

BAGALIA.

IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU! I DIDN'T GET PAID, SO YOU CAN'T GET PAID!

TRUST ME, **NOBODY'S** MORE FRUSTRATED THAN I AM! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH A VINTAGE FIRST EDITION SPIDER-SLAYER COSTS IN THE COLLECTOR MARKET?! THAT COMES OUT OF MY POCKET NOW!

WELL OF **COURSE** I TRY TO GET THE MONEY UPFRONT! BUT LOOK, I'LL LEVEL WITH YA-- IT'S A BUYER'S MARKET FOR ELABORATE DEATH TRAPS RIGHT NOW!

THE SAD REALITY IS SUPER VILLAINS THESE DAYS. THEY JUST DON'T HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR THE **FINER** THINGS. IT'S JUST WHAM, BAM, SMASH THROUGH A WALL, GO STRAIGHT FOR THE REVENGE KILL--

IT'S BEEN **TERRIBLE** FOR BUSINESS! I GOT A WAREHOUSE FULL OF ACID VATS I'M NEVER GONNA BE ABLE TO UNLOAD. AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON THE SPIKE WALLS-- I REALLY TOOK A BATH ON THOSE THINGS.

*?*SIGH*?* NOBODY WANTS TO TOY WITH THEIR ARCHENEMESIS. YOU KNOW, STRAP THEM IN A CHAIR AND MAKE THEM LISTEN TO THE WHOLE BRILLIANT MASTER PLAN... IT'S JUST DEPRESSING, I TELL YA. MAKES YOU YEARN FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS--

CRASH

--A SIMPLER TIME.

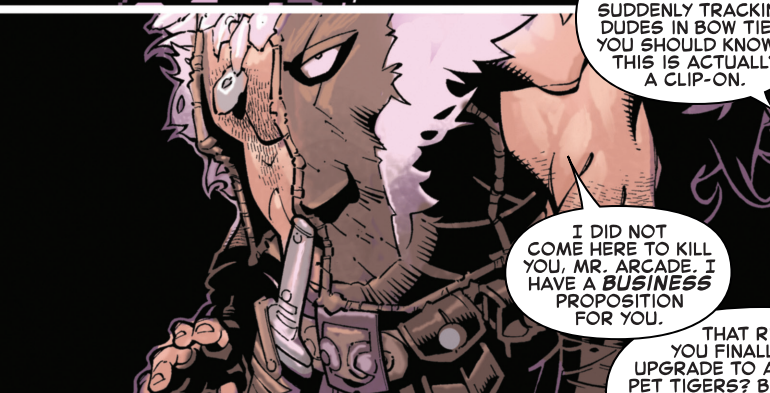
I'M GONNA HAVE TO CALL YOU BACK.

YOU--



--YOU ARE THE ONE THEY CALL ARCADE.

AND YOU'RE KRAVEN THE HUNTER. SORRY, YOUR CHEST HAIR PRECEDES YOU.



LISTEN, IF YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE SUDDENLY TRACKING DUDES IN BOW TIES, YOU SHOULD KNOW-- THIS IS ACTUALLY A CLIP-ON.

I DID NOT COME HERE TO KILL YOU, MR. ARCADE. I HAVE A **BUSINESS** PROPOSITION FOR YOU.

THAT RIGHT? YOU FINALLY WANNA UPGRADE TO ANIMATRONIC PET TIGERS? BECAUSE THAT REALLY IS THE SAFER, MORE ETHICAL CHOICE, AND LUCKY FOR YOU I GOT SOME IN STOCK--



NO--

--I WANT YOU TO **BUILD** ME SOMETHING.



WE
ALL NEED
FAMILY.

