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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

TM



J.R. JR. + BUSTIK

"IN THE BEGINNING..."

IN HIS YOUTH, PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER. ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE COME DOWN WITH RADIATION POISONING... BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT PETER'S BODY CHEMISTRY.

INSTEAD OF FALLING DEATHLY ILL, HE BECAME...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

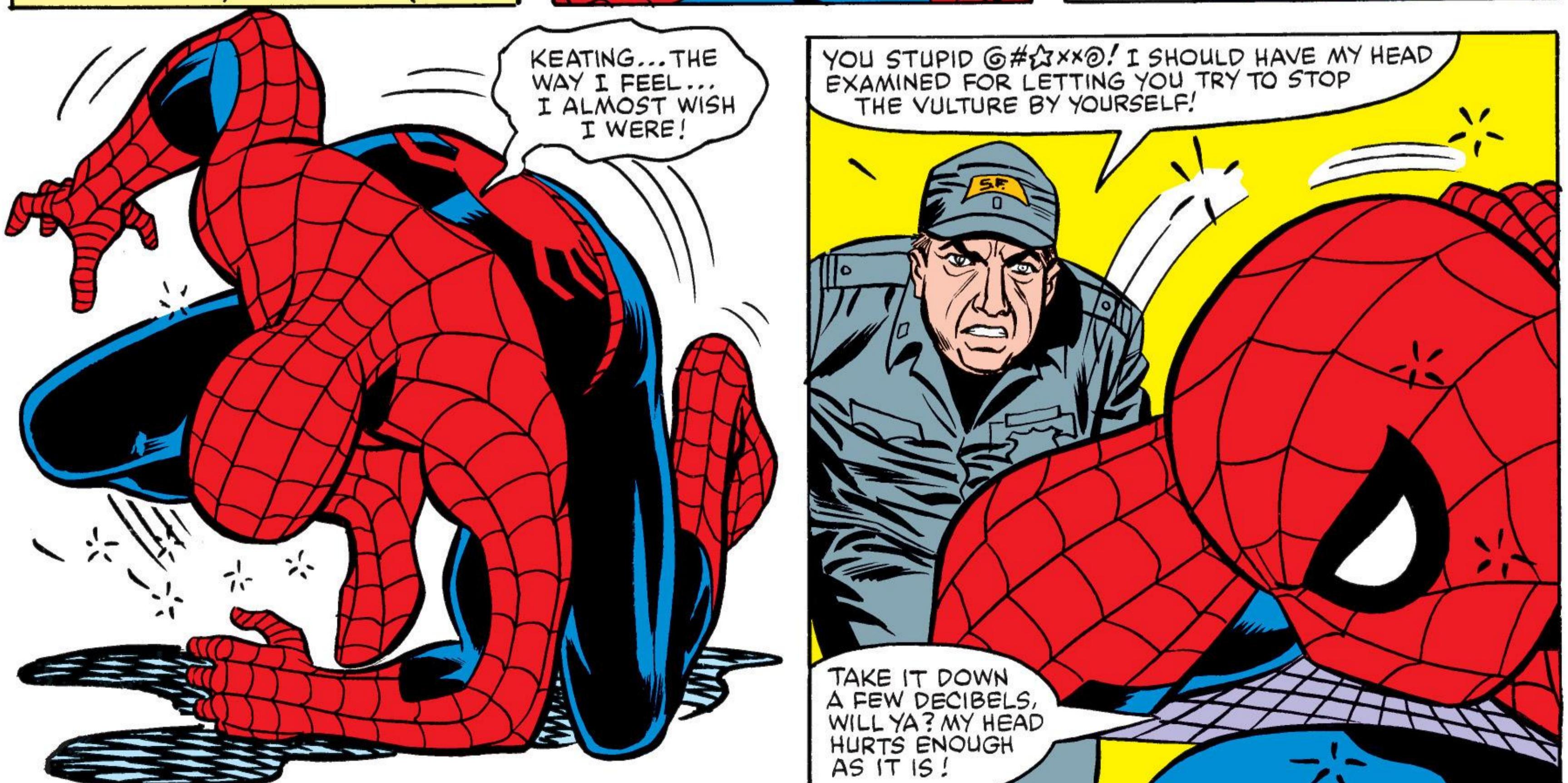
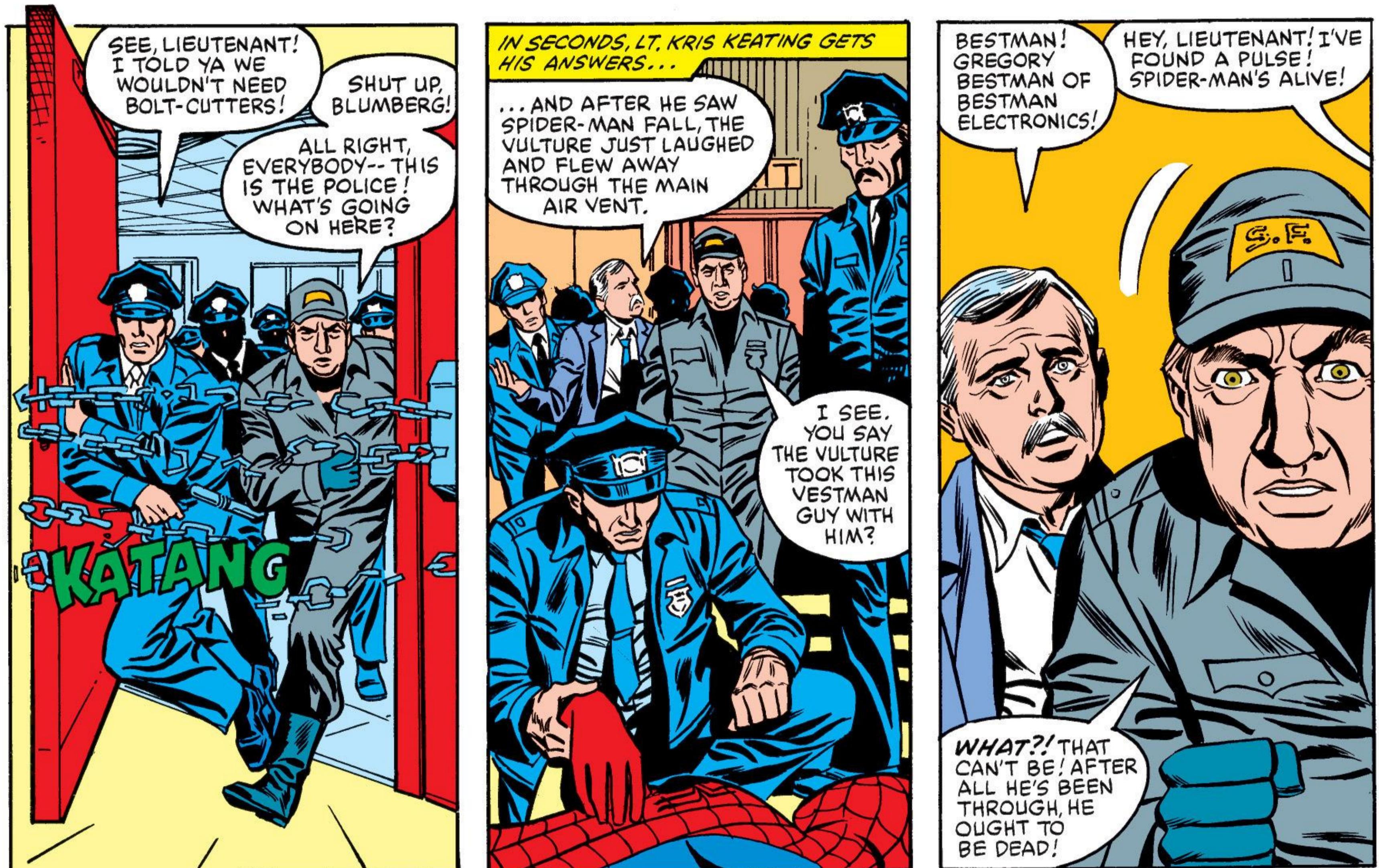
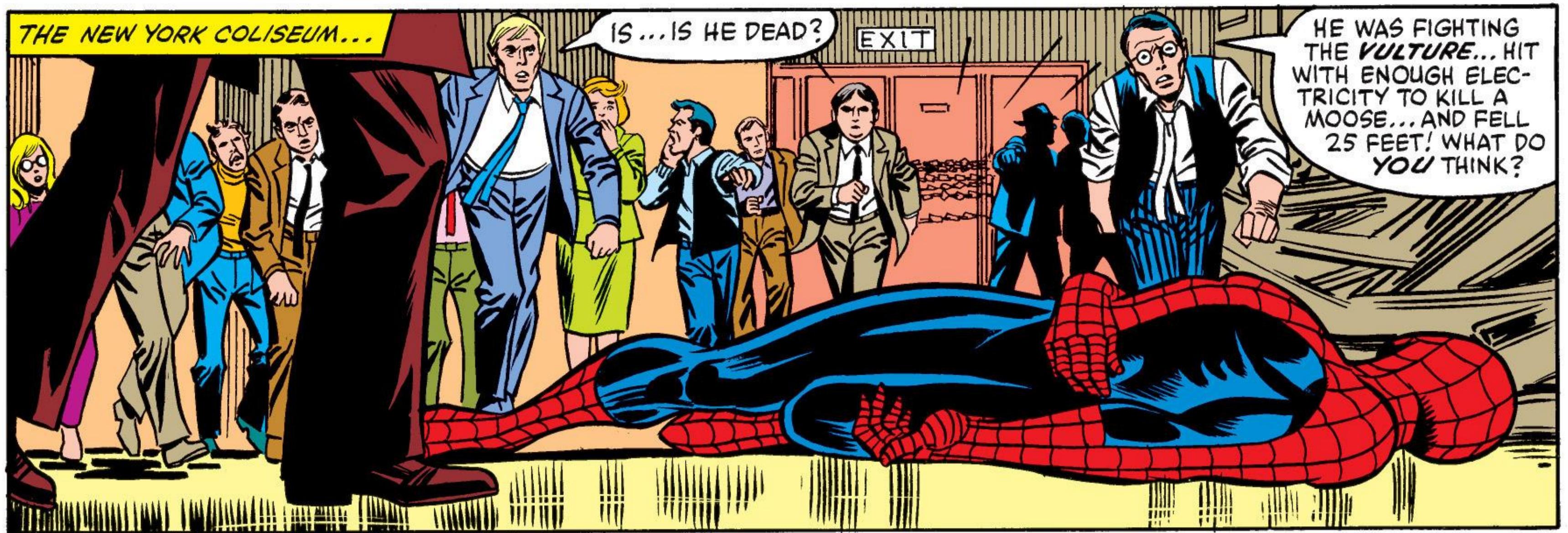
TODAY, HIS STRENGTH AND HIS AGILITY HAVE BECOME LEGENDARY. HIS ABILITY TO CLING TO ANY SURFACE ASTOUNDS ALL WHO WITNESS IT.

ALMOST UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC IS HIS BIZARRE SPIDER-SENSE... A SORT OF MENTAL EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM WHICH ALERTS HIM TO IMPENDING DOOM.

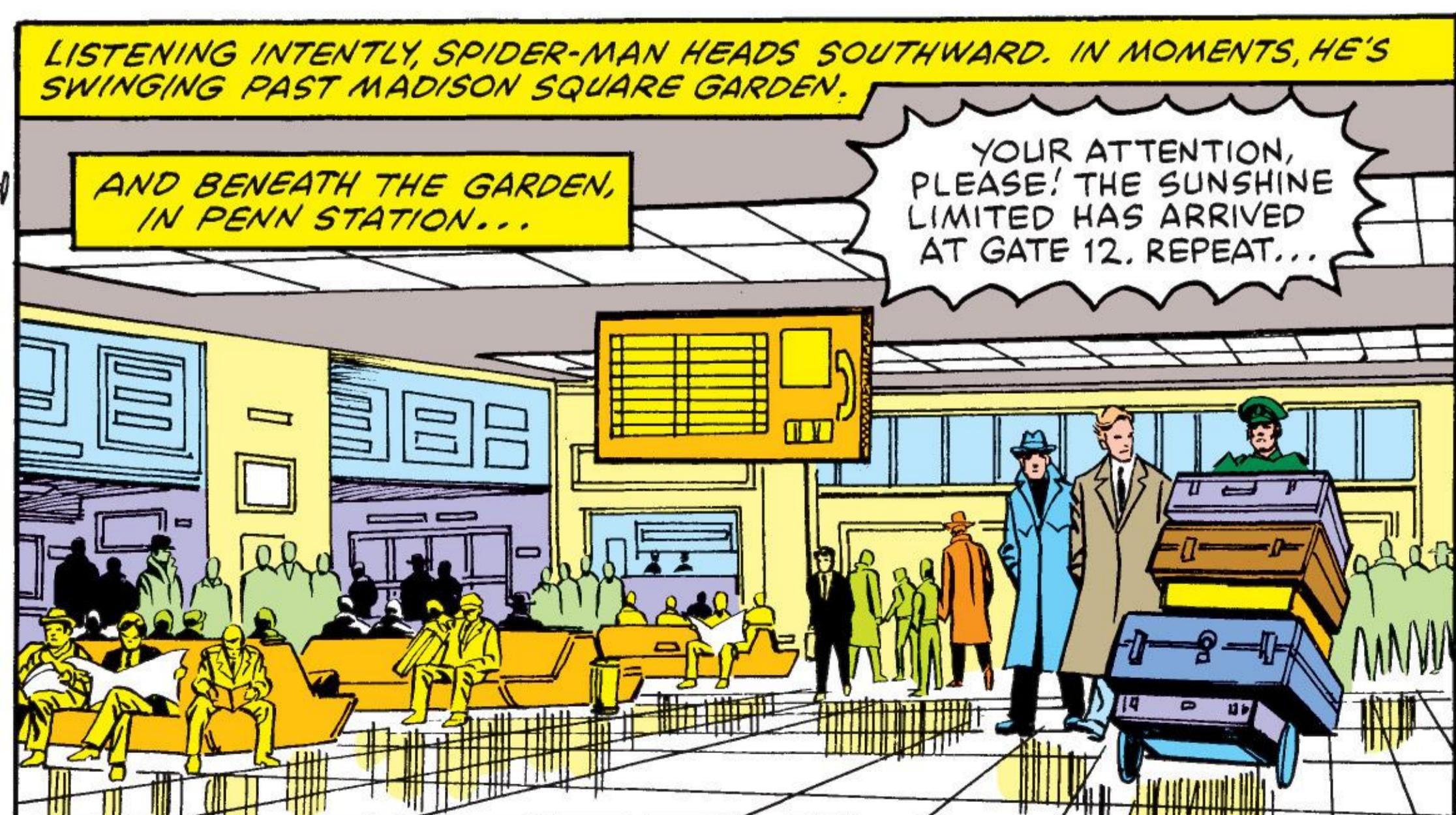
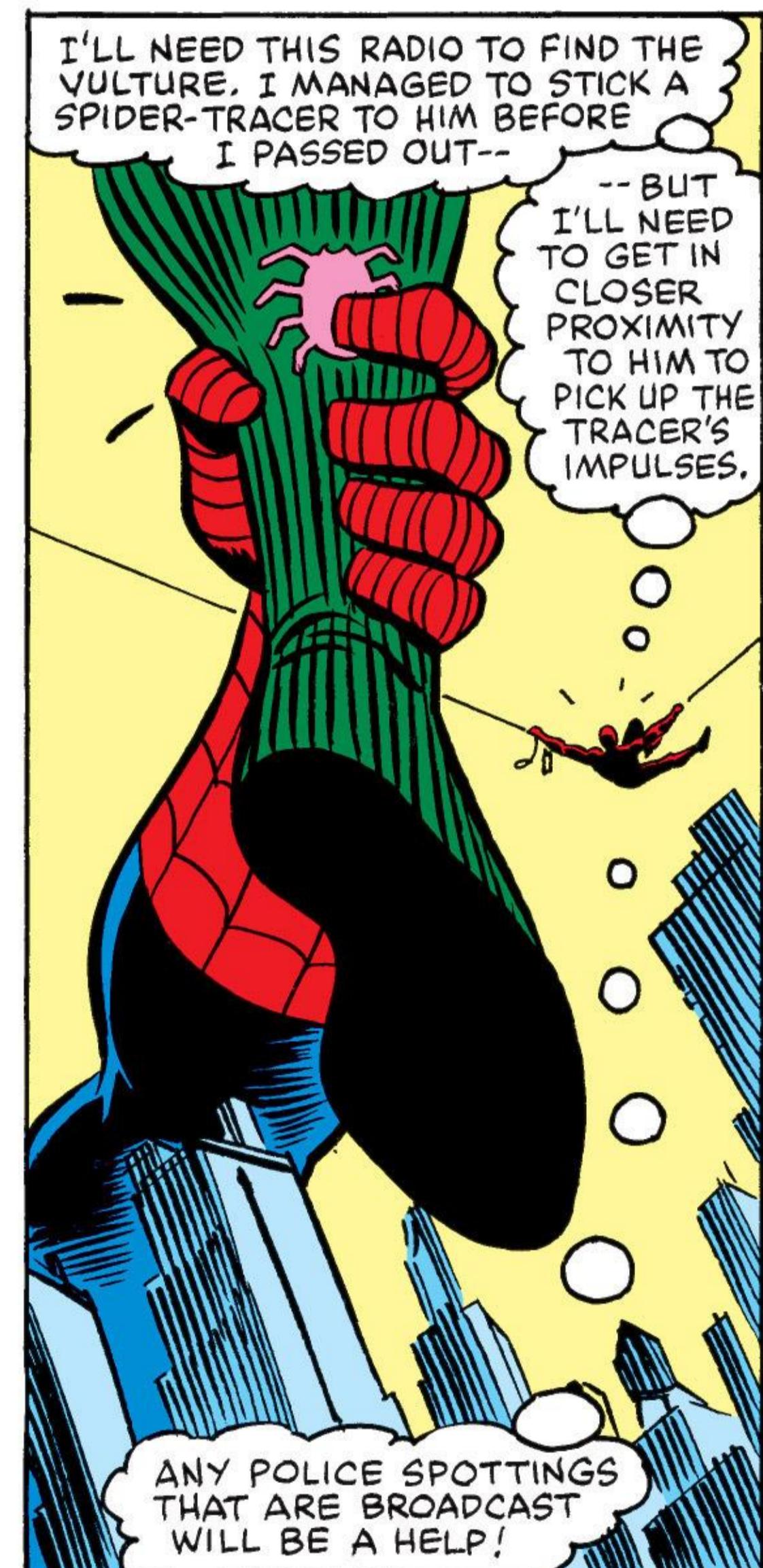
ONCE ALERTED, HIS AMAZING REFLEXES ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO WHISK HIM OUT OF DANGER.

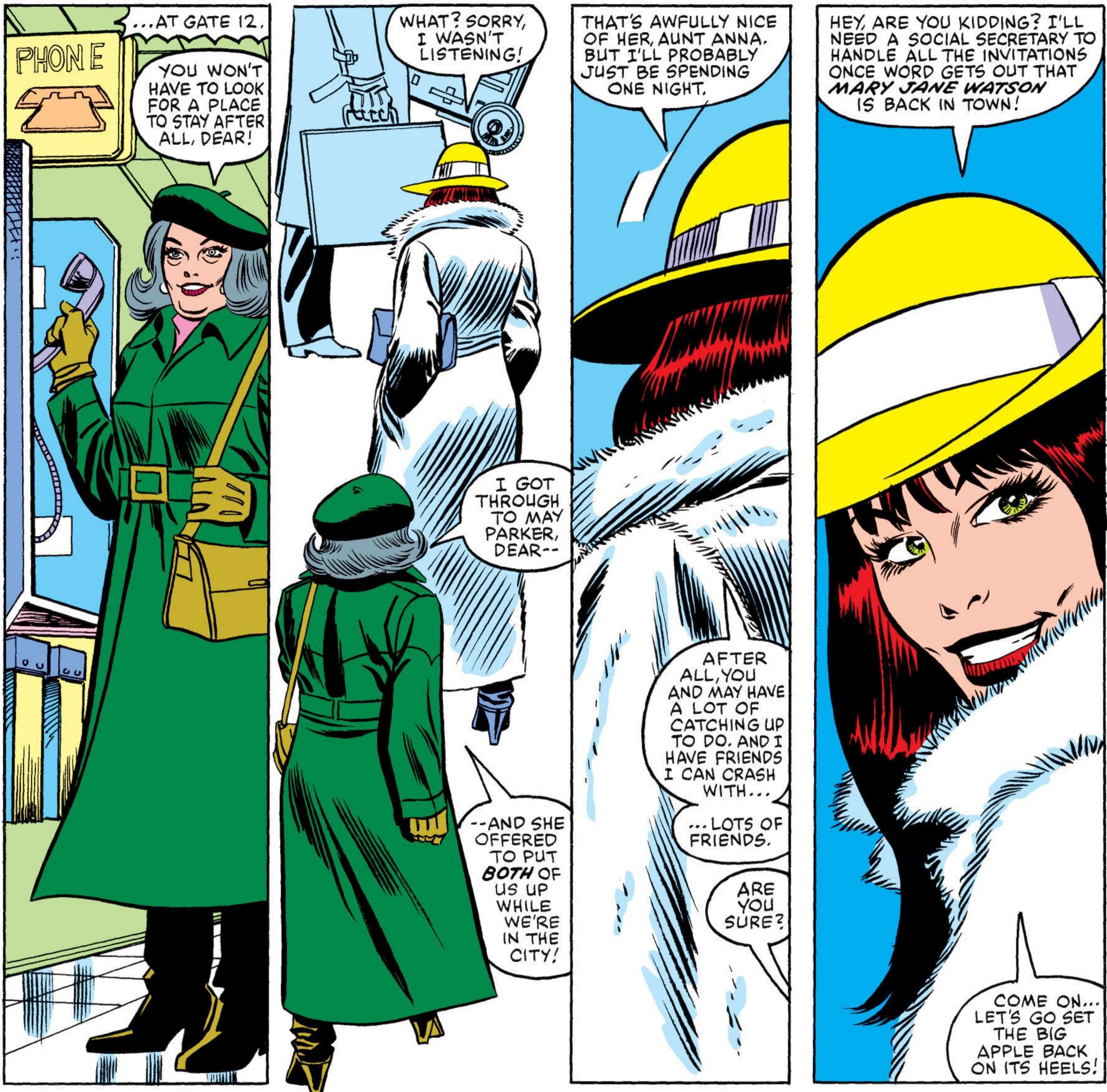
USUALLY.

