



MARVEL®
25TH
ANNIVERSARY

A **37** PAGE BOOK-LENGTH EPIC!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THIS
IS
IT!

THE RETURN
OF THE

HOBGOBLIN!

PROFESSIONAL
WALLFLOWER™

BUT HE
HOLD ON
SPIDER-MAN!
UNCLE BEN
--DEAD!
NO! NO, IT
CAN'T BE!

IN THIS
ISSUE:
**THE ORIGIN
OF SPIDER-MAN!**
THE ORIGINAL, UNABRIDGED
CLASSIC!



STAN LEE PRESENTS:

"THE CHOICE AND THE CHALLENGE!"

I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!

THE TIME TO STRIKE IS NOW!

I'LL NEVER GET A BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO DESTROY MY MOST HATED ENEMY!

SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE!

HE'S DESTINED TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF HOBGOBLIN!

TOM DEFALCO
WRITER

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PENCILER

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FINISHED ART

JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

NEL YOMTOV
COLORIST

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, SPIDER-MAN COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED ME--AND HUMILIATED ME!

NOT THIS TIME!

I'VE MODIFIED THE WEAPONS IN MY LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS SO THAT THEY'RE EVEN MORE DEADLY THAN EVER BEFORE!

AND I'VE ADDED TO MY ARSENAL!

THIS NEW CHEST PLATE IS ACTUALLY A TRIGGER--

--ONE WHICH UNLEASHES A COMPUTERIZED BARRAGE OF HIGH-FREQUENCY ELECTRICAL POWER DISCHARGES!

THESE BLASTS ARE FIRED CONTINUOUSLY IN WILD, RANDOM PATTERNS!

NOT EVEN SPIDER-MAN'S FAMED SPEED AND AGILITY WILL BE ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM FROM AN ONSLAUGHT LIKE THIS!











SPIDER-MAN!

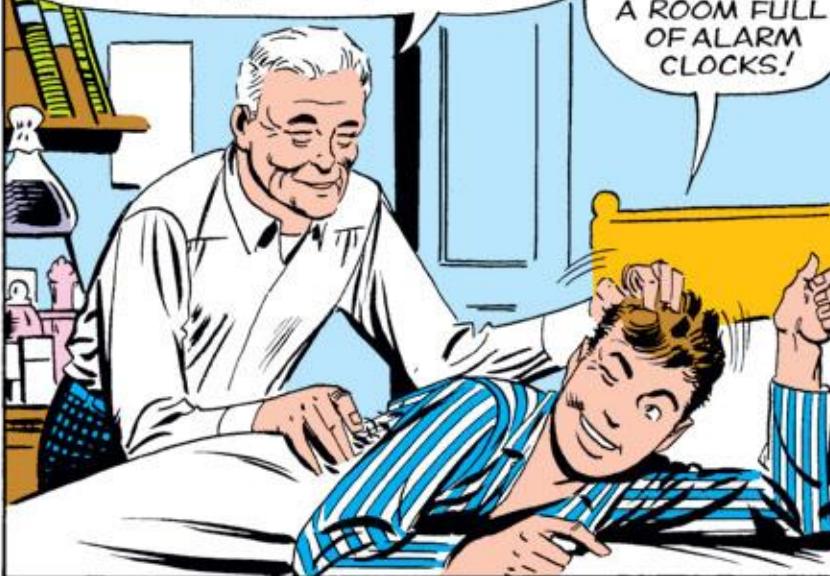


LIKE COSTUME HEROES? CONFIDENTIALLY, WE IN THE COMIC MAG BUSINESS REFER TO THEM AS "LONG UNDERWEAR CHARACTERS"! AND, AS YOU KNOW, THEY'RE A DIME A DOZEN! BUT, WE THINK YOU MAY FIND OUR **SPIDERMAN** JUST A BIT... DIFFERENT!



AS YOU MAY HAVE GATHERED, PETER PARKER WAS FAR FROM BEING THE BIGGEST MAN ON CAMPUS! BUT, HIS UNCLE BEN THOUGHT HE WAS A PRETTY SPECIAL LAD...

YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' **ME**, PETEY! I KNOW YOU'RE AWAKE--AND IT'S TIME FOR SCHOOL!



AS FOR PETE'S AUNT MAY, SHE THOUGHT THE SUN ROSE AND SET UPON HER NEPHEW!

I COOKED YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST, PETEY--WHEATCAKES!

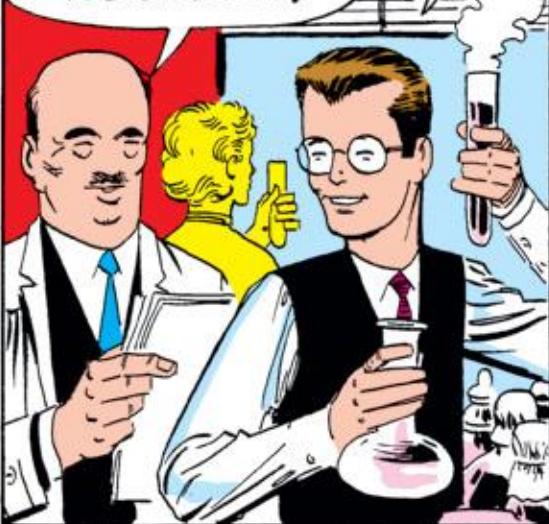
DON'T FATTEN HIM UP **TOO** MUCH, DEAR! I CAN HARDLY OUT-WRESTLE HIM **NOW**!



THE FACULTY AT MIDTOWN HIGH WERE ALSO FOND OF THE CLEAN-CUT, HARD-WORKING HONOR STUDENT!

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, PARKER, AND YOU'RE SURE TO RATE A SCHOLARSHIP WHEN YOU GRADUATE!

I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!



BUT ALAS, OTHER TEEN-AGERS CAN SOMETIMES, UNWITTINGLY, BE SO VERY CRUEL TO A SHY YOUNG MAN...

SALLY, I, EH, WAS WONDERING IF YOU'RE BUSY TONIGHT...?



PETER, FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, YOU'RE JUST NOT MY TYPE...

...NOT WHEN DREAM BOATS LIKE FLASH THOMPSON ARE AROUND!



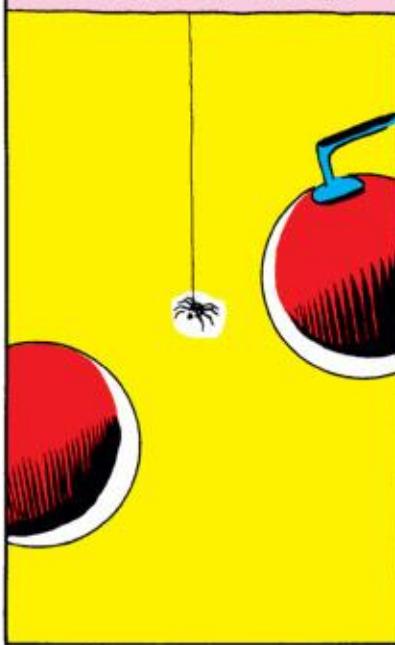
I ADMIRE YOUR GOOD TASTE, DOLL! GET LOST, BOOKWORM!



AND, A FEW MINUTES LATER, PETER PARKER FORGETS THE TAUNTS OF HIS CLASSMATES AS HE IS TRANSPORTED TO ANOTHER WORLD -- THE FASCINATING WORLD OF ATOMIC SCIENCE!



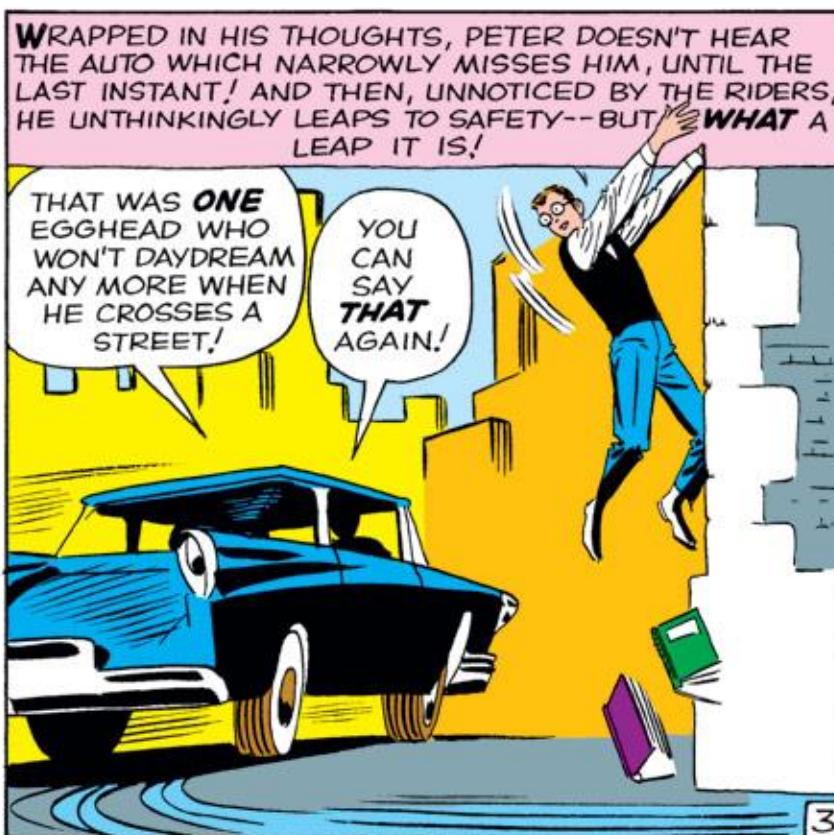
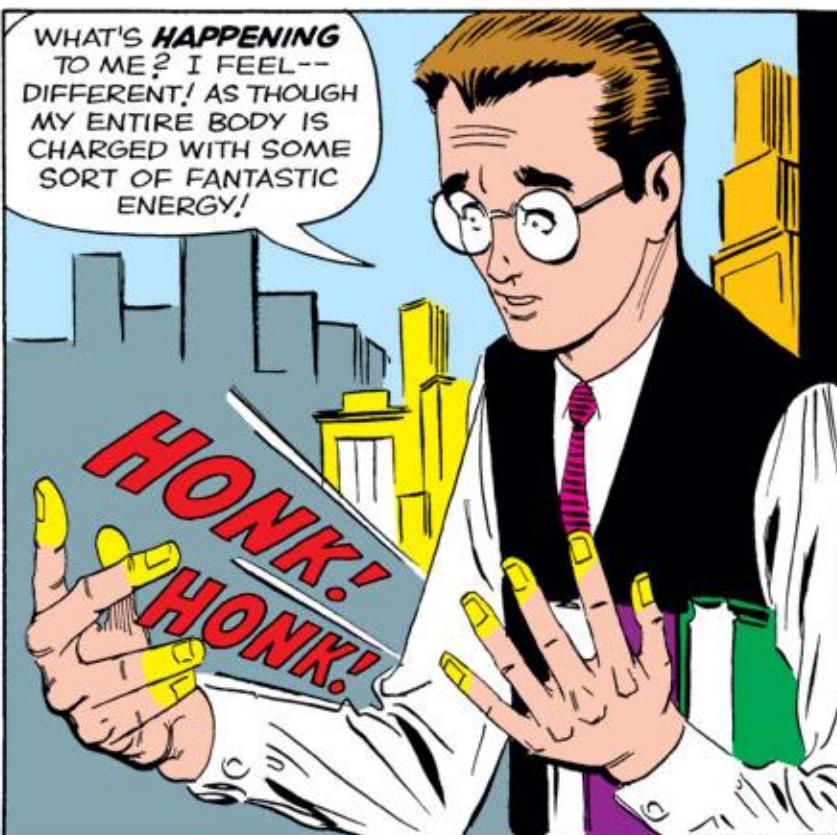
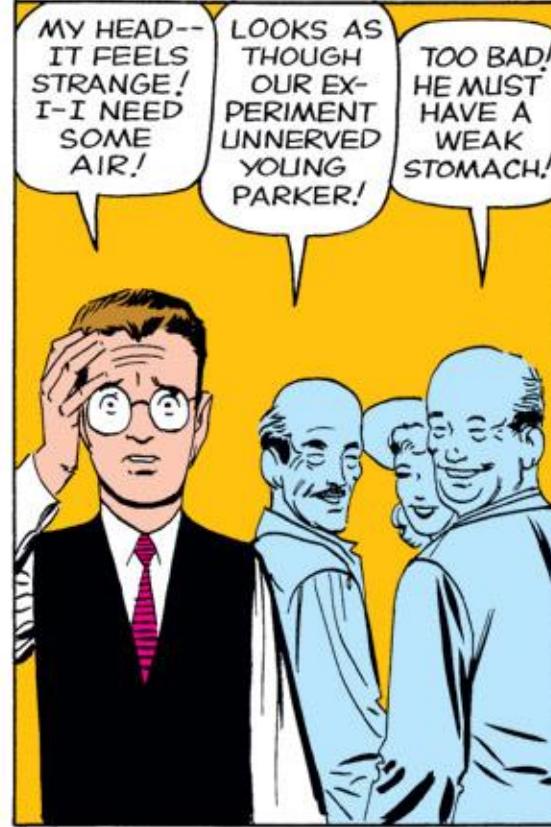
BUT, AS THE EXPERIMENT BEGINS, NO ONE NOTICES A TINY SPIDER, DESCENDING FROM THE CEILING ON AN ALMOST INVISIBLE STRAND OF WEB...

