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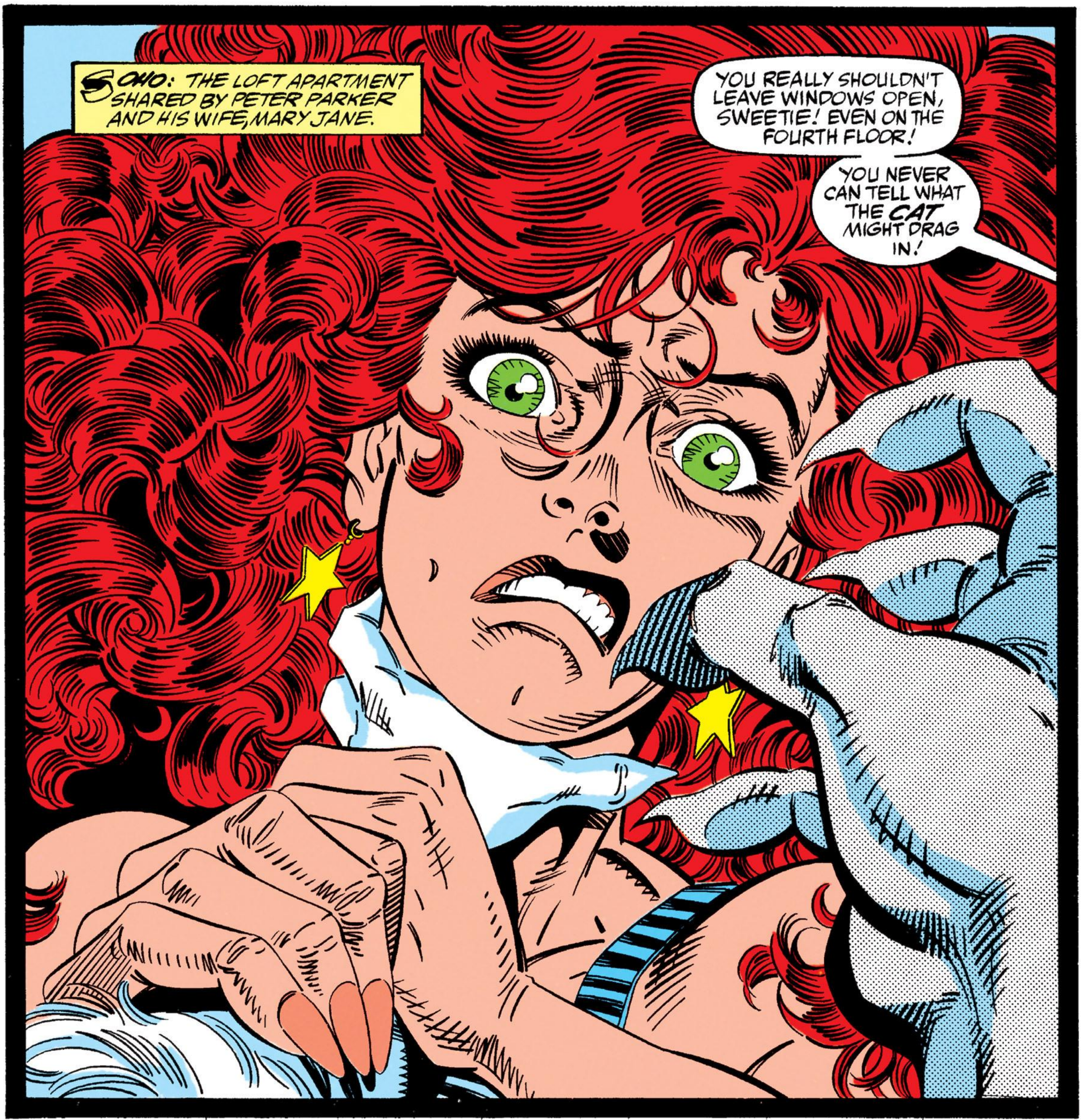
NON-MUTANT MAYHEM!
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE PUNISHER
HEAVY METAL MASSACRE!
ERIK LARSEN AND AUSTIN

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

THE DEATH STANDARD



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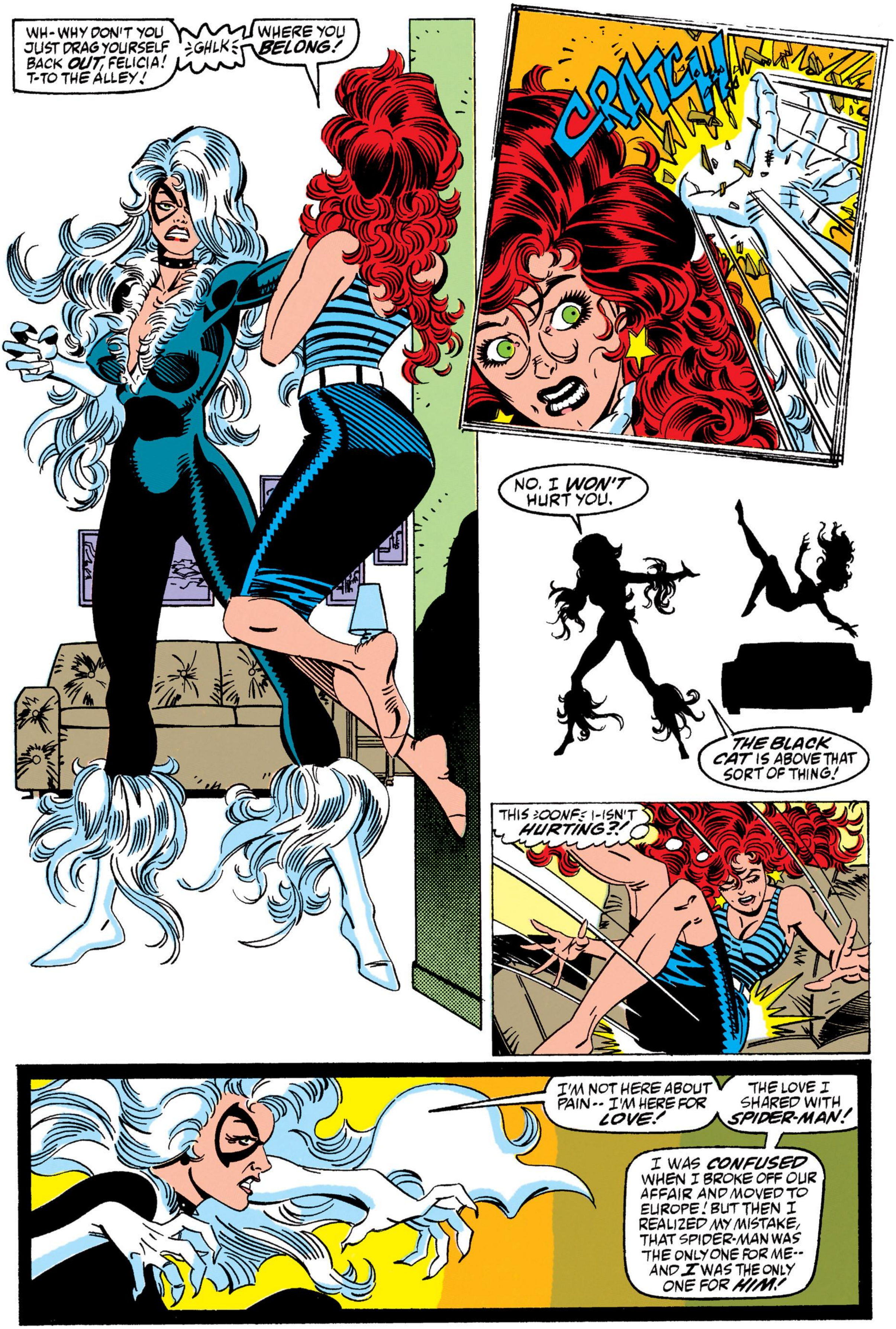
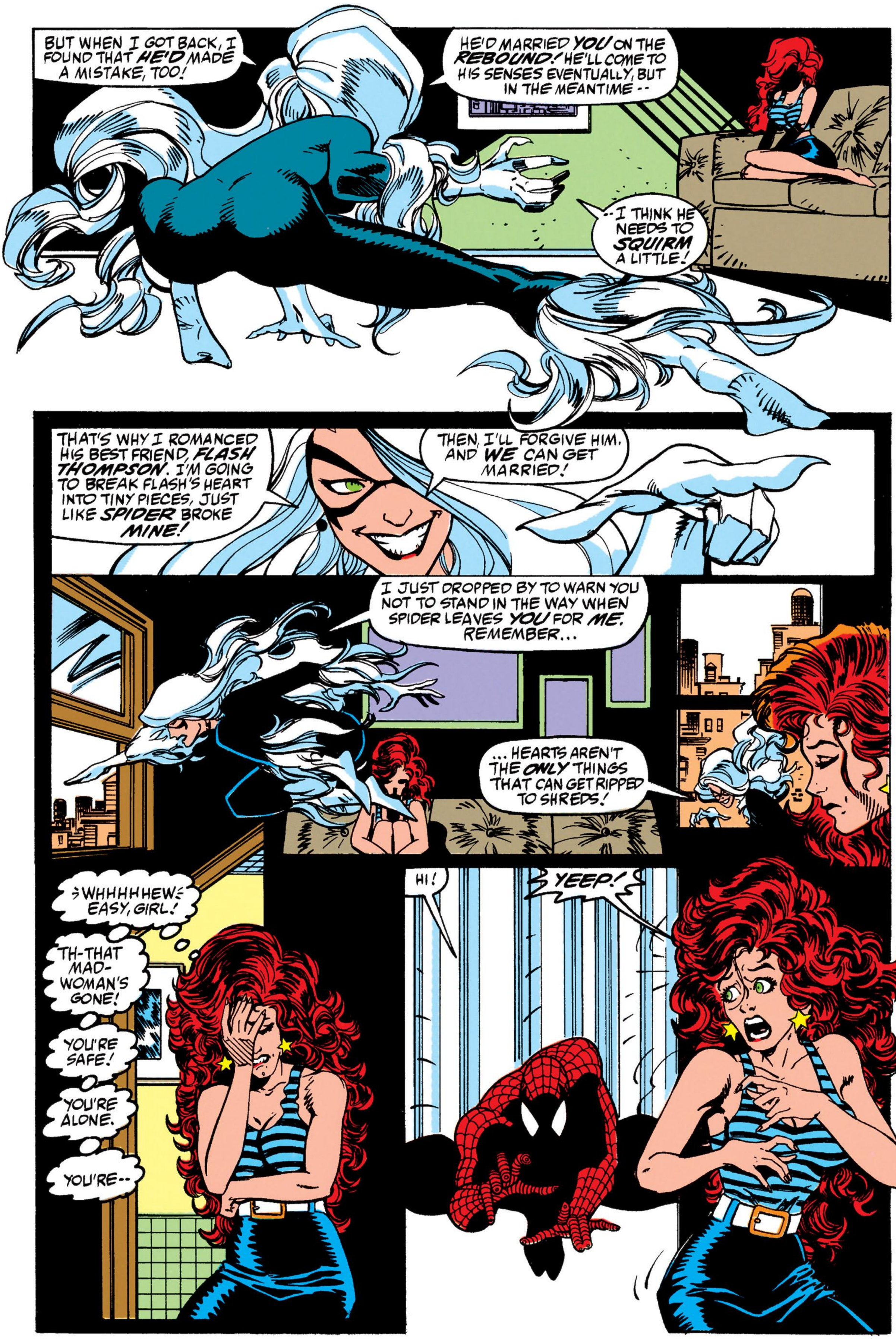
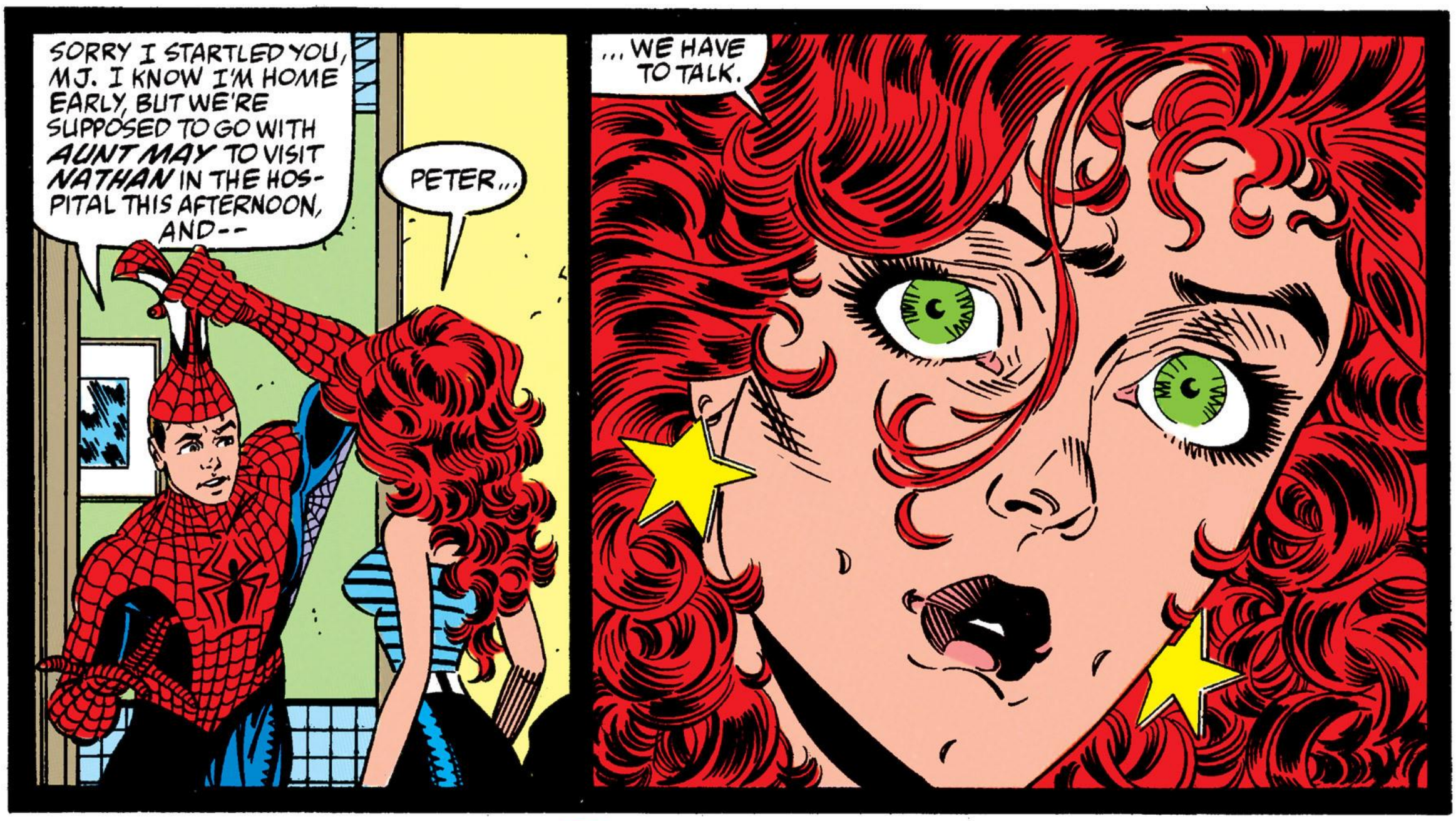
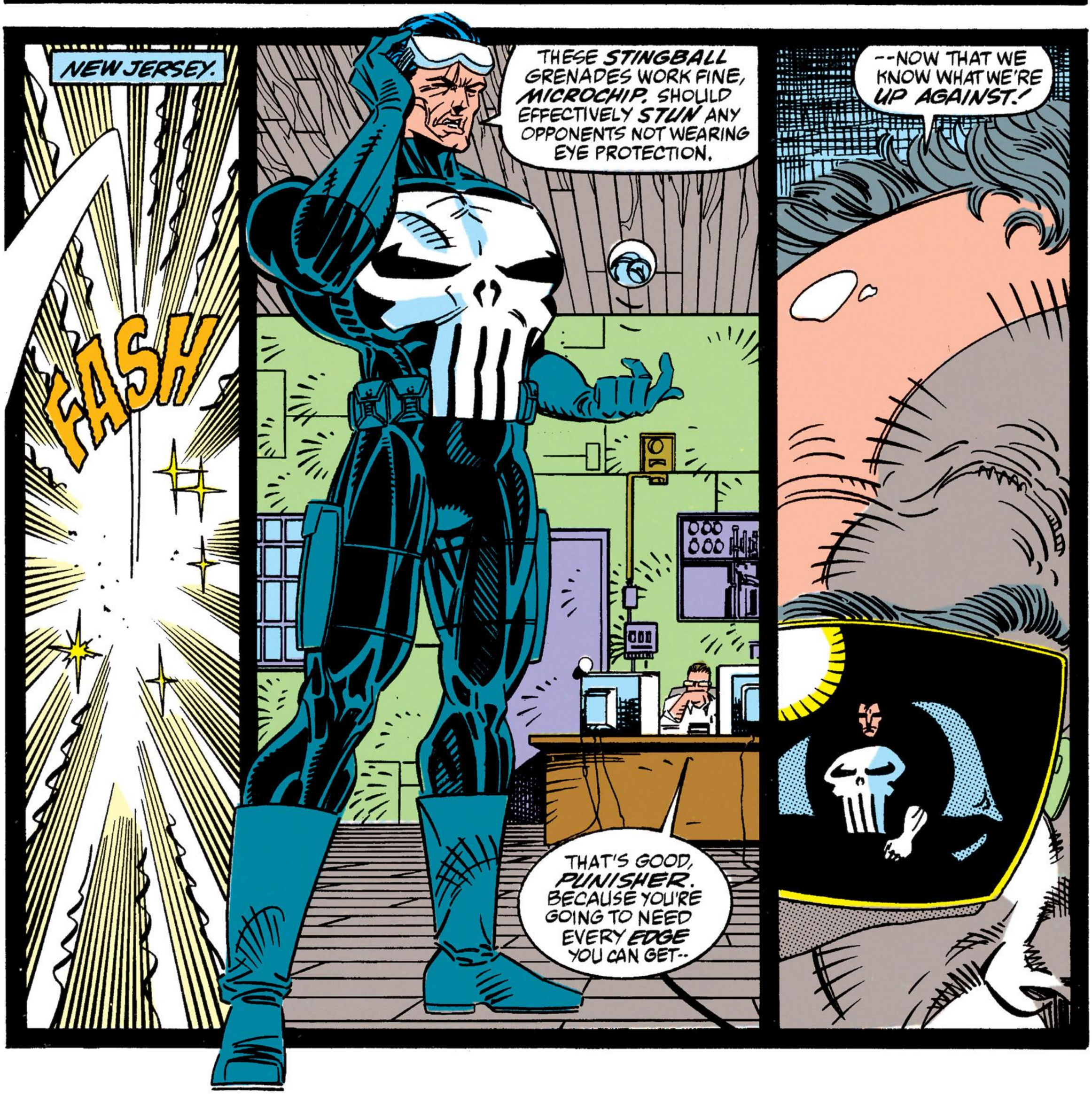
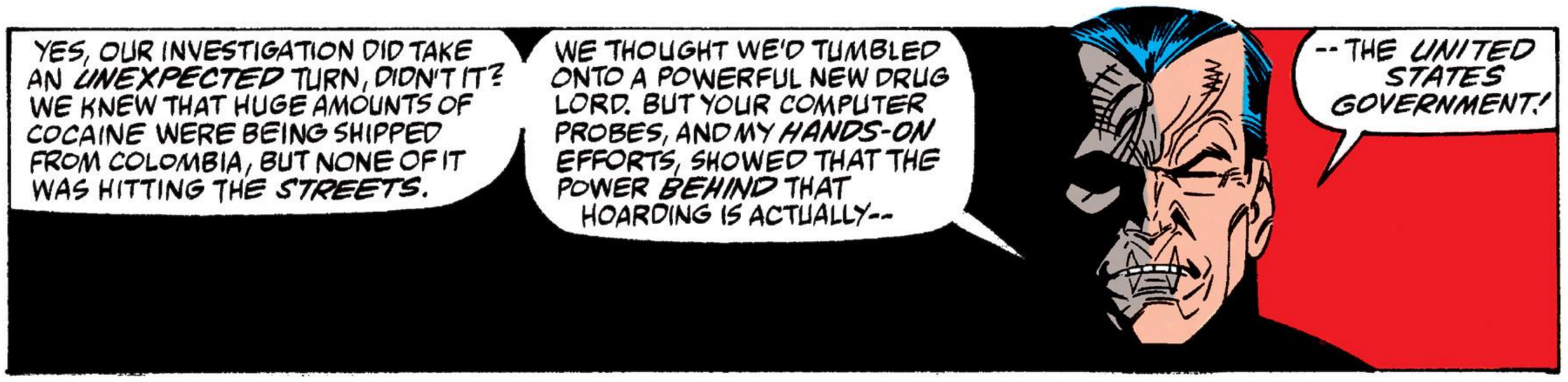

