

MARVEL®
598 .com

KELLY
CHECCHETTO
SIQUEIRA
SANTOS

DARK REIGN™

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

AMERICAN SON 4 of 5



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Name: Tom Brennan
Title: Assistant Editor

Hey every people,

Tom Brennan here – not a lot of time to recap this week since our main character was shot in the head. But in case you’re just joining us, here’re the bullet points:

- (1) Norman Osborn is America’s Top Cop, and he’s got his own team of Avengers, including Mac “Venom” Gargan posing as Spider-Man.
- (2) He recruited his son (and Peter Parker’s best friend) Harry Osborn to join the team.
- (3) When Harry discovered his ex-girlfriend Lily was in Norman’s custody, pregnant with his child and trapped under his father’s control, he signed up.
- (4) Spidey knocked out Gargan and replaced him in Avengers Tower. He discovered Osborn was working on his own homegrown Captain America, AMERICAN SON.
- (5) He also discovered Norman knew all along that the real Spider-Man had invaded his team. Norman then shot Spider-Man in the head.

I think that’s it...oh, and also, don’t put Splenda in Stephen Wacker’s coffee during a tight week. It makes him...well...angry. OK, back to assistant editing!

--Brennan

© 2007 Marvel

© 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.

To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to www.comicshoplocator.com or call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

Avengers Tower.

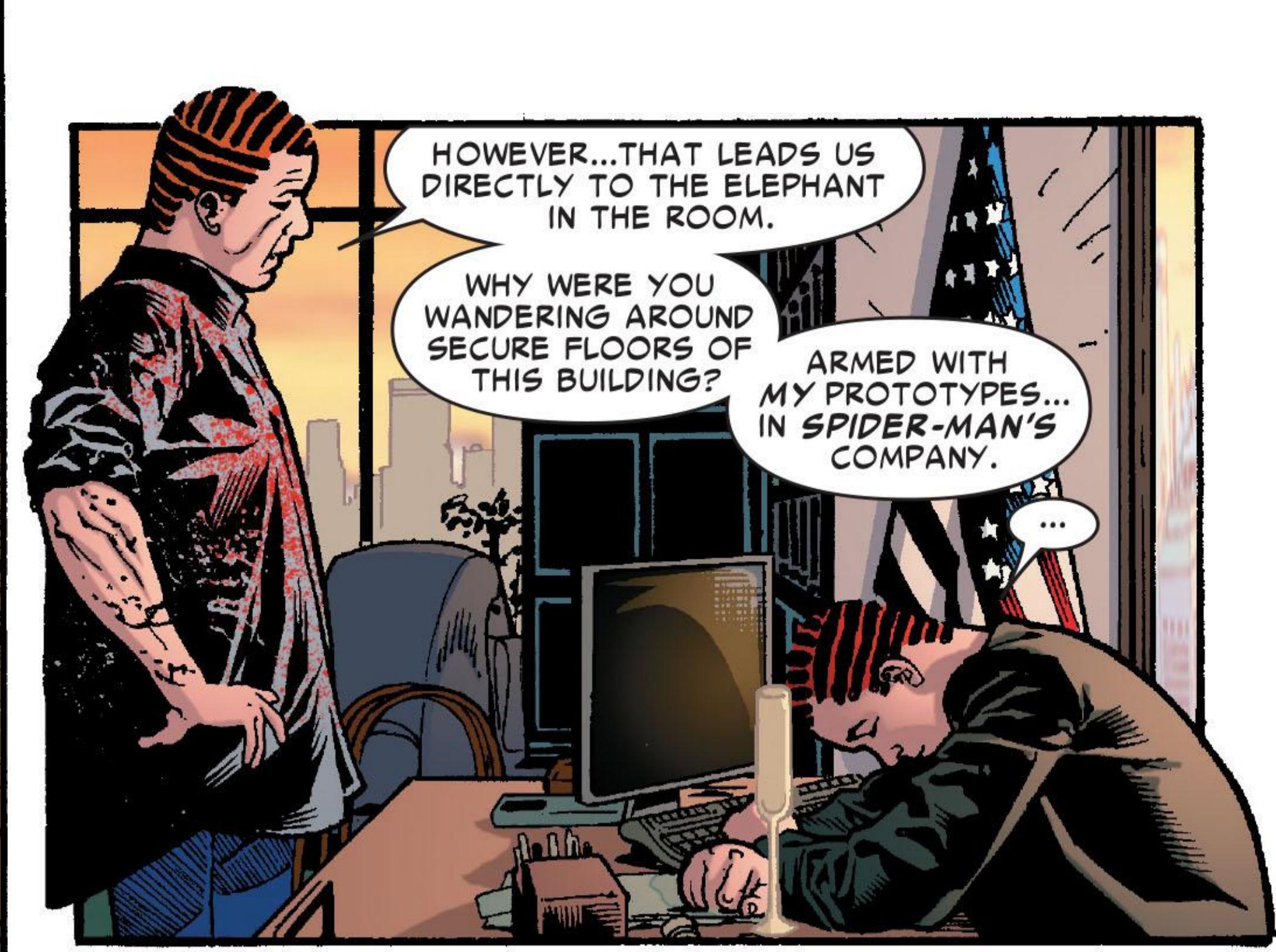


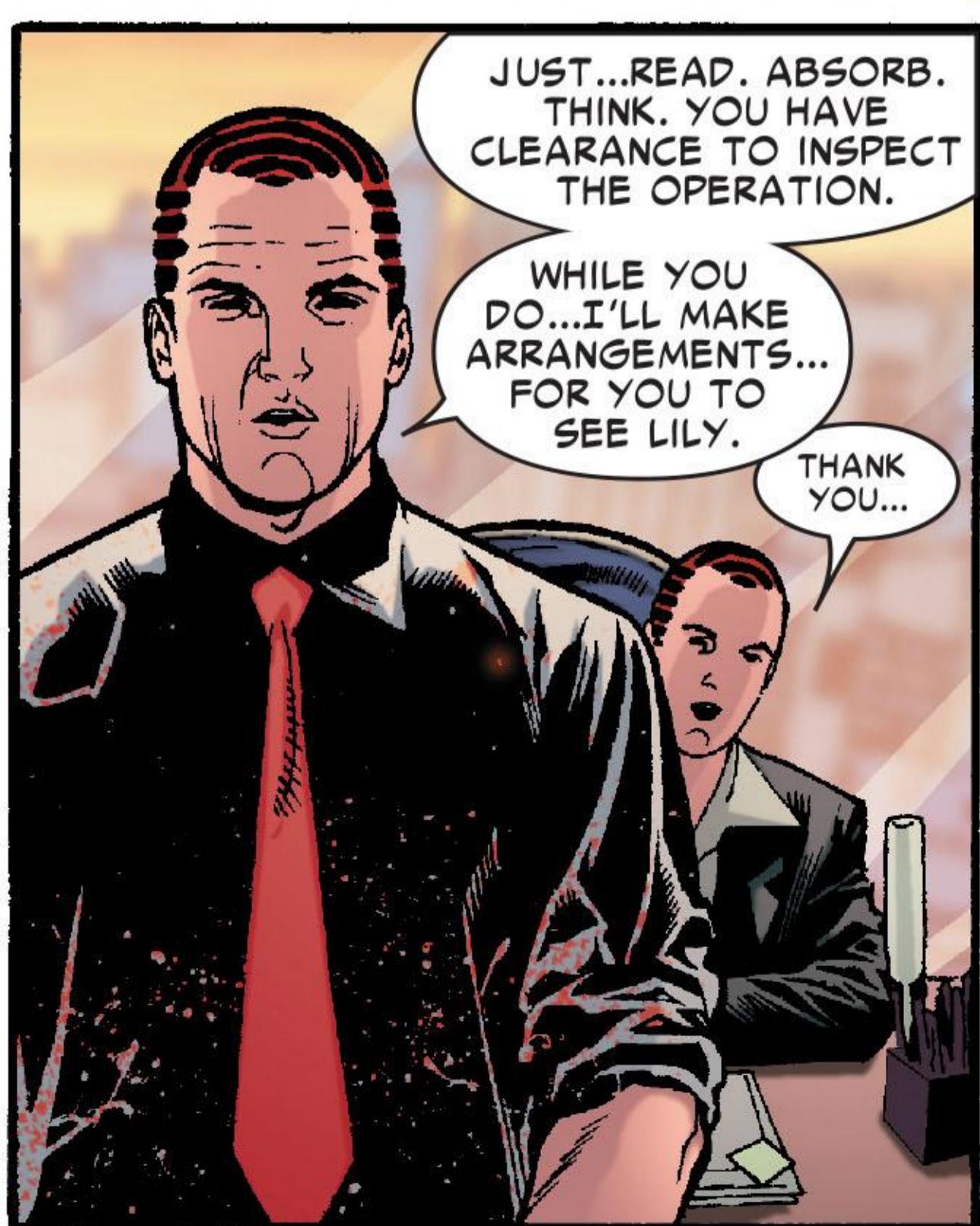
"HE'S LYING..."



B
L
A
M







MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

AMERICAN SON

PART 4

"...NOT AFTER WHAT
I'M GOING TO PUT
HIM THROUGH."

NORMALLY, I'D HAVE
SOMETHING FUNNY TO SAY
RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

BUT I'M SCREAMING
TOO LOUD TO HEAR
MYSELF THINK.



