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COMICS

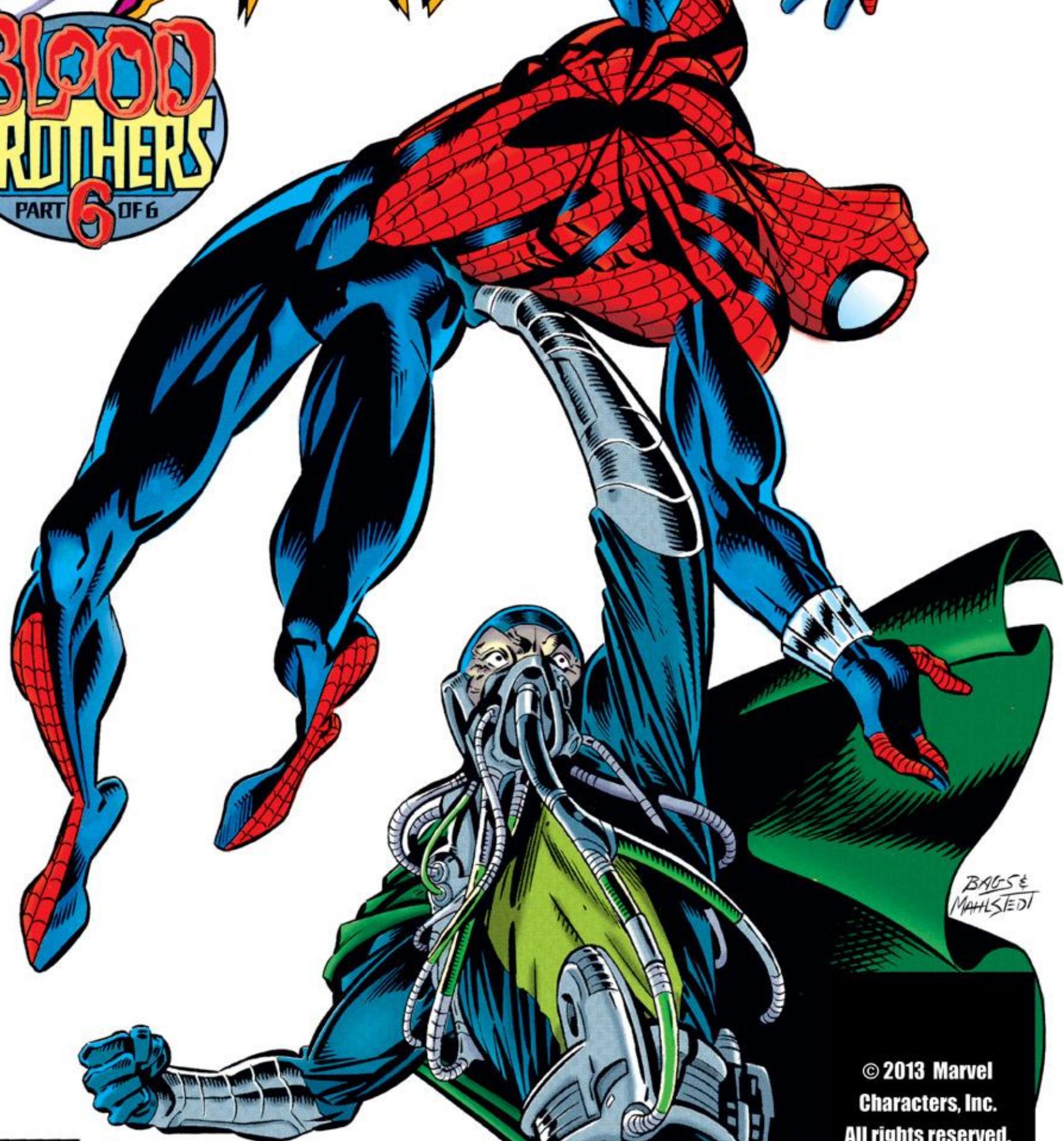


JUNE '96 412

BLOOD
BROTHERS
PART 6 OF 6

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMIC BOOK
COUNCIL
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY



ENDGAME!

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His given name is Peter Parker. While in high school, he was bitten by a radioactive spider and endowed with amazing powers, which he has since used to protect the innocent and battle evil. Now he calls himself Ben Reilly, and, as a costumed crimefighter, he continues his crusade... for he understands that with great power comes great responsibility! STAN LEE PRESENTS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

BACK OFF,

YOU STUPID-
LOOKING RENT-A-COPS!

YOUR
ARMOR-PLATED
SECURITY SUITS
ARE NO MATCH
AGAINST
THE **REAL**
THING!

THE
MOLTEN
MAN IS STRONG
ENOUGH TO
CRUSH YOU
ALL!

Way to GO,
Raxton.

Barely five minutes ago,
I was on the receiving
end of your rage --

-- but unforeseen
circumstances have
suddenly forced us
TOGETHER!

I may call myself BEN REILLY but my real name is PETER PARKER!

For the past five years, the handsome fellow to my right has been using my NAME, and living my LIFE in the mistaken belief that HE was me!

Up until a few days ago, we both thought Pete was my CLONE!

