

ULTIMATE IRON MAN

ISSUE

1

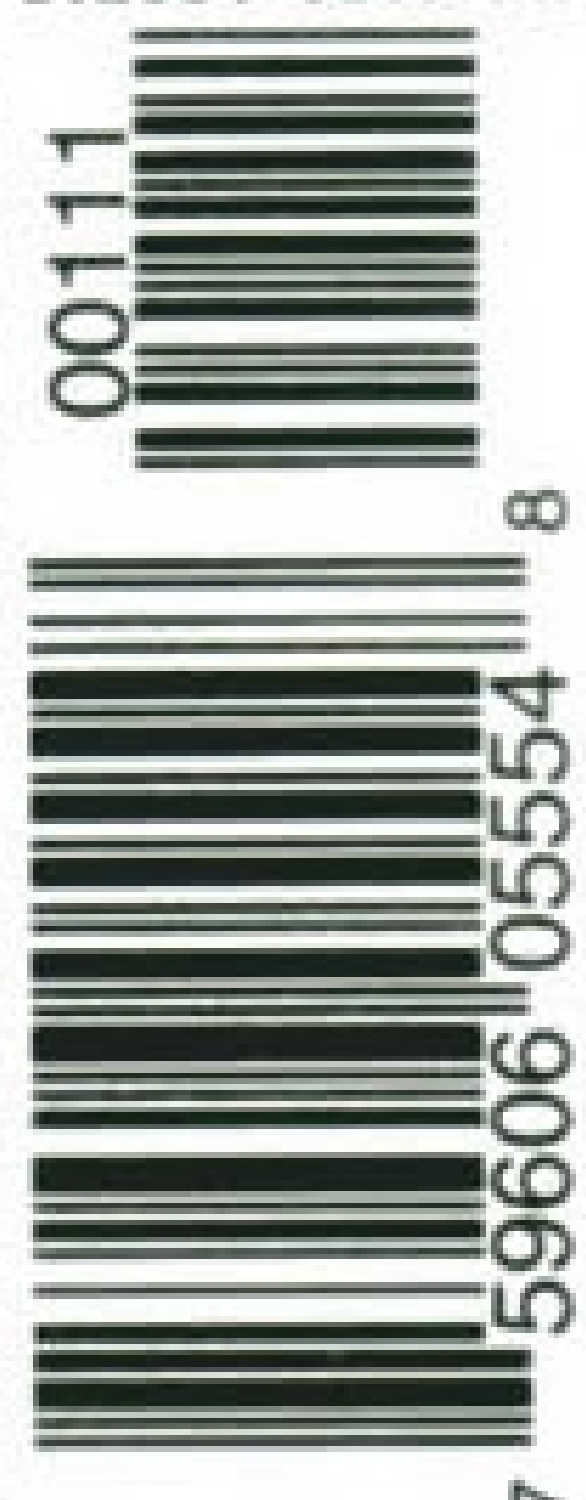
ORSON SCOTT CARD
ANDY KUBERT

MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY

DIRECT EDITION

00111



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\$2.99 US \$4.25 CAN

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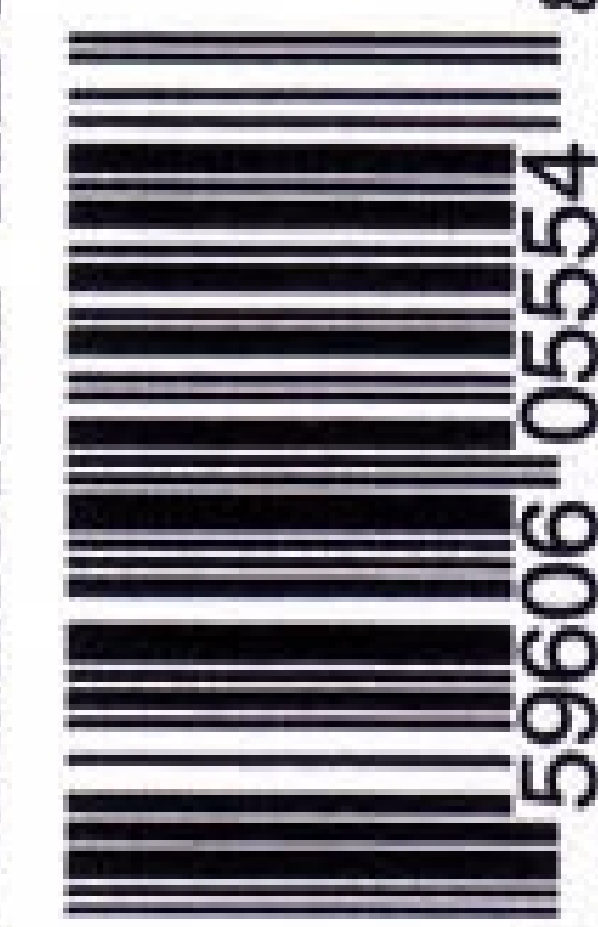


Andy Kubert
with
Mike
ISANONE

ORSON SCOTT CARD
ANDY KUBERT

MARVEL

PARENTAL ADVISORY



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00121

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Stark Defense Corporation Headquarters
New York City
Years Ago...

Orson Scott CARD WRITER	Andy KUBERT PENCILER	Danny MIKI INKER	Richard ISANOVE COLORS	Chris ELIOPOULOS LETTERS
Nick LOWE EDITOR	Ralph MACCHIO SENIOR EDITOR	Joe QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF	Dan BUCKLEY PUBLISHER	

