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SO, WHAT'S MY STORY?
IT GOES A LITTLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS: BOY MEETS RADIOACTIVE SPIDER. SPIDER BITES BOY.

BOY GETS AMAZING SPIDER-LIKE POWERS.
AND WHAT DID LI'L PETER PARKER, YOURS TRULY, DO WITH THIS GIFT?
RIGHT WRONGS? FIGHT CRIME? PROTECT THE INNOCENT? NAHHH...

I USED IT TO BECOME SPIDER-MAN, TV'S OVERNIGHT SENSATION!
SO I WAS LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE. BIG DEAL. THEY WERE MY POWERS.

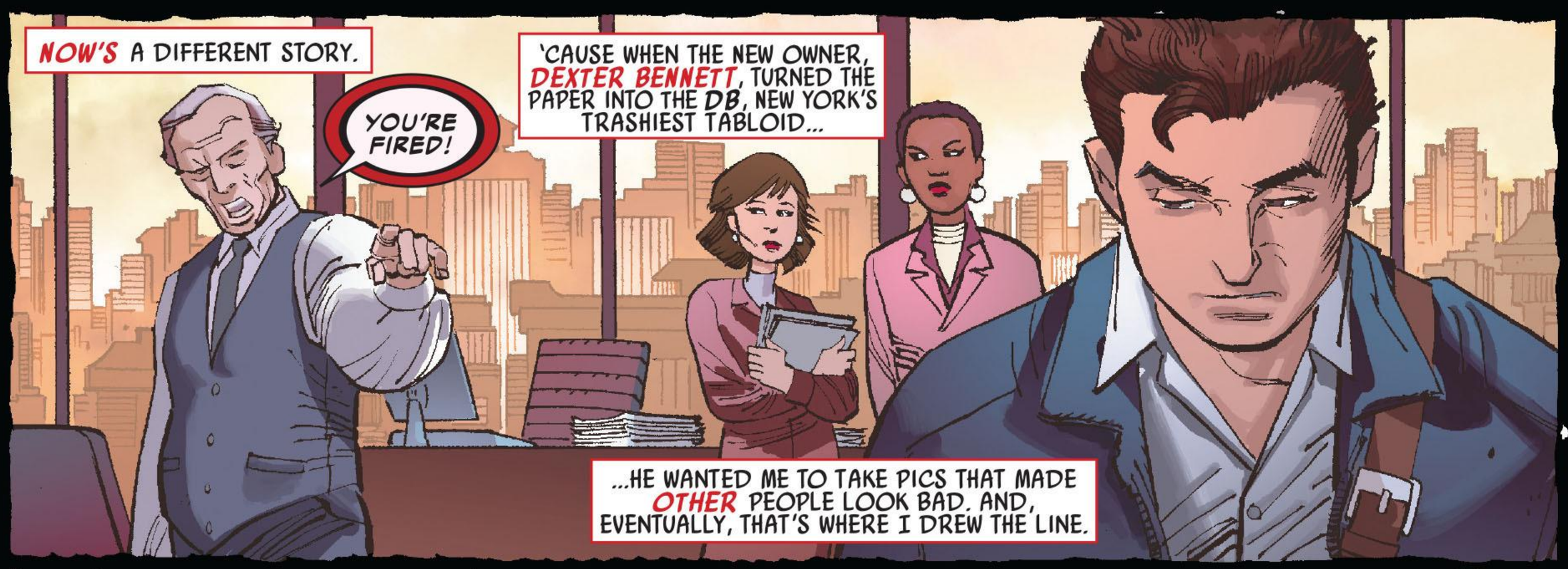
THAT THIEF! YOU LET HIM GET AWAY! WHY DIDN'T YOU--?
NOT MY PROBLEM, OLD-TIMER.
THAT MADE ME BETTER THAN EVERYBODY, RIGHT?

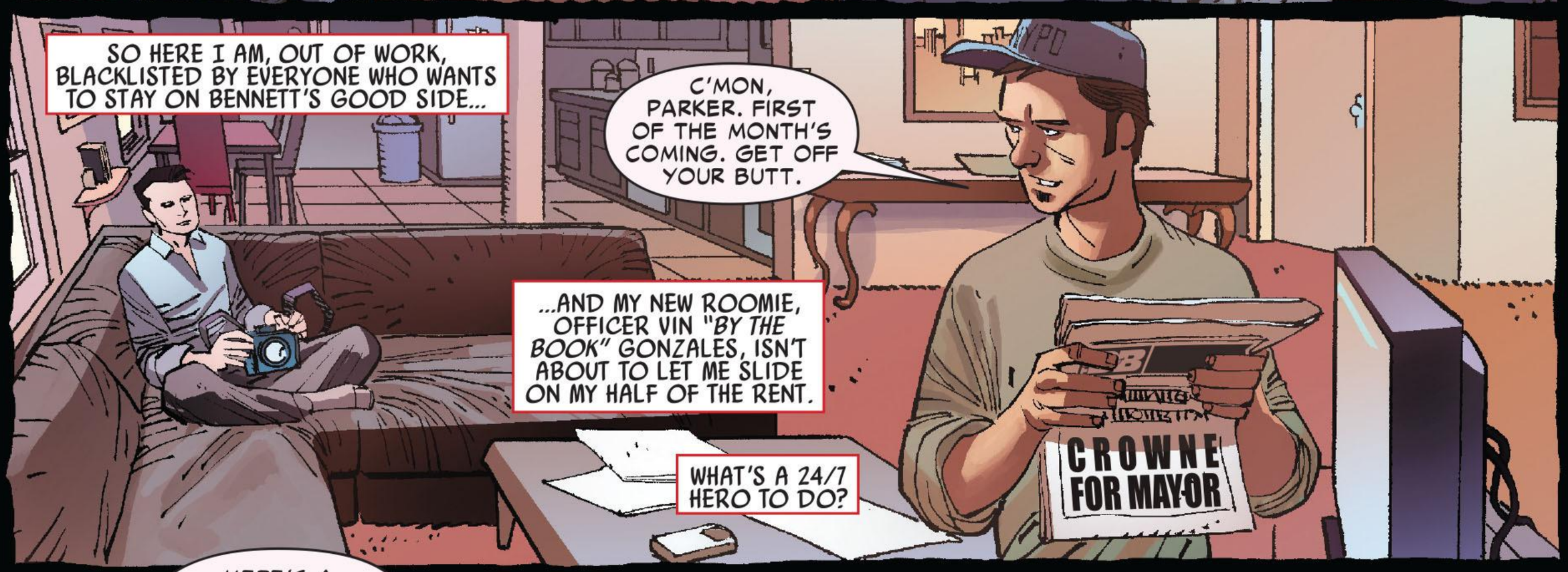
WRONG. NOT LONG AFTER...
...MY UNCLE BEN, A MAN WHO WAS LIKE A FATHER TO ME, WAS SHOT AND KILLED--BY THAT SAME THIEF!
THE SAME ONE I COULD'VE TRIPPED, HELD ONTO, OR STOPPED A HUNDRED DIFFERENT WAYS...

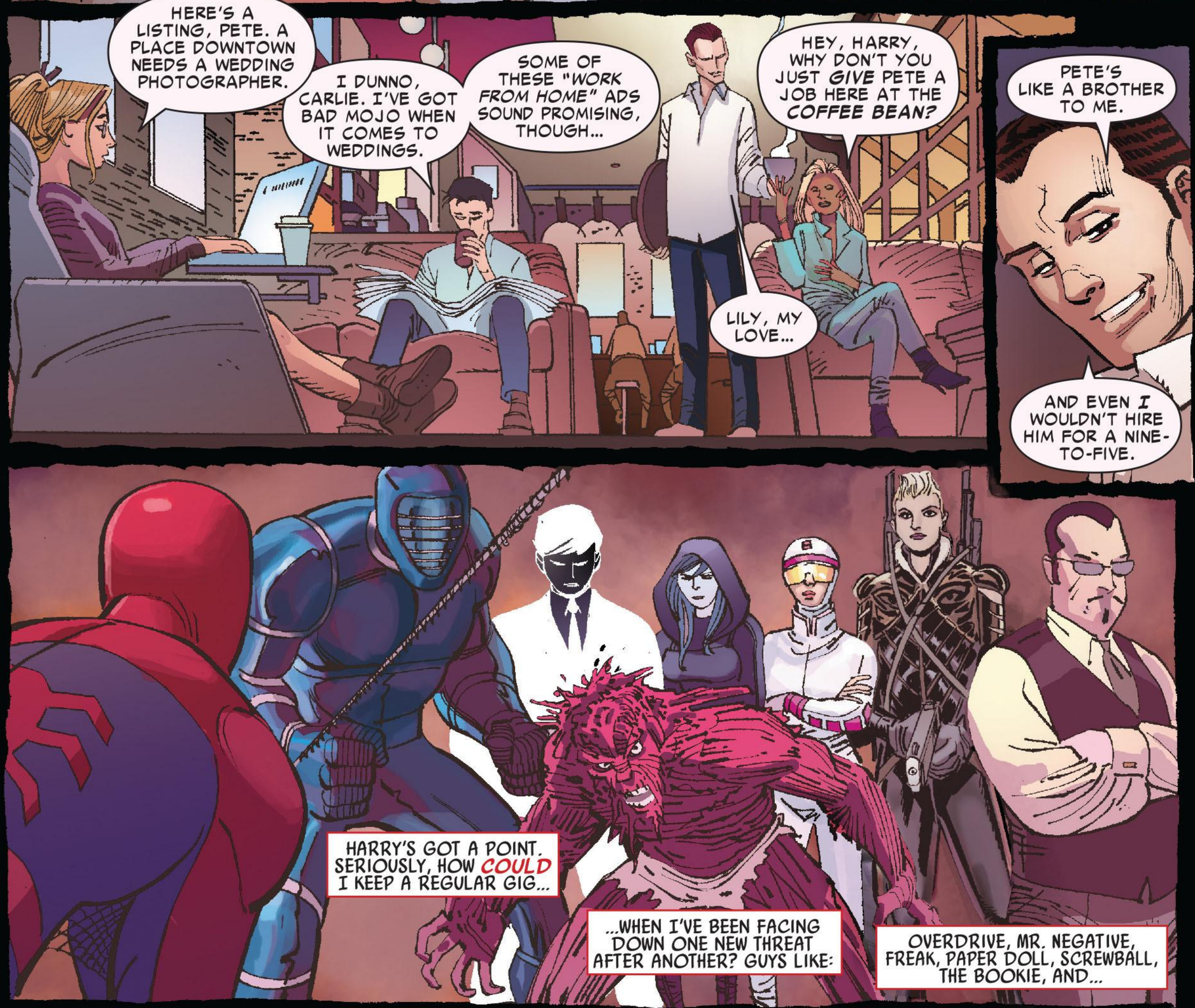
...LIKE AN EVENTUAL SPIDER-POWERED PUNCH TO THE JAW. BUT THAT WAS TOO LITTLE TOO LATE.
I'LL NEVER MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN GREAT POWER, BUT WITH IT THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

THAT MEANS WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, MY LIFE AS PETER *ALWAYS* HAS TO TAKE A BACKSEAT...

...TO MY SPIDER-SIDE. AND WITH ALL OF THE BAD GUYS I'VE PICKED UP OVER THE YEARS...


NOW'S A DIFFERENT STORY.
YOU'RE FIRED!
'CAUSE WHEN THE NEW OWNER, DEXTER BENNETT, TURNED THE PAPER INTO THE DB, NEW YORK'S TRASHIEST TABLOID...
...HE WANTED ME TO TAKE PICS THAT MADE OTHER PEOPLE LOOK BAD. AND, EVENTUALLY, THAT'S WHERE I DREW THE LINE.


SO HERE I AM, OUT OF WORK, BLACKLISTED BY EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO STAY ON BENNETT'S GOOD SIDE...
C'MON, PARKER. FIRST OF THE MONTH'S COMING. GET OFF YOUR BUTT.
...AND MY NEW ROOMIE, OFFICER VIN "BY THE BOOK" GONZALES, ISN'T ABOUT TO LET ME SLIDE ON MY HALF OF THE RENT.
WHAT'S A 24/7 HERO TO DO?
CROWNE FOR MAYOR


HERE'S A LISTING, PETE. A PLACE DOWNTOWN NEEDS A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER.
I DUNNO, CARLIE. I'VE GOT BAD MOJO WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDINGS.
SOME OF THESE "WORK FROM HOME" ADS SOUND PROMISING, THOUGH...
HEY, HARRY, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE PETE A JOB HERE AT THE COFFEE BEAN?
LILY, MY LOVE...
PETE'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME.
AND EVEN I WOULDN'T HIRE HIM FOR A NINE-TO-FIVE.
HARRY'S GOT A POINT. SERIOUSLY, HOW COULD I KEEP A REGULAR GIG...
...WHEN I'VE BEEN FACING DOWN ONE NEW THREAT AFTER ANOTHER? GUYS LIKE:
OVERDRIVE, MR. NEGATIVE, FREAK, PAPER DOLL, SCREWBALL, THE BOOKIE, AND...

...OH, YEAH, CAN'T FORGET CHUCKLES HERE.

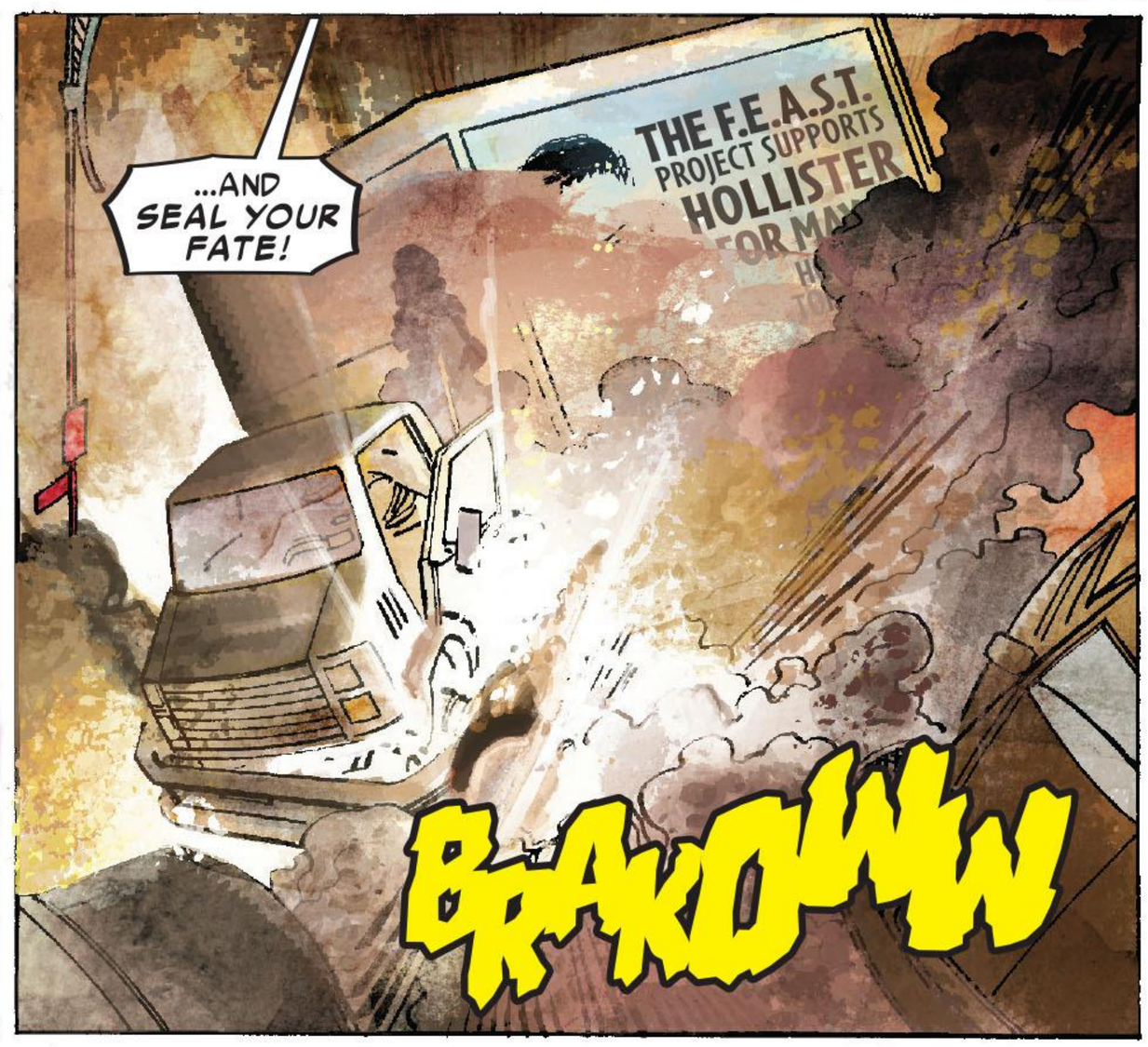
OR, AS HE LIKES TO CALL HIMSELF...

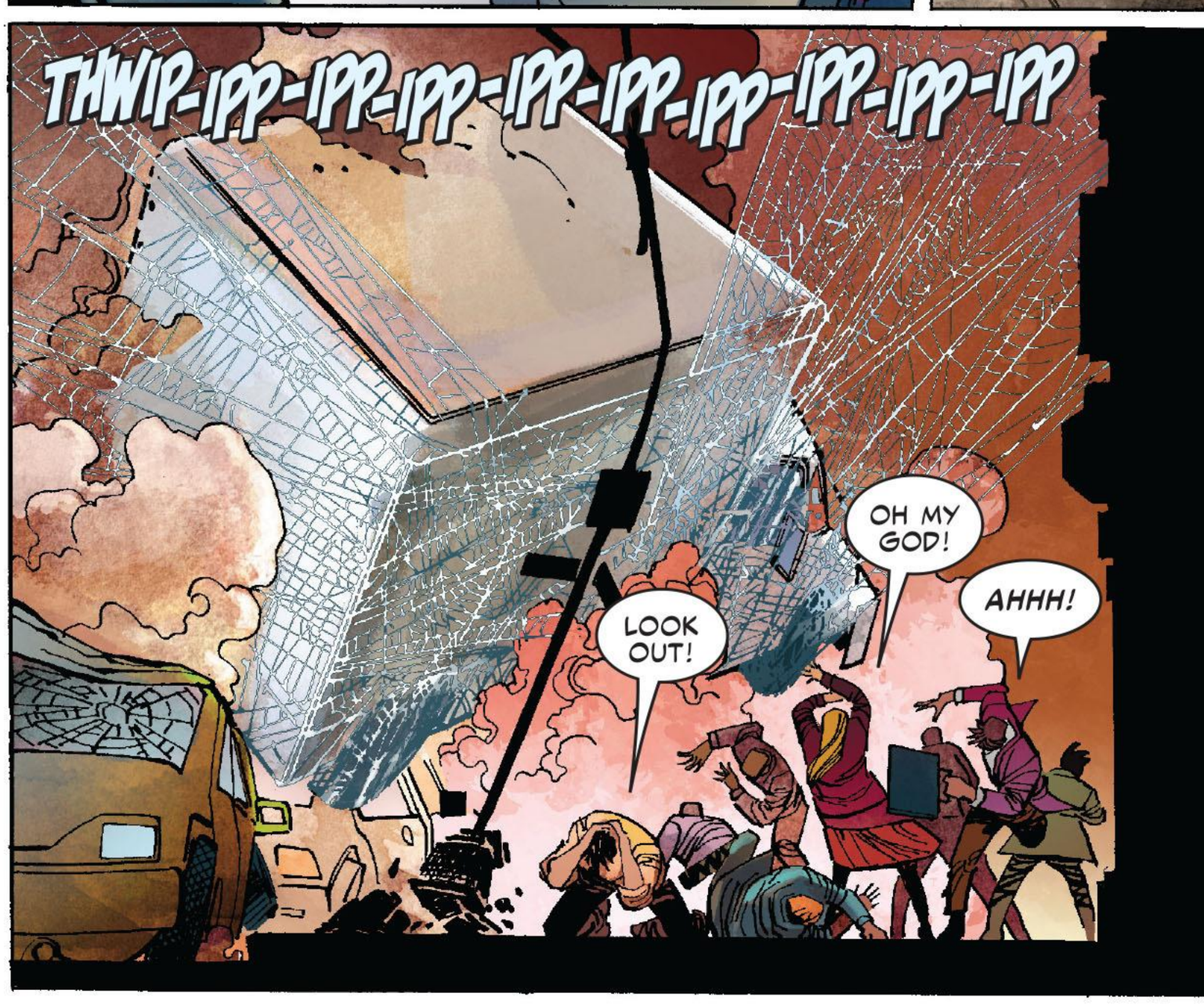
MENACE IS BACK, MANHATTAN!

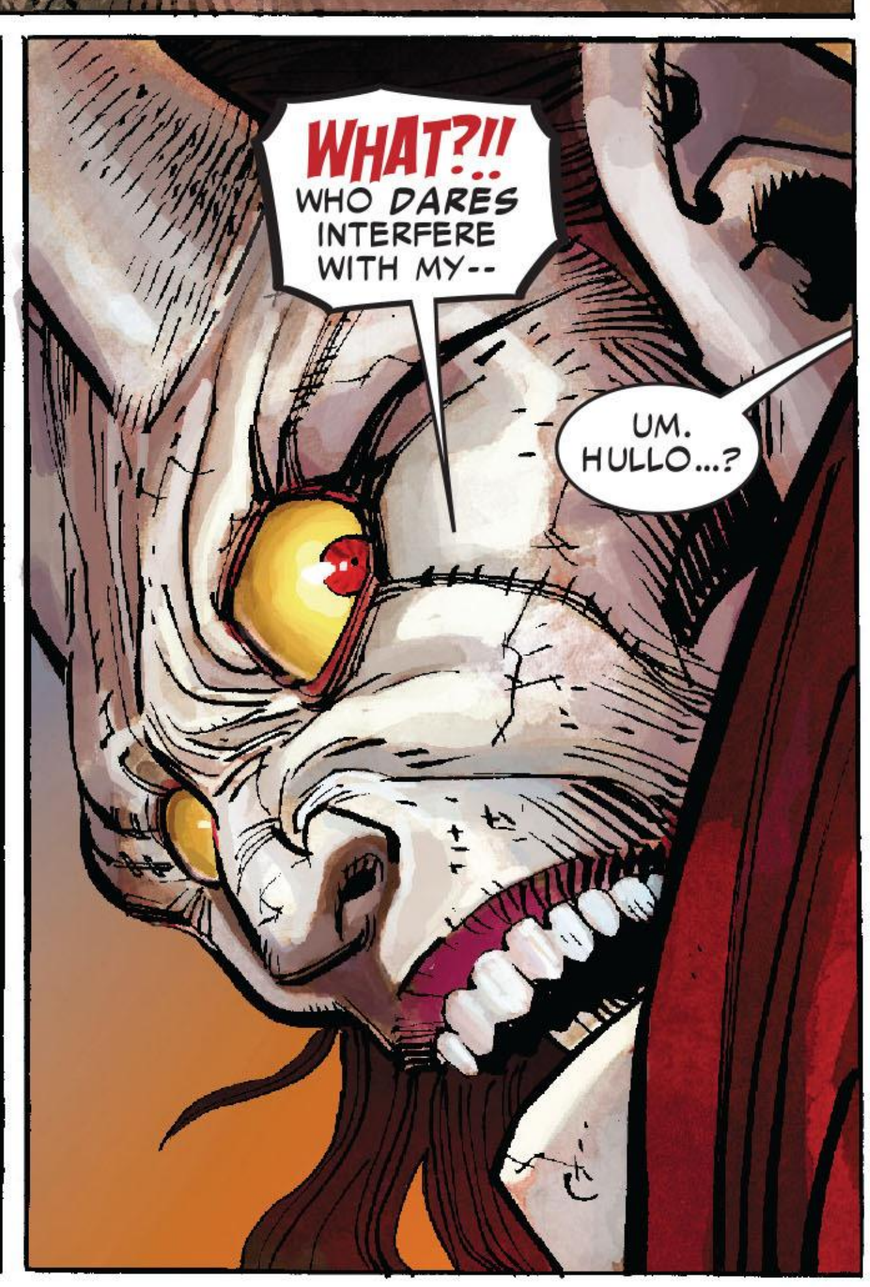
BACK WITH A NEW CAMPAIGN OF TERROR!

