SLOTT
ROMITA JR.
JANSON
WHITE

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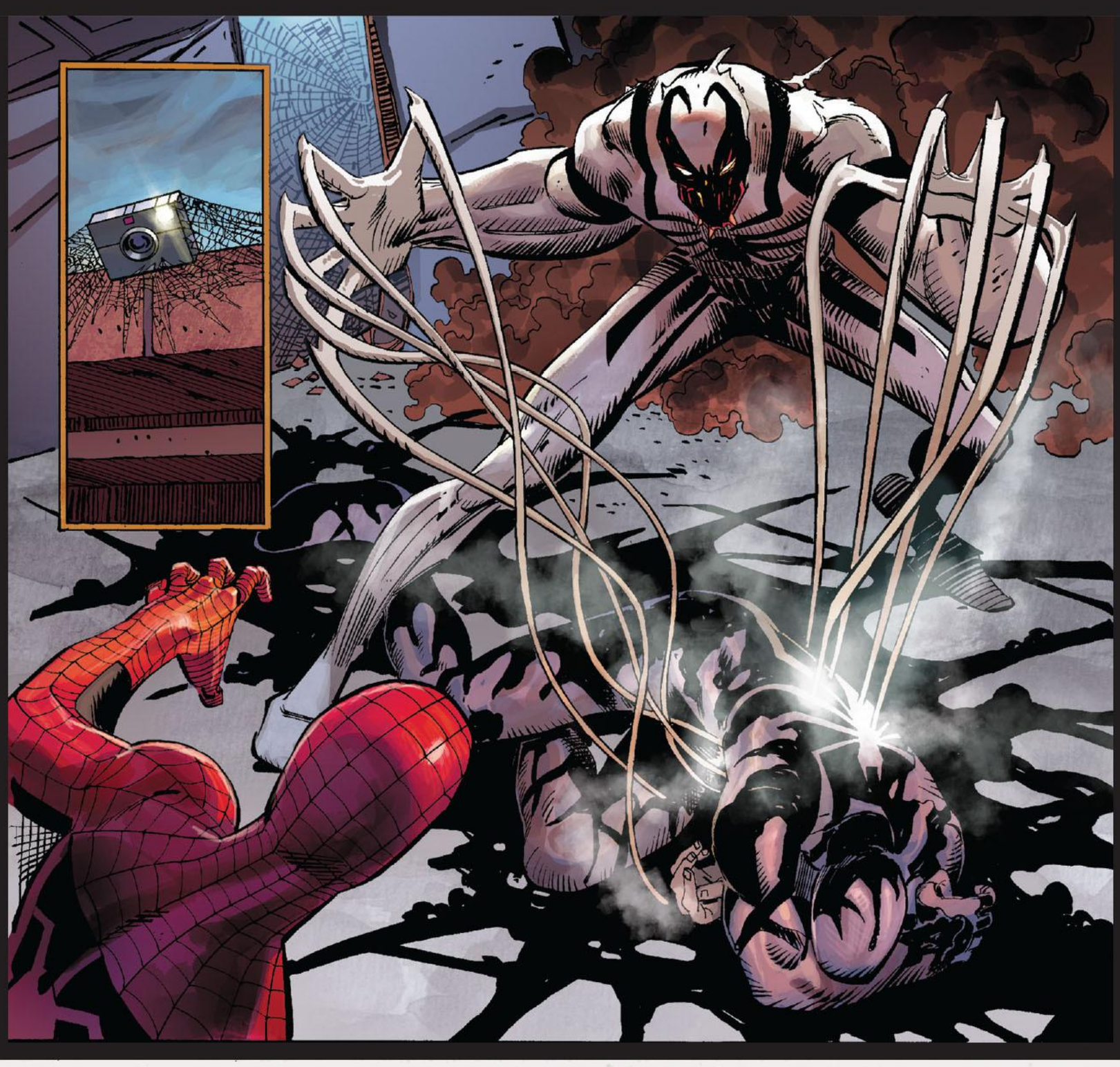
THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND *NEWS* DAY!

THE DB

HOLLISTER HEALTH SCARE? ATTACK BY "MENACE" PUTS POL IN THE E.R., CUTTING HIS LEAD IN HALF. MEANWHILE, SOURCES SAY INTERNET-SUPERCROOK SCREWBALL ESCAPED ARREST TRYING TO SNEAK INTO OSCORP BUILDING TO INVESTIGATE FREAKISH SOUNDS. MORE ON PAGE N53

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 • WEDNESDAY

A VENOMOUS STREET FIGHT!



Eddie Brock, the former host to the Venom Symbiote, has found himself cured of cancer thanks to the mysterious healing powers of the F.E.A.S.T. center's Martin Li. But the cure came with a price as Eddie transforms into a newer, purified Symbiote, ANTI-VENOM! As he battles it out with current Venom, and poster boy for Norman Osborn's hero-hunting Thunderbolts, Mac Gargan, Spidey reaches the scene and tries to quell the violence. But as Anti-Venom manages to purify Gargan of the Venom Symbiote, he turns his eyes to Peter Parker. Osborn watches on, awaiting the help of the rest of his Thunderbolts, when he finds himself confronted by the latest goblin with a glider…MENACE!

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POLICE TIE SPIDER-MAN TO RECENT MURDERS!

EXCLUSIVE TO THE DB!

In off-the-record conversations with DB staffers, police have confirmed that Spider-Man is the key suspect in the string of recent murders that has shocked this city. Although police have been reluctant to discuss the specifics of the murders, so-called "Spider Tracers" have definitely been found on each victim, leaving no doubt as to the involvement of Spider-Man. Spider-Man is already wanted for violations of…

CONTINUED ON A2

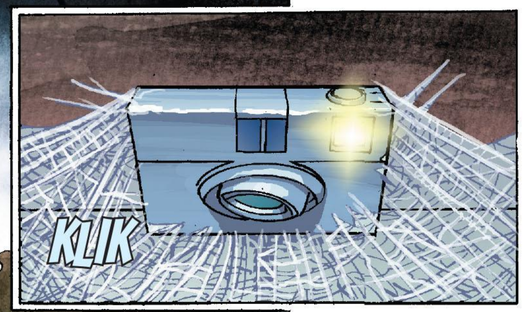
HEART'S RACING. CAN FEEL...BLOOD!

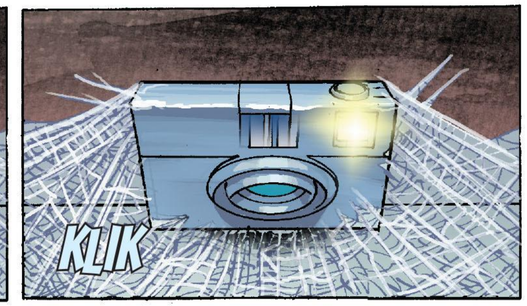
MY BLOOD!

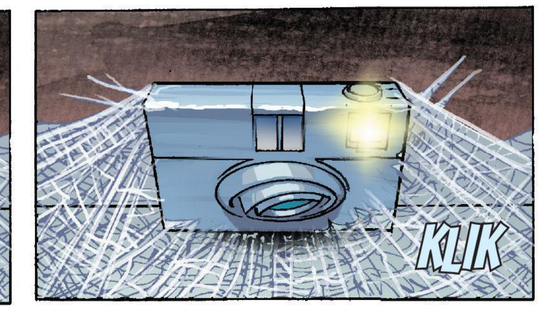
RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-BLOOD! HE'S *CLEANSING* IT!

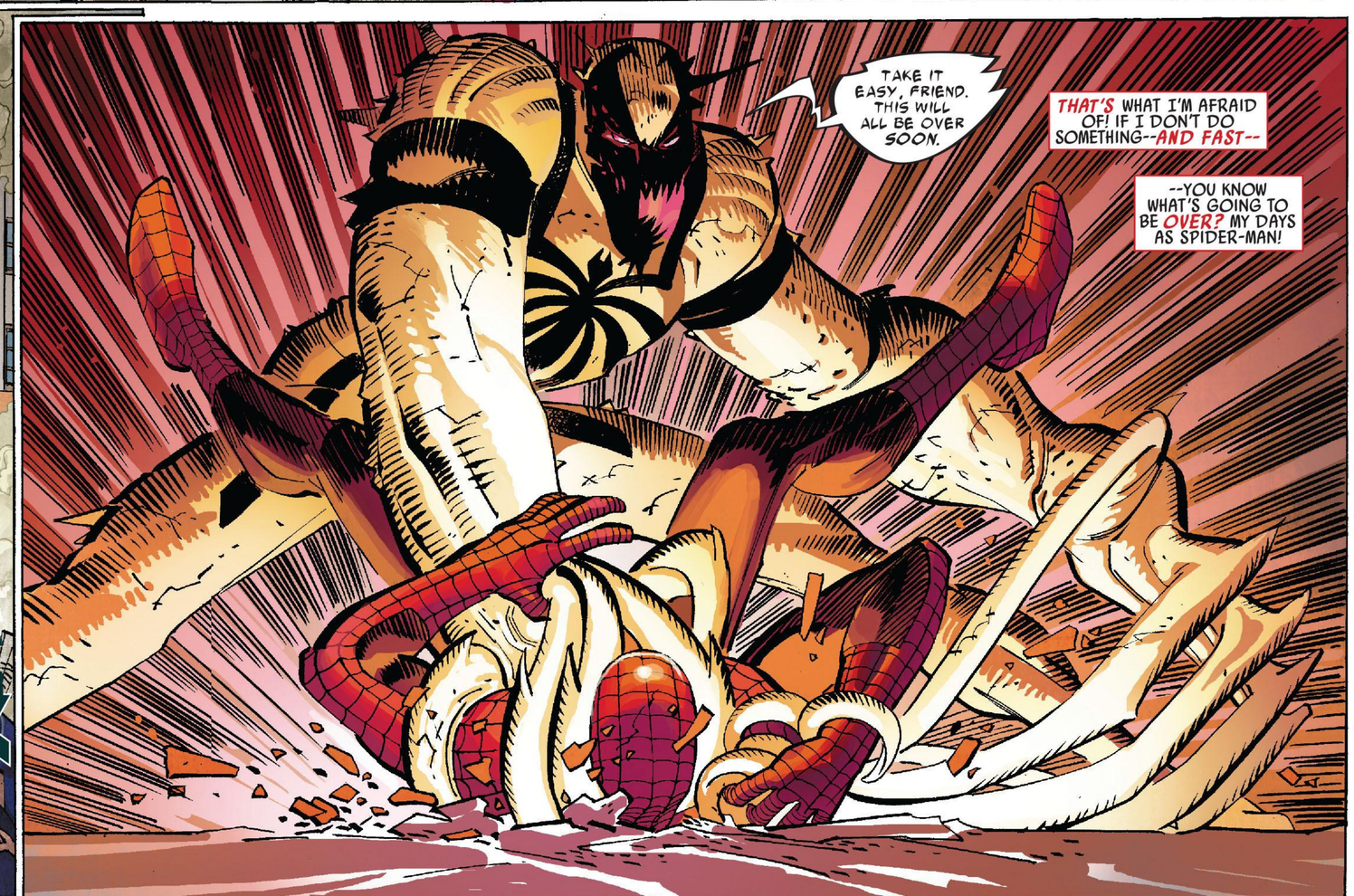
AHH!

STOP STRUGGLING, SPIDER-MAN.







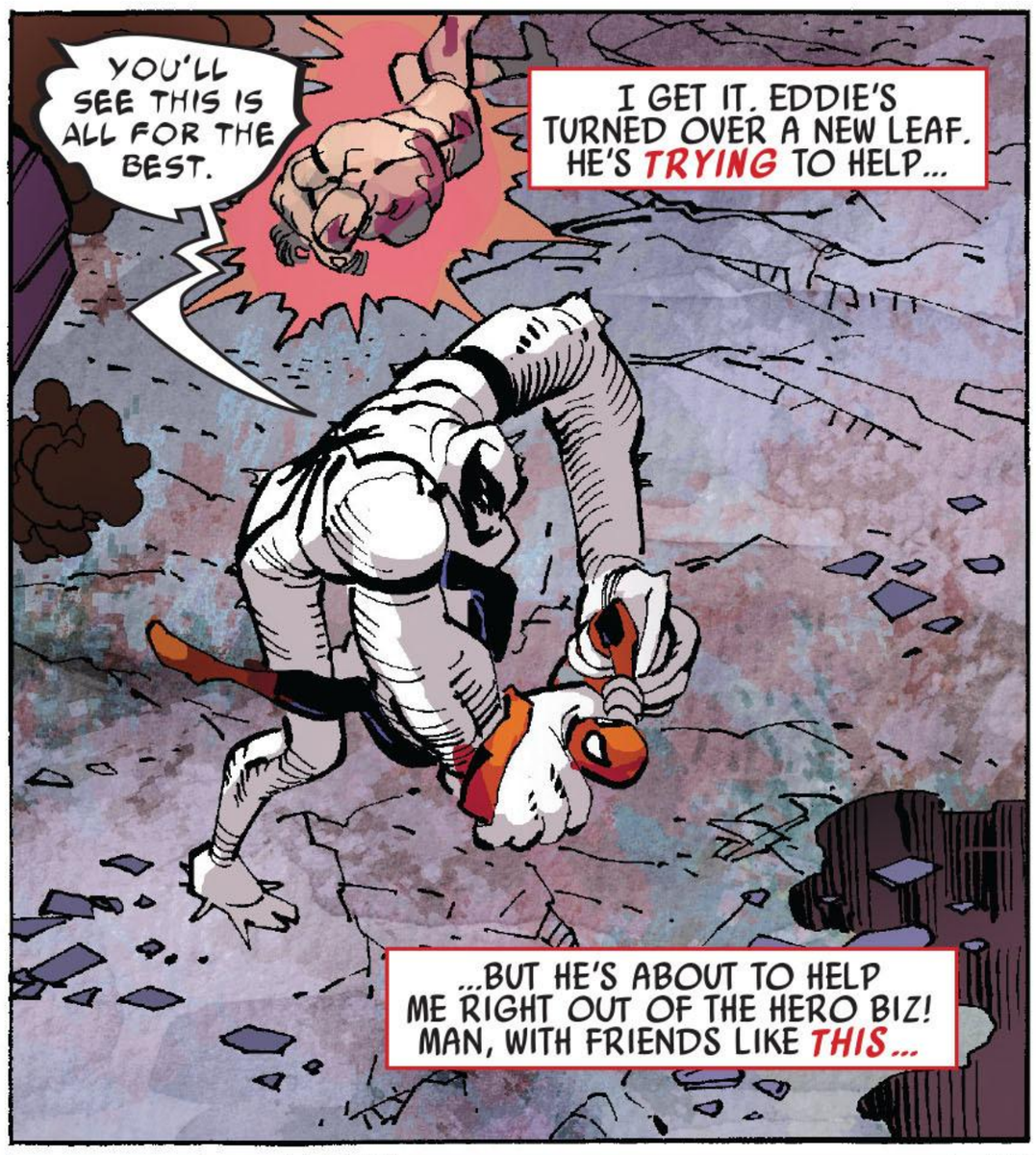


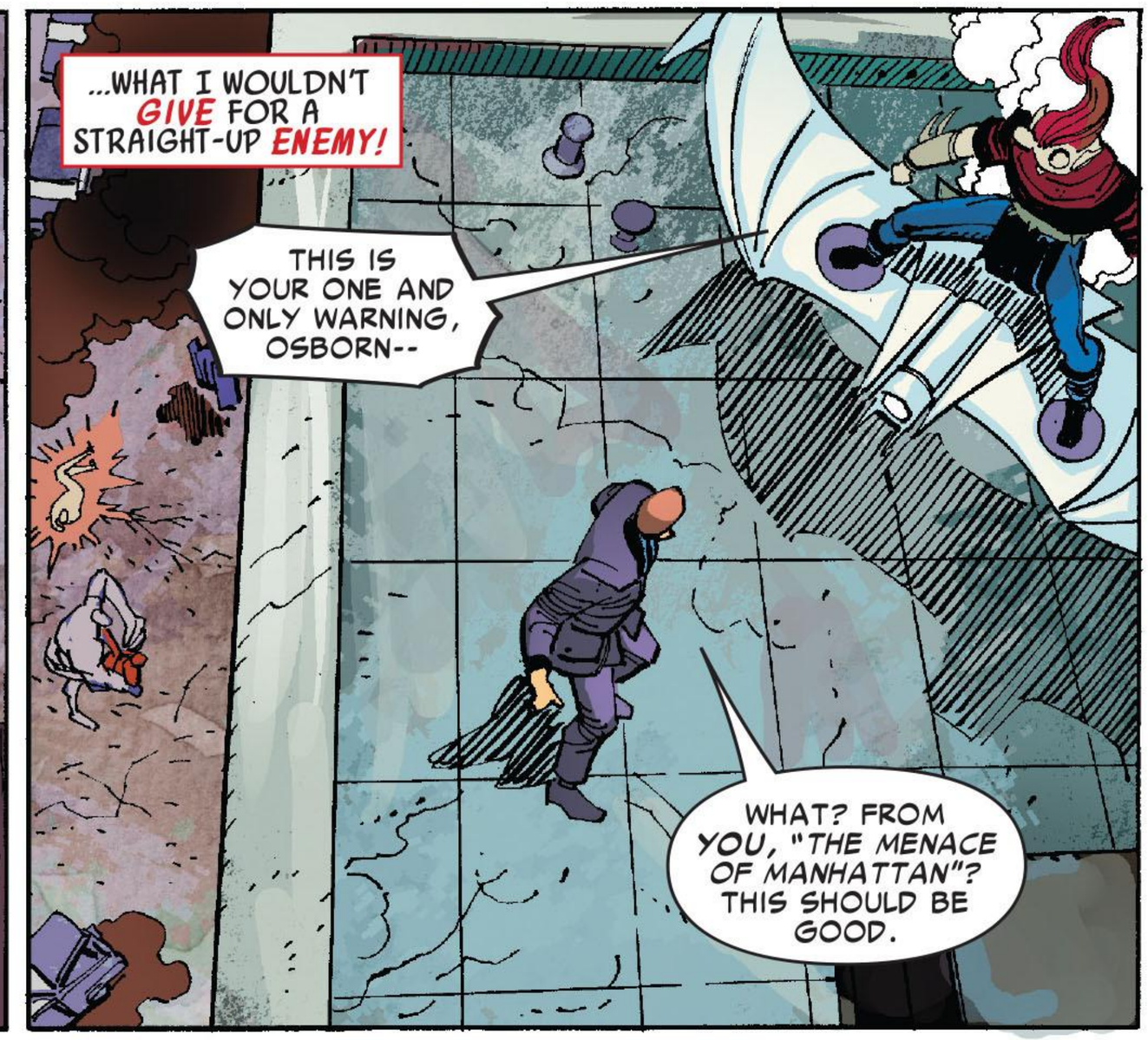
NEW WAYS TO DIE PART FOUR
OPPOSITES ATTACK

