

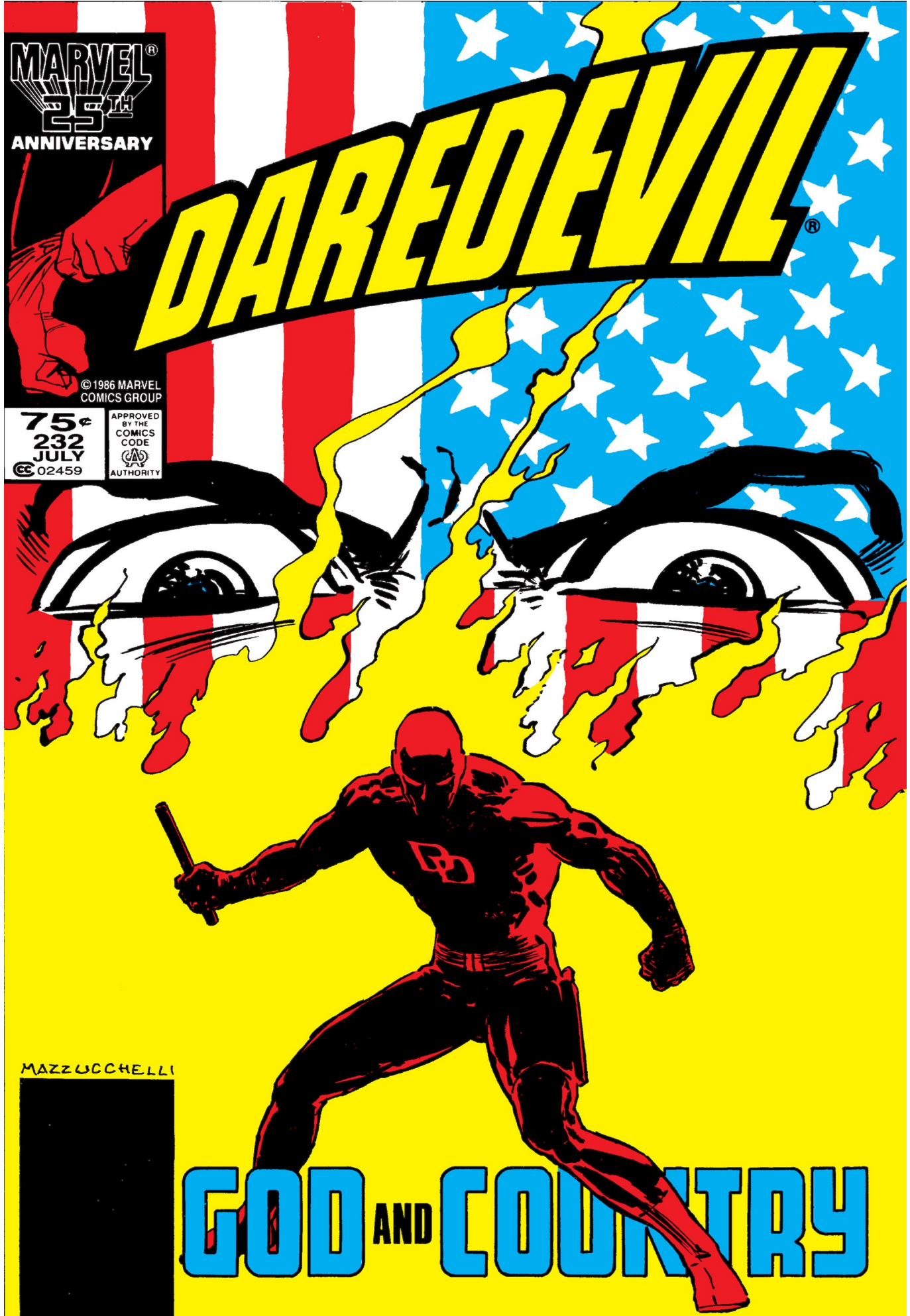
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ANNIVERSARY

# DAREDEVIL<sup>®</sup>

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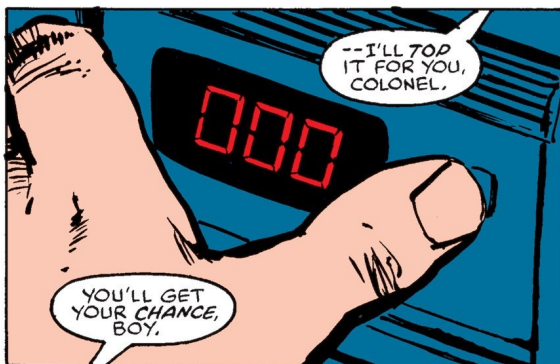
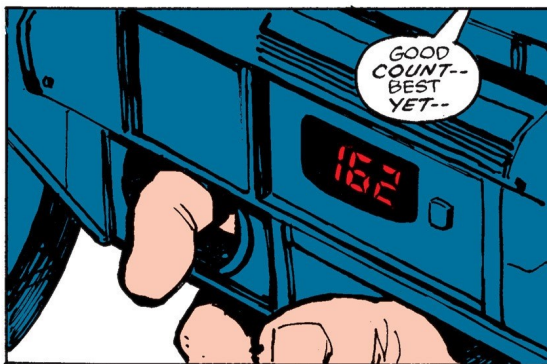
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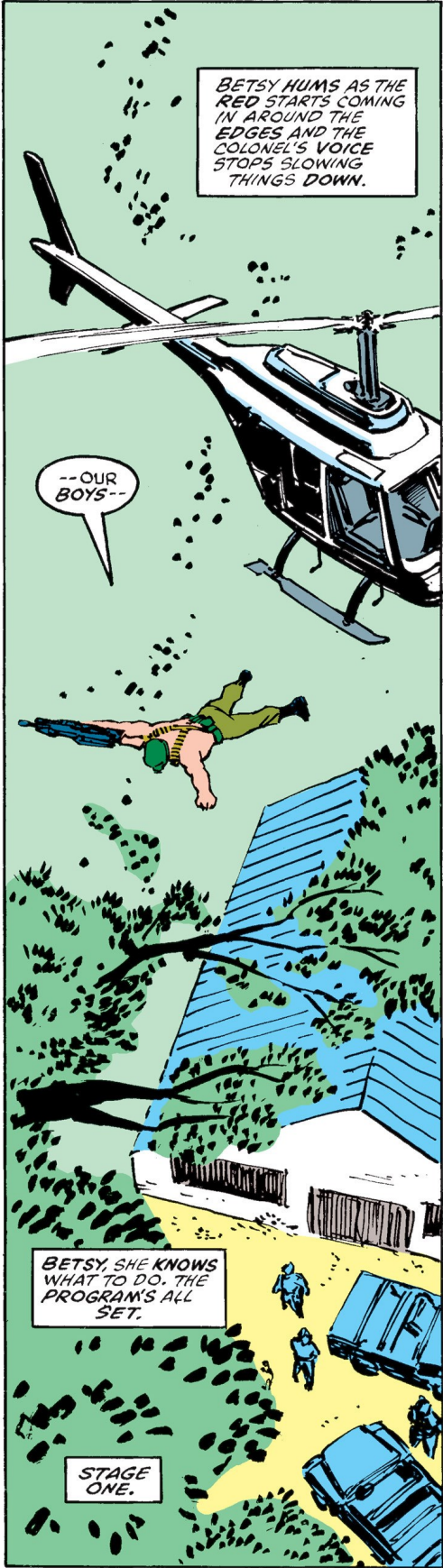


MAZZUCHELLI

# GOD AND COUNTRY



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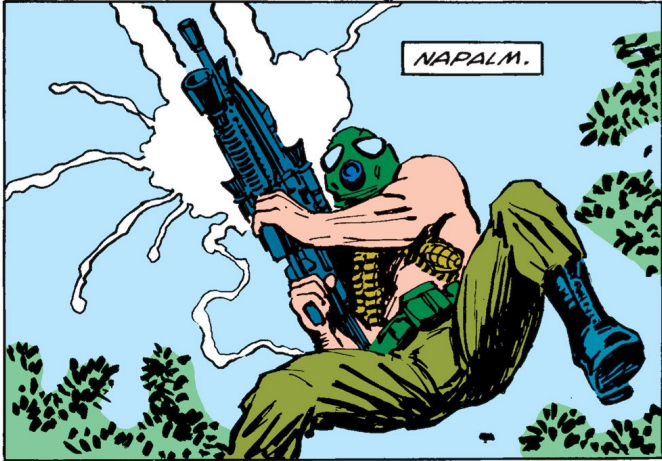


BETSY HUMS AS THE RED STARTS COMING IN AROUND THE EDGES AND THE COLONEL'S VOICE STOPS BLOWING THINGS DOWN.

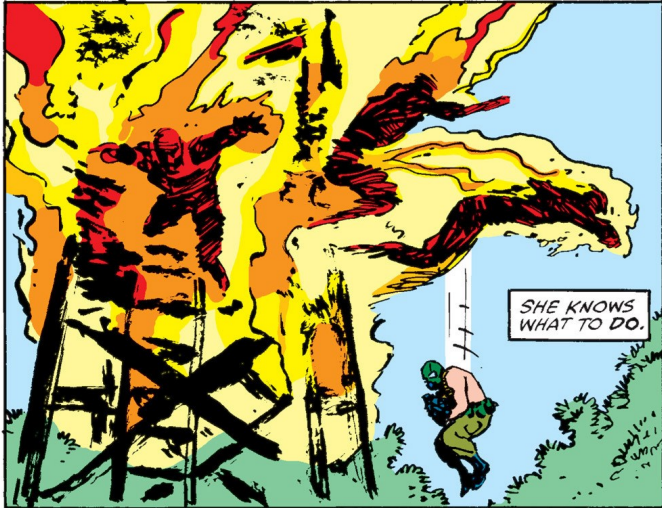
--OUR BOYS--

BETSY, SHE KNOWS WHAT TO DO. THE PROGRAM'S ALL SET.

