



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

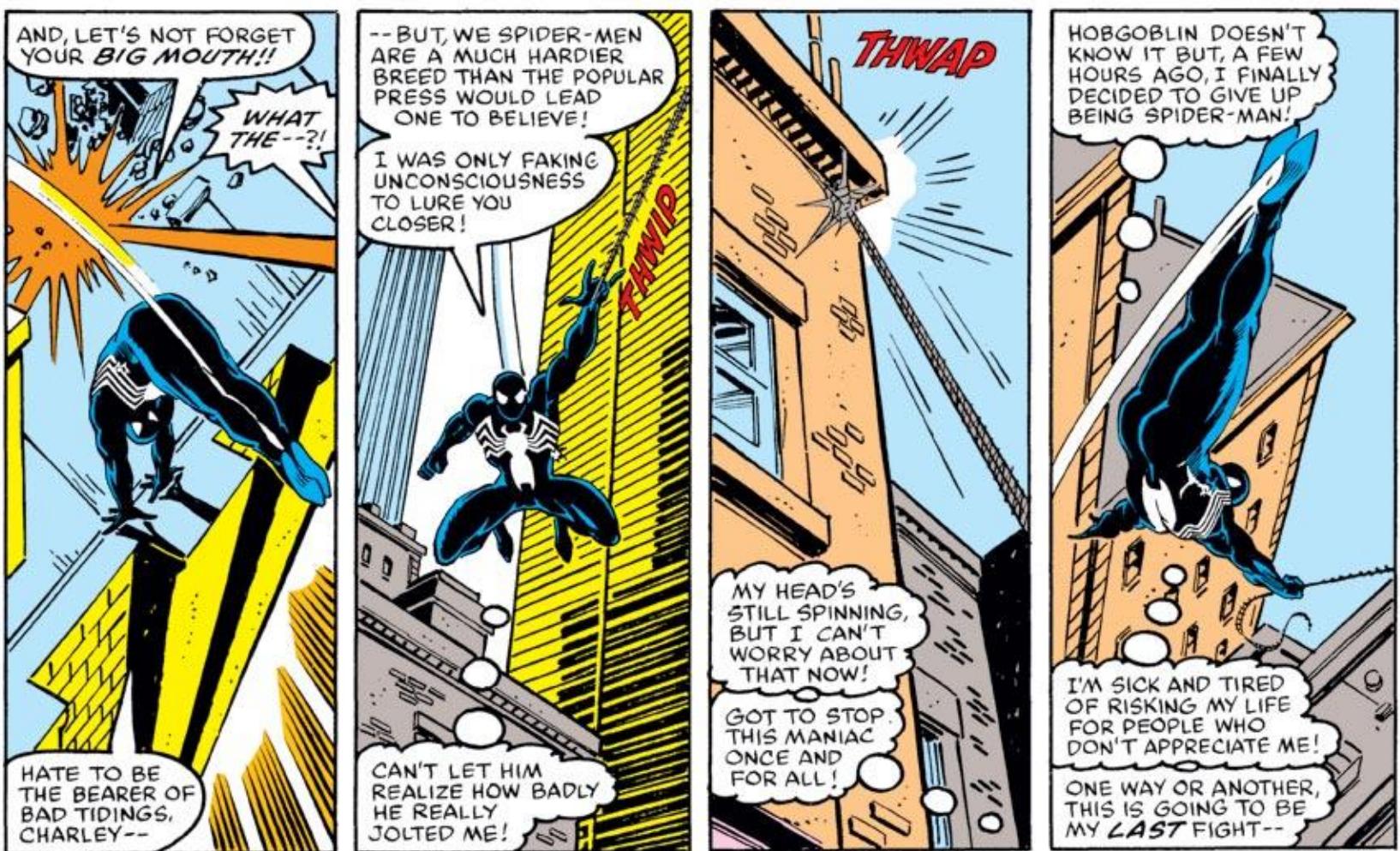
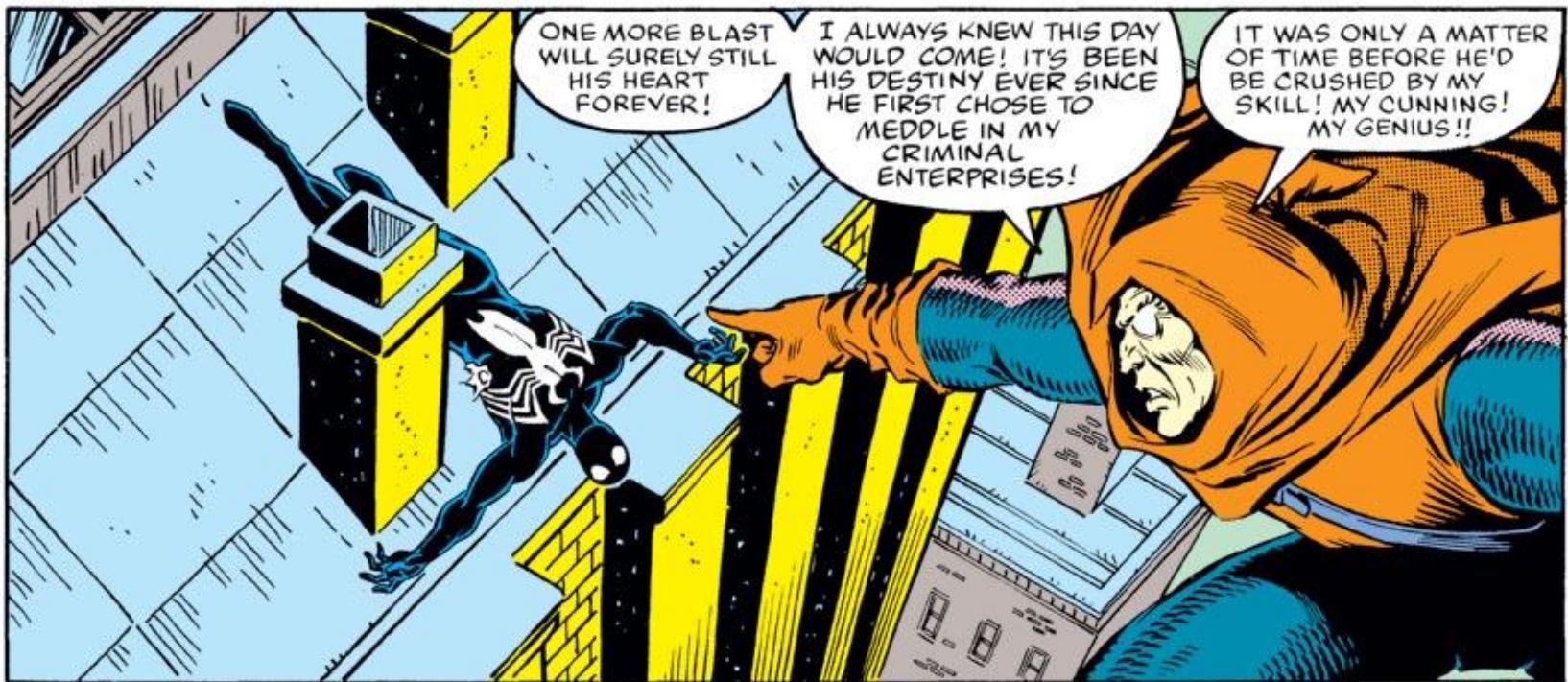
NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO UNMASK THE HOBGOBLIN!

BUT, IT CAN'T BE... HIM!!