STAN LEE / ROGER STERN / JOHN ROMITA JR. & FRANK GIACOIA
PRESENTS / SCRIPPER ARTISTS
JOE ROSEN / GLYNIS WEIN / TOM DEFALCO / JIM SHOOTER
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





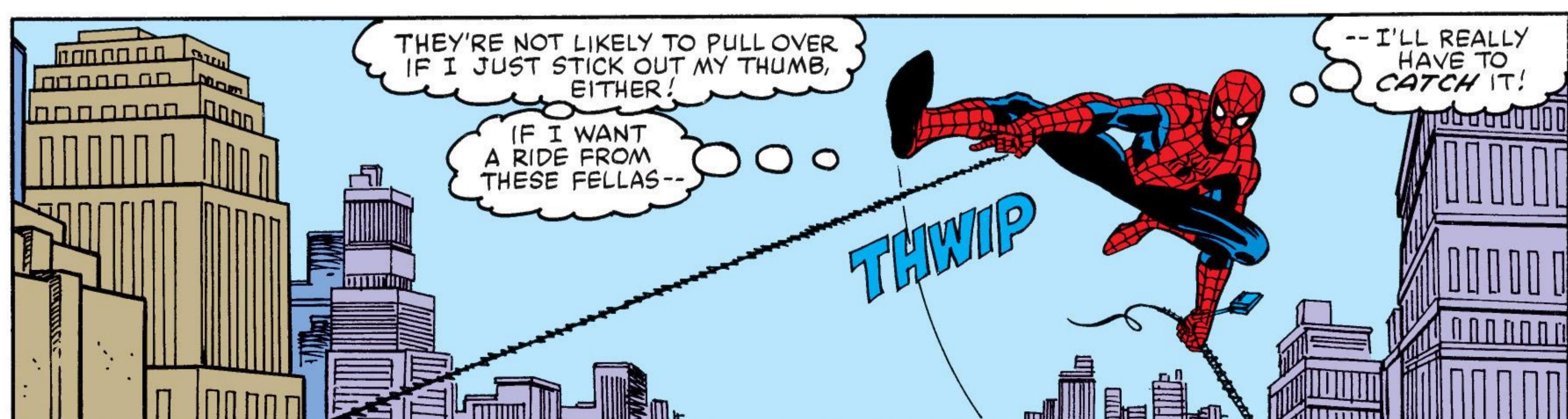
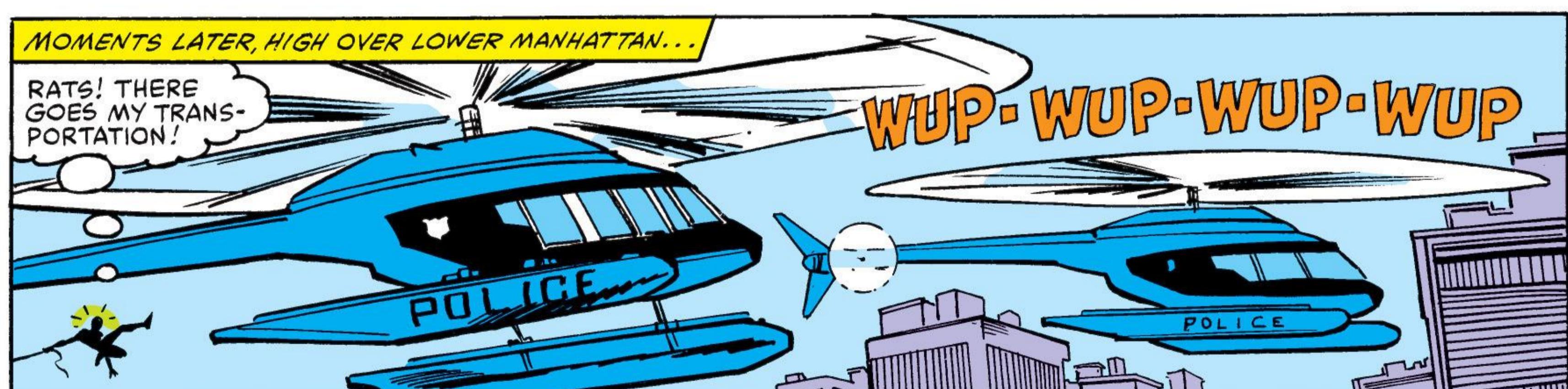
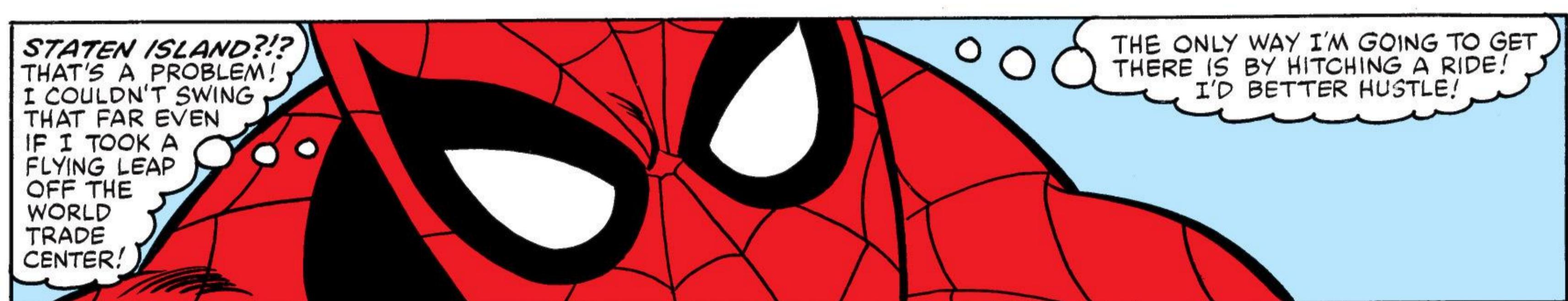
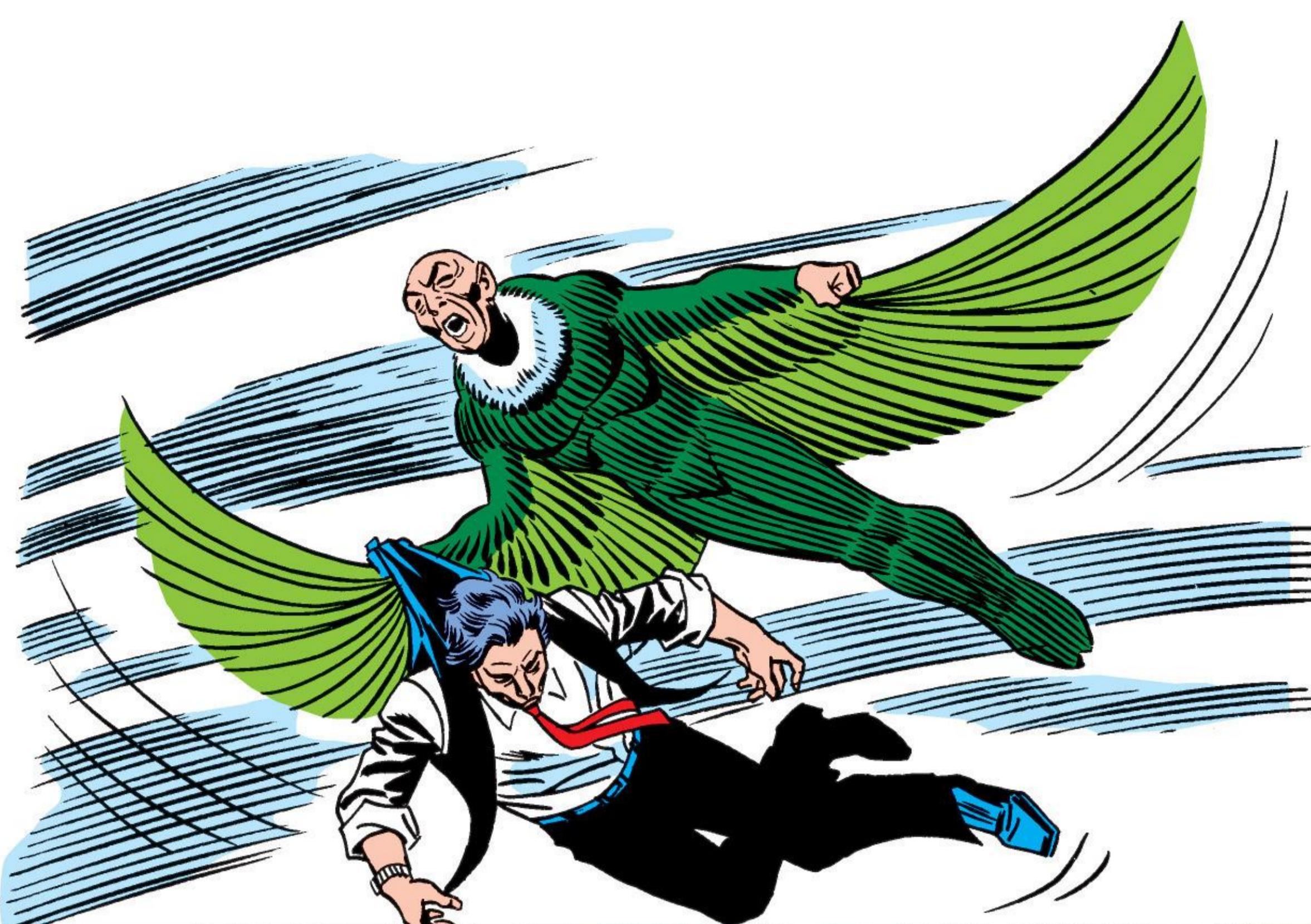




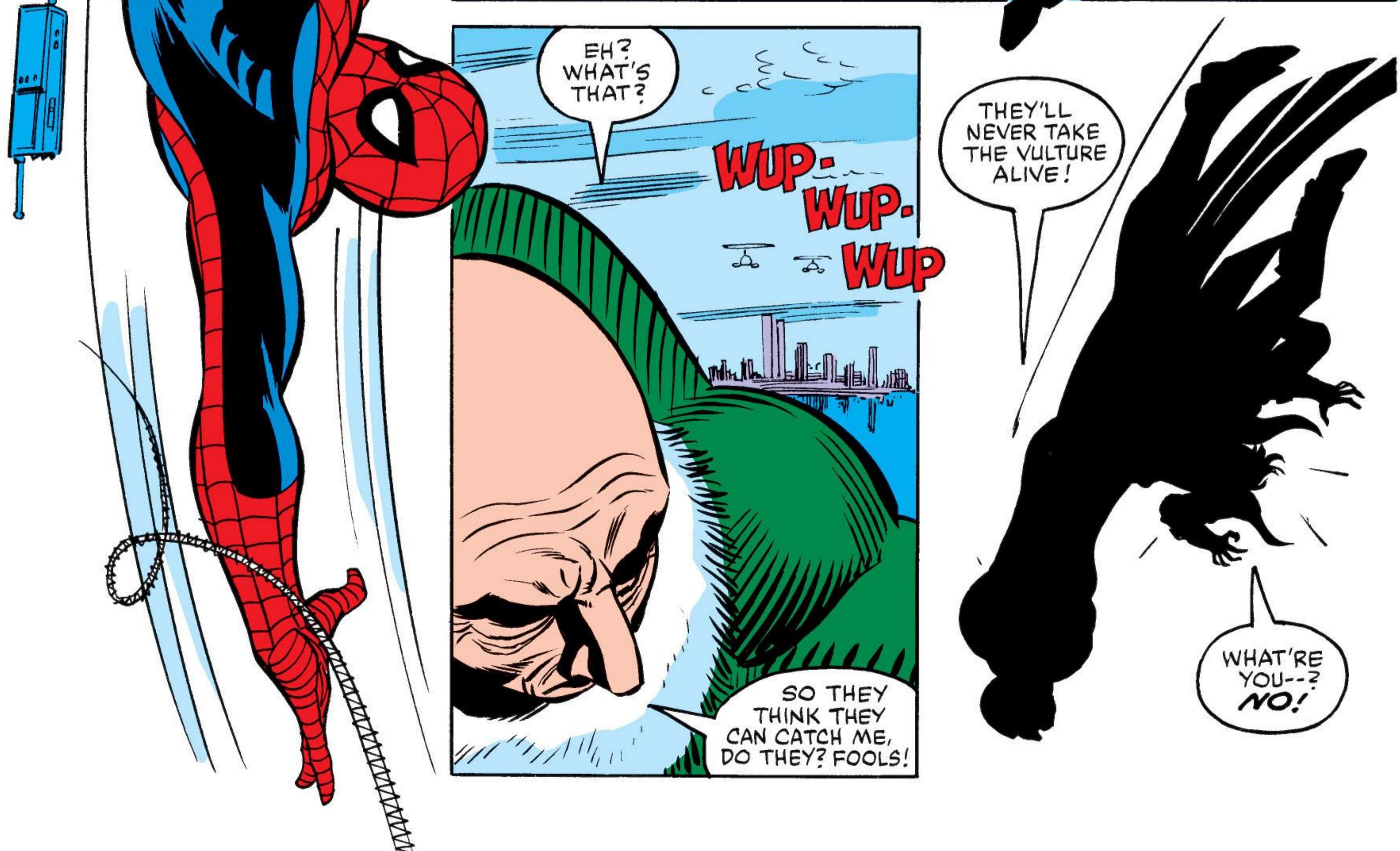
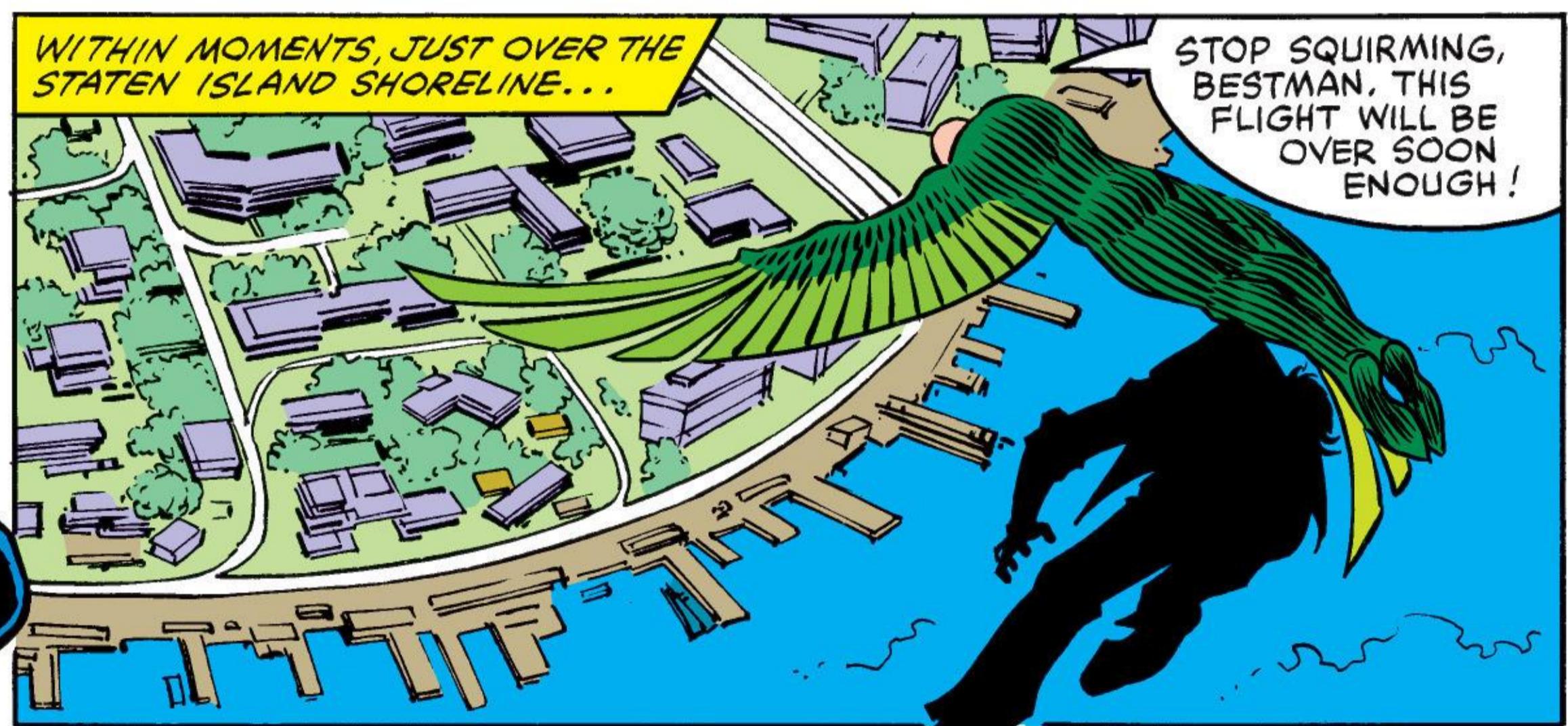
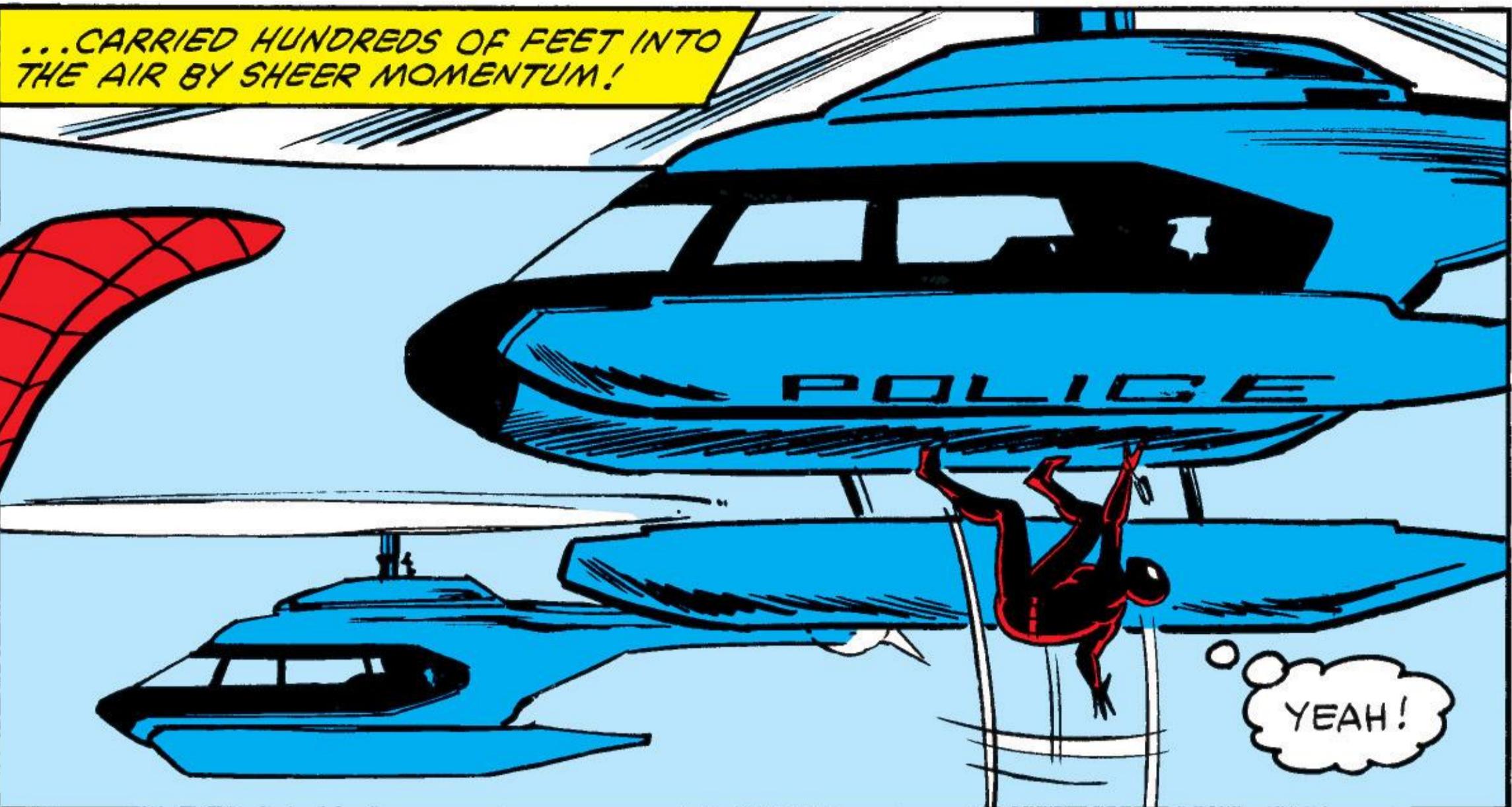
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE MIDDLE OF NEW YORK HARBOR--

