

SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PETER PARKER,
I KNOW YOU'RE
SPIDER-MAN--

--AND I HAVE
THE PHOTOS TO
PROVE IT!

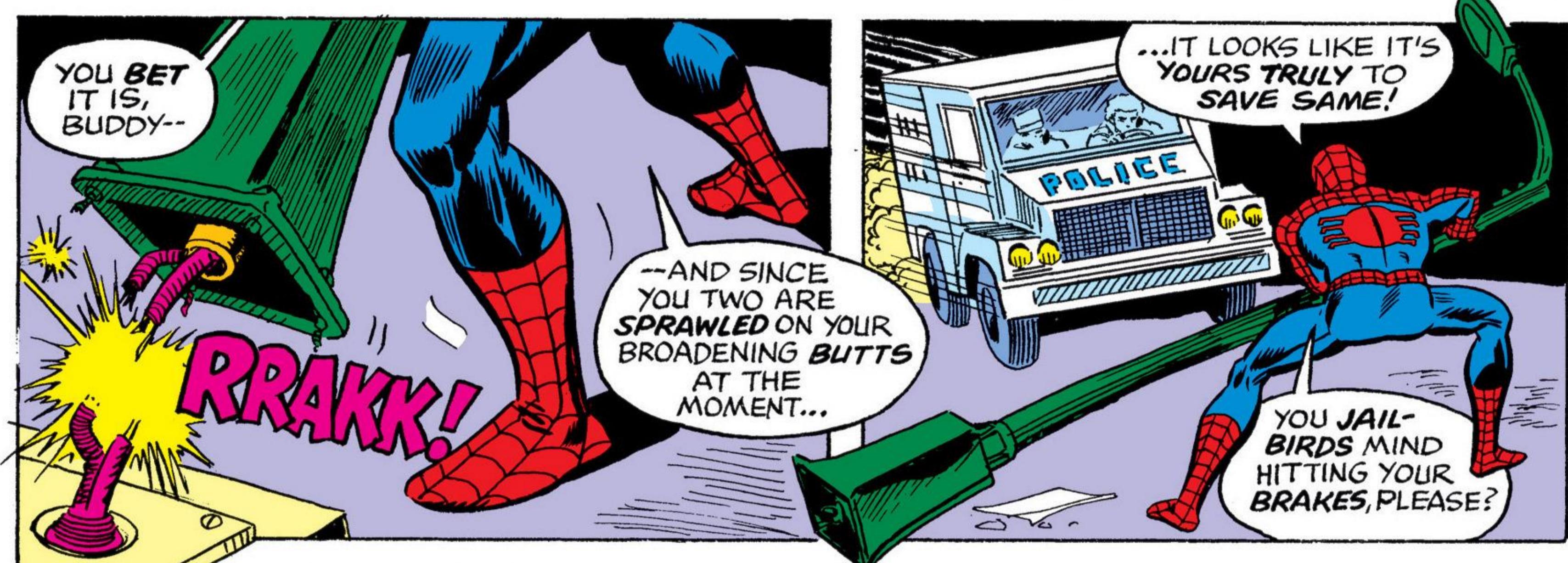
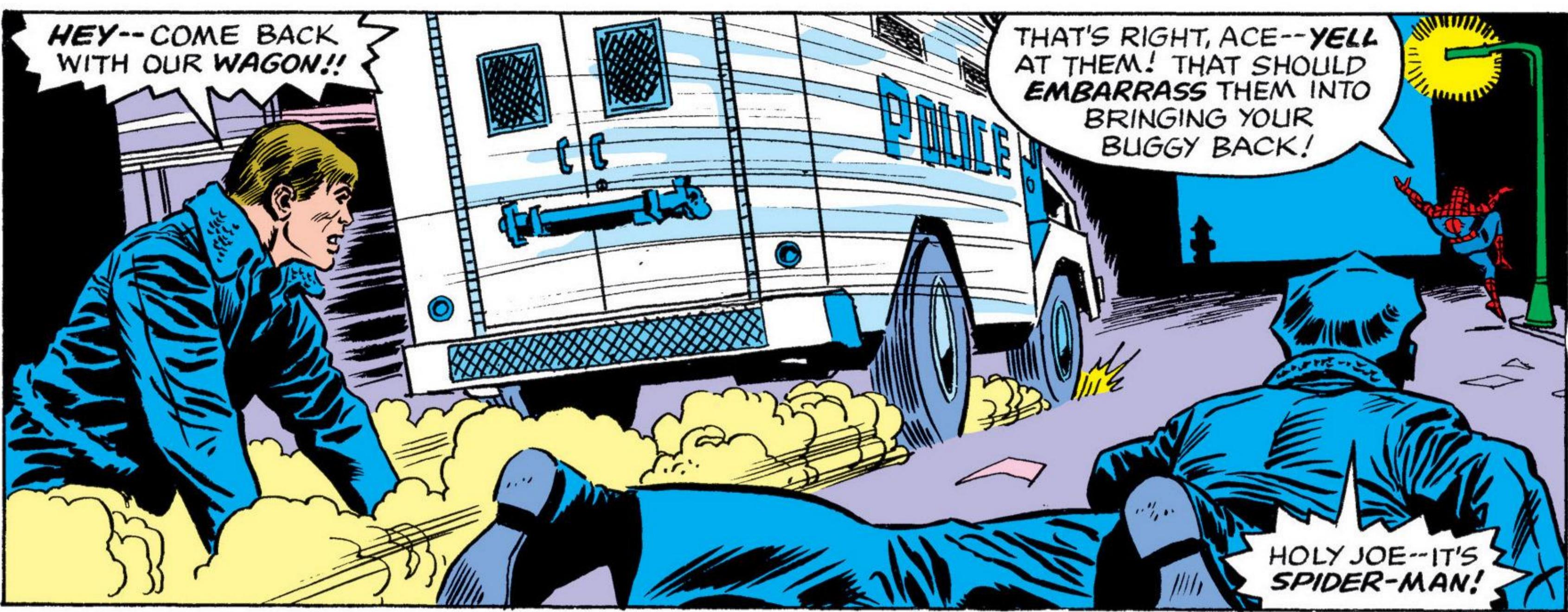
HOW DO THESE PICTURES REVEAL
SPIDEY'S SECRET IDENTITY? YOU'LL
NEVER KNOW, UNLESS YOU READ...
CONFRONTATION!

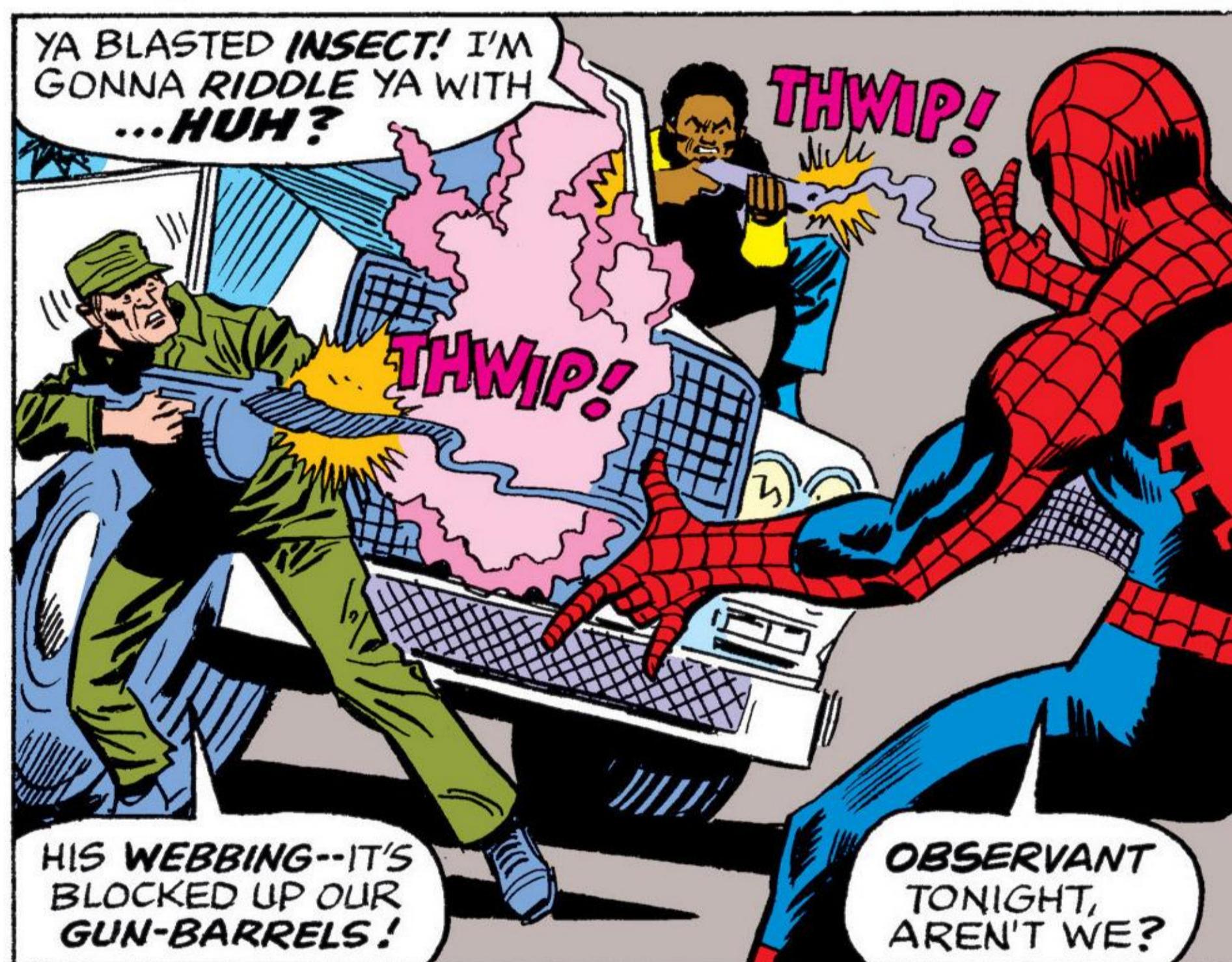
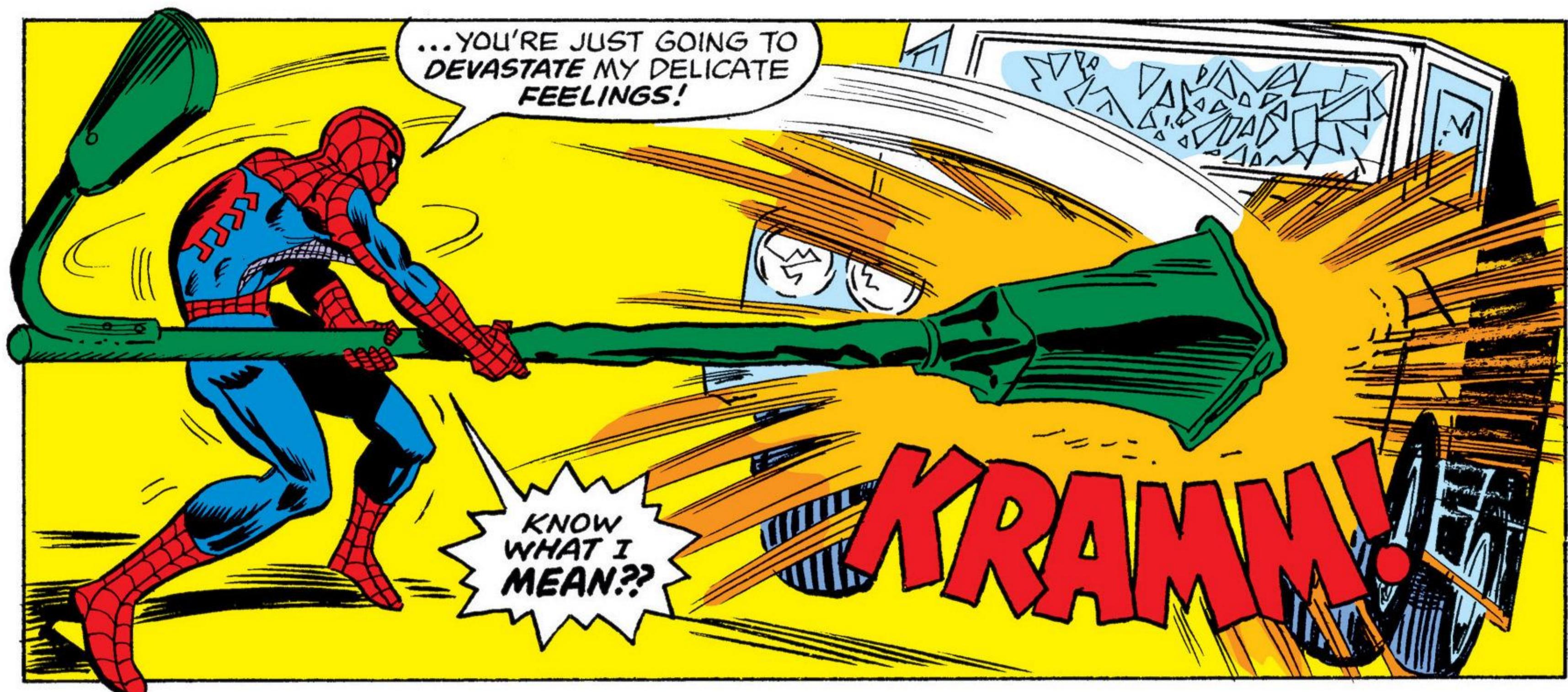
While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