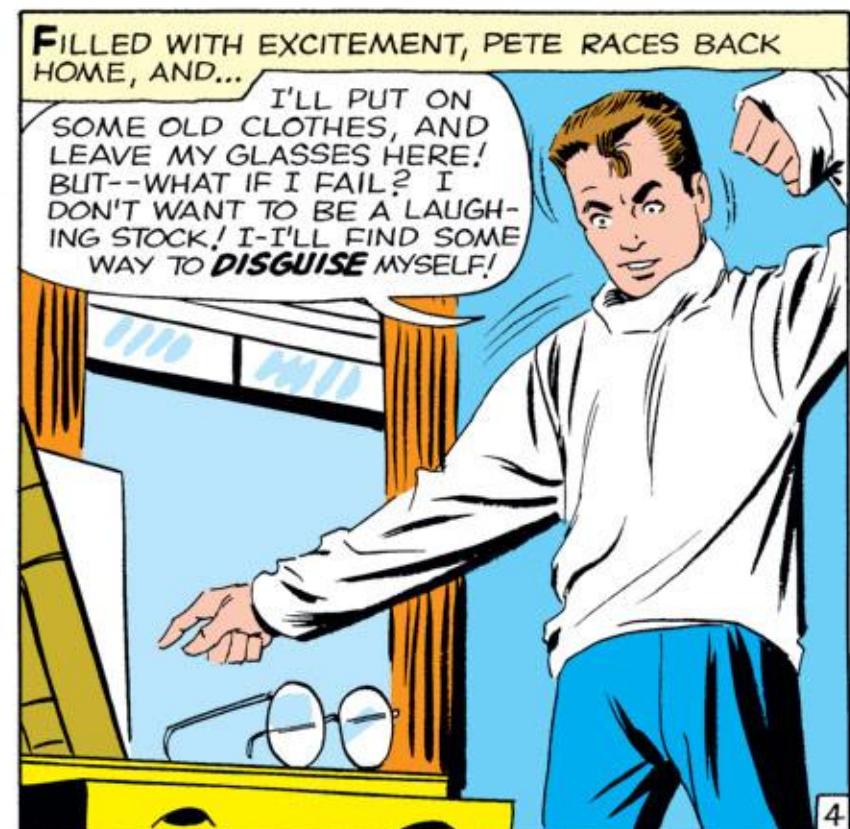


A SPIDER WHOM FATE HAS GIVEN A STARRING, IF BRIEF, ROLE TO PLAY IN THE DRAMA WE CALL LIFE!

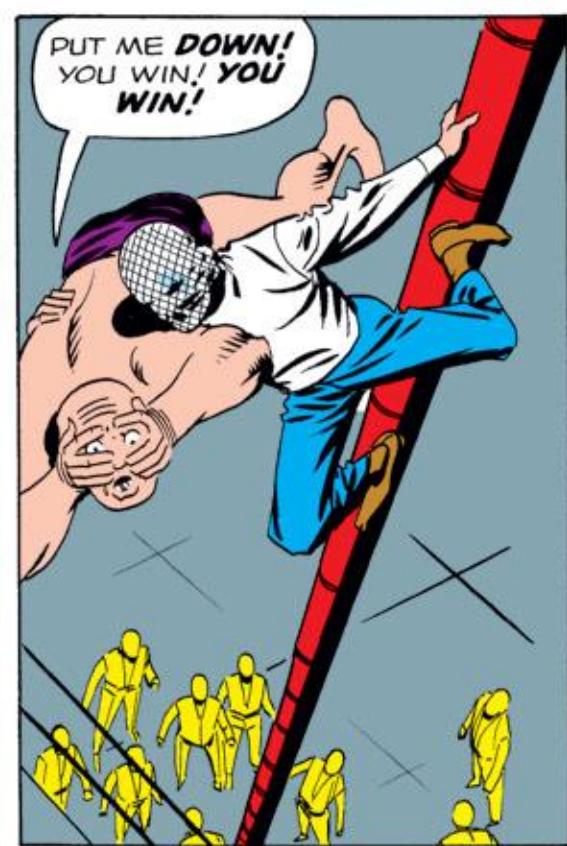
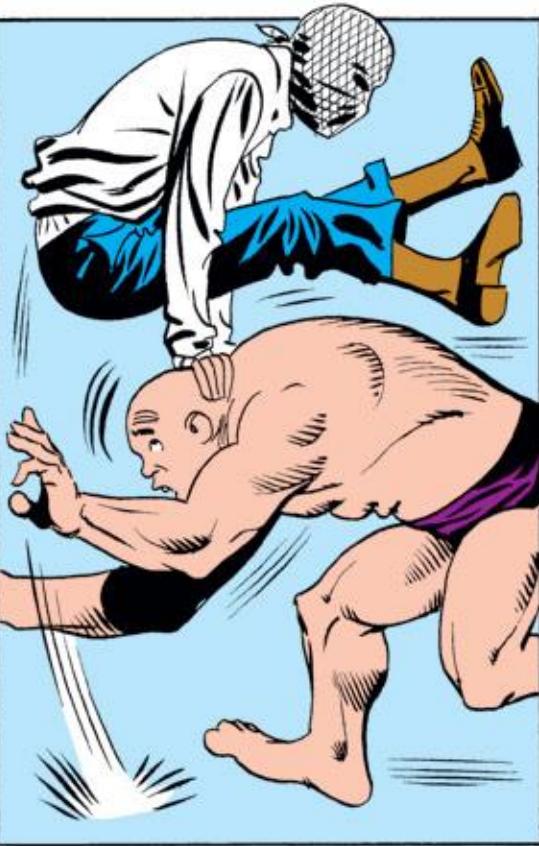
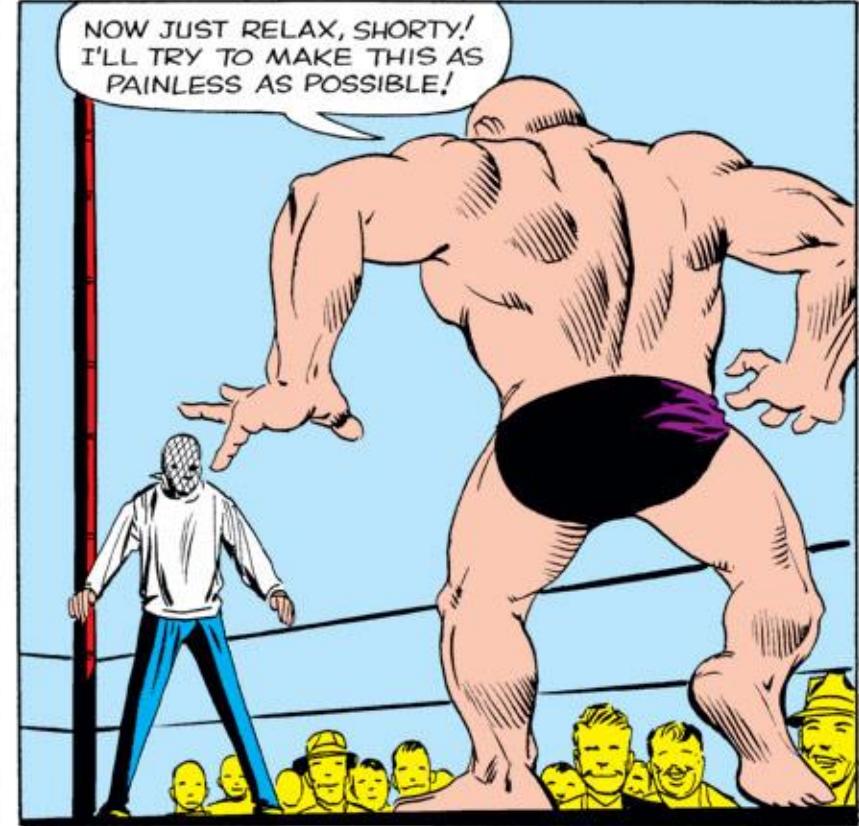
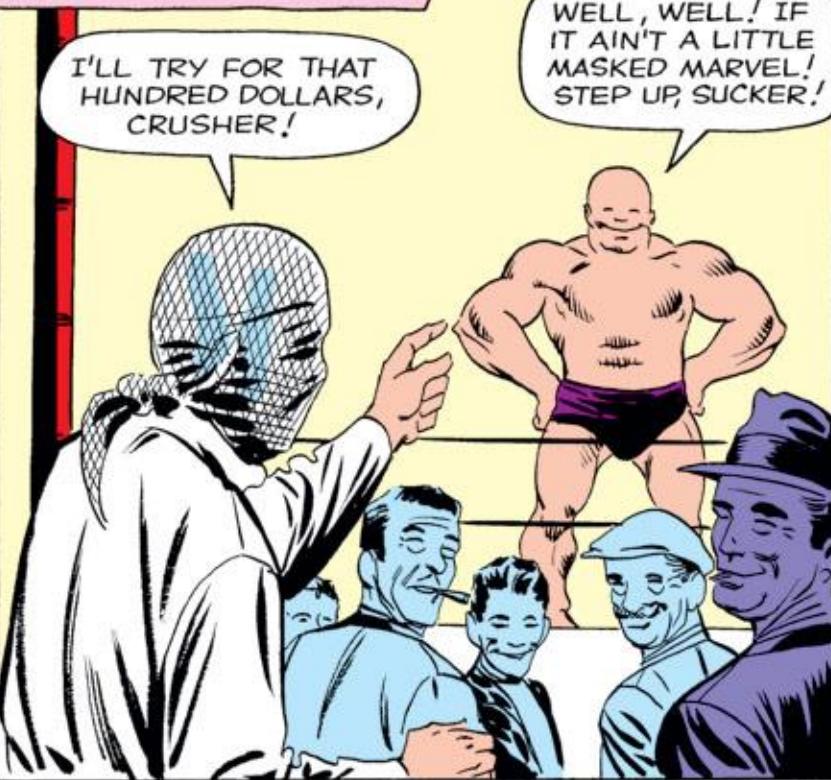


ACCIDENTALLY ABSORBING A FANTASTIC AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVITY, THE DYING INSECT, IN SUDDEN SHOCK, BITES THE NEAREST LIVING THING, AT THE SPLIT SECOND BEFORE LIFE EBBS FROM ITS RADIOACTIVE BODY!





A FEW MINUTES LATER...



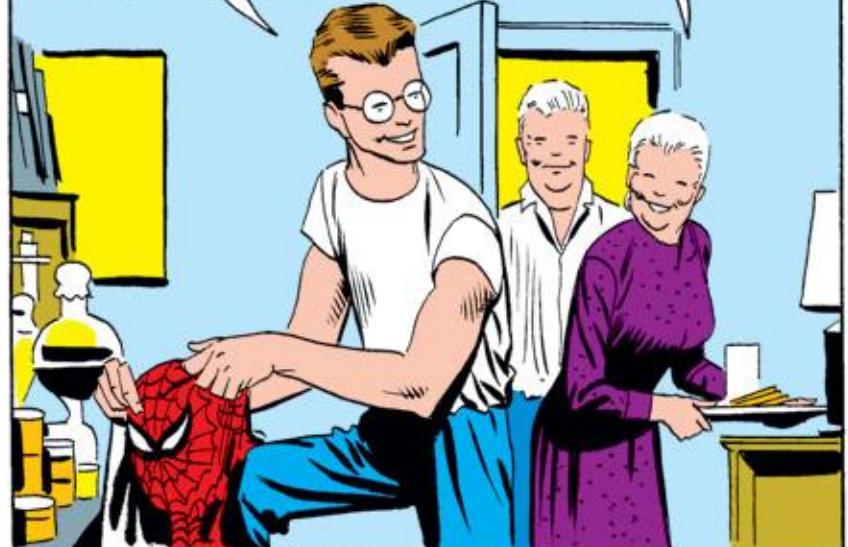
LISTEN, FRIEND, I'M A TV PRODUCER! WITH THAT ACT OF YOURS I CAN MAKE YOU A **FORTUNE!** AND KEEP THE MASK ANGLE-- IT'S GREAT SHOWMANSHIP! HERE'S MY CARD! CALL ME! YOU'D BE A SMASH ON ED SULLIVAN'S SHOW!

THANKS...

LATER, AT HOME AGAIN...

SHOWMANSHIP?? HE HASN'T SEEN **ANYTHING** YET! SINCE I HAVE THE **POWERS** OF A SPIDER, I'LL DESIGN MYSELF A **SPIDER COSTUME!** AND... OH, HI, AUNT MAY!

YOU LOOKED A LITTLE TIRED, PETEY, SO WE BROUGHT YOU SOME CRACKERS AND MILK!



OKAY, WORLD-- BETTER HANG ONTO YOUR HAT! HERE COMES THE SPIDERMAN!

PART 2

NOW ANYBODY WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OF A SEVEN YEAR OLD KNOWS THAT IF A MAN APPEARED ON TV WHO SEEMED TO BE MORE SPIDER THAN HUMAN, HE'D BE AN OVERNIGHT SENSATION! ESPECIALLY WHEN HIS FEATS WERE PERFORMED WITHOUT THE HELP OF TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY! WELL, YOU CAN JUST IMAGINE HOW THE PUBLIC REACTED TO **SPIDERMAN!**

I'M SEEIN' IT WITH MY OWN EYES, AND I **STILL** DON'T BELIEVE IT!



V-789

SURE THEY LOOK AMAZED, INCREDIBLE, AWE-STRICKEN! WOULDN'T **YOU**???



AS HIS FIRST TV SPECTACULAR ENDS, PETER PARKER BREATHES THE FIRST SWEET SCENT OF FAME AND SUCCESS!

I'M FROM **LIFE!**
WE'LL PAY ANY PRICE FOR A PICTURE SPREAD!

SIGN WITH ME! I'LL PUT YOU IN THE MOVIES!
WAIT! WE WANT AN INTERVIEW!

SEE MY AGENT, BOYS! I'M BUSY!



WHEW! RID OF 'EM AT LAST!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??

STOP! THIEF! STOP HIM! IF HE MAKES IT TO THE ELEVATOR, HE'LL GET AWAY!



MADE IT!

I'M SAFE NOW! THAT COP CAN NEVER GET DOWN TO THE LOBBY AS FAST AS I CAN IN THIS HIGH-SPEED EXPRESS ELEVATOR! LUCKY THAT GOON IN A COSTUME DIDN'T STOP ME!

WHAT'S WITH YOU, MISTER?? ALL YOU HADDA DO WAS TRIP HIM, OR HOLD HIM JUST FOR A MINUTE!