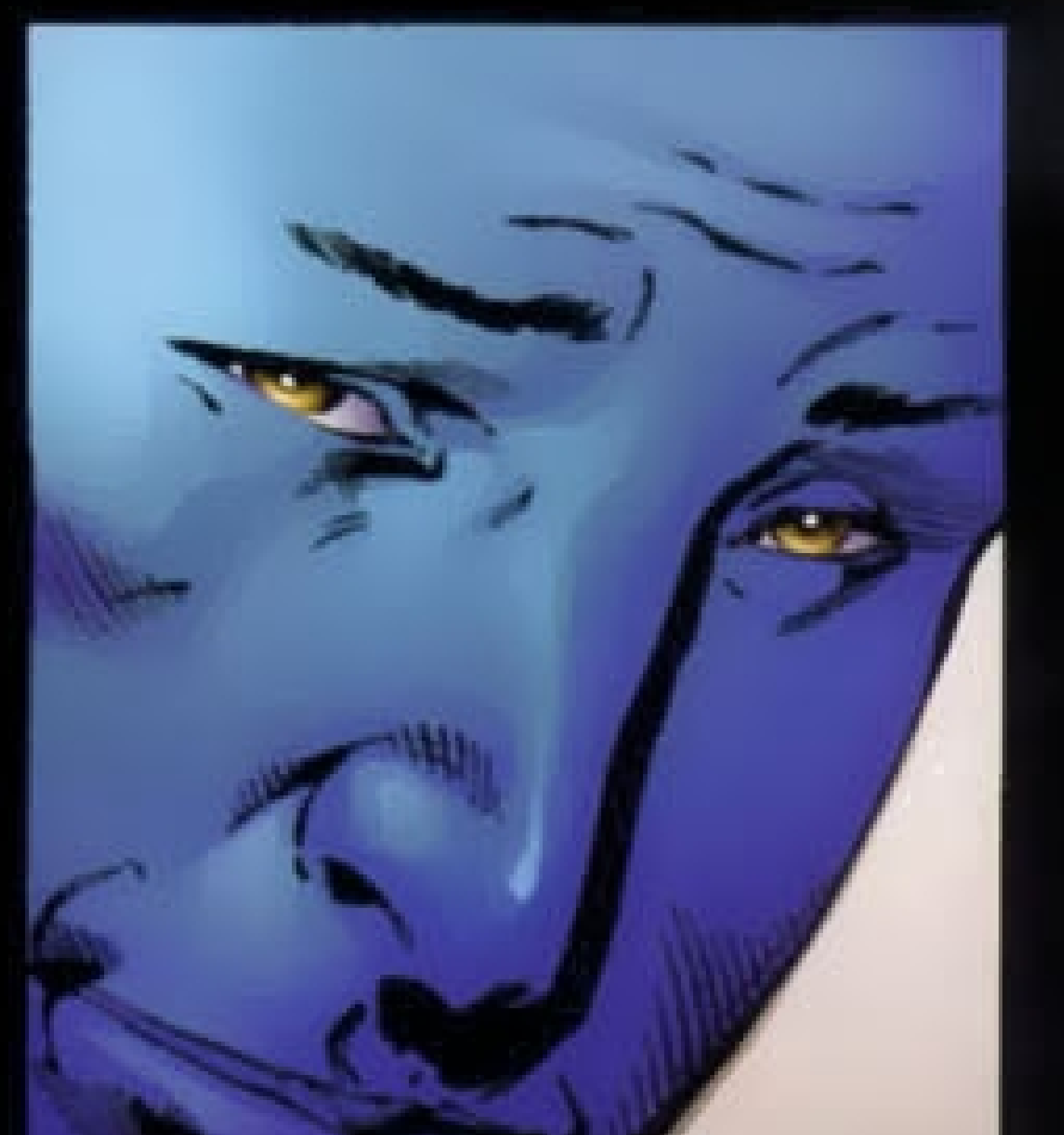
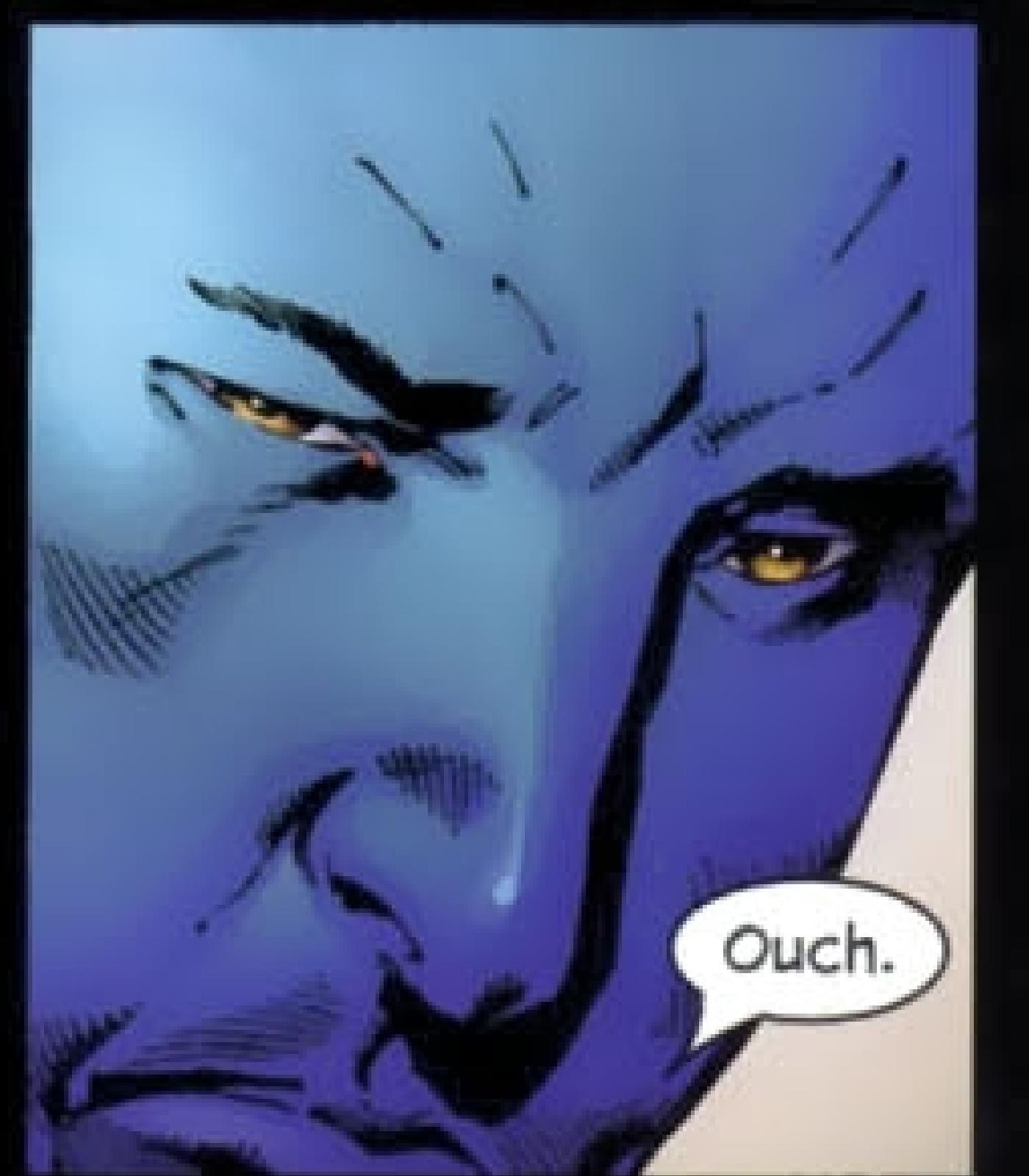
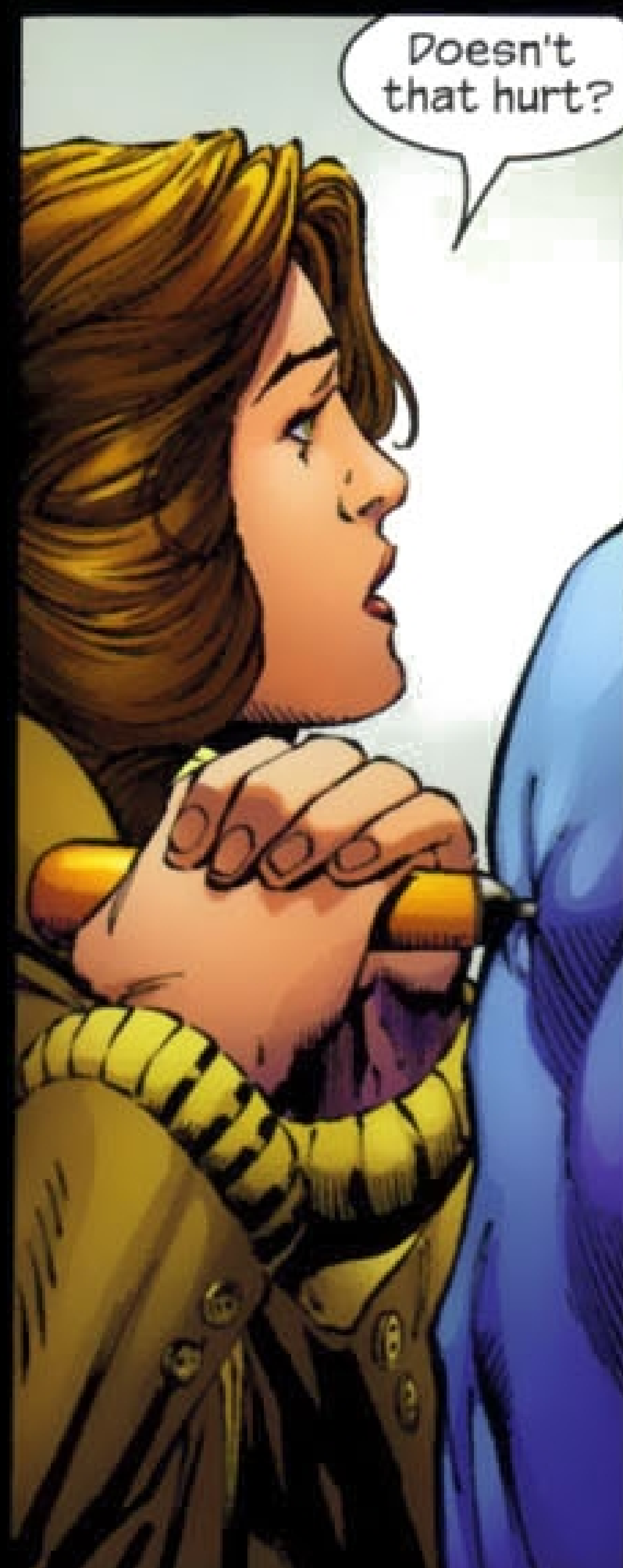
Dr. Cerrera,
welcome to Stark
Defense Corp.