LEN WEIN | ROSS ANDRU | MIKE ESPOSITO | GLYNIS WEIN | IRV WATANABE
WRITER/EDITOR | ILLUSTRATOR | EMBELLISHER | COLORIST | LETTERER



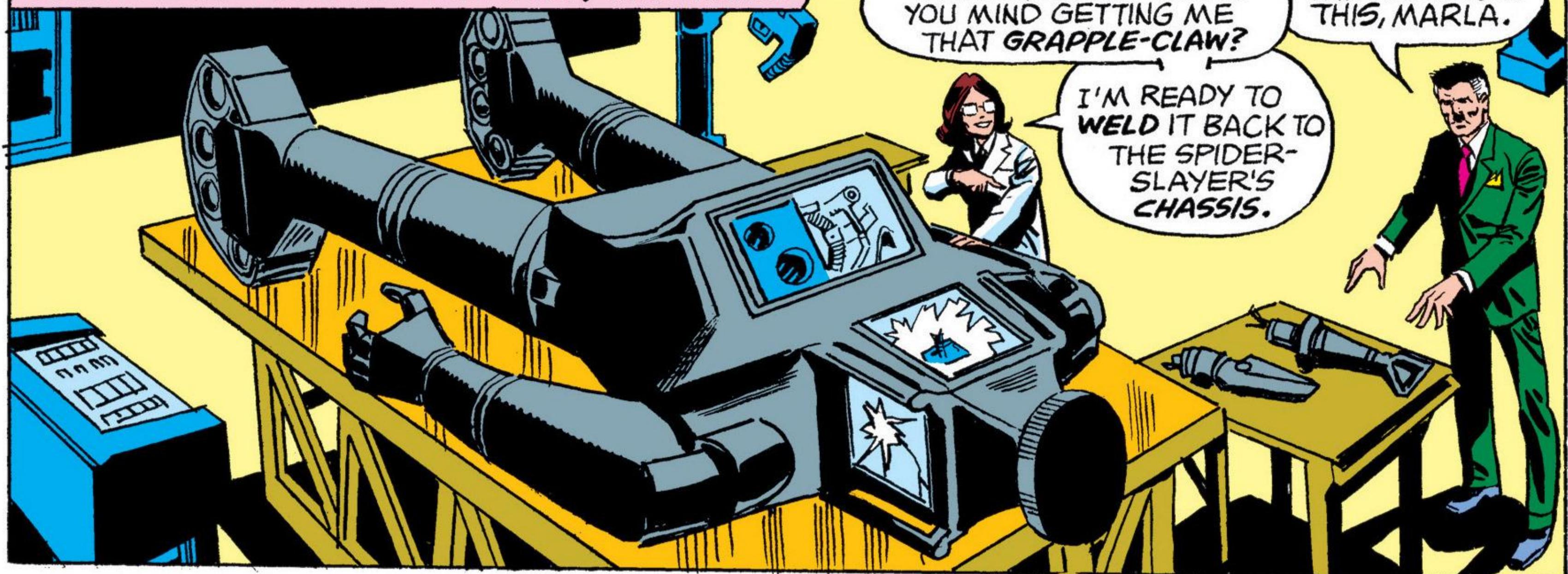




ELSEWHERE, IN THE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY OCCUPIED BY THE LOVELY DR. MARLA MADISON...

WHILE YOU'RE BUSY PACING, JONAH--WOULD YOU MIND GETTING ME THAT GRAPPLER-CLAW?

I FAIL TO SEE THE HUMOR IN THIS, MARLA.



IT'S GOING TO COST ME A SMALL FORTUNE TO REPAIR THE HAVOC THIS MECHANICAL MONSTROSITY WRECKED ON THAT SKATING RINK*--

--NOT TO MENTION WHAT THIS FIASCO HAS COST ME IN TERMS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS!

YES...THAT IS RATHER UNFORTUNATE.

*IN ROCKEFELLER PLAZA LASH ISH.
--LEN.

UNFORTUNATE? DID YOU SEE YESTERDAY'S DAILY GLOBE HEADLINES?

"BUGLE PUBLISHER J. JONAH JAMESON TURNS VIGILANTE!"

HOW COULD THEY LET THAT HALFWIT K. J. CLAYTON PUBLISH SUCH OBVIOUS YELLOW JOURNALISM?

I SUPPOSE HE PRESENTED THE FACTS AS HE SAW THEM, JONAH.

AFTER ALL, YOU DID USE THE SPIDER-SLAYER AGAINST THE WEB-SLINGER WITHOUT POLICE PERMISSION!

IF I'D CAPTURED HIM, I WOULD HAVE BEEN A HERO...INSTEAD OF A GOAT!

PERHAPS YOU CAN STILL CAPTURE HIM, JONAH. THE SPIDER-SLAYER SHOULD BE COMPLETELY REPAIRED IN A FEW DAYS, AND THEN...

NO, WE'VE ALREADY TRIED THAT METHOD--AND WE BLEW IT! THERE HAS TO BE SOME ALTERNATIVE...

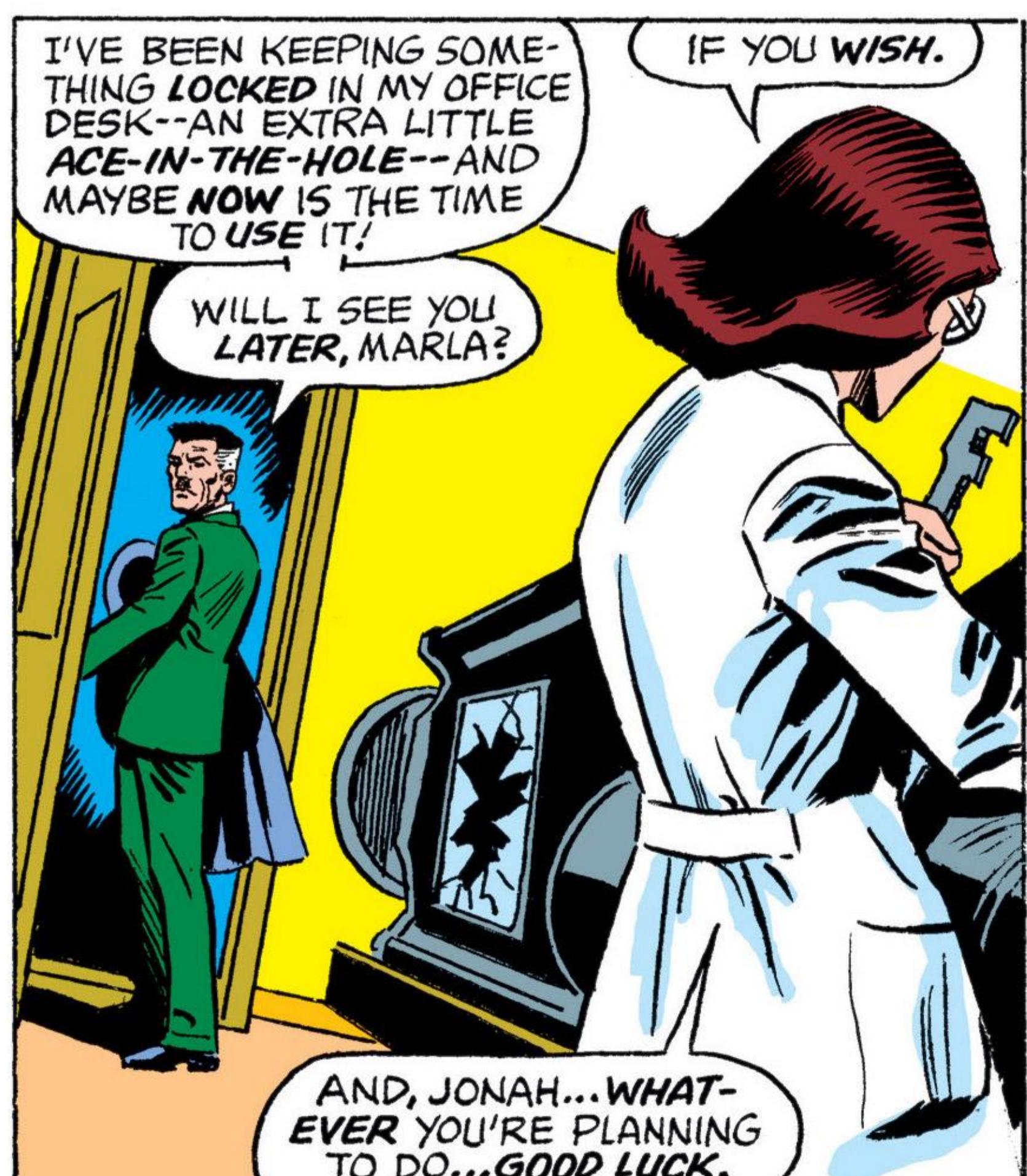
...AND I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT IT IS!

