

He's back.

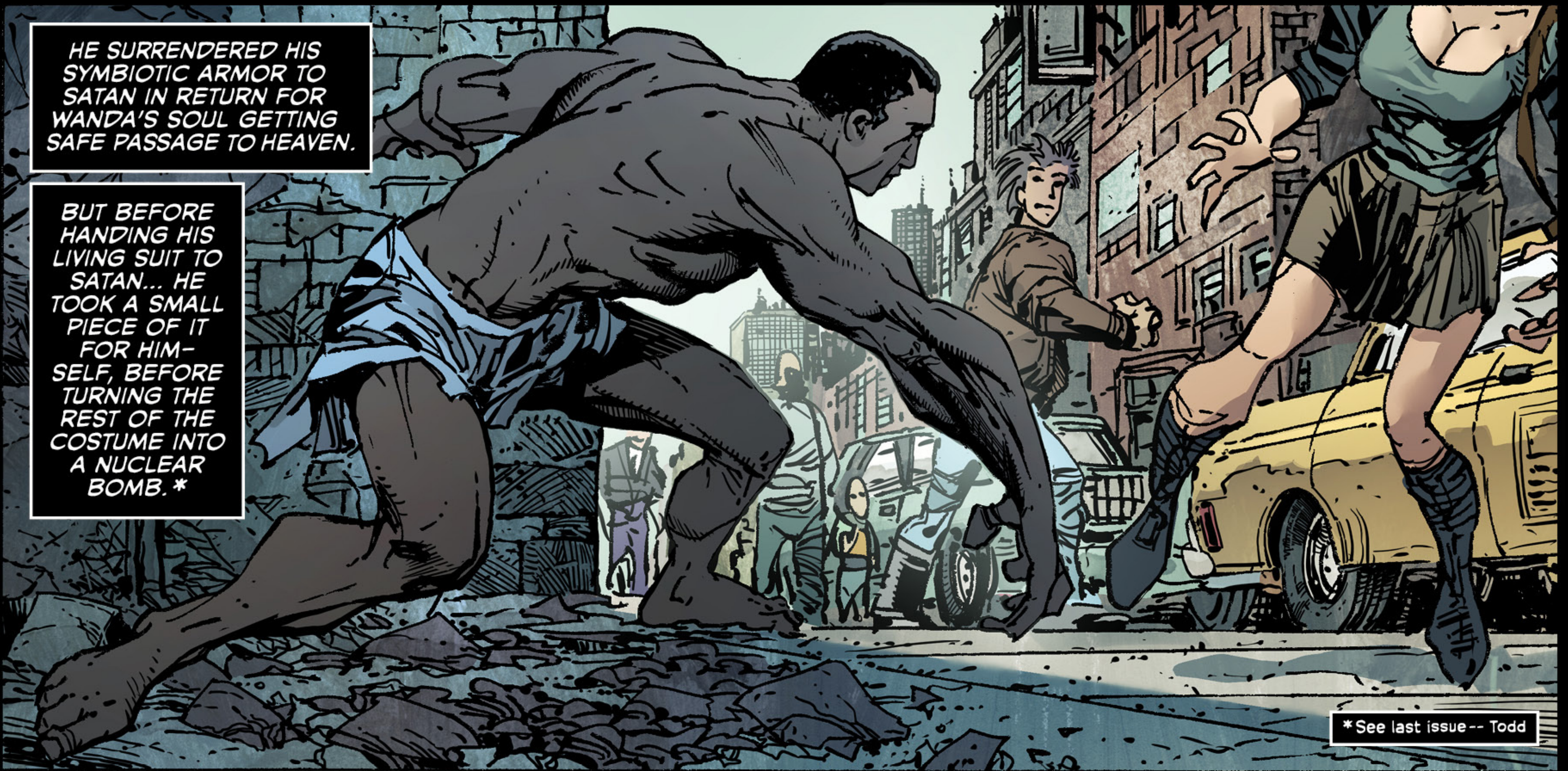
SOMEHOW AL SIMMONS MADE IT. THOUGH HE HAD MOMENTS OF DOUBT, HE HAS WALKED THROUGH TOTAL DARKNESS OUTSIDE HELL'S 'TUNNEL.' HAD IT BEEN A DAY? A WEEK? HE'D LOST ALL TRACK OF TIME.

WHAT HE DOES KNOW IS HE SEALED THE PORTAL THAT BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL HAD USED TO SEND THEIR SERVANTS ONTO EARTH. FOR NOW, NO MORE AGENTS FROM GOD OR SATAN WILL BE ALLOWED BACK. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE HAS A NEW MISSION, GIVEN TO HIM AS A LAST REQUEST FROM THE ONLY WOMAN HE HAD EVER LOVED.

