

MARVEL®  
599 .com

DARK REIGN™

KELLY  
SEGOMIA  
CHECCHETTO  
SIQUEIRA

the AMAZING  
SPIDER-MAN



AMERICAN  
SON 50F5

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Peter Parker's P.O.V.

Let me tell you a little bit about Norman Osborn: of the two great loves of my life, he's murdered one and terrorized the other. He emotionally bullied my best friend, his son Harry, into a lifetime of substance abuse and daddy issues. But he also killed the Skrull Queen in the middle of that so-called Secret Invasion. So now he's been handed the keys to the national security kingdom. No, I'm not sure how that happened either. But hey, I'm Peter Parker, and I'm used to my enemies having unlimited power and respect.

Normie's got his own Avenger team—mainly a bunch of his favorite Thunderbolts sociopaths dressed up to look like us, the real heroes—and he tried to recruit Harry to finish the team as his own Captain America, "American Son." I knocked out \*his\* Spider-Man (really my old sparring buddy, MacGargan, a.k.a. Venoma, a.k.a. The Scorpion) and infiltrated the building in disguise, only to be ratted out by Harry.

Normie tortured me up pretty good, while Harry and his former fiancée, Lily Hollister, plotted their escape from the building. Apparently, Osborn took Lily after she was ousted as the grey goblin, Menace, during her dad's ill-fated run for Mayor. When Harry discovered Lily was pregnant, he struck a deal with his dad to save her. But she doesn't want to be saved—infact, Norman juiced her up as new, improved Menace—and it appears it's Norman, not Harry, who's the father of her child. When it looked like Norman was poised to take me out, Harry finally took on the American Son mantle—and took the fight to his dad...

© 2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.



PASSED  
OUT...

STILL CRAWLING.  
BARELY. BLOOD--?

KTANGG!!

WHAT'S THAT  
NOISE?

H-HARRY...







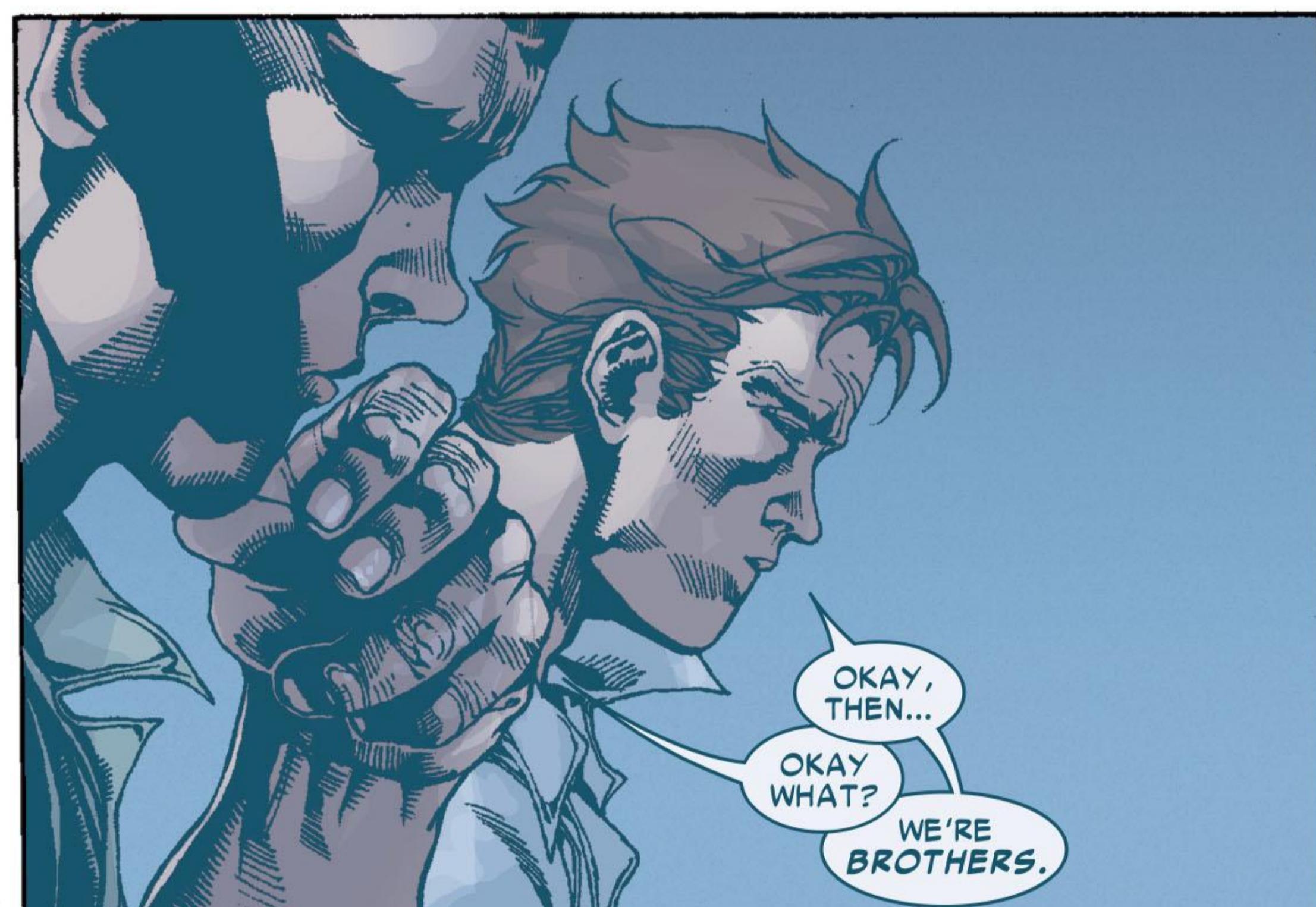
YOU'RE THE SON HE WISHES HE HAD. AND I HATE YOU FOR IT, SOMETIMES.

BUT I CAN'T EVEN BLAME HIM, REALLY...



'CAUSE I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT  
WISHING I HAD A  
BROTHER LIKE  
YOU...

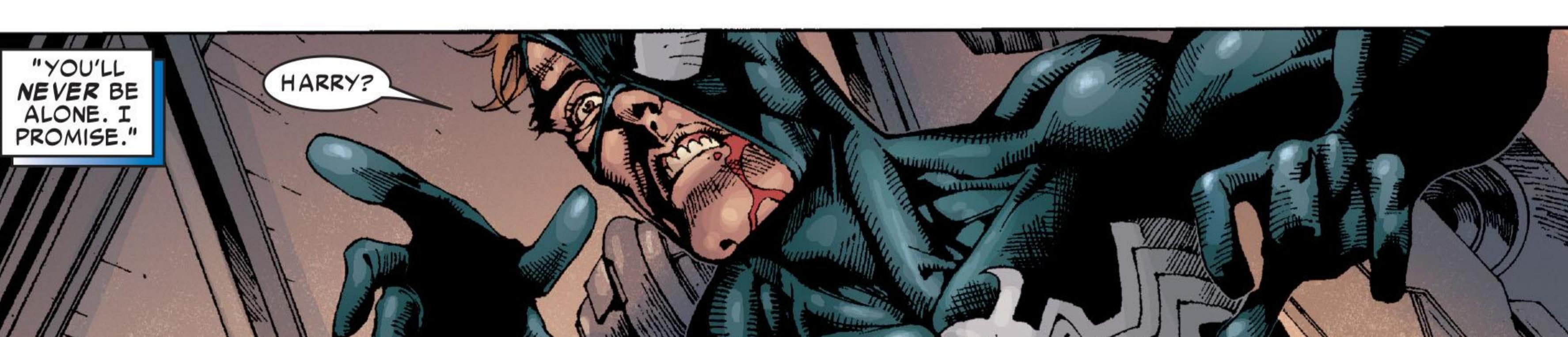
...SO I  
WON'T BE  
ALONE.



OKAY,  
THEN...

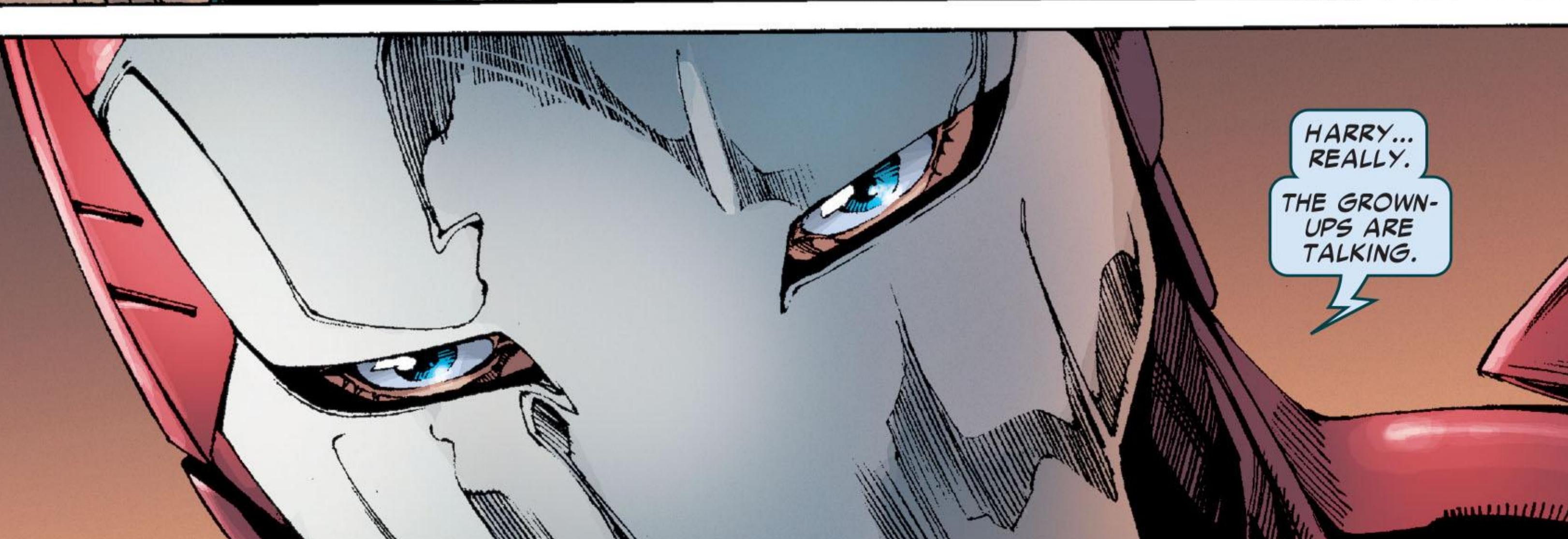
OKAY  
WHAT?

WE'RE  
BROTHERS.



"YOU'LL  
NEVER BE  
ALONE. I  
PROMISE."

HARRY?



HARRY...  
REALLY.

THE GROWN-  
UPS ARE  
TALKING.

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

# AMERICAN SON

## CONCLUSION

GO TO YOUR ROOM SO I CAN FINISH MURDERING SPIDER-MAN, OR I'M GOING TO BREAK YOUR DAMN NECK.

IT'S GLORIOUS.  
IT'S TERRIFYING.  
GOOD LORD, HARRY...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

JOE  
KELLY  
WRITER

STEPHEN  
SEGOVIA  
ART (PAGES 1-5)

CHRIS CHUCKRY  
COLORS (PAGES 1-19)

TOM BRENNAN  
ASST. EDITOR

MARCO  
CHECCHETTO  
ART (PAGES 6-19)

JEREMY COX  
COLORS (PAGES 20-23)

STEPHEN WACKER  
IN THERAPY

TOM BREVOORT  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOE QUESADA  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY  
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE  
EXEC. PRODUCER

PAULO  
SIQUEIRA & SANTOS  
ART (PAGES 19-23)

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA  
LETTERS

GALE, GUGGENHEIM, KELLY, SLOTT & WAID WEB-HEADS

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I CAN BARELY MOVE.  
REED'S MASK IS  
FINALLY GONE...IF  
NORMAN SEES ME NOW...

EVERYONE I  
KNOW IS IN DANGER...  
ALL BECAUSE...

EVERYTHING  
I DID?  
I OFFERED  
YOU A CHANCE  
AT A REMARKABLE  
LIFE. A GREATER  
PURPOSE.

THAT'S WHAT  
A FATHER  
SHOULD DO FOR  
HIS SON.

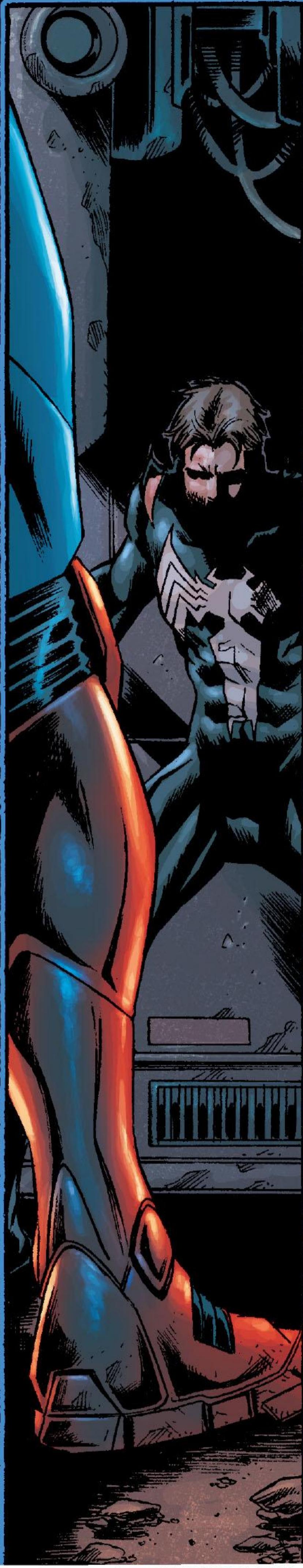
I WON'T DENY THAT I  
SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
ELIMINATE THE INSECT  
IN THE PROCESS...

