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BRAND NEW DAY

the AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

THE FIERY
FURY OF
FREAK!

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GALE
JIMENEZ
LANNING
MIKI
COX

PLUS: SPIDEY
UNMASKED?!
(ALREADY?)

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF SPIDER-MAN

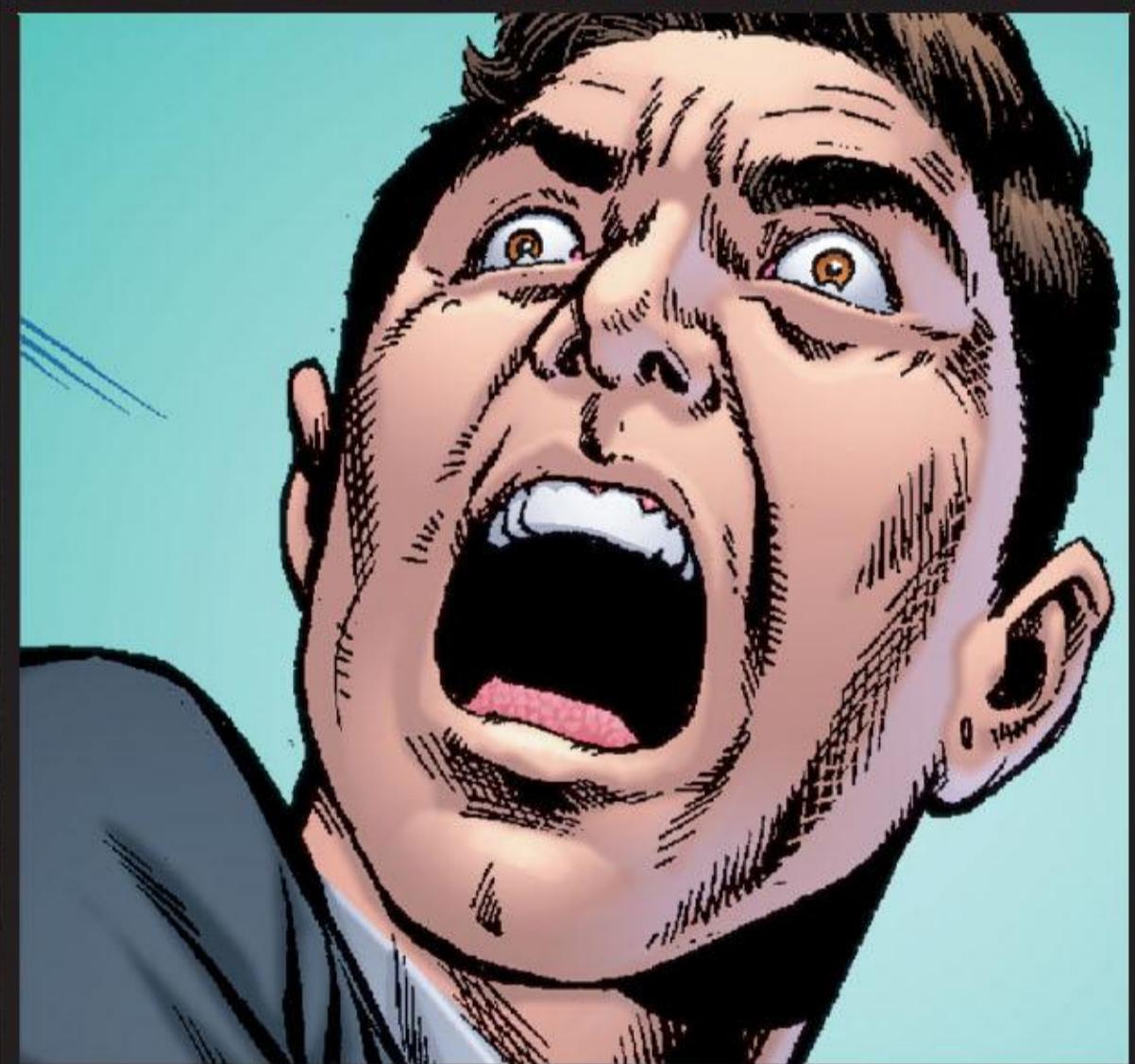
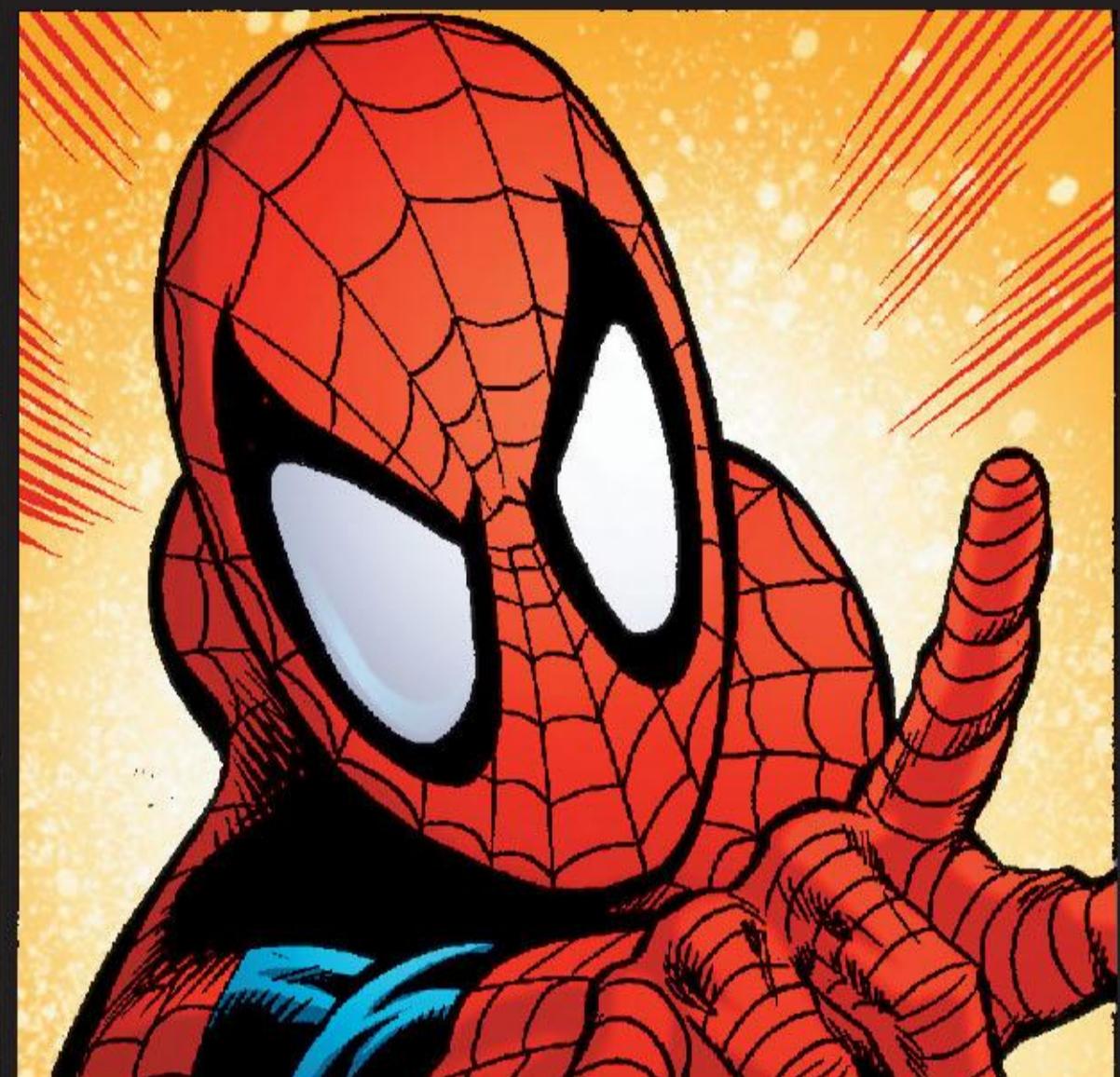


BIZARRE BLIZZARD TO BATTER BIG
APPLE? METEOROLOGISTS STUMPED BY
THIS WEEKEND'S PREDICTED STORM!

MARCH 19, 2008

WEDNESDAY

FREAK OFF A LEASH!



Freak, a drug-fueled junkie Spidey chased down over a petty theft, has morphed into an animal monster thanks to stumbling into a Curt Connors experiment. Blaming Spider-Man for his condition, Freak tracks Spidey's scent to a campaign event for Mayoral Candidate Randall Crowne – one that Peter Parker's covering for the DB. With Spidey outpowered and the police helpless, Freak is out of control and out for Peter Parker's blood...and anyone else who's in the way – even Crowne himself!

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 A-2



Raymond's Meth Lab.

30 SECONDS AGO...



BURNED!

BOB
GALE
WRITER

PHIL
JIMENEZ
PENCILS

LANNING, MIKI
& JIMENEZ
INKS

JEREMY
COX
COLORS

VC'S CORY
PETIT
LETTERS

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DAN
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PUBLISHER

GALE, GUGGENHEIM, SLOTT & WELLS SPIDEY'S BRAINSTRUST

Crowne Plaza.

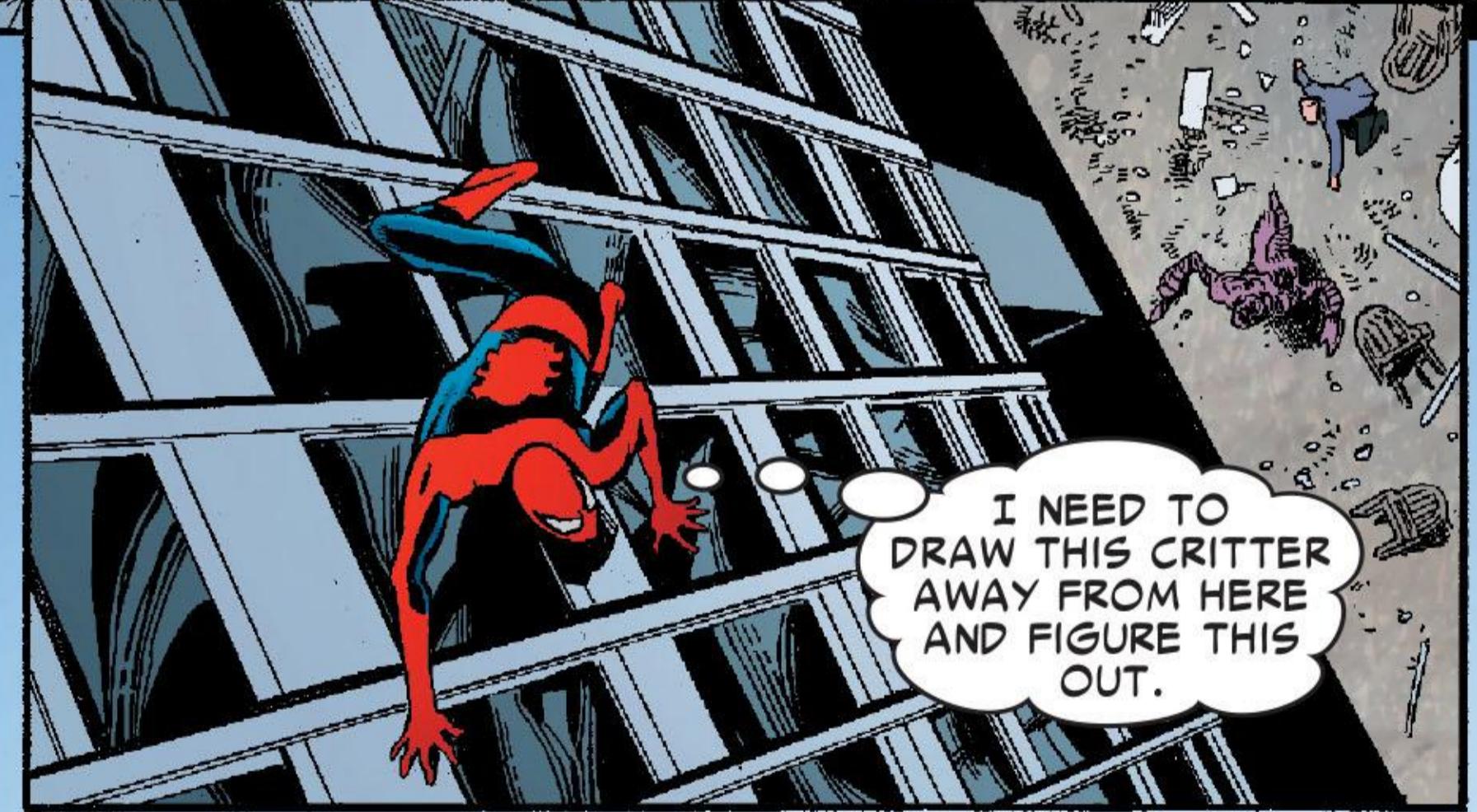
THE SCENE OF RANDALL CROWNE'S CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE. NOW.