JOE KELLY
WRITER

PAULO SIQUEIRA & MARCO CHECCHETTO
SIQUEIRA, CHECCHETTO & SANTOS

PENCILERS

INKERS

JEREMY COX
COLORS

CHRIS CHUCKRY

PAGE 23 COLORS

VC's CHRIS ELIOPOULOS

LETTERS

TOM BRENNAN
ASST. EDITOR

STEPHEN WACKER
EDITOR

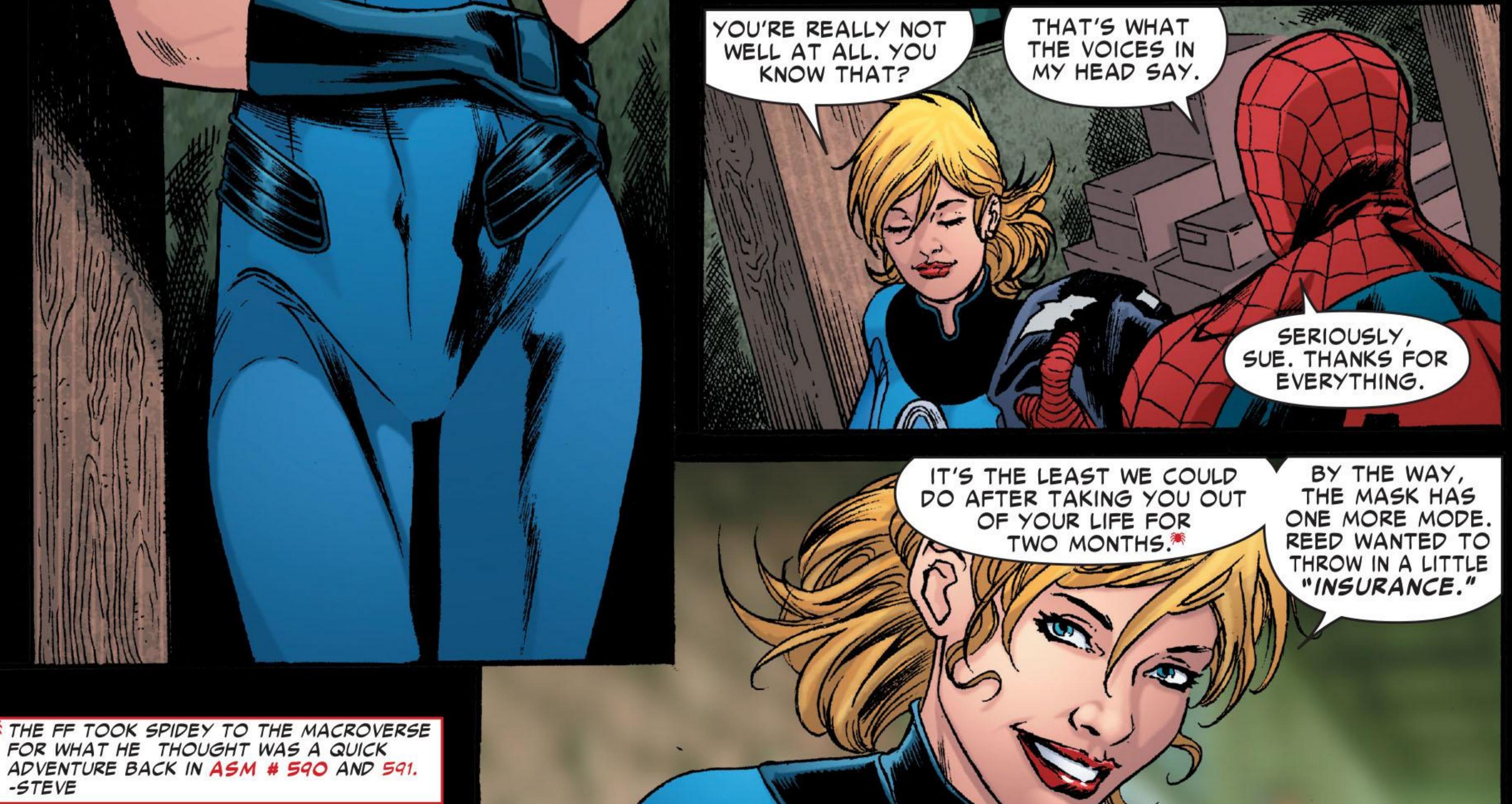
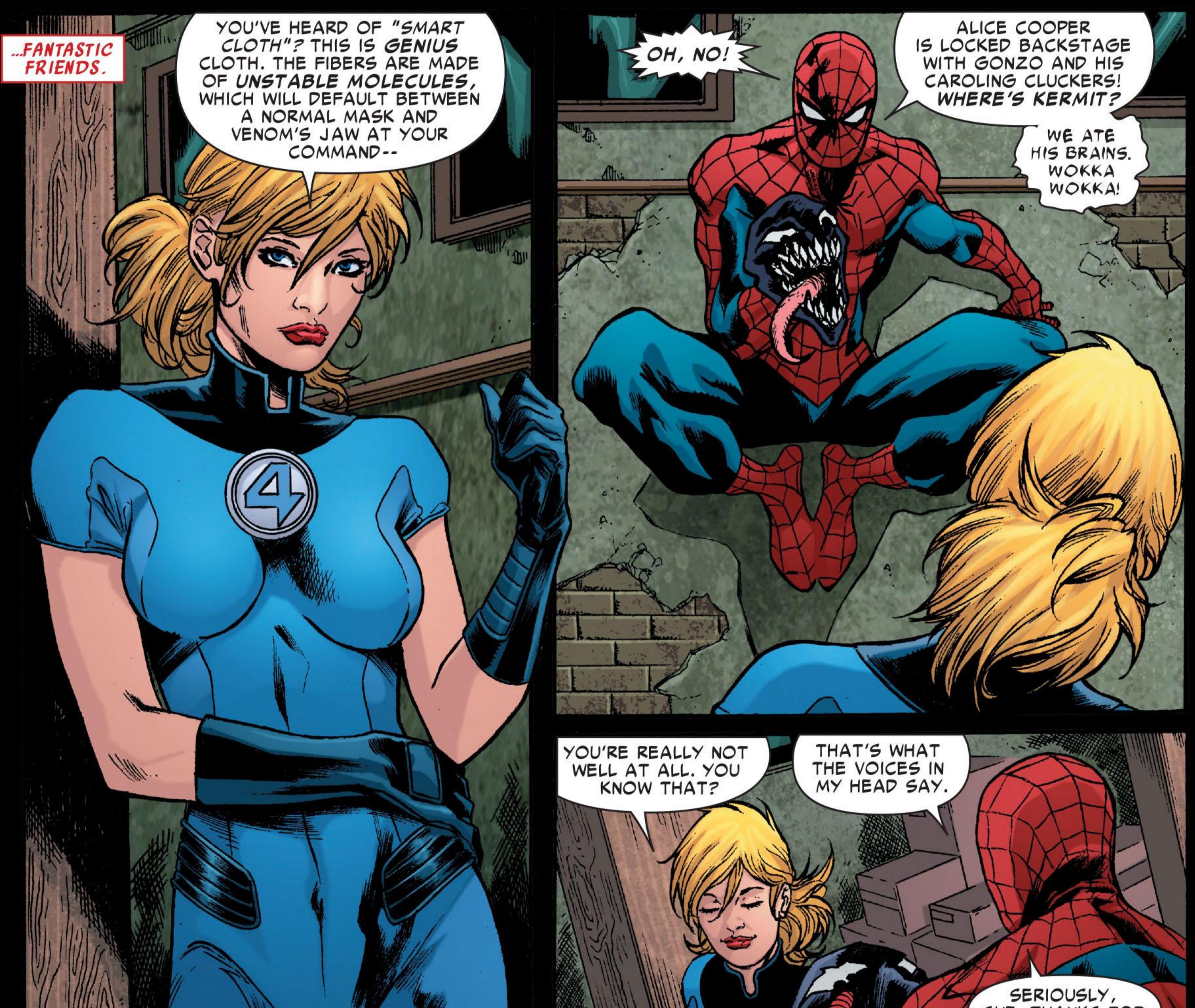
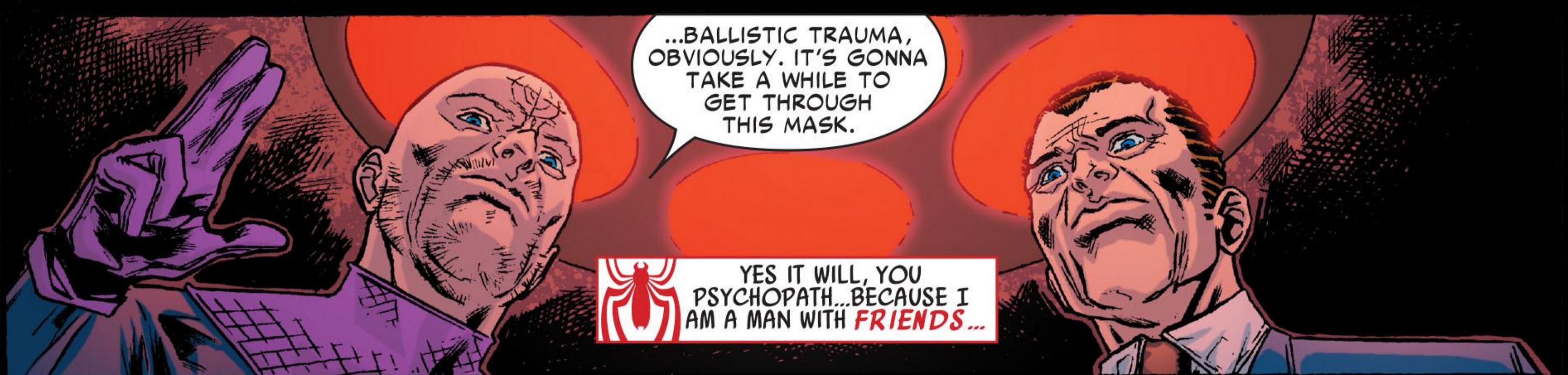
TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

GALE GUGGENHEIM, KELLY SLOTT & WAID WEB HEADS



 THE FF TOOK SPIDEY TO THE MACROVERSE FOR WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A QUICK ADVENTURE BACK IN ASM # 590 AND 591.
-STEVE

"HE CALLS IT 'PARKER-PROOFING.'"

INSTANTANEOUS RECONFIGURATION OF THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE UPON IMPACT. UNSTABLE MOLECULES.

RICHARDS, PROBABLY. STARK ON A GOOD DAY... INCONVENIENCE ASIDE, YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THE CRAFTSMANSHIP.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I'D JUST CHOP HIS DAMN HEAD OFF AND SORT OUT THE MASK LATER.

BULLSEYE, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED I SHOT HIM IN THE FACE. I'M HARDLY INTERESTED IN HAVING HIM SURVIVE THIS...

...BUT GIVEN A SECOND TO THINK IT OVER, THERE ARE THINGS I NEED TO KNOW.

PRIMARILY, WHY HE HAS TAKEN SUCH AN INTEREST IN MY SON.

