

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION PART  
4 OF 4

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GUGGENHEIM  
ROMITA JR.  
JANSON  
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WHITE

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



# THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!



HOLLISTER SURGIN WHILE CROWNE'S PURGIN'! CAN ANYTHING STOP COUNCILMAN BILL HOLLISTER'S MOMENTUM? WITH SPIDER-MAN BEHIND BARS, RANDALL CROWNE'S GOT NO LEG TO STAND ON, DB EXIT POLLS FIND. BY 9 PM, THE NAME HOLLISTER WILL BE ETCHED IN BIG APPLE MEMORY! MORE @ THEDBONLINE.COM!

MARCH 18TH, 2009

WEDNESDAY

# EXIT POLLS!



The election is here, and Spider-Man is on the ropes. After a sound thrashing from Menace, Spidey awoke to find himself in police custody, set to go to trial for the "Spider-Tracer killings." His best friend, Harry Osborn, has discovered that Menace is really Lily Hollister, Osborn's girlfriend and daughter of the mayoral front runner, Bill Hollister. His other friend, Carlie Cooper, has discovered that there is no Spider-Tracer killer – it's a conspiracy to frame Spider-Man, run by lead investigator Quentin Malone and his officers, including Alan O'Neil and the reluctant Vin Gonzales, Pete's roommate.

But just as the cops try to unmask Spider-Man as Peter Parker, Matt Murdock (a.k.a. Daredevil) enters the scene, defending Pete's right to privacy and sneaking a web shooter into his possession. As electoral victory for the Hollister campaign seems a certainty, Lily Hollister seems set to get away with her Menace crimes, scot-free. And Carlie's meddling has led the police to pin the conspiracy on herself and Gonzales. Carlie escapes, but Vin is thrown in prison with Spider-Man – and an ocean of criminals out to give a cop and a super hero a little payback. And as this goes on, Harry Osborn has decided to break out his old Goblin glider, perhaps pushed too far by Lily's choices...

## CONSPIRACY THEORY? By Betty Brant

Word out of the Crowne for Mayor camp is already litigious, as Randall Crowne has already hired an army of lawyers to contest results and investigate why the superhuman criminal Menace left Spider-Man alive for the police at a Hollister for New York rally. Although no evidence links the campaign to the actions of Menace, the Crowne camp seems intent on leaving no stone unturned as they pursue options in the mayor's race. "If they think they have a way around the system, they're blind to reality" said lawyer Matt Murdock, a prominent defense attorney out of ... (more on page E14)

# Ryker's Island. Election Day.

POLLS CLOSE IN 10 HOURS.



OKAY,  
QUICK MENTAL  
CALCULATION...

EXACTLY HOW MANY  
OF THESE GUYS AM I  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
INCARCERATING?

HMM. FUNNY.

I'VE GOT AN I.Q. NORTH OF 250  
AND CAN BALANCE COMPLEX  
CHEMICAL EQUATIONS IN MY SLEEP...

BUT I CAN'T  
COUNT THAT  
HIGH.

GUYS...  
I KNOW  
YOU'RE PEEVED, OKAY.  
AND YOU HAVE **EVERY**  
RIGHT TO BE.

BUT YOU  
WOULDN'T TRY  
TO HIT A GUY WITH  
A BULLET HOLE IN  
HIS ARM, WOULD  
YOU?

NYDOC  
009270

# CHARACTER ASSASSINATION CONCLUSION

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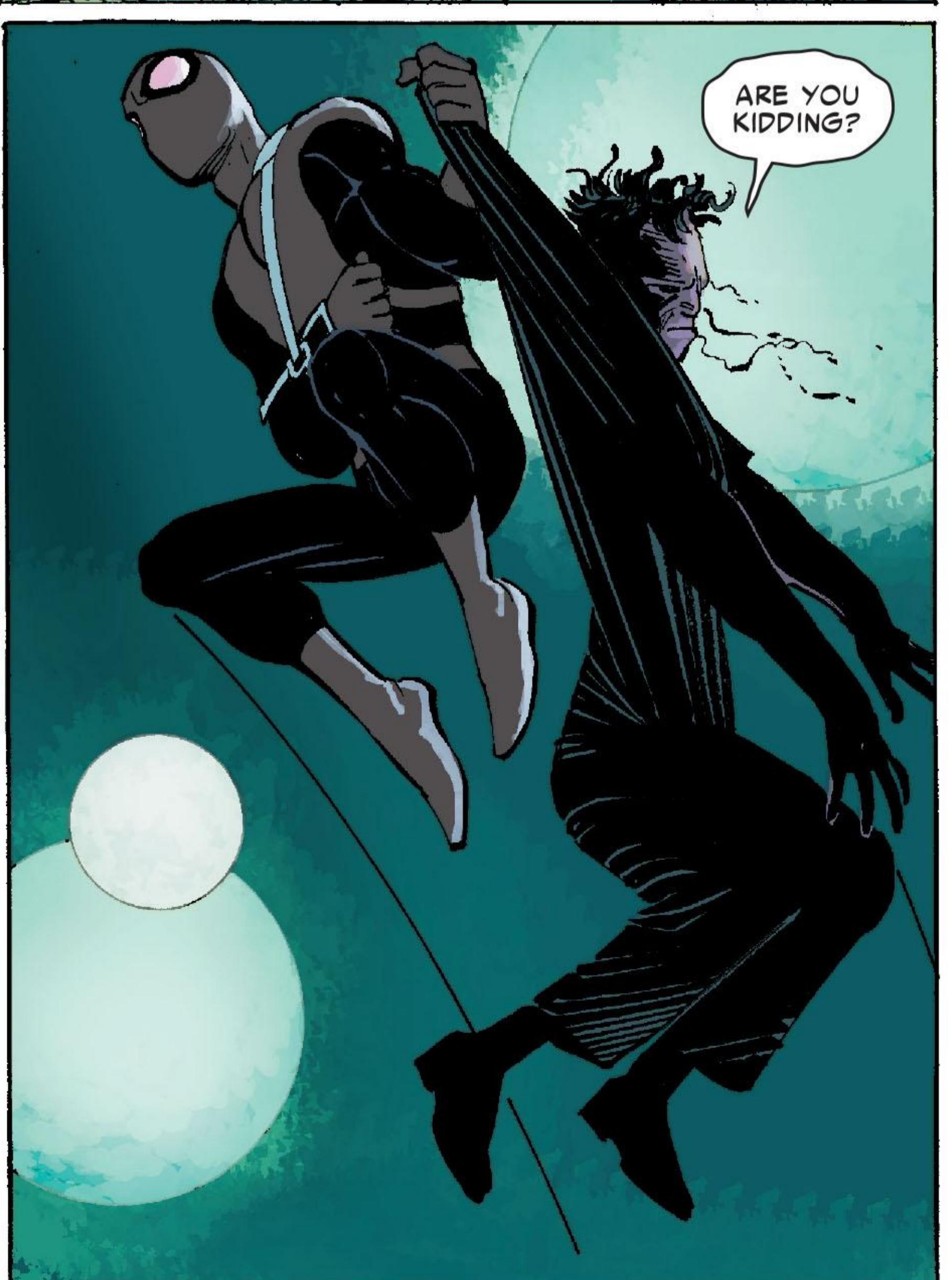
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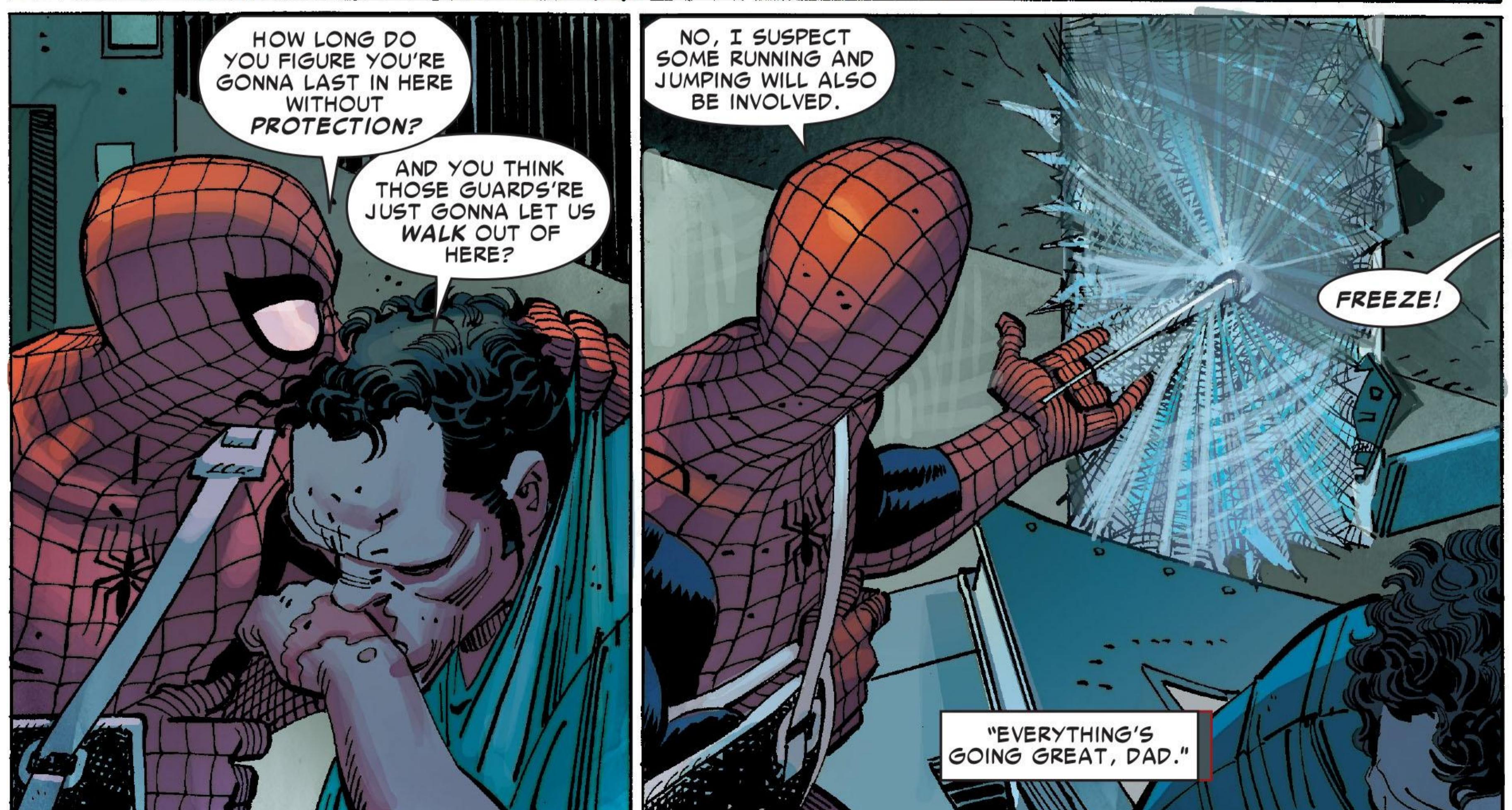
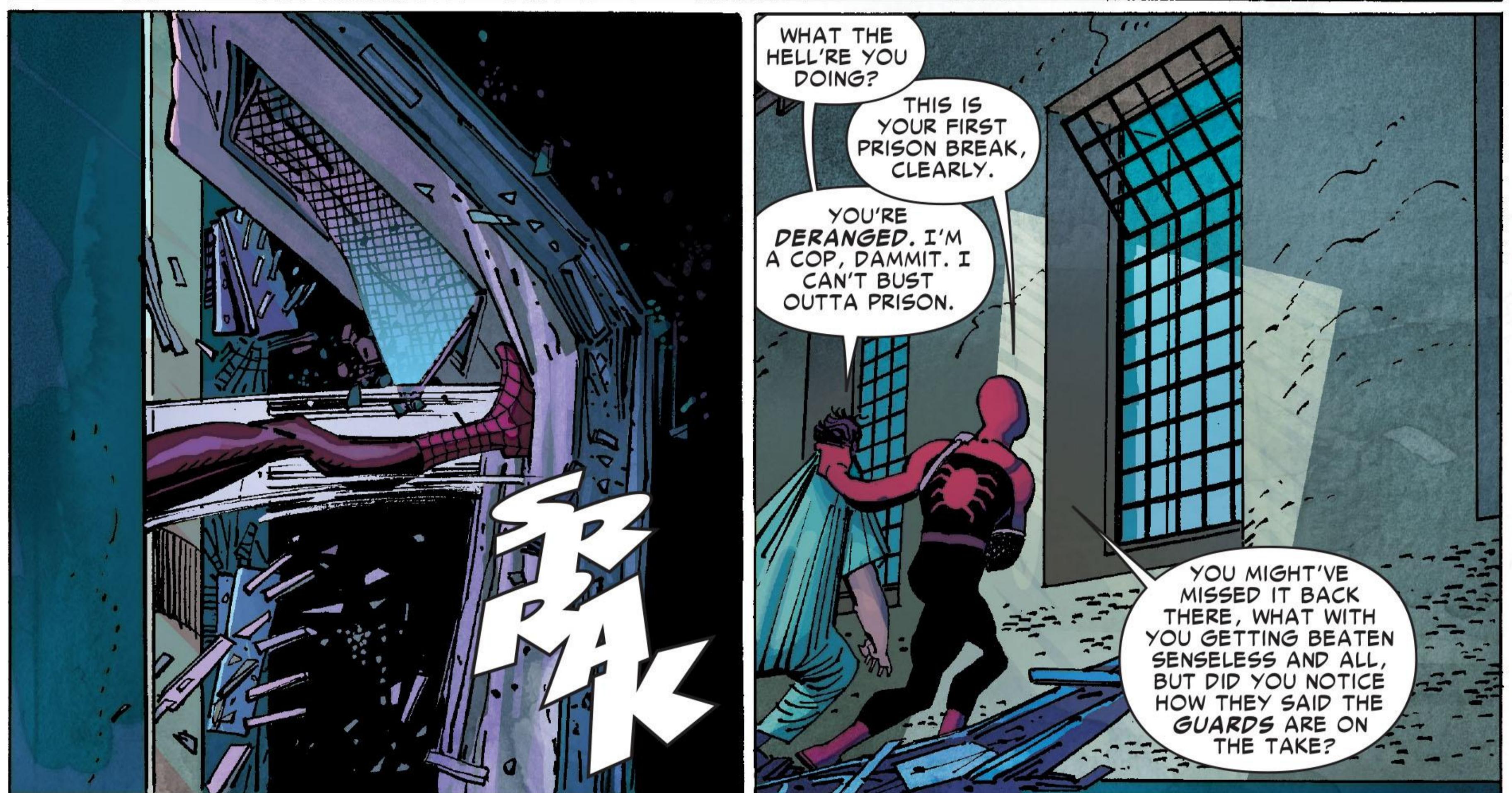
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM & SLOTT SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST...=SNF=







# Campaign Headquarters, Hollister For New York.

POLLS CLOSE IN 9 HOURS.

