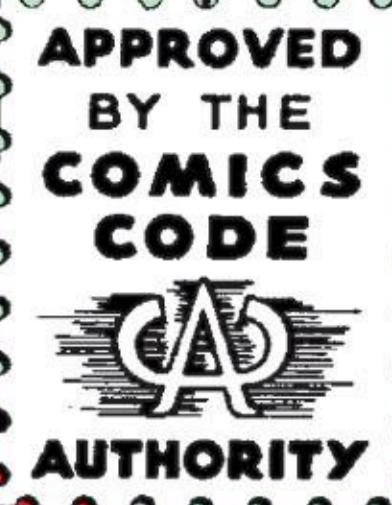




MARVEL
COMICS GROUP 12¢

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

IND.



10
MAR.

NEVER HAS ANYONE FOUGHT
SUCH MERCILESS FOES AS...

"THE ENFORCERS!"



IN THIS ISSUE:

LEARN WHY J. JONAH JAMESON REALLY HATES SPIDER-MAN!

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HOW CAN ONE LONE CRIME-FIGHTER, THOUGH
POSSESSING THE POWER OF COUNTLESS SPIDERS,
HOPE TO DEFEAT

"THE ENFORCERS!"

CAUTION! THINK TWICE BEFORE STARTING THIS MOVIE-LENGTH TALE! WE FEEL IT ONLY FAIR TO WARN YOU...ONCE YOU HAVE READ IT...ONCE YOU HAVE SAVORED THE THRILLS AND SURPRISES WHICH ONLY SPIDER-MAN CAN PROVIDE...YOU MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVER AGAIN BE SATISFIED BY LESSER MAGAZINES!



OKAY! IF YOU'VE READ THIS FAR, WE FIGURE YOU'RE HOOKED! THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW! SO HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS... HERE GOES ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING SUPER-ADVENTURES YOU'VE EVER READ!

EVERYTHING'S ALL SET, BOSS!

GOOD! SPIDER-MAN WAS SEEN HEADING THIS WAY! HE SHOULD ARRIVE WITHIN SECONDS! START OPERATION HI-LIFT RIGHT NOW!

AT A SIGNAL FROM THE MYSTERIOUS MASKED MAN, A PROFESSIONAL BURGLAR CAUTIOUSLY CLIMBS TOWARD THE END OF A LONG FLAGPOLE ...

COME BACK WITH THOSE JEWELS! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE OUT THERE!

I WOULDN'T MAKE BOOK ON THAT IF I WERE YOU! THE BIG MAN PLANNED THIS CAPER, AND HE NEVER FAILS!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE WORLD'S MOST DRAMATIC SUPER-HERO WITNESSES THE STRANGE SCENE, AND THEN ...

TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THE POLICE, HE'S DOING IT THE HARD WAY!



I'D BETTER GRAB HIM BEFORE HE FALLS AND...

IT WORKED! SPIDER-MAN NEVER SUSPECTED I HAD A CABLE WRAPPED AROUND ME!!



WE CAUGHT SPIDER-MAN FLAT-FOOTED, BOSS, JUST LIKE YOU SAID!

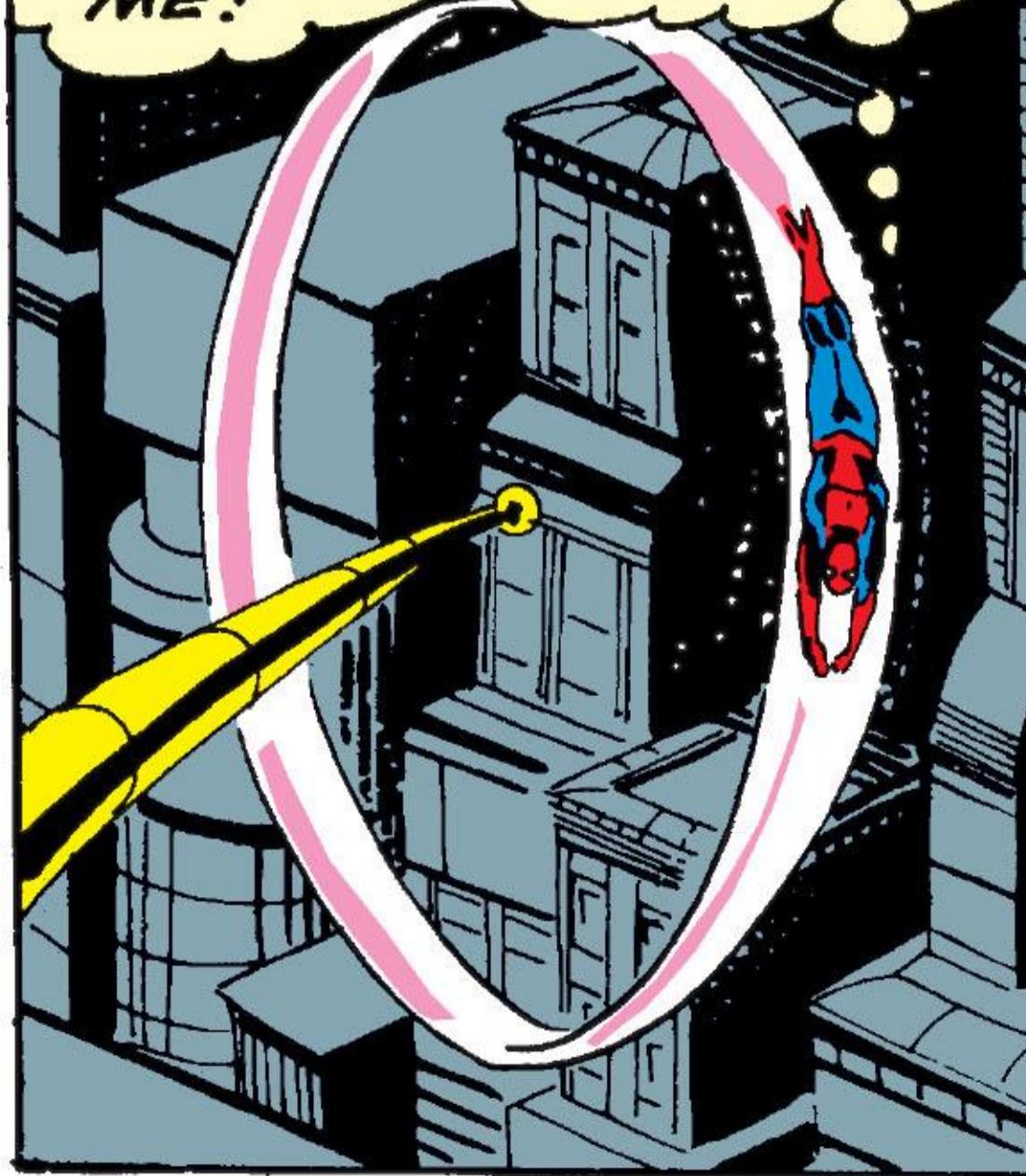
NATURALLY! THAT'S WHY I'M THE BIG MAN! HAUL HIM IN... FAST!

BUT BEFORE SPIDER-MAN CAN ATTACH HIMSELF TO THE HOVERING HELICOPTER, AN UNEXPECTED BLAST OF BLINDING CHEMICAL FOAM MEETS HIM HEAD ON!



DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, BUT NOBODY MAKES A SAP OUT OF ME!

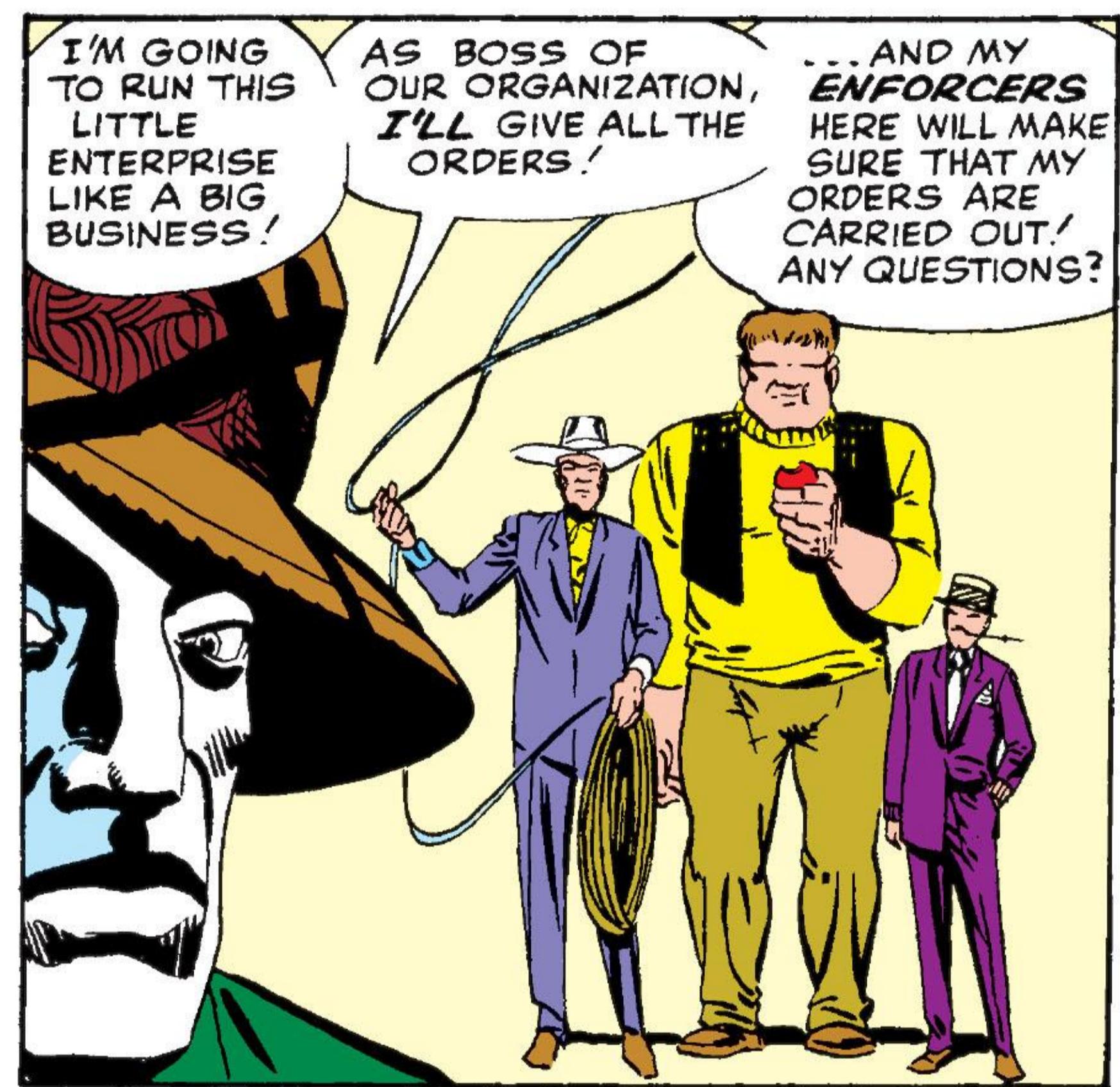
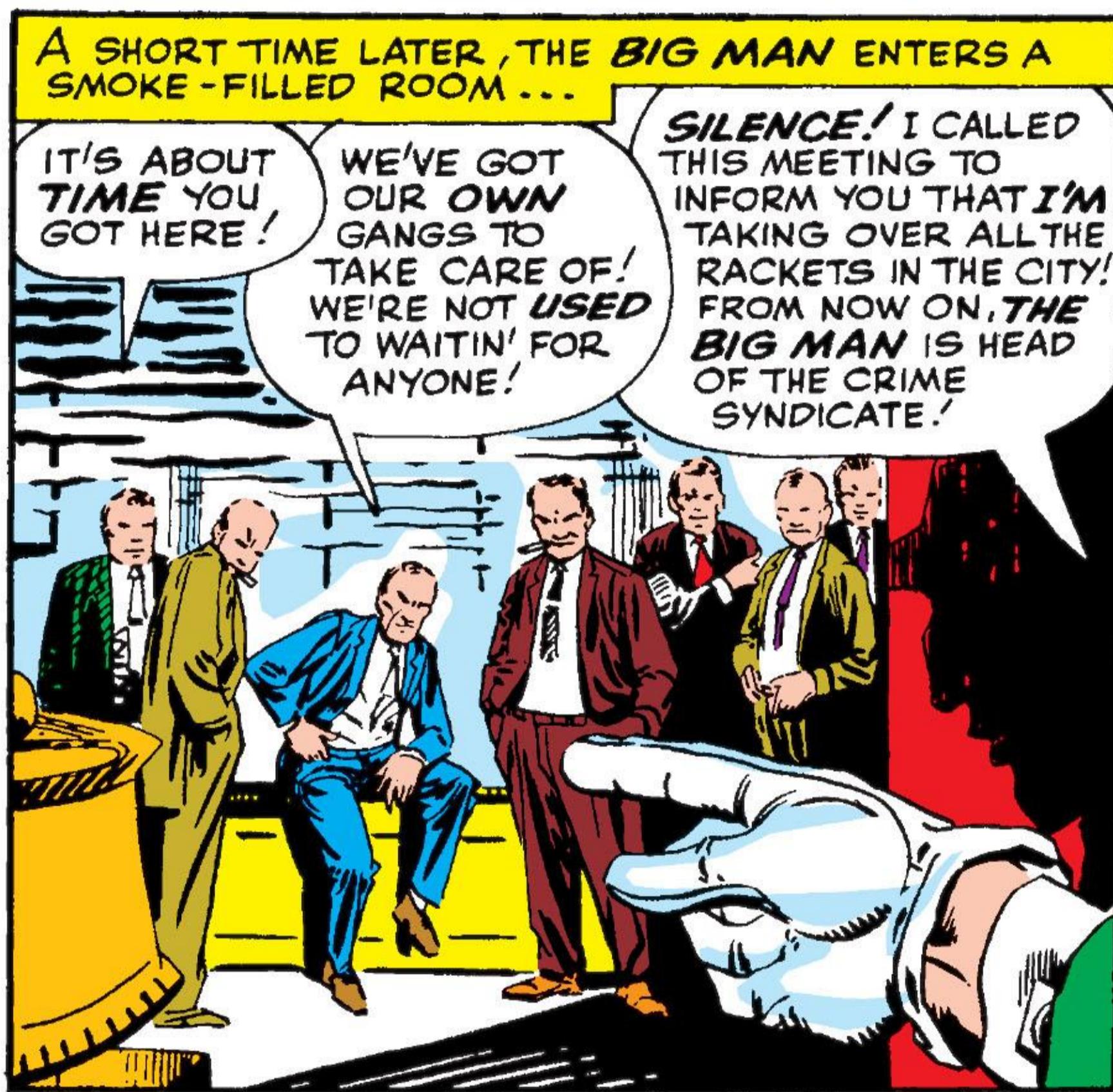
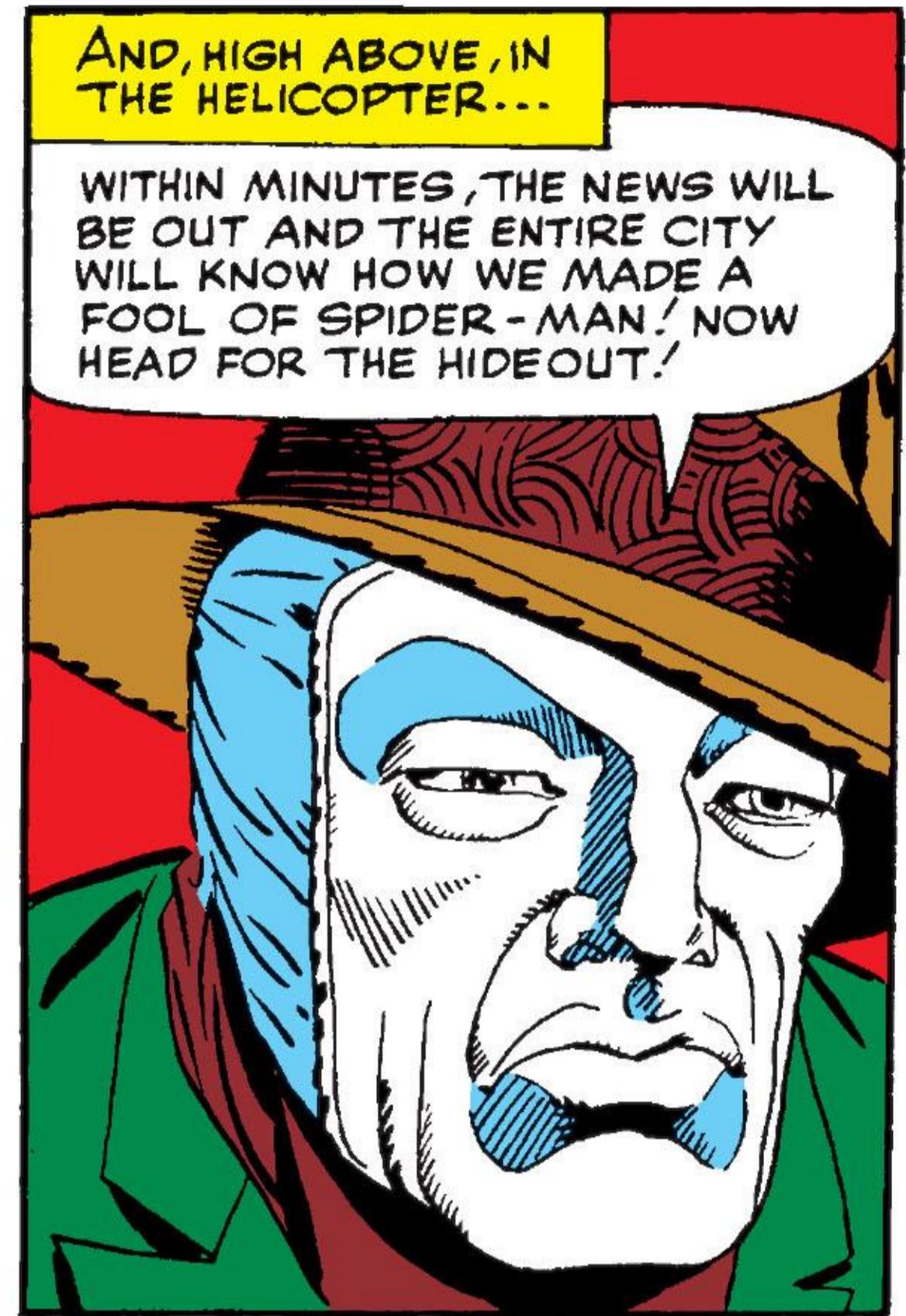
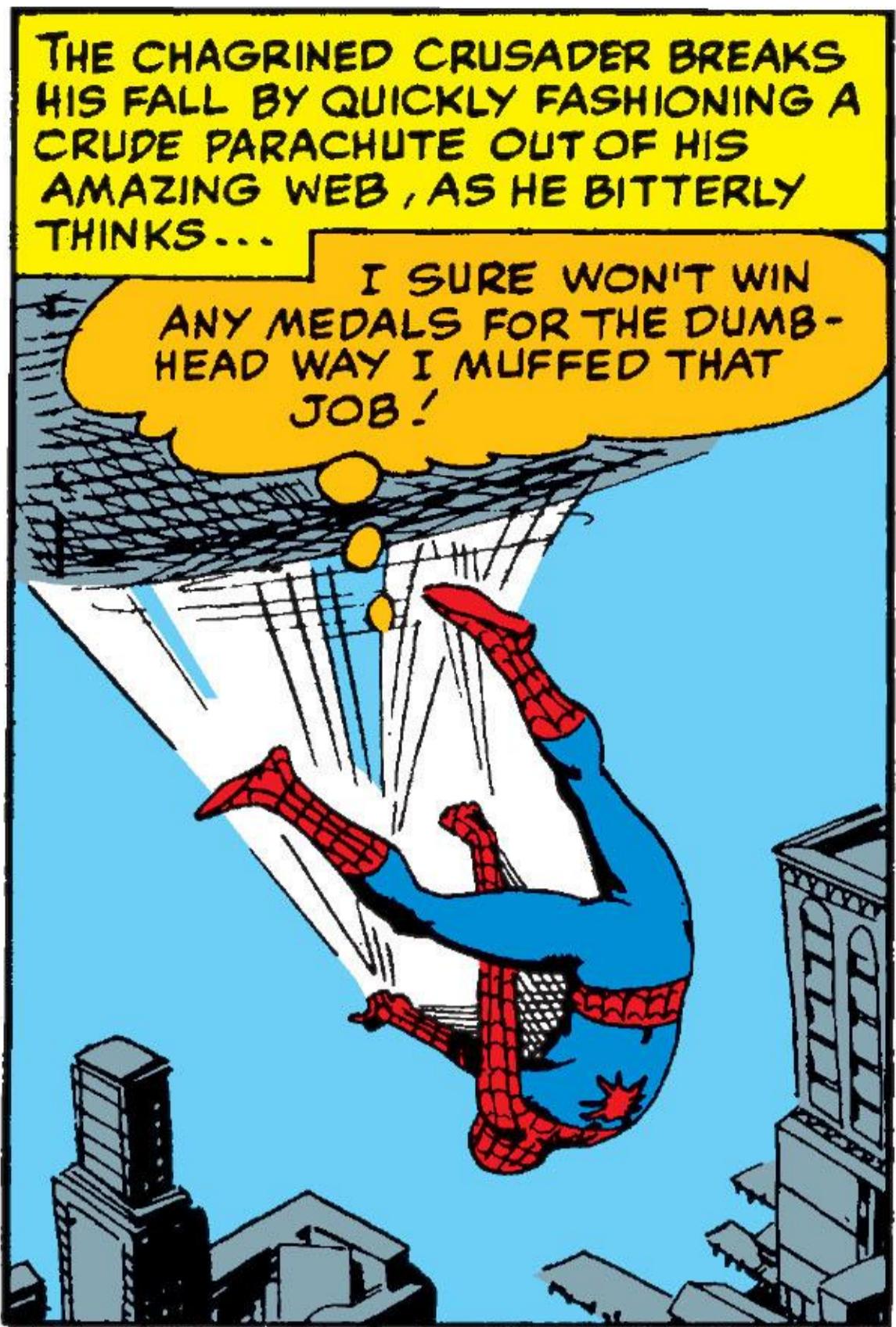
I'LL SWING AROUND THIS FLAGPOLE ON MY WEB, TO GET UP SOME STEAM, AND THEN ...

