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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.A.
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

C.UESS



SPIDER-MAN

"THE SINS OF MY FATHER!"

GOOD EVENING, LADIES! I TRUST YOUR ARE COMFORTABLE... AS COMFORTABLE AS THESE SQUALID ACCOMMODATIONS PERMIT!

WHO... WHO
ARE YOU?

WHY HAVE YOU
BROUGHT US HERE?

STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOM DEFALCO -- WRITER
RON FRENZ -- PENCILER
JOSEF RUBINSTEIN -- FINISHER
JOE ROSEN -- LETTERER
BOB SHAREN -- COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH -- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I AM THE HOBGOBLIN... AND YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE IT SUITS MY PURPOSE! YOU ARE PAWNS IN A BUSINESS TRANSACTION BETWEEN MYSELF AND HARRY OSBORN!

I'VE READ ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE A CRIMINAL! A MADMAN--!

WHAT POSSIBLE BUSINESS DEALING COULD YOU HAVE WITH MY HUSBAND?

YOU NEEDN'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH SUCH MATTERS, MRS. OSBORN!

YOU'RE HURTING ME!

NOW SIT OVER THERE! IF YOU AREN'T AFRAID FOR YOURSELF, JUST CONSIDER THE LIFE OF THE CHILD YOU CARRY!

--AND SPARE THE WORLD THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER MAD OSBORN!

I COULD EASILY USE MY FINGER-BLASTER TO DO THE GENE POOL A FAVOR--

BWAM!

I'LL DO MORE THAN THAT IF YOU DON'T BEHAVE!

BACK OFF, MISS WATSON! YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO PROTECT ANYONE!

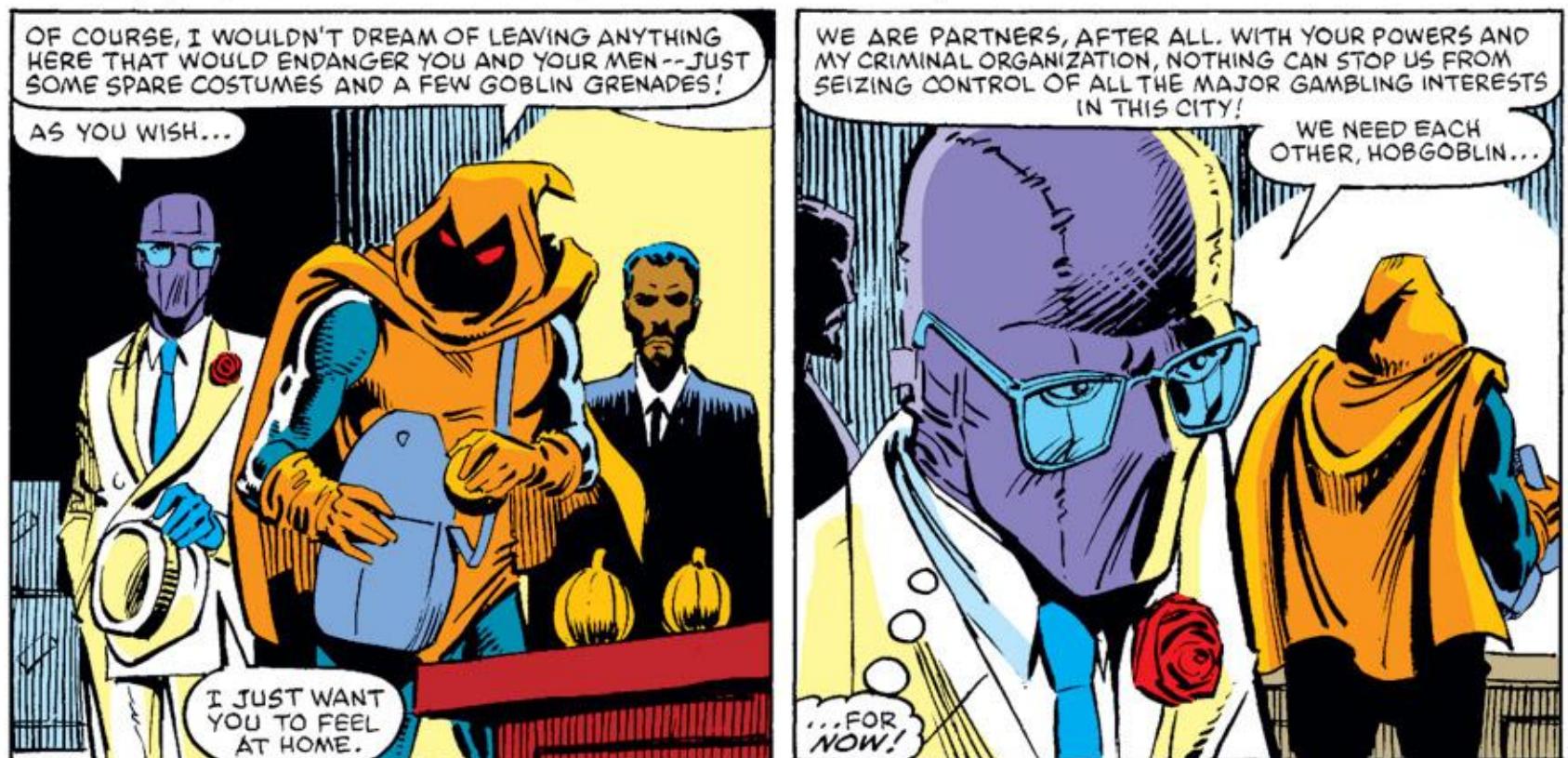
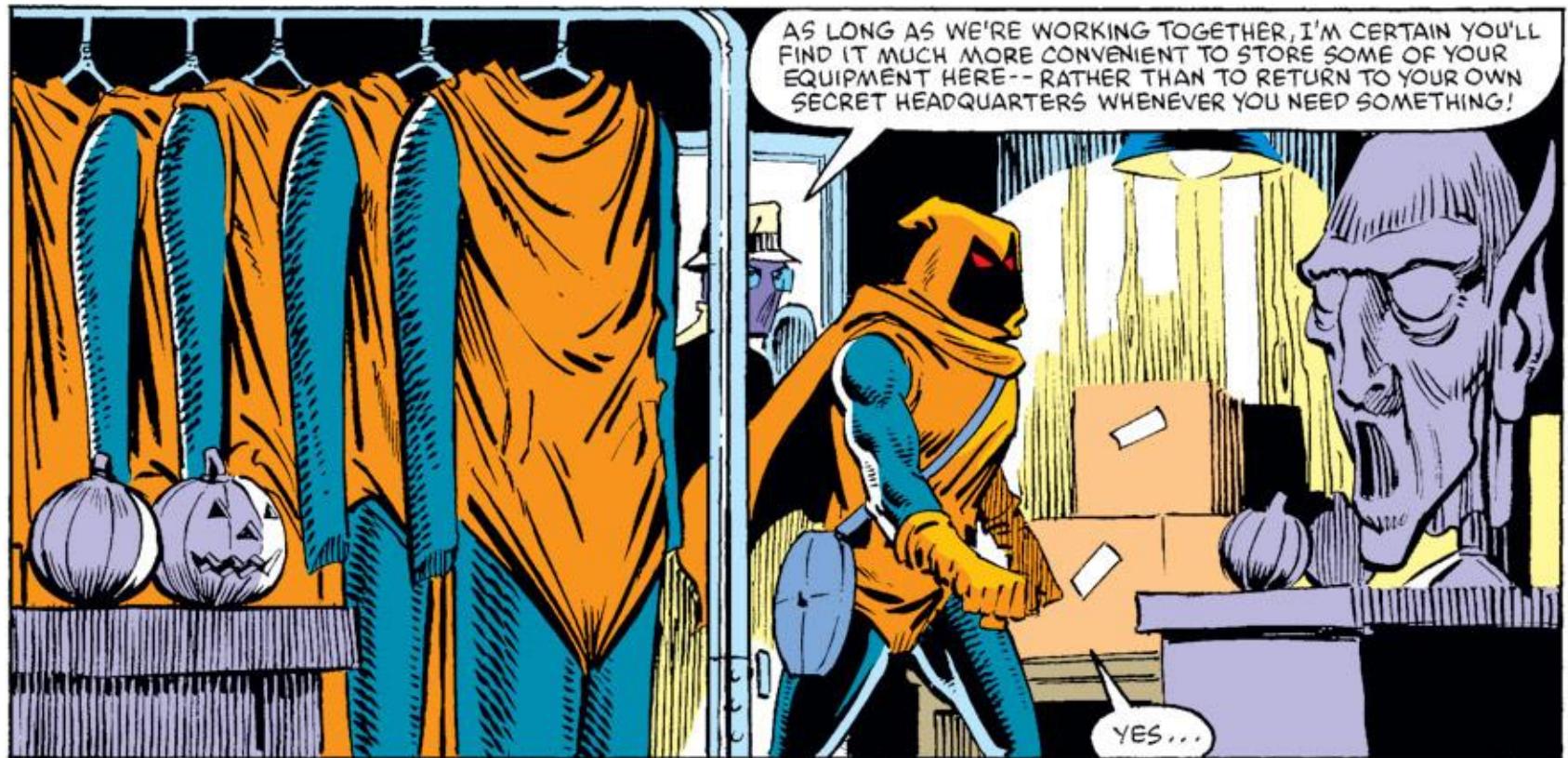
I MAY NEED MRS. OSBORN, BUT YOU'RE ONLY EXCESS BAGGAGE AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED...

