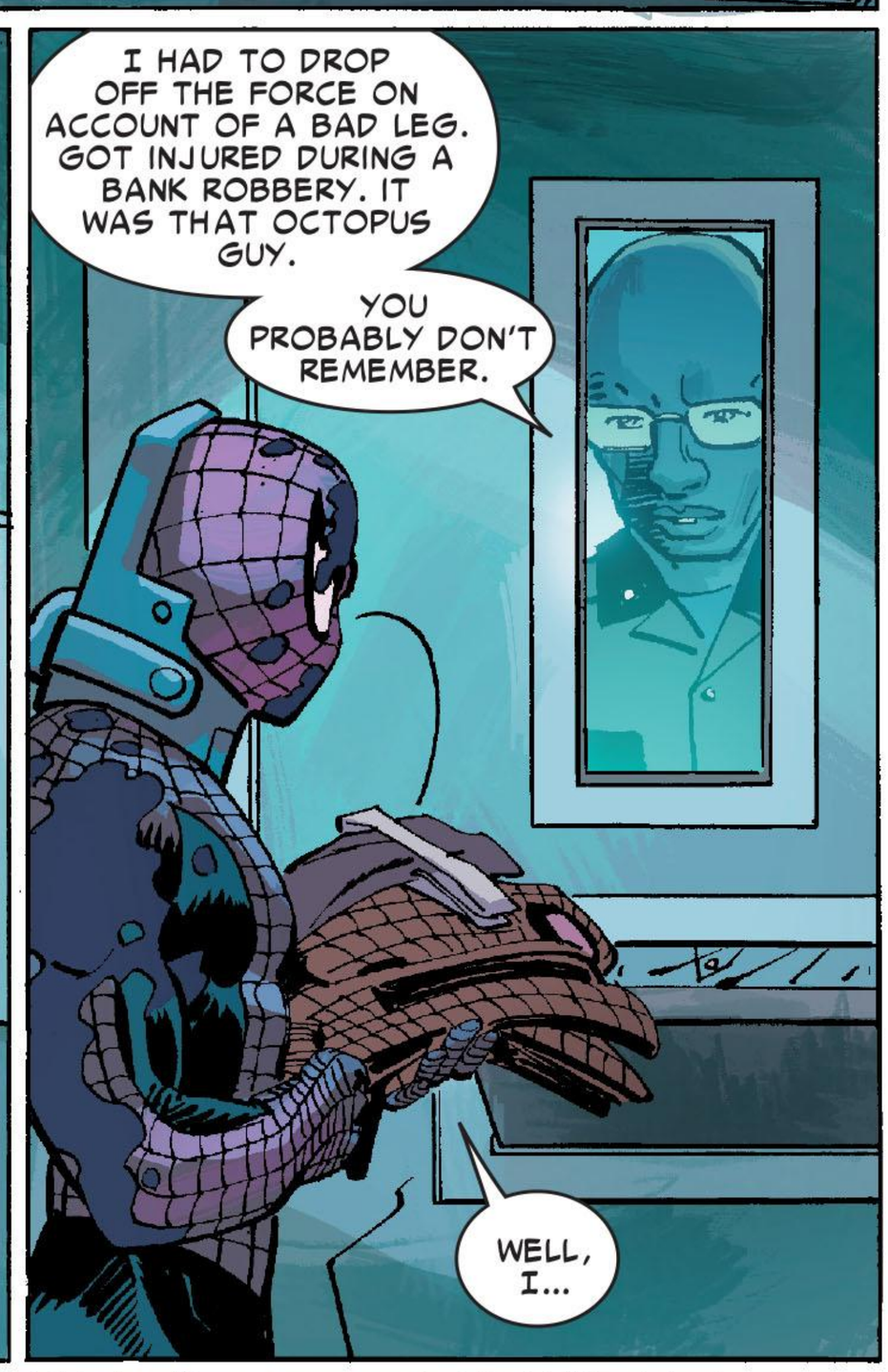
I'D SAY SO. I'M A LITTLE CURIOUS, THOUGH...
YOU SAY THERE'S COPS INVOLVED. WHY BLOW THE WHISTLE ON OTHER COPS?

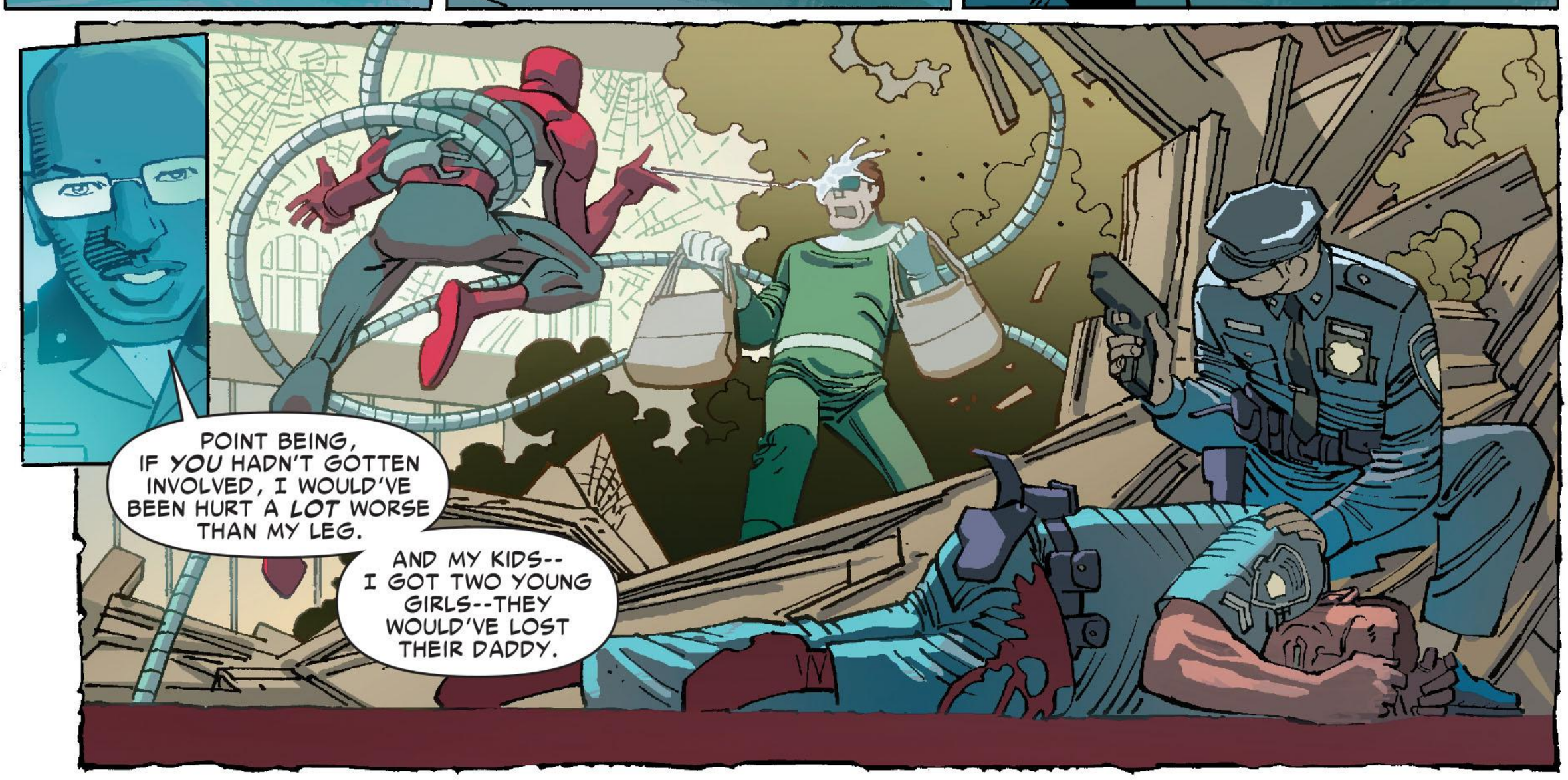

I BECAME A COP TO PUNISH PEOPLE WHO BREAK THE LAW.


Ryker's Island Prison.
23 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
SPIDER-MAN...

COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR LAWYER. HE WANTS YOU LOOKING NICE FOR YOUR BIG COURT APPEARANCE.
THANKS.

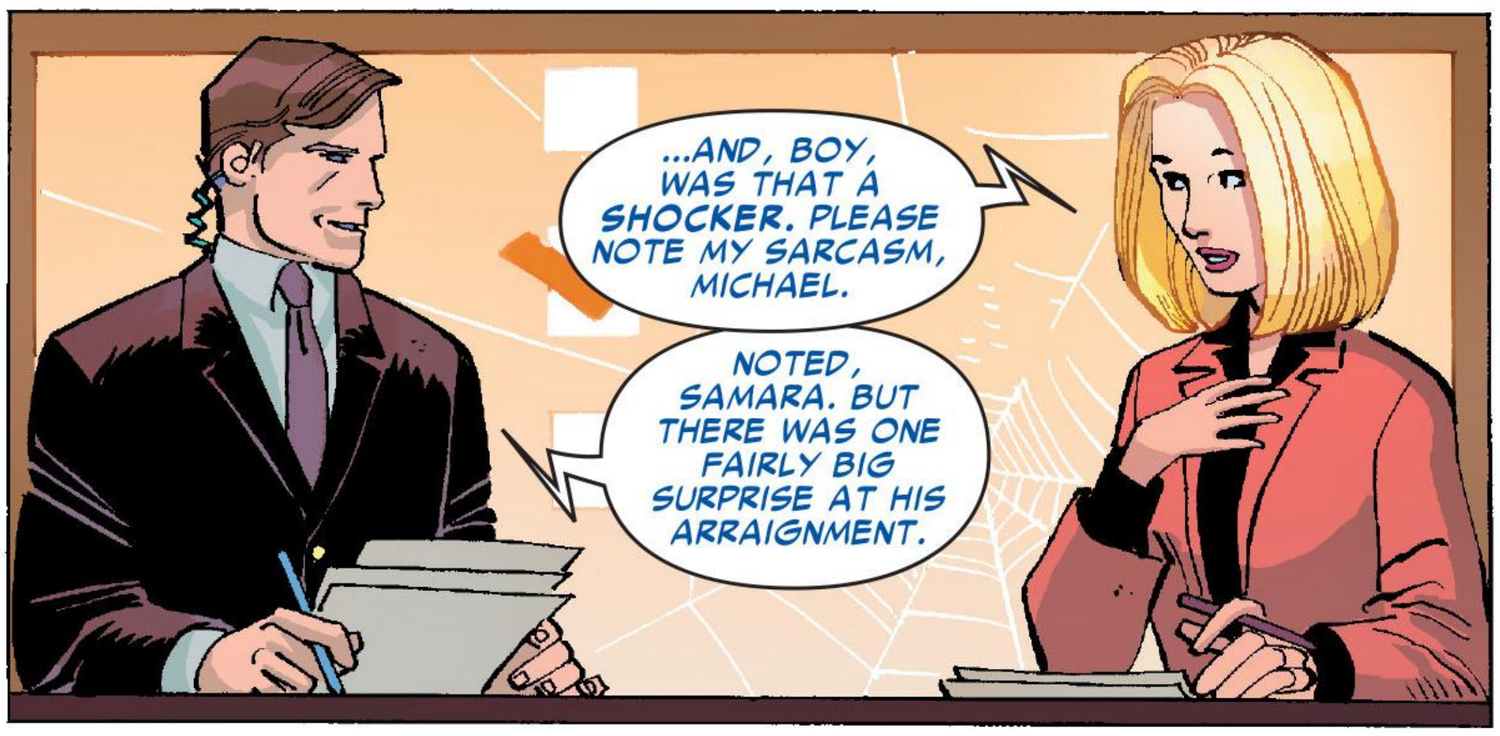
NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT I HOPE IT GOES ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TODAY.
REALLY?
I WASN'T ALWAYS A D.O.C. GUARD. ORIGINALLY, I WAS ON THE JOB. NYPD.

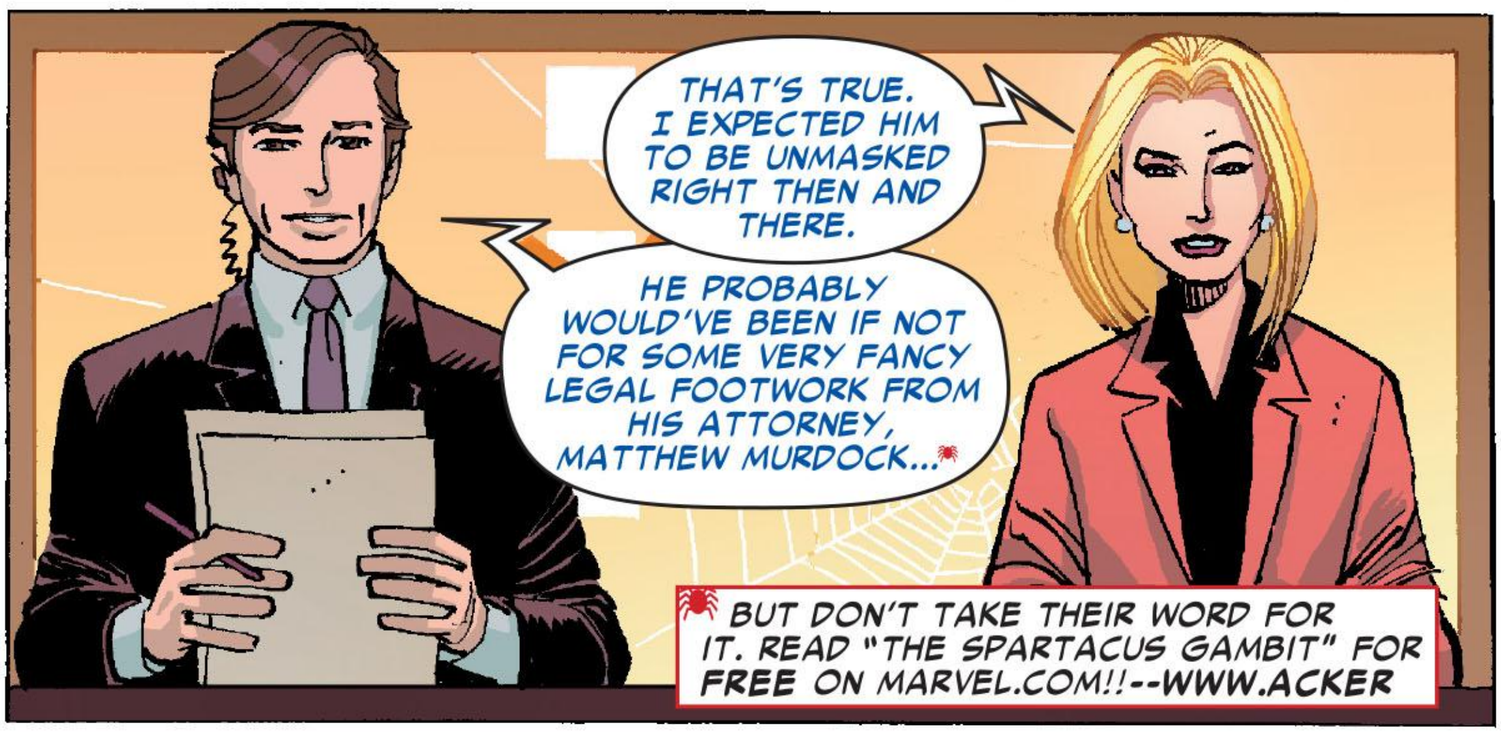

I HAD TO DROP OFF THE FORCE ON ACCOUNT OF A BAD LEG. GOT INJURED DURING A BANK ROBBERY. IT WAS THAT OCTOPUS GUY.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER.
WELL, I...

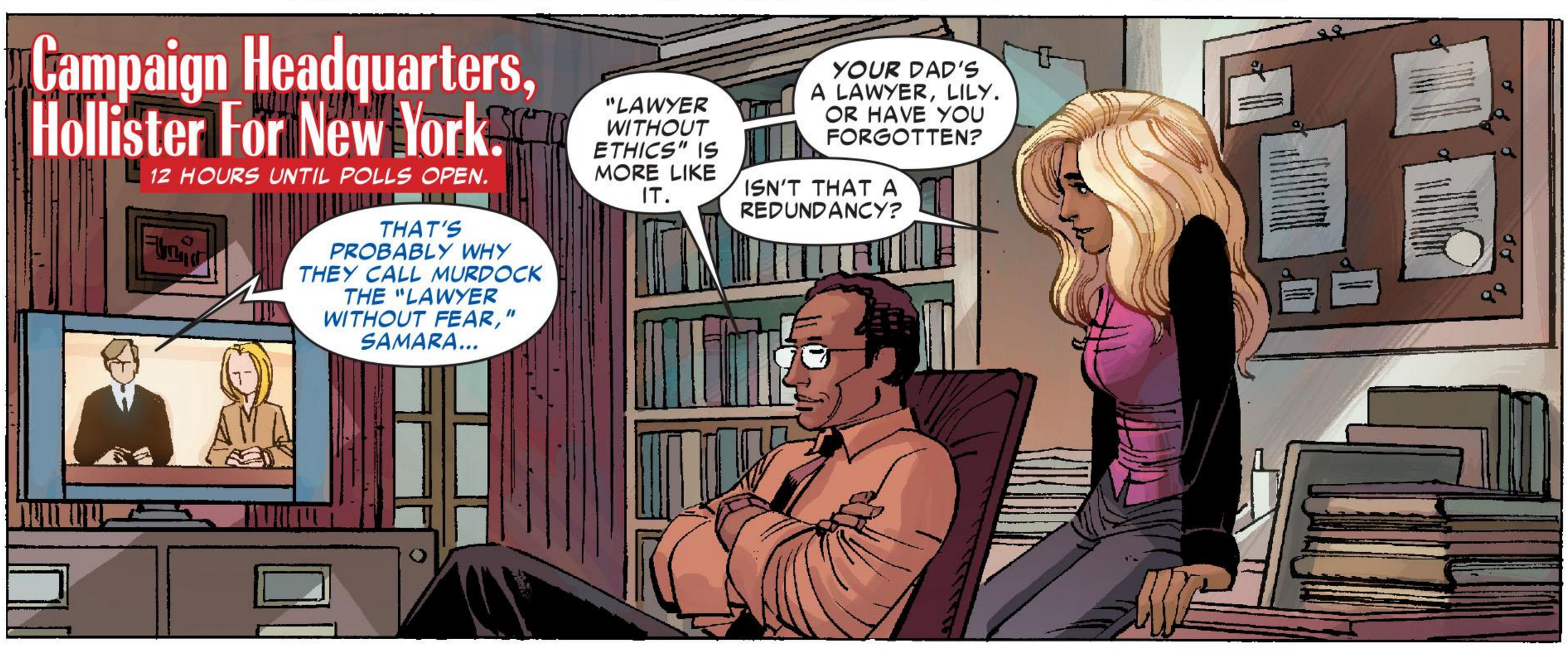

POINT BEING, IF *YOU* HADN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED, I WOULD'VE BEEN HURT A *LOT* WORSE THAN MY LEG.
AND MY KIDS-- I GOT TWO YOUNG GIRLS--THEY WOULD'VE LOST THEIR DADDY.

