



LEGEND

HOWARD CHAYKIN

RUSS HEATH

MAY

#2

\$5.99 US
\$8.00 CAN

Suggested for
mature readers



Inspired by
Philip Wylie's Novel
GLADIATOR!!



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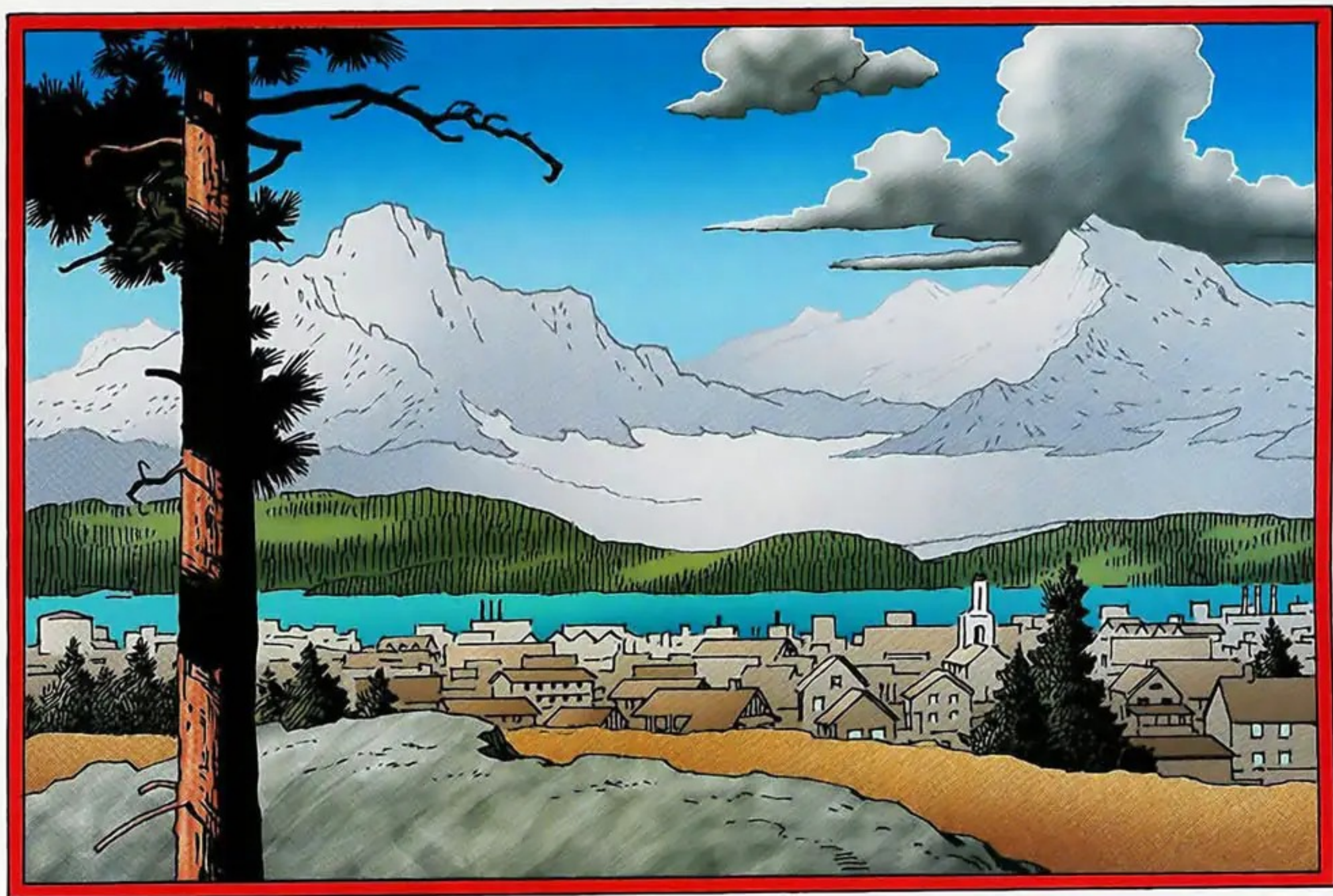
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LEGEND

BOOK TWO

The ADVENTURES of
a YOUNG MAN



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Inspired by Philip Wylie's Immortal Novel,
"GLADIATOR."





I'M SORRY, HUGO. MOM KEEPS ASKING--

BUT I CAN'T SAY WHEN--



--ALL I KNOW IS, I'M GOING TO MARRY YOU--SO WHY WAIT?

I'M NOT SURE I'M READY...



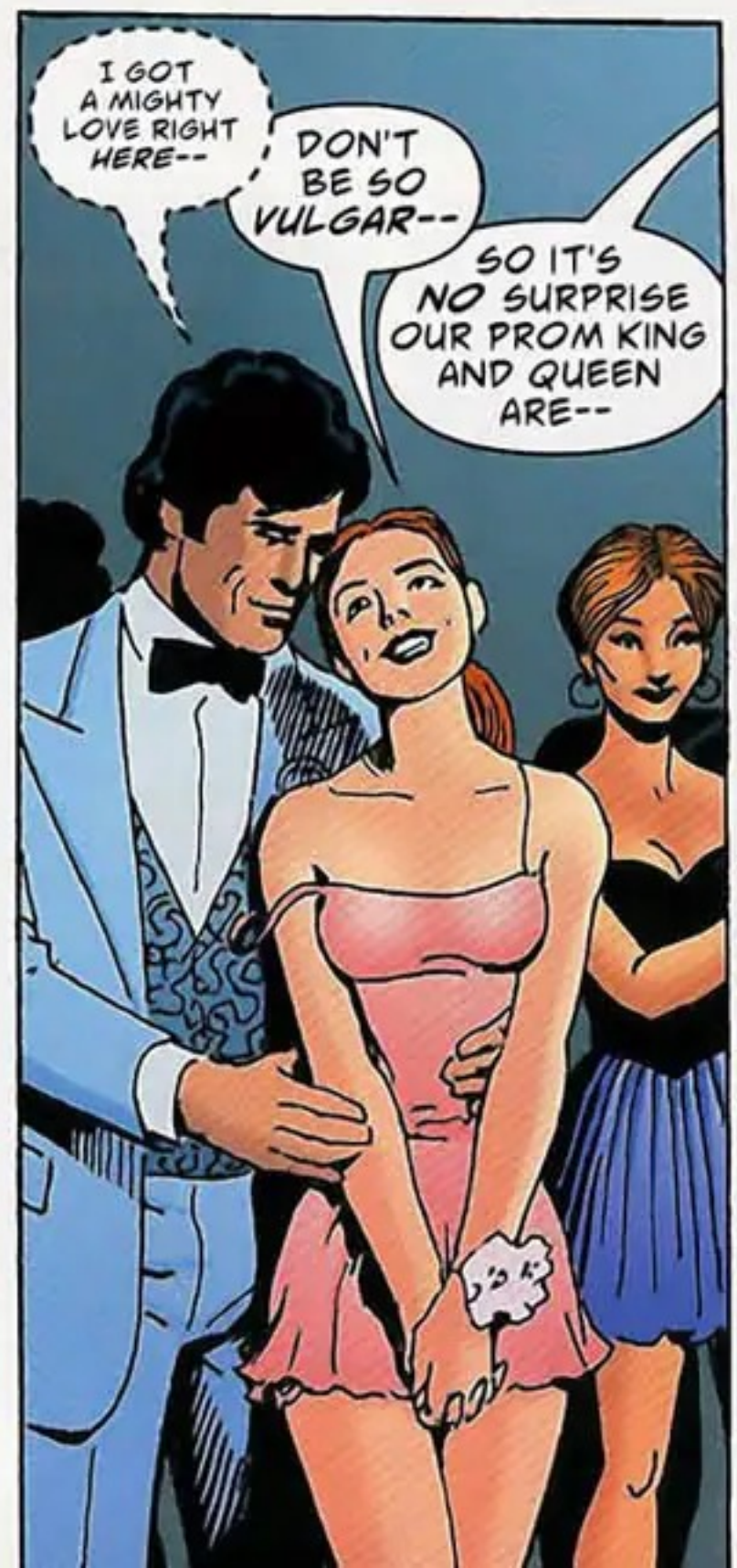
COOL OFF, SON-- OR I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE ALONE.

TAP! GONG



IT'S NO SECRET THAT A MIGHTY LOVE ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN OUR BEST ATHLETE AND OUR BEST HOMEMAKER...

GIGGLE TEEHEE



I GOT A MIGHTY LOVE RIGHT HERE--

DON'T BE SO VULGAR--

SO IT'S NO SURPRISE OUR PROM KING AND QUEEN ARE--



--HUGO DANNER AND ANNA BLAKE!

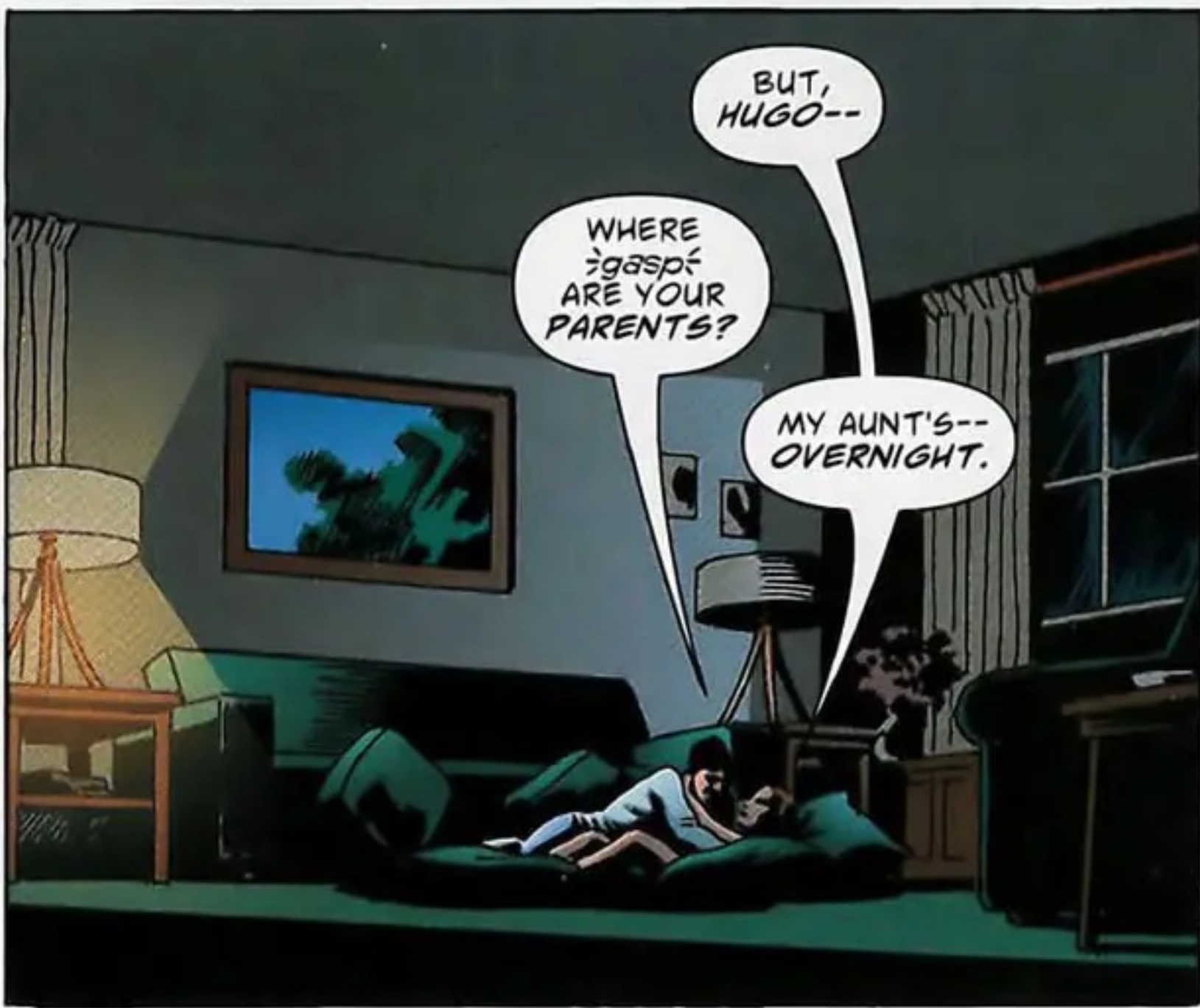
I'VE GOT TO HAVE YOU!

HUGO-- NOT HERE!

THEN WHERE?

A comic book panel depicting a scene at night. In the background, a two-story house with a chimney is visible under a dark, starry sky. A winding path leads from the foreground towards the house. In the lower foreground, the rear portion of a dark-colored classic car is shown. Two speech bubbles originate from the house area. The left bubble contains the text "YOU'RE GOING AWAY, HUGO. HOW CAN I--?". The right bubble contains the text "I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU." The overall tone is somber and emotional.

I CAN'T
LIVE
WITHOUT
YOU.



WHERE
:gasp:
ARE YOUR
PARENTS?

MY AUNT'S--
OVERNIGHT.



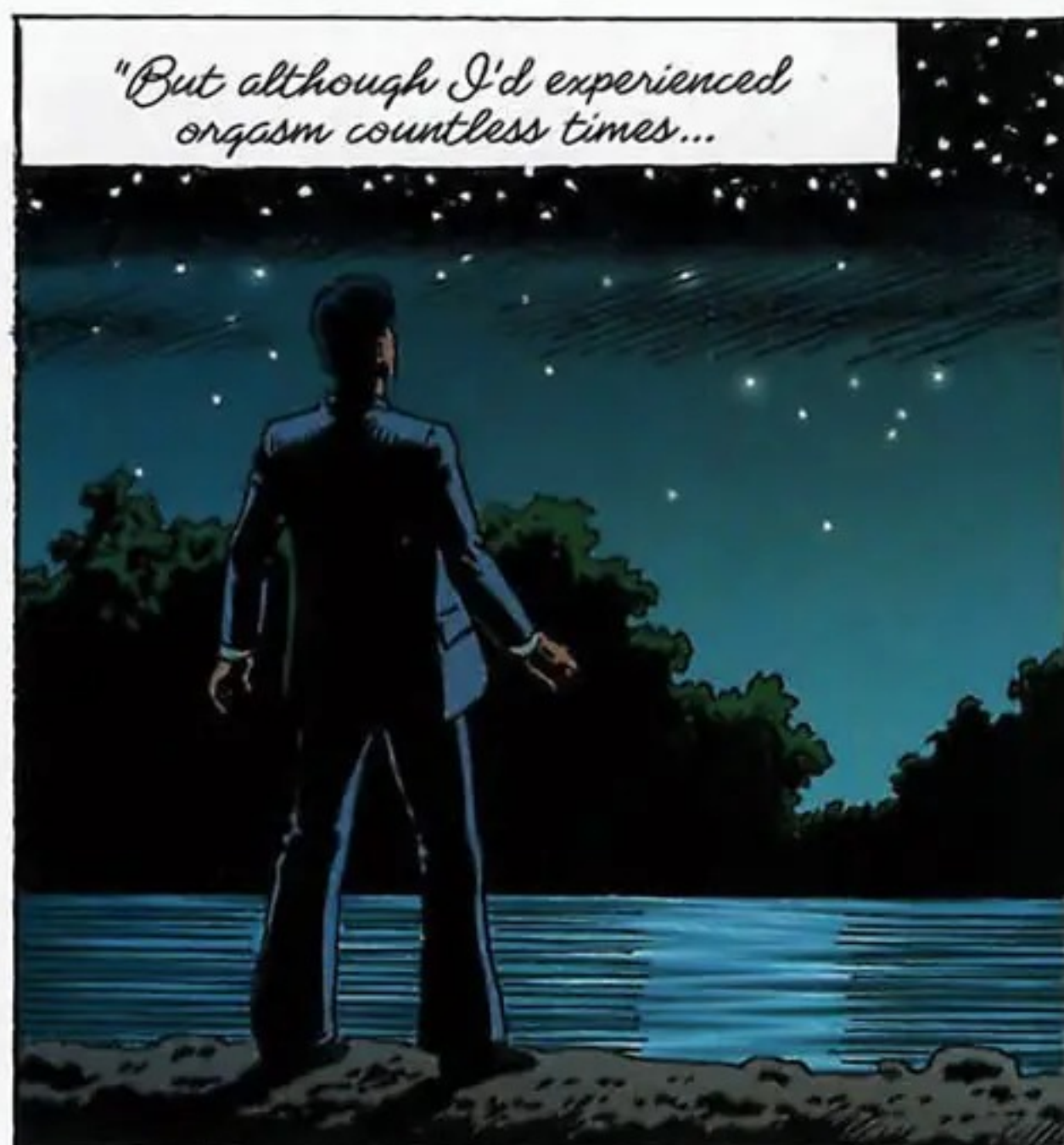
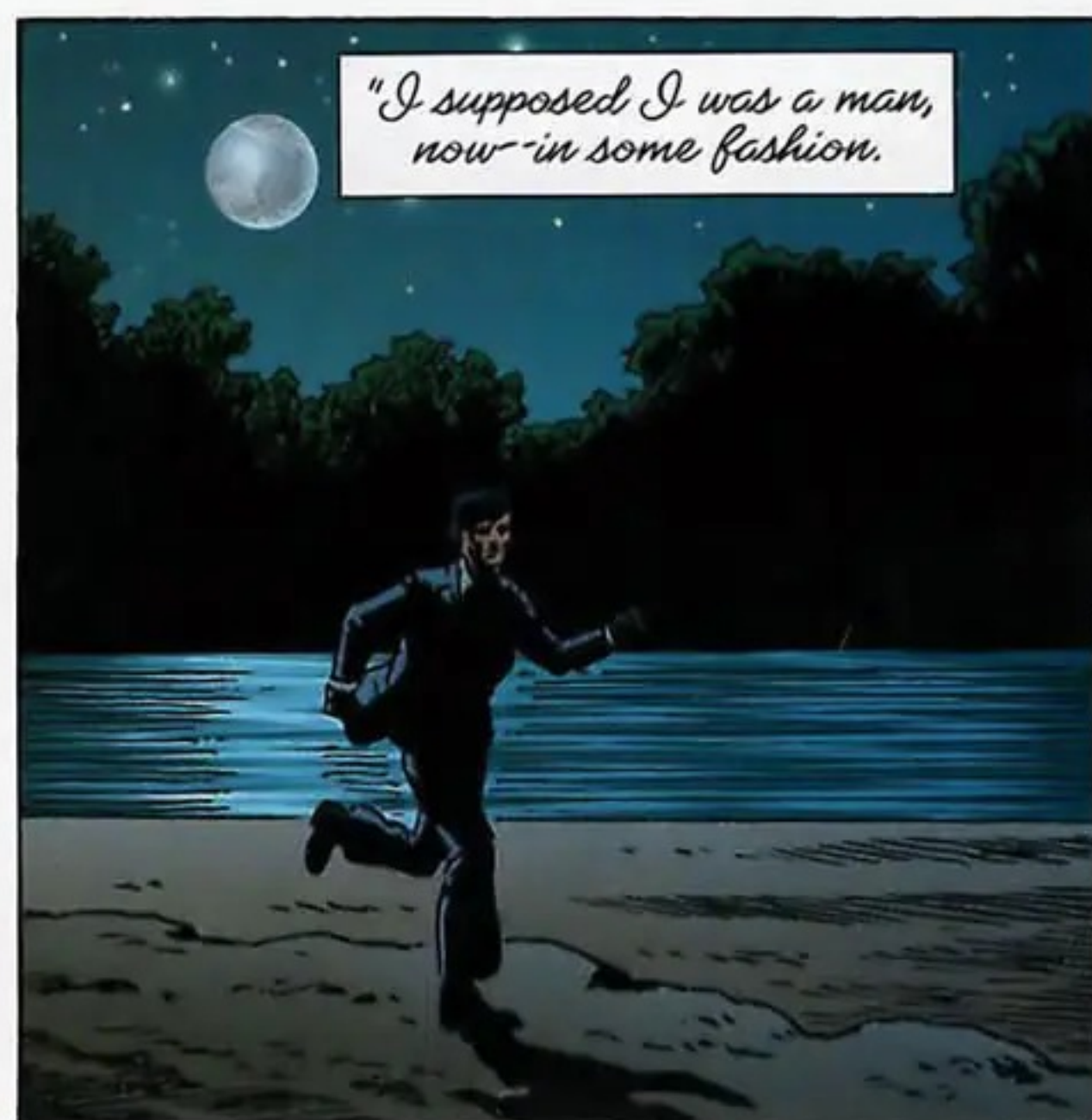
OVERNIGHT!



OH,
HUGO,
YES!



**YARRNNGGG
GGG
HHH**



"...until that night, I never knew what post-coital depression meant."



"I loved to do it."



"We did it all the time..."



"...but the more we did it, the more I wanted it--"



"--and the more exhausted Anna became."



"But I suppose the worst part was..."





