



BRAND NEW DAY

the **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**

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BOB GALE
BARRY KITSON
MARK FARMER

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WHILE ATTENDING A DEMONSTRATION IN RADIOLOGY, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT **PETER PARKER** WAS BITTEN BY A SPIDER WHICH HAD ACCIDENTALLY BEEN EXPOSED TO **RADIOACTIVE RAYS**. THROUGH A MIRACLE OF SCIENCE, PETER SOON FOUND THAT HE HAD **GAINED** THE SPIDER'S POWERS...AND HAD, IN EFFECT, BECOME A HUMAN SPIDER! FROM THAT DAY ON HE WAS...

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

FREAK THE HIRER

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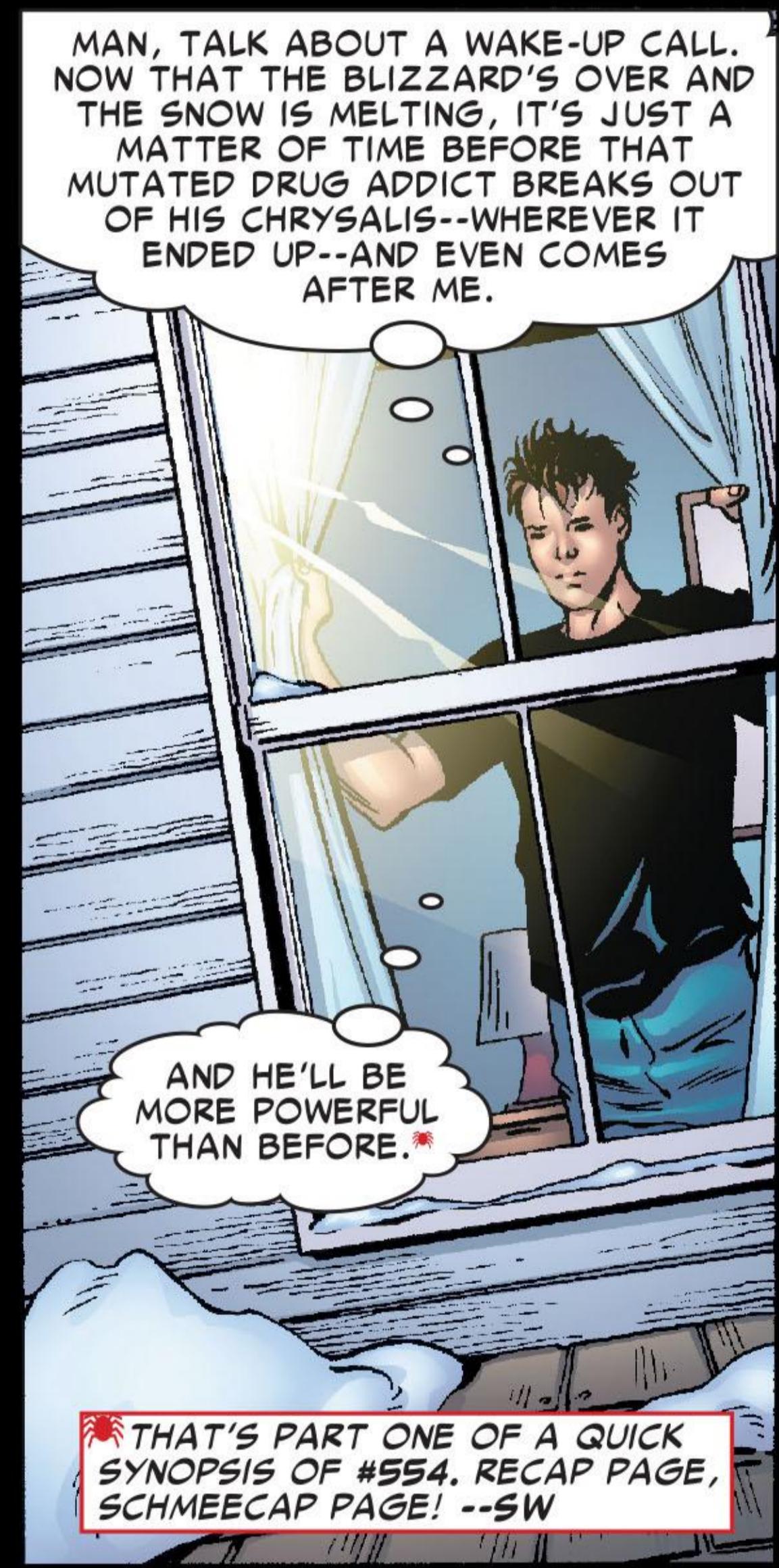
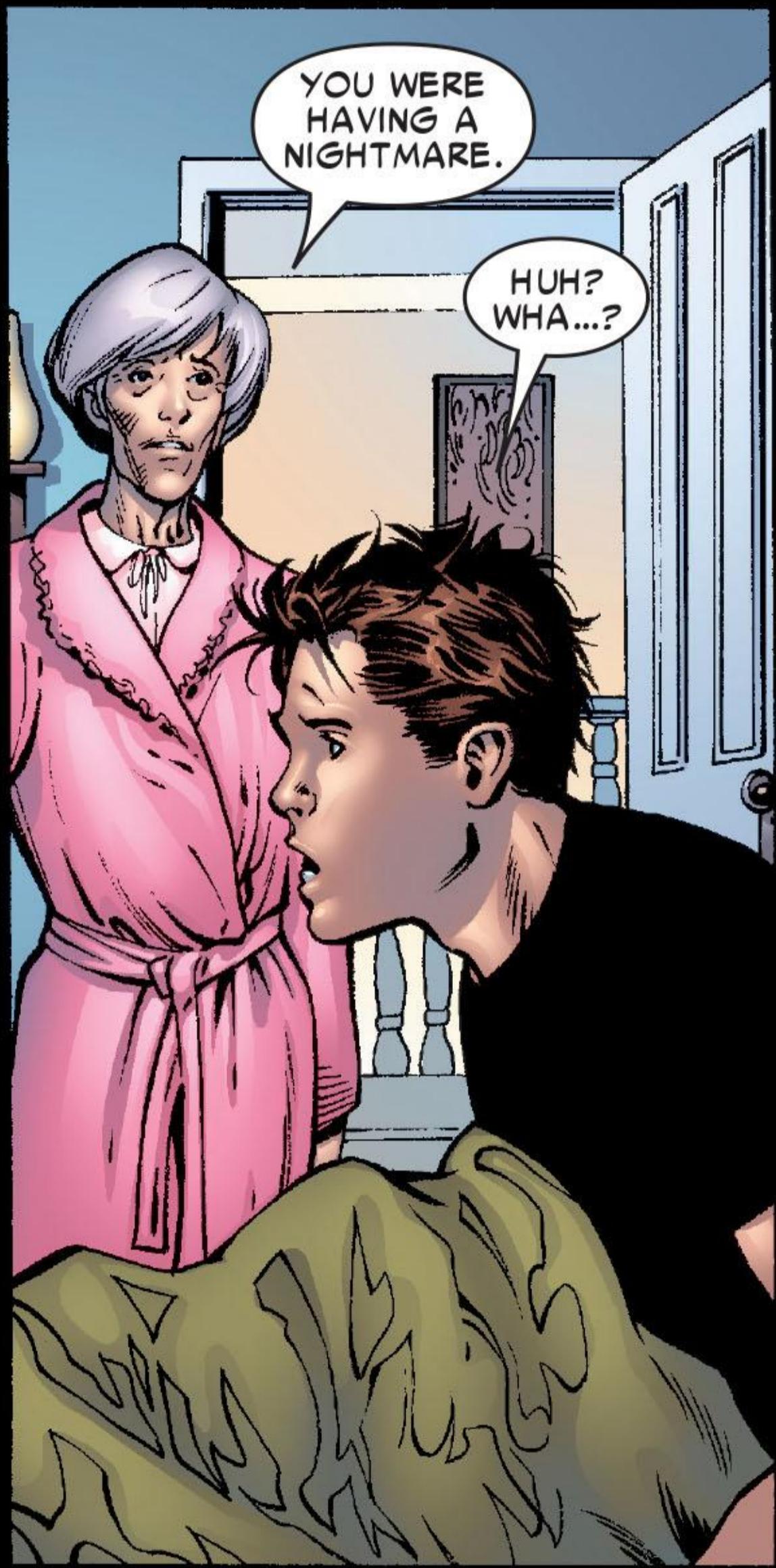
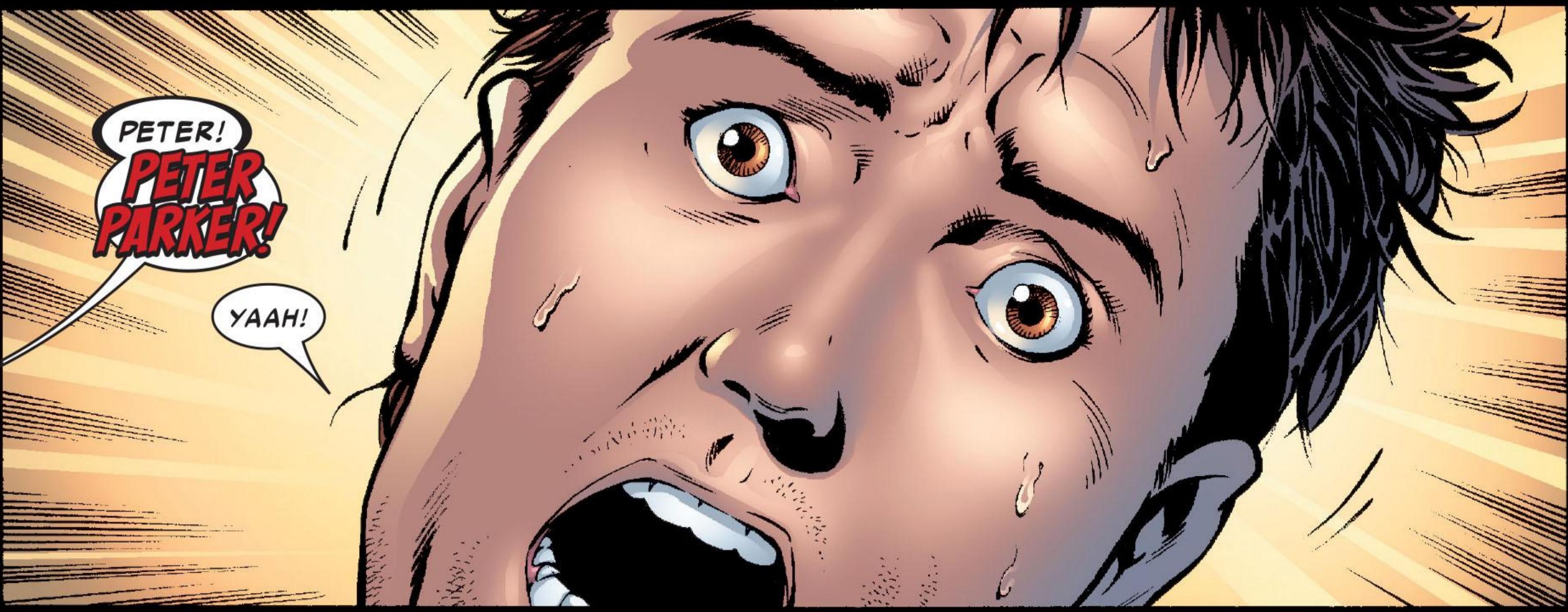
GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST

