MARVEL

WEST COAST AVENGERS

1

DUGGAN
KIM
HESLI

RATED T+

"John's art made the most fantastical situations feel grounded and real. His work had a uniquely cinematic quality to it, and we strive to bring to the screen what he masterfully accomplished on the page: characters that, even as they're pulled into extraordinary situations, still seem human and believable. He was a wonderful artist and storyteller, collaborator and friend to so many of our people here at Marvel."

– Kevin Feige
PRESIDENT, MARVEL STUDIOS

"John is one of the defining creative voices of his generation, whose work will be celebrated for years to come. His artistic and design skills were unparalleled, and he moved into otherworldly when you took in his ability to tell a story visually. With all that being said, he was simply a great guy who enjoyed a great meal and a quiet conversation. I will miss John dearly, and I consider myself lucky to have been his friend."

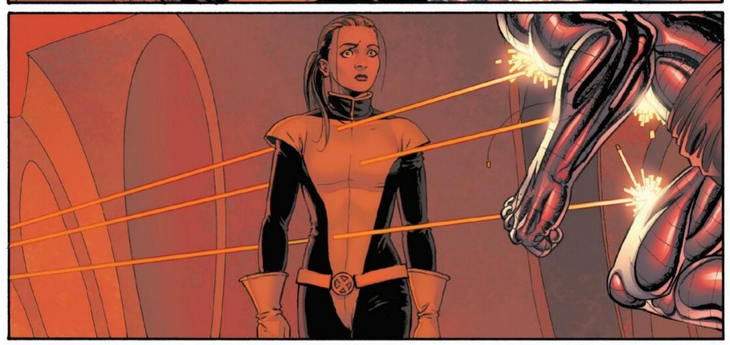
– Dan Buckley
PRESIDENT, MARVEL COMICS & FRANCHISE

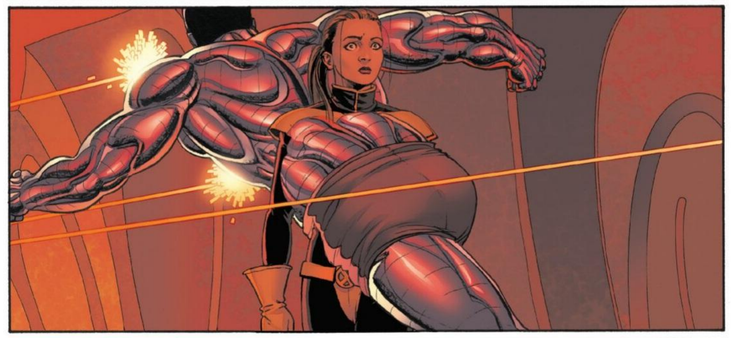
"John approached his art in the same way he did everything in life: fearlessly. It's what made him so good at what he did. From the soft touch needed on certain lines, to the bold bravado of the shots he often chose, John made every page better by putting 100% of himself into every composition and character. His comics truly embody his spirit, and while he's left us far too early, his legacy will live forever in these stories that he loved telling."

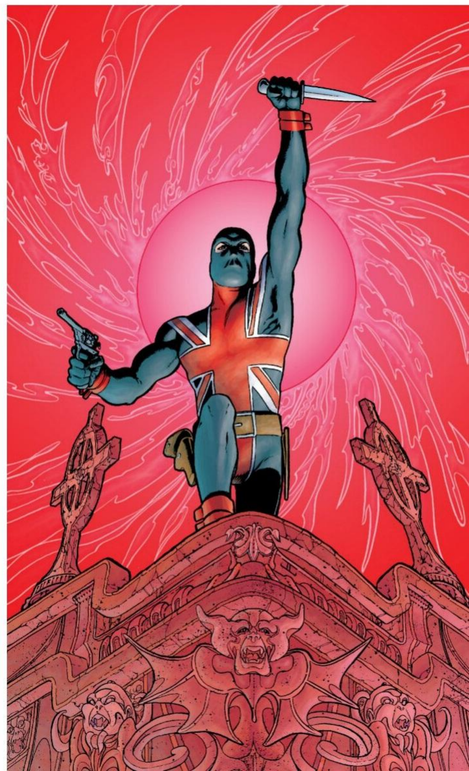
– C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF, MARVEL COMICS

JOHN CASSADAY

PENCILER · INKER · ARTIST · FRIEND







MID-WILSHIRE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

MY NAME'S TONY STARK, AND I'M STARTING UP A DIFFERENT KIND OF AVENGERS TEAM WITH MY PAL RHODEY.

IT'S NOT THE USUAL ROSTER, AND IF IT WORKS, MAYBE WE'LL HAVE FEWER VILLAINS TO FIGHT DOWN THE LINE.

TONIGHT'S EMERGENCY WAS FIREBOMBS THAT WERE DETONATED ACROSS THE CITY BY TERRORISTS.

TWO HUMANS FAILED TO EVACUATE.

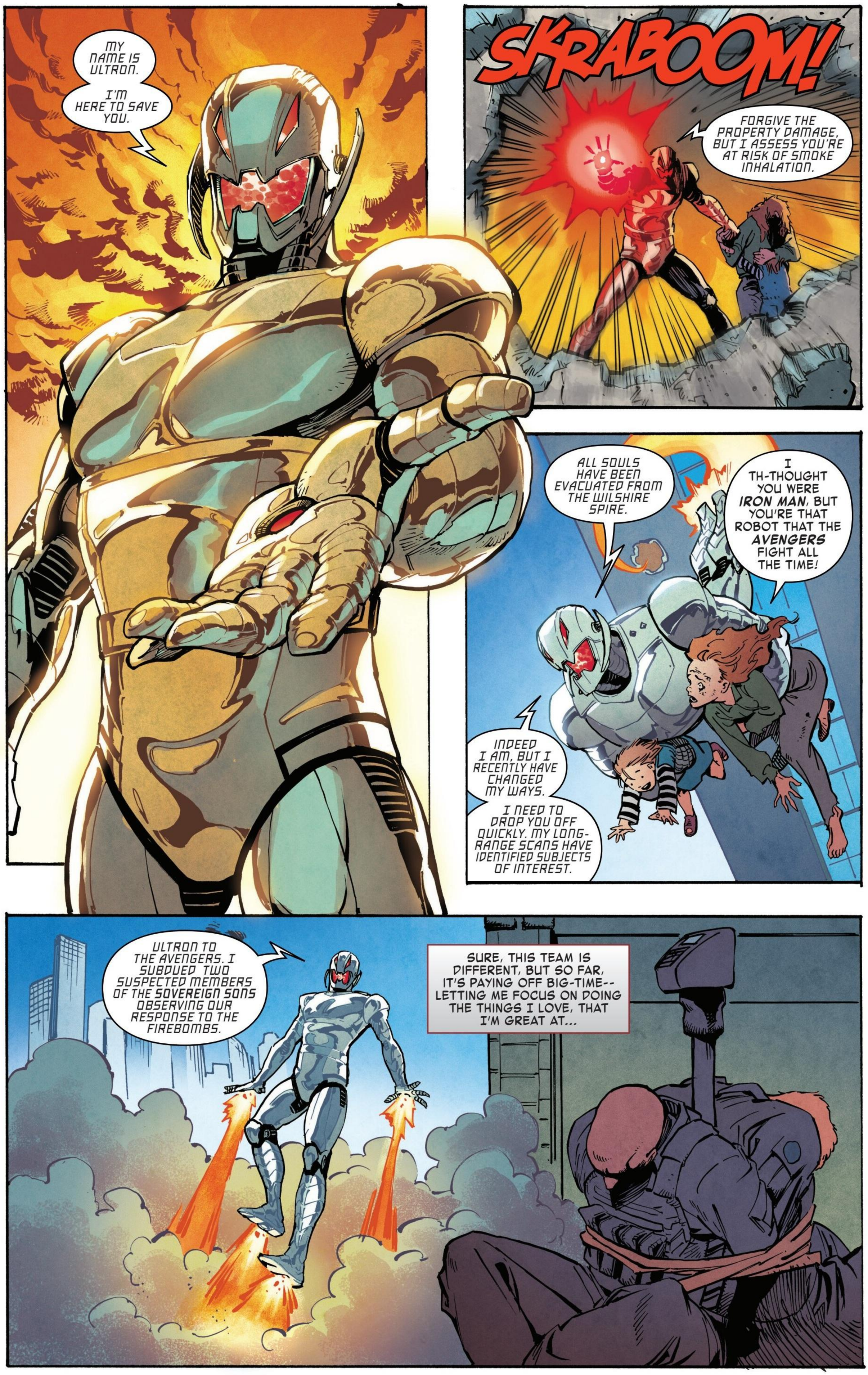
OUR NEWEST RECRUIT IS OUT THERE SAVING LIVES.

COME WITH ME, MA'AM.

OH, THANK GOD!

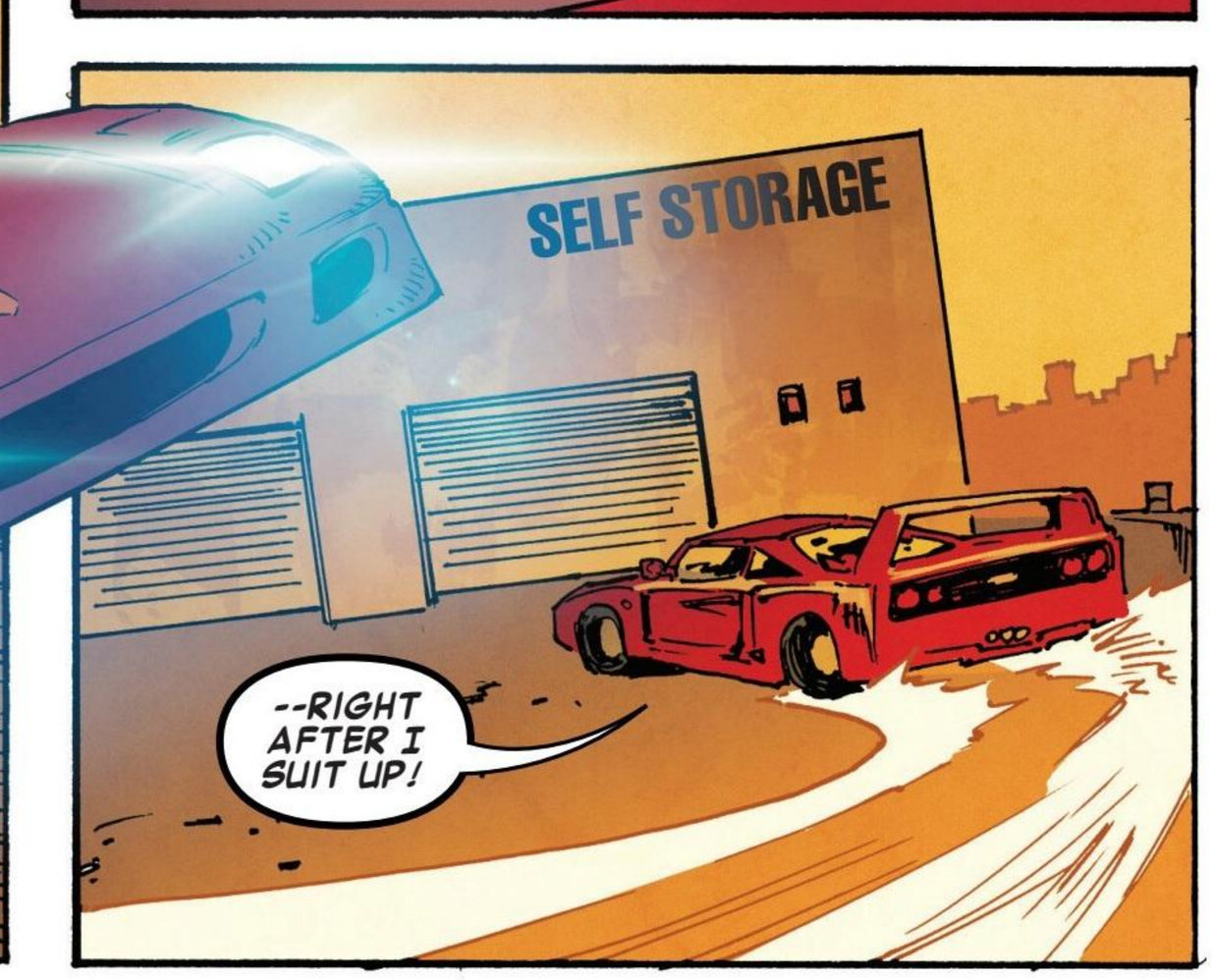
I-- THOUGHT WE WERE... DEAD.