SORRY, PAL! THAT'S YOUR JOB! I'M THRU BEING PUSHED AROUND --BY ANYONE! FROM NOW ON I JUST LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE --THAT MEANS--**ME!**



I OUGHTTA RUN YOU IN--

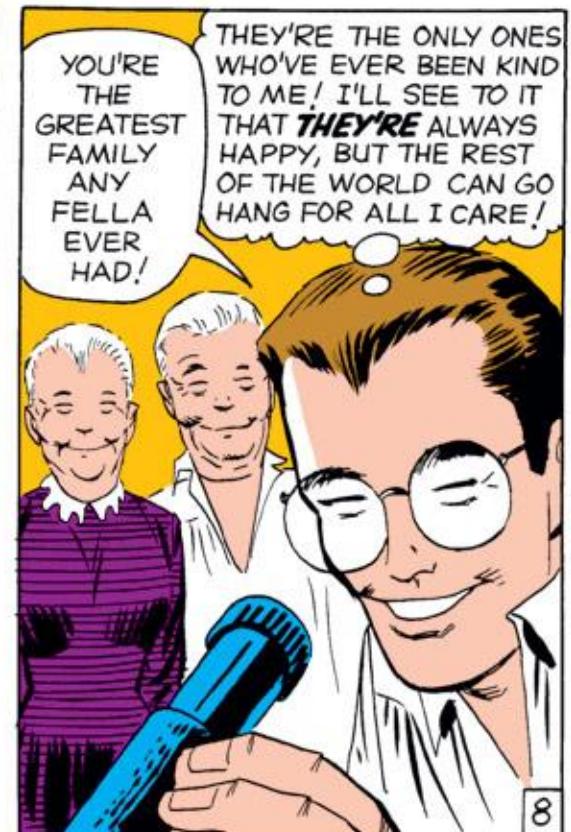
SAVE YOUR BREATH, BUDDY! I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO!

AND, A FEW HOURS LATER...

PETER, YOU KNOW THAT MICROSCOPE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED? YOUR UNCLE AND I BOUGHT IT FOR YOU THIS AFTERNOON!

GOSH, THAT'S TERRIFIC!

THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE EVER BEEN KIND TO ME! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT **THEY'RE** ALWAYS HAPPY, BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD CAN GO HANG FOR ALL I CARE!



YOU'RE THE GREATEST FAMILY ANY FELLA EVER HAD!

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE SPIDERMAN BECOMES THE SENSATION OF THE NATION!



AND, ONE EVENING AS PETER PARKER RETURNS HOME FROM A PERSONAL APPEARANCE...

A POLICE CAR! IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE! WHAT CAN BE WRONG??



BAD NEWS, SON--YOUR UNCLE HAS BEEN SHOT--MURDERED!

UNCLE BEN --DEAD!
NO! NO, IT CAN'T BE!



WHO DID IT??
WHO SHOT HIM??

IT WAS A BURGLAR--YOUR UNCLE SURPRISED HIM! BUT DON'T WORRY, LAD! WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED! HE'S IN THE OLD ACME WAREHOUSE AT THE WATERFRONT! WE'LL GET HIM!



YOUR AUNT IS NEXT DOOR--THE NEIGHBORS ARE LOOKING AFTER HER! WAIT--

I'VE GOT TO GO! I'VE GOT TO GET HIM!

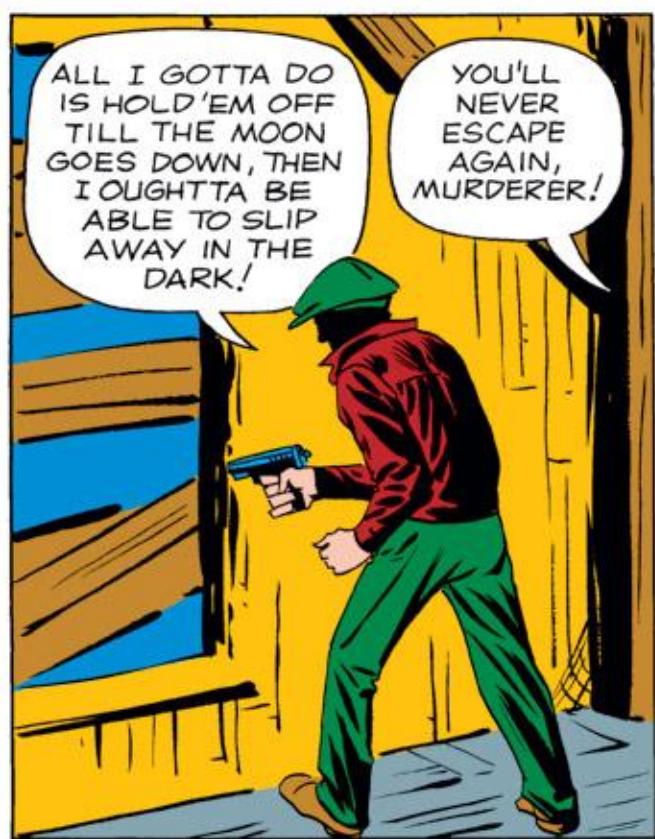


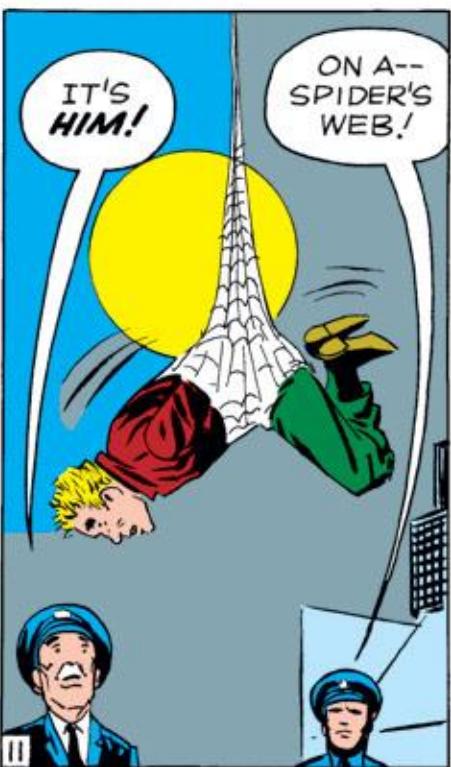
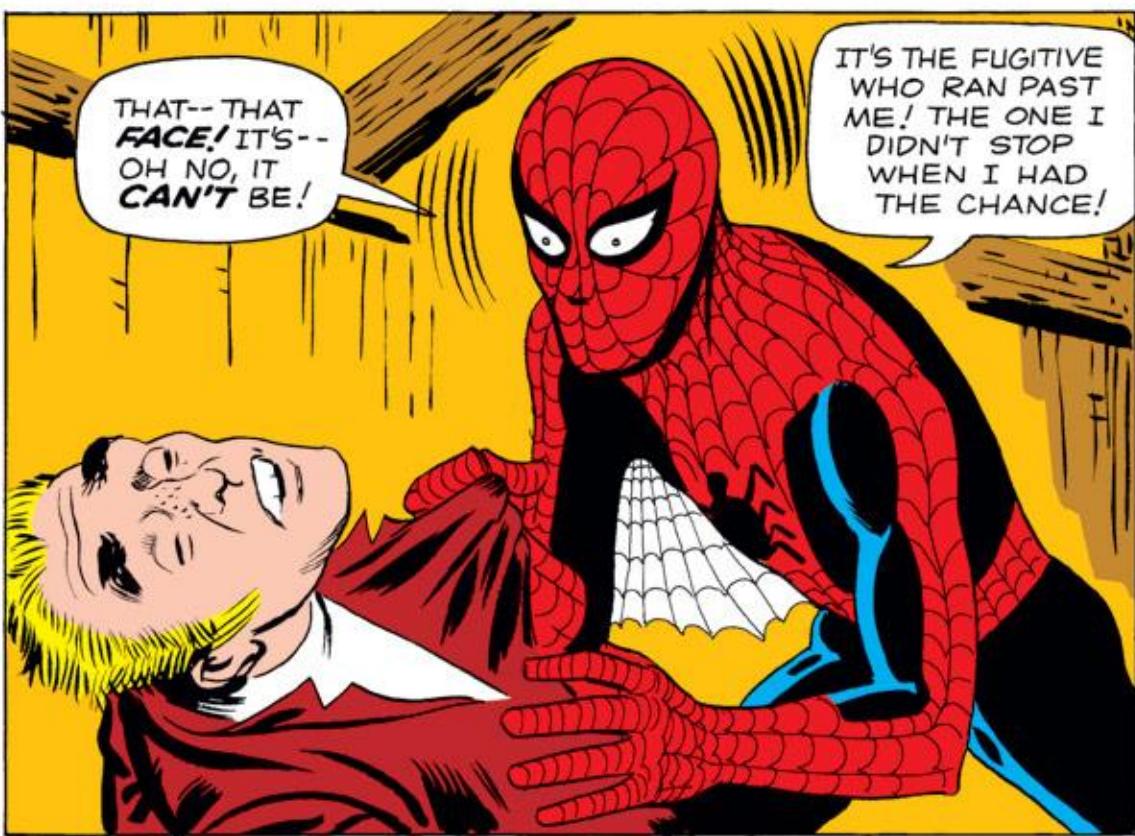
I KNOW THE OLD ACME WAREHOUSE! IT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS! A KILLER COULD HOLD OFF AN ARMY IN THAT GLOOMY, OLD PLACE!



BUT HE WON'T HOLD OFF--SPIDERMAN!







NEW YORK CITY'S
CENTRAL PARK...

I DON'T GET IT. IF YOU ORIGINALLY BECAME SPIDER-MAN
OUT OF A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY-- WHY QUIT NOW?

MAYBE I FINALLY
REALIZED I'M
WASTING MY LIFE
TRYING TO LIVE UP TO
THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

OR, MAYBE I'M JUST
TIRED OF TRYING TO
BE THE WORLD'S
KEEPER.

I WAS NEVER MUCH GOOD
AT IT ANYWAY. I WAS
ALWAYS SCREWING UP.

TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE
ALREADY SUFFERED BECAUSE
OF ME AND MY OVERBLOWN
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

"I'M THE REASON GWEN
STACY DIED."

"WANT A RECENT EX-
AMPLE? MY AUNT MAY KNEW
NATHAN LUBENSKY WAS IN
SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
SHE BEGGED ME TO KEEP
AN EYE ON HIM."

"BUT, SPIDER-
MAN HAD OTHER
RESPONSIBILITIES..."

"THEN, THERE'S JEAN
DEWOLF, A NEW YORK CITY
POLICE CAPTAIN, MURDERED
BY A LAW AND ORDER
FANATIC WHO THOUGHT
SHE WAS TOO SOFT ON
CRIMINALS..."

"IT WAS WHILE I WAS
CHASING JEAN'S KILLER
THAT MY WORST POSSIBLE
NIGHTMARE BECAME
A REALITY."

"THE SIN-EATER TRIED
TO BLOW ME AWAY. I
INSTINCTIVELY LEAPED
TO SAFETY--"

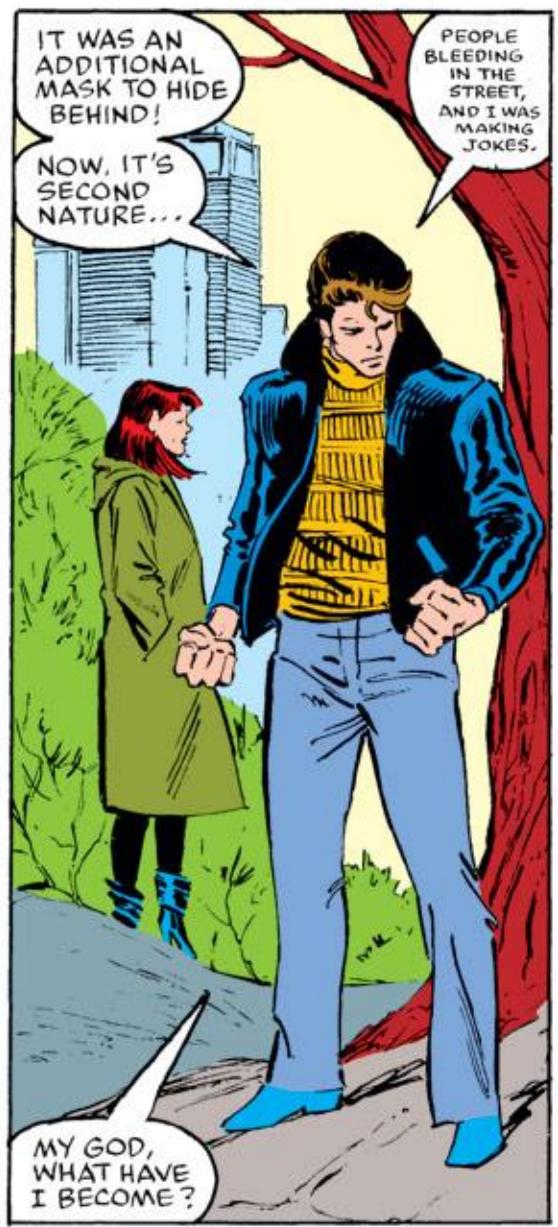
"THE ORIGINAL GREEN
GOBLIN HAD DISCOVERED
MY SECRET IDENTITY. HE
WANTED TO STRIKE
BACK AT ME. TO HURT
ME! HE SETTLED FOR
GWEN..."

"SHE NEVER EVEN KNEW
THAT HER BOYFRIEND WAS
SPIDER-MAN."

"-- AND COULDN'T BE THERE
TO STOP A GANG OF
THUGS FROM ALMOST
BEATING HIM TO DEATH!"

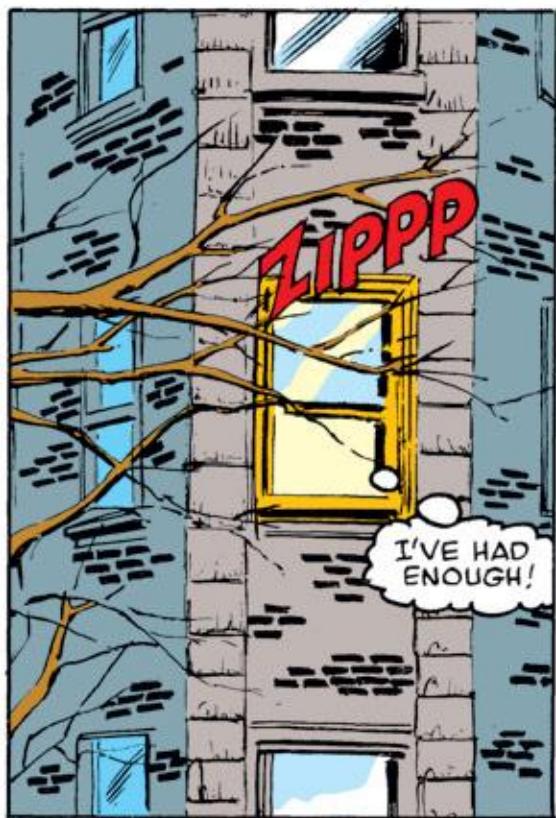
"BUT, I CAN'T QUITE SHAKE
THE FEELING THAT HER
WELL-KNOWN ASSOCIATION
WITH ME WAS ONE OF THE
THINGS THAT POINTED
HER OUT TO HIM."