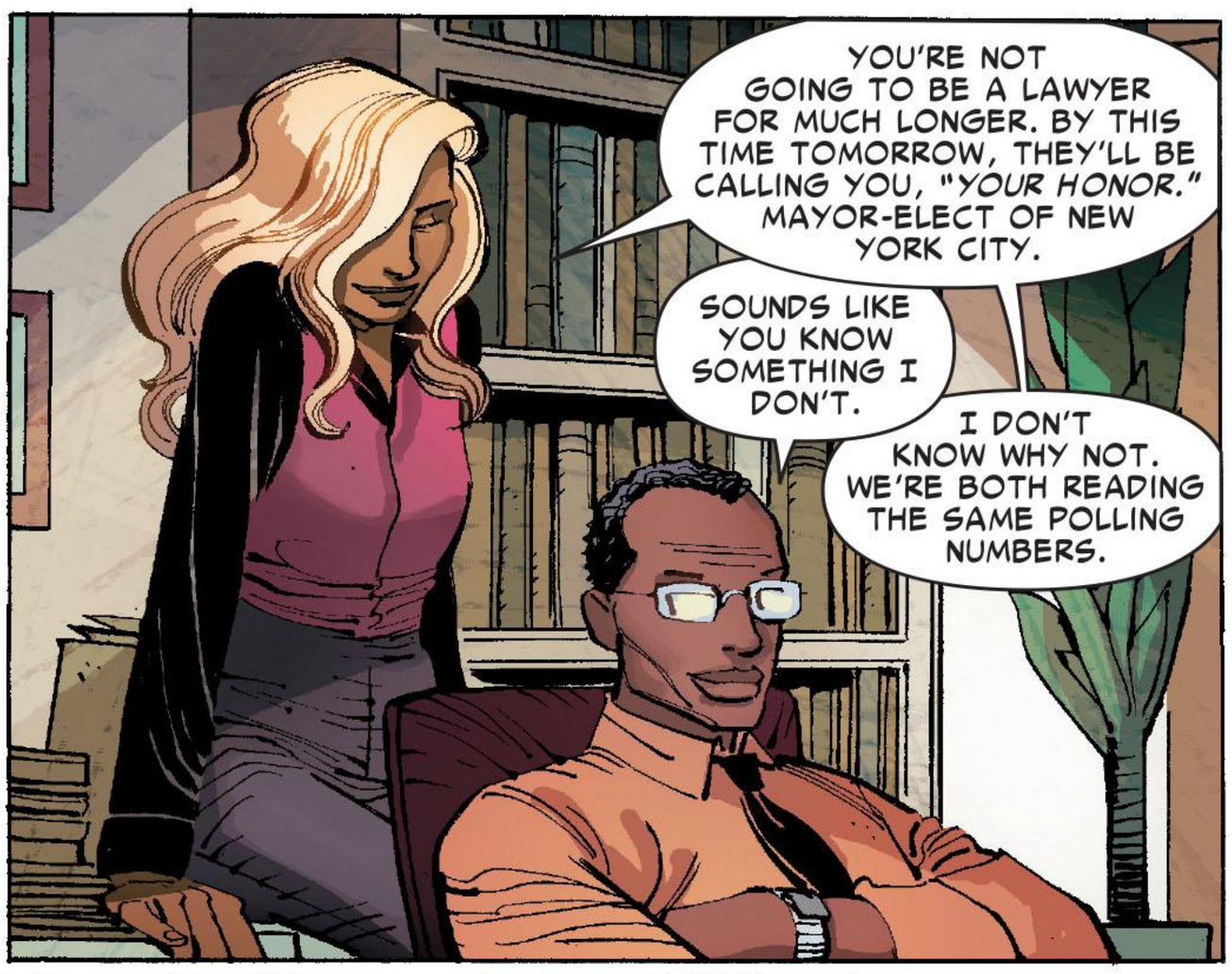
SO THAT'S A LONG WAY OF SAYIN'...GOOD LUCK TODAY.
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK

Soon...
ARE YOU PREPARED TO ENTER A PLEA AT THIS TIME?
UMM...NOT GUILTY.
"SPIDER-MAN ENTERED A PLEA OF NOT GUILTY..."

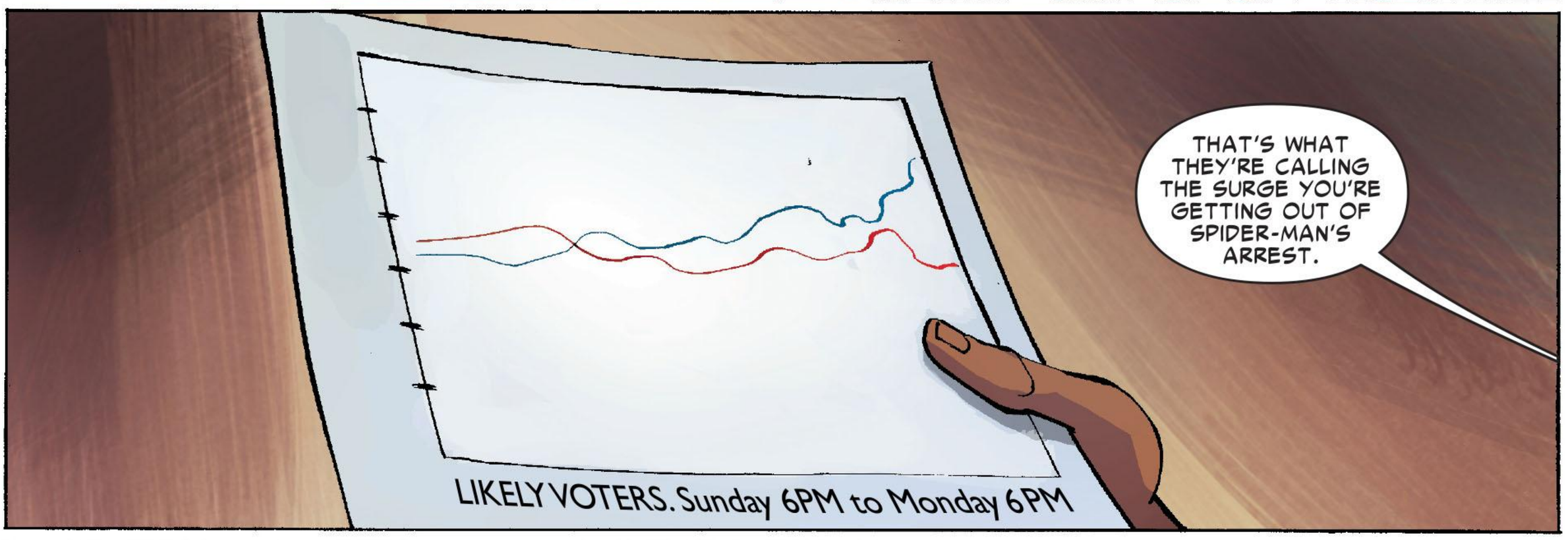

...AND, BOY, WAS THAT A SHOCKER. PLEASE NOTE MY SARCASM, MICHAEL.
NOTED, SAMARA. BUT THERE WAS ONE FAIRLY BIG SURPRISE AT HIS ARRAIGNMENT.

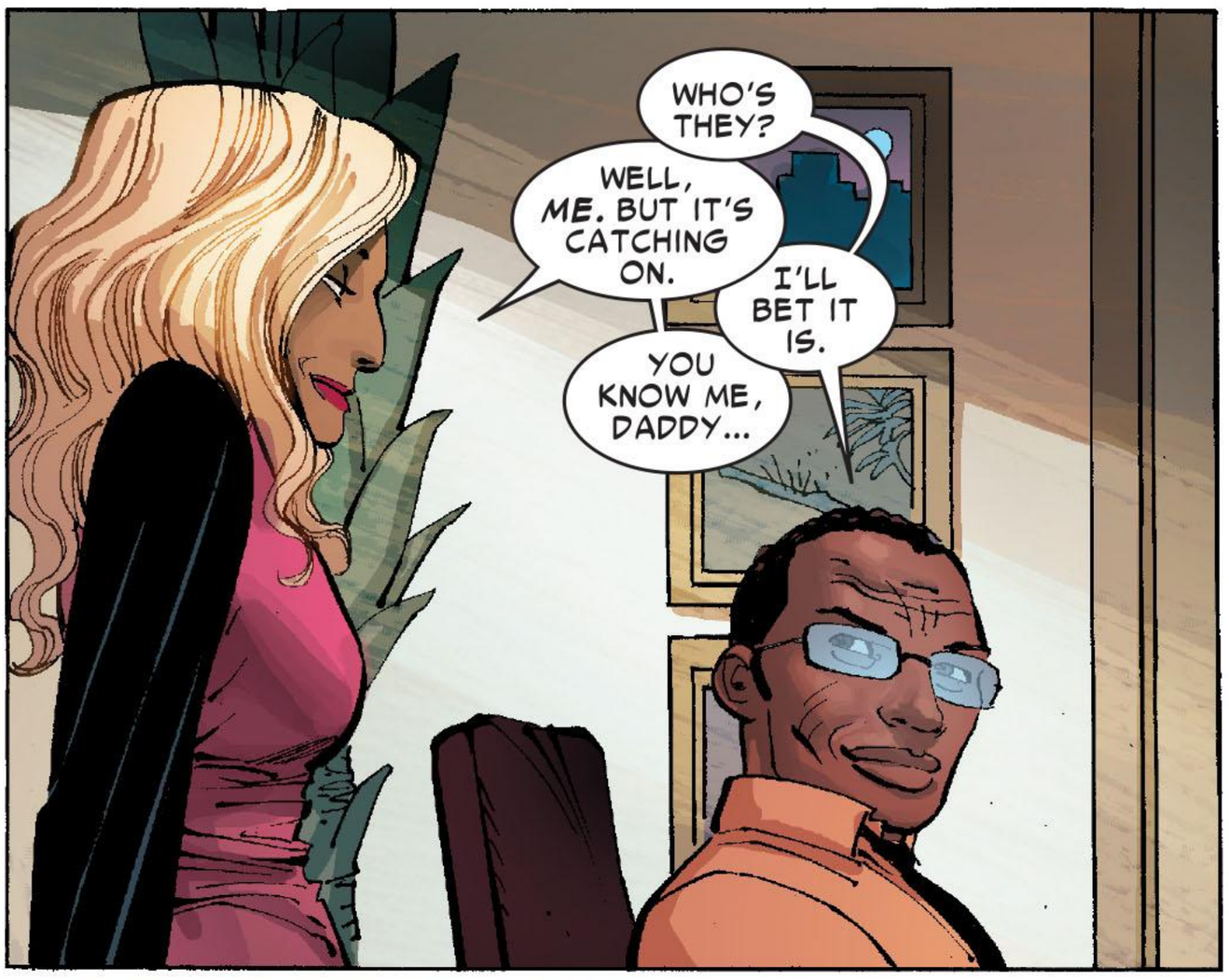

THAT'S TRUE. I EXPECTED HIM TO BE UNMASKED RIGHT THEN AND THERE.
HE PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN IF NOT FOR SOME VERY FANCY LEGAL FOOTWORK FROM HIS ATTORNEY, MATTHEW MURDOCK...
BUT DON'T TAKE THEIR WORD FOR IT. READ "THE SPARTACUS GAMBIT" FOR FREE ON MARVEL.COM!!--WWW.ACKER


Campaign Headquarters, Hollister For New York.
12 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY CALL MURDOCK THE "LAWYER WITHOUT FEAR," SAMARA...
"LAWYER WITHOUT ETHICS" IS MORE LIKE IT.
YOUR DAD'S A LAWYER, LILY. OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
ISN'T THAT A REDUNDANCY?

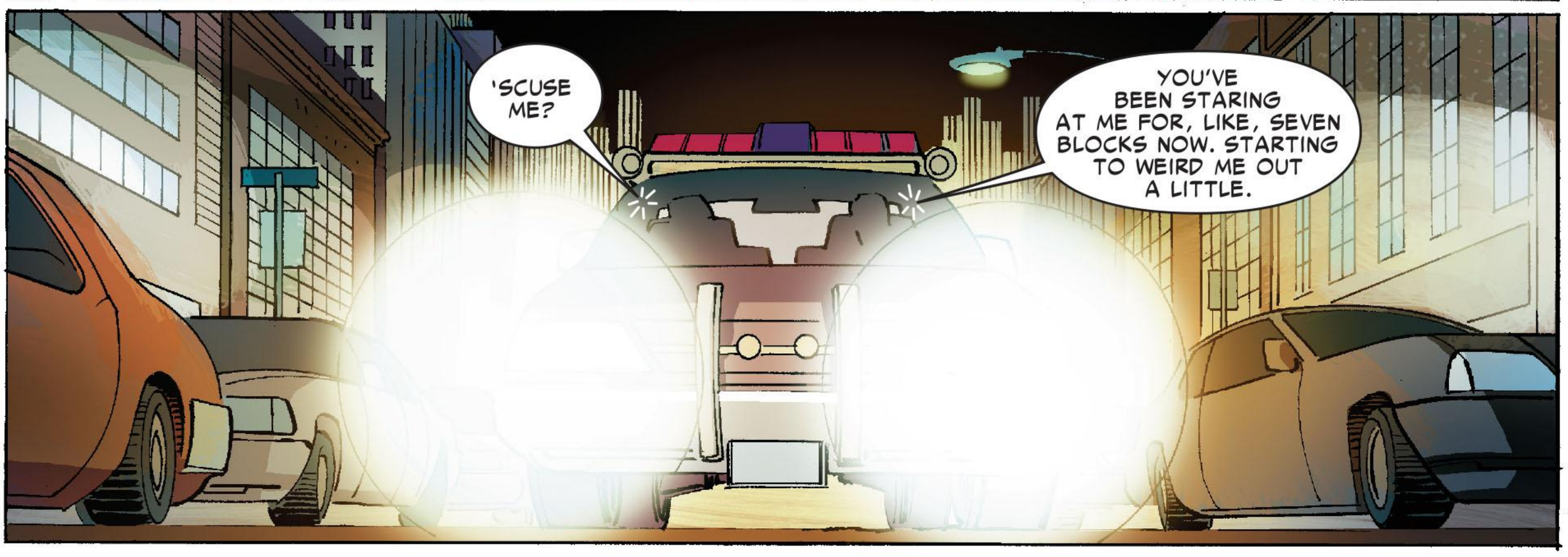

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE A LAWYER FOR MUCH LONGER. BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, THEY'LL BE CALLING YOU, "*YOUR HONOR.*" MAYOR-ELECT OF NEW YORK CITY.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T.
I DON'T KNOW WHY NOT. WE'RE BOTH READING THE SAME POLLING NUMBERS.

THE SPIDER-BUMP YOU'RE GETTING--
SPIDER-BUMP?


THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLING THE SURGE YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF SPIDER-MAN'S ARREST.
LIKELY VOTERS. Sunday 6PM to Monday 6PM


WHO'S THEY?
WELL, *ME.* BUT IT'S CATCHING ON.
I'LL BET IT IS.
YOU KNOW ME, DADDY...

ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP.
"CAN I HELP YOU?"


'SCUSE ME?
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME FOR, LIKE, SEVEN BLOCKS NOW. STARTING TO WEIRD ME OUT A LITTLE.

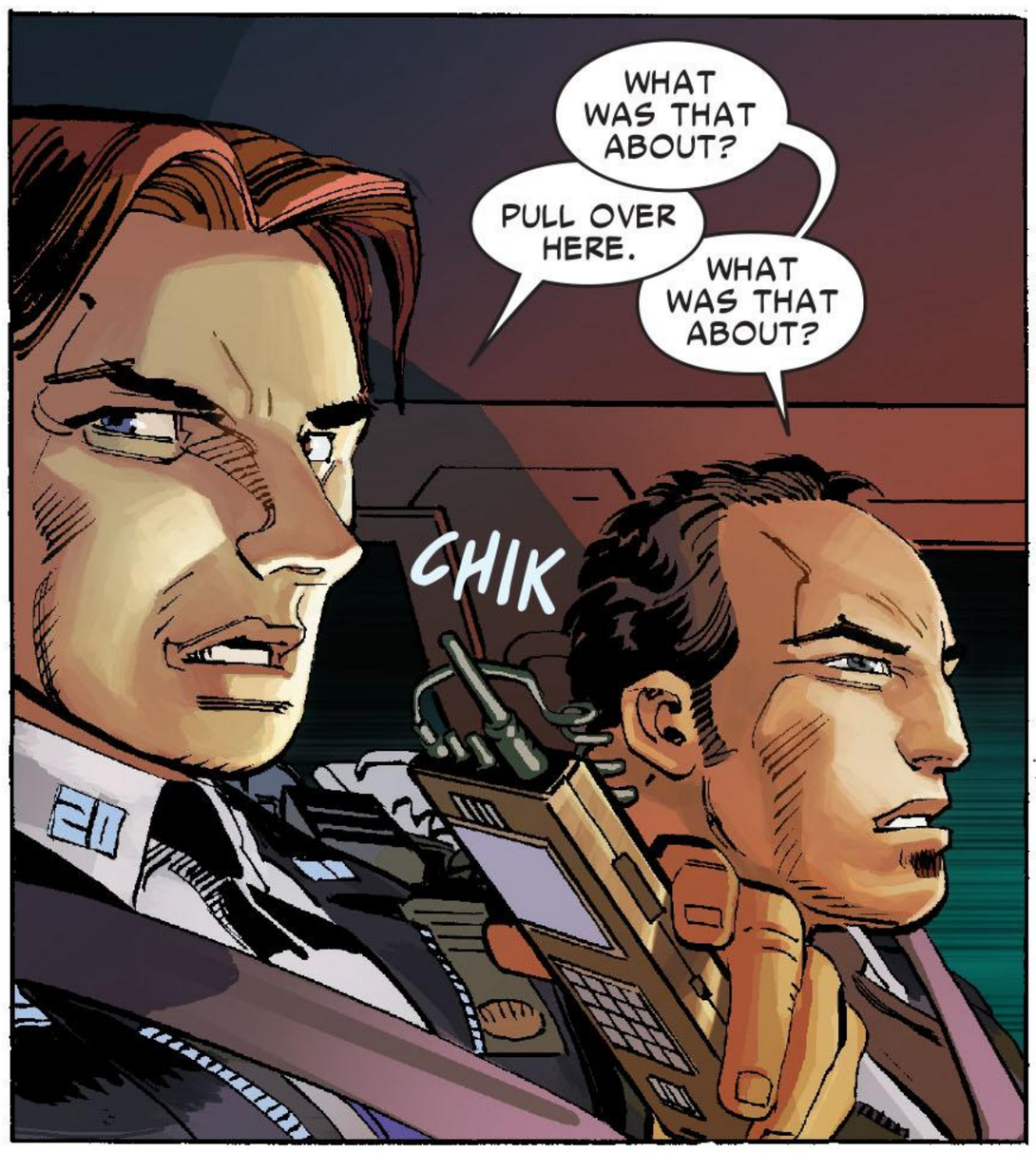
I'M NOT STARING AT YOU, VIN. YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.
CUTE.
YOU REALLY GONNA TELL ME WE DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM HERE?

WITH CARLIE, I MEAN.
YOU MEAN, DO I HAVE A CONCERN OR TWO THAT MAYBE YOUR GIRLFRIEND--
SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND--
--THAT MAYBE SHE WAS SLINGING US A LINE OF BULL BACK AT YOUR APARTMENT, BUYING SOME TIME--
TO DO WHAT?

GET THE HELL AWAY FROM ME FOR ONE THING.
WHY? WHAT WERE YOU GONNA DO?
I JUST WISH YOU HADN'T BEEN SO FRIGGIN' STUPID WITH THE TRACERS, MAN.
5-OH EDDIE...5-OH EDDIE...THIS IS CENTRAL-K...