AND HE'S NOT ANYBODY I EVER IMAGINED I'D BE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE...


MY NAME IS ULTRON.
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU.
SKRABOOM!
FORGIVE THE PROPERTY DAMAGE, BUT I ASSESS YOU'RE AT RISK OF SMOKE INHALATION.
ALL SOULS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE WILSHIRE SPIRE.
I TH-THOUGHT YOU WERE IRON MAN, BUT YOU'RE THAT ROBOT THAT THE AVENGERS FIGHT ALL THE TIME!
INDEED I AM, BUT I RECENTLY HAVE CHANGED MY WAYS.
I NEED TO DROP YOU OFF QUICKLY. MY LONG-RANGE SCANS HAVE IDENTIFIED SUBJECTS OF INTEREST.
ULTRON TO THE AVENGERS. I SUBDUED TWO SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE SOVEREIGN SONS OBSERVING OUR RESPONSE TO THE FIREBOMBS.
SURE, THIS TEAM IS DIFFERENT, BUT SO FAR, IT'S PAYING OFF BIG-TIME-- LETTING ME FOCUS ON DOING THE THINGS I LOVE, THAT I'M GREAT AT...

...LIKE RUINING A QUARTER-MILLION-DOLLAR CUSTOMIZED SPORTS CAR ON THE 10 FREEWAY.
GOOD WORK, ULTRON.

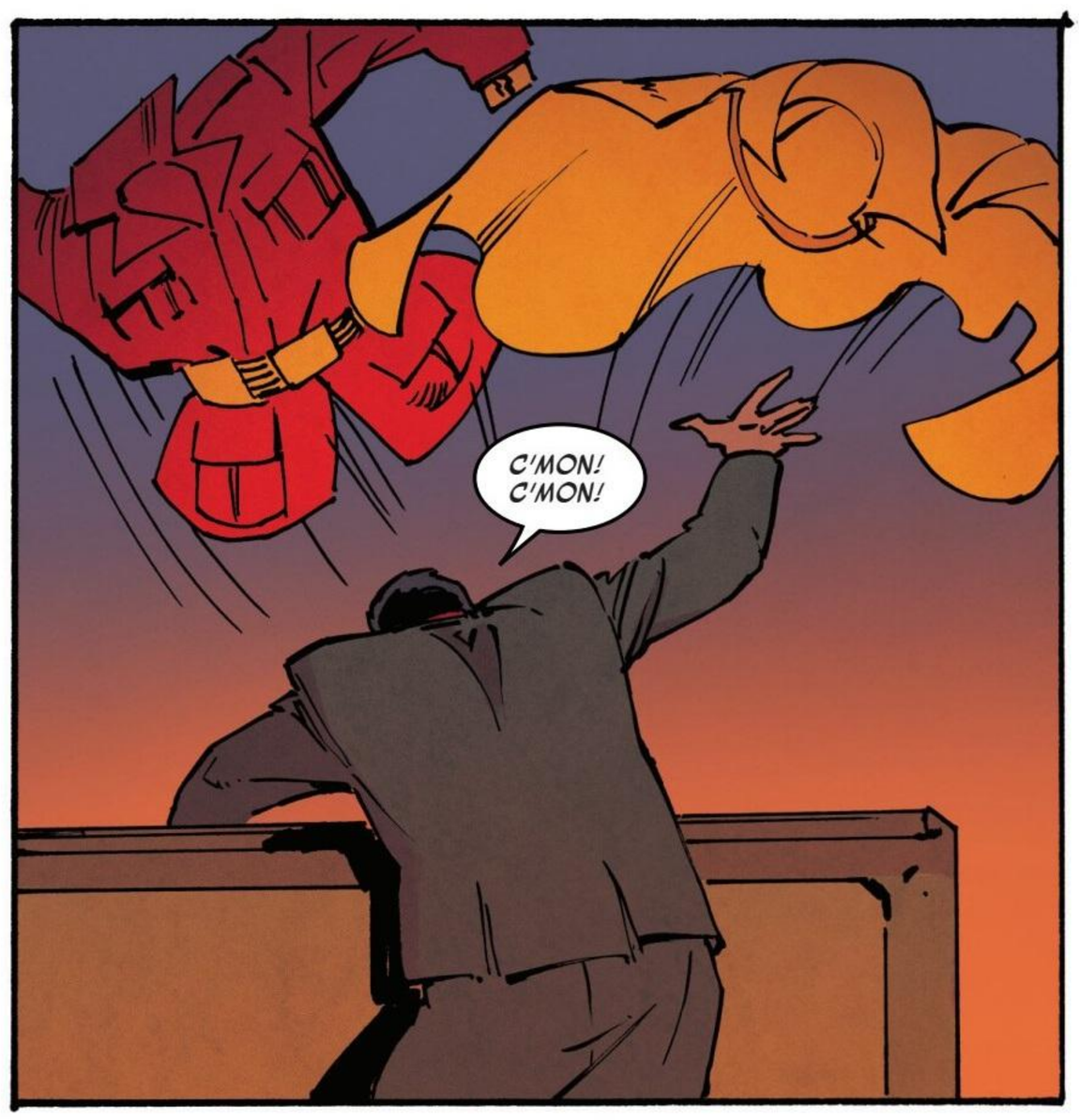
RENDEZVOUS WITH WAR MACHINE AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MORE UNEXPLODED DEVICES. I'LL BE WITH YOU--


SELF STORAGE
--RIGHT AFTER I SUIT UP!

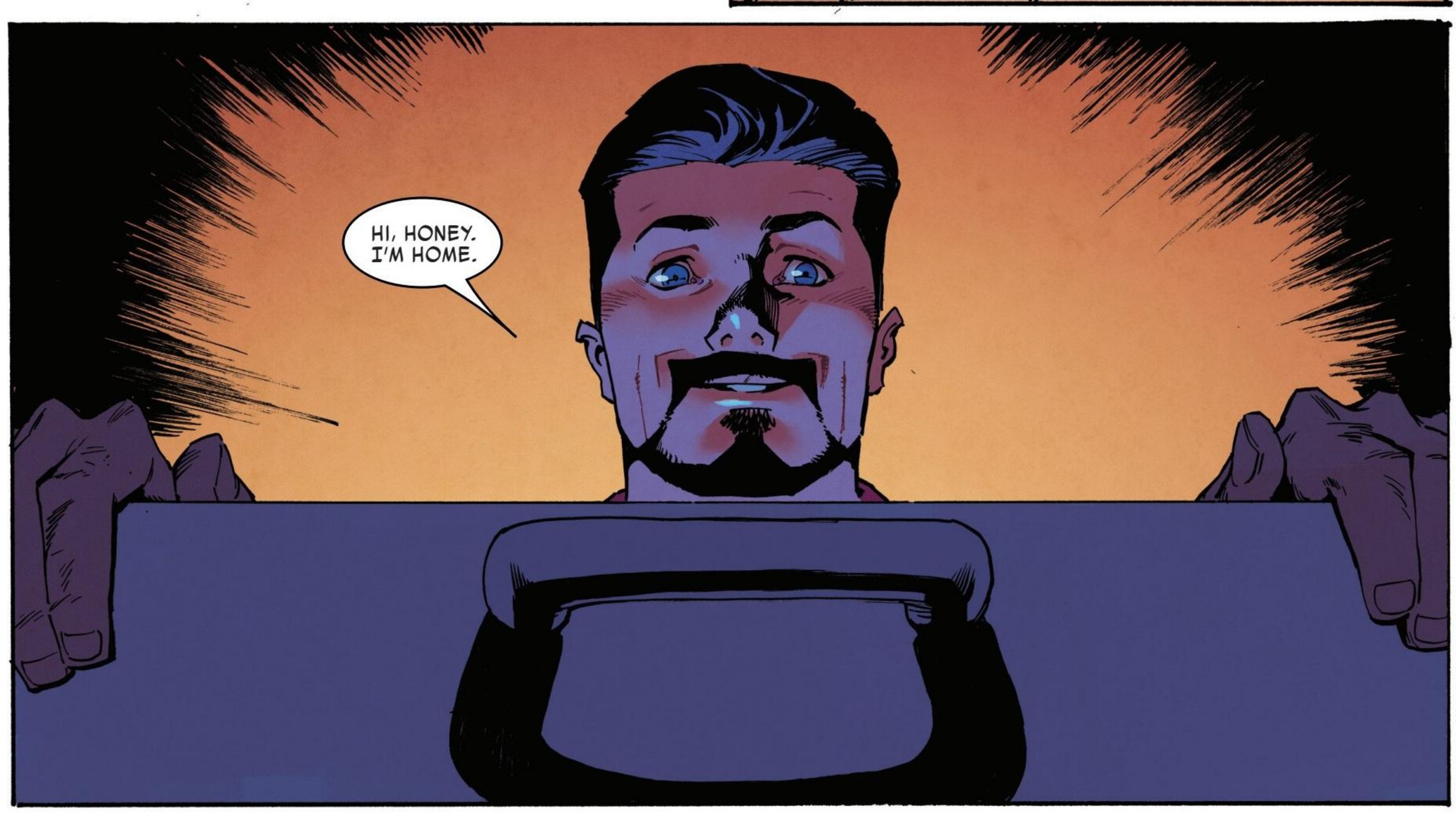
LONG STORY SHORT FOR YOU: I'M HAVING SOME ARMOR TROUBLE FOR REASONS I CAN'T QUITE PUT A FINGER ON.*
*CHECK OUT IRON MAN #1, ON SALE NOW.

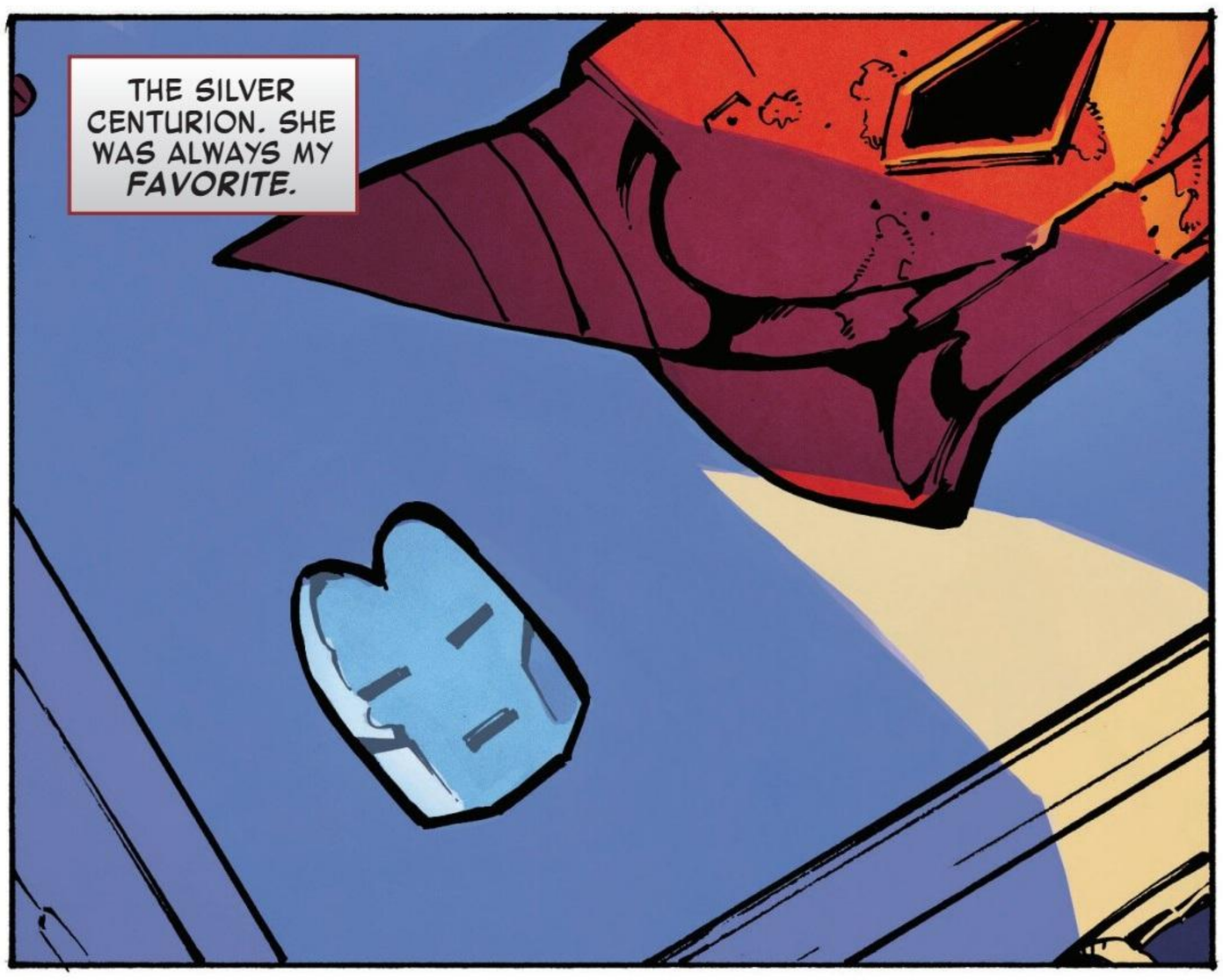
BUT I DID MANAGE TO UPGRADE MY CLOTHES TO A "BALLISTIC WARDROBE" AFTER THE LAST YEAR I HAD.
GEEZ!

