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APPROVED
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

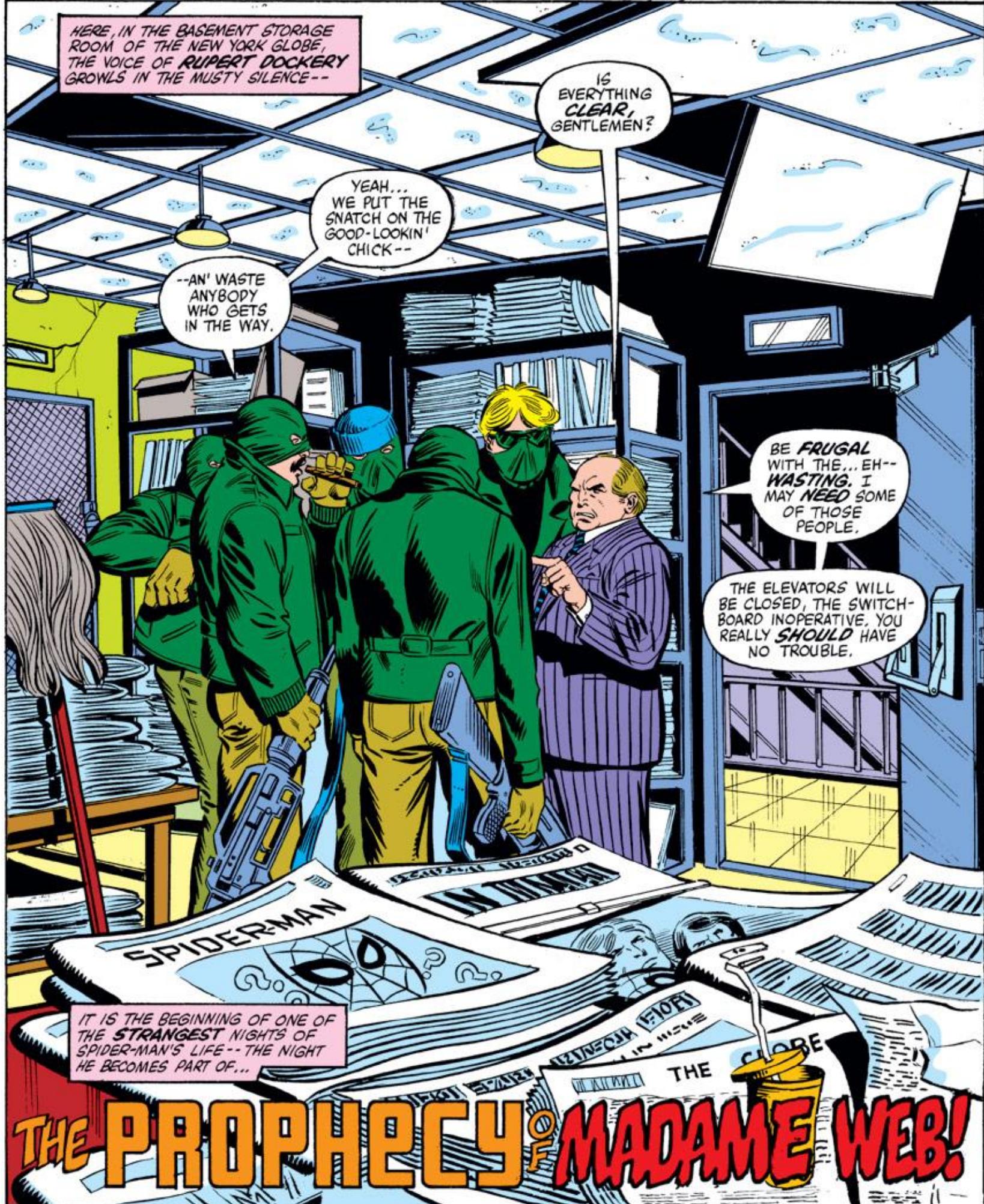
HEY, SPIDEY--
THINK YOU'RE
THE **ONLY**
WEB-HEAD
IN TOWN...?

...MEET
MADAME WEB!

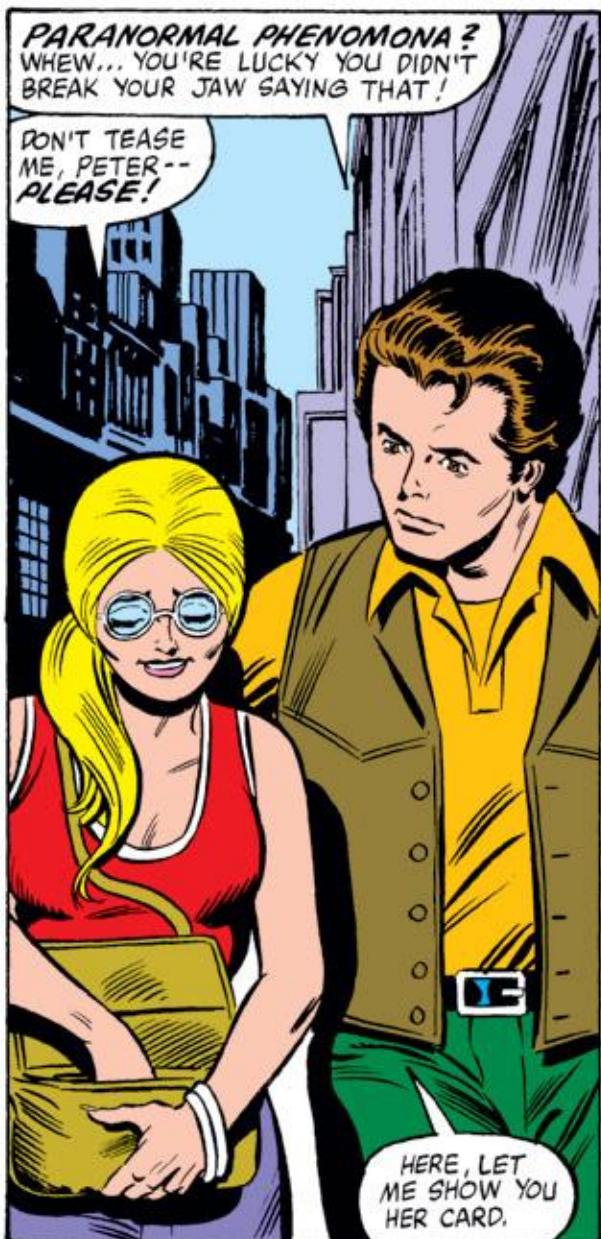
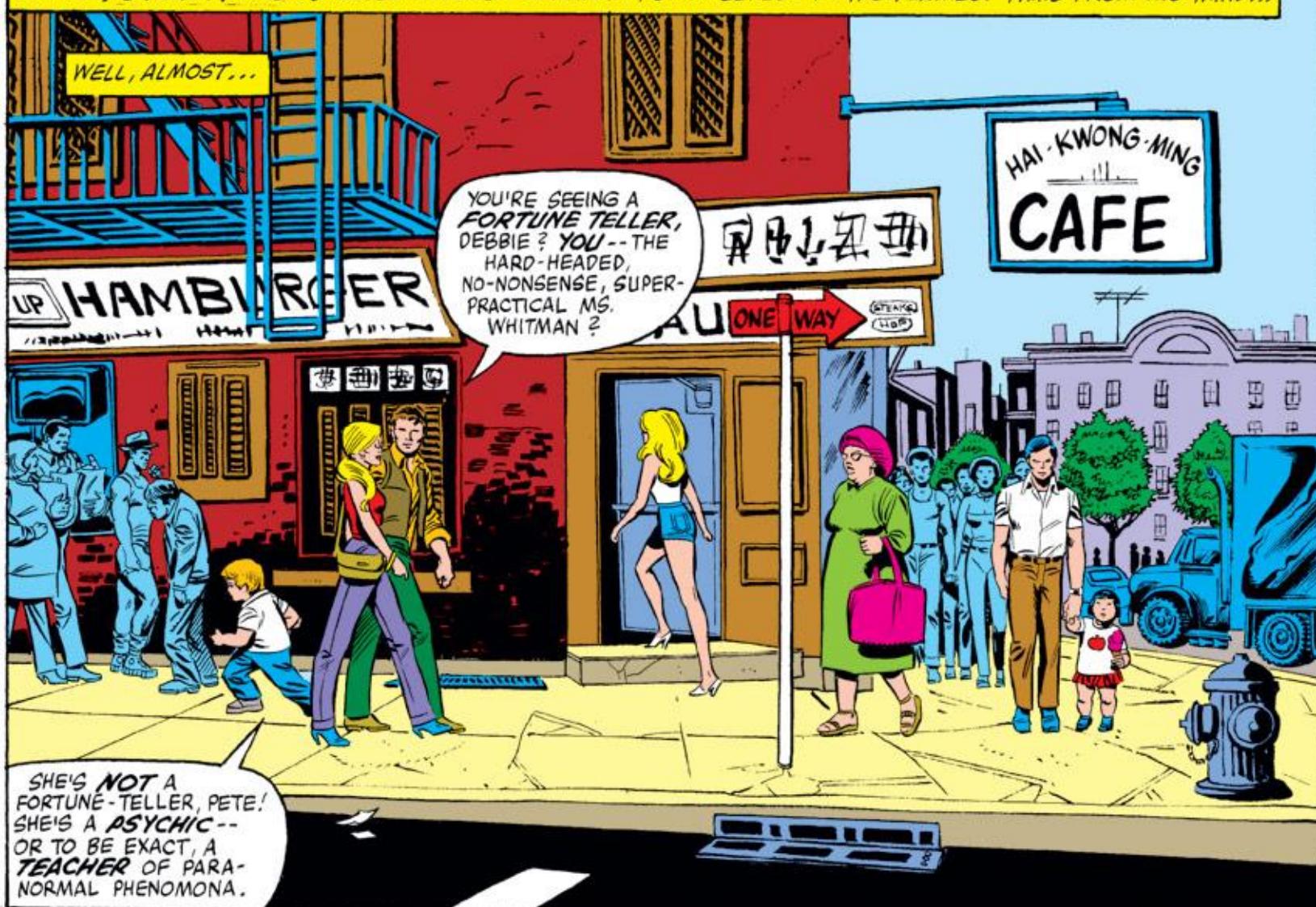
While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

**Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.**

STORY DENNY O'NEIL / INTRODUCING THE NEWEST ART-TEAM SUPREME / LETTERS: J. NOVAK / EDITOR ALLEN MILGROM / ED-IN-CHIEF JOHN ROMITA, JR. & JOE SINNOTT / COLORS: B. SHAREN / JIM SHOOTER