POOM

POOM

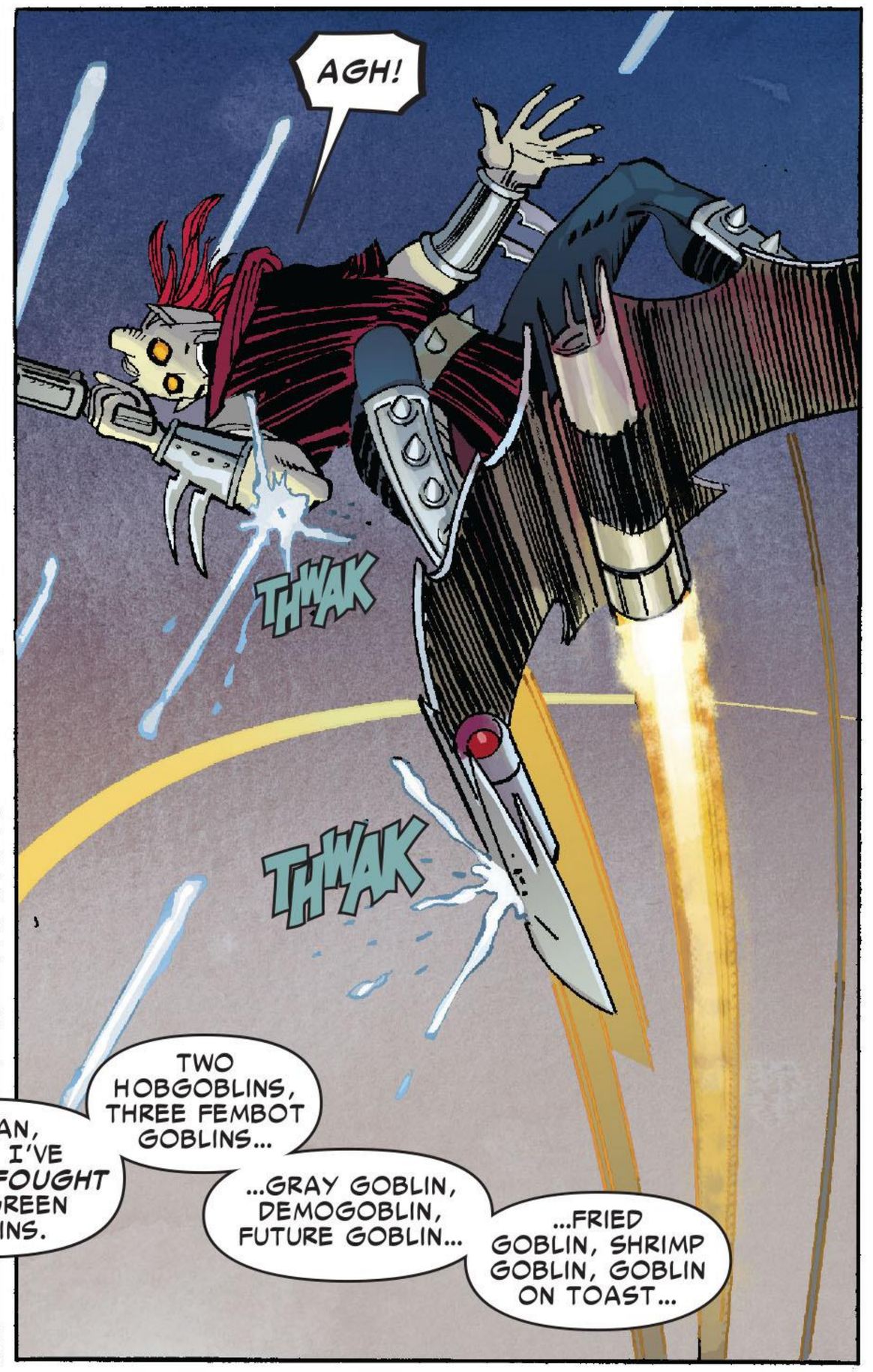






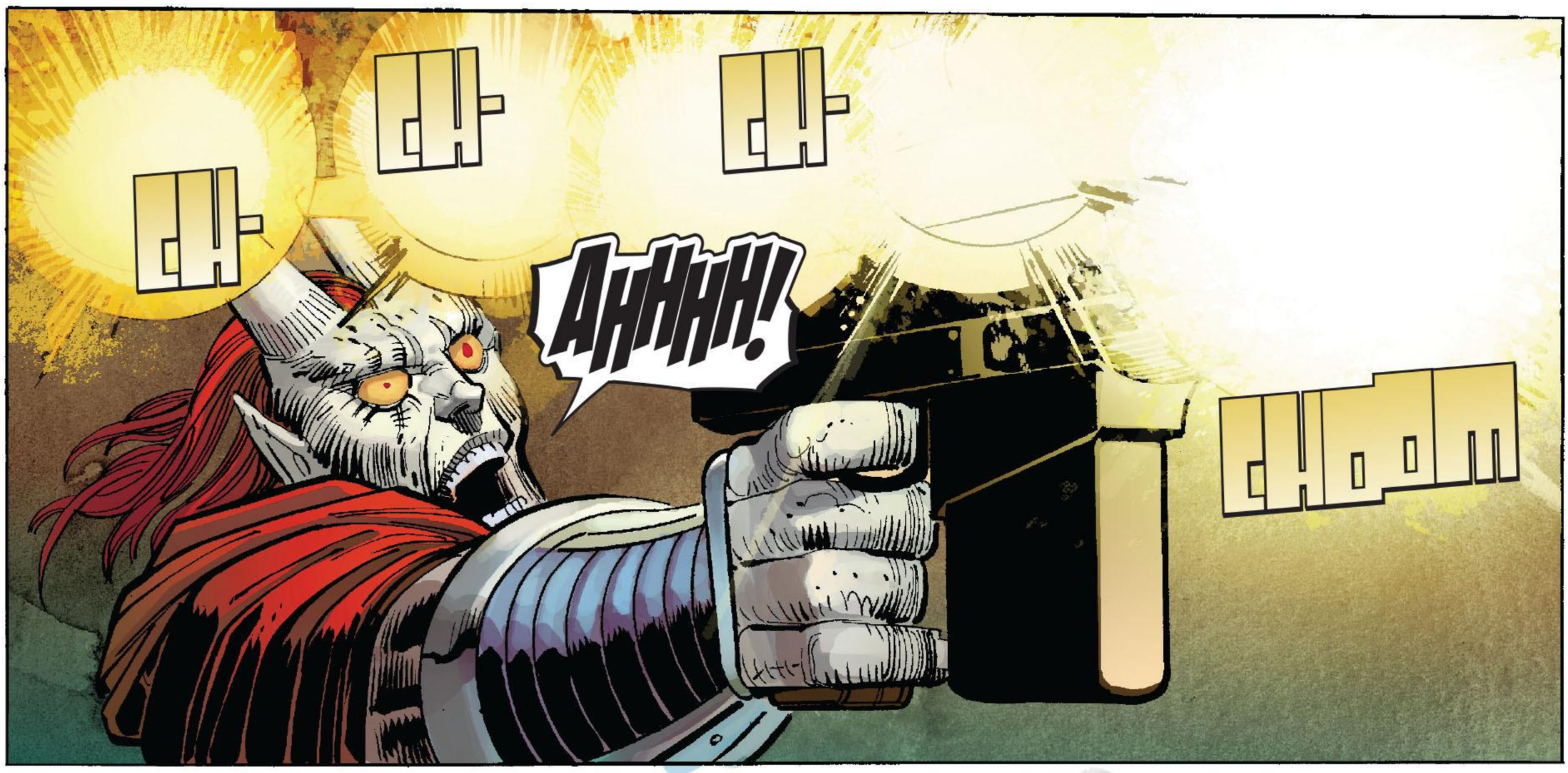
GIANT SPIDER-WEB? WHO DO YOU THINK, EINSTEIN?!
SEE? THIS'S WHY THEY KEEP TALKING ABOUT A "NO VILLAIN LEFT BEHIND" PROGRAM.
KTAM
MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS:
NEW WAYS TO DIE
PART ONE: BACK WITH VENGEANCE
GO ON AND ACT THE FOOL, SPIDER-MAN. THAT'S ALL YOU ARE TO ME, ANOTHER FOOL...
...WHO WILL FALL BEFORE MENACE!
DAN SLOT WRITER
JOHN ROMITA JR. PENCILS
KLAUS JANSON INKS
DEAN WHITE COLORS
VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS
TOM BRENNAN ASST. EDITOR
STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST

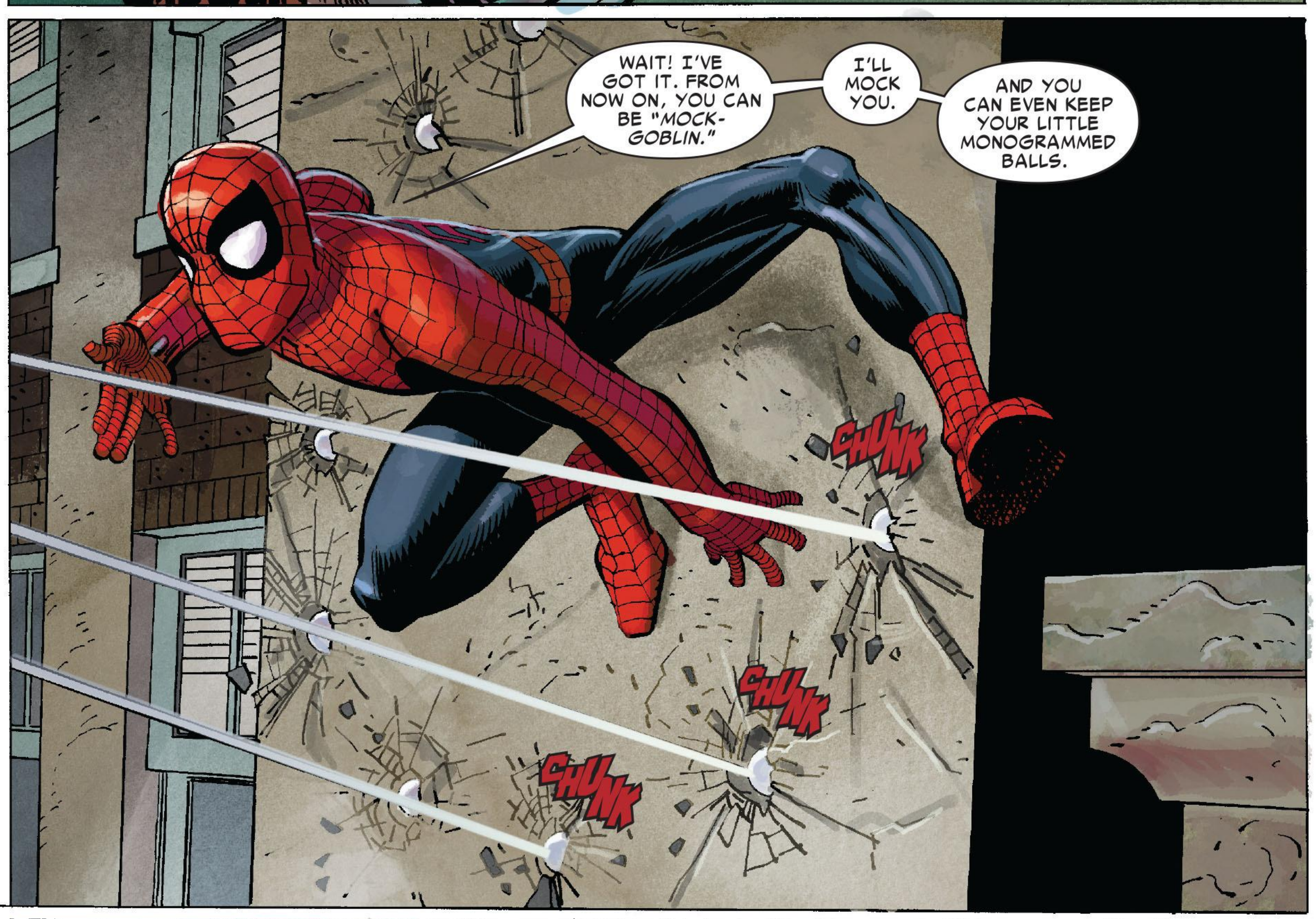
AGAIN WITH THE NAME. "MENACE"? LET'S BE HONEST HERE.
THWOP
THWOP
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER GOBLIN, AREN'T YOU? AND THAT'S GETTING KINDA OLD.
I MEAN, C'MON. I'VE ALREADY FOUGHT FOUR GREEN GOBLINS.


AGH!
THWAK
THWAK
TWO HOBGOBLINS, THREE FEMBOT GOBLINS...
...GRAY GOBLIN, DEMOGOBLIN, FUTURE GOBLIN...
...FRIED GOBLIN, SHRIMP GOBLIN, GOBLIN ON TOAST...

CHOOM
SHUT UP!!

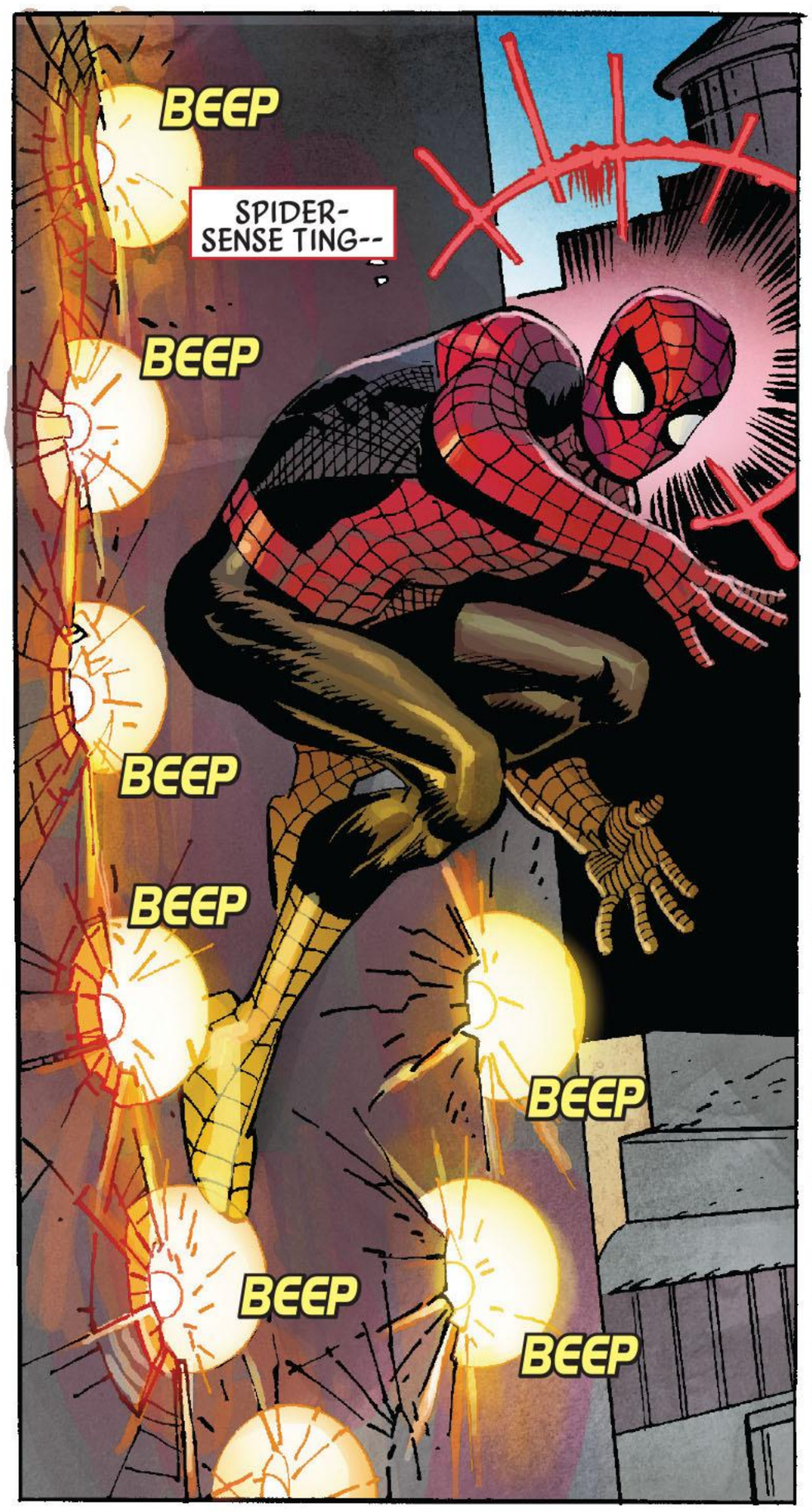
CHUNK
AWW! A LITTLE "M"!
YOU'VE PERSONALIZED YOUR STUFF. HOW CUTE.


CH-
CH-
CH-
AHHHH!
CHOOM


WAIT! I'VE GOT IT. FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN BE "MOCK-GOBLIN."
I'LL MOCK YOU.
AND YOU CAN EVEN KEEP YOUR LITTLE MONOGRAMMED BALLS.
CHUNK
CHUNK
CHUNK

HA! I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.

NOT WHEN YOU'RE SO CLOSE TO THEM.
KLIK


BEEP
SPIDER-SENSE TING--
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

KTOOM

JUMPED AS FAR AS I COULD.
BLAST RANGE TOO GREAT.
CAN FEEL THE WHOLE WALL COMING DOWN.

HOPE EVERYONE BELOW IS CLEAR OF THE--
RUNGHH

HYAAAHH!

OW! OW! OW! I THINK I PULLED SOMETHING.

THAT'S IT. THAT'S EVERYTHING I GOT. EVER WONDER WHAT "PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER" MEANS?

TODAY IT MEANS THE SIDE OF A BUILDING. CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? THAT'S *MYTHIC*. THAT'S THE STUFF OF LEGENDS. THAT'S--

KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!

BUT HE LOOKS HURT--

DON'T YOU READ THE PAPER? HE'S A SERIAL KILLER!

--PAR FOR THE COURSE. HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR CHEERS AND CURTAIN CALLS.

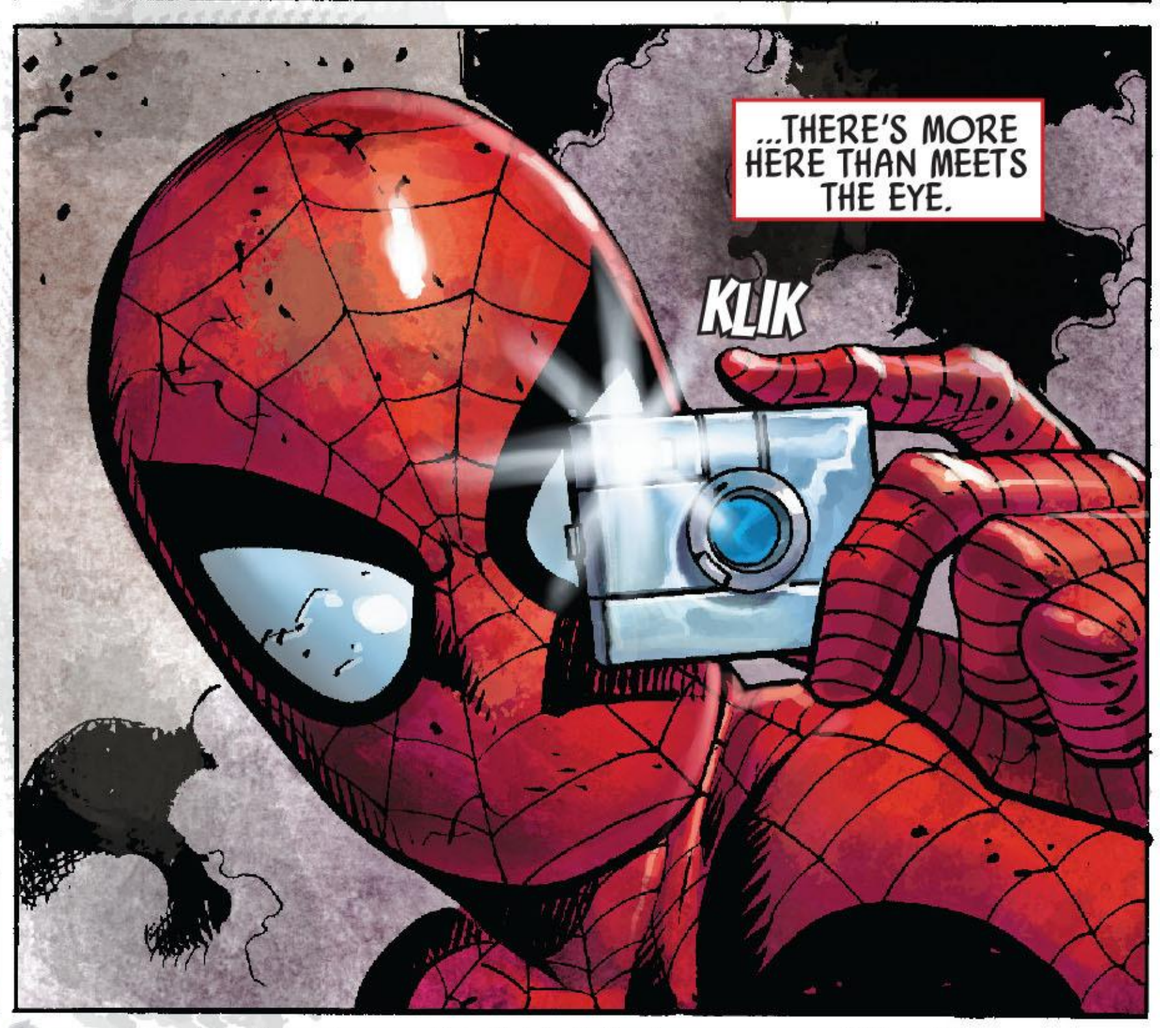
I DO THIS BECAUSE I *HAVE* TO. BECAUSE THAT'S THE MAN I CHOOSE TO BE. THE GUY WHO LOOKS OUT FOR--

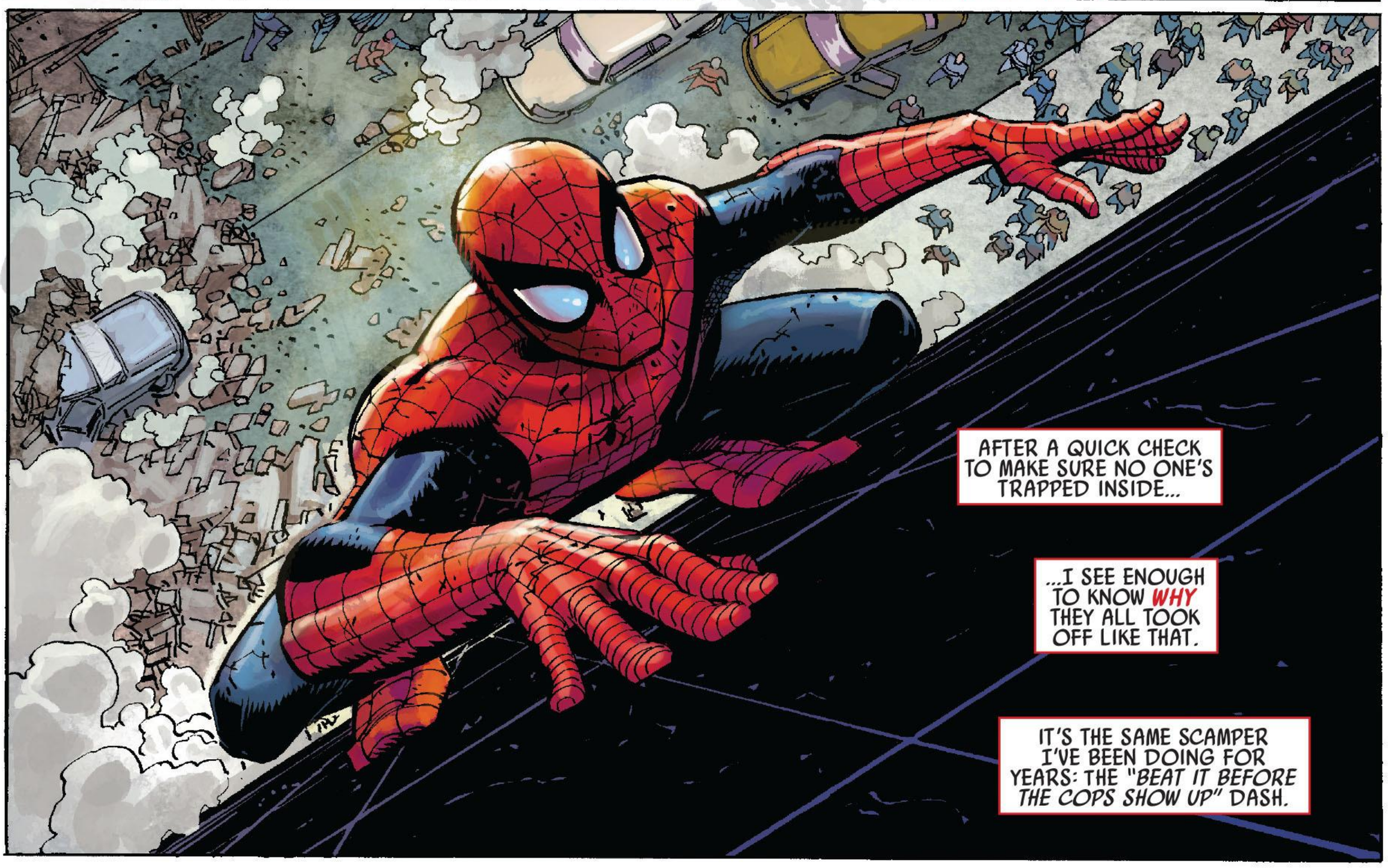
LOOK! OVER THERE!