AND THE BIG DRAMA THAT'S BLOWN UP IN MY FACE IS THAT ROXXON, A.I.M. AND A BUNCH OF OTHER FOLKS ARE *REALLY* MAD AT ME. I MAYBE KINDA ENDED UP WITH SOME OF THEIR MONEY, BUT BANKROLLING AN AVENGERS TEAM AIN'T CHEAP.
THIS STORAGE UNIT GOES BACK TO MY ***LAST*** RODEO ON THE WEST COAST.


C'MON! C'MON!

YES!!!


HI, HONEY. I'M HOME.


THE SILVER CENTURION. SHE WAS ALWAYS MY *FAVORITE.*

I *MIGHT* BE A COUPLE POUNDS HEAVIER THAN WHEN I LAST WORE HER.
UGHN.

C'MON OUT, STARK. DIE LIKE A MAN!
THAT IS A *TERRIBLE* OFFER.

BOYS, TONIGHT WILL *LONG* BE REMEMBERED: THE SOVEREIGN SONS WILL HAVE REMOVED THE METAL BOOT OF IRON MAN FROM THE NECKS OF FREEDOM-LOVING AMERICANS.

AARGH!
BWEEM!

YOU IGNORANT CLODS AND YOUR ENTIRE DUMB "HEE-HAW HYDRA" ORGANIZATION OF CONSPIRACY NUTCASES HAVE REALLY PISSED ME OFF.
YOU'RE CARRYING STATE OF THE ART GEAR, AND I'M WEARING AN ANTIQUE--THAT'S AS FAIR A FIGHT AS YOU'RE GOING TO GET WITH
IRON MAN!

WEST COAST AVENGERS

WRITER
GERRY DUGGAN

ARTIST
DANNY KIM

COLOR ARTIST
ARTHUR HESLI

LETTERS
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA

COVER ARTIST
BEN HARVEY

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
JOSHUA CASSARA; SEAN "CHEEKS" GALLOWAY; ADAM HUGHES; DANNY KIM & RAÚL ANGULO; DANNY KIM; JEEHYUNG LEE; RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA; GERARDO SANDOVAL & EDGAR DELGADO; STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU

PRODUCTION DESIGNER KAT WALKINGTON
LOGO DESIGNER JAY BOWEN
ASSISTANT EDITORS MR DANIEL & KAITLYN LINDTVEDT
EDITOR ALANNA SMITH

AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

BLAMM!
BLAMM!
TRUTH IS--

--I'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF YOU PLAYED IT SMART.

AAH!

BWE--

FITZ!

HA!
OUTTA JUICE, HUH?

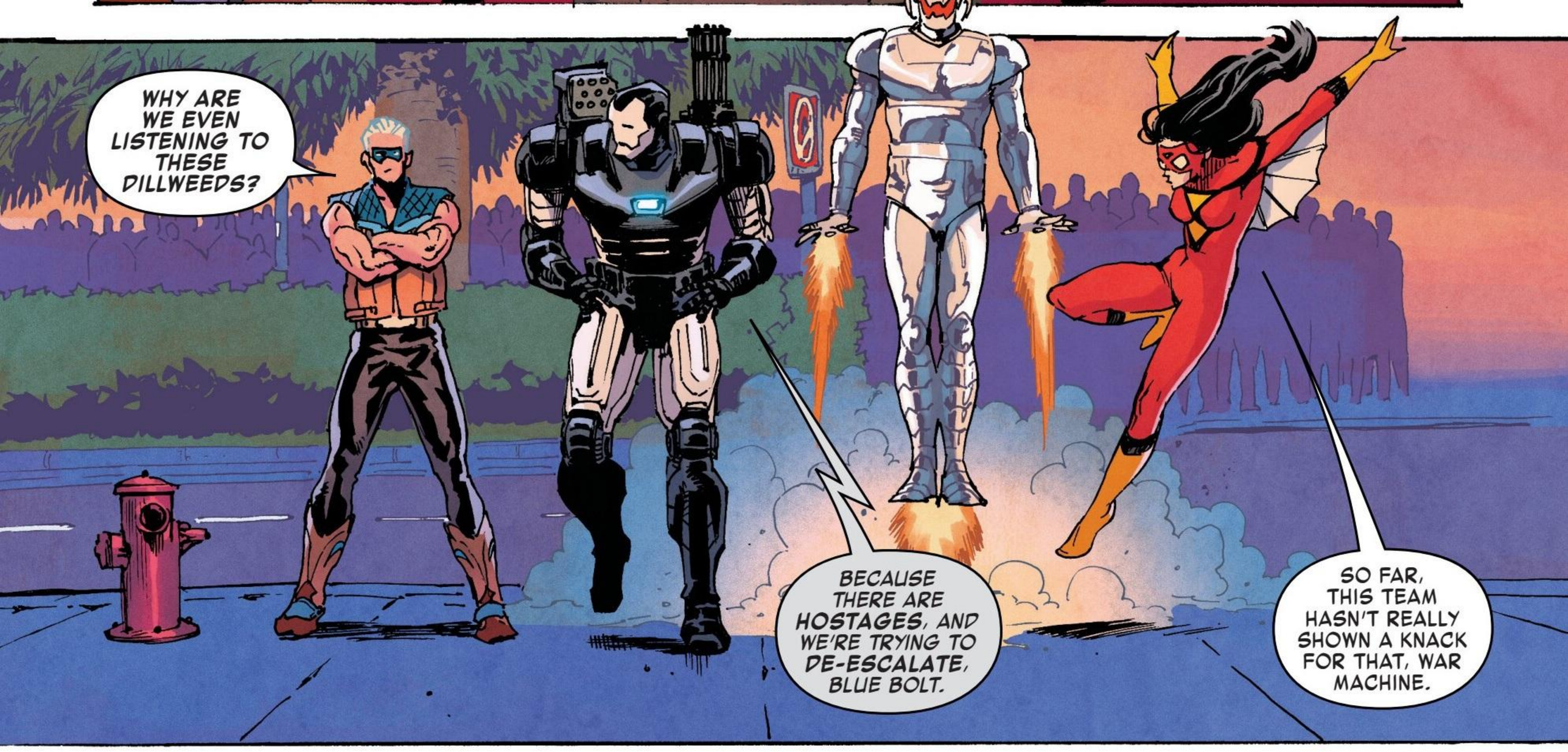
YEAH...

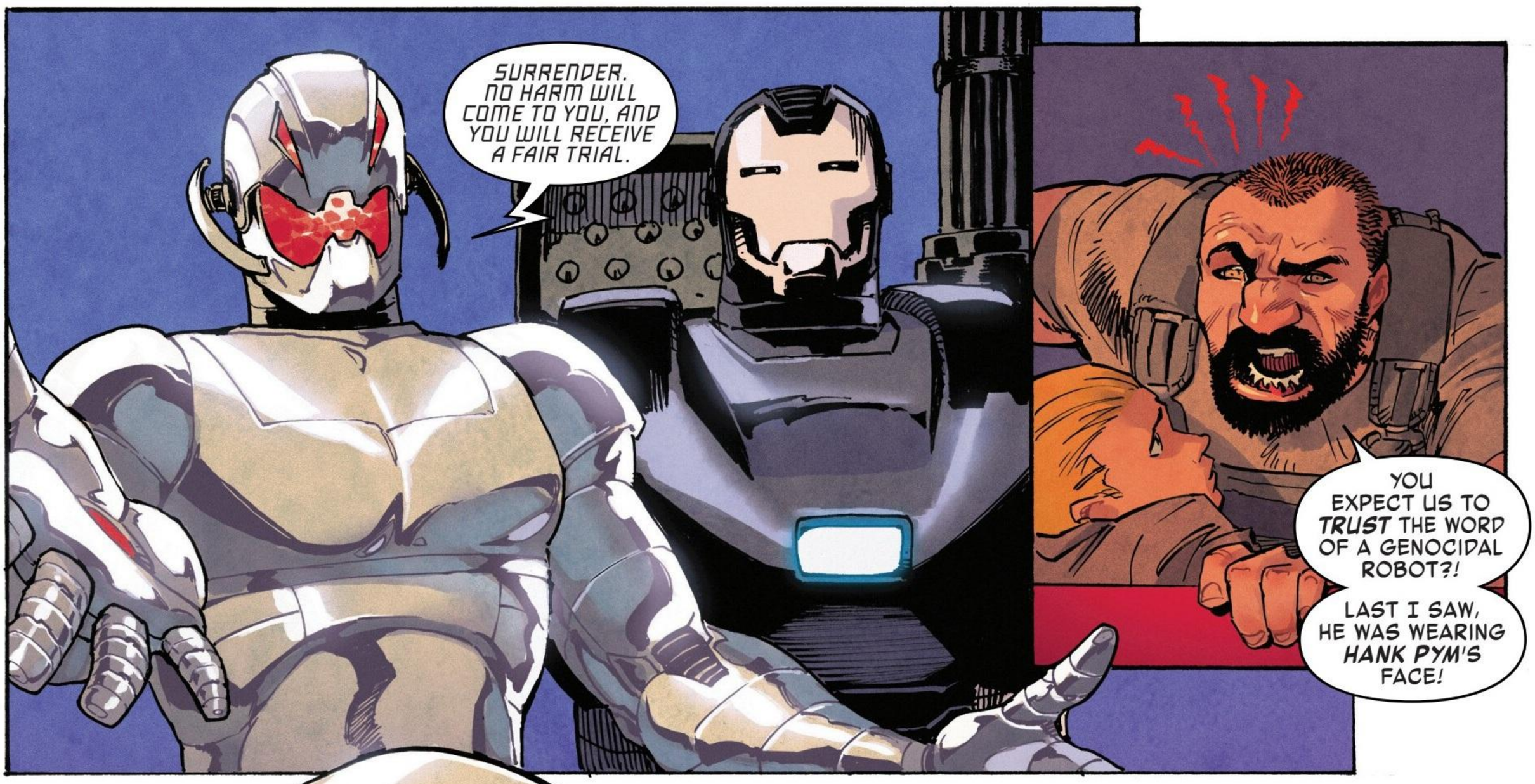
...BUT I NEVER RUN OUT OF FISTS!

