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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL
COMICS GROUP 12¢

17 OCT.

GUEST-STARRING:
**THE
HUMAN TORCH**

"THE
RETURN OF
"THE
GREEN
GOBLIN!"
(AND WHAT A
RETURN
IT IS!!)



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"THE RETURN OF THE GREEN GOBLIN!"

RUGGEDLY WRITTEN
BY: STAN LEE

ROBUSTLY DRAWN
BY: STEVE DITKO

RECENTLY LETTERED
BY: S. ROSEN

LOOK AT OL' BOOKWORM PARKER! THE WAY HE'S GLUED TO THAT CHEM BOOK, YOU'D THINK HE WAS READIN' THE LATEST JAMES BOND MYSTERY!



* SEE SPIDER-MAN #14... EDITOR.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, AT THE SAME TIME THAT PETER PARKER SITS IN HIS SCIENCE CLASSROOM, THE VERY ONE HE IS THINKING OF IS ALSO THINKING OF HIM! OR, TO PUT IT MORE ACCURATELY...OF SPIDER-MAN!

THE NEXT TIME I BATTLE SPIDER-MAN, I'LL HAVE NEW WEAPONS TO DEFEAT HIM WITH!



NOW I'M ONLY PRACTICING WITH A DUMMY TARGET! BUT I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO USE MY LITTLE BAG OF TRICKS ON THE REAL SPIDER-MAN!



WITH ALL THE PRACTICING I'VE DONE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO VANQUISH HIM JUST AS EASILY AS I'VE BEATEN HIS LIFELESS REPLICA!



I'VE EVEN REDESIGNED MY JET-POWERED GOBLIN-GLIDER, MAKING IT STILL FASTER AND MORE MANEUVERABLE!



AH, YES! WHEN NEXT WE MEET, SPIDER-MAN WILL FIND THAT THE MYSTERIOUS GREEN GOBLIN IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM AND HIS OWN PUNY POWERS!!

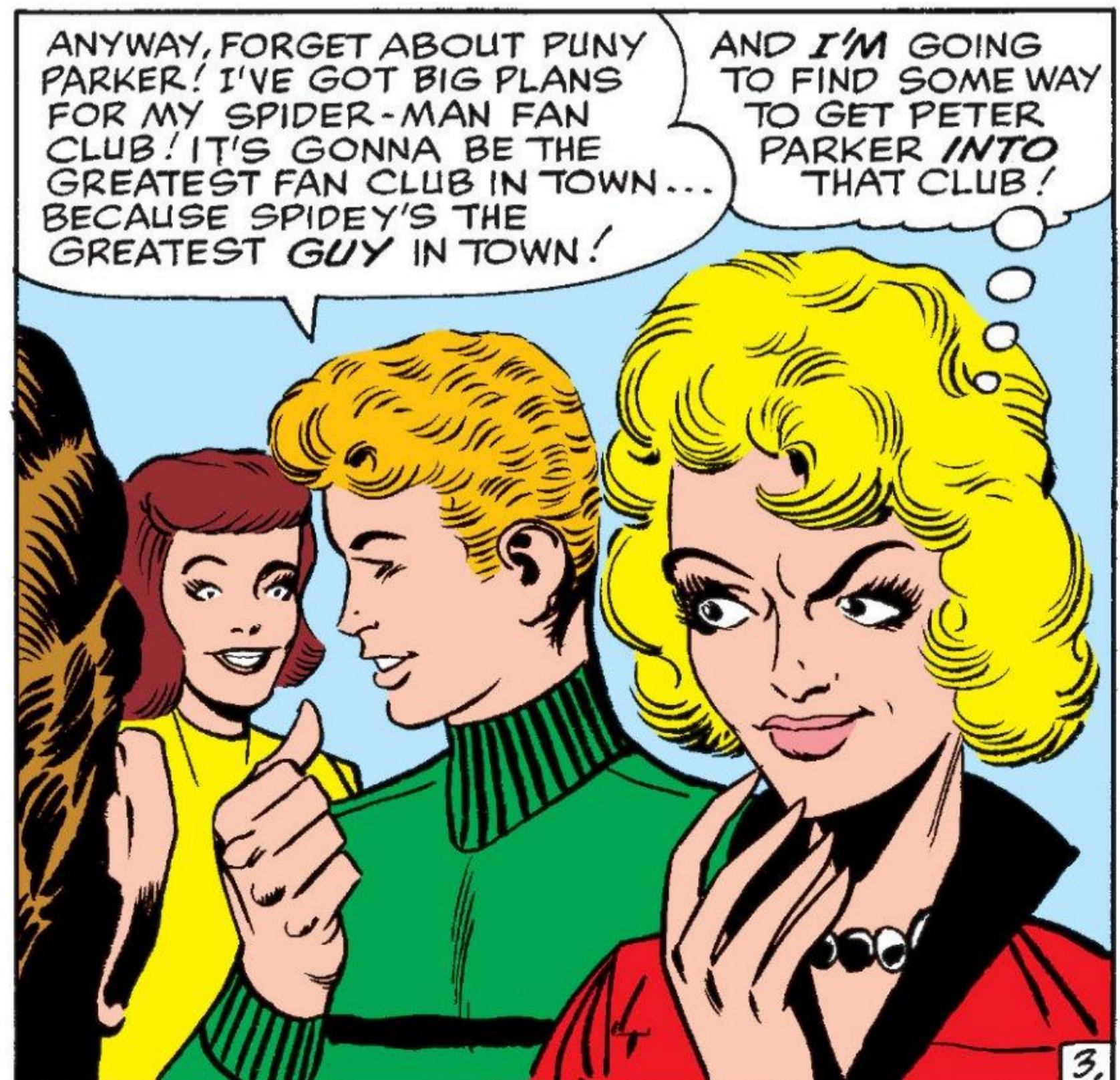
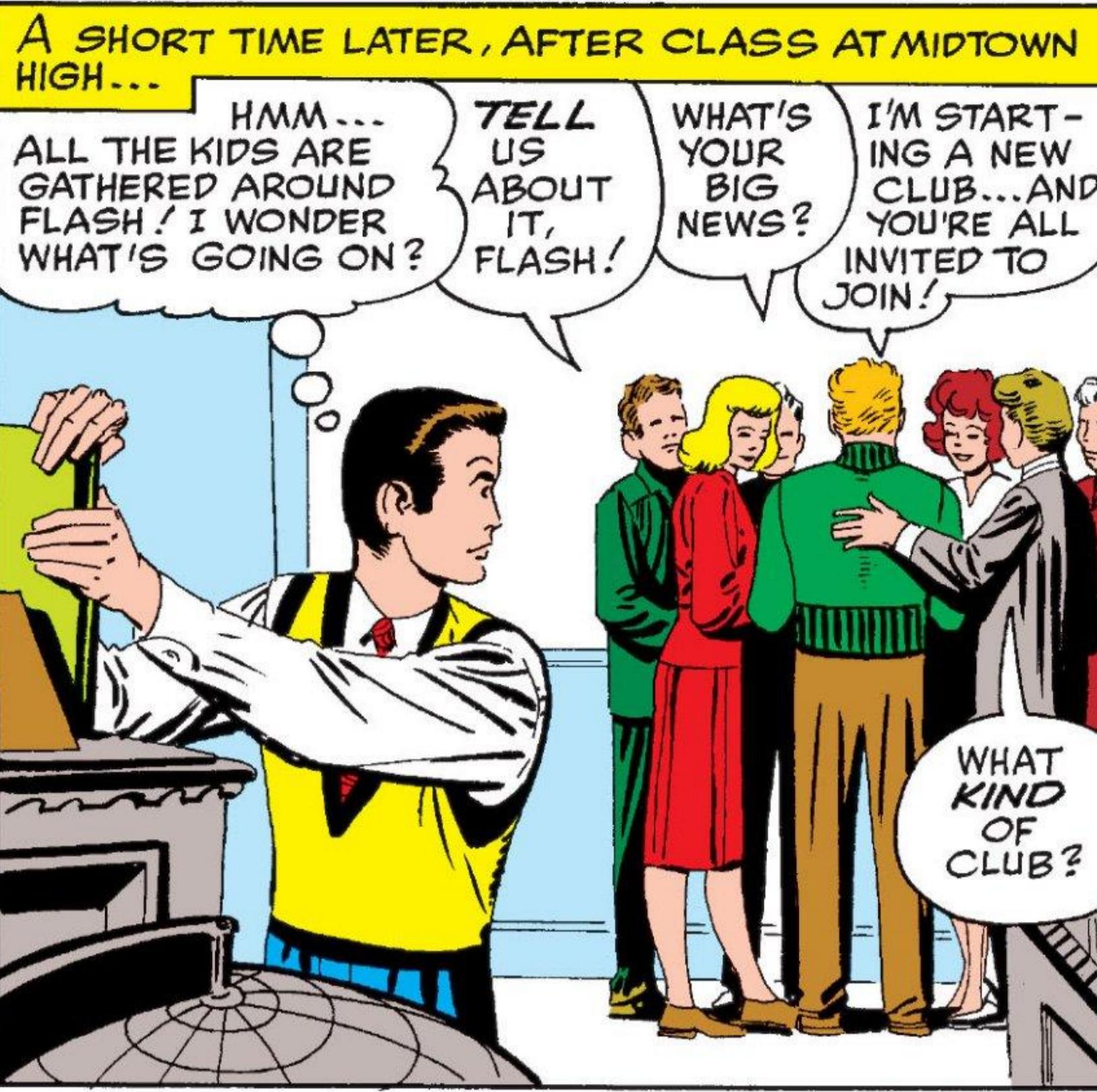


I'VE WAITED ALL THESE MONTHS TO GIVE MYSELF ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE FOR OUR NEXT ENCOUNTER! ... AND, AT LAST THE GOBLIN IS READY!!



NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS FOR ME TO DO...IS...FIND SPIDER-MAN!





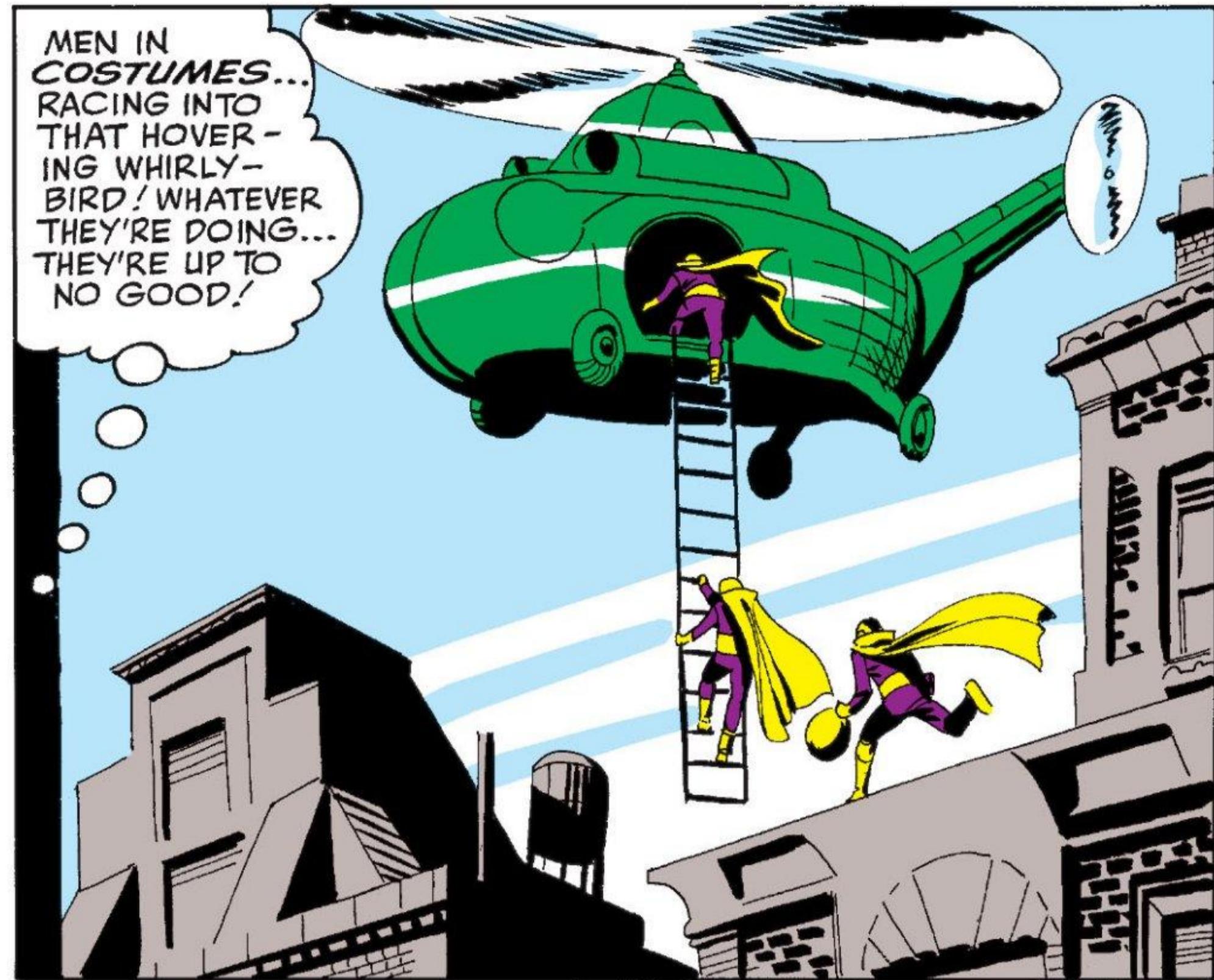
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS PETE WALKS HOME . . .

WHAT'S EVERYONE STARING AT?? UH OH...UP ON THAT ROOF...LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!!

LOOK! THEY'RE RUNNING INTO A WAITING HELICOPTER!

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT!!

MEN IN COSTUMES... RACING INTO THAT HOVERING WHIRLYBIRD! WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING... THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD!



THEY'VE GOT A REAL HEAD START, BUT WITH A LITTLE LUCK, OL' SPIDER-MAN OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY CAN GET OUT OF REACH! HERE GOES NOTHIN'!!



MAYBE I'M JUST A CORNY SHOWOFF, BUT IT SURE FEELS GREAT TO GET INTO ACTION AGAIN!!



I WONDER IF FLASH THOMPSON IS WATCHING? WOULDN'T IT BE SOMETHING IF HE EVER FOUND OUT WHO I REALLY AM??!





AND, AS YOU'D EXPECT, WHEN PETER REACHES THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE OF J. JONAH JAMESON, HE FINDS...

THIS IS THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD IN MONTHS! SPIDER-MAN MADE A LAUGHING STOCK OF HIMSELF! EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT HIS BONEHEAD MISTAKE!

OH, HELLO, PETER! IS SOMETHING WRONG? WHY THE FROWN?

I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS I'VE JUST GOT A HEADACHE!



WELL, WELL! PETER PARKER, MY DEMON PHOTOGRAPHER! I FEEL SO GOOD, I'M EVEN GLAD TO SEE YOU!

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU AS SOON AS I FINISH WRITING THIS ANTI-SPIDER MAN EDITORIAL FOR THE NEXT EDITION

THAT'S OKAY, MR. JAMESON! I JUST CAME BY TO WALK BETTY HOME!

I'M READY TO LEAVE NOW, PETER!



YOU KNOW, PETER... I WISH MR. JAMESON DIDN'T HATE SPIDER-MAN SO!

REALLY? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU, BETTY?

GOSH, I HOPE SHE'S NOT BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WHO SPIDEY REALLY IS!!

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, PETER? SPIDER-MAN SAVED MY LIFE THREE TIMES IN THE PAST!

WHEW! SO THAT'S ALL SHE MEANT! WHAT A RELIEF! AND NOW... OH NO! UP AHEAD!! JUST MY LUCK!!



BETTY, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL MR. JAMESON! LET'S GO BACK FOR A MINUTE AND... UH...

PETER! WHAT ON EARTH...? OH, SOMEONE IS CALLING YOU!



PETEY! IT'S ME, LIZ! COME HERE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

DOES THAT SQUARE HAVE TO POP UP WHEREVER WE GO?

GOSH, I'M SORRY, BETTY! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT LIZ! I HOPED WE COULD GET AWAY BEFORE SHE SAW US!

OH, STOP THE ACT, "PETEY"! YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSING ME ONE BIT!

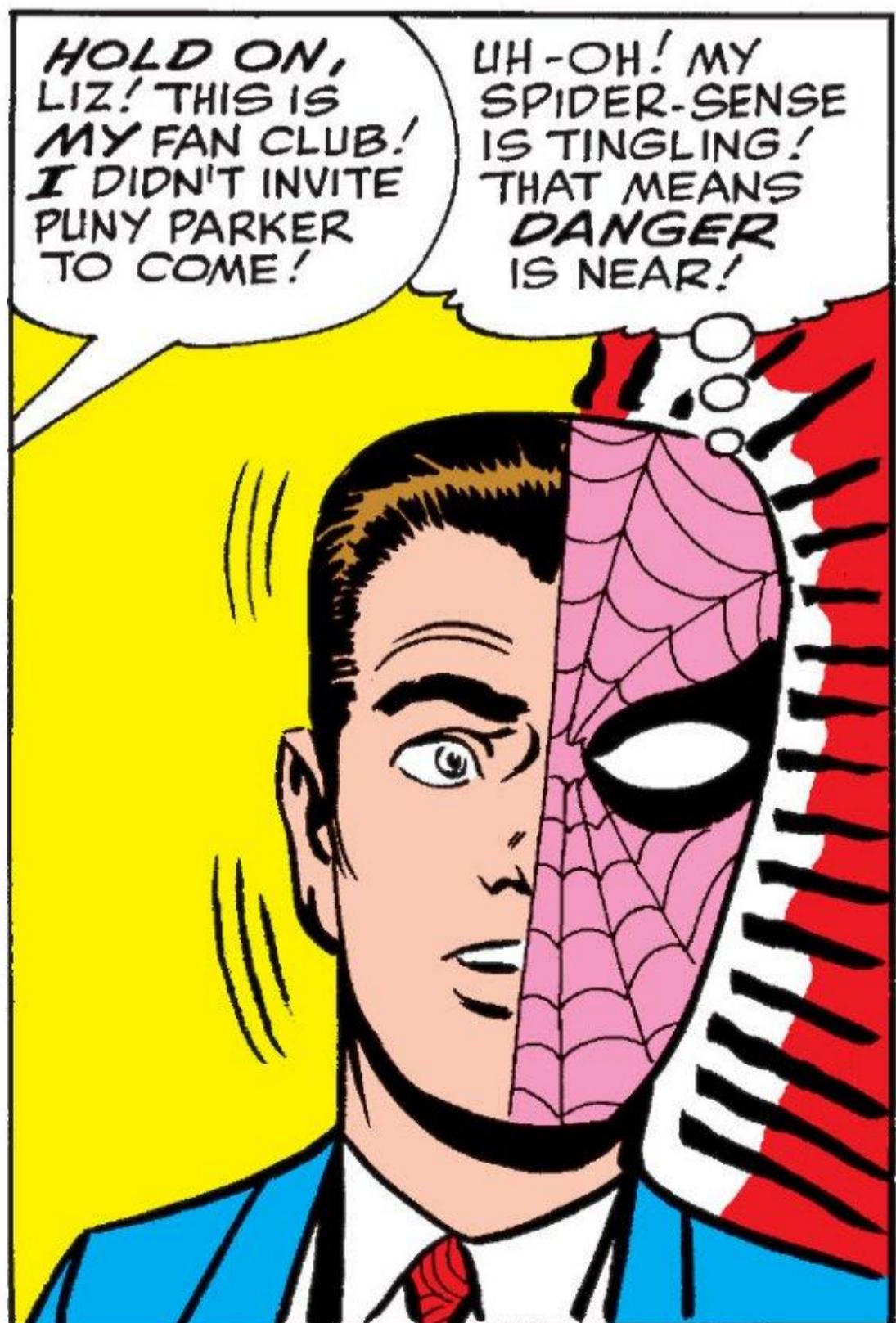
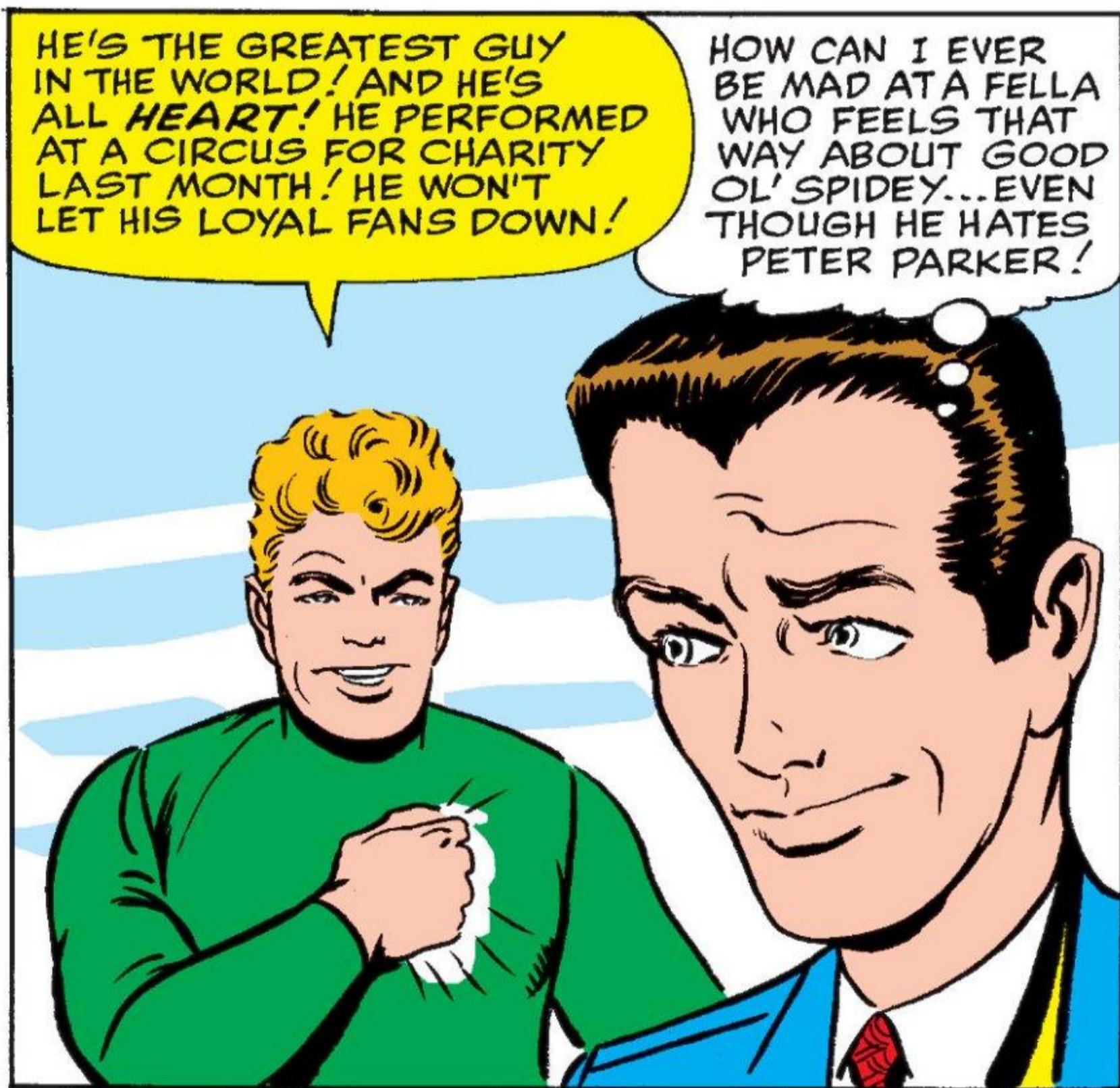
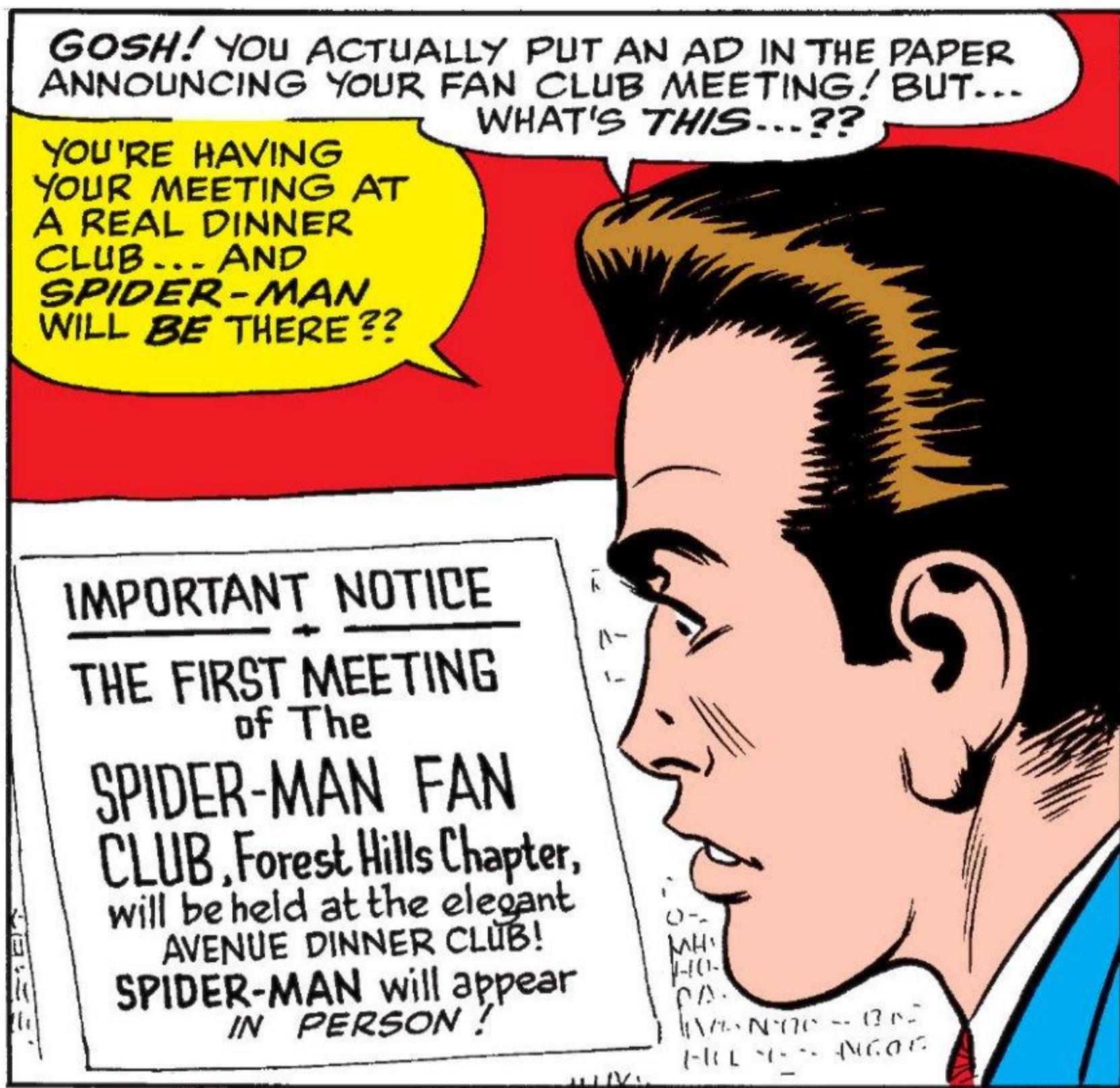


