

THE HEROIC AGE

DEADPOOL

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ISSUE #23

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Some jobs are just too tough for your average fast-talkin' high-tech gun-for-hire. Sometimes...to get the job done right...you need someone crazier than a sack'a ferrets. You need Wade Wilson. The Crimson Comedian. The Regeneratin' Degenerate. The Merc with a Mouth...

DEADPOOL



Recently Wade decided to do something good with his life so he's traveling the country trying to learn how to be a hero. After trying and failing to join the X-Men and learning nothing from Spider-Man except how to fight a monkey, Deadpool finally hit pay dirt in a small town in rural north Georgia. There he liberated the town from a group of corrupt local police officers and a redneck super-hillbilly with lightning powers. Yep, Wade's finally done somethin' heroic... and he's feelin' pretty good about himself...

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--LIVE FROM THE POPPY FIELD NIGHTCLUB IN LAS VEGAS AS TONIGHT, PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE UNITED IN JOYOUS CELEBRATION UPON LEARNING OF THE REUNIFICATION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS!

TRULY, THIS IS THE DAWN OF A NEW AND, FINALLY, HEROIC AGE.

YEAH, MAN... ALL THIS GRIM AN' GRITTY STUFF? ALL THESE SUPPOSEDLY "GOOD GUYS" WHO DO BAD THINGS IN ORDER TO DO GOOD? THAT'S OVER, MAN!

IT'S TIME TO LEEEET THE LIGHT SHIIINE! LEEEET THE LIGHT SHINE IIINN!

PUNISHER? YEAH, RIGHT... THAT GUY IS SCARY AND GROSS. GIVE ME THOR ANY DAY!

WOOT! WOOT! HOLLAH ATCHA GIRL!

IT'S JUST...IT'S JUST THE WAY IT OUGHTA BE, RIGHT? I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN WITHOUT OUR HEROES FOR TOO LONG, MAN! WHO'RE THE KIDS SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKIN' UP TO, HUH?

LONZO TOUTOLOS – CLUB OWNER

'CAUSE IT SURE AIN'T DIRTBAGS LIKE DEADPOOL...

THE NEXT DAY.

POPPY
FIELD. THAT'S
RIGHT.

NO, I DON'T
NEED THE
NUMBER...



...JUST AN
ADDRESS.

TRICKY

PART ONE: HERE COMES A NEW SHOOTER

You know we
can't bring **guns**
in there...

NOT GONNA
NEED ANY GUNS--
JUST GONNA SMACK
THE GUY AROUND
FOR DEFAMING
ME, IS ALL.

WHAT'S THE
POINT OF
THAT?