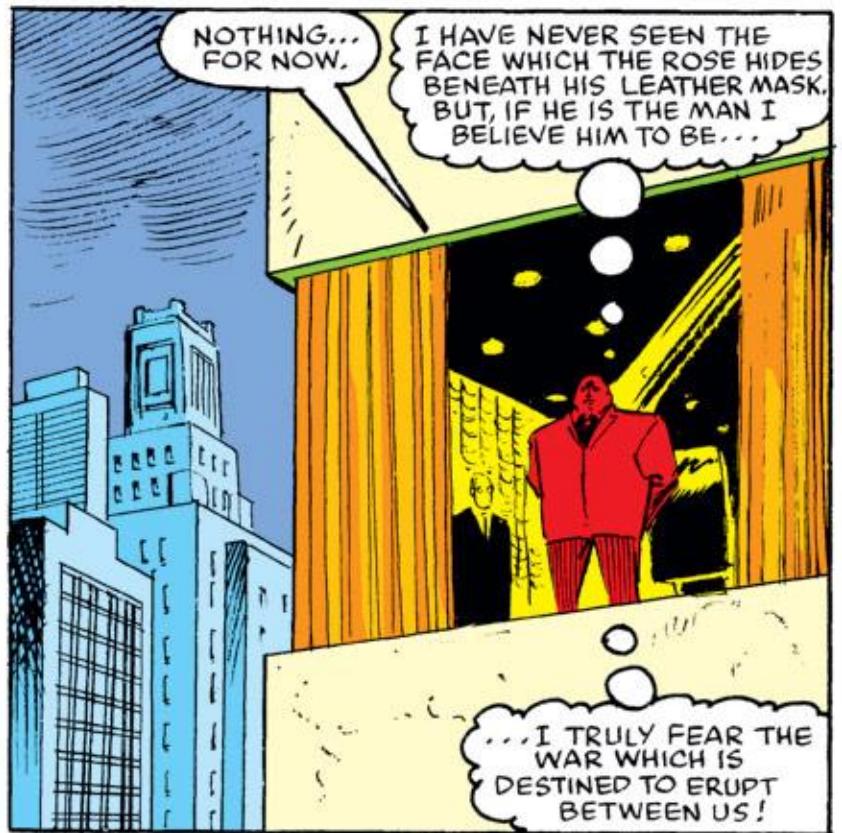
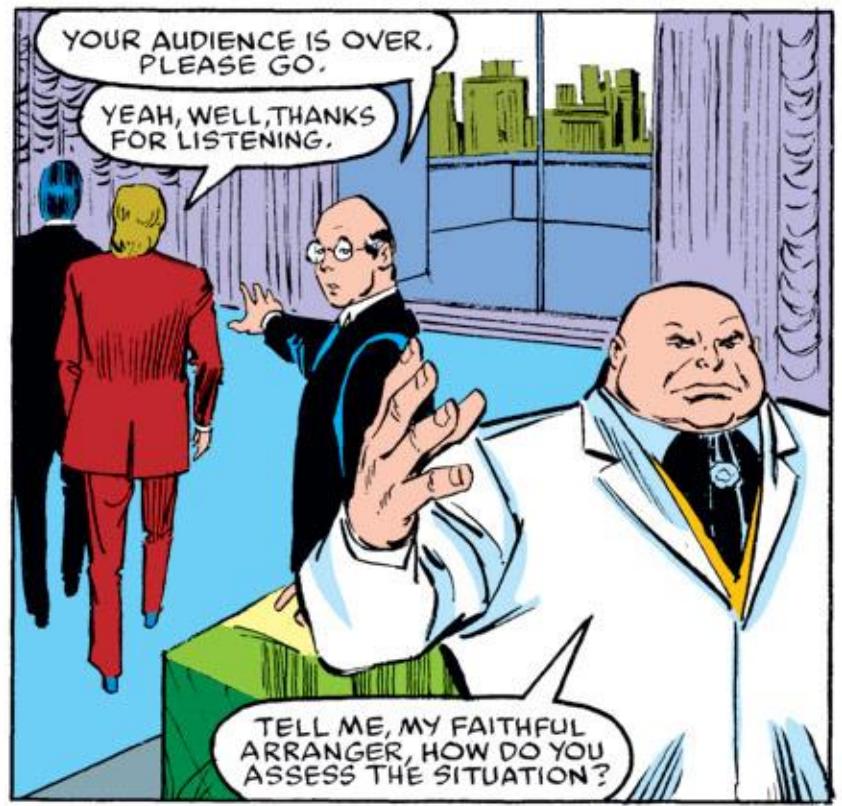
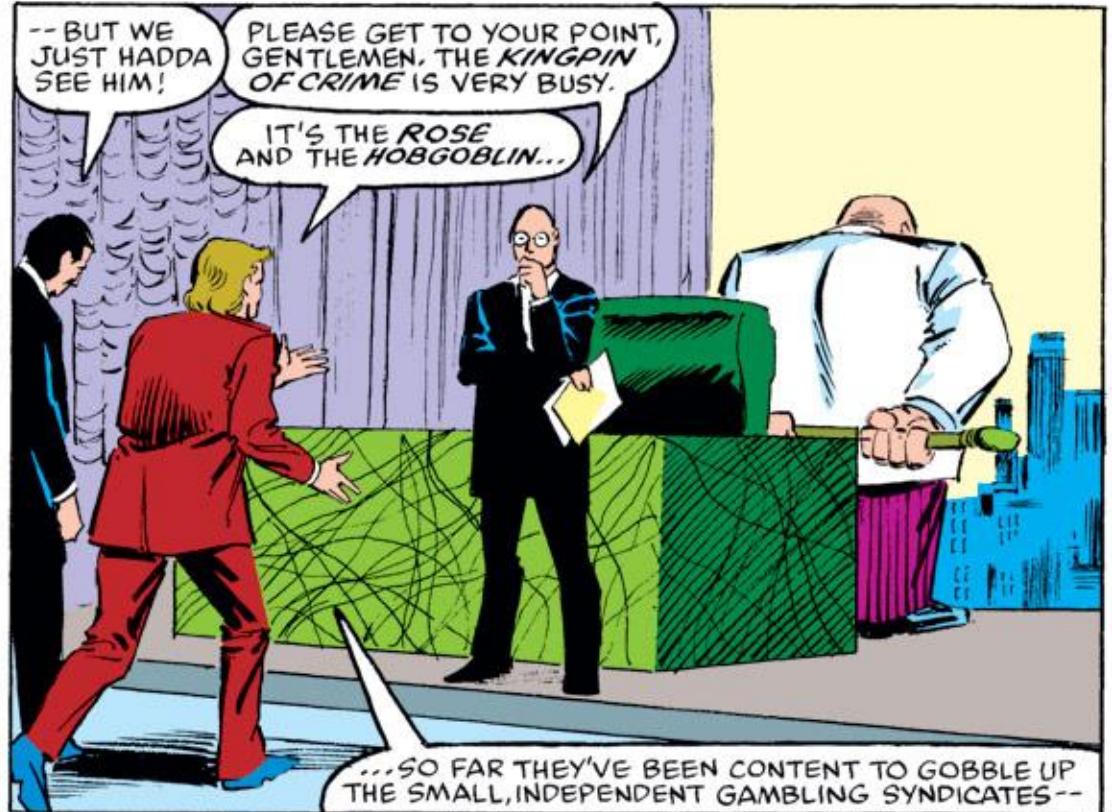
-- BUT, THAT DIDN'T STOP
HIM FROM PULLING THE
TRIGGER, AND FIRING INTO
THE CROWD!"