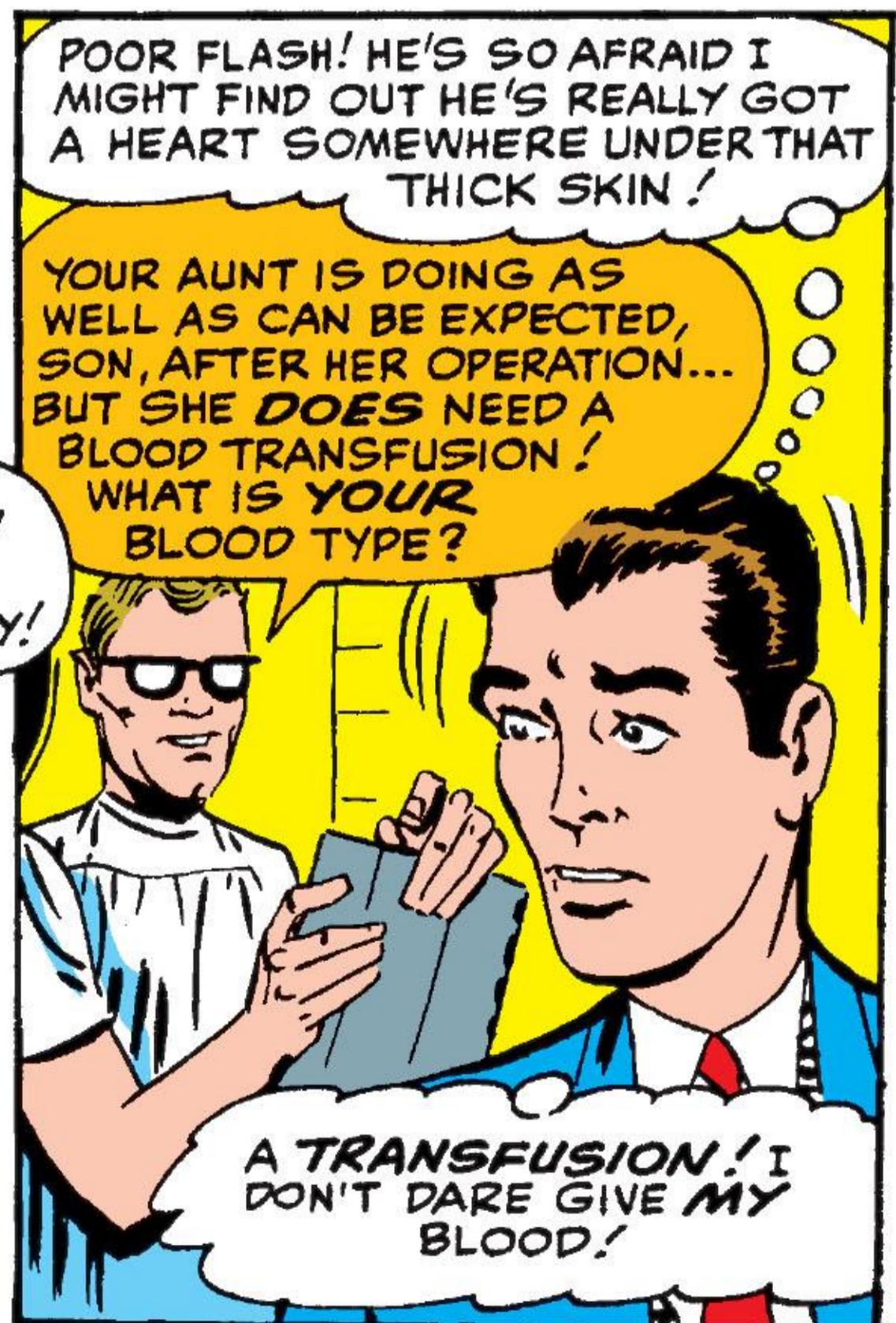
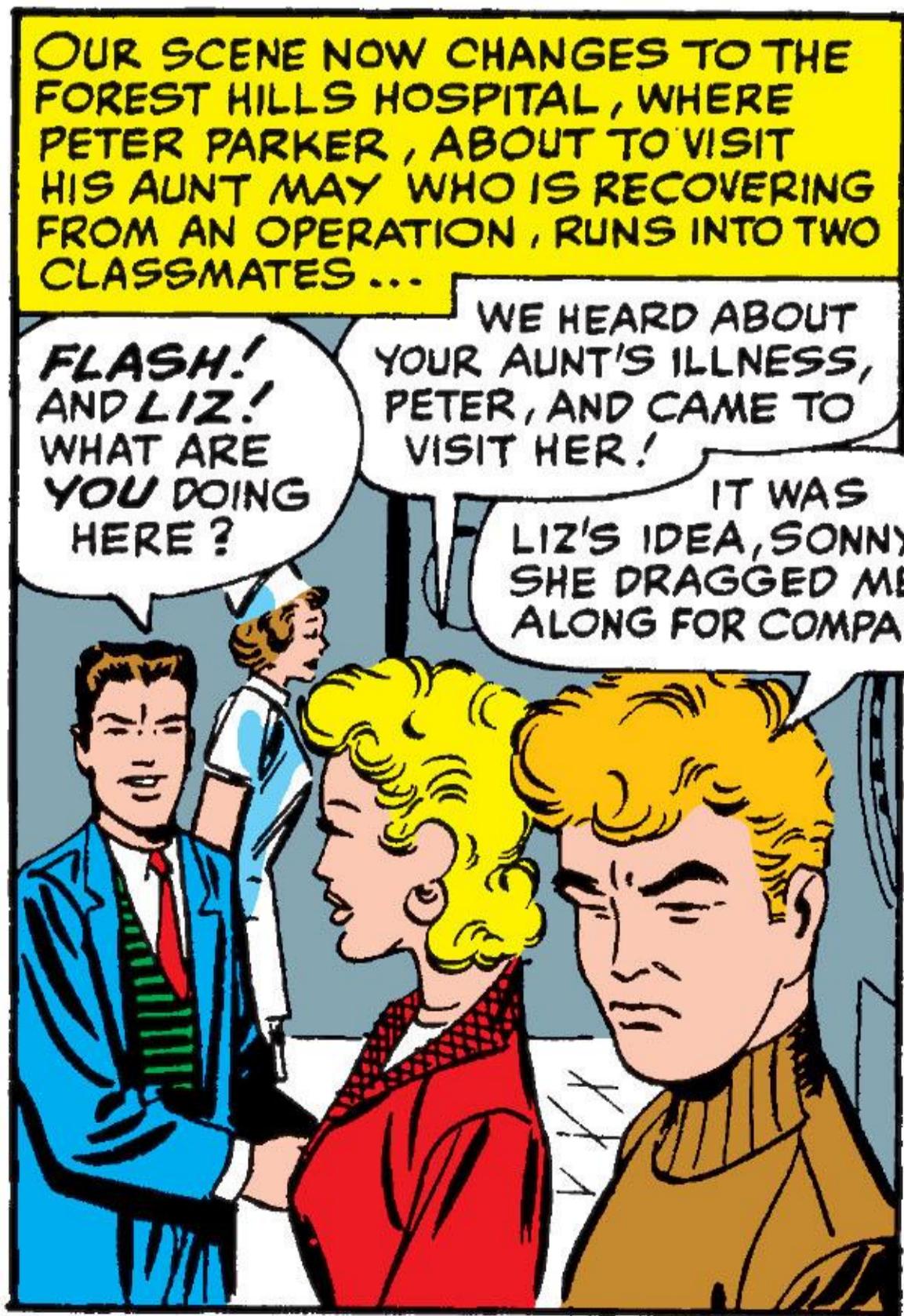
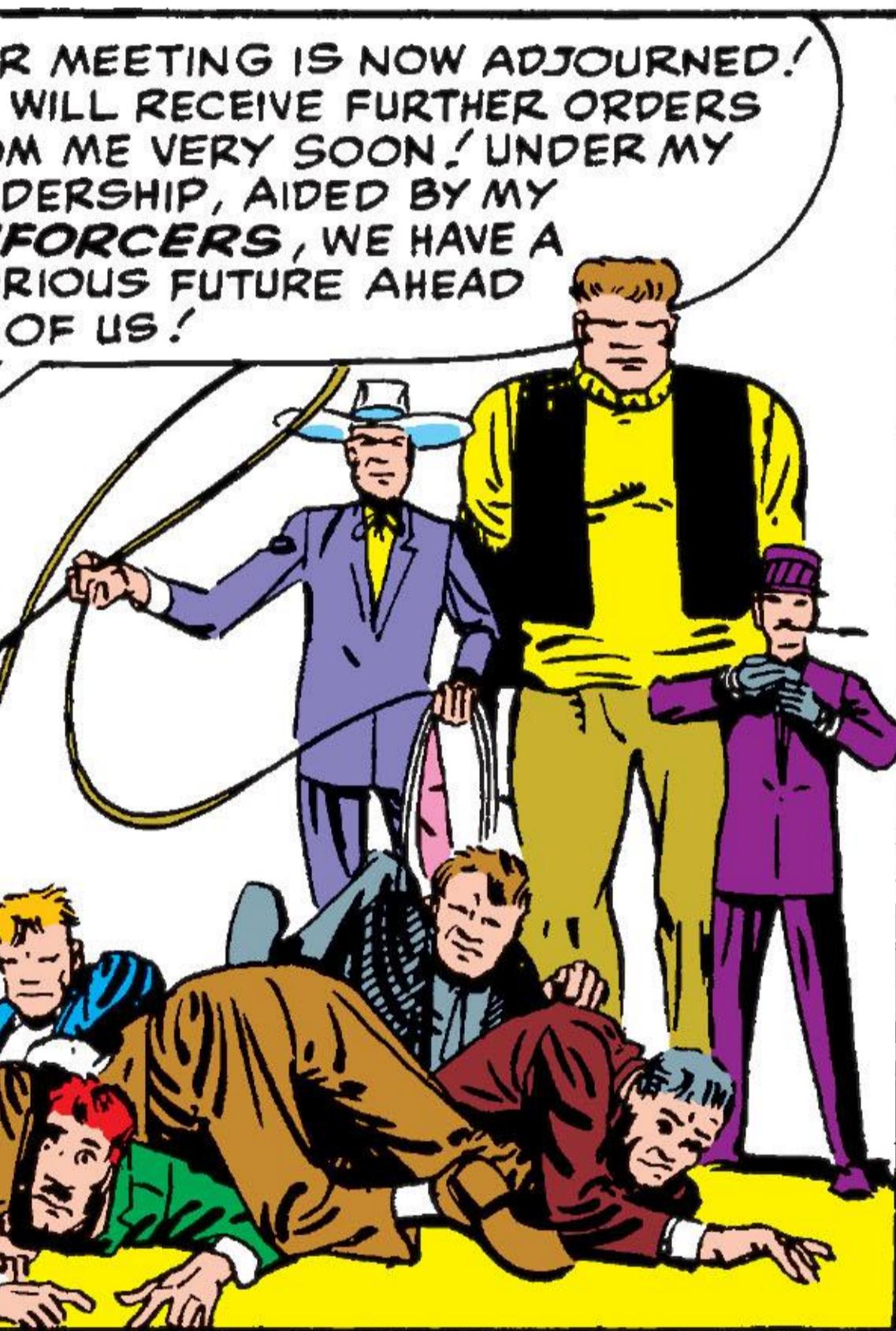


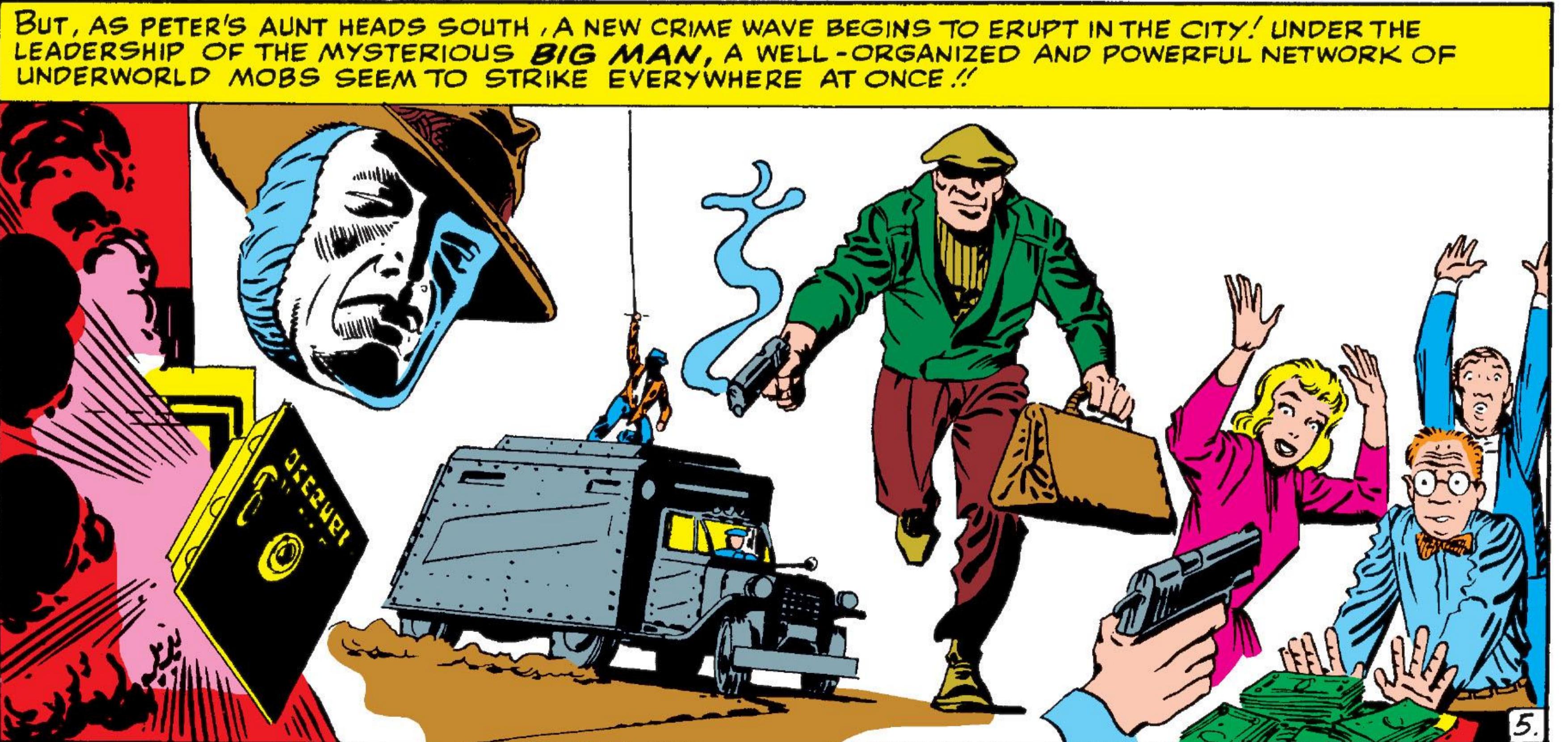
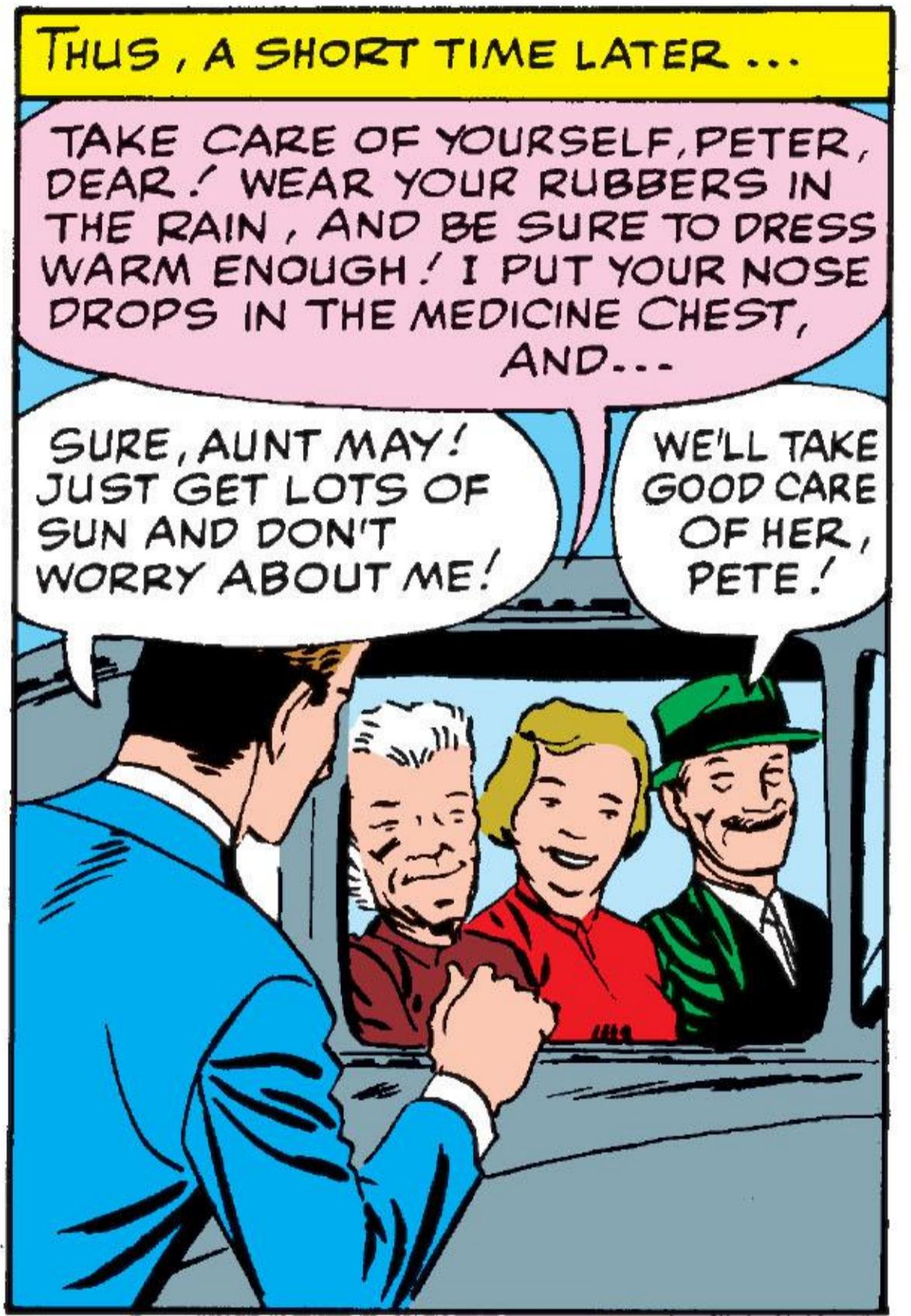
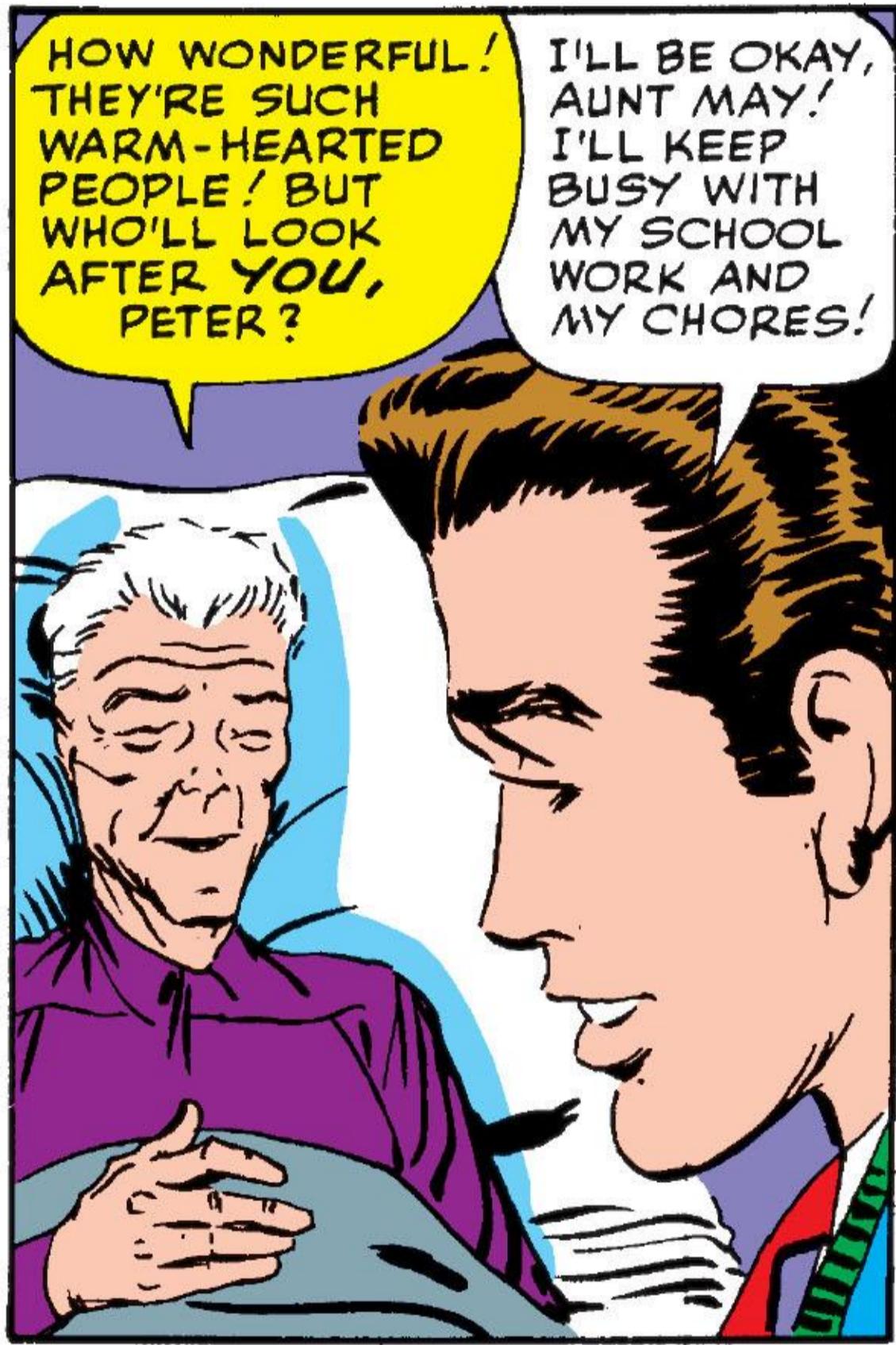
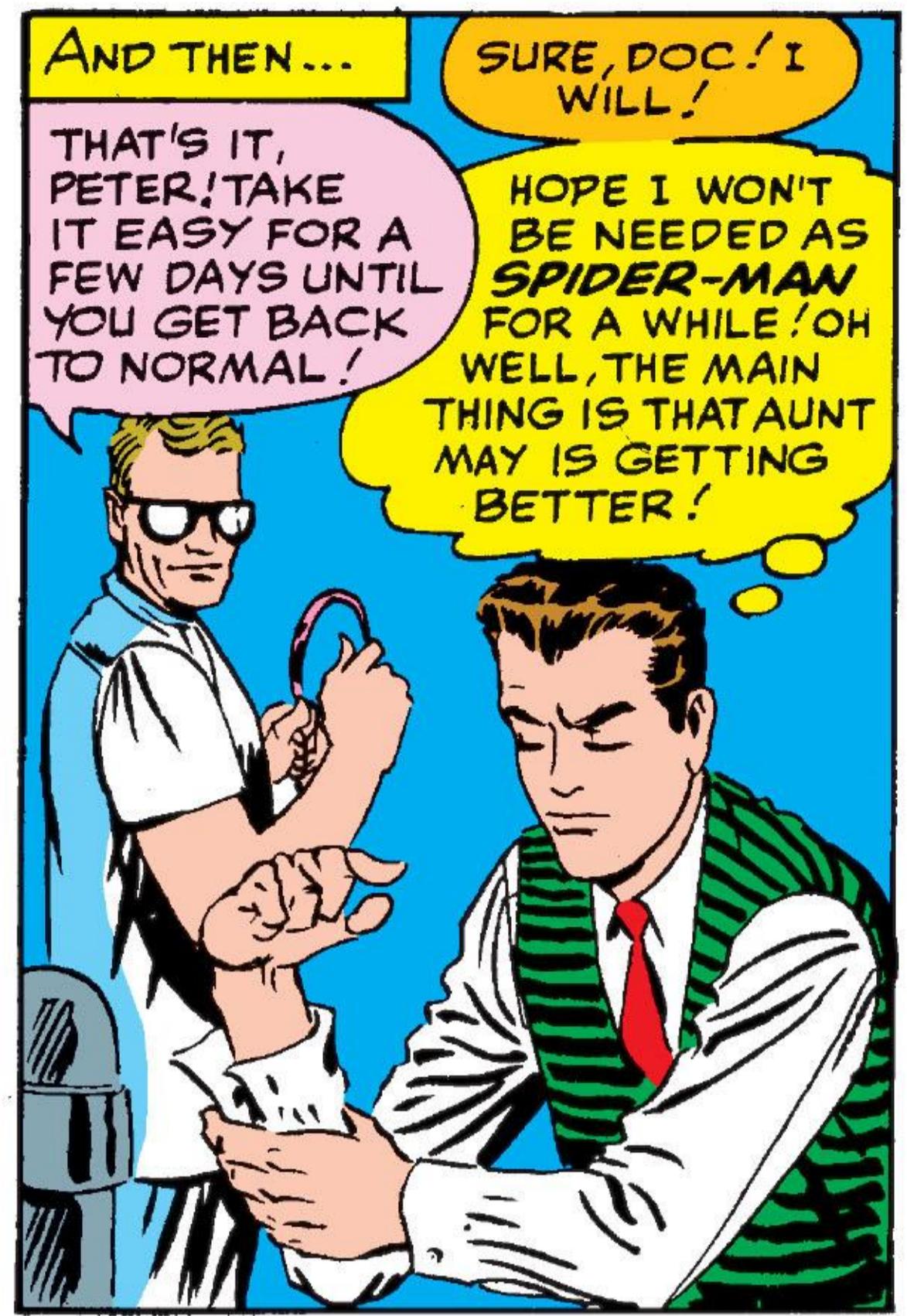
I'LL GET HIM BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE IN THAT HIDDEN WHIRLEY-BIRD!