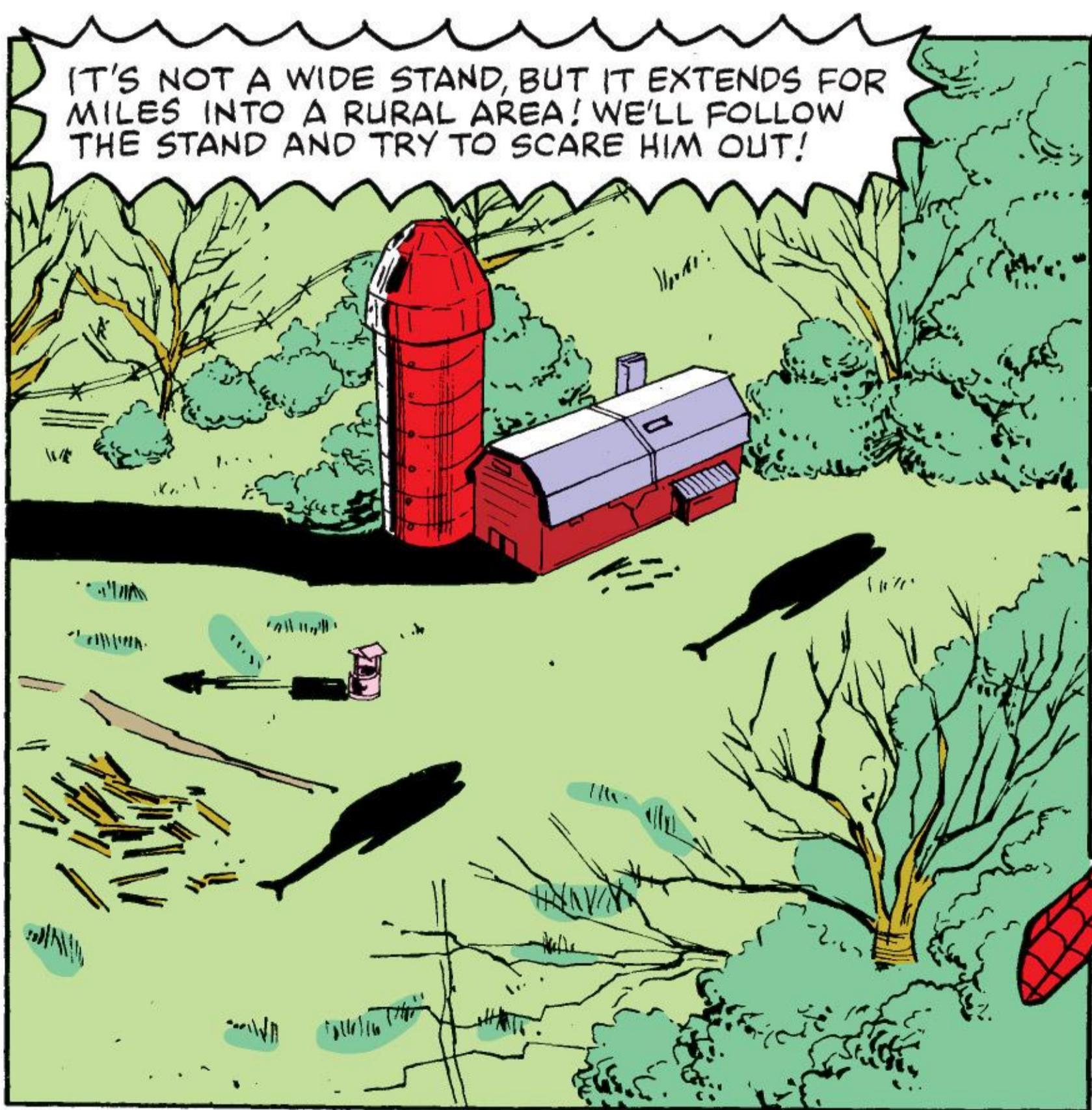
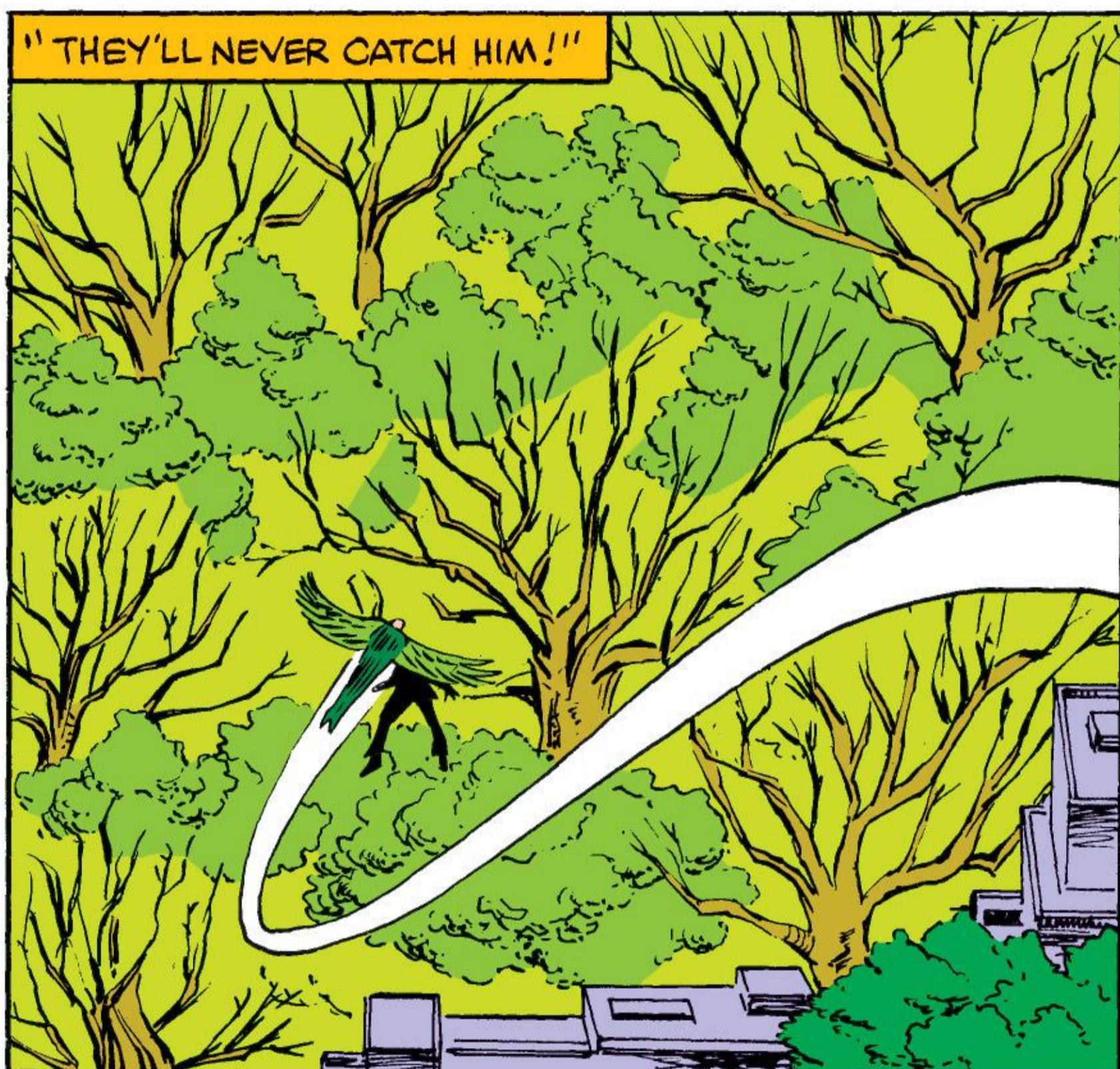
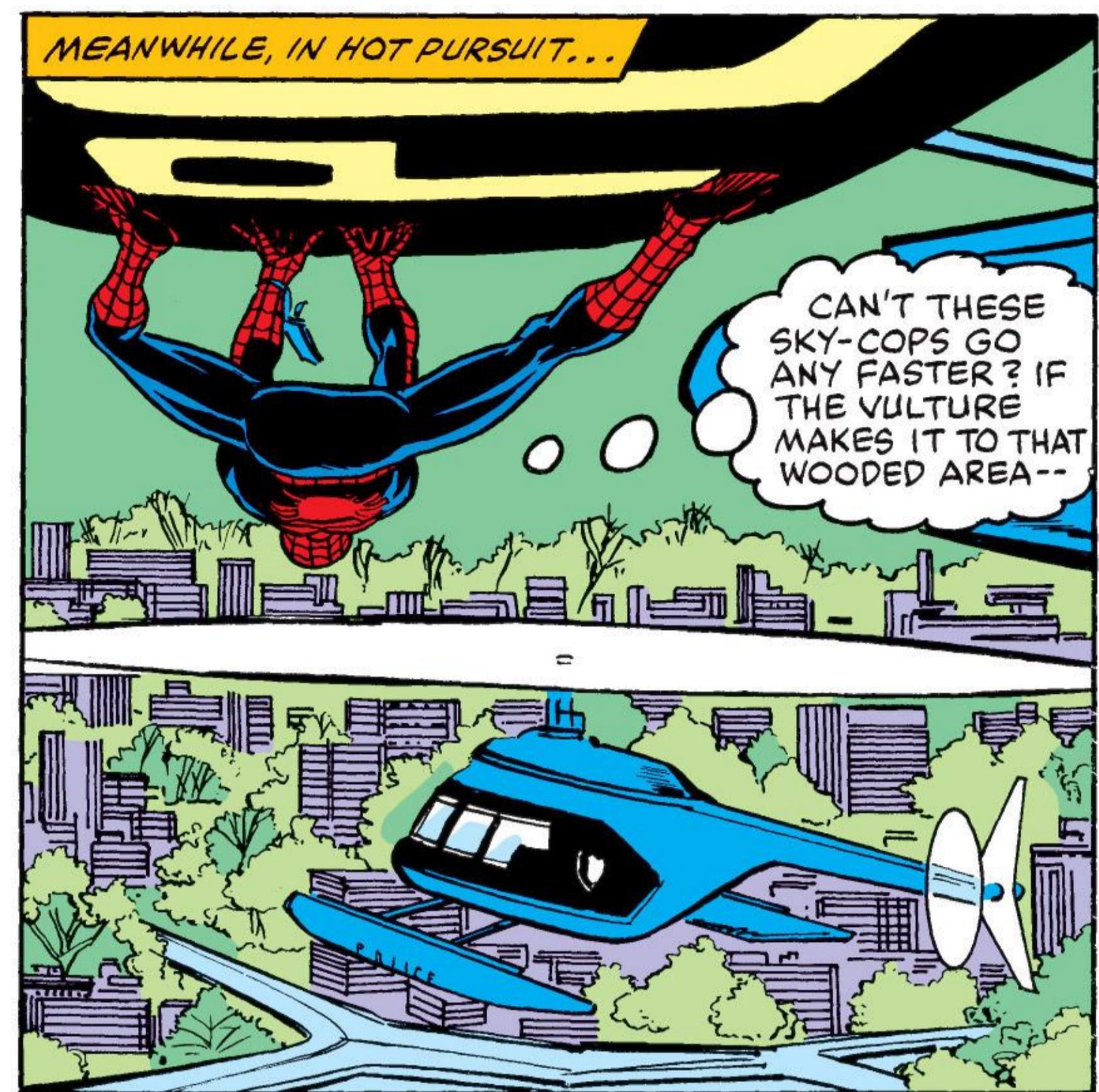
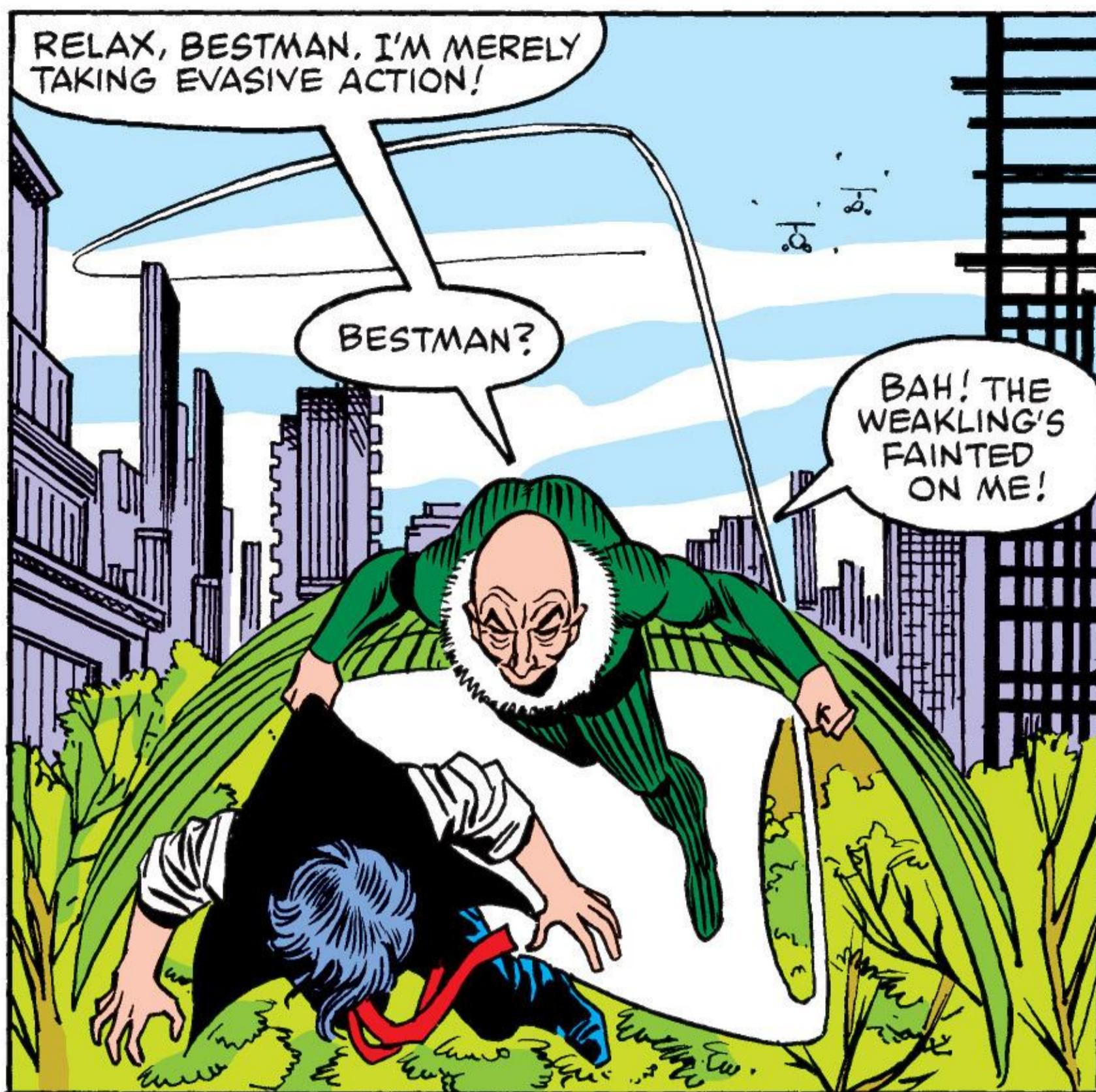
--A PROUD SHIP OF THE STATEN ISLAND FERRYLINE CHUGS TOWARDS MANHATTAN.

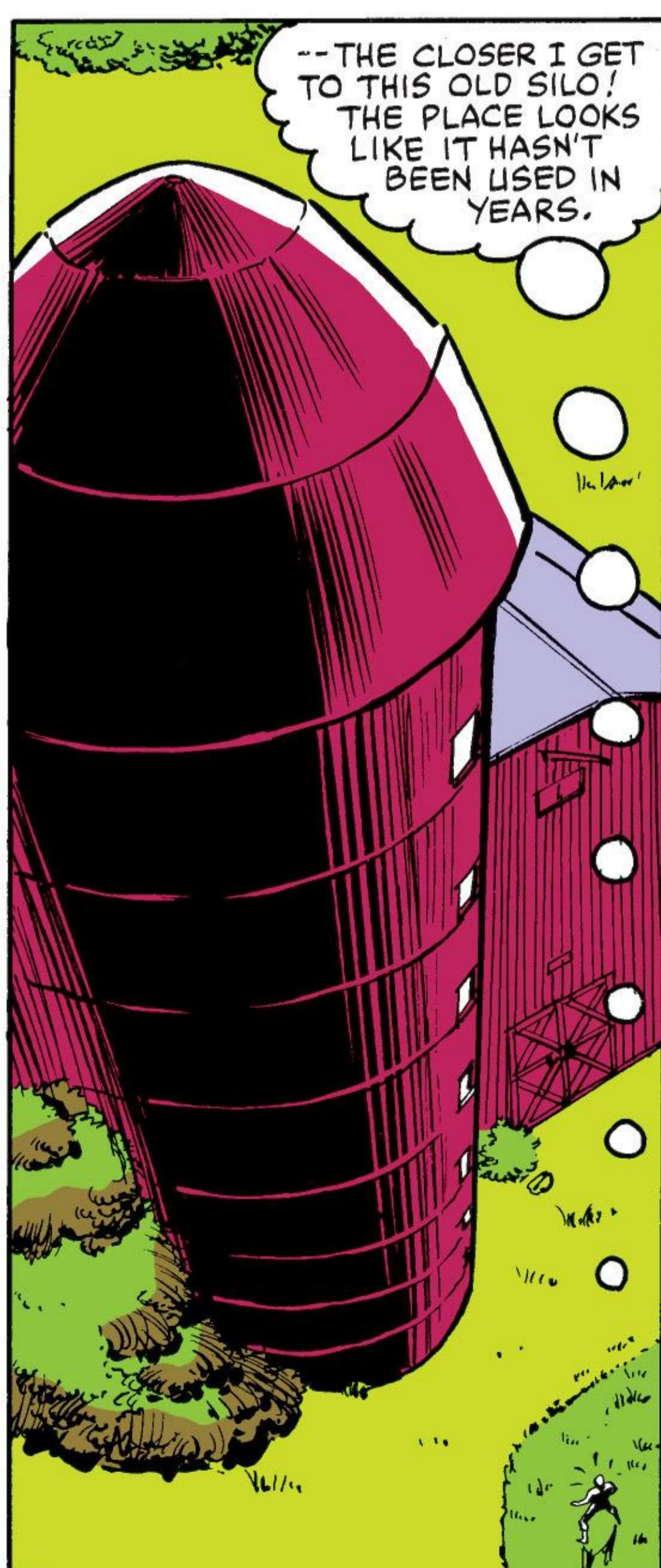
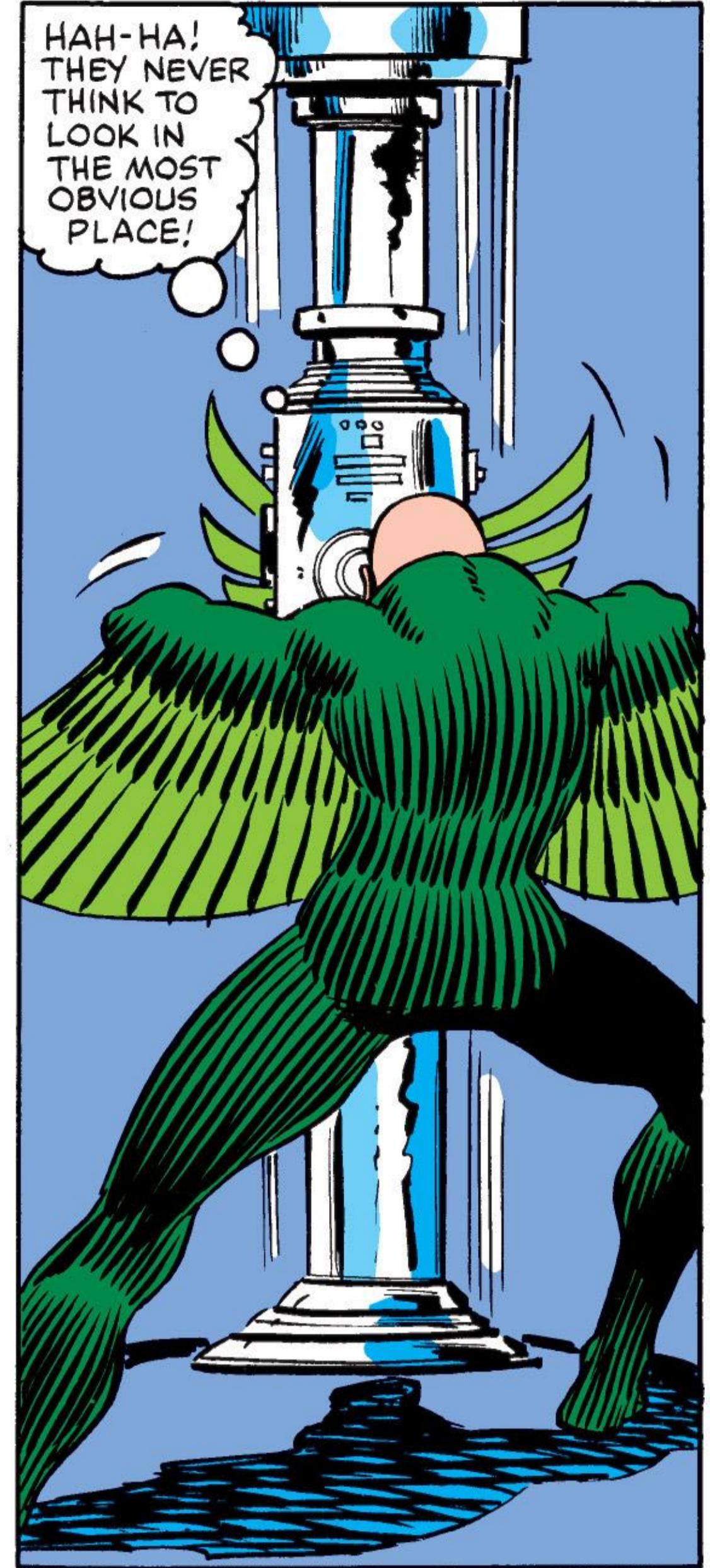
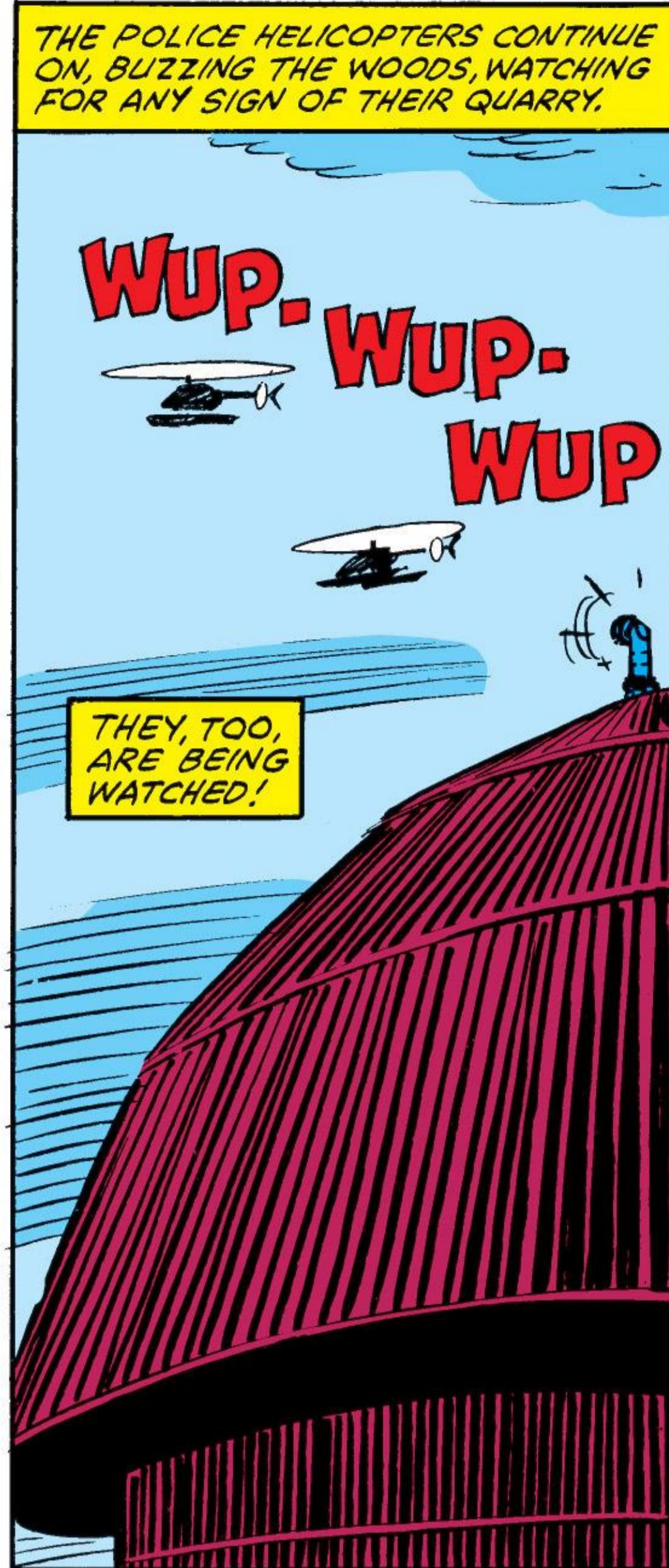
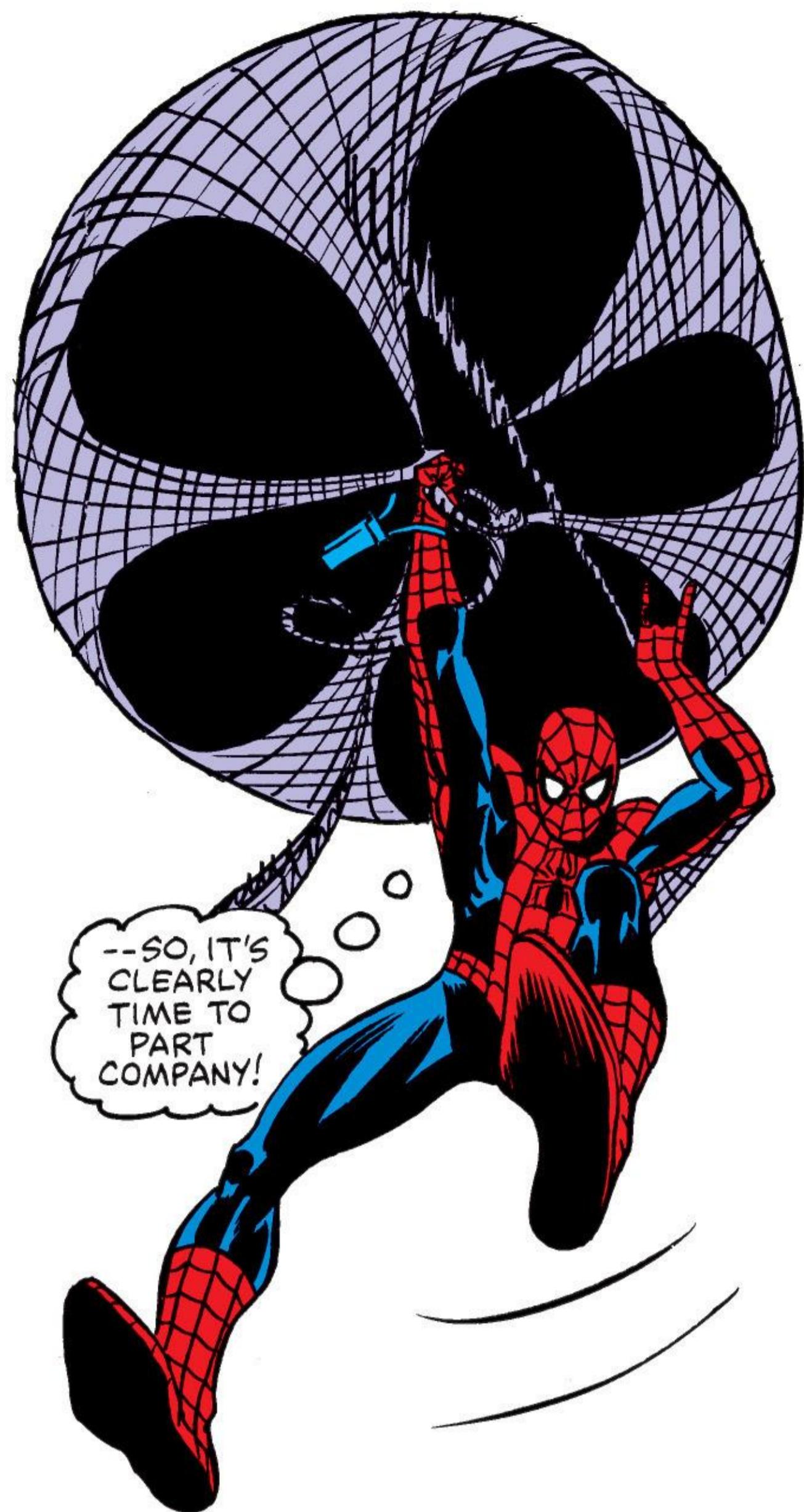