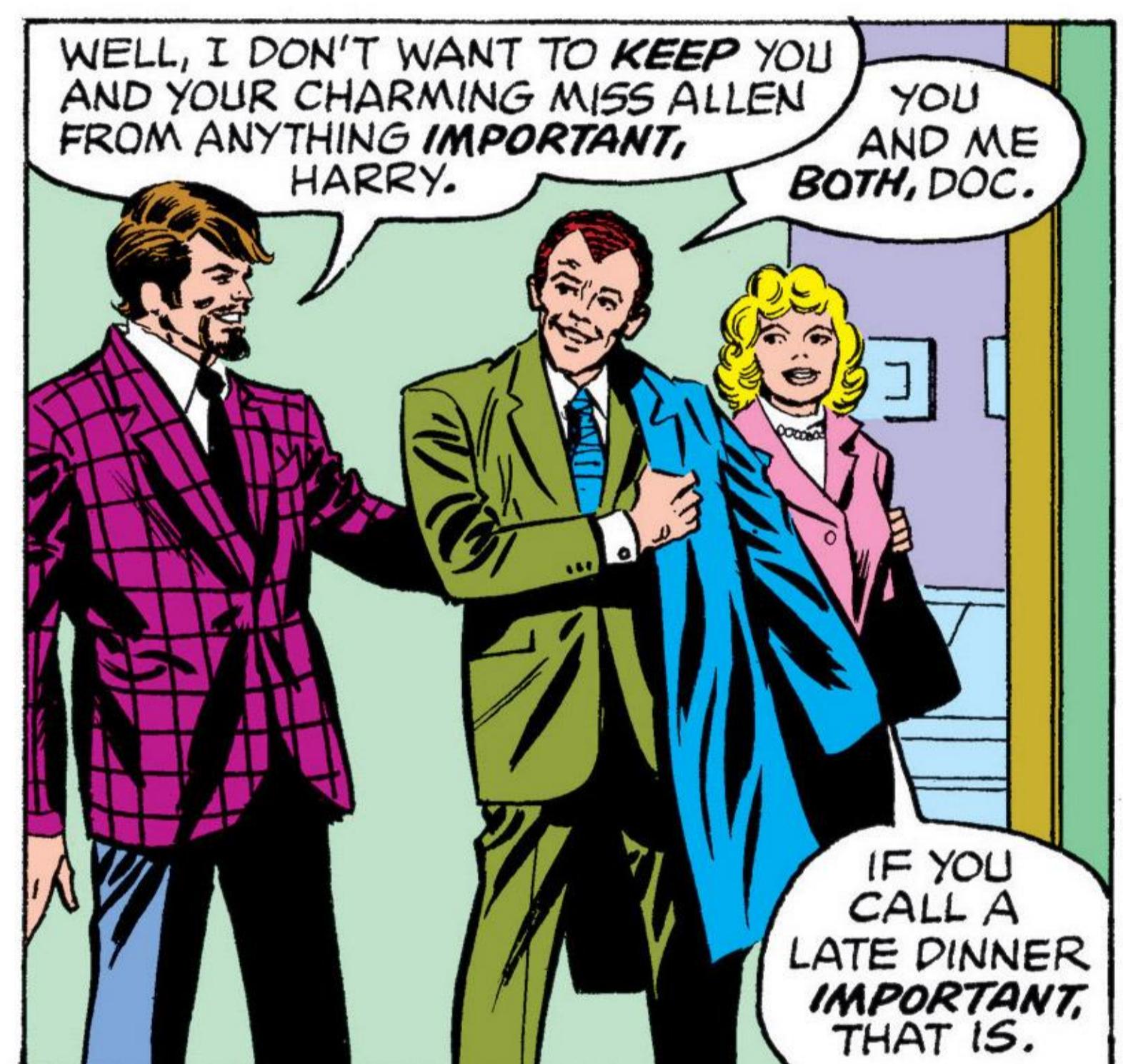
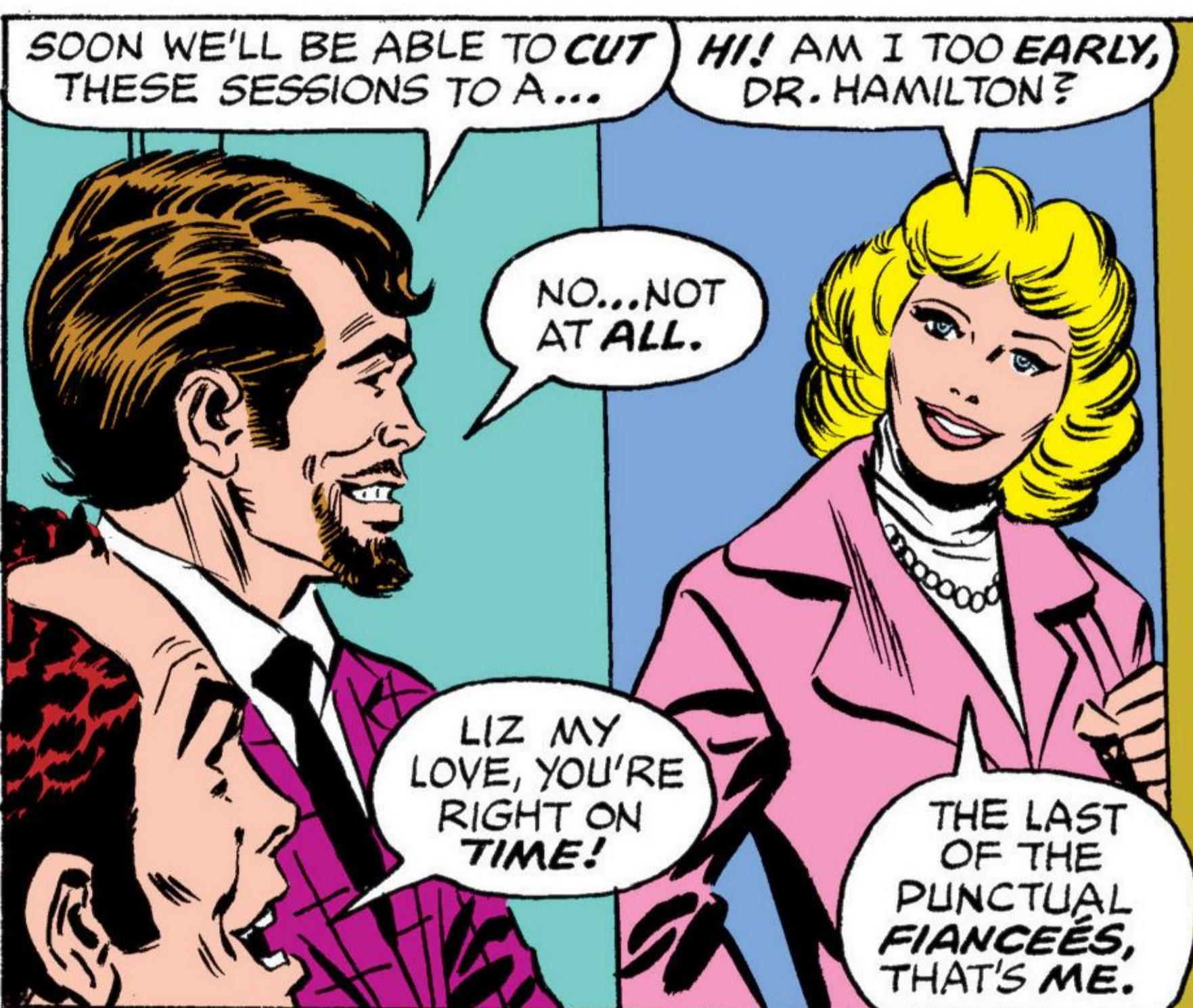
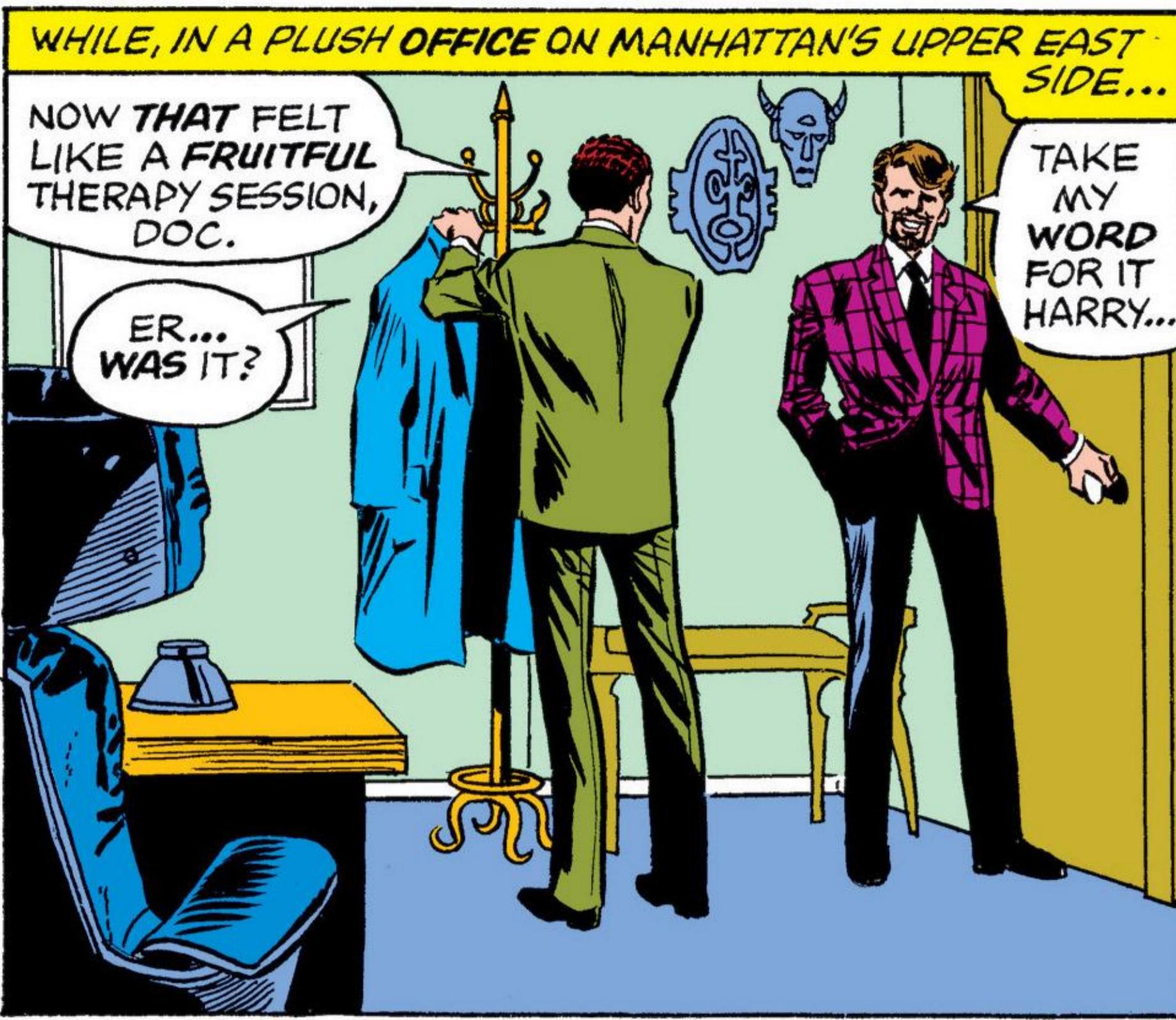
I'VE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING LOCKED IN MY OFFICE DESK--AN EXTRA LITTLE ACE-IN-THE-HOLE--AND MAYBE NOW IS THE TIME TO USE IT!

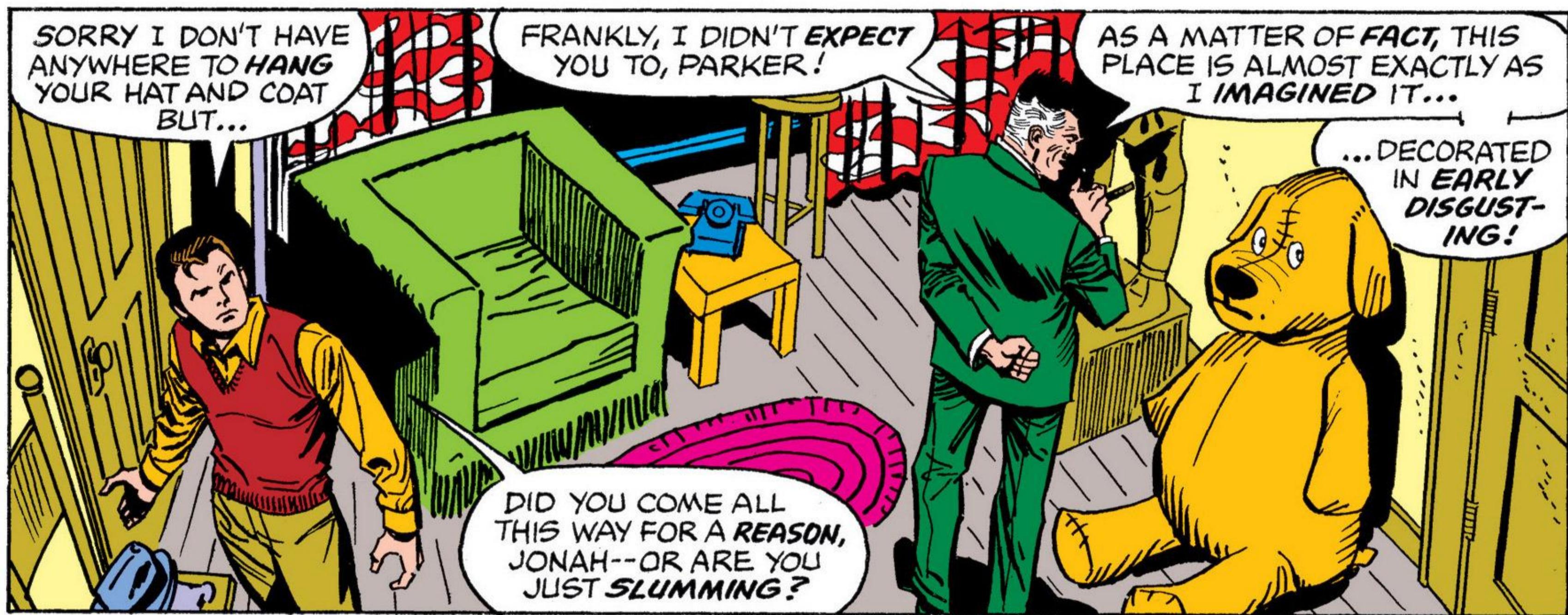
WILL I SEE YOU LATER, MARLA?

