



I'M MARY. I USED TO BE ON TV...

THANK YOU, MARY. EVERYONE, LET'S MAKE ZACHARY FEEL LIKE A PART OF OUR GROUP, OKAY?



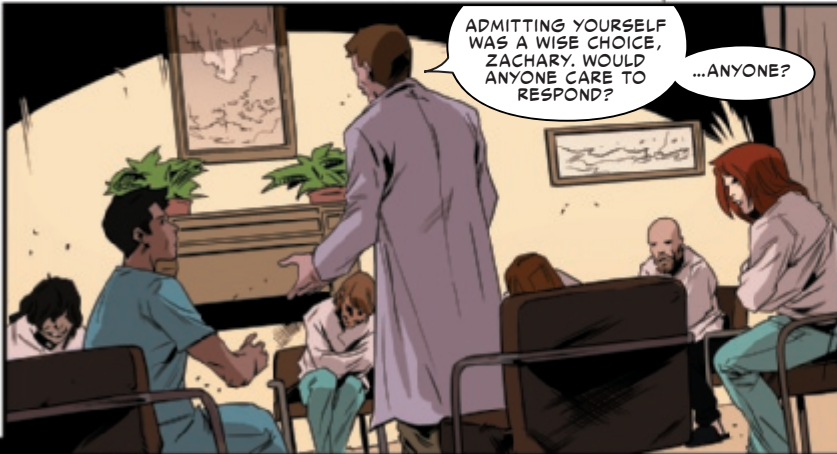
ZACHARY, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'D CARE TO SHARE? TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.



I...I JUST NEEDED TO GET OFF THE GRID, YOU KNOW, DR. CHARLES? GET OUT OF MY HEAD. MY, UH, FRIENDS ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHERE I AM, BUT I HAD TO HIDE...CHECK OUT, SO I'M HERE.

SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY AROUND ME ENDS UP GETTING HURT. I JUST WANT TO STOP...

STOP HURTING THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.



ADMITTING YOURSELF WAS A WISE CHOICE, ZACHARY. WOULD ANYONE CARE TO RESPOND? ...ANYONE?



I HURT PEOPLE TOO.



FINE, MARY. THANK YOU. I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY ENOUGH FOR TODAY, DON'T YOU?

FREE TIME, EVERYONE.

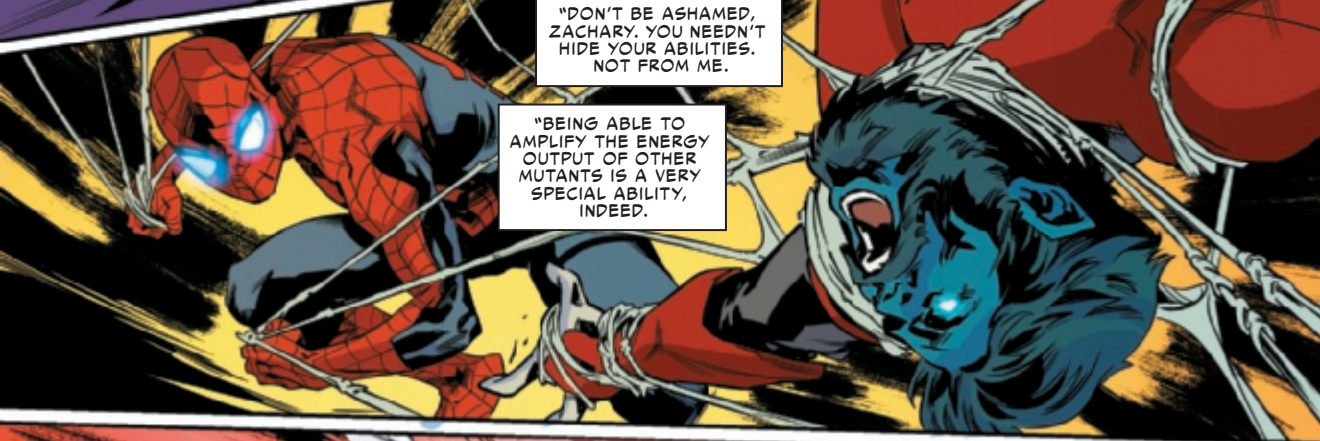
I'D LIKE TO HAVE A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH YOU, ZACHARY. WOULD YOU FOLLOW ME TO MY OFFICE?



"I THINK WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP EACH OTHER, ZACHARY.



"I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE A VERY TALENTED YOUNG MAN. A MUTANT, YES?"



"DON'T BE ASHAMED, ZACHARY. YOU NEEDN'T HIDE YOUR ABILITIES. NOT FROM ME.

"BEING ABLE TO AMPLIFY THE ENERGY OUTPUT OF OTHER MUTANTS IS A VERY SPECIAL ABILITY, INDEED.



"I BELIEVE I COULD PUT YOUR CONDUIT POWERS TO GOOD USE. TO HELP OTHERS.

"PEOPLE LIKE OUR VERY OWN MARY. YOUR ABILITIES COULD HELP FIX HER FRACTURED MIND.

"YOU COULD FINALLY OFFER HER THE SALVATION SHE'S NEEDED HER ENTIRE LIFE.

"DON'T YOU WANT TO HELP HER?"

EVERYONE TAKE THEIR SEATS! THE SERMON IS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

MARY... LISTEN TO ME. WHATEVER'S HAPPENING TO YOU, TO THESE PEOPLE, IT'S...OVERWHELMING YOU. YOU'RE BURNING OUT--

SILENCE.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD.

YOU ALL SEEK SOLACE IN FANTASIES. WE TELL ONE ANOTHER STORIES TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF THIS BRUTAL, UNFORGIVING WORLD.

SOME LOOK TO THE BIBLE. NOAH'S ARK. JONAH AND THE WHALE. DAVID AND GOLIATH.

THESE ARE SOME OF OUR OLDEST, MOST CHERISHED TALES...

...BUT NOWADAYS EVERYBODY LOOKS TO THEIR TVs. THEY BINGE ON THEIR FAVORITE SHOWS. GORGING ON STORIES. STORIES THAT GIVE MEANING TO OUR PITIFUL EXISTENCE.

WELL...I SAY IT'S TIME TO REWRITE IT ALL.

I AM HERE TO BRING ABOUT A NEW TALE. I'M WRITING A NEW BIBLE FOR YOU ALL TO BINGE ON.



YOU, MY
BEAUTIFUL
DISCIPLES, GET
TO FEAST YOUR
EYES ON IT
FIRST...

...AND I
THINK YOU'RE
GOING TO
EAT IT UP.