Recent events have suddenly cast that in DOUBT!

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LOOK --! ON THAT PLATFORM, SEWARD TRAINER AND A GUY IN SOME KIND OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUIT!

WE'VE GOT TO REACH THEM... AND FORCE 'EM TO CALL OFF THEIR TROOPS!

What he DOESN'T have is spider-like strength, reflexes --

I've got to hand it to PETE! the guy has GUTS!

-- or a SPIDER-SENSE to warn him of impending danger!

ZAKK



I'M AFRAID I OWE PETER AN ***APOLGY***, MARY JANE...

...I WASN'T VERY **HOSPITABLE** WHEN HE STOPPED BY EARLIER!

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT, LIZ!

WORKING AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE **DAILY BUGLE** HAS HELPED MY HUSBAND TO DEVELOP A RATHER **THICK HIDE**!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

HIS NEWSPAPER MAY BE TRYING TO DRAG **OSBORN INDUSTRIES** INTO ANOTHER SCANDAL!

ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF **TROUBLE**, LIZ?

KNOWING THE CRIMINAL HISTORY OF BOTH MY DECEASED HUSBAND, **HARRY** --

-- AND HIS FATHER, **NORMAN** --

HE WAS SUPPOSED TO CALL ME -- **HOURS AGO** -- WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS INVESTIGATION!

IF THE MOLTEN MAN IS INVOLVED, I'D BETTER ALERT PETER AND BEN --

-- BUT I MUSTN'T ADD TO LIZ'S **ANXIETY**!



-- MY **STEP-BROTHER** IS LOOKING INTO THIS CONNECTION!



I... I'M NOT SURE! LOOK, MARY JANE, I'LL TRUST YOU TO KEEP THIS OFF THE RECORD...

BUT WE'VE RECENTLY UNCOVERED A LONG-TERM AFFILIATION WITH A COMPANY WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED IN SOME HIGHLY **QUESTIONABLE** ACTIVITIES...

...A COMPANY CALLED **MULTIVEX**!

TRY TO **RELAX**, GIRL...

AT LAST!
WE'VE FINALLY
LOST THOSE
SECURITY
GOONS!

HEADS UP, BEN! WE
NEED A PLAN...
AND FAST!

WE'VE
GOT TO FIND
A WAY TO LAY
OUR HANDS ON
TRAINER AND
HIS BUDDY,
AND THEN
WE --

WE --?!

NEWSFLASH,
PARKER! WHEN
IT COMES TO
TAKING RISKS..
THERE IS NO
WE!

STOP
TRYING
TO PLAY
HERO!

YOU'RE A
CIVILIAN NOW,
REMEMBER? A
NORMAL GUY WHOSE
MAIN CONCERN
SHOULD BE HIS
PREGNANT
WIFE!

I KNEW
PARKER AND
SPIDER-MAN WERE
ON MY TRAIL, BUT
YOU ARE AN
UNEXPECTED
BONUS,
RAXTON!

I RARELY HAVE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
LASH OUT WITH SUCH
TOTAL ABANDON! IT IS
ONE OF THE FEW
PLEASURES
LEFT ME!

YOU
CANNOT IMAGINE
HOW HORRIBLE IT
IS TO BE FOREVER
TRAPPED WITHIN
THIS PROTECTIVE
SHELL!

I'D
OFFER YOU
MY SYMPATHIES,
BUT -- ON THE OFF
CHANCE YOU HAVEN'T
NOTICED -- I'M ALSO
ENCASED IN
A METAL
SHELL!

OUR
SITUATIONS
ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT,
RAXTON! AN ACCIDENT
BONDED YOU WITH AN
EXPERIMENTAL
METAL ALLOY!

