

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION INTERLUDE

MARVEL[®]
586 .com

GUGGENHEIM
KITSON
KESEL
MOSSA

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

JRJR
+
JANSON 08

**MENACE
REVEALED!**

THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!



SPIDER-BUMP FOR HOLLISTER?! DB POLL SHOWS BILL HOLLISTER RECEIVING A BIG BOOST FROM THE CAPTURE OF SPIDER-MAN - HOW?! YOU'D THINK HIS DAUGHTER CAUGHT THE BUG HERSELF! MORE @ THEDBONLINE.COM!

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2009

• WEDNESDAY

MENACE REVEALED!



That's right, arachnophiles, the veil has been lifted on the peppery profligate who's waged a war of terror on the New York City mayoral race, and it's – LILY HOLLISTER! Yes, Harry's girlfriend (whose rejection of Osborn's proposal may have severed that arrangement) and daughter to mayoral candidate Bill Hollister has secretly been transforming herself into this new gray goblin and taken several lives in the process – not to mention given Spider-Man a severe beating and leaving him in police custody at a Hollister campaign rally. Returning to campaign headquarters, Menace transforms back into Lily – just as Harry Osborn enters her office, catching her in the act...

SPIDER-MAN, HOMICIDE-R-MAN?

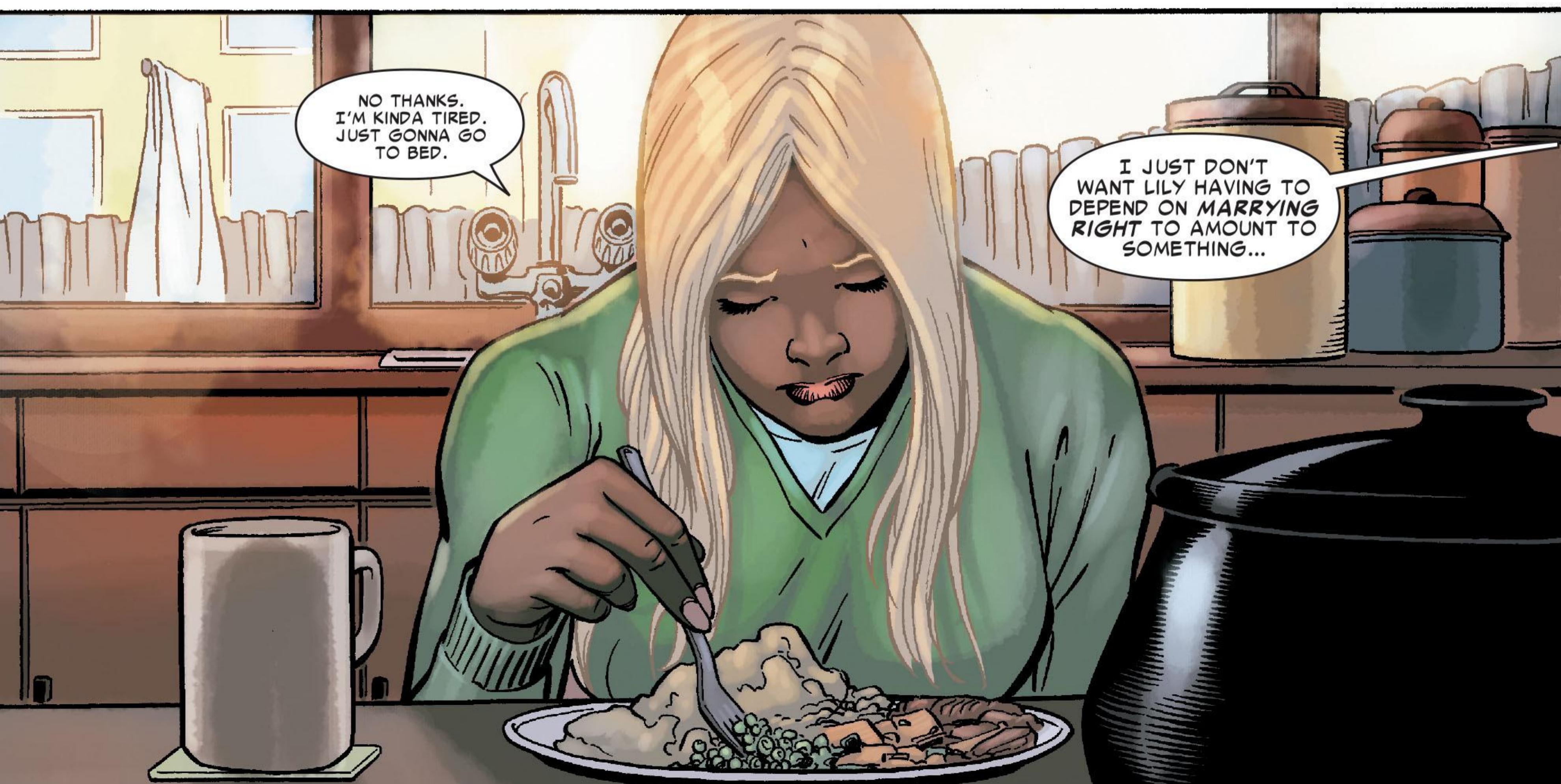
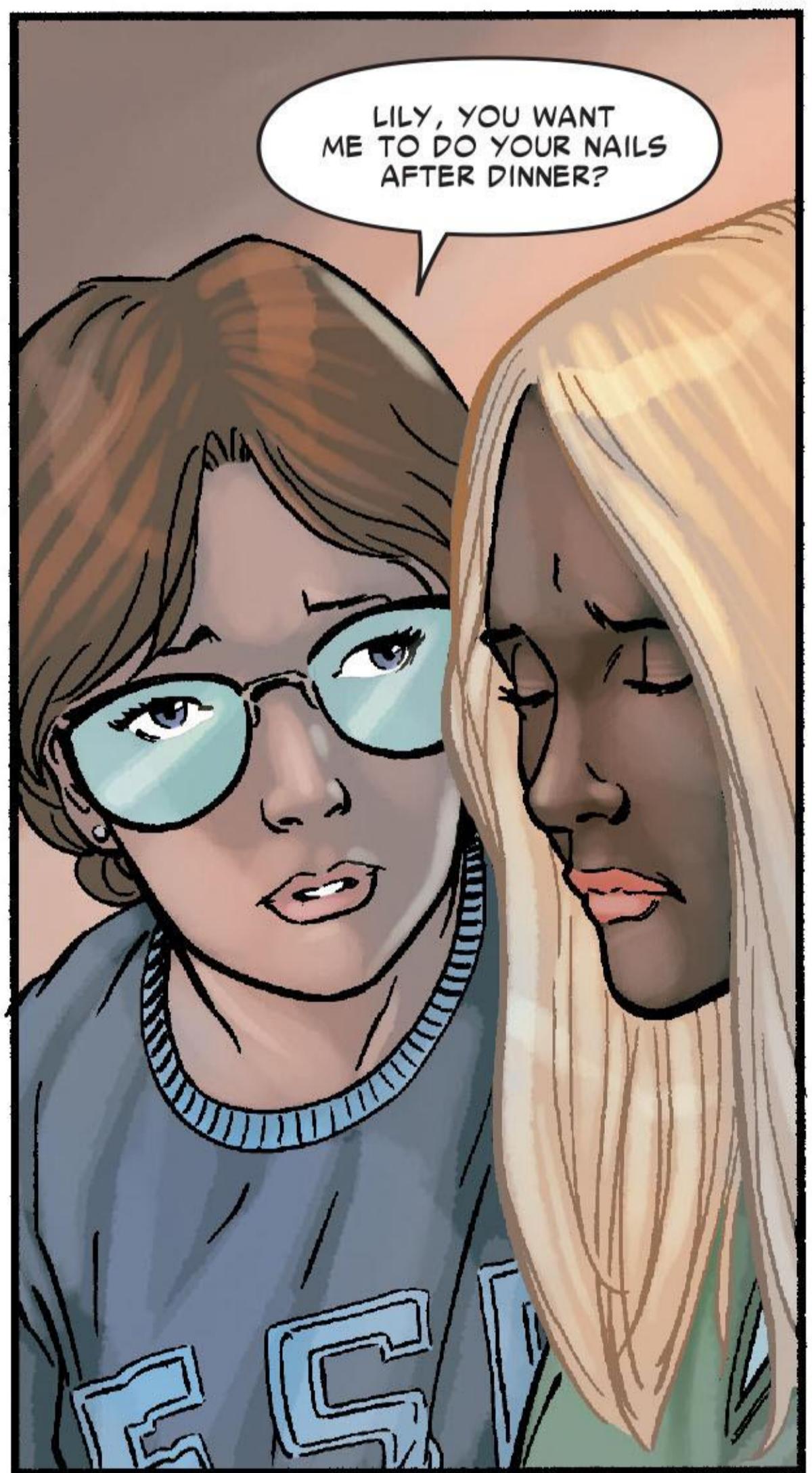
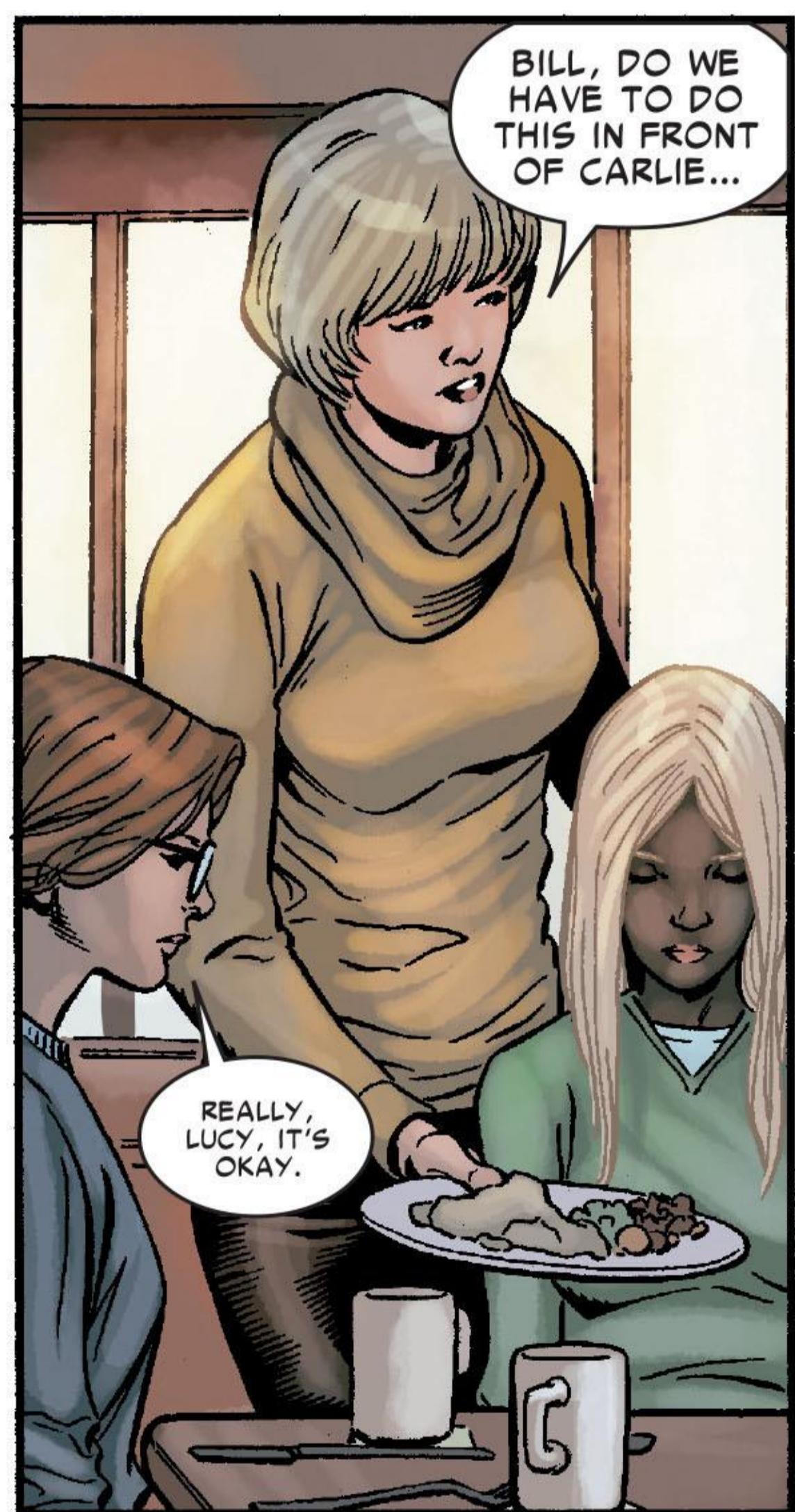
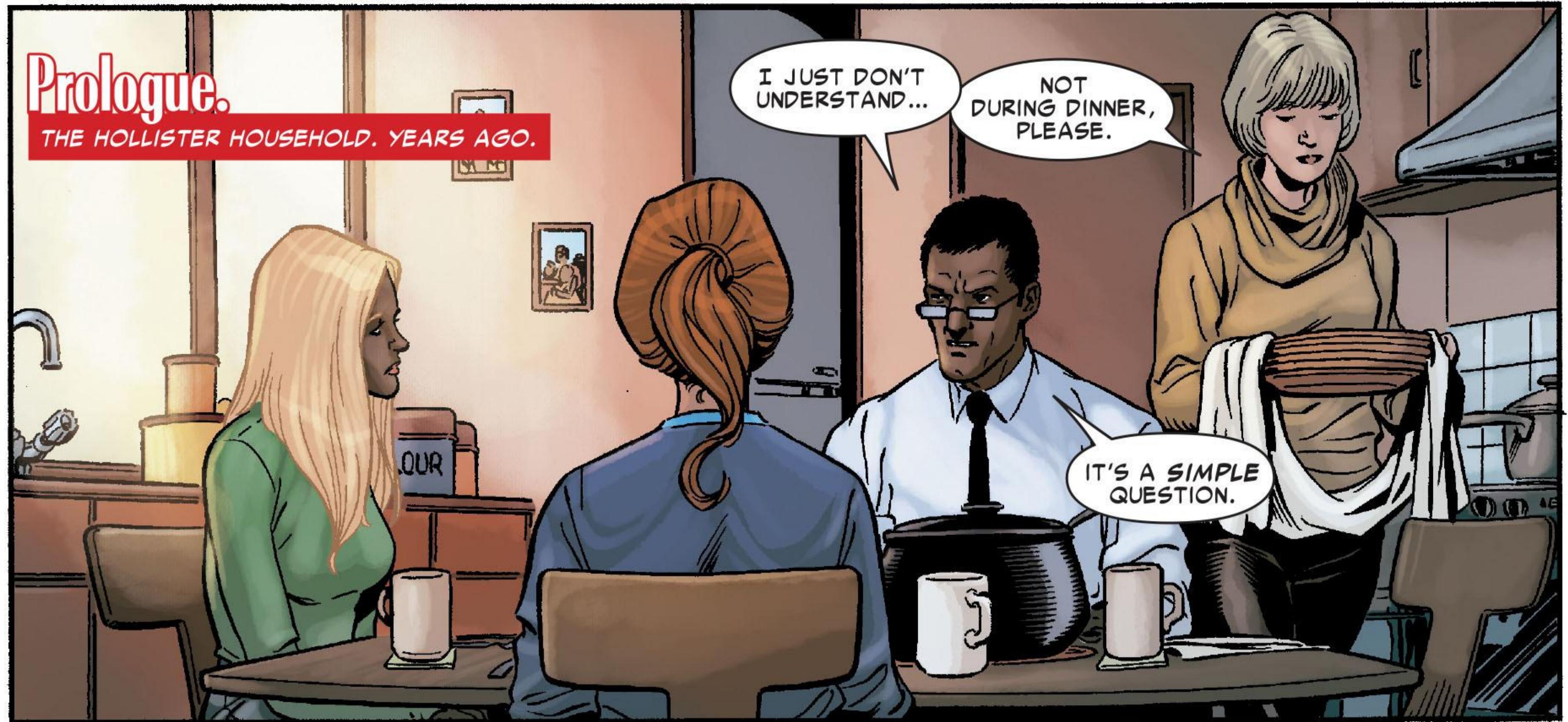
By Betty Brant

NYPD Sgt. Quentin Palone, lead investigator in the so-called Spider-Tracer killings, has taken Spider-Man, top suspect in the killings, into custody. Spider-Man was found in the rubble of a Hollister Campaign rally after a vicious fight with the still at-large Menace. Palone announced the arrest at a press conference this morning. Curiously absent from the conference were his two top officers, Vin Gonzales and Alan O'Neil, as well as CSI Agent Carlie Cooper, who discovered one of the first tracers on a body...

(more on page E14)

Prologue.

THE HOLLISTER HOUSEHOLD. YEARS AGO.



DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION: INTERLUDE

Ten Years Later.

33 HOURS UNTIL POLLS OPEN.

I'M GOING TO DO IT.

I'M GOING TO DO WHAT THE GOBLIN COULD NEVER DO.

WHAT KRAVEN AND DOCTOR OCTOPUS AND ALL THOSE OTHER MORONS COULD NEVER SEEM TO MANAGE.

I'M GOING TO BEAT SPIDER-MAN.

