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STRACZYNSKI • DEODATO JR • PIMENTEL

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THE



THE
SPIDER

EVOLVE
OR DIE

PART 9 OF 12



MIKE
DEODATO
ROCKMAN

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PREVIOUSLY IN

MARVEL KNIGHTS SPIDER-MAN #21



Spider-Man is dead...or is he?

After a vicious battle with the enigmatic Morlun, the web-slinger was beaten, bloody, and missing an eye. But when Morlun attempted to deliver his final deathblow and literally "feed" on Spider-Man, Spidey reanimated in a burst of fury and unleashed the full force of his totemic powers. The predator suddenly became the prey, and Morlun perished—his life-force consumed, his body dissipating into dust.

The final effort ended Spider-Man's life as well...or so it seemed.

Something has now emerged from Peter Parker's cadaver, leaving behind a broken window in Avengers Tower and a hollow shell of a corpse. Now, whomever—or whatever—escaped has formed a cocoon in preparation for its next stage...

"EVOLUTION"

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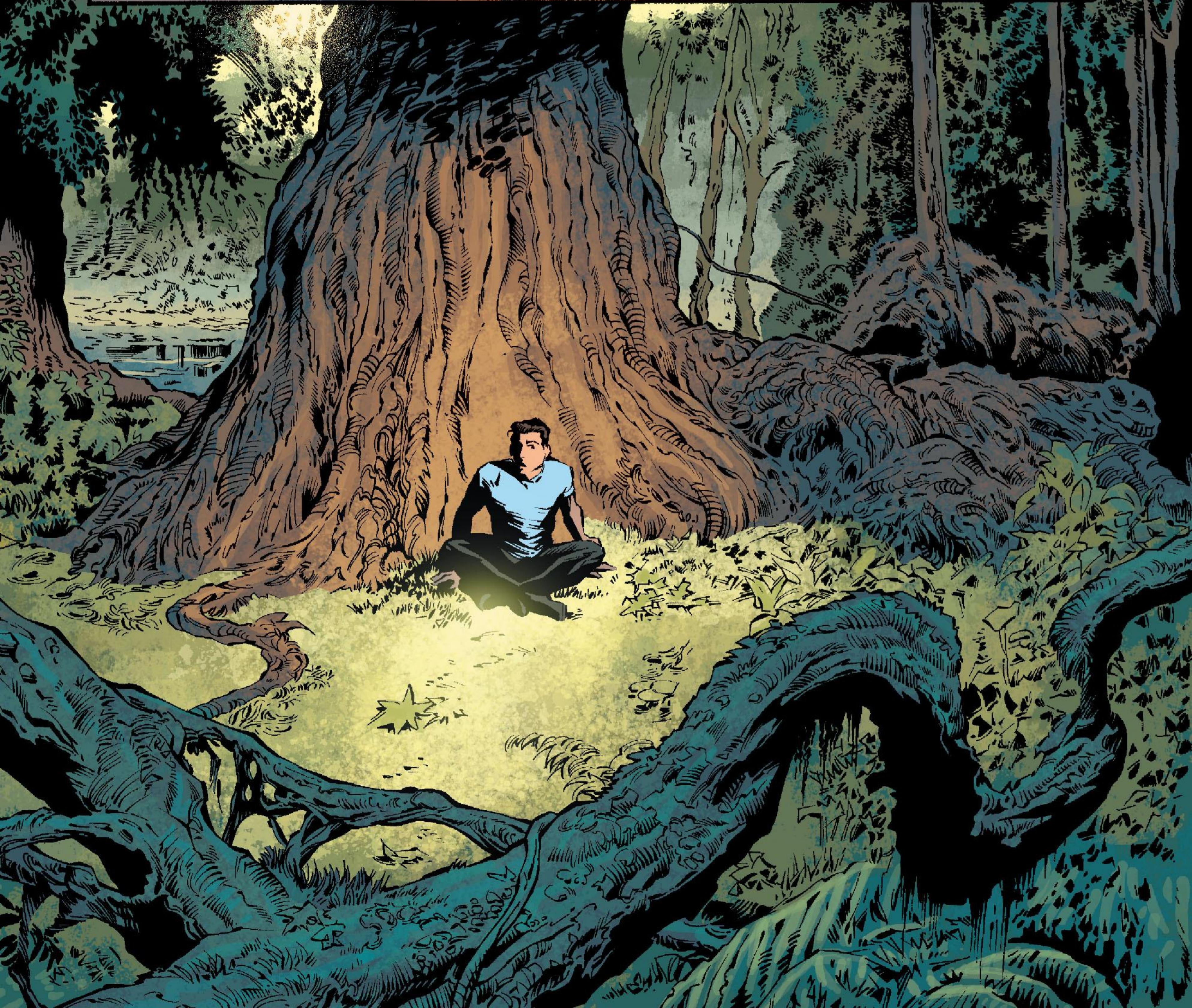
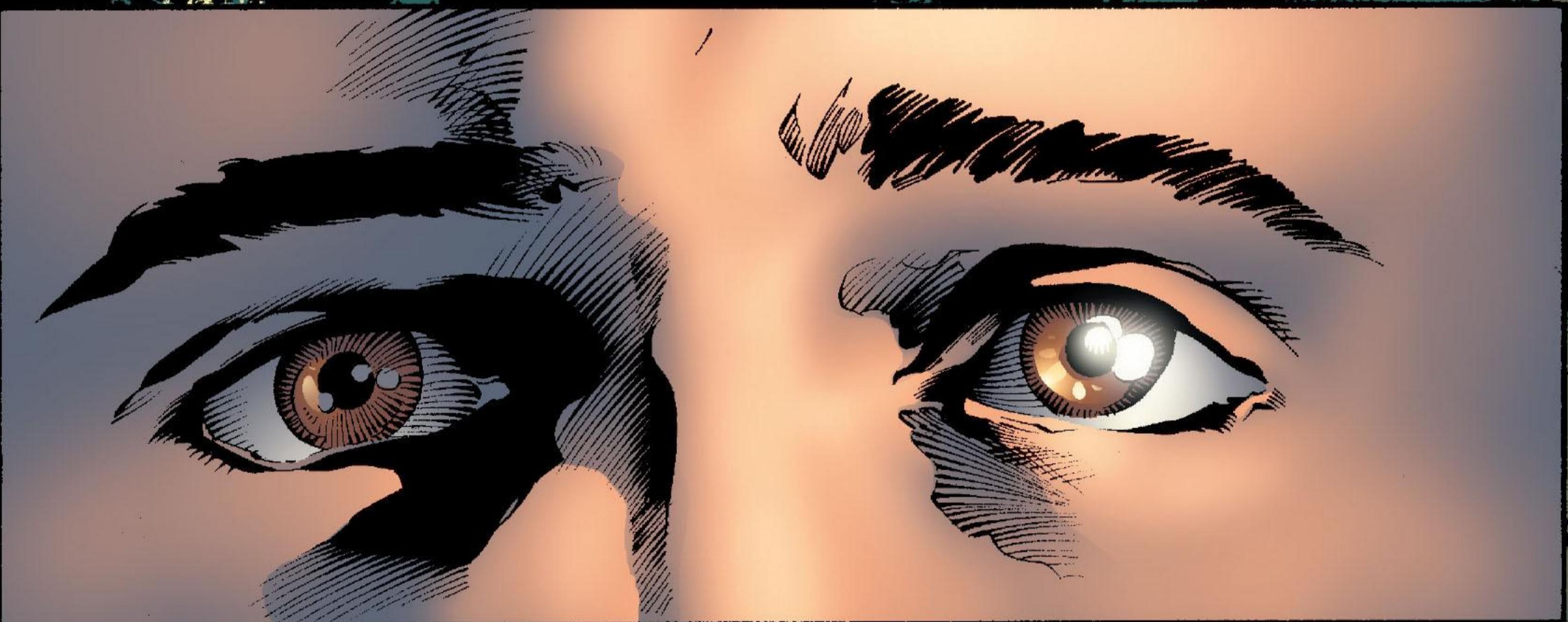
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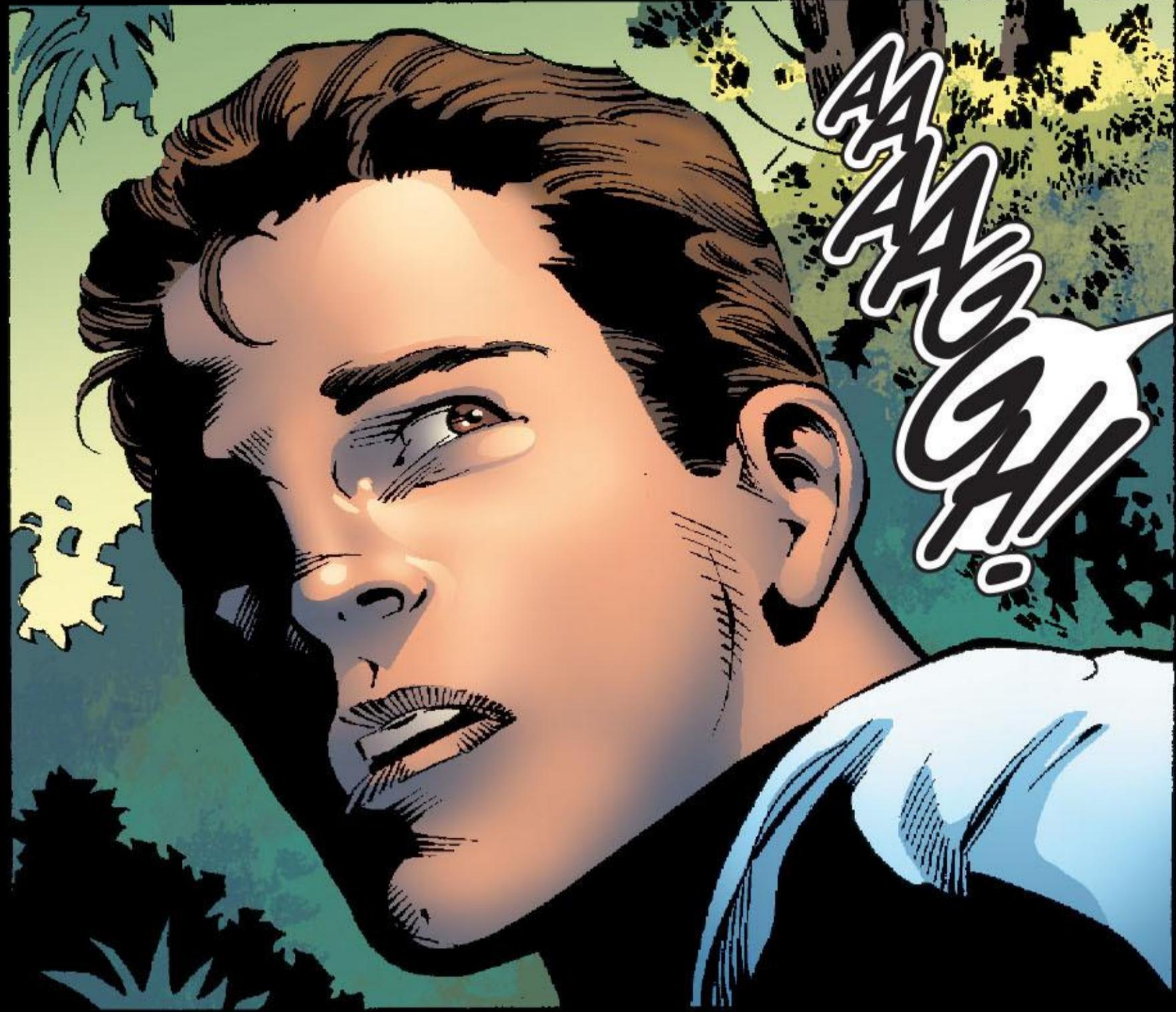


