

MARVEL
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STRACZYNSKI • GARNEY

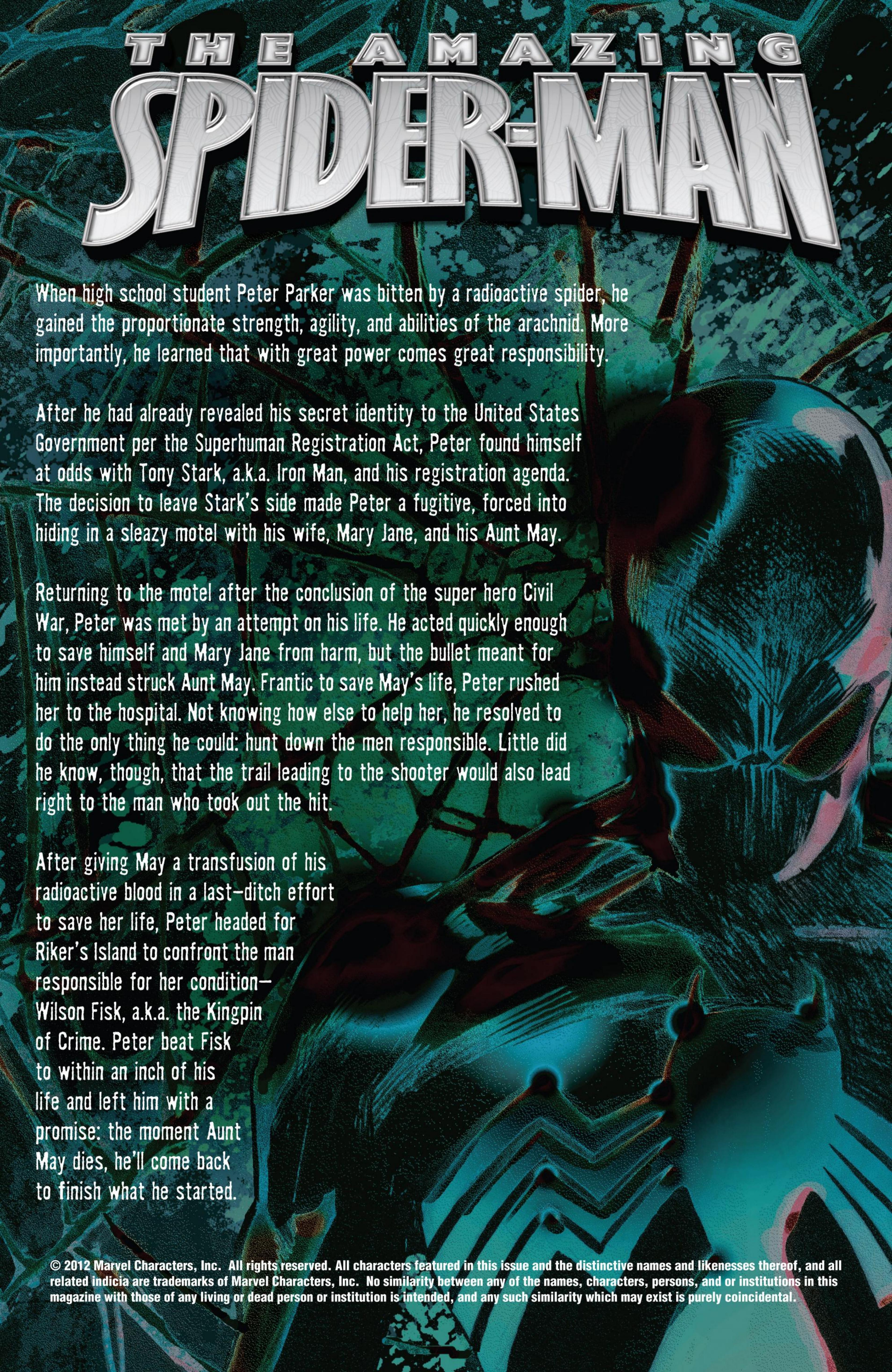


BACK IN
BLACK

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



When high school student Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider, he gained the proportionate strength, agility, and abilities of the arachnid. More importantly, he learned that with great power comes great responsibility.

After he had already revealed his secret identity to the United States Government per the Superhuman Registration Act, Peter found himself at odds with Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and his registration agenda. The decision to leave Stark's side made Peter a fugitive, forced into hiding in a sleazy motel with his wife, Mary Jane, and his Aunt May.

Returning to the motel after the conclusion of the super hero Civil War, Peter was met by an attempt on his life. He acted quickly enough to save himself and Mary Jane from harm, but the bullet meant for him instead struck Aunt May. Frantic to save May's life, Peter rushed her to the hospital. Not knowing how else to help her, he resolved to do the only thing he could: hunt down the men responsible. Little did he know, though, that the trail leading to the shooter would also lead right to the man who took out the hit.

After giving May a transfusion of his radioactive blood in a last-ditch effort to save her life, Peter headed for Riker's Island to confront the man responsible for her condition—Wilson Fisk, a.k.a. the Kingpin of Crime. Peter beat Fisk to within an inch of his life and left him with a promise: the moment Aunt May dies, he'll come back to finish what he started.

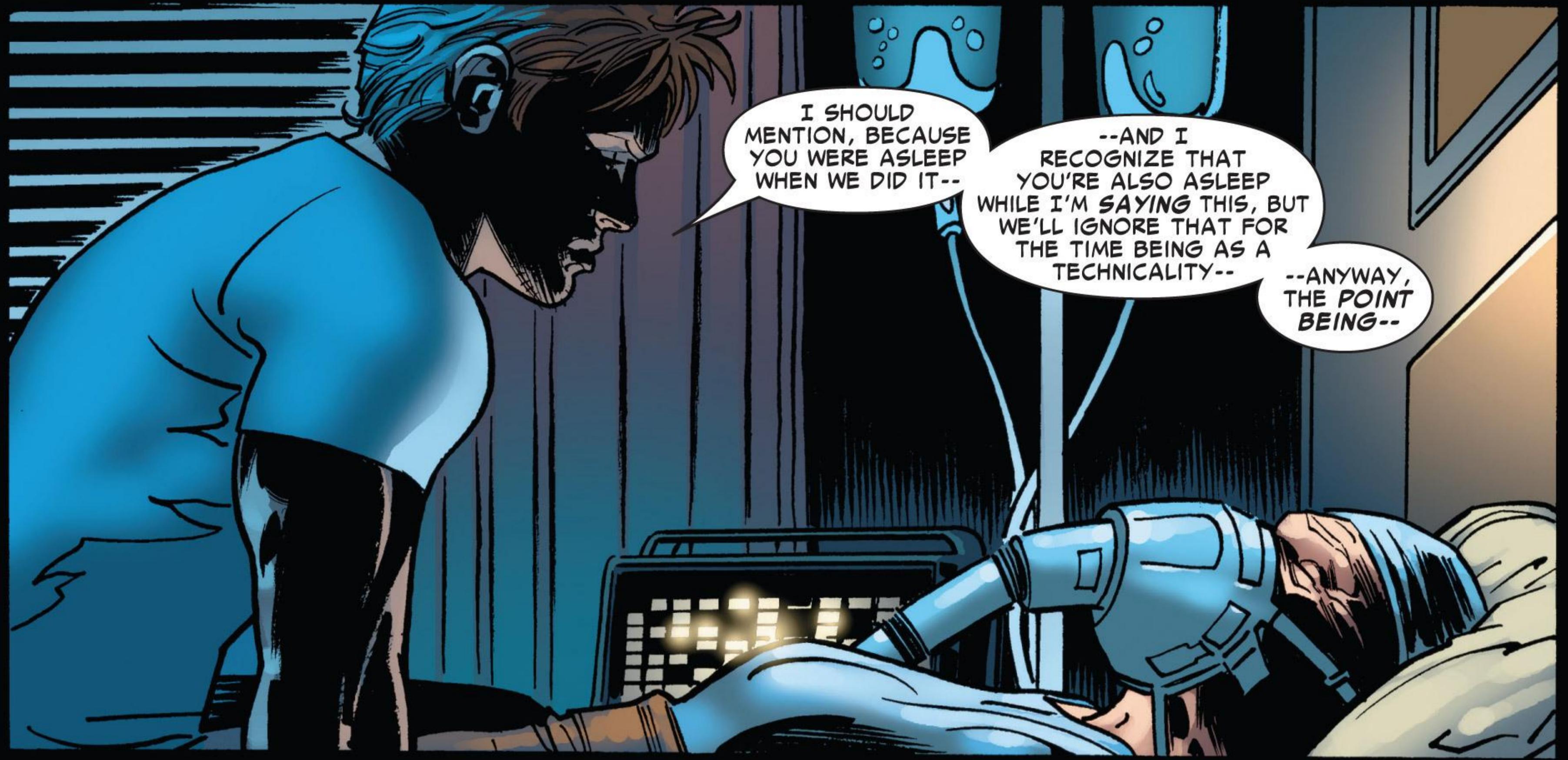


SO. AUNT MAY.
ANYTHING NEW BY YOU?