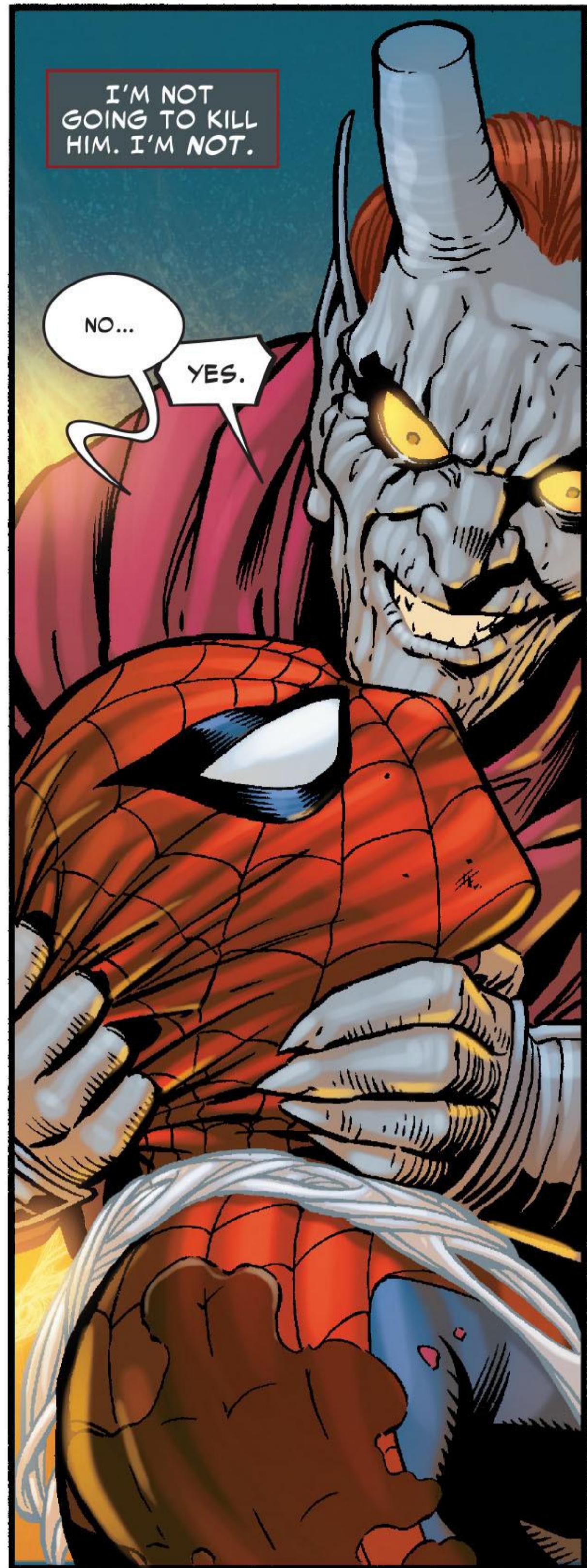


MARC GUGGENHEIM | BARRY KITSON | KARL KESEL
WRITER PENCILS INKS

ANDRES MOSSA | VC'S CORY PETIT | TOM BRENNAN
COLORS LETTERS ASST. EDITOR

STEPHEN WACKER | TOM BREVOORT | JOE QUESADA | DAN BUCKLEY
PRINCESS EXECUTIVE EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF PUBLISHER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM & SLOTT SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST



I'LL
KNOW.

HA!
HA!

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

THAT'S
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

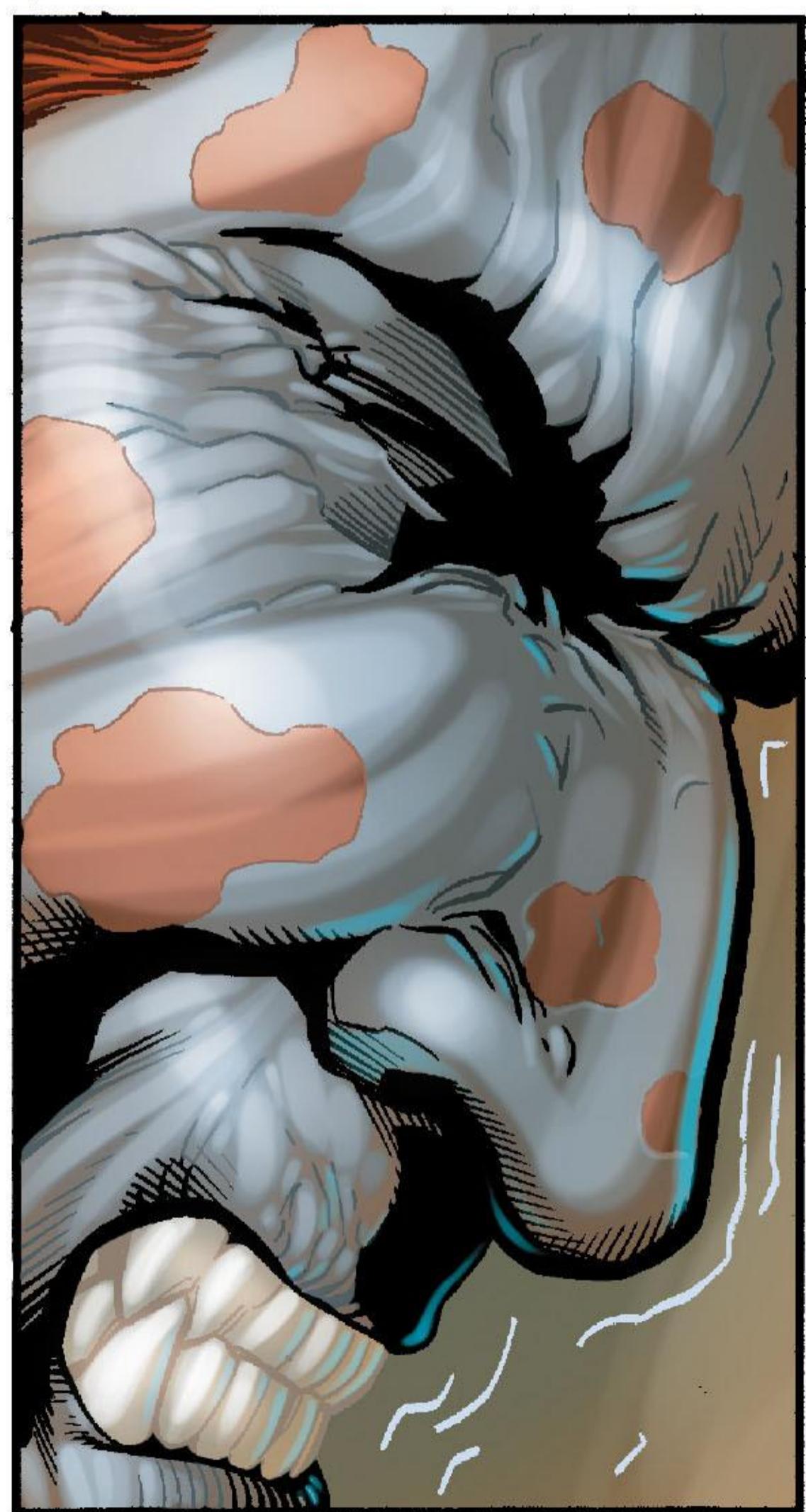
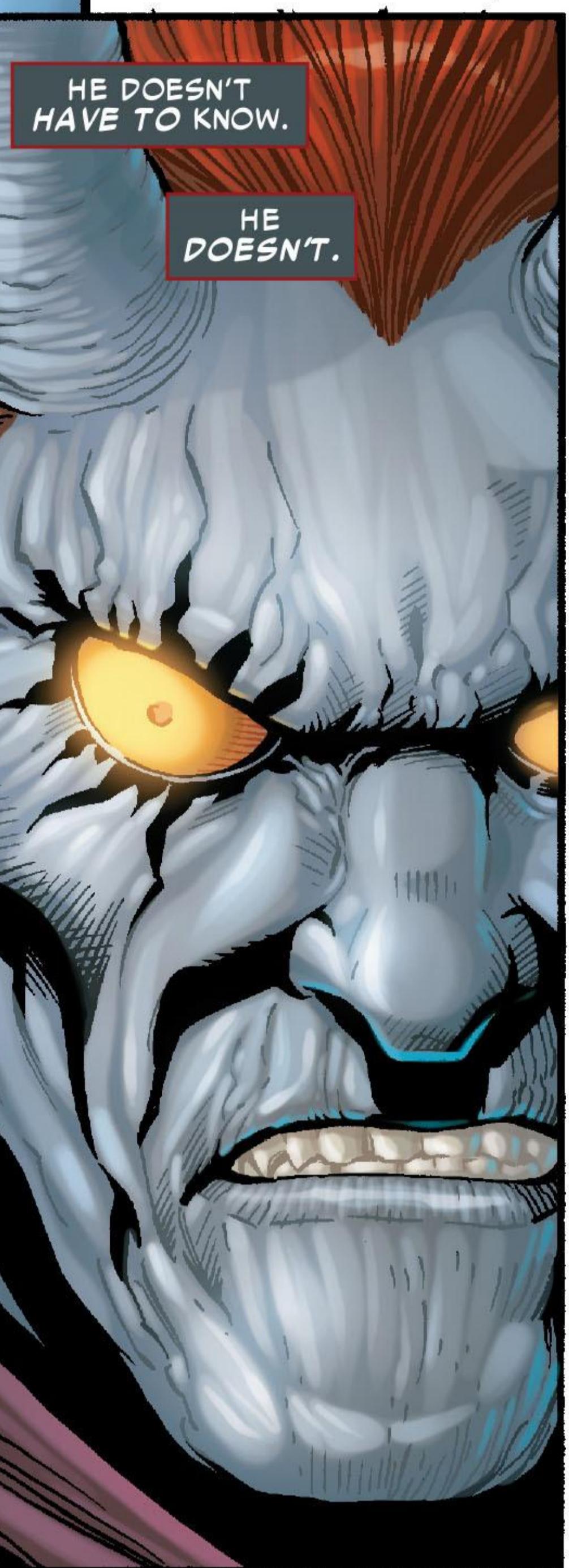
HE DOESN'T
HAVE TO KNOW.

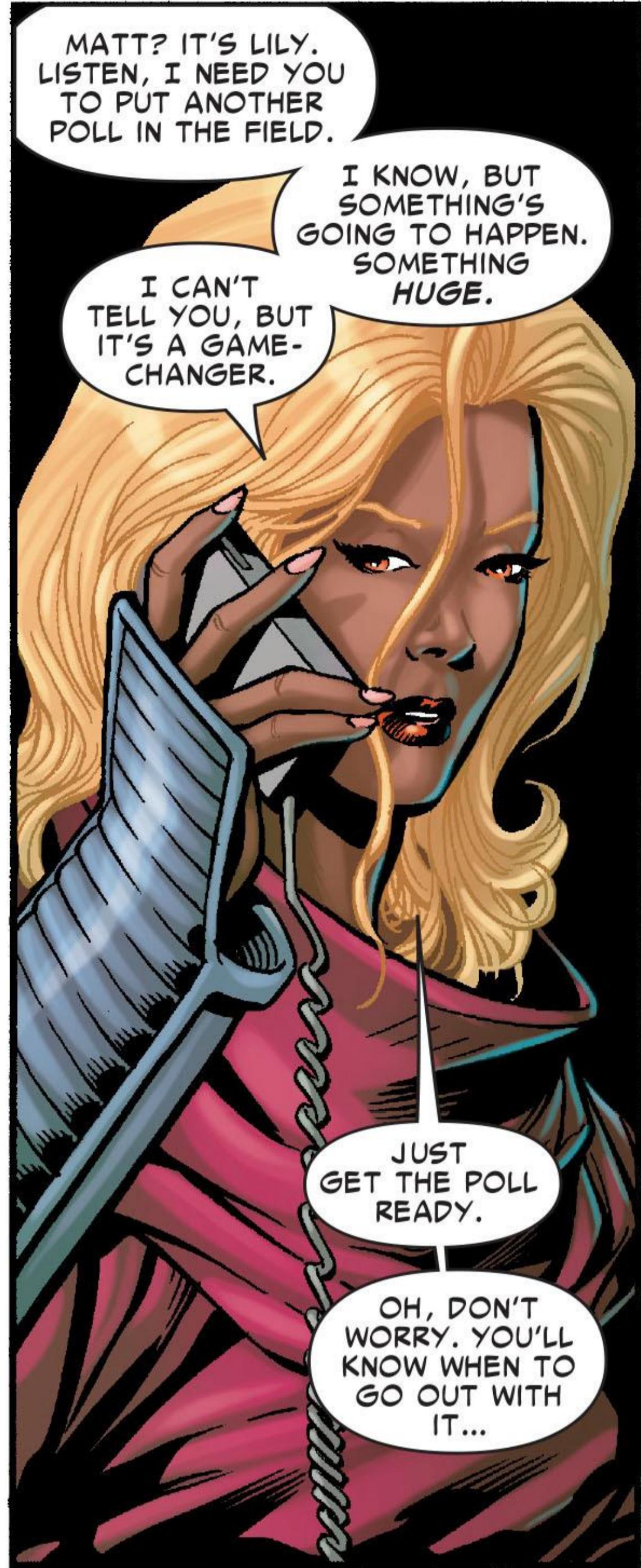
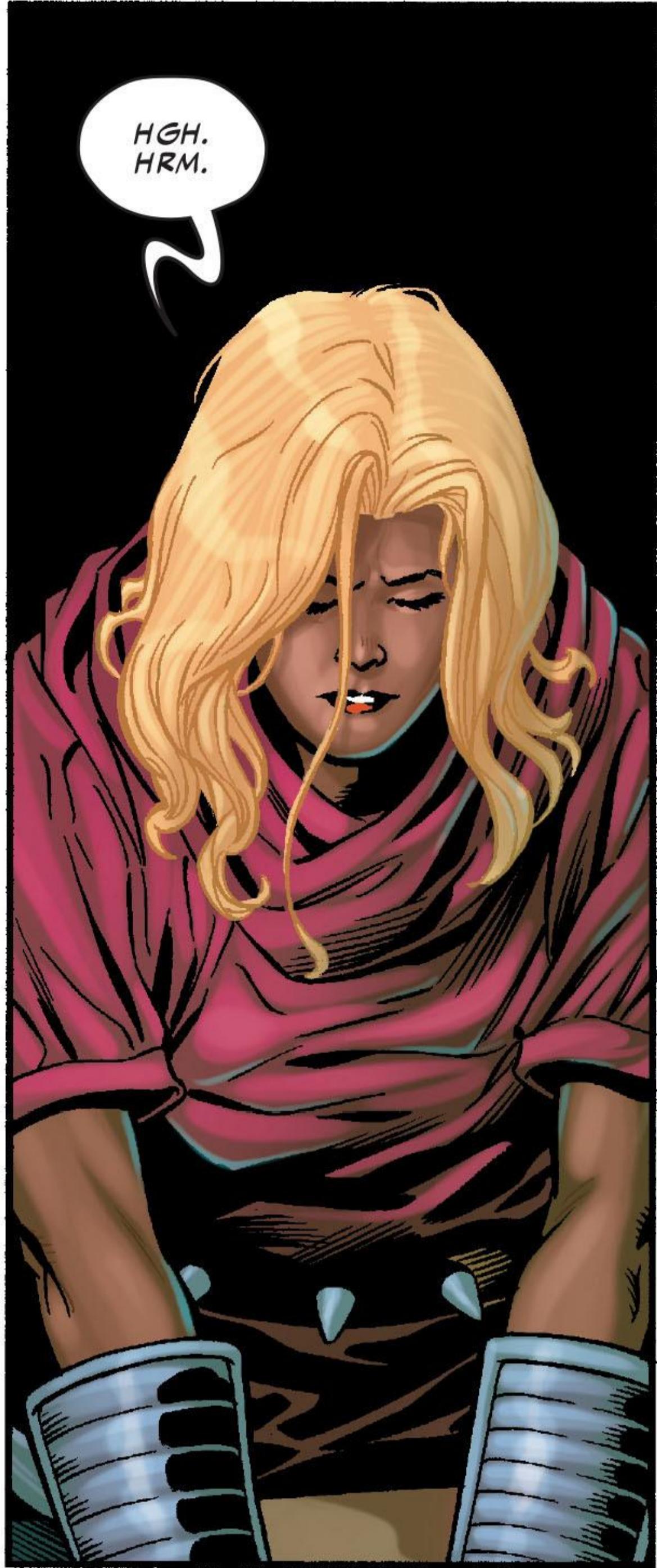
HE
DOESN'T.

