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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

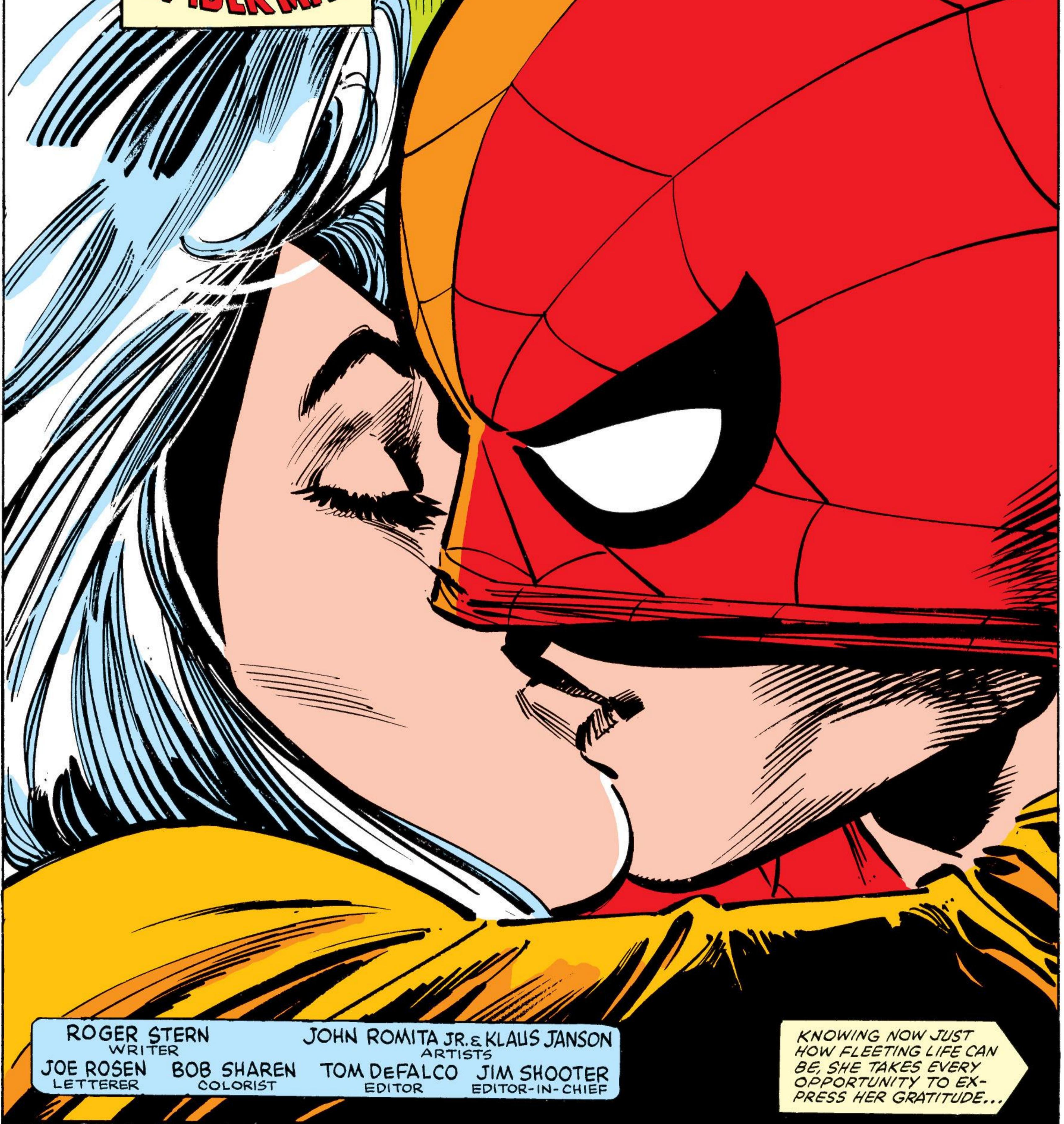


STAN LEE PRESENTS:

ORDEALS!

IT WAS JUST WEEKS AGO THAT FELICIA HARDY,
THE BLACK CAT, WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. SHE
WOULD HAVE DIED, WERE IT NOT FOR--

--the **AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN**



ROGER STERN
WRITER

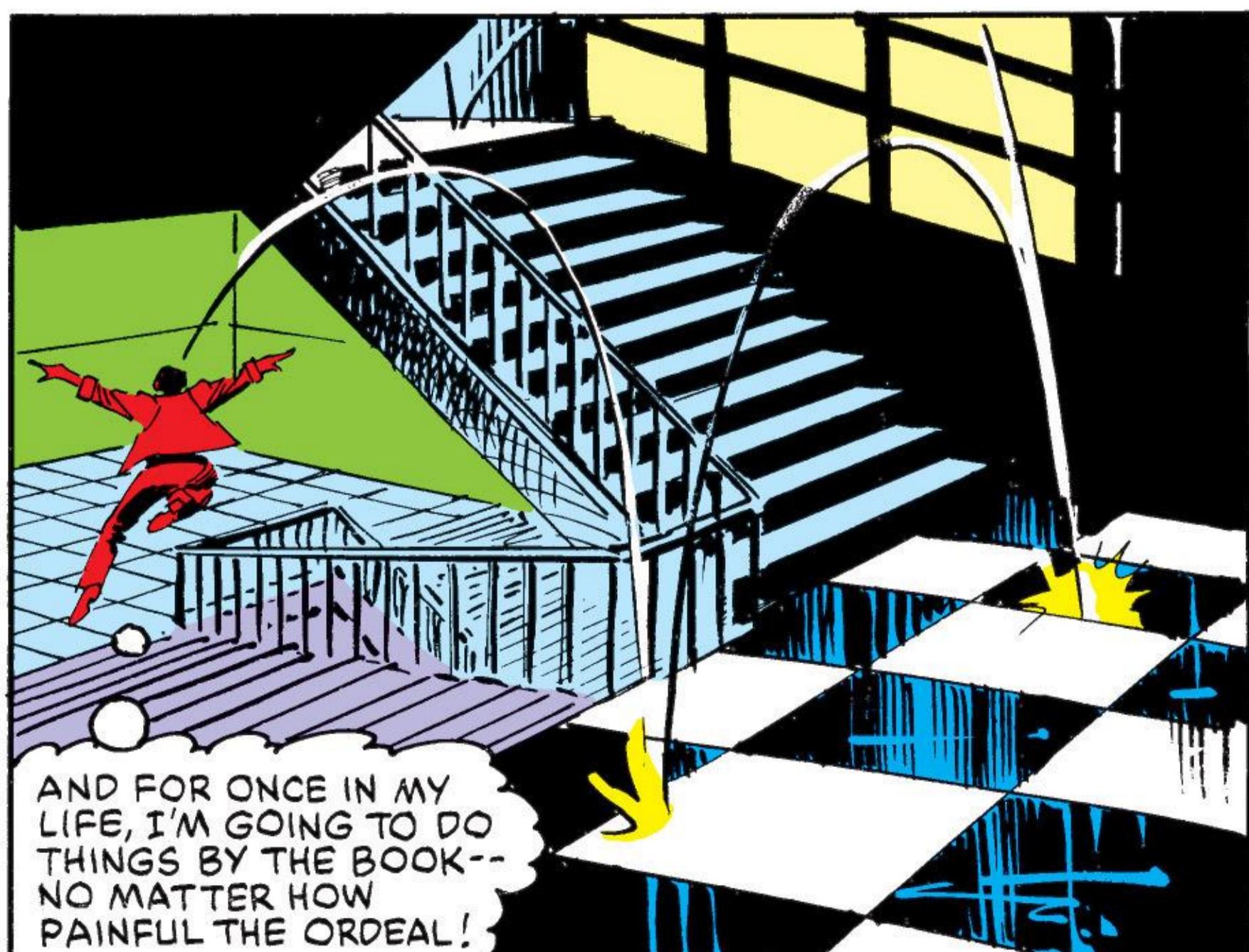
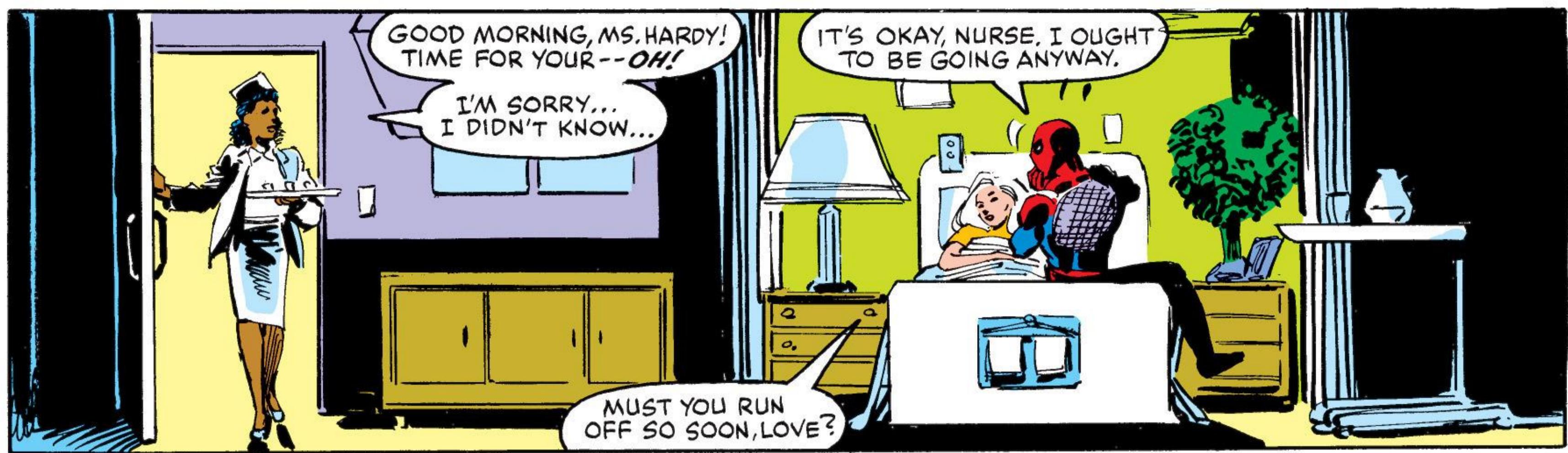
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

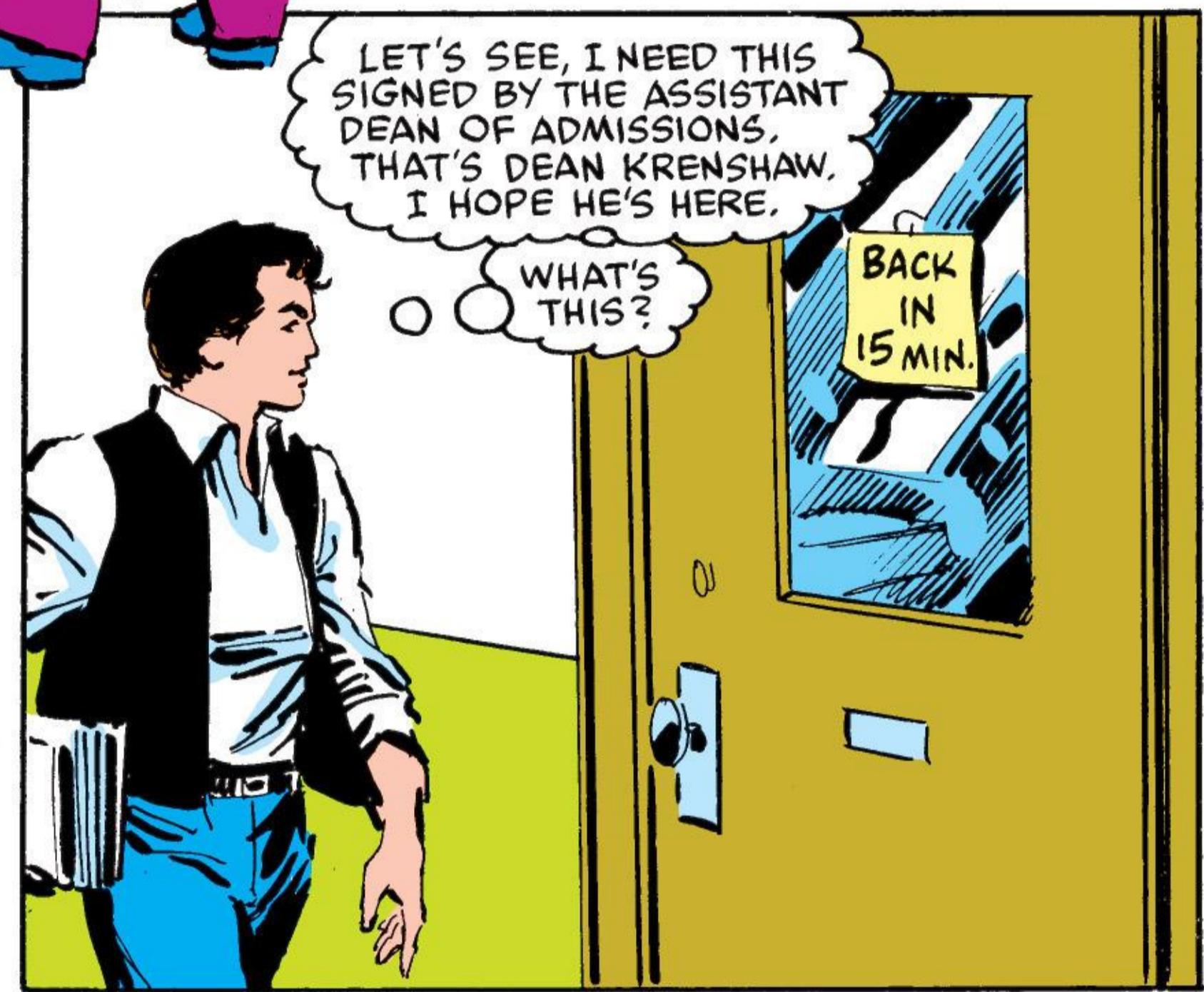
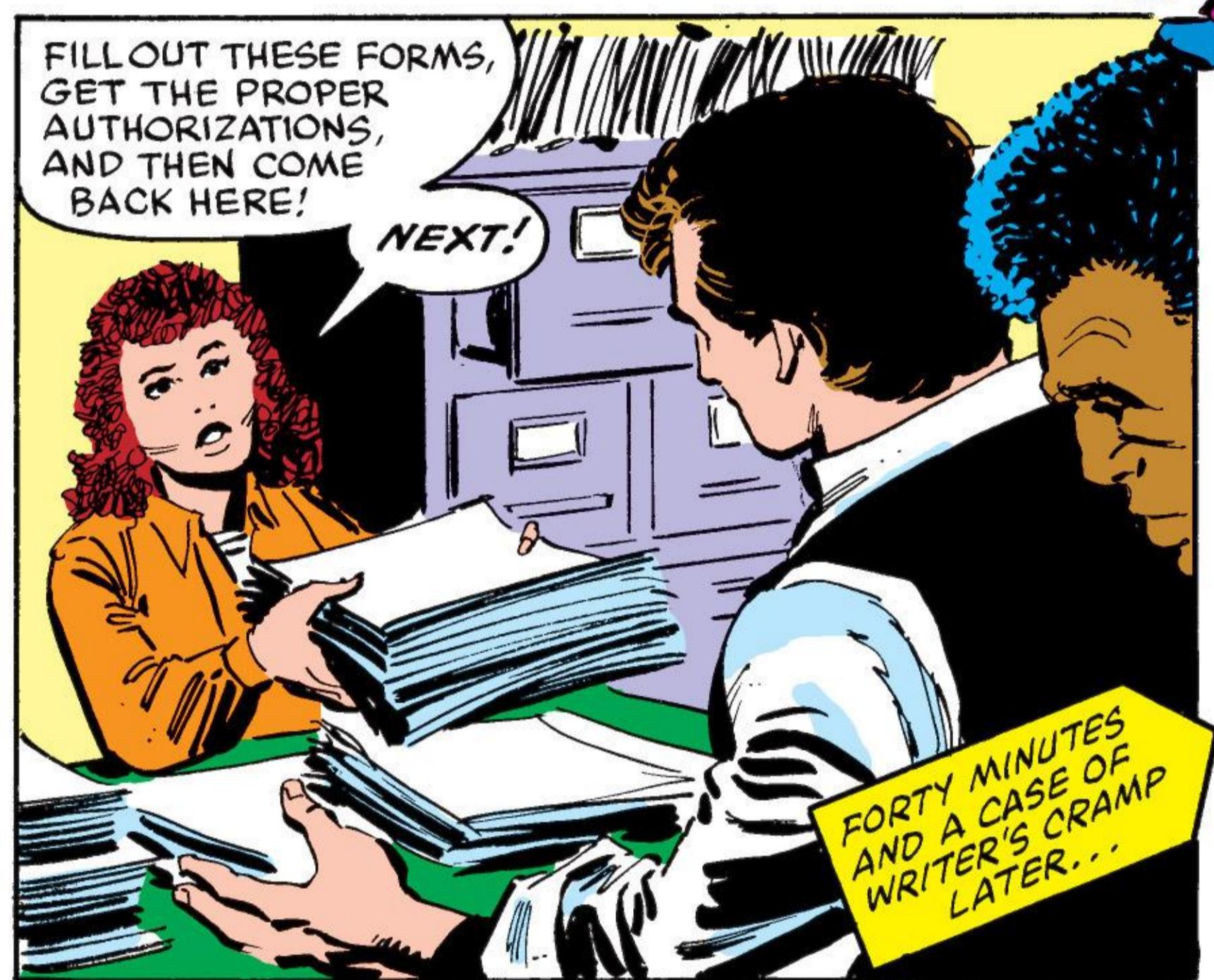
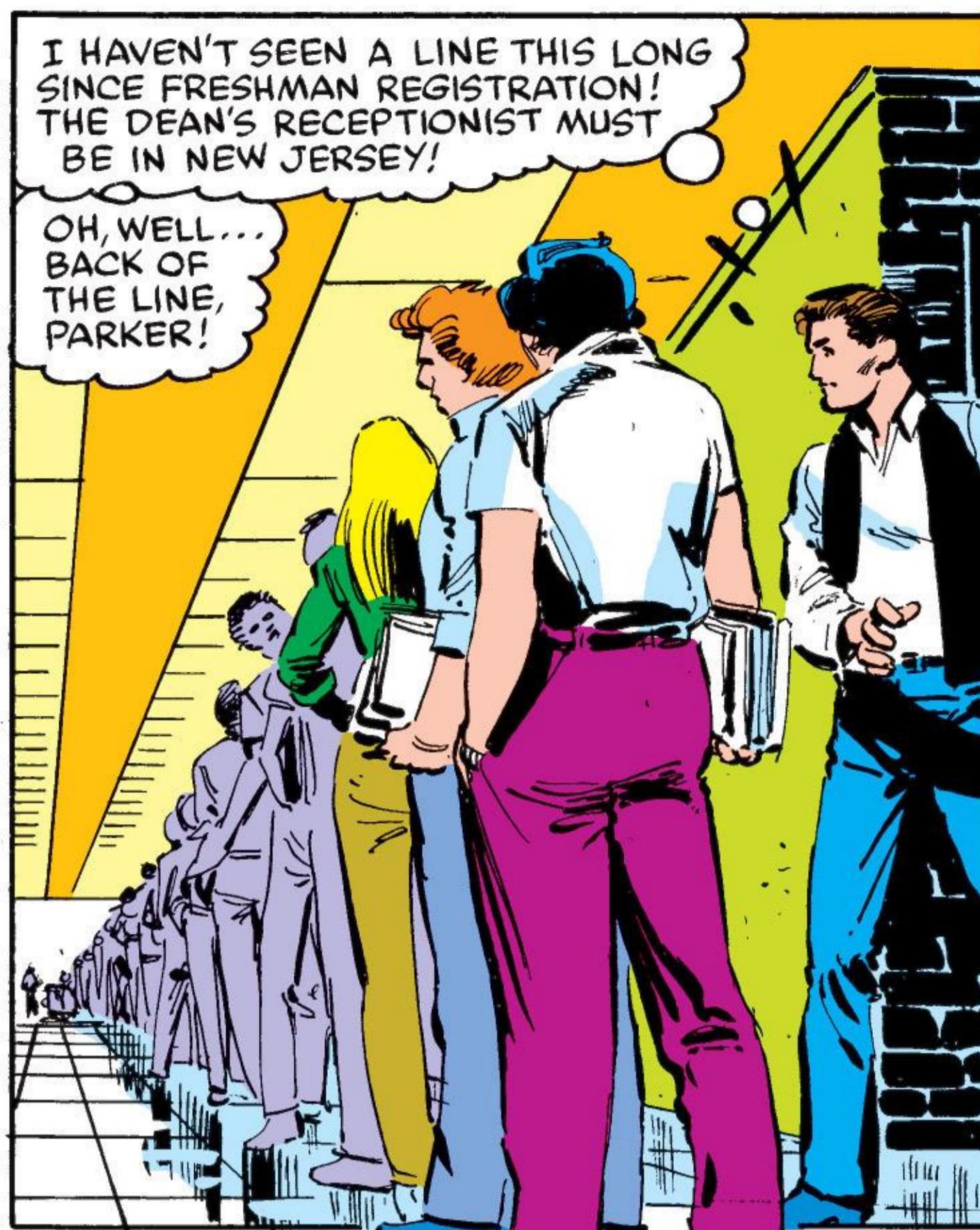
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

