

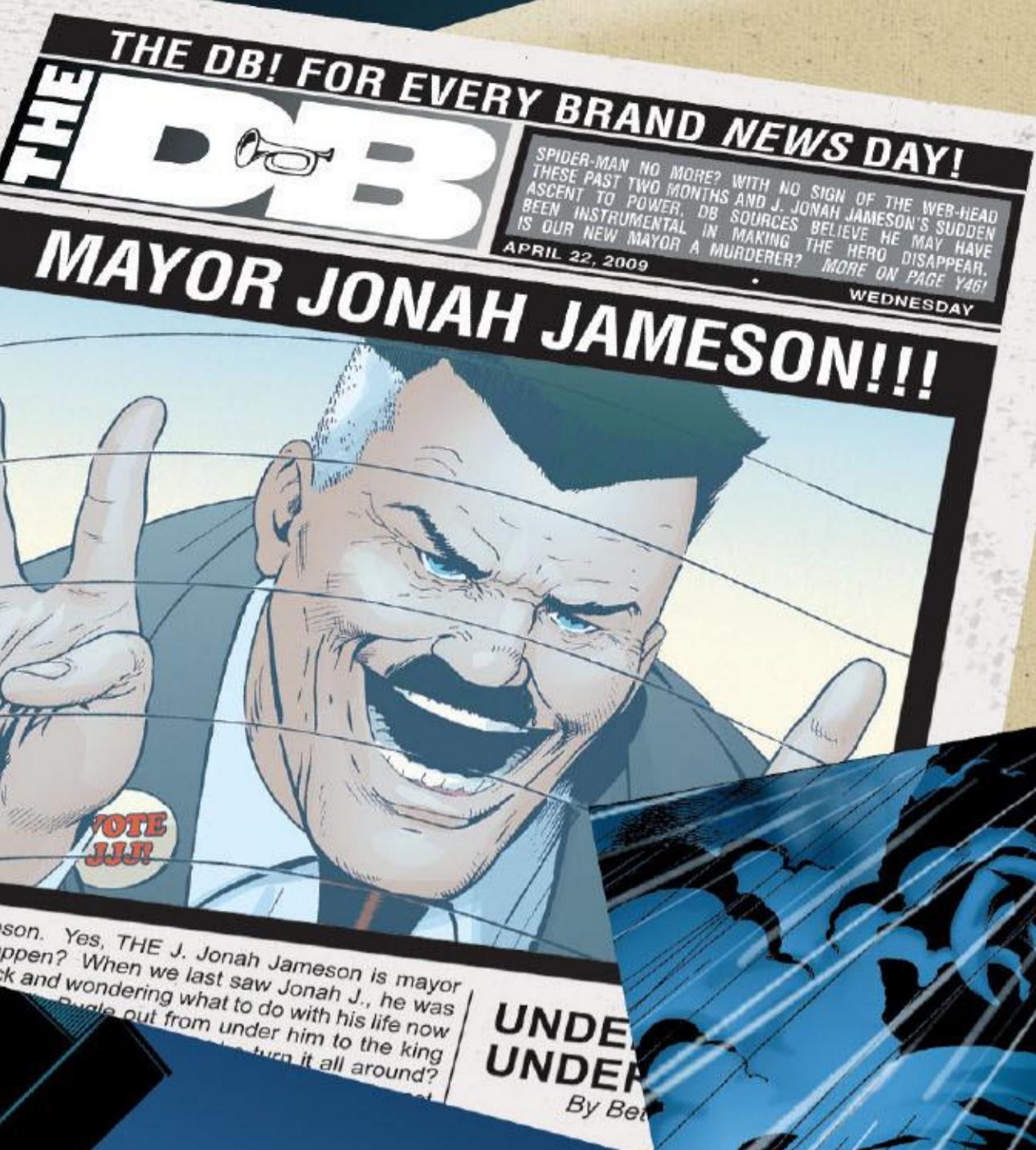
DARK REIGN™

the AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL®
595 .com

AMERICAN
ON 1 OF 5

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



UND
UND
By Ben

Mayor J. Jonah Jameson. Yes, THE J. Jonah Jameson is mayor of New York. How did it happen? When we last saw Jonah J., he was recovering that his wife had been killed by a Vulture attack and wondering what to do with his life now. Now he's out from under him to the king of slime... Spidey! In the f... own th... knows... his re... when prob... Peter Ne...

PETER PARKER'S P.O.V.

How did J. Jonah Jameson become mayor? Heck if I know, I was out of the dimension for 2 months with the Fantastic Four. But in that time he made it happen, and now he's out to get me. Why not, right? So I decided to get him back and go on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Really rub it in his eyes — till I met this new Vulture, who spits some sort of acid. He decided to rub that in my eyes. Wonderful.

I took the new Vulture out, but not without accidentally ruining a Yankee game. End result? Ol' Flat Top's back on the top of the polls and everyone outside of the bleachers hates me. Balance restored.

Meanwhile, my civilian life is getting worse by the minute. My roommate Vin may be awaiting his court date, but his sister took on the room. And she's not particularly nice. 'Course, the first impression wasn't my best — take a look!

Speaking of awkward naked situations, Aunt May's in love — with Jonah's estranged dad. Groovy.

Ultimately, there's only one thing REALLY wrong: somehow Norman Osborn's the most powerful man in the world. Defeat one little alien invasion and they hand you the keys to the kingdom?! C'mon! Well I won't stand for it — it's time to take this guy down. And I know just the friends to help...

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Central Park, Manhattan.

"DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY FAVORITE TEMPERATURE IS?"

"PEOPLE HAVE A FAVORITE TEMPERATURE?"

I DO.
SEVENTY-SIX
DEGREES
FAHRENHEIT.
THANKS
FOR SHARING.
I'M SURE YOU
HAVE A "WHY"
FOR THAT?
OF COURSE.
YOU CAN'T PICK
A FAVORITE ANYTHING
WITHOUT A "WHY."
THAT WOULD BE
IRRESPONSIBLE.

SEVENTY-SIX
DEGREES FAHRENHEIT
IS MY FAVORITE TEMPERATURE
BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN
STATISTICALLY PROVEN AS THE
POINT WHERE MOST PEOPLE
CONSIDER THEMSELVES
"WARM"...

...AND BEGIN
REMOVING THEIR
CLOTHES.

WOW.
I THINK I
LIKE SEVENTY-
SIX DEGREES
FAHRENHEIT. LEAVE
IT TO YOU TO
MAKE SCIENCE
DIRTY.

"DIRTY?" TRY
"BEAUTIFUL."

LET'S
GO SAY
HI.

EXCUSE ME,
LADIES, BUT MY
FRIEND HERE, PETER,
IS
PAINFULLY SHY AROUND
WOMEN BECAUSE HE
DOESN'T KNOW
HOW TO START A
CONVERSATION.

I'M
SORRY. HE'S
LIKE THIS WHEN HIS
BLOOD SUGAR
GETS TOO
HIGH.

HATE HIM.

UH-HUH.

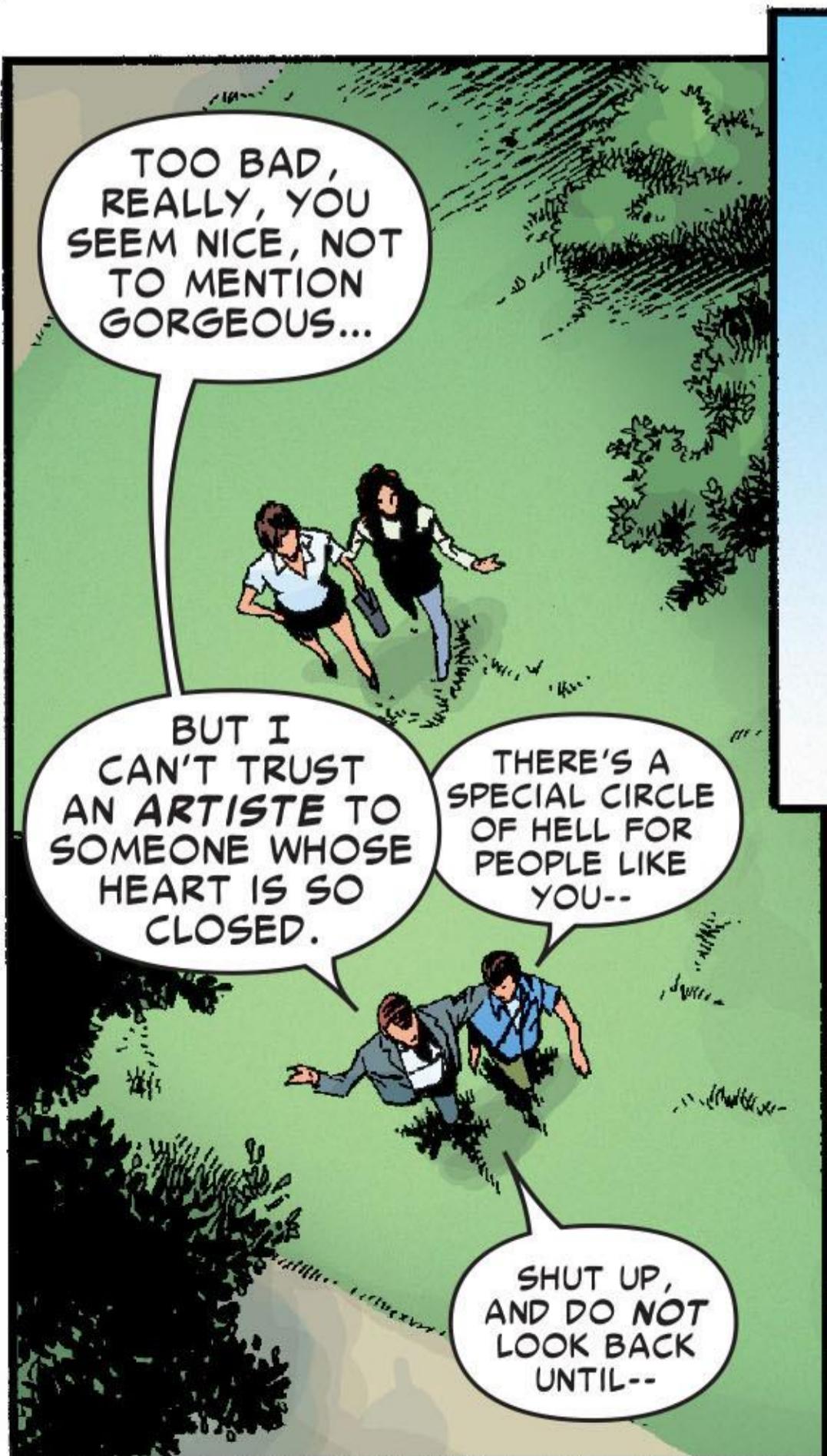
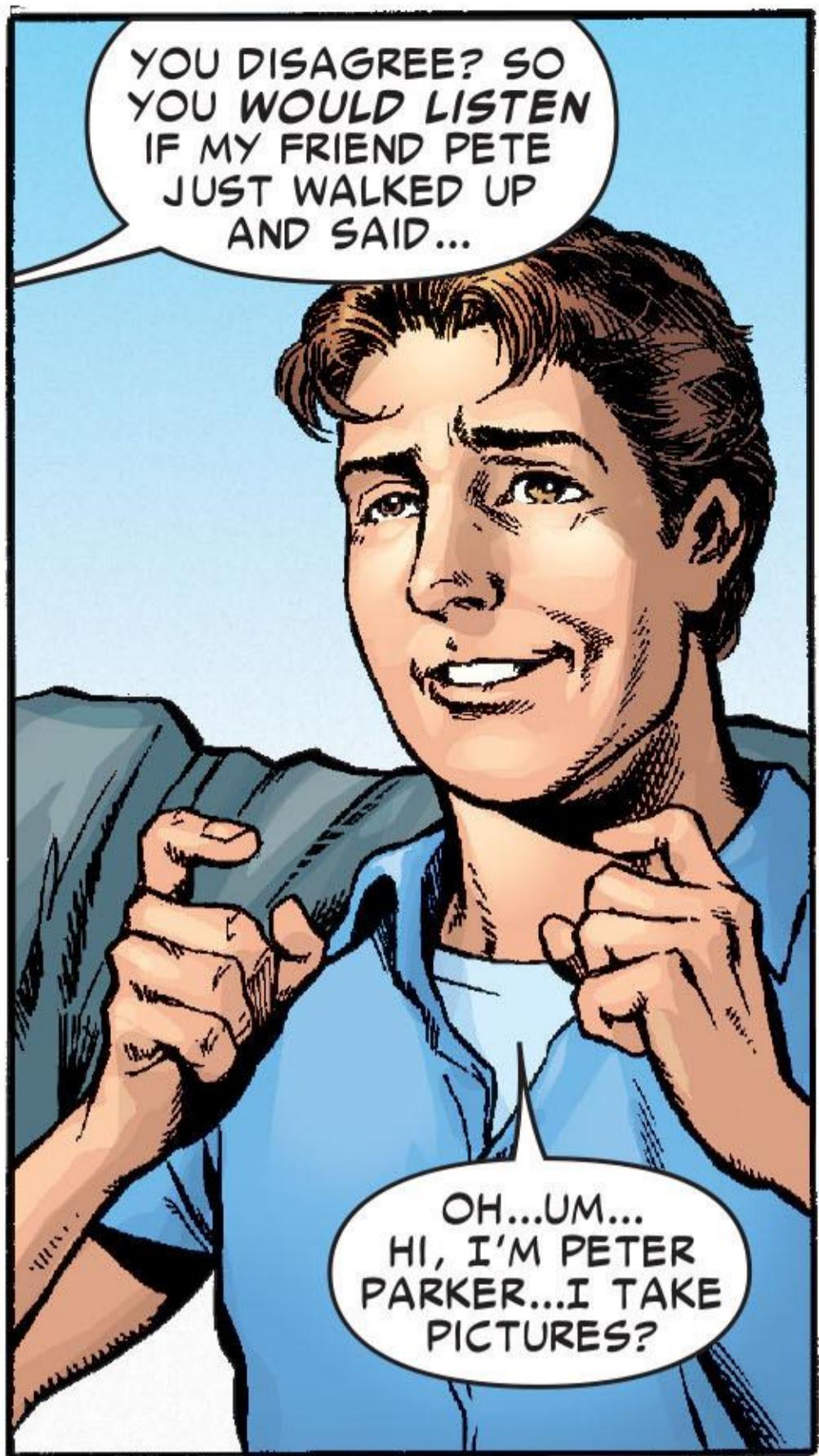
SEE, PETE?
YOU HAVE FIVE
SECONDS OR
BAM! NO SALE. YOU
HAVE TO HAVE
A PICKUP LINE!