WH-WHY DON'T YOU JUST DRAG YOURSELF BACK OUT, FELICIA! T-TO THE ALLEY!
GHLK
WHERE YOU BELONG!
CRATCH!!
NO. I WON'T HURT YOU.
THE BLACK CAT IS ABOVE THAT SORT OF THING!
THIS OONF I-ISN'T HURTING?!
I'M NOT HERE ABOUT PAIN-- I'M HERE FOR LOVE!
THE LOVE I SHARED WITH SPIDER-MAN!
I WAS CONFUSED WHEN I BROKE OFF OUR AFFAIR AND MOVED TO EUROPE! BUT THEN I REALIZED MY MISTAKE, THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS THE ONLY ONE FOR ME-- AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE FOR HIM!

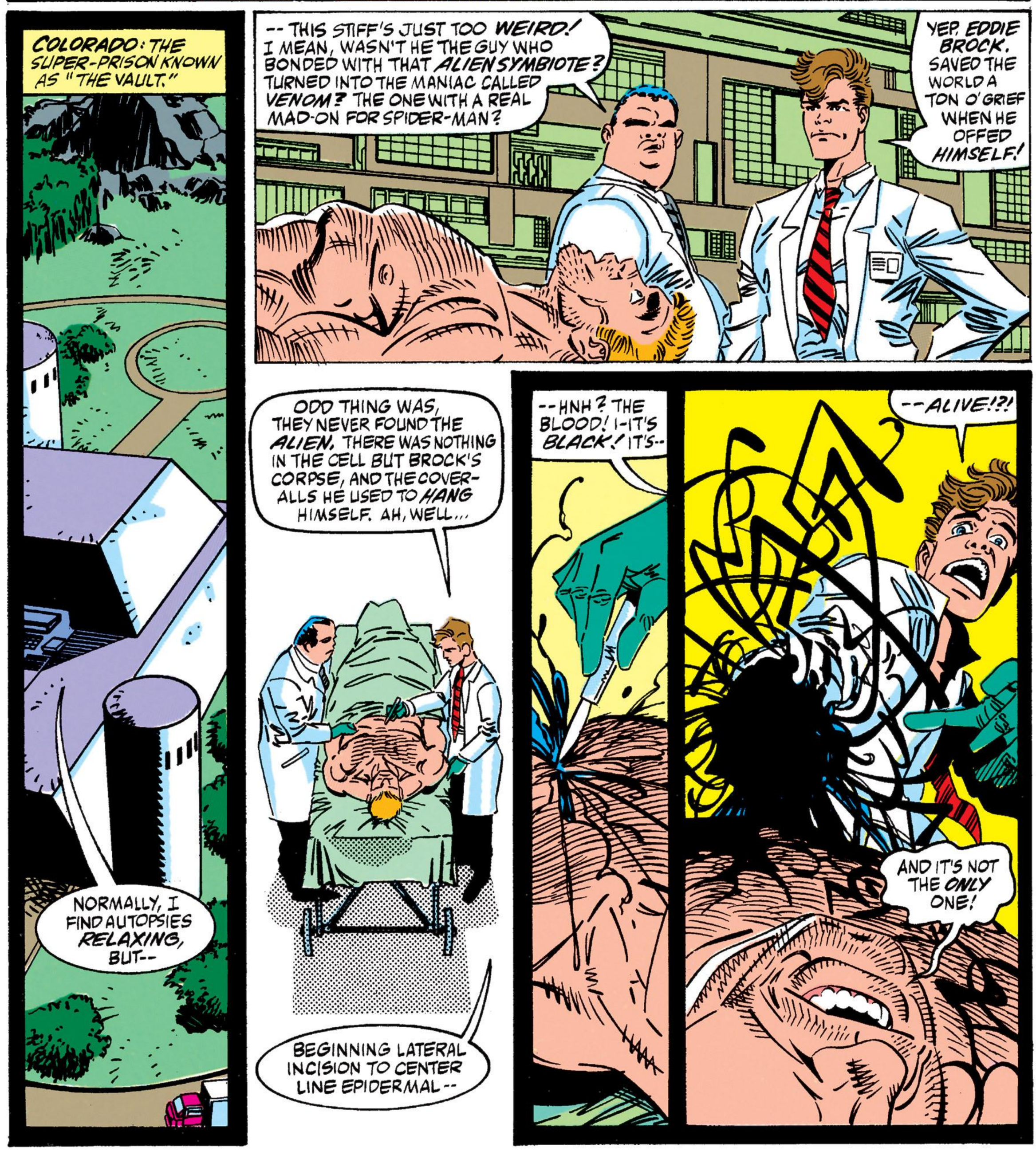

BUT WHEN I GOT BACK, I FOUND THAT HE'D MADE A MISTAKE, TOO!
HE'D MARRIED YOU ON THE REBOUND! HE'LL COME TO HIS SENSES EVENTUALLY, BUT IN THE MEANTIME --
--I THINK HE NEEDS TO SQUIRM A LITTLE!
THAT'S WHY I ROMANCED HIS BEST FRIEND, FLASH THOMPSON. I'M GOING TO BREAK FLASH'S HEART INTO TINY PIECES, JUST LIKE SPIDER BROKE MINE!
THEN, I'LL FORGIVE HIM. AND WE CAN GET MARRIED!
I JUST DROPPED BY TO WARN YOU NOT TO STAND IN THE WAY WHEN SPIDER LEAVES YOU FOR ME. REMEMBER...
... HEARTS AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS THAT CAN GET RIPPED TO SHREDS!
WHHHHHEW! EASY, GIRL!
TH-THAT MAD-WOMAN'S GONE!
YOU'RE SAFE!
YOU'RE ALONE.
YOU'RE--
HI!
YEEP!

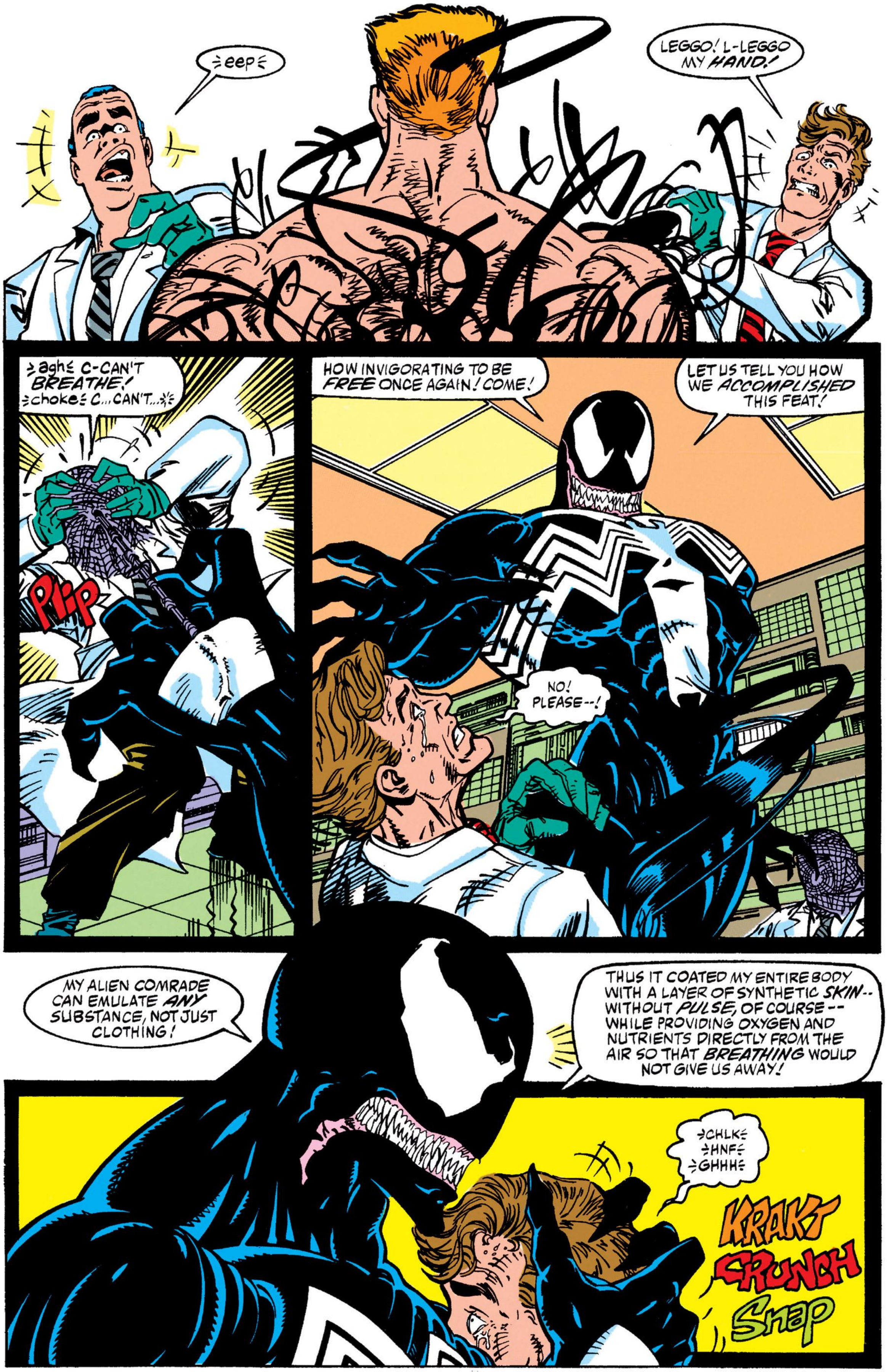

SORRY I STARTLED YOU, MJ. I KNOW I'M HOME EARLY, BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO WITH AUNT MAY TO VISIT NATHAN IN THE HOSPITAL THIS AFTERNOON, AND--
PETER...
...WE HAVE TO TALK.