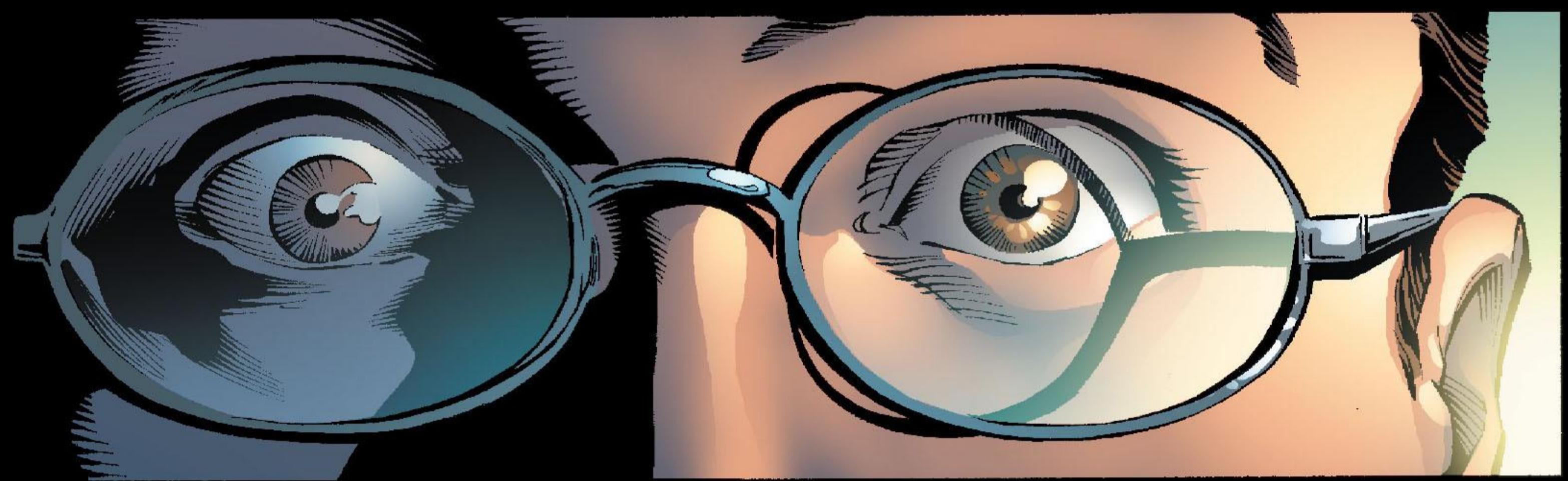


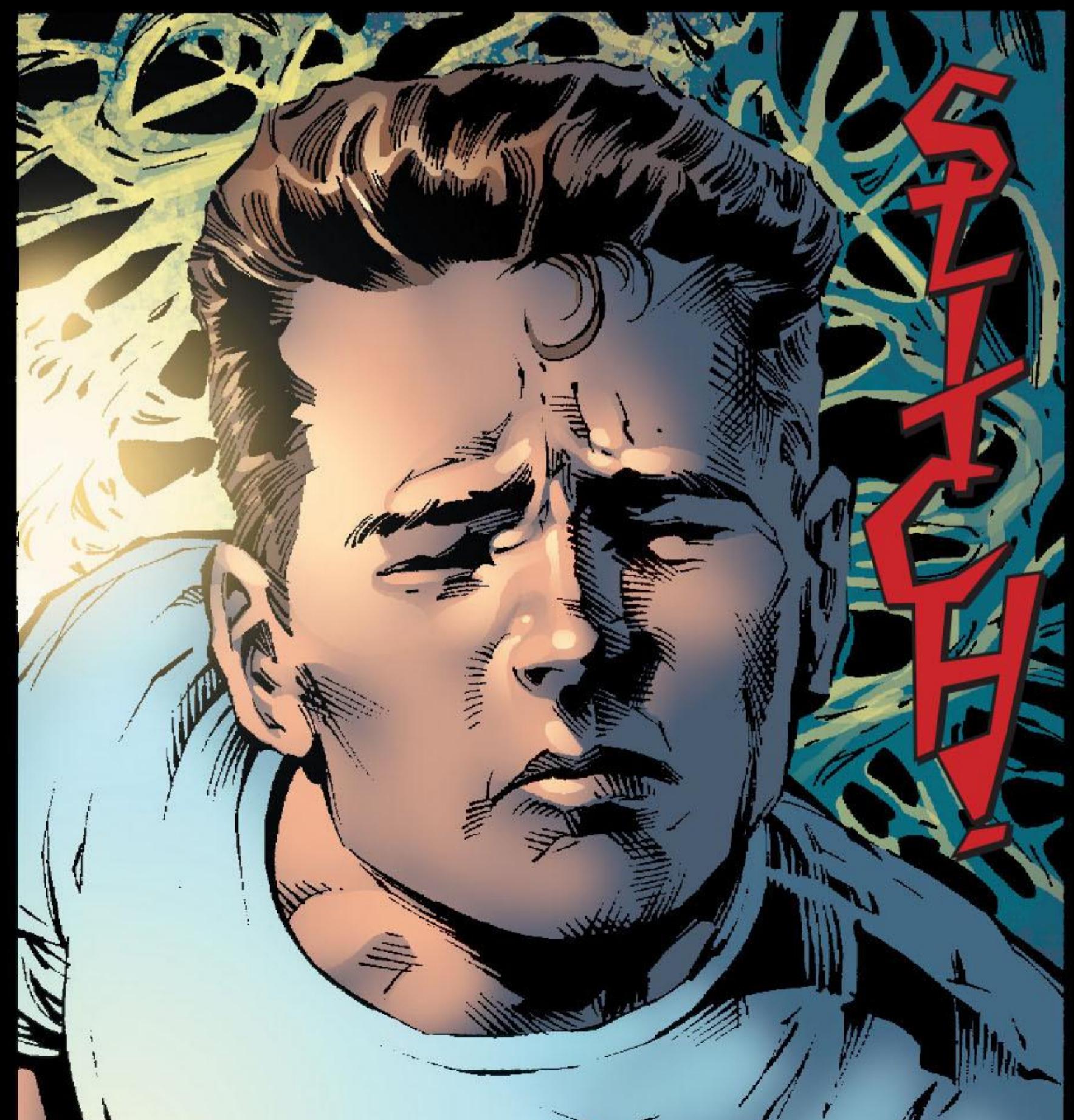
"NOTHING..."

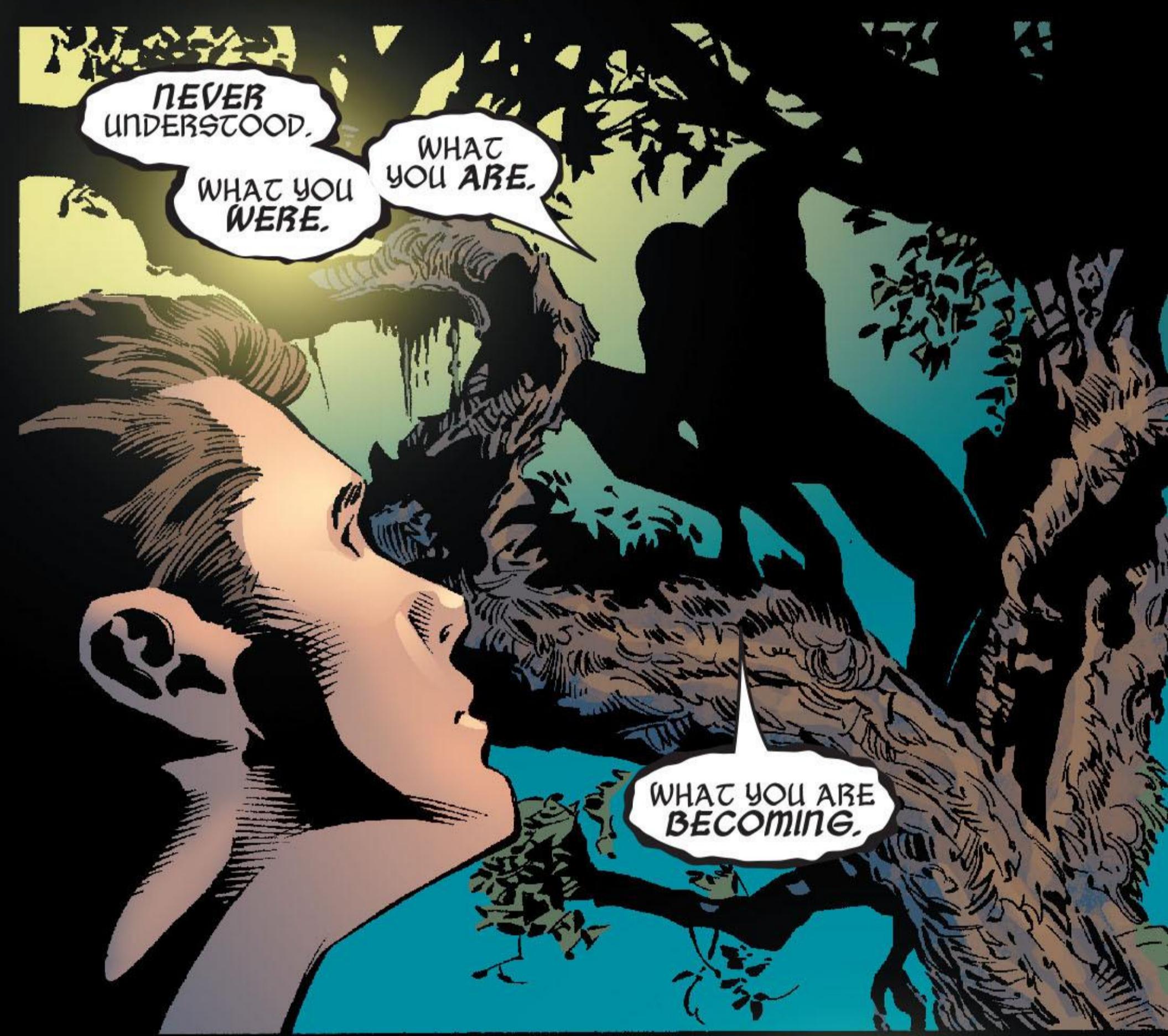












WE TAKE
THAT WHICH IS
INSIDE... AND MOVE
IT OUTSIDE...
BECAUSE THEN IT
IS SAFE.

I NEED SOME
KIND OF COSTUME...
SOMETHING THAT CAN
STOP PEOPLE FROM
SEEING MY FACE...

YOU COULD
HAVE CHOSEN TO
CONCEAL THE SOURCE
OF YOUR POWER... AS
MANY DO. ONLY YOU
KNEW THE TRUTH.

YOU COULD
HAVE CHOSEN A
THOUSAND DIFFERENT
NAMES... ALLOWING
THAT NAME AND THAT
FACE TO PROTECT THE
SECRET OF WHAT YOU
WERE INSIDE.