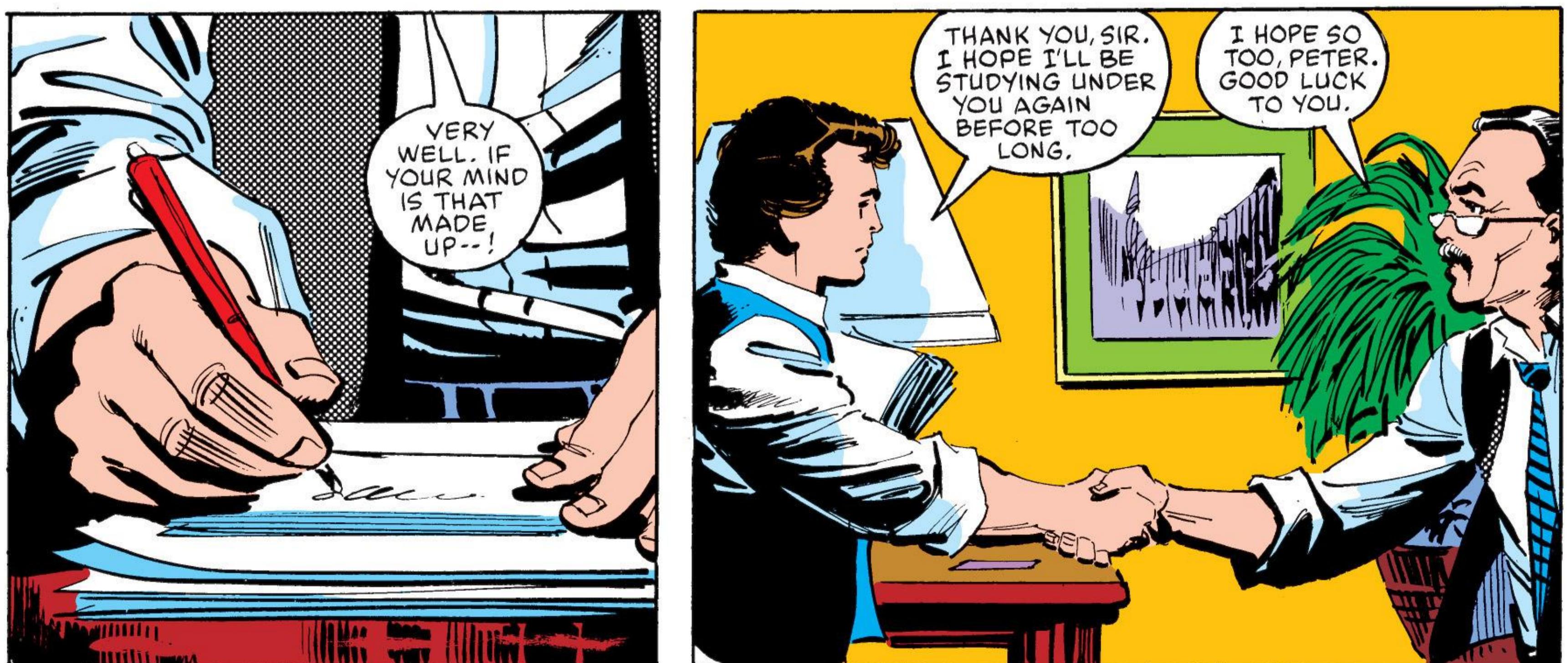
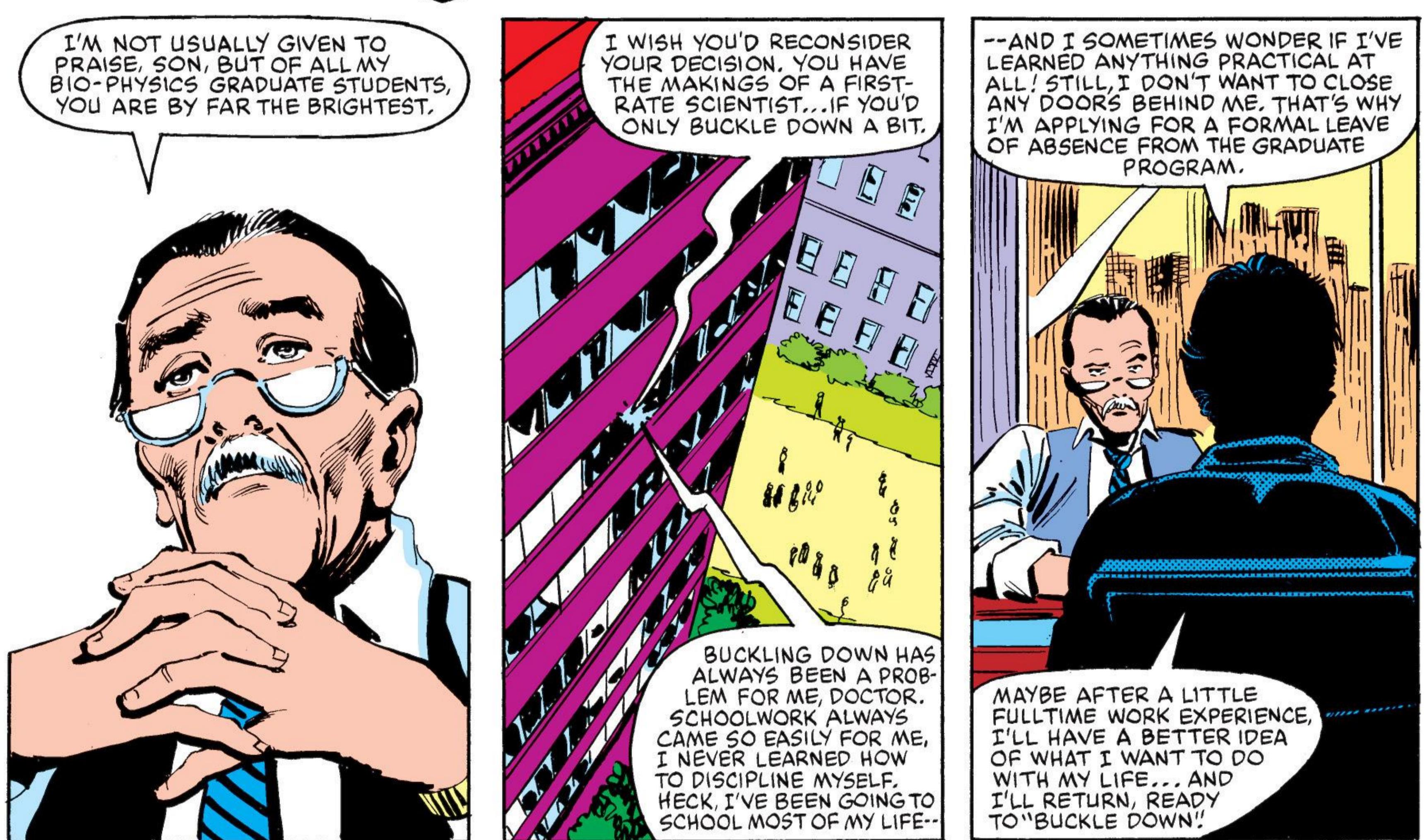
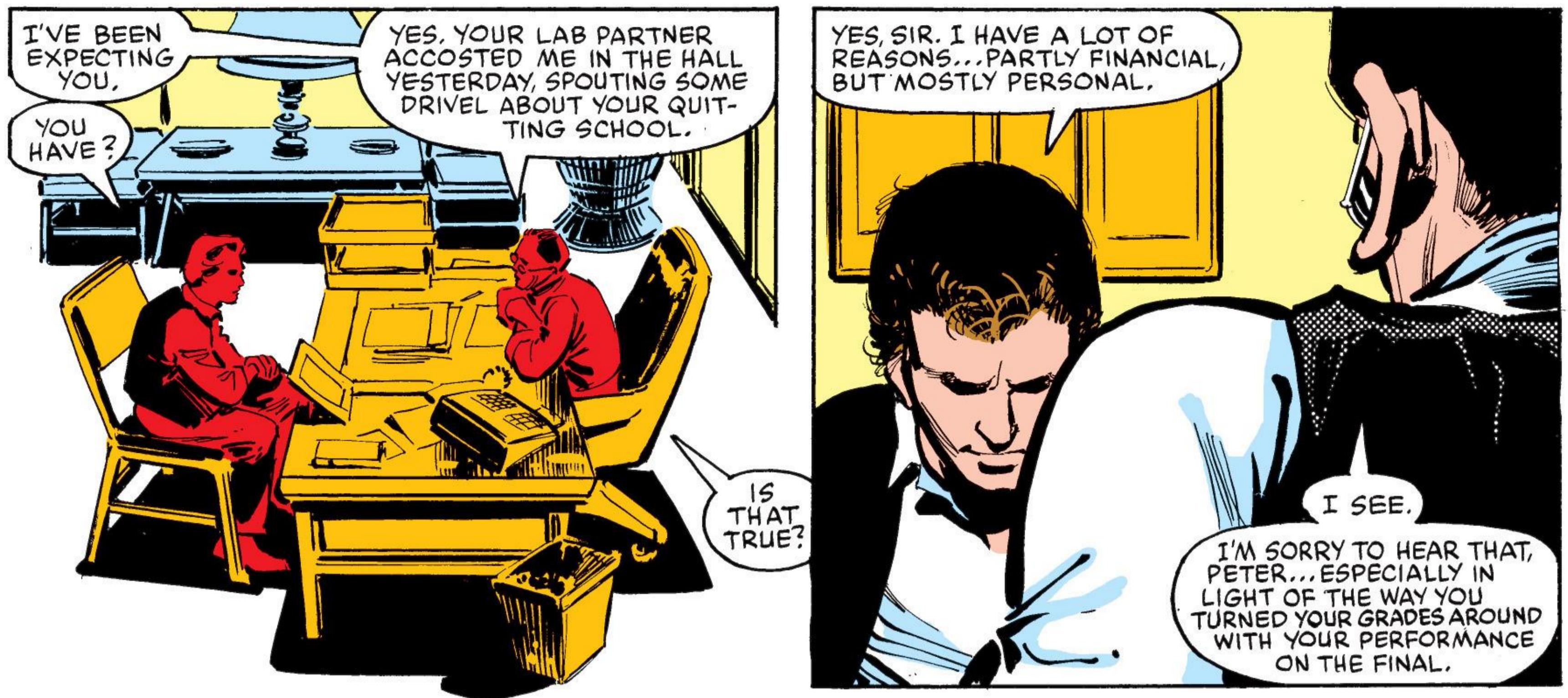
JOHN ROMITA JR. & KLAUS JANSON
ARTISTS

TOM DEFALCO JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

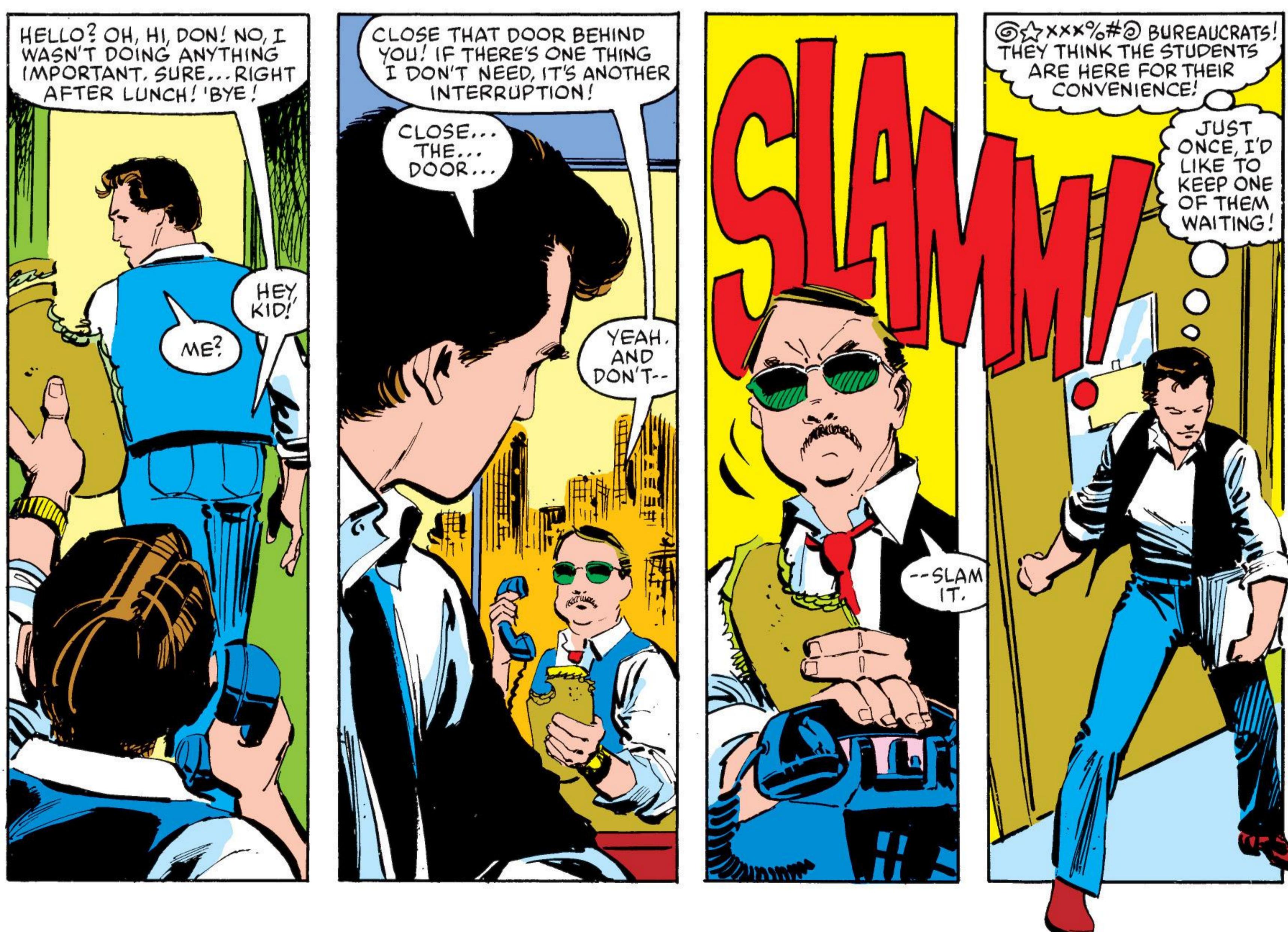
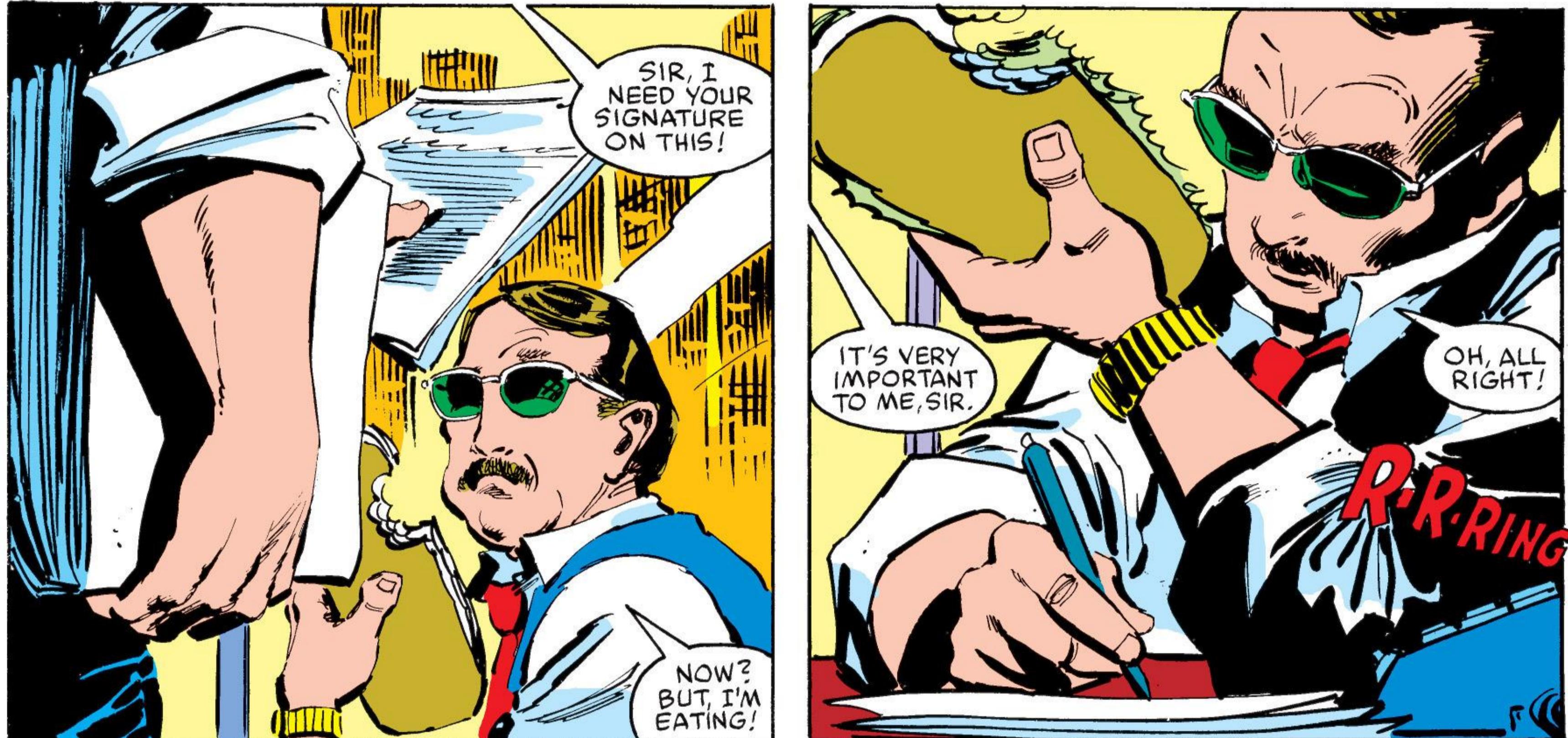
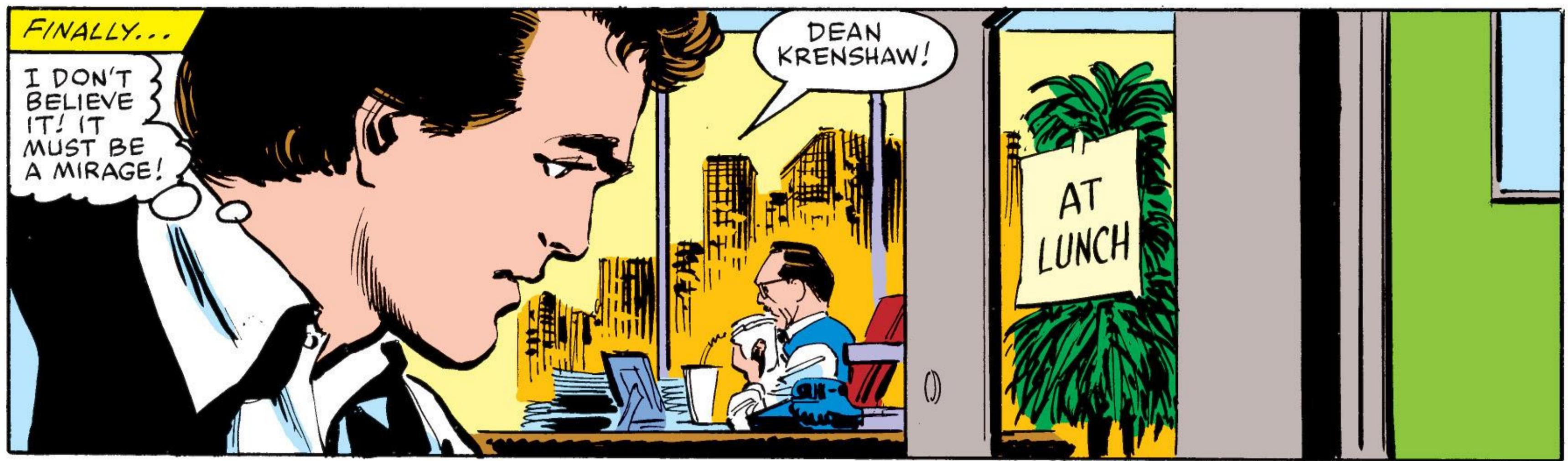
KNOWING NOW JUST
HOW FLEETING LIFE CAN
BE, SHE TAKES EVERY
OPPORTUNITY TO EX-
PRESS HER GRATITUDE...