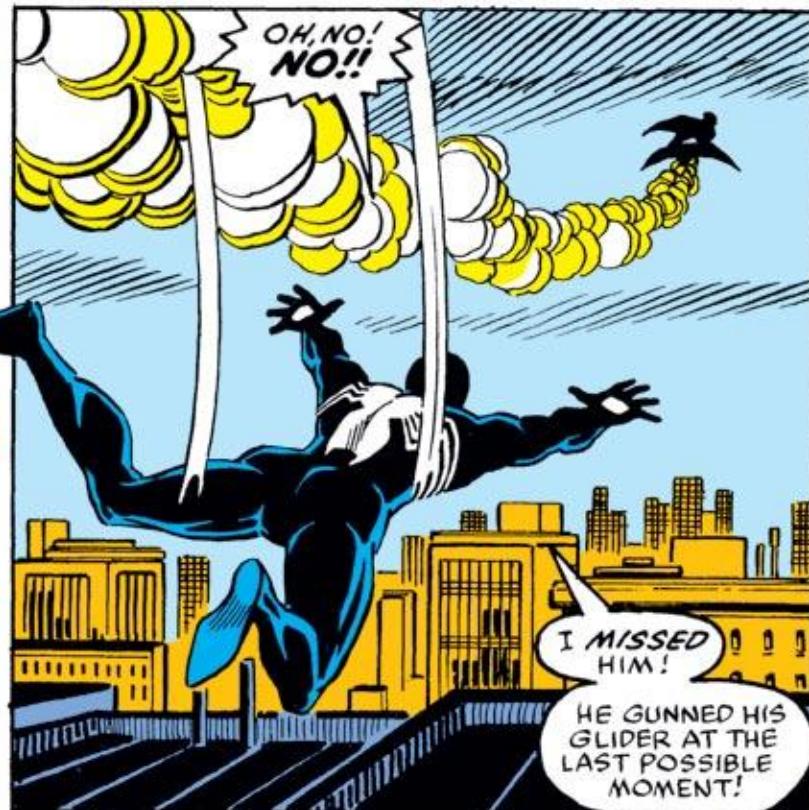
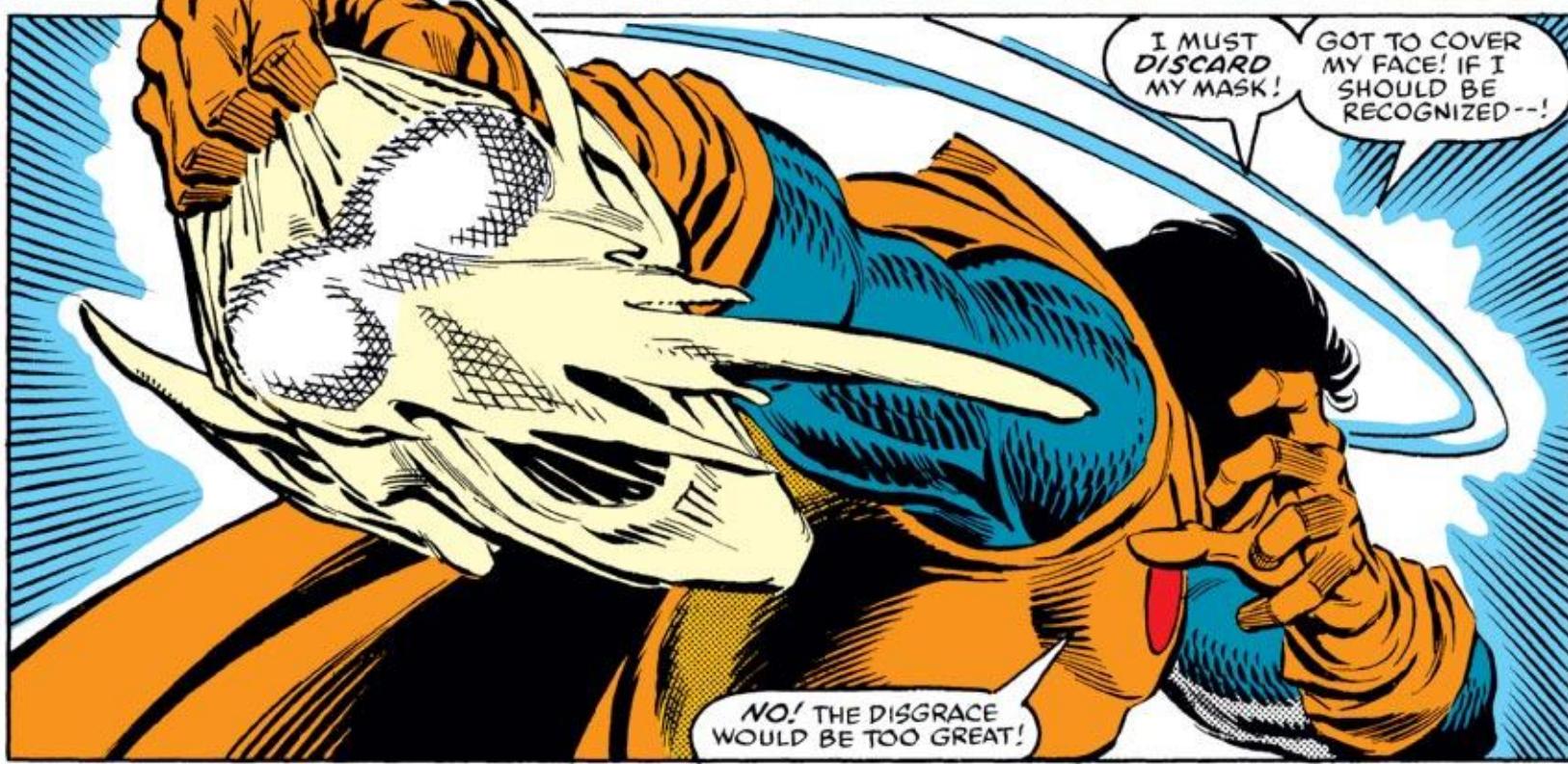