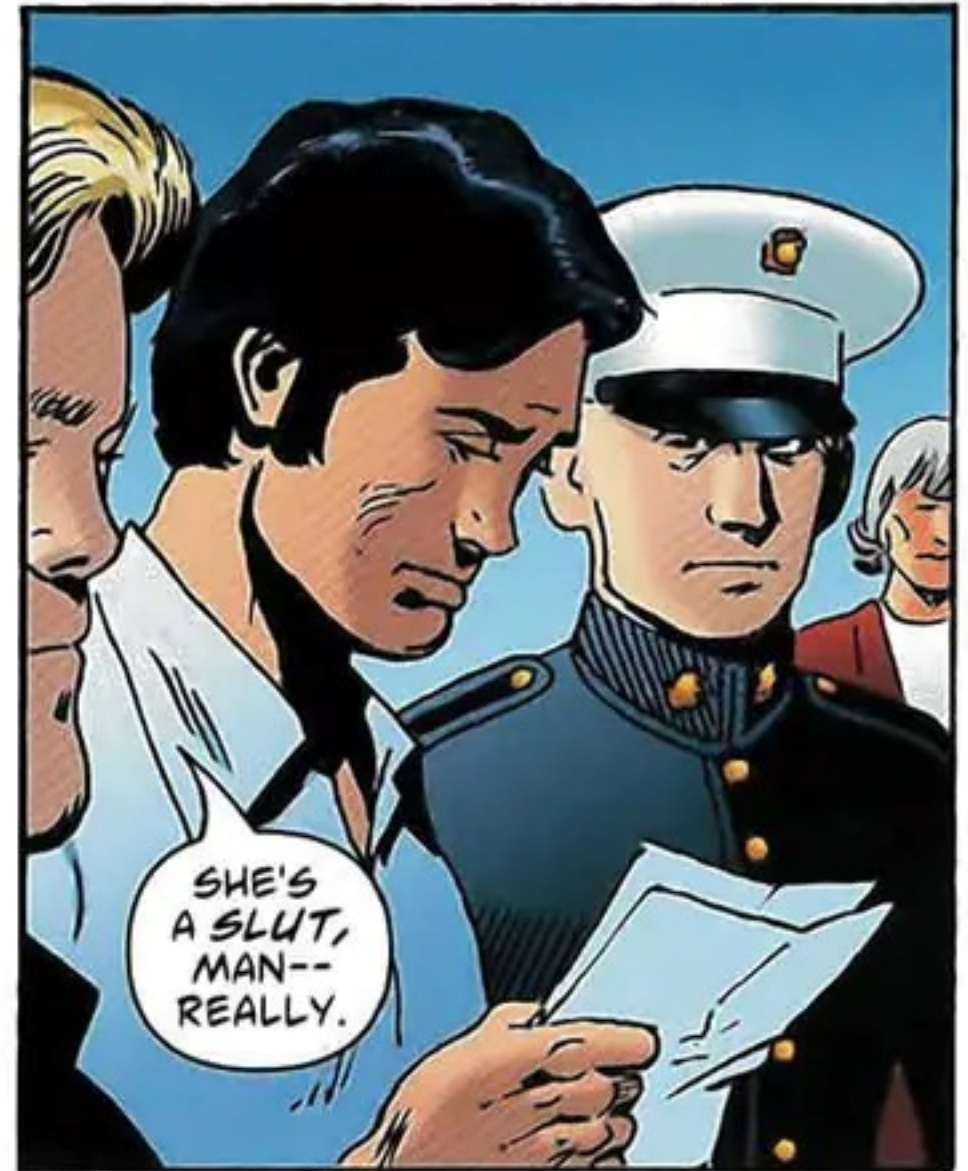
"My profound lust had so accelerated our relationship--



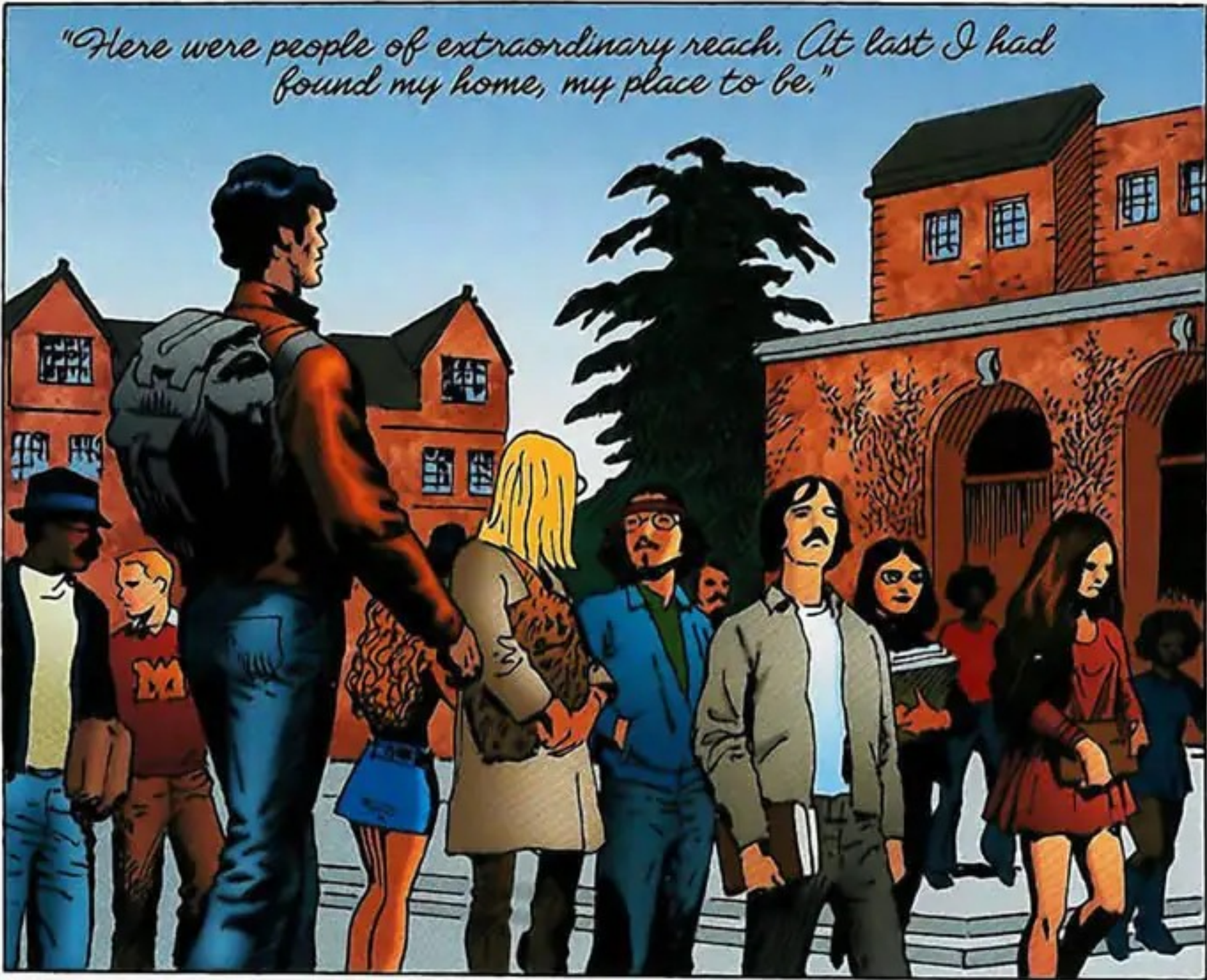
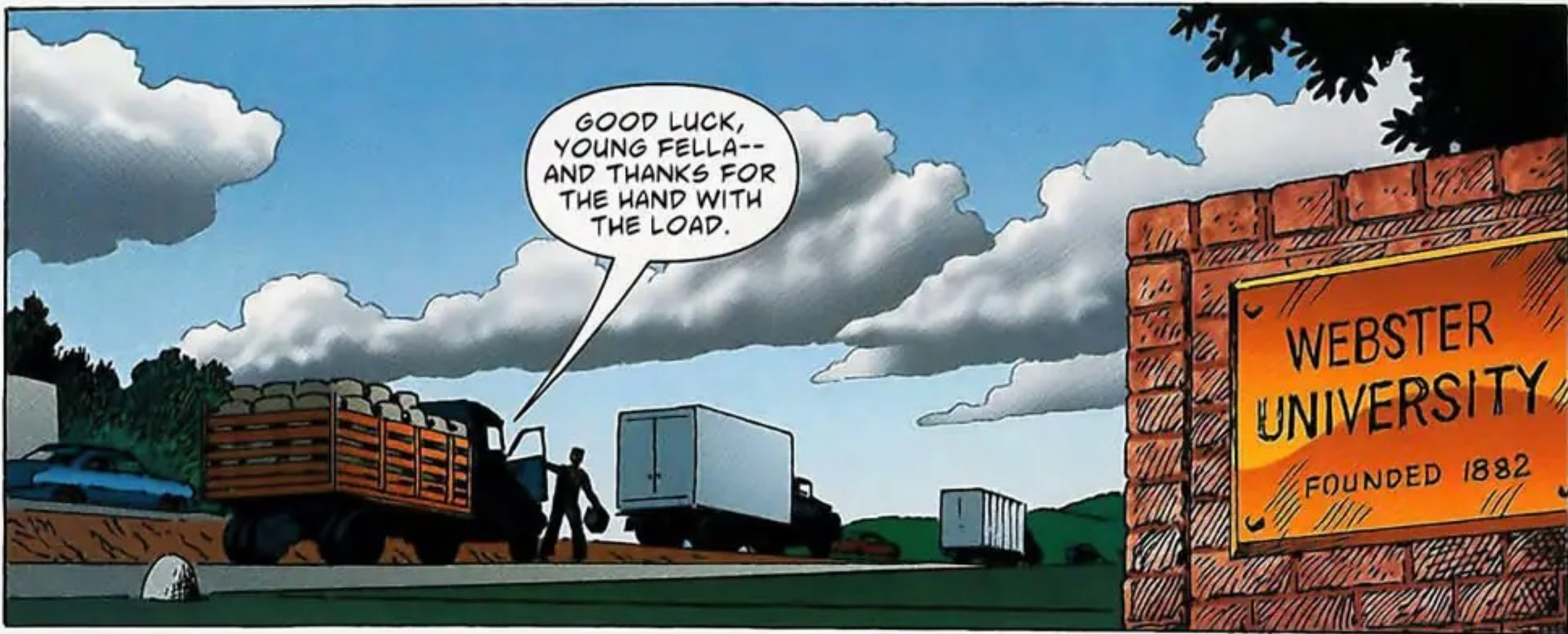
"Anna decided to marry some jerk she'd known for three weeks. In her letter, she said..."

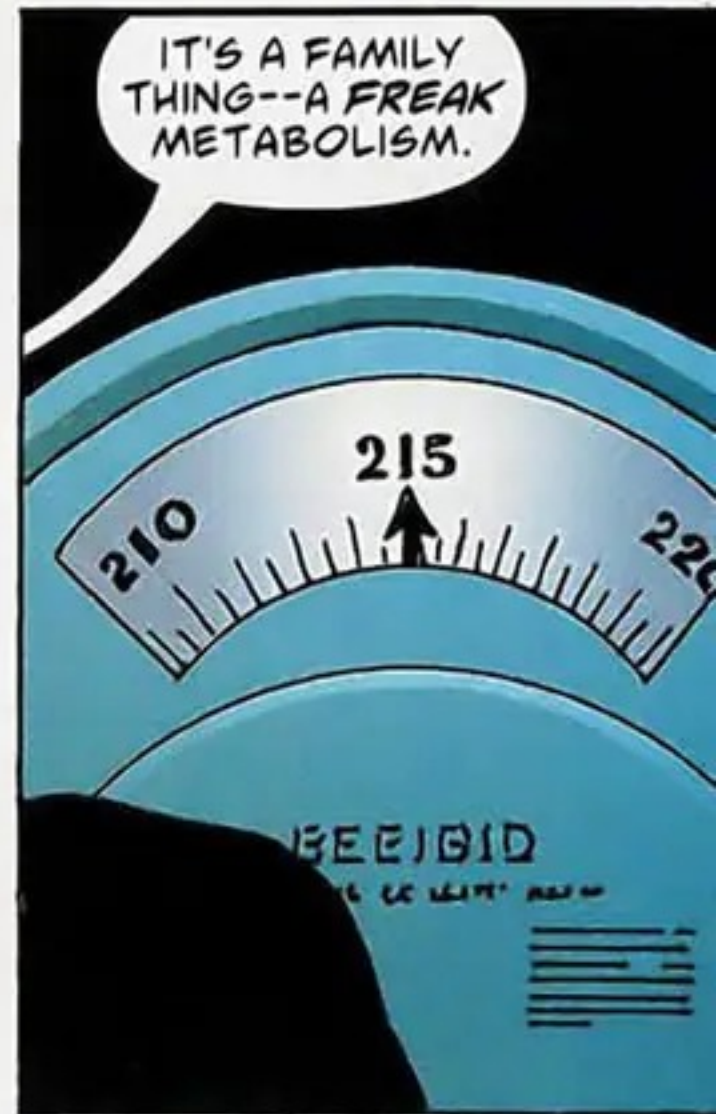
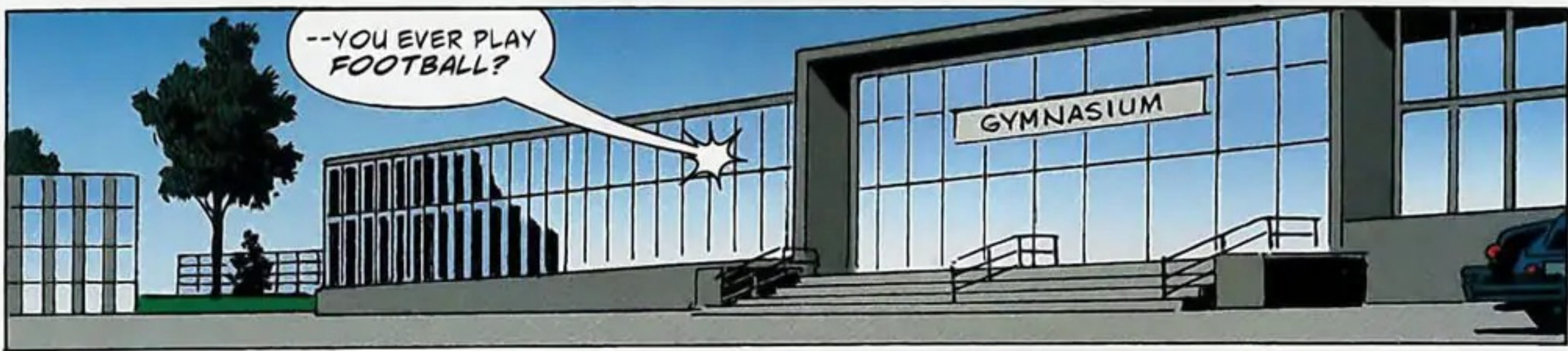


"I've never been good enough for you, darling--or loyal!"

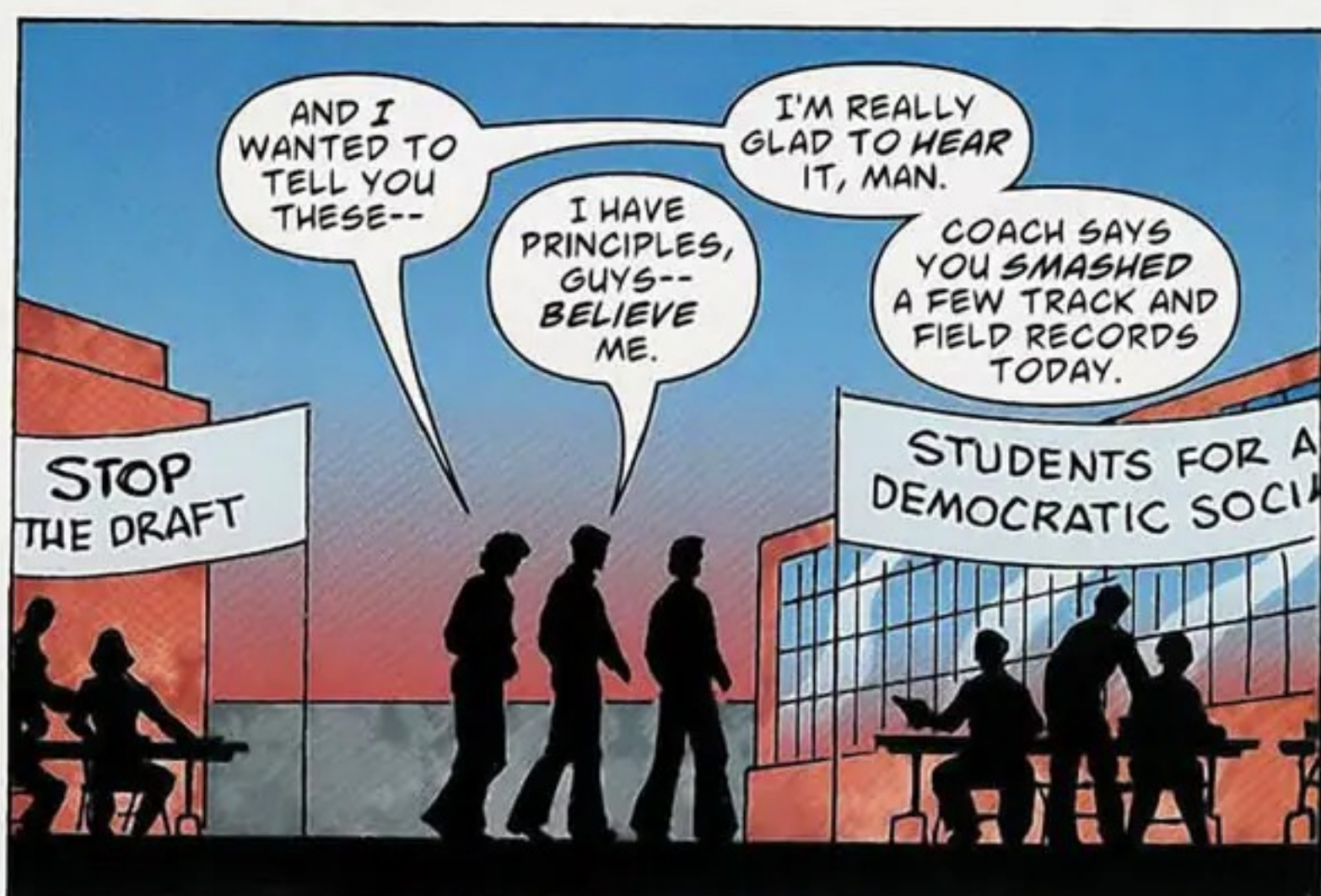
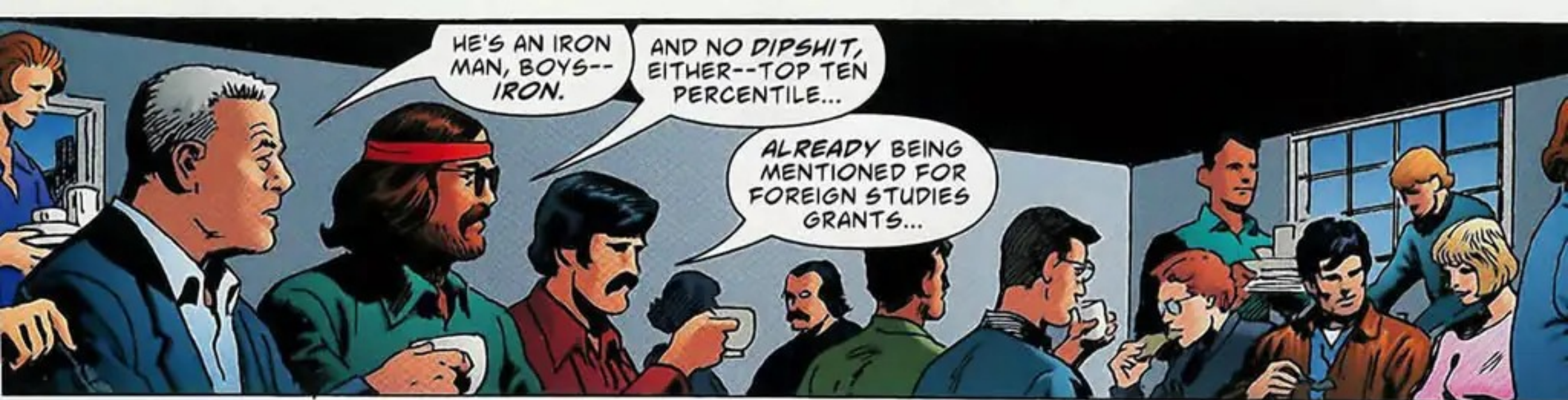


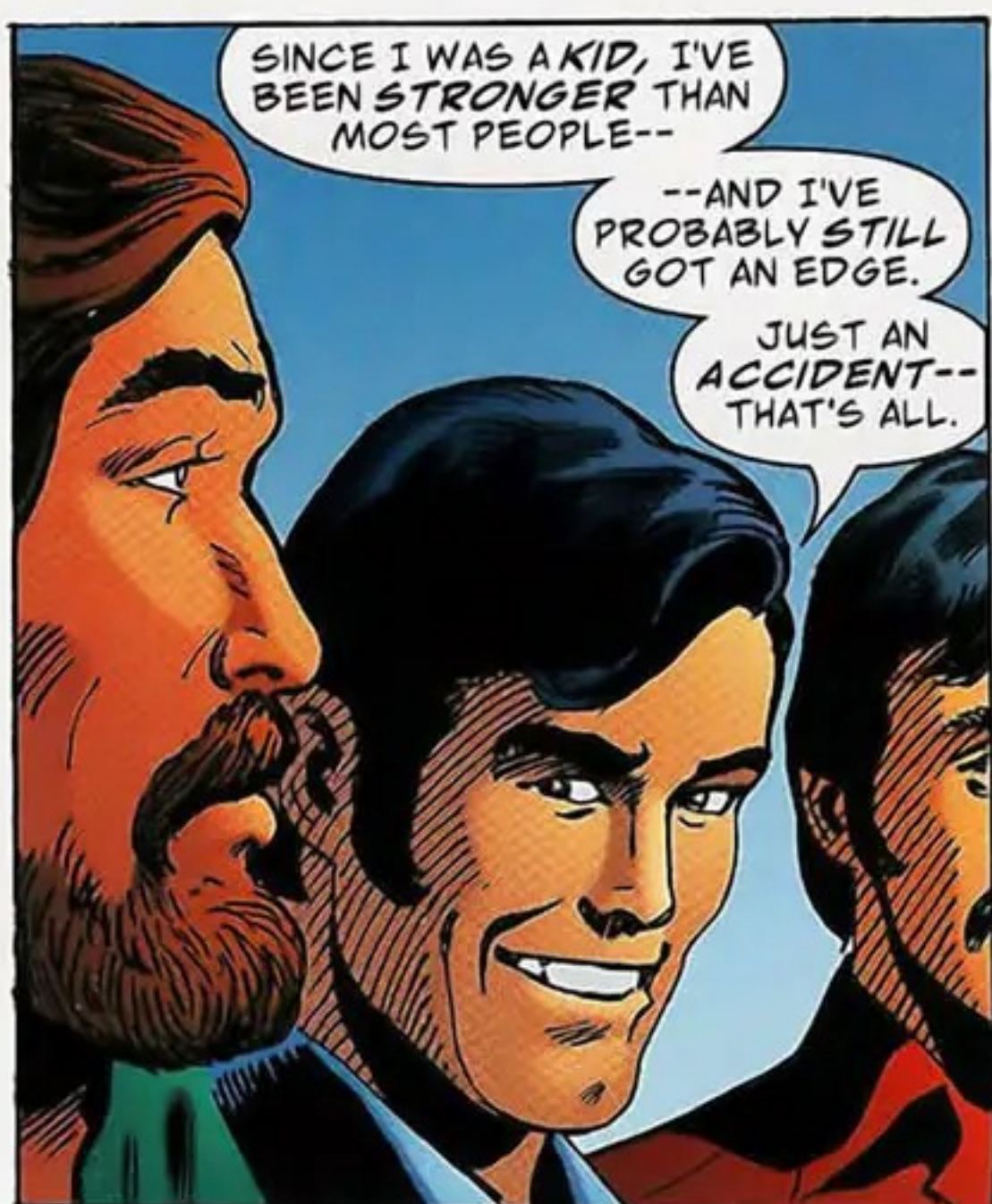
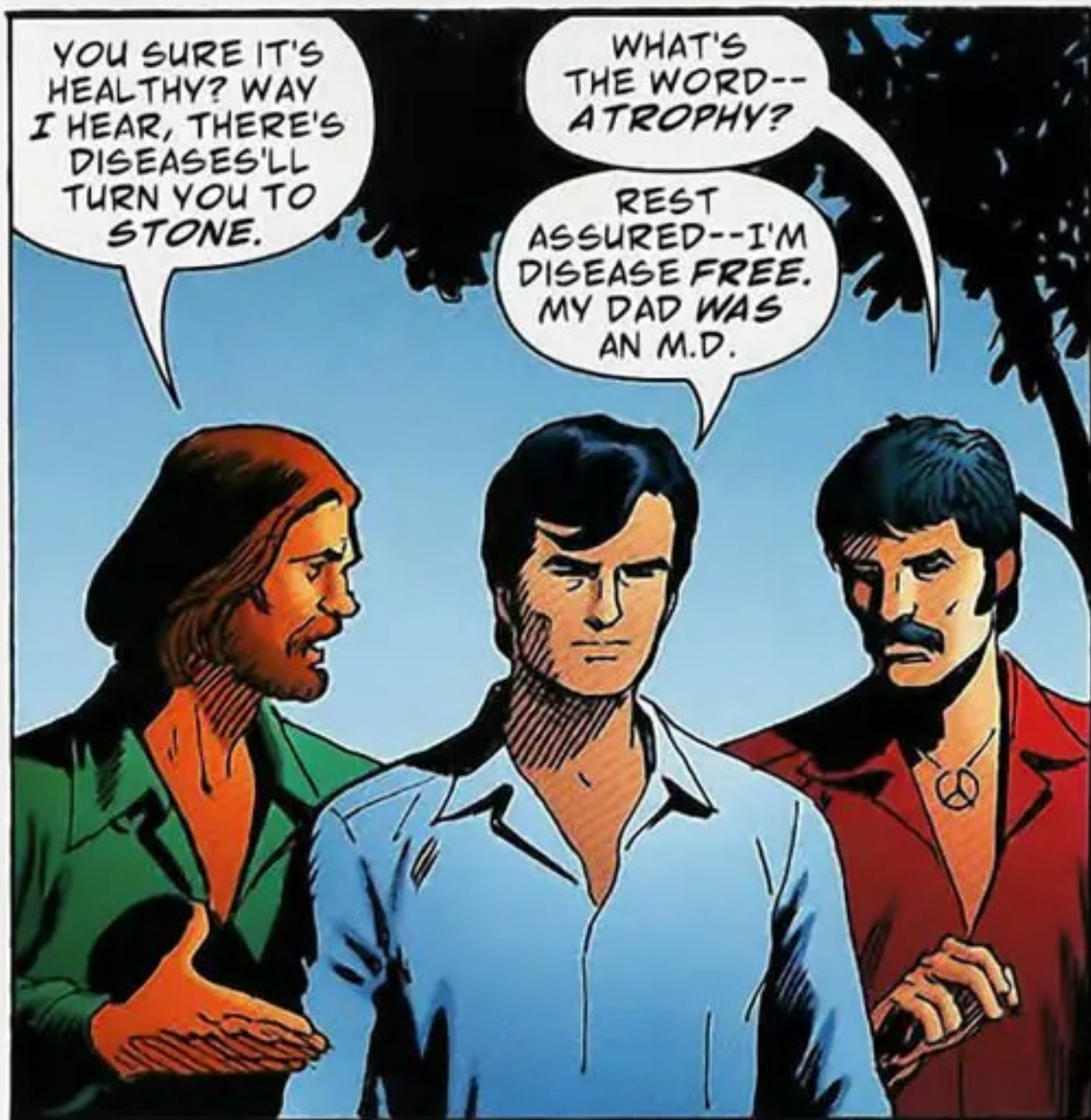
"I wared carelessly--my heart and mind already miles away--"











DANNER!
DANNER!
DANNER!
DANNER!