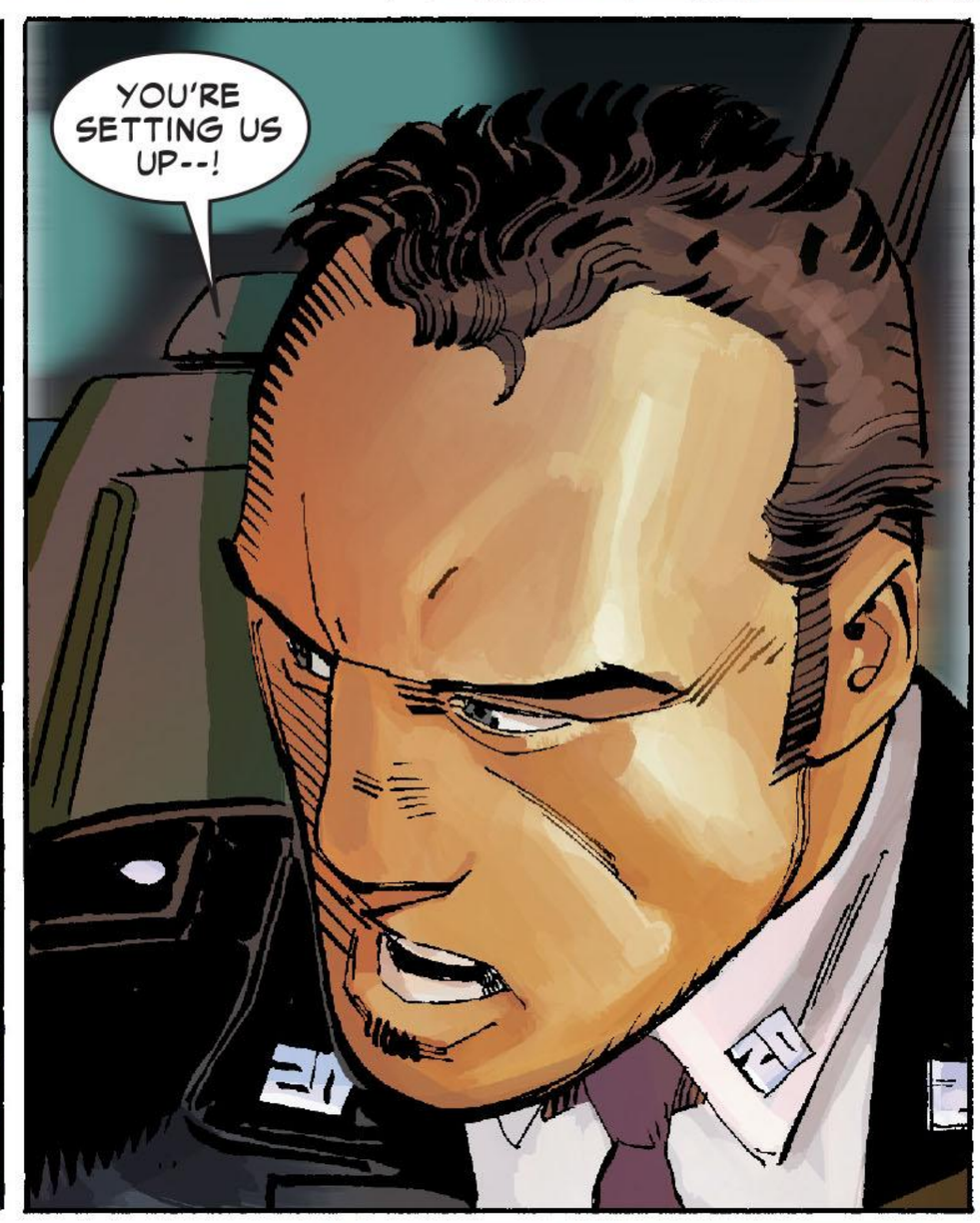
5-OH RESPONDING, CENTRAL...
OFFICER O'NEIL, PLEASE GO OFF-SPEAKER FOR SERGEANT PALONE.
PALONE--?

YES SIR?
YES SIR.
NO, I UNDERSTAND.


WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
PULL OVER HERE.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
CHIK

WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR YOU AND CARLIE.
WHAT--
SUSPICION OF AIDING AND ABETTING SPIDER-MAN IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRACER KILLINGS--
ARE YOU INSANE--

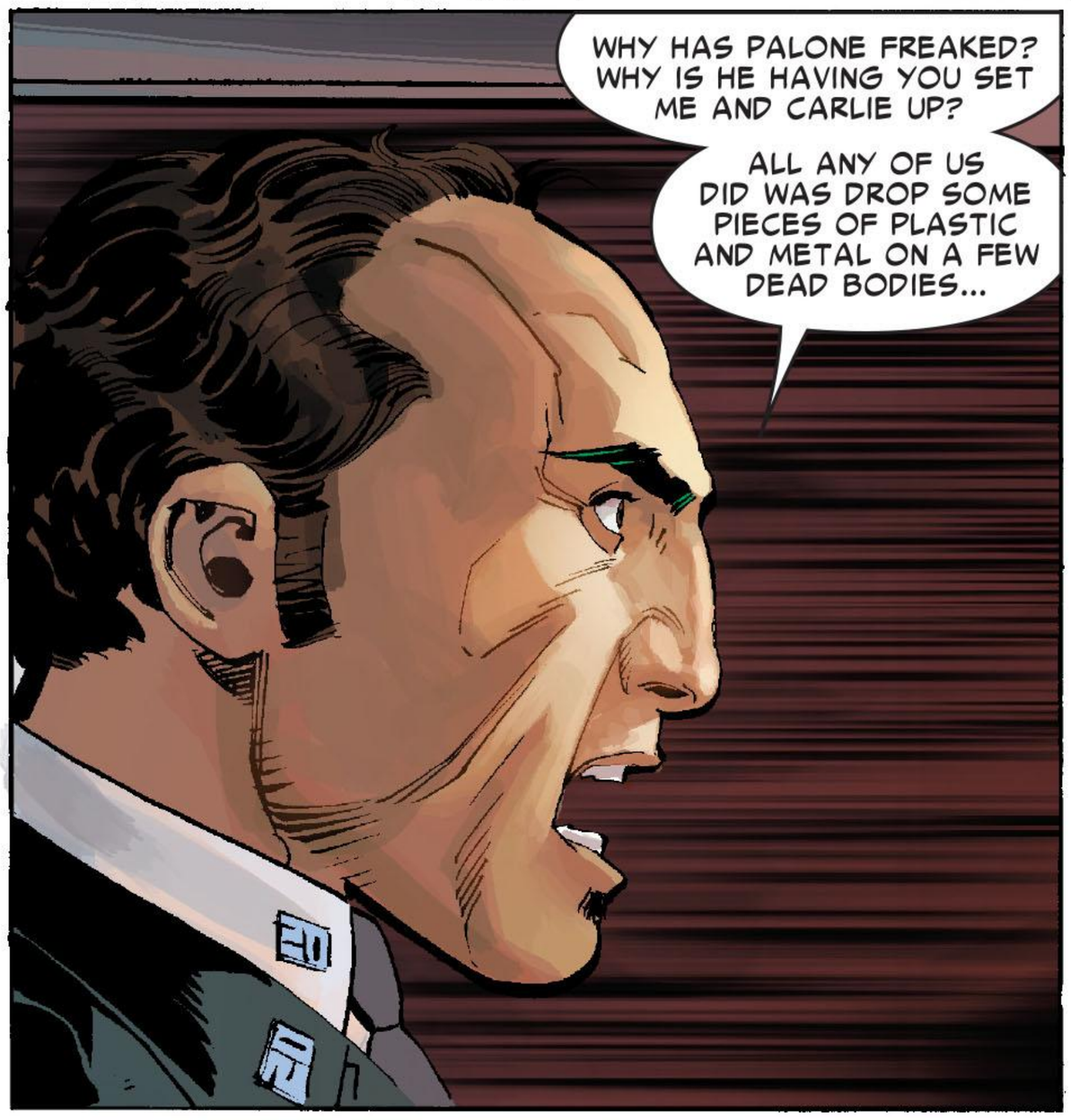
I WITNESSED YOU IN POSSESSION OF AT LEAST A DOZEN OF THESE SPIDER-TRACERS--
THAT'S--!
--AND WE'VE GOT A SWORN AFFIDAVIT FROM JULIAN BECK IN C.S.U. SAYING HE BUILT A TRACER-TRACKER FOR CARLIE--


YOU'RE SETTING US UP--!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS. I REALLY AM.
BUT YOU AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND STEPPED IN IT *DEEP* HERE. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW *HOW* DEEP.

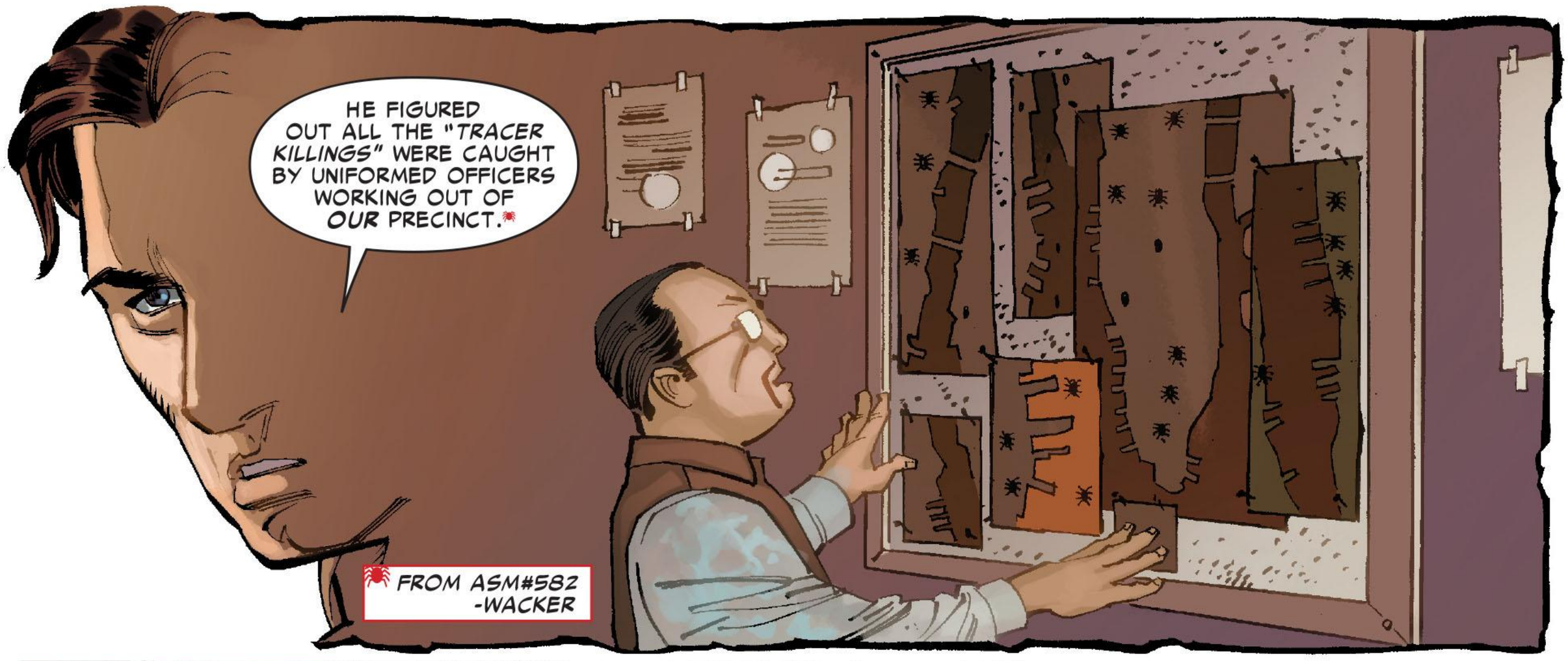
I'M STARTING TO GET AN IDEA.
SHE WENT TO PALONE. AND PALONE'S BEEN PRETTY DAMN *TWITCHY* EVER SINCE...

EVER SINCE WHAT?
YOU SHOULDN'T'VE KEPT THE TRACERS IN YOUR HOUSE, YOU IDIOT...
POLICE DEPARTMENT


WHY HAS PALONE FREAKED? WHY IS HE HAVING YOU SET ME AND CARLIE UP?
ALL ANY OF US DID WAS DROP SOME PIECES OF PLASTIC AND METAL ON A FEW DEAD BODIES...

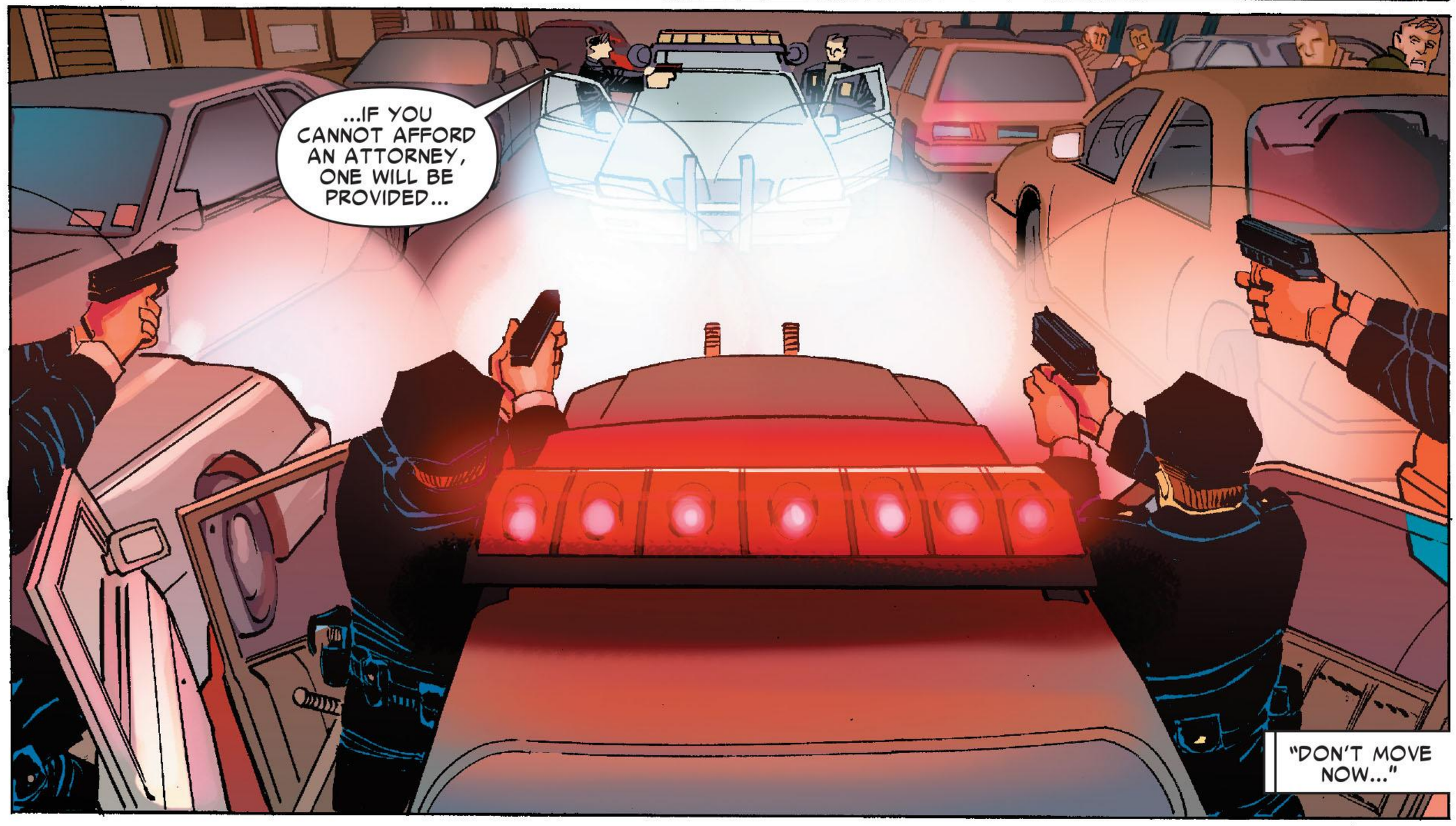
THAT *IS* ALL WE DID, RIGHT?
AL?

YOU KNOW JOHNNY LADUE, *THE BOOKIE?*
YEAH...

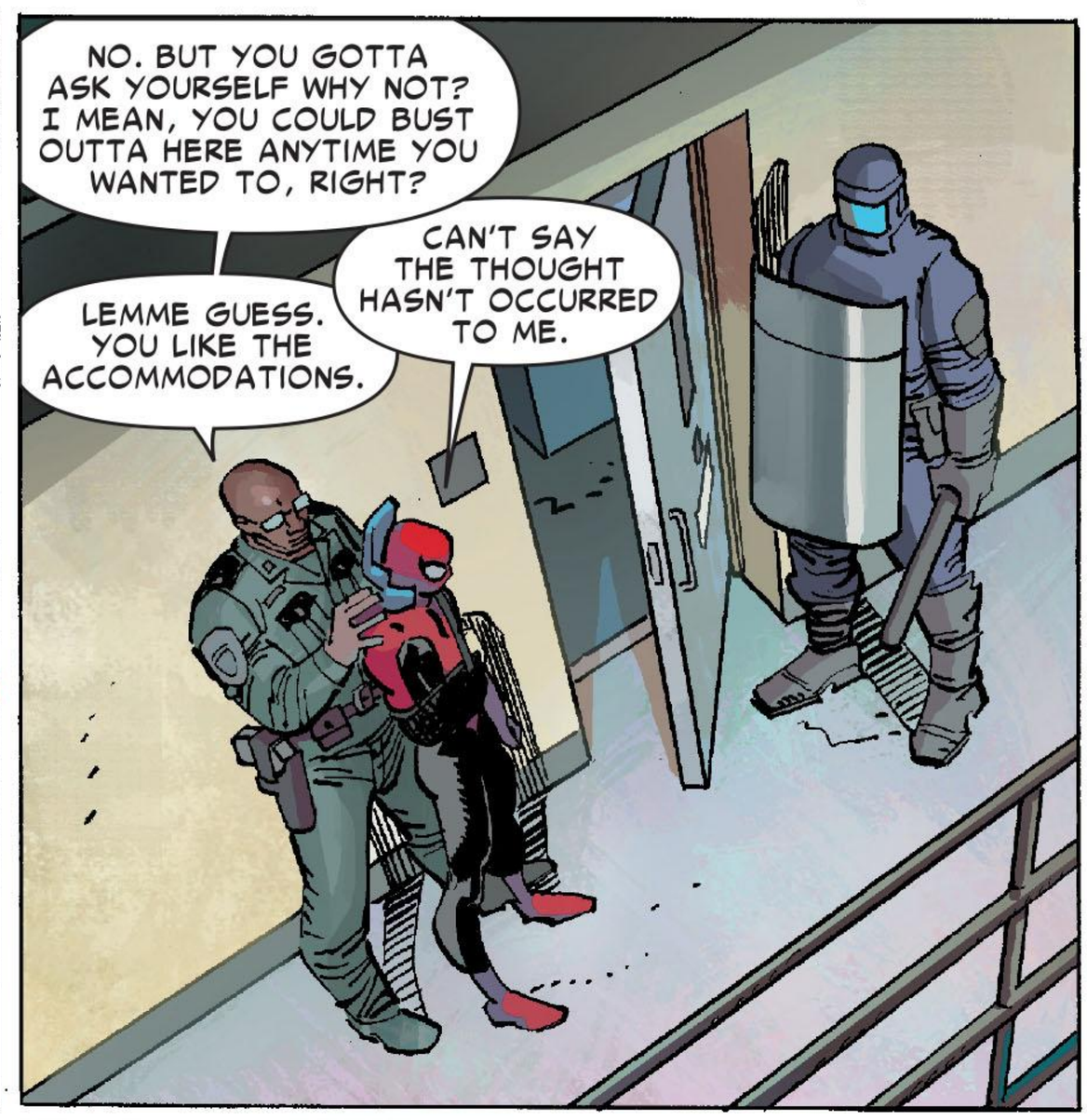

HE FIGURED OUT ALL THE "TRACER KILLINGS" WERE CAUGHT BY UNIFORMED OFFICERS WORKING OUT OF OUR PRECINCT.
FROM ASM#582 -WACKER