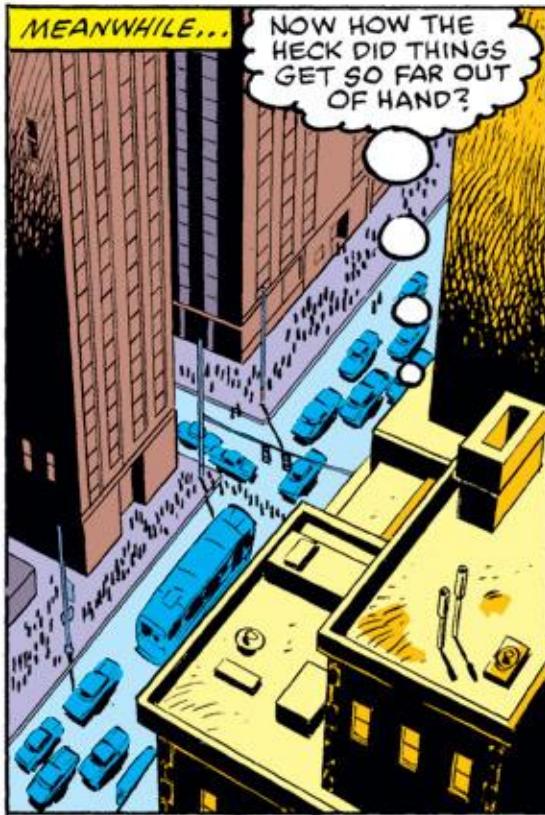


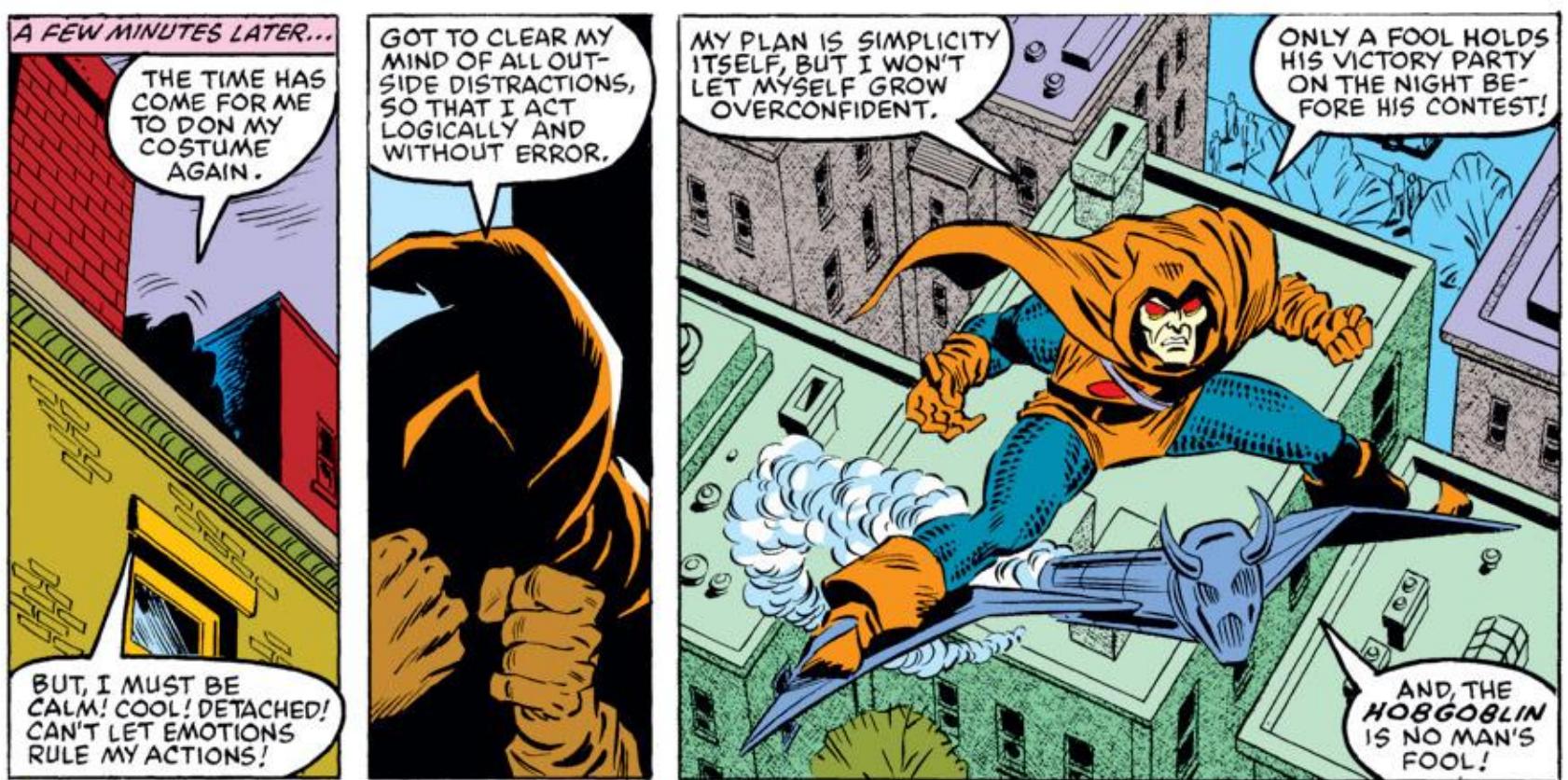
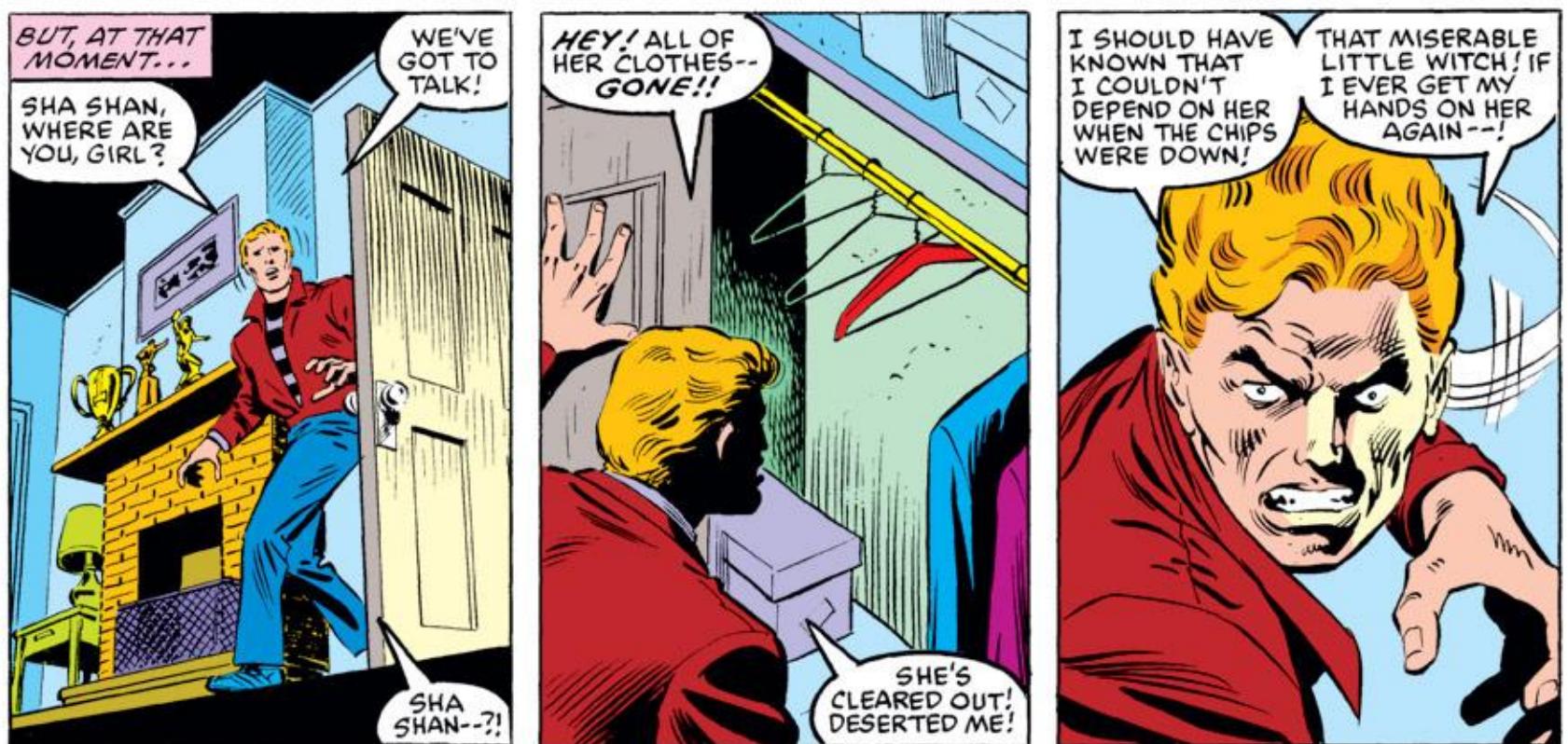
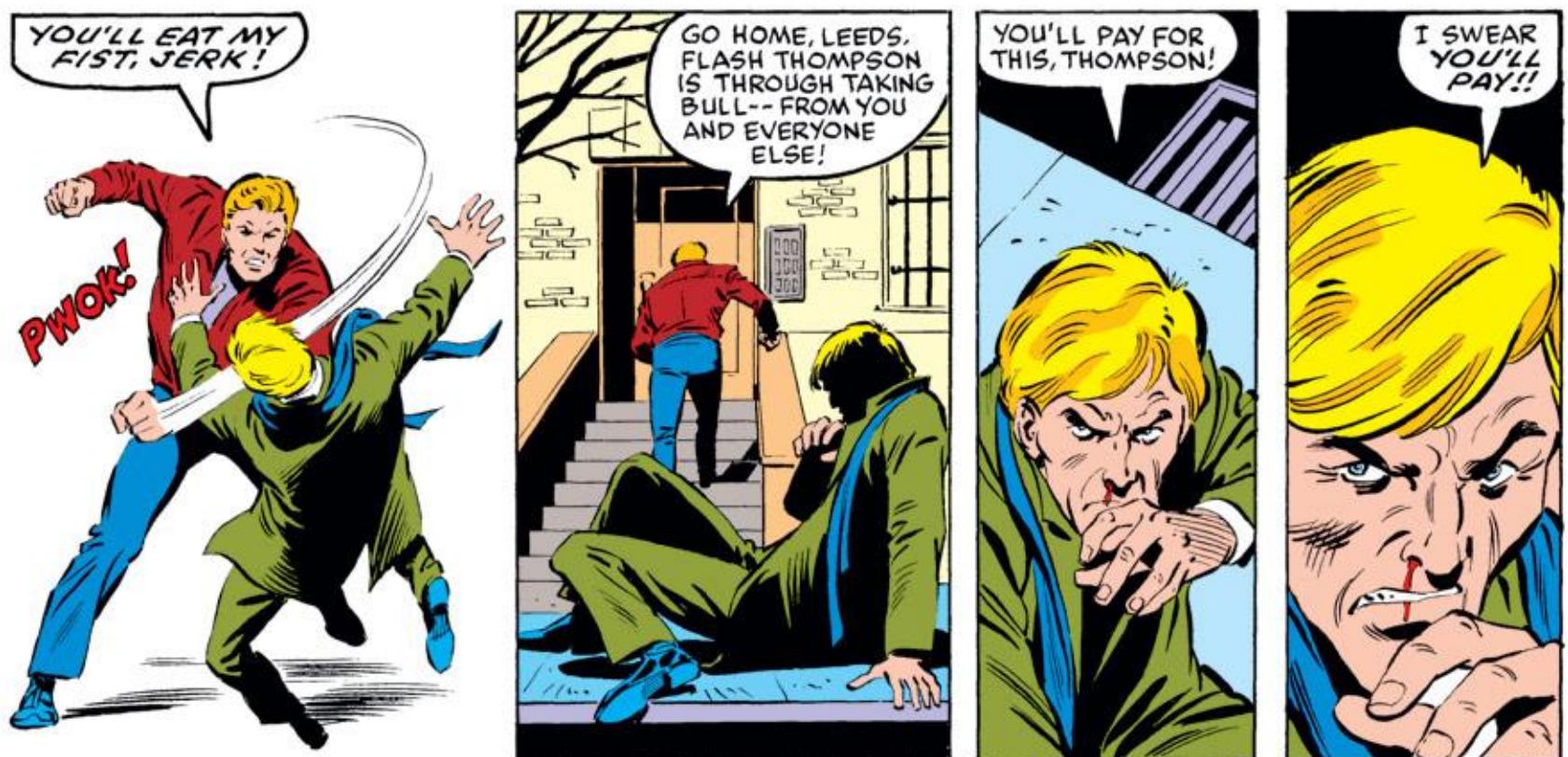
MEANWHILE...