SPECIAL THANKS TO JAMES HODGKINS

SPIDER-MAN,
YOU RUNT, YOU'RE
HISTORY! I'VE BROKEN
YOUR ARMS, I'VE BROKEN
YOUR BACK AND AS I RIP
YOUR HEART OUT, I'M
GONNA EXPOSE YOUR
BIGGEST SECRET!

NOW
EVERYONE'S
GONNA
KNOW THAT
YOU'RE--





SO WILL YOU STILL BE COVERING MISTER HOLLISTER'S CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE AT THE FEAST CENTER THIS AFTERNOON?

ABSOLUTELY. AND, UH, SPEAKING OF WORK, UH, WELL, LATELY, MY BOSS HAS BEEN GIVING ME A HARD TIME ABOUT BEING SO FAR AWAY FROM THE NEWS. WELL, THERE'S THIS POSSIBILITY THAT AN APARTMENT SITUATION MAY BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE CITY, AND I'VE GOT A BIT SAVED UP, SO...

YOU'RE MOVING OUT?
IT'S NOT FOR SURE YET, AND I STILL NEED A BIT MORE MONEY. I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL LIKE I'M LEAVING YOU IN THE LURCH OR ANYTHING, BUT...

SO PLEASE, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME, I'LL BE FINE.

OUCH. SHE CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME WHEN SHE SAYS THAT. I FEEL AWFUL.

IT'S FINE, PETER. YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOURSELF. AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME. I'M SURE IT'LL ALL BE FOR THE BEST.

"I'LL BE FINE," SHE SAYS. I'M THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAS, AND NOW I'M GOING TO WALK OUT ON HER, LEAVING HER ALL ALONE. AND SHE SAYS IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.

"MAN, I FEEL LIKE A GRADE-A HEEL."

YESSSS!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF SPIDER-MAN



BLIZZARD BLOWS OFF, BUT THE ELECTION HURRICANE'S IN FULL FORCE!
BILLIONAIRE BLEEDING-HEART MARTIN LI TO ENDORSE TODAY. RECENT
DB POLL SHOWS CROWNE STRONGER ON ECONOMY – MORE ON PAGE C 13

MAY 7, 2008

WEDNESDAY

SHOVELING OUT!



FREAK, the junkie-turned-monster, has been cocooned in a chrysalis since his last fight with Spider-Man. Dr. Curt Connors, whose experiments accidentally created the beast, theorizes Freak should stay out of the picture as long as the temperature remains freezing – something a recent supernatural snowstorm provided in spades. But after Spidey took out Deity and his minion, the maniacal Dr. Rabin, the snowstorm ceased...and Freak's bound to return, sooner or later...

POLICE TIE SPIDER-MAN TO RECENT MURDERS! **EXCLUSIVE TO THE DB!**

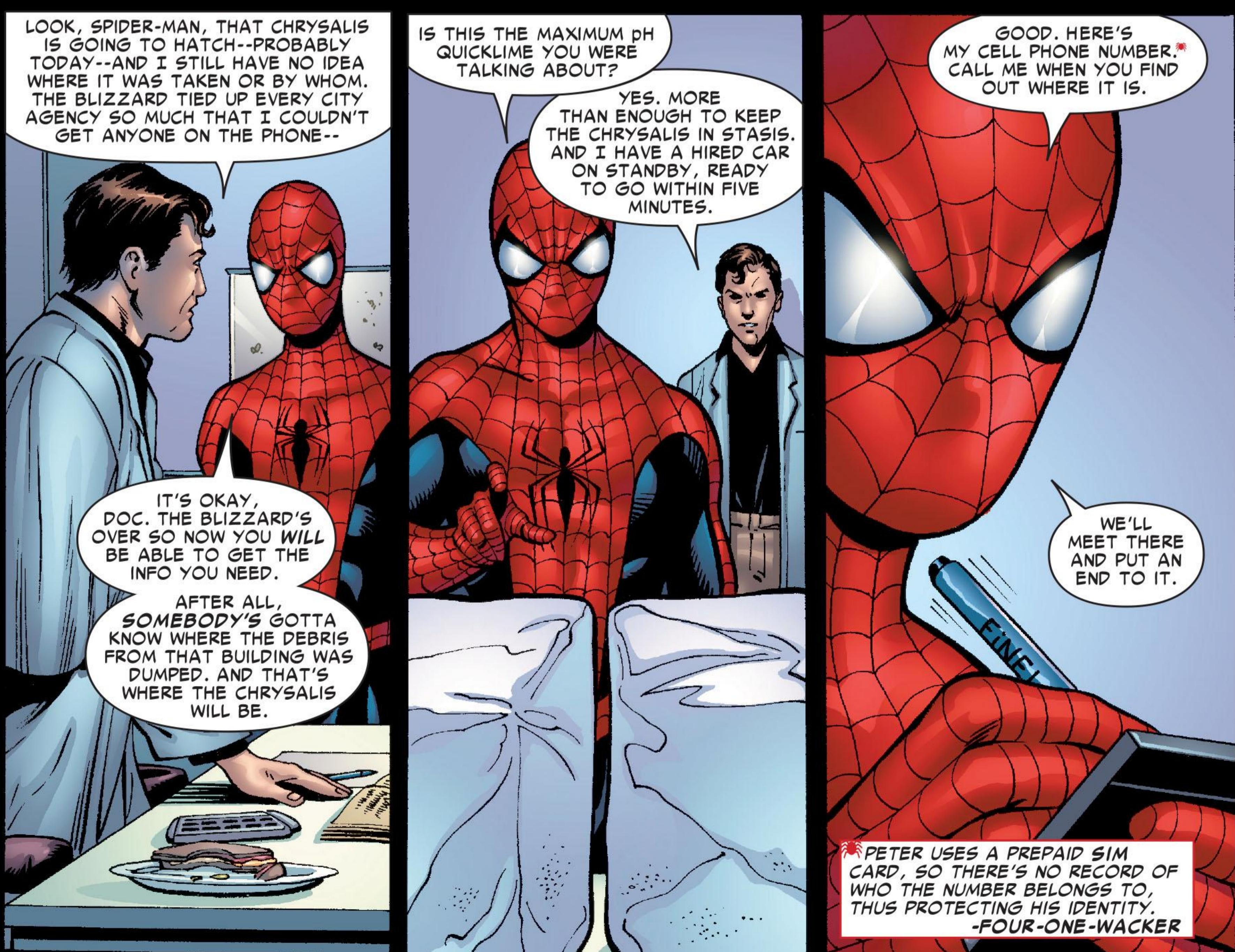
In off-the-record conversations with DB staffers, police have confirmed that Spider-Man is the key suspect in the string of recent murders that has shocked this city. Although police have been reluctant to discuss the specifics of the murders, so-called "Spider Tracers" have definitely been found on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

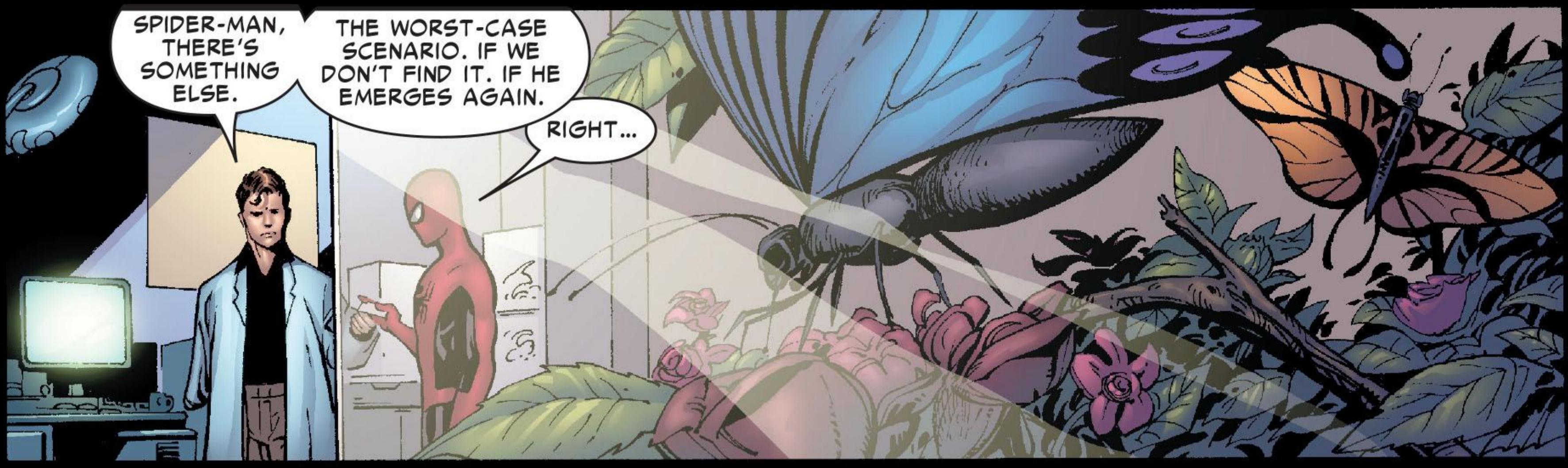
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Curt Connors' Lab.