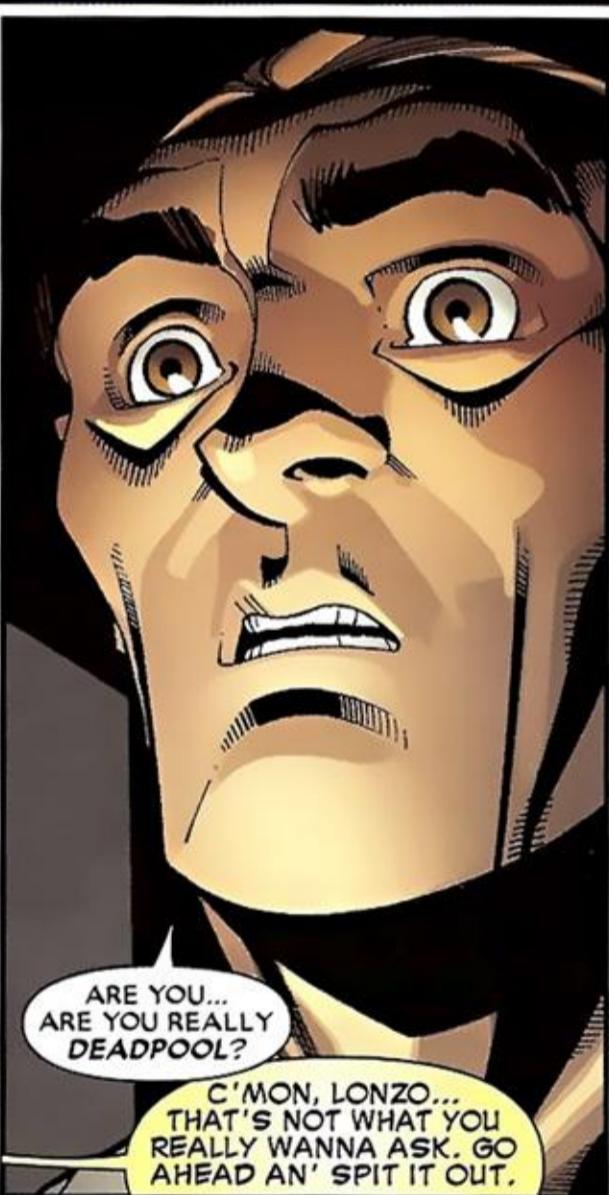
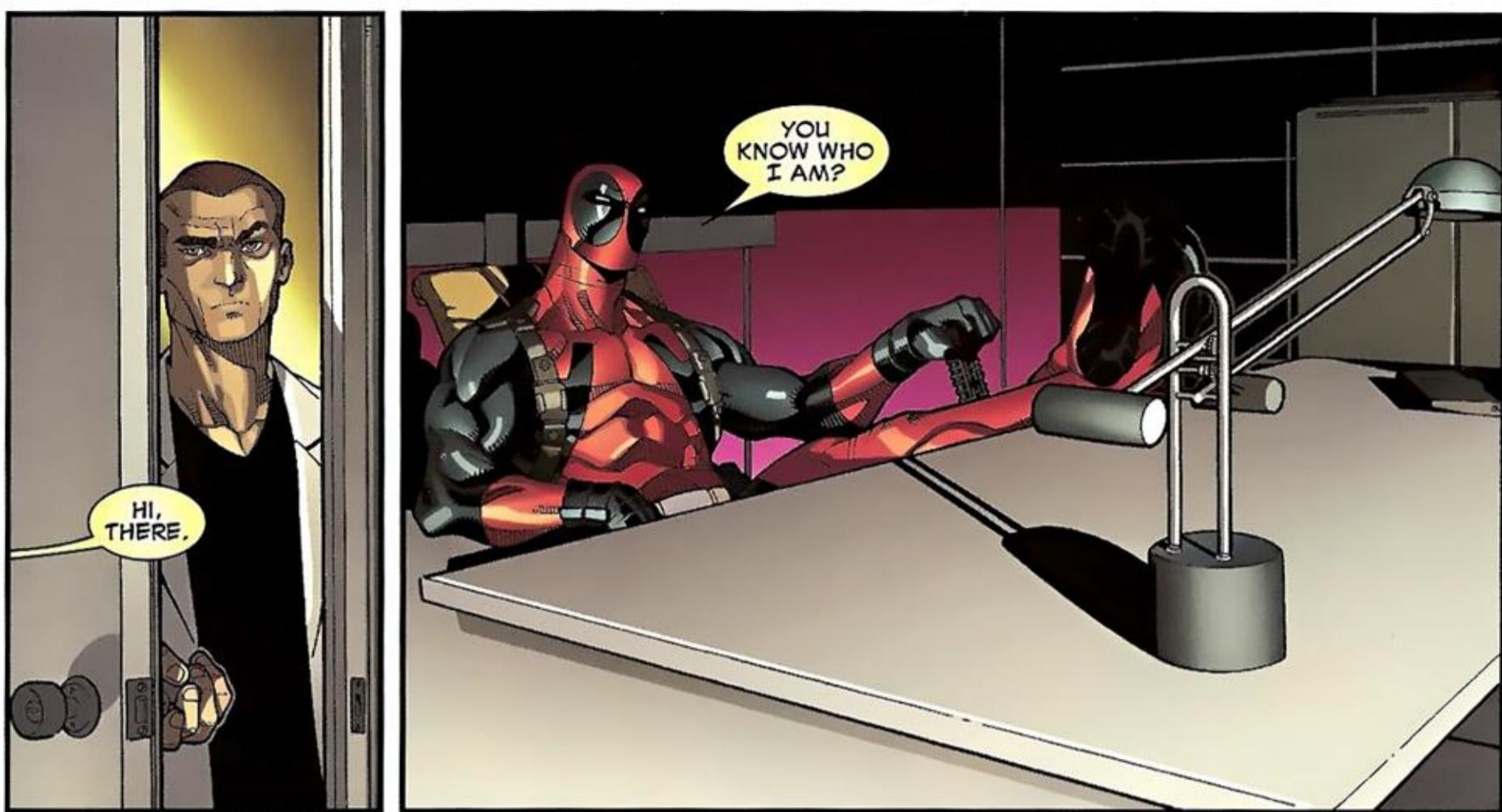
I
DUNNO.

WHAT'S
THE POINT OF
THAT?

I'LL GIVE
YOU FIVE GRAND
FOR THE OXYGEN
TANK.

UHH...

AND THREE
GRAND FOR THE
SUNGASSES.



SEE YOU HAVE A PANIC BUTTON
HERE...YOU PUSH THIS AND IT
SENDS A SIGNAL TO CASINO
SECURITY, RIGHT?

I'M THINKING
YOU'D REEEALLY
LIKE TO PUSH IT RIGHT
ABOUT NOW...AM
I RIGHT?

Y-YEAH.

WELL?

LOOK, MAN...
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT
I SAID, OKAY?

