

**SPECIAL** *Tribute-to-Dating* **ISSUE!!**

**MARVEL®**  
583.com

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

**ACTION**  
**IS HIS REWARD!**

SORRY,  
WEB-HEAD, I'M  
TAKING THE NIGHT  
OFF!

FACE  
IT, COUGARS--  
YOU'VE JUST HIT THE  
JACKPOT!

RONITA  
FABELA

WAID  
KITSON  
FARMER  
MOSSA

# THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!

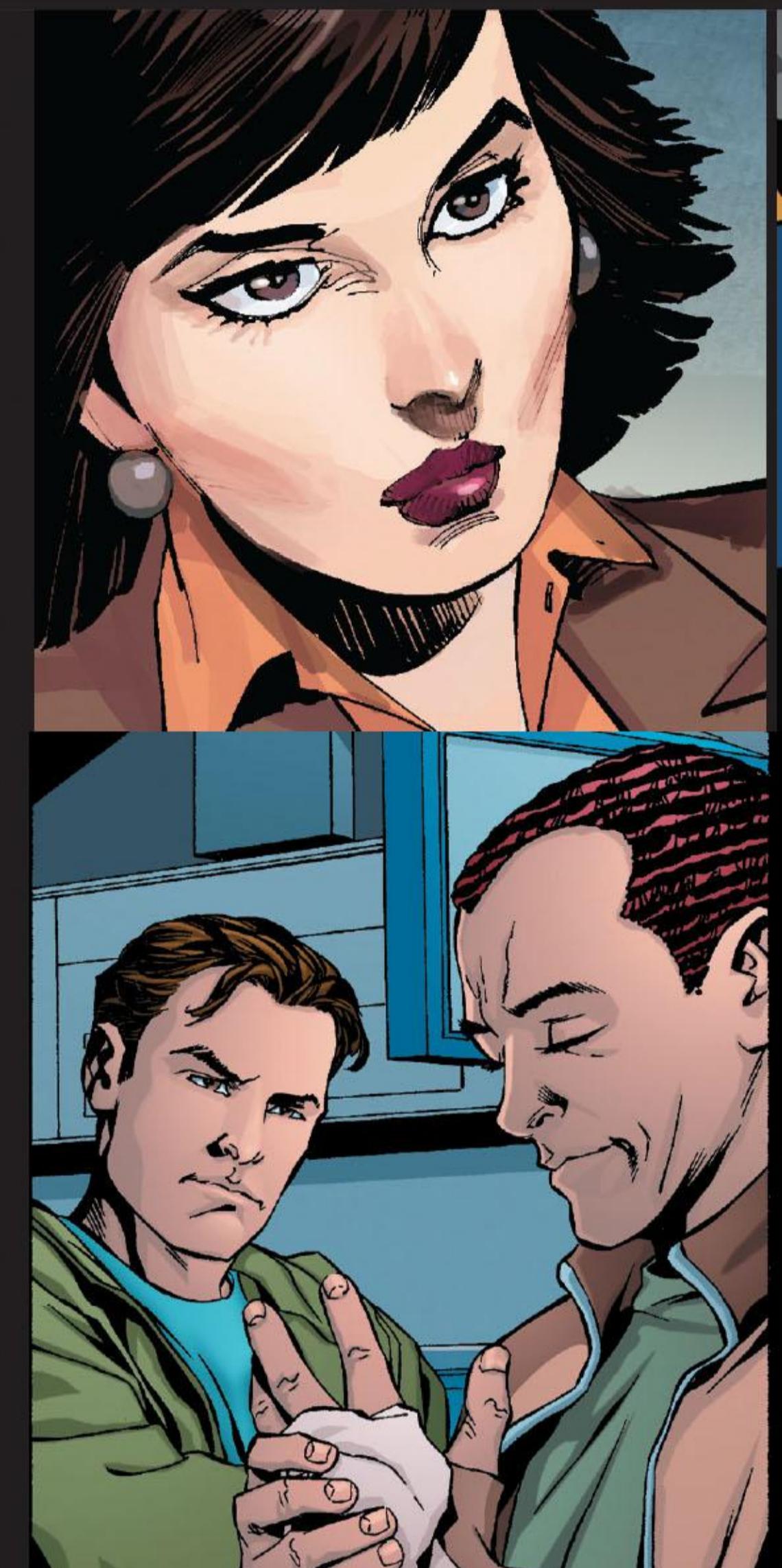


ELECTION A WEEK AWAY! HOW WILL NEW YORK VOTE? DB POLL SHOWS THE RACE TIGHTENING UP AS BILL HOLLISTER AND RANDALL CROWNE HEAD FOR A SHOWDOWN TO END ALL SHOWDOWNS! T18

JANUARY 14TH, 2009

WEDNESDAY

## WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE...



VISIT  
THE  
SPIDEY-BLOG!  
[www.marvel.com/blogs/spider-office](http://www.marvel.com/blogs/spider-office)

Betty Brant was the first friend Peter Parker made under the demagoguery of J. Jonah Jameson's Daily Bugle. This secretary-turned-investigative-journalist remains the sole face of the old regime in Dexter Bennett's current DB, and while she's clinging to her journalistic ethics, Bennett's sensationalistic leanings have forced Betty to try to run exposés on everyone, from Mayoral Candidate Bill Hollister (friend of Harry Osborn's girlfriend, the seemingly Peter Parker smitten Lily Hollister) to philanthropist Martin Li, employer of Pete's Aunt May and owner of the F.E.A.S.T. homeless shelter (not to mention part time super-villain Mr. Negative). Pete will always be Betty's best friend – but her decisions have made his life a bit harder. Speaking of hard lives, Pete just got back into town after helping Harry Osborn tie up some loose ends with ex-wife Liz Allan – a trip that became nearly fatal after a run-in with the Molten Man. But with that behind them, the future looks bright for Peter Parker and his friends...that never ends well.

## 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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CONTINUED ON A2

# PLATONIC

MARK WAID  
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PENCILS

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INKS

ANDRES MOSSA  
COLORS

VC'S CORY PETIT  
LETTERS

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INKY, BLINKY, PINKY AND CLYDE SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST

KARL KESSEL  
INKS PGS 15, 20 & 22

MY NAME IS BETTY BRANT.

I HAVE THIS FRIEND.

YOU LOOK REDONKULOUS!  
AND NOT THE GOOD KIND OF REDONKULOUS!

WHAT IS IT WITH CROOKS AND THEIR BARGAIN-BASEMENT, WOULD-BE IRON MAN OUTFITS?

DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT IF THEY WERE ANY GOOD, THEY WOULDN'T BE FOR SALE?

HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER.

I MADE THIS MYSELF,  
YOU JABBERING TWIT!



I WISH HE  
WEREN'T  
MISSING  
THIS.

THEN HERE'S A  
TIP! NEXT TIME,  
LIKE THERE'S GONNA BE  
ONE, BUILD SOME  
MANEUVERABILITY  
INTO THAT JETPACK!

THINK  
FALCON, NOT  
CANNONBALL!

WHO ARE YOU  
TO CHALLENGE MY  
INTELLECT?

YOU'RE RIGHT!  
YOU TOTALLY  
REMIND ME OF  
DOCTOR DOOM!  
KNOW WHY?

NOT THAT IT'S PARTICULARLY  
ENTERTAINING--LIKE A LOT  
OF NEW YORKERS, I HAVE MY  
ISSUES WITH SPIDER-MAN--

NEITHER OF  
YOU CAN TAKE  
CONSTRUCTIVE  
CRITICISM!

ANOTHER  
THING YOU  
MIGHT WANT TO  
CONSIDER?

--THOUGH, AS A  
REPORTER FOR THE DB!,  
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL  
THAT A STORY LIKE THIS  
HAS LANDED ALMOST  
LITERALLY IN MY LAP--

HELMET.

THWIPP

NEWBIE ERRORS.  
THEY HAPPEN. TELL  
ME YOU AT LEAST  
PICKED A SNAPPY  
NAME.

MMPH-  
KLLLLYUUUU--!

"KILLYU"?  
REALLY? YOU  
KNOW, THERE ARE  
WEBSITES! HAVE  
YOU TRIED "VILLAIN-  
NAMES.COM"? IT'S  
AWESOME!

ALWAYS  
RUN A VIRUS  
CHECK  
AFTERWARDS,  
THOUGH.  
GIVE MY  
BEST TO THE  
BOYS IN BLUE!  
SEYYA!



I FIRST MET PETER WHEN HE STARTED AT THE DAILY BUGLE, BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.

THROUGH HIM, I'VE MADE SOME LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON MOST OF ALL IS THAT WE LOVE PETER...

...DESPITE HIMSELF.

YES, HE'S SMART...YOU FORGET HOW SMART HE IS...

...CAN'T BELIEVE I SPILLED... I'M SO SORRY! YOU KNOW, THERE ARE GLYCERIN COMPOUNDS THAT WILL BREAK DOWN THE TANNIN MOLECULES--

I'LL BREAK DOWN YOUR HEAD.

Teressa

...HE'S OPEN-MINDED...

...AN' MY REAL DREAM IS TO BE A RODEO CLOWN. DO YOU LIKE CLOWNS?

'CAUSE I REALLY, REALLY LIKE CLOWNS!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE AT THE CIRCUS?

ME? I--

I DON'T MEET GREAT CLOWNS.

DOES THE RINGMASTER'S CIRCUS OF CRIME COUNT?

...AND HE'S FUNNY.

...SO THEN THE BARBER SAYS, "WELL, YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, MR. JAMESON!"

UH-HUH.

THREE... TWO... ONE...

DING!

SWITCH!