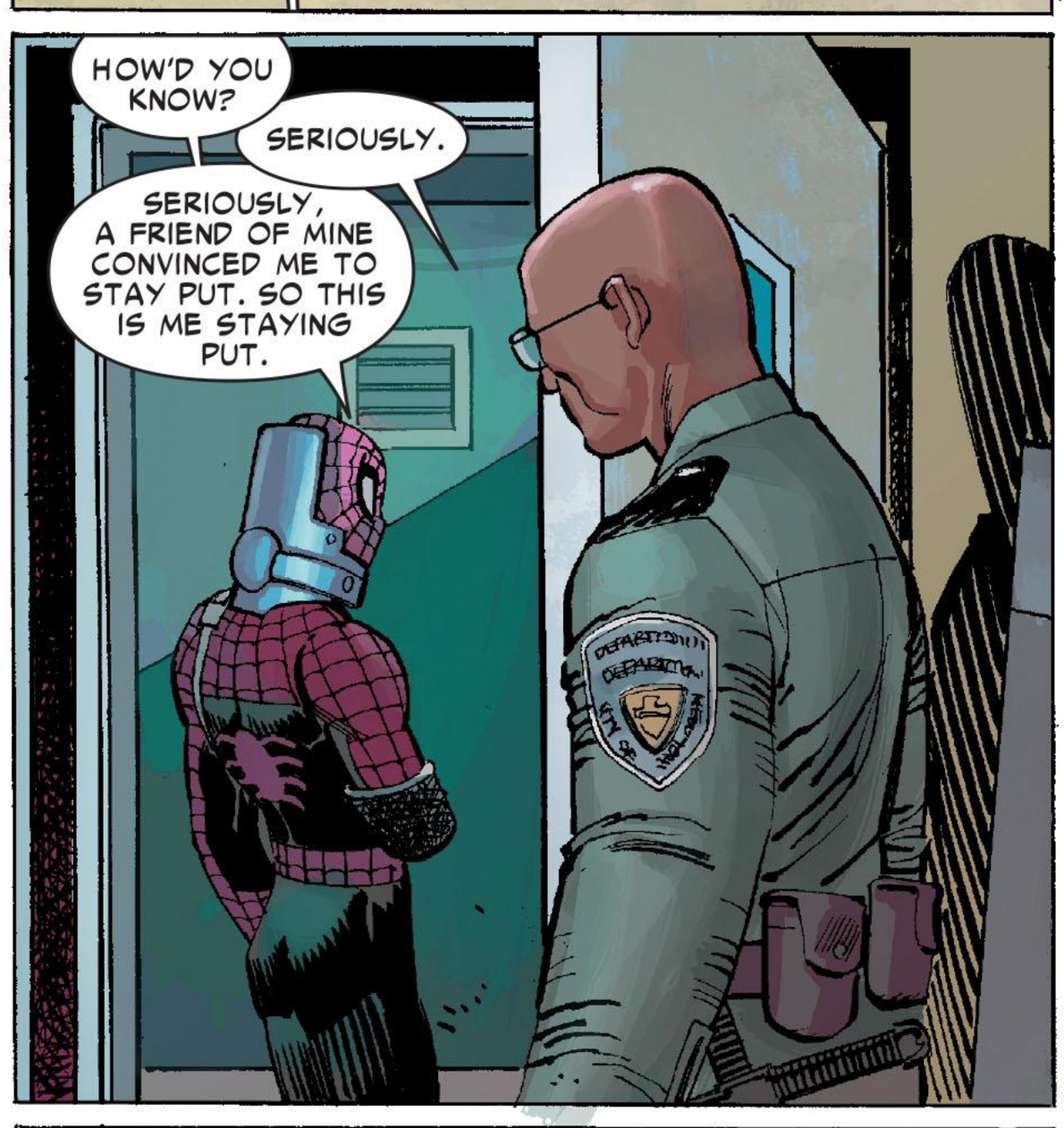
JEEZ...
AL, TELL ME--PALONE WOULDN'T--
IT'S LIKE I SAID, VIN...
YOU STEPPED IN IT DEEP.

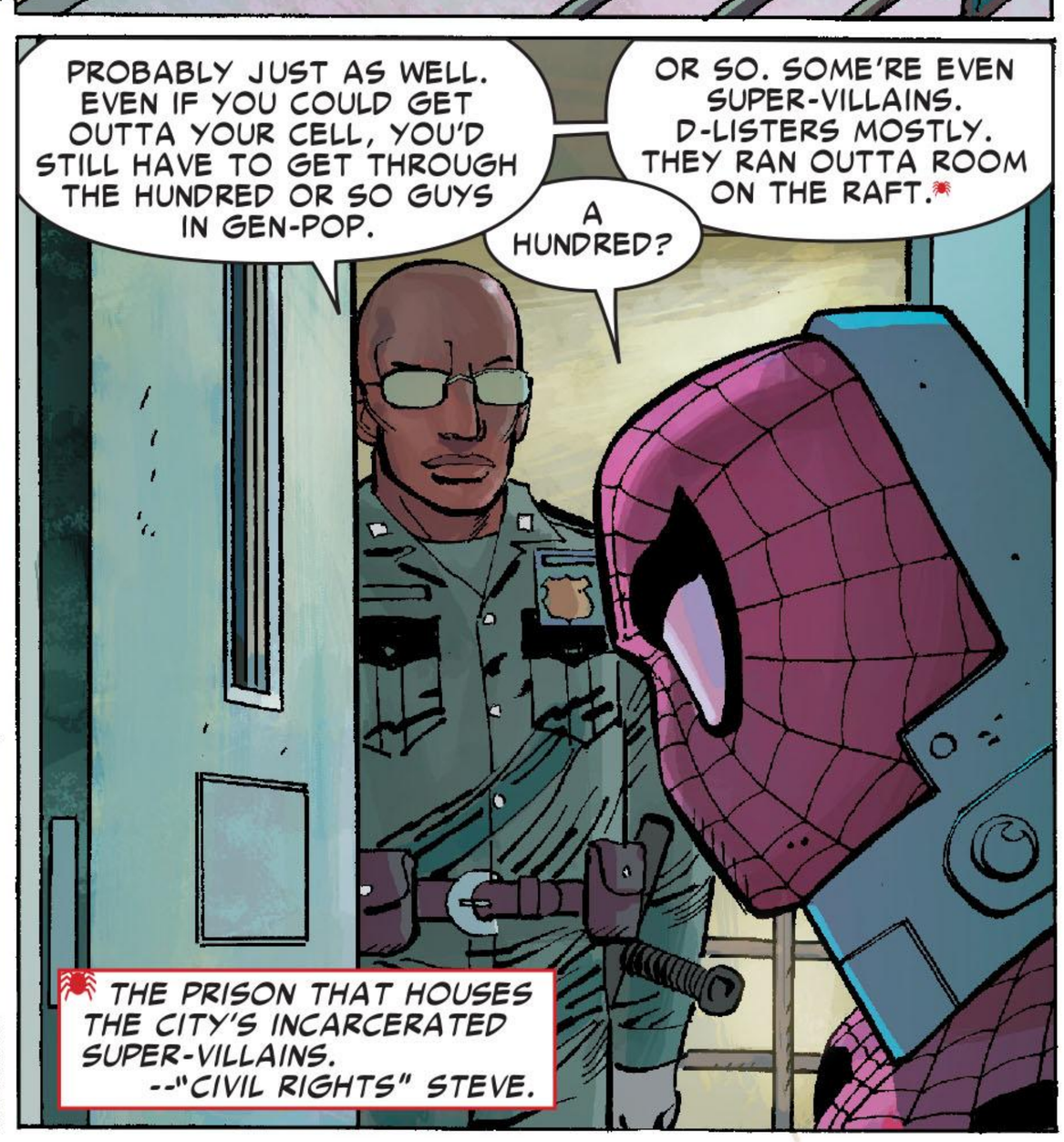
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY...


...IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY, ONE WILL BE PROVIDED...
"DON'T MOVE NOW..."

Ryker's Island.
10 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
DO I LOOK LIKE I'M STRUGGLING?
CORRECTION DEPARTMENT
CITY OF NEW YORK
RYKERS
ISLAN


NO. BUT YOU GOTTA ASK YOURSELF WHY NOT? I MEAN, YOU COULD BUST OUTTA HERE ANYTIME YOU WANTED TO, RIGHT?
CAN'T SAY THE THOUGHT HASN'T OCCURRED TO ME.
LEMME GUESS. YOU LIKE THE ACCOMMODATIONS.

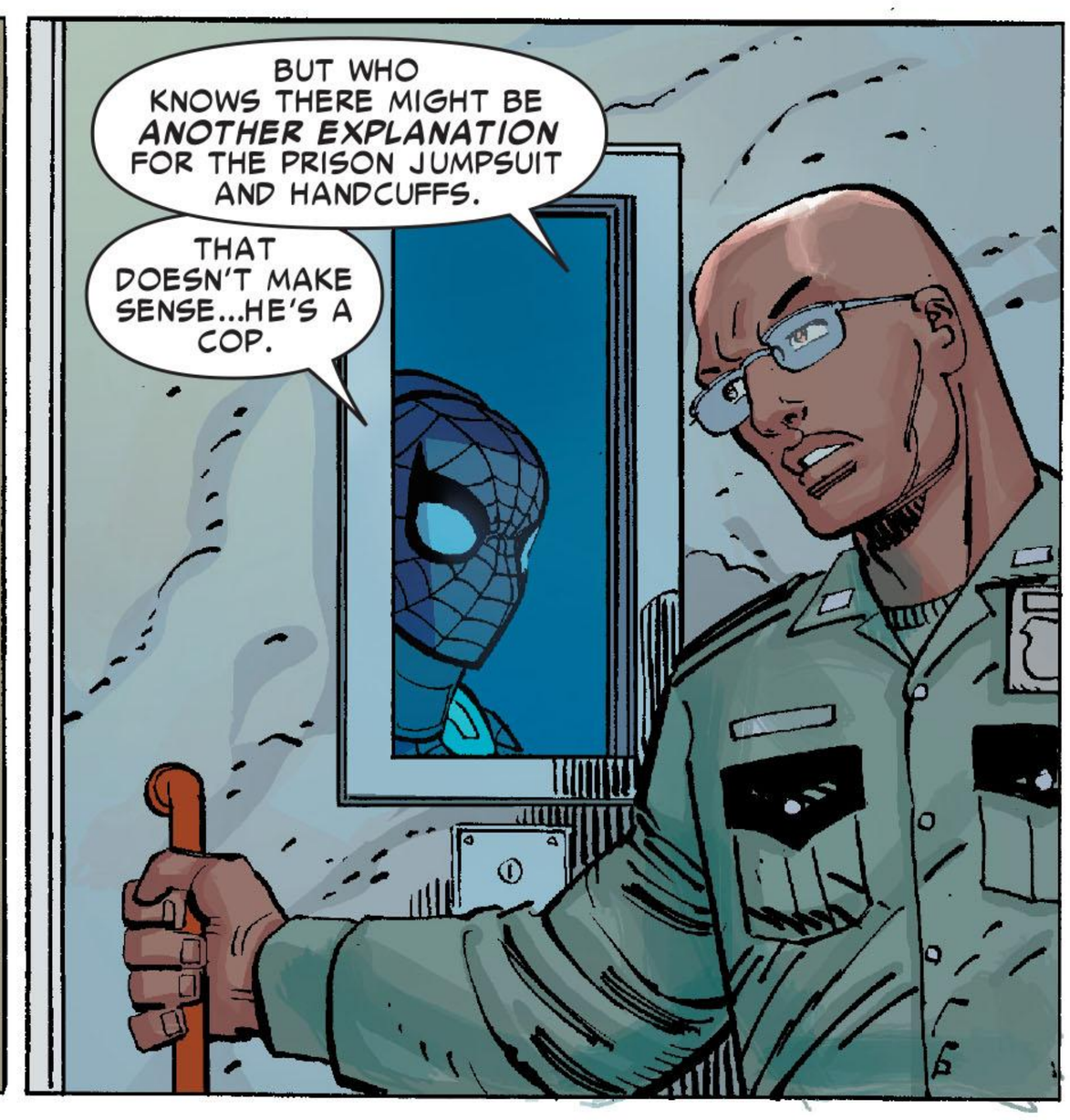

HOW'D YOU KNOW?
SERIOUSLY.
SERIOUSLY, A FRIEND OF MINE CONVINCED ME TO STAY PUT. SO THIS IS ME STAYING PUT.

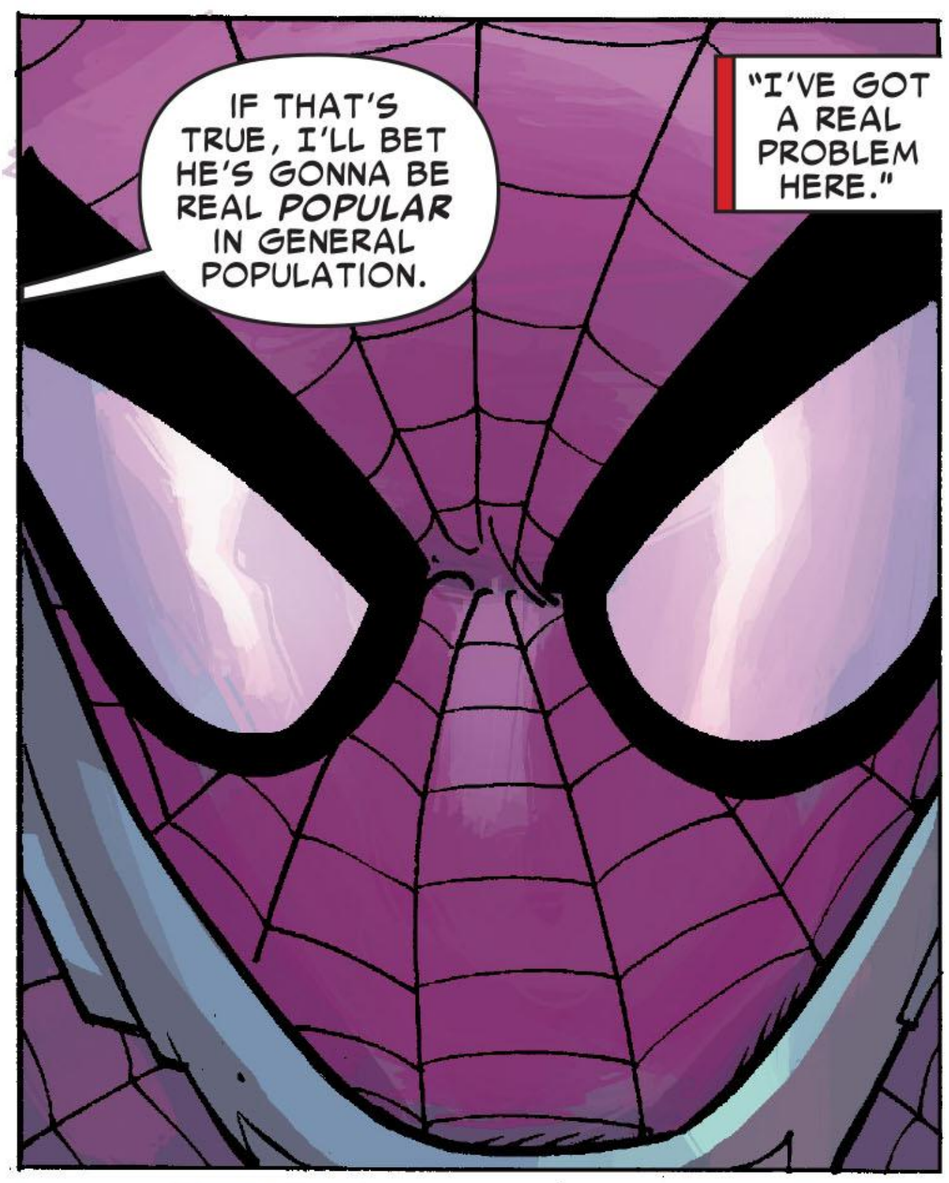

PROBABLY JUST AS WELL. EVEN IF YOU COULD GET OUTTA YOUR CELL, YOU'D STILL HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE HUNDRED OR SO GUYS IN GEN-POP.
A HUNDRED?
OR SO. SOME'RE EVEN SUPER-VILLAINS. D-LISTERS MOSTLY. THEY RAN OUTTA ROOM ON THE RAFT.
THE PRISON THAT HOUSES THE CITY'S INCARCERATED SUPER-VILLAINS. --"CIVIL RIGHTS" STEVE.

GUESS I BETTER STAY PUT, THEN--
VIN?!

FRIEND OF YOURS?
N.Y.D.O.C.