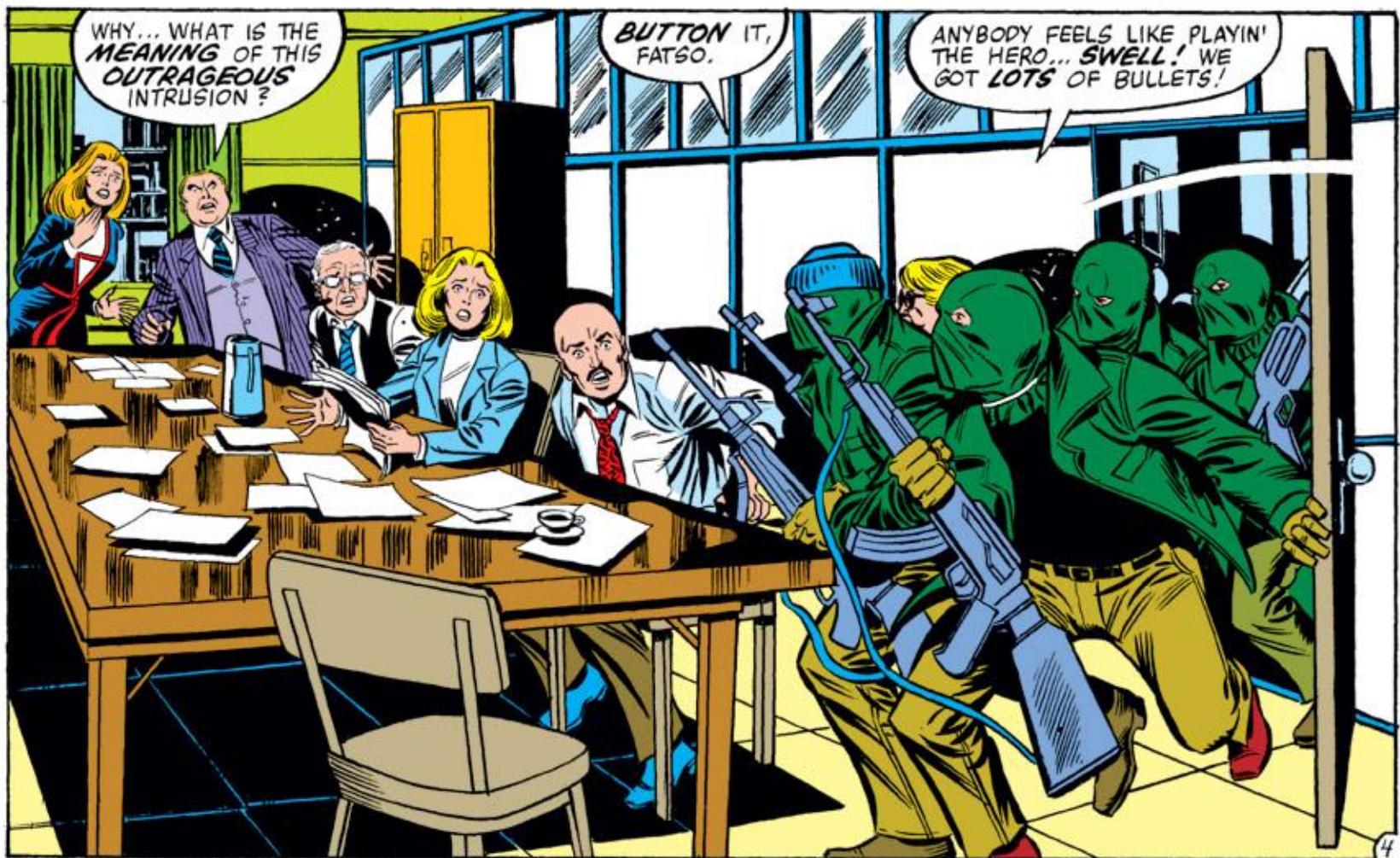
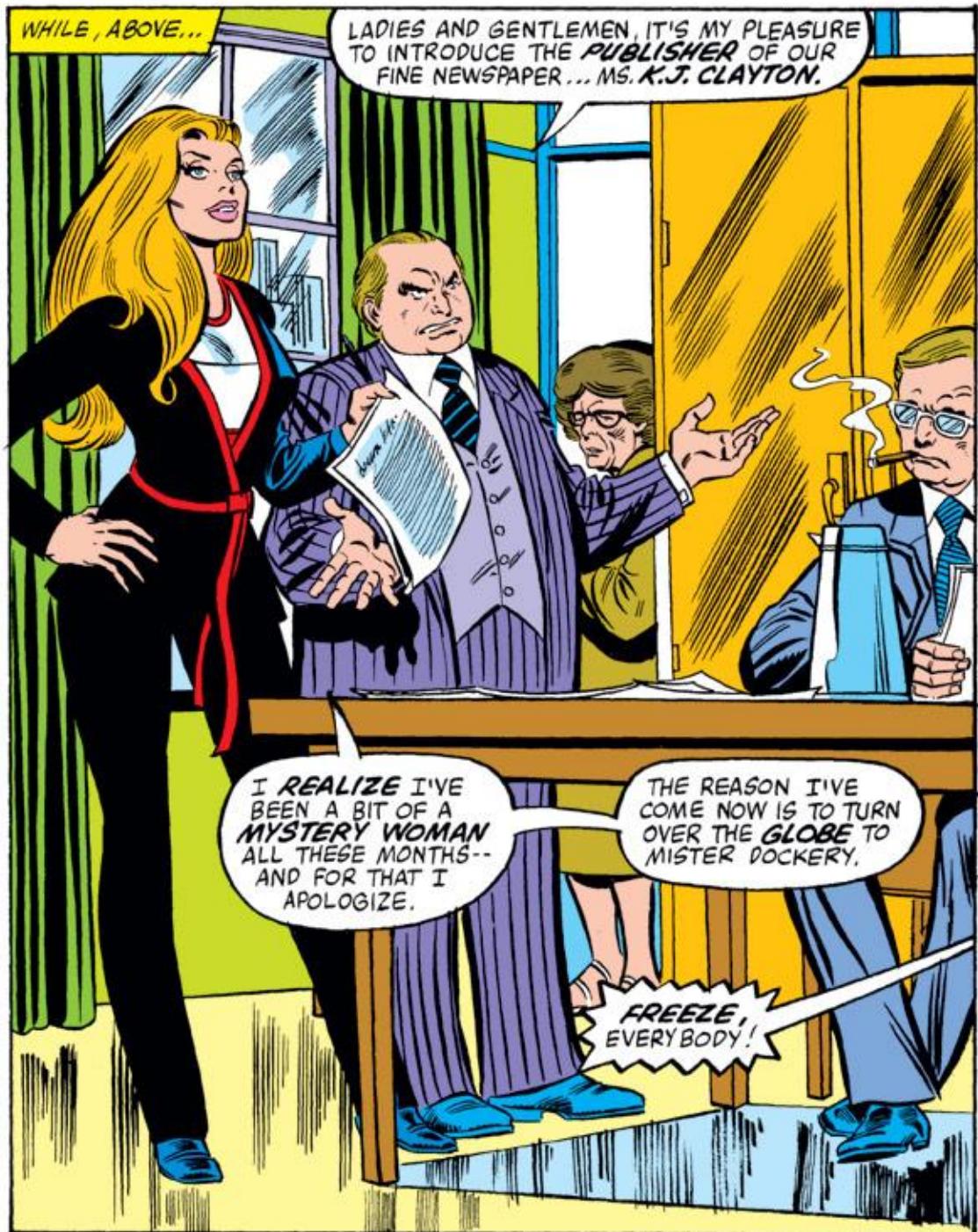