EARLY EXIT  
POLLS ARE  
SOLID. MORE  
THAN SOLID.

THIS KEEPS UP--  
AND THERE'S NO  
REASON TO THINK IT  
WON'T--YOU WIN BY  
AT LEAST FIFTEEN  
POINTS. LANDSLIDE  
TERRITORY.

LET'S  
NOT GET AHEAD  
OF OURSELVES, LILY.  
"OVERCONFIDENCE  
IS THE DOWNFALL OF  
ELECTIONEERING."

WHO SAID  
THAT?

I DID. BUT  
THE FACT I'M NOT  
QUOTING SOMEONE  
ELSE DOESN'T MAKE  
IT ANY LESS  
TRUE.

MR.  
HOLLISTER, MS.  
HOLLISTER...

THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
HERE TO SEE--

LILY!  
BILL!

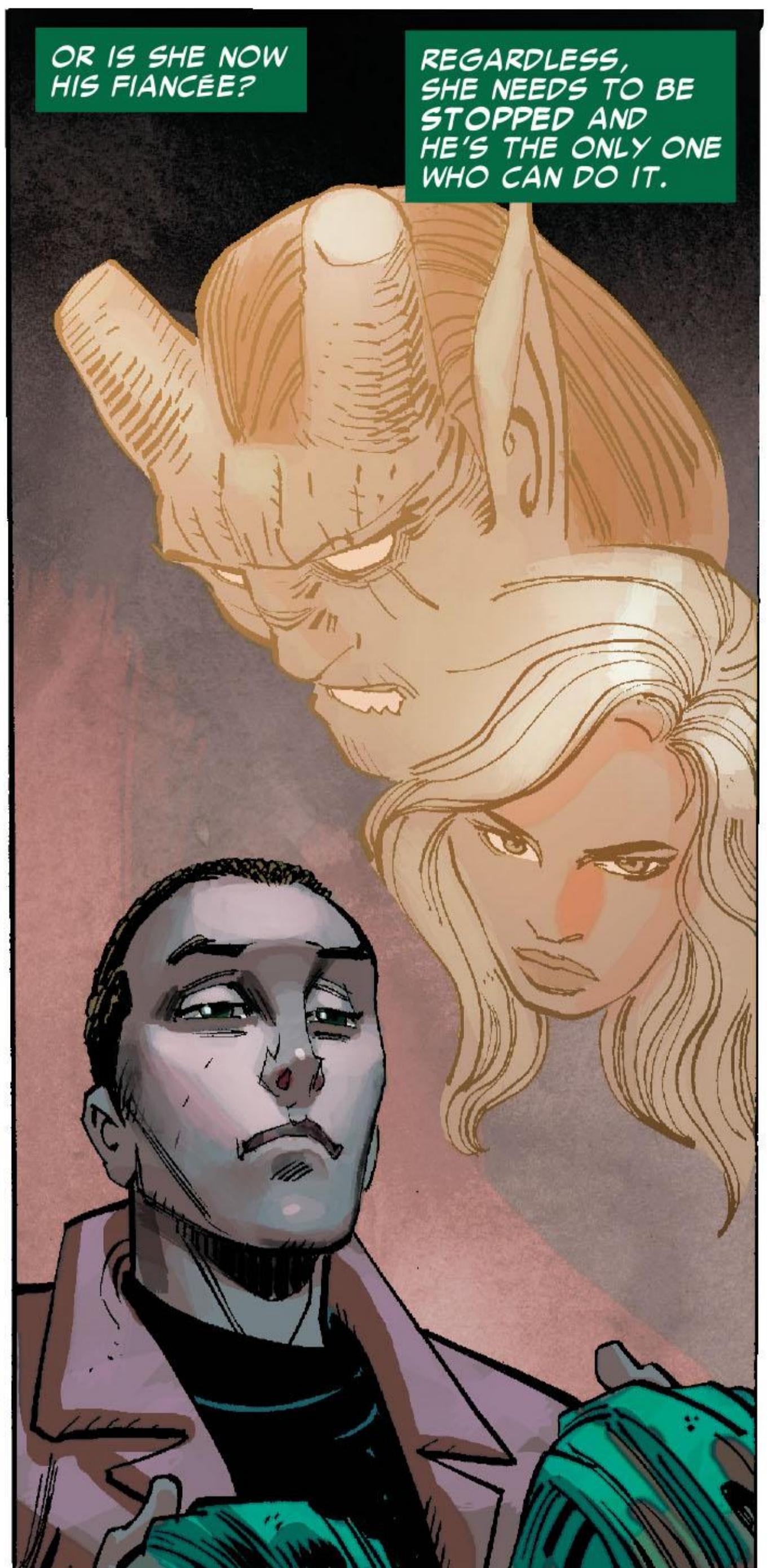
CARLIE, WHAT  
HAPPENED TO  
YOU? YOU LOOK  
TERRIBLE--

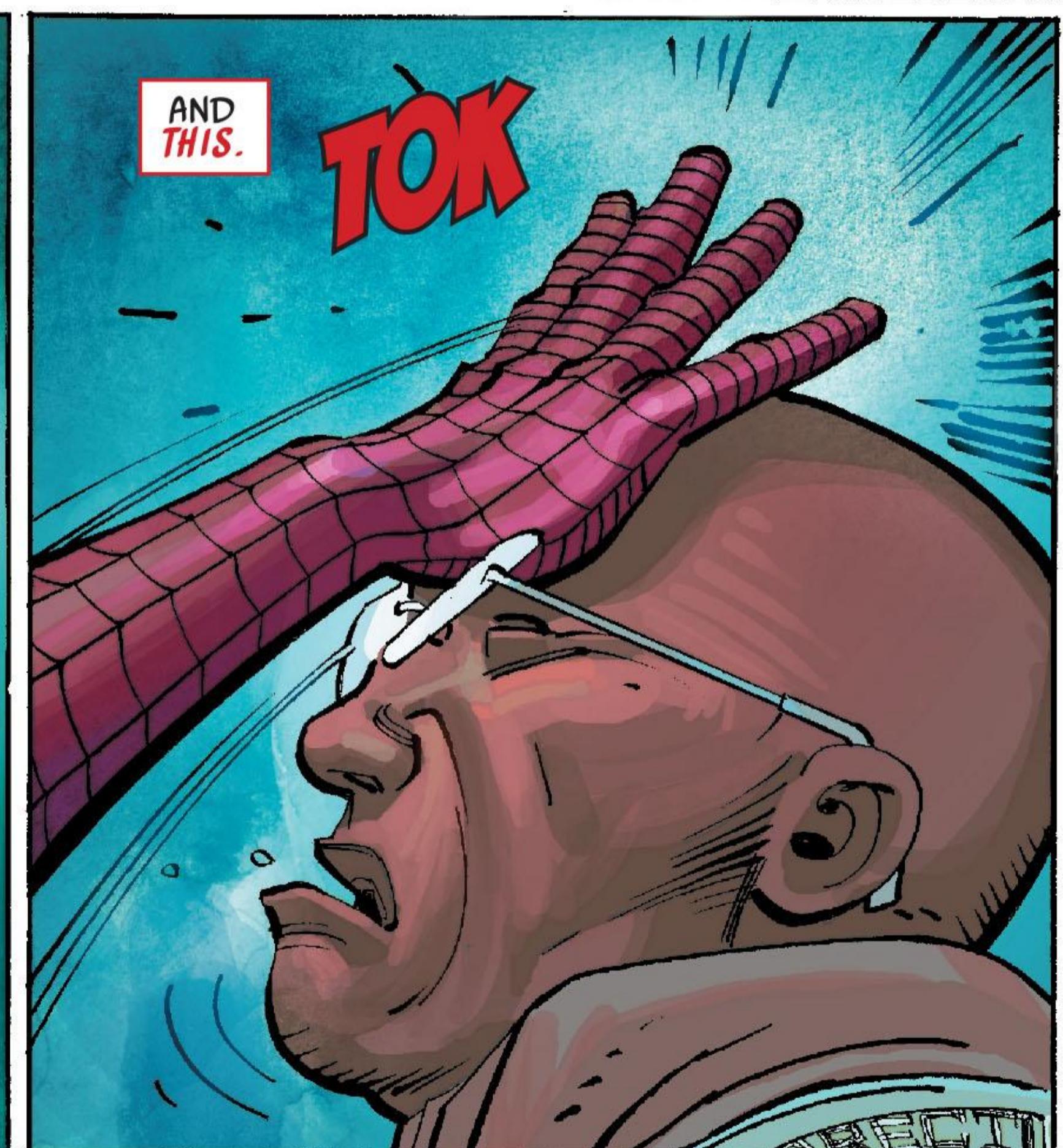
IS  
EVERYTHING  
ALL RIGHT?

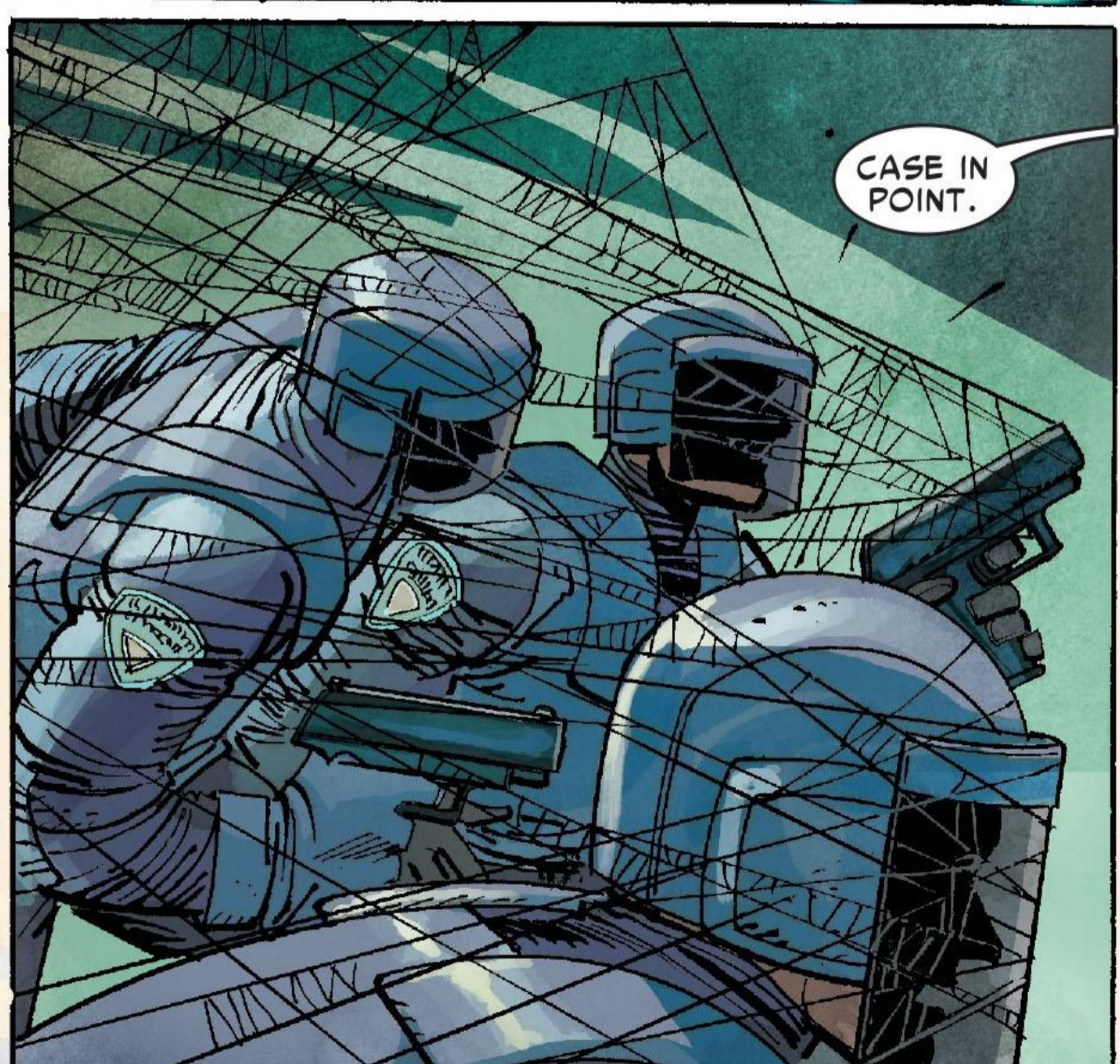
NO. NO.  
NOTHING'S  
ALL RIGHT.