**BACK
IN
BLACK**
PART 5 OF 5

An Incident on the Fourth Floor

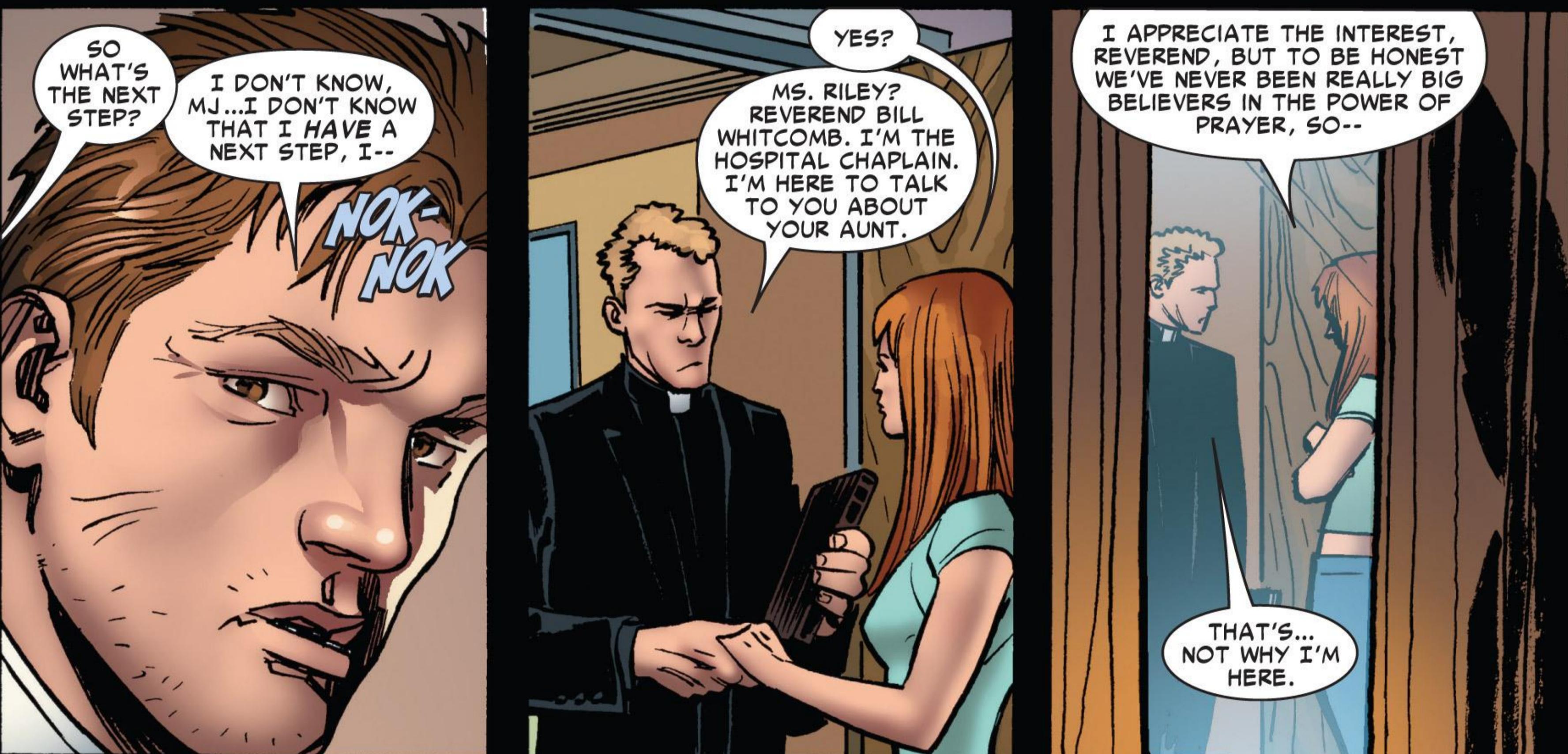
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AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL FROM THE BLOOD WORKUP, SHE MUST'VE BUILT UP A RESISTANCE OR AN IMMUNITY TO MY BLOOD FROM THE LAST TIME I DID THIS. SO IT WAS JUST USELESS--

--USELESS.



THE STAFF KEEP ME INFORMED ABOUT PATIENTS THAT MAY BE ABOUT TO ENTER A TERMINAL PHASE IN THEIR TREATMENT, BECAUSE AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS IT IS FOR ALL OF US, NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THESE THINGS MAY BE, WE MUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

WILL YOUR AUNT BE REQUIRING LAST RITES? WOULD SHE WANT THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY BELIEF OR DENOMINATION?

AND THOUGH WE ALL HOPE FOR A MIRACLE IN SUCH CASES...HAVE YOU MADE ANY ARRANGEMENTS YET FOR A FUNERAL?



DO YOU
BELIEVE THAT
GUY--

PETER--

HE'S A
VULTURE, AND
BELIEVE ME, I
SHOULD KNOW, I'VE
FOUGHT VULTURES
BEFORE.

IT'S...A QUESTION
THAT WE MAY NEED TO
ANSWER, PETER. IF SHE
DOES PASS AWAY--AND
WE HAVE TO BE HONEST
WITH EACH OTHER,
THAT'S A REAL
POSSIBILITY--