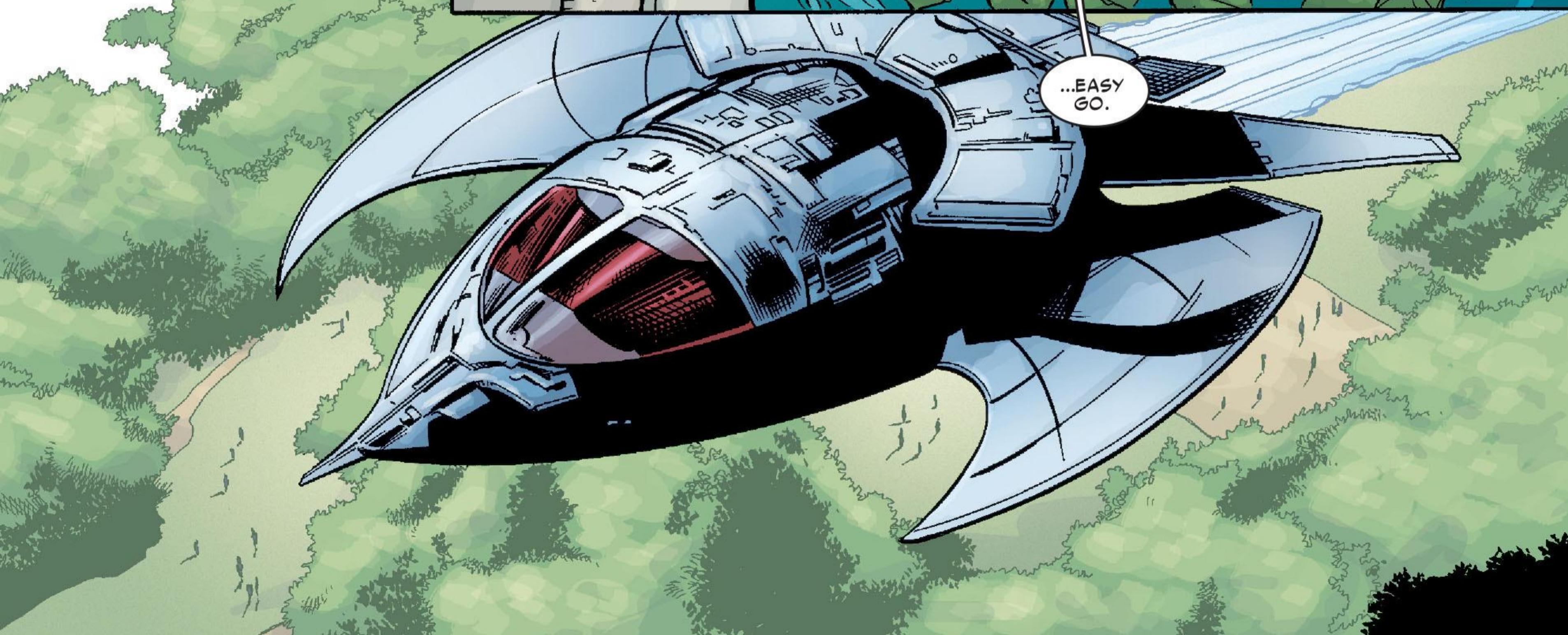
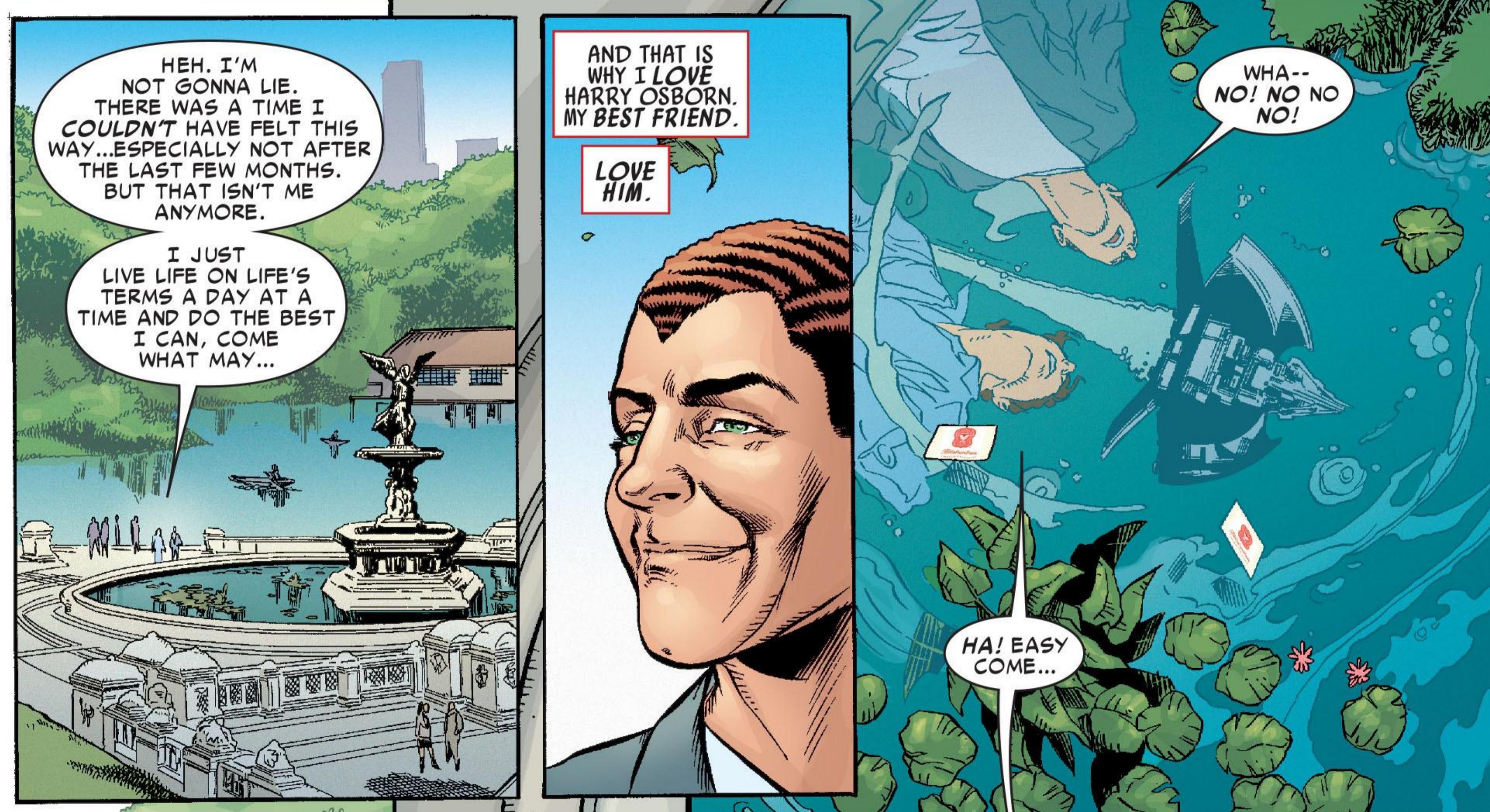
NO. NO.
HARRY?!



THIS IS WHY I
HATE HARRY
OSBORN, MY
"BEST FRIEND."

"EEW"
DOES SAY
IT ALL.
LET'S--





MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

AMERICAN SON

PART 1

WE'LL DO
JUST FINE DOWN
HERE IN THE
REAL WORLD.