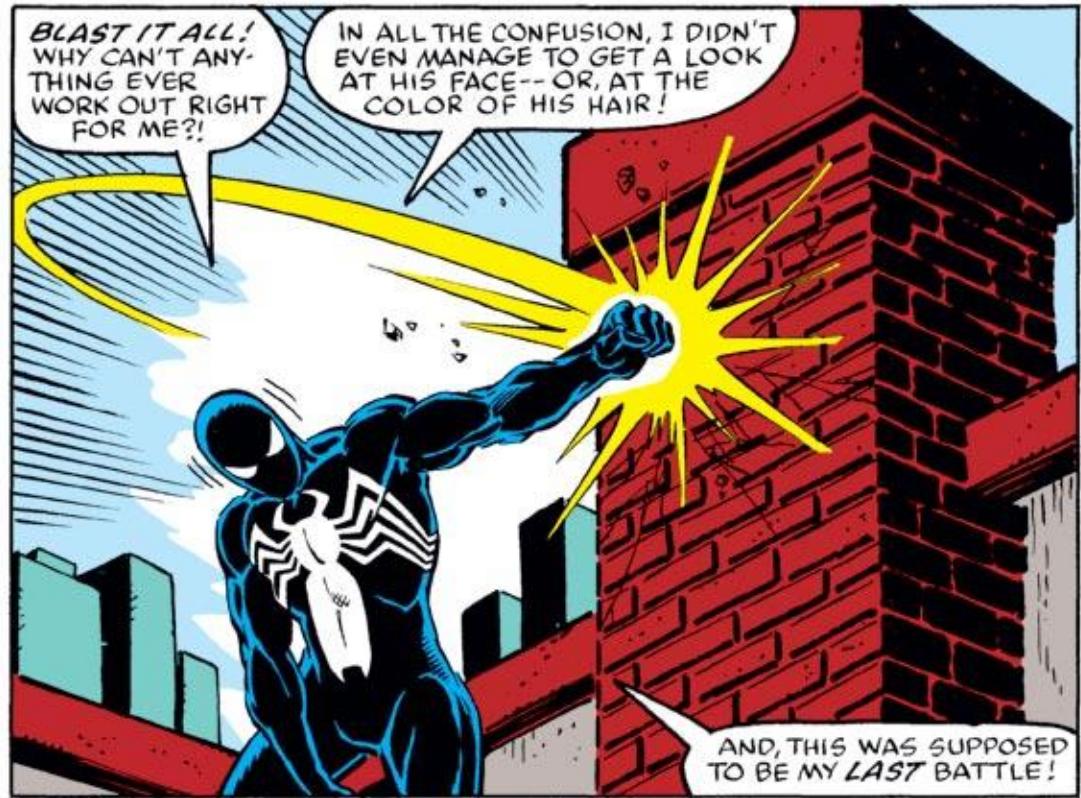


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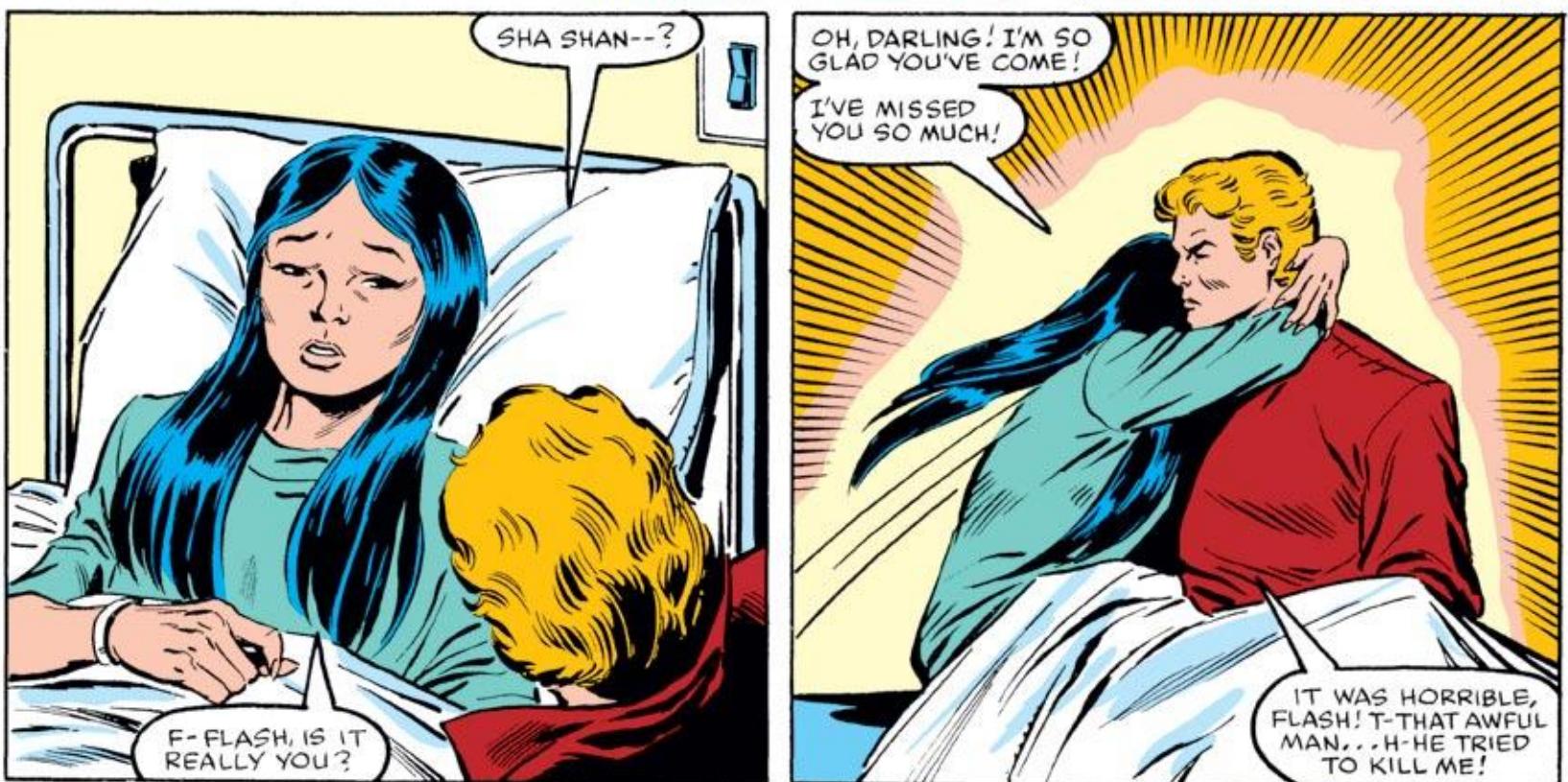
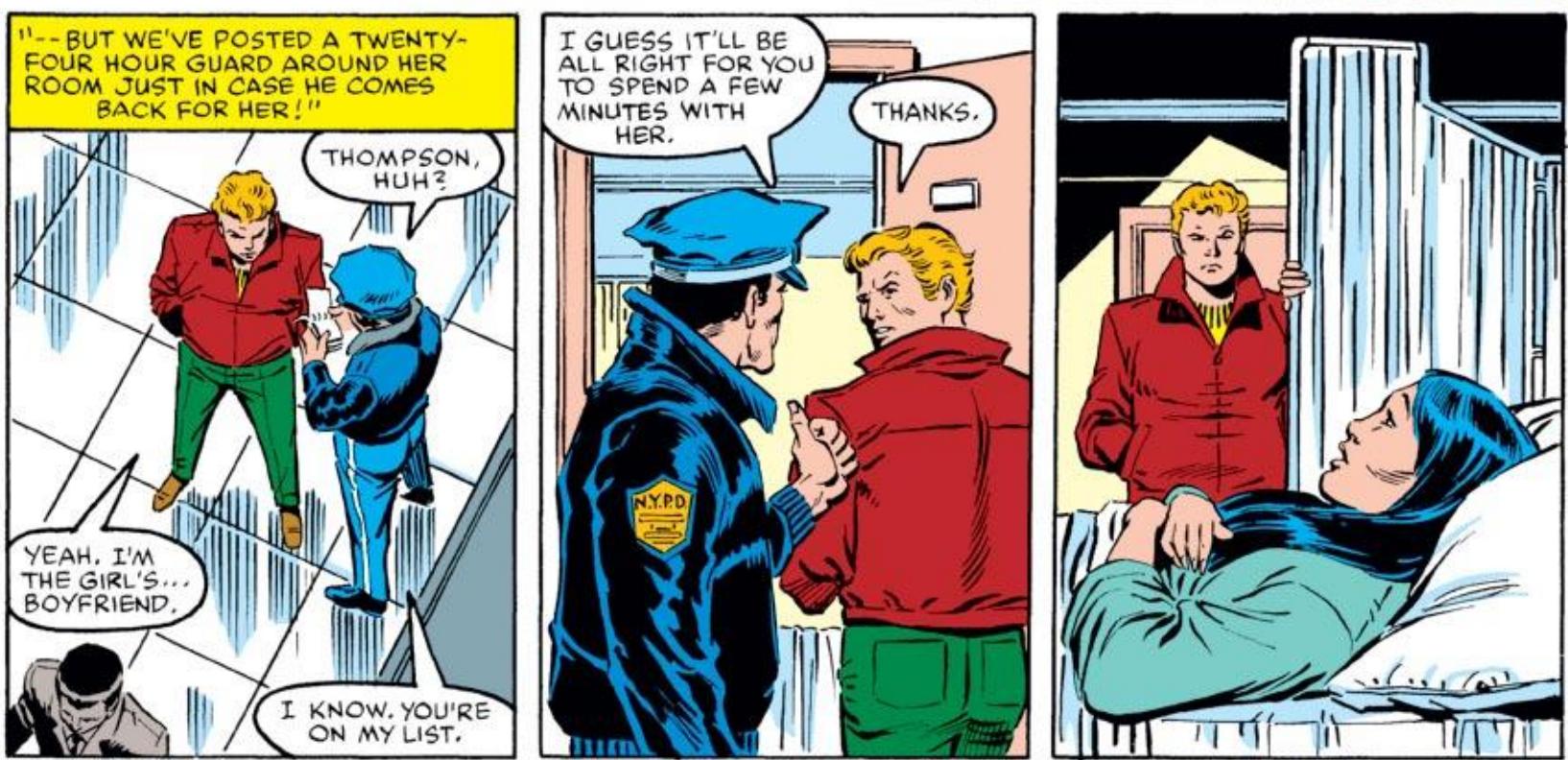
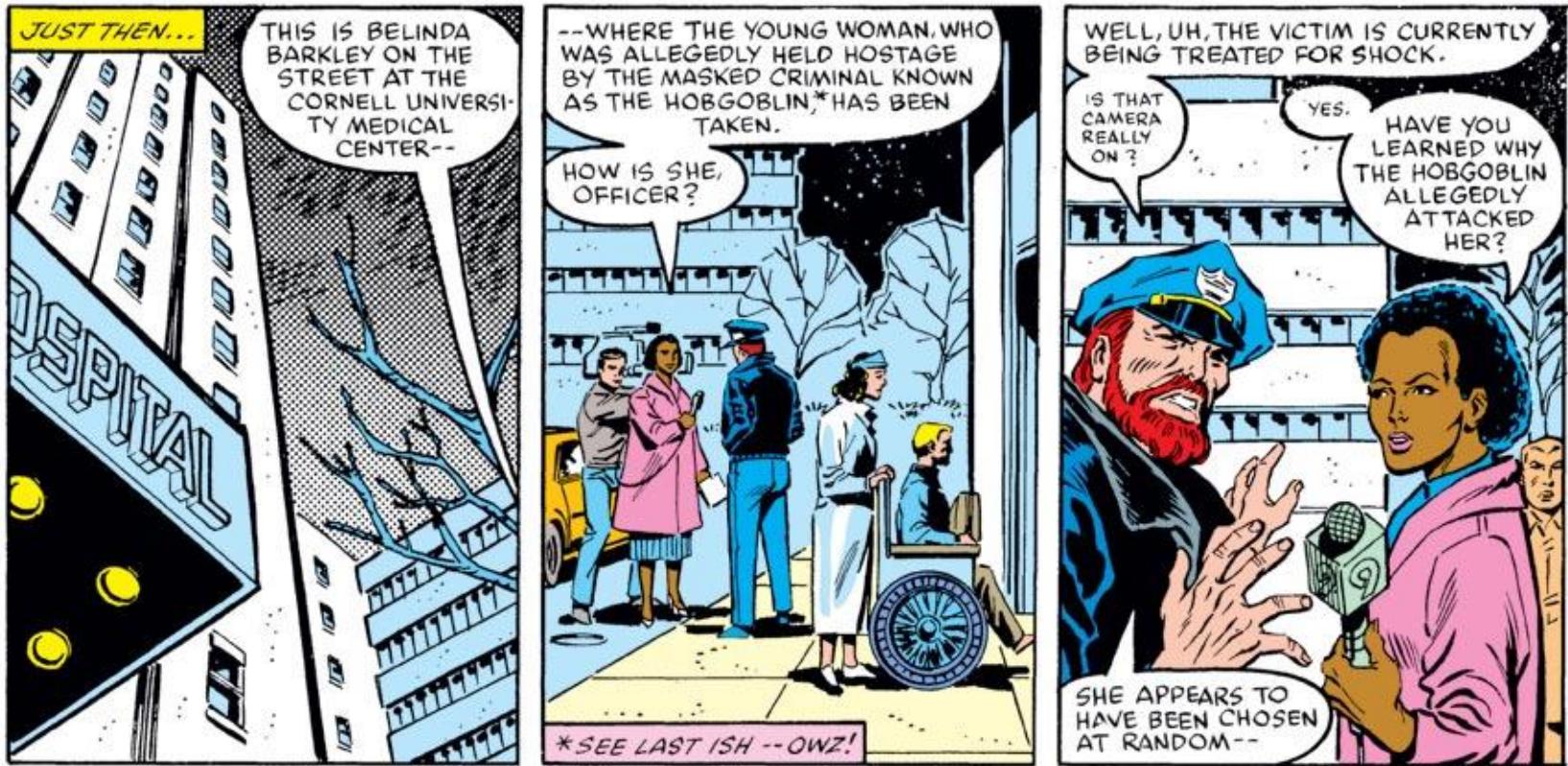


















MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN, AT THE
BWAINSTEIN PSYCHIATRIC CENTER
FOR THE CRIMINALLY MALADJUSTED...