"PROTECT THEM. SAVE THEM. SAVE EVERYONE. AND BECOME THE HERO THEY NEED." THOSE WERE THE WORDS WANDA, HIS FORMER WIFE, SPOKE BEFORE LEAVING HIM FOREVER. AND NOW THAT HE'S BACK-- HE PLANS TO LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE HONORING HER REQUEST.



THOUGH HE'LL HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT THE AID OF HIS SPAWN COSTUME.





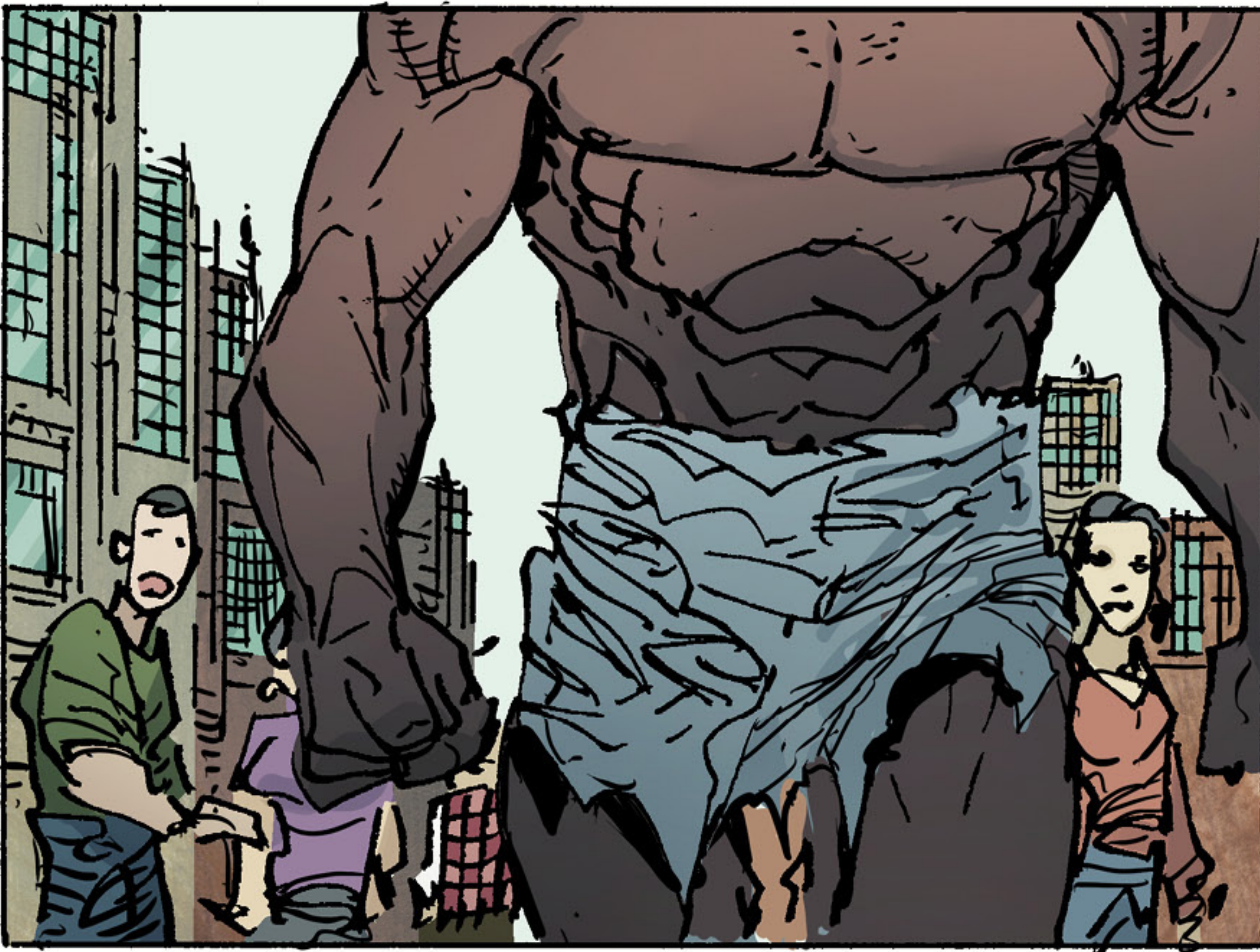
AND TO NEVER BE
'ABSENT' FROM
MANKIND'S NEEDS
AGAIN. THAT'S HOW HIS
ENEMIES WERE ABLE TO
KILL WANDA-- BECAUSE
HE WASN'T THERE.
HE'D LEFT EARTH AND
CREATED A VACUUM
FOR EVIL TO THRIVE.*

HE WON'T MAKE
THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.