JOE KELLY writer PHIL JIMENEZ penciler
ANDY LANNING inker CHRIS CHUCKRY colors
VC's JOE CARAMAGNA letters

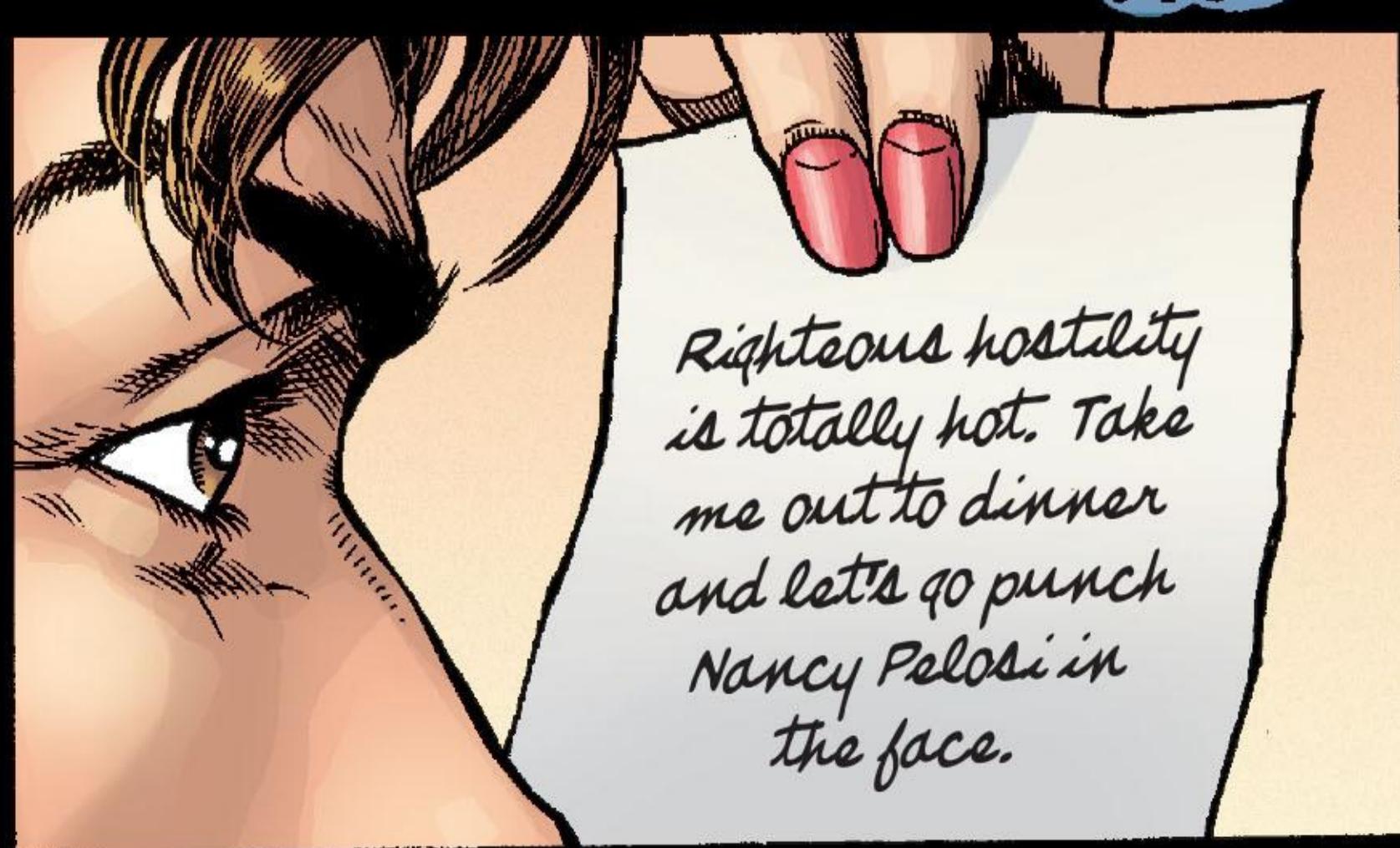
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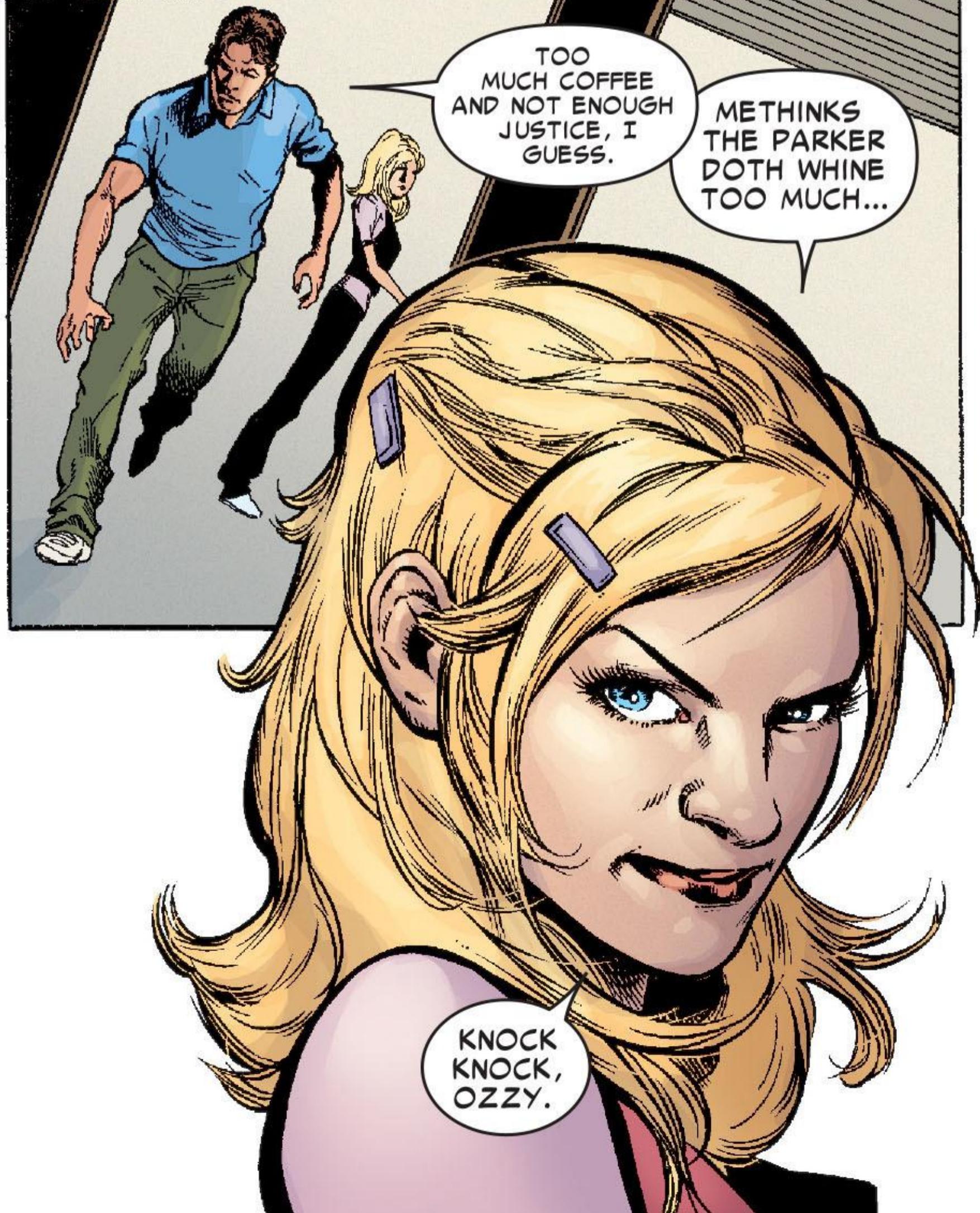
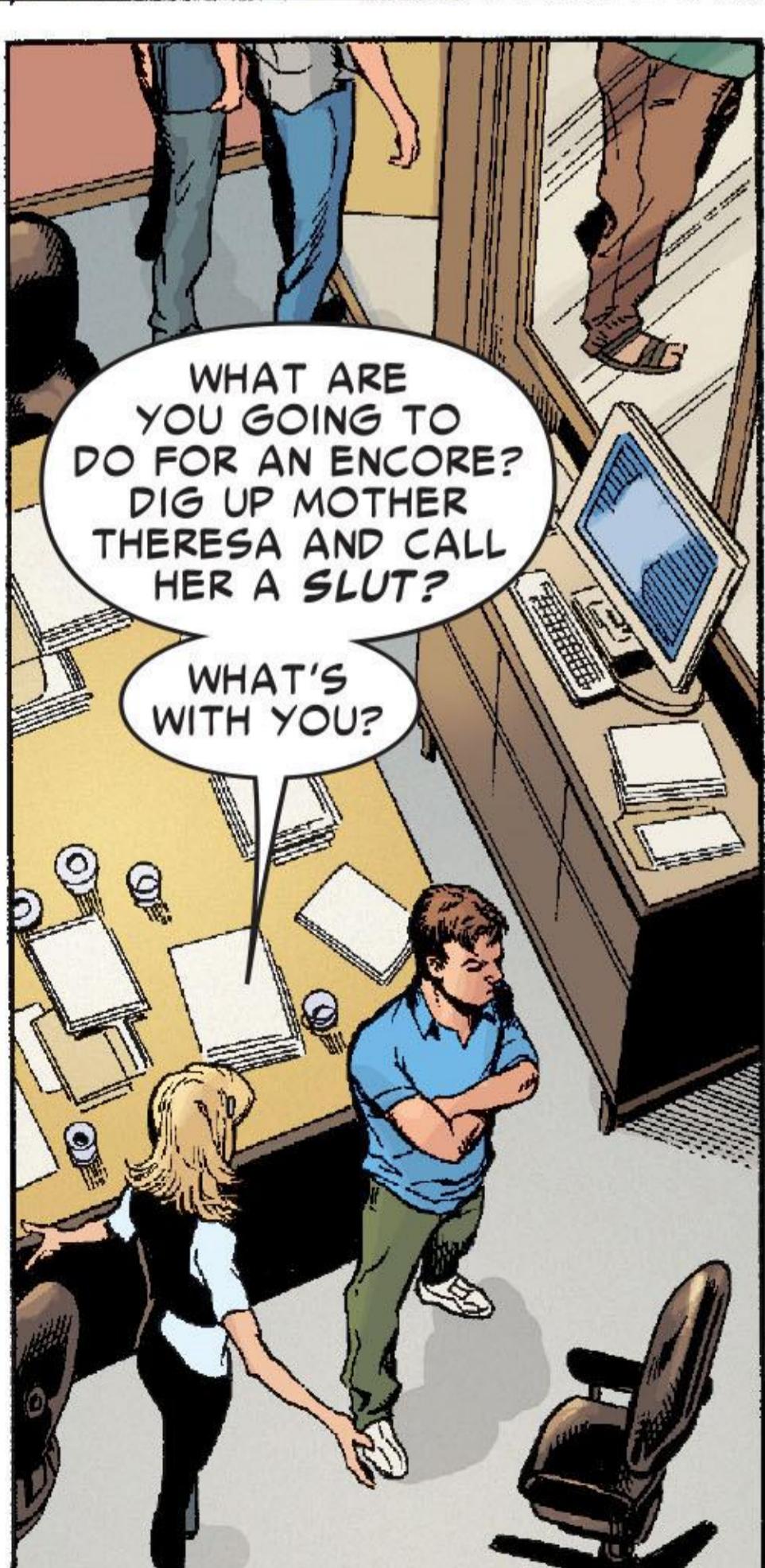
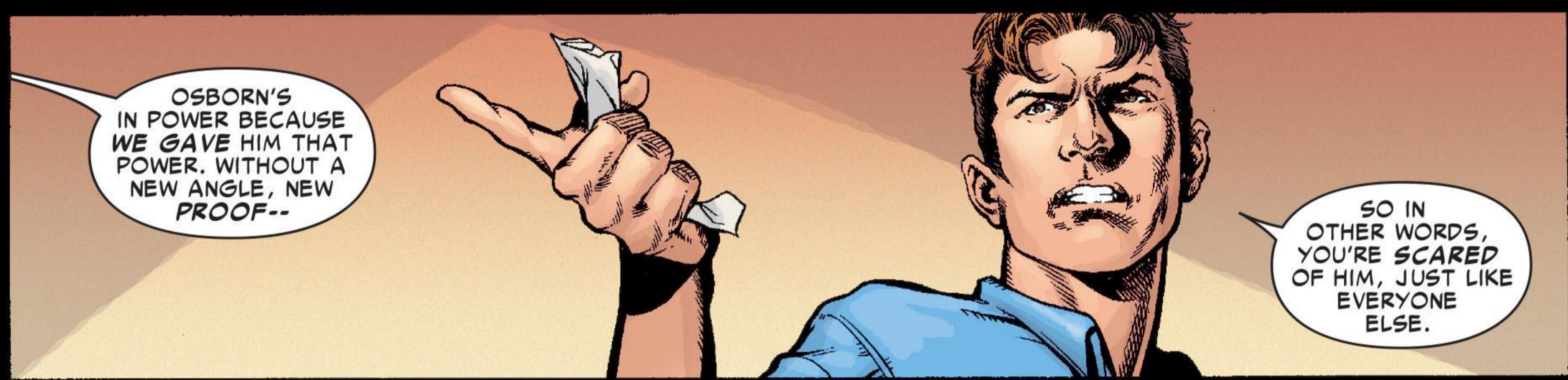
GALE, GUGGENHEIM, KELLY
SLOTT & WAID webheads