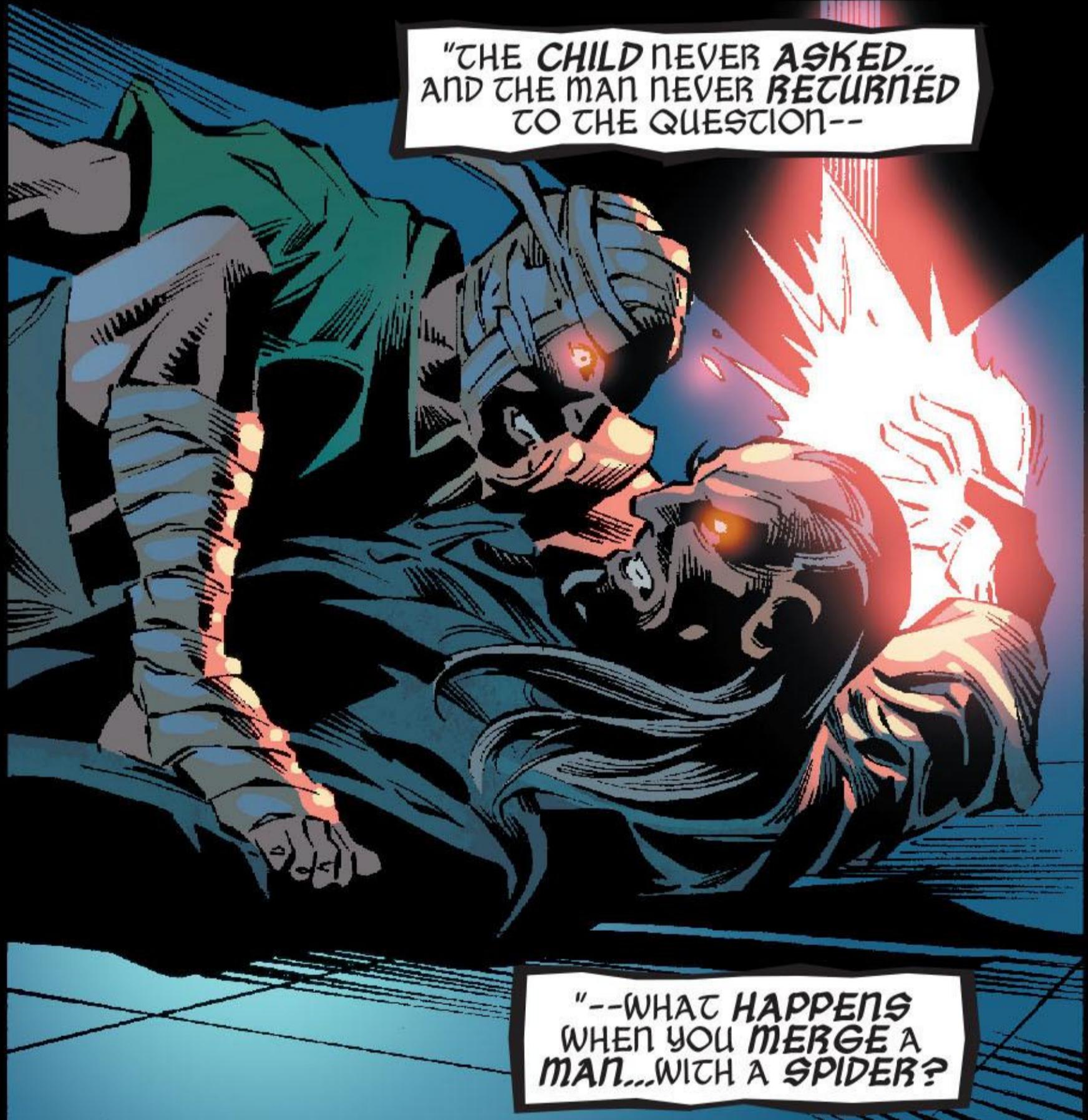
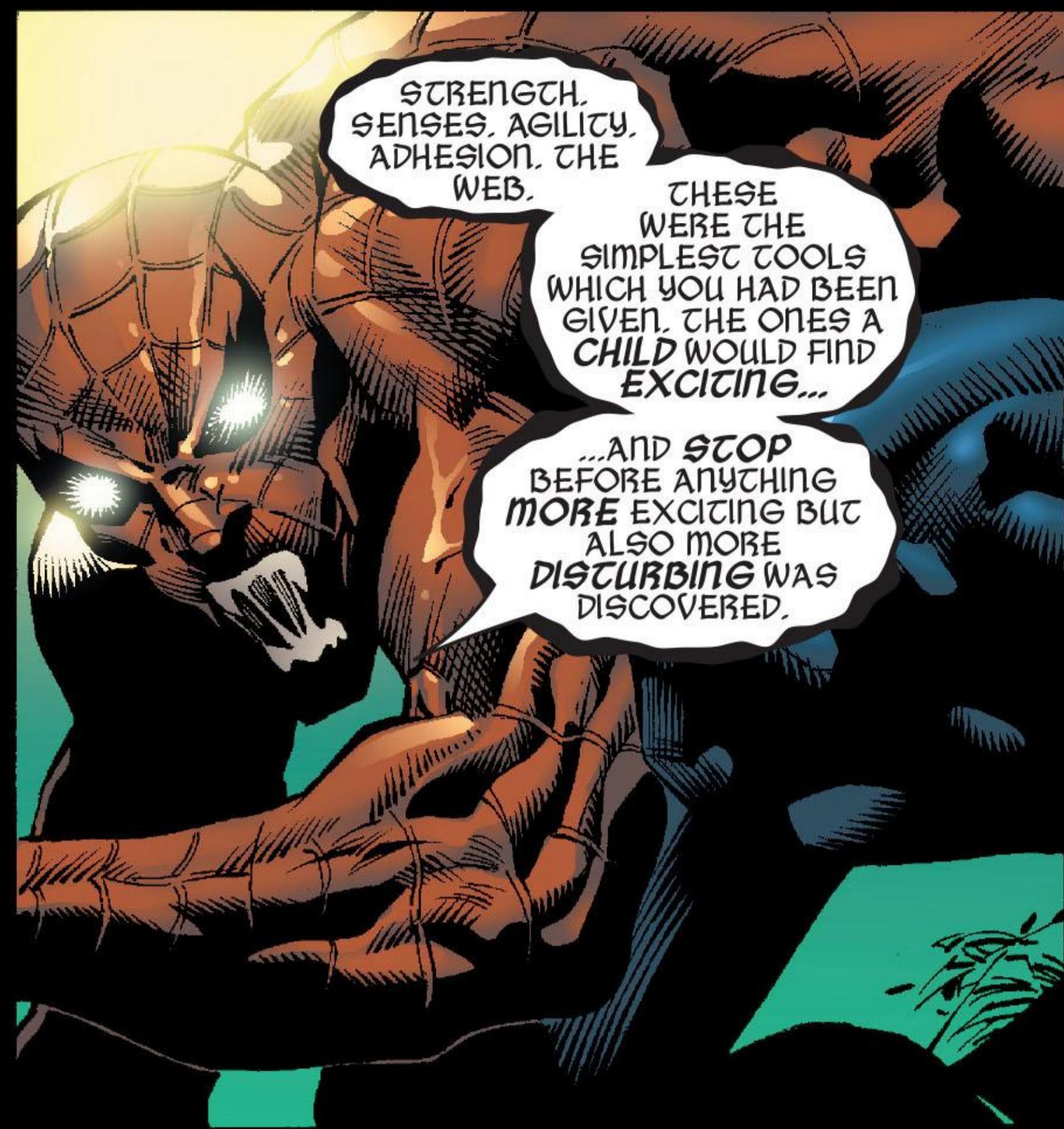
BUT YOU
CHOSE
OTHERWISE.