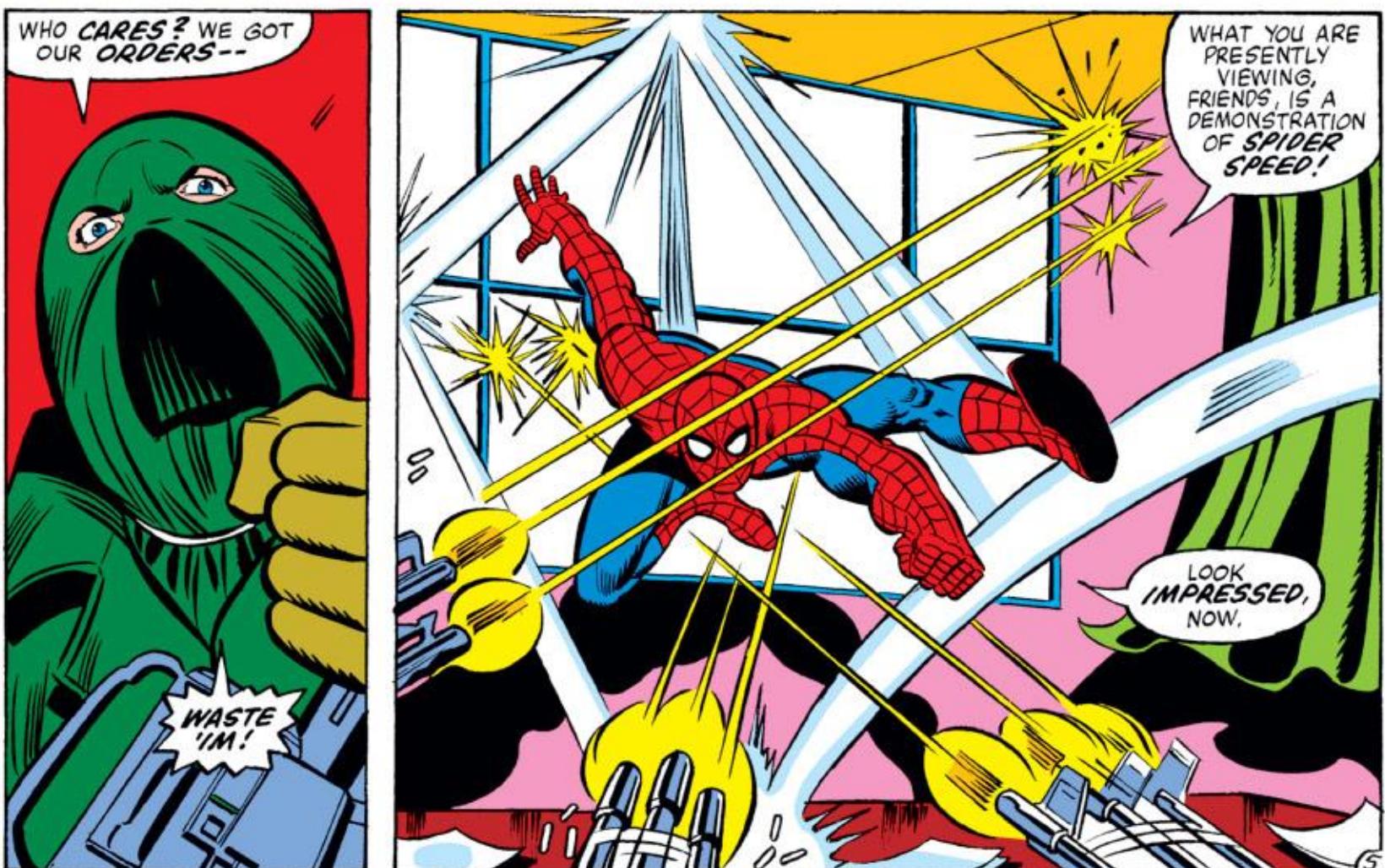
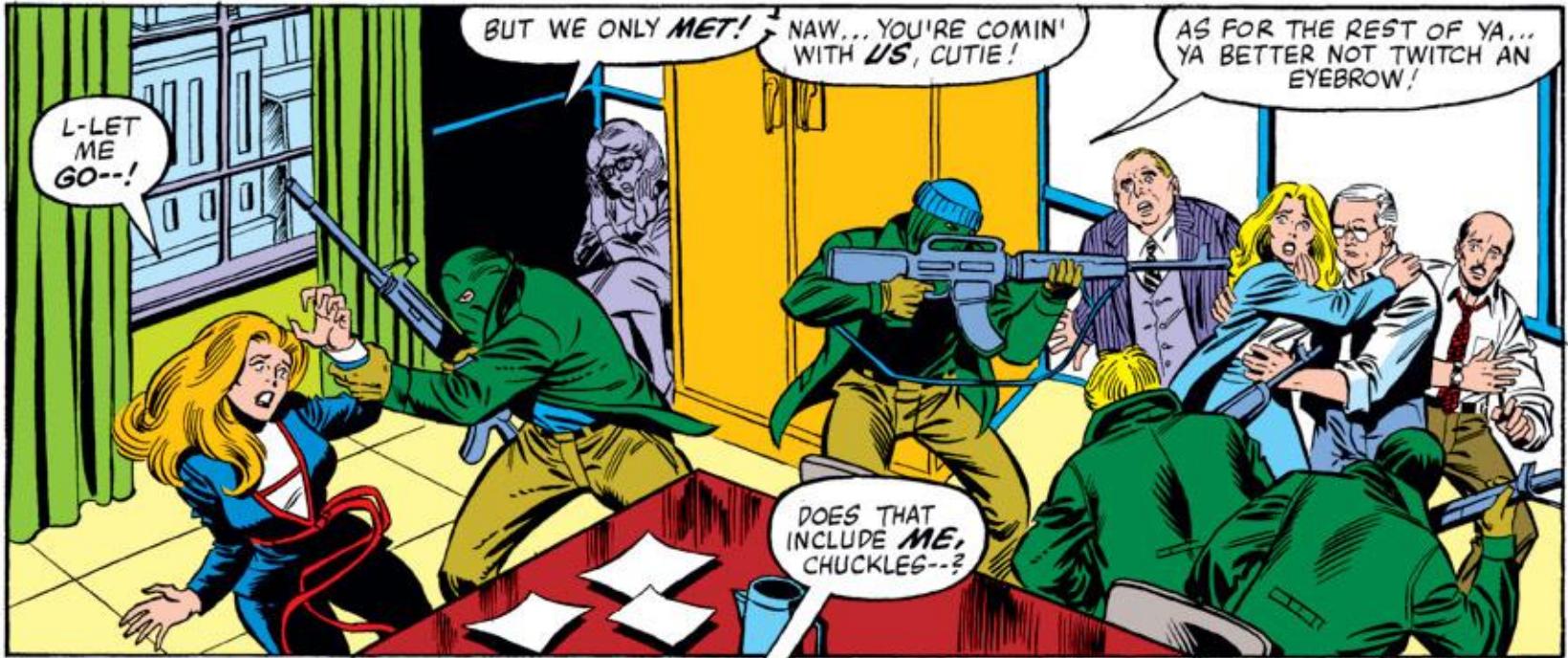
BUT AS PETER PARKER STROLLS THROUGH CHINATOWN, STRANGENESS IS THE FURTHEST THING FROM HIS MIND...



IT IS A FULL TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE PETER PARKER REACHES THE OFFICES OF THE CITY'S FOURTH DAILY NEWS-PAPER ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER EAST SIDE...

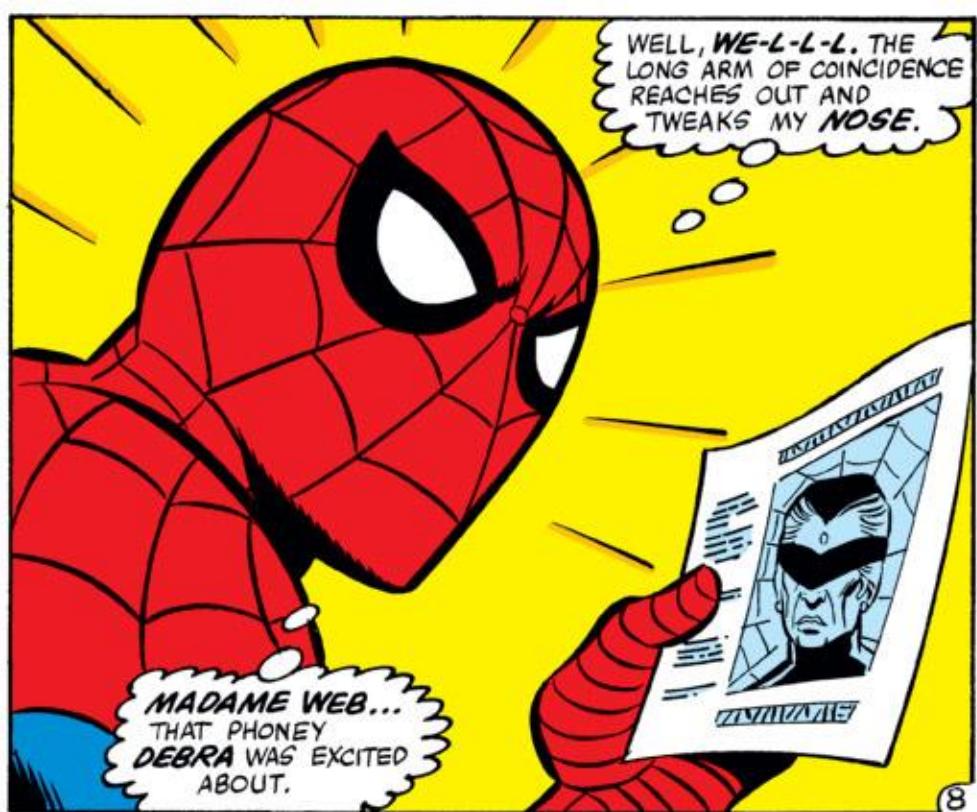
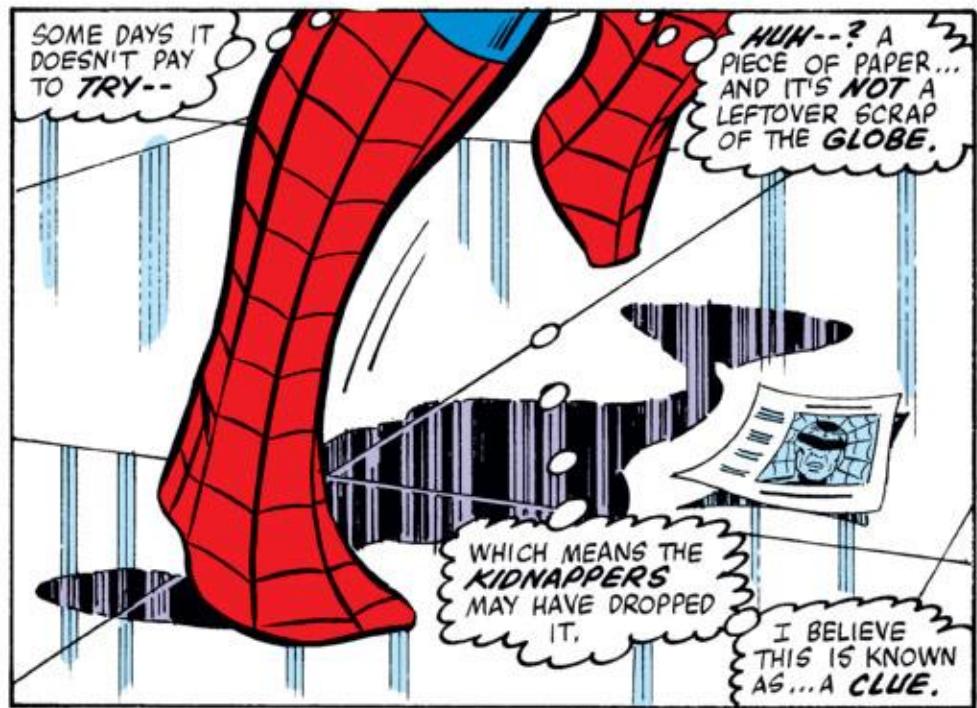