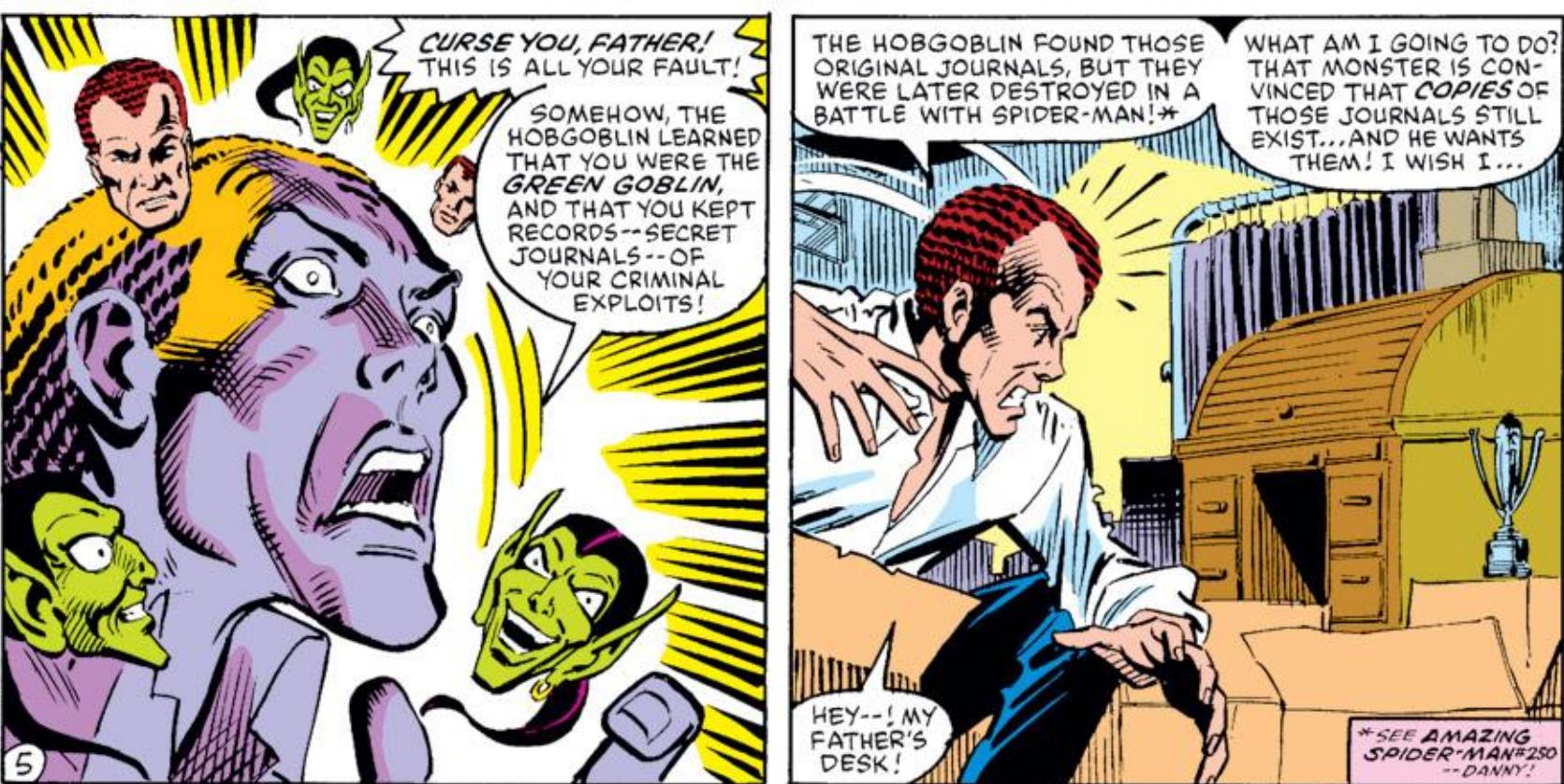
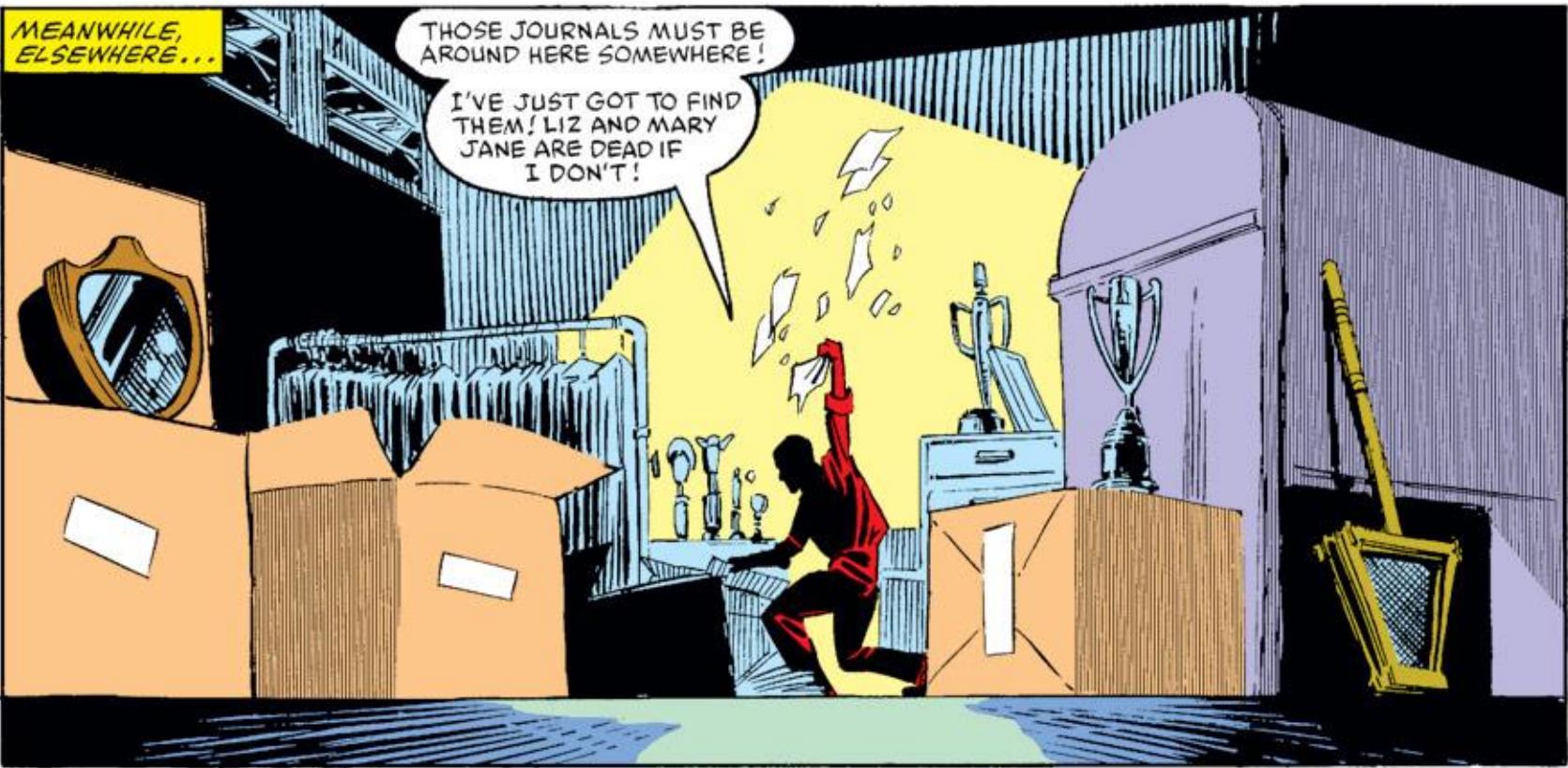
SWAT!

...YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE OF ANY USE TO ME!

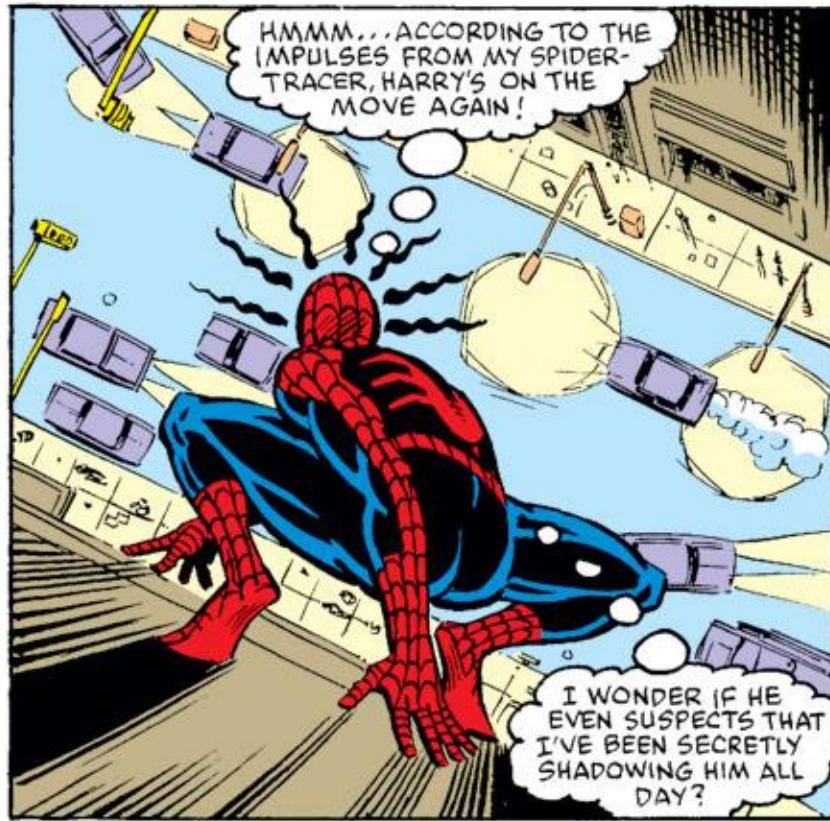
HE... KNOWS MY NAME! HOW--?!