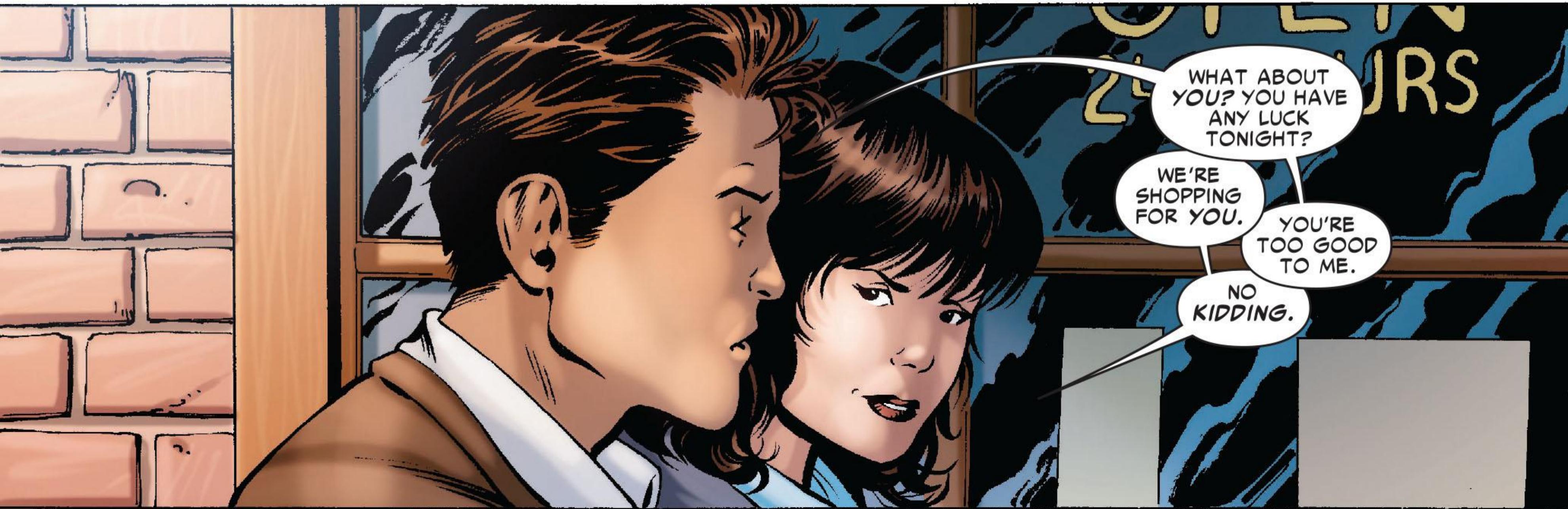
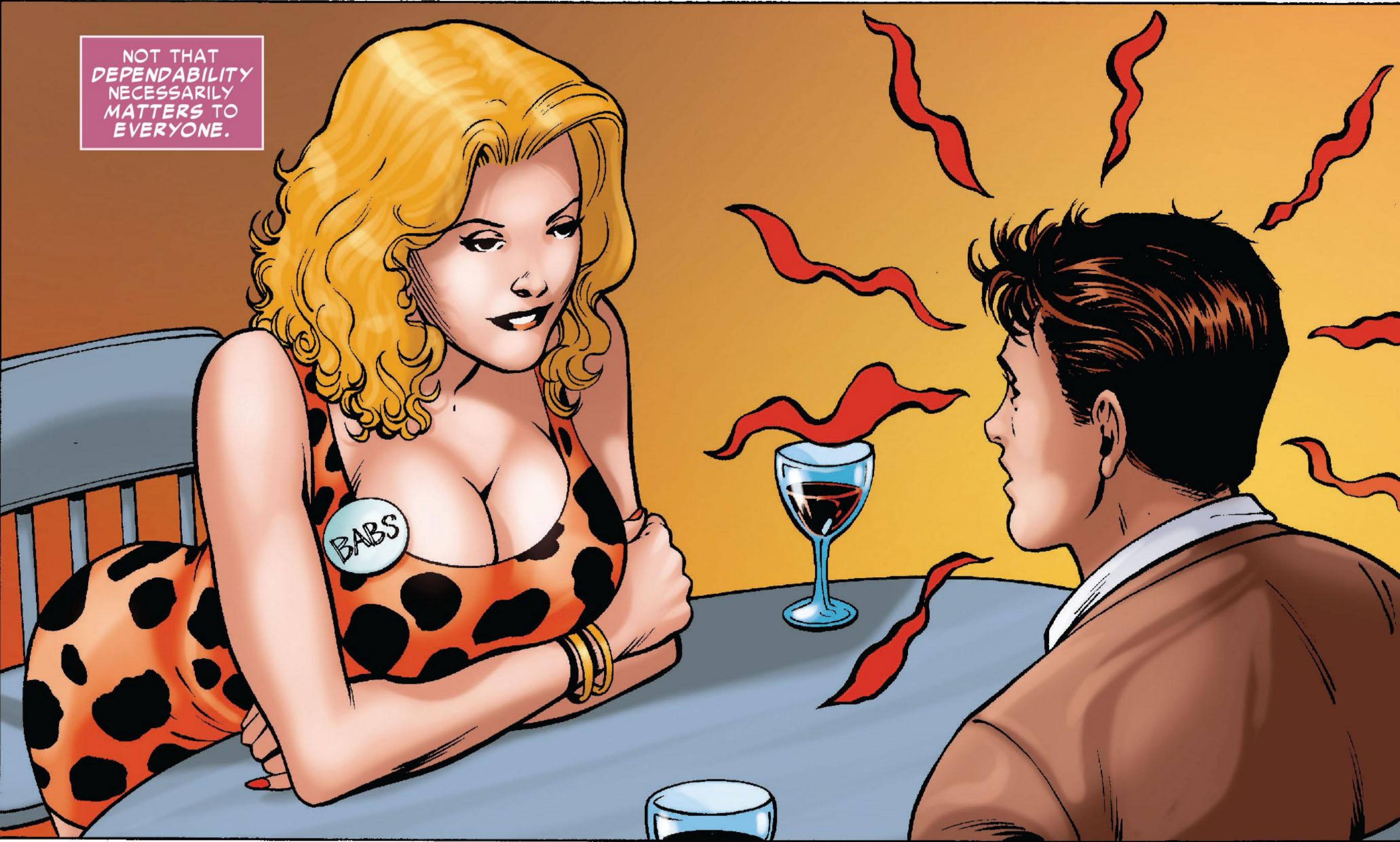
BUT IT'S NO SECRET HOW FUNDAMENTALLY... UNDEPENDABLE PETER IS.

WOW. HELLO, GORGEOUS!

YOUR NAME MUST BE MICKEY, 'CAUSE YOU'RE SO FINE!

Rod

NOT THAT  
DEPENDABILITY  
NECESSARILY  
MATTERS TO  
EVERYONE.



PETER'S AUNT MAY VOLUNTEERS AT A HOMELESS SHELTER DOWNTOWN.

IT'S SWEET THAT YOU WANT TO WALK YOUR AUNT TO THE TRAIN.

# F.E.A.S.T. PROJECT

FOOD, EMERGENCY AID, SHELTER AND TRAINING

I'M EARNING NEPHEW POINTS.

MAY'S THE BEST.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO STICK AROUND. YOU'RE STILL KEEPING SPECIAL FRIDAY OPEN FOR ME, RIGHT?

WHY NOT?

PETER! I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT COMPANY.

I HAVE, INDEED. CAN I SPEAK WITH YOU A SECOND, PRETTY LADY...?

"SPECIAL FRIDAY" IS MY BIRTHDAY.

PETER ASKED ME WEEKS AGO WHAT I WANTED. I ASKED HIM TO PULL ALL OUR FRIENDS TOGETHER FOR A NICE DINNER.

HE HASN'T MENTIONED IT SINCE.

THAT MEANS HE'S PLANNING SOMETHING, WHICH IS NO DOUBT WHY HE'S WHISPERING TO MAY. HE THINKS I'VE FORGOTTEN.

ADORABLE.

SO HE'S REALLY TRYING. THE QUESTION IS...WILL UNDEPENDABLE PETER BE ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF?

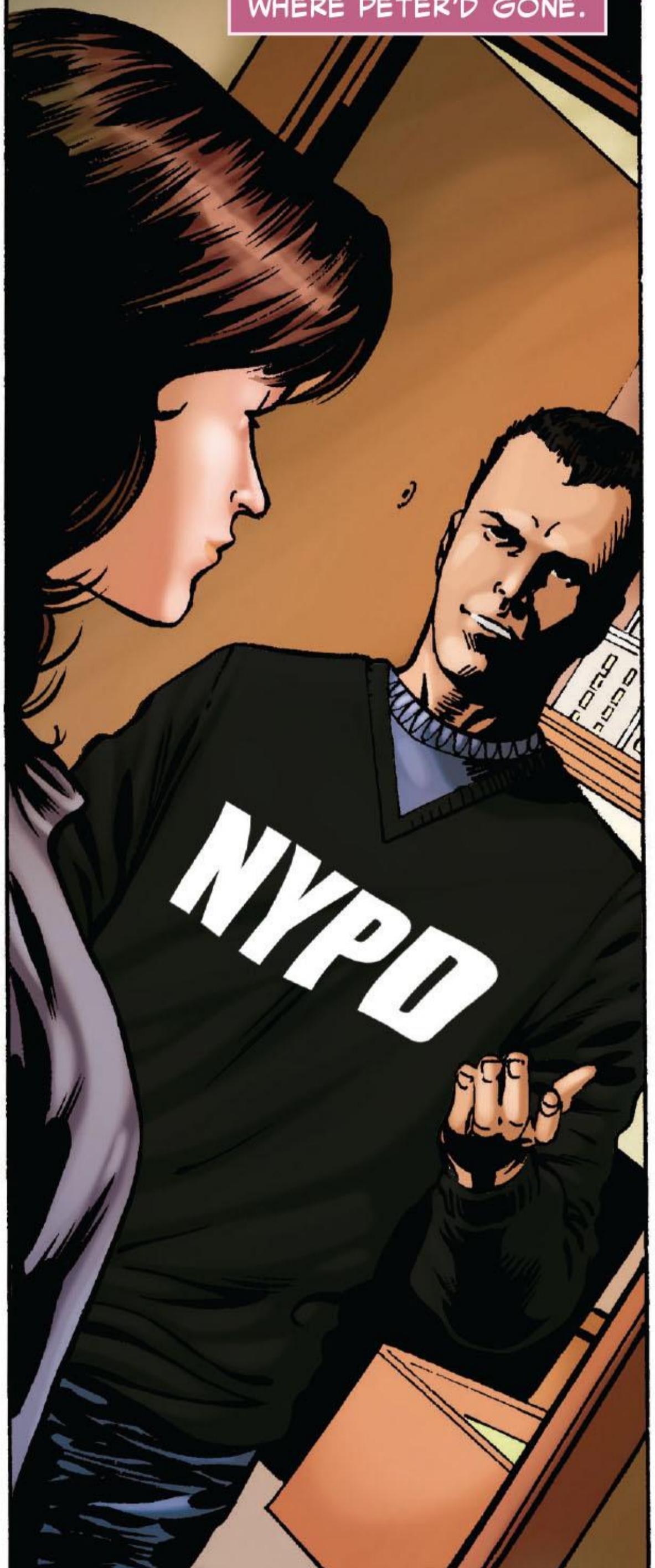




THE NEXT DAY, AS COULD BE EXPECTED, PETER BLOWS OUR APPOINTMENT TO GET HIM A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HAIRCUT.

PETE'S ROOMMATE, VIN, HAS NO CLUE WHERE PETER'D GONE.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE HE'S OUT DOING SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE.



ON WEDNESDAY, I MEET PETE OUTSIDE THE FRONT LINE OFFICES WHERE HE FREELANCES.

I SPOT HIM TALKING TO ROBBIE ROBERTSON, WHO USED TO WORK WITH ME AT THE DB! BACK WHEN IT WAS THE BUGLE. I HAVEN'T SEEN ROBBIE IN AGES.

I TRY TO CATCH HIM AS HE LEAVES, BUT HE SAYS HE'S IN A RUSH AND THAT HE'LL SEE PETE "THIS WEEKEND."

SCORE ONE FOR PETER: IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT HAVING ROBBIE AT THIS DINNER.



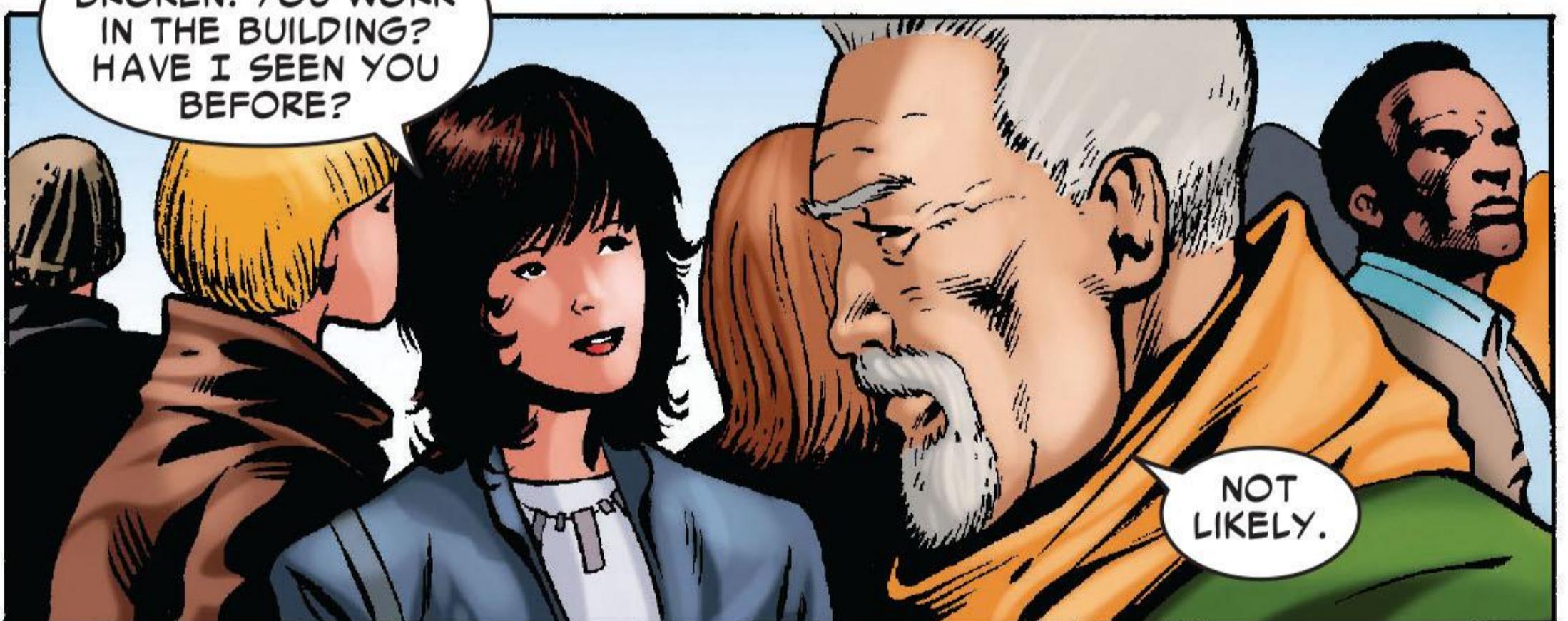
THE WEEK'S  
EVAPORATING  
FAST.

MY OLD FRIEND HALEY E-MAILED ME LATE LAST NIGHT TO GRIPE-SLASH-COMMISERATE ABOUT BEING BETWEEN BOYFRIENDS, AND IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT SHE'S NEVER MET PETE, SO I SUGGESTED WE ALL RENDEZVOUS TONIGHT, CASUAL.