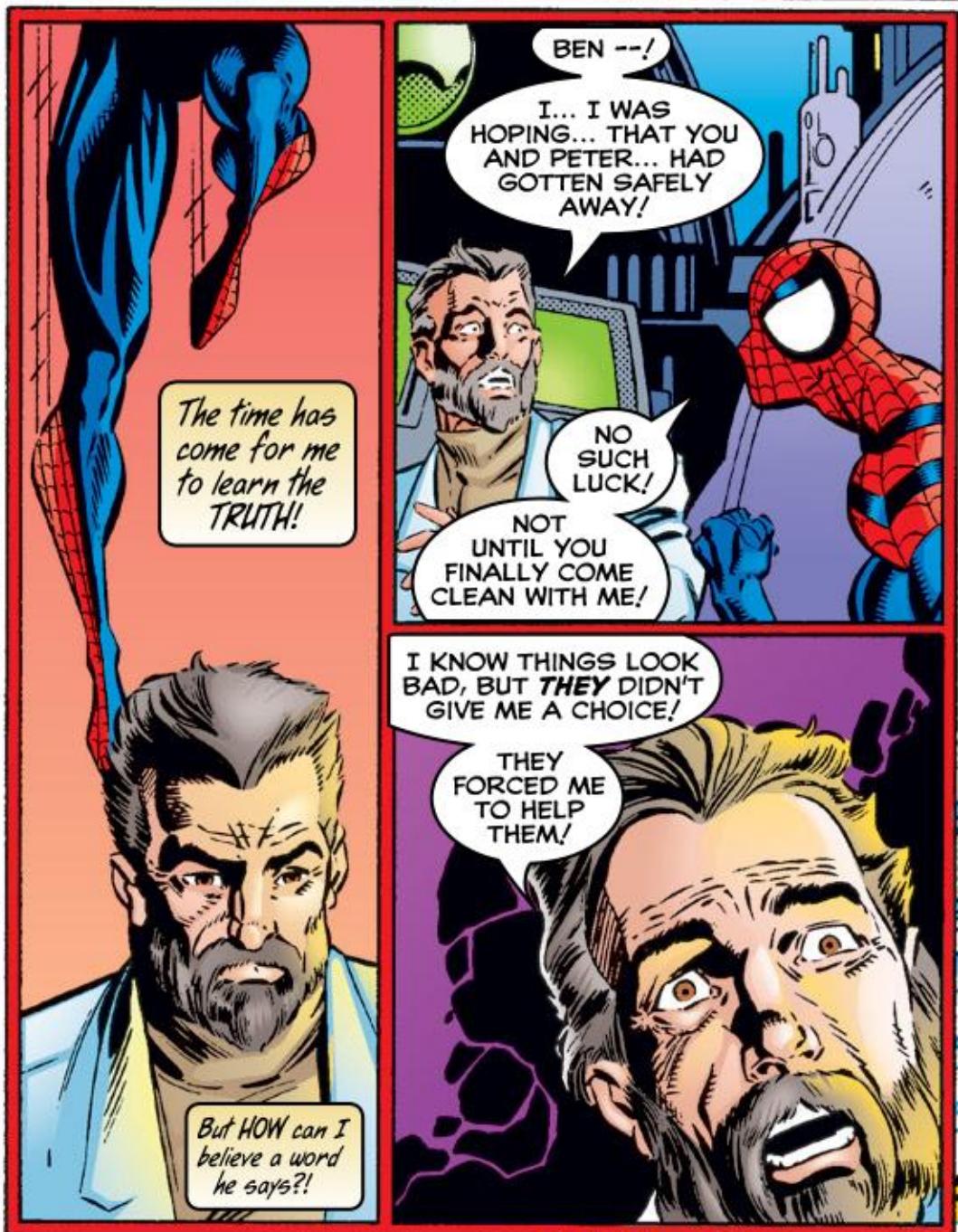
MY
BODY IS
DYING! ROTTING
AWAY BY
DEGREES!

THIS
SUIT IS
ALL THAT
SUSTAINS
ME!

I'D DO
ANYTHING
TO BE FREE
OF IT --

-- AND
THAT'S WHY
I'M WORKING
FOR THE **DEVIL**
HIMSELF!





Unfortunately --

SPIDER-MAN

-- there's only time for
ONE of us to get clear!

B-BEN?

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?!

SEWARD,
PLEASE

I
WEAR A
MASK FOR A
REASON!