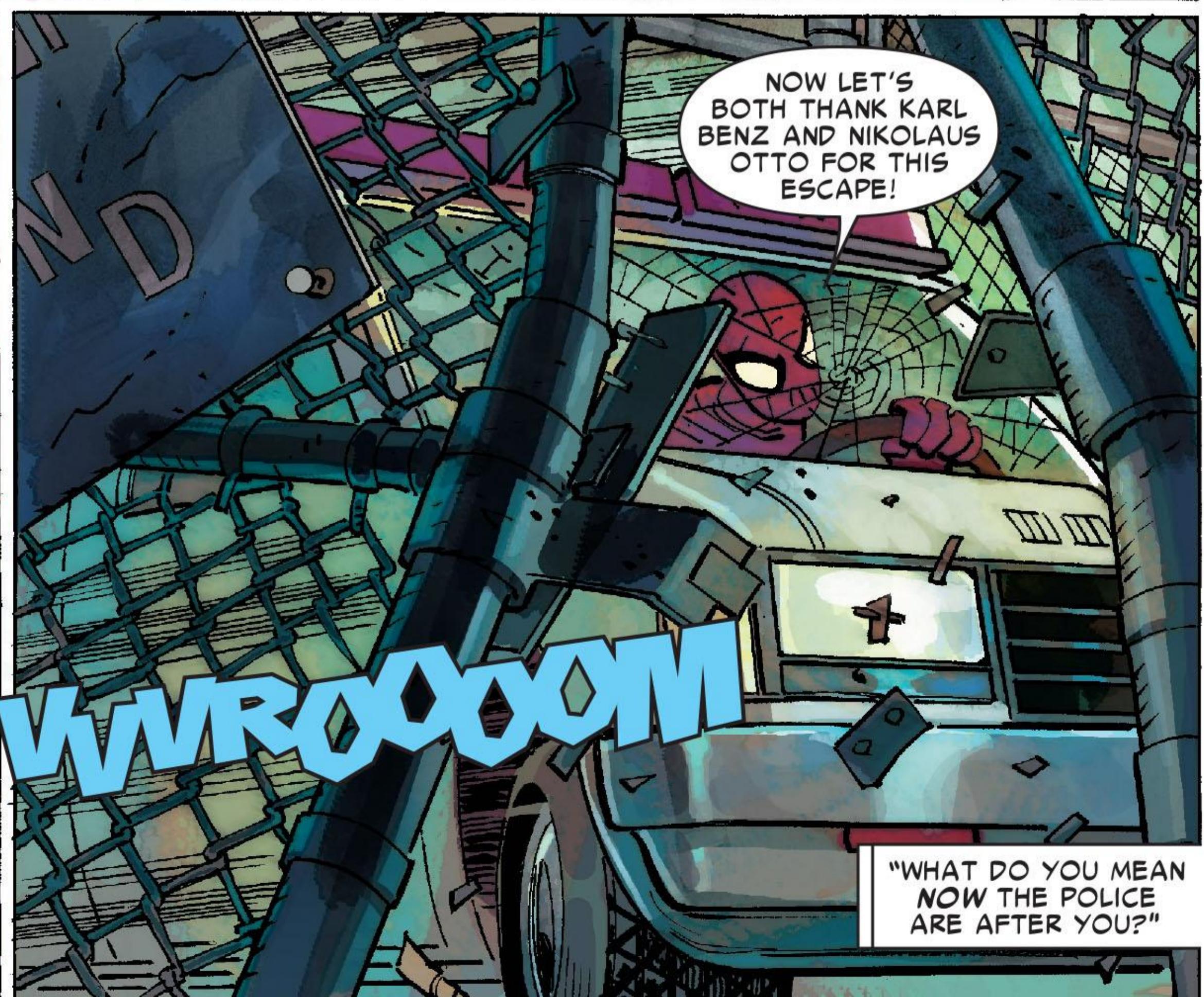
THE ENTIRE  
NYPD IS AFTER ME  
FOR A CRIME THEY  
COMMITTED.

WHAT KIND  
OF CRIME IS  
IT, REALLY?









# Hollister H.Q.

POLLS CLOSE IN 8 HOURS.

EXACTLY  
WHAT I SAID. THIS  
IS A CONSPIRACY  
AND I DON'T KNOW  
HOW DEEP IT  
GOES.

I SLEPT IN  
AN ALLEY  
LAST NIGHT,  
WAITING FOR  
YOUR OFFICES  
TO OPEN.

YOU SHOULD  
HAVE CALLED THE  
HOUSE, CARLIE.

WE WOULD'VE  
COME ANYWHERE  
TO GET YOU.

EXACTLY,  
HONEY. WE'RE  
GOING TO TAKE  
CARE OF YOU.

FIRST STEP,  
I'LL GET THE CHIEF  
OF DETECTIVES OVER  
HERE AND WE'LL GET  
TO THE BOTTOM  
OF--

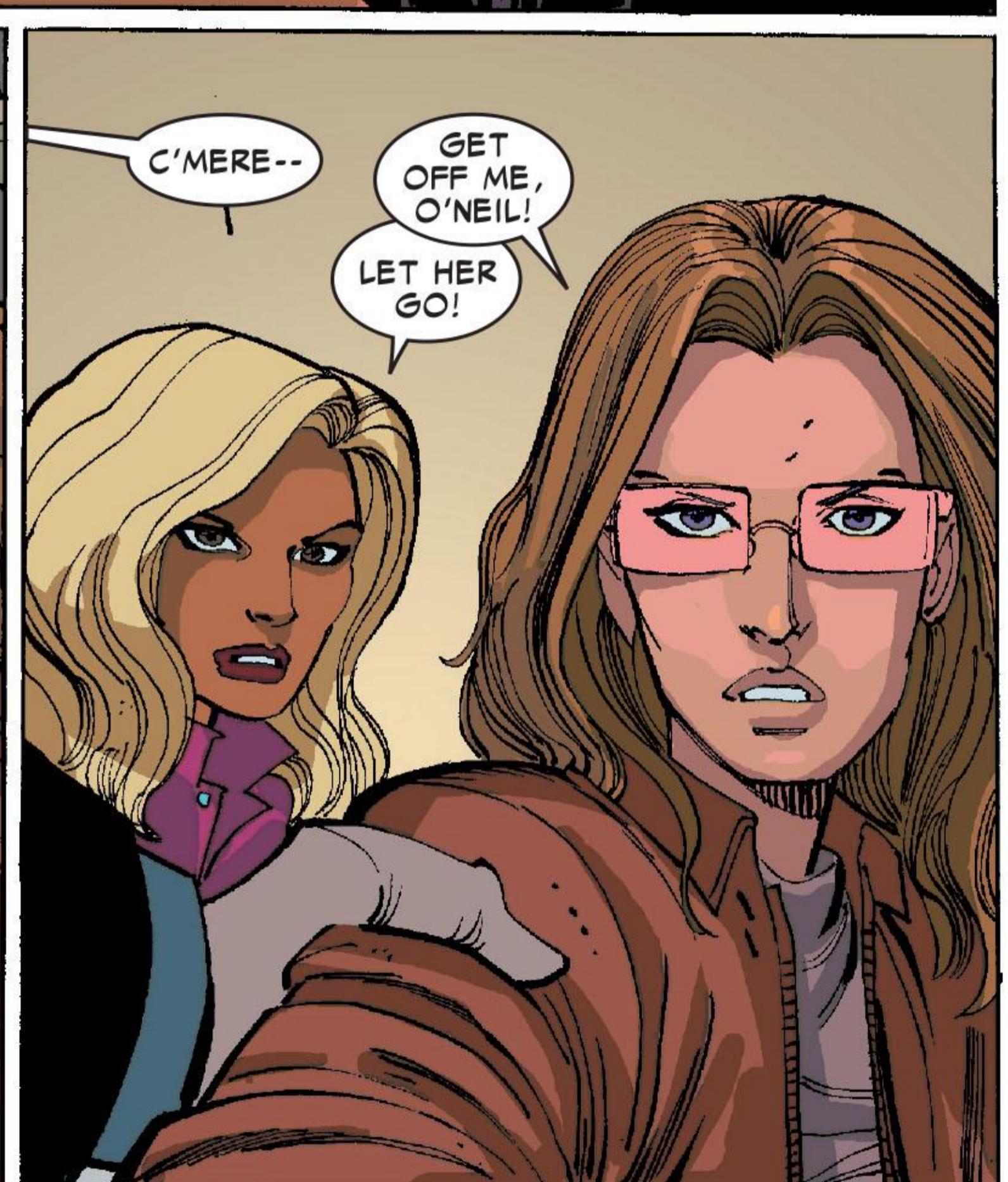
**FREEZE!**

CARLIE  
COOPER, YOU'RE  
UNDER ARREST--

TOO  
LATE, AL.

I ALREADY  
TOLD THEM.





THANKS.  
THAT'S VERY  
CONSIDERATE  
OF YOU.

LOOK, WHAT  
YOU DO...YOU'RE  
BREAKING THE LAW.  
YOU KNOW THAT.

I ALSO KNOW  
I'M DOING A LITTLE  
SOMETHING CALLED  
HELPING PEOPLE.

YOU AND YOUR  
FELLOW OFFICERS MIGHT  
WANT TO TRY IT SOMETIME  
INSTEAD OF PUTTING YOUR  
ENERGIES INTO FRAMING  
INNOCENT--

ALL  
UNITS, ALL  
UNITS...

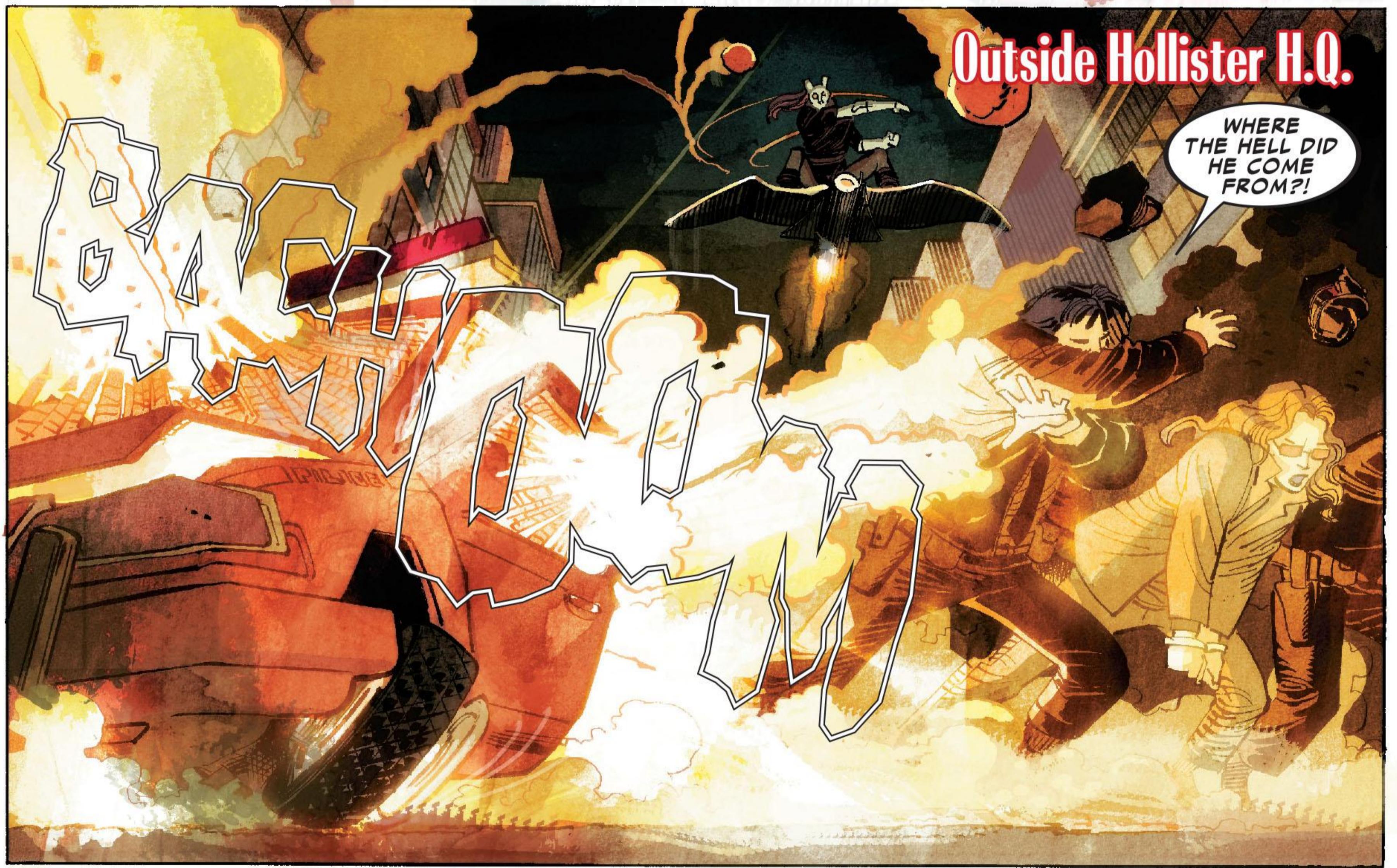
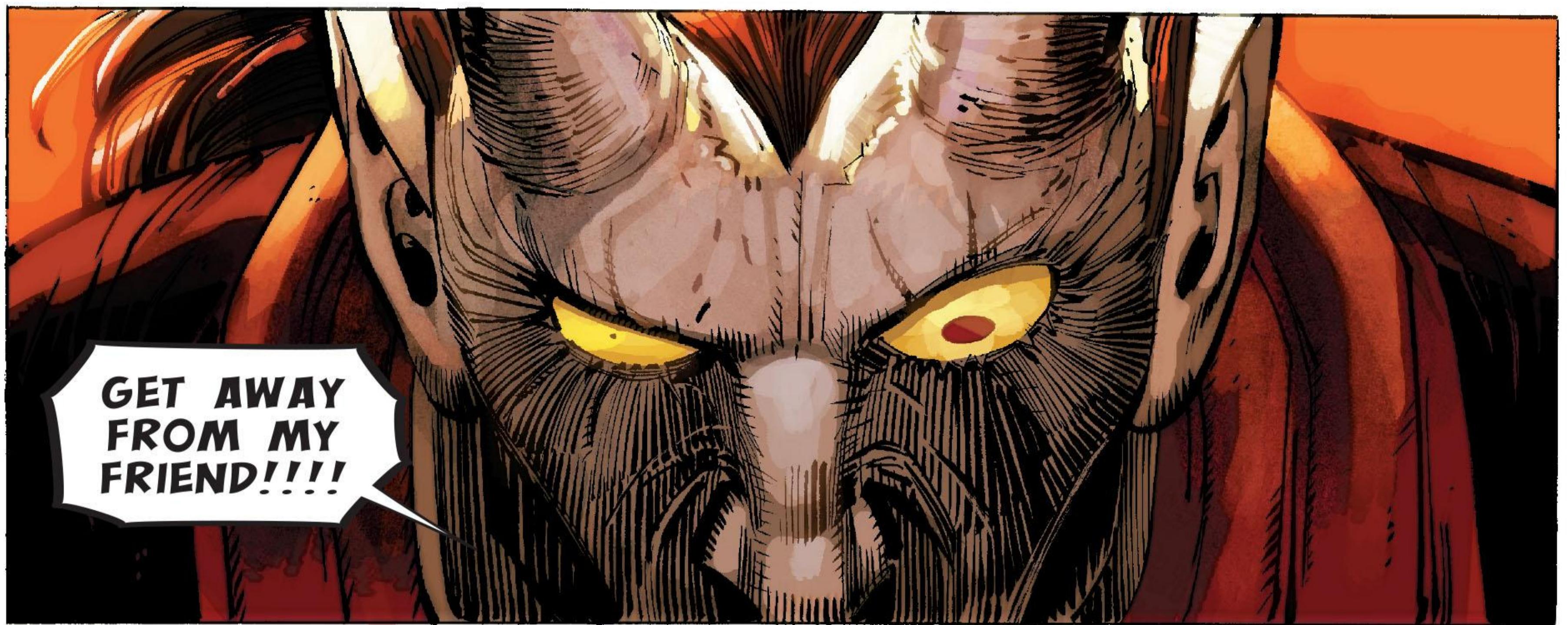
-ZZZT-  
217 IN PROGRESS  
IN GRAMERCY  
PARK -ZZZT-