IT'S THE
 LAST GAME
 OF THE SEASON--
 WEBSTER DOWN
 BY TWO--



COACH WOODMAN
 HAS SENT IN HIS
 HARDEST WORKING
 PLAYER, "HUGE" HUGO
 DANNER--

"I signaled to
 Chuck--deep in
 their territory--



--to go out for it--
 the only chance we had.



"Chuck was his own man--



--not a team player--



"So I had to do it.



"Chuck never forgave me. who knew that the
 touchdown would lead...





"To my first visit to New York."



THIS IS THE LAST ONE, DANNER.

SCREECH



HAVE A HIT?

YOU KNOW I DON'T DO THAT STUFF...

--AFRAID IT'LL THROW ME OFF MY GAME.



DON'T BE SUCH AN ASSHOLE.

YOU GOTTA BE FUCKED UP FOR CHUCK'S PARTY.



LEFTY, MY MAN!

THEY CALLED FROM BOBBY HOLLYWOOD'S TO SAY YOU'D BE BY.

RIGHT-- YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE.

A CHECK?!

BE COOL, OTIS-- YOU KNOW MY DAD IS GOOD FOR IT.

"I felt I was living
at last--among
sophisticated men."

HEY,
HUGO--DON'T
BOGART THAT
JOINT...

"New Yorkers,
for God sake..."

WHAT
WILL YOUR
PARENTS SAY
WHEN THEY SEE
THE PLACE?

SEE
THOSE TWO
OVER THERE--
BY THE
SOFA?

YEAH.

THAT'S MY
PARENTS.

HOW 'BOUT
A HIT OF THAT
OVER HERE,
HONEY.

GOTTA GO
CHECK THE BEER
SUPPLY.

DON'T
LOSE YOUR
CAR KEYS--

Huh?

WHY DON'T
WE GET OUT OF
HERE? I GOT
A PLACE--



"Next thing I knew, I opened my eyes--"



"Bess, of course, had disappeared--"



GOD DAMN IT--



--with my money.



"No money--and I couldn't remember Chuck's parents' address--"

--and after what I'd smoked, drank-- and sucked--

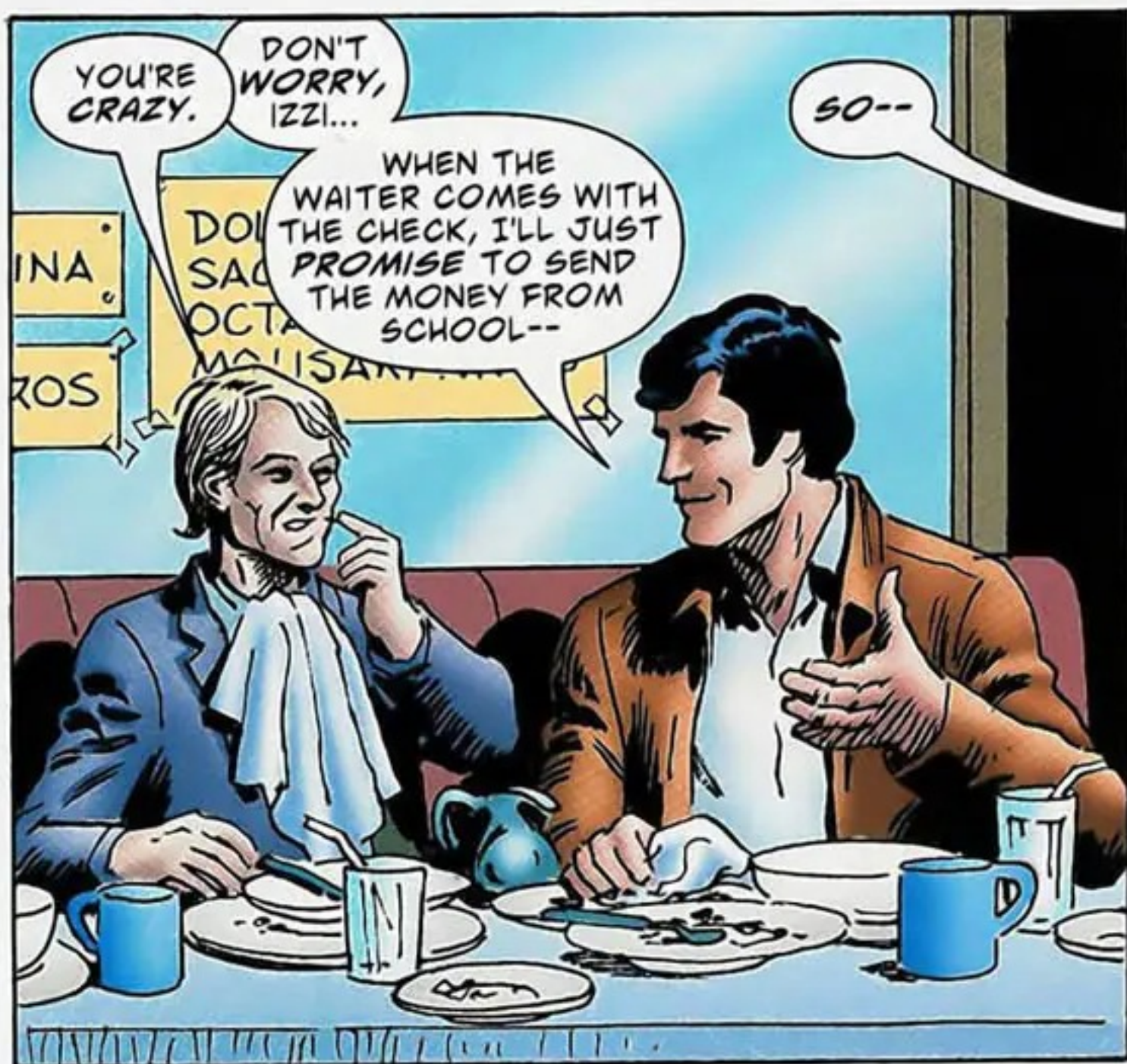
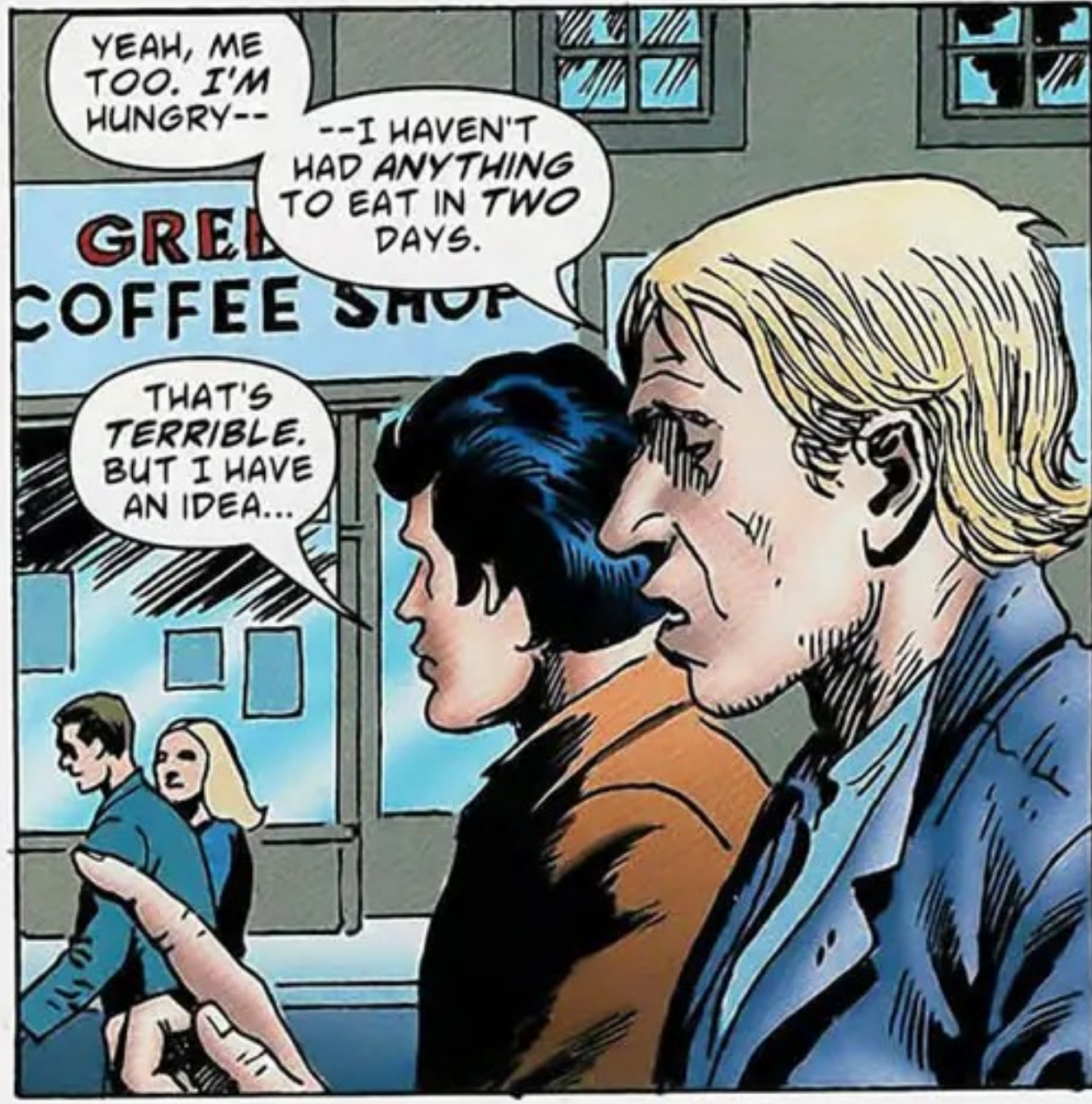
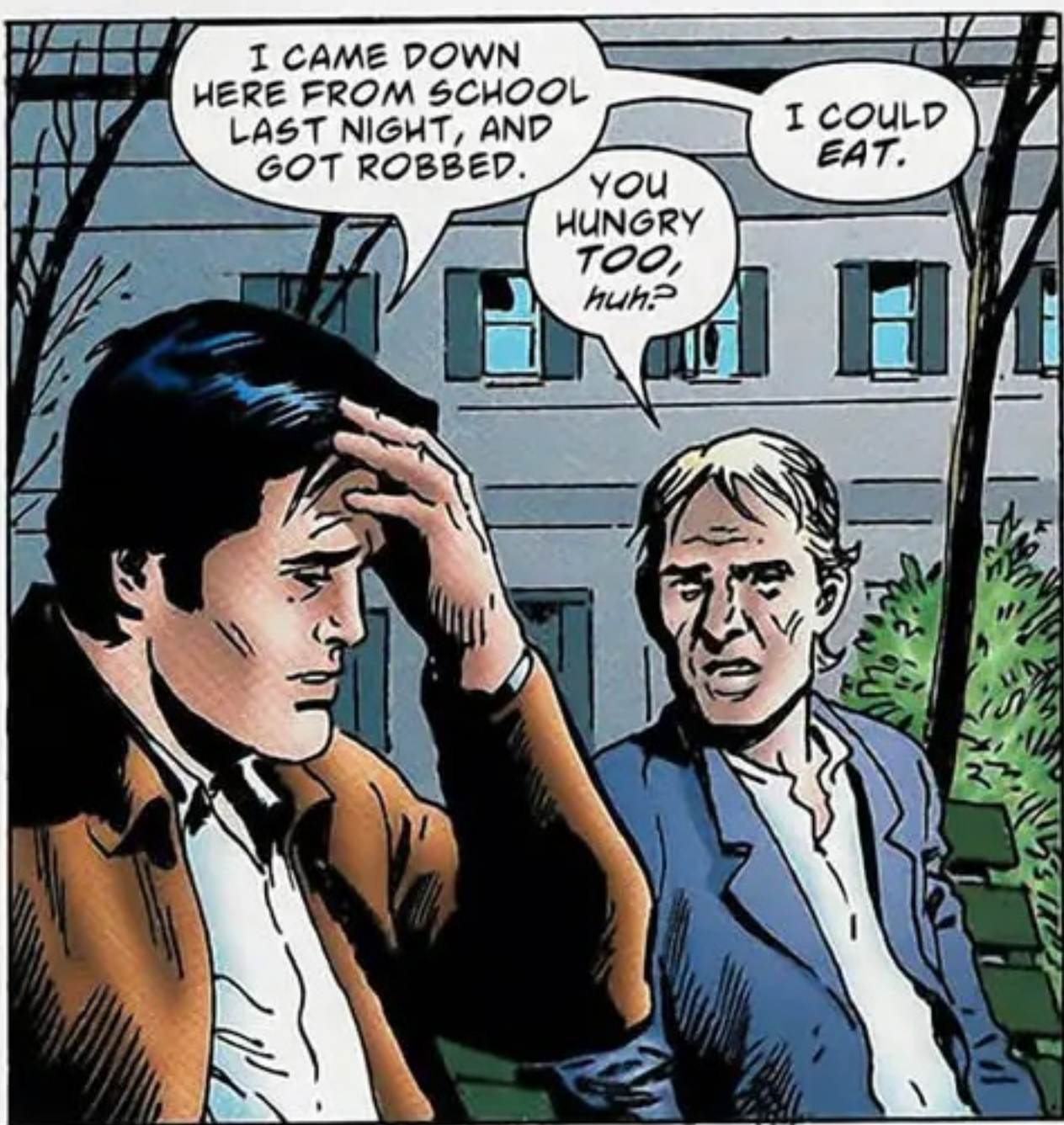
--I was as sick as a dog."

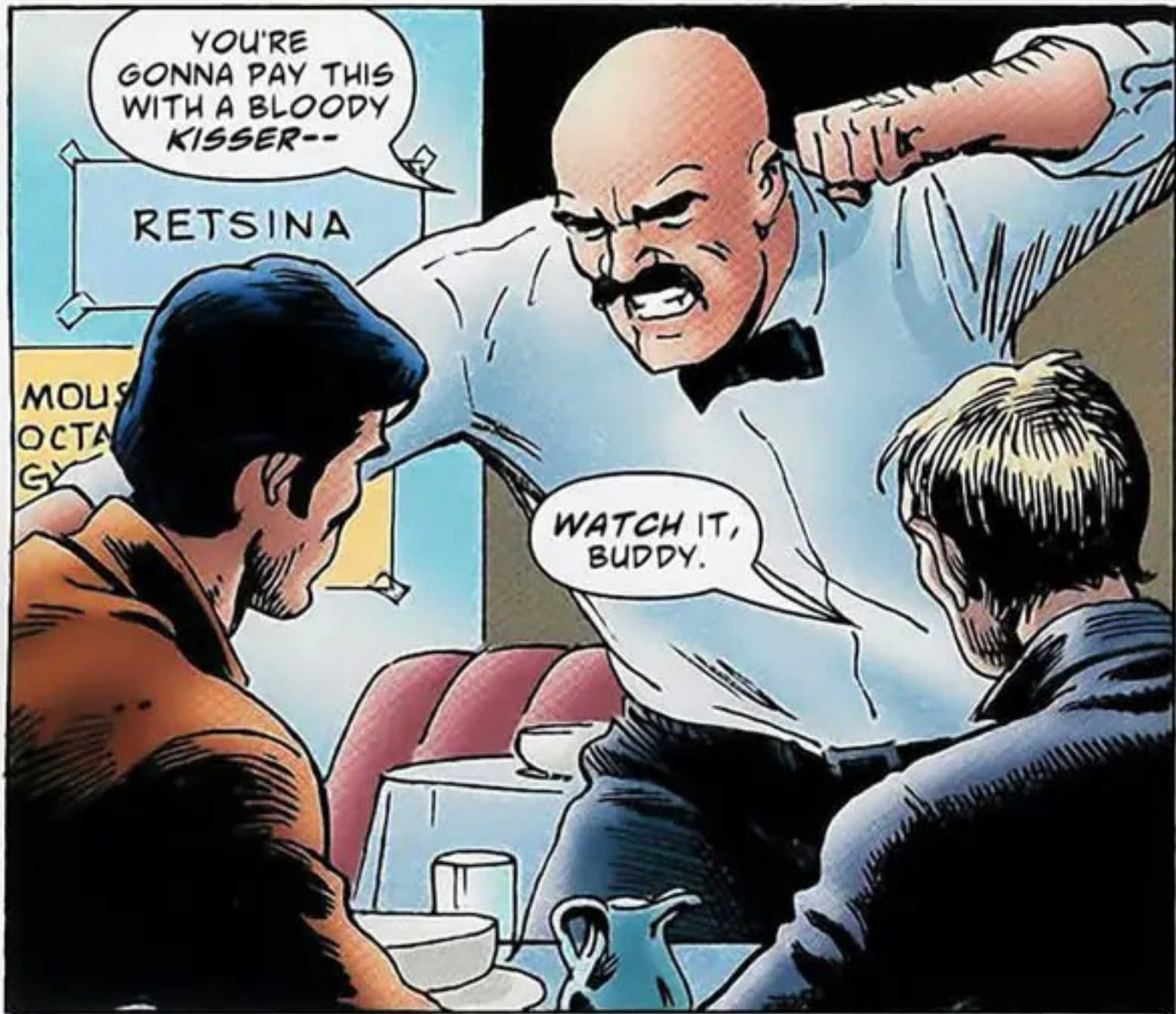


"I thought at first of walking back to Webster. If I turned it on, I could make it in a few hours..."



"...but not invisibly--and, like I said, I was sick as a dog."







--I GOT AN IDEA HOW WE CAN BOTH MAKE SOME CASH.

"Izzy led me across town, to the river.

"The city changed character on the other side of the West Side Highway.



"I'd never seen or imagined such a parade in the darkest recess of the night--"

DOWN HERE, THEN UP THE IRON STAIRS.



"--let alone in broad daylight."

I BEEN LOOKIN' FOR A GUY TO PUT UP AGAINST LEROY A LONG TIME.

YOU AGAIN?! GET THE FUCK OUTTA HERE--



I GOT A FIGHTER, HERE--FOR LEROY.

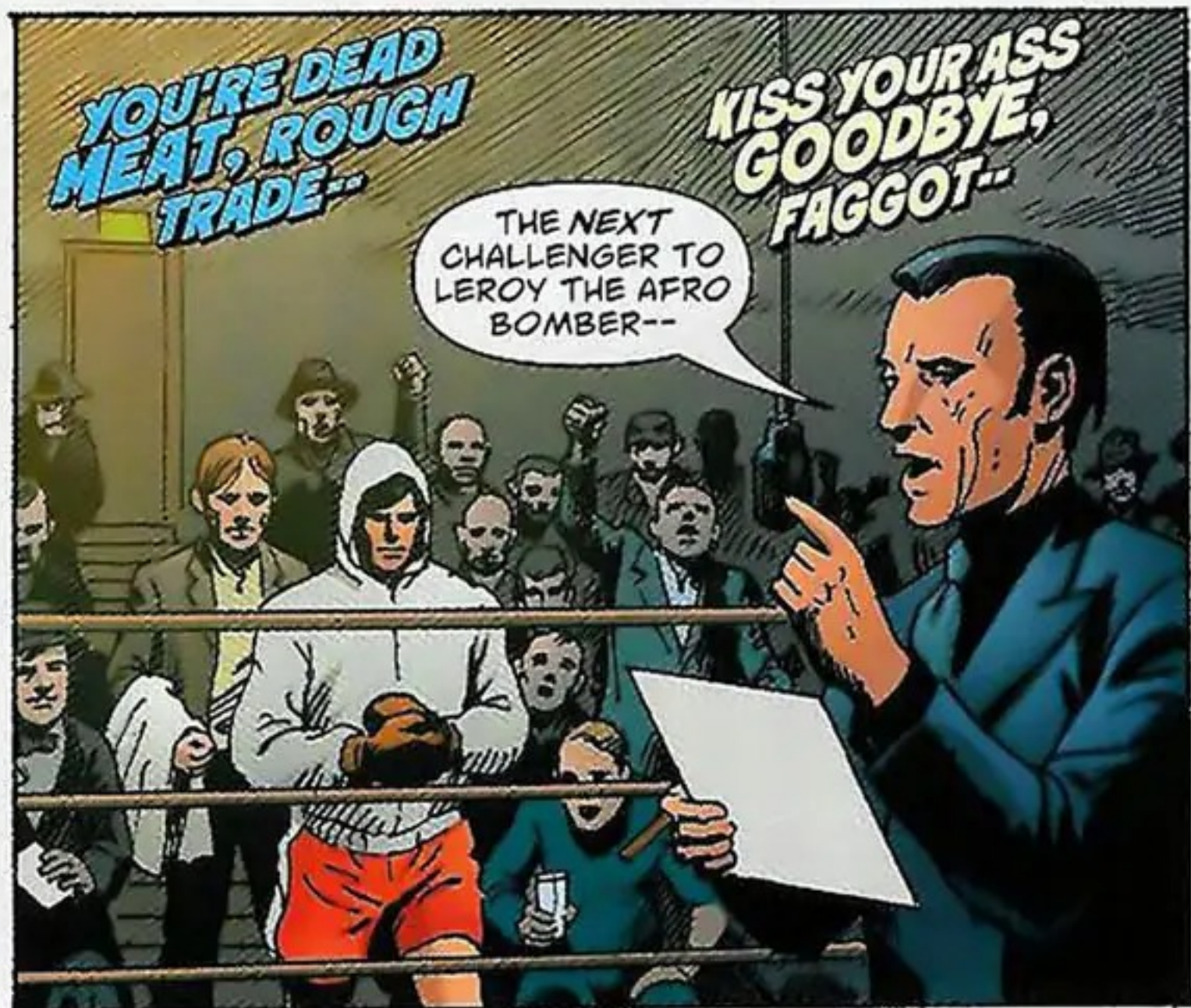
YEAH-- WHERE IS HE?



I SEE A BIG PINK FACE THAT LEROY'LL MAKE HIS PUNK IN A SECOND--



"The room stank of sweat, sneakers, and piss."