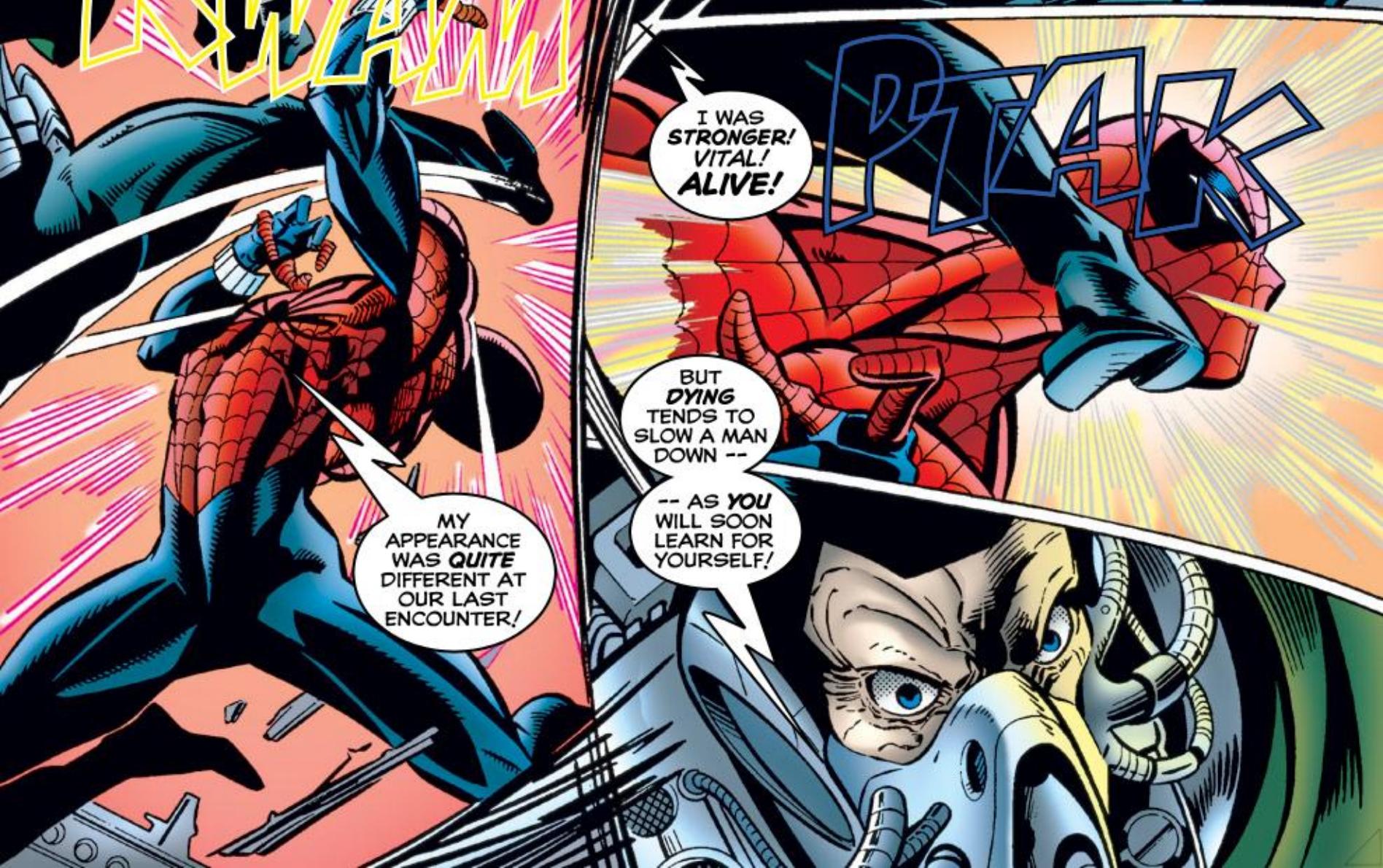
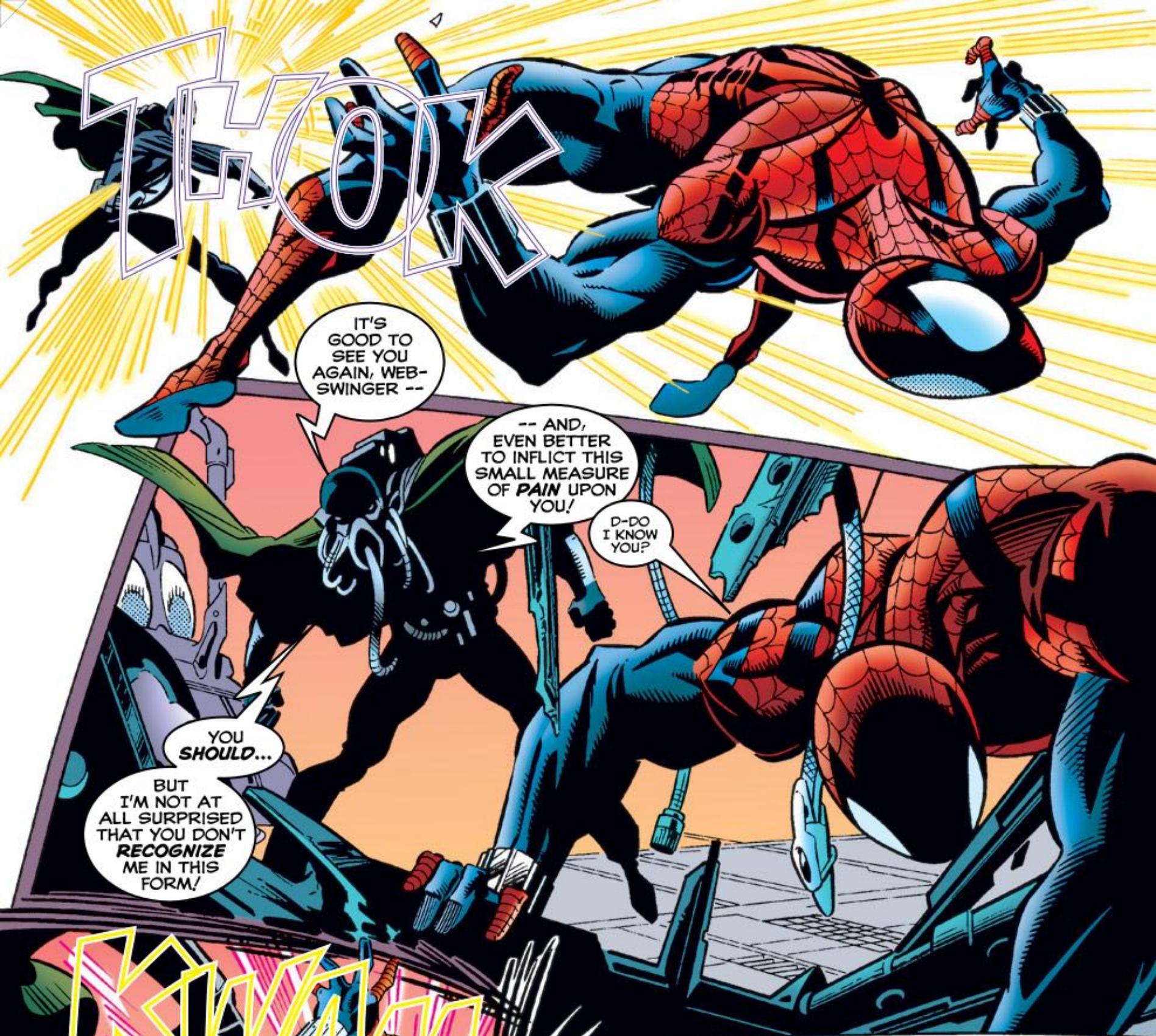
I'D
LIKE TO
KEEP MY
IDENTITY
SECRET!