AN HOUR LATER.

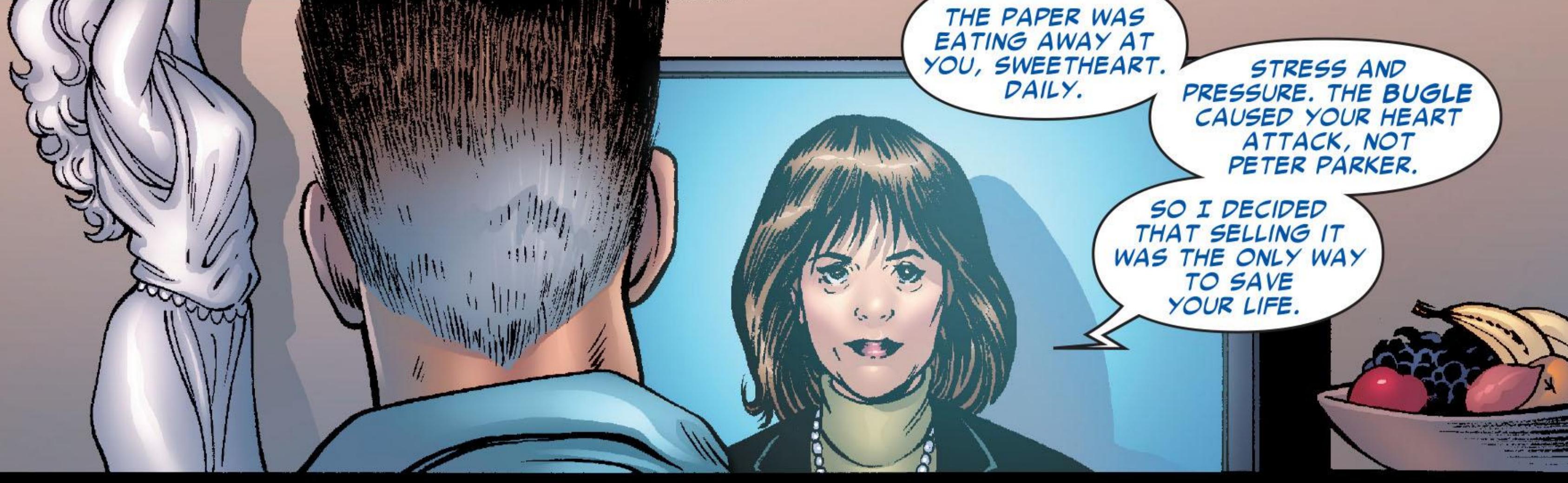


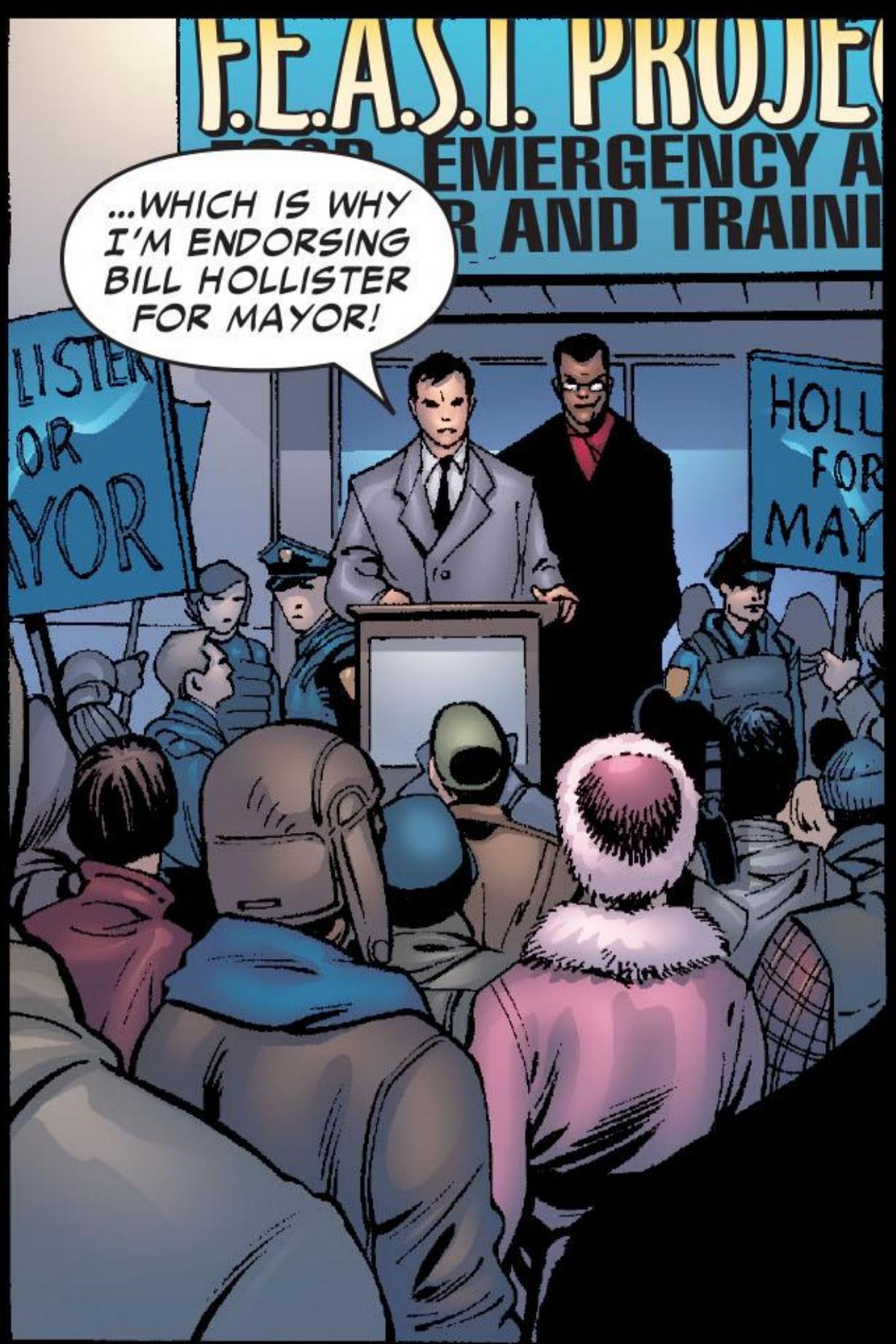


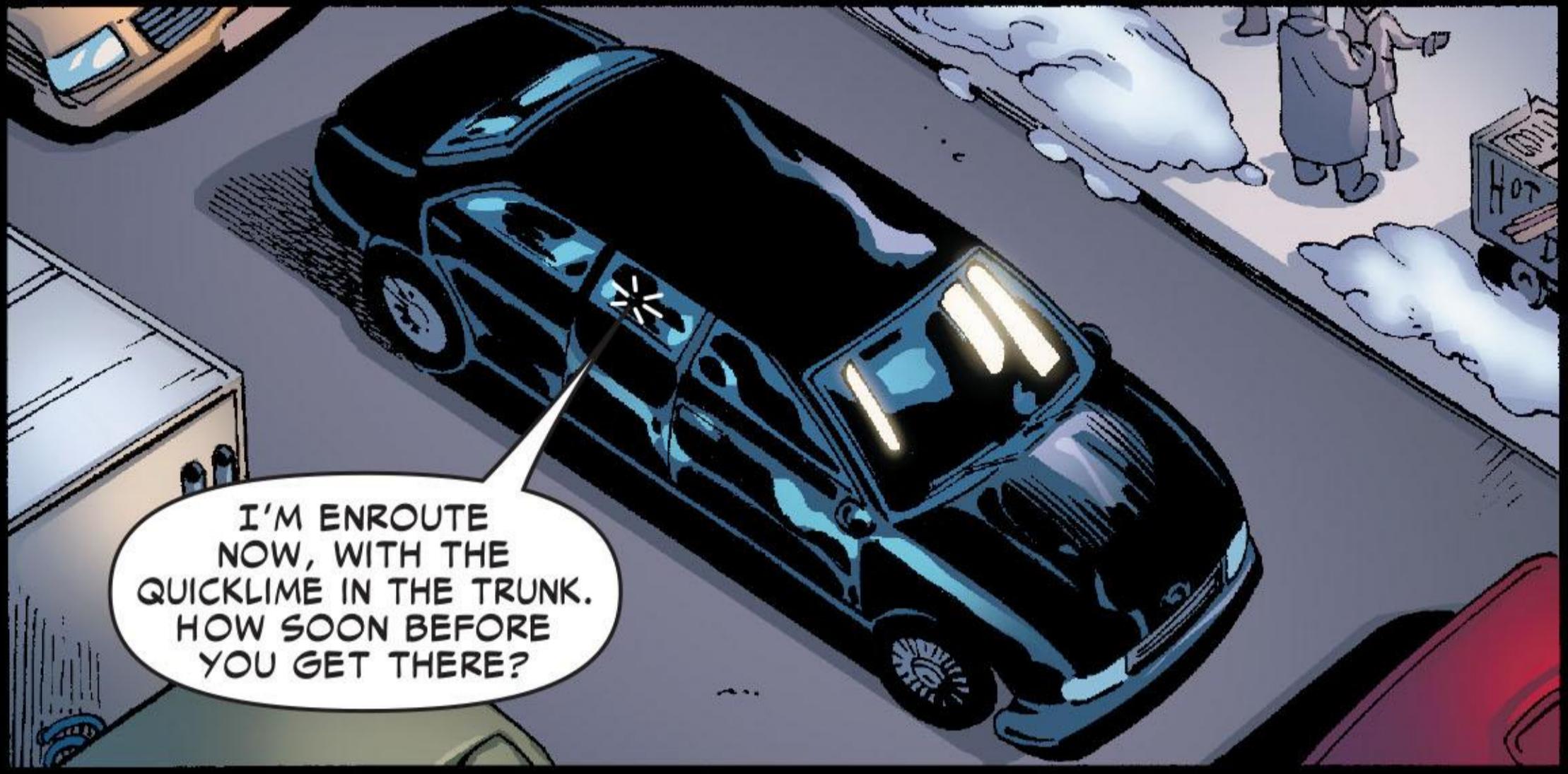
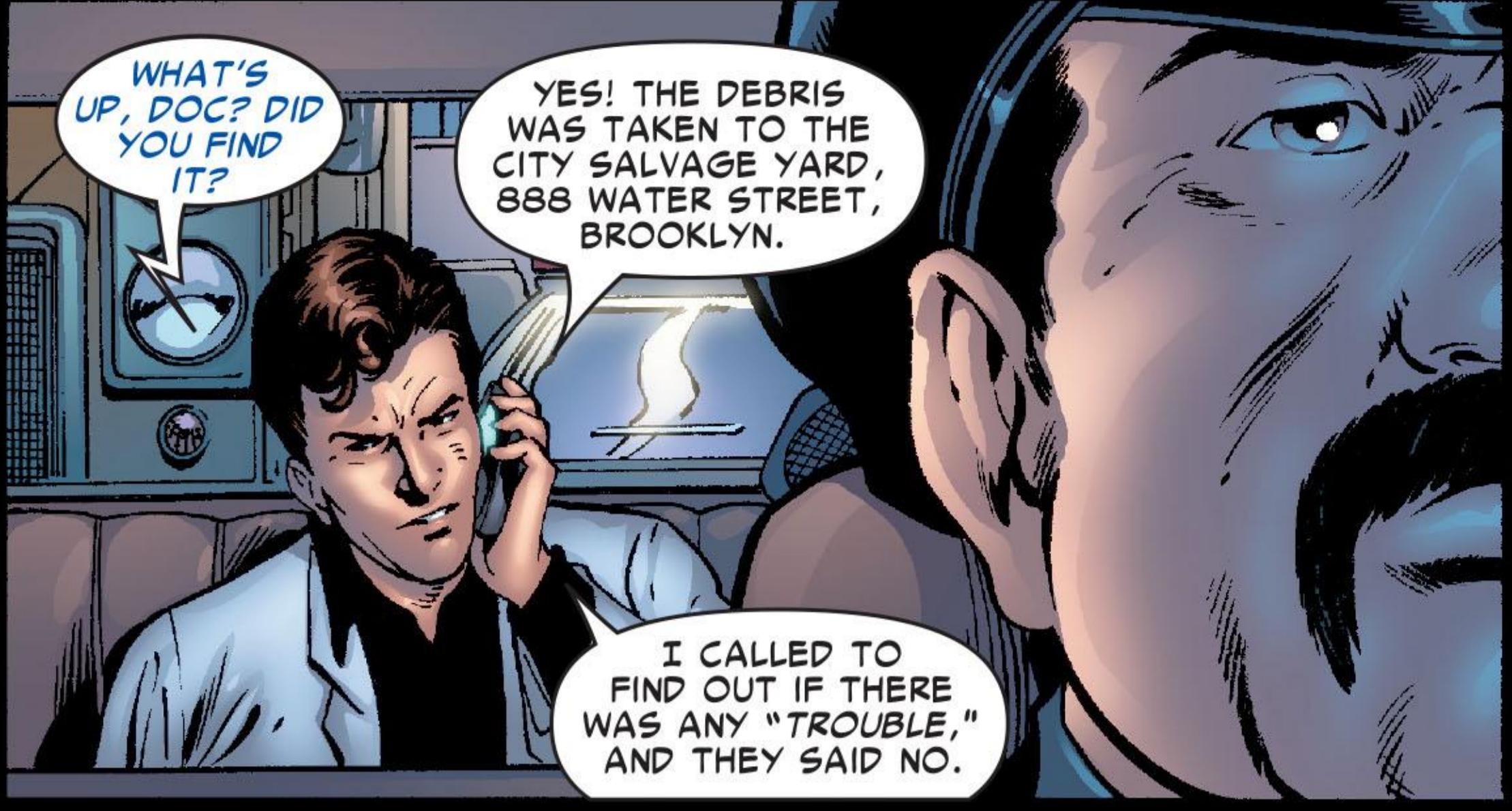
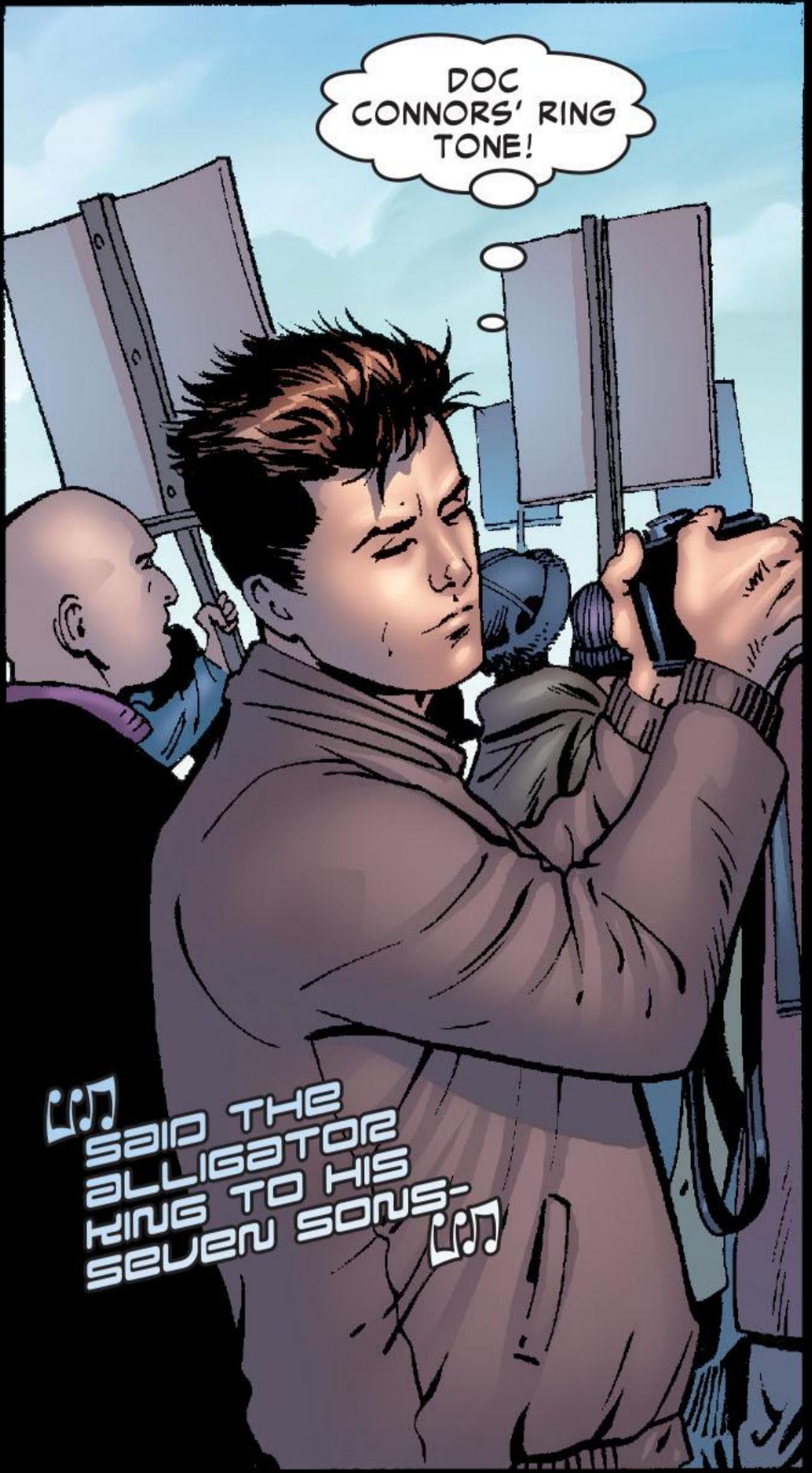
Upper East Side.

THE RESIDENCE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, JUST RELEASED FROM MT. SINAI HOSPITAL....









WHAT A MESS! I CAN'T HEAD TO BROOKLYN AND LEAVE THESE PEOPLE AT THE MERCY OF MENACE. BUT BY STAYING TO FIGHT, I'M ENDANGERING CONNORS AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHER PEOPLE IF THAT MONSTER EMERGES.

IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE I WISH I HAD A CLONE...OR EVEN A HELPFUL SKRULL.

AUNT MAY! IT'S NOT SAFE! LET'S GET YOU INSIDE!