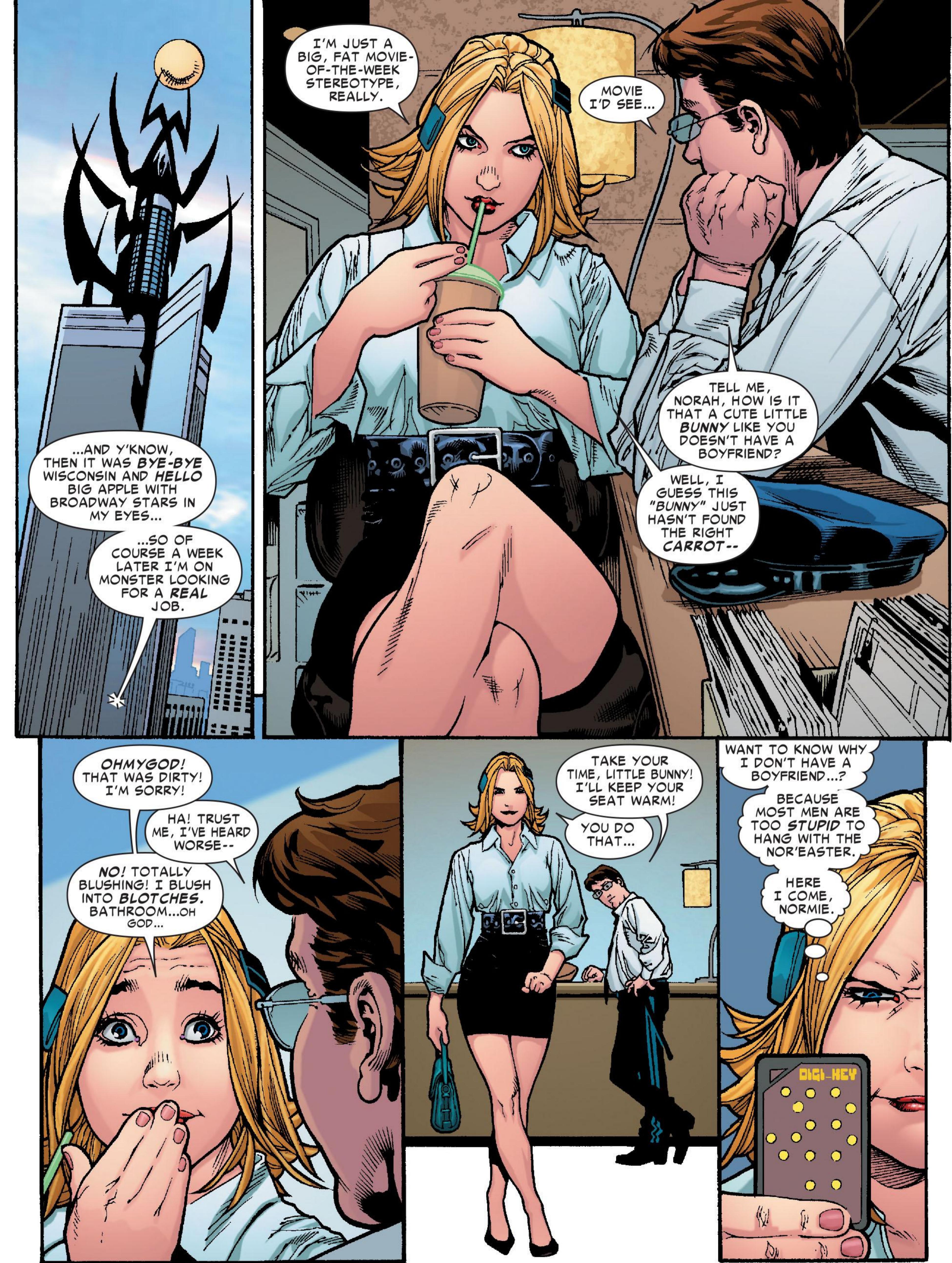
I'M FREELANCING AS A TALENT SCOUT, AND WE THINK HARRY WOULD MAKE A GREAT POSTER CHILD FOR OUR NEW HAIR PRODUCTS...

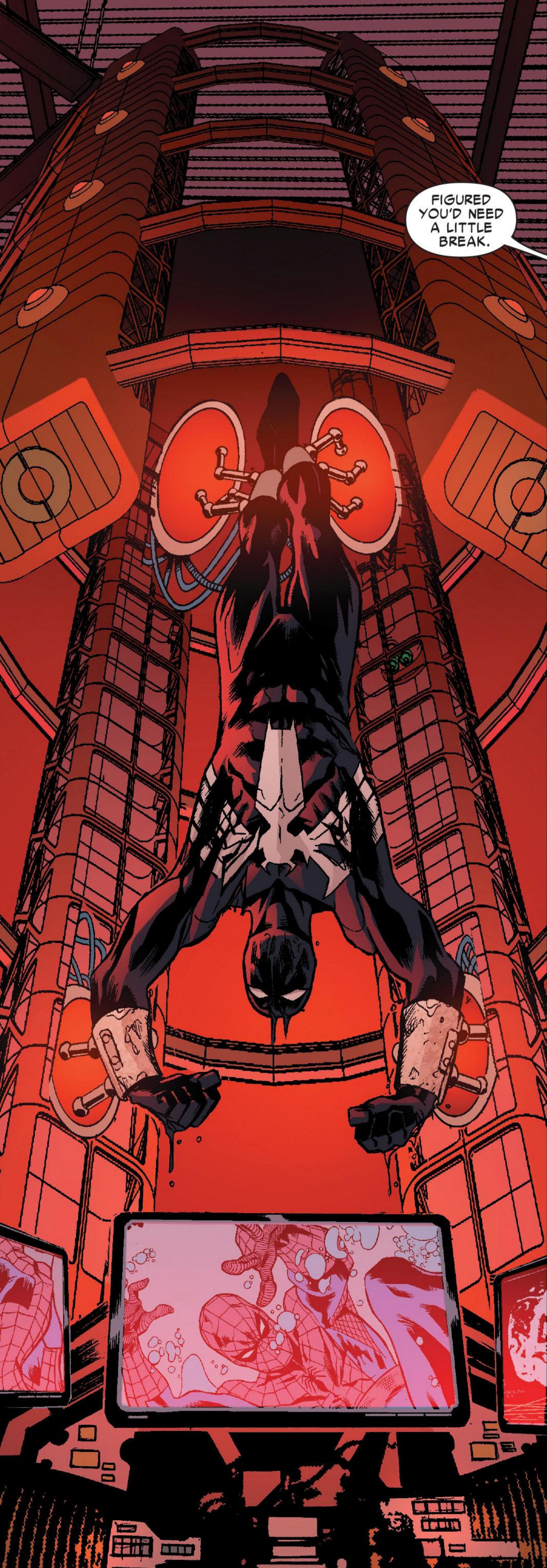
I'LL PAY YOU A TEN MILLION DOLLAR BONUS IF YOU GET HIM TO TALK OR DESTROY THAT MASK BEFORE DINNER.

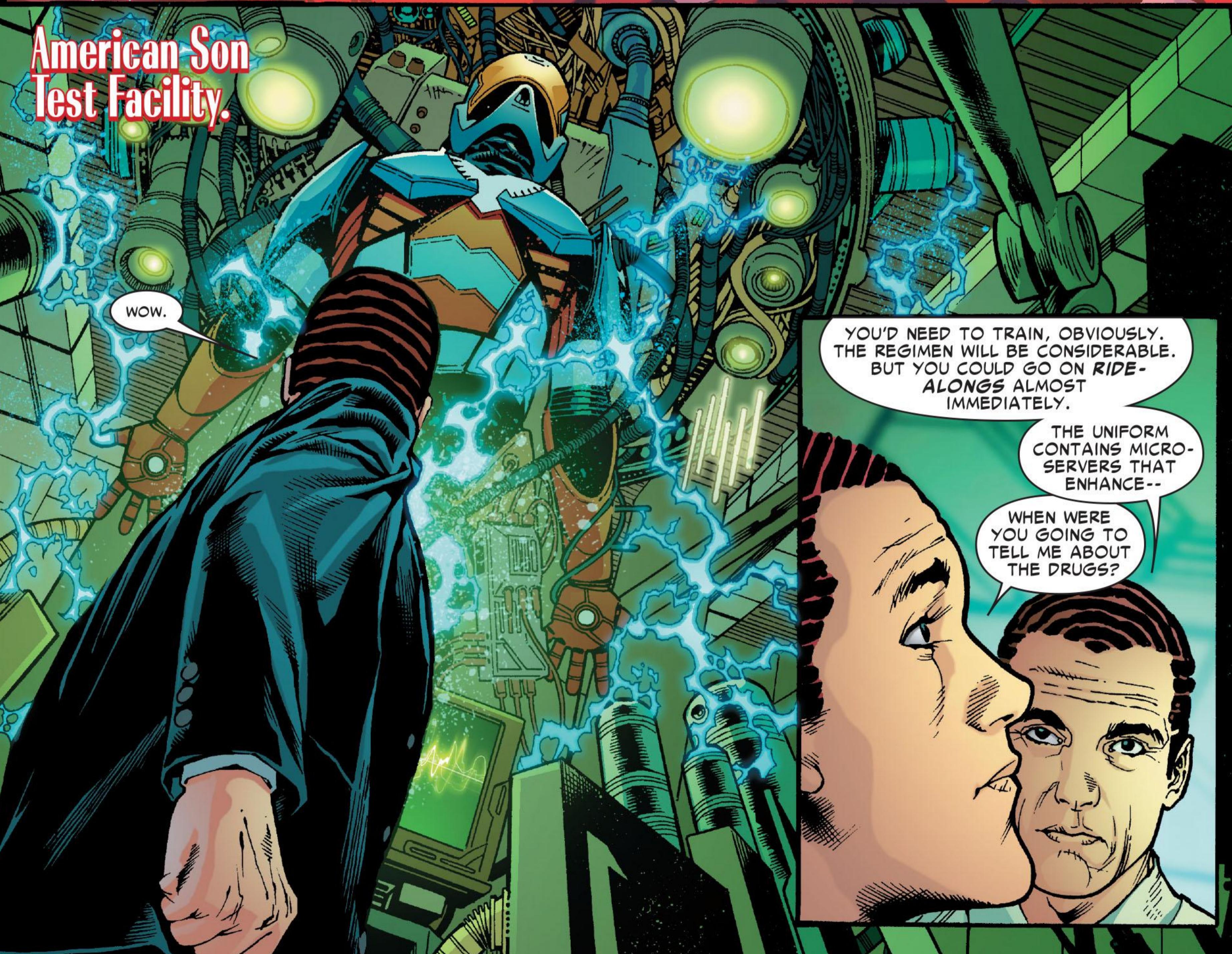
ANYTHING GOES.