MMMM, PUTTING ON SOME WEIGHT, AREN'T YOU, MISS BRANT? HERE, PETEY... I WANT YOU TO READ THIS!

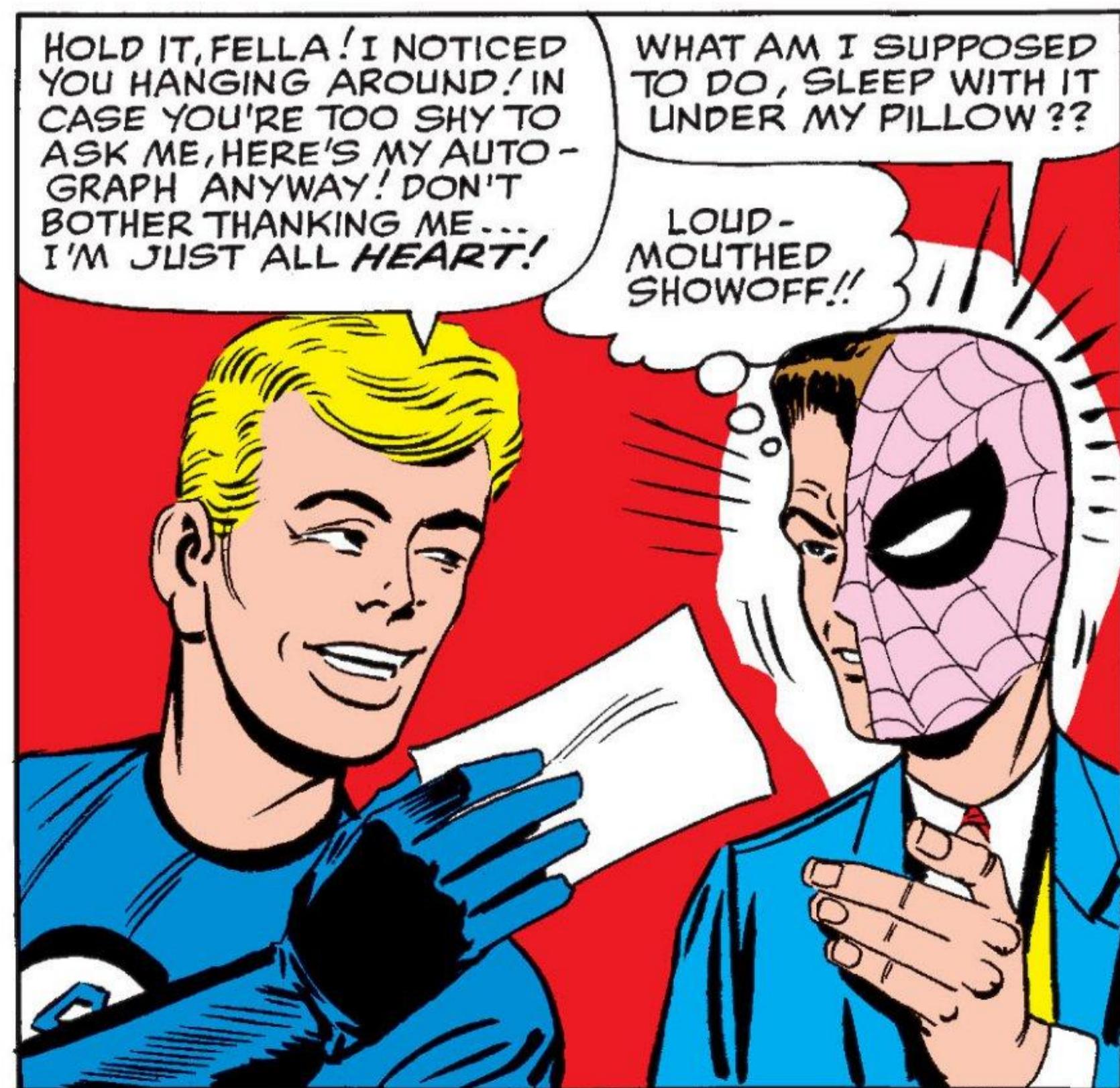
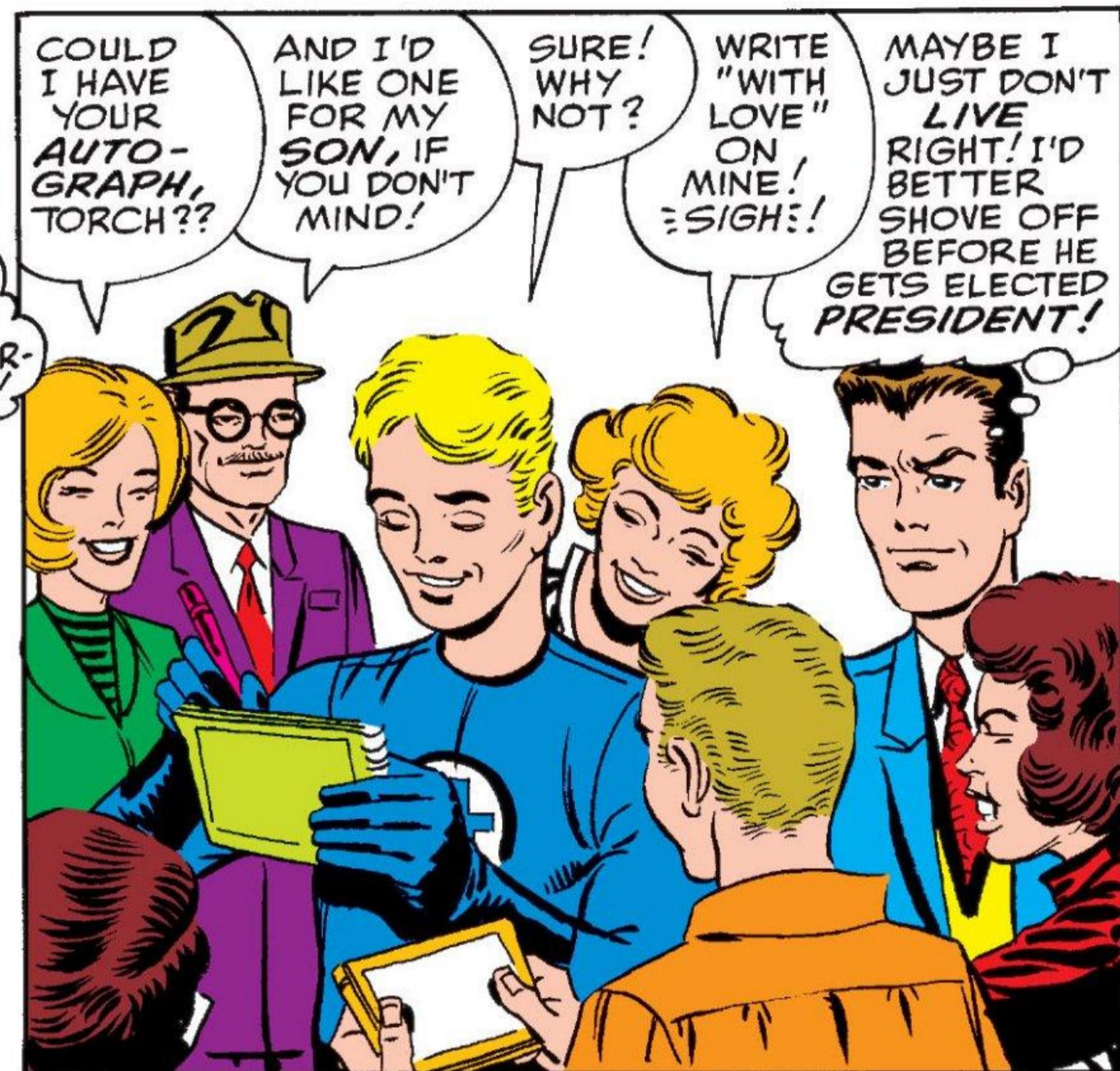
IT'S ABOUT THE SPIDER-MAN FAN CLUB!

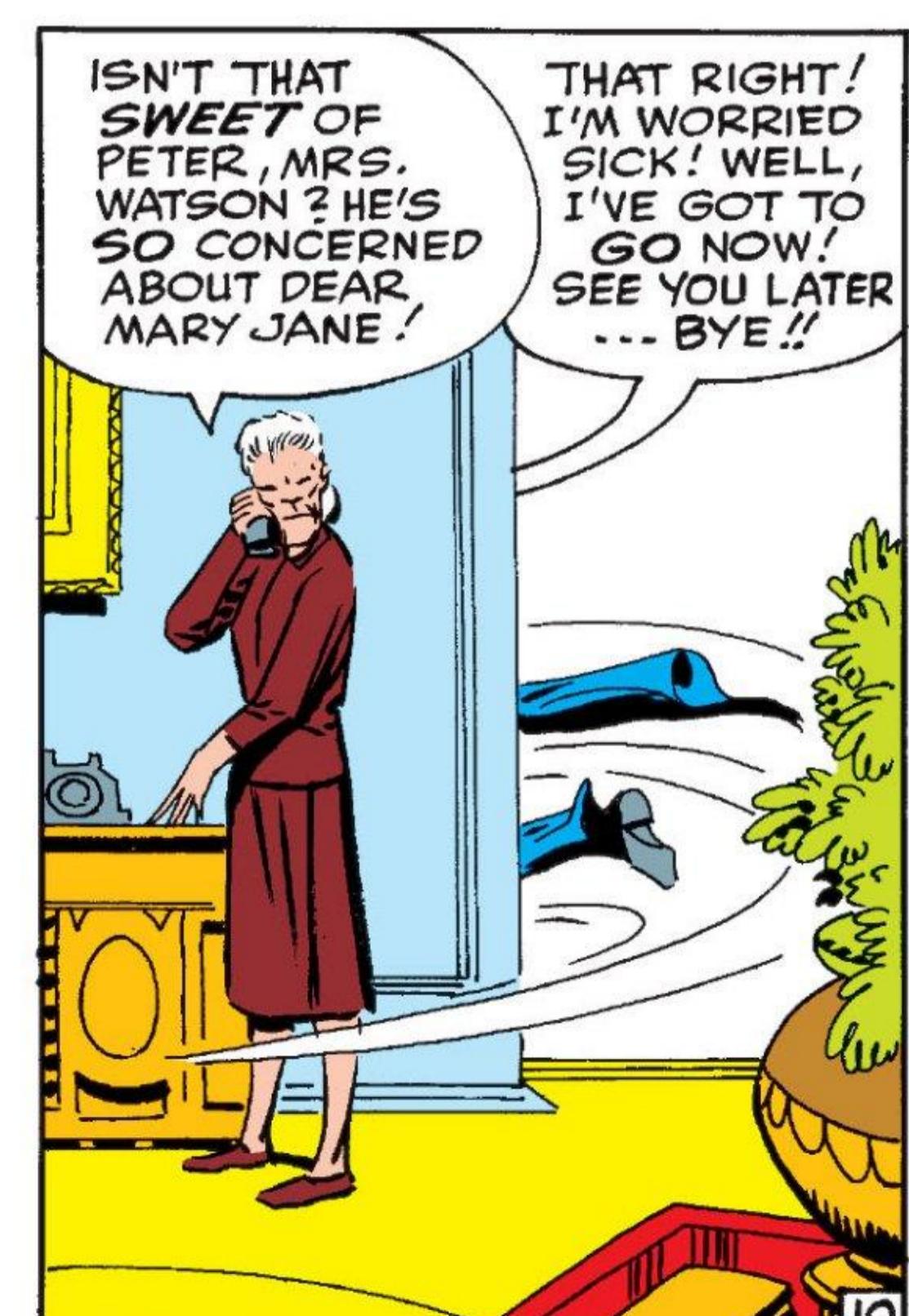
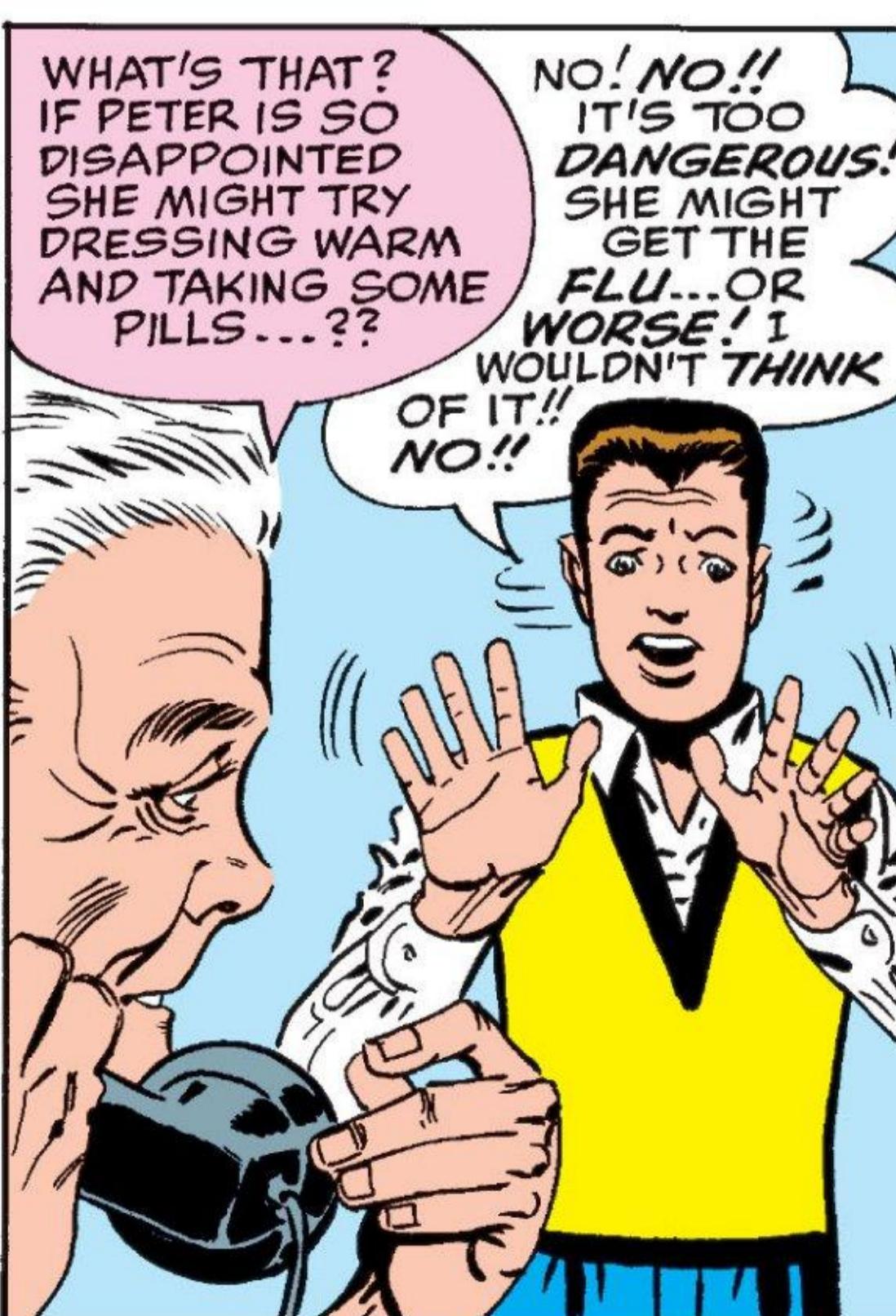
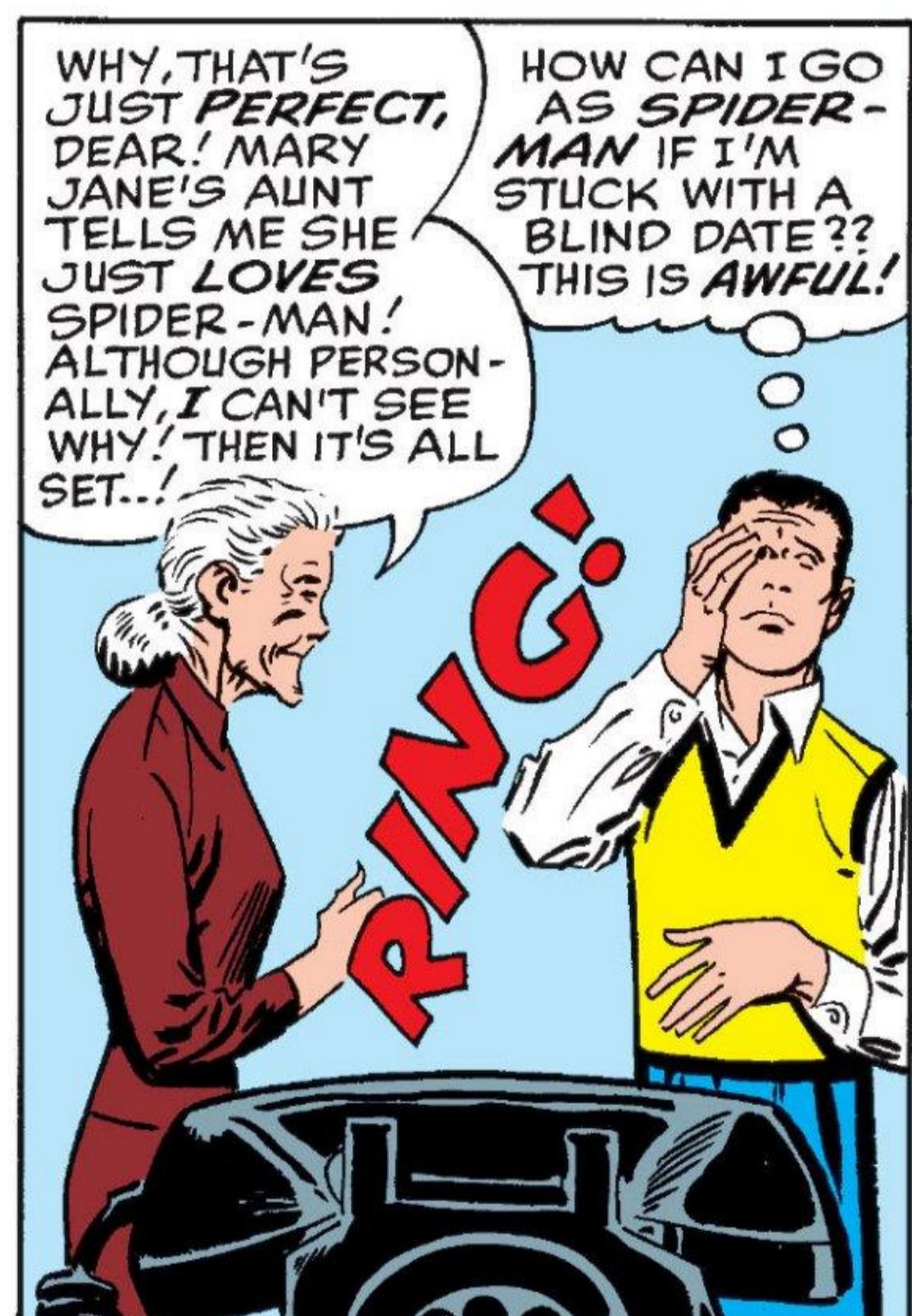
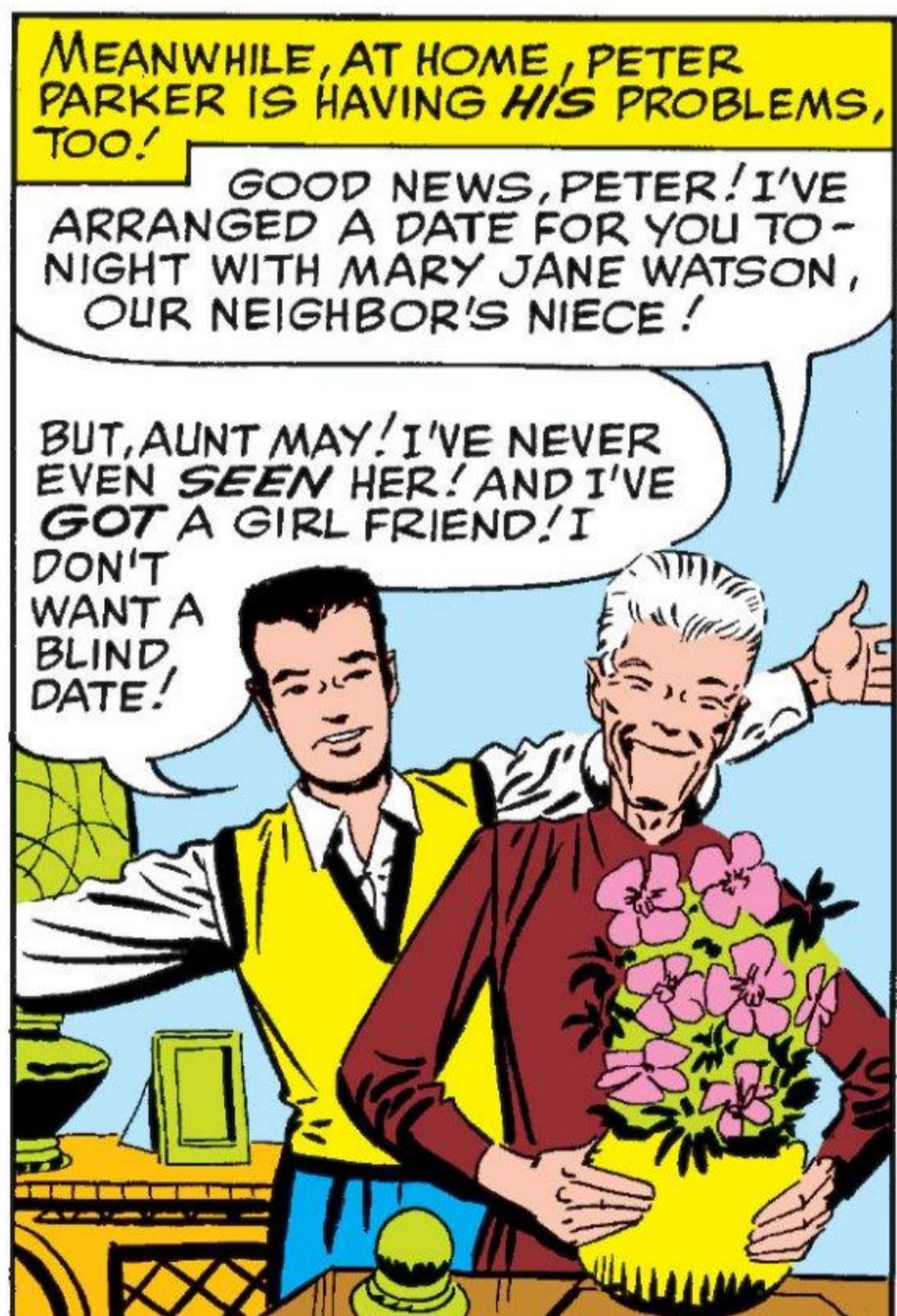
OHHHH! WHEN SHE CALLS ME "MISS BRANT" I FEEL A HUNDRED YEARS OLD!!