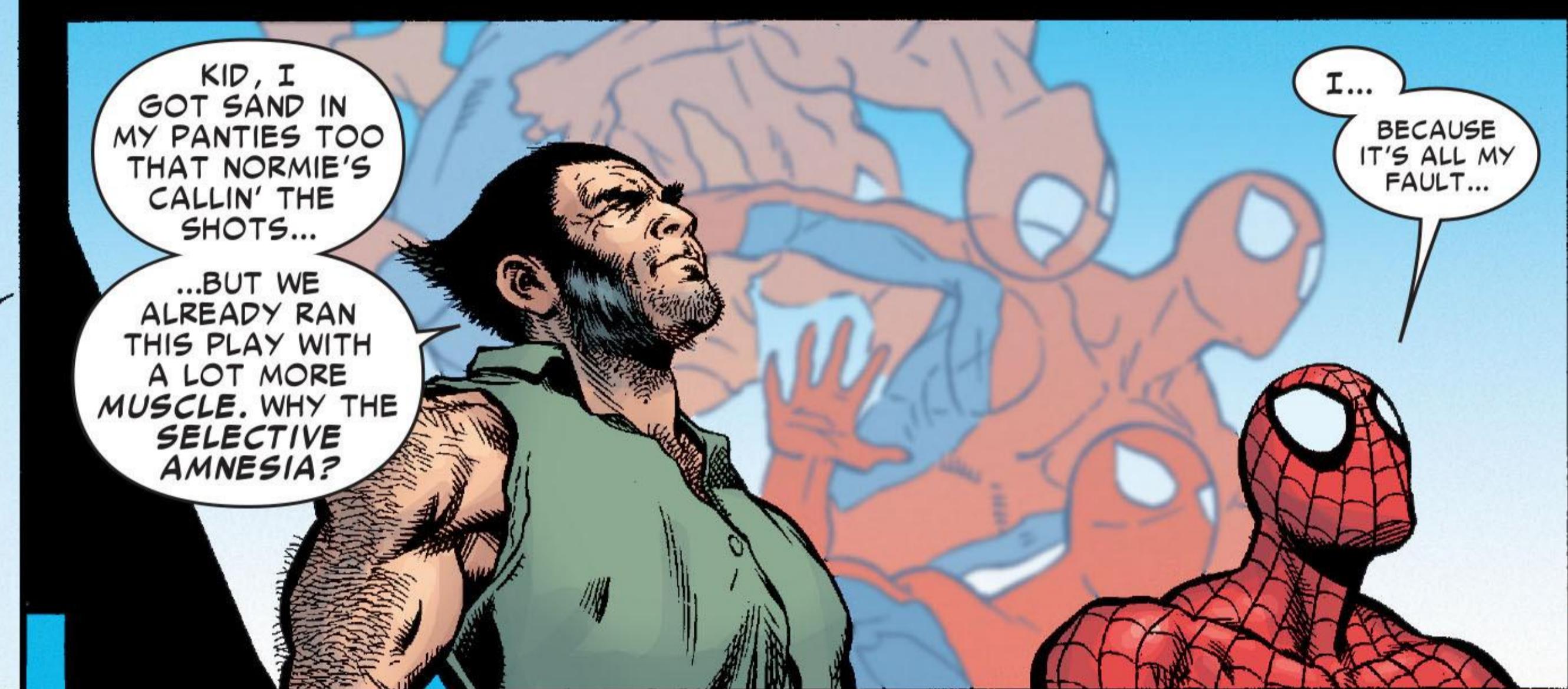
"I HAVE AN
IDEA FOR A
STORY..."

"ANYTHING THAT
DESTROYS NORMAN
OSBORN. WHO'S
WITH ME?"

**Brooklyn.
Offices of
Front Line.**









Gracie Mansion.

HOME OF -KAFF- MAYOR J. JONAH JAMESON...

"CLOSER, GENTLEMEN! PETER, COME ON, DEAR..."

YOU HEARD THE LADY, PARKER!

A FRAID A LITTLE SUCCESS MIGHT RUB OFF ON YOU?

IF BY "SUCCESS" YOU MEAN THE TINIEST SHRED OF YOUR SHRIVELLED OLD DNA...YES.

I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D WANT TO PRESERVE THAT FINE JACKET. GOODWILL OR DUMPSTER DIVING?

SATAN'S CLOSET, ACTUALLY. HANGING NEXT TO YOUR SOUL.

BY THE WAY, HITLER WANTS HIS MOUSTACHE BACK.

WHY YOU--

WHOOPSIE! HOLD ON--

WHAT? I--WOMAN, YOU LICKED THOSE FINGERS!

SALIVA IS TEMPORARY, PICTURES ARE FOREVER, LITTLE MR. MAYOR.

"LITTLE?"



WOW... THAT'S PERFECT. I THINK I'LL TITLE IT... "BROTHERS."

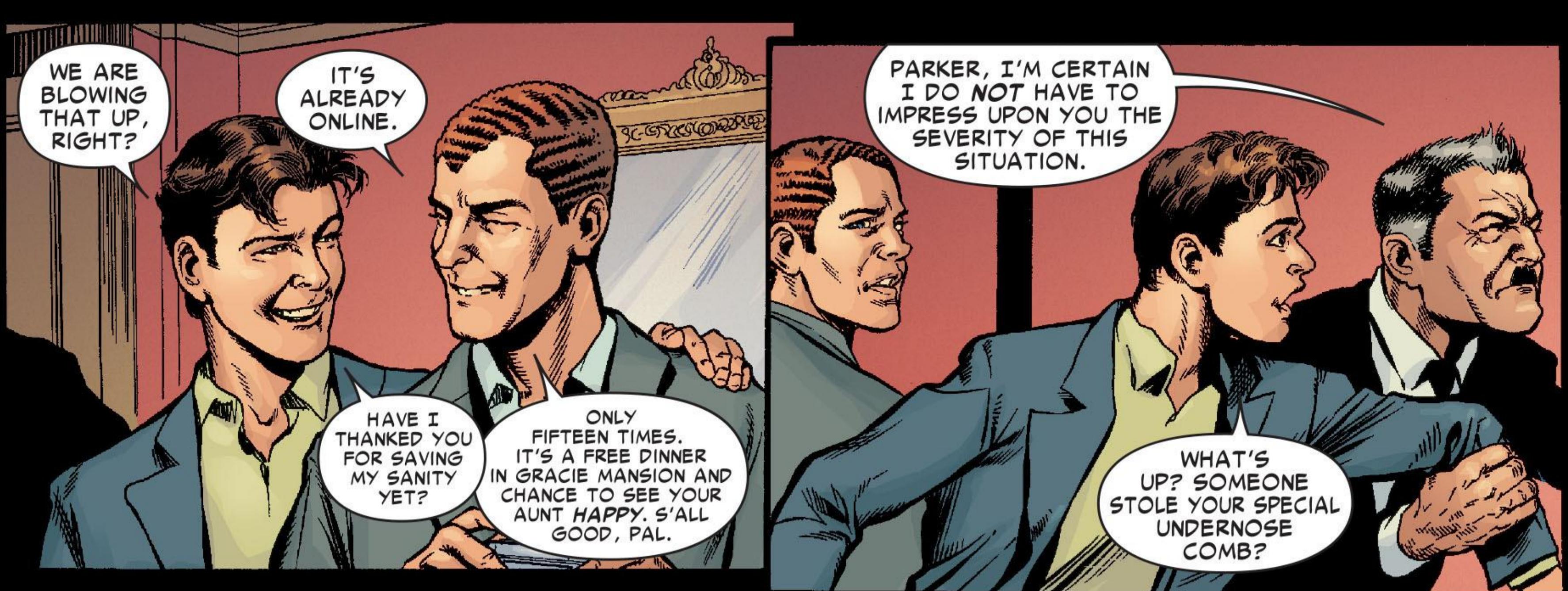
TECHNICALLY, "COUSINS."

YOU DO AND I'LL SUE, OSBORN!

OH, HUSH! IT'S SWEET, JONAH!

THINK OF IT AS A TRIAL RUN FOR THE WEDDING, JAY. WE WANT LOTS OF PICTURES OF THE BOYS... TOGETHER.