HA!
NO ONE
CARES ABOUT
YOUR TRUE
NAME --!

YOU ARE
SPIDER-
MAN --

-- AND
THAT IS
JUSTIFICATION
ENOUGH FOR
YOU TO
SUFFER!







WHO is this joker?!

Someone from MY past --

-- or PETER'S?!

We both have so many old enemies who are supposed to be DEAD!

People like... THE JACKAL!

KRAVEN!

DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

THE BIG MAN!

THE ORIGINAL GREEN -- GOOD LORD!

Could

he

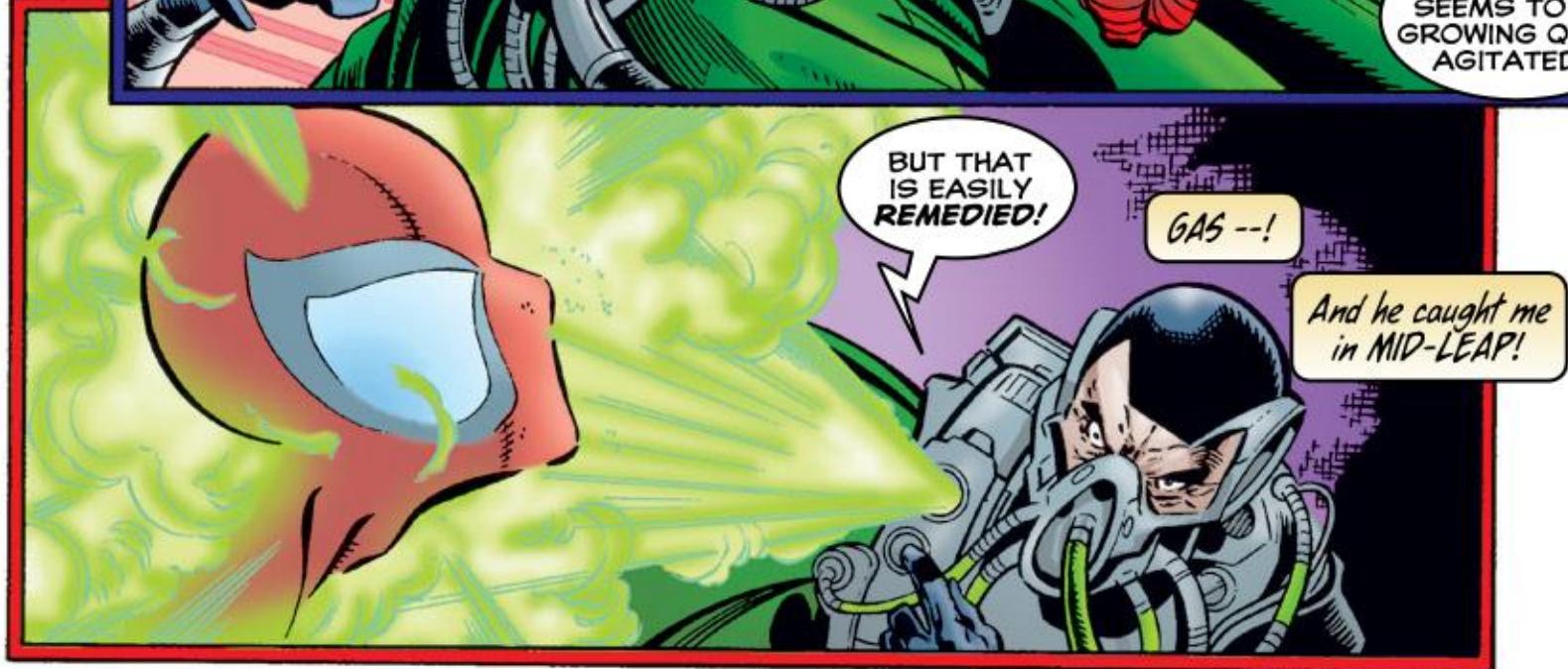
be

Harry?!

GAUNT!

THE REGENERATOR IS FINALLY ON-LINE!

I CAN INITIATE THE REBIRTH PROCEDURE ON YOUR COMMAND!



IT'S
A PITY THAT
YOU CAN NO LONGER
HEAR ME, I WISH I COULD
TAKE CREDIT FOR THE WAY
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYED
FOR SO VERY LONG!
ALAS... I
CANNOT!

BUT I
WILL TAKE THE
SMALL VICTORIES --
SUCH AS THIS --
WHERE I FIND
THEM!



I don't know how long I'm UNCONSCIOUS. The DARKNESS is soothing and peaceful. Its departure unveils a real NIGHTMARE...

ALL IS READY, GAUNT!