LATER, AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF THE AVENUE DINNER CLUB...

IT WAS SO NICE OF YOU TO LEND US YOUR CLUB FOR OUR SPIDER-MAN FANS MEETING PLACE, DAD!

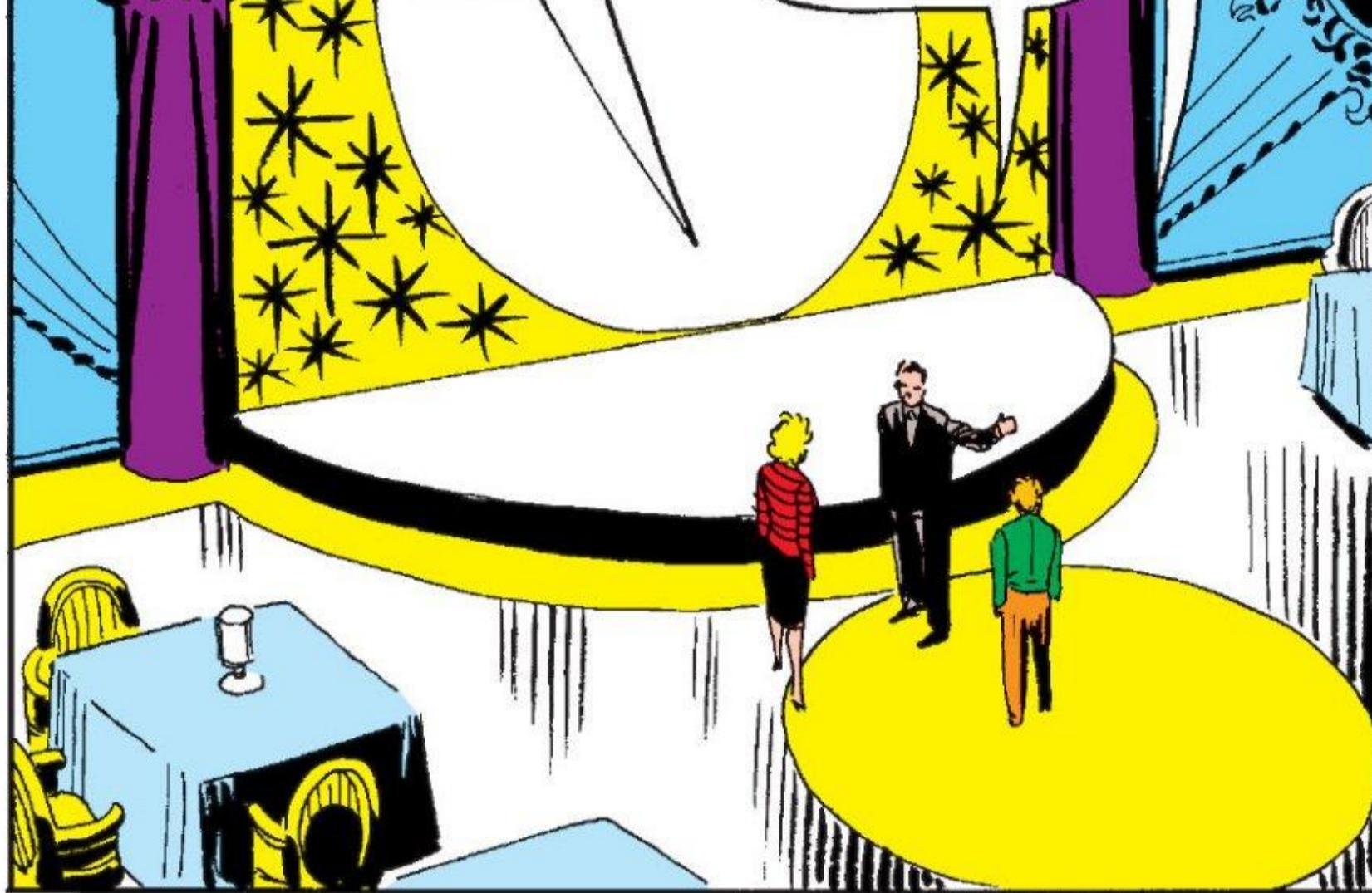
WE SURE APPRECIATE IT, MR. BRANT!

IT'S A PLEASURE!

BESIDES, I'M NOT COMPLETELY UN-SELFISH! IF THERE'S A BIG TURNOUT, IT'LL BE GOOD PUBLICITY FOR MY CLUB! AND THAT MEANS A BIG BOOST IN BUSINESS LATER!

THE FANS SHOULD START ARRIVING SOON! DO YOU THINK SPIDER-MAN WILL REALLY SHOW UP IN PERSON?

WE HOPE SO! HE'S SURE TO HAVE SEEN THE NOTICE IN THE PAPER!



AND, A SHORT TIME LATER...

WOW! WHAT A TURNOUT! HALF OF FOREST HILLS MUST BE HERE! BUT WHERE'S SPIDEY?

I DUNNO! JUST KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, CHARLIE!

I WONDER WHY PETEY HASN'T SHOWN UP YET?! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT TO...!

WHILE, ON A ROOFTOP NEARBY...

THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE! IF I MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION IN THERE, MAYBE PEOPLE WILL STOP DIS-TRUSTING ME AND START LIKING ME THE WAY THEY LIKE THE TORCH!

I FEEL LIKE A NERVOUS ACTOR ON OPENING NIGHT!



AND, SPIDEY MIGHT BE STILL MORE NERVOUS IF HE COULD SEE THE STRANGE FIGURE ACROSS TOWN WHO IS SILENTLY SPEEDING TOWARDS THE SAME DESTINATION...



BUT, AS THE CROWD IMPATIENTLY WAITS FOR THE HERALDED APPEARANCE OF THE TEEN-AGE ADVENTURER, WE FIND THAT THERE ARE OTHER FAMILIAR FACES AMONG THOSE ASSEMBLED...

NOW, REMEMBER YOUR PROMISE, JOHNNY STORM! YOU'RE JUST HERE TO SEE SPIDER-MAN --- NOT TO COMPETE WITH HIM!

DON'T WORRY, DORRIE! THE ONLY FLAME TONIGHT WILL BE THE ONE IN MY HEART, BURNING FOR YOU!

WHY ISN'T PARKER HERE, MISS BRANT?? DIDN'T YOU GIVE HIM MY MESSAGE??

EH, NO, MR. JAMESON! I COULDN'T! HE WASN'T IN WHEN I CALLED!

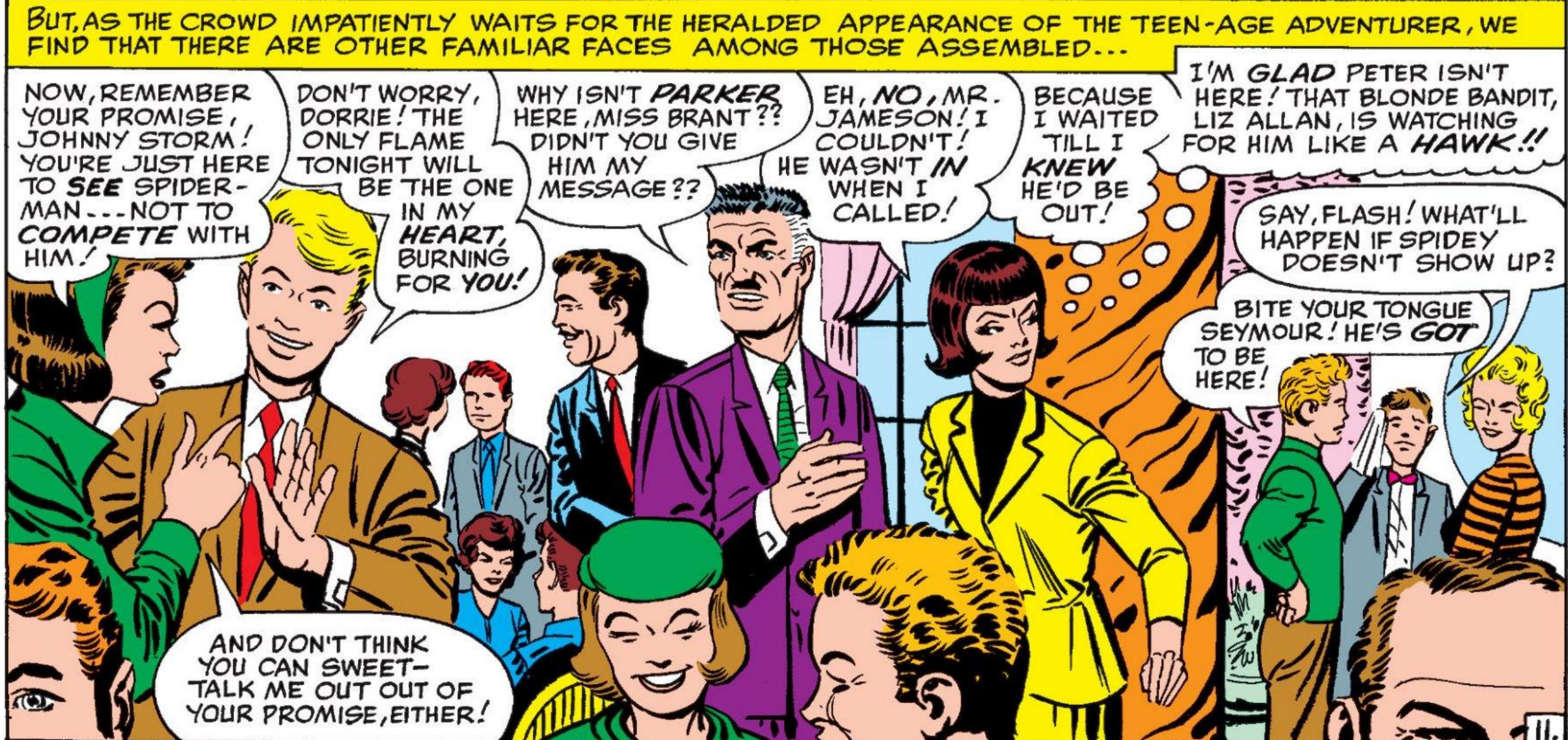
BECAUSE I WAITED TILL I KNEW HE'D BE OUT!

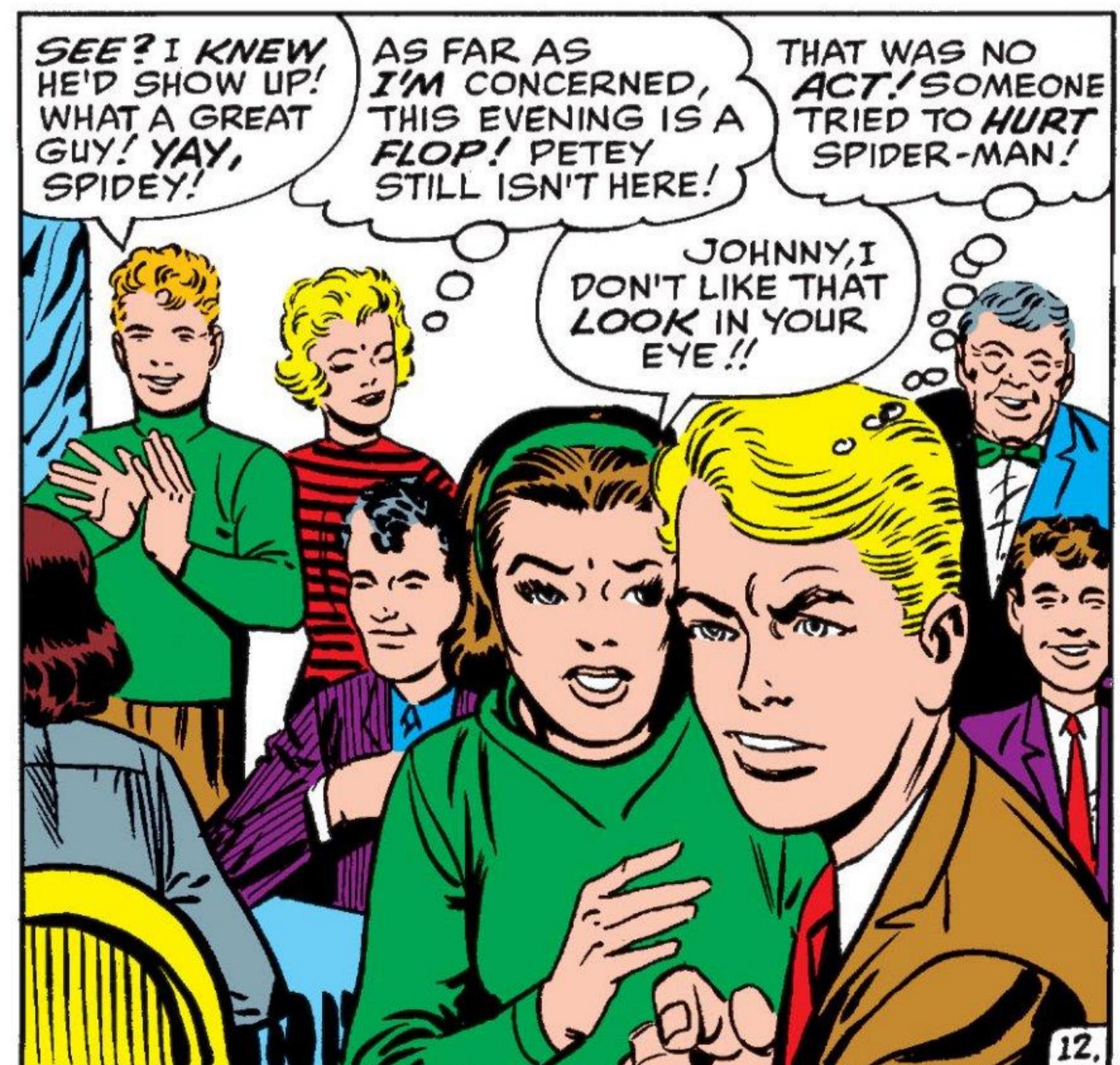
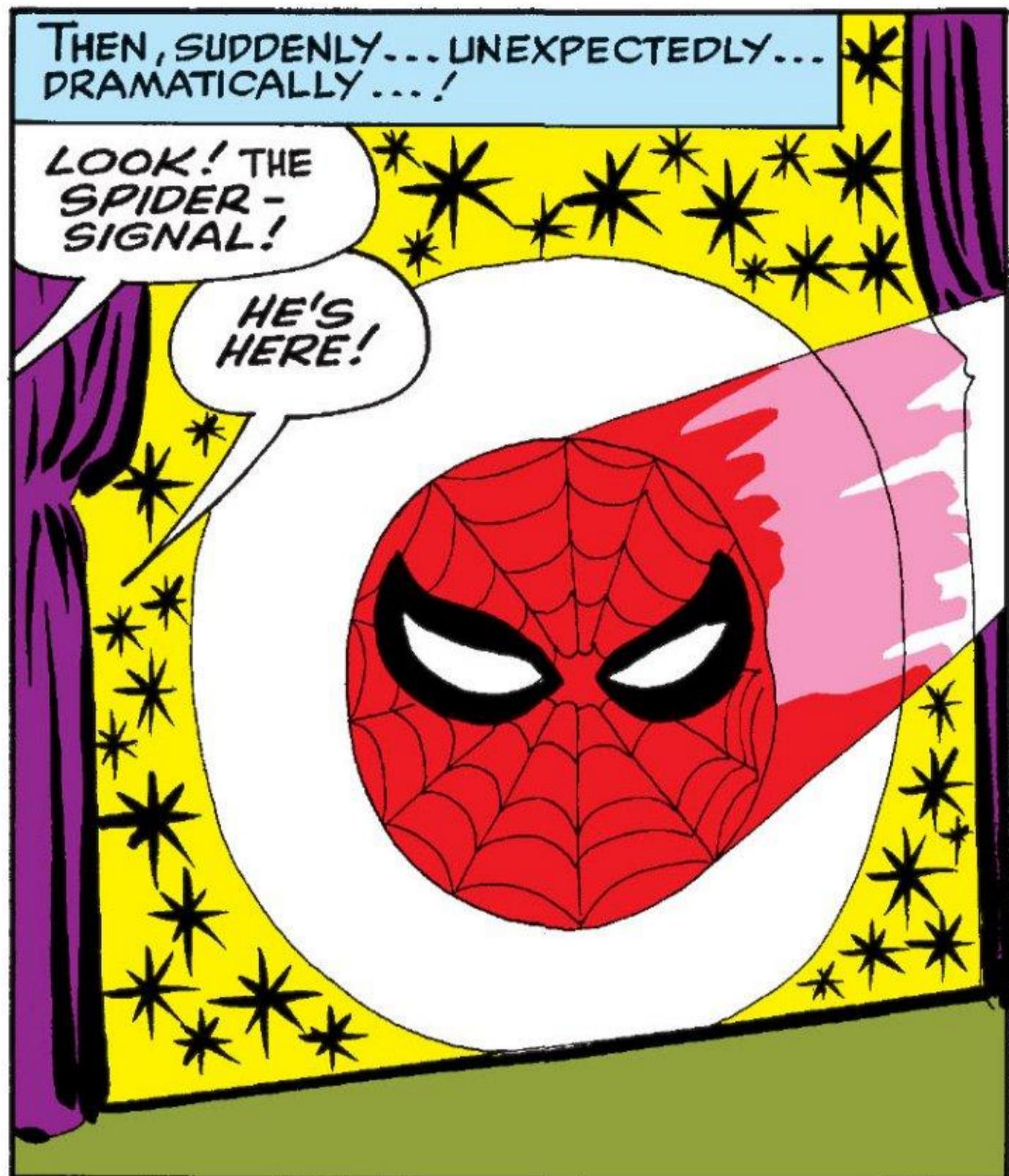
I'M GLAD PETER ISN'T HERE! THAT BLONDE BANDIT, LIZ ALLAN, IS WATCHING FOR HIM LIKE A HAWK!!

SAY, FLASH! WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF SPIDEY DOESN'T SHOW UP?

BITE YOUR TONGUE SEYMOUR! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE!

AND DON'T THINK YOU CAN SWEET-TALK ME OUT OUT OF YOUR PROMISE, EITHER!