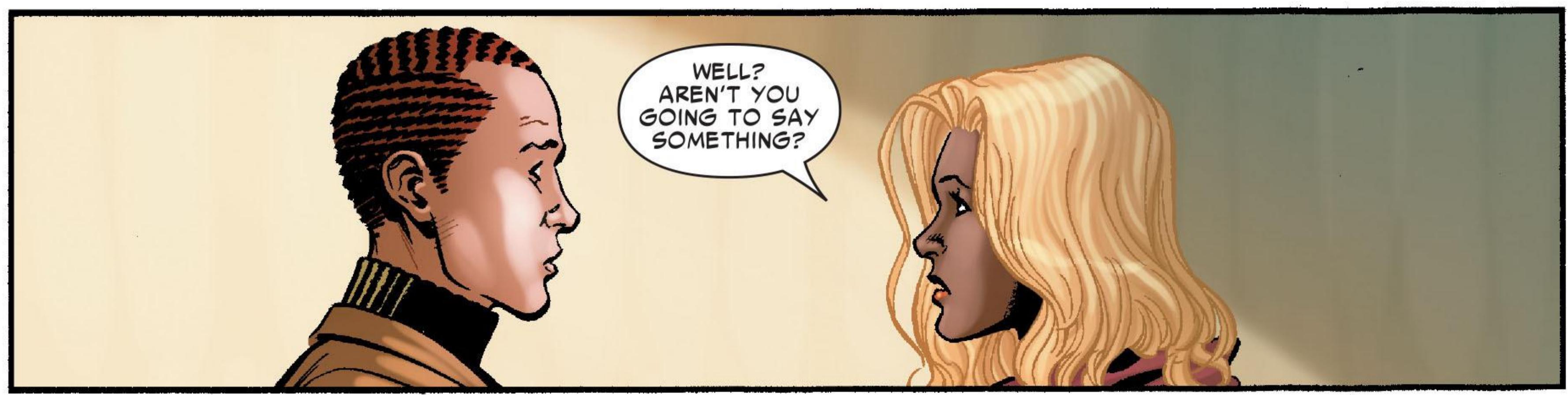


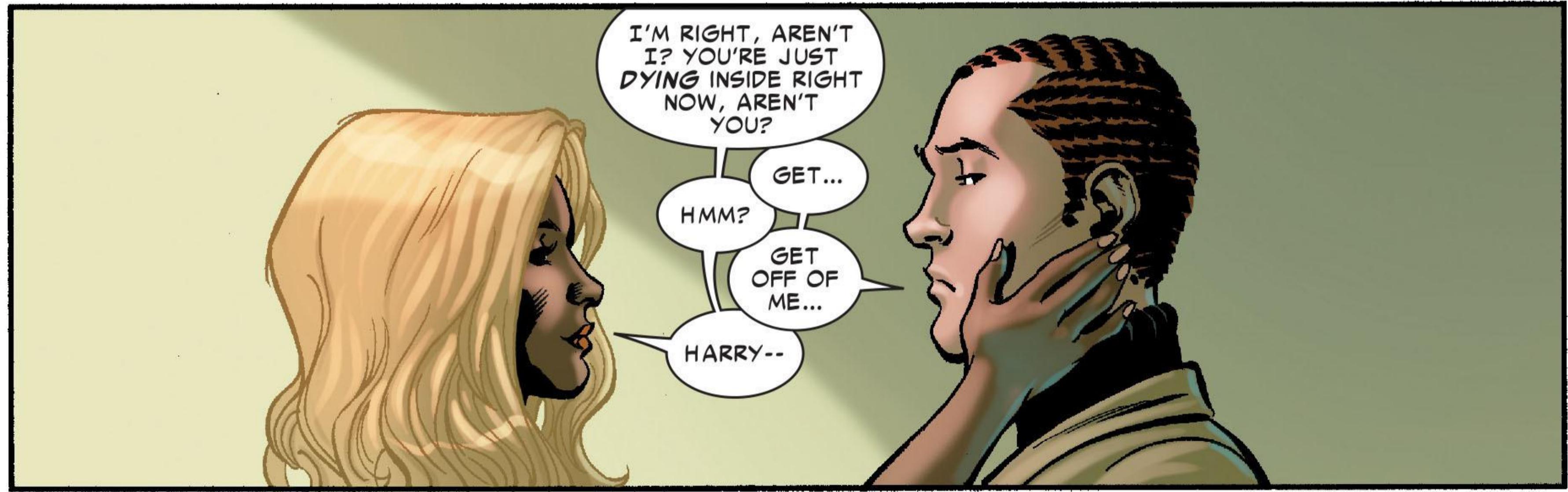
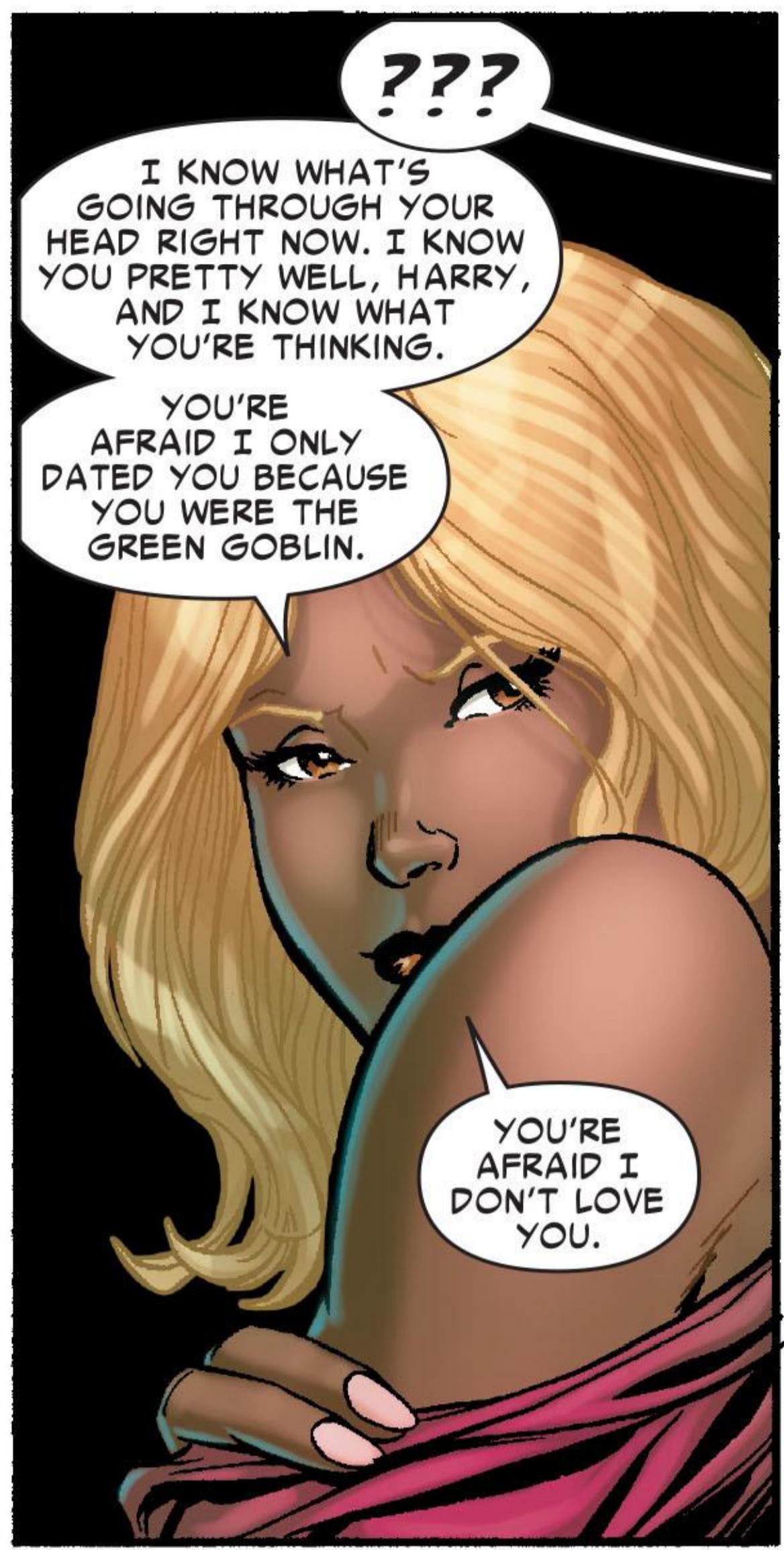
HE WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

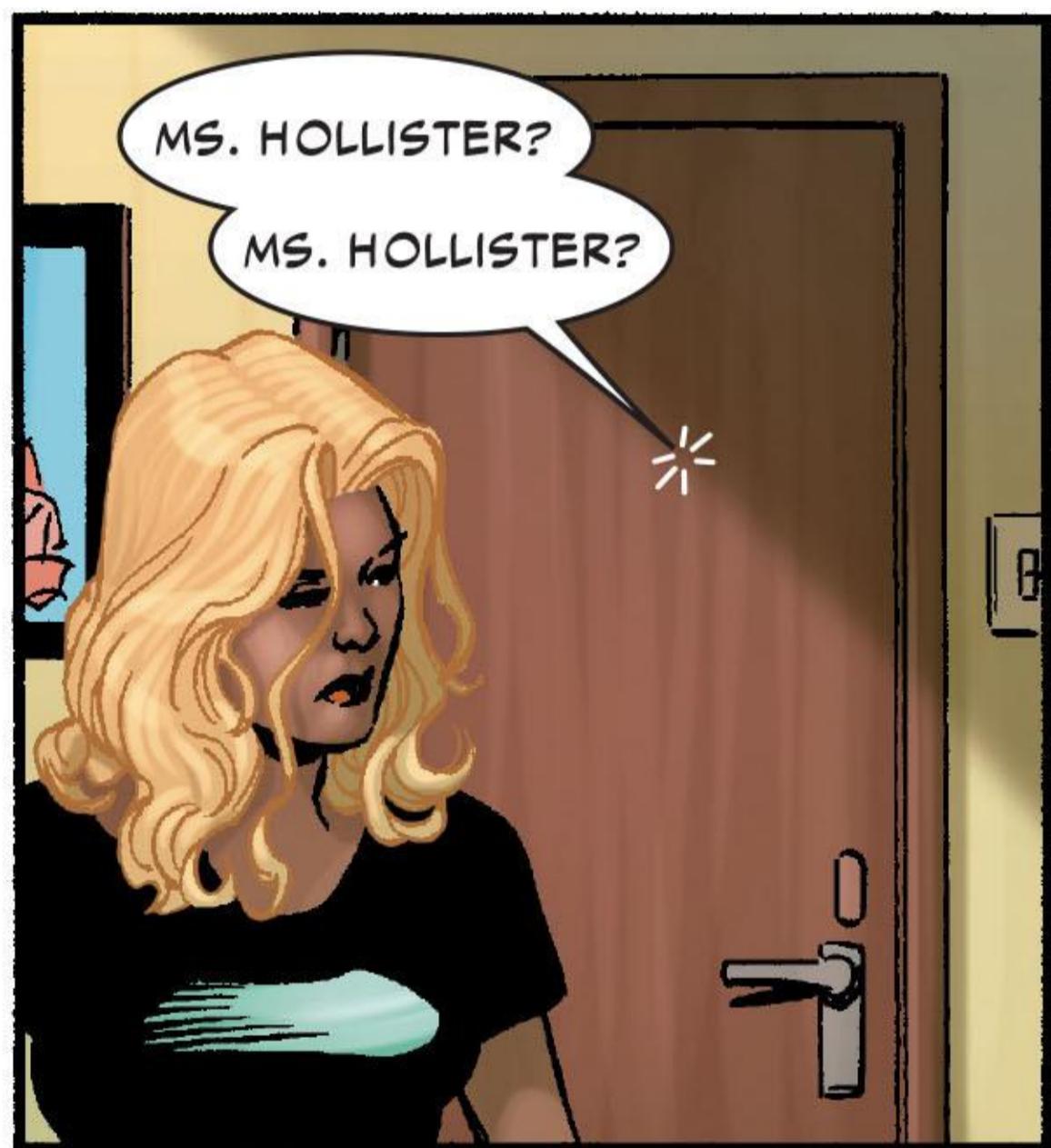
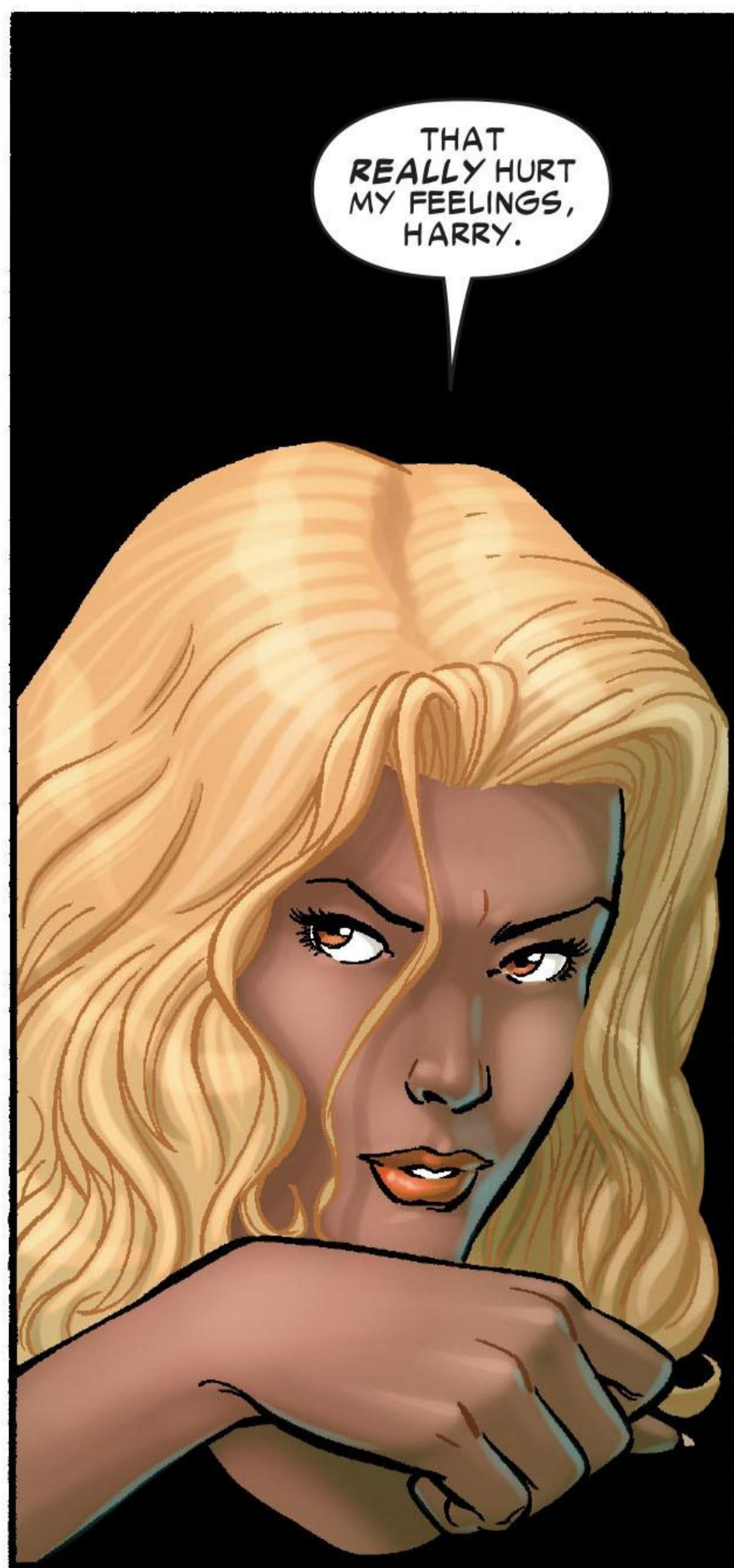
HE NEVER
DOES.

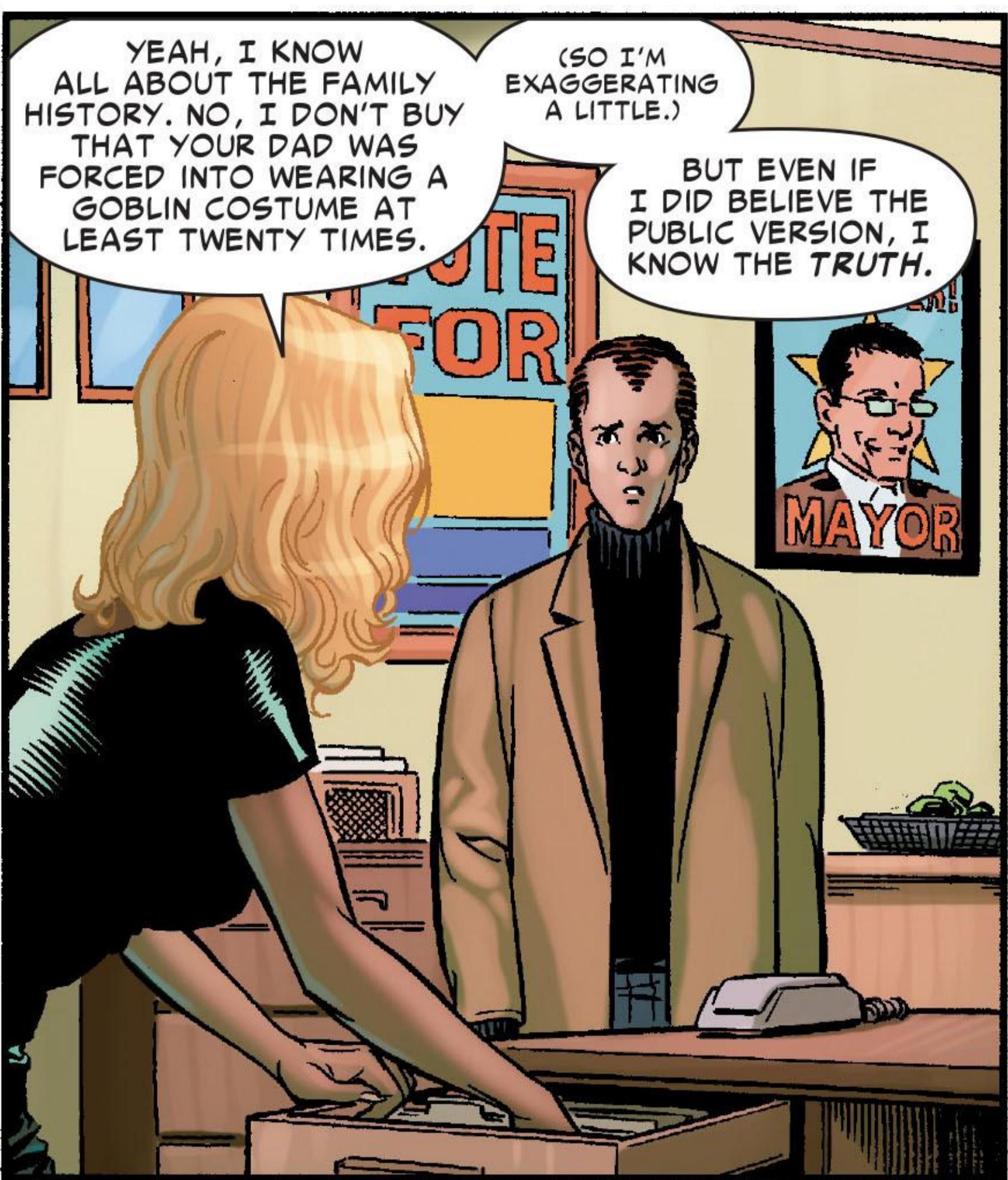












"ALL THOSE LATE NIGHTS.
ALL THAT *STRESS* YOU
WERE UNDER..."

"I KNOW NOW IT WAS ALL
BECAUSE YOU WERE TRYING
TO GET THE COFFEE BEAN
BACK UP AND RUNNING."

"BUT BACK THEN, MONTHS
AGO, WELL, IT LOOKED
LIKE SOMETHING ELSE."

"IT LOOKED LIKE YOU'D FALLEN
OFF THE WAGON. IT LOOKED LIKE
YOU WERE DOING DRUGS AGAIN."