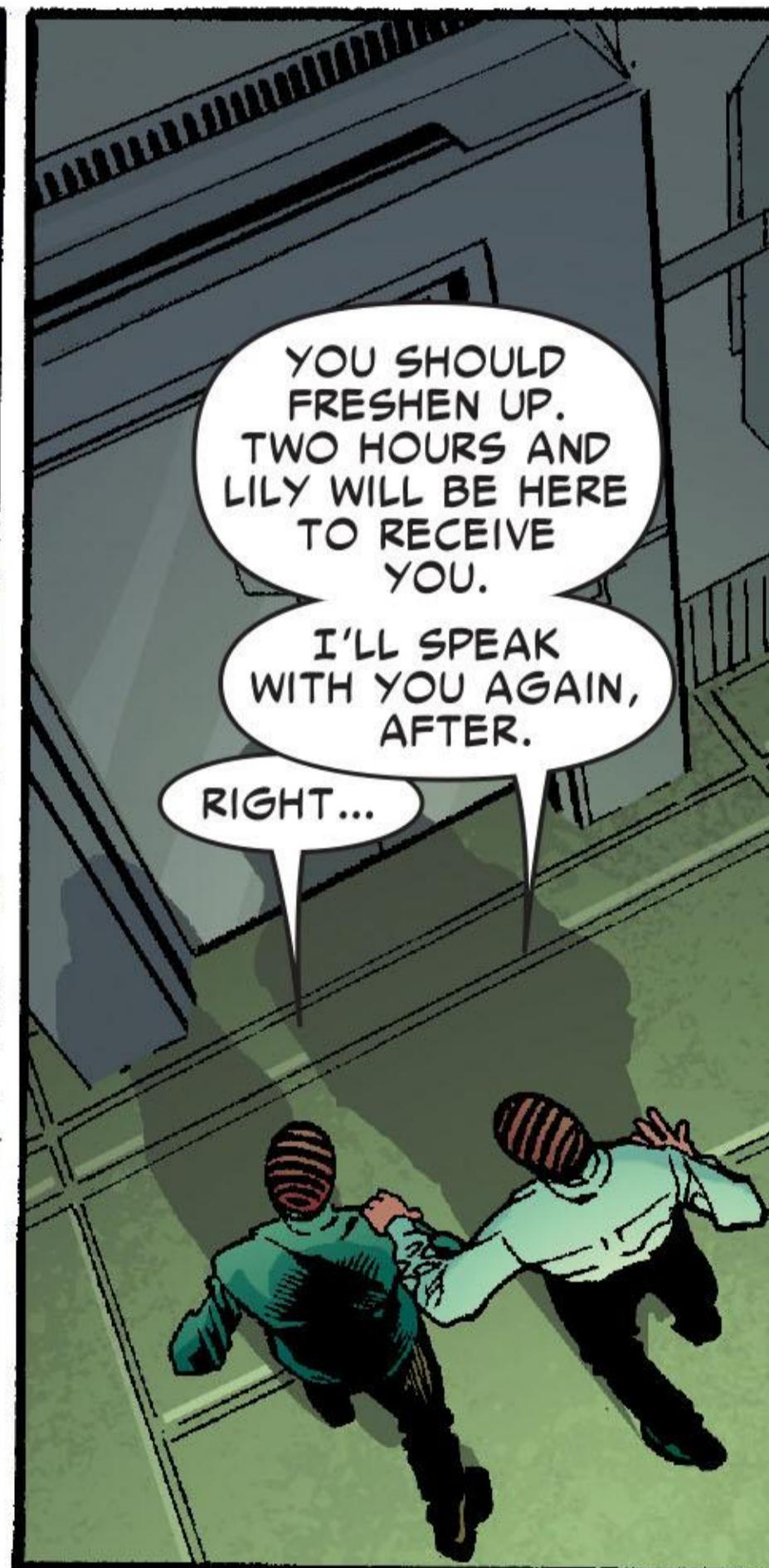
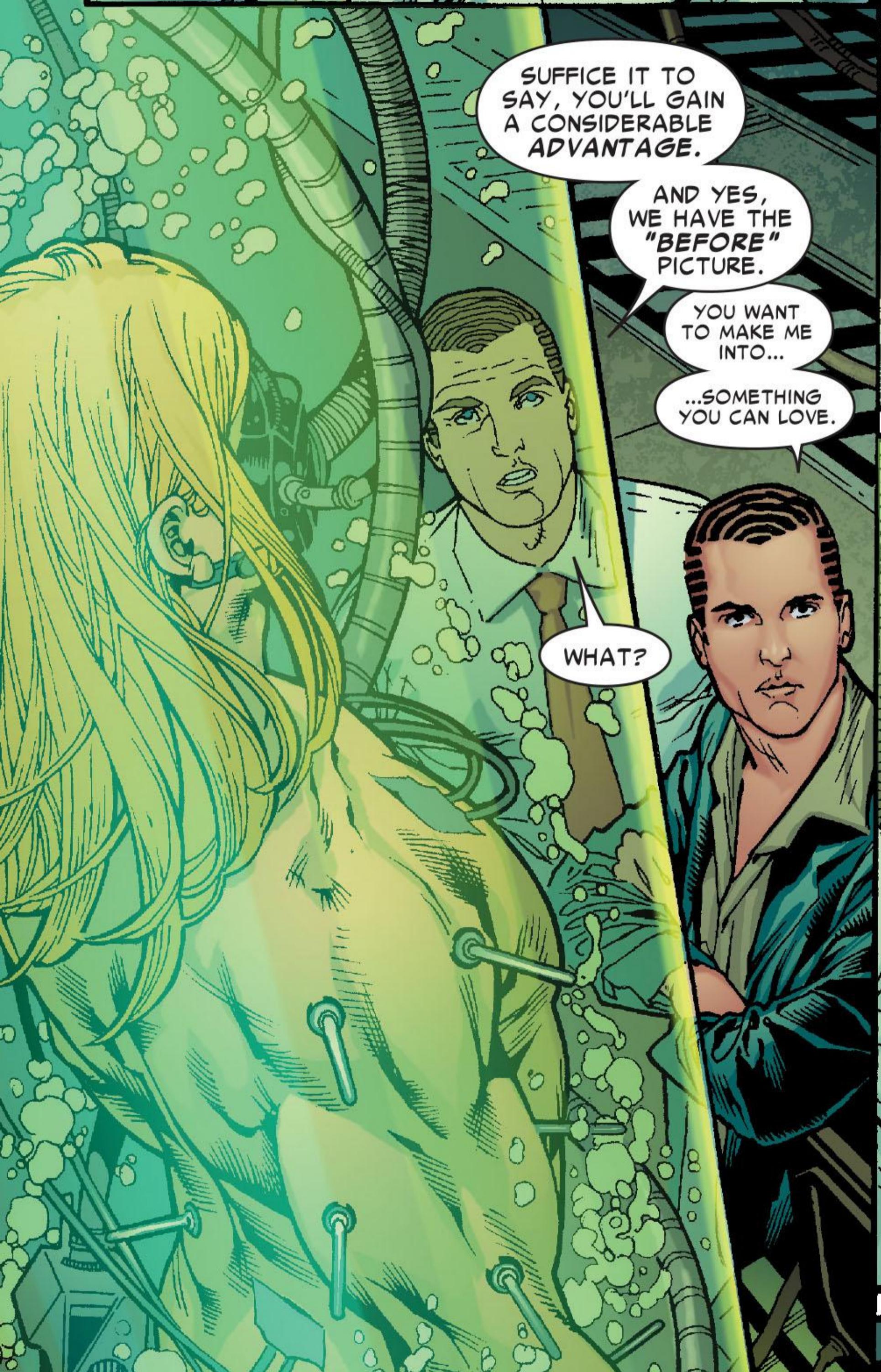
I LOVE WORKING FOR THE U.S. OF A.

HRRRK









 THE ONLY TIME I CAN MEASURE ARE THE FEW PRECIOUS SECONDS BETWEEN BULLSEYE'S "EXPERIMENTS"--WHEN HE TRADES ONE TORTURE TOOL FOR THE NEXT.

WHEN MY THROAT FILLS UP WITH BLOOD AND I CAN'T SCREAM ANYMORE, HIS GIGGLING AND HEAVY BREATHING FILLS THE SILENCE.

I THINK I MADE A MISTAKE COMING HERE.

NO. HARRY NEEDS ME. HE'S **ALONE**--

NO. HE **BETRAYED** ME. PULLED IN AGAIN--

NO. HE BETRAYED **SPIDER-MAN**. WHO HATES, NOT ME. NOT HIS FRIEND.

 BUT...I **AM** SPIDER-MAN...

I **PROTECT** MY FRIENDS. I HAVE TO **PROTECT** HARRY.

BETRAY
PROTECT
ALONE

I'M SO THIRSTY.
WHY DOES THIS WATER TASTE LIKE BLOOD?

FIVE MORE
MINUTES, YOU
WOULD'A BEEN
OUT TEN MIL.

NO CLUE HOW LONG I'VE
BEEN OUT...BUT I'M STILL
SMART ENOUGH TO WAKE
UP WHEN I SMELL BURNING.

WELCOME BACK.
THAT AROMA YOU'RE
NO DOUBT TRYING TO
PROCESS IS THE SMELL OF
UNSTABLE MOLECULES...
STABILIZING. STARK
HAD IT IN HIS
NOTES.

SET TO A
CERTAIN FREQUENCY, THE
REPULSOR TECHNOLOGY
SYNCS THE ATOMS IN
RICHARDS' CLOTH, UPON
WHICH THEY BREAK
DOWN.

I THINK HE WAS
TRYING TO GET THE
INVISIBLE WOMAN
NAKED.

N-NO...

IT'S DONE,
SPIDER-MAN. THE
MASK HAS TEN
MINUTES, GIVE OR
TAKE, AND WE BOTH
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS
THEN.

JUST ACCEPT
IT AND COME
CLEAN...

SKZZAT

...ABOUT
HARRY AND
YOUR OBSESSION
WITH HIM.
UP YOURS,
NORMAN...

WOULD IT LOSEN
YOUR TONGUE TO
KNOW THAT HARRY
SOLD YOU OUT FOR
A WOMAN?

UP YOURS,

NORMAN...

"LILY..?"

"I PREFER
'MENACE,' BUT
YES. AND WHO
CAN BLAME HIM?"

"SHE IS QUITE
THE CATCH.
BEAUTIFUL...
STRONG..."



"DID I
MENTION
BEAUTIFUL?"

"HONESTLY, I THINK SHE'S
TOO GOOD FOR HIM...BUT IF
IT KEEPS HIM CLOSE, I'LL
DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP
THE TWO LOVEBIRDS BUILD
THEIR NEST."



HE TOOK
YOUR OFFER...
BECAUSE OF
LILY? WHY?

BECAUSE
I SENT HER,
OF COURSE.

LOVE.
I'VE NEVER
HAD MUCH CARE FOR
IT MYSELF, BUT FOR
HARRY, IT'S QUITE
THE MOTIVATOR.