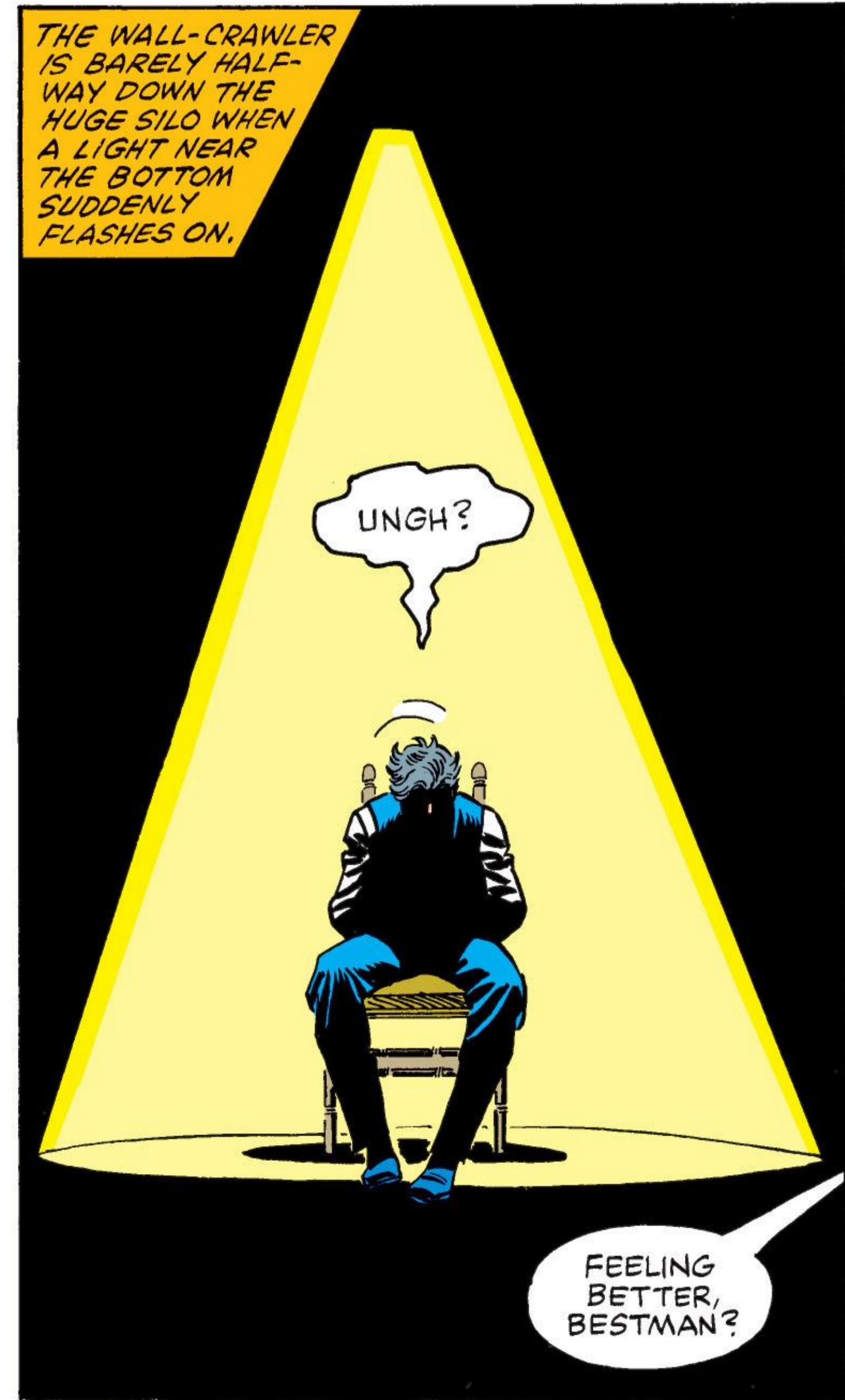
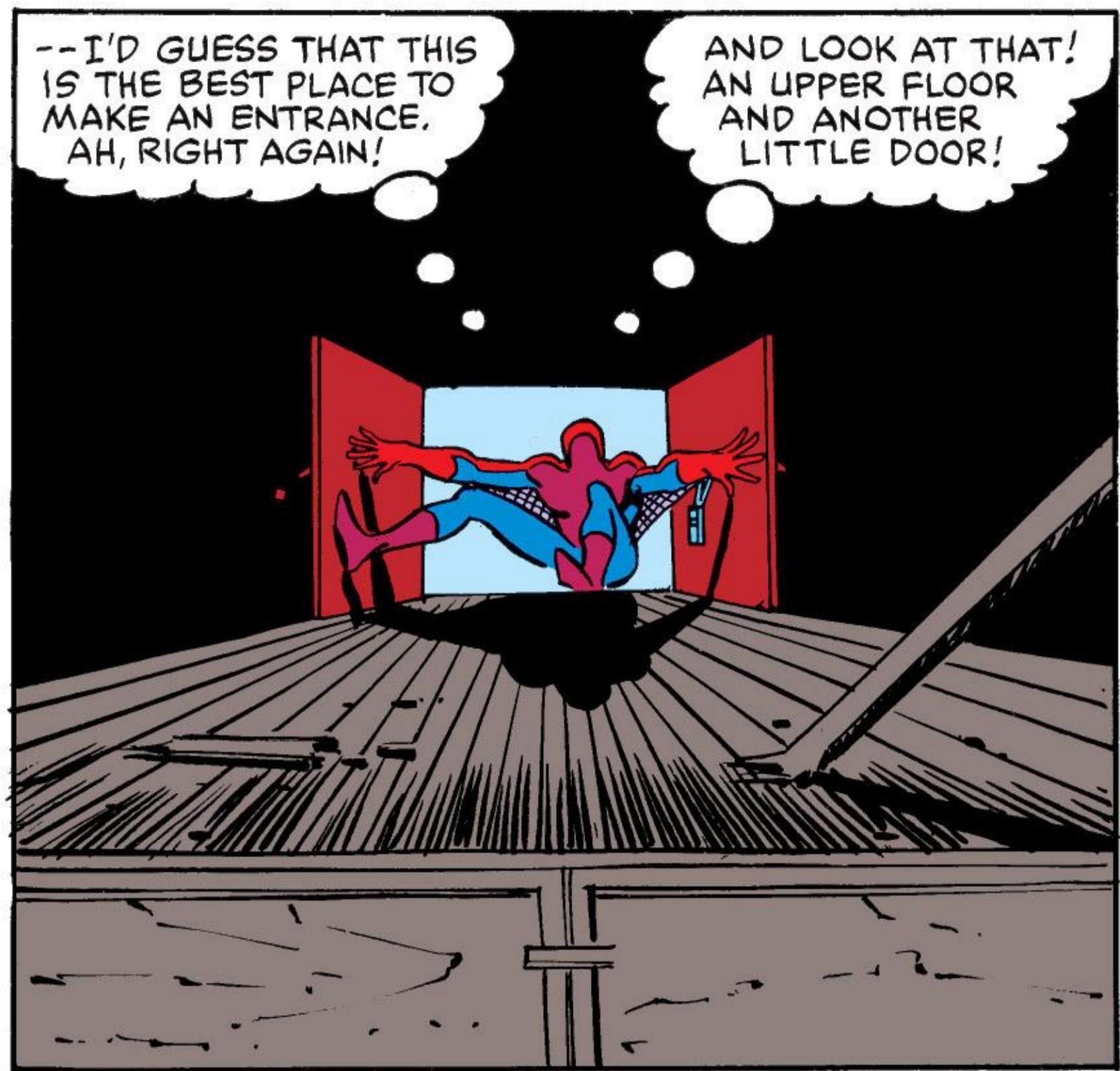


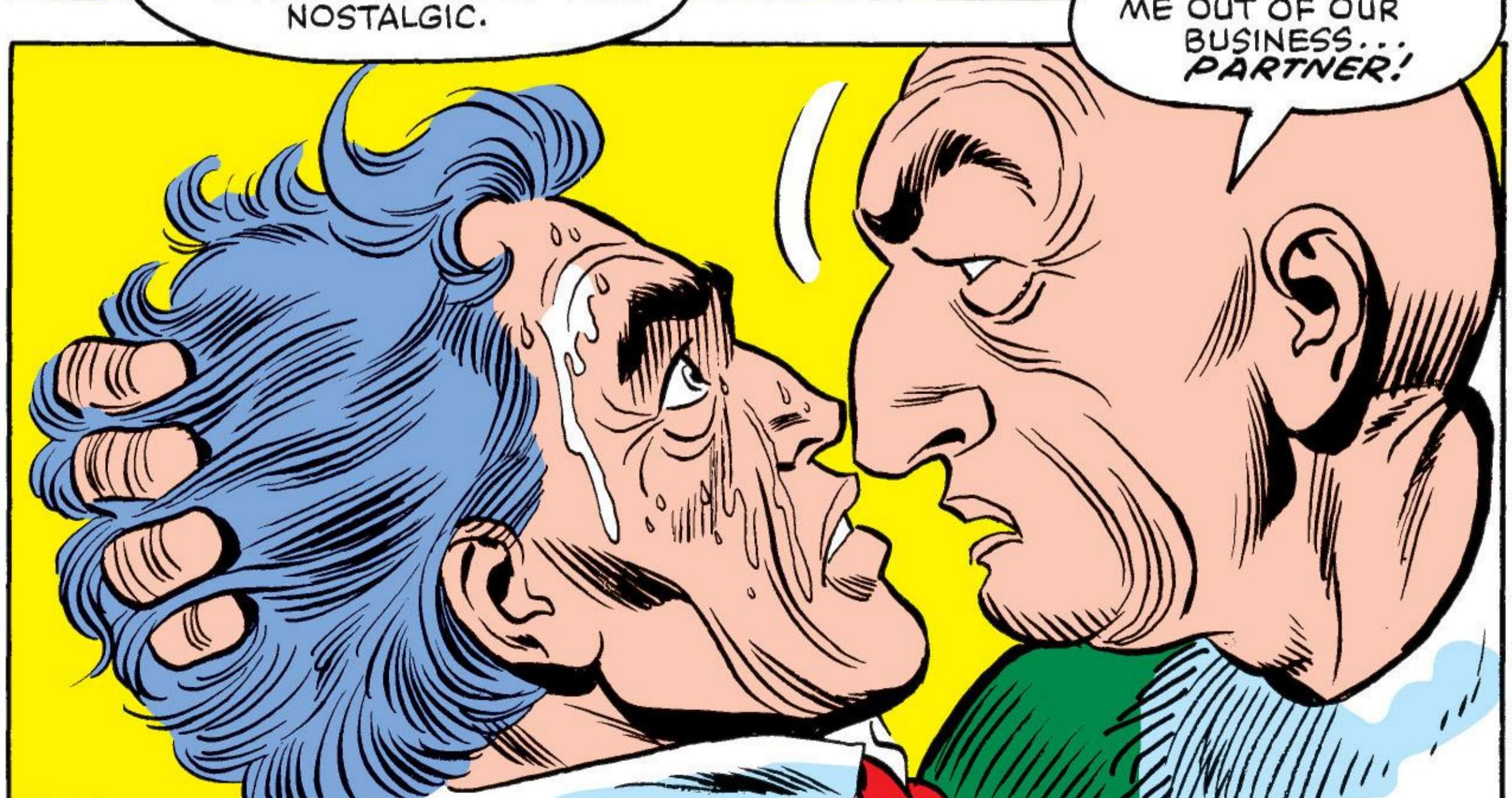
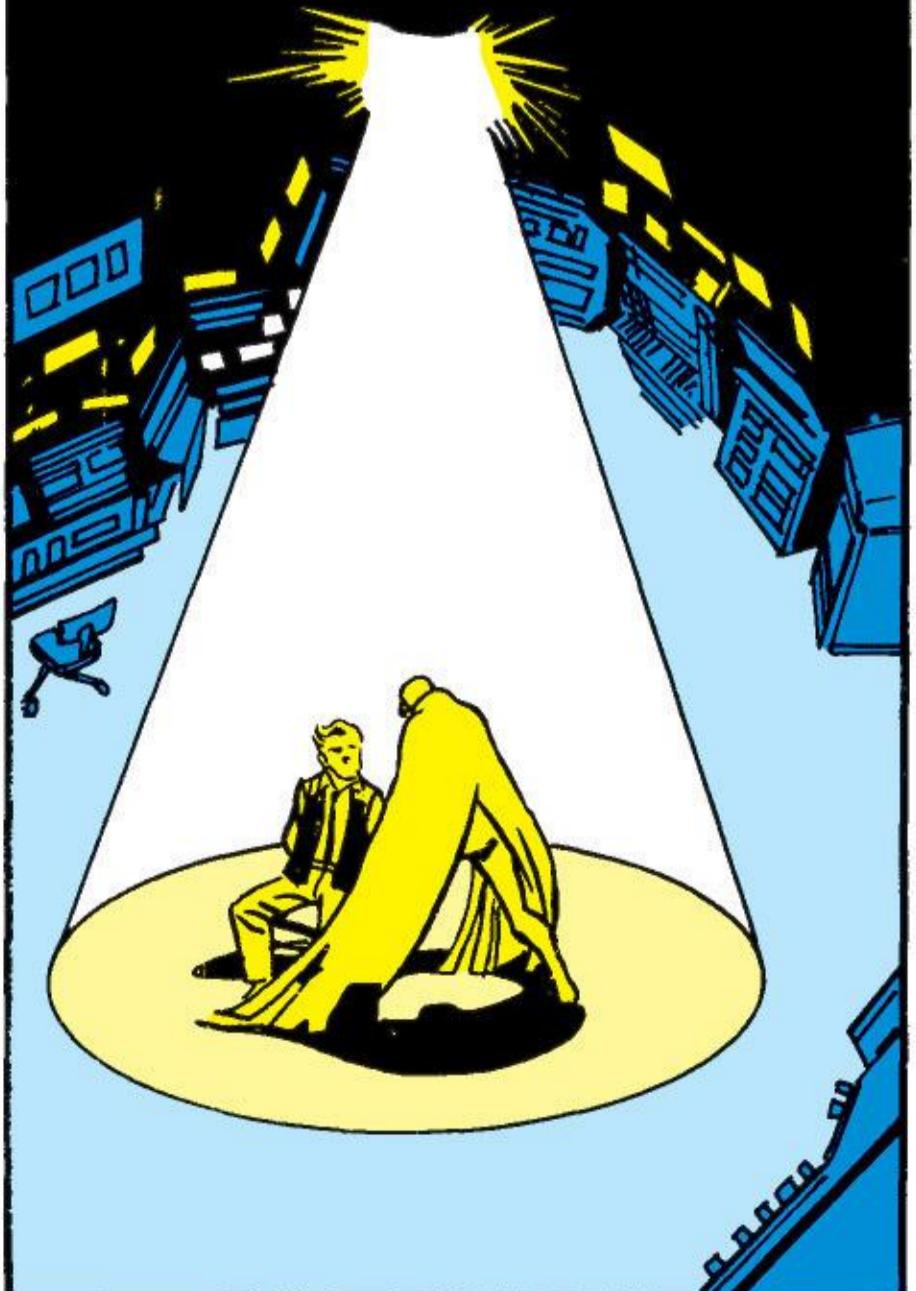
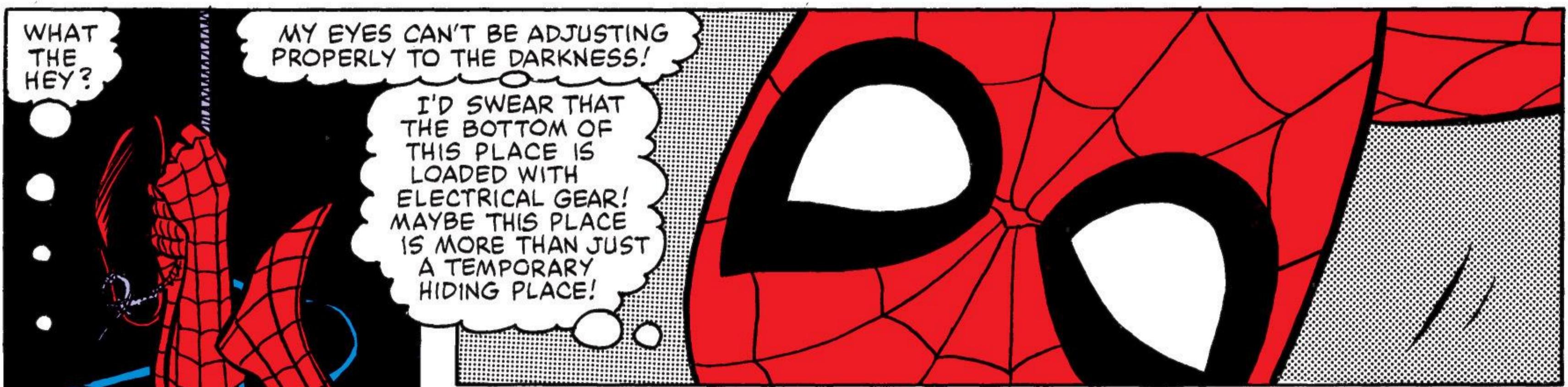
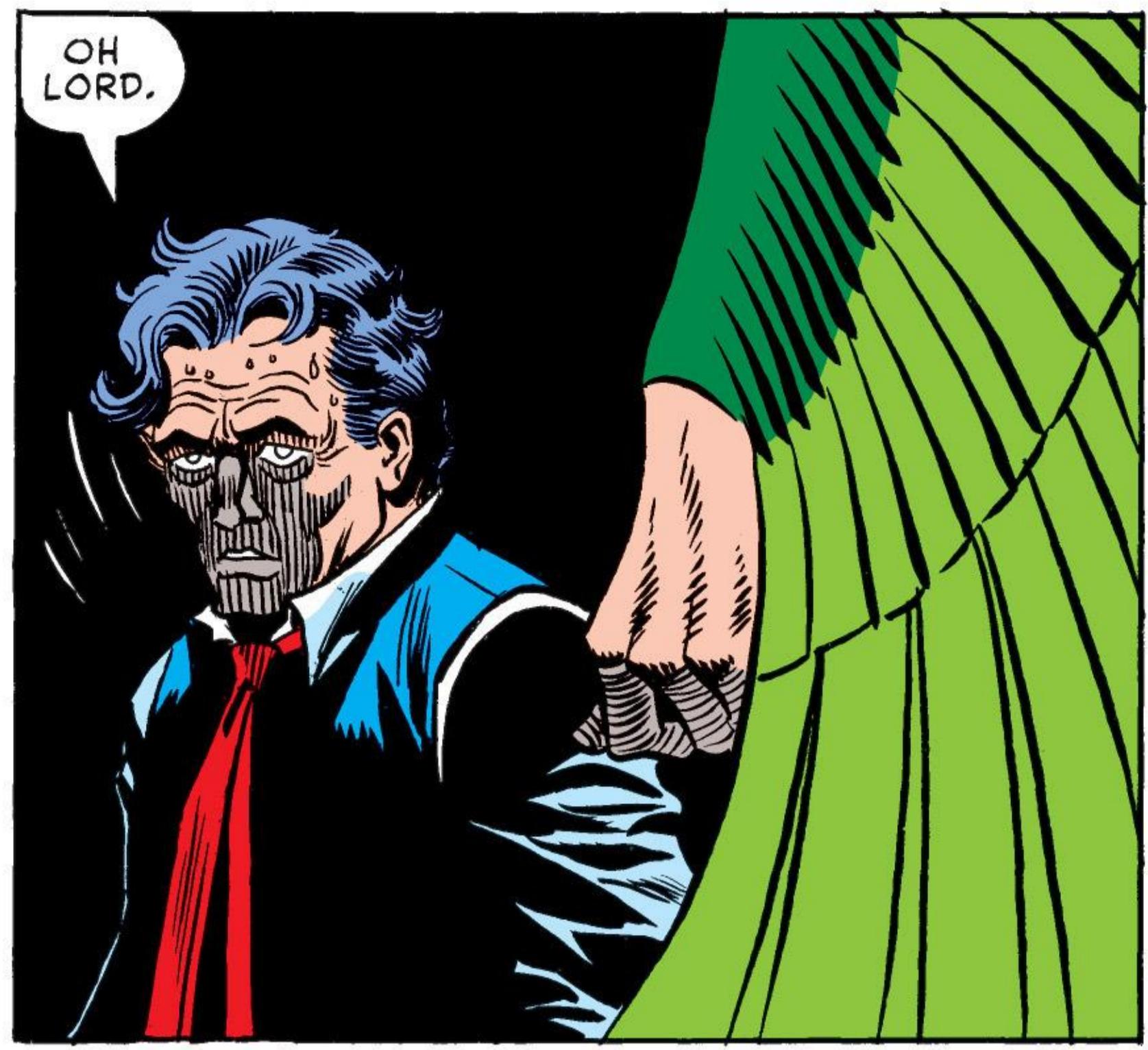
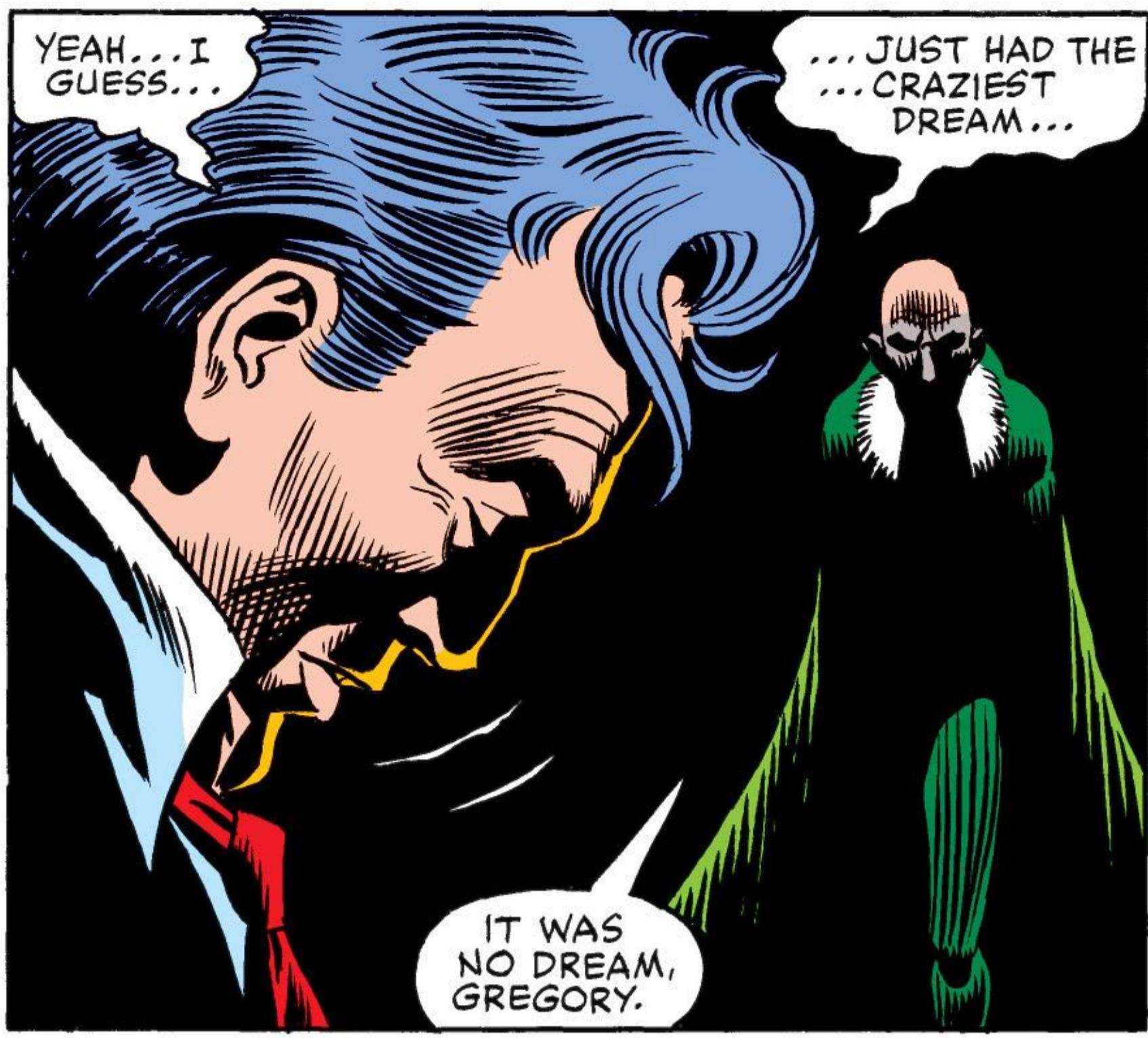
UP... UP... UP SWINGS THE AMAZING MASKED ADVENTURER! AND THEN, AT THE VERY APEX OF HIS SWING, HE LETS GO OF HIS SLENDER WEB-LINE-- SHOOTING HIGH INTO THE SKY...