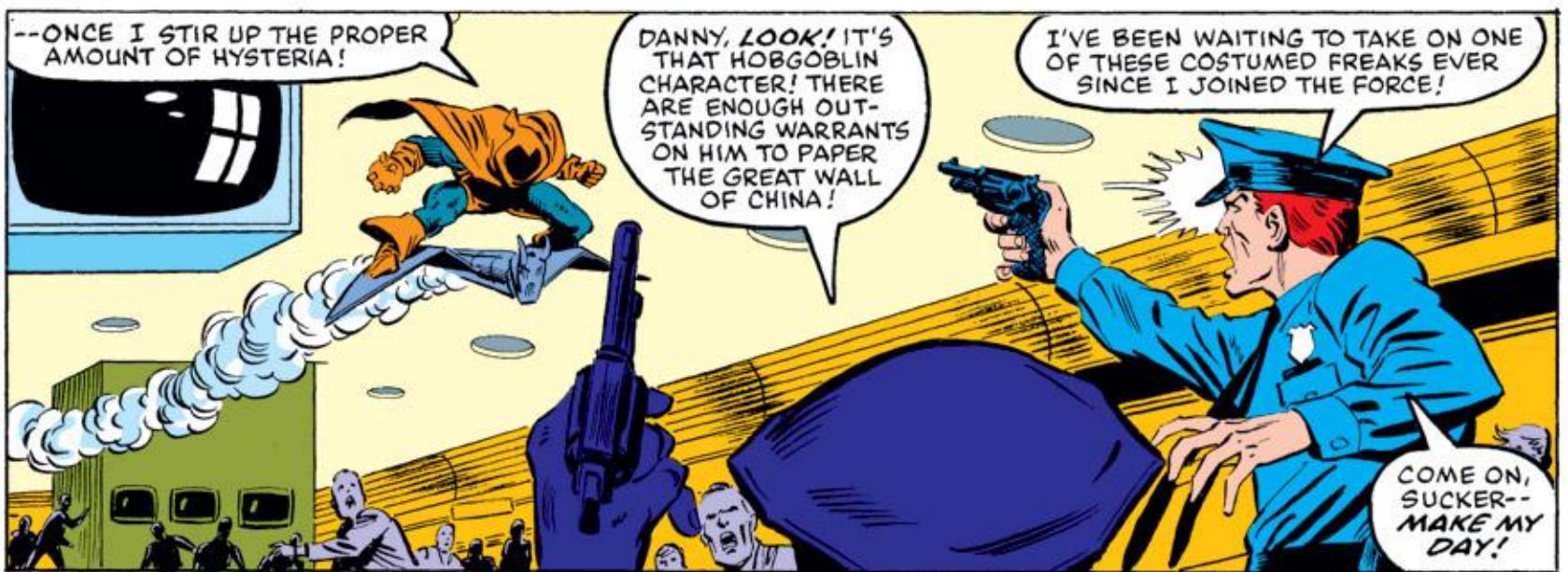






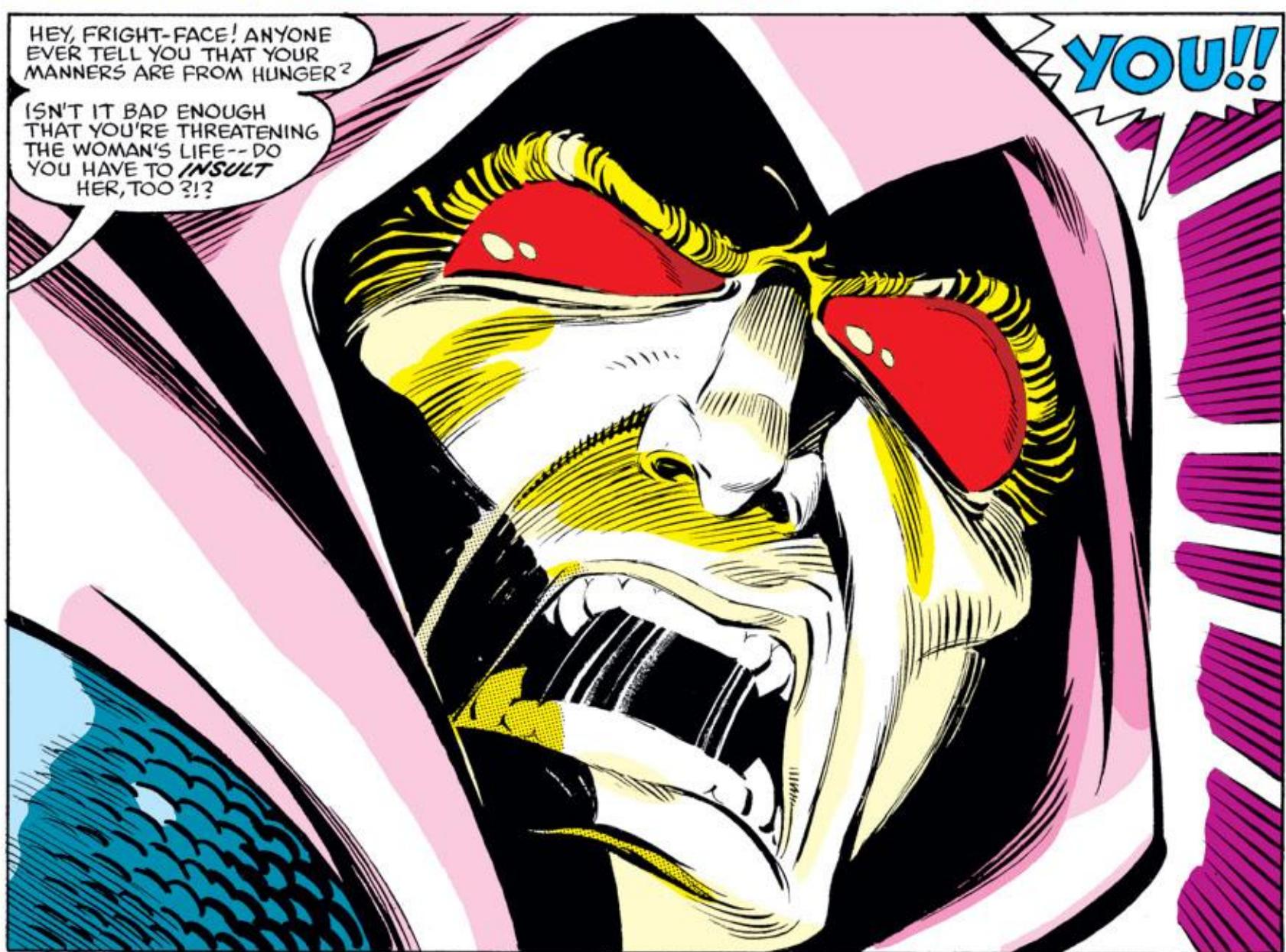




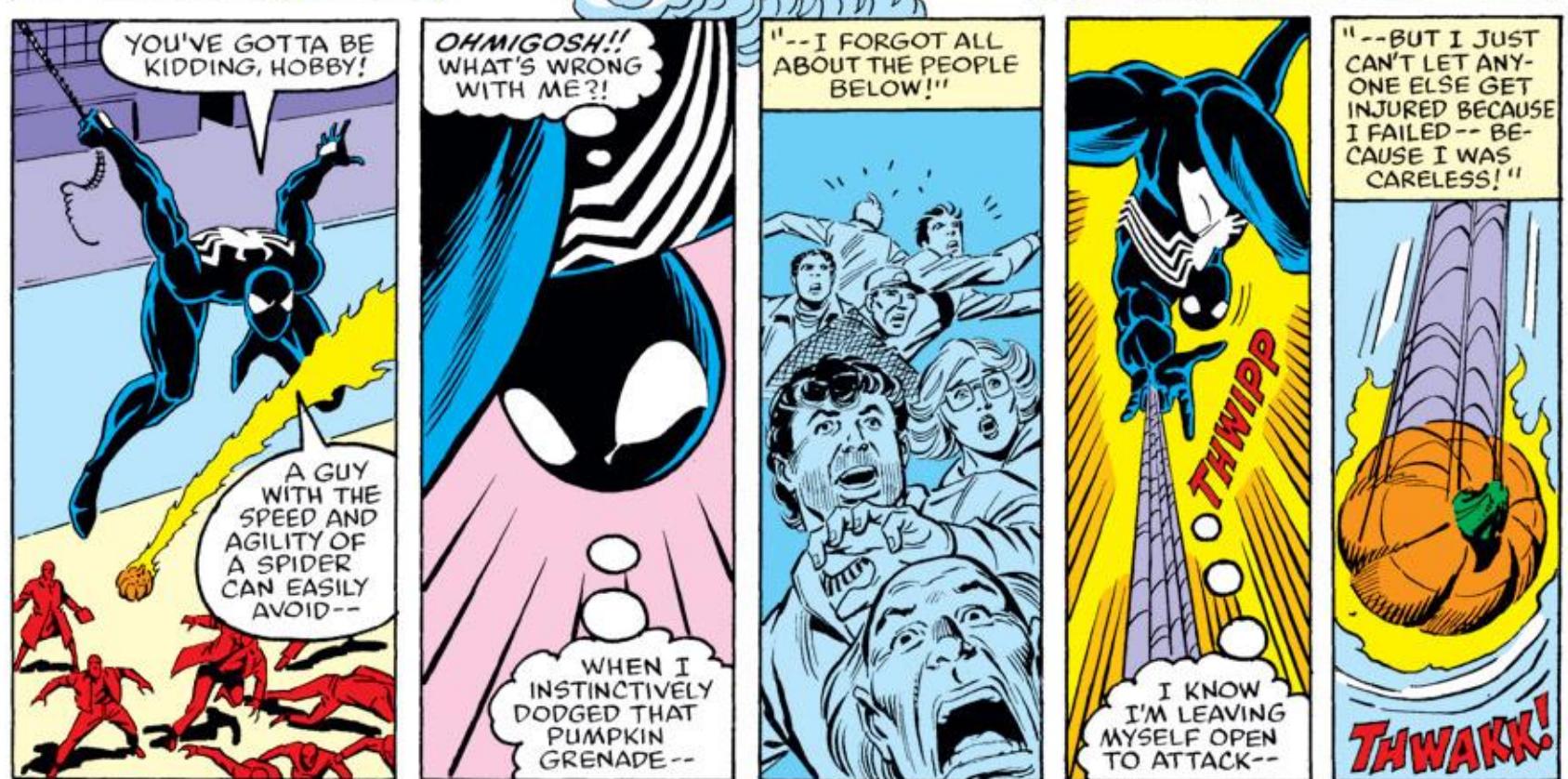
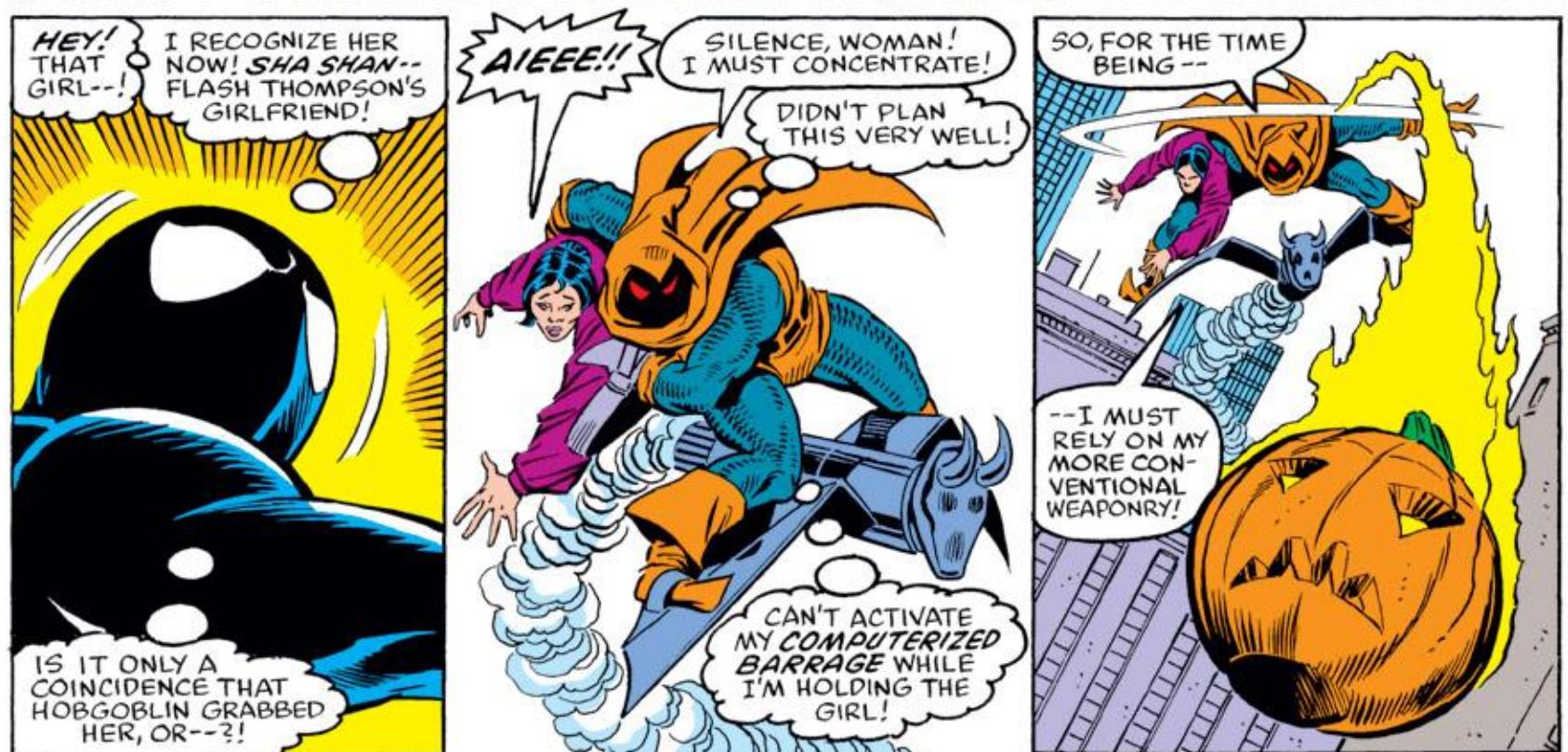
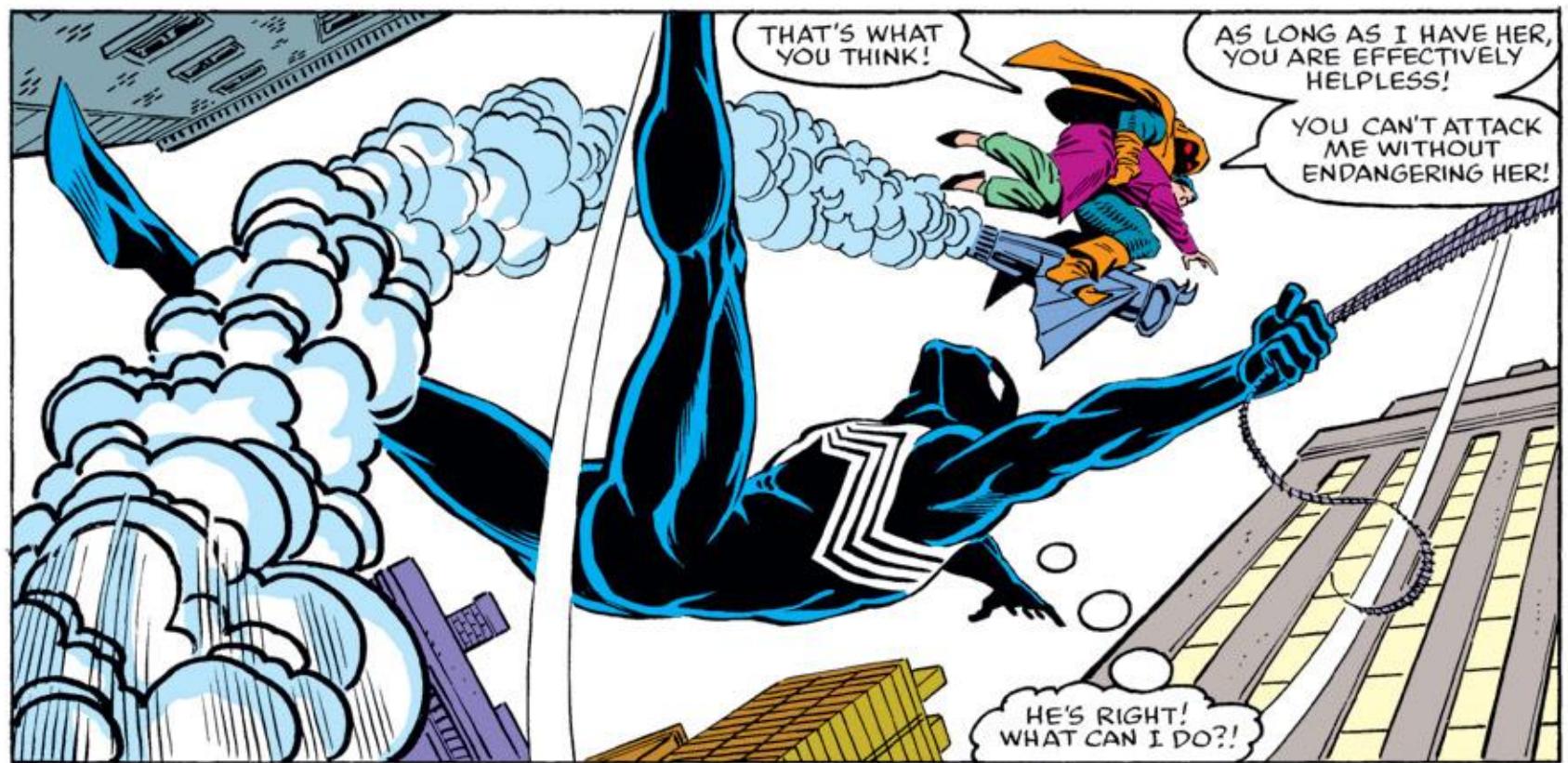