IF YOU WISH.

AND, JONAH...WHAT-EVER YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO...GOOD LUCK.









"PHOTOGRAPHS DON'T LIE, MISTER--AND THESE PHOTOS SHOW SPIDER-MAN DESTROYING THE VERY DEAD BODY OF A CERTAIN PETER PARKER*..."

"... WHO WAS KNOWN TO HAVE HAD DEALINGS WITH THE WEB-SLINGER IN THE PAST!"

*ACTUALLY, IT WAS ONLY THE JACKAL'S CLONE OF PETE, AS ANYONE WHO READ ISSUE #151 ALREADY KNOWS. --LEN.

NOW I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DECIDED TO IMPERSONATE PARKER --AND FRANKLY, I DON'T WANT TO! I JUST...

MR. JAMESON,
THERE HAS TO BE
SOME EXPLANATION
FOR THIS!

OH?

NOW THAT
I'D LIKE TO
HEAR!

WELL, I'M LISTENING,
MISTER! START TALKING!

HAVE TO BE HESITANT
...CAN'T MAKE THIS
SEEM TOO EASY...
I'M THINKING, JONAH!
IT'S JUST THAT THOSE
PICTURES LOOK...

I THOUGHT THERE
WAS SOMETHING
FAMILIAR ABOUT
THOSE SNAPSHOTS--!

NOW WHERE THE
HECK DID I STASH
THOSE OLD PRINTS
OF MINE?

I'M
GETTING
IMPATIENT,
MISTER!

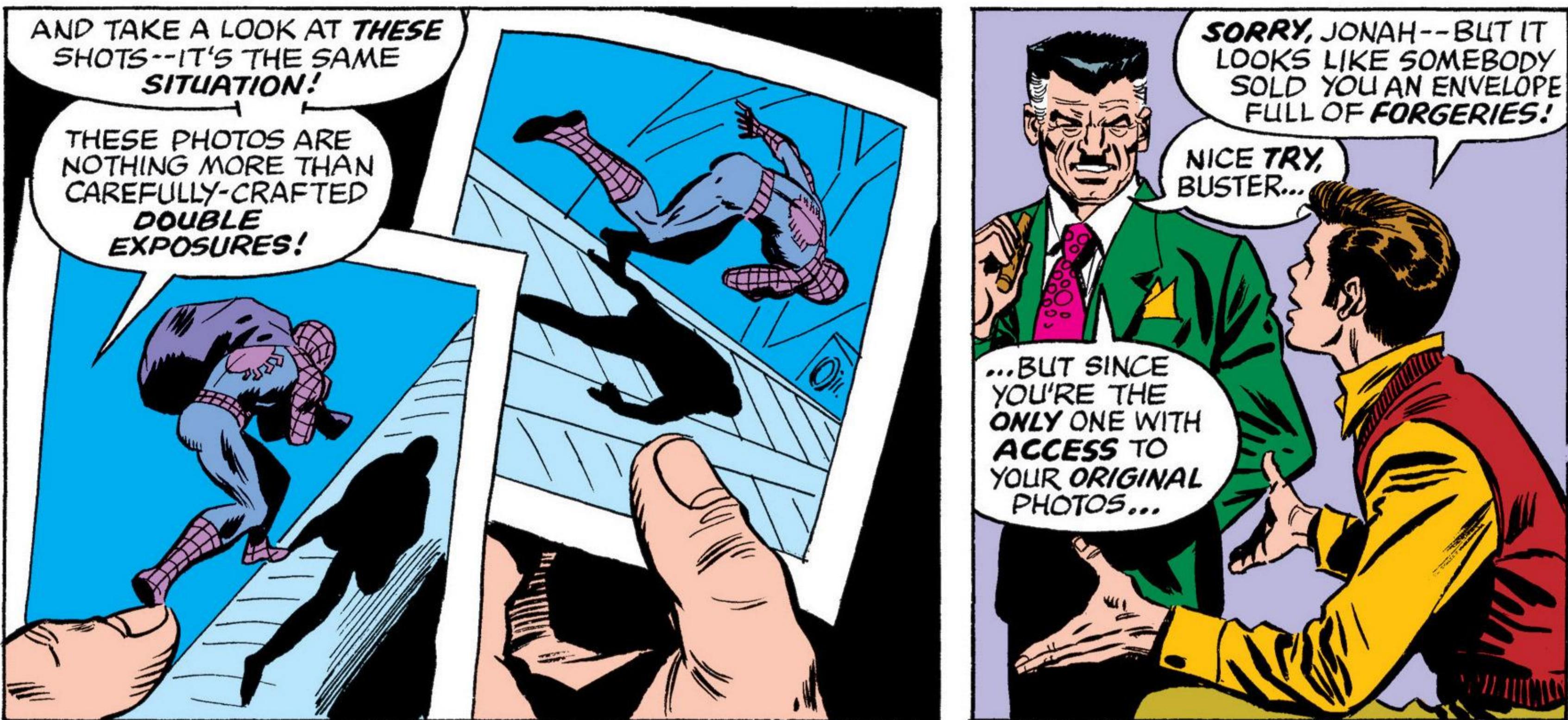
BINGO!
JUST HOLD
YOUR HORSES
A SECOND!

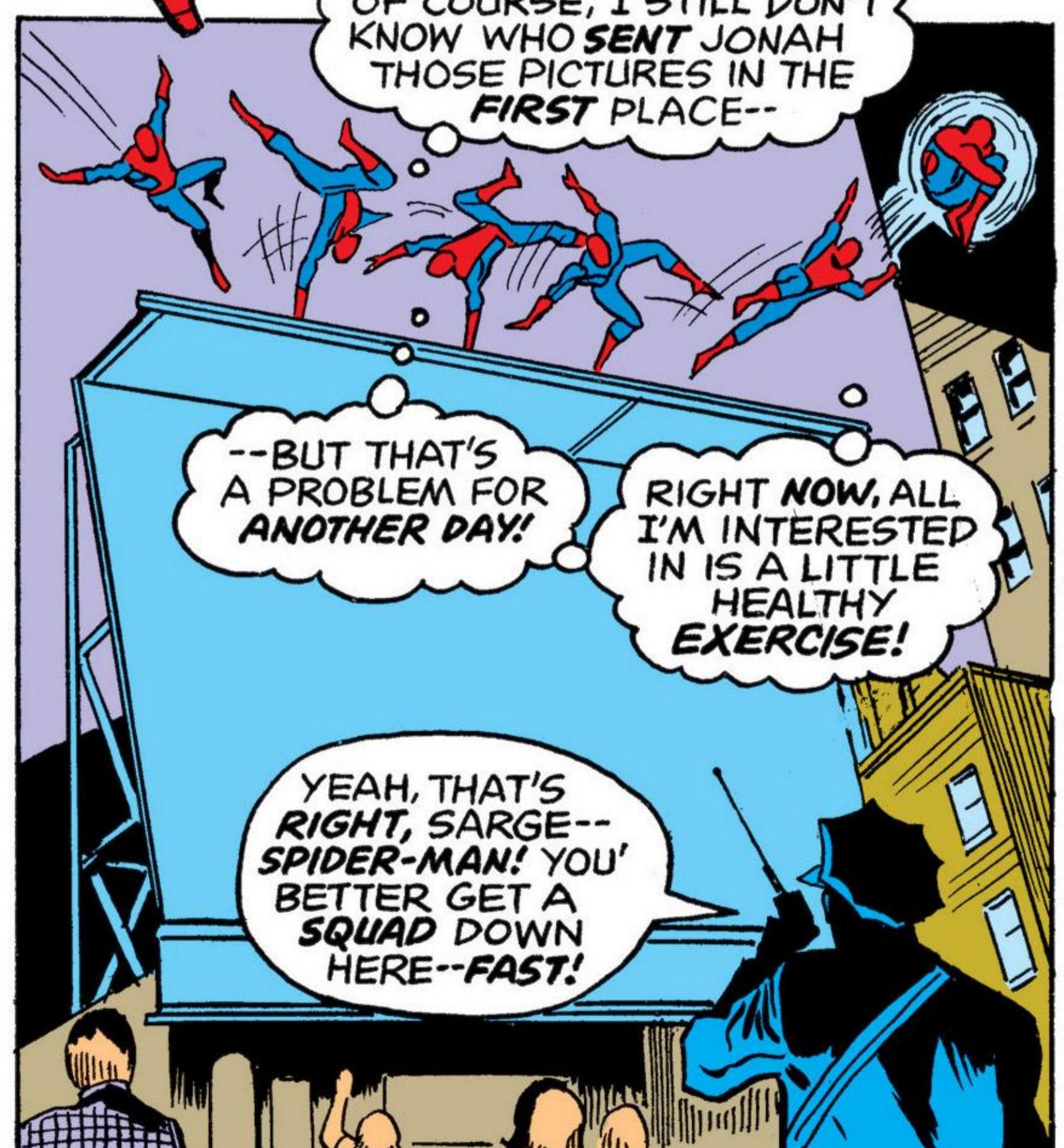
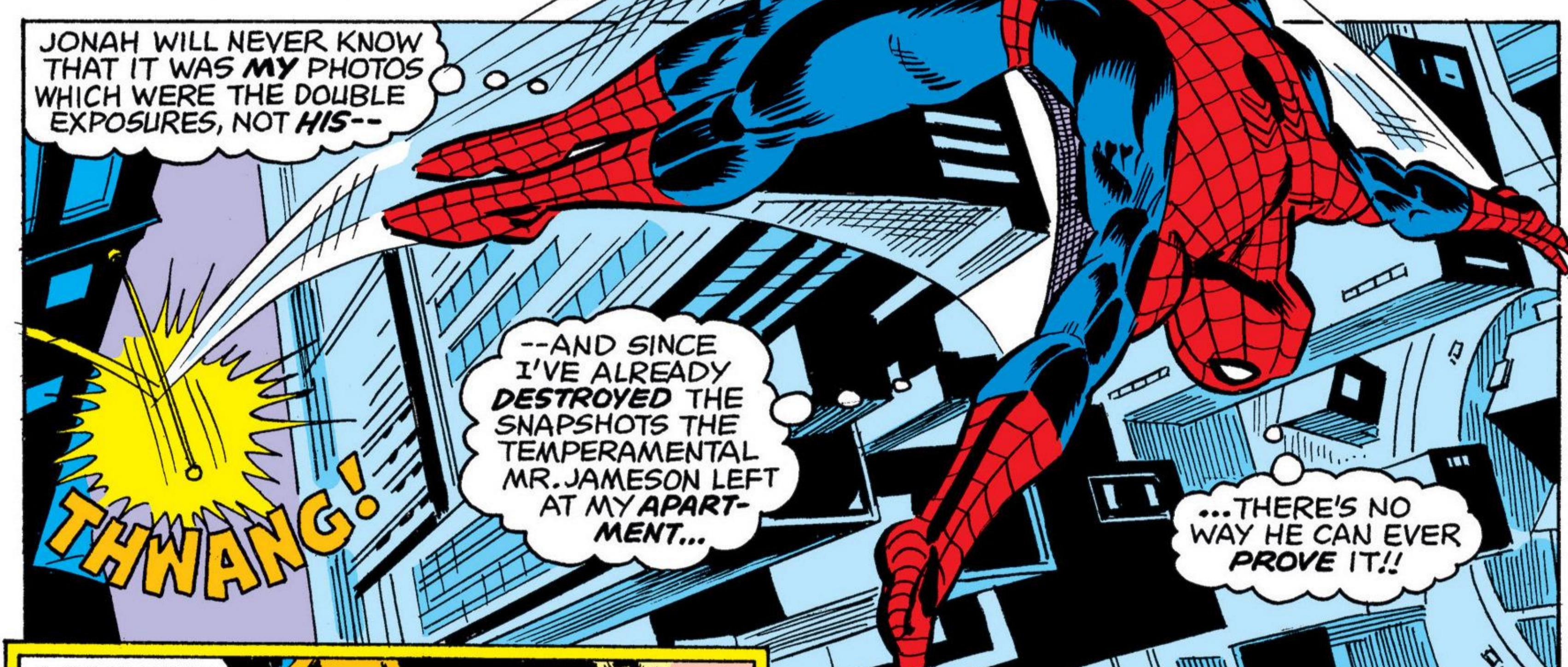
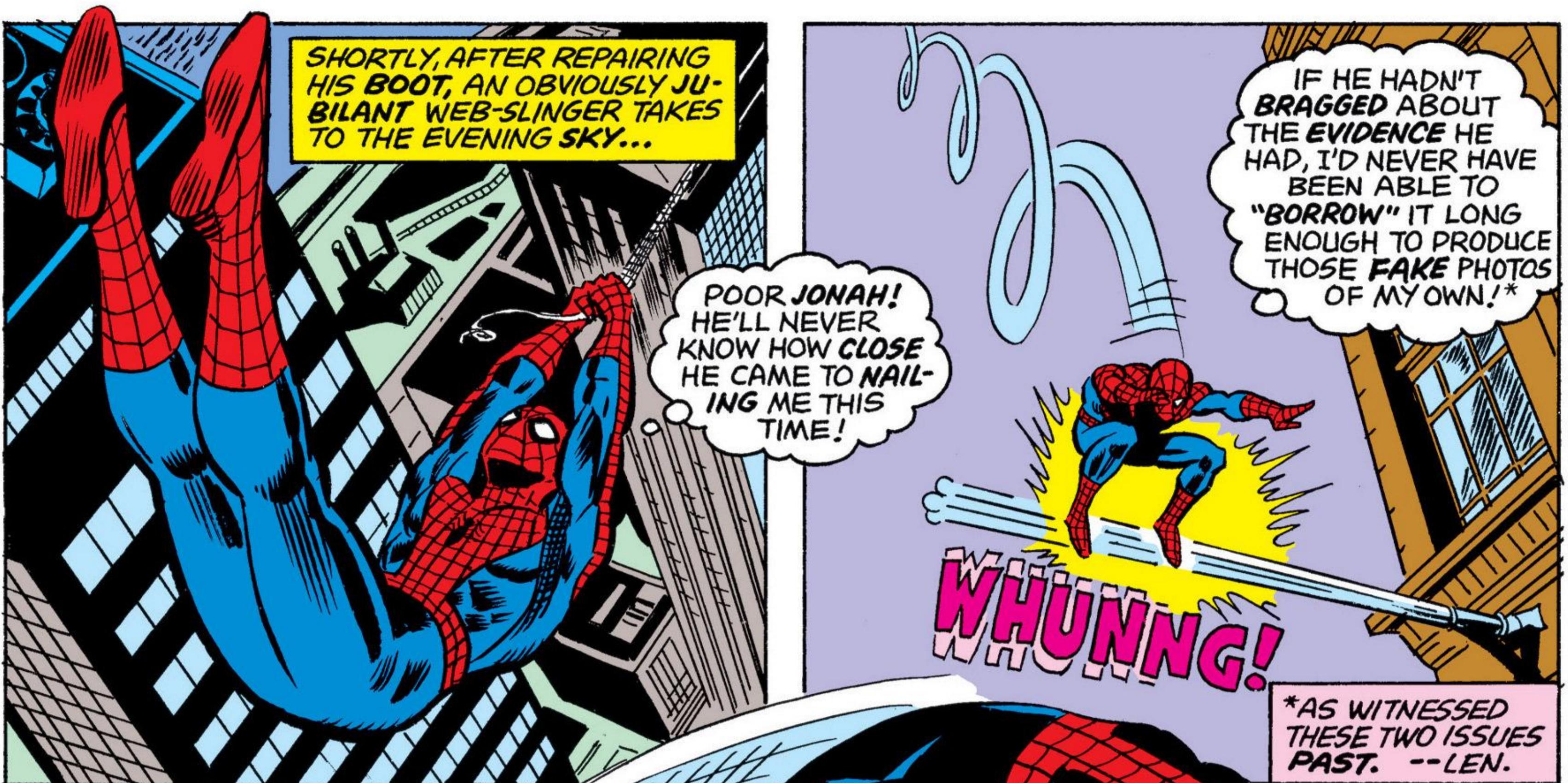
THERE! DO YOU SEE?
I KNEW I HAD THESE
PICTURES AROUND HERE
SOMEWHERE!