...BUT I'D ASSUMED,  
CORRECTLY AS I  
RECALL, THAT YOU'D  
WANT HIM DEAD AS  
MUCH AS I DO.





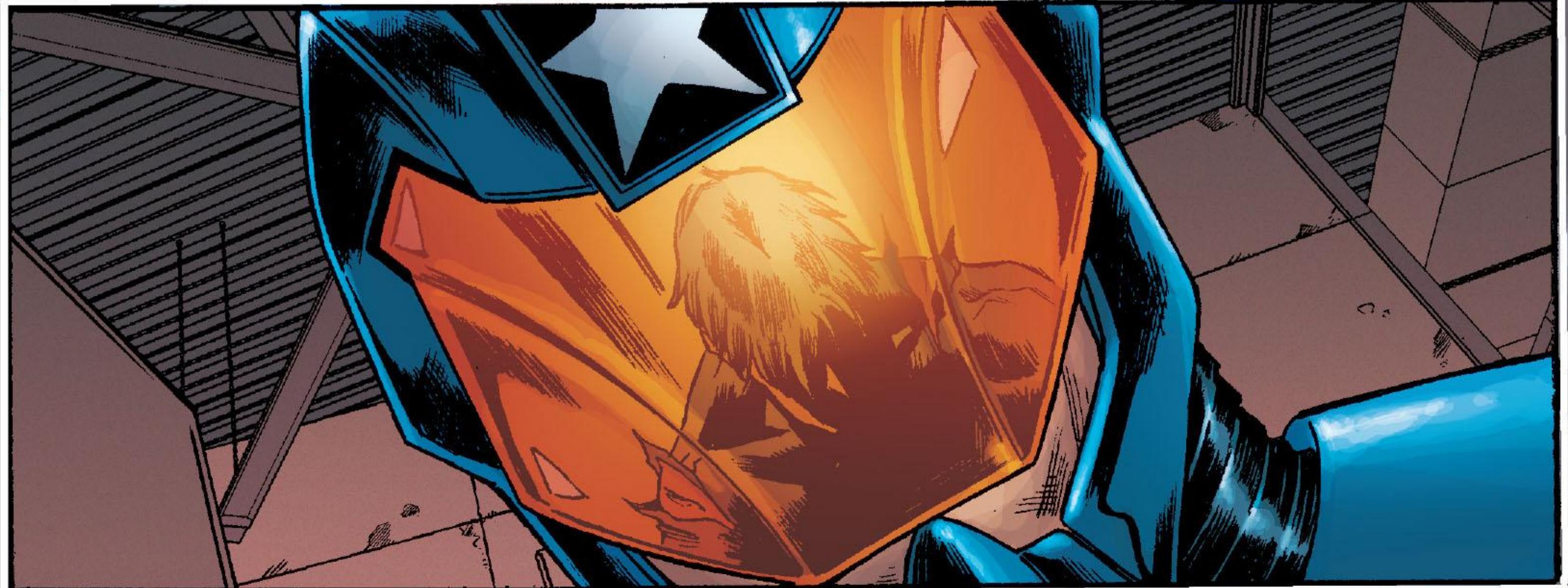
I HEAR YOUR BREATHING...

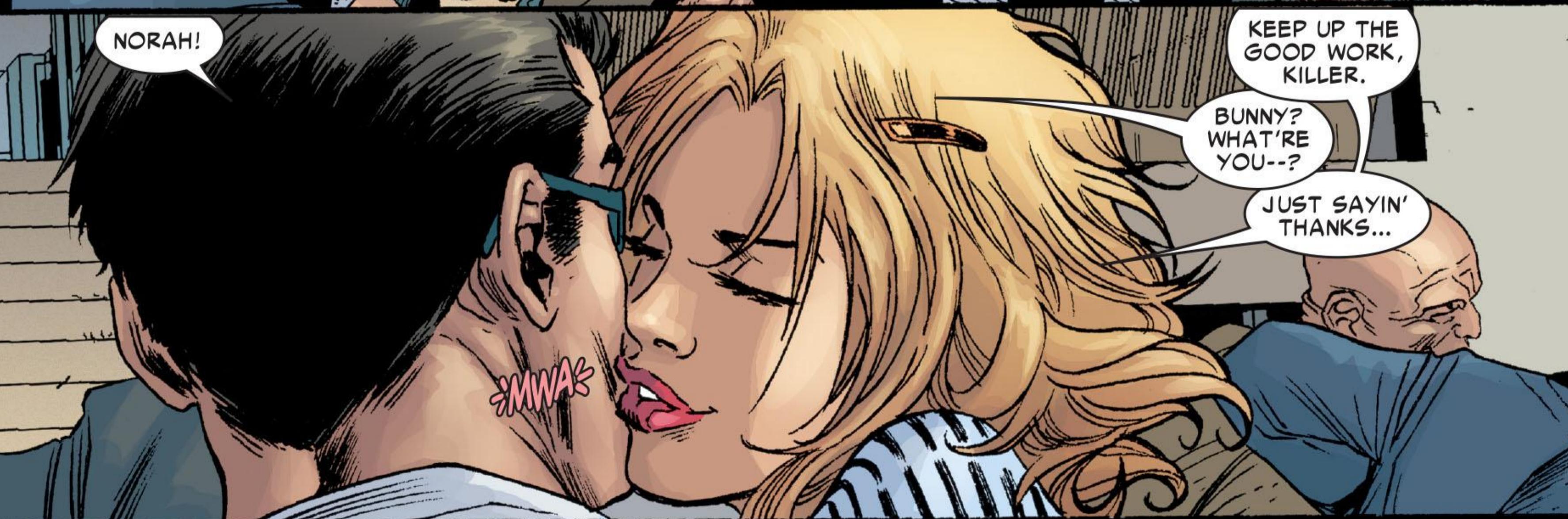
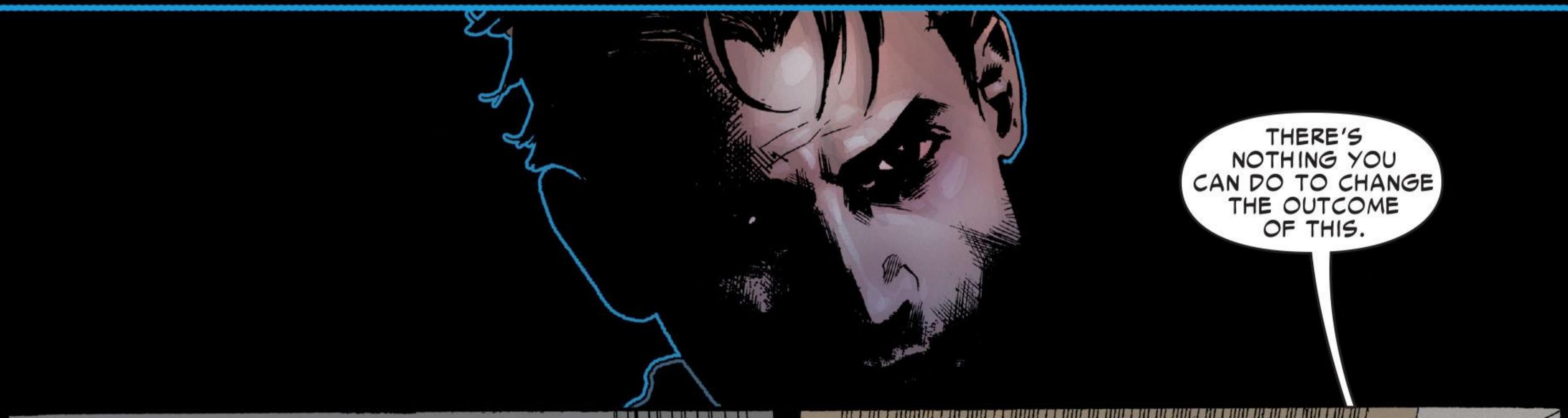
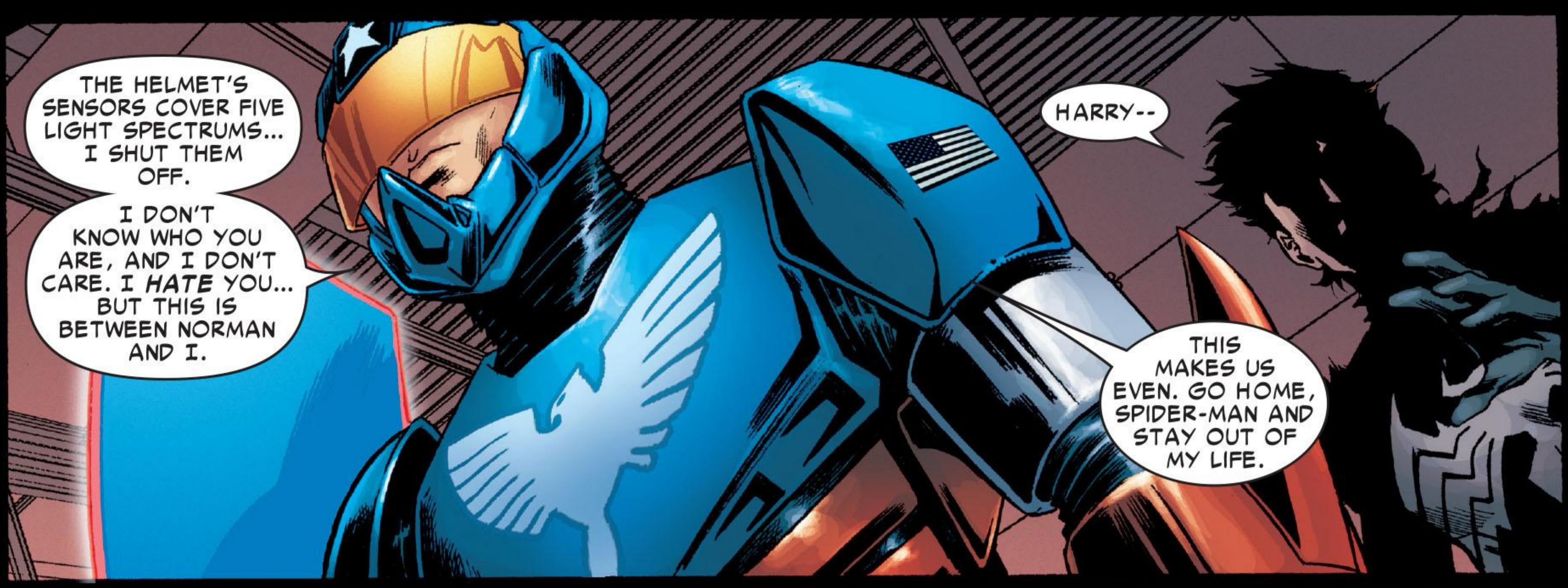