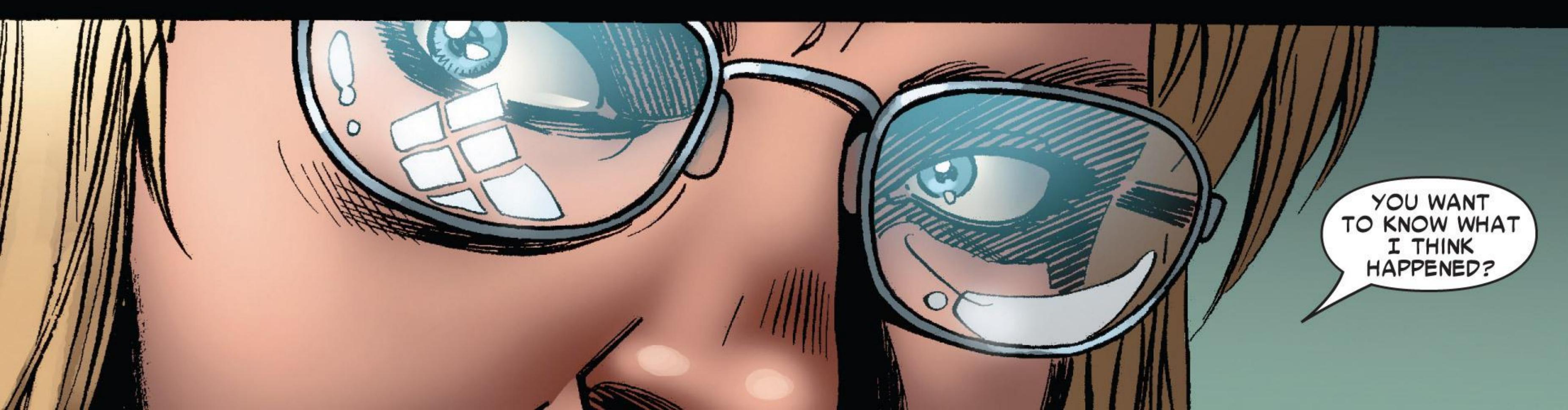
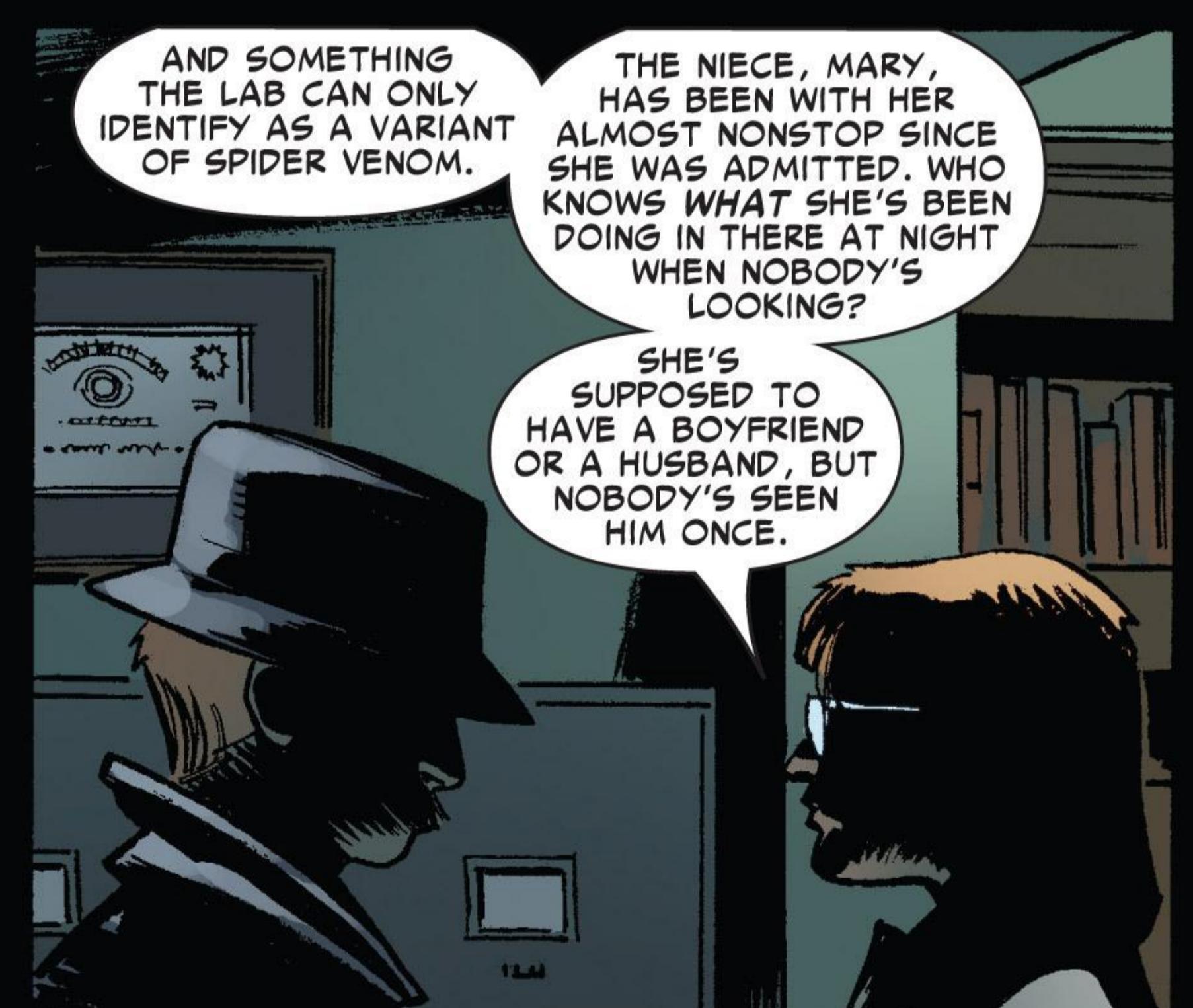
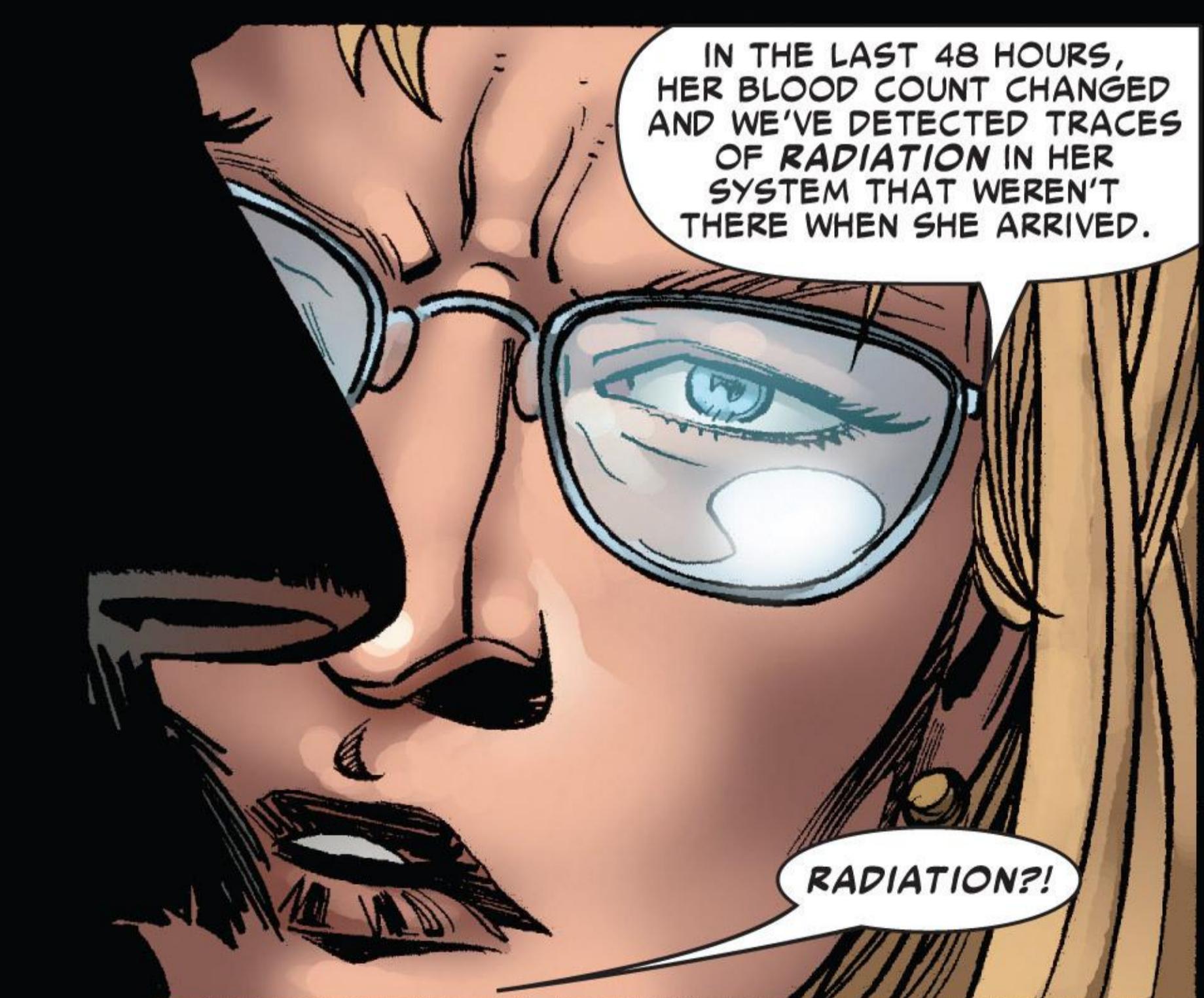
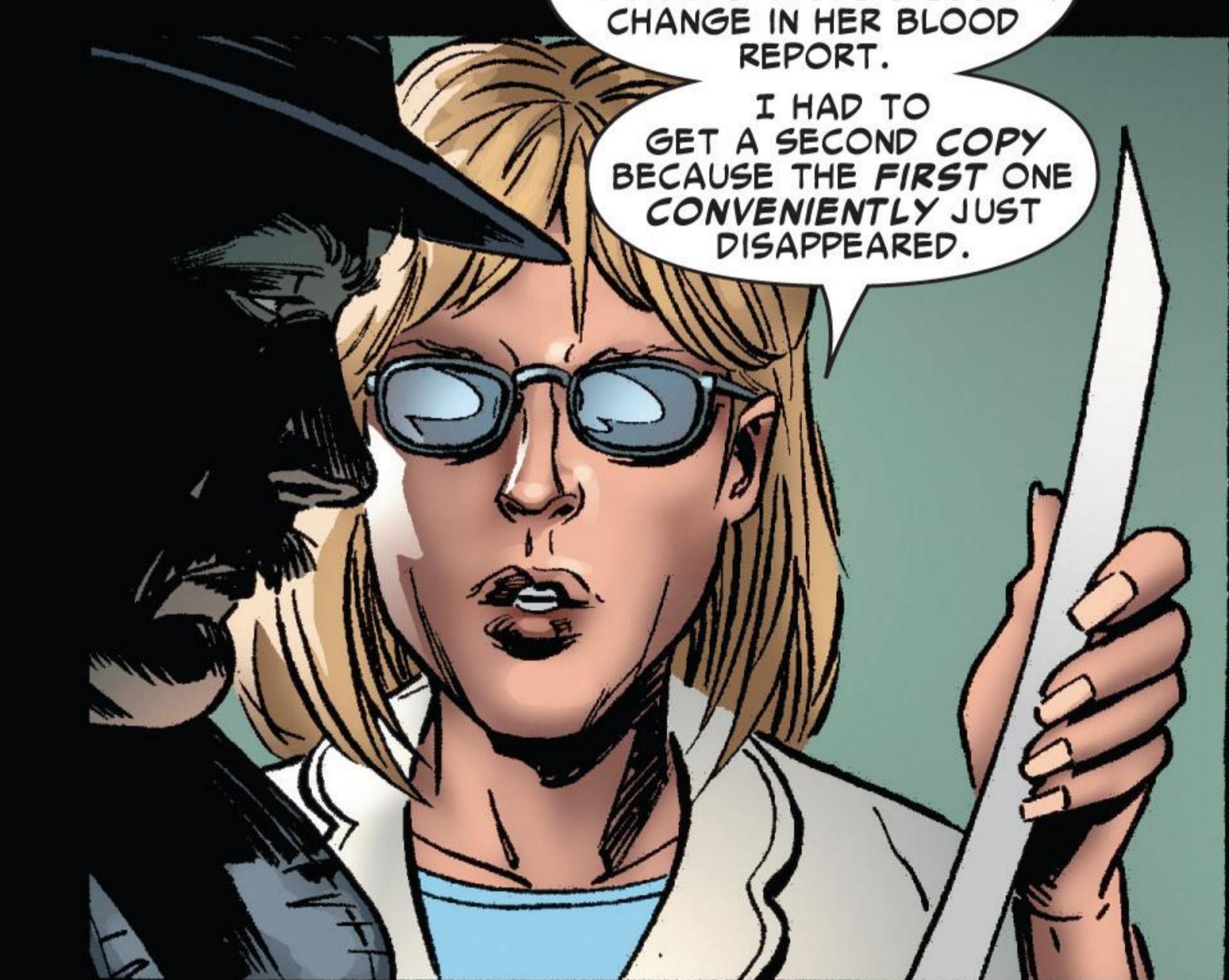
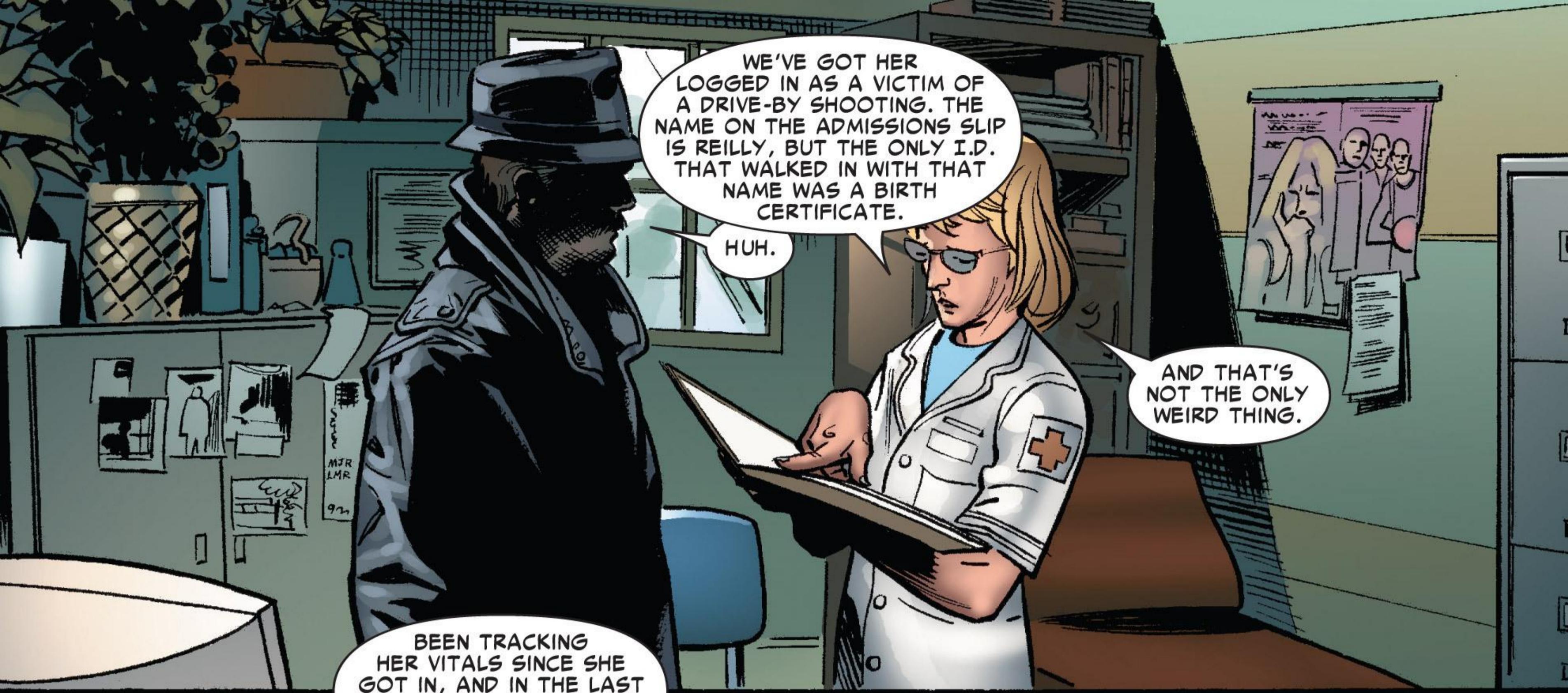
--NO--