MATCH YOUR PHOTO IN
THE CENTER AGAINST MY
TWO PHOTOS FLANKING
IT ON EITHER SIDE!

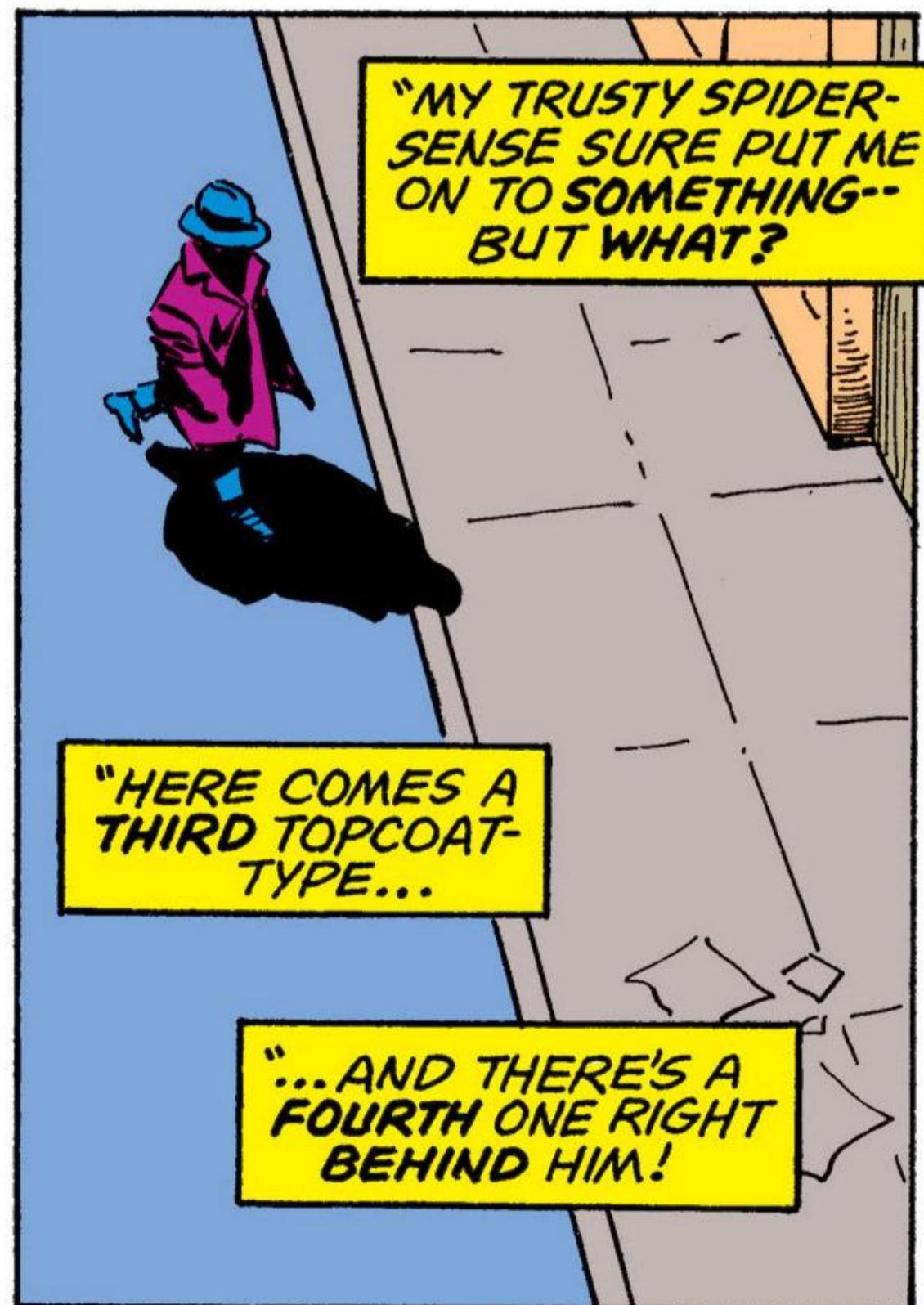
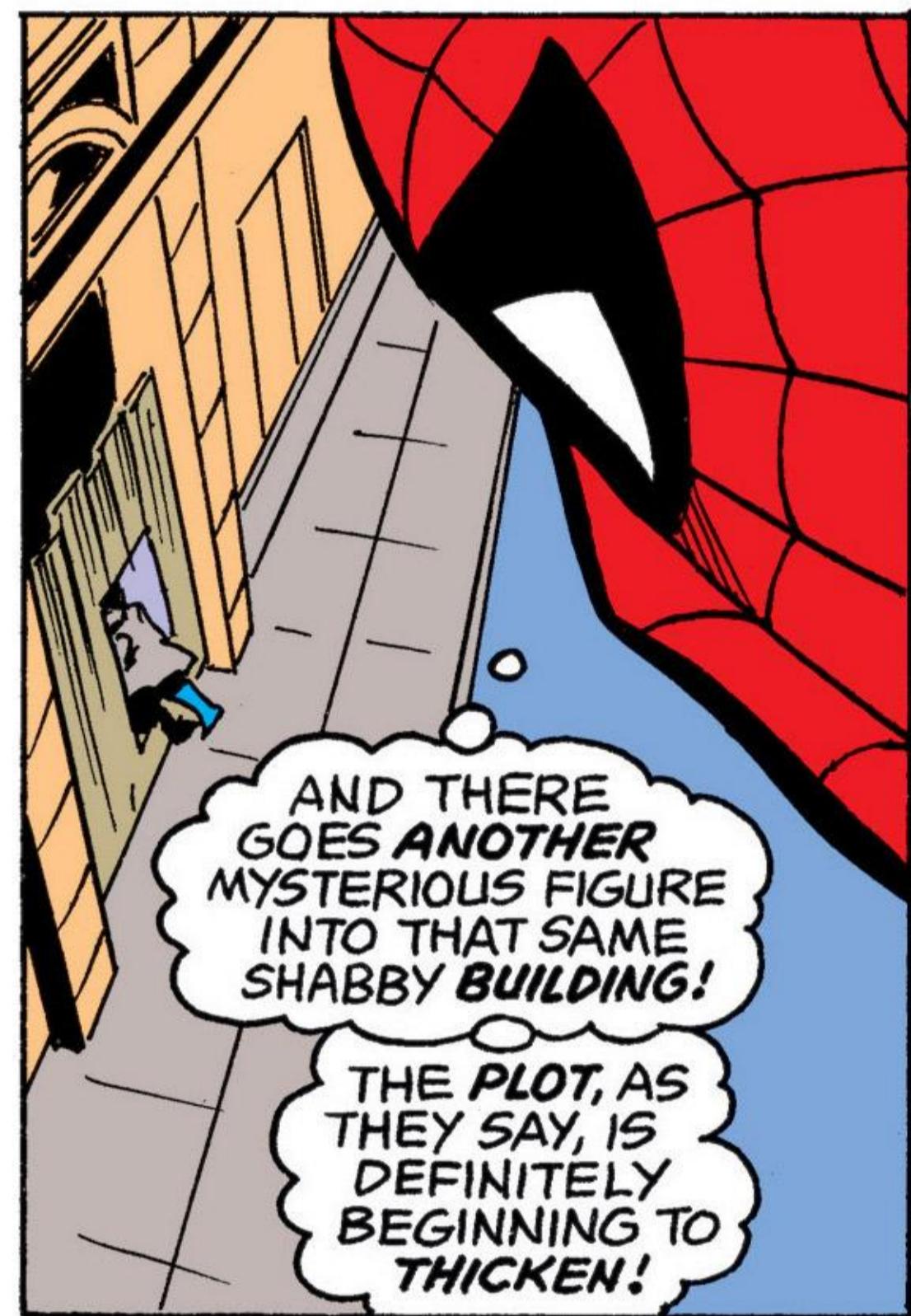
DO YOU NOTICE
ANY UNUSUAL
SIMILARITIES,
JONAH?







AND SINCE WE'VE WITNESSED OUR HERO'S UNFORTUNATE ENCOUNTERS WITH NEW YORK'S FINEST A TIME OR TWO BEFORE, WHAT SAY WE RE-JOIN HIM AFTER HE HAS ELUDED HIS PURSUITERS...





THUS, A SHORT WHILE LATER...

TELL ME, HANK--WHY DO ALL THE CRAZIES SHOW UP ON OUR BEAT?