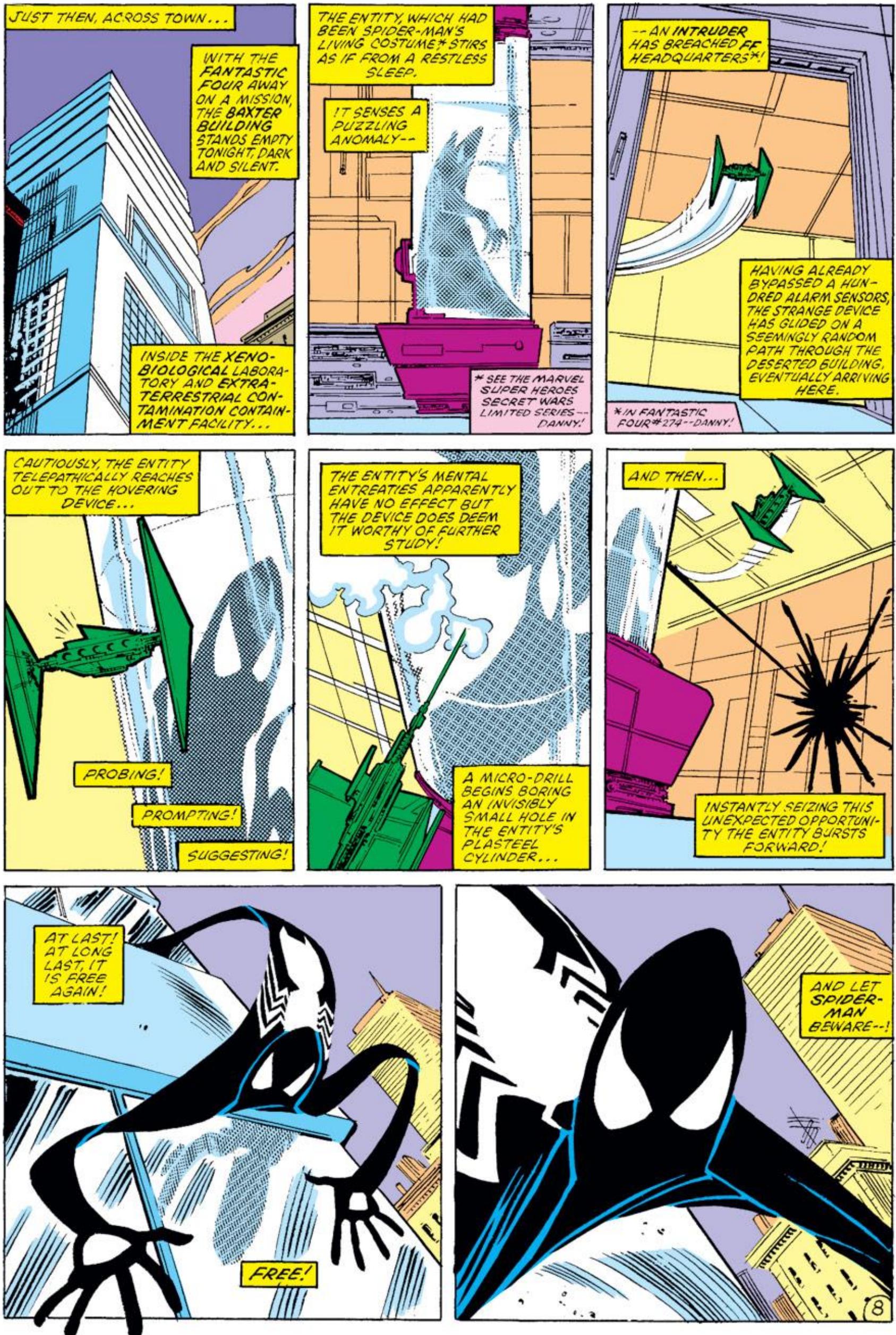


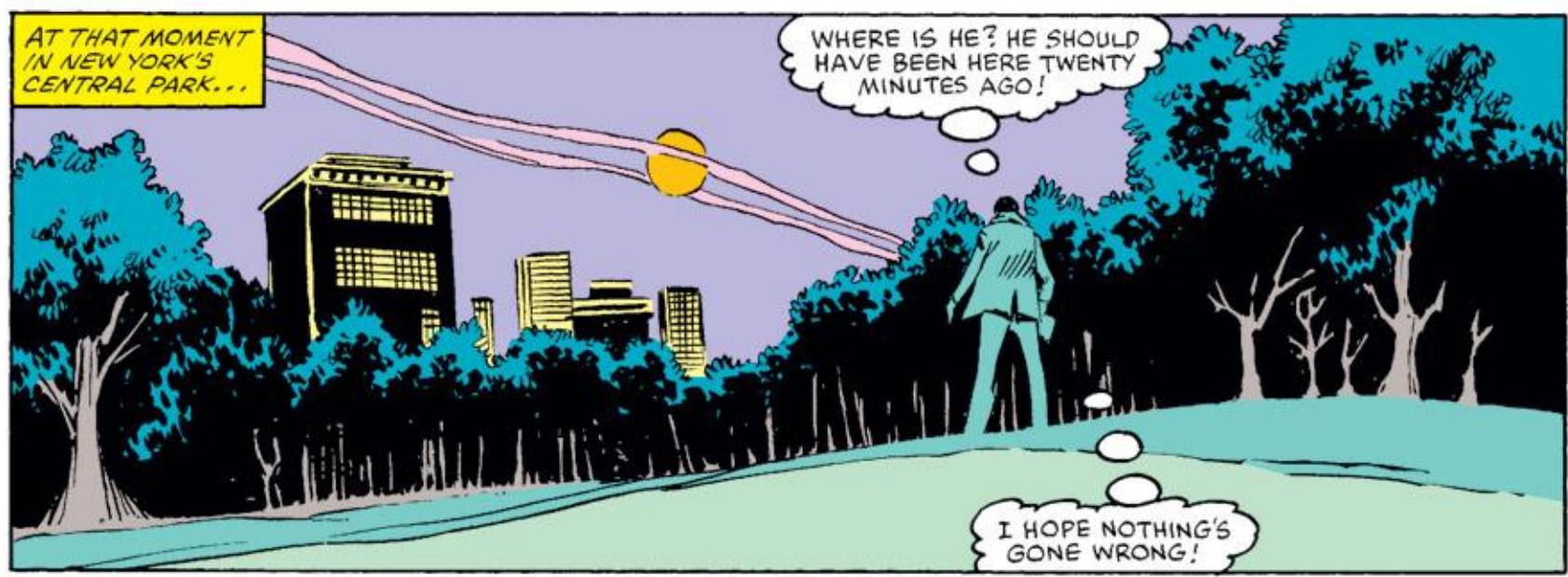




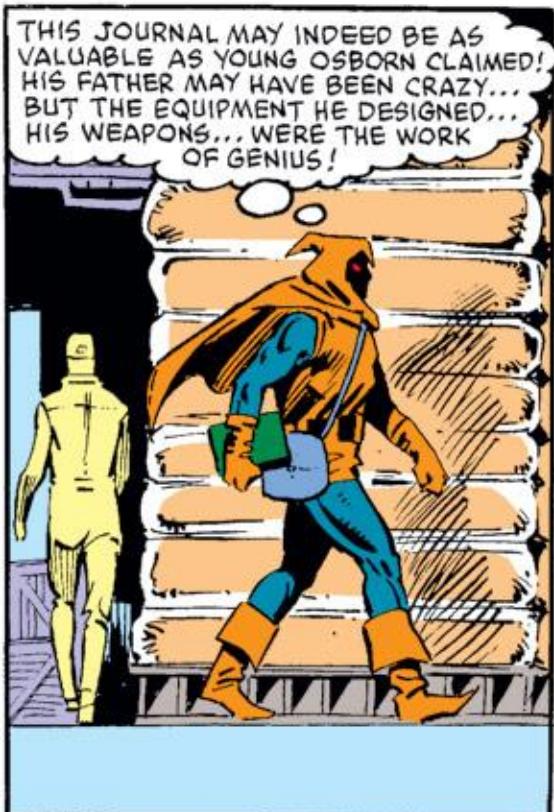