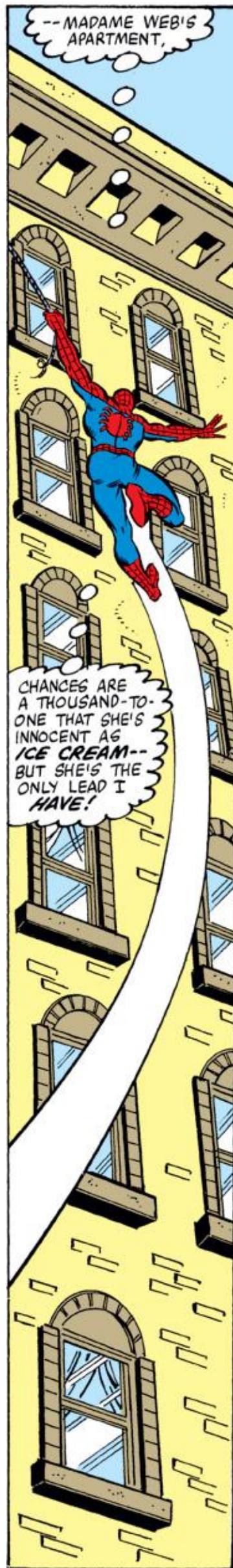




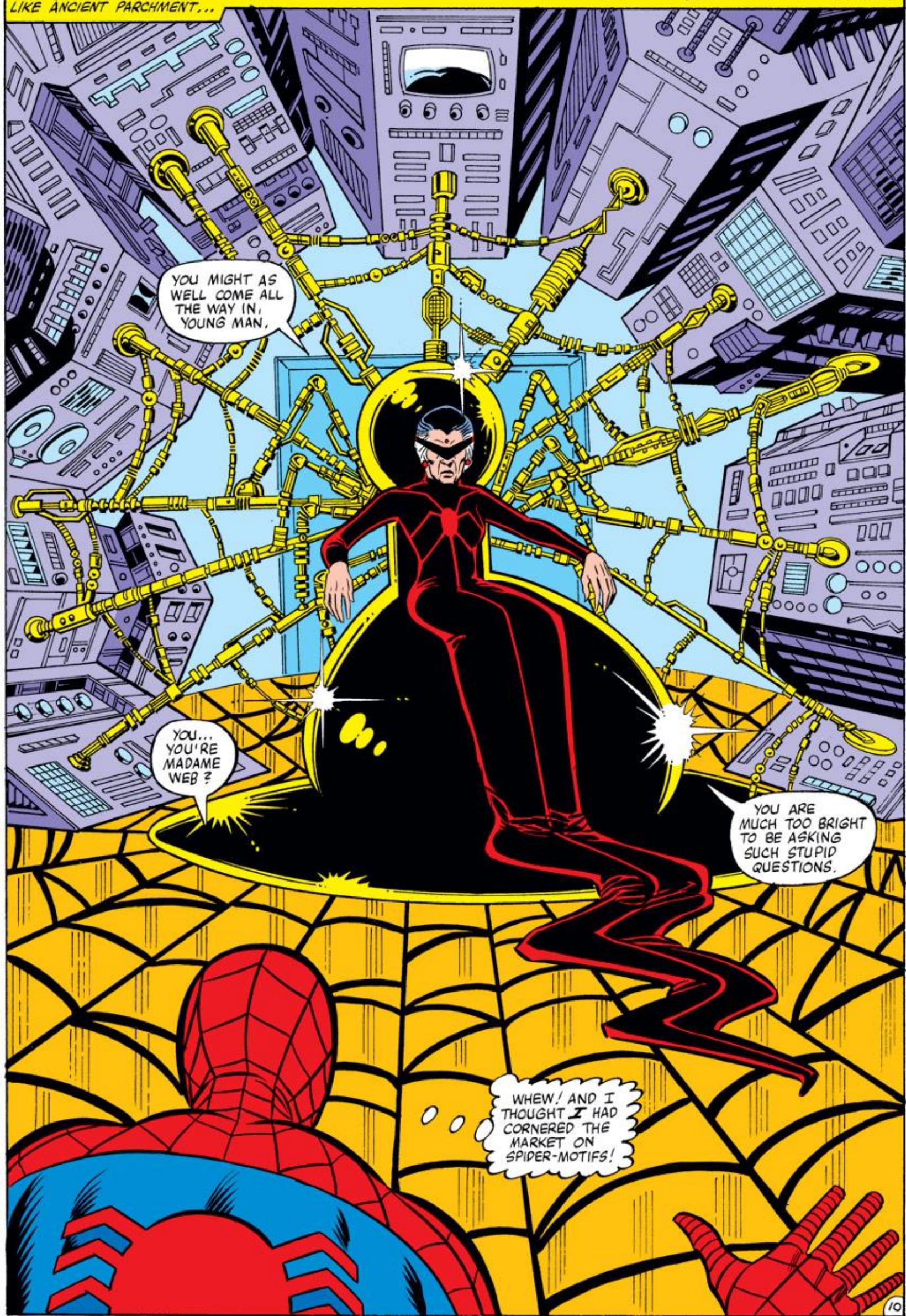




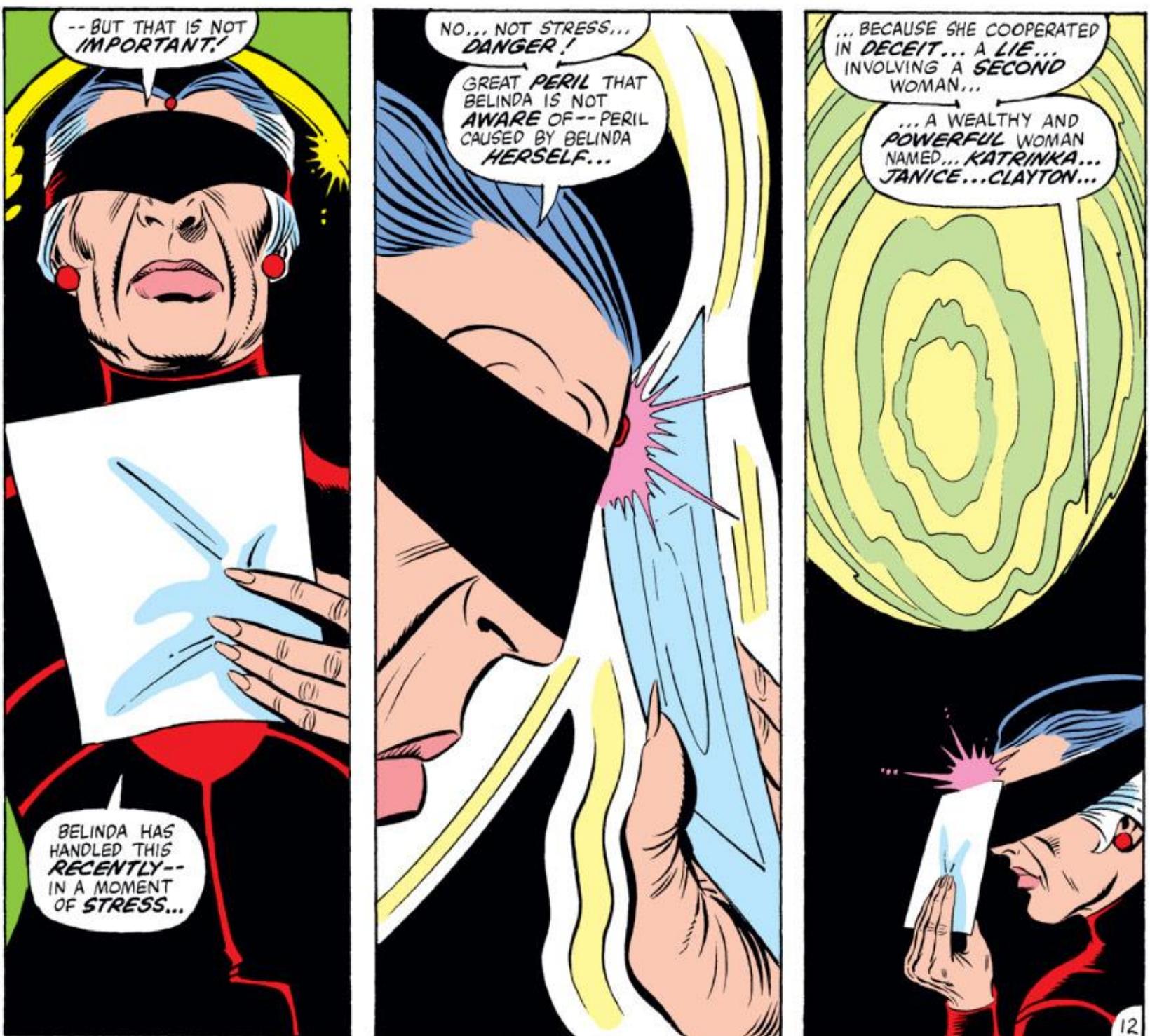
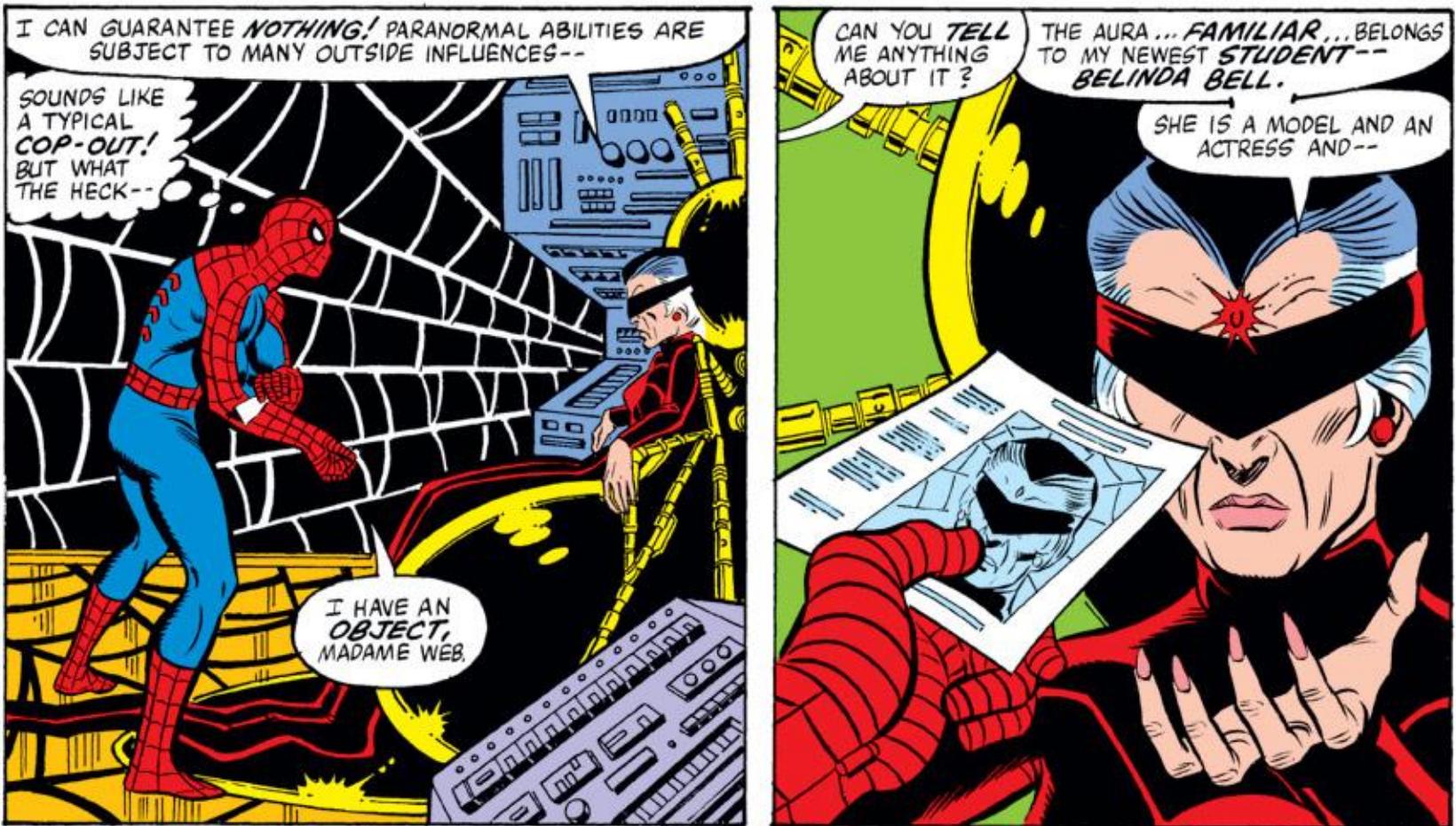