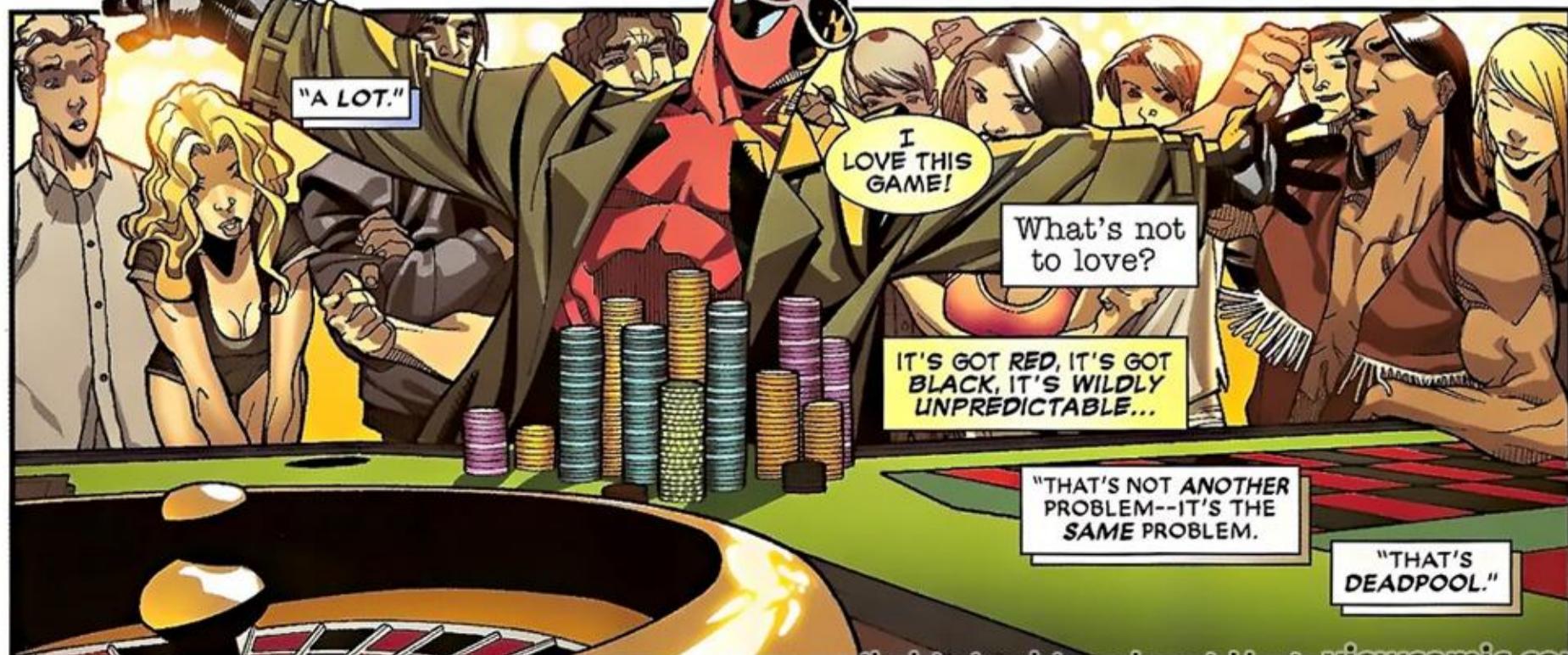
I...I DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE.

OH, YOU
DON'T?

WELL, THEN I
GUESS I SHOULD
LEAVE.



MINUTES LATER.



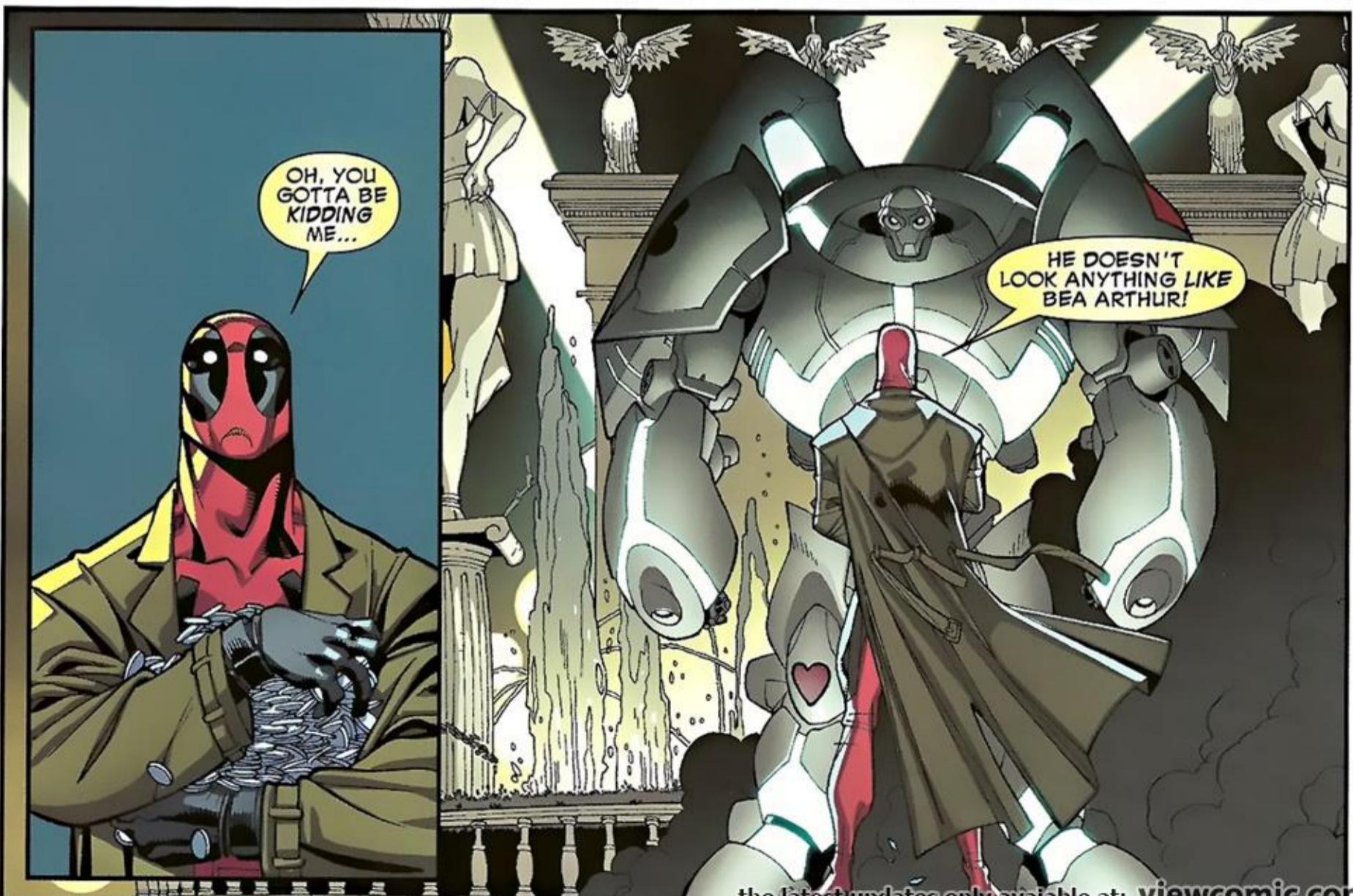
THE MERCENARY? THE GUY WHO--?

