



THIS AIN'T PERSONAL, MAN. JUST ABOUT PROTECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IF YOU REALLY GREW UP IN DITMAS, YOU GET IT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M NOT DANGEROUS! I GOT A LITTLE H.V.A.C. BUSINESS ON CORTELYOU-- WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA DO TO ANYONE?

WE HEAR YOU GUYS GET POWERS WHEN YOU CHANGE. WE SEEN THE NEWS--PEOPLE WITH POWERS BURN THINGS DOWN EVERY OTHER DAY.

MAYBE THEY DON'T MEAN IT, BUT IT HAPPENS. WELL...

...IT AIN'T HAPPENIN' HERE.



POWERS?  
POWERS?



THIS IS WHAT I GOT. GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SNOWFLAKES. JUST LIGHT, NO DANGER TO ANYONE, UNLESS MAYBE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET SOME SLEEP.

SORRY, PAL. CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE.



BEAUTIFUL.

WHO'S TH--



SSSSSK



KRRK



THD



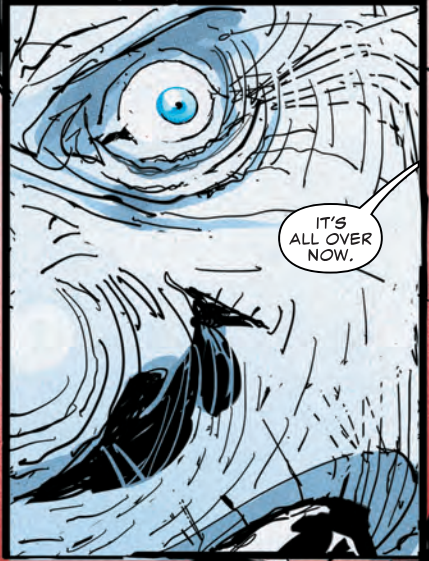
AAAGH!



TH-THANK YOU, I...I THINK YOU SAVED MY LIFE, BUT... UH...

...DID YOU JUST KILL THOSE GUYS?

DON'T WORRY.



IT'S ALL OVER NOW.

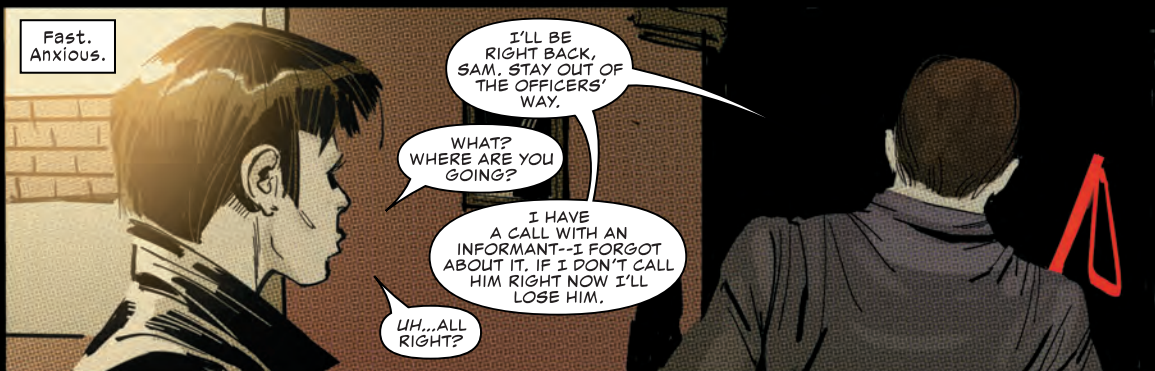


What I hear is a heartbeat.

ANY PRIVATE SPOTS AROUND HERE?

SURE. WHOLE BUILDING'S VACANT. OWNER JUST FINISHED A BIG RENOVATION--WAS PLANNING TO START LEASING THE FLOORS NEXT MONTH. JUST PICK A FLOOR.

THANKS, FOR EVERYTHING.



Fast. Anxious.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, SAM. STAY OUT OF THE OFFICERS' WAY.

WHAT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I HAVE A CALL WITH AN INFORMANT--I FORGOT ABOUT IT. IF I DON'T CALL HIM RIGHT NOW I'LL LOSE HIM.

UH...ALL RIGHT?



And little jittery movements, from the roof of the building across the street.



Someone's watching.

Someone nervous.

Every half-baked cop show likes to trot out the idea that criminals return to the scenes of their crimes.

Not true. Ask any cop. Criminals aren't idiots. Even the dumb ones aren't *that* dumb.

The exception is arsonists--they come back. Or, rather, they don't leave.

They like to watch the burn.

But this guy isn't a criminal. Or at least, he doesn't see himself that way.

He's an *artist*.

That...*thing* he made down there... it's one of his *works*, unveiled for the first time.

So now...he needs to know one thing. He has to know. It's why he's here, watching, sweaty and anxious, heart pounding.