I'm Howard
Stark.

On TV
you looked
taller.

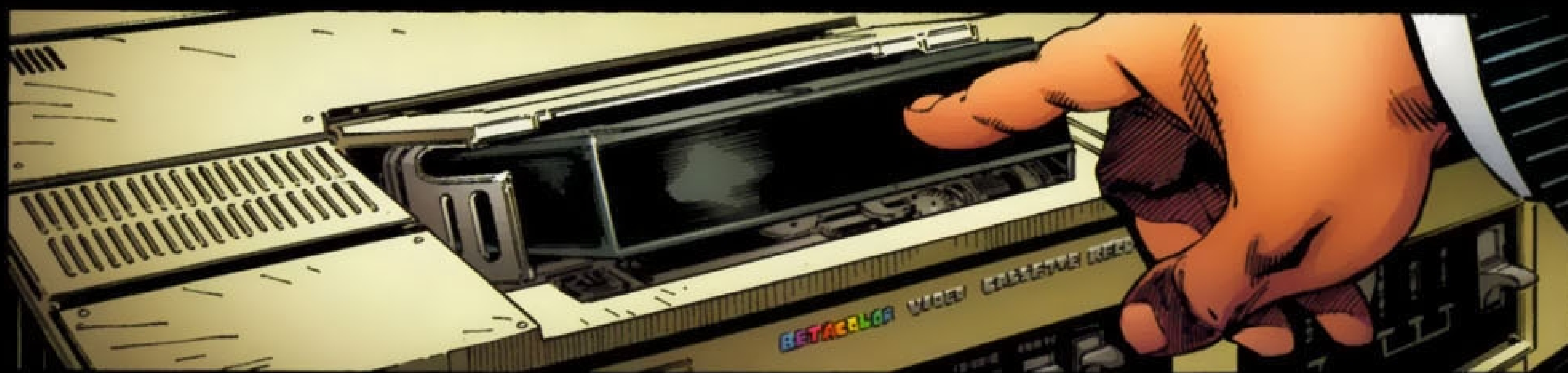
I've
been losing
height.