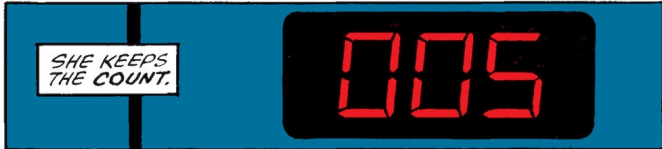
STAGE ONE.



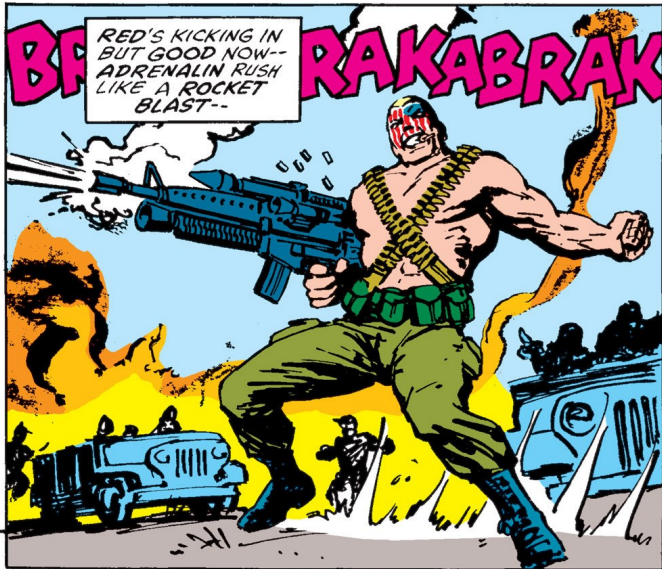
NAPALM.



SHE KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

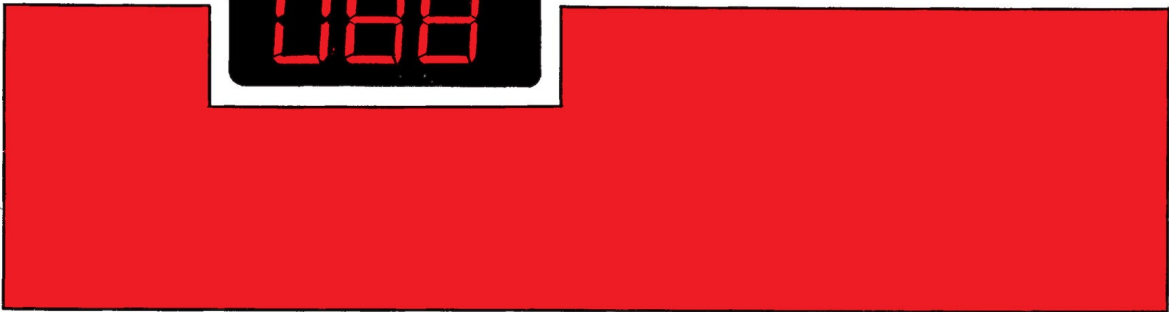
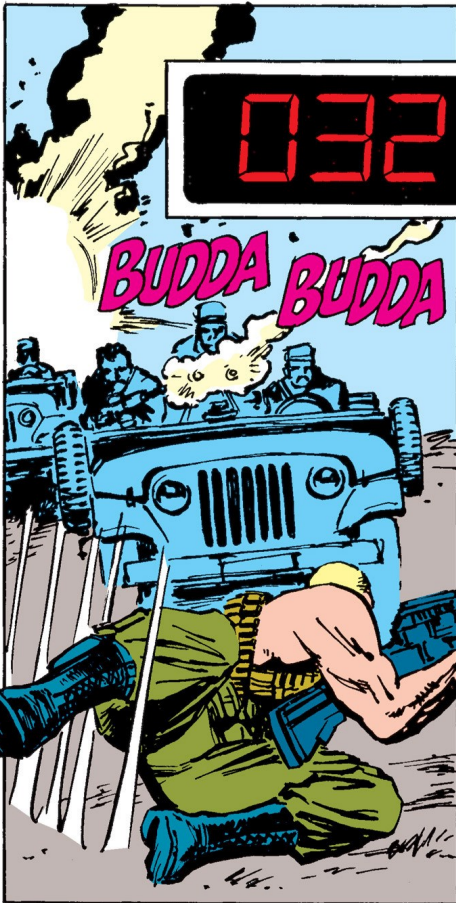


SHE KEEPS THE COUNT.



RED'S KICKING IN BUT GOOD NOW-- ADRENALIN RUSH LIKE A ROCKET BLAST--

**BR RAKABRAK**







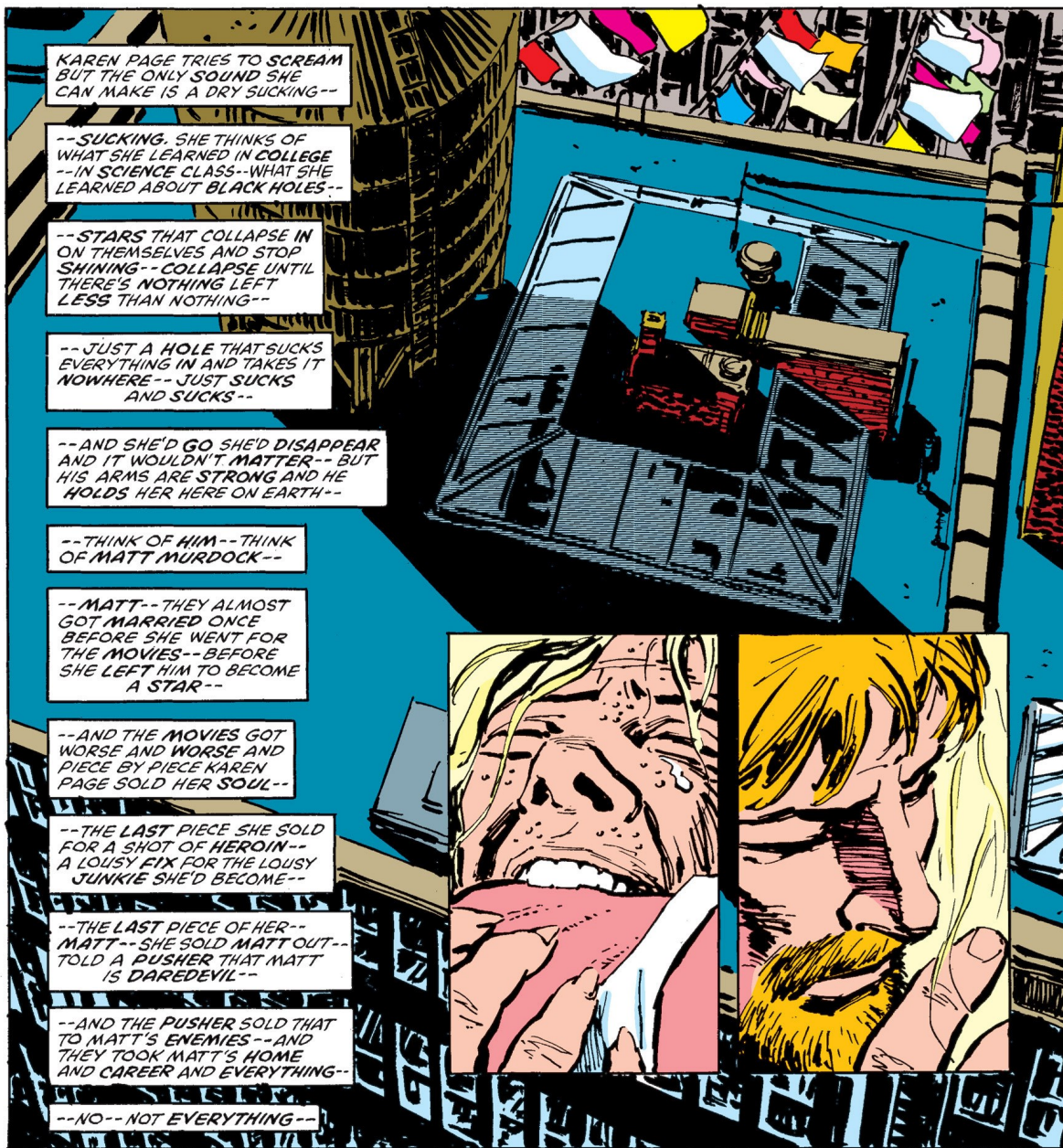
NUKE.

SUCH A SIMPLE TERM, SO DIRECT.

AND NOW THE KING-PIN OF CRIME WILL AIM THIS NUKE AT THE MAN HE IS LEARNING TO HATE.

THE MAN HE IS LEARNING TO FEAR.

MURDOCK.