MENACE  
ATTACKING.  
OFFICERS NEED  
ASSISTANCE...

I'VE  
GOT TO  
GO--

BUT I'VE  
GOTTA GET TO  
CARLIE'S. MAKE  
SURE SHE'S  
OKAY--

MOTOR'S  
STILL RUNNING.  
KNOCK  
YOURSELF  
OUT.









ONCE I  
KILL YOU.

AGGH!



SLOWLY.

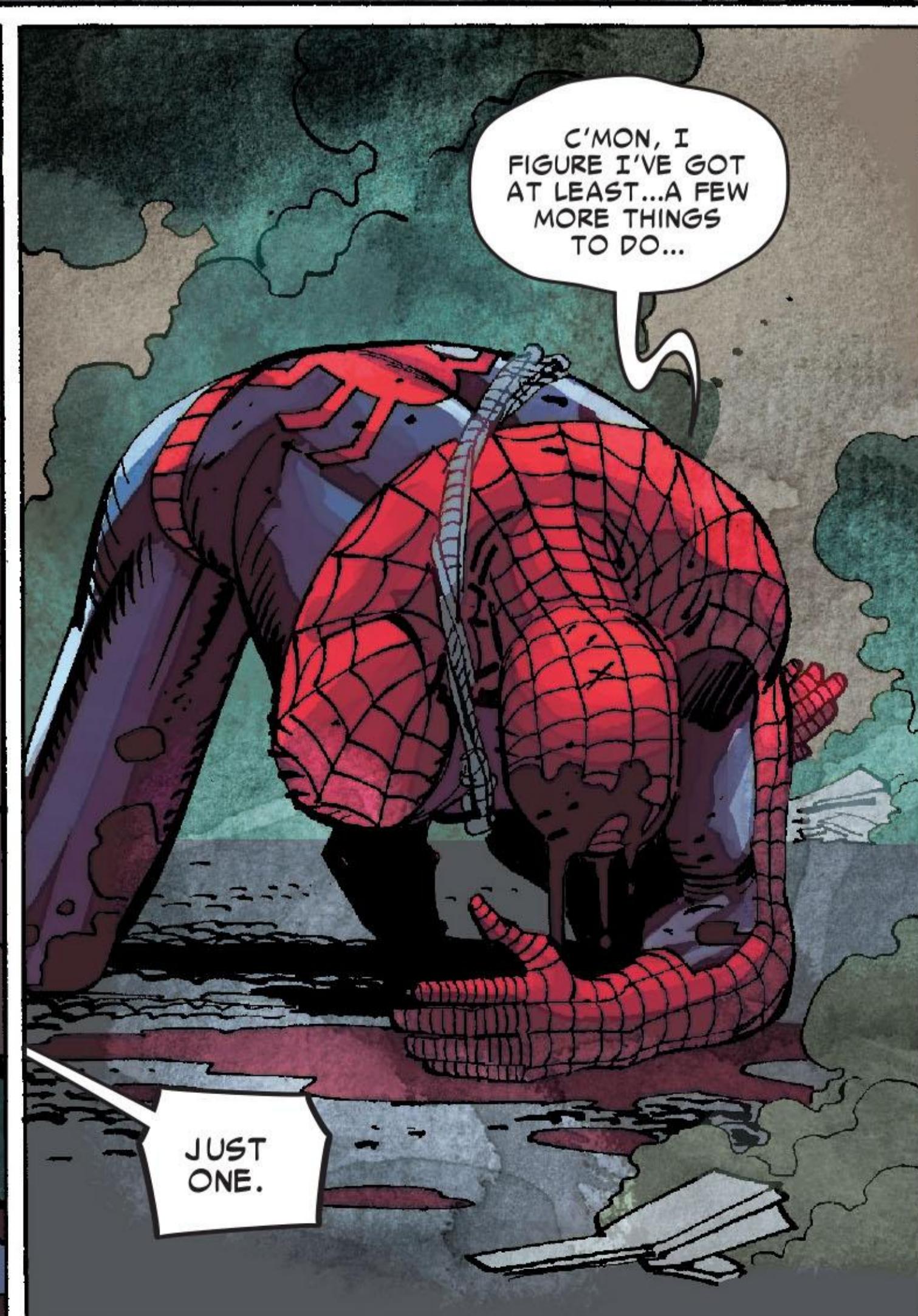
PAINFULLY.

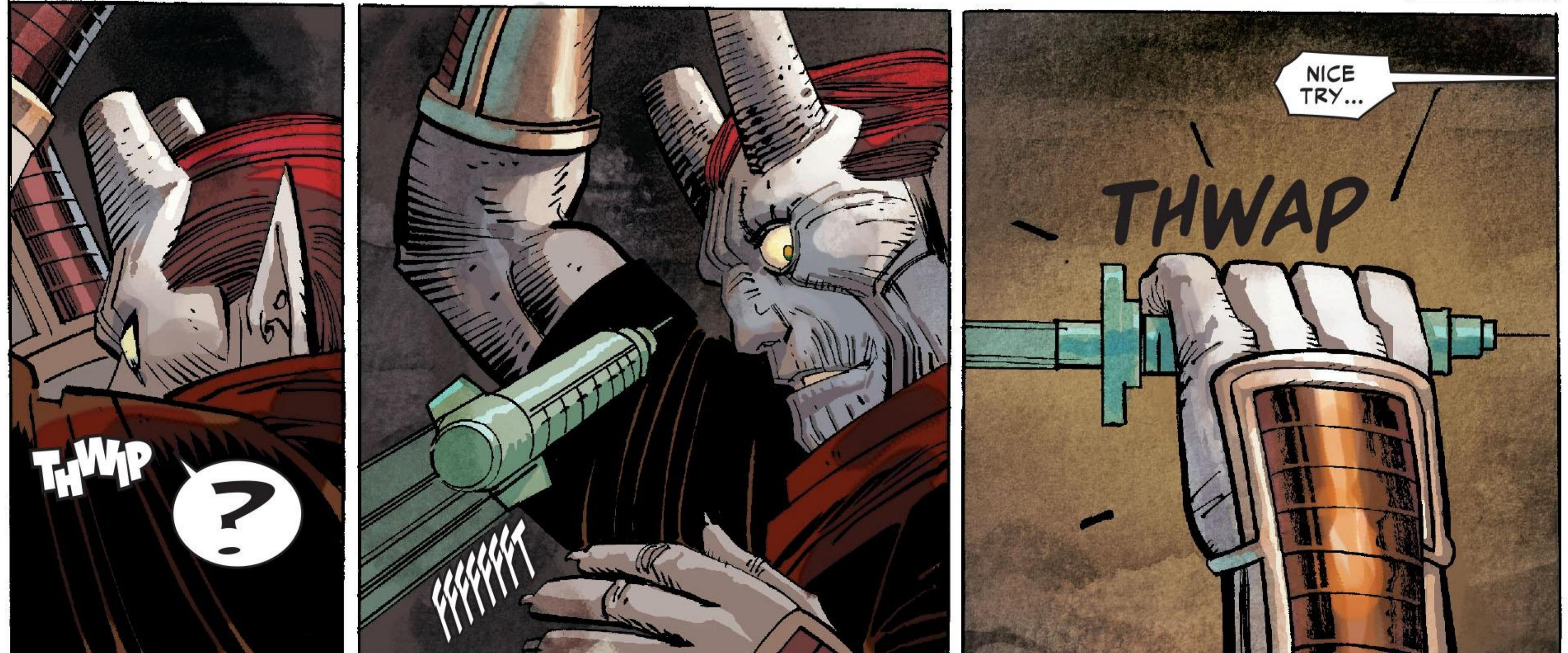
GUY'S GOT  
A POINT.



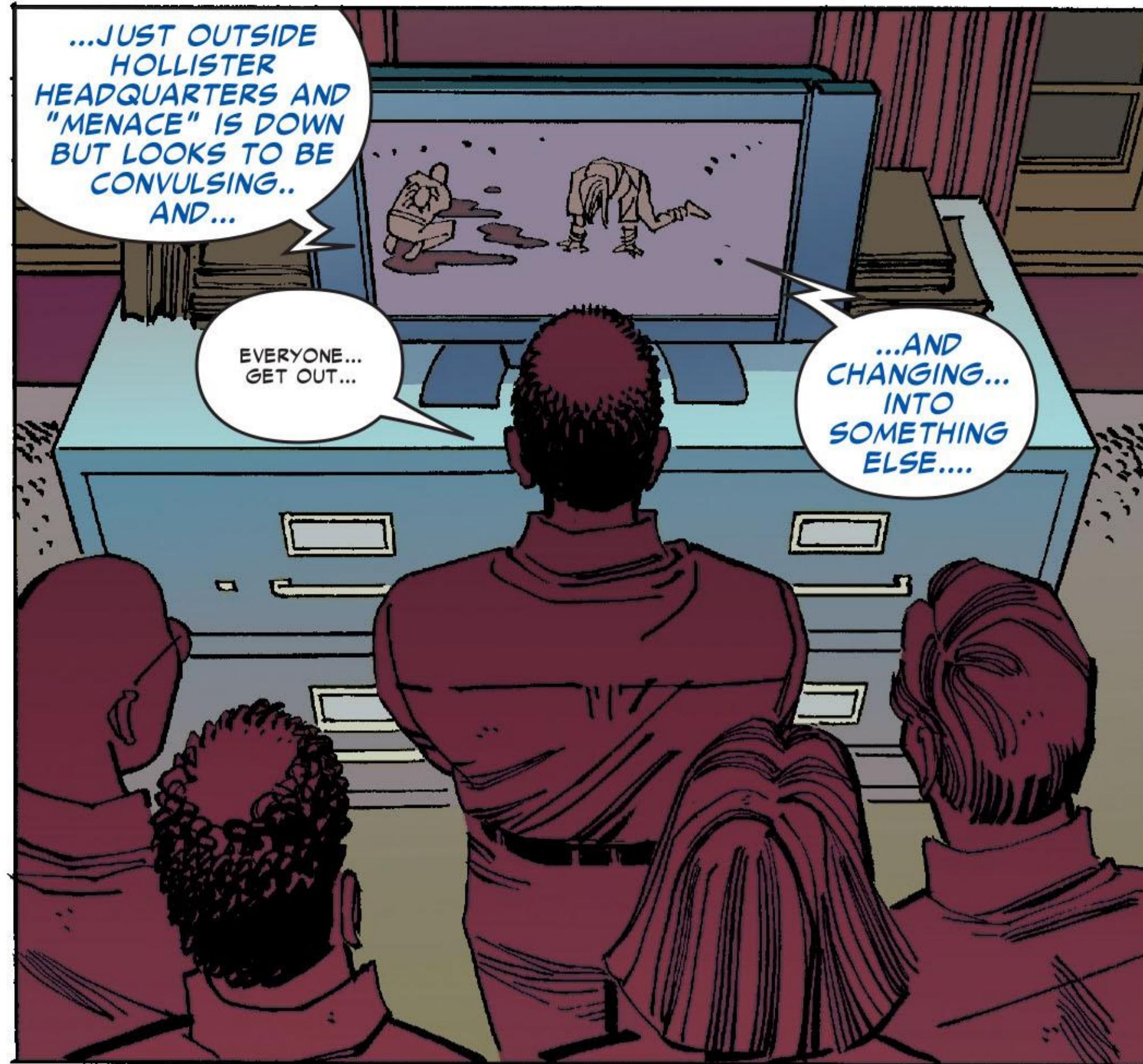
SHOT, BEATEN, JAILED...  
HAVEN'T BEEN...HURT LIKE  
THIS SINCE MORLUN.