OOF! TH-THEY WERE PREPARED FOR MY CLUMSY ATTACK!







POOLING THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THE CITY'S CRIMINALS SPARE NO EXPENSE IN BATTLED LAW AND ORDER...

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!!

THEY'RE LIFTING THE ENTIRE MAIL CAR INTO THE AIR BY MEANS OF THREE HELICOPTERS!

AND ANY UNDERWORLD FIGURES WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BIG MAN ARE SOON SHOWN THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS BY HIS POWERFUL TEAM OF ENFORCERS!

SO YOU DON'T WANNA TAKE ORDERS FROM THE BIG MAN, EH?

GET OUTTA THE WAY, FANCY DAN! I'LL HANDLE 'EM!

WAIT YOUR TURN, OX 'OL' MONTANA HAS A FEW ROPE TRICKS TO TRY OUT!

THE ENFORCERS! STAY BACK! WE'LL JOIN YOU! WE'LL JOIN!

PATIENTLY, SPIDER-MAN ROAMS THE CITY BY NIGHT, SEARCHING FOR SOME CLUE, SOME TRACE OF THE BIG MAN'S TRUE IDENTITY... BUT HIS QUEST SEEMS HOPELESS...

THE POLICE ARE DOING A GREAT JOB... WORKING NIGHT AND DAY!

THAT'S THE FIFTH BUNCH OF MOBSTERS THEY'VE GRABBED TODAY... BUT THEY'RE ALL AFRAID TO TALK! THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF THE BIG MAN AND HIS ENFORCERS!

AND, THOUGH THERE ARE COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF BRILLIANT POLICE WORK, FAR TOO MANY TO DESCRIBE ON THESE PAGES, IT SEEMS TO BE ONLY THE SMALL FRY WHO ARE CAPTURED, WHILE THE CRIME-SYNDICATE HIGHER-UPS REMAIN IN THE SHADOWS!

REACH, YOU TWO! WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS THIS TIME!

DON'T SHOOT, BLUECOAT! WE'LL GO PEACEFULLY!

SURE! SURE! 'SPECIALLY SINCE THE BIG MAN WILL BAIL US OUT BY MORNING!

AND THERE IS STILL ONE OTHER WHO ALSO ROAMS THE STREETS, SEARCHING ENDLESSLY FOR NEWS! IT IS J. JONAH JAMESON, THE HARD-HEADED PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY BUGLE AND NOW MAGAZINE...

ANOTHER ARREST, I SEE! BAH! IT'S A WASTE OF TIME BRINGING IN SUCH SMALL FISH! SPIDER-MAN IS THE ONE YOU SHOULD BE GOING AFTER! HE MUST BE MIXED UP IN ALL THIS SOMEHOW!

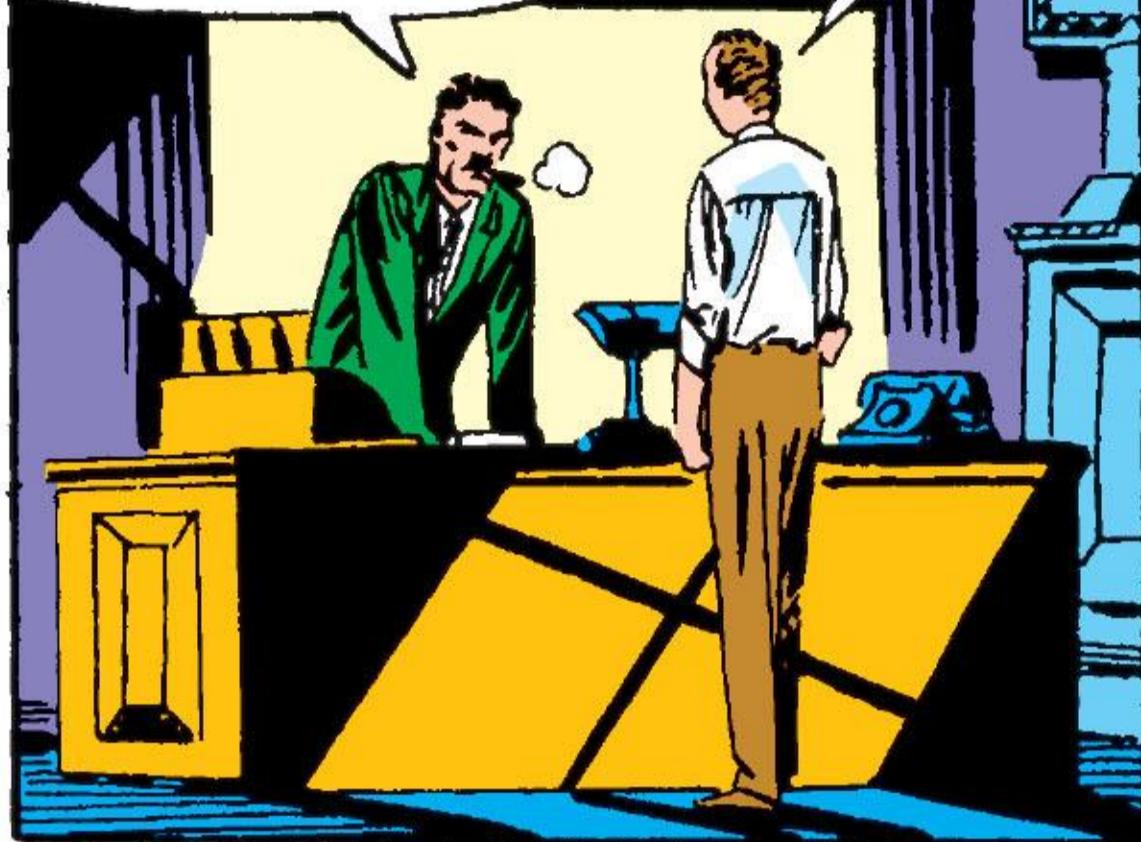
LOOK, MR. JAMESON... WHY DON'T YOU FORGET YOUR PERSONAL FEUD WITH SPIDER-MAN AND USE THE POWER OF YOUR PAPER TO HELP US NAB THE BIG MAN?! ASK YOUR READERS TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS!

NONSENSE! THERE IS NO BIG MAN! NOBODY'S EVER SEEN HIM AND TOLD ABOUT IT! SPIDER-MAN INVENTED SUCH A CHARACTER, TO THROW EVERYONE OFF THE TRACK!

IN HIS PLUSH OFFICE THE NEXT DAY, IN THE DAILY BUGLE BUILDING, A DETERMINED J. JONAH JAMESON SENDS FOR ONE OF HIS MOST CAPABLE COLUMNISTS ...

FOSWELL, I WANT YOU TO WRITE A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHICH WILL PROVE THAT THE **BIG MAN** IS NONE OTHER THAN SPIDER-MAN HIMSELF!

BUT WE HAVEN'T ANY PROOF, MR. JAMESON! THE POLICE DON'T YET KNOW WHO HE IS!



AND IF YOU GO OUT ON A LIMB THE WAY YOU DID LAST MONTH WHEN YOU CLAIMED HE WAS **ELECTRO***, AND IF YOU TURN OUT WRONG AGAIN, PEOPLE WILL LOSE CONFIDENCE IN OUR PAPER!



* SPIDER-MAN #9 FEB. "THE WRATH OF ELECTRO!"... ED.

I'M STILL RUNNING THIS PAPER, FOSWELL! NOW, DO AS I SAY, OR I'LL FIRE YOU AND SEE TO IT, THAT NO PAPER EVER HIRES YOU AGAIN!

I'LL DO IT, MR. JAMESON! I'VE GOTTEN INTO THE HABIT OF EATING THREE SQUARES A DAY!



I GUESS YOU HEARD THAT, BETTY! BOY, DOES HE HATE SPIDER-MAN!

I KNOW! I HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM ALL DAY LONG! I'M GLAD IT'S QUITTING TIME NOW, FOSWELL!



AND, AS BETTY BRANT LEAVES THE BUGLE BUILDING AND WAITS OUT FRONT...



I WONDER IF PETER WILL BE PASSING BY AS HE SOMETIMES DOES?

THAT'S HER, YOU GUYS! THAT'S BETTY BRANT!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR??



YOU KNOW WHO WE ARE, SISTER! WHERE'S THE REST OF THE MONEY YOU OWE?

BUT I'VE ALREADY PAID OFF THE WHOLE LOAN!

SURE, BUT YOU FORGOT THE INTEREST! THE BIG MAN DOUBLED IT SINCE YESTERDAY!

NO! HE CAN'T DO THAT! IT ISN'T FAIR!



LADY, WHEN THE **BIG MAN** TOOK OVER EVERY RACKET IN TOWN... INCLUDING THE LOAN SHARK RACKET, HE DIDN'T DO IT FOR HIS HEALTH! NOW, I WARN YOU!

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON THERE?



PETER! KEEP OUT OF THIS! GO AWAY! THEY'RE DANGEROUS!

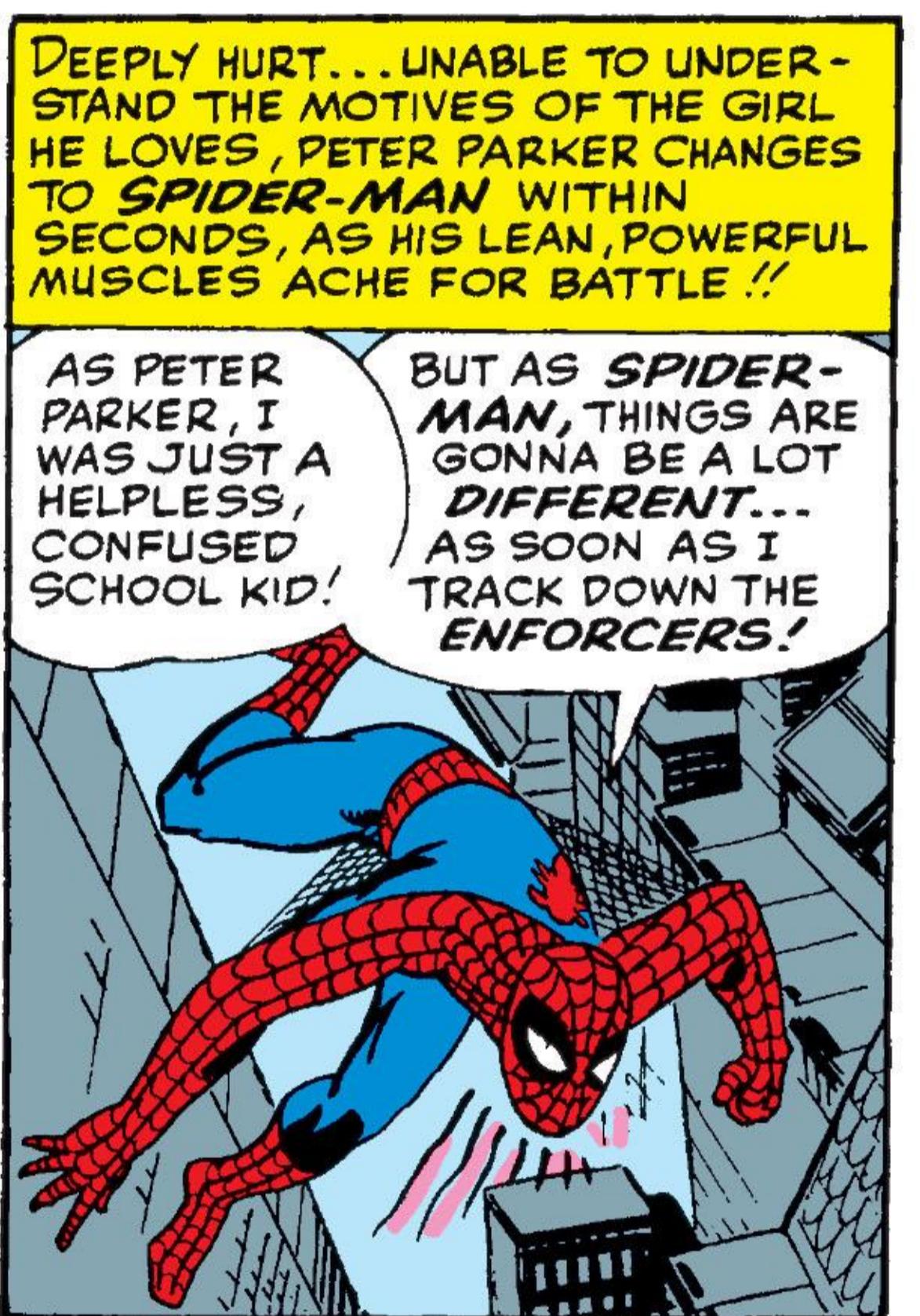
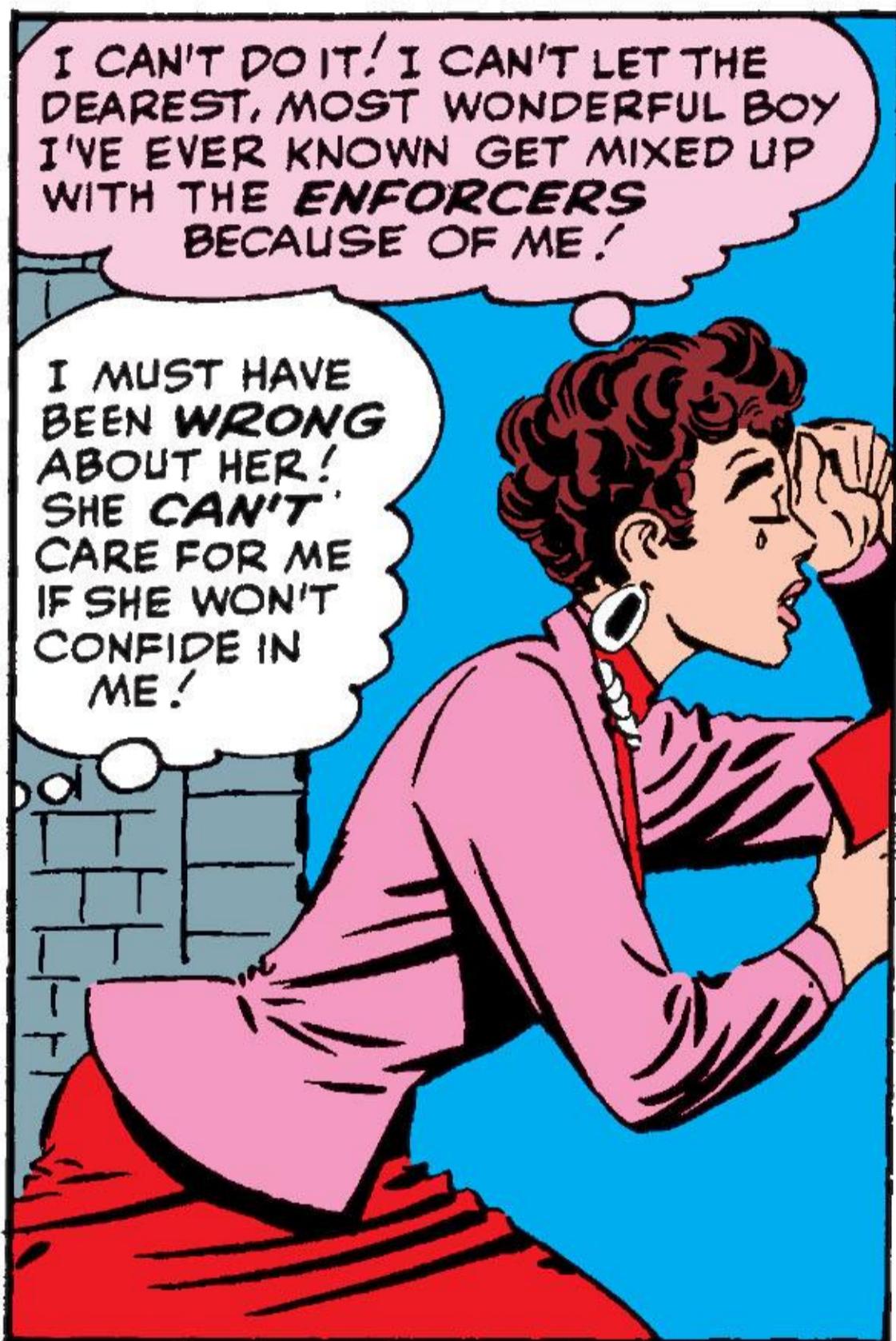
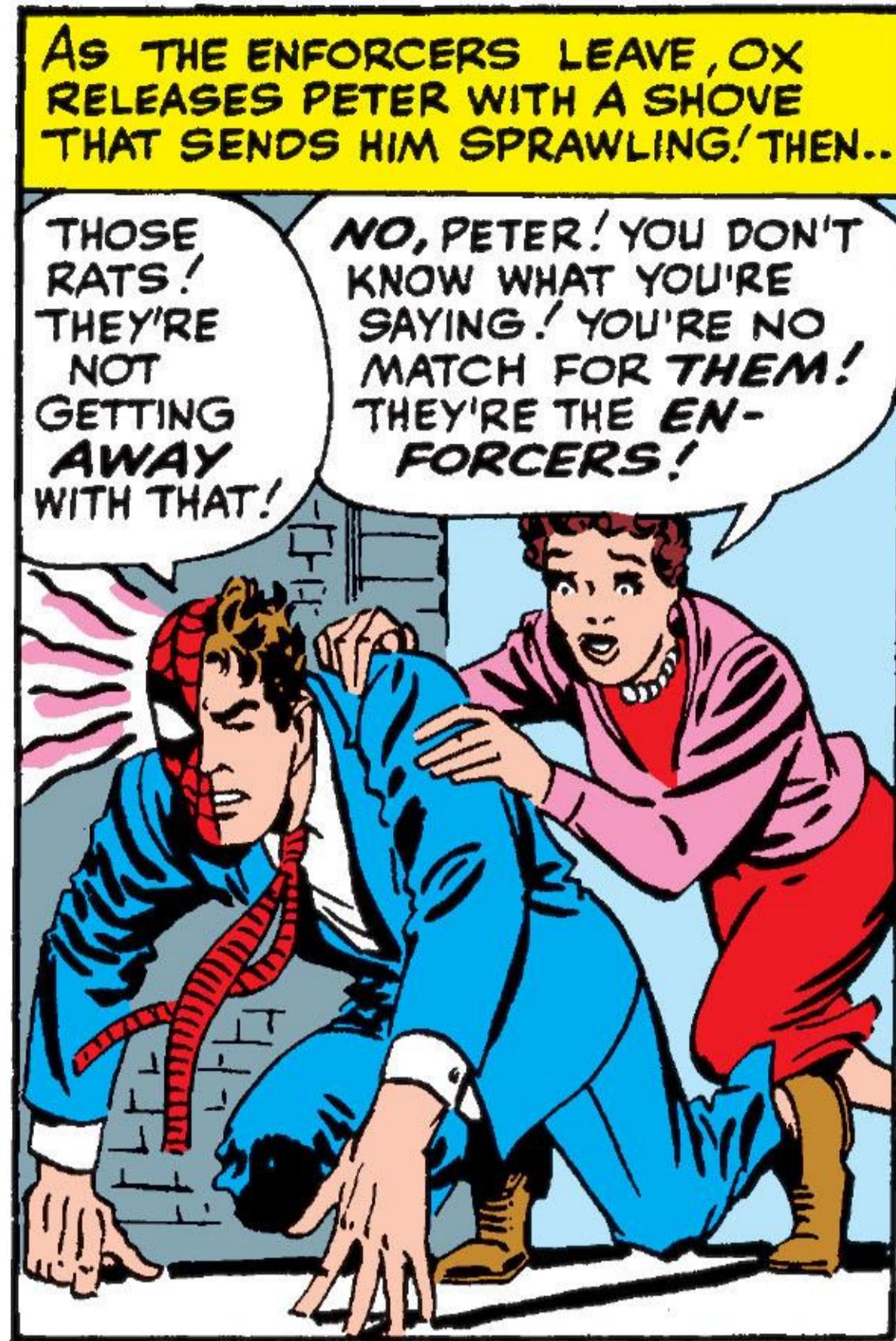
BETTY, YOU'RE SCARED! IF THEY'RE BOthering you...

WELL, WELL! SO THE GAL HAS A BOY FRIEND, EH? THAT'S REAL NICE.. FOR US!



WE'RE TOO GENTLEMANLY TO THREATEN A FEMALE, BUT THE **OX** IS GONNA SHOW YOU WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THAT SQUIRT IF YOU DON'T PAY UP!

NO! NO! LEAN ON 'IM A LITTLE, OX! DON'T HURT HIM! I'LL GET THE MONEY SOMEHOW!



MINUTES LATER,
AFTER THE BLIND-
FOLD HAS BEEN
REMOVED...

THIS WON'T DO
YOU ANY GOOD,
SPIDER-MAN!
I DON'T SCARE
EASY, AND...
HEY!

YOU ARE IN MY SPIDER'S WEB!
NOW, WILL YOU TALK, OR WON'T
YOU?

HE DOESN'T
KNOW I COULDN'T
IF I WANTED TO!
IT'S ONLY A
DUMMY,
MADE OF
LEFTOVER
WEBBING!

YOU CAN FIND THE
ENFORCERS AT 15
OAK STREET...
BUT KEEP AWAY
FROM ME!!

TH-THAT THING
BEHIND YOU! D-DON'T
LET IT COME ANY
CLOSER ... PLEASE...!!

EXACTLY FIVE SECONDS LATER...

NOW TO GIVE THE
ENFORCERS A LITTLE
WORKOUT... AND HOPE
THEY'LL LEAD ME TO
THE **BIG MAN**
HIMSELF!

THIS IS THE PLACE!
I'LL JUST... HEY!
WHA...??

I'VE BEEN LASOED...
LIKE A RUNAWAY STEER!
...BEING PULLED INTO
THAT WINDOW!

GOOD WORK, MONTANA!
AND NOW, GET RID OF
SPIDER-MAN ONCE AND
FOR ALL! I CAN'T HAVE
HIM TRYING TO INTERFERE
WITH MY PLANS!