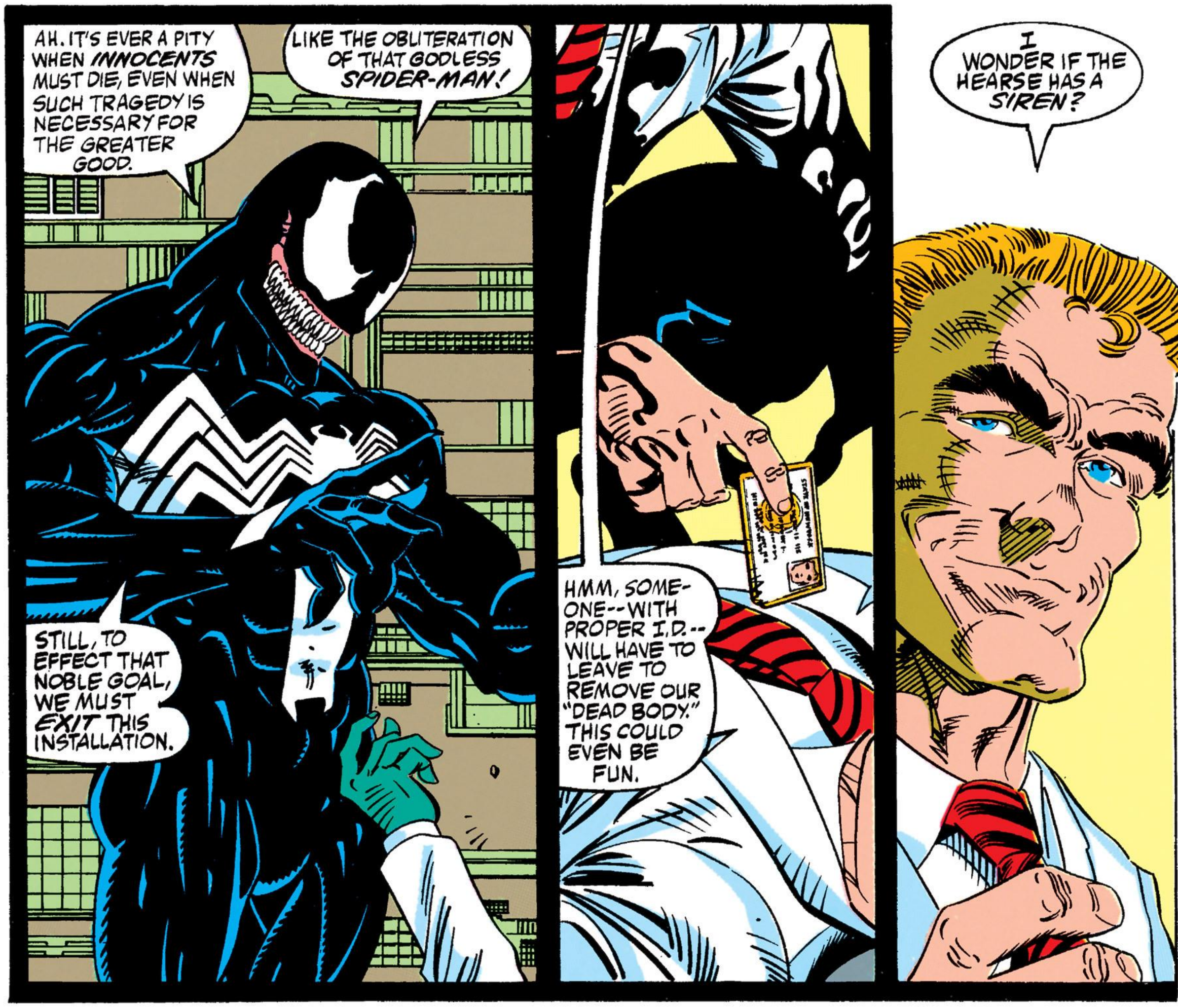

NEW JERSEY.
FASH
THESE STINGBALL GRENADES WORK FINE, MICROCHIP. SHOULD EFFECTIVELY STUN ANY OPPONENTS NOT WEARING EYE PROTECTION.
THAT'S GOOD, PUNISHER. BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO NEED EVERY EDGE YOU CAN GET--
--NOW THAT WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!

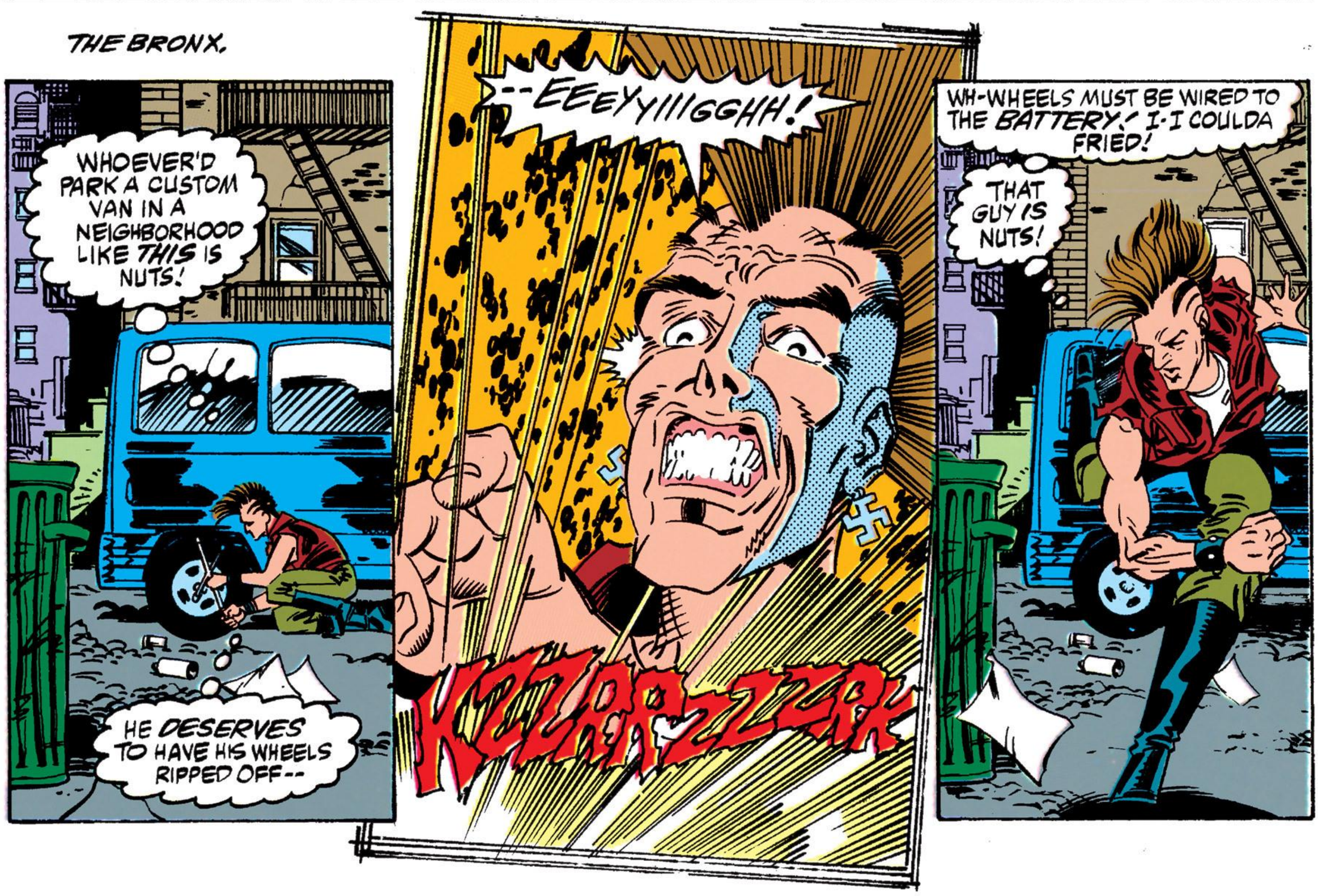

YES, OUR INVESTIGATION DID TAKE AN UNEXPECTED TURN, DIDN'T IT? WE KNEW THAT HUGE AMOUNTS OF COCAINE WERE BEING SHIPPED FROM COLOMBIA, BUT NONE OF IT WAS HITTING THE STREETS.
WE THOUGHT WE'D TUMBLED ONTO A POWERFUL NEW DRUG LORD. BUT YOUR COMPUTER PROBES, AND MY HANDS-ON EFFORTS, SHOWED THAT THE POWER BEHIND THAT HOARDING IS ACTUALLY--
--THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!

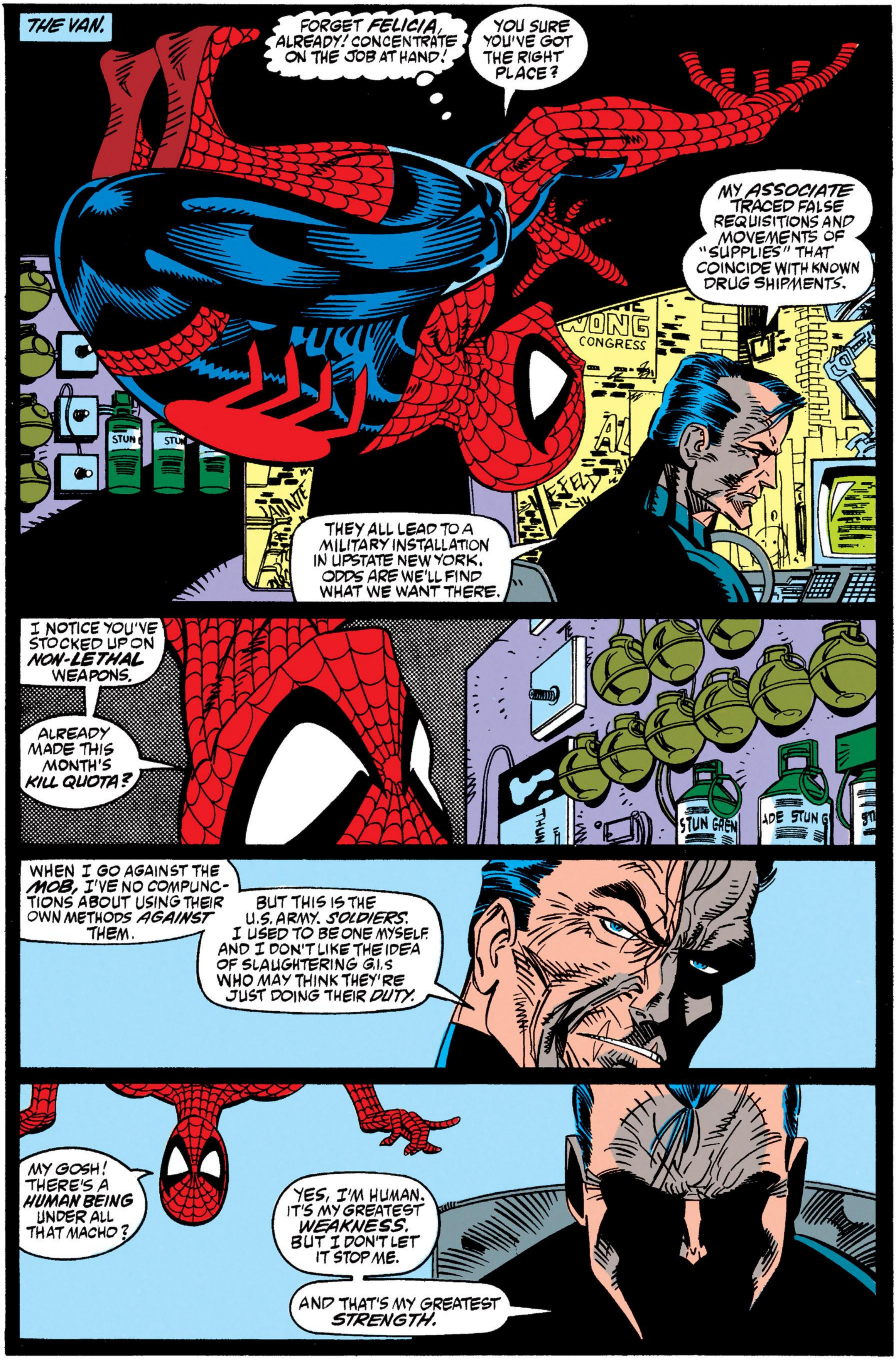
I JUST HOPE OUR LEADS PAN OUT SOON. EVEN WITH SPIDER-MAN JOINING THE GAME, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST.
WHOEVER'S STASHED THAT COKE HAS ENOUGH POWDER TO DESTROY MILLIONS OF LIVES!

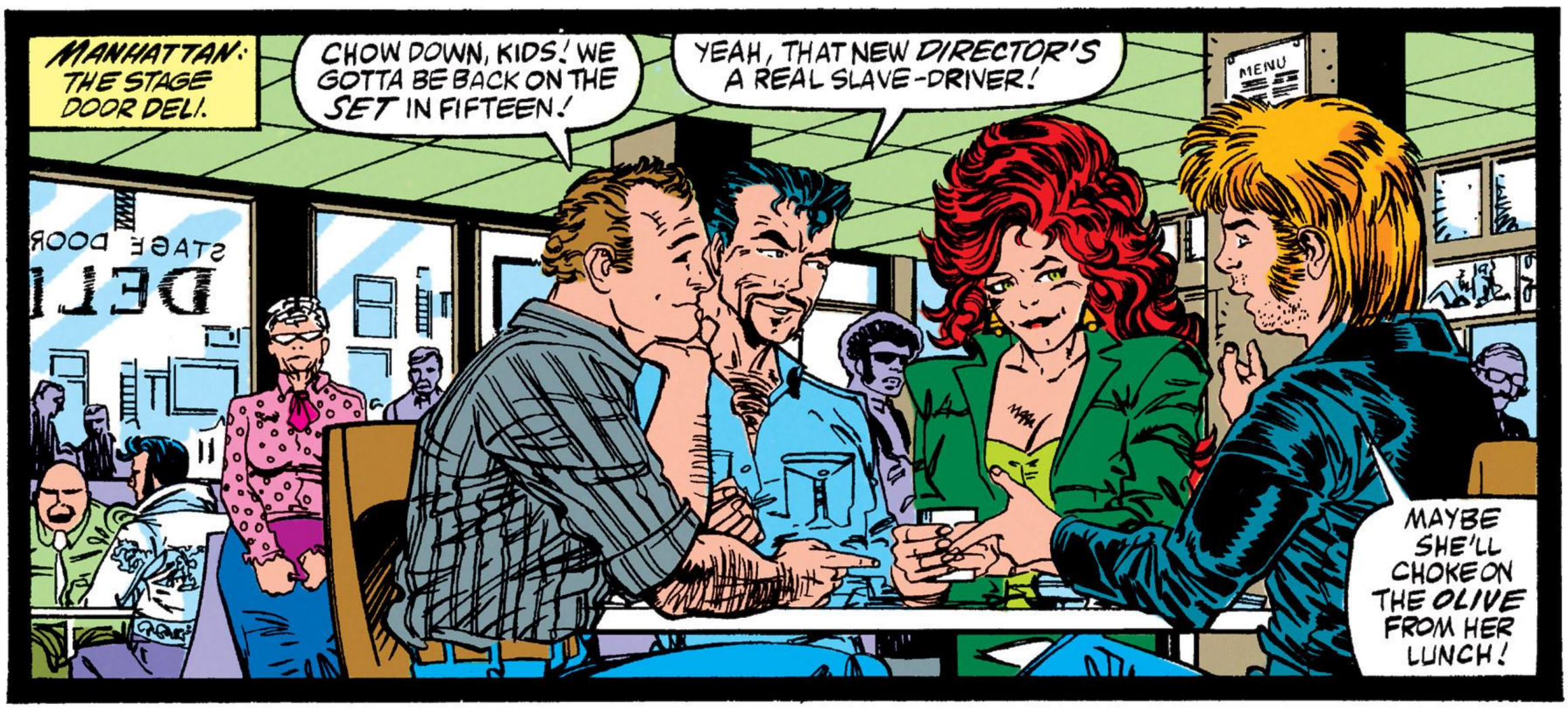

COLORADO: THE SUPER-PRISON KNOWN AS "THE VAULT."
NORMALLY, I FIND AUTOPSIES RELAXING, BUT--
--THIS STIFF'S JUST TOO WEIRD! I MEAN, WASN'T HE THE GUY WHO BONDED WITH THAT ALIEN SYMBIOTE? TURNED INTO THE MANIAC CALLED VENOM? THE ONE WITH A REAL MAD-ON FOR SPIDER-MAN?
YEP. EDDIE BROCK. SAVED THE WORLD A TON O' GRIEF WHEN HE OFFED HIMSELF!
ODD THING WAS, THEY NEVER FOUND THE ALIEN. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE CELL BUT BROCK'S CORPSE, AND THE COVER-ALLS HE USED TO HANG HIMSELF. AH, WELL...
BEGINNING LATERAL INCISION TO CENTER LINE EPIDERMAL--
--HNH? THE BLOOD! I-IT'S BLACK! IT'S--
--ALIVE!?!
AND IT'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!