KAREN PAGE TRIES TO SCREAM BUT THE ONLY SOUND SHE CAN MAKE IS A DRY SUCKING--

--SUCKING. SHE THINKS OF WHAT SHE LEARNED IN COLLEGE --IN SCIENCE CLASS--WHAT SHE LEARNED ABOUT BLACK HOLES--

--STARS THAT COLLAPSE IN ON THEMSELVES AND STOP SHINING-- COLLAPSE UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT LESS THAN NOTHING--

--JUST A HOLE THAT SUCKS EVERYTHING IN AND TAKES IT NOWHERE-- JUST SUCKS AND SUCKS--

--AND SHE'D GO SHE'D DISAPPEAR AND IT WOULDN'T MATTER-- BUT HIS ARMS ARE STRONG AND HE HOLDS HER HERE ON EARTH--

--THINK OF HIM-- THINK OF MATT MURDOCK--

--MATT-- THEY ALMOST GOT MARRIED ONCE BEFORE SHE WENT FOR THE MOVIES-- BEFORE SHE LEFT HIM TO BECOME A STAR--

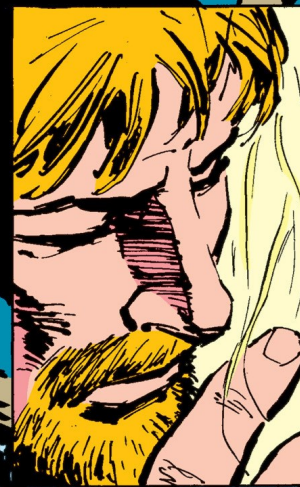
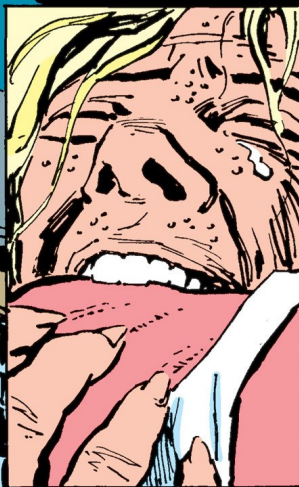
--AND THE MOVIES GOT WORSE AND WORSE AND PIECE BY PIECE KAREN PAGE SOLD HER SOUL--

--THE LAST PIECE SHE SOLD FOR A SHOT OF HEROIN-- A LOUSY FIX FOR THE LOUSY JUNKIE SHE'D BECOME--

--THE LAST PIECE OF HER-- MATT-- SHE SOLD MATT OUT-- TOLD A PUSHER THAT MATT IS DAREDEVIL--

--AND THE PUSHER SOLD THAT TO MATT'S ENEMIES-- AND THEY TOOK MATT'S HOME AND CAREER AND EVERYTHING--

--NO-- NOT EVERYTHING--



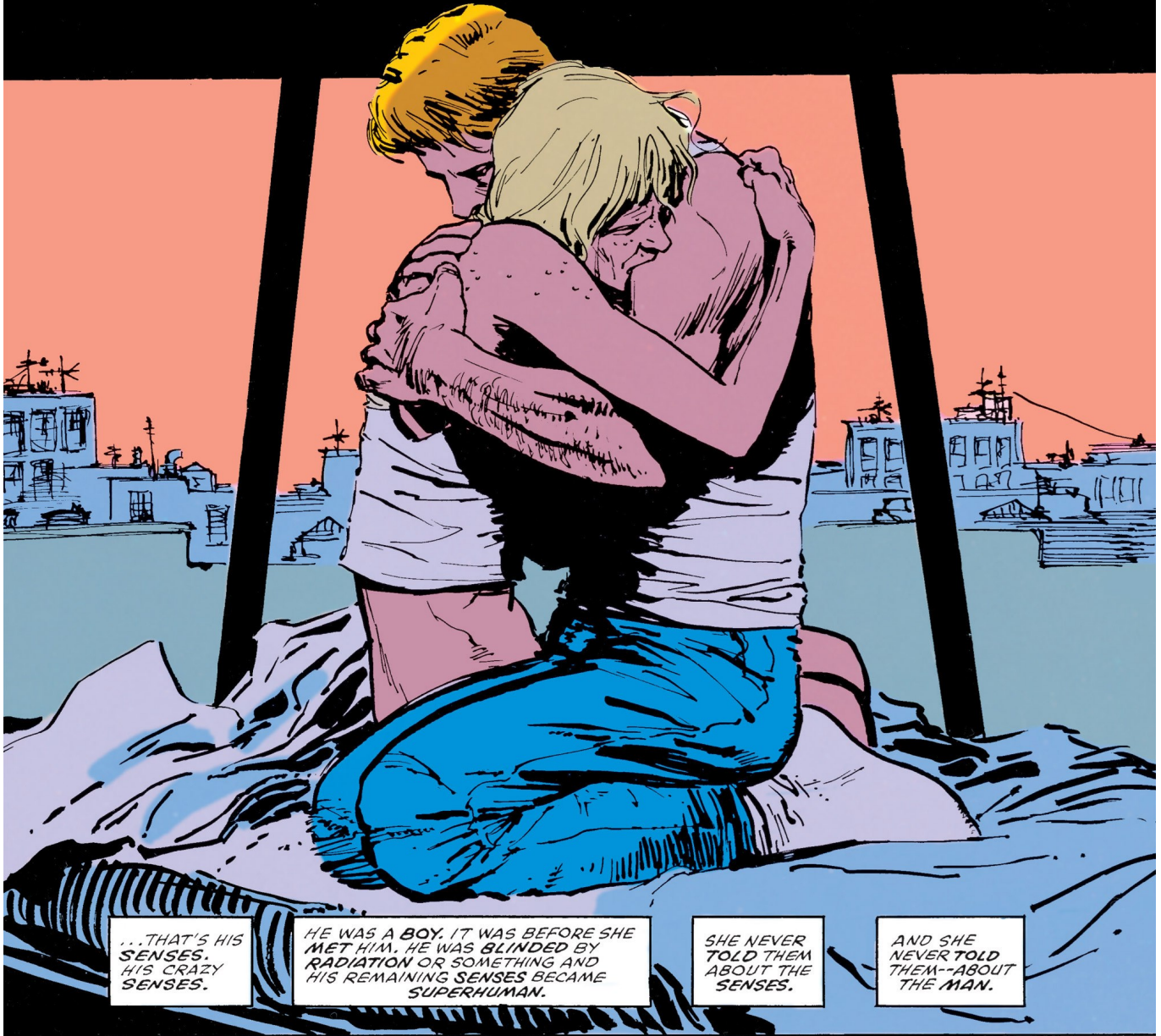
--"NOTHING" HE'D SAID, MATT DID, WHEN SHE TOLD HIM WHAT SHE'D DONE--

--"I'VE LOST NOTHING" MATT SAID, AND LAUGHED LIKE A BOY--

-- AND KAREN DIDN'T UNDERSTAND -- AND MATT KISSED HER --

-- AND HELD HER ...

... AND KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY AND WHEN TO MAKE HER EAT AND HOW TO TOUCH THE MUSCLES IN HER BACK TO MAKE HER SLEEP ...



... THAT'S HIS SENSES. HIS CRAZY SENSES.

HE WAS A BOY. IT WAS BEFORE SHE MET HIM. HE WAS BLINDED BY RADIATION OR SOMETHING AND HIS REMAINING SENSES BECAME SUPERHUMAN.

SHE NEVER TOLD THEM ABOUT THE SENSES.

AND SHE NEVER TOLD THEM--ABOUT THE MAN.