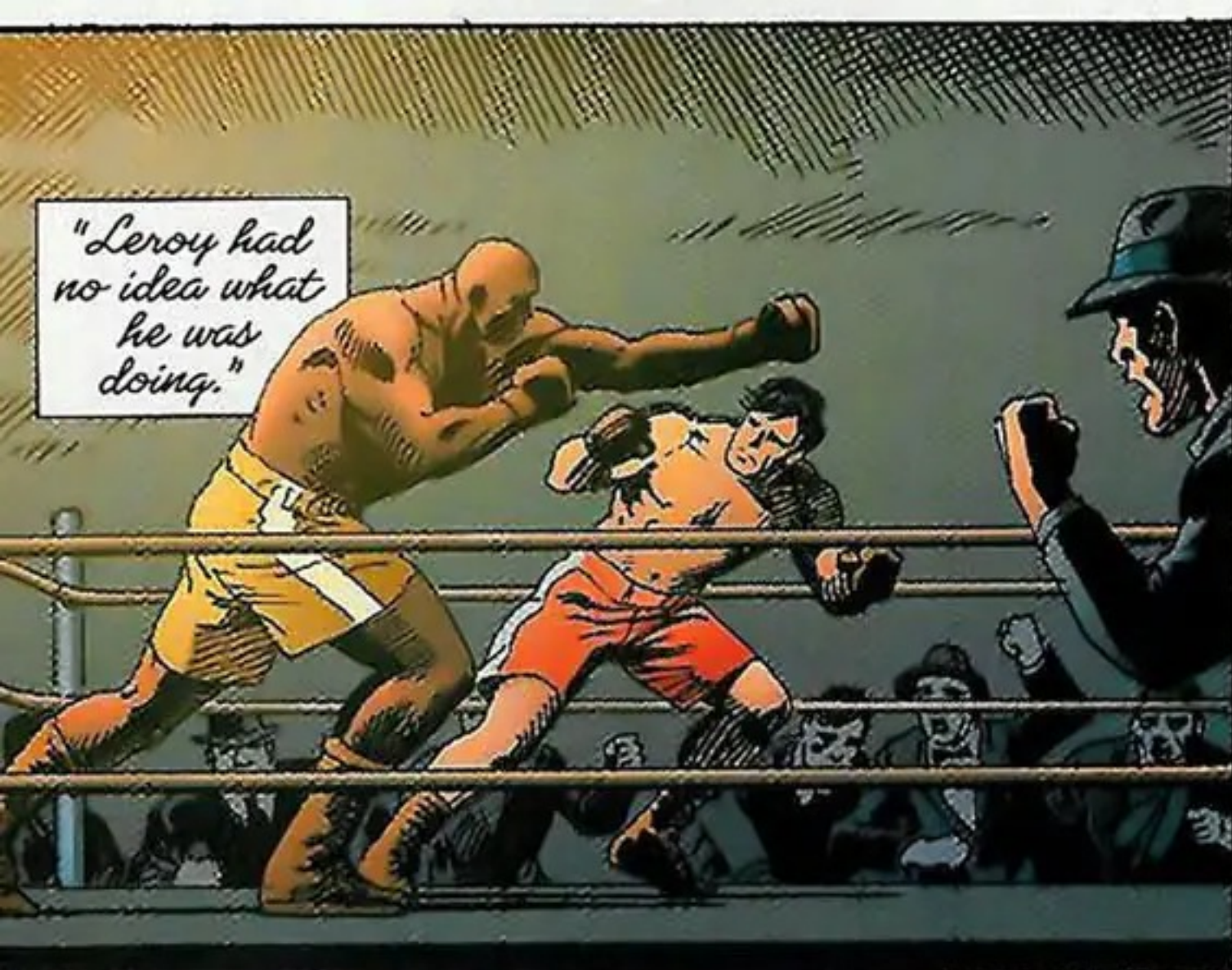
"When I saw him close up, I had to keep reminding myself who I was-- to keep from running."



"The manager holds the challenger--"

"--and Leroy hits him--or tries."





"Leroy had no idea what he was doing."



YOU LITTLE MOTHER-FUCKER--

TOO SMALL TO HIT--



JUST RIGHT TO GRAB--
HUH!?!?

YOU YELLOW CHICKENSHIT--



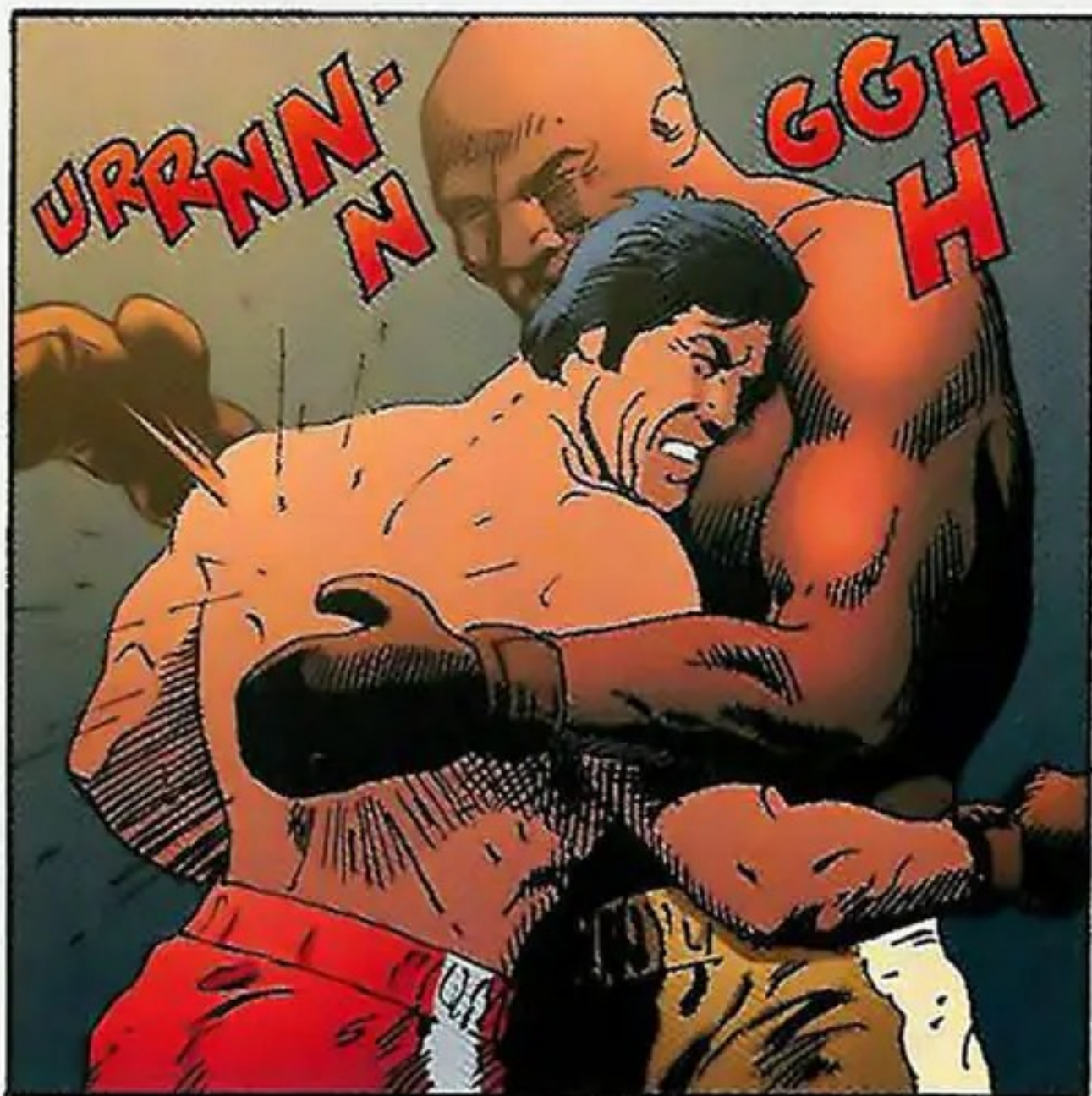
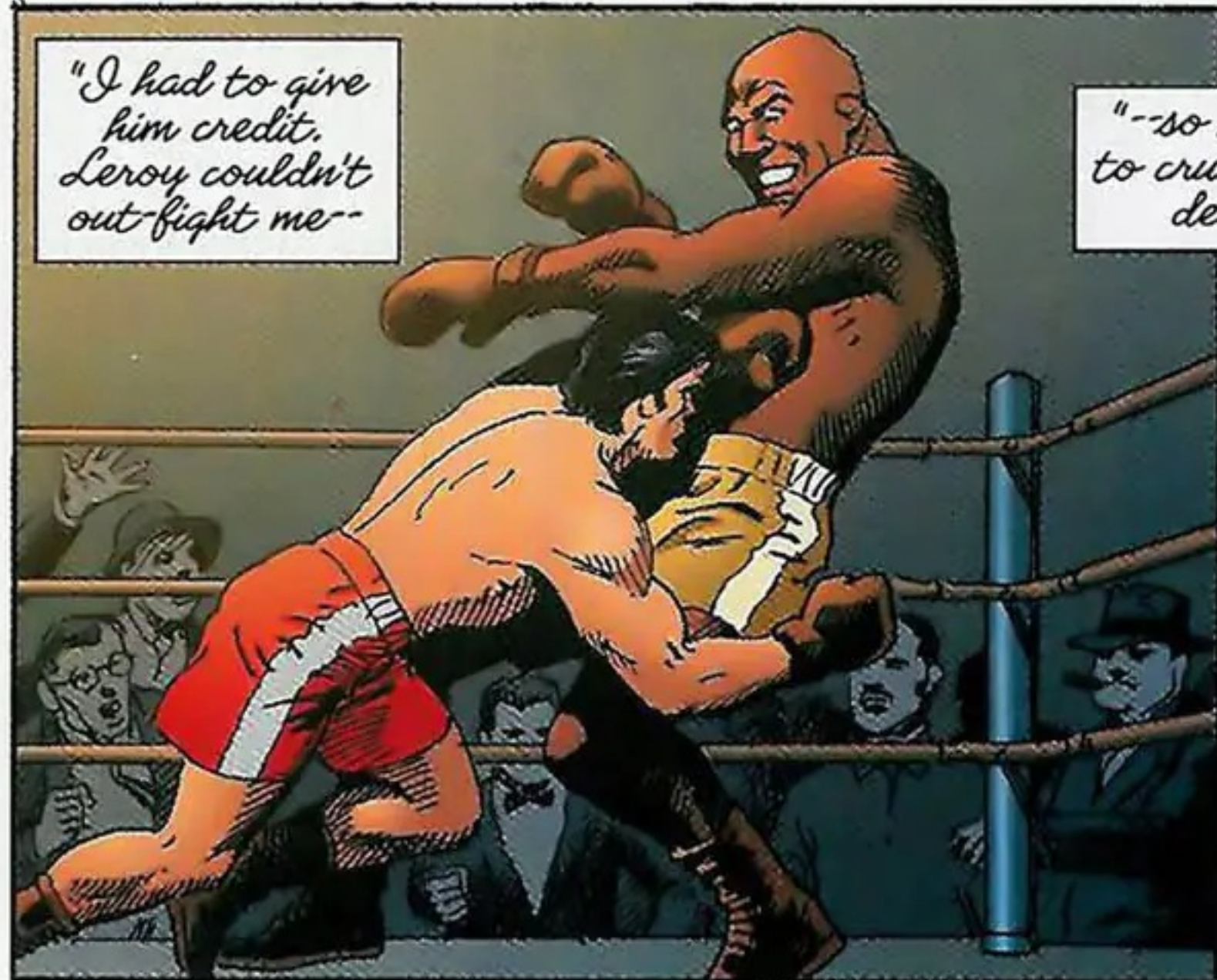
STAND STILL AND TAKE IT LIKE A MAN!

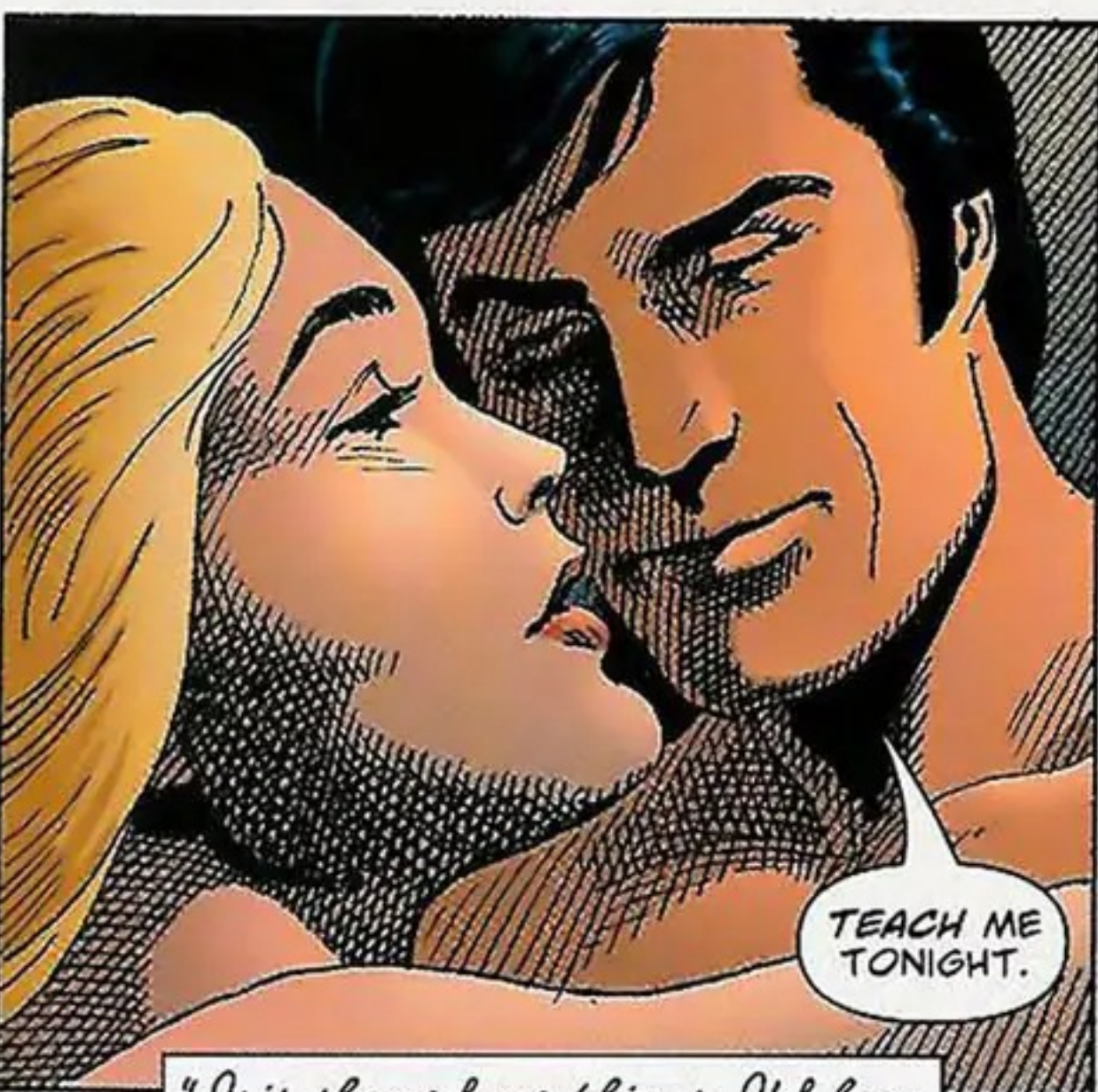
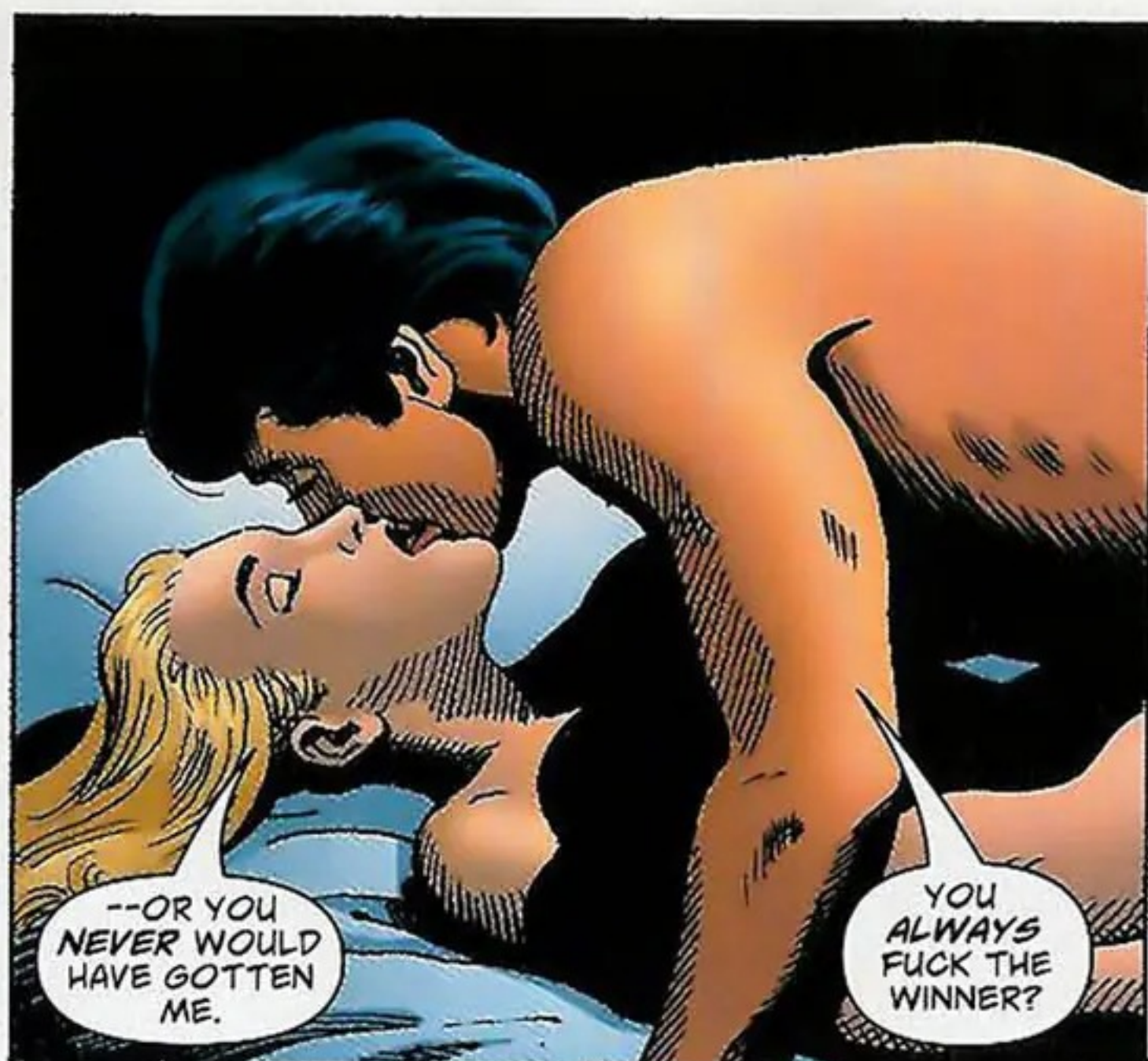
"It only dazed me a moment--"

"--just long enough to give Leroy an opening."

"It'd been ten years since I last lost my temper."







"Iris showed me things I'd been ashamed to dream about."



"At least that first night, anyway..."



YOU KNOW
WHAT FUCKS
LIKE A TIGER AND
WINKS?

NO--
WHAT?



AGAIN?

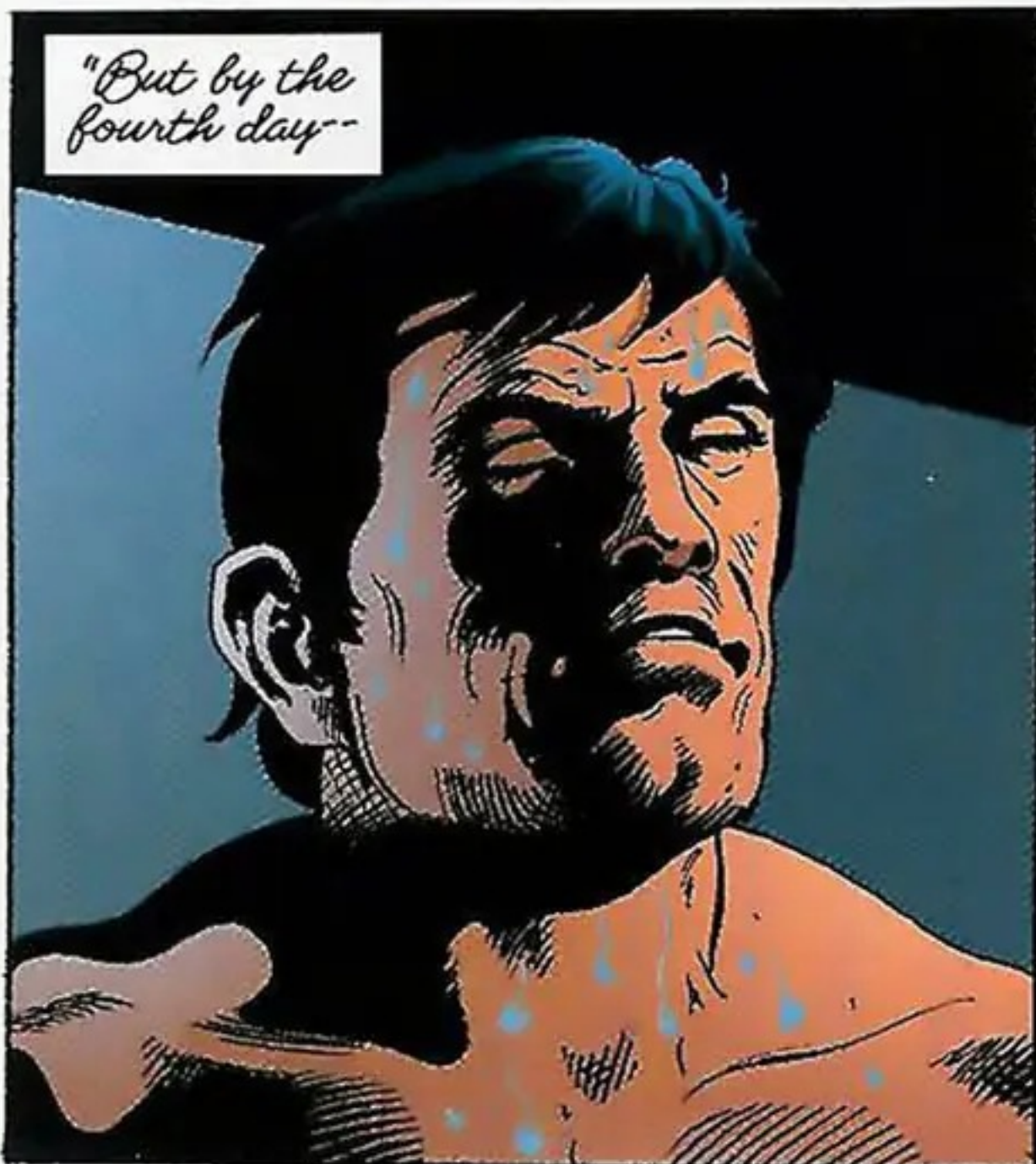
YOU'RE
SPOILING
ME--



YOU
ANIMAL--



"But by the
fourth day--"



"--Iris was only
semi-conscious."

HUGO...
PLEASE,
STOP--NO
MORE...







"I had learned something from Iris..."