LOVE HALEY, BUT I WISH I HADN'T STAYED UP SO LATE. IN MY RUSH TO GET READY THIS MORNING, I THINK I FORGOT MY NOTES ON THE ELECTION STORY. ARE THEY IN HERE...?

OH!

LOOK OUT!



I HAVEN'T SET FOOT INSIDE THOSE DOORS SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, MISS.  
DIDN'T THE DAILY BUGLE USED TO PUBLISH HERE?

IT'S CALLED THE DB! NOW, BOY, YOU MUST BE FROM WAY OUT OF TOWN NOT TO HAVE HEARD ABOUT THAT SWITCHOVER.

I'VE BEEN ABROAD. I USED TO LIVE IN NEW YORK LONG, LONG AGO, THOUGH. FRESHLY BACK, SETTING UP A NEW LIFE. SUBWAYS ARE STILL A NICKEL, RIGHT?



WHAT A STORY  
THIS GUY IS,  
WHOEVER HE IS.

I DON'T MEAN HEADLINE  
MATERIAL. I MEAN, HE'S SO CLEARLY  
BEEN AROUND AND HAS SEEN A LOT.  
YOU CAN TELL WITH EVERY SENTENCE  
THAT COMES OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

I FIND MYSELF CHATTING WITH  
HIM FOR A SURPRISINGLY LONG  
TIME. THERE'S JUST SOMETHING  
VERY WARM AND LIKEABLE  
ABOUT HIM. SOME INTEGRITY.

AND WE DEFINITELY  
BOND ON THE SUBJECT OF  
HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO  
MEET PEOPLE IN NEW YORK.  
SO IT HITS ME...

I SIMPLY MUST GET  
TO WORK, MISTER...  
I'M SORRY, WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?

CALL  
ME "J."

JAY.  
LISTEN,  
JAY...

THERE'S  
SOMEONE I THINK  
YOU SHOULD MEET.  
HER NAME IS MAY  
PARKER.

GIVE HER A  
RING SOMETIME.  
TELL HER YOU'RE  
FRIENDS WITH  
ME.

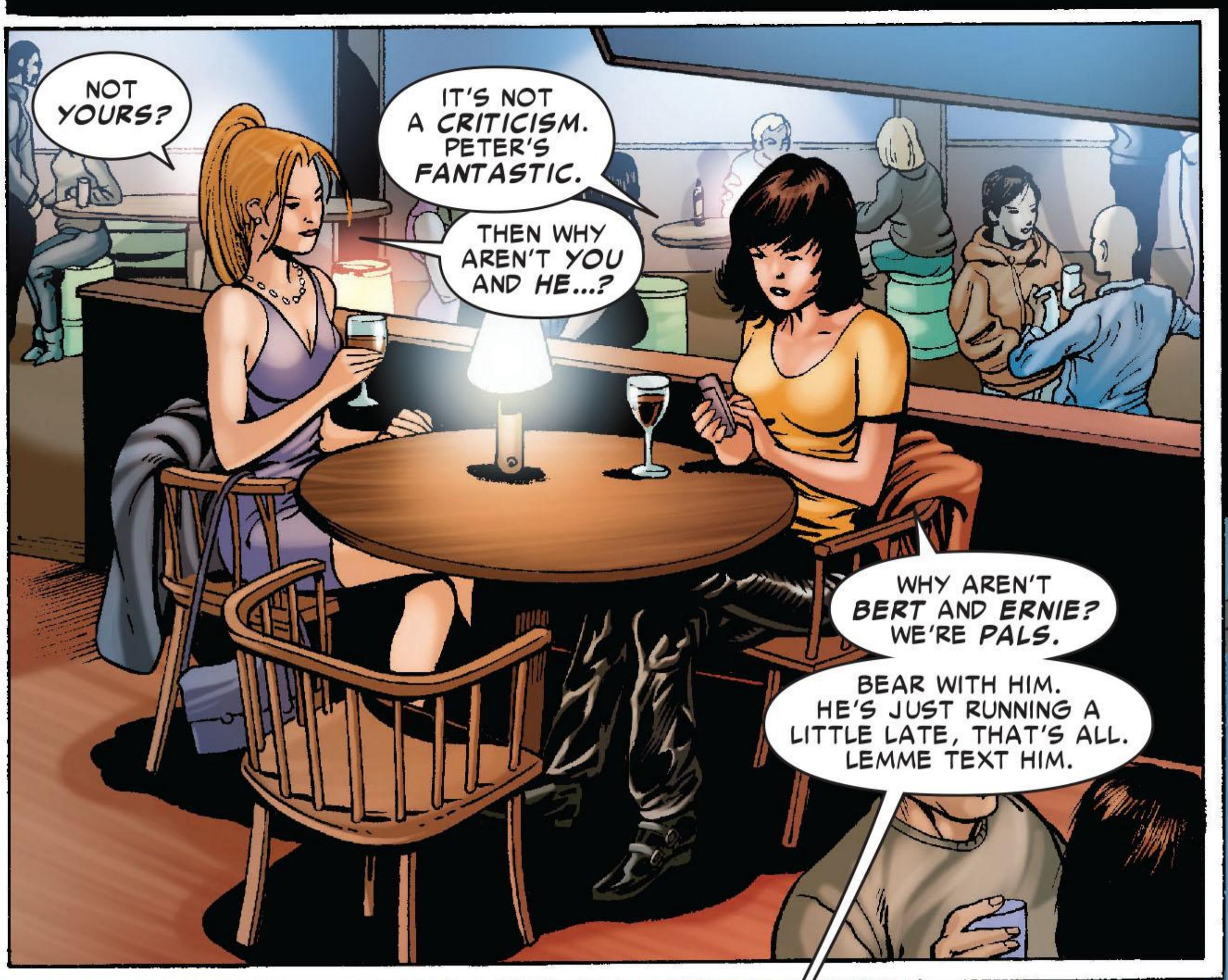
I...

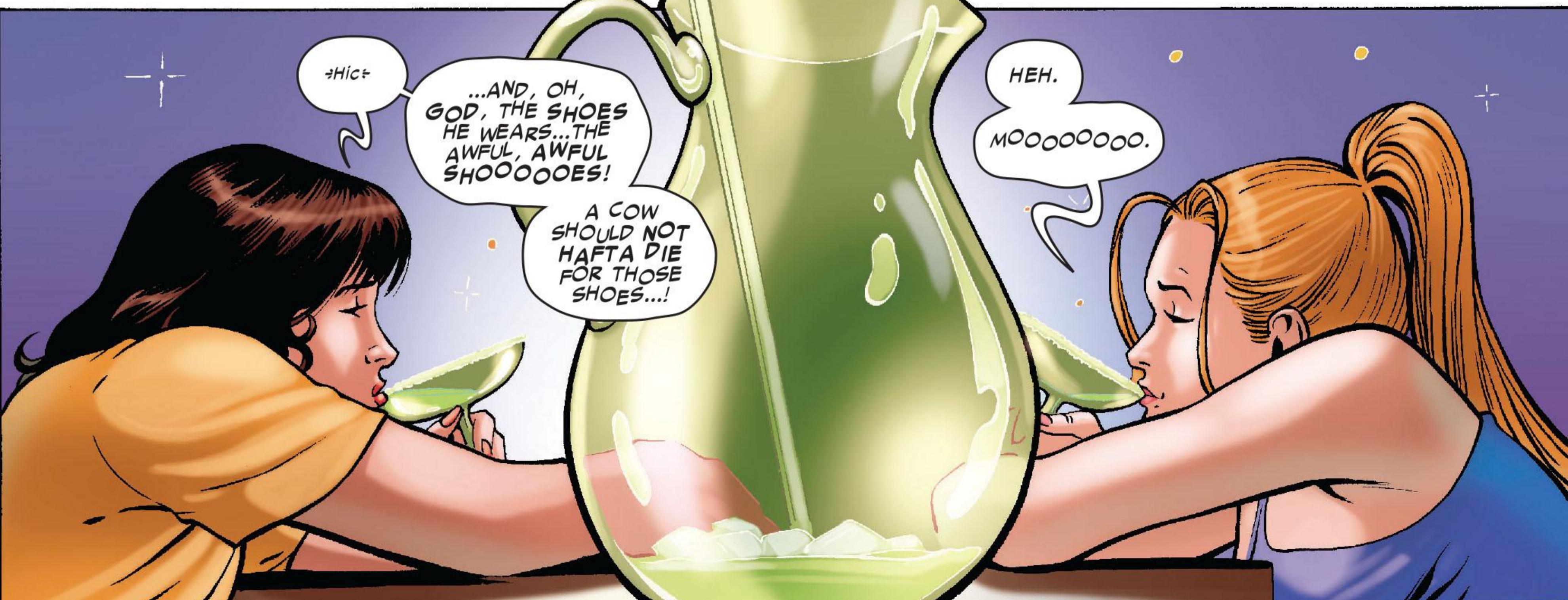
ALL  
RIGHT.

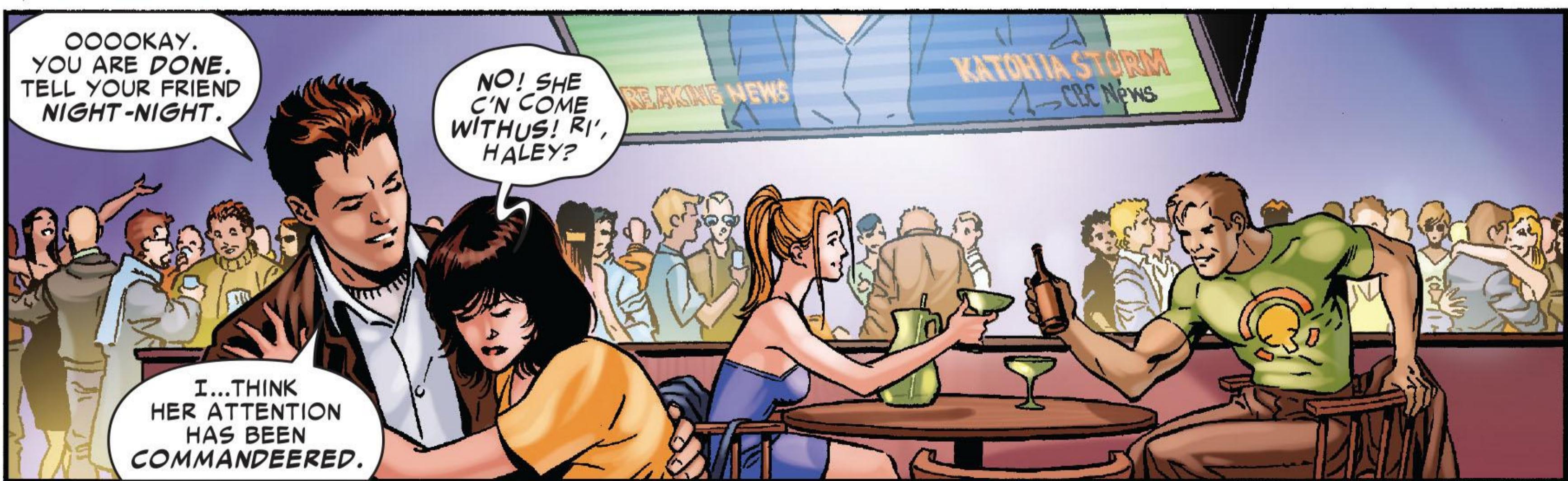
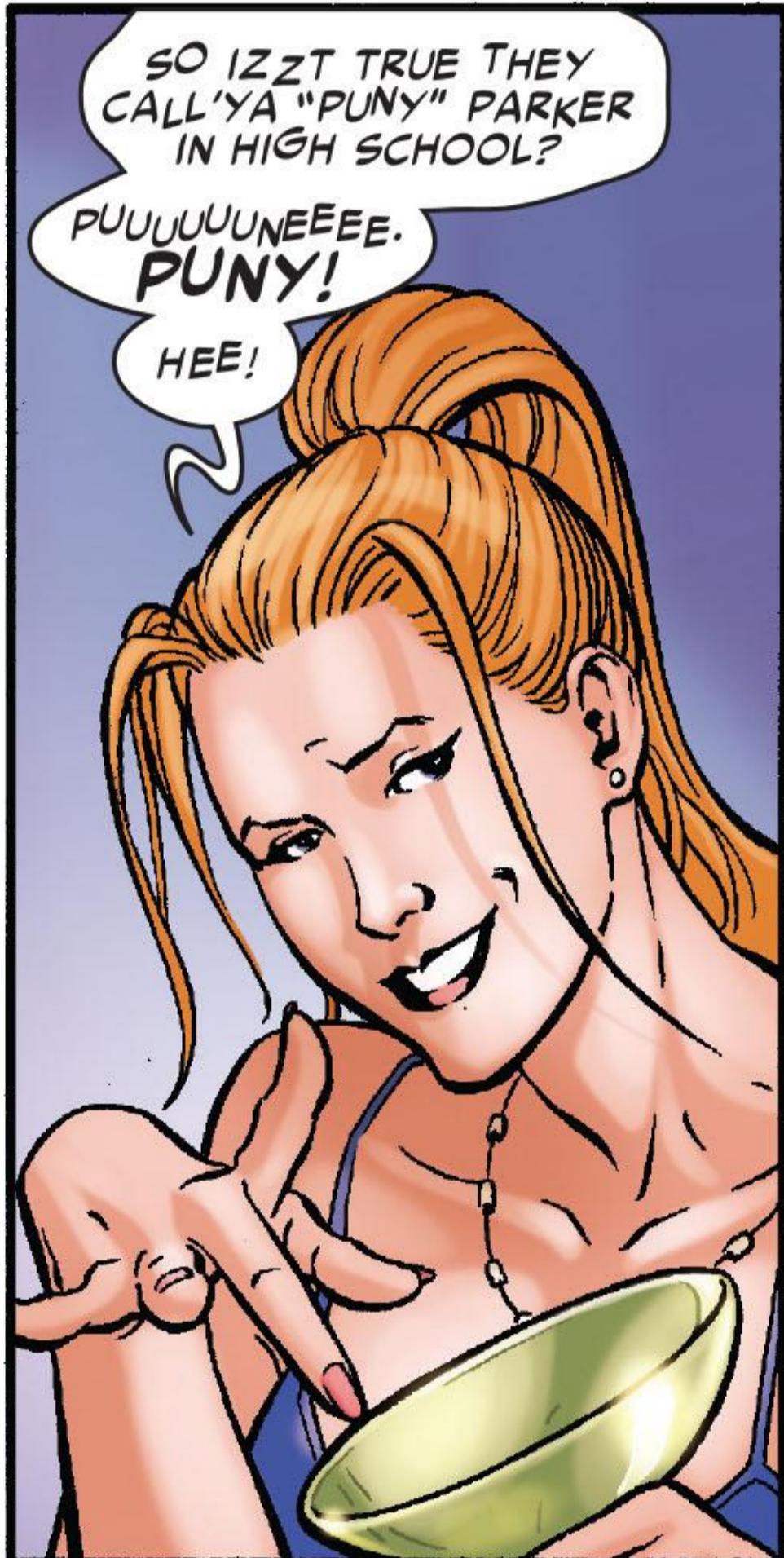
DO  
IT.