THE REGENERATOR HAD BETTER WORK AS PROMISED!

BOTH OUR LIVES DEPEND UPON IT!

AT LAST! AT LONG LAST! MY BODY WILL SOON BE RESTORED!

MY STRENGTH AND VITALITY RETURNED!

NO LONGER WILL I BE A WALKING CORPSE!

NO MORE WILL I BE IMPRISONED WITHIN THIS STIFLING SUIT!





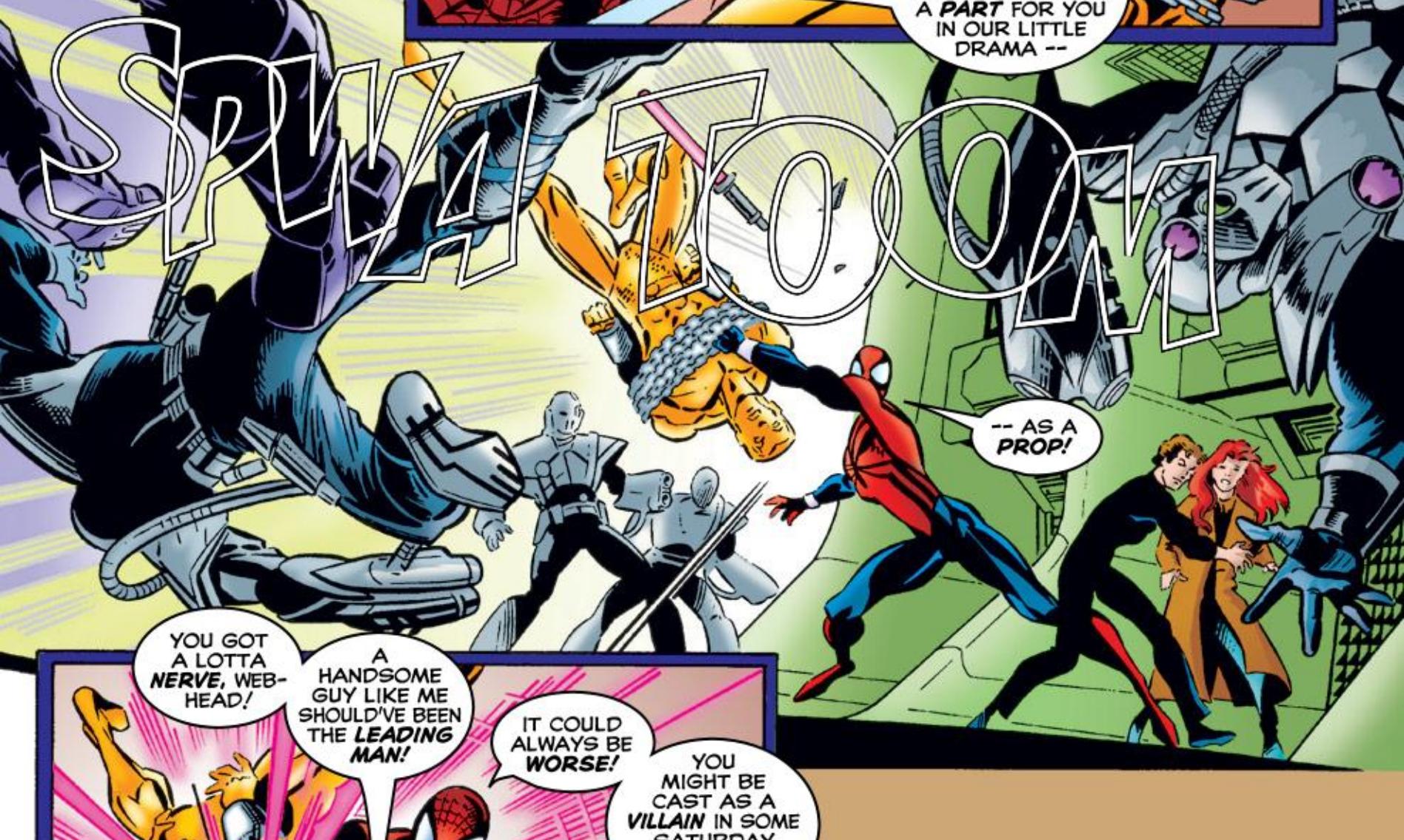


--In giving me an opportunity to EXPAND my chest muscles!

Y-YOU GUYS WERE FAKing!

IT WAS ALL A BIG ACT!

RIGHTY-O,
MY HIGHLY
POLISHED PAL!
AND THERE'S ALSO
A PART FOR YOU
IN OUR LITTLE
DRAMA --



YOU GOT
A LOTTA
NERVE, WEB-
HEAD!

A
HANDSOME
GUY LIKE ME
SHOULD'VE BEEN
THE LEADING
MAN!