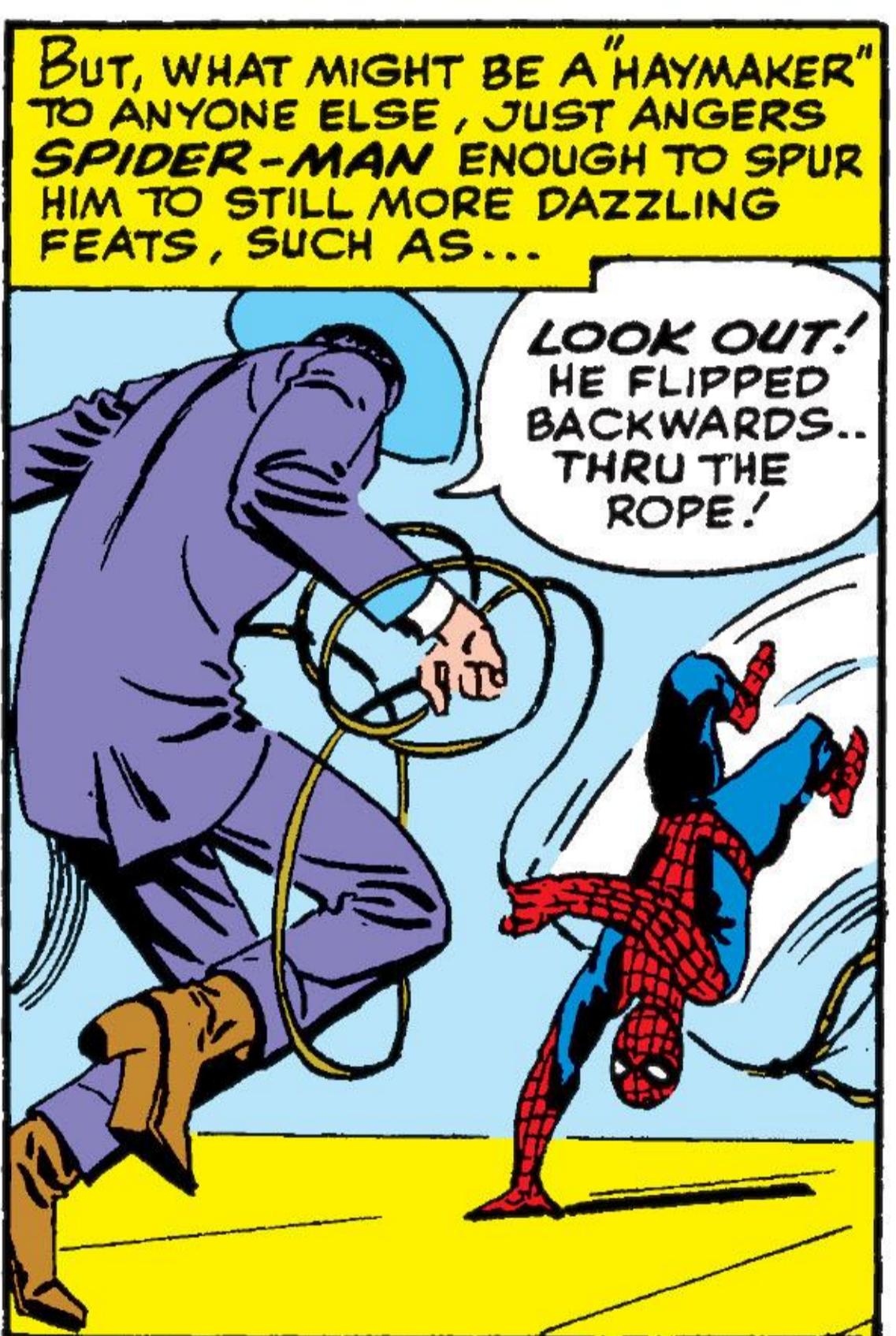
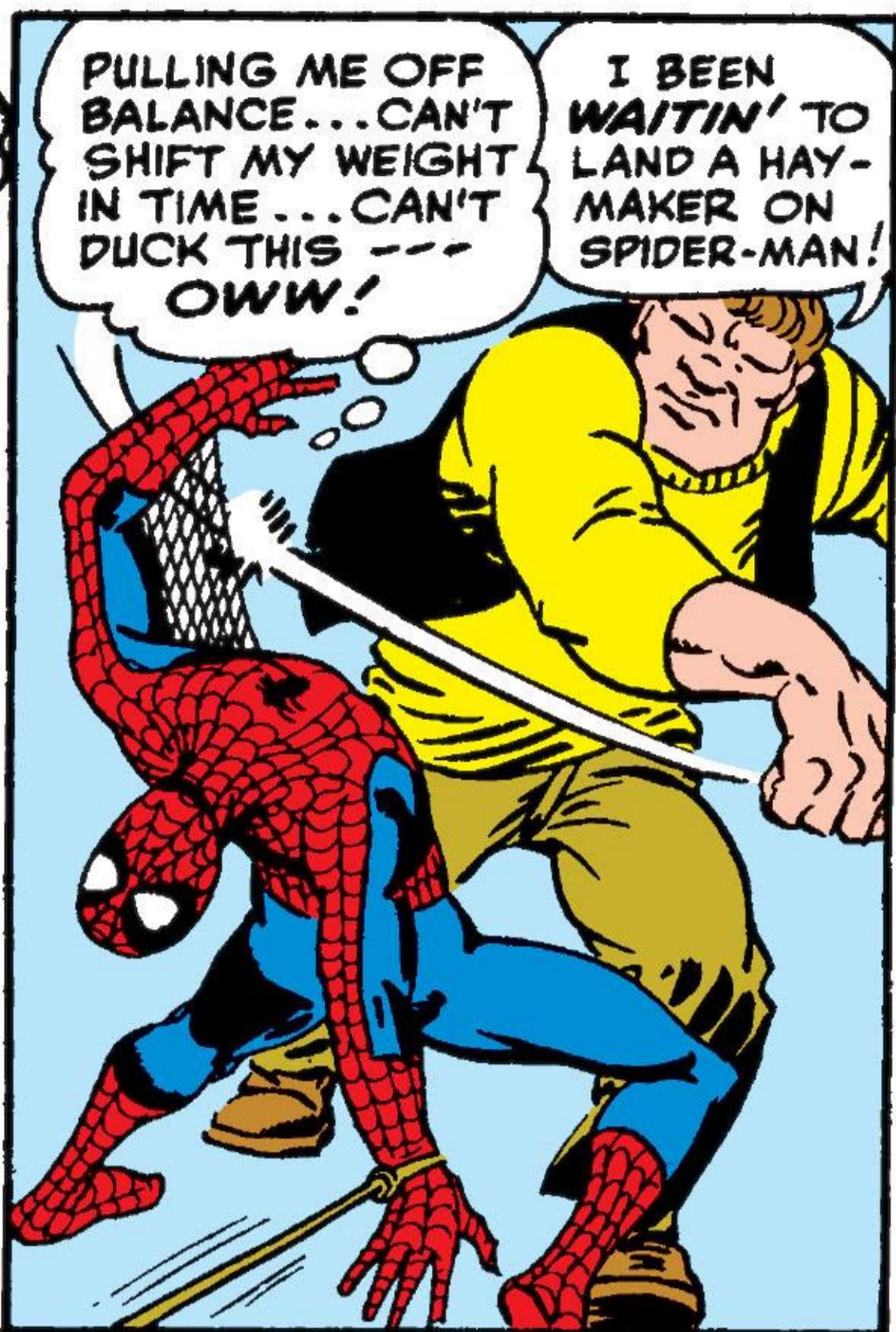
THE **BIG MAN**!
AND THE ENFORCERS!
I'VE GOT YOU, ALL
TOGETHER!

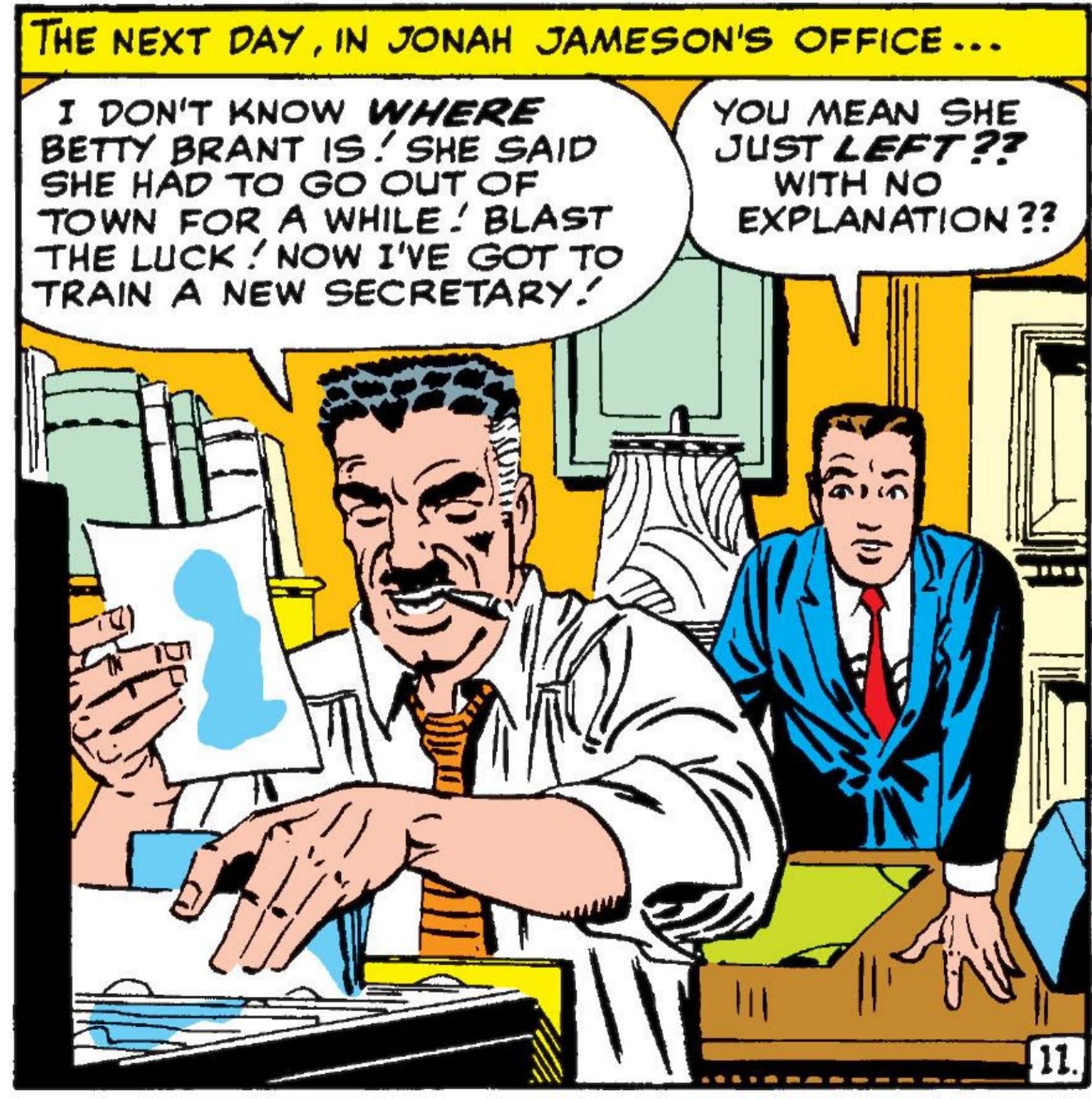
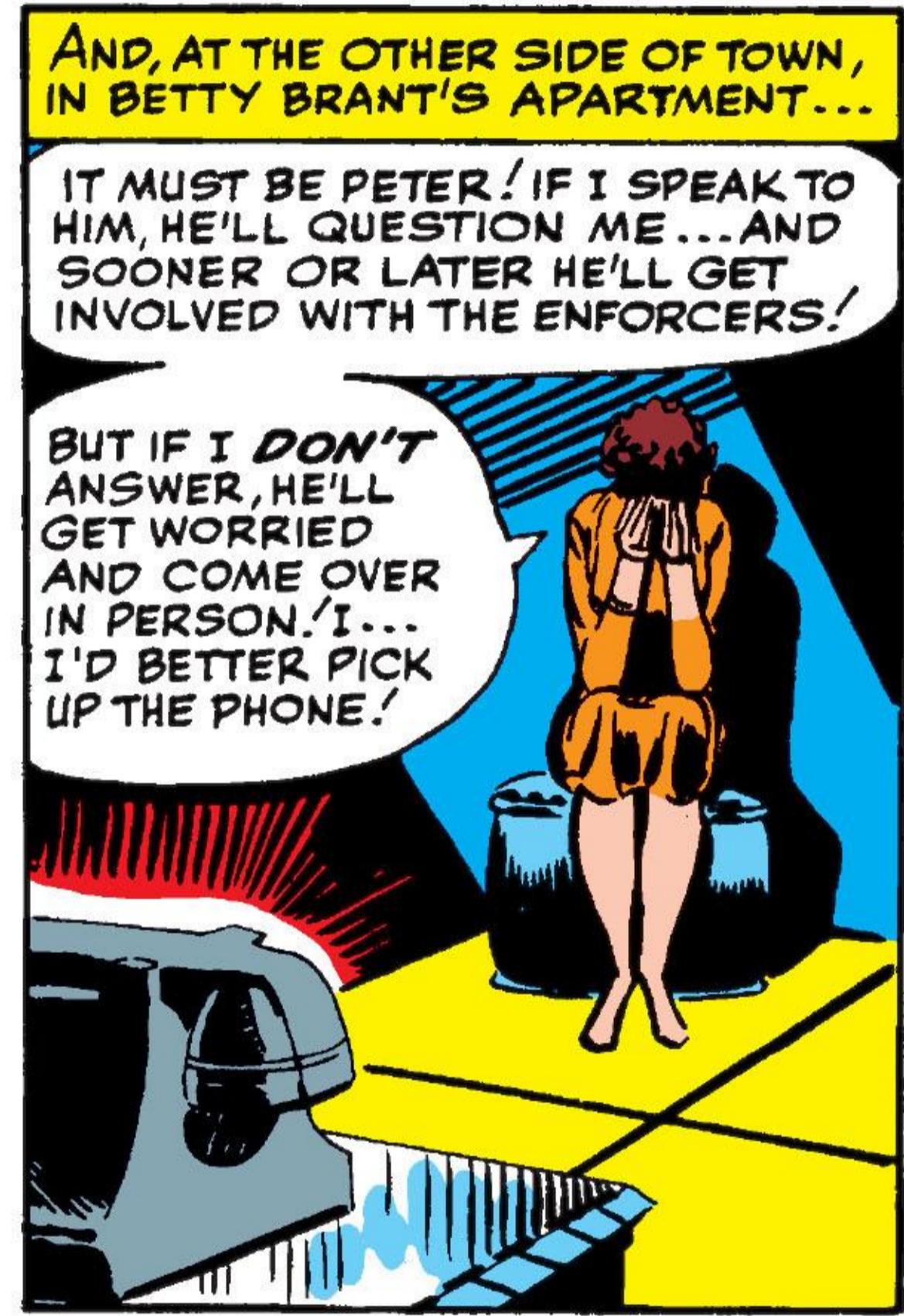
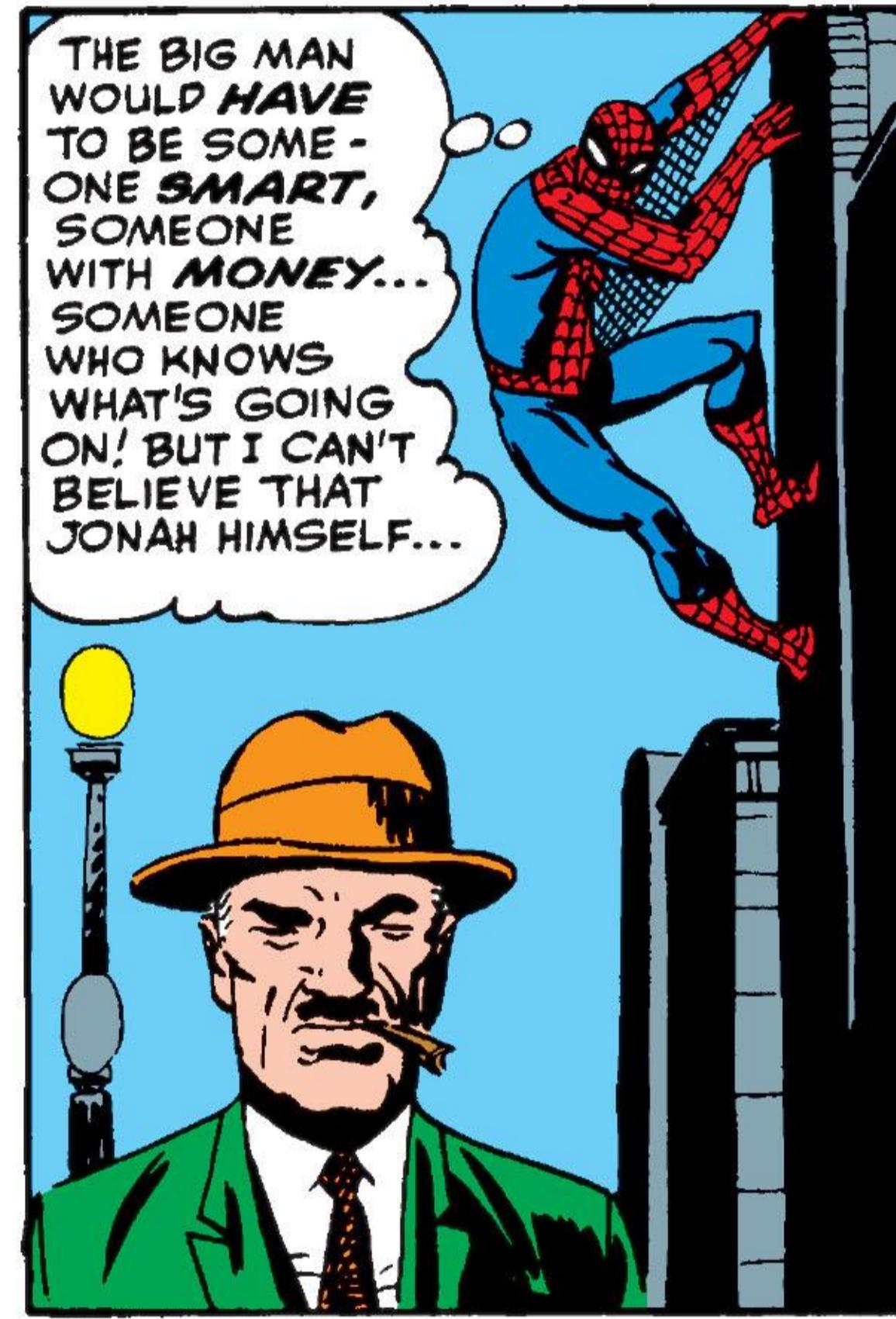
EVEN A **REAL**
OX COULDN'T
"GET" ME, SO
NO PHONY ONE
IS GONNA DO
IT!

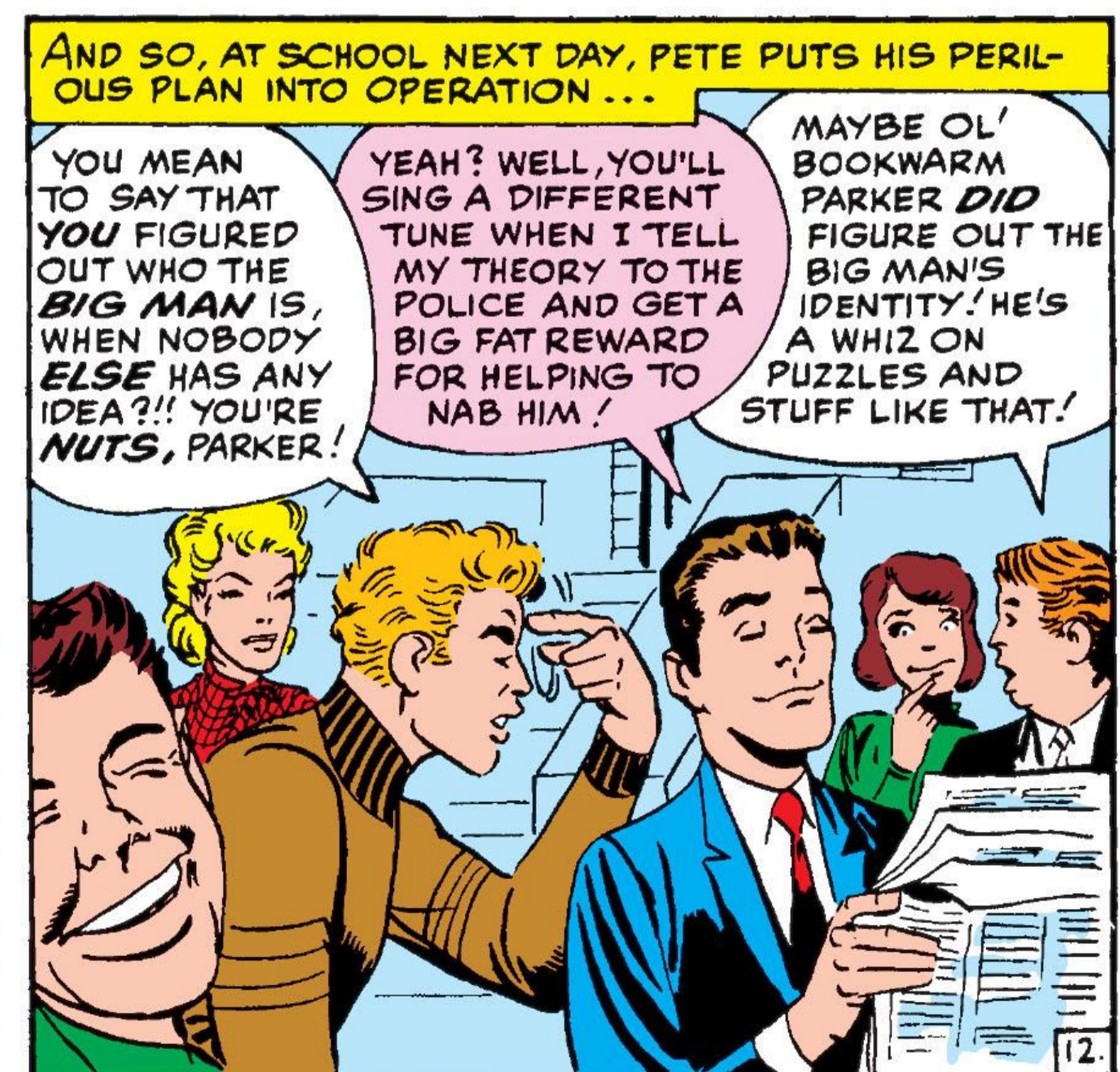
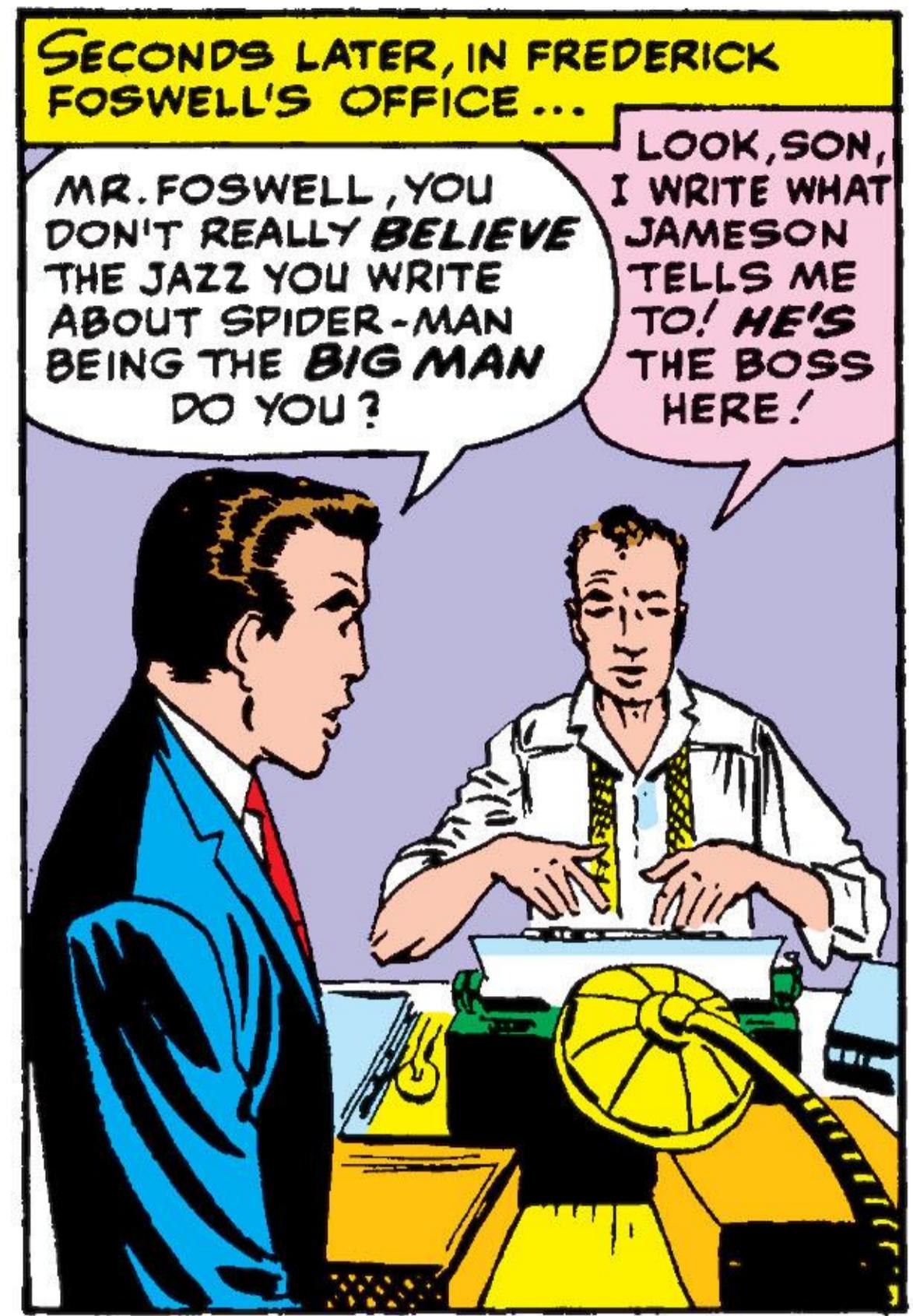
AND YOU CAN'T CATCH SPIDER-
MAN TWICE WITH THE SAME
ROPE TRICK, MISTER!