WELL, YOU'RE REALLY GONNA LOVE
THIS PLACE! GOT A FULL COMPLIMENT
OF LOONIES AND WEIRDOS, WE DO!



NAH... I MEAN IT REALLY IS GARBAGE
--POTATO PEELINGS, BANANA SKINS,
ROTTED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES!

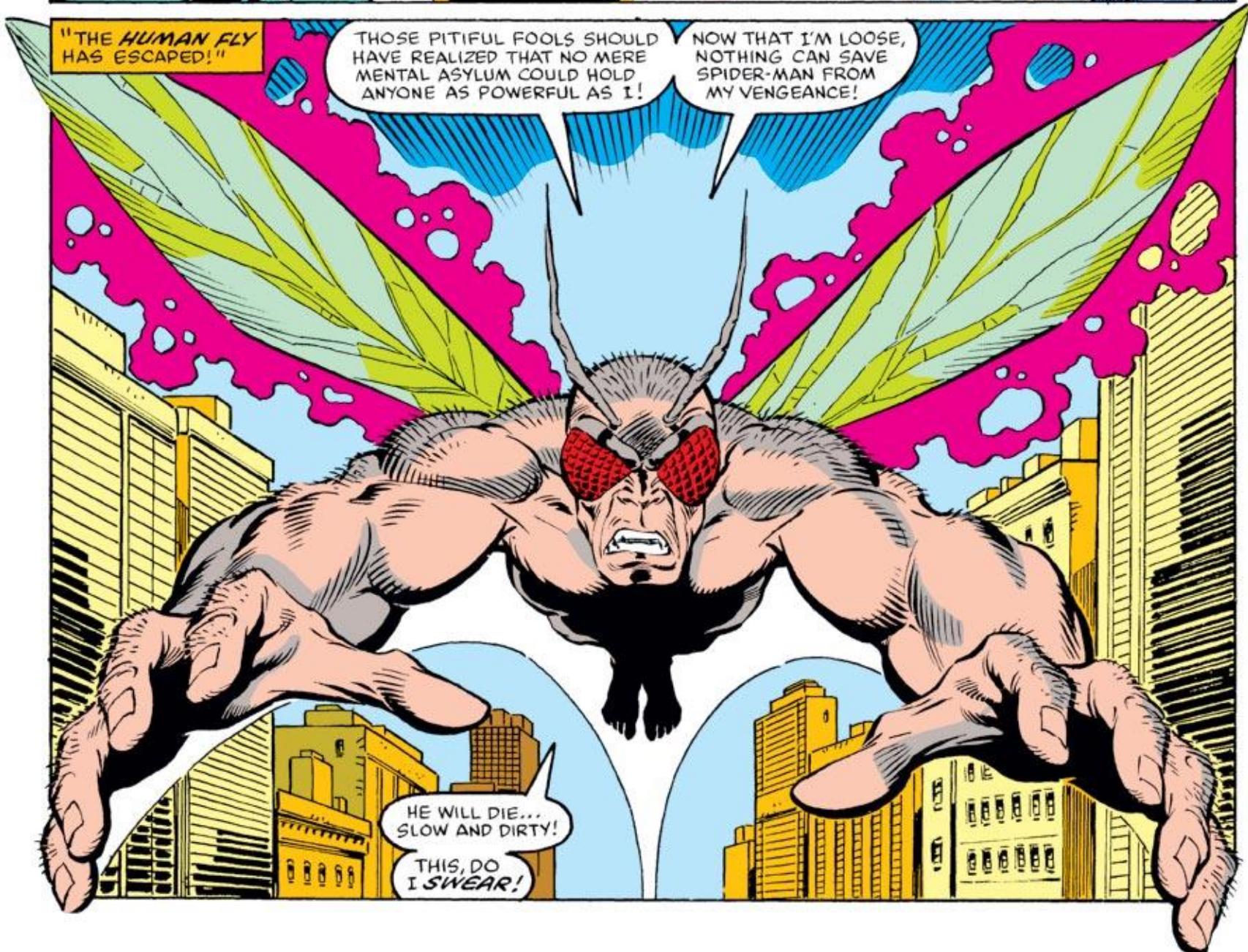


"THE HUMAN FLY HAS ESCAPED!"

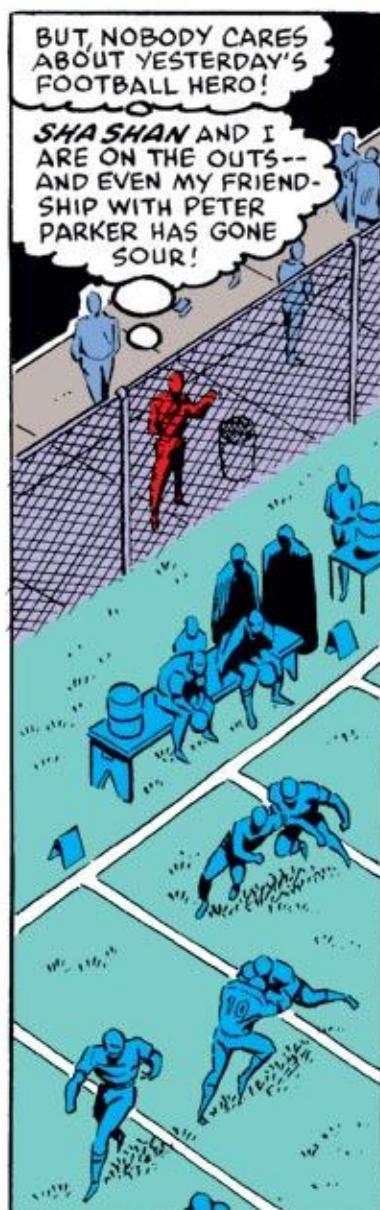
THOSE PITIFUL FOOLS SHOULD
HAVE REALIZED THAT NO MERE
MENTAL ASYLUM COULD HOLD
ANYONE AS POWERFUL AS I!