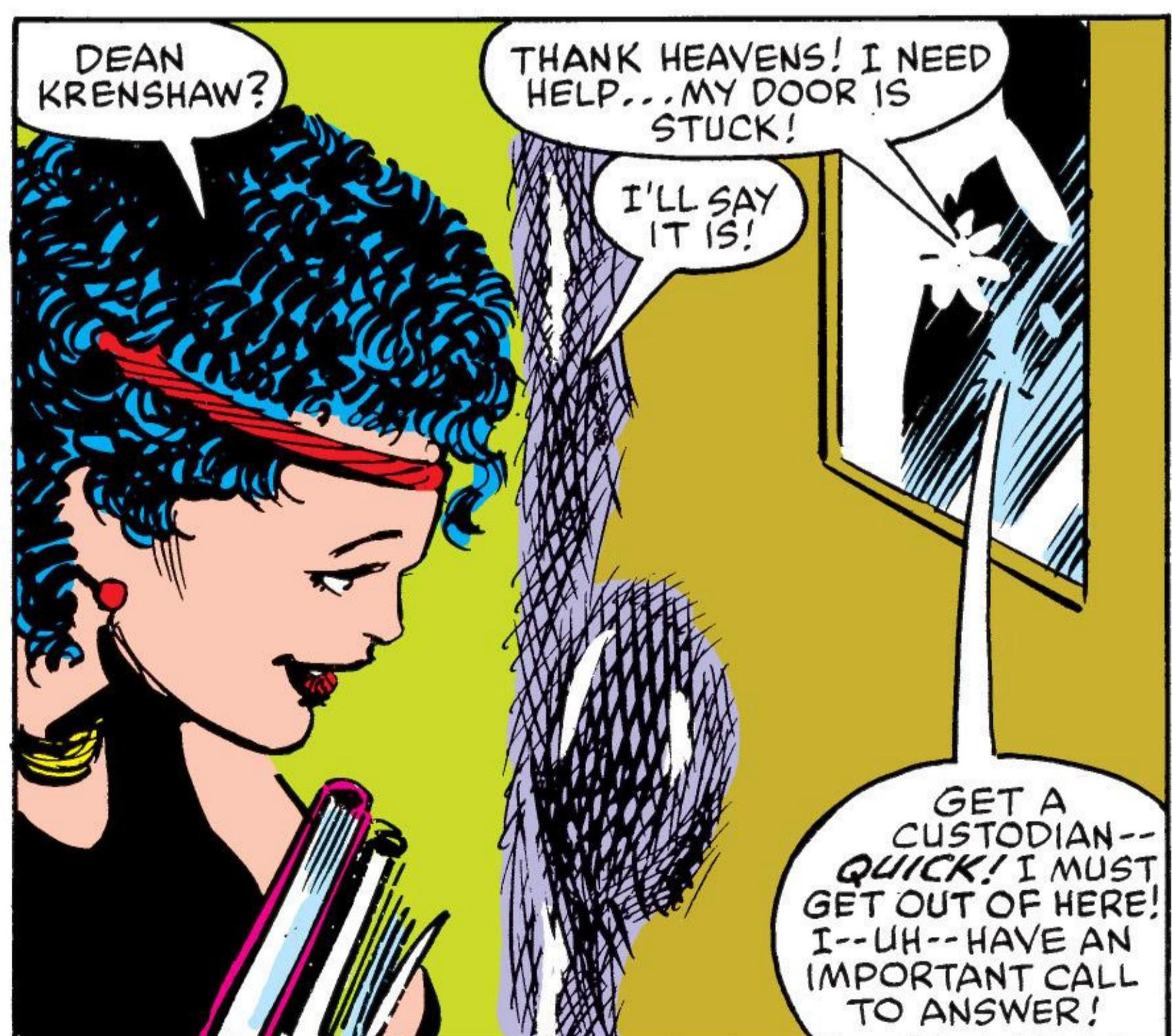
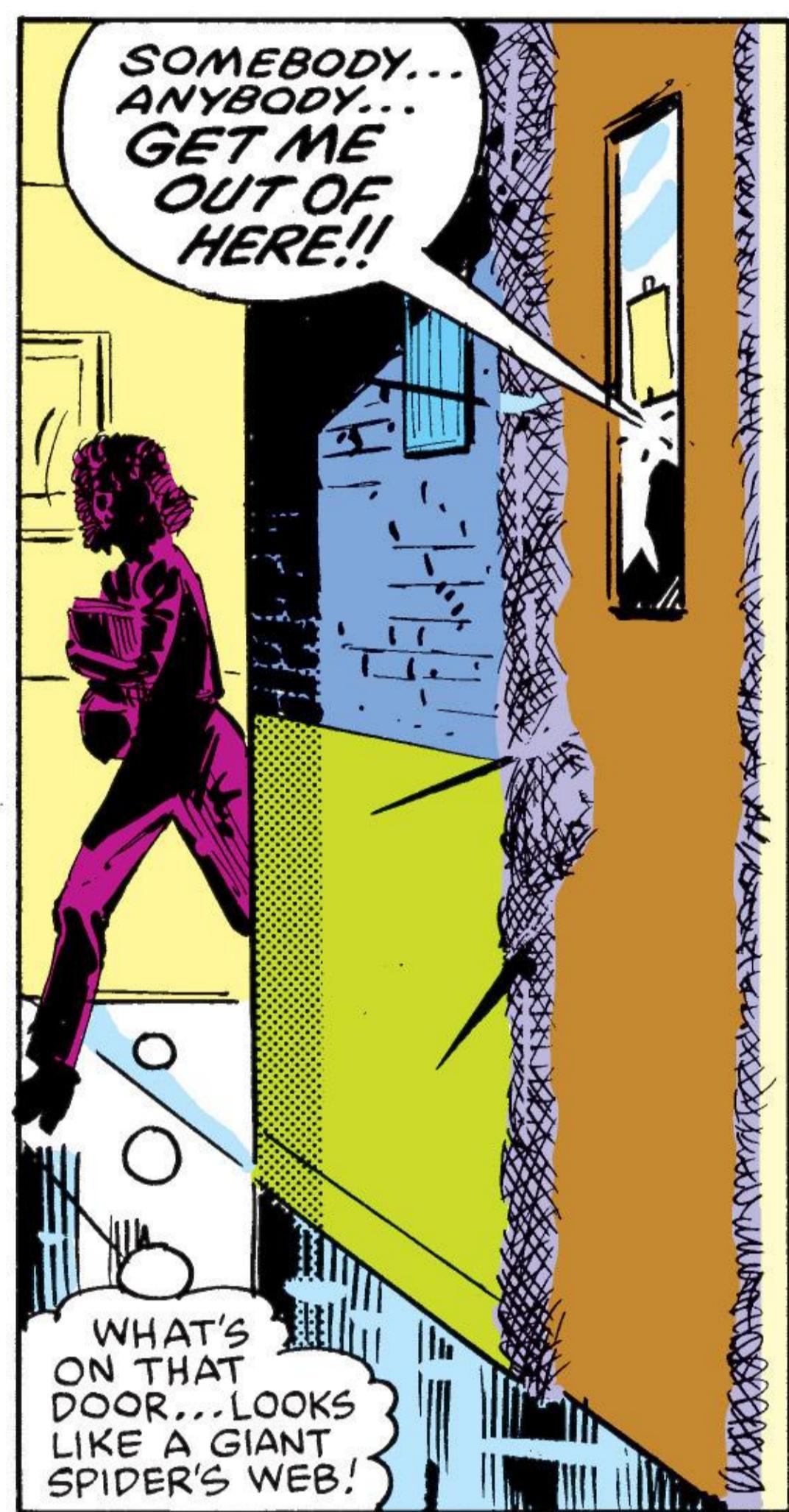
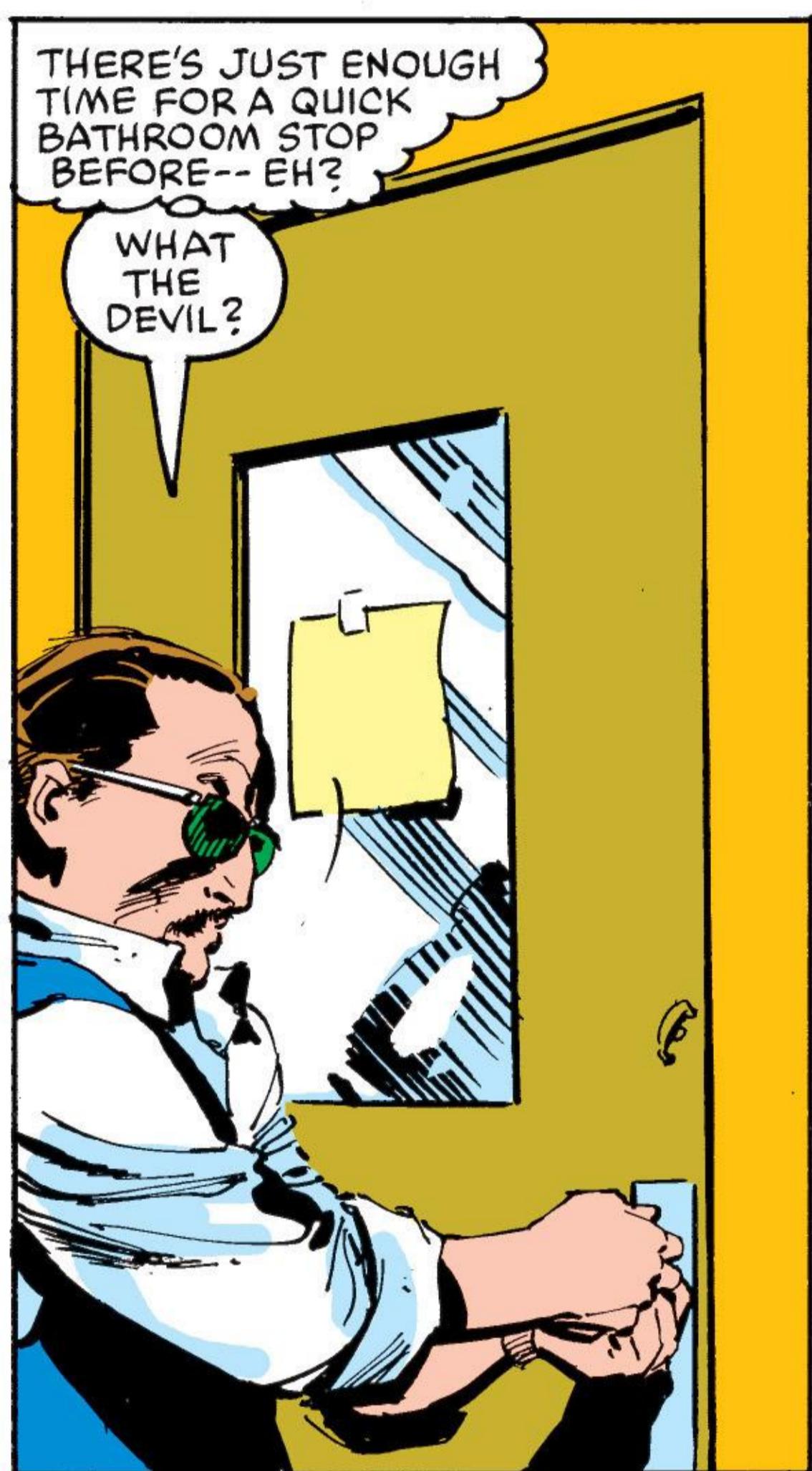


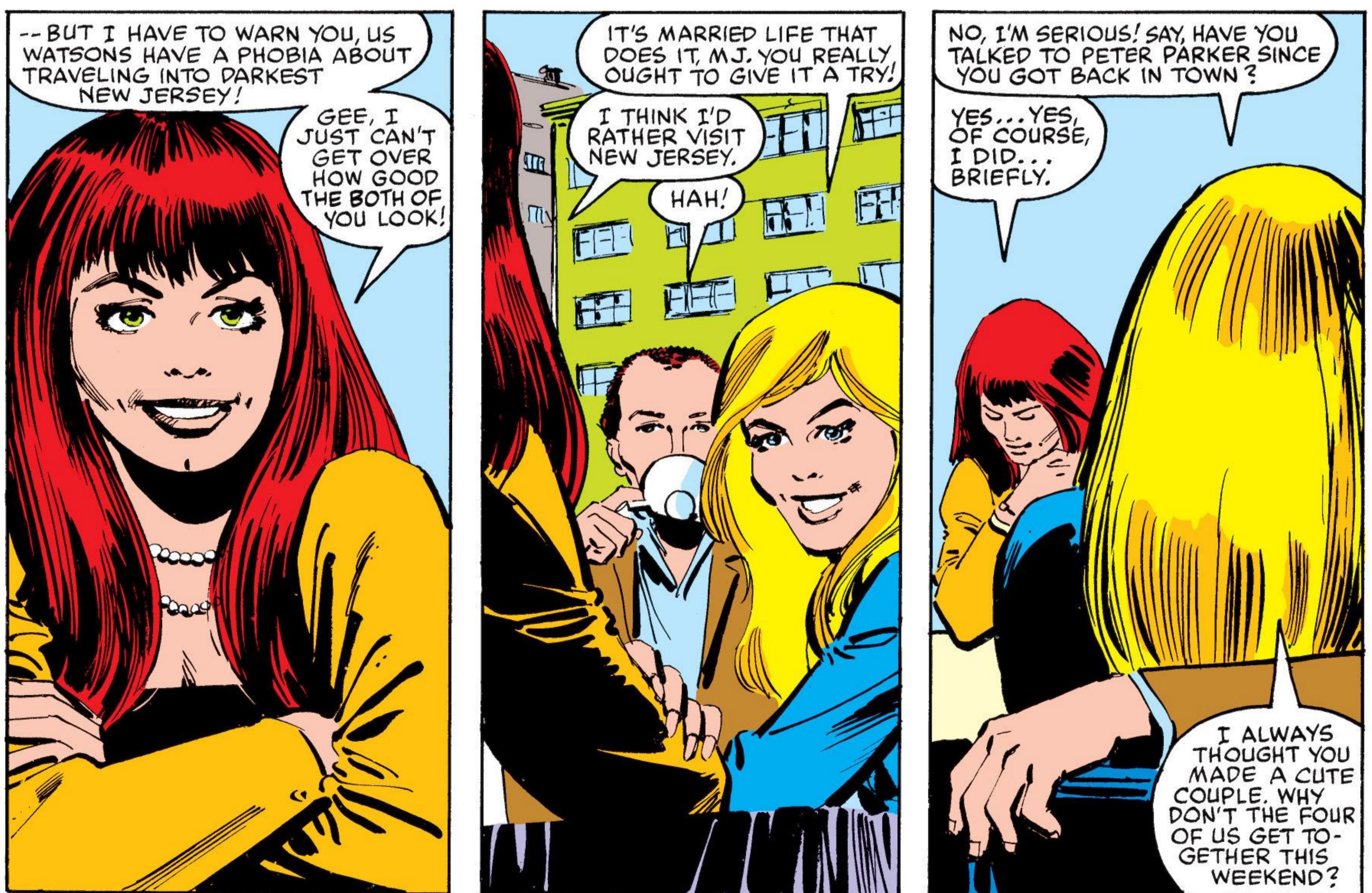
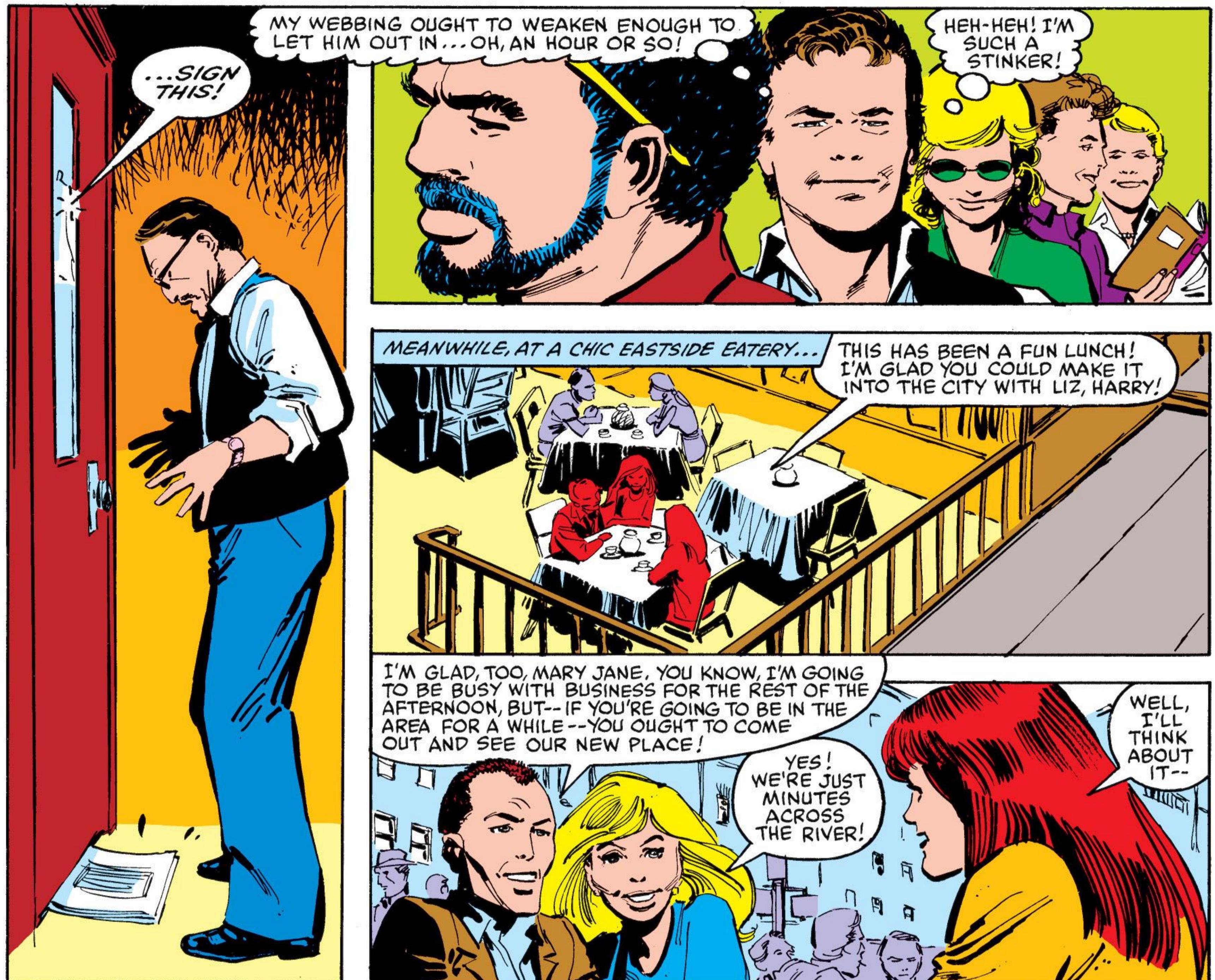