THEN, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
THE GREEN GOBLIN
MAKES HIS UNEXPECTED
APPEARANCE ...!

HOLY SMOKE! THE
GREEN GOBLIN!
NOW I'M IN
FOR IT!!

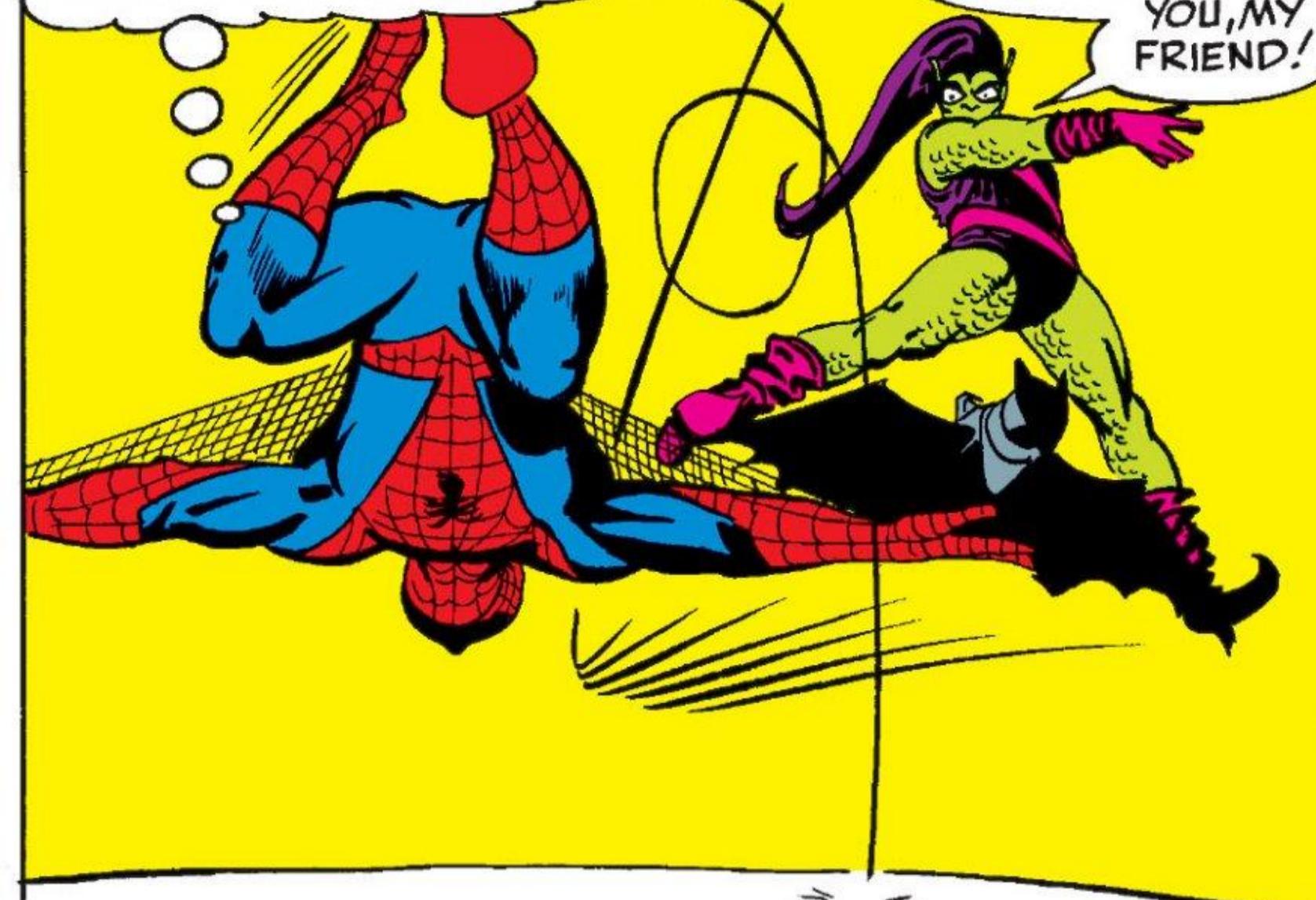


NOW, SPIDER -
MAN... WE'LL
REALLY GIVE
THEM A SHOW!



I'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS STILL SEEM
LIKE JUST AN ACT! IF THE AUDIENCE
PANICS, SOME OF THEM COULD BE
HURT IN THE RUSH!

I'VE GOT A
WHOLE BAG -
FULL OF NEW
SURPRISES FOR
YOU, MY
FRIEND!

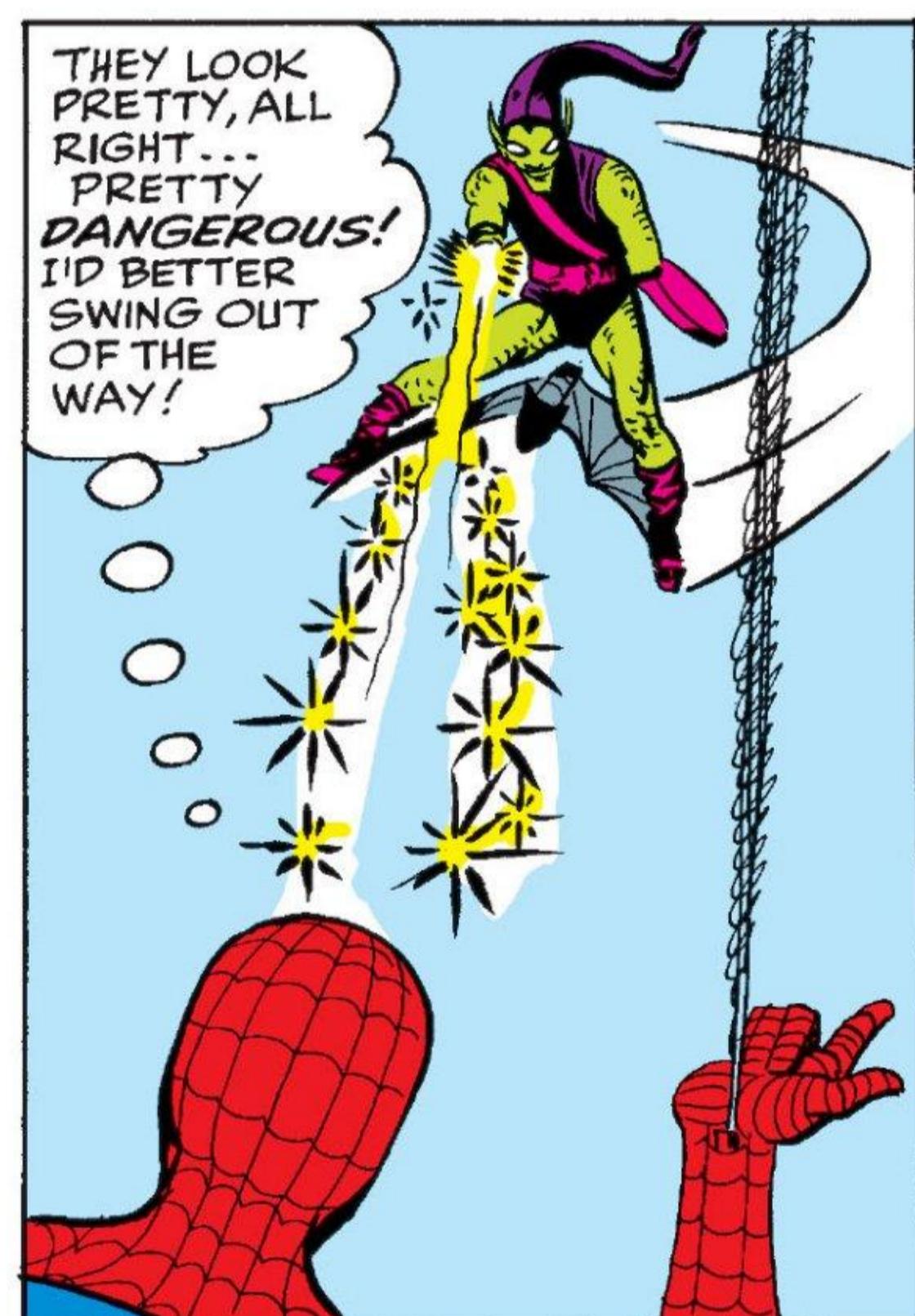


AND HERE'S THE FIRST!
SEE HOW MY GOBLIN SPARKS
START SPARKLING AS SOON
AS I PRESS A BUTTON
ON MY BELT!!

SEE HOW PRETTY
THEY LOOK,
GLISTENING
IN THE AIR!

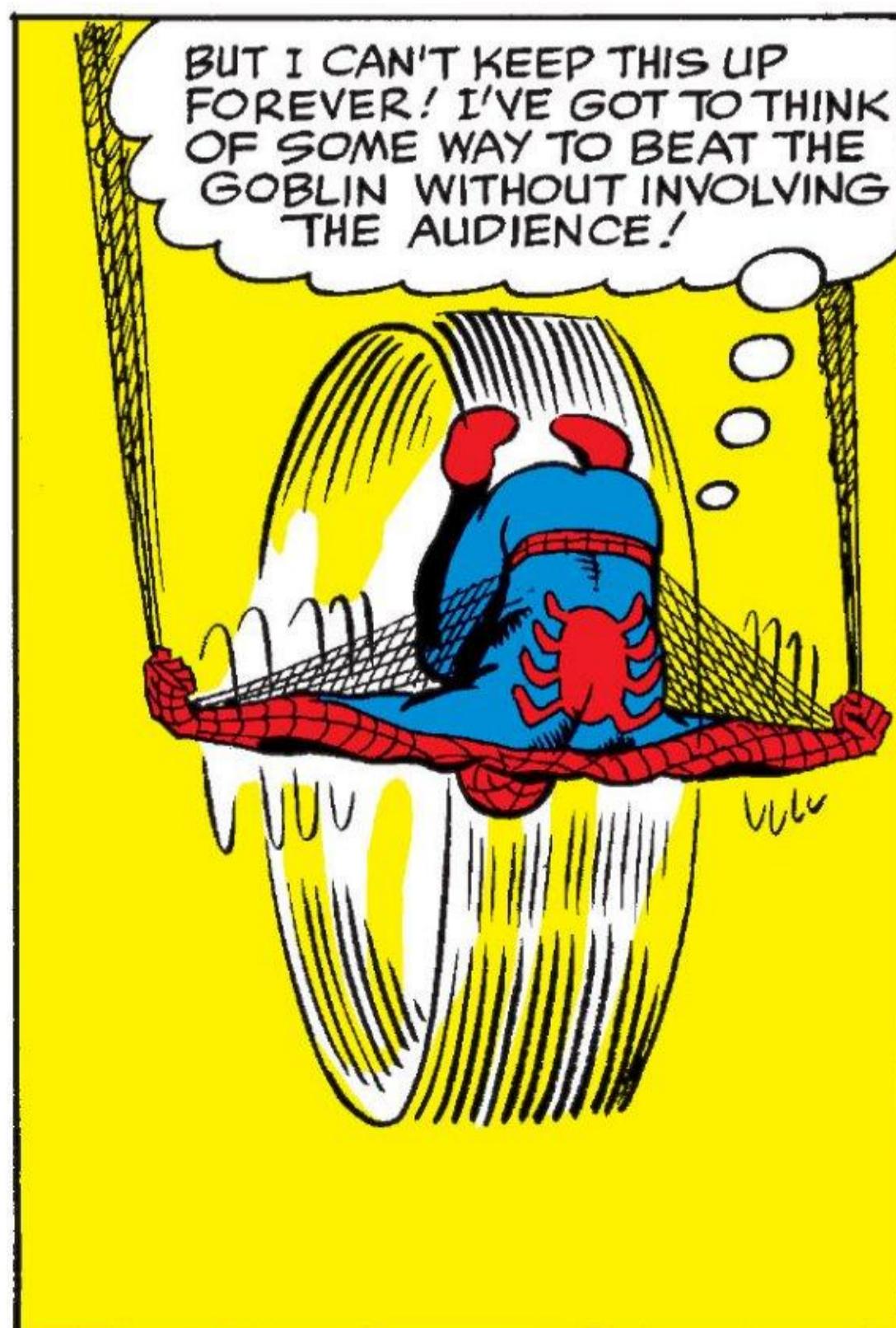
WOULD YOU
LIKE A
CLOSER
LOOK AT THEM?
I'LL BE GLAD
TO OBLIGE!

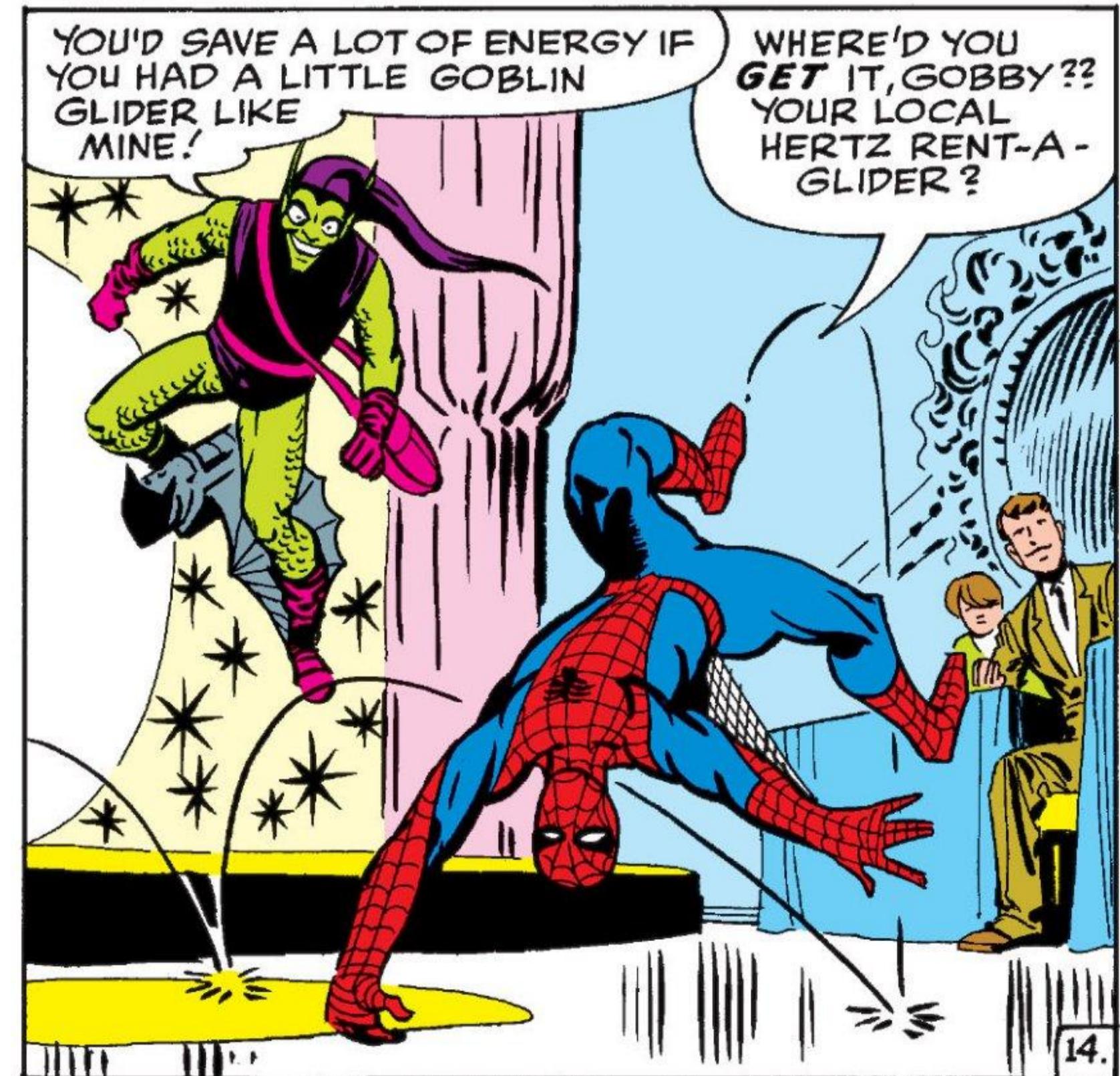
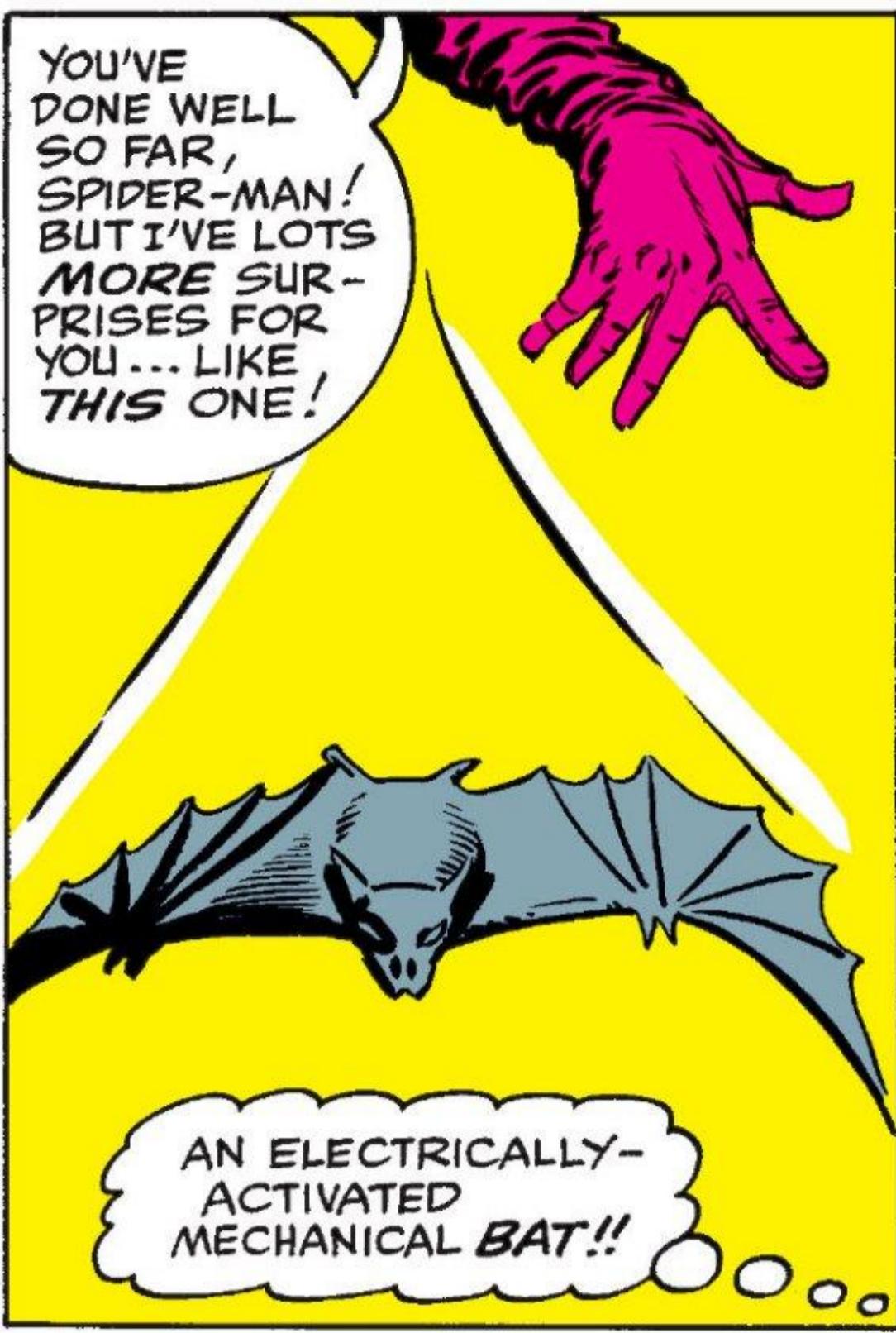
THEY LOOK
PRETTY, ALL
RIGHT...
PRETTY
DANGEROUS!
I'D BETTER
SWING OUT
OF THE
WAY!