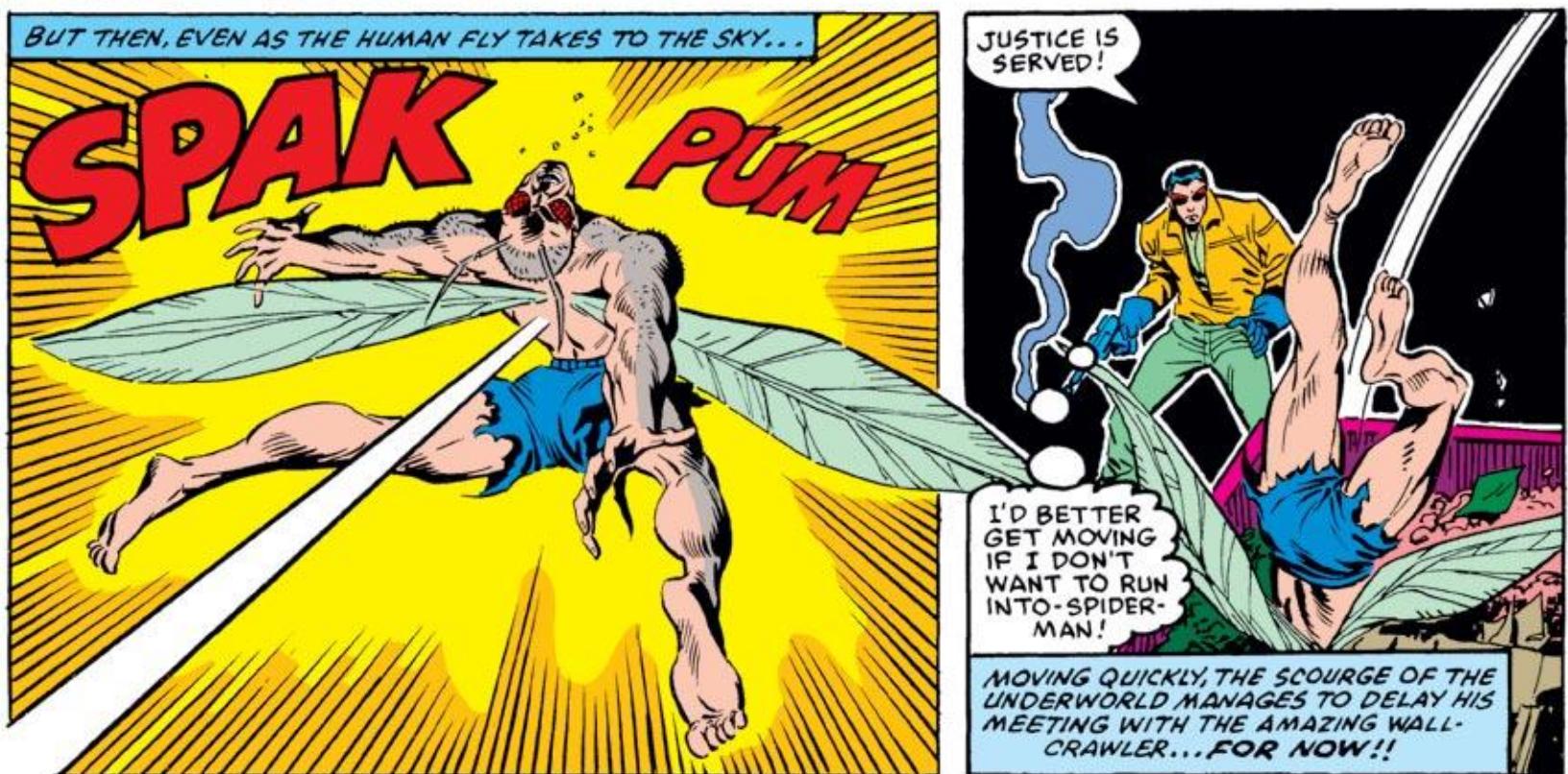
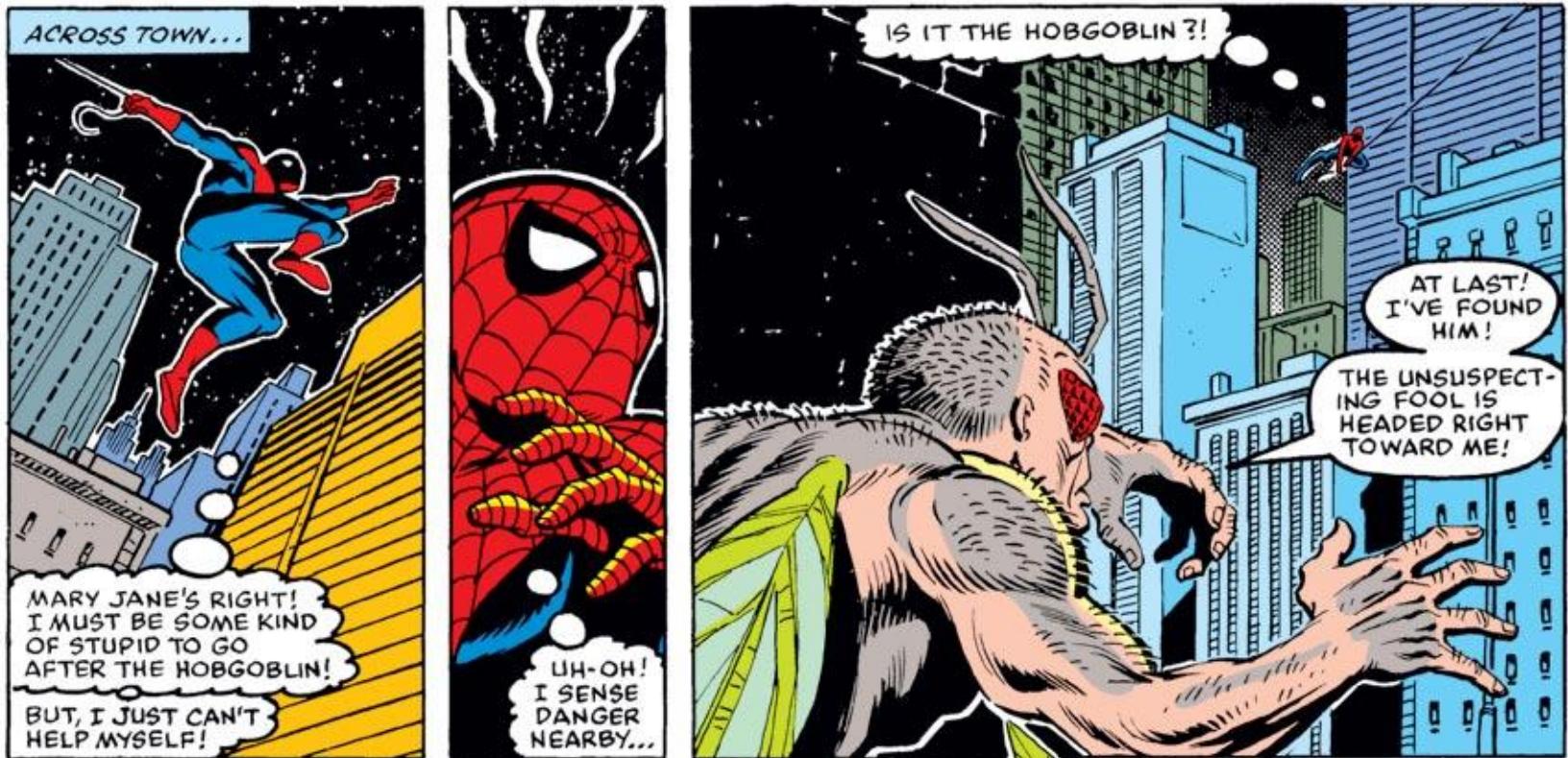
NOW THAT I'M LOOSE,
NOTHING CAN SAVE
SPIDER-MAN FROM
MY VENGEANCE!

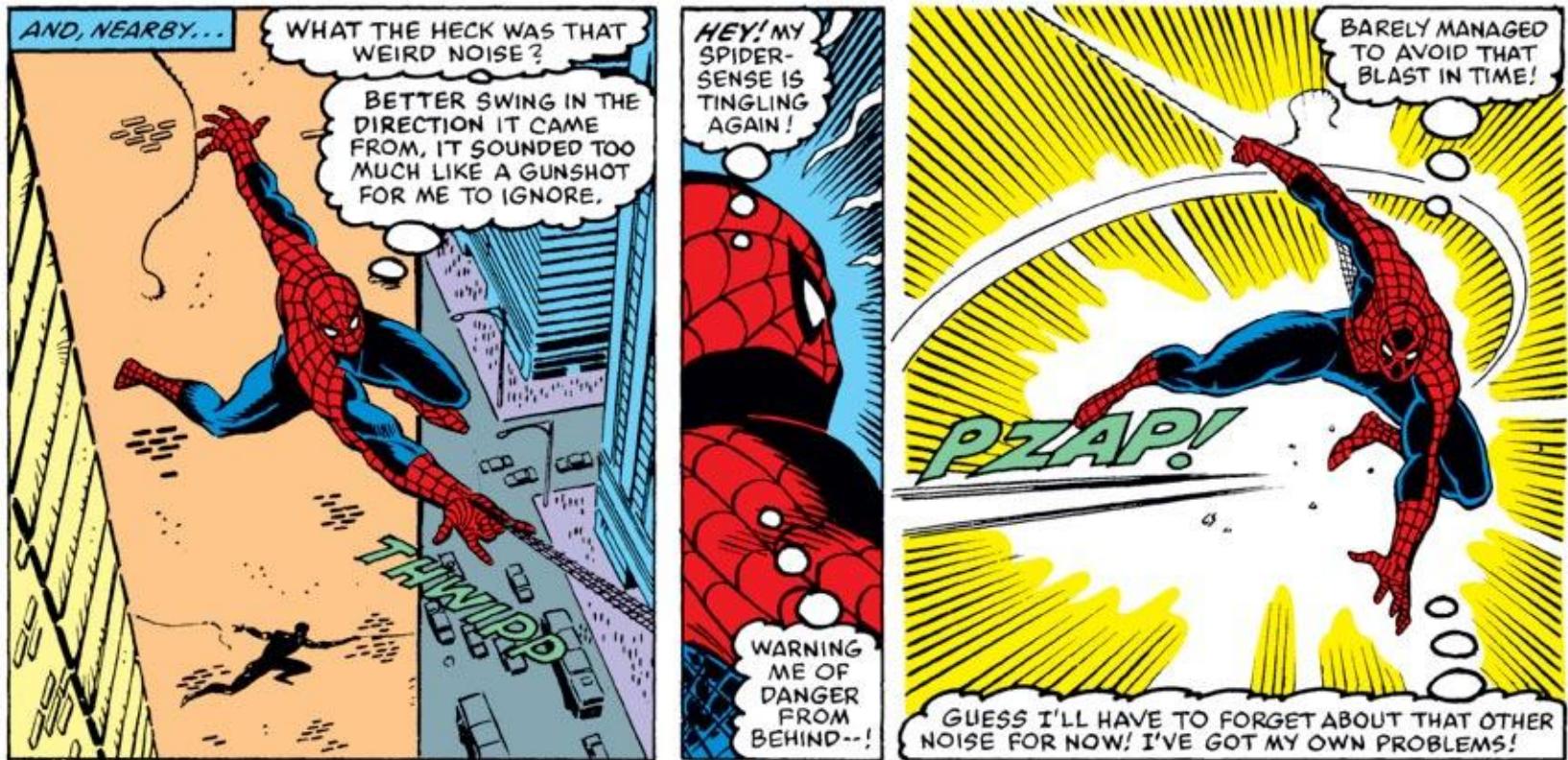
HE WILL DIE...
SLOW AND DIRTY!
THIS, DO
I SWEAR!

