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COMICS
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

HIDING IN PITTSBURGH
WON'T SAVE YOU FROM
ALISTAIR SMYTHE'S
SPIDER-SLAYER!



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MILGROM

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

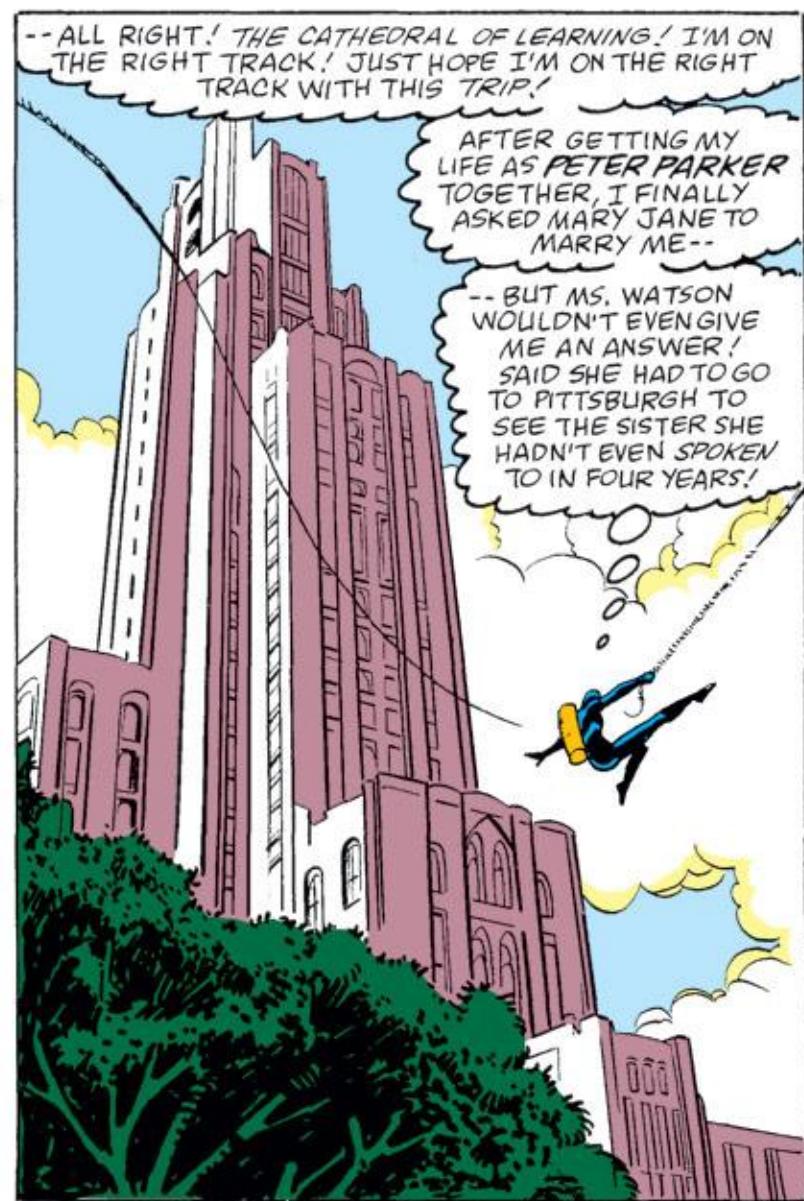
SPIDER-MAN SWINGING ABOVE A CITY SKYLINE IS NORMALLY A FAMILIAR SIGHT—IN NEW YORK. BUT THE STADIUM IN THIS BACKGROUND IS NOT SHEA, AND RESIDENTS HERE ARE MORE USED TO HEROES CALLED "STEELERS" AND "PIRATES" THAN "SPIDER-MAN."

FOR THIS IS PITTSBURGH, THE METROPOLIS RAND-MCNALLY CHOSE AS THE BEST CITY IN AMERICA IN WHICH TO LIVE. UNFORTUNATELY, IT MAY SOON BE KNOWN BY A RATHER MORE SINISTER LEGEND:

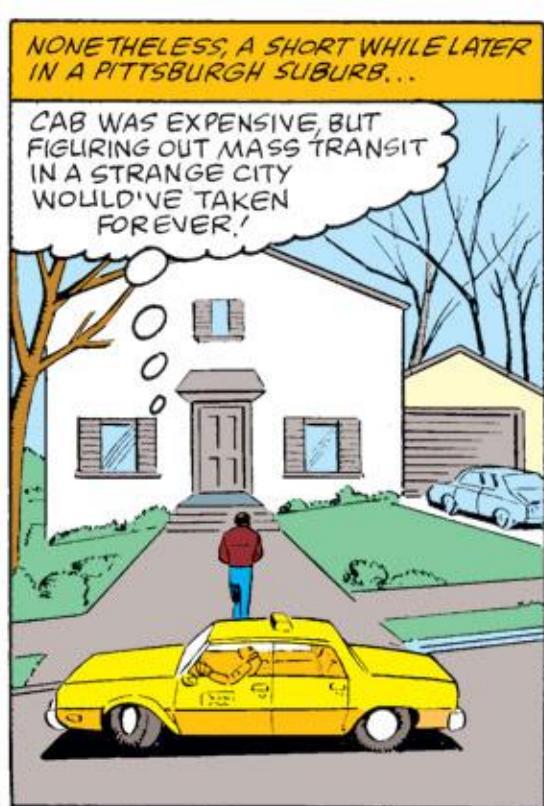
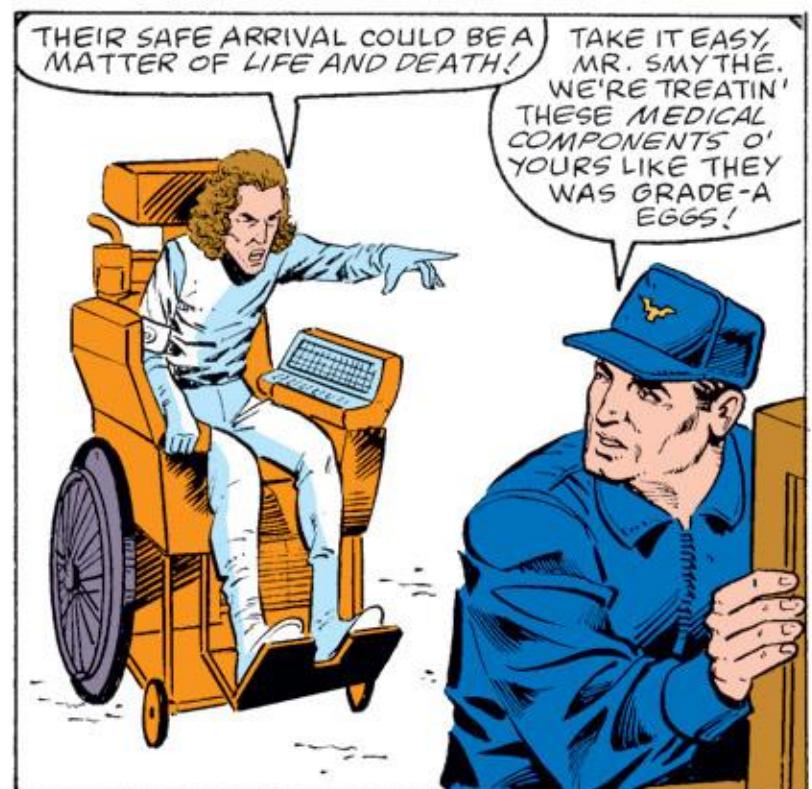
AS THE CITY WHERE SPIDER-MAN DIED!

GROWING PAINS!

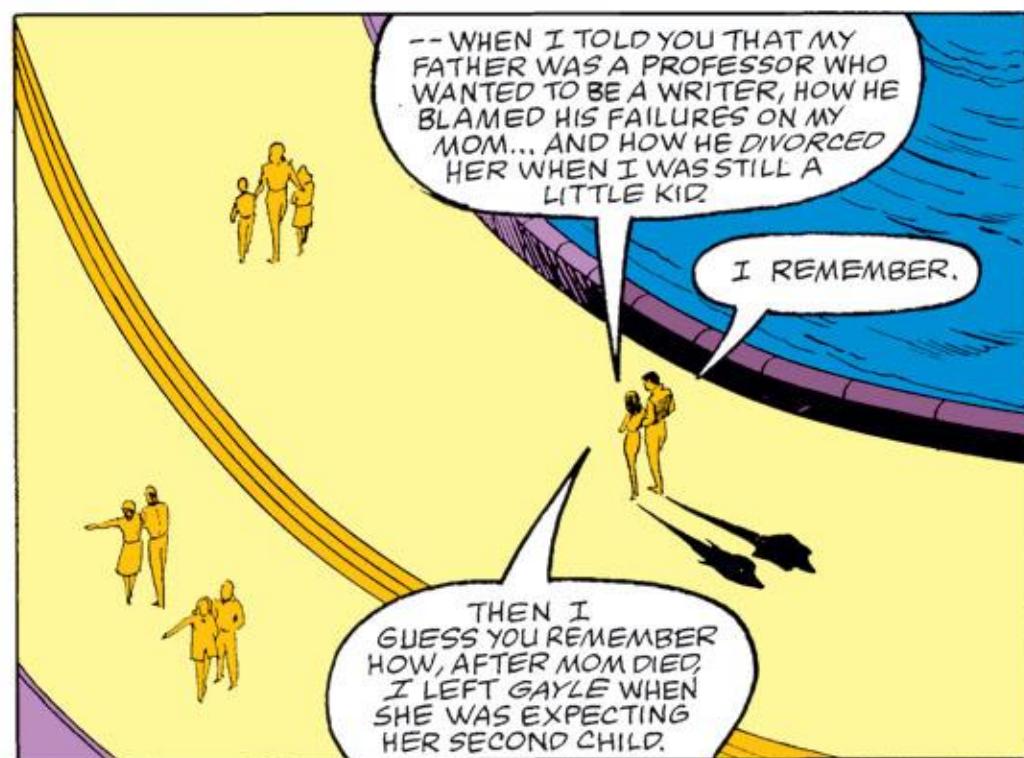
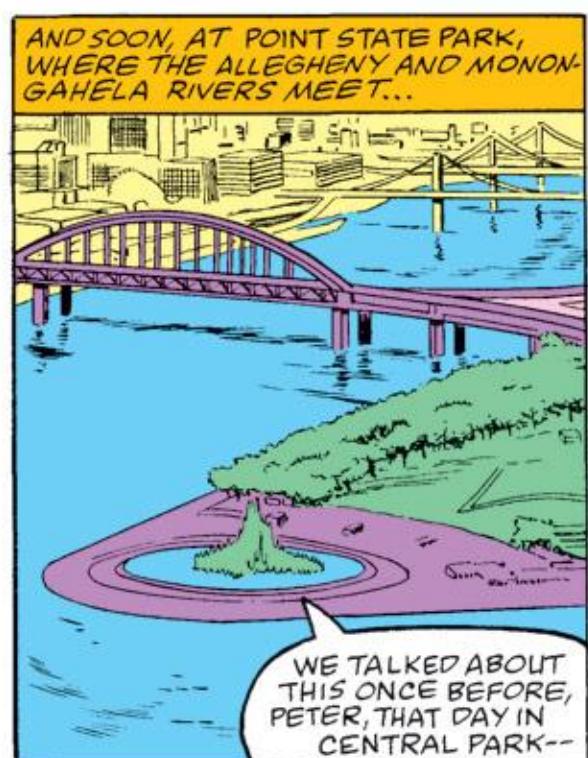
DAVID MICHELINIE / ALEX SAVIUK / VINCE COLLETTA / RICK PARKER / GEORGE ROUSSOS / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF











YOU DID WHAT YOU FELT YOU HAD TO.

I KNOW. I'D SEEN MOM AND GAYLE GIVE UP THEIR DREAMS TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE HAPPY, AND I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO RUIN MY LIFE THE SAME WAY.

BUT CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED AFTER... WELL... THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER:

PHILLIP'S CONTINUED FAILURES MADE HIM BITTER, AND HIS ACADEMIC STANDING ERODED. SO HE STARTED USING HIS LITERARY CONTACTS TO MAKE A LIVING ANOTHER WAY--

--BY STEALING RARE MANUSCRIPTS AND SELLING THEM TO PRIVATE COLLECTORS!

HIS LATEST WAS THE TAVISTOCK PAPER, A MONOGRAPH WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, CURRENTLY ON LOAN TO DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY. AND THAT CHOICE WASN'T COINCIDENTAL.

GAYLE HAD BEEN WORKING AS A CAREER COUNSELOR AT DUQUESNE FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS!

PHILLIP CONVINCED HER TO USE HER PASSKEY TO STEAL THE MANUSCRIPT. SHE THEN HID IT, FIGURING TO SNEAK IT AWAY AFTER WORK-- BUT SECURITY CAMERAS SPOTTED HER AND SHE WAS ARRESTED!

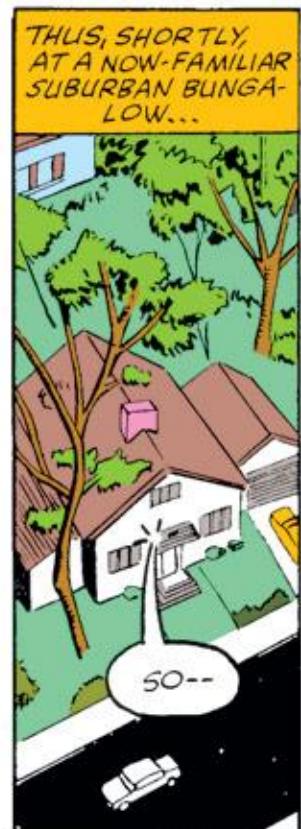
NOW PHILLIP WANTS ME TO FIND OUT WHERE THE MANUSCRIPT IS HIDDEN, AND THEN BRING IT TO HIM.

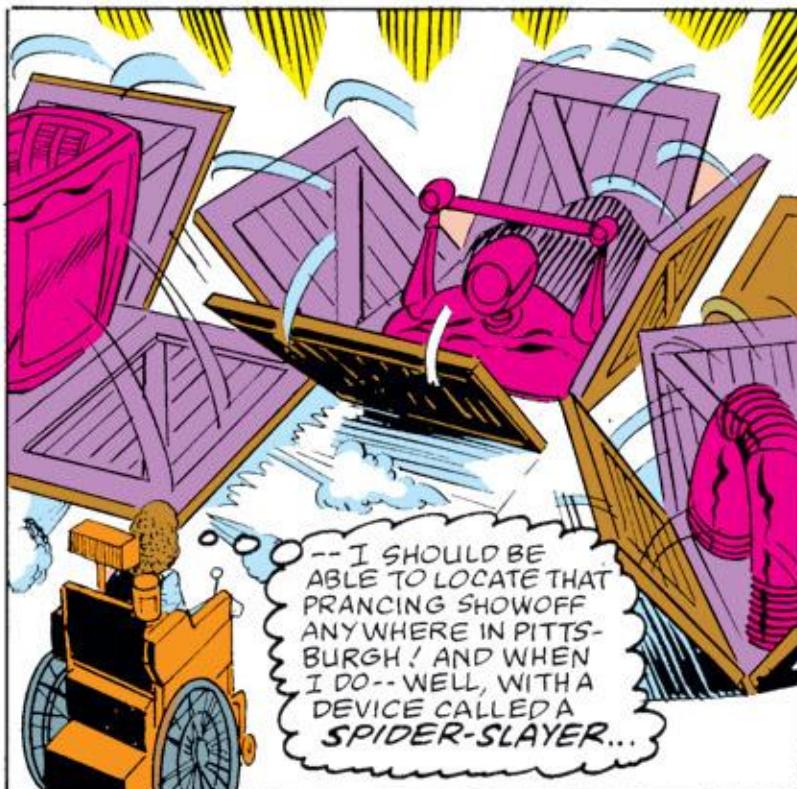
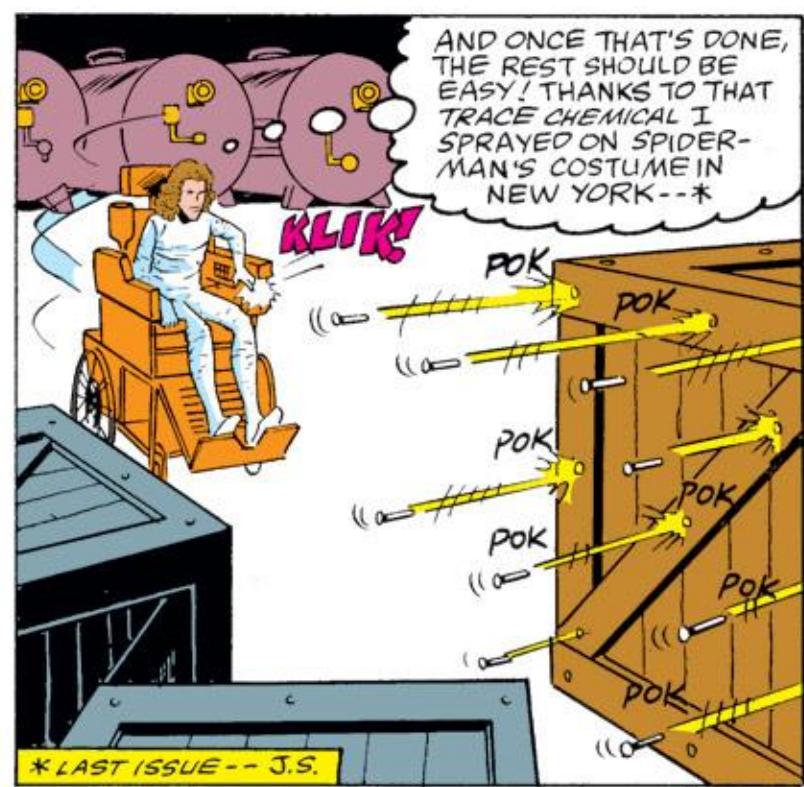
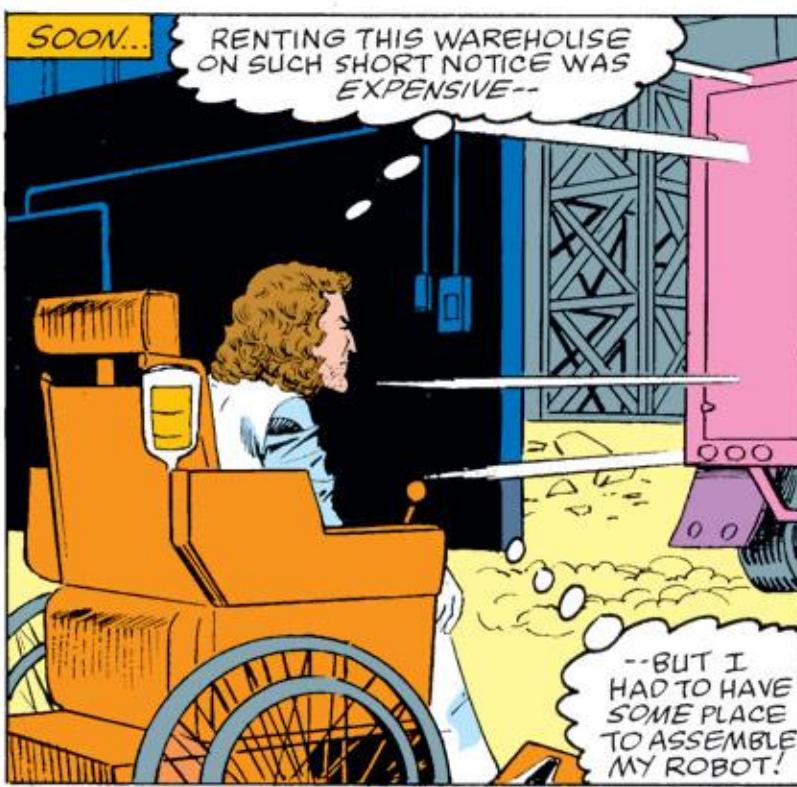
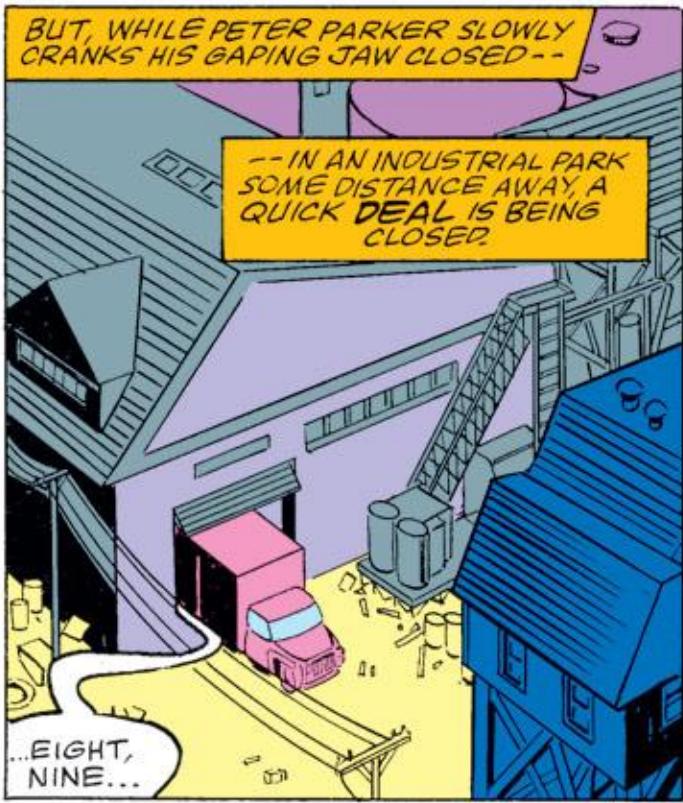
HE SAYS THAT HE'LL LEAVE US ALONE THEN-- AND WITHOUT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE, THE POLICE WILL HAVE TO LET GAYLE GO.