STAN LEE presents

# GOD AND COUNTRY

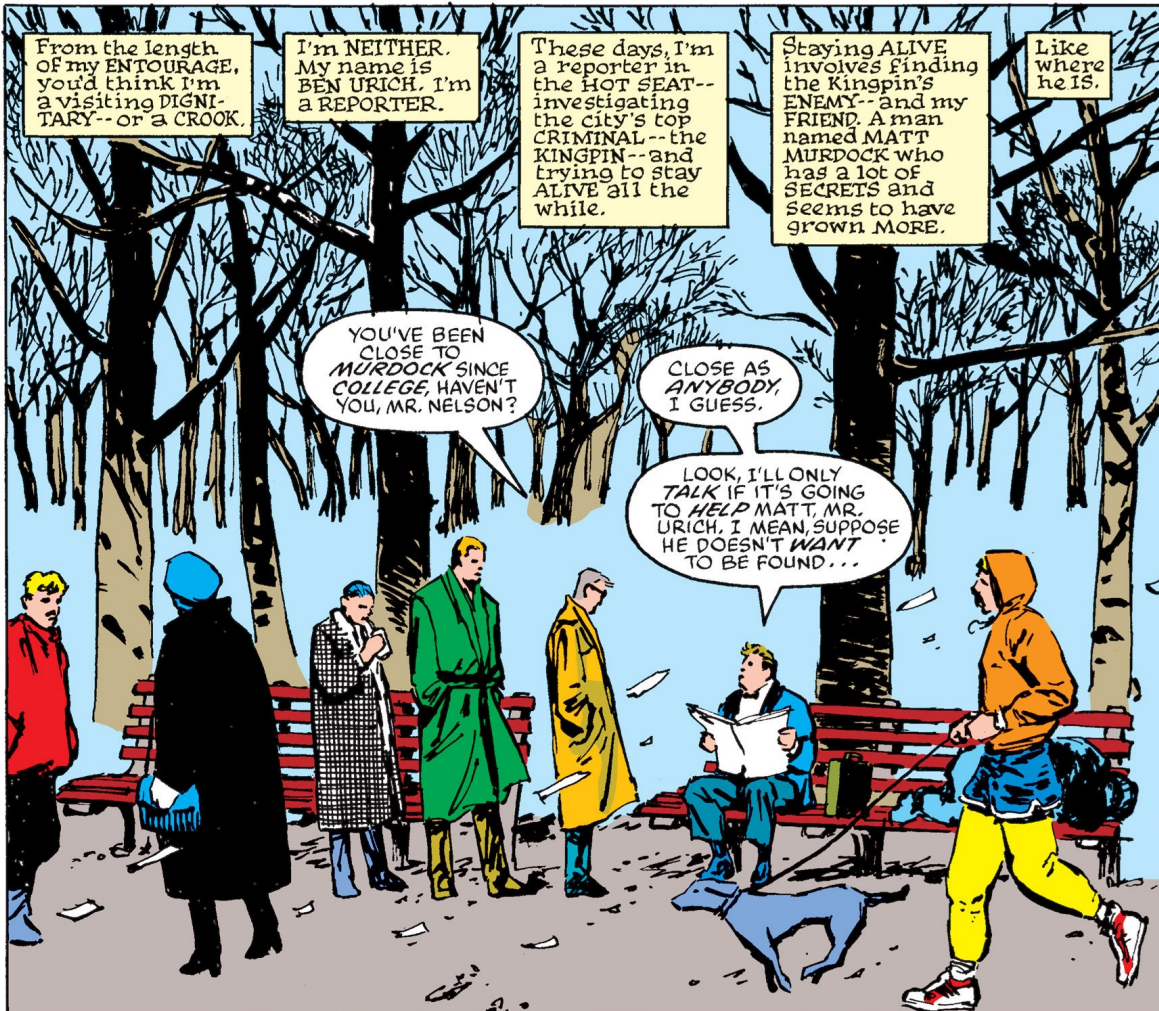
by FRANK MILLER and DAVID MAZZUCHELLI

MAX SCHEELE  
COLORS

JOE ROSEN  
LETTERS

RALPH MACCHIO  
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



From the length of my ENTOURAGE, you'd think I'm a visiting DIGNITARY-- or a CROOK.

I'm NEITHER. My name is BEN URICH. I'm a REPORTER.

These days, I'm a Reporter in the HOT SEAT-- investigating the city's top CRIMINAL-- the KINGPIN-- and trying to stay ALIVE all the while.

Staying ALIVE involves finding the Kingpin's ENEMY-- and my FRIEND. A man named MATT MURDOCK who has a lot of SECRETS and seems to have grown MORE.

Like where he IS.

YOU'VE BEEN CLOSE TO MURDOCK SINCE COLLEGE, HAVEN'T YOU, MR. NELSON?

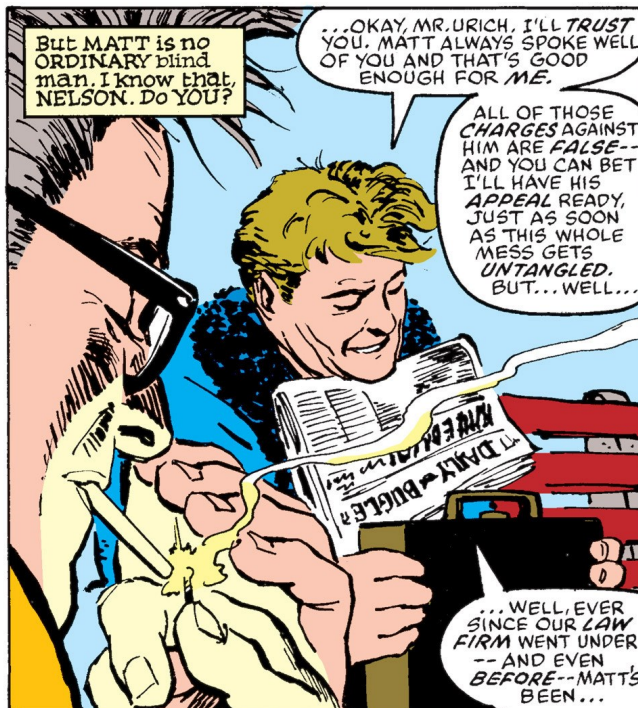
CLOSE AS ANYBODY, I GUESS.

LOOK, I'LL ONLY TALK IF IT'S GOING TO HELP MATT. MR. URICH, I MEAN, SUPPOSE HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE FOUND...



YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR A BLIND MAN TO WANDER OFF ALONE?

NO, BUT...



BUT MATT IS NO ORDINARY blind man. I know that, NELSON. DO YOU?

...OKAY, MR. URICH, I'LL TRUST YOU. MATT ALWAYS SPOKE WELL OF YOU AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

ALL OF THOSE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE FALSE-- AND YOU CAN BET I'LL HAVE HIS APPEAL READY, JUST AS SOON AS THIS WHOLE MESS GETS UNTANGLED. BUT... WELL...

... WELL, EVER SINCE OUR LAW FIRM WENT UNDER -- AND EVEN BEFORE-- MATT'S BEEN...





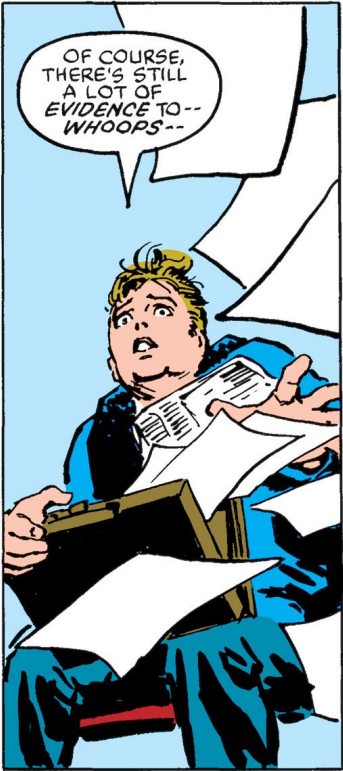
... WELL, I SPOKE WITH HIM-- I MEAN, HE *PHONED* ME, AFTER HIS *HOUSE BLEW UP*, AND... HE SOUNDED VERY *CONFUSED*...

HE SOUNDED *CRAZY*, MR. NELSON. I'VE SPOKEN WITH HIM *MYSELF*.



I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY *THAT*. MATT'S ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF *HIGH STRUNG*. I MEAN, YOU JUST CAN'T ALWAYS *WORRY*...

... I'M SURE HE'LL BE ... LOOK, LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I'VE GOT WORKED UP FOR THE *APPEAL*.

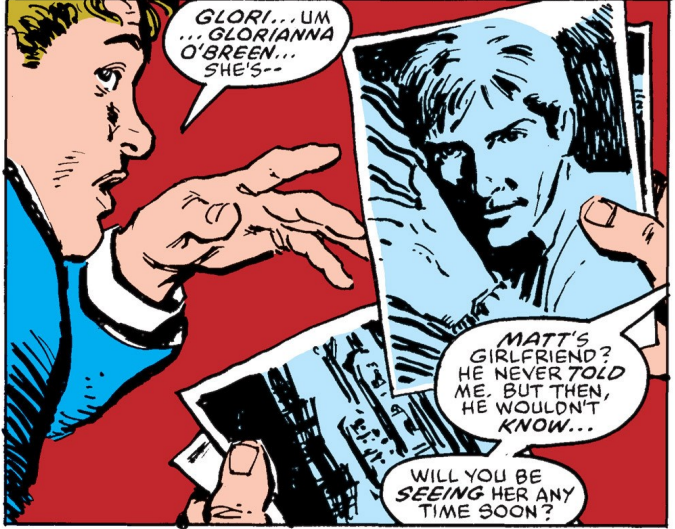


OF COURSE, THERE'S STILL A LOT OF *EVIDENCE* TO-- *WHOOPS*--



*DARN* IT-- I'M SUCH A--

WHERE DID YOU GET THESE *PHOTOS*?



GLORI...UM ... GLORIANNA O'BREEN... SHE'S--

MATT'S GIRLFRIEND? HE NEVER TOLD ME. BUT THEN, HE WOULDN'T *KNOW*...

WILL YOU BE *SEEING* HER ANY TIME SOON?



YEAH, YEAH. I...UM... I'LL BE *SEEING* HER TONIGHT...

ASK HER TO CALL ME. PLEASE.

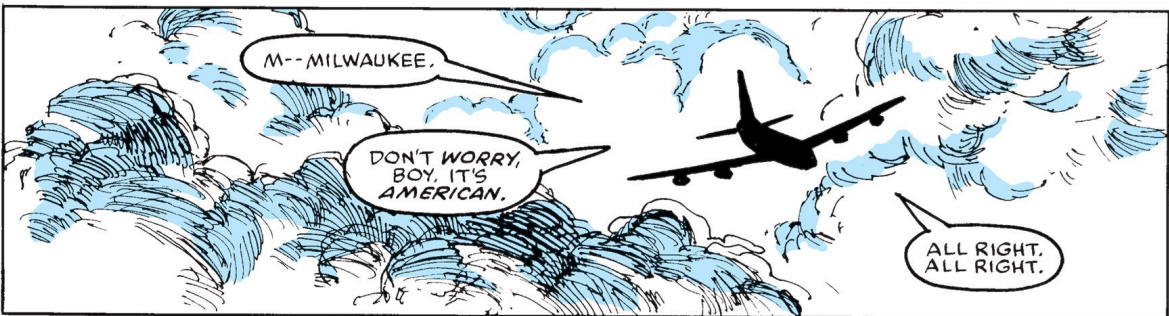
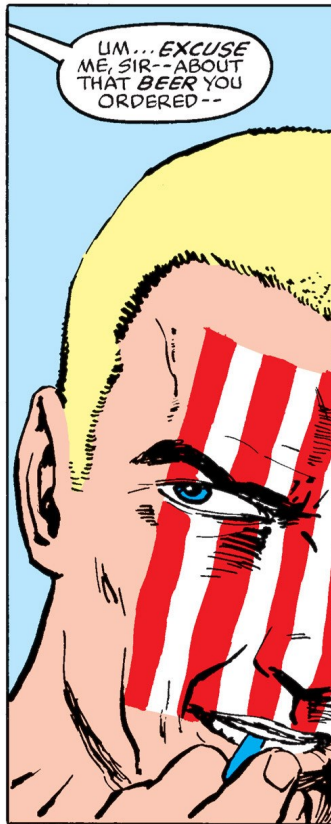
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S SOME FINE ART GALLERY FLIRT LOOKING TO COURT THE WINE AND CHEESE CROWD AND TALK ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD AS IF IT WERE WORTH THE TELLING.