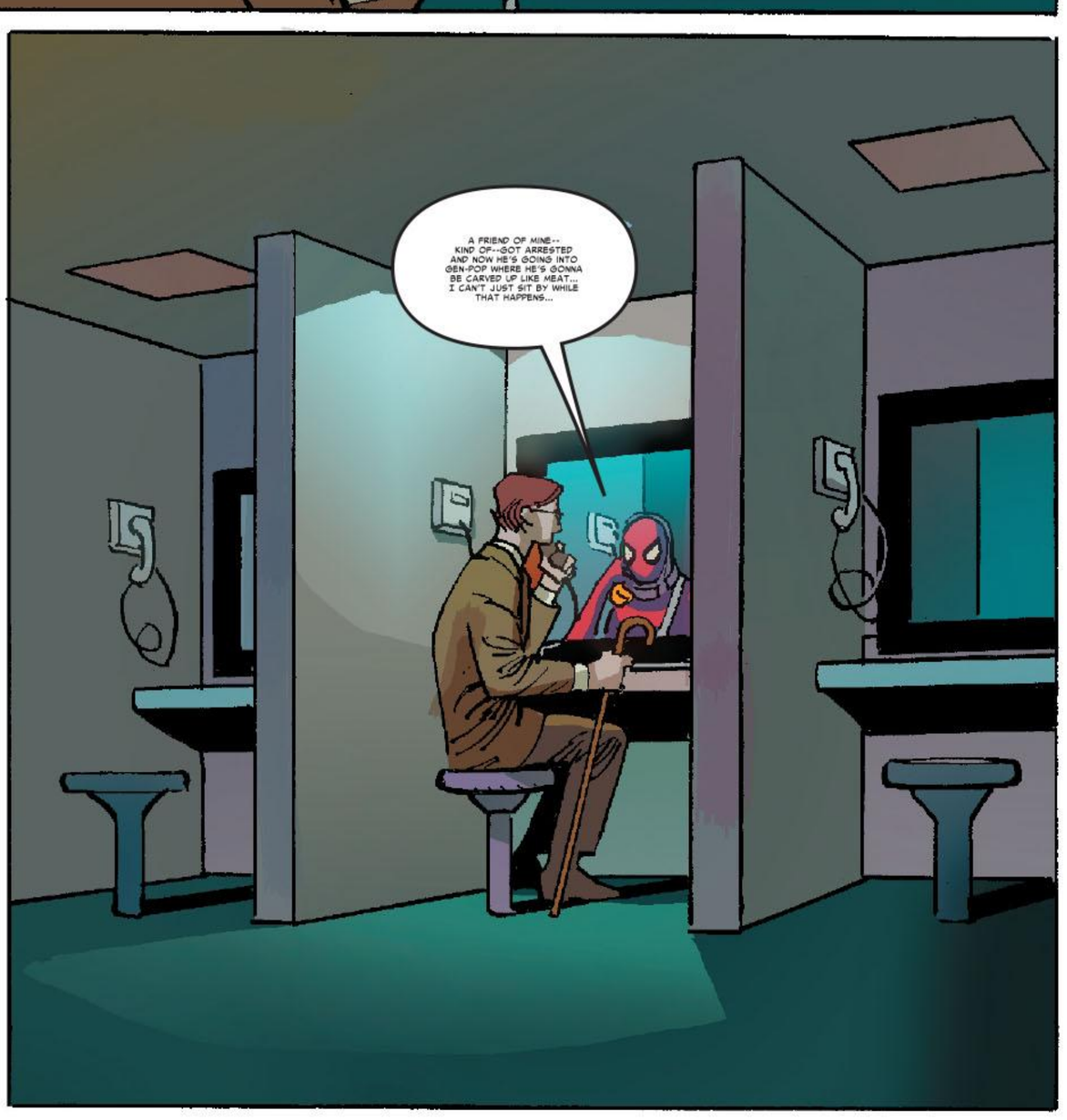
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE WAS ARRESTED FOR BREAKING THE LAW? I'M JUST GUESSING.


BUT WHO KNOWS THERE MIGHT BE ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR THE PRISON JUMPSUIT AND HANDCUFFS.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...HE'S A COP.


IF THAT'S TRUE, I'LL BET HE'S GONNA BE REAL POPULAR IN GENERAL POPULATION.
"I'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM HERE."

One Phone Call Later.
8 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.
BETWEEN THE JAIL, THE HANDCUFFS AND THE MURDER CHARGE, WHICH WAS YOUR FIRST CLUE?
I'M SERIOUS.

CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED.

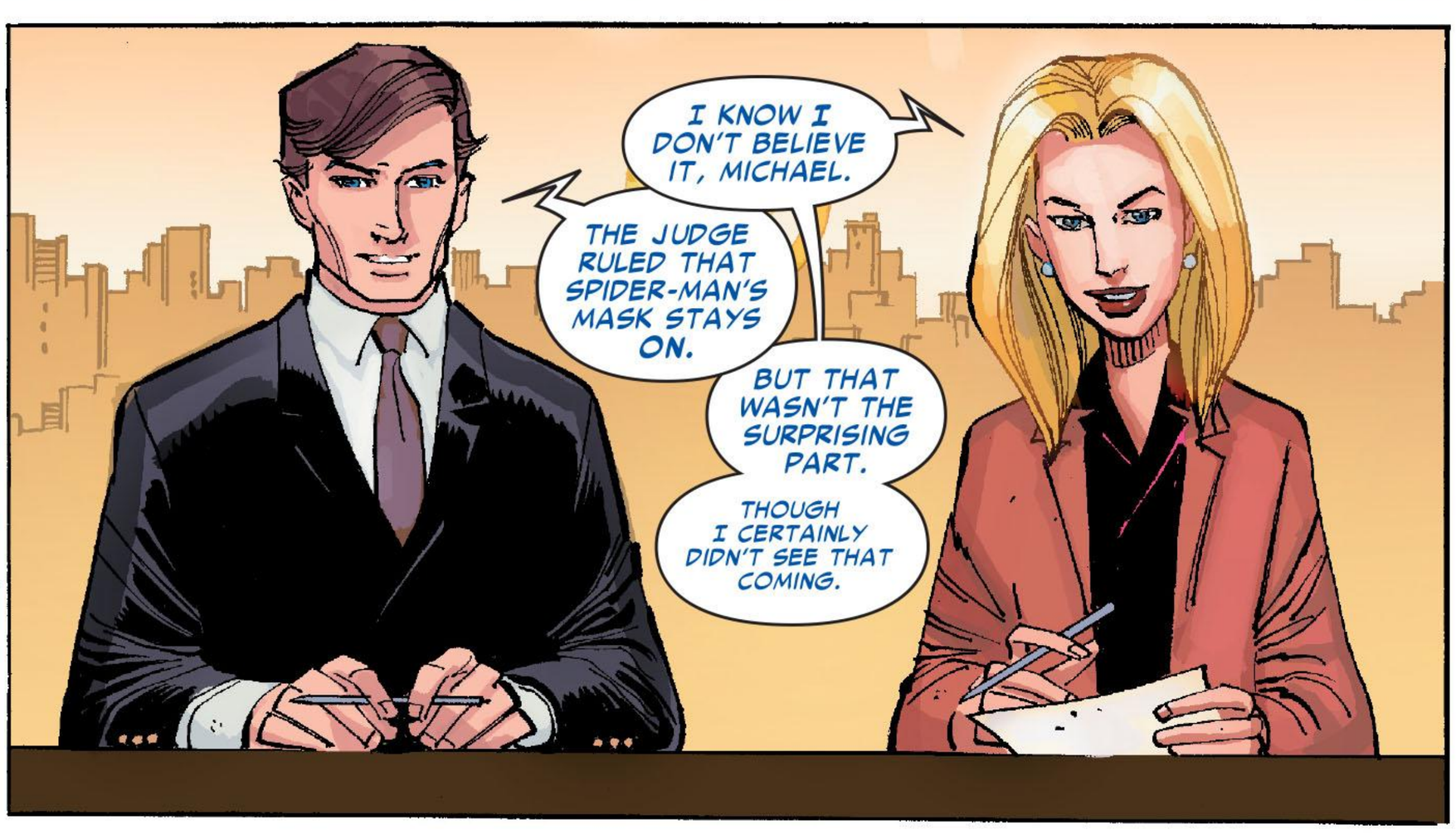

A FRIEND OF MINE--KIND OF--GOT ARRESTED AND NOW HE'S GOING INTO GEN-POP WHERE HE'S GONNA BE CARVED UP LIKE MEAT... I CAN'T JUST SIT BY WHILE THAT HAPPENS...

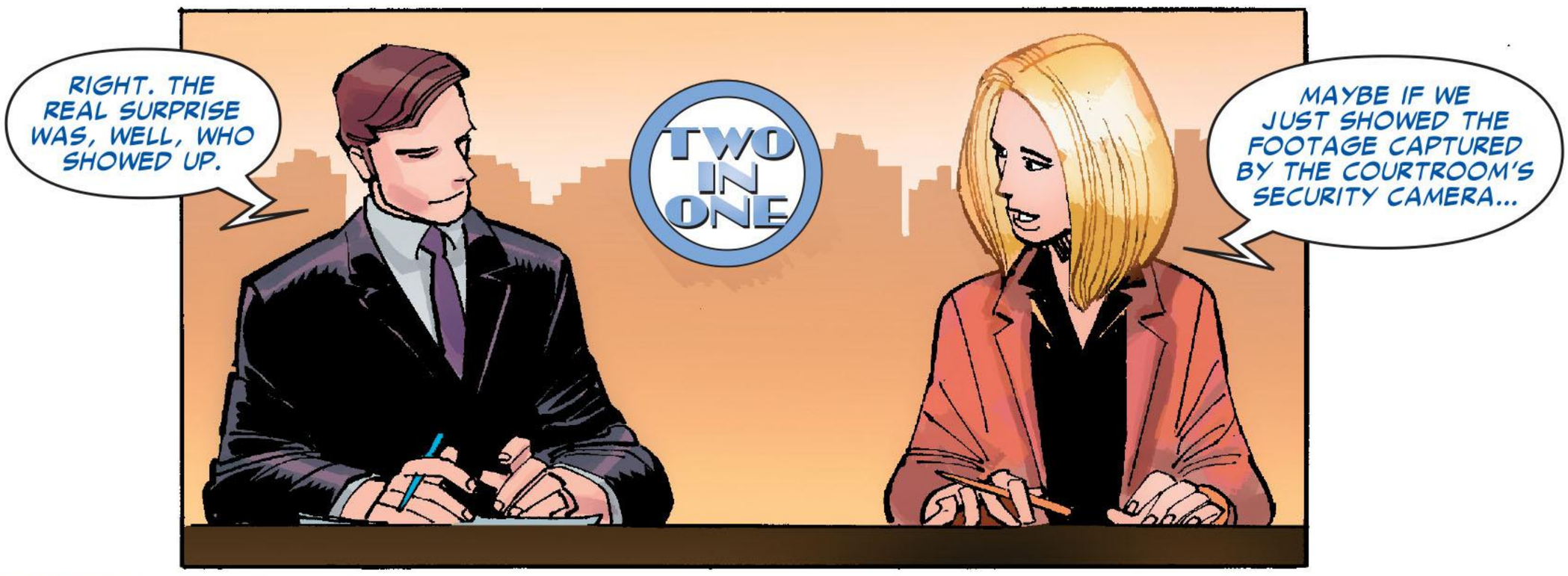
Election Day.
WHAT'S THIS?
LAW BOOK. I FIGURED IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON TRIAL FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL STUDY UP.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET ME OUT OF THIS.
I'M TRYING TO KEEP YOUR MASK ON AND GET YOU OUT OF THAT CIVIL SUIT.
SPIDEY WAS SLAPPED WITH A LAWSUIT BY A GUY HE RESCUED WAAAAAY BACK IN ISSUE #550. --"SUMMARY JUDGMENT" STEVE.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE MORE THAN WHAT I'VE GOT PLANNED TO GET THE CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST YOU DROPPED.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?
IF I TOLD YOU, IT WOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE.

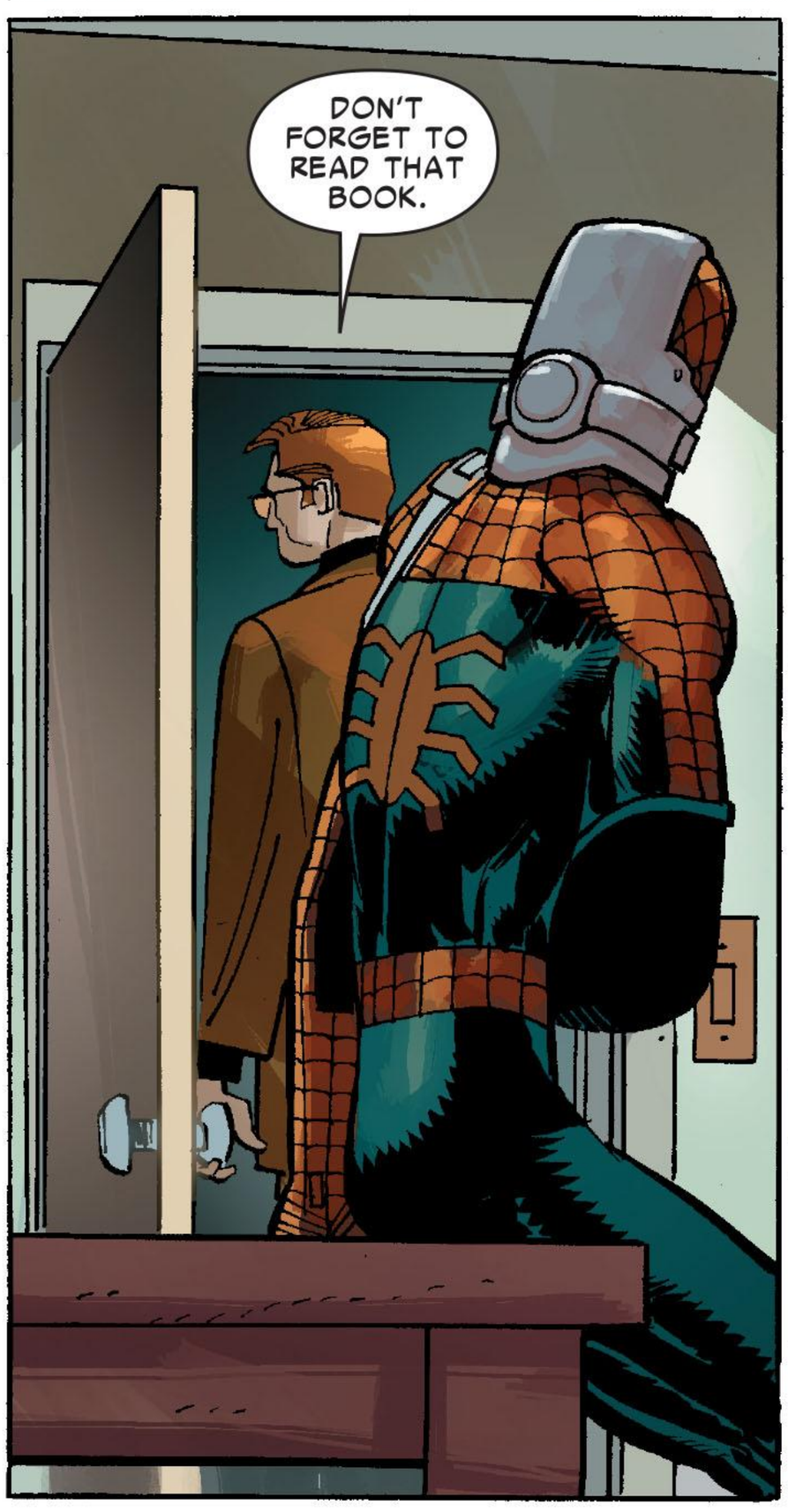
YOU CAN SPOIL IT FOR ME. SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M GOING TO PAY ATTENTION ANYWAY.
"WELL, YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT."

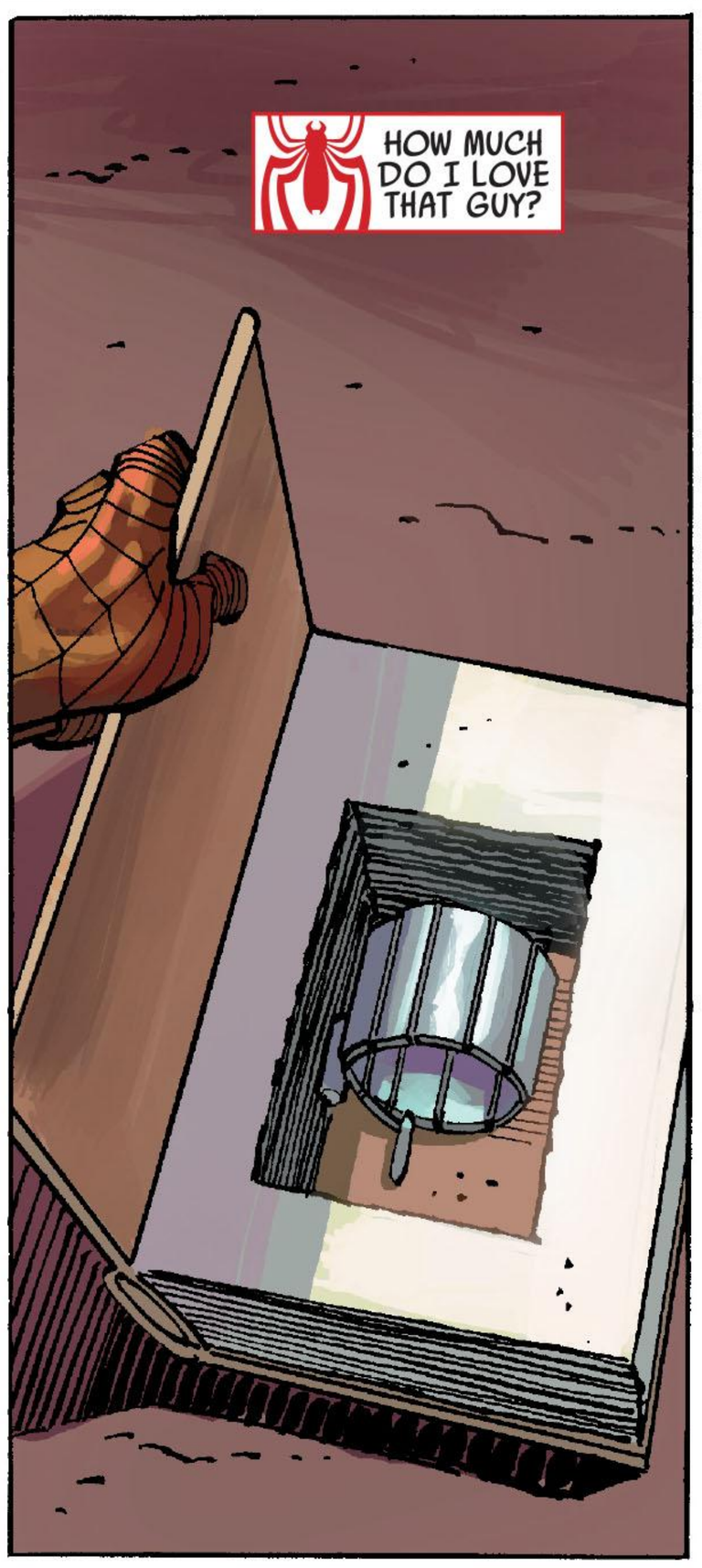

I KNOW I DON'T BELIEVE IT, MICHAEL.
THE JUDGE RULED THAT SPIDER-MAN'S MASK STAYS ON.
BUT THAT WASN'T THE SURPRISING PART.
THOUGH I CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.


RIGHT. THE REAL SURPRISE WAS, WELL, WHO SHOWED UP.
TWO IN ONE
MAYBE IF WE JUST SHOWED THE FOOTAGE CAPTURED BY THE COURTROOM'S SECURITY CAMERA...