LAST WEEK, IT WAS THAT YOYO IN THE CHICKEN SUIT--NOW THIS!

THE PROBLEM IS--HOW DO WE GET THAT UNCONSCIOUS BOZO DOWN FROM THERE?

AND, WHILE THE BELEAGUERED BOYS-IN-BLUE PUT OUT A CALL TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, WE'LL LOOK IN ON A CERTAIN ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

MAN, THIS LASER-CANNON THE BOSS BOUGHT FROM THAT TINKERER GUY WORKS LIKE A CHARM!

I JUST WISH GIBSON WOULD GET HERE! THE BOSS DON'T LIKE NOBODY TO BE LATE!

WELL, I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, FELLAS--

--BUT YOUR PARTNER ISN'T COMING!

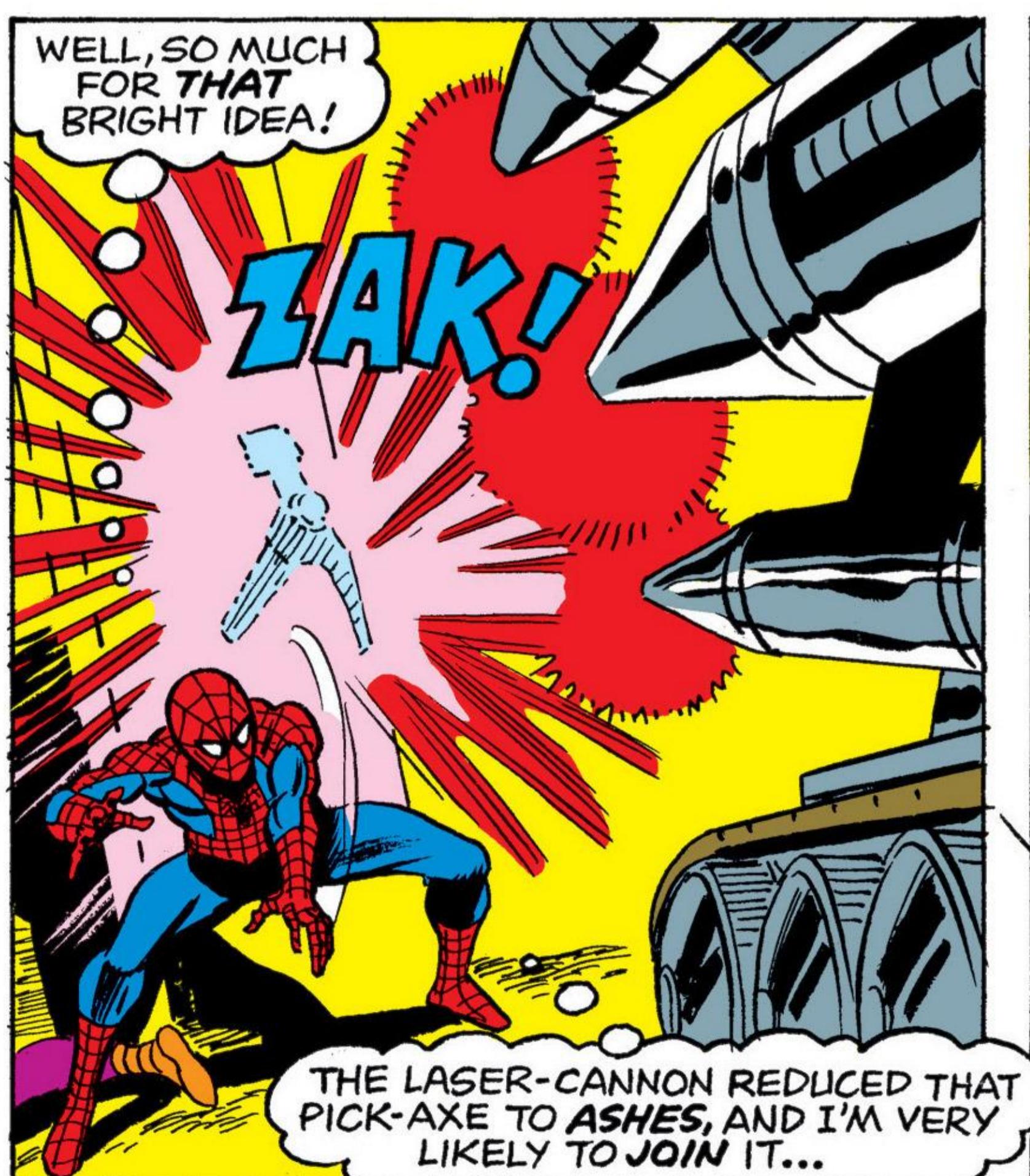
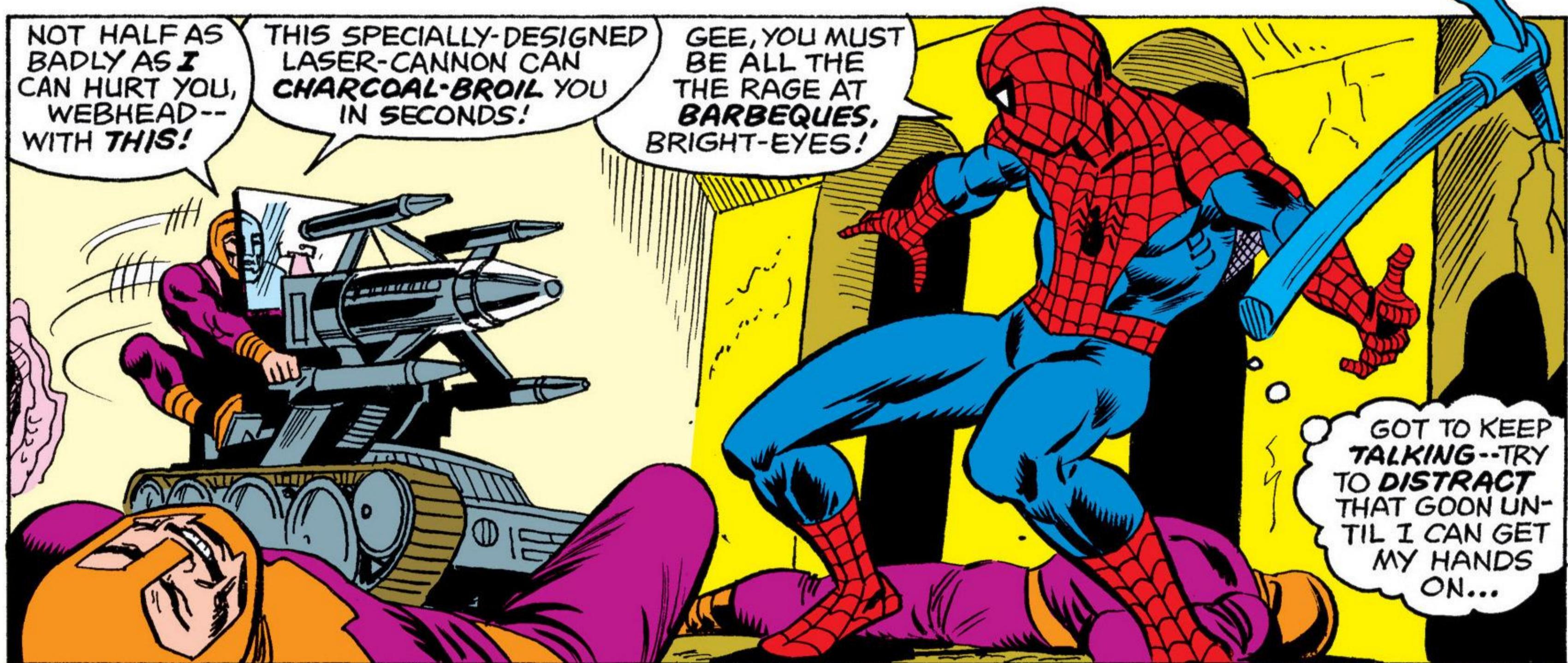
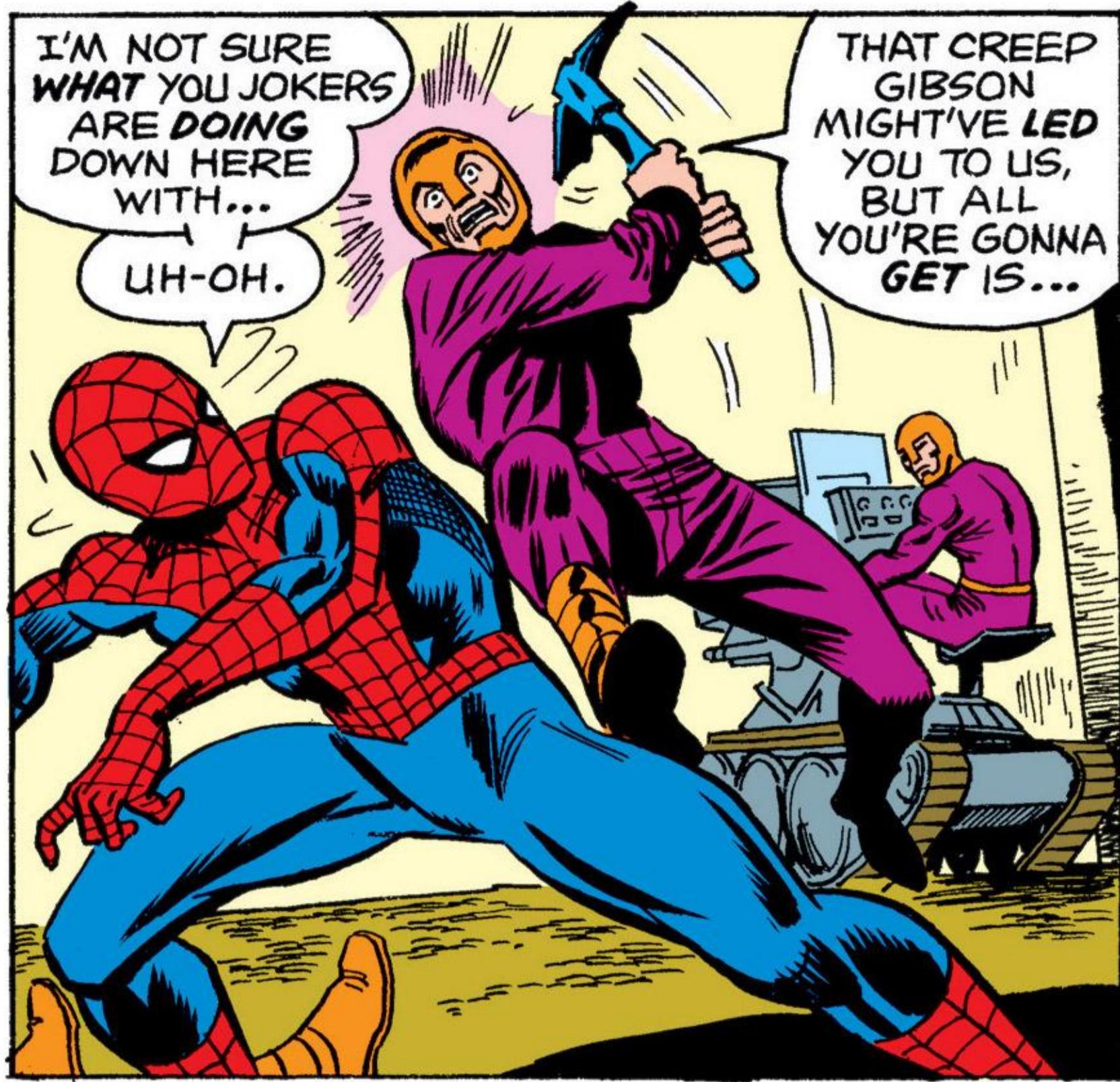
BLAZES! IT'S...