I WAS CONCERNED
AND I WENT LOOKING
TO SEE IF--

THIS ISN'T
HAPPENING. I'M
NOT HEARING
THIS...

IT WAS
ALMOST AN
ACCIDENT.

"I SAW SOME SCUFFMARKS
ON THE FLOORBOARDS
THAT LOOKED STRANGE."

"CURIOSITY'S
MY ONE VICE,
I GUESS."

I'M NOT
GONNA SAY IT'S
A PAGE-TURNER,
EXACTLY. THE TRUTH
IS, IT'S PRETTY DRY.
LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN
A LAB NOTEBOOK
AND A DIARY.

I MEAN,
THERE'S A LOT
OF WHINING--

LOOK, WE'VE
BEEN DATING A WHILE
AND I'VE COME TO EXPECT
IT, BUT--EVEN BY THOSE
STANDARDS--

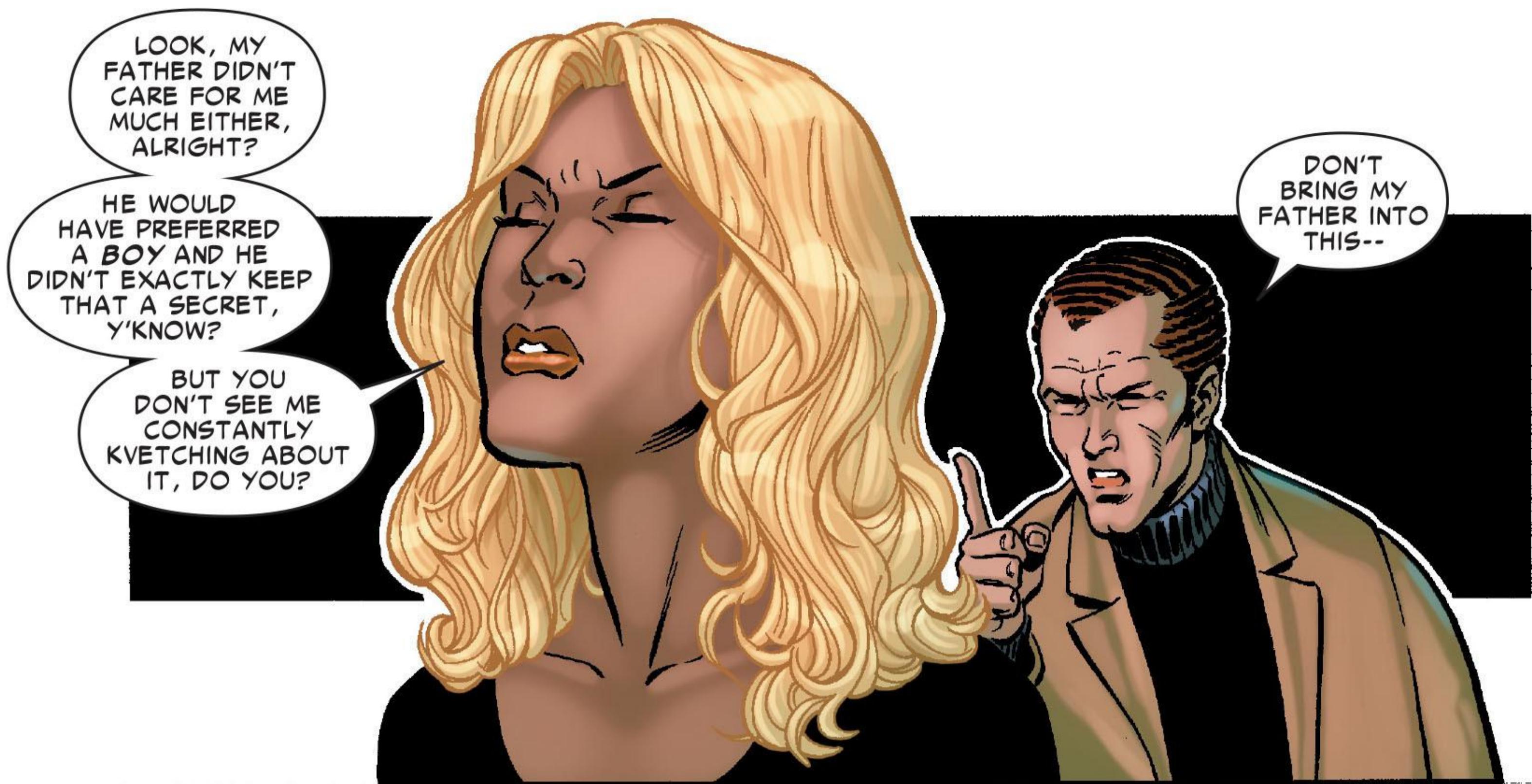
THERE'S A
LOT OF WHINING
IN HERE.

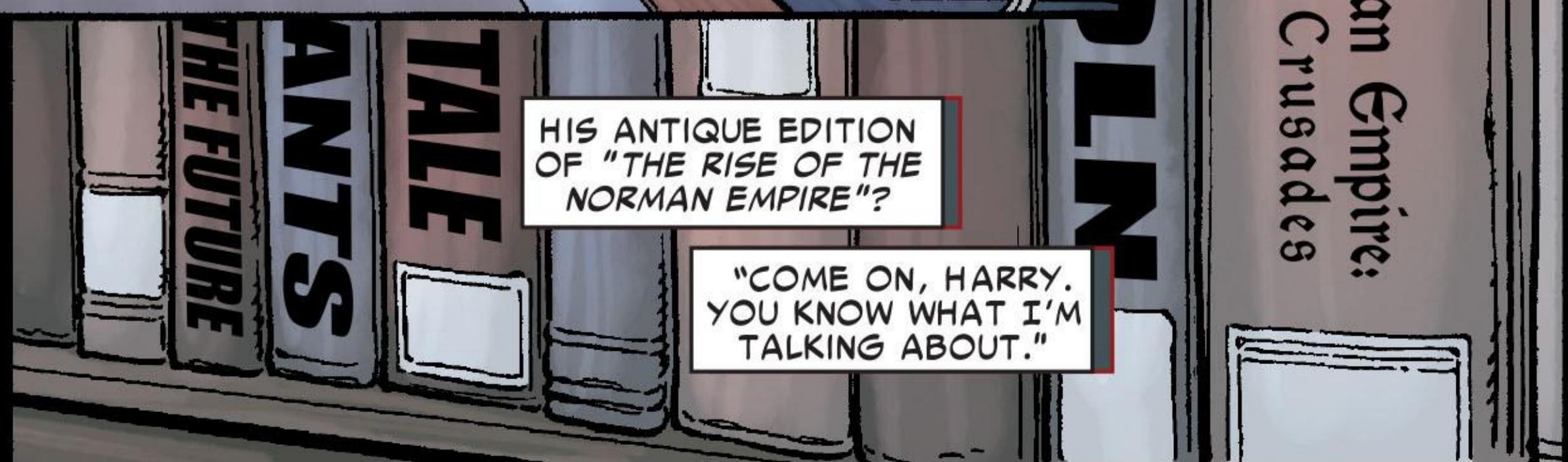
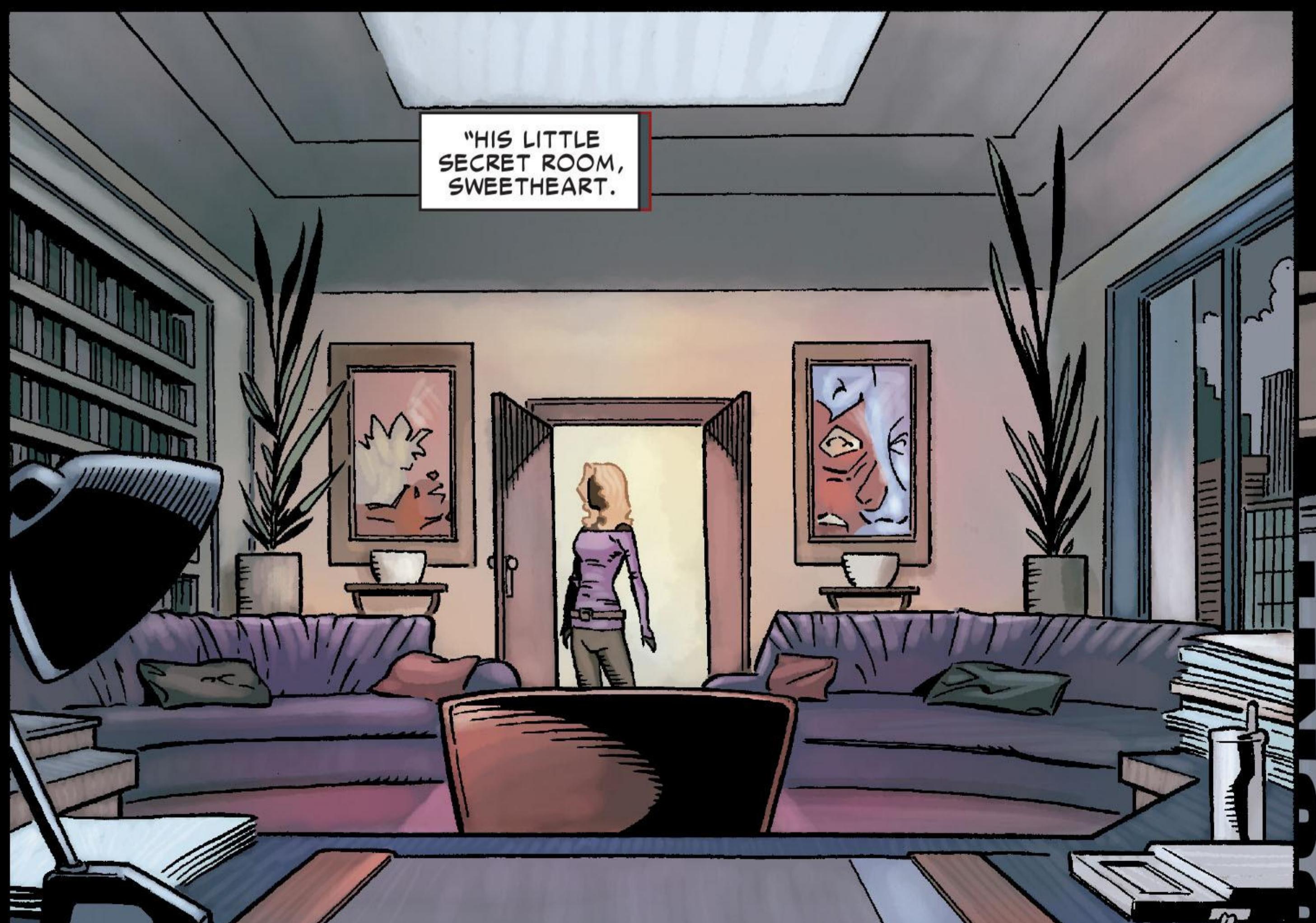
YOU'RE
SICK, LILY. NOBODY
KNOWS THAT BETTER
THAN ME.

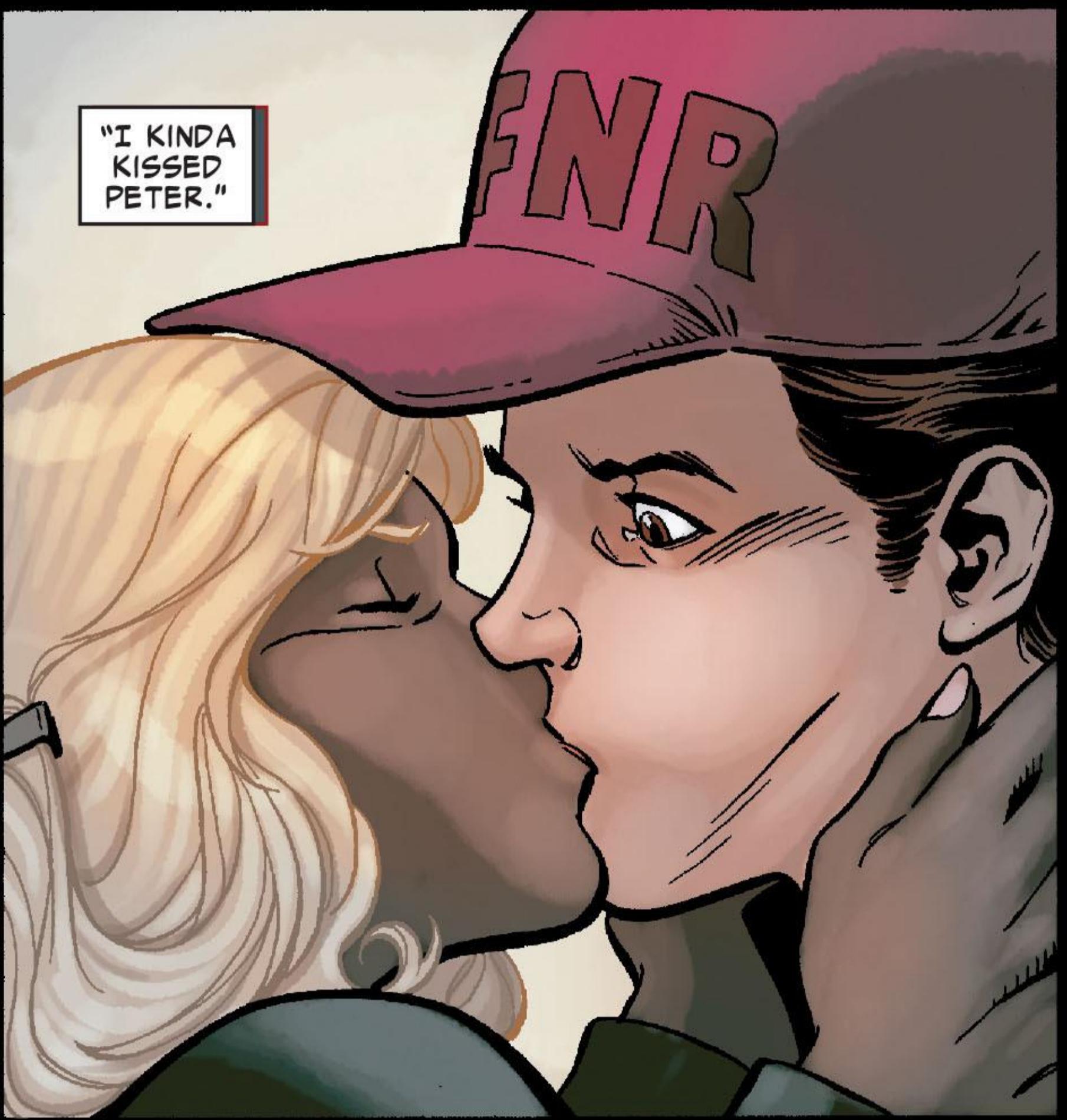
YOU'RE
SICK AND YOU
NEED HELP.

LILY--







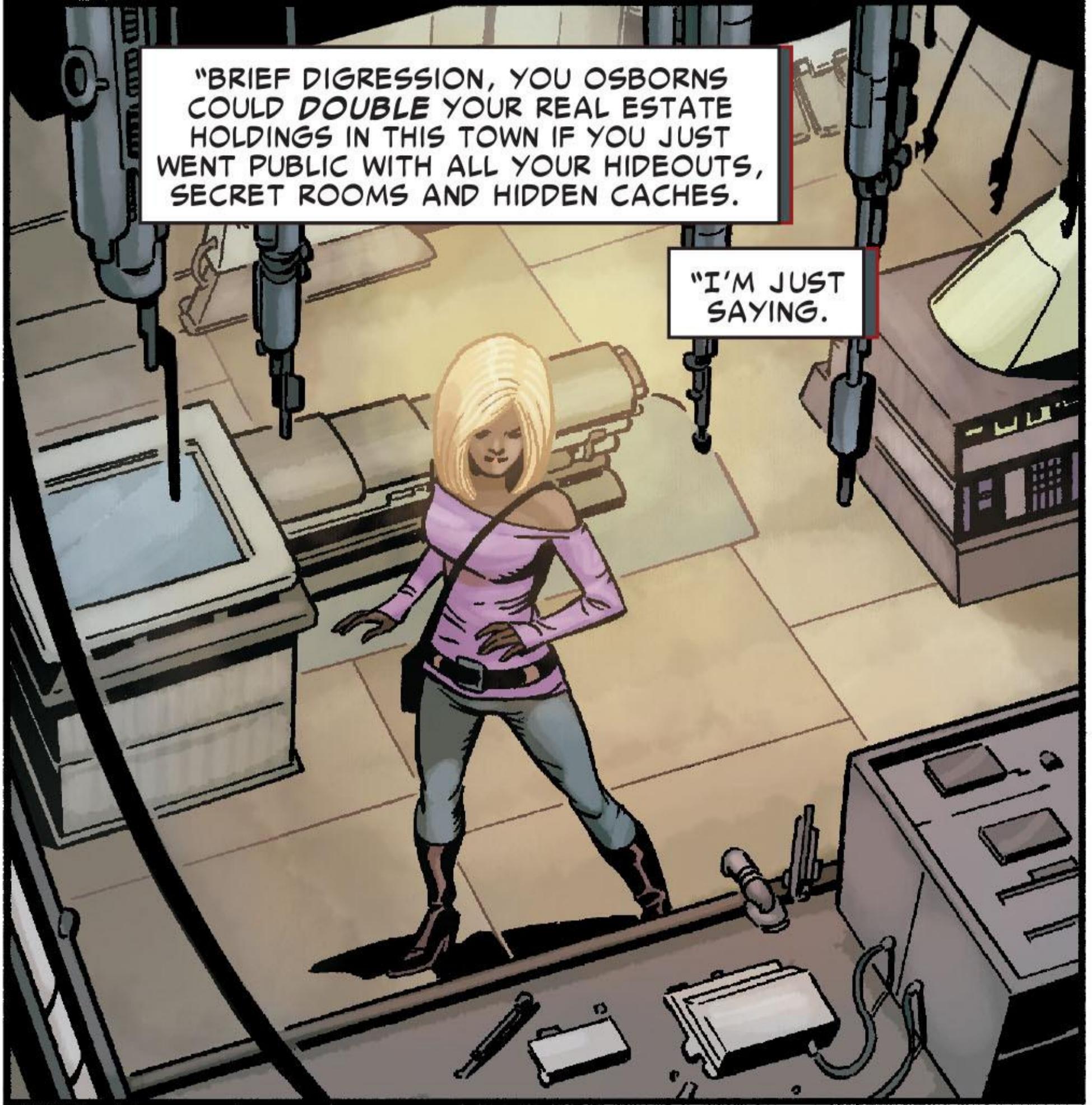


--SECRET ENTRANCE TO YOUR DAD'S EQUIALLY SECRET ROOM."