WHAT? WAVE AFTER WAVE OF PEOPLE POURING OUT...
<RUN!>
<HURRY!>

...AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THEY'RE MORE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SEEN...
...THAN THEY ARE OF THE REST OF THAT BUILDING COMING DOWN.
<PLEASE, MEI-LI. WE MUST STAY TOGETHER!>

DON'T NEED SPIDER-SENSE TO TELL ME...


...THERE'S MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE.
KLIK


AFTER A QUICK CHECK TO MAKE SURE NO ONE'S TRAPPED INSIDE...
...I SEE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHY THEY ALL TOOK OFF LIKE THAT.
IT'S THE SAME SCAMPER I'VE BEEN DOING FOR YEARS: THE "BEAT IT BEFORE THE COPS SHOW UP" DASH.

BREEP BREEP
PARKER? HEY, PETE. WHAT'S UP?
COULD USE SOME ADVICE--AND MAYBE A FAVOR--FROM MY BUSINESS-SAVVY BEST FRIEND...

AND, HARRY, THE CLOCK'S TICKING.
OKAY. SHOOT.
I STUMBLED ONTO A NEWS STORY TODAY. A BIG ONE. AND I TOOK SOME PICS OF IT. PULITZER-WORTHY STUFF.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
DEXTER BENNETT. HE'S GOT ME BLACKLISTED AT EVERY PAPER IN TOWN. SO I WAS WONDERING...
IF ANY OF THE KIDS YOU HAVE WORKING AT THE COFFEE BEAN COULD USE SOME EXTRA CASH...
...MAYBE THEY COULD FRONT FOR ME, SELL THE PICTURES, AND I COULD GIVE 'EM A CUT...

WHY, PETER PARKER! I'M SHOCKED...
...THAT MY STRAIGHT-LACED PAL WOULD SUGGEST SOMETHING SO...DEVIOUS.
REALLY, NOW? A 'SECRET IDENTITY'? YOU'RE NOT THINKING THIS THROUGH.

ALL RIGHT, MR. O. ENLIGHTEN ME.

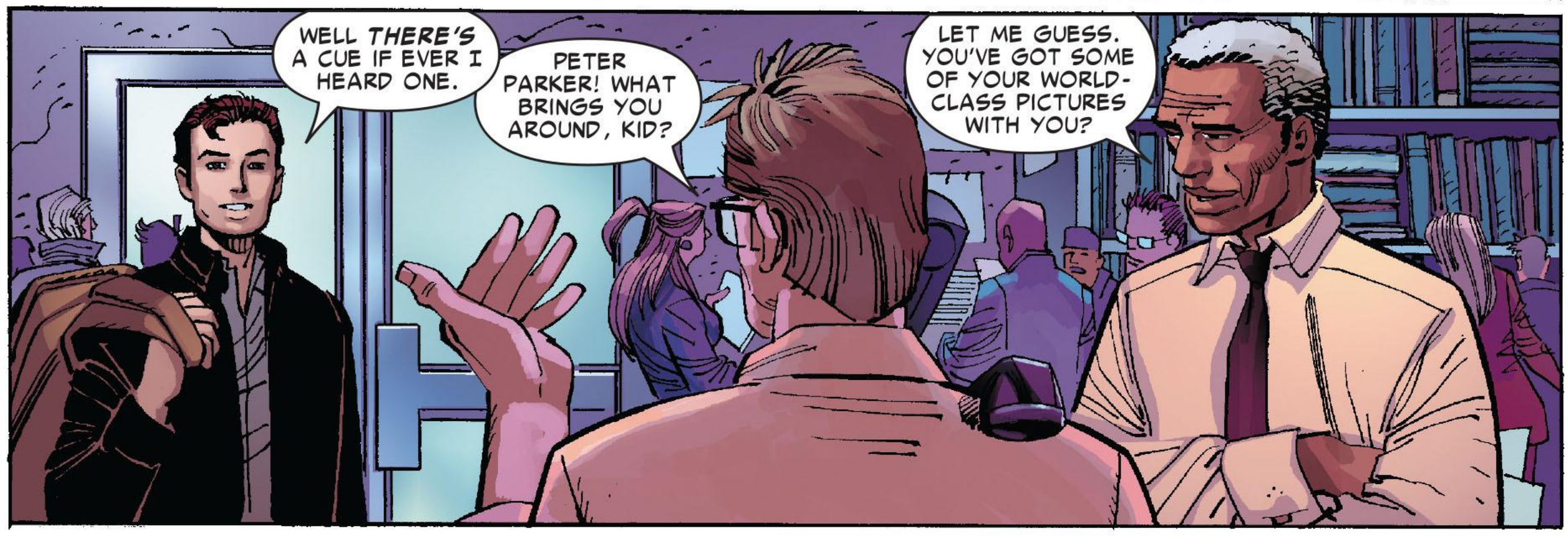
IF BENNETT'S YOUR ENEMY...
...USE HIS ENEMIES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
PLAY THEM OFF OF EACH OTHER.

SURELY THERE'S SOME PAPER OUT THERE THAT'D RUN YOUR PICTURES JUST TO SPITE HIM.
HAROLD THEOPOLIS OSBORN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN.

BEN! THE SERVER'S DOWN!
NO, NO, NO! RUN IT AS IS!
CHIEF, WHAT'S OUR LEAD? NURSES' STRIKE OR SANITATION KICKBACKS?
KILL THE FIRST ONE. GO WITH THE SECOND ONE. WHAT?! NO, I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!
The Offices Of Front Line.
BEN URICH'S "LITTLE PAPER THAT COULD."

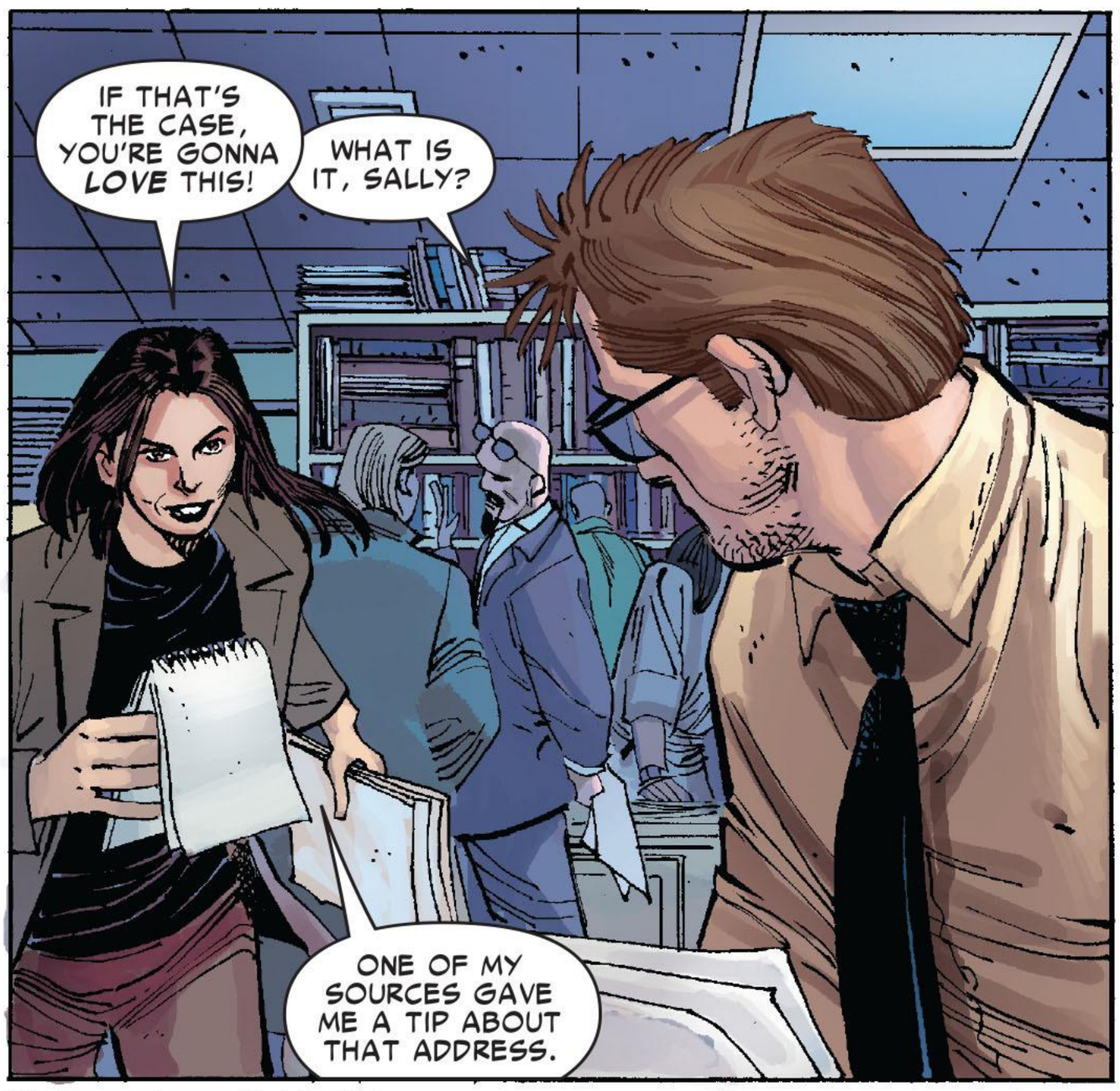
YEAH?! WELL IF YOU THINK YOU COULD DO BETTER, THEN...
...YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
I AGREE. SO WHY DON'T YOU MOVE ASIDE...
AHH! WHAT AM I DOING HERE?! I'M A REPORTER! I SHOULD BE OUT IN THE FIELD!

...AND LET ME DO THE JOB YOU HIRED ME FOR.
ROBBIE, I SWEAR, THE DAY YOU QUIT THE DB WAS ONE OF THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE.
AT THE RATE BENNETT'S GOING THROUGH US, IT WON'T BE LONG TILL THE ENTIRE BUGLE STAFF IS OVER HERE.

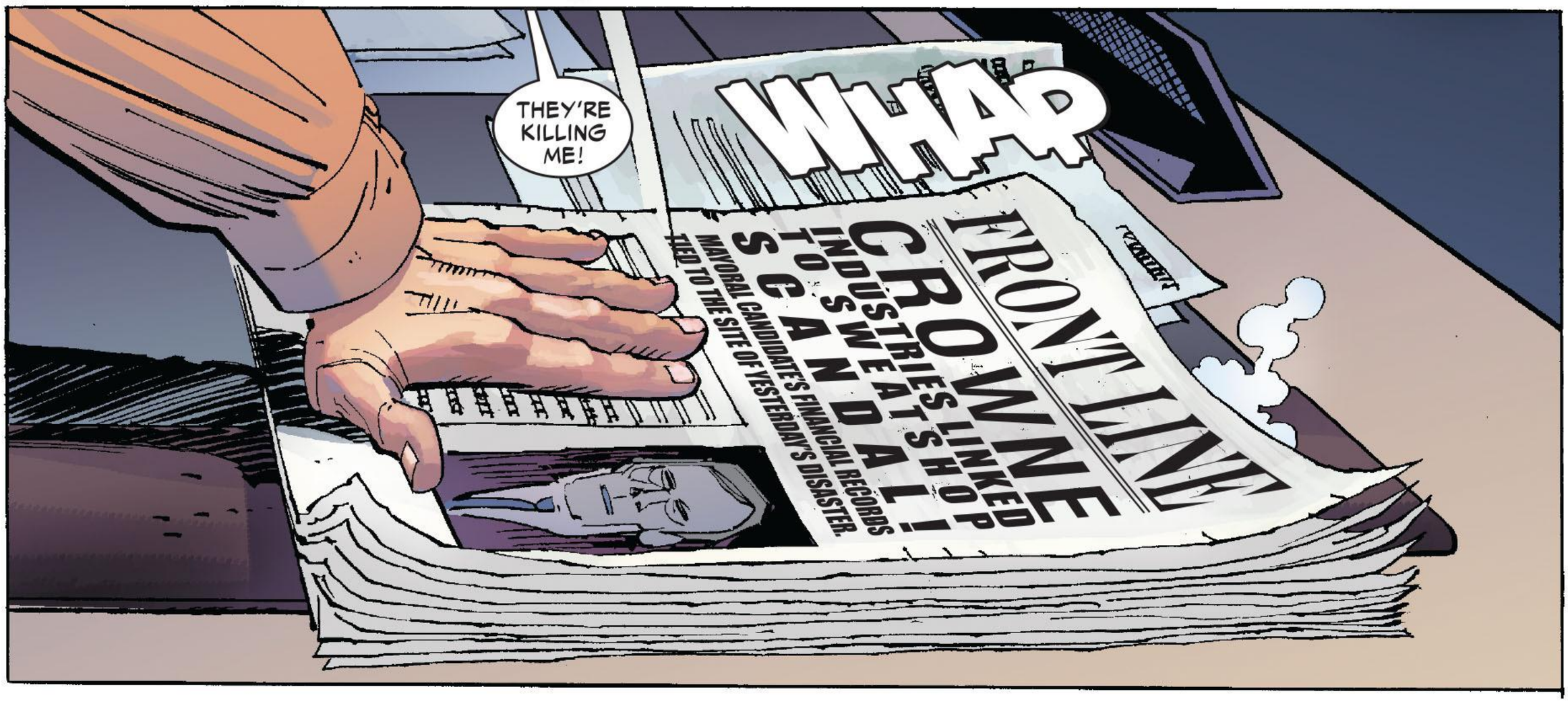

WELL THERE'S A CUE IF EVER I HEARD ONE.
PETER PARKER! WHAT BRINGS YOU AROUND, KID?
LET ME GUESS. YOU'VE GOT SOME OF YOUR WORLD-CLASS PICTURES WITH YOU?

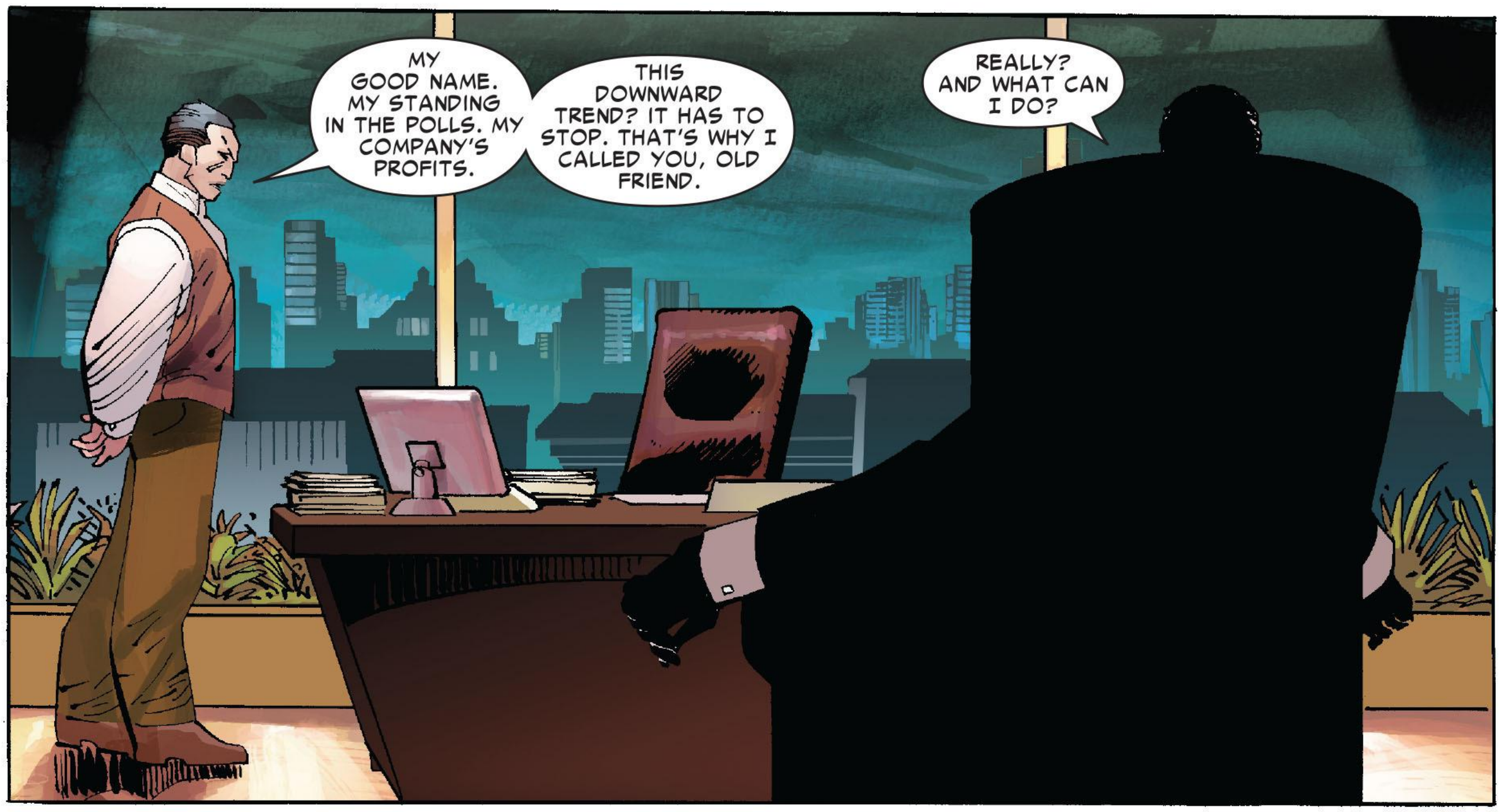
YEP. EXCLUSIVE SHOTS.
THESE ARE FROM THE DISASTER DOWNTOWN.
WE'VE ALREADY SENT A PHOTOGRAPHER DOWN THERE.

BUT THESE ARE FROM *BEFORE* THE REST OF THE BUILDING COLLAPSED.
THERE WERE *HUNDREDS* OF PEOPLE CRAMMED IN THERE, BEN. AND ROW AFTER ROW OF HAND-OPERATED MACHINES.
A SWEATSHOP? AN ILLEGAL SWEATSHOP IN THE HEART OF THE CITY?


IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'RE GONNA *LOVE* THIS!
WHAT IS IT, SALLY?
ONE OF MY SOURCES GAVE ME A TIP ABOUT THAT ADDRESS.

I HAD TO GO THROUGH A FEW DUMMY CORPORATIONS, BUT YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO *ACTUALLY* OWNS IT...
...NONE OTHER THAN MAYORAL CANDIDATE *RANDALL CROWNE!*


THEY'RE KILLING ME!
WHAP
FRONT LINE
CROWNE LINKED TO SCANDAL!
INDUSTRIES SWEATSHOP
MAYORAL CANDIDATE'S FINANCIAL RECORDS TIED TO THE SITE OF YESTERDAY'S DISASTER.


MY GOOD NAME. MY STANDING IN THE POLLS. MY COMPANY'S PROFITS.
THIS DOWNWARD TREND? IT HAS TO STOP. THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU, OLD FRIEND.
REALLY? AND WHAT CAN I DO?

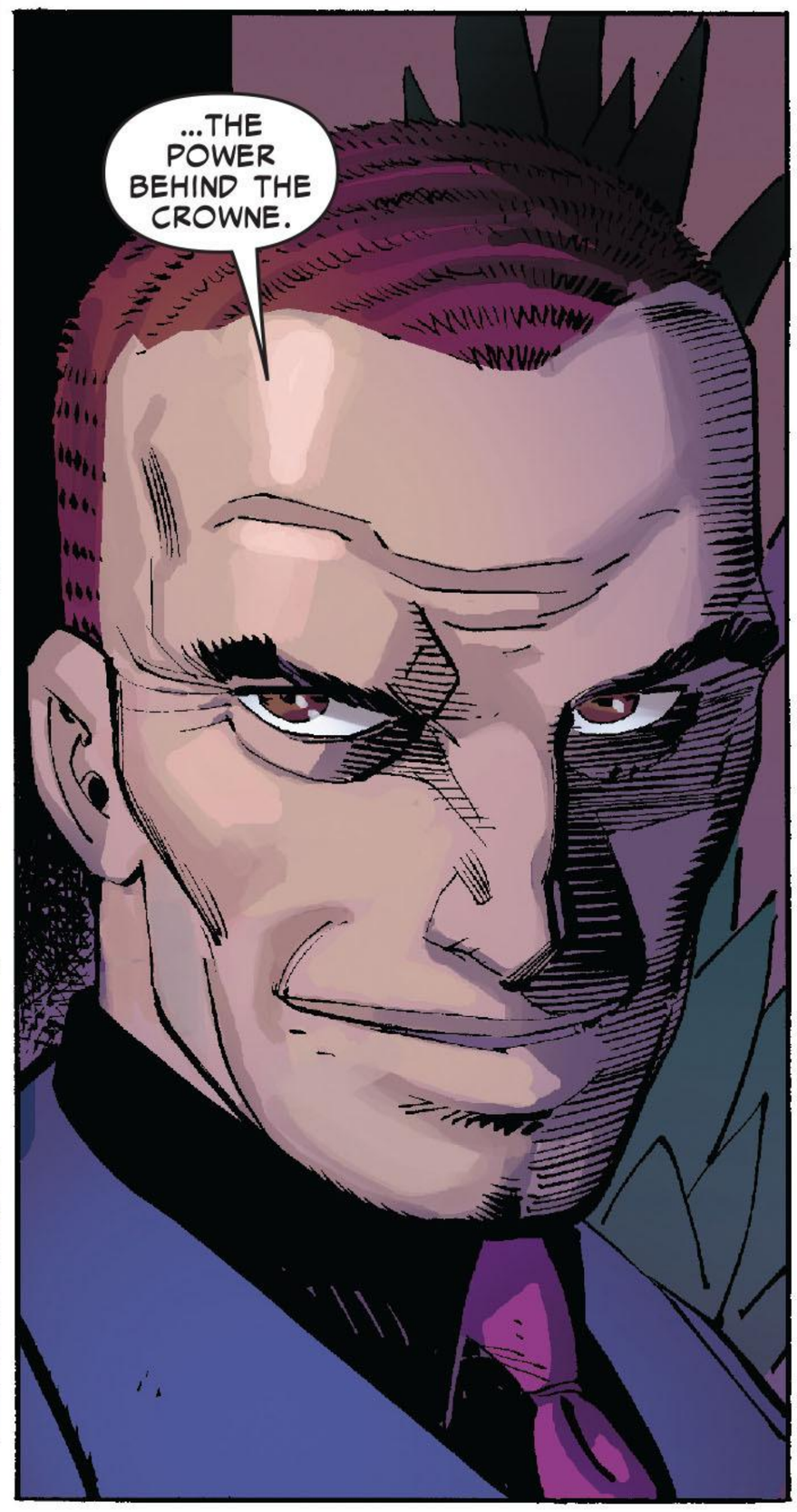
WHAT CAN'T YOU DO? RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE MR. LAW-AND-ORDER. AMERICA CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF YOU. AND YOUR...OUTFIT.
IF YOU WERE TO COME OUT AND BACK ME, IT COULD SEW UP THE ELECTION.
I'D NEED SOME QUID PRO QUO FIRST.