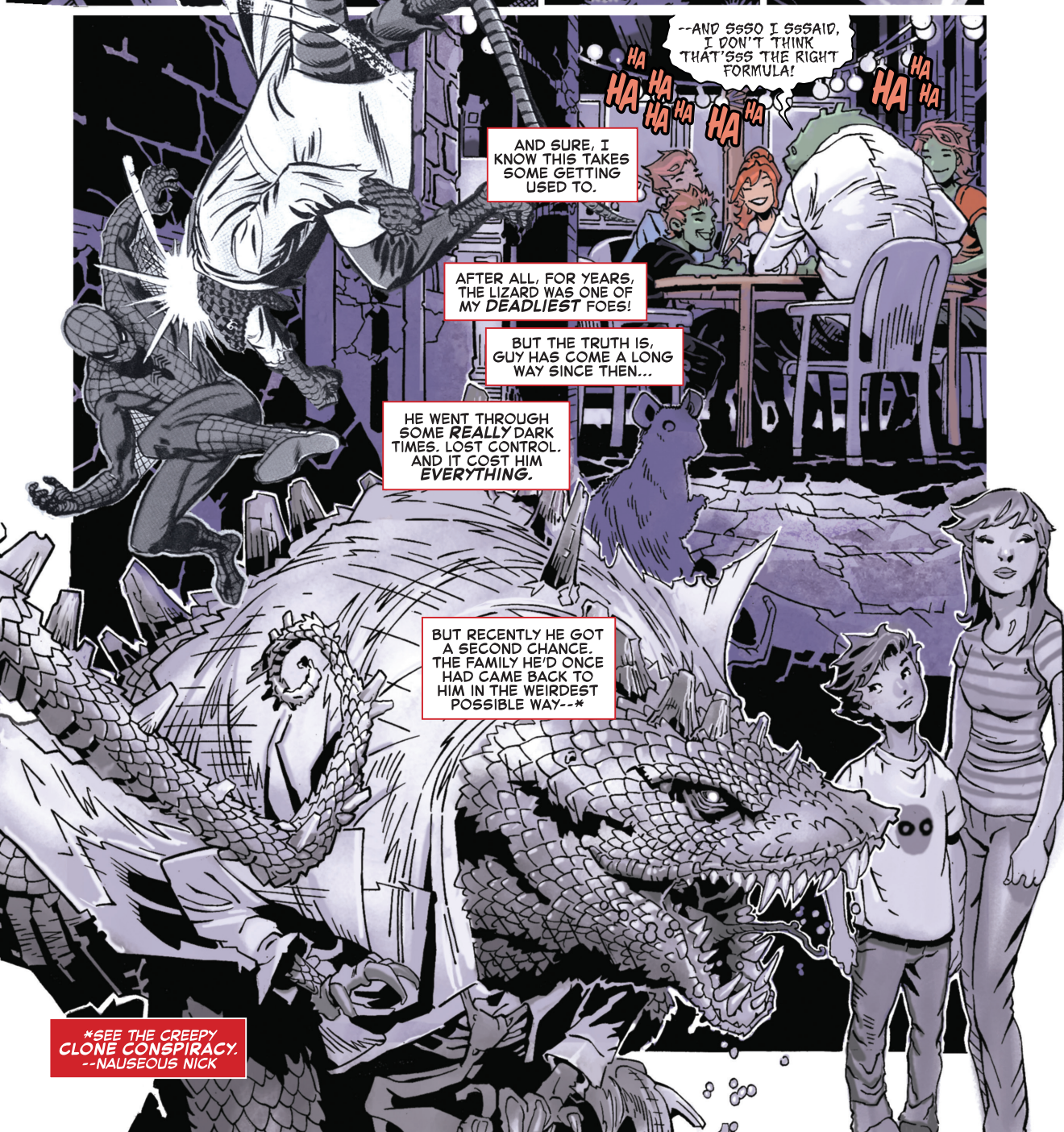
THE PEOPLE WHO
WILL STAND BY US NO
MATTER WHAT--THE
ONES WHO MAKE US
WHO WE ARE.

WE NEED THEM TO
SUPPORT US WHEN TIMES
ARE TOUGH, AND TO KEEP
US GROUNDED WHEN
TIMES ARE GOOD.