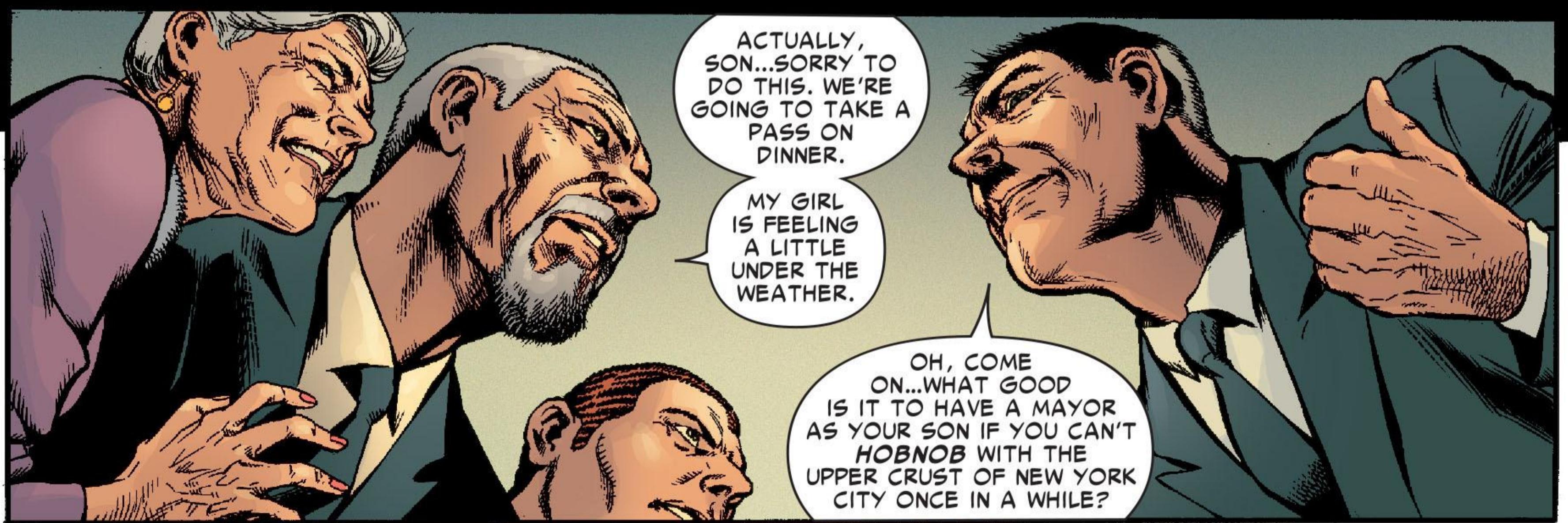
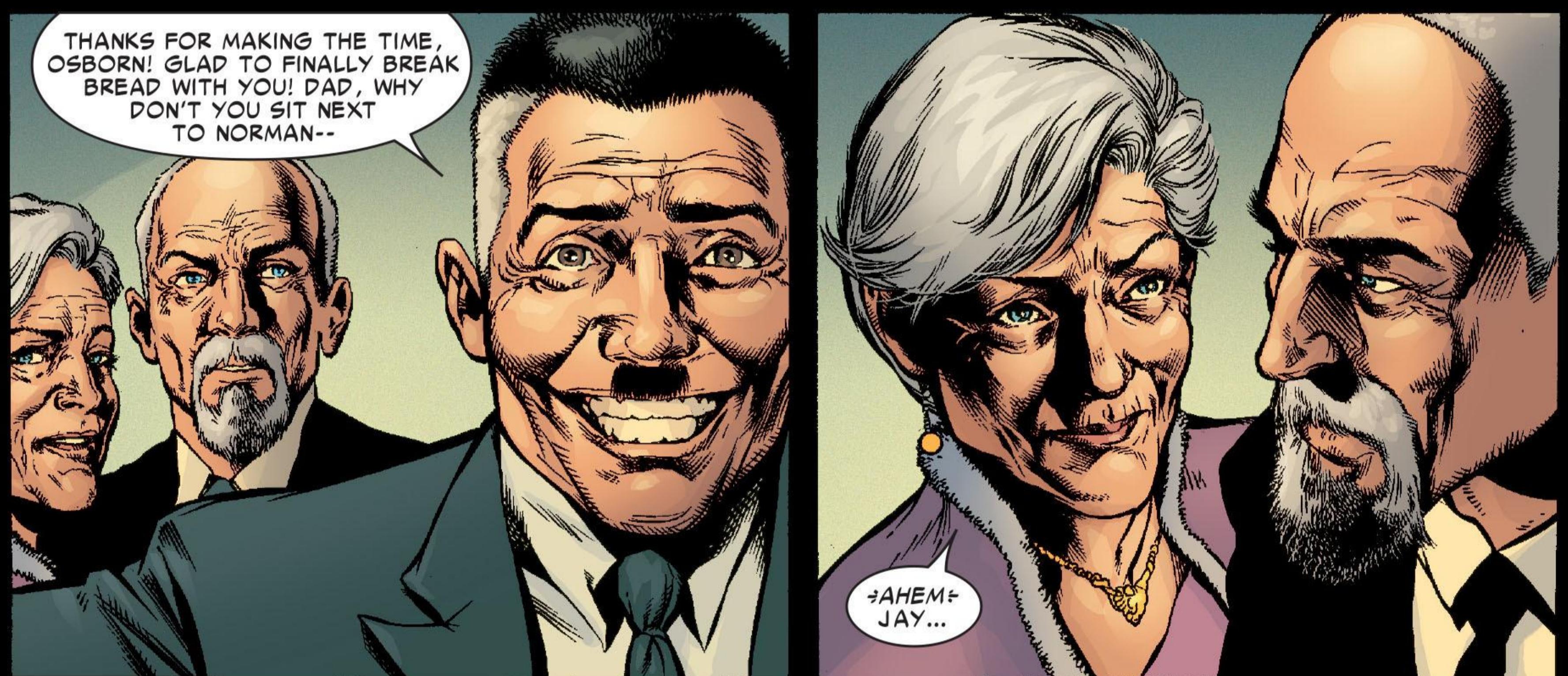


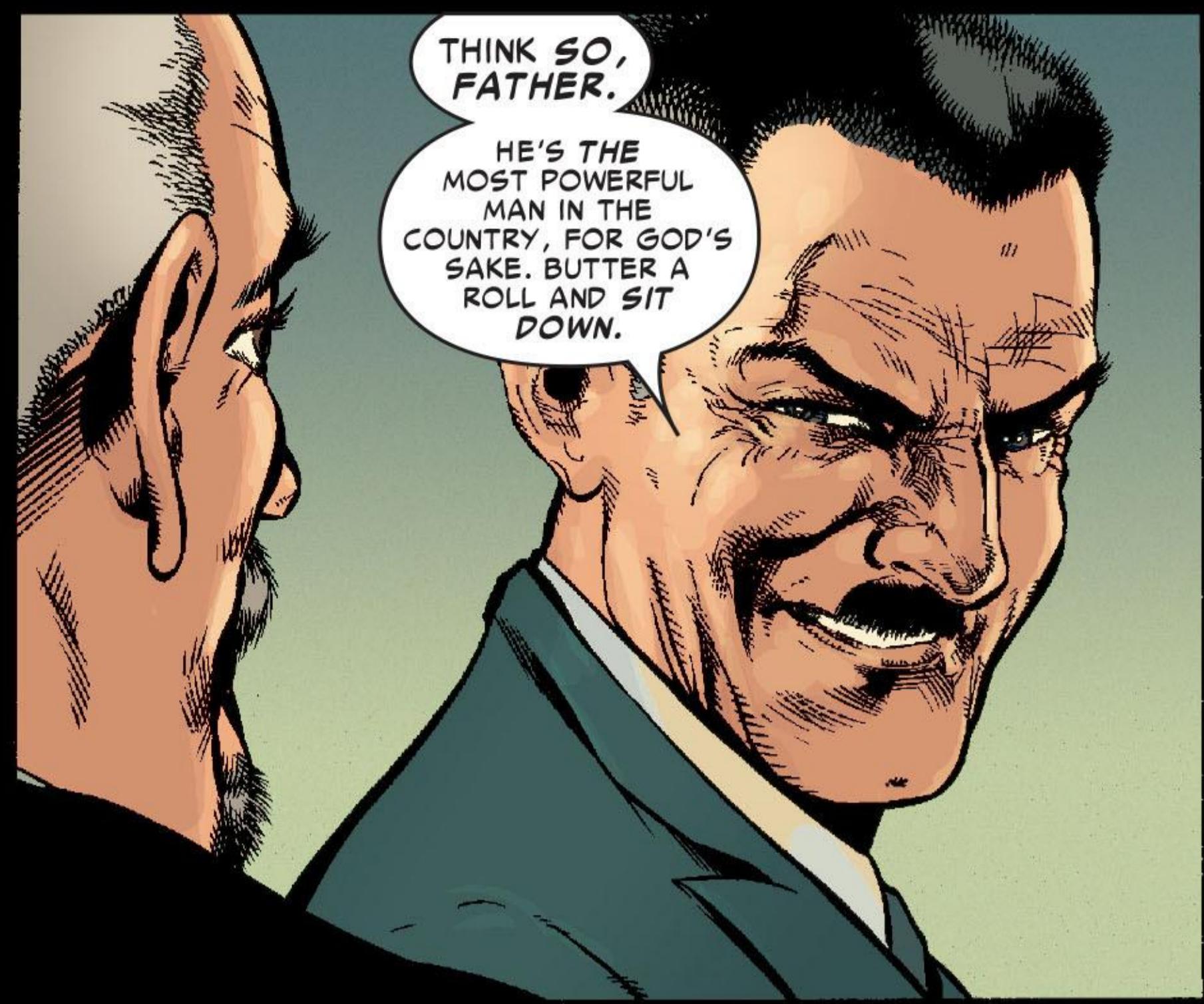


A
TOAST...

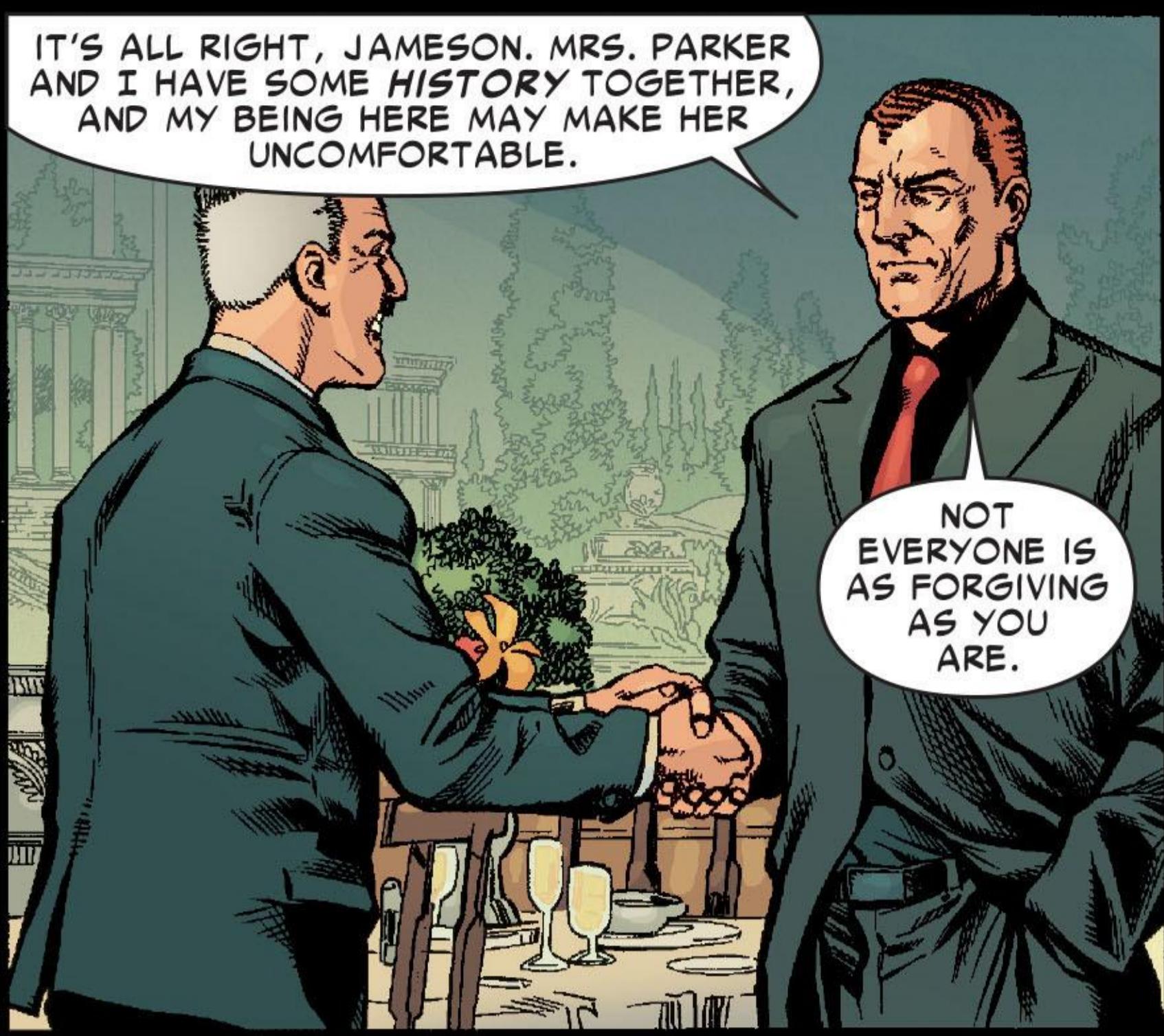
TO
FAMILY.