BUT WHY WOULD A WOMAN LIKE GAYLE, STRONG ENOUGH TO RAISE TWO KIDS ON HER OWN, GIVE IN TO SUCH A THING?

BLOOD TIES ARE TOUGH. THEY'RE HARD TO BREAK. BE-SIDES-- MAYBE GAIL SOMEHOW FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FOLKS BREAKING UP. MAYBE THIS IS HER WAY OF MAKING AMENDS.







LUNCH HOUR COMES AND GOES,
AS PITTSBURGH BATHES IN THE
WARMTH OF A LATE SPRING AFTER-
NOON. HOWEVER, INSIDE THE
ALLEHENY COUNTY WOMEN'S
JAIL--



-- THE ATMOSPHERE IS
DECIDEDLY COOLER...

SO, LITTLE SISTER,
NOW YOU NEED ME?

WHERE WERE YOU
WHEN I WAS HOLDING
TWO JOBS! PAYING FOR
DAY CARE! CHANGING
DIAPERS AT 4 A.M.?

FOR
STARTERS, I WAS
SLEEPING IN A
CUBBYHOLE AT THE
NEW YORK "Y,"
SKIPPING MEALS
SO I COULD
AFFORD MASCARA
TO GO TO JOB
INTERVIEWS!

POOR BABY! MAYBE I SHOULD
HAVE TAKEN A THIRD JOB SO I
COULD SEND YOU AN ALLOWANCE!

LOOK, GAYLE, I'M
NOT ASKING FOR FOR-
GIVENESS, BUT A LITTLE
UNDERSTANDING
WOULD BE--



"UNDERSTANDING?!"
YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO LEFT ME HIGH,
DRY, AND PREGNANT
WHILE YOU WENT
OFF TO BE A STAR!

MAYBE
THAT'S
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
WANT TO
END UP
THAT WAY
MYSELF--!

OH, THE HECK WITH IT!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE
SO STUBBORN IN MY LIFE!

GOT A MIRROR
IN THAT PURSE?

C'MON,
GAYLE--



HEY,
CALM DOWN!
THE MATRON
IS LOOKING!



-- MARY JANE ONLY WANTS
YOUR HELP SO SHE CAN HELP
YOU! WE NEED THAT MANU-
SCRIPT TO GET YOU OUT OF
JAIL!

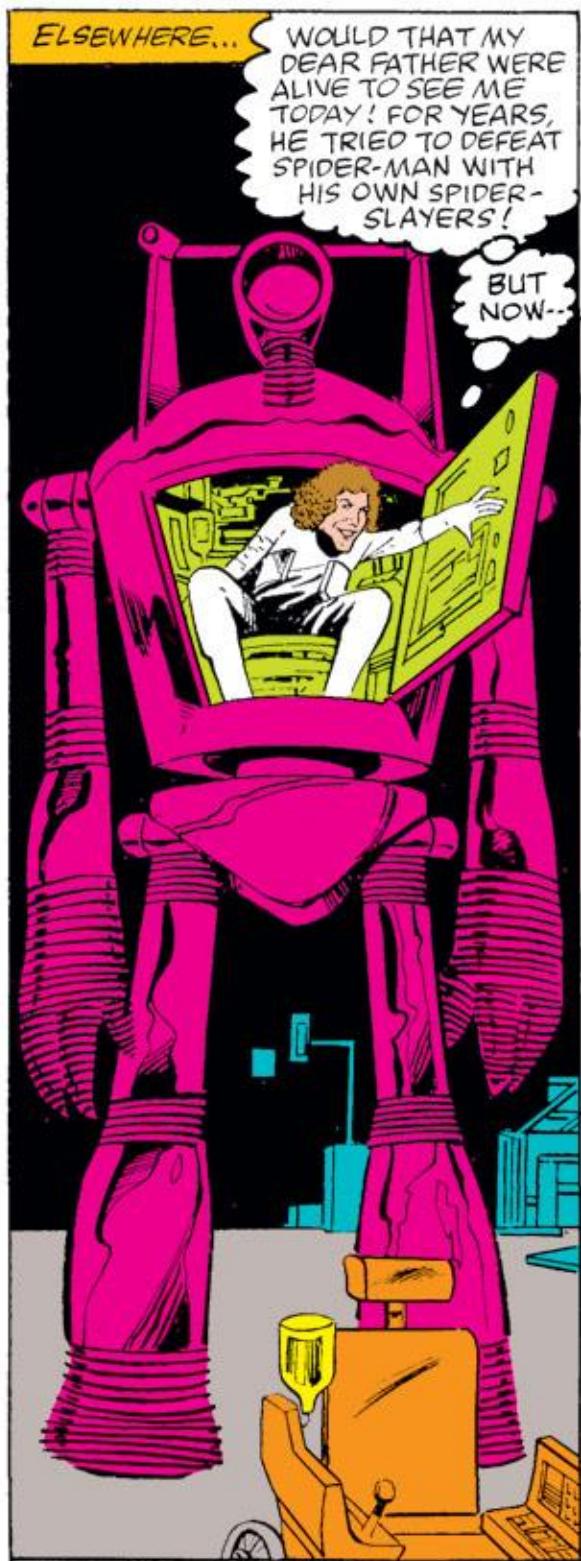
SHE'S REALLY GOT YOU
FOOLED, HASN'T SHE?
ALL SIS WANTS IS TO
BE DADDY'S LITTLE
GIRL! THAT'S ALL SHE
EVER WANTED!