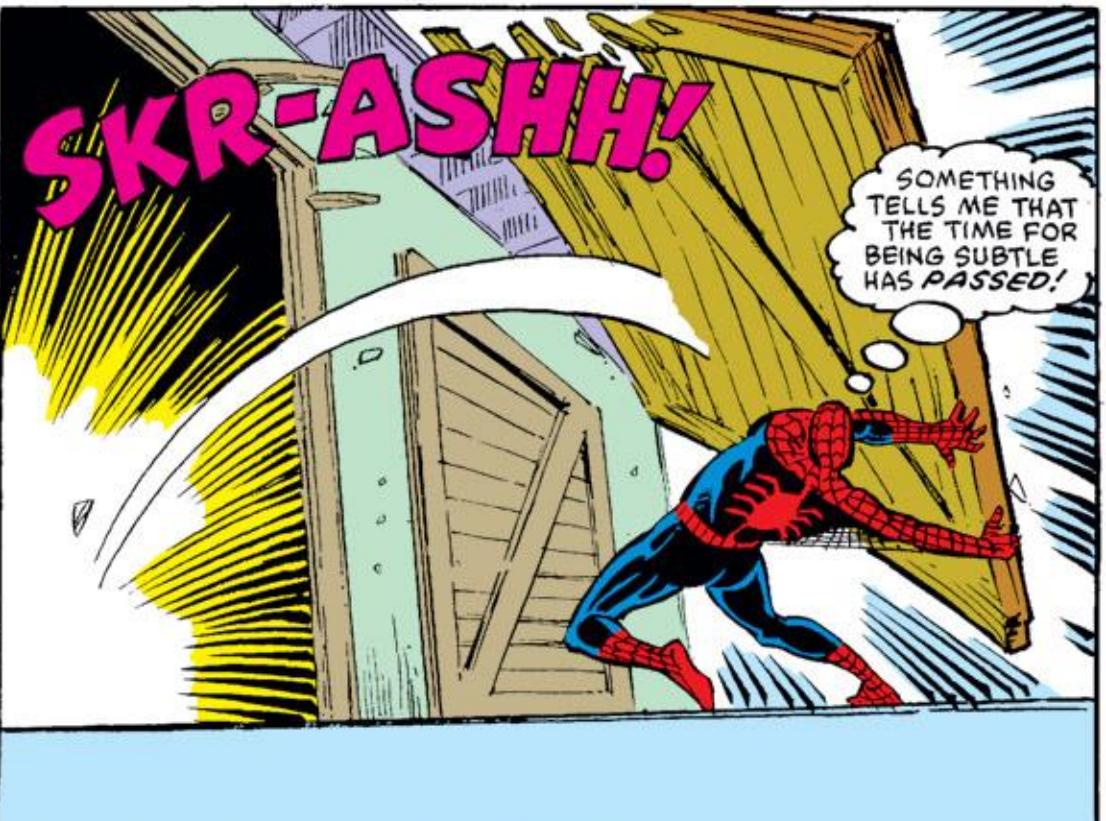


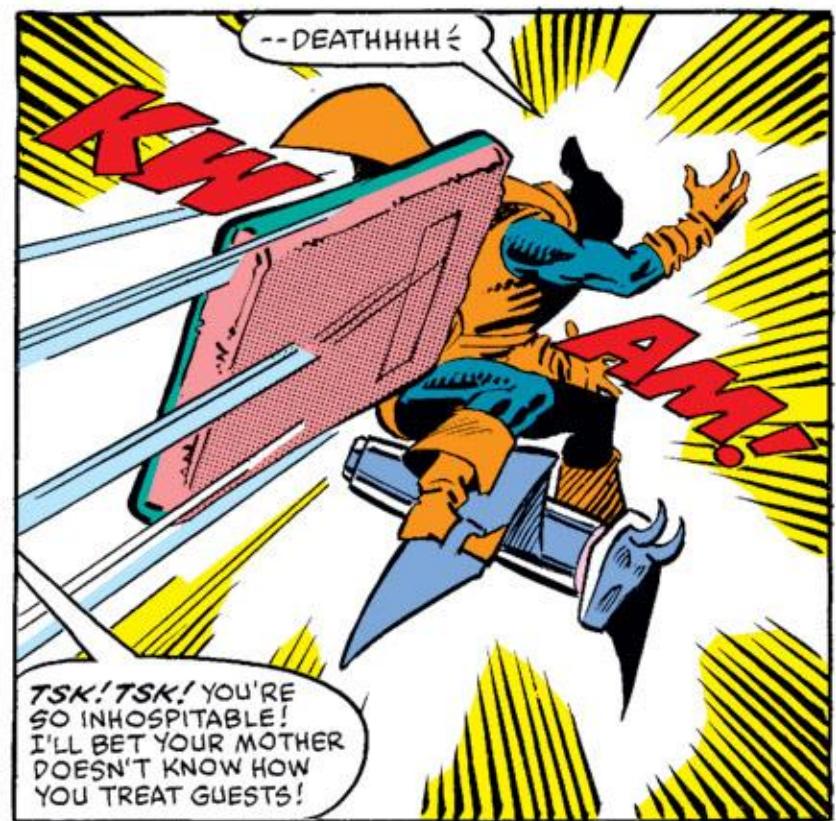






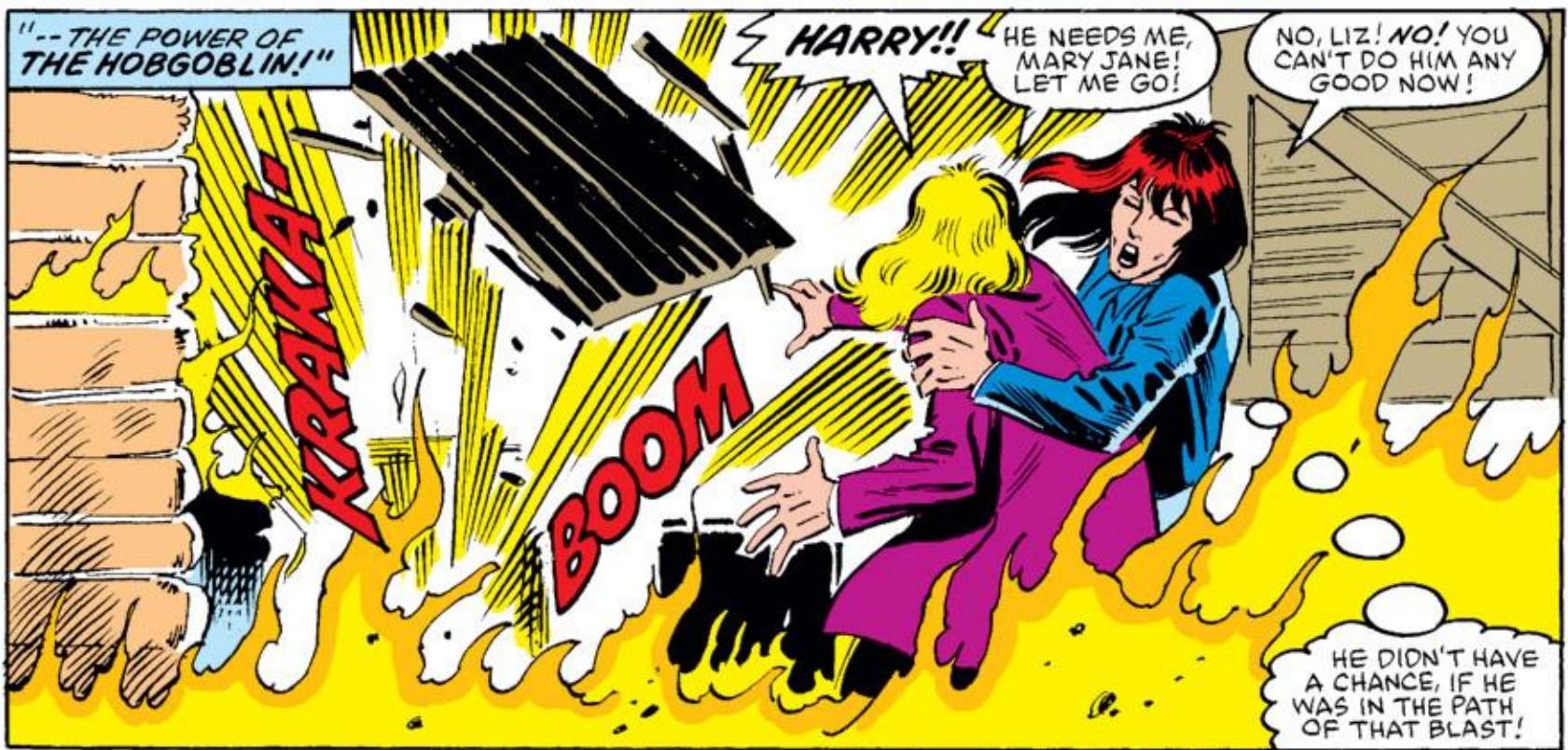






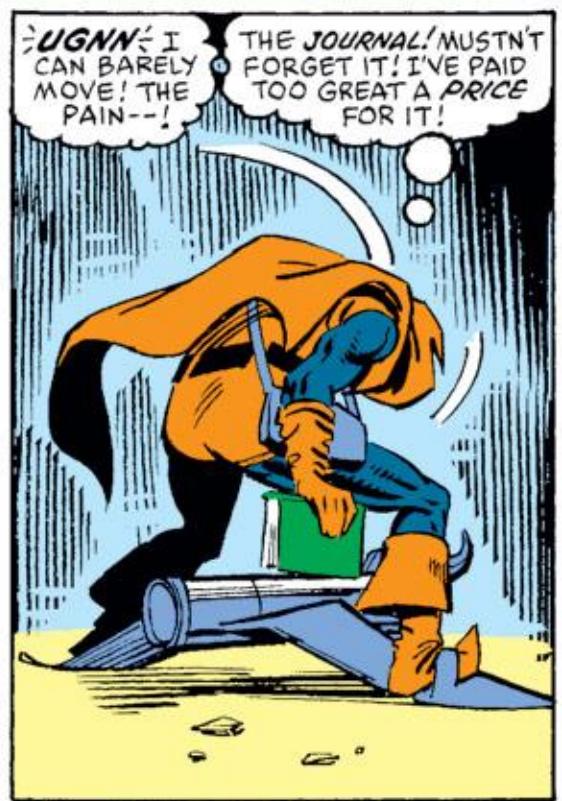