MAY YOUR
STORY BE LONG
AND WELL TOLD,
FULL OF THUNDER,
VALOR, AND
GRACE.





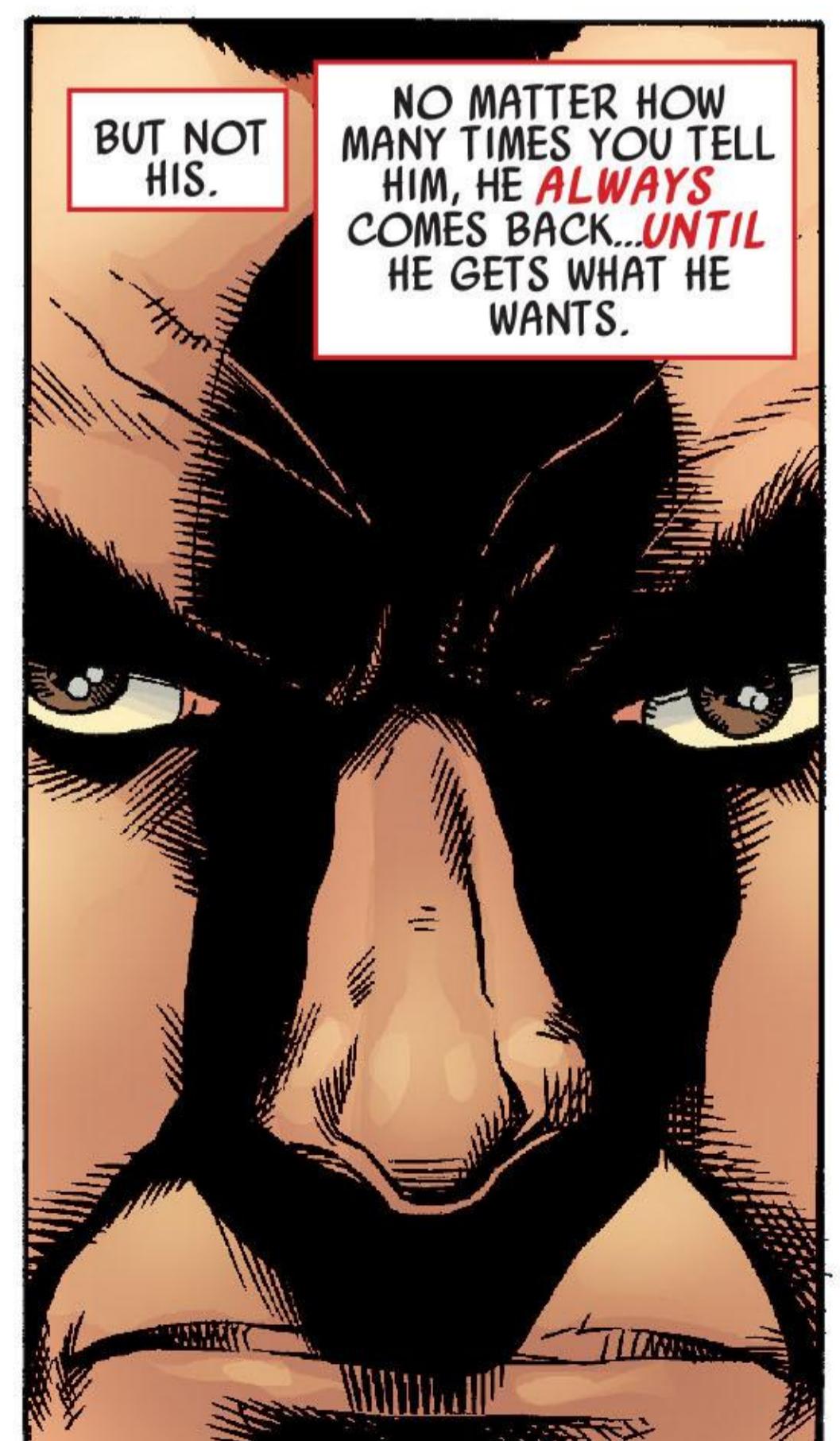
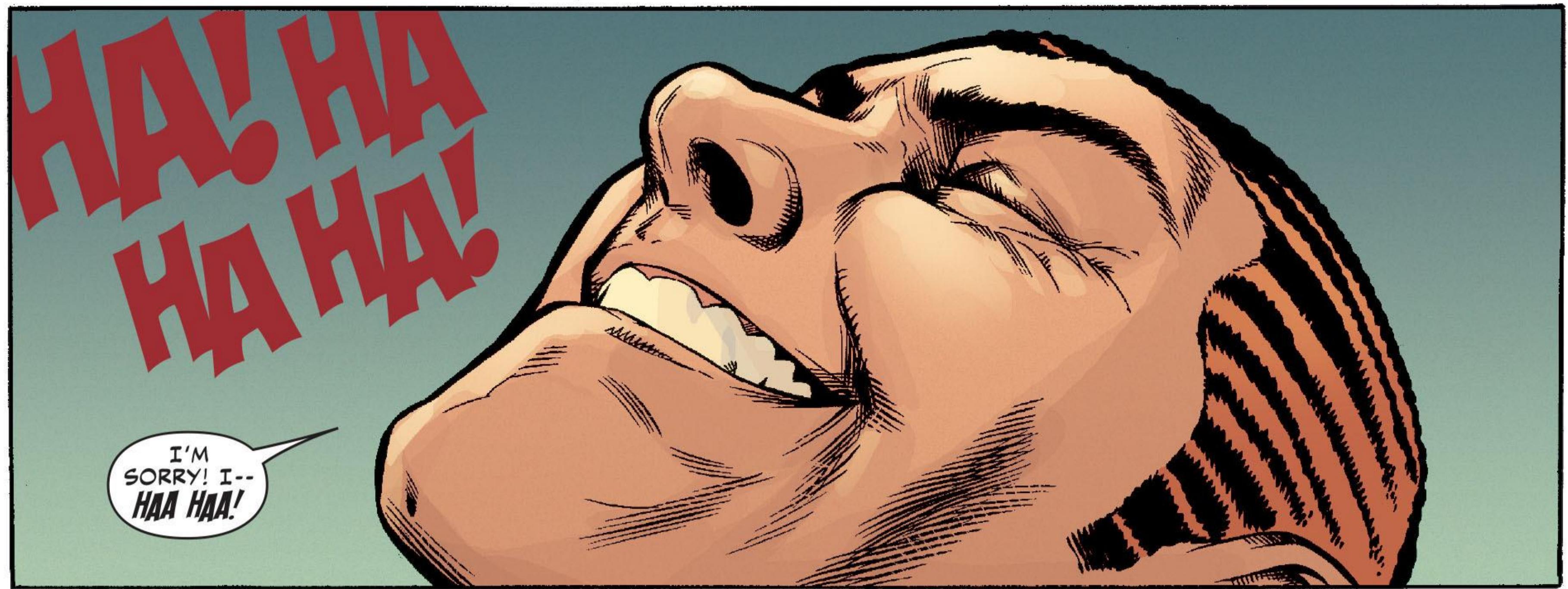
HE'S THE
MOST POWERFUL
MAN IN THE
COUNTRY, FOR GOD'S
SAKE. BUTTER A
ROLL AND SIT
DOWN.



NOT
EVERYONE IS
AS FORGIVING
AS YOU
ARE.







Harry's Apartment.

LATER THAT NIGHT.

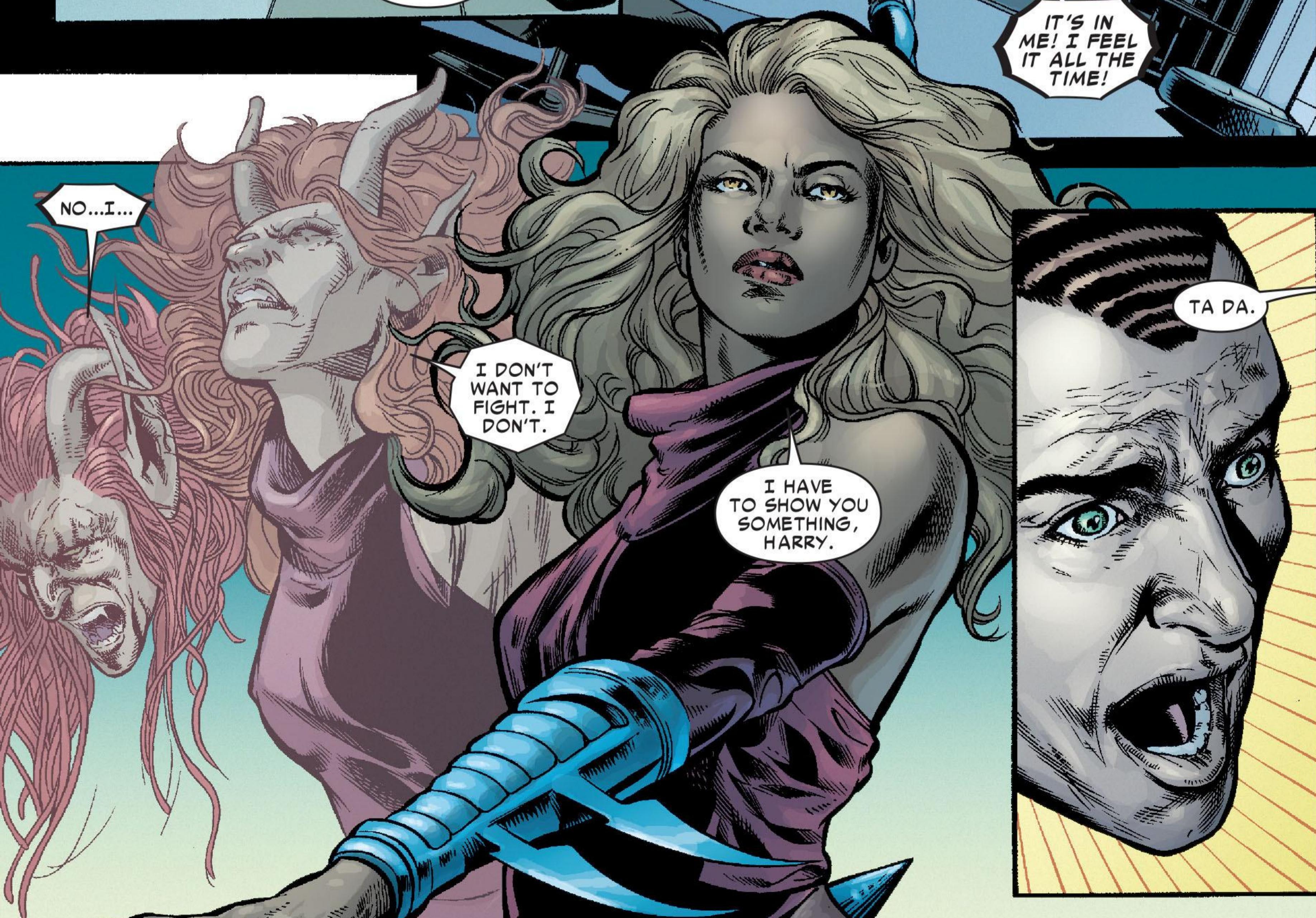
HELL OF
A DINNER
PARTY...
HEH.