THERE HE IS.
THAT'S THE GUY
I WAS TALKING
ABOUT.

I'LL
TAKE IT
FROM
HERE.



EXCUSE ME,
SIR. I NEED TO
ASK YOU A FEW
THINGS.

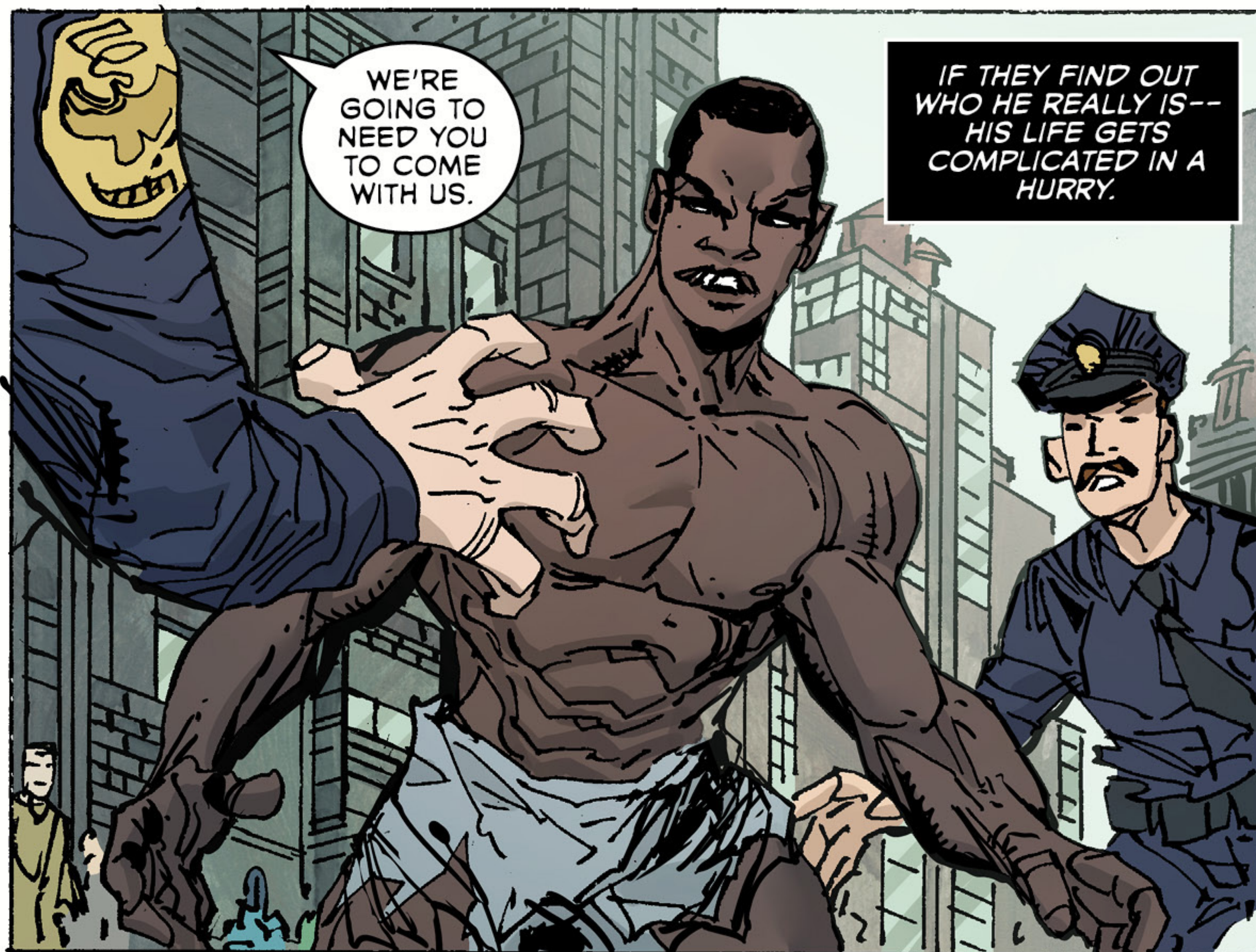


LOOK,
OFFICER, I'M
SORRY ABOUT
HOW I LOOK,
BUT...