I THINK YOU  
TWO MIGHT REALLY  
HIT IT OFF.

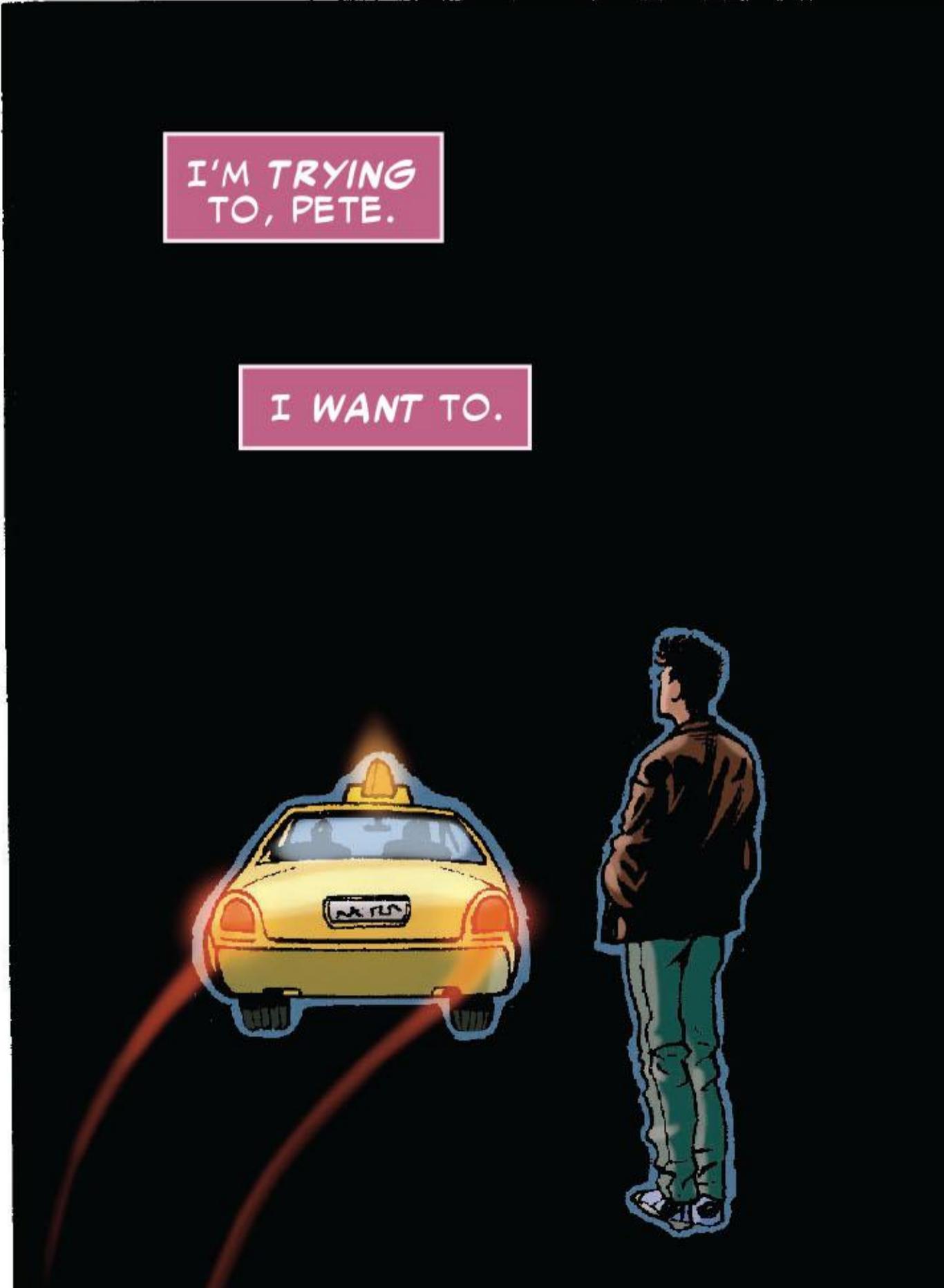
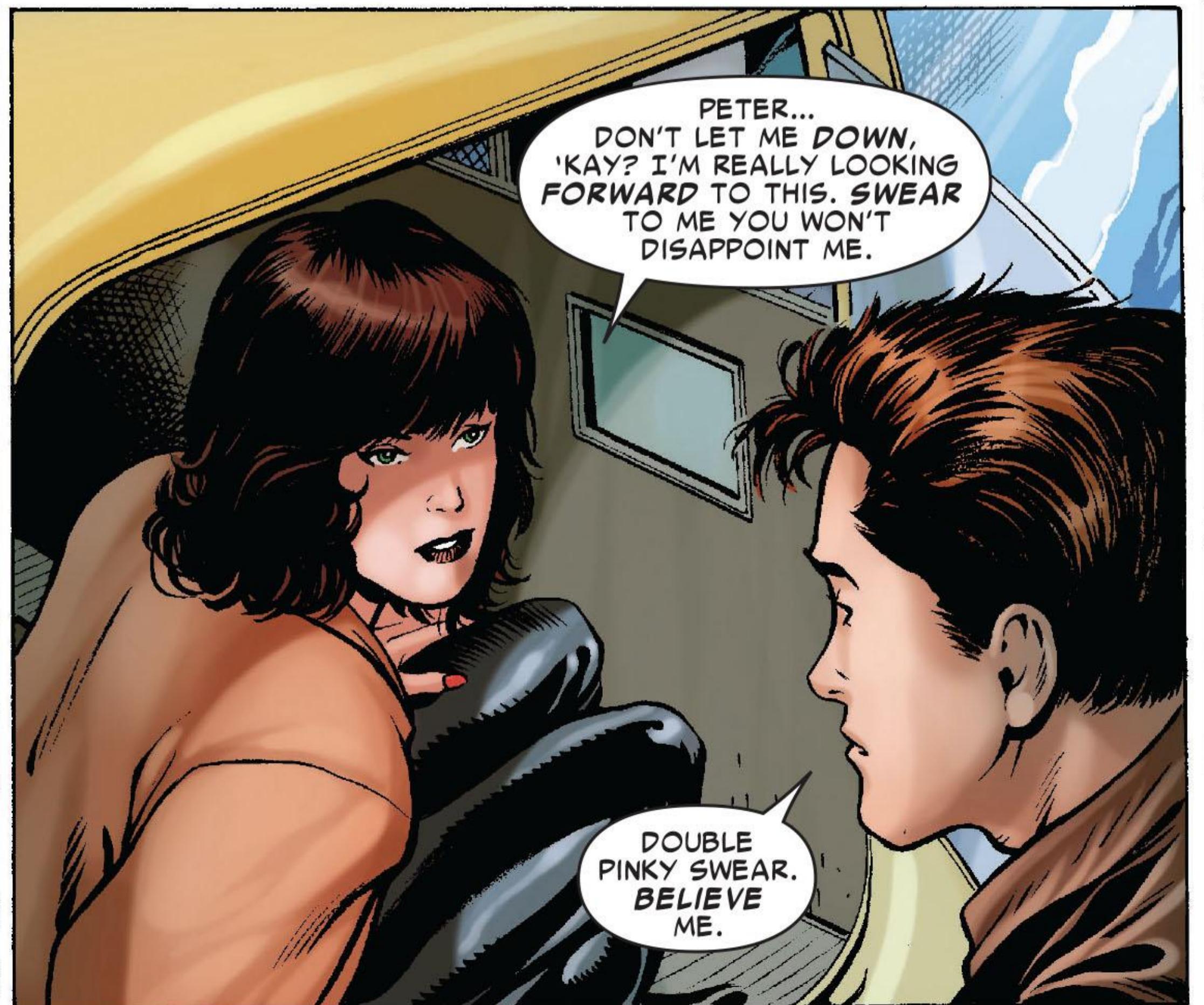
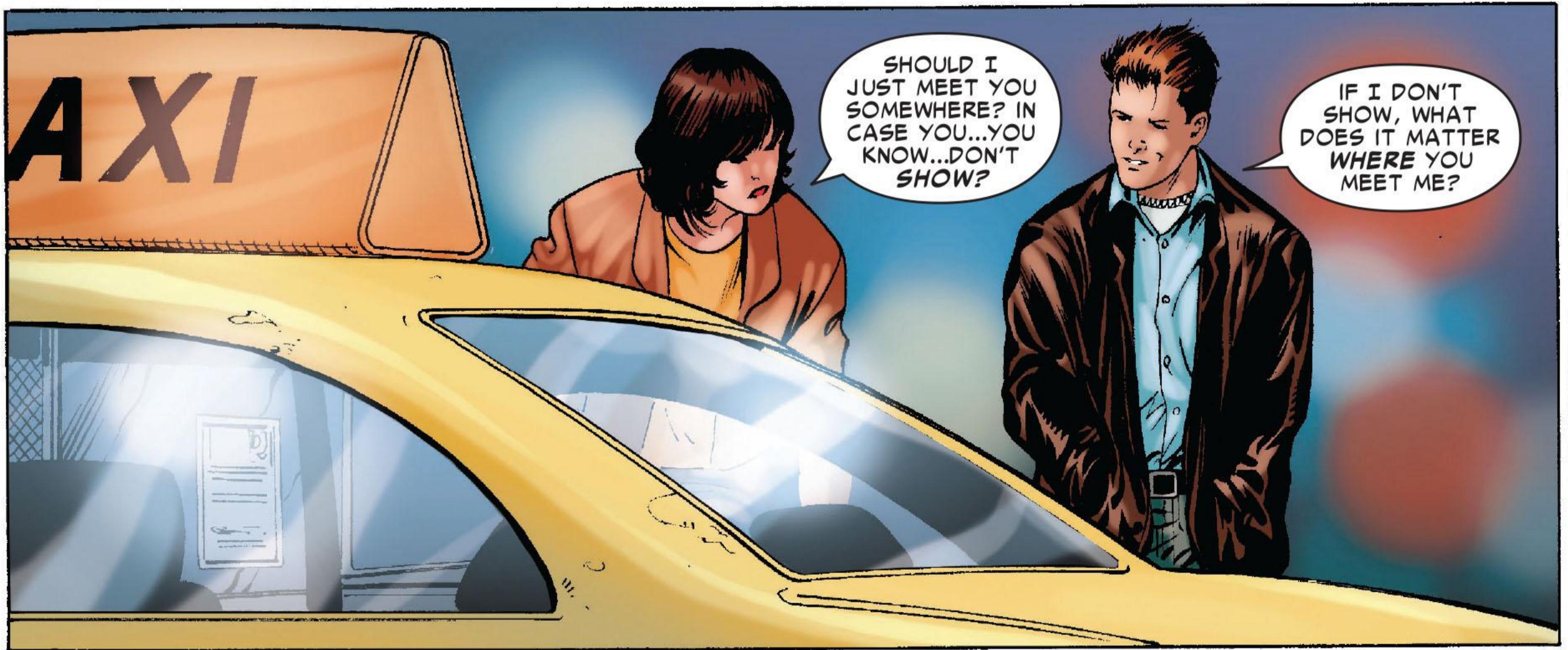
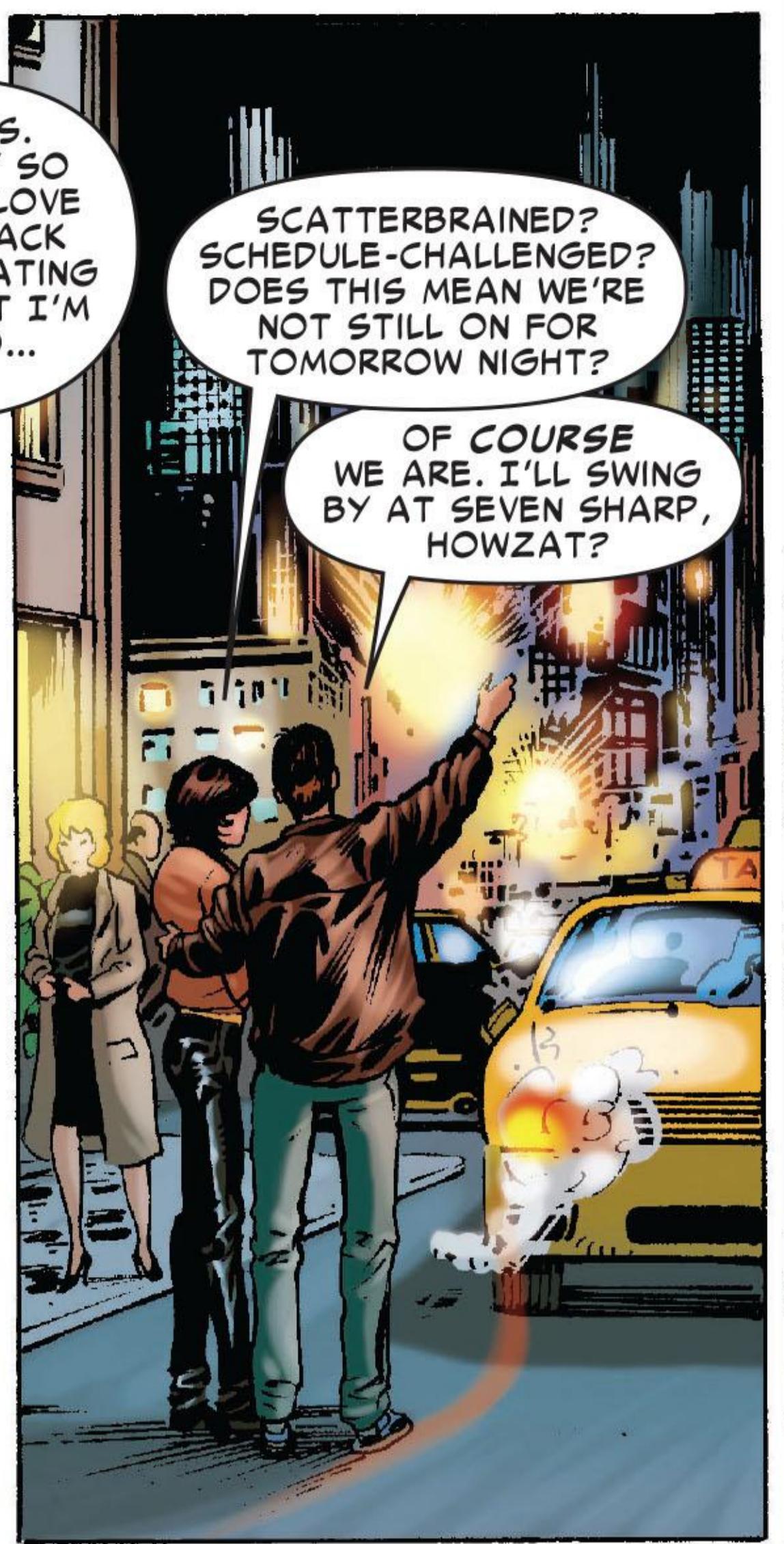
NAME: JONAH JAMESON  
DOB: 08-09-92  
SEX: M  
EYES: BROWN  
HAIR: BLACK  
ISSUED: 447-589