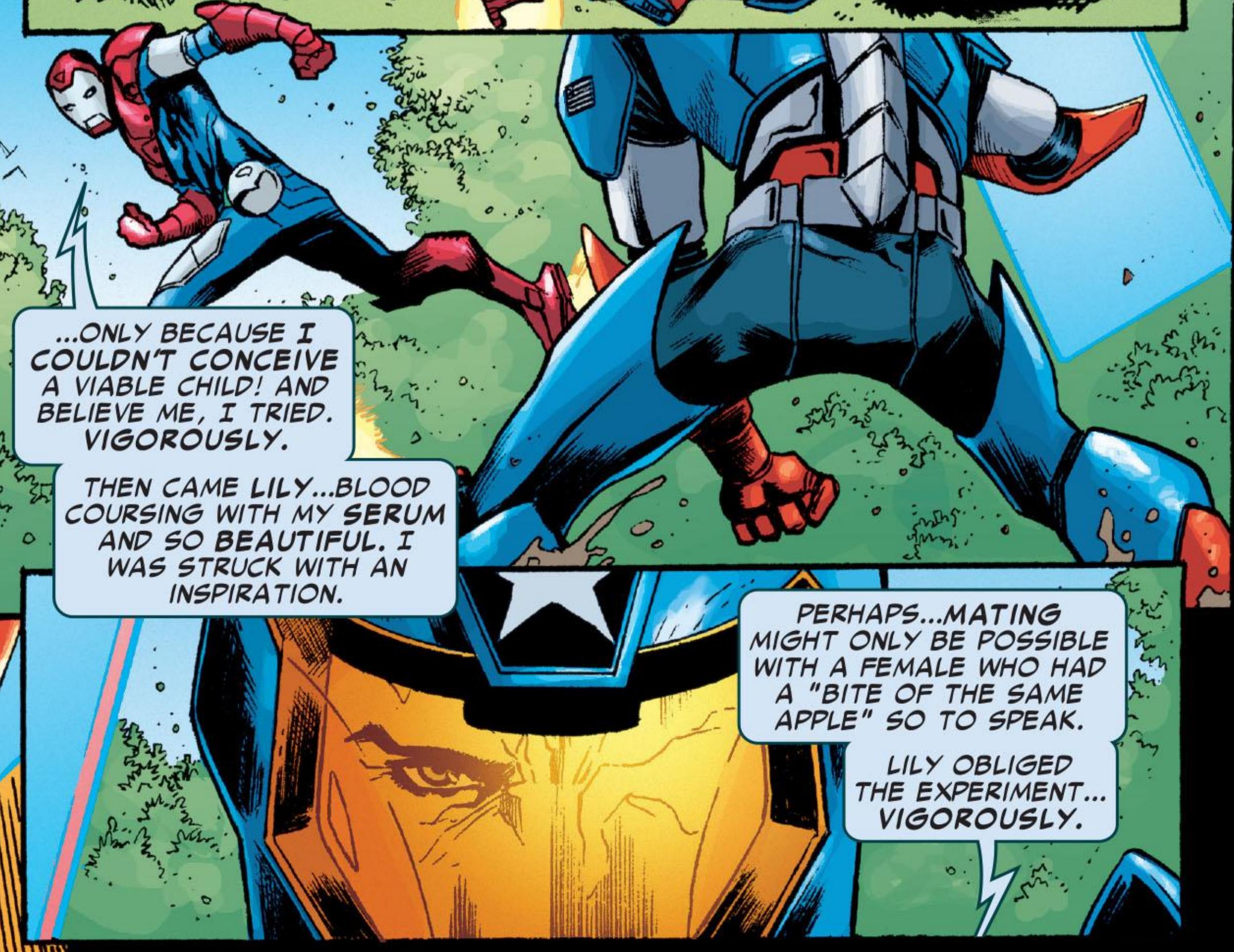
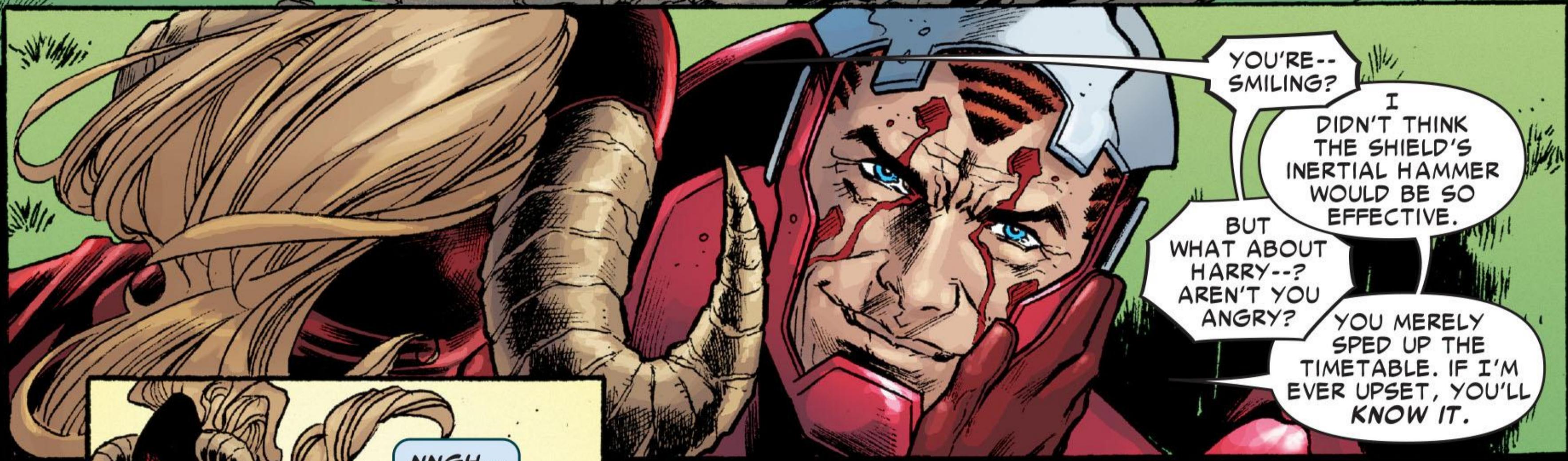
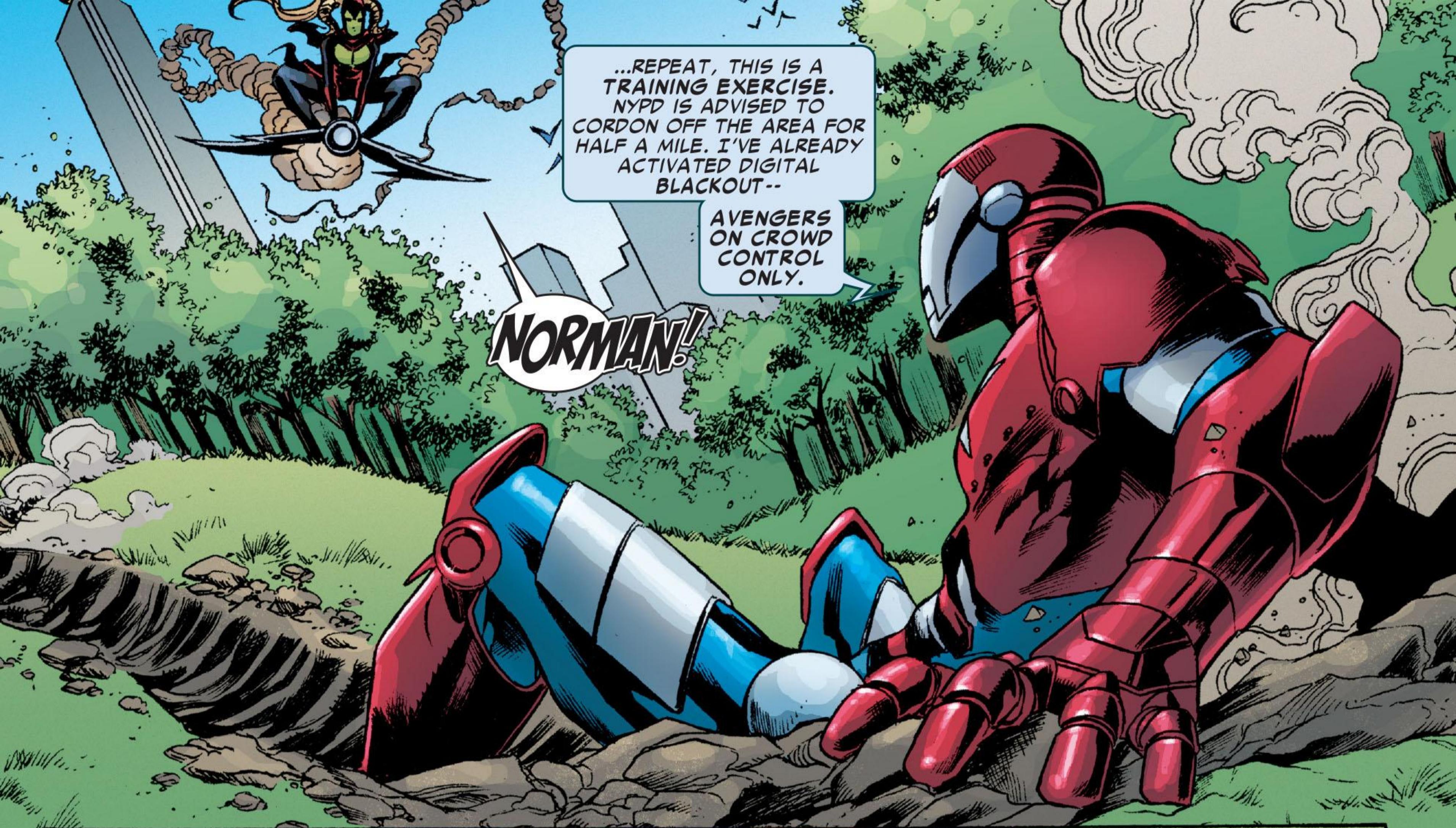
I'M SORRY,  
HARRY...SO  
SORRY.

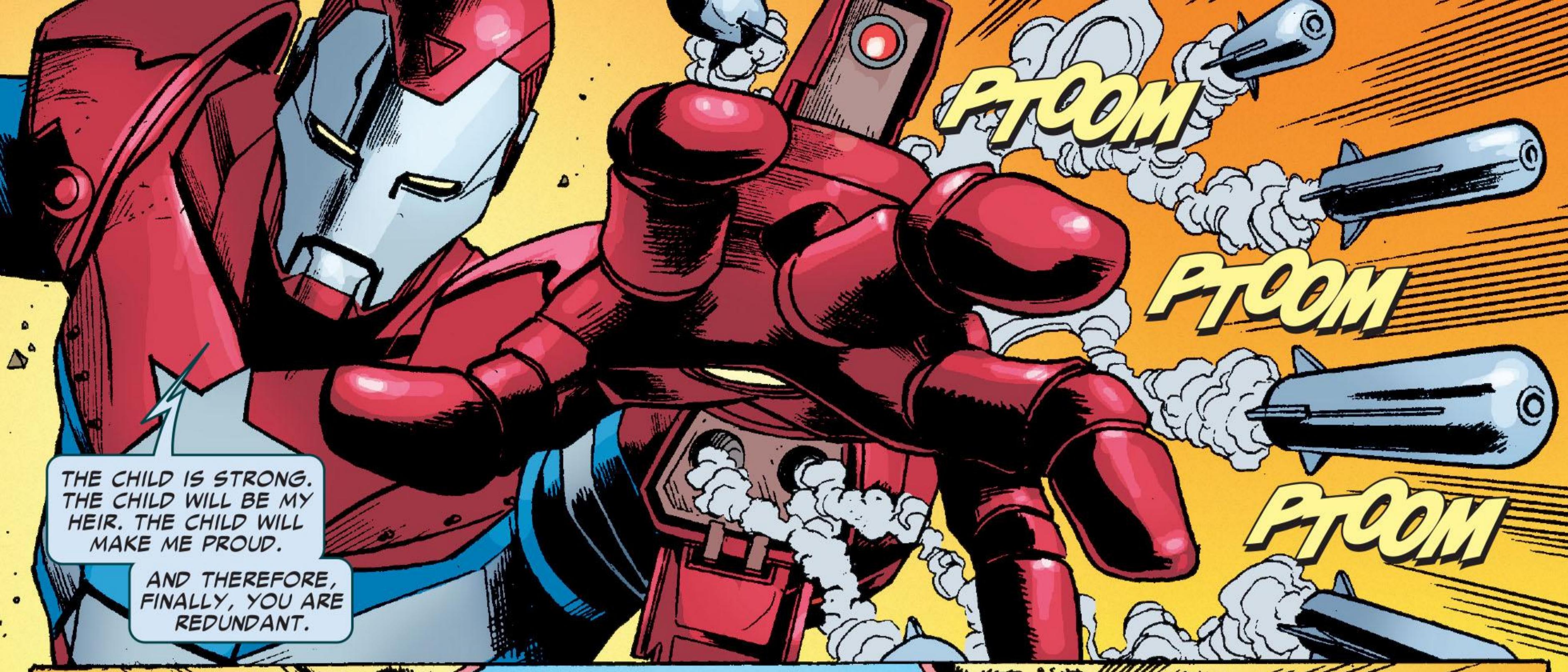
OSBORN'S  
JUST  
DANGEROUS.  
AND YOU...  
WITH YOUR  
HISTORY...

I DIDN'T  
WANT YOU  
TO BE  
ALONE...  
...IN HERE...  
AGAINST  
HIM.