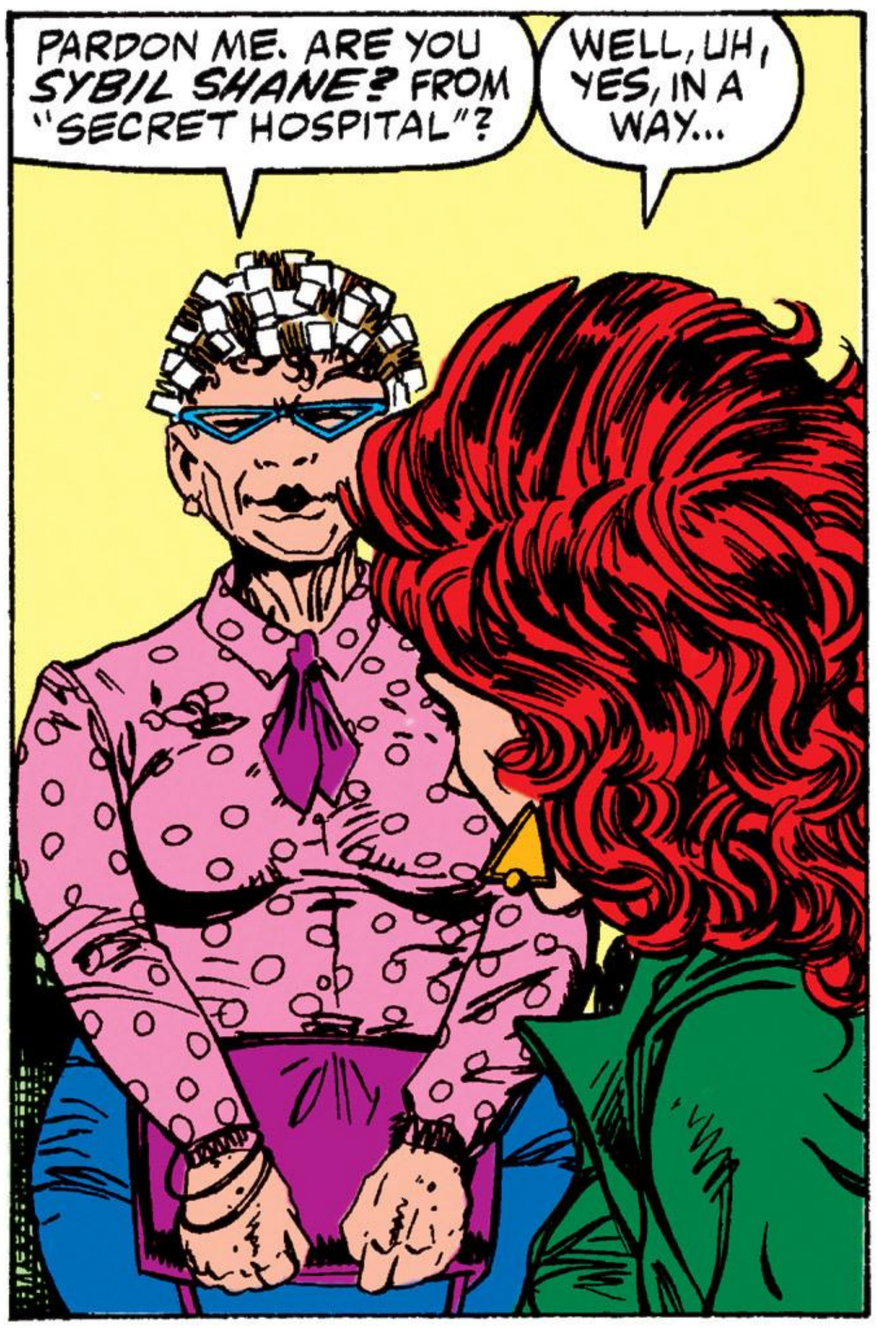

eep
LEGGO! L-LEGGO MY HAND!
agh C-CAN'T BREATHE! choke C...CAN'T...
PLIP
HOW INVIGORATING TO BE FREE ONCE AGAIN! COME!
LET US TELL YOU HOW WE ACCOMPLISHED THIS FEAT!
NO! PLEASE--!
MY ALIEN COMRADE CAN EMULATE ANY SUBSTANCE, NOT JUST CLOTHING!
THUS IT COATED MY ENTIRE BODY WITH A LAYER OF SYNTHETIC SKIN-- WITHOUT PULSE, OF COURSE -- WHILE PROVIDING OXYGEN AND NUTRIENTS DIRECTLY FROM THE AIR SO THAT BREATHING WOULD NOT GIVE US AWAY!
CHLK HNF GHHH
KRAKT CRUNCH Snap

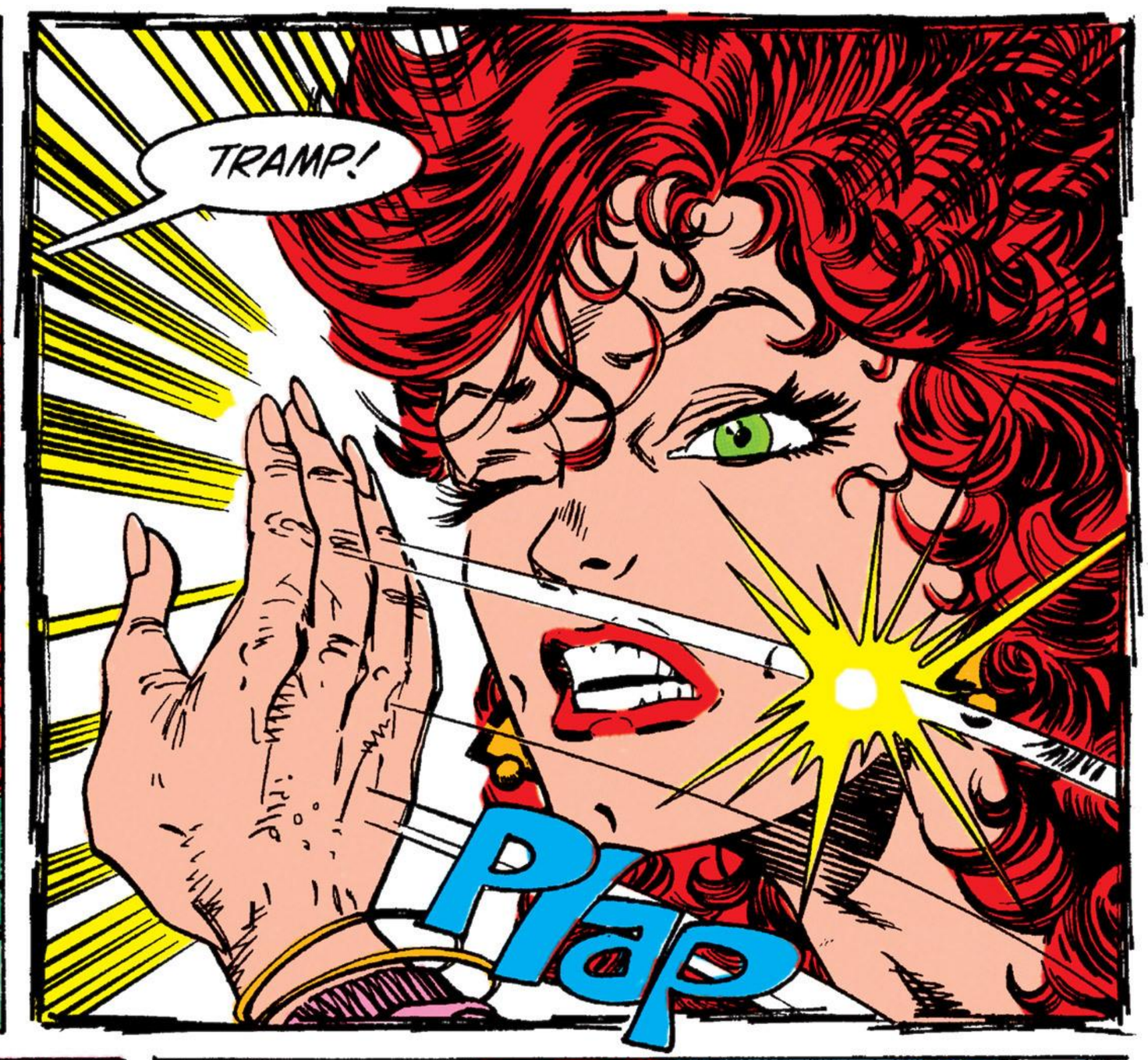

AH. IT'S EVER A PITY WHEN INNOCENTS MUST DIE, EVEN WHEN SUCH TRAGEDY IS NECESSARY FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
LIKE THE OBLITERATION OF THAT GODLESS SPIDER-MAN!
STILL, TO EFFECT THAT NOBLE GOAL, WE MUST EXIT THIS INSTALLATION.
HMM, SOMEONE--WITH PROPER I.D.--WILL HAVE TO LEAVE TO REMOVE OUR "DEAD BODY." THIS COULD EVEN BE FUN.
I WONDER IF THE HEARSE HAS A SIREN?


THE BRONX.
WHOEVER'D PARK A CUSTOM VAN IN A NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THIS IS NUTS!
HE DESERVES TO HAVE HIS WHEELS RIPPED OFF--
--EEEYYIIIGGHH!
KZZAPZZZAP
WH-WHEELS MUST BE WIRED TO THE BATTERY! I-I COULDA FRIED!
THAT GUY IS NUTS!

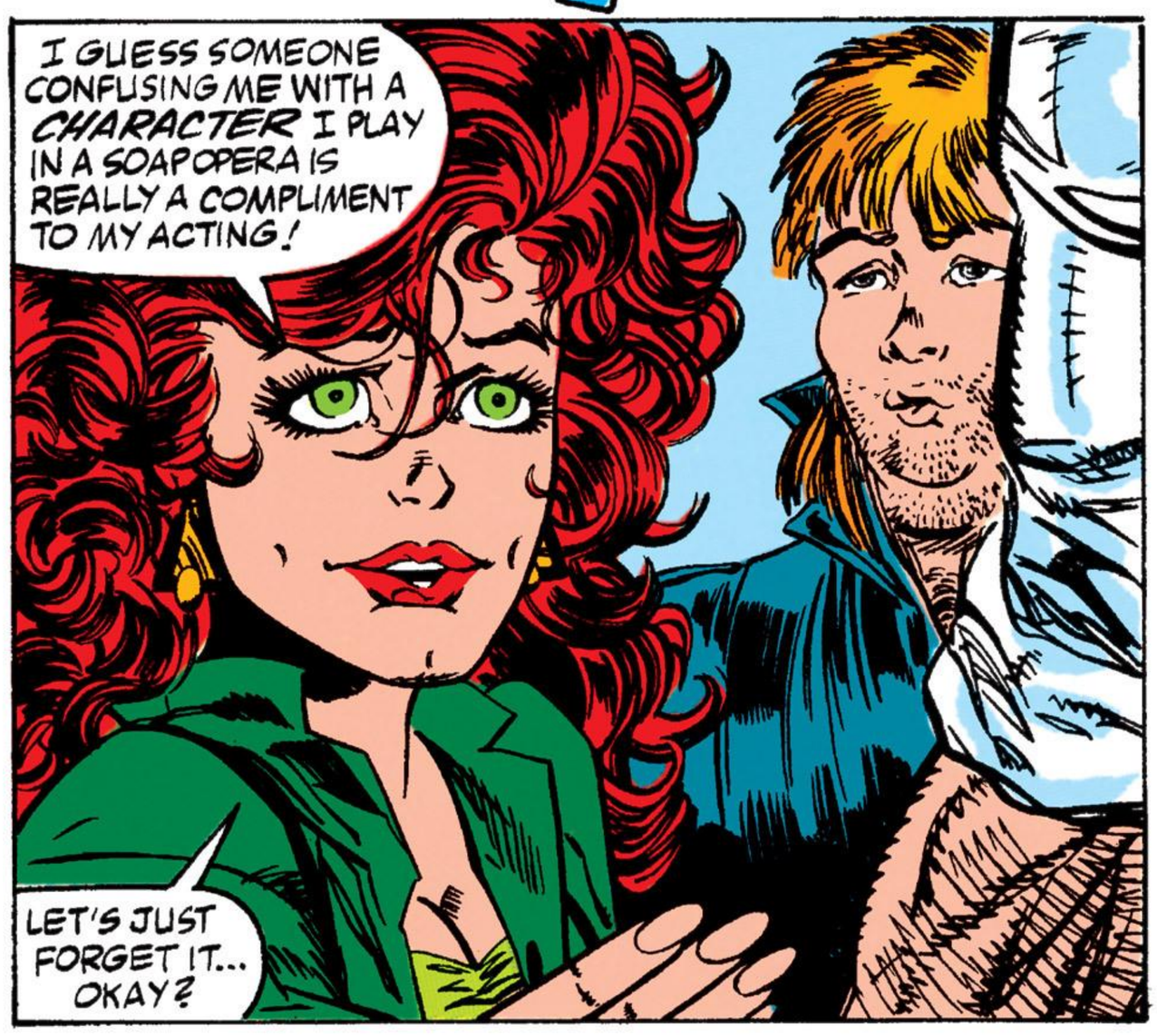

THE VAN.
FORGET FELICIA, ALREADY! CONCENTRATE ON THE JOB AT HAND!
YOU SURE YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT PLACE?
MY ASSOCIATE TRACED FALSE REQUISITIONS AND MOVEMENTS OF "SUPPLIES" THAT COINCIDE WITH KNOWN DRUG SHIPMENTS.
THEY ALL LEAD TO A MILITARY INSTALLATION IN UPSTATE NEW YORK. ODDS ARE WE'LL FIND WHAT WE WANT THERE.
I NOTICE YOU'VE STOCKED UP ON NON-LETHAL WEAPONS.
ALREADY MADE THIS MONTH'S KILL QUOTA?
WHEN I GO AGAINST THE MOB, I'VE NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT USING THEIR OWN METHODS AGAINST THEM.
BUT THIS IS THE U.S. ARMY. SOLDIERS. I USED TO BE ONE MYSELF. AND I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SLAUGHTERING G.I.S WHO MAY THINK THEY'RE JUST DOING THEIR DUTY.
MY GOSH! THERE'S A HUMAN BEING UNDER ALL THAT MACHO?
YES, I'M HUMAN. IT'S MY GREATEST WEAKNESS. BUT I DON'T LET IT STOP ME.
AND THAT'S MY GREATEST STRENGTH.

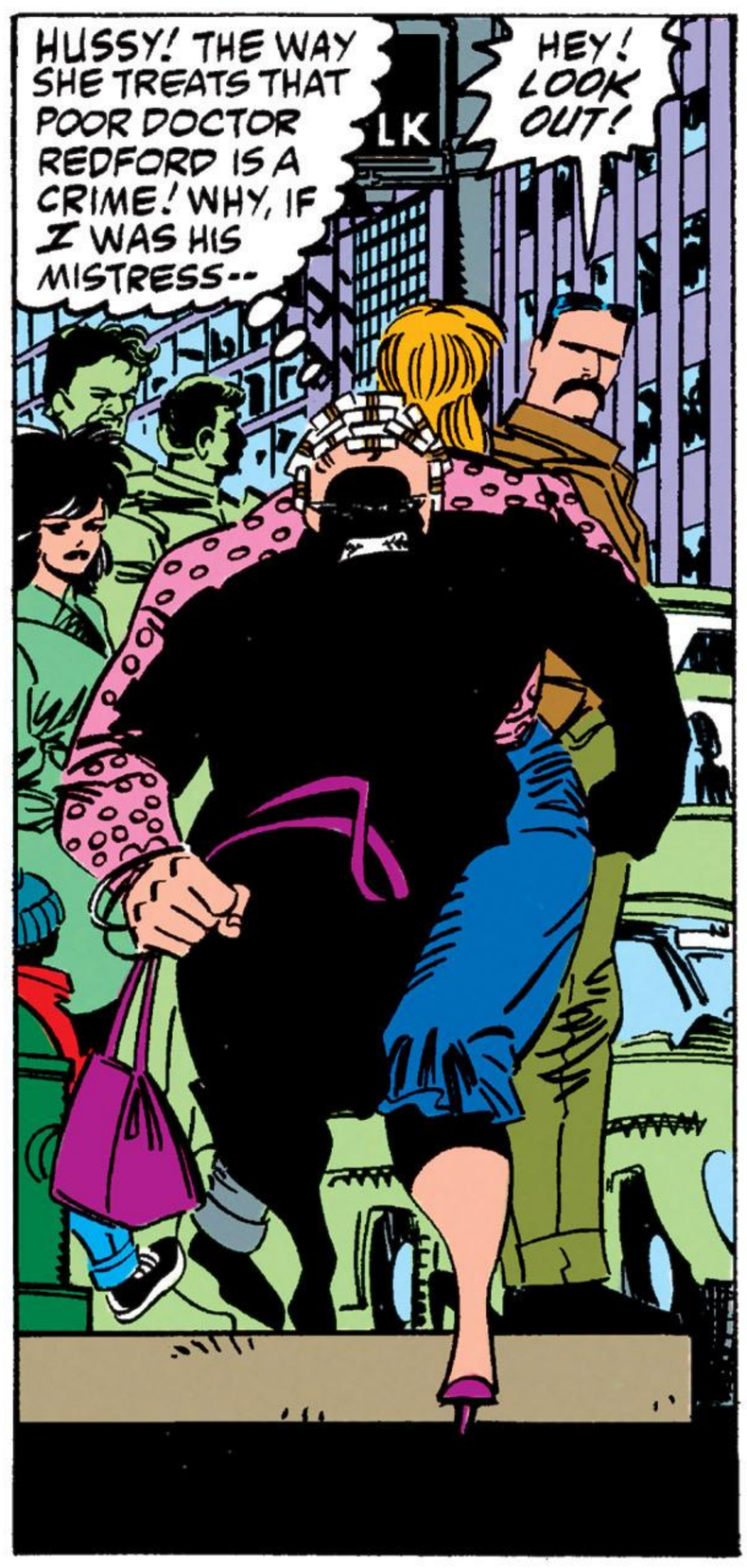

MANHATTAN: THE STAGE DOOR DELI.
CHOW DOWN, KIDS! WE GOTTA BE BACK ON THE SET IN FIFTEEN!
YEAH, THAT NEW DIRECTOR'S A REAL SLAVE-DRIVER!
MENU
MAYBE SHE'LL CHOKE ON THE OLIVE FROM HER LUNCH!