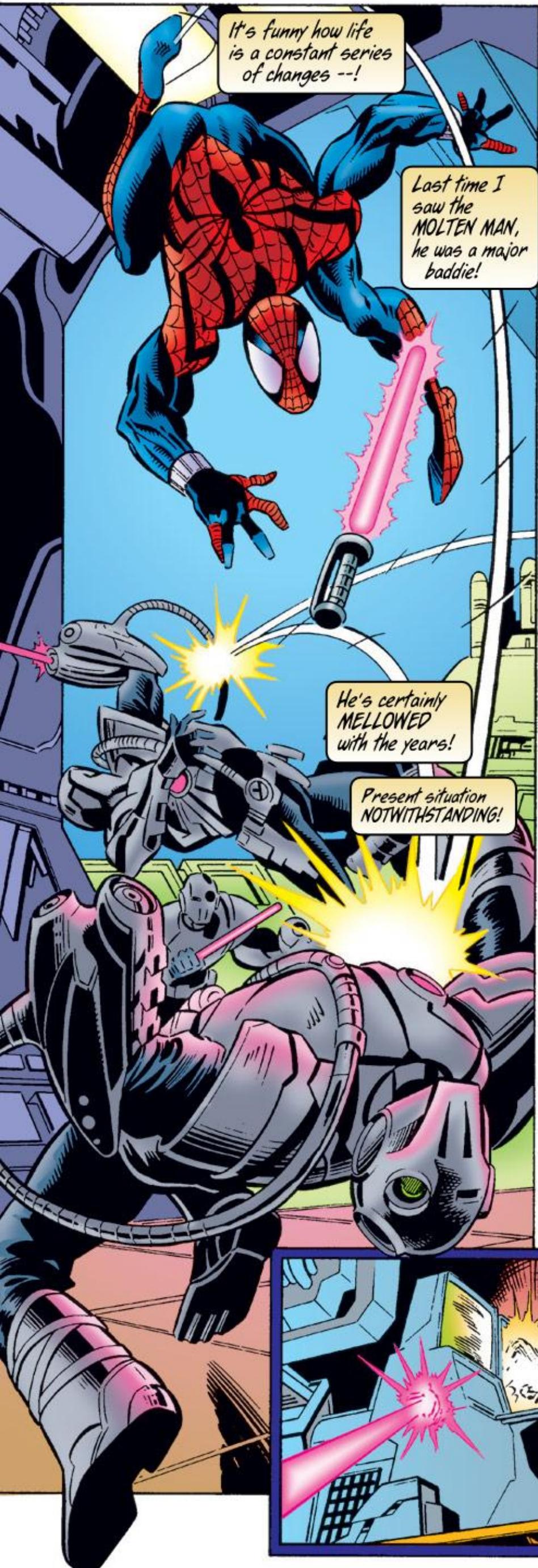
IT COULD
ALWAYS BE
WORSE!

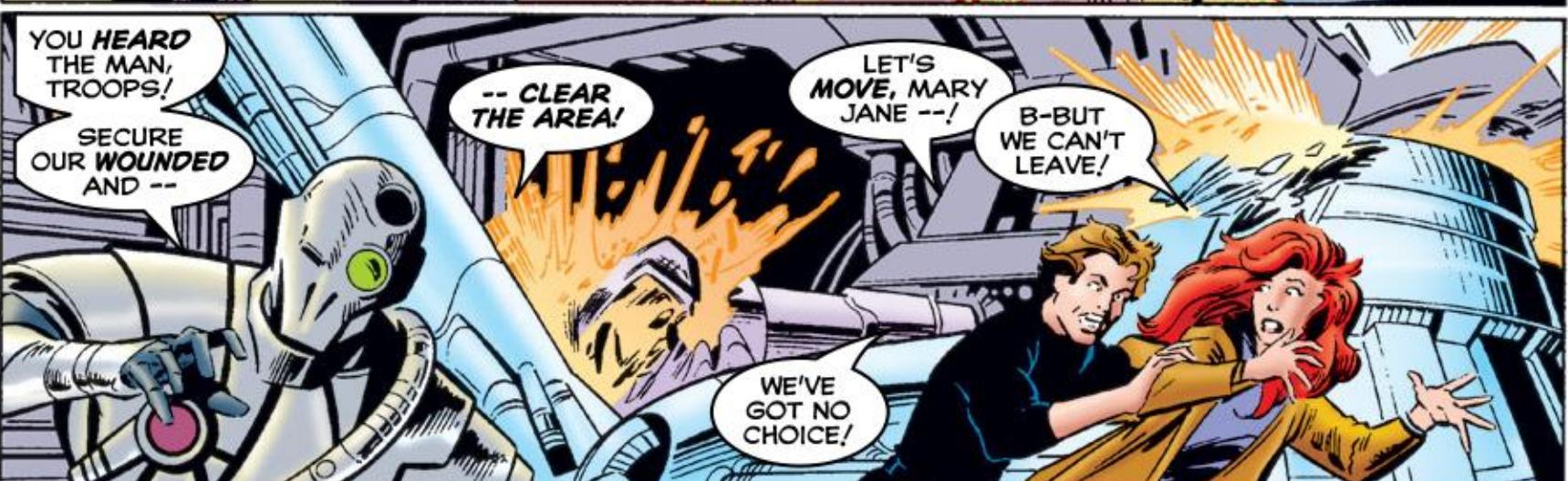
YOU
MIGHT BE
CAST AS A
VILLAIN IN SOME
SATURDAY
MORNING
CARTOON!