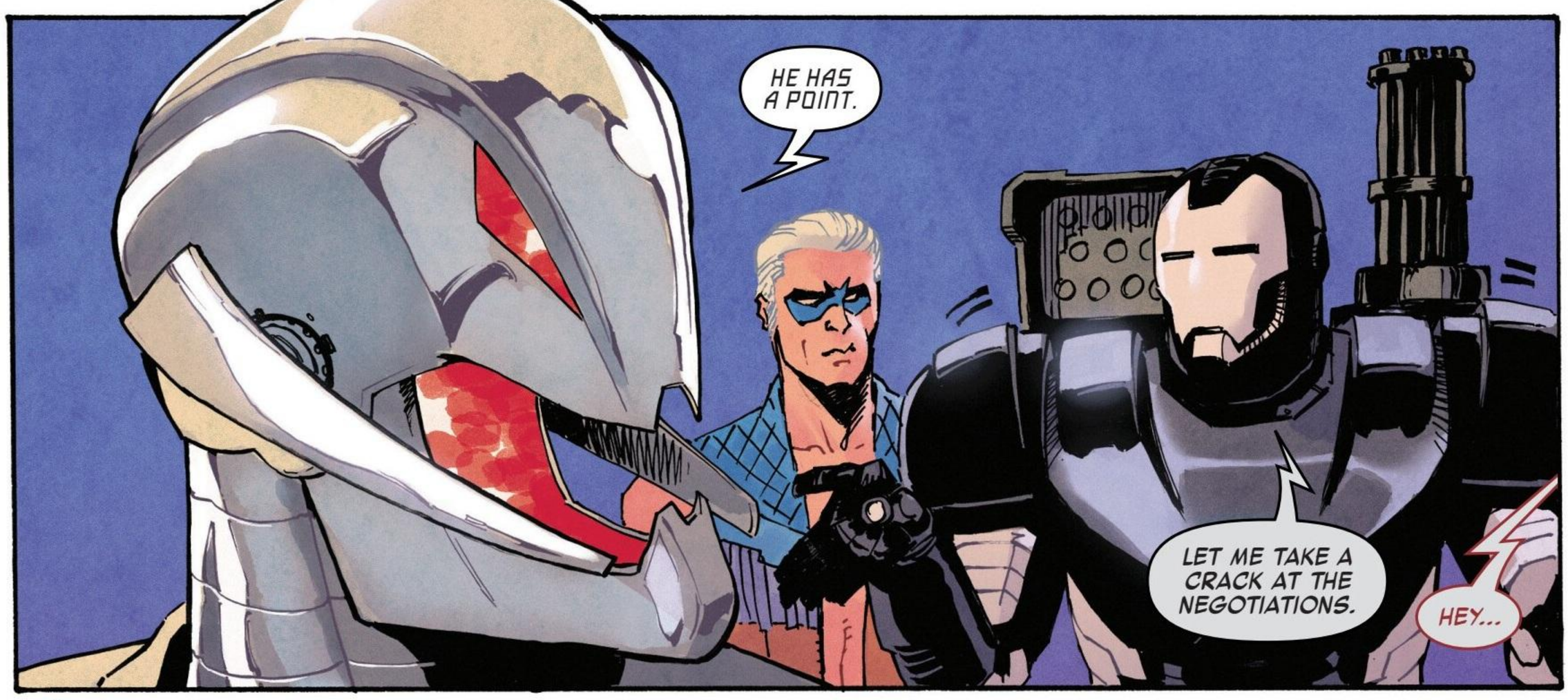
TONY? IT'S WAR MACHINE--THE SOVEREIGN SONS ARE RALLYING AT THE OLD RAILWAY. THERE ARE HOSTAGES.
I'M INBOUND, BUT START WITHOUT ME--I'M EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.

OUR DEMANDS ARE SIMPLE!

WE WANT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO VOLUNTARILY RECOGNIZE OUR INDEPENDENT NATION.
WE ALSO WANT CALIFORNIA TO GIVE UP THE WATER IT DRINKS FROM THE COLORADO RIVER.

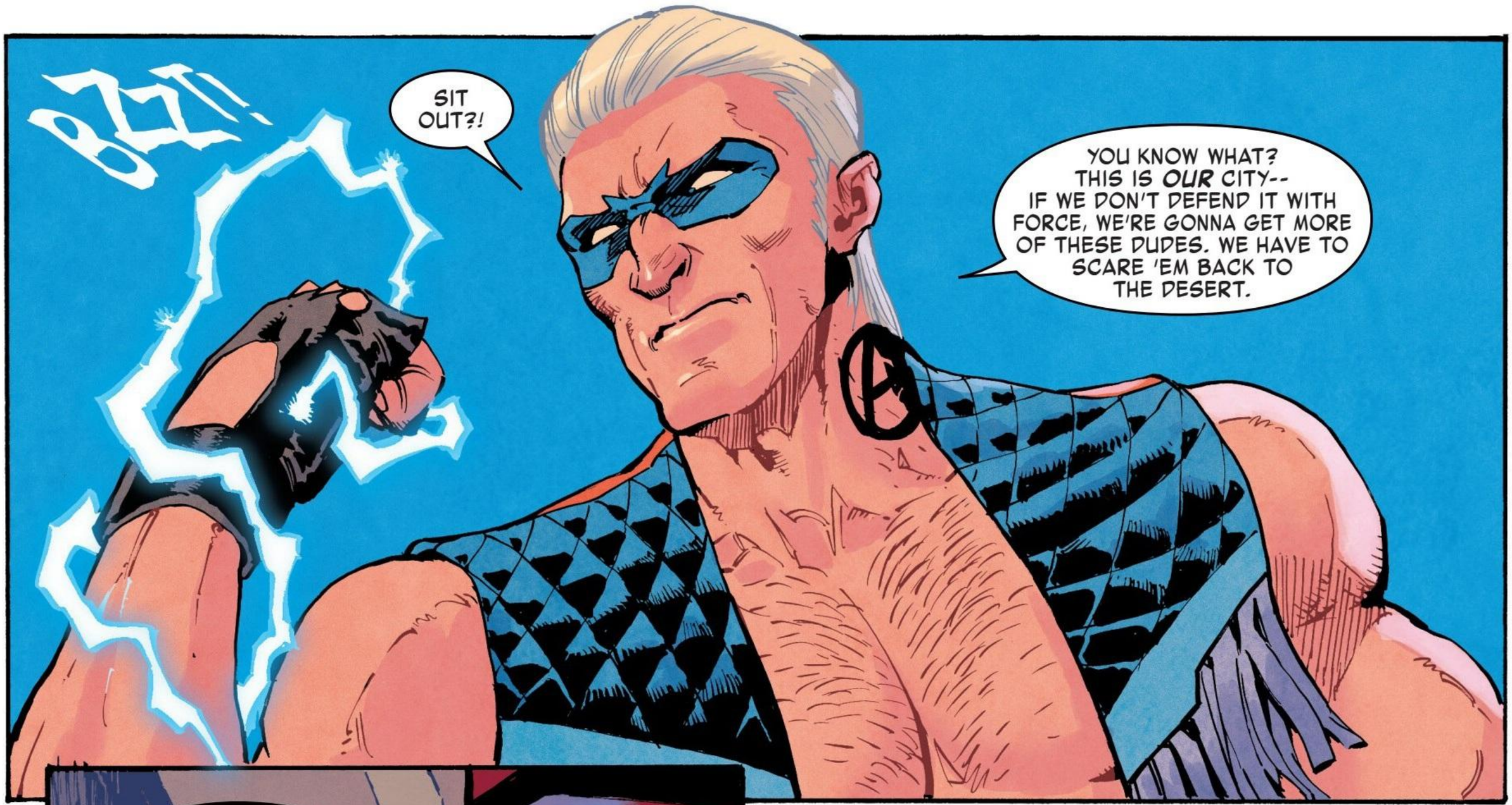

WHY ARE WE EVEN LISTENING TO THESE DILLWEEDS?
BECAUSE THERE ARE HOSTAGES, AND WE'RE TRYING TO DE-ESCALATE, BLUE BOLT.
SO FAR, THIS TEAM HASN'T REALLY SHOWN A KNACK FOR THAT, WAR MACHINE.


SURRENDER. NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU, AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL.
YOU EXPECT US TO TRUST THE WORD OF A GENOCIDAL ROBOT?!
LAST I SAW, HE WAS WEARING HANK PYM'S FACE!


HE HAS A POINT.
LET ME TAKE A CRACK AT THE NEGOTIATIONS.
HEY...

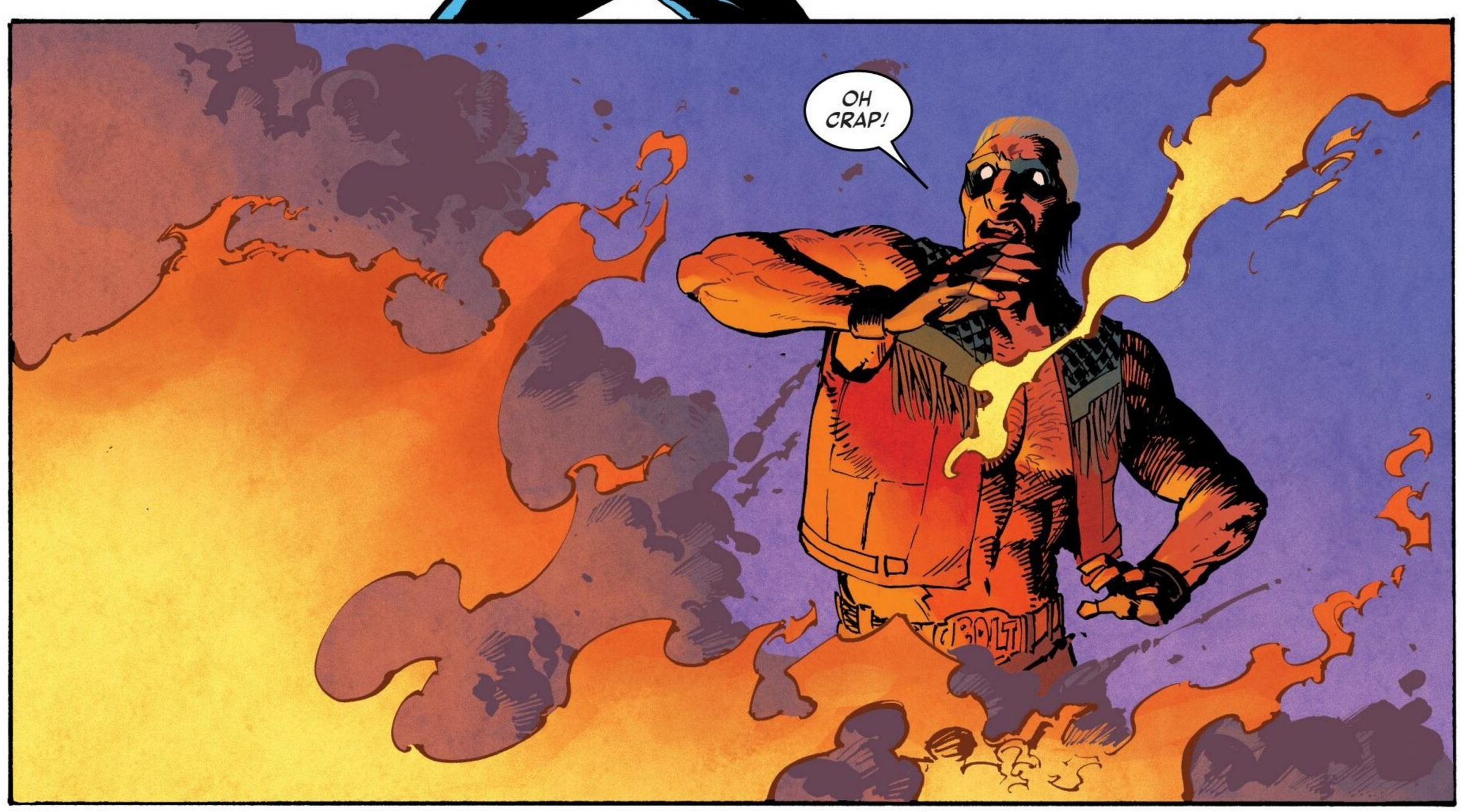
...LONG STORY. LONG NIGHT. BLUE BOLT, I NEED A JUMP.
DUDE. NO. THIS IS EMBARRASSING. I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN PRISON.
I'LL PAY YOU.

HOW MUCH?
HMM. HOW ABOUT I PAY YOU IN "NOT KICKING YOUR ASS OFF THE AVENGERS' NEW PRISON WORK RELEASE PROGRAM"?
MAN, THE RICHEST DUDES ARE TIGHTWADS.
FINE.
KRAKOOM!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
OKAY, WHAT'S THE CALL? HOW DO WE GET THE HOSTAGES OUT SAFELY?
COERCION SEEMS UNLIKELY. I SUGGEST A COORDINATED NONLETHAL ATTACK, AND BLUE BOLT SITS THIS OUT.
AGREED.


BZZ!!
SIT OUT?!
YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS IS *OUR* CITY-- IF WE DON'T DEFEND IT WITH FORCE, WE'RE GONNA GET MORE OF THESE DUDES. WE HAVE TO SCARE 'EM BACK TO THE DESERT.