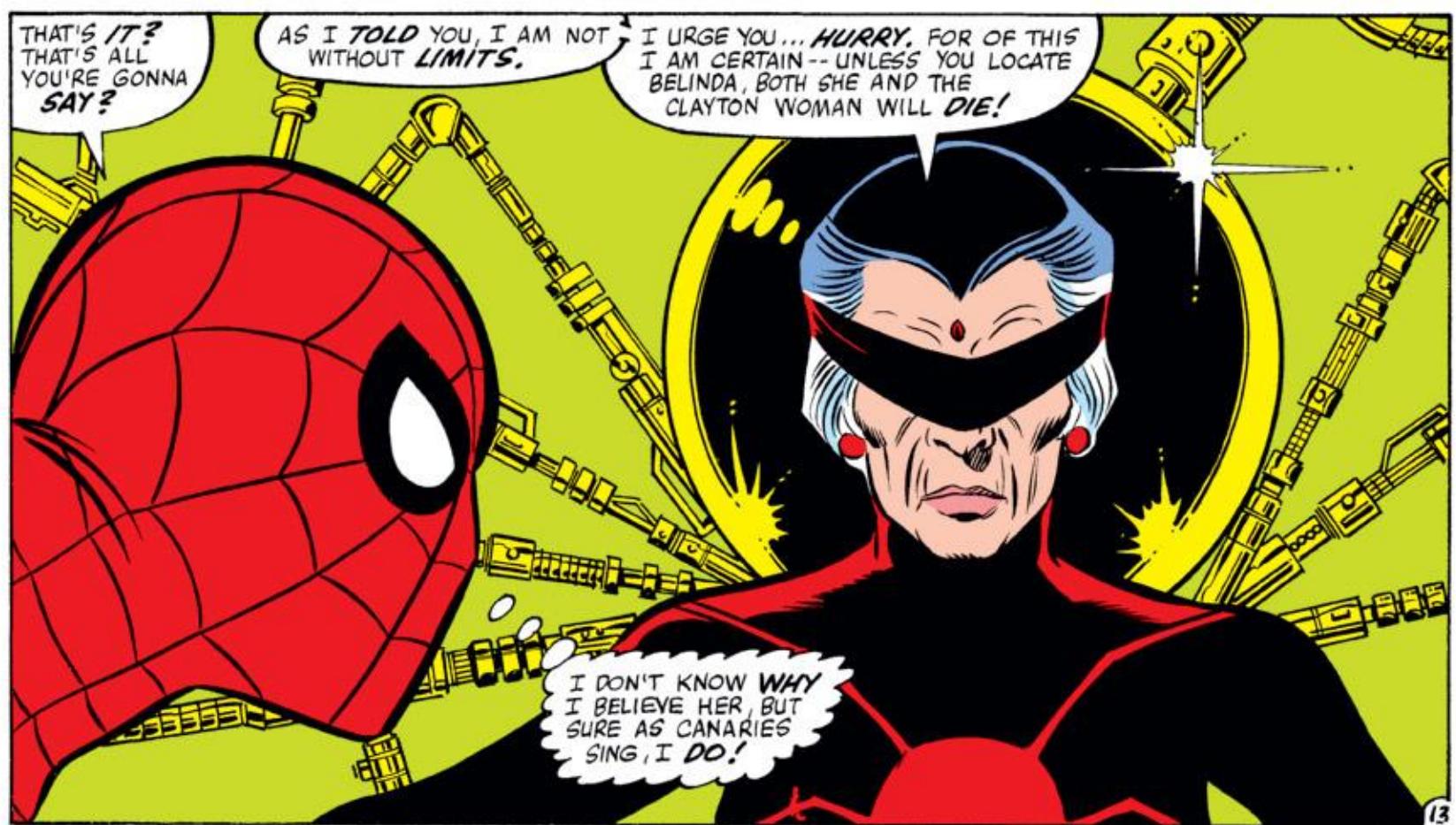
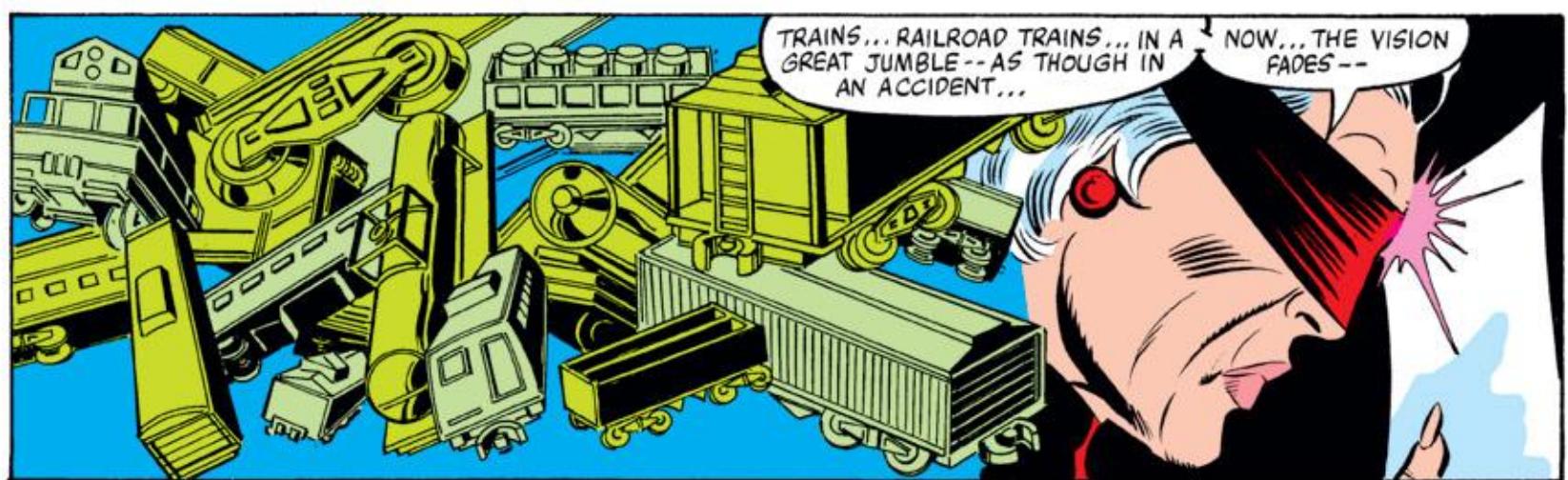
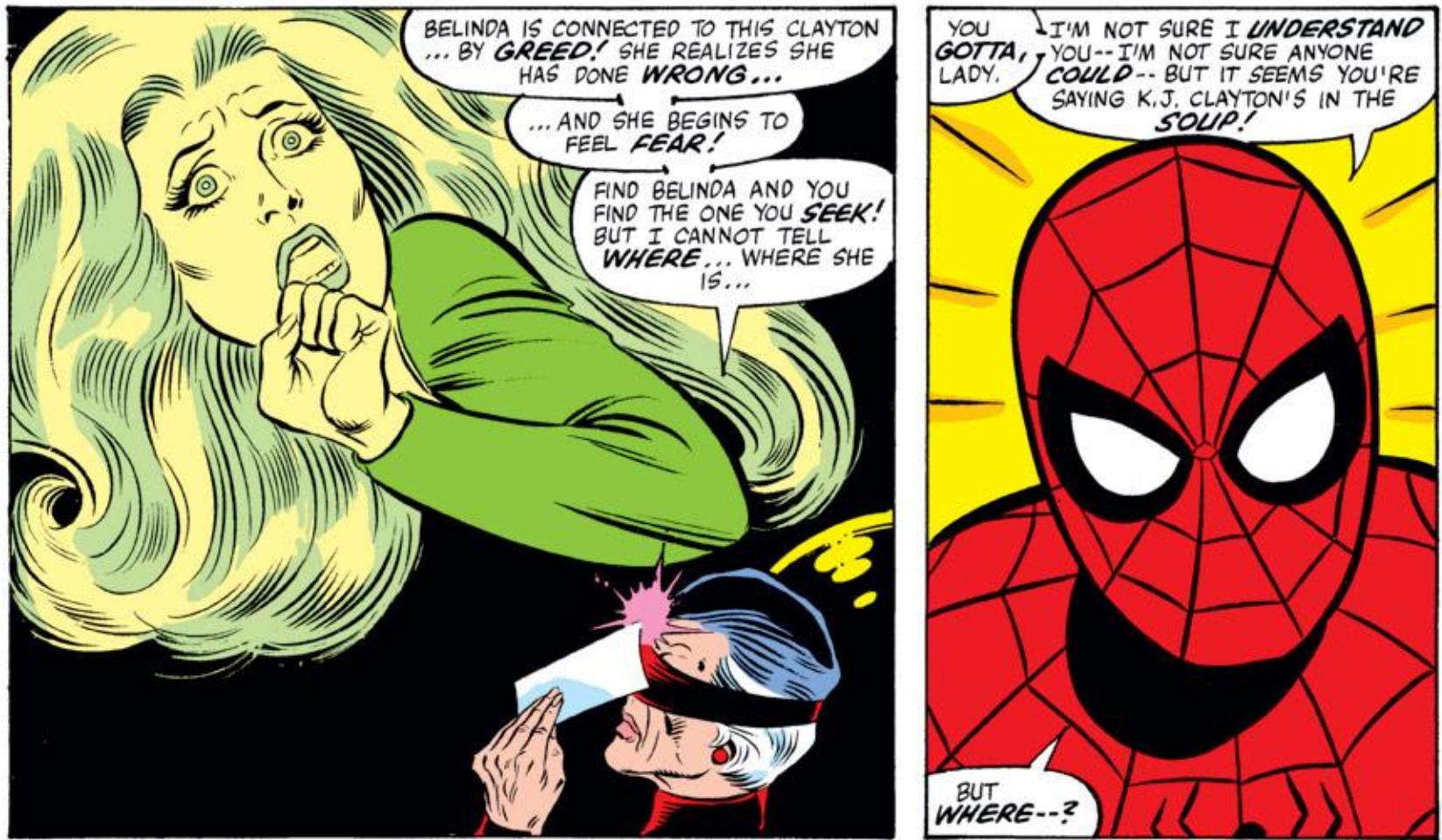


A LOW, ALMOST INAUDIBLE HUM OF MACHINERY... A SMELL OF OZONE AND DISINFECTANT AND AGE... AND A VOICE THAT CRACKLES LIKE ANCIENT PARCHMENT...