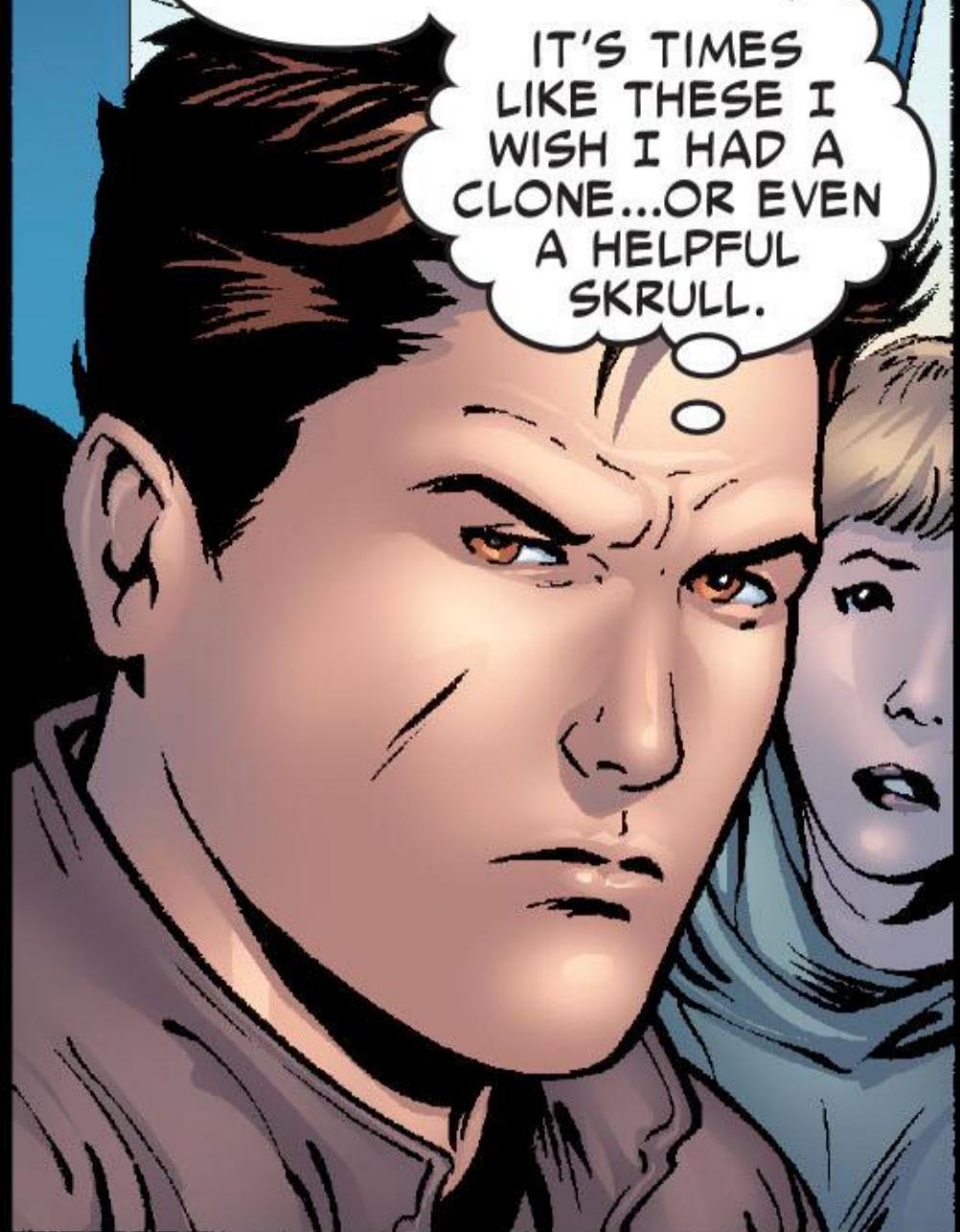
EMERGENCY TRAINING
AND

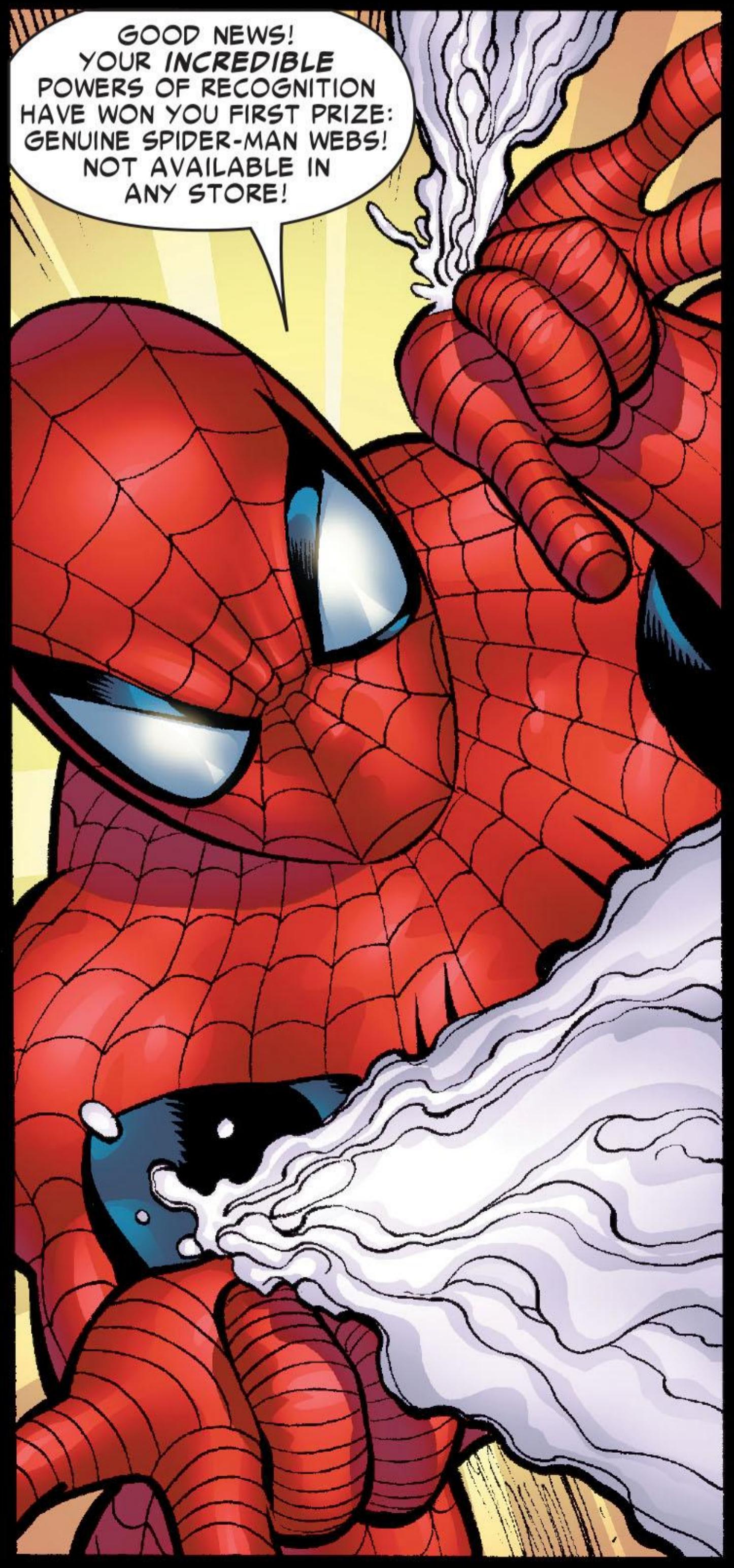
AND THEN I CAN GO OUT TO THE BACK ALLEY WHERE I CAN CHANGE INTO SPIDER-MAN.

S.W.A.T. COMMANDER! MOVE IN! PREPARE TO TAKE DOWN MENACE!

PLEASE, SIR, FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, GO INSIDE.

PROTECT THE CROWD. THEY'RE IN MORE DANGER THAN I AM.



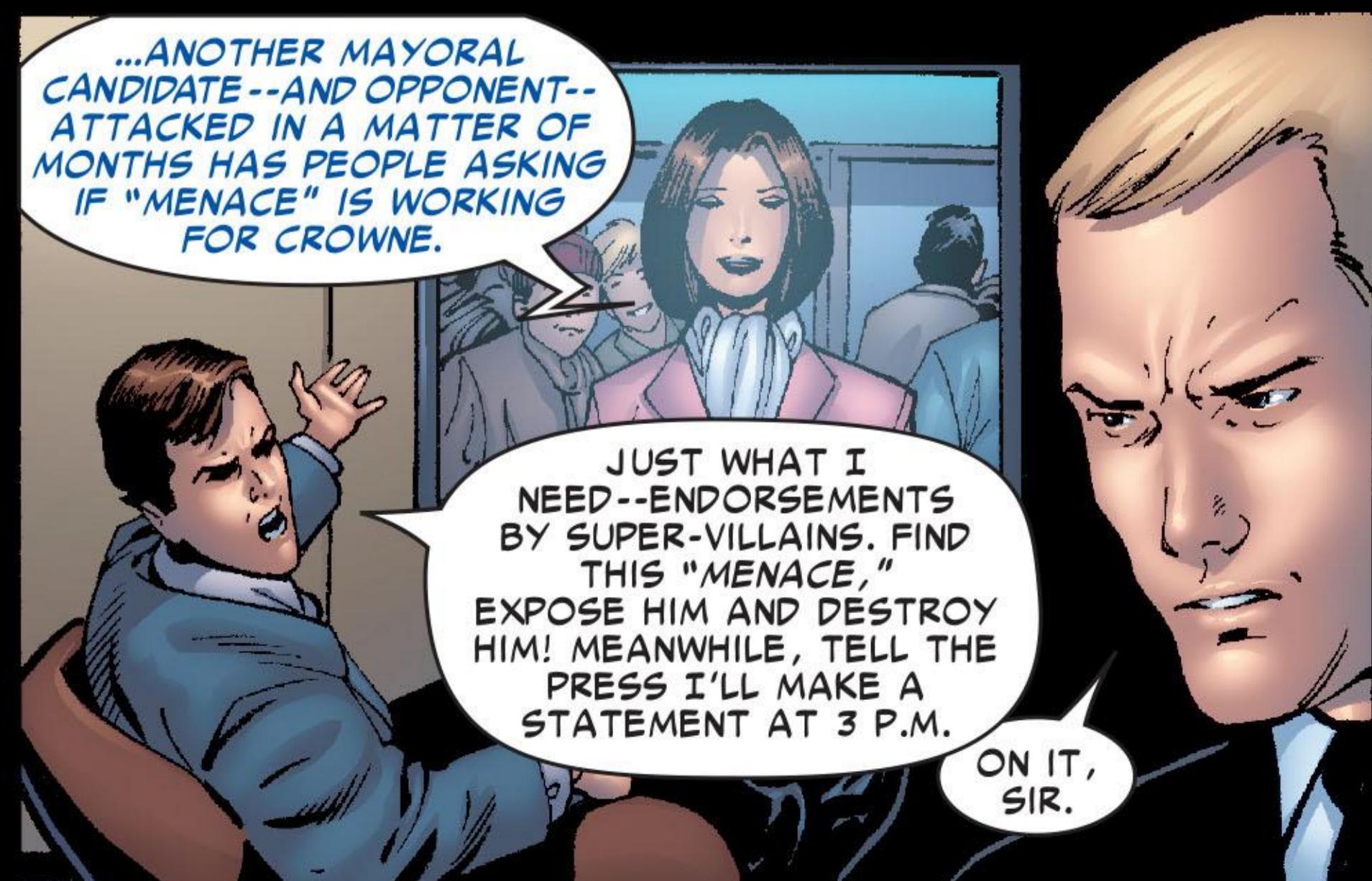


MENACE!
SPIDER-MAN! THIS IS
THE POLICE! SNIPERS
ARE IN POSITION!