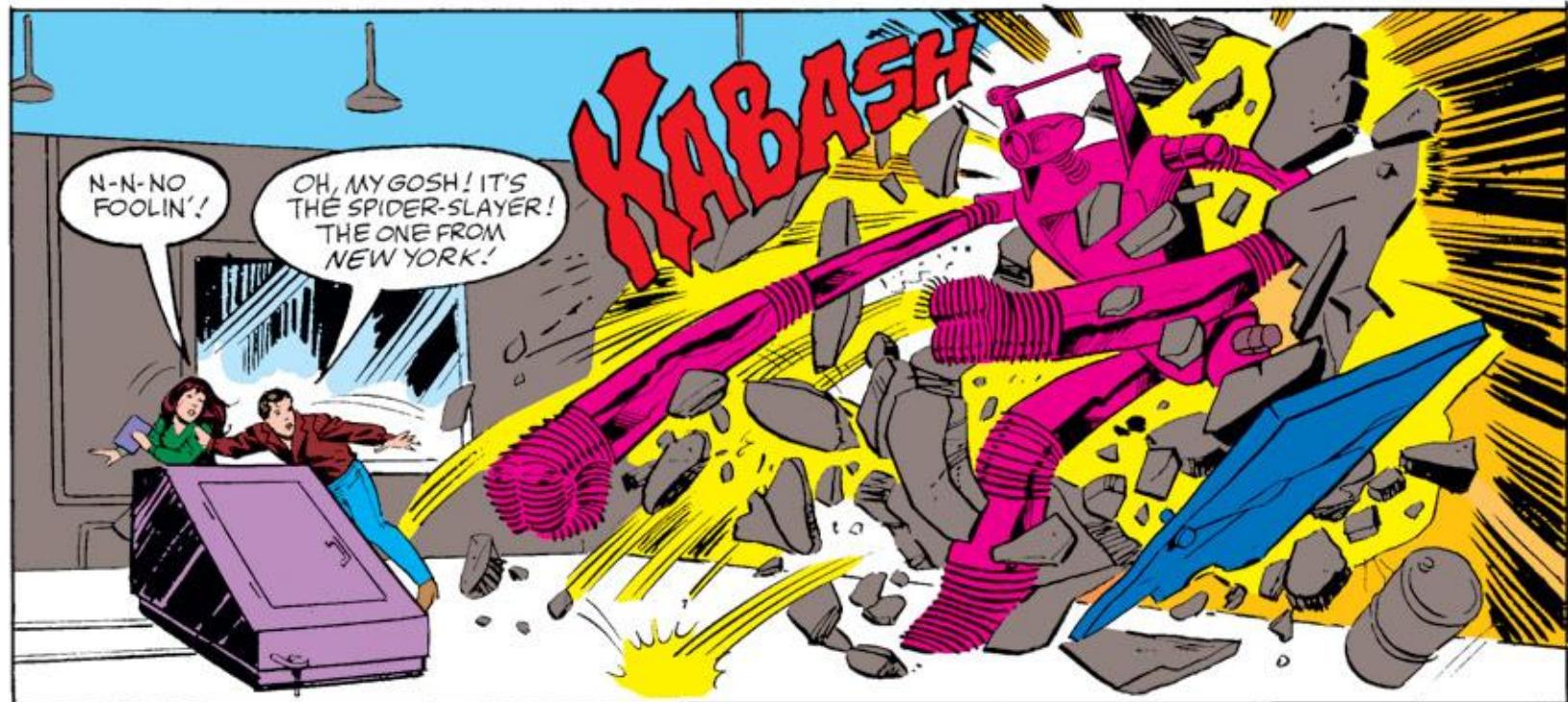


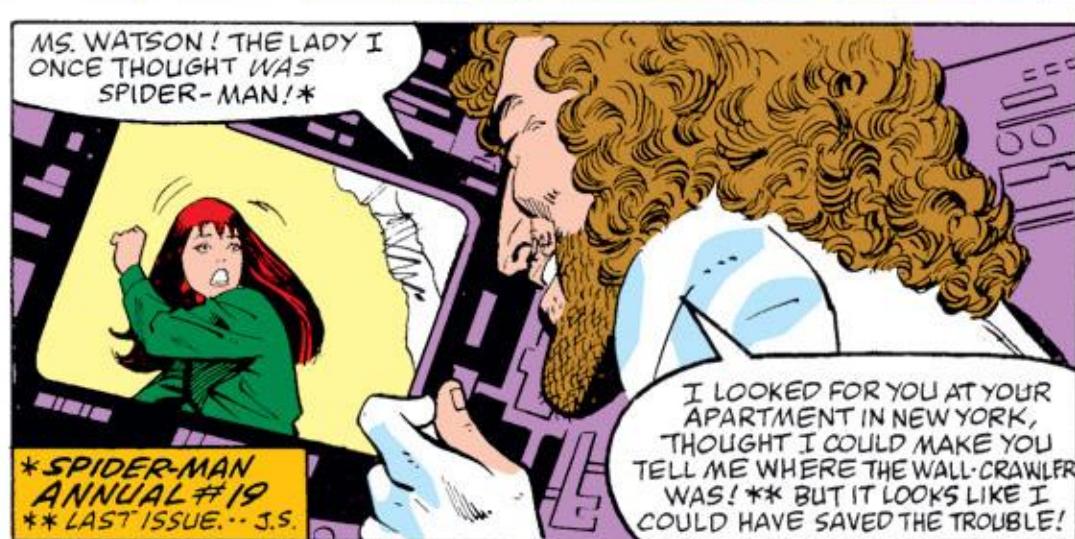
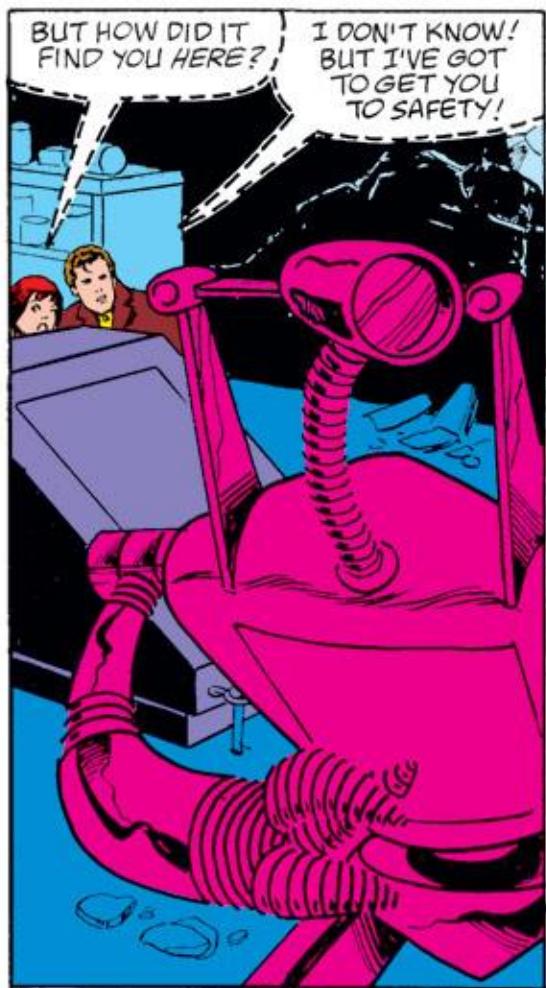
DON'T YOU THINK "DADDY" HAS
SCREWED UP ENOUGH LIVES?
YOURS, MARY JANE'S... ARE
YOU GOING TO LET HIM WRECK
YOUR KIDS, TOO?

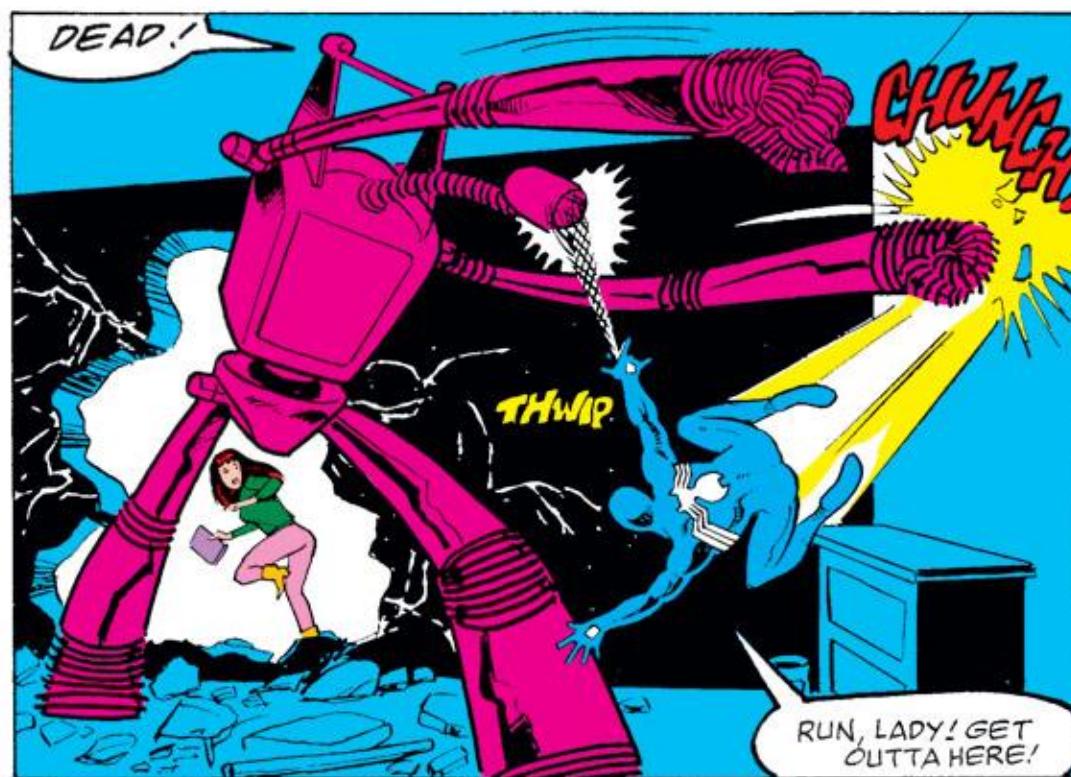
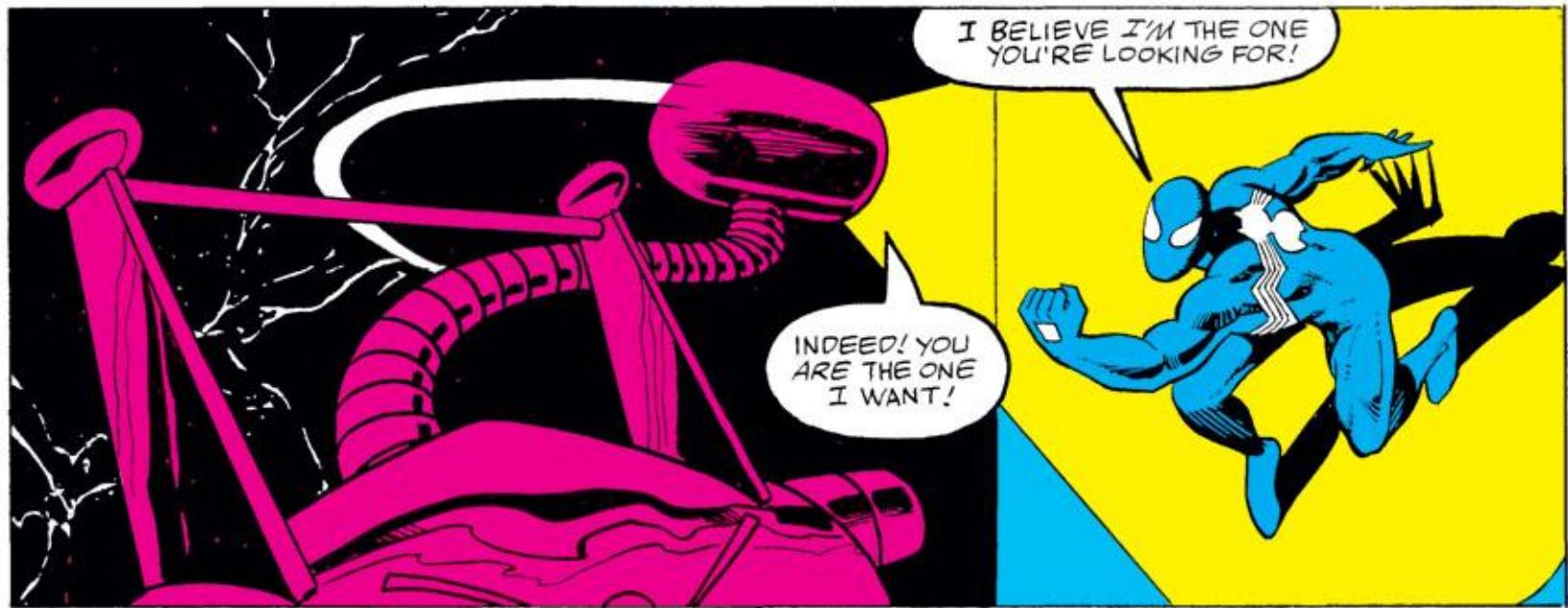
KEVIN AND TOMMY?
WHAT HAVE THEY GOT
TO DO WITH IT?