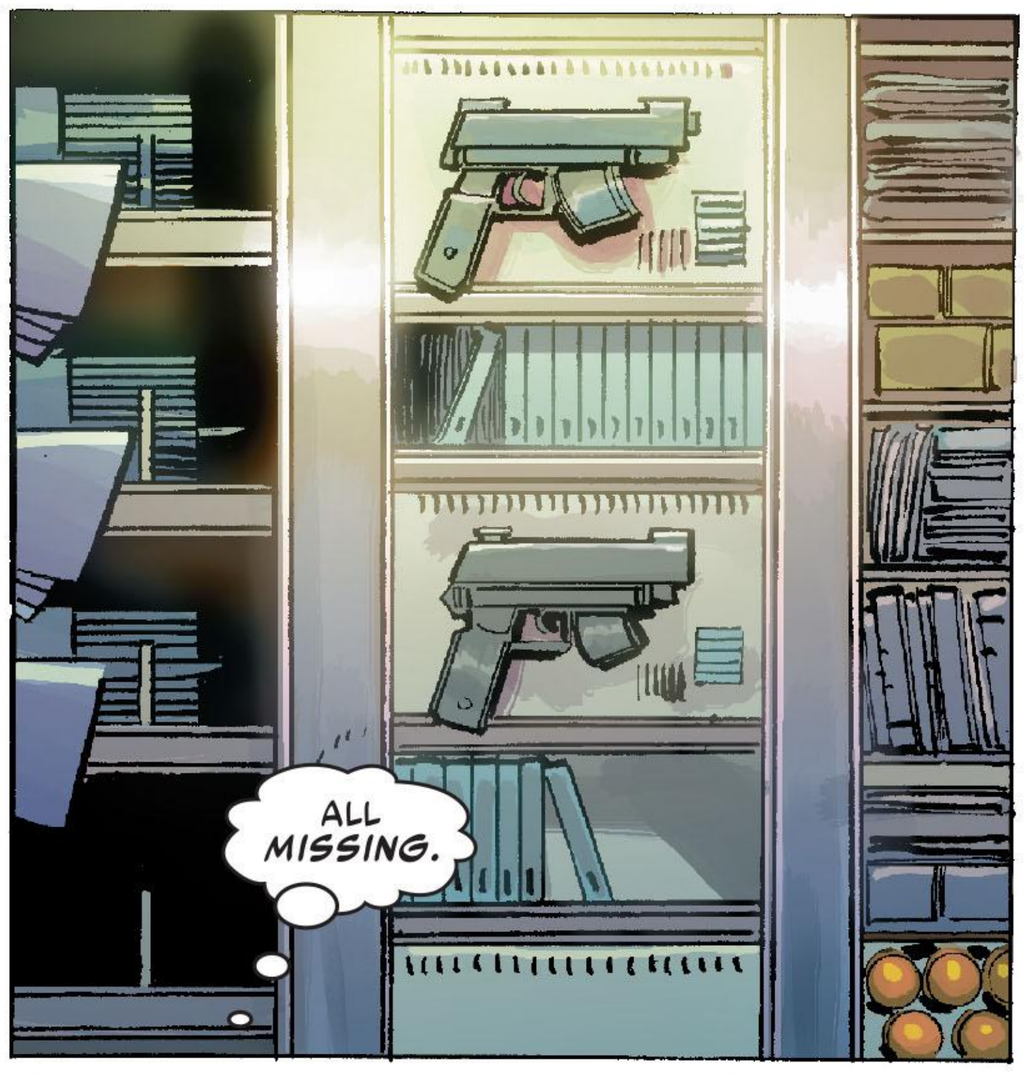
THIS PRETTY MUCH SAYS IT ALL, I THINK.
"WHERE'D IRON FIST GET THE WEB-SHOOTER?"

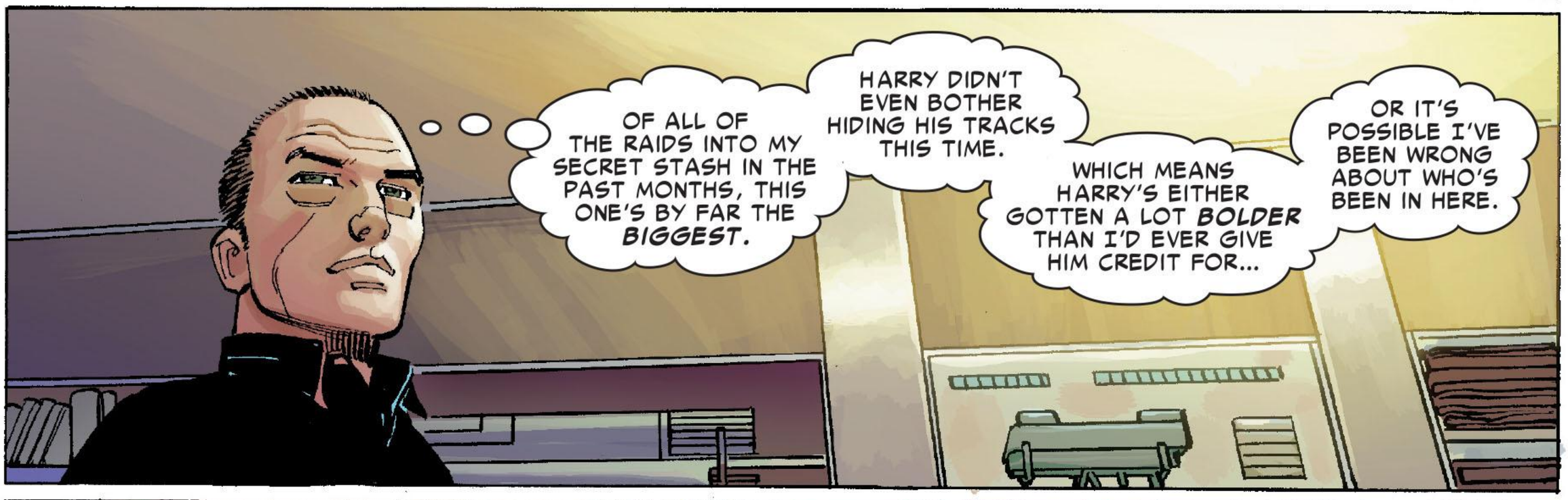
THEY CONFISCATED MINE AT CENTRAL BOOKING.
APPARENTLY, SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE EVIDENCE LOCKER LAST NIGHT. TRAGIC.
TELL ME YOU DIDN'T BREAK INTO ANY N.Y.P.D. EVIDENCE LOCKER.
I DIDN'T. AND I'M OFFENDED YOU THINK I WOULD. THE WEB-SHOOTER JUST... SHOWED UP. I DON'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS.
ON AN UNRELATED POINT, BLACK CAT SENDS HER REGARDS.


DON'T FORGET TO READ THAT BOOK.


HOW MUCH DO I LOVE THAT GUY?

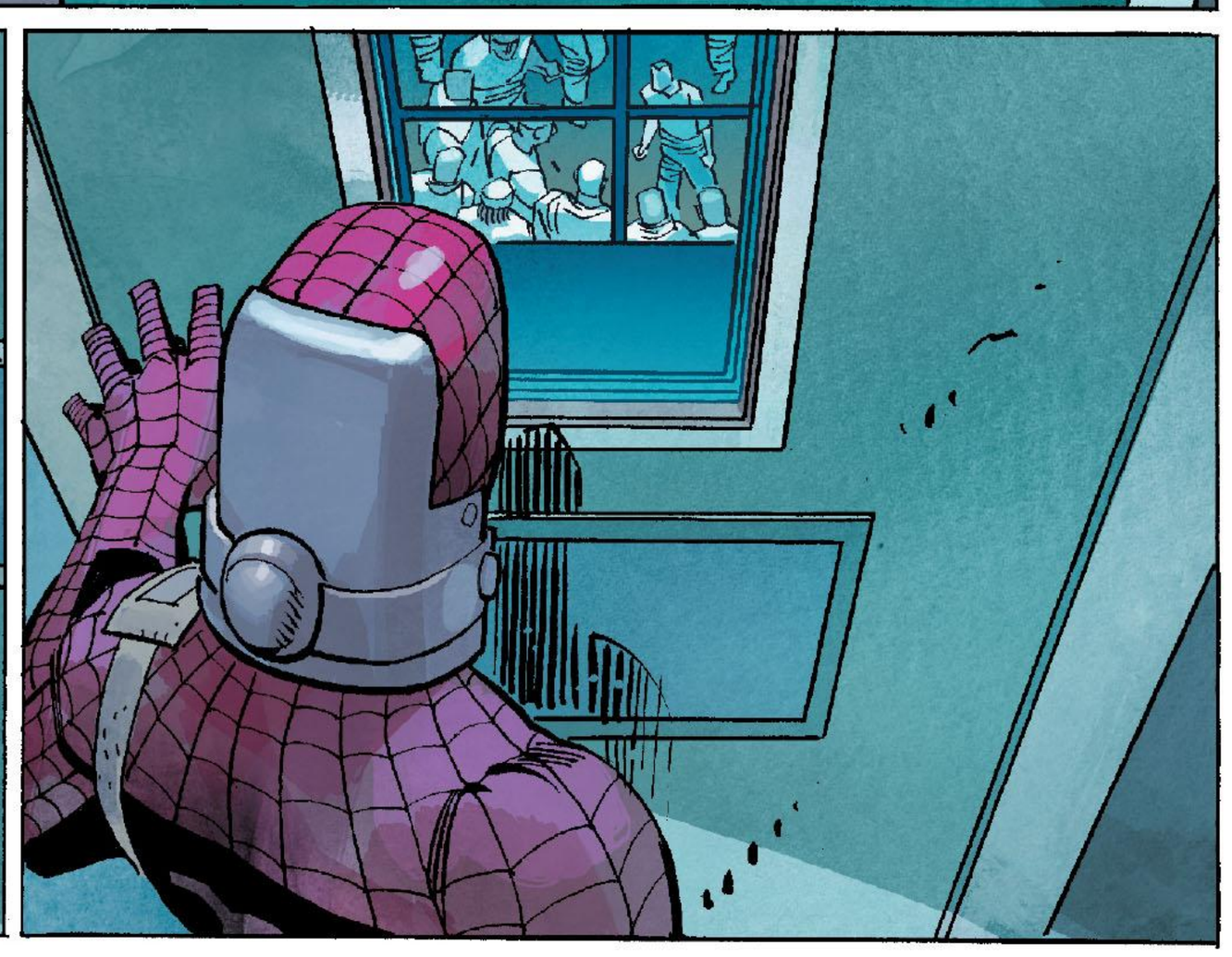
Oscorp Building. Norman's Secret Room.
POLLS CLOSE IN 11 HOURS.
FINAL TALLY...
ONE GOBLIN GLIDER.
ONE PNEUMATIC DART GUN.
ONE PAIR OF GOBLIN GLOVES.
ONE GOBLIN MASK.


ALL MISSING.


OF ALL OF THE RAIDS INTO MY SECRET STASH IN THE PAST MONTHS, THIS ONE'S BY FAR THE BIGGEST.
HARRY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER HIDING HIS TRACKS THIS TIME.
WHICH MEANS HARRY'S EITHER GOTTEN A LOT BOLDER THAN I'D EVER GIVE HIM CREDIT FOR...
OR IT'S POSSIBLE I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT WHO'S BEEN IN HERE.

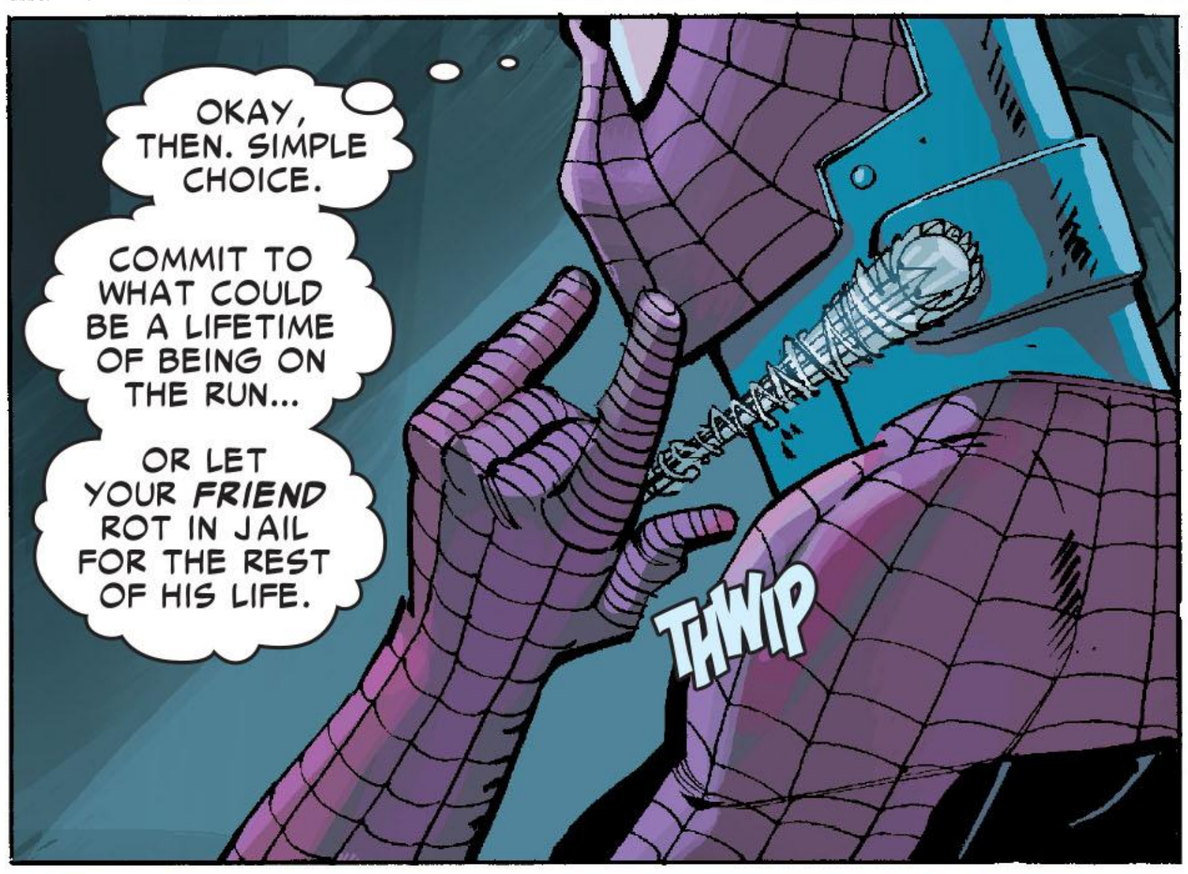
Ryker's Island.

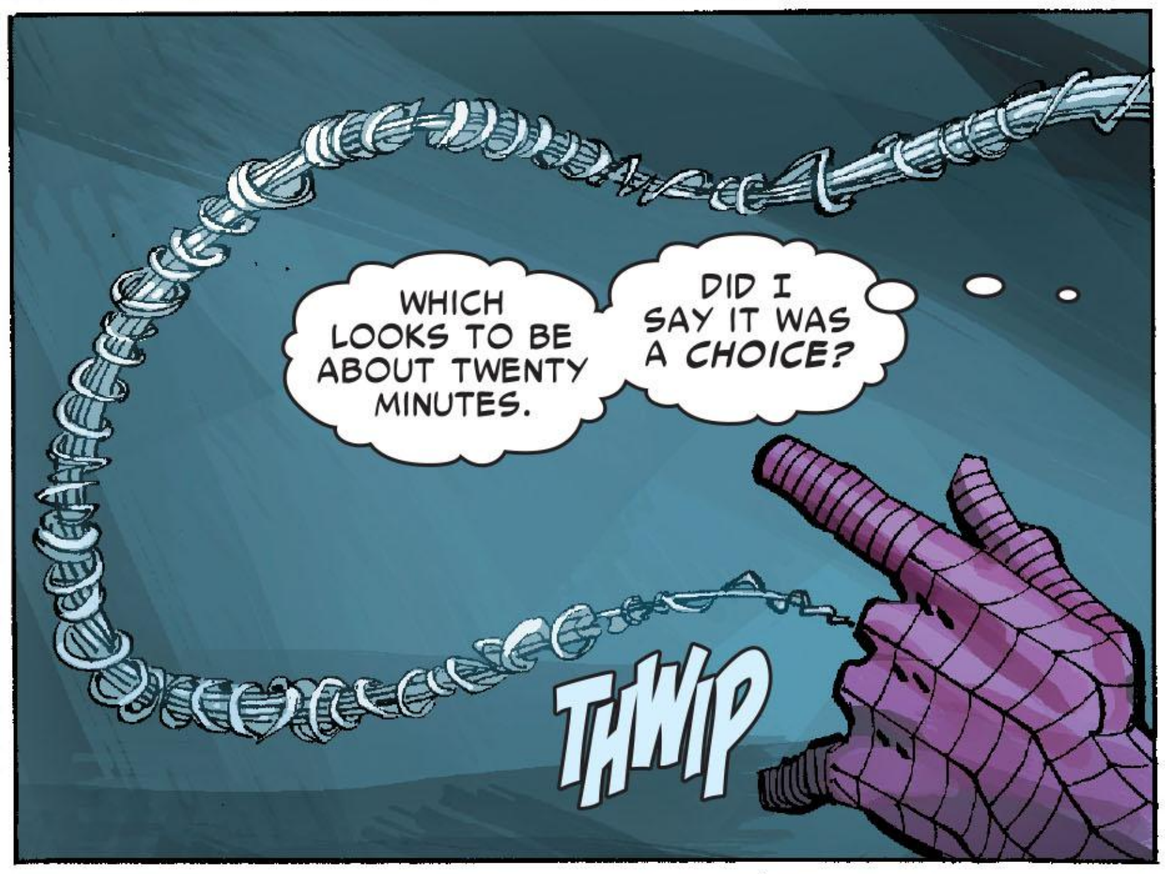
MY TURN. I'M IN HERE 'CAUSE OF GUYS LIKE HIM.



JUST LEAVE SOME FOR ME.
YEAH, KEEP HIM *INTACT*.
FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AT LEAST.

GFN--
CHAK
VIN...

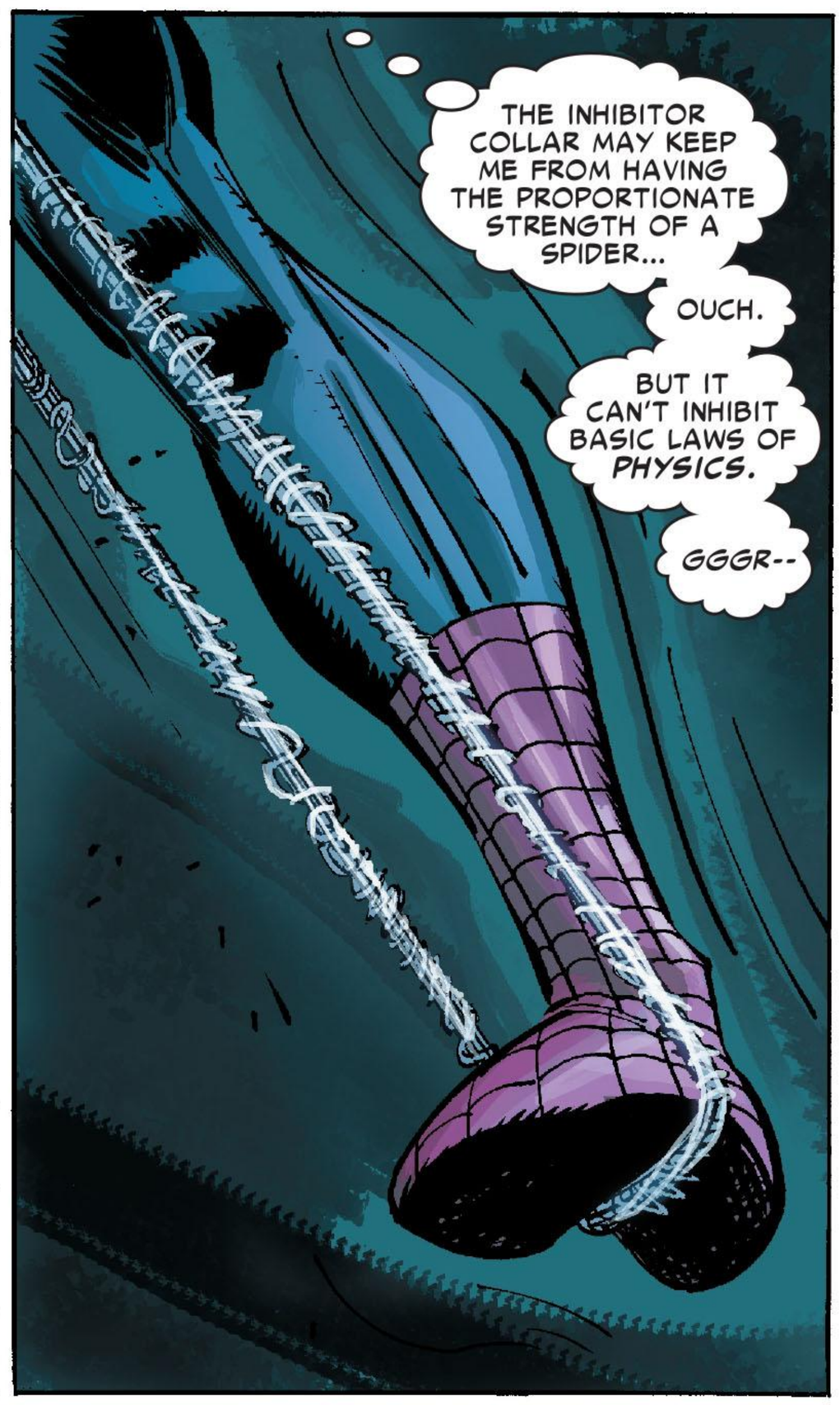

OKAY, THEN. SIMPLE CHOICE.
COMMIT TO WHAT COULD BE A LIFETIME OF BEING ON THE RUN...
OR LET YOUR *FRIEND* ROT IN JAIL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
THWIP


WHICH LOOKS TO BE ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES.
DID I SAY IT WAS A *CHOICE?*
THWIP

MY BAD.