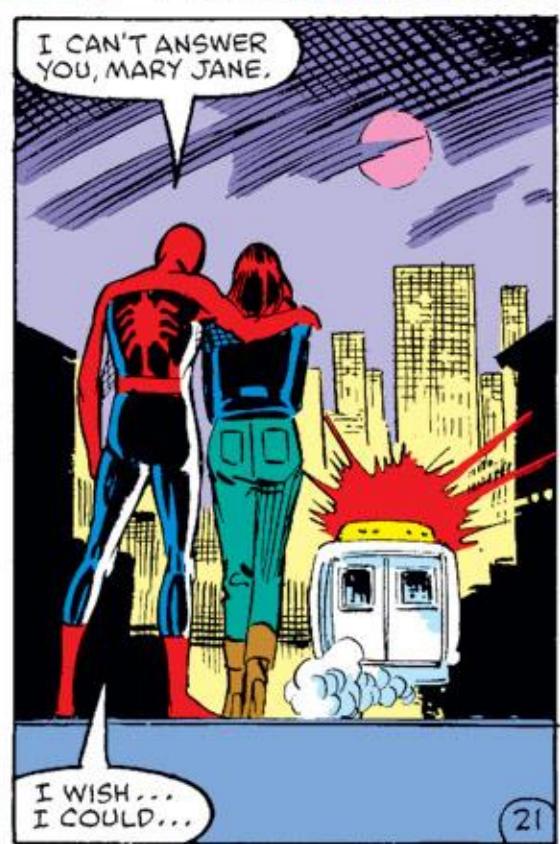
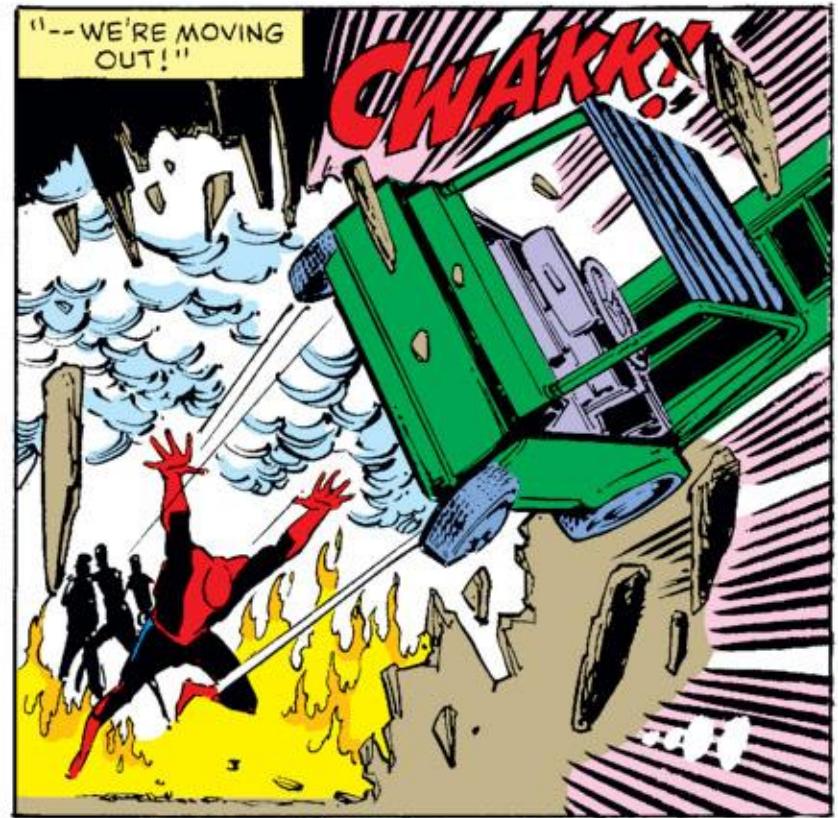
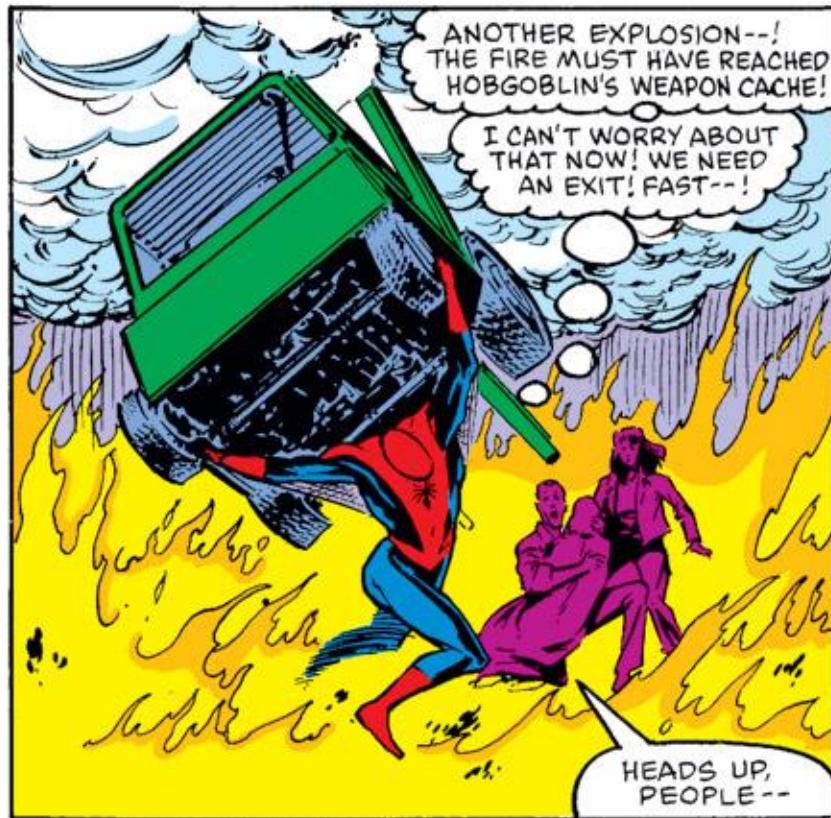