"She'd shown me a thing or two--"



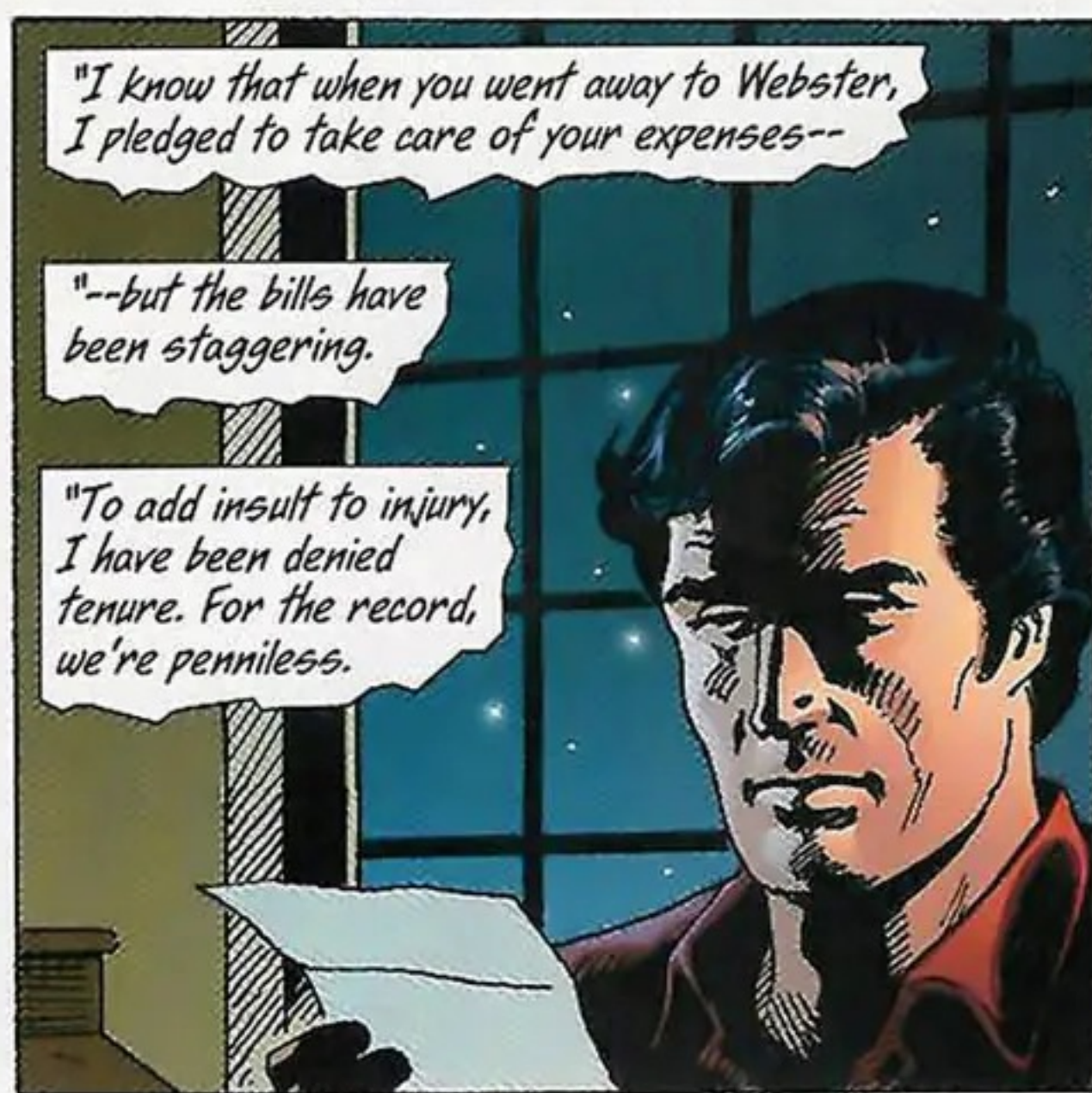
"--about my hunger, my insatiable needs."

"Is there a woman anywhere that can love me, back enough?"



"Son--your mother and I thought it best to break the bad news to you before you returned home--"

"--since the opportunities for work may be better in the East."



"I know that when you went away to Webster, I pledged to take care of your expenses--"

"--but the bills have been staggering."

"To add insult to injury, I have been denied tenure. For the record, we're penniless."



"As much as both I and your mother would love dearly to see you this summer--"

"--we felt that in the light of such information, you might wish to remain in the East, to earn what you can."



I AIN'T SEEN THAT TRAMP IN MONTHS.

SHE COULD BE DEAD--

--OR SHE COULD BE TURNING TRICKS OUT IN BROOKLYN--CONEY ISLAND.

"So I went to Brooklyn--



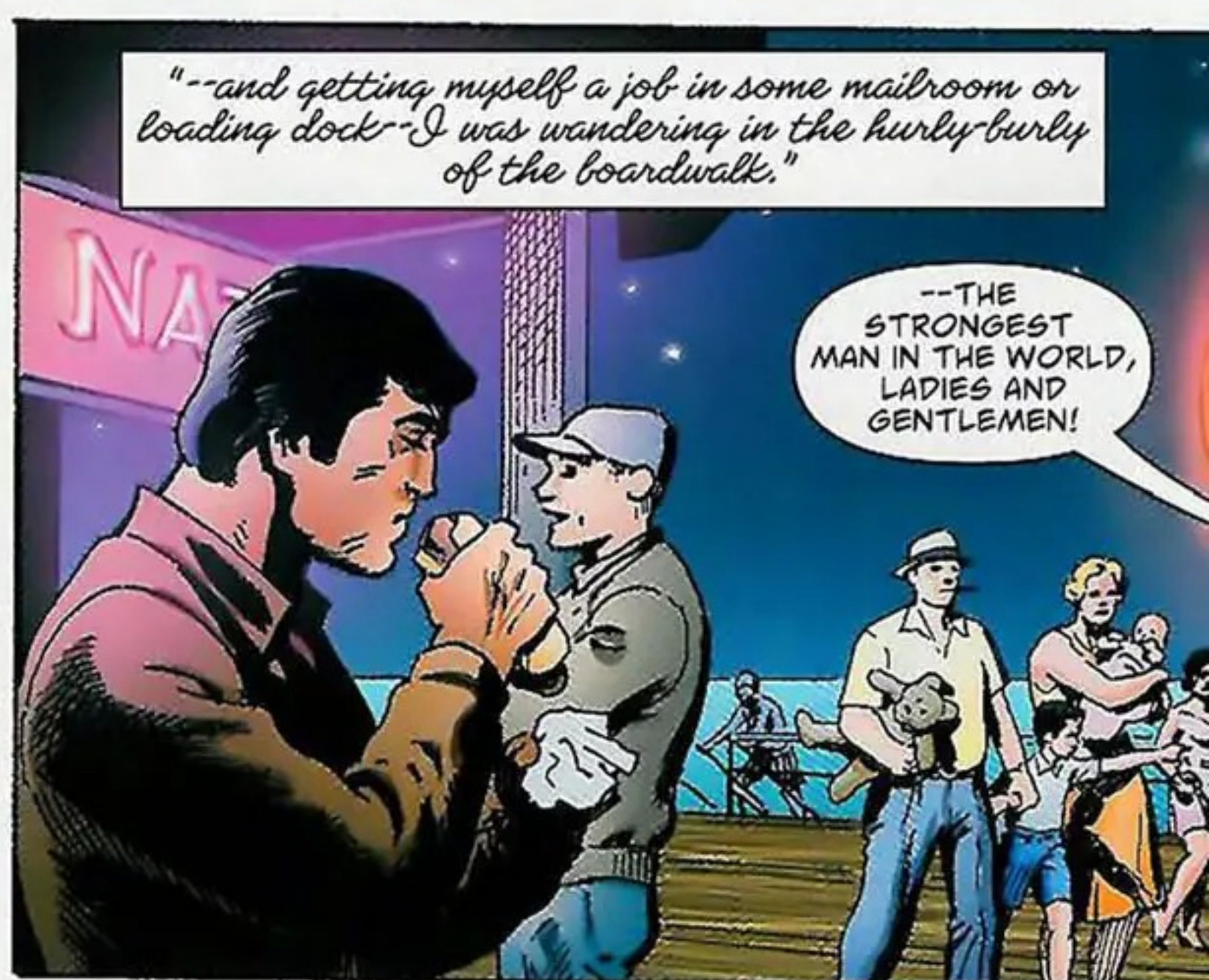
--it was only a quarter--and Bess owed me money.



"Of course, the moment I allowed myself to think about collecting my money--

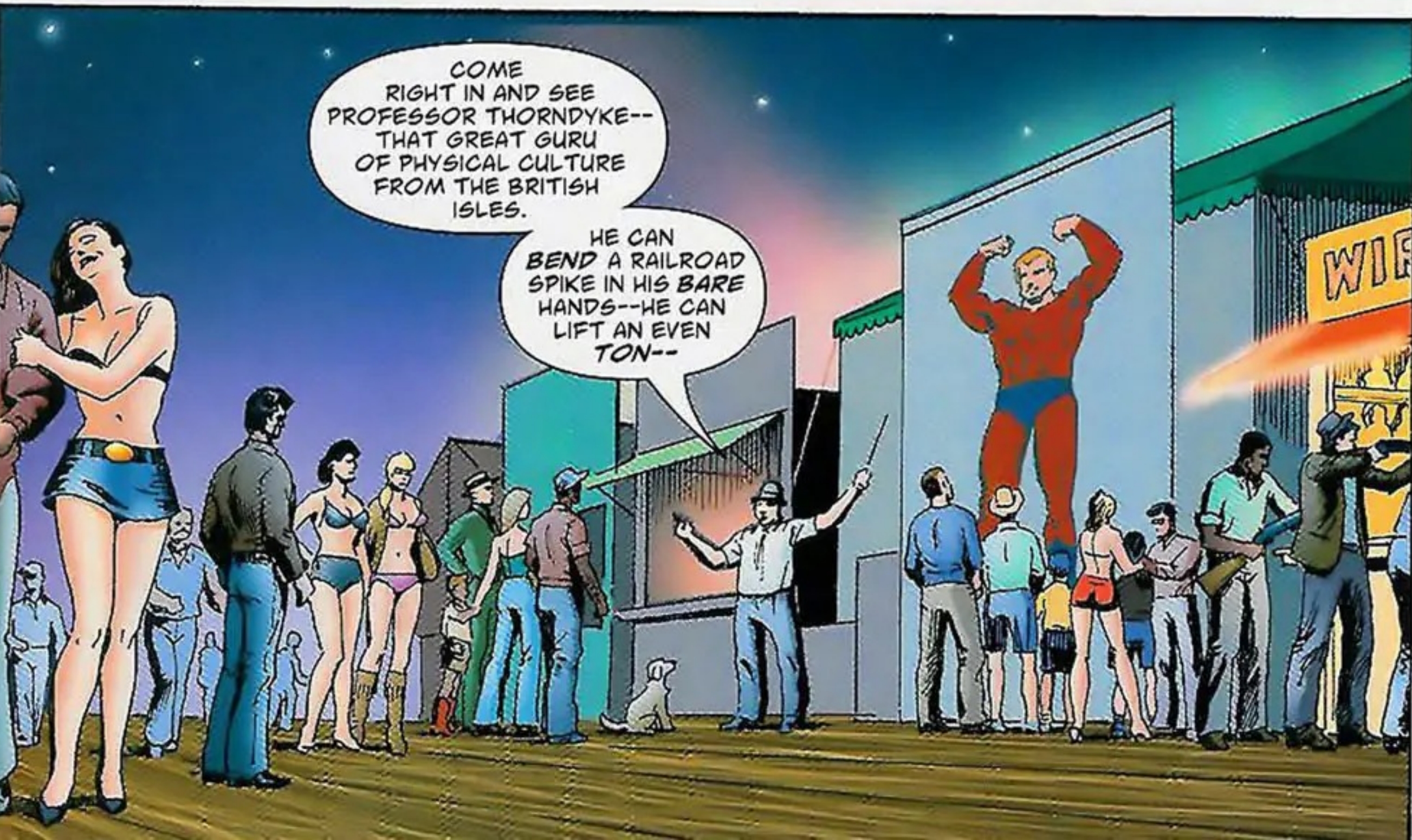
--I cursed myself for a fool.

"Instead of taking my situation seriously--



--and getting myself a job in some mailroom or loading dock--I was wandering in the hurly-burly of the boardwalk."

--THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!



COME RIGHT IN AND SEE PROFESSOR THORNDYKE-- THAT GREAT GURU OF PHYSICAL CULTURE FROM THE BRITISH ISLES.

HE CAN BEND A RAILROAD SPIKE IN HIS BARE HANDS--HE CAN LIFT AN EVEN TON--

"I thought about it a moment--
saw myself in gaudy red and blue,
hoisting a mighty weight--"

--AND EVEN
A BABY ELEPHANT
CAN WALK ACROSS THIS
MODERN MARVEL'S BACK--
LEAVING THE MIGHTY
PROFESSOR THORNDYKE
UNHARMED.

GOT A
CIGARETTE,
BABY?

"--then something
distracted me."

HEY,
ASSHOLE,
SHE'S A
HOOKER!

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU
COULD USE A
BEER.

I COULD
EAT A LITTLE,
TOO.

I HAVEN'T
EATEN SINCE
YESTERDAY.

YOU CAN
FUCK ME IF YOU
WANT TO. BE
TEN BUCKS--

I CAN'T DO IT!! I'M
THE WORST FUCKING
WHORE YOU EVER
SAW!!

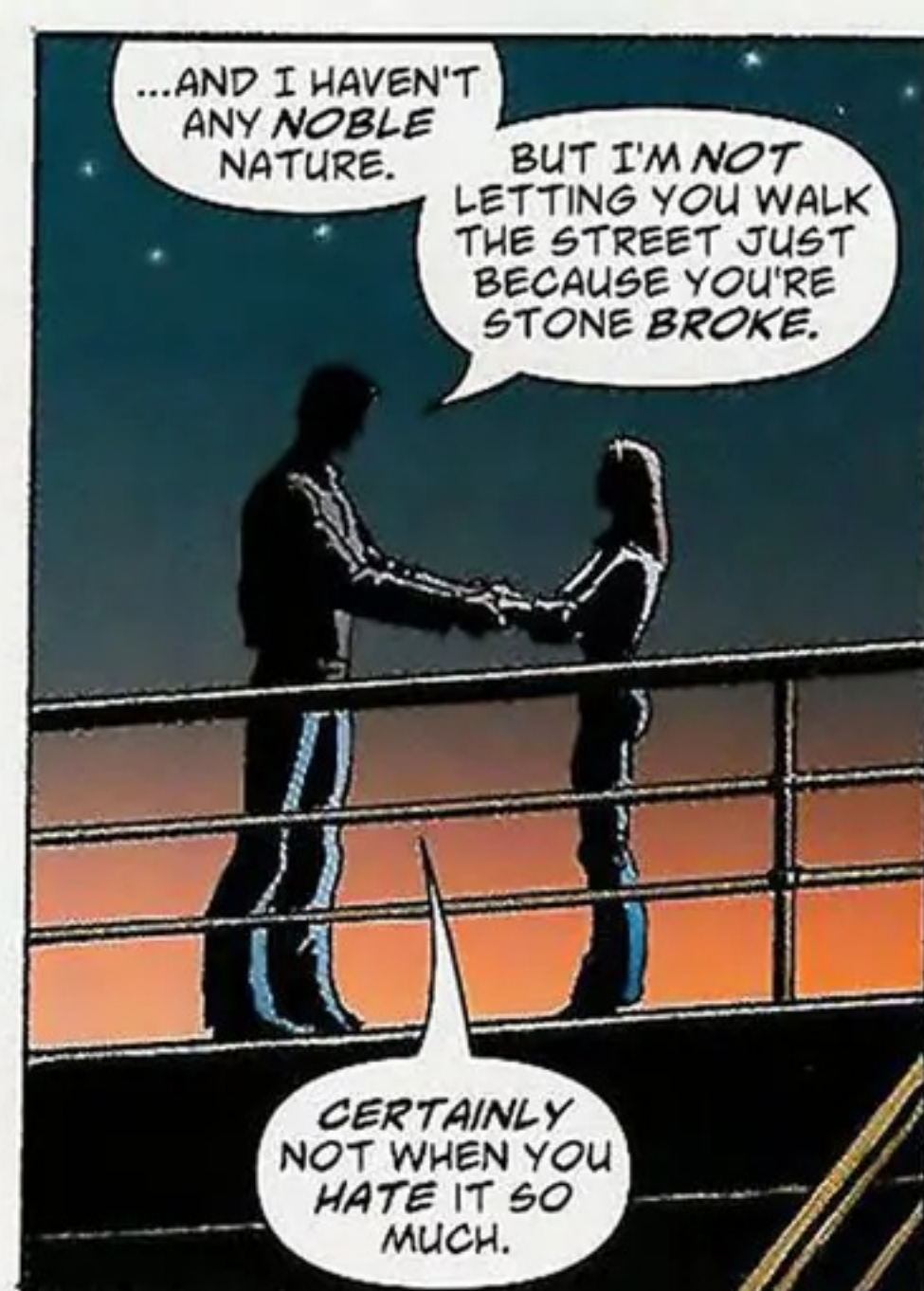
I LOST MY
JOB 'CAUSE
I WOULDN'T
FUCK MY
BOSS--

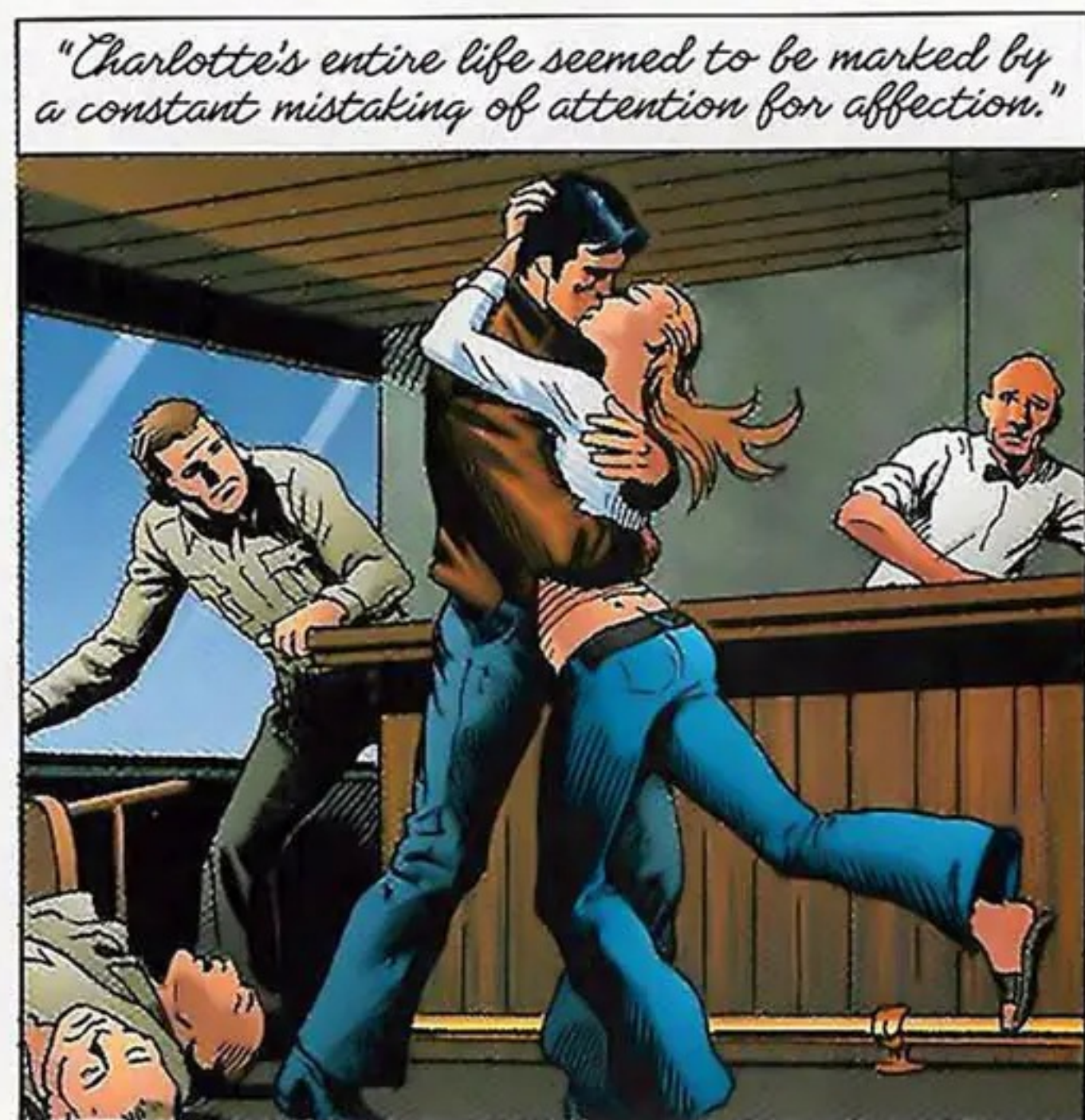
--THEN
I RAN OUT OF
MONEY.