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT IF THIS DOESN'T WORK...

EVERYONE'LL JUST THINK I HUNG MYSELF IN MY CELL.
GOOD TIMES.
COME... ON...


THE INHIBITOR COLLAR MAY KEEP ME FROM HAVING THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER...
OUCH.
BUT IT CAN'T INHIBIT BASIC LAWS OF PHYSICS.
GGGR--

LIKE MY CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND ARCHIMEDES SAID...
UNGH--

"GIVE ME A LEVER BIG ENOUGH AND...

RRR--

"...I'LL MOVE... MOVE... THE...

...WORLD...

YEAH, BABY. GONNA ROAST US SOME PORK TODAY...
NGH... GH...
CHAK
UGNF--
YOU GUYS'RE GONNA KILL HIM BEFORE I EVEN GET MY SHOTS IN.
WHAT ABOUT MY SHOTS?
WHAT ABOUT 'EM?
HEY, SAILORS...
I THINK I'VE GOT A SOLUTION THAT MIGHT WORK FOR EVERYBODY...

I TAKE OFFICER GONZALES HERE AND WE LEAVE YOU GUYS TO YOUR NIGHTLY PARCHEESI GAME.
B-21
OR NOT.
BLURG.
WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY PLAY PARCHEESI ANYMORE?
Next: Dead On A Rival...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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

Tons of stuff going on this week, Spidey-philes with your unfriendly, suburban living editor handling all sorts of interviews promoting recent events in the world of Spider-Man. I even got to see my thrice-chinned face appearing on ABC's NIGHTLINE and NBC's TODAY SHOW as well! I've never been more happy that Quesada was out of town!

Anyway, this week I'm just grabbing the first few letters in the old mailbox, so it may be more random than normal, but you have no one to blame but yourselves for that.

Dear Editor,

Issue #580 was fantastic. That's three near perfect issues in a row, for me (and in general, the book is just great). Please have Roger Stern write the book whenever possible. I also read several interviews with him about the issue, and it's nice to hear that someone who left such a mark on a major character still retains such an affection for him that he would still keep up with the book, years later. He and Lee Weeks were a pitch perfect team!

Vince
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Wacker,

Just wanted to say that I've really been loving the past couple of months of Amazing Spider-Man. New Ways To Die was awesome, the Hammerhead two-parter was great, loved the Flash Thompson one-shot, and I really enjoyed the first part of Mark Waid's two-parter. It's been a great time to be a Spider-Man fan. I hope you don't mind, but I had a couple of questions...

1) With 2009 rapidly approaching, will we see any more new villains show up next year?

2) I know Roger Stern will be doing some more work with Lee Weeks on Spidey after this upcoming one-shot...but any chance that Mr. Stern could do an arc in the future with John Romita Jr.? Nothing against Mr. Weeks, who is a great artist, but it would be cool if Mr. Stern and Mr. Romita could reunite for a story arc down the road.

3) Speaking of Mr. Stern, any chance one of his great character creations, the Hobgoblin could return to Spidey's world? I know you said you didn't want to bring Hobgoblin back unless there was a really good reason to, but I'm sure the Spidey Braintrust could think of something. Maybe Mr. Stern could be the one to bring Hobby back? Who would be more fitting to bring Hobby back than his creator?

4) I was reading the letters page for Amazing Spider-Man 577, and I noticed that it mentioned Zeb Wells as a "former Spidey Braintruster"...is Mr. Wells gone from the book for good? If so, that's a shame. I really liked his work. Is Bob Gale gone too? I had heard that his time would be limited on the book, but I wasn't sure if that was true or not.

Thomas Sanders
Via e-mail

Thomas, first off "Mister" Wacker is my dad. You can call me "Professor" Wacker. Onto your questions;
1) Yes.
2) It's possible, but I am waaay in love with the work Lee and Roger are doing together right now and Johnny's schedule is pretty packed right now.
3) Isn't Hobgoblin dead?
4) Bob is still in a card carryin' Brain Truster, but both he and Zeb had to leave regular writing due to other commitments. Both of them have top secret Spidey projects in the works, though, so you'll hear more about them soon. Neither of them are going too far away.

Dear Spider-Mail,

I was among the many not convinced at first by Brand New Day, but after a year I can only congratulate all the ASM team for a really great run.

Concerning ish #580 thanks for the great art by Lee Weeks and for bringing Roger Stern into the fold. I can't wait for the sequel to the classic Juggernaut epic!

Last but not least, big thanks Mr. Stern for your perfect grasp of the Marvel Universe from the return of the Blank (24 years in the making!) to the supporting cast with Derek Freeman (first seen during his run on THE AVENGERS) brother of late Duane Freeman, government liaison to the Avengers and Ray Donovan, obscure cop from Peter's past.

Keep them coming and make mine MARVEL forever.

Georges Nogueira
Melun, France

Occasionally we get an e-mail over the transom that we have time to respond to immediately if it's one of the rare slow days, so here's one lucky fan who got a quick response from Executive Editor Tom Brevoort:

I'm not going to get my hopes up about seeing this on the letters page...these days all I'm reading there are letters from yes-men on how much they love BND, and how they can't understand why fans of 20 plus years are upset over everything that's happened in the last year...

Now, I may be over-simplifying the obvious...but how did Spidey get from point A to point C without ever having gone through point B…which, thanks to OMD/BND no longer exists.

And, aside from everything wrong with our beloved hero, how did the Venom symbiote end up with Mac Gargan when the entire rivalry with Eddie happened because Venom knew his secret and was able to go after family first.

Or how did Norman Osborn become leader of the Thunderbolts without knowing Spidey's secret identity and throwing Gwen off the bridge? How did a lot of things still manage to happen in the Marvel Universe without specific points in Spider-Man history taking place?

Personally I find it insulting that you would rewrite the flagship character without considering how far reaching Spider-Man really is in the Marvel U, and then take jabs at fans who picked up on it. What do they think, that they can wave a magic wand and everyone will forget who he really is?

Andrew Dawe
Ontario, Canada

Andrew,

If you choose not to believe it, I suppose that's fine, but seriously, nothing other than the actual marriage not taking place has changed. Everything else is still there.

As we've shown in recent issues of AMAZING, Norman Osborn used to know Spidey's identity, but now no longer does. Same thing with Venom. Same thing with everybody on Earth. And Peter knows precisely how this happened (though we haven't revealed it to you readers as of yet.)

Next week will see AMAZING #581 ship, with the first half of a two-part story that explains just how it is that Harry Osborn is still alive and walking around. All of the explanations will come out in time, you simply need to be patient with us.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: still chock full of vitamin B!

Thanks for reading!
Tom Brevoort

And finally, here's one of those positive letters that drive people nuts!

Dear Spider-Man Team,

First, I wanted to thank you guys for the nice response to my previous letter, and I meant every positive word about it!

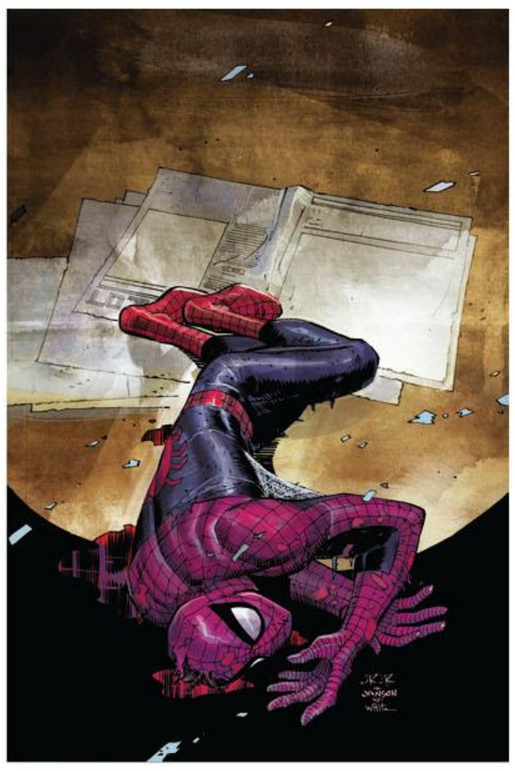
I have been a true believer since I was 8 years old and I'm 41 now. Comic Books and super heroes are a good hobby for kids and adults both. I strongly believe there is a very hard working and talented team working on Amazing Spider-Man. I have been having a ball reading it three times a month!

In closing, I wanted to ask, do you plan on bringing back classic Spider-Man villains like Doc Ock, Sandman, Mysterio and The Scorpion? And if so, do you think that it would be a good idea to mix classic villains with new ones? As a true believer, I know that behind every great super hero there are always great super-villains! Keep up the good work and thanks!

Jimmy Roy
Rochester, Mass.

Jimmy, we saw Scorpion in "New Ways to Die" and there are definitely plans for all the others you mention. You're going to have happy 2009.

And that's it for another week. See you next month for our double-sized conclusion in #588, ASM Extra #3 and of course…in Spidey #589…the Return of THE SPOT!



Viva Templar!
Simperin' Steve
1/30/09

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Asst. Editor

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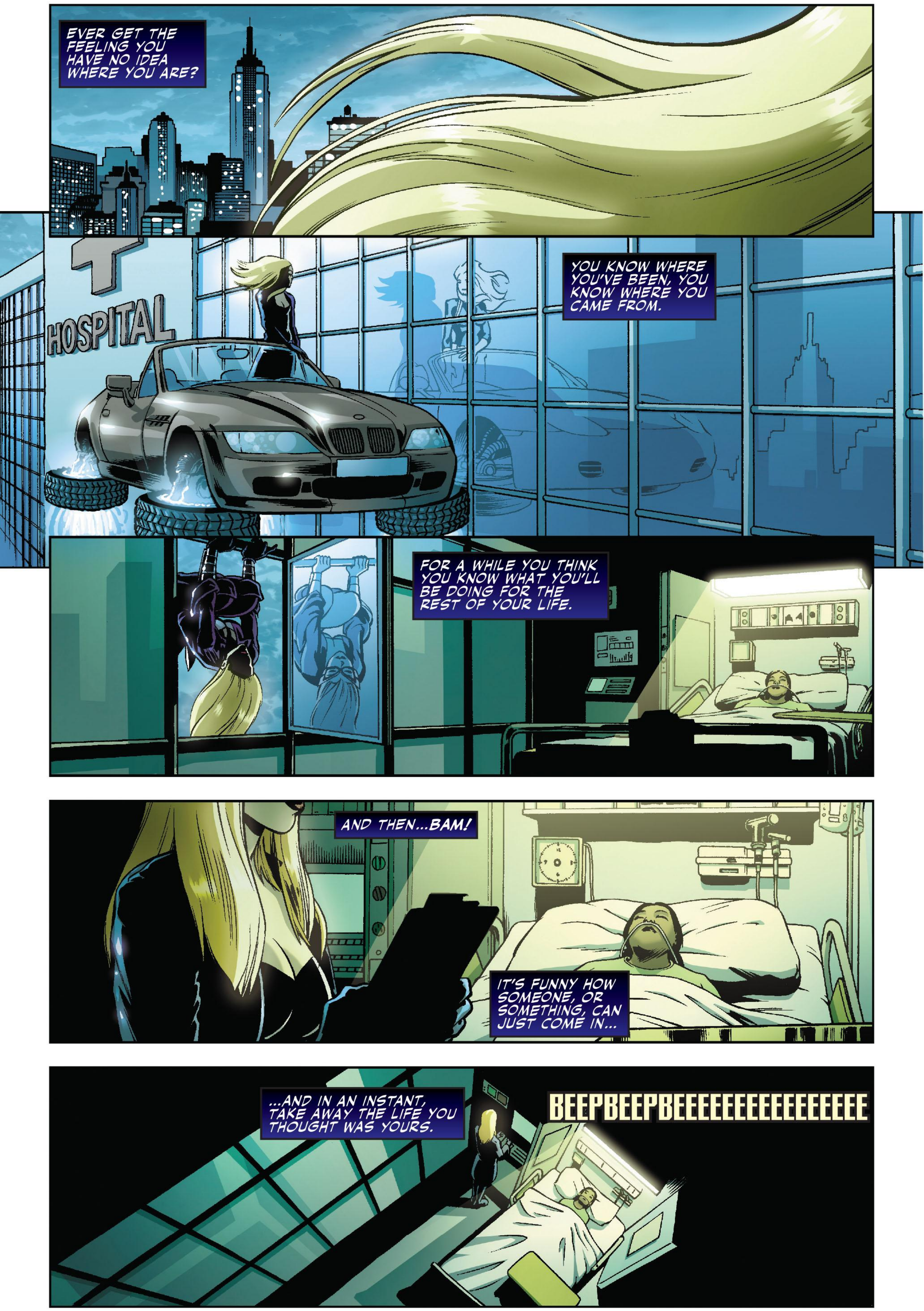
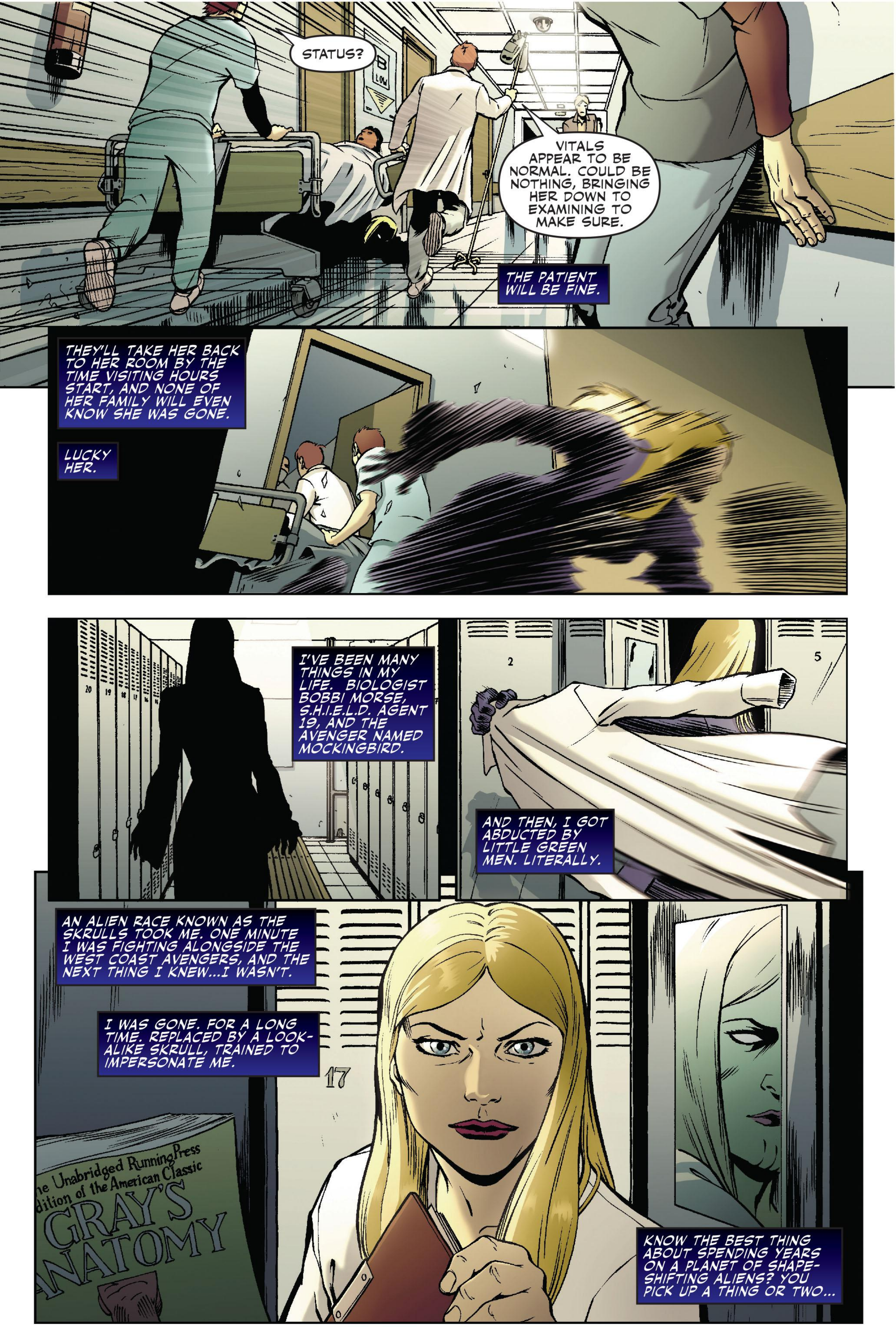
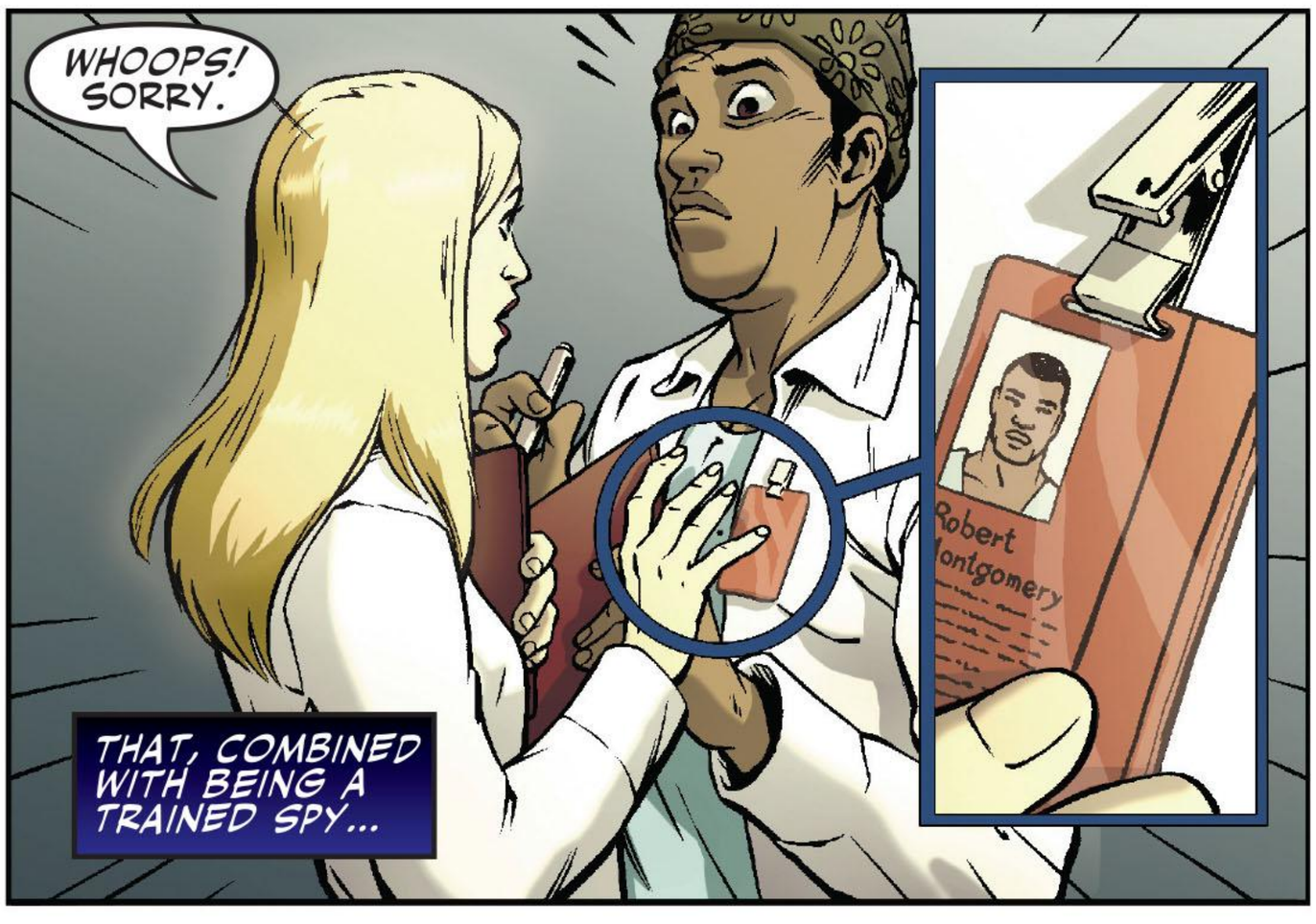
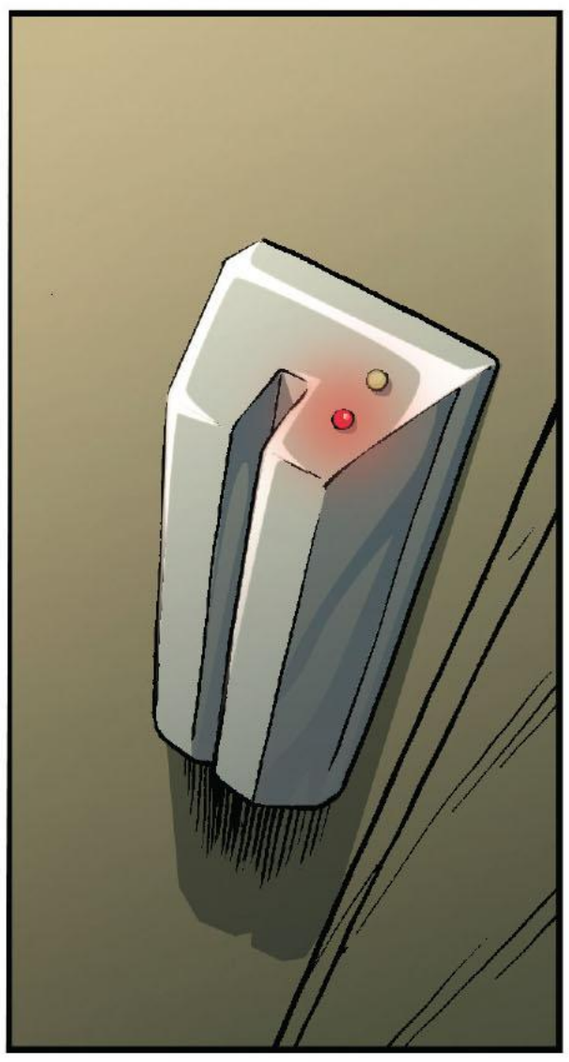