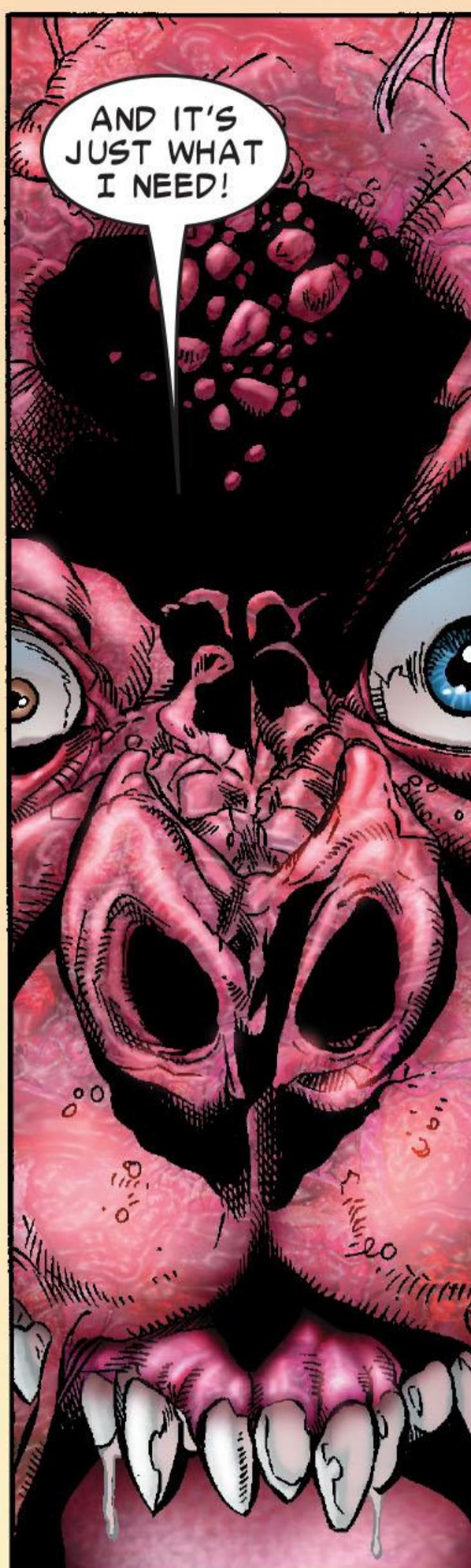
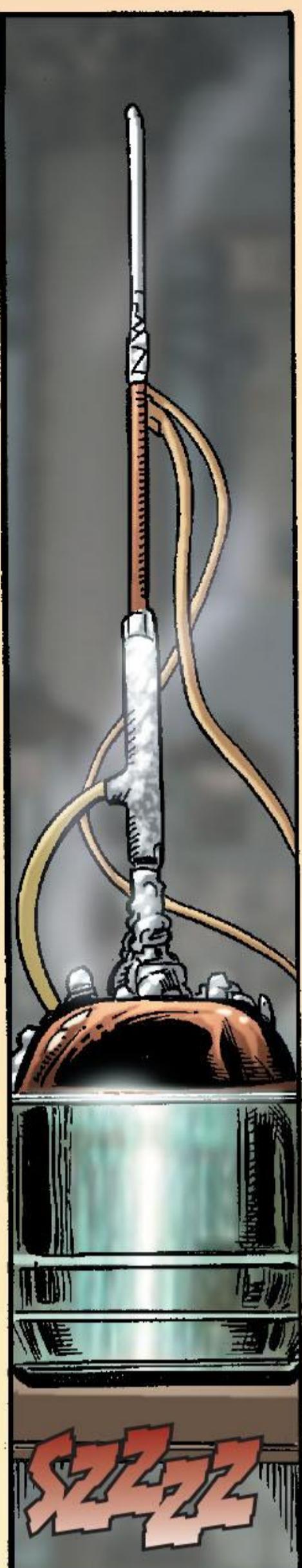
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO DUCK
WHEN MONSTERS THROW
SCULPTURES AT YOU,
MR. CROWNE!

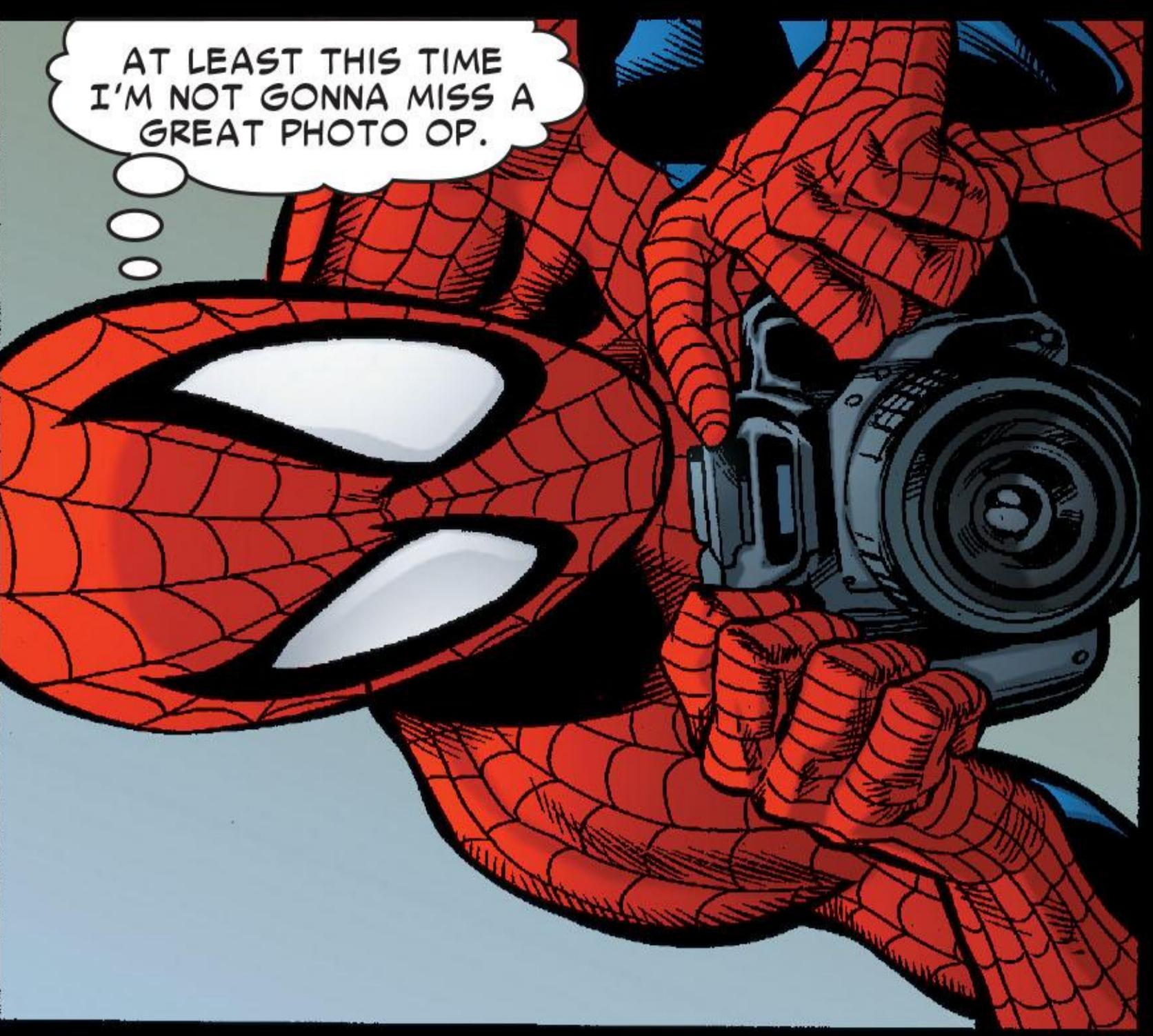
IF YOU'RE
ELECTED MAYOR,
I HOPE YOU'LL
REMEMBER I SAVED
YOUR LIFE.

ACTUALLY, I HOPE
YOU'LL REMEMBER
REGARDLESS--I COULD
USE A DISCOUNT AT
CROWNE-MART.











SORRY, I
LIKE MY FACE
THE WAY IT
IS.

THWIP!

GAH! MY
EYES!

THAT
CLOSES DOWN
THIS METH
LAB.

WHAT WILL
YOUNG WALL STREET
DO NOW?

CRACK!

NO!

YOU CAN'T
DO THAT! I
NEED MORE
WHITE!

NO, GENIUS--
YOU NEED TO GET
OUT OF HERE!