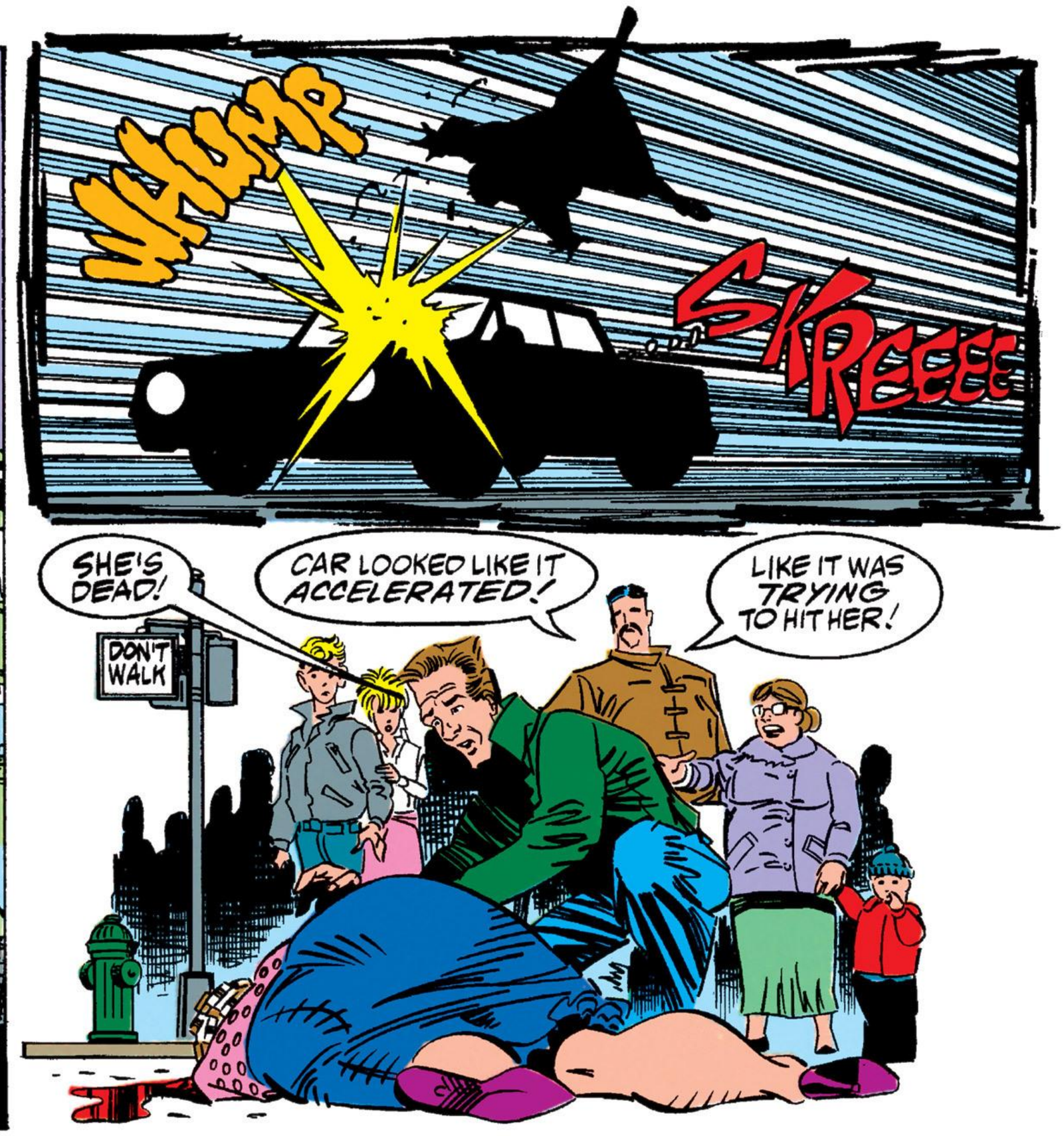

PARDON ME. ARE YOU SYBIL SHANE? FROM "SECRET HOSPITAL"?
WELL, UH, YES, IN A WAY...

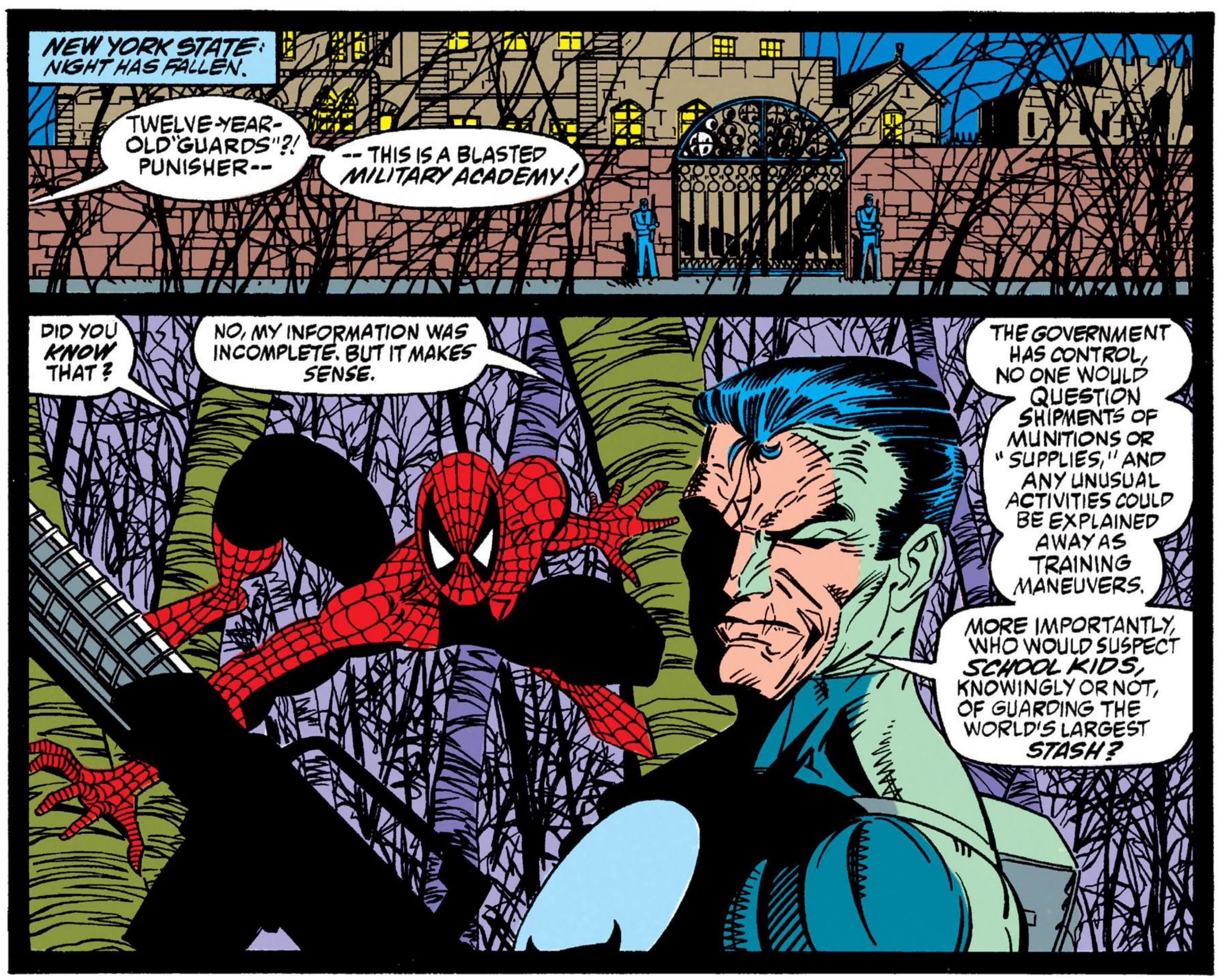

TRAMP!
Plap

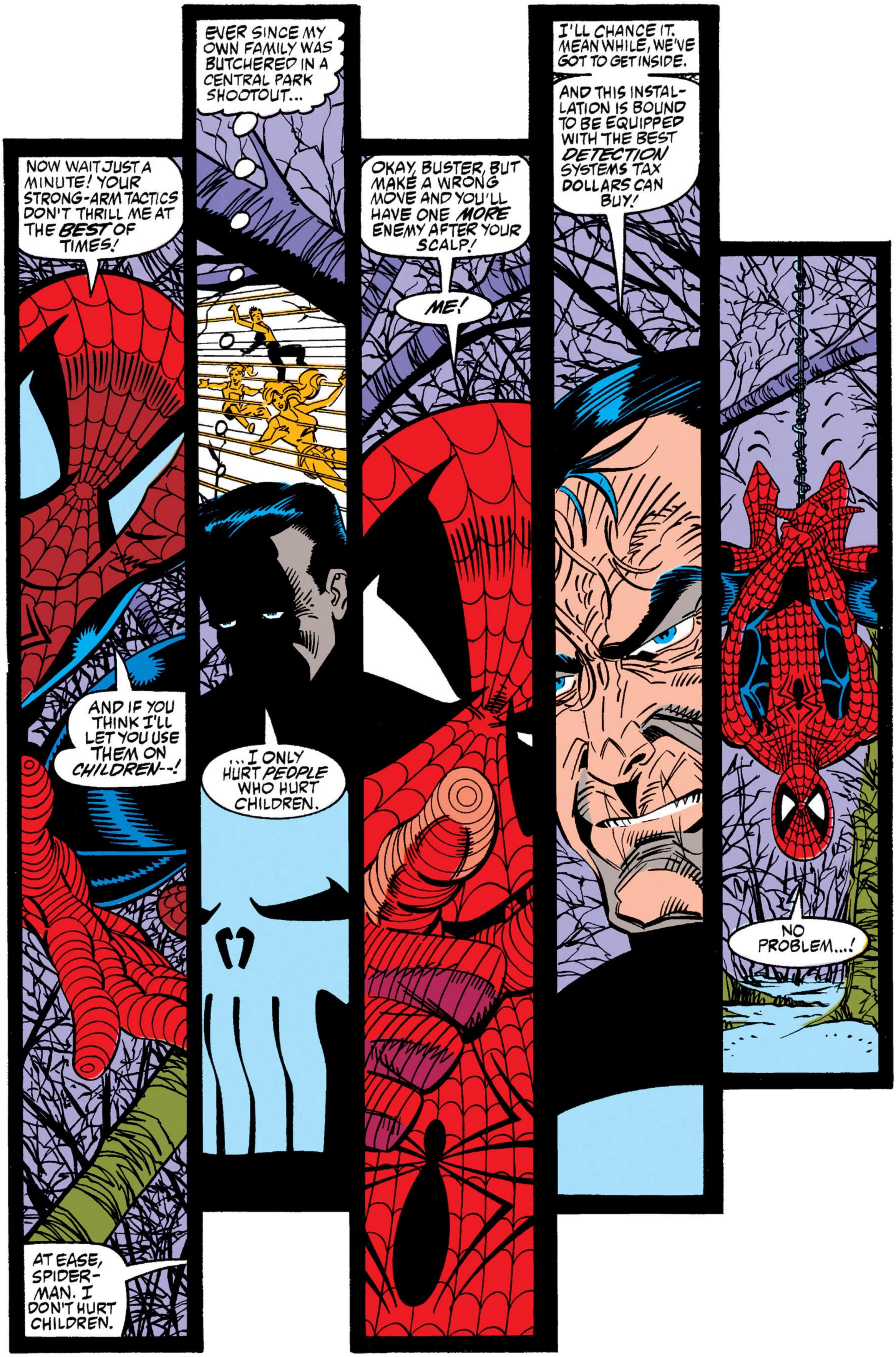
MARY JANE! YOU ALL RIGHT? WANT ME TO CALL A COP?
N-NO, VIC! IT'S OKAY!

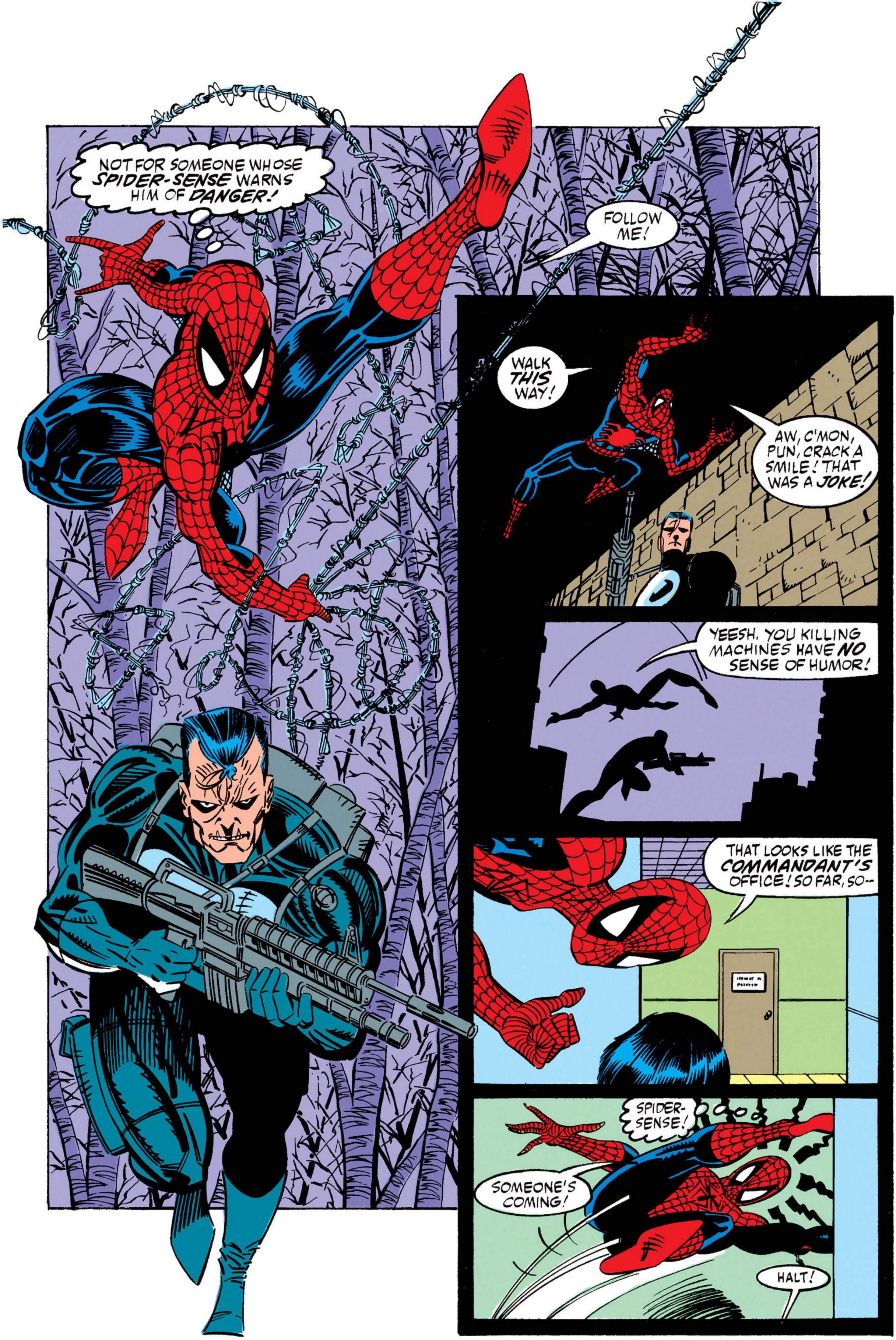

I GUESS SOMEONE CONFUSING ME WITH A CHARACTER I PLAY IN A SOAP OPERA IS REALLY A COMPLIMENT TO MY ACTING!
LET'S JUST FORGET IT... OKAY?