EVER GET THE FEELING YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU ARE?
HOSPITAL
YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, YOU KNOW WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
FOR A WHILE YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL BE DOING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
AND THEN...BAM!
IT'S FUNNY HOW SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, CAN JUST COME IN...
...AND IN AN INSTANT, TAKE AWAY THE LIFE YOU THOUGHT WAS YOURS.
BEEPBEEPBEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

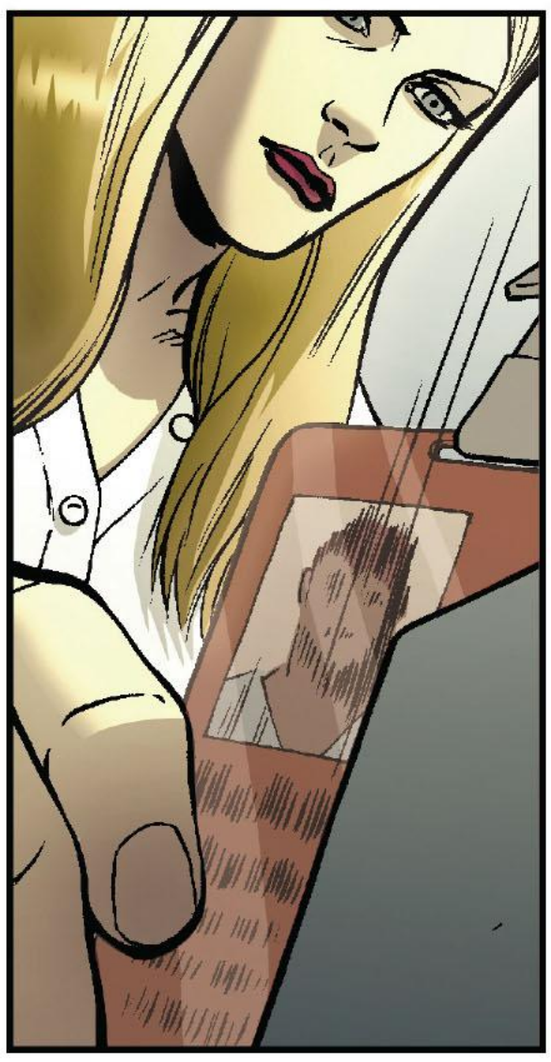

STATUS?
VITALS APPEAR TO BE NORMAL. COULD BE NOTHING, BRINGING HER DOWN TO EXAMINING TO MAKE SURE.
THE PATIENT WILL BE FINE.
THEY'LL TAKE HER BACK TO HER ROOM BY THE TIME VISITING HOURS START, AND NONE OF HER FAMILY WILL EVEN KNOW SHE WAS GONE.
LUCKY HER.
I'VE BEEN MANY THINGS IN MY LIFE. BIOLOGIST BOBBI MORSE, S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT 19, AND THE AVENGER NAMED MOCKINGBIRD.
AND THEN, I GOT ABDUCTED BY LITTLE GREEN MEN. LITERALLY.
AN ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE SKRULLS TOOK ME. ONE MINUTE I WAS FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW...I WASN'T.
I WAS GONE. FOR A LONG TIME. REPLACED BY A LOOK-ALIKE SKRULL, TRAINED TO IMPERSONATE ME.
GRAY'S ANATOMY
KNOW THE BEST THING ABOUT SPENDING YEARS ON A PLANET OF SHAPE-SHIFTING ALIENS? YOU PICK UP A THING OR TWO...

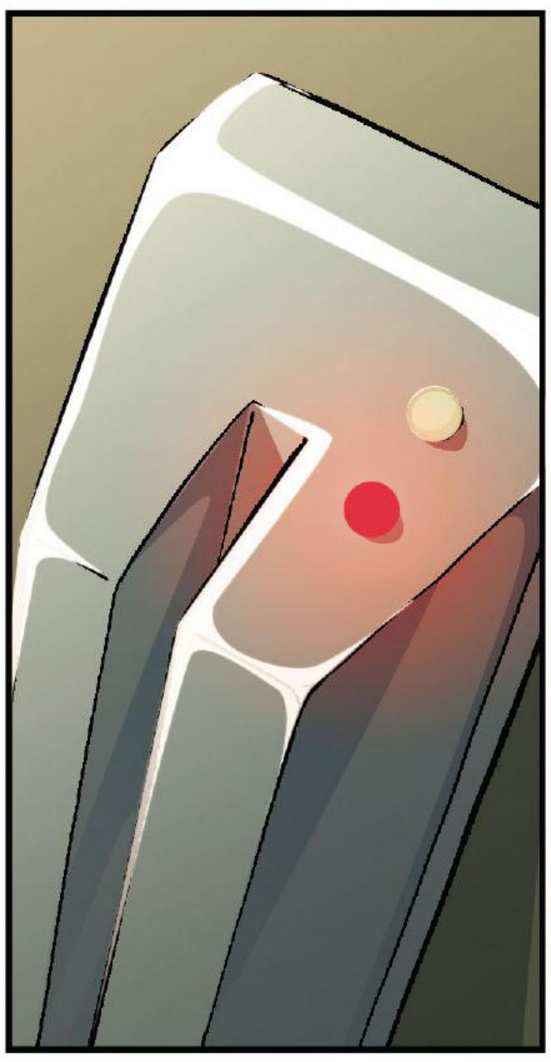
YOU LEARN HOW TO BECOME ANYONE.
Trauma 1-16
EXIT


WHOOPS! SORRY.
THAT, COMBINED WITH BEING A TRAINED SPY...
Robert Montgomery

...GETS ME INTO PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE I NEED TO GO.
STRICTED AREA





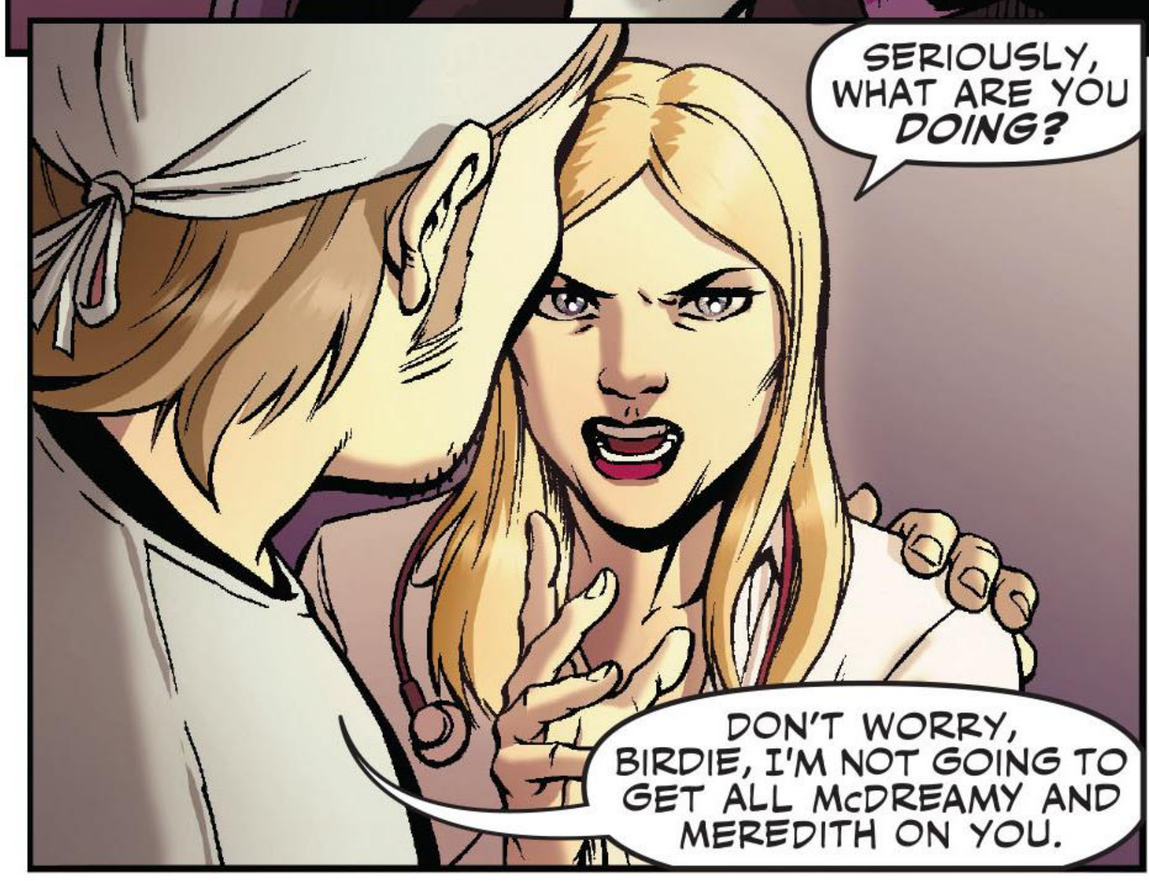


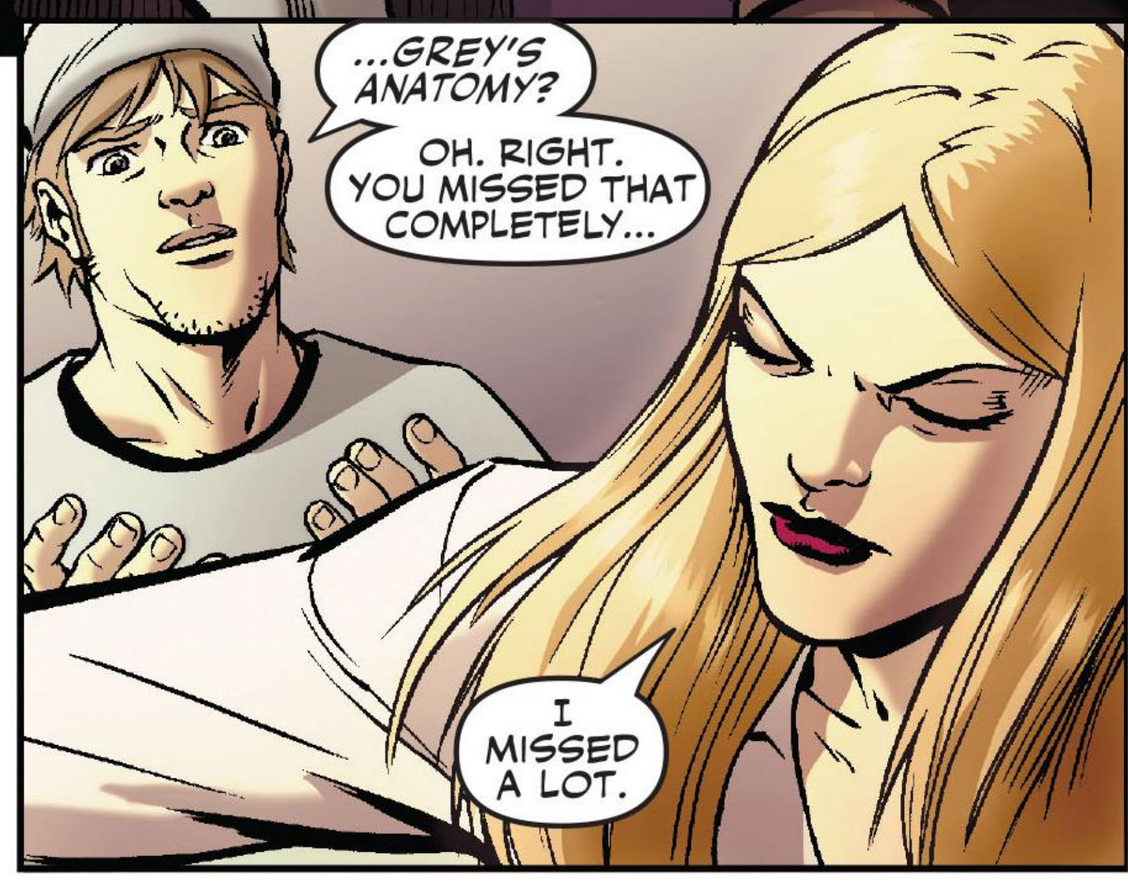
WHA--?!
RESTRICTED AREA

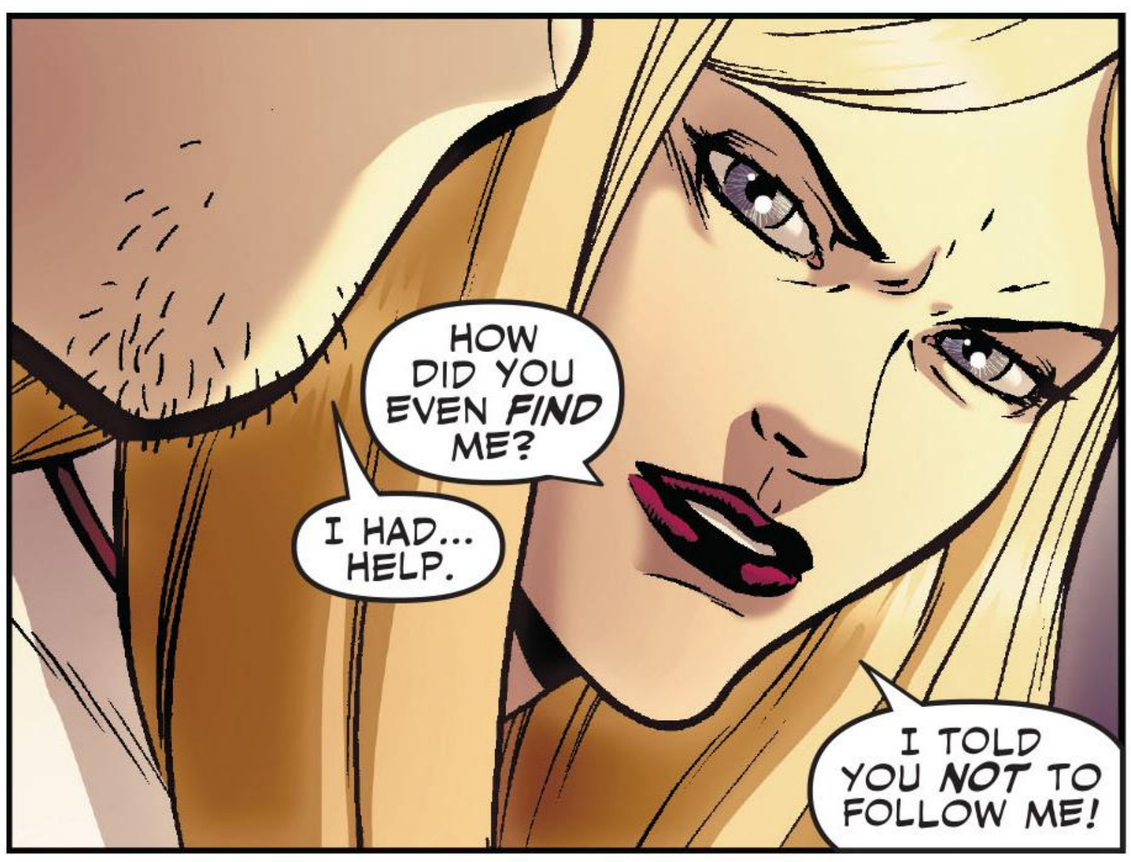
NEW AVENGERS: THE REUNION
THE LADY VANISHES

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I'M CLINT BARTON. I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.







ISSUE #1 ON SALE IN MARCH