WHAT WOULD
SHE WANT US TO
DO? WHAT KIND
OF SERVICE?

YOU HAD A
WHOLE LIFETIME OF
KNOWING HER, PETER.
WHEN IT COMES TO A
SERVICE...WHAT DID SHE
BELIEVE IN THE MOST?
WHAT DID SHE BELIEVE
IN, REALLY?

SHE
BELIEVED
IN ME.

AND THAT
BELIEF MAY HAVE
COST HER HER LIFE,
MJ. HOW DO I LIVE
WITH MYSELF IF
THAT'S TRUE?





--THE GUN WENT OFF, WHICH SCARED HIM INTO FLEEING.

"AND THAT'S WHY WE FOUND HER THAT WAY."

POSSIBLE.
WHAT ELSE?

WELL, THEY LIED WHEN THEY SAID THEY FILED A POLICE REPORT ON THE DRIVE-BY SHOOTING. AND THEY'VE BEEN PAYING WITH CASH SINCE THEY GOT HERE.

THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE ANY INSURANCE CARRIER WOULD WANT PROOF OF A DRIVE-BY, SO THEY'D CONTACT THE POLICE FOR CONFIRMATION. IT WOULD ALSO MEAN GIVING US AND THE INSURER HER FULL, CURRENT LAST NAME.

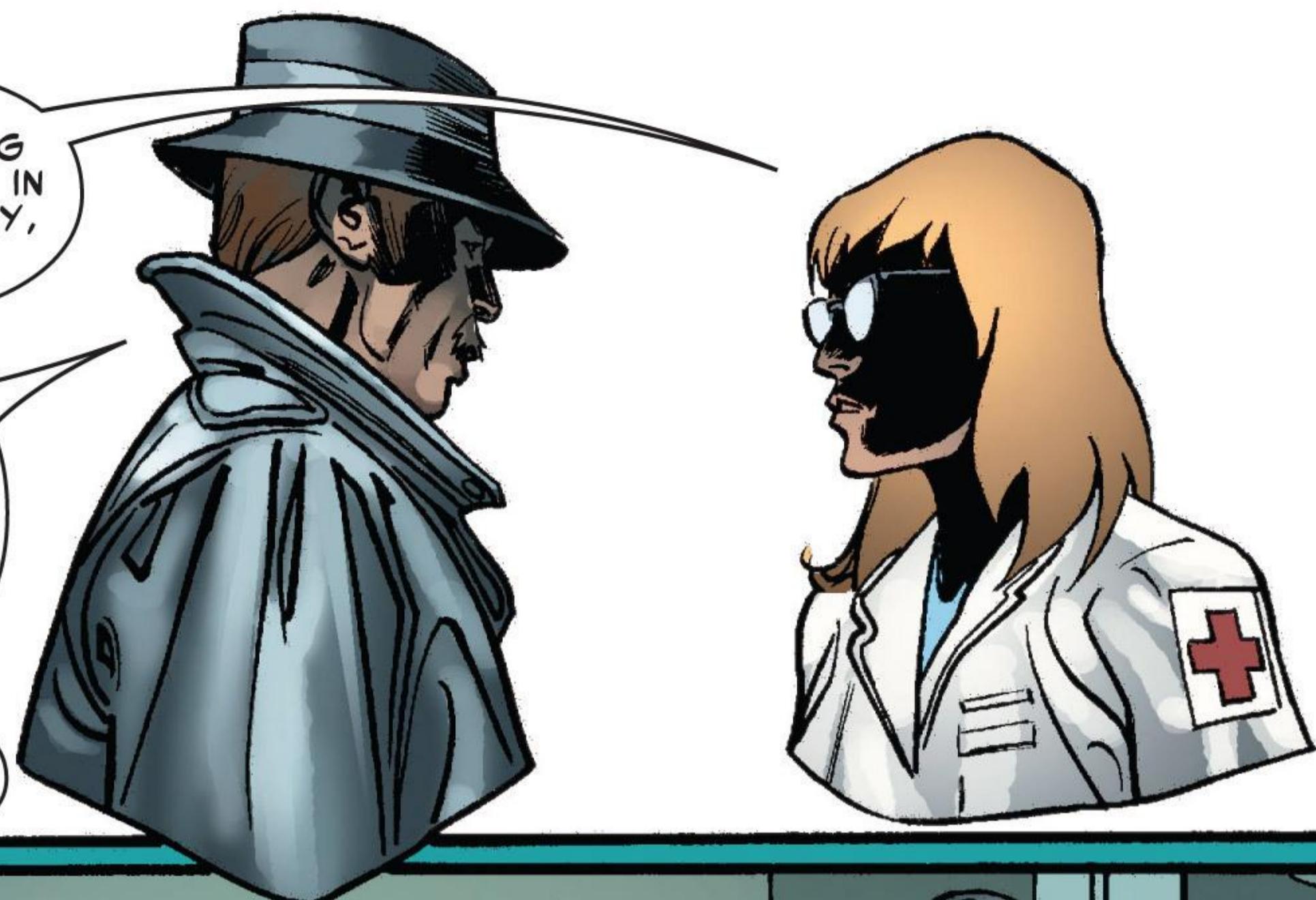
"SINCE THE OLD LADY WOULD RUIN THE WHOLE THING IF SHE WOKE UP, THE NIECE HAS BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME TO MAKE SURE SHE DIDN'T TALK--