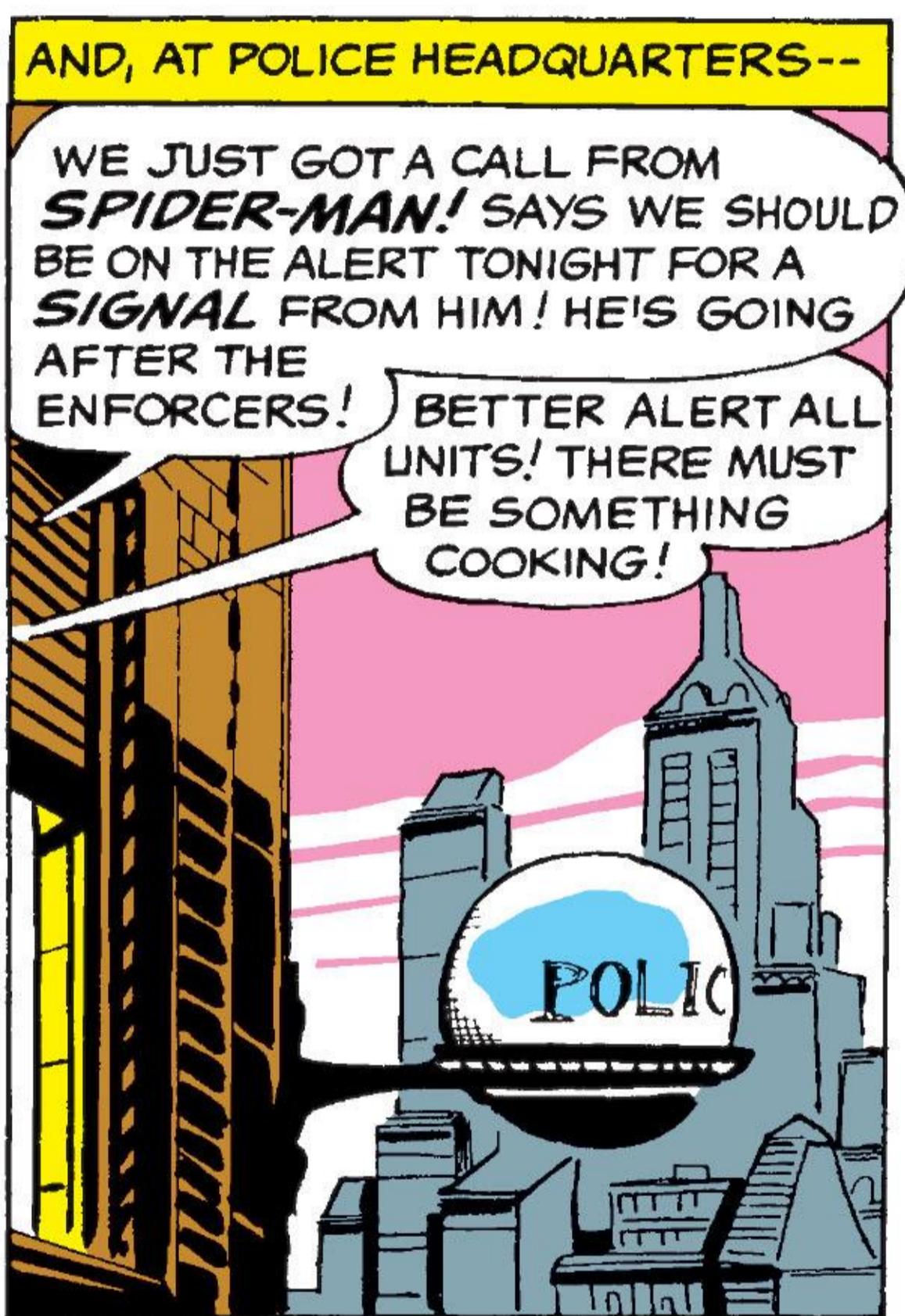
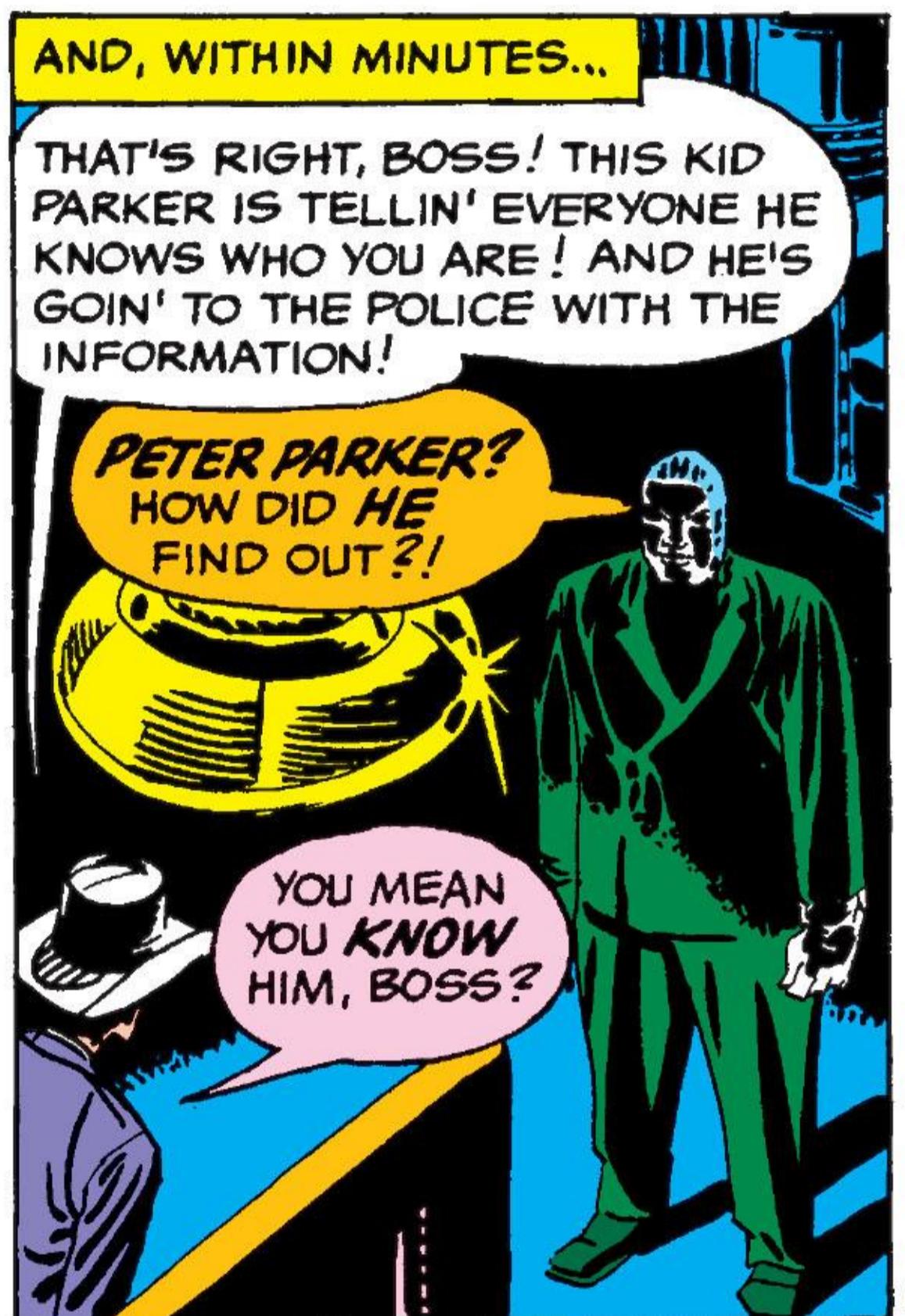
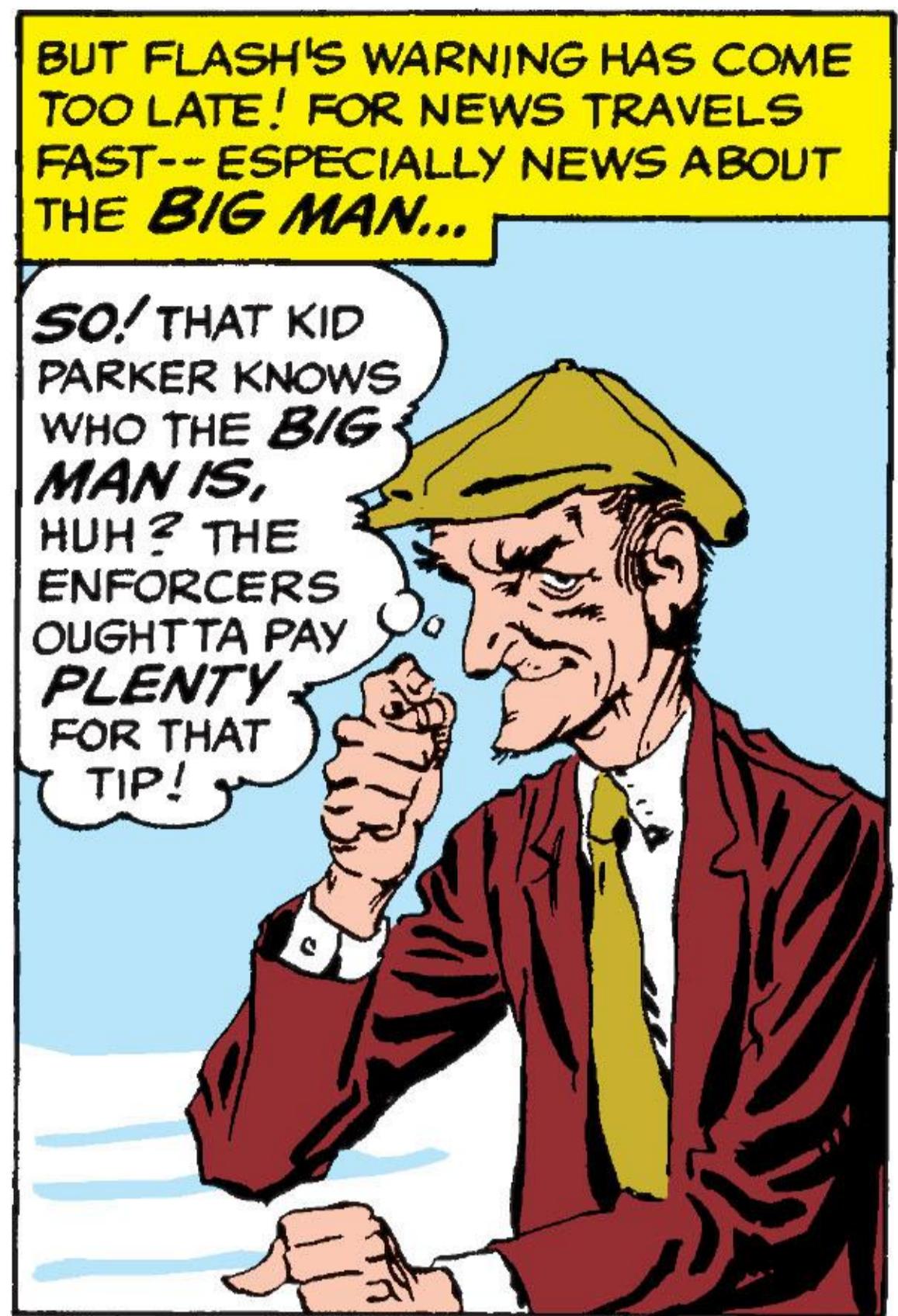
WHUMPH!!

CORRECTION, MY FRIEND!
IT IS WE WHO HAVE YOU!
GET HIM, OX!



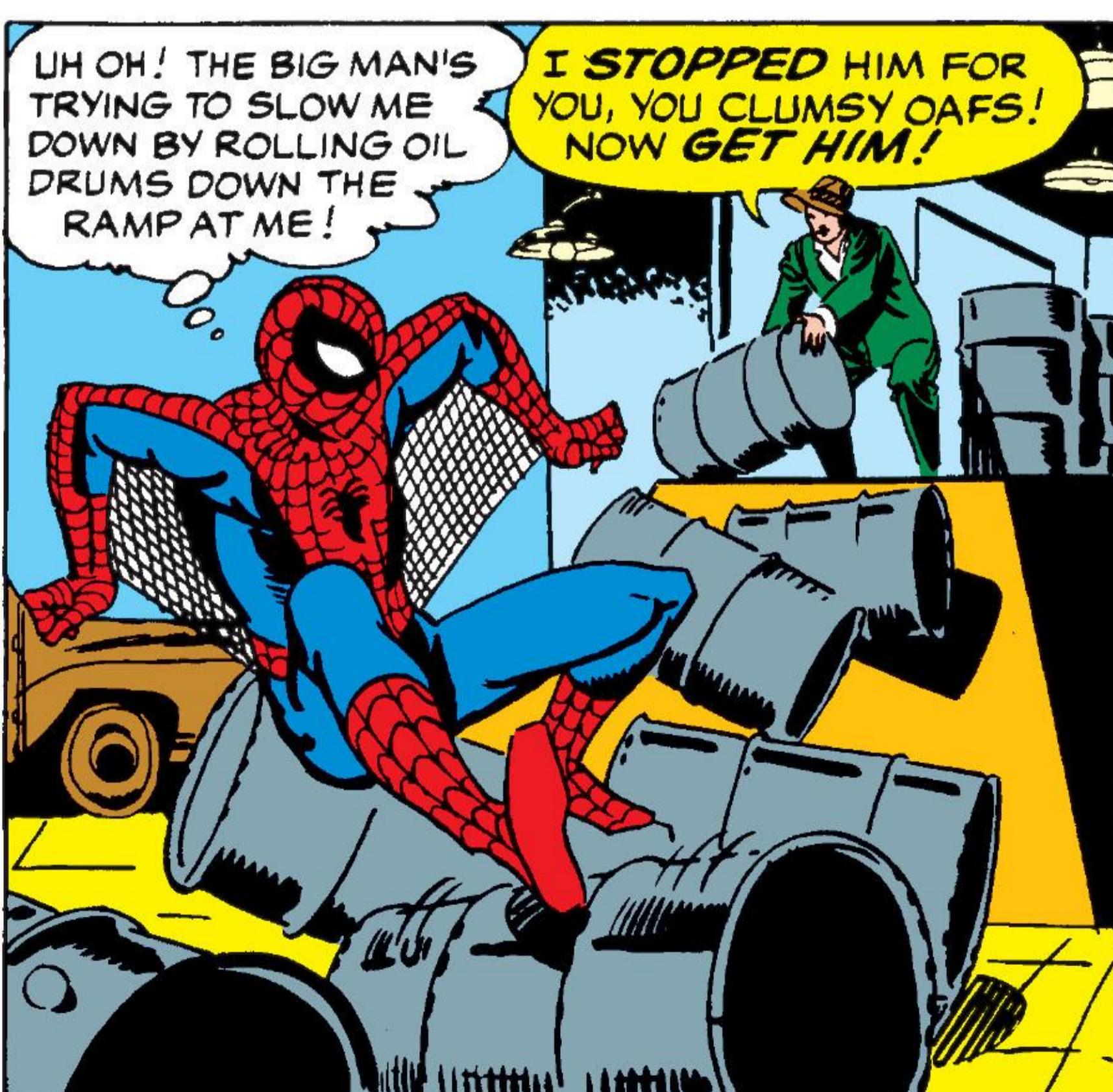
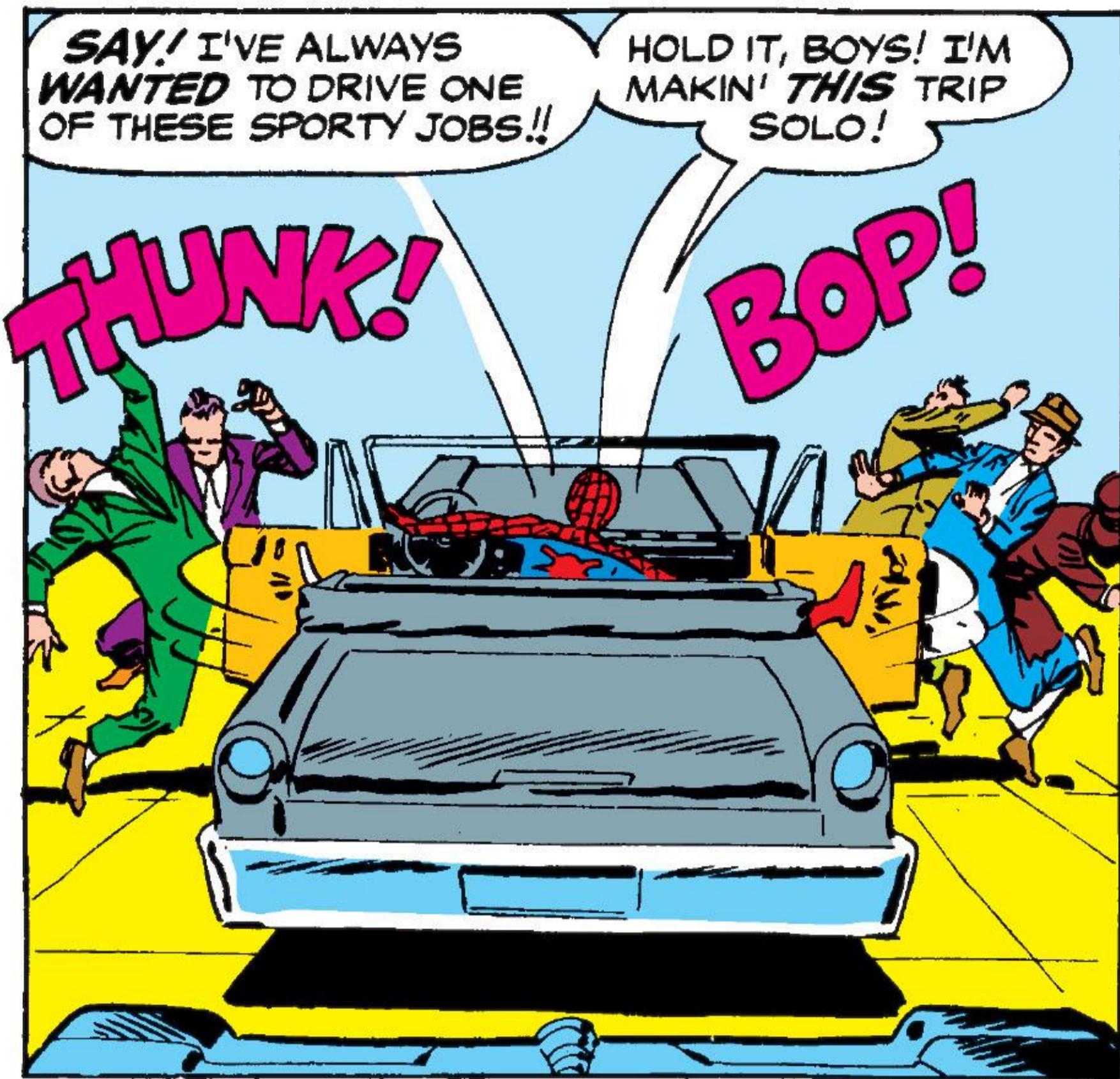