WHAT? WHAT MORE CAN I...? YOU ALREADY HAVE ACCESS TO MY "SECRET RESOURCES."
THAT WAS YESTERDAY. LET'S TALK TODAY.

YOU STILL HAVE PULL WITH THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. IN ORDER TO BRING MY "OUTFIT" IN, I NEED A VERY SPECIAL HUNTING PERMIT.
AND PROPER ZONING.
ZONING? WHAT FOR?

FOR THE VICTORY PARADE, OF COURSE. DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
YES. SO YOU'RE IN?
IN? OH, I'M MORE THAN IN.

THAT'S GREAT! JUST THINK, NORMAN OSBORN, A CROWNE-MAN.
MORE LIKE...


...THE POWER BEHIND THE CROWNE.

Thunderbolts Mountain, Colorado.
HOME TO AMERICA'S TOP TEAM OF "HERO HUNTERS."
REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF THIS DRILL.
TAKE OUT AS MANY UNLICENSED HEROES AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN, STARTING...

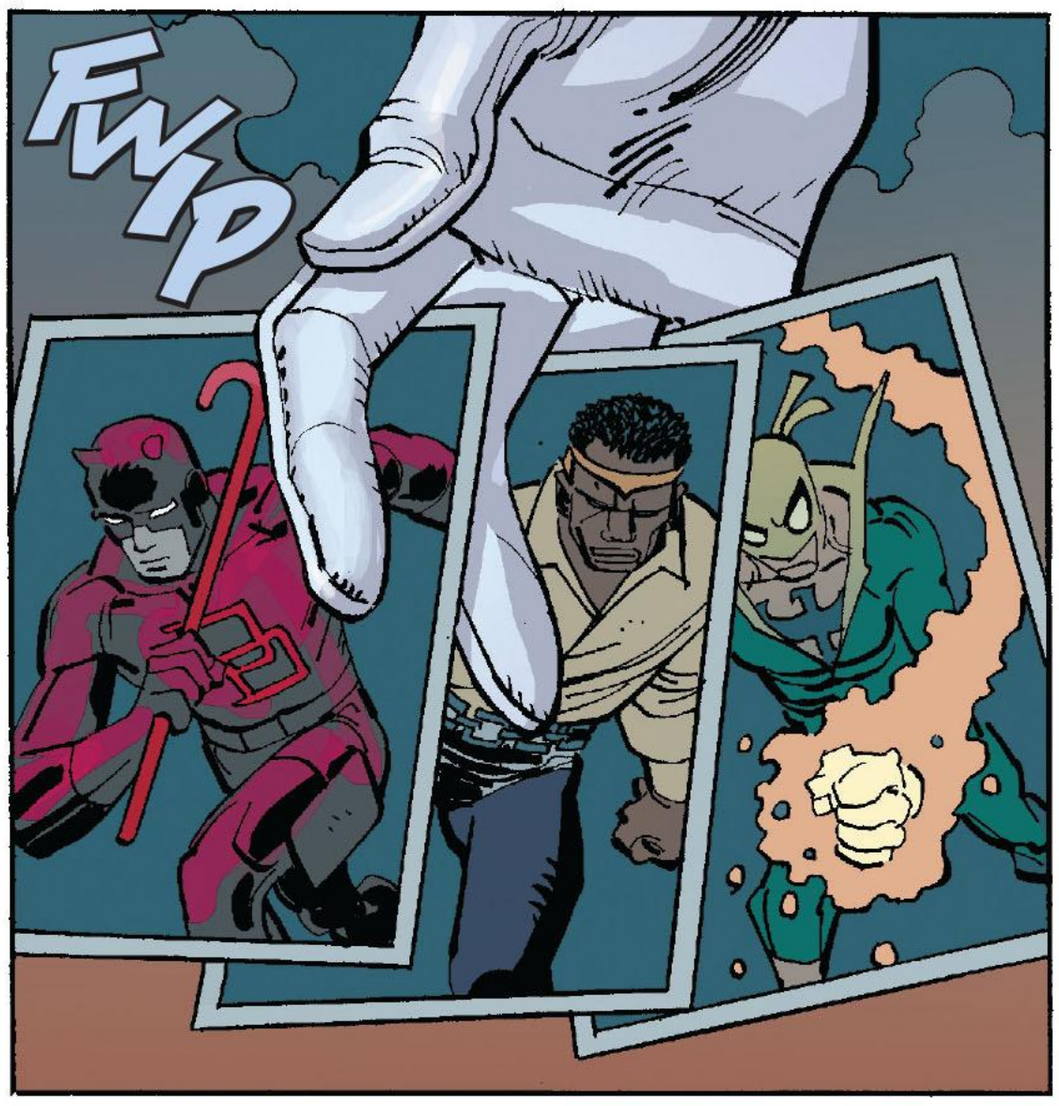
...NOW!
SO MANY CHOICES...
BULLSEYE, VENOM, STAY BACK...
SKREEEE

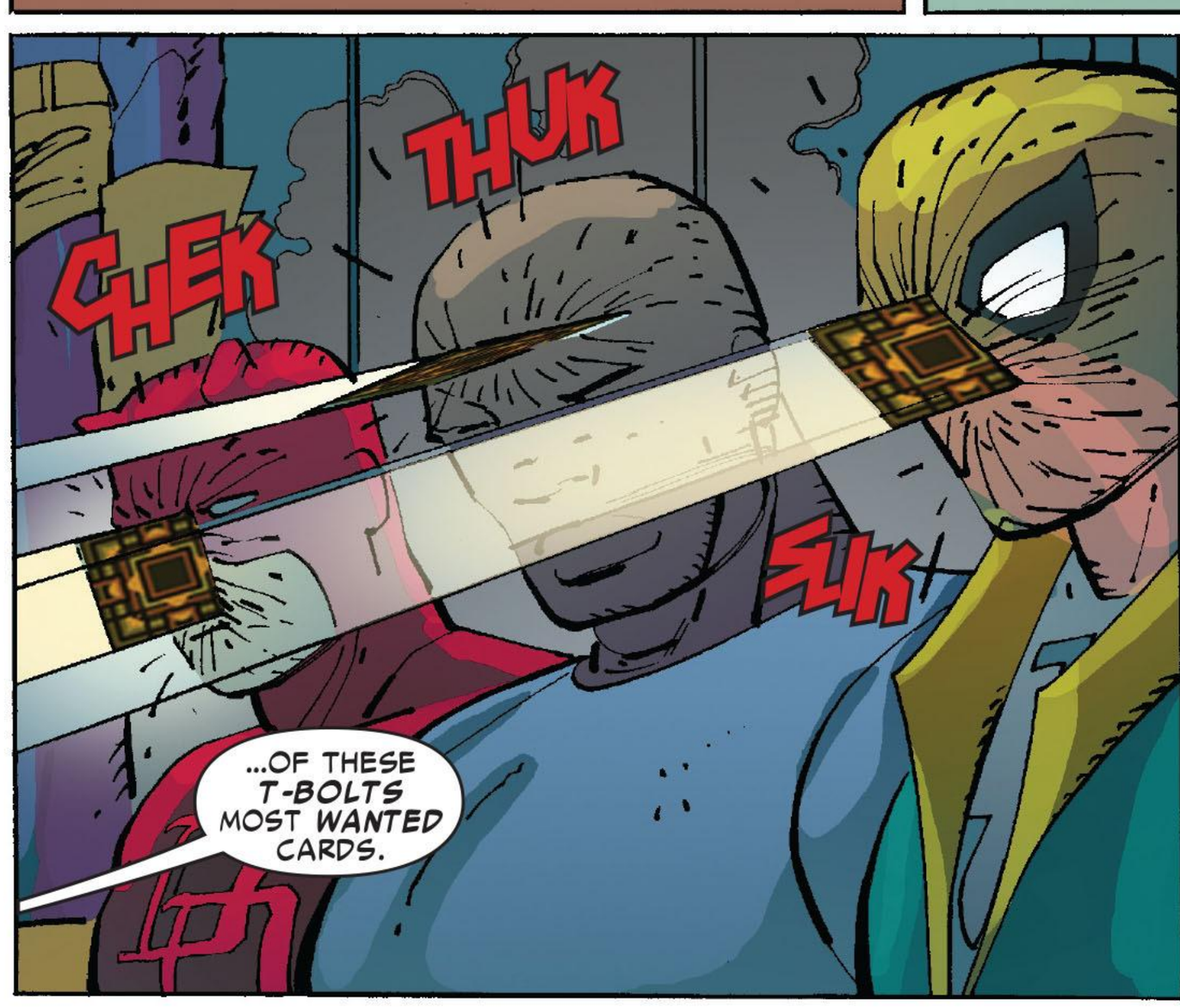
THE THUNDER GOD IS MINE!

KRRKKZ

WHATEVER, CHEN. GO CRAZY.

BUT ONE GUY AT A TIME JUST DOESN'T DO IT FOR ME.





GWARRR!!
SRASH

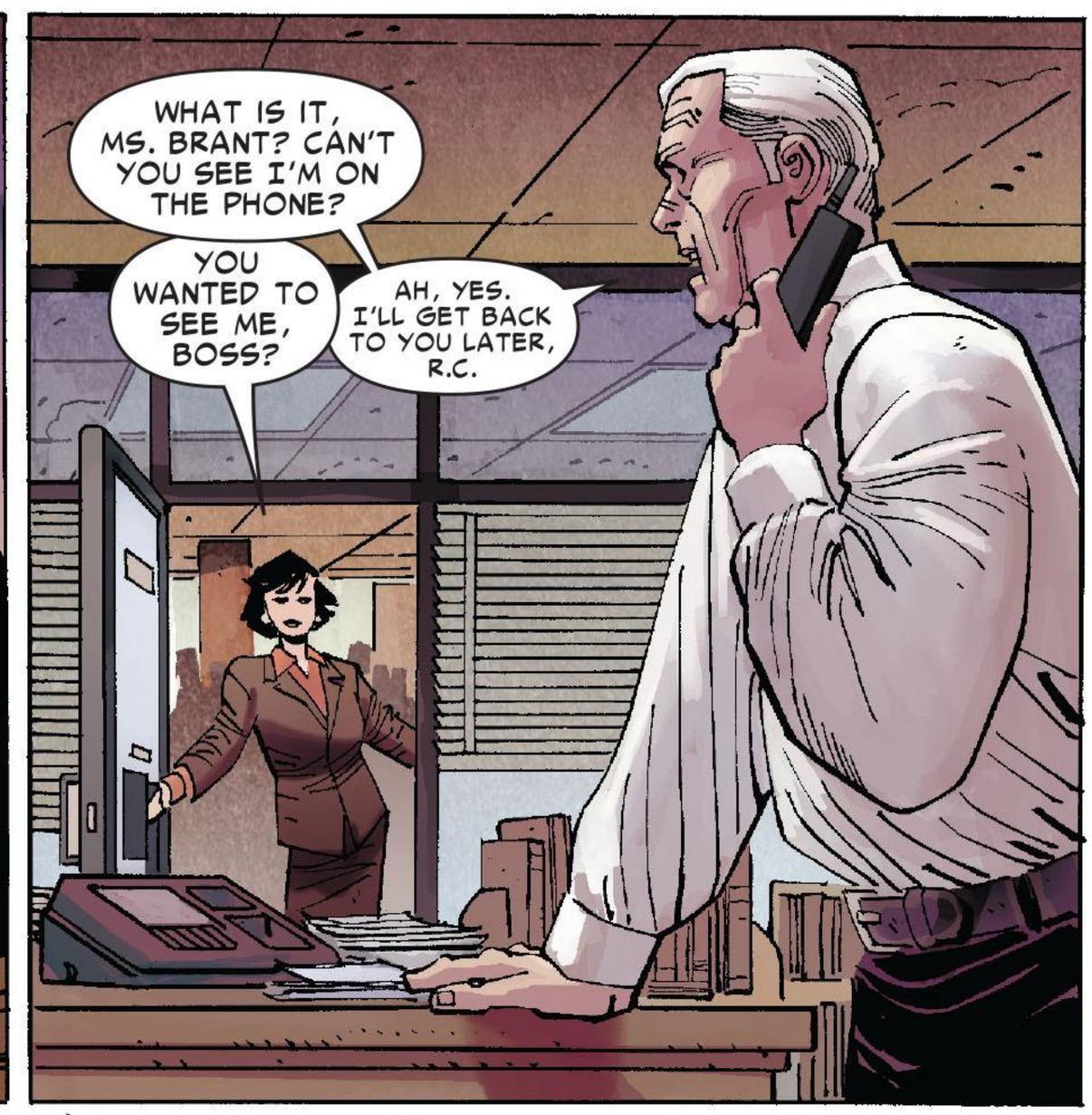
WASN'T THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE TO ONLY GO AFTER UNLICENSED HEROES?
RADIOACTIVE MAN! BULLSEYE! STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS ALL OF OUR TRAINING DUMMIES.
EASY, MEL. MY BOY VENOM'S ON A ROLL.

THE EXERCISE IS TERMINATED, MS. GOLD. WE'VE RECEIVED THE CALL FROM DIRECTOR OSBORN.
SADDLE UP. WE'RE GOING TO NEW YORK.

WHAT'S IN NEW YORK?

HEH! WHAT DO YA THINK?!

THE DB
THE SPIDER-MAN: SERIAL KILLER STORY, YES. ON THE FRONT PAGE WHERE IT ALWAYS IS.
OF COURSE, RANDALL. TRUST ME, WE'LL HAVE THIS CITY SO TERRIFIED THAT THEY'LL BE GRATEFUL WHEN YOU-- ONE SECOND.


WHAT IS IT, MS. BRANT? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M ON THE PHONE?
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, BOSS?
AH, YES. I'LL GET BACK TO YOU LATER, R.C.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, MS. BRANT? WE WERE *SCOOPED*. BY SOME RINKY DINK RAG CALLED *FRONT LINE*.
THAT *CANNOT* HAPPEN AGAIN. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
GOTCHA. SO YOU WANT ME TO LOOK INTO THE CROWNE/SWEATSHOP SCANDAL AS WELL.

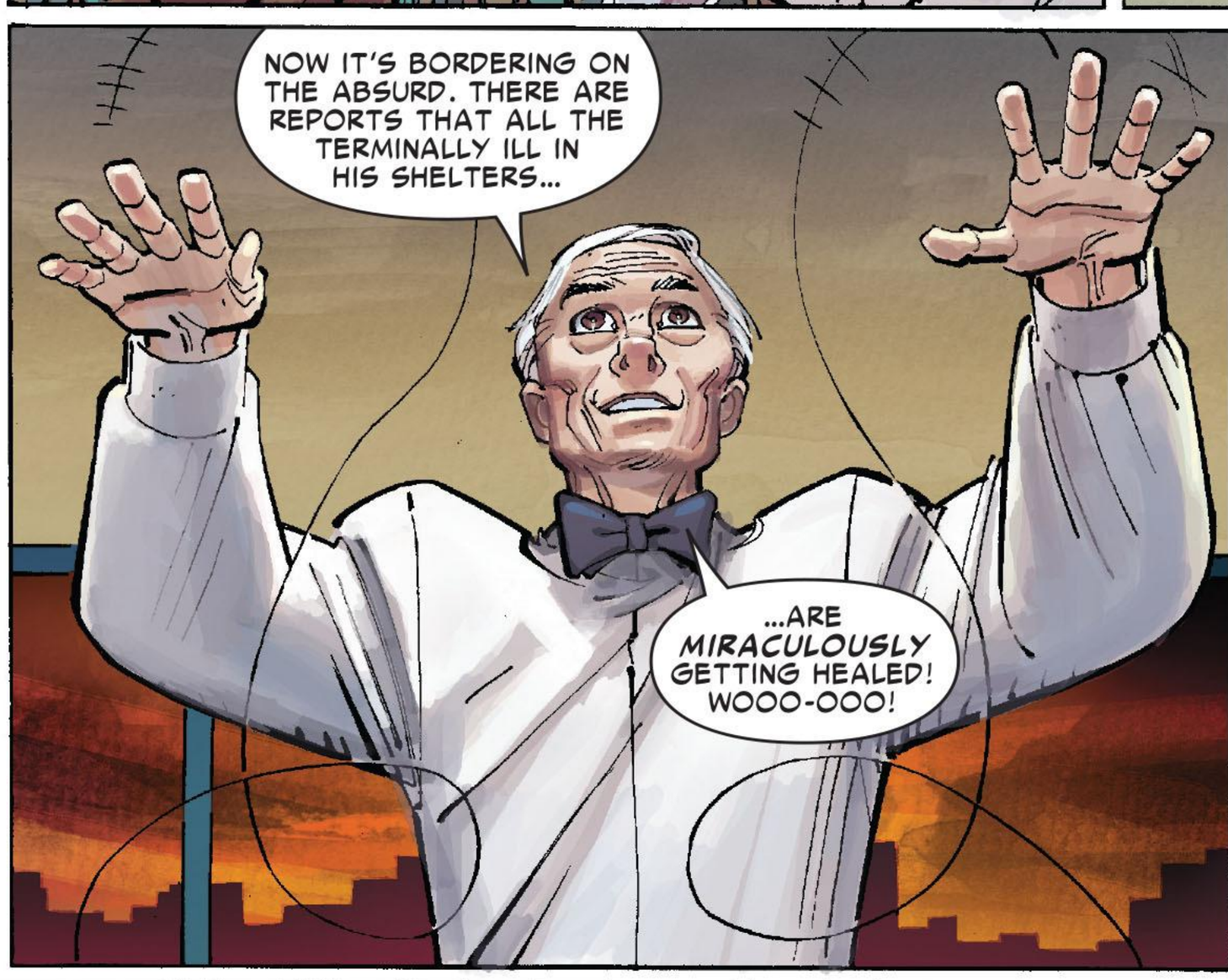
MS. BRANT, *WHICH* CANDIDATE DO I SUPPORT IN THIS ELECTION?
CROWNE.

SO *WHAT* DOES THAT MAKE US HERE AT *THE DB?*
A CROWNE PAPER, SIR.

SO, FOR THE SAKE OF *FAIR* AND *BALANCED* REPORTING...
...WE ARE GOING TO COUNTER WITH A SCANDAL ABOUT *THIS* MAN, BILLIONAIRE *MARTIN LI*...
...WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF BILL HOLLISTER'S BIGGEST SUPPORTERS.

YOU'RE SERIOUS? YOU WANT ME TO DIG UP DIRT ON MARTIN "*THE MARTYR*" LI?
FOUNDER OF THE F.E.A.S.T. HOMELESS SHELTERS? PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR? *THAT* MARTIN LI?
PRE-CISELY.

NO ONE IS THAT SQUEAKY CLEAN. AND NOW...?


NOW IT'S BORDERING ON THE ABSURD. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ALL THE TERMINALLY ILL IN HIS SHELTERS...
...ARE *MIRACULOUSLY* GETTING HEALED! WOOO-OOO!

WHAT A LOAD OF *BUNK!* TRUST ME...

"...EVERYONE HAS A *DARK SIDE*, MS. BRANT.

"AND I'M MAKING IT YOUR JOB TO FIND HIS."
ALL RIGHT, HERE GOES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SO NERVOUS ABOUT.
THE MAN RUNS A HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM. WHAT'S THE WORST HE CAN THROW AT ME?
HELP
HELP

BETTY BRANT, I HAVE *NEVER* BEEN MORE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!

MRS. PARKER, PLEASE...
A STORY ON MARTIN FOR *THE DB*?! THAT PAPER IS PURE FILTH.
JUST LOOK AT ALL THE HORRIBLE PICTURES THEY RUN OF THAT NICE BILL HOLLISTER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAY.

PUBLICITY FOR THE SHELTER IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING. AND BESIDES...
...I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

AS OUR NAME SAYS, HERE AT F.E.A.S.T. WE PROVIDE THE LESS FORTUNATE WITH FOOD, EMERGENCY AID, SHELTER, AND TRAINING.
ALL THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET.
IT'S THE "EMERGENCY AID" PART THAT INTERESTS ME, MR. LI...

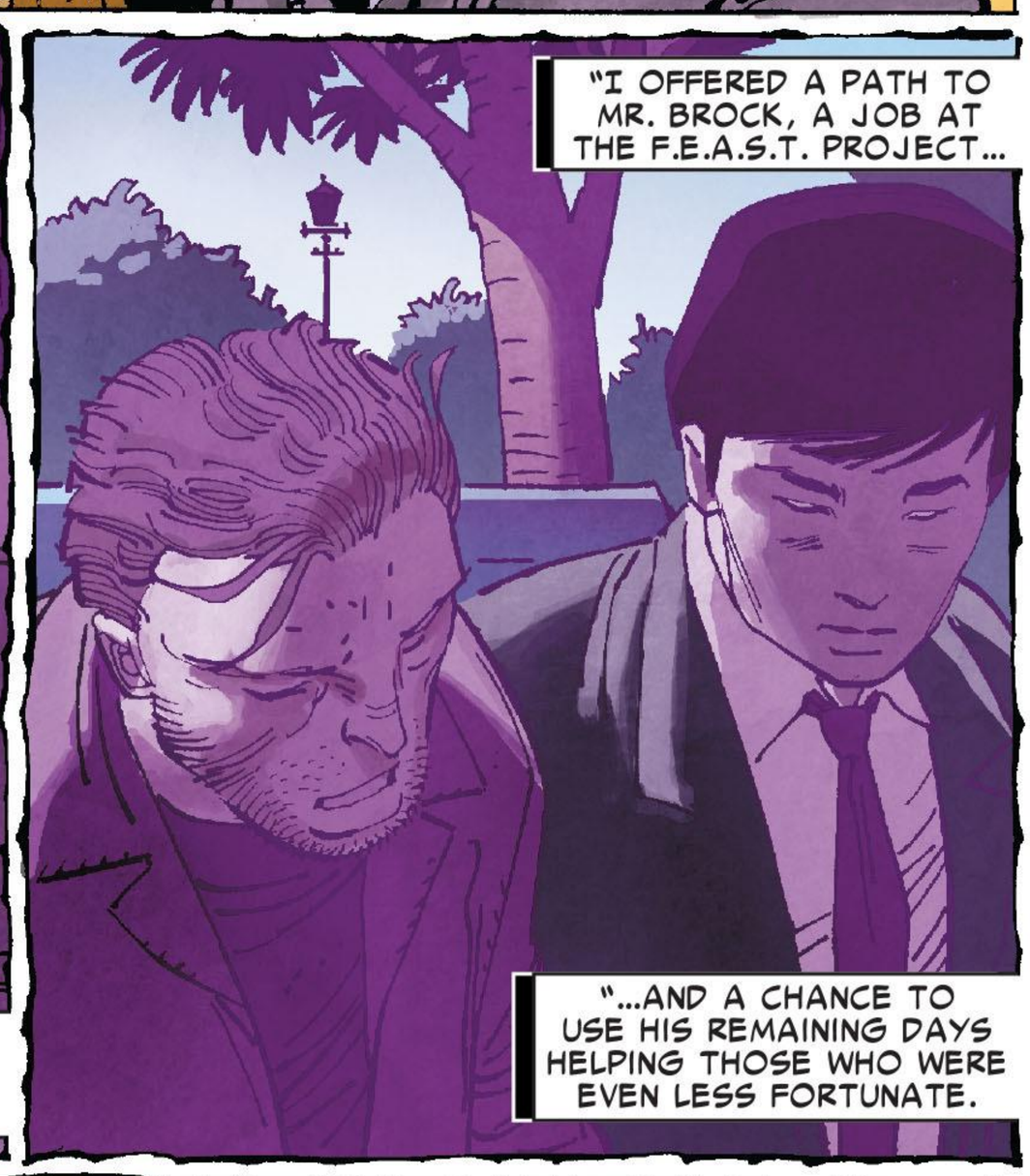
DO YOU HAVE PHYSICIANS ON STAFF? IF SO, WHAT KINDS OF DRUGS ARE THEY PRESCRIBING?
ONLY OVER THE COUNTER ITEMS: ASPIRIN, BANDAGES, ANTISEPTIC OINTMENTS--
THEN HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE RUMORS OF THESE SO-CALLED MIRACLES?