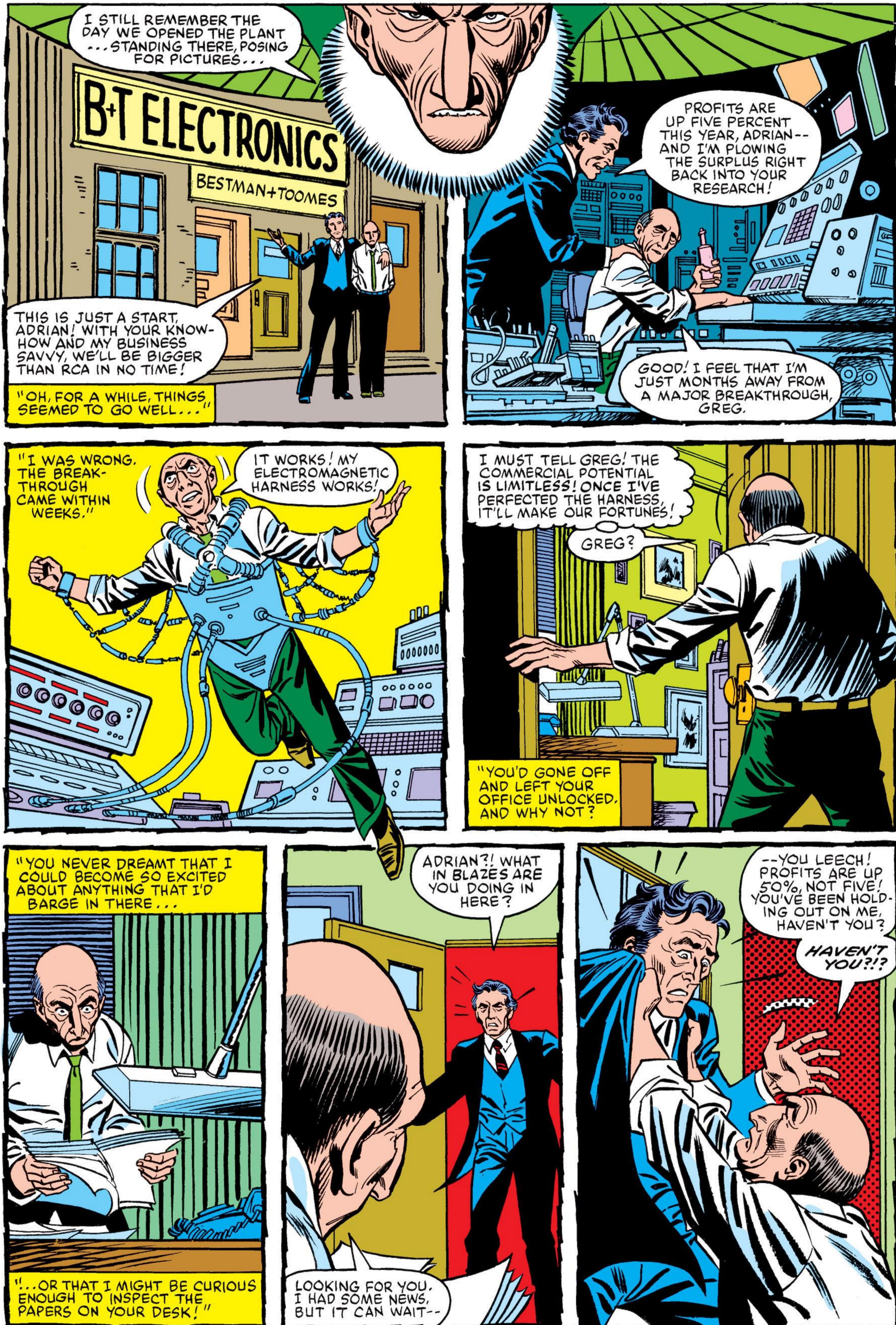


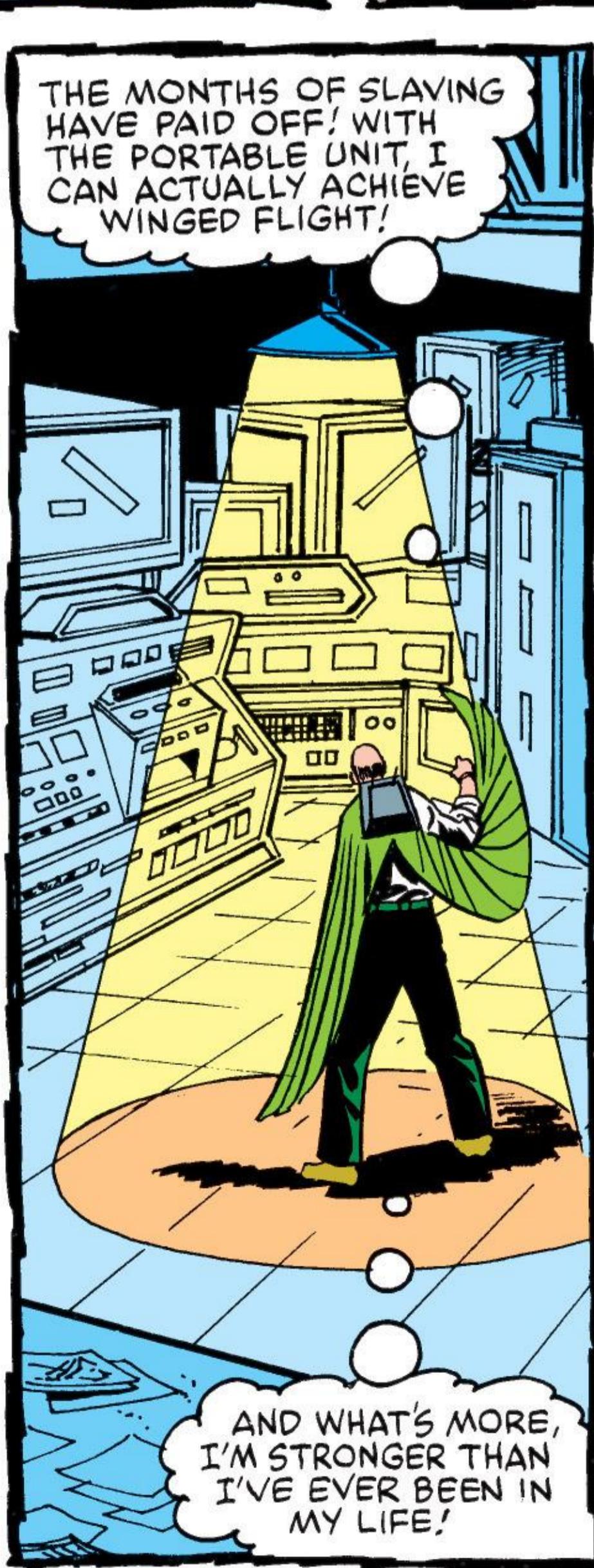
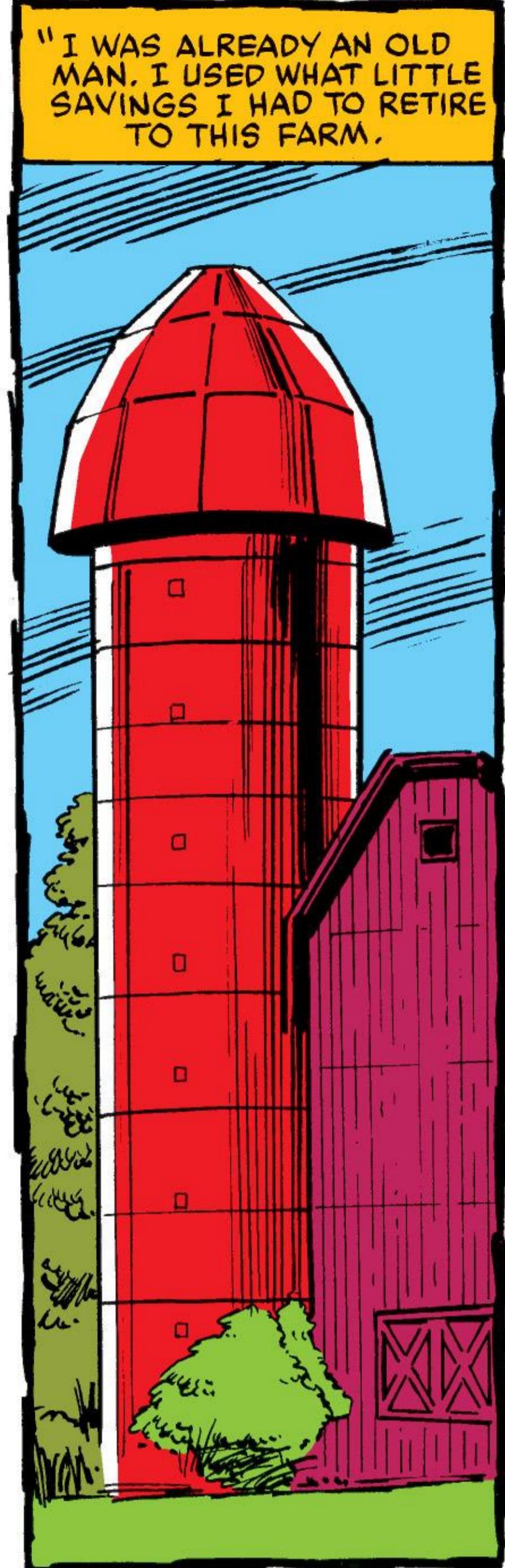


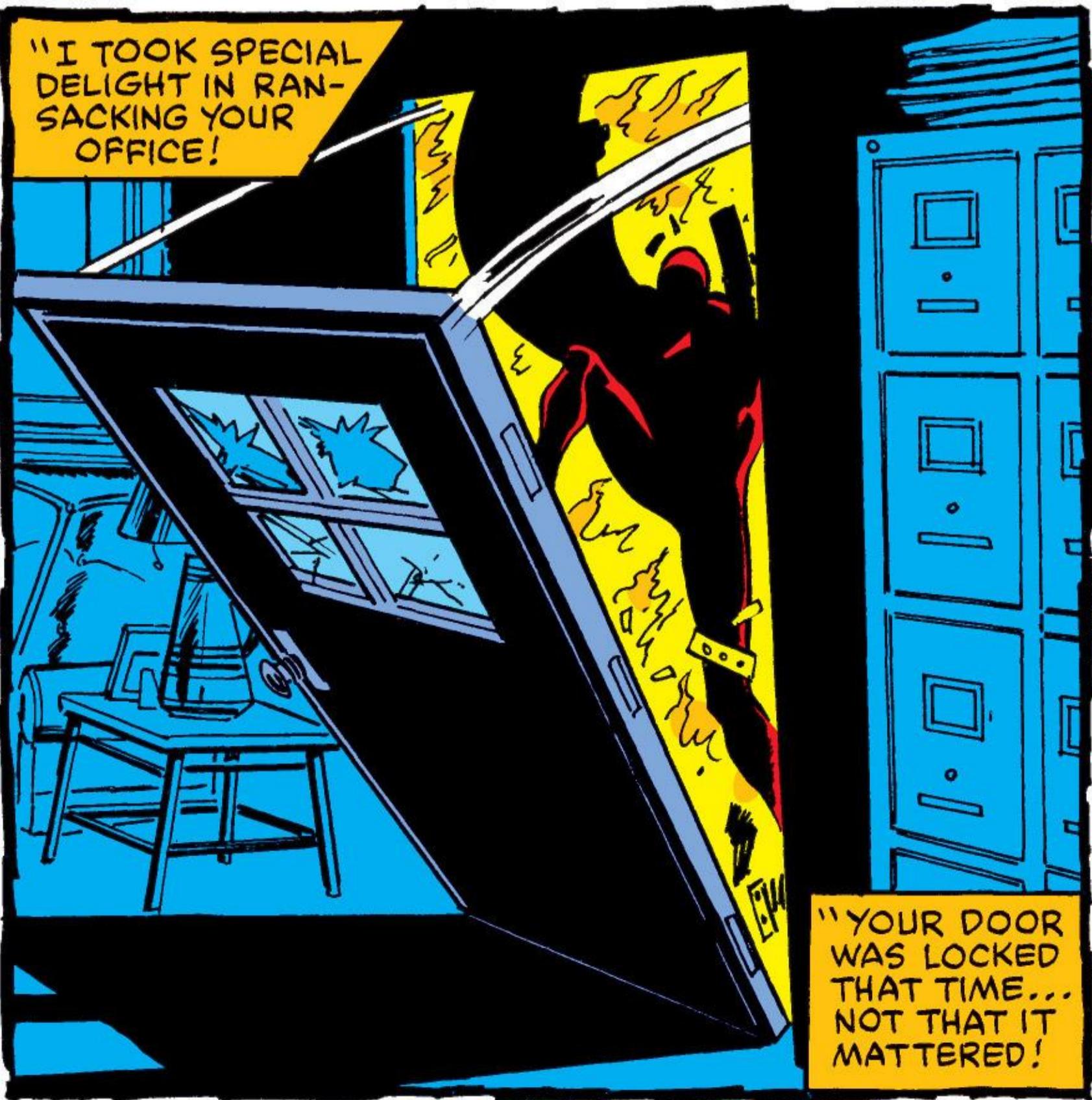
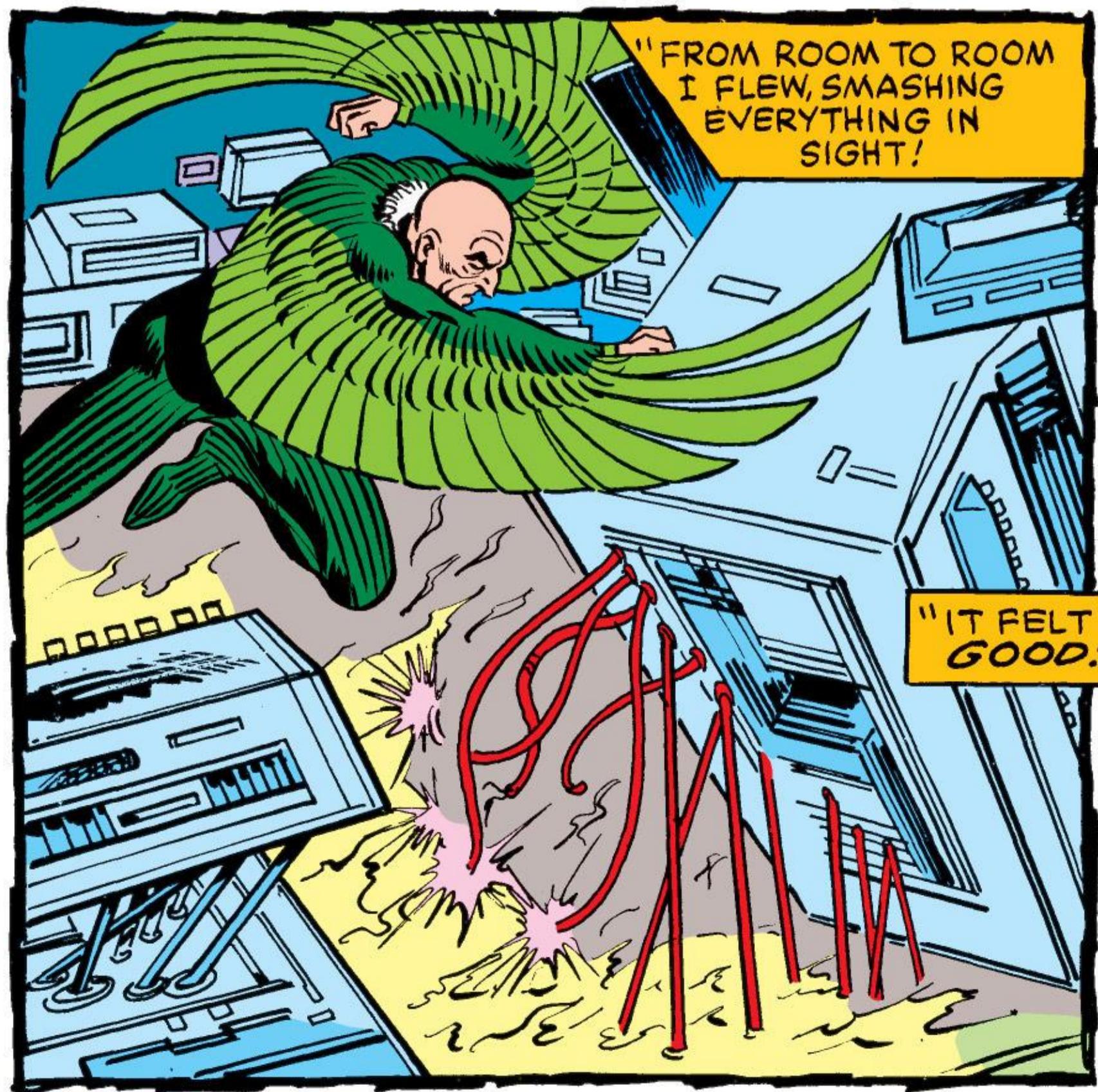
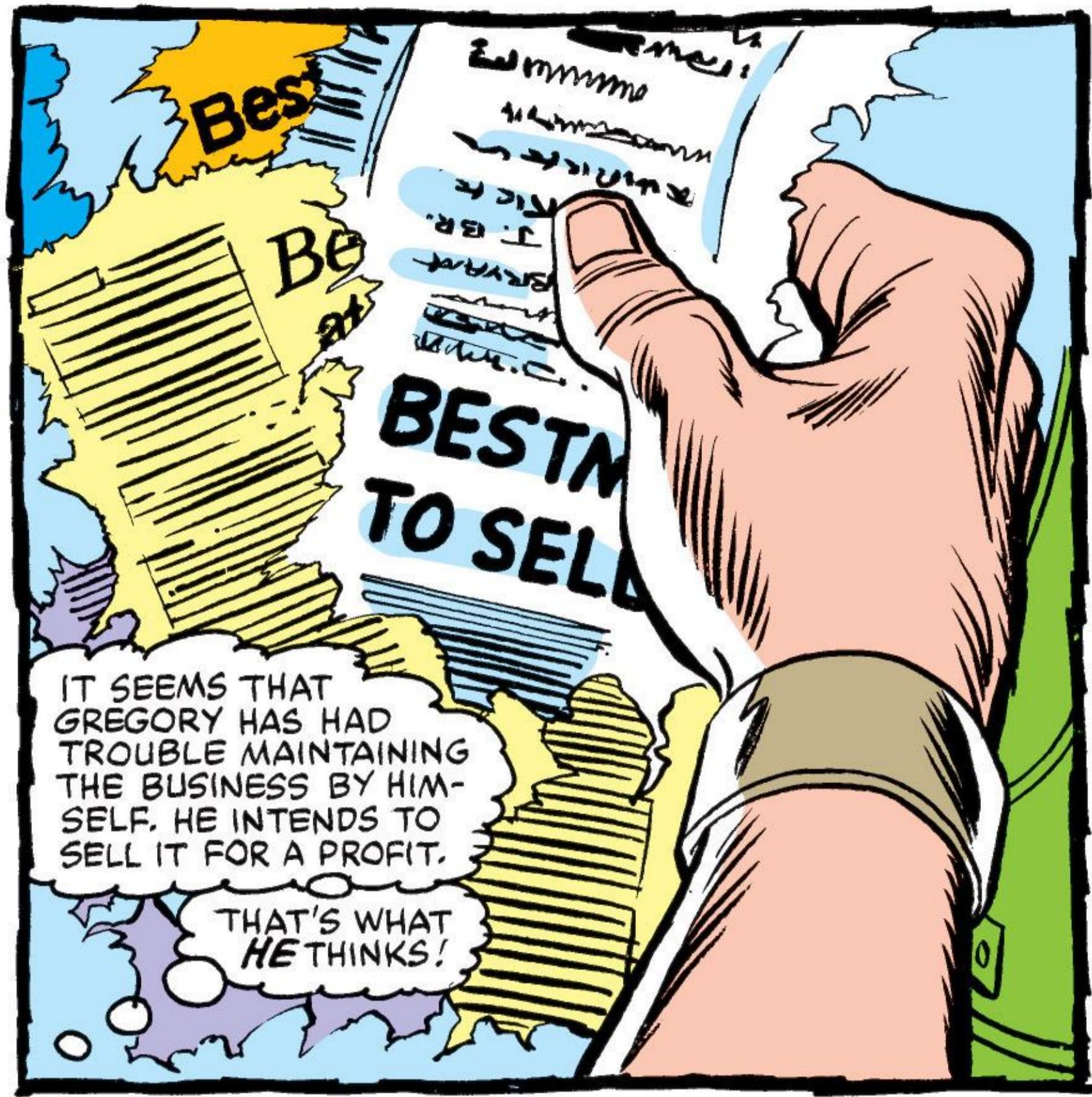