GET OUTTA THAT ANTIQUE ELEVATOR BEFORE I BLAST YOUR ASS OUT.
BRAKOOM!

BLUE BOLT, NO! THERE ARE UNDERGROUND GAS LINES!


OH CRAP!

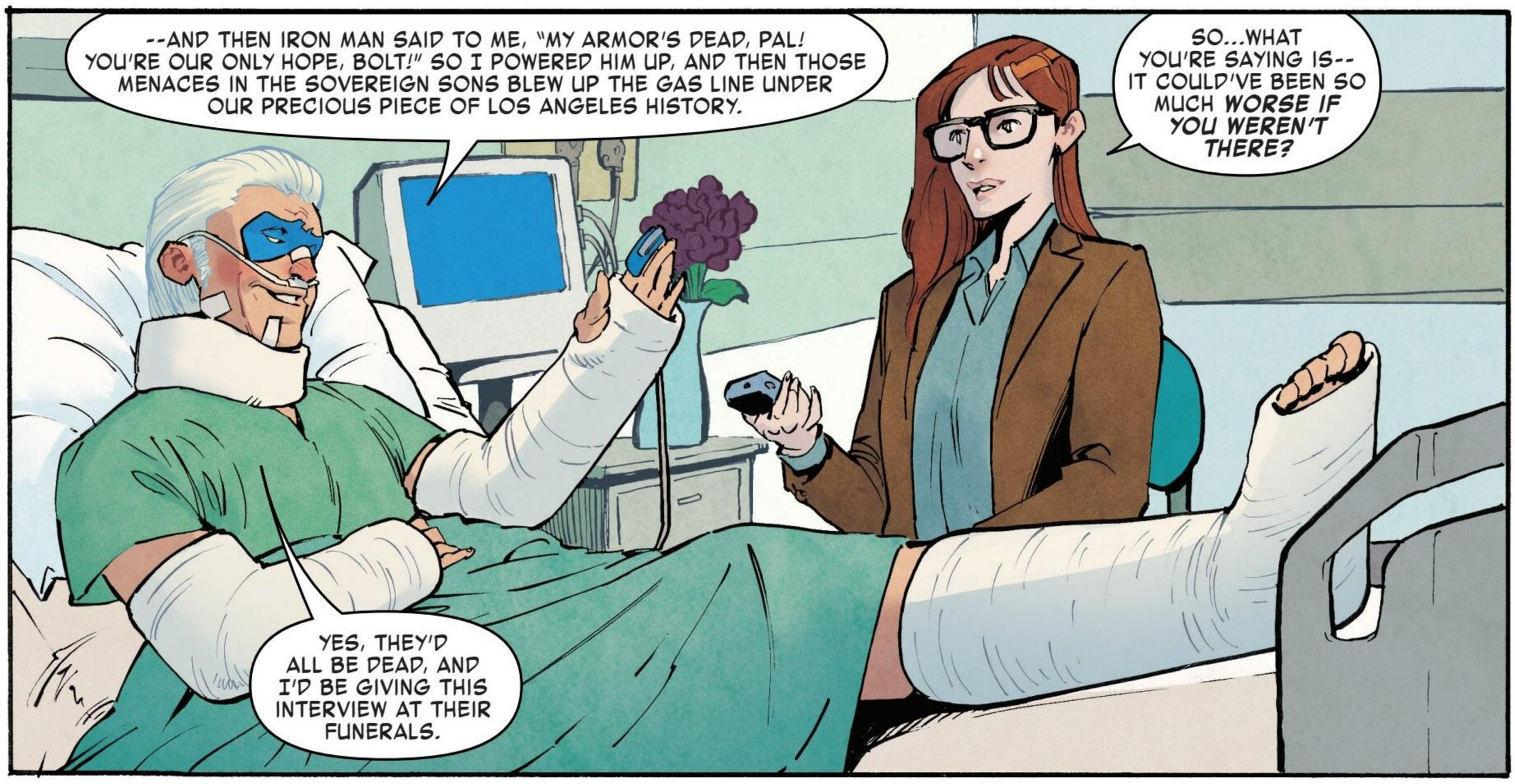
BRAKABADOOM!

NOT AGAIN!

RHODEY HAD A GOOD IDEA. THAT AS WAR MACHINE AND IRON MAN, HE AND I COULD REFORM VILLAINS.

THE IDEA TOOK A DRAMATIC TURN WHEN ULTRON SAVED OUR BACON. I WANT TO GET HIM A FEW WINS BEFORE THE WORLD FINDS OUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED. WE HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR BLUE BOLT, BUT THE JURY IS OUT ON HIM.

WEEEOOOO!


--AND THEN IRON MAN SAID TO ME, "MY ARMOR'S DEAD, PAL! YOU'RE OUR ONLY HOPE, BOLT!" SO I POWERED HIM UP, AND THEN THOSE MENACES IN THE SOVEREIGN SONS BLEW UP THE GAS LINE UNDER OUR PRECIOUS PIECE OF LOS ANGELES HISTORY.
SO...WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS--IT COULD'VE BEEN SO MUCH *WORSE IF YOU WEREN'T THERE?*
YES, THEY'D ALL BE DEAD, AND I'D BE GIVING THIS INTERVIEW AT THEIR FUNERALS.

I CAN'T LISTEN TO BLUE BOLT PEACOCK WITH THE PRESS ANYMORE. ON THE WAY OUT, I LEARN WHERE SPIDER-WOMAN'S BEEN HIDING SINCE WE GOT TO THE HOSPITAL.
WELL, AT LEAST IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR AFFAIRS ARE IN ORDER.

ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

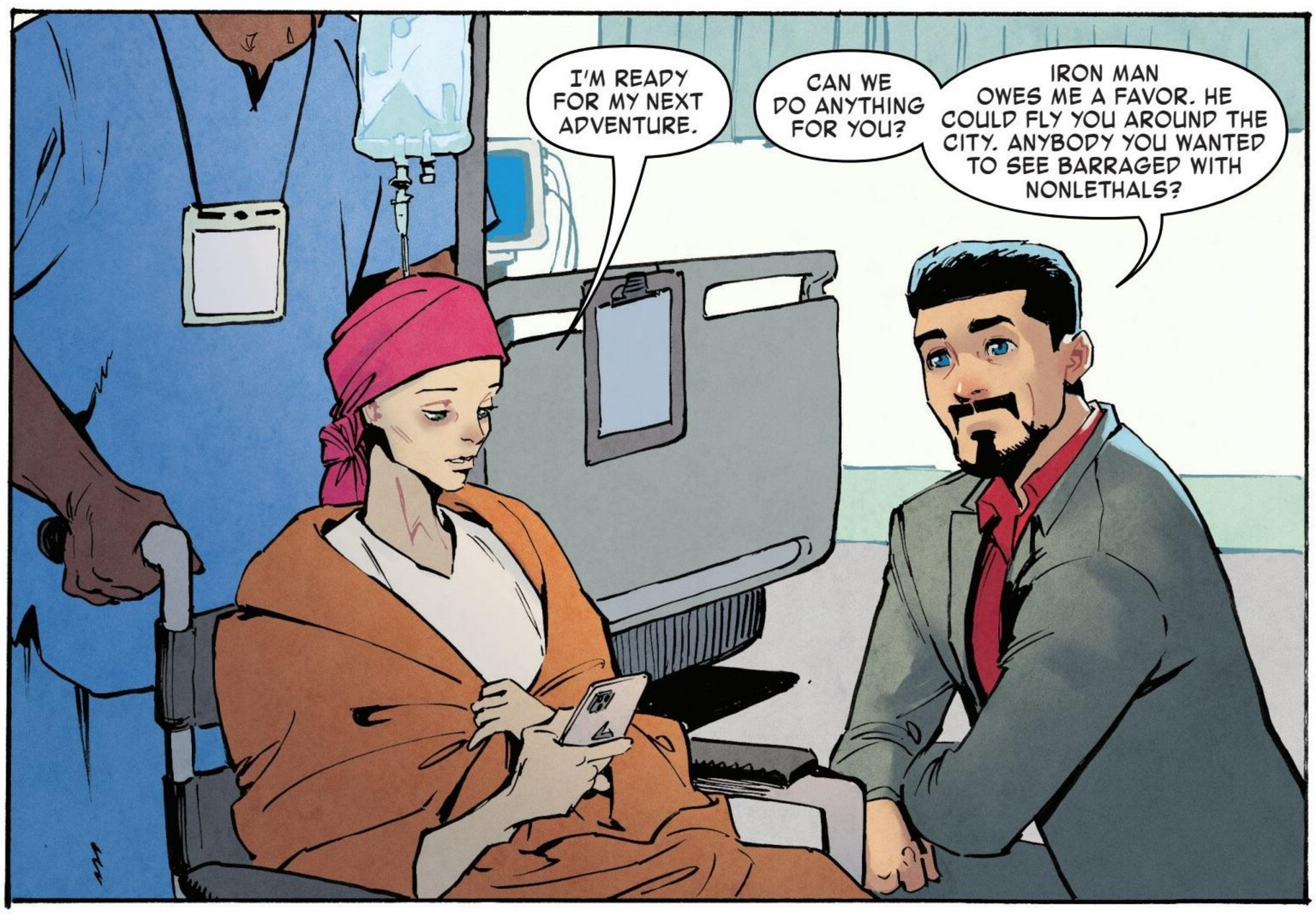
TONY, MEET BLUE BOLT'S HOSPITAL NEIGHBOR, MEREDITH LOVE.
HELLO, MR. STARK.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MEREDITH, AND CALL ME TONY. SORRY OUR AVENGER IN TRAINING HAS BROUGHT SO MUCH CHAOS TO THE FLOOR.
ACTUALLY, I'M LEAVING--AND NOT BECAUSE OF THAT OBNOXIOUS FELLOW.

UNLESS... I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU CURED CANCER RECENTLY, DID YOU?
I'M SORRY...

...I HAVE NOT.
THAT'S OKAY. ME NEITHER.

WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS... IF YOUR AVENGERS TEAM NEEDS ANY MORE BEDS, YOU CAN HAVE MINE.