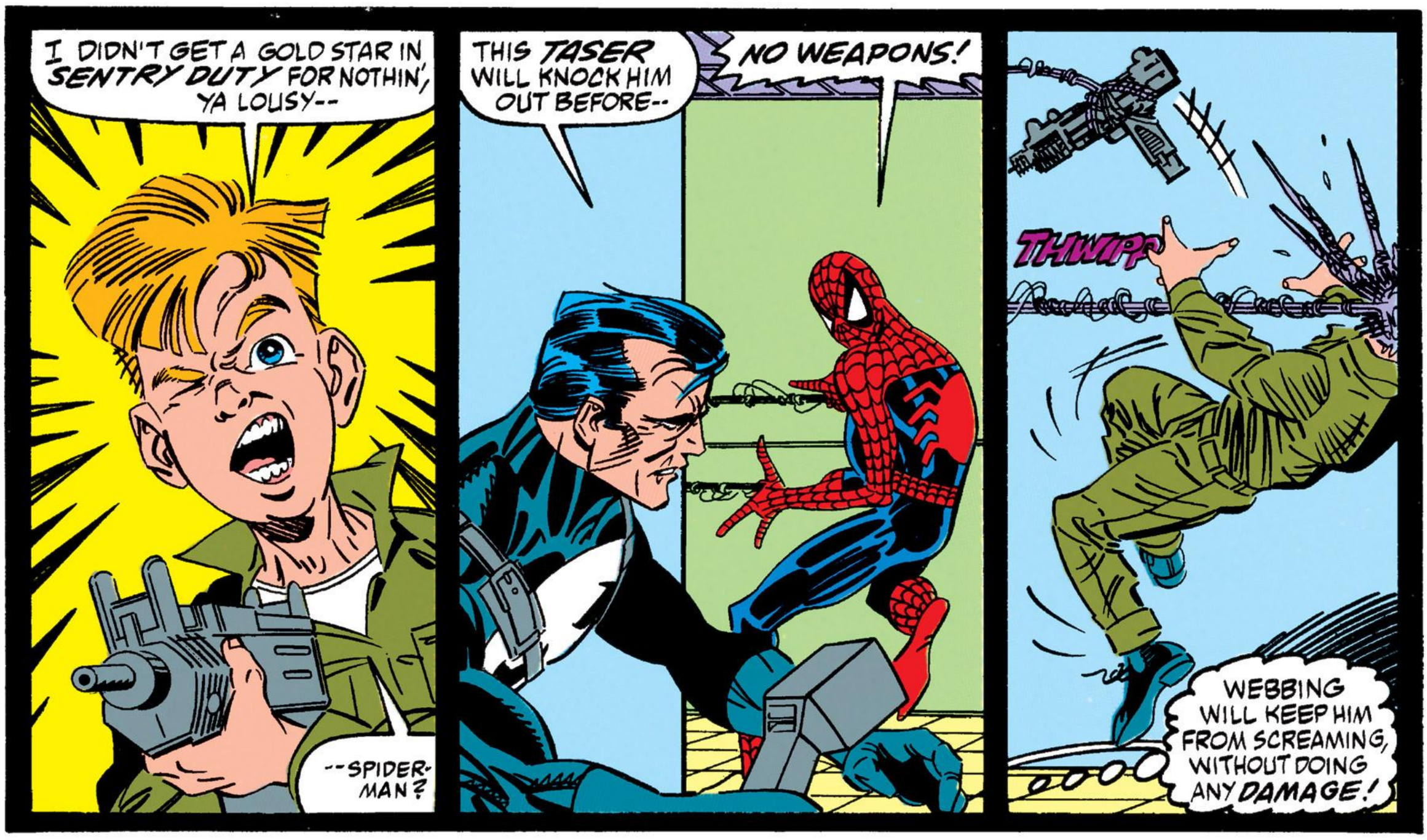

HUSSY! THE WAY SHE TREATS THAT POOR DOCTOR REDFORD IS A CRIME! WHY, IF I WAS HIS MISTRESS--
LK
HEY! LOOK OUT!

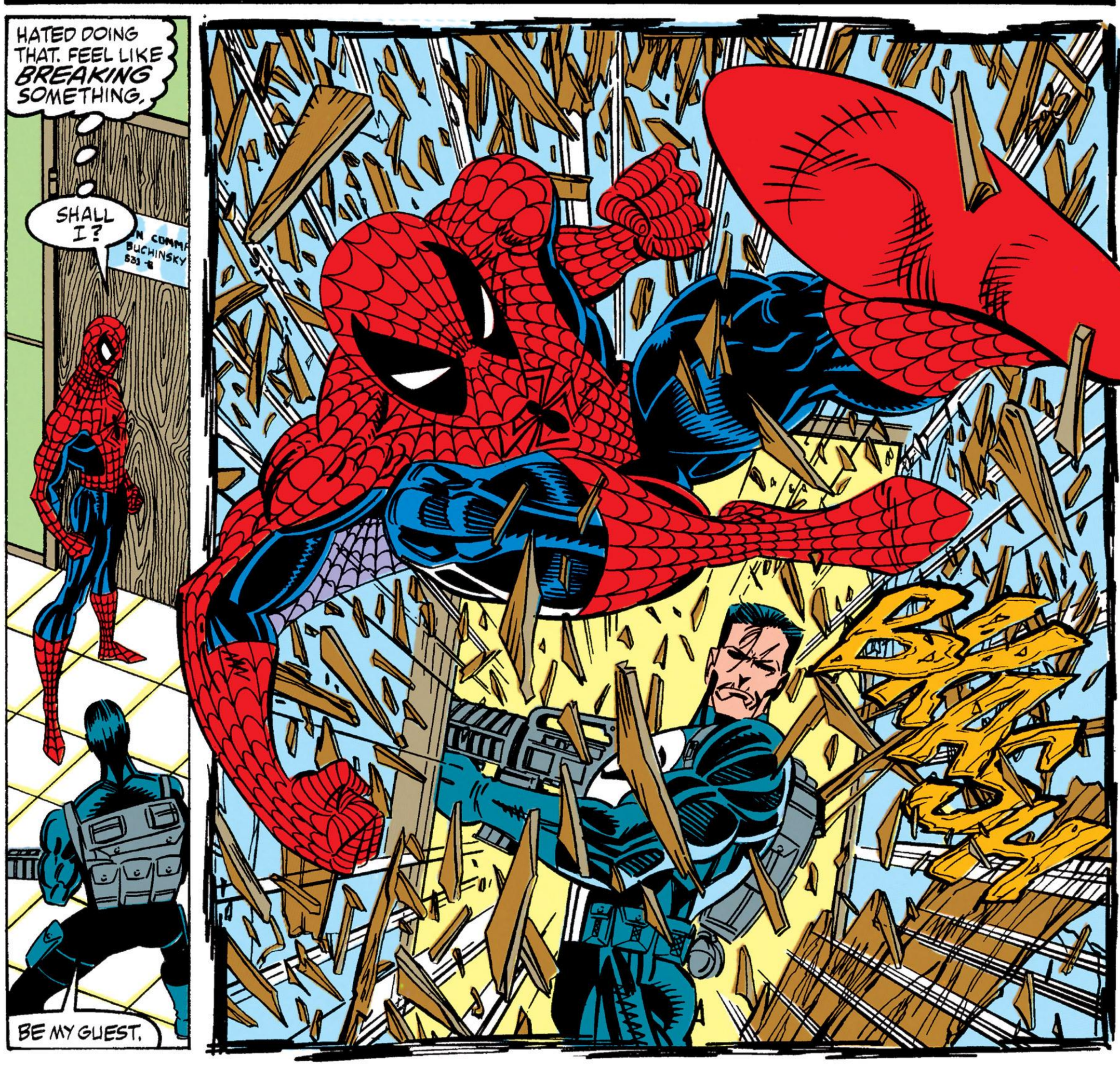

WHOMP
SKREEEE
SHE'S DEAD!
CAR LOOKED LIKE IT ACCELERATED!
LIKE IT WAS TRYING TO HIT HER!
DON'T WALK


NEW YORK STATE: NIGHT HAS FALLEN.
TWELVE-YEAR-OLD "GUARDS"?! PUNISHER--
-- THIS IS A BLASTED MILITARY ACADEMY!
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
NO, MY INFORMATION WAS INCOMPLETE. BUT IT MAKES SENSE.
THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTROL, NO ONE WOULD QUESTION SHIPMENTS OF MUNITIONS OR "SUPPLIES," AND ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES COULD BE EXPLAINED AWAY AS TRAINING MANEUVERS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHO WOULD SUSPECT SCHOOL KIDS, KNOWINGLY OR NOT, OF GUARDING THE WORLD'S LARGEST STASH?

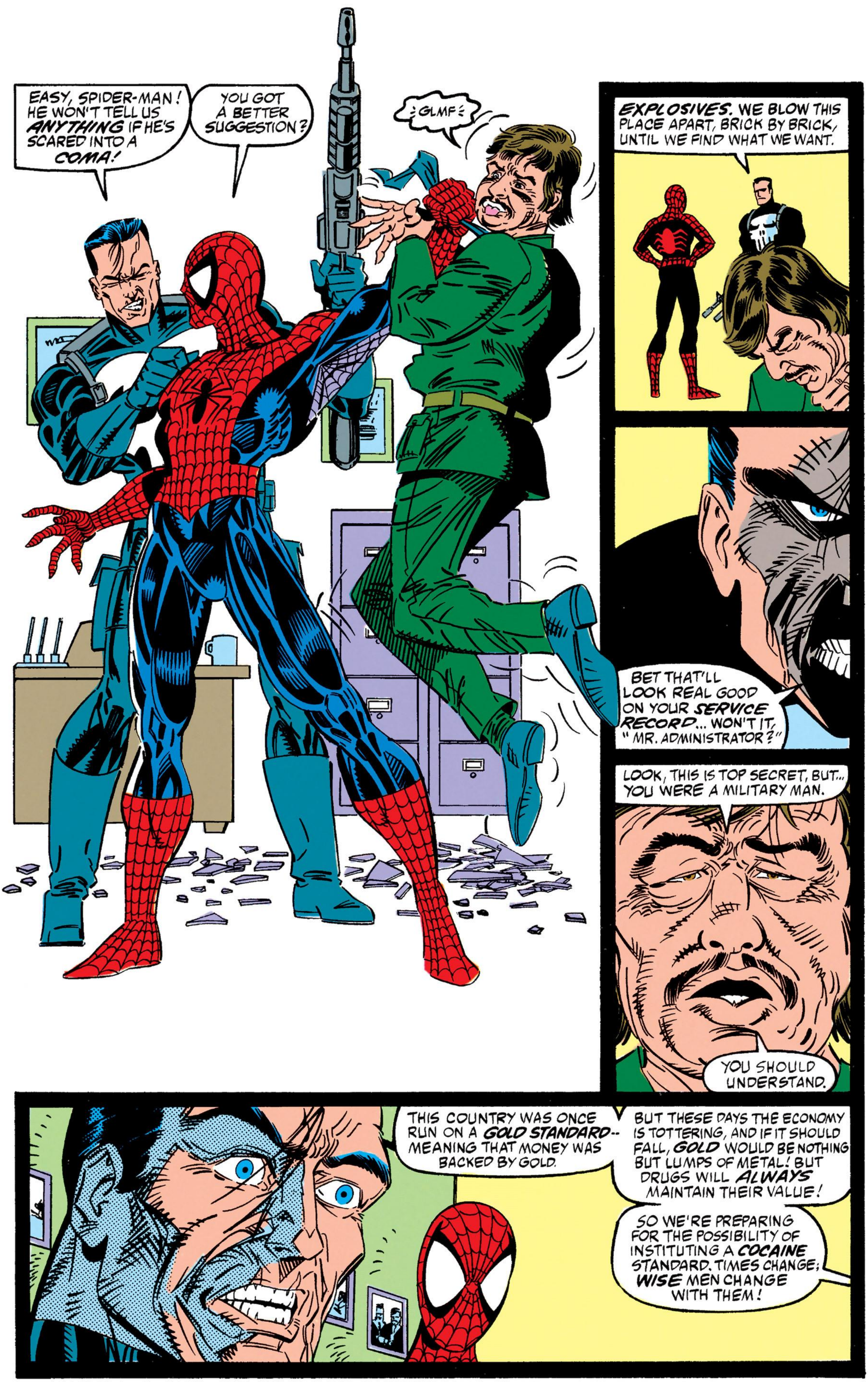

NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE! YOUR STRONG-ARM TACTICS DON'T THRILL ME AT THE BEST OF TIMES!
AND IF YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU USE THEM ON CHILDREN--!
AT EASE, SPIDER-MAN. I DON'T HURT CHILDREN.
EVER SINCE MY OWN FAMILY WAS BUTCHERED IN A CENTRAL PARK SHOOTOUT...
...I ONLY HURT PEOPLE WHO HURT CHILDREN.
OKAY, BUSTER, BUT MAKE A WRONG MOVE AND YOU'LL HAVE ONE MORE ENEMY AFTER YOUR SCALP!
ME!
I'LL CHANCE IT. MEANWHILE, WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE.
AND THIS INSTALLATION IS BOUND TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE BEST DETECTION SYSTEMS TAX DOLLARS CAN BUY!
NO PROBLEM...!