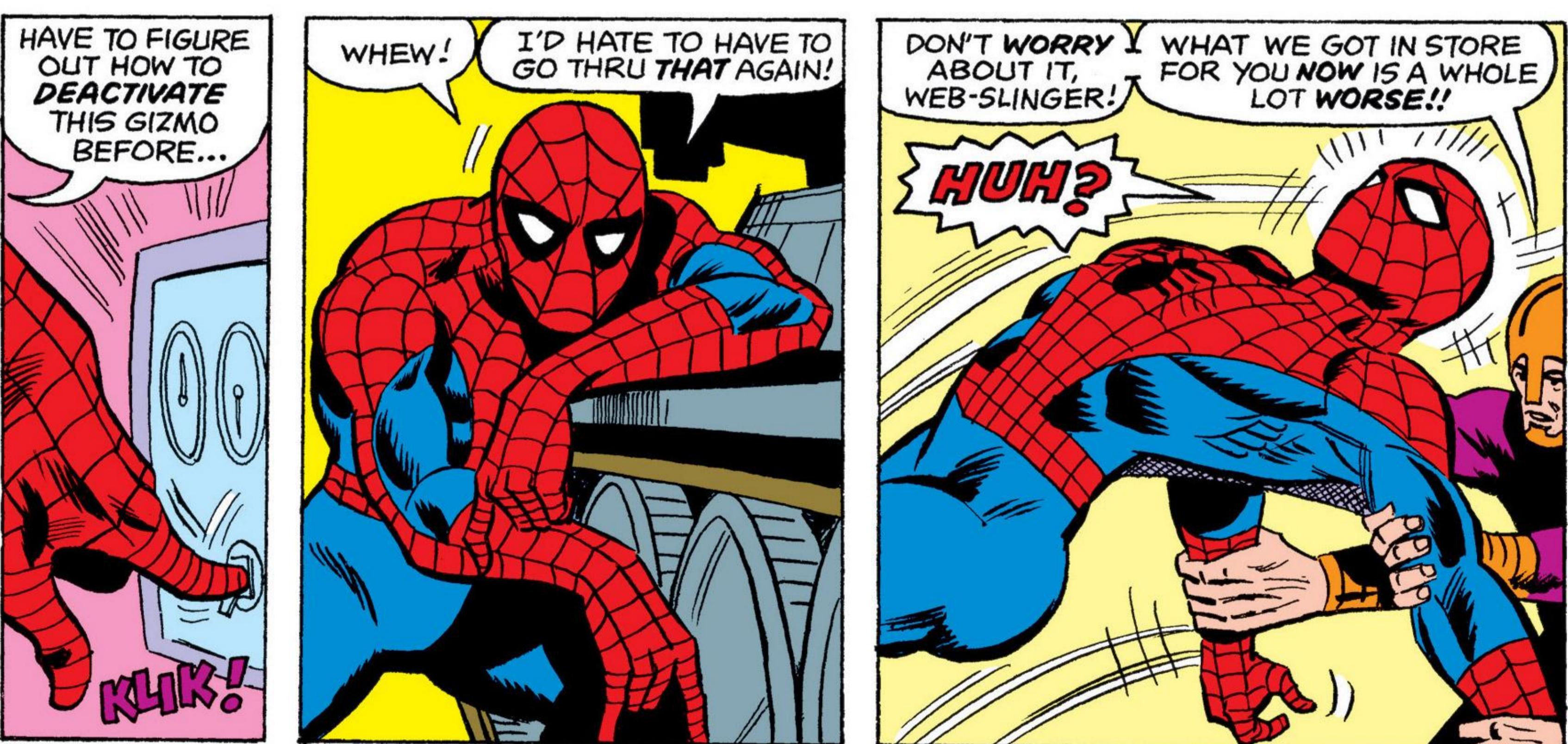
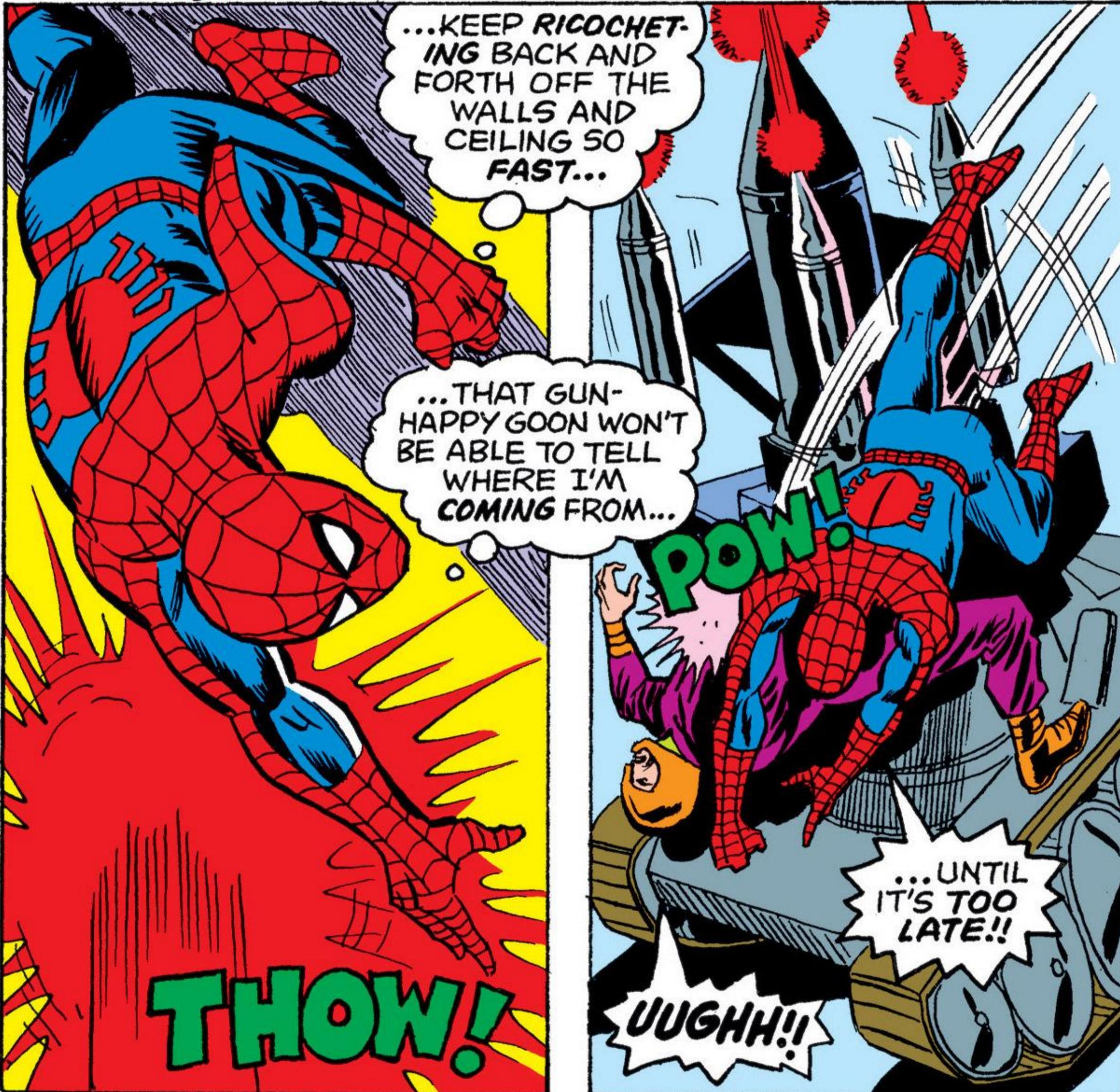
UUNNFF!!