BARELY SURVIVED  
THAT. NOT SURE  
ABOUT THIS. CATS  
HAVE NINE LIVES.  
BUT SPIDERS...









HEY. HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN RYKER'S--

YEAH, FUNNY THAT... BUT WHAT I COULD REALLY USE IS A HOSP-- A HOSPITAL.

SORRY. OTHER PLANS.

HEY!  
FREEZE!

Minutes Later.

YOU SHOULD BE OKAY HERE. LONG ENOUGH TO CATCH YOUR BREATH, AT ANY RATE.

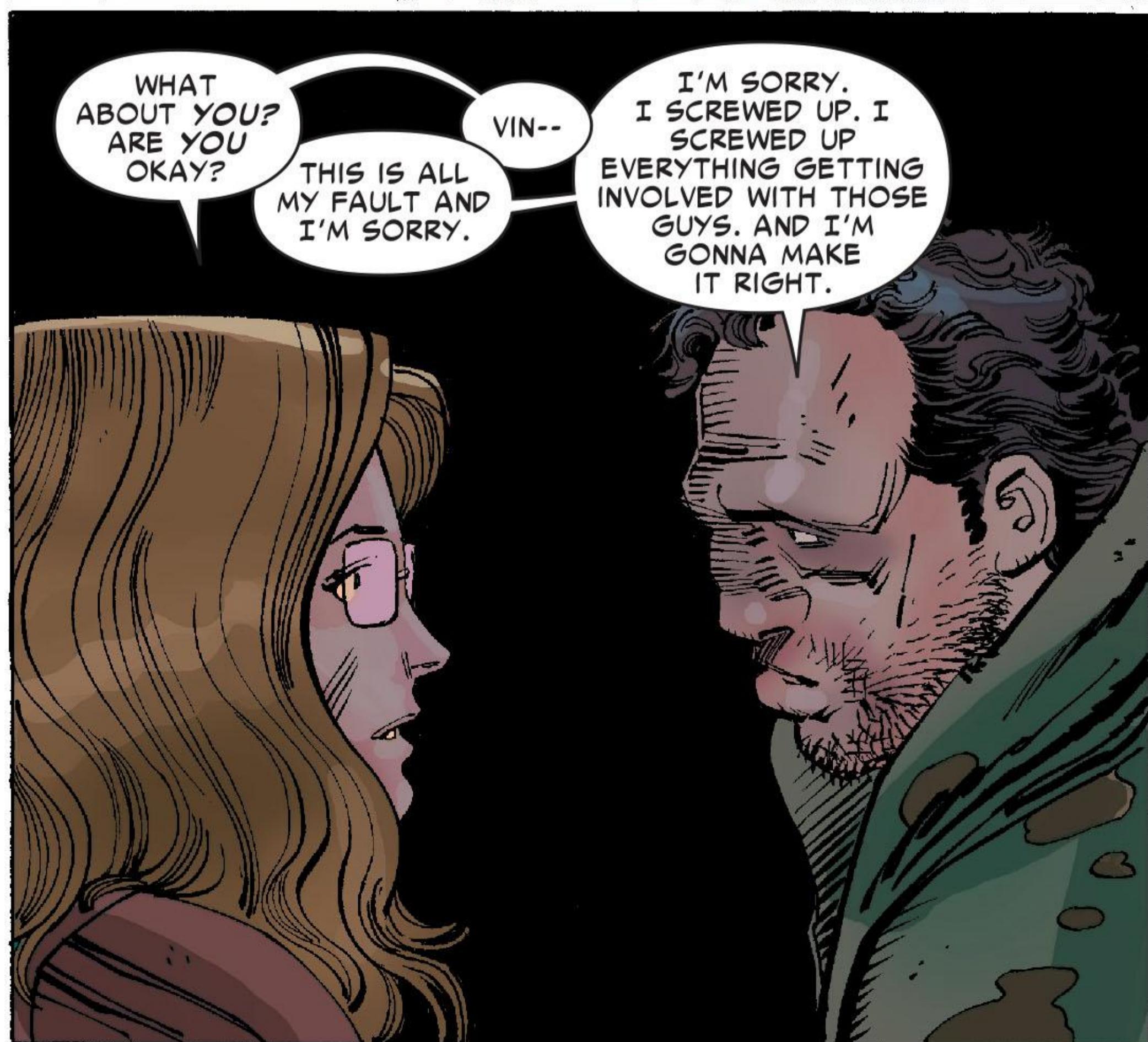
WAIT.

SORRY.

I CAN'T--  
YOU CAN'T--

HARRY...

"HAVE TO... HAVE TO GET AWAY..."



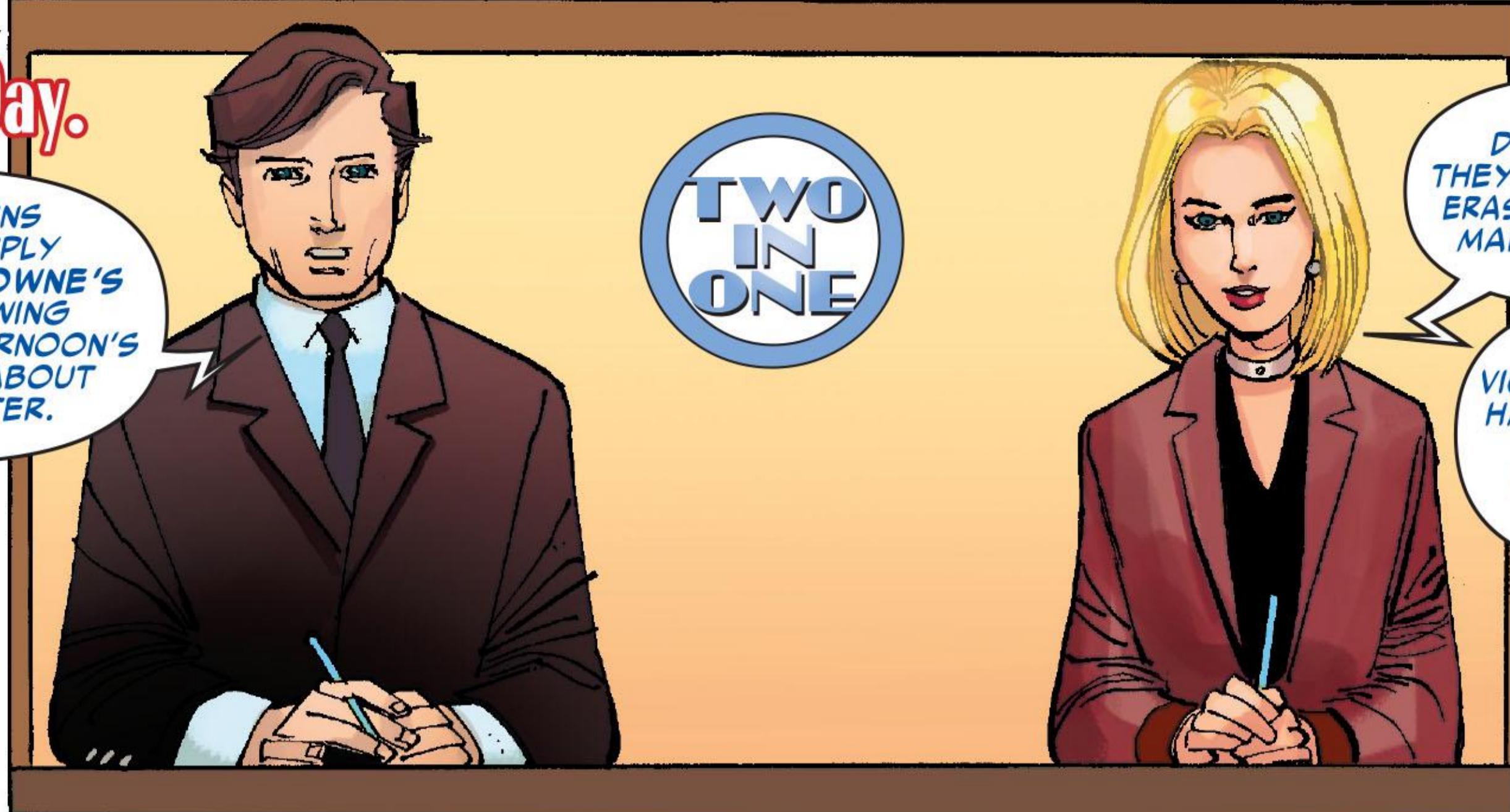
## The Next Day.

LATE RETURNS SWUNG SHARPLY IN RANDALL CROWNE'S FAVOR FOLLOWING YESTERDAY AFTERNOON'S REVELATIONS ABOUT LILY HOLLISTER.

TWO  
IN  
ONE

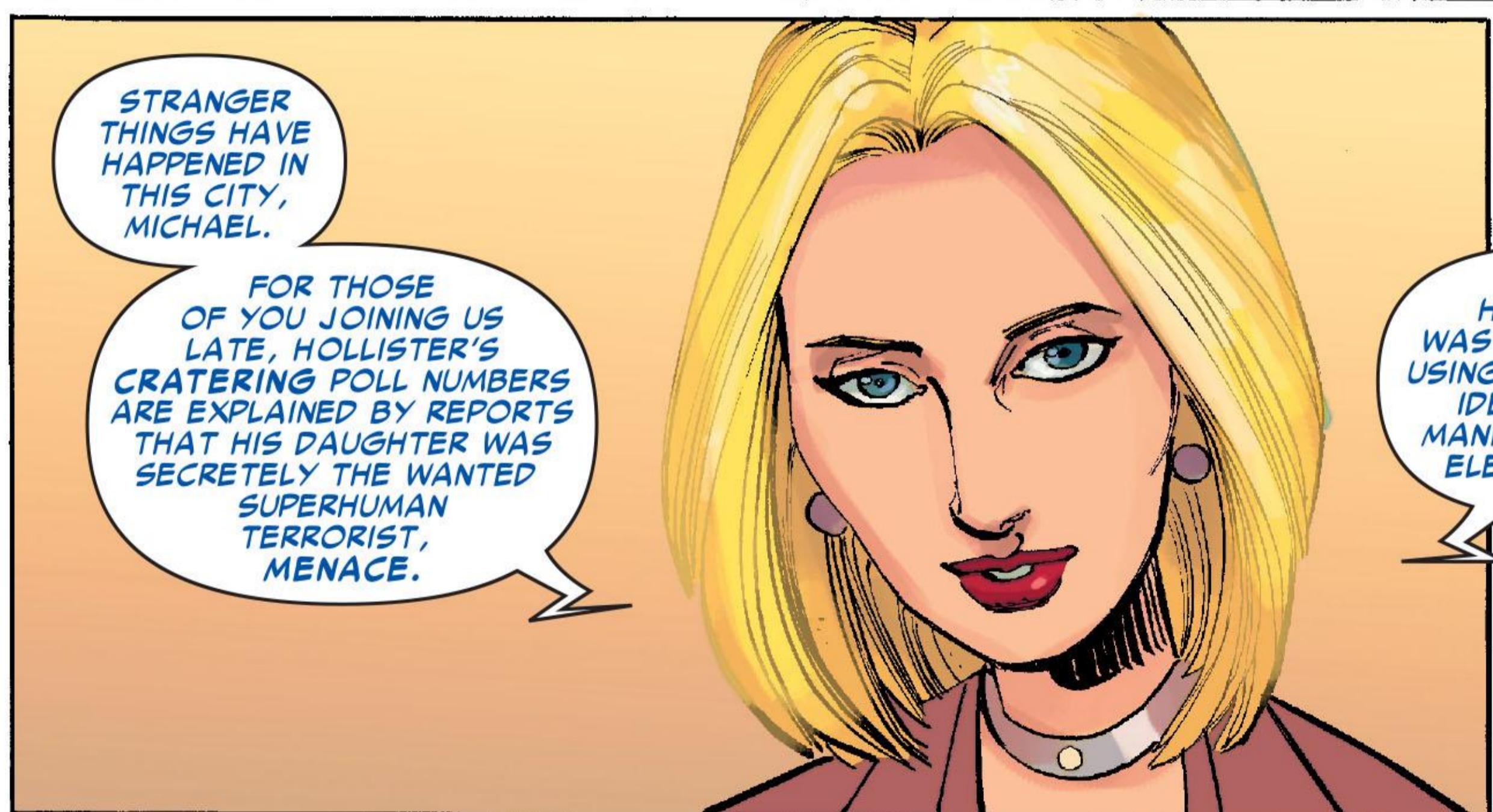
BUT THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'LL BE ENOUGH TO ERASE BILL HOLLISTER'S MARGIN OF VICTORY, MICHAEL.

DESPITE THE VICTORY, FLASH-POLLS HAVE PEOPLE CALLING FOR HOLLISTER'S RESIGNATION BY A THREE-TO-ONE MARGIN...



"BEFORE HE'S EVEN BEEN SWEORN IN. THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED."

THE D-B  
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF SPIDER-MAN  
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST!  
MURKIE DIES SCAM!  
MOTHER CITY & MORE!  
LATE CITY HEADLINES • VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1  
HOLLISTER WINS  
LILY-HOLLISTER ARRESTED



STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED IN THIS CITY, MICHAEL.

FOR THOSE OF YOU JOINING US LATE, HOLLISTER'S CRATERING POLL NUMBERS ARE EXPLAINED BY REPORTS THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS SECRETLY THE WANTED SUPERHUMAN TERRORIST, MENACE.

LILY HOLLISTER WAS APPARENTLY USING THE MENACE IDENTITY TO MANIPULATE THE ELECTORATE...