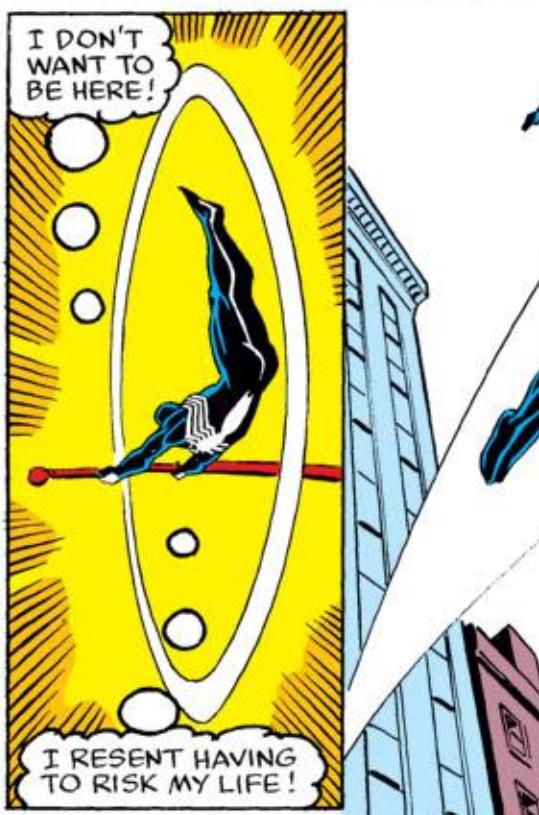


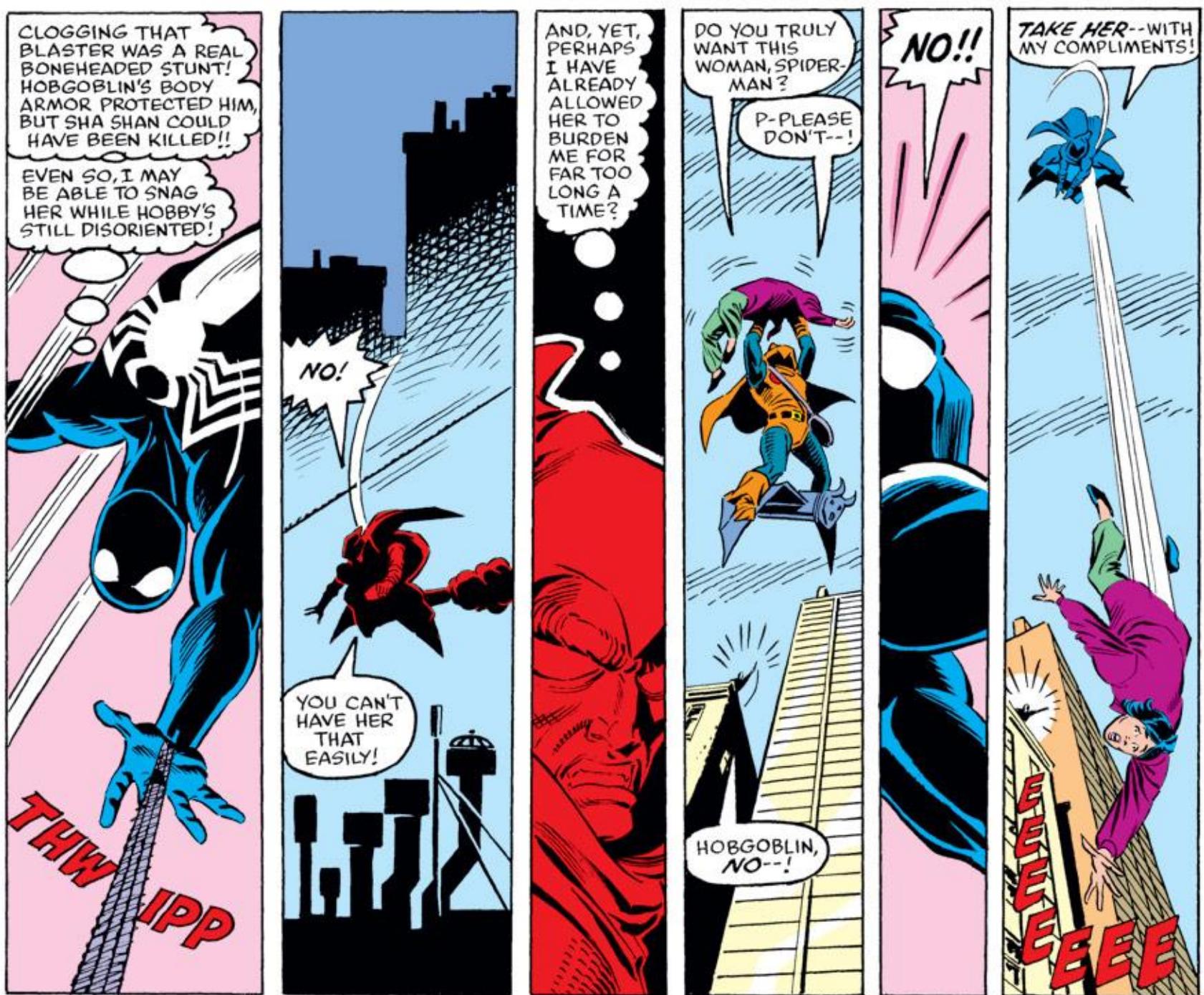


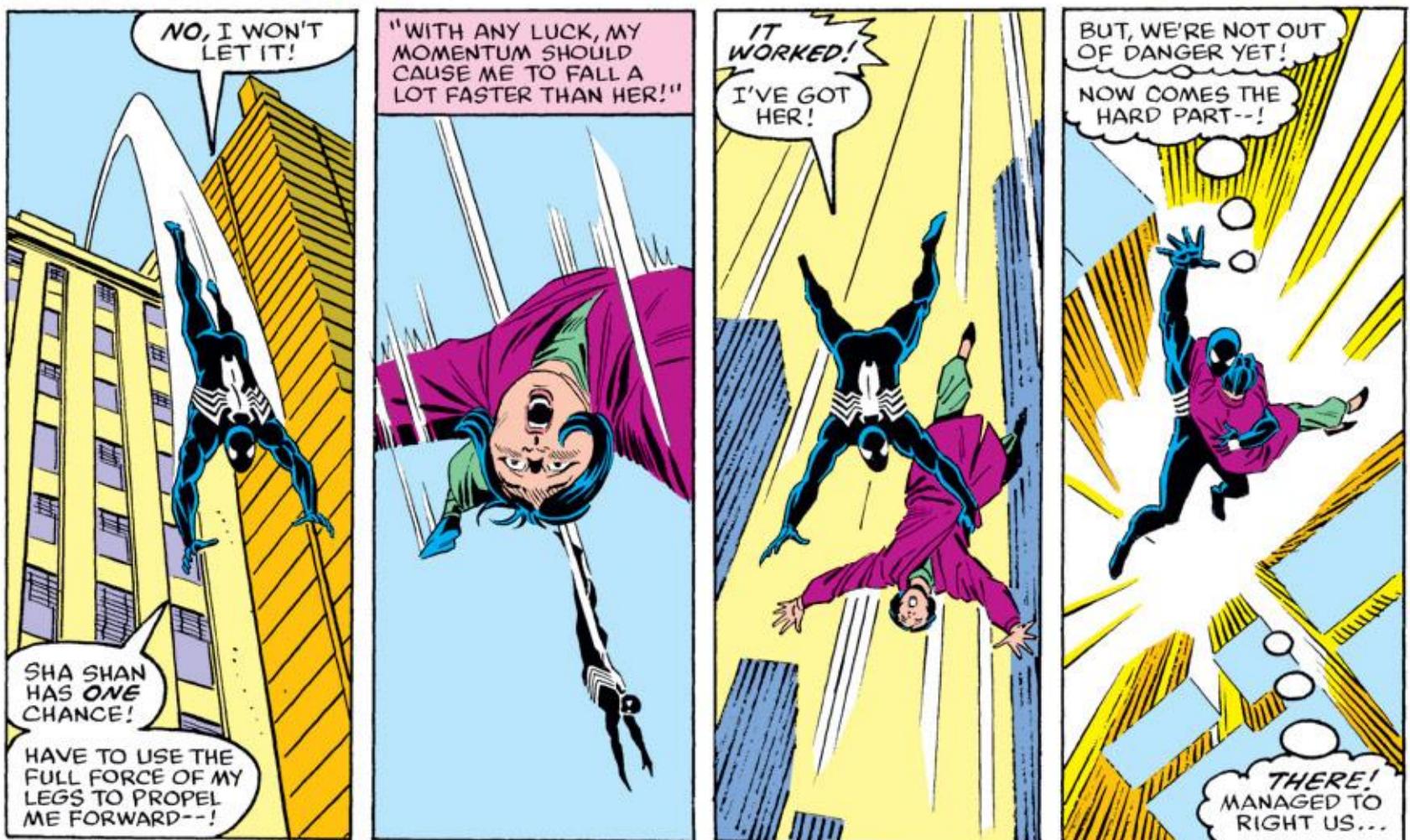


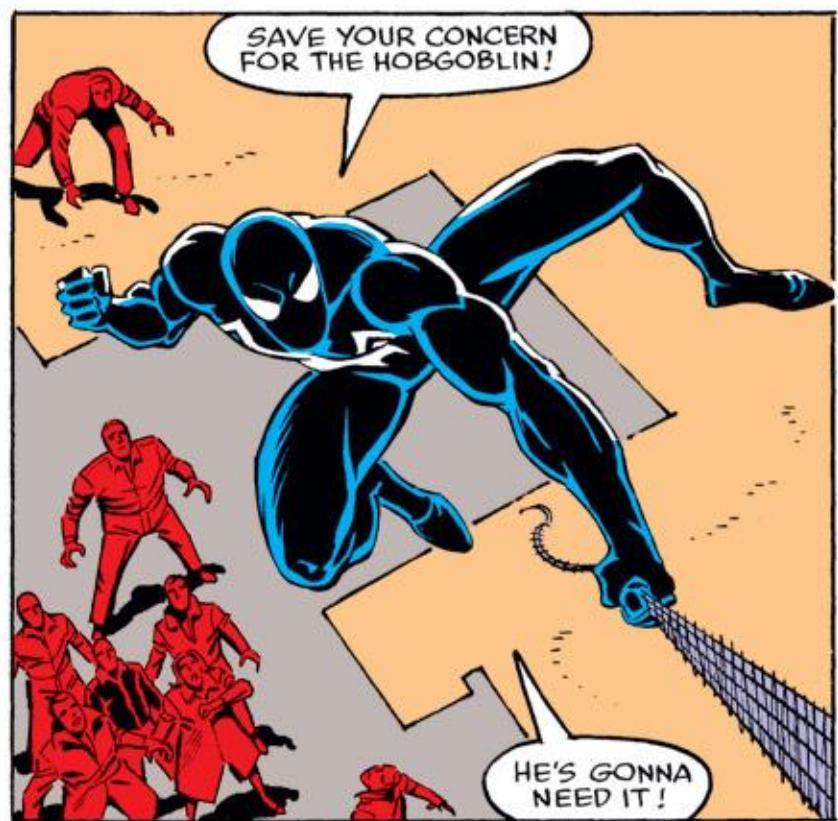


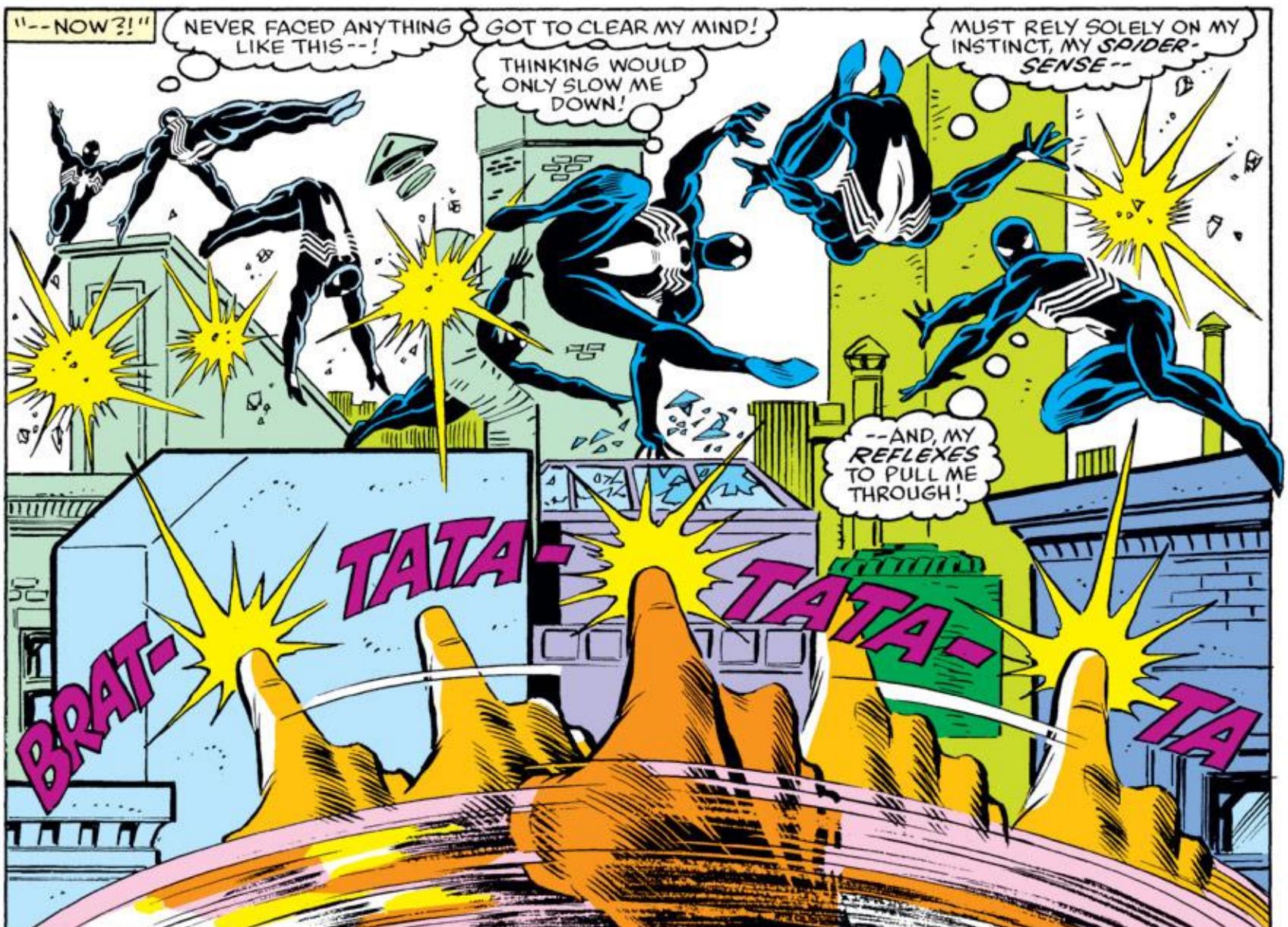


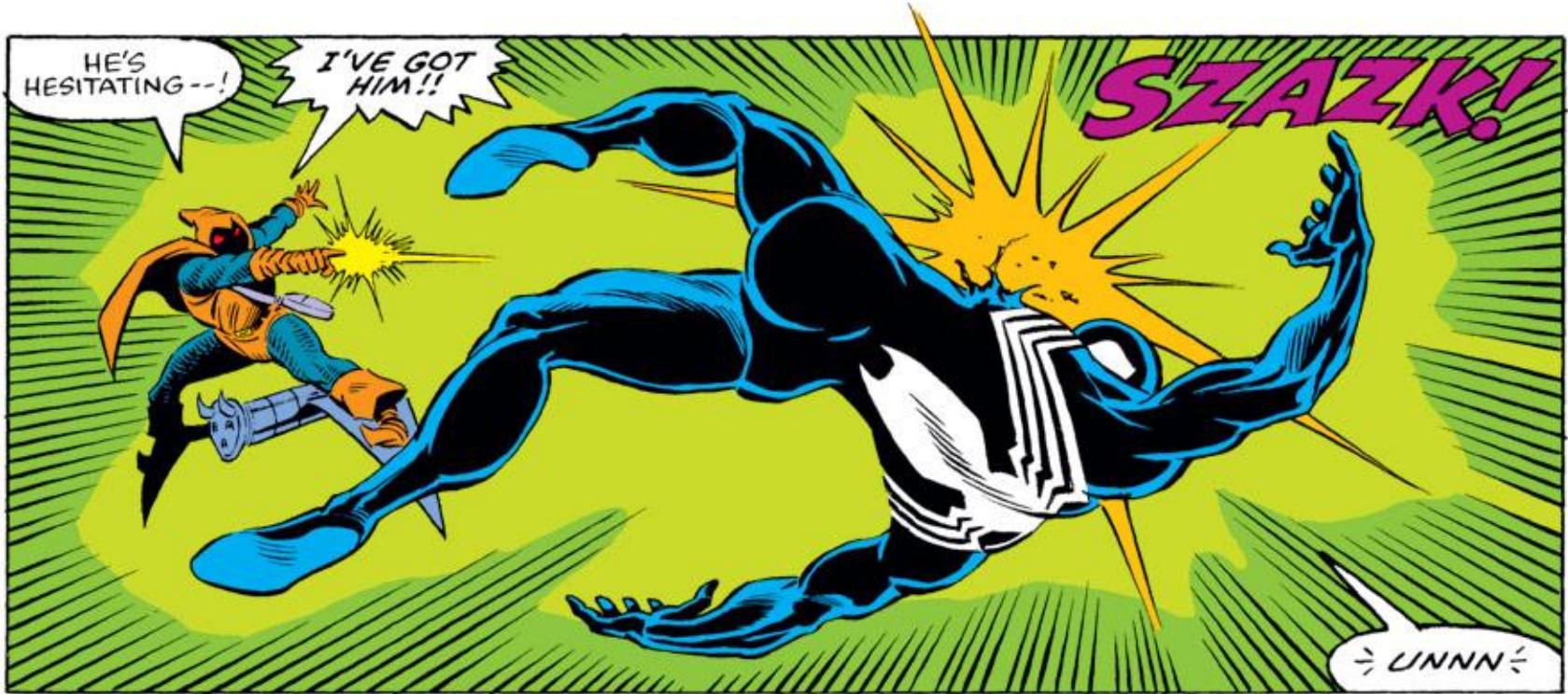














THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

In case you haven't heard the news, **Marvel Comics** will be celebrating its *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary* this year.