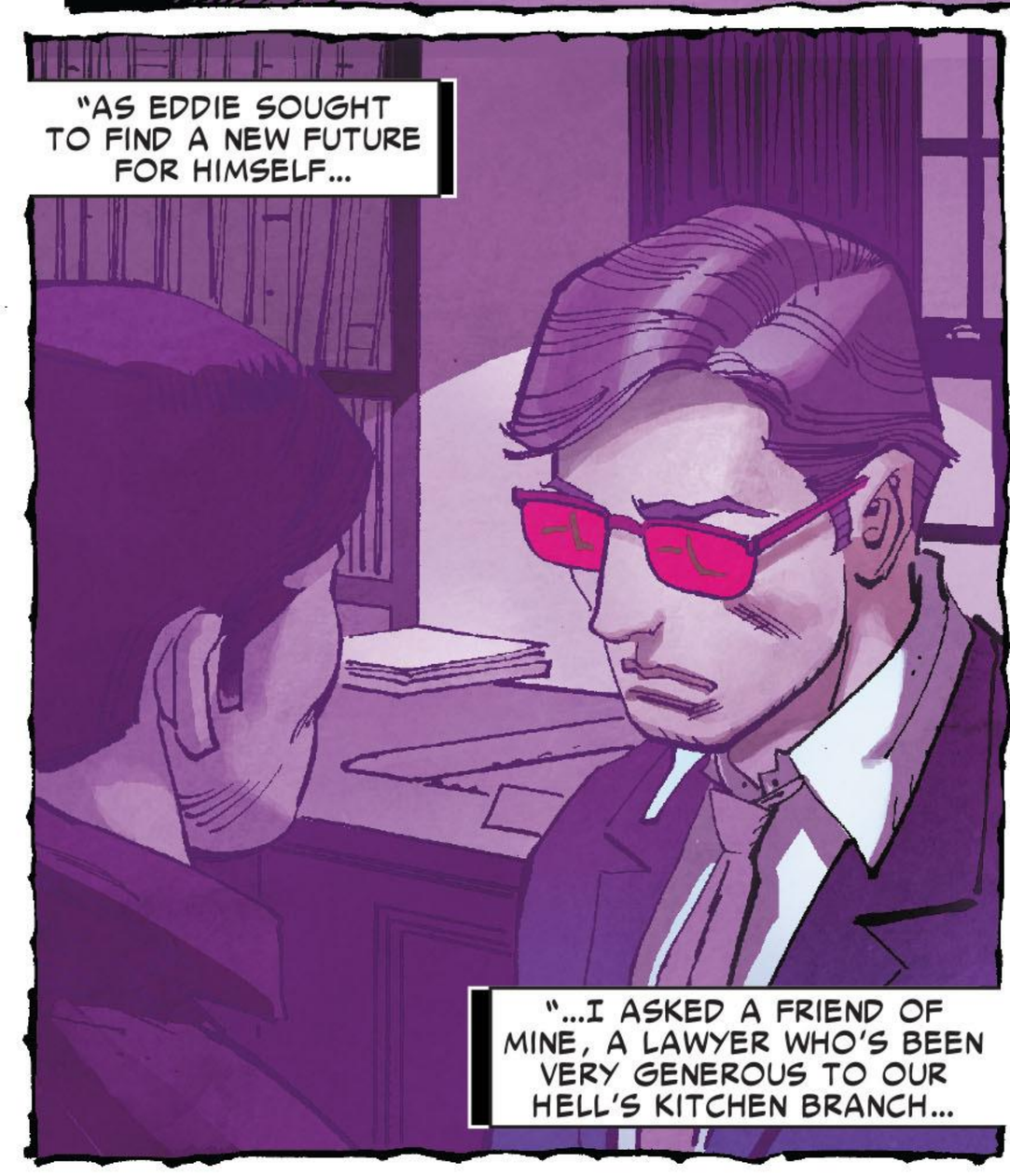
PERHAPS GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES? MS. BRANT, ARE YOU--?
THAT-THAT'S EDDIE BROCK! THAT'S VENOM! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
HE WAS DYING OF CANCER! HOW IS HE STILL *ALIVE*?

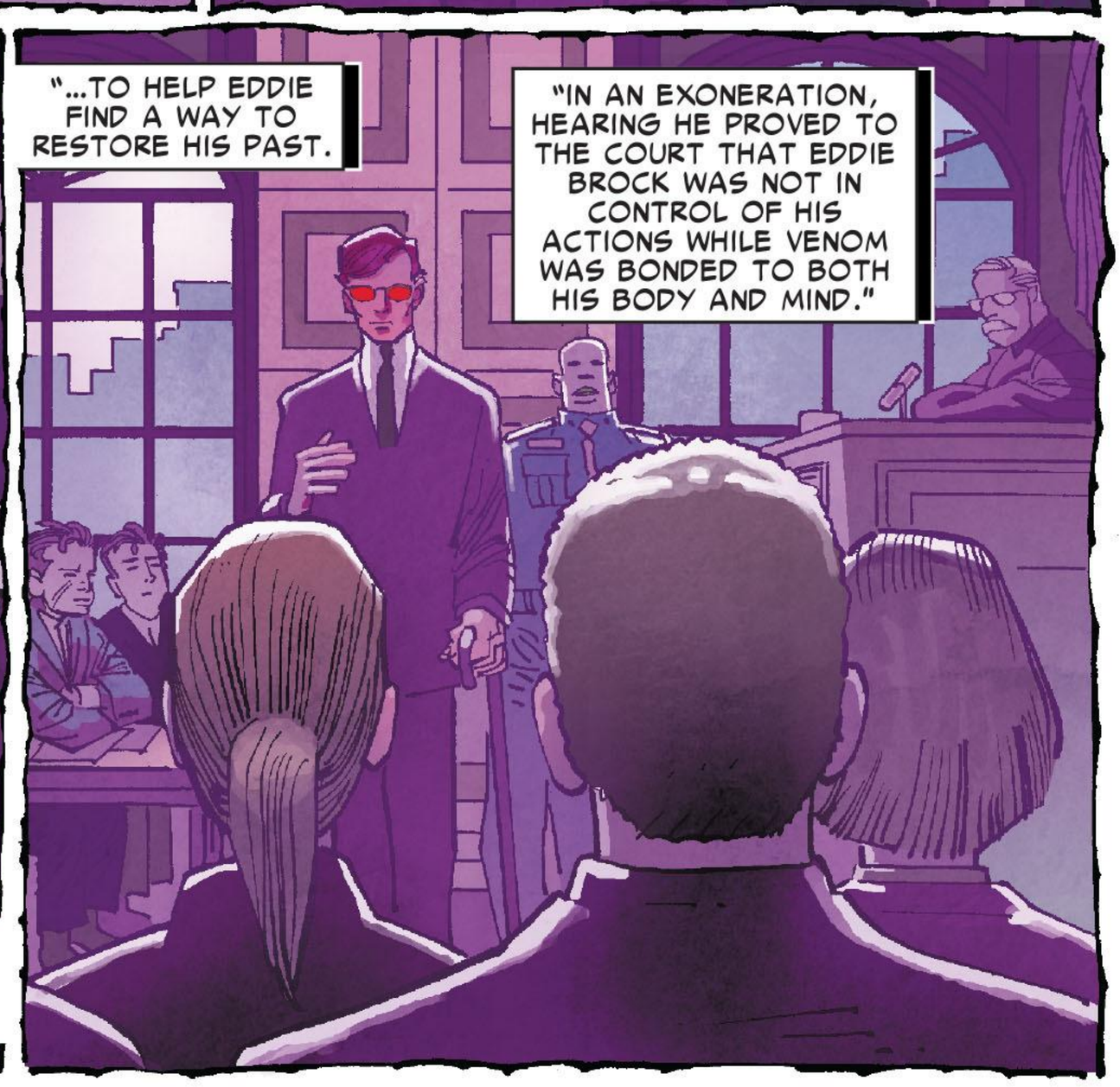
MR. LI?
IT'S OKAY, EDDIE. TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS, MS. BRANT, HE'S HERE BECAUSE HE ASKED FOR HELP.
HE'S STILL ALIVE BECAUSE INSTEAD OF A CANCER VICTIM, HE CHOOSES TO BE A CANCER SURVIVOR.

AND AS FOR VENOM? THAT'S WHAT MADE ME SICK, BETTY, INSIDE AND OUT.
BUT I GOT RID OF IT. I CAST IT OUT. AND I FILLED THAT EMPTINESS, THAT VOID, WITH FAITH.
IT'S TRUE.

THAT WAS HOW I MET MR. BROCK, PRAYING FOR FORGIVENESS...
"...IN THE SAME CHURCH WHERE HE HAD ONCE PRAYED FOR VENGEANCE.

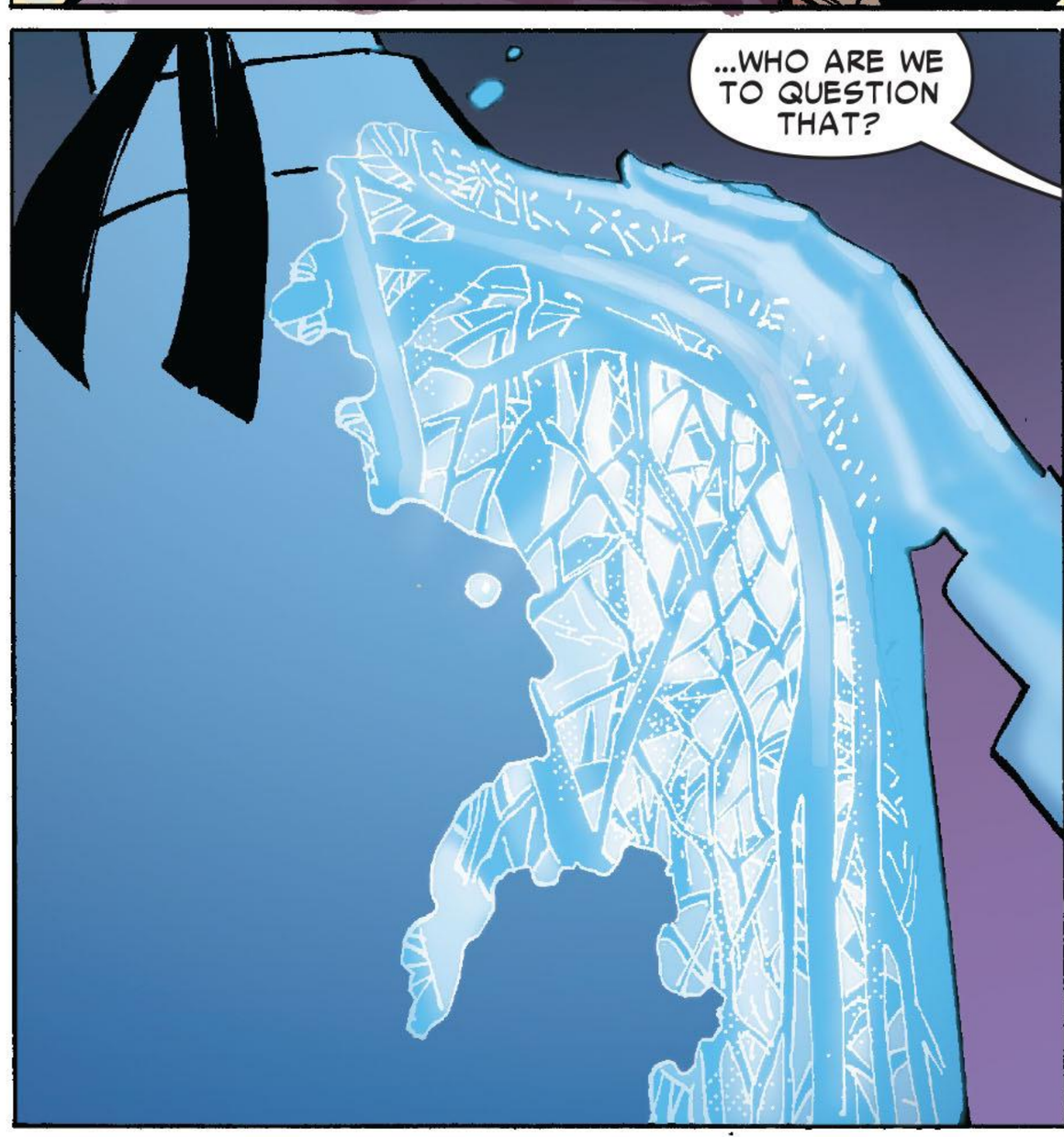

"I OFFERED A PATH TO MR. BROCK, A JOB AT THE F.E.A.S.T. PROJECT...
"...AND A CHANCE TO USE HIS REMAINING DAYS HELPING THOSE WHO WERE EVEN LESS FORTUNATE.

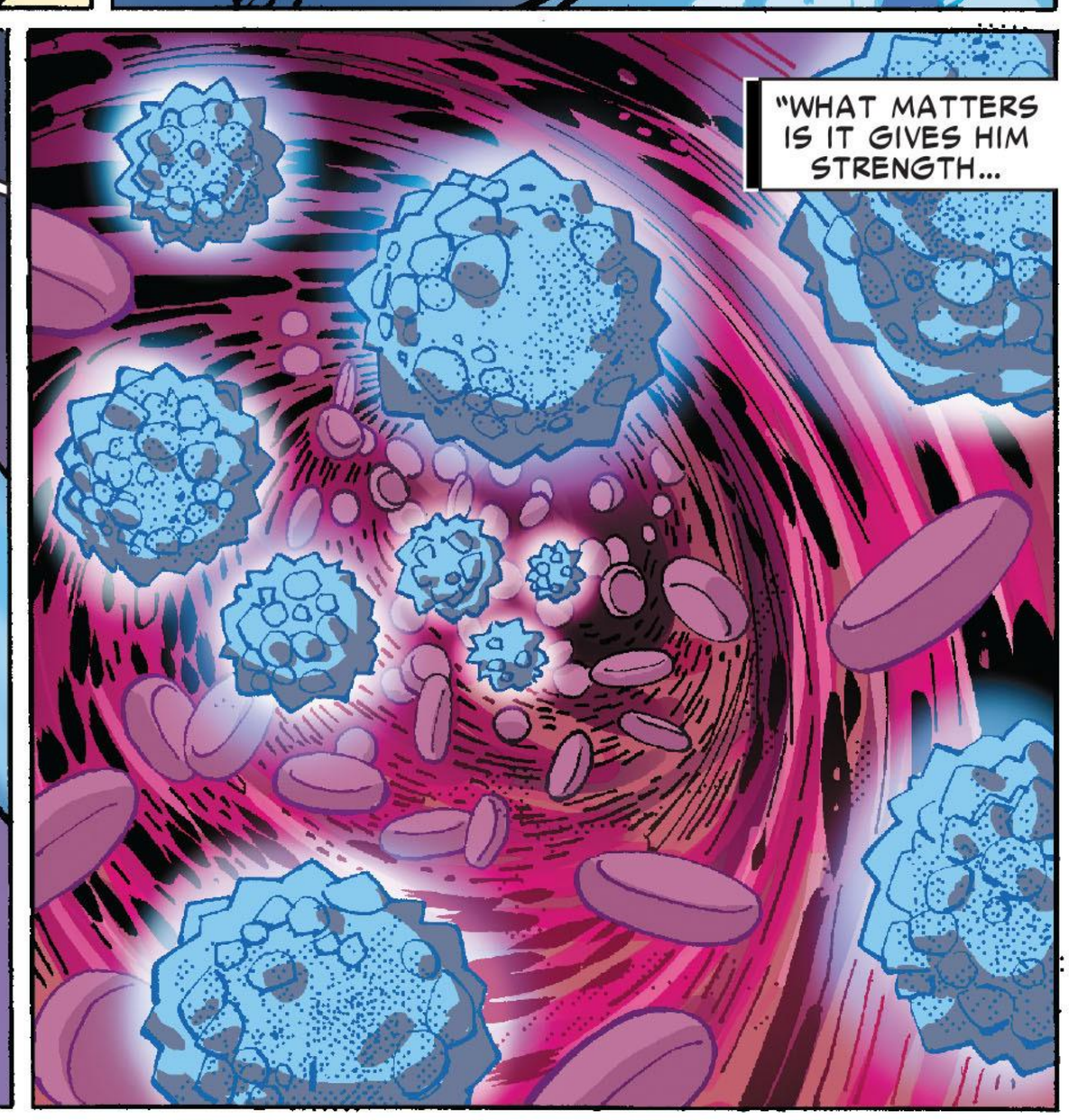

"AS EDDIE SOUGHT TO FIND A NEW FUTURE FOR HIMSELF...
"...I ASKED A FRIEND OF MINE, A LAWYER WHO'S BEEN VERY GENEROUS TO OUR HELL'S KITCHEN BRANCH...


"...TO HELP EDDIE FIND A WAY TO RESTORE HIS PAST.
"IN AN EXONERATION, HEARING HE PROVED TO THE COURT THAT EDDIE BROCK WAS NOT IN CONTROL OF HIS ACTIONS WHILE VENOM WAS BONDED TO BOTH HIS BODY AND MIND."

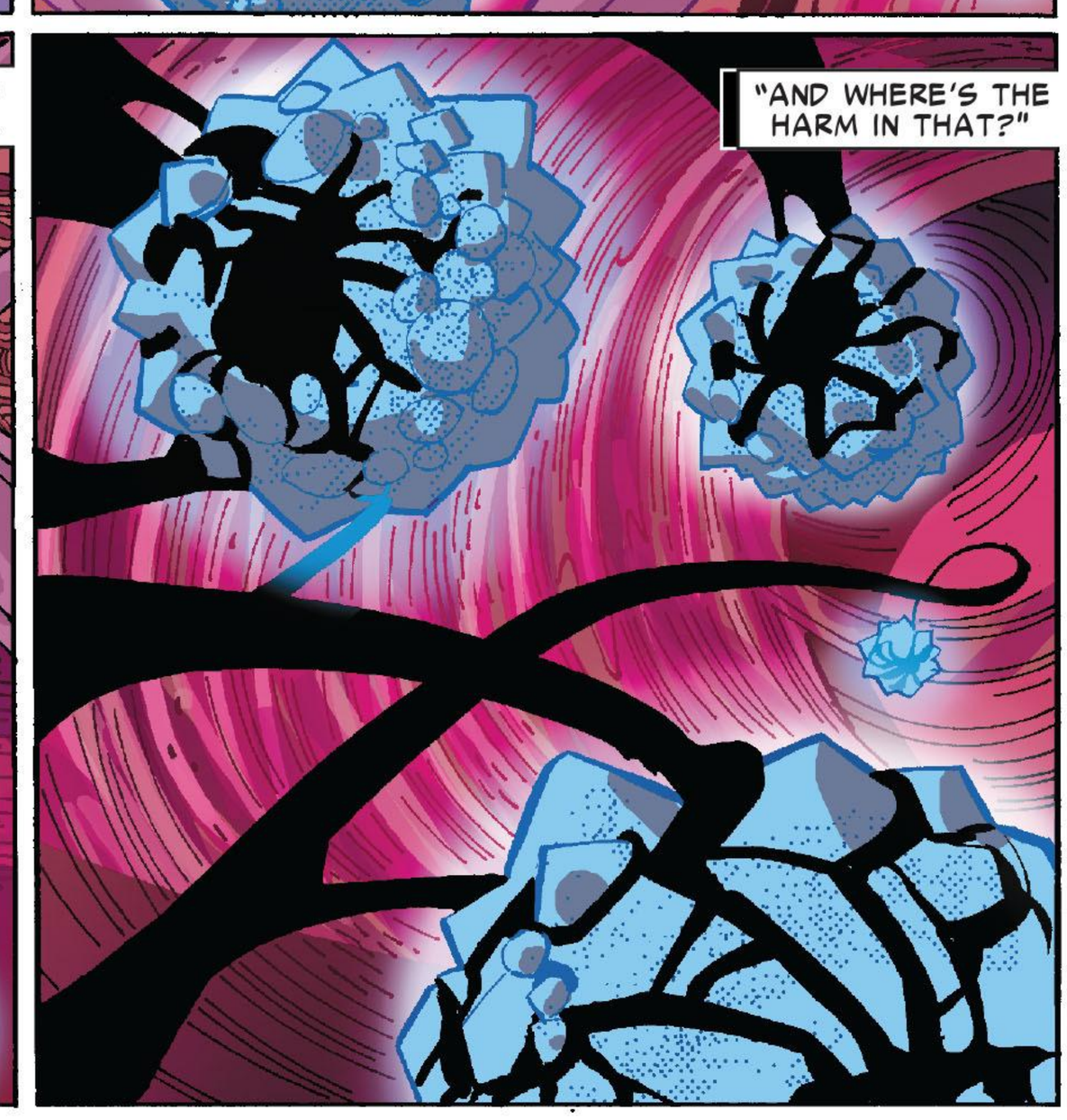
EDDIE'S A NEW MAN, MS. BRANT
BUT HIS CANCER...IT WAS IN ITS LATER STAGES. IS THIS...YOU KNOW...
...ONE OF THOSE "SO-CALLED MIRACLES"?

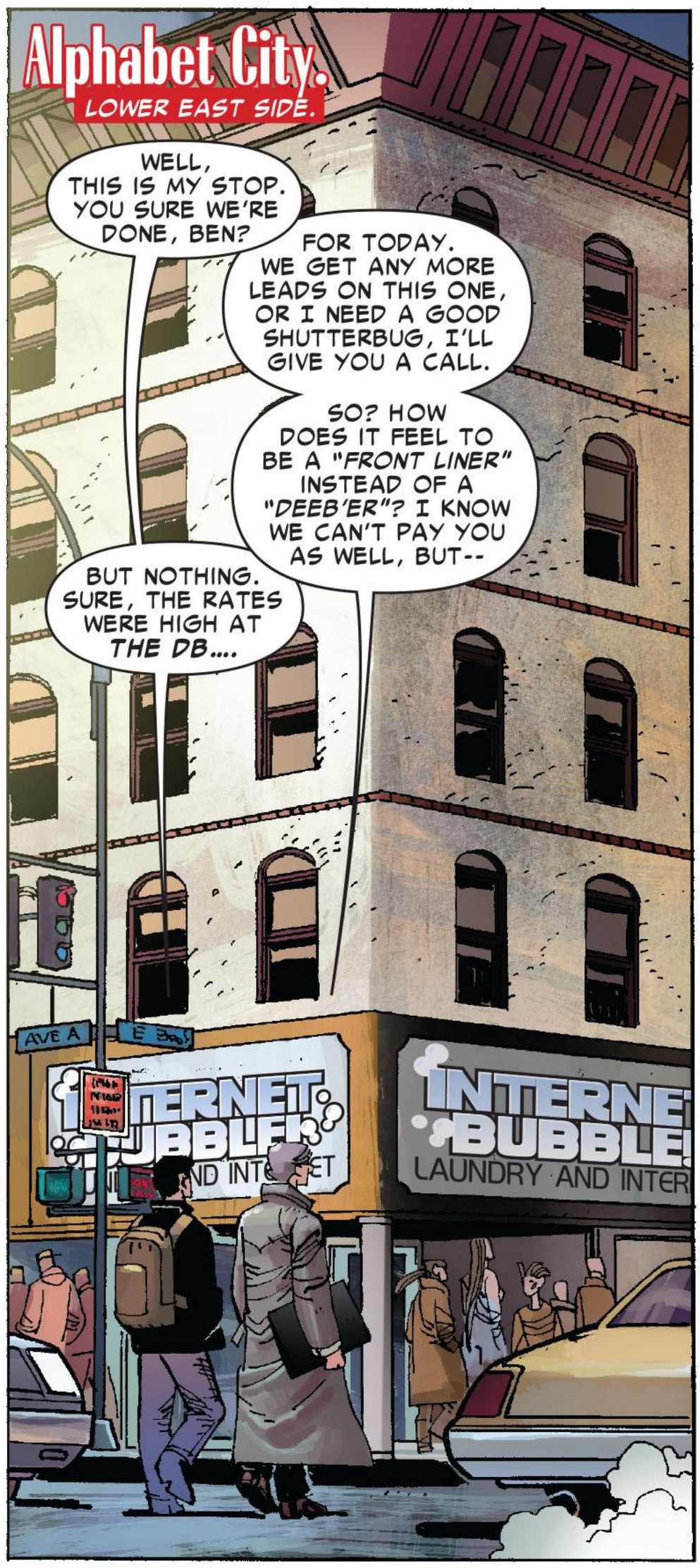
IF THAT'S WHAT EDDIE WISHES TO BELIEVE...