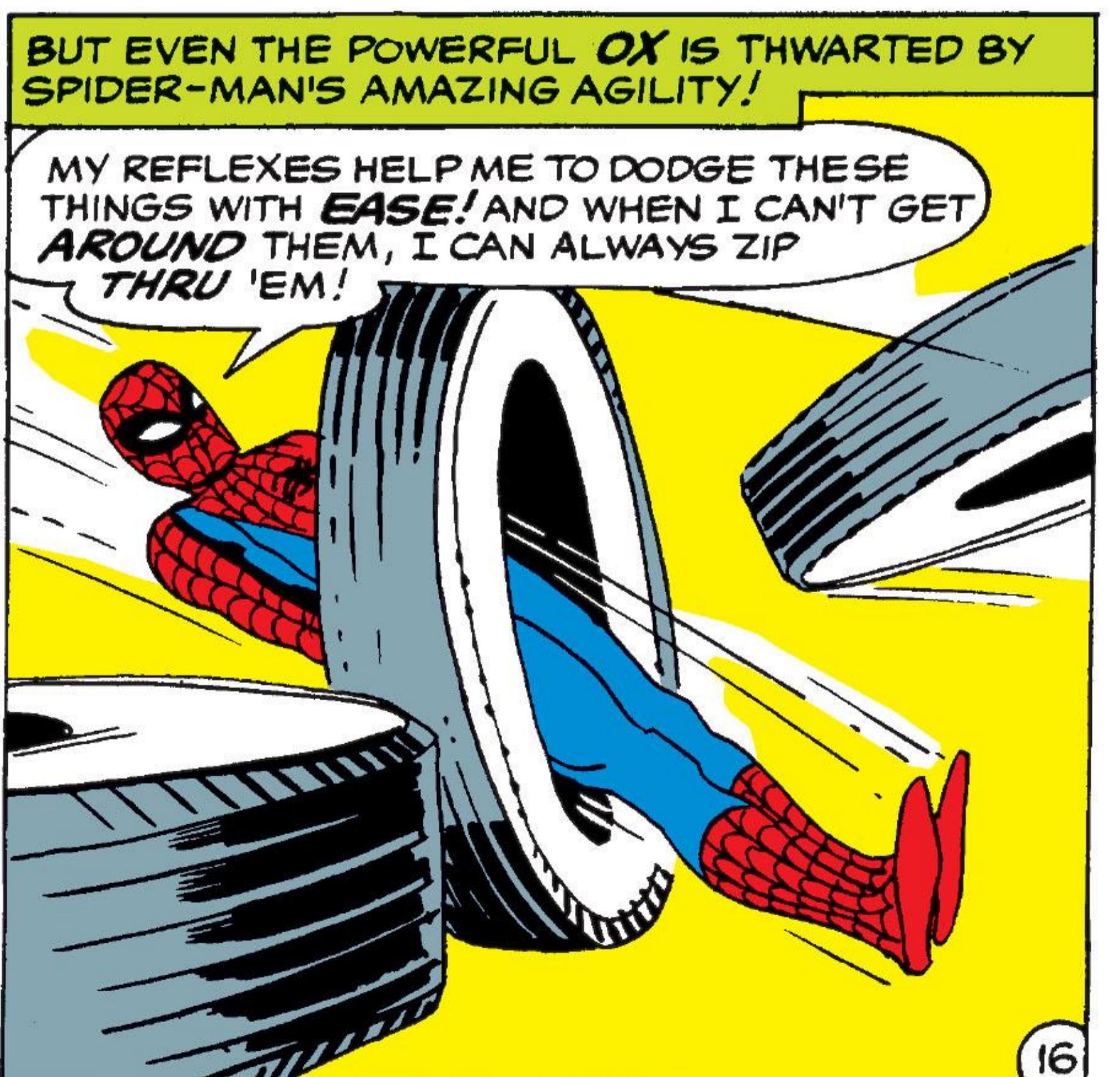
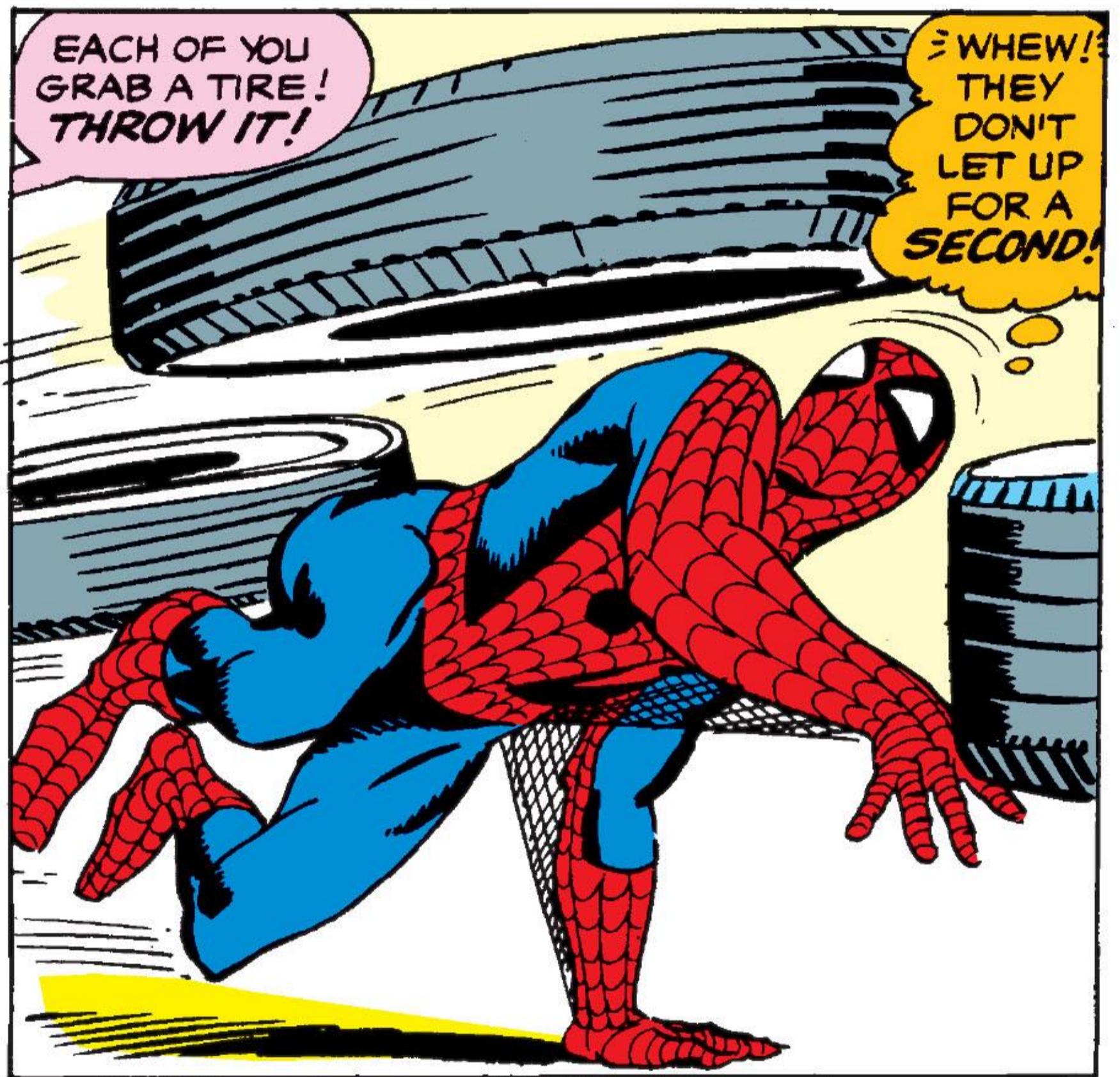
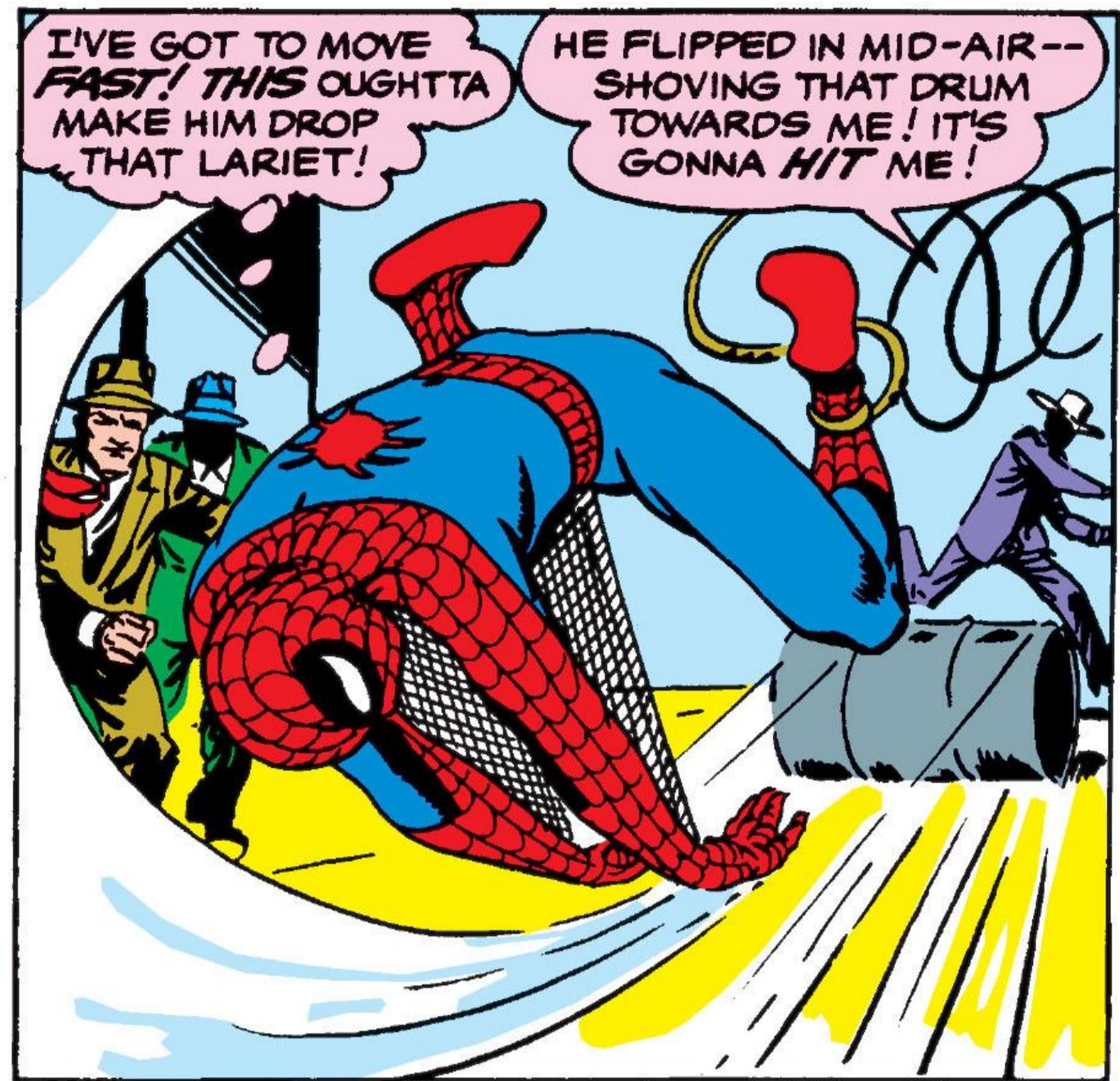


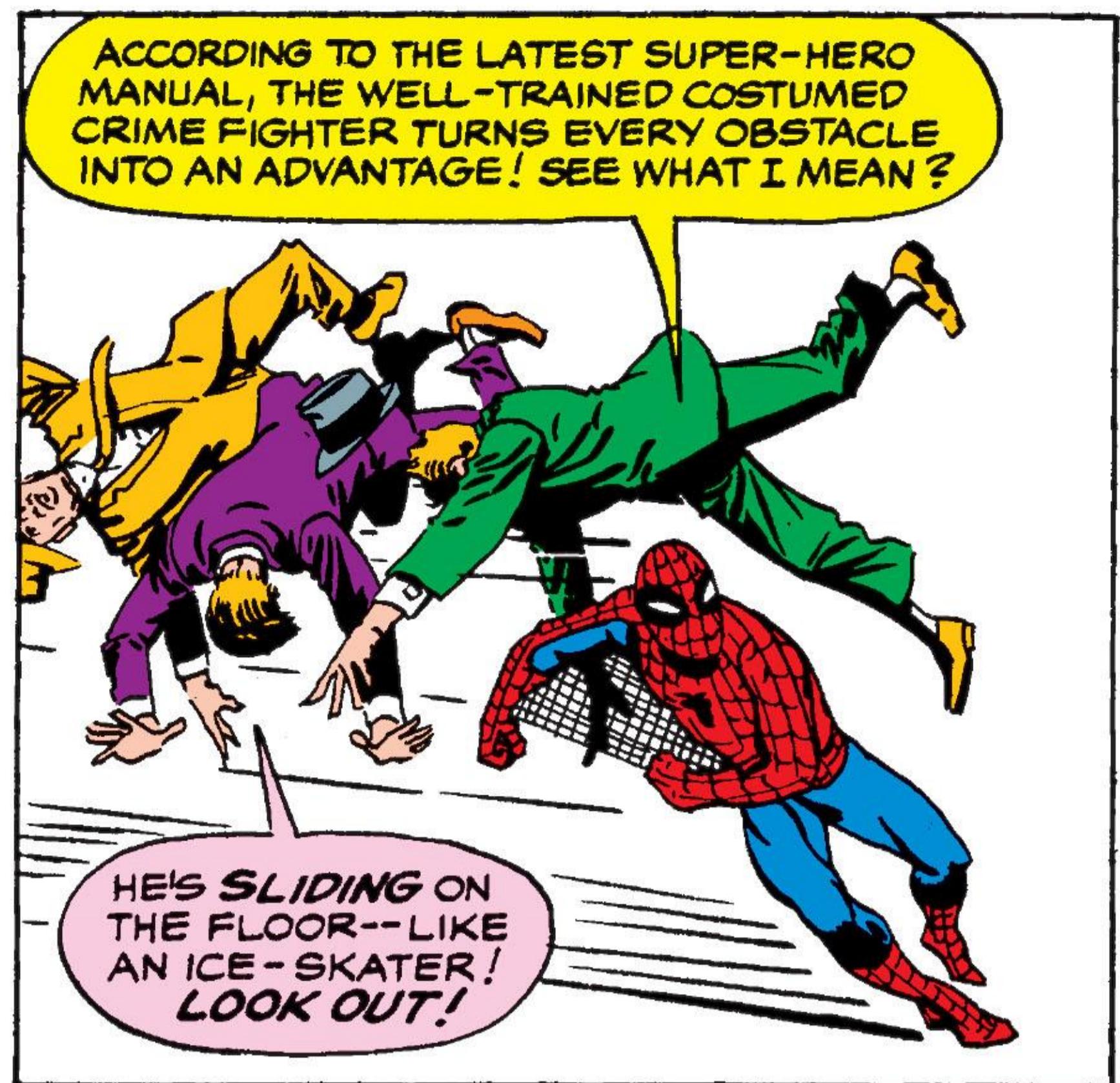


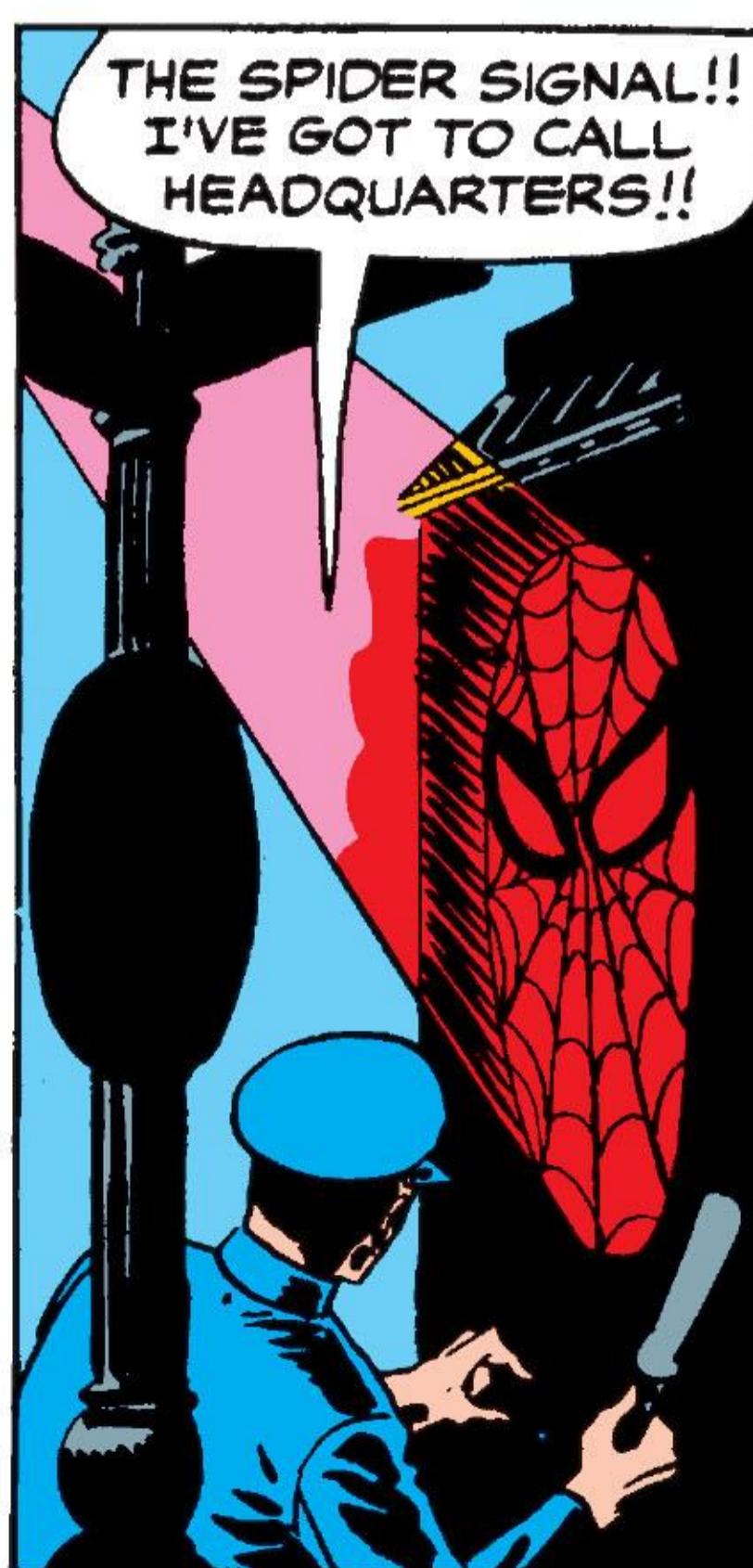
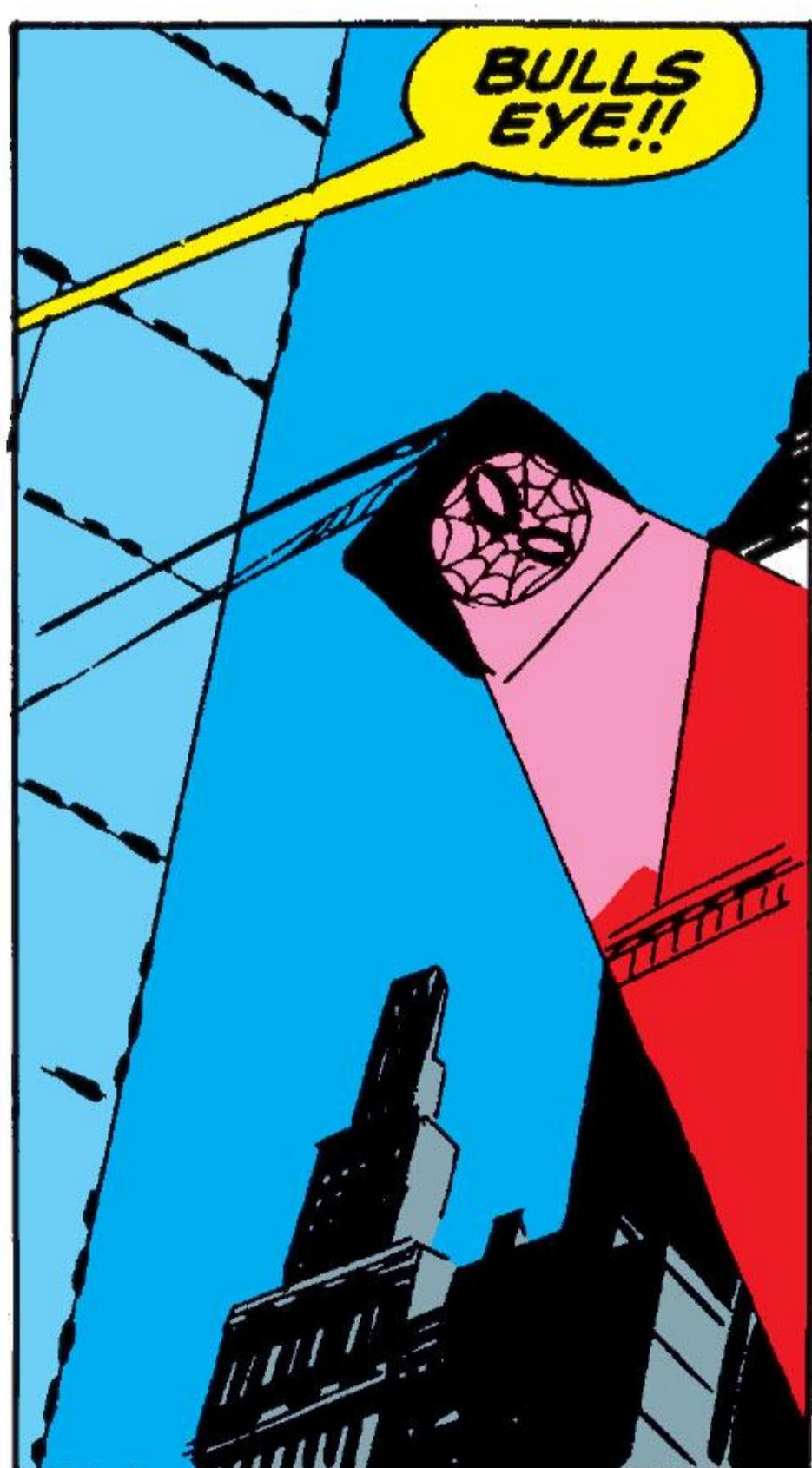
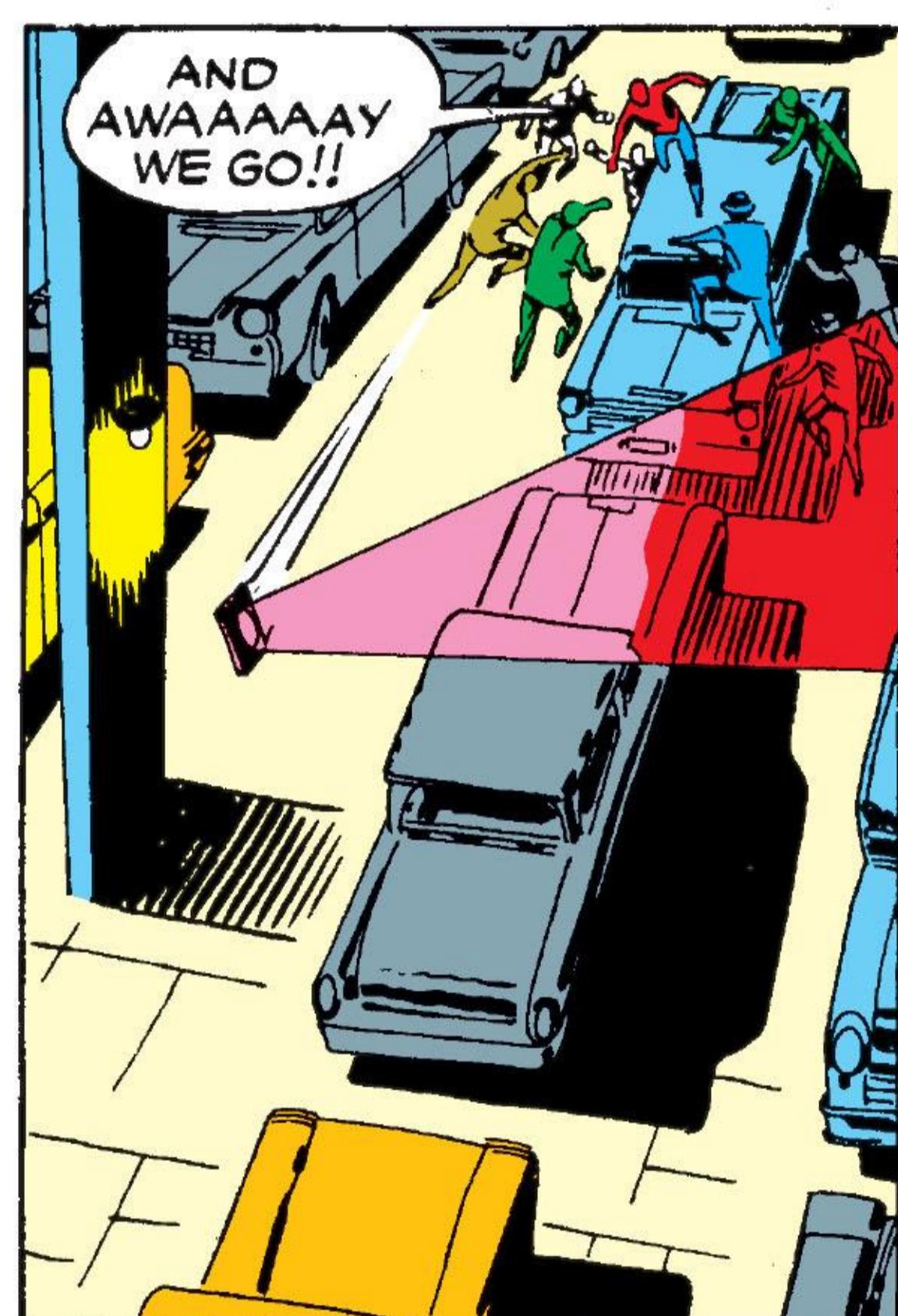
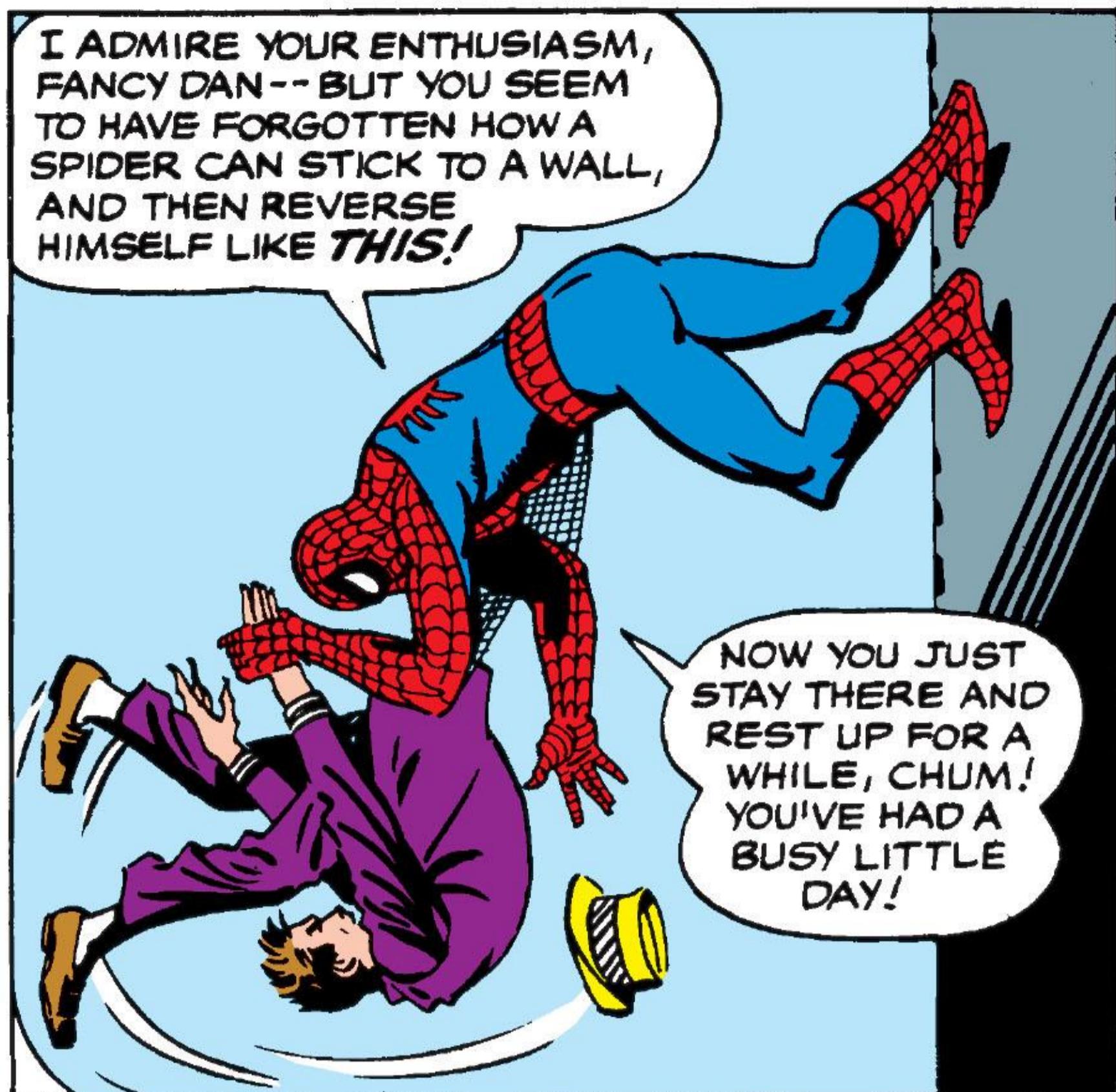
FINALLY, THE ENFORCERS' CAR REACHES A LARGE INDOOR AUTO PARKING BUILDING...