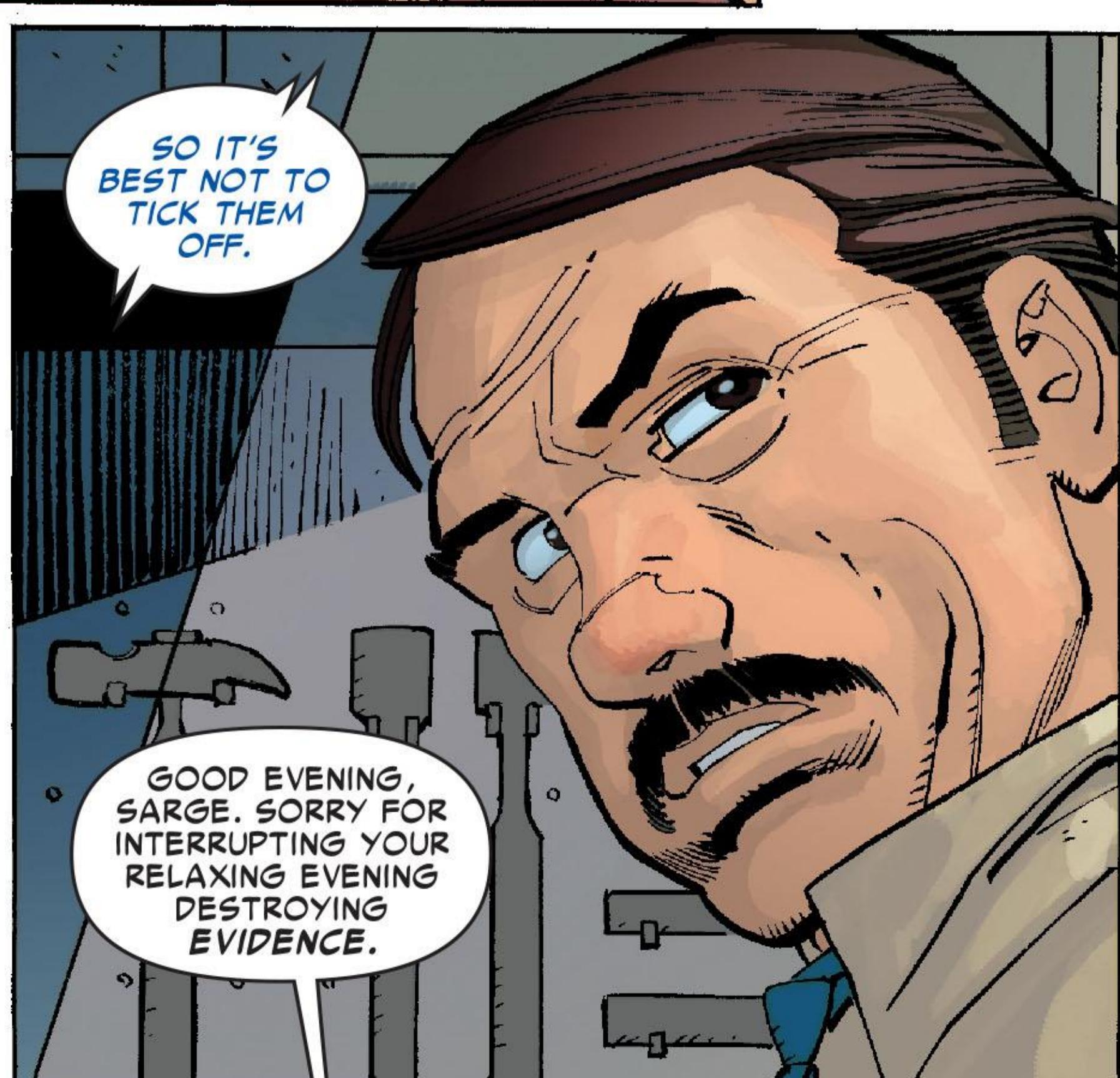
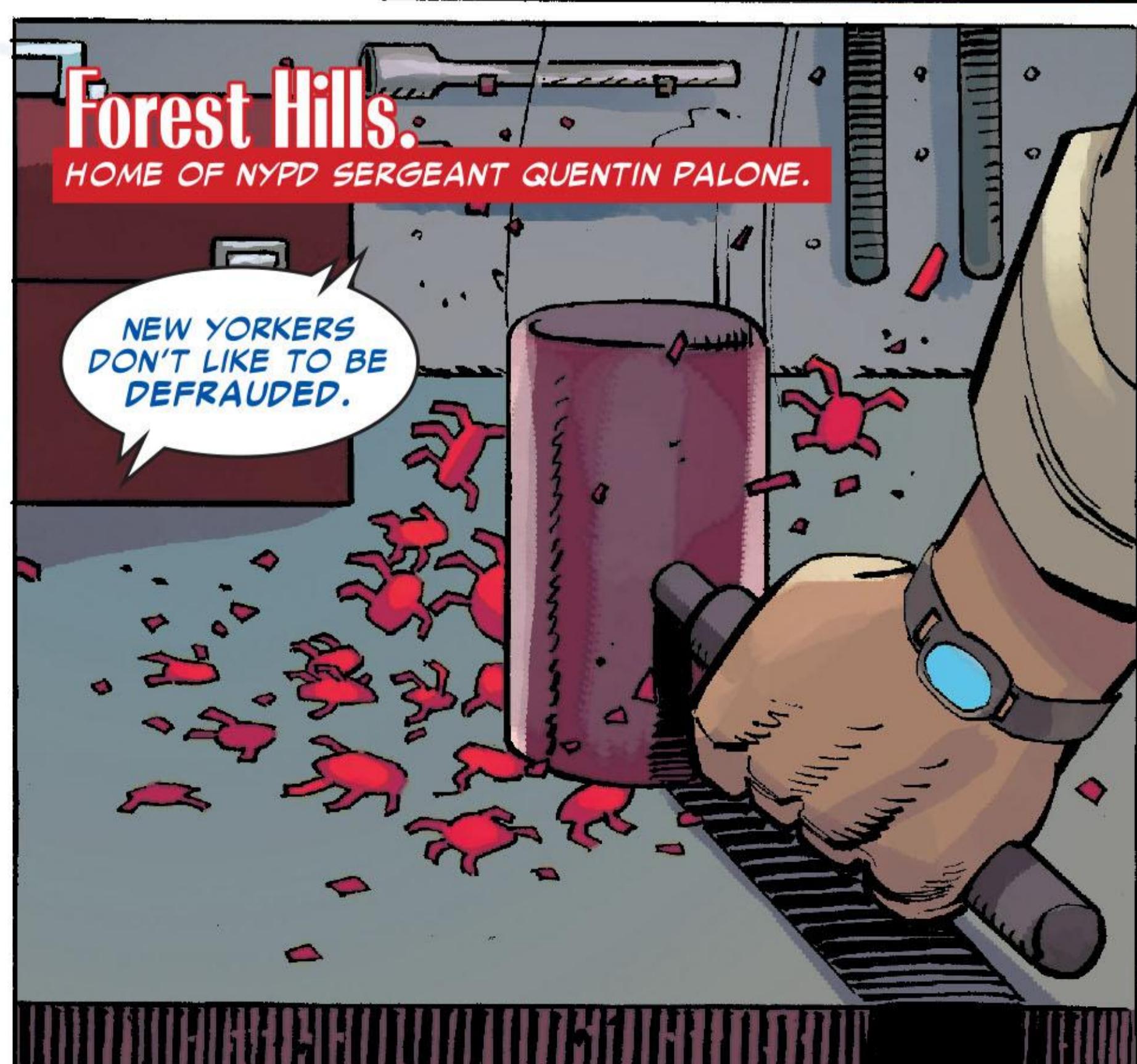
## Forest Hills.

HOME OF NYPD SERGEANT QUENTIN PALONE.

NEW YORKERS DON'T LIKE TO BE DEFRAUDED.

SO IT'S BEST NOT TO TICK THEM OFF.

GOOD EVENING, SARGE. SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR RELAXING EVENING DESTROYING EVIDENCE.



GONZALES...  
VIN.

I'M SURE YOU  
HAVE SOME VERY  
UNDERSTANDABLE  
GRIEVANCES...

SENDING  
ME TO PRISON?  
TRYING TO DO THE  
SAME TO MY  
FRIEND?

I WAS TRYING  
TO CONTAIN A  
DIFFICULT  
SITUATION...

AND HOW'S  
THAT WORKING  
OUT FOR YOU?

LOOK--  
ALL RIGHT LOOK--  
JUST...YOU THINK  
ABOUT THIS FOR A  
MINUTE...YOU'RE A  
POLICE OFFICER--

ENGAGED IN AN  
ONGOING CRIMINAL  
CONSPIRACY.

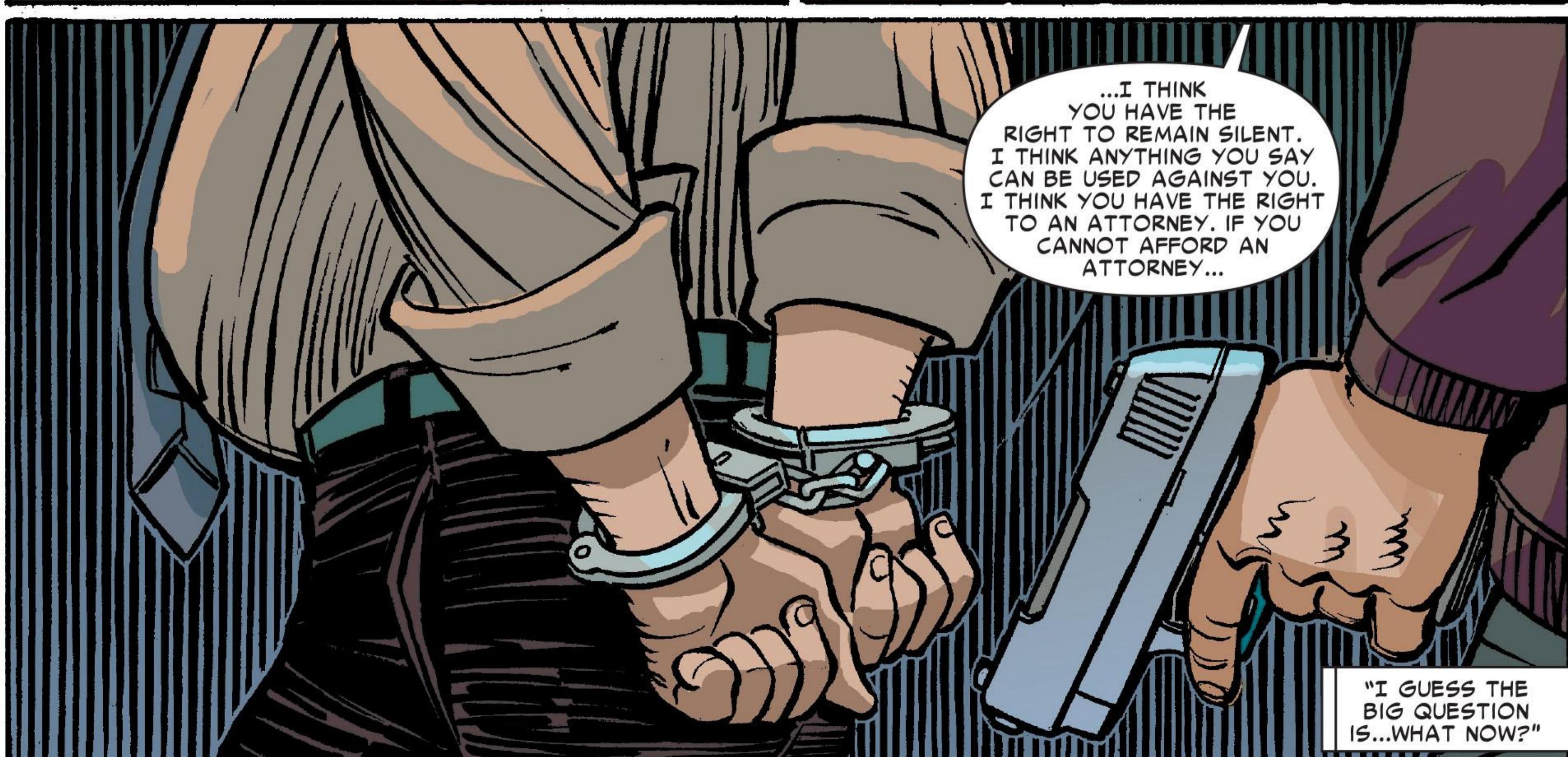
YOU'RE A  
POLICE OFFICER.  
YOU'RE REALLY  
GOING TO  
SHOOT ME?

WHO SAID  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
SHOOTING  
YOU?

OKAY. OKAY, FINE.  
BUT THINK. THINK.  
I GO DOWN, YOUR  
PARTNER GOES  
DOWN.

HIM AND  
EVERY OTHER  
COP INVOLVED  
IN THIS THING  
OF OURS.

INCLUDING  
YOU.