--AND MAY HAVE SLIPPED IN HER LOVER TO FINISH THE JOB WITH SOME KIND OF TOXIN WE HAVEN'T YET IDENTIFIED."

AND THEN, THE WAY SHE WAS ASKING ABOUT ANY CHANGES IN HER CONDITION TODAY, LIKE SHE KNEW SOMETHING--

WELL, IT'S NOT THE ONLY EXPLANATION, BUT IT MAKES SENSE AS A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION. AND NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT, WHEN SHE DIDN'T FILE A POLICE REPORT AND LIED ABOUT IT ON THE FORM, THAT'S GROUNDS FOR SUSPICION AND PROBABLE CAUSE.

IT'S ALSO A FELONY OFFENSE ALL BY ITSELF.



SHE UP THERE NOW?

YEP. ROOM 430. END OF THE HALL.

THANKS.



OKAY...IF THE TRANSFUSION DIDN'T WORK, AND MEDICINE DOESN'T WORK, THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY TO--



PETER?
WHAT IS
IT?

TROUBLE,
I--



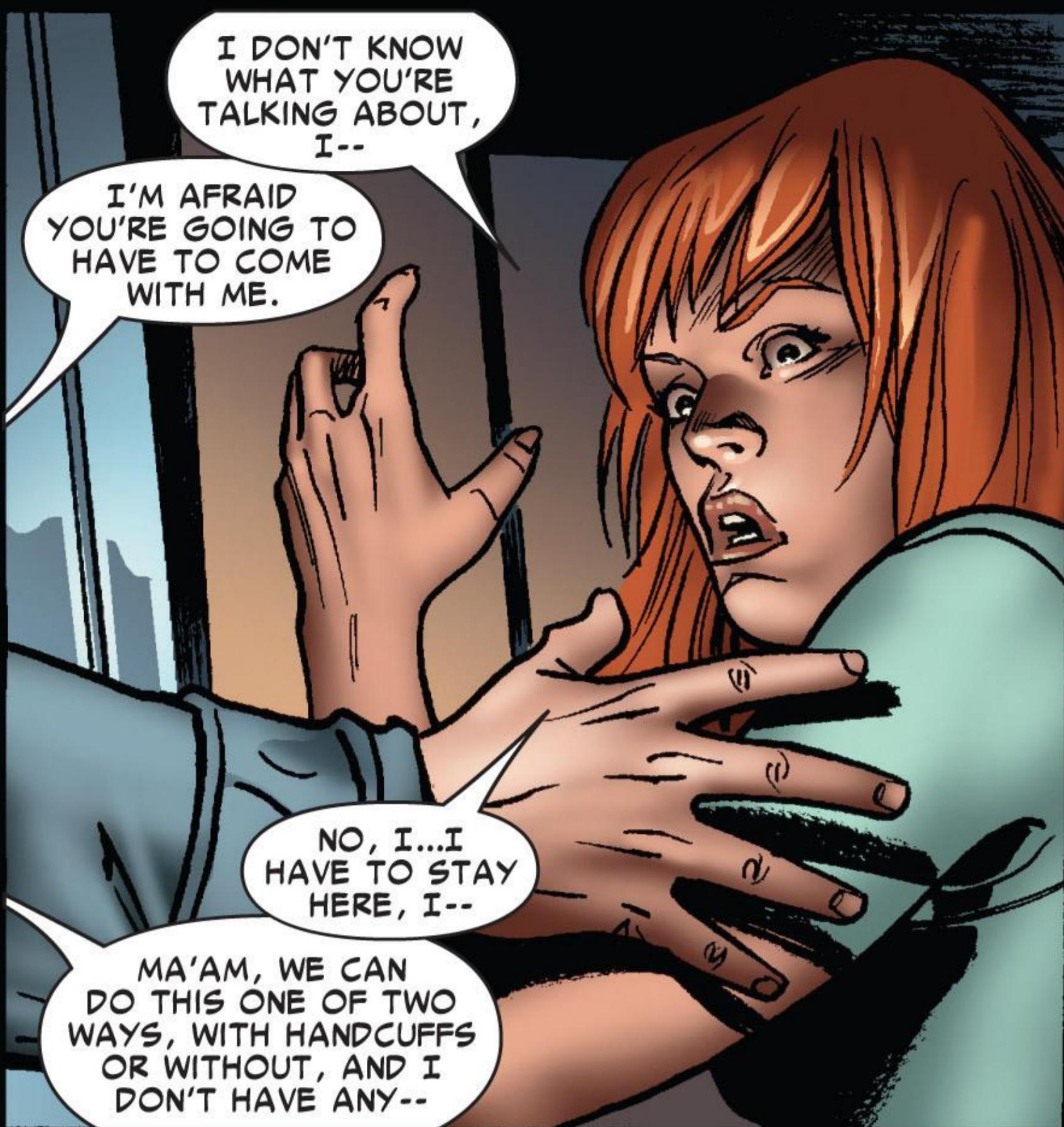
MS. MARY REILLY?

YES...?

LIEUTENANT DETECTIVE ROBERT DELINT. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR AUNT.

THIS...ISN'T A GOOD TIME, I NEED TO STAY HERE AND--









And there's nothing I can do about it.

OKAY, MJ,
WE HAVE TO MOVE
FAST. WE NEED TO
GET YOU AND AUNT
MAY OUT OF HERE,
PRONTO.

BUT--

DON'T ARGUE.
GET DOWNSTAIRS
AND OUTSIDE, I'LL
CALL ON THE CELL
WHEN WE'RE READY
TO MOVE.

NOW GO.
I'LL BUY US
SOME TIME.

Felony count number one:
failing to file a police report
on a gunshot wound.

Felony count
number two:
assaulting a
police officer.

Felony count
number three:
wrongful
imprisonment.

Can't use webbing,
can't have this point
to Spider-Man until well
after May is clear.

Felony count number
four: fleeing
the scene of a crime.

--SO SHE'S BUSTING MY CHOPS BECAUSE I'M STILL LIVING AT MY MOM'S WHILE I BUILD UP THE OLD NEST EGG. IT'S NOT LIKE I LIKE IT OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO FOR A WHILE, Y'KNOW?

I HEAR YOU.

SO I SAYS TO HER, I SAYS, FINE, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO, LEAVE, BE MY GUEST.

YOU KNOW WHAT SHE DID?

WHAT?

SHE LEFT. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

UNREAL.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.
PASS THE MAYO.

Felony count number five: grand theft auto.

MJ, YOU READY?

JUST TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

Felony count
number six: breaking
and entering.

GOING.

OKAY,
MJ, I'M
SET.

GO.