LIKE THAT MAN THERE SO BIG AND TOUGH AND JUST THE SAME HOLDING ONTO THAT JACKHAMMER FOR DEAR LIFE--



--JUST LEAPED OUT AND BEGGED TO BE TAKEN.





TROUBLE, MR. FISK. IT'S YOUR GIRL LOIS.

SINCE SHE WAS APPREHENDED TRYING TO MURDER BEN URICH'S WIFE-- SHE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT YOU.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY HAS AGREED TO REDUCED CHARGES IN EXCHANGE FOR HER TURNING STATE'S EVIDENCE.



I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT ALL. EVER SINCE URICH GOT ON YOUR CASE, HE'S BEEN COZY WITH THE D.A.--

-- AND NOW HE'S LANDED AN INTERVIEW WITH LOIS.



COMMISSIONER... YOU WILL SEE TO IT THAT OFFICER COOGAN IS ON DUTY AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW.

THAT IS ALL.

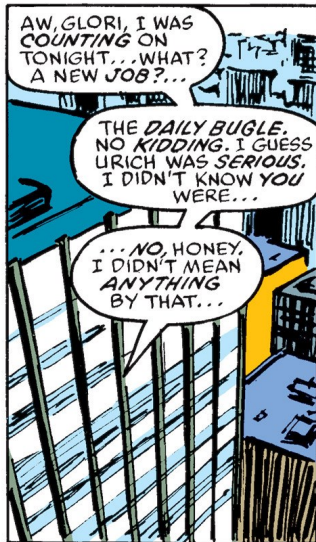
MR. FISK-- ABOUT THOSE PICTURES...



EMBARRASSING, AREN'T THEY, COMMISSIONER? SUCH AN ORDINARY COCKTAIL WAITRESS. YOUR WIFE WOULD BE INSULTED.

YOU NEED NOT WORRY, MY FRIEND. I WILL KEEP THE PHOTOS SAFE.

QUITE SAFE.



AW, GLORI, I WAS COUNTING ON TONIGHT... WHAT? A NEW JOB?...

THE DAILY BUGLE. NO KIDDING. I GUESS URICH WAS SERIOUS. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE...

... NO, HONEY, I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY THAT...



... IT'S JUST THAT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY NEVER... I MEAN, YOU NEVER TALKED ABOUT IT... NO, NO-- MORE LIKE A HOBBY...

... YES, I GUESS I DO KNOW NOW... OF COURSE I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, HONEY...

... WELL, I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU... IT'S THIS JOB. IT...



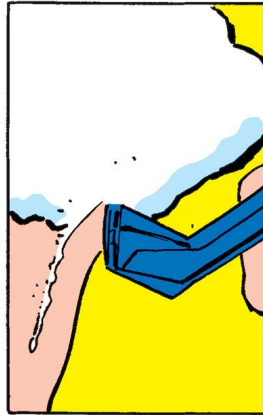
... OH, FOR CORPORATE WORK IT'S OKAY... AND THE PAY IS GREAT... BUT...

... BUT SOME OF THE WORK THEY DO HERE... I'M NOT SURE IT'S LEGITIMATE...

HE'D BEEN UP ALL NIGHT WITH HER.



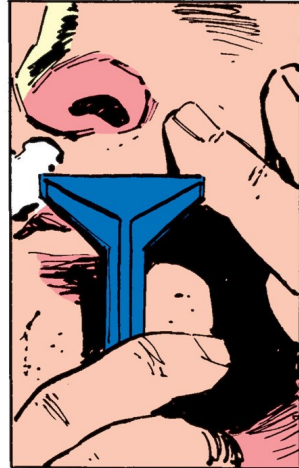
IT WAS EARLY IN THE MORNING AND HE BOUGHT A RAZOR AND WAS SHAVING. HE WAS ABOUT TO GO TO WORK--



--HE ACTUALLY LIKES THAT JOB HE FOUND--



-- WHEN KAREN FELL ASLEEP.



SHE WOKE ALONE BUT THAT'S OKAY NOW. THE WORST IS OVER, FOR ME IT'S OVER, SHE THINKS--

-- BUT MATT-- WHAT'S HE GOING THROUGH?

AND WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR?

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT HE KEEPS TOUCHING THE COSTUME AND PACING AND FROWNING LIKE A LITTLE KID WHO HAS TO STAY AFTER CLASS. WHY DOESN'T HE JUST PUT THE THING ON AND DANCE ACROSS THE BUILDINGS-- HE'S LIKE A GOD WHEN HE DOES THAT-- HE'S ACHING FOR IT...

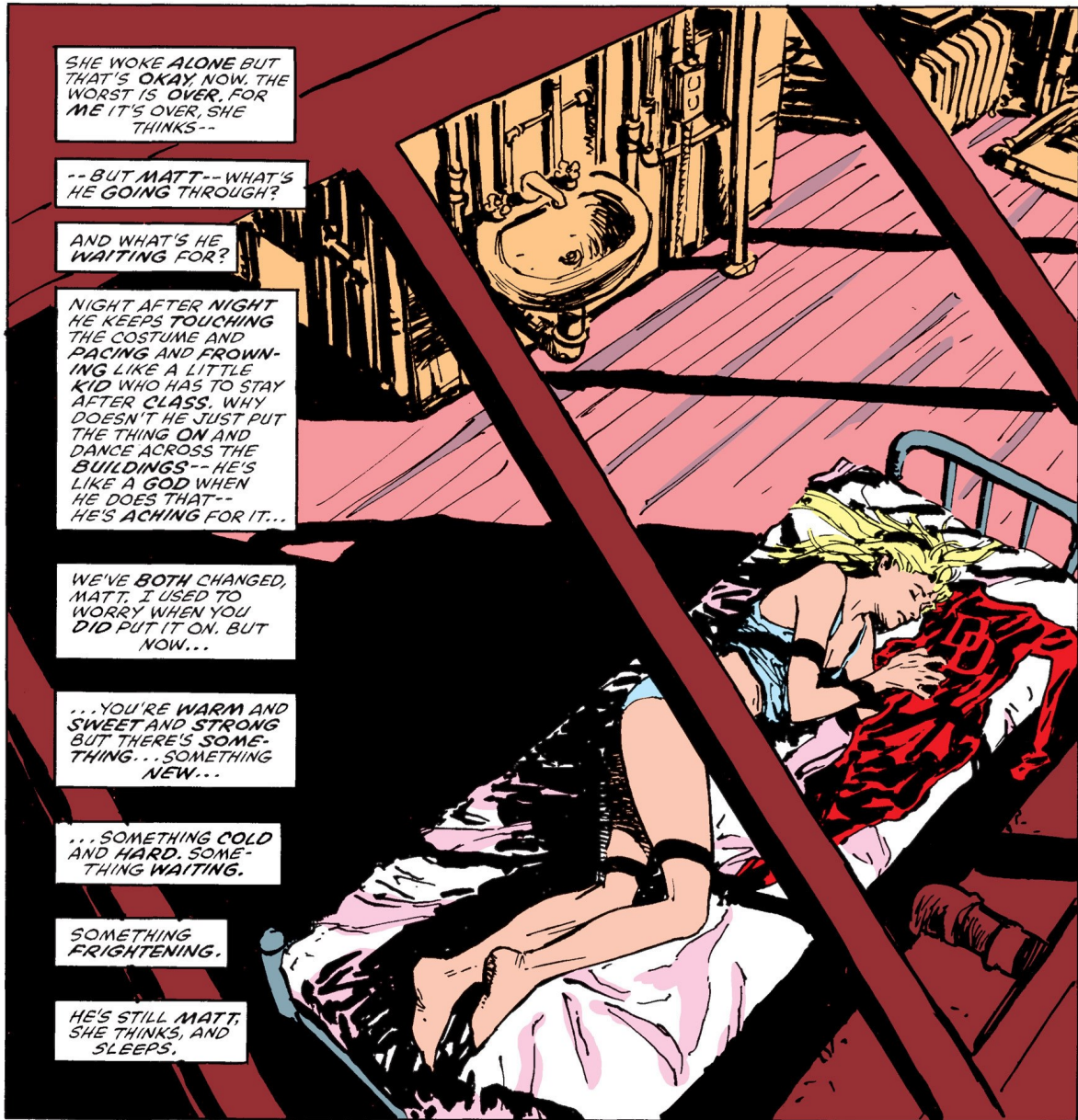
WE'VE BOTH CHANGED, MATT. I USED TO WORRY WHEN YOU DID PUT IT ON. BUT NOW...