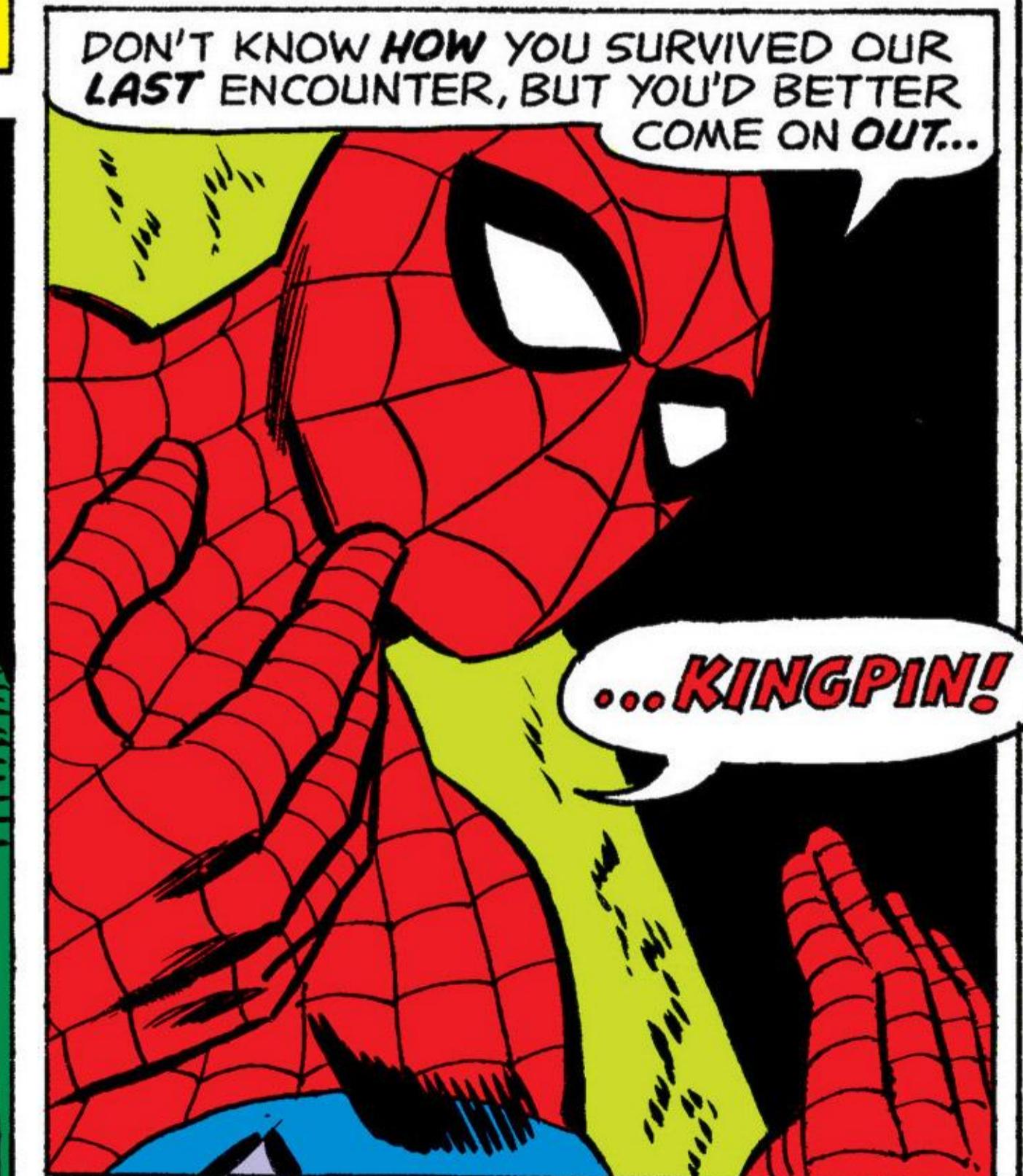
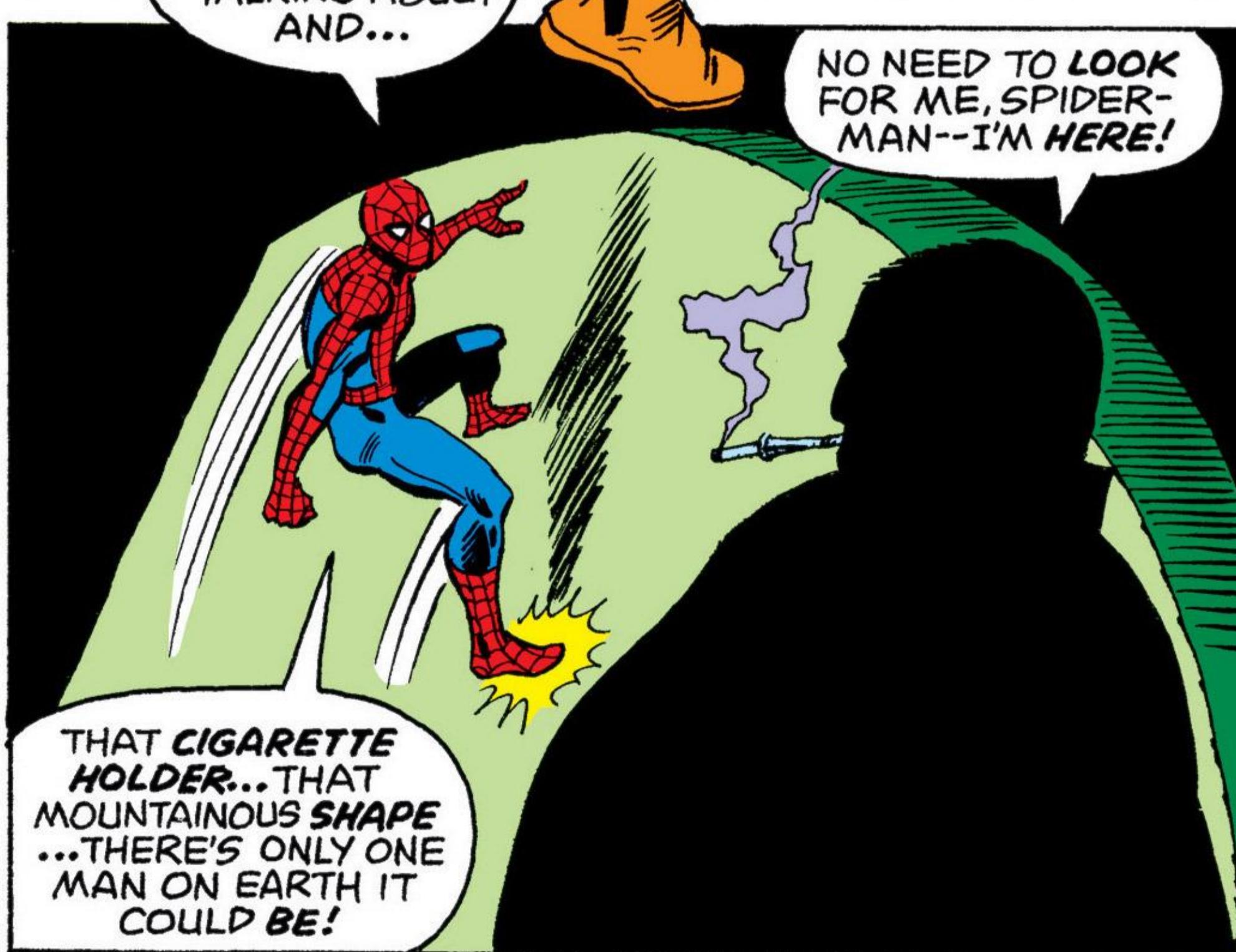
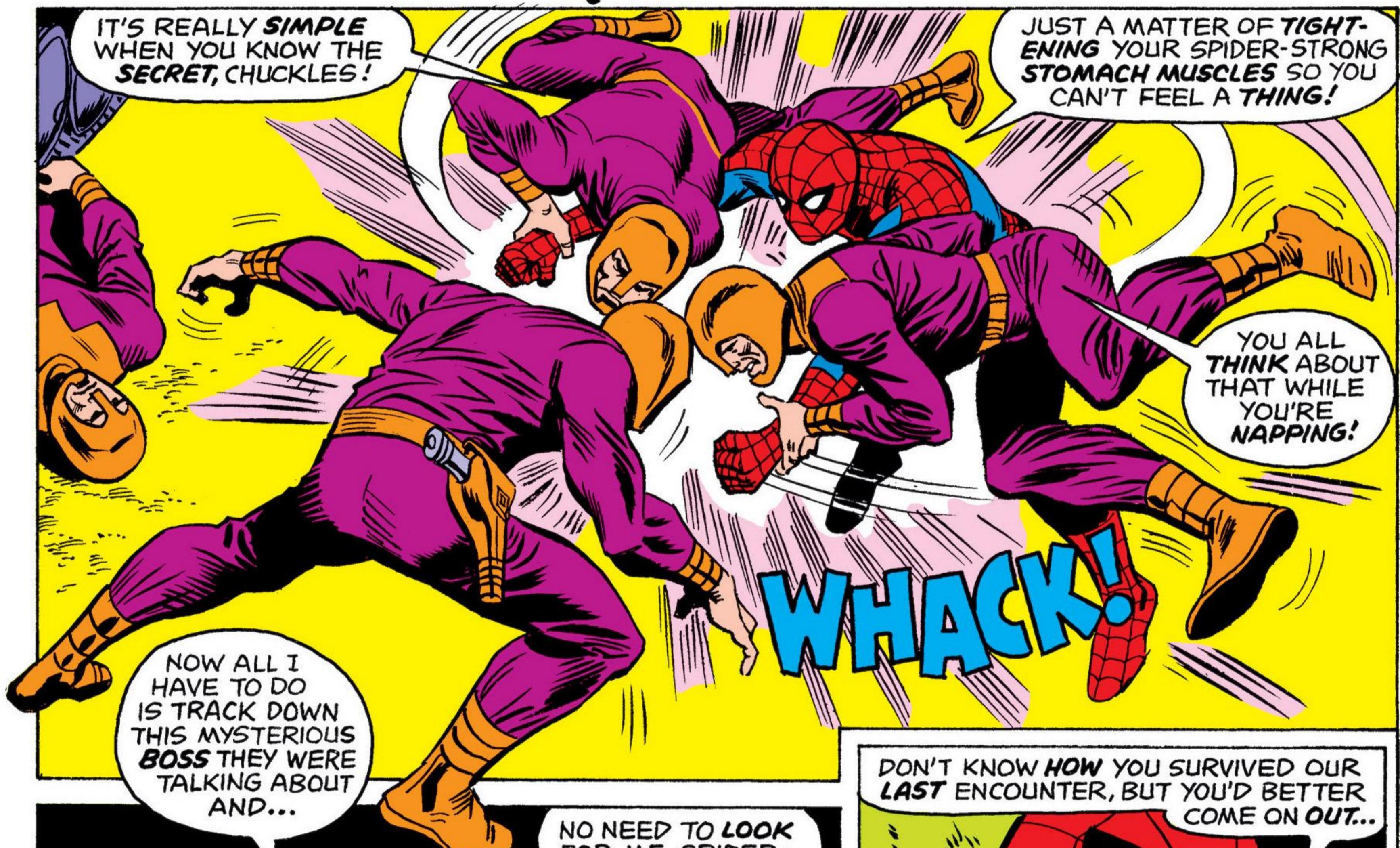
BTOK!

YOUR DICTION IS TERRIBLE, CHUM--THE NAME IS SPIDER-MAN!!

BUT YOU CAN CALL ME SIR!





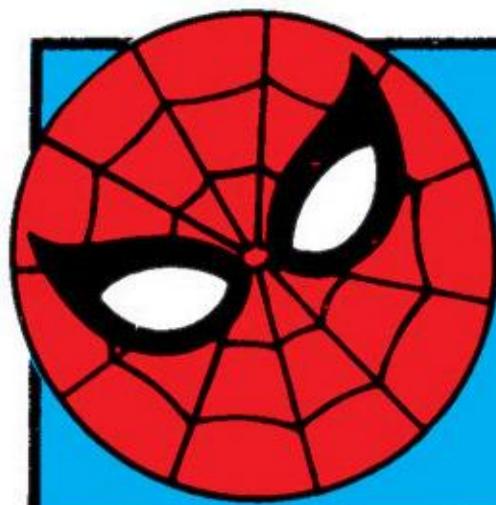




NEXT
ISSUE:

MADNESS IS ALL IN THE MIND!

BE HERE! WE PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET IT!



THE SPIDER'S WEB

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 10022

EVERYBODY IS A STAR DEPARTMENT: Hey, in case you're wondering where you recognize those two young spectators on page 16, panel 4 from—well, they just happen to be Brooklyn's own Classy CLANCY LITTLE and Mellow MICHELE SNYDERMAN, the fury of Freehold, New Jersey, winners of the super-special SPIDER-MAN DANCE CONTEST on TV's Sunday morning sensation, WONDERAMA, a few months back. These cavortin' cameo shots are just our way of saying congratulations, kids, on a job well done.

Frankly, we don't know who that tall guy with the moustache is, save that he bears a startling resemblance to a certain peerless publisher we know and love (and, no, his name is *not* J. Jonah Jameson).

Now, on with reality...

Dear Marvel,

One of the things that's been wrong with SPIDER-MAN lately is that, while there's a lot going on in both the main storylines and the subplots, nothing much seems to get resolved. There've been times when one would've liked to jump in and say: "Hey, people, you can work this out if you'll just put your minds to it." Well, with the appearance of SPIDER-MAN #165, Len Wein has done just what I'm sure most of us wanted him to: he's straightened out the situation between Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson; at least to the point where they've stopped some of the silly, self-destructive things they've been doing to each other for months now. I for one think it was about time.

Of course, SPIDER-MAN #165 had a lot to say for it besides the resolution of our hero's rather strung-out love life. It featured the return of Stegron, the Dinosaur Man (not to mention a furious battle between him and the wall-crawler), as well as Dr. Curt Connors' reversion to his reptilian alter ego. I say that the Lizard is one of your very best villains, and that the current situation is intriguing and exciting. Since SPIDER-MAN could *use* a healthy dose of both intrigue and excitement, this development can't help but prove beneficial.

Edward B. Via
1648 Dean Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

We couldn't agree more, Ed, and within the next few months, you can expect to see much more of the same; for example, the cataclysmic confrontation between our harried hero and J. Jonah in this selfsame issue.

Lively Len Wein is notorious for being a long-range plotter (he has the storyline worked out on THOR for the next two years, not to mention what he has planned for HULK and FANTASTIC FOUR), and sometimes, working this far in advance, he tends to lose an issue-by-issue perspective on things. But, fortunately, the true editors of our books—namely Marveldom Assembled—is always ready, willing, and able to pull him back into line.

In other words, Ed, we'll try to tie up some of our sensational subplots more quickly in the future. Okay? Okay.

Dear Len and Ross,

SPIDER-MAN #165 was a very well written story. Len has been getting better and better with each passing issue. It's been nice seeing Dr. Connors again, and J.J.J. has me puzzled with his latest scheme. Ross, you're doing a good job, too. All in all, issue #165 was excellent.

However, I spotted a mistake which occurred several times. It concerns Stegron's speech pattern. Whenever the Dinosaur Man pronounces a word with an "s" sound in it, he hisses it. However, on a number of pages there are words with an "s" sound—*Mrs.*, *certain*, *recently*, and *once* for example—in Stegron's dialog that are lacking the exaggerated hiss.

It was still a good issue, though.

Dan Long
442 South Belford Avenue
Holyoke, CO 80734

You're absolutely right about those aforementioned words lacking that extra sibilance, Dan. Y'see, Lively Len was afraid that by spelling them so as to indicate the sibilant hiss, they just wouldn't look right on the printed page. So, he spelled them normally, and just sort of assumed the sibilance as a given.

If any of you faithful ones feel cheated by Len's decision, you can just go back and read the story again, adding the "s" sound wherever you see fit.

The first hiss is on us, okay?

Gentlemen,

It's high time someone mentioned the fine job Ross Andru has been doing on SPIDER-MAN. Not since Ditko has there been as conscientious a penciler on the strip, nor one as successful in capturing the mood and style that made the strip the most popular of them all. Comic-book fans are rarely as appreciative of honest craftsmanship as of flashy techniques or special effects, so the care and skill Mr. Andru has brought to the strip have gone largely unnoticed.

Sequences like page fourteen of SPIDER-MAN #165 demonstrate what can be done with a simple conversation. The variations in perspective and design and the attention to backgrounds evident in the scene are heartening to the enthusiast, showing that there is a good deal of thought and research behind the strip.

Presently, Mr. Andru's work is second only to John Buscema's in the Marvel line. With the right inkers, he can do wonders.

Frank Miller
RFD #2
Montpelier, VT 05602

What's left for us to say, Frank? You said it all...beautifully. From Ross, Len and the whole batty Bullpen (who are some of Ross's biggest fans), many thanks!

Dear Len and Ross,

If page 15, panel 6 of SPIDER-MAN #165 was not intended as a direct send-up of E.C.'s classic "Blind Alleys", I'll eat my Howard the Duck-button.

Mike Deangelis
120 Wayne Court East
Redwood City, CA 94063

Sorry, Mike. Lively Len's inspiration for that deathless quote ("...And then some idiot turned off the lights!") was the same as Al Feldstein's must have been, lo, those many years ago. In other words, the quote is the exact opposite of the punchline from one of Ray Bradbury's greatest short shockers, "The October Game".

Oh, let us know how that Duck button tastes, huh? We hear they're great with mustard and sauerkraut.