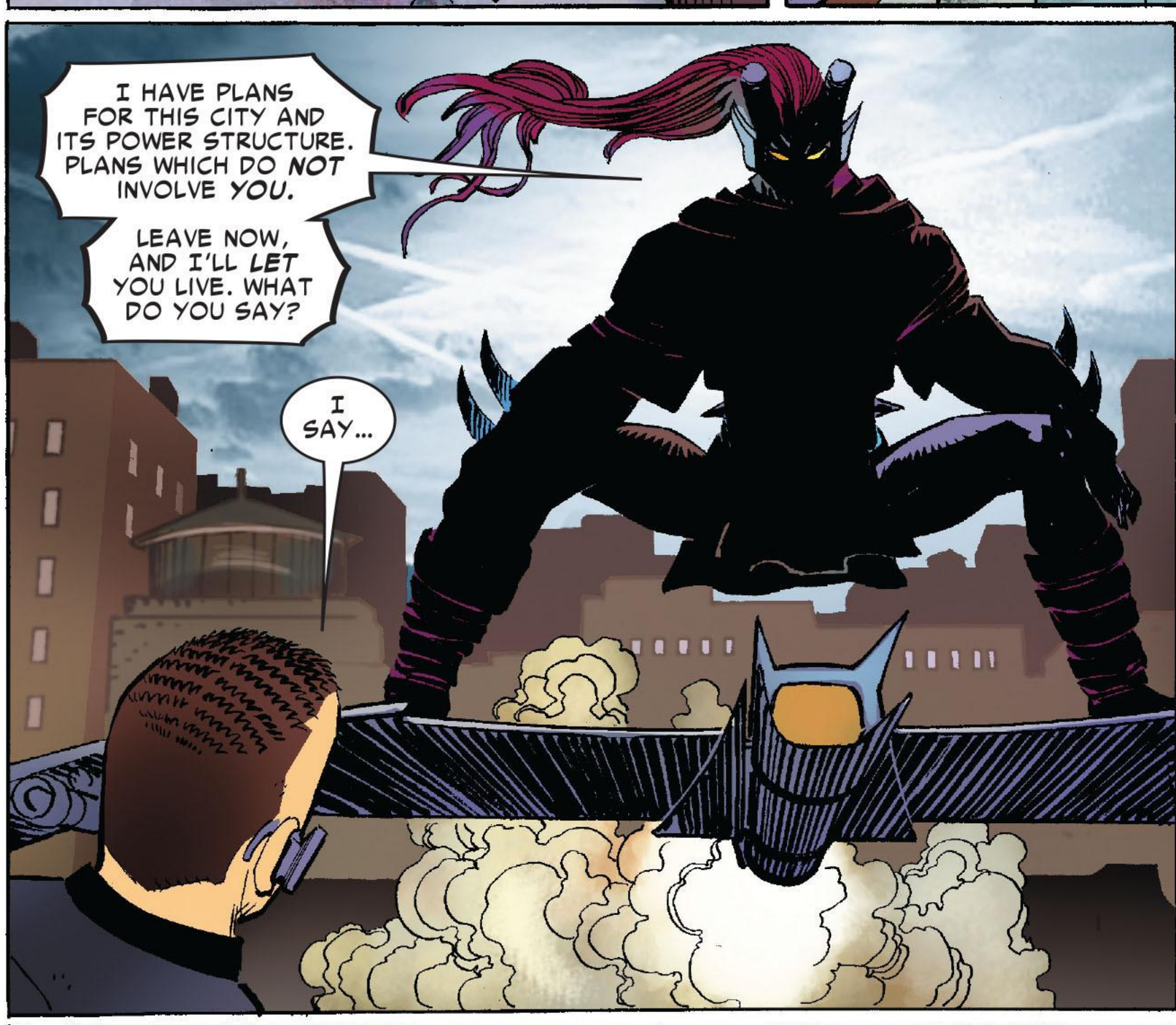
DAN SLOTT WRITER | JOHN ROMITA JR. PENCILS | KLAUS JANSON INKS | DEAN WHITE COLORS | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS

TOM BRENNAN ASST. EDITOR | STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR | TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

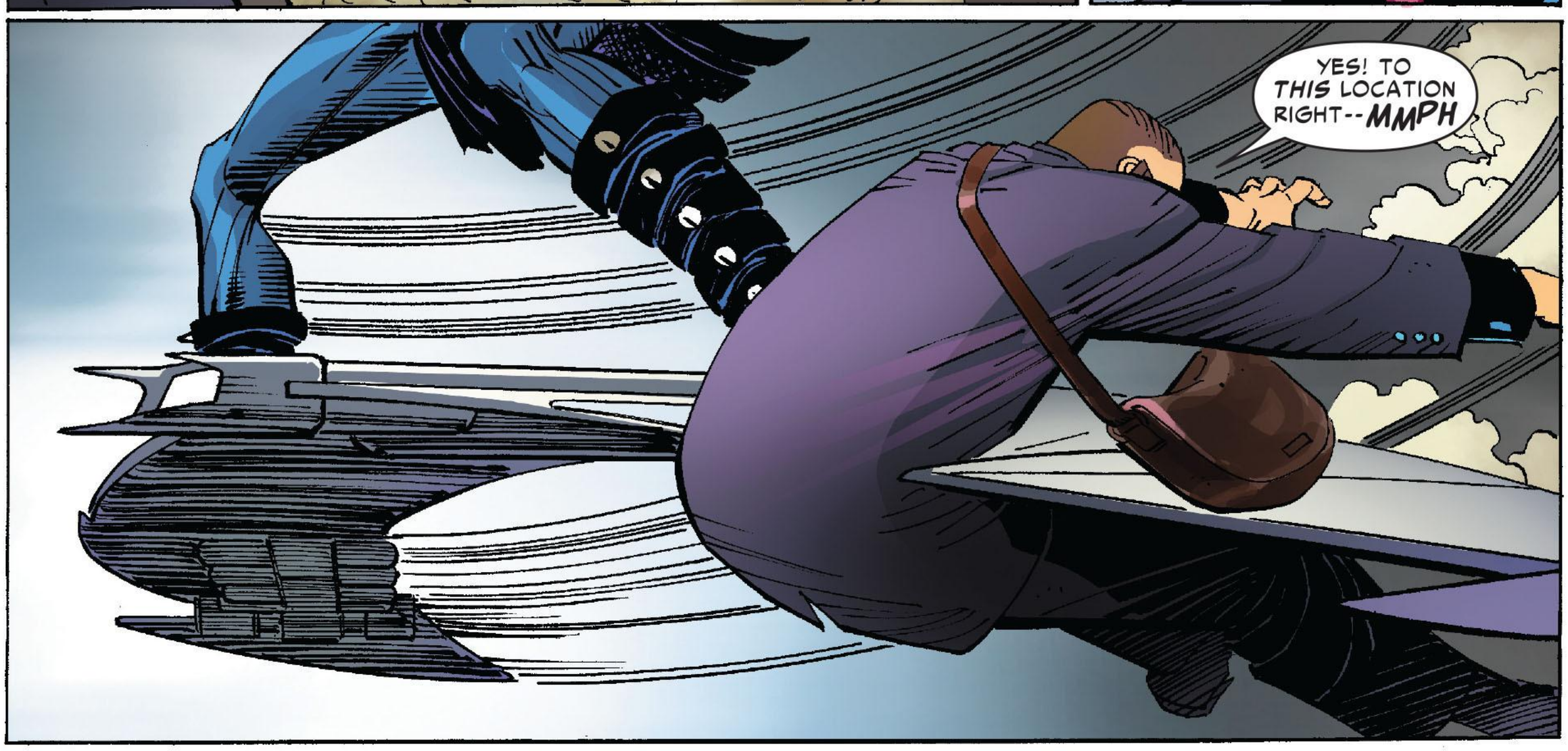
GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST

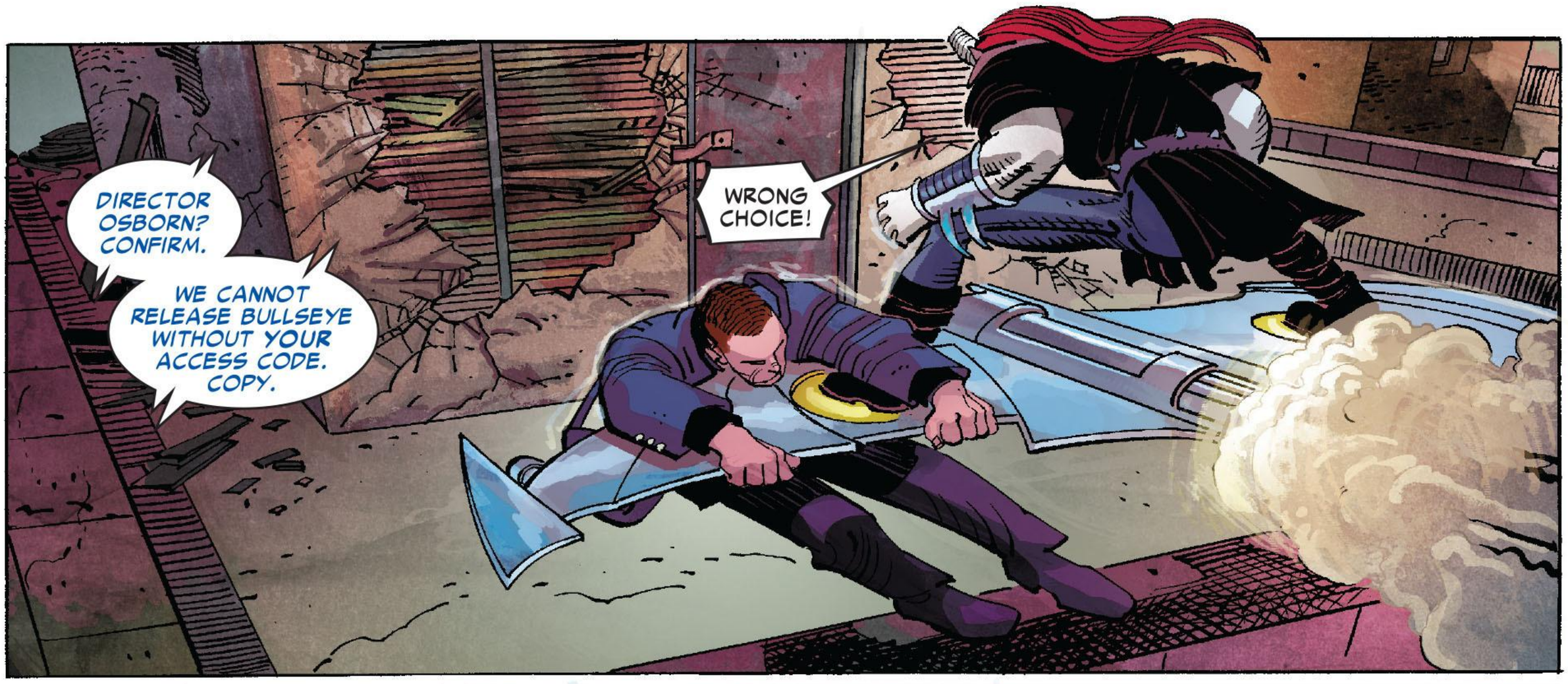

YOU'LL SEE THIS IS ALL FOR THE BEST.
I GET IT. EDDIE'S TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF. HE'S TRYING TO HELP...
...BUT HE'S ABOUT TO HELP ME RIGHT OUT OF THE HERO BIZ! MAN, WITH FRIENDS LIKE THIS...


...WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A STRAIGHT-UP ENEMY!
THIS IS YOUR ONE AND ONLY WARNING, OSBORN--
WHAT? FROM YOU, "THE MENACE OF MANHATTAN"? THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.


I HAVE PLANS FOR THIS CITY AND ITS POWER STRUCTURE. PLANS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE YOU.
LEAVE NOW, AND I'LL LET YOU LIVE. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I SAY...

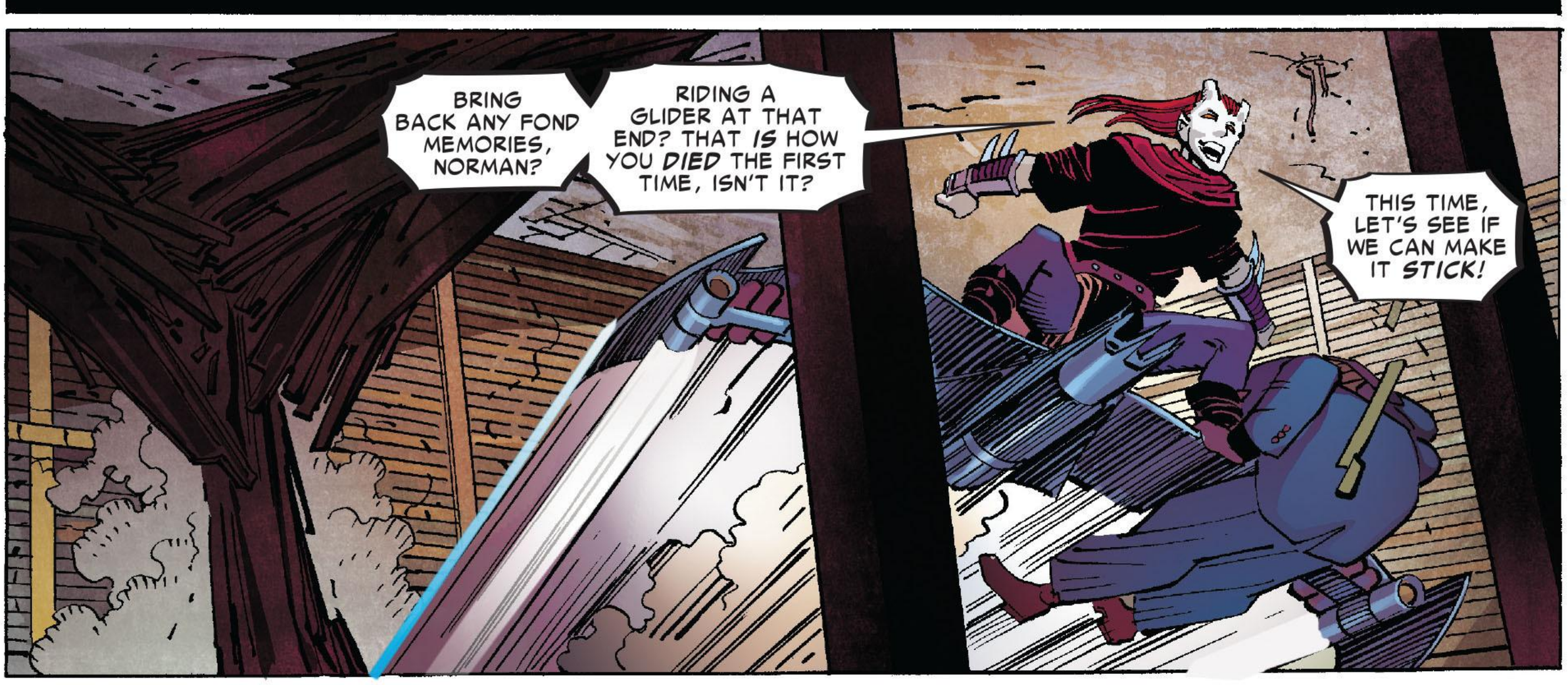
ALL THUNDERBOLTS MOVE IN NOW!
SONGBIRD AND CHEN ARE ON THE WAY, SIR. SHOULD WE DEPLOY BULLSEYE AS WELL?


YES! TO THIS LOCATION RIGHT--MMPH


DIRECTOR OSBORN? CONFIRM.
WE CANNOT RELEASE BULLSEYE WITHOUT YOUR ACCESS CODE. COPY.
WRONG CHOICE!

THRAK
AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT...
...OR NOT!

REPEAT. WE CAN'T UNLOCK BULLSEYE WITHOUT THOSE CODES, SIR.
SIR..?


BRING BACK ANY FOND MEMORIES, NORMAN?
RIDING A GLIDER AT THAT END? THAT IS HOW YOU DIED THE FIRST TIME, ISN'T IT?
THIS TIME, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE IT STICK!

OF ALL THE ARROGANT--
THERE IS NO WAY A *PRETENDER* LIKE YOU COULD TAKE MY LIFE.

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

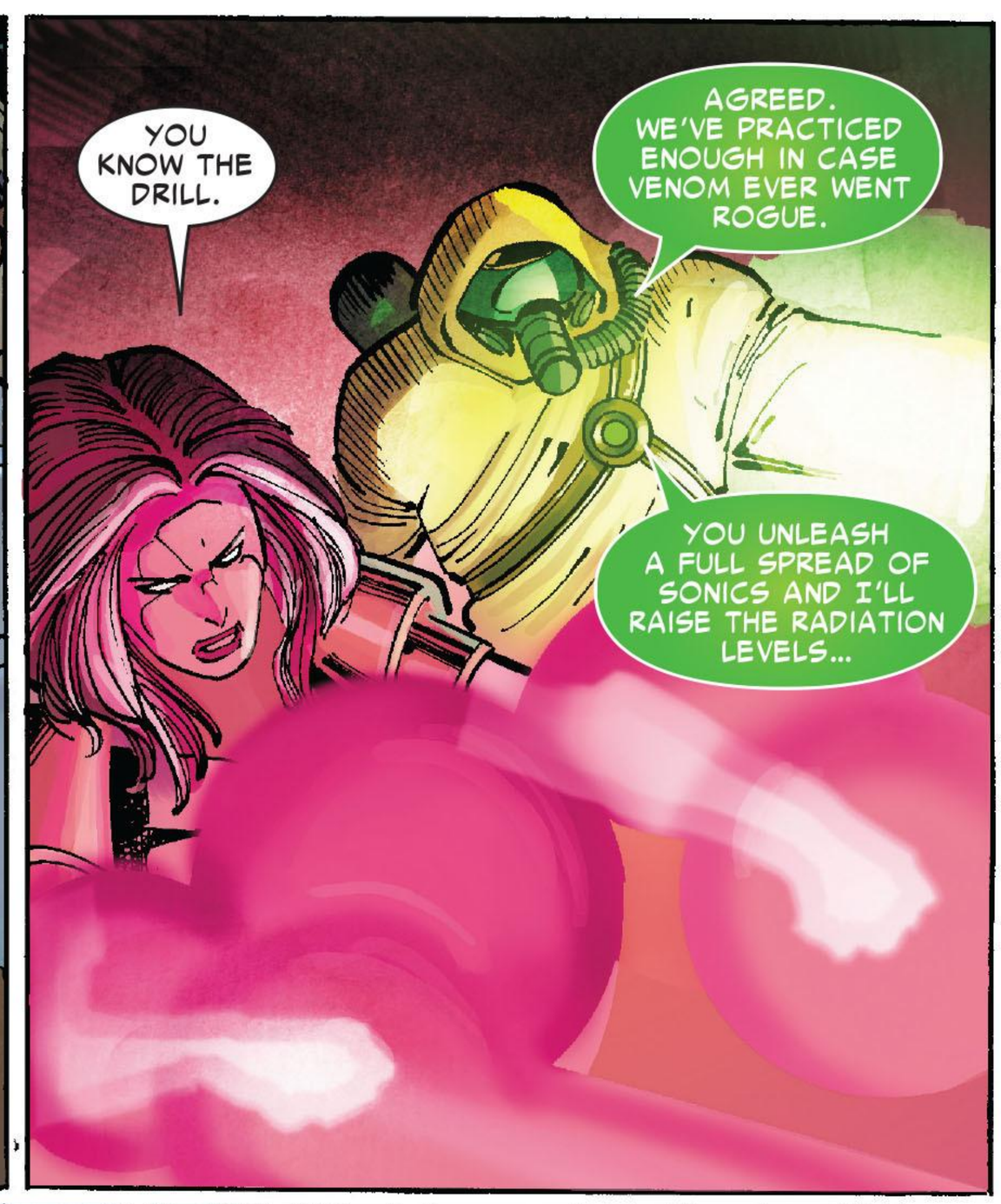
REALLY, OLD MAN? LOOK AT ME!
I HAVE THE SKILL, THE EQUIPMENT, THE HIGH GROUND--
YES. HIGH AND *AWAY*.
FAR ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THIS...