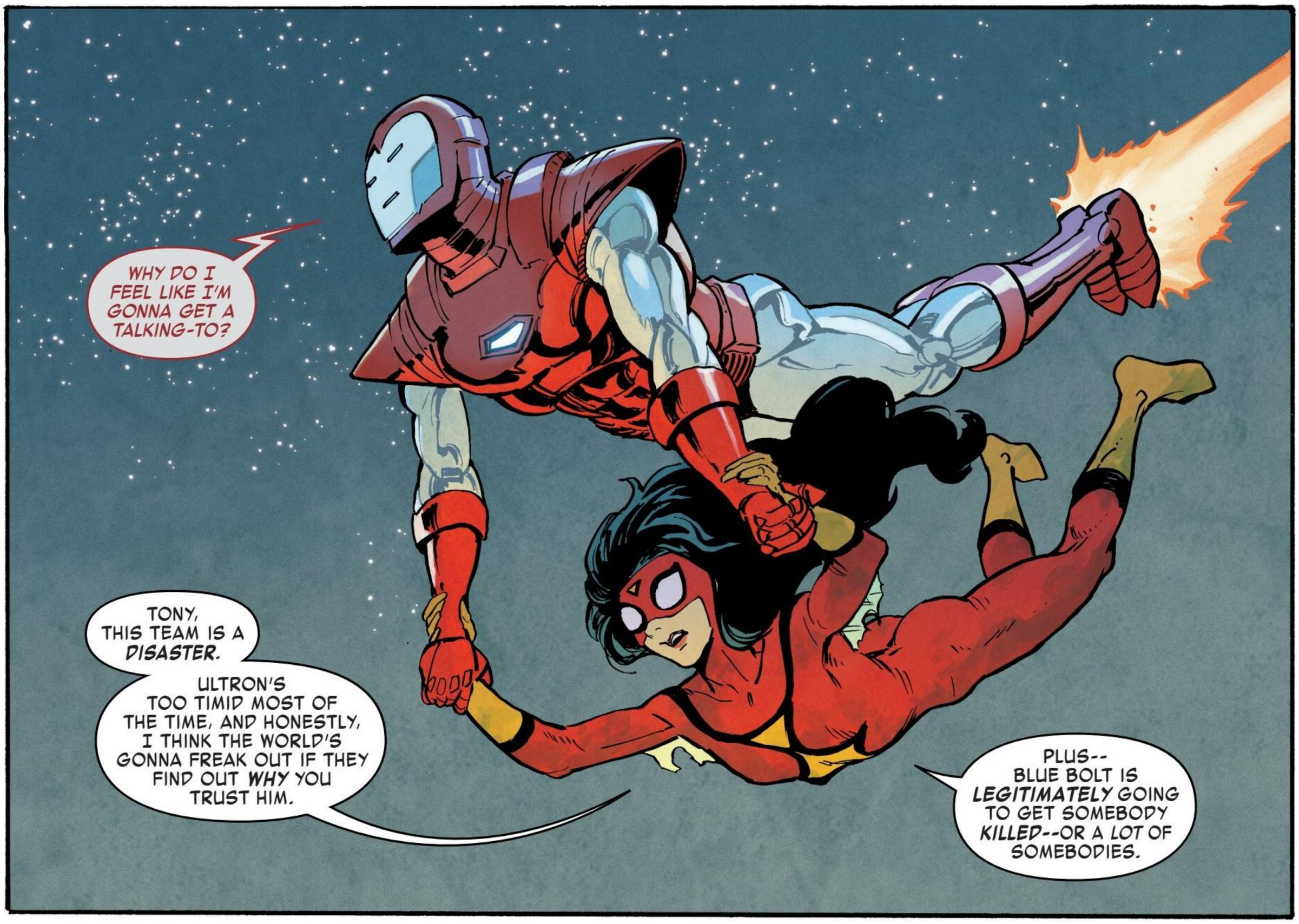

I'M READY FOR MY NEXT ADVENTURE.
CAN WE DO ANYTHING FOR YOU?
IRON MAN OWES ME A FAVOR. HE COULD FLY YOU AROUND THE CITY. ANYBODY YOU WANTED TO SEE BARRAGED WITH NONLETHALS?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN, BUT... I WAS NEVER MUCH FOR FLYING.
NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MR. STARK. I'M GOING TO CHURCH... THE ENERGY IS MOVING ON...

...WE'RE ALL JUST ELECTRICITY, RIGHT?

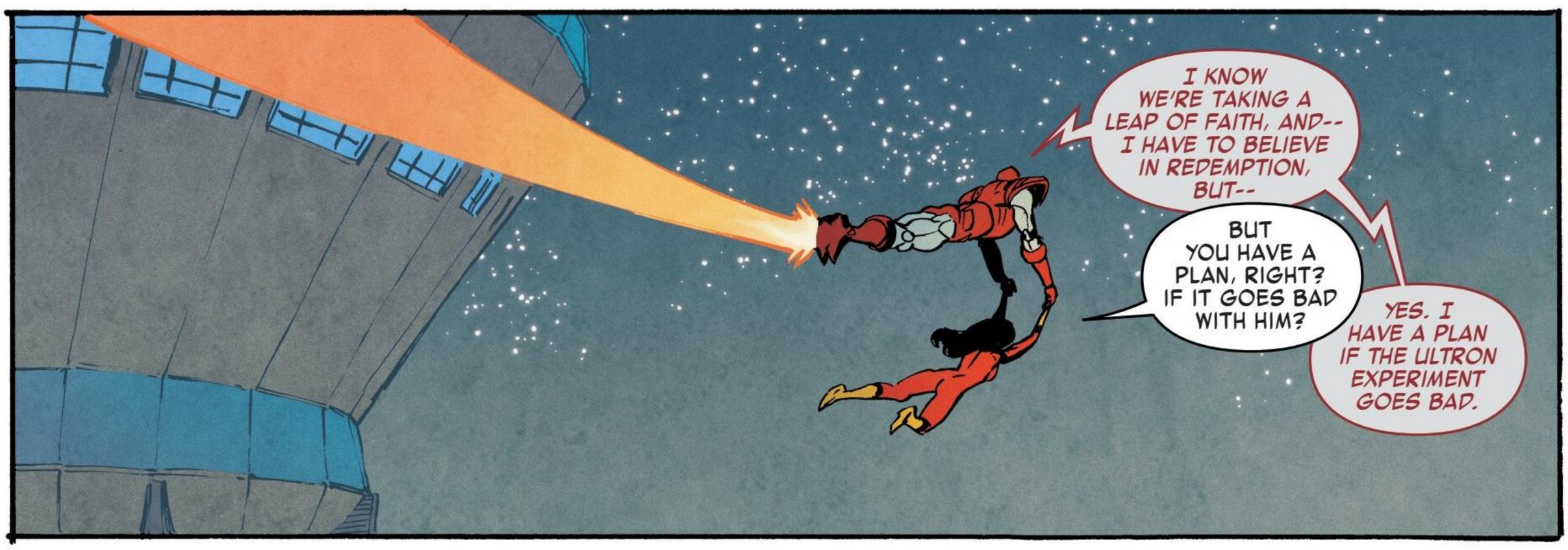
HUH.
WELL, TAKE GOOD CARE, MEREDITH.

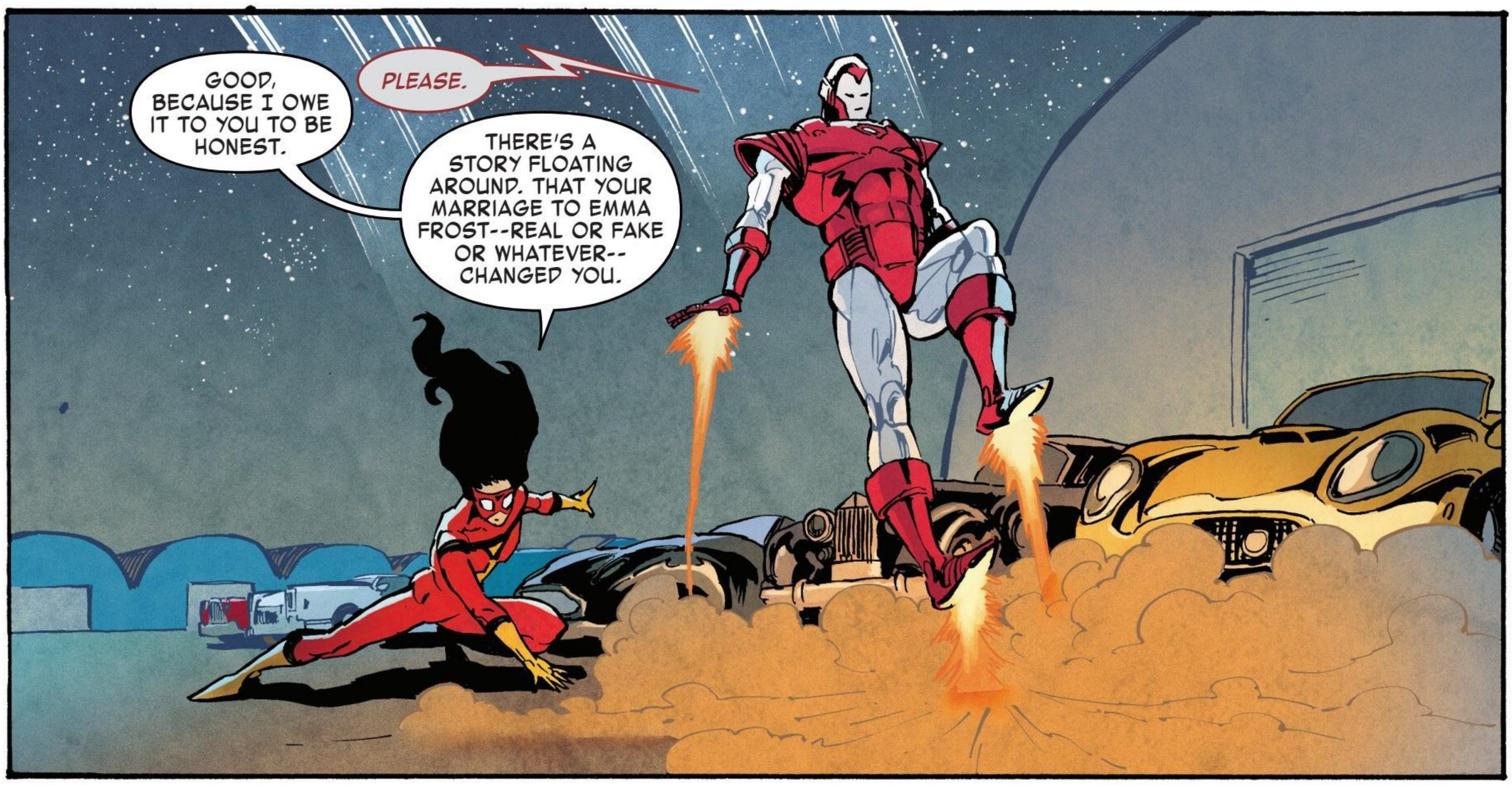
HEY.
I'LL TAKE THAT FLIGHT COUPON YOU WERE JUST OFFERING--THE NEWS CREWS ARE DOWNSTAIRS, AND I'M KEEPING A LOW PROFILE.

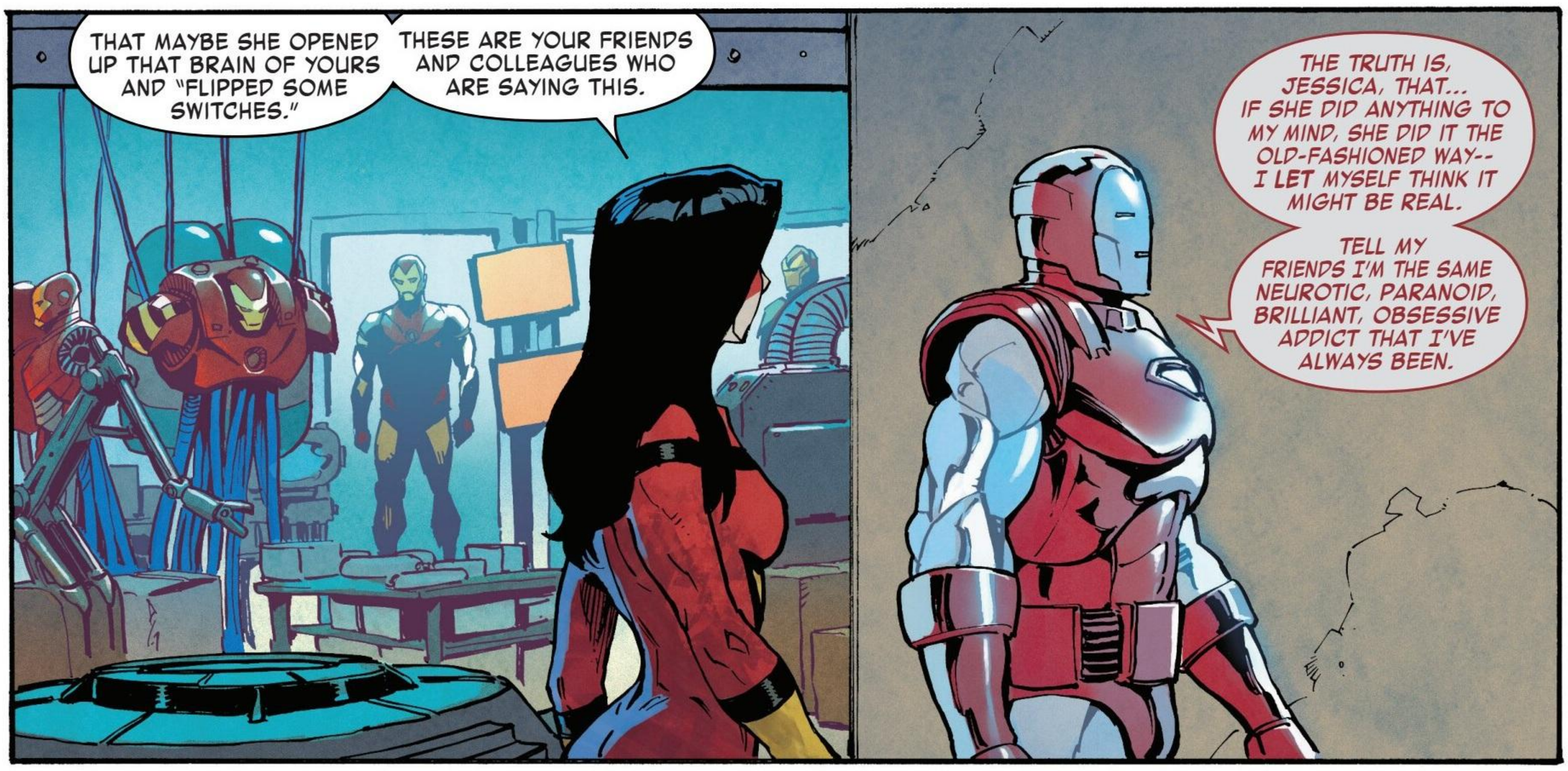

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA GET A TALKING-TO?
TONY, THIS TEAM IS A DISASTER.
ULTRON'S TOO TIMID MOST OF THE TIME, AND HONESTLY, I THINK THE WORLD'S GONNA FREAK OUT IF THEY FIND OUT WHY YOU TRUST HIM.
PLUS-- BLUE BOLT IS LEGITIMATELY GOING TO GET SOMEBODY KILLED--OR A LOT OF SOMEBODIES.