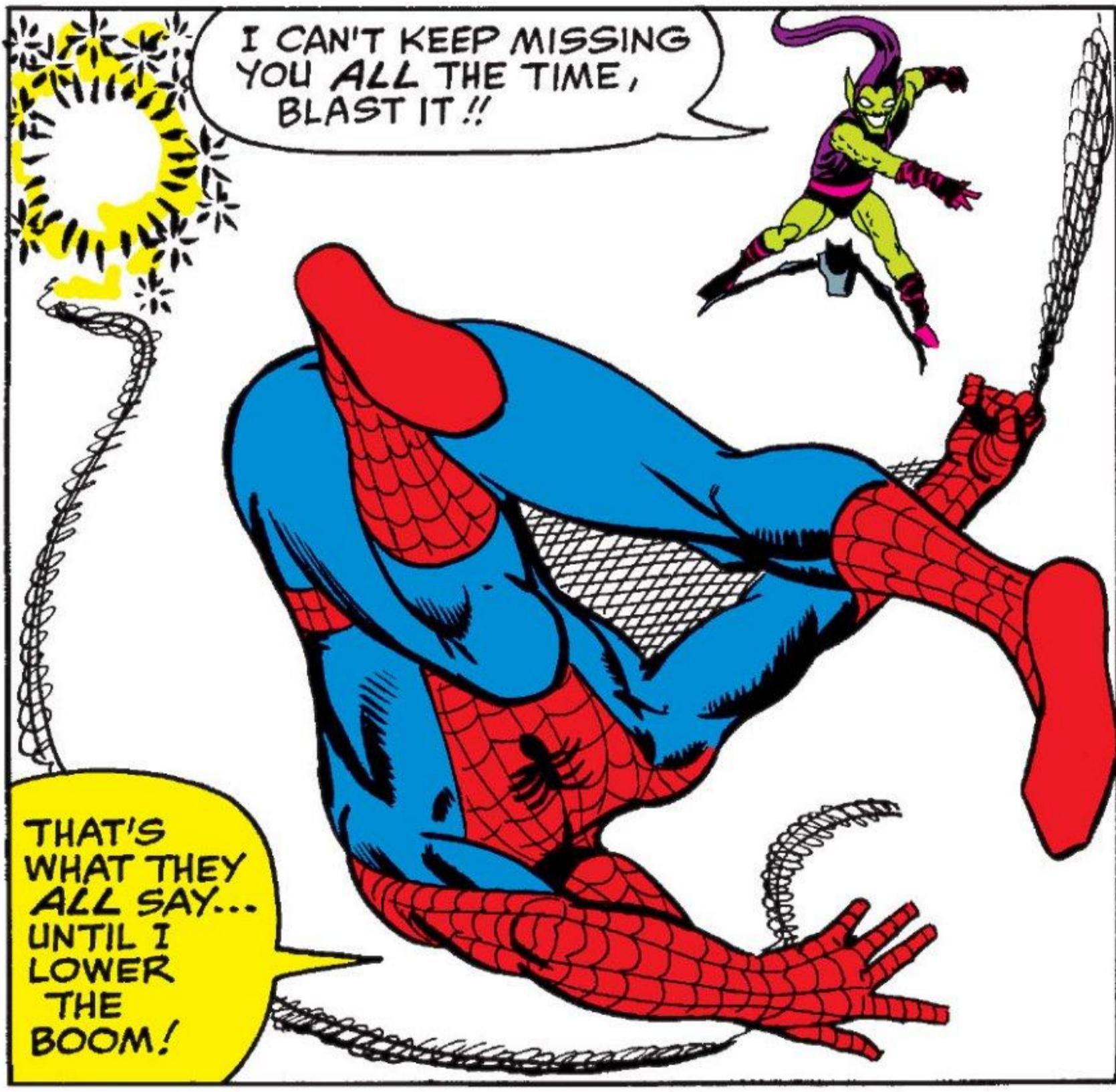
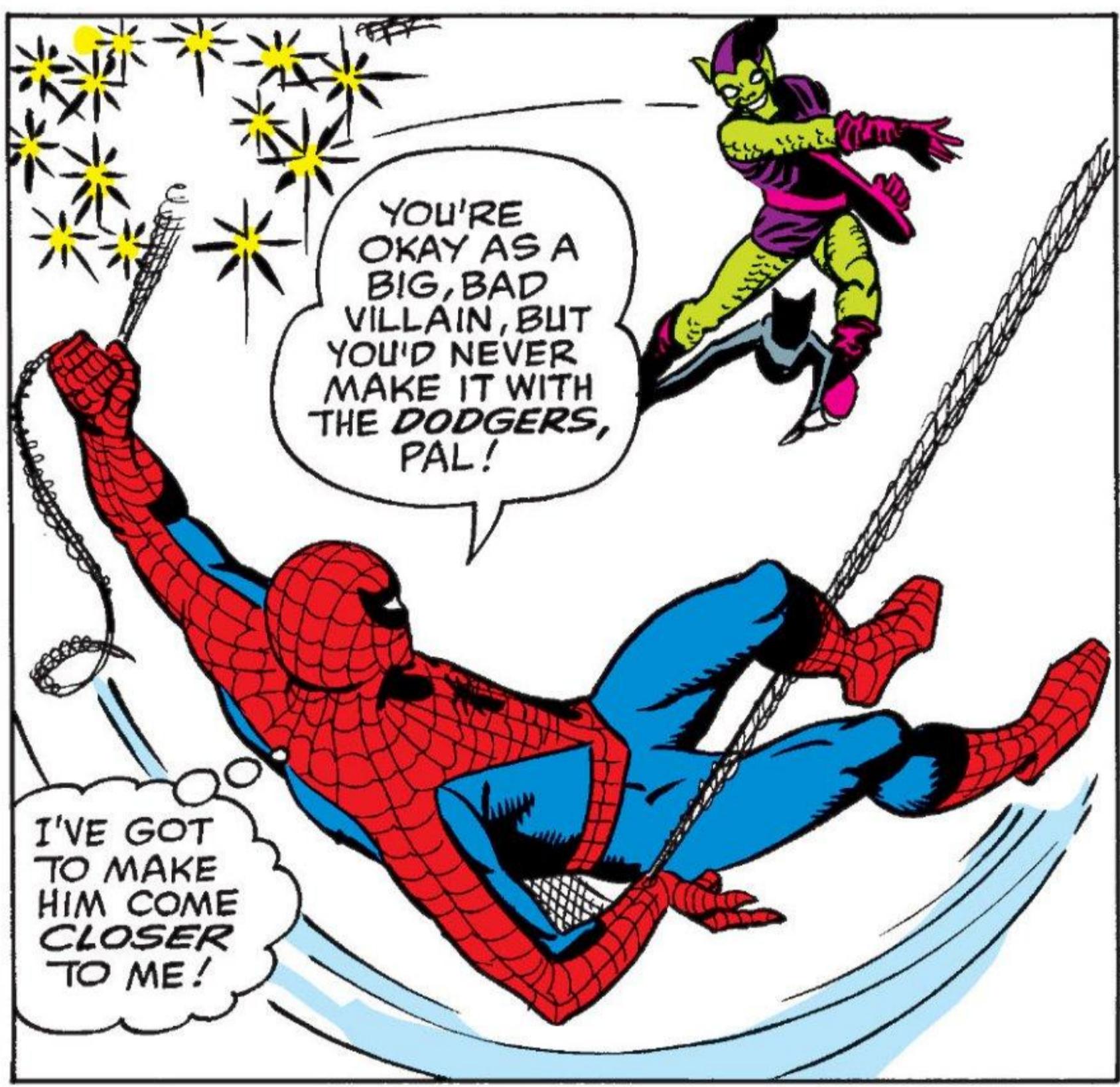
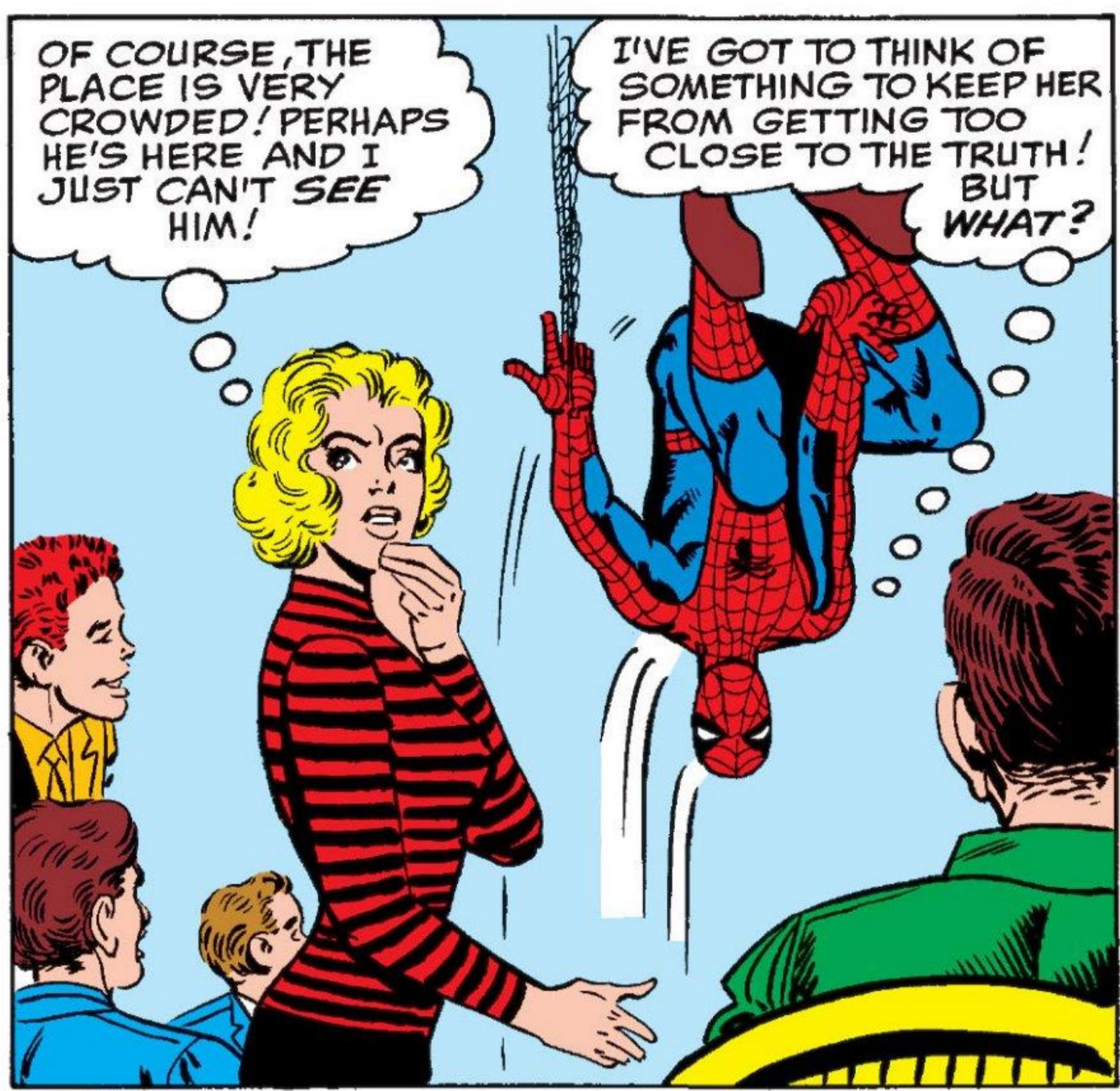
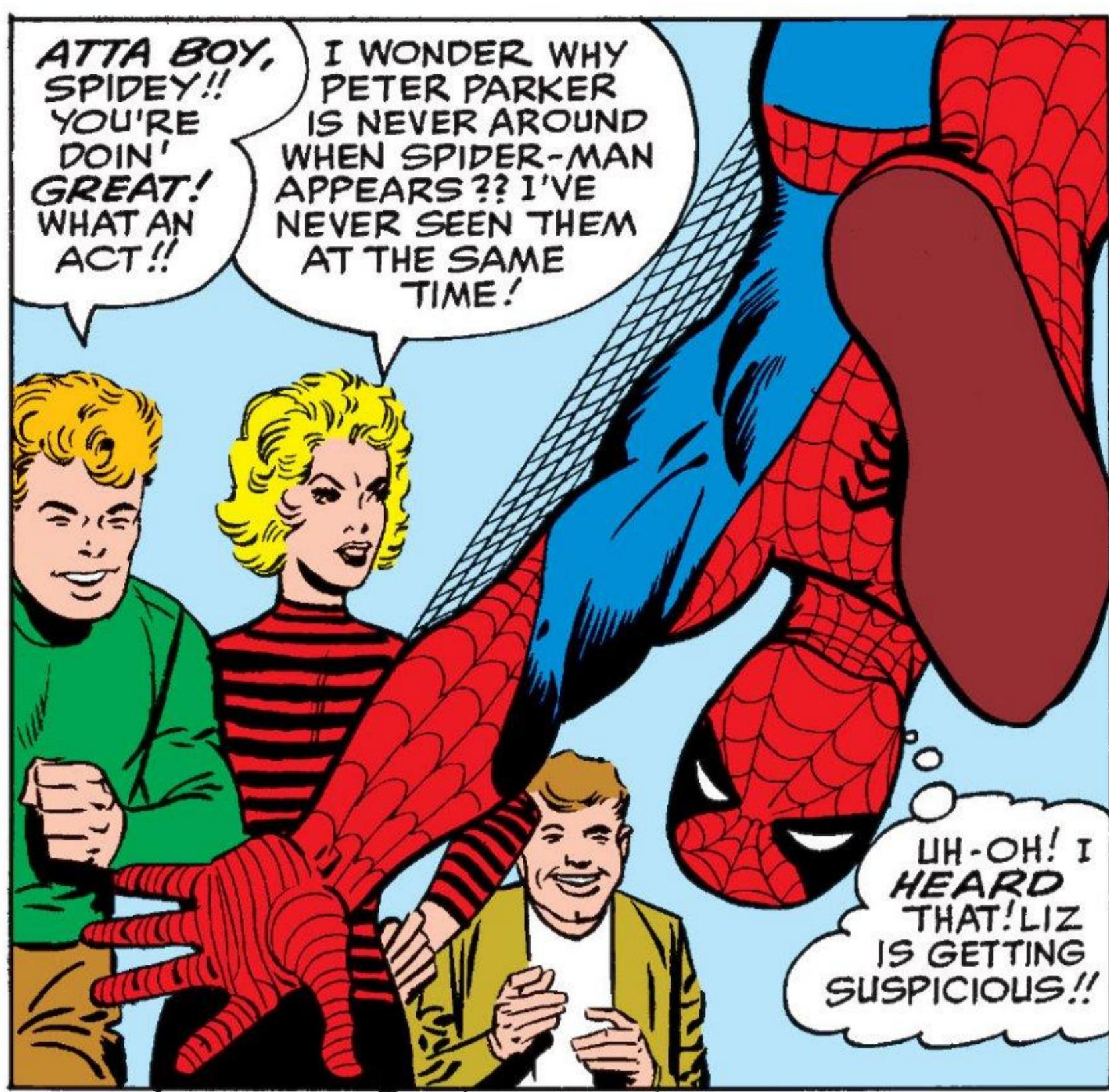


YAY!! WHAT
AN
ACT!!
MORE!
GIVE US
MORE!!

SO FAR, SO
GOOD! AS
LONG AS THEY
DON'T SUSPECT
THIS IS FOR
REAL!!







BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SHARP-EYED JOHNNY STORM NOTICES THE DANGEROUS GLINT OF THREE GUN BARRELS IN THE BALCONY ABOVE...

HERE! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES...

JOHNNY STORM! YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T TRY TO GET INTO THE ACT! IF YOU DON'T SIT RIGHT DOWN AGAIN...

I CAN'T! THIS LOOKS SERIOUS! STAY BACK!



C'MON! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO BREAK INTO THE CASHIER'S SAFE UP HERE, WHILE EVERYONE'S WATCHIN' THOSE CLOWNS DOWN BELOW!

I'D LIKE TO FINISH OFF THAT CRUMMY SPIDER-MAN FIRST!



SUDDENLY, A DRAMATIC CRY RINGS OUT, AS A FLAMING FLYING FIGURE BLAZES UPWARD...

FLAME ON!

DORRIE WILL BE MAD AS A HORNET, BUT I'VE JUST GOT TO DO THIS!

LOOK! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!

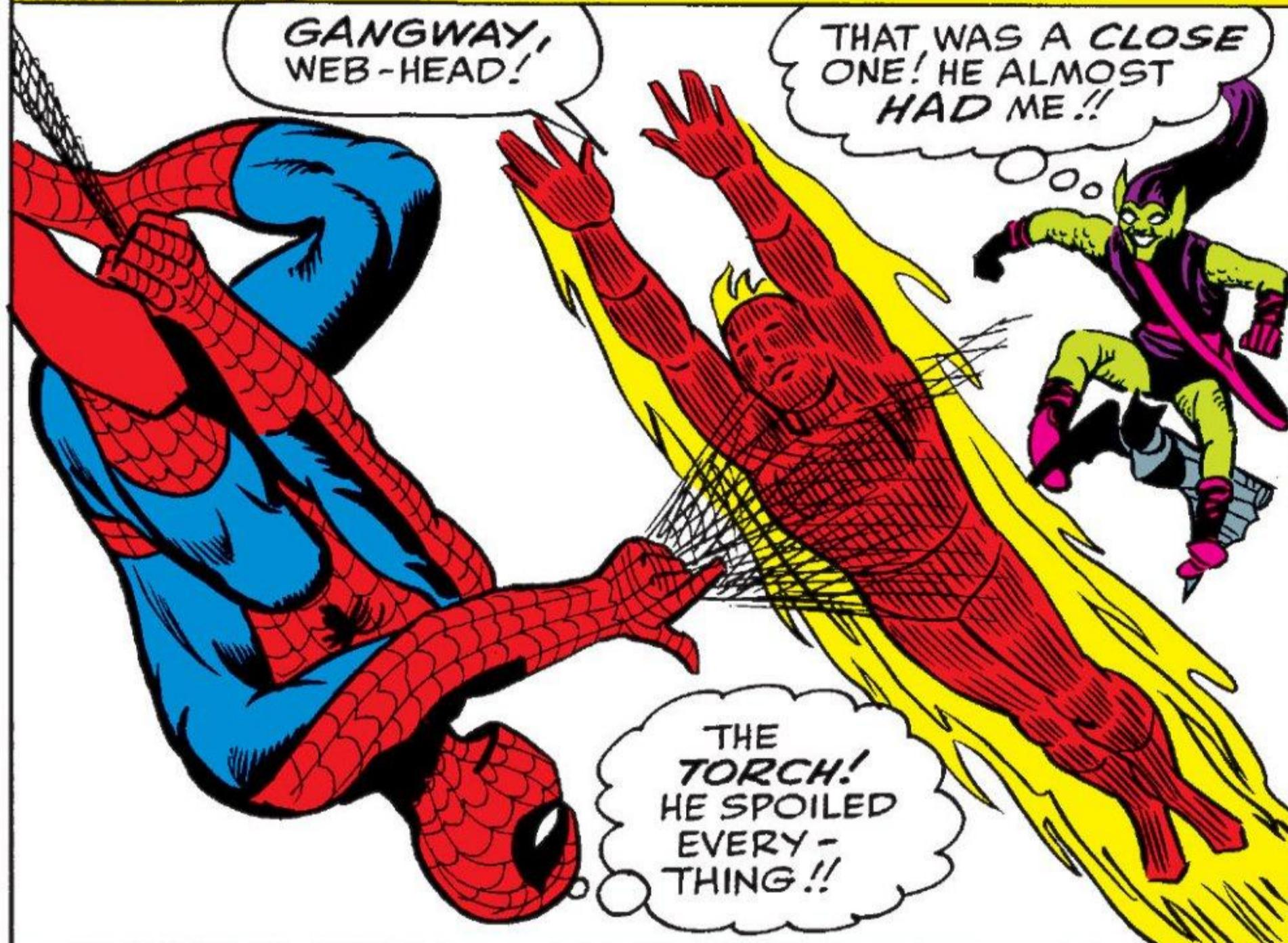


BUT, WHILE STREAKING TOWARDS THE THREE GUNMEN, THE TORCH UNWITTINGLY BLAZES THROUGH SPIDEY'S WEBBING, SPOILING OUR HERO'S PLAN TO TRAP THE GREEN GOBLIN!

GANGWAY, WEB-HEAD!

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! HE ALMOST HAD ME!!

THE TORCH! HE SPOILED EVERYTHING!!



WHO INVITED THAT HUMAN MATCHSTICK TO BUTT IN?!!

GET LOST, TORCH! THIS IS A PRIVATE PARTY!!

AW, CLAM UP, FLASH! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO SPOIL ALL THE FUN?!!

YAY, TORCH! GIVE IT TO 'EM, YOU OL' FIRE-EATER!!



THE TORCH SPOTTED US! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

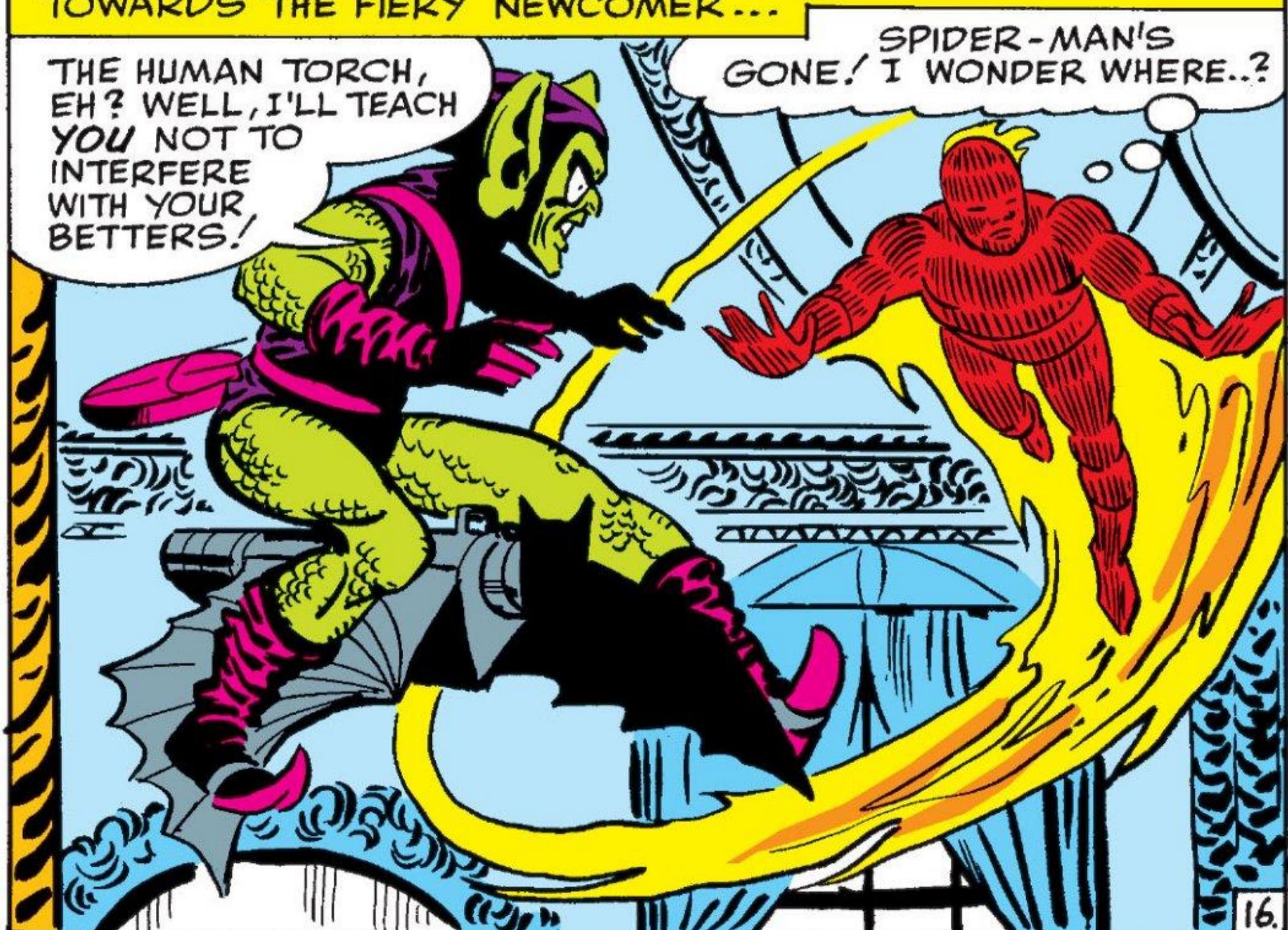
THIS DOES IT!! I'M TAKIN' THE PLEDGE! I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT!



NOT REALIZING WHY THE HUMAN TORCH HAS ENTERED THE SCENE, THE GREEN GOBLIN ANGRILY TURNS HIS ATTENTION TOWARDS THE FIERY NEWCOMER...

THE HUMAN TORCH, EH? WELL, I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR BETTERS!

SPIDER-MAN'S GONE! I WONDER WHERE..?



FOR THE ANSWER TO THE TORCH'S UN-SPOKEN QUESTION, LET'S TURN OUR ATTENTION TO A YOUTH WHO BREATHLESSLY RACES TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE ...



HI, LIZ! I THOUGHT I SAW YOU FROM ACROSS THE ROOM!

OH, PETEY! THEN YOU WERE HERE! I'M SO GLAD!