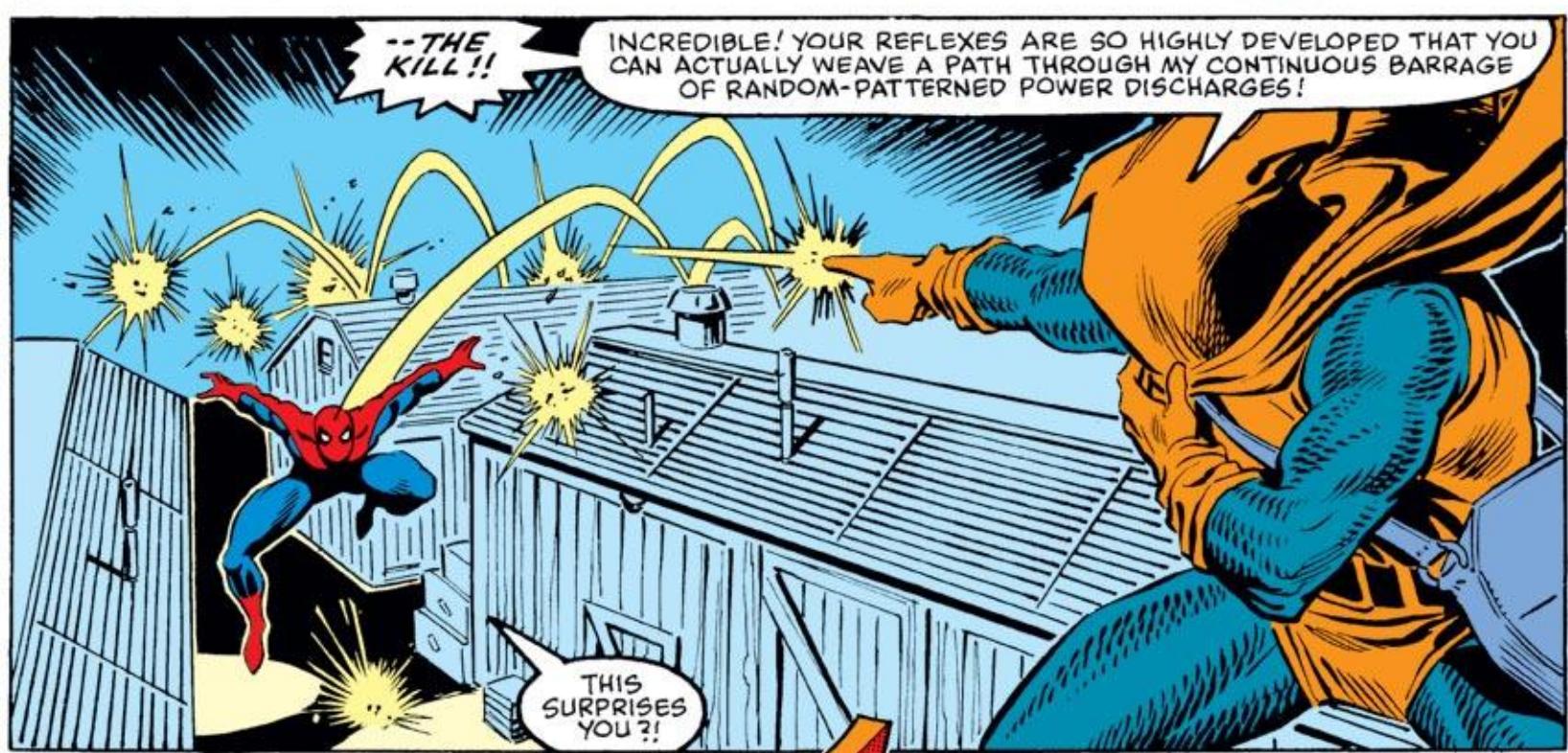
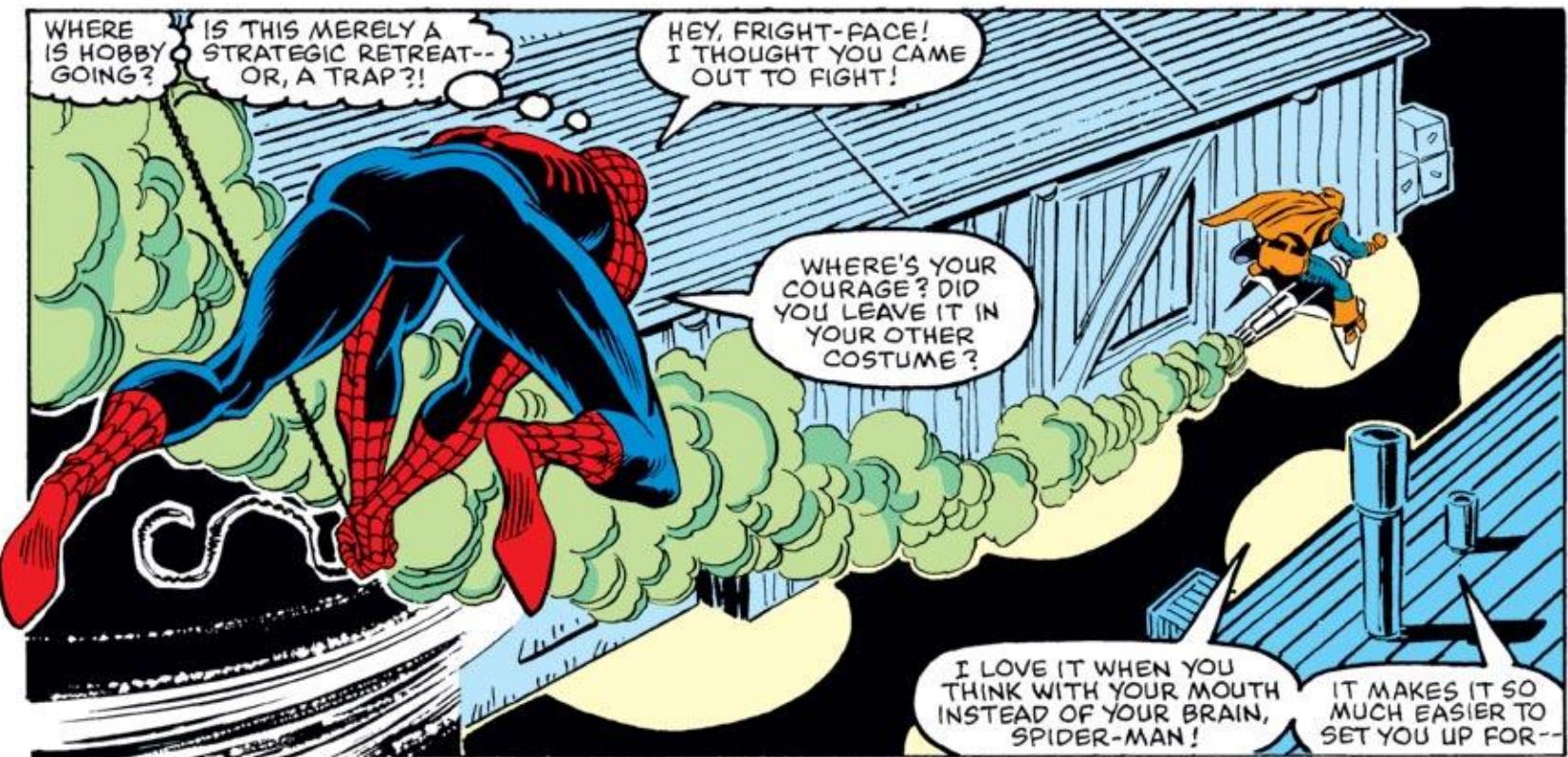