YES SIR, WE ALL NEED
TO BE ABLE TO GO
HOME SOMETIMES--

--EVEN WHEN THAT
HOME IS DEEP IN
THE SEWERS OF
NEW YORK.



--AND SSSO I SSSAID,
I DON'T THINK
THAT'SSS THE RIGHT
FORMULA!

AND SURE, I
KNOW THIS TAKES
SOME GETTING
USED TO.

AFTER ALL, FOR YEARS,
THE LIZARD WAS ONE OF
MY DEADLIEST FOES!

BUT THE TRUTH IS,
GUY HAS COME A LONG
WAY SINCE THEN...

HE WENT THROUGH
SOME *REALLY* DARK
TIMES. LOST CONTROL.
AND IT COST HIM
EVERYTHING.

BUT RECENTLY HE GOT
A SECOND CHANCE.
THE FAMILY HE'D ONCE
HAD CAME BACK TO
HIM IN THE WEIRDEST
POSSIBLE WAY--*

*SEE THE CREEPY
CLONE CONSPIRACY.
--NAUSEOUS NICK

--OKAY, MAYBE IT ACTUALLY DID GET WEIRDER WHEN HE HAD TO INJECT THEM WITH HIS LIZARD SERUM TO KEEP THEM ALIVE.

AND THE THING IS, THE GUY IS TRYING TO PAY THOSE SECOND CHANCES FORWARD. HE RECENTLY GOT RE-ADMITTED TO THE FACULTY AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

SO WHAT DOES HE IMMEDIATELY DO? TRY TO GET ME RE-ENROLLED THERE AFTER I HAD MY ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS REVOKED IN A PLAGIARISM SCANDAL! SO YEAH--

--MAKE MINE LIZARD, I GUESS.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY ENJOYING TEACHING AGAIN, PROFESSOR CONNORS.

OH HE ISSS, MJ. HE WON'T SSSSTOP GOING ON ABOUT IT--

I HAVE TO ADMIT, BEING BACK INSIDE A LAB DOESSS FEEL GOOD. WHICH YOUR BOYFRIEND HERE COULD TELL YOU ASSSS WELL--

--IF HE'D TAKE ME UP ON MY OFFER.

SORRY FOR DRAGGING MY FEET, DOC--IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT GRATEFUL--

NONSSSENSSE, PETE--I'M ONLY GIVING YOU A HARD TIME. THE NEW SSEMESTER DOESN'T EVEN SSSSTART FOR WEEKSS, YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO DECCIDE--

YOU SHOULD DO IT, PETE--

--I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO GO BACK TO SSSCHOOL.

BILLY, WE DISCUSSED THIS--

BUT I SSSSTILL DON'T GET IT!

YOU'RE NOT A MUTANT, BILLY, THAT WOULDN'T BE AN OPTION--

IT'S NOT LIKE I'D BE THE ONLY KID THAT DOESN'T LOOK NORMAL--THERE'S A WHOLE SSSCHOOL FOR MUTANT KIDS--



OKAY, BUT JASSON DANFORTH SSSAYS THERE'S A NEW KID IN MY OLD CLASS THAT HAS HORNS!!! HE'S AN ALIEN OR SSSOMETHING! AND NOBODY CARES--

AND HOW EXACTLY DID YOU HEAR THAT? YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TALK TO YOUR OLD FRIENDS--

IT'SSS A FAKE ACCOUNT! NOBODY KNOWS IT'SSS ME! I CAN--

NO!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! YOU ARE TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH THE OUTSSIDE WORLD! IT'SSS TOO DANGEROUSSS!

DANGEROUSSS FOR WHO?! FOR ME--



--OR FOR EVERYBODY ELSE?!



YOU KEEP SSSAYING YOU WANT TO PROTECT ME, BUT I THINK THAT'S A LIE! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SSSCARED OF, DAD--

--YOU'RE AFRAID I'M GONNA BE A MONSSSTER LIKE YOU!