MEANWHILE, AT A TOY STORE IN LOWER MANHATTAN...



AND, FOUR MILES UPTOWN AT THE PENTHOUSE SUITE OF THE GLOBE...

YOU WANT TO...
TO KILL ME?
BUT... I
TRUSTED YOU!

INDEED YOU DID,
DEAR LADY-- AND A
GRAVE, GRAVE
ERROR IT WAS.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE
TO GAIN BY MY
MURDER?

THIS NEWSPAPER, MISS CLAYTON. THE
WHOLE STAFF HEARD THE WOMAN WHO
WAS IMPERSONATING YOU GIVE ME
CONTROL.

AS FAR AS
ANYONE KNOWS,
SHE IS YOU.
TONIGHT SHE WILL BE
FOUND DEAD AND THE
GLOBE WILL BE MINE.

VANITY WAS YOUR UNDOING, MISS CLAYTON. YOU
WERE ASHAMED OF BEING OLD AND... AH--
UNATTRACTIVE.

YOU HEDED MY SUGGESTION
THAT YOU HIRE BELINDA BELL
TO APPEAR IN YOUR PLACE--

-- AND THUS YOU
ENABLED ME TO
IMPLEMENT MY
PLAN.

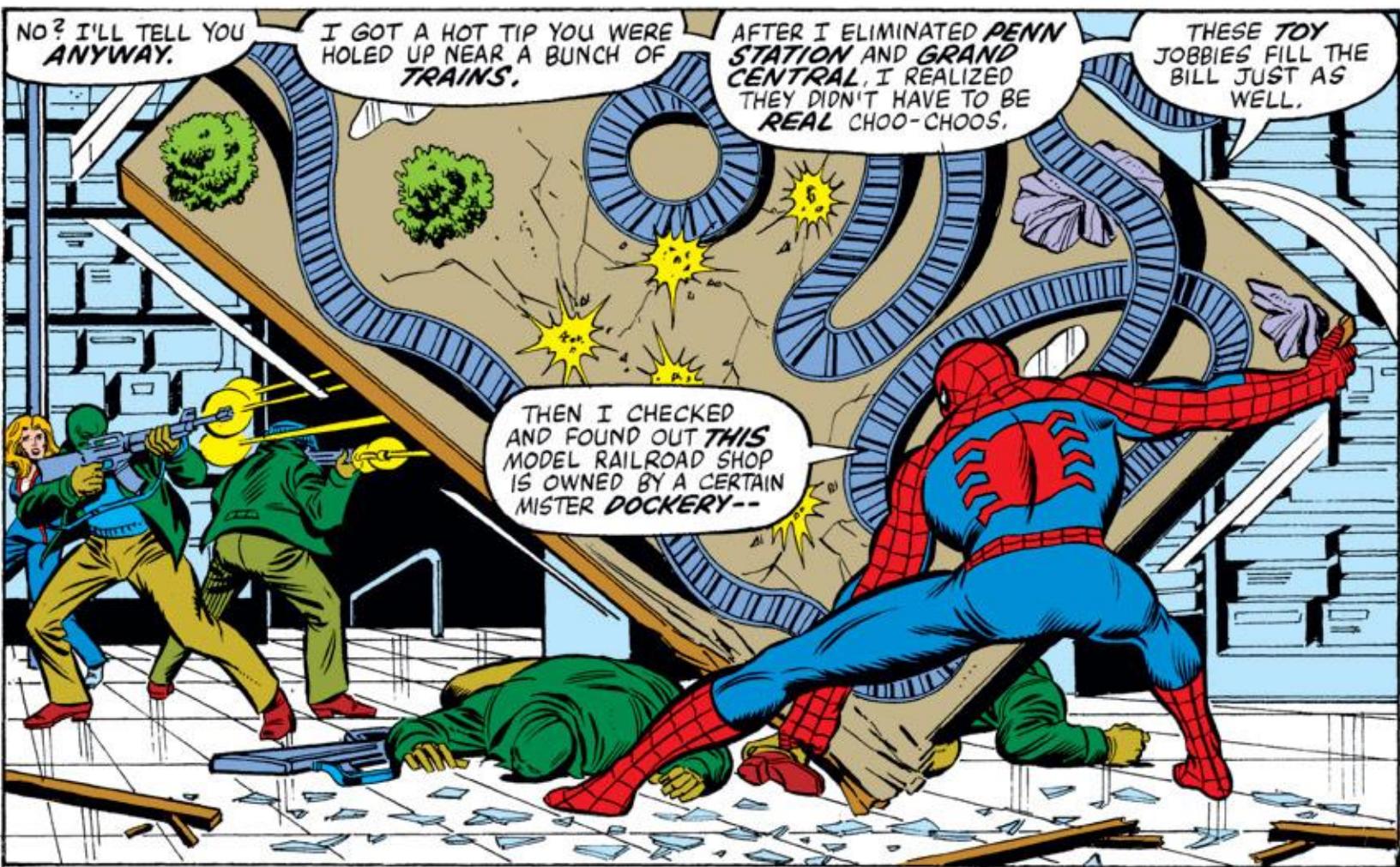
I AM
GRATEFUL.

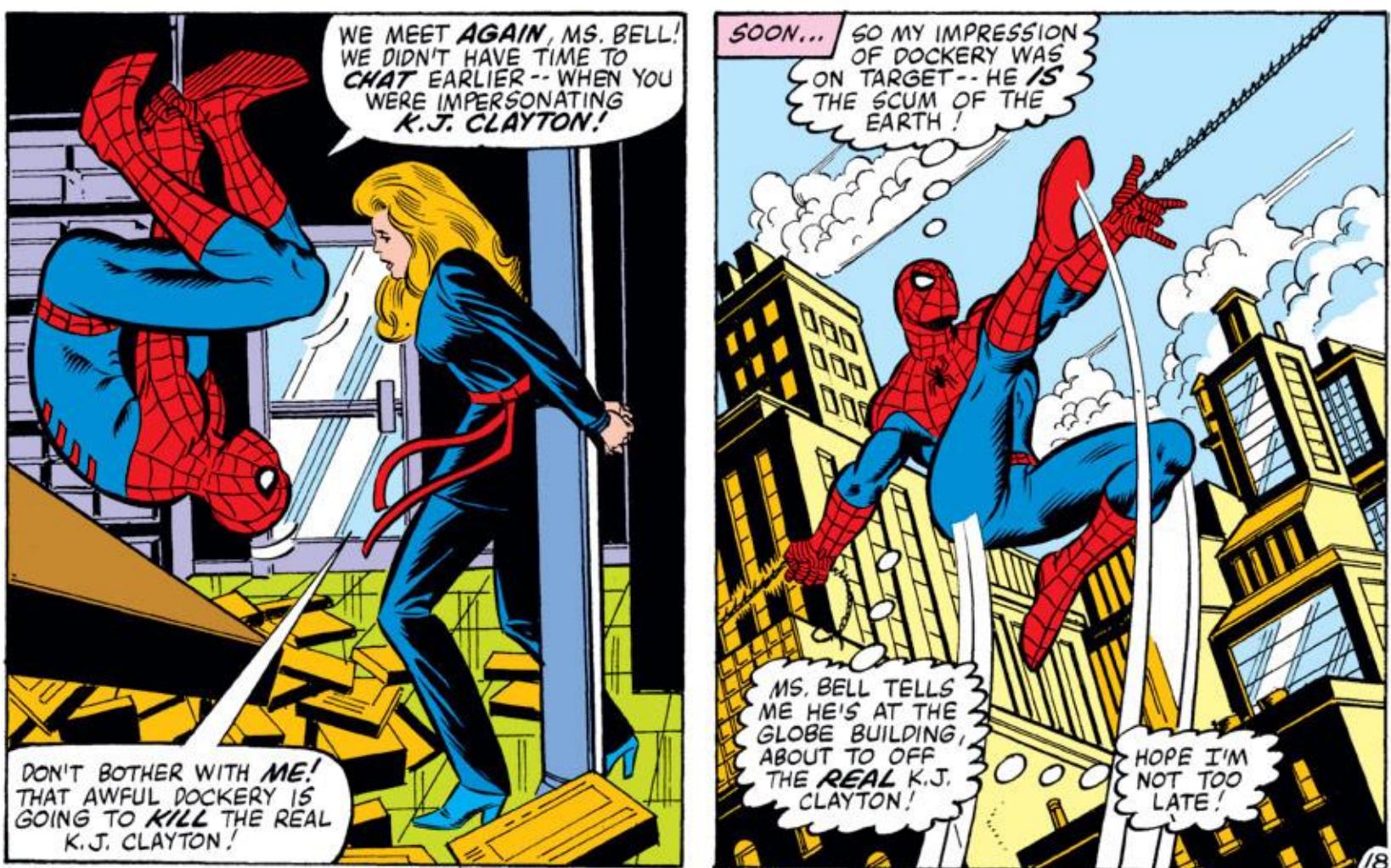
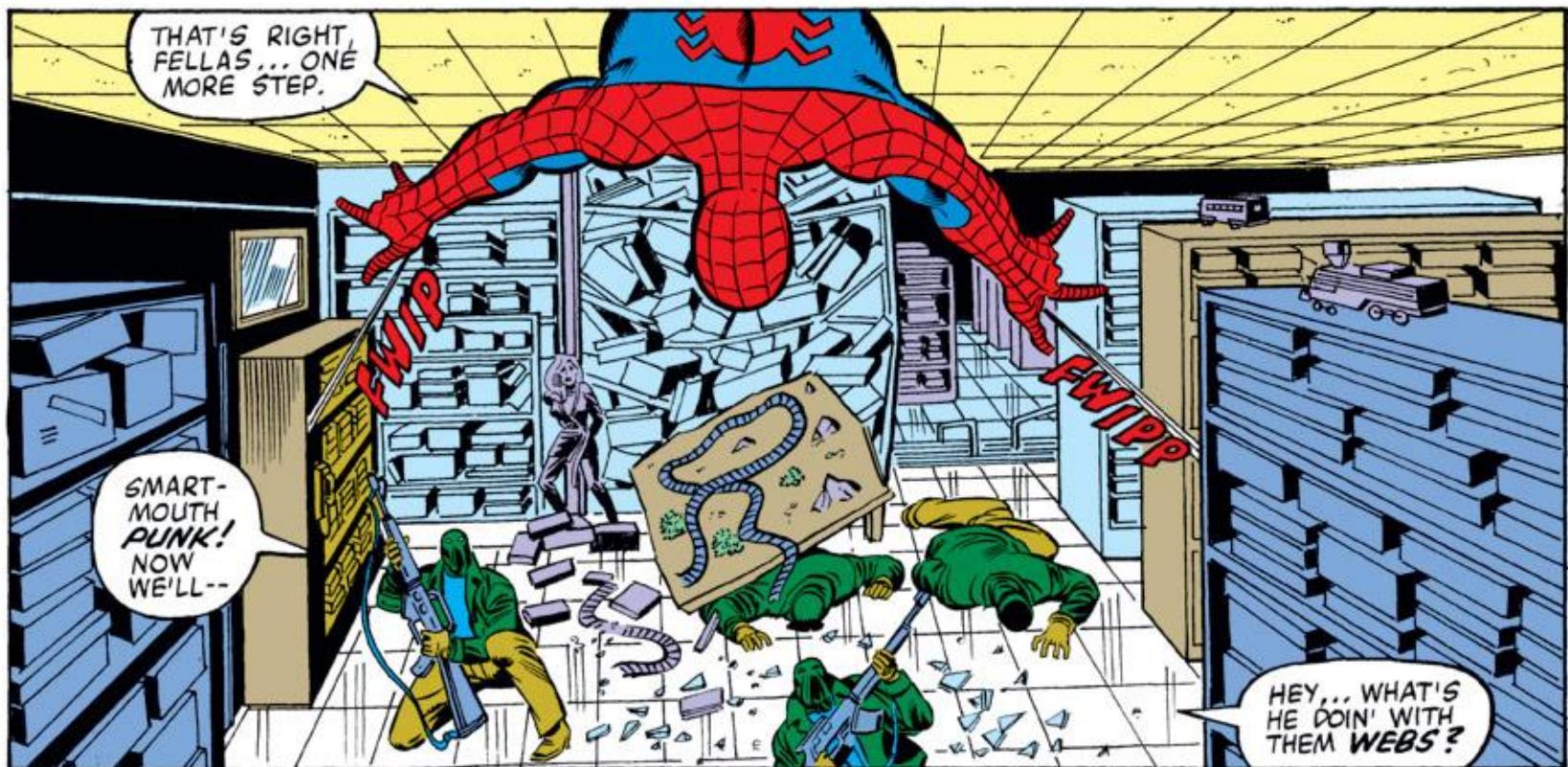
HEH, HEH, HEH... RUN IF YOU LIKE! THE
DOORS ARE LOCKED, THE ELEVATORS
WITHOUT POWER.