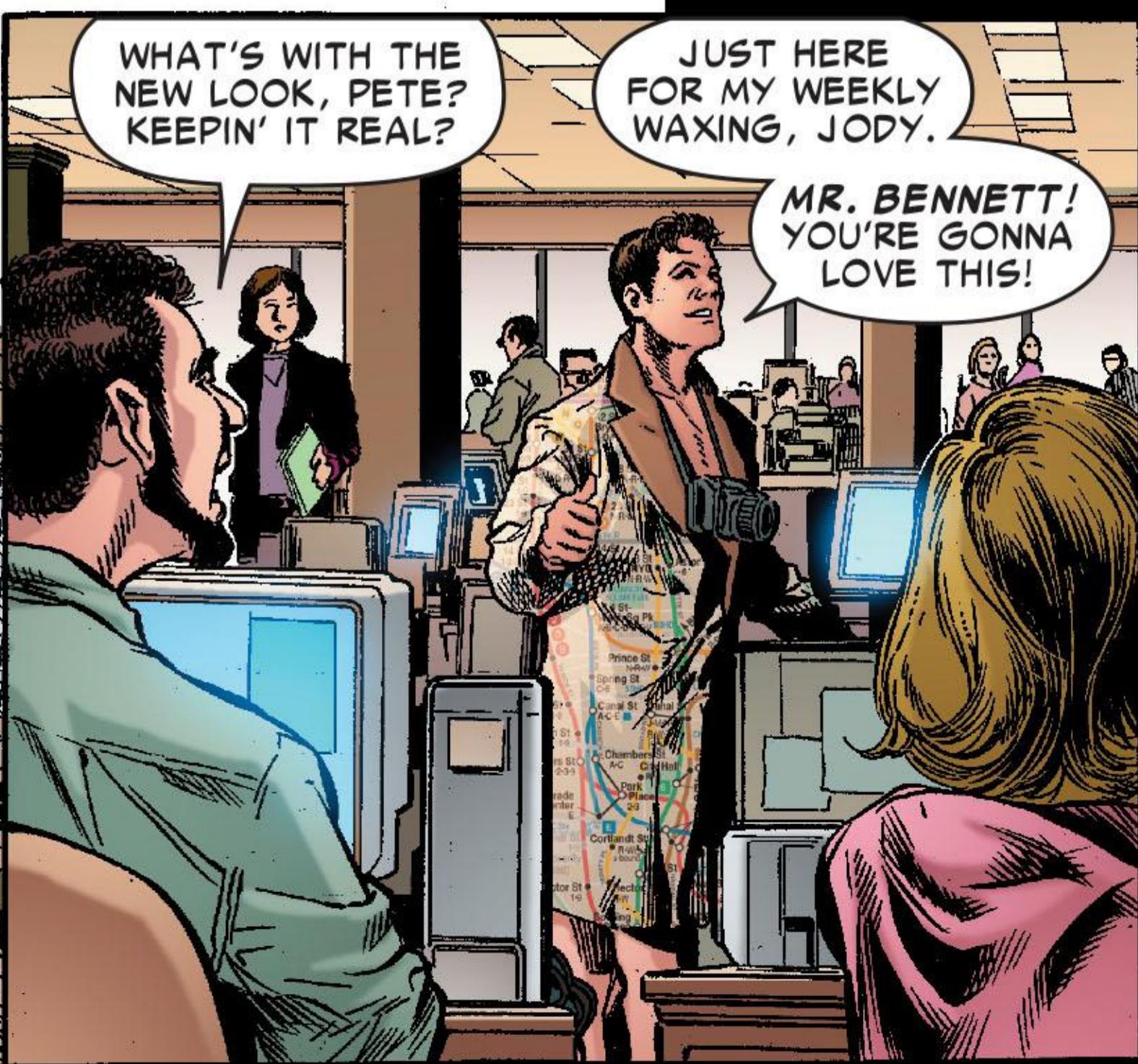
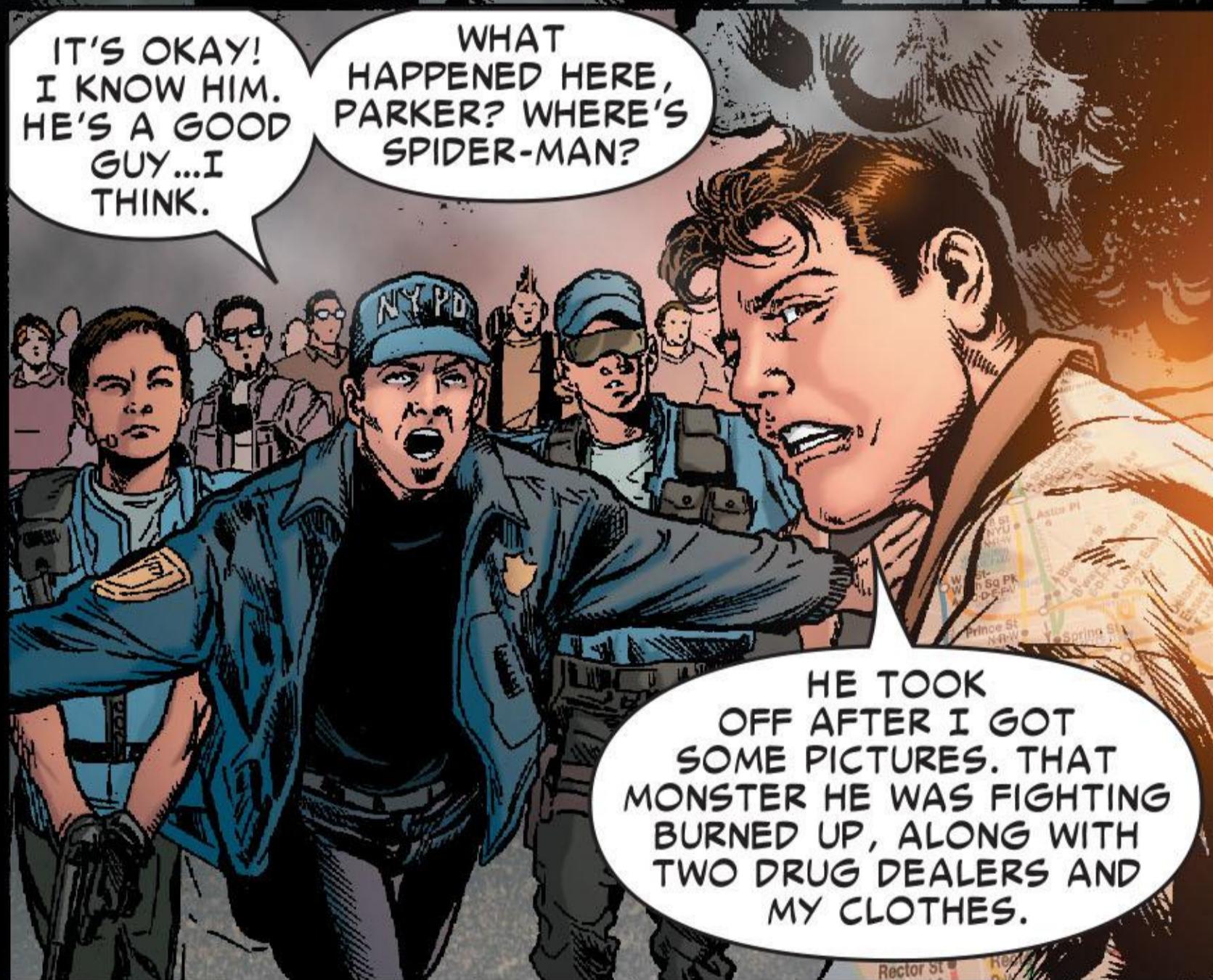
THERE'S A
FIRE, AND YOU'RE
COVERED IN
ACETONE!

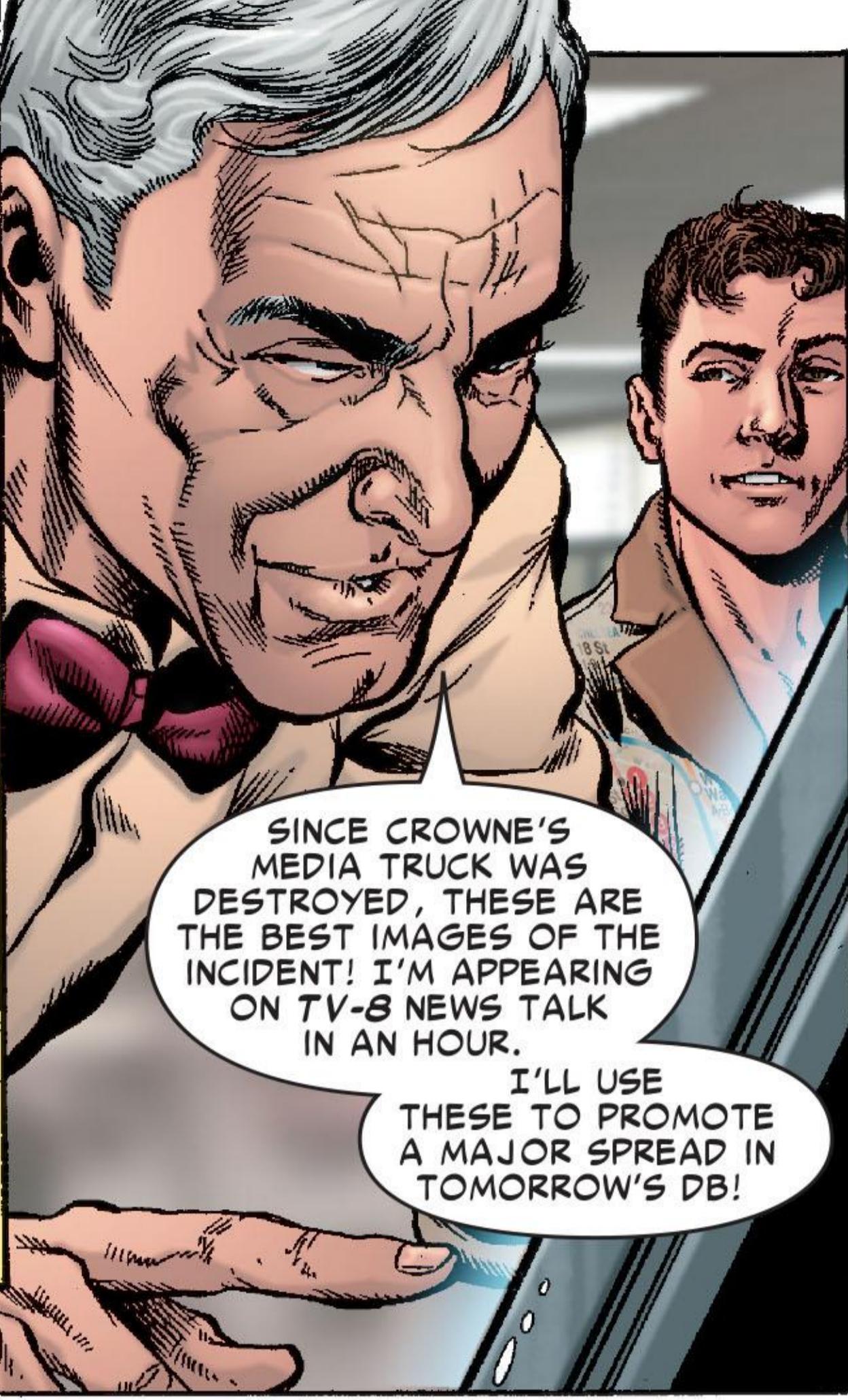
IT'S HERE!
ALL THE WHITE
I NEED!