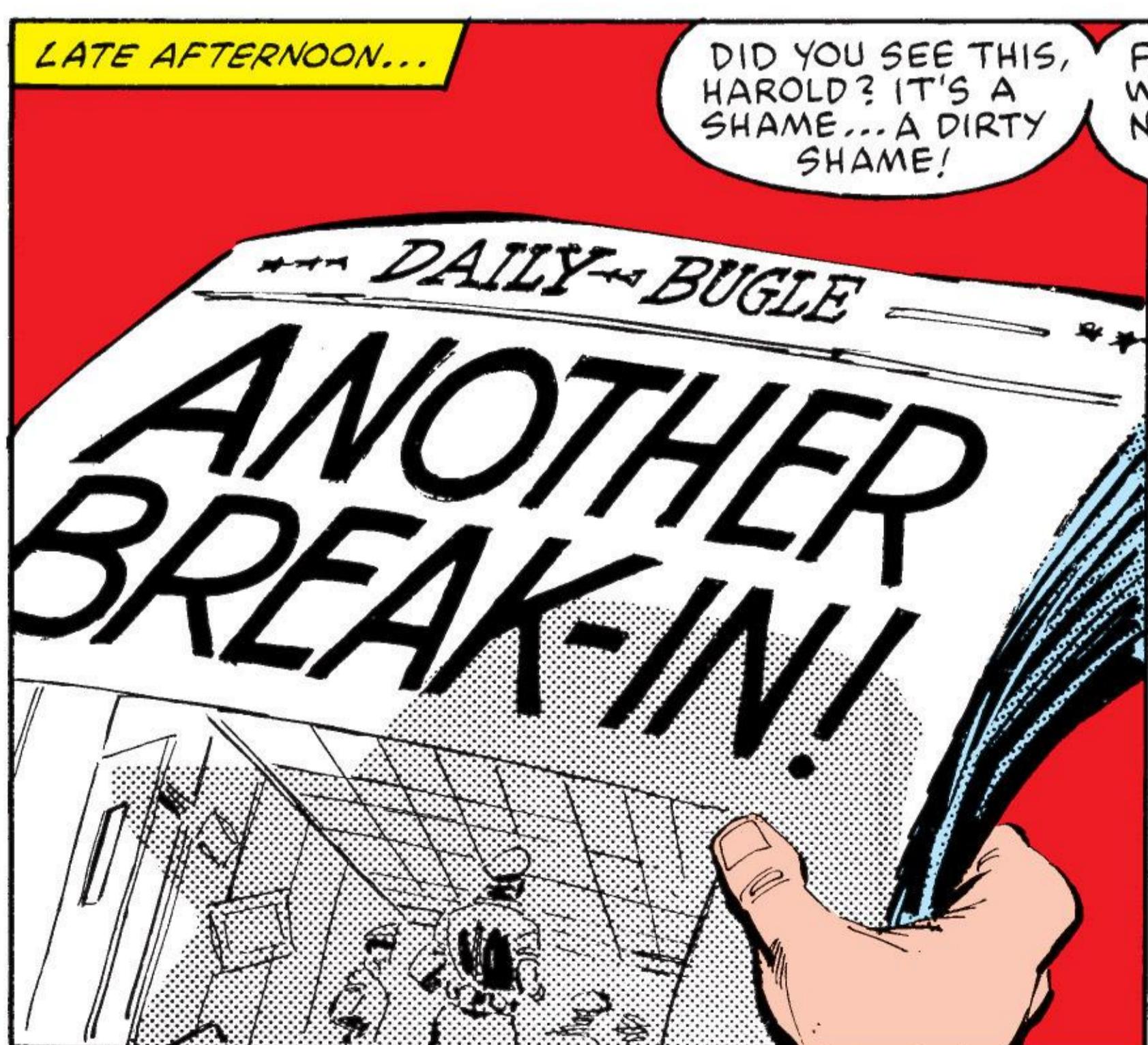
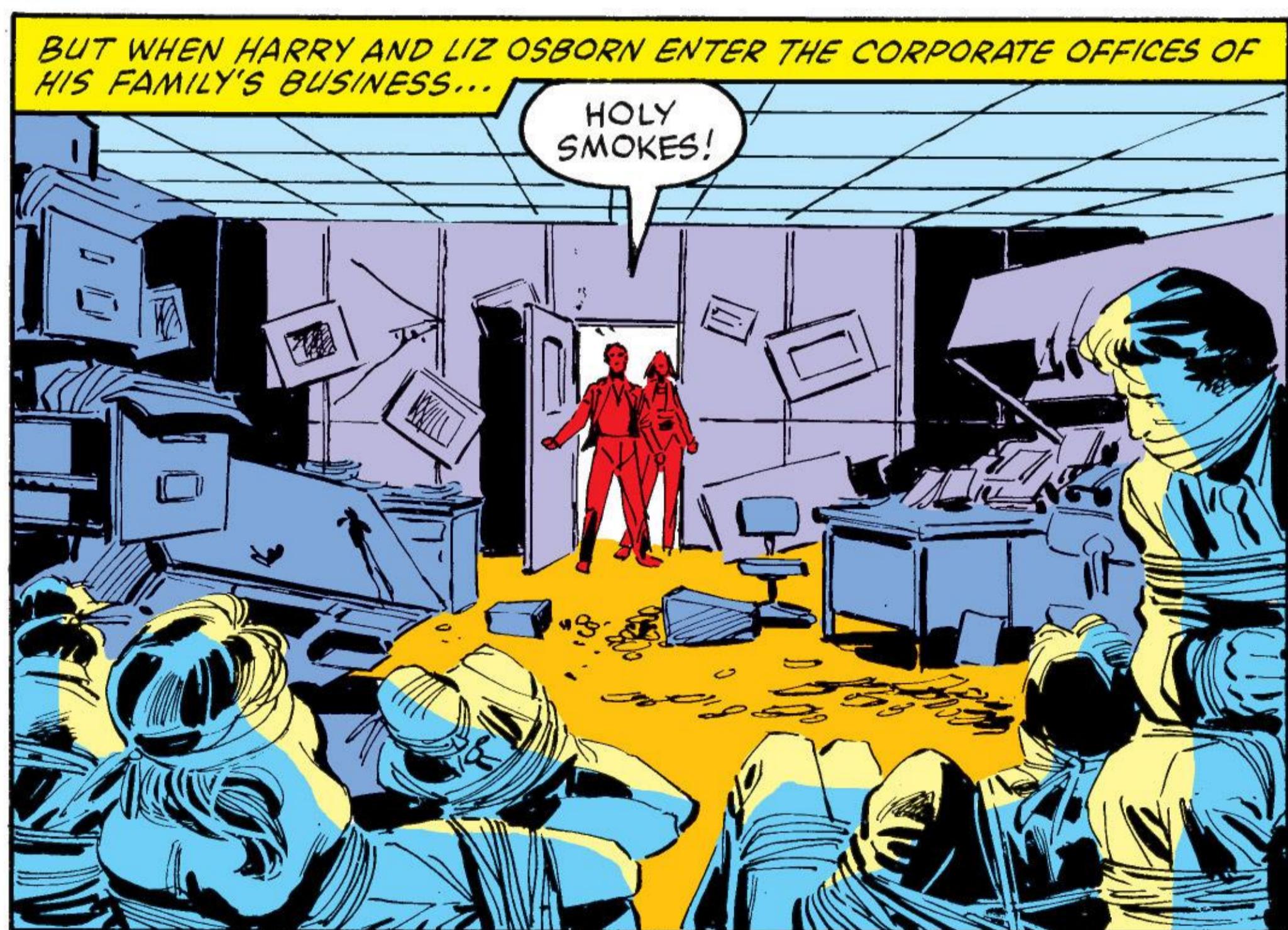
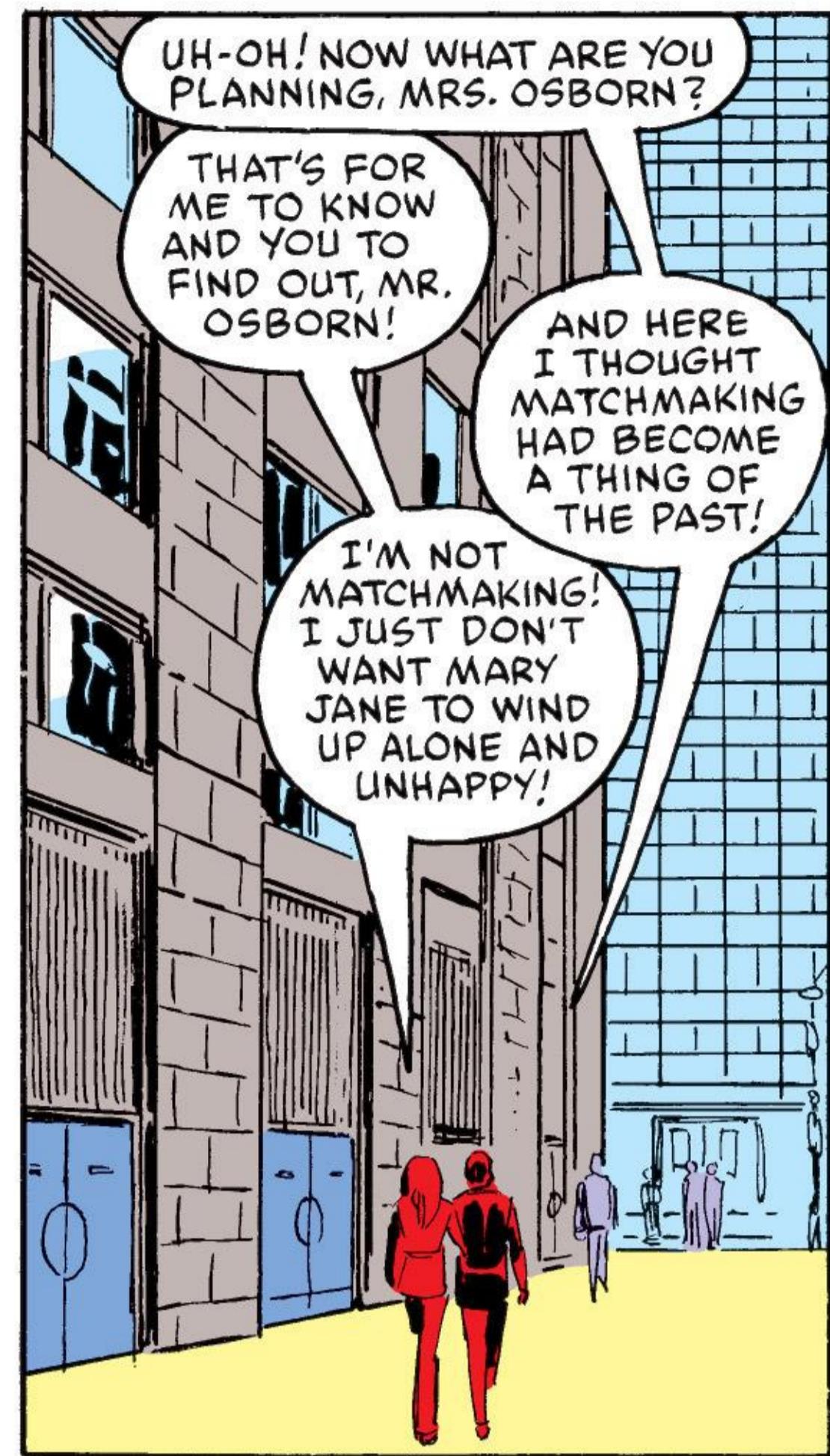


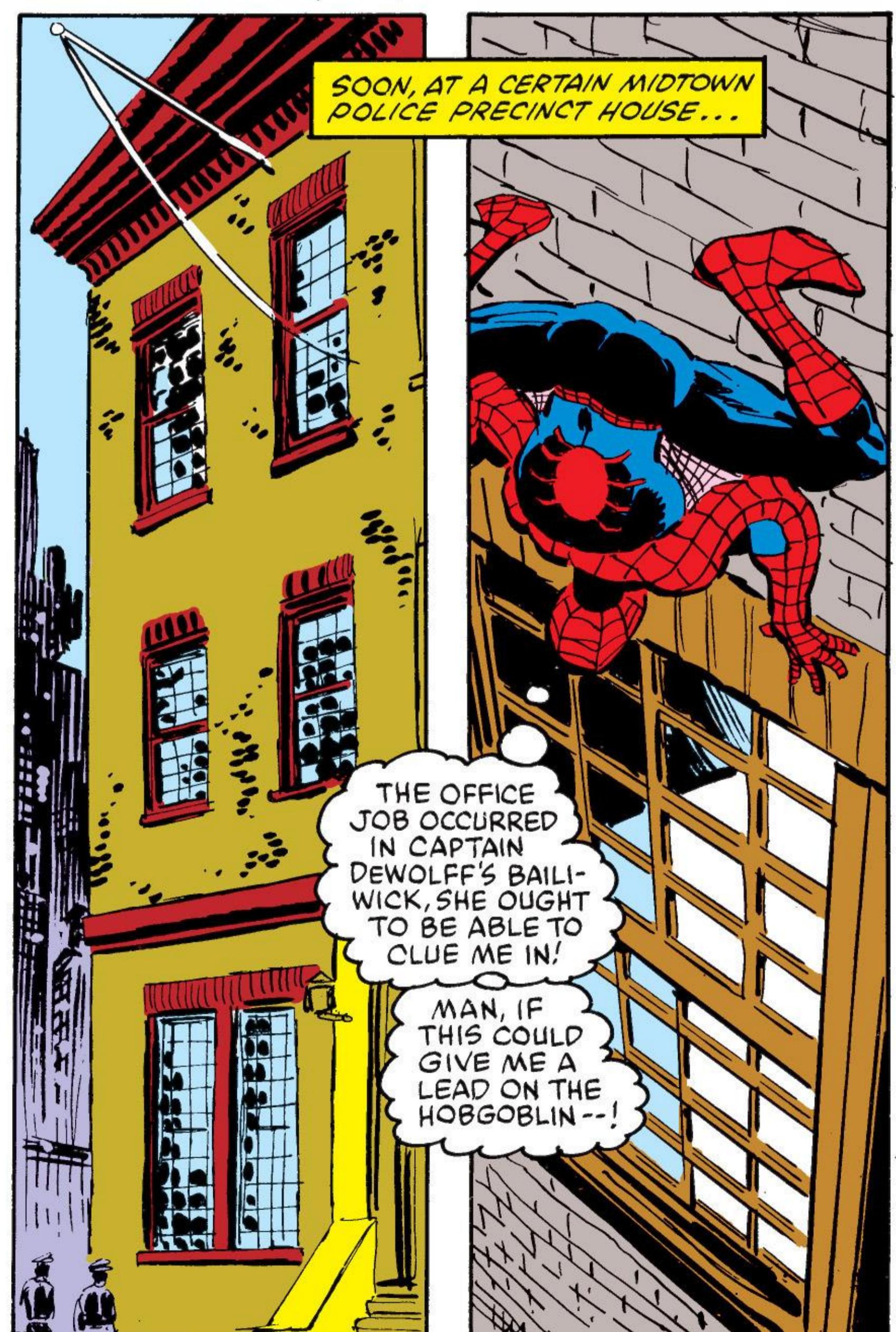
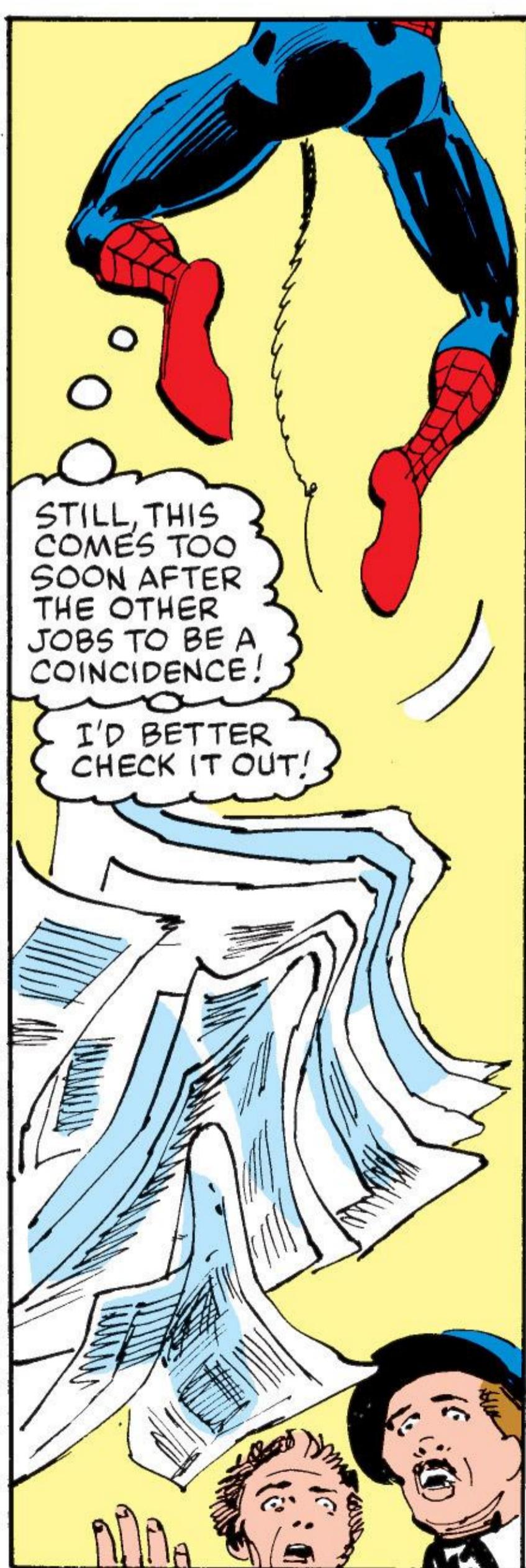
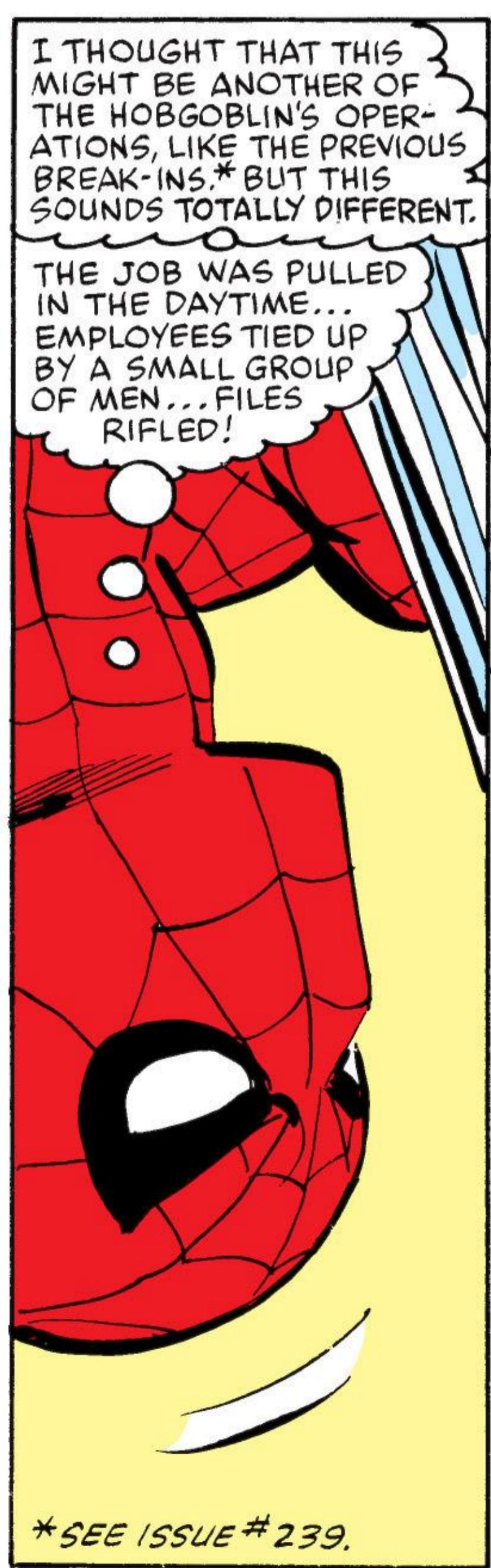
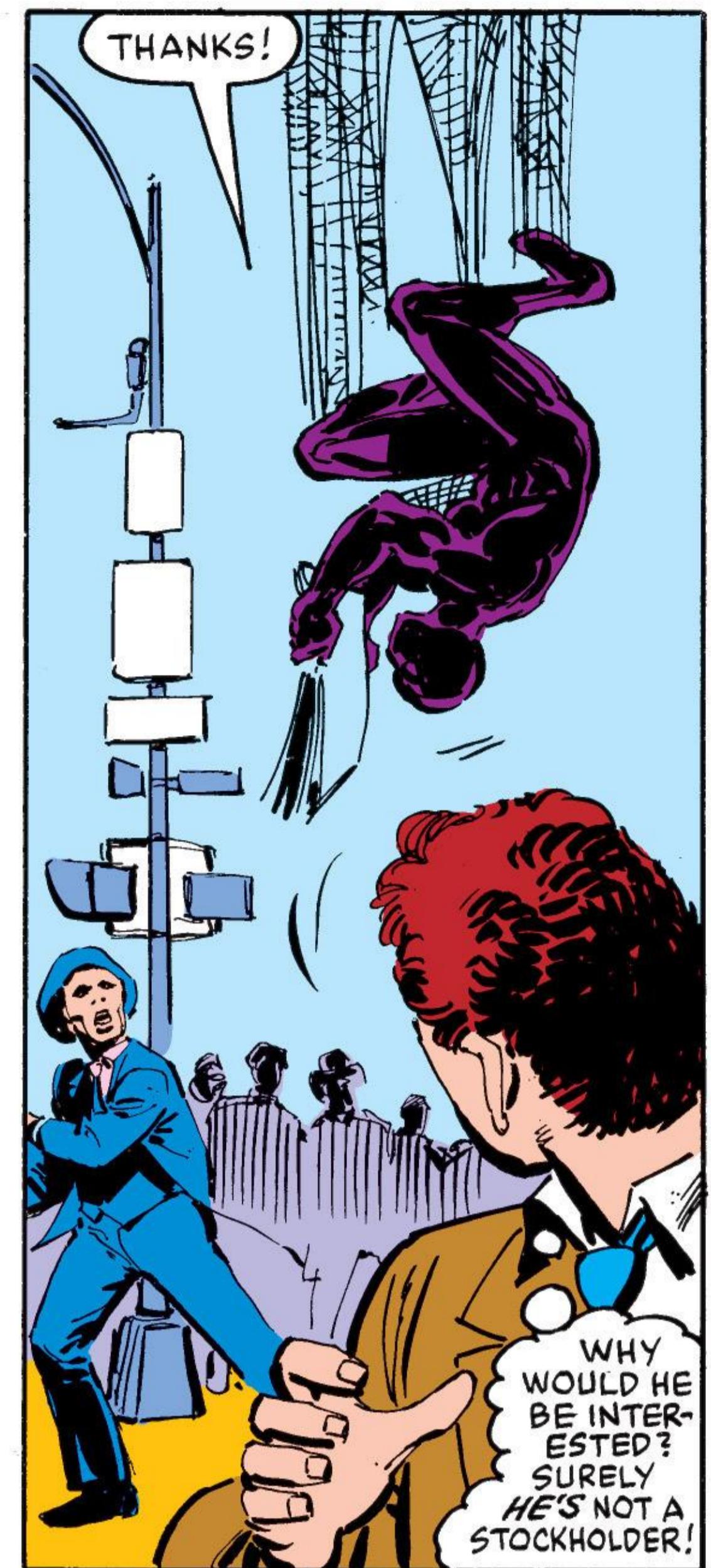