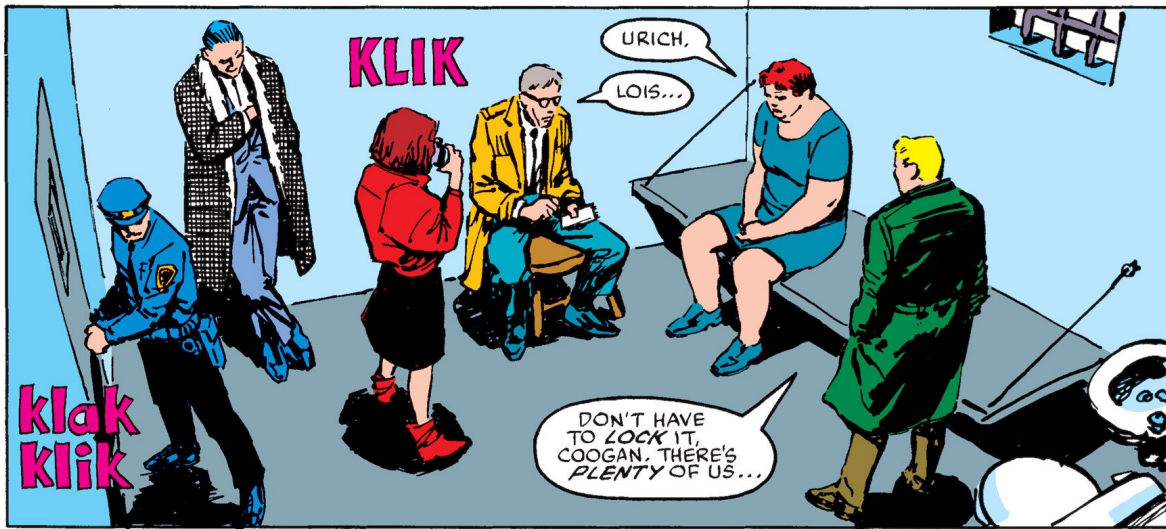
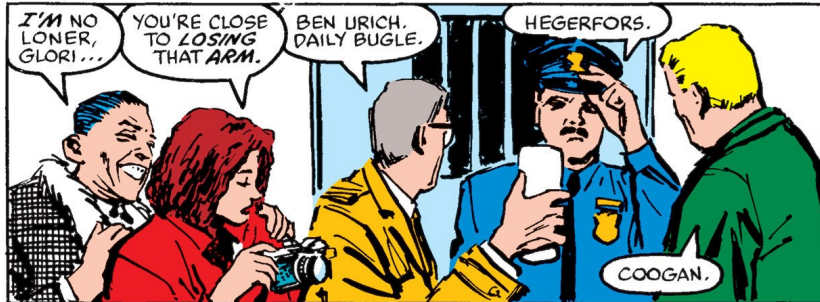
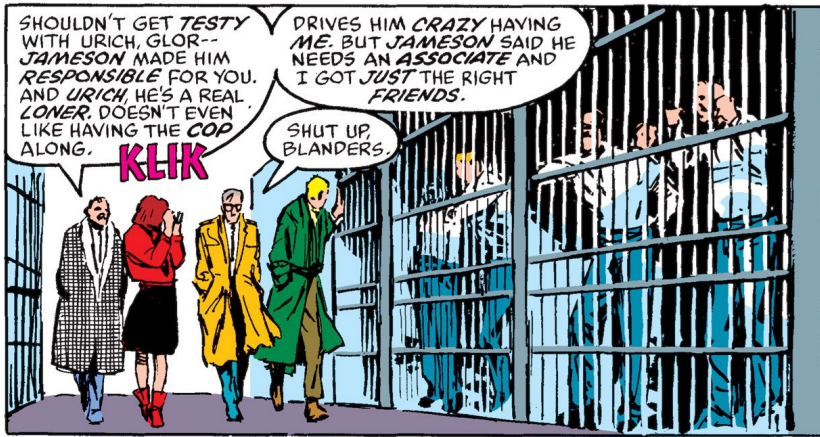
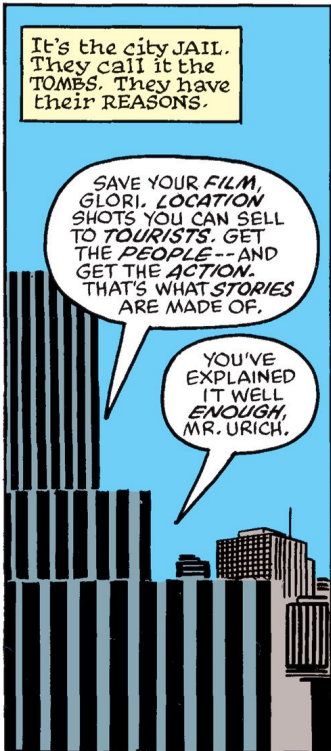
... YOU'RE WARM AND SWEET AND STRONG BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... SOMETHING NEW...

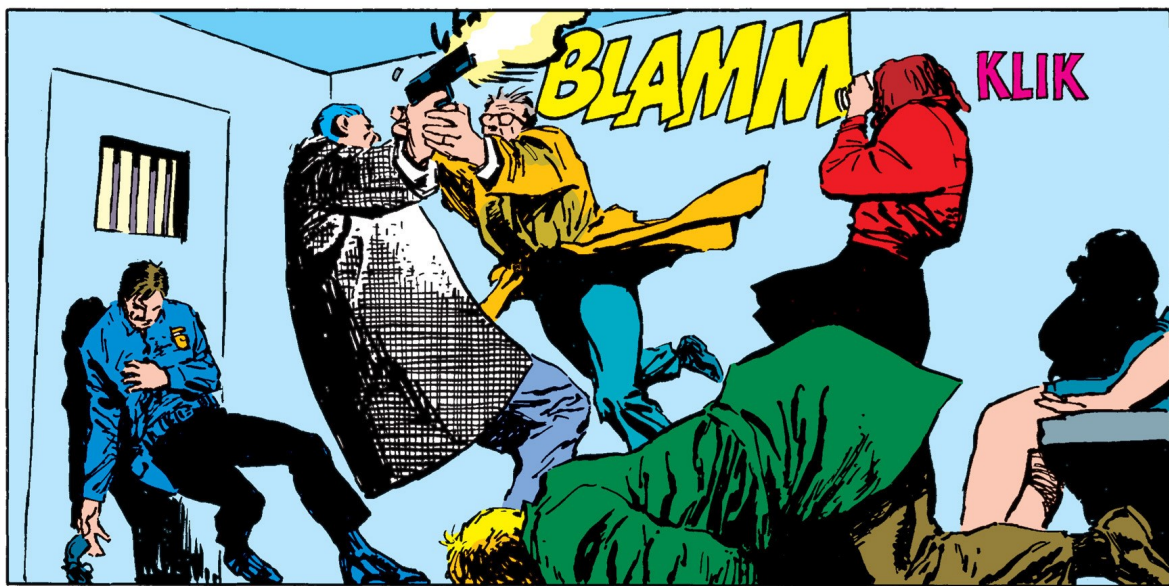
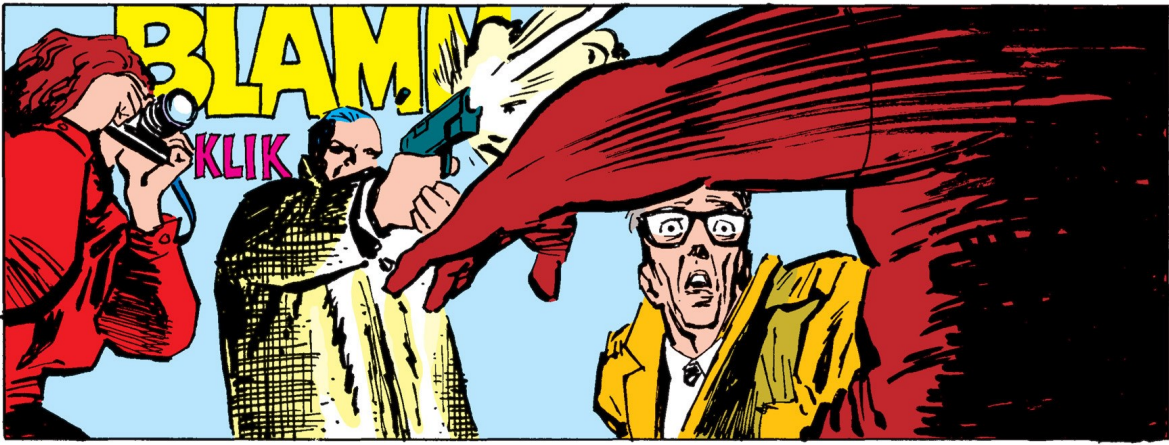
... SOMETHING COLD AND HARD. SOMETHING WAITING.

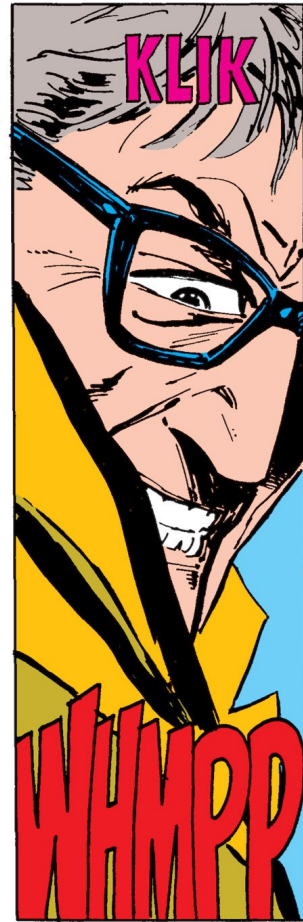
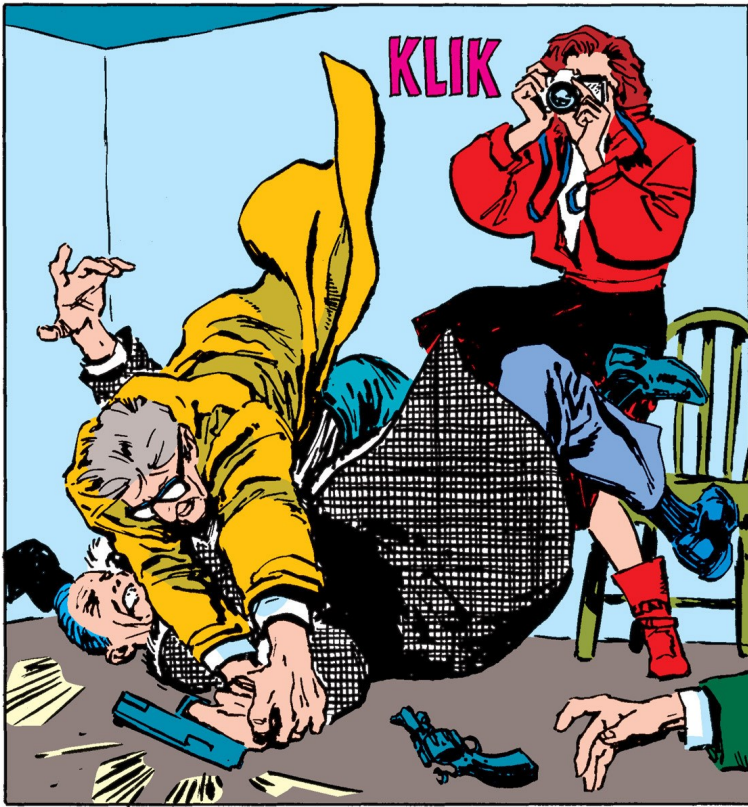
SOMETHING FRIGHTENING.