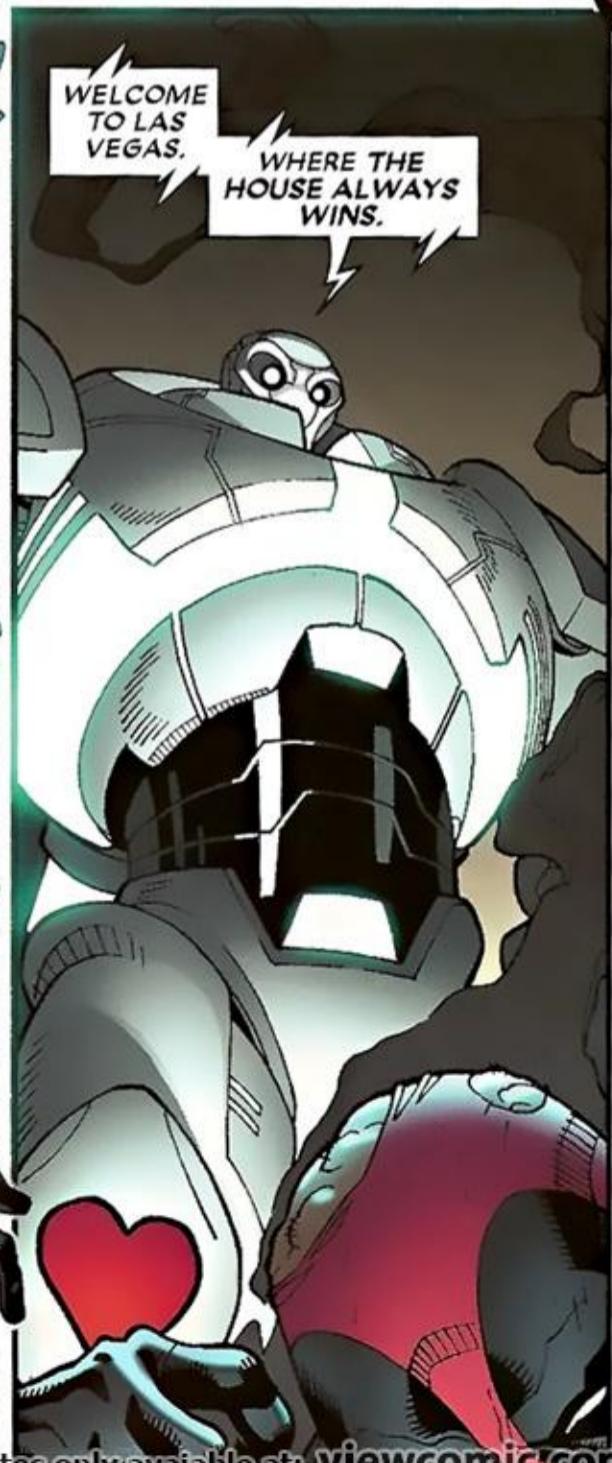
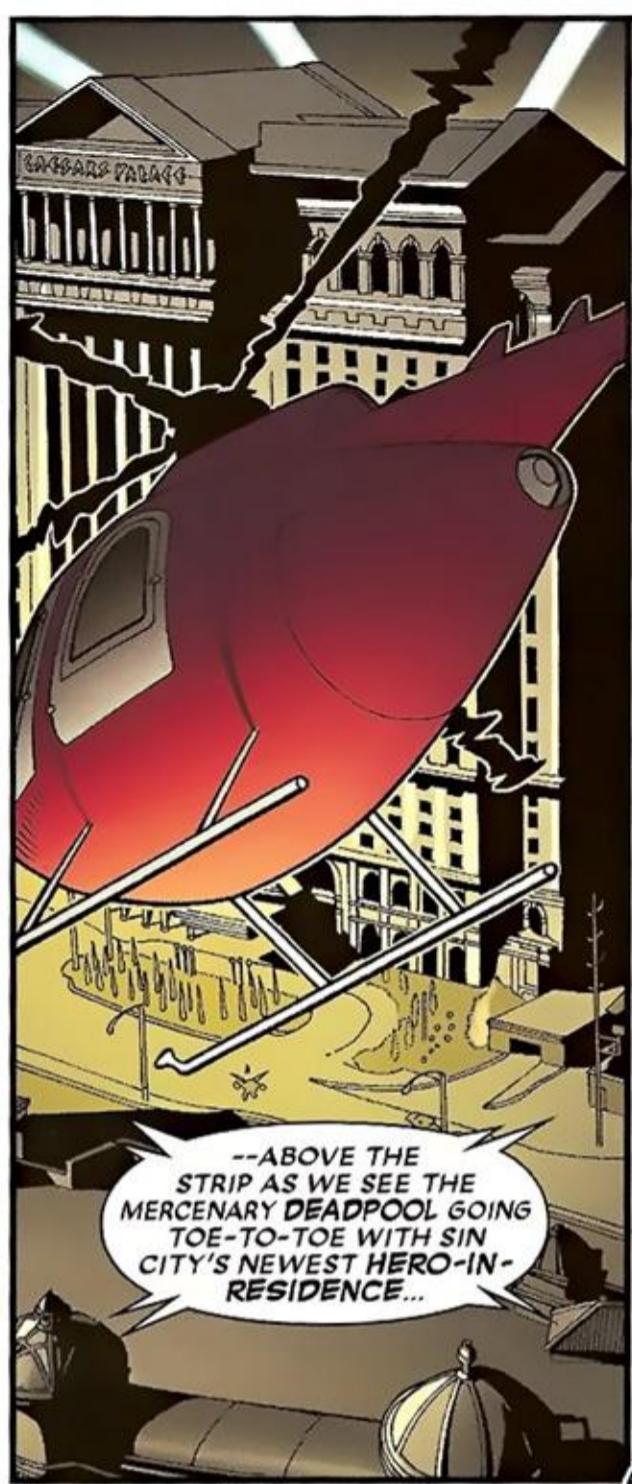
CAN YOU HANDLE HIM?