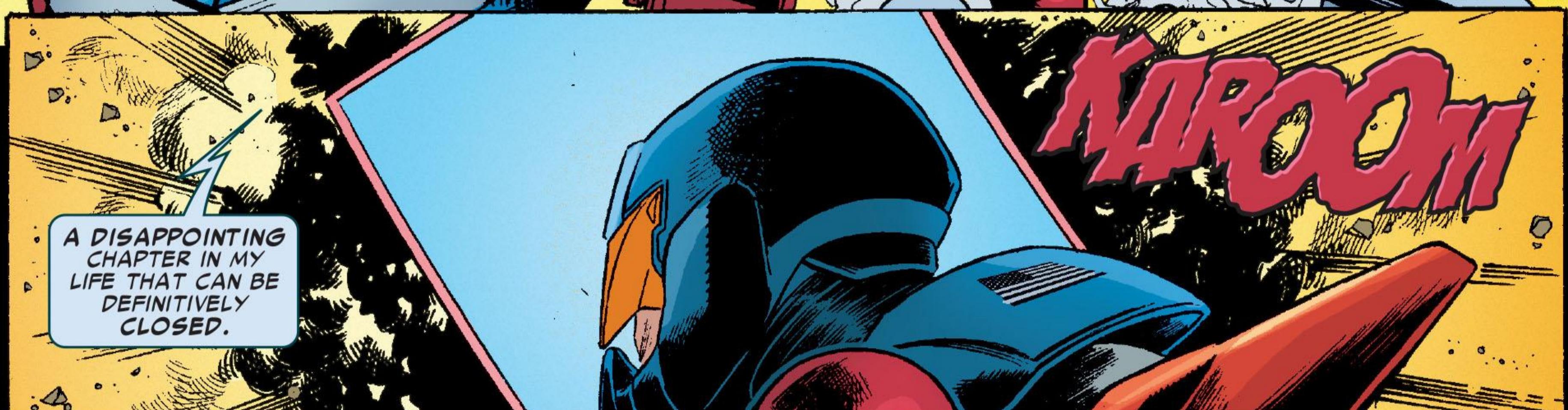






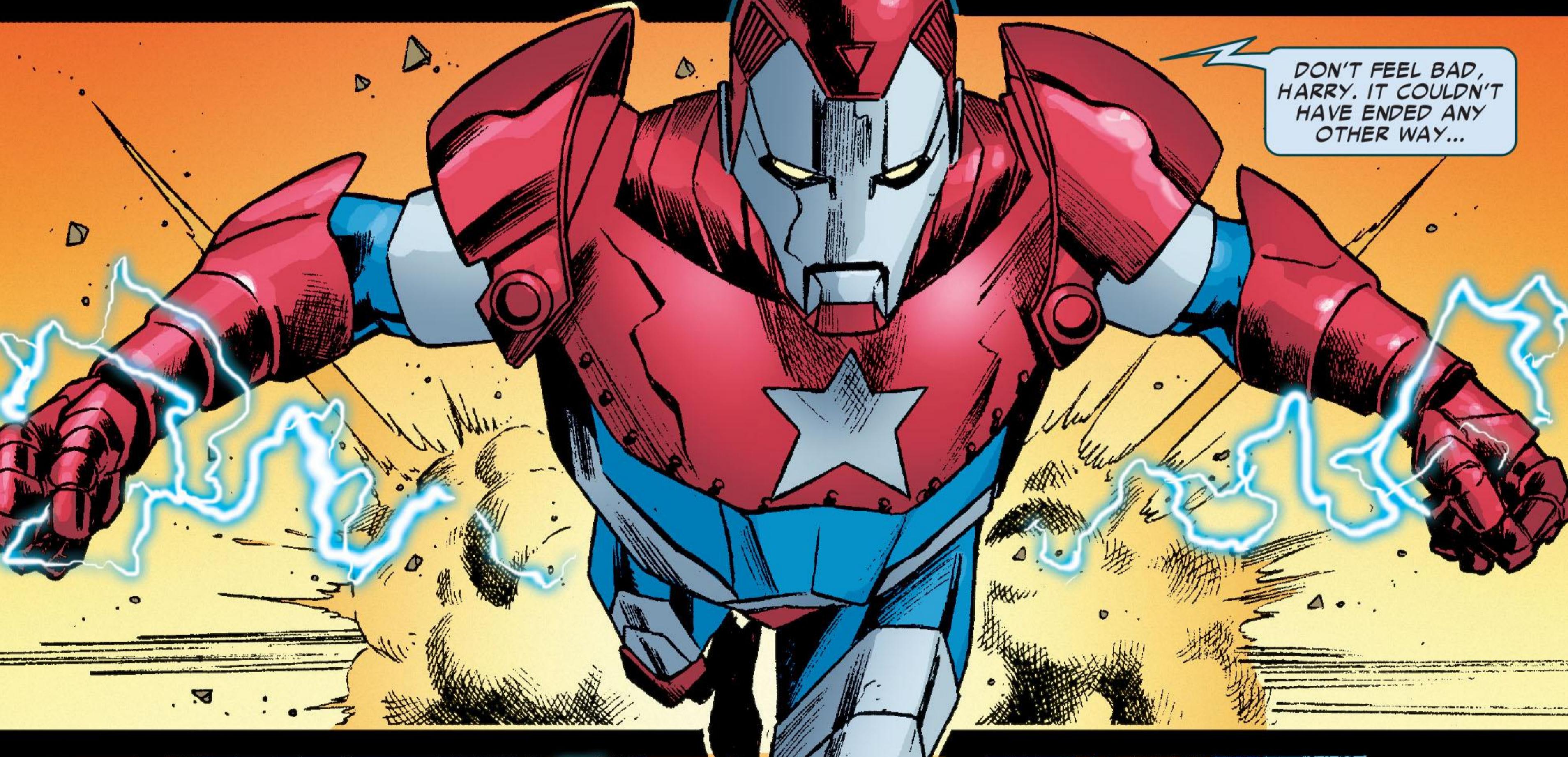
THE CHILD IS STRONG.  
THE CHILD WILL BE MY  
HEIR. THE CHILD WILL  
MAKE ME PROUD.

AND THEREFORE,  
FINALLY, YOU ARE  
REDUNDANT.



A DISAPPOINTING  
CHAPTER IN MY  
LIFE THAT CAN BE  
DEFINITIVELY  
CLOSED.

KRAOON



DON'T FEEL BAD,  
HARRY. IT COULDN'T  
HAVE ENDED ANY  
OTHER WAY...



WKAOSH

I'M  
NORMAN  
OSBORN.  
AND YOU'RE  
NO LONGER  
MY SON.

MY STUPID  
SENSE IS  
TINGLING.

SPLAT

BUT I CAN'T  
HELP MYSELF...  
I CAN'T.

HOW'S  
ABOUT WE  
ALL TAKE OFF OUR  
ARMOR AND SING  
THE "TIME OUT"  
SONG...

SORRY, HARRY.  
HATE SPIDER-MAN  
OR NOT...

...YOU'RE STUCK  
WITH HIM.

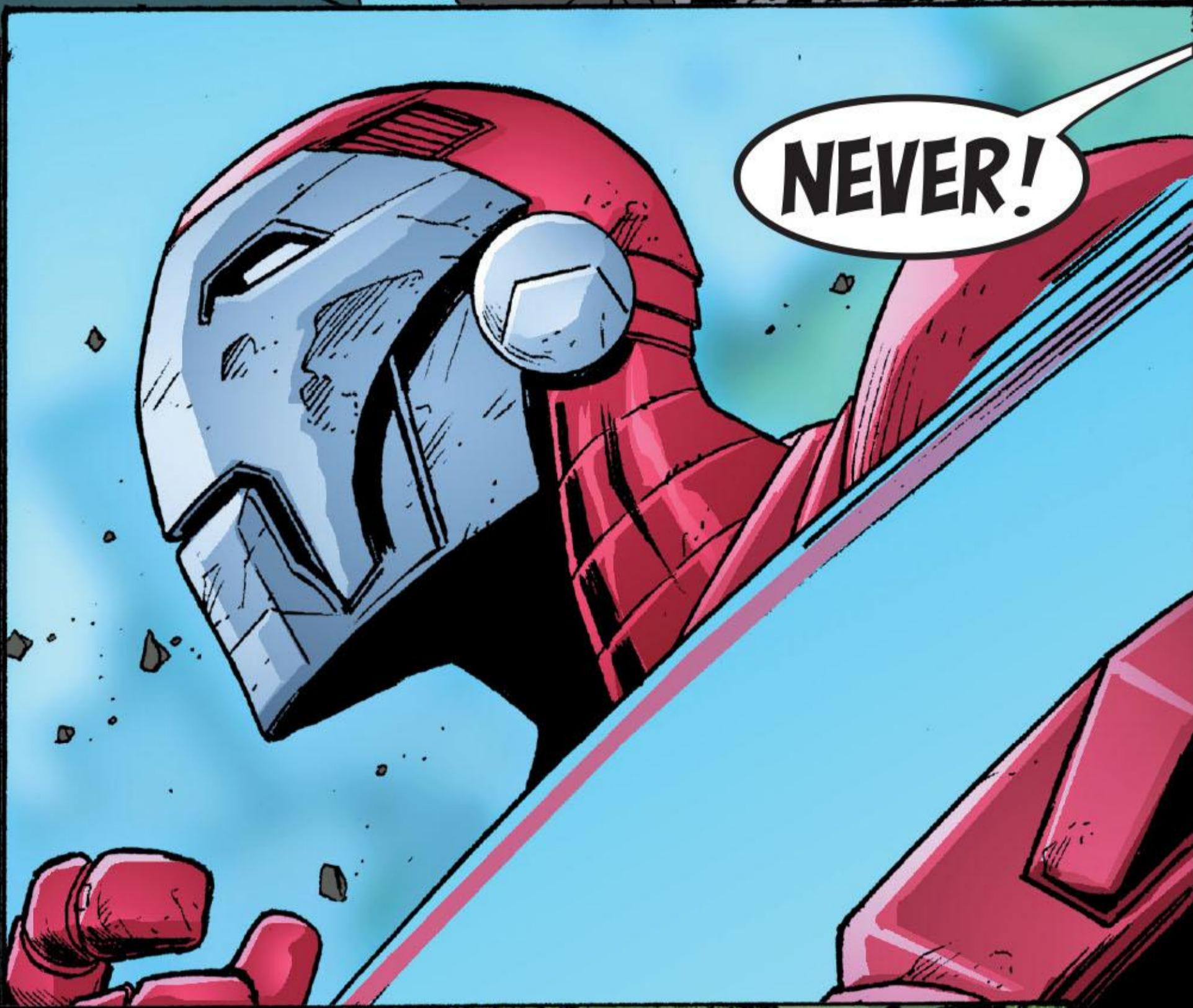
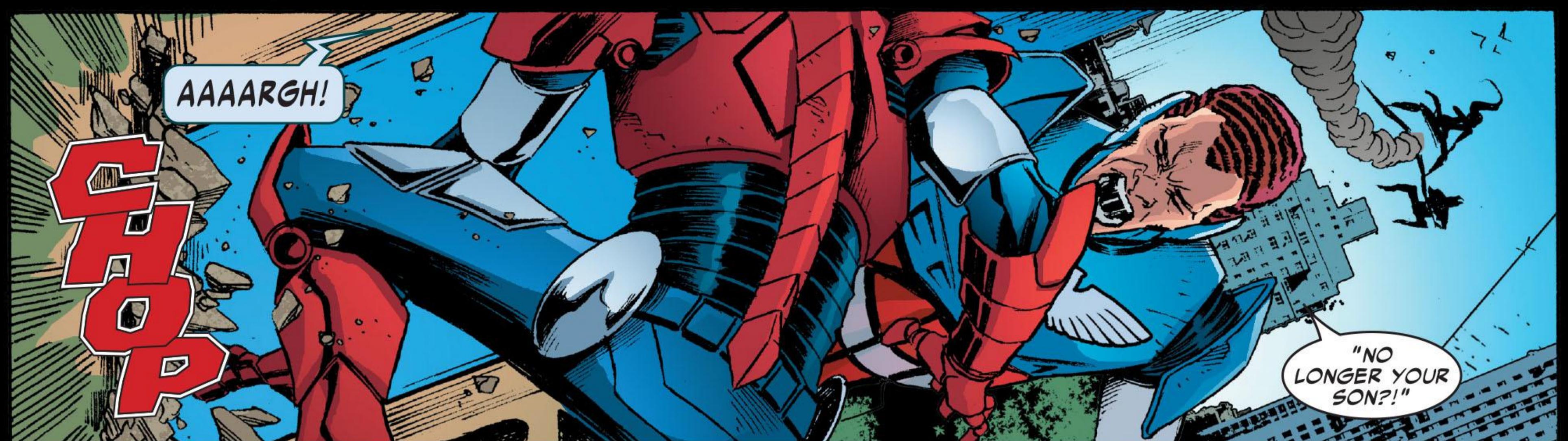
FAMILY  
ONLY!

HURKKT

GOOD  
GIRL,  
MENACE!

IT'S ABOUT WHEN  
I FEEL MY RIBS PLAY  
TWISTER WITH MY  
APPENDIX THAT I  
OFFICIALLY GIVE UP.

AT LEAST I WAS  
ABLE TO FIND MY WEB-  
SHOOTERS IN OSBORN'S  
LAB. SO WHEN THEY BURY  
MY STUPID BUTT, IT'LL  
BE A COMPLETE SET.