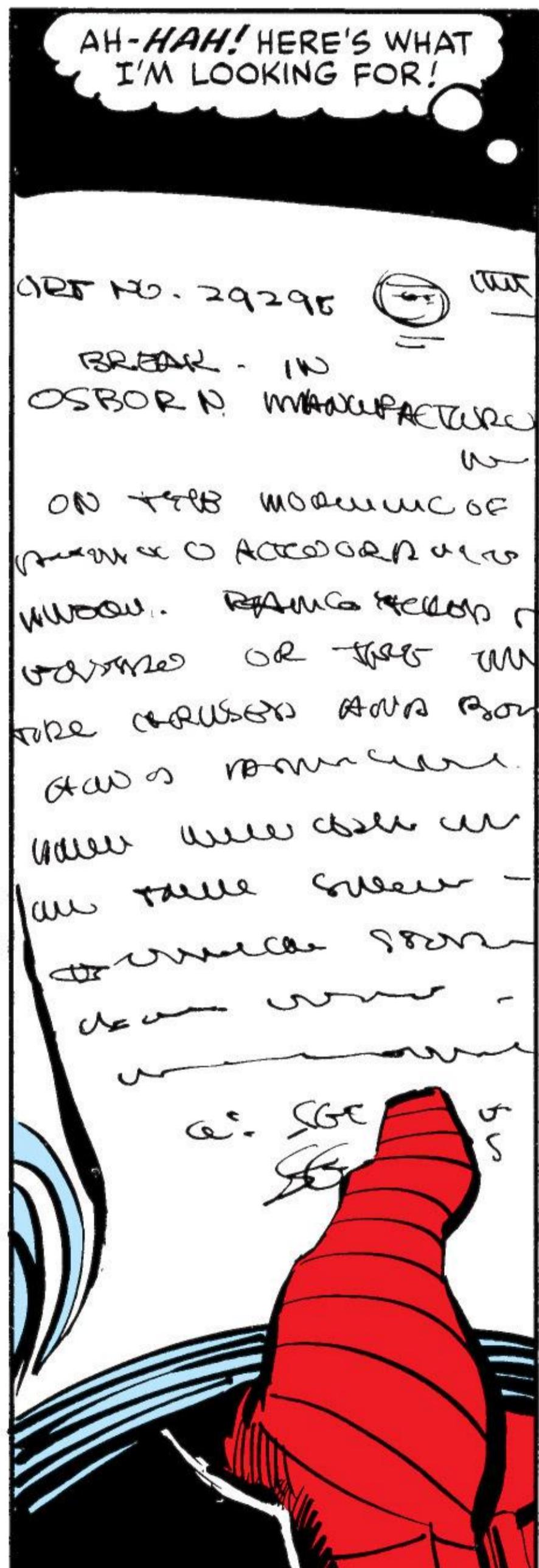
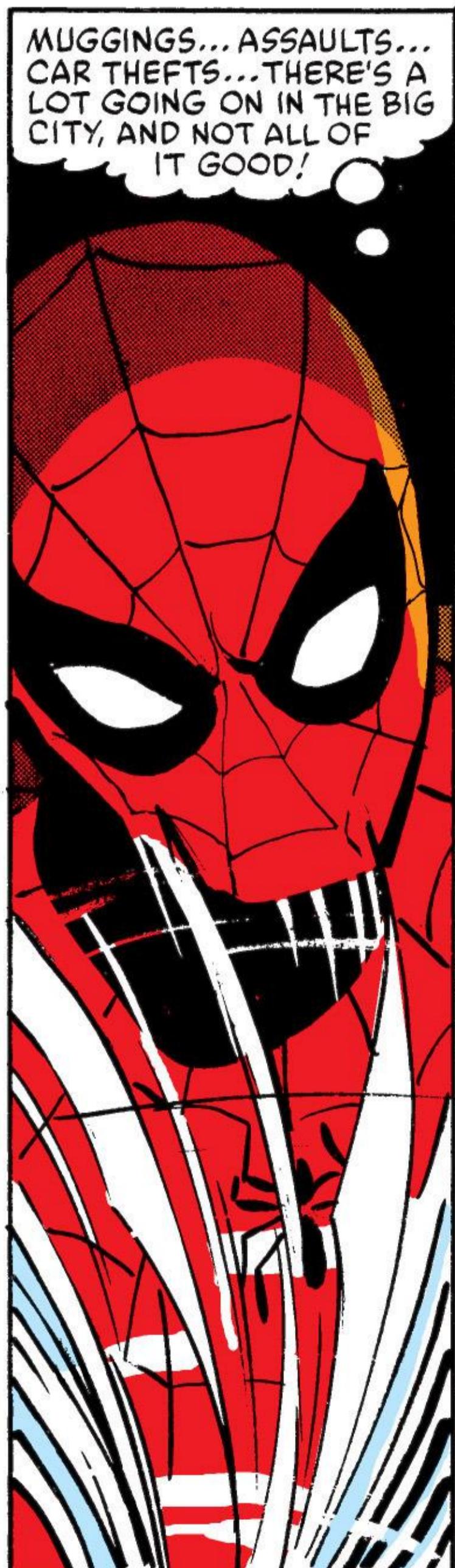
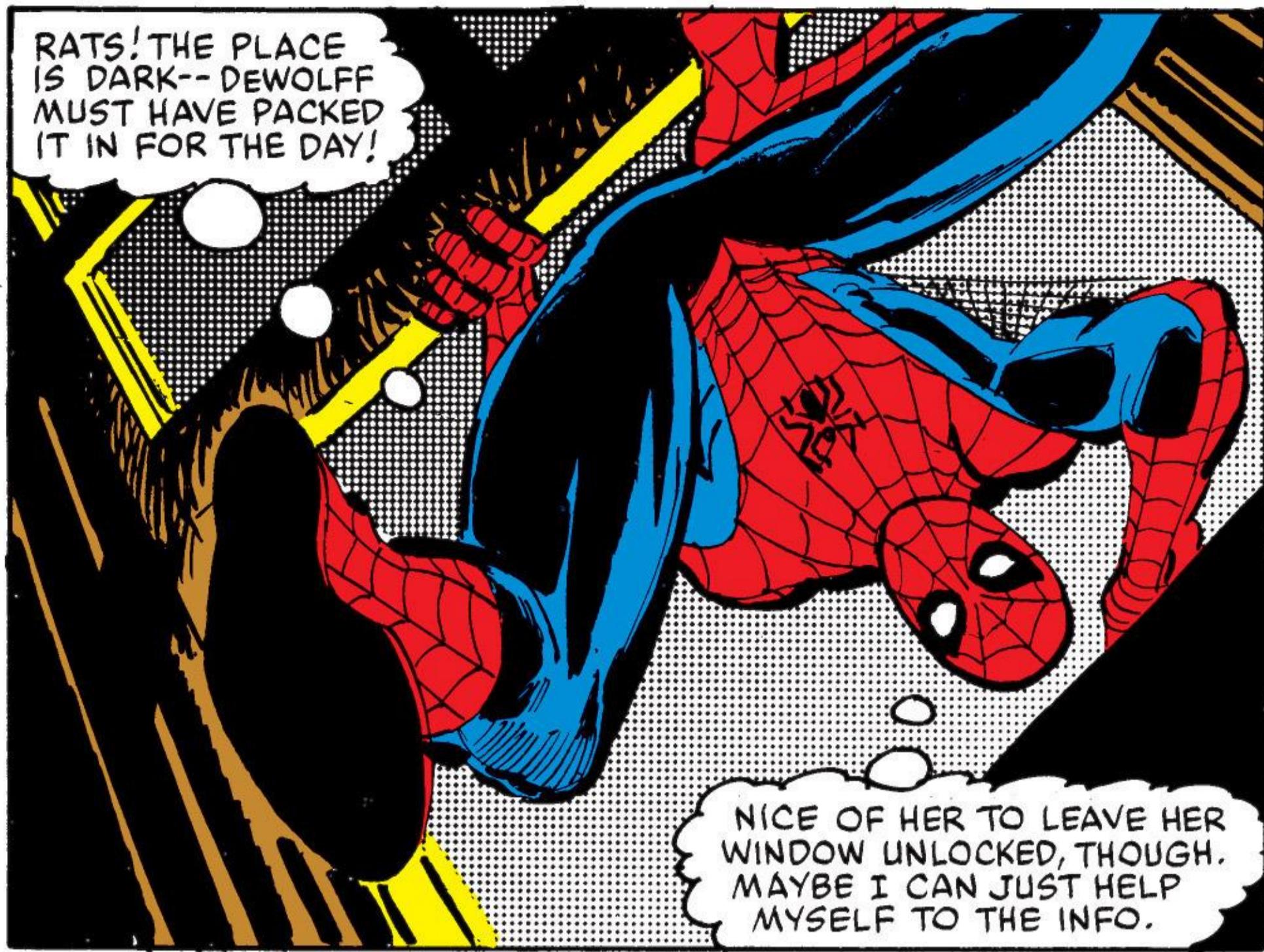


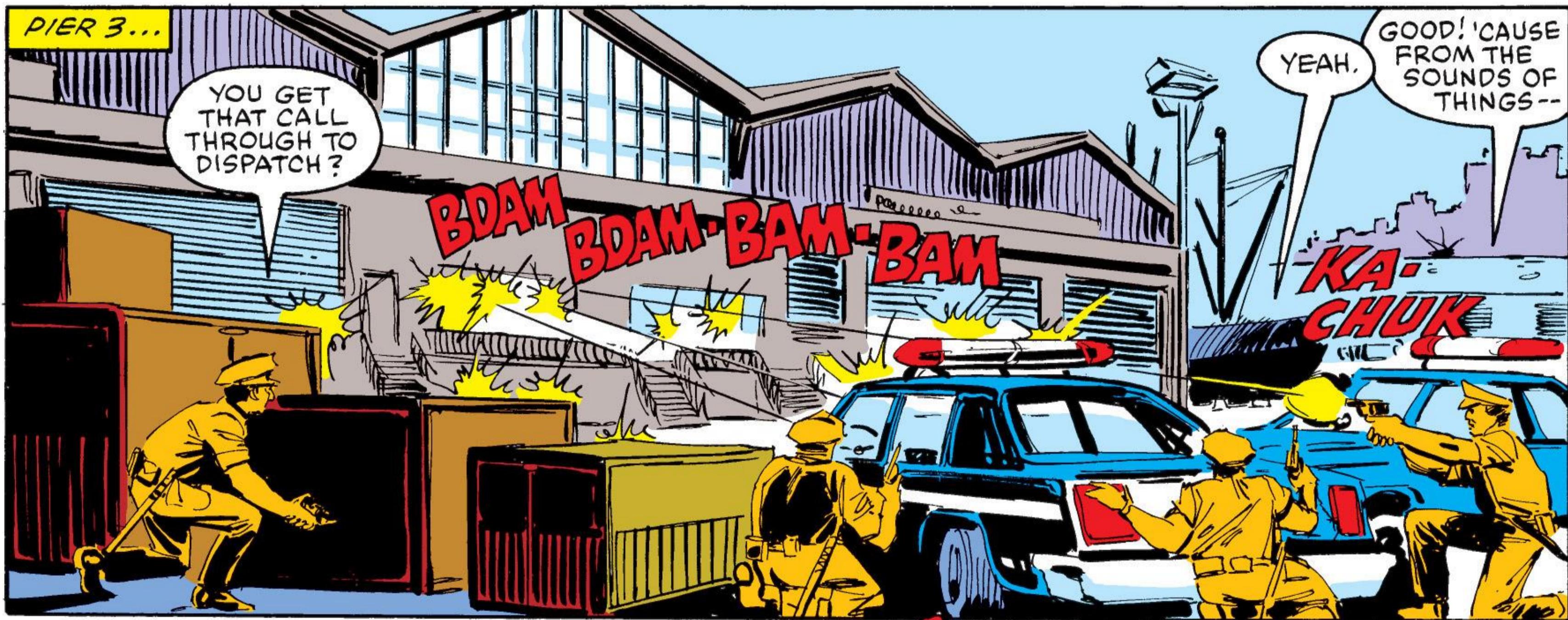
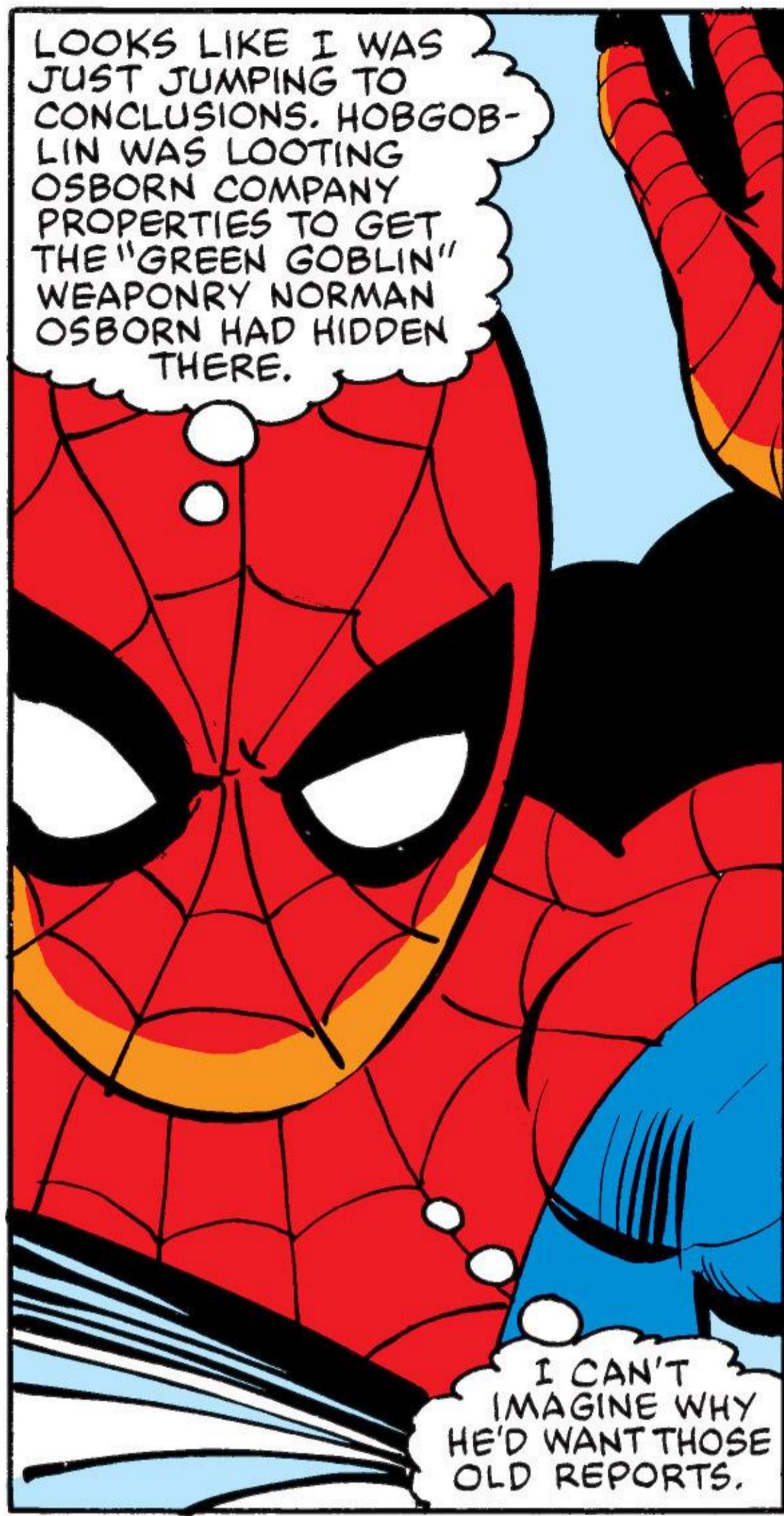












TUMBLING THROUGH THE AIR, MANY STORIES ABOVE THE STREETS, SPIDER-MAN LANDS UNSEEN ON THE ROOF OF THE DOCKSIDE WAREHOUSE...

WITH ALL THE SHOOTING GOING ON DOWNSTAIRS, I DOUBT IF ANYONE HEARD ME LAND.

WELL, IT'S NICE TO BE RIGHT ABOUT SOMETHING! THAT'S A RATHER BLATANT CHEMICAL THEFT IN PROGRESS! THESE BOYS HAVE NO SUBTLETY AT ALL.

BUT THEN, NEITHER DO I!

ALL RIGHT, THIS IS A CITIZEN'S ARREST! I SEE AT LEAST SIX CASES OF ILLEGAL USE OF FIREARMS!

AND ONE VIOLATION OF LOCAL NOISE ORDINANCES!

EEYAAH!

SPIDER-MAN!

PLUG 'IM!

NO, DON'T SHOOT!
YOU'LL HIT ONE OF OUR GUYS!