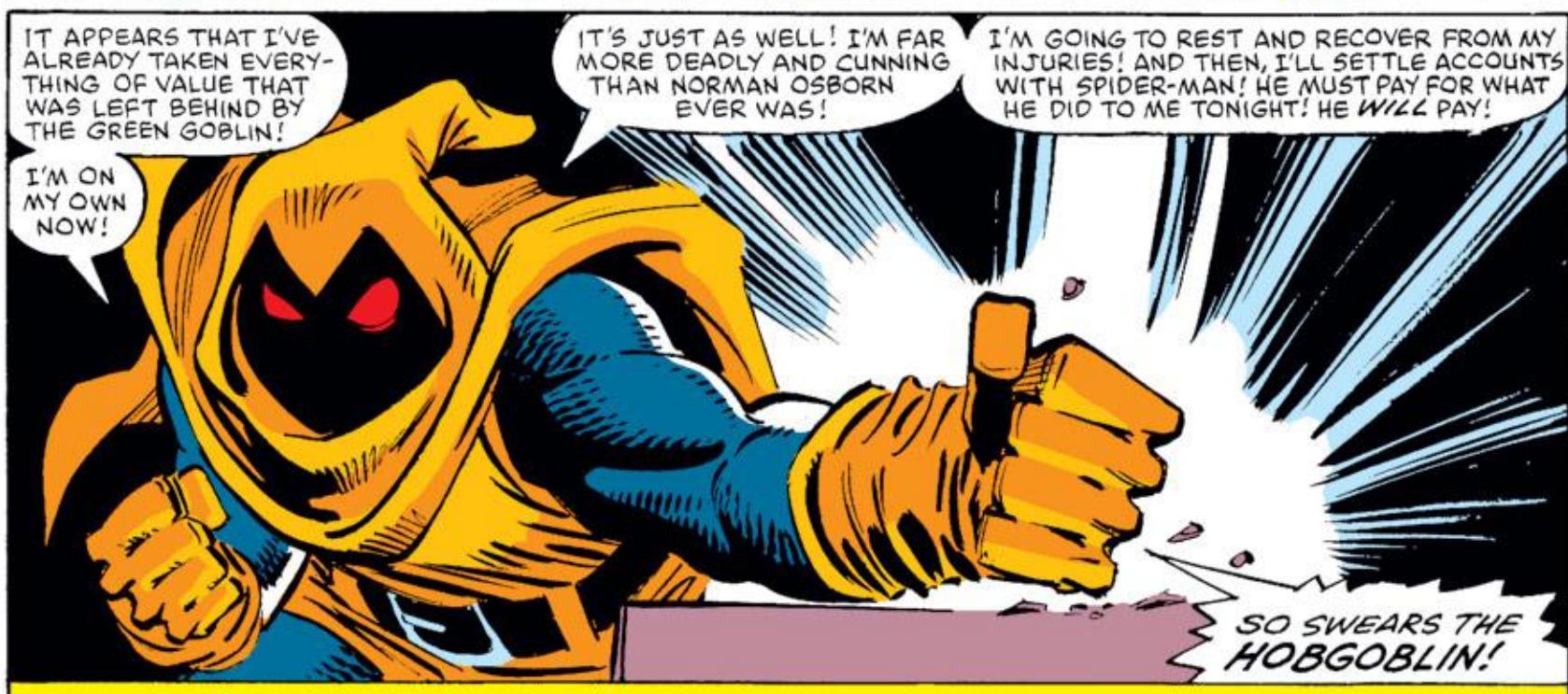
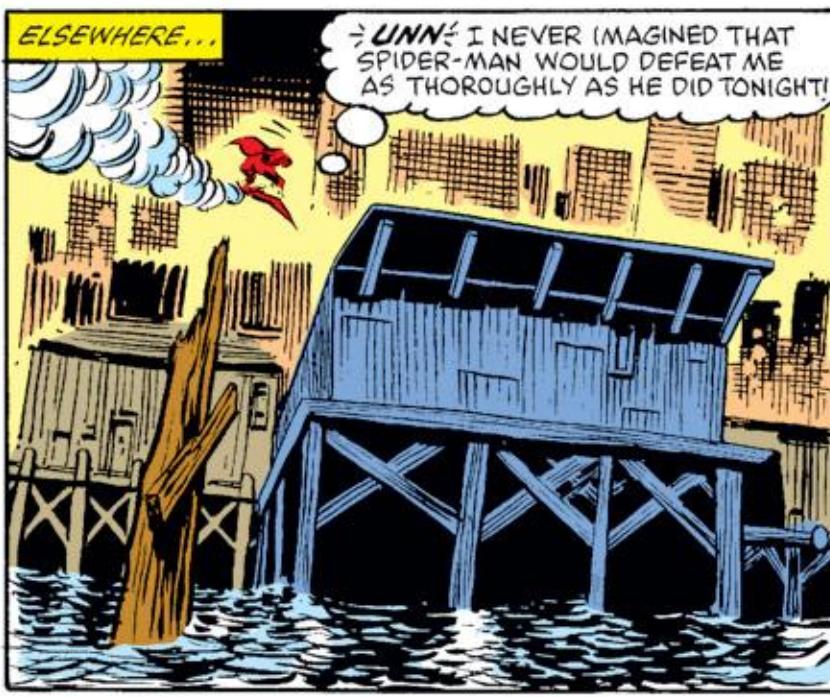












NEXT: **TRADE SECRET!**

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Mr. Fingerroth,

Wow! It's amazing how much Tom DeFalco was able to pack into 22 pages. Lots of action and plenty of characterization, with each one handled beautifully. Issue #254 is classic comic book storytelling!