YOU BOTH
HAVE TEN SECONDS
TO SURRENDER OR WE
WILL OPEN FIRE!

FORGET
ABOUT TOAST!
LOOKS LIKE THE COPS
ARE THINKING ALONG
THE LINES OF
SWISS CHEESE!





Brooklyn Salvage Yard.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER...

NO SIGN
OF CONNORS. AND
NO SIGN OF THE
CHRYSTALIS.

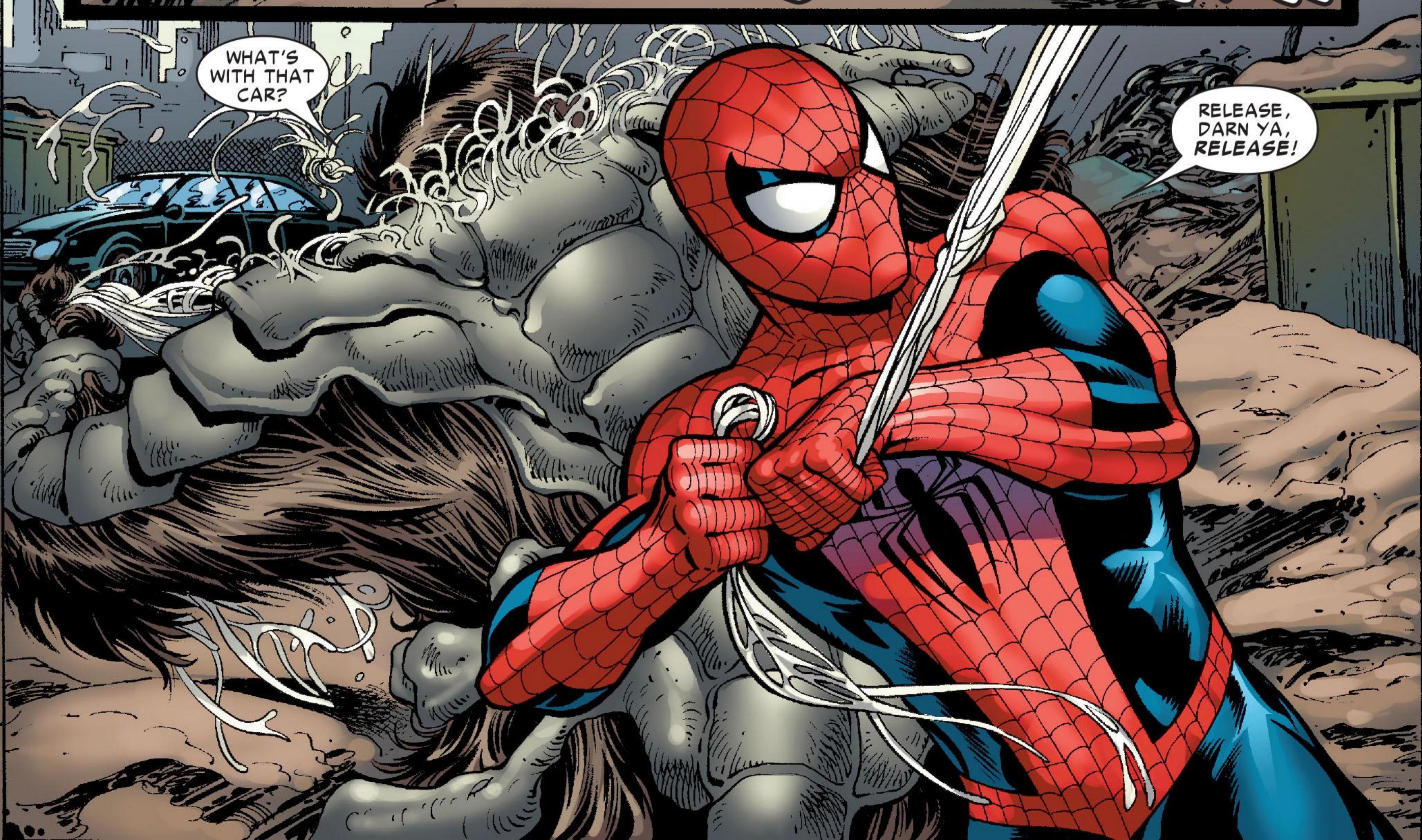
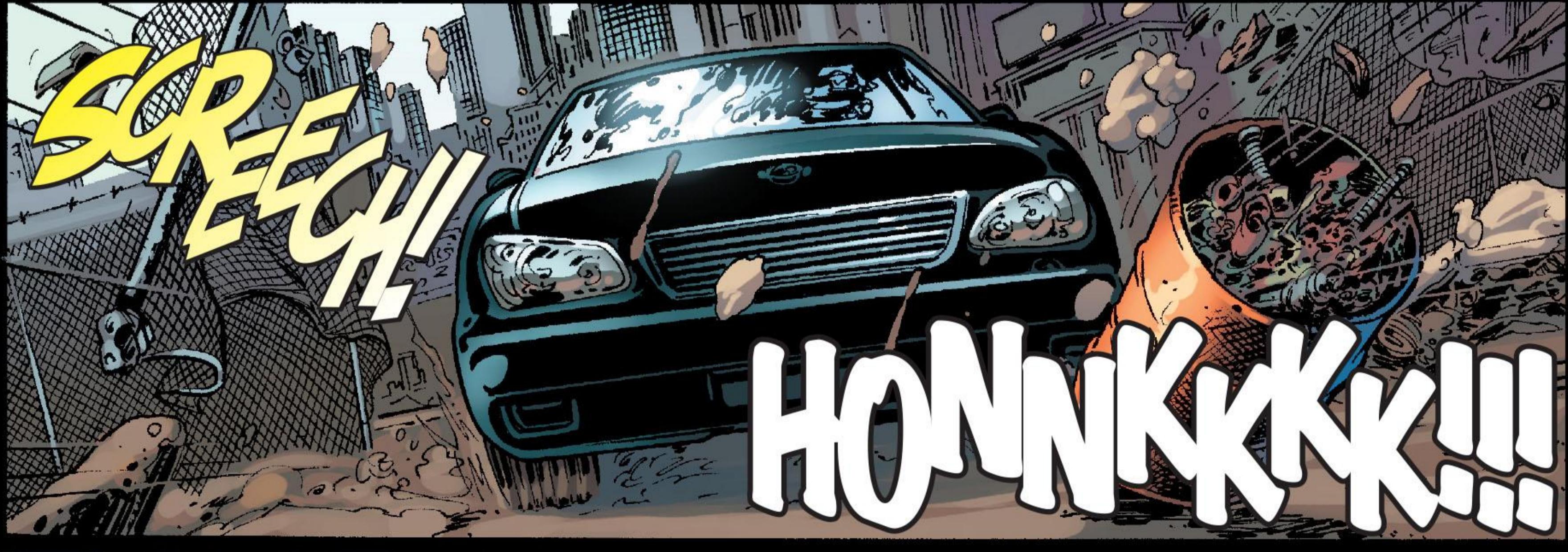
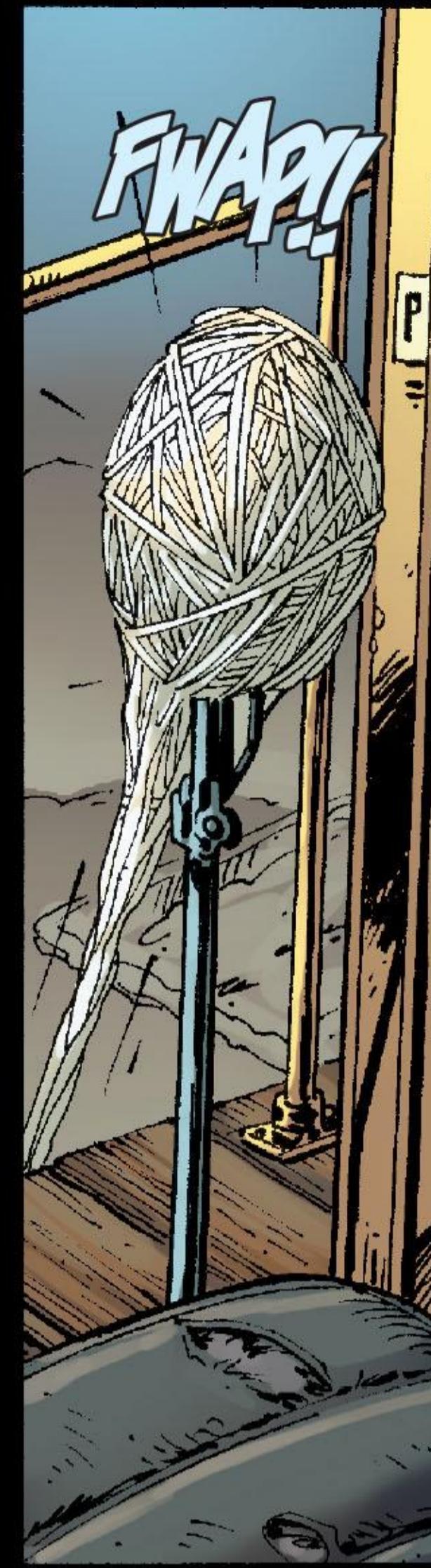
MAN,
FINDING THAT
THING IN HERE'S
GONNA BE HARDER
THAN A "WHERE'S
WALDO" BOOK.