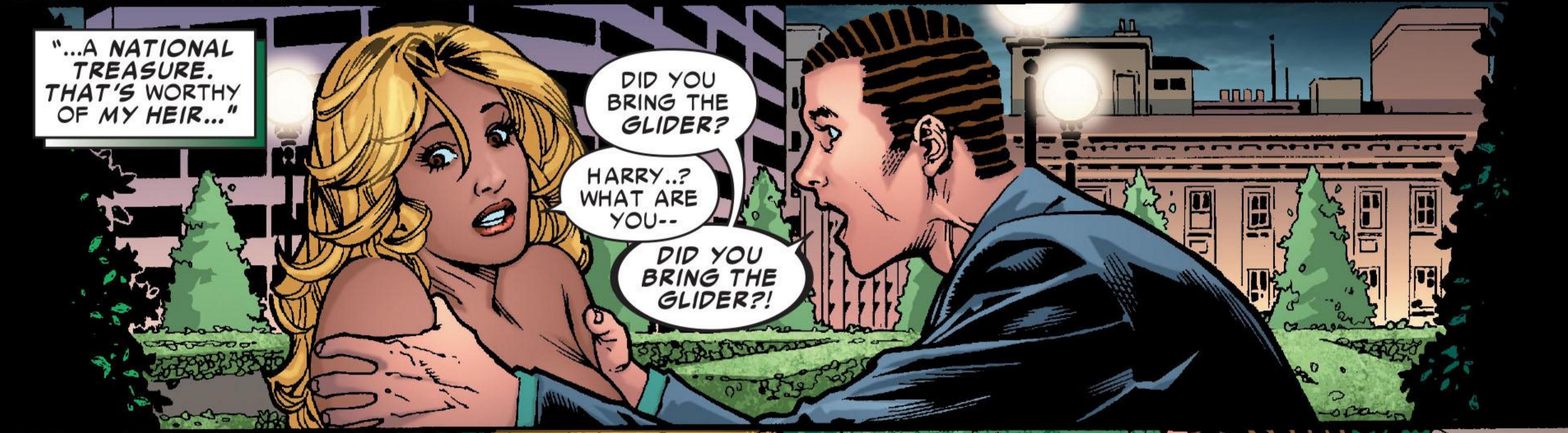
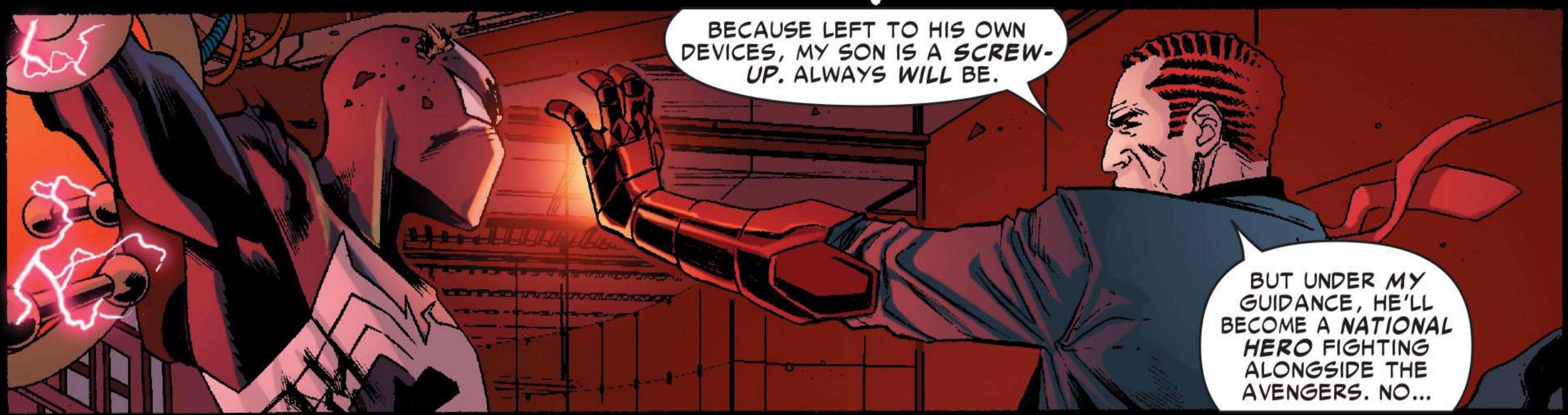
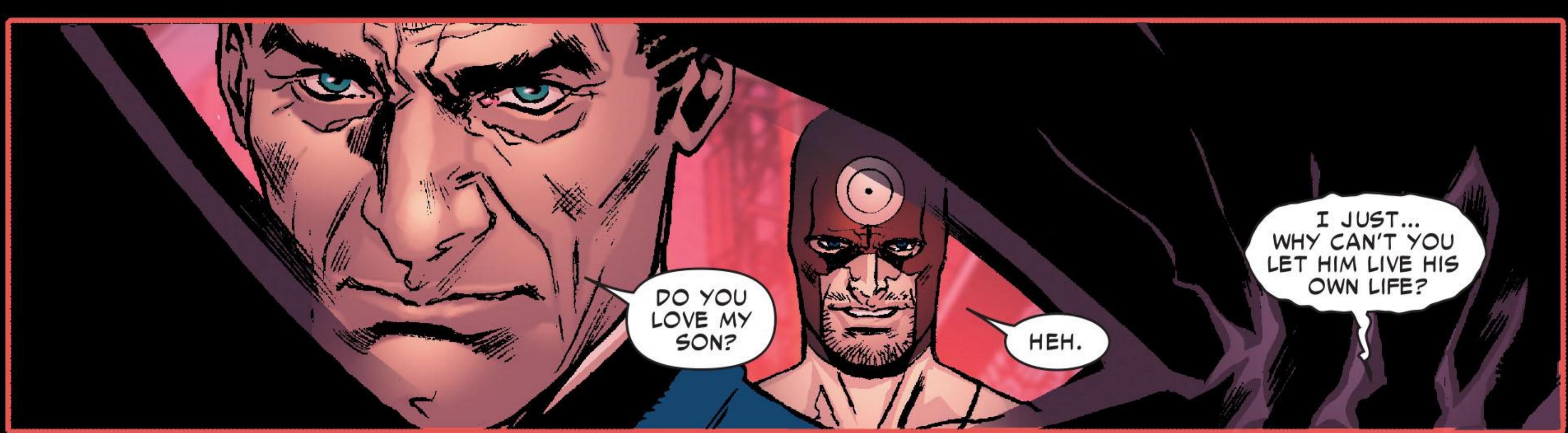


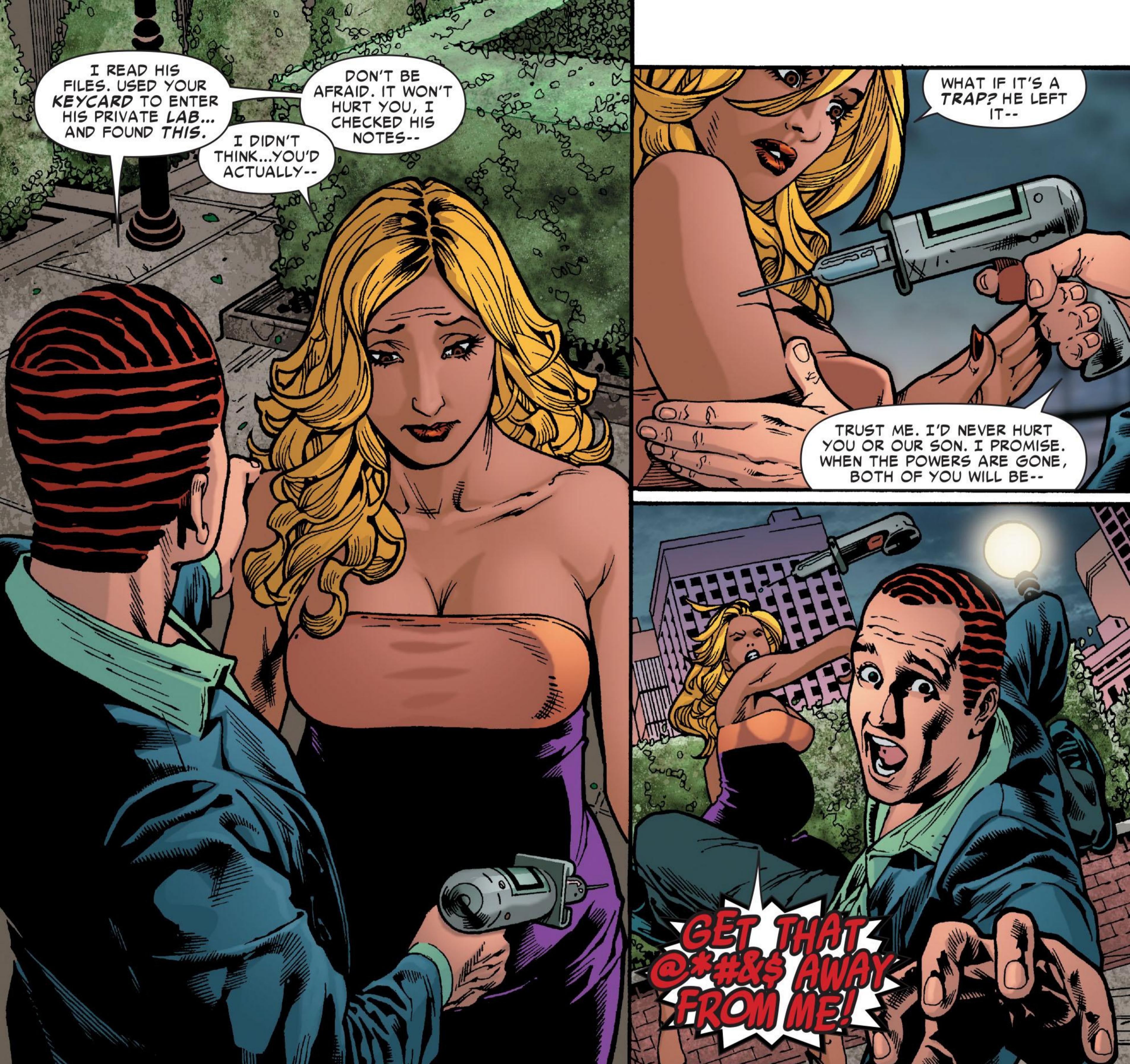
"IT'S MY HOPE THAT THE TWO
OF THEM WILL SETTLE IN TO THE
FAMILY BUSINESS WITH ME."