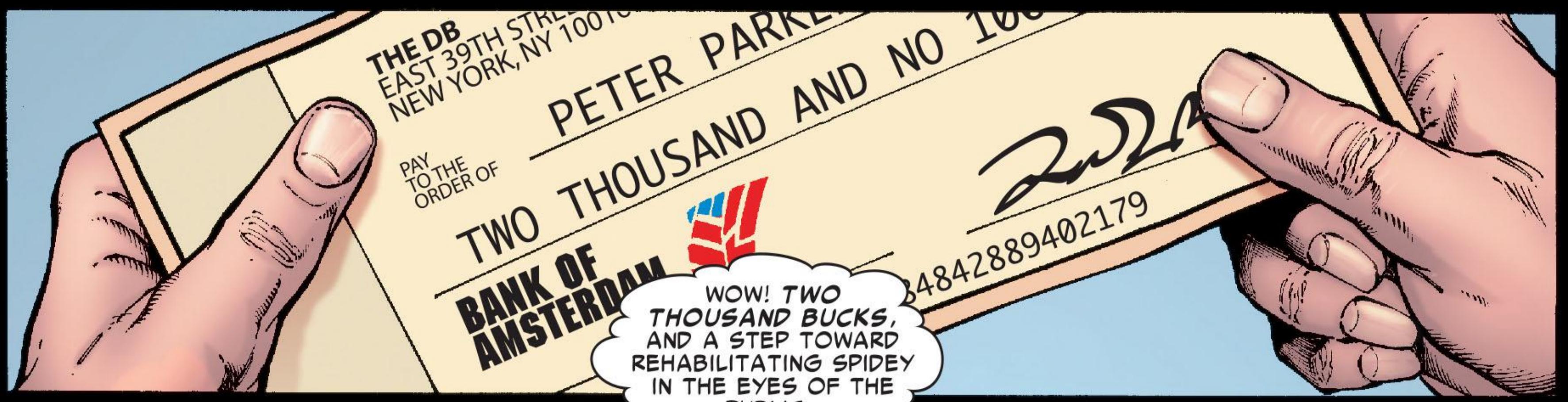


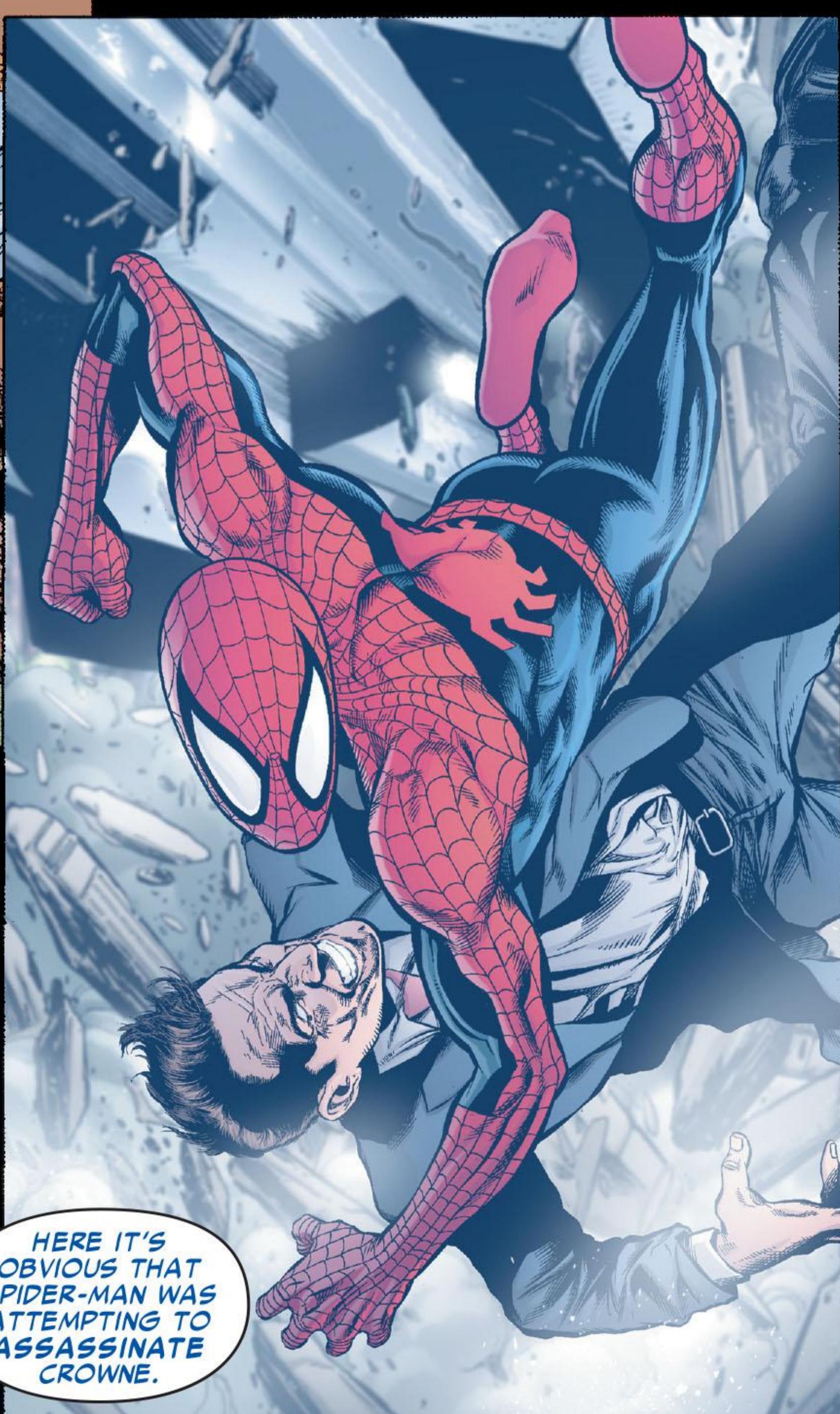
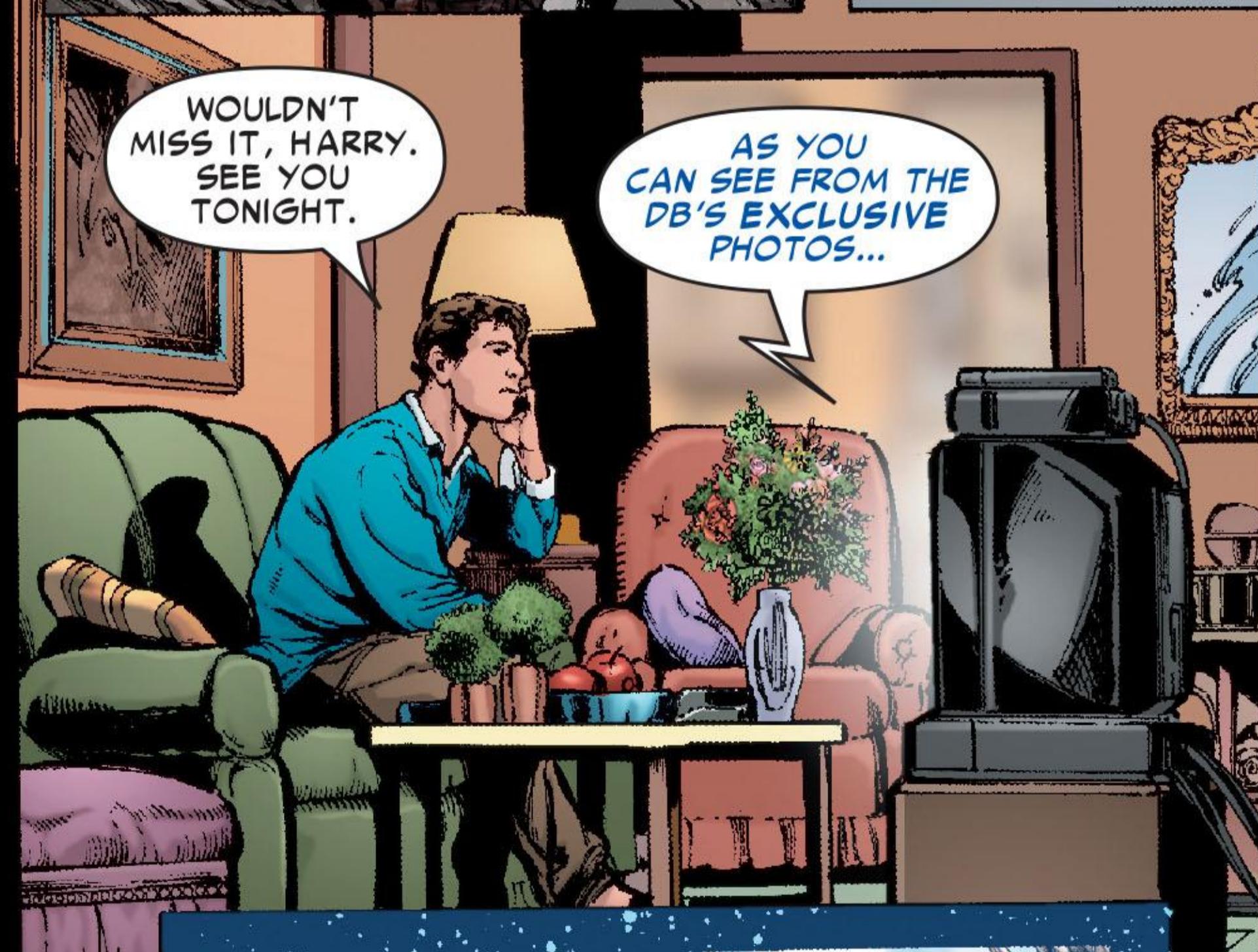
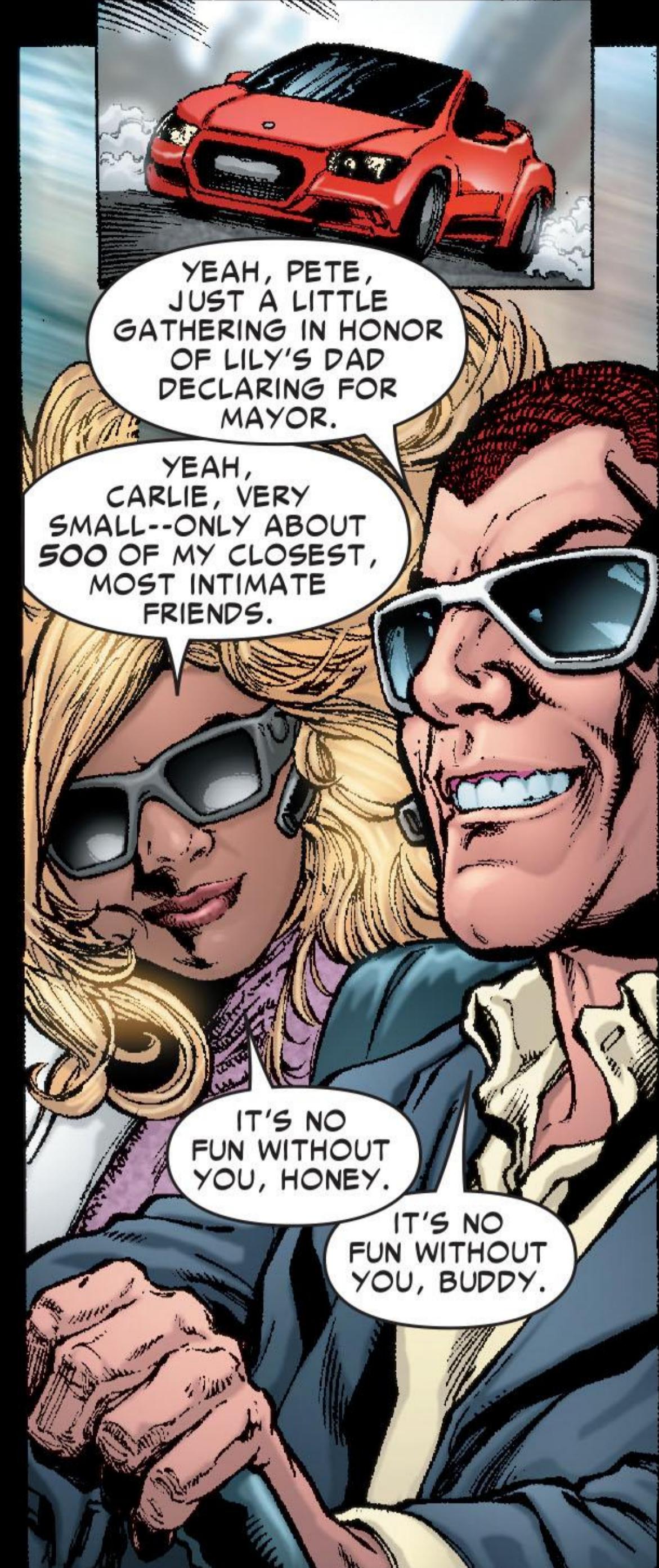
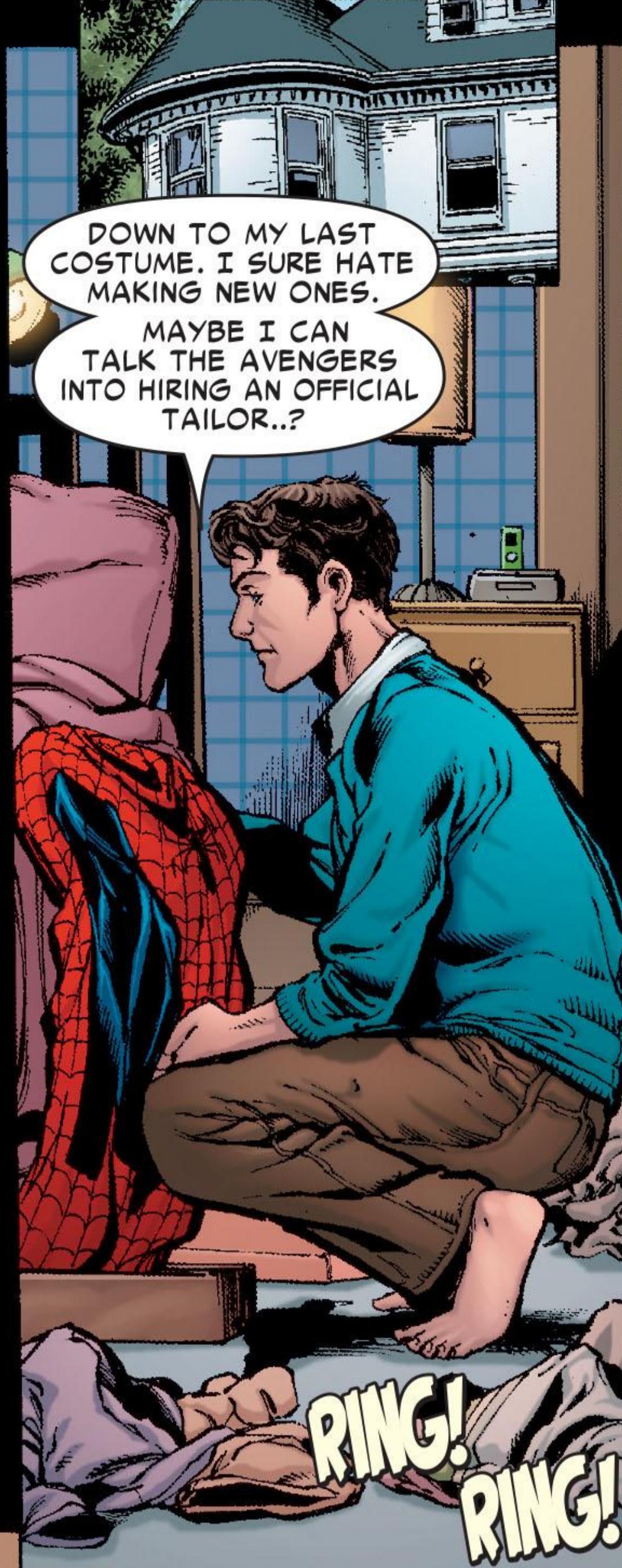
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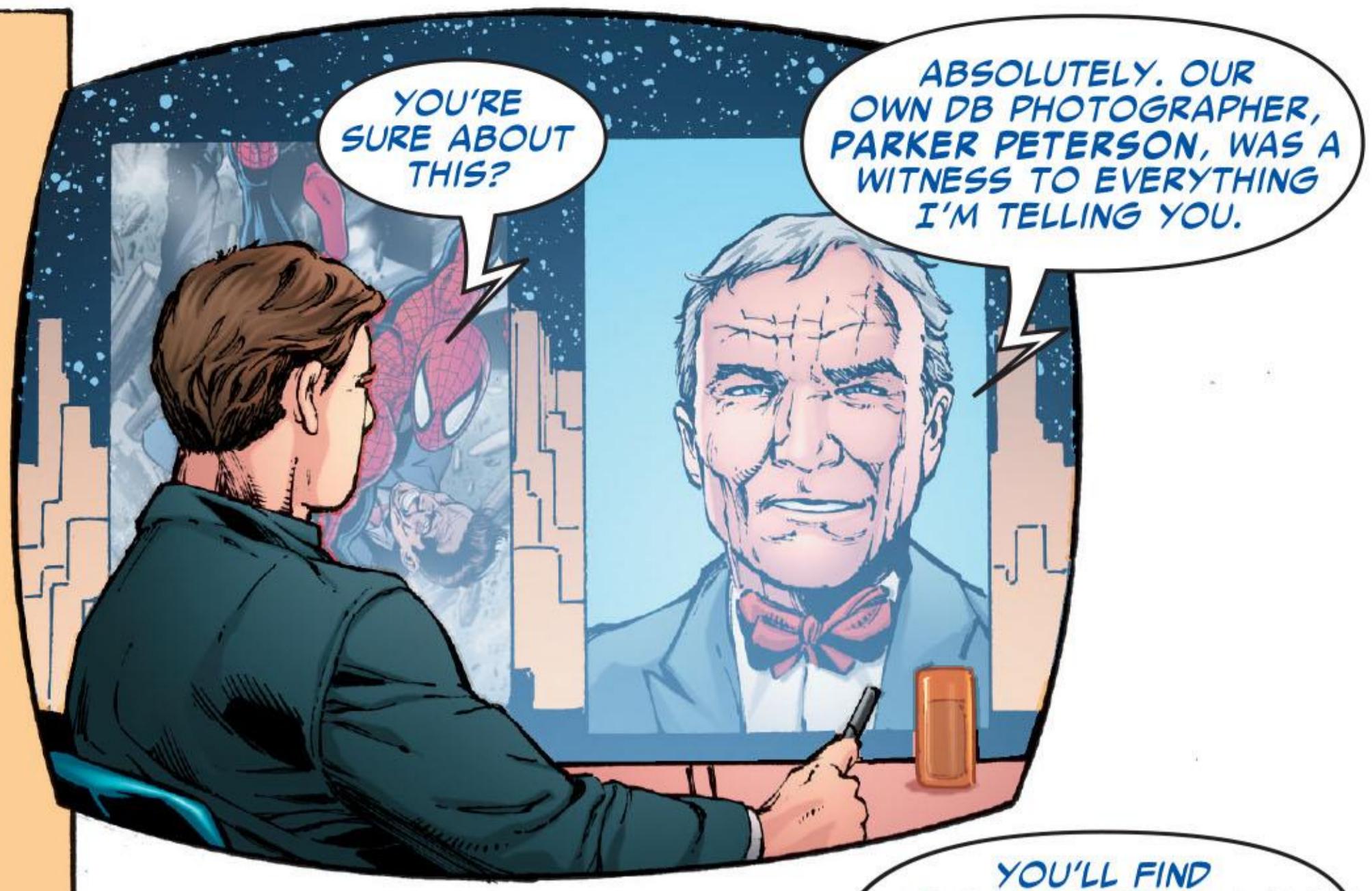