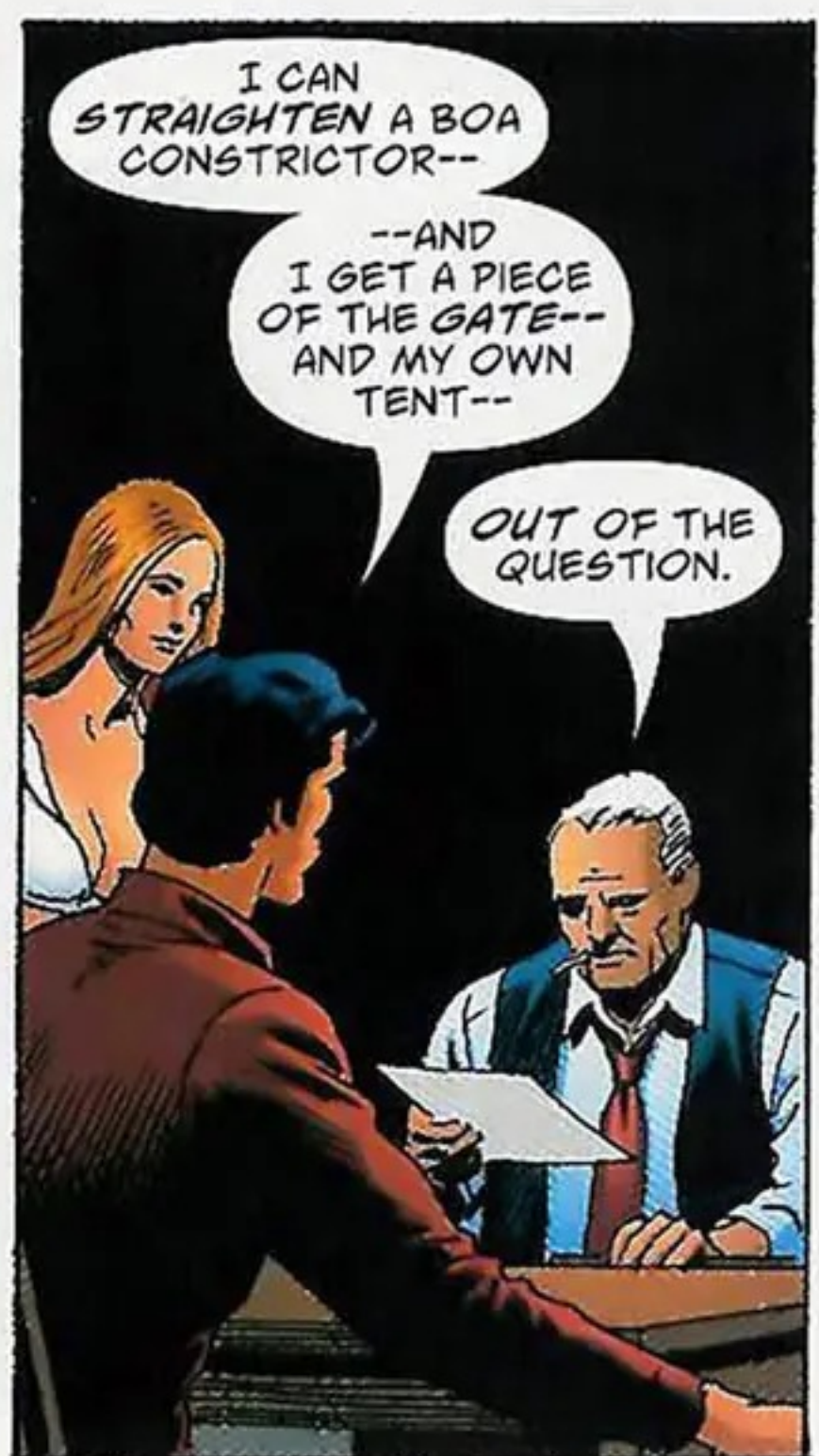
WHAT WAS I GOING
TO DO? I FINALLY
GOT HUNGRY THIS
MORNING--

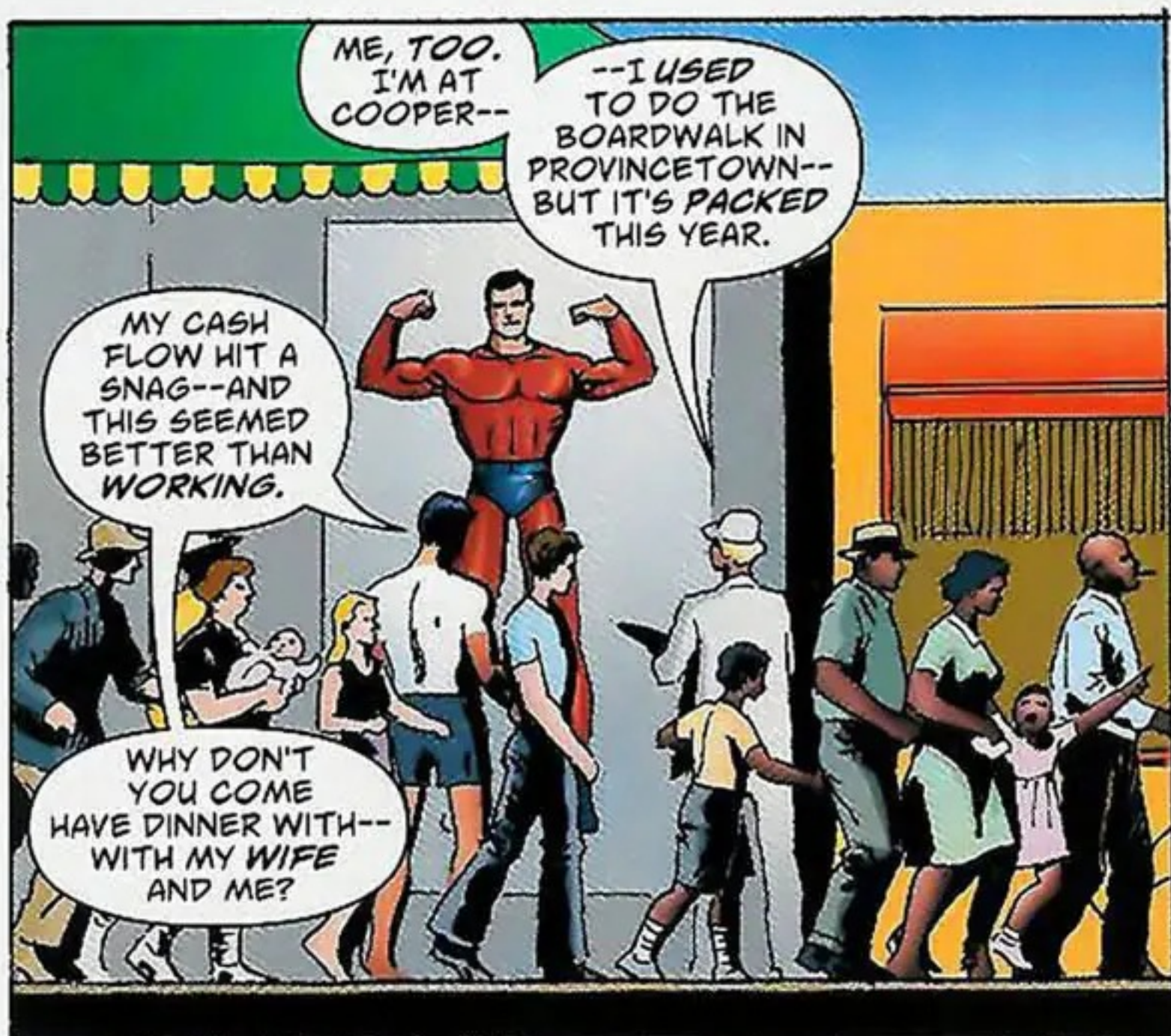
--AND I GOT
NOTHING ELSE
TO SELL BUT
MY PUSSY.

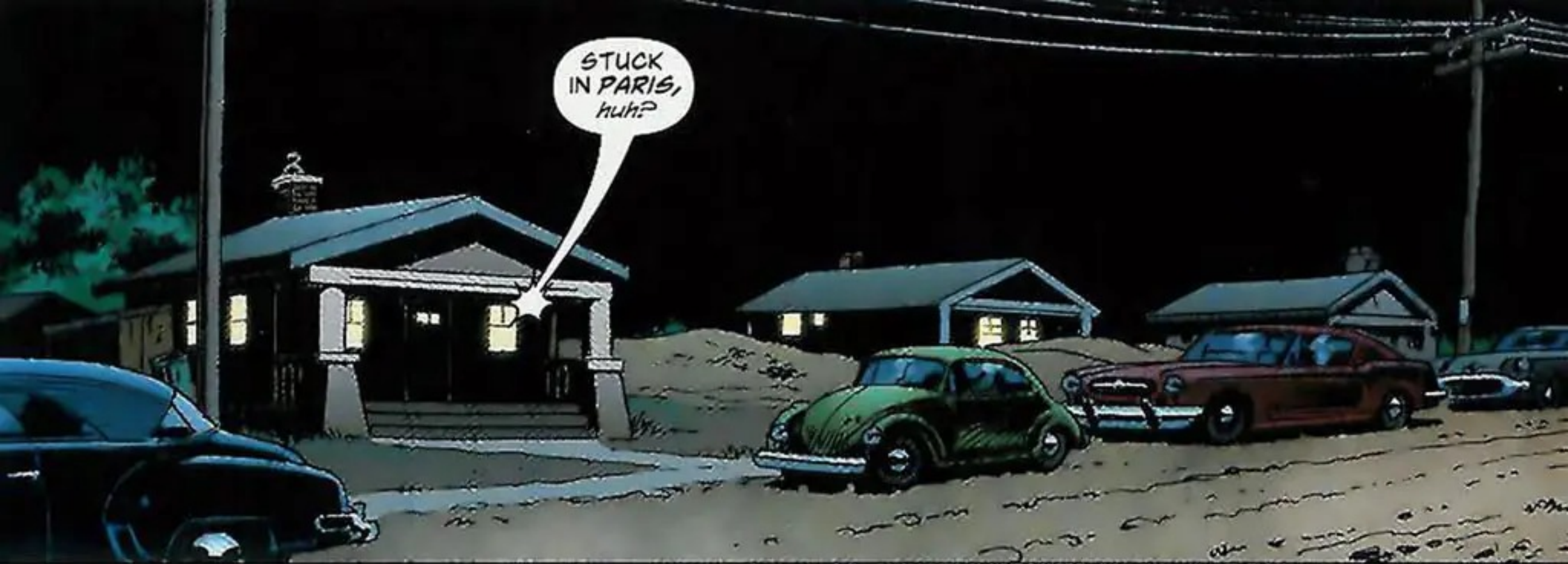
FORGET
ABOUT THAT.
I'VE GOT A
ROLL OF
CASH.











STUCK
IN PARIS,
huh?



BY THAT TIME,
I'D RUN OUT OF
LUCK. THE FRENCH,
THEY ARE A FUNNY
RACE--

THEY FIGHT
WITH THEIR
FEET--

--THEY
FUCK
WITH THEIR
FACE--!

*"I'd been at a loss to explain
Charlotte to Valentine--"*



I'M
gasp
SORRY,
HUGO--

ME, TOO.
giggle

"--pointlessly, as it turned out."

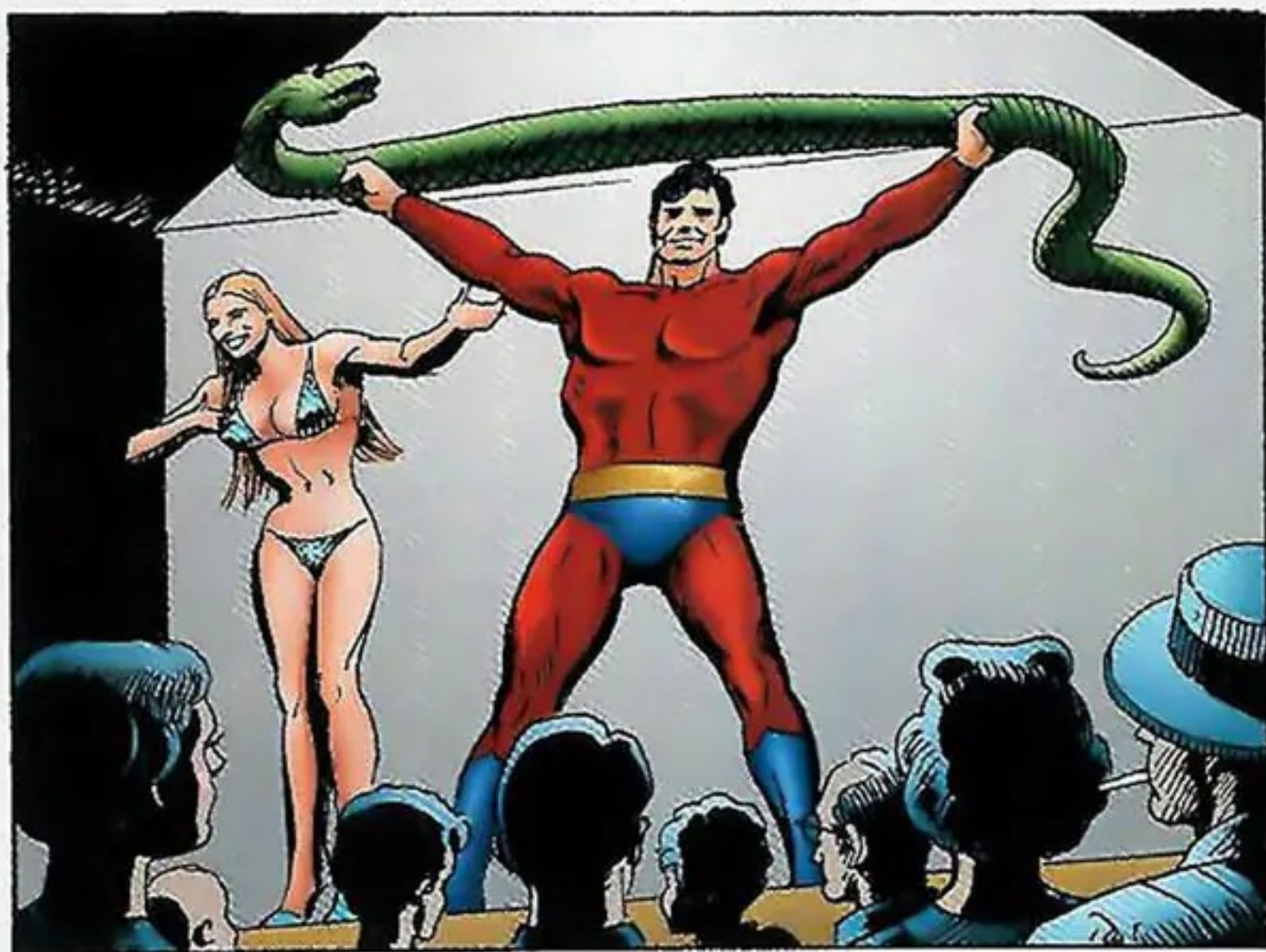


THANK YOU
BOTH--I HAVEN'T
EATEN SO WELL OR
LAUGHED SO HARD
IN A LONG TIME.



HE'S KIND
OF A WEIRD
FAG, BUT A
SWEET KID.

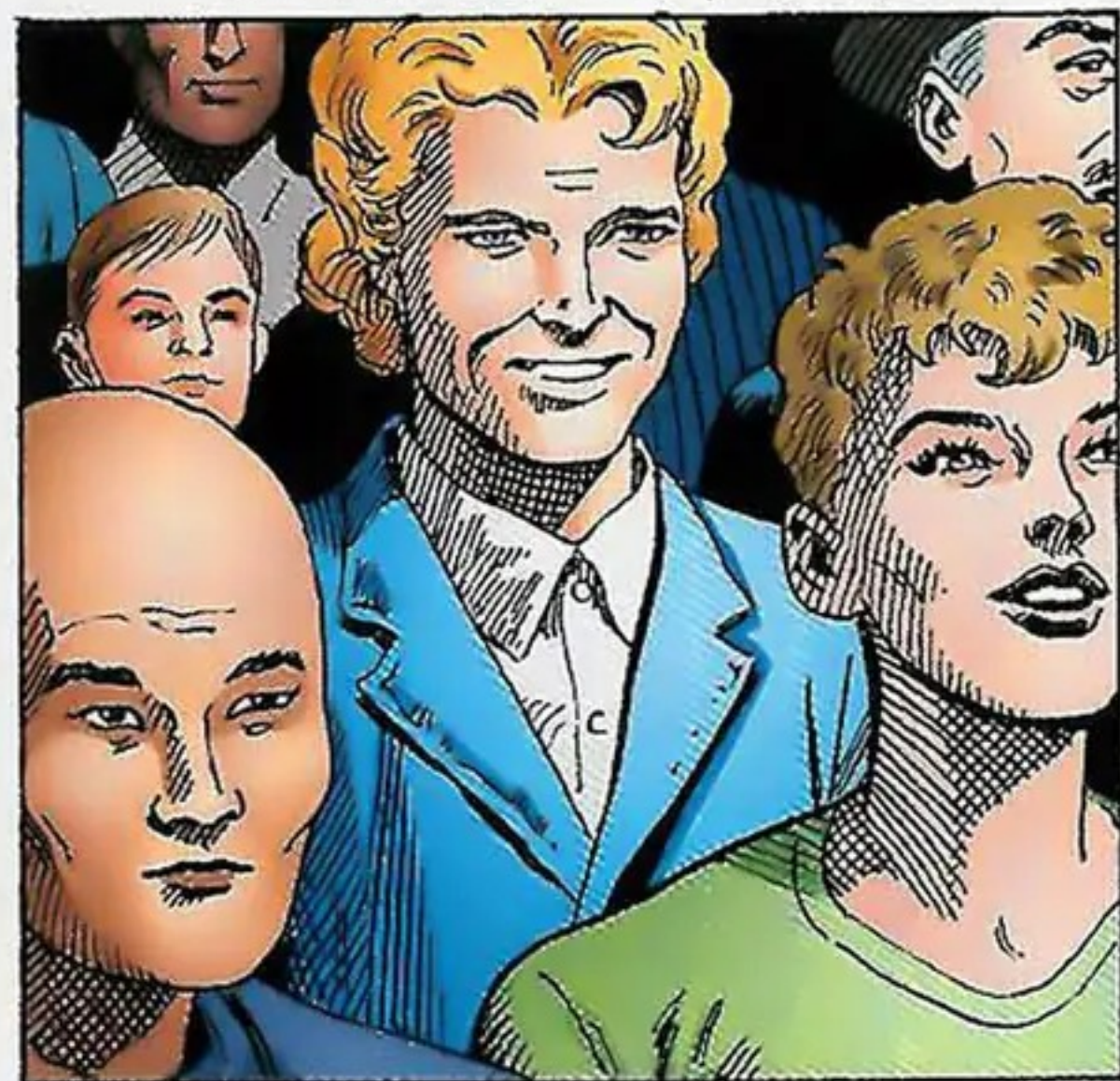
*"The premiere of the Mighty Hogarth was a huge success.
Charlotte was a perfect assistant--"*



*"--her soft curves the perfect
contrast to my mass."*

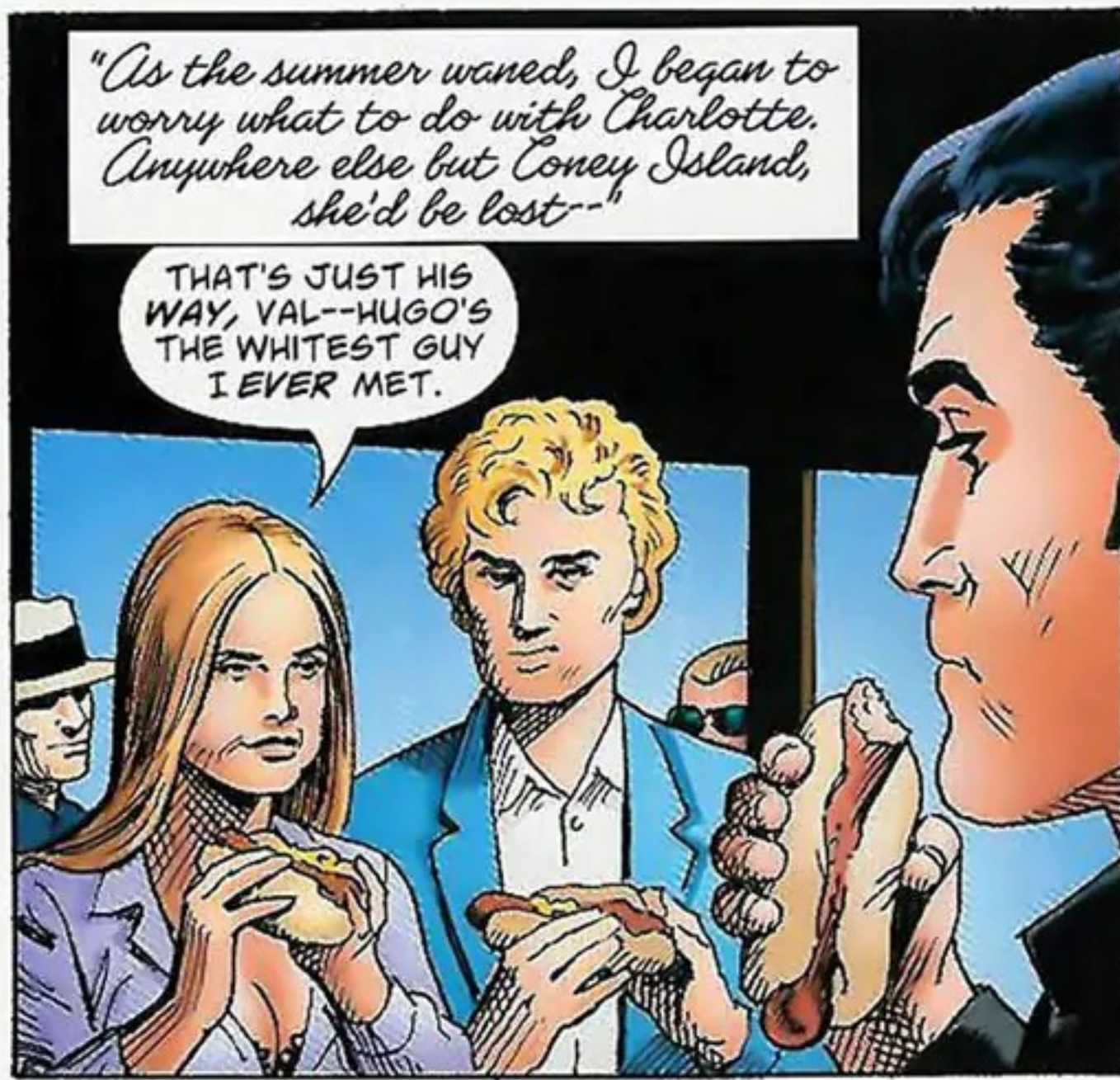


*"So summer settled into a rhythm--
with Valentine making it a trio."*



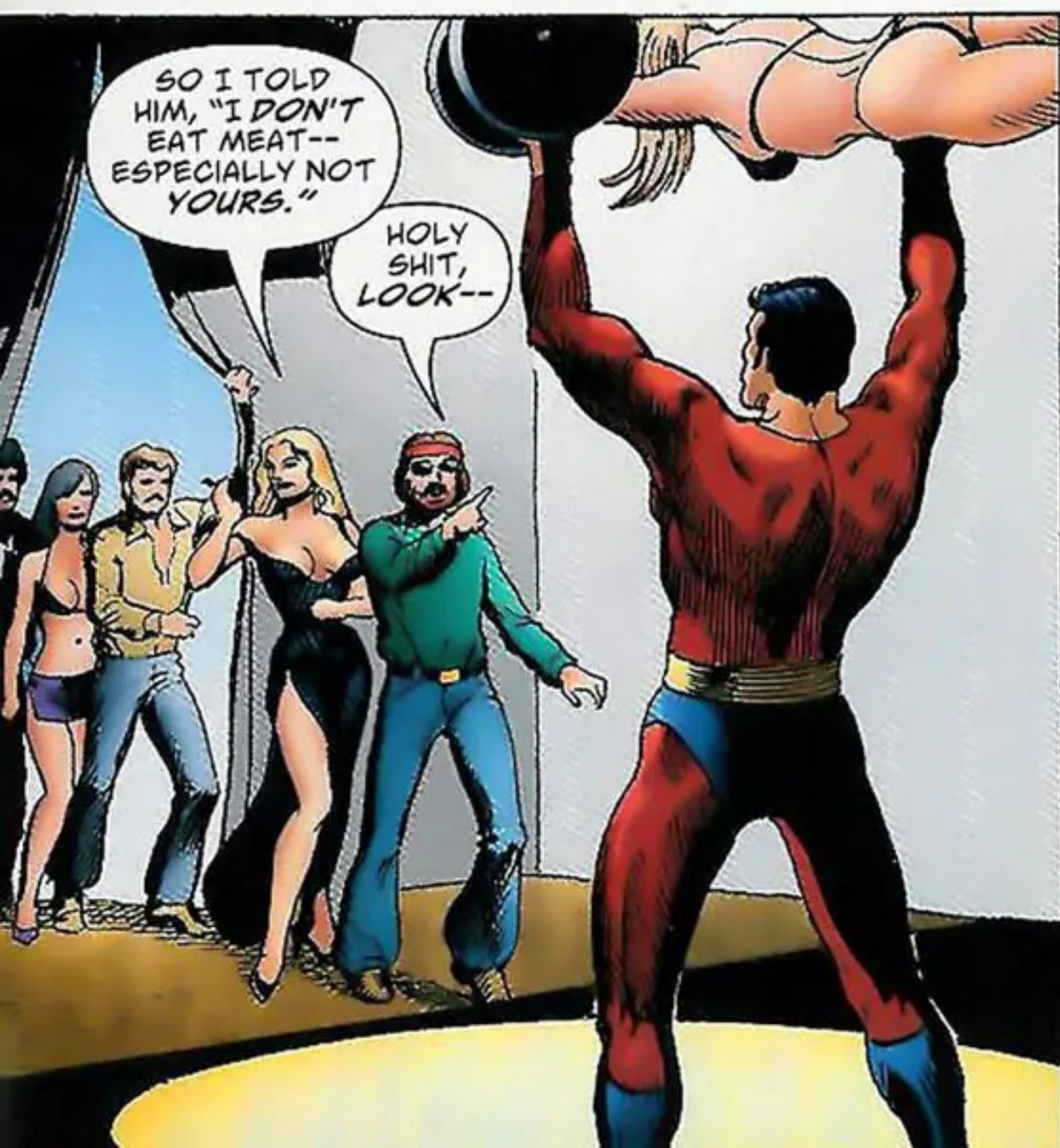
*"As the summer waned, I began to
worry what to do with Charlotte.
Anywhere else but Coney Island,
she'd be lost--"*

THAT'S JUST HIS
WAY, VAL--HUGO'S
THE WHITEST GUY
I EVER MET.



SO I TOLD
HIM, "I DON'T
EAT MEAT--
ESPECIALLY NOT
YOURS."

