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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

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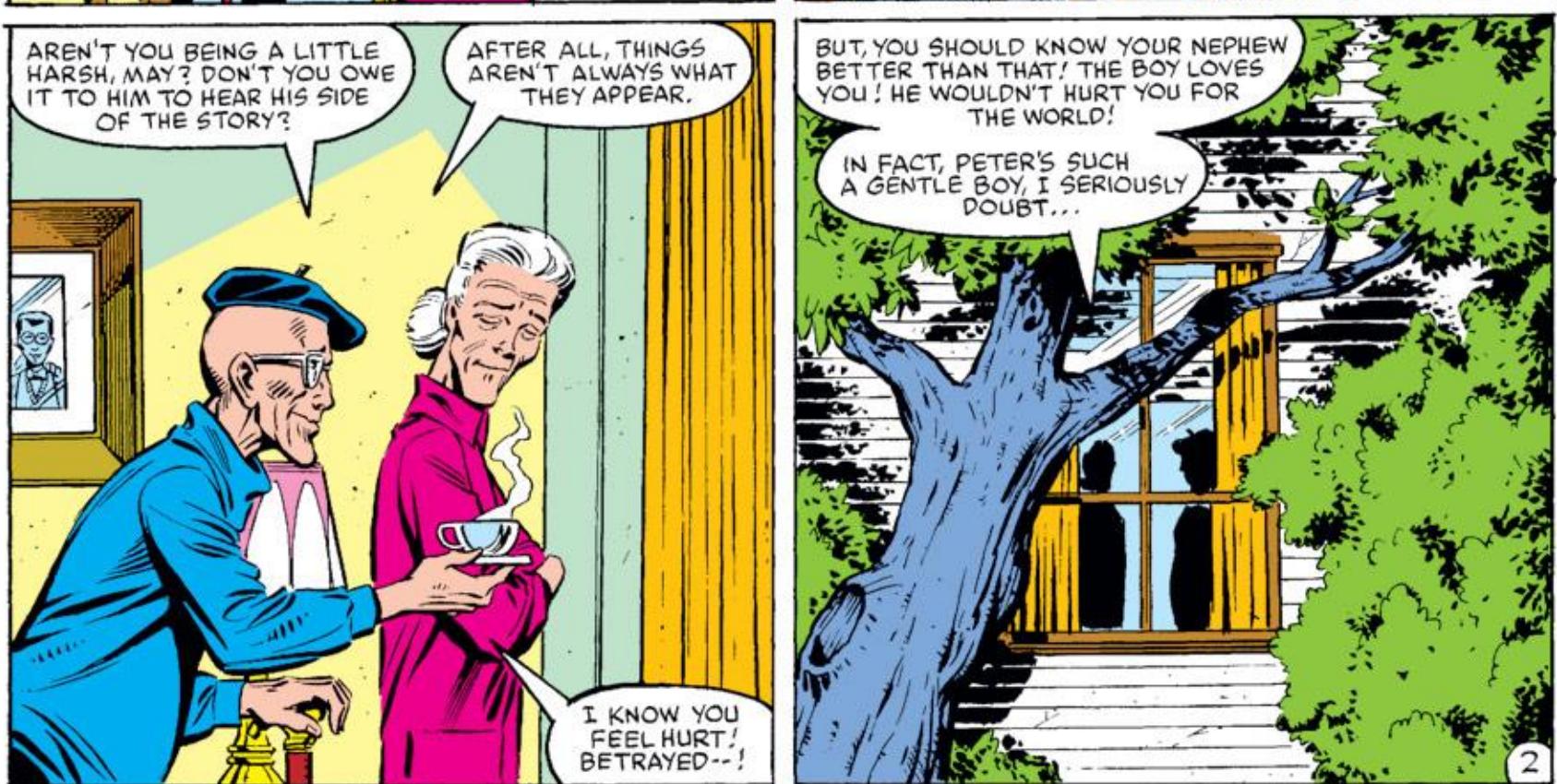
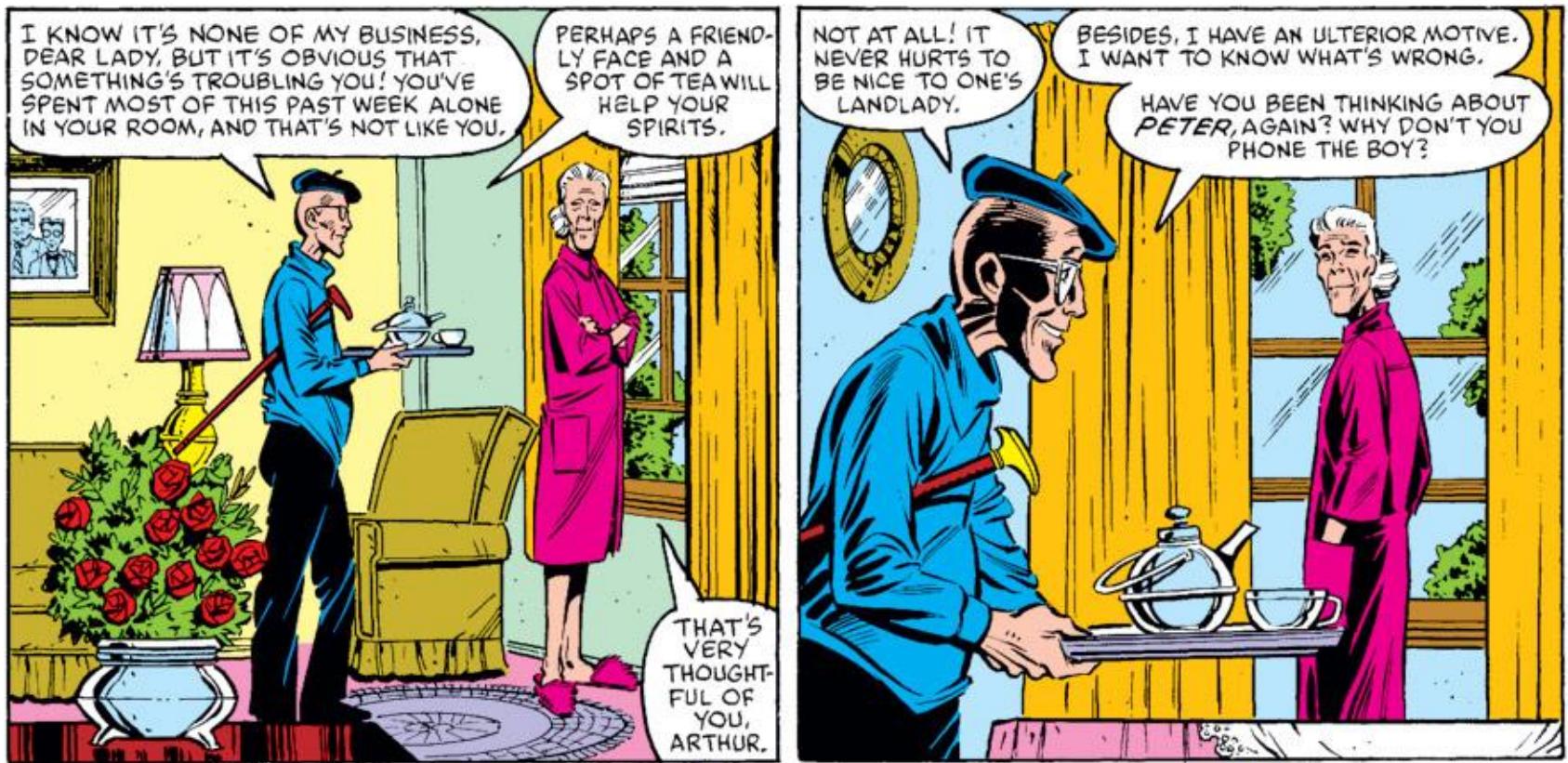


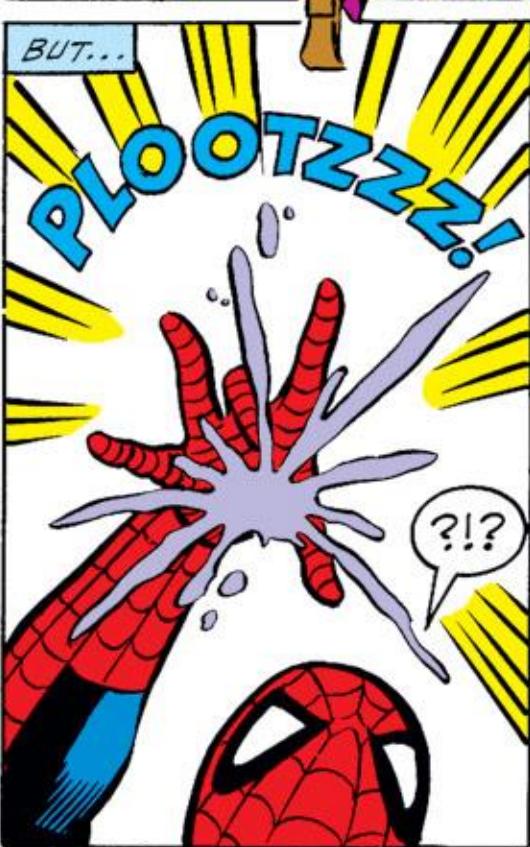
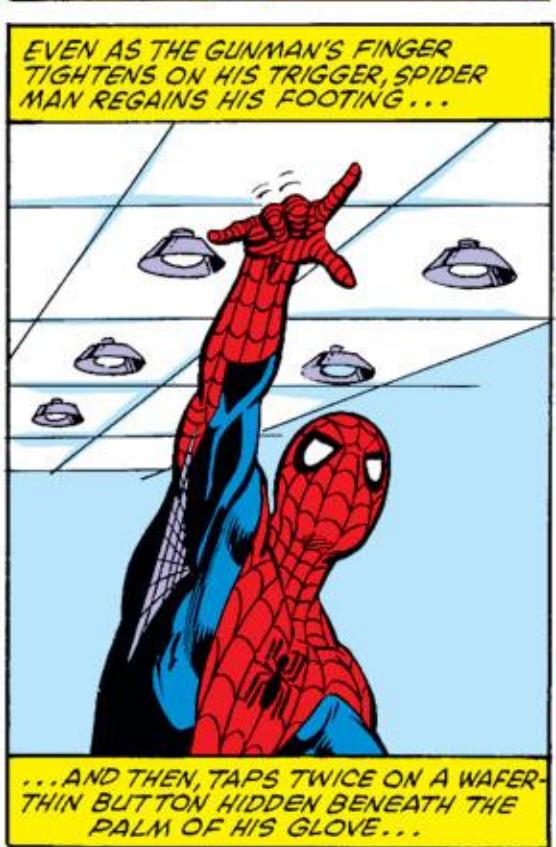
"THE CHALLENGE OF HOBGOBLIN!"