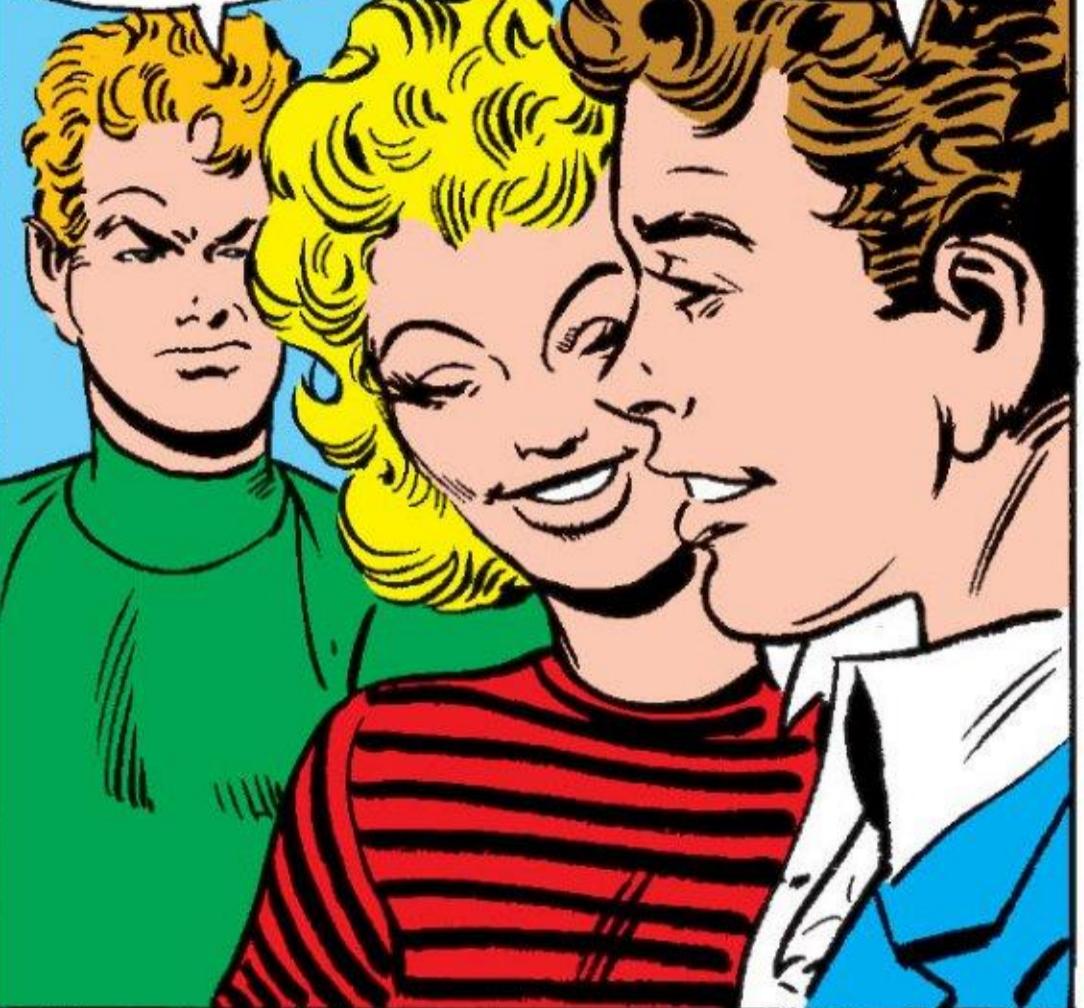
FIRST THE PESTY TORCH, AND NOW PUNY PARKER! THIS PLACE IS FILLING UP WITH A BUNCH OF DEAD-HEADS!



PETEY, I'M SURE I CAN TALK FLASH INTO LETTING YOU JOIN HIS SPIDER-MAN FAN CLUB!

AW, C'MON, LIZ! IF WE ACCEPT HIM, WE'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT ANYBODY!

FORGET IT, KIDS! I MAY START MY OWN CLUB... FOR THE GREEN GOBLIN!



ECHH! THAT CREEP IS AS FUNNY AS A SECOND-HAND CRUTCH!

YOU'VE SUCH A CUTE SENSE OF HUMOR, PETEY! BUT HOW DID YOUR HAIR GET SO MUSSED?

IT.. EH.. IT'S PRETTY WINDY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM!

NOW THAT I'VE SHOWN MYSELF, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE GOBLIN, FAST! BUT...

VIPES! LOOK WHO'S HERE!

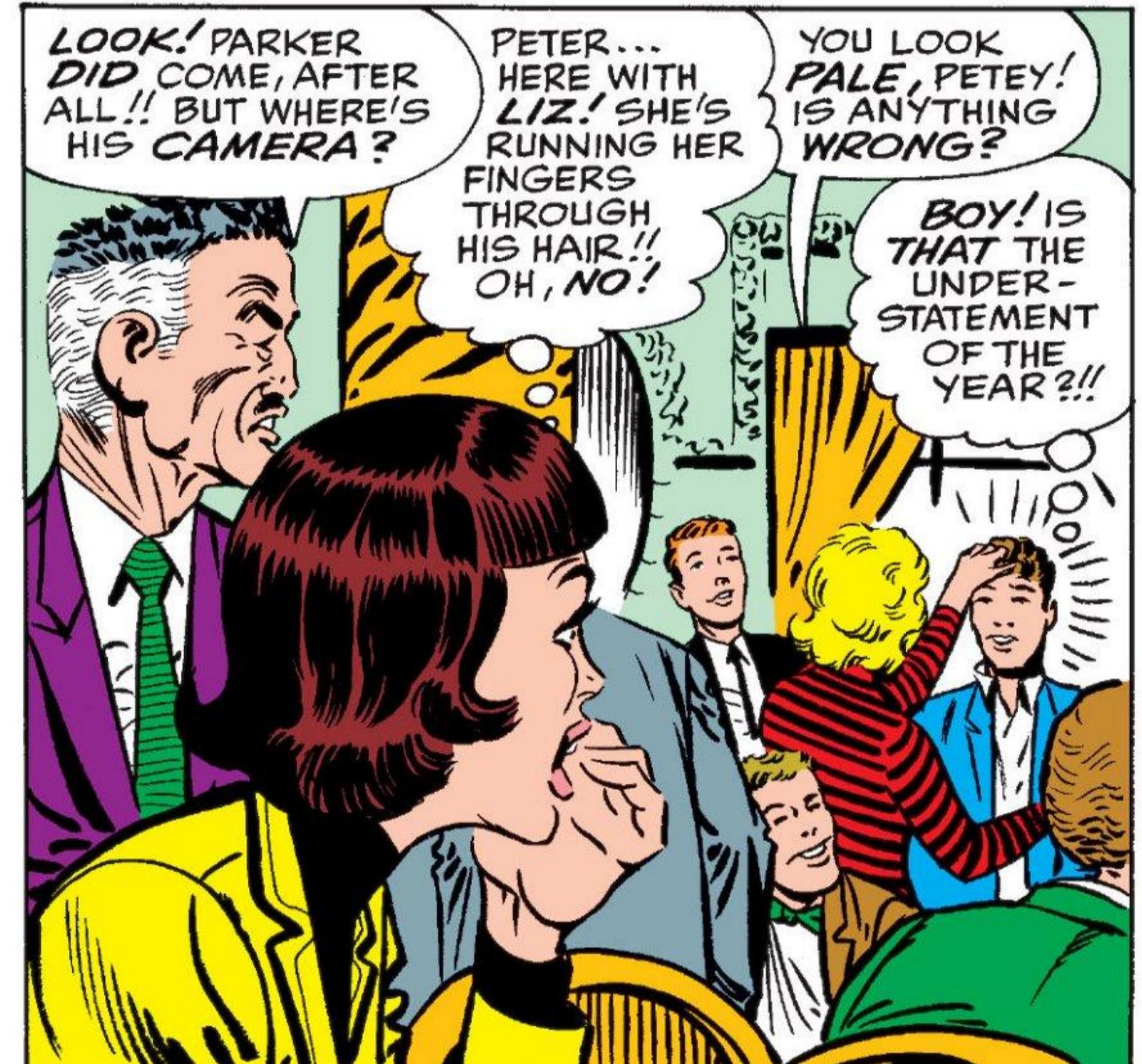


LOOK! PARKER DID COME, AFTER ALL!! BUT WHERE'S HIS CAMERA?

PETER... HERE WITH LIZ! SHE'S RUNNING HER FINGERS THROUGH HIS HAIR!! OH, NO!

YOU LOOK PALE, PETEY! IS ANYTHING WRONG?

BOY! IS THAT THE UNDER-STATEMENT OF THE YEAR??!



MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE EVERYONE'S HEADS, THE "SHOW" GOES ON!

I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THE TORCH QUICKLY, SO I CAN TURN MY ATTENTION TO SPIDER-MAN!

THIS LITTLE "GOBLIN SURPRISE" OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!



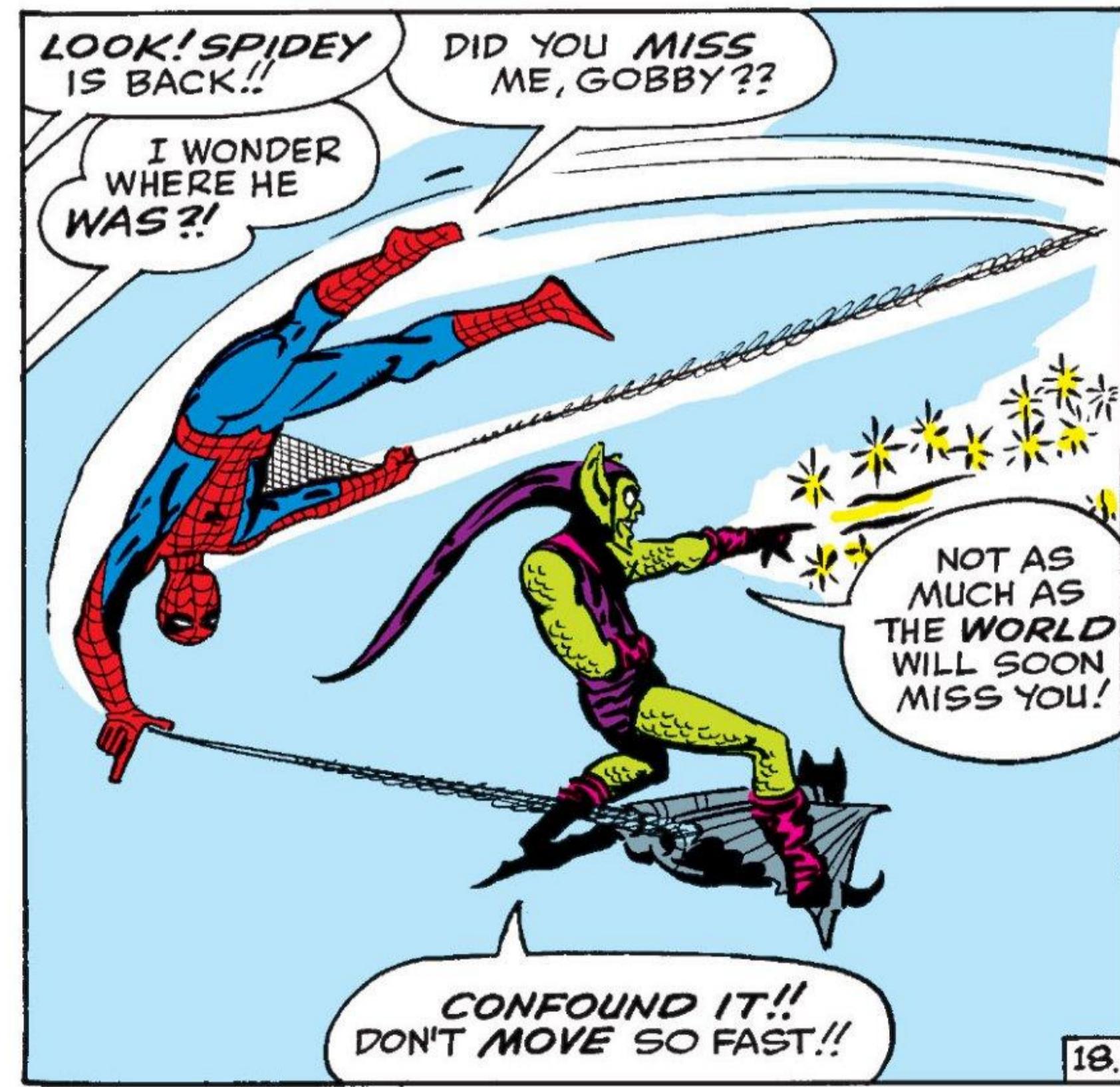
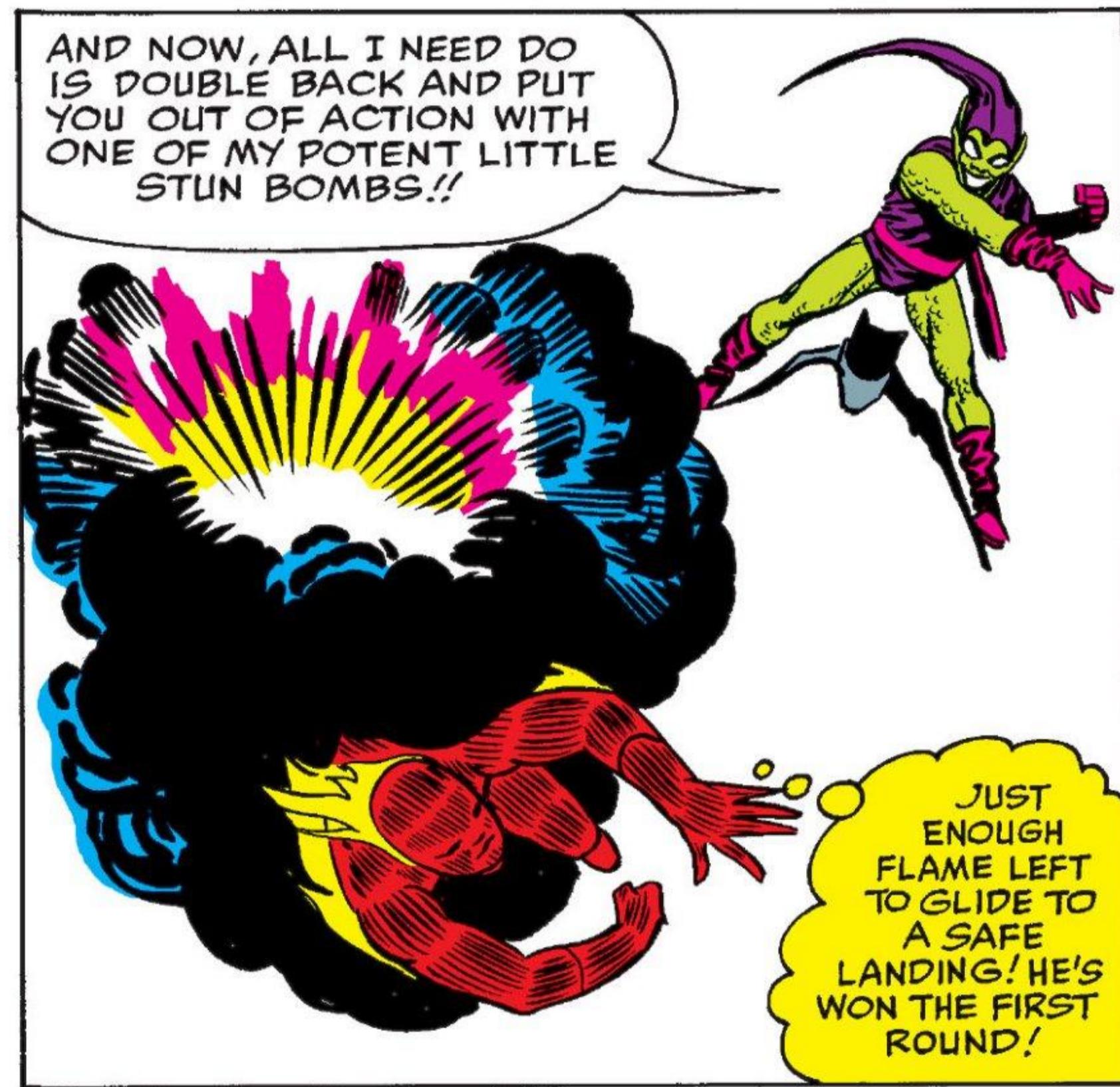
WHATEVER HE TOSSSED AT ME, IT FORMED AN AIR-TIGHT CLOUD SEAL, CUTTING OFF MY AIR! IT'LL PUT MY FLAME OUT!

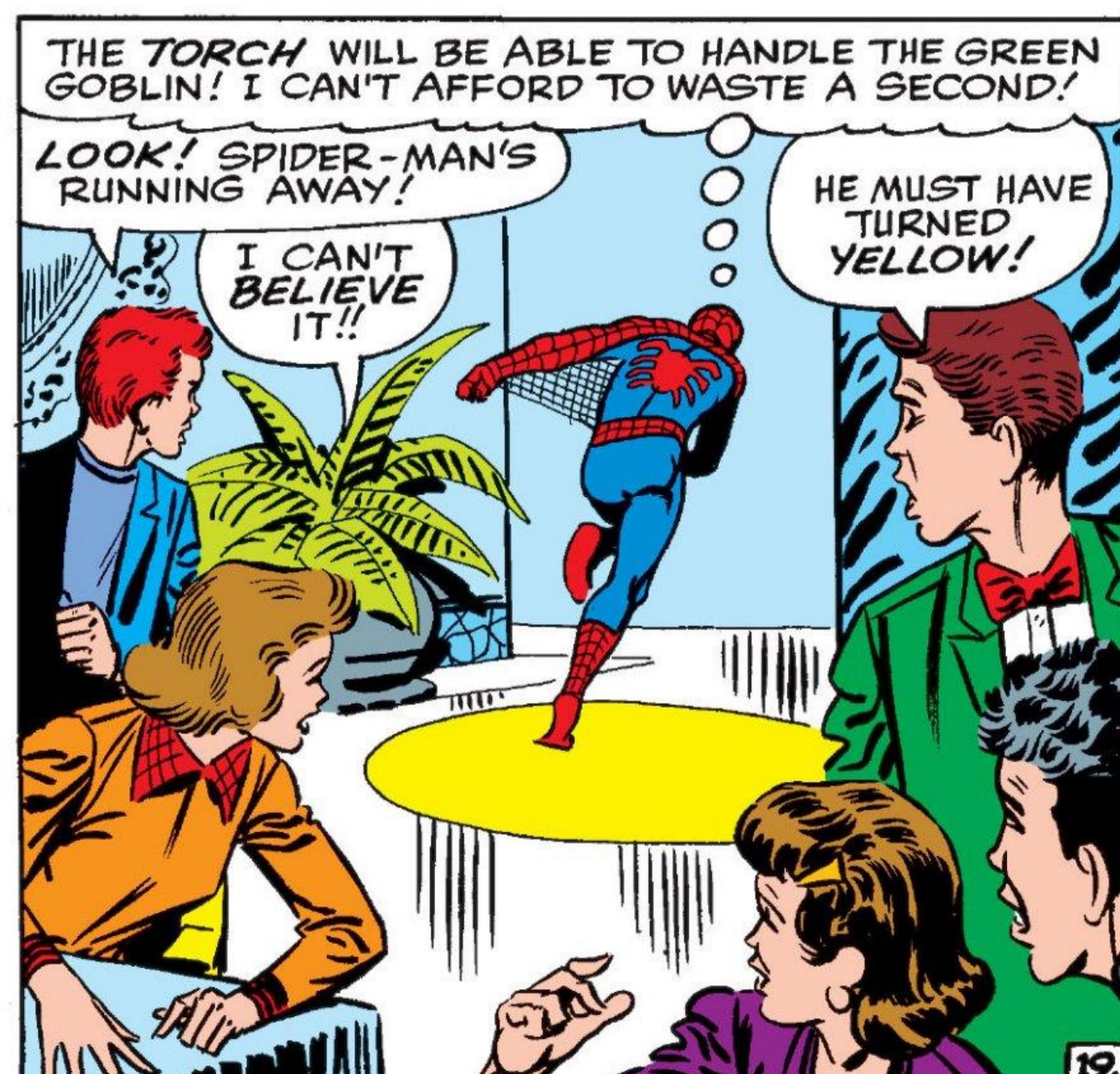
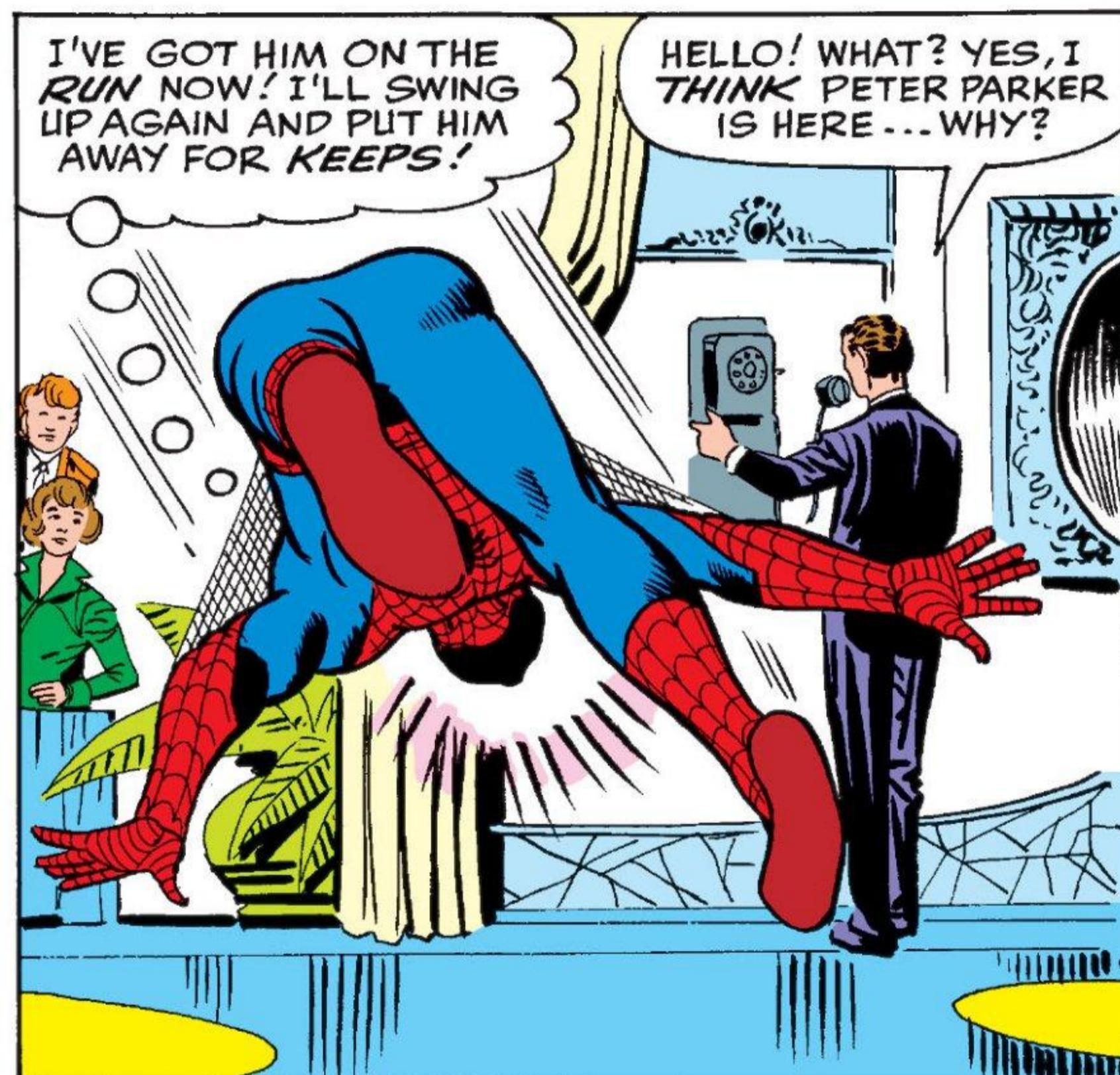
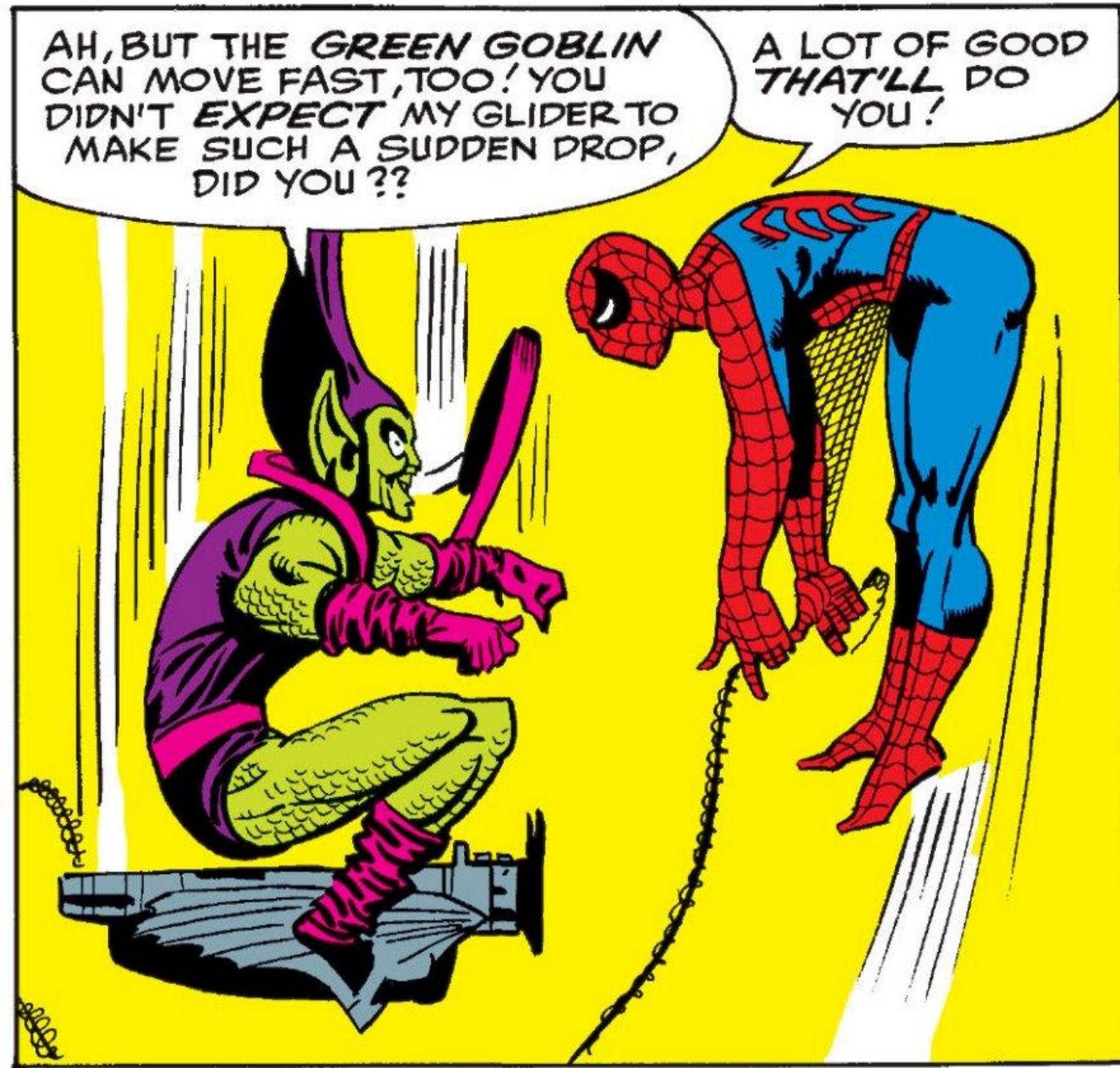
...UNLESS I INCREASE MY FLAME TO NEAR NOVA INTENSITY... BUT THAT MIGHT CAUSE A FIRE IN HERE, INJURING INNOCENT PEOPLE!