HOLY
SHIT,
LOOK--

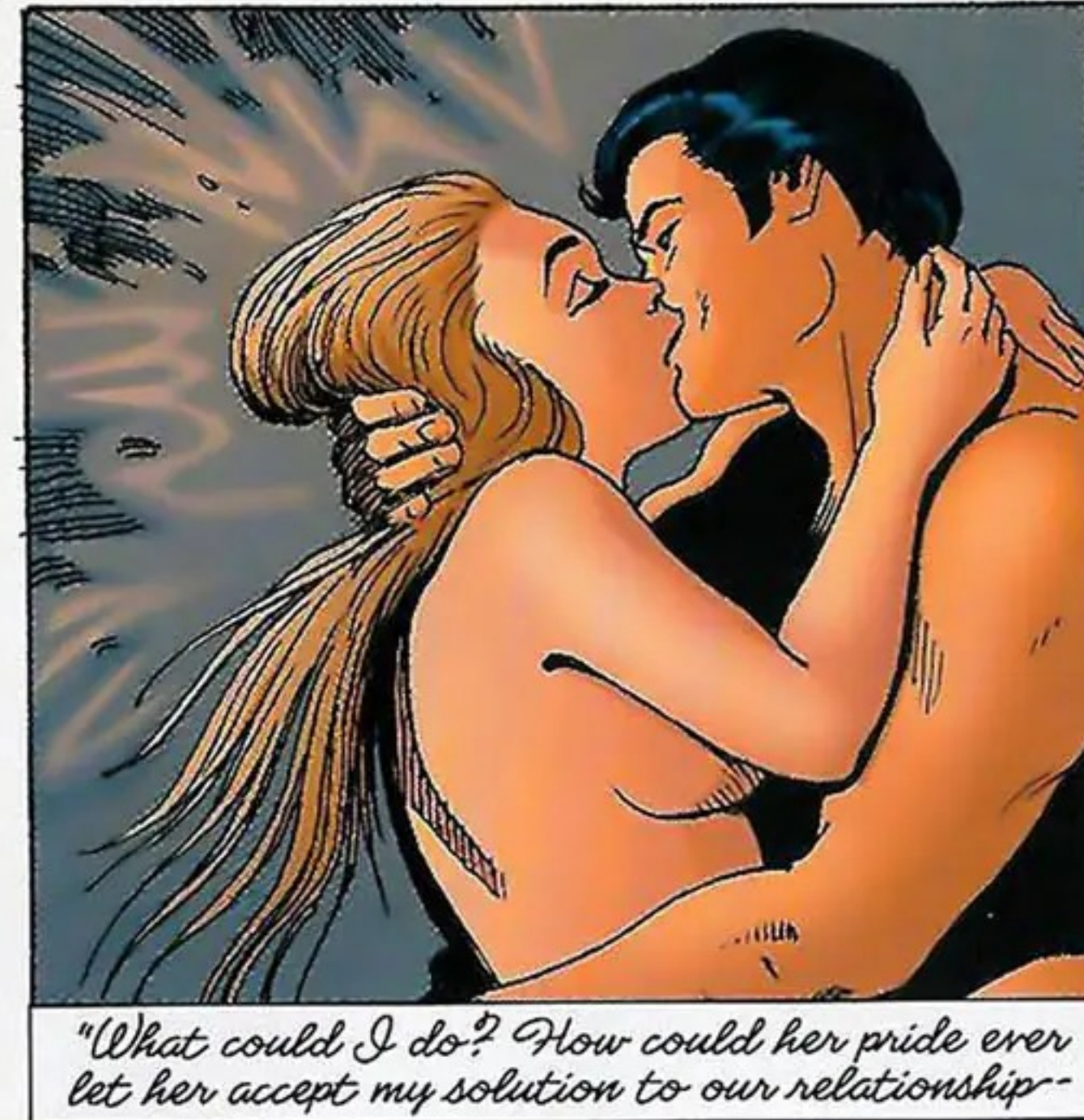
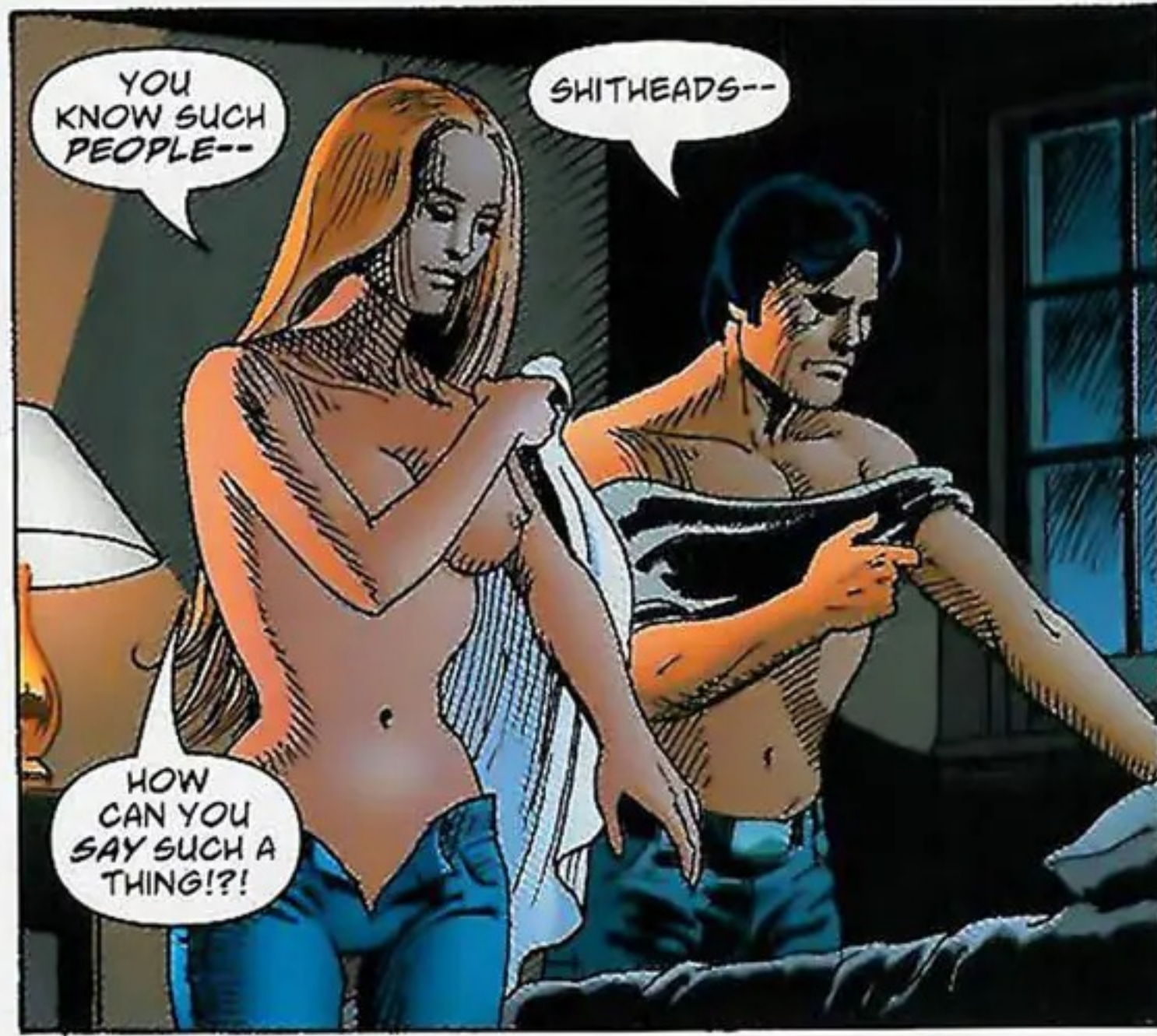


IT'S HUGO
DANNER!



"Jesus Christ--"







"No go to New York and get a job--"

"--while I returned to my studies--"

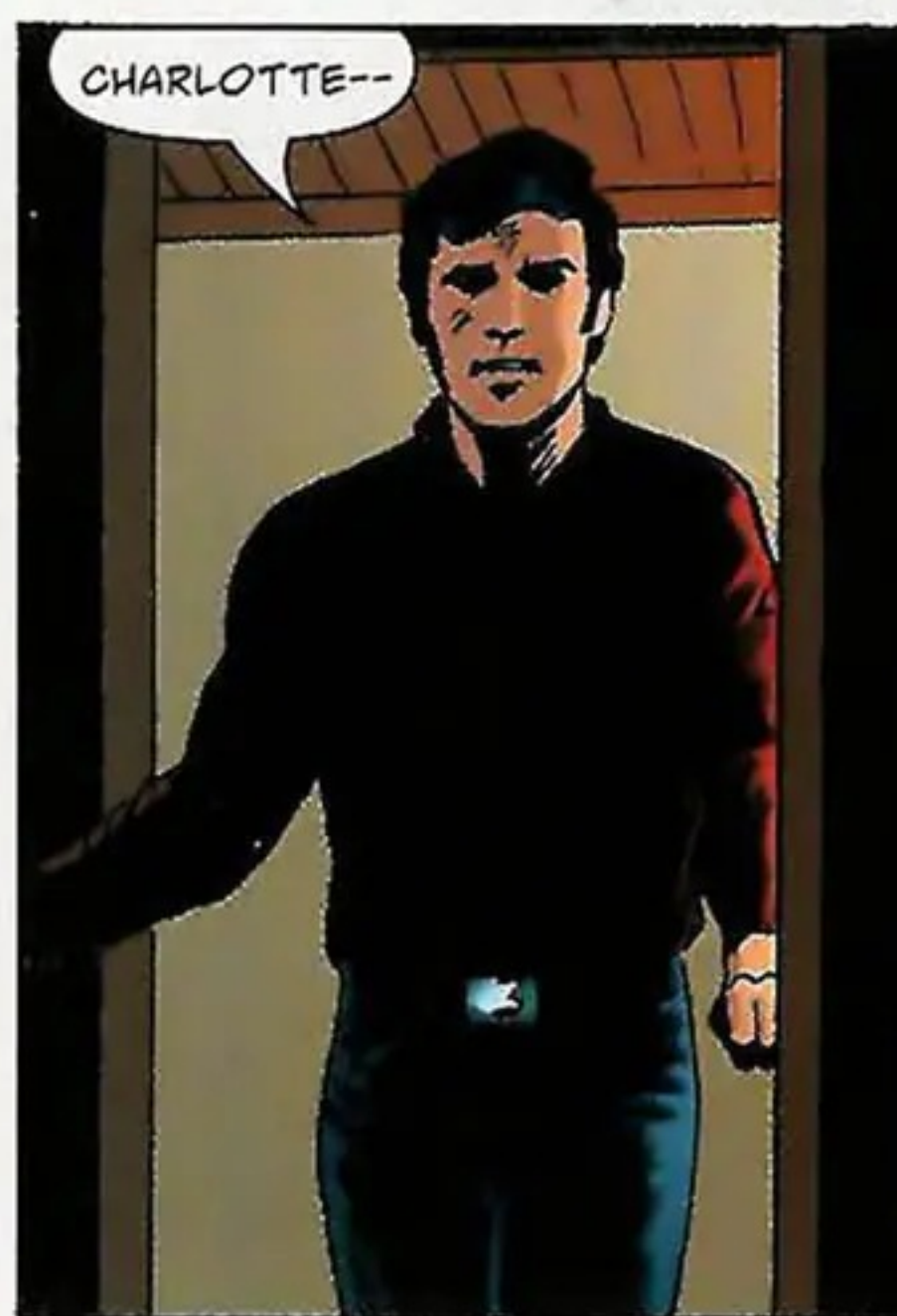


"I'd see her on vacations--send her money--"

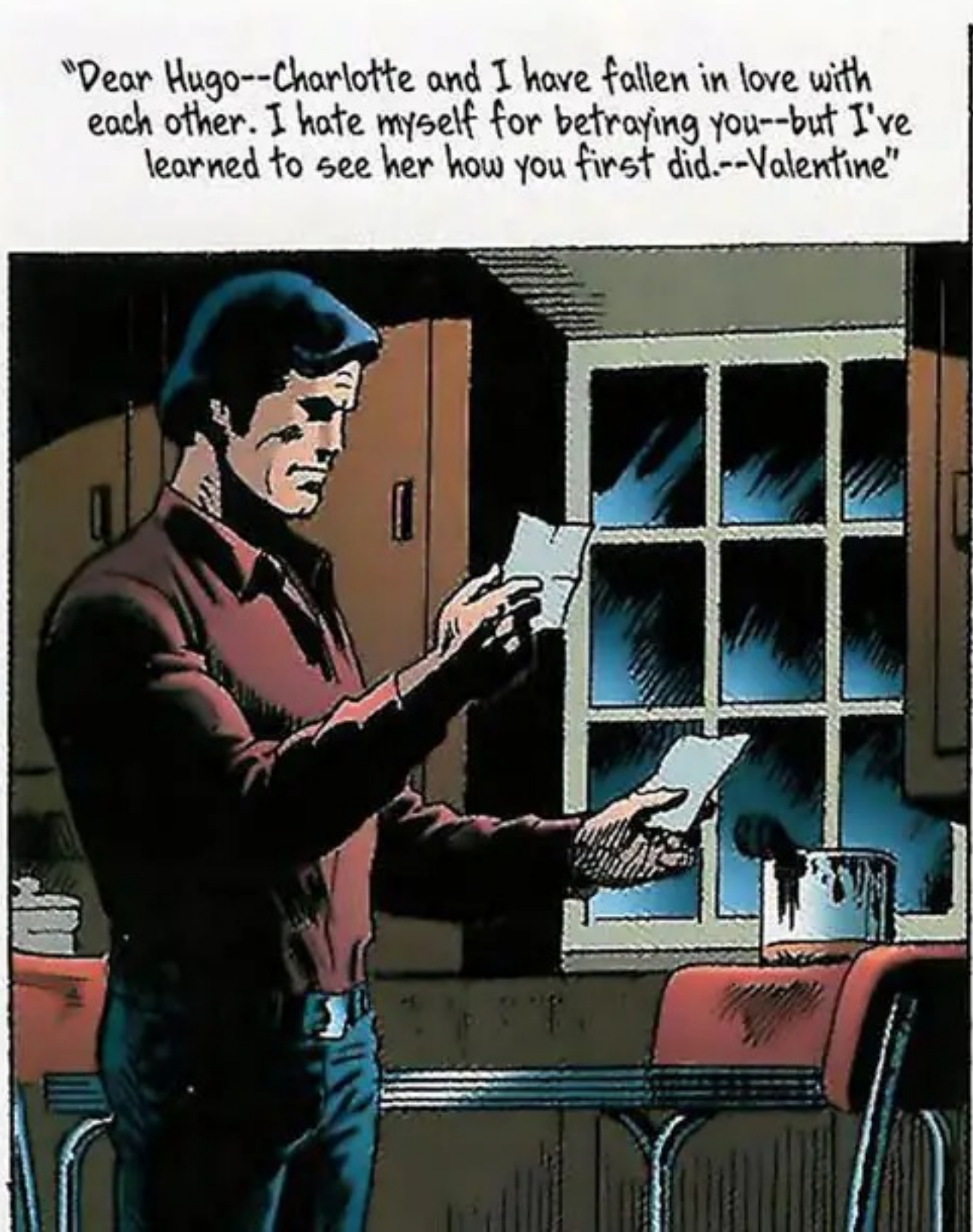
"but I know Charlotte--"



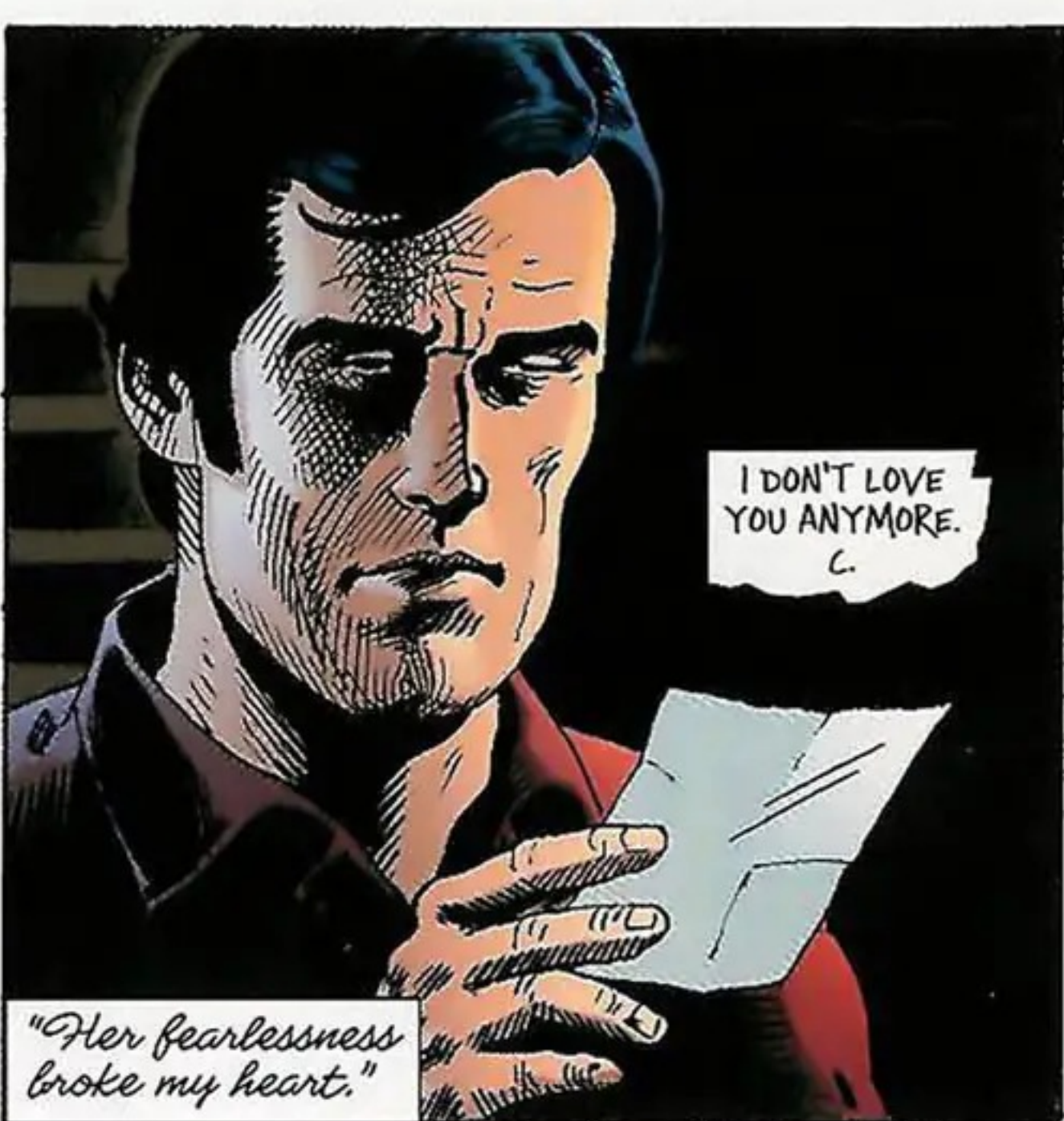
"--her pride would do nothing but shame me."



CHARLOTTE--



"Dear Hugo--Charlotte and I have fallen in love with each other. I hate myself for betraying you--but I've learned to see her how you first did--Valentine"

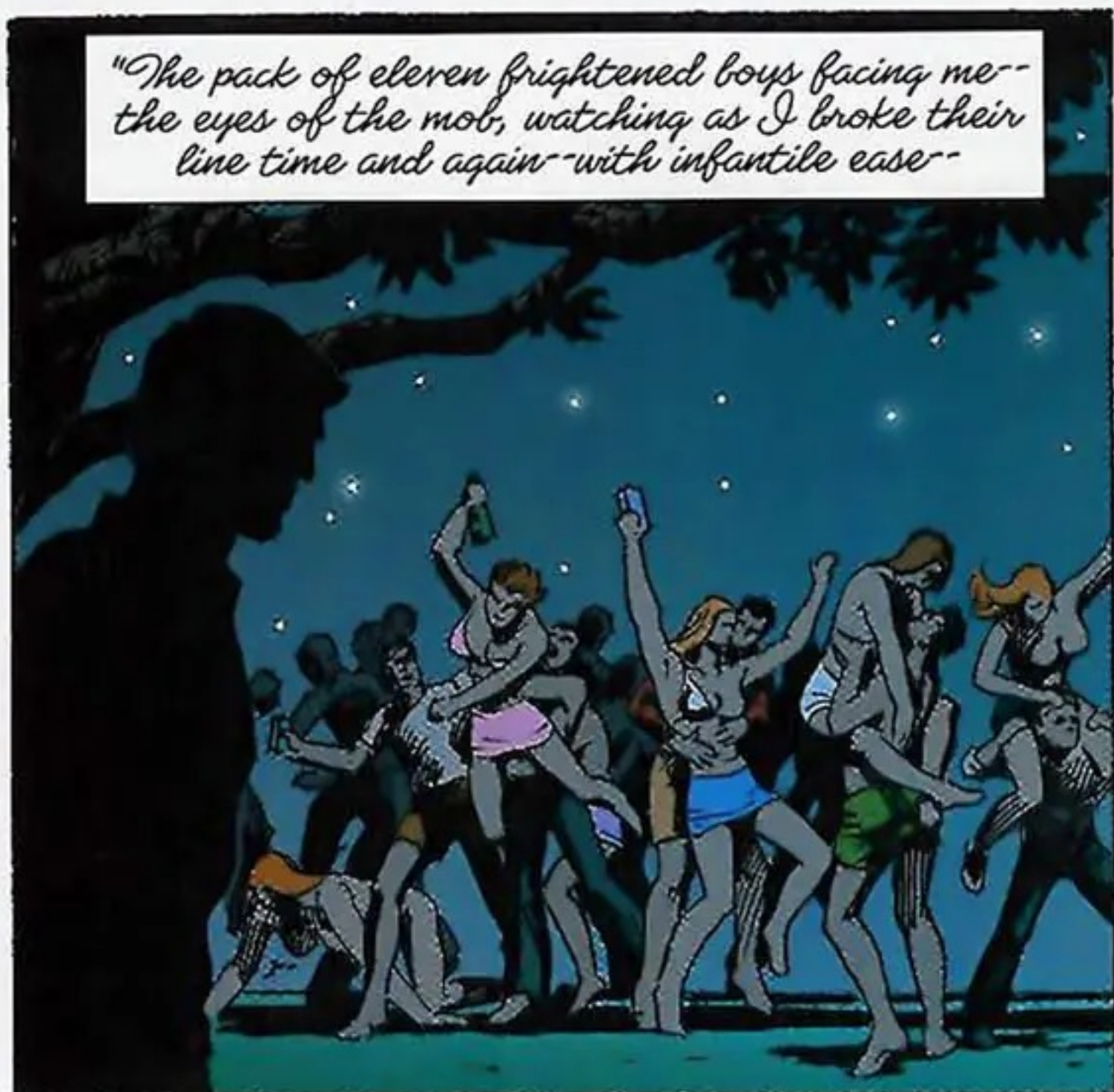


I DON'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE.
C.

"Her fearlessness broke my heart."