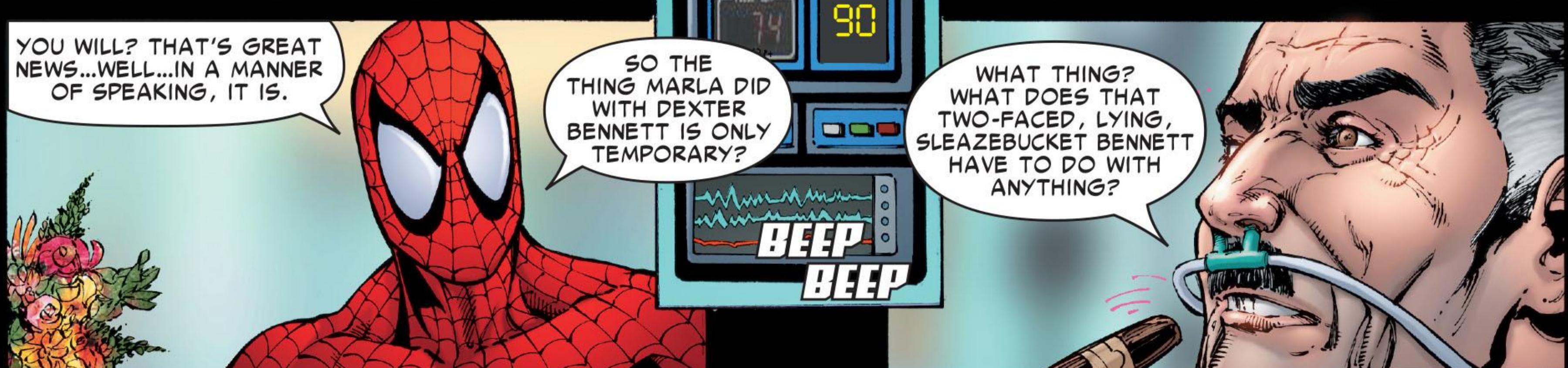
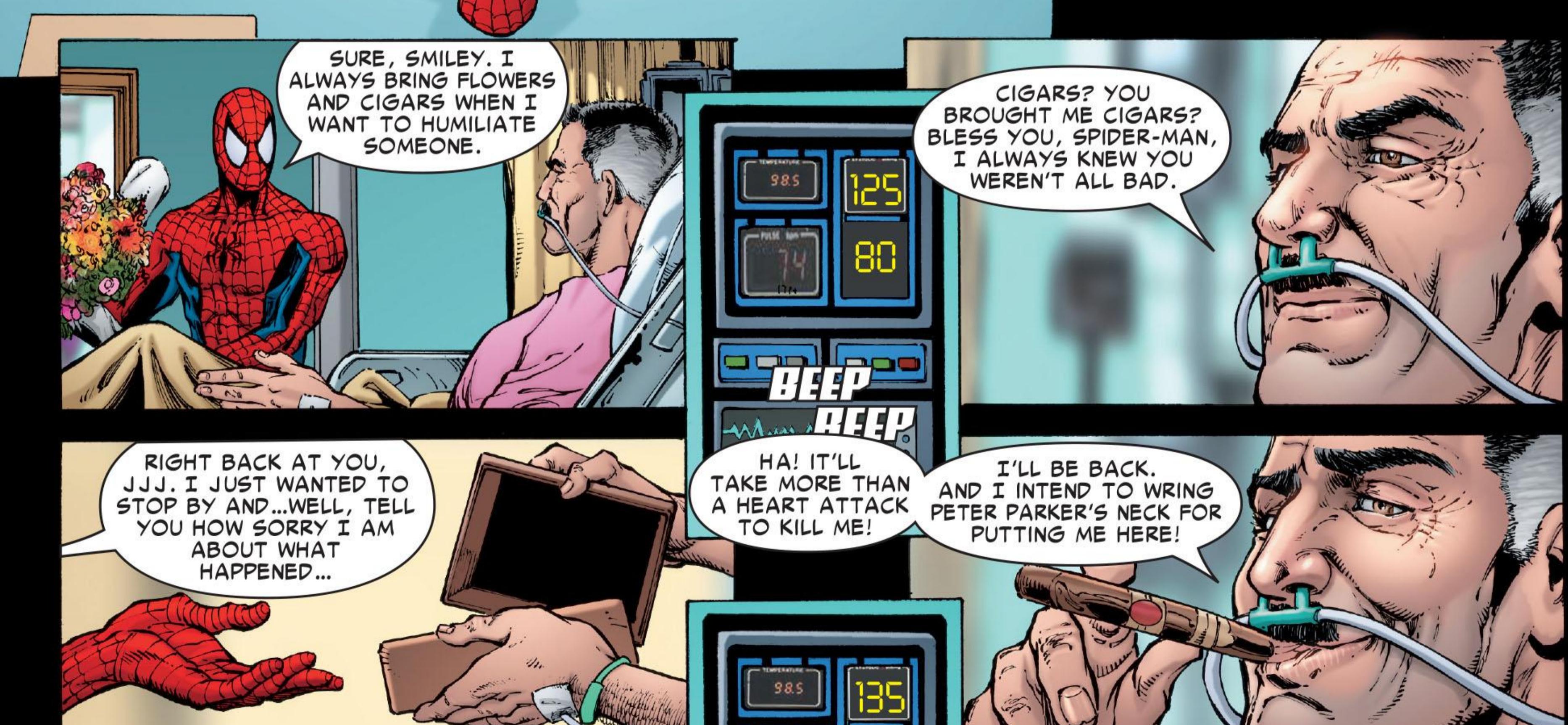
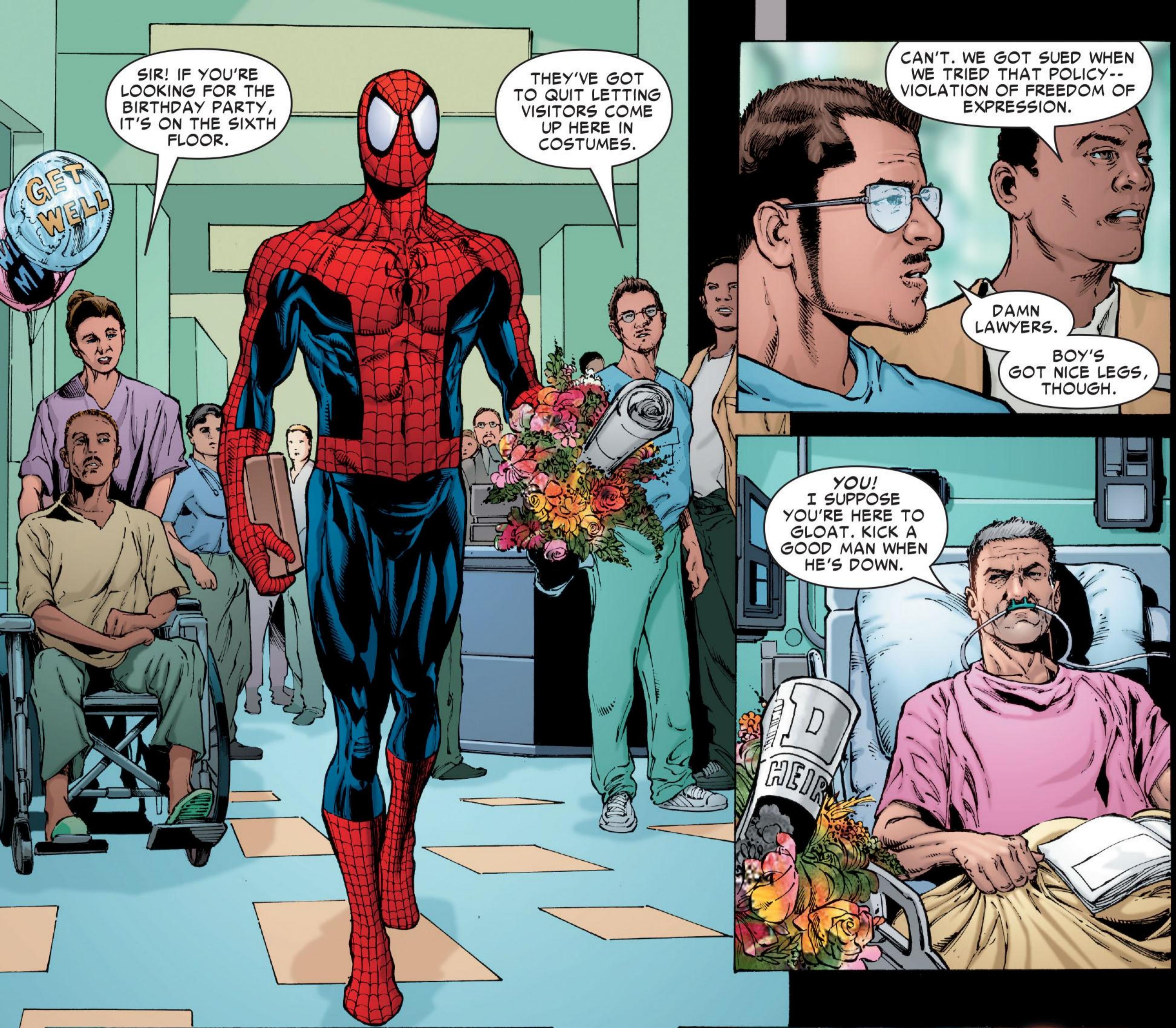