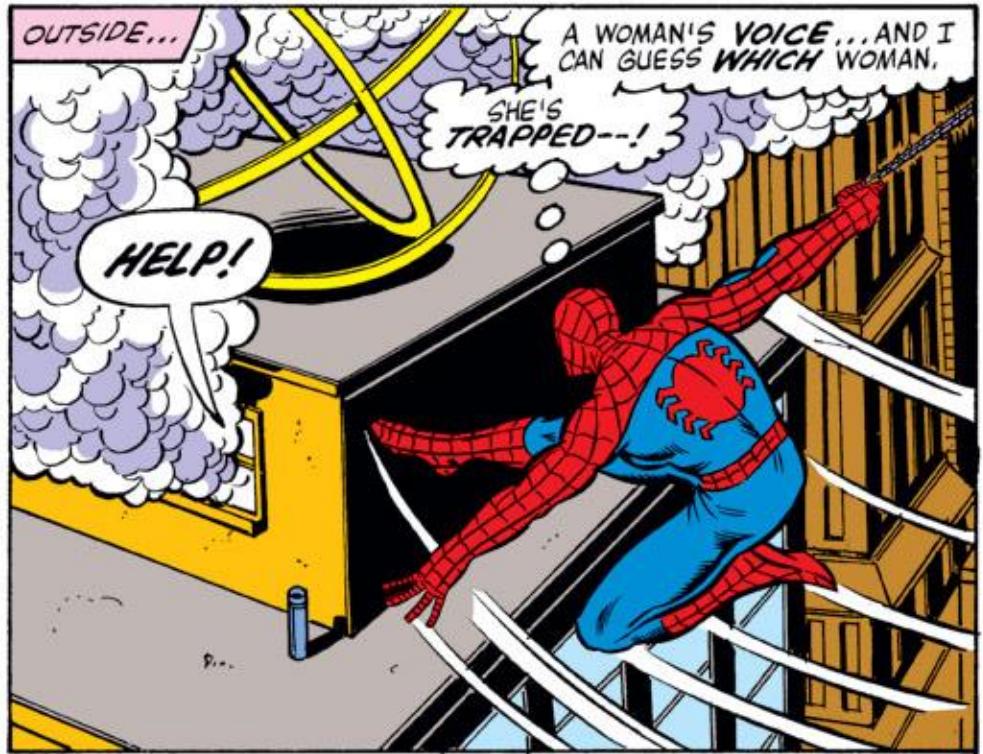
NO ONE IS
NEAR TO HEAR
YOU CRY FOR
HELP.

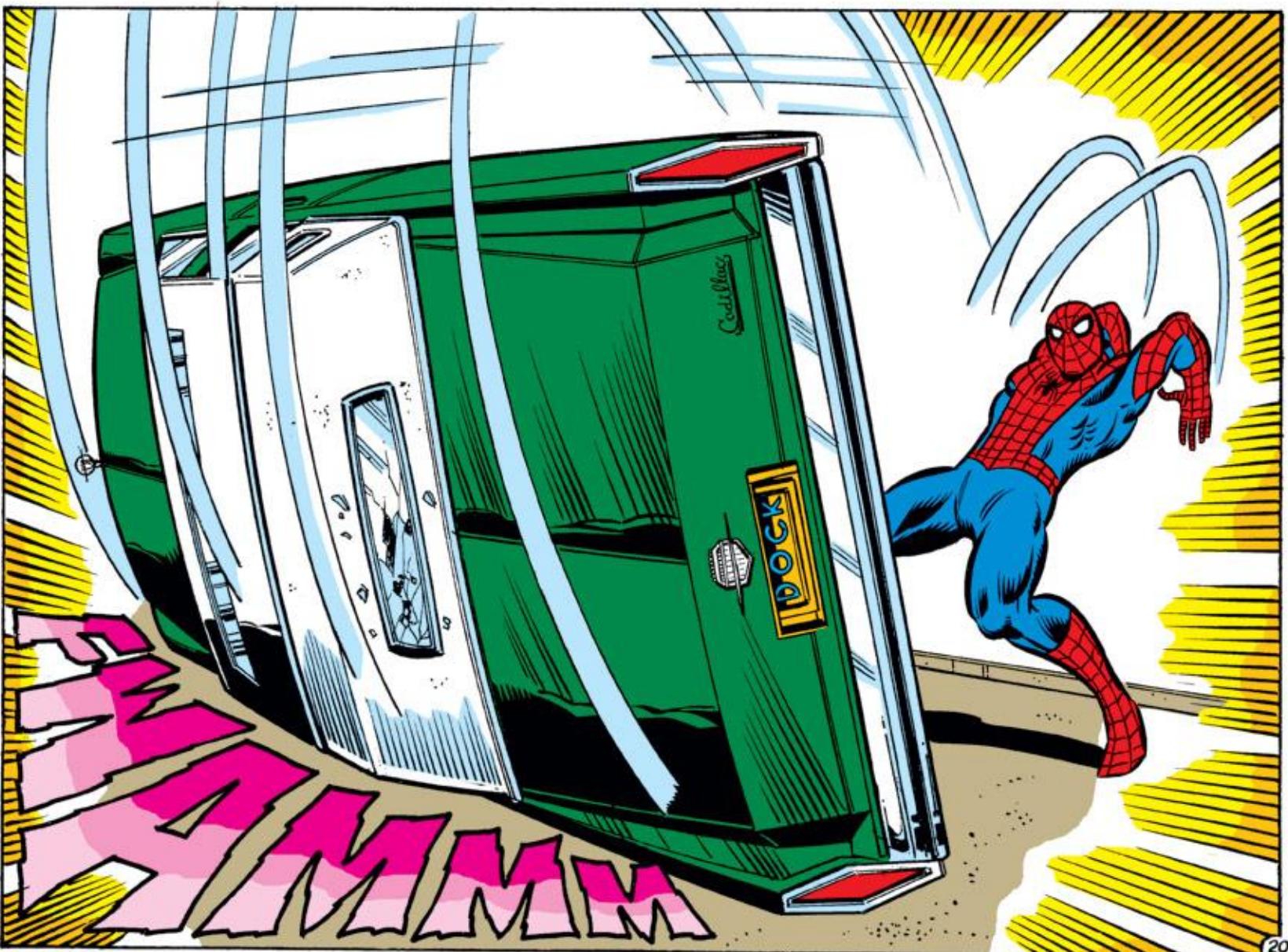
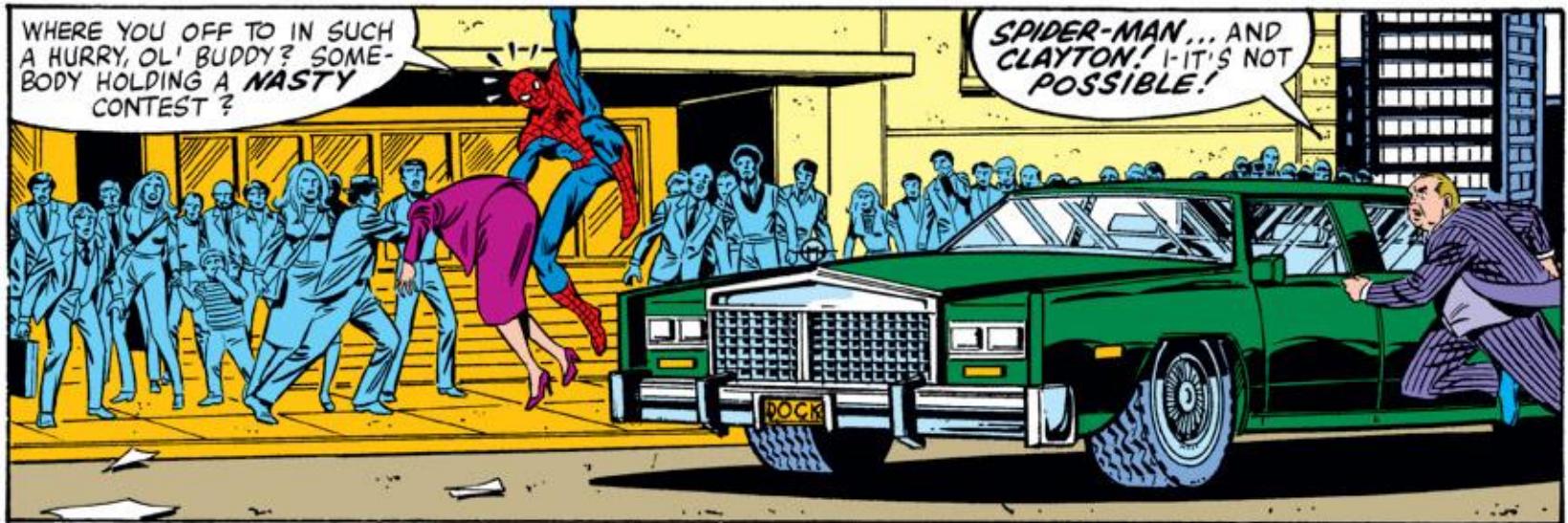
I HAVE A CALL
TO MAKE -- AND THEN
I SHALL ATTEND TO
YOU PERSONALLY.