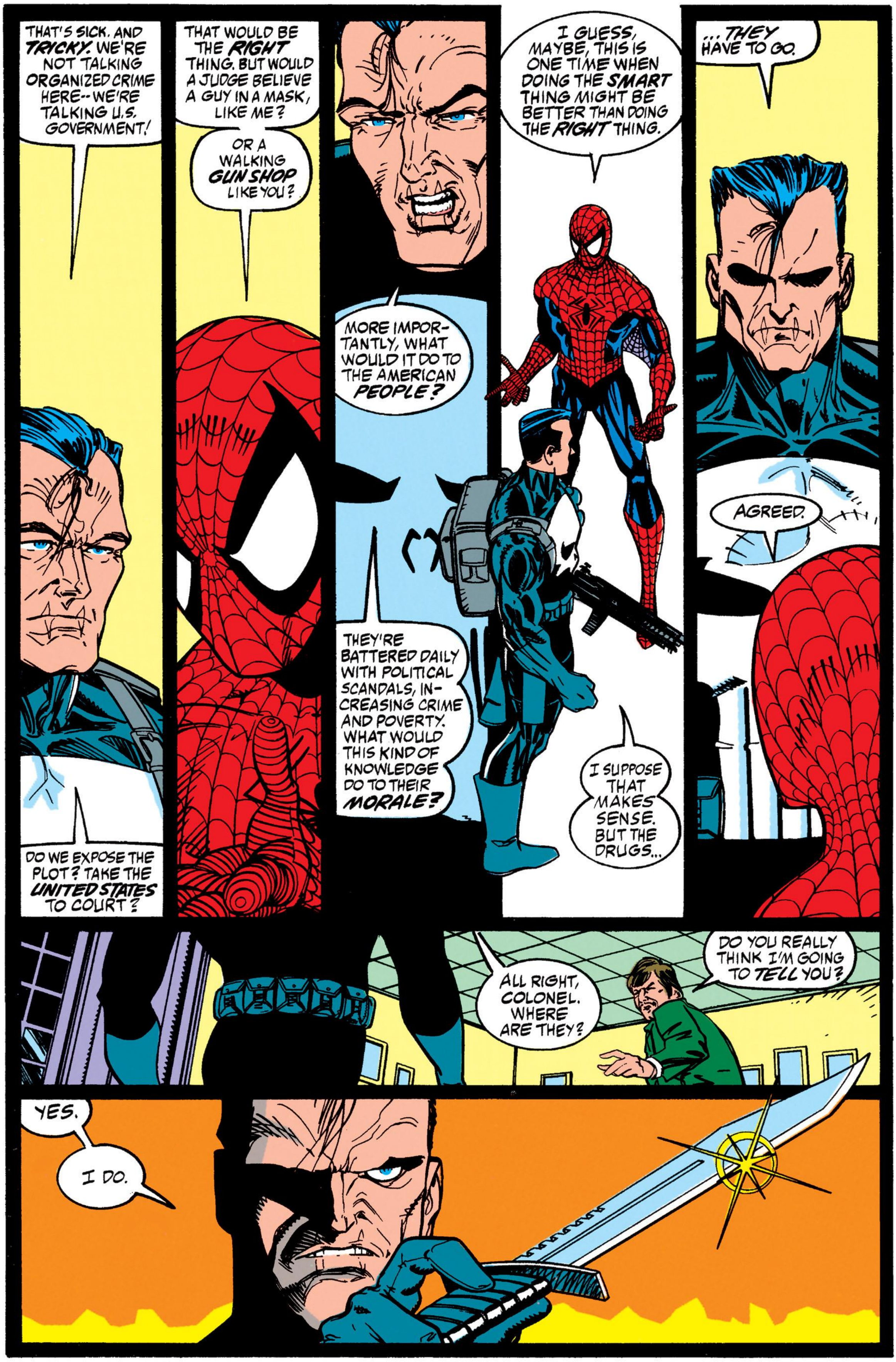

NOT FOR SOMEONE WHOSE SPIDER-SENSE WARNS HIM OF DANGER!
FOLLOW ME!
WALK THIS WAY!
AW, C'MON, PUN, CRACK A SMILE! THAT WAS A JOKE!
YEESH. YOU KILLING MACHINES HAVE NO SENSE OF HUMOR!
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE COMMANDANT'S OFFICE! SO FAR, SO--
SPIDER-SENSE!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
HALT!

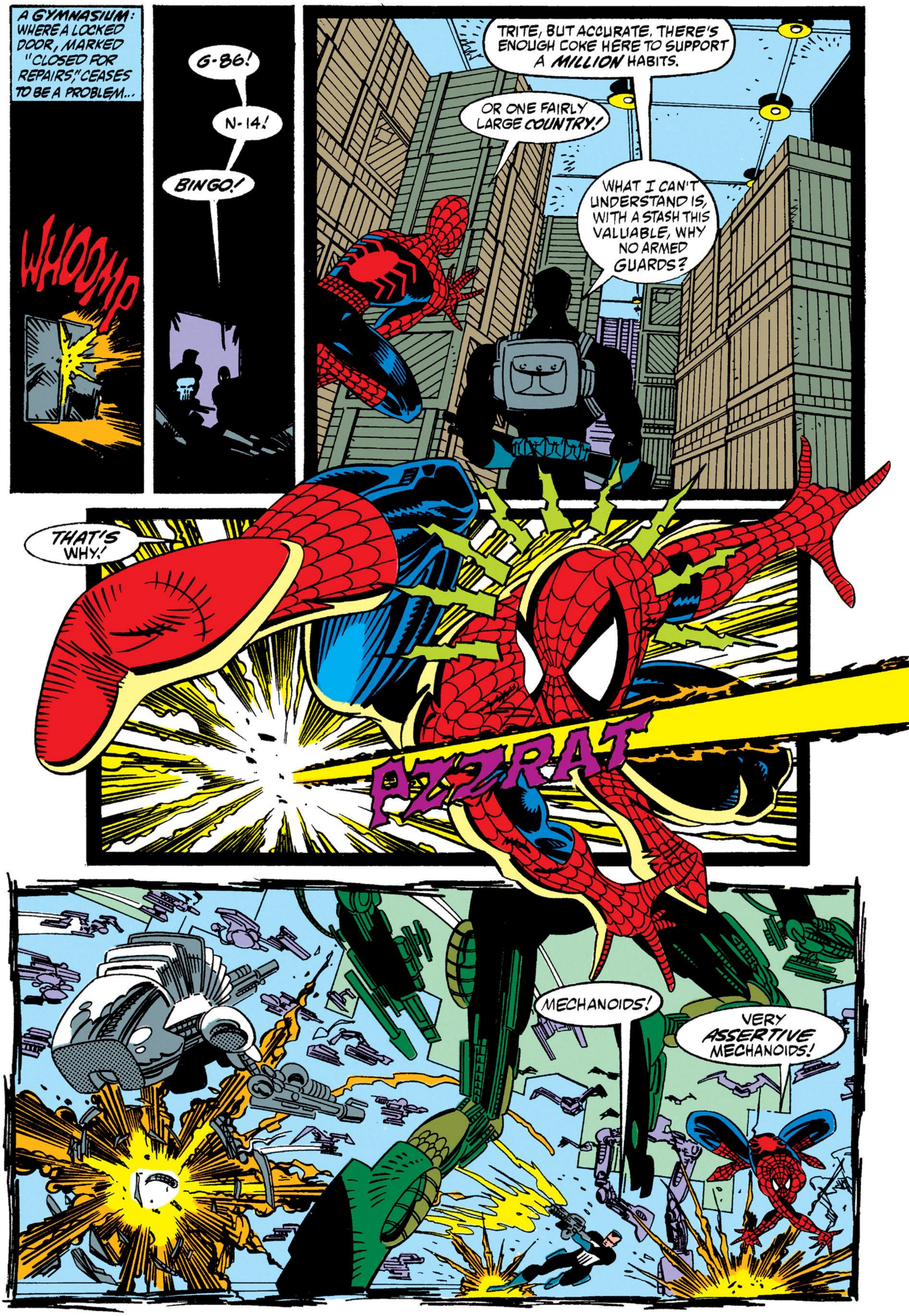

I DIDN'T GET A GOLD STAR IN SENTRY DUTY FOR NOTHIN', YA LOUSY--
--SPIDER-MAN?
THIS TASER WILL KNOCK HIM OUT BEFORE--
NO WEAPONS!
THWIPP
WEBBING WILL KEEP HIM FROM SCREAMING, WITHOUT DOING ANY DAMAGE!


HATED DOING THAT. FEEL LIKE BREAKING SOMETHING.
SHALL I?
BE MY GUEST.

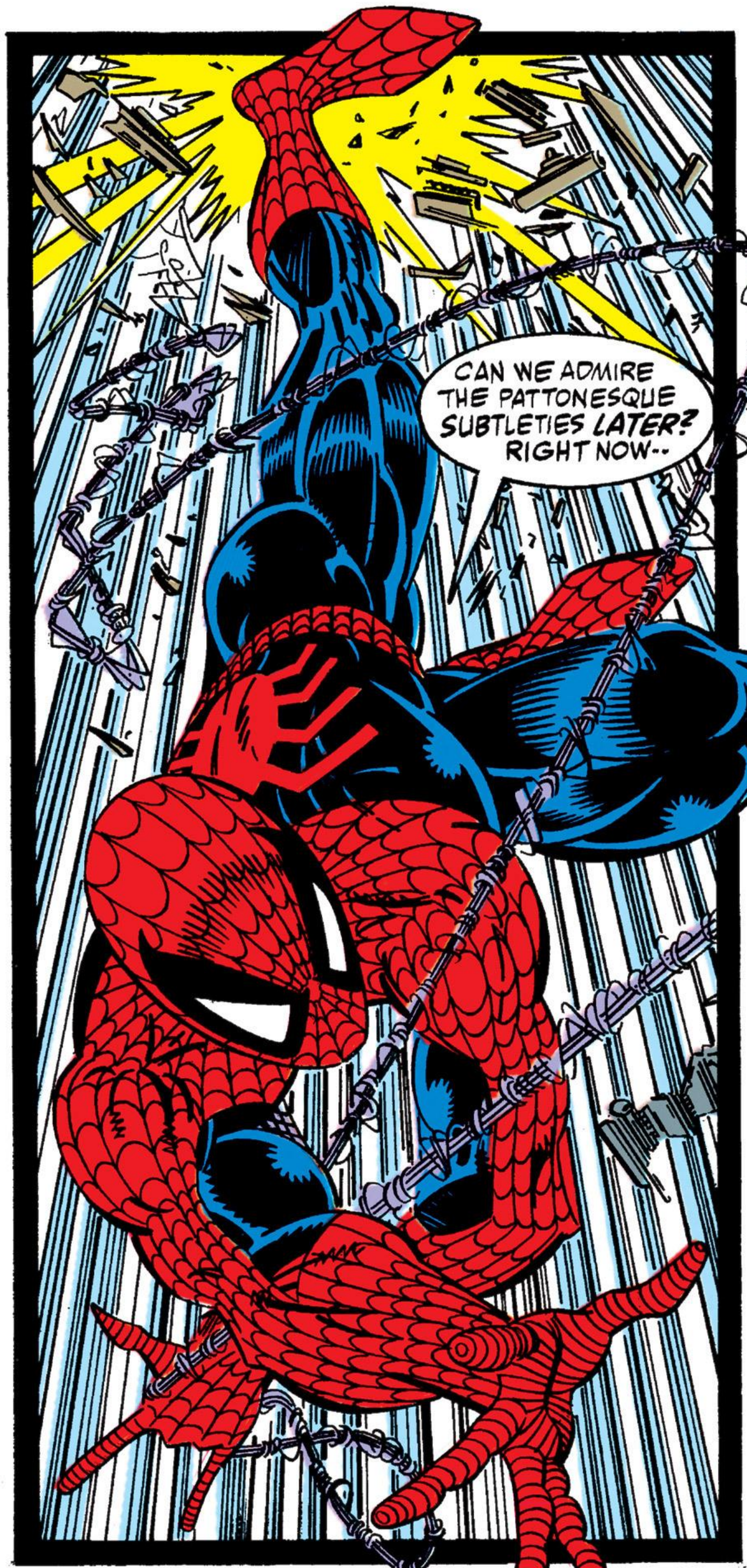
BETTER NOT TOUCH THAT ALARM BUTTON, COLONEL--
--UNLESS YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF DEATH WISH!
BULL! YOU'RE STORING TONS OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, WHILE PRETENDING TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT HONOR!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHY--OR I'LL TURN YOUR ADAM'S APPLE TO APPLE-SAUCE!
WELL? DO YOU?
HEY, LOOK--
--I-I'M ONLY A GLORIFIED ADMINISTRATOR!
JUST DOIN' MY JOB!

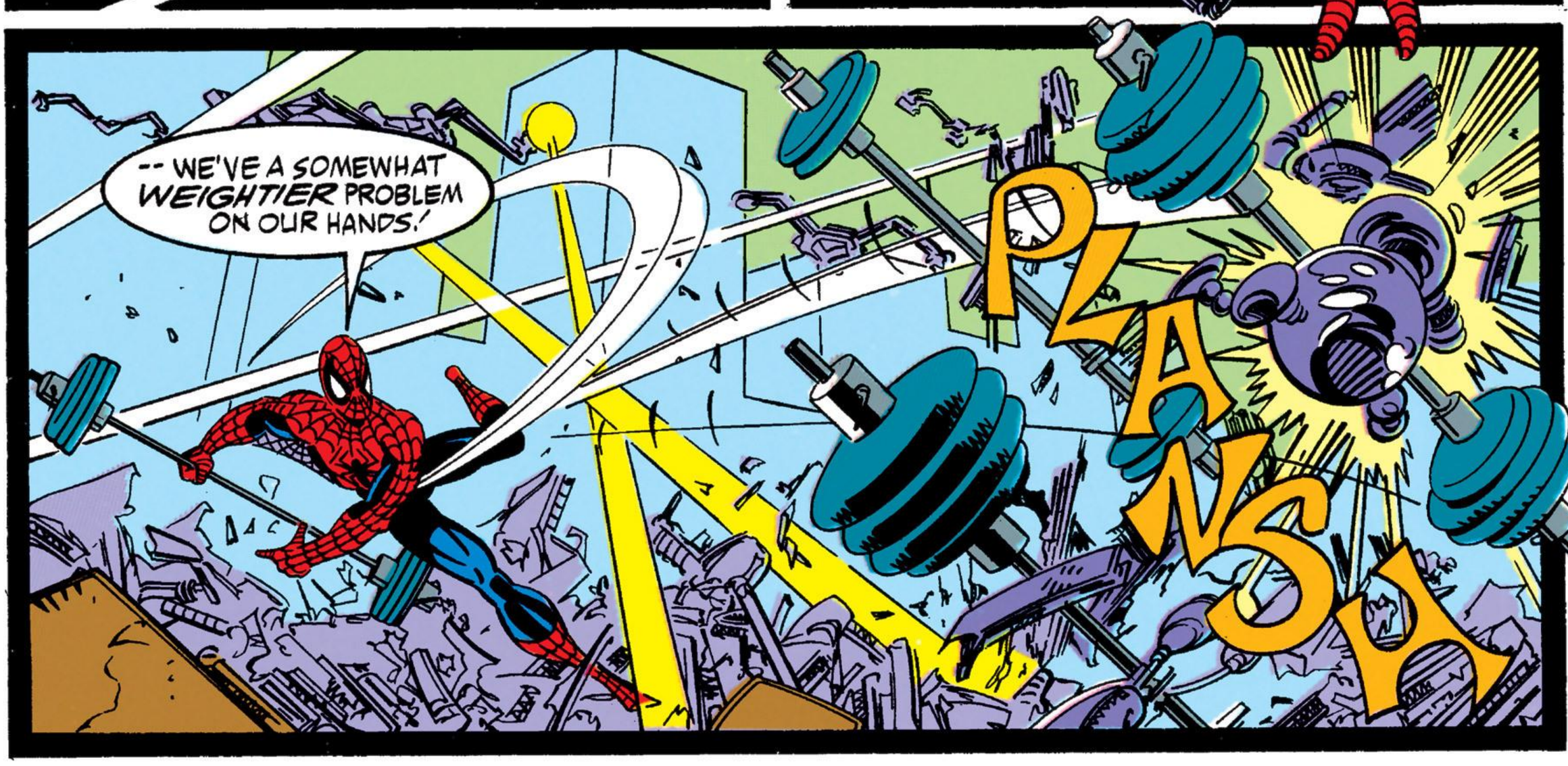

EASY, SPIDER-MAN! HE WON'T TELL US ANYTHING IF HE'S SCARED INTO A COMA!
YOU GOT A BETTER SUGGESTION?
:GLMF:
EXPLOSIVES. WE BLOW THIS PLACE APART, BRICK BY BRICK, UNTIL WE FIND WHAT WE WANT.
BET THAT'LL LOOK REAL GOOD ON YOUR SERVICE RECORD... WON'T IT, "MR. ADMINISTRATOR?"
LOOK, THIS IS TOP SECRET, BUT... YOU WERE A MILITARY MAN.
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND.
THIS COUNTRY WAS ONCE RUN ON A GOLD STANDARD-- MEANING THAT MONEY WAS BACKED BY GOLD.
BUT THESE DAYS THE ECONOMY IS TOTTERING, AND IF IT SHOULD FALL, GOLD WOULD BE NOTHING BUT LUMPS OF METAL! BUT DRUGS WILL ALWAYS MAINTAIN THEIR VALUE!
SO WE'RE PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF INSTITUTING A COCAINE STANDARD. TIMES CHANGE; WISE MEN CHANGE WITH THEM!