You had
something to
show me?









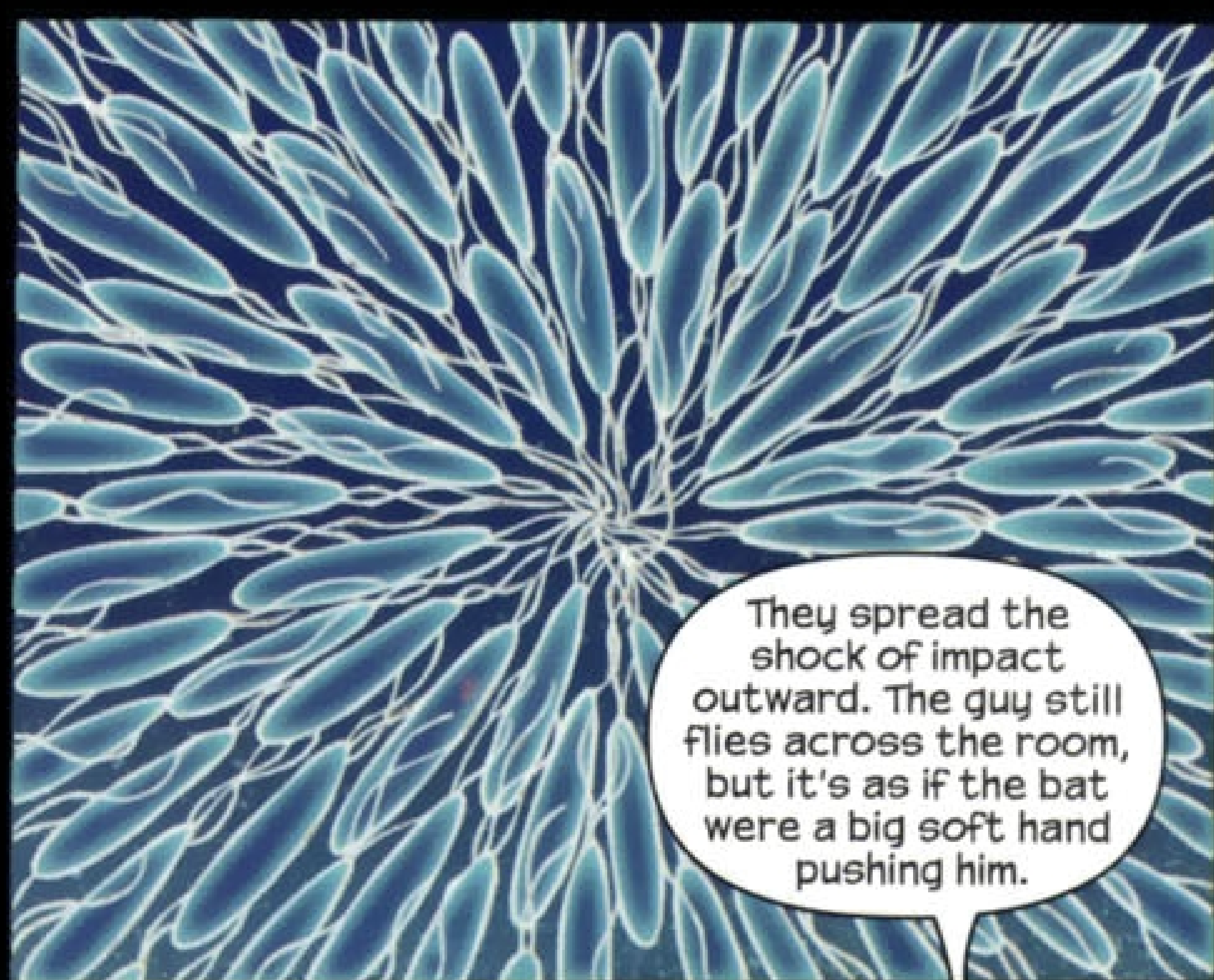
Bacteria.
They live on
the surface
of the skin.

Eating
skin cells?

Only
when they're
hungry.