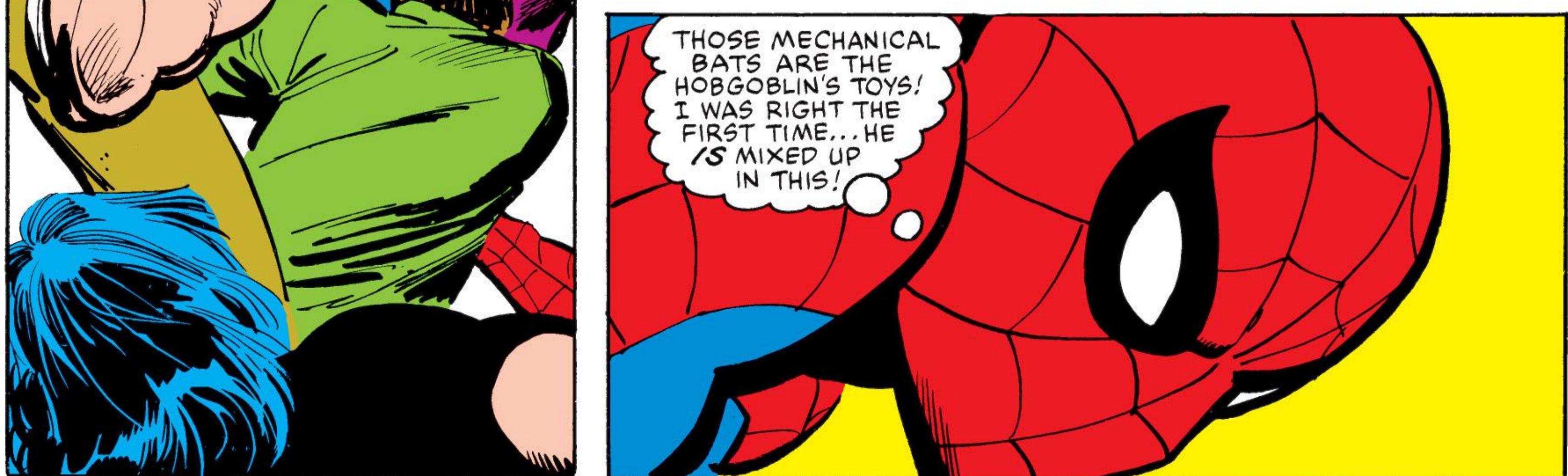
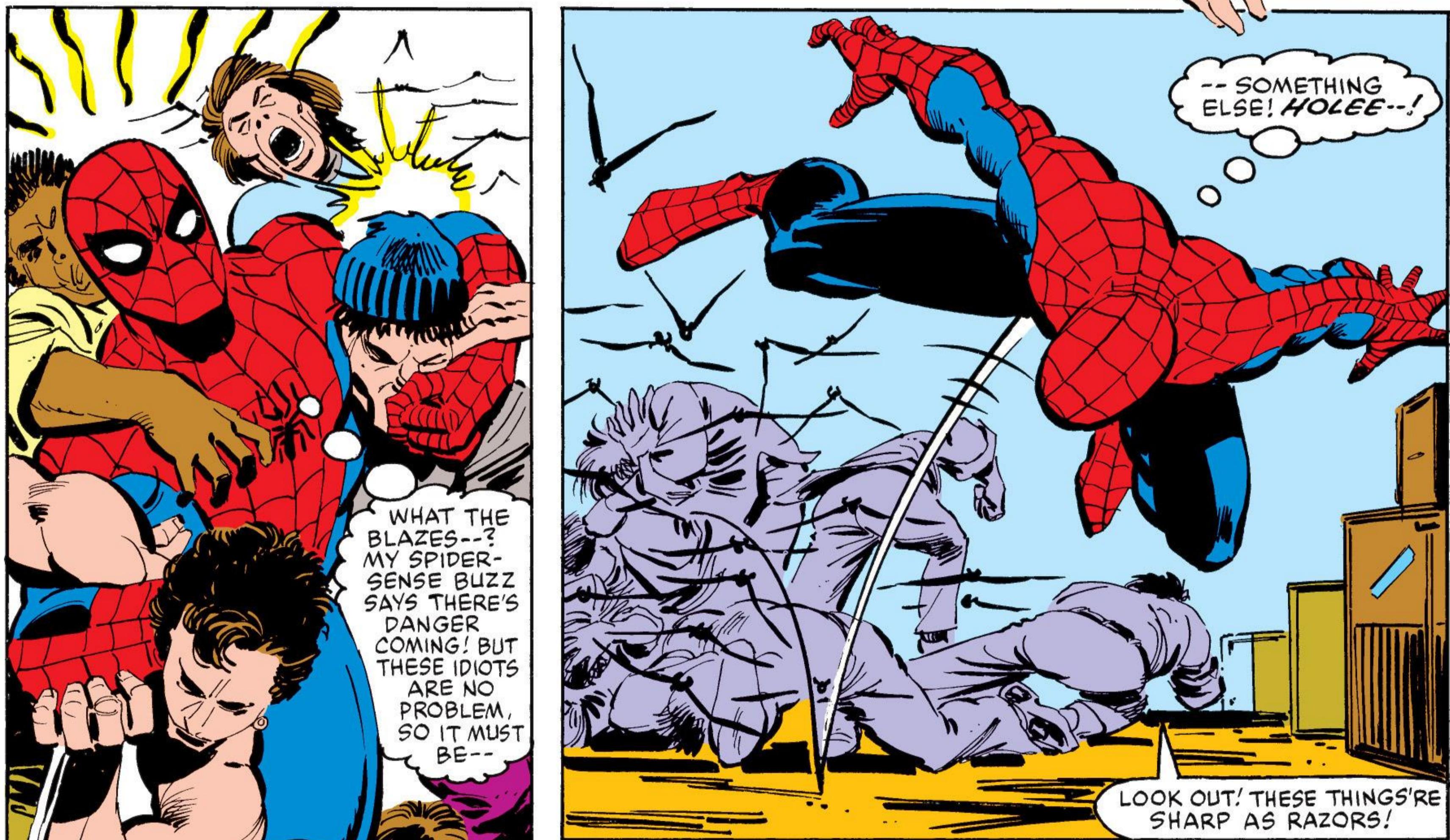
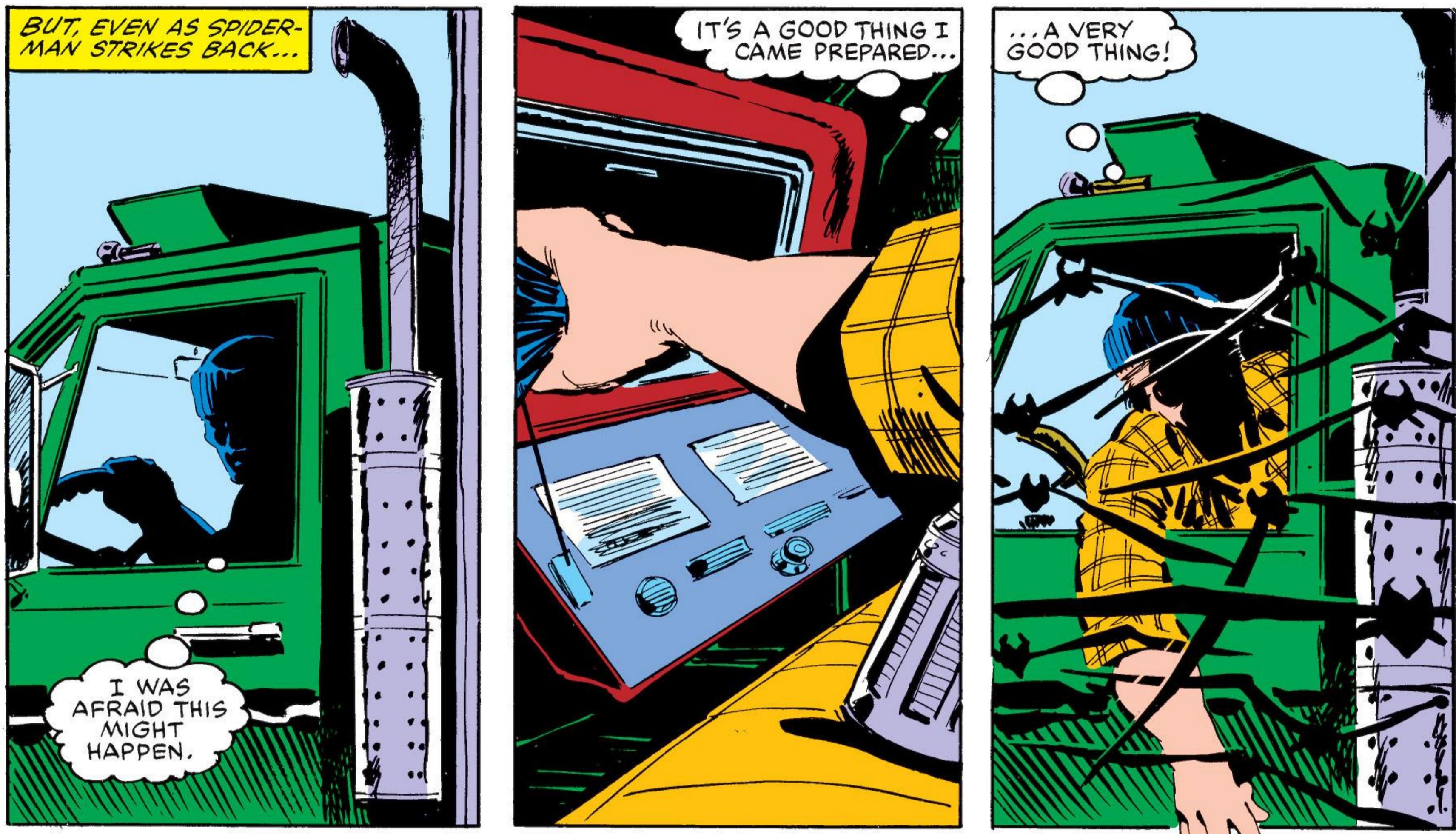
WE GOTTA DO SOME-THIN'!

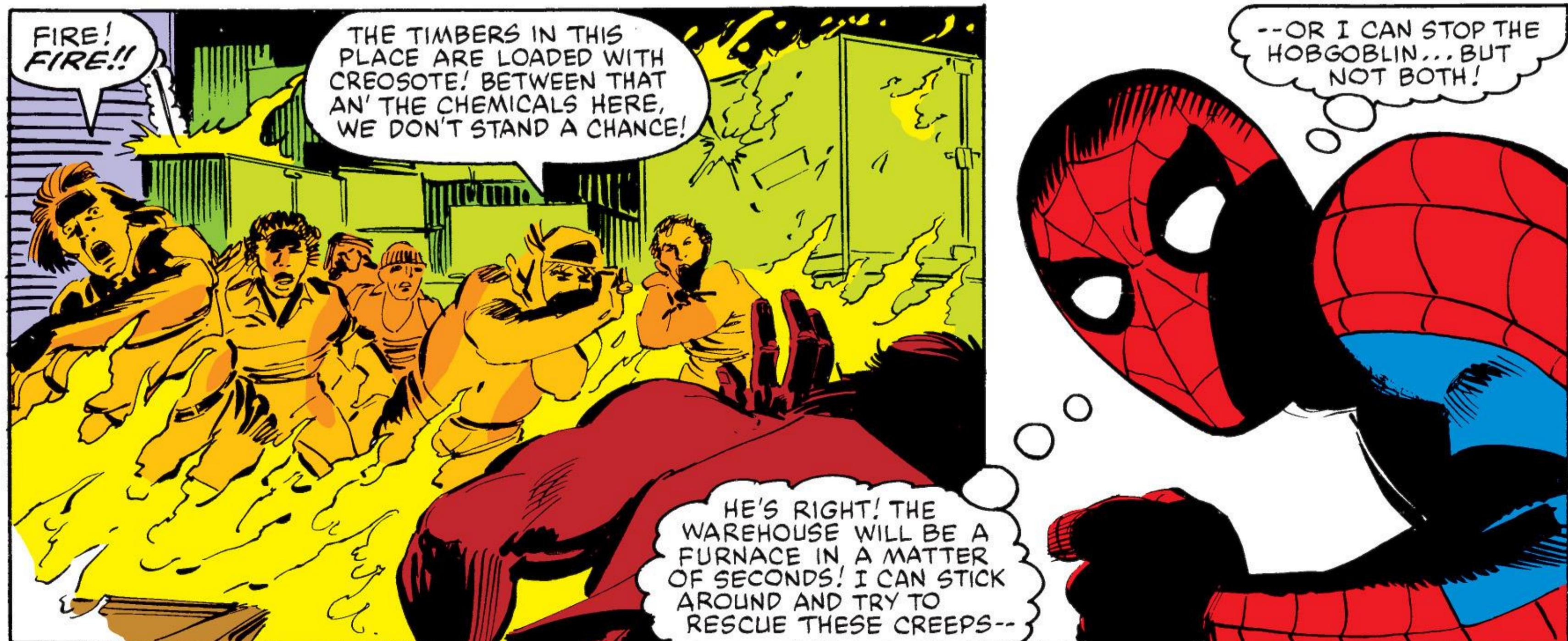
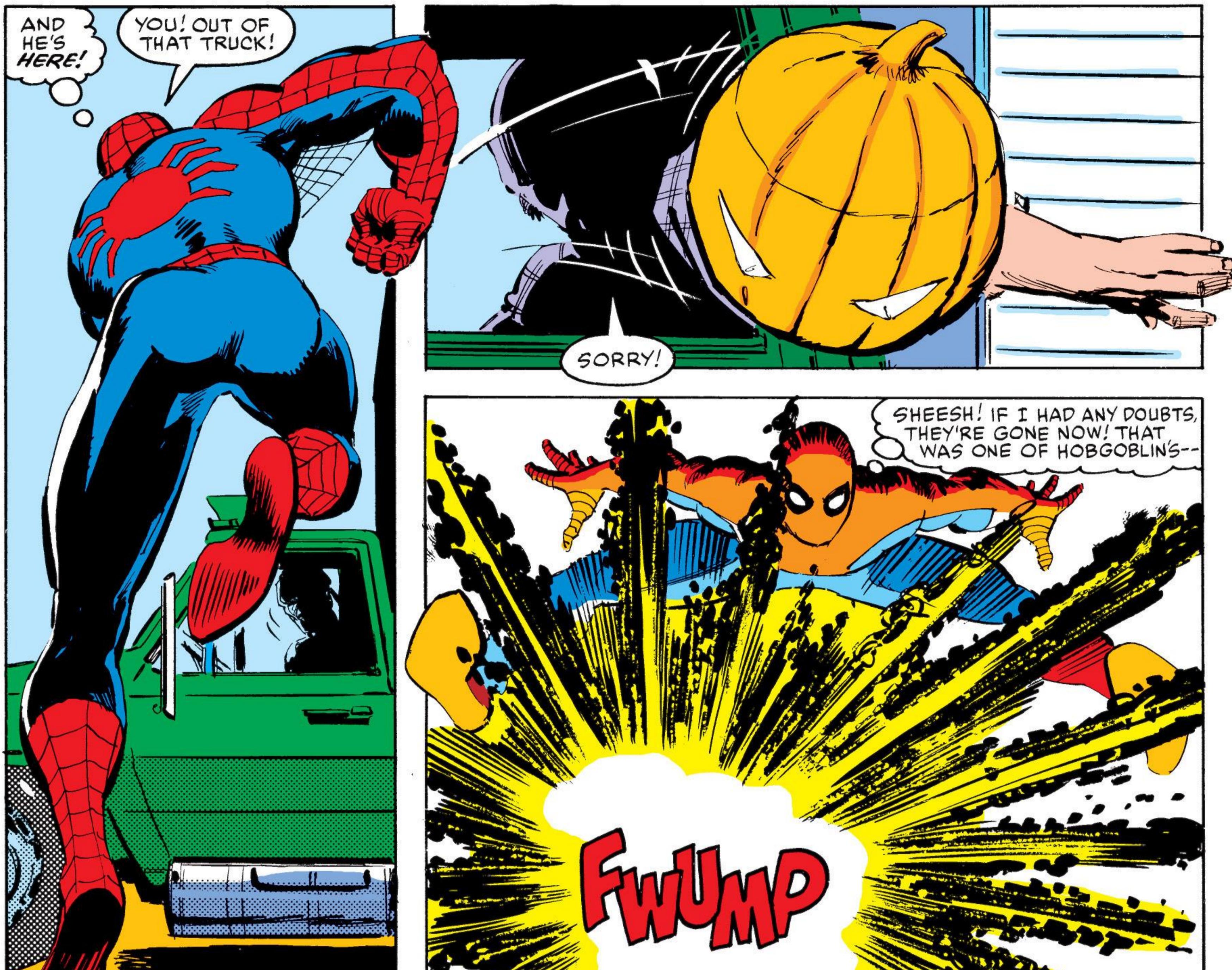
THERE'S MORE'A US THAN THERE IS'A HIM!

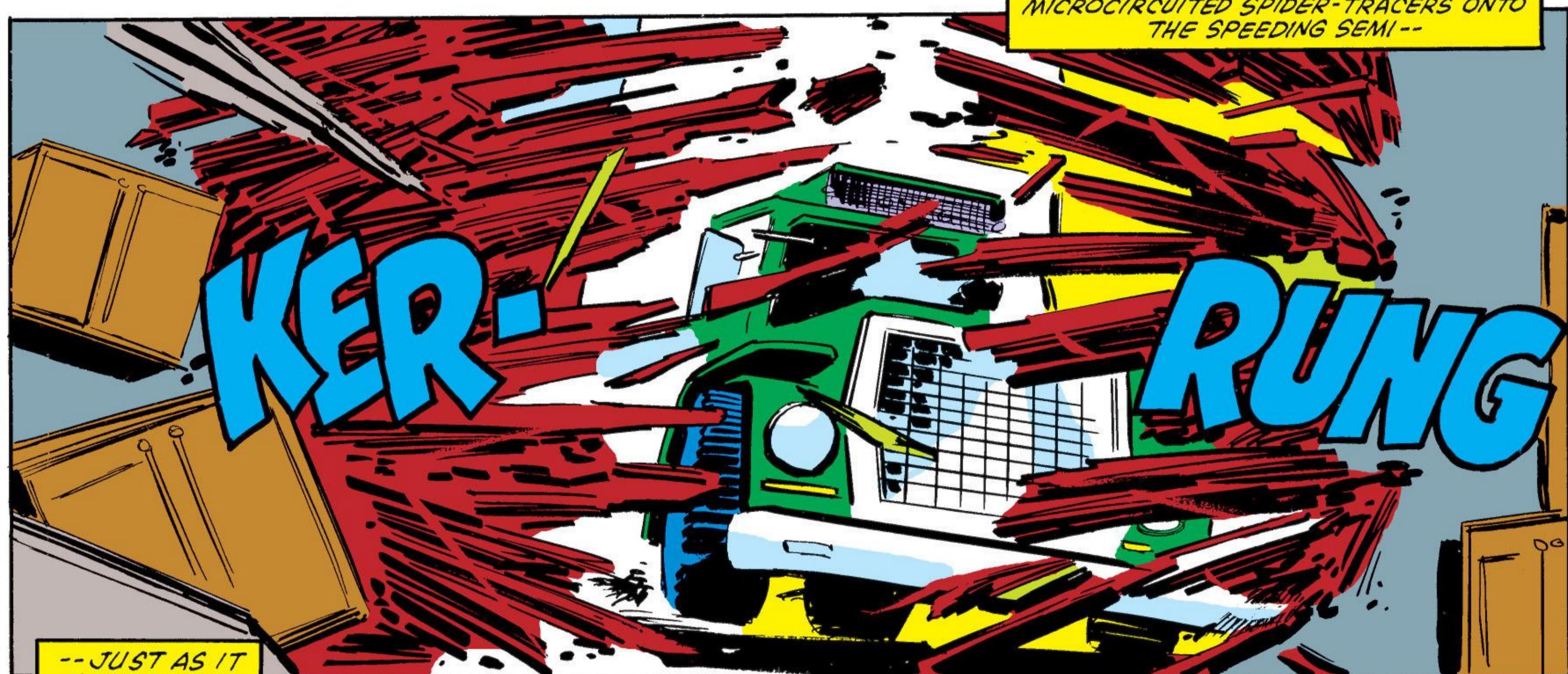
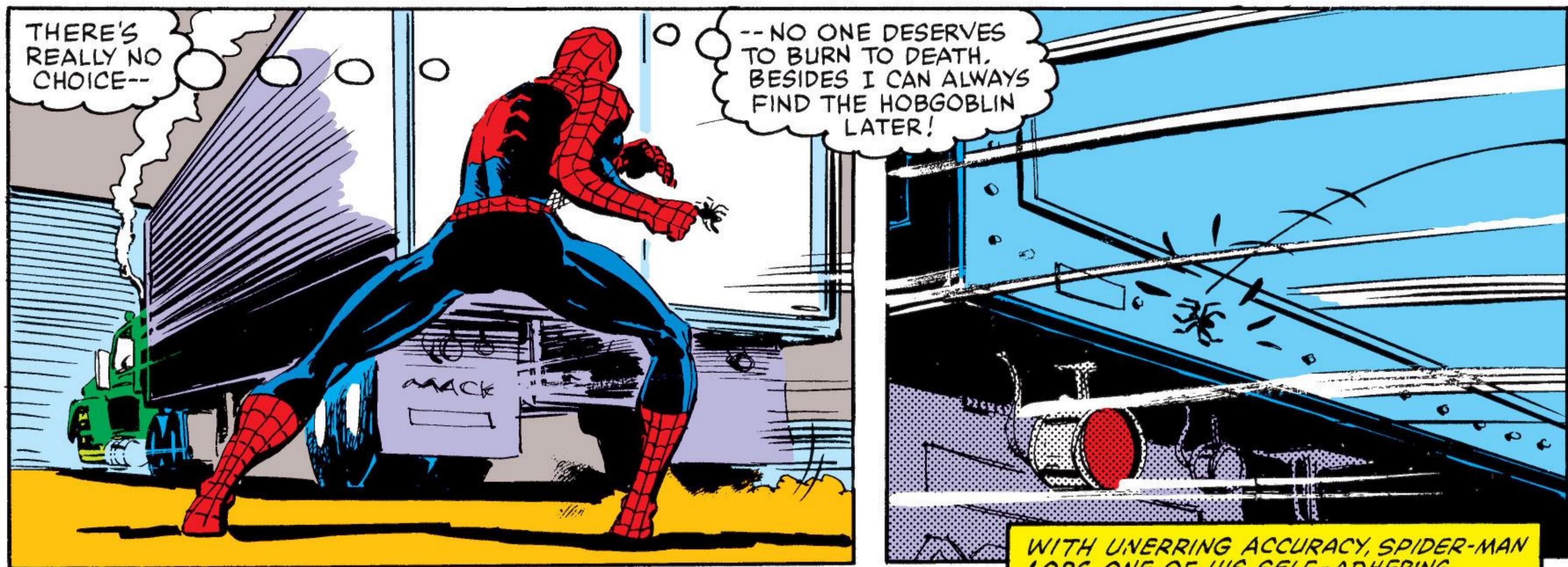
LET'S GET 'IM!