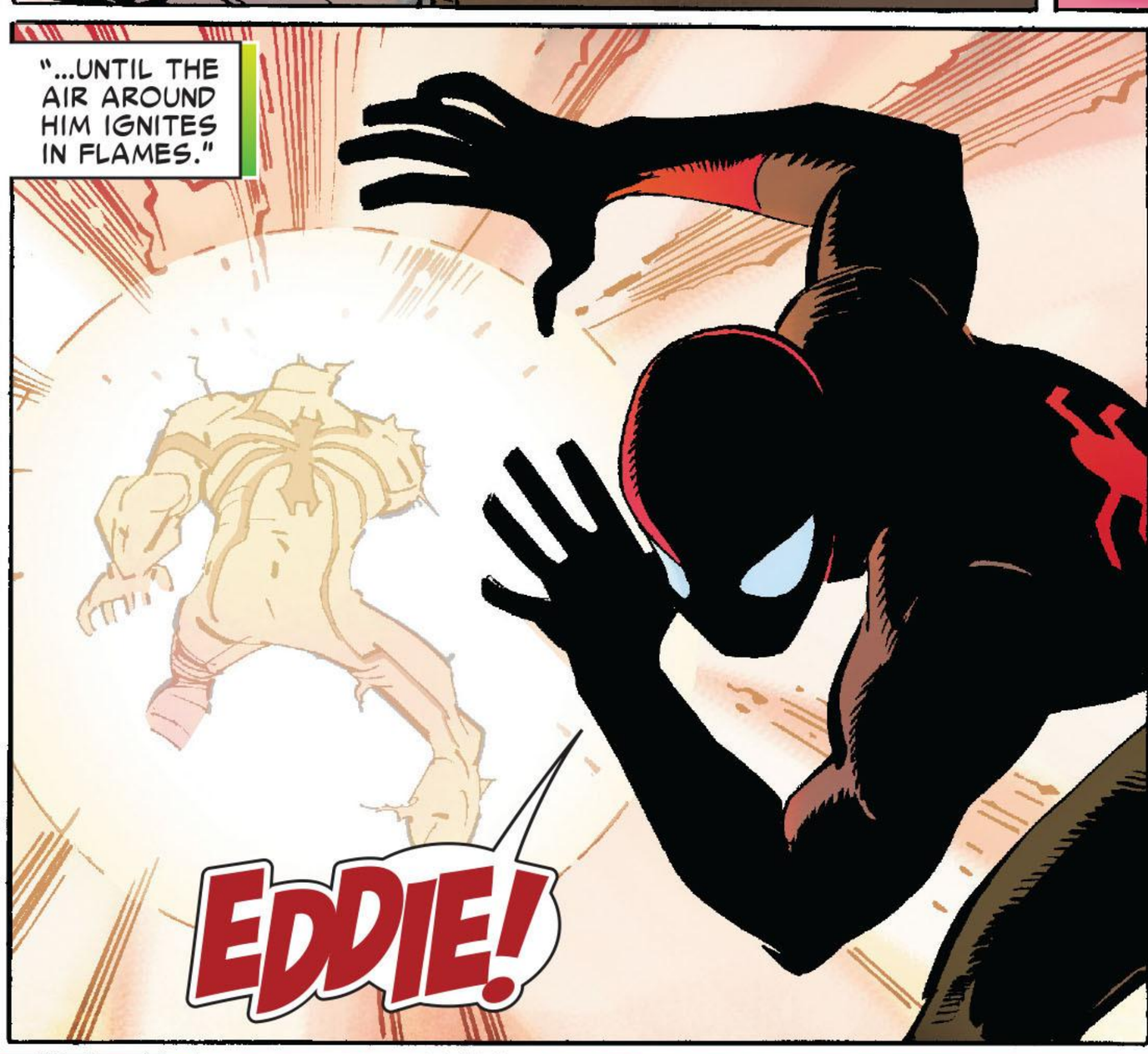
GLIDER OVERRIDE: SIGMA DELTA 86. *EXECUTE!*
MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU'LL ASK...

"...BEFORE YOU BORROW THE KEYS TO THE CAR."
GYAHH!

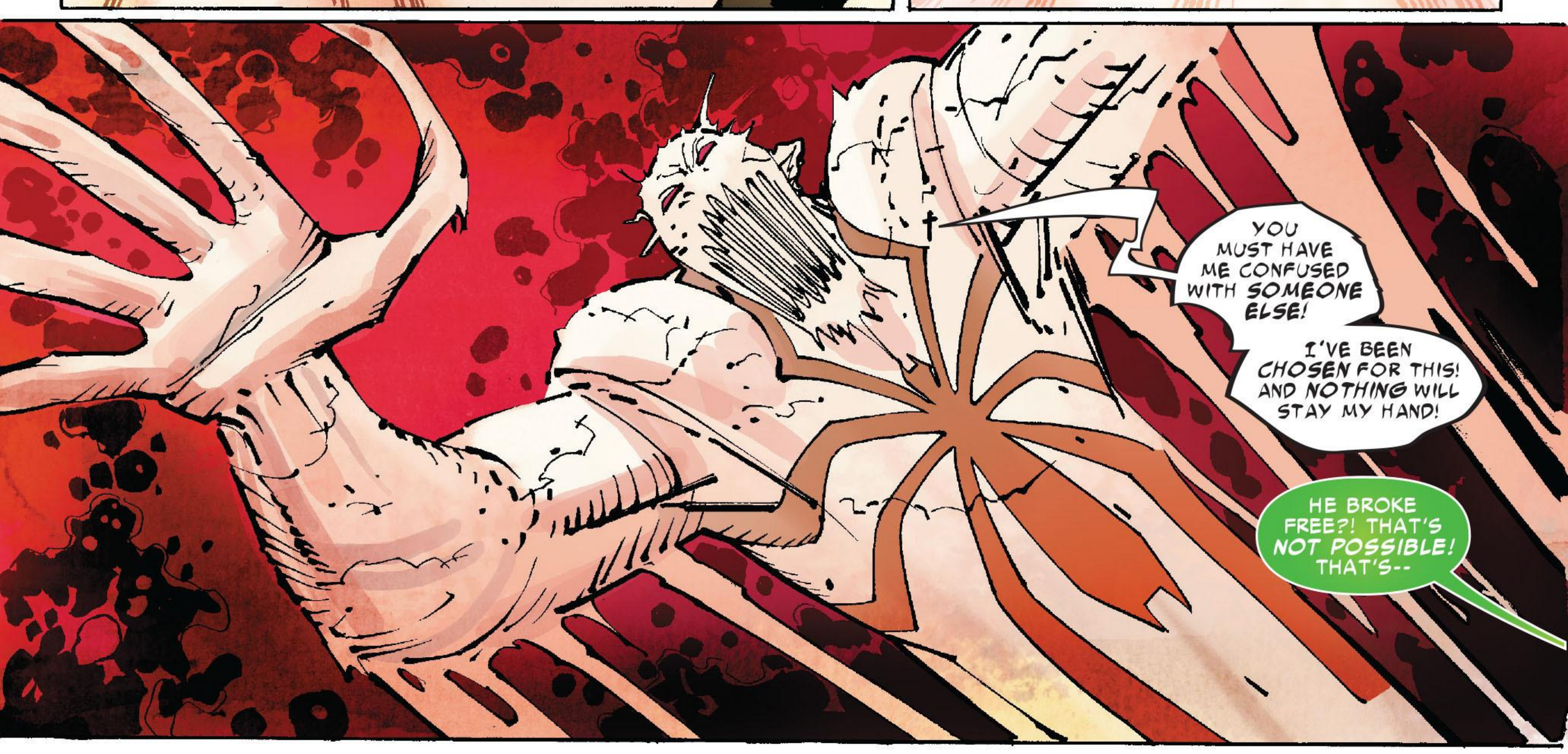
STILL NO WORD FROM OSBORN.
FINE. UNTIL WE HEAR OTHERWISE, I'M RUNNING THIS SHOW.
GROUND TROOPS, THIS IS SONGBIRD, I HAVE A VISUAL ON VENOM...
...WE HAVE A MAN DOWN! GET HIM OUT OF THERE, DOUBLE TIME.
UNHH...
WHAT?! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?
I'M NOT DONE WITH HIM YET!
YAY. THE CAVALRY'S HERE.
SURE, THEY'RE HERE TO KILL ME, BUT STILL...
YAY THEM...

STAND BACK! GARGAN'S MINE!
RADIOACTIVE MAN, ARE YOU SEEING THIS?
IT APPEARS WE HAVE AN UNREGISTERED SYMBIOTE.


YOU KNOW THE DRILL.
AGREED. WE'VE PRACTICED ENOUGH IN CASE VENOM EVER WENT ROGUE.
YOU UNLEASH A FULL SPREAD OF SONICS AND I'LL RAISE THE RADIATION LEVELS...


"...UNTIL THE AIR AROUND HIM IGNITES IN FLAMES."
EDDIE!

IT'S LIKE THEY SET OFF A BOMB IN THE CITY! A BABY ATOMIC BOMB...
...AND WRAPPED IT AROUND ONE MAN: EDDIE BROCK!
YOU THINK SONICS CAN HURT ME?
THAT FIRE CAN KILL ME?


YOU MUST HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
I'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS! AND NOTHING WILL STAY MY HAND!
HE BROKE FREE?! THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! THAT'S--

"WHERE THE HELL IS NORMAN OSBORN?!"

DON'T YOU GET IT? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO *BE* HERE! NOT *NOW!*

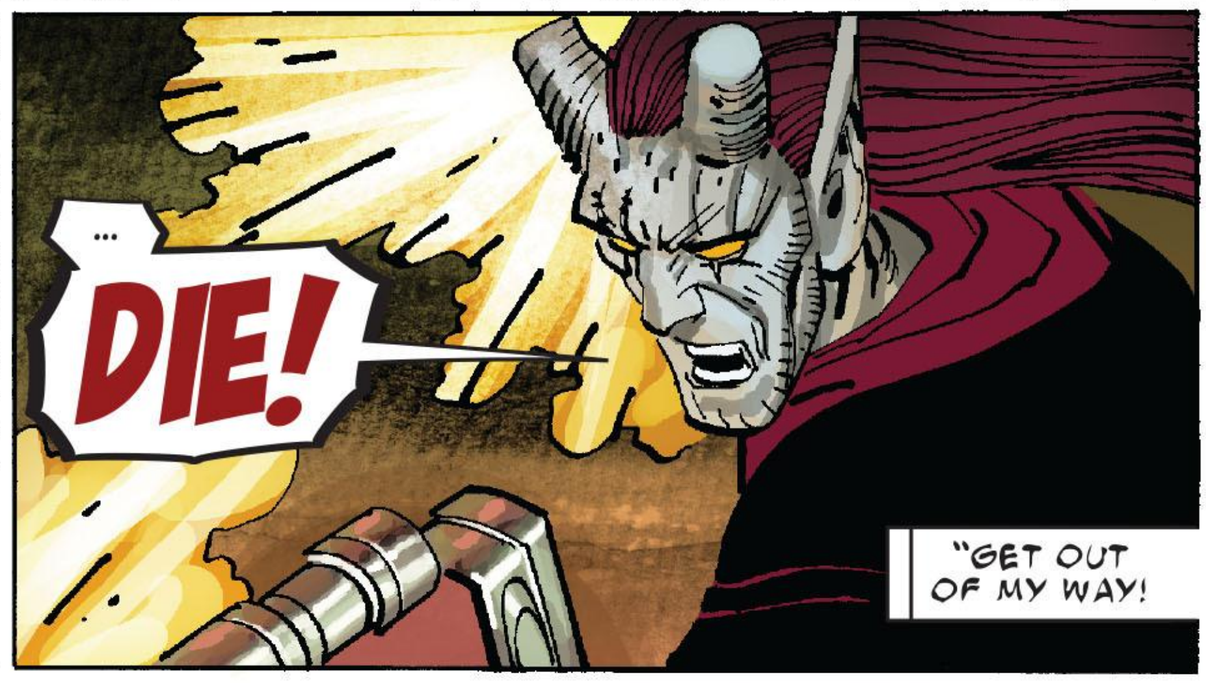
ALL THE PIECES WERE PLACED ON THE BOARD, JUST RIGHT. AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN EVERYTHING!

BAMM

PKOW

PATHETIC. LOOK AT YOU. CRYING ABOUT LOSING SOME GAME. THROWING A TANTRUM.

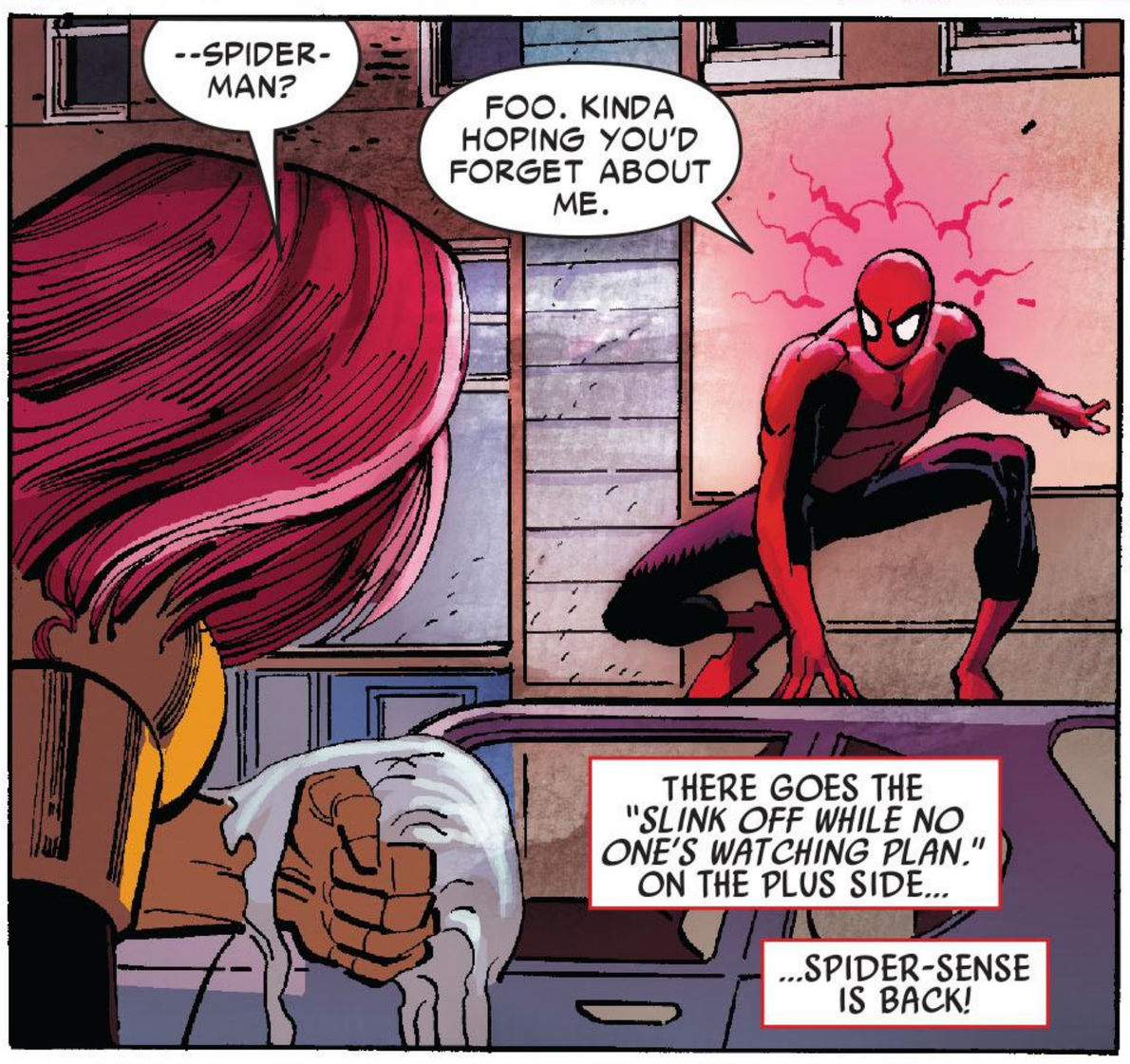
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY?



THE MAN YOU'RE PROTECTING HAS A *SICKNESS*, A DEADLY *PARASITE!*

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I'M TRYING TO *SAVE US ALL!*

SKRANG



RADIOACTIVE MAN! OVER HERE!

NICE TRY. BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME...

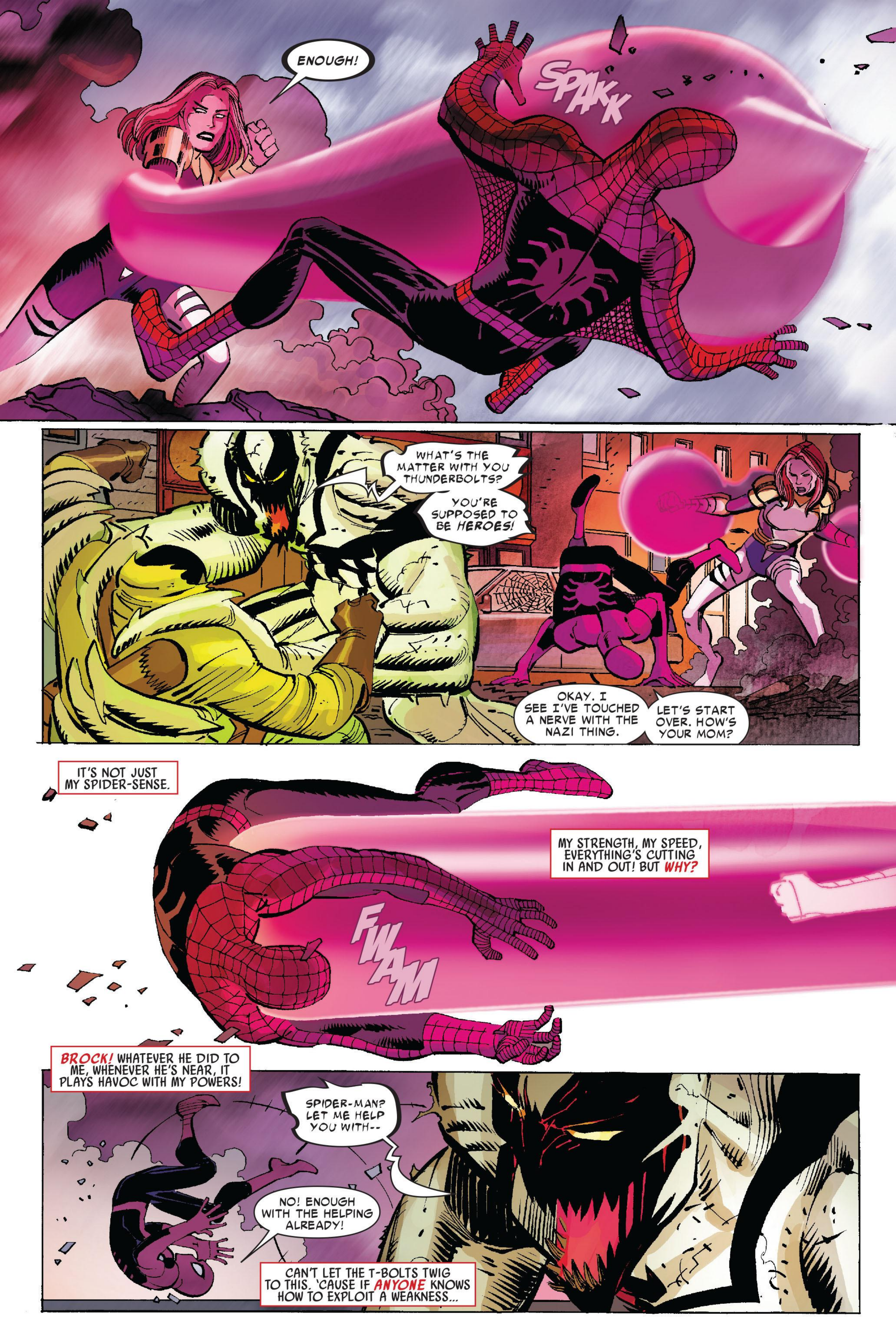
"...HE'S A LITTLE BUSY AT THE MOMENT."
RADIOACTIVE MAN? YOUR POWERS MAKE YOU RADIOACTIVE?
YOU'RE PROBABLY GIVING PEOPLE CANCER! ALL THE TIME!

SO? WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS?

RWARR!
HEY, SONGBIRD. REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO TEAM UP AND DO HERO STUFF?
LIKE WHEN WE SAVED THE EARTH FROM THE ENCLAVE? GOOD TIMES.

NOW LOOK AT YOU. ACTING LIKE A TOTAL GOVERNMENT STOOGE.
I'M-- FOLLOWING ORDERS!
THE NAZI EXCUSE? YOU ACTUALLY WENT THERE?

WOW! WHO TAUGHT YOU THAT ONE? BARON ZEMO? OR NORMAN OS--
UH-OH. POWERS GOING ON THE FRITZ AGAIN!


ENOUGH!
SPAKK
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU THUNDERBOLTS?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HEROES!
OKAY. I SEE I'VE TOUCHED A NERVE WITH THE NAZI THING.
LET'S START OVER. HOW'S YOUR MOM?
IT'S NOT JUST MY SPIDER-SENSE.
MY STRENGTH, MY SPEED, EVERYTHING'S CUTTING IN AND OUT! BUT WHY?
FWAM
BROCK! WHATEVER HE DID TO ME, WHENEVER HE'S NEAR, IT PLAYS HAVOC WITH MY POWERS!
SPIDER-MAN? LET ME HELP YOU WITH--
NO! ENOUGH WITH THE HELPING ALREADY!
CAN'T LET THE T-BOLTS TWIG TO THIS. 'CAUSE IF ANYONE KNOWS HOW TO EXPLOIT A WEAKNESS...