IT'D BE MY PLEASURE.

YEP.

AND THERE'S NO WAY IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT HE'S HERE AT THE SAME TIME SOMETHING'S EXPLODING.







43 MINUTES
LATER...

GGHHNK!

UNNHH...

WHERE...?

AAOOOWW!

WHAT THE
HELL WAS
TH--

SHKKK!

OUCH!
DAMMIT!

OH,
I GET
IT...

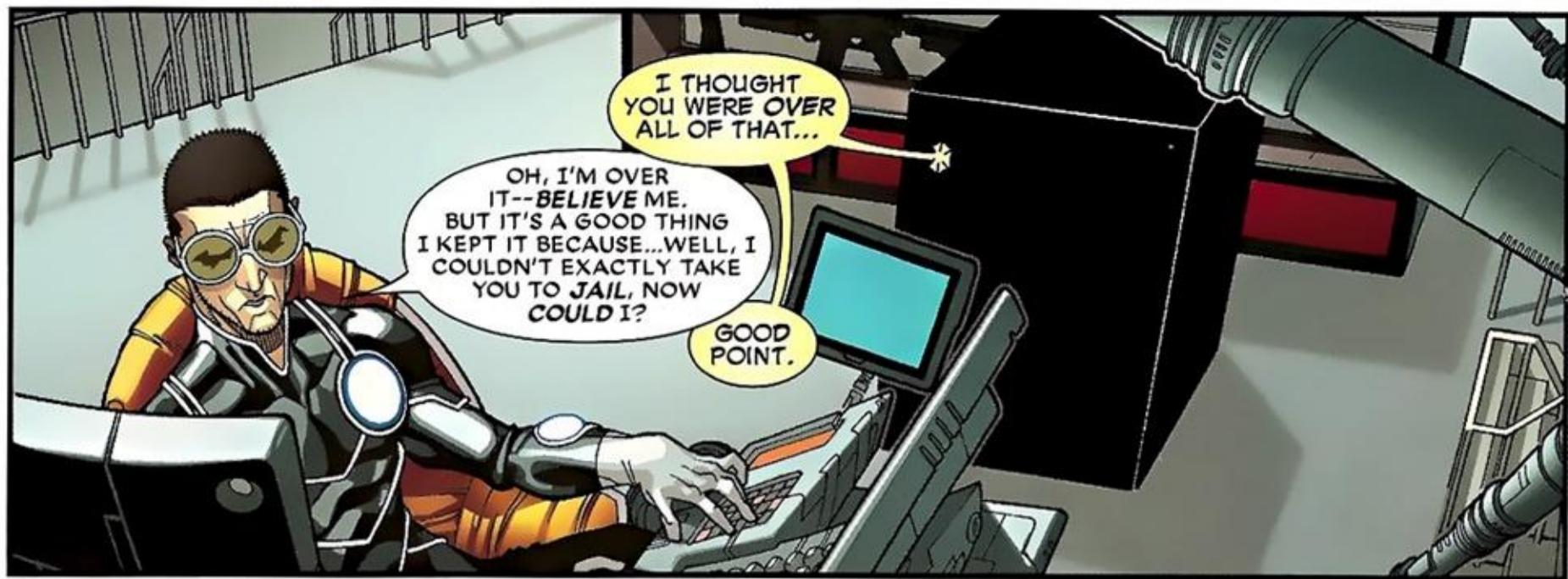
...YOU
MADE A
BOX?
YUP.