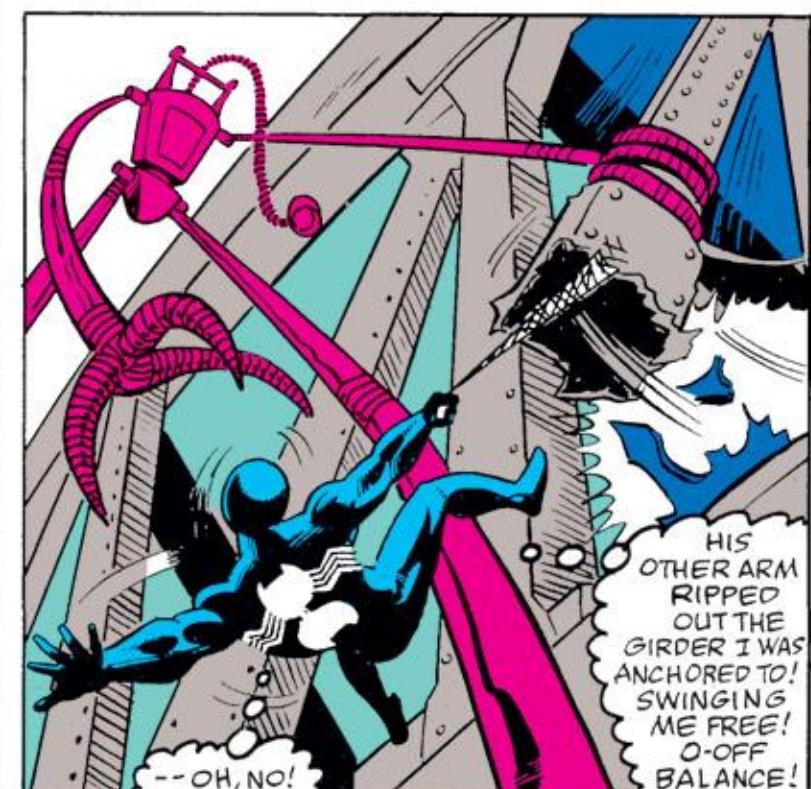
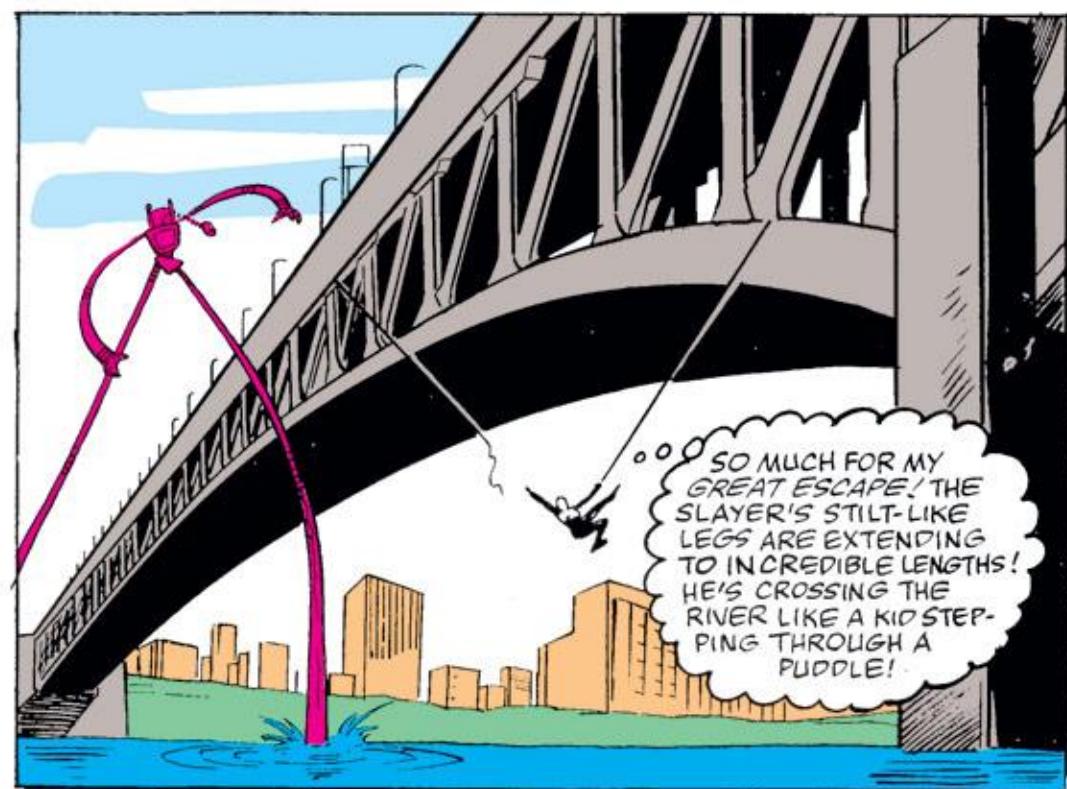
WHO'S
GOING TO
TAKE CARE
OF THEM IF
YOU'RE
SENT TO
PRISON?

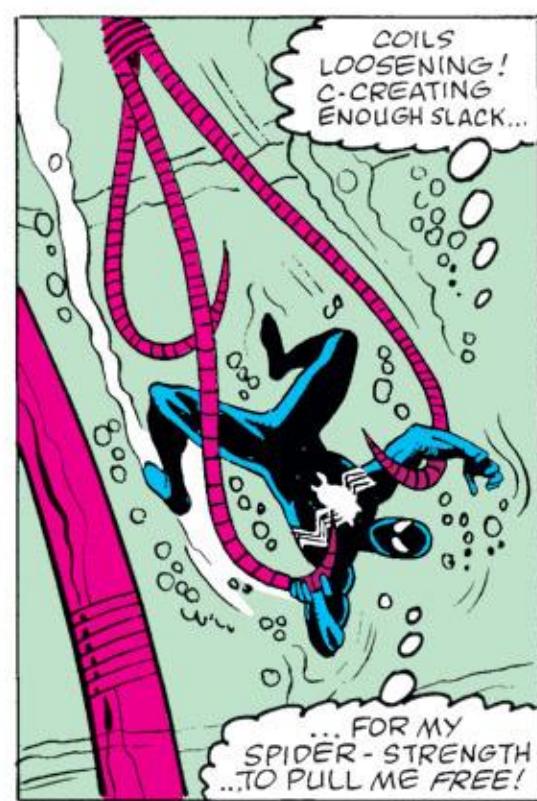
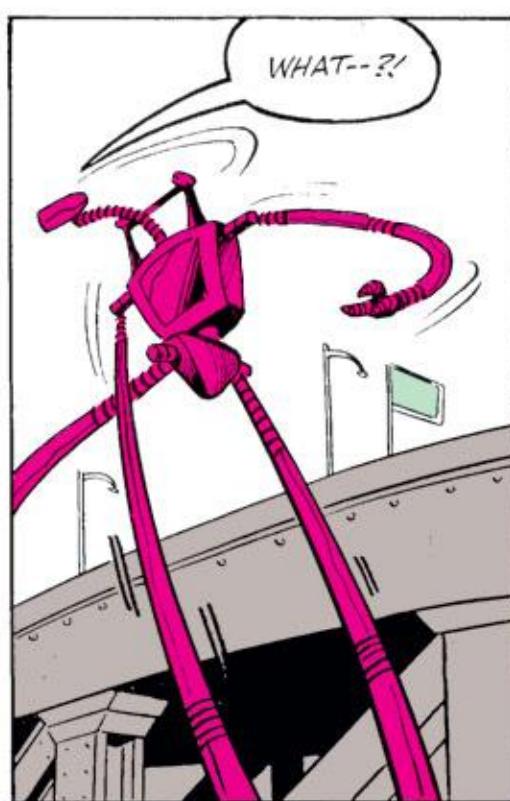
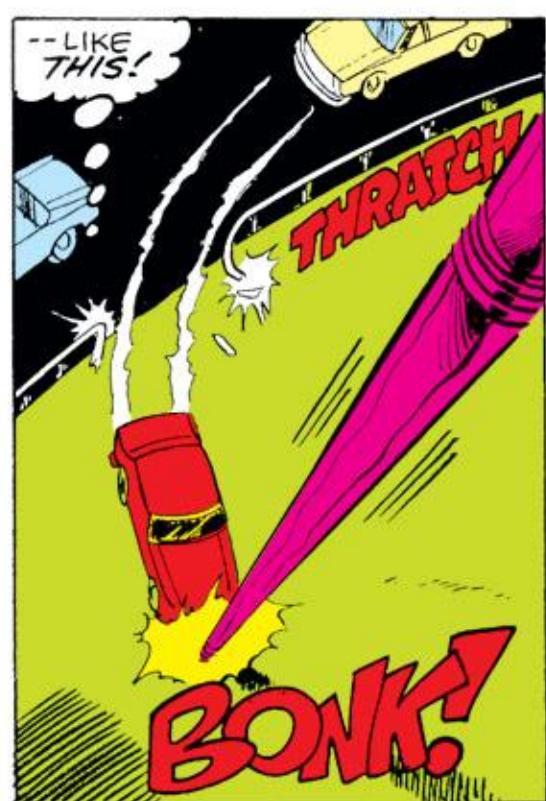
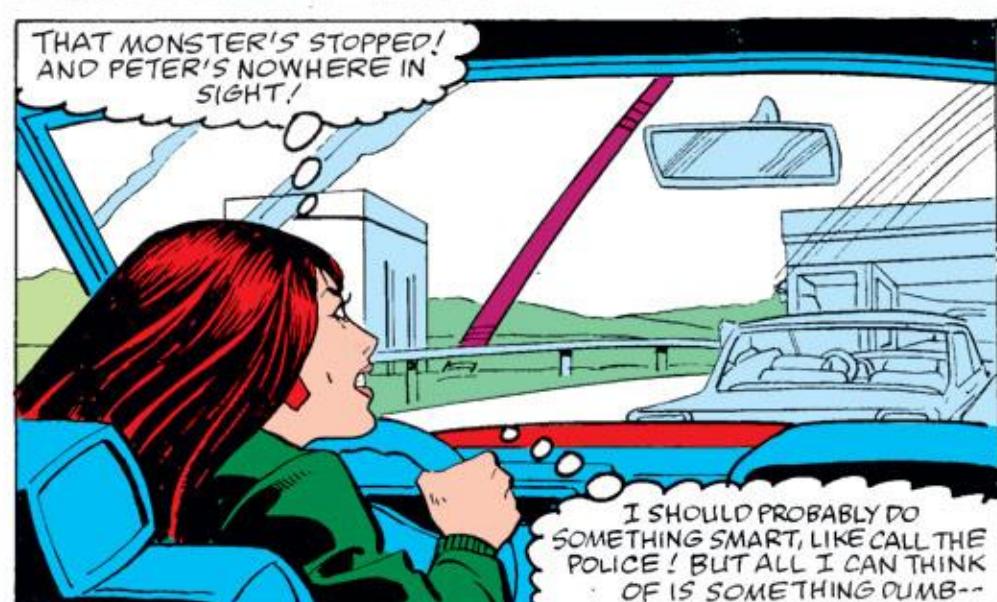
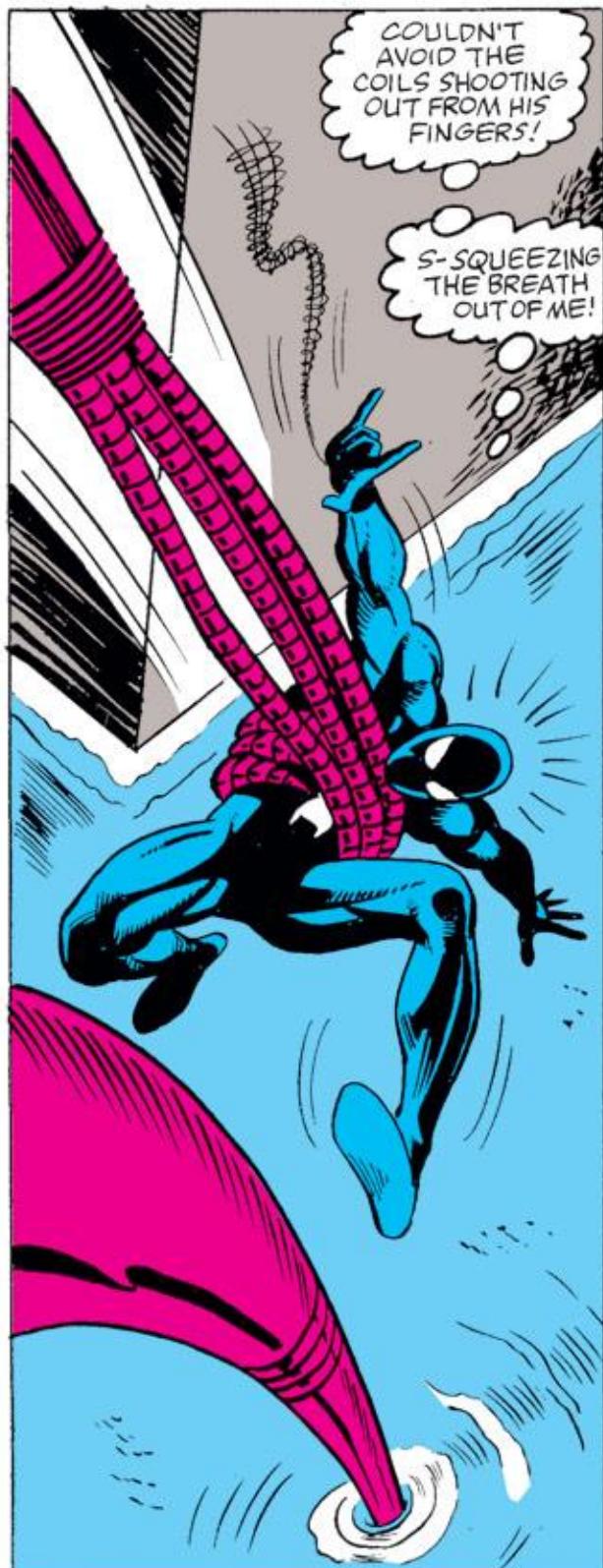