...IT'S NORMAN OSBORN!
INTERESTING. YOU'RE USING MY OLD RAZOR WINGS. AND EARLIER THAT MARK 7 GLIDER...
...WHICH GIVES ME A GOOD IDEA WHICH ONE OF MY WEAPONS CACHES YOU RAIDED. THE QUESTION IS, WHY?
THE POWER OF THE GOBLIN AND YOU USE IT TO PLAY "POLITICS"?

FOOL! THAT'S WHERE THE REAL POWER LIES. AND I HAD EVERYTHING SET UP!
BUT IF YOUR MEN CATCH OR KILL THE SPIDER-TRACER KILLER IN CROWNE'S NAME...

...IT COULD UPSET EVERYTHING! CAN'T YOU SEE THE BIG PICTURE?!

THE BIG PICTURE? CITY POLITICS? ARE YOU SERIOUS? I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ANY OF THAT.
I JUST WANT TO GET SPIDER-MAN!

YOU-YOU JUST WANT TO--

GRAHH!

KERAKK
AHHHH!
YOU! YOU HAD EVERYTHING!
THUNK
POWER! WEALTH! POSITION!
CONTROL OF AN EMPIRE!
THOK
THE RIGHT FRIENDS! THE RIGHT FAMILY!
AND THE NAME! THE OSBORN LEGACY!
AND ALL YOU EVER WANTED...
WAKK

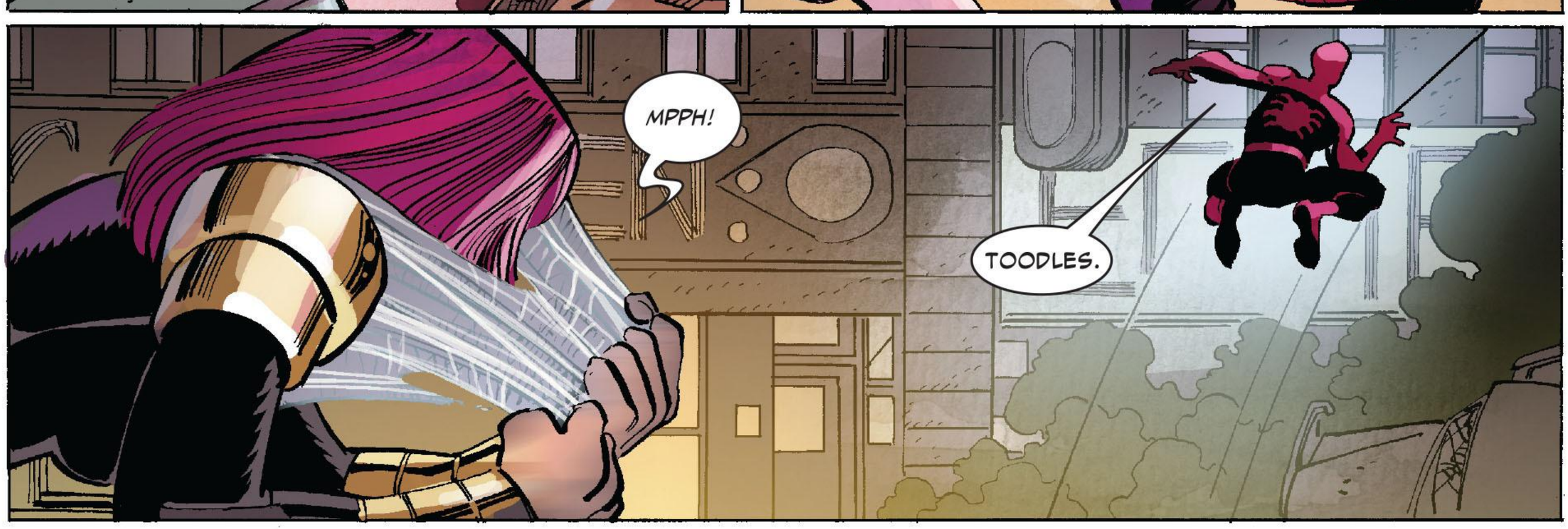
...WAS TO GET SPIDER-MAN?!! YOU--
BEEP BEEP BEEP

YOU AREN'T WORTH MY TIME, OLD MAN.
AND I'VE GOT PLACES TO BE.

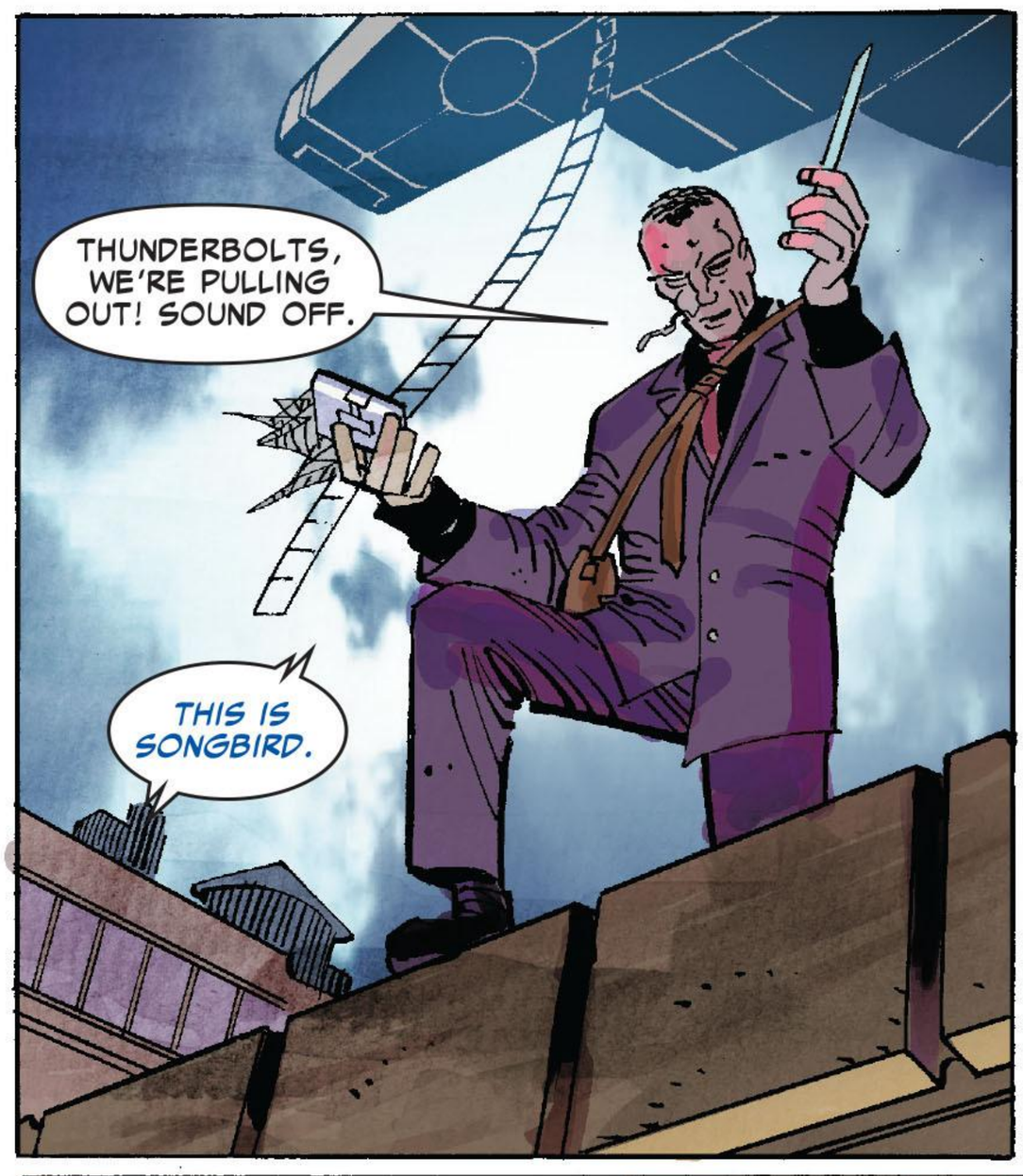
WELL... THAT WAS VERY...
...EDUCATIONAL.
KLIK KLIK

KLIK
INTERESTING. AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
CHOOM
Y'KNOW WHAT, S.B., THIS'S BEEN FUN AND ALL...
...BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT.

YOU WANT TO CAPTURE ME. I DON'T WANT TO BE CAPTURED.
THERE SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY OBVIOUS MOVE ON MY PART.
THWIP


MPPH!
TOODLES.

SPIDER-MAN! WAIT! I HAVEN'T CURED YOU YET!
I KNOW! AND I'D LIKE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY, THANKS!


THUNDERBOLTS, WE'RE PULLING OUT! SOUND OFF.
THIS IS SONGBIRD.

I HAVE CHEN. THE GROUND TROOPS HAVE VENOM...
...OR WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM... SAFELY ABOARD THE ZEUS.
NO!

WELL, THAT DIDN'T GO WELL. WE GOT HIT PRETTY BAD.
REALLY, MS. GOLD? OUR PREY IS WOUNDED AND ON THE RUN. AND I'VE JUST FOUND US A VERY VALUABLE TROPHY.
TRUST ME. TODAY'S MISSION WAS A SUCCESS.
WHAT NOW? GO AFTER THE SPIDER? OR...

NO, THE CHOICE HAS BEEN MADE. THEY HAVE GARGAN. AND THE SYMBIOTE.
SORRY, SPIDER-MAN, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT. I MUST ANSWER TO A HIGHER CALLING.

OKAY, THIS IS A NEW LOW.
THESE F.E.A.S.T. DONATION BINS ARE FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEAVE CLOTHES FOR THE HOMELESS...
...NOT EMERGENCY CIVVIES FOR SUPER HEROES ON THE RUN.

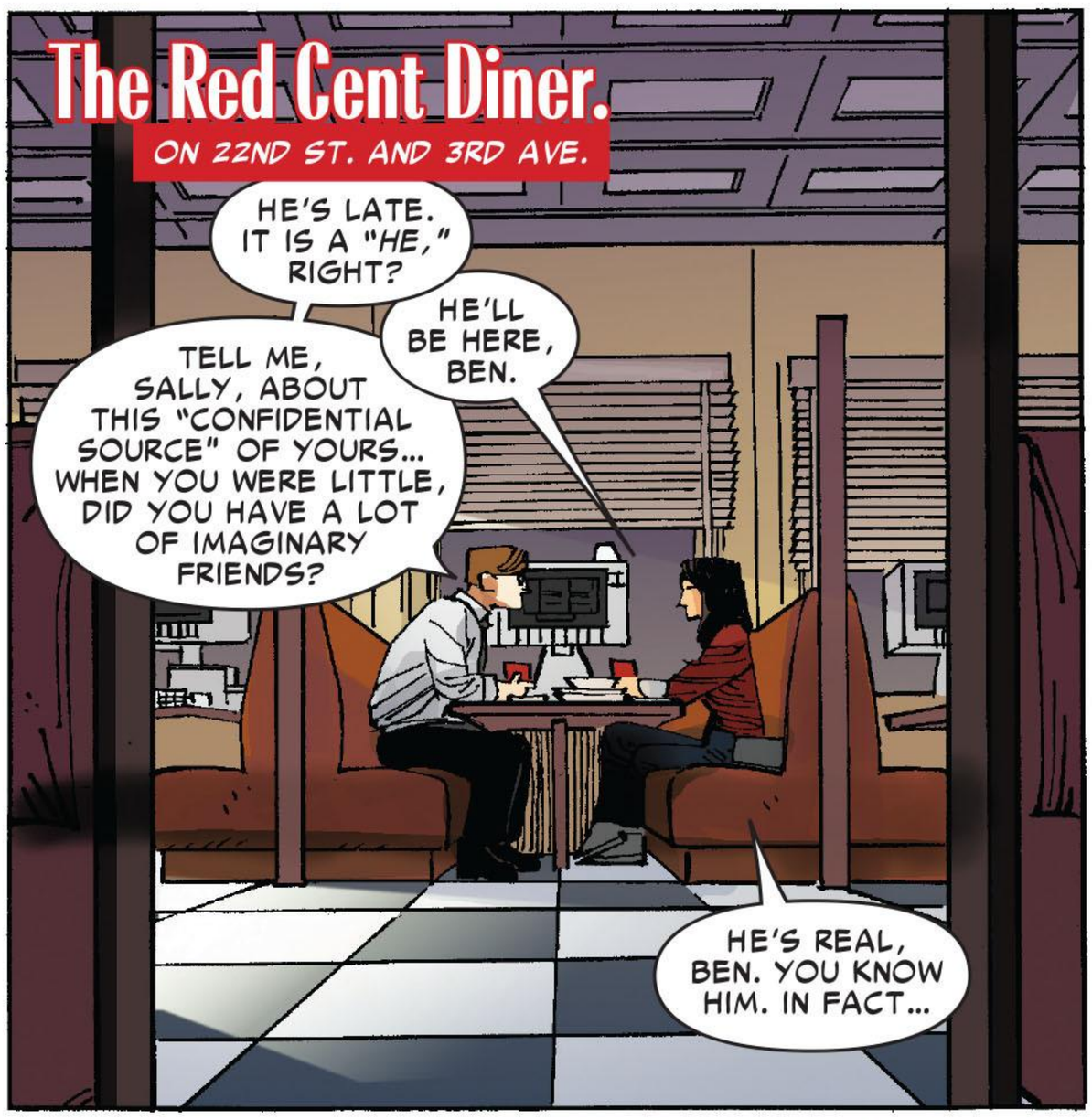
I'LL JUST BE SURE TO RETURN 'EM LATER. ALL THAT MATTERS NOW...
...IS WHAT BROUGHT ME DOWN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
EXCUSE ME! HAS ANYONE SEEN MY...

AUNT MAY! THERE YOU ARE! I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED ON THE NEWS.
PETER! ISN'T THIS DREADFUL? DID YOU COME BY TO PITCH IN?
UH...SURE, BUT FIRST I HAD TO SEE THAT YOU WERE OKAY.

I'M FINE. IT'S THAT POOR EDDIE BROCK I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
GOING THROUGH ALL THOSE CHANGES. FACING THOSE NASTY THUNDERBOLTS. I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT EDDIE BROCK? AUNT MAY, YOU'RE ONE IN A MILLION. C'MON, LET'S CLEAN UP.

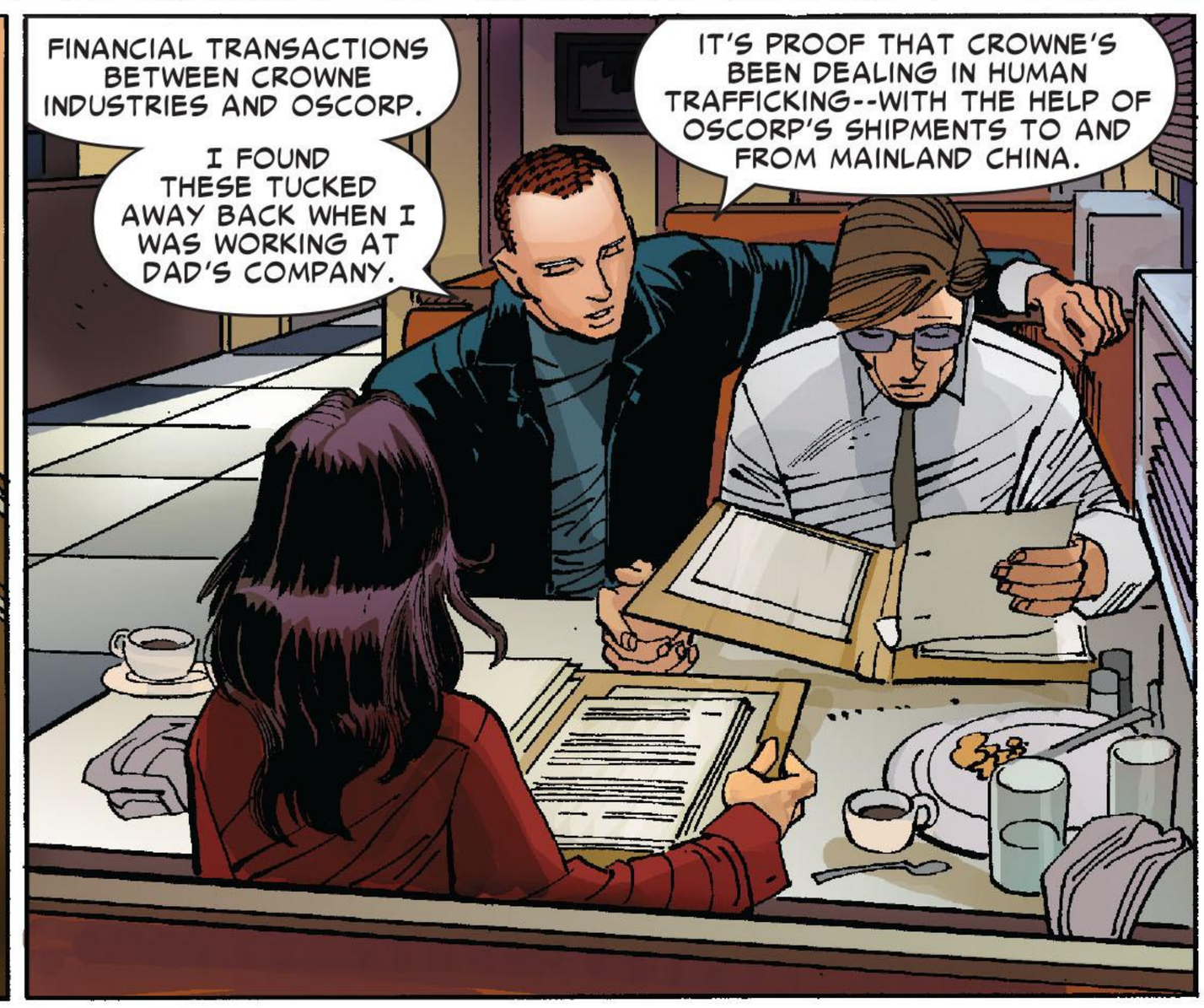
F.E.A.S.T.
<STAND BACK.>
<WE MUST WAIT UNTIL THE CROWDS GO AWAY.>

<ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS IS IT?>
<YES, HAN. THIS IS THE PLACE. THE HOUSE OF MIRACLES.>


The Red Cent Diner.
ON 22ND ST. AND 3RD AVE.
HE'S LATE. IT IS A "HE," RIGHT?
HE'LL BE HERE, BEN.
TELL ME, SALLY, ABOUT THIS "CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE" OF YOURS... WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, DID YOU HAVE A LOT OF IMAGINARY FRIENDS?
HE'S REAL, BEN. YOU KNOW HIM. IN FACT...