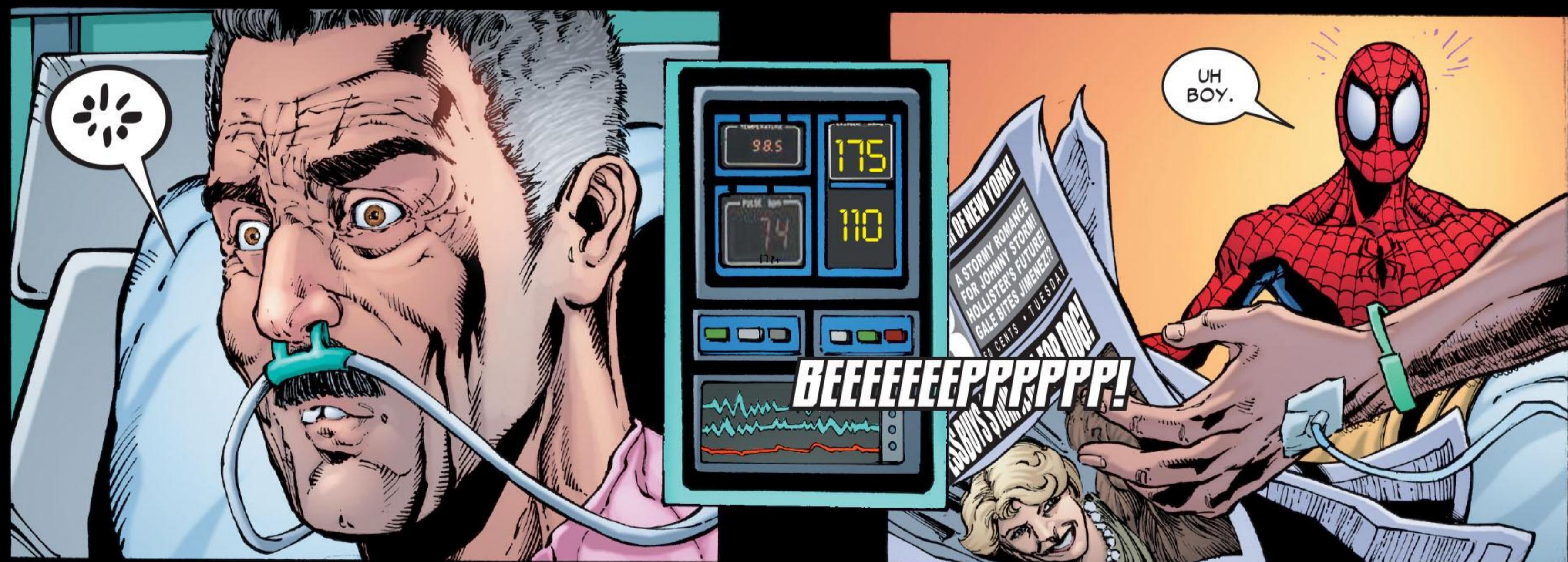
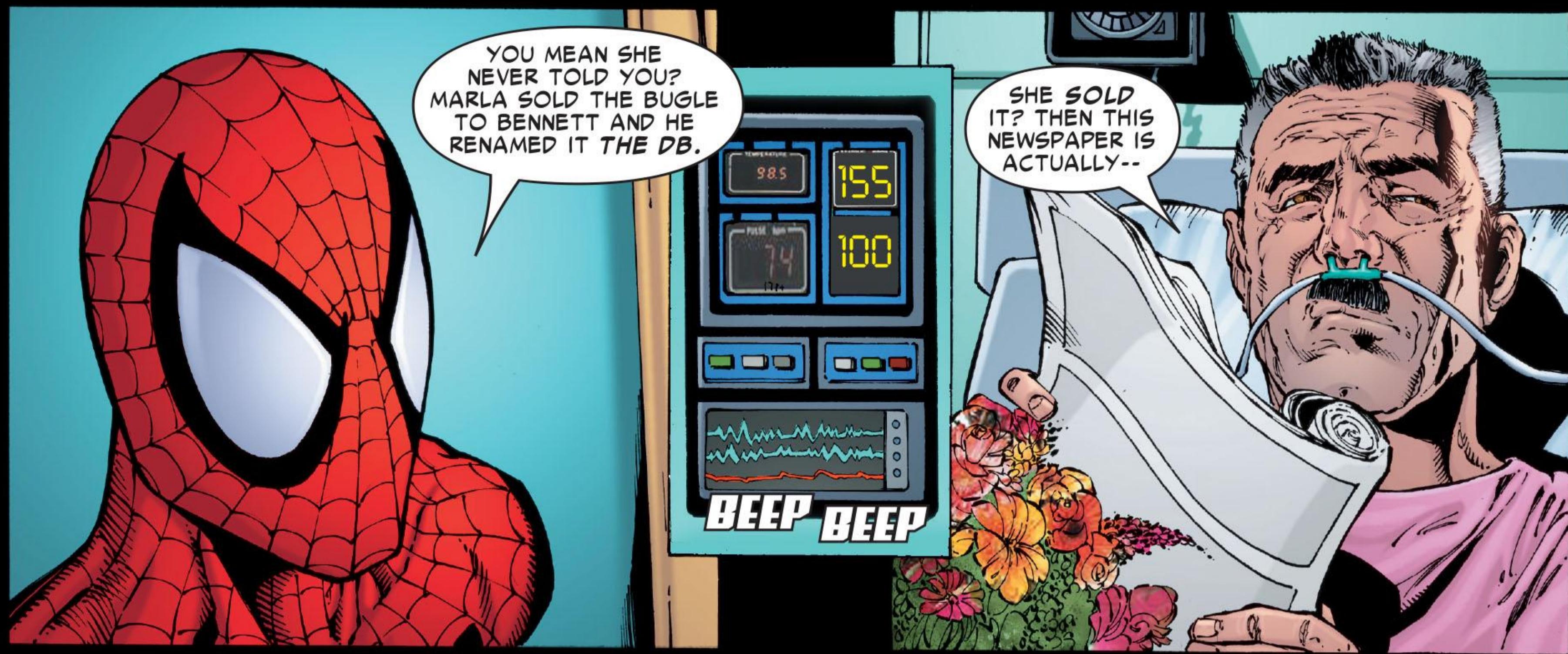