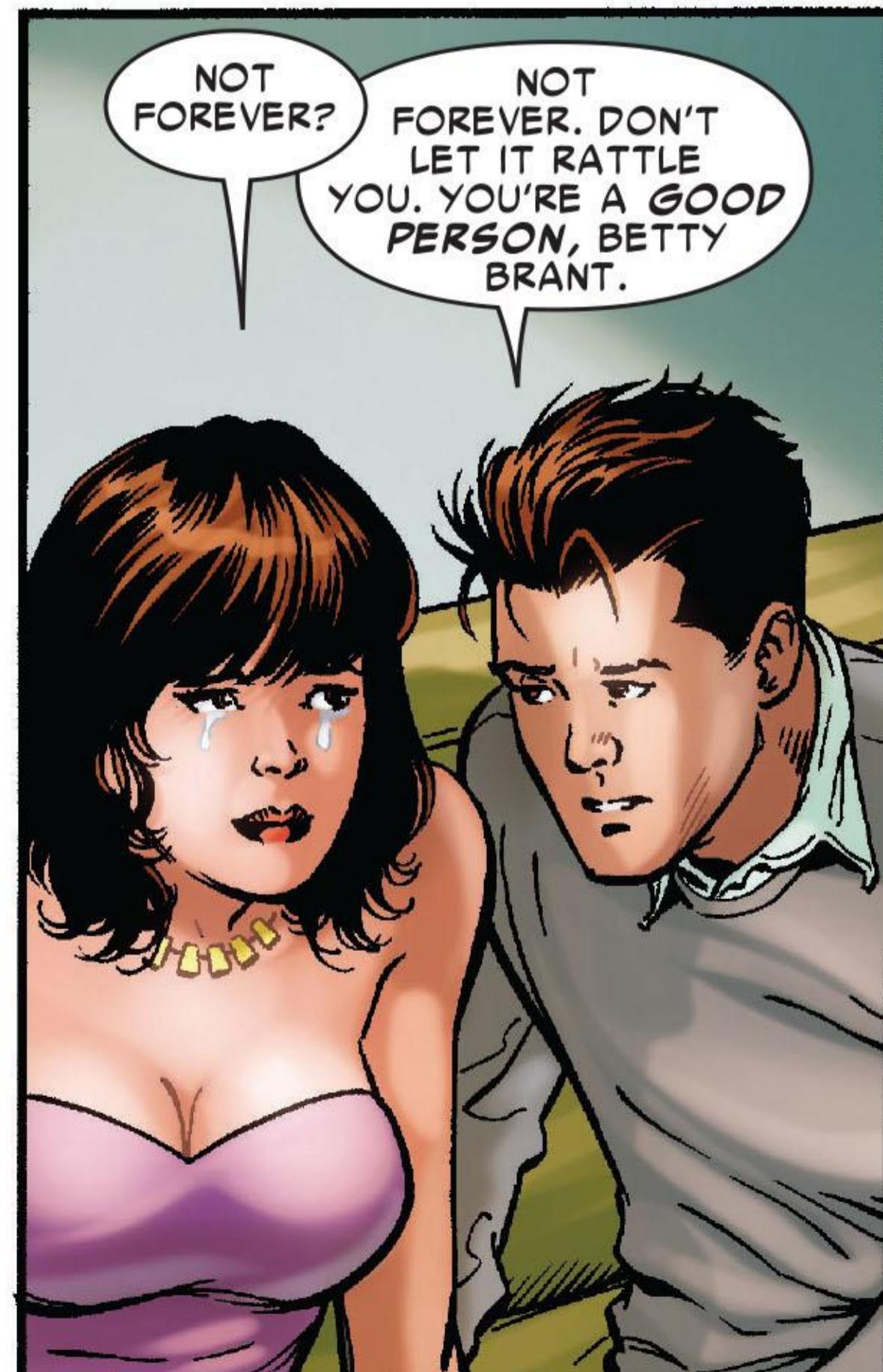
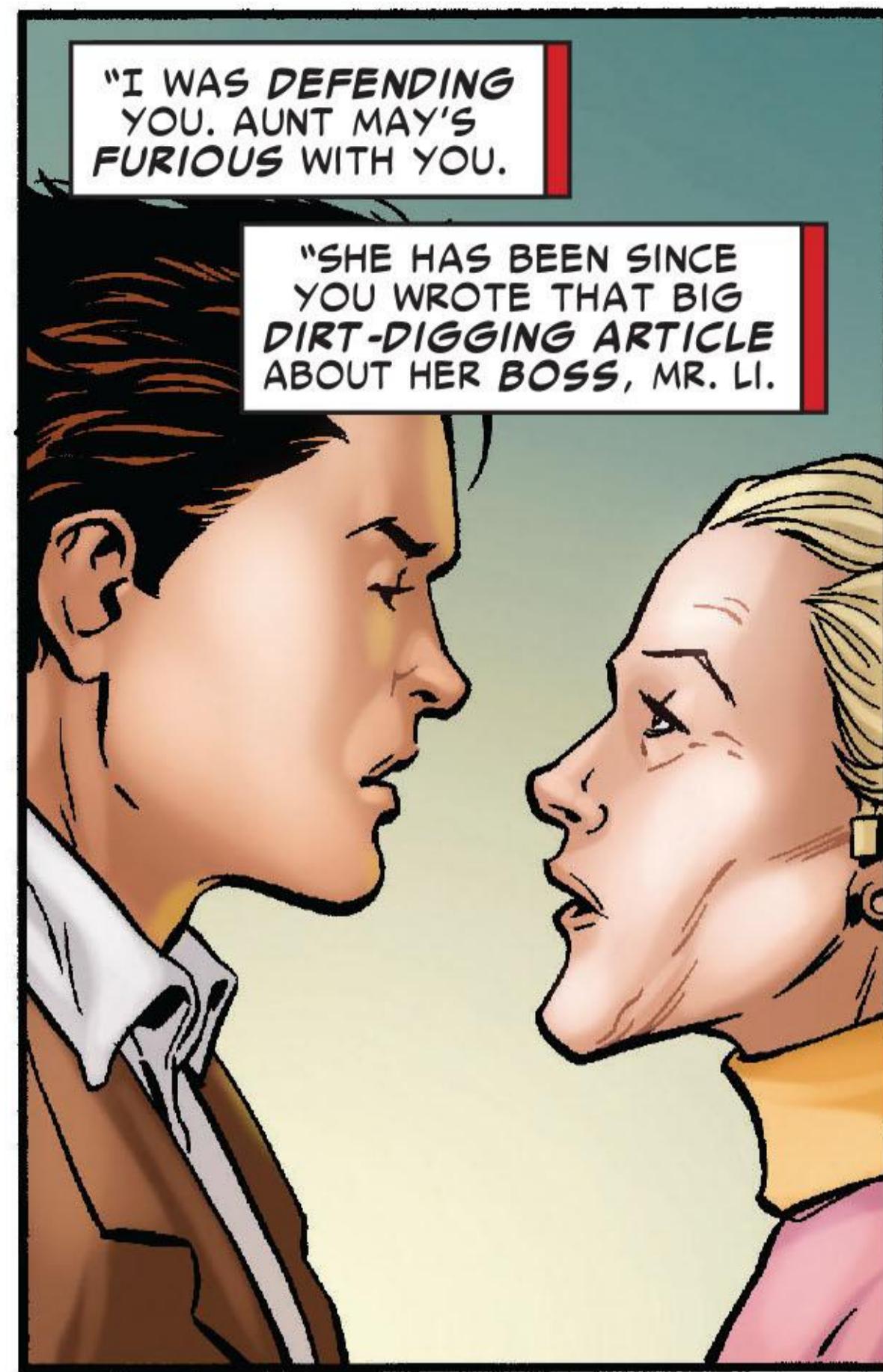
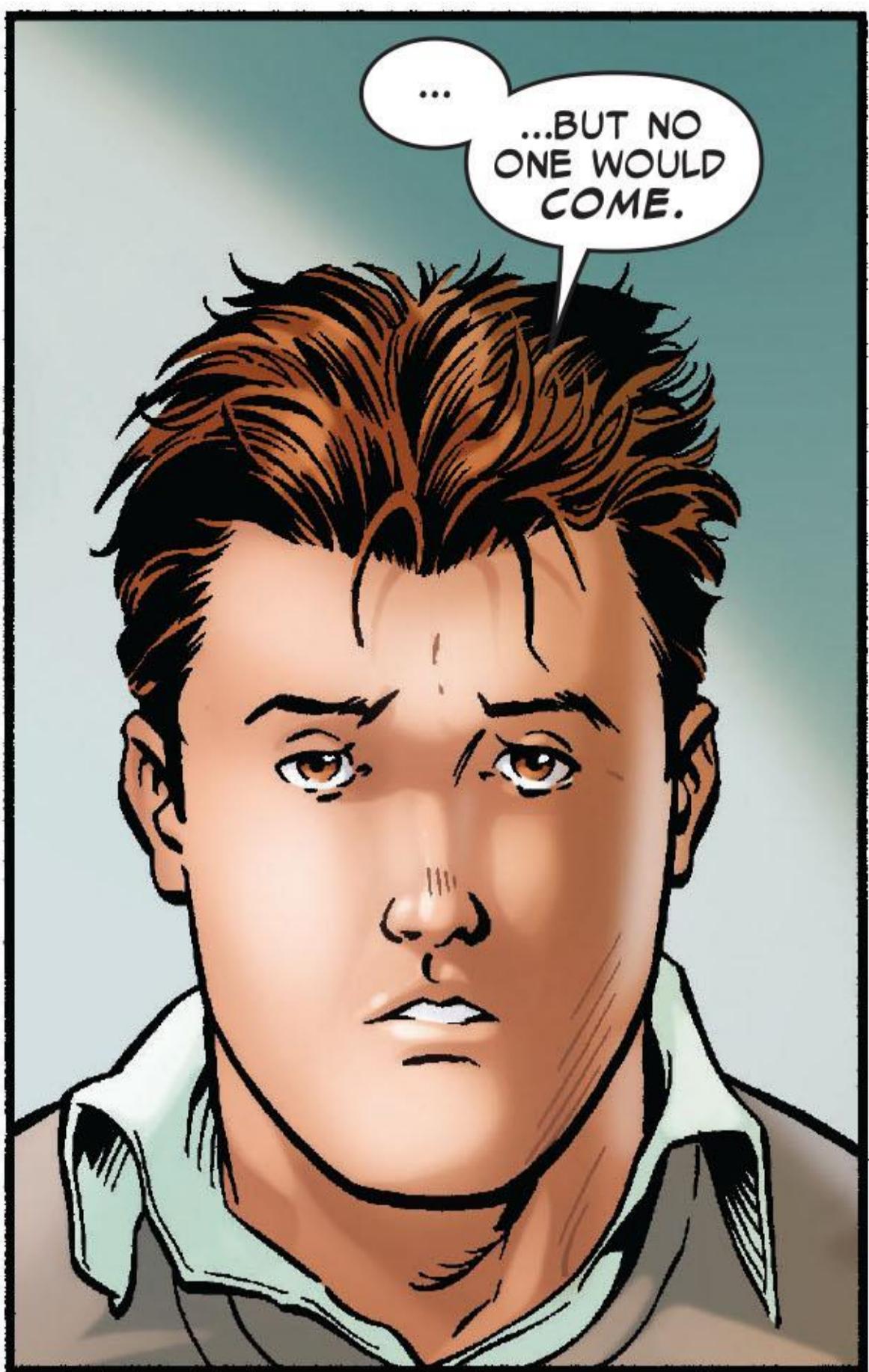