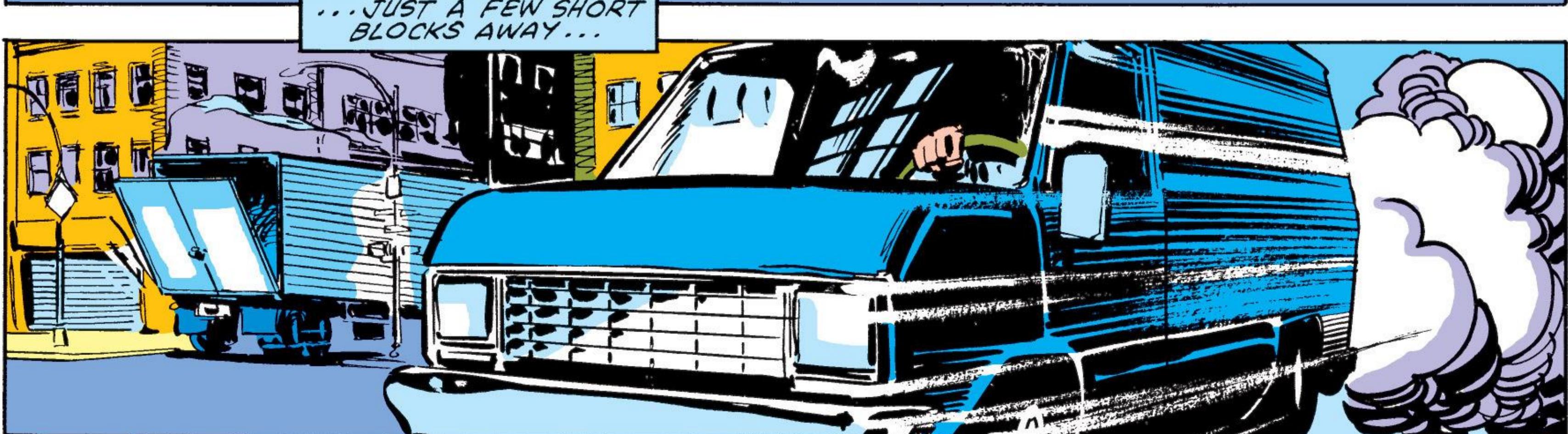
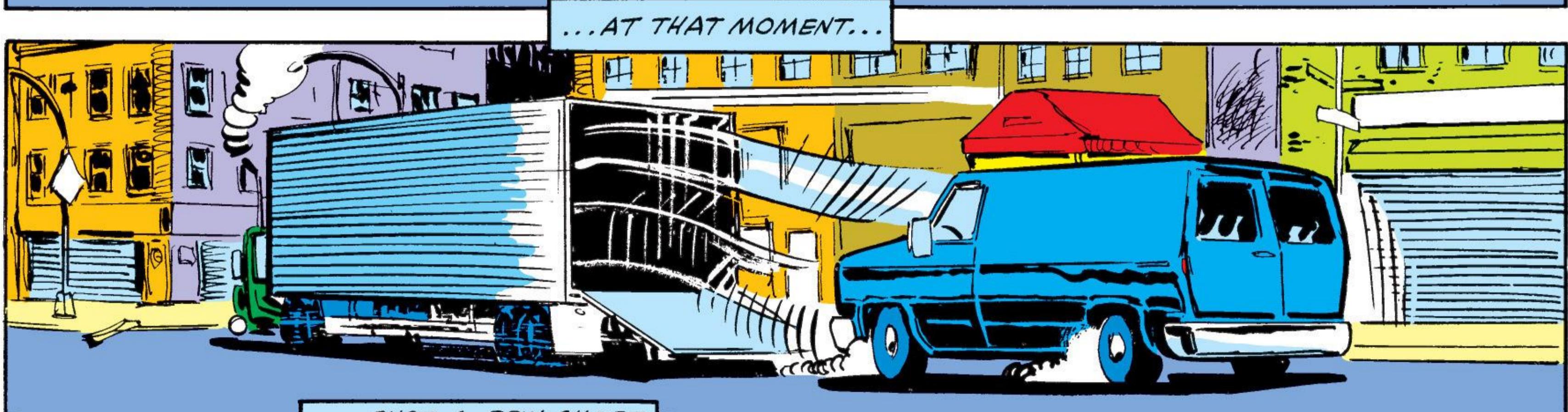
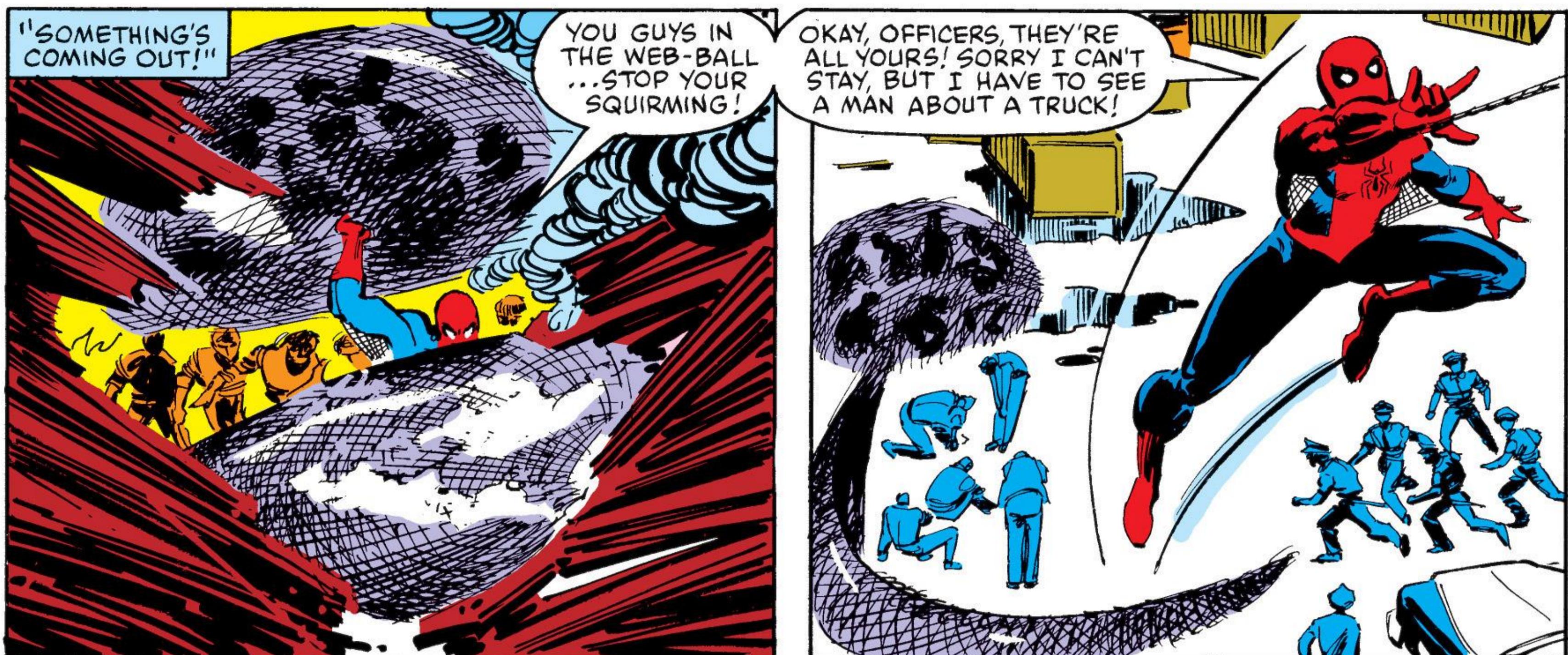


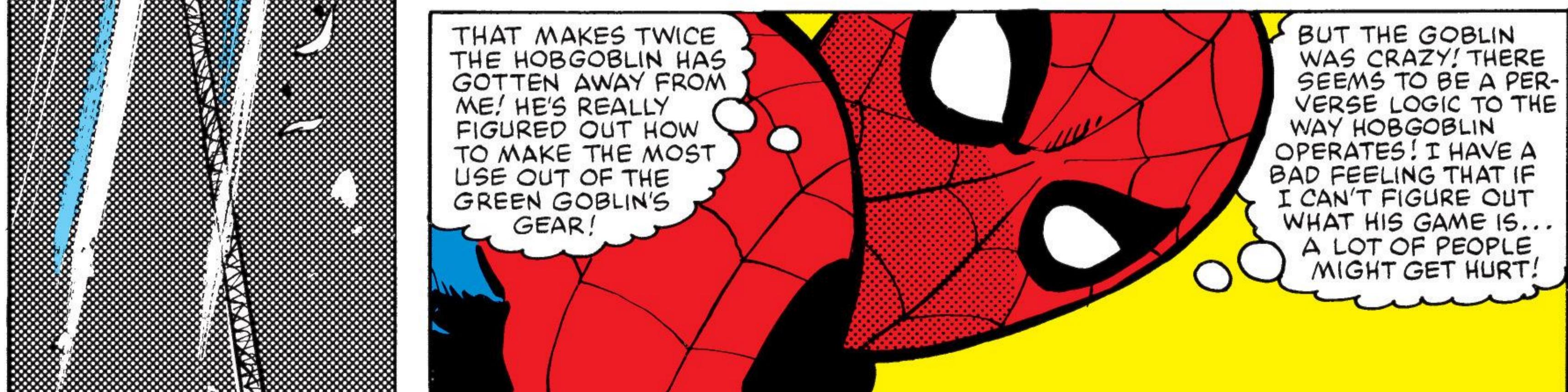
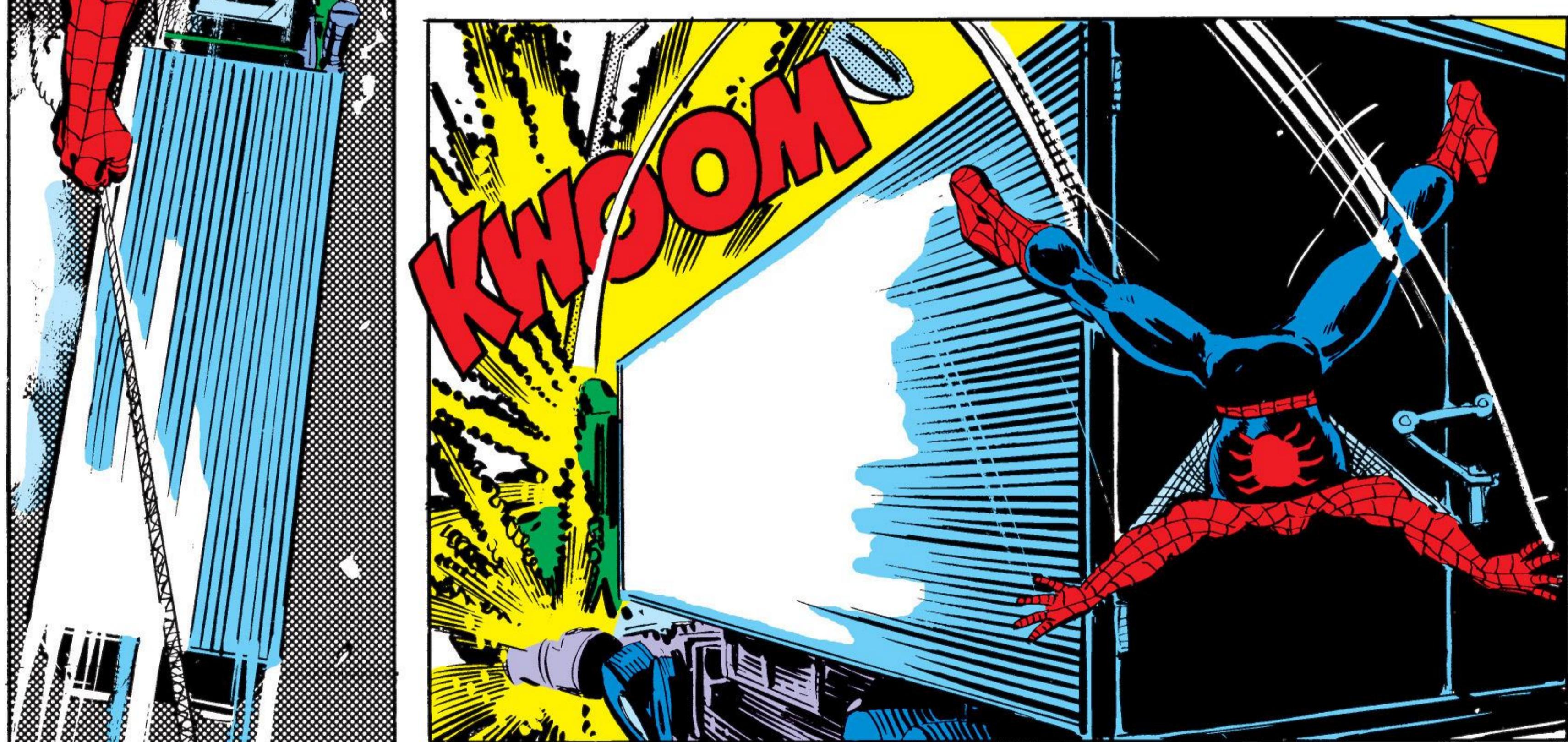
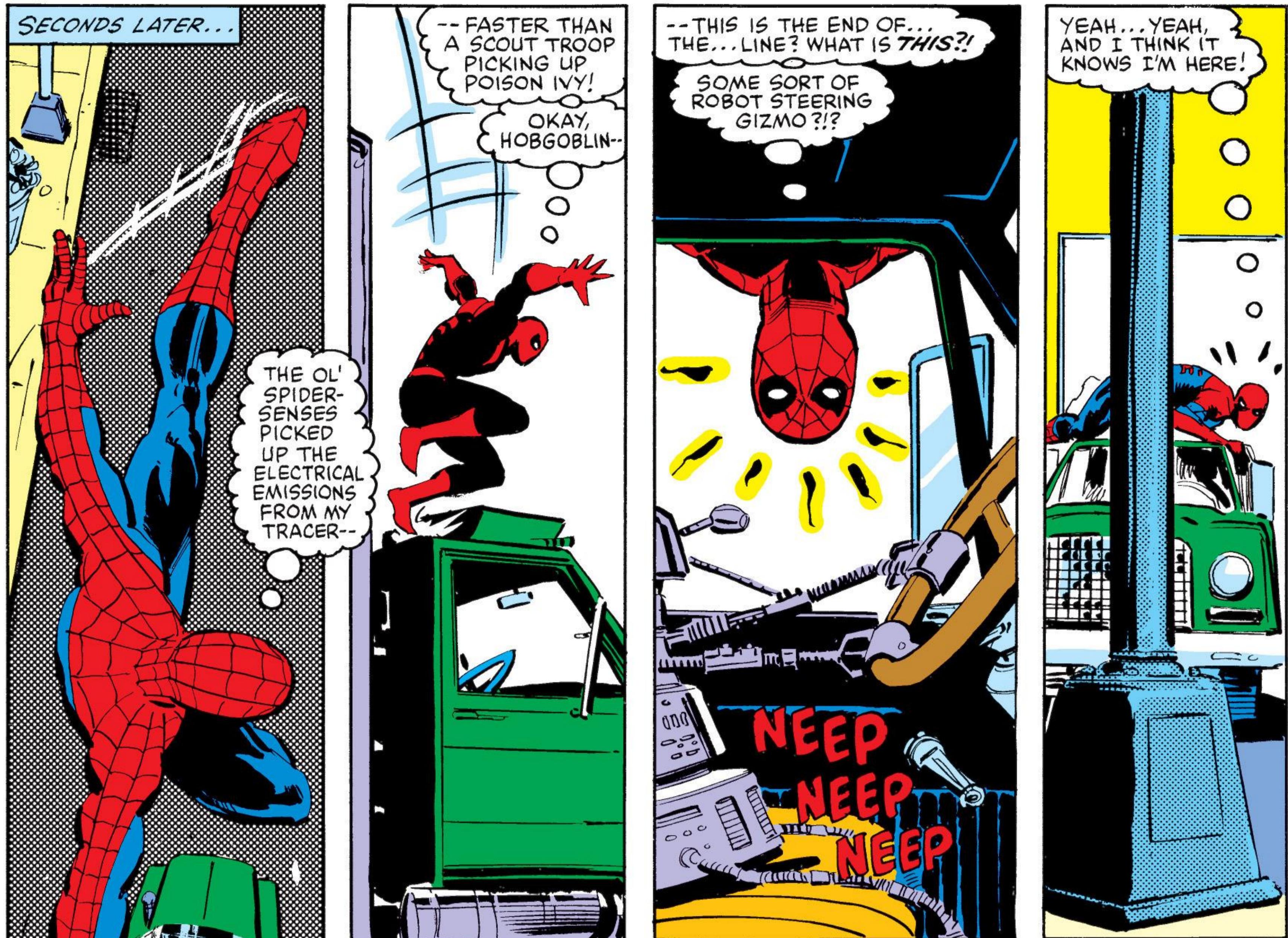