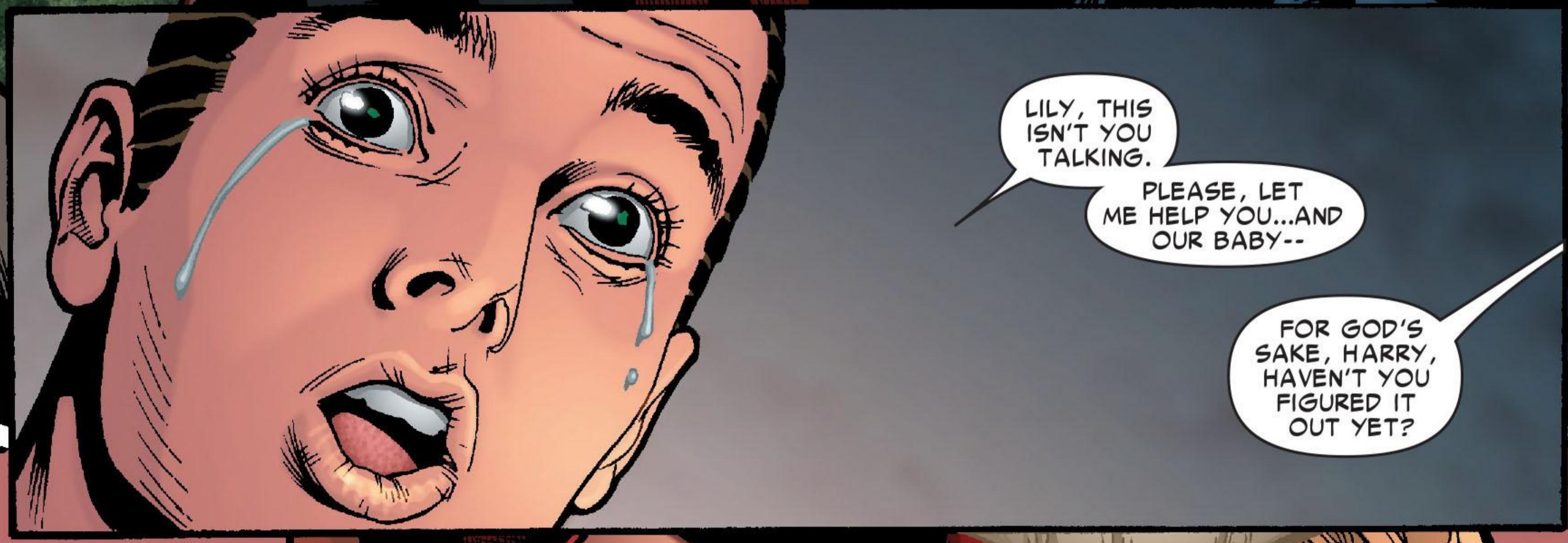


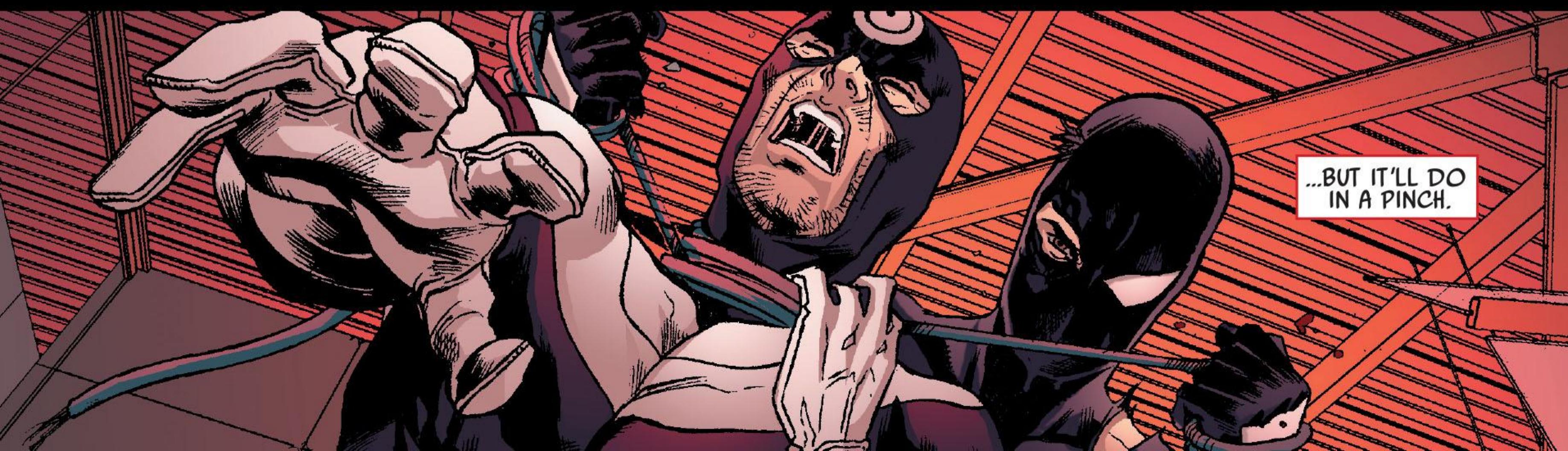
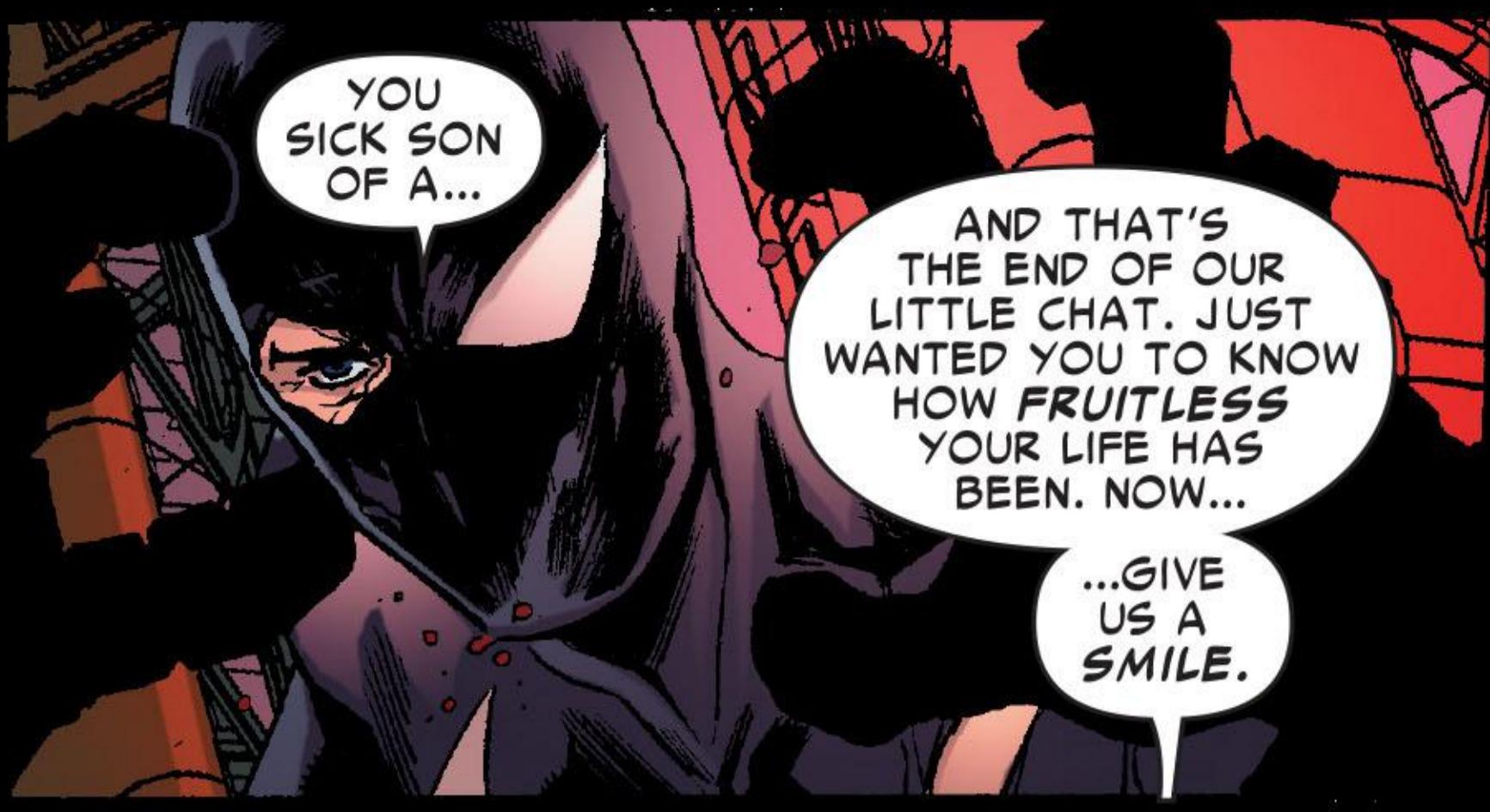
"BUT THE QUESTION
IS, WHY DID YOU TRY
TO STOP HIM?"

"WAS IT THE
SAME REASON?"

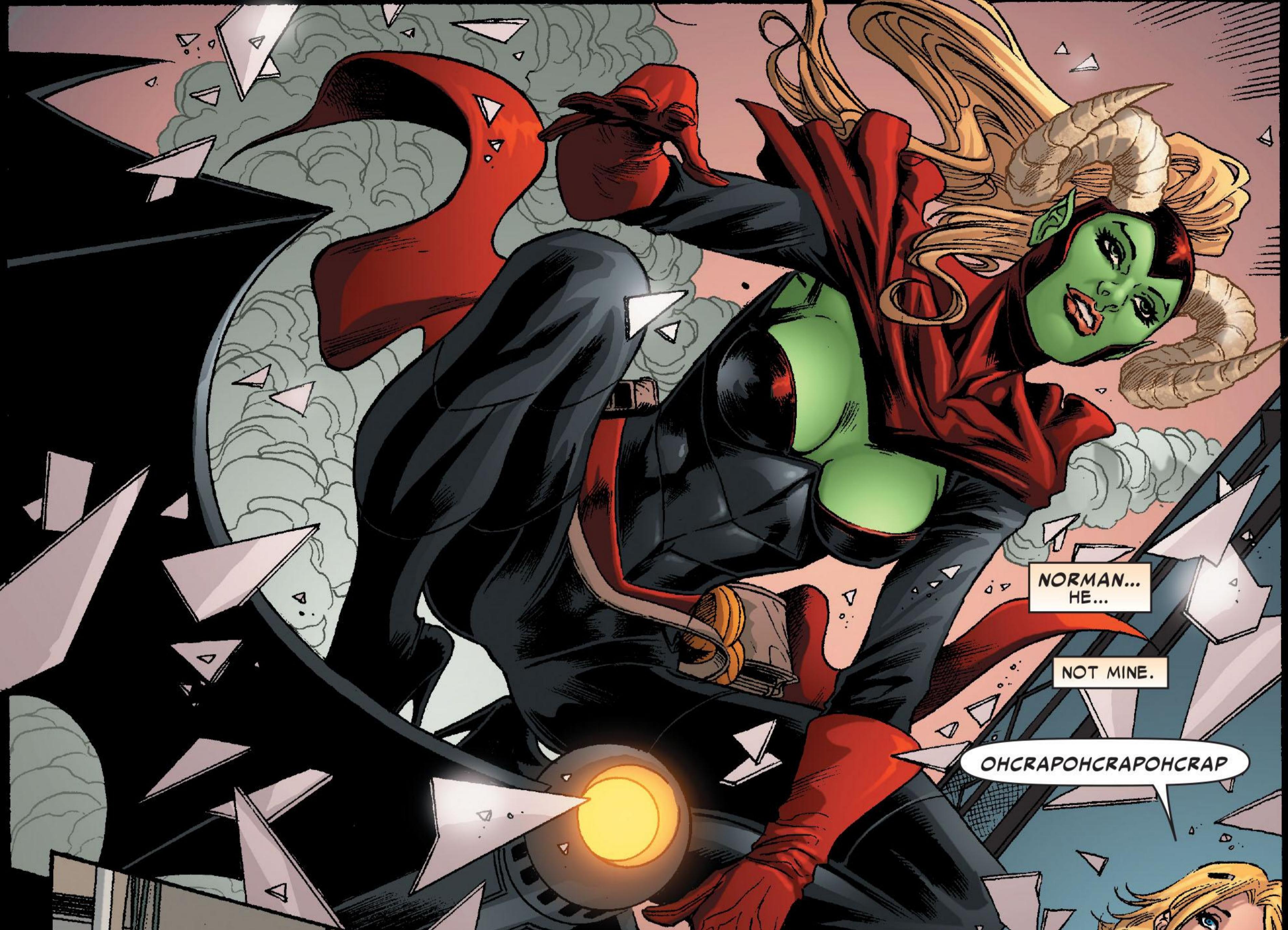












AAARRRGH!

I'M TOAST.

I'M GLAD
YOU PUT UP A
FIGHT THERE, AT
THE END...IT
MAKES IT ALL
SWEETER.

BUT I
WANT TO MAKE
SURE YOU'RE
LISTENING--

AND THAT'S IT.