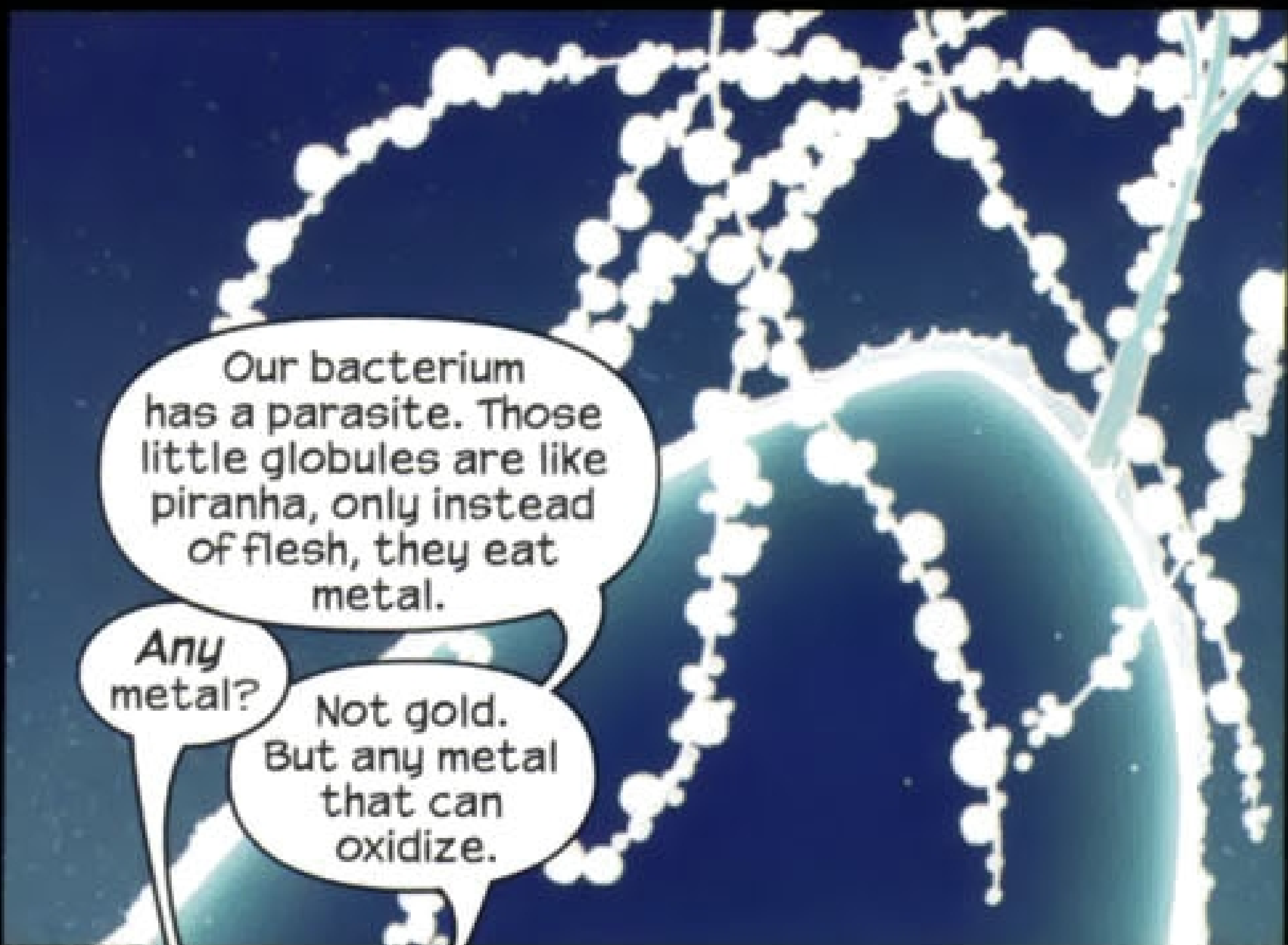
Here's what
happens when
something hits
them.



They spread the
shock of impact
outward. The guy still
flies across the room,
but it's as if the bat
were a big soft hand
pushing him.



That still
doesn't explain
this.



Our bacterium
has a parasite. Those
little globules are like
piranha, only instead
of flesh, they eat
metal.

Any
metal?

Not gold.
But any metal
that can
oxidize.



So you've reinvented armor.
Still have a few problems.



It won't stop a bullet.
Moving too fast.



And after about three hours, it eats away all your skin.

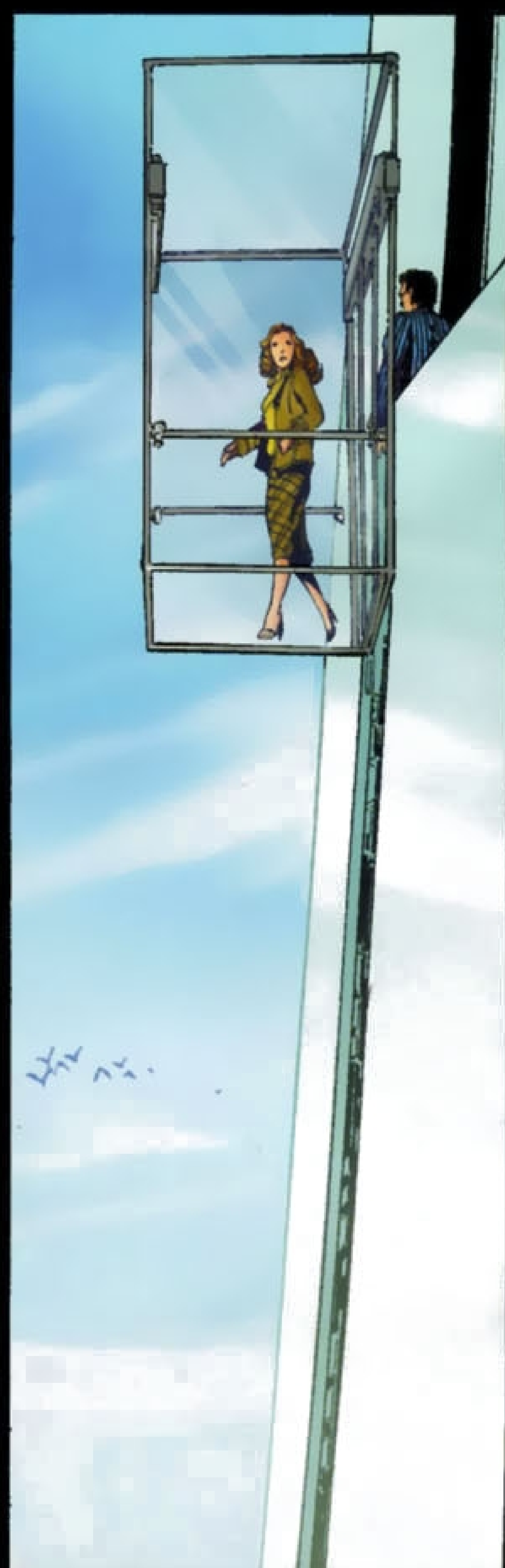


So if you're attacked with ice picks and baseball bats...
You're invulnerable. As long as you have soap and water close by.



And it's such a lovely color.

Sky blue. Goes with everything.