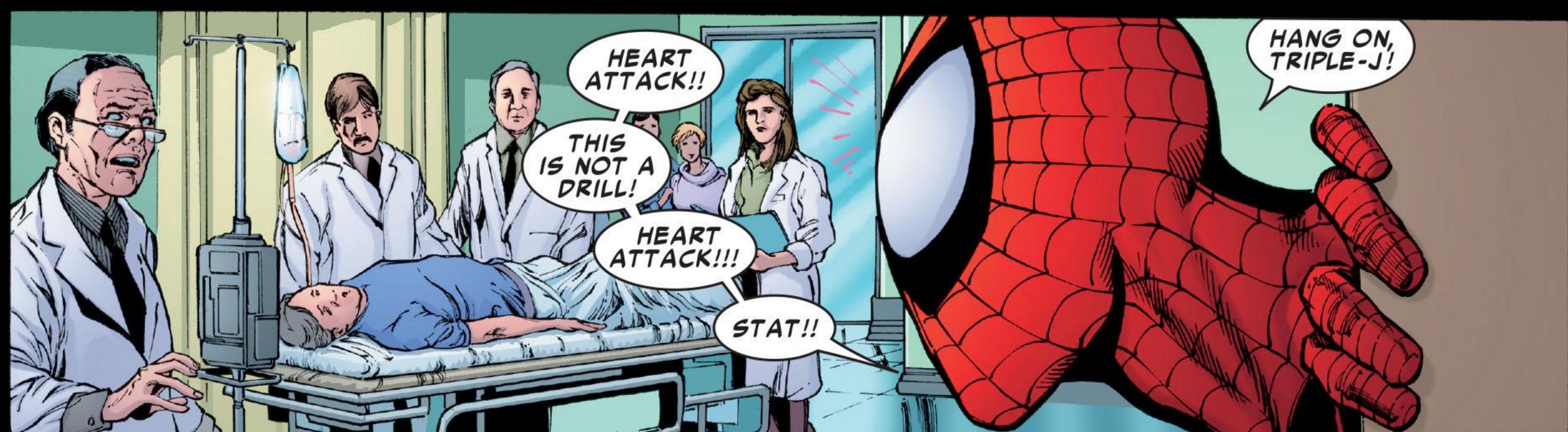








BEEEEEPPPPP!!!



WELL,
HERE WE GO
AGAIN...

DON'T DIE,
JONAH! PLEASE
DON'T DIE!

AND WHERE
THE HELL'S THE
DOCTOR?





AND ONE HEAD SOAK...
AND A FEW HOURS LATER...

...AT FIRST I
THOUGHT IT WAS YOU
WHO TOOK THAT AWFUL
PICTURE OF DAD IN THE
DB THIS MORNING. I WAS
SO RELIEVED WHEN I
CHECKED THE CREDIT
AND SAW IT WASN'T.

LILY, PETE
WOULD NEVER TAKE
PICTURES LIKE THAT.
HE'S GOT ETHICS. HE'S
ONE OF THE TRUE
GOOD GUYS.

WELL,
I...UH...
TRY...

The Rainbow Room. ROCKEFELLER PLAZA.

WELL, SINCE
YOU WORK FOR AN
"ENEMY PAPER", MAYBE
YOU CAN SPY FOR ME.
TIP ME OFF TO ANY
SMEARS YOUR EDITOR
IS PLANNING.

OR IS THAT
AGAINST YOUR
ETHICS, MR.
GOOD GUY?

UH...WELL...
FOR YOU,
LILY, I'D...

LILY!

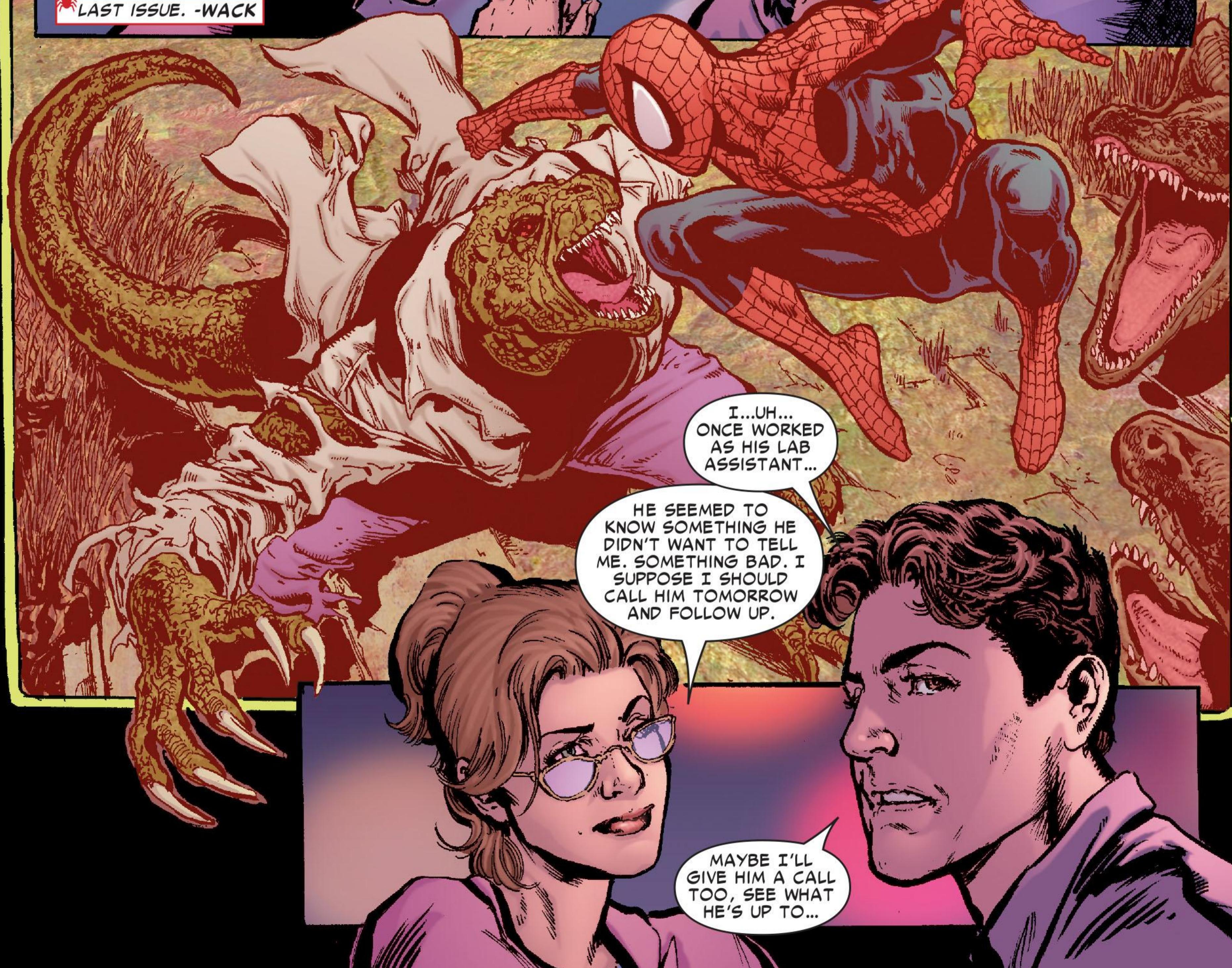
CAN WE GET A
PHOTO WITH YOU
AND YOUR DAD?

COME ON, LILY.
WE HAVE TO MAKE
OURSELVES ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PRESS.

SHE'S SOME
WOMAN, EH,
BUDDY?

ABSOLUTELY.

WAS IT MY IMAGINATION,
OR WAS SHE...? AND IF
SHE WAS, WHAT DO
I DO ABOUT IT?



Dawn.

CURT CONNORS' LAB.

CONNORS! HOW'S MY FAVORITE FORMER ARCH-ENEMY DOIN'?

SPIDER-MAN! THANK GOD YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS! I NEED YOUR HELP!

BUT CLOSE THE WINDOW, IT'S COLD.

SO WHAT'S UP, DOC?

THREE DAYS AGO, MY LAB WAS VANDALIZED. SIX HYPODERMIC SERUMS OF ANIMAL STEM CELLS WERE REMOVED FROM A CASE AND INJECTED--I FOUND THE EMPTY NEEDLES.

IT WAS A DRUG ADDICT, TRYING TO GET HIGH.

THE STEM CELLS CAME FROM VARIOUS MAMMALS, AMPHIBIANS AND INSECTS. THEY MIXED WITH THE DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM AND CAUSED A MUTATION...

...AND THEN A RE-MUTATION.

BUT THESE CAN'T BE THE SAME GUY! THE POLICE SHOT THIS ONE!

HE DIDN'T DIE. HIS EYES PROVE IT: ONE BLUE, ONE BROWN. A GENETIC CONDITION NOT PRESENT IN MY LAB ANIMALS...WHICH MEANS IT WAS PRESENT IN THE ADDICT.

ONE OF THE SERUMS WAS CATERPILLAR CELLS, SO AFTER HE WAS SHOT AND FELL INTO THE SEWER, HE RETURNED TO THE SAME CHRYSALIS STATE...