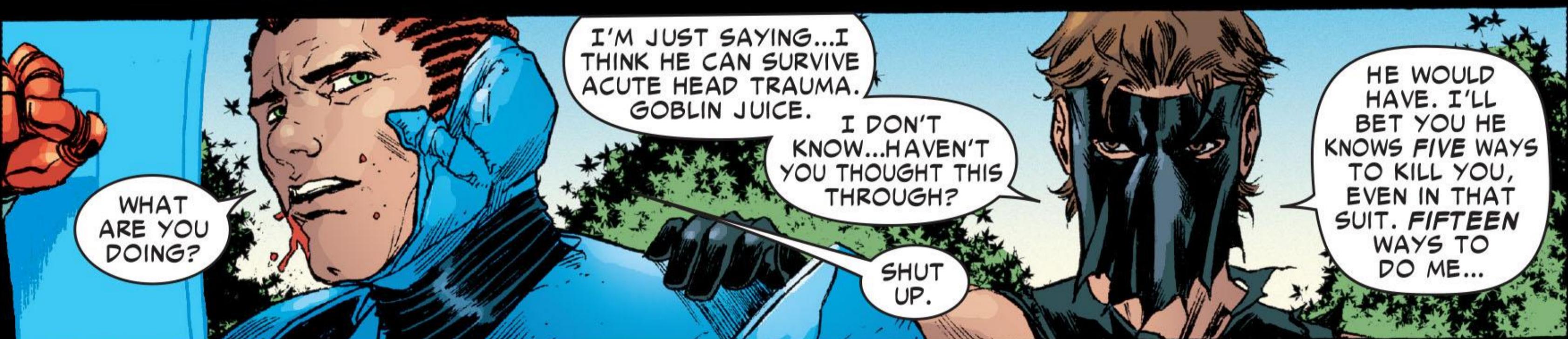


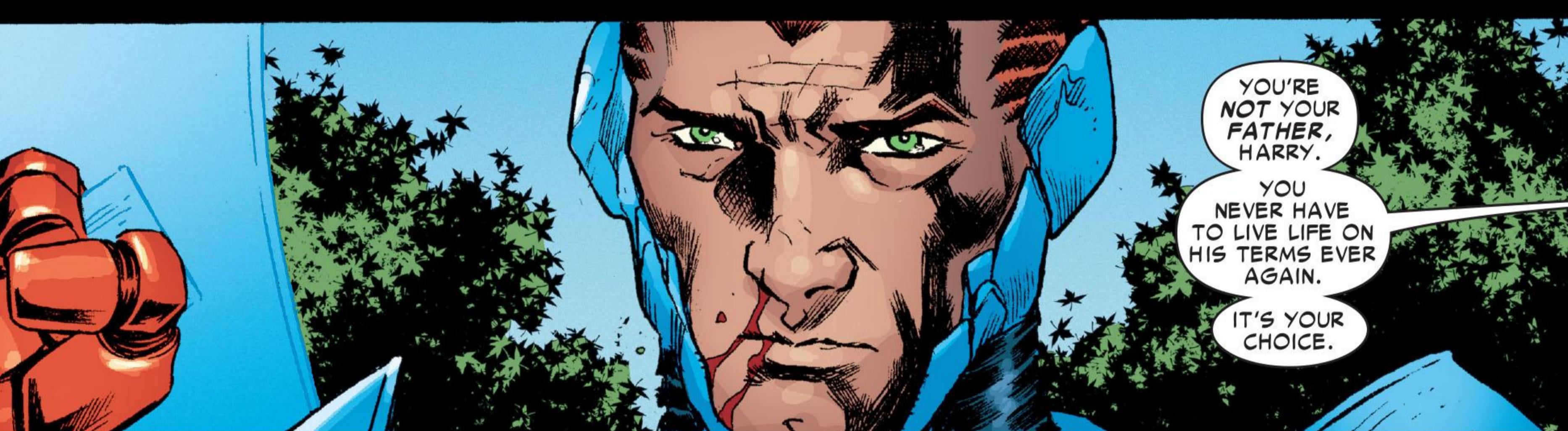
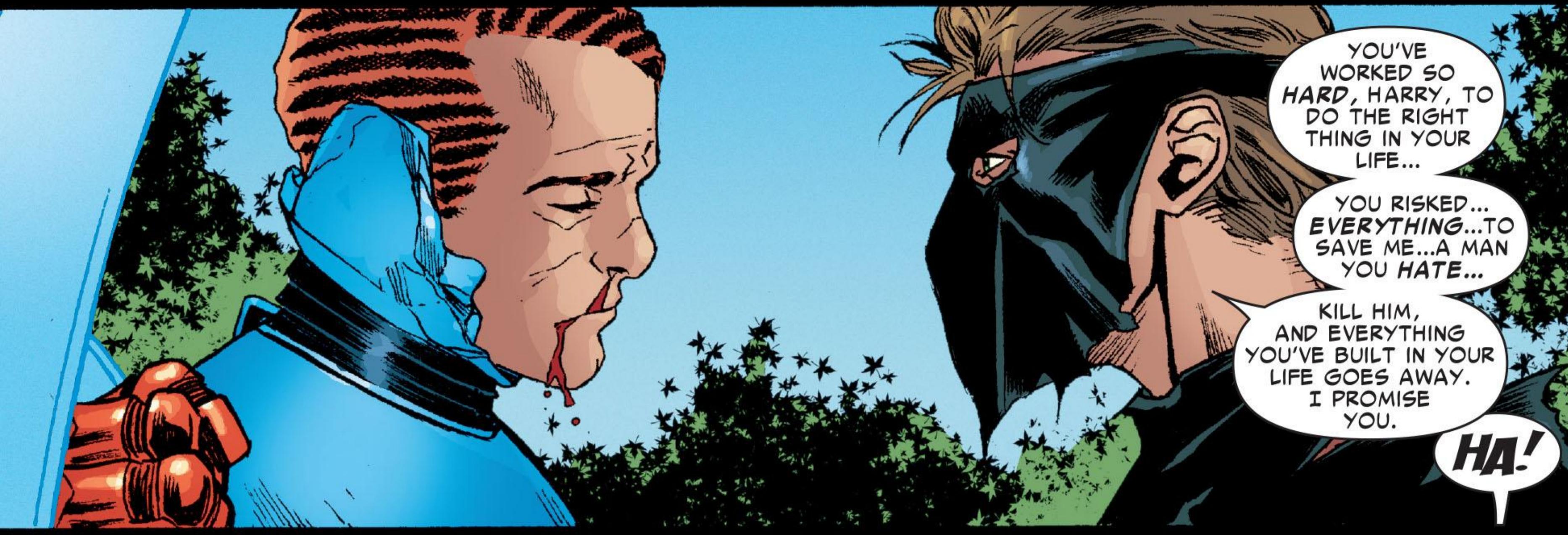
TIME  
COMES AN' HE  
SLIPS UP, WHICH  
HE WILL...

AN'  
YOU DO FIND  
YOURSELF IN A  
POSITION T'GIVE  
NORMIE HIS  
DUE...

END IT.

PERMANENT.







I'VE SEEN GODS BLINK AND  
SHATTER PLANETS. I'VE SEEN MEN  
**COME BACK FROM THE DEAD**  
BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL.  
I'VE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO  
CIVILIZATION WHEN THE HULK HAS  
A REALLY **REALLY** BAD DAY...

GOODBYE,  
NORMAN.  
ENJOY  
YOUR NEW  
FAMILY.

**NONE OF IT** COMPARES TO  
THIS...THE MOMENT WHEN HARRY  
OSBORN **LET GO**, AND FINALLY  
WALKED OUT FROM BENEATH  
HIS FATHER'S SHADOW

BY HIS OWN  
**CHOICE**, ON HIS  
OWN **TERMS**, AS  
A **MAN**.

HARRY  
OSBORN.

MY BEST  
FRIEND.

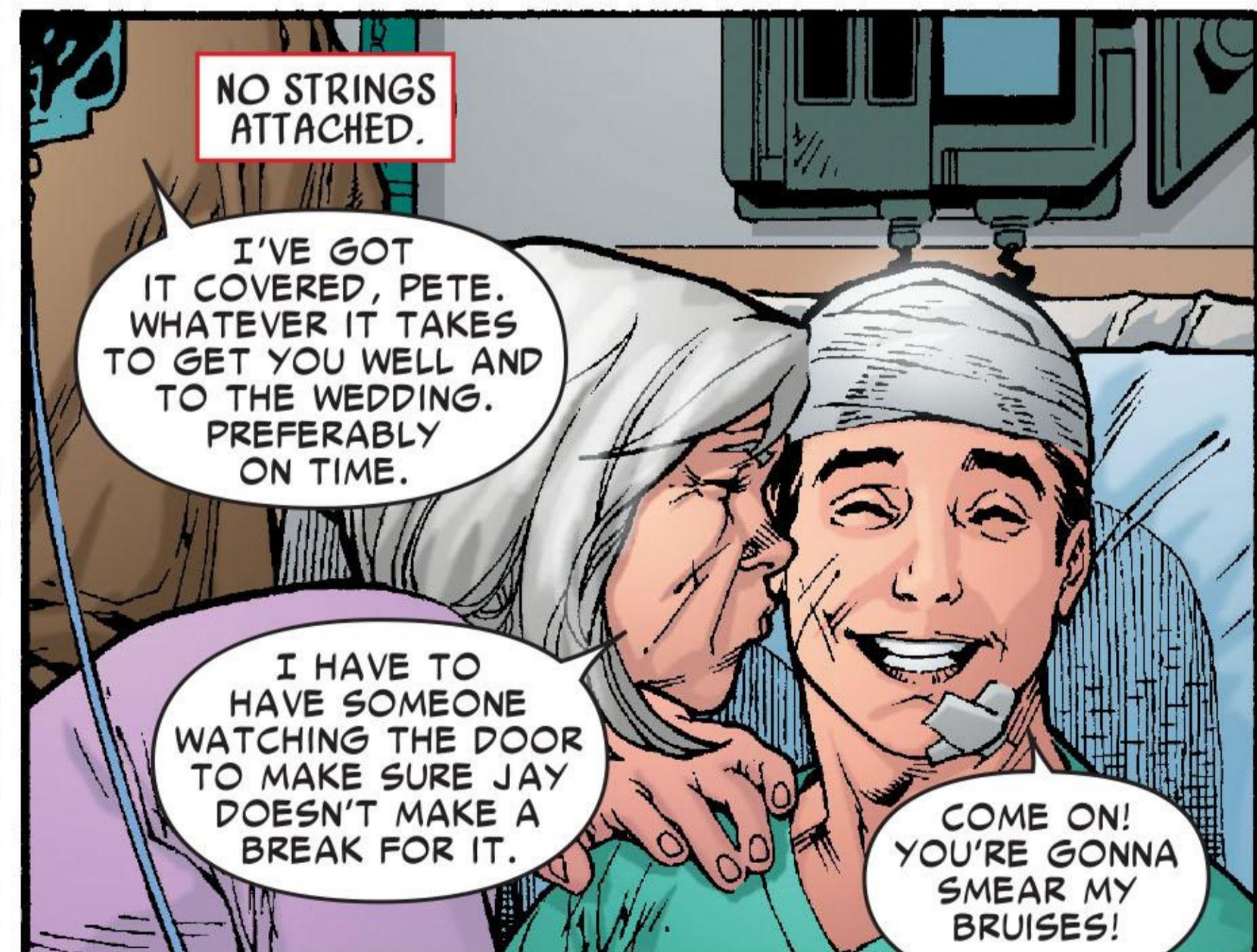
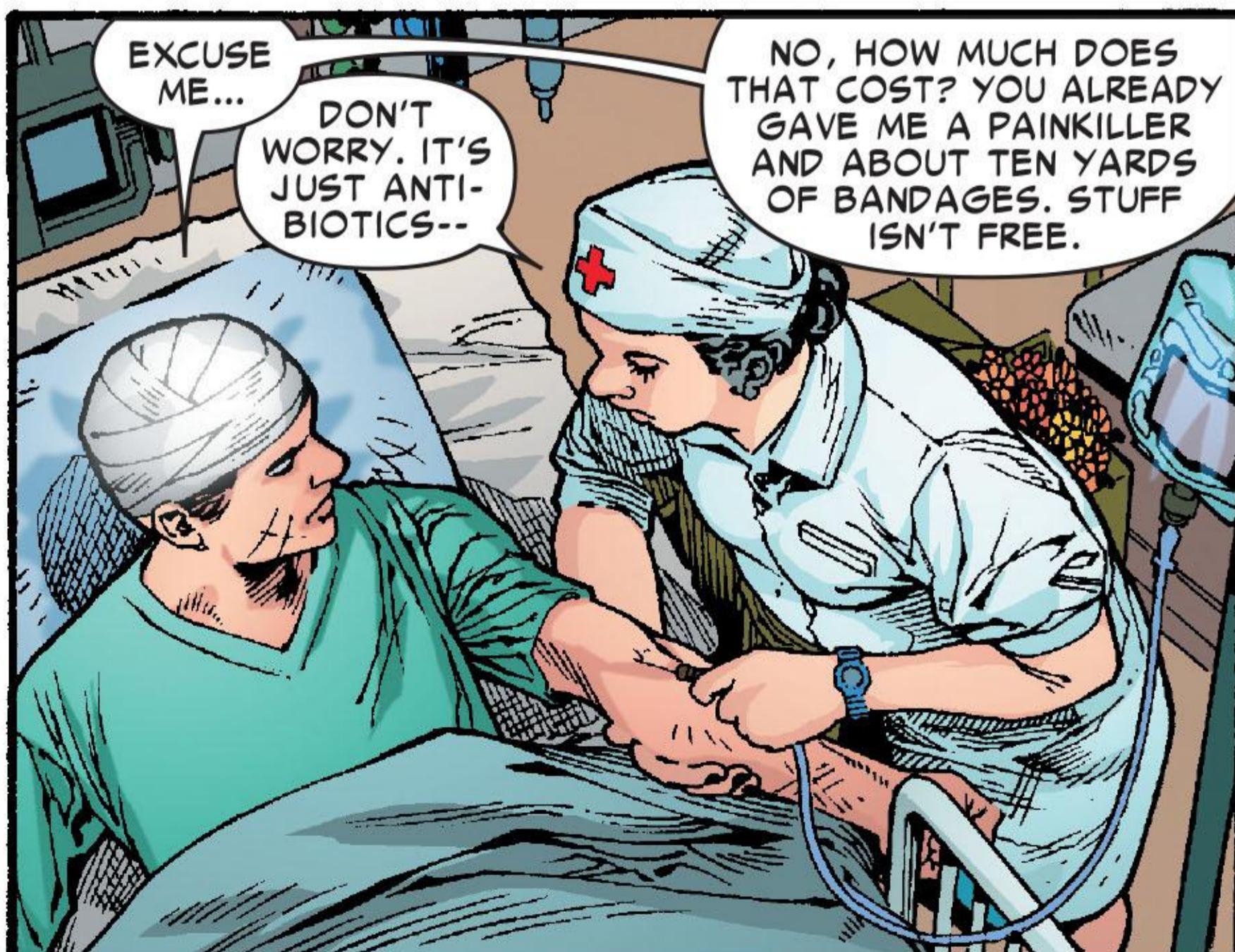
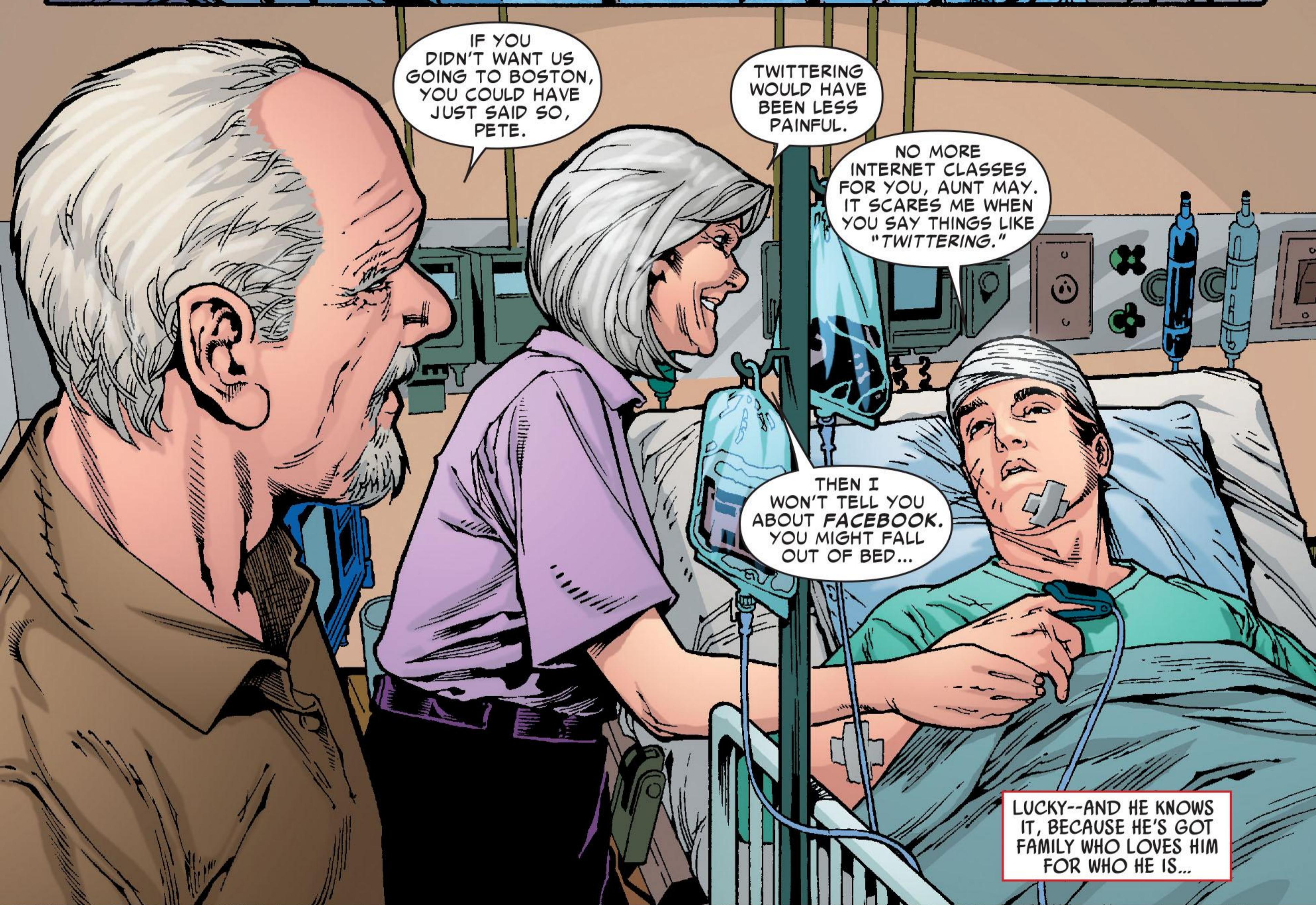