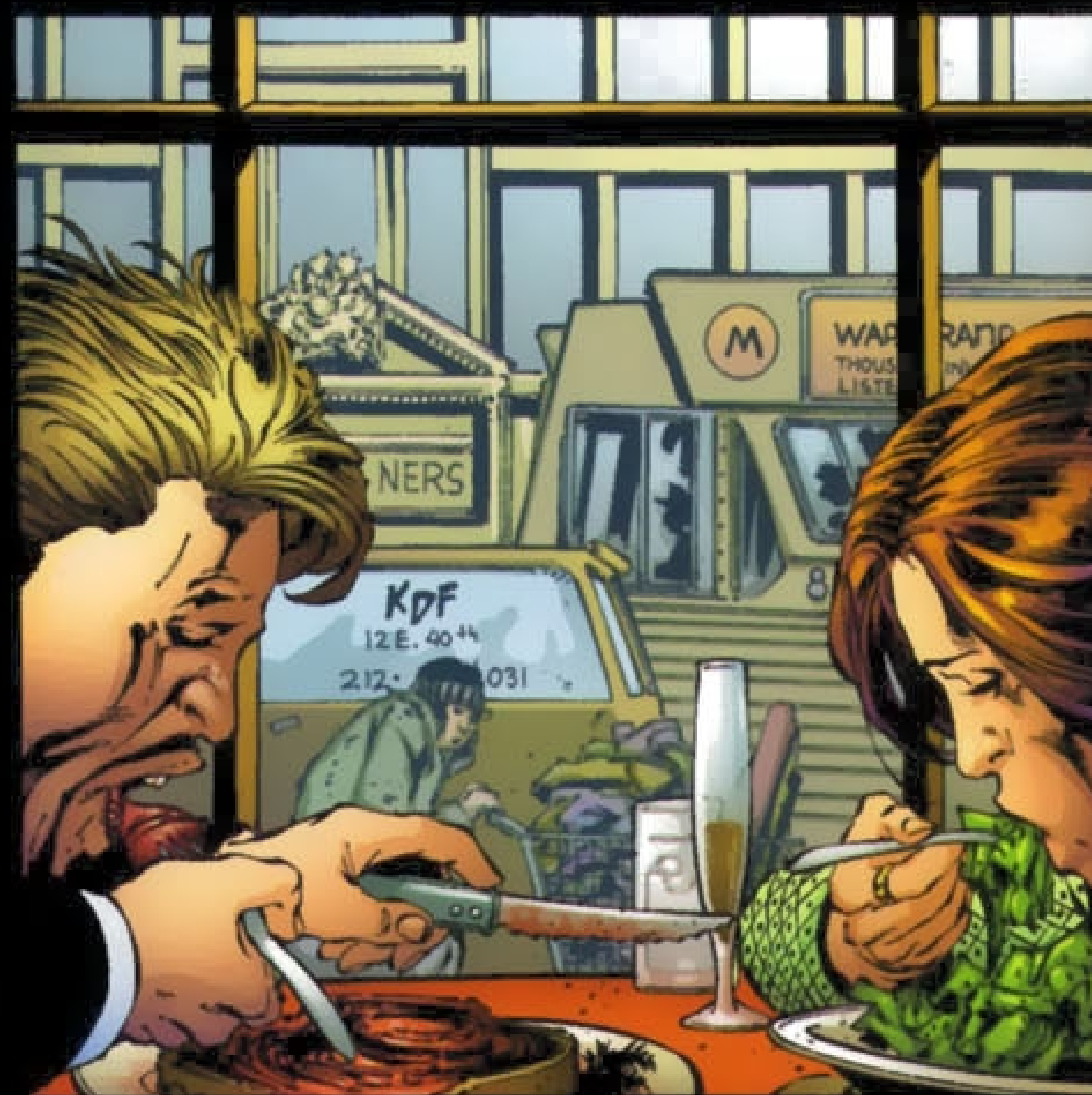




Stark Defense Corporation stock falling four points on the announcement of a new drive toward creating biotech personal body armor, a project viewed as a drain down which Howard Stark plans to flush stockholders' money.









One more meeting, and the settlement will be complete.

You're giving her too much. You should fight!



She gets half my stock, the old house, some cars. It's paper, a building, some machines.

I'm married to the most beautiful, kind, and intelligent woman in the world. *Who* won?



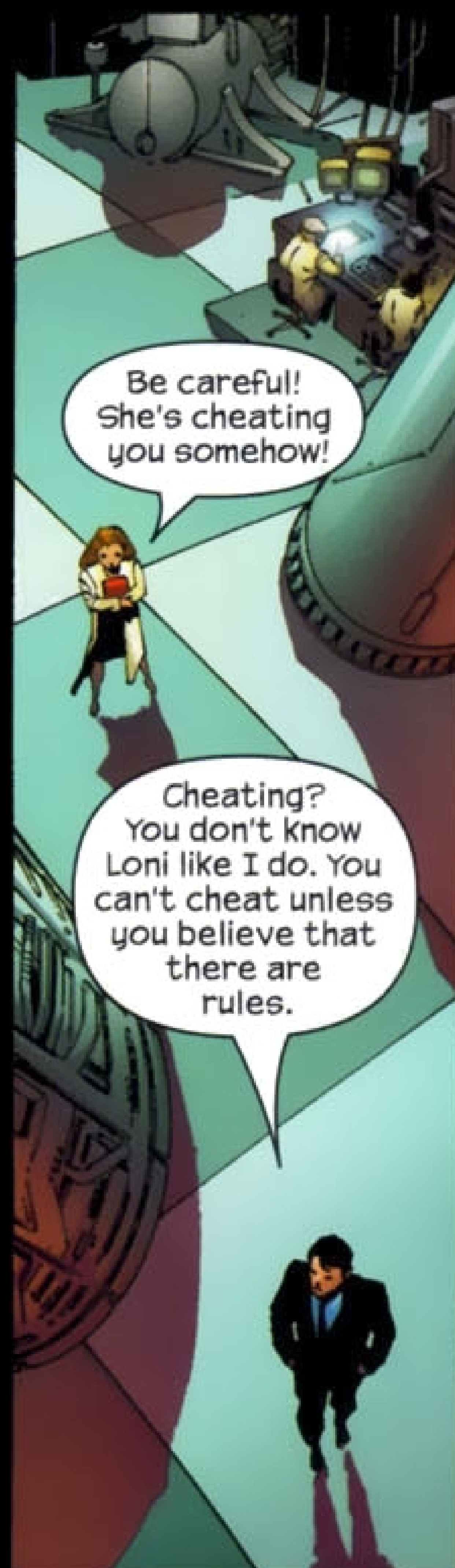
I won.