"I'D HOPED THAT I WOULD FIND SOME SHRED OF INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE IN YOUR DESK, BUT I FORGOT ALL OF THAT WHEN I SPOTTED THE MONEY!"

"I TOOK IT AND FLED INTO THE NIGHT. YOU WERE RUINED--"

--AND I HAD FOUND A NEW CAREER!"

I WAS MOST UNHAPPY WHEN I DISCOVERED YOU WERE BACK IN BUSINESS! I'D THOUGHT YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON!

OH, I DON'T THINK ANY OF US REALLY WANT TO FIND OUT, DO WE?

HUH?

WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?

YOU!

YEP, IT'S YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BUTTINSKY--BACK AGAIN FOR MORE!

IDIOT! YOU'LL NOT RUIN MY PLANS AGAIN! I'LL SEE YOU DEAD!

SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, OLD TIMER... 'CAUSE AFTER HEARING THAT STORY, I'D REALLY RATHER NOT HAVE TO FIGHT YOU.

BAH! I DON'T WANT YOUR SYMPATHY! I WANT YOUR HEAD!

WUP-WUP

WHAT THE DEVIL?

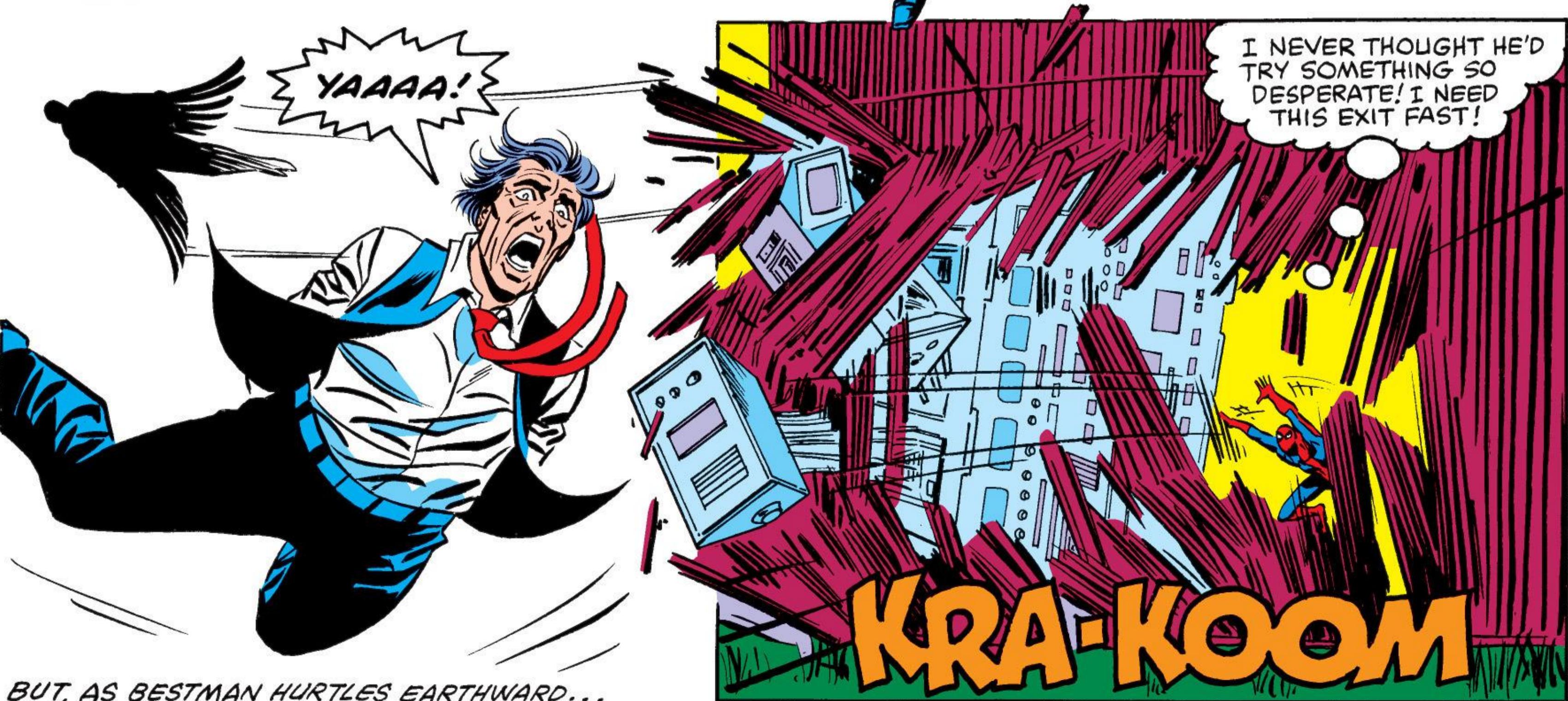
-- EVERY WORD YOU'VE SAID HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE POLICE.

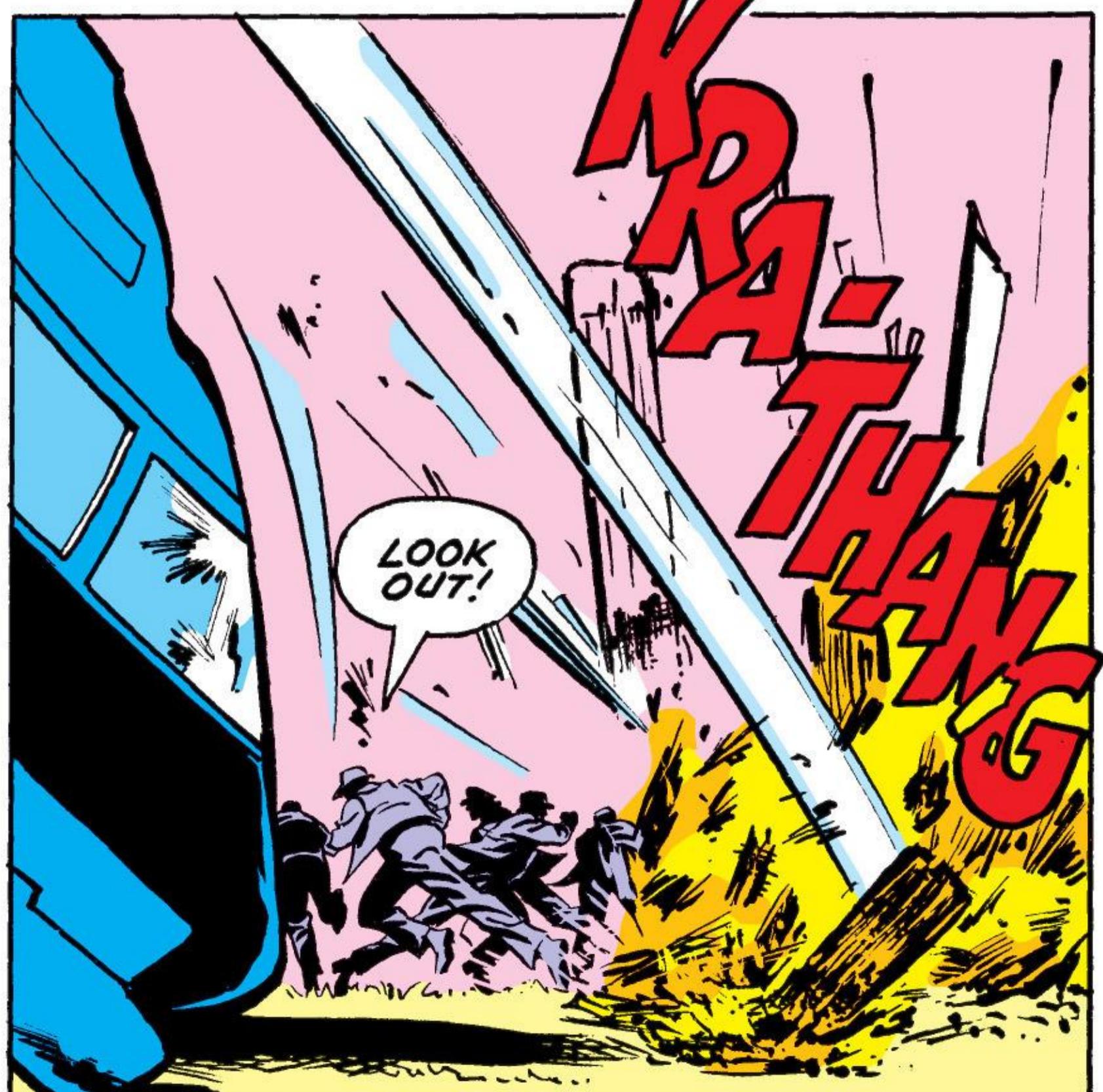
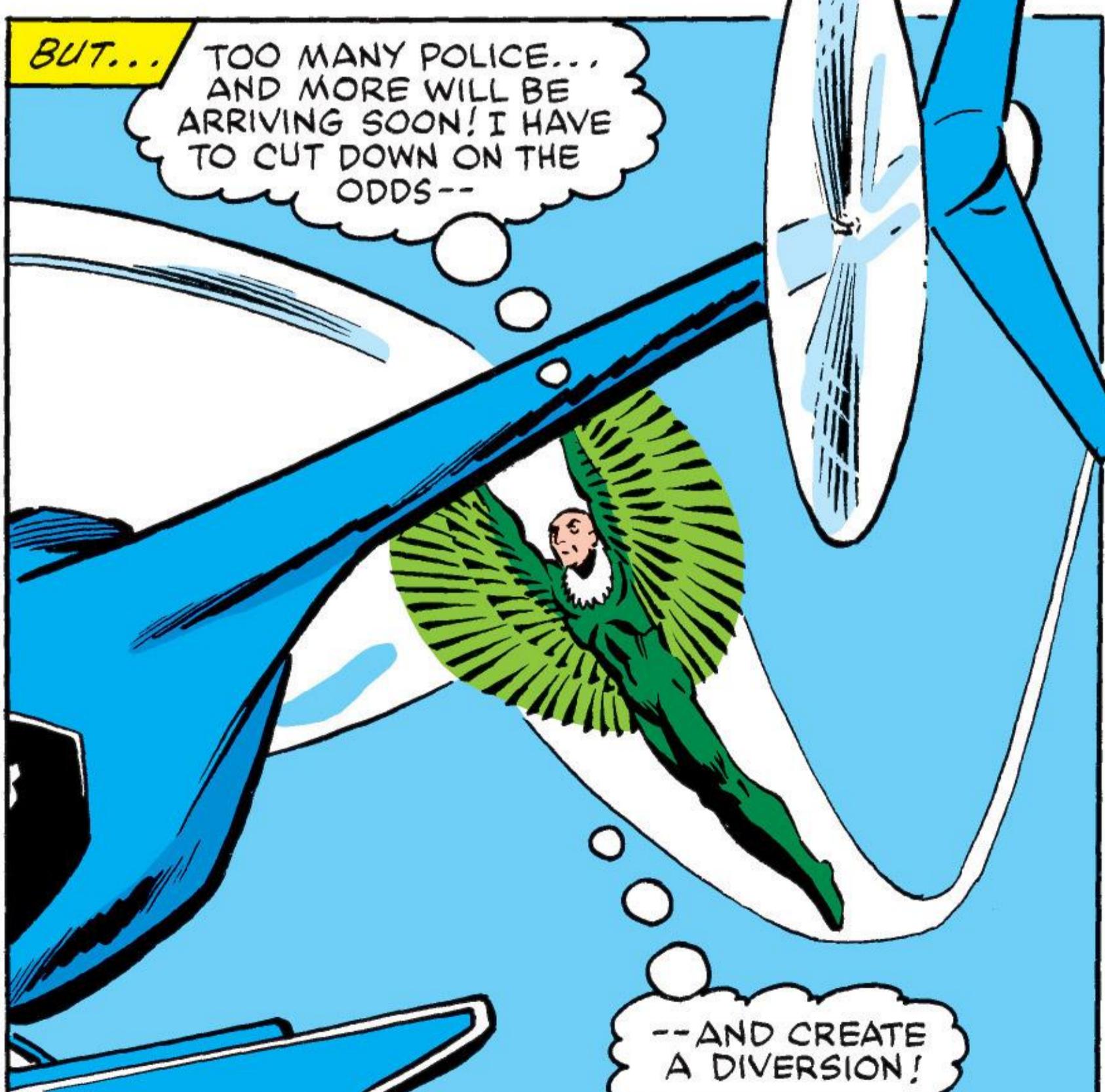
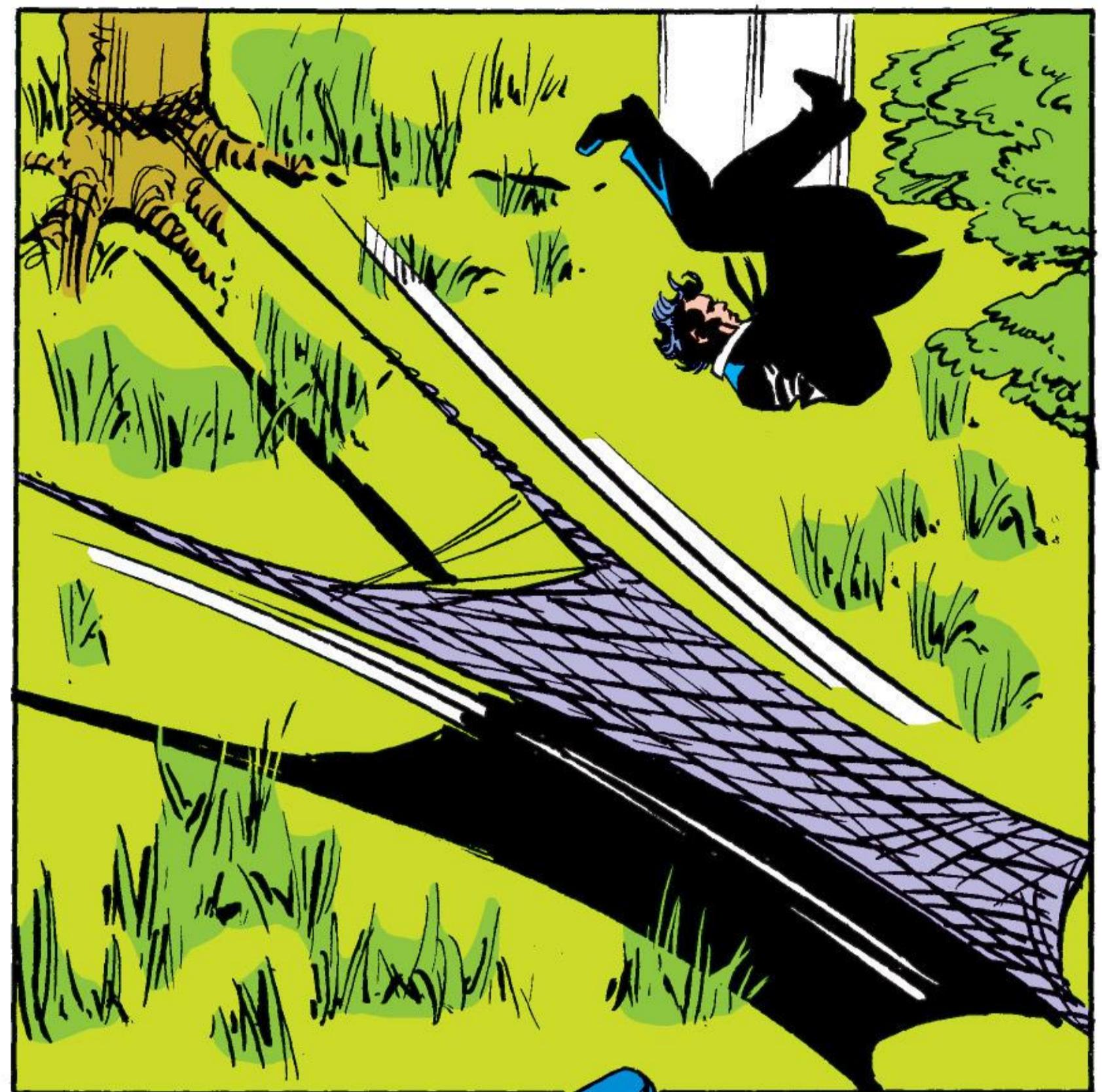
I FIGURED THOSE 'COPTERS WOULD BE BACK ABOUT NOW! YOU SEE, VULTCH--