# Columbia University Medical Center.



LUCKILY, I HAD JUST ENOUGH JUICE LEFT TO SLITHER AWAY, SCARE UP SOME CLOTHES AND CHECK MYSELF INTO CHEZ MERCY...

...WHERE THEY HAD A SUITE WAITING WITH MY NAME ON IT, DARN THAT NEW YORK TRAFFIC. JUST ANOTHER HIT AND RUN IN THE BIG CITY WHO GOT LUCKY--



...AND YOU WON'T TALK  
TO YOUR **BEST** FRIEND...

WHAT  
DRUGS ARE  
YOU ON,  
MISTER  
OSBORN?

AND WHAT  
EXACTLY WOULD  
HELP YOUR BODY  
DEAL WITH THIS  
"COMPOUND?"  
...

HEH.

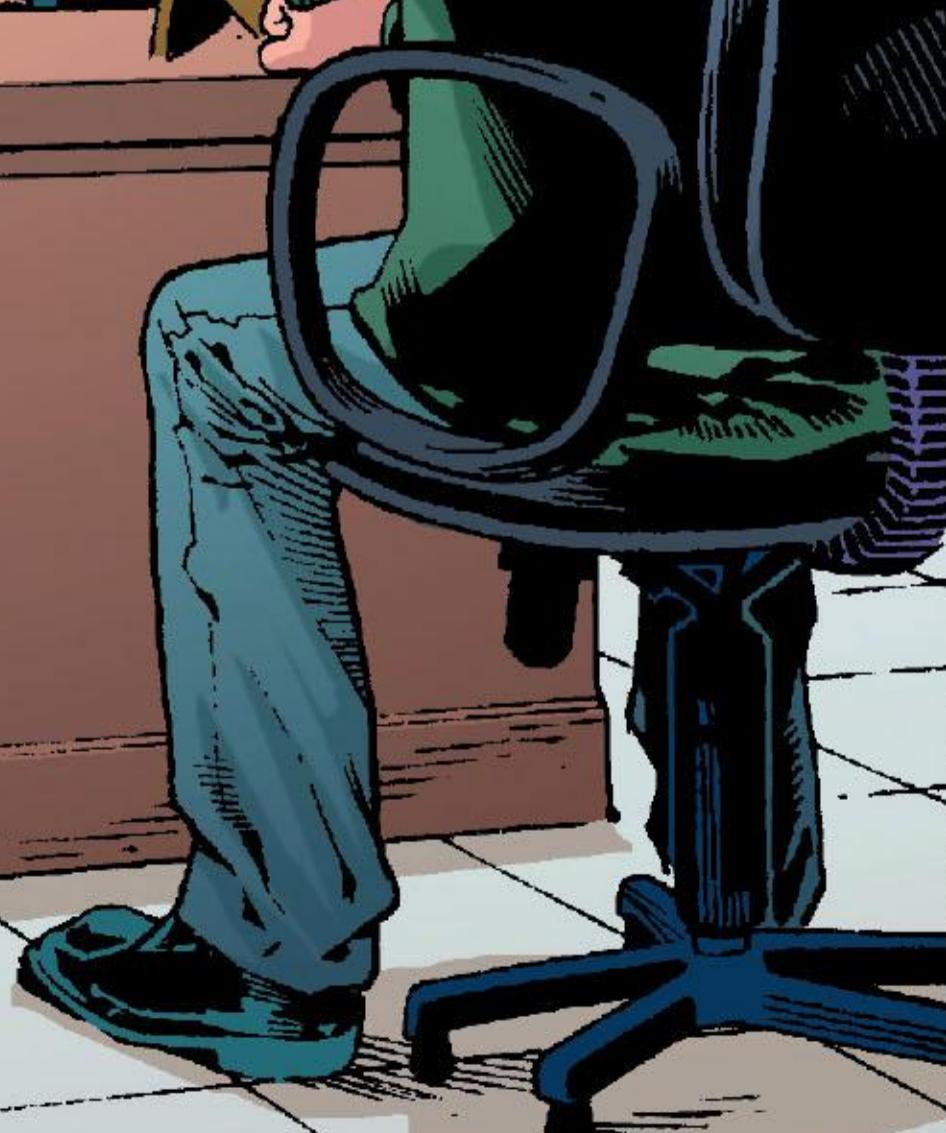
DID I SAY  
SOMETHING  
FUNNY?