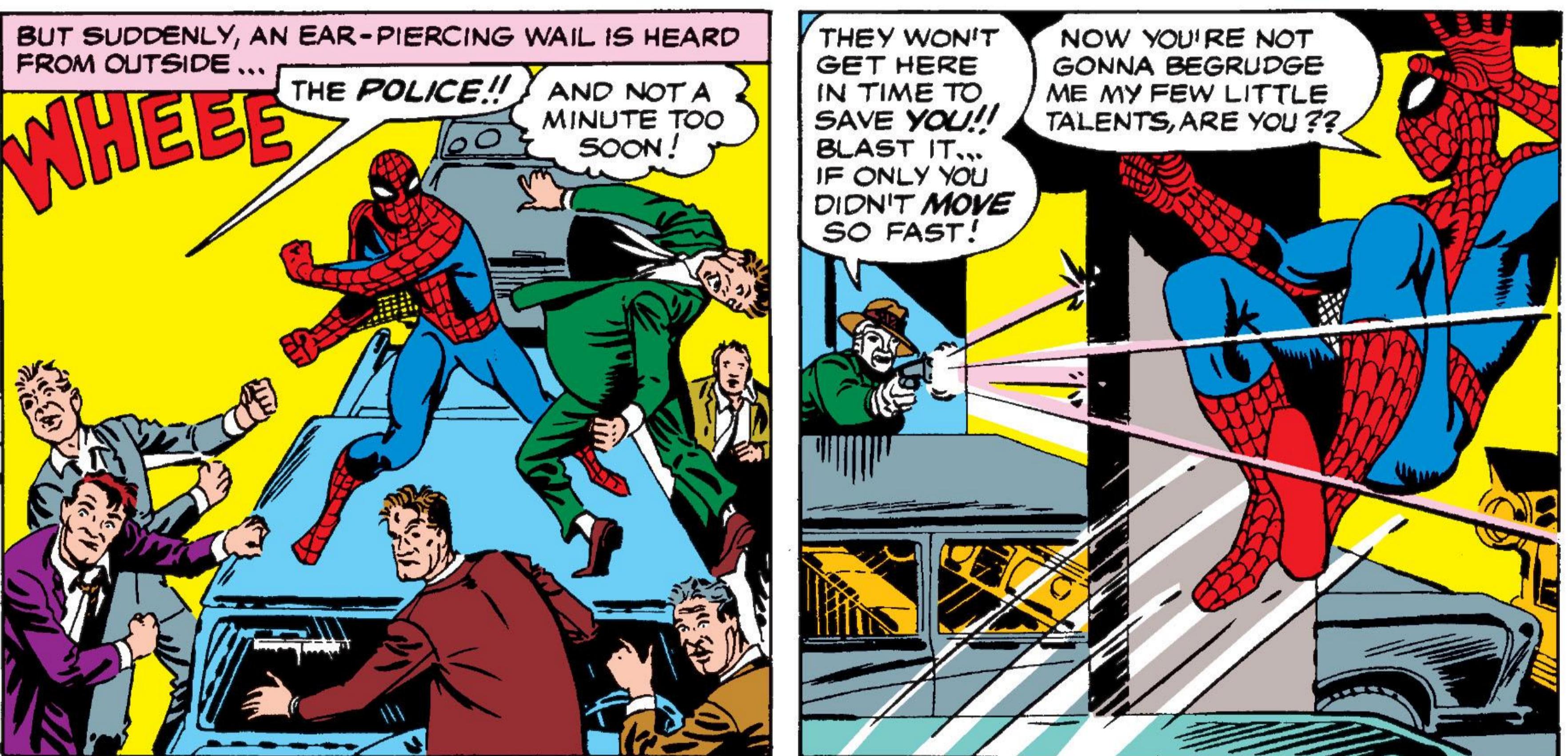


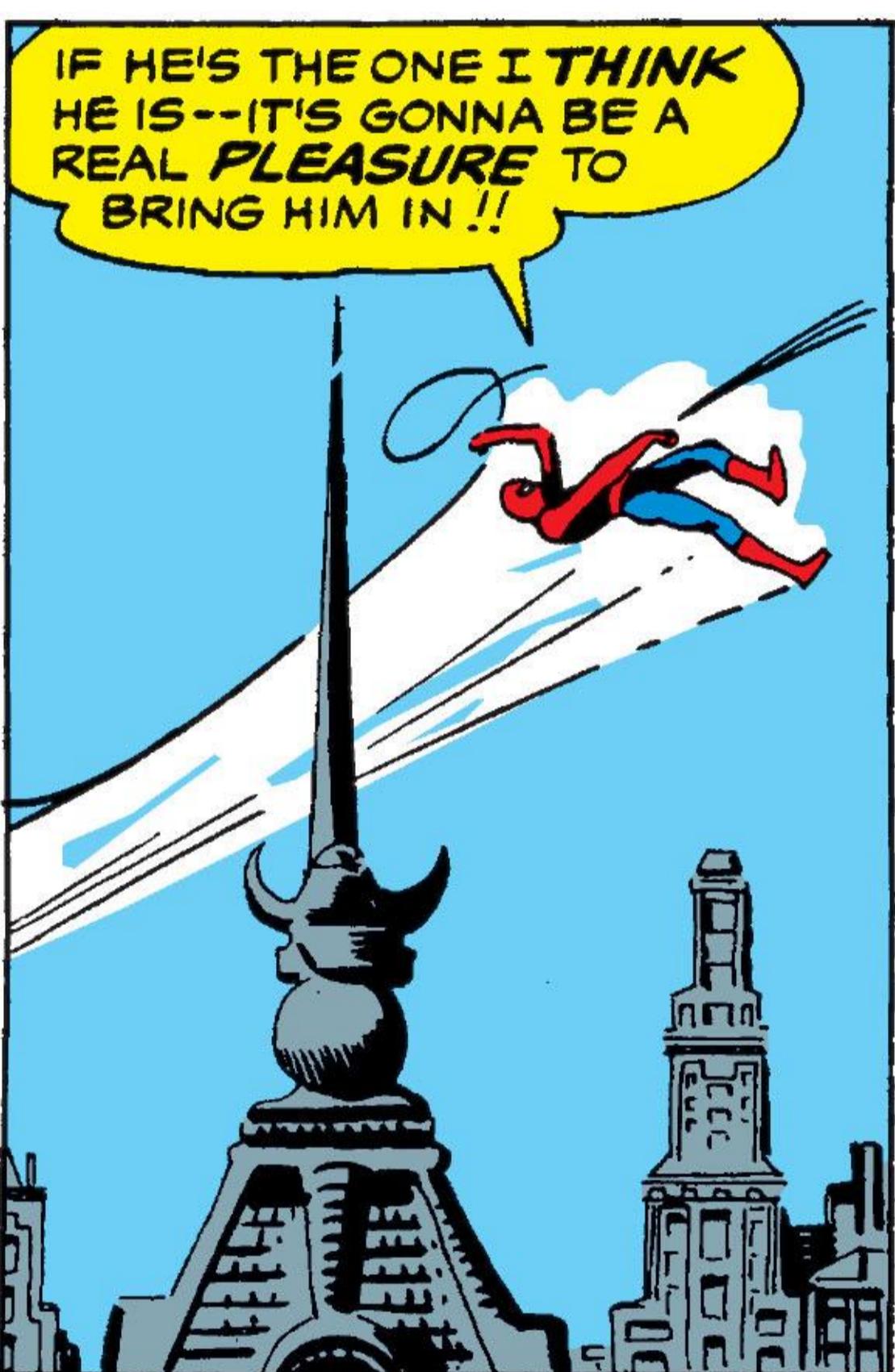
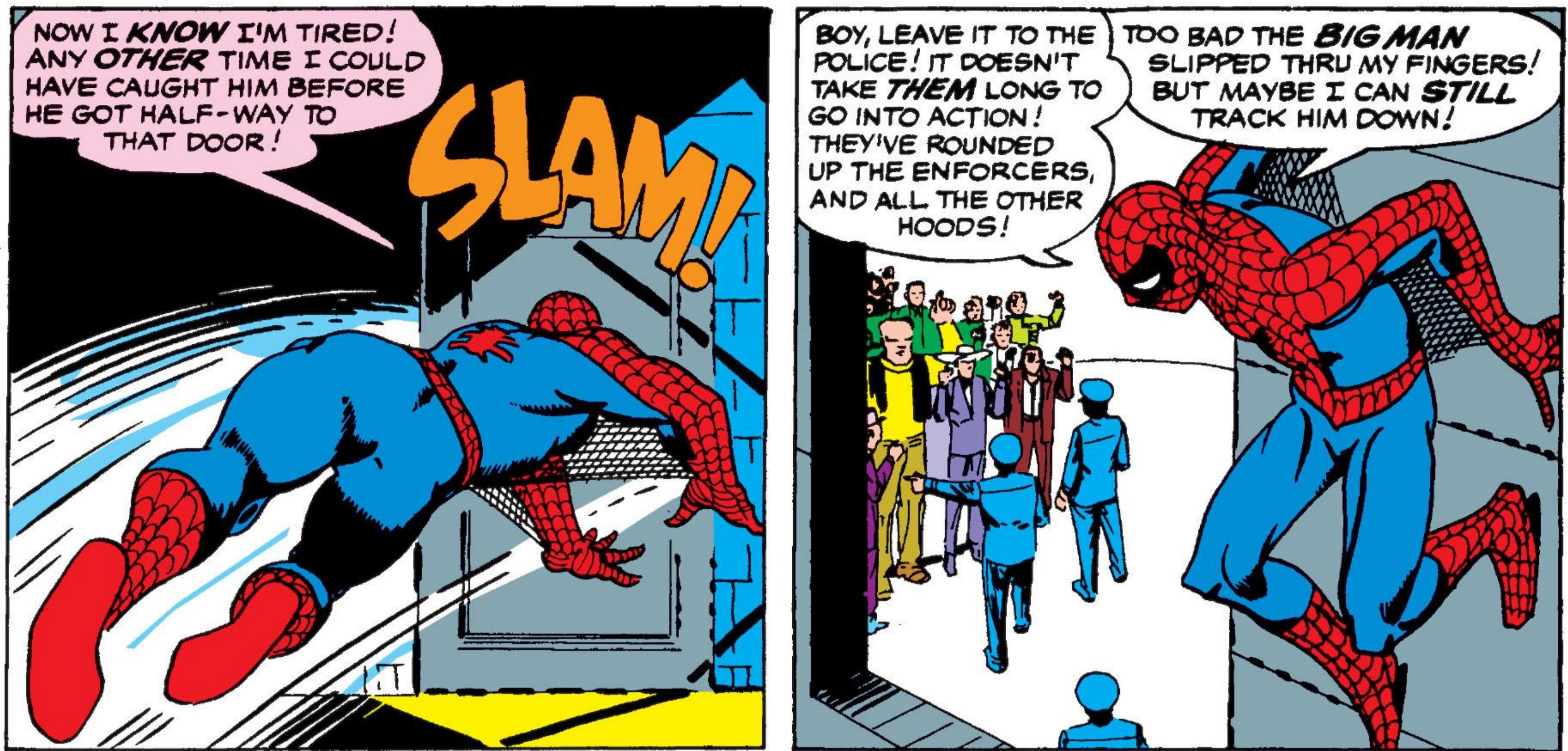


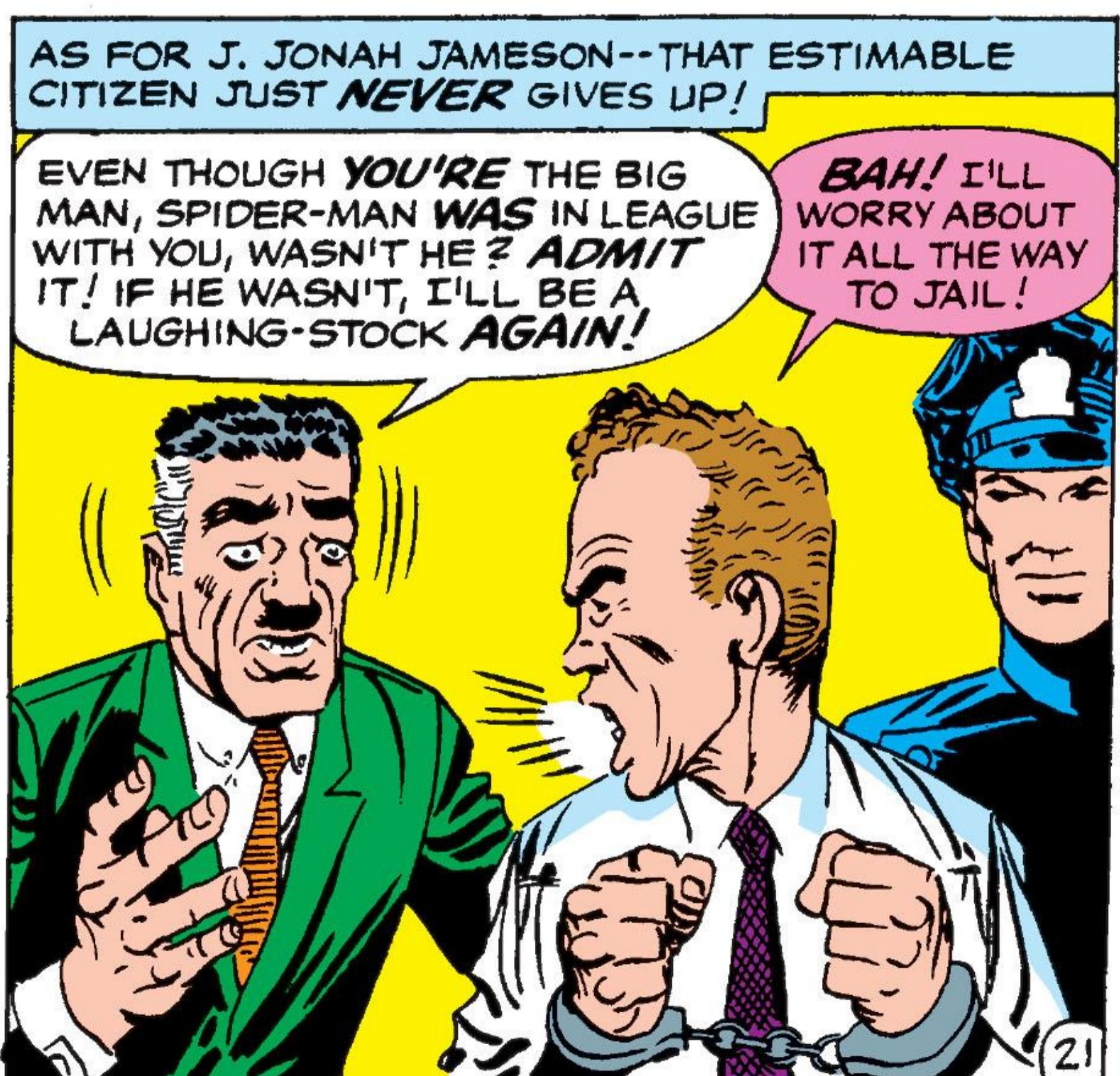
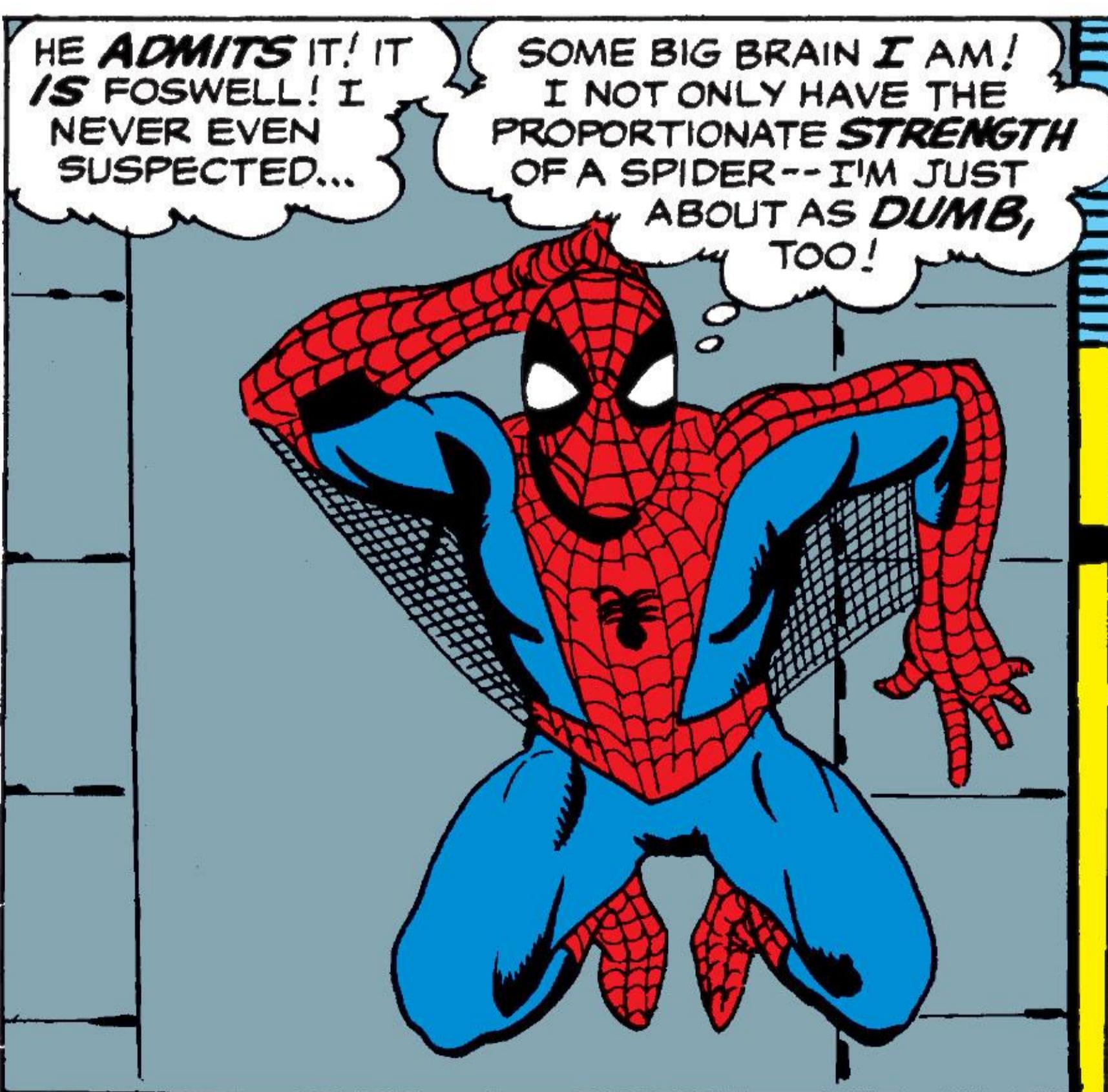
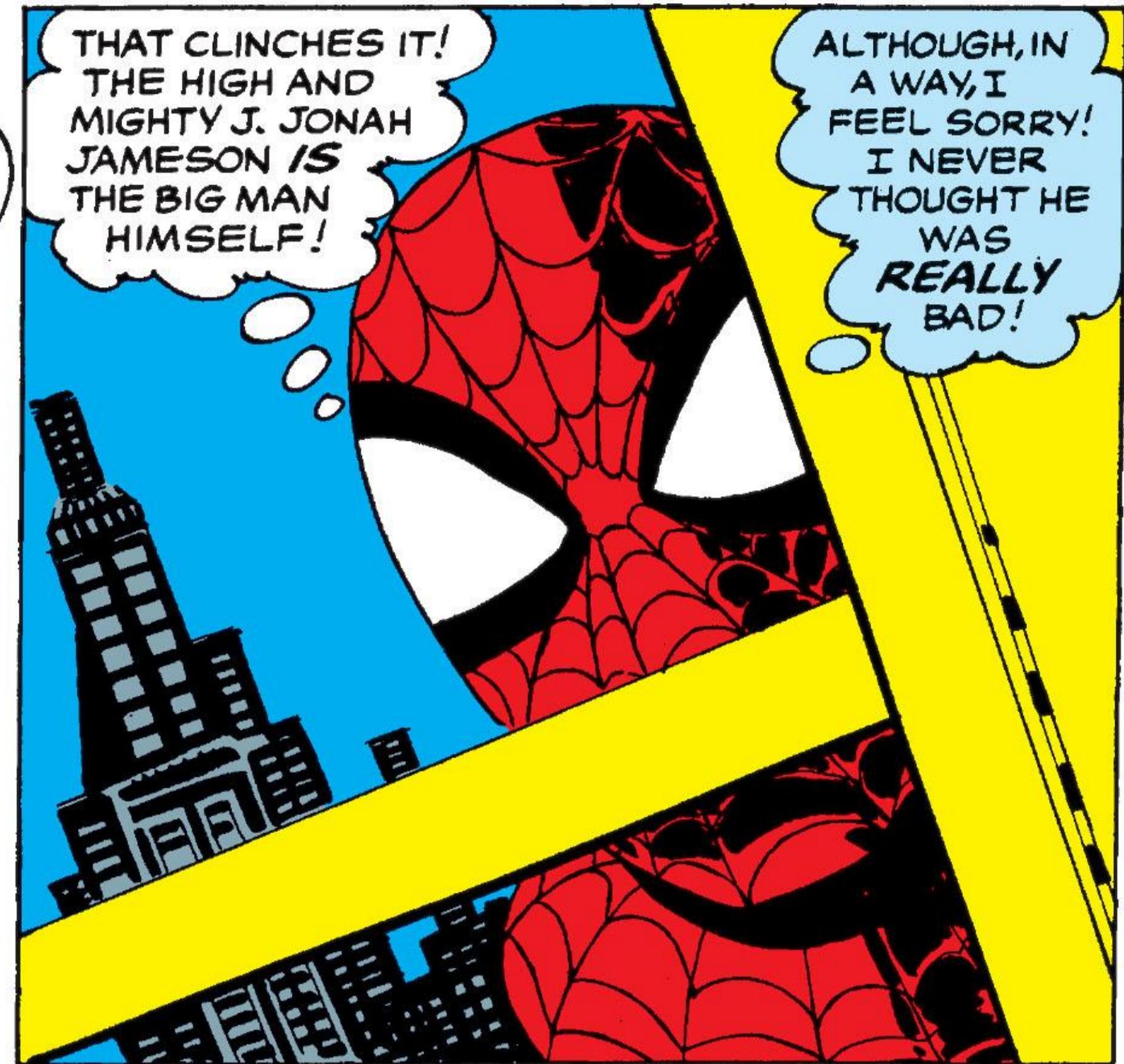












LATER, AFTER HIS OFFICE HAS
EMPTIED OUT...