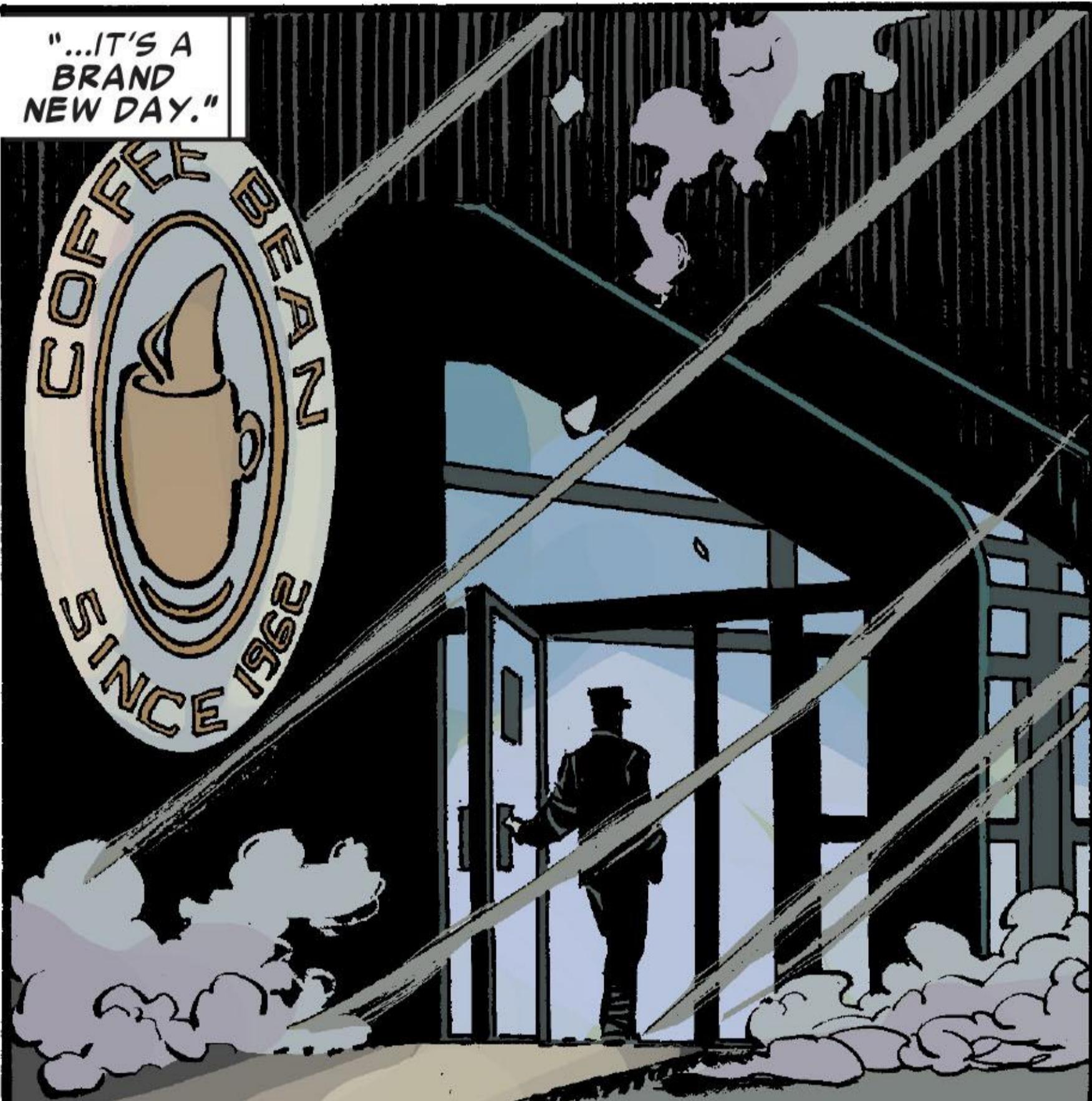


IF HOLLISTER  
DECLINES TO BE  
SWORN IN AS  
MAYOR...WHO TAKES  
HIS PLACE?

TWO  
IN  
ONE

THAT'S THE  
MILLION DOLLAR  
QUESTION. THE ONLY  
THING FOR CERTAIN  
IS THAT AS FAR AS  
NEW YORK POLITICS  
ARE CONCERNED...

"...IT'S A  
BRAND  
NEW DAY."



HEY.

YOU WANNA  
KNOW THE WORST  
THING ABOUT  
OWNING A COFFEE  
SHOP, PETE?



NO  
BOOZE.  
PROBABLY  
NOT THE BEST  
IDEA FOR A  
RECOVERING  
ADDICT  
ANYWAY.  
PROBABLY  
NOT.



I LOVED  
HER, PETE.

I KNOW.  
I WAS  
GONNA MARRY  
HER. WE WERE  
GONNA HAVE  
KIDS. WE WERE  
GONNA HAVE A  
LIFE.

DO  
YOU THINK  
WE'RE CURSED,  
PETE?



"THE OSBORNS,  
I MEAN?"



HONESTLY?

YES,  
HARRY. I  
THINK YOU  
ARE.

"I THINK YOU'RE  
CURSED BY YOUR  
FATHER."

"YOU'RE SUFFERING  
FOR NORMAN  
OSBORN'S SINS."



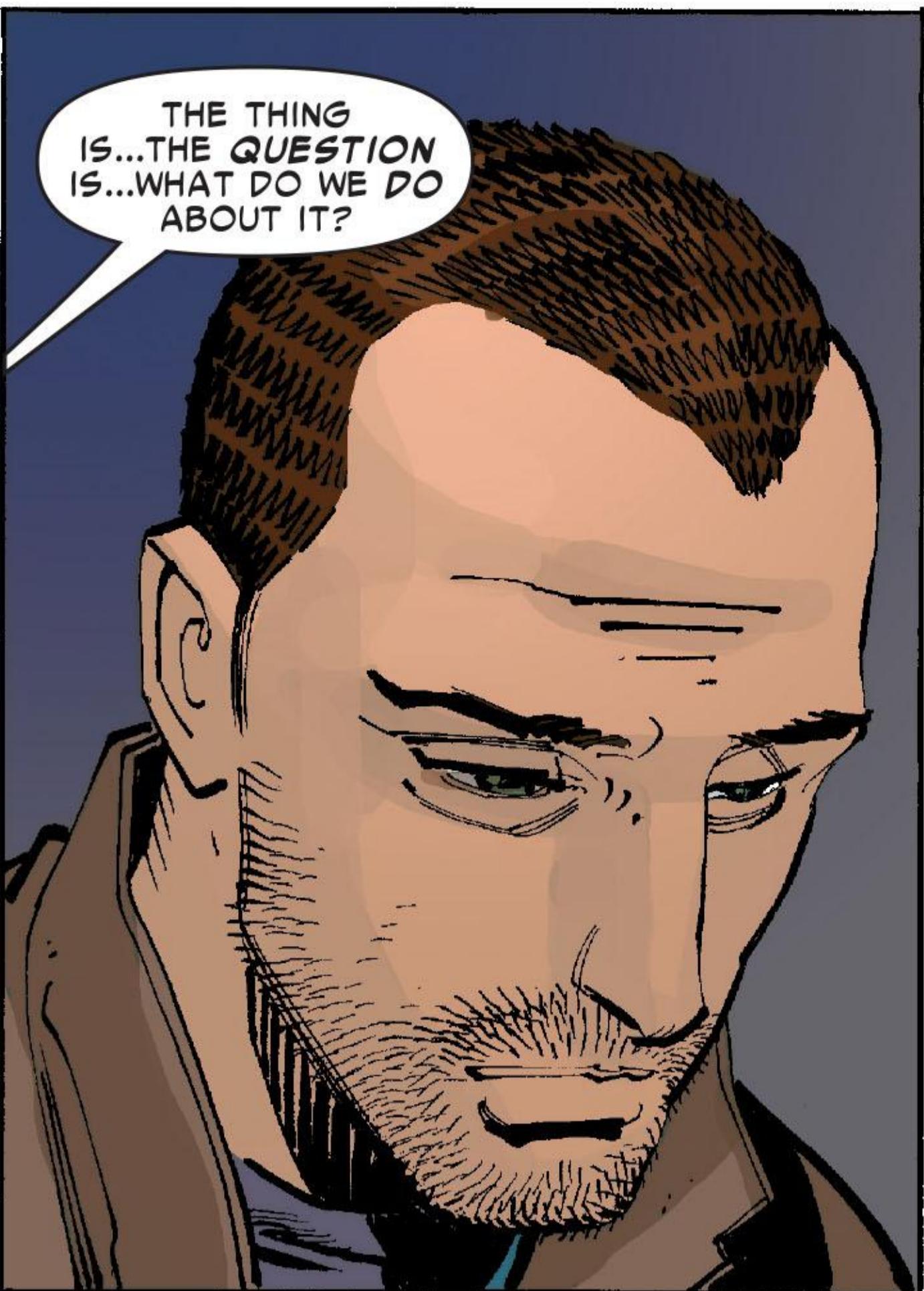
BUT I  
THINK **EVERY** CHILD  
CARRIES THE BURDENS  
OF THEIR PARENTS.

FOR ME, THE  
BURDEN'S BEEN NOT  
HAVING ANY. AND IT'S BEEN  
LOSING THE MAN WHO  
WAS LIKE A FATHER  
TO ME.

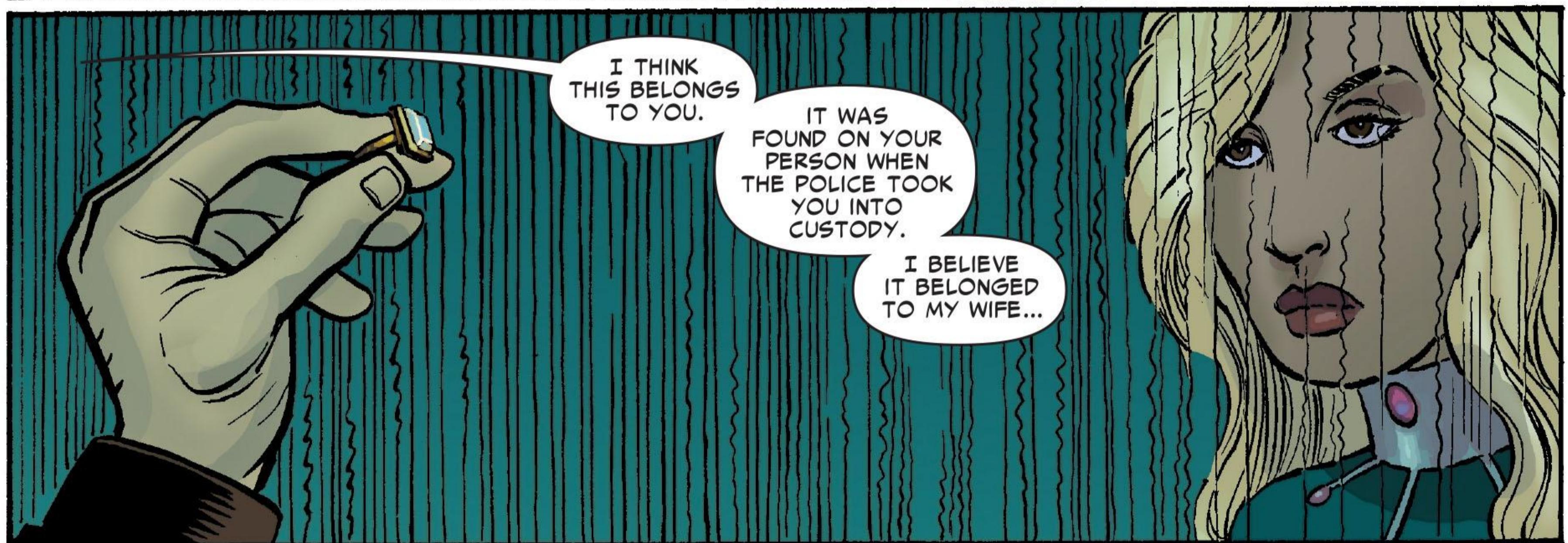
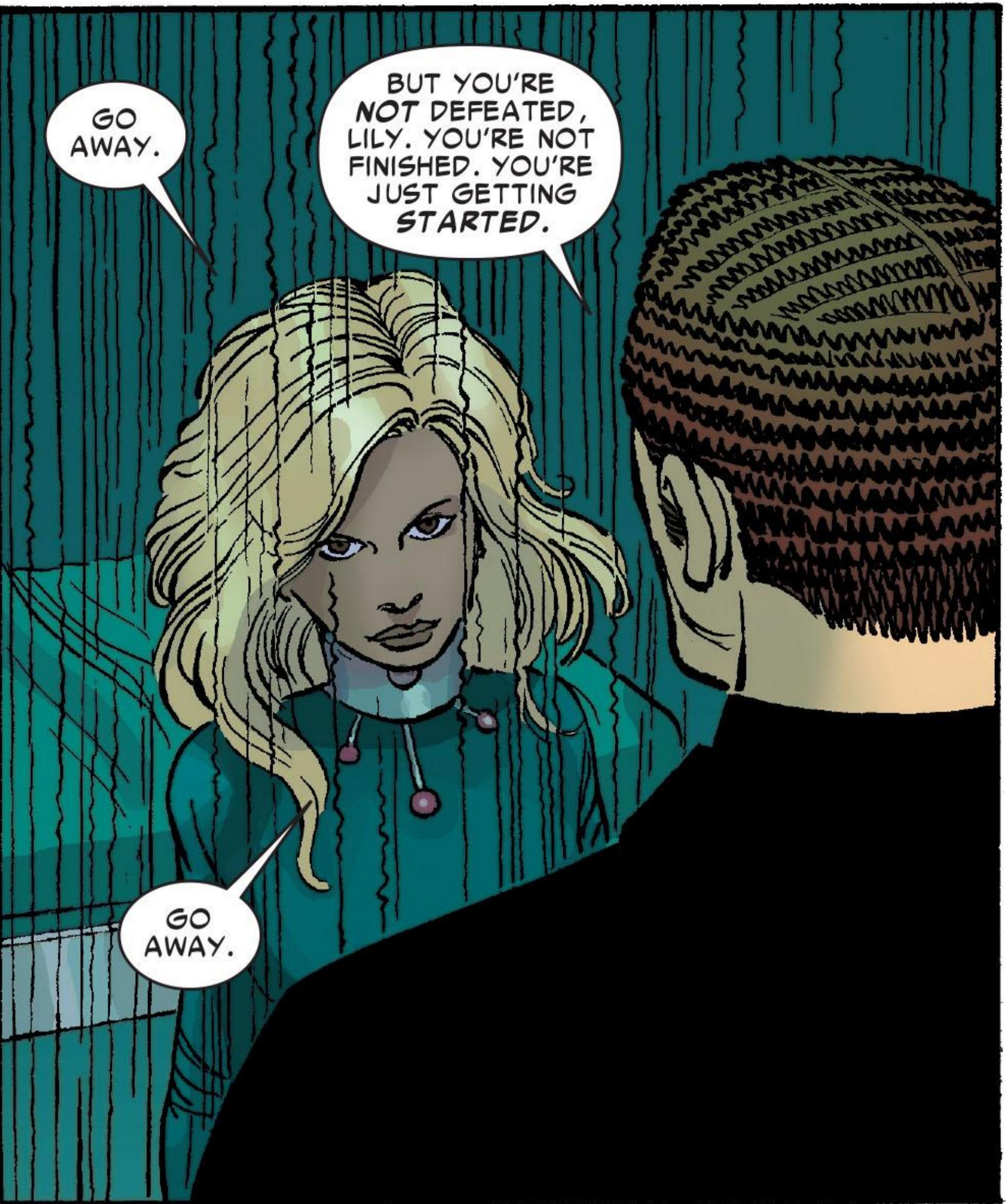
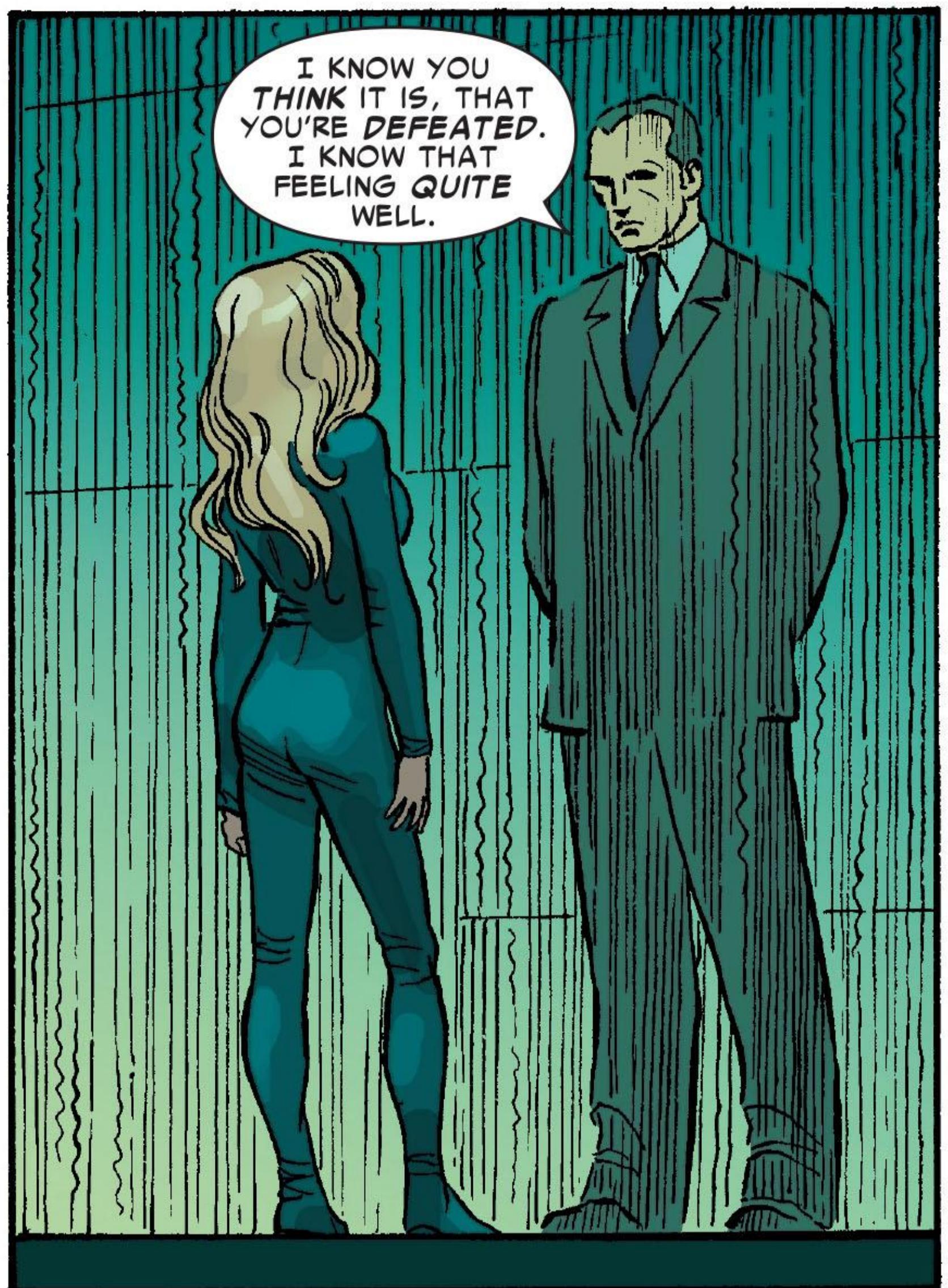
MJ'S  
FATHER ABUSED  
HER. CARLIE'S  
DAD DRINKS.  
AND LILY...