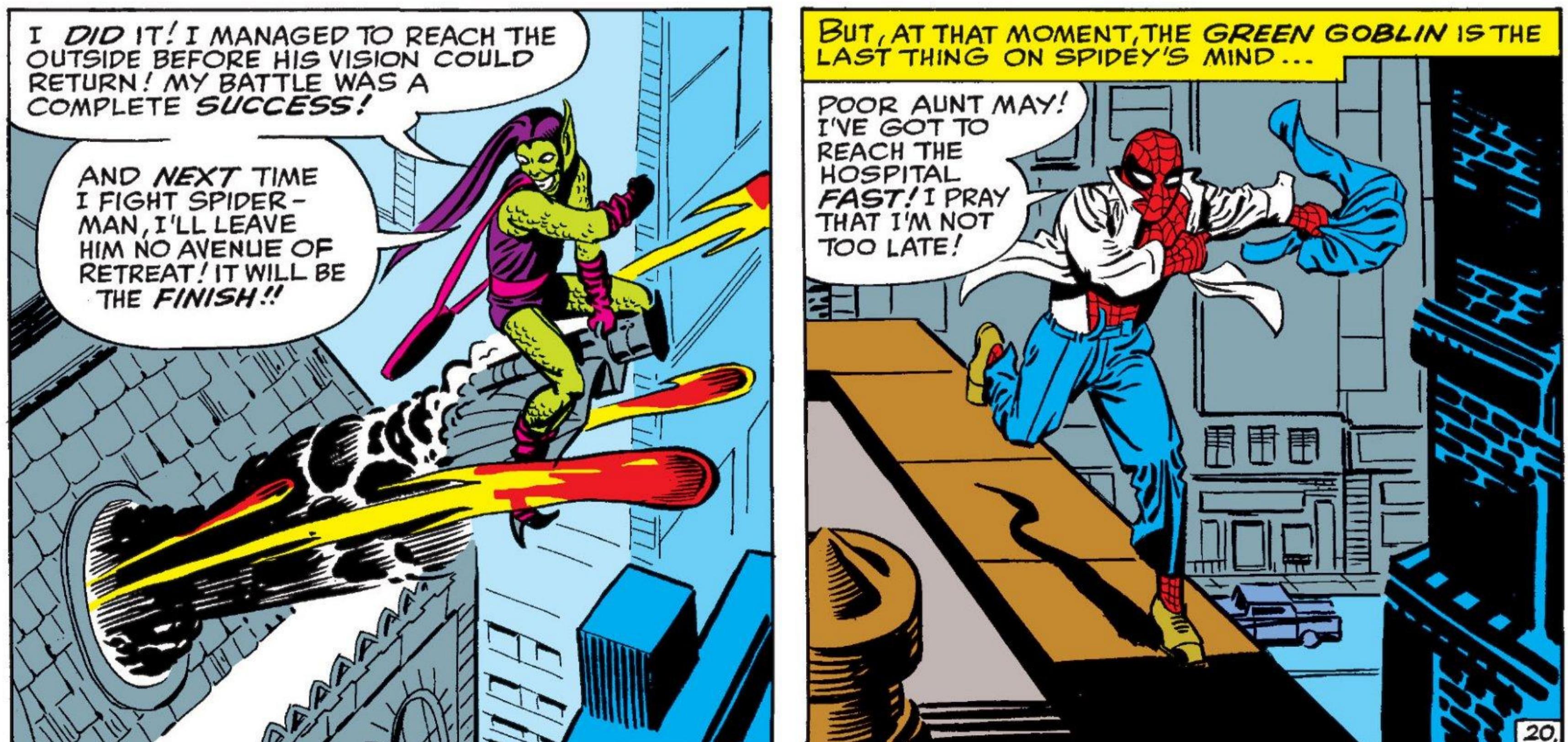
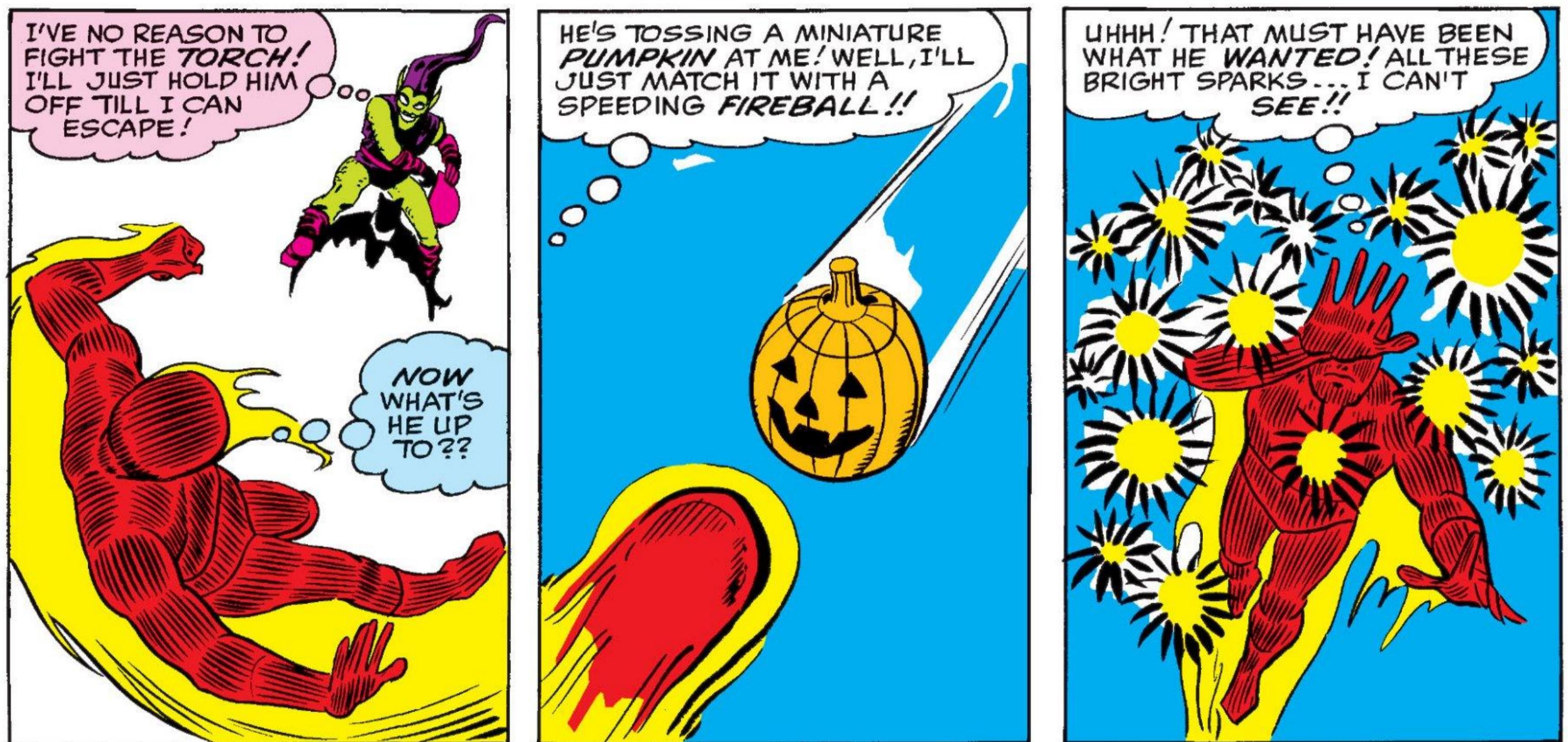
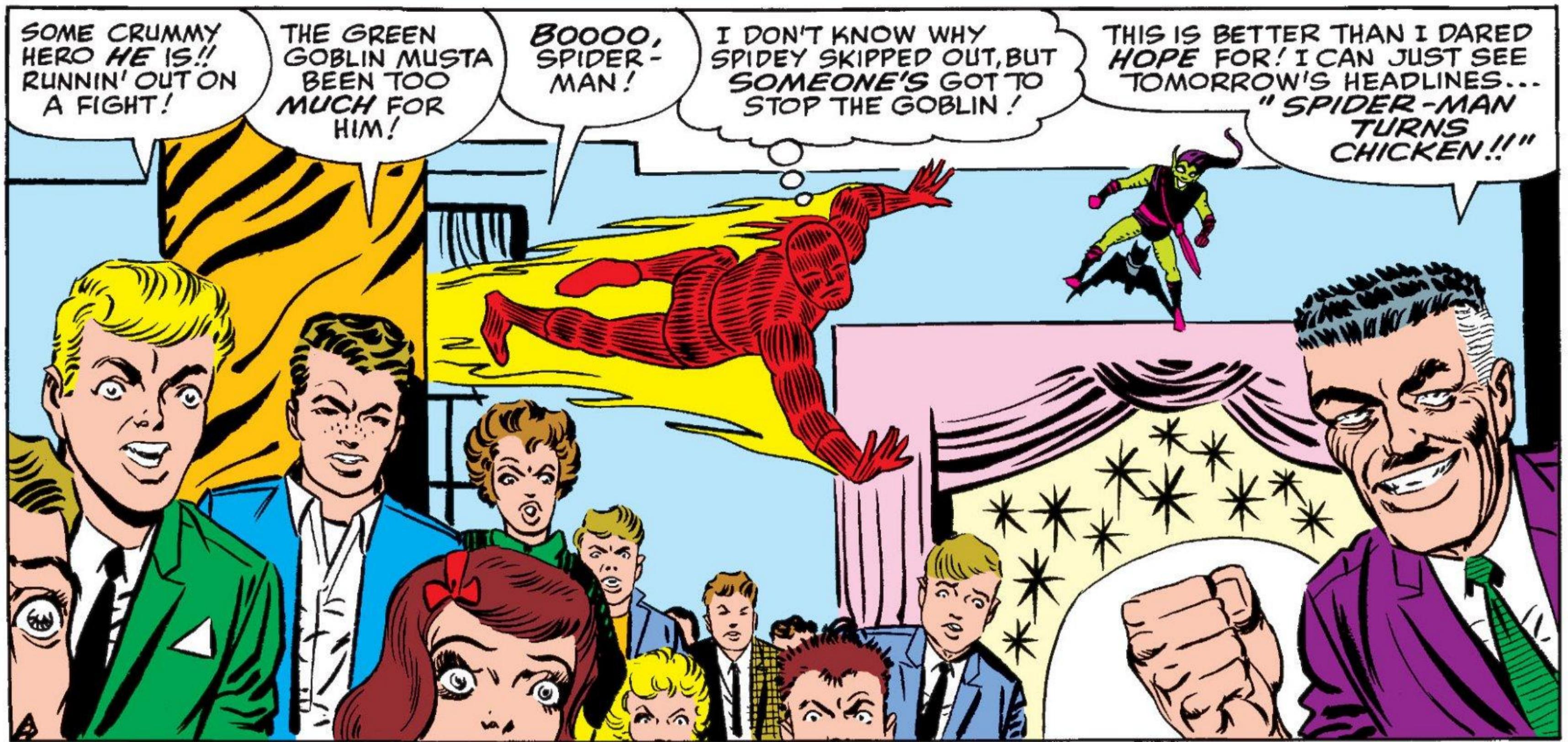


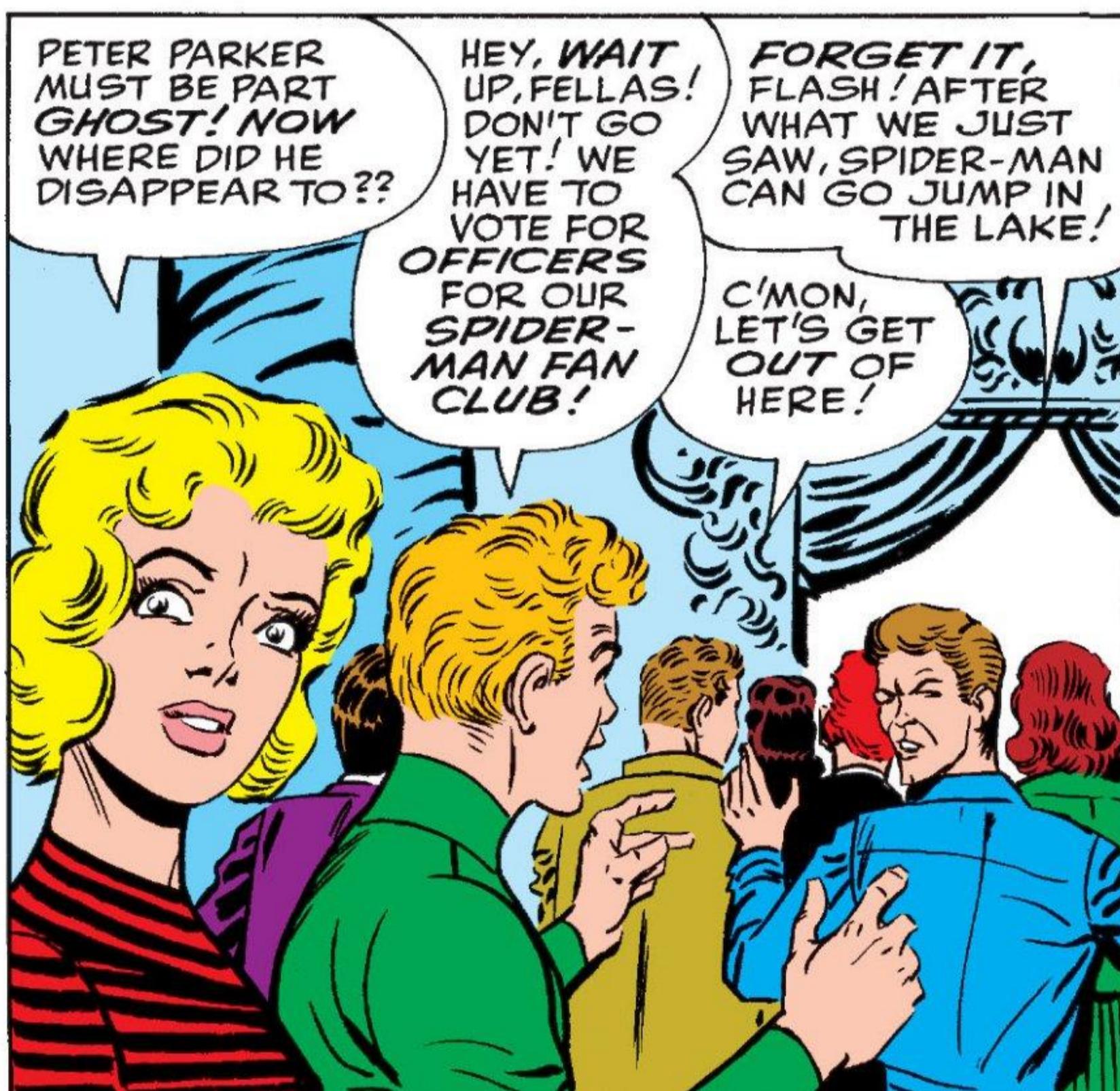
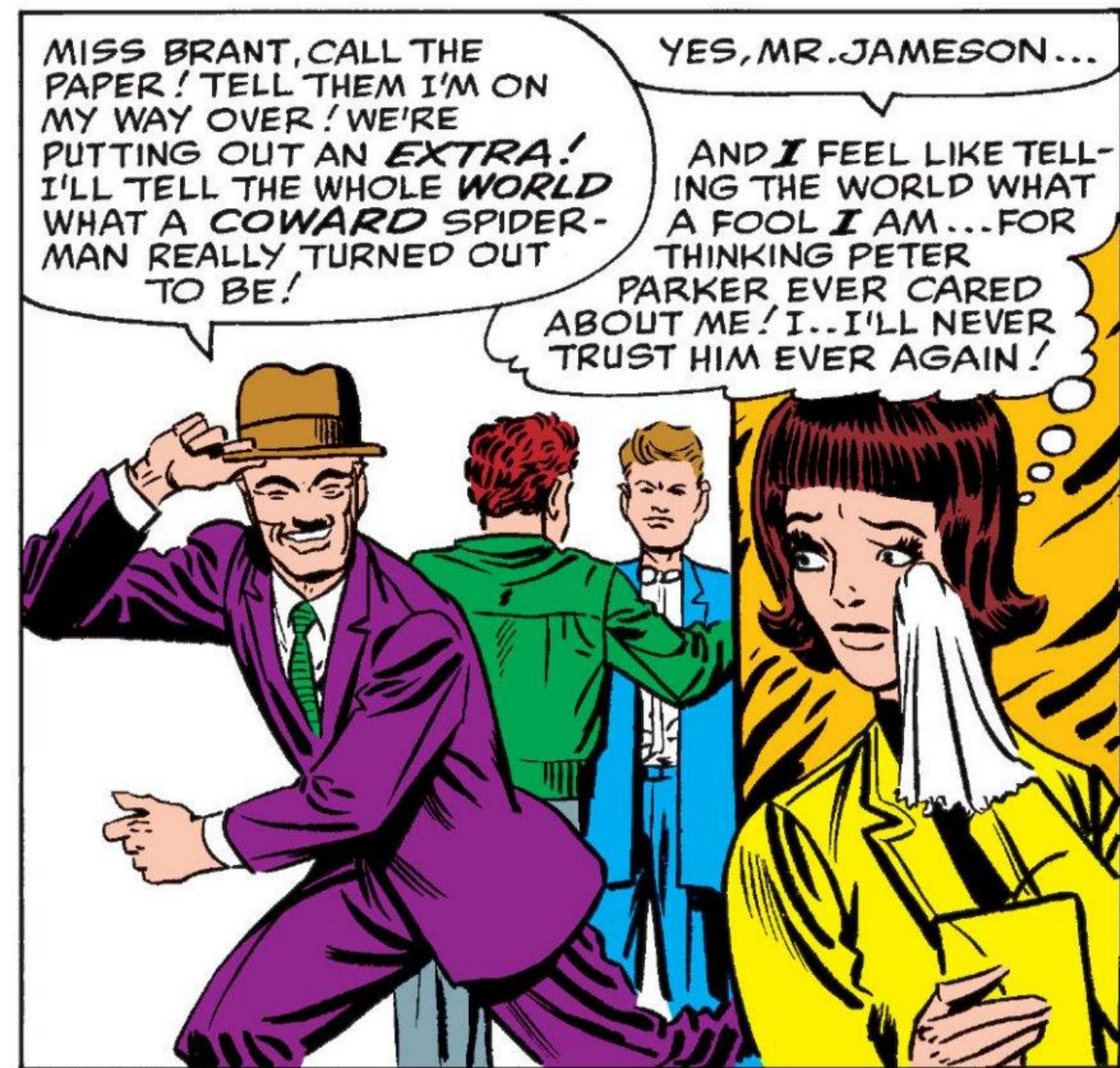
HE'S TOSSED MORE! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE I'M COMPLETELY WITHOUT OXYGEN!