AM I ALWAYS
TO BE THWARTED, FREAK MORE
EMBARRASSED, FRUSTRATED BY
SPIDER-MAN??? ANYONE BEFORE!

I HATE THAT
COSTUMED
FREAK MORE
THAN I'VE
EVER HATED
ANYONE BEFORE!
I'LL NEVER
BE CONTENTED
WHILE HE'S
FREE!



ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN INTERESTED
IN ONLY ONE THING--MAKING
MONEY! AND YET, **SPIDER-MAN**
RISKS HIS LIFE DAY AFTER DAY
WITH NO THOUGHT OF REWARD!
IF A MAN LIKE HIM IS GOOD--IS
A HERO--THEN WHAT AM I???



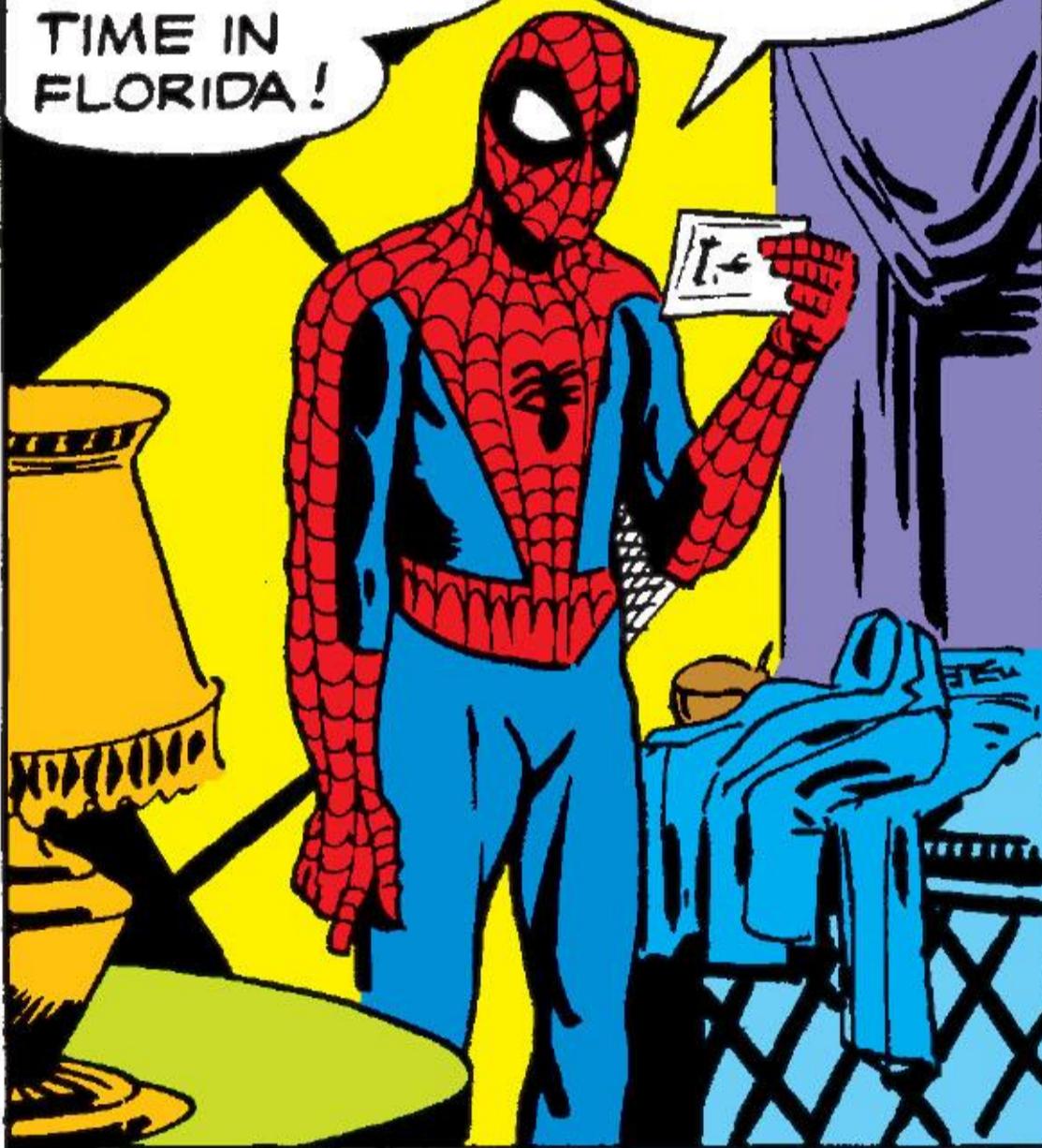
SPIDER-MAN REPRESENTS EVERY-
THING THAT I'M NOT! HE'S BRAVE,
POWERFUL AND UNSELFISH! THE
TRUTH IS, I ENVY HIM! I, J.
JONAH JAMESON--MILLIONAIRE,
MAN OF THE WORLD, CIVIC
LEADER--I'D GIVE EVERYTHING
I OWN TO BE THE MAN THAT
HE IS!



AND, AT THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN,
AS SPIDER-MAN REACHES HIS
HOME...

HERE'S
A LETTER FROM
AUNT MAY! SHE'S
HAVING A FINE
TIME IN
FLORIDA!

BUT NOTHING
FROM BETTY!
NOT EVEN
A CARD!



WHAT IF SHE
NEVER GETS
IN TOUCH WITH
ME ?? IF I
NEVER HEAR
FROM HER
AGAIN ??

IT MAY BE WHAT
SHE WANTS!
PERHAPS SHE
DOESN'T CARE
FOR ME--AND
SHE WANTS TO
MAKE A CLEAN
BREAK!



NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I
WON'T! IT'S SOMETHING ELSE!
SHE'S IN TROUBLE--WORRIED!
IF ONLY I KNEW WHAT THE
MATTER WAS! IF ONLY SHE'D
LET ME HELP HER!!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SMALL TOWN IN PENNSYLVANIA, BETTY BRANT SITS ALONE IN A LOCKED HOTEL ROOM, WEPPING SILENTLY TO HERSELF...

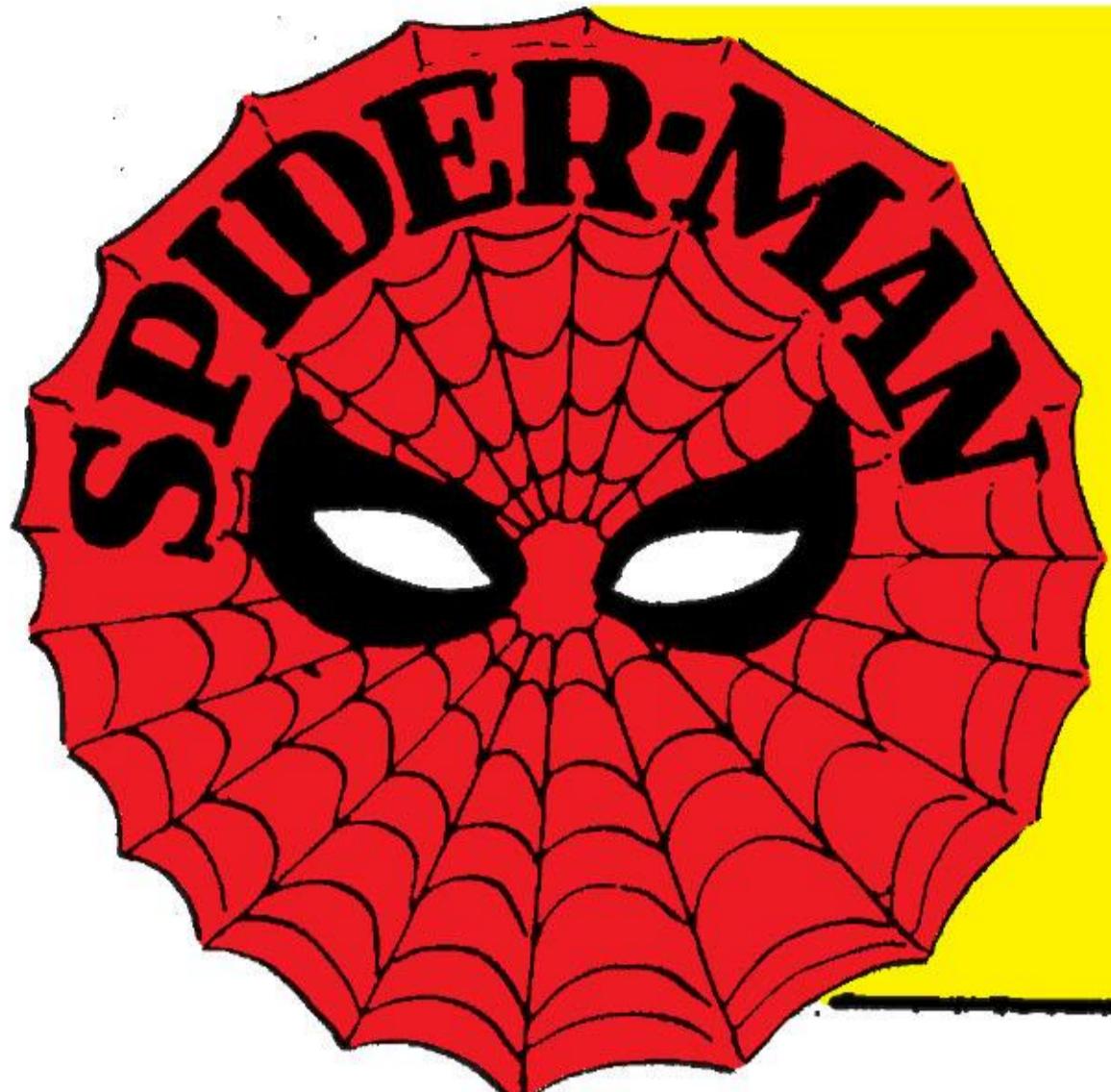
LIFE IS SO MEANINGLESS,
SO EMPTY WITHOUT PETER!
HE-HE'S ALL I HAD--ALL
I EVER WANTED! AND
YET--I CAN'T TURN
TO HIM NOW!

I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS
THRU **ALONE**! I CAN'T
RISK THE LIFE OF THE
BOY I LOVE! NO ONE
ELSE CAN HELP ME--
EXCEPT SOMEONE
LIKE **SPIDER-**
MAN... BUT
WHAT CHANCE
WOULD I EVER
HAVE OF
RECEIVING AID
FROM **HIM**???



AND SO WE LEAVE OUR FRIENDS DANGLING IN A
WEB FAR MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY WHICH **SPIDER-**
MAN CAN WEAVE--THE MYSTERIOUS, DRAMATIC WEB
OF **FATE**! NEXT ISSUE WE WILL MEET A GREAT NEW
VILLAIN--FIND MORE SPECTACULAR THRILLS--AS
SPIDER-MAN DISCOVERS THE STRANGE SECRET
OF BETTY BRANT!





SPIDER'S WEB

Please address
your letters to:
THE SPIDER'S WEB
Third Floor
655 Madison Ave.
New York 21, N. Y.

Dear Stan and Steve,

Encore — a jillion encores for your marvelous mag! I can't pinpoint it, but SPIDER-MAN has class!! His originality deserves a toast, or a Medal of Honor; his costume is a feather in Mr. Ditko's hat; and his foes — well, when Spider-Man makes an enemy, it's a doozy! Oh, the laurels that will rest on your name for your contribution to juvenile literature!!

Mike Finley
1243 Park Ave.
Amherst, Ohio

*Waddaya MEAN "juvenile literature", Mike??
Don't tell us KIDS have been reading these
masterpieces!!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

Nuts! So everybody's an art critic! Imagine a bunch of fans trying to tell people who have been in the business for years how to run a comic book. I'm fed up with it, and I dare some of you stateside guys and gals to write me and say I'm wrong. Well, now that I've got that off my chest, I'll tell you that this is one G.I. who likes SPIDER-MAN and will keep reading your 12¢ (underpriced) comics! By the way, Germany is great! Caught in your web —

PFC Dennis E. Northern
RA 17630800
HQ Co 3d Med. Tank. Bn.
35th. Armor, Bamberg, Germany
APO 139, New York, N. Y.

*Thanks, soldier — but AT EASE for a minute!
No one's telling us how to run our mags! We
merely get a lot of helpful suggestions, and we
love 'em! Remember, it takes knocks as well as
boosts to keep an editor on his toes!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

At the beginning of "Spider-Man vs. Doctor Doom" You state, "This may not be the greatest story ever written..." Well, you were right — it wasn't. In fact it was the poorest Spider-Man episode to date. Steve Ditko's artwork was his worst to date. In one panel he shows Spider-Man without his spider-emblem, in the next with it, but without his netting, and in the next without both. Also he has Dr. Doom's belt vanishing and appearing again in the next panel. Steve's version of Dr. Doom was so bad that Doc would have looked better without his mask. Please stop those ridiculous half Spider-Man, half Peter Parker pictures! You don't know how stupid they look. One last matter, has Dr. Doom got a financial interest in your comics? He turns up with monotonous regularity every month — the only comics he hasn't appeared in so far are KID COLT and MILLIE THE MODEL. He is one of the finest villains in comics today so please don't overdo him! I hope you don't mind this critical letter but I know you will be pleased to know that I can't help handing my ninepence over for every comic you turn out

James Smith
9 Crealock St.
Kirkdale, Liverpool
Lancashire, England

*WHAT!! You only pay ninepence in England for
SPIDER-MAN?? One more complaint, Jimmy,
and we're liable to cut off your supply! As far as
Doc Doom having a financial interest in our mags,
we sometimes think that beneath his mask he's
really our BOSS!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have been reading your MARVEL line ever since you started including super-heroes. All your efforts are good, but SPIDER-MAN is the best. Naturally, I've a run of Spider-Man since AMAZING ADULT FANTASY #15 and have enjoyed them all. SPIDER-MAN #6 started off with a fine cover. For one, I hate those ugly word balloons on most of your covers. I'm glad you didn't have one on this issue. The action and art was very good all through the story, but there is the poor paneling that dulls some of it. Back in the late forties, you were masters at "staggered panels"—wha' happen? If a panel is designed to fit the scene, it makes that particular panel much more exciting. Please try this out soon.

Don Foote
703 S. Perry St.
Johnstown, N. Y.

*Good suggestion, Don, but staggered panels have
never really appealed to us. We feel the interest
and excitement should come from the drawing
itself, rather than the shape of the panel's bor-
ders. Just as we're more interested in a painting
than its frame. But, what do our BOSSES say?
(Namely — YOU, the readers!)*

Dear Stan and Steve,

One thing I like about Steve's art is—he really gives the fans (the beady-eyed little rascals) something to gawk at! What with Liz and Betty cavorting around in every issue! Aunt May is all right too, if you're about 80 and like that type—unfortunately I'm 21! Got something to say to Stan, too. Namely, about the AVENGERS! By George, it is pretty ridiculous when you stop to think of it! A Norse god cavorting around with a green-skinned brute, a giant that formerly was a pygmy, and a creep that walks around in an iron suit! Boy, he must be pretty hard up for company! But, you know what—I like it! Phooey on the Lizard! Let's have "Doc Ock" back!

John F. Lebar
305 No. Jordan St.
Allentown, Pa.

*Look who's criticizing! A guy who doesn't even
like Aunt May's type! Just wait till you're eighty,
Johnny, boy!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think your greatest super-villain is... J. Jonah Jameson! Power?... power of the press! (but of course!)

David Nicholson
639 Drake
San Jose 25, Calif.

*And just when we thought ol' J.J.J. was getting
popular enough to become the HERO of a new
series! Oh well, thanks for setting us straight,
Dave!*

Dear Stan and Steve,

You have improved since ish #5 of SPIDER-MAN! Last time you drew his costume incorrectly THIRTY TIMES! This time it was only sixteen! Let's see you make that number, "0" in the next issue!

Kenny Chance
51 Hull Street
Brooklyn 33, N. Y.

*And did you notice also, Ken, that we left a button
off the coat of a man standing 'way in the back-
ground of a crowd scene in ish #3? We're just a
team of incompetents!*

CONTINUED...

Dear Stan and Steve,

I'm sure the rest of your readers and I feel the same way toward your personal message in SPIDER-MAN #6. Many of us are probably collectors or followers of many different magazines, but no successful magazine has ever given us the pleasure or experience which we get from seeing you and Steve match wits in creating the unusual Spider-Man adventures. Your reading of every letter, whether good or bad, I'm sure has gained a great impression on your readers. I know you enjoy creating Spider-Man's adventures because you show it not just in printing it but also in your fine outstanding art. I admit Peter Parker's growing success is partly due to us, but our suggestions and criticisms are only words. It is your job to put our words to work which sometimes can be very difficult since we all have different opinions, but since you're doing a great job, you don't have to worry. So from our dazzled eyes and startled bodies, congratulations on what is truly the success story of the year—The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Doug Austin
3996 Casgrain Drive
Windsor, Ontario

To say we're flattered by the obviously sincere feeling in this letter from Canada would be a rank understatement. Our heartfelt thanks to you, Doug.

Dear Stan and Steve,

You really had something with the Lizard! He was the most worthy villain ever to match wits with the Spider-Man. The reason I liked him so much was because I liked his origin. Also, I liked the little sub-plot where Spider-Man had to save the good doctor who had turned into a lizard, yet had to rid the world of the Lizard. It is these sub-plots which really add to the story, so keep them up. In future issues I hope you won't bring back Dr. Doom, because I dislike the way Steve Ditko draws him. Not that he doesn't draw well...he's excellent! But he just can't copy Jack Kirby's style. (Jack Kirby can't copy Steve's work either—see the FF ANNUAL in which Spider-Man appears.) Well, anyway, Spider-Man remains the greatest super-hero since the Human Torch and/or Thor.

John Favareau
134 Convent Place
Yonkers, N.Y.

Muchas gracias, J.F., but did you ever hear of the FANTASTIC FOUR? We're told that they're kinda popular, too!

Dear Stan and Steve,

There are no words capable of telling how fabulous issue #6 was! (SPIDER-MAN, of course!) It was without a doubt the greatest comic I ever read! The artwork was magnificent, especially the cover. The story was very unusual and very entertaining. I am sure that you will have a difficult time topping AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6. If you do, by some chance, happen to top #6, you will hear from me. I know this letter isn't very long but I think it states very clearly what I and a million other kids think about the truly AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

Richard Petroc
146 River Road
Hinckley, Ohio

Better have another talk with those "million kids", Dick! Although SPIDER-MAN is a top-selling mag, we haven't yet hit the million mark—so SOME of those kids aren't buying!!

SPIDER SCRATCHINGS

(We haven't room for enough complete letters, but here are a few samplings that might interest you!)

"In Sandman you have developed the greatest, most potentially everlasting villain in comic history."—Mike Randall, Atchison, Kansas... "The public ought to wake up to the fact that Spider-Man isn't a villain."—Ronnie Rigdon, Bossier City, La. . . . "Have a Spider-Man Annual."—Ric Klein, Twinsbury, Ohio... "Spider-Man is different in a field where it is hard not to be trite."—Katherine Philippe, Palatine, Ill. . . . "Don't give him a female counterpart or a fabulous hideout."—Frank Tugwell, Bastrop, La. . . . "Since Spider-Man #4 was so realistic, are you sure it

wasn't a true story, fellas?"—Randy Montgomery, Niagara Falls, Ontario. (Ed. Note: When did we ever say these stories aren't true??!) . . . "I think the reason for your success is that Spider-Man reaches inside to what would really happen if a person were given powers."—Steve Conner, Rome, Ga. . . . "Why not have Spider-Man join forces with Ant-Man and the Wasp to form an 'Insects, Inc.'?"—Charles Rubin, Rye, N.Y. . . .

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- Didja ever have a tiger by the tail? WE have! The votes are in on our "May We Drop These Letters Pages?" poll! We bow, as always, to your wishes! The overwhelming majority of letters demanded we continue this section, so that's that! Anyway, if Spidey can learn to climb walls, maybe we can learn to go without sleep!
- And now for our assorted Marvel musings . . .
- While we haven't worked out all the details of the plot yet, our next ish will shed further light on the strange secret of Betty Brant's past. It will also take Peter Parker (and his peck of pickled peppers) to a different town, and pit him against a different type of super villain. (You may think there are no new types of super-villains LEFT, but we may just surprise you!)
- By the way, we've received a ZILLION letters commenting on the fact that SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS lost Junior Juniper in battle in ish #4! You may remember that we once promised to try to produce the most realistic mags of all—and judging by your reactions, you feel we're succeeding. So, many thanks for your letters—and wait till you see some of the future surprises we have in store for you at MARVEL, the House of Ideas!
- In our highly successful new mag, X-MEN, a group of evil mutants has been often mentioned but never seen—until NOW, that is! However, in ish #4, on sale Jan. 3rd, you will actually meet these uncanny characters and see how they operate! We suggest you try not to miss it!
- You'll notice we don't always refer to all our issues as "The Greatest Story You've Ever Seen!"—at least we TRY not to. We'd like to feel that when we DO recommend a special ish or story, you'll know we really mean it. And, with this in mind, we DO strongly suggest that you buy THE AVENGERS #4, on sale the 3rd of Jan.! It features the actual return of one of the greatest heroes of the Golden Age of Comics—Captain America, and it explains where he's been, and how he joins the Avengers! We feel it will be one of the most talked-about single issues of the year!
- In fact, it looks like the mags which go on sale Jan. 3rd are really going to make a hit! For example, the greatest title of all—FANTASTIC FOUR, features a sensational battle between The Hulk and The Thing, for those many readers who felt the fight scenes in their last encounter were too brief! This time we present what is probably the greatest, longest, most dramatic battle in comics mag history, between two of the most powerful foes of all! (Well, there goes our short-lived attempt at understatement!)
- We wanted to mention our other mags, but we're clean out of space. So we'll close by saying watch for the mags with the MARVEL seal in the upper left-hand corner! We pledge that each and every one of them tries to reward your loyalty by giving you the finest, and the most original stories and art we are capable of! So, until next ish, we at the Marvel bullpen wish you happy days and peaceful nights—and remember, whether you chose our titles, or some of the many fine magazines produced by our competitors, a comic magazine is still your best 12¢ entertainment value!

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