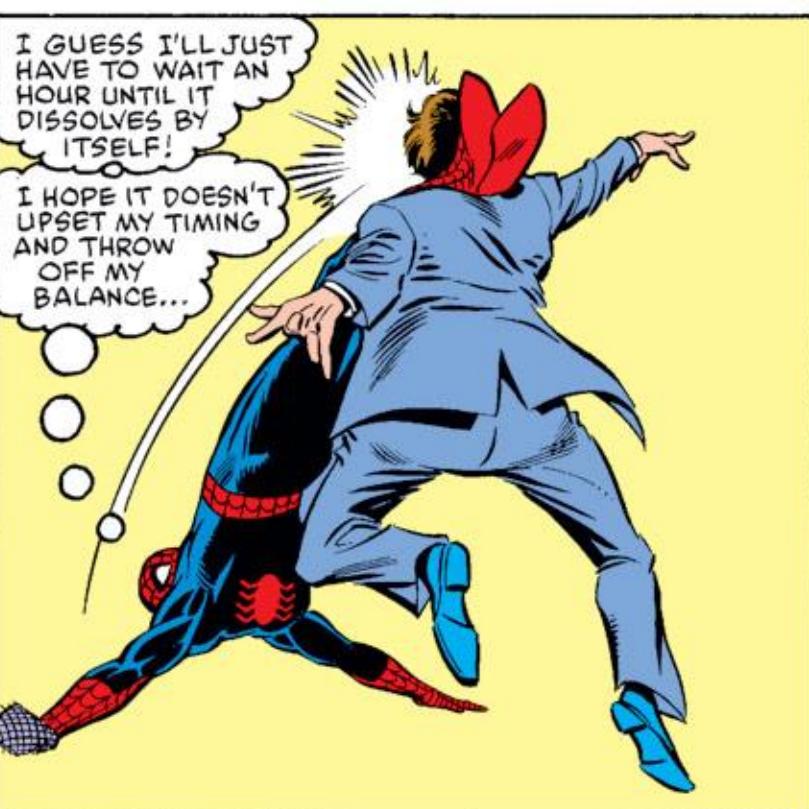
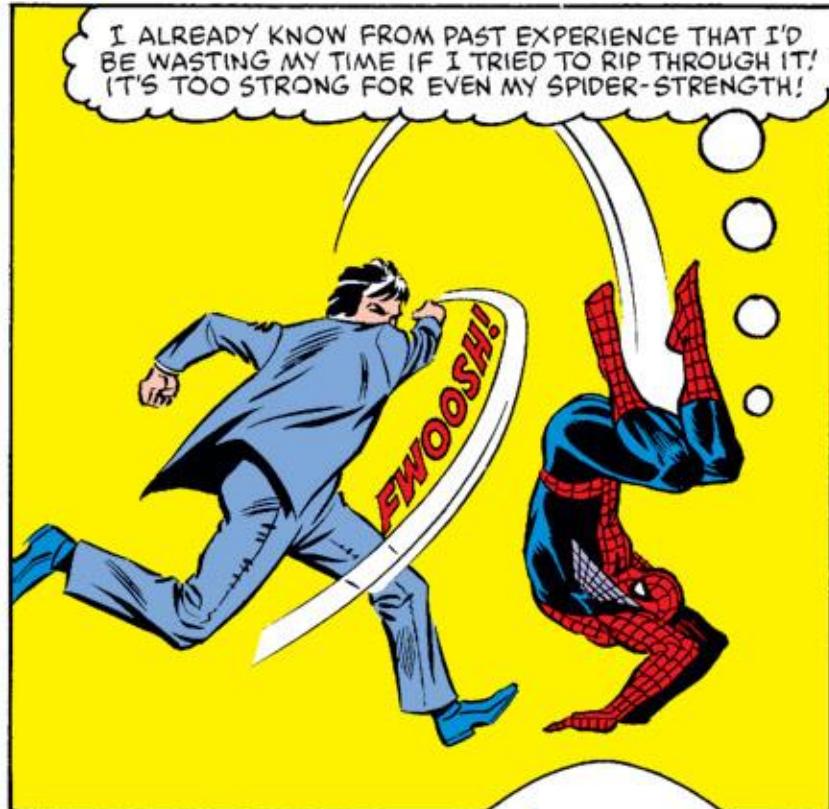
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT,
MAY?
MAY--?

STAN LEE IS PROUD
TO PRESENT
TOM DEFALCO -- WRITER
RON FRENZ -- PENCILER
JOE RUBINSTEIN &
BRETT BREEDING --
FINISHERS
JOE ROSEN -- LETTERER
BOB SHAREN -- COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH -- EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER -- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



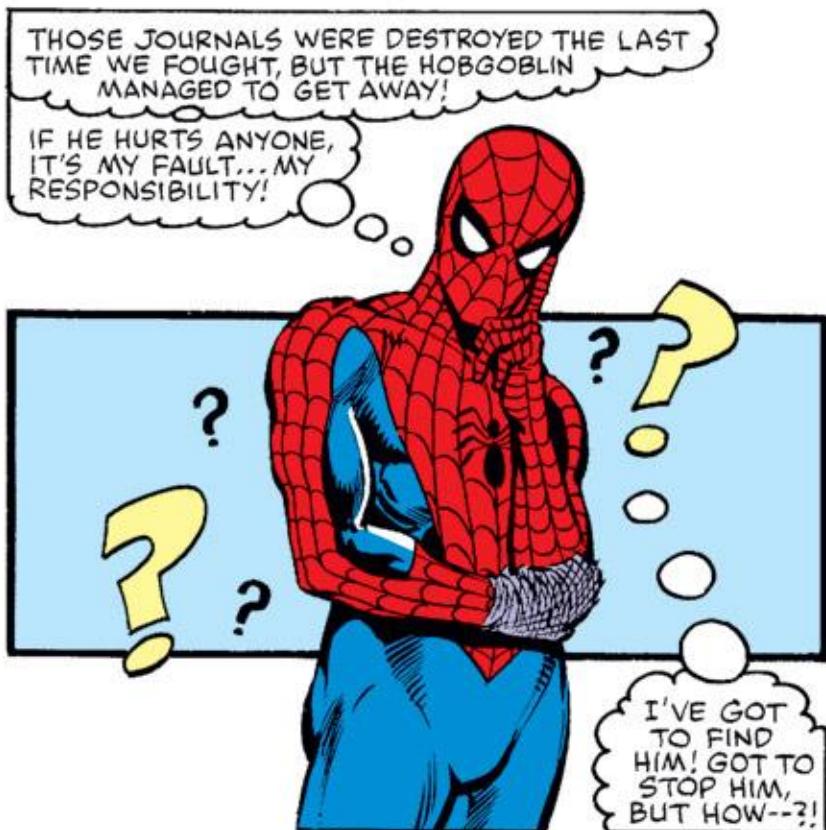
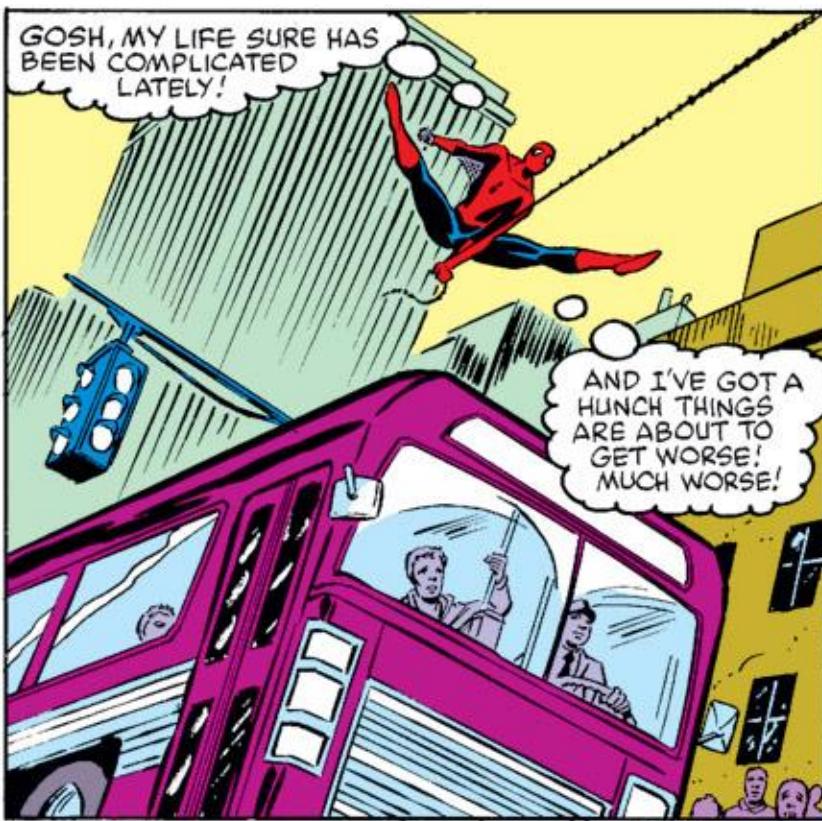