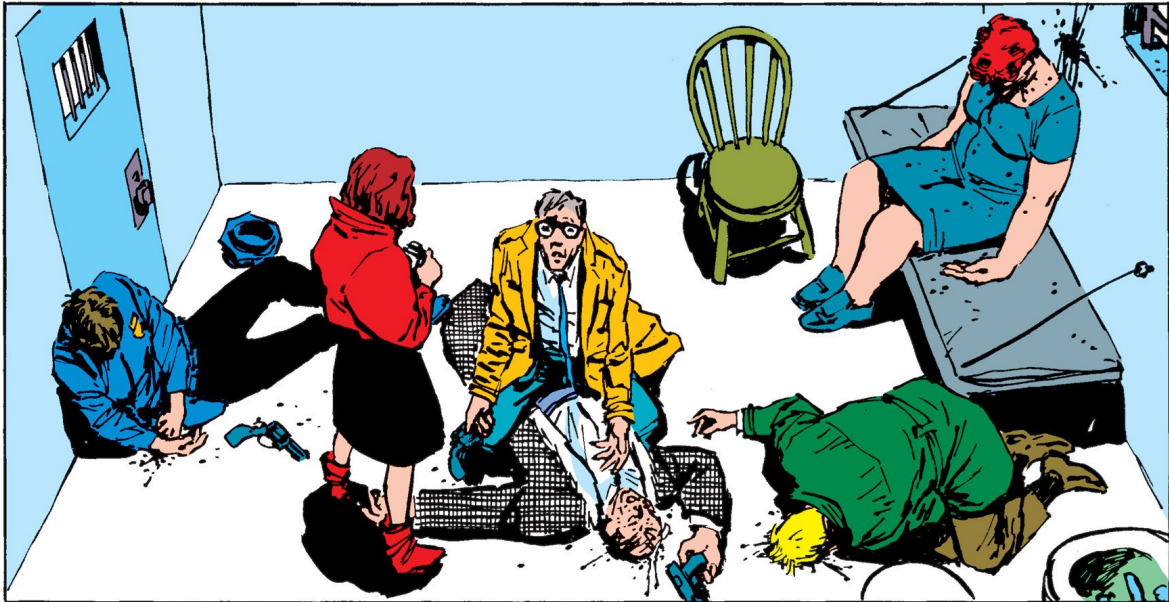
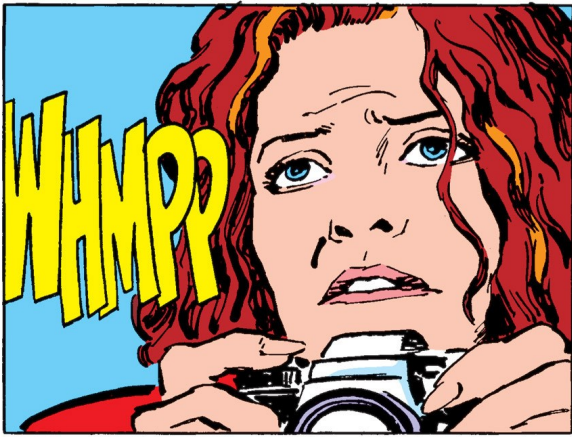
HE'S STILL MATT, SHE THINKS, AND SLEEPS.











YOUR PREDECESSOR--THE FIRST SUPER SOLDIER--FACED SIMPLER TIMES THAN OURS, MY FRIEND... AND SIMPLER WARS, SO MUCH HAS CHANGED.

SO MUCH... WE WHO LOVE AMERICA ARE NOW SURROUNDED --BY LYING ASSASSINS AND SOFT-HEARTED FOOLS.

WE PATRIOTS-- THEY LAUGH AT US, MY SON...



... I AM SORRY YOU REMIND ME SO OF MY OWN SON-- A FINE BOY HE IS, A VETERAN...

... I SHALL BE HONEST WITH YOU. THERE ARE MANY WHO OPPOSE ME.



I AM UNDER CONSTANT SCRUTINY BY THE POLICE. I AM IN THE STRICTEST DEFINITION OF THE LAW, A CRIMINAL.

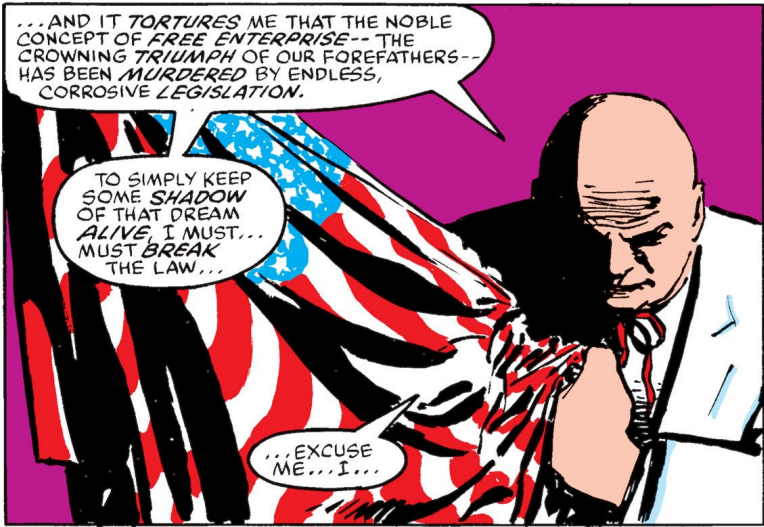
I KNOW THIS STARTLES YOU, BUT AS I SAID-- SO MUCH HAS CHANGED. AMERICA'S ENEMIES HAVE GROWN SO STRONG THAT OUR BOYS DIE IN ASIAN JUNGLES--

--AND OUR PEOPLE WILL NOT HONOR THEM...





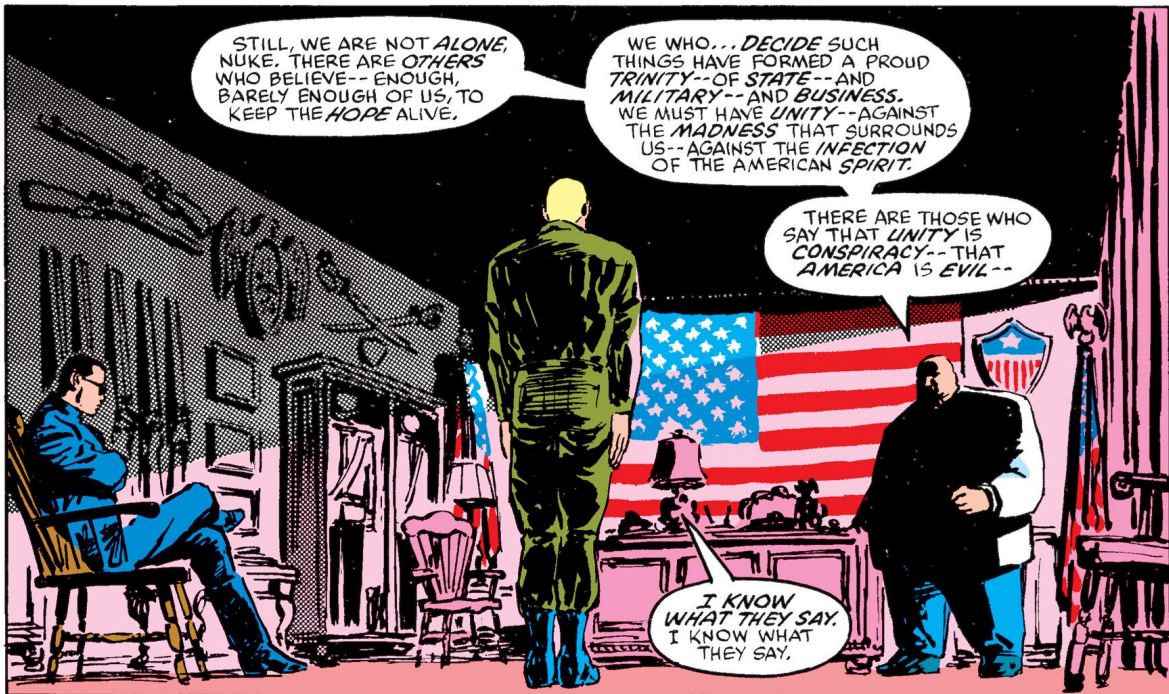
OUR BOYS...