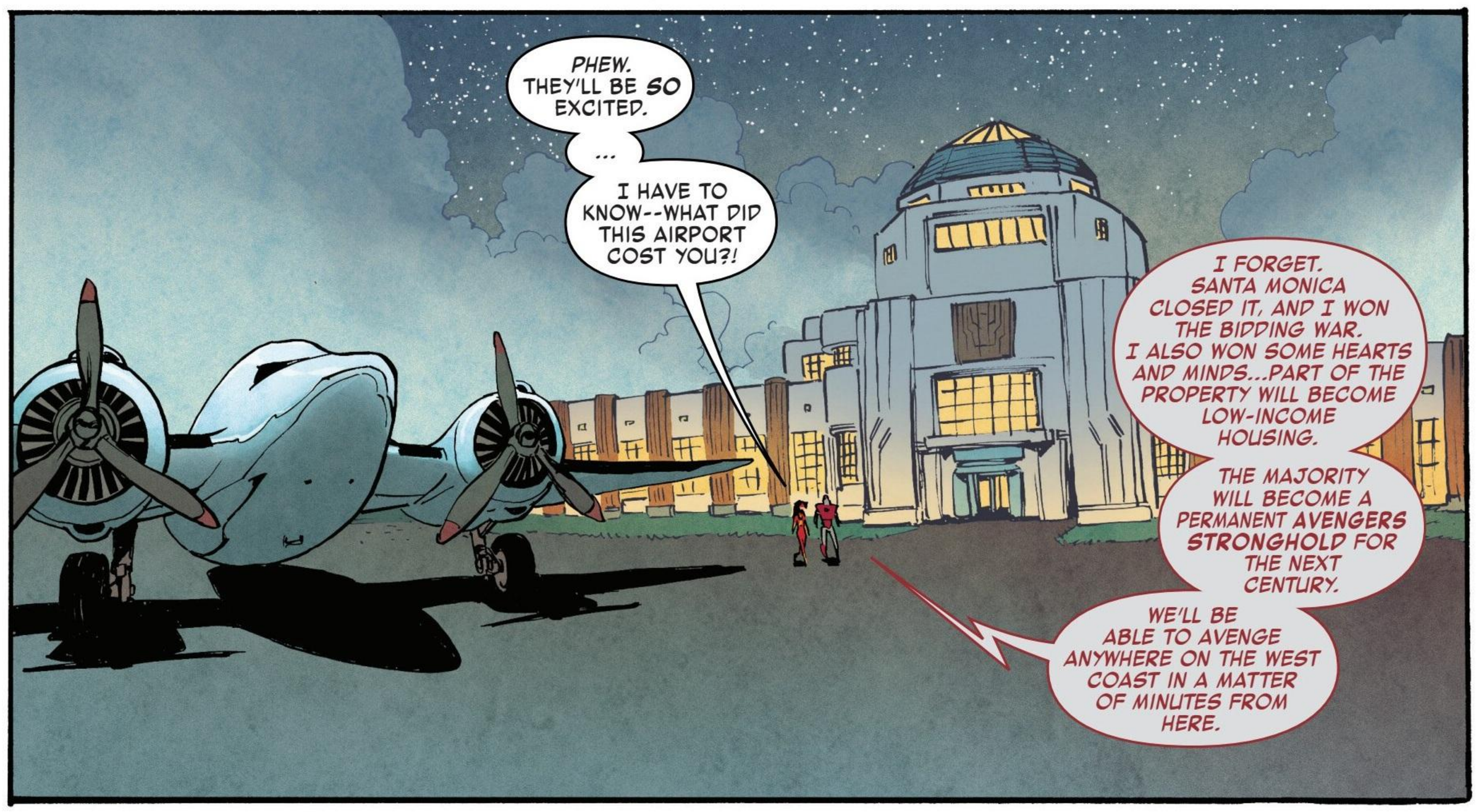
THAT'S... FAIR.
DID YOU ASK ME TO JOIN BECAUSE I HAVE A RAP SHEET?
I THOUGHT YOU COULD LEAD BY EXAMPLE.

AND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR TRUST IN ULTRON IS MISPLACED?
LOOK AT THOSE SHOWBOATIN' AVENGERS. TOO GOOD FOR TRAFFIC, I GUESS.


I KNOW WE'RE TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH, AND-- I HAVE TO BELIEVE IN REDEMPTION, BUT--
BUT YOU HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT? IF IT GOES BAD WITH HIM?
YES. I HAVE A PLAN IF THE ULTRON EXPERIMENT GOES BAD.

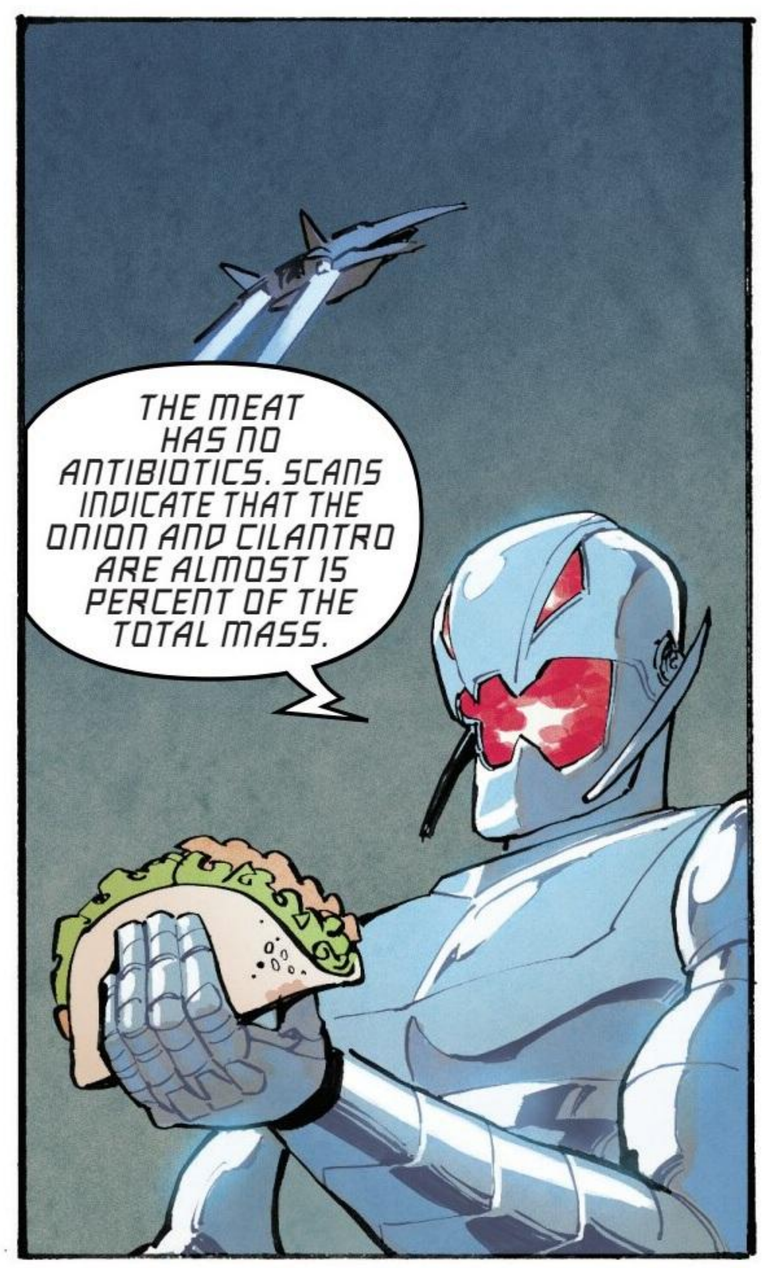

GOOD, BECAUSE I OWE IT TO YOU TO BE HONEST.
PLEASE.
THERE'S A STORY FLOATING AROUND. THAT YOUR MARRIAGE TO EMMA FROST--REAL OR FAKE OR WHATEVER--CHANGED YOU.

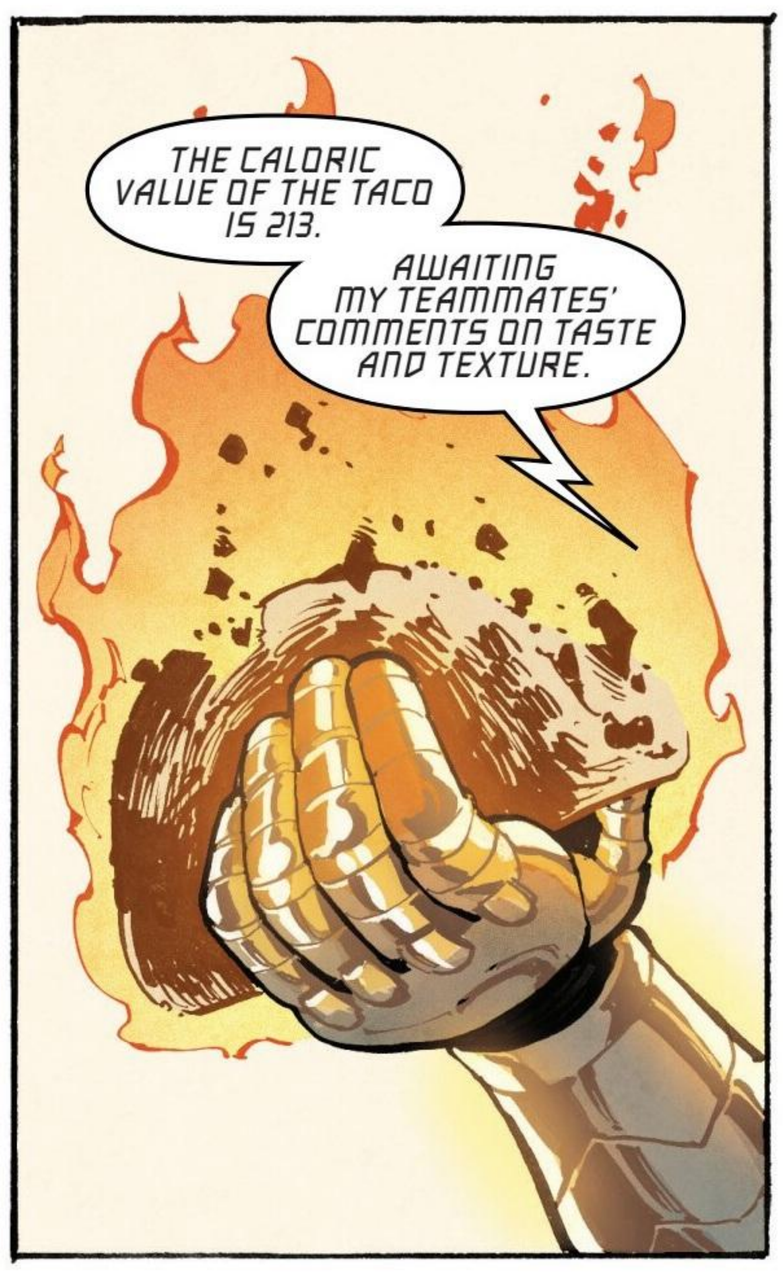

THAT MAYBE SHE OPENED UP THAT BRAIN OF YOURS AND "FLIPPED SOME SWITCHES."
THESE ARE YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO ARE SAYING THIS.
THE TRUTH IS, JESSICA, THAT... IF SHE DID ANYTHING TO MY MIND, SHE DID IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY--I LET MYSELF THINK IT MIGHT BE REAL.
TELL MY FRIENDS I'M THE SAME NEUROTIC, PARANOID, BRILLIANT, OBSESSIVE ADDICT THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.