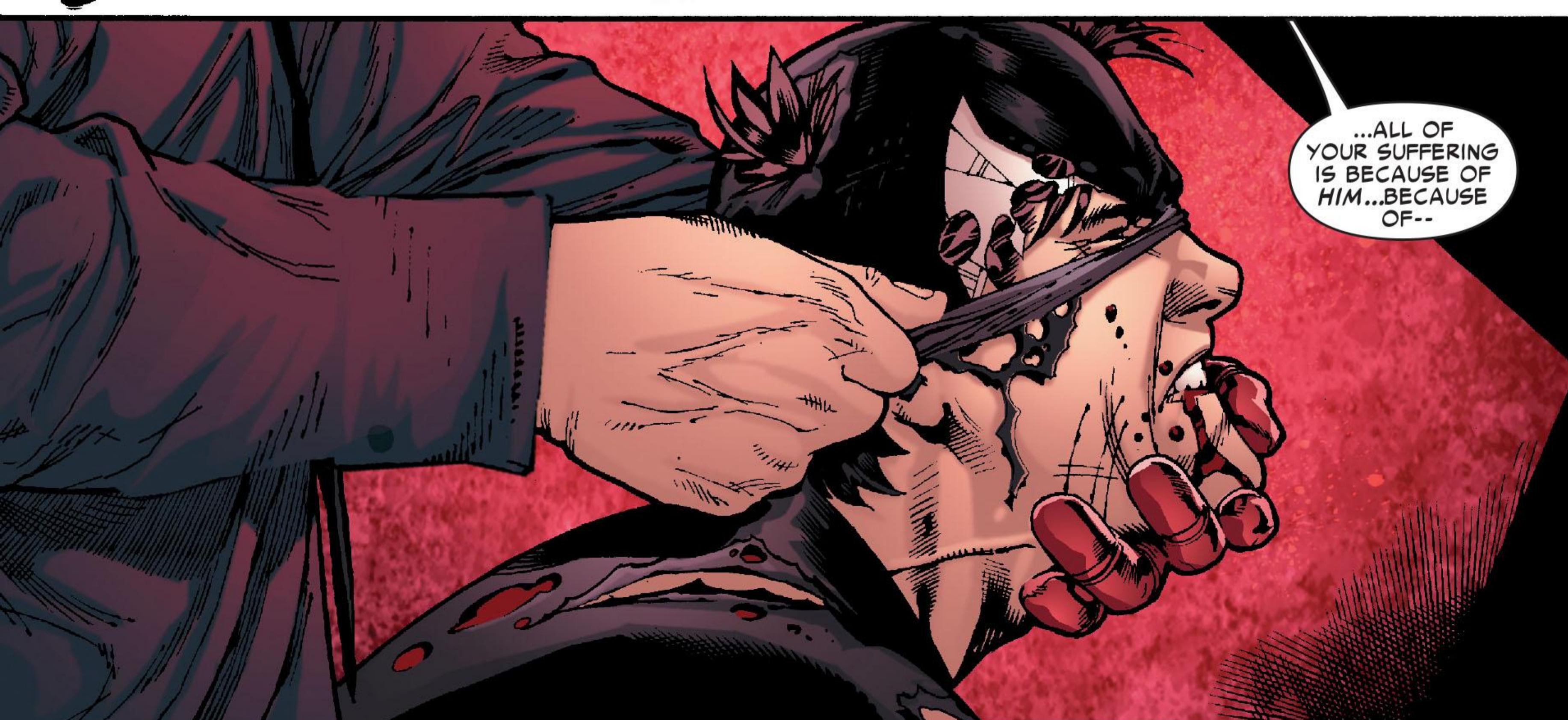
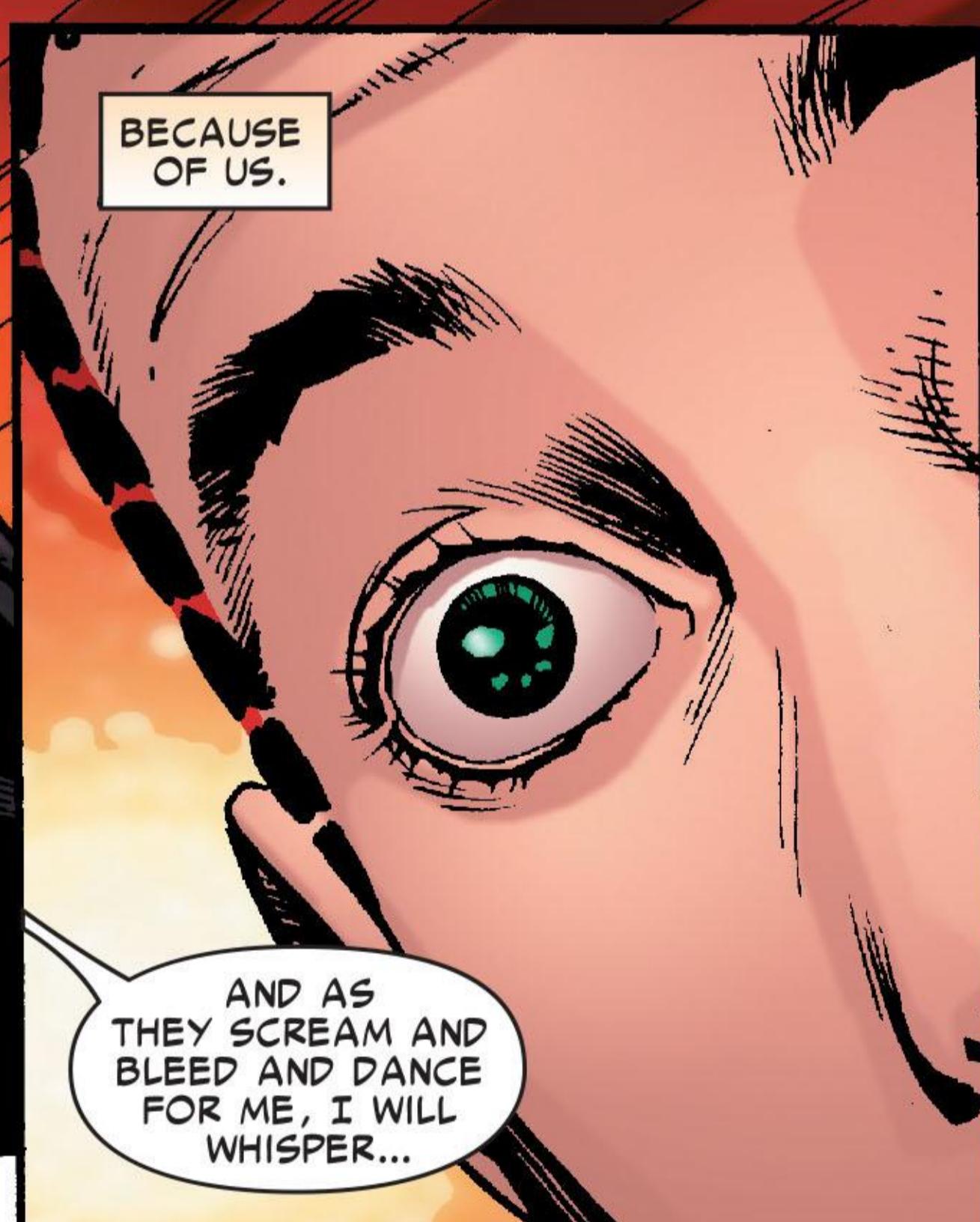
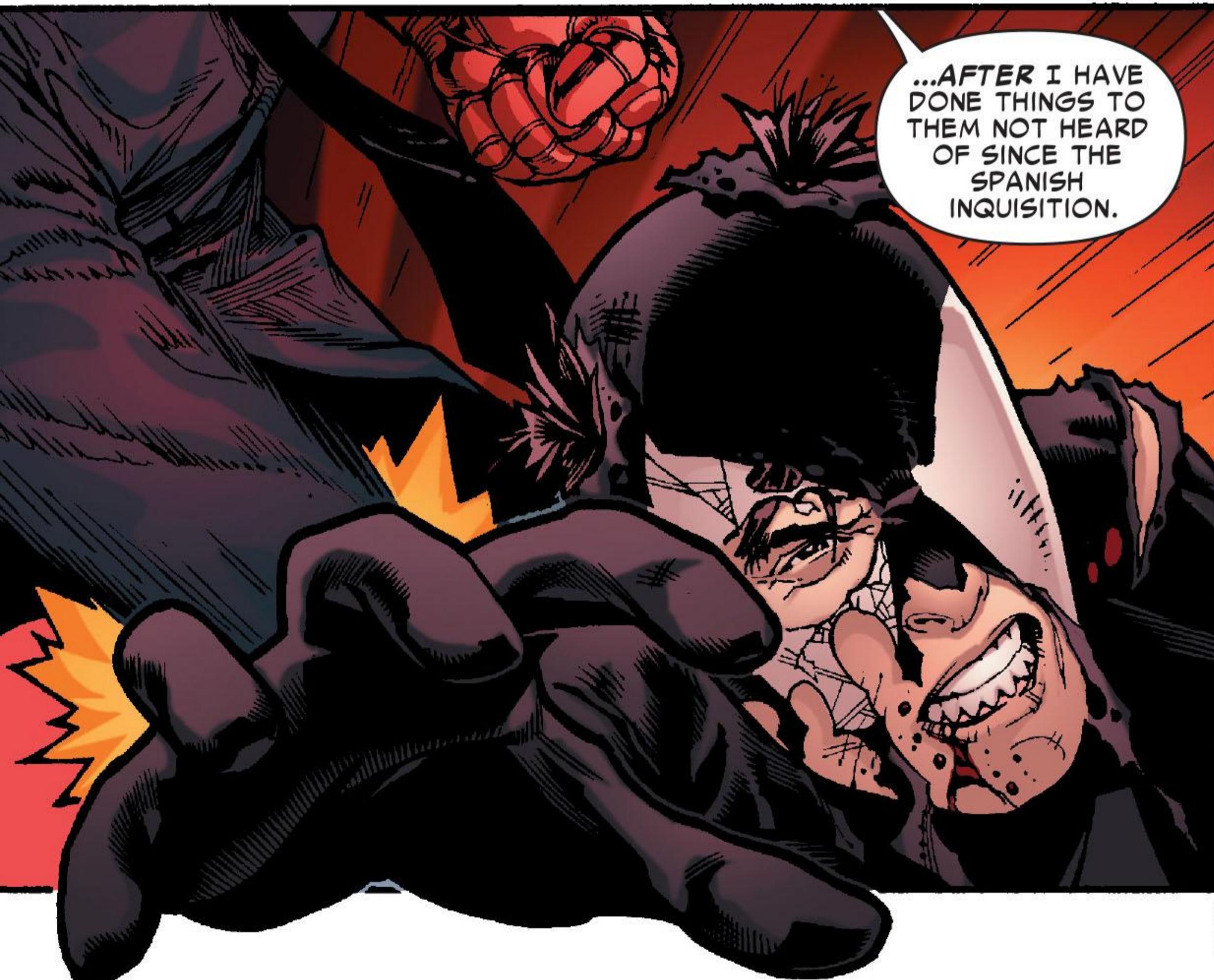
NOT ENOUGH
BLOOD. NOT
ENOUGH
STRENGTH...