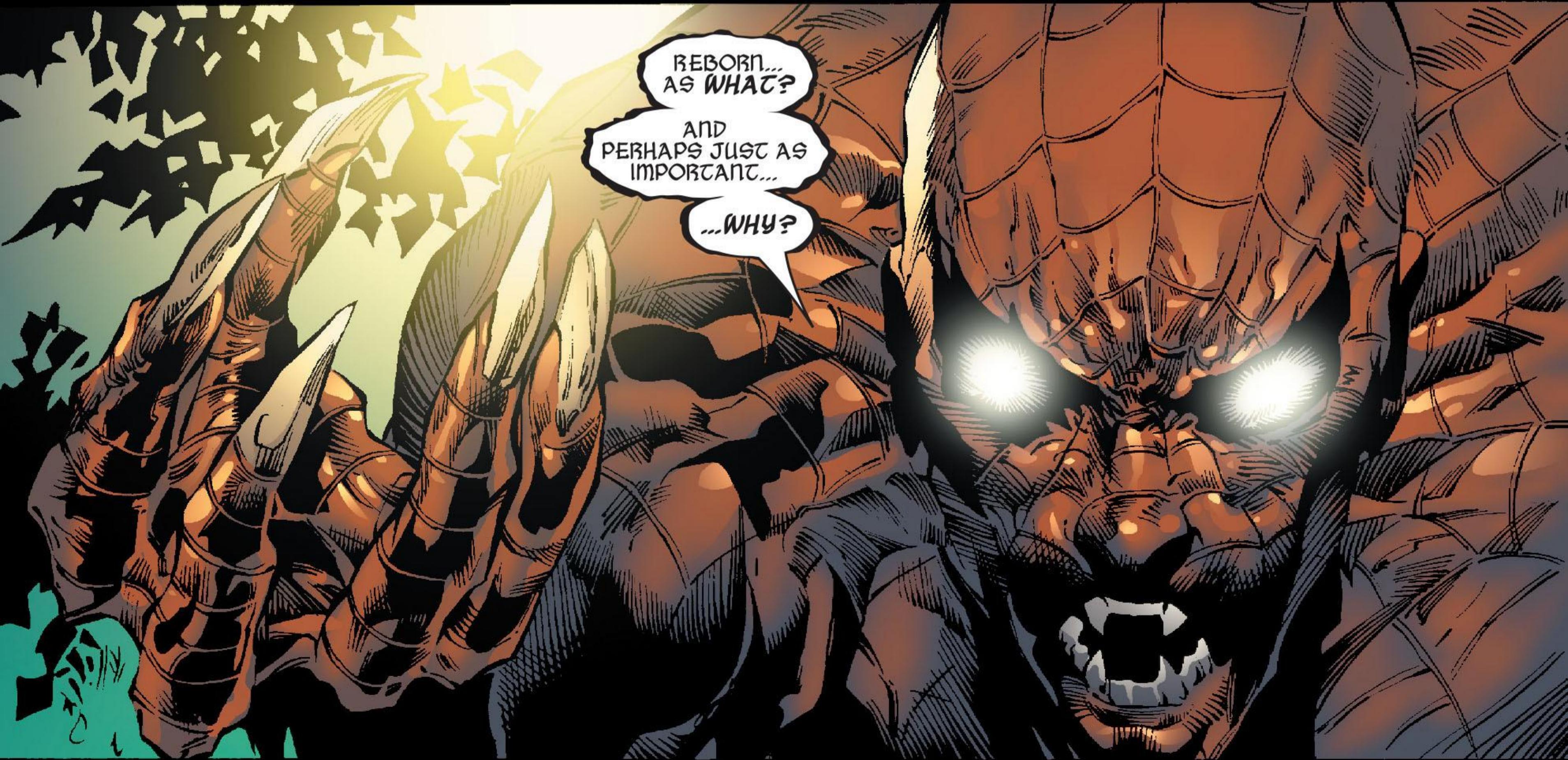
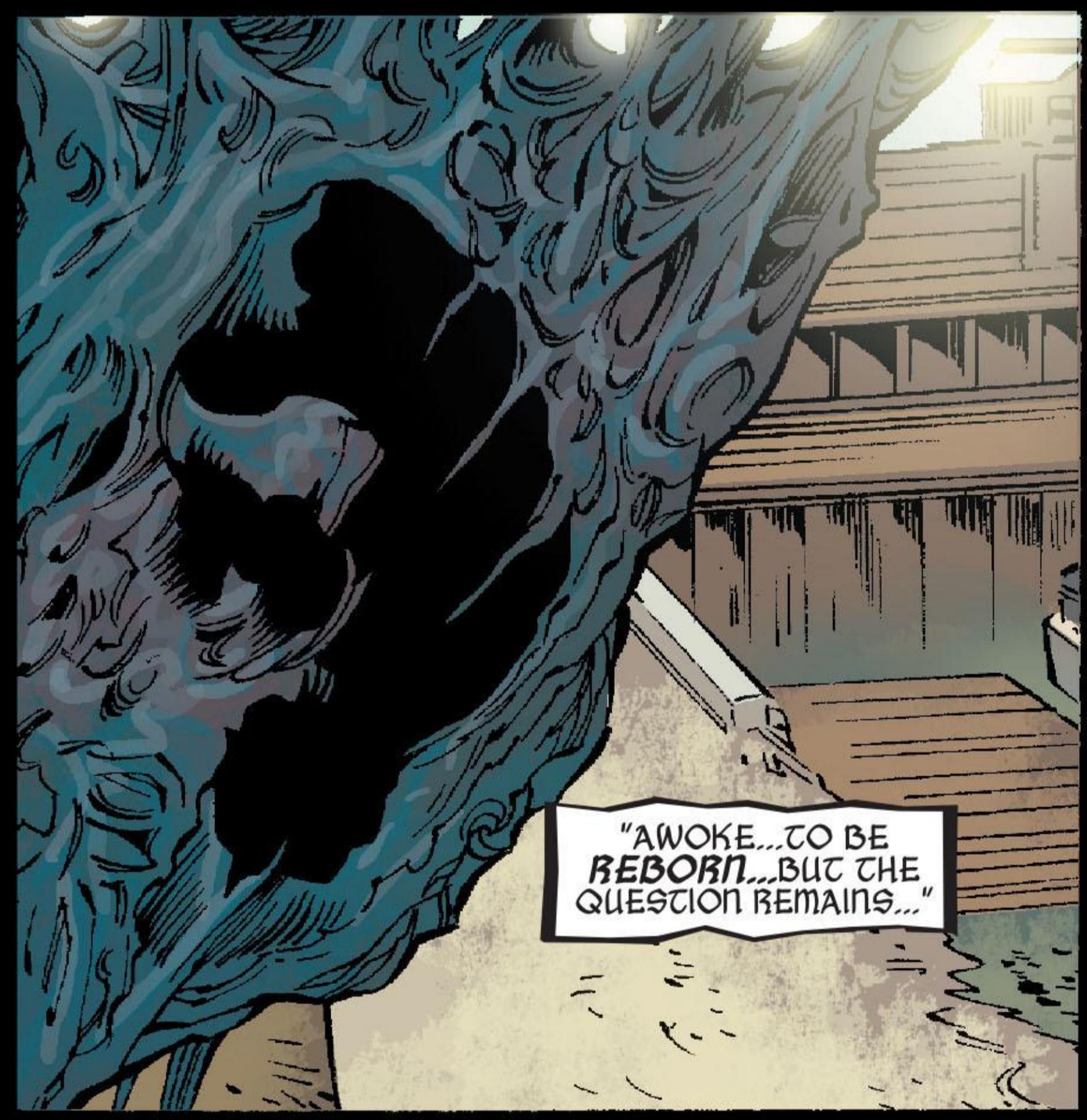
PERFECT.
THAT'S JUST
THE LOOK I
WANT.