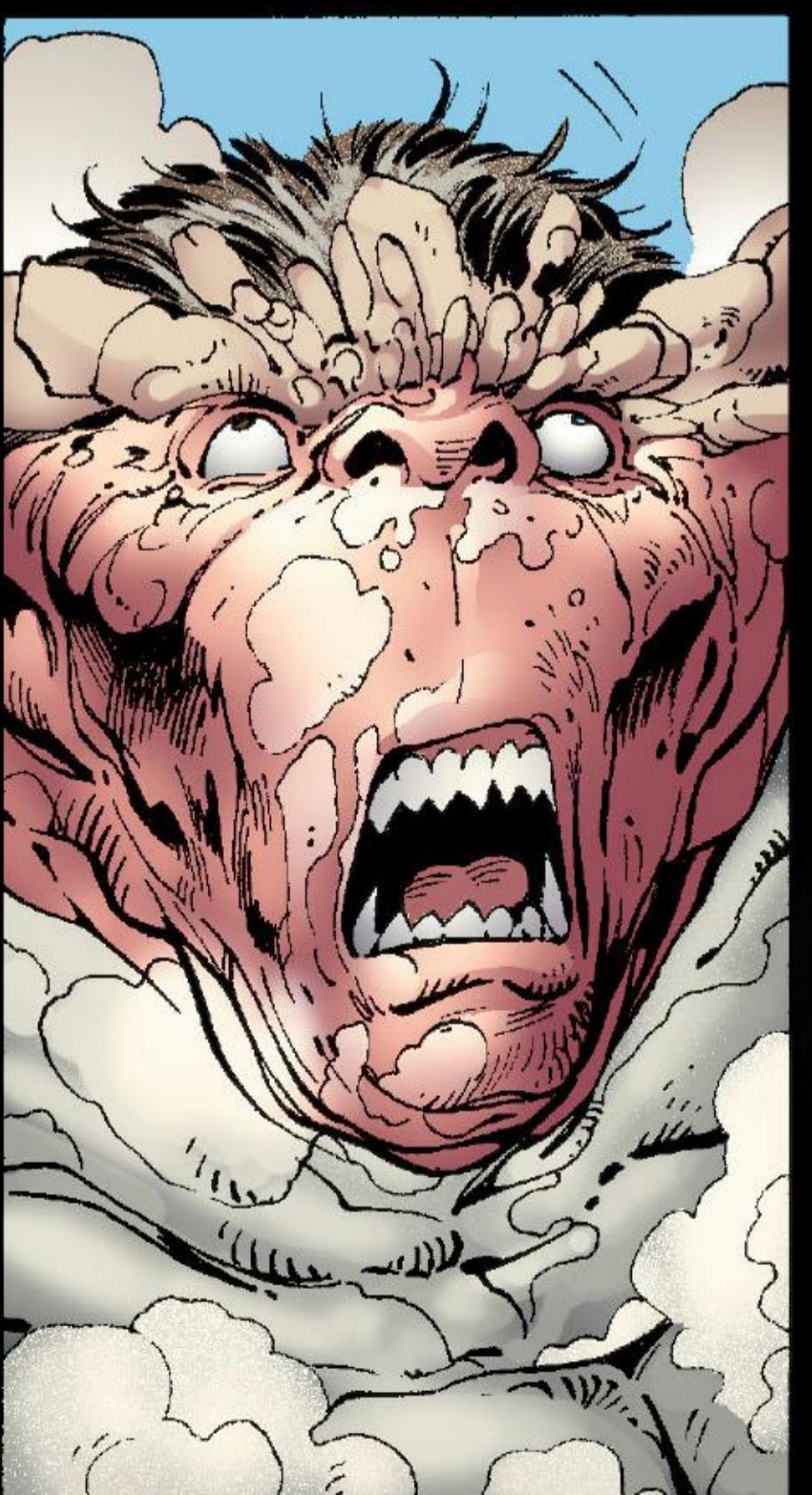
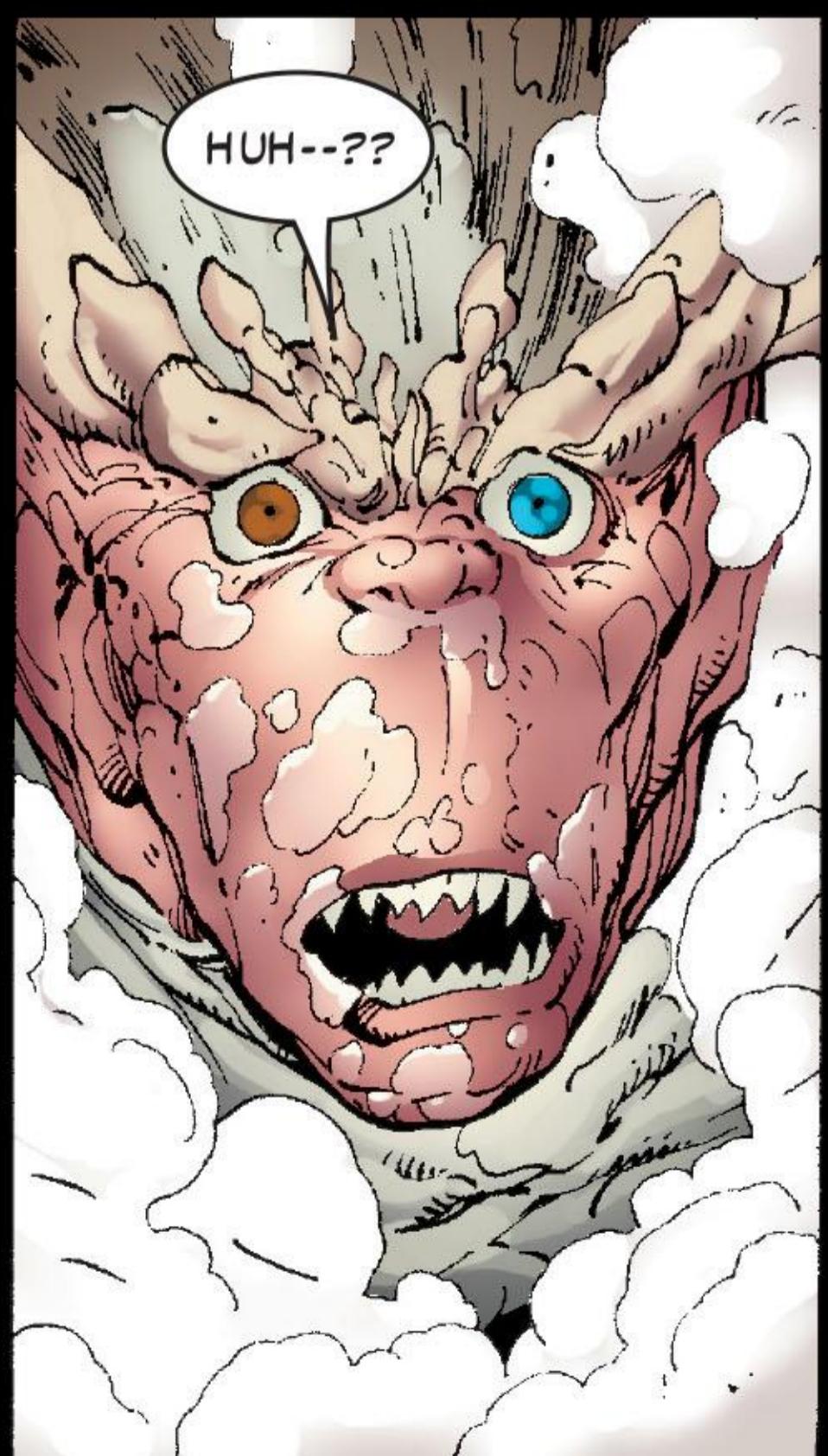
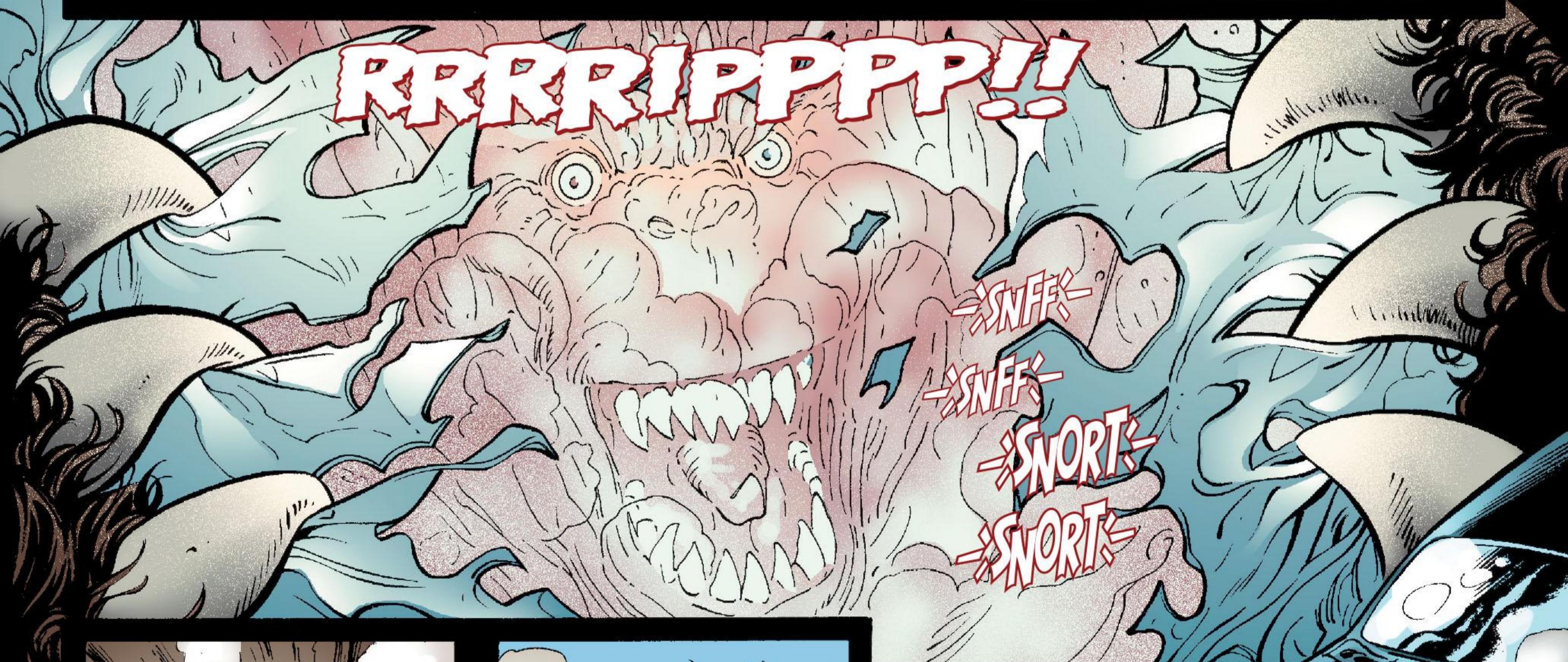














...A PERSONAL REWARD OF \$50,000 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CAPTURE OF THIS "MENACE."