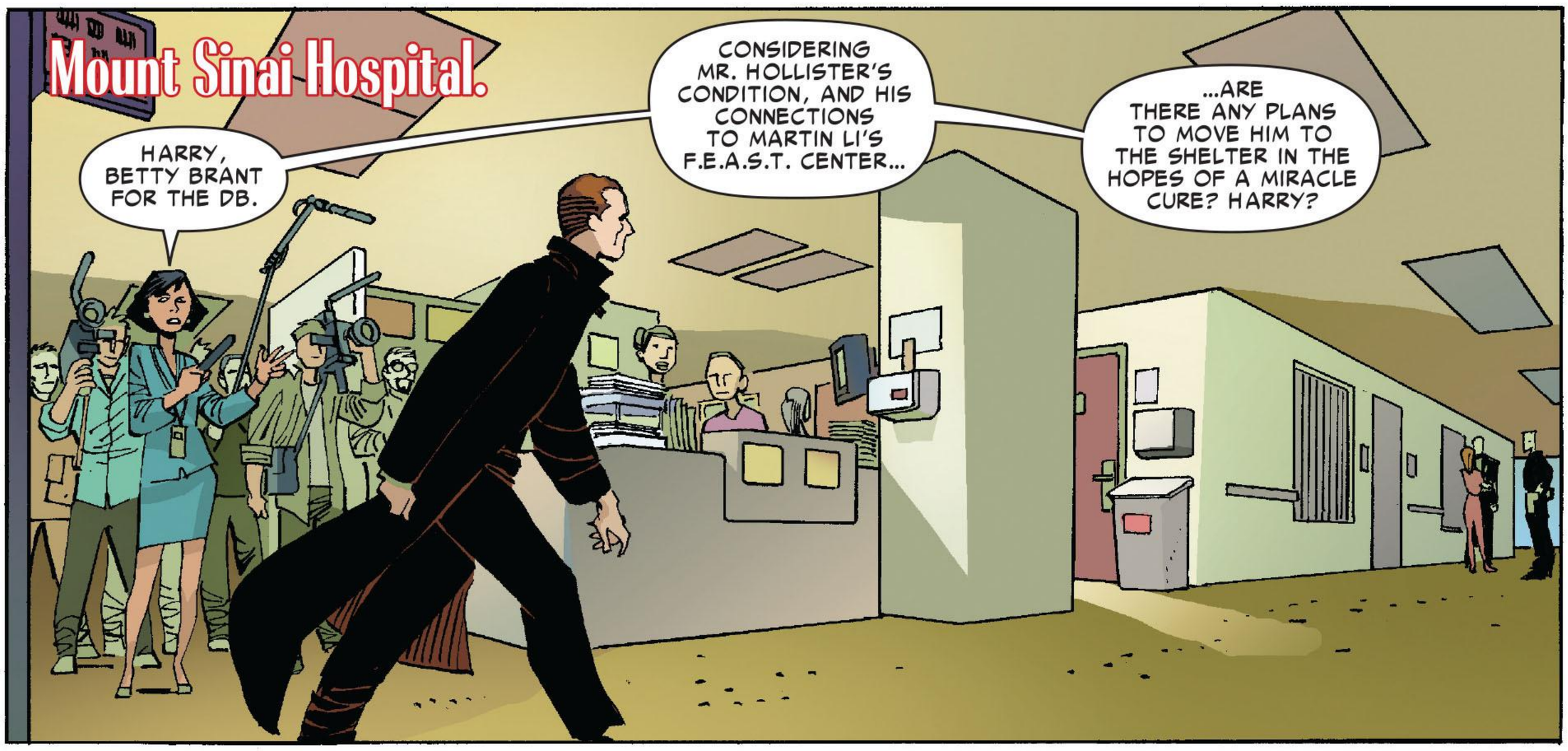
...HERE HE IS.
SORRY I'M LATE. IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. SALLY. MR. URICH.
MR. OSBORN.

PLEASE, JUST HARRY. MR. OSBORN'S MY FATHER.
HERE, THIS SHOULD GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED.
OSCORP ENTERPRISES


FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN CROWNE INDUSTRIES AND OSCORP.
I FOUND THESE TUCKED AWAY BACK WHEN I WAS WORKING AT DAD'S COMPANY.
IT'S PROOF THAT CROWNE'S BEEN DEALING IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING--WITH THE HELP OF OSCORP'S SHIPMENTS TO AND FROM MAINLAND CHINA.

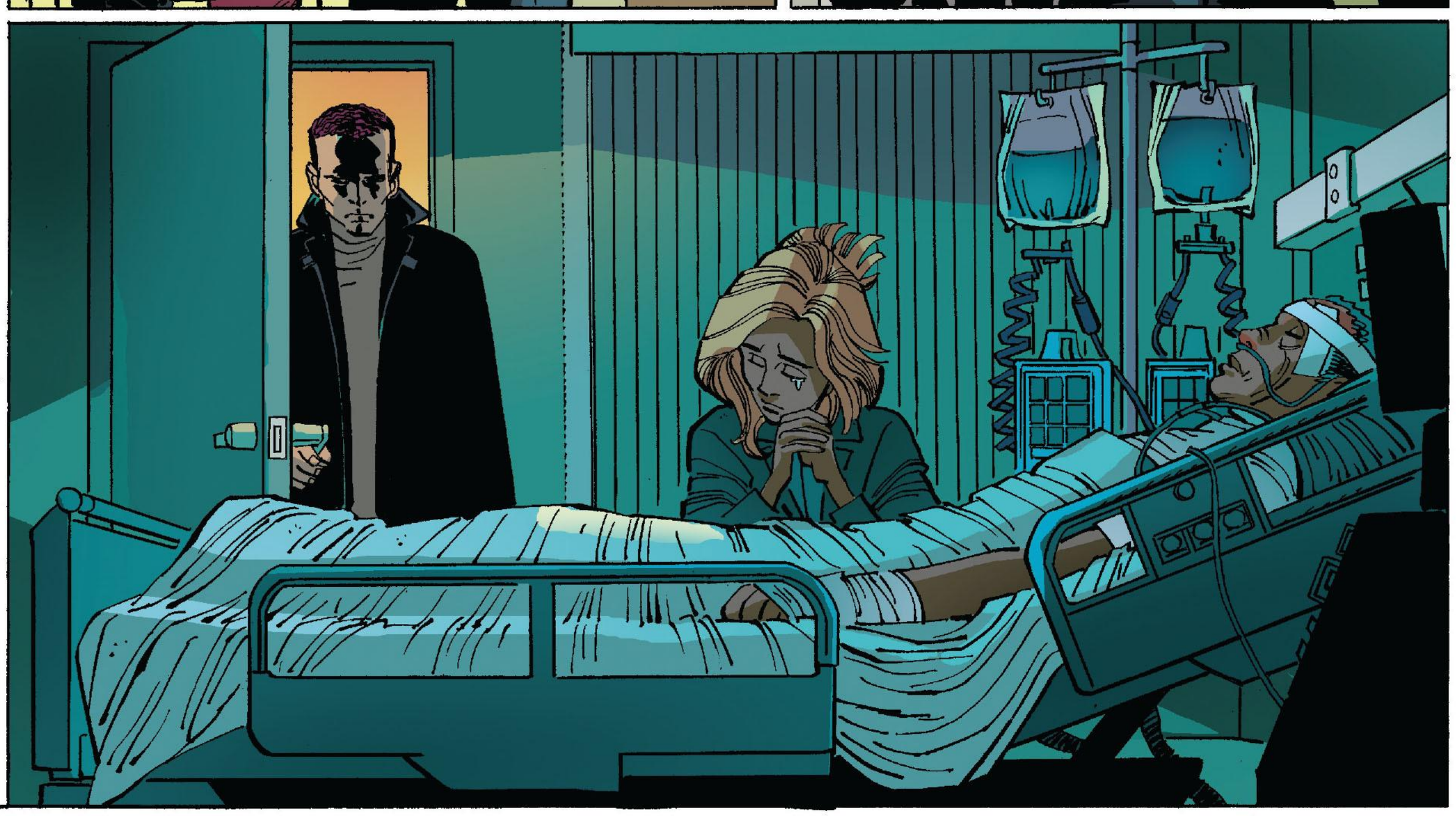
I'LL HAVE TO GO OVER THIS WITH A FINE-TOOTH COMB, OSBORN.
I KNOW ABOUT...THE HISTORY YOU HAVE WITH YOUR FATHER. AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE PART OF THE HOLLISTER CAMP...
I UNDERSTAND.

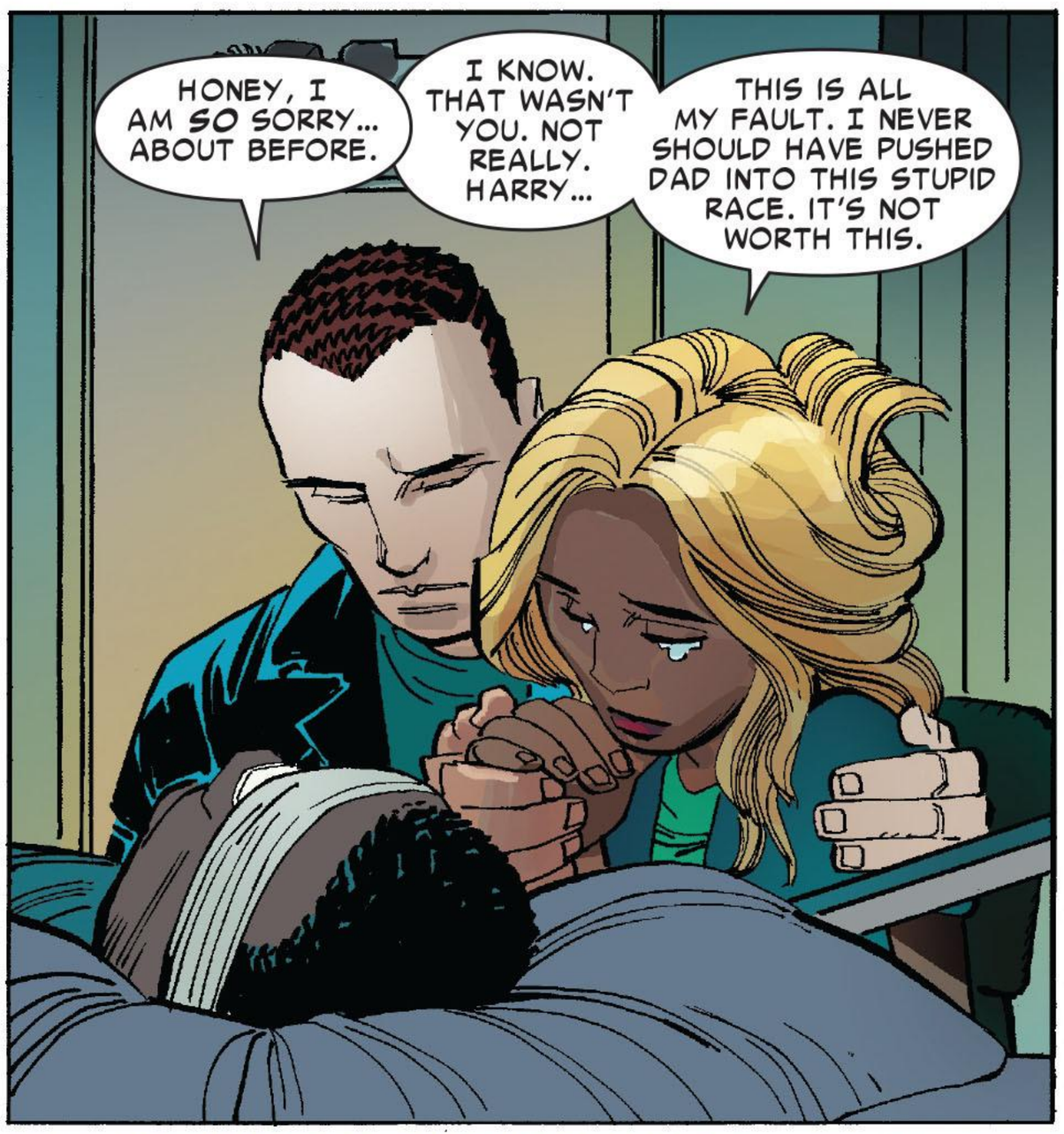
DO YOU, HARRY? YOU'RE PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS NOW. WITH VERY HIGH STAKES.
I KNOW, MS. FLOYD. IN FACT, I'M OFF TO THE HOSPITAL TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO BILL HOLLISTER.
I'M WELL AWARE OF THE STAKES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE GAMES CROWNE AND MY FATHER LIKE TO PLAY.

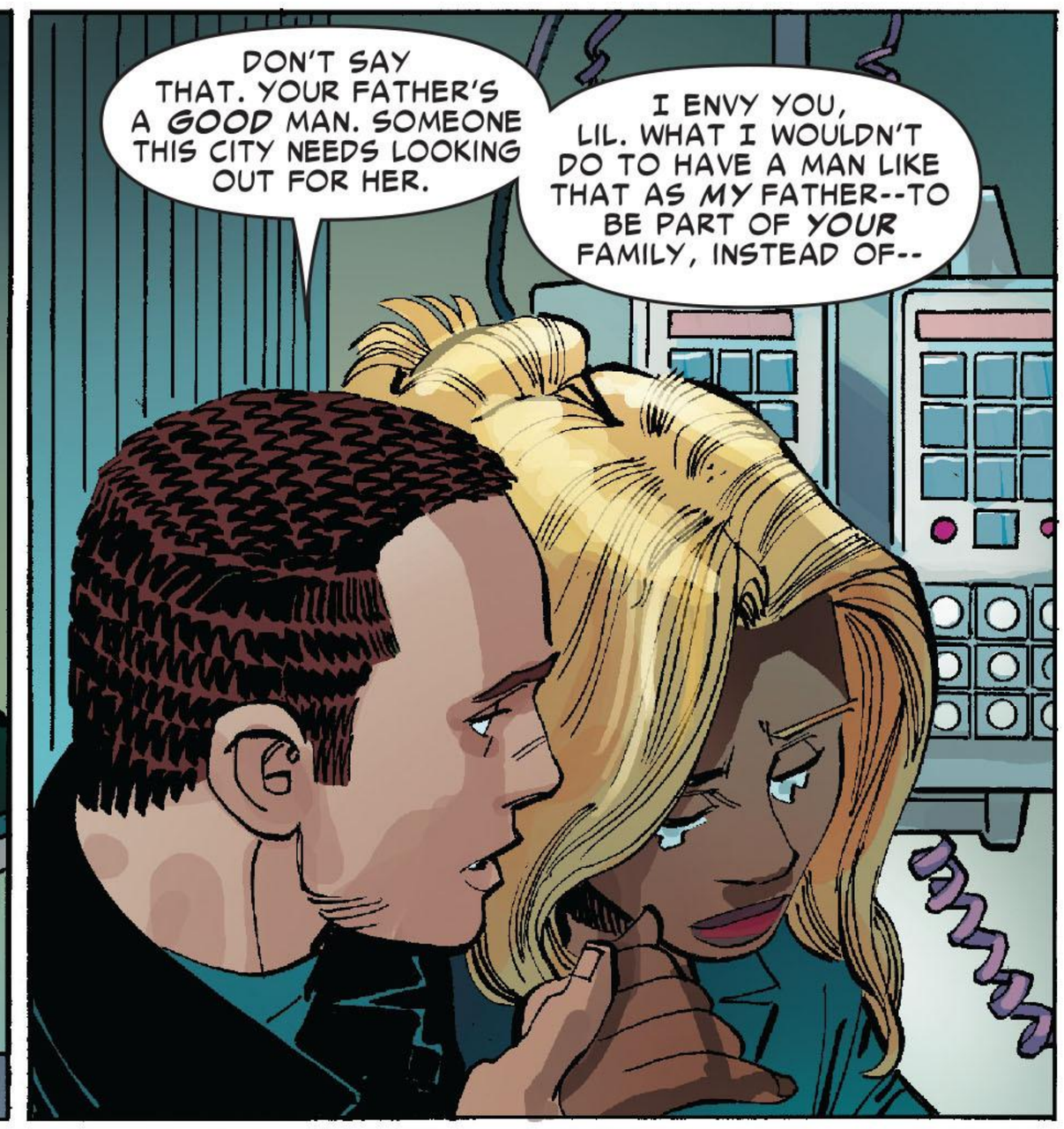

Mount Sinai Hospital.
HARRY, BETTY BRANT FOR THE DB.
CONSIDERING MR. HOLLISTER'S CONDITION, AND HIS CONNECTIONS TO MARTIN LI'S F.E.A.S.T. CENTER...
...ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO MOVE HIM TO THE SHELTER IN THE HOPES OF A MIRACLE CURE? HARRY?

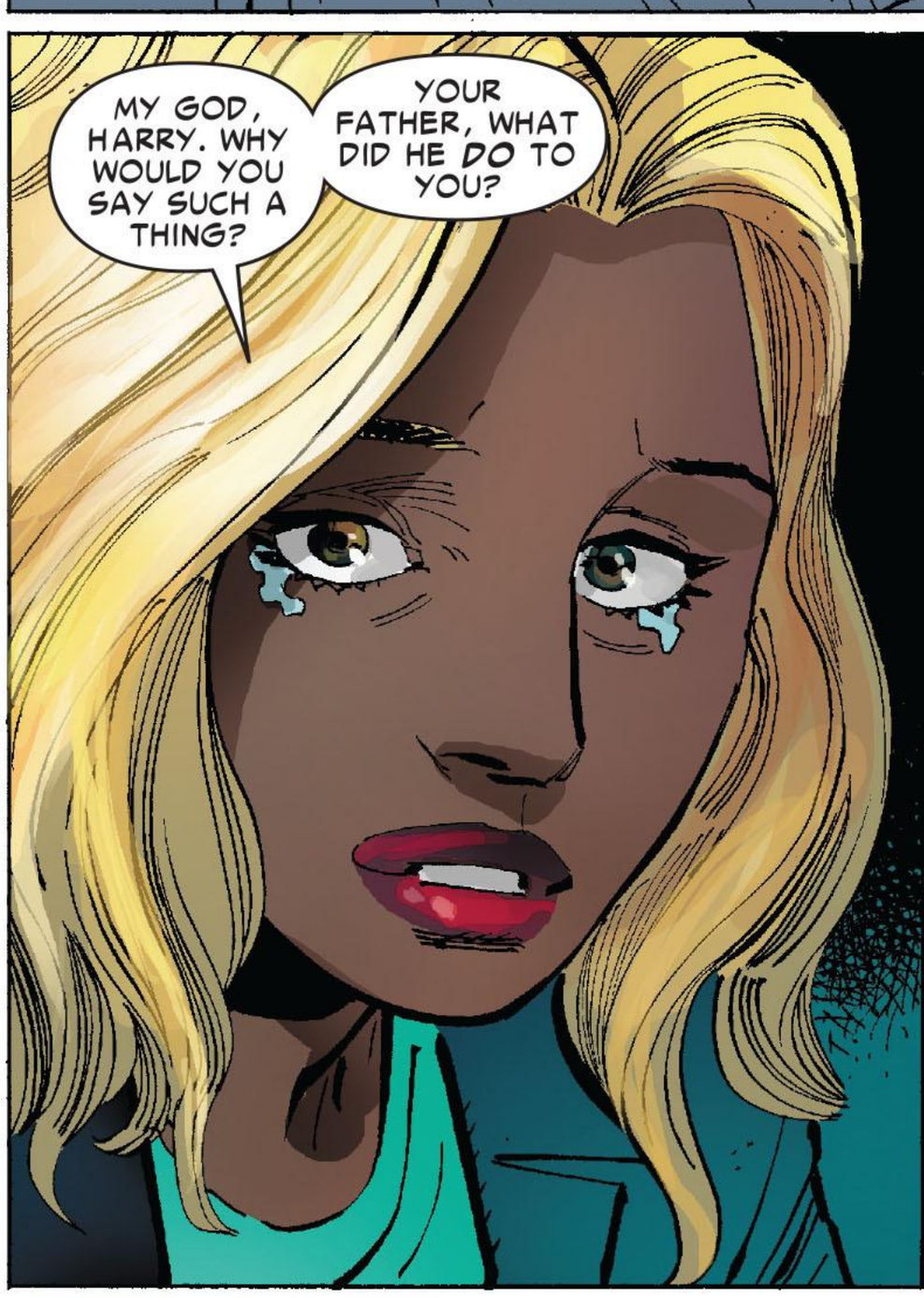
I'M SO SORRY, CARLIE. I WISH WE COULD'VE DONE MORE.
WHAT *COULD* YOU HAVE DONE, VIN? THAT MENACE CHARACTER SOUNDS SO...I MEAN, IF I WERE THERE...
HEY, I HOPE YOU *NEVER* HAVE TO SEE THAT CREEP.
CHECK IT OUT, PARTNER. THE BOYFRIEND'S HERE.