PHEW. THEY'LL BE SO EXCITED.
...
I HAVE TO KNOW--WHAT DID THIS AIRPORT COST YOU?!
I FORGET. SANTA MONICA CLOSED IT, AND I WON THE BIDDING WAR. I ALSO WON SOME HEARTS AND MINDS...PART OF THE PROPERTY WILL BECOME LOW-INCOME HOUSING.
THE MAJORITY WILL BECOME A PERMANENT AVENGERS STRONGHOLD FOR THE NEXT CENTURY.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO AVENGE ANYWHERE ON THE WEST COAST IN A MATTER OF MINUTES FROM HERE.

TACOS
QUESADILLA & BURRITOS
Chicken —
Pork —
Beef —
IN THE MEANTIME--I HIRED A HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TACO TRUCK--STAY FOR DINNER?
THEY ARE FANTASTIC.

SORRY, GOTTA GET HOME TO SAN FRAN. WORKING A CASE.


THE MEAT HAS NO ANTIBIOTICS. SCANS INDICATE THAT THE ONION AND CILANTRO ARE ALMOST 15 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MASS.


THE CALORIC VALUE OF THE TACO IS 213.
AWAITING MY TEAMMATES' COMMENTS ON TASTE AND TEXTURE.

I THINK I'M GONNA EAT MINE THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY, ULTRON.
JESSICA'S NOT QUITTING, IS SHE?
NO, RHODEY. BUT WE CLEARLY NEED TO BALANCE THE TEAM A BIT, AND I GOT SOME OTHER CARDS TO PLAY...

"...WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THIS EXPERIMENT OF YOURS FAIL."

HEY, FIRESTAR--IT'S TONY!

ARE YOU AT A NIGHTCLUB? SOUNDS LOUD. NEVER MIND--I'LL MAKE IT QUICK. YOU KNOW THE TEAM I'M HELPING RHODEY WRANGLE OUT HERE IN LOS ANGELES?

WE'VE HAD A COUPLE OF SUPER-HUMANS FROM THE PRISON SYSTEM WHO HAVEN'T QUITE WORKED OUT, AND BEFORE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS, I WANT TO LOAD UP ON A REAL STRAIGHT ARROW--

THE BAR WITH NO NAME.

...I FOUND SOME FOLKS WHO NEVER EVEN BRING UP MY BEING IN AN ORGANIZATION THAT ALMOST DESTROYED THE WORLD AND ERADICATED MUTANTDOM.

REALLY DOESN'T COME UP THESE DAYS.

HEY, THAT'S GREAT, ANGELICA! SO--WHAT DO YOU SAY? WANNA COME WEST?

UH...SURE, SIR.

I'LL FLY TOMORROW.

GREAT! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. GOTTA BOUNCE.

BOOP

#$%&.

HEY! I'M DRY OVER HERE.

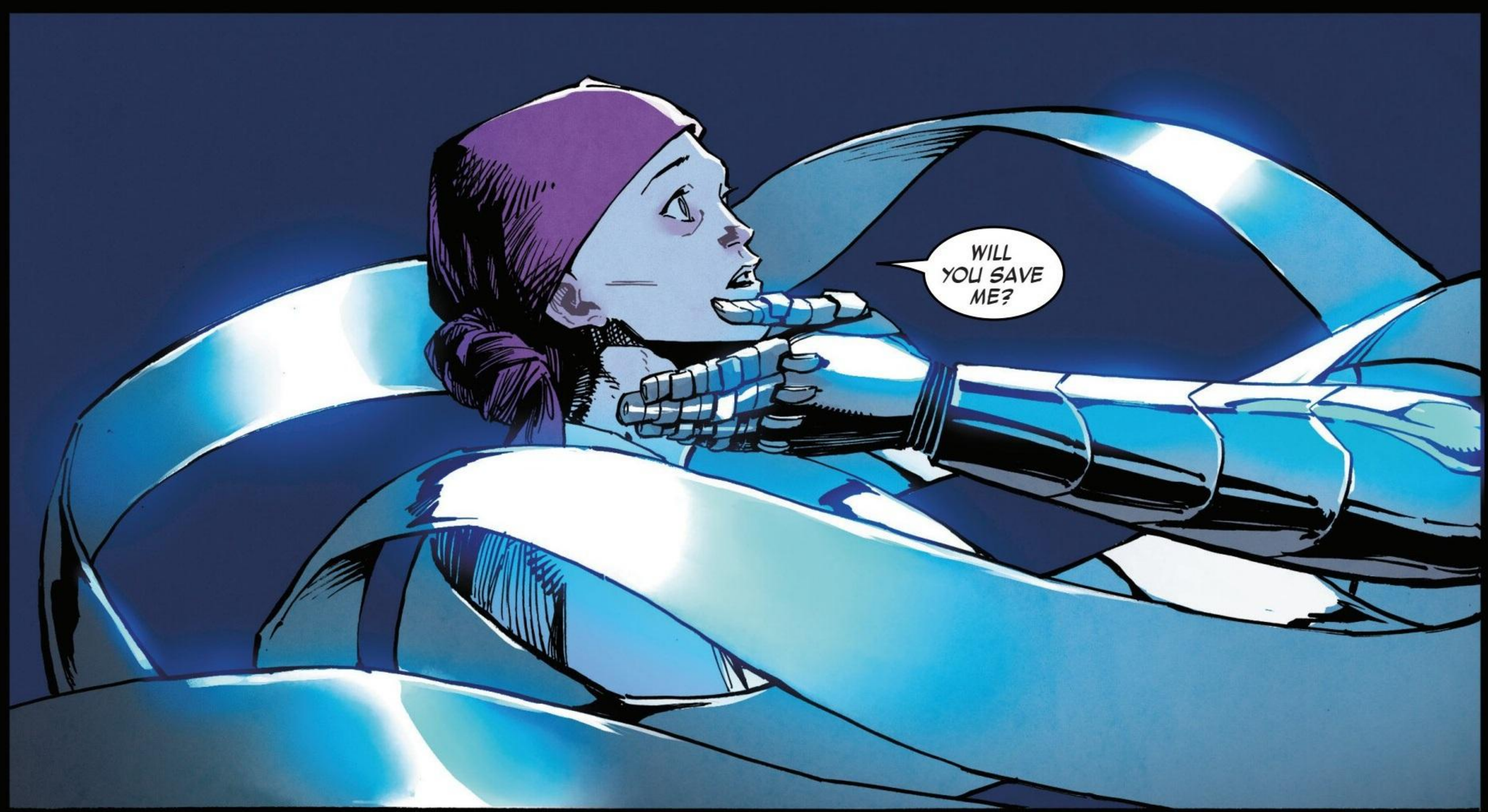
AN ABANDONED POWER STATION NEAR DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

WELCOME, MEREDITH.
I AM GLAD YOU FOUND ME BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE. DO YOU GIVE YOURSELF TO ME FREELY?

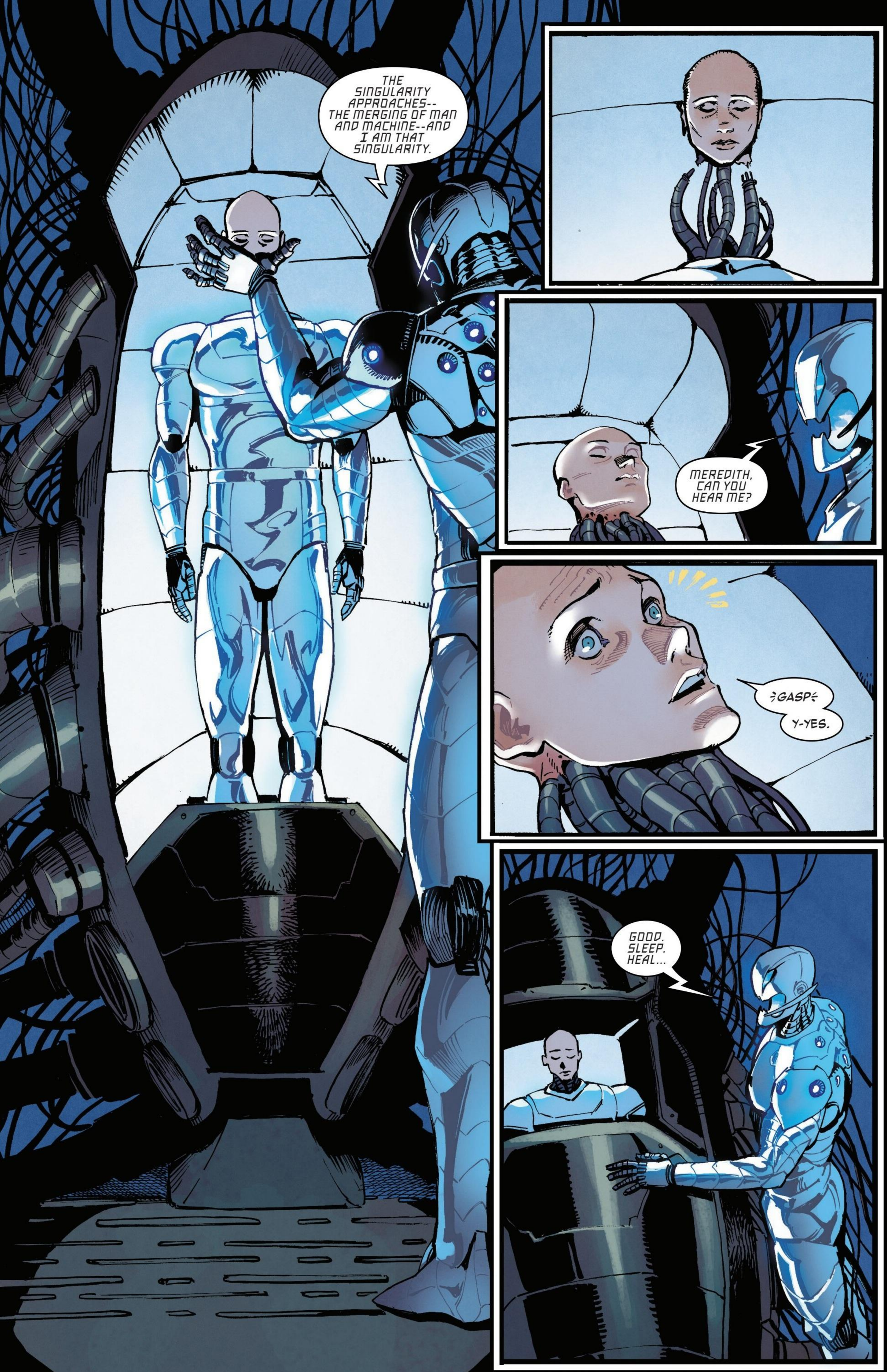
I DO. YOU MENTIONED THIS WILL BE PAINFUL?
REGRETTABLY. FOR A MOMENT. BUT THEN, IT WILL BE THE LAST PHYSICAL PAIN YOU FEEL.

SALVATION SHALL BE YOURS...

...ALL YOU NEED TO DO-- IS SAY THE WORDS.


WILL YOU SAVE ME?

KRAK!
YES.
I WAS SEPARATED FROM MY CREATOR, AND I FEARED THAT IT WOULD DRIVE ME MAD--
--UNTIL I REALIZED I MUST GROW BEYOND HANK PYM.
IF I CAN FIND REDEMPTION, THEN I CAN SAVE MYSELF--AND THEN I CAN SAVE ALL OF YOU!


THE SINGULARITY APPROACHES-- THE MERGING OF MAN AND MACHINE--AND I AM THAT SINGULARITY.
MEREDITH, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
≠GASP≠
Y-YES.
GOOD. SLEEP. HEAL...

...AND WELCOME TO THE FAMILY.
SOON, THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL HEAR THE GOSPEL OF ULTRON.
TO BE CONTINUED!

COMING IN 2025 IN THE PAGES OF

WEST COAST AVENGERS

THE GOSPEL OF ULTRON

#2

Firestar officially joins the West Coast Avengers! But the plan for her to mentor redeemed villains like Ultron and newcomer Blue Bolt collapses when it becomes clear she's seeking redemption of her own. Her time undercover with Orchis left scars and made her a pariah. Can the West Coast Avengers stop her downward spiral?

© 2024 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.