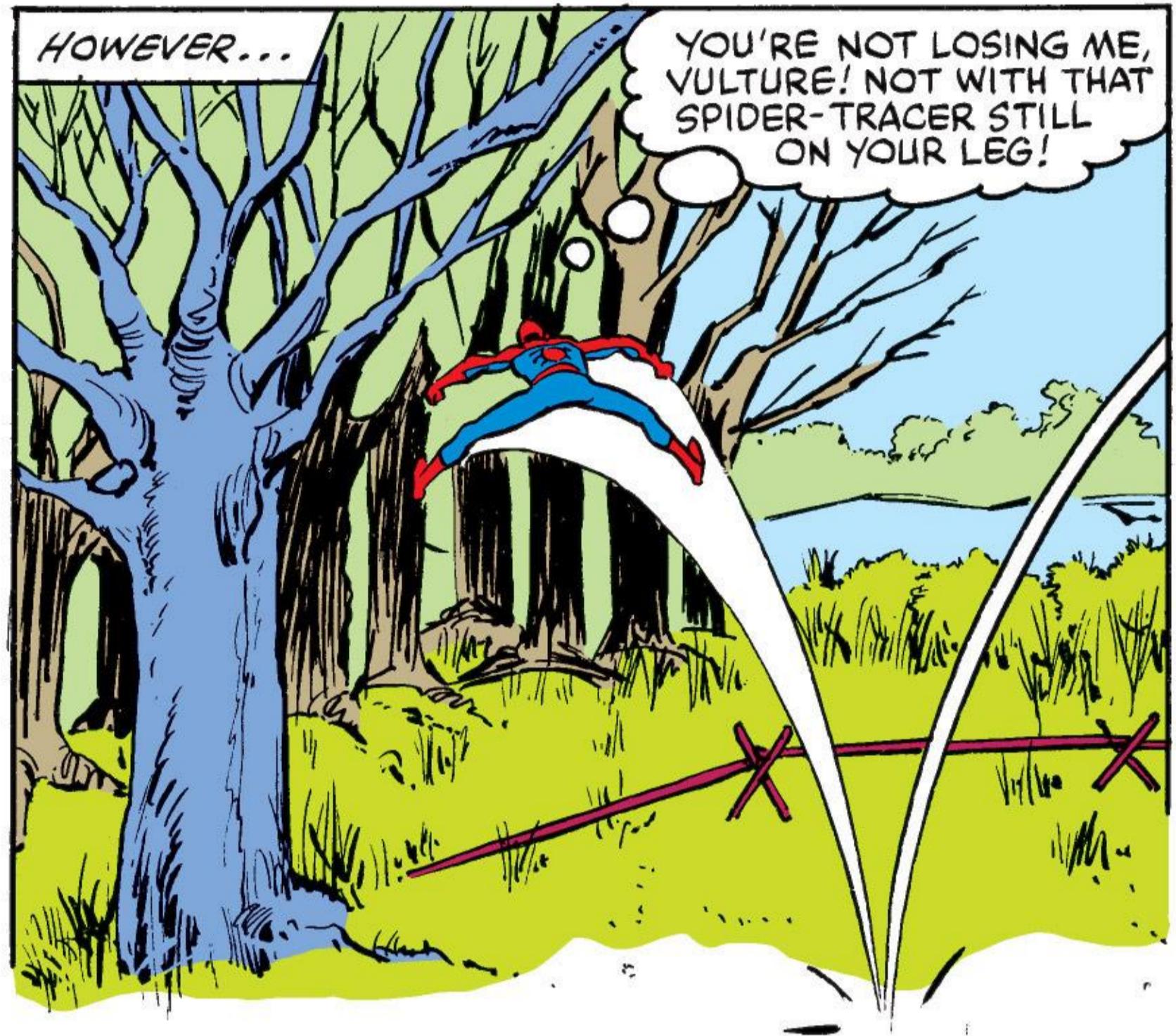
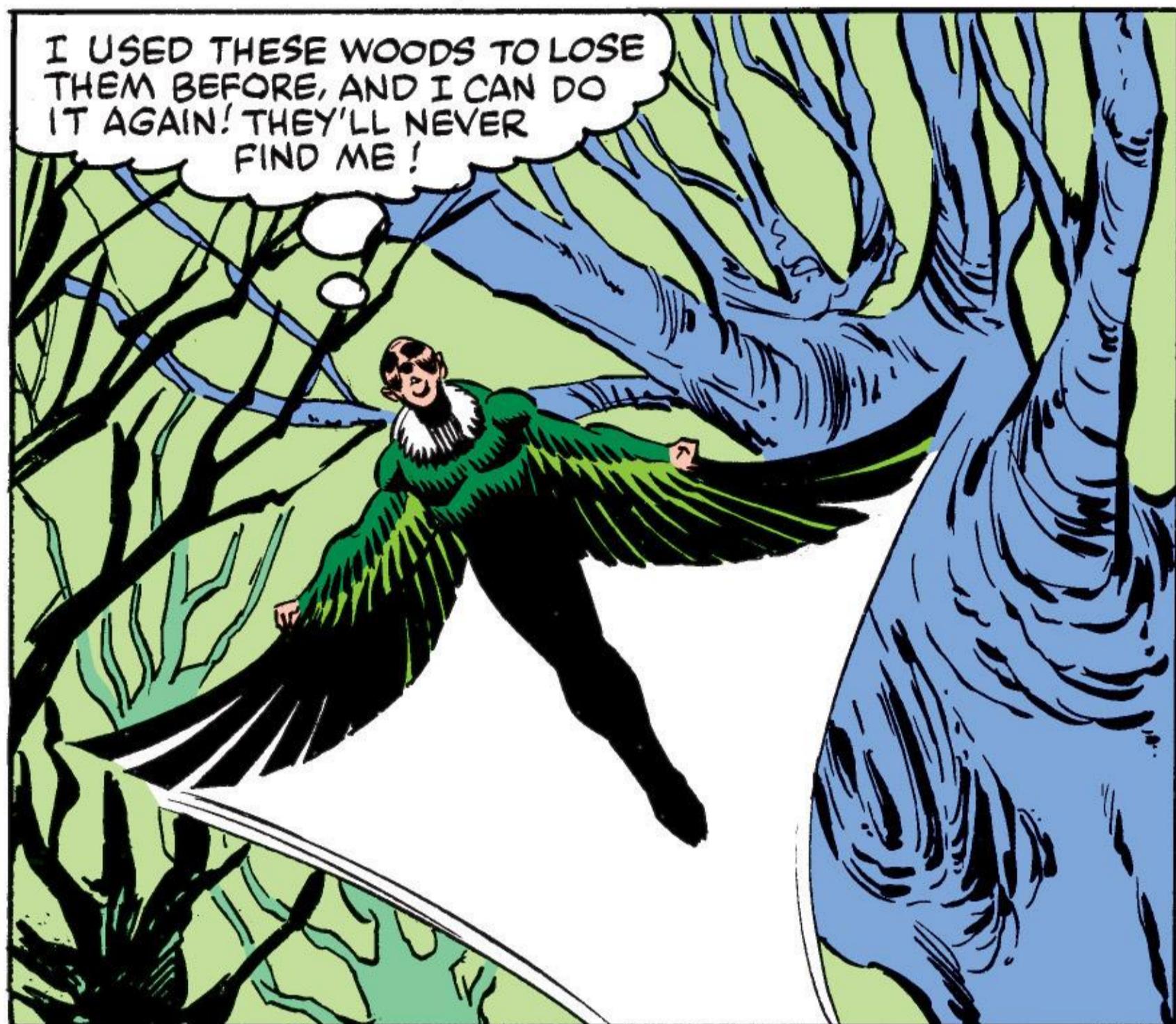
"YOU'VE TALKED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO HOME IN ON THE SIGNAL! IT'S ALL OVER!"

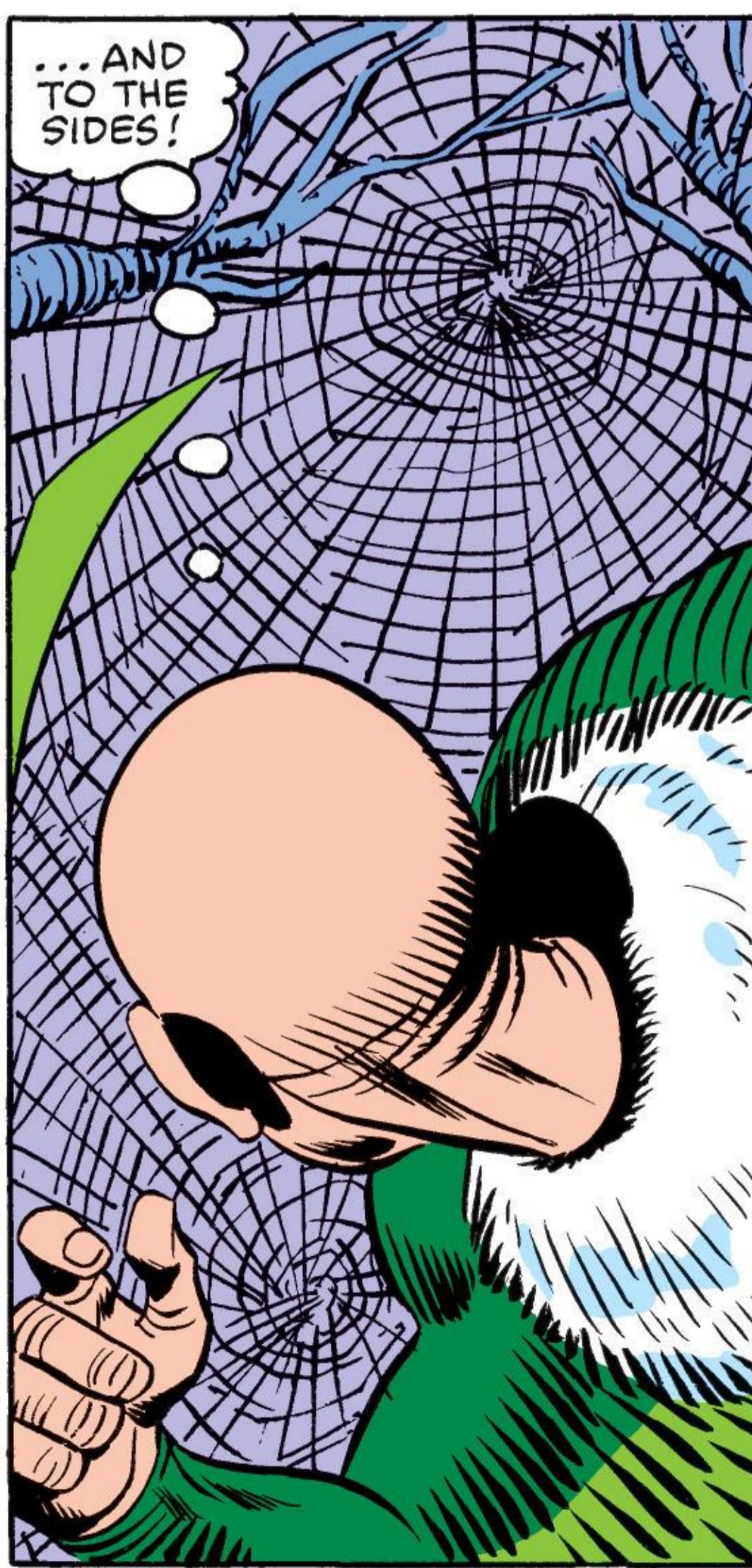
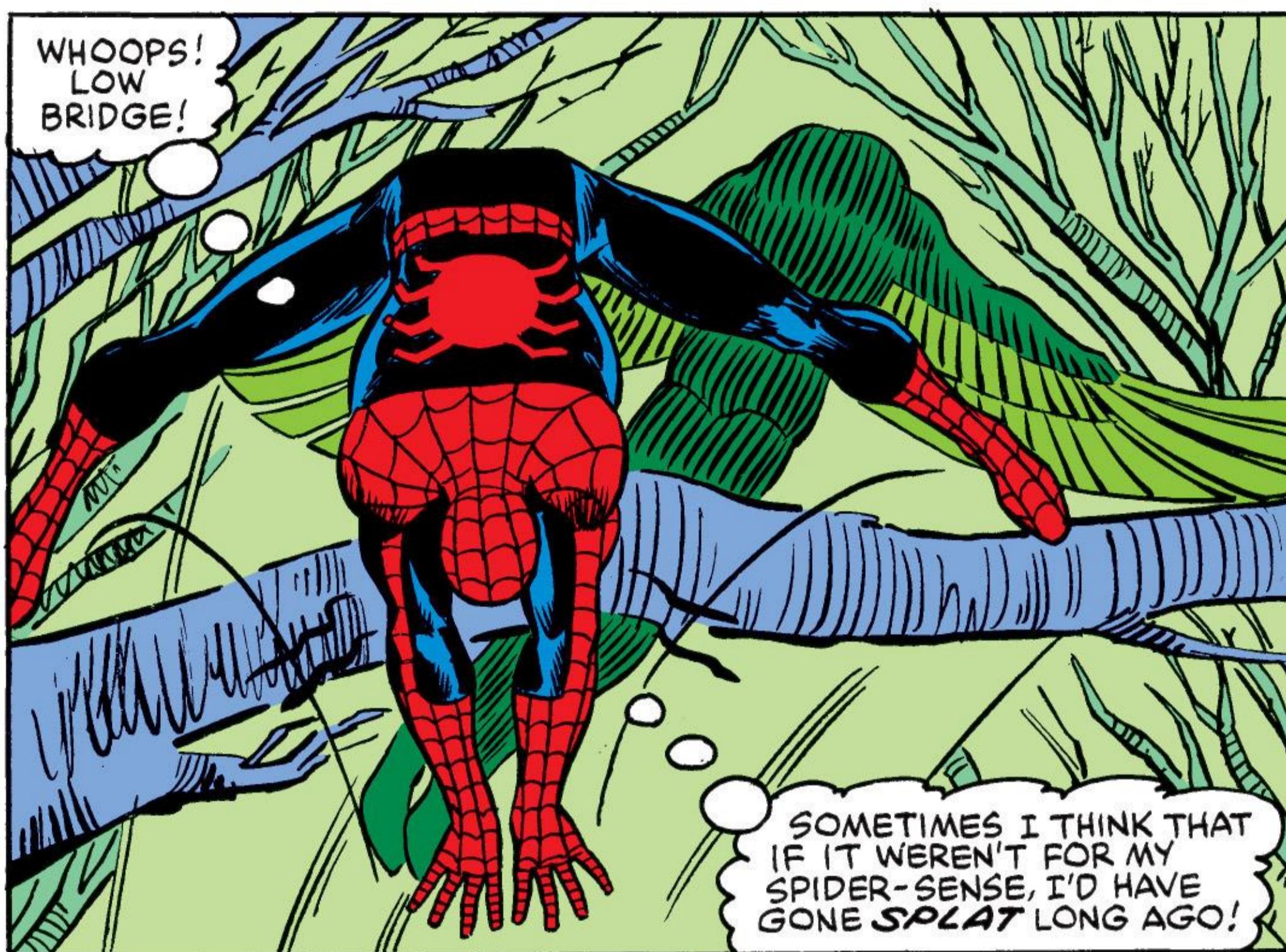
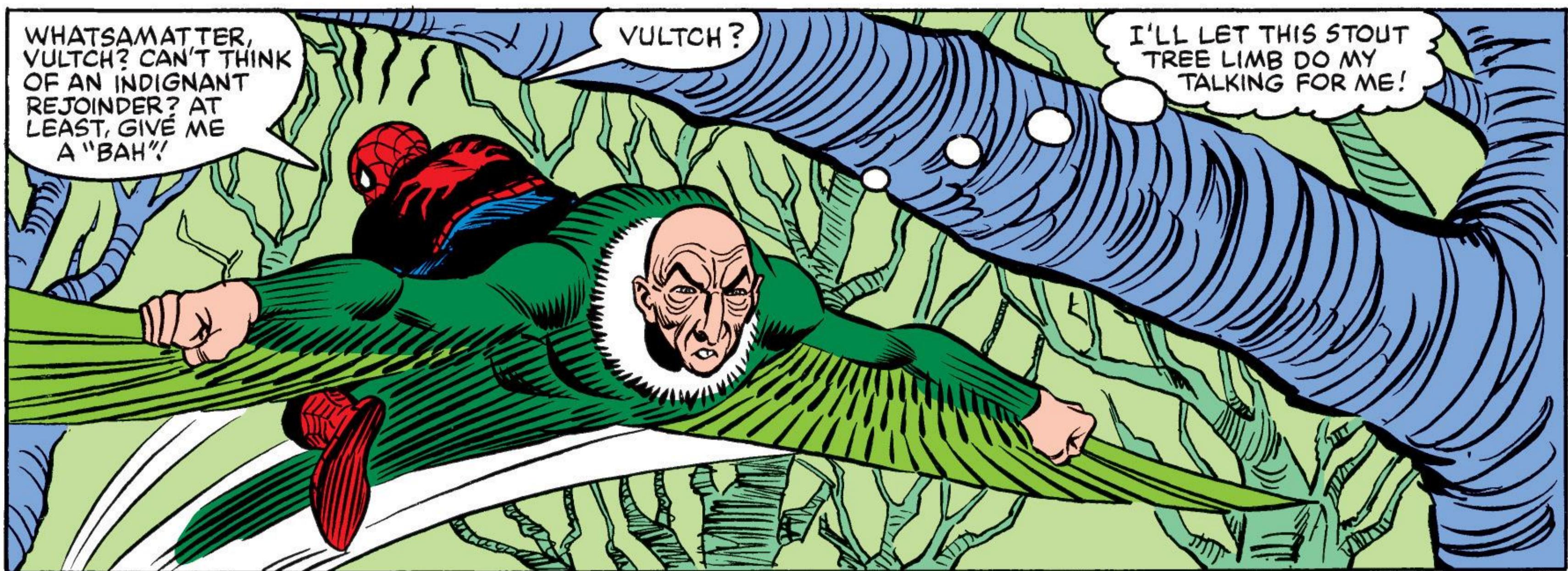
NO! I WON'T BE CHEATED OF MY REVENGE!

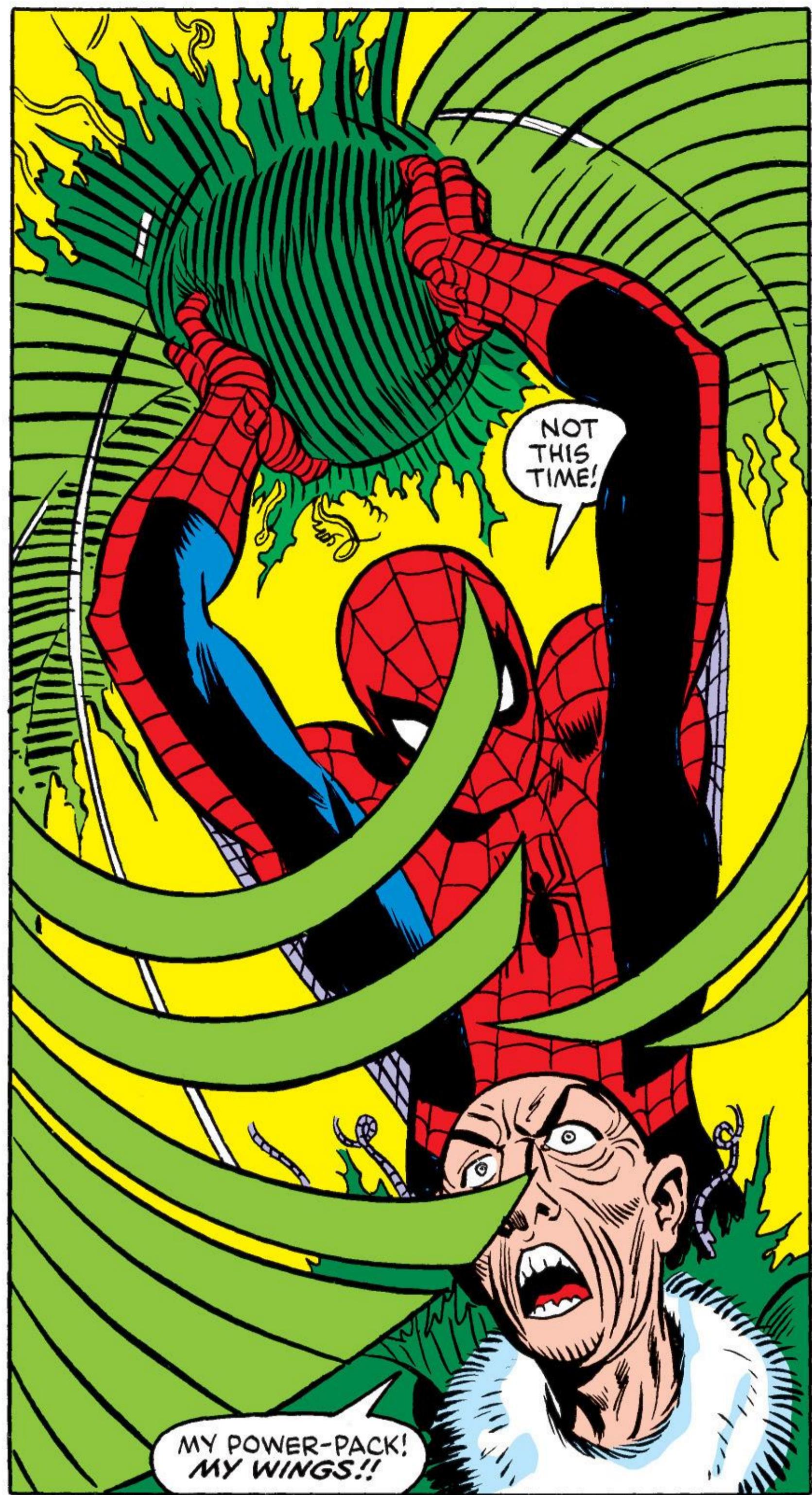
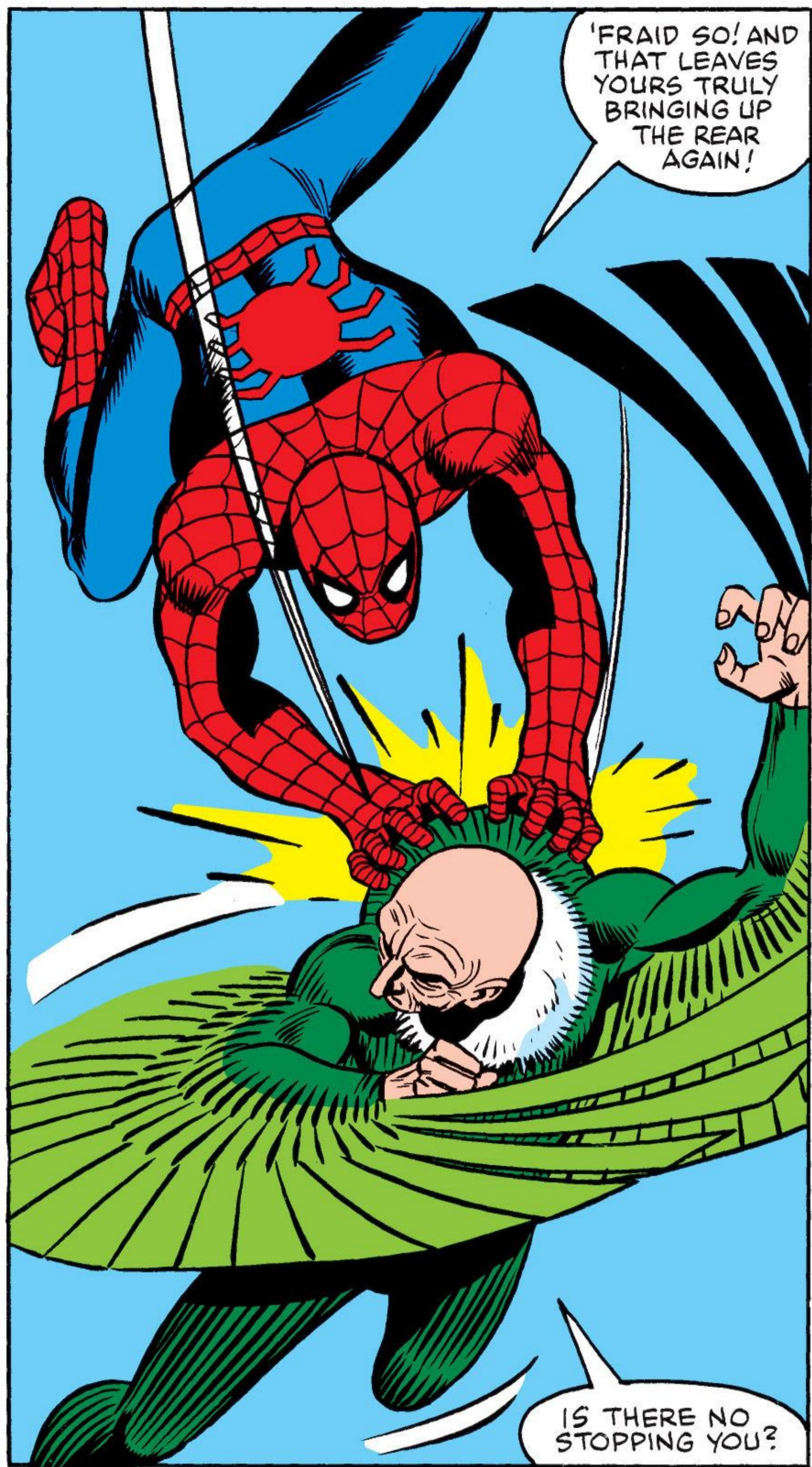
I WON'T!