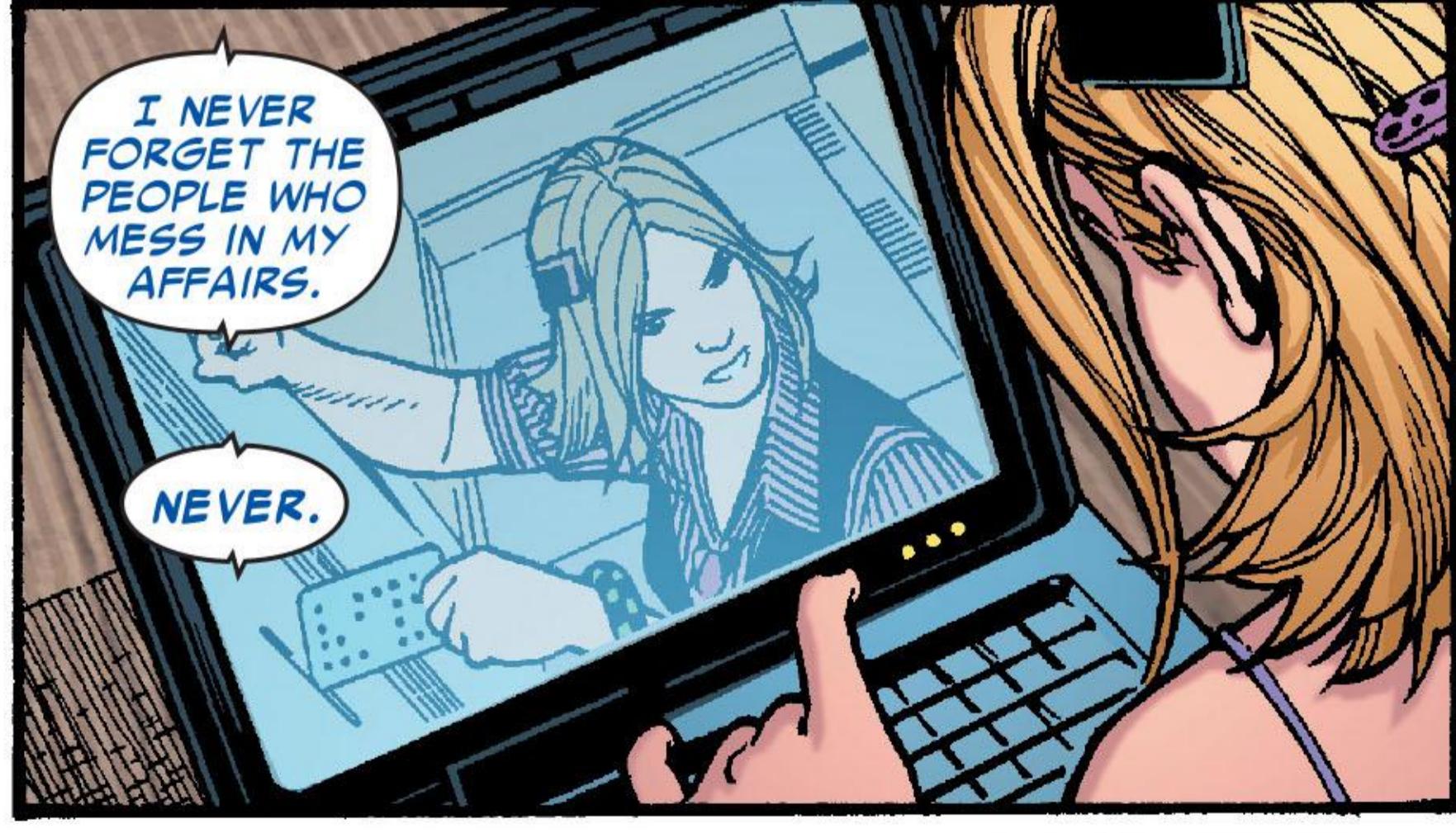
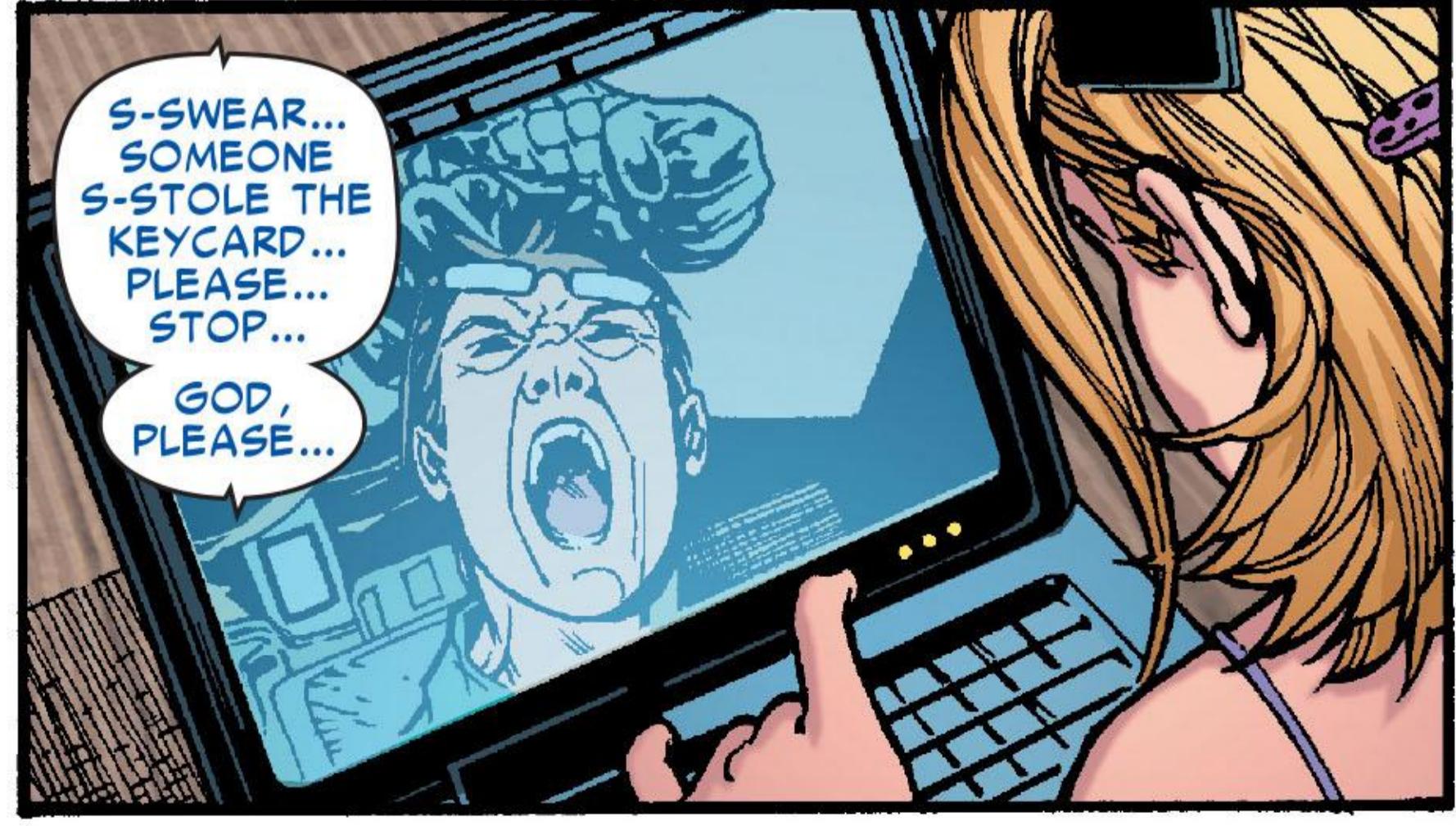
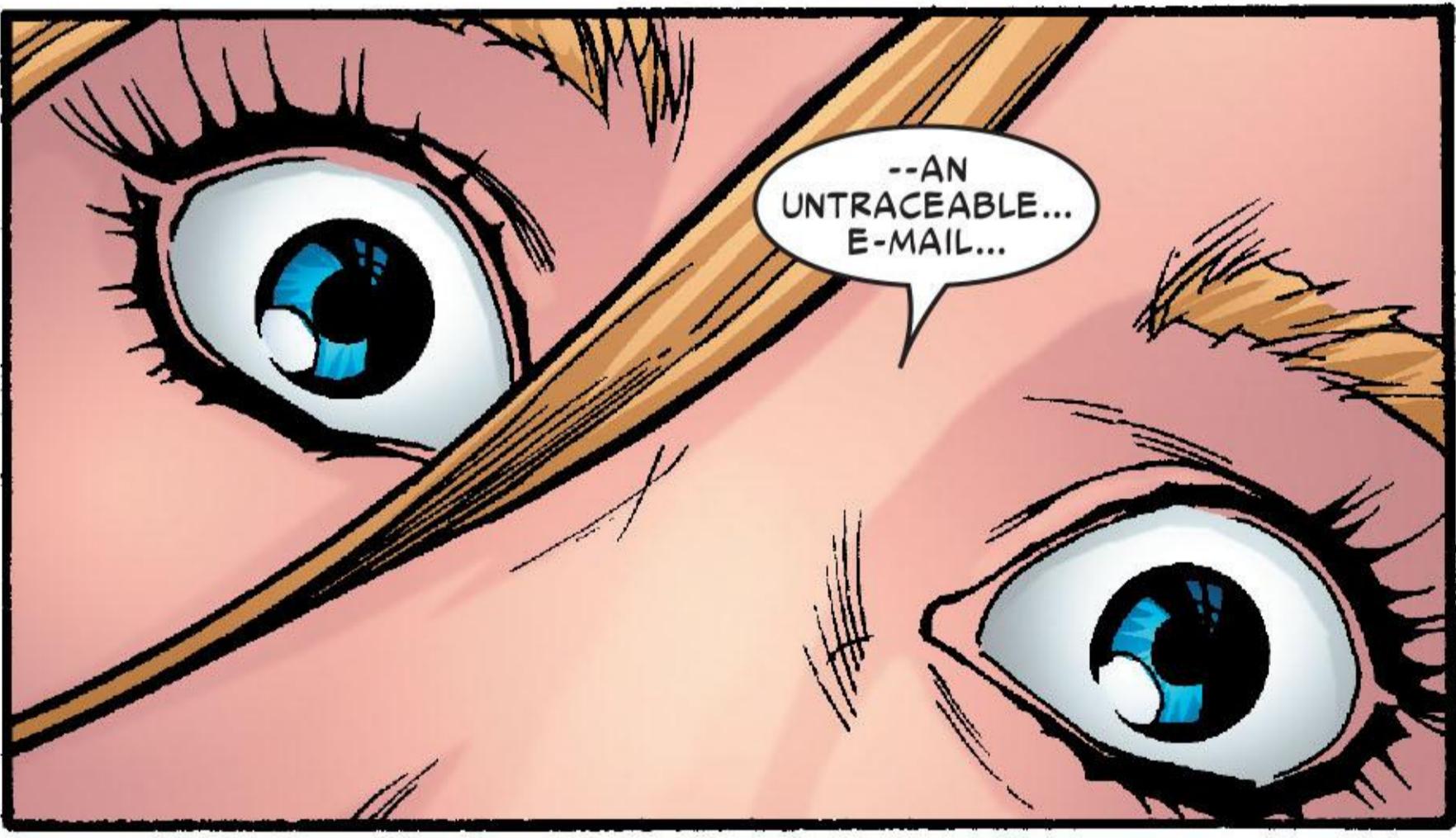
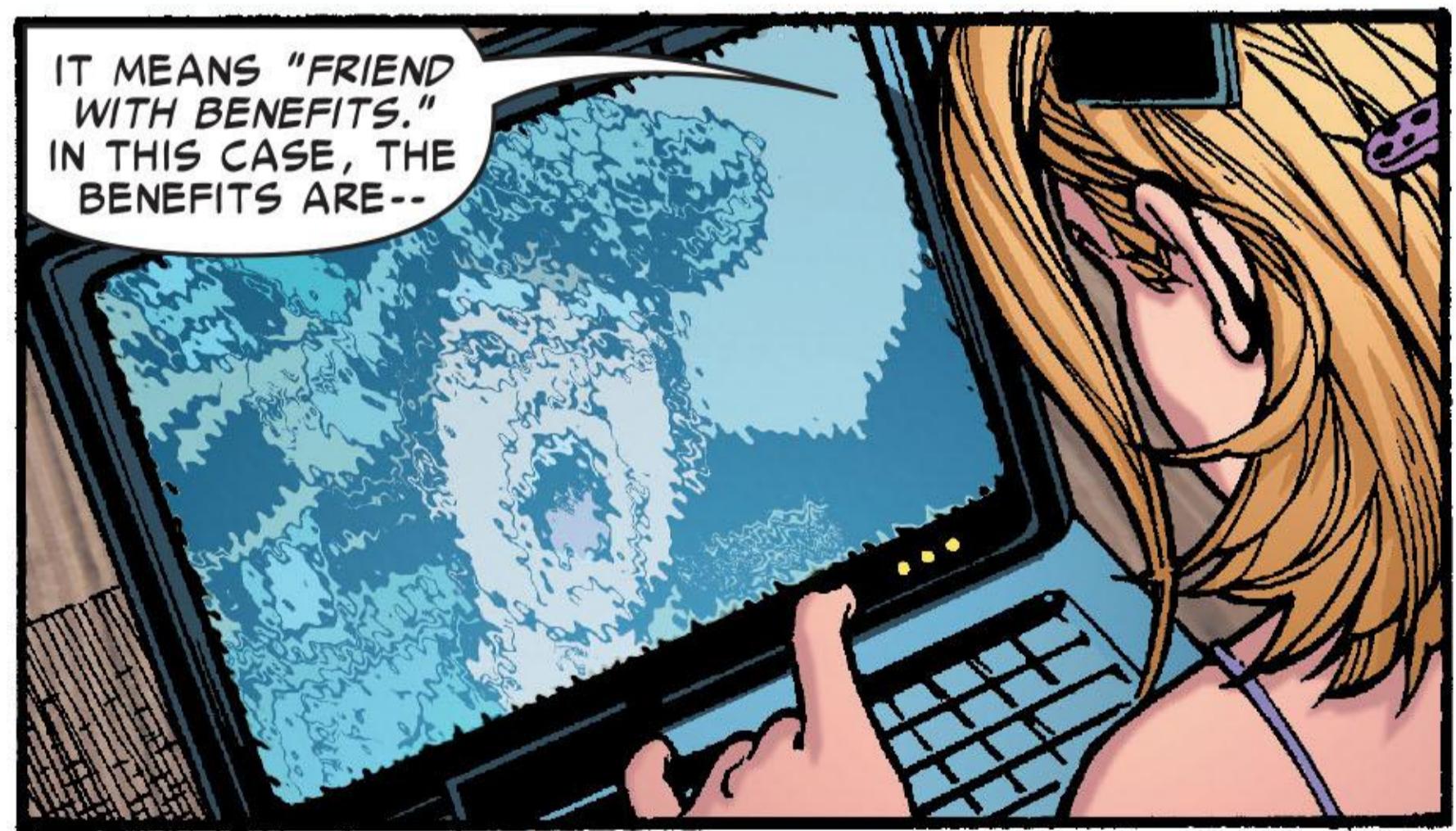
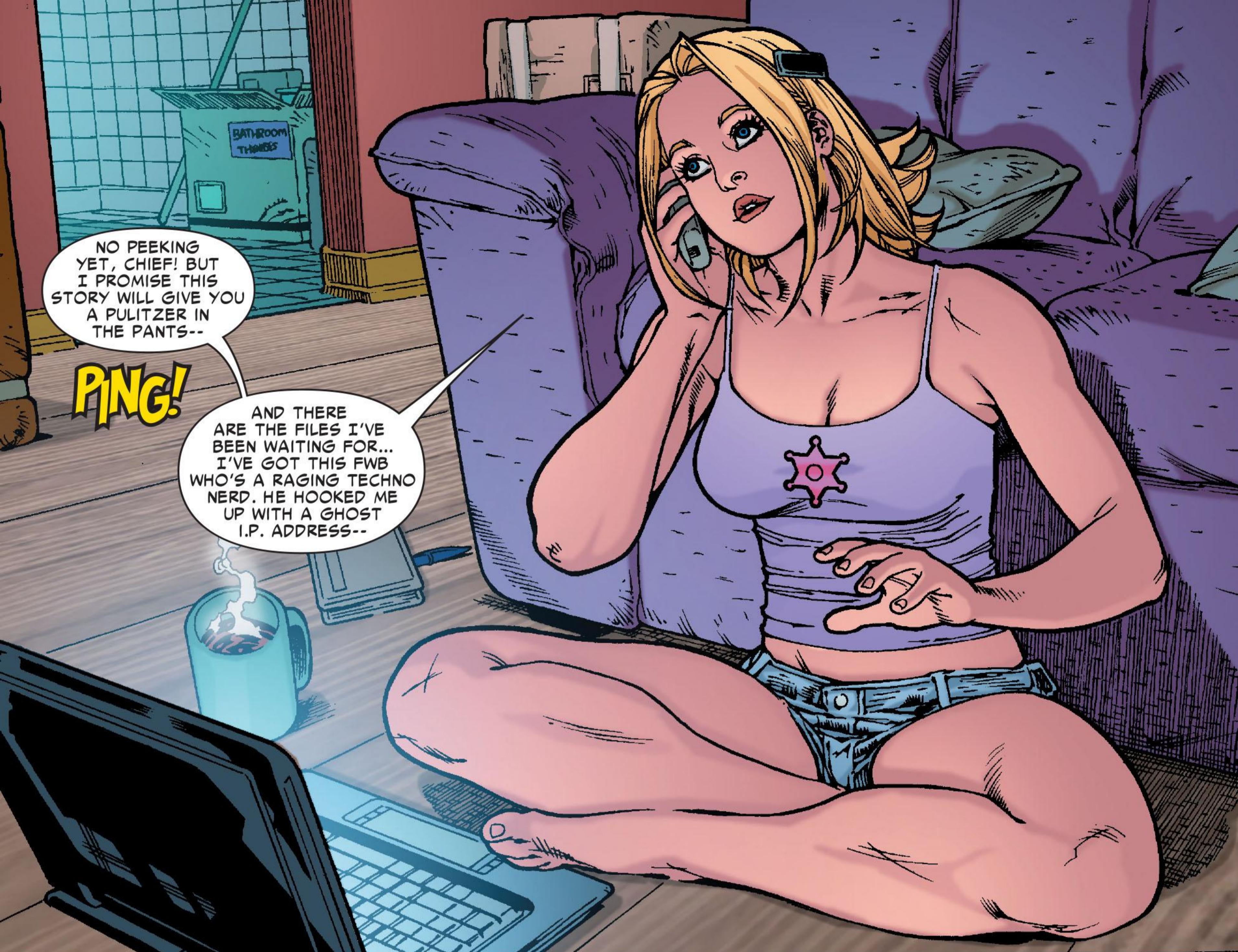
"DRUG"  
IS A TRIGGER  
WORD FOR  
ME...