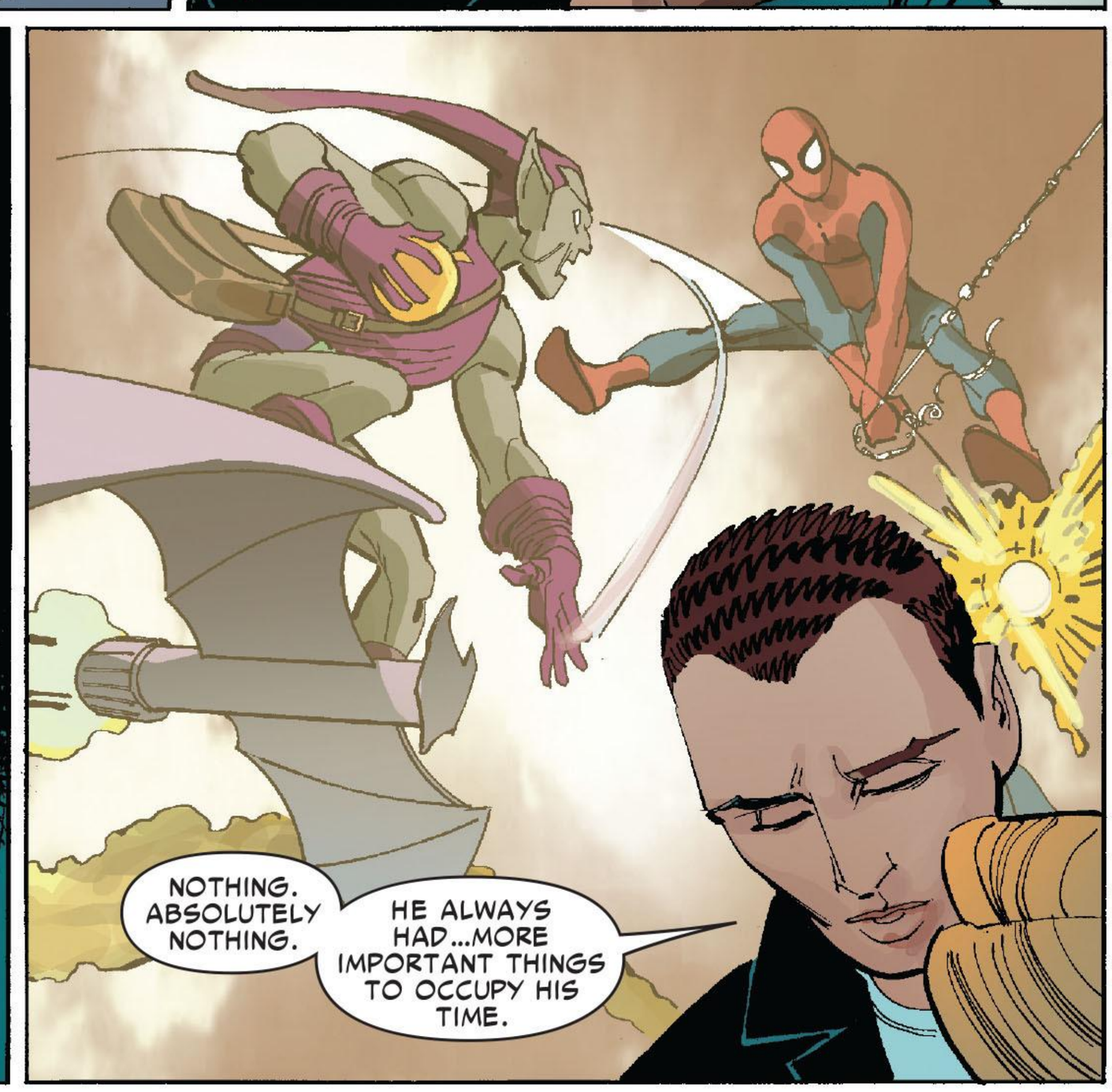
OSBORN.
ARE YOU OKAY, CARLIE? I KNOW BILL MEANS THE WORLD TO YOU.
TO A LOT OF US, HARRY. YOU SHOULD GO IN. LILY WOULD WANT YOU BY HER SIDE.
NYPD

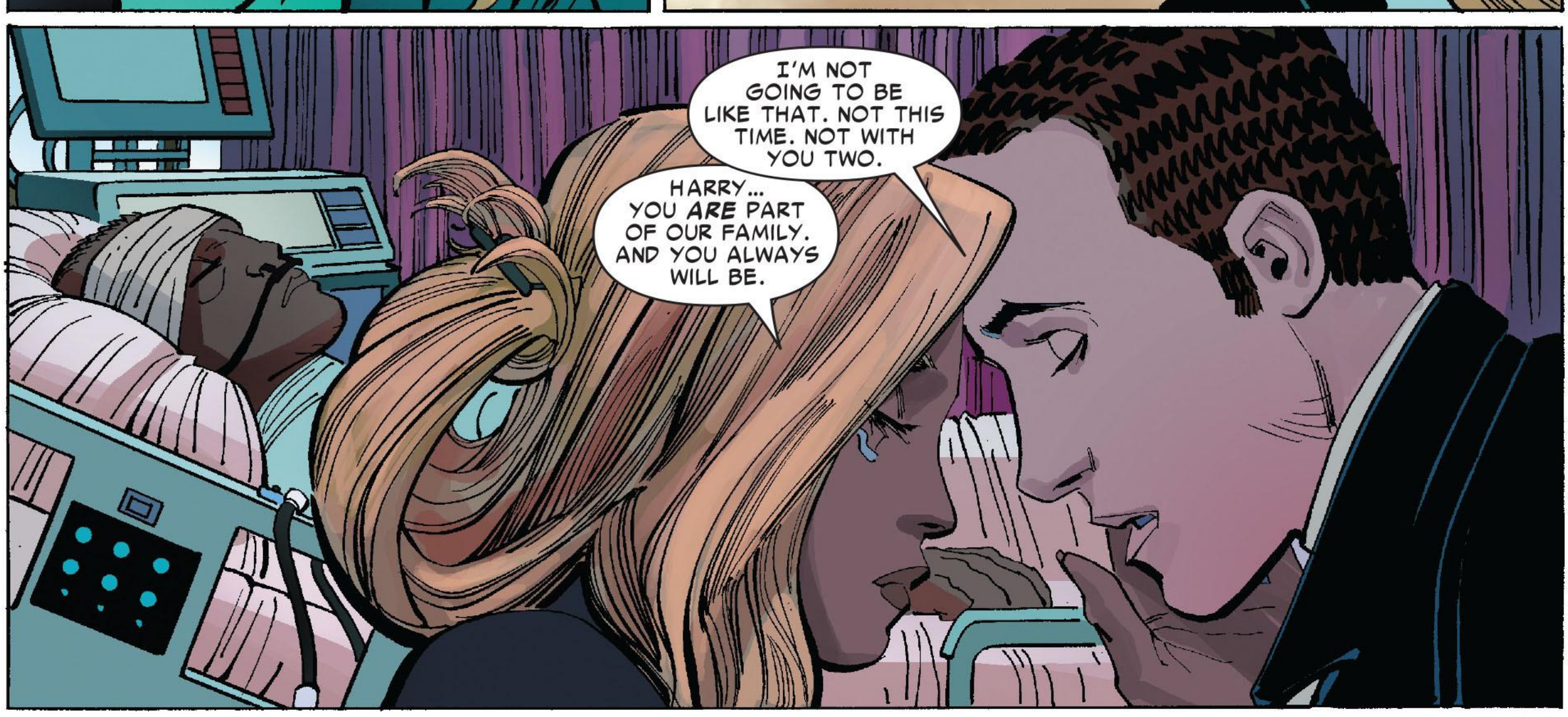


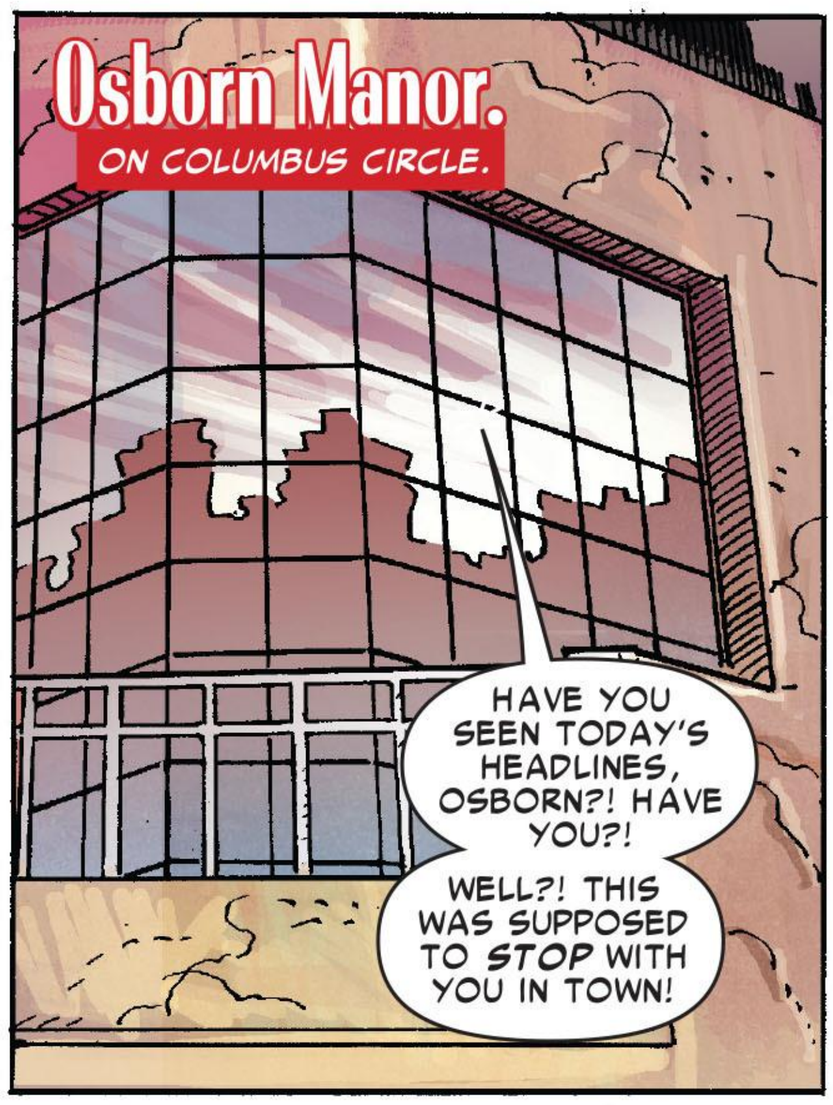

HONEY, I AM SO SORRY... ABOUT BEFORE.
I KNOW. THAT WASN'T YOU. NOT REALLY. HARRY...
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I NEVER SHOULD HAVE PUSHED DAD INTO THIS STUPID RACE. IT'S NOT WORTH THIS.


DON'T SAY THAT. YOUR FATHER'S A GOOD MAN. SOMEONE THIS CITY NEEDS LOOKING OUT FOR HER.
I ENVY YOU, LIL. WHAT I WOULDN'T DO TO HAVE A MAN LIKE THAT AS MY FATHER--TO BE PART OF YOUR FAMILY, INSTEAD OF--

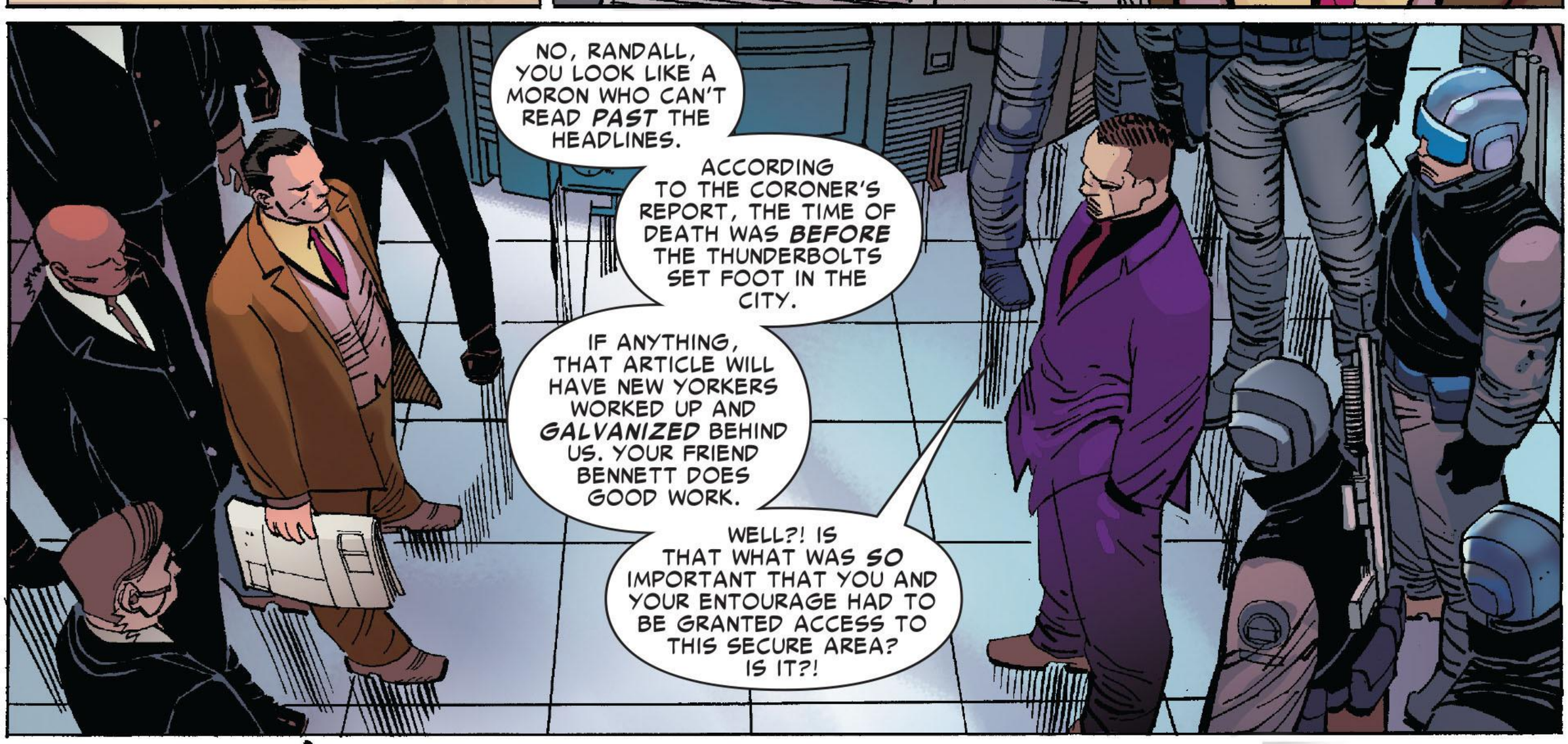

MY GOD, HARRY. WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING?
YOUR FATHER, WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU?


NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
HE ALWAYS HAD...MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO OCCUPY HIS TIME.


I'M NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT. NOT THIS TIME. NOT WITH YOU TWO.
HARRY... YOU ARE PART OF OUR FAMILY. AND YOU ALWAYS WILL BE.


Osborn Manor.
ON COLUMBUS CIRCLE.
HAVE YOU SEEN TODAY'S HEADLINES, OSBORN?! HAVE YOU?!
WELL?! THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO STOP WITH YOU IN TOWN!

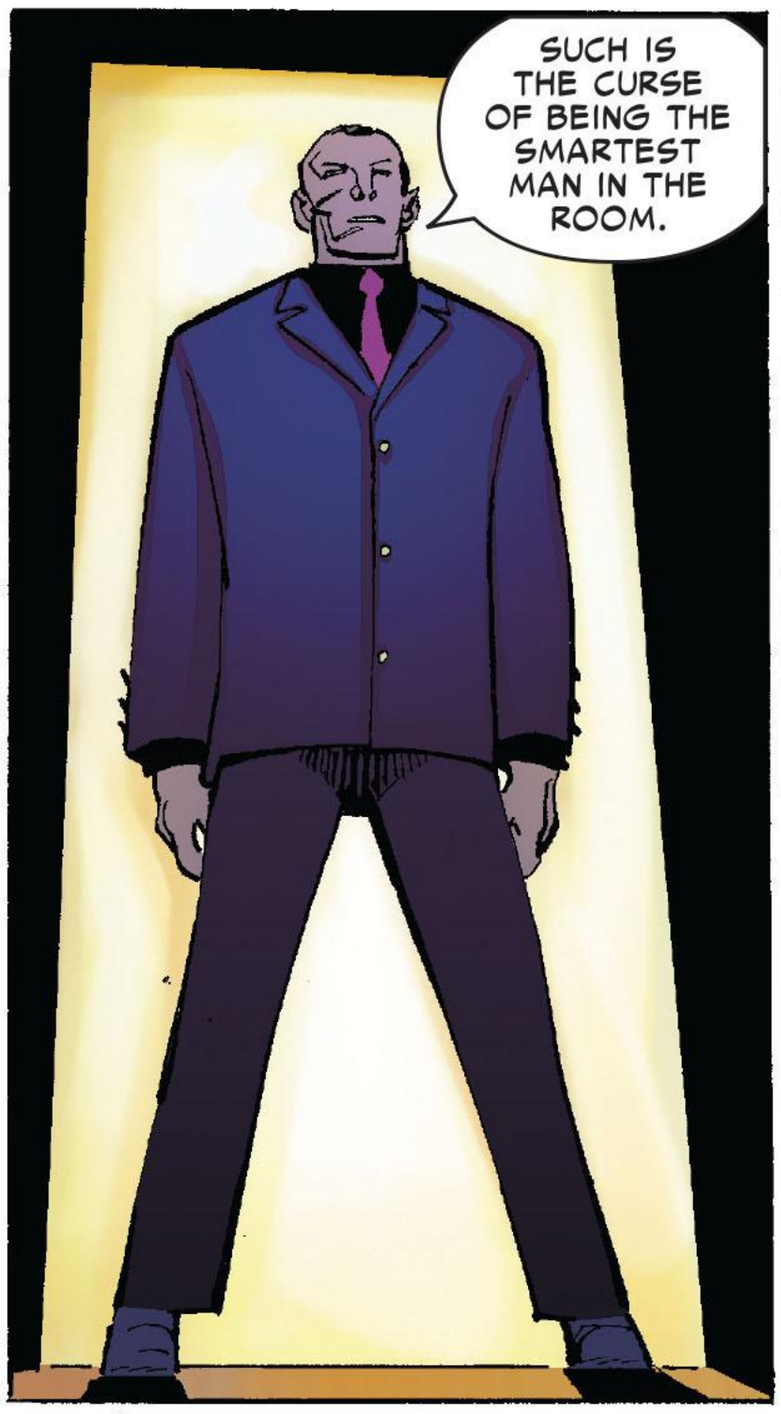
THE DOB
BEASTS BATTLE AT THE F.E.A.S.T....MENACE MANGLES HOLLISTER HOME... PHELPS A MUTANT?!
SPIDER-TRACER KILLER STRIKES AGAIN!
SEVENTH VICTIM FOUND IN EAST RIVER
BUT LOOK! THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER KILLING!
NOW I LOOK LIKE A TOTAL MORON FOR SUPPORTING YOU!