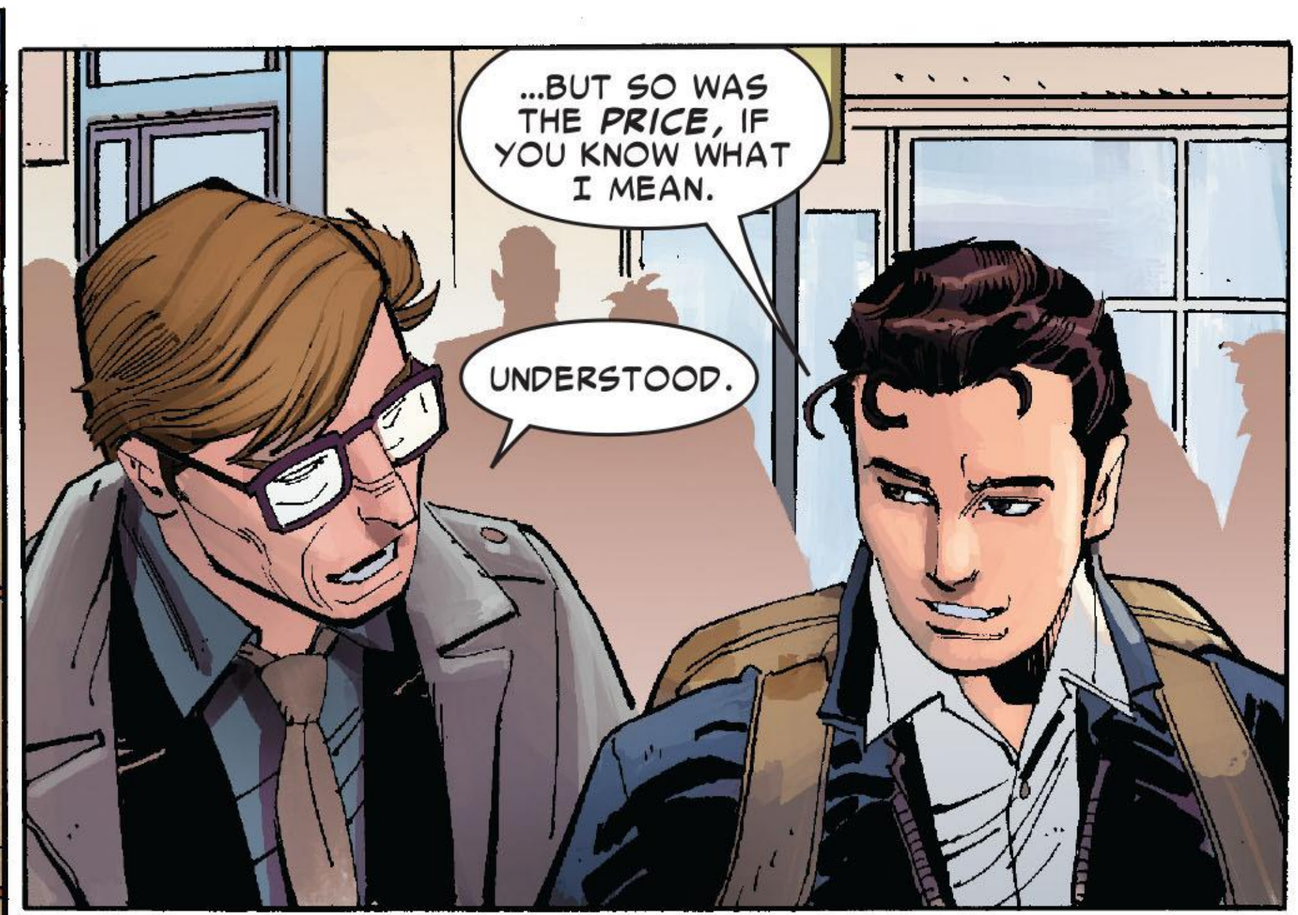

...WHO ARE WE TO QUESTION THAT?


"WHAT MATTERS IS IT GIVES HIM STRENGTH...

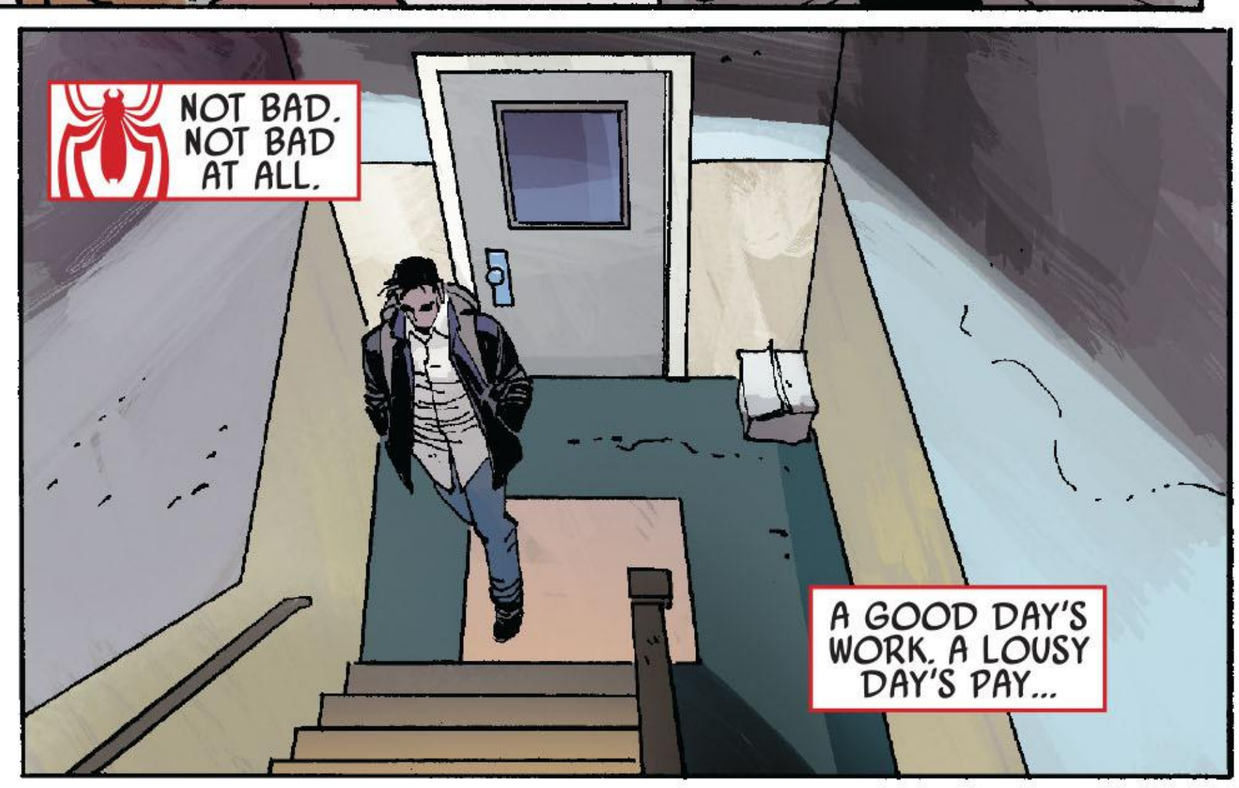
"...A REASON TO KEEP FIGHTING...


"AND WHERE'S THE HARM IN THAT?"


Alphabet City.
LOWER EAST SIDE.
WELL, THIS IS MY STOP. YOU SURE WE'RE DONE, BEN?
FOR TODAY. WE GET ANY MORE LEADS ON THIS ONE, OR I NEED A GOOD SHUTTERBUG, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL.
SO? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A "FRONT LINER" INSTEAD OF A "DEEB'ER"? I KNOW WE CAN'T PAY YOU AS WELL, BUT--
BUT NOTHING. SURE, THE RATES WERE HIGH AT THE DB....
AVE A
INTERNET BUBBLE
LAUNDRY AND INTER


...BUT SO WAS THE PRICE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
UNDERSTOOD.

GOOD TO BE WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN, PARKER.
THANKS.


NOT BAD. NOT BAD AT ALL.
A GOOD DAY'S WORK. A LOUSY DAY'S PAY...

5B
BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I TOOK SOME PHOTOS...
...AND DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO SHOWER OFF A LAYER OF TABLOID-SLIME WHEN I GOT...

5B
...HOME?
SPIDER-SENSE? WHAT ON EARTH KICKED OFF MY--

HEY!
HE SPOTTED ME! DON'T KNOW HOW BUT--

DOESN'T MATTER! EVERYONE FALL IN!

WAIT! GUYS, I KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT...

...IT'S AN HONEST MISTAKE.
WHSHH

I WALKED OUT OF THE STORE, AND THE SHIRT STILL HAD THE TAG ON IT.
WHY DON'T WE GO BACK AND RING IT UP?

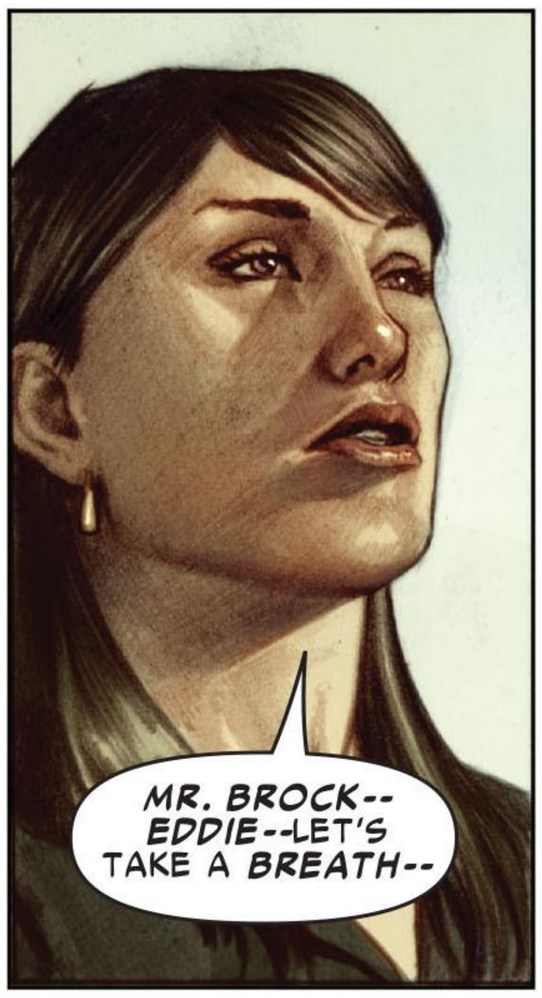
YOU ARE FROM *THE GAP*, RIGHT?
SMART GUY, HUH?
YEAH. BUT HE'S SURE GOT THE MOVES.

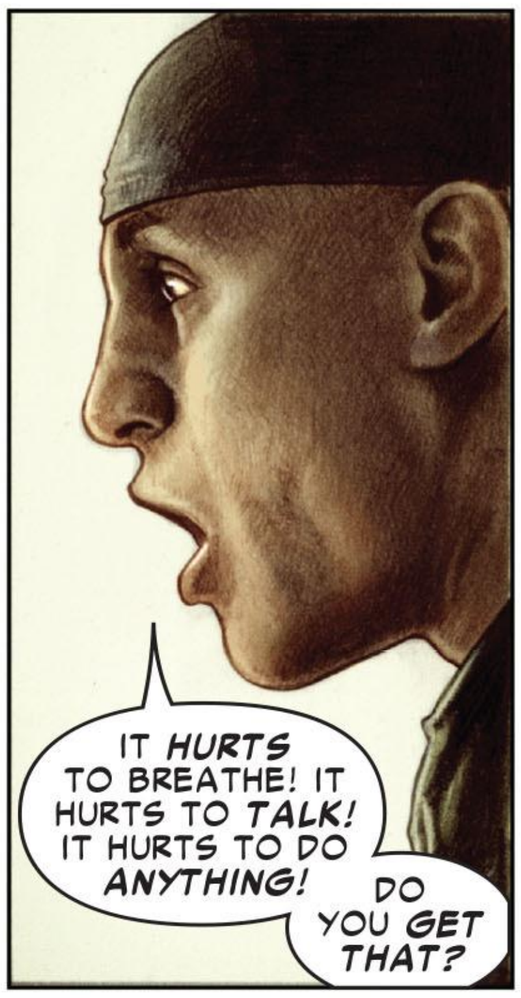
GUY'S GOT A POINT.
PLAIN OL' PETER PARKER SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PUT UP THIS MUCH OF A FIGHT.
GOT A HOLD OF 'IM!
PUT HIM DOWN!
BETTER PLAY ALONG. FOR NOW...
WAP
OKAY, I TAKE IT BACK. YOU'RE NOT FROM THE GAP.
THE WAY YOU HIT, I'M THINKING BABY GAP.
POK
CUTE. TRY LAUGHING THIS OFF!
OKAY, SO WHAT'S THE DEAL? WHY DID THEY WANT ME INSIDE MY OWN APARTMENT SO...
...BADLY.
WELL, WELL, WELL...
NO!

PARKER...
To Be Continued...

OSCORP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR TREATMENT?
I HAVE TERMINAL CANCER! HOW CAN I NOT QUALIFY?

MR. BROCK--
THESE CLINICAL TRIALS WERE MY LAST HOPE! MA'AM, YOU HAVE TO GET ME IN!


MR. BROCK-- EDDIE--LET'S TAKE A BREATH--


IT HURTS TO BREATHE! IT HURTS TO TALK! IT HURTS TO DO ANYTHING!
DO YOU GET THAT?

THESE ARE EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENTS AND, I'M SORRY, BUT OUR TESTS SHOW YOU DO NOT QUALIFY.
MY HANDS ARE TIED.

MINE AREN'T.

--ISTER BROCK? ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION? YOU GLAZED OVER THERE FOR A SECOND.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE OTHER CANDIDATES TO--
--TO INTERVIEW.
DISAPPOINT.

I...
LISTEN, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK IN WITH YOUR ONCOLOGIST. YOU LOOK A LITTLE... ROUGH.
I WOULDN'T KNOW.

FOR A LONG TIME, MY BODY HOSTED AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE CALLED ***VENOM.***

IT BROUGHT OUT THE ***WORST*** IN ME.

EVENTUALLY, IT ***DEPARTED***, BUT ITS POISON STILL ***LINGERS.***

NOT ***PHYSICALLY.*** I CAN'T BLAME IT FOR THE ***CANCER.*** BUT VENOM STILL RUSTLES ***INSIDE*** ME...STILL WHISPERS UGLY WORDS IN MY ***EAR***, STILL BUBBLES AND ***BOILS***...AND IT'S A CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO TAMP HIM ***DOWN.***

IT'S ***ESPECIALLY*** HARD NOT TO RESENT WHAT HE ***TOOK*** FROM ME THAT I ***NEVER*** GOT BACK:

MY ***FACE.***

I HAVEN'T SEEN MY ***OWN FACE*** IN THE ***MIRROR*** SINCE THE DAY VENOM FIRST ***POSSESSED*** ME. NOT ***ONCE.***

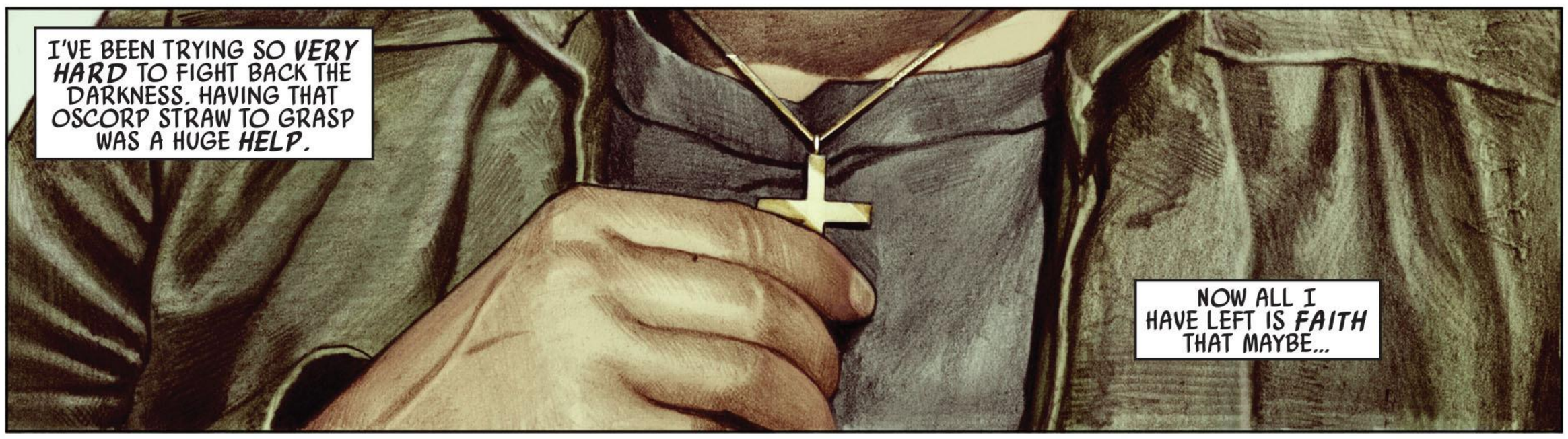
WHAT ***MUST*** I LOOK LIKE AFTER ALL THE CHEMO AND SICKNESS?

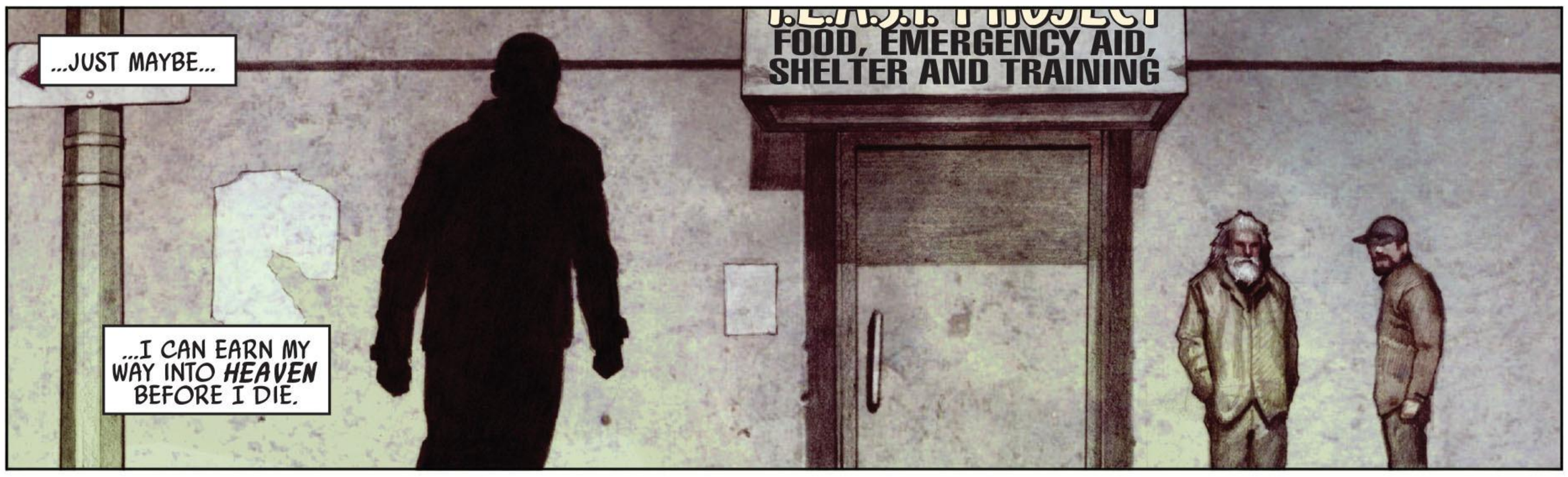
AM I AS UGLY ON THE ***OUTSIDE*** AS I AM ON THE INSIDE?