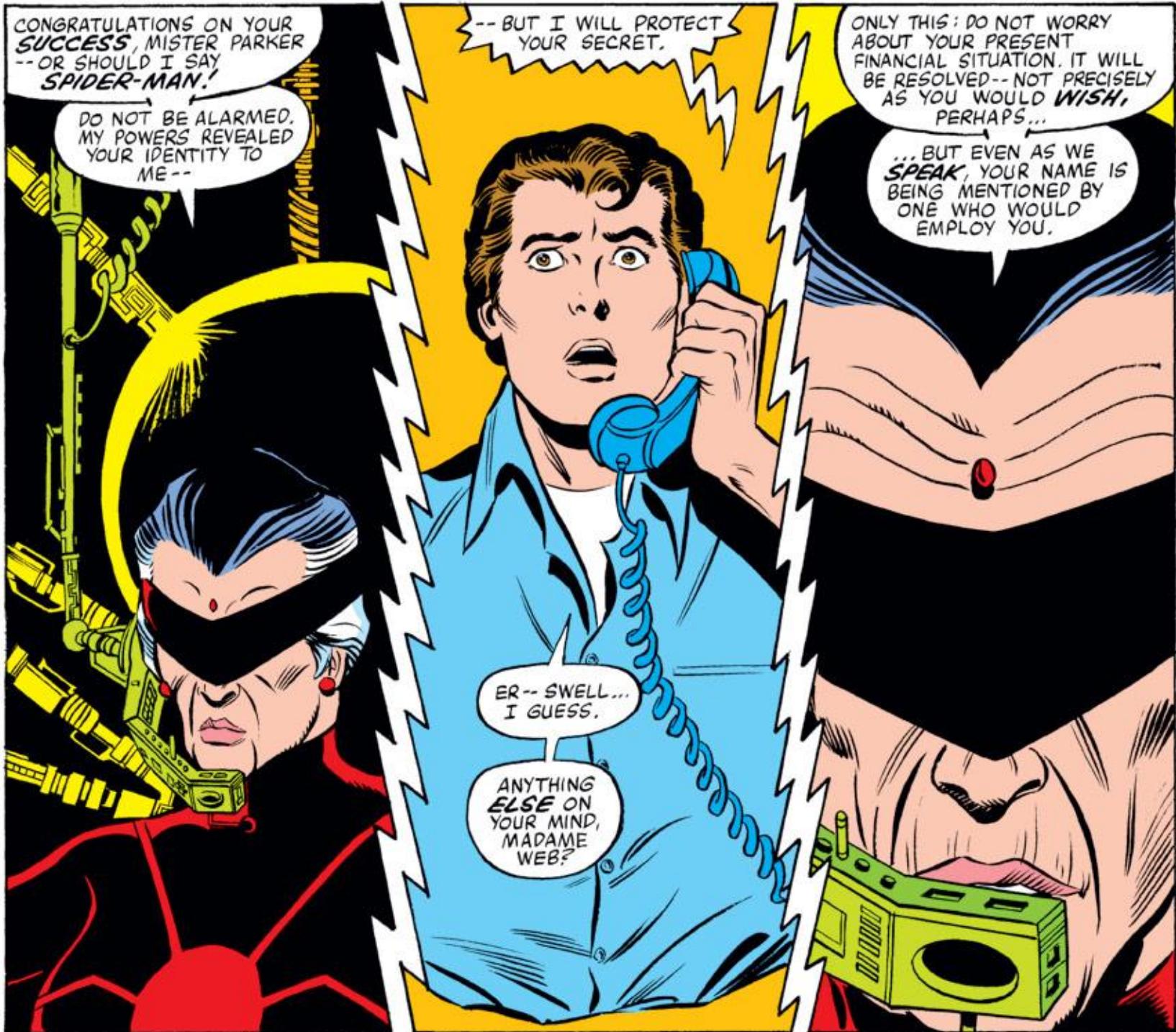








* SEE SPIDER-WOMAN #25-30 -- AL.



THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ALLEN MILGROM
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Roger,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #206.

Jonas Harrow and a mind-wave machine? Hah! I knew it all along!

Seriously, though, I preferred this subtle approach used in "A Method in his Madness!" Usually, we see the villain in a situation like this turn on his machine and tell his victims to fight each other. The way you brought it off, Rog, made it seem more realistic and not quite so silly.

But why did Harrow use it on everyone? Surely someone would be suspicious afterward — after all, everyone went crazy at once! Also, why didn't Spider-Man just smash the machine with his hands? Why did he have to build up that momentum?

Still, it was a pretty good issue... especially with Byrne's art!

Jim Johnson
19209 Auburndale
Livonia, MI 48152

Let's answer your first question first, Jim.

Dr. Harrow turned his ray on the *Bugle* offices as part of a test of the device's wide-angle capabilities. Sure, everyone would be suspicious — but by that point, Harrow was so confident that he didn't care. (Could it be that Jonas was being subtly affected by the ray as well? Mmmm... could be!)

Secondly, Spider-Man was quite capable of trashing the ray projector. It's just that the ray was making him so thoroughly paranoid, he couldn't stand to be near it. He needed the momentum to smash the machine before he could turn tail and run again!

Apparently, though, those little misunderstandings didn't get in the way of your enjoyment of the story. (Whew!) Of course, not everyone liked it...

Marvel Guys:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #206 was a letdown.

Milgrom does some really great covers, but this one looked rushed... as did the story! All the loose ends of the storyline were tied up too quick and too even.

Why did a super-villain/mad scientist have to be behind Jonah going crazy? In the past, Marvel has dealt with drug problems, old age, and alcoholism. You had a chance to handle the problems of mental illness, and what happened? Instead of a realistic approach, we got a simple and rushed cop-out.

Dennis Petilli
306 Terry Road
Smithtown, NY 11781

Sorry you were disappointed, Dennis. I agree that a realistic approach to the problems of mental illness could make for a powerful story... that's why I had General Thunderbolt Ross suffer a total nervous breakdown a couple of years ago. (It was in INCREDIBLE HULK #229, for those of you who

missed it.) The state of mental health in this country is certainly a subject deserving a realistic approach, and — had I remained on the book — I would have handled Ross' treatment and convalescence in the most realistic manner possible.

However, I never really believed Jonah's breakdown. For all his hang-ups about Spider-Man, Jonah is really a pretty straightforward guy... hard-nosed, cheap, and often insensitive, but frighteningly sane! As Harrow put it, "Jonah Jameson may well be the one man on earth who is just too stubborn to stay crazy!"

Thunderbolt Ross had watched his entire life get turned inside out over a number of years. Jonah Jameson had suffered numerous personal defeats — had even witnessed the apparent disintegration of his only son — but he rarely bottled his emotions up inside of him. He had good friends to turn to, and he had his own personal whipping boy in Spider-Man. And — most importantly — he was Jonah Jameson, by gadfly!

I just couldn't buy the idea of Jonah going mad. It seemed too artificial to me. And, I reasoned, if it seemed artificial, mightn't it be artificial? Denny O'Neil agreed with me. And so, it appears, have most of our readers.

—R.S.

Dear Roger, John, & Denny:

The "World's Greatest Pain-in-the-Neck" is back, and I'm glad! It just wouldn't be the same without Jonah Jameson making things tough for our hero.

The other day, some of my friends were saying that SPIDER-MAN hit bottom after Stan Lee left the book, but I stuck to my guns. All I had to do was show them issue #206, and they were convinced that the magazine was better than ever!

Scott Petersen
18585 Le Chateau Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005

Dear Rog, John, and Gene:

You wonderful guys! Just when I thought SPIDER-MAN was through, along comes issue #206. You people really did it right! Spidey flowed through every page. I loved it!

Mr. Stern, what a dirty, terrible, *wonderful* trick you played on us with that business about the answering machine plug. It was the first genuine side-splitter I've seen in this magazine in a long time. And Spidey's wisecracks were fantastic!

Keep on writing treats like this, and you're going to completely resurrect the old Marvel that I loved!

Pat Clifford
1225 Glenview Drive
Neenah, WI 54956