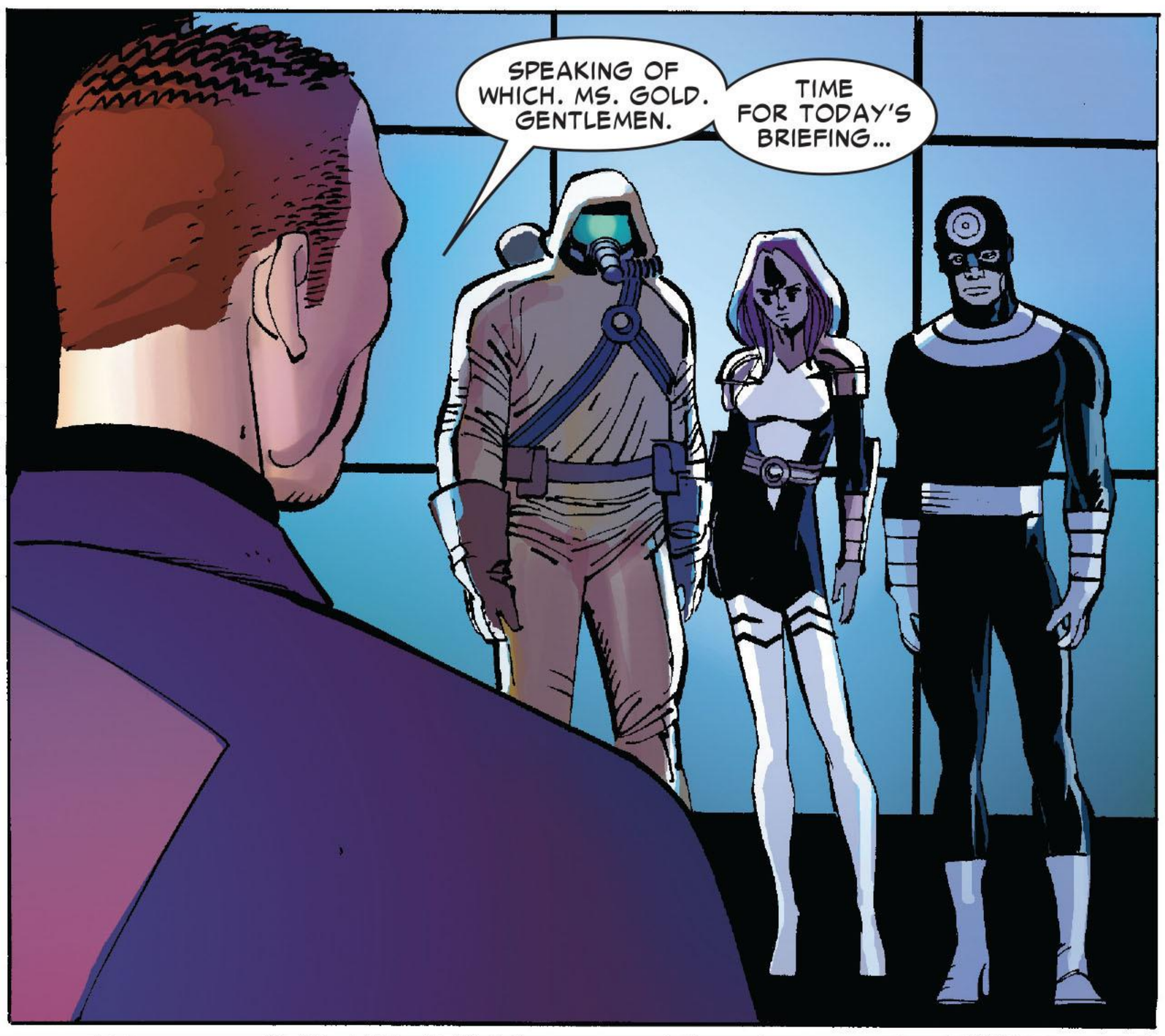

NO, RANDALL, YOU LOOK LIKE A MORON WHO CAN'T READ PAST THE HEADLINES.
ACCORDING TO THE CORONER'S REPORT, THE TIME OF DEATH WAS BEFORE THE THUNDERBOLTS SET FOOT IN THE CITY.
IF ANYTHING, THAT ARTICLE WILL HAVE NEW YORKERS WORKED UP AND GALVANIZED BEHIND US. YOUR FRIEND BENNETT DOES GOOD WORK.
WELL?! IS THAT WHAT WAS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU AND YOUR ENTOURAGE HAD TO BE GRANTED ACCESS TO THIS SECURE AREA? IS IT?!

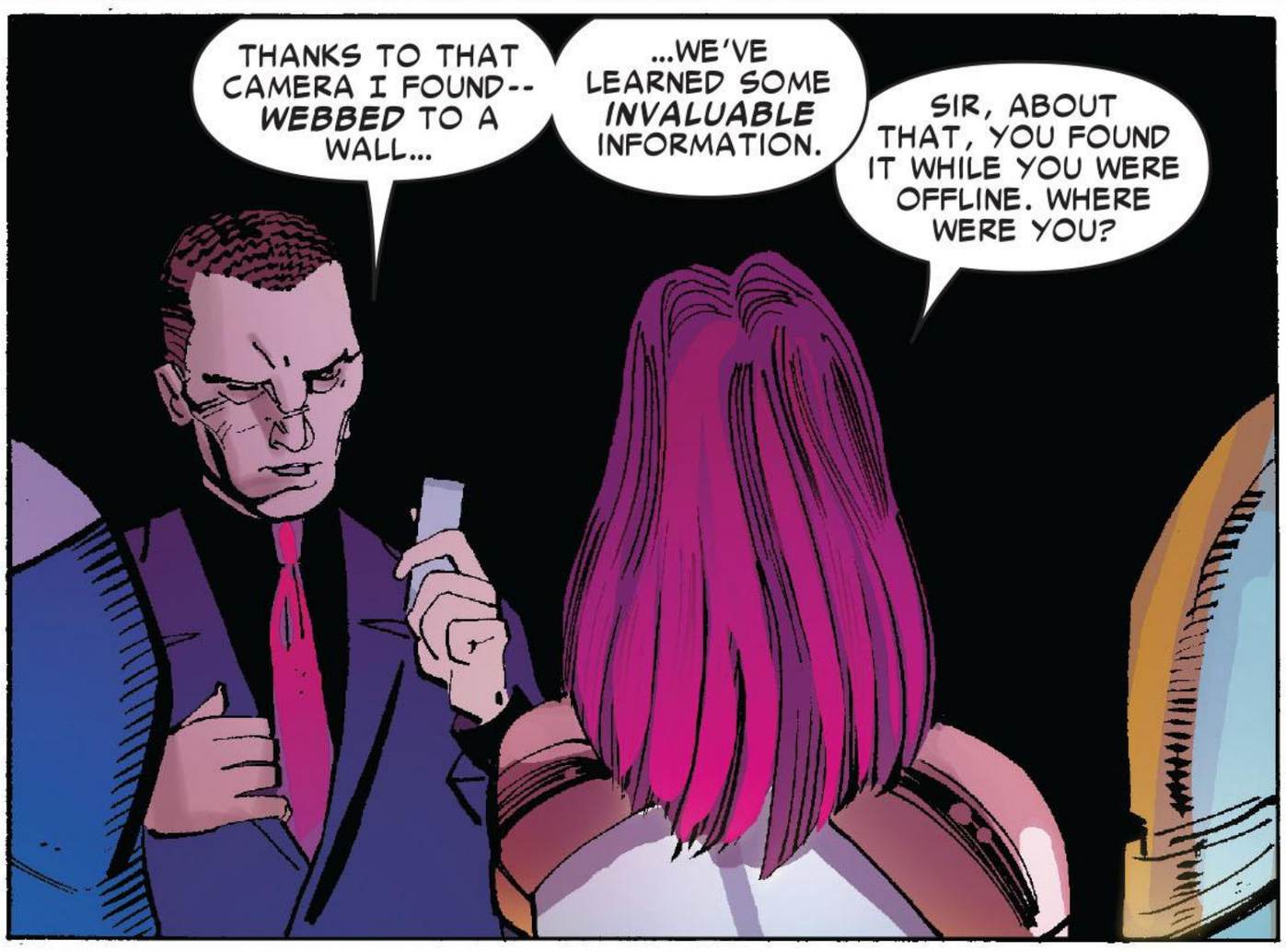
NOW GET OUT. SOME OF US HAVE WORK TO DO, CROWNE...
COCKY SUNNUVA...

...LIKE WINNING YOU THIS ELECTION!

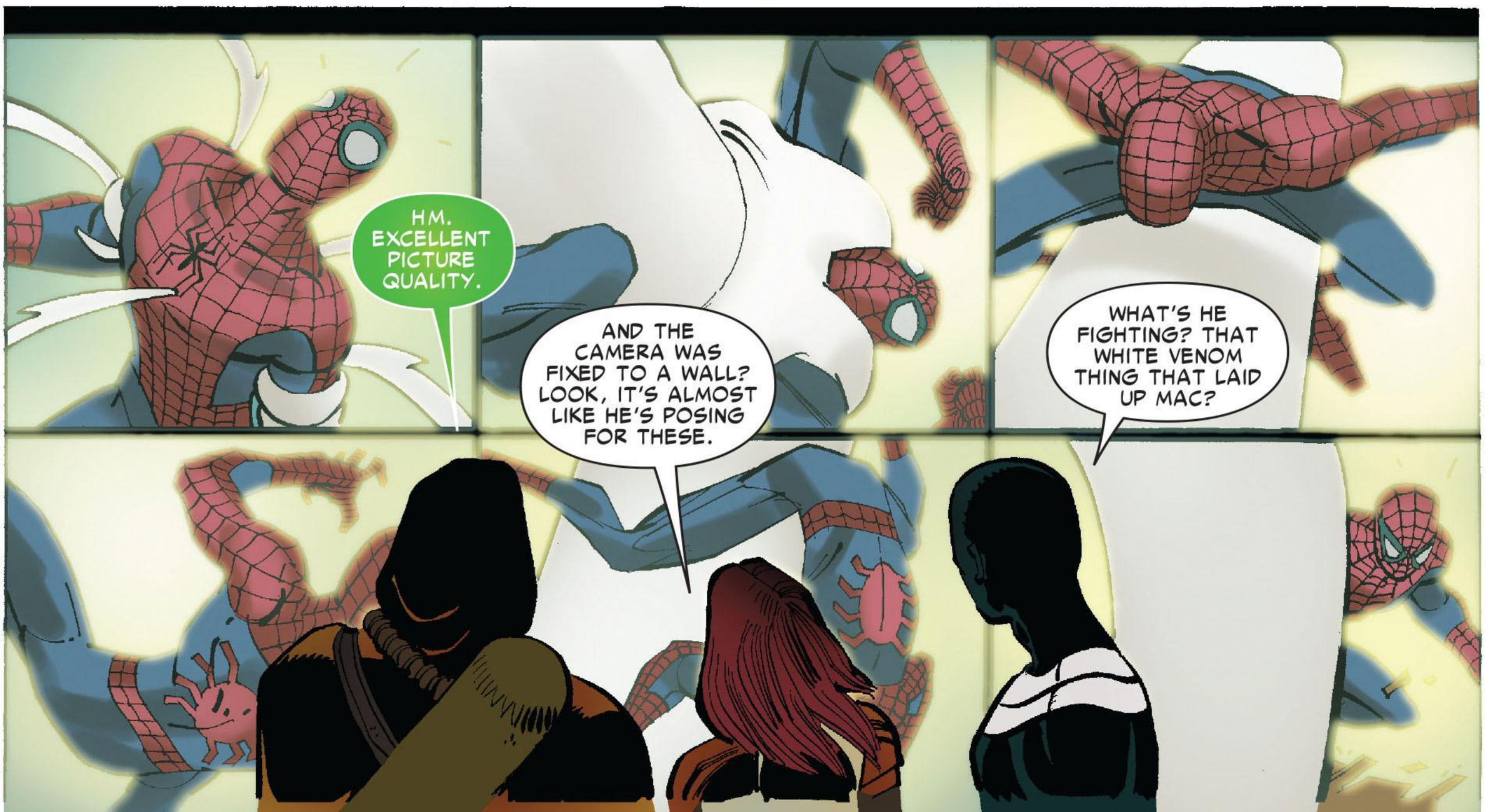
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL OF YOU. OUT.
THIS AREA'S RESTRICTED. THUNDERBOLTS STAFF ONLY.

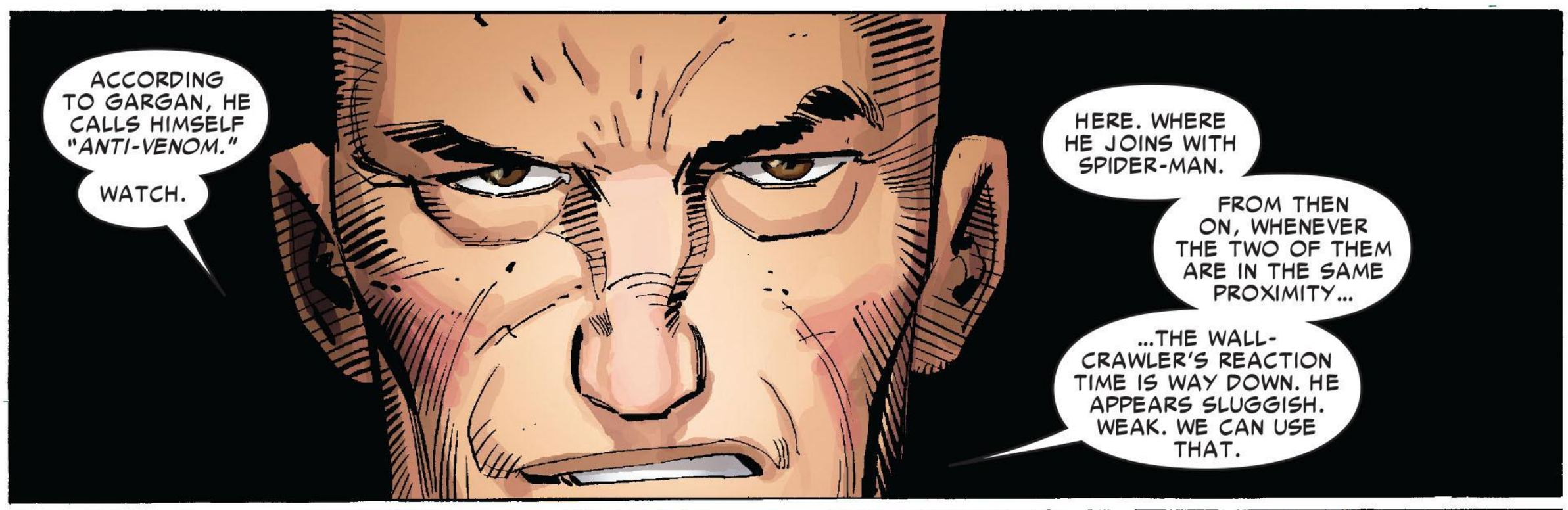

SUCH IS THE CURSE OF BEING THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE ROOM.

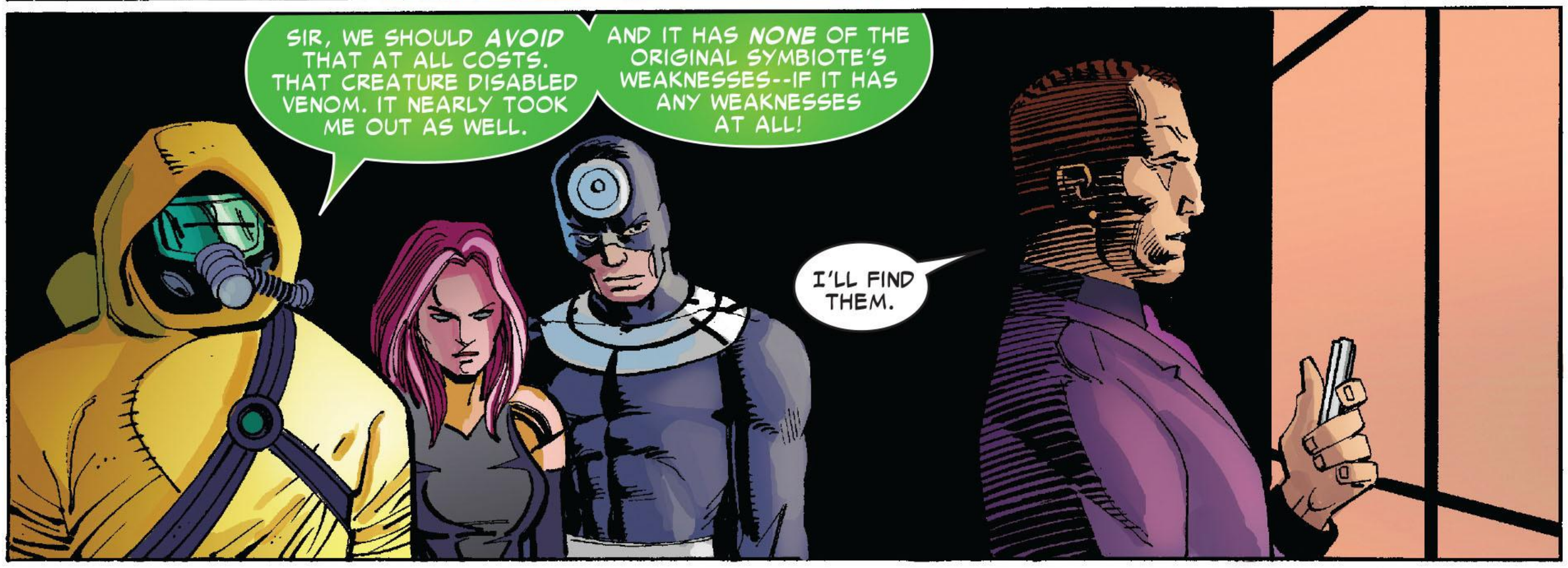

SPEAKING OF WHICH. MS. GOLD. GENTLEMEN.
TIME FOR TODAY'S BRIEFING...


THANKS TO THAT CAMERA I FOUND-- WEBBED TO A WALL...
...WE'VE LEARNED SOME INVALUABLE INFORMATION.
SIR, ABOUT THAT, YOU FOUND IT WHILE YOU WERE OFFLINE. WHERE WERE YOU?

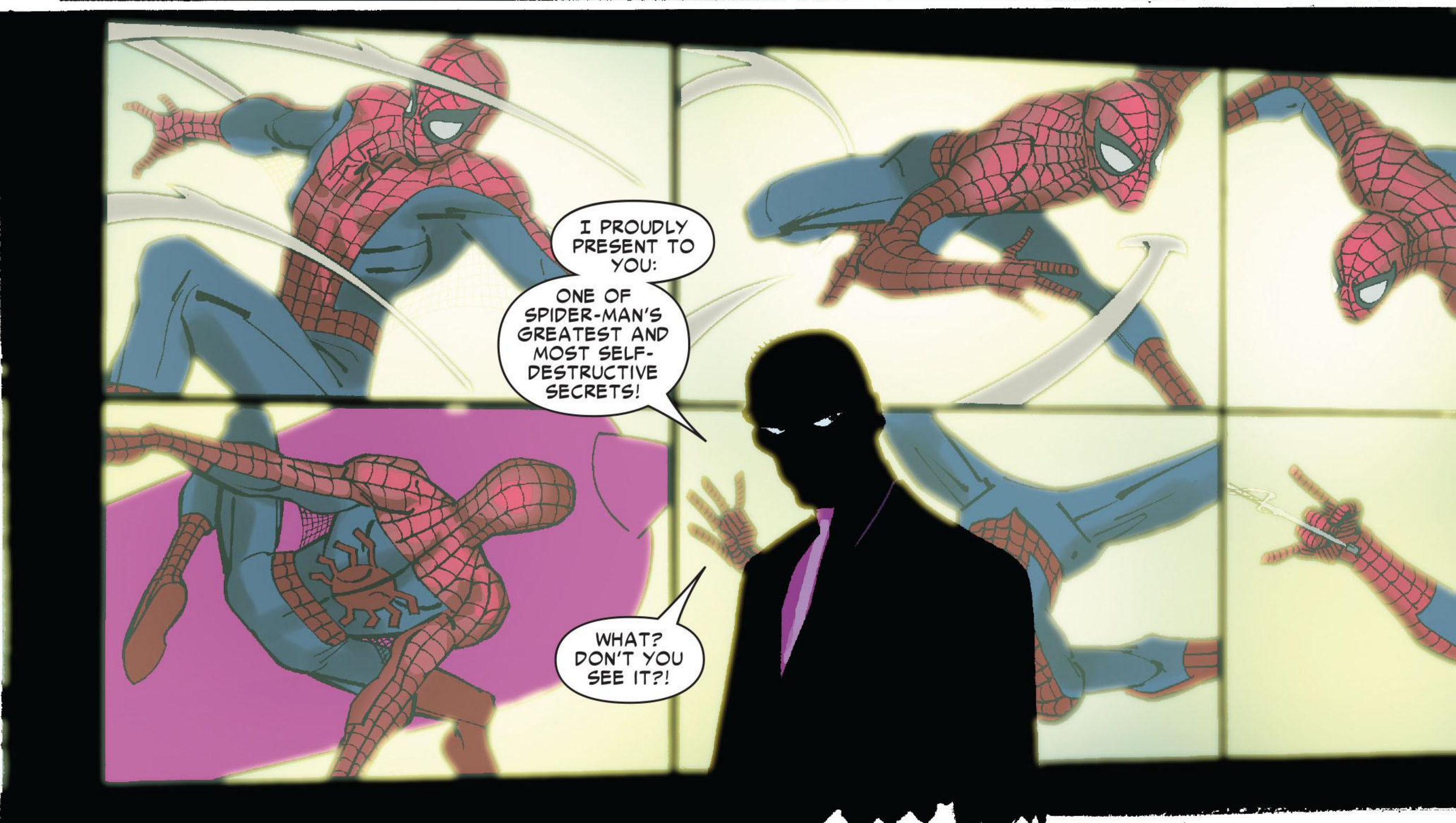
THAT WAS A PERSONAL MATTER. IF I WERE YOU, I'D PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO THIS.
TEK


HM. EXCELLENT PICTURE QUALITY.
AND THE CAMERA WAS FIXED TO A WALL? LOOK, IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE'S POSING FOR THESE.
WHAT'S HE FIGHTING? THAT WHITE VENOM THING THAT LAID UP MAC?