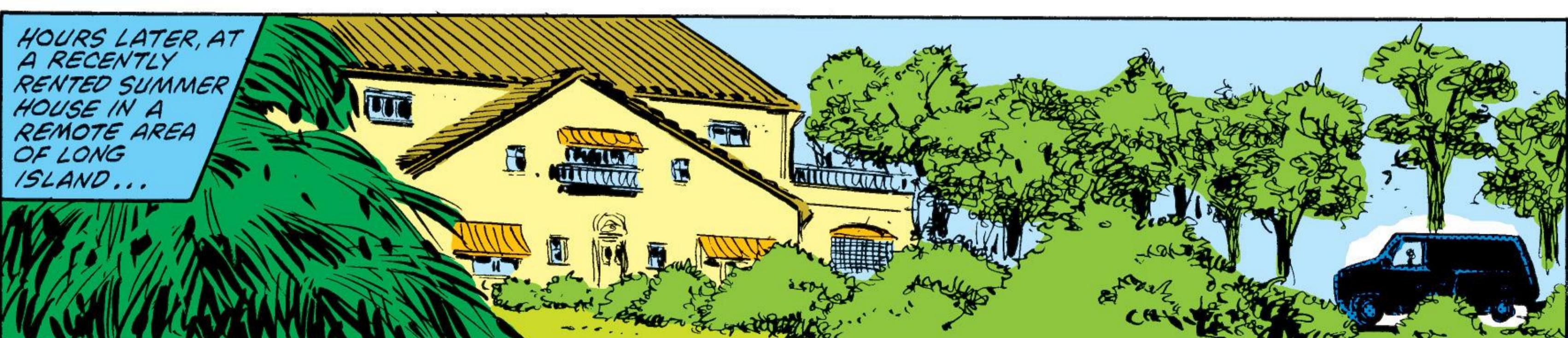
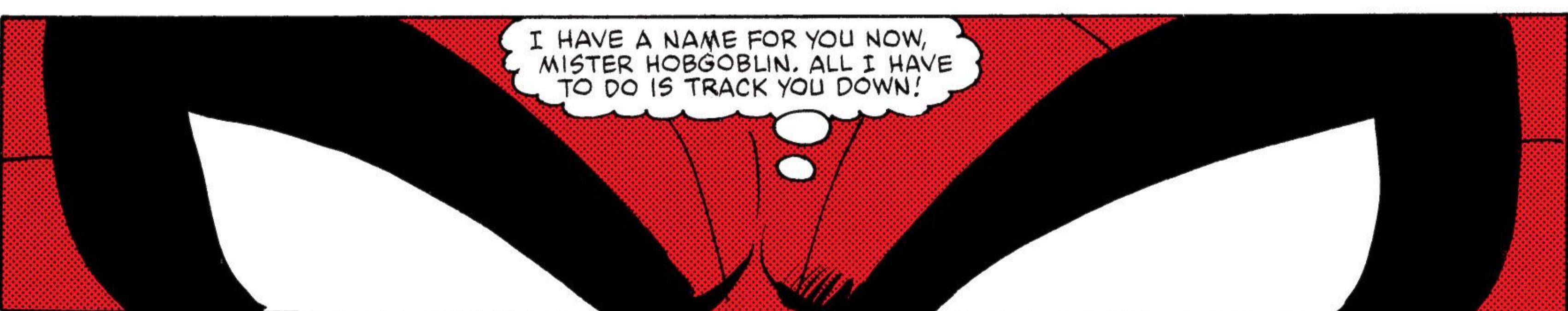
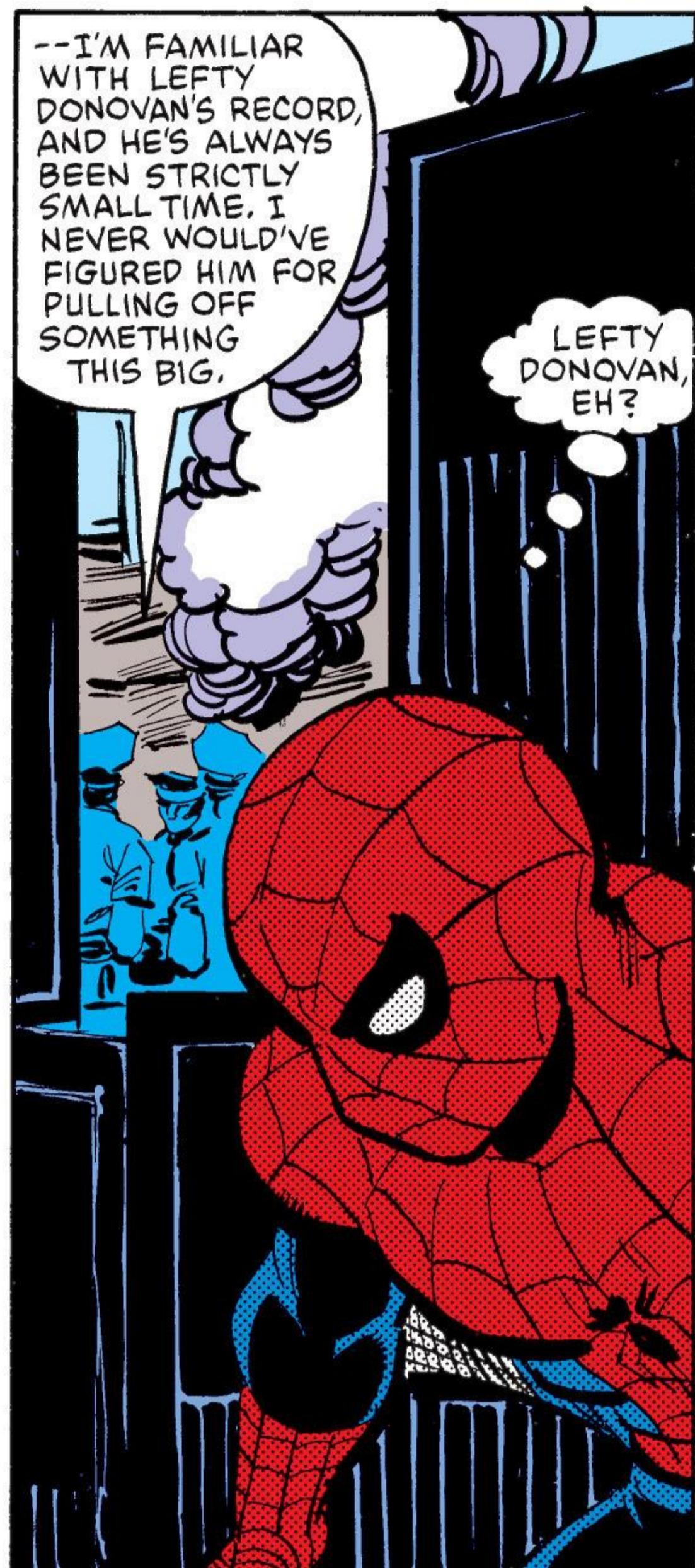
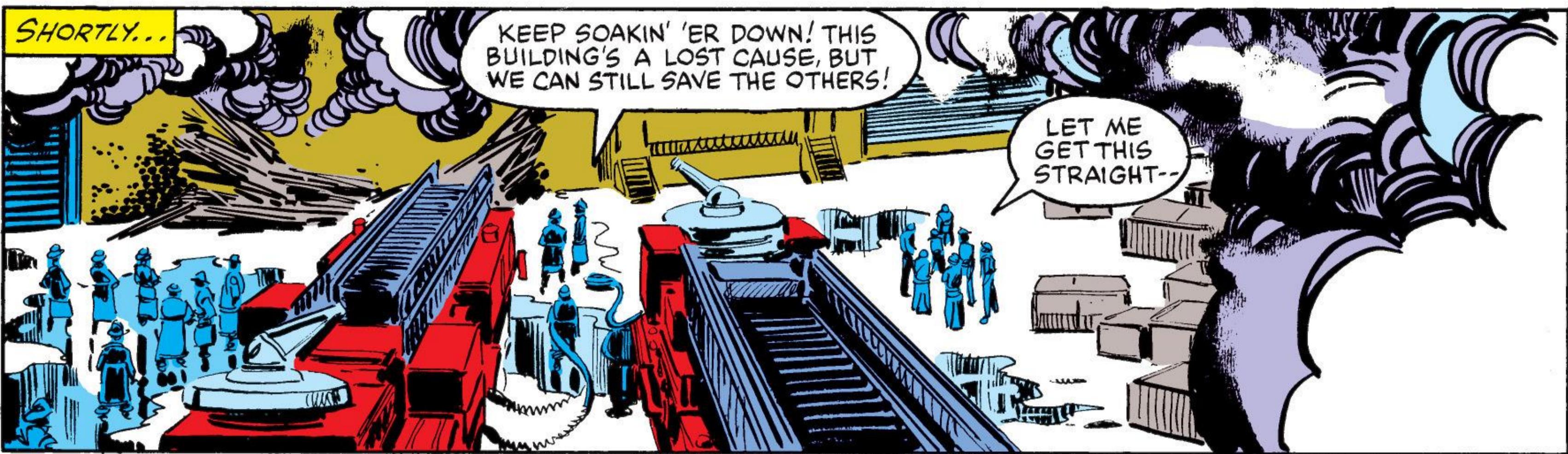


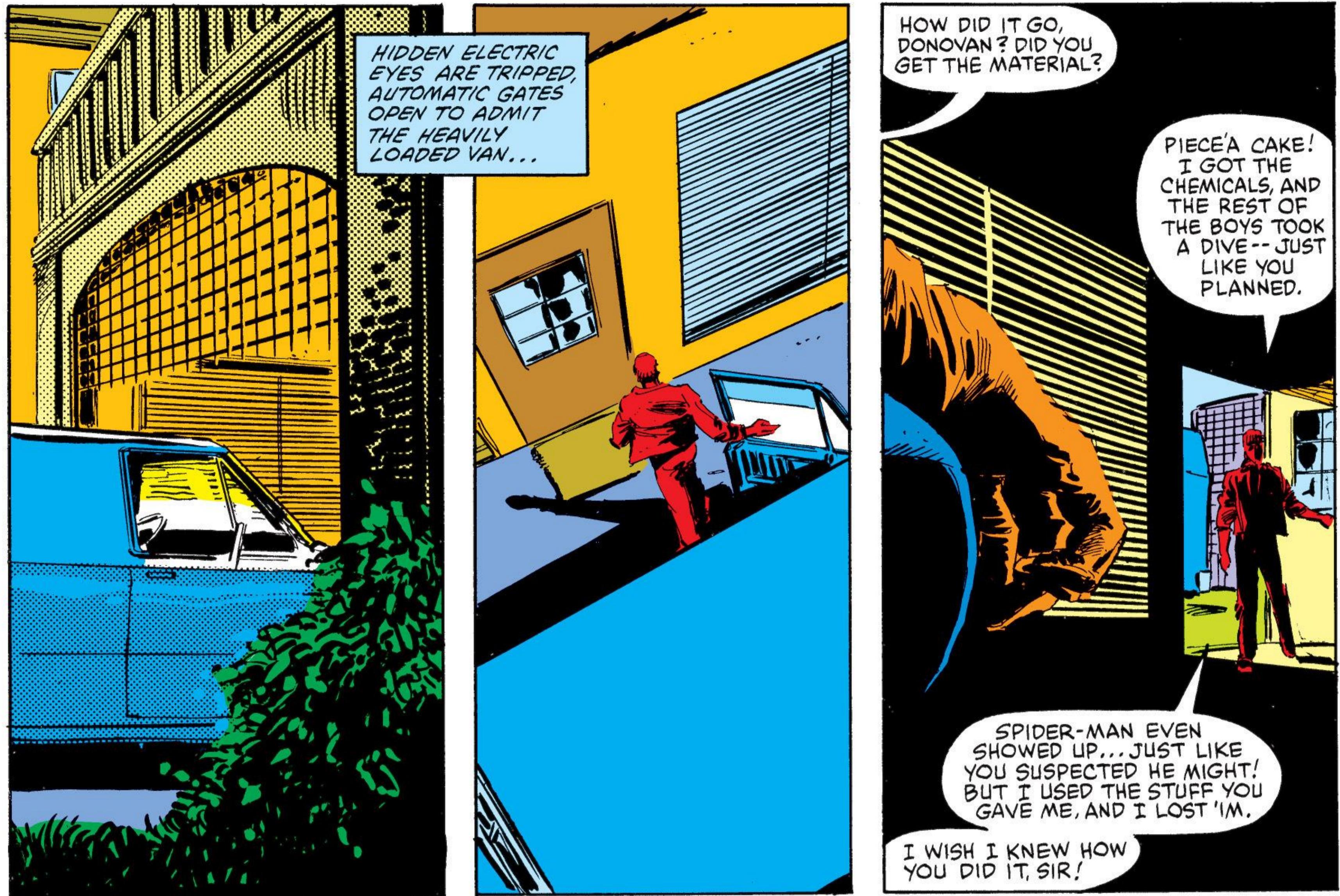


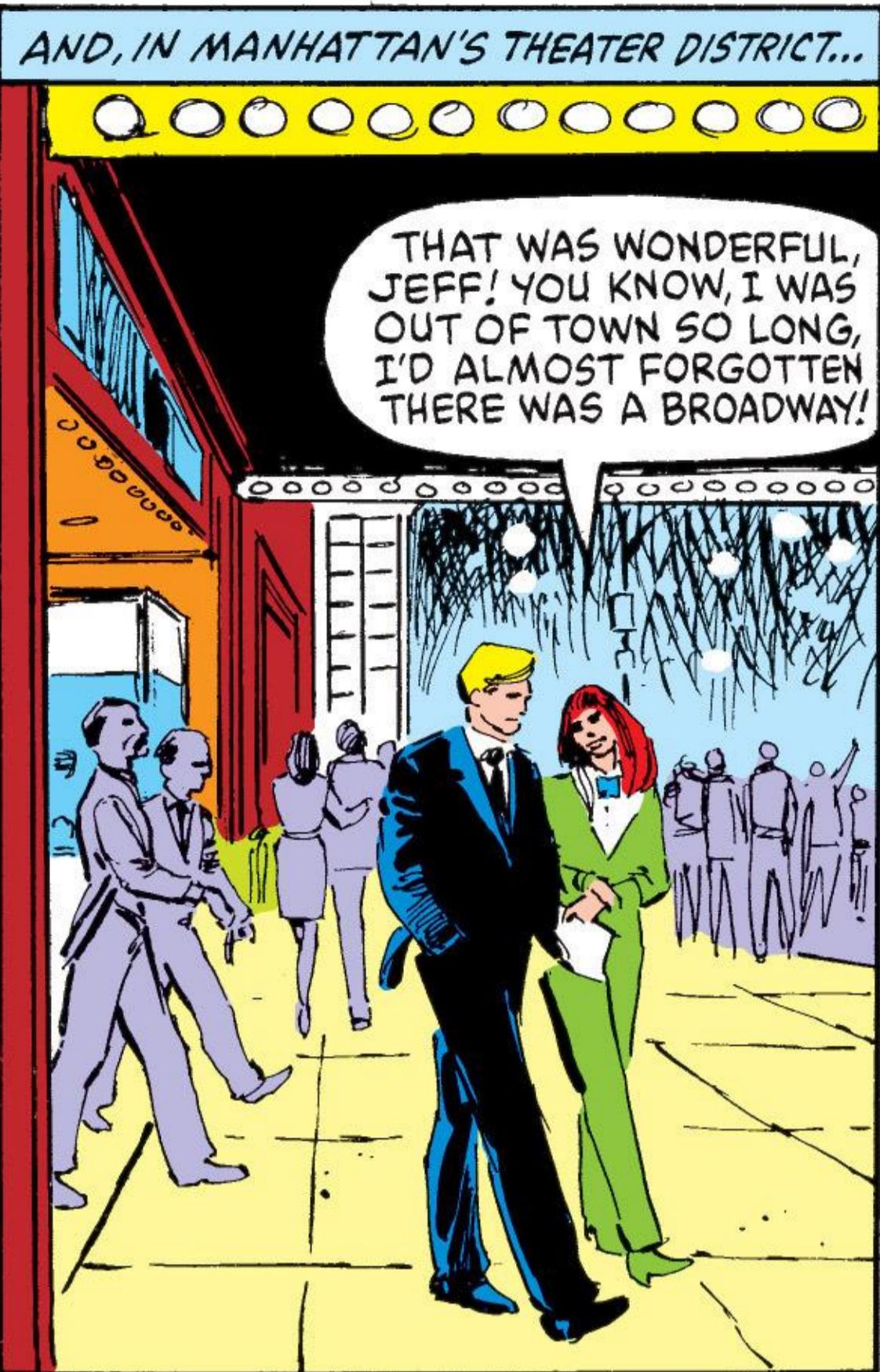












THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
ELIOT BROWN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

After reading SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #76 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #239, I think I can say that the Black Cat is the best female companion for Spider-Man since the late Gwen Stacy. This is assuming, of course, that she gives up her thieving ways and discovers the charms of bashful Peter Parker.

The Hobgoblin is a great new addition. I hope he can get his act together enough to give ol' Wall-crawler a run for his money. Let's face it, the original Green Goblin was one heck of an opponent, but he was also as crazy as a rat in a drainpipe. The Hobgoblin, on the other hand, is obviously too normal in strength to go all-out against Spider-Man in the way the Green Goblin did. His nearer-to-normal mind, however, could conceivably spawn newer and more dangerous weapons to use against Spider-Man. At any rate, I wish him luck. He's going to need it.

Leslie C. Gyenge
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

You guys are doing one heckuva job in developing the Hobgoblin. From little hints throughout AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #238-239, I get the feeling that the man under the Hobgoblin's mask is a man of some importance... a rich man, or a businessman in a high position. Anyway you look at it, though, this guy has to be just as much of a psycho as Osborn was. I think it will be interesting to see what happens with the Hobgoblin. When he gets his act together, he should be a formidable foe.

Also, I want to say, "Bring back Electro and Mysterio!"

Tony Stuart
Okauchee, WI 53069

Now this is interesting, Tony. You think the Hobgoblin is as nutty as the late Norman Osborn... but Leslie Gyenge thinks that Hobgoblin is far more sane. Oh well, at least you both think he's a real comer as an adversary for Spider-Man... as soon as he "gets his act together", as you both put it.

(Do you guys know each other?)

Dear Tom,

I'm a relatively new SPIDER-MAN reader. A few weeks ago, I renewed my subscription – and, boy, am I glad I did. Why? Because the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is one of the greatest comics I've ever read... and also because I'm dying to find out who the Hobgoblin is.

Could you please give me a hint of who the Hobgoblin is out of the mask and costume?

John Ryan
Northridge, CA 91325

I would if I could, John, but I can't! I don't want to get on Hobgoblin's bad side! Besides, already there have been hints. And evidently, a lot of folks out there think they've got his identity figured out...

Dear Tom,

You're not fooling anyone. The Hobgoblin is obviously J. Jonah Jameson!

Zoli Zambory
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

The Hobgoblin is Dr. Bart Hamilton!
Paul Best
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

I think it's the Kingpin's son.

David Pias
Racine, WI 53402

I think he's Jack O'Lantern in a new costume.

Randy Panacy
Lutz, FL 33549

... J. Jonah Jameson!

Nancy Yee
San Francisco, CA 94118

Roger HOchBerG is the HO-B-Goblin!

David Ricken
Wichita, KS 67212

Only the Chameleon could cook up those nutty masks so quickly

Bryan Jackson
Sheffield, England

My A-Number-One prediction is that Lance Bannon is the Hobgoblin.

Thad Crews Jr.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Dear Roger, John and Tom:

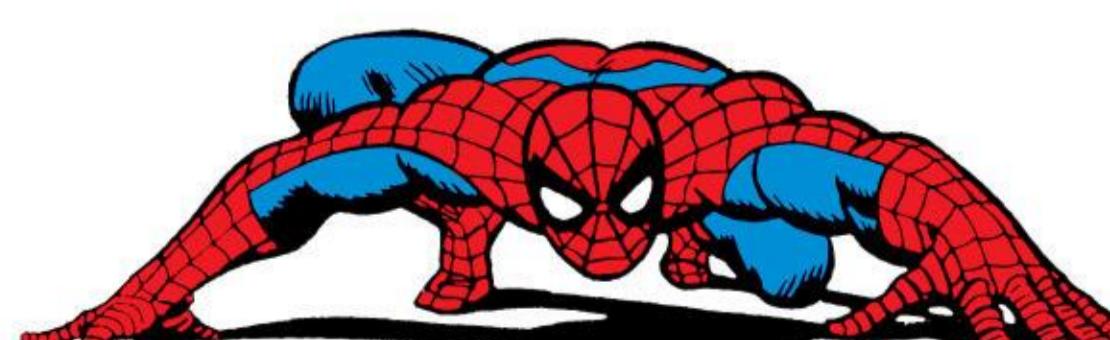
You guys deserve a hand. Here, take my left... ha, hah-ha! No, really, you are doing a great job. The recent introduction of the Hobgoblin was crazy, and I thought the idea of him using the Green Goblin's weaponry was fantastic!

Issues #235-239 have upped your standings in my book tenfold. The Black Cat has been just superb... Aunt May is healthy and happy with Nathan, and the boarding house is working out well. Please do not – I repeat, do NOT – take Aunt May out of this series.

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in general has been reaching new plateaus of quality and story content, and the interweaving of storylines between the three Spider-titles has been very good! Please keep up the good work, all of you! (You, too, Glynis Wein! Your work does not go unappreciated!)

Thanks again. I'll remember you all when it's time to renew my subscription.

James L. Card
Berkeley, CA 94709



Dear Crew,

After twenty years of following life in the Marvel Universe, I have decided to write my first letter to a comics title. I could tell you how I approve of the direction that many of the titles are moving in. However, to make your job easier, I will limit my comments to SPIDER-MAN #239.

On page 19, we see Spider-Man minus his underarm webbing. This is a small mistake for such a well-produced book, but the quality of material coming out of Marvel in the past few years makes us all the more observant.

A. Michaels
Columbus, OH 43201

Sorry to disappoint you, A.M., but Spider-Man isn't really missing his webbing in that shot. At the angle he's standing, his underarm webbing would be seen edge on... if you could see it against the dark portions of his costume, which you can't!

Dear Tom,

I see nothing but trouble for Spider-Man in the near future. Doctor Octopus is red-hot for revenge, the Hobgoblin is out and about, the Black Cat is in critical condition, and there are still more super-villains headed Spider-Man's way. (Is the re-appearance of Madame Webb in issue #239 a foreshadowing of the return of the Juggernaut?) In all of this mess, I have some solutions for helping Spider-Man out:

1) Let the Black Cat pull through. Her love for Spider-Man will give him the extra strength he needs.

2) Captain DeWolff is also good at providing moral support for Spider-Man. Let's see more of her.

3) Let Peter Parker pass his first-year finals.

4) Let Nathan Lubensky have another pep talk with Peter. They always seem to do so much good for Pete's head.

Finally, I agree with you, Tom! We don't want to see Aunt May die. If she does, I'll be one very disappointed Spider-Fan.

Chuck Brigman
Chapin, SC 29036

NEXT ISSUE: The search for Lefty Donovan is on, and Spider-Man is getting absolutely no help from the authorities. (Hey, can you blame them? When was the last time Spider-Man cooperated with them?) But that's only part of the problem facing our friendly neighborhood whatshisname! While he's searching for the wrong man, the Hobgoblin is busily recreating the chemical experiment which turned Norman Osborne into the powerful Green Goblin! And when the smoke clears... well! The story's called "Sacrifice Play!" and it's all yours in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #245... on sale in just thirty days, give or take an hour. Who knows, maybe we'll even learn the Hobgoblin's real identity? And maybe we won't...

Tom DeFalco