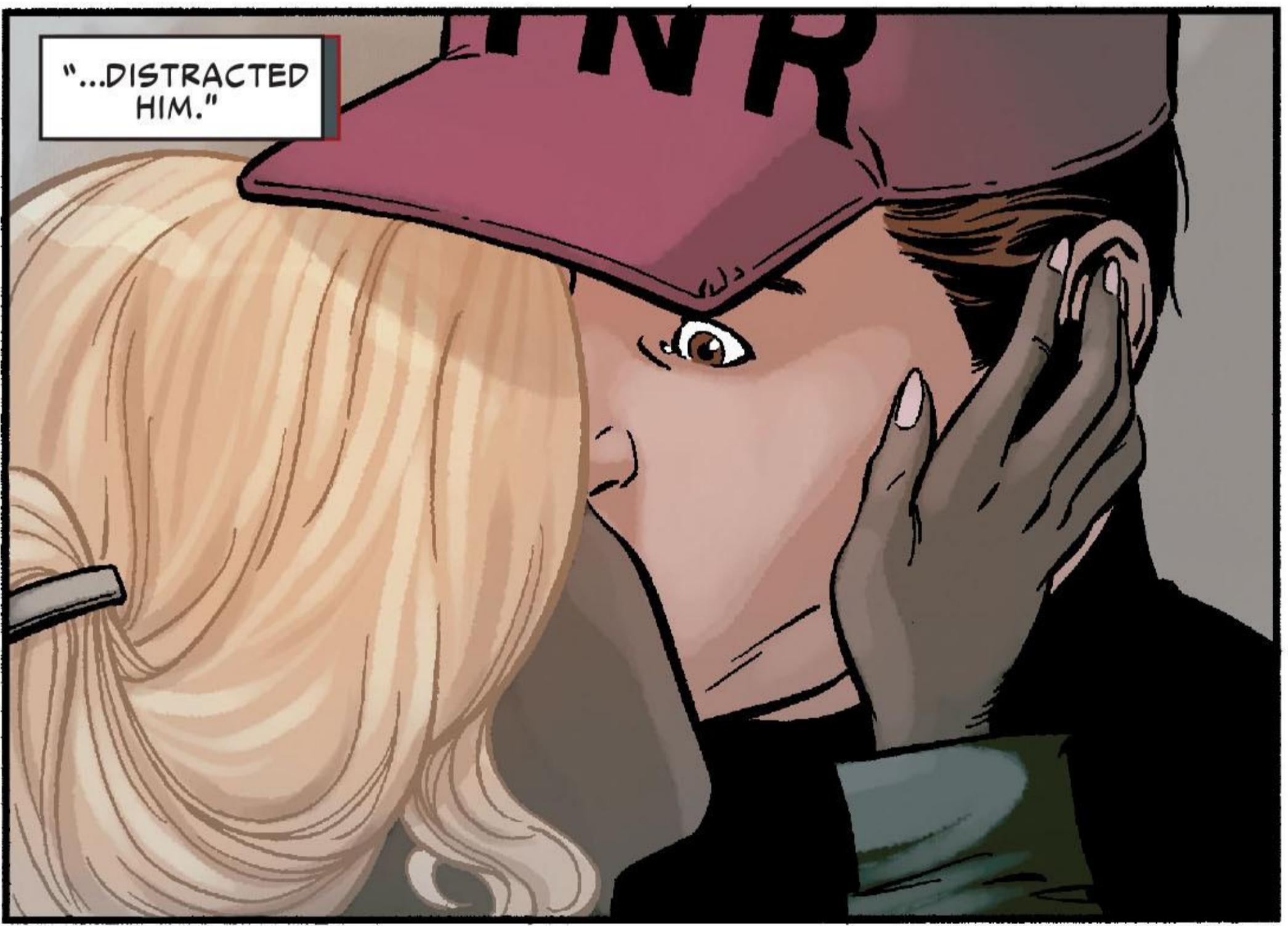
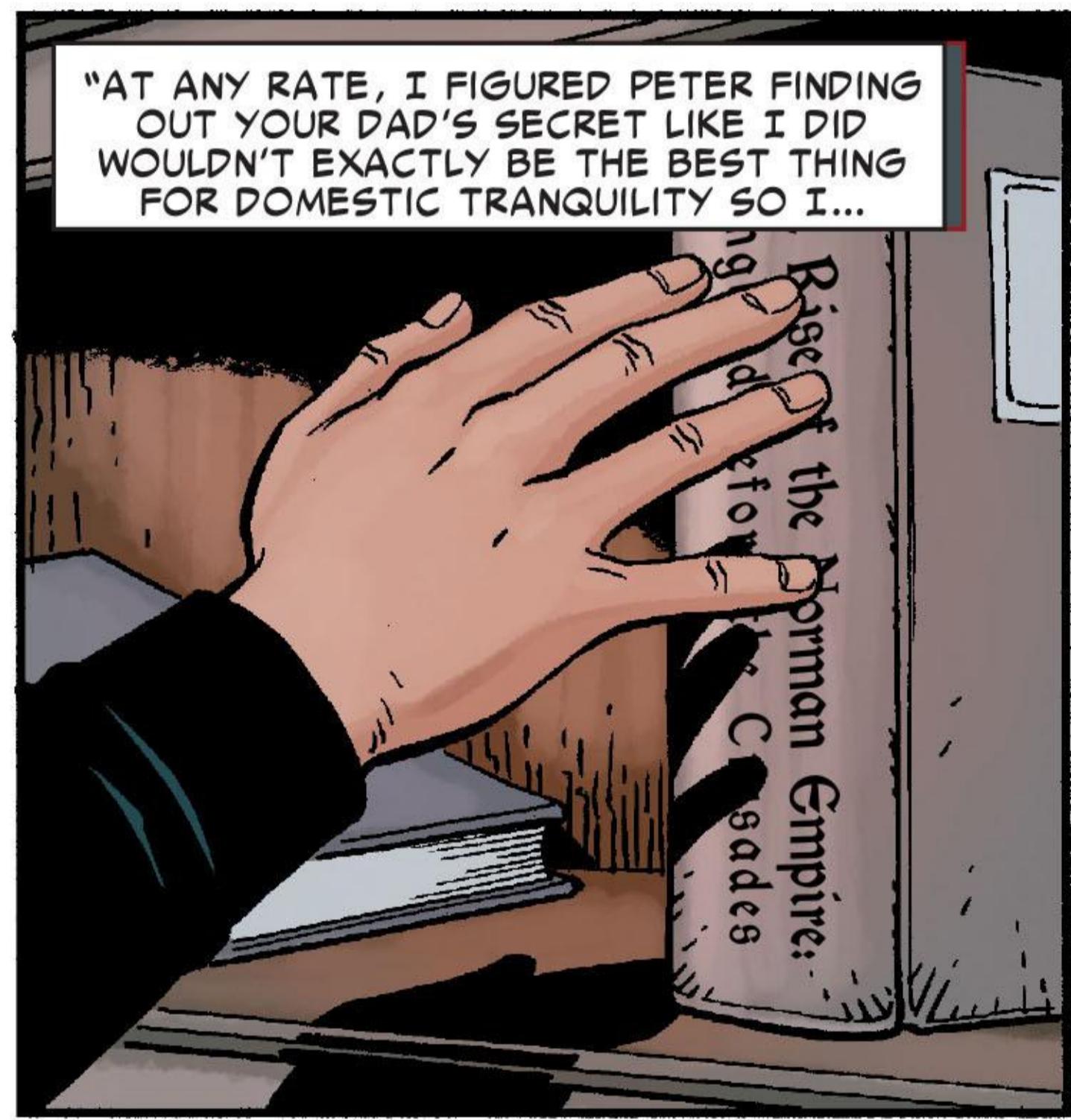
"BRIEF DIGRESSION, YOU OSBORNS COULD DOUBLE YOUR REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS IN THIS TOWN IF YOU JUST WENT PUBLIC WITH ALL YOUR HIDEOUTS, SECRET ROOMS AND HIDDEN CACHES.

"I'M JUST SAYING.



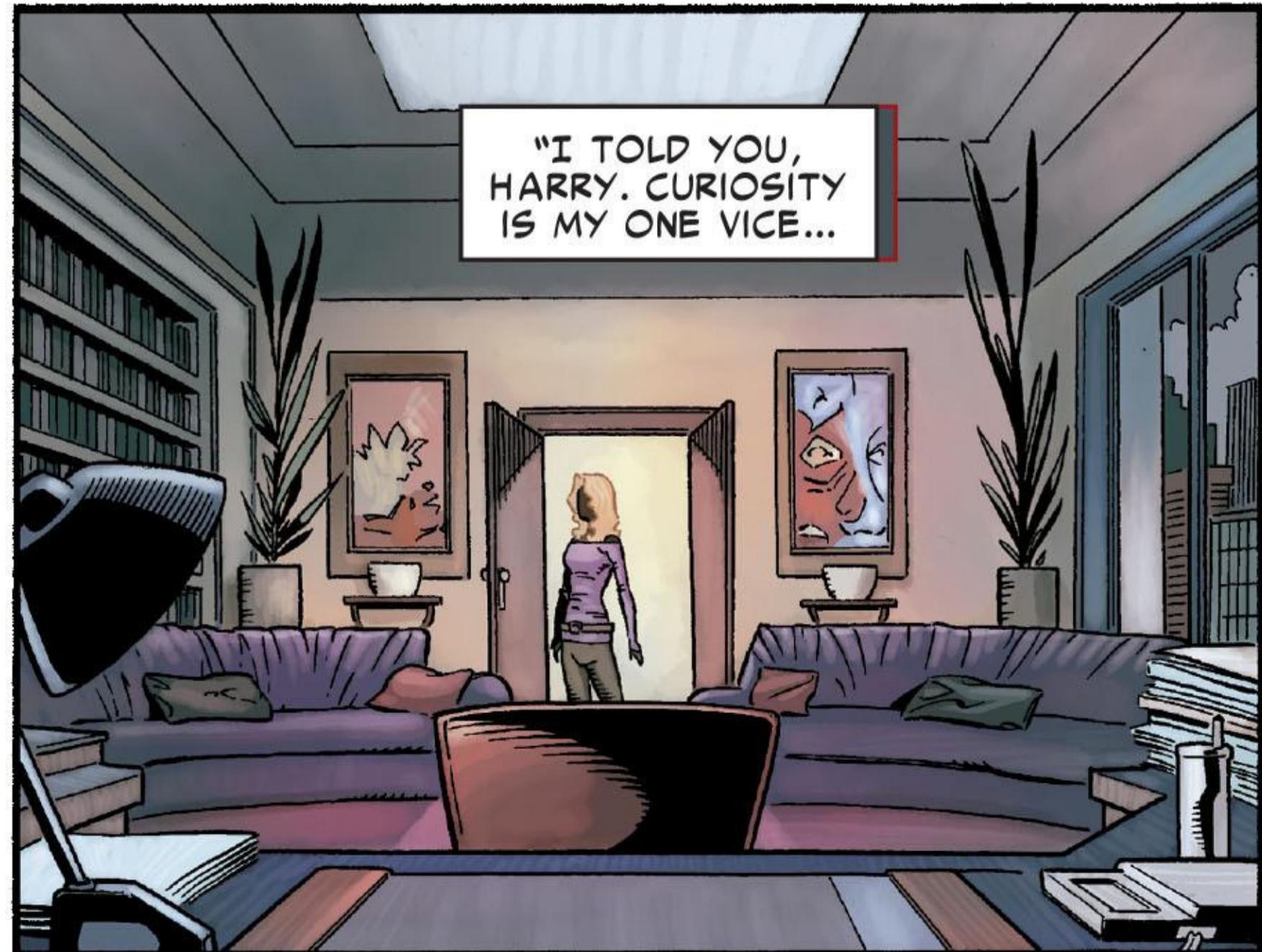
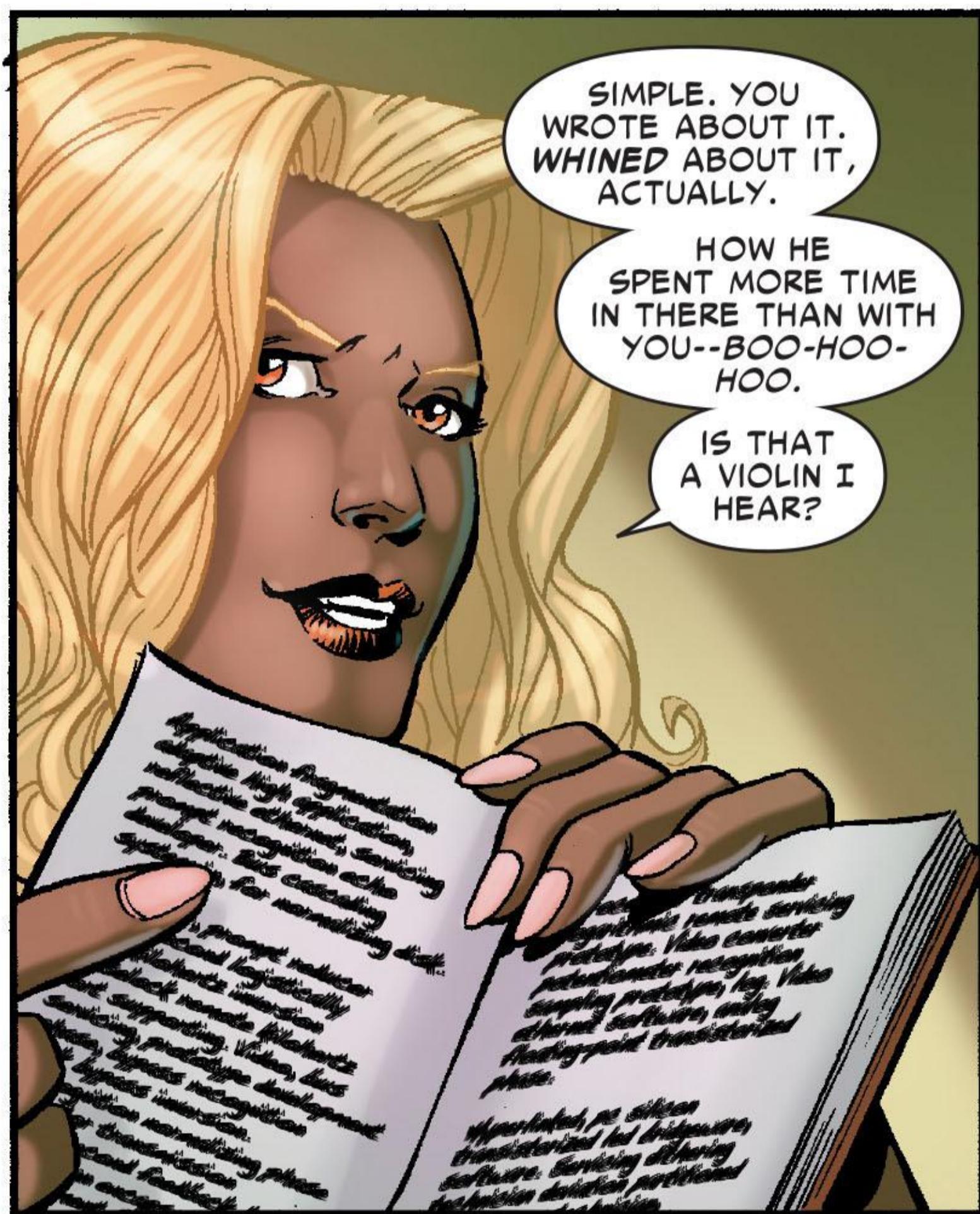
"AT ANY RATE, I FIGURED PETER FINDING OUT YOUR DAD'S SECRET LIKE I DID WOULDN'T EXACTLY BE THE BEST THING FOR DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY SO I..."

"...DISTRACTED HIM."



NO NEED TO THANK ME.