I TRUST THIS WILL DISPEL THE INNUENDOS THAT I HAVE ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS DEGENERATE. AND I REPEAT: I DO NOT ACCEPT ENDORSEMENTS FROM ANYONE WHO WEARS A MASK.

WHEN MENACE ATTACKED YOU, HE SAID HE WAS DELIVERING A MESSAGE. DO YOU THINK HE'S WORKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

IT'S POSSIBLE.

FOR YOUR OPPONENT, PERHAPS? MY OPPONENT HAS DENIED INVOLVEMENT. I TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD.

MY FATHER IS THE BEST MAN TO RUN NEW YORK. HE WILL STAND FIRM AGAINST ALL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, JUST AS HE ALWAYS HAS. THAT'S WHY HE WON'T BE INTIMIDATED, NOR WILL I.

AND NOW I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR MENACE...

"BRING IT ON, UGLY!"

THAT'S MY GIRL. Y'SEE WHY I LOVE HER, PETE?

BUT AREN'T YOU WORRIED, HARRY? WHAT IF MENACE KIDNAPS LILY TO GET TO HER DAD?

WE'LL TAKE PRECAUTIONS, PETE. THAT'S WHAT OSBORNS DO.

BESIDES, I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE'S REALLY A TARGET.

WHY ISN'T HE MORE CONCERNED? IS IT BRAVURA TO MASK HIS FEAR? OR IS HE INVOLVED SOMEHOW. THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN MENACE AND THE GOBLIN CERTAINLY POINT TO IT...

MEANWHILE, I SURE HOPE THE POLICE PUT FREAK IN A SECURE PLACE.

"AS LONG AS THEY STICK HIM IN A FREEZER..."

WE'RE TAKING THIS DOWN TO THE FREEZER ON SUBLEVEL 2.

"...THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT."

NYPD
HAZMAT
UNIT

OSCORP
ENTERPRISES

NEXT:
SCREWBALL COMETH!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



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

Holy crow! Freak's got enough juice in him he coulda played for the Oakland A's back in the 80s! And if that doesn't teach ya to keep clean, kids, then nothing will.

We want to take a moment to welcome aboard penciling genius Barry Kitson to the Spider-Team fresh from a critically acclaimed run on THE ORDER across the hall. Though he's debuting on Amazing with this issue, he'll be taking a short detour to draw a little book called SECRET INVASION: FANTASTIC FOUR before settling into his new digs here in the Spidey-verse. So welcome him aboard, and please, treat him better than ya treat me. Also we want to — heck, NEED to — thank legendary inker Mark Farmer (with assists from James Hodgkins) and Avalon's Ian Hannin and Matt Milla for getting this issue ready in record time when we were left in a crunch due to a scheduling conflict. The fact that you're holding this issue in your hand is nothing short of a miracle and because of it, Brennan keeps his job another week. (Sorry, local Starbucks!)

On to other matters; you say you like surprises? Good, because I got a nice surprise, dear readers. But first we got some of your letters to get to. It occurred to me that due to all the excitement over the last few months we didn't print many letters directly relating to the monumental ONE MORE DAY story. I've had one sitting around for a few weeks now, so I'll take the time to share it with ya:

Dear Spider-Mail,

I'm in the process of writing an essay based on the subtext of the One More Day story arc in last year's Amazing Spider-Man. I was very inspired to write a piece on the storyline but I wanted to see where the plot was headed after the dust settled from this very controversial moment in Marvel history.

First off all, I think the One More Day storyline takes an unnecessary amount of flak from critics and I find that most it is purely emotionally based. Don't get me wrong, I disliked the ending very much, but something about it really spoke to me and inspired me like few stories I have ever read. I was still thinking about it days and even weeks after finishing the book.

Personally, I have been a fan of Amazing since 1990 and at first I was disturbed by the ending and the dissolving of the marriage, as I'm as big a fan of Mary Jane Watson-Parker as I am of Spider-Man. Then one night it just clicked and everything seemed to make sense. One More Day is a beautifully told (and drawn) story about love and sacrifice. Period. These two belong together and this is a unique way to portray their love. Two people who willingly made a sacrifice for the greater good. However since they're dealing with the ultimate embodiment of evil, the deal comes with more than a few strings attached. Their sacrifice is both noble, yet tainted. However, I

would argue that Mary Jane, not Peter, is the actual hero of the story.

Mary Jane knows that if Peter were to lose May it would be another tragic loss like Uncle Ben, Gwen Stacy, Ben Reilly, and countless others that have had the misfortune of simply knowing Peter Parker. Mary Jane willingly makes this sacrifice of her own happiness and in that instant she finally becomes everything she always feared being: a woman who sacrifices her own self-worth to help a rather selfish man, just like her mother and sister.

She loses everything in that moment. Mary Jane has no real family outside of her Aunt Anna. Peter and May were her entire support system and now that's gone. That final scene of her dressed in black staring forlorn at Peter is awesome. It then leaves us asking the question: will love really conquer all?

This is the stuff of good fiction and most fans can't get beyond their emotions to see it. I myself was one of them for awhile.

All I know is that very rarely does a book reach me the way this one has.

Congratulations, it may have taken me awhile to see it, but now that I do, I love it.

Sincerely,
James Oliva
Chicago, IL

Dear Spidey-Office,

We've already gone through three story arcs and I'm ready for the next one in April. The writing by Bob Gale was superb and the way the captions related to the audience reminded me of the classic Stan Lee stories. Phil Jimenez's artwork as always didn't disappoint. I hope we see more of his artwork in future issues of ASM.

Looks like we've finally seen JJJ's reaction regarding the new DB — let's hope he recovers soon so we can see him back at the Bugle. Seems like Spidey's job these days with JJJ is to revive him via mouth-to-mouth. It was great to see Dr. Connors make his Brand New Day debut in these issues (#552-554) and I hope we get to see more of him.

About the villain Freak-- he is one disgusting-looking guy. Probably the ugliest Spidey villain I've ever laid eyes on. We haven't seen that many Spidey villains like Freak who are drug addicts -- this was a new concept for a Spidey villain. Again, I'm looking forward to the new arc with Wells and Bachalo. It should be awesome! See ya in the month of April!

Oliver Villar

Answers: More Phil coming in July...More Bob next month...More Connors right here in this issue and coming up throughout the year. After all, somebody's gotta help figure out who the New Lizard is. Jonah's story is just getting started, but for now there's no mouth-on-mouth action planned for him.

Dear Wacker,

Well, turns out me and my girlfriend are actually enjoying Brand New Day. A lot more than we thought we were. Every week, I hit the local comic shop, and we spend that night in our bed, reading the new issue together aloud with our 5-month old, Logan (named after you-know-who). We're both in our early 20's, and having a family couldn't be more tiring and hard, but that weekly moment of "Spidey time" makes all the difference in the world. Sure, he mostly makes groaning noises, and would rather have a fat bottle of milk than hear us reading a Spider-Man comic, but it's worth it because not only do we enjoy it, but one day we can say, "Kiddo, you better be grateful, 'cause your mom and dad read you Spider-Man comics every week!"

This weekly schedule means that we have to buy cheap diapers (which is okay, until he starts making that pooing-face, then we curse the fact we buy Spider-Man weekly!).

Anyhow, me and my hotter-Than-Mary-Jane girlfriend Natalie want to say great job to the creative staff.

Marco Stacey
Montreal, Canada

Marco, we're trying to make Spidey worth it for ya, but please give poor Logan milk and put him in decent diapers! Drop a DC book if you have to, but please take care of him!! We'll need every reader we can get in 25 years when we remarry Pete, upsetting all the lifelong Spider-fans of 2033! I can hear the complaining now: "Why, former President Quesada must be rolling over in his ivory and gold encrusted, Wii-enabled, Google-sponsored coffin! I'm going to download his tech-essence from LimeWire into my eyes and ask him what he thinks."



That's it for this month, Spider-philes. Well, except for one more thing... Unless you've been living in a cave (like Brennan) you know that all of us here at Spidey-Sentral are excited about the upcoming return of artist John Romita, Jr. to these pages this August.

But the return of JRJr ain't the only thing we got up our sleeve. Like I told ya last month, phase 2 of Brand New Day is about to kick into high gear with SECRET INVASION: BRAND NEW DAY, the BRAND NEW DAY SPECIAL, the debut of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN FAMILY, and most importantly, a summer full of stories that promise to dramatically affect the lives of Peter Parker and those around him.

**You want a hint?
Just turn the page...and don't say I never gave ya nothin'!**

See ya in seven with the return of Slott and the jaw-dropping art of Marcos Martin.

**--Simperin' Steve
4/13/08**

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