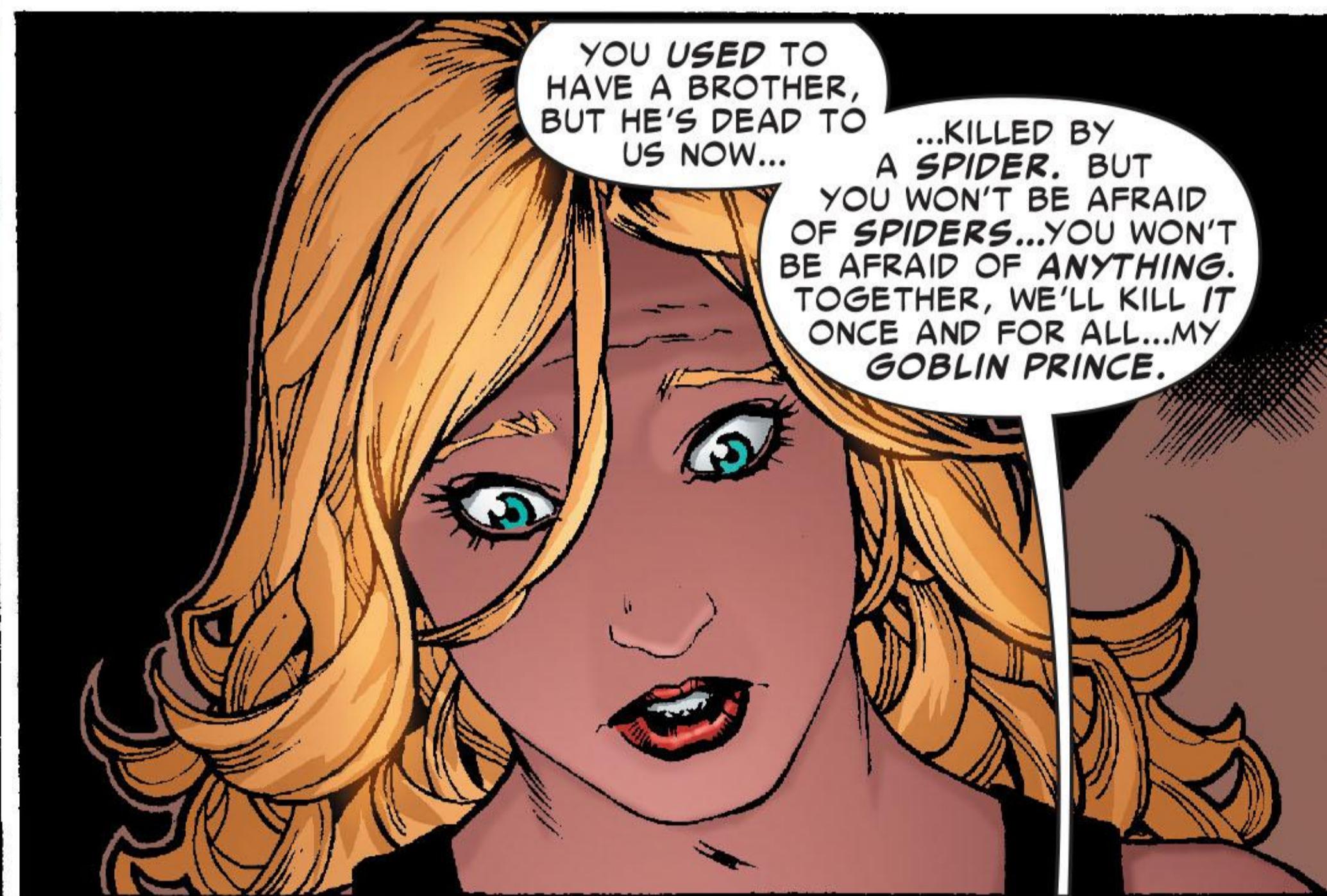
...MY BODY  
IS REJECTING  
A COMPOUND.  
SOMETHING I RECEIVED  
IN...MEDICAL  
TRIALS.

HOW  
DOES EIGHTY  
MILLIGRAMS  
OF OXYCONTIN  
TWICE A DAY  
SOUND?

"SOUND'S GREAT,  
BEN...I CAN HAVE  
IT FINISHED  
TONIGHT."







The End.

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

...and *American Son* is done. Thanks to "Jocular" Joe Kelly for taking the wheel for this 5-issue arc that clearly has a lot of you talking. Where does Pete go from here? What's going to happen to Harry? Will Norman look for revenge? All of those questions are bound to be answered by the Web-Heads in the coming months.

I should take a minute to thanks our army of artists for moving heaven and earth to get these five issues done and in your hands with hardly a hiccup. So thanks to Phil Jimenez and Andy Lanning for handling our opening chapter and the covers before having to move on to *ASTONISHING X-MEN*. We couldn't have made it to the end without the great work of Marco Checchetto, Paulo Siqueira, Stephen Segovia and Amilton Santos. And these guys were all backed up by Chris Chuckry and Jeremy Cox on colors and Joe Caramagna on letters and production. Hard-workin' pros all of them.

Okay let's get to the very last letters that will ever run in an issue of *AMAZING SPIDER-MAN* whose issue number begins with a "5"...

Hey Wacker

I just finished up Amazing #591 and I've got to say: Slott, Kitson, and company really knocked it out of the park! I loved the use of the time differential between the two dimensions as a device to help advance a number of sub-plots... you've got me intrigued on more than a few fronts. And JJJ as mayor of NYC? Awesome! I can't wait to see how that affects Spidey in the months to come.

One question though, we now know the "how" behind Pete's secret identity being a secret again, but when will we find out the "who"? I was waiting for the big reveal of who helped Pete with the "mind-wipe" and it never came! Oh well, until it's revealed that a resurrected Uncle Ben secretly working for Nick Fury helped Pete erase everyone's memories...Make Mine Marvel!

Danny Jones  
Surrey, BC, Canada

**Hey! That's great! Keep in mind I'm not going to pay you for that idea!**

**Truth is...the mind-wipe issue has long been worked out and will be told in a story arc probably hitting within the next year.**



Dear Spider-Mail,

I'm just writing to congratulate the whole team on ... well pretty much everything.

Loved *New Ways To Die* and *Character Assassination* and I cannot wait for Spidey #600! Only problem is...I decided I'd give up Spider-Man comics for Lent.

What better sacrifice for me huh? Yep 40 days without my Spider-fix. Couldn't've picked a worse time either. The only Spider-fix I'm getting is the team books he pops up in (lucky for me he's popular).

Dunno if this letter'll ever see print but ... it would be a nice surprise on Easter Sunday? Till then though I guess I'll live in hope.

Keep up the good work guys and Steve? Go a little easier on Brennan, it's not his fault. Well until Ben Reilly and Elvis team up against Hulk...Make mine Marvel!

Sean Cinnéide.  
Via e-mail

Sean, this is the most ridiculous thing I ever heard. Giving up Spidey for Lent? Look, I'm a big Lent fan myself, but every 12-year-old knows you're supposed to give up something you secretly hate for Lent.

For example, I gave up having lunch with Brevoort this year. Everyone wins!

As for your team-up idea...with a marketing mind like that, you should definitely get a job with our competition.



Hey there Webheads,

I just read Punisher #6 (from 1988) and found the issue to be rather entertaining. Especially the letters page. Most especially the letter from (I can only assume) a young Tom Brennan.

Could this possibly be the same Brennan whose name graces the credit boxes of each and every issue of ASM? How much is he willing to pay to keep this quiet? On second thought, it might be a good idea to re-print his letter here in ASM-- sort of as a public service announcement. Something like: "Stop reading those comic books or all you can hope to aspire to is that you might one day grow up to become an assistant editor on some funny book somewhere." Oh, the shame...

Tobiah Heidke  
De Forest, WI

Considering Brennan would have been something like 4 years old when that was written, I have a hard time believing it was him. I mean, he's pretty erudite and by 4, he would have moved onto brainier, "Upper West Side"-boarding-school fare, comics like *Video Jack*, *Street Poet Ray* or even *Top Dog*.

If you really want to get the answer, though you should ask him at his Twitter feed. Look for @Brennanator at Twitter.com and realize all your dry and witty dreams.

(Seriously, I want everyone reading this to go do this right now! I want to see how many followers he gets.)



Dear Spider-Mail,

Are we going to see Ben Reilly, Kaine, and the other clones appear again? I would love to see Carnage, Electro and Doc Ock back fighting Spider-Man again? Mr. Negative is the best villain currently in the Spider-Man universe and I hope to see more of his appearances in the future.

Also are we ever going to see Mary Jane again and what is her current status? When Spider-Man returns in the black costume. Make Mine Marvel.

Sincerely  
Adam Heisey

Geez! Are you reading my notebook or something? Yes to just about everything, Adam! Stay tuned as soon as next week for a couple of your wishes.



Steve,

This has been on my mind for some time now. Will Aunt May marry JJJ's father?

I know that she's been seeing him already because of #591, but if the two marry it will be the funniest thing I have ever seen! I can see it

**TOM BRENNAN** ASST. EDITOR **STEVE WACKER** EDITOR

**TOM BREVOORT** EXECUTIVE EDITOR **JOE QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF

**DAN BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE** EXEC. PRODUCER

now Jonah and Peter...Step-Brothers! The two of them fighting all the time!

You have to make something like that happen, please!! Yeah I know it probably won't happen, but if you do make it happen you will be putting a HUGE grin on a teenager's face...and Aunt May's!!

Not so much Peter and Jonah's though.

Taylor Curtis  
Boise, Idaho

Leaving aside the creepiness of me making both teenagers and old women smile, Taylor: I'm about to cause more teenage grins than a free Rick Springfield concert! (Are teens still into Rick Springfield? I haven't followed music in awhile.)

Let me put it another way: I'm about to make more sore old women grin than a free witch hazel rub at the mall's food court! (Are old women still into witch hazel? I haven't used an astringent in a while.)



And wouldn't you know it...we're out of space. That means I gotta get out of here because even though #599 is put to bed, Brennan and I have 5 days to pull our practically quintuple-sized 600th issue together!

It's gonna be big, folks. Slott, Romita Jr. and Romita Sr., Janson, White, Caramagna, STAN LEE, Marcos Martin, Javier Rodriguez, Ross, Quesada...and many, many more.

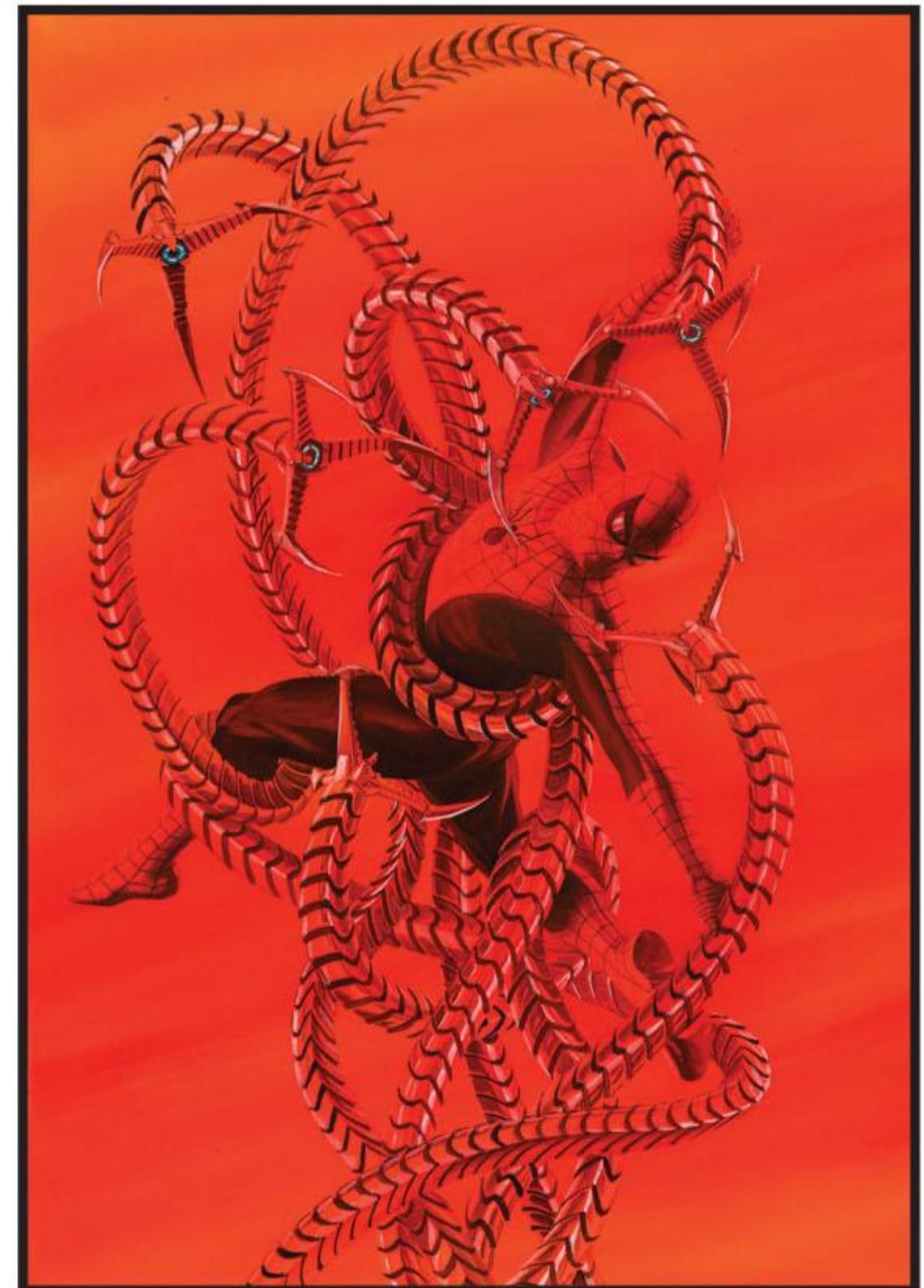
104 all-new pages...without a doubt the biggest comic you'll buy this year.

Stay very safe until then, please. Really it's probably best not to leave the house to be absolutely sure you'll be okay. I know I won't be going anywhere.

Viva Templar!  
Simperin' Steve  
6/26/09

This week's cover by Jimenez and Chuckry.

**NEXT WEEK:**



**THE DOCTOR IS IN!**