BUT HE
DIDN'T GET
TO YOU.

HE DIDN'T
GET YOU.

I FORGOT
HOW...NICE
YOU CAN SOUND
WHEN YOU'RE
HAPPY...

HOW
'BOUT A
KISS?



Sixth Avenue.

...PUBLIC OPINION
CONTINUES TO SLIP
AFTER HAWKEYE'S...
ANNOUNCEMENT,
SIR.

PLEASE. THIS WILL BE
FORGOTTEN THE NEXT
TIME SOME STARLET
PUTS HERSELF
INTO REHAB...

ACTUALLY, HAND,
DO WE HAVE ANY
STARLETS ON
PAYROLL--?

DIRECTOR
OSBORN, THIS IS
SERIOUS-

NO. WE
NEED TO
DISCUSS MY
SON--

TEP

HAND,
DID YOU HEAR--?

SIR?

HAWK

AVENGERS!
CODE RED! FULL
SCRAMBLE--!



WOW.
IT FINALLY
HAPPENED...

...YOU
WENT INSANE
AND I MISSED
IT.



NOT
TALKING
NOW, NORMIE.
TALKING DOESN'T
WORK WITH
YOU.



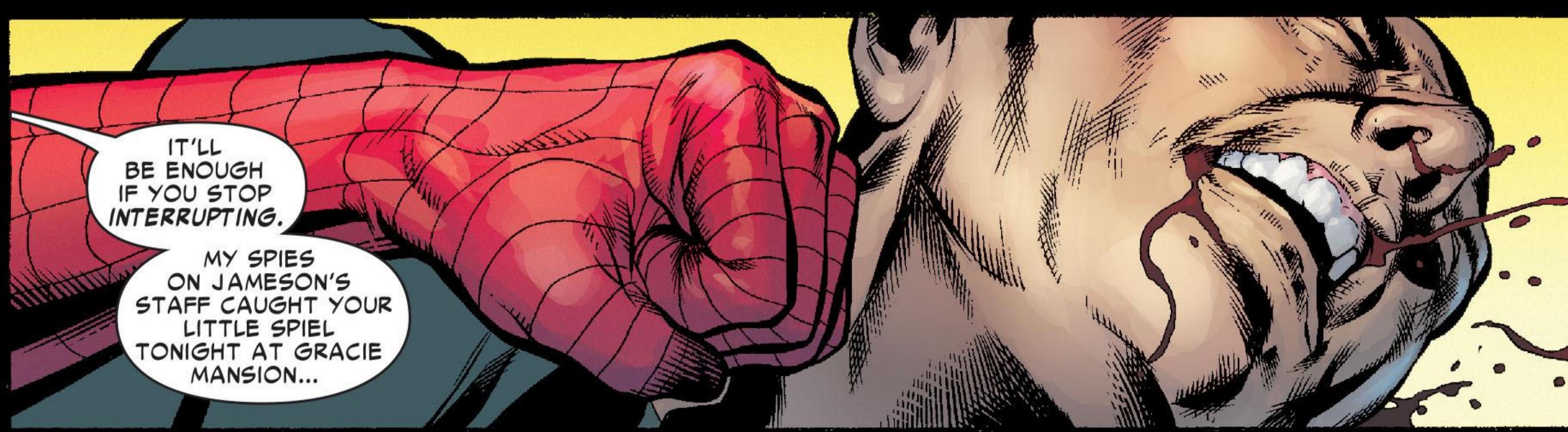
I'VE
TRIED.

ARRGGH!



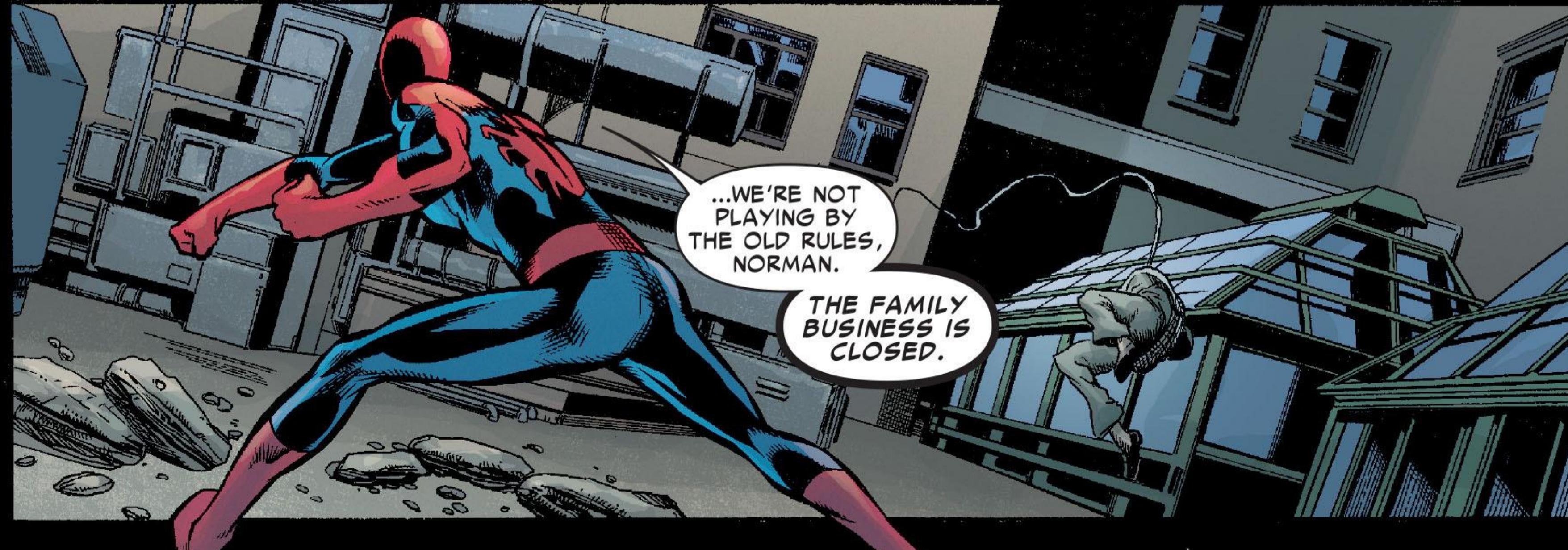
WELL THEN...
YOU HAVE MY
ATTENTION...

FOR THE
THIRTY SECONDS
BEFORE THE
AVENGERS SHOW
UP AND--



IT'LL
BE ENOUGH
IF YOU STOP
INTERRUPTING.

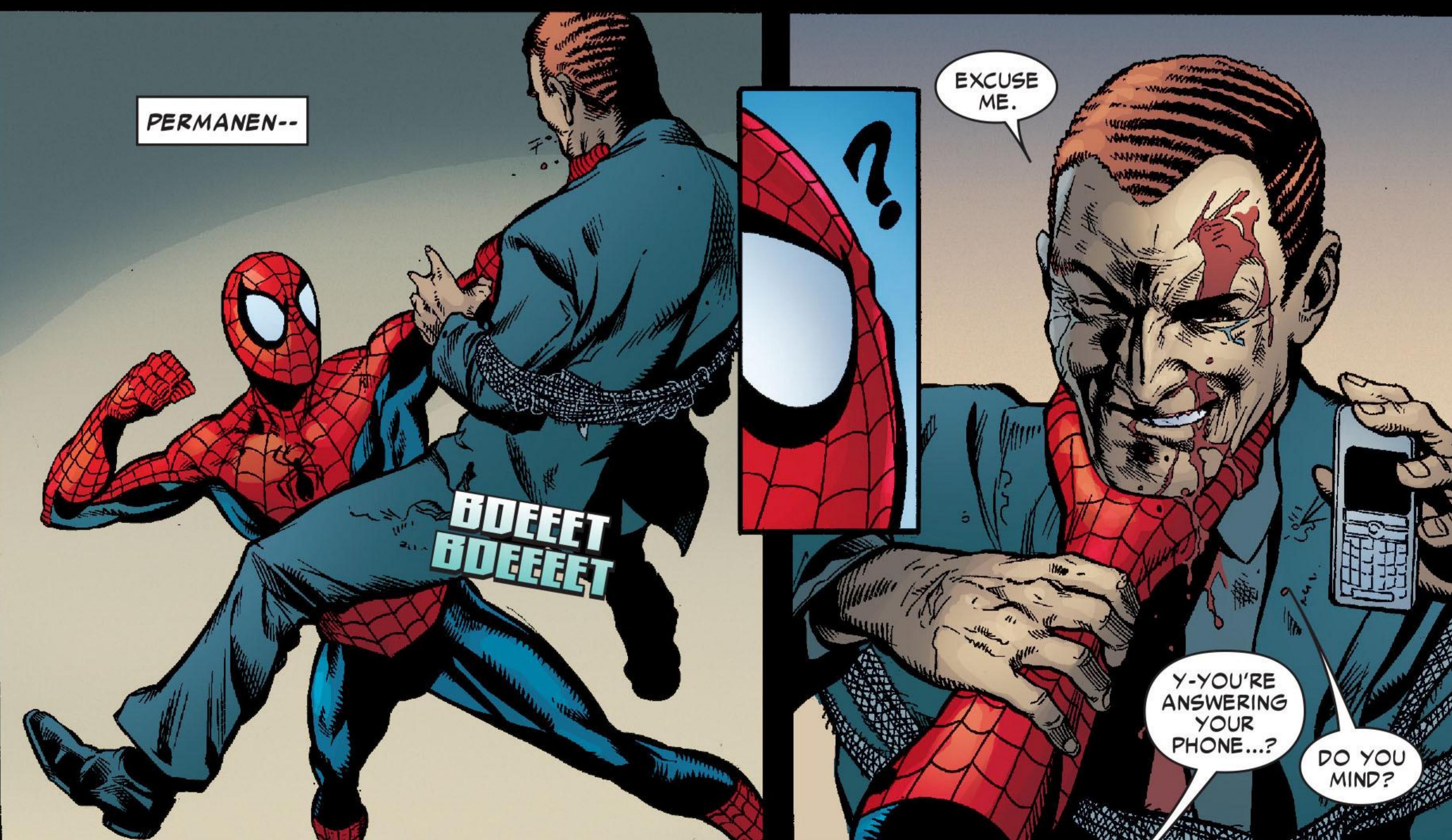
MY SPIES
ON JAMESON'S
STAFF CAUGHT YOUR
LITTLE SPIEL
TONIGHT AT GRACIE
MANSION...

