

GREAT, MIGUEL. JUST GREAT.

I HIRE YOU AS THE HEAD OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF PARKER INDUSTRIES, AND WHAT DO YOU DO? YOU GO ON A FREAKING TV SHOW!

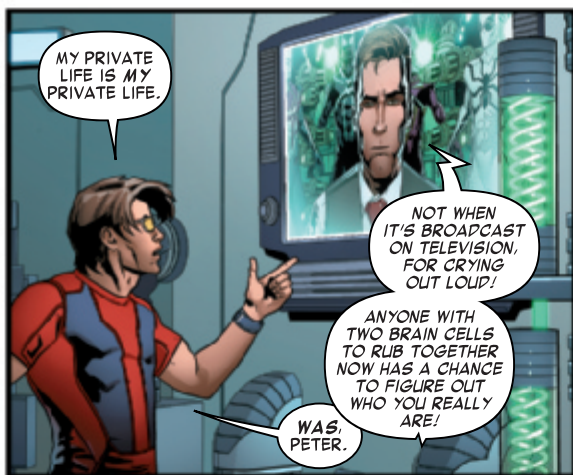
TEMPEST AGAIN. MIGUEL, I'M REALLY STARTING NOT TO BE THRILLED WITH THE INFLUENCE SHE HAS ON YOU...

I KNOW, PETER. I WAS THERE.

WHY DID YOU DO IT?!

BECAUSE TEMPEST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FUN.

AND THAT WOULD MEAN A LOT IF I SET ANY STORE ON YOUR OPINION ABOUT HER, PETER.



MY PRIVATE LIFE IS MY PRIVATE LIFE.

NOT WHEN IT'S BROADCAST ON TELEVISION, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

ANYONE WITH TWO BRAIN CELLS NOW HAS A CHANCE TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE!

WAS, PETER.



I'VE PUT THAT BEHIND ME AS WELL.

BETWEEN YOU, SILK, SPIDER-WOMAN, AND MILES, THERE'RE ENOUGH SPIDER-PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND THESE DAYS. ONE LESS ISN'T GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND ON THAT?

I MEAN, WE WERE ABLE TO INCORPORATE MY DESIGNS INTO YOUR NEW SUIT AND--

ALL VERY CLEVER. WEAR IT YOURSELF. OR GIVE IT TO MILES. BUT I'M DONE.

MORE OF TEMPEST'S INFLUENCE?

DOES SHE MISS ME RISKING MY LIFE? NO.

BUT IT'S MY DECISION.





WHAT'S UP?

"SHE'S NOT ONLY MERELY DEAD, SHE'S REALLY MOST SINCERELY DEAD."

UHM... WHAT?

WHO AM I REFERRING TO?

IS THIS A TRICK QUESTION?

NO. JUST ANSWER IT.

THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST.



THANK GOD, I THOUGHT I WAS LOSING MY MIND!

THAT OPTION MIGHT STILL BE ON THE TABLE.

JASMINE'S BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY SIX MONTHS AND SHE GETS THE REFERENCE.

AM I NEEDED IN HERE FOR SOMETHING ACTUALLY WORK RELATED? BECAUSE I WAS WORKING ON BRINGING MY NEW ASSISTANT UP TO SPEED.



THAT'S--

WAIT... YOU HAVE AN ASSISTANT?

YES.

BUT YOU'RE MY ASSISTANT!

THAT'S RIGHT.

HOW CAN MY ASSISTANT HAVE AN ASSISTANT?

GO ASK HR.



HEY! CAN WE GET BACK TO DISCUSSING SOMETHING WORTHWHILE, PLEASE?

RIGHT, RIGHT, SURE.

THE PRISON?

ABSOLUTELY.

WE MANAGED TO PULL THE RIGHT STRINGS AND GET THE FUNDING FOR THEIR PRISON YANKED. BOTTOM LINE: THE CITY ONLY NEEDS ONE FACILITY FOR HOUSING SUPER VILLAINS.



THEIR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED AND WORK HAS HALTED. A COMPANY CALLED **EMPIRE UNLIMITED** IS THE ONLY GROUP MAKING A PRISON, NOW.

ALCHEMAX IS OUT OF THE GAME.



AND IS WHAT WE DID TO ACCOMPLISH THAT LEGAL?

IS THERE ANY ANSWER THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY?

A VAGUE ONE.

I'VE NO IDEA, BUT I'LL GET BACK TO YOU.

EXCELLENT.