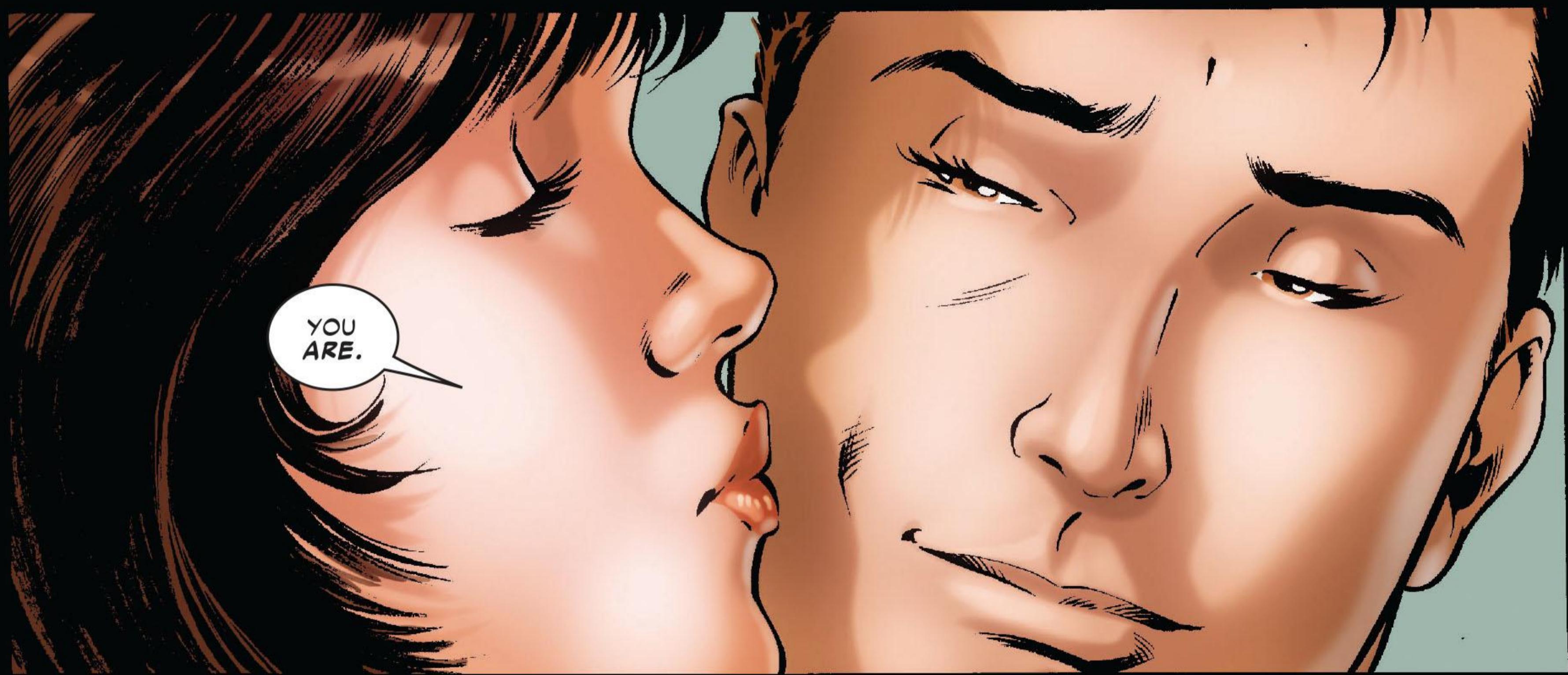


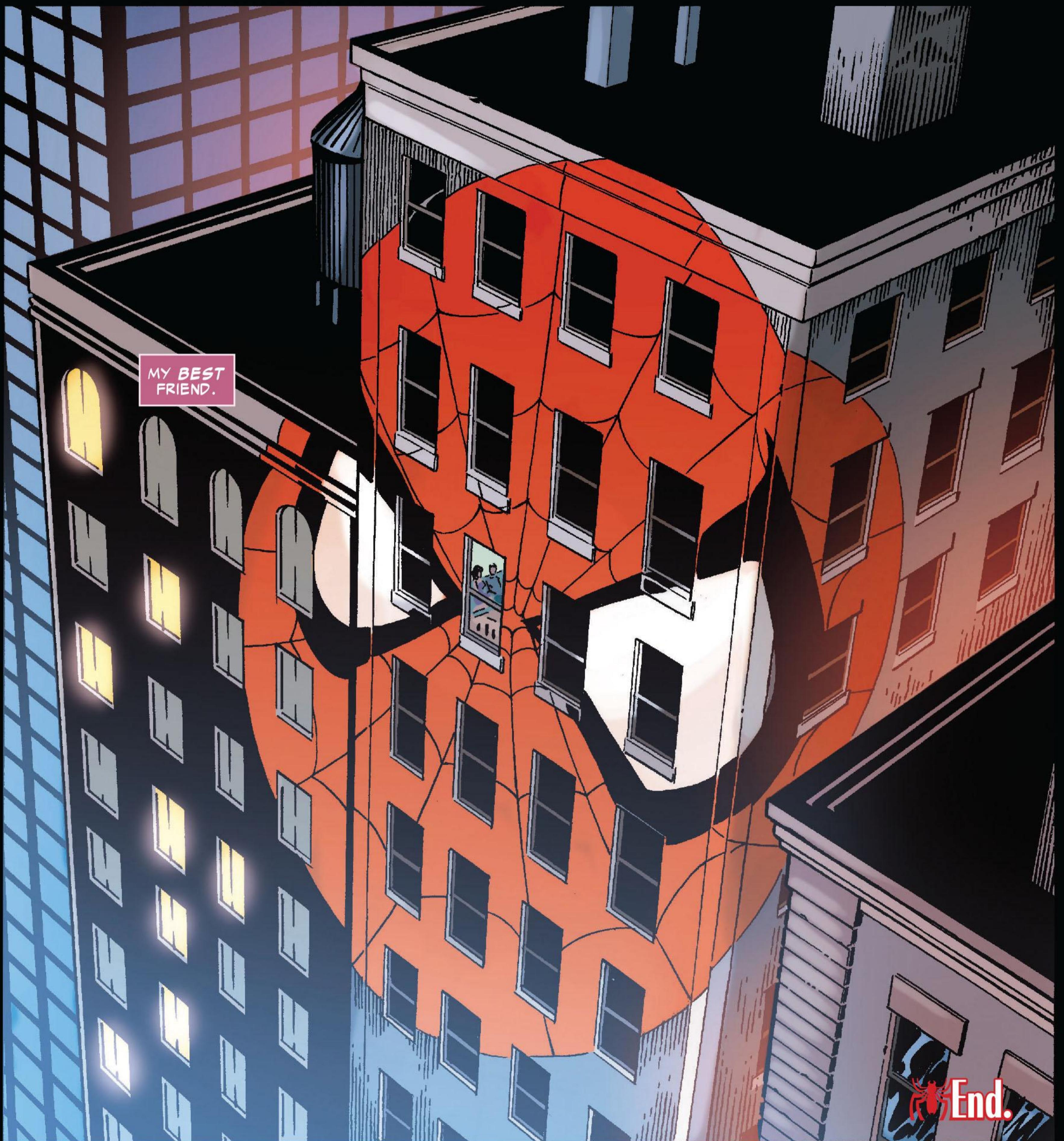












**MARVEL**  
BONUS  
BACK-UP  
FEATURE!

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



HEY, IF  
YOU GET TO  
BE ON MY COVER,  
CAN I BE ON  
THE DOLLAR  
BILL?

Spidey Meets the President!

Zeb Wells – writer  
Todd Nauck – artist  
Frank D'Armata – colorist  
Jared K. Fletcher – letterer  
Tom Brennan - Asst. Editor  
Stephen Wacker - Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
U.S. CAPITOL  
JANUARY 20, 2009

I HAVE TO ADMIT IT WAS PRETTY COOL OF FRONT LINE TO SEND LITTLE OLD PETER PARKER OUT TO COVER THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION.

OF COURSE I HAD TO TAKE THE BUS, WHICH WAS IN NO WAY "COOL."

BUT IT WAS WORTH IT TO SEE HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

CRASH!

UH-OH.

EVERYONE HOLD ON JUST A SECOND...



WE'VE GOT A SITUATION HERE!

WE'VE GOT TWO SITUATIONS HERE... TWO OF THE EXACT SAME SITUATIONS!

HE AIN'T KIDDING... AND WHETHER IT'S SHAPE-CHANGING SKRULLS, MY OLD PAL MYSTERIO, OR JUST AN OUT OF WORK ACTOR WITH BAD DRIVING SKILLS...

...ONE THING'S FOR SURE...