... AND IT TORTURES ME THAT THE NOBLE CONCEPT OF *FREE ENTERPRISE*-- THE CROWNING TRIUMPH OF OUR FOREFATHERS-- HAS BEEN MURDERED BY ENDLESS, CORROSIVE LEGISLATION.

TO SIMPLY KEEP SOME SHADOW OF THAT DREAM ALIVE, I MUST... MUST BREAK THE LAW...

... EXCUSE ME... I...

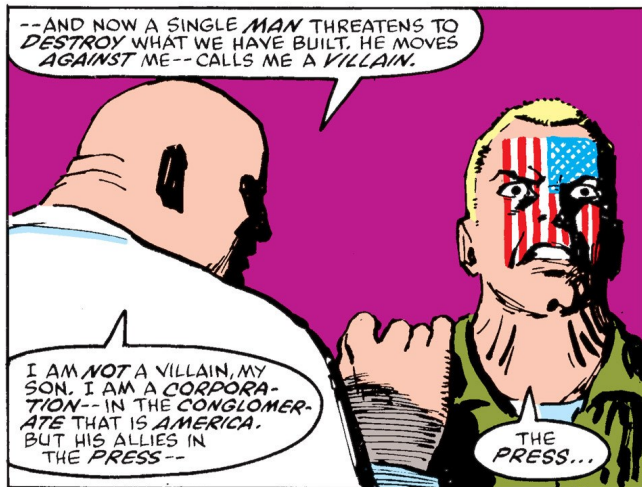


STILL, WE ARE NOT ALONE, NUKE. THERE ARE OTHERS WHO BELIEVE-- ENOUGH, BARELY ENOUGH OF US, TO KEEP THE HOPE ALIVE.

WE WHO... DECIDE SUCH THINGS HAVE FORMED A PROUD TRINITY-- OF STATE-- AND MILITARY-- AND BUSINESS. WE MUST HAVE UNITY-- AGAINST THE MADNESS THAT SURROUNDS US-- AGAINST THE INFECTION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT UNITY IS CONSPIRACY-- THAT AMERICA IS EVIL--

I KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. I KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.



--AND NOW A SINGLE MAN THREATENS TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE BUILT. HE MOVES AGAINST ME-- CALLS ME A VILLAIN.

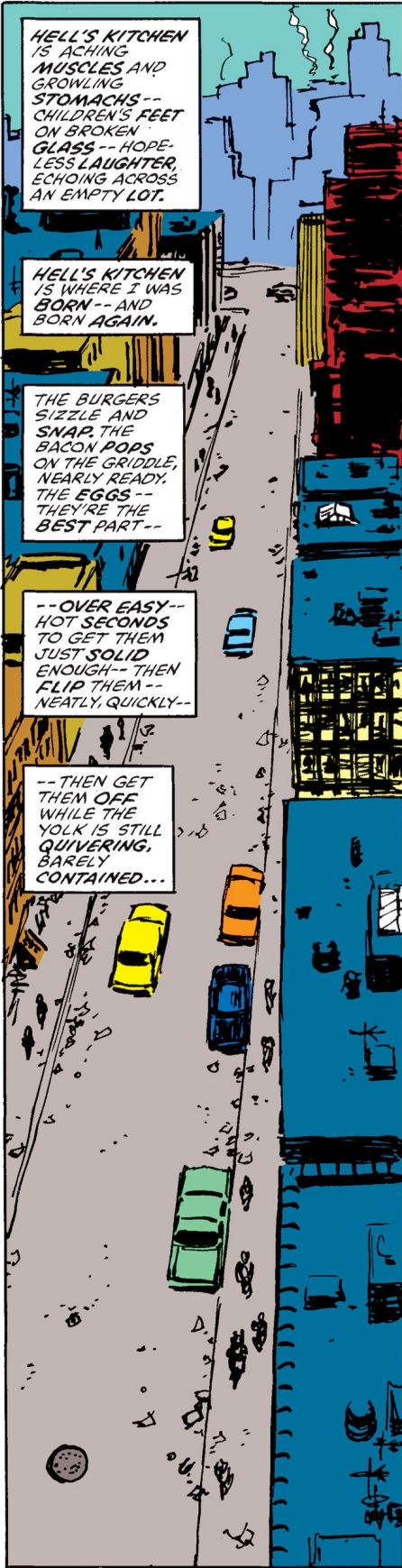
I AM NOT A VILLAIN, MY SON. I AM A CORPORATION-- IN THE CONGLOMERATE THAT IS AMERICA. BUT HIS ALLIES IN THE PRESS--

THE PRESS...



WHERE IS HE?

HELL'S KITCHEN.



HELL'S KITCHEN IS ACHING MUSCLES AND GROWLING STOMACHS-- CHILDREN'S FEET ON BROKEN GLASS-- HOPELESS LAUGHTER, ECHOING ACROSS AN EMPTY LOT.

HELL'S KITCHEN IS WHERE I WAS BORN-- AND BORN AGAIN.

THE BURGERS SIZZLE AND SNAP, THE BACON POPS ON THE GRIDDLE, NEARLY READY. THE EGGS-- THEY'RE THE BEST PART--

--OVER EASY-- HOT SECONDS TO GET THEM JUST SOLID ENOUGH-- THEN FLIP THEM-- NEATLY, QUICKLY--

-- THEN GET THEM OFF WHILE THE YOLK IS STILL QUIVERING, BARELY CONTAINED...



... ANOTHER DAY PASSES. ANOTHER DAY OF WAITING.

QUITTING TIME, RED, SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.

GIVE THE BURGERS ABOUT TEN MORE SECONDS AND THEY'LL BE PERFECT.



GOOD CROWD TONIGHT--

-- THAT COUGH--

-- BEN...



... HE SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN SHOCK...

... I COME HERE TO WRITE, FOOD'S TERRIBLE SO NOBODY'S EVER HERE.

LOOKS PRETTY CROWDED TO ME.

YOU LOOK THIN, RED, TAKE THIS HOME, YOU NEVER HAD SUCH COBBLER.

TERRIBLE NEIGHBORHOOD...



HELL'S KITCHEN, RIGHT, LOUSY NEIGHBORHOOD, DANGEROUS. BUT MATT WAS BORN HERE AND I--

-- DID I-- DID I REALLY KILL THAT MAN --

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES, BEN.

BEST BURGER I EVER HAD...

CAN'T HELP YOU YET, BEN. CAN'T BE SEEN WITH ANYONE, UNTIL--

-- THAT SOUND...

... CHECKED MATT'S MEDICAL RECORDS AND FOUND SOMETHING FUNNY. IT'S ABOUT HIS MOTHER -- MATT ALWAYS SAID SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO HIM, BUT...

... BLANDERS. I REALLY KILLED HIM...

**Diner**

... THAT'S NO POLICE HELICOPTER...

THE CLUE WAS SLIM INDEED -- THE WORDS OF A THIRD-RATE THUG WHO CLAIMS HE HAD THE PLEASURE OF STABBING MURDOCK SOME DAYS PAST.

IT WOULD BE A LOGICAL HIDING PLACE. IT HOLDS MANY OF THE LOST AND NAMELESS. IT WAS HIS HOME, AS A BOY.

YES. MURDOCK WILL REVEAL HIMSELF -- WHEN HELL'S KITCHEN BURNS.

SKIP THE NAPALM, BOY. THOSE ARE AMERICANS. JUST MESS THINGS UP. LITTLE PROPERTY DAMAGE CAN GO A LONG WAY.

WE'RE BRINGING YOU IN LOW...

LOW, TOO NEAR THE STREET -- THE MOTOR, ROARING --

-- DUST AND DIRT AND BLOWING GARBAGE --

-- COUGHING -- STARTLED GASPS -- AN ANGRY SHOUT --

-- SOMETHING HUMAN -- HISSES --

OUR BOYS --



THREE--NO--  
IT'S FOUR  
BLOCKS AWAY--



-- BULLETS  
CUT THROUGH  
FLESH AND  
BONE --

-- A WOMAN  
HOLDS HER  
BABY CLOSE  
AND HEARS HIM  
GURGLE --

-- A LUNG COLLAPSES --

-- THREE BLOCKS NOW -- A  
MAN CHOKES OUT HALF  
A NAME AND DIES --



PFAMM

-- FROM THE GUN --  
A ROCKET --

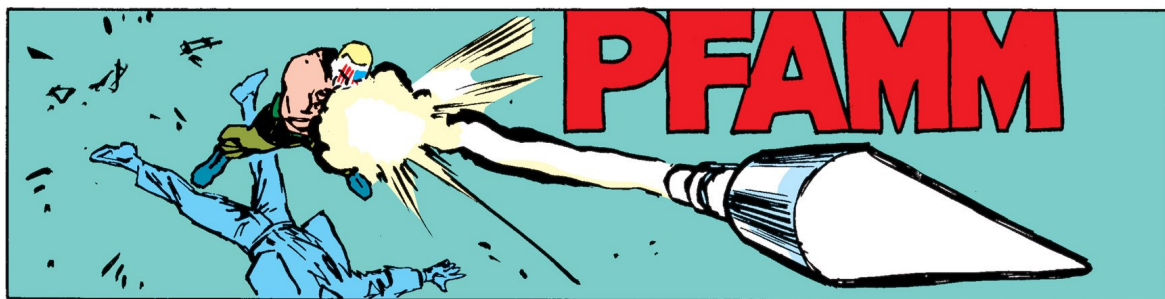


WHOOOM

-- A WING CRIES TO GOD --



GET YOUR  
CAMERA.



PFAMM