I NEED TO
SEE
SOME
I.D.

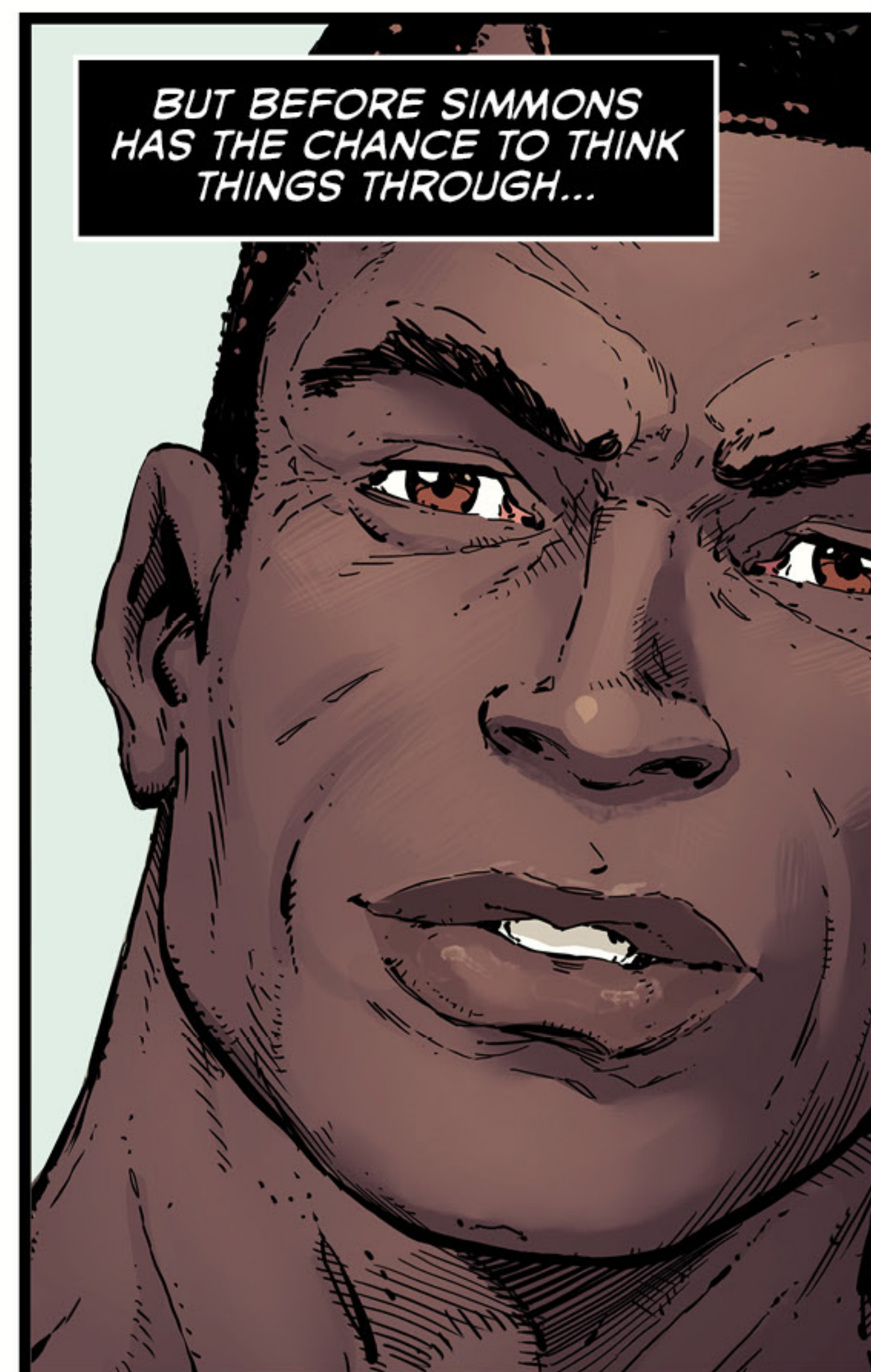
*He left earth in issues 185 thru 250 -- Todd





WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU TO COME WITH US.

IF THEY FIND OUT WHO HE REALLY IS-- HIS LIFE GETS COMPLICATED IN A HURRY.



BUT BEFORE SIMMONS HAS THE CHANCE TO THINK THINGS THROUGH...



...HIS INSTINCTS TAKE OVER THE MOMENT THEY TOUCH HIM.



WHUP



THUK



DAMN YOU!