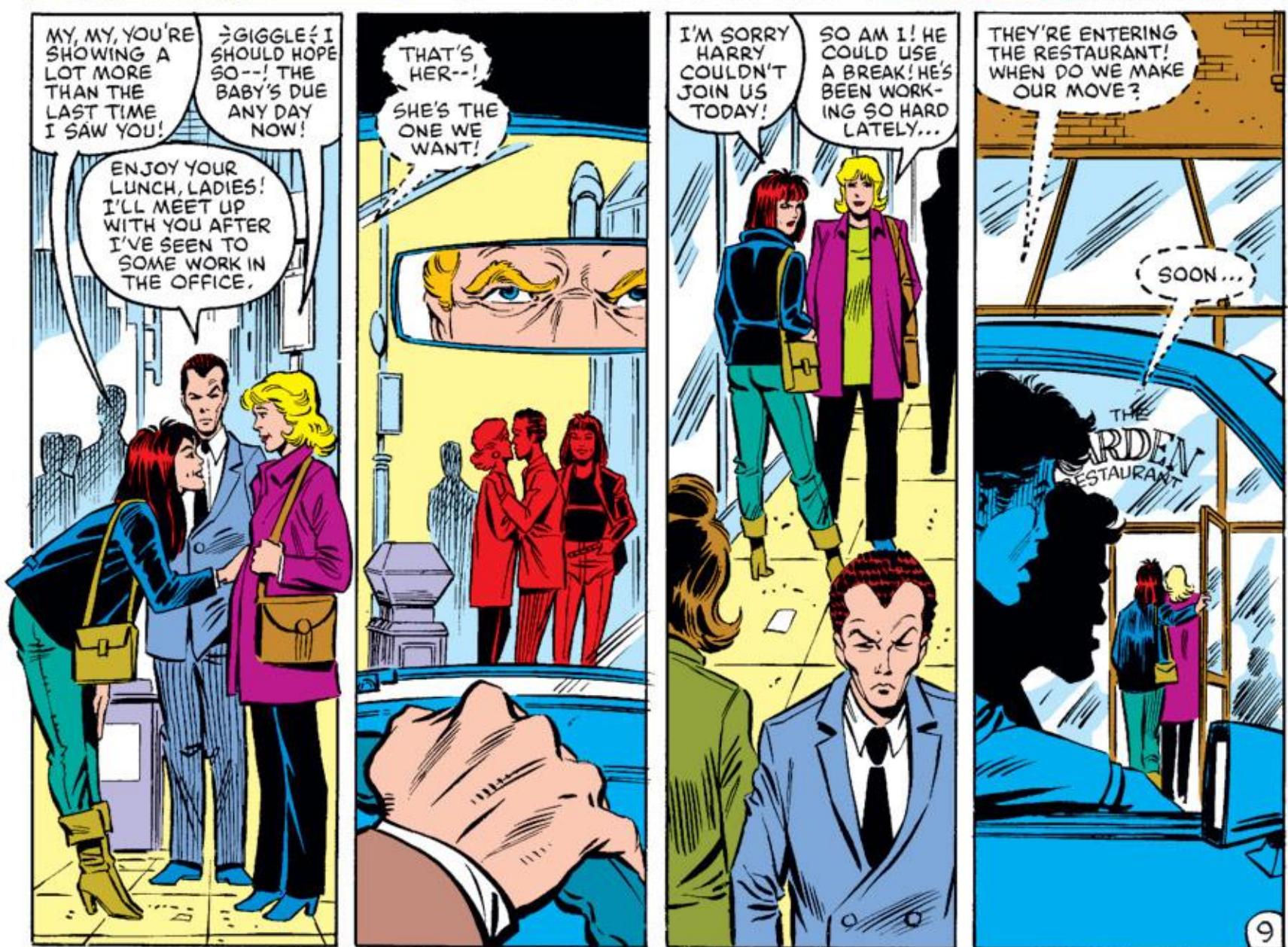
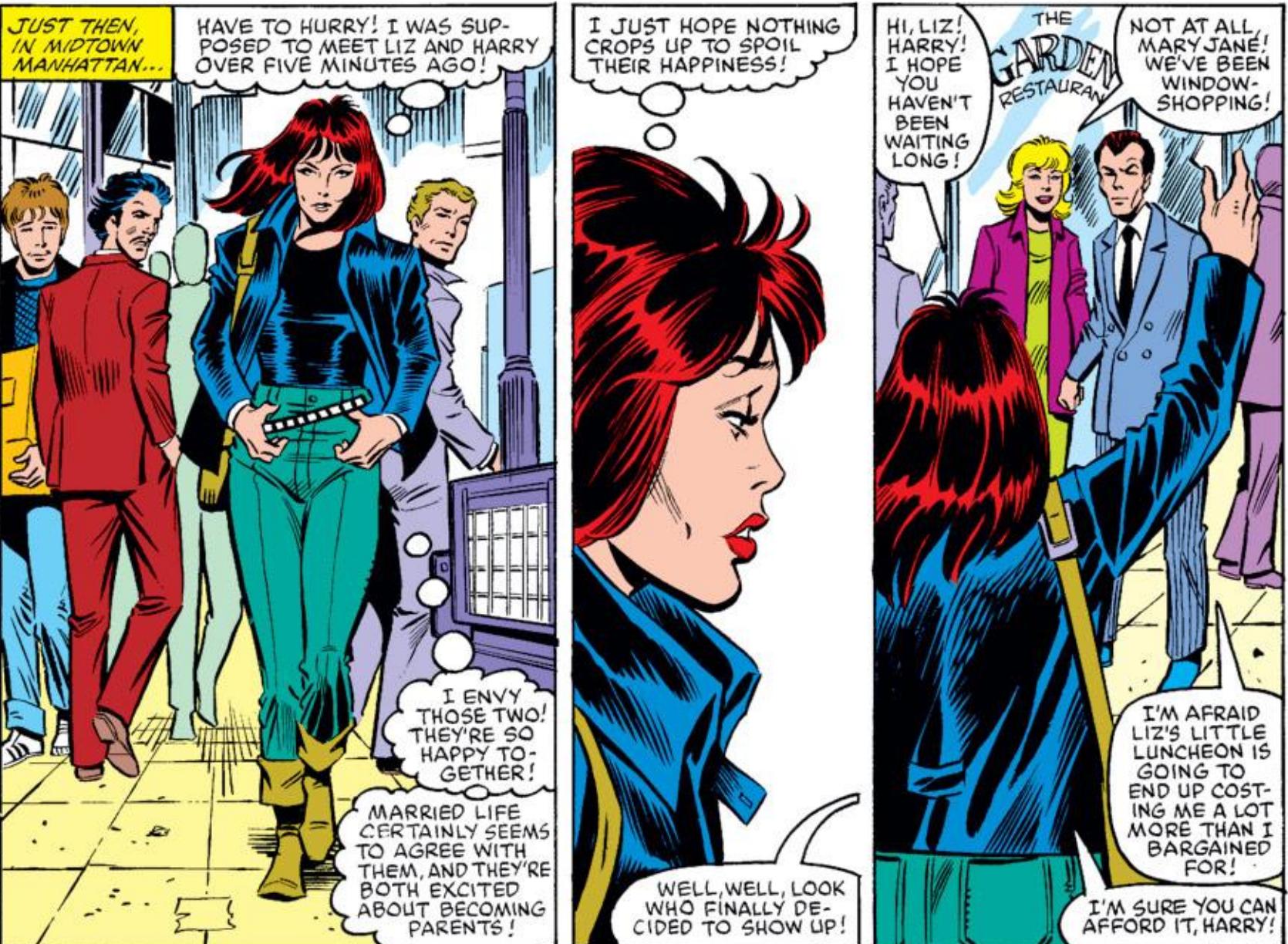












MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, STANDS
ONE OF NEW YORK CITY'S MOST
FAMOUS LANDMARKS--

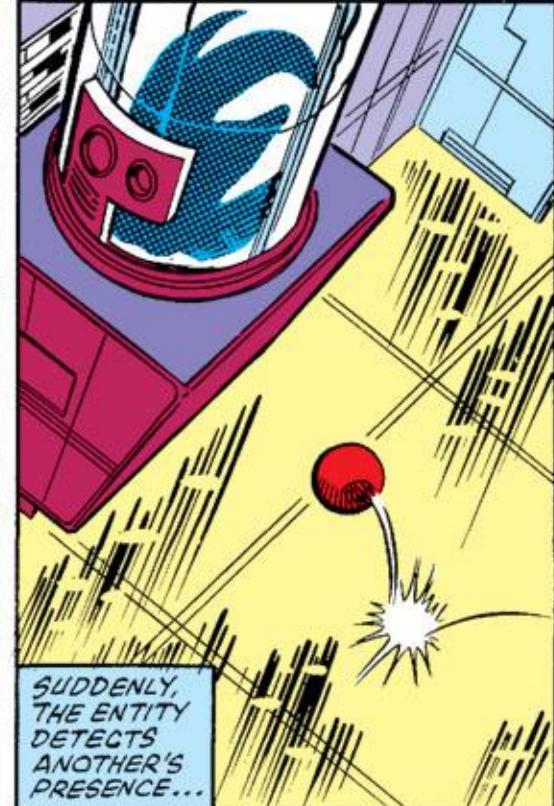


--THE BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS
OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

INSIDE ONE OF THE MANY LABORA-
TORIES THAT FILL THIS MADISON
AVENUE COMPLEX...



...THE ALIEN ENTITY, WHICH HAD
BEEN SPIDER-MAN'S COSTUME,
DESPERATELY SEARCHES FOR A
MEANS TO ESCAPE ITS PRISON...

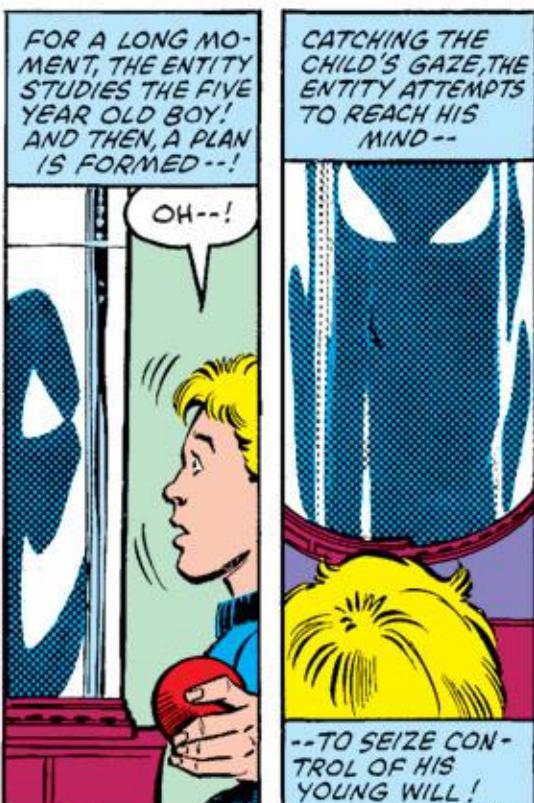


SUDDENLY,
THE ENTITY
DETECTS
ANOTHER'S
PRESENCE...