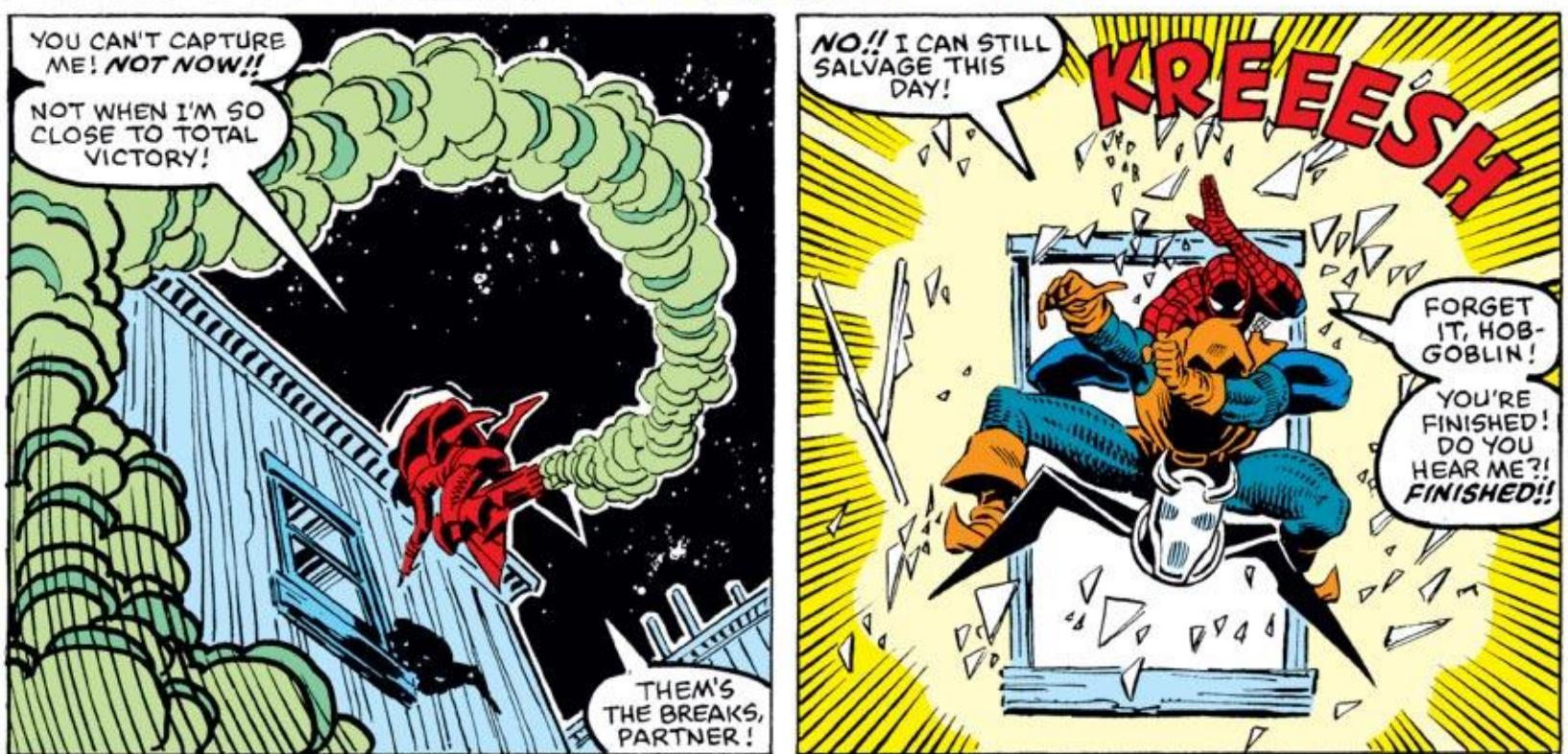
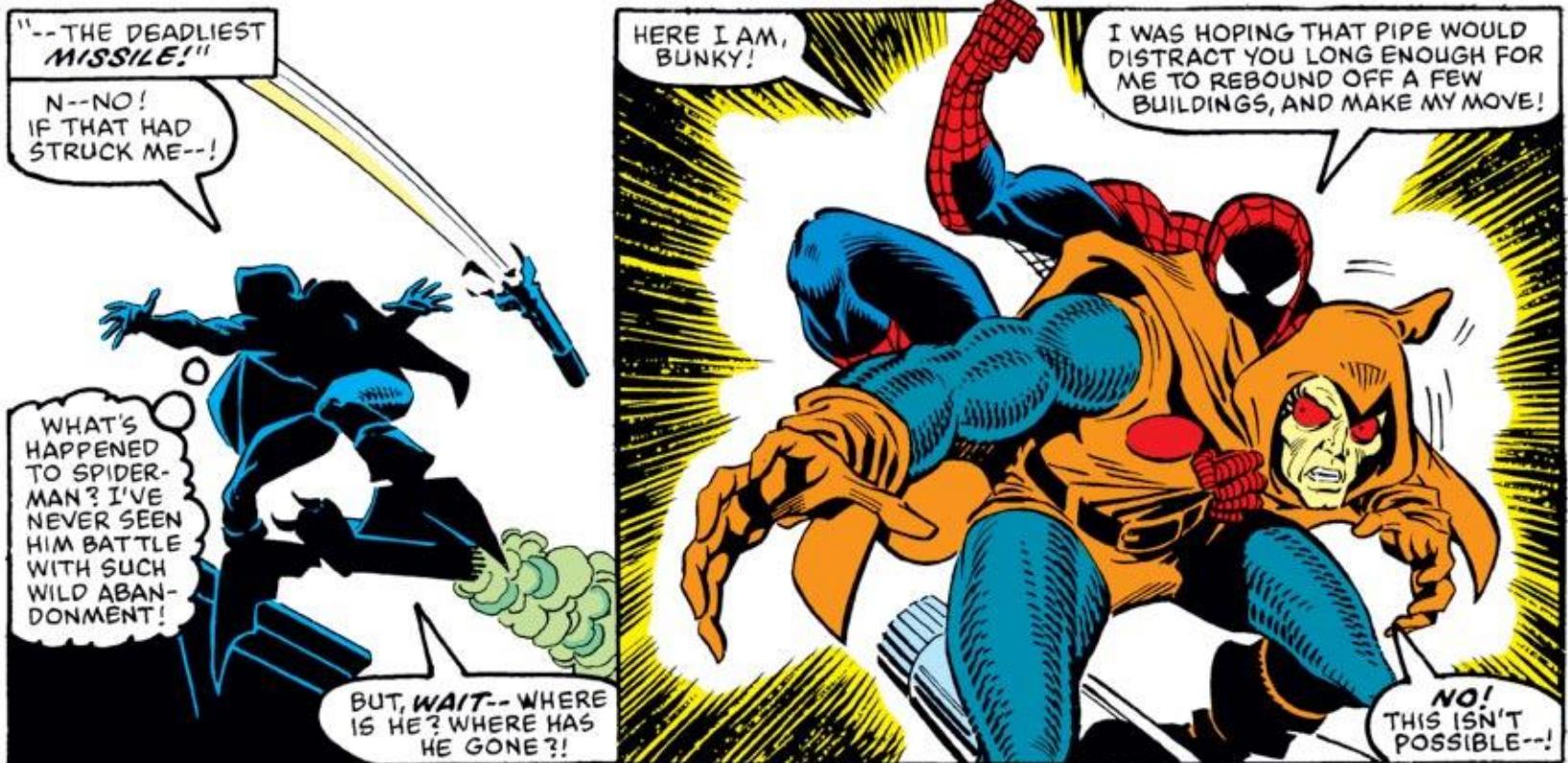