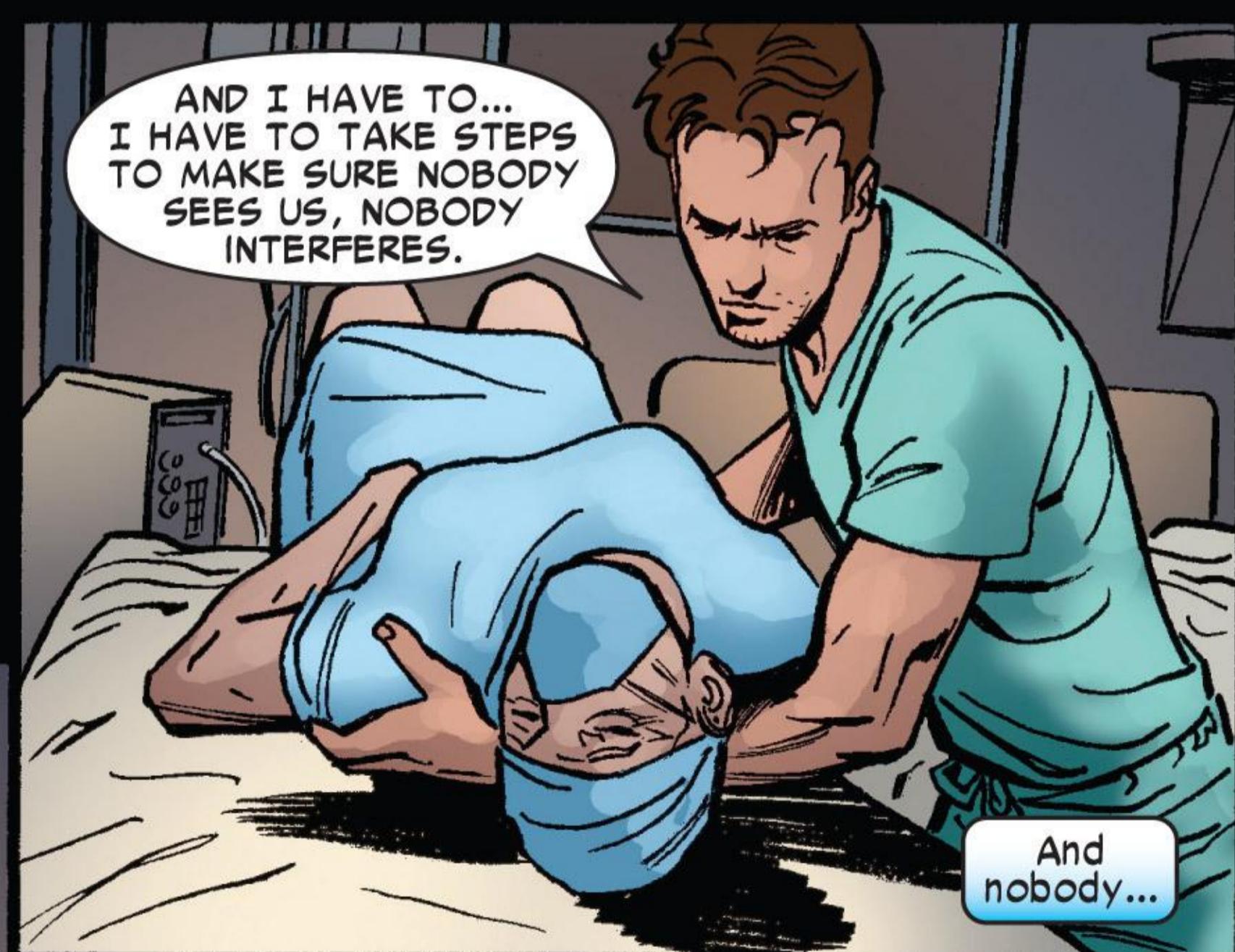
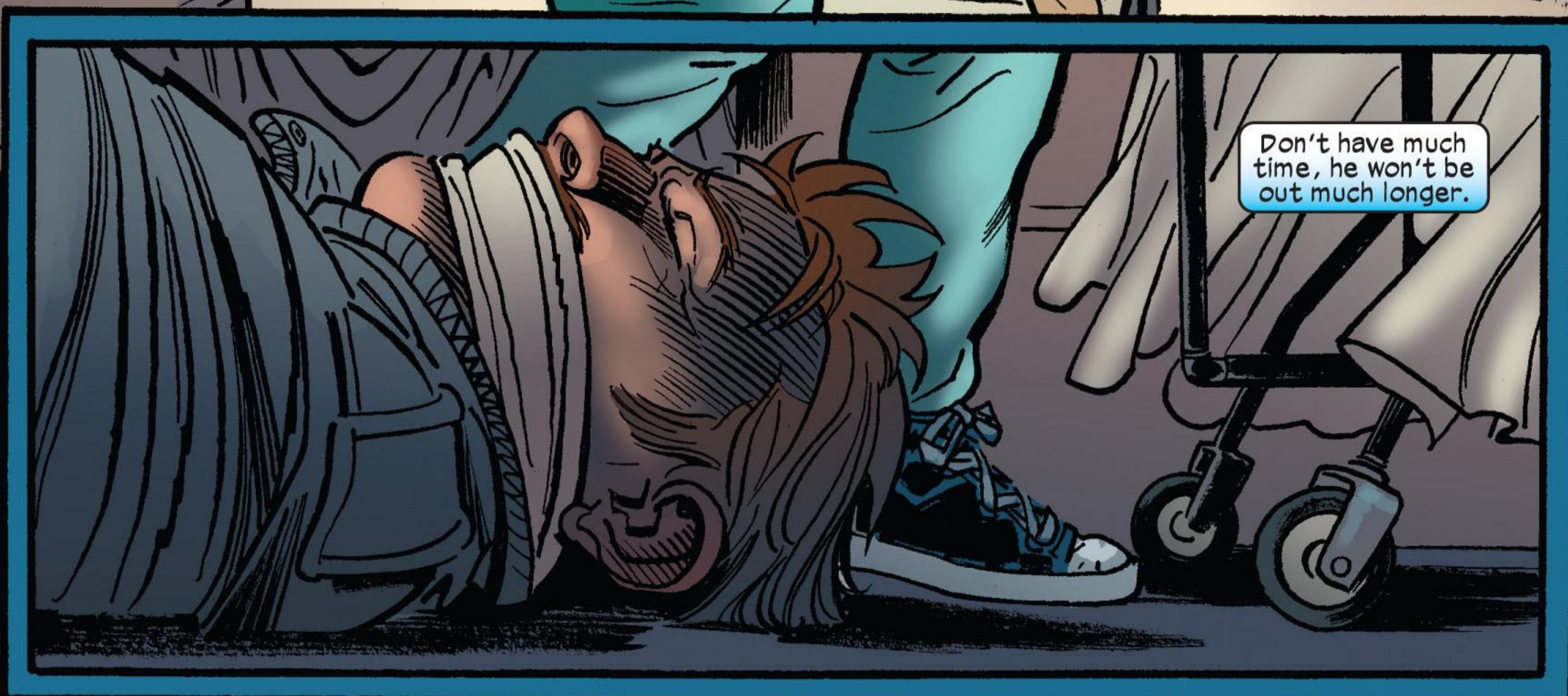
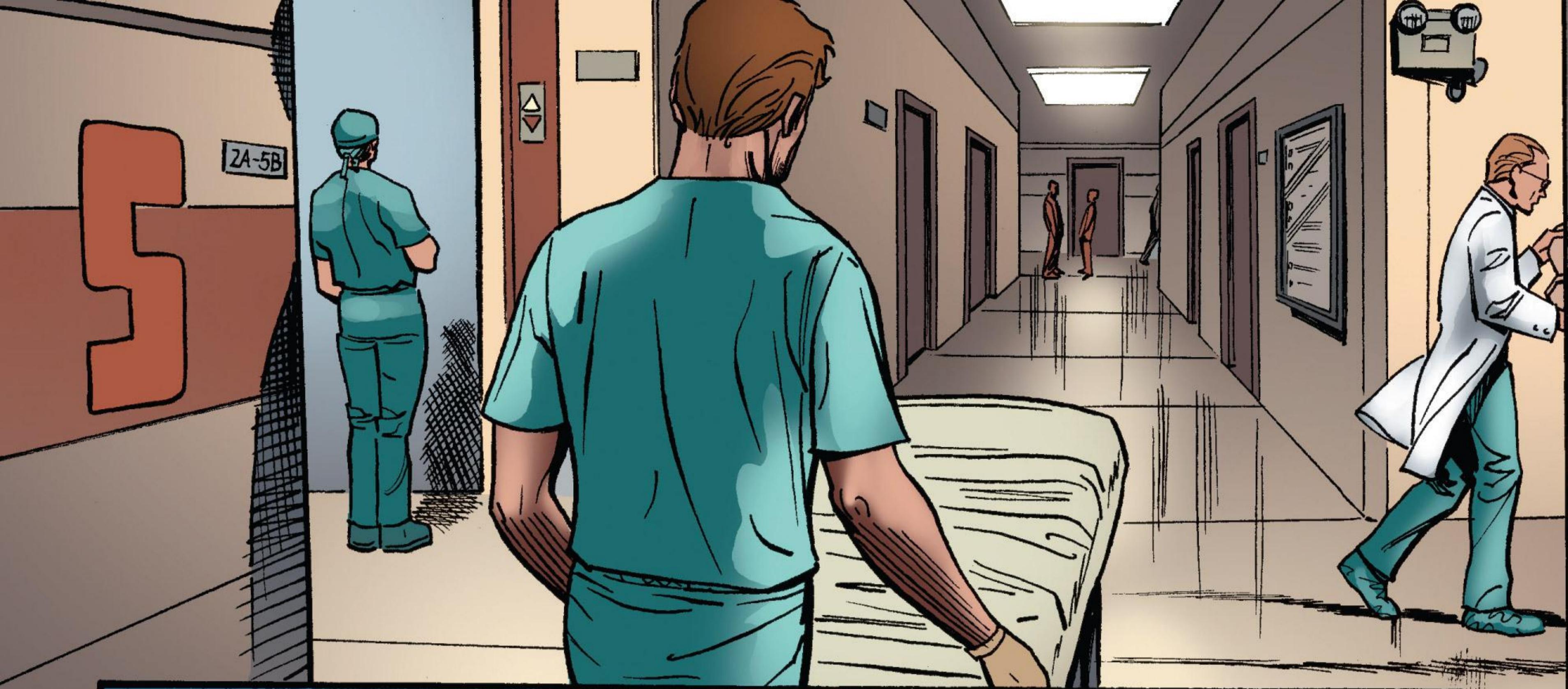
OH MY GOD...NURSE!
THERE'S SOMEONE ON
THE FLOOR OF THE
LOBBY...I THINK SHE'S
HAVING A HEART
ATTACK!