For a guy who got rich making weapons of war, you're very peaceful.



Be careful! She's cheating you somehow!

Cheating? You don't know Loni like I do. You can't cheat unless you believe that there are rules.











You've been married three months.

Could you be pregnant?



If I thought there was *any* chance I was pregnant, I would *never* have come into the AbSecLab.



I think we need a redesign of these helmets.



I'm going to be sick.



I didn't want to know what you had for breakfast.

I didn't eat breakfast. I woke up nauseated.

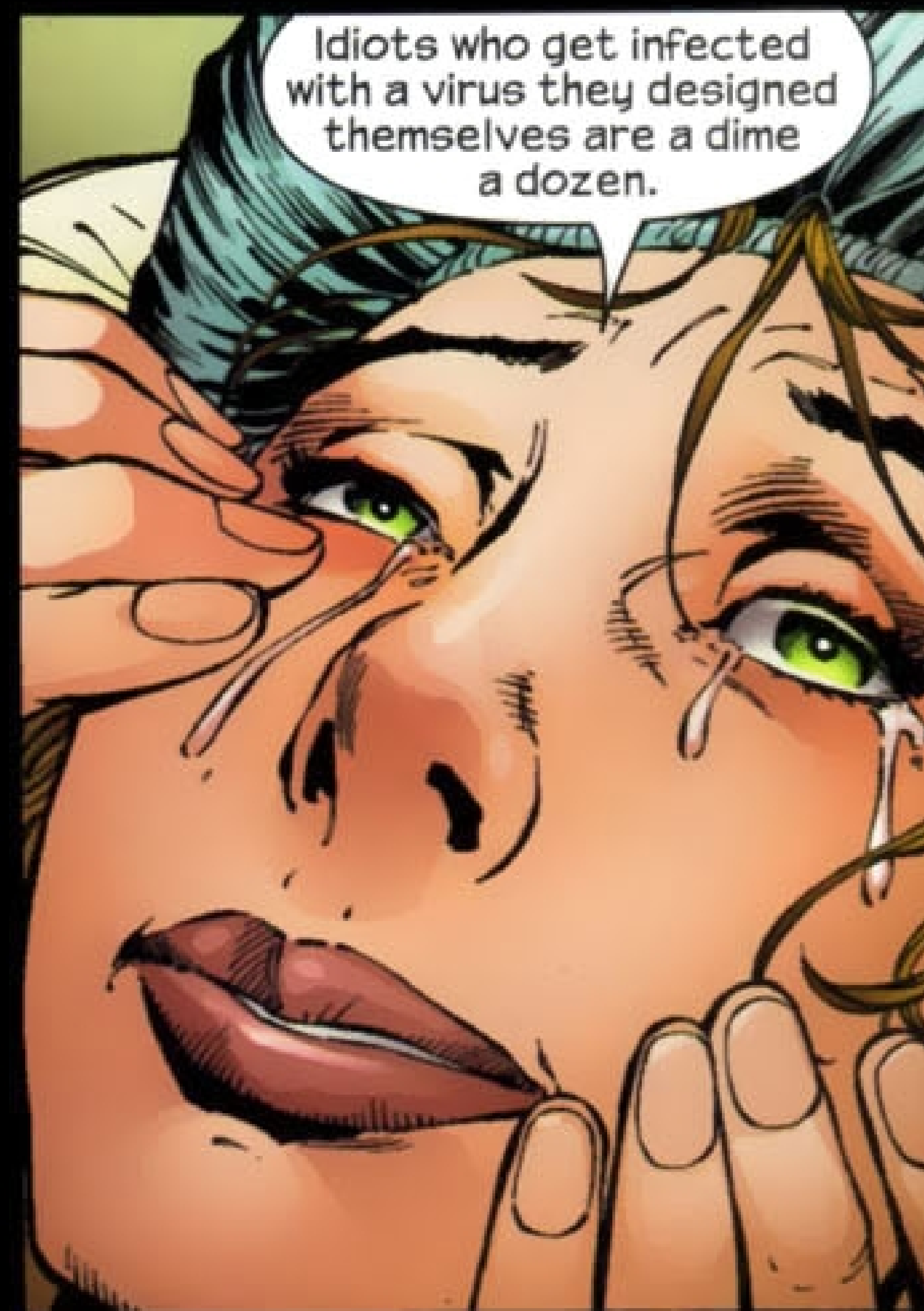
Sounds like morning sickness to me.



I can't be pregnant.

Can't? Or find it inconvenient to be?

Shouldn't have come to work today.