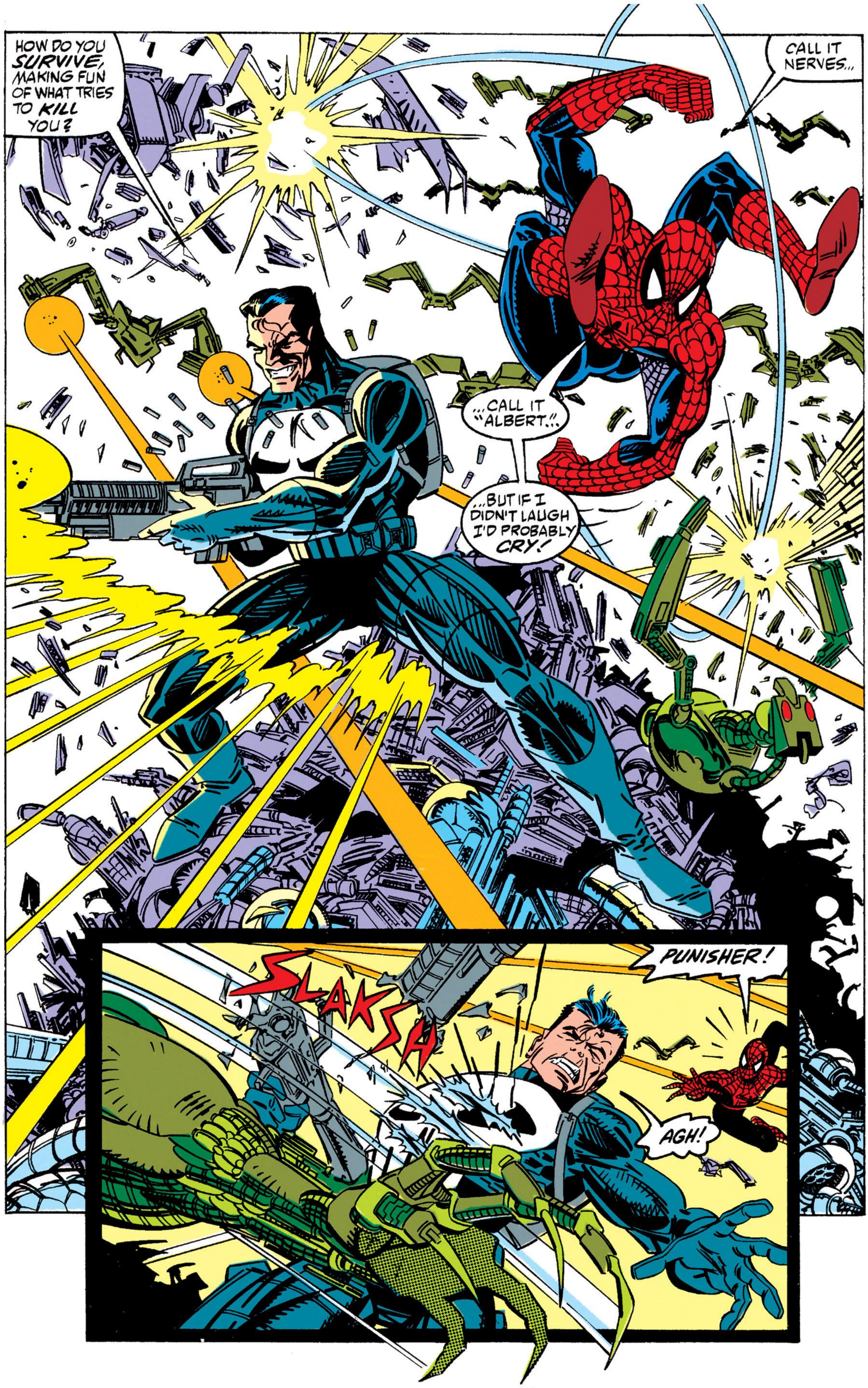

THAT'S SICK, AND TRICKY. WE'RE NOT TALKING ORGANIZED CRIME HERE--WE'RE TALKING U.S. GOVERNMENT!
DO WE EXPOSE THE PLOT? TAKE THE UNITED STATES TO COURT?
THAT WOULD BE THE RIGHT THING. BUT WOULD A JUDGE BELIEVE A GUY IN A MASK, LIKE ME?
OR A WALKING GUN SHOP LIKE YOU?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT WOULD IT DO TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE?
THEY'RE BATTERED DAILY WITH POLITICAL SCANDALS, INCREASING CRIME AND POVERTY. WHAT WOULD THIS KIND OF KNOWLEDGE DO TO THEIR MORALE?
I GUESS, MAYBE, THIS IS ONE TIME WHEN DOING THE SMART THING MIGHT BE BETTER THAN DOING THE RIGHT THING.
I SUPPOSE THAT MAKES SENSE. BUT THE DRUGS...
...THEY HAVE TO GO.
AGREED.
ALL RIGHT, COLONEL. WHERE ARE THEY?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M GOING TO TELL YOU?
YES.
I DO.

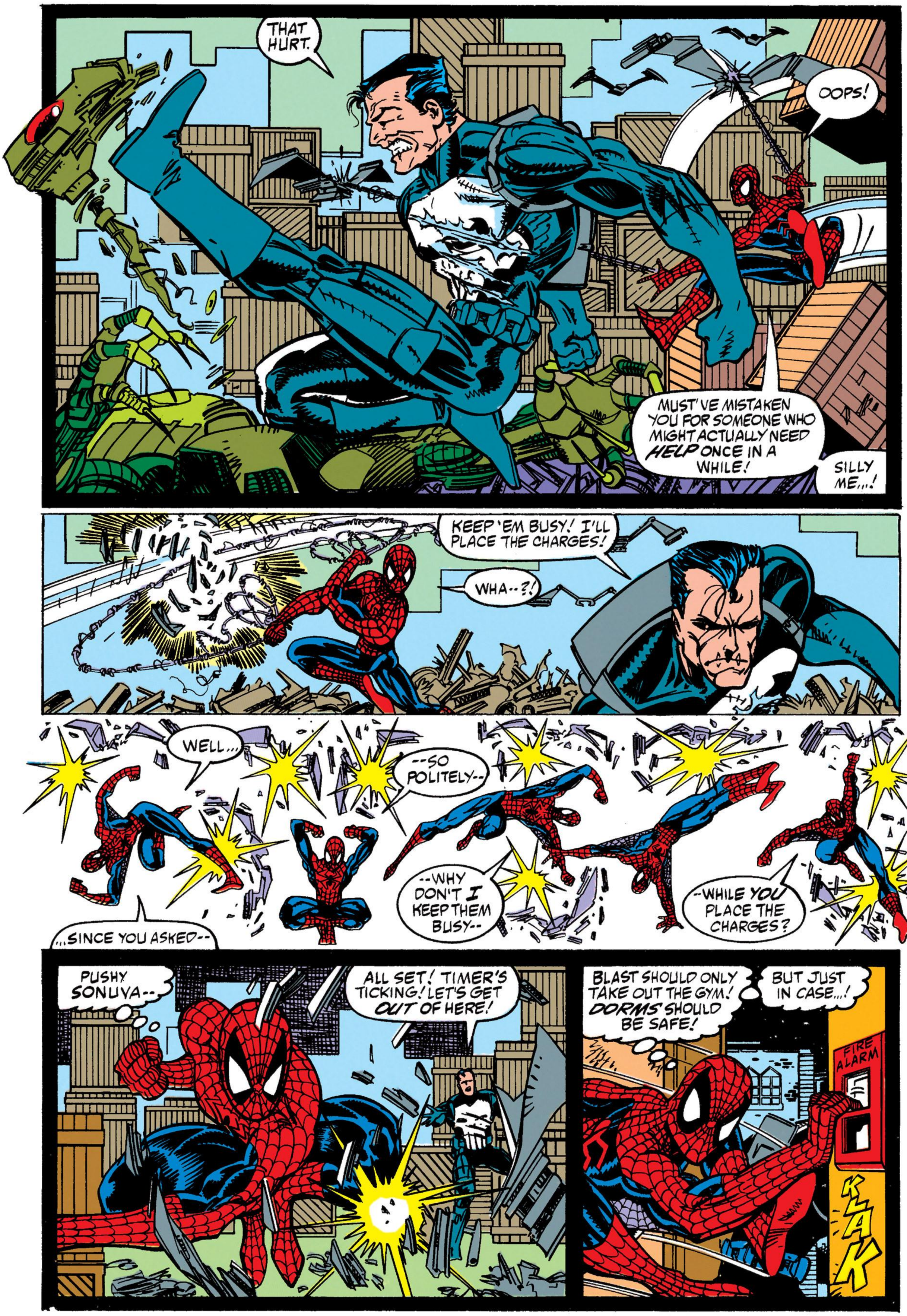

A GYMNASIUM: WHERE A LOCKED DOOR, MARKED "CLOSED FOR REPAIRS," CEASES TO BE A PROBLEM...
WHOOMP
G-86!
N-14!
BINGO!
TRITE, BUT ACCURATE. THERE'S ENOUGH COKE HERE TO SUPPORT A MILLION HABITS.
OR ONE FAIRLY LARGE COUNTRY!
WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS, WITH A STASH THIS VALUABLE, WHY NO ARMED GUARDS?
THAT'S WHY!
PZZRAT
MECHANOIDS!
VERY ASSERTIVE MECHANOIDS!

THAT'S SOLID STRATEGY! NOT ONLY ARE ROBOTS A LOWER SECURITY RISK, BUT EVEN AT A MILITARY ACADEMY THEY'RE A LOT LESS CONSPICUOUS THAN A PLATOON OF COMBAT TROOPS!
THAKA THAKA THAK


CAN WE ADMIRE THE PATTONESQUE SUBTLETIES LATER? RIGHT NOW--


-- WE'VE A SOMEWHAT WEIGHTIER PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS!
PLANGSH

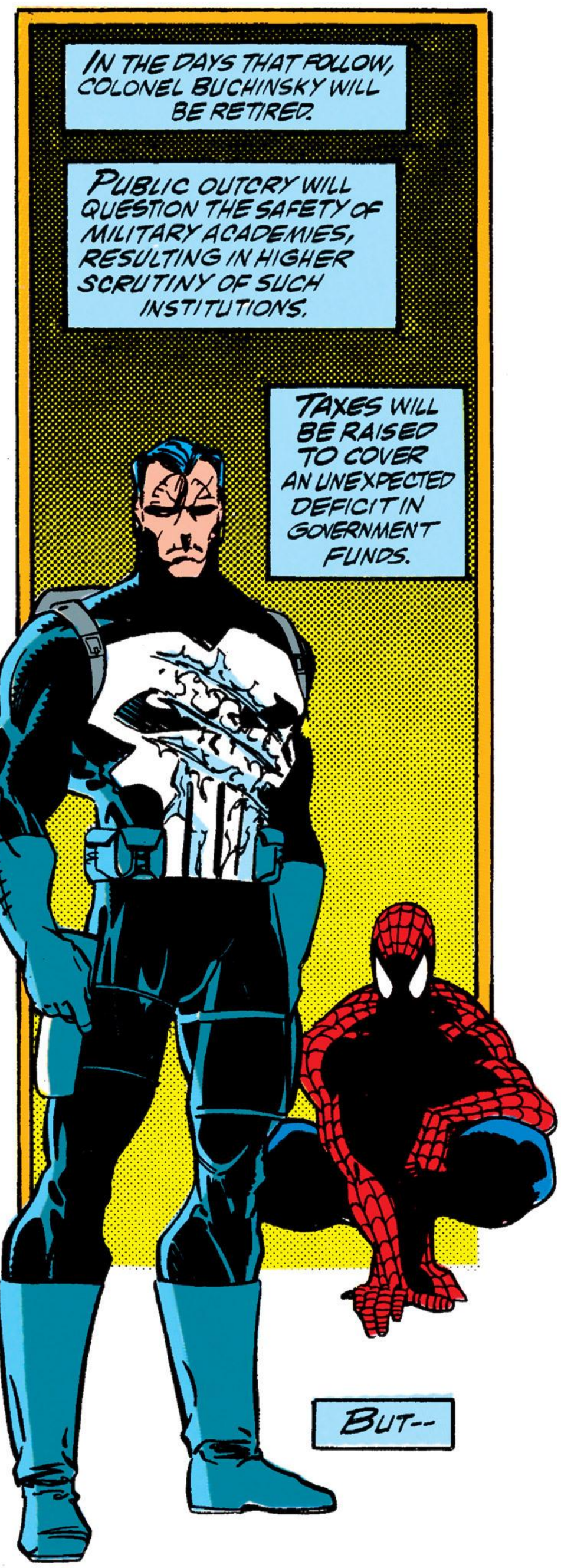

HOW DO YOU SURVIVE, MAKING FUN OF WHAT TRIES TO KILL YOU?
CALL IT NERVES...
...CALL IT "ALBERT...
...BUT IF I DIDN'T LAUGH I'D PROBABLY CRY!
SLAKSH
PUNISHER!
AGH!


THAT HURT.
OOPS!
MUST'VE MISTAKEN YOU FOR SOMEONE WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY NEED HELP ONCE IN A WHILE!
SILLY ME...!
KEEP 'EM BUSY! I'LL PLACE THE CHARGES!
WHA--?!
WELL...
--SO POLITELY--
--WHY DON'T I KEEP THEM BUSY--
--WHILE YOU PLACE THE CHARGES?
...SINCE YOU ASKED--
PUSHY SONUVA--
ALL SET! TIMER'S TICKING! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
BLAST SHOULD ONLY TAKE OUT THE GYM! DORMS SHOULD BE SAFE!
BUT JUST IN CASE...!
FIRE ALARM
KLAK

KLANGALANGALANGALANGALANGALANGALAN

AW, MAN! WE GOT MUSTER AT 0600! WHY A FIRE DRILL *NOW?*

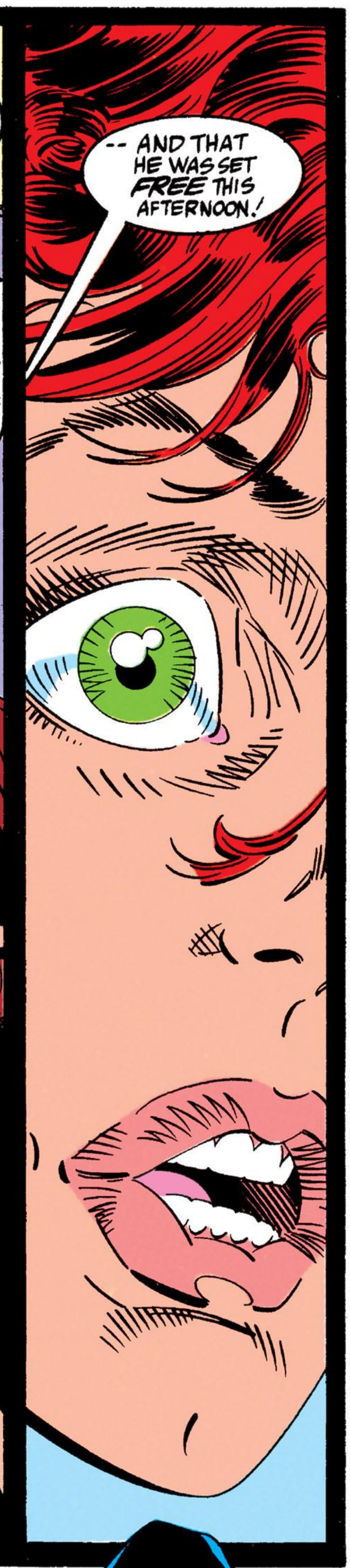
I'M GONNA WRITE MY DAD! HE KNOWS A *SENATOR* IN--



--TONIGHT: AT THE ENTRANCE TO A SOHO LOFT BUILDING...
MS. WATSON-PARKER? I'M GOLDMAN--N.Y.P.D.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?

UH, NO, MA'AM. I'M NOT HERE IN MY OFFICIAL CAPACITY. DO YOU, ER, THINK YOU MIGHT AUTOGRAPH MY NOTEBOOK? ;HEH< I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN.
WHY, CERTAINLY. IS... IS THAT ALL?

ACTUALLY, NO. I'M HERE IN REGARDS TO THE KIDNAPPING PERPETRATED ON YOU BY A CERTAIN JONATHON CAESAR, MA'AM -- I READ THE FILES ON THE CASE.
AND WHILE IT'S NOT DEPARTMENT POLICY, I THOUGHT IT'D BE THE DECENT THING TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CAESAR'S LATEST PAROLE HEARING WAS THIS MORNING --


-- AND THAT HE WAS SET FREE THIS AFTERNOON!

NEXT ISSUE: A VENOMOUS RETURN!
BUY IT-- OR I'LL EAT YOUR DOG!