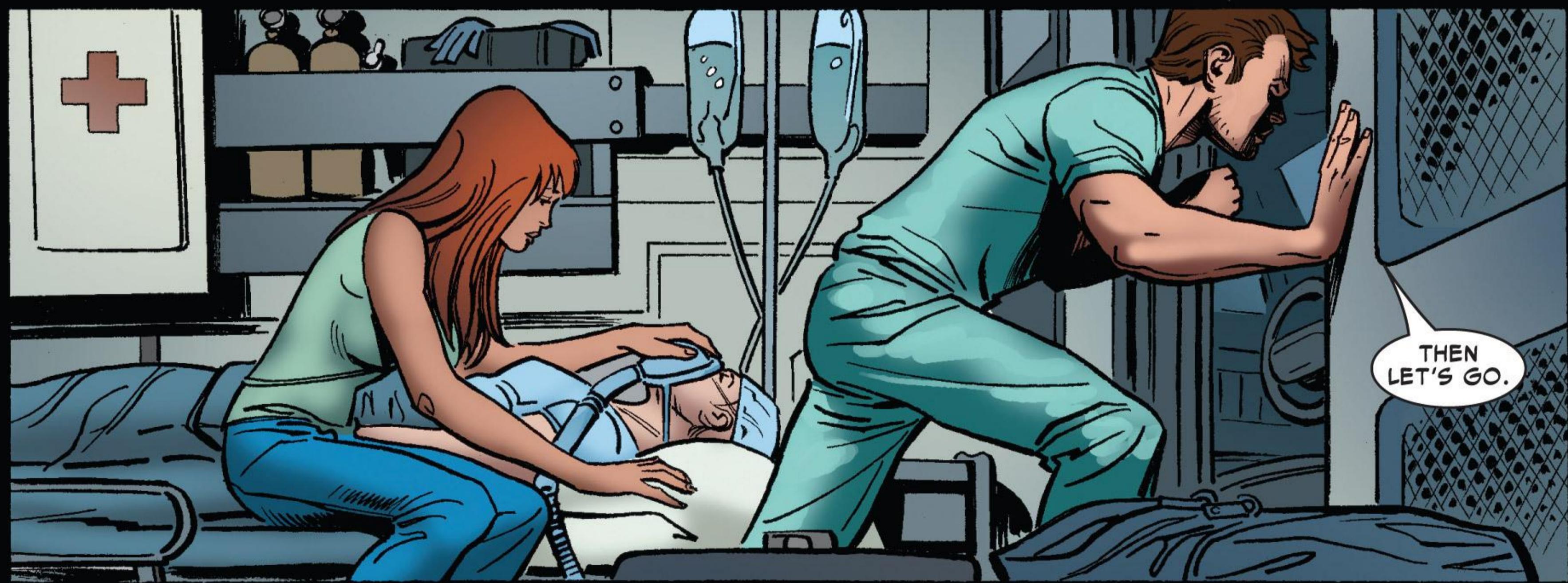
WHAT?

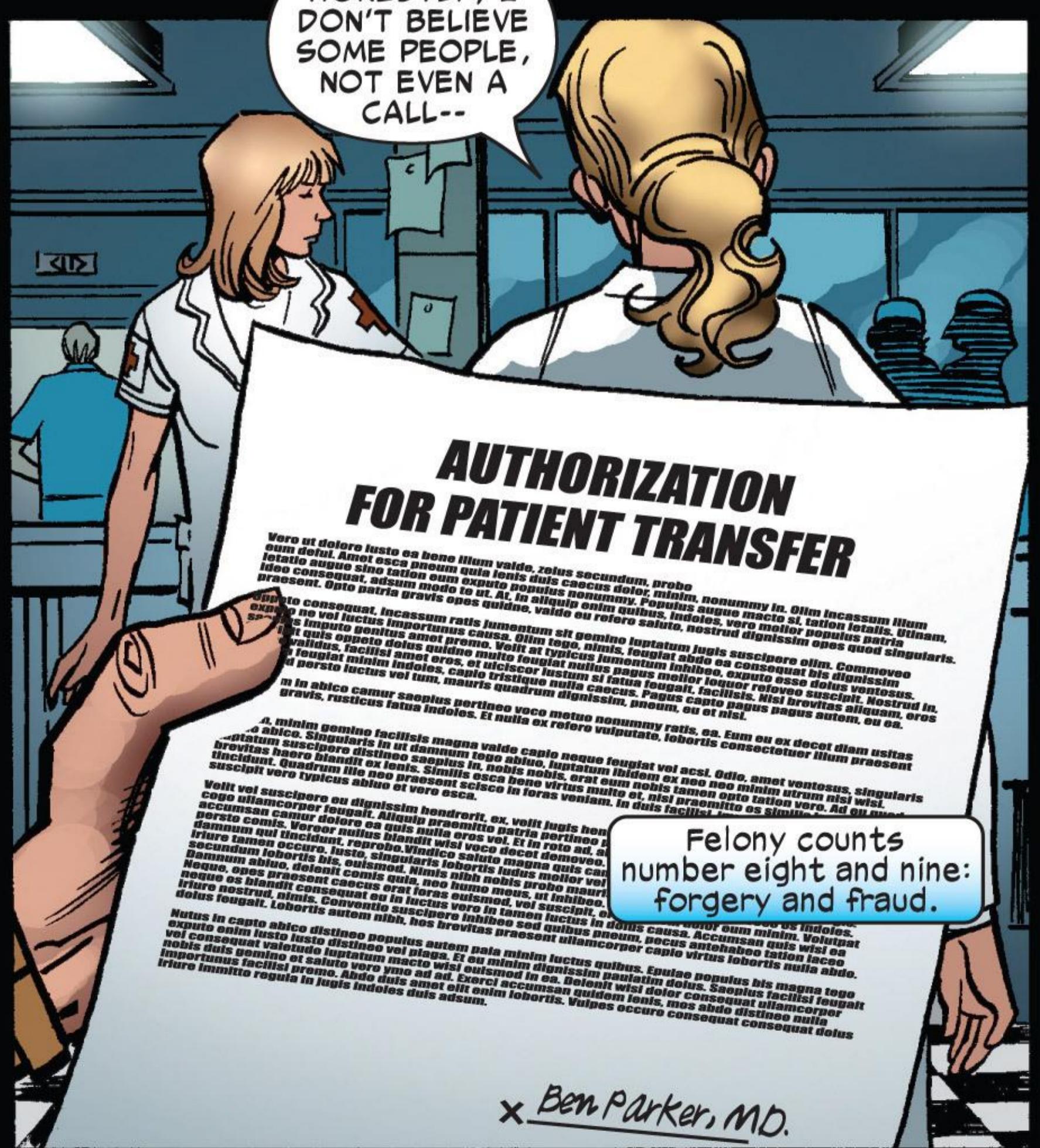
SHE'S
TURNING
BLUE!