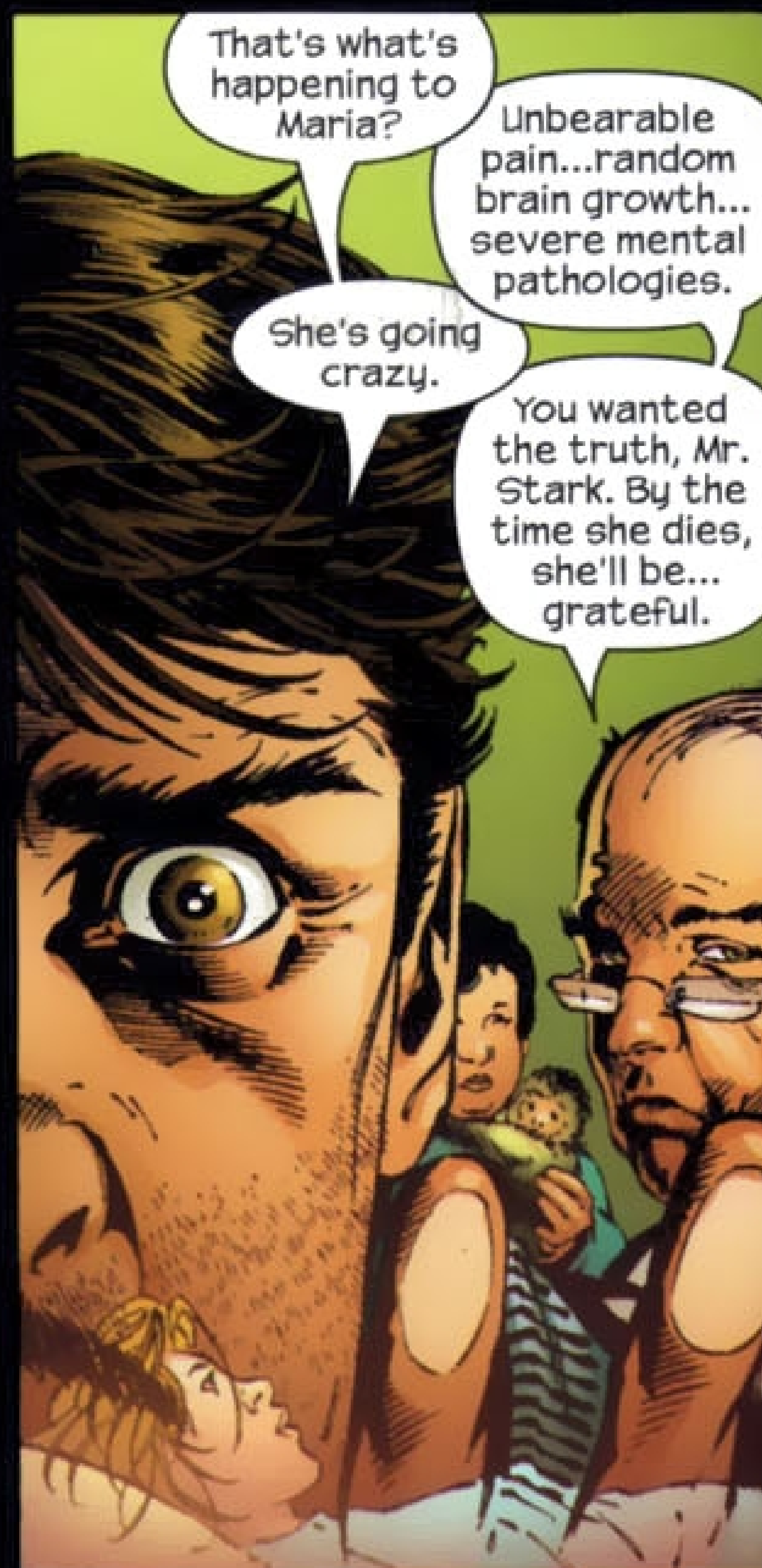
She won't take anything for the pain. She's afraid it will harm the baby.



The regeneration virus is working as we hoped on Jimmy. Except we have to keep him sedated. Because it had an unexpected effect on his brain.



The brain regenerates constantly. New nerve tissue growing everywhere. His brain is growing too big for his skull. And he's in constant pain.



That's what's happening to Maria?

Unbearable pain...random brain growth...severe mental pathologies.

She's going crazy.

You wanted the truth, Mr. Stark. By the time she dies, she'll be...grateful.



As long as I can believe our baby...will live...

I can stand it.



Let us give you something for the pain.



DON'T TOUCH ME!

Hurts... too much...



The virus... affects embryonic tissue differently. The baby's brain won't outgrow his skull. He'll...look normal.

"Undifferentiated neural tissue will grow all through his body. As if his whole body is brain. Greater mental capacity. Quicker. Like no human in history."







No pain. I've been hitting myself with hammers, putting my hands in candle flames, nothing hurts.

How long this time?



A week. Only the outer layer of skin is eaten away.



So if the skin regenerated only a little faster...



I think this batch might work on your--





ULTIMATE IRON MAN

Welcome to the first issue of Ultimate Iron Man! I hope you had as much fun reading the first issue as we had making it. Most of you reading this probably know who all the people on the creative team are, but just in case, let me give you a quick run-down.

-ORSON SCOTT CARD is one of the biggest writers in science fiction today. Ever since he blazed on the scene with his groundbreaking novel *Ender's Game* (if you haven't read it, RUN TO THE NEAREST BOOKSTORE AND PICK IT UP) he has been a literary force to be reckoned with. With huge amounts of critical success (he's won oodles of awards like the Hugo and Nebula awards) and popular success (he's been a regular staple on The New York Times best-seller list almost every time he puts out a book), he makes everyone else feel inadequate. Now he brings his vision to the Ultimate Universe and we couldn't be happier.

-ANDY KUBERT can draw anything and it all looks really cool. From X-Men to Ka-Zar to Captain America to Origin to 1602 to Ultimate X-Men and all kinds of craziness in between, Andy has proven this fact. Coming out of a comic-book family (his dad is legend Joe Kubert and his brother is Ultimate FF artist Adam Kubert), Andy has made an indelible mark all his own on the comic-book industry.

-DANNY MIKI is unbelievable. He can ink anything in any style (just look at his work with Joe Quesada on *Daredevil Father*, David Finch on *New Avengers*, or Salvador Larocca on *X-Men* to see that) and I was lucky to get him on this project. Danny is at the top of his game and still gets better and better with every page.

-RICHARD ISANOVE is the master. He is a pioneer who constantly innovates comic-book coloring with everything he does. From the digital painting he does (like on the cover) to conventional interior coloring (which is anything BUT conventional when he does it) there is nothing that Richard can't do. I thank God everyday that he lost our bet and is therefore coloring this book.

-CHRIS ELIOPOULOS must not sleep. There is no way that anyone could letter as many books as he letters and do it as well as he does. He has saved the lives of more editors than I care to think about. And he's a really good cook, too.

There you have it. That is the creative team that produced the comic you hold in your hands and is feverishly working on the next issue. "Next issue," you ask? "How can there be a next issue when the mother of the unborn baby who is to become Iron Man is dead," you ask? You will have to wait and see. All I can say is it is awesome.

Best,

Nick



by Bryan Hitch & Richard Isanove



by Andy Kubert & Richard Isanove



Ultimate Iron Man #2

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NEXT ISSUE:

**Discover
the Fate of
Iron Man!**

TEAM
DEP



A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH?

LIGHTRAY & METATRON