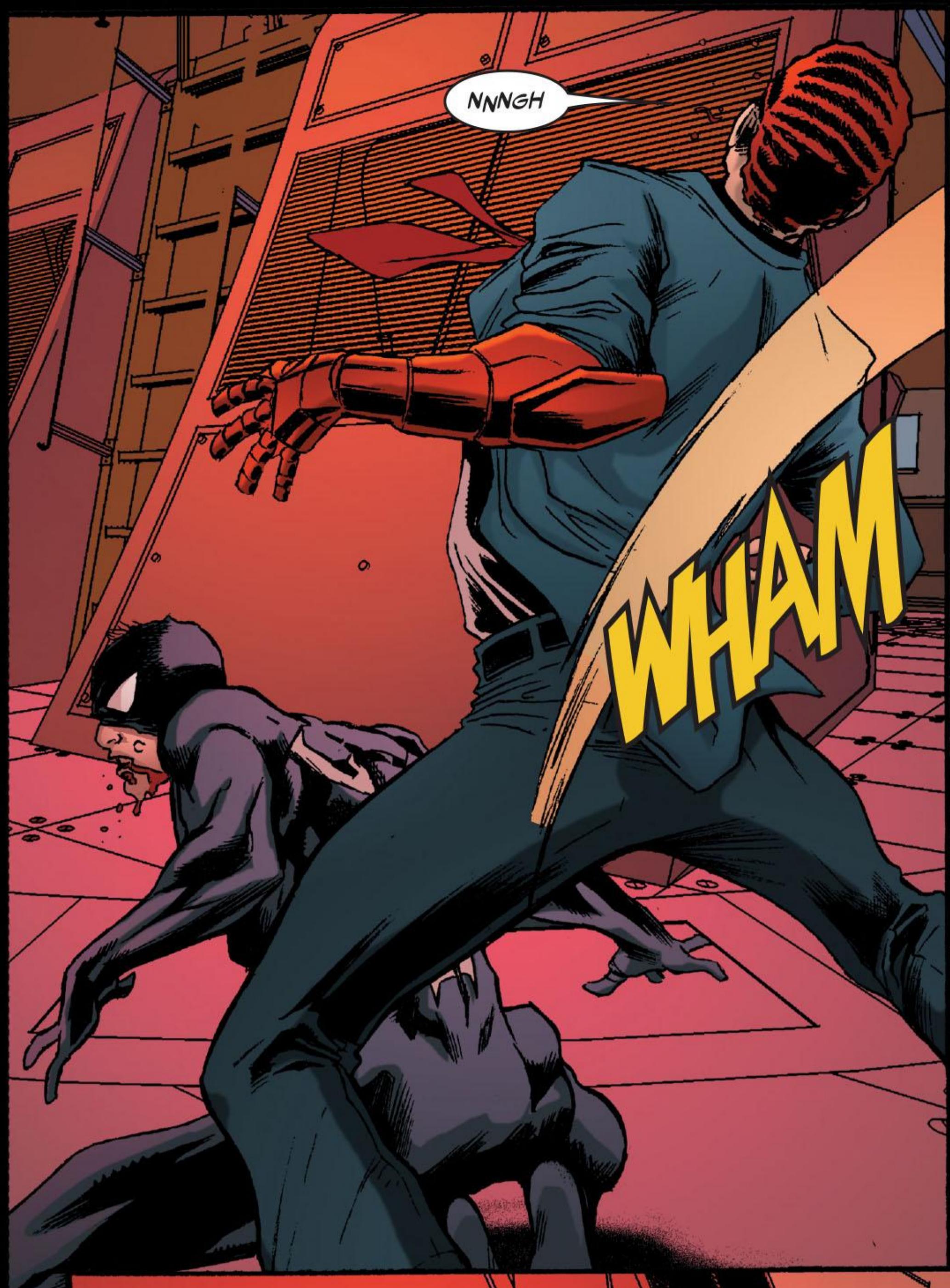
ARE YOU
LISTENING?!

THIS IS ALL
BECAUSE
OF ME...

BECAUSE
YOU TOUCHED
ME. BECAUSE
YOU MEDDLED
WITH MY
SON--

BECAUSE
YOU DIDN'T
KNOW YOUR
PLACE...







...YOU
GOT YOUR
SUPER
HERO.

To be concluded...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



As usual, the Spidey office is buzzing louder than Quesada's iFart app, but once again your less-than-humble editor is on the job at 4:15 in the morning listening to the warbling wrens of Westchester County wake up the world with their whistles (did I mention I'm paid by the 'W'?).

I have a bunch of mail from AMAZING #589 stacked up, the issue that not only featured the return of the dreaded Spot, but that also introduced the I-presume-Dutch writing sensation Fred Van Lente unto an unsuspecting readership.

Let's see what you warbling wrens found to complain about...

Web-Heads,

Holy Kravinoff, did Fred Van Lente ever ace THAT job interview! ASM #589 showed not the weight of 40 years' legacy, but the fruits of everything that makes the Spidey mythos most special.

The endless inventiveness with Spot's powers, the poignant secret story of his motivations, the topical humor about current film franchises and well-read flavor of contemporary gangland, the skillful and inspired weave-in of the spot motif leading up to the so-Ditkoesque, audience-addressing padded-cell finale -- it all drew on the series' heyday and its creators' roots in a way that tapped the same source of freshness, not just reliving their glories. And Paulo Siqueira's sense of agile yet crystal-clear action and big-portrait page composition is state-of-the-art but classically grounded. A sure frontrunner for single issue of the year, but it's early yet -- get these guys back so they can knock themselves out!

Adam McGovern
Mount Tabor, NJ

As you can see, Adam, all of us on Planet Spidey were impressed with both Paulo and Fred and both will be doing more work on Spidey in the coming months. Paulo, obviously, on this very storyarc. Then he moves to an Anti-Venom mini-series with Zeb Wells.

Fred in the meantime will be back in the Mr. Negative mini-series that started last week and then in ASM #602 for three issues of a story we're calling "Red Headed Stranger"...wait'll you read it!



Steve and the Braintr—er, Web-Heads,

Steve said that he expected a letter from me immediately after I finished the letter column in 588, so ... **ba-da-bing**. I'm not actually writing in on what he wanted me to, but I usually have a hard time conforming to the will of someone who assumes that I'll spend the entirety of my adulthood in prison. Sorry 'bout that.

What I am writing in on, firstly, is the not-so-subtle hint left that Stan Lee will be returning to the book sometime this year. I cannot even begin to describe the giddiness I felt when I realized what "The Man" comes home" was likely to mean. I hope, if and when Stan does appear, that it's at least for an entire issue, and not some filler story in the back of a one-shot that's used only to boost sales (Potentially about the President of a certain country). Not that Marvel would ever do that.

Anyway, the dissolution of the Braintrust is probably for the best. I just hope that the

formation of this new team gives all of the writers an equal chance to have their stories told (Especially if those stories happen to feature a certain Cat.... Possibly a Black Cat... Just sayin') and won't have one writer, however amazing he is, writing a third of the year's stories. Again, not like that would happen.

Here's looking forward to the rest of '09!

Matt Hoekstra, 14
New Jersey

Matt, the smell from the Vince Lombardi Reststop makes it all the way to midtown Manhattan, so trust what I say about Jersey. Believe me, in the Garden State, 14 is the age most folks get a lawyer on retainer...just in case. GO DEVILS! (that's hockey, right?)



Web-Heads,

I've been following the adventures of Mr. Parker for a long time now (I learned to read off of Spider-Man comics) and I wanted to give all involved a heartfelt thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the last issue. In ASM #589, you delivered a rarity in today's mega-event, writing to the trade, and crazy tipsy-curvy world, you let me read a single issue comic. A satisfying comic in 23 pages! You are indeed masters of your craft!

Plus you made the Spot seem like a cool character, that is two amazing feats in one comic. As to the future I have a couple of questions for you:

1-When will Spidey and the Merc with a Mouth have a rematch? They haven't traded quips since the days of the Cable and Deadpool book.

2-Not long ago we were teased that 'action' was Spidey's reward, yet the poor man has yet to receive. When will we see ol' Pete get a little lucky (I mean 1st base, yeesh this is a family publication right?).

So until Spider-Ham becomes the right-hand man of Dr. Doom make mine Marvel.

Matt Deragisch
Boulder, CO

1-Deadpool! What a great idea! But , gee, I can't decide which Spidey web-head might possibly be interested in telling such a tale. Ah, well, it was a fun notion. I can't imagine it ever happening...

...in October.

2-I know from talking to young people like Tom Brennan that today's "first base" is pretty much everything I expected over a lifetime.

Pete's coming out of a long time relationship and while he's dabbled in dating, right now he's not one to just jump from girl to girl. Also from my perspective, he learned a lot watching the relationship between his Aunt and Uncle, so any girl he meets has a lot to live up to.

How about this... Pete will get some "action" as soon as Brennan does. So check back in with issue #700!



TOM BRENNAN
ASST. EDITOR

STEVE WACKER
EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

Spider-Men,

Anyways, #589 just hit the stands and my mind, and though it stars the return of the Spot I think it's more important to say it stars the arrival of one Mr. Fred Van Lente! Man, this is how you do an engaging book done in one tale with plenty of humor, an interesting story and fabulous art by Paulo Siqueira!

Speaking of which, will the DARK REIGN: MISTER NEGATIVE story lead back into the main Amazing Spidey book, or is it just a series about Mr. N going craaazy?

Preston Do

Sorry I had to cut your letter short for space, Preston. Hoekstra just kept typing and typing.

Yes, you will see some spillover from Fred's Mr. Negative book back in Spidey. Most immediately in the next ASM EXTRA! this September.

Now quickly I just have room for one more letter!



Dear Spidey Editors ,

I've loved every single issue and especially the *Character Assassination* story arc and I can't just wait to read the Dark Reign Tie-in and what's coming after it . Before I finish writing. I have some questions to ask you about:

1 - Will Spidey have a big role in Dark Reign or a small one ?

2 - Are events related to Spidey that are recently happening (like in New Avengers #51 when Spidey revealed his identity to the Avengers) considered as canon or non-canonical?

3 - Will we see new appearances by Mary Jane in the Issues after the Dark Reign Tie-in ?

Rami Saade
Fanar, Lebanon

1-Yes

2-Those stories are "in continuity" as the pundits say.

3-It is called "Red Headed Stranger."



And that's it. Before I go, though, let me take one minute to get a little political here. I know with events happening at a rapid pace in today's modern world, it's often easy to forget that there are other people who think differently than you.

I think we all need to strive to respect the opinions of others and remember that we're all just flesh and blood, people who just happen to have been raised differently. That cornucopia of thought is what has driven the human race through history from the caves of yesterday to the wireless homes of today.

However that understanding can only go so far...sometimes there is a black and white in this world and a wrong is just wrong. Sometime a man has to stand up and say what he believes, and damn the consequences. This is one of those times:

Adam Lambert should have won.

Good night...and good luck.

Viva Templar
Simperin' Steve
6/4/09