"...WELL, OBVIOUSLY,  
SHE HAS HER OWN  
FATHER ISSUES."







 End.

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to

[SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM)

(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

What a ride! All of us here in the Spider-Cave extend our thanks to everyone involved in bringing you this 5-part mini epic (as well as its epilogue in the ASM Extra! out this week). Thanks to our wonderful artist team: the ever-present John Romita, Jr, Klaus Janson, and Dean White (all of whom clocked in more pages than you think on this epic. Go back and count the extra story pages you got the past few weeks. We'll wait.), Spidey mainstay Barry Kitson, inkers Mark Farmer, Karl Kesel, and Tom Palmer and colorist Andres Mossa. We also thank Cory, Chris and Todd for some great lettering inside and outside the book.

Bear with me a minute as I take you backstage before moving on with your letters.

With this issue we wrap up several storylines and subplots that we've introduced since the current creative came on board in January of 2008. Many of these elements were first hatched at the very first Spidey retreat in December 2006, where the Spidey Braintrust constructed most of the roller coaster that has finally reached its end.

On the way, we took a couple of unplanned turns as new writers came on board and new storylines presented themselves, but for the most part, this story ties up threads pretty much as planned out over two years ago and this editor is thrilled it's all finally in your hands to judge either happily or harshly. Getting so many pages of comics to you ain't easy and for that we thank all the great talent involved, most especially the remaining members of Spidey's Braintrust from that original 2006 meeting: Bob Gale, Dan Slott, and this issue's writer Marc Guggenheim.

It now makes me very sad to announce to you, the literate reader, that it is time to say good-bye to the Spider-Man Braintrust. They accomplished what they set out to do over these past 43 issues, but retirement comes early in this business and we sincerely wish them each well in their next gig.

More on what's coming up next at the end of the column. Until then...LETTERS!

Dear Steve & Co.,

Back at the beginning of Brand New Day, I wrote you guys a letter saying how I thought you all had lost your minds. I was skeptical about Civil War for a long time, then just as I started getting used to that new status quo of no-secret-identity Peter Parker, you went and changed things up again with BND (and I gotta say, I totally knew the secret identity was gonna return somehow, though my predictions involved the Watcher rather than Mephisto).

Now I'm writing back to publicly eat my earlier words. It's taken awhile for you guys to get your rhythm down, but ASM has been outstanding for at least 15 issues straight now. Dan Slott's great writing on New Ways to Die really started winning me over (and it was a treat to see JRJR back - he's been my favorite recent Spidey penciler since his run with Straczynski a few years ago, so keep him around!), the Flash story in issue #574 was well done, the new Hammerhead was surprisingly cool in #575/576, and to top it all off Spidey made an appearance in my own friendly neighborhood in #578 (that'd be Clark Street in Brooklyn Heights). Even the one-issue work in #580 by Roger Stern and Lee Weeks was a really good read (love the web ball at the end).

You know you're in a good place when even the fill-in help is producing great stuff.

In short, for the past few months I've been as excited about reading ASM as I've ever been, so here's a tip of that hat to you gentlemen for apparently actually having a clue what you're doing (who knew?). The plethora of recent long-term story arcs (Civil War, One More Day/BND, Secret Invasion, etc.) has had me worried that Marvel's storytelling might have started spinning out of control, so it's reassuring to see that that is not the case, or at least that if it is the case it's still awesome. Keep up the fine work!

Josh Olejarz  
Via e-mail

The Watcher?!?! Are you crazy! Have you lost your mind?!? I pre-hate that with the white hot intensity of Brennan's white-as-coconut-shavings skin after he's been left out in the sun all day sans shirt!

You've lost me as a reader of your hypothetical ideas. Nice job, Josh! Your ideas were better before Quesada was hired. Make Mine Not Your Head!



Dear Steve and the Wack-Pack,

I have loved reading this book in 2008, so I thank you for that. With that being said, I have one major complaint: It has come to my attention that Zeb Wells has been removed from Spidey's Braintrust.

Now what in the heck would possess you to do something so crazy?!?! He was the only Braintrust-er that I was familiar with before they started working on ASM (I am currently loving his VENOM DARK ORIGINS mini-series (This coming from an anti-Venom (Heh...) reader.)

Oh, and on a completely unrelated note, please send my regards to Marcos Martin, who draws the single best Shocker a Spider-Man book has seen. Ever.

Matt Hoekstra, 14  
New Jersey

Matt, I expect a letter immediately after finishing this letter column.

On a separate note, being 14 in New Jersey cannot be easy. My condolences for what will inevitably be a rough adulthood spent either in prison, in one of the state's endless malls, or stuck on the Jersey Turnpike.



Hey Steve and the Spidey team,

I wanted to drop you a quick line and let you know that you've been doing a great job over the past year. Like many others, I was skeptical at first, but I'm enjoying the direction in which the story is heading. It takes a lot of guts to carry out such big changes for a title as iconic as ASM. Congrats on one year of three times a month! Keep up the good work!

I enclose a pic from my wife's first big Christmas cookie batch this season. She told me how much it would mean to her if I helped her decorate some of them. The results aren't probably what she had in mind. Gingerbread men have never looked so invincible, incredible, and amazing. Have a great holiday season and keep up the good work!



Dominic Carrozzino  
Sandusky, Ohio

P.S. If you want some actual cookies, start revealing some of the goods (i.e. Menace, Jackpot, etc).

Thanks, Dominic. These look so good that Brevoort just licked the page you're holding! Just take this letter column down to your local scientist building and you can clone your own Executive Editor! Great shades of Gruenwald!



That brings us to the end of another lettercolumn and just enough room for our big post-Braintrust announcement.

The Braintrust is dead, folks...they served their purpose well. Each of them was extremely kind and patient with me over the last year (except for Gale) (and Guggenheim) (oh, and Slott).

So now it can be told with the Braintrust dead...Long Live the Web-Heads! Marc Guggenheim, Joe Kelly, Dan Slott, and Mark Waid!

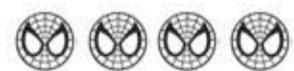
With Bob Gale back as Web-Head Emeritus!

And Fred van Lente and Zeb Wells – Web-Head Lieutenants!

It's going to be a big year. American Son. ASM #600. Mysterio. Sinister 666. Anti-Venom...and "The Man" comes home.

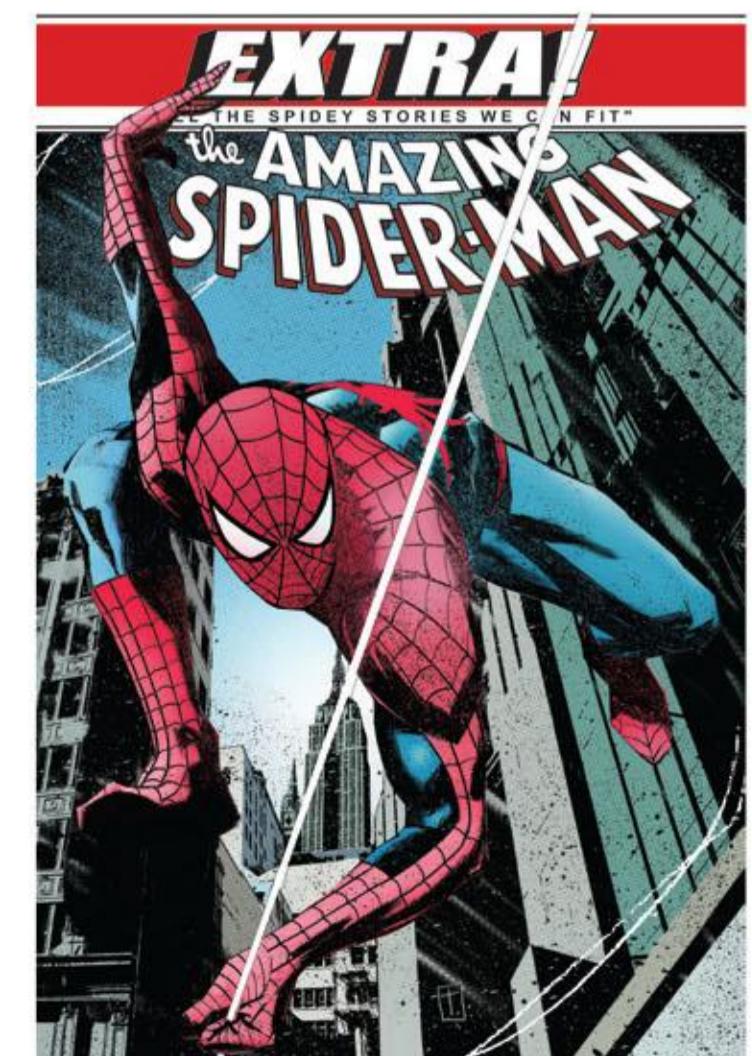
Keep watching.

-Simperin Steve  
2/26/09



Also on sale now...

ASM Extra! #3 with a special epilogue to this issue by Marc Guggenheim as well as a look at Harry Osborn's Youth and the New Kraven.



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