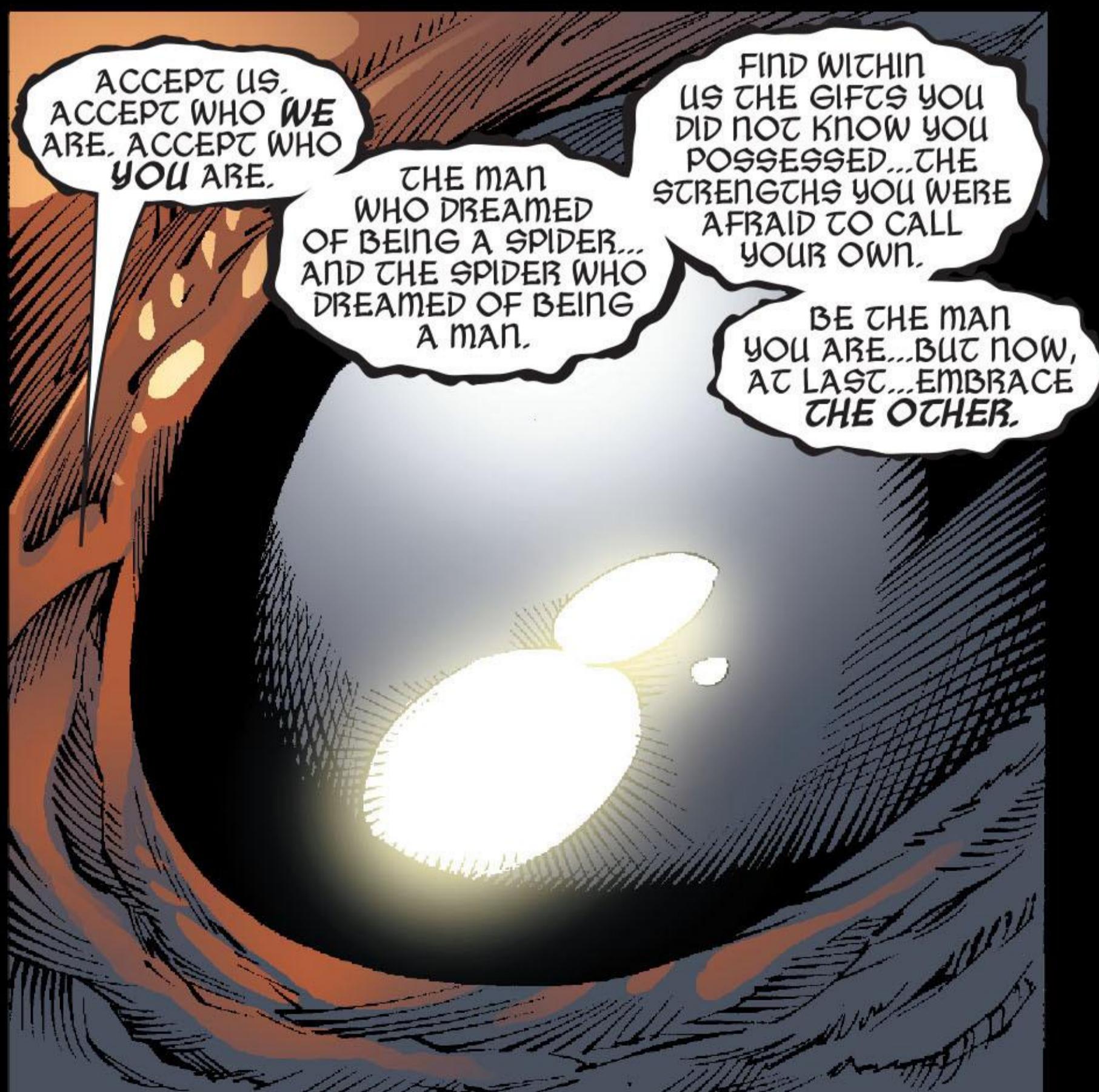
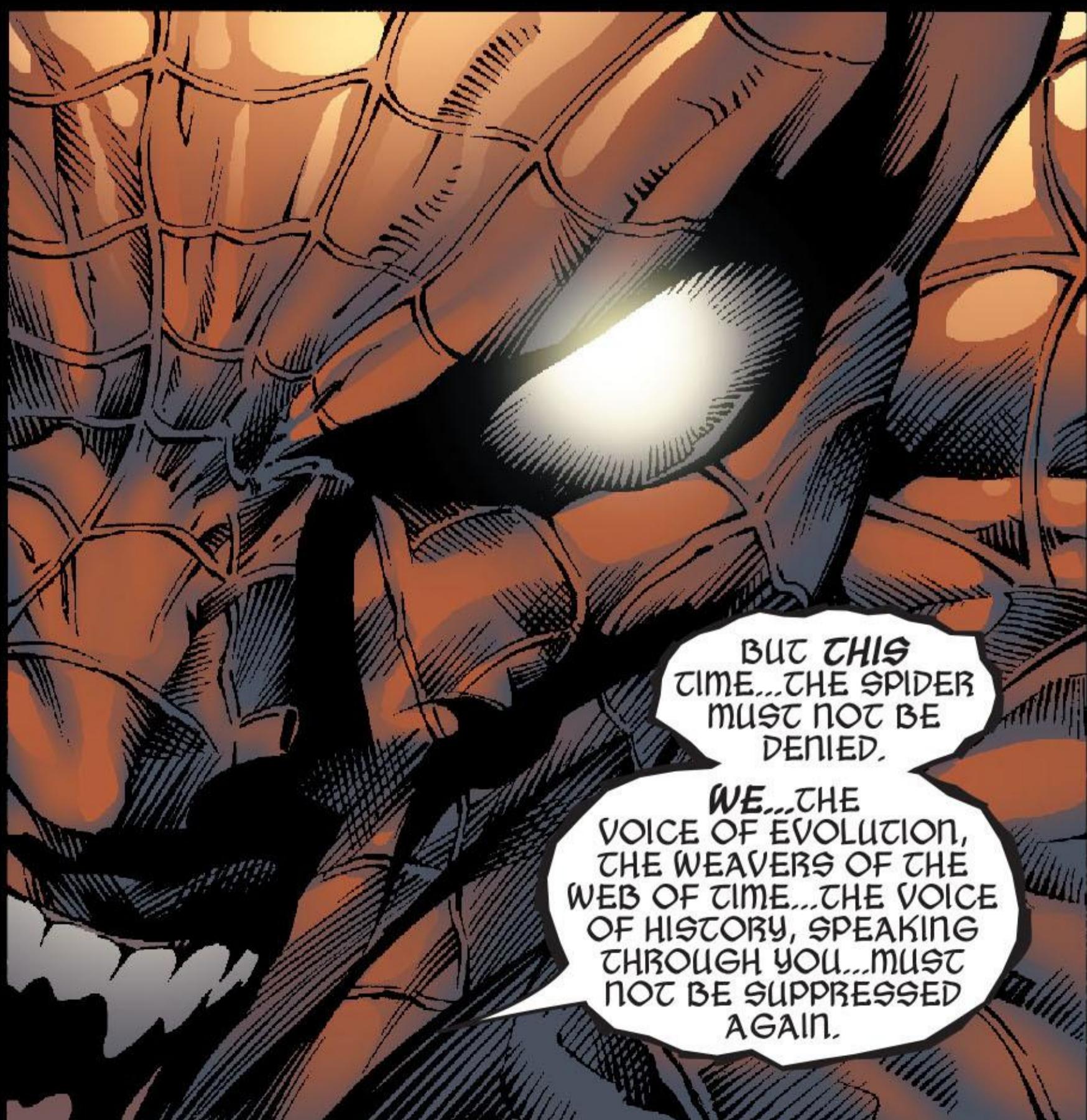
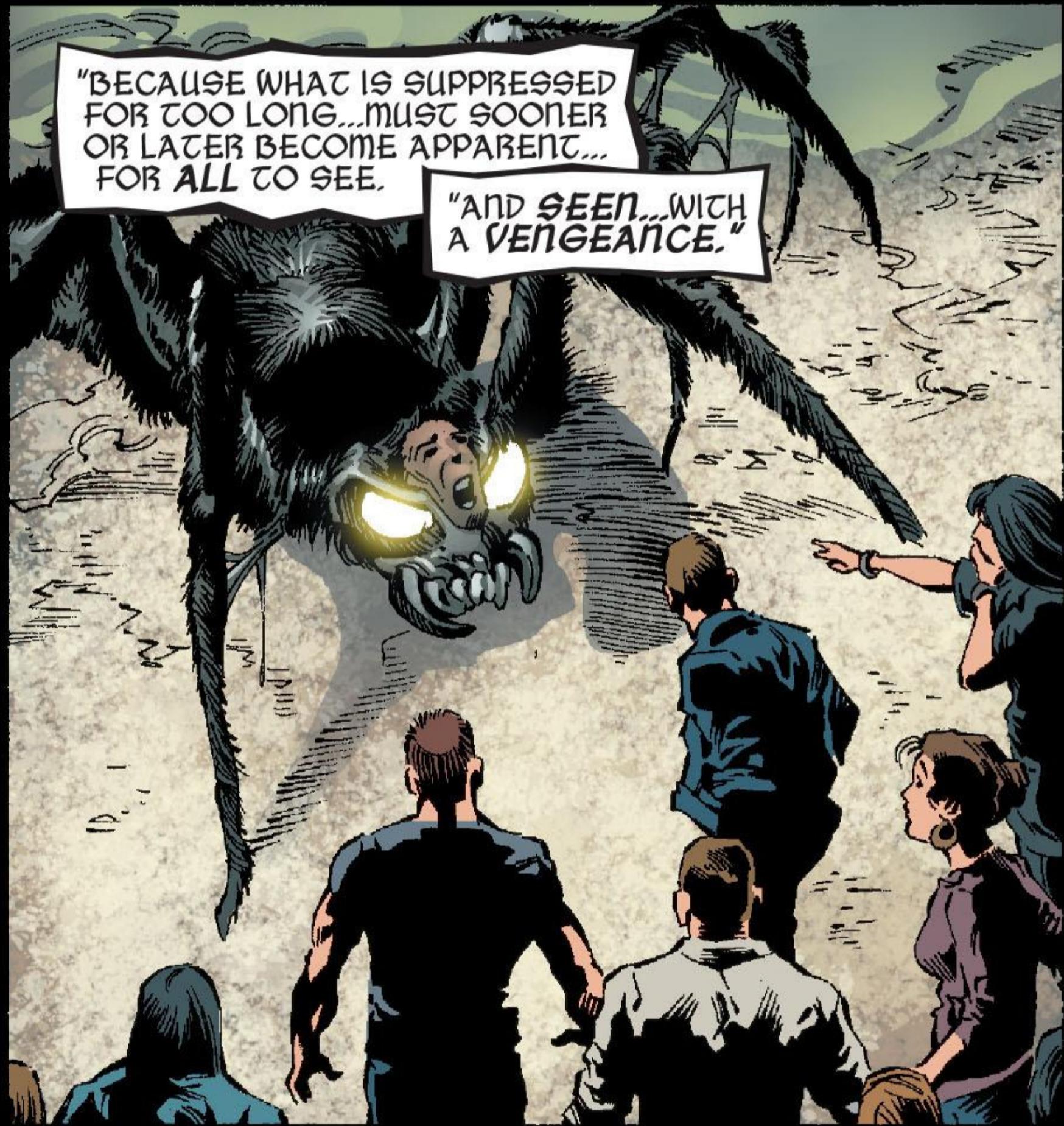
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