Do you think readers will remember what "*the box*" is? That it's a torture device with *no light inside*, filled with *razor-sharp objects* that make movement almost *impossible*?

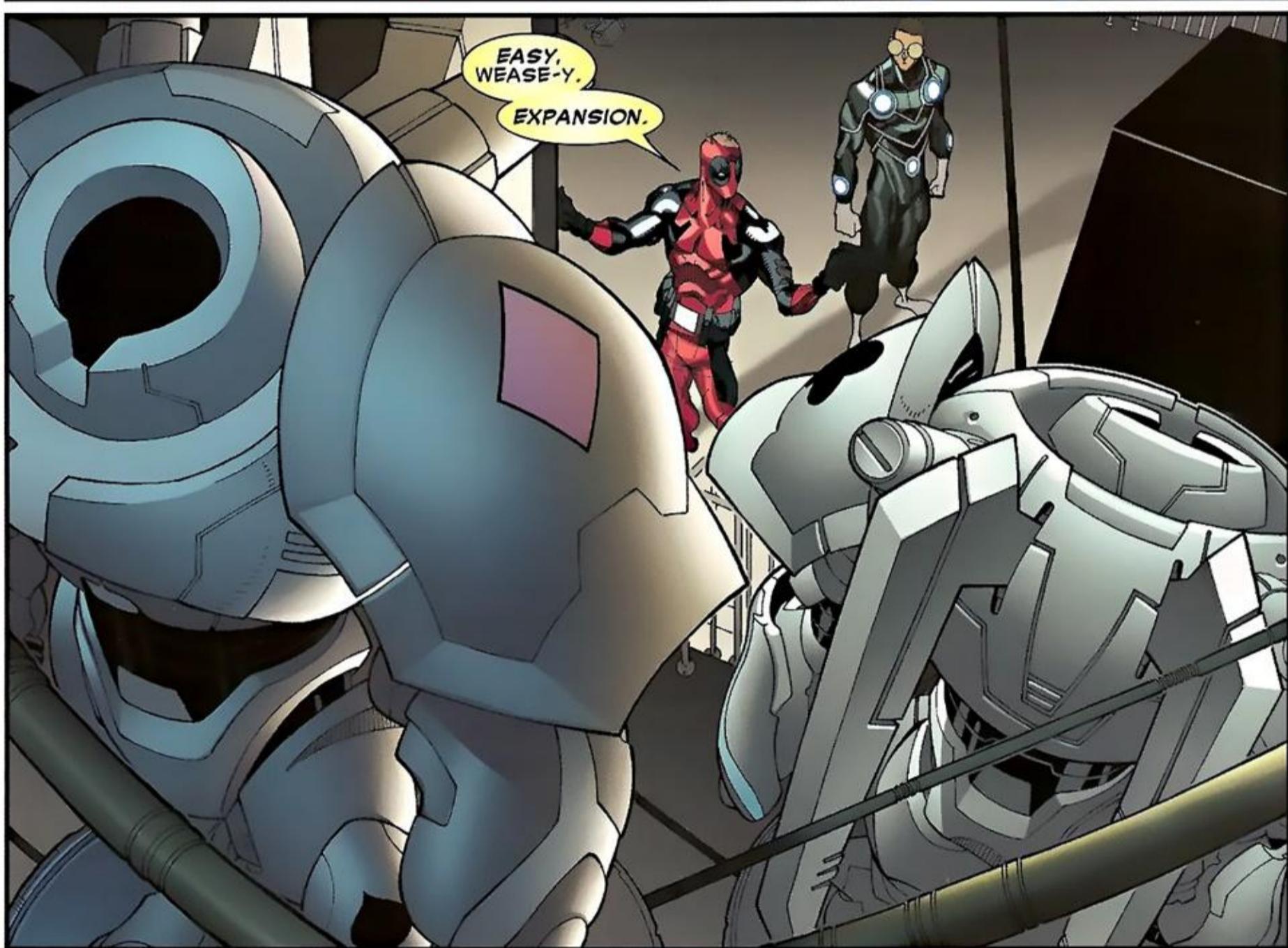
JUST
FOR ME?