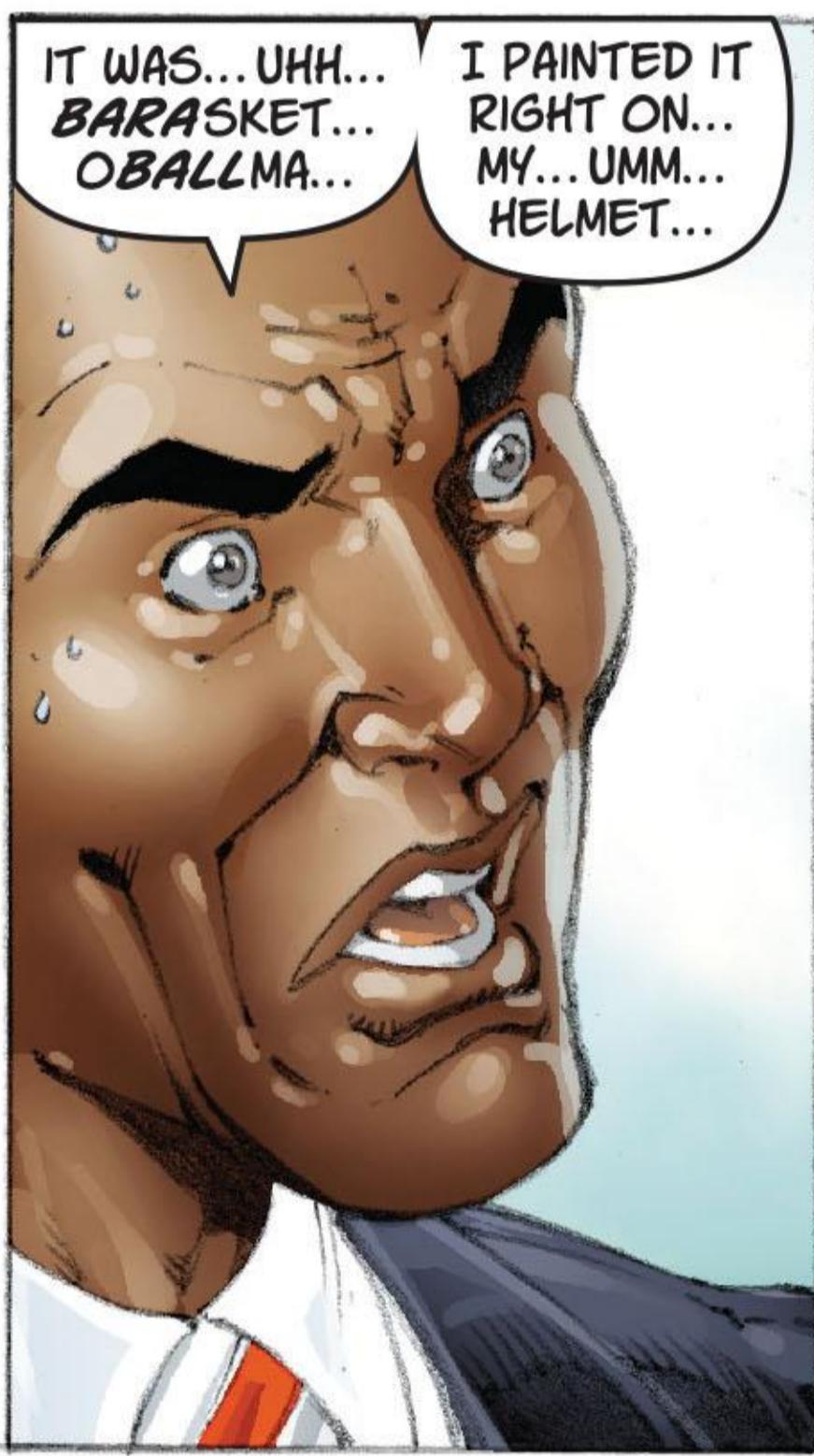
...THE FUTURE PRESIDENT'S GONNA NEED SPIDER-MAN.

HIYA,  
PREZ-ELECT!  
LOVED YA  
IN THE  
DEBATES!

THIS IS OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS! GET THE WALL-CRAWLER OUT OF HERE!

HEY, I'VE GOT A LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH IMPOSTERS, BE THEY CLONES, ROBOTS, OR TOBEY MAGUIRE. I CAN HELP!

EVERYONE RELAX. LET'S HEAR HIM OUT.





LATER...

WELL, THAT WAS UNPLEASANT. I HOPE THIS DOESN'T RUIN THE INAUGURATION FOR YOU.

HONESTLY, I'M MORE UPSET BY THE CHAMELEON'S SHOCKINGLY DEFICIENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING THEN...

...THIS IS YOUR DAY, AFTER ALL, AND I KNOW IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD TO BE SEEN PALLING AROUND WITH ME...

...PLUS I THINK BIDEN'S STILL MAD I CONFUSED HIM FOR THE VULTURE ON THE TRAIN THAT ONE TIME.

HEY, NOT SO FAST.

WHAT IS IT?

I'VE BEEN A BIG FAN OF YOURS FOR A LONG TIME, AND BEFORE YOU GO I JUST WANT TO SAY...

THANKS...

...PARTNER.

THE NEXT THING I KNOW HE'S AT THE PODIUM GETTING SWORN IN LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

AND I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT IF I HADN'T SHOWED UP, HE WOULD HAVE HANDLED THE CHAMELEON ALL BY HIMSELF.

...I, BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA, DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES...

GUESS IT'S TIME TO HEAD BACK TO NEW YORK.

IT LOOKS LIKE WASHINGTON IS IN CAPABLE HANDS.

UH-OH.  
I THINK BIDEN SEES ME.

THE  
END

# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Welcome to 2009, everyone. Ever able super-assistant "Tongue-kissin'" Tom Brennan just woke me from a two-week-long sabbatical into Brevoort's epic beard as I cleared my head, dusted my brain off and basically got through the intellectual detox brought about by having to bring you this highly regarded Marvel Comic you hold in your hands each and every week.

Rest assured, we're back in the saddle with a pretty big year mapped out in front of us and a landscape that's going to change a lot in the next few months. So whether you've been here for a while or are just joining us because of our special backup story guest-star, you're gonna want to hang on tight and reserve your copy of the Amazing Spider-Man every week at your local comic store because if you miss a week...you miss a plot! (see what I did there? That's what we in the biz call "wordplay". Eat your heart out, Gilbert and Sullivan! I am the very model of a modern something-or-other).

Next week starts a 5-part epic that will reveal not only the secret behind the serial killer who has been framing Spidey for the past year, but within we will also finally reveal the identity of that morbidly malevolent man-mongrel known as MENACE! Plus the fates of several of Pete's friends hang in the balance as lives are ripped asunder... perhaps forever!

It all starts in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #584 in seven short days.

Now let's get back to work. Brennan! Poppa's ready to roll here! Bring me my Sham-Wow!, a pumpkin latte, and this week's mail! Let's get to the complainin'!

We received a metric ton of mail on the recent Hammerhead two-parter by Joe Kelly and Chris Bachalo so we're going double-sized on this week's letter column. Seems you folks overwhelmingly approved. Take a look:

Gang,

I absolutely loved this issue. It had it all, super smart rodents, crazy killer clowns, and a stinky stark raving mad homeless lady, ... oh, and Hammerhead was in there too. I really loved the "Scared Straight" scene where Spidey is trying his best to be intimidating, but he kinda blows it instead.

I gotta say I'm glad to see Joe Kelly writing Spider-Man. I discovered Mr. Kelly back when he was on Deadpool and I loved every minute of it then and I am pleased to see him work his magic on Spider-Man.

The artwork for this issue was phenomenal also. Bachalo and Townsend brought this issue to life. All I can say is "Thank Heston" for you guys at the Spidey Braintrust.

Until Spidey and Greta get married, Make Mine Marvel

Jeremy Baird  
Gloversville, NY

Thanks, Jeremy. I'm so happy with the work that Joe and writer-of-this-very-issue Mark Waid have done on their initial arcs, that both have been asked to stick around as part of the writing team for 2009...and both are hard at work on a couple of big stories in the next few months.

As for the wonderful Chris Bachalo, you can see his work later this month in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: EXTRA #2 in a story featuring Anti-Venom. Thanks for writing.

Dear Spidey-Mail,

As a Spider-fan who grew up reading just about every title he was featured in, I'm loving my condensed action-packed Spidey coming at me 3-times a month.

I have to say the thing I'm most enjoying about our new spider-quo is the old rogues gallery coming back. Rather than give us the same old motives, you've managed to give us a re-purposed Green Goblin, Venom, and now Hammerhead! Now, I'm hearing rumblings of the Molten Man? Excelsior!!

Matthew Pearcy  
Via e-mail

Hello there Spidey-Peeps,

I'm sure he doesn't need the praise, but Chris Bachalo is fast becoming a true Spider-Man Visionary for me - right up there with Sal Buscema and the Romita family.

His facially expressive Spidey is in a world of its own. I also think a real shout out is also in order for Spider-newbie Joe Kelly, whose wildly imaginative story has had me both creeped out and chuckling like a clown from the very first page (Can you guys make Greta a regular, pretty please?)

Keep up the good work, gang. Spidey hasn't been this good since...the death of Harry Osborn!

Greg Haines  
Birmingham, UK

Spinners of the Web,

The re-emergence of Hammerhead was nothing less than AWESOME! I have to admit I haven't followed Amazing Spider-Man as much since the conclusion of Brand New Day. I've dabbled more than I've Spidey traced.

However, I loved New Ways to Die, and was equally impressed with the sleek, new, updated, gonna-open-a-can-of-you-know-what-on-Spider-Man version of Hammerhead. Joe Kelly's writing was brilliant and this is the first time that I can ever recall the Italian Horror Master, Dario Argento, being mentioned in a Spider-Man comic or any comic for that matter. Kudos to you sir!

Chris Bachalo's artwork was nothing short of PHENOMENAL and I would love to see him as the regular artist on this book, sometime in the near future. Seeing web-head dislocate Hammerhead's hip was sweet justice and it surprised me as much as Derek Jeter jumping into the stands to make a

diving catch a few years back!

Any chance we could see Mr. Negative make an appearance in other Marvel titles? He's an intriguing character with the potential for Norman Osborn greatness! Anyway, As long as ya'll keep weaving amazing webs, the more issues I'll be caught up in.

Joe Sanders  
Bartlett, TN

Hey Simperin' Steve,

I just finished reading ASM #576. It was awesome.

Then I got to the letters page (pretty much my favorite part of the issue) and I think you made a mistake!

In issue #575, in the letters page, there is a letter by Nate Hartz. In #576, this same letter appeared AGAIN! (though this time the letter was a little bit longer). Well, that was just a little mistake. No-Prize if I'm right???

Please?

Ryan Kozycz, Age 12  
Via e-mail

Ryan, you get extra points for saying the letter column is your favorite part of the issue. Considering this is all extra-curricular on my part, I'll take all the praise I can get. I'm nothing if not megalomaniacal.

You are, of course, 100% right that I accidentally ran the same letter twice. Thanks for catching! At my old job, that would have gone on my permanent record and used as an excuse to get rid of me a few years down the road! Luckily, at Marvel I'm fairly confident my bosses only read Axel Alonso's books.

Anyway, I can't give you a highly coveted 'No-Prize', since those are given for spotting in-story mistakes and coming up with a solution to prove it really wasn't a mistake, BUT to make it up to you, here's your letter again:

Hey Simperin' Steve,

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Please?

Ryan Kozycz, Age 12  
Via e-mail

Wow. Even better the second time.



Next we got a guy who I think is from the Bronx who takes issue with some of our cracks about the New York City borough in #576.

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

Dear Spider-Mail,

I teach high school math in THE BRONX. Every Wednesday I go to my local comic store in THE BRONX. Then I head home to my apartment in THE BRONX to read them. Reading issue #576, I found myself upset in THE BRONX. Ok, I'll stop that, but still... Thanks for the apology at least, though.

Luckily this issue was drawn by Bachalo. There's not much that could ruin the joy of his Spidey art.

Spidey should take some more trips uptown. He spends too much time in Queens anyway. Don't get me started on Queens...

Peter Smith  
THE BRONX

**"Started" on Queens?!? I just don't wanna get STOPPED in Queens!**

Look, I admit we took some cheap shots at the Bronx, but (assuming you're as large as every other guy I've ever encountered from the Bronx) let me just say...It was all Joe Kelly. I was against it the whole time and, in fact, Tom Brennan really edited the issue. I didn't even read it and would have stopped it if I knew what was happening.

Here's my lunch money, my backpack and my Don Mattingly rookie card. Can I go now?

Spidey Guys,

I've been an avid Spider-Man fan since I was a kid. I've read the comics and the letters at the end of them, but never quite feel compelled to write in myself. That was until I read ASM #575/576.

HOLY MOTHER OF ALL THAT IS GOOD! It was like reading comics for the first time! Eyes wide and a cheesy half-open smile on my face. I was 8-years old again, standing in the comic shop with my grandpa. I was laughing out loud and forcing my roommate to look at the artwork. He's not a comic fan, but it won't stop me from trying to convert him.