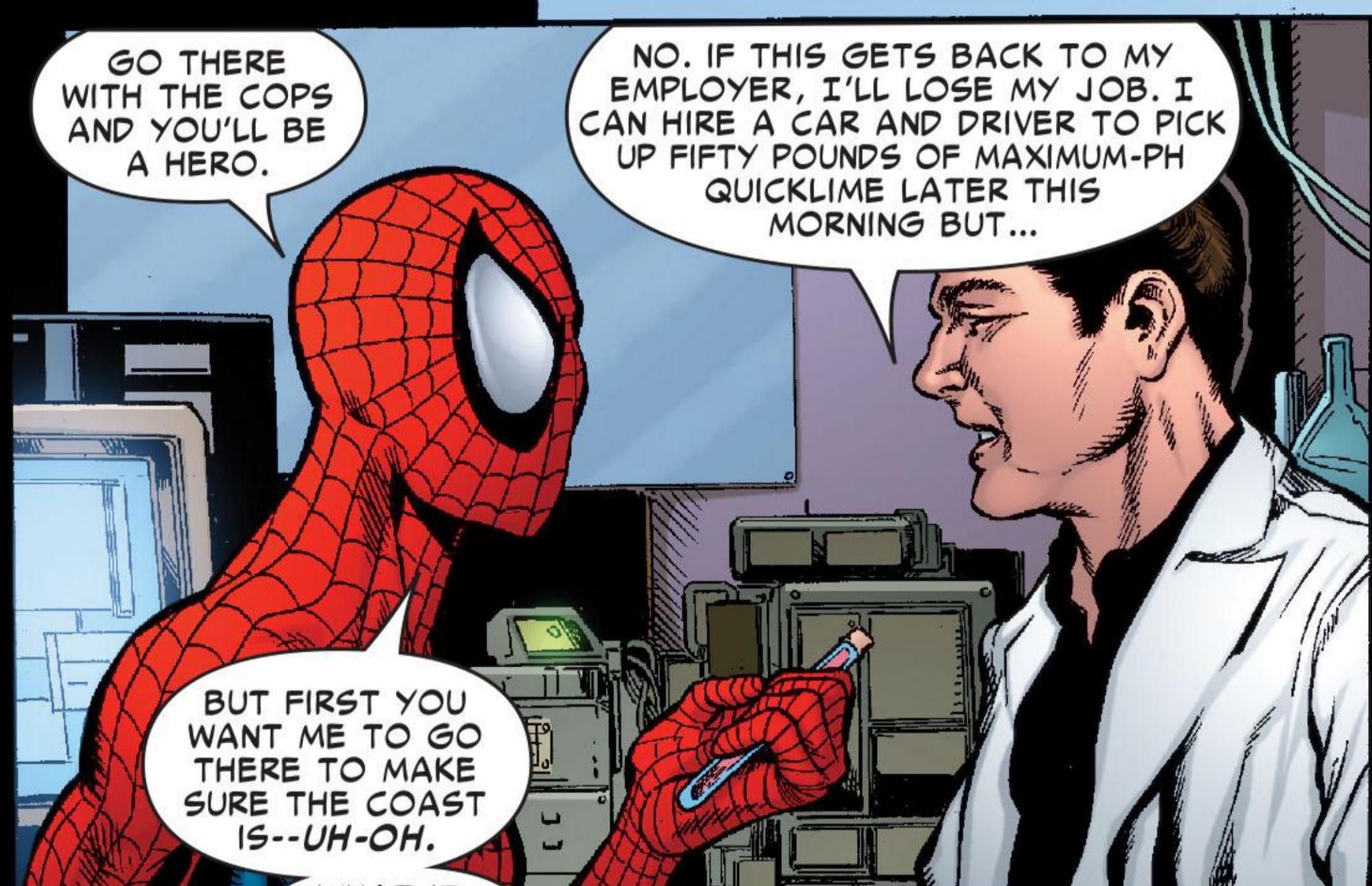
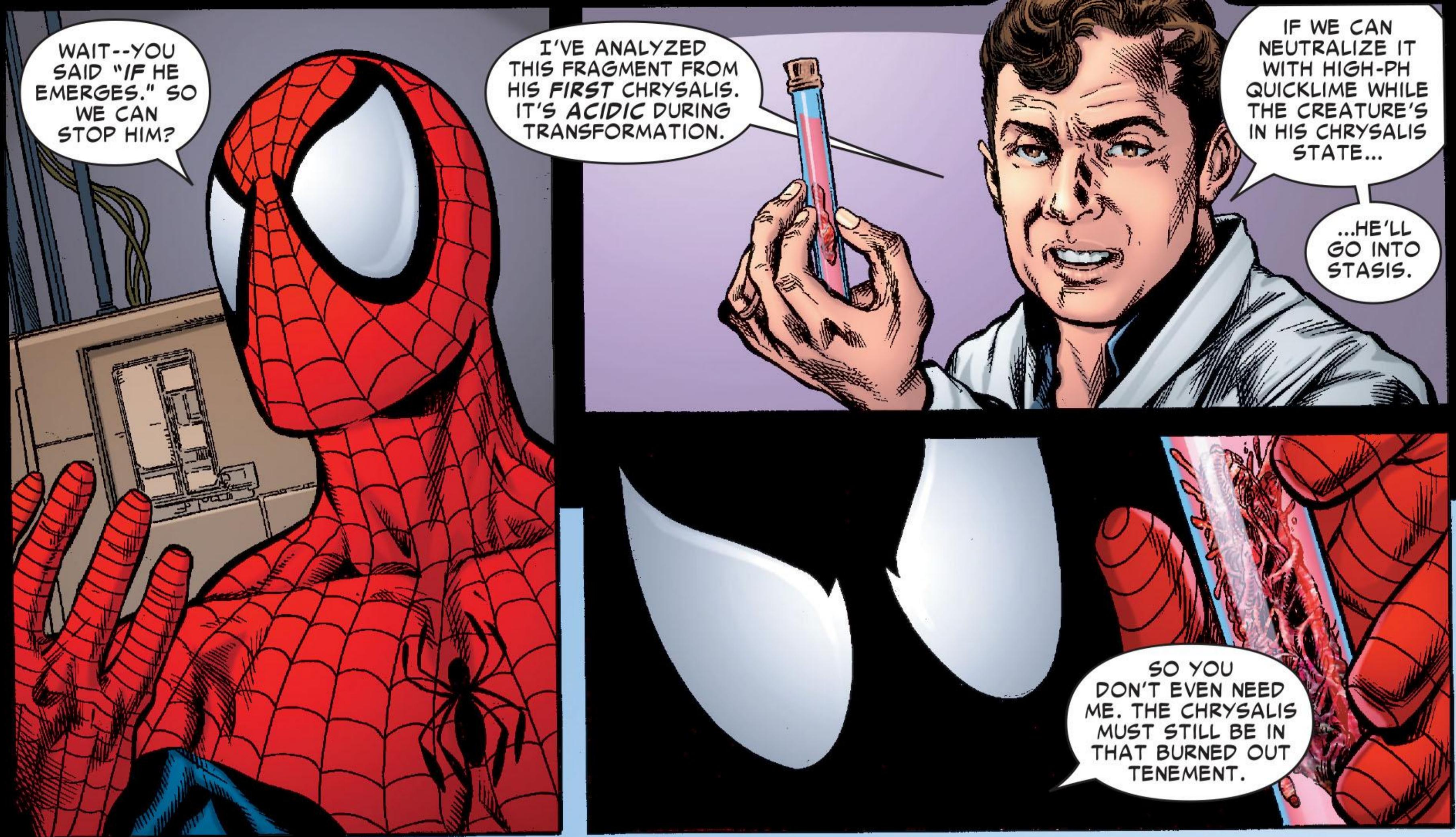
...LIKE WHEN THEY FIRST FOUND HIM.

HIS VOLATILE STEM CELLS LEARNED FROM HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE AND EVOLVED, SO HE RE-EMERGED BULLET-PROOF.

THEN HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY DIE IN THAT FIRE YESTERDAY EITHER? HE TURNED INTO ANOTHER CHRYSALIS? AND HE'S EVOLVING RIGHT NOW?

YES. AND IF HE EMERGES AGAIN, HE'LL BE FIREPROOF... AND MORE POWERFUL.





21 Minutes Later...

SO FAR SO GOOD...

TERRIFIC.

THE WHOLE JOINT'S BEEN GUTTED AND CLEANED OUT.

...AND THERE'S NO CLUE AS TO WHERE THE WRECKAGE WAS TAKEN, DOC.

I'LL TRACK IT DOWN, SPIDER-MAN. SOMEBODY MUST KNOW WHERE IT IS.

AND DON'T WORRY. THE COLD WEATHER IS OUR FRIEND. WHEREVER IT IS, IT'S IN STASIS.

DON'T WORRY, HE SAYS. I'M WANTED FOR MURDER, I ALMOST KILLED MY OLD BOSS, I WANT TO KILL MY NEW BOSS ...

...THERE'S A PSYCHO MONSTER WHO COULD EMERGE AT ANY TIME TO KILL ME...AND I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.

...PLUS I'M IN DESPERATE NEED OF BREAKFAST. RIGHT, NO WORRIES.

WELL, AT LEAST THE SNOW WILL MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK CLEAN.

NEXT: BLIZZARD!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL



Well, after a one-week absence, Wacker's back and Bob is back in his closet waiting to be dusted off for next month's *Freak-Quel!*

Let me say thanks to the whole crew this month, from Bob and Phil to Andy (who you can also catch writing Nova every month with Dan Abnett) and Mister Wonderful himself...Jeremy "Color Kid" Cox.

You folks at home don't know how lucky you have it with these guys. You just need to show up at the store and there the comics are, like magic. You should be asking yourselves, "Gee Steve, what can I do for Spidey, beyond shelling out 24 bits every week." Well, it's a good question, kind reader. I'll think on it.

In the meantime let me shut up since our Bullpen Ace, Irene Lee, is getting antsy for this page and get right to the mailbag starting with a very special letter:

Dear Spidey Braintrust,

Stay strong, true believers. I'm sure the vocal minority is pouring it on, wanting you to backtrack on your decision to undo the Parker/MJ marriage.

I'm an evangelical pastor, for pity's sake; you don't get much more dedicated to the sanctity of marriage! However, after reading ASM 551...these have been the best Spidey issues I've read in years. Nice subplots, smooth pacing, and the single book, single storyline, three-times monthly has even got my wife reading the web-head.

As awesome as Spider-Man IS, folks, he's fictional; nothing has been desecrated here. This reweaving of his classic narrative web is making the book sticky again (I hope the sales figures agree). I'm loving the slow burn on the spider-tracer murder, finding out where Harry and the supporting cast are at relationally with Pete and each other, and having Pete's secret identity be secret again was a MUST.

"Wow, the files were right. You NEVER stop talking." That was priceless. And "whump" made me laugh out loud. This issue really made the "Brand New" Spidey hit his stride. Fans THINK they know what they want, but I can be honest. We often DON'T. It can take awhile for us to get on board and realize there's a reason you're writing and we're reading.

Stick to your guns (or the walls, in Peter's case). Hold the line. If Spider-Man can put up with J. Jonah Jameson's endless criticism, you can swing through this season of complaints with upbeat quips and some puns. If you can keep slinging stories like these first two months, you'll win over the reading-rogues gallery in due course.

James Harleman
Seattle, WA

Thanks, James, we're all inspired by your letter. And if we can make an evangelical pastor smile...can my sixth grade school teacher Sister Theresa (from good ol' Fratt Catholic School in Billings, Montana) be far behind?! Dare we even hope for other people of the cloth? Perhaps presidential candidate Governor Mike Huckabee? Heck, perhaps any elected official!?

THAT'S IT! I have your mission, Spider-readers! I want pictures of elected officials reading Spidey. Mail 'em in! (and pictures of noted comic book fan, Alaska Senator Ted Stevens don't count)!

Who says this isn't the age of bipartisan letter page hucksterism!?!?



Spidey-Creators,

All right, I was way against the whole OMD thing. I thought I liked Peter being married. Brand New Day is actually the best thing since someone took a knife to a loaf of bread and cut it into thin pieces. Really. I have gotten Spidey since before I could read and this has actually been the best. Wow.

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Irene Lee
Production

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Editor

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Editor in Chief

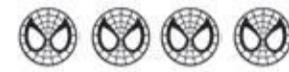
Tom Brevoort
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Send e-mail to
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I mean being married is great and I love being married myself, but if this is the type of stories we get with a single Spidey, then by all means. This is only my second letter to a comic, my first was way back when, and it was to not kill Ben Reilly, so it's been a while and Amazing 551 cried out to be praised. So, good job and please keep it up.

Sincerely,
Mike Burns
Chesapeake, OH



Dear Editors,

Despite my misgivings, I gave Brand New Day two months to capture me and Amazing Spider-Man #551 will be my last. While there was a lot to like, there was just too much of the drastic and irrational changes brought about by One More Day.

I fondly recall picking up Amazing Spider-Man #248 from my first pull list at a comic store. And now, I will sadly recall updating my pull list without Amazing Spider-Man for the first time.

Still hoping that this is all a horrible dream and some new kind of magic can put back things the way they were.

Jason Shayer
Via e-mail

First, "Despite My Misgivings" should be the name of Brennan's autobiography.

Second, Jason, believe me, my wife has also wished many parts of her life were simply a horrible dream, but I'm afraid it's all true! This is the Brand New Day for Spidey and it's here to stay. (Oh, and Alyssa, I'm here to stay too, dear. Sorry!)

And finally, we're sorry to see anyone go, but we've been getting letters by the truckload by new readers from all over the world, so we sincerely wish anyone luck finding as good of a comic-buying value as this. And to you new folks...you ain't seen nothing yet (well, you've seen "something", I suppose, but it's about to get better is what I was trying to say. That's not to say we haven't seen anything good. I mean I like it, but tastes, ya know...I mean who knows what people like at the end of the--

--WACKER!!! THIS IS IRENE! FINISH THIS DANG COLUMN OR WE'RE RUNNING THAT PICTURE OF YOU DRESSED AS GWEN STACY!

Oops. Gotta go! Can't let that picture get out or else I'll have Jeph Loeb stalking me for weeks!

**-Simperin' Steve
2/26/08**

Cover by Jimenez and Cox.

IN TWO WEEKS:



**WELLS AND BACHALO ARE HERE!
(So is Wolverine!)**