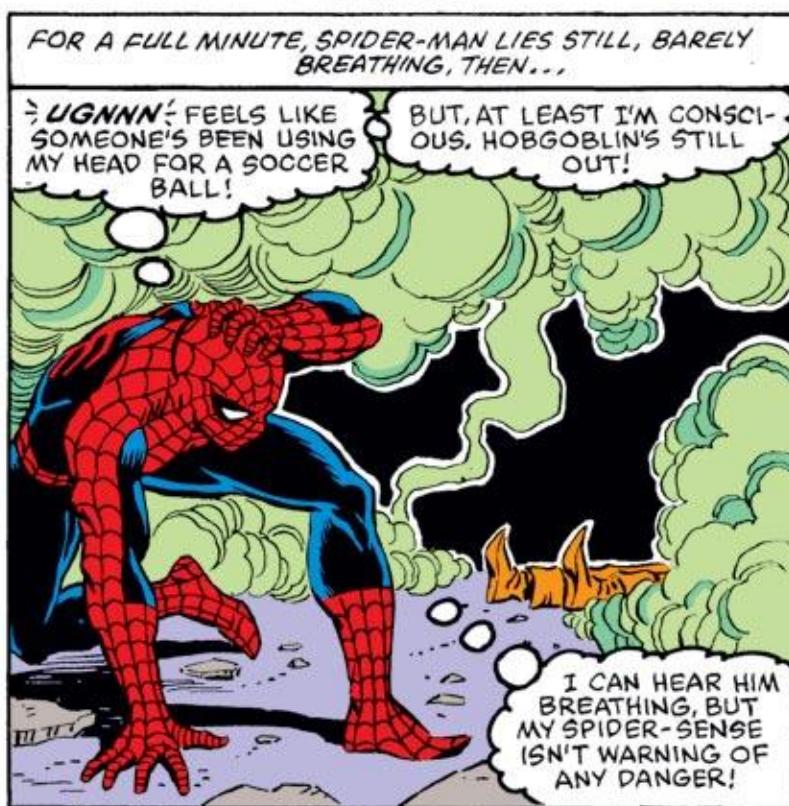


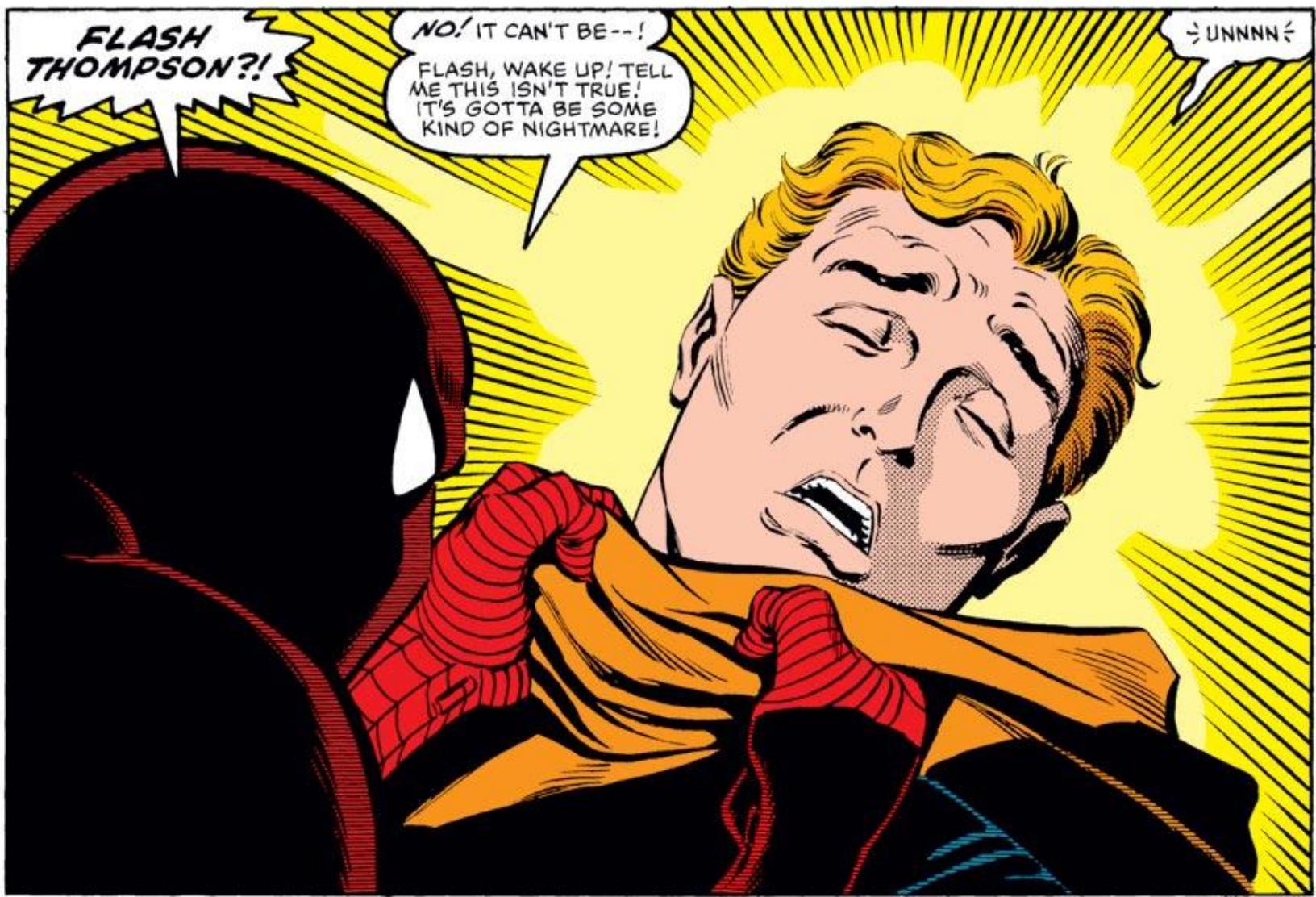
















THE SPIDER'S WEB

JIM OWSLEY
EDITOR
ADAM BLAUSTEIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VIEW FROM THE TENTH FLOOR

Call me Blaustein. I'm assistant editor to Jim Owsley, and I've got a beef with some of you out there.

One of the thousand things my boss has me do around here is sorting through the tons of mail we receive. A lot of this incoming mail regards the secret identity of a certain nefarious ne'er-do-well named Hobgoblin! To make my job just a bit easier, and to clear up any confusion, here is a list of various readers' guesses concerning Hobby's alter ego. **NONE OF THEM ARE CORRECT.**

Liz Osborn (or, Harry, for that matter).

Gwen Stacey's clone

Captain Stacey (Gwen's father)

Captain Stacey's clone

Peter Parker's clone

Nathan Lubensky

Howard Mackie

Ernie Popchik

John Jameson

John Jameson's clone

The son of John Jameson's clone & Gwen Stacey's clone.

Aunt May

Wolverine

I repeat, **NONE OF THESE GUESSES ARE CORRECT.** As for who the Hobgoblin truly is, all I can say is the clues are here. And there. And everywhere. You figure it out.

Have a party,
Adam Blaustein

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 Web-Spinners,

WOW! INCREDIBLE! WHAT A TREAT! I LOVED IT! I've never seen such a fantastic issue. You guys outdid yourselves on this one! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274 was terrific! The best penciling I've seen in years! The best script, the best color, best lettering. I hope you keep it up for a long time!

Bringing back all those lost souls to haunt Spidey was sheer genius! The manifestation of the power of vengeance (or is it "Vengeance") was truly amazing! I even began to get lost in the magazine; it became my reality for a few short moments. I hope we can do it again some time!

Now, on to the questions. Who is the Hobgoblin, and where has he been? Do super-villains go on vacation, and if so, where? And which costume will Spidey wear next issue? And will Pete and Mary Jane get more serious in their relationship?

Well, now that I have made my questions public, I'd also like to thank the gang for giving me such enjoyment each month! And till the Silver Surfer joins a motorcycle gang, **MAKE MINE MARVEL!!!**

Brian Palmateer
15876 Donald Rd.
Capac, MI 48014

Dear ASM,

Well, I figure it's about time I got into the guess-who-the-Hobgoblin-is game. To start, let's evaluate what we know about him. He is a caucasian male. He has a fairly sophisticated speech pattern, indicating education. He must be fairly well-known in the New York criminal underworld. Remember, the petty crook who found Osborn's sewer hideout went to get him. He said, "Yeah, I figured a dude like you'd be interested!" He probably has a fair degree of wealth, seeing as how he can afford all the sophisticated and doubtless expensive equipment and weaponry he uses.

Considering all this eliminates most of the more popular guesses. Lance Bannon, J. Jonah Jameson, and Steve Ditko. Well, maybe Steve Ditko. Anyhow, this leaves two men. One, Mendel Stromm, fits more perfectly than my other guess, except for one thing. He's bald, and the Hobgoblin has a full head of hair. Therefore, it can only be one man, much as I dislike it. Envelope, please. Yes, the Hobgoblin is ... **ANOTHER CLONE OF PROF. WARREN!** Well? Am I right or am I right? Till Stan Lee shaves his mustache, make mine Marvell!!!!!!

David Metz
2952 N Stowell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Wrong.

Dear Jim, Keith, and Tom,

I don't see what's wrong with Peter keeping the gold notebook. I've noticed that a lot of people are against his keeping the object in question and I think that those people are completely heartless. Good ole Pete has been through the ringer many times trying to get pictures to pay for his money problems such as paying rent, and helping his Aunt May. Let's face it, living in New York City can't be cheap; the cost of food, clothing, and utilities are always on the uprise. Plus Peter's gotta have money to take Mary Jane and others out. I say he should keep it and invest it—slowly, of course. Peter could start up some sort of company that could help him in times of need and also help his Aunt May and her financial problems.

Got it? Good!

I hope you guys don't do anything cheap like have the pad stolen or something similar. Let's face it, you said this would change his life. To have it taken from him or have him lose it in any way is to have made it a big waste of time. The idea was good so do something positive for Spider-Man, OK? OK!

Mike Moscoso
5519 Beaconsfield
Burke, VA 22015

Dear Web-Heads,

I have just recently finished issue #274. Before I comment on the story, I would like to say a few words concerning the letters page. After reading all of those letters from longtime Marvel fans praising Spidey, I realized just how much I love Marvel comics. A character like Spider-Man, who has been around as long as Marvel has, constantly needs new ideas to keep its readers interested. The creative team of Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz keeps a steady flow of excellent story and art of such quality to make the Amazing Spider-Man my favorite title. Thank you, gentlemen.

Now let's get on with issue #274. Should I buy sixty or seventy copies? I love Spidey's role in SECRET WARS II. Once more the fate of the universe lies within Peter Parker, and once again, he proves himself worthy of that responsibility. While Spidey suffers unspeakable torture from Zarathos, the Beyonder ponders whether the universe is worthy of its existence. But, once again, Spidey showed his superiority over a foe so powerful that one would think someone like Thor would be a worthy opponent. This makes me wonder why Captain America, who has no superhuman powers, gets more recognition than Spider-Man. Villains like Firelord and Zarathos could wipe the floor with Cap. I know it's futile to request that Spidey be given more credit, but I might as well try. Nevertheless, I am one of Spidey's biggest fans, and I plan to stay that way. I've written several times to various titles, but never have I had a letter printed. So, if you see it in your hearts to print this, I would be eternally grateful. So, until Aunt May gets a mohawk, Make Mine Marvel.

Chris Thomas
3119 Roy Pom Dr.
Louisville, KY 40220

Dear Owz,

In AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #272's "The Spider's Web" column you told Jake Loomis that the reason everyone's clothes did not turn to gold was that they all had had the good taste to wear natural fibers which are organic. Great suggestion! However . . . two of the things I was taught in science are:

- 1) Trees are organic, and
- 2) Trees are ground up and mixed with glue to make paper. Ah . . . oh . . . if that's true, then we have another problem. Specifically, that the gold notebook that Spidey found (made primarily of organic paper) could not have turned to gold, except of course, the spiral binding (be it metal or plastic), the glue (if it were not made of organic animal's horns and hooves) and the ink.

I, on the other hand, was always aware that the notebook was made of an experimental chemical film, designed to replace paper and preserve our beautiful trees and had only accidentally been knocked into the wastebasket.

So . . . how 'bout it. Owz, do I get the coveted No-Prize?

Chris Anderson
23 Marren St.
St. Catharines, ONT
L2P-2J7

Yep.

Dear Spider-Team,

I have read THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and its counterparts for many years now. I feel that Spider-Man is one of the best things to come to Marvel Comics, and it improves as the years go by. I liked issue 274's format very much, especially for the cover/poster, but when I read what was in store for us in issue 275, I got really excited. Please do more cover/poster issues in future months. Also, in my local newspaper I read that next year, around Christmas, there was going to be a Spider-Man movie. Could you please tell me, will the movie have real actors or animated and what costume will he wear?

Geoffrey Hill Jr.
Milltown, NJ 08850

As soon as we know anything, Geoffrey, we'll tell you and all the rest of our readers in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.