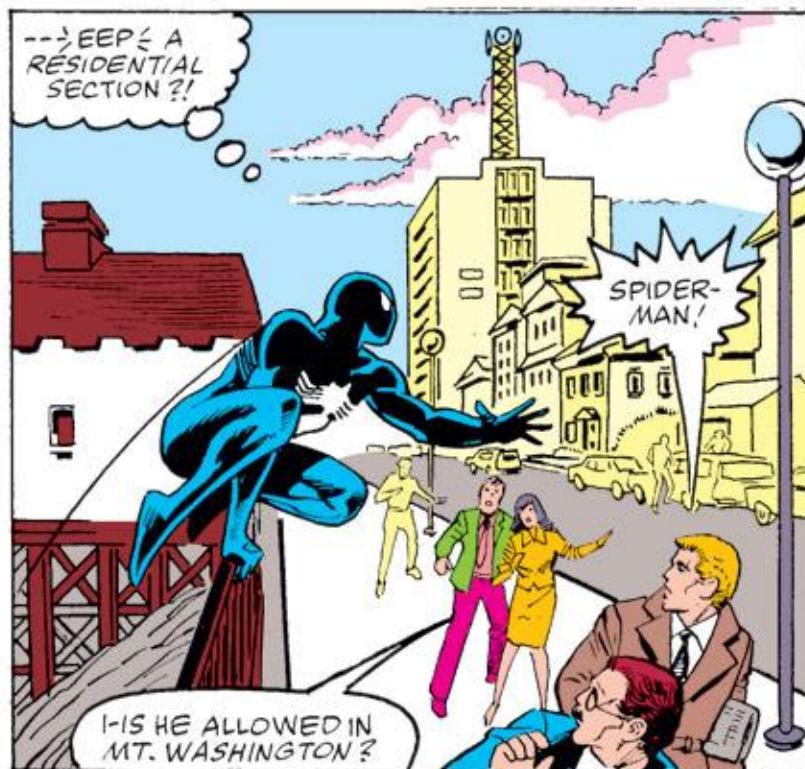
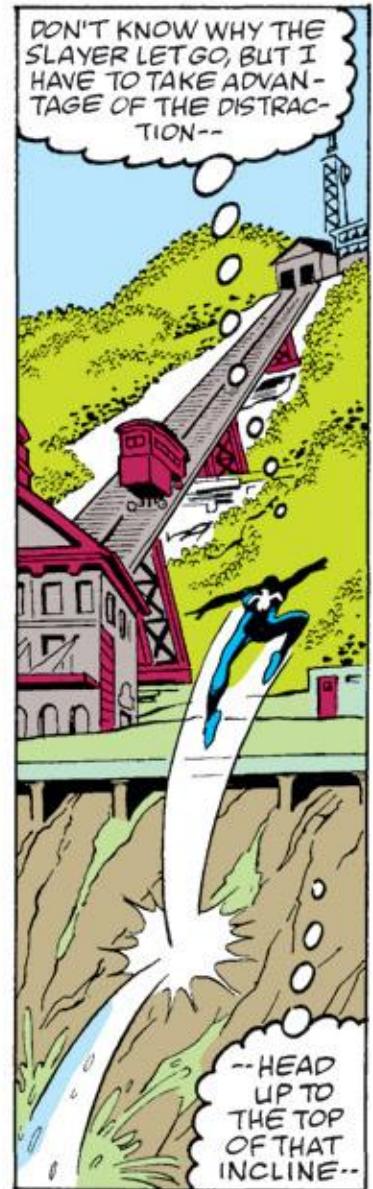