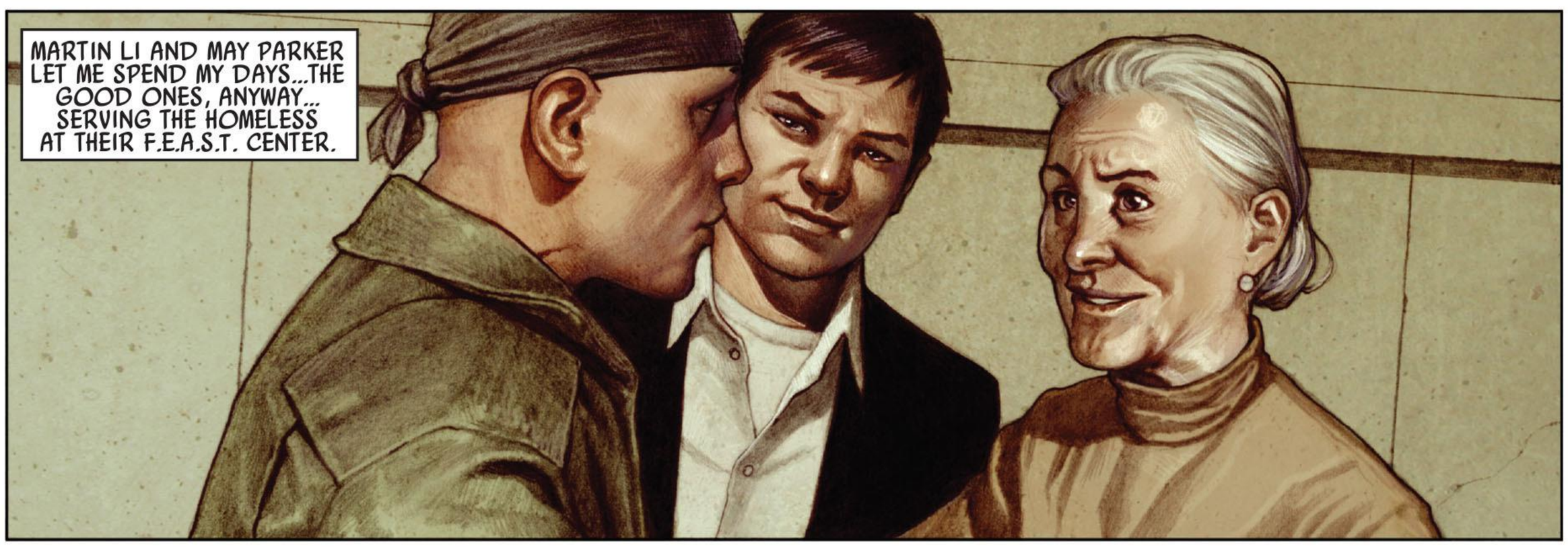
FIFTH STAGE

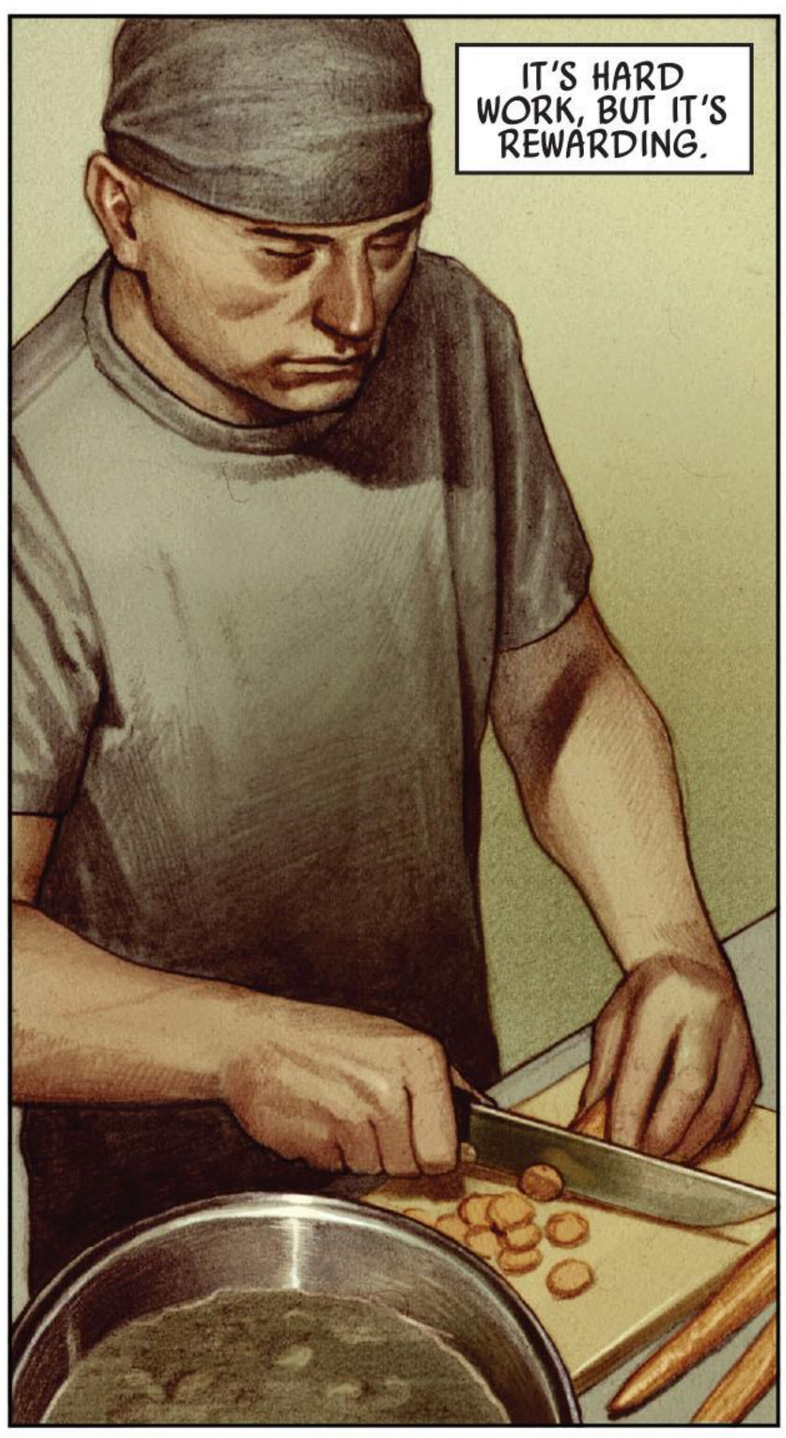
MARK WAID WRITER | ADI GRANOV ARTIST | VC'S CORY PETIT LETTERS | TOM BRENNAN ASST. EDITOR | STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR | TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR | JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

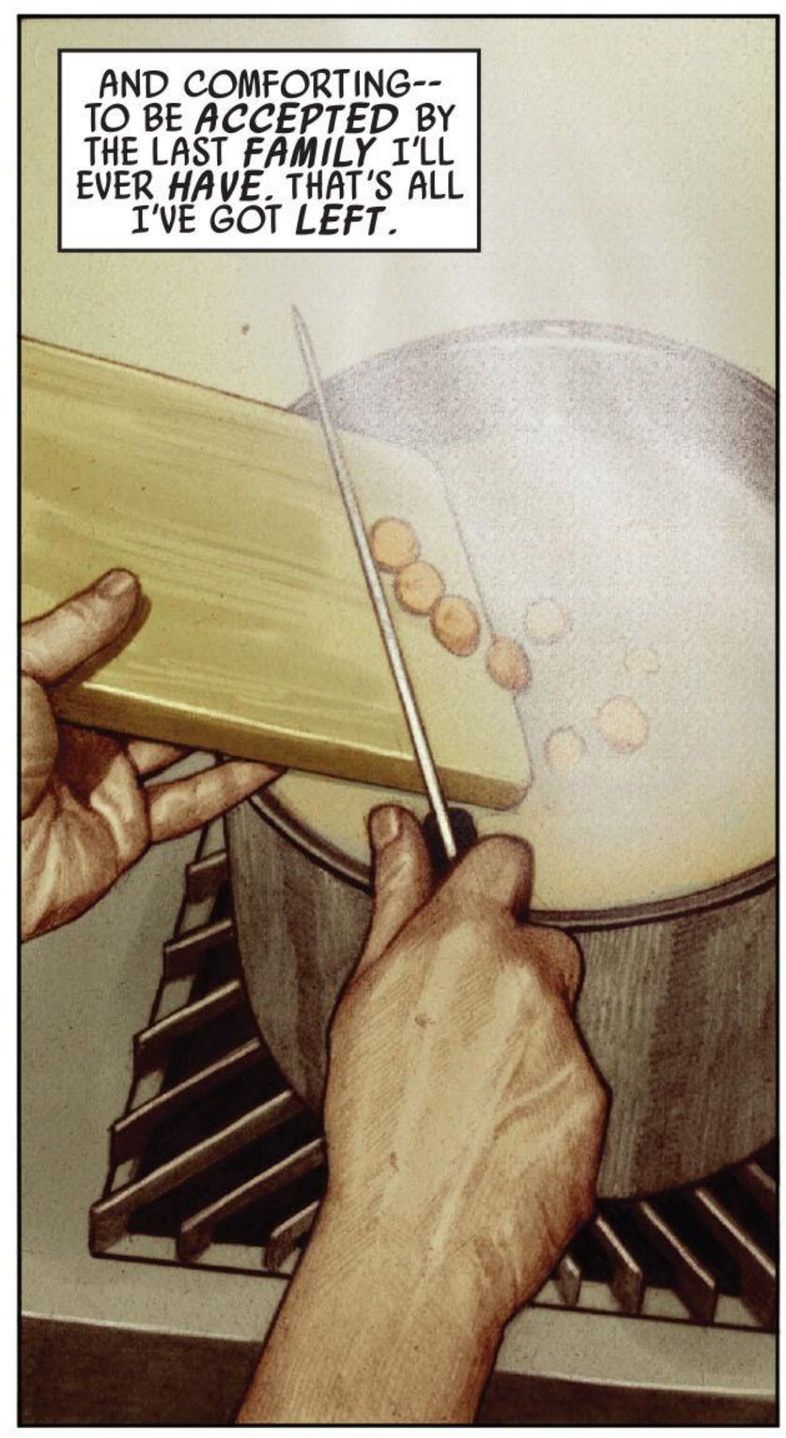
GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS SPIDEY'S BRAINTRUST


I'VE BEEN TRYING SO VERY HARD TO FIGHT BACK THE DARKNESS. HAVING THAT OSCORP STRAW TO GRASP WAS A HUGE HELP.
NOW ALL I HAVE LEFT IS FAITH THAT MAYBE...


...JUST MAYBE...
...I CAN EARN MY WAY INTO HEAVEN BEFORE I DIE.
FOOD, EMERGENCY AID, SHELTER AND TRAINING


MARTIN LI AND MAY PARKER LET ME SPEND MY DAYS...THE GOOD ONES, ANYWAY... SERVING THE HOMELESS AT THEIR F.E.A.S.T. CENTER.


IT'S HARD WORK, BUT IT'S REWARDING.

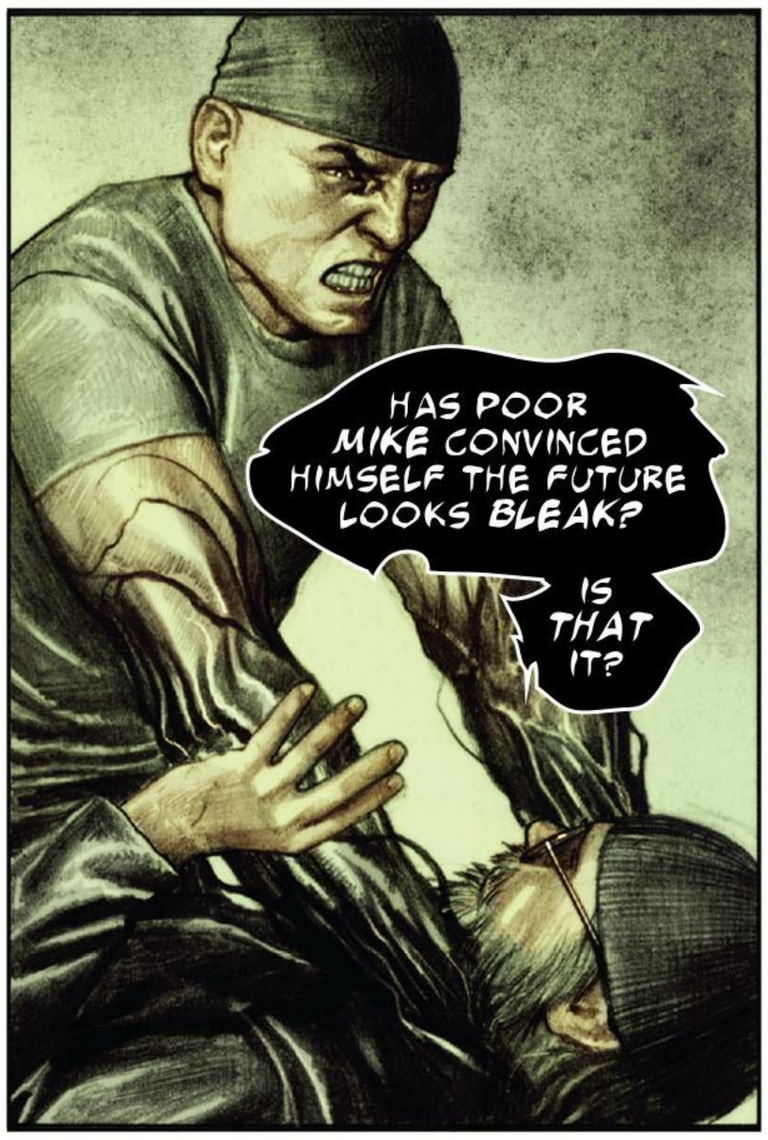

AND COMFORTING-- TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE LAST FAMILY I'LL EVER HAVE. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT LEFT.

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING ABOUT THE JOB I DON'T CARE FOR:

MIKE, ONE OF THE SHELTERED.
NO LAST NAME. NO TALKING ABOUT WHAT BROUGHT HIM HERE, OR WHY HE'S ON THE STREETS.
JUST AN ATTITUDE.
UNLIKE EVERYONE ELSE, EVEN WITH ZERO IN HIS POCKETS, MIKE IS AN INGRATE.
DAY AFTER DAY, NOTHING I EVER OFFER SEEMS GOOD ENOUGH.
HE REMINDS ME OF MY DAD IN A WAY--HOW THERE'S ONLY PUNISHMENT IN TRYING TO PLEASE HIM.
IT TAKES ALL THE ENERGY I HAVE TO IGNORE HOW MUCH I HATE HIM.
÷SNFF÷ WHAT IS THIS SLOP? INNIT S'POSED T' LOOK BETTER GOIN' INTO ME THAN IT WILL COMIN' OUT?
AND I'M NOT STRONG TODAY.
TAKE THIS CRAP OUTTA MY FACE AND BRING ME SOME REAL FOOD...
...BOY.

BOY?

WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO RELENTLESSLY UNGRATEFUL?
DO YOU THINK YOUR LIFE IS OVER NOW BECAUSE YOU'RE HOMELESS?


HAS POOR MIKE CONVINCED HIMSELF THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK?
IS THAT IT?

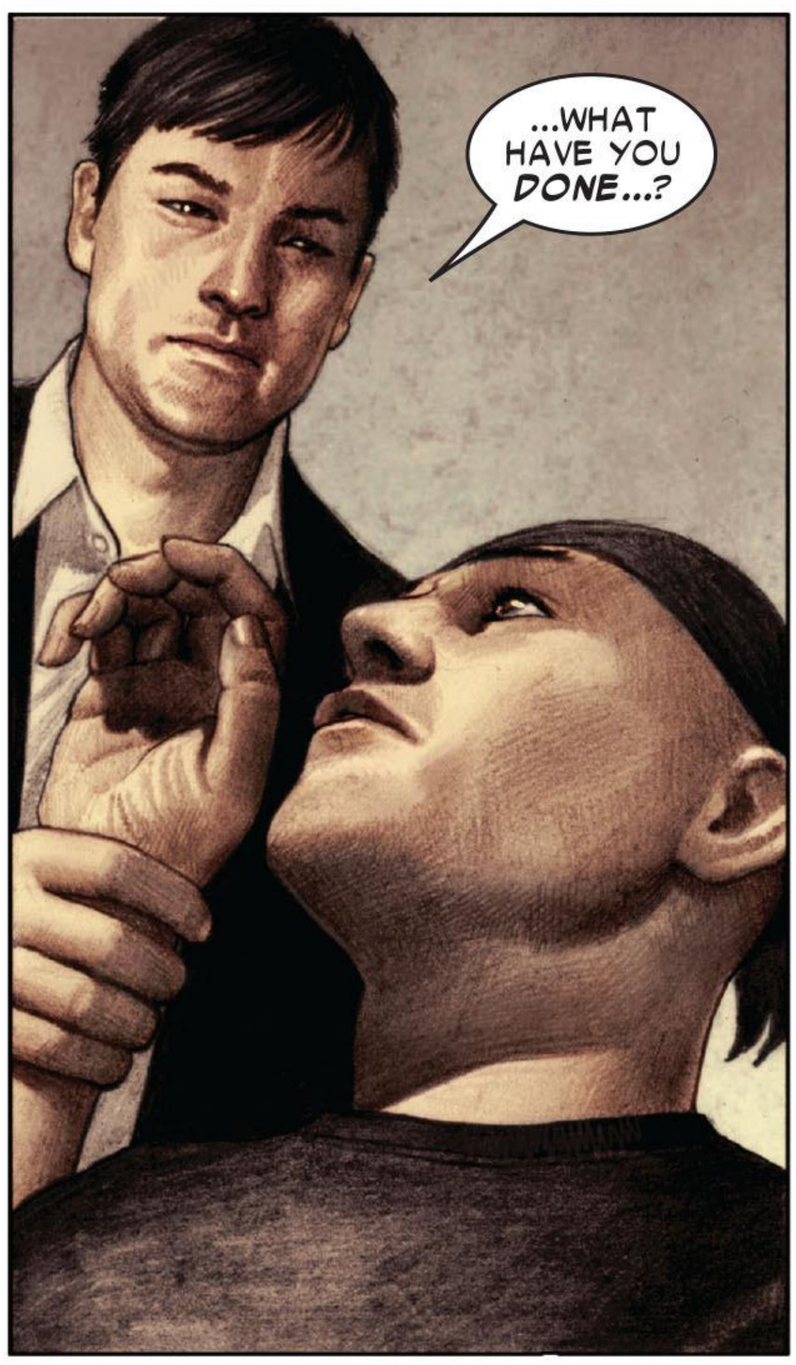
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT BLEAK IS?
DO YOU GET TO LIVE, MIKE?
DO YOU HAVE CANCER?

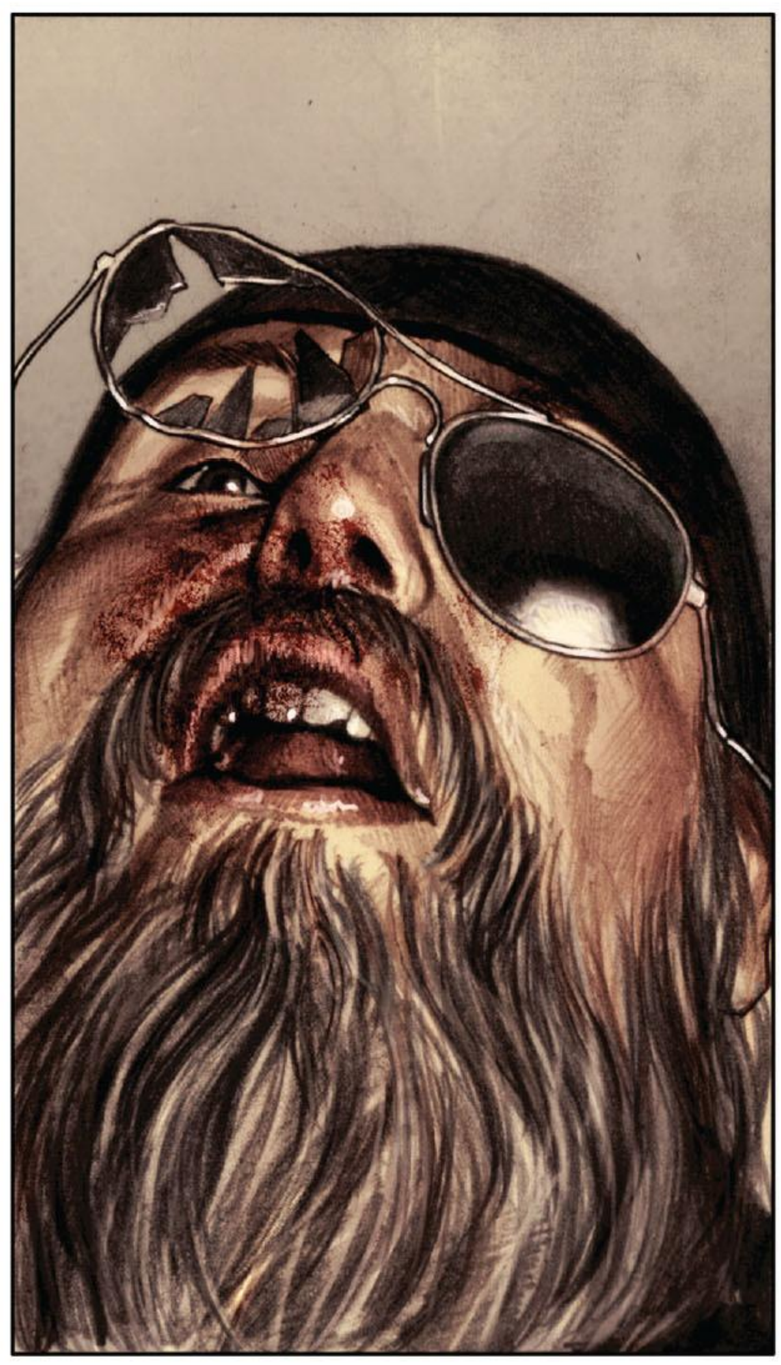
ARE YOU GOING TO DIE SOON?

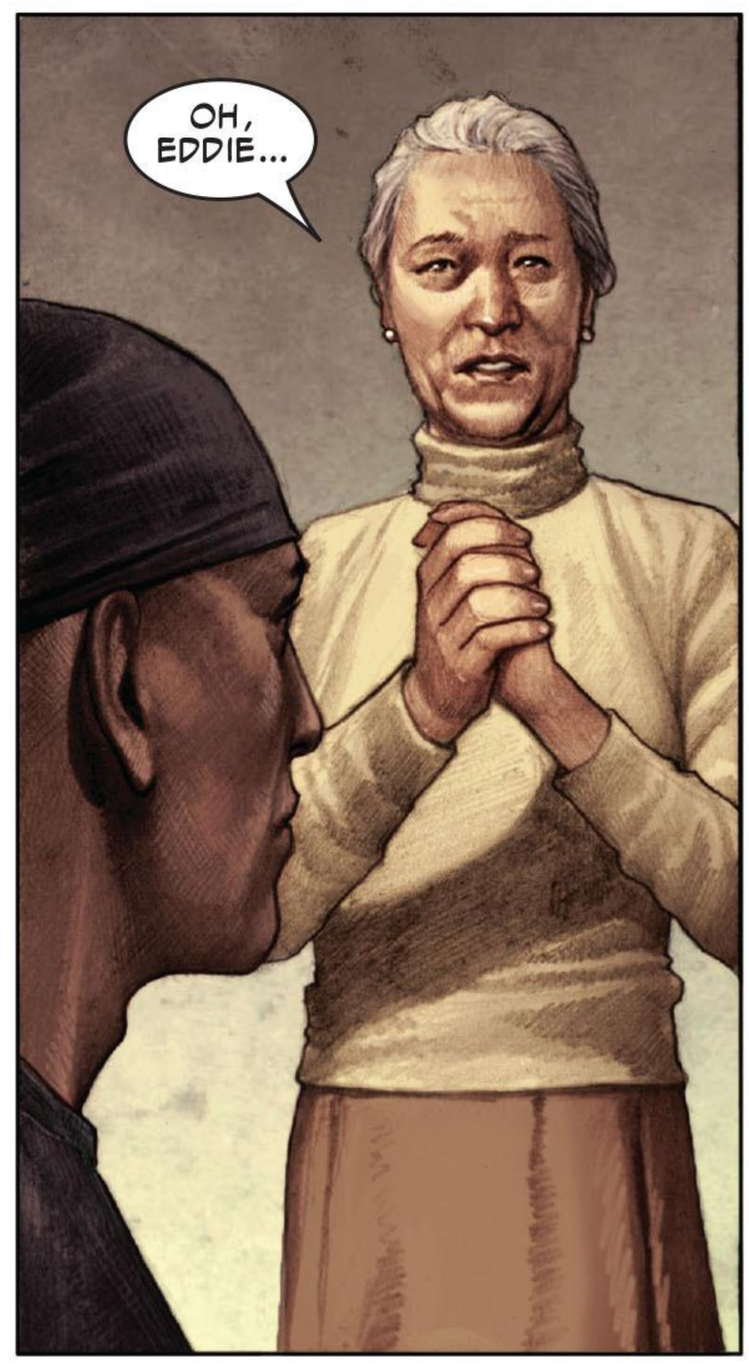
WELL?

EDDIE!
...
FORGIVE ME, MR. LI. I WAS... LOST IN THOUGHT. I'LL BE FI--

EDDIE...


...WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?