...YOUNG FRANKLIN
RICHARDS!

I'D BETTER GET MY
BALL BEFORE DADDY
SEES ME. HE DOESN'T
LIKE ME PLAYING NEAR
HIS LAB'TORIES!



FOR A LONG MO-
MENT, THE ENTITY
STUDIES THE FIVE
YEAR OLD BOY!
AND THEN, A PLAN
IS FORMED--!



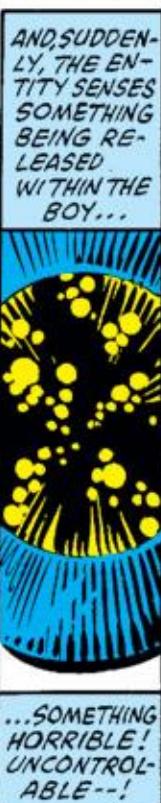
CATCHING THE
CHILD'S GAZE, THE
ENTITY ATTEMPTS
TO REACH HIS
MIND --



BUT THEN,
EVEN AS THE
ENTITY IN-
CREASES HIS
MENTAL AS-
SAULT--

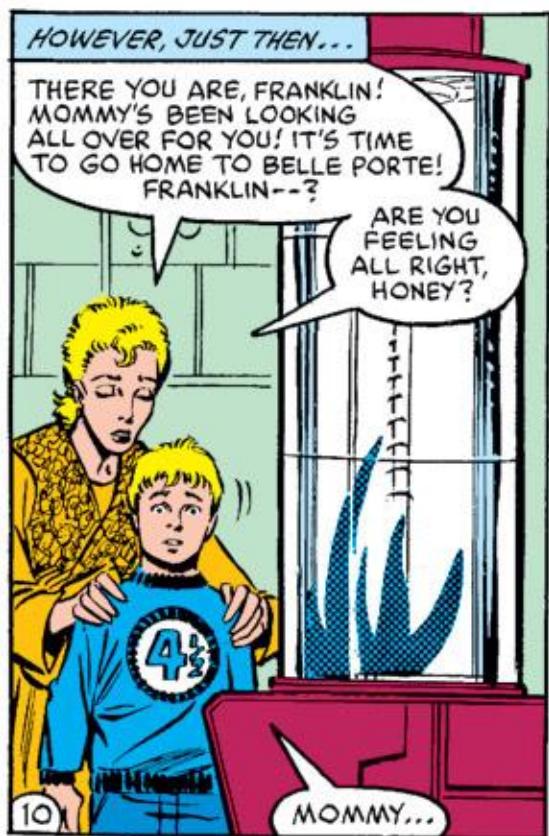


--CERTAIN
PSYCHIC
BARRIERS
BEGIN TO
CRUMBLE--



AND,SUDDEN-
LY, THE EN-
TITY SENSES
SOMETHING
BEING RE-
LEASED
WITHIN THE
BOY...

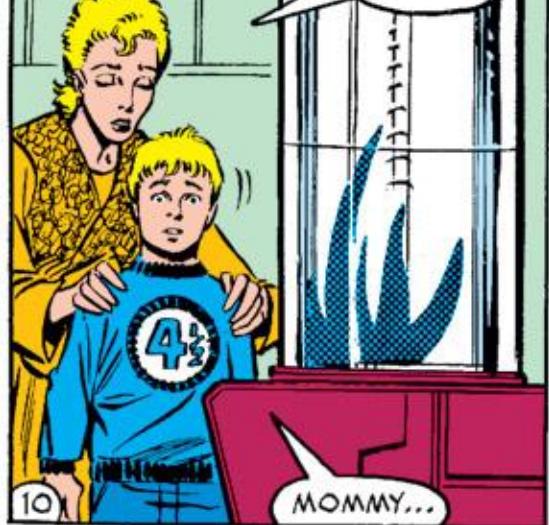
...SOMETHING
HORRIBLE!
UNCONTROL-
ABLE--!



HOWEVER, JUST THEN...

THERE YOU ARE, FRANKLIN!
MOMMY'S BEEN LOOKING
ALL OVER FOR YOU! IT'S TIME
TO GO HOME TO BELLE PORTE!
FRANKLIN--?

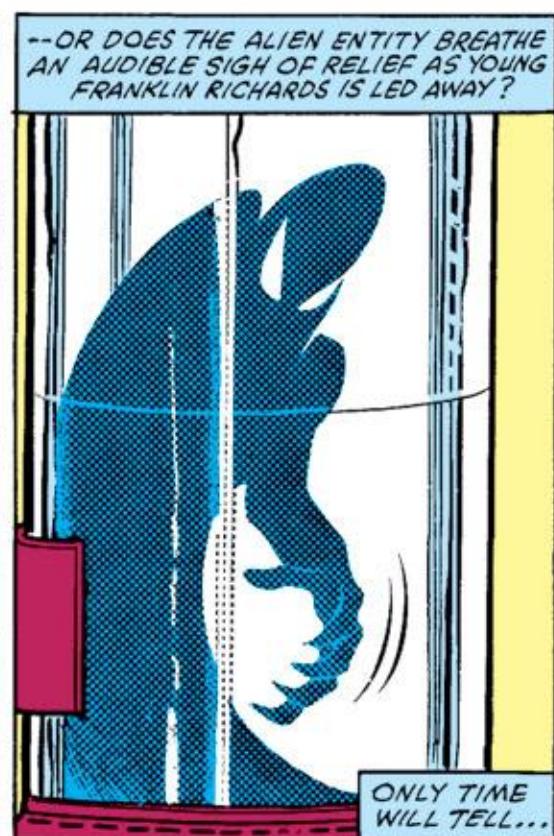
ARE YOU
FEELING
ALL RIGHT,
HONEY?



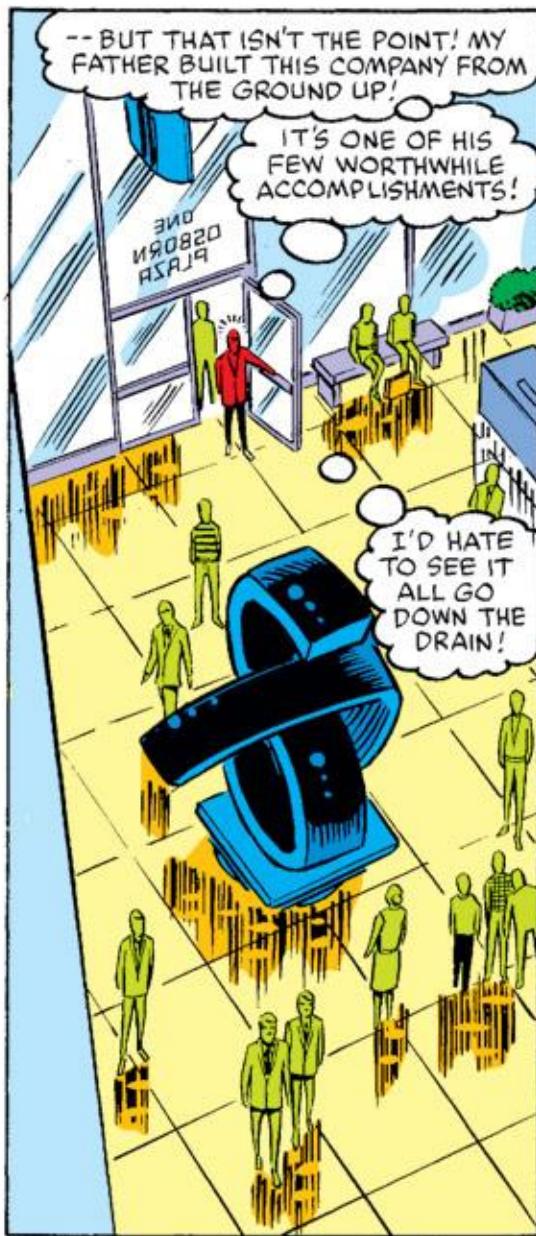
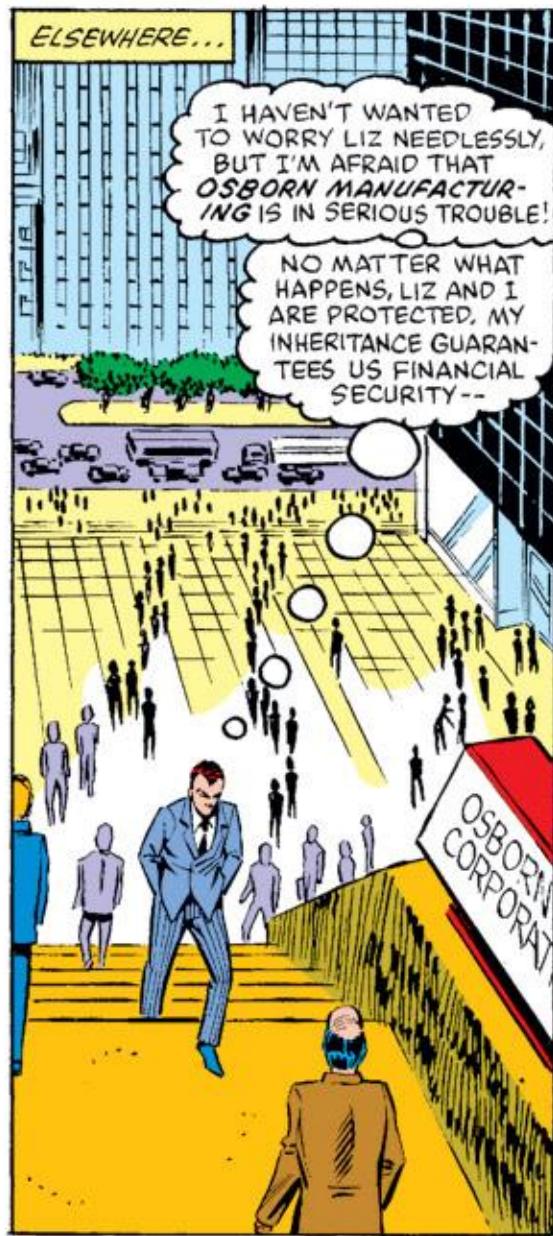
MOMMY...