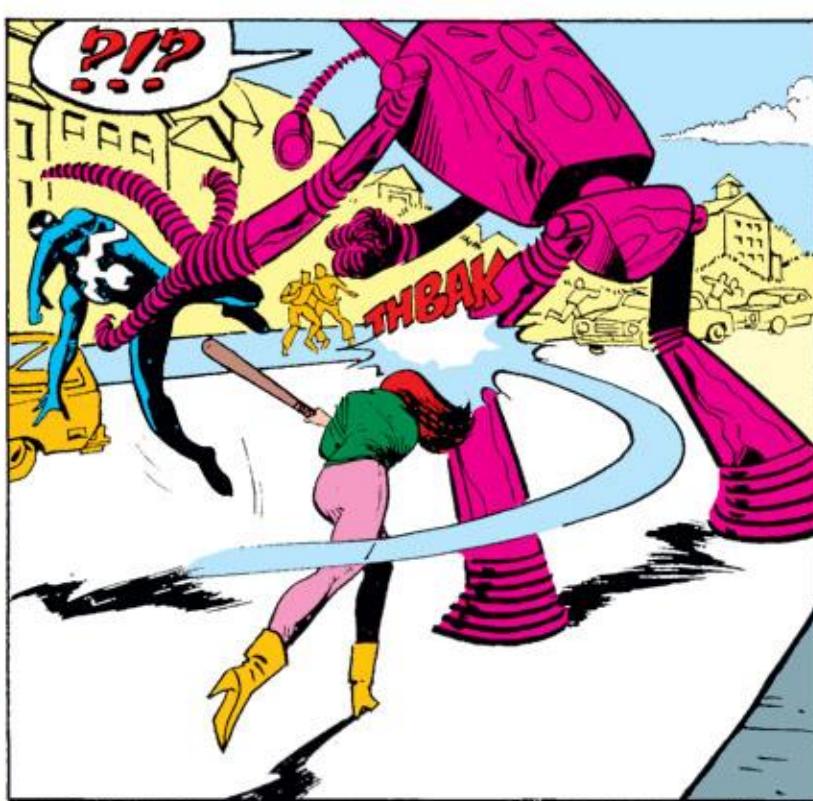
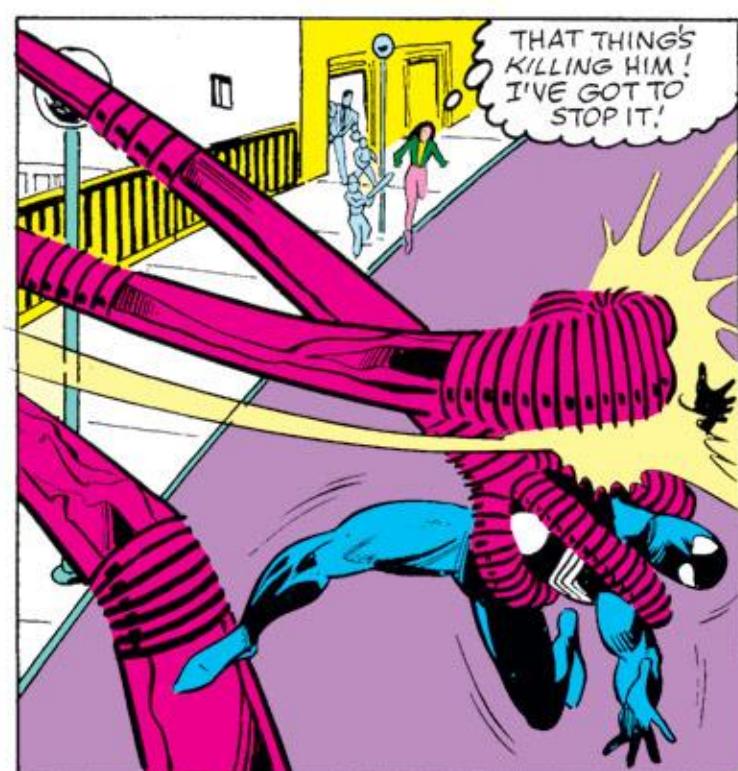
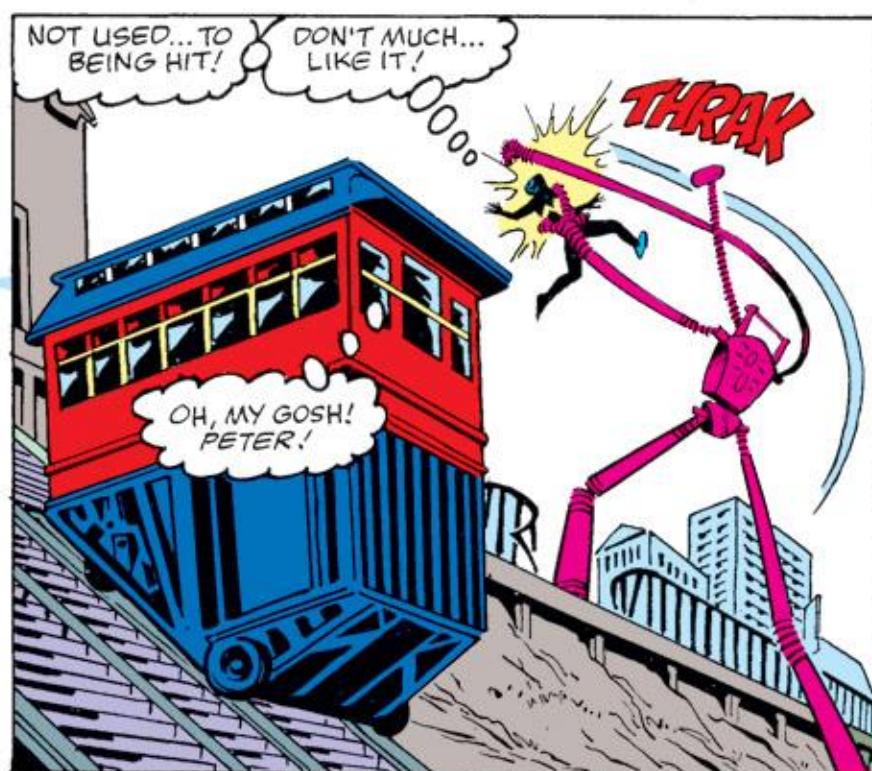
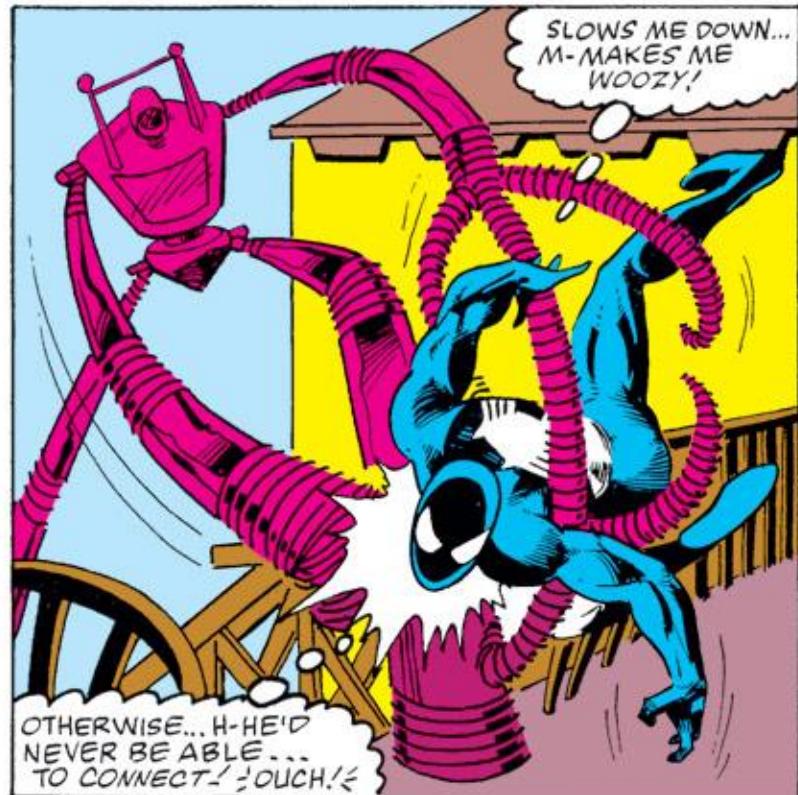
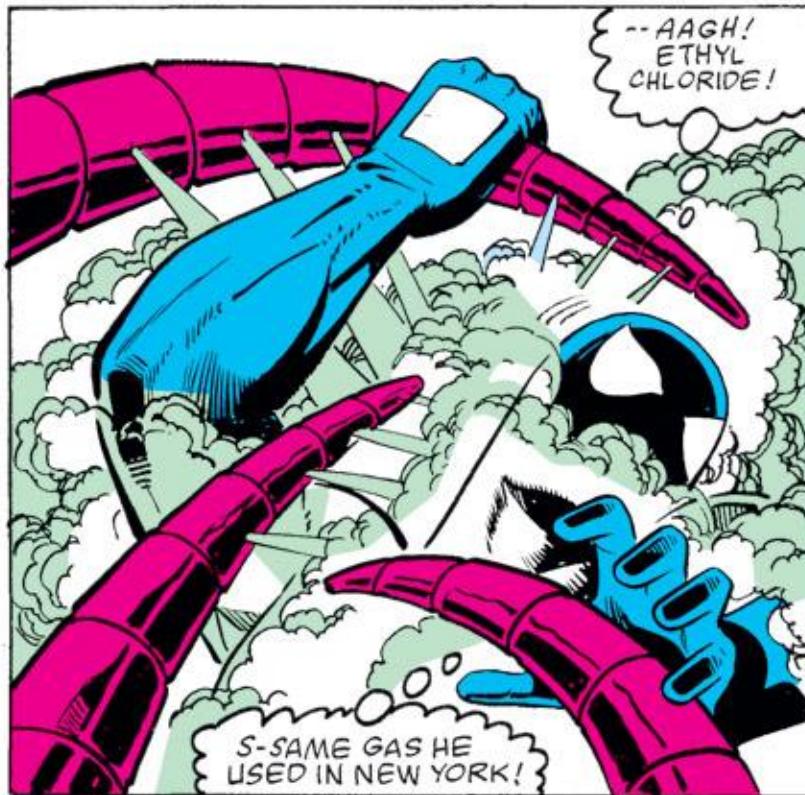