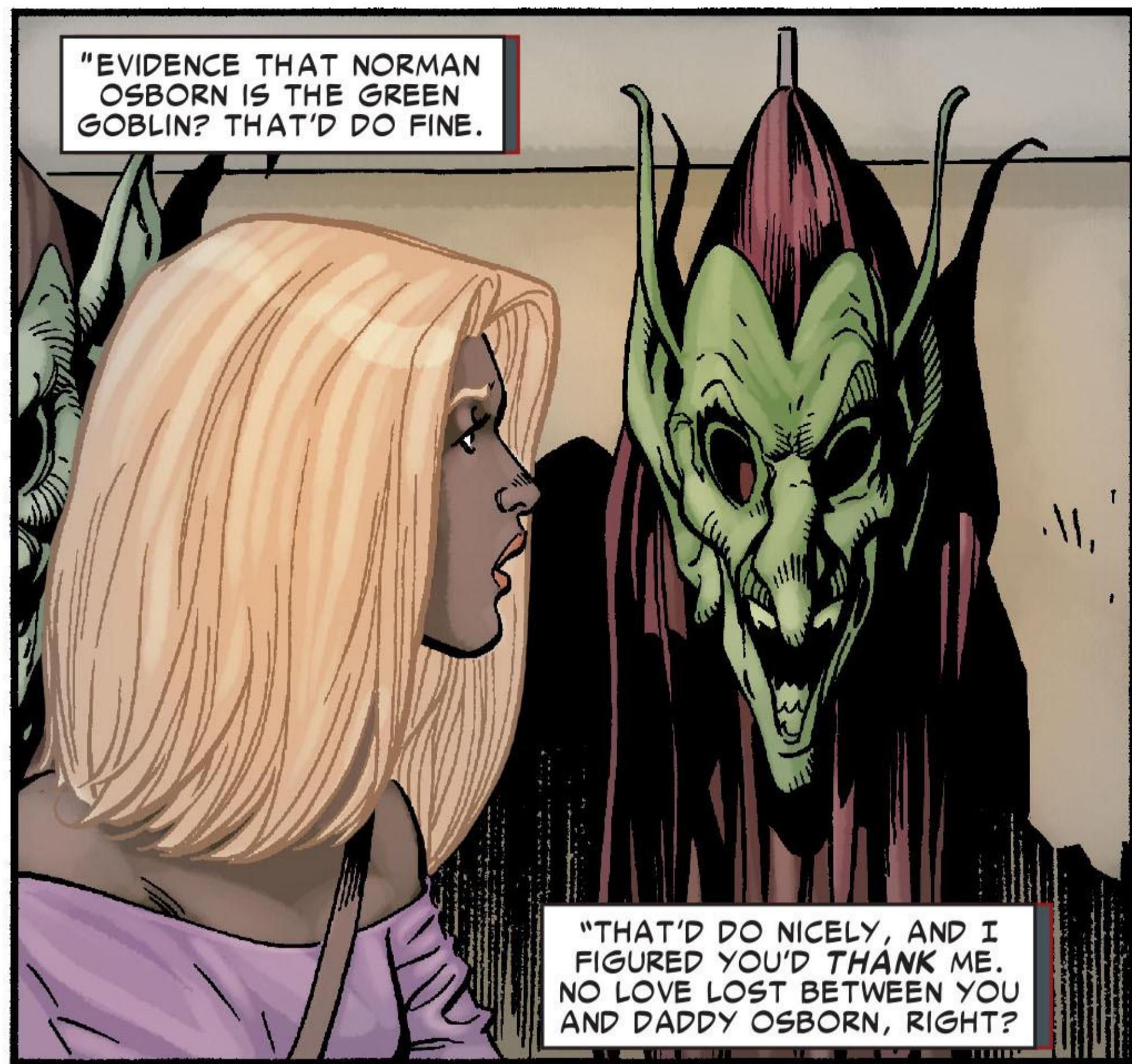




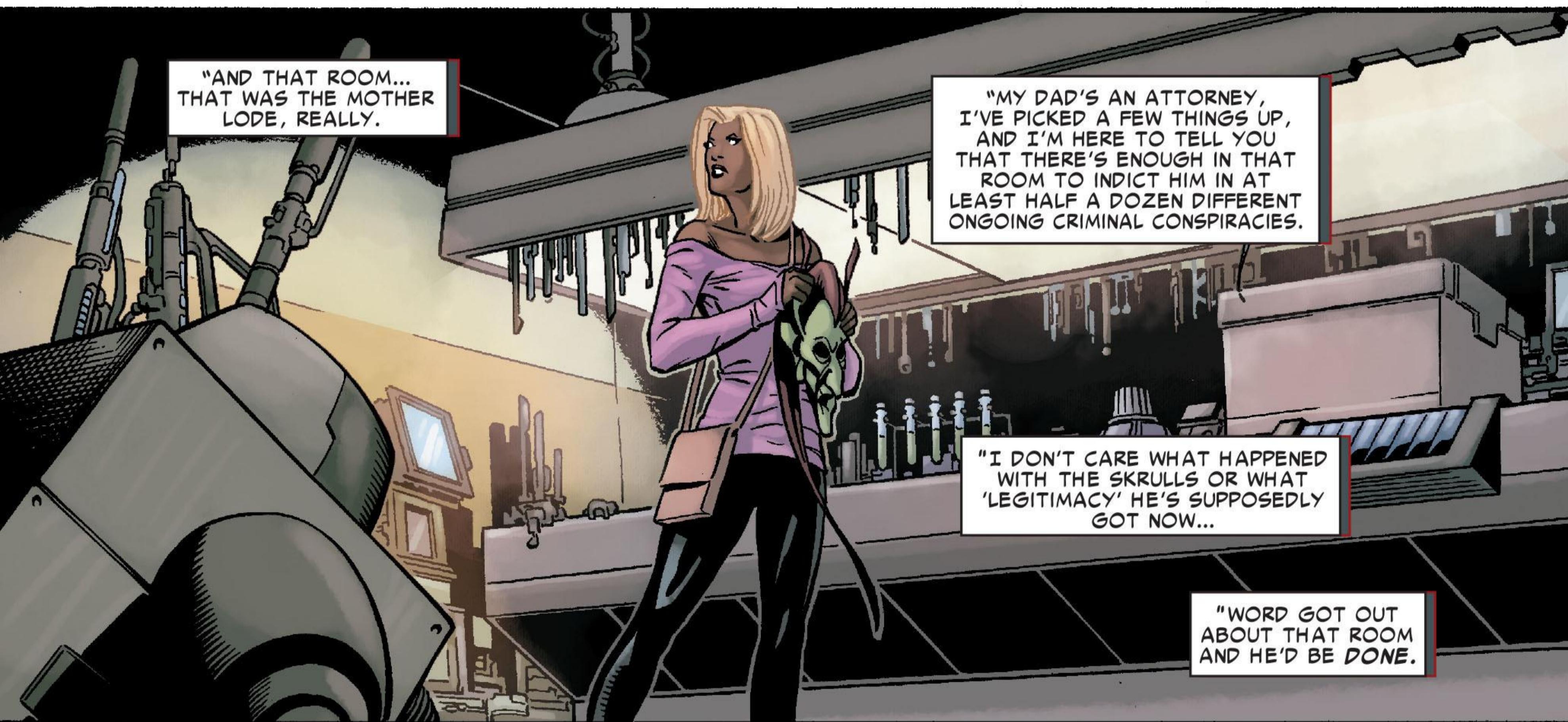
"SOMETHING--
A CAUSE--
TO RUN ON."



"EVIDENCE THAT NORMAN
OSBORN IS THE GREEN
GOBLIN? THAT'D DO FINE."



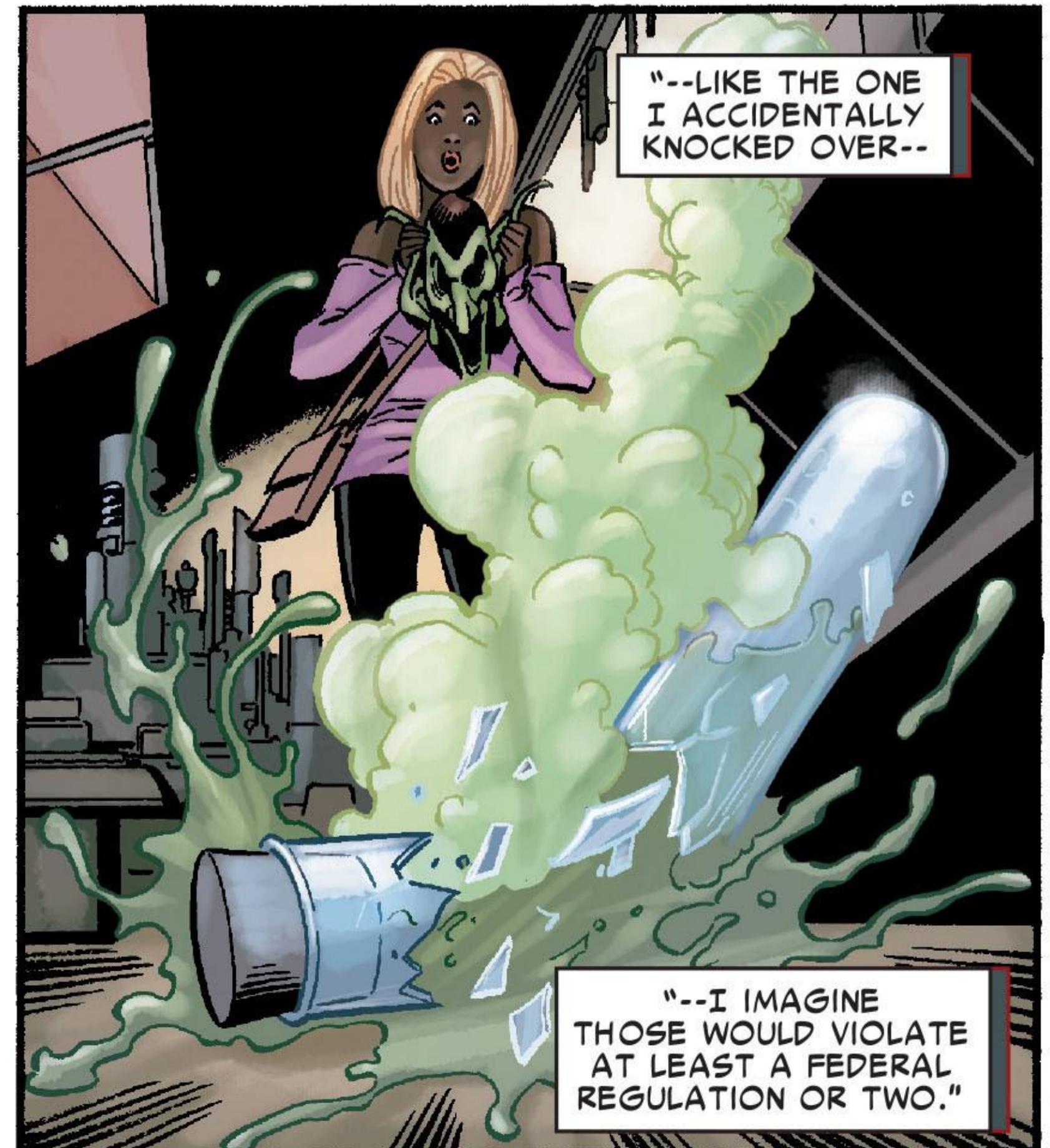
"AND THAT ROOM...
THAT WAS THE MOTHER
LODE, REALLY."

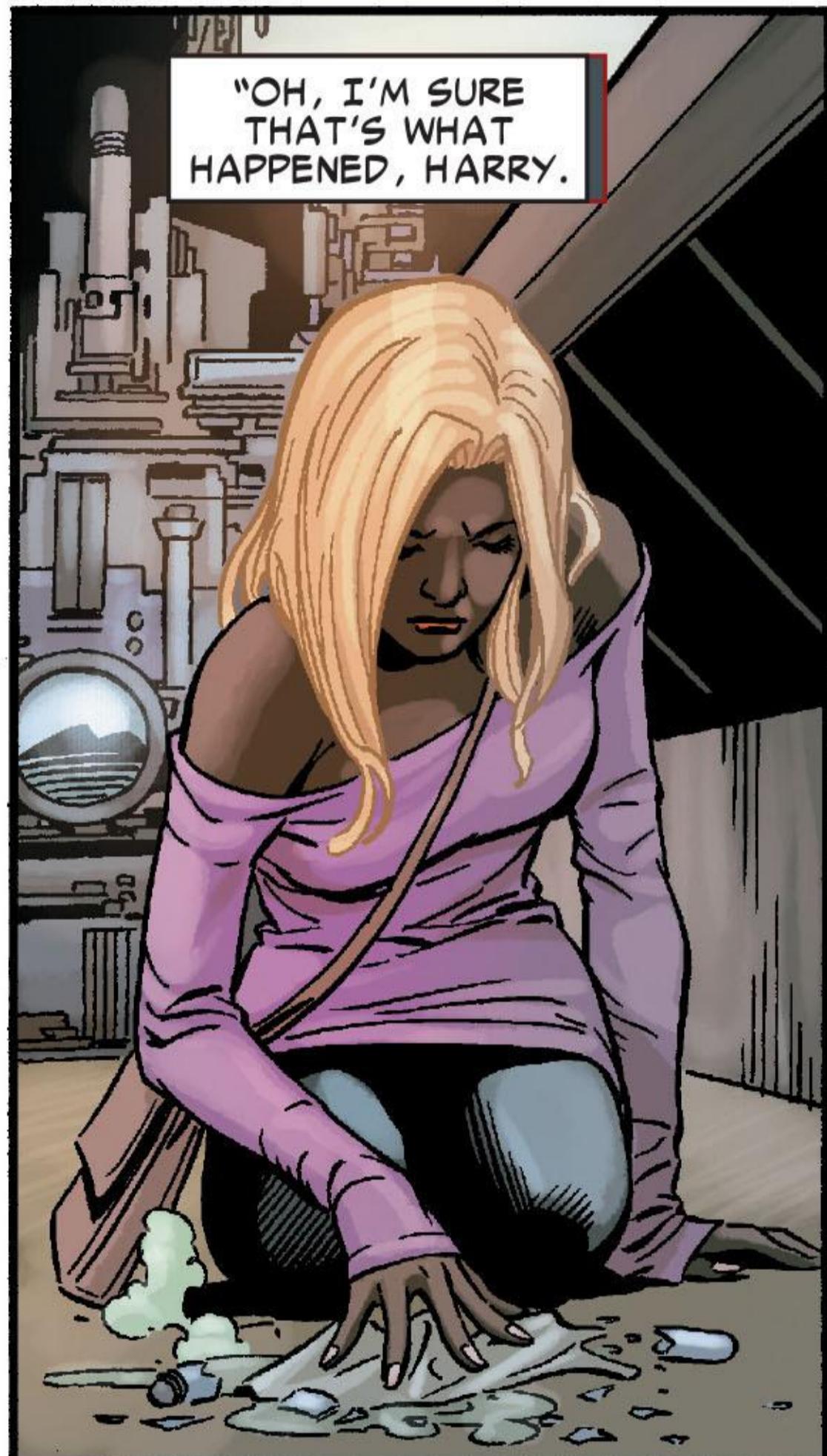
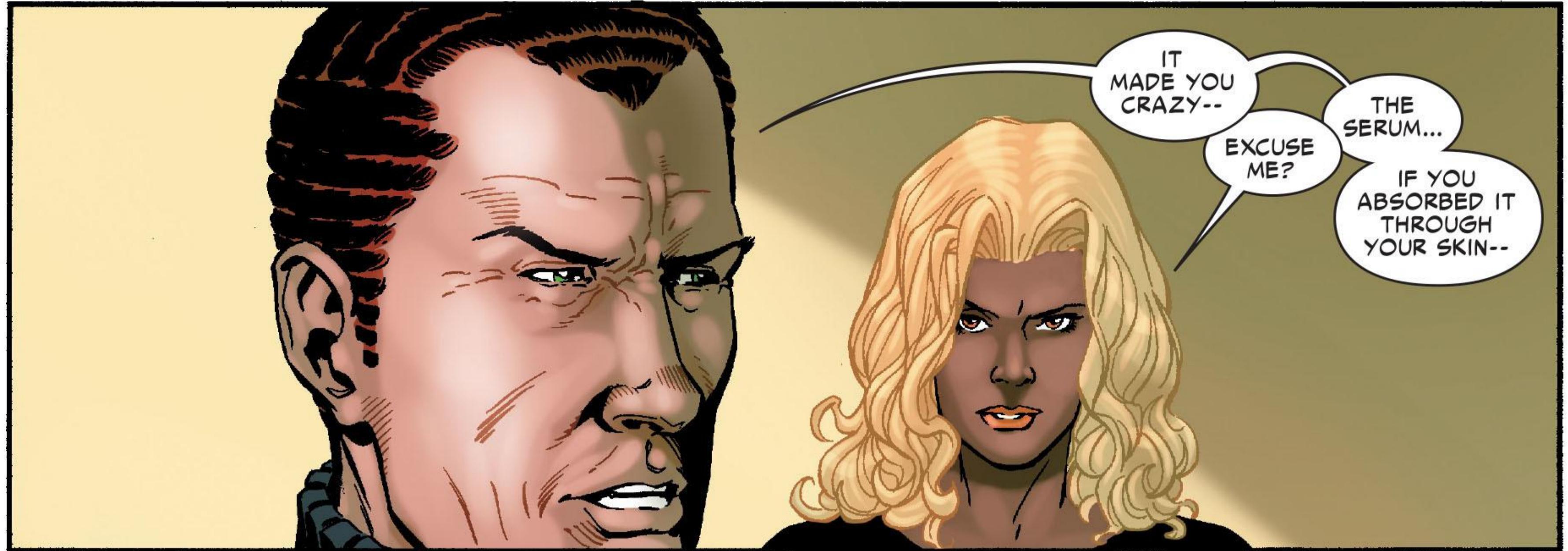