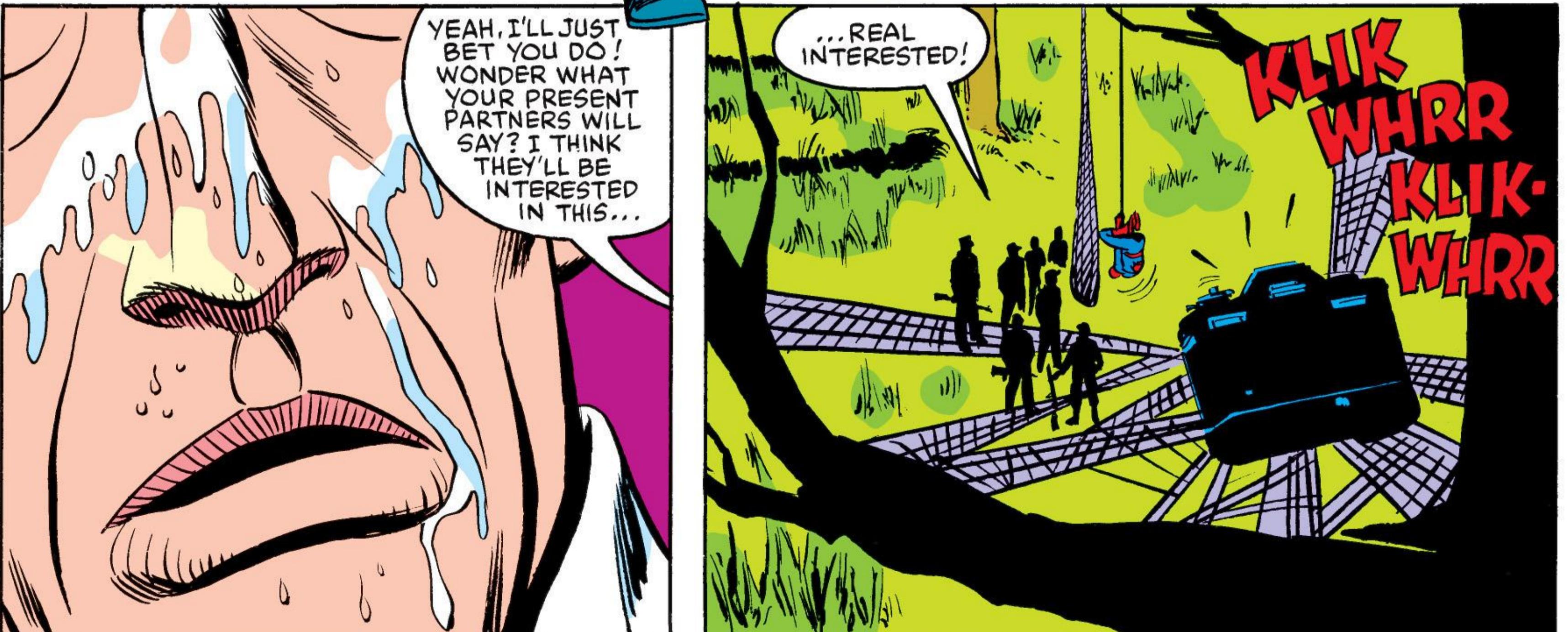
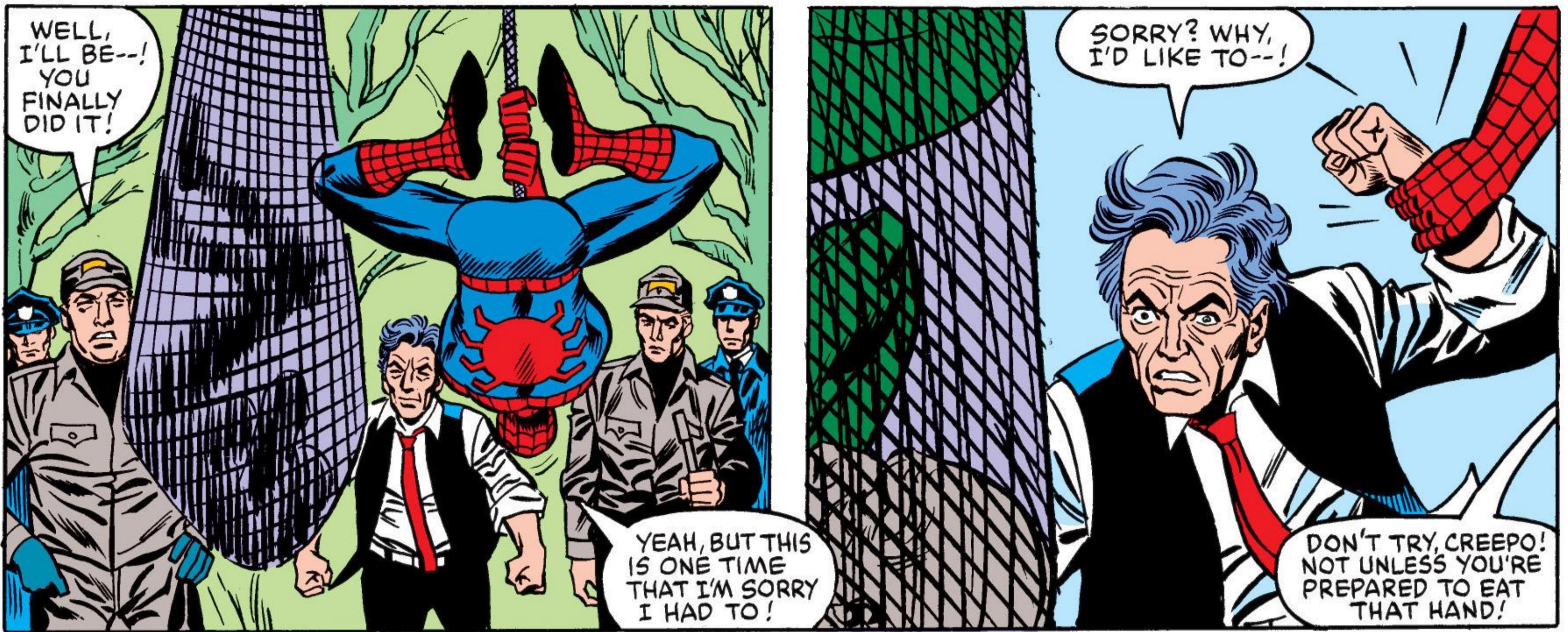




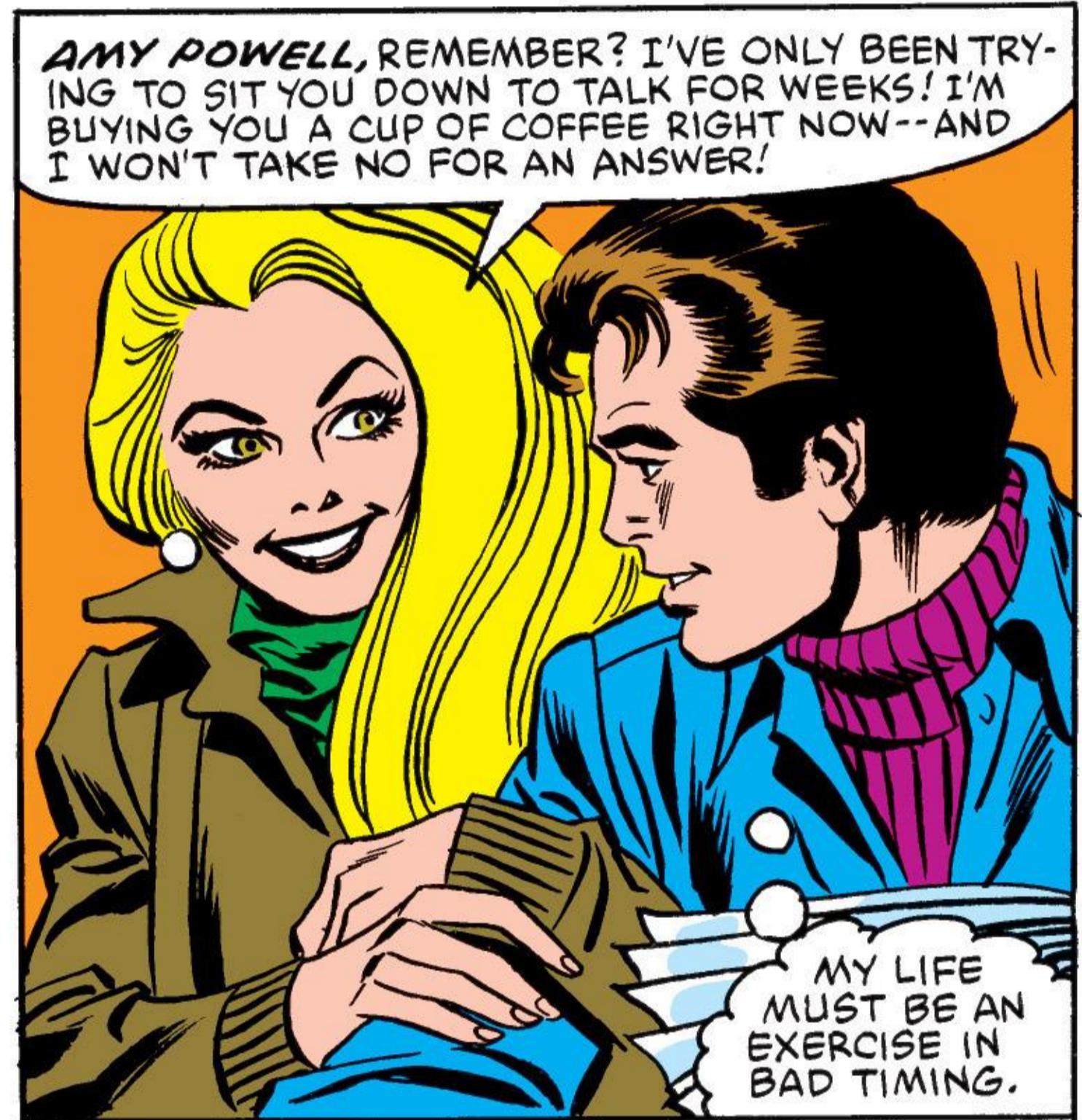
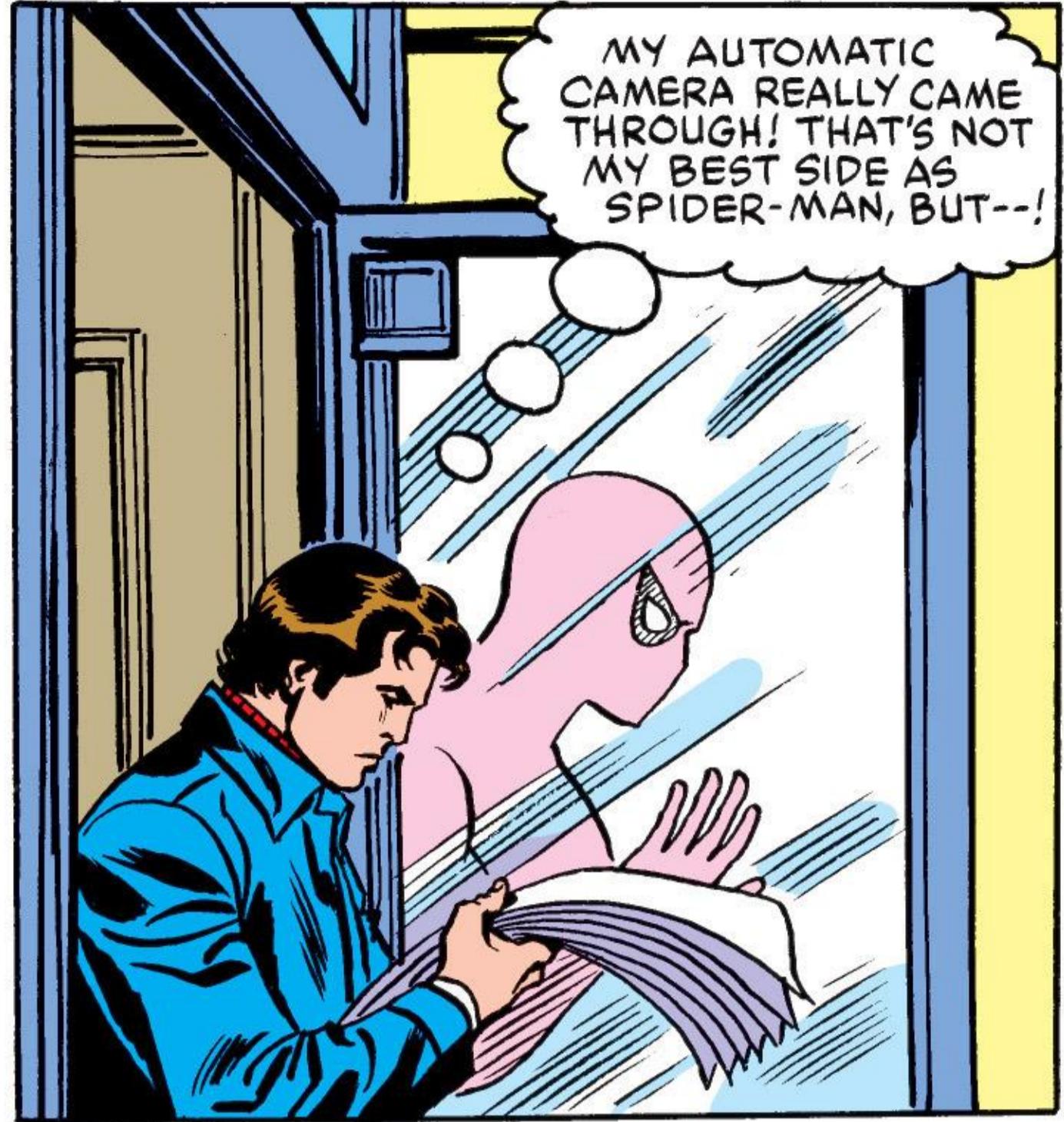








LATE AFTERNOON,
IN THE LOBBY OF
THE DAILY BUGLE
BUILDING...



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:

To say I was impressed by AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #16 would be something of an understatement. What made it so good for me was the debut of the new Captain Marvel. In a word, she's fantastic!

The flashback origin story was good, and it gave us some interesting background information on Monica Rambeau. Even without her powers, Monica makes for an interesting character. I liked the way she gained her powers, and was fascinated by the way those new-found powers went temporarily out of control.

Although in recent years new characters have been more gradually introduced into the Marvel Universe, Captain Marvel was brought into the world full blown. In the course of "Who's That Lady?/Call Her Captain Marvel!" Monica met Spider-Man, the Thing and the Avengers. Not bad going for one's first week as a super-hero.

I'm pleased to hear that Captain Marvel will be appearing in the AVENGERS. It's pretty obvious that she has the makings of an Avenger. And while I've got nothing against her joining that organization, what I'd really like to see is Captain Marvel getting her own comic. She's far too good a character not to have her own title.

In short, please give Captain Marvel her own comic as soon as possible... if not sooner!

Stephen Nottingham
37 Maxwell Road
Beaconsfield, Bucks
England NP9-1Rg

Perhaps, Stephen...

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

I can barely contain my excitement over the newest super-heroine to hit the Marvel roster. So you know what you have done for me? Do you have any idea? Just when I thought that Marvel might be getting boring and routine, you spring this on me! It knocked my socks off!

What that? You're wondering what I'm talking about? Why Monica Rambeau, of course, the new Captain Marvel who appeared in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #16. Perhaps I should calm down and explain why I loved it so.

For openers, in four days I will leave my hometown to attend Parsons School of Design in New York City. So what do I find when I open one of my favorite magazines? A black woman (like myself) who is about to embark on God knows how many adventures. As soon as I saw her, I knew I would love the character. And I was right. For the first time in my life, I can actually identify with one of your characters.

To get real serious for a moment, I must truly give you guys credit for creating another black super-heroine. In all of comics, there had been only Storm of the X-MEN and POWER MAN/IRON FIST'S Misty Knight (and she isn't really super).

Even though I've only seen this introductory story, I really do wish that Captain Marvel could at least get her own bimonthly comic. Just think, it would be another first for Marvel.

And as for John Romita Jr. and John Romita Sr.: How many more times do those two want to hear how terrific they are?

Virginia Jones
P.O. Box 821
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Every day, Virginia

Dear Tom,

The sixteenth edition of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL was simply sensational. The main thing that made it so good for me was the teaming of the Romita gents on the art. I've been waiting for this ever since John Jr. started drawing professionally. The whole feel of the book was very reminiscent of SPIDER-MAN in the late sixties, when – for me – Spider-Man was last at his peak. More of the Romitas together... MORE!

The New Captain Marvel? Ah, why not? Monica Rambeau may yet become a big name in the Marvel Universe. Her power is sure fitting for the character! Roger Stern did another fabulous job with Spider-Man... who gets the credit for creating the new Captain Marvel? She seems very much like one of the sixties Marvel characters.

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

We'll take that as a compliment, Mark. Monica Rambeau/Captain Marvel came into being somewhere between the mind and the typewriter of Roger Stern – with a bit of helpful kibitzing by Jim Shooter and myself – and her costume was deftly designed by John Romita Jr.



Dear Tom:

The new Captain Marvel is off to a very auspicious start. Roger Stern has given us one of the best motivated origins – possibly THE best – since the start of SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL. And he did it less pretentiously, and in less time.

"To serve and protect." What a lovely, necessary creed for a heroine. One word of warning, though: You've given Captain Marvel power approaching that of the late Phoenix. Take that very carefully and define her limits. Even the superstest of heroes need to have some sort of human scale.

I like Captain Marvel's costume very much. It's striking, flowing and still cut for action. But please – and this goes for all creators of fighting costumes – get rid of those high heels! Yes, they look nice, but they cannot provide a steady base for hard physical action.

Gerald Perkins
643 Channing Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Hey, we know what you're saying, Gerald, and so does Cap'n Marvel! As you'll recall from the story, Monica

pieced her first outfit together from old Mardi Gras costumes, so she didn't have much say in the style of her footwear. And when Professor LeClaire duplicated the suit from cloth made of unstable molecules, he duplicated it right down to the heels. Well, Monica was practical minded enough to get the boots changed to a lower heel at the earliest opportunity... as you can see from AVENGERS #227 on!

Dear Tom:

You may get a couple of letters chiding you for not showing enough of Spider-Man in SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #16... maybe three of four. And, if there are any such complaints, I suppose it would be understandable. After all, Spider-Man was practically guest-star in his own annual.

But... just this once... it was worth it.

After all, Spider-Man did make the best of his scenes. That sequence on the Empire State Building with the kid from Council Bluffs, for instance... that was priceless! What was really wild was that Spider-Man jumped to a conclusion about the new Captain Marvel, much in the way some people have made faulty judgements about him! Nice. That makes him human like the rest of us. I suppose that's why, after all these years, he's still my favorite super-guy.

And besides, he was the perfect host to one of the most spectacular new heroines to ever come down the pike.

Catherine Roberts
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53703

Of course! His Aunt May taught him how to treat a lady!

Dear Tom:

Original, superior, intense, excellent, important, refreshing, masterful, delightful, impressive, clever, skillful, inviting, realistic, beautiful, stunning, vintage, thought-provoking, splendid, invigorating, joyous, quality, extraordinary, great, surprising, gorgeous.

I love the new Captain Marvel.

Mark Davis
107 South Edwards
Altamont, IL 62411

With this kind of response – and more still coming in after all these months – we feel a responsibility to remind you that Captain Marvel is now a full-fledged active member of the AVENGERS. And Rog has told us that he might consider writing a solo for her... just as soon as he figures a way to cram an extra five hours into each day.

NEXT MONTH: The ever-amazing Web-head is up to his ears in "Confrontations!" Figuring prominently in the tale are Lance Bannon, Amy Powell, and a gentleman who is safely behind bars... or is he? Read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #242 and see!

'Nuff said!

Tom DeFalco