IF THEY DO, THEY'LL ALSO REMEMBER THAT WE LOCKED WEASEL IN ONE A FEW YEARS AGO AND...KINDA LEFT HIM THERE.

YUP.
I'VE BEEN
KEEPING IT IN
STORAGE.







MENTAL / PM

"OKAY...DEAL--BUT FIRST, LEMME TELL YOU A FEW THINGS ABOUT THIS CITY, AND WHAT IT IS I DO."

--BUSTED OUT TWO DAYS AGO. GOIN' TO PICK UP SOME SCRATCH, GET BACK ON MY FEET.

"WHEN SUPER VILLAINS NEED MONEY, THEY DON'T GO TO THE BANK."

"THEY COME HERE."

YEAH. GONNA KNOCK OVER A CASINO.
LITERALLY.

WOW, THAT IS A GOOD IDEA! WISH I'D THOUGHT OF DOIN' THAT...

WELL, I DID--WHATTA YOU THINK BROUGHT ME HERE?

"BUT ONCE I GOT HERE, A BETTER IDEA OCCURRED TO ME--WHY TAKE DOWN ONE CASINO..."

Boooooommmmm!

"...WHEN I CAN GET A PIECE OF ALL OF 'EM?"

LOOKS LIKE YOU WENT AFTER THE WRONG PIC-A-NIC BASKET, GRIZZLY.

"A PROTECTION RACKET?"

"NO, A PROTECTION SERVICE, SPONSORED BY THE CASINOS. ALL I WANTED WAS THE MONEY..."

"...I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE REGARDED AS A HERO."

THAT GUY'S #\$_#\$_' AWESOME!

TWO HUNDRED ON
THE HOUSE TO WIN--
ANY TAKERS?

HELL,
NO...

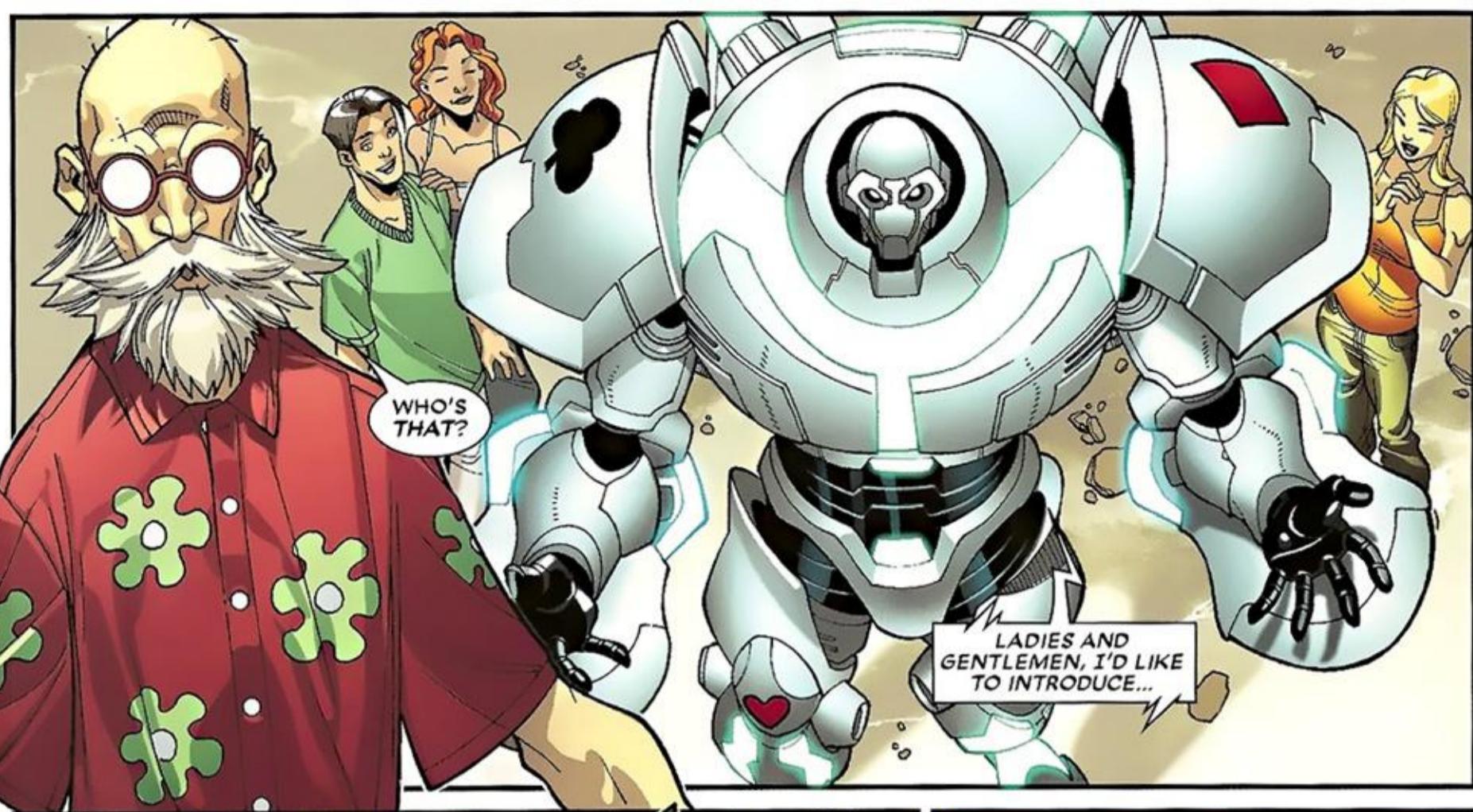
UHH...
ON SECOND
THOUGHT...