THE
QUESTION...
IS WHY?





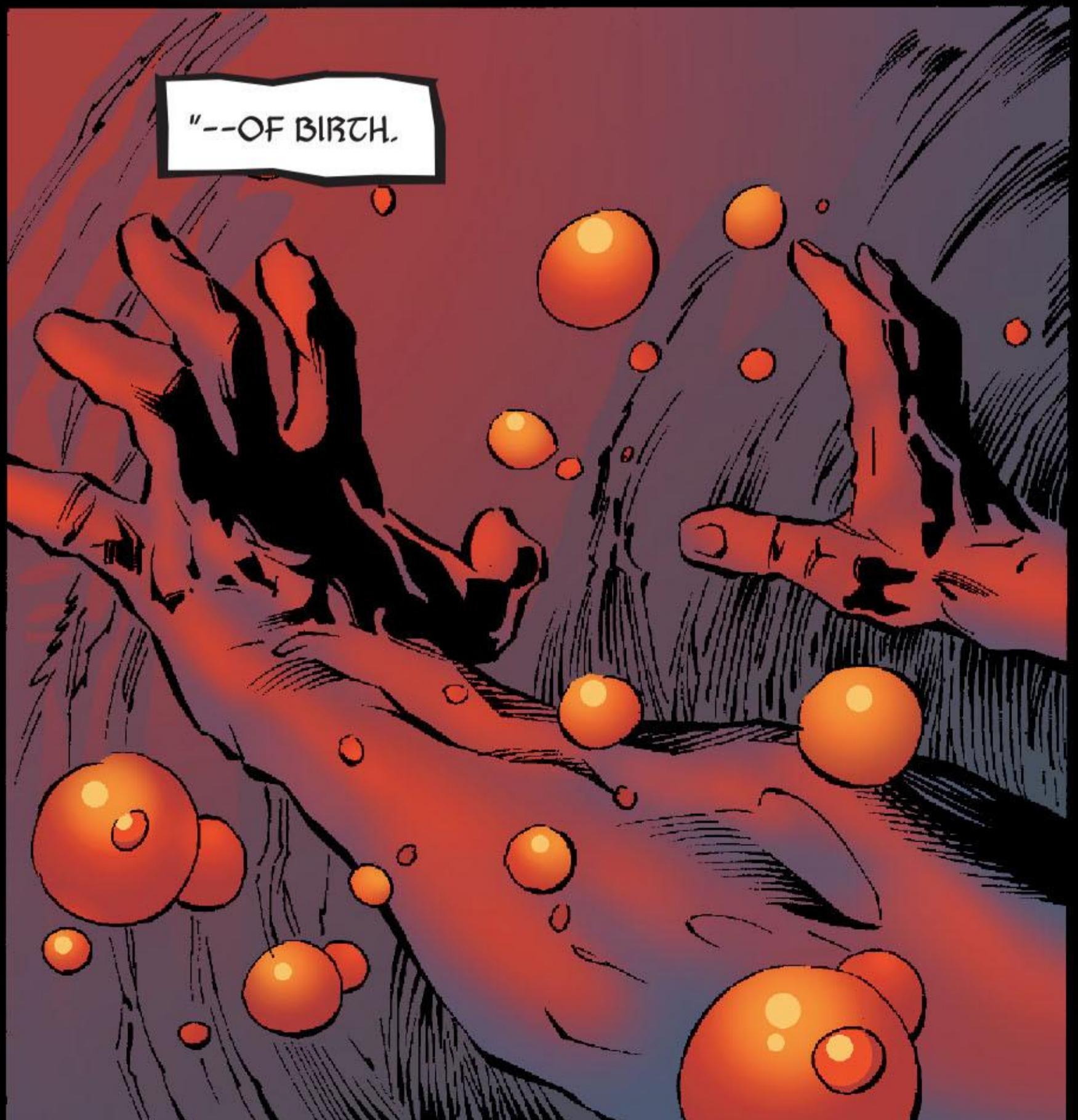
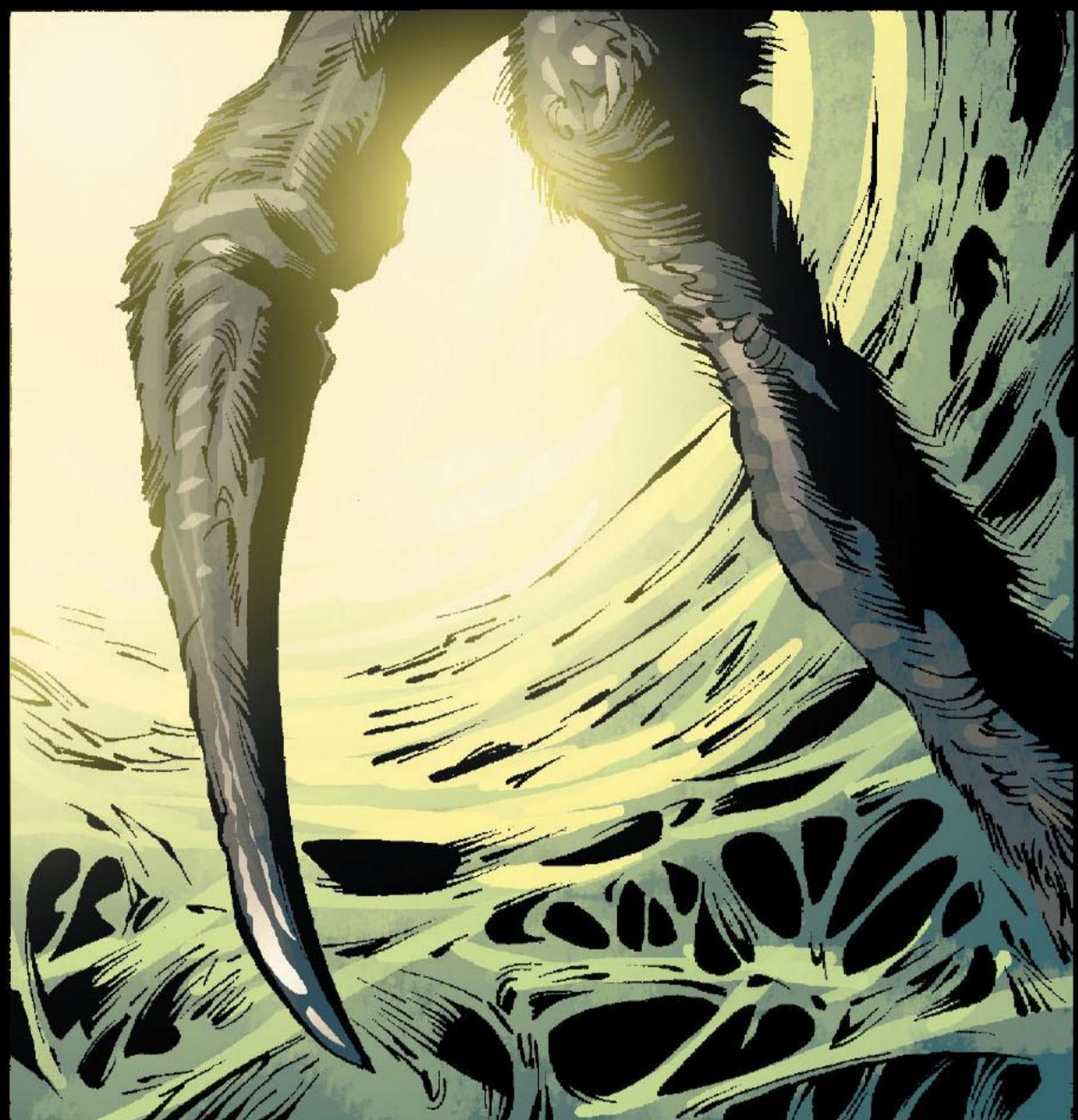