I know with the weekly deadlines this may never happen, but if it is at all possible, lock Joe Kelly and Chris Bachalo in a room together and force them to crank out Spidey books. PLEASE. I cry at night because I know it won't happen, but I can't help but get my hopes up anyway. I guess all I really want to say is: thanks, keep up the good work, and until I die...

Make Mine Marvel!

Kyle Lemke  
Waukesha, WI

Kyle, if you have time, record yourself crying and send it in. I feel good when others are sad. Hi, Dan Slott!

Dear web-spinners,

I'll spare you the regurgitation of all our doubts (though truth to be told, I'm still not sure you have tied up all the loose ends in this BND), and move on to the praise.

I just finished 576, and it really was a damn good story. I think Bachalo is about

the best artist to have graced this book in just about as long as I have been reading ASM (about twenty years-give or take). His Spider-Man is the perfect mix of gritty graphic and cartoon art, and really tells the story in the pages, leaving the writer more room for quips-which is really how it should work.

My only gripe is that the opening pages of #575 were a little too vivid. I'm all for gritty Spidey reminiscent of the MacFarlane Spider-Man book from the early nineties, but tell Chris to work on his Peter Parker and tone down the volume on the puke aspect. I can't think of a reason why Greta had to be so disgusting!

I have to admit, the last couple story arcs (from New Ways to Die on) have been a pleasure to read. Each page is jam-packed with Spidey action and Parker humor, and I'm not sure how you fit it all in, and manage to keep the book from being crowded. My mask is off to you.

The line about "gathering the cabbage patch crips" was truly funny, so keep 'em coming! And the angel and devil on the shoulder routine got a big chuckle out of me, as well as the Chuck Norris' beard comment!!!

I do have to point out one No-Prize worthy moment in #576. When Spidey returns to consciousness it says hours later, yet his mask is still webbed up. Considering that his webbing should dissolve in about an hour left me wondering if this is some new formula that he's using, or if Brennan has been spending his time smoking cigarettes in the ladies room again (Jokes on you, pal! You're only half-right. Brennan doesn't smoke. - Steve) Either way, with what the Marvel U. is becoming these days, I'll believe anything.

Keep up the great work. Sorry for any backhanded compliments, but you did it to yourselves when you opened the BND can of worms...

Until you actually kill Aunt May, make mine Spidey!

Wesley McEllen  
New Jersey

**Wow, first the Bronx and now New Jersey. Those are two places where it's still 1977 as far as I'm concerned. I wonder which of you has the bigger hair and tightest stone-washed jeans. Hey, Brooklyn, start writing in!**

Anyway, again no "No-Prize" for you. Spidey's webbing does indeed lose its integrity and begin dissolving after about an hour, but it still will often leave a residue behind, much like Silly String if you leave it out. So that's what you saw on Spidey as he woke up. As he started to move it fell off of him like dust.

Now where's my No-Prize!!

Mr. Wacker,

I just got done reading Amazing Spider-Man #576, and I gotta say, I thoroughly enjoyed this two-part story with Hammerhead. Joe Kelly did an awesome

job turning Hammerhead into a villain to be feared.

Got one question, however...are we gonna see any more of Norah Winters? In only two appearances, she's easily become one of the best new supporting characters in Amazing Spider-Man. I'd love to see more of her.

Thomas Gillock  
Via e-mail

**Thomas, my friend, "Mr. Wacker" is my father! Please call me "PROFESSOR Stephen Wacker".**

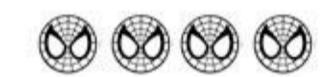
**Yes, Norah will be back.**

Dear Professor Stephen Wacker,

Thanks a lot for taking a two-bit gimmick villain like Hammerhead and turning him into a top notch villain. He is no longer a guy that runs around talking like a bad mob movie.

Now he's a brutal villain that will do what needs to be done. Thanks again and keep up the great work.

Andrew Bejarano  
Las Cruces, New Mexico



**That's it for another week. Thanks to everyone for writing in and an EXTRA special Spidey thanks to Zeb Wells, Todd Nauck, Phil Jimenez, Frank D'Armata, Chris Chuckry and Jared Fletcher for stepping in extremely quickly to put together this issue's backup story with Spidey meeting the United States President-Elect.**

**The story was something we decided to do about a week before the book went to press when we read an article in the British newspaper The Telegraph that President Obama was a long-time Spider-Man fan. It was a real blast and we certainly wish the new guy luck.**

**And Mister President, if you're reading this, don't forget that A) I'm a Professor who could easily be nominated for a prestigious panel or ambassadorship and B) highly rated television pundit Stephen Colbert has an autographed Spider-Man comic waiting for you on his set if you have time to stop by!**

**Or you can just swing by the Marvel offices and I'll make Brennan read comics to you.**

**Whatever you decide thanks for readin' and we'll see all of you next week for the beginning of something big by Marc Guggenheim and John Romita, Jr. (two guys who really deserve to be investigated by Congress!).**

**Viva Templar!  
Simperin' Steve  
12/18/08**

**Cover by John Romita Sr. and Antonio Fabela.**

**Variant Cover by Phil Jimenez and Chris Chuckry.**

# NEXT ISSUE:



ALL SECRETS ARE REVEALED!

By Guggenheim, Romita, Janson and White!

# AGENTS OF ATLAS

JEFF PARKER  
CARLO PAGULAYAN



**WORLD'S GREATEST CRIMINALS**

# AGENTS OF ATLAS



During a time of national crisis, Special Agent Jimmy Woo assembled a team of heroes to rescue the President from an evil mastermind. For a brief time the fate of the free world was in the hands of a Goddess, a Robot, a Spaceman, a Gorilla and a Mermaid. Then, when they were no longer needed, they disbanded, never thinking their combined forces would be needed again.

Fifty years later, after being healed and de-aged via alien technology, Jimmy and his former mates band together to stop the evil DARK REIGN that Norman Osborn has ushered in with his villainous cohorts that seeks to take over the world! But to do so, they must pose as villains themselves. Although the world may not know it, Earth is once again in need of the

**AGENTS OF ATLAS!**



# JIMMY WOO

- Special Agent Jimmy Woo was the hippest FBI officer to take on the menace known as the Yellow Claw.
- Little did he know that Claw was grooming him to take his place as ruler of the secret order of Genghis Khan.
- Severely burned by dragon's fire in the present day, Jimmy was eventually restored to his physical state from 1958.
- Still a natural leader, Jimmy accepted control of the empire now known as the Atlas Foundation to use its vast resources to help the world.
- He now finds it best to keep up the appearance of a global criminal network to get close to the powers that be during the Dark Reign.



# GORILLA-MAN

- Ken Hale was a soldier-of-fortune whose love of life put him on a quest for immortality.
- When he was forced to kill the creature known as the "Gorilla-Man," Hale became a powerful and immortal ape.
- Hale joined Woo's FBI team and later worked for S.H.I.E.L.D.'s special creature version of the Howling Commandos.
- He betrayed S.H.I.E.L.D. and used his security clearance to break out the dying Jimmy Woo.
- Now referred to as General Hale by minions of the Atlas Empire.



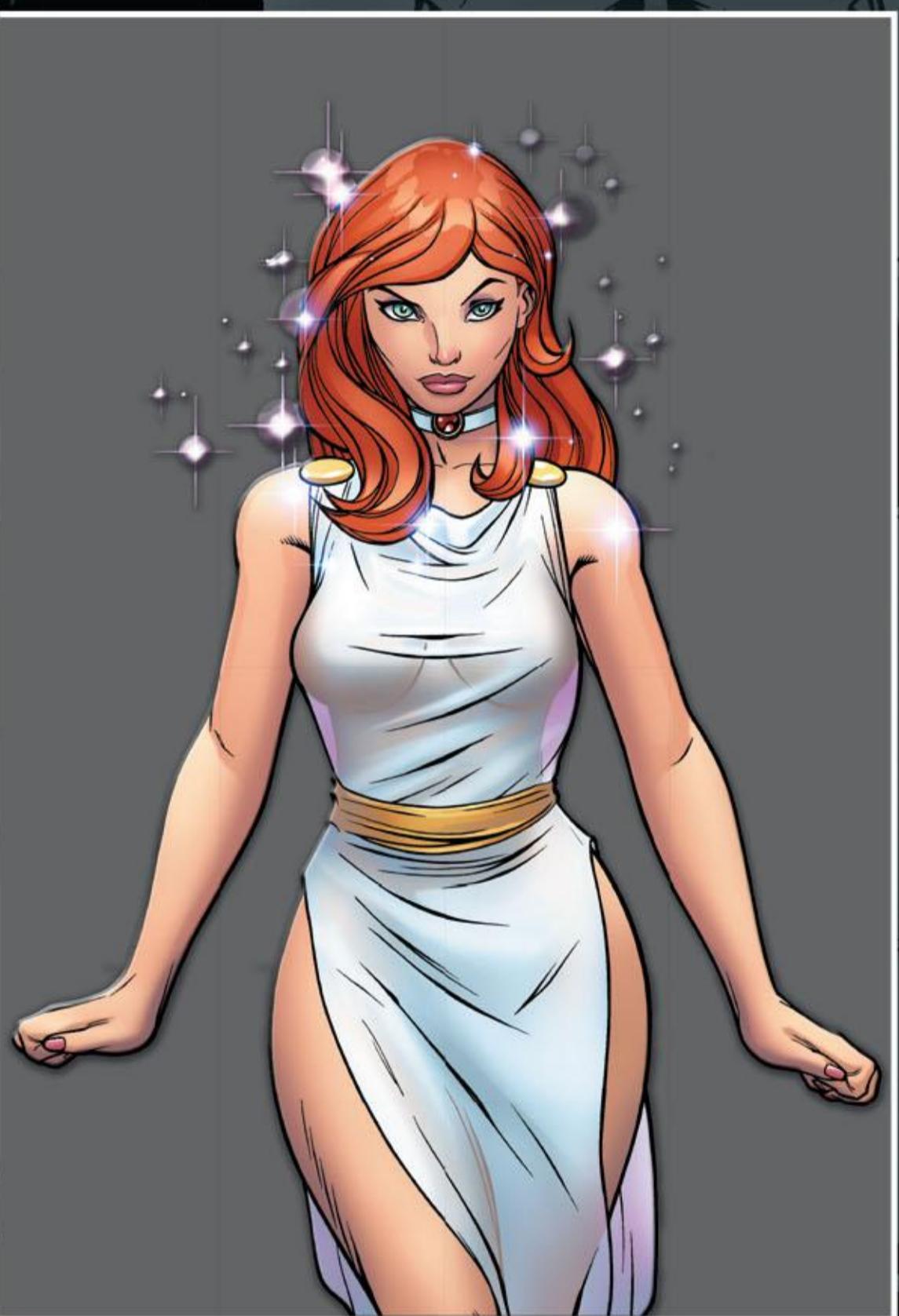
# NAMORA

- As the only Human-Atlantean hybrid other than her cousin The Submariner, Princess Aquaria Neptuna was a powerful heroine.
- Poisoned and suspended in ice, Namora lay at the bottom of the Arctic Ocean for decades until M-11 calculated that she was still alive.
- The Agents brought her back and she pledged eternal loyalty to the team.
- Sadly, she soon learned of the death of her daughter in the events that began the super hero Civil War.
- She has found some solace recently in the arms of another legendary hero, Hercules.



# MARVEL BOY

- Bob Grayson was originally code-named Marvel Boy.
- Bob spent the last fifty years in a completely alien environment beneath the planet Uranus.
- He returned to Earth only when his old friend Jimmy Woo was in dire need.
- Bob looks human, but internally and cerebrally, he's extra-terrestrial.
- With his alien brain and Eternals-technology headband, Bob can drastically alter the information your mind receives.



# VENUS

- Believed herself to be the Greco-Roman goddess of love, but that was a false history she made for herself.
- She was one of the Sirens of ancient legend, cursed with an individual spirit so that she could fathom the horrors she was responsible for.
- Venus' song can put anyone with hearing into a state of amorous bliss, completely under her control.
- Conversely, if she cries in sadness, it sends anyone within into bleakest despair.



# M-11

- The 11th model of the Menacer Series of killer robots developed by the Atlas Foundation.
- Thanks to a sacrifice by his inventor, M-11 has a unique personality, hence the nickname The Human Robot.
- He has a potent Death Ray and Electro-hands.
- M-11 rarely speaks, but it's important to realize that he is always thinking.
- As a result, his actions are often an enigma, but later reveal to be exceedingly consistent.



# AGENTS OF ATLAS

FEBRUARY

2009

ARTHUR  
ADAMS  
10-4-2008