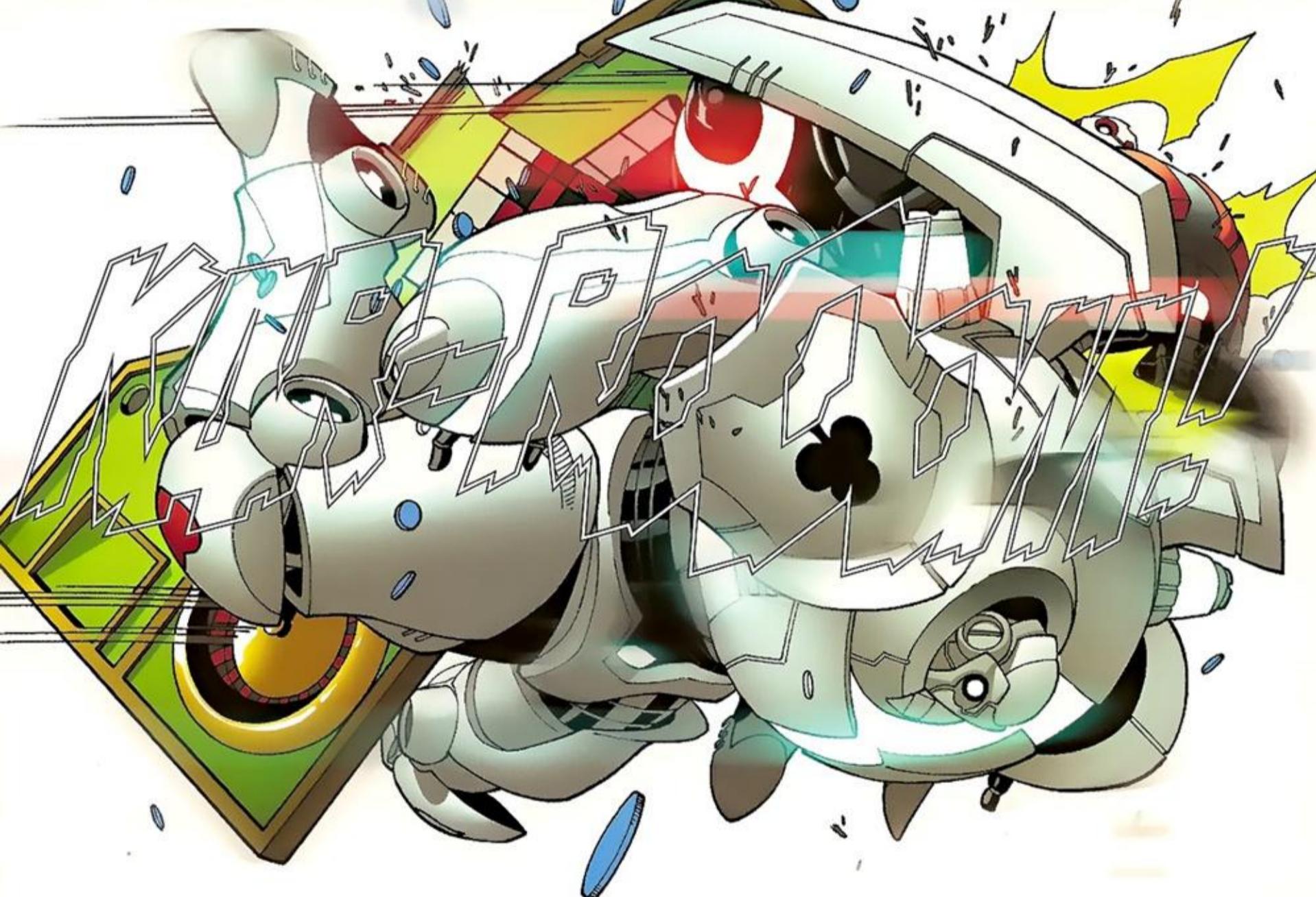
KROKK!

LOOK, NEW KID--I
AIN'T SOME CHUMP. I'VE
BEEN AROUND.

I'VE FOUGHT
'EM ALL, AN' I'M
STILL STANDIN'.

QUOTE ELTON
JOHN AGAIN, AN' IT'LL
BE EVEN WORSE.







DEADPOOL?!

GOT A
PROPOSITION FOR
YA, GRIZZ.
THINK
YOU'RE GONNA
LIKE IT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

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NEXT ISSUE