RIGHT!
AND I SUPPOSE
YOU'D PLAY THE
HERO!

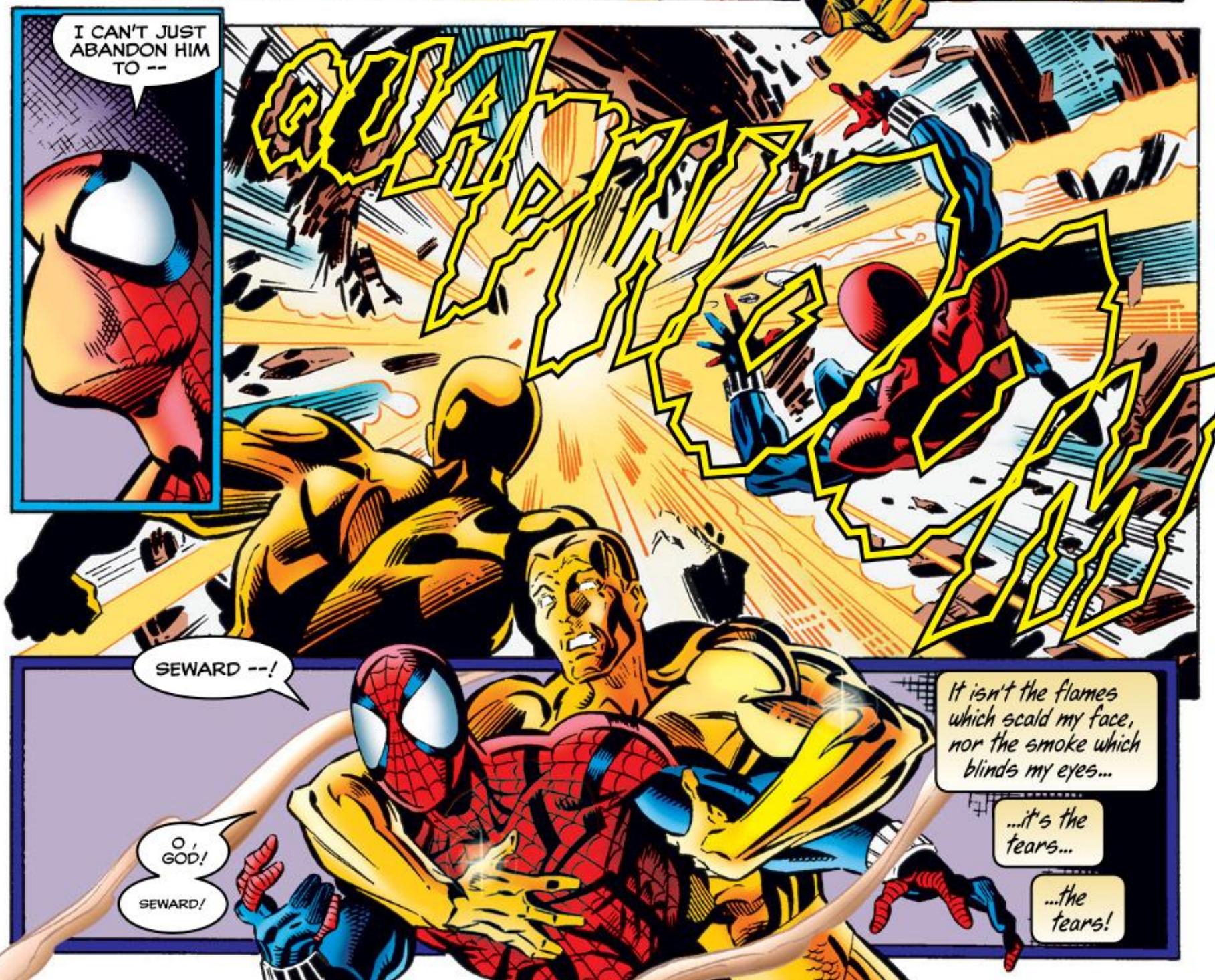
STRANGER
THINGS HAVE
HAPPENED!











WHAT
A FREAKIN'
MESS! MULTIVEX
MAY BE FINISHED,
BUT I NEVER DID LEARN
HOW OR WHY THEY
WERE TIED TO
OSBORN
INDUSTRIES!

I'D
SPARE YOU A
LITTLE SYMPATHY,
BUT I'M ALREADY
TAPPED
OUT.

WHY
ARE YOU SO
DOWN?

TOO
LONG A
STORY!

Peter and I came
here to learn WHO
we really are --

-- and WHERE we
actually came from!

At least Peter has Mary Jane
and his impending fatherhood
to comfort him...

...I hope he can eventually learn to
accept the fact that the PAST and
its SECRETS may be lost forever --

-- and we've got to
get on with our lives
by living in the PRESENT,
and embracing the
FUTURE!

Easier said
than done!

BEN,
I KNOW HOW
MUCH Seward
MEANT TO
YOU...

...I AM
SO SORRY
FOR YOUR
LOSS!

One thing still
troubles me...

...was he really trying to
SALVAGE the regenerator
at the end --

-- or did he
deliberately
sabotage it?!

I'll never
know!