The action was thrilling, with Rick Leonardi's art giving a great visual account of Tom's script. Continuing the Hobgoblin storyline without actually *using* the Hobgoblin was a good touch. I was glad when the mystery villain revealed himself to be Jack O'Lantern. Hobgoblin (whom I believe will eventually reappear) should be left as a mystery a while longer.

The situation with Peter, Aunt May and Nathan was excellent. Pow! Did old Nathan Lubensky ever let Peter have it! Petey's ears will be ringing for a week!

Rod Wahowske
2307 Braidwood Rd.
Emmett, MI 48022

Dear Marvel,

I have never written to you before, but when a comic book like AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #254 is done so well, I can't help writing. It was terrific, superb, and *full* of surprises! Josef Rubinstein's inking was excellent! Keep up the great work! Also, I can't wait to see the Hobgoblin again—he's a great foe for Spidey, and I'm sure he's still alive!

Joseph Morone
7410 Rutland
Detroit, MI 48228

Dear Tom and Danny,

Encore! Encore! You guys have done it again! You've created another Spidey classic in the overwhelming issue #254. I do believe it even tops issue #253! The combination of Tom DeFalco's story and Rick Leonardi's great penciling had beautiful results. And the new developments in Peter's life are startling. The return of Jack O'Lantern was fantastic, but I can hardly wait for the return of the Hobgoblin! With all the problems Spidey already has, the Hobgoblin's return is going to be something else! You guys have done a great job! The next few issues can't be as great as this issue, can they?

Tony Yee
325 Fairford St. West
Moose Jaw, Sask.
Canada S6H 1V8

Tony, everyone around the Bullpen is as excited about what's happening in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN as you are! Personally, I think the next few issues are going to knock your socks off, but as to how they'll stack up against issue #254—well, you'll have to let us know what you think about that!

Dear Tom and Rick,

In issue #254, Spider-Man is amazing indeed. Rick Leonardi's pencils along with Josef Rubinstein's inks depict Spider-Man as foreboding and eerie. I have finally realized the purpose of his new costume—now, for the first time in his life, Spider-Man actually looks like a spider! In every single panel of issue #254, Leonardi and Rubinstein drew the wallcrawler as I have never seen him before. The web-head looked like

a spider pouncing on his prey. In some panels, Leonardi even drew several "Spider-Men" in order to give the reader a wonderful sense of motion! Needless to say, I thought the art and script in this issue were great.

Michael Souza
Route 2
Kenyon, R.I. 02836

Dear Spiderfolk,

Okay, add my name to the three million other people who thought the Hobgoblin was going to be in this issue! Gentlemen; I'm proud of you. I like to be surprised like that. Oh, I'm sure we'll see Hobby himself in a few issues, but this was a nice way of letting us know that you haven't killed off your hottest new villain! Unless . . . someone else was controlling the van!

Another thing I'm proud of you for is the kind of realism with which you're handling the Aunt May subplot. This is the kind of problem a super hero should have! I hope it's fixed soon of course, but till then I can live with it.

Vinnie Bartilucci
45 Newburgh St.
Elmont, NY 11003

Dear Spider Writers,

Although I thought SPIDER-MAN #254 was great, I want to comment on the treatment of Aunt May. For years, May Parker has been in the background as Peter's loving aunt. She was always around to make our hero feel like an innocent boy, and her kindness was taken for granted. Peter never felt he had to worry her about his life as Spidey. Now, May is building a real life, and she is showing that she can disapprove of Peter's actions. She has been hoping for years that Peter would become what she and Uncle Ben had worked to allow him to be. Now she is hit with this startling news: Peter has dropped out of college.

The most tragic thing of all is that Peter offered Aunt May no explanations for his dropping out. His reason for this is that he can't tell her he is Spider-Man. I think Peter should finally tell Aunt May about his dual identity. It might clear up this mess, and it would be a selfless gesture on Pete's part. I believe it is possible for Aunt May to come up with a better reply to Peter's admission than "Oh no, my heart!" May is a mature woman, and I think she could accept this without even passing out. After all, if she could accept the news of Peter's leaving college without hitting the floor, why not this? She might even be relieved to know that Peter has become the humanitarian that she and Ben had always hoped for, rather than the uncaring, bum photographer whom she now thinks she has for a nephew. After all her years of loving kindness, Peter Parker owes it to Aunt May to tell her, finally, that he is the Amazing Spider-Man.

Long Live Aunt May!

Alan Flyer
3 Maple Dr.
Port Washington, NY 11050

What do the rest of you think of Alan's proposition?

Dear Marvel,

All my life I have bought comics, and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is my favorite. Issue #254 was another great issue, but I do not like this problem between Aunt May and Peter. I never thought I would see the day when Aunt May would be mad with Pete. Still, she has good reason. Peter's dropping out of college was the worst mistake he's ever made. But bring Aunt May and Pete back together. I don't know what Spidey would do without her.

Michael Jarrette
111 Country Club Dr.
Florida, MY 10921

Dear Marvel,

SPIDER-MAN #254 was a wonderful issue with great action scenes. In fact, everything was great except for what's happening between Peter Parker and Aunt May. Why is she doing this to him? Have her lay off him. He's a good kid.

Oh yeah, is Nathan going to ask Aunt May to marry him? When are you going to let Reed Richards check out Spidey's new threads? When are you going to bring back the Hobgoblin? I need some answers!

Matt Cullen
4 Colgate Rd.
Great Neck, NY 11023

Most of your questions have been answered in the last few issues, Matt. And now, a letter of interest to all you armchair detectives out there . . .

Dear Tom, Danny and Jim,

In order to discover who the Hobgoblin really is, I finally decided to go through my entire Marvel collection and look for suspects. You know what? There are 243 people who could be the Hobgoblin!

Ronald Byrd
(no address given)

That's all? Check agin, Ronald.

SPECIAL NOTE: This month's MARVEL TEAM-UP (on sale in two weeks) features a very special 150th issue double-sized pairing of Spider-Man and the X-Men! It's dynamite—and the last issue of TEAM-UP, too, which will be replaced the following month by the all new mag we could only call . . . THE WEB OF SPIDER-MAN! Why the change? Not sales. They were better than ever. If you're curious, pick up MTU #149 or #150 for the explanation. Don't miss the end of TEAM-UP or the beginning of WEB, both integral parts in the modern-day mythic masterwork that is the saga of Spider-Man!

NEXT ISSUE: The fate of Liz, Harry, and their endangered unborn child! Plus, the return of a strange, octo-tentacled adversary from the web-slinger's past and startling new developments with two black Spider-Man costumes. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #262. It's not a mag you want to miss.

Danny Fingerroth