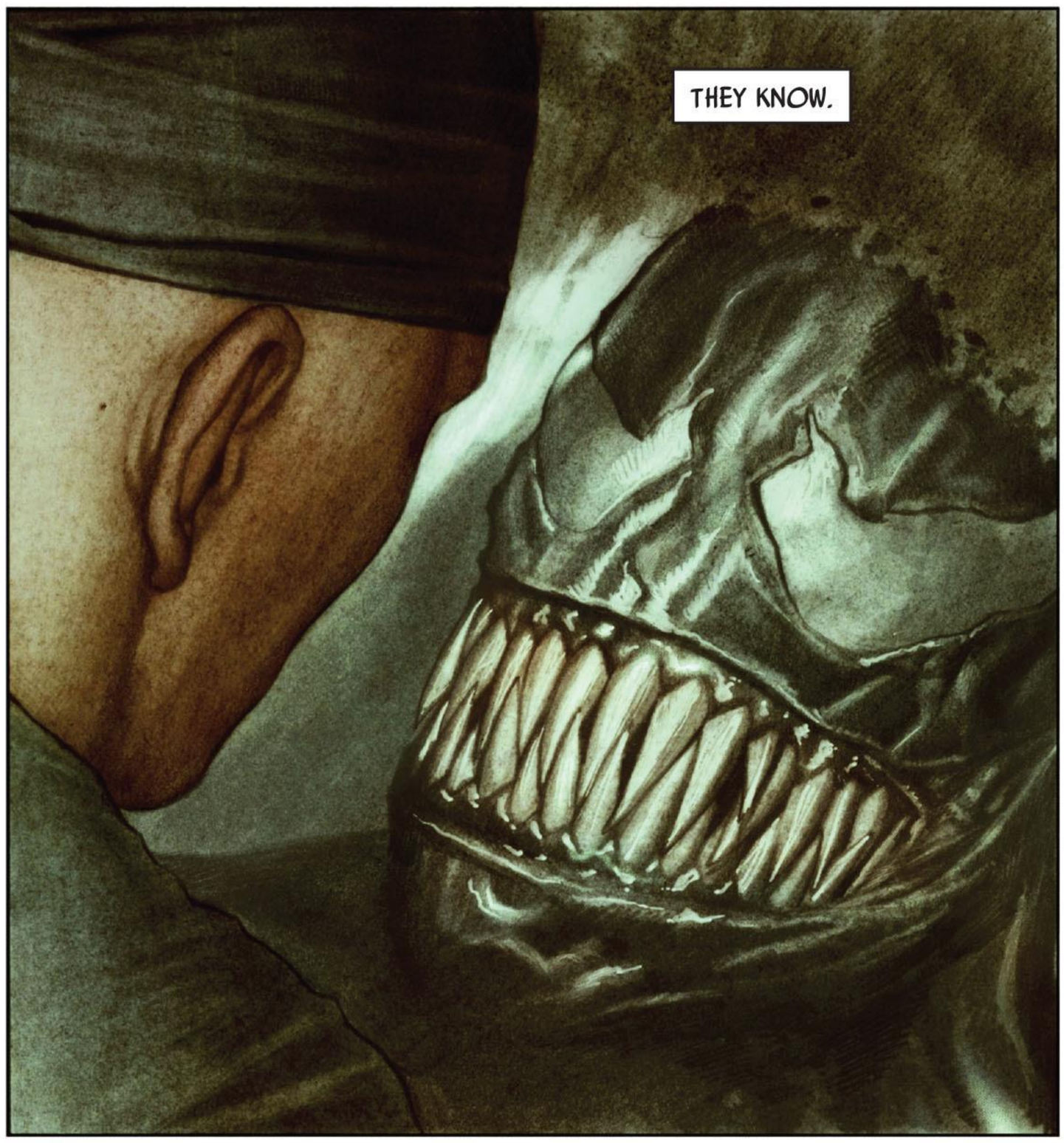

OH, EDDIE...

I CAN HEAR THE OTHER MEN MUTTERING.
"MIKE THREW A TRAY." "ATTACKED EDDIE." "SELF-DEFENSE."
EDDIE, WAIT--!

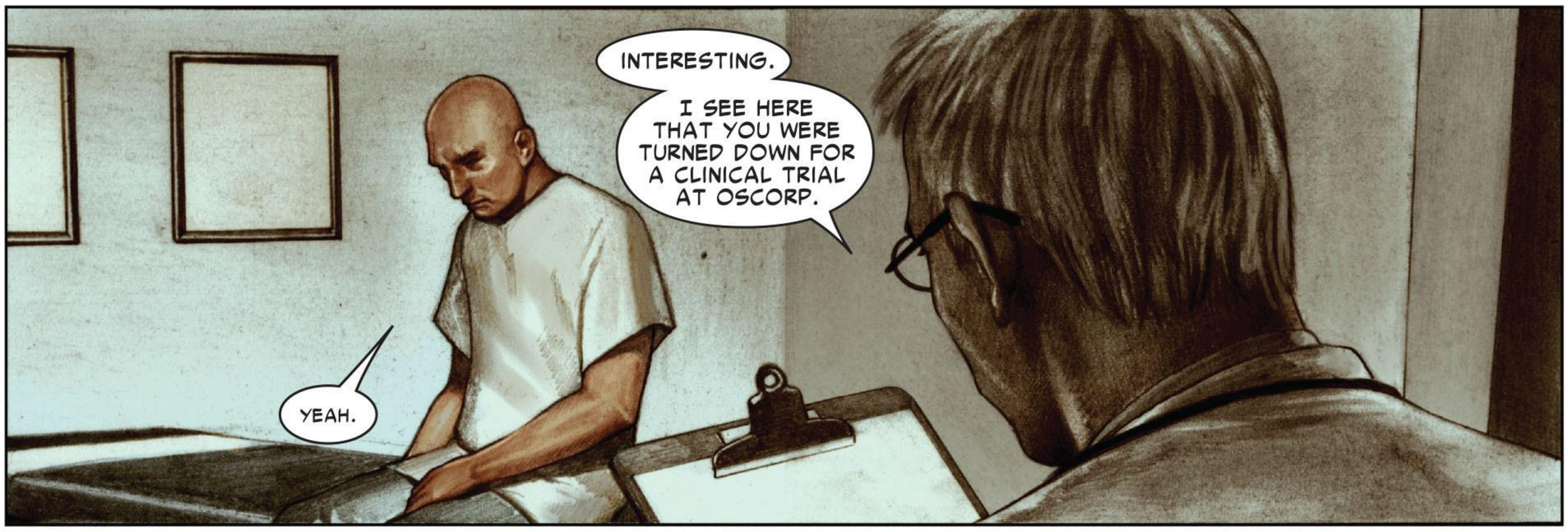
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY

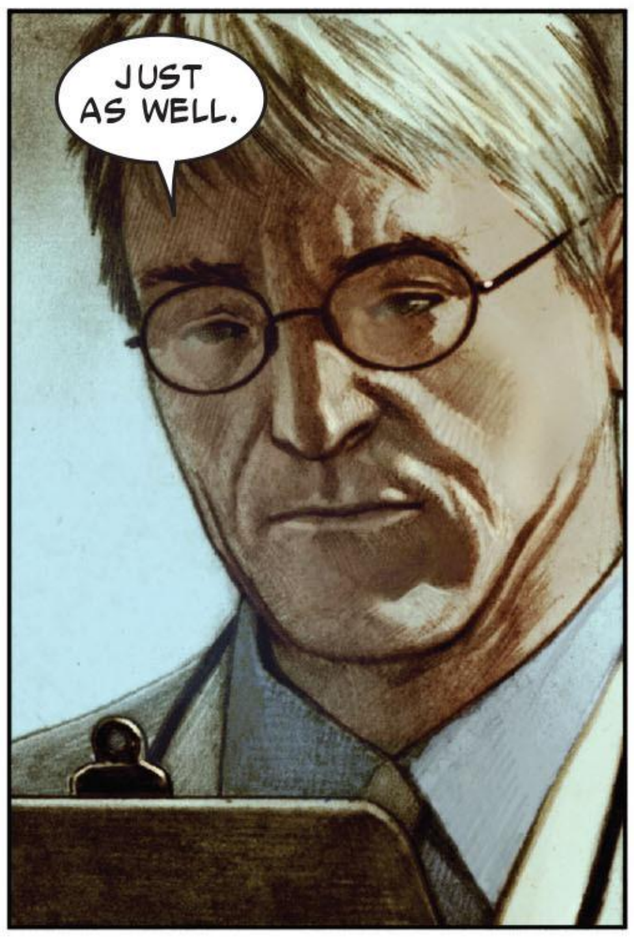
THE DAMAGE IS DONE.

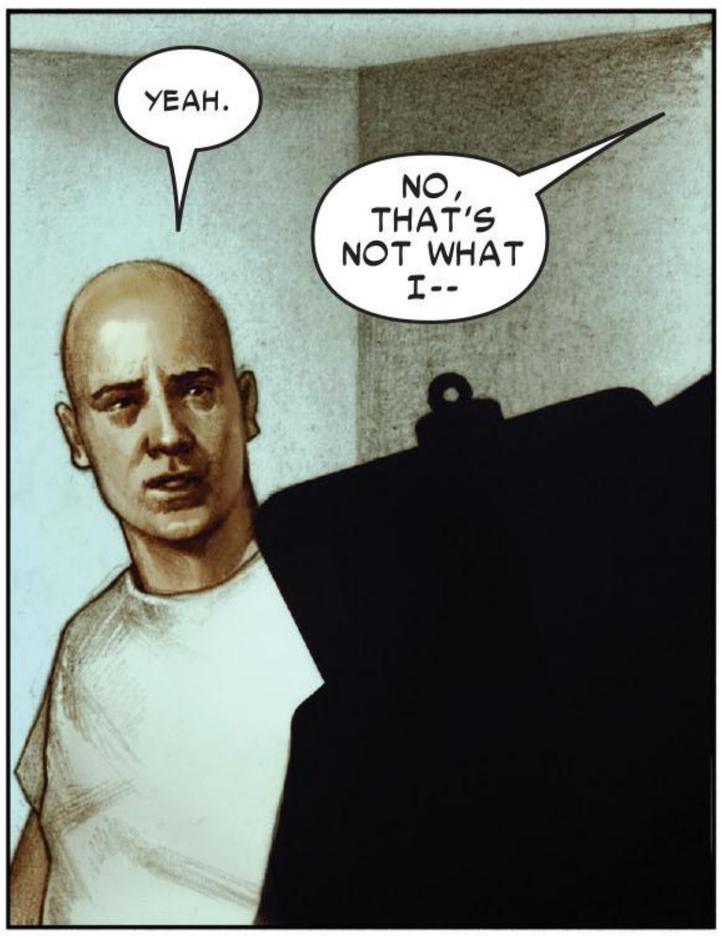
THEY'VE ALL MADE THEIR JUDGMENT.


THEY KNOW.

I USED TO GET DOWN ON MY KNEES AND PRAY TO GOD AFTER A BLOW-UP LIKE THAT.
I'D BEG HIM TO GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE...JUST ONE... TO MAKE IT RIGHT.
I DON'T EVEN WANT THAT MUCH ANYMORE.
I JUST WANT TO BE PUT OUT OF MY MISERY ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. PLEASE, GOD, PLEASE.
I JUST WANT THIS LIFE TO BE OVER.
THAT'S THE ONLY WISH I HAVE LEFT.
MR. BROCK? THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW.

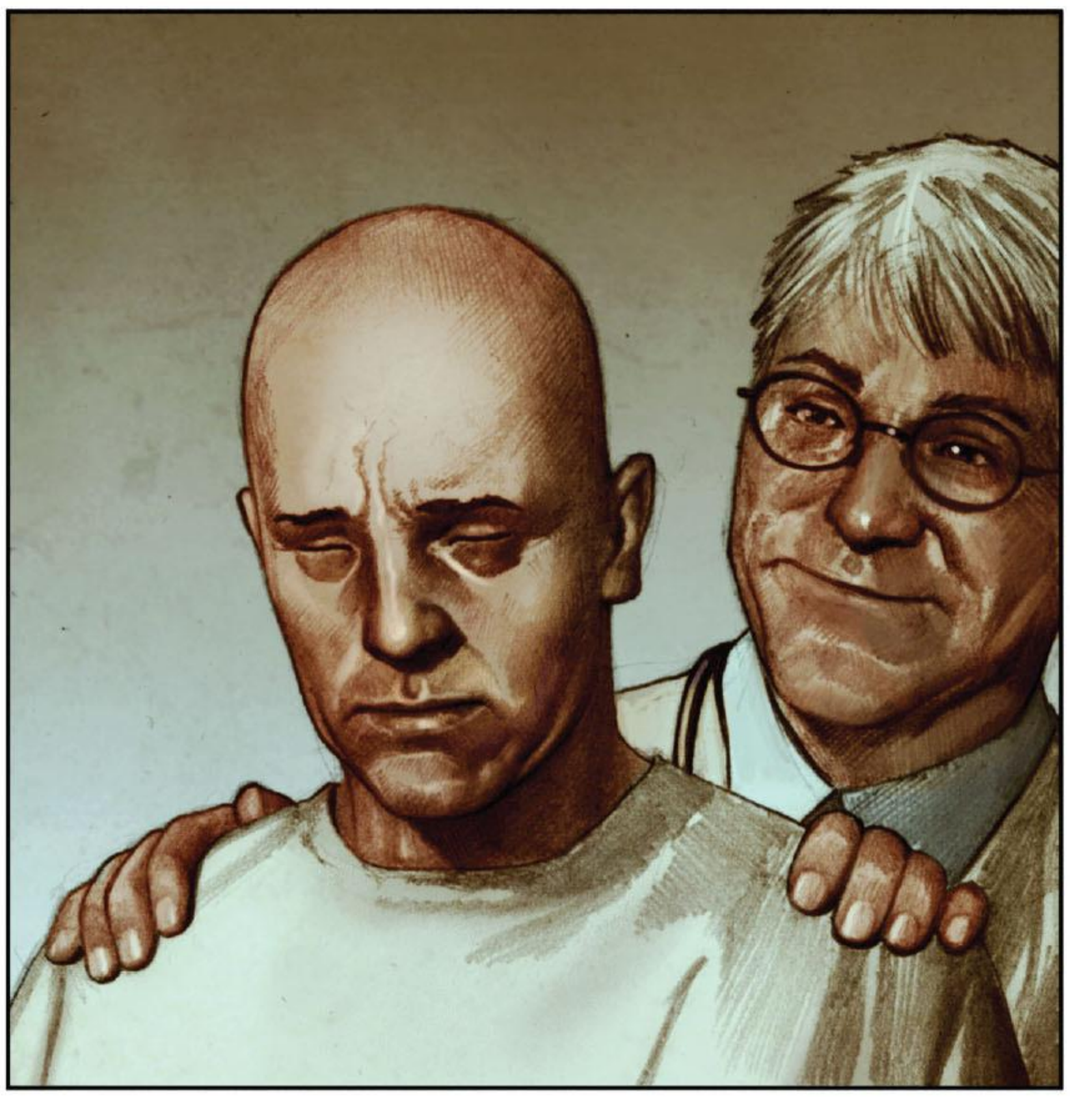

INTERESTING.
I SEE HERE THAT YOU WERE TURNED DOWN FOR A CLINICAL TRIAL AT OSCORP.
YEAH.


JUST AS WELL.

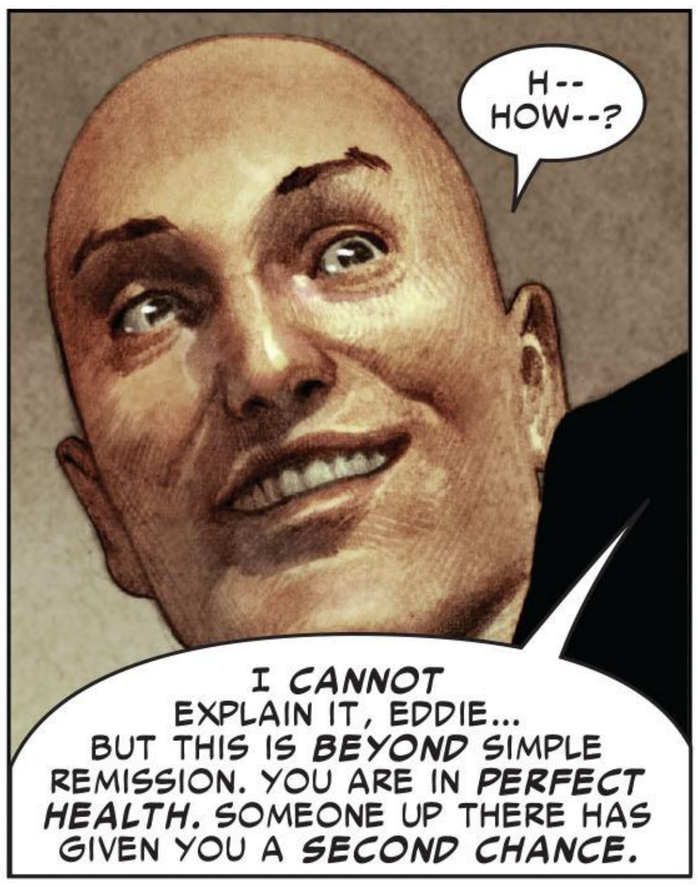

YEAH.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I--

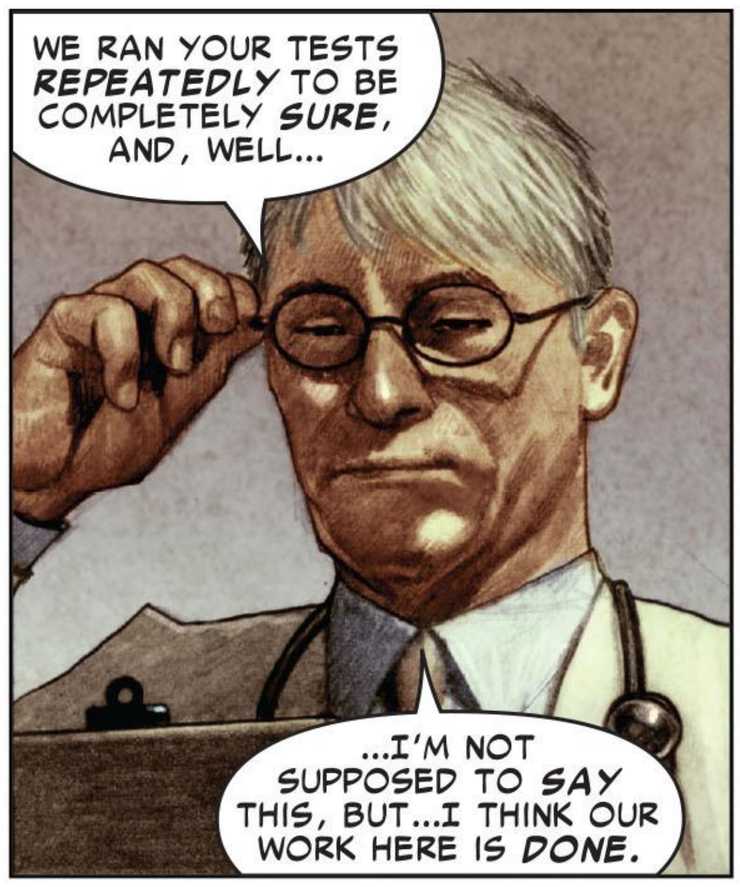
EDDIE, STAND UP. COME OVER HERE TO THE SINK.
I'D RATHER NOT.
COME ON. I'LL HELP YOU.

EDDIE, I WANT YOU TO LOOK IN THAT MIRROR AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.



BECAUSE I SEE A MAN TOTALLY WITHOUT CANCER.
CONGRATULATIONS, MR. BROCK.


H-- HOW--?
I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT, EDDIE... BUT THIS IS BEYOND SIMPLE REMISSION. YOU ARE IN PERFECT HEALTH. SOMEONE UP THERE HAS GIVEN YOU A SECOND CHANCE.


WE RAN YOUR TESTS REPEATEDLY TO BE COMPLETELY SURE, AND, WELL...
...I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY THIS, BUT...I THINK OUR WORK HERE IS DONE.

IT'S...DOCTOR, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH...!
I'VE NEVER WITNESSED ANYTHING LIKE IT. GO. LIVE A GOOD, LONG LIFE. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO CELEBRATE?

...
I'M GOING TO REFLECT.

End.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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

Welcome once again to that relic of a bygone era: the Spider-Man letters page.

For twenty-two issues in a row, I've sat here in the middle of the night dressed casually in my Hydro-Man PJ pants and "Frankie Say Relax" oversized T-shirt trying desperately to find more and more ways to alliterate my way gracefully through your comments and questions related to the world's #1 adventure magazine. I feel like I've come to know many of you simply through your criticism and adulation of what we do here three times per month and would not even think twice before showing up at your house uninvited on a Wednesday evening in hopes of staying there for a week or two.

We've laughed, I've cried, we've made mockery of America's most single man, Tom Brennan. Together we've come through this long, hot summer and all of us here backstage at Spidey Sentral are proud to finally unveil our biggest story yet: NEW WAYS TO DIE.

Right at the top we welcome John Romita, Jr. back into the Spider-Man fold where he belongs. Together with his cohorts Klaus Janson and Dean White, they are shining artistic exemplars of this new age of Webhead goodness and will be a regular part of your Spider-Man diet from now on.

We also want roll out the welcome mat to Mark Waid and Adi Granov for our very important backup tale. Adi is fresh off of working on the ever popular Iron Man movie and Mark is the legendary ("legendary" is comic code for over-40) writer of FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, *Potter's Field* and most notably: *Saurians: Unnatural Selection*.

So now you've read part one and you've got a long seven day wait until part two hits. What's a poor editor to do until then? Same thing we've done the other 22 weeks, let's get to your kvetching!

Remember a few issues back when I "pretended" to not know what a "transom" is? This guy does:

Wacker,

A transom is that extra window that runs across the top of a door or window... (why God, why do I have to be so smart?). BND is great! But I want to see more of the UBERBABE that is Mary Jane Watson. So until Dr. Doom starts working at Pottery Barn...MAKE MINE MARVEL

Chad Totten
Via e-mail

Whoa, look at the big brain on Chad! Look, pal, anyone can look a word up in one of your big city dictionaries...Well, except me.

I have a Brennan to do things like that for me.

Dear ASM,

I love the artwork on 559-561! Brand New Day is rocking my socks off! Quick question for Mr. Martin, please explain to me your inking style, felt-tip, quill, artist's brush, and also, how do you ink it? Borders first, the people, then background? Or what? Please publish (I'd really like an answer).

Ryan Jensen
Age 13, Minnesota

Ryan, I went to the man himself, the reclusive Maestro Marcos Martin in an attempt to get an answer for you. Here's what he wrote back for you (You should know going into this that Marcos isn't particularly fond of me):

Steve! I feel generous today so I'll grant your request... even though I'm pretty sure this is just you trying to learn my trade secrets in order to train some monkey and get him to do my job faster and better.

Hola Ryan,

I'm glad you enjoyed my work on ASM so far. You're too kind.

To briefly answer your inking questions: I use a variety of roller pens and markers (Pilot Hi-TechpointV5, Pilot Marking Pen VSign or Edding 3000 Marker to name a few) although I'd recommend learning to use a brush since it's probably the most versatile of the inking tools. And I don't follow any strict guidelines when it comes to inking the page, although I usually start by inking the foreground elements and gradually "move" towards the background. Oh, and borders last using Photoshop!

However, your most important tool (both when penciling or inking) is your brain. No matter what tools you choose to use, knowing always what you want to achieve with your linework, what to put in and what to leave out, is to me the key to becoming a good artist... And that's the reason why Steve will never be able to replace me with that chimpanzee! Do you hear me, Steve?! Never!!"

Replace Marcos with a chimpanzee? No way! That's crazy, you'd need at least an orangutan to match his charm and wit. Hope that answer helps ya, Ryan. I may be hiring someone to finish Marcos' next story, so keep practicing!

Dear Spider people,

I have been enjoying the BND run of stories in Spidey, having not really read the title much since the Steve Ditko and Johnny Romita eras. Initially hooked in by some good creators such as McNiven, Larroca, Kitson, Bachalo etc, and soon caught up by the fun, intriguing stories, characters and subplots.

Just a word on Paulo Siqueira and Amilton Santos's art in No 564: nice job! Some dynamic Spidey-in-action shots throughout; the multiple thwips of webbing, the close-up of Overdrive's gun, the digital effects on the "Duck kids!" panel; the speeding "Civ-War" taxi; spooky Mr. Negative, and Carly in her police uniform!

All boxes ticked as far as I am concerned, I shall certainly look out for more work by these guys, and would have no objection to seeing them grace Spidey's book again (soon).

Ken Langfield
Via e-mail

Thanks, Ken, you can follow Paulo over in the pages of Ms. Marvel #32 in just a couple months.

And with that we're going to close up shop a little bit early to get back to work on next week's part two of NEW WAYS TO DIE...featuring the debut of a Spidey villain we think you're going to want to be here for. I'll see ya in seven!

Viva Templar!!
-Simperin Steve, 7/31/08

This issue is respectfully dedicated to one of our favorite Spidey fans: Michael Patrick Ptak. A great kid with great power...

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