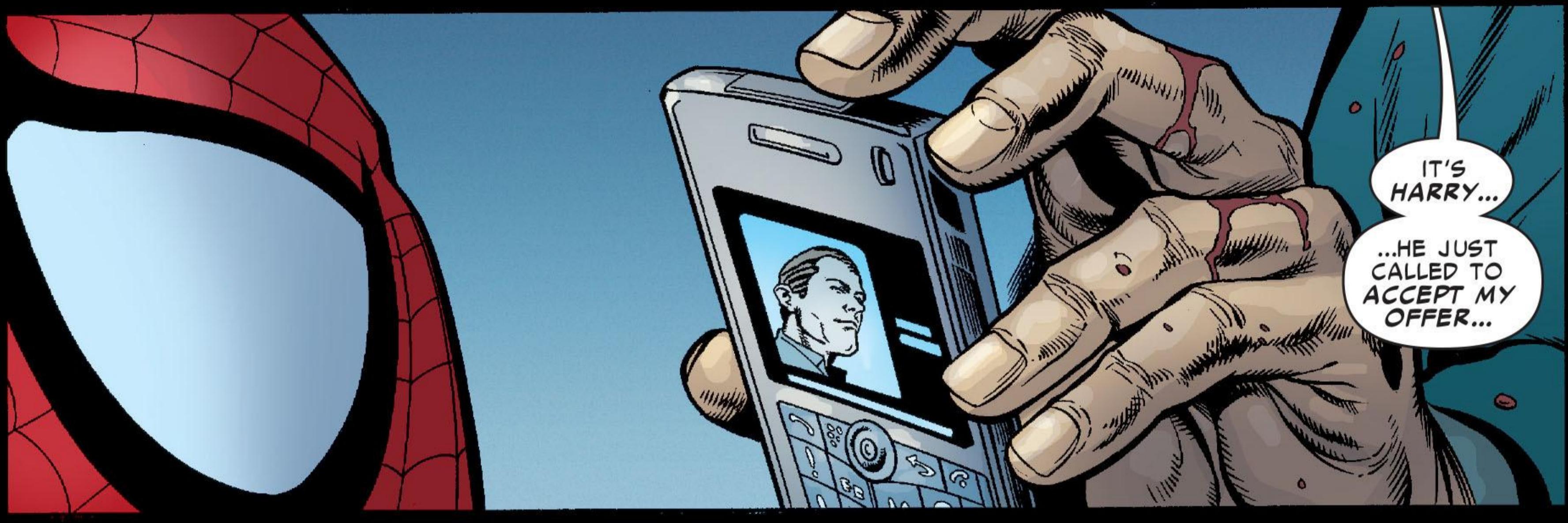
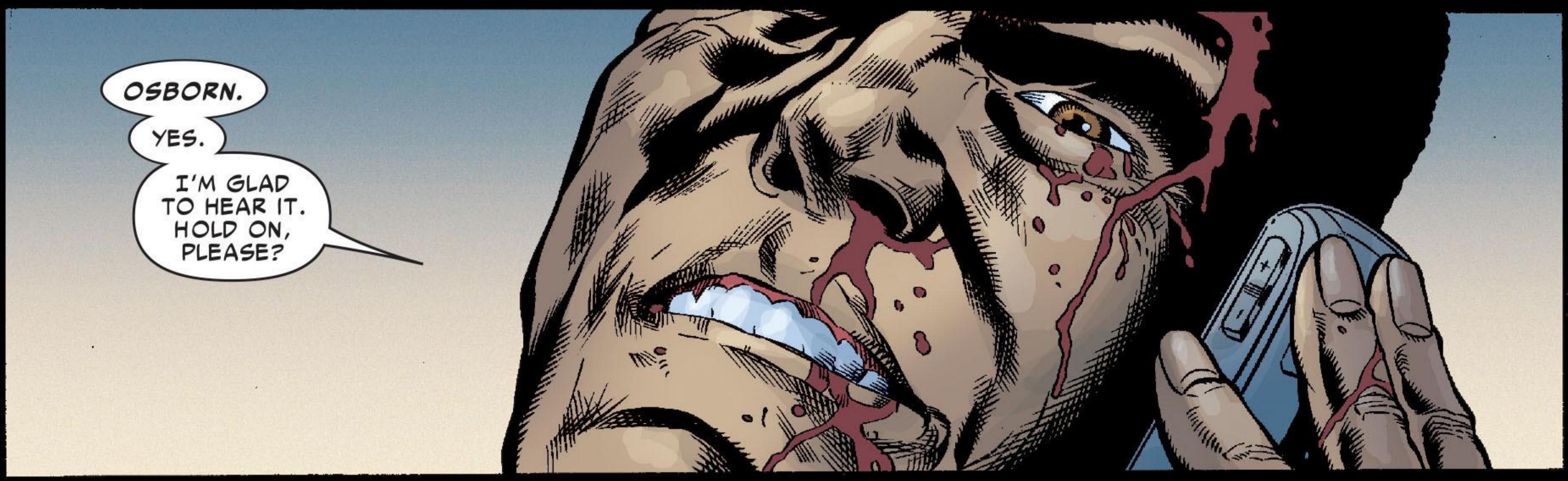


...WE'RE NOT
PLAYING BY
THE OLD RULES,
NORMAN.

THE FAMILY
BUSINESS IS
CLOSED.









the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

Good evening, troglodytes. Welcome to American Son.

My name is Norman Osborn and I've Ellis-ed myself up in a verbal costume of rank hostility teamed with pure loathing and come to your nerd basilica to walk you through various opinions about the recent 22-page lies printed three times a month about my arch-enemy Spider-Man. Believe me, Marvel is in the tank for this wall-crawling psychotic deeper than Quesada is for empanadas (I stole that joke from Wacker, but then, we are best friends).

Anyway onto the letters you've managed to slowly and deliberately punch into your drool and Pop-Tart covered keyboards one sausage finger at a time. Gods, how I hate you.

Hello Spidey-Mail!

First, I just have to say, you asked for it. I otherwise wouldn't even attempt to play know it all here because that is not one of my talents. In ASM #584 letters page you mentioned how if pink food coloring was added to water, then it would spread throughout the water. True. However, it would be possible to have the pink section stay separate if the pink section had a sufficiently different density. Oil and water don't mix well because of their difference in density. If Peter could have the density of the webbing towards the end of the cartridge be slightly more or less than the rest of the webbing, he could probably keep the two colors separate.

Alternatively, imagine this: You established that the webbing is a liquid-ish mixture. Let's assume it is like an epoxy. A chemical reaction of two liquids causes the stickiness when the liquids are mixed upon firing. If we assume that the viscosity of the liquids is low (as is reasonable for epoxy-like liquids) and the liquids are under high pressure (to ensure the webbing expels easily when fired), then you could inject a dye into the rear portion of the cartridge and the rear portion of the webbing would be unlikely to mix with the forward portion. It would be like injecting color into paint and expecting it to disperse quickly. (Ever tried to mix color into a can of paint? It's not easy.) In time it probably would disperse, but I think Spidey goes through web fluid pretty fast.

And all this could be shot out of the water just by saying web fluid has a viscosity and density of water in its liquid form. But I was challenged, so I decided to add my 2 cents.

Thanks for a great read every issue! Always happy to get my hands on another ASM. Keep up the great work.

Nate Butler
Via e-mail

First off, Nate, my H.A.M.M.E.R.* agents will soon be at your home to take your brain into custody for further study.

Also I have no idea who this "Peter" is you're talking about. Parker? Why in the world would he care about a web-shooter? Unless he's working in tandem with the masked arachnid. In that case, thank you for the heads up. Your brain will be returned with the ability to speak fourteen forgotten languages and the entire contents of the North Wing of the Library at Alexandria.

*Hostile Agents Making My Earth Ridiculous



Dear Wacker,

Thank you for doing...whatever it is you do. ASM comes out almost weekly, and that is one big reason I love it. So thank you Wacker and the rest for getting it out so often.

I finally realized who has hair like Harry and Norman Osborn – Kramer from Seinfeld! Notice how Kramer's hair is very wavy and pushed down in the front. The Osborns don't have cornrows, they just have very wavy Kramer hair! Whew! Now if we can just tame their hair a little bit, make it look a bit closer to Kramer's hair, I think we'll all sleep easier.

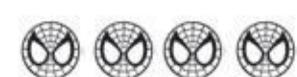
David Berlanga
Corpus Christi, TX

David, you've managed to hit me in my weak spot. My hair is a source of pride and honor, sculpted over the centuries by a blood line rife with warrior Saxons desperately planting stakes made from fire and bone into the hearts of our enemies.

To compare my hair to this "Kramer" is taken as a deep compliment, Seinfeld was my favorite show of the '90s (much of which I spent in Europe) and Cosmo (as us hardcore Seinfeldians refer to him) is as much a star of the show as Jerry was. So thank you. As reward for your compliment, tonight you will be visited by my personal Avenger, Ares, who will slaughter any personal enemy of yours.

Oh and before I forget, I will be traveling to "Seinfeldfest" this July at the Ramada Ballroom in Columbia, Missouri. I am so excited!! Once I get Bubble Boy John Hayman's signature, I will have completed my season 4 autograph book!

So if you're in Missouri this August, wear shorts! But also come on by the Con and give me a hearty "Hell-ooo...Norman" I love it!



Hi Steve and crew,
Ever since BND, I can't get enough of

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

Spidey! I find the whole new direction fresh and exciting and am loving the fast-paced action in each issue.

Although I'm sure a lot of people will disagree with me, up until the end of OMD, I got the impression that Spider-Man was becoming very "bogged down" with a lot of serious story lines. Spidey has always been more an energetic, exciting comic and burdening him with more tragedy e.g. death of Aunt May, would have seriously changed the atmosphere of the book. I think the new direction was the best thing that could have happened to Spider-Man.

Anyway, the current "Character Assassination" story arc has everything: great writing, great art, mystery, suspense and some great villains. All whilst still touching on the 'everyday problems' that normal people face as well, e.g. paycheck problems, difficult roommates etc. It's great to see the 'human' element coming through in the stories. I also think Menace is a great villain and I hope that he / she will be around for a long time after the current story line comes to an end.

So until Norman Osborn becomes President of the USA, Make Mine Marvel!!!

Jono Jordaan
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

P.S. Any plans for Carnage to make an appearance soon?

Jono, praise aside, if forced by something hot and painful, I'm sure you agree with me that this Brand New Day is no such thing...more like a BLAND New Day if you ask me. Or even a Brand New LAME. Here's one I'm working on: Brand POO Day.

Indeed, while the "death of Aunt May" seems arbitrary to me (I mean, why would the death of Parker's aunt cause Spider-Man any sadness?), it's ill-begotten enough that I'd be all for it. In fact, in my mind that's what SHOULD have happened to the old bat and any readers who agree are just like me. Congratulations.

However, I must say that Lily/Menace has been a bright spot for both me and my son. That this young girl's life is now in my rugged, healing hands can only mean the best for her. You've yet to find out the final knife in the back though. Soon we will have to change our dictionaries and replace "Shakespearian" with "Osbornian"



And that brings me to the end of this column. Wacker will return next week, but my sincere appreciation for your mandatory reading of these words. May you be met with valor, wisdom and a brutal end to your days on Earth.

Mahalo!
Norman Osborn...not that there's anything wrong with that! (Ha! Never gets old.)

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