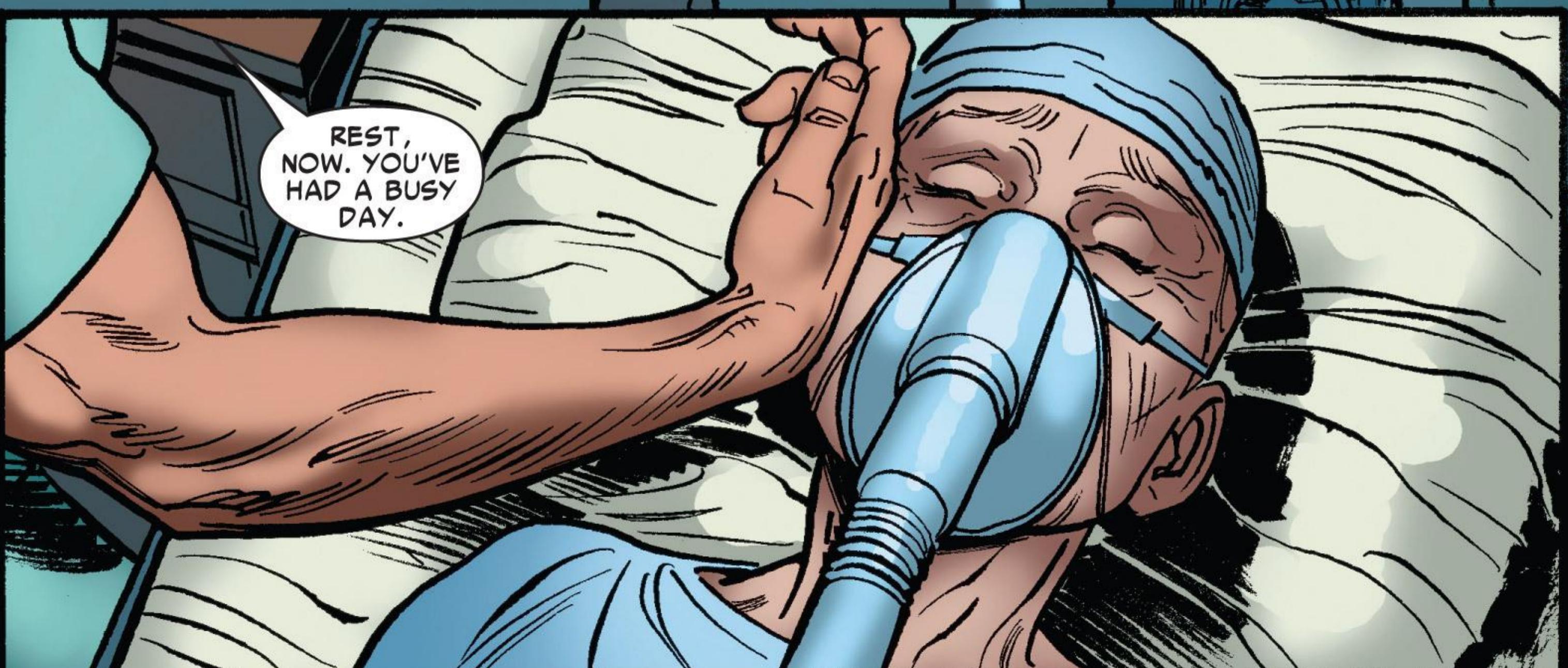
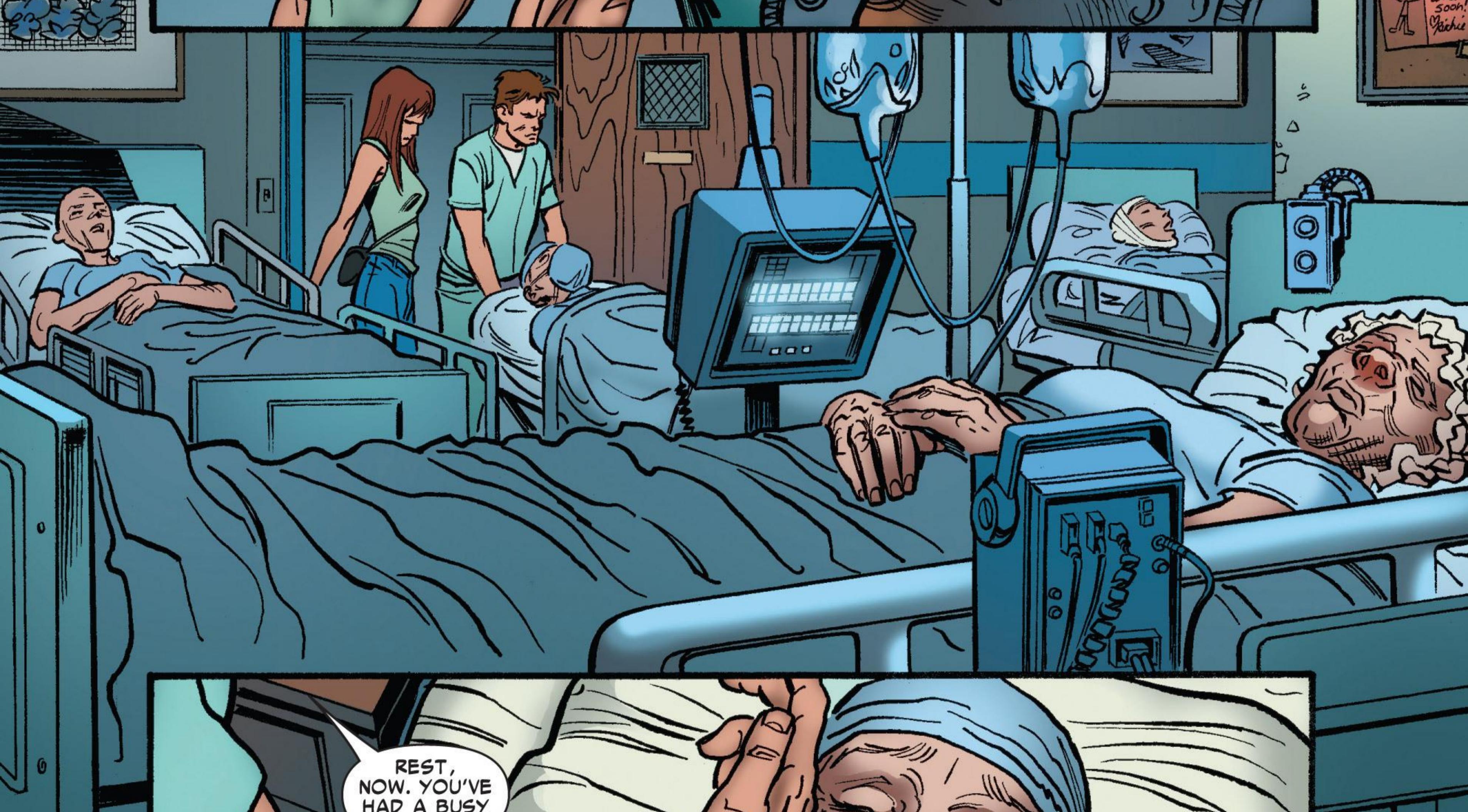
CODE BLUE,
ANY AVAILABLE
DOCTORS TO THE
LOBBY, CODE
BLUE!

AUTHORIZATION
FOR PATIENT TRANSFER









SORRY...I'M TRYING NOT TO CRY, BUT--

I KNOW.

I KNOW...

I DON'T MEAN TO BE SCARED, PETE, BUT I KEEP WONDERING...WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US? WHERE IS THIS ALL GOING TO END?

I DON'T KNOW, MJ. I JUST KNOW WE CAN'T STOP FIGHTING. NOT FOR HER, AND NOT FOR US. NOT NOW, NOT EVER.

I HAVE TO GET GOING...HAVE TO DROP THE AMBULANCE OFF SOMEWHERE CLEAR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, MAKE SURE NOBODY CAN TRACK IT BACK TO THIS PLACE...AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

AND THEN?

THEN...WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE.

Nine felony counts.

Ten-year minimum per charge--

--equals a ninety-year prison term.

Possibly life imprisonment.



Nine felony counts.

Not committed by somebody in a mask that can't be tracked down.

Not committed by Spider-Man.

Nine felonies committed by ME, with my fingerprints all over everything. Me. Peter Parker.

I can't say it was a trap, or a frame-up, or an anti-registration technicality, or anything else. I committed those crimes.

I have become the very thing I set out to fight. A criminal.

All my life, I've had nightmares about being accused of a crime and being sent to jail. And now I'm trapped in that nightmare, only this time it's real. It's REAL.

I'm lost...God help me, I'm so lost...

Carney
W. REINHOLD
THE END!!

TO BE CONCLUDED IN
"ONE MORE DAY."