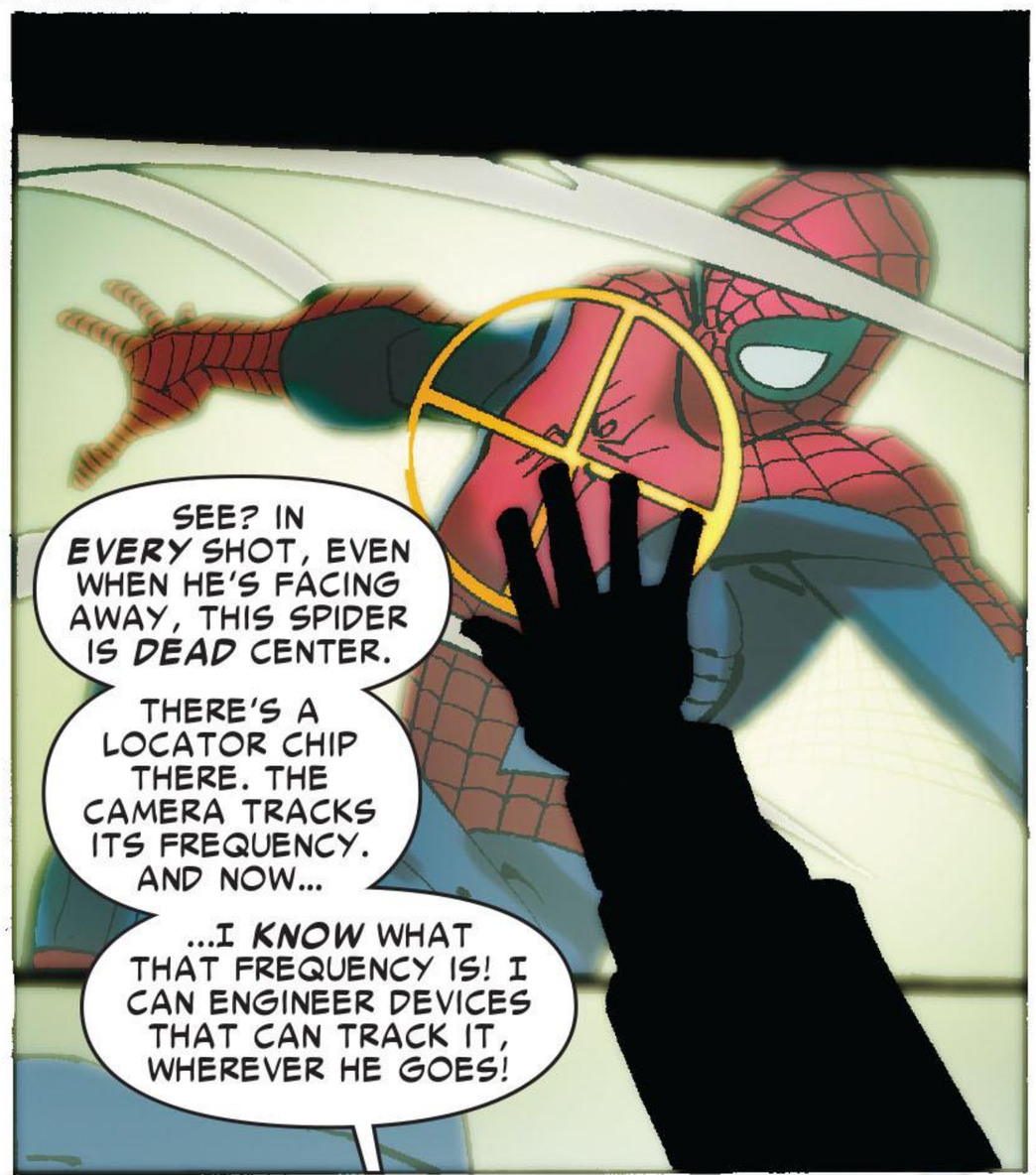

ACCORDING TO GARGAN, HE CALLS HIMSELF "ANTI-VENOM."
WATCH.
HERE. WHERE HE JOINS WITH SPIDER-MAN.
FROM THEN ON, WHENEVER THE TWO OF THEM ARE IN THE SAME PROXIMITY...
...THE WALL-CRAWLER'S REACTION TIME IS WAY DOWN. HE APPEARS SLUGGISH. WEAK. WE CAN USE THAT.


SIR, WE SHOULD AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS. THAT CREATURE DISABLED VENOM. IT NEARLY TOOK ME OUT AS WELL.
AND IT HAS NONE OF THE ORIGINAL SYMBIOTE'S WEAKNESSES--IF IT HAS ANY WEAKNESSES AT ALL!
I'LL FIND THEM.

TEK
I HAVE TECHNICIANS EXAMINING WHAT IT DID TO GARGAN AS WE SPEAK.
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF BEING PREPARED...

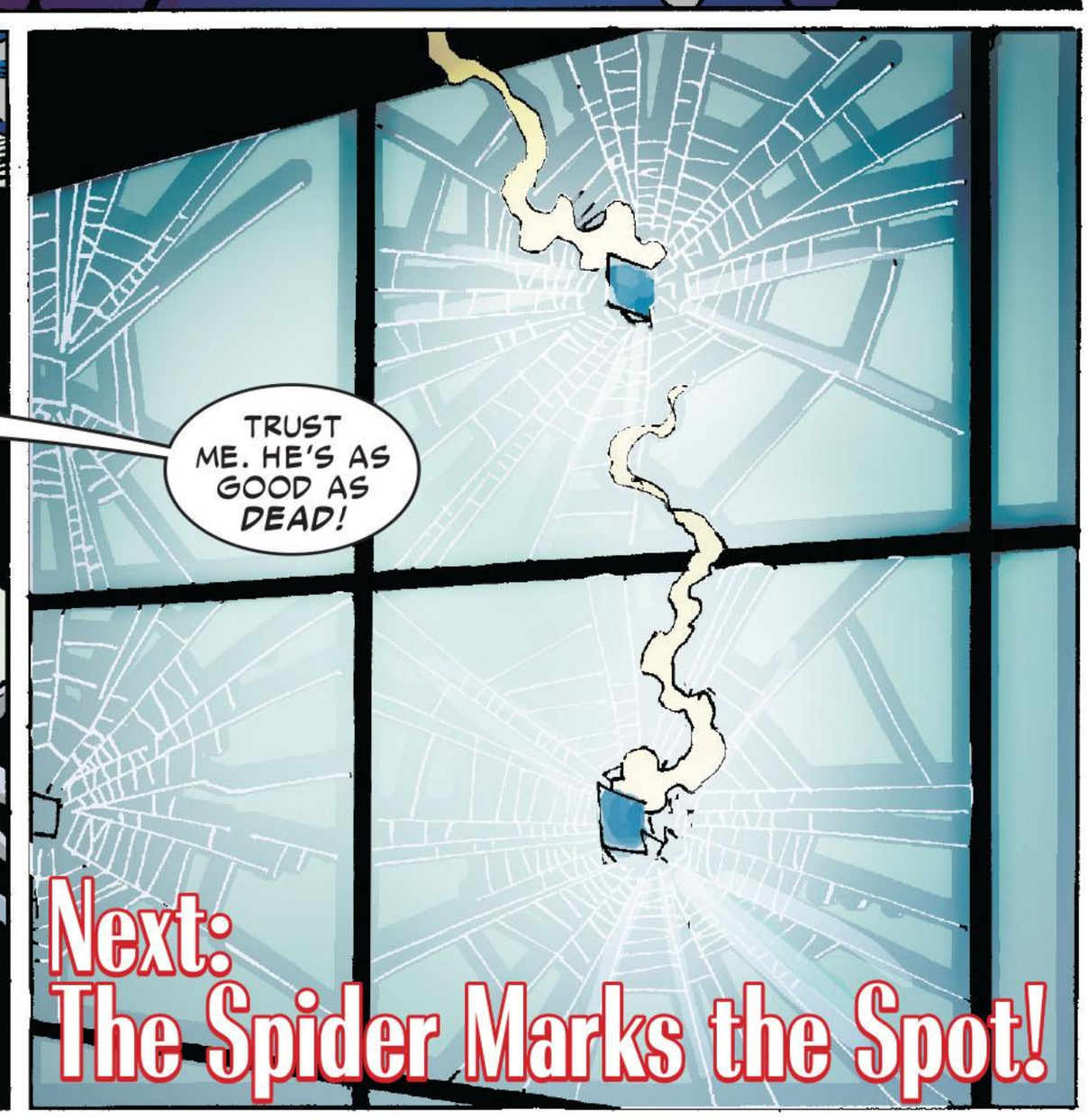

I PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU:
ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST AND MOST SELF-DESTRUCTIVE SECRETS!
WHAT? DON'T YOU SEE IT?!

HOW ABOUT NOW? HE'S NOT POSING, MS. GOLD.
MUHAMMAD ISN'T GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN. THE MOUNTAIN IS COMING TO MUHAMMAD.
ALL THESE YEARS, THE BUG'S BEEN TAKING HIS OWN PICTURES. PARKER'S JUST HIS FRONT. SOME FACE HE SPLITS THE PROFITS WITH.
TEK


SEE? IN EVERY SHOT, EVEN WHEN HE'S FACING AWAY, THIS SPIDER IS DEAD CENTER.
THERE'S A LOCATOR CHIP THERE. THE CAMERA TRACKS ITS FREQUENCY. AND NOW...
...I KNOW WHAT THAT FREQUENCY IS! I CAN ENGINEER DEVICES THAT CAN TRACK IT, WHEREVER HE GOES!

WEAPONS THAT WILL ZERO IN ON IT, COUNTER HIS SPIDER-SENSE, AND NEVER MISS!
÷AHEM÷

YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING, OSBORN. YOU ALREADY HAVE A WEAPON THAT CAN DO THAT.


TRUST ME. HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD!
Next: The Spider Marks the Spot!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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

You better believe it, Arachnophiles…one week until Spider-Man vs. Bullseye. Who says this isn't the new golden age of Spidey?!

As I type this voluminous verbiage, wunder-artist Dean White is busy putting the finishing touches on the very issue you hold in your hand. In fact we were typing away to each other late last night as I sat comfortably in my Spidey-robe and Quesada socks watching the US Women's Beach Volleyball team ease their way to yet another gold medal. Beach volleyball and Spidey…SOMEBODY up there likes me.

Anyway Dean's had to put in plenty of extra hours on New Ways to Die as you'll notice that most of chapters of this suspense shattering six-parter have gone beyond the normal 22-page count leading to 573's big 28-page conclusion! That issue will also see an 8-pge backup story by Mark Waid featuring the web-head teaming up with one of the biggest celebrities on basic cable! Reserve your copy now! (or wait around in your robe and socks for the mailman to bring it. That's what I'd do.)

And with that let's dip back into the mailbag with more thoughts on KRAVEN'S FIRST HUNT as well as some feedback on the "all negative" letter columns we ran back in #565.

Hey Web-Spinners,

I've been following "Brand New Day" and am currently reading the "Kraven's First Hunt" storyline. I am very, very, very pleased that Mr. Guggenheim appears to have the same sense of nostalgia and fascination with the best Spider-Man story ever published, "Kraven's Last Hunt." I love all of the little connections to the original story: the hyper-suspense, the kidnapping, the wrong person under the mask and the best connection, the return of Vermin.

This book feels like a great combination of elements from every era but I'm glad my all-time favorite story of "Kraven's Last Hunt" is getting its due. I hope in the future the "braintrust" do follow-ups of other great stories. It looks like the "braintrust" has a plan and I'm looking forward to seeing where all this leads, three times a month!

P.S. Is Stephen Wacker the "he" in the "He Loves You" line from Secret Invasion?

Robert Cammarata
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Sorry, Robert, but if I were really the "He" in SECRET INVASION, the phrase would be "I tolerate you."

In case any of you out there have never read the classic KRAVEN'S LAST HUNT by J.M. DeMatteis and Mike Zeck, be sure and pick up a copy of the new printing that Marvel recently released. You won't be sorry.

Editors,

This letter was originally going to be nothing but a pat on the back for your work in ASM #565. I was going to rave about the INCREDIBLE writing and the most Outstanding use of visual storytelling I've seen in ASM in years. The art was just... perfect. I was going to end my letter by saying that 565 was easily the strongest issue so far in BND…

Then I got to the letters page. After reading that cranky batch of mail, I decided I needed to take Mr. Wacker up on his invitation to vent.

I'll admit, I don't think BND has been perfect. I had really been enjoying the pre-OMD Amazing run and everything about it, so I was sad to lose so many great elements that had come to make this book what it was. However, I became hooked on BND when I realized after the first arc that I was having an incredible amount of fun reading the books. I have always loved ASM, but "fun" just wasn't a descriptor that seemed to apply before. I almost hate to say it, but BND has helped me realize that comic books sometimes take themselves too seriously, which can be a negative thing.

Half the letters published in #565 whined about the book devolving into a '60s feel. I've actually been loving the thought bubbles and the editor's notes and the throw-back style of humor. While I think character development (especially that of some of the villains) has been a little sparse at times, it's been improving by leaps and bounds.

So with #565, I really think you really hit your stride. You found a balance between all the best things about pre-BND ASM, and all the great stuff introduced in the first chunk of BND issues. This book is headed in a great direction, and anyone that bails on this title now is going to be missing out for sure.

Isral DeBruin
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear comic book geeks,

I have been reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN since issue #149 and I have to say you guys have truly returned to us loyal readers the real Spider-Man.

Thank god you strapped web-shooters back on our boy because the thought of Parker shooting organic webs outta his butt is just not right. The "Parker Luck" is the very essence of this book; It always has been. To see these little details returned to these pages would even make Stan smile. The younger readers really don't know how much detail you've returned to this book.

Also, I love the new villains and that Harry is back. He'll be blowing up the neighborhood before you know it. I would like to see some old villains return like the Shocker and Doc Ock, but I really would like to see the return of the Jackal...now hear me out! This could work.

Professor Warren was in a coma in Europe this whole time. Norman Osborn was behind the whole clone mess, so Warren returns mad because Gwen is dead and comes up with brilliant ways to cause problems for our boy. No stinkin' clones, just the Jackal returning to the underground crime world. Throw in Hammerhead, it won't disappoint. Well that's it. This is my first letter and I'm glad to see you guys are finally earning your paycheck.

Keep up the good work
John Cooper, age 42
Houston, Tx.

John, Shocker is coming sooner than you think and the events of NEW WAYS TO DIE lead right into the Hammerhead story starting in #575.

No Jackal plans at the moment, but who knows what the future holds? (well, we know it holds SPIDER-MAN 2099, but you know what I mean).

Dear Spider-Mail,

ASM #567 was awesome!

I liked how the real Spider-Man was able to beat Vermin and keep him tied up with all of his webbing and then he needed Vermin's help to find his roommate. Vermin wasn't all bad. He was more scared than bad, and then he even told Spider-Man where to find his friend, so that was good.

The fight in the tunnel was real cool. I liked how Spider-Man and his friend teamed up and were trying to fight the girl Kraven but she kept finding ways to win. She was really tough. It was cool when the roommate did a sneak attack against girl Kraven to help Spider-Man. There were a lot of cool fights in the tunnel and each time it looked like the good guys would win, Kraven did something better.

One of my favorite parts was when Spider-Man gave his friend a web-shooter and had to teach him how to use it. It was pretty funny that the guy wearing a Spider-Man costume didn't know how to use the webs and when he did it was great. I also thought it was cool how Vermin came back at the end and helped Spider-Man and his friend get away.

It was cool seeing Harry at the hospital. I wonder if he's going to be the Green Goblin soon?

My other favorite part is when Spider-Man went to the hospital to talk to his roommate. He had to lie to him to protect his secret and the roommate punched him out because he was mad.

I liked at the end how they showed Kraven's wife and the daughter and that there's a whole family of people that hates Spider-Man. It's cool how Kraven didn't win but she didn't get captured either. They are pretty cool villains and I hope they come back to fight Spider-Man soon.

The art was very good, just like the other issue. Daredevil's eyes still look sort of weird but everyone else was great. All the battles were great and Vermin is drawn really good. I think the only thing that could have been better would be for the real Spider-Man to be in his costume instead of his roommate.

I really liked the picture on the last page showing the Venom costume underneath Spider-Man's shirt. If Venom takes over Spider-Man next issue it's going to be awesome.

My Rating: 9.5 out of 10

Liam Goletz, Age 7
Reading, PA

We're happy to have you, Liam. Keep these well-written reviews coming, good or bad. Harry as the Green Goblin is an interesting thought…oh, so close.

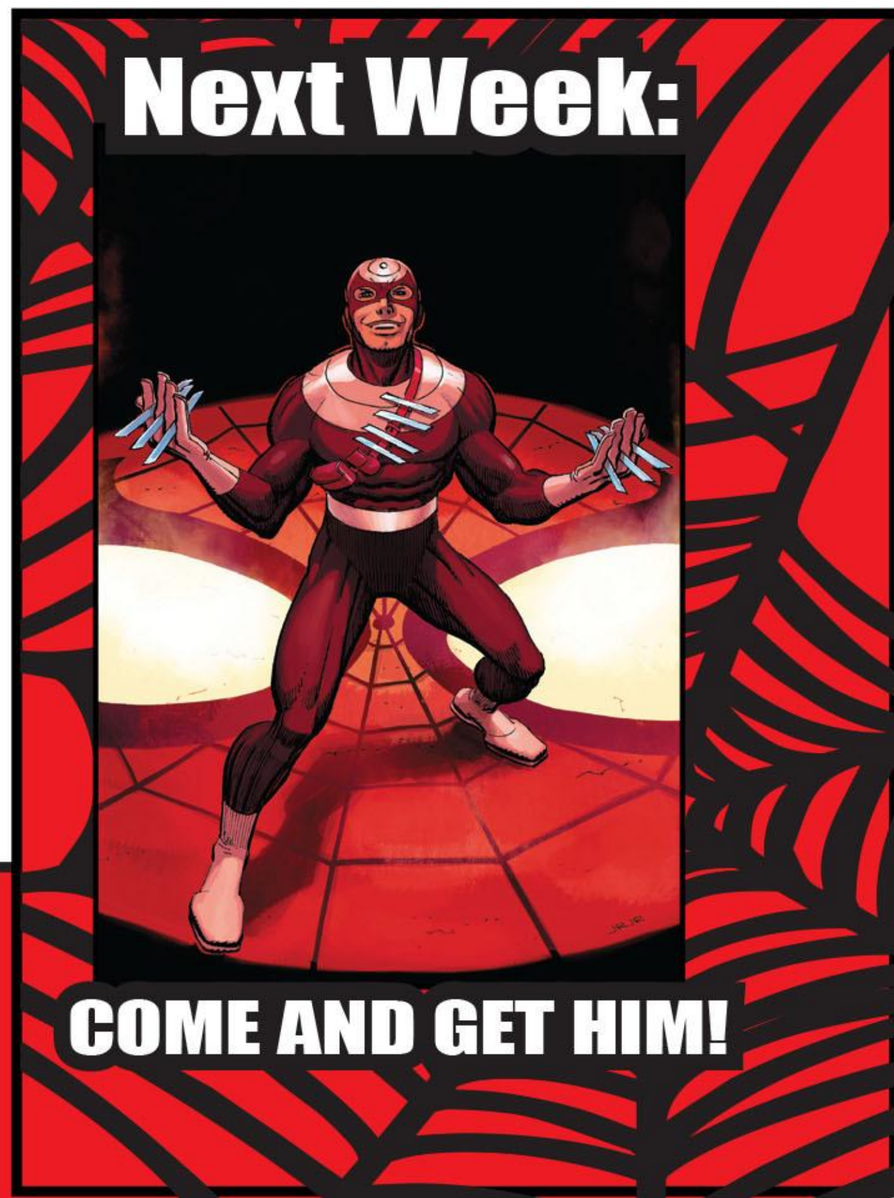
You're a lucky kid. At age 7, I didn't even know if there'd ever be another Star Wars movie and was stuck with a lousy Spider-Man TV show with special effects that even my *Lik-M-Aid* addled brain knew stunk. I was stuck at home just sitting around listening to my mom's Jim Croce albums and taking care of my Pet Rock.

You can probably just go out and download anything you want straight into your brain without waiting. You kids and your crazy "technology"!

Thanks for writing, everyone. More next week.

Viva Templar!
Simperin' Steve
8/21/08

Regular and Variant covers by JRJr, Janson and White.



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