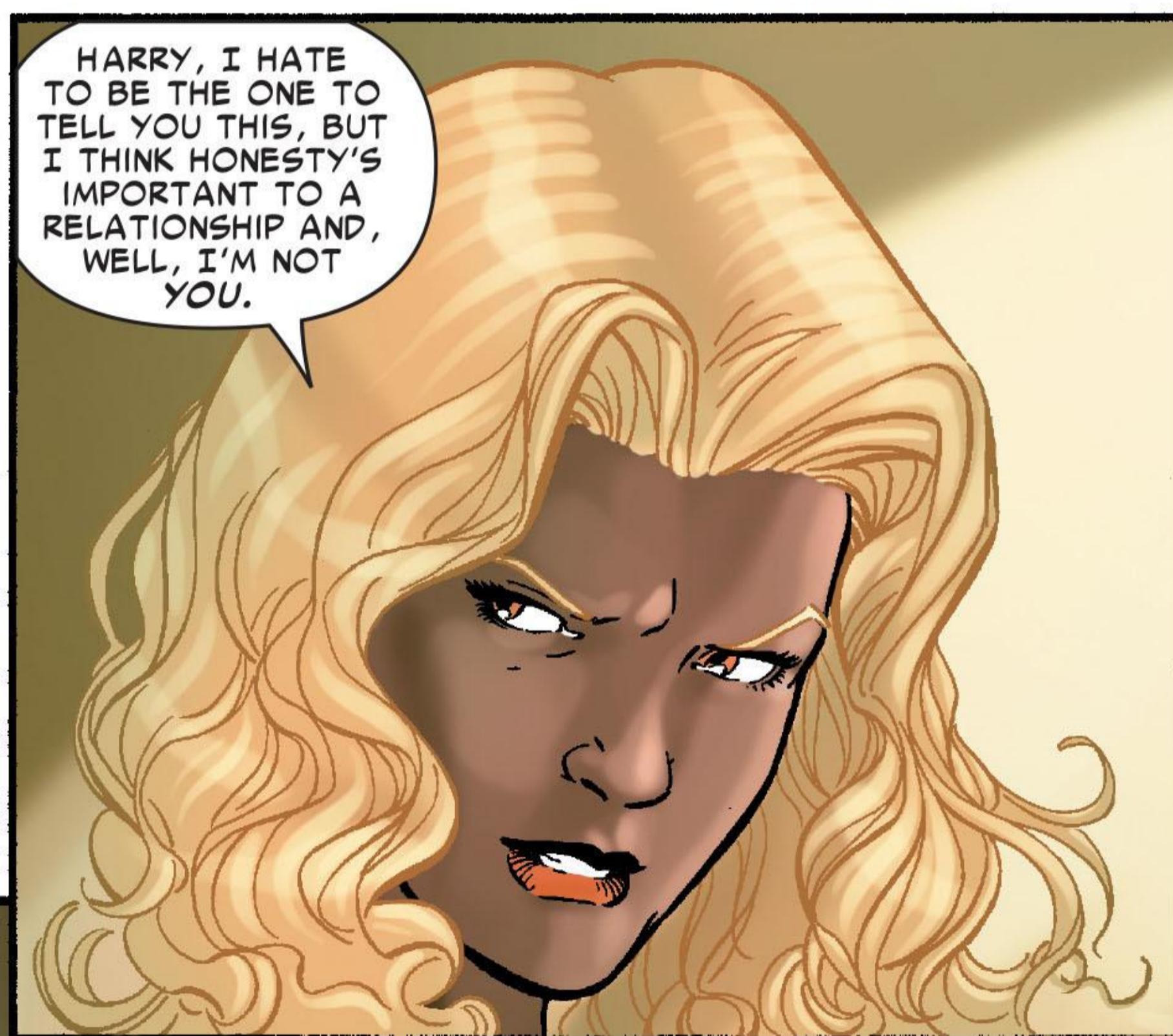
"JUST THE
EXPERIMENTS ALONE
THAT HE'S RUNNING
IN THERE--



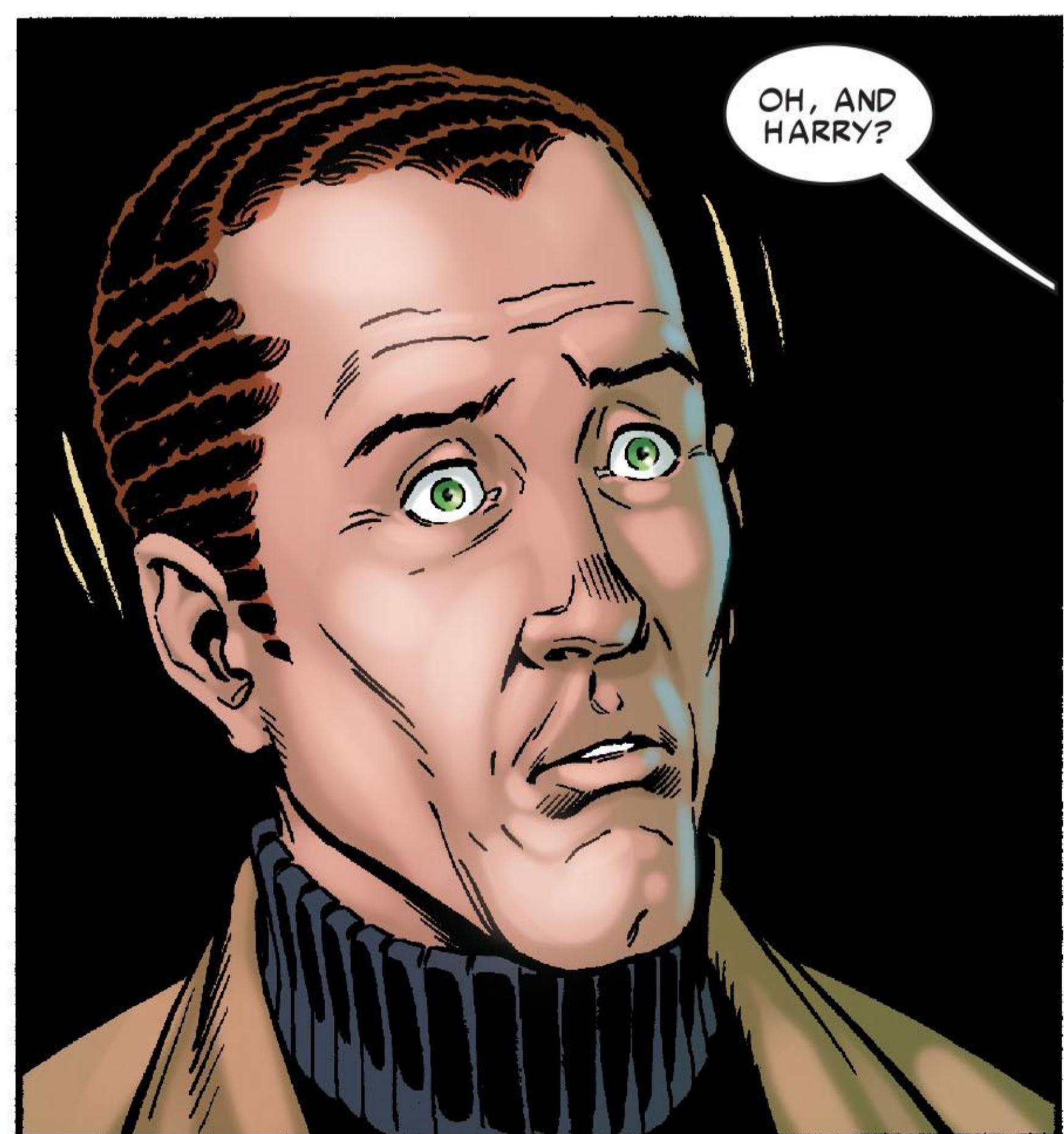
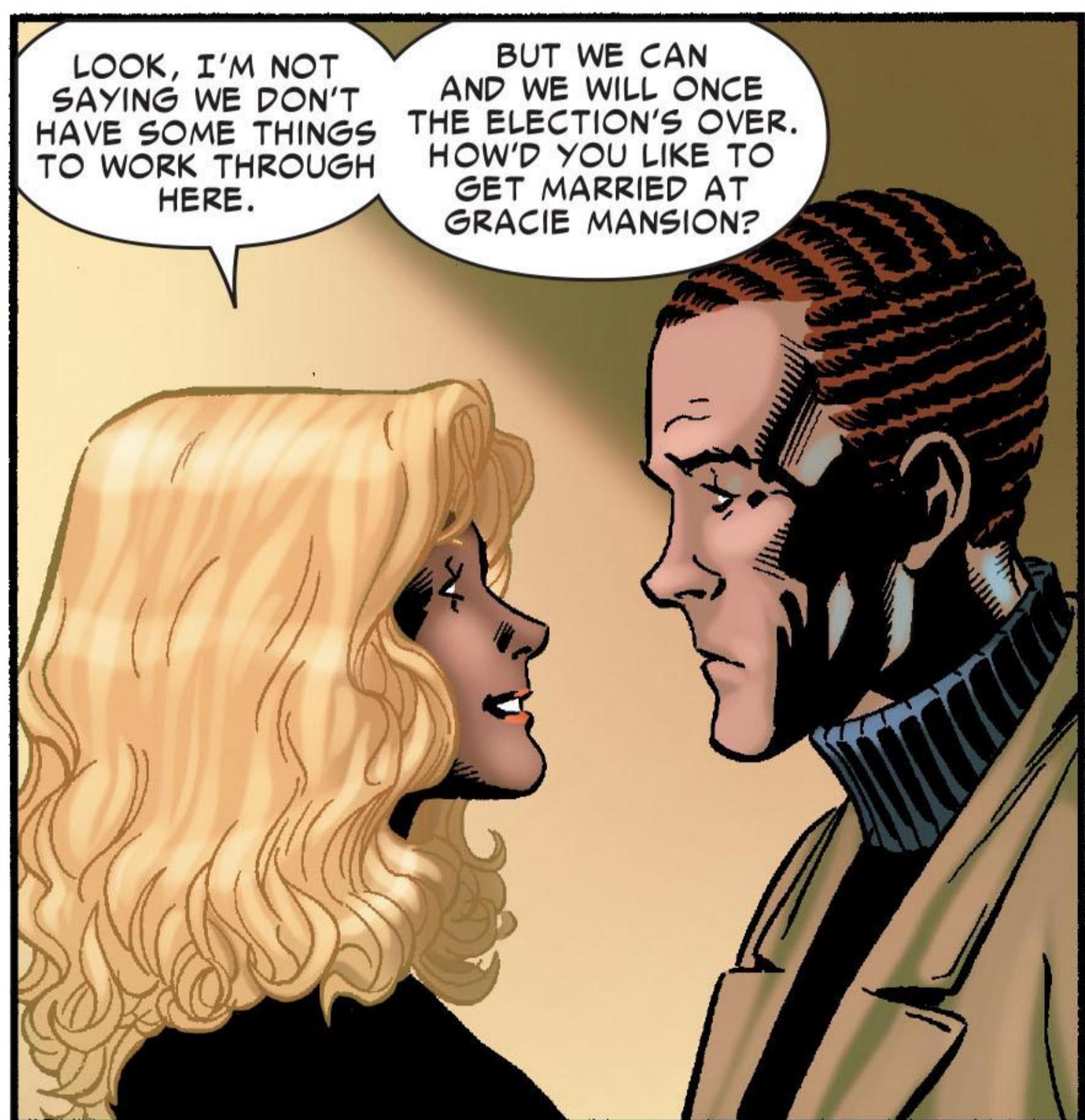
--LIKE THE ONE
I ACCIDENTALLY
KNOCKED OVER--













Epilogue.





Next: The Prisoner
Of Cell Block Hell!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Send e-mail to

SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM

(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)

It's been exactly 40 issues since we first met Menace and finally we're able to bring you her back story. We've been keeping this under wraps since Spidey started his Brand New Day but it sure wasn't easy. Over the last year, several of you guessed Menace's identity, which isn't surprising since there's only so many suspects in the book and it's pretty difficult to make a reveal a complete surprise with 75,000 or so people guessing each week. So to everyone who figured it out, congrats!

I've been looking through the Spidey mail archives this week and while the most popular guess overall was DB! Publisher Dexter Bennett (here's a little known fact: Bennett was originally going to be named "Sinclair S. Sinclair." True story.) several of you correctly figured out it was Lily. Among the other popular guesses were Vin, Harry, Carlisle and the gone but not forgotten Mary Jane!

While digging around in the old mail, I dug up the VERY first correct guess and I've been saving it for almost a year. Finally I can run it here! And just watch how much he gets right.

Take it away Matt Hoek!

Hey Spidey-Gang!

Since the return of the letter column, I've seen very little speculation as to who Menace really is, so I decided to throw in my theory. Assuming that we have been introduced to the person who is Menace, then I think I might have a good idea as to who SHE is: Lily Hollister.

Now you probably think I'm crazy (And I probably am...), but here's why I think what I think: After Lily began dating Harry, she stumbled upon his old Goblin stuff somewhere in his office at Oscorp. She realized that this equipment could help her get what she wants: Her father to be mayor. She knew that with this equipment she would be able to kill Parfrey, who would have otherwise won the election in a landslide. She would then use her charm to convince her father to join the race. It's also quite mysterious that the writers of the book draw, otherwise unnecessary, attention to the fact that Lily isn't at Hollister's

speech at the FEAST program, where Menace attacks. Harry doesn't seem to think that Menace will go after Lily (Which leads me to believe that Harry is on to her secret), and she's not afraid to call "him" out.

But just look at all the holes in my theory, and watch as I try to fill them in:

1) *Menace is a guy. Lily is a girl.* It wouldn't be completely impossible for Lily to hide her woman-ness, now would it? (Zelda was able to fool everyone into thinking she was a man in the Legend of Zelda games, after all)

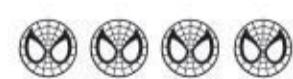
2) *Lily and Harry spent the night together the night Menace first appeared!* Uh...not necessarily. Lily said that they spent the night together. If Harry had an alibi, then so would she.

3) *Menace tried to kill Hollister!* Lily wouldn't kill her dad. Not once in Menace's confrontation with Hollister did (s)he lay his/her hands on the mayoral candidate. (S)He certainly didn't give Lisa Parfrey a choice: Menace just grabbed her and killed her. So I believe that Lily and her father staged the event to draw attention off of either of them.

Feel free to print this letter, and to tell me how terribly wrong I am.

Matt Hoek
Via e-mail

Aside from a few details here and there, that's pretty spot on, Matt, so congratulations...and sorry I had to wait a year to print this. Since you're so smart...can you figure out how to fix my 401k?

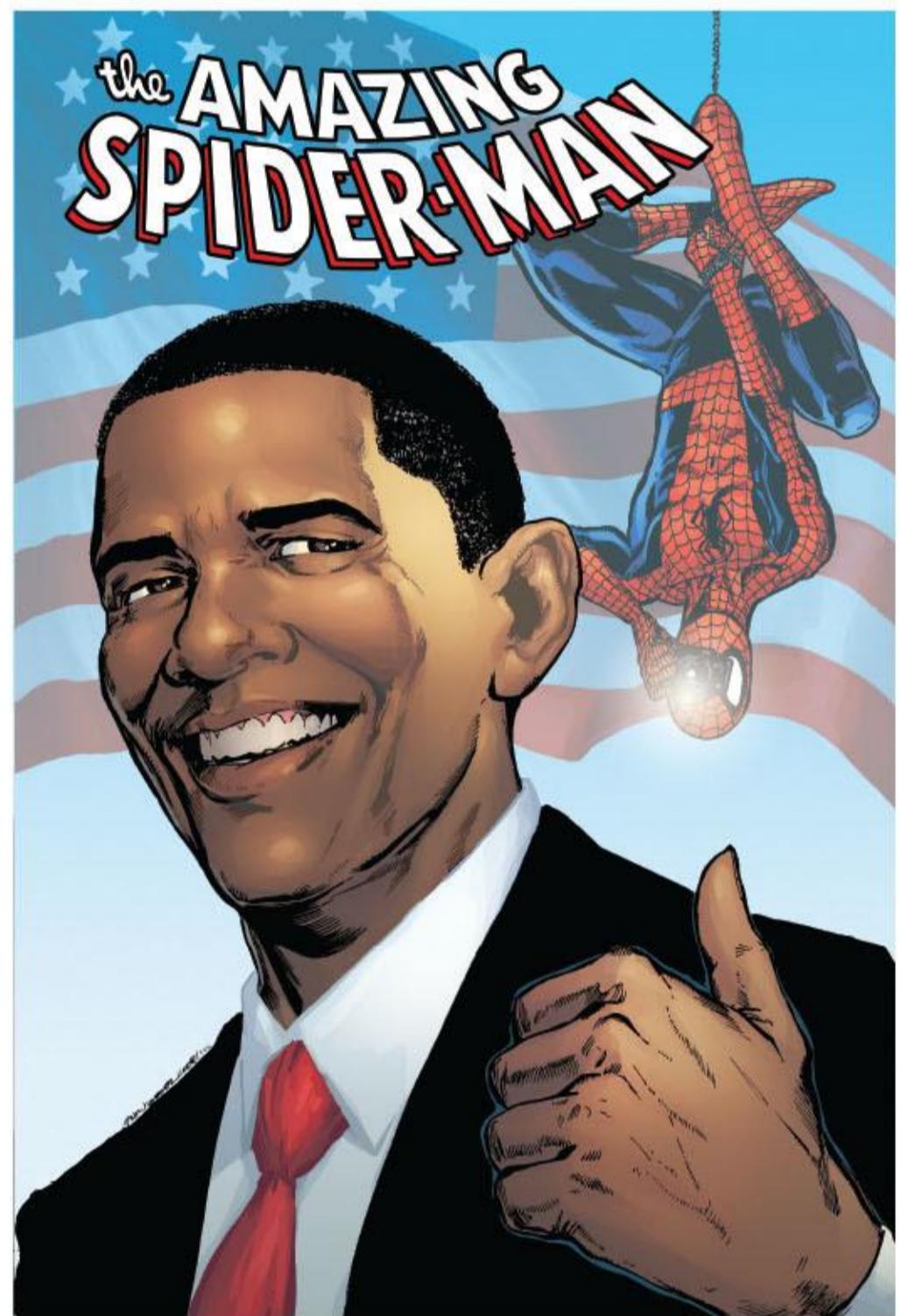


Last week I told you that the now classic ASM #583 (with the variant cover featuring Spidey and Spidey-Fan-In-Chief President Barack Obama) was entering its third printing and by time you read this we will have gone to a stunning fourth printing! We continue to be dazzled by the excitement around the issue and thank everyone for braving the cold to find one.