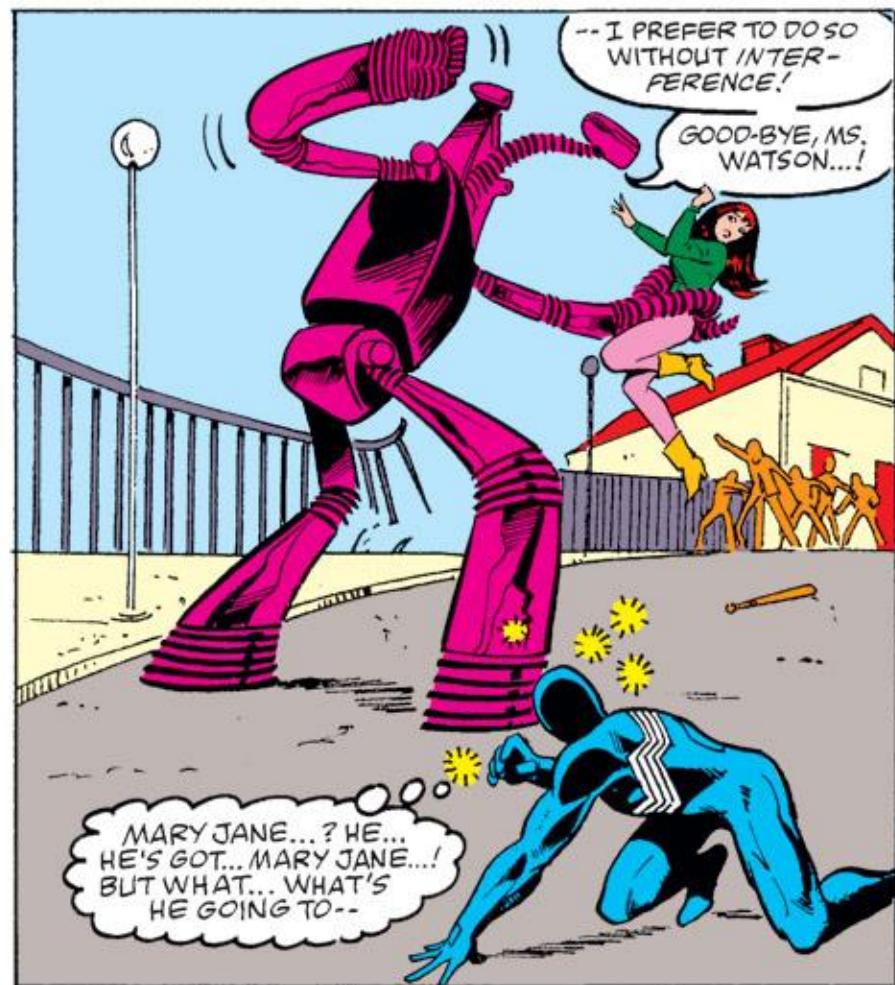


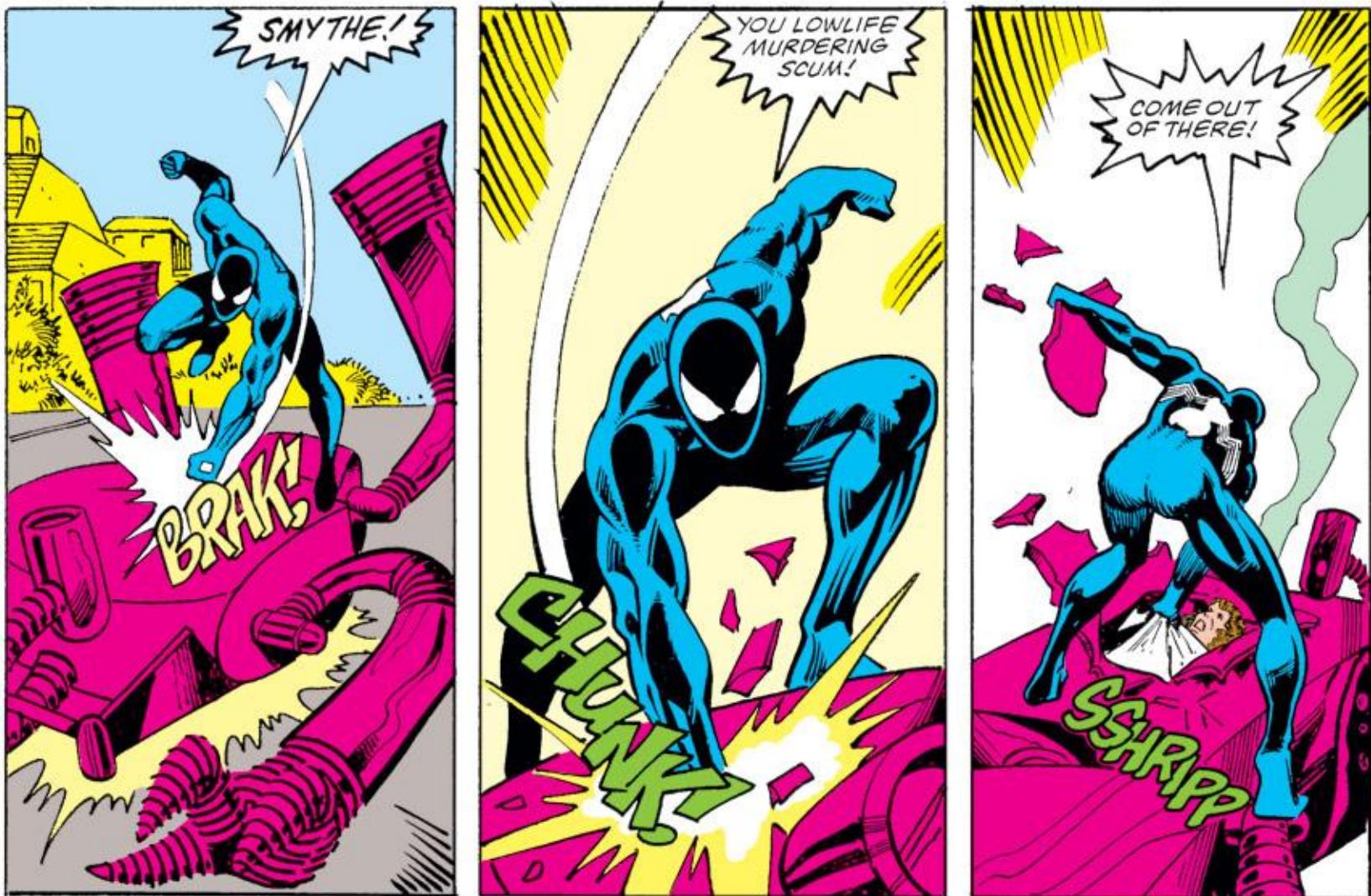


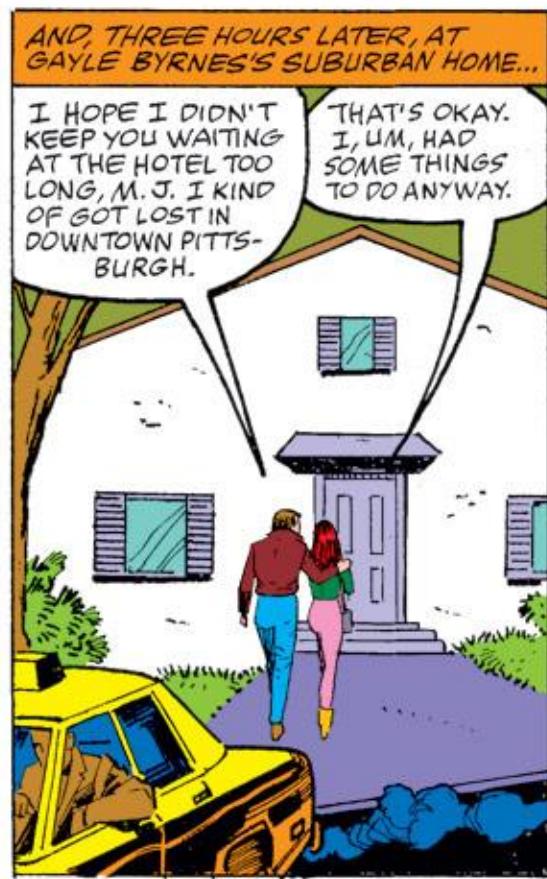


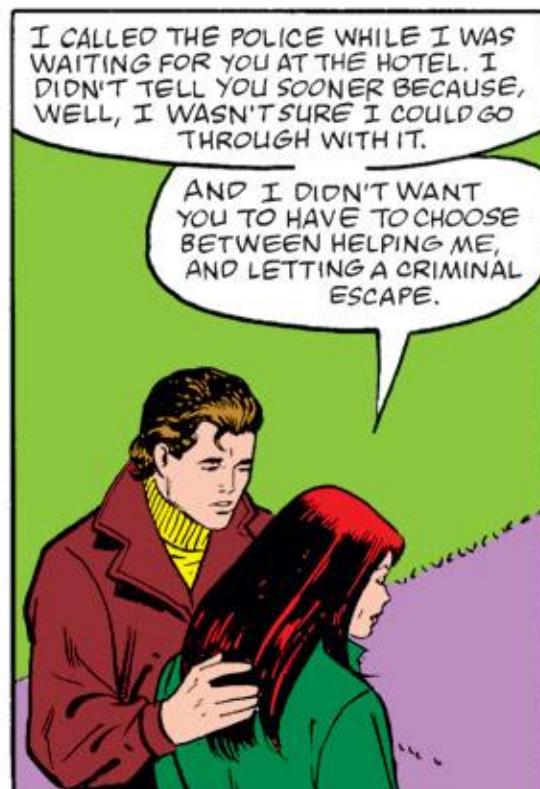










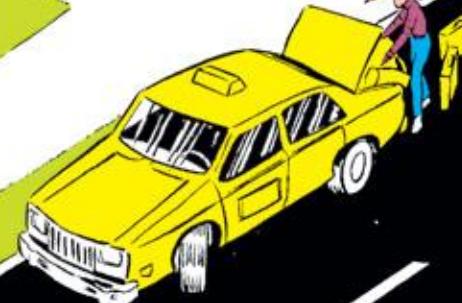


EPILOGUE: TWO DAYS LATER...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE BAIL MONEY, GAYLE. PAY IT BACK WHENEVER YOU CAN.

THE TRIAL'S SET FOR NEXT MONTH. ACCORDING TO MY LAWYER, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE'S A FAIR CHANCE I'LL GET A SUSPENDED SENTENCE.

I'LL HAVE TO FIND A NEW JOB, OF COURSE, BUT I'M STRONG. WE'LL SURVIVE.



WE'RE GONNA MISS YA, AUNT MARY JANE!

THEN WHY DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR MOTHER BRING YOU TO NEW YORK FOR A VISIT? WHEN EVERYTHING IS CLEARED UP HERE, I MEAN.

GOSH! CAN WE, MOM? CAN WE?

WELL...

"... WE'LL SEE."



AND SOON, AT GREATER PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

COMFY?

MM-HMM.
Y'KNOW,
PETE--

-- I'VE GROWN UP A LOT THESE LAST FEW DAYS. I KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM RESPONSIBILITIES-- IT'S WHAT I LEARNED AS A CHILD: MY FATHER RAN AWAY, GAYLE'S HUSBAND RAN AWAY... SO I RUN AWAY.

I WAS SCARED OF LOSING MY DREAMS, BUT MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY COME TRUE: MY CAREER'S GOING GREAT, I LOVE MY LIFE-STYLE, I HAVE WONDERFUL FRIENDS. I'M EVEN TALKING TO GAYLE AGAIN.

SO MAYBE IT'S TIME TO STOP RUNNING. MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MAKING SOMEONE ELSE HAPPY-- AS LONG AS THAT PERSON MAKES YOU HAPPY.

YOU
MEAN...?

I
MEAN "YES,"
PETER.

YES...

...I'LL
MARRY
YOU!

DON'T MISS AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #21—FOR THE WEDDING OF THE YEAR!