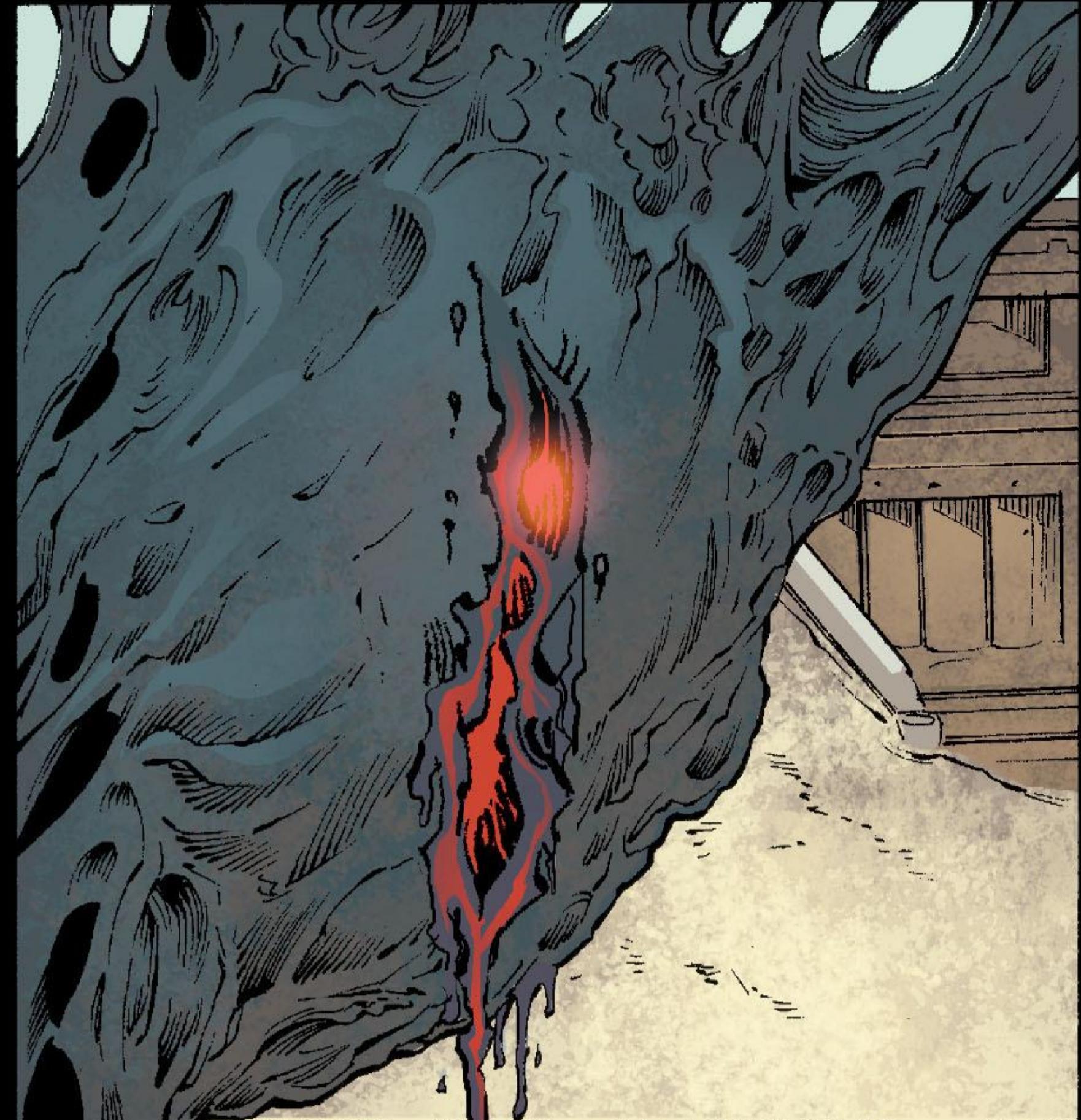




EMBRACE
US.











PETER...!

MJ...
MAY...
I'LL
NEVER LEAVE
YOU AGAIN.
NEVER.
NEVER.
NEVER.

"THERE ARE SOME
THINGS YOU HOPE FOR,
BUT YOU NEVER DARE
SPEAK OUT LOUD..."

...WHEN TONY AND I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, AND REALIZED THAT THE WINDOW HAD BEEN BROKEN FROM THE INSIDE-OUT, WE THOUGHT MAYBE--

--MAYBE THERE WAS SOME KIND OF REGENERATION PROCESS UNDERWAY, SINCE YOUR POWERS COME FROM A SPIDER, AND SPIDERS SHED THEIR SKIN ONCE IN A LIFETIME.

BUT WE DIDN'T...COULDN'T... SAY ANYTHING, IN CASE WE WERE WRONG, BECAUSE IF WE WERE...I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S A WORD FOR SOMETHING THAT CRUEL.

I KNOW, I KNOW...
YOU DID THE
RIGHT THING,
STEVEN.

HEY.

HEY.

I MISSED YOU. I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
I KNOW. I'M SORRY.

IF YOU EVER DIE ON ME AGAIN...I'LL KILL YOU.

DEAL.

SO, PETER...

...WHEN WE THOUGHT YOU WERE...GONE...WE DISPOSED OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT COMPROMISE EITHER MAY OR MJ.

THAT'S HIS FANCY WAY OF SAYING WE DITCHED ALL YOUR SPIDER-GUY OUTFITS.

ALMOST ALL OF THEM.
WE WERE SAVING ONE FOR... WELL, FOR THE MEMORIAL.
YOU CAN HAVE THAT ONE BACK NOW.