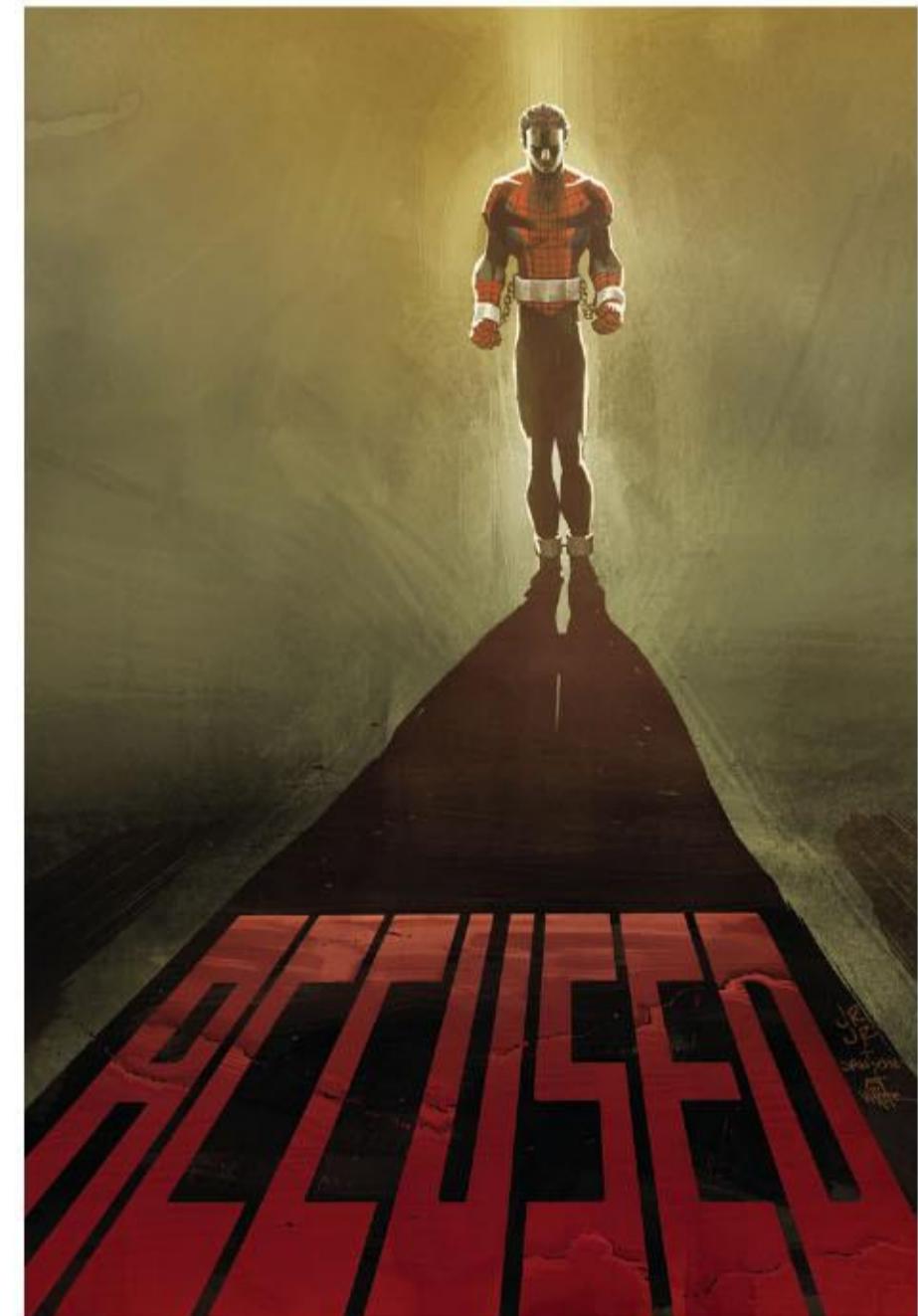
If you couldn't find one of the first two printings, worry not because we've taken steps to make sure the later printings are special in their own right with different color schemes and new Spidey dialogue. Plus the regular cover by John Romita Senior is amazing in its own right and definitely worth adding to your collection.

So no matter which one you manage to pick up, we think you've got something special in your grubby hands.

And as a special treat here's a Spidey mini-pin-up extra...a look at the third printing cover for everyone who hasn't seen it.



And now with the interlude over, we'll see everyone back here in a week for part 3 of Character Assassination.



See ya in seven!

Viva Eliopoulos!
Simperin' Steve

Tom Brennan
Asst. Editor

Virtual Calligraphy
Production

Stephen Wacker
Editor

Joe Quesada
Editor in Chief

Tom Brevoort
Executive Editor

Dan Buckley
Publisher

DARK REIGN

AVENGERS

THE INITIATIVE

DISASSEMBLED
EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW



RAMOS
delgado

AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AFTER STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS DESTROYED DURING A TELEVISED FIGHT BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND A GROUP OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS, A FEDERAL SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WAS PASSED. ALL INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES MUST NOW REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE HAS SET IN MOTION THE INITIATIVE, A PLAN FOR TRAINING AND POLICING SUPER HEROES IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD, INTENDED TO POSITION A LOCAL SUPER HERO TEAM IN EACH OF AMERICA'S FIFTY STATES.



GAUNTLET



BARON VON BLITZSCHLAG



TIGRA



TRAUMA



THOR GIRL



ULTRAGIRL



MUTANT ZERO



TASKMASTER



KOMODO



CONSTRICCTOR



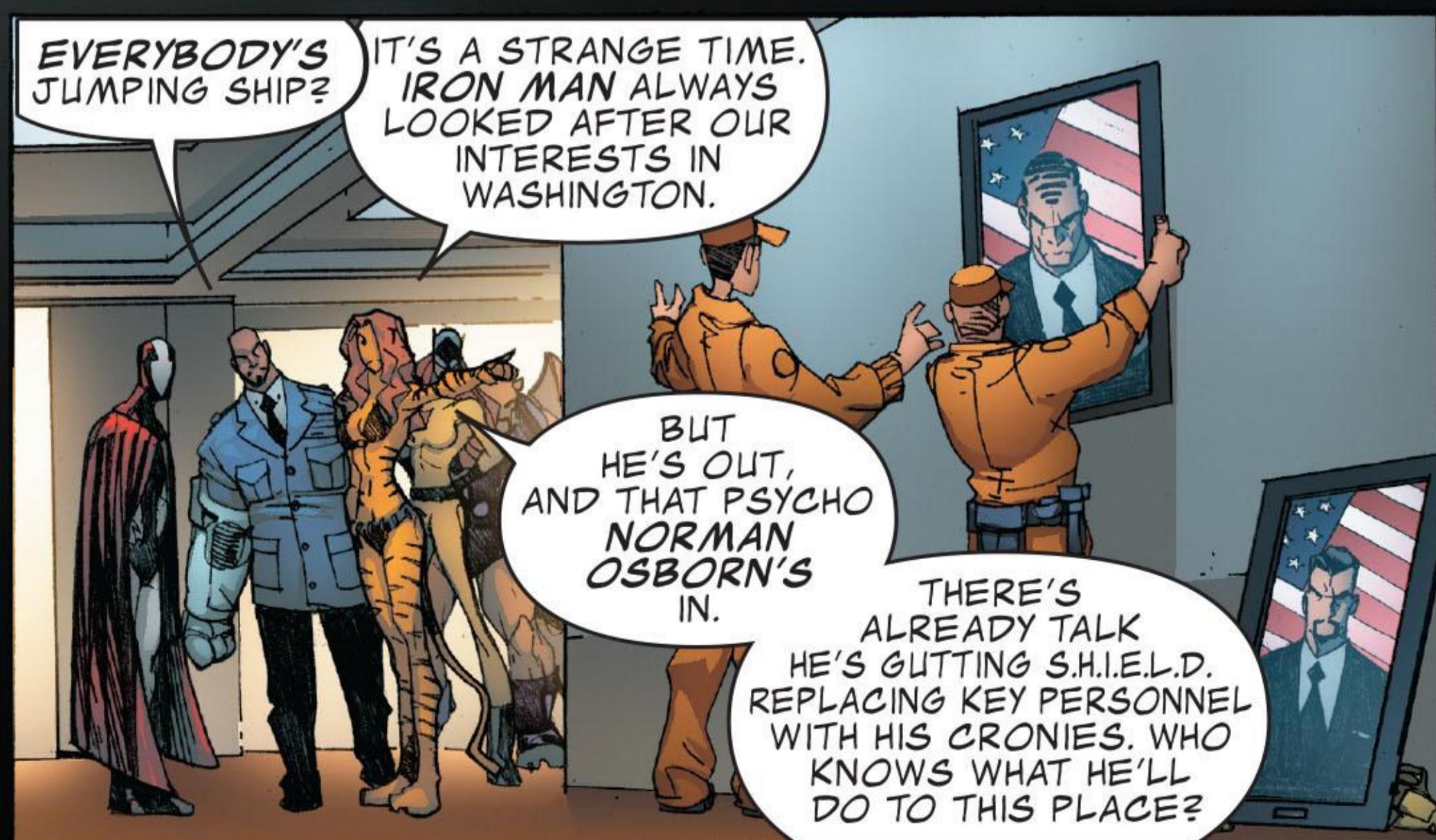
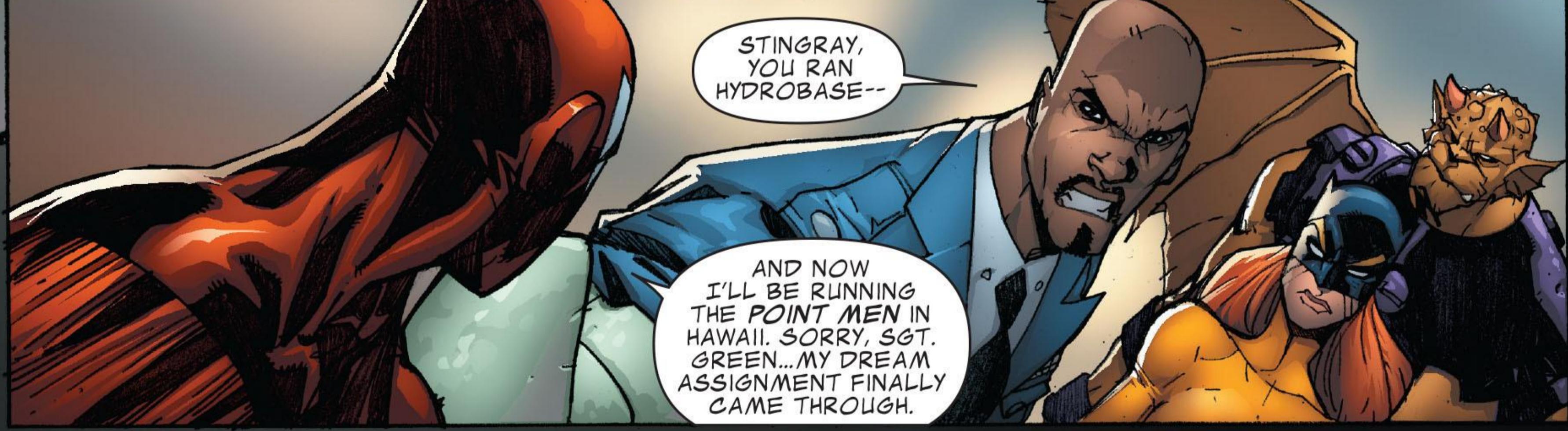
BENGAL

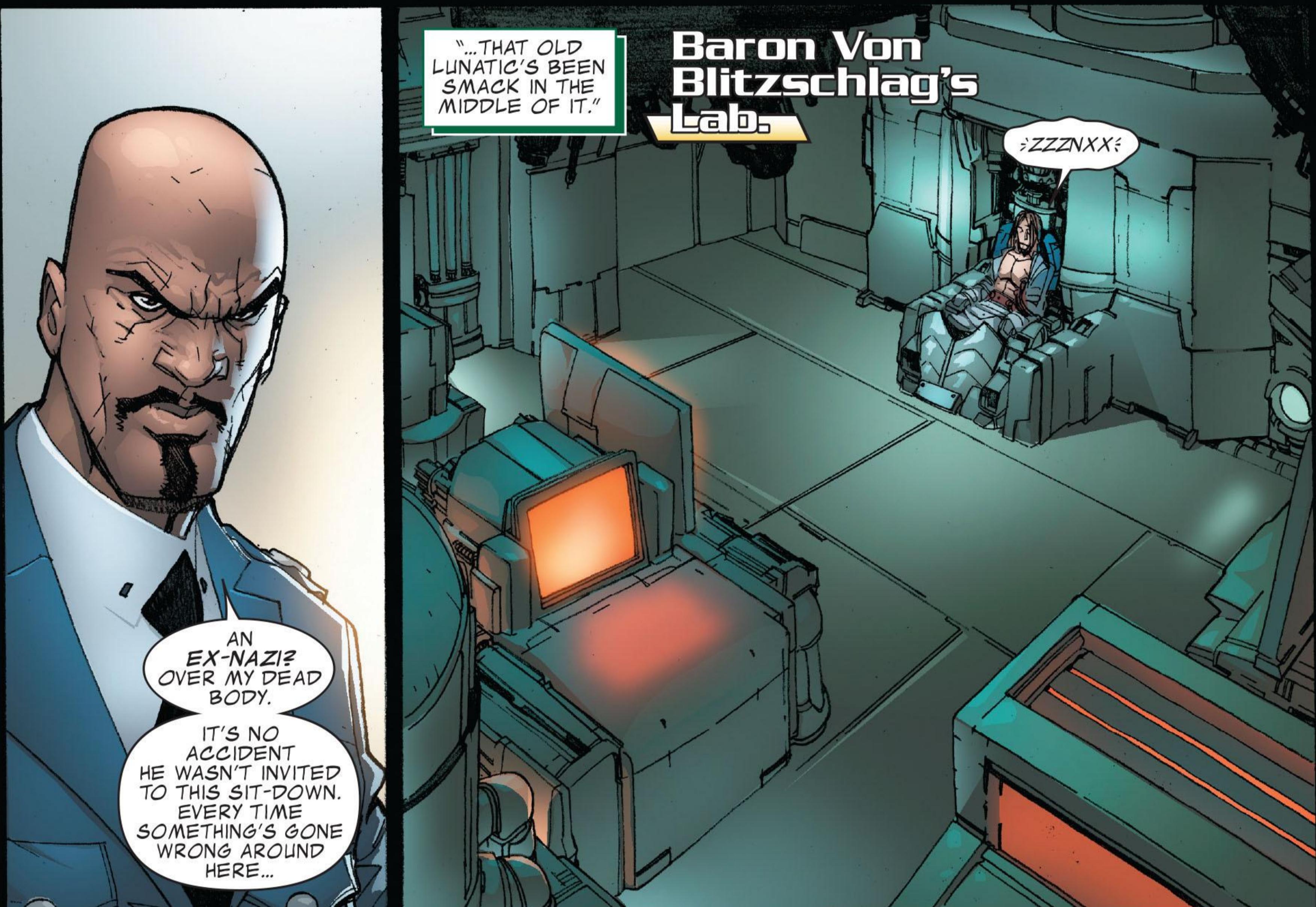
In the aftermath of the Skrull invasion, Camp Hammond has been hit the hardest. Some of its staff and dozens of members of the Fifty State Initiative had been replaced by Skrull impersonators, the full extent of which has finally been revealed as the real heroes have been returned to Earth. Tony Stark, the father of the Initiative, has been removed from his position as Director of S.H.I.E.L.D. and replaced by Norman Osborn, the former villain Green Goblin.

The current class has to come to grips with the Skrulls in their midst, and deal with what it means for their relationships with the impostors...and how they're going to move on with the skrulls' now-returned counterparts.

Camp Hammond.

Senior Staff Emergency Meeting.





...RAGNAROK...
...IT'S
BEAUTIFUL.

AVENGERS

THE INITIATIVE
DISASSEMBLED

PART 1

CHRISTOS
N. GAGE
SCRIPT

HUMBERTO
RAMOS
ART

EDGAR
DELGADO
COLOR ART

VC'S JOE
CARAMAGNA
LETTERS

RAMOS &
DELGADO
COVER ART

JEANINE
SCHAFFER
EDITOR

TOM
BREVOORT
EXEC. EDITOR

JOE
QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

The Shadow Initiative. Over The Pacific Ocean.

STAND BY,
EVERYONE.
WE'LL REACH
MADRIPUR
IN FIVE.

Constrictor

Komodo

Bengal

Taskmaster

Mutant
Zero

LISTEN...IF YOU'RE
GONNA HOLD A
GRUDGE, LET ME
KNOW AND I'LL
SCRAP YOU FROM
THE MISSION.

TAKING DOWN HYDRA
ON HOSTILE GROUND'S
HARD ENOUGH. I DON'T
NEED MY OWN PEOPLE
STABBING ME IN
THE BACK.

JUST FOR
THE RECORD,
THOUGH, YOU GOT
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT. I WON'T
TELL A SOUL.

WHAT--THAT I'M
TYPHOID MARY? THAT
I'M A NUTJOB KILLER?
THAT I USED TO FIGHT
DAREDEVIL WHEN I
WASN'T SLEEPING
WITH HIM?

LIKE I
CARE. EVERYONE
HERE FOUND OUT
DURING THE SKRULL
WAR...EXCEPT
KOMODO. SPOILER
ALERT, SWEETHEART.

HEY, WE'RE
HERE TO TAKE
DOWN MY TERRORIST
EX-BOYFRIEND.
WHO AM I TO
JUDGE?

OKAY...MIND
IF I ASK YOU
SOMETHING,
THEN?

LAST I HEARD, YOU
BUSTED OUTTA THE
JOINT. YOU COULDA
RUN...COULDA JOINED
THE HOOD'S CREW.
WHY SIGN UP WITH
THE INITIATIVE?

I HAVE FOUR DIFFERENT
PERSONALITIES. I'VE TRIED
CONTROLLING THEM...TRIED
CLOSING THEM OFF.
NOTHING WORKED.

WHEN THE
INITIATIVE STARTED,
I SAID I'D WORK FOR
'EM IF THEY GAVE ME
A PARDON...AND HELPED
ME INTEGRATE THE
PIECES OF MY
MIND.

YEAH?
HOW'S THAT
GOING?

WORK IN
PROGRESS.

YOU KNOW
THE DRILL. HALO
JUMPS, BURY YOUR
'CHUTE. STRICT RADIO
SILENCE. WE'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO BE HERE,
SO IF YOU GET CAUGHT,
WE DON'T KNOW
YOU.

YOU
MISS YOUR
PICKUP, YOU GET
LEFT BEHIND.
PERMANENTLY.

SO I
CAN'T BLOG
ABOUT
THIS?

CAN THE
SMART MOUTH,
CONSTRICTOR...

WE
...WE
GOT PLACES
TO BE.

AVENGERS
THE INITIATIVE #21
ON SALE FEBRUARY 2009