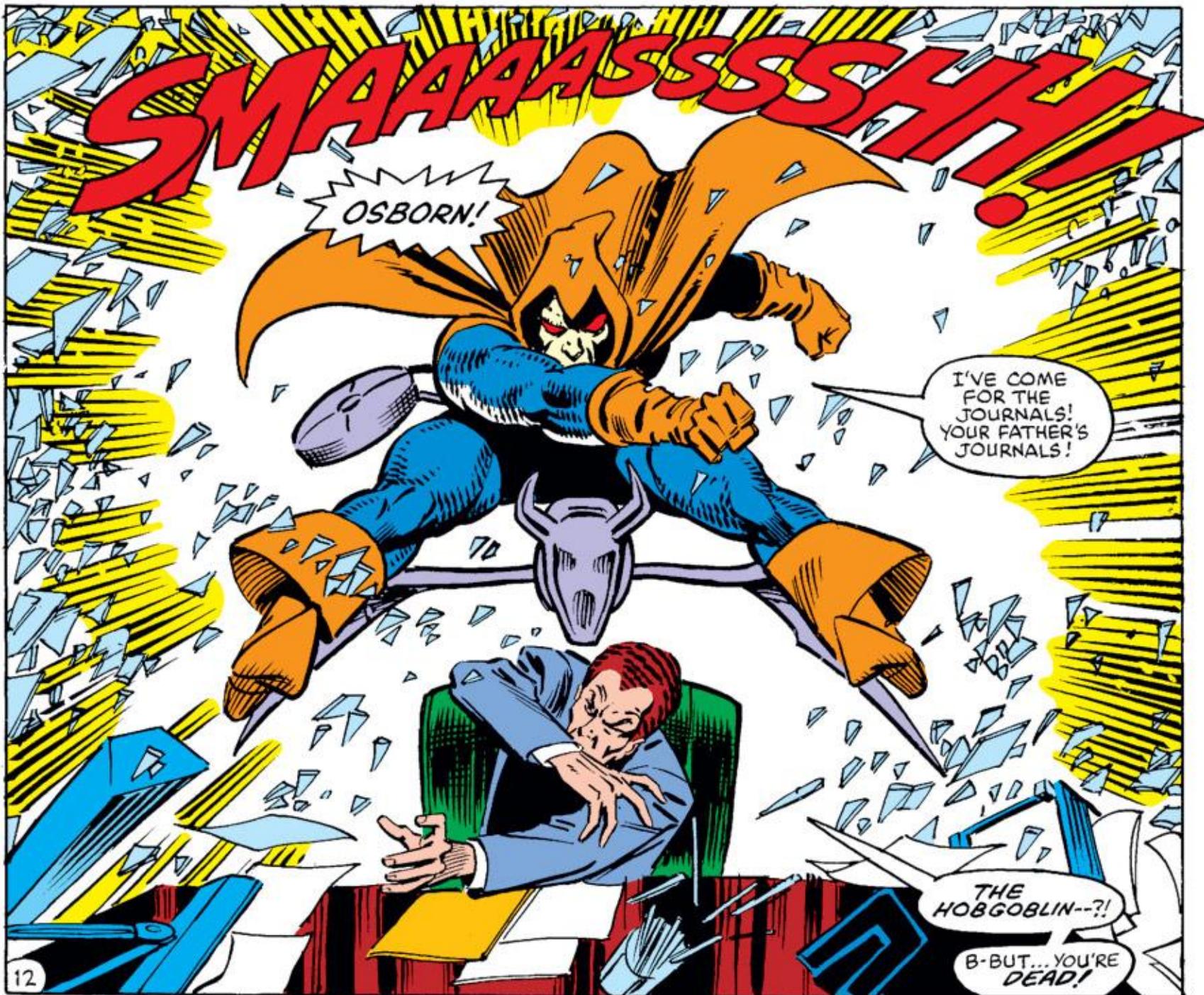


DOES SOME UNNAMED PIECE OF
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CHOOSE TO
HUM AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT--

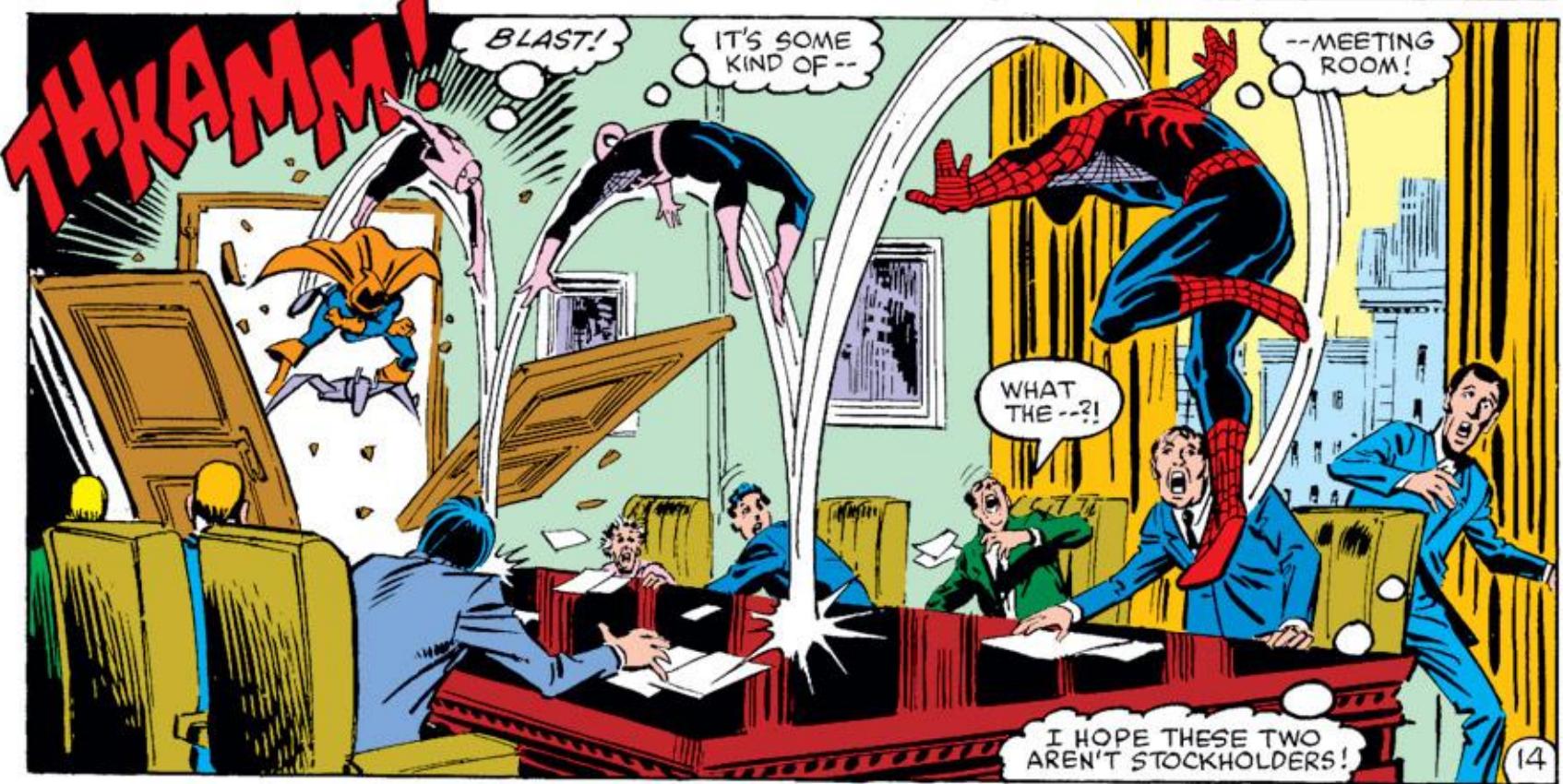


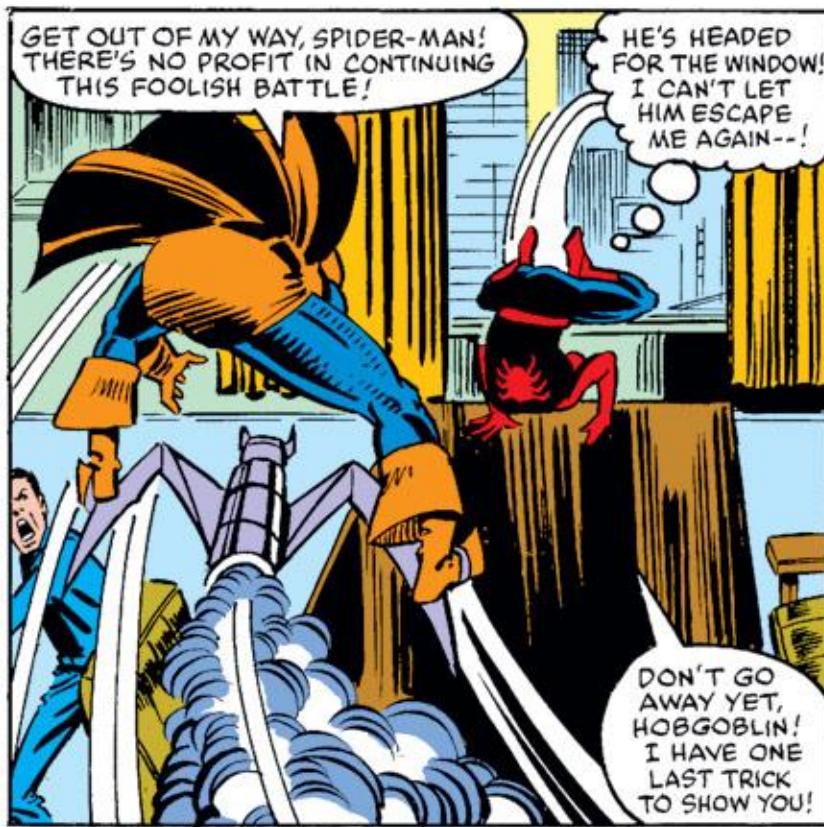
ONLY TIME
WILL TELL...