Twenty-five years of Marvel Comics!! I almost can't believe it's been that long.

I first discovered **Marvel** when I was eleven or twelve years old. I had gone down to the local soda shop to see what was new on the comic book racks. I was bored, and really hoped to find something exciting to read. I found *Fantastic Four* #3 and #4 . . . and I've been hooked on **Marvel** ever since!

My favorite character has always been a certain friendly neighborhood web-spinner whom I met in the pages of *Amazing Fantasy* #15. (Yes, I was one of the lucky ones who actually bought a copy of Spidey's very first appearance.)

That story has been reprinted in this special anniversary celebration. Since this particular issue is the very first Spider-Man book to be published this year, we figured we'd give you a unique opportunity to see where Spidey's been, and to glimpse where he's headed . . .

Marvel has made a lot of magic in the past twenty-five years. Hopefully, the best is yet to come.

Who knows, maybe you'll be writing this column — or one like it — twenty-five years from now. I wish you luck!

Thanks for being there!
Tom DeFalco

SEND ALL LETTERS TO:
**Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South,
New York, N.Y. 10016. Please include your name
and address. We will, however, withhold them
upon request.**

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

I've just finished reading issue #271 and I enjoyed it. The art was excellent and the story was the same. The creative team on **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** really works well together.

Just a few suggestions: I think Spider-Man needs another male buddy who he can get close to and talk with. Since Harry Osborne left that's been a position needing to be filled.

Also, I agree with other correspondents that J.J.J. should make amends with Spider-Man. That old Jonah-hates-Spidey subplot is wearing thin.

Please let Spidey go back to school and finish his education. In my opinion this will mark the end of the first age of Spider-Man and let his adult life flourish.

Also, I hope Peter's relationship with Mary-Jane goes somewhere this time.

Well, until Spidey wears an "S" on his chest, Make Mine Marvel!

The Reader
2943 Rosewood Cr.
Port Coquitlam BC
Canada V3B-3L8

For more on the Jonah-Spidey feud, don't miss **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #13, on sale now!

True Believers,

I just got **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #272, and it knocked my socks off. The art was superb and the storyline was excellent. Slyde seems to be a pretty slick character (pun intended). I only have one complaint . . . I WANT MORE HOBGOBLIN!! Hobby is one of my favorite villains, because he doesn't mess around. I read all of your Spider-Man titles. ASM #'s 269 and 270 were excellent also. Firelord has a terrible temper, doesn't he?

Christopher Kirshon
5621 S. Greenfield
Portsmouth VA 23703

More Hobgoblin, Christopher? Well . . . okay. If you insist.

Dear Spider-Men,

Something wonderful has happened to **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**. It comes in the form of Sal Buscema and Kyle Baker. Spider-Man #272 was utterly fantastic. From splash page to the last page I was enthralled by the art and the story. I'd like to give a special compliment to Nelson Yomtov and his superb coloring job.

A quick word about Slyde: He's great. Slyde is one of the most unique villains to surface in a long time. It's refreshing to see a villain who doesn't want to hurt other people (well, physically, anyway). I hope he'll be popping up again in the near future.

There seems to be a small controversy concerning the gold notebook Spider-Man took out of the trashcan. Here's what I'd like to see happen. Peter should cash in the notebook, spend some of it on Aunt May and her halfway house, and pay any hospital bills for Nathan (if Medicare doesn't take care of them all). Then, I'd like to see Spider-Man donate whatever's left to a worthy cause. I feel this way Peter won't feel as guilty about taking the notebook in the first place. Also, he'll be helping a lot of people and he might even help himself, smoothing relations with Aunt May, and Spider-Man's public image might improve.

Kevin J. Frey
2821 S. Blackstone Ave
Minneapolis MN 55416

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #14 sounds like it's got your number, Kevin. It features the debut of new regular writer David Michelinie and inker extraordinaire Kyle Baker! And **WEB** #14 begins a 2-part tale that will end with the ultimate resolution of the gold notebook controversy!

Dear Editors,

The premiere of Slyde in **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #272 was fabulous! Slyde has some very unique abilities and provides Spidey with a very formidable foe! Slyde might even

make a good hero if he decides to reform. Whatever the case, bring Slyde back soon! He's terrific!

Jeff Mitchell
c/o DJ Vorwerk
1579 Grandview A.E.
Maplewood MN 55109

Dear Arachnoids,

Just a friendly letter to let you know how much I enjoyed #272. Slyde seems to be an interesting character, but what's real interesting is his costume.

When we see Mr. Beacher claim that his new coating is frictionless, I could envision the massive response you would receive over this new discovery. Beacher claims that nothing will stick to this miraculous discovery. If this is true, then how is Slyde's uniform able to "hold onto" the frictionless stuff?

If something is frictionless, NOTHING would be able to adhere to such a substance, no matter what was done to it. So Slyde can't have his uniform "covered" with a frictionless substance.

Also, if Slyde's boots are "covered" with this substance, he wouldn't be able to run or negotiate a sharp curve as shown on page 5, panel 4. If you're wondering why, take a peek into a physics book and look under Newton's first law of motion.

When I thought about writing this letter, I intended on getting real technical about the "curve" I mentioned above (i.e., weight, coefficient of friction, speed, etc.) but I have changed my mind and let you guys "SLYDE". Maybe because I have spared you from such an attack, perhaps a coveted No-Prize will appear in my mailbox?

Jim Puga
311 E. Street
Broderick CA 95605

Very astute reasoning, Jim, but you neglected to address the real test required to receive a much-coveted No-Prize; that is, you didn't come up with an explanation as to how Slyde's frictionless fabric really does work. After all, such complexities are far too sticky for us poor overworked editors!

Dear Web-Heads,

I just thought I'd drop you a line about **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #272. The debut of Slyde was interesting, to say the least. He has great potential, and I'm sure he'll become a major **SPIDER-MAN** villain. I can't wait for next issue for two reasons:

- 1) The Puma will be returning. He's my favorite villain next to the Hobgoblin.
- 2) Next issue will be a **SECRET WARS II** crossover.

By the way, did Ron Frenz draw the epilogue for this issue? It looked like his work.

Oh yeah. I think I found out who Nathan's "friend" is. First, take a look in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #271. The guy Nathan talks to in the alley is wearing a hat and the shape of the hat looks familiar. Then, in **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #272, there is a vase of roses in Nathan's room from "a friend".

Now who do we know that wears a hat and has an obsession with roses? Of course! The Rose! Am I right? Until Spidey makes up his mind on which costume to wear, **MAKE MINE MARVEL!**

Larry Baranski
32372 Bristol Ct.
Fraser MI 48026

Right Frenz, wrong Rose.

Dear Marvel,

I'm writing on behalf of issues 271 and 272. Issue 272 was great! Slyde is a good villain for Spidey. Sal Buscema is a great penciler. Keep him. By the way, how fast can Slyde move in that suit of his?

Now, issue 271, that's a different story. I'm not going to say how great it was (although it was superb), but to ask some questions regarding

the Hobgoblin. On page 15, Peter's Spider-Sense goes off. Why? 'Cause of Lance Bannon, or perhaps Hobby. Maybe? On the next page we see Ned and Betty having a fight. Could Ned's outrage be due to prolonged exposure to the Goblin formula, like what happened to Norman?

The point I'm trying to make is that I think Hobby is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds.

Well, until the Hobgoblin takes up basketball, make mine Marvel.

Heath Vinyard
6925 N Galaxy Pl.
Tuscon AZ 85741

Well, Heath, by the end of this issue's climactic struggle, you won't have to guess any longer.

Dear Web-Shooters,

I am a newcomer to the comic-book world (about 4 months). With the exception of some old Spider-Man books, I had never collected two comic books in a row in my life. The first comic book I picked up three months ago was an AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I didn't know what I had been missing! I would like to thank Marvel and the makers of AMAZING—and WEB—for welcoming me into the Marvel Universe. Now my favorites are SECRET WARS II, AMAZING, and WEB. My first AMAZING was #266. What a way to start! It was great. I loved the SECRET WARS II tie-in. The Firelord series was good, too. Until Mr. Fantastic's arms fall off, make mine Marvel!

Jeff Ham
412 Hickory Tree Circle
Seffner FL 33584

Welcome aboard, Jeff!

Dear Stan Lee,

Whatever happened to the spider that bit Peter Parker? You know, the one that turned him into the Amazing Spider-Man?

I know that it probably died, but did it have any offspring? It seems likely that it did. Are there any more Spider-Men out there?

Ray Herbert and Cliff Crawford
PO Box 3362
Bryan TX 77805

It's dead, Jim . . . er, Ray and Cliff. See this issue's special re-presentation of the original Marvel masterpiece!

Dear AMAZING, SPECTACULAR, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN,

I have a few suggestions:

- 1) Could you, like, have *more* Spider-Man comic books? Even though every other hero can only fight one villain a month, I think Spider-Man should be able to fight 4 or 5 villains a month. It's only fair.
- 2) Why doesn't every hero have 2 or 3 suits? Why wear out one look? Besides, it would help the heroes because it would confuse the villains.

And:

- 3) Could you have *more* SECRET WARS crossovers? It's good to confuse people who don't get SECRET WARS and leave them hanging on some stories.

Brian Edgar
1420 Hedges
Independence MO 64052

Dear Web-Heads,

Here are my comments about issue 272. I loved the cover. The cover's drawing was better than the book's artwork. I liked the new character, Slyde. He's got new appeal and good promise to be a great villain or even a hero. With his frictionless costume, he should be a great match for Spider-Man. All Slyde needs is some experience. Give him some. Don't let him disappear. The story was good overall and the artwork was fair. I'm glad you put D.A. Tower in the story. I hadn't seen him for awhile. Tower got the tape even though Slyde grabbed the money. I'm glad to hear that Spider-Man thinks he's going to

come first. Who believes that one? Not me. He should clear this fight between Aunt May and himself, though. I can't wait until next issue for the Spidey/Puma team-up against the Beyonder. I'll be here. Also, get Hobgoblin back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I've narrowed his identity to three people: Ned Leeds, Flash Thompson, or Lance Bannon. But wouldn't this be a shock: the secret identity of the Hobgoblin is Aunt May Parker!

Carl Zeitler
426 S. Elmwood
Oak Park, IL 60302

WHO TOLD YOU?

Dear Marvel Madmen,

I looooved ASM #273! I also can't wait to read the continuations in PPTSSM #111 and then back to ASM #274 for the conclusion! I'm really intrigued to find out how this confrontation will end with the Beyonder. I'm a fairly recent collector of Spidey's, but I have to admit that they are my favorite mags. I really enjoy the new black-and-white Spidey duds, and I hope that they are around for much, much longer. By the way, I noticed that in ASM #271 page 16, panel 4, there was a poster in the far right corner of the panel. It read "Spider-Man, Old and New". I happen to have that poster, and I noticed that you included Aunt May's face under Spidey's right leg! How could that be if the poster was sold in New York with Spidey around? Oh, well, in closing, forever *MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!!*

Michael Schafer
1100 State Street
New Orleans LA 70118

Dear Marvel People,

Way to go! You people are great, fantastic, and awesome. Why am I saying these nice things about you great people? Because you're putting my favorite Web-Slinger and my favorite Puma and my favorite person from Beyond all together in one *Amazing* mag! Way to go!!

Jonathan Romeo
1708 Capistrano Dr.
Knoxville, TN

Dear Jim, Tom, and Ron,

"To Challenge the Beyonder" is a neat title for the story. In issue #273 you really got me wanting more. Like Spider-Man should take the \$100,000, or at least cash in the notebook. Give me a break, for almost half a year I've been wanting to know what is going to happen to the notebook, and yet two books have dragged it on. I love the way you combine the WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and this title together, while you leave PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN up to date but let it get into its own complicated plots. Also lately I've noticed a lot of fight 'em and leave 'em enemies. Firelord, Manslaughter, and Slyde were quick fights where we found little to do with the villain. Firelord at least we have heard of before.

I also hear that the identity of Hobgoblin is soon to be revealed. Just because we find out who he or she is, that character does not need to be written off. That's just my thoughts, so keep Spidey swinging. And how about some good, long, action-packed four-issue sagas against an interesting villain. And I don't count the Beyonder as a villain. So until next time . . .

Matthew Paul
381 Lincoln Street
Lexington MA 02173

Dear Creative Staff,

ASM #273, as great a comic as it was, as stupendous and inspired the writing and art was therein, still failed to divert me from the true important continuing storyline: the identity of the Hobgoblin.

In this, and most recent issues, you have dropped various hints that the Hobgoblin is either Lance Bannon or Ned Leeds. You may have fooled some readers, but after months of back-issue reading, I have deduced that the Hobgoblin must be . . . Timothy Byrnes! . . .

Mary Jane's father? . . . Richard Fisk? . . . oh, heck, I don't know who he is.

Michael Pointer
Raleigh NC 27622

See next issue, Michael. You'll figure it out.

Greetings, Tall One and crew,

Let us examine the clues in the Hobgoblin case.

He is used to dealing in power, although not of a physical nature. He could be a politician. He has criminal connections of a minor and very secret nature. He could still be a politician. His sanity is slipping. This results from a family history of insanity, including a schizoid son with an evil alter-ego. He also has a reason to seek revenge against Spidey. This leads us back to the son whom Spidey brutalized while under the influence of the Spider-Lizard radiation. Everything points to only one man . . .

The Hobgoblin is Senator Robert Martin (PPTSSM #'s 38 and 39). I would like to thank the academy if I receive the famous No-Prize.

Jimmy Walker
2689 Addison Dr.
Doraville GA 30340

WHO TOLD YOU?

NEXT: The fight of the decade comes to a very definite conclusion, capped by a most eagerly-anticipated event! Don't dare miss . . . "UNMASKED . . . !" 30 days, folks.