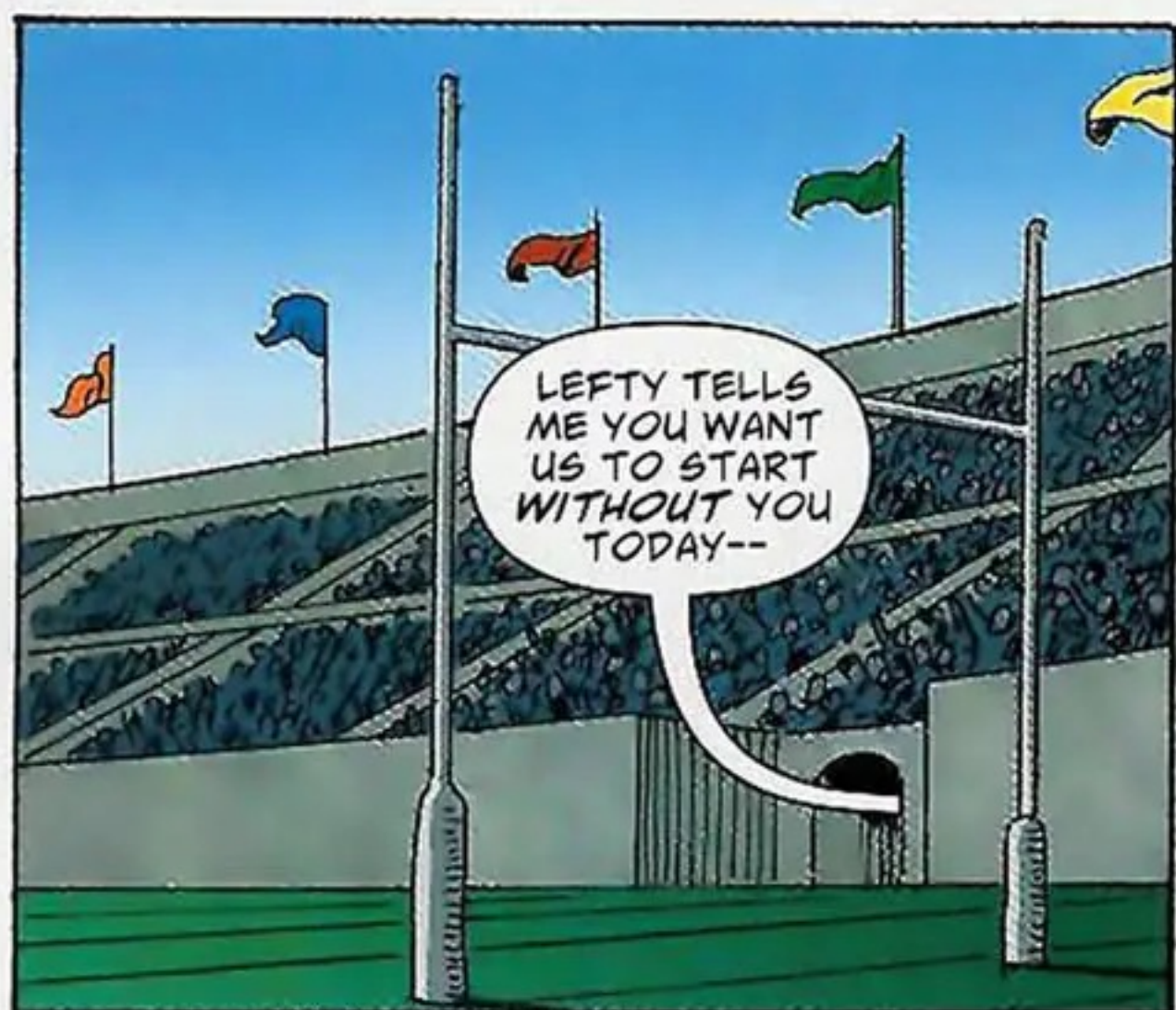
*"The pack of eleven frightened boys facing me--
the eyes of the mob, watching as I broke their
line time and again--with infantile ease--"*



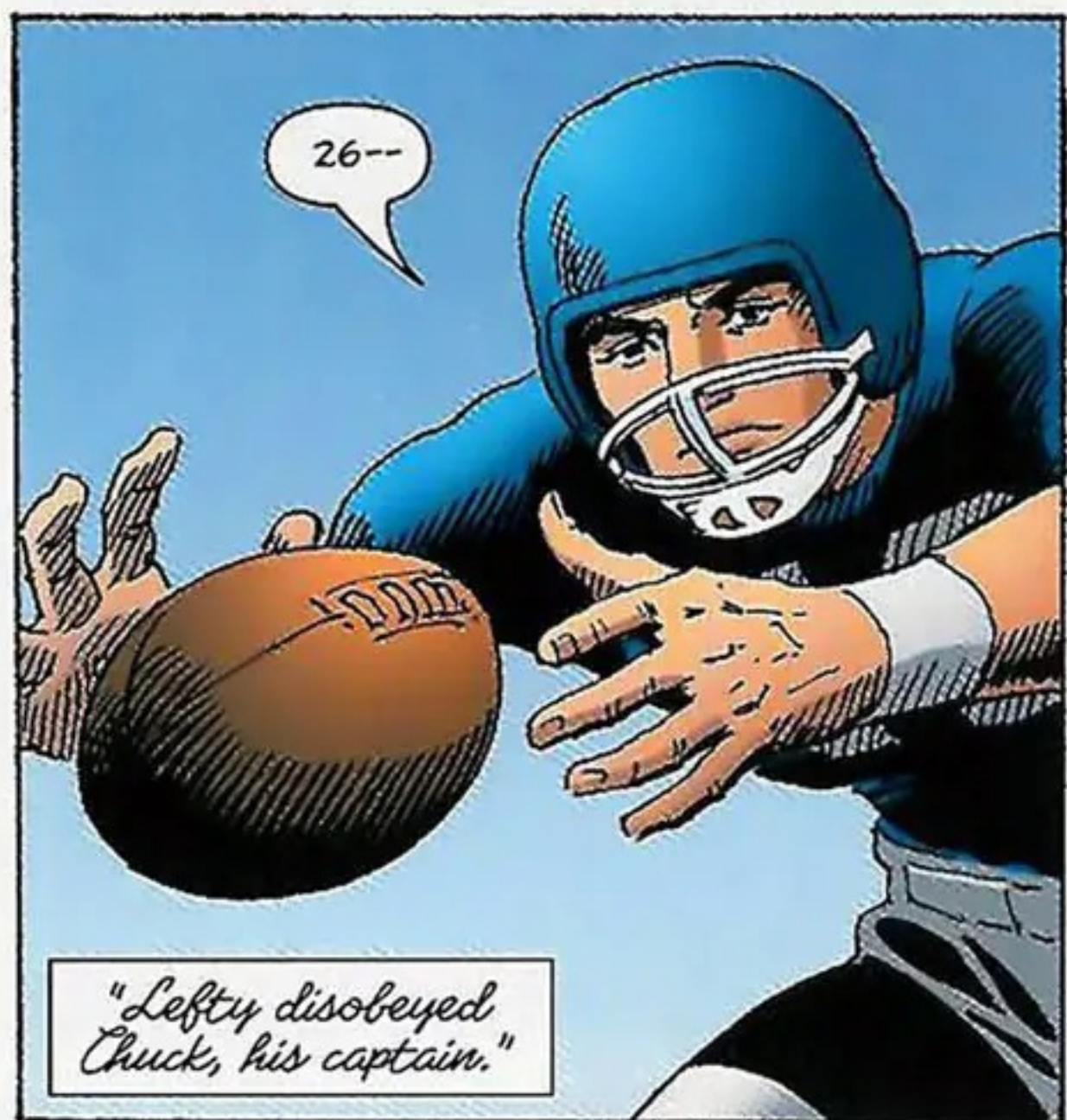
*"--and the resentment of my teammates--
hopelessly competing with me."*



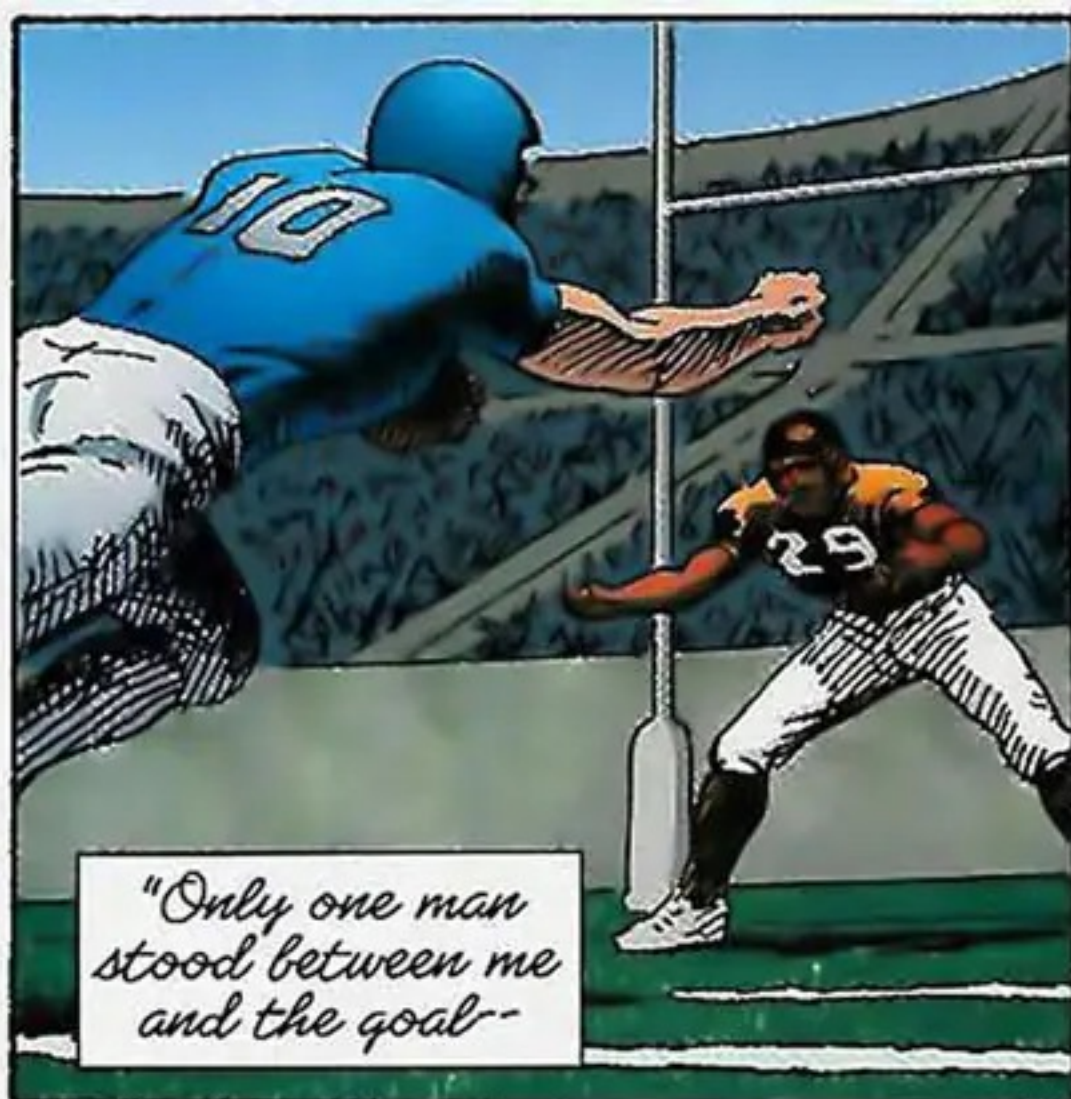
"The night ended--the week passed--and I hoped to get through the last game with no fanfare."





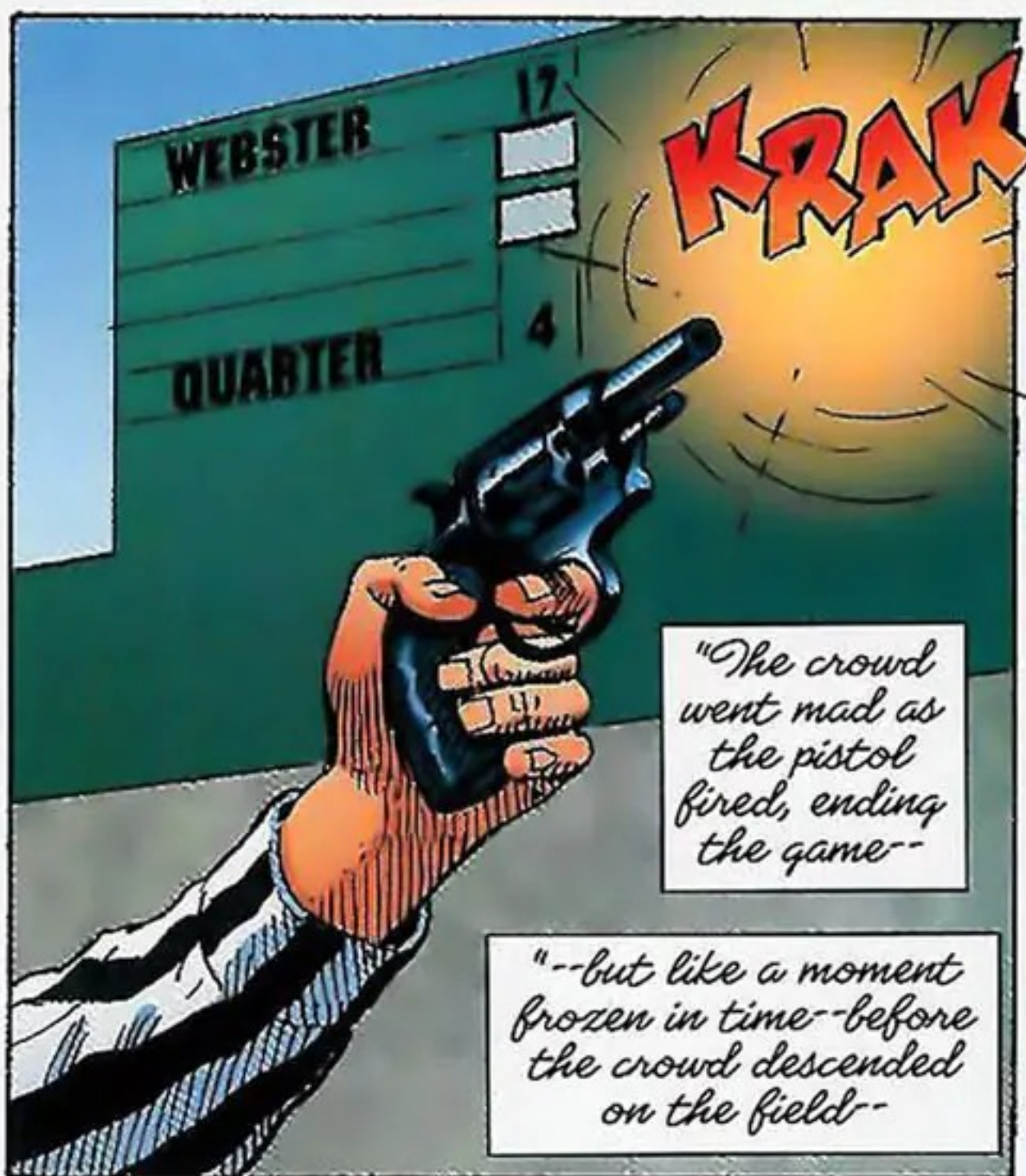


"The crowd roared-louder than the grunts of the men groaning in midair."



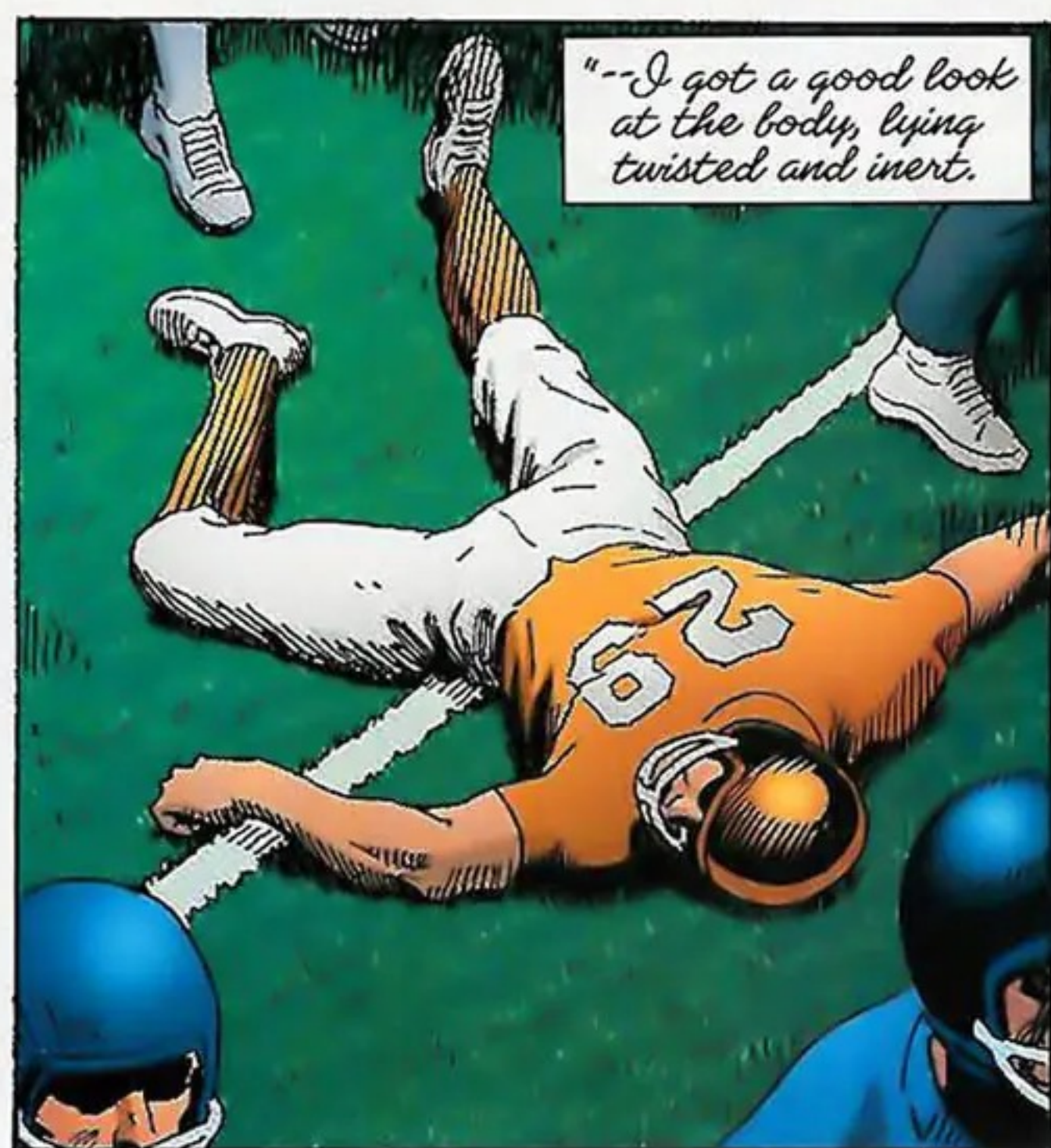
"Only one man stood between me and the goal--"

"--mercifully, I can't remember a thing."



"The crowd went mad as the pistol fired, ending the game--"

"--but like a moment frozen in time--before the crowd descended on the field--"



"--I got a good look at the body, lying twisted and inert."

DANNER

DANNER DANNER DANNER DANNER

"The pep squad
came for me."

"The cheers
were deafening--"

"--when suddenly the cheers disappeared--
first in pockets--"

"--then in a kind of palpable silence,
replaced by one hushed whispered
syllable..."

"Dead."

HIS NECK
WAS BROKEN
IN THREE
PLACES.

IT OCCURED
TO ME, YOU MIGHT
DO SOMETHING
FOOLISH.
LIKE TELL YOUR
STORY--

FORGET
IT, SON. THE
LEGAL BATTLE
WOULD PROBABLY
ACQUIT YOU--

IT
CROSSED
MY MIND...



--BUT
THINK OF YOUR
MOTHER--YOUR
FATHER...

OR THEY
MIGHT JUST
DECIDE TO
EXECUTE YOU AS
A MENACE.



THAT
MIGHT BE THE
BEST IDEA
YET.

THAT'S
BULLSHIT,
HUGO.

YOU HAVE
TO BE A MAN
HERE--

--AND
LIVE IT
DOWN.



LIVE IT
DOWN...

GOODNIGHT,
WOODY--AND
THANKS.

SLAM

"I sat there a moment, waiting for the
coach to make it to his car and drive off--



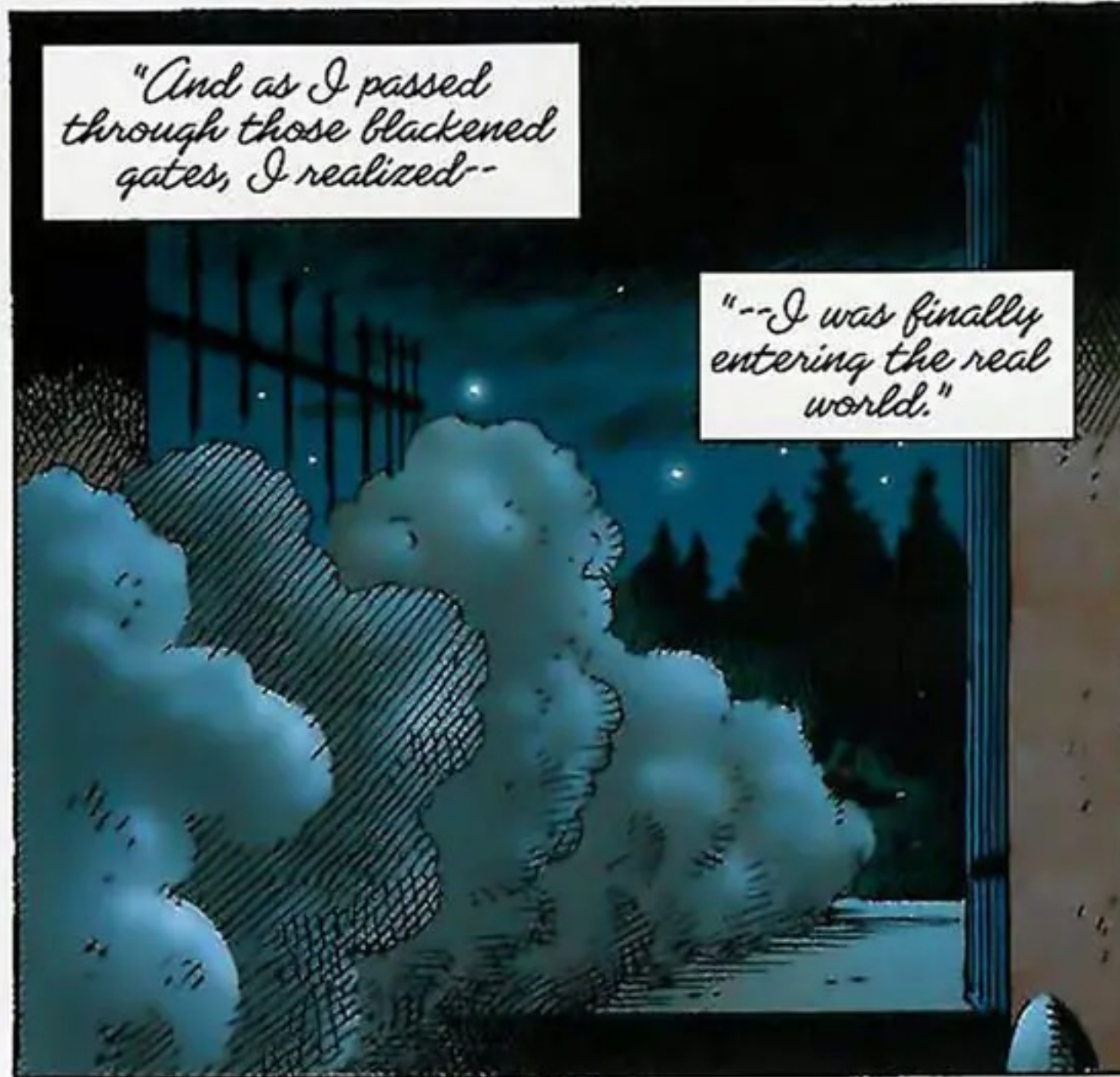
--then I grabbed
my coat and pack--



--and sneaked
outside.

"I never stole
a backward
glance--

--and said
goodbye to
Webster
forever.



"And as I passed
through those blackened
gates, I realized--

--I was finally
entering the real
world."



To Be Continued...

LEGEND tells the story of Hugo Danner, born with superhuman strength and invulnerability due to a scientific experiment carried out by his father. Chastised and feared by those who do not know his secret, Hugo enters adolescence a confused and angry young man. All of his powers cannot help him deal with his human emotions and failings.



Inspired by Philip Wylie's novel *Gladiator*, **LEGEND** is written by fan favorite Howard Chaykin (*CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN*, *MIGHTY LOVE*) and illustrated by comics great Russ Heath (*SGT. ROCK*).

LEGEND



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The background features a large, stylized yellow lightning bolt with a gradient from yellow to orange, set against a dark blue field. The bolt is flanked by vertical stripes of yellow and red, each adorned with a row of yellow flower-like icons. At the bottom center, there is a solid yellow square.

CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SCANNING!