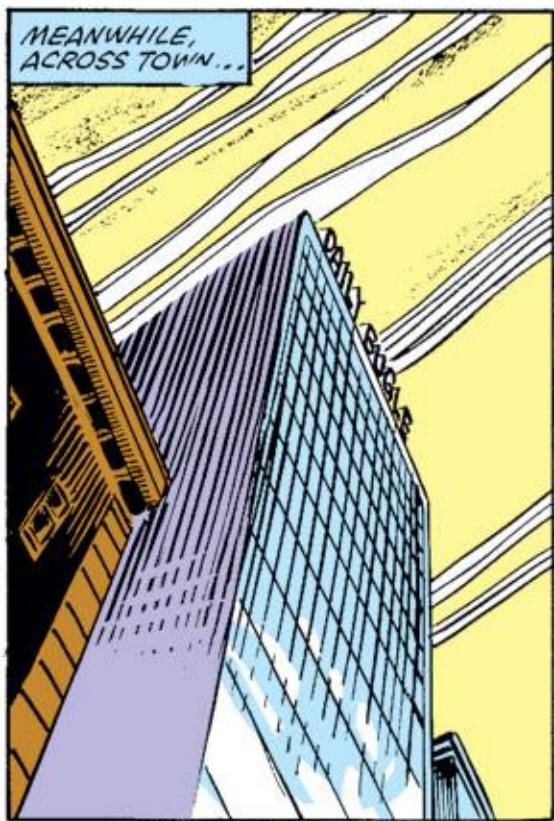


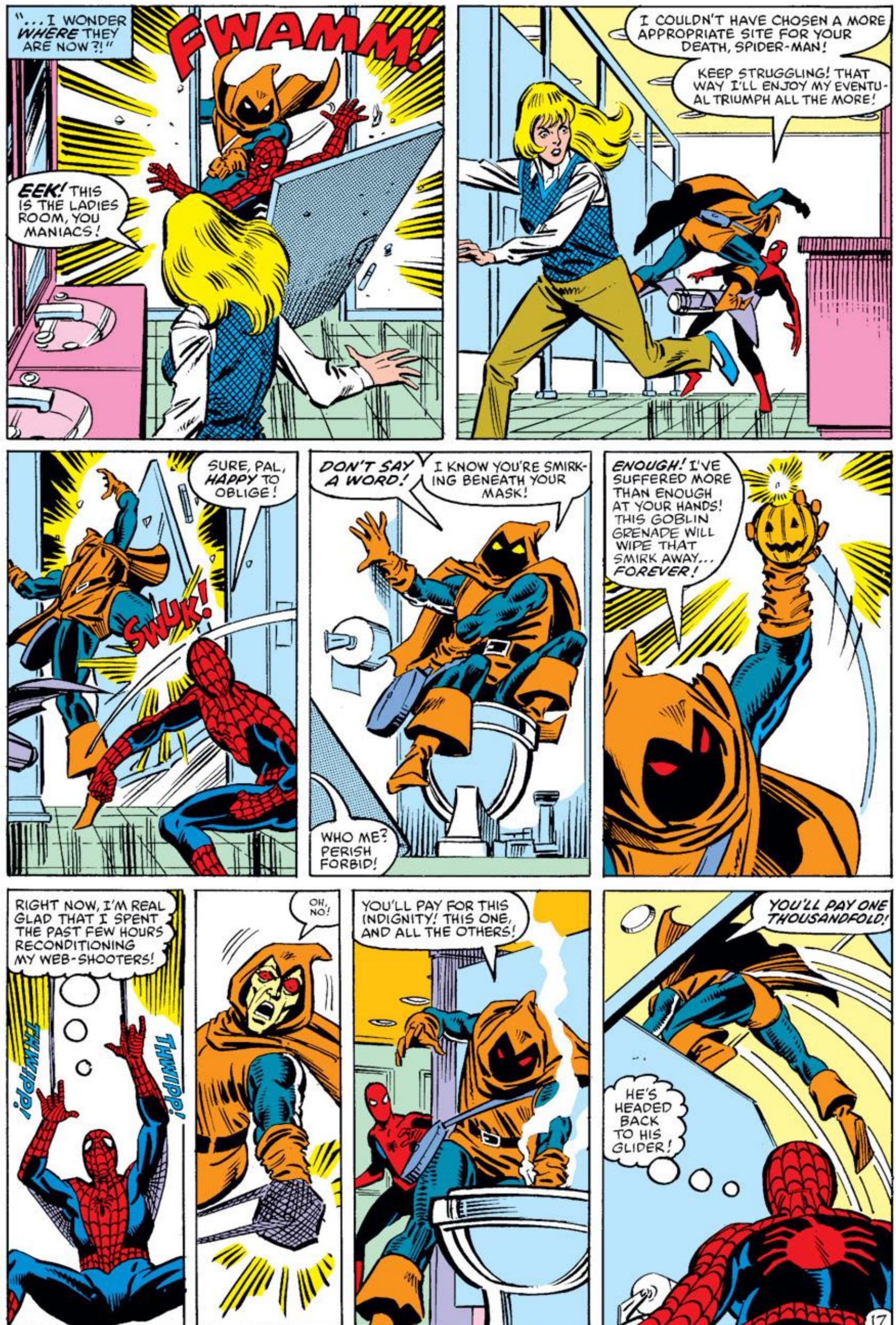




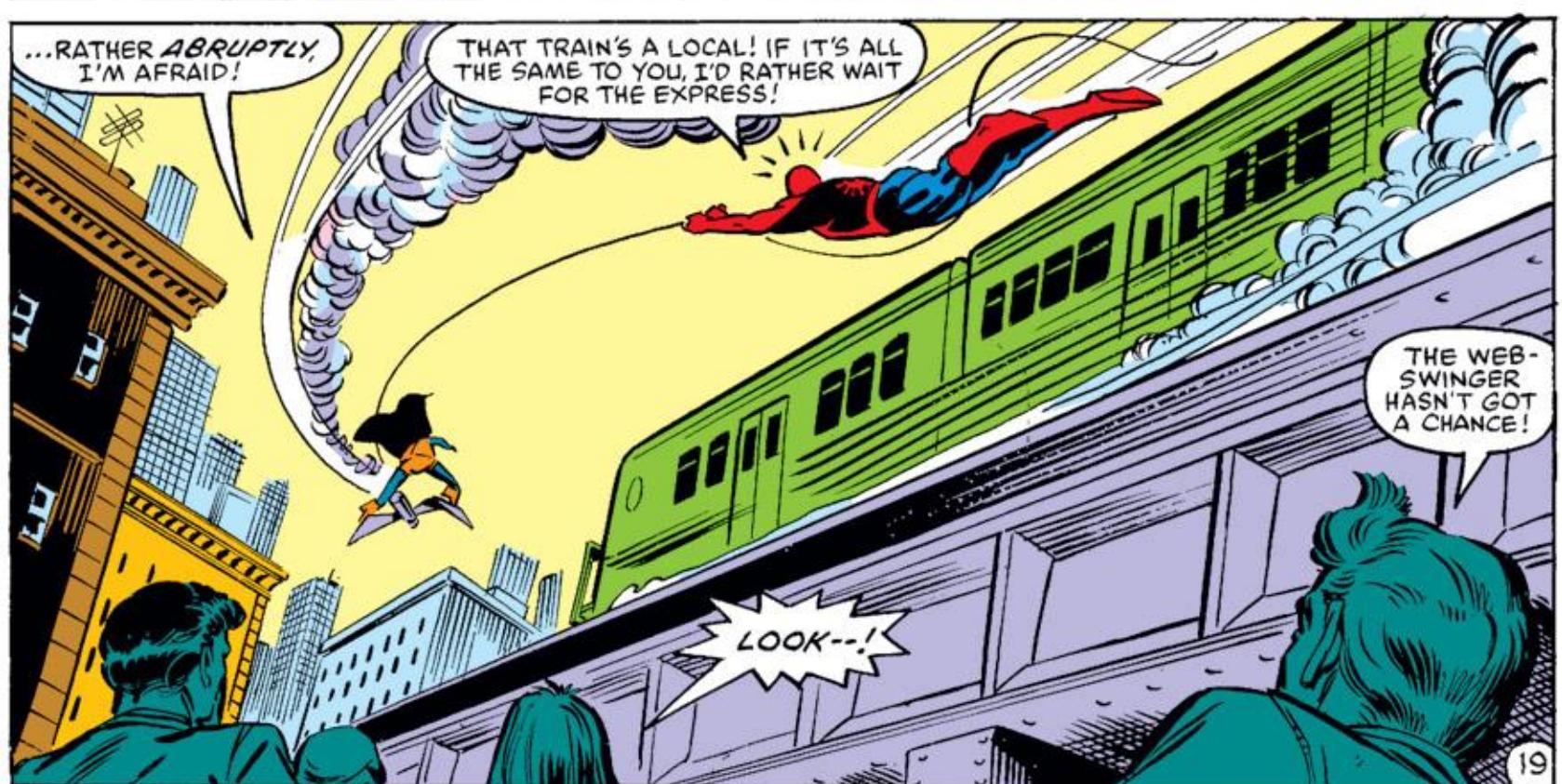
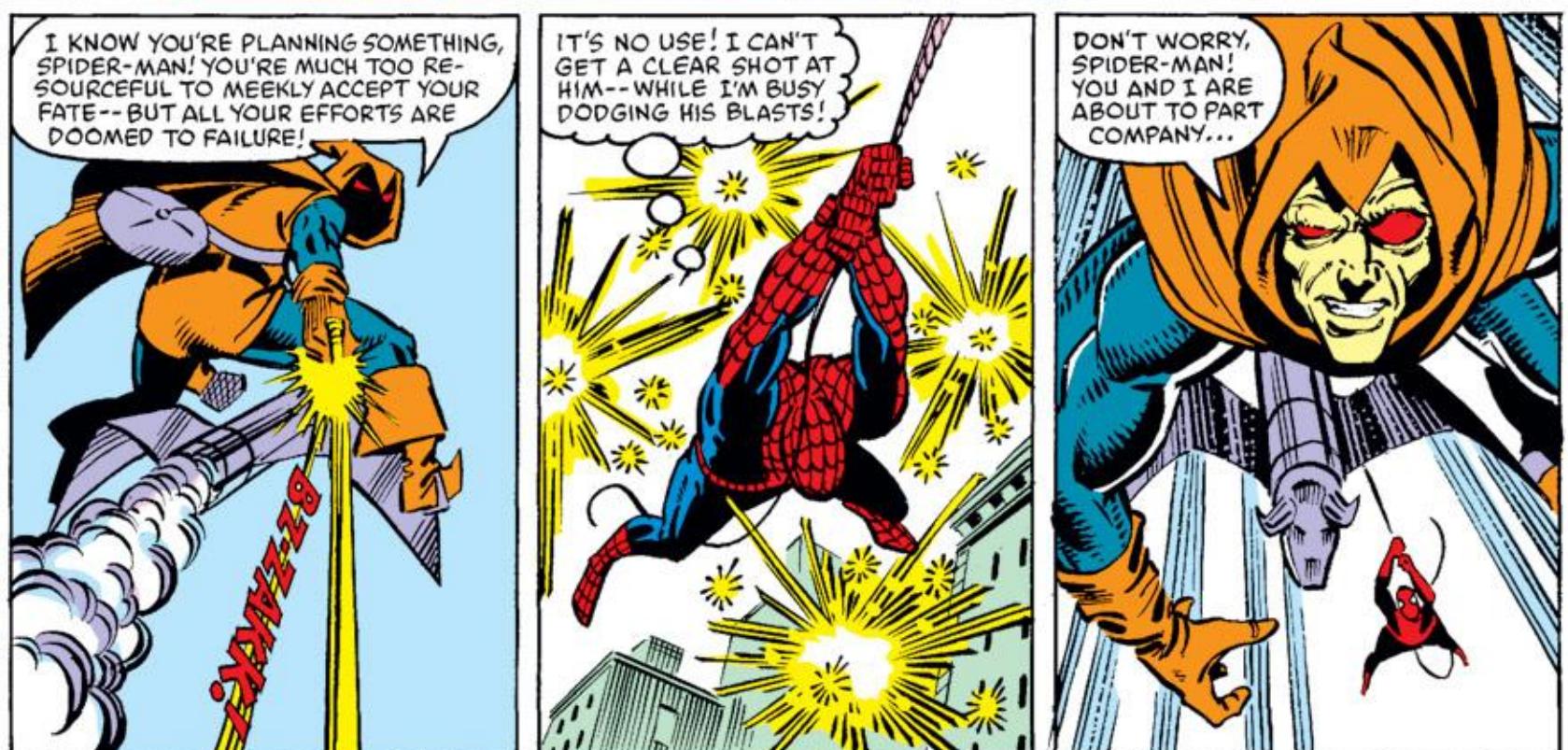