AND, NOT LONG AFTERWARDS...

YOUR AUNT IS
A VERY SICK
WOMAN, PETER!
BUT, NOW THAT
YOU'RE HERE,
SHE SEEMS TO
HAVE MORE WILL
TO LIVE!

STOP THE
PRESSES!
MR. JAMESON
IS PUTTING OUT
A SPIDER-MAN
EXPOSÉ EXTRA!

SLOWLY, THE LONG, LONELY HOURS
DRAG BY, AS PETER PARKER KEEPS
HIS VIGIL, UNTIL...

POOR AUNT MAY! ALL
SHE EVER WANTED
WAS THE BEST FOR
ME! AND I NEVER
SPENT ENOUGH TIME
WITH HER... OR
TRIED TO DO
ENOUGH FOR
HER!

GEND.
WARD.

THE CRISIS
IS OVER,
SON! YOU MAY
SEE YOUR
AUNT NOW!

PETER...
DEAR, DEAR
PETER....

DON'T TALK, AUNT
MAY! YOU'VE GOT
TO REST... GAIN
YOUR STRENGTH
BACK! DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ANYTHING...
JUST GET WELL!! YOU'VE
GOT TO GET WELL!



Finally, when visiting hours have ended and Peter wearily walks home, he hears...

HOW ABOUT THAT?
THE BUGLE CALLS
SPIDER-MAN A COWARD!
--- RIGHT ON THE FRONT
PAGE!

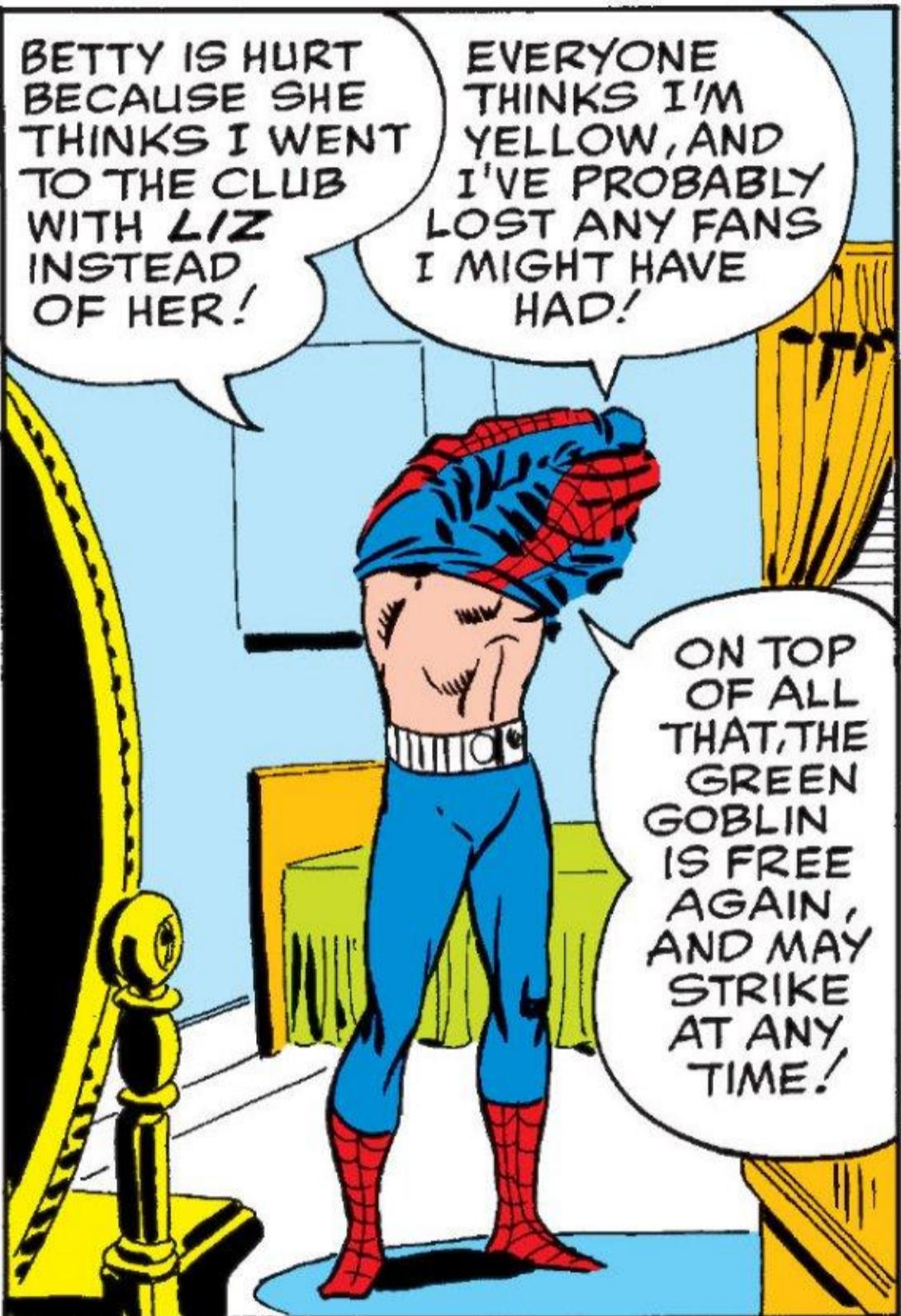
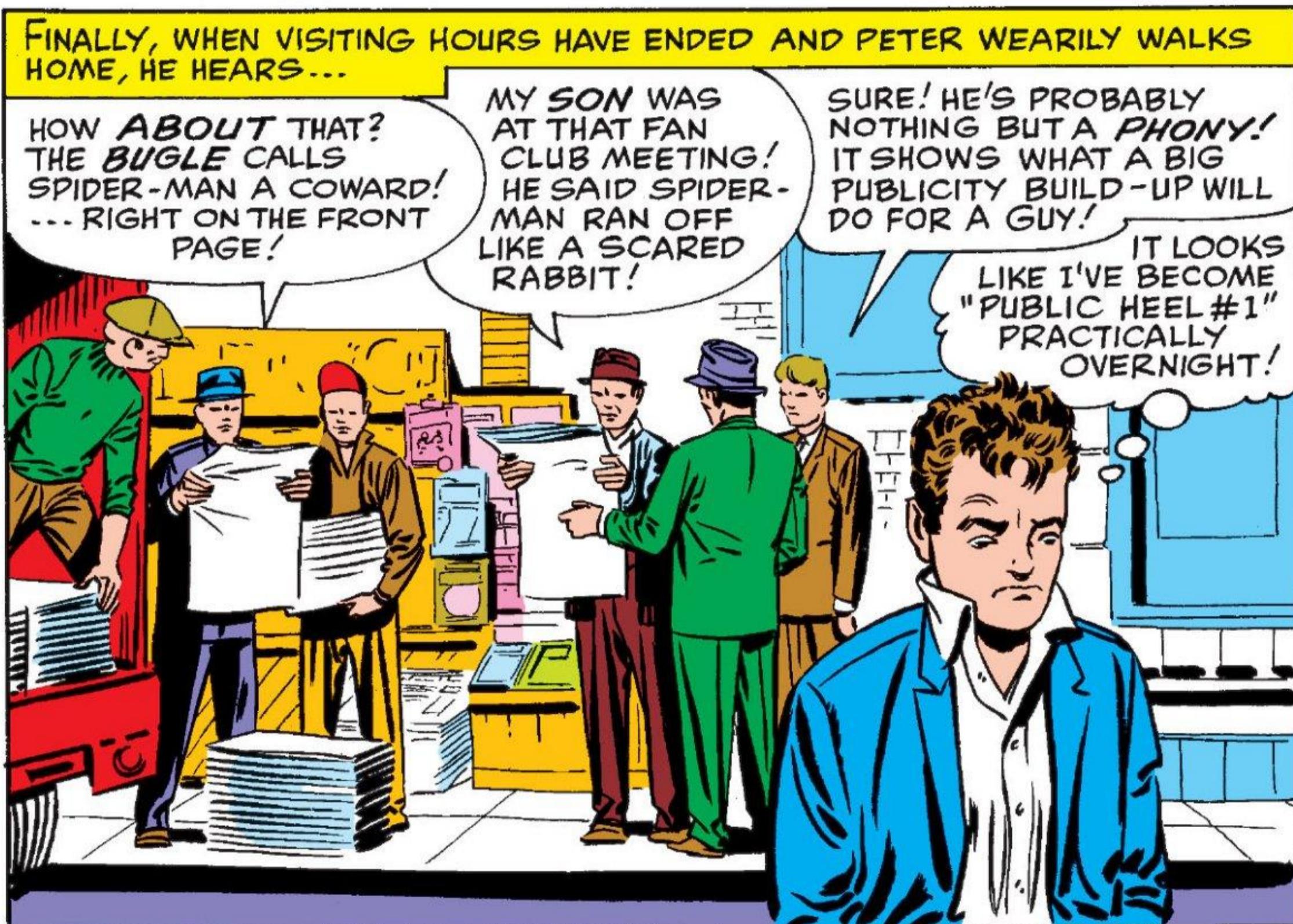
MY SON WAS
AT THAT FAN
CLUB MEETING!
HE SAID SPIDER-
MAN RAN OFF
LIKE A SCARED
RABBIT!

SURE! HE'S PROBABLY
NOTHING BUT A PHONY!
IT SHOWS WHAT A BIG
PUBLICITY BUILD-UP WILL
DO FOR A GUY!

IT LOOKS
LIKE I'VE BECOME
"PUBLIC HEEL #1"
PRACTICALLY
OVERNIGHT!

BETTY IS HURT
BECAUSE SHE
THINKS I WENT
TO THE CLUB
WITH LIZ
INSTEAD
OF HER!

EVERYONE
THINKS I'M
YELLOW, AND
I'VE PROBABLY
LOST ANY FANS
I MIGHT HAVE
HAD!



AND THE ONE PERSON WHO'S BEEN
KINDER TO ME THAN ANYONE ELSE IN MY
WHOLE LIFE IS IN THE HOSPITAL NOW,
AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO
HELP HER!

A LOT OF GOOD IT DOES
ME TO BE SPIDER-MAN! SOME-
TIMES I WISH I HAD NEVER
HEARD THAT NAME!

WHY DON'T THINGS EVER
SEEM TO TURN OUT RIGHT FOR
ME? WHY DO I SEEM TO HURT
PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW I TRY
NOT TO? IS THIS THE PRICE
I MUST ALWAYS PAY
FOR BEING...
SPIDER-MAN??!



22.

22.

AND SO WE TAKE OUR LEAVE OF THE WORLD'S MOST HUMAN,
MOST MISUNDERSTOOD SUPER-HERO! BUT, IF YOU THINK HIS
LIFE IS COMPLICATED NOW, JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE HAND
THAT A CAPRICIOUS FATE DEALS HIM NEXT ISSUE! WE PRO-
MISE YOU A TALE YOU WILL NOT SOON FORGET!

The End.



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,

SPIDER-MAN #14 was just plain great—the only trouble was the Green Goblin. I'm glad you didn't give him a great deal of gadgets like some other comic villains, but that "flying broomstick" was too much.

Larry Schenker, 502 E. Indian Spring Dr.
Silver Spring, Md.

Some help you are, Larry! Too much what?

Dear Stan and Steve,

On the cover of SPIDER-MAN #14 it states that the Green Goblin is the most sinister, most dangerous foe Spidey's ever fought. Well, you certainly couldn't prove it by the story inside. In my opinion he doesn't have enough gimmicks. I mean stun grenades, a flying broomstick and spark-shooting fingers aren't exactly world-startling. I have faith in you though and I think the more the Goblin appears in future issues the better he'll become.

Gary Rafferty, 19 120 St.
Troy, N.Y.

And Larry claims we use too many gimmicks! Okay, web-spinners, let's hear it! More gimmicks, or less? We might as well let you fight it out!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I have no doubts that you will receive a countless number of rave letters dealing with SPIDER-MAN #14, this being one. Although the story did not have an intricate plot, it did present a very good idea which set the stage and started the ball rolling for action, an integral part of a comic book. B. J. Cosmos mentions getting a Beatle to play the roll of Spider-Man. I feel that a Beatle would have been better in the role of the Hulk. Examine the two mops which each contends to be hair and you'll get the idea. Now, action: This of course is the bright spot of the story. My favorites in action panels are: p. 5, panel 1; p. 15, panel 3; panel 5 of same page; and p. 17, panel 3. I also enjoyed p. 20, panel 6 but I always get a kick out of these sort of panels. Who the heck are the kooks who knock Mr. Ditko?? As far as I'm concerned, Steve's the best pencil and ink pusher you've got. Character development: All I'll say is "Great, as usual!" Those of us who do read the letters column have witnessed a fan by the name of Paul Gambaccini write a series of letters that were downright insulting in the earlier issues and that slowly softened up (as your mags improved) until recently he said simply, "All right, you've got me", meaning of course, over your "competitors". This has been and is being echoed all over fandom. Many saw the light sooner than Paul, a few after him, and sadly, there are some that still haven't seen the light of Marvel brilliance that clearly marks you from the rest.

Douglas Moench, 3838 N. Claremont
Chicago, Ill.

It's lucky we're so extremely modest or your praise might go to our pointy little heads! Many thanks, Doug!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Other super-heroes can control certain species of animals and insects so why can't Spider-Man have mental control over all species of spiders? It would help him since he wins every battle by a hair. In #11 Spider-Man thought about revealing his identity to Betty Brant. I disagree. Why should he tell his identity to some stupid dame? I read all your comics and your covers and artwork are superb.

Richard May, 363 Pritchard Ave.
Winnipeg 4, Manitoba, Canada

Okay, okay, Dick, so he won't tell her. But, did you think how silly it might look to see a guy sitting somewhere and having a conversation with a spider?

Dear Stan and Steve,

In issue #14 of SPIDER-MAN Jerry Murrell writes that you should have J.J.J. be saved by Spider-Man and that this would make J.J.J. feel more friendly to Spider-Man. Well, I disagree. I feel that this would make J.J.J. feel more embittered to Spider-Man for having to be grateful to a person he dislikes intensely. What I think is that J.J.J. should save Spider-Man's life. This would make J.J.J. feel that Spider-Man, like other people, is capable of mistakes. Actually J.J.J. is—or would be—a fine person if he'd only try.

David Bradley, Box 1069
Berkeley, Cal.

WE might agree with you, Dave—but don't tell it to Spidey!

Dear Stan and Steve,

SPIDER-MAN #14 was the best Spider-Man I have ever read. But what do you mean by having the Hulk as a guest star? If you ask me he is just as bad as the Enforcers. But the corniest part of the cover was, "... does the Green Goblin look cute to you? Does he make you want to smile?" How corny can you get?! I can think of a lot less corny things about the Green Goblin. I like the idea of Spider-Man having a battle in a cave—it was really different.

Walter Taylor, 919 Grant St.
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Heck, Wally — everyone knows we're cornballs! We admit it!

Dear Stan and Steve,

Ever since you came out with your SPIDER-MAN comic I have been reading every issue of it. Right now I am stationed in Turkey and it is really hard trying to keep a collection of your magazine on account of the fact that everyone wants to read it. I have never been so thrilled with a comic book. What you ought to start selling are Spider-Man badges so that people who read your book can be distinguished from the "just plain reader." I think that they would sell like wildfire. Keep up the good work—Spider-Man is the greatest!

A2C Richard Farrell, TUSLOG Det. 16
APO 289, New York, N.Y.

But you know our ever-lovin' fans, flyboy! If we ever made any Spidey badges, we'd get a million letters telling us about all the mistakes on them, and how the pins are too short, or too long!

Dear Stan and Steve,

You've done it now. You've come up with a great new villain, a few old ones and then tossed in a guest star to top it off. I am of course referring to #14. The two things that made this issue great were the appearance of the Hulk and the fact that you did not reveal the villain's identity. Surely you can't top this issue!

Morris Smart, 123 Mt. Shasta
Dallas, Texas

Mebbe not, Morrie—but we're sure gonna try!

Dear Stan and Steve,

With the fourteenth issue of SPIDER-MAN you really topped yourselves. Never before in comic history has there been a super-villain as realistic, weird, different, and as great as the Green Goblin! The name fits the character to a tee. Steve Ditko draws him as though there were a real goblin to model for him—you wouldn't be

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kidding us fans, would you? I mean, there really isn't a Spider-Man and a Green Goblin, is there?? Your story was superb. The way you kept the Goblin incognito was great. But I think I know who he really is. Remember little ol' Frederick Foswell, the original leader of the Enforcers? Yep, I'd be willing to bet that the Green Goblin is really good ol' Fred up to his tricks again. Actually it's stories like this last issue's that make Spider-Man the sensation he is! Bill Dubay, 58A Chenery St. San Francisco, Calif.

It's another thing too, Bill—it's fans like you!

Dear Stan and Steve,

My teacher asked me to bring a Marvel comic to school for him to see. He said he had never read one before. Boy! But I decided to take him SPIDER-MAN. I thought it would be good because of J. Jonah Jameson's part.

Patricia Jones, 249 W. Main Gardner, Kansas

But, for goodness sake, Pat—what did your teacher say???



Dear Stan and Steve,

When I bought my first Spider mag I was in my middle teens and my interest in comics was waning fast. Today I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #14 and have all the issues in between. I'm now a real nut over your mags! Every month I traipse down to the drug-store and come out with about seven or eight Marvel mags. I want to thank you guys for issue #14. It even surpassed the two superb preceding issues. Never has your art been so good, Steve. And never was there so much action packed into one plot, Stan, or so much drama. And what's this about you being a "poor man's Shakespeare"? A rich man should have it so good! The Green Goblin is a terrific new villain. I have a hunch he's the other half of ol' Doc Doom's split-personality. I know a lot of work goes into producing your magazines, so hats off to all the Marry Marvel Madmen and I hope that this letter makes a small portion of it worthwhile.

Keith McWalter, 2674 Lindenwood Dr. Bridgeville, Pa.

You made us feel so expansive, Keith, that your letter makes all of it seem worthwhile!

Dear Stan and Steve,

The art in SPIDER-MAN is terrific and I have no complaints about the other phases of Steve's art—the exception being girls' faces. Don't change Steve from Spider-Man whatever you do. Having seen all of your super-hero staff of artists draw him, (I haven't seen him illoed in MILLIE THE MODEL!) I feel qualified to say that nobody does him like Steve! Fans have written in complaining about the way Steve draws feet. I would just like to say that I personally see nothing wrong with Spidey's feet. Sure, they're a little long maybe, but so are mine (size 12 on a six footer!) Teenagers are more apt to have feet that are out of proportion to their bodies than one might think. Keep up the good work—you're marvelous to me!

Neil Gould, 3774 E. 151 St. Cleveland 28, Ohio

We thank you, and each one of Steve's eleven little curly toes thanks you, too!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I got to wondering who the Green Goblin was and I think he is the Vulture in disguise. My favorite guy is the Hulk. He reminds me of my English teacher. No offense to you guys—you should see our English teacher—a woman yet!

Jerry McCall, RR #3, Box 16 Brookville, Ohio

Never mind us! Maybe the Hulk should see her!

Dear Stan and Steve,

I think Spider-Man is the best since the Fantastic Four. My friend says that someday you will quit publishing Spider-Man and all other Marvel Group comic books because you will get old and it's a small organization. But I siad that you had other good artists that could draw Spider-Man and others. Am I correct?

Rudy Rankins, 6630 Crosswell St. Houston 17, Tex.

Sure we have other good artists! We keep threatening Steve with them all the time! But he just sits in his web and laughs!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

—Let's not waste a minute! If you haven't bought your SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL yet, don't even finish this column! You haven't time! They're selling like webcakes! So rush to your newsstand—and, if you're too late, don't blame us—we've been reminding you for weeks! We won't rub it in by describing all the great stories and features, but we just HAVE to mention the little 3-pager telling how Stan and Steve create Spidey! It's probably the funniest thing you'll see all year!

—And don't forget the ORIGIN of ol' webhead in MARVEL TALES ANNUAL which is also probably selling out right now! It contains the origins of five OTHER merry Marvel heroes as well! And wait'll you see the photos of most of our swingin' staff—a regular rogues' gallery if there ever was one!

—Naturally, every mixed-up Marvel fan waits all year for the most talked-about annual of all—and we hope you've gotten yours already—because the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #2 is now racing neck 'n neck with Spidey in the battle of the sell-outs! And no wonder! It's a special Doctor Doom ish—containing his never-before-revealed ORIGIN, as well as an epic-length thriller featuring his final "victory"!

—And don't tell us we brag too much! Actually, we're holding ourselves back! You should hear how we'd describe those annuals if we wanted to BOAST!

—Okay, now for other biz: You asked for it—so you're GETTING it! Ol' glamor pants himself, CAPTAIN AMERICA, will appear regularly in IRON MAN, beginning with ish #59! And, just for a warm-up, you'll see him battling shell-head in IRON MAN #58 which is on sale now!

—Just a few more notes: FANTASTIC FOUR #31 features the mysterious Mole Man, and introduces an unexpected surprise character who'll be very important in the lives of the Human Torch and the Invisible Girl! TALES TO ASTONISH #60 begins the great new Hulk series, produced by Stan and Dick! And STRANGE TALES #125 has the Sub-Mariner battling the Torch and the Thing!

—A great new artist to note is demon draftsman Dick Rockwell, another ex-Marvel alumnus who's trying his hand at Giant-Man in TALES TO ASTONISH #61! Dazzling Dick has style he hasn't USED yet—wait 'n see!

—As for ol' Spidey, next ish is gonna be real different! The whole plot was dreamed up by Sunny Steve and it was just nutty enough for Stan to okay it! You'll see Spider-Man acting differently than ever before! 'Nuff said!

—Yessir, things are really perkin' here in the bullpen! Sorry we haven't room to tell you more—but this we CAN say—we're really flying high these days—and it's all because of YOU, and your wonderful support! We love ya all, and promise to keep knocking ourselves out to give you the greatest mags we can! Lookin' forward to seeing you next ish—so, till then, FACE FRONT!



Tyrant
King

Lizard

EMPIRE