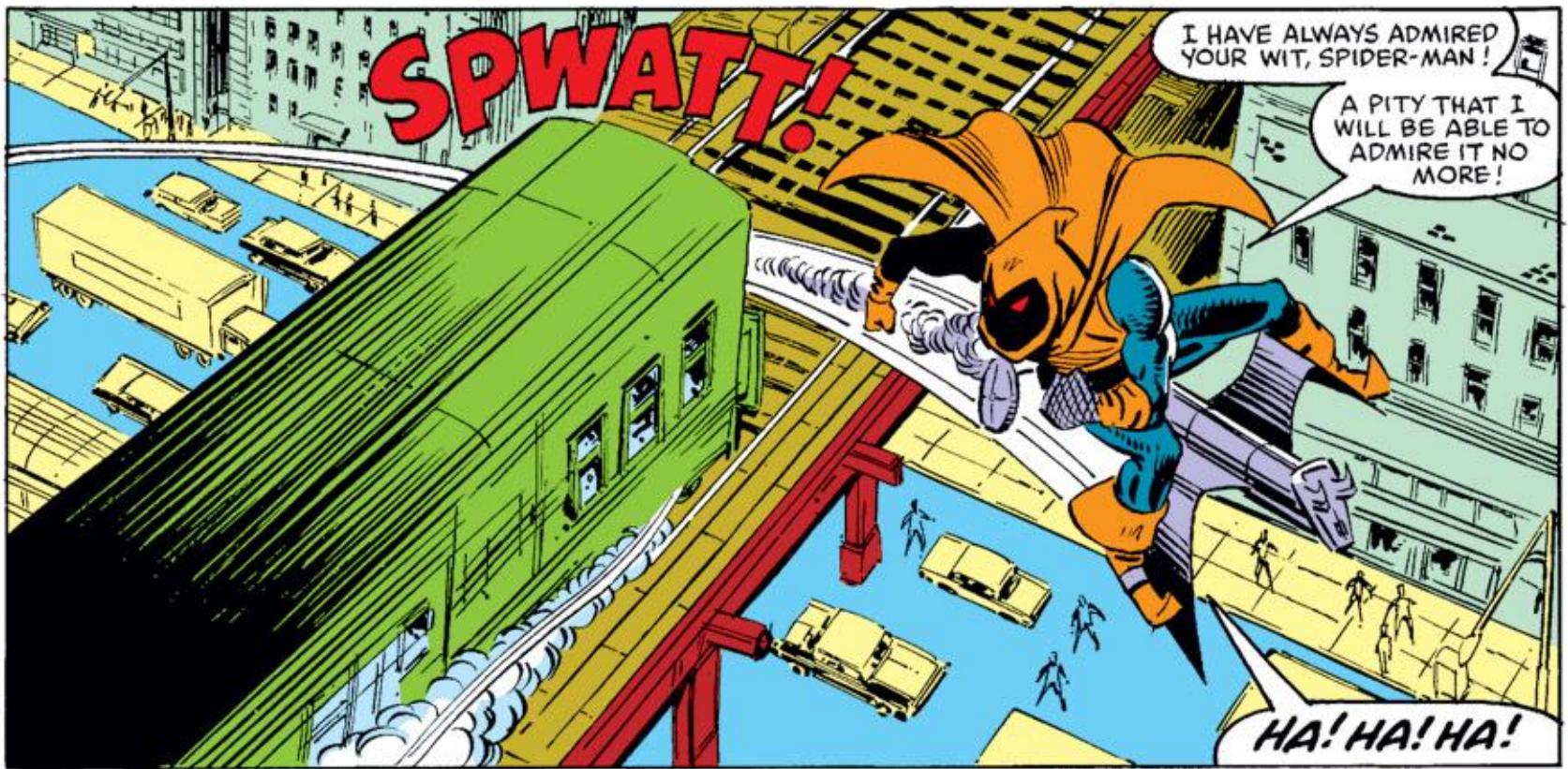




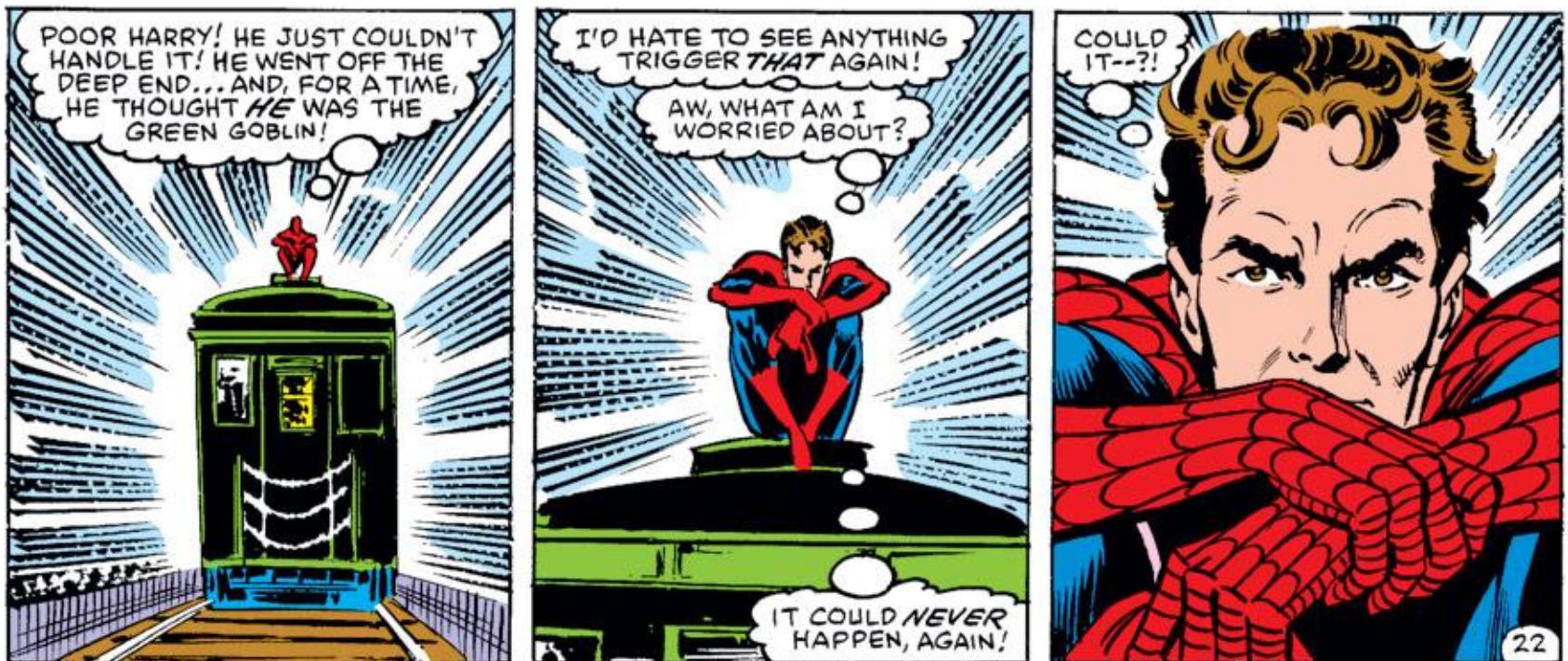
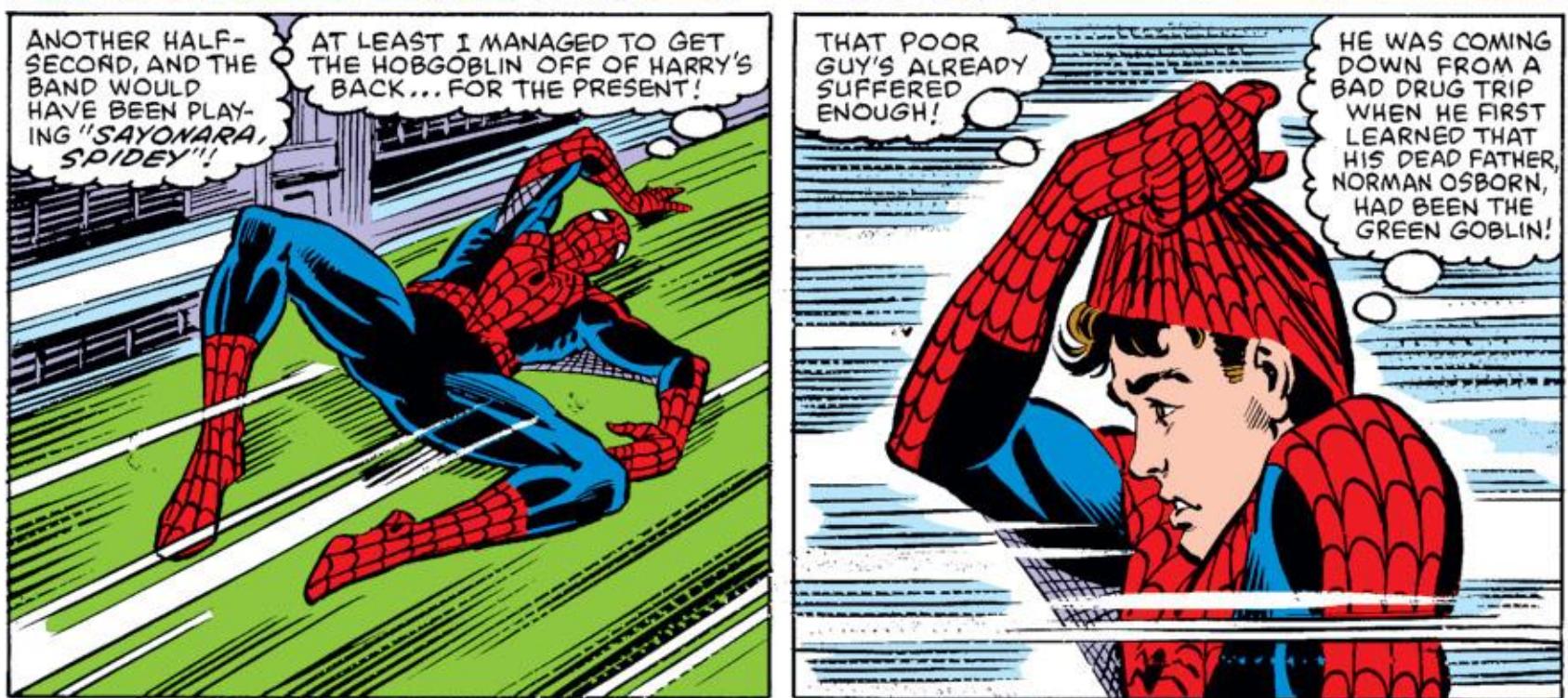
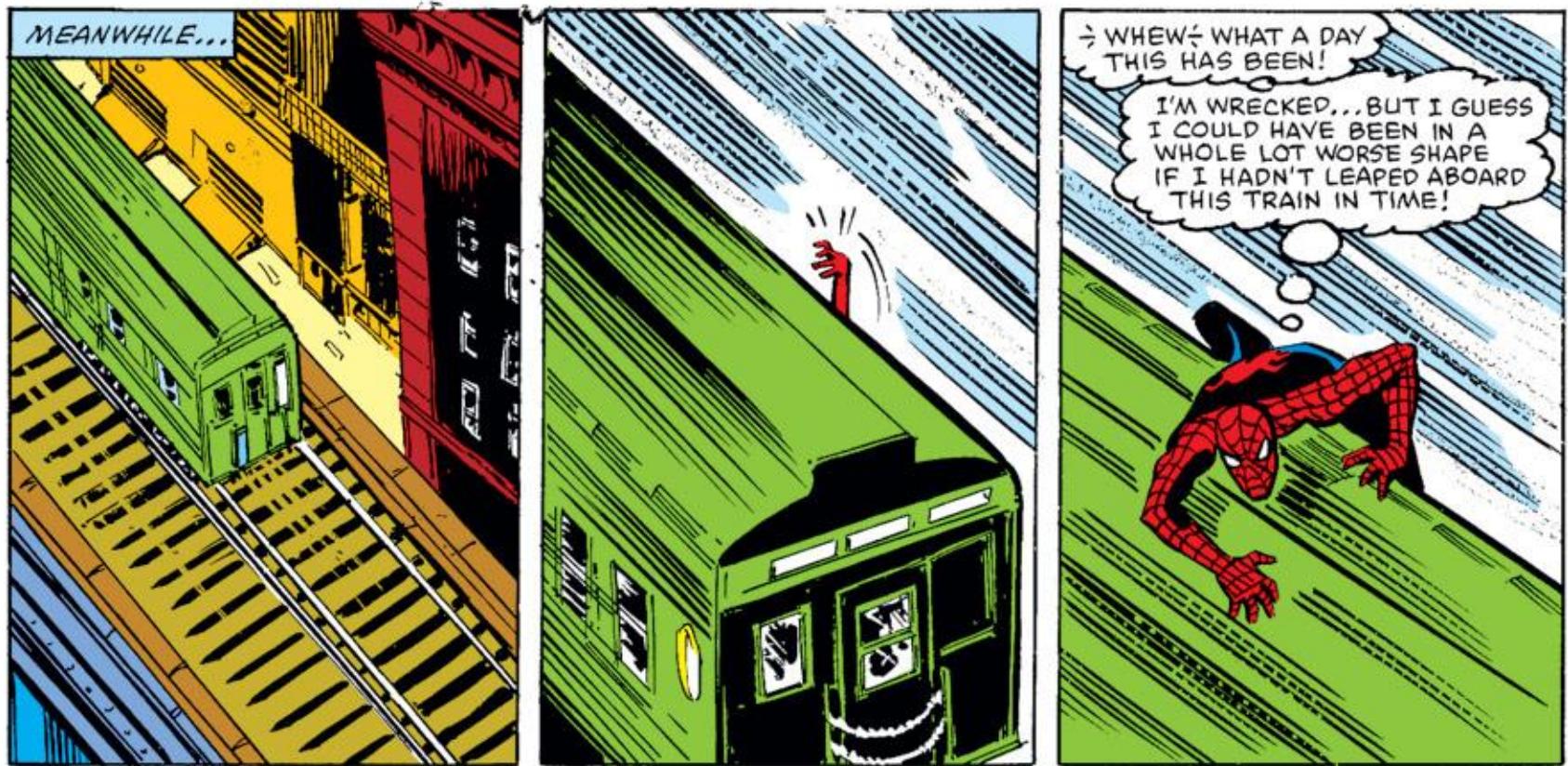












NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-MAN BATTLES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF HIS FRIENDS -- AS HARRY OSBORN CONFRONTS THE GHOSTS OF HIS PAST! DON'T MISS--

"THE SINS OF MY FATHER!"

THE SPIDER'S WEB

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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.

Dear Mr. Fingeroth:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253 was a good issue, all around, though you better bring back the Rose. He's too good a villain to just be given a one-shot outing.

I do have one complaint though. I thought the editing this issue was some of the worst I've ever seen. Yes, that's right — you heard me. I didn't like the editing! I think Danny Fingeroth did a really sloppy job editing this issue.

I tell ya, Fingeroth could really learn a thing or two about editing from that Mark Gruenwald — now there's a *real* editor. Gruenwald brings that special level of professionalism to all his books. The man obviously cares enough to do the very best.

Fingeroth still has a ways to go. Listen to me, Danny: take lessons from Mark. He'll show you how it's done. Gruenwald is what they call an editor's editor — a consummate professional. I can always tell when a comic has been edited by Gruenwald, since it is of such amazingly high quality. Any comic which Mark Gruenwald edits is one I would be proud to add to my collection.

As for you, Danny . . . well, keep trying. Maybe you'll get the hang of it eventually. After all, we can't all be Mark Gruenwalds. (By the way, Al Milgrom's cover drawing of the Blob was great! I've never seen anyone so repulsive!)

Barry Dutter
2283 Old Farm Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Well, Barry, I . . . i don't know what to say. I guess I'll have to reconsider all the nasty things I've been saying about mealy-mouthed Mark in our letters column feud. If a guy can elicit as much praise from you as Mark . . . well, what can I say? Markie, if you're willing to make up, tell me so right away. The lettercol in CAPTAIN AMERICA #301 would be the perfect place, beginning a new era for Cap as it does. I'll try to learn all I can from you — provided we don't have to sit in the same room! (Oops. Sorry. I'll never do it again. Friends? Friends.)

Dear Spider-crew,

SPIDER-MAN #253 was a gem! Tom DeFalco was masterful, Rick Leonardi was true to form, and both performed superbly.

Tom, I do like your style. The dialogue was tight, not at all detached or wandering. Possibly the nicest touch was Wendy Thornton's comment to Pete at the story's end. She unknowingly alluded to his biggest personal problem. I should hope he picked up on this.

Any relationship with Felicia Hardy, the Black Cat, is a mistake. She doesn't love Peter, she loves the web-slinging, living myth. She's far too careless with all the secrets Peter has shown her, and was really insensitive and even cruel when he showed his face. In short, she's trouble, and Peter belongs in school for now.

C'mon, Tom — wake up Mary Jane Watson and make her realize it's only Peter for her. You'd have no trouble convincing Peter.

Kevin Lee Routon
1930 Almaden Rd., #76
San Jose, CA 95125

No trouble convincing Peter? Obviously, Kevin, you wrote this letter before M.J. spilled her heart to Peter a few issues back; there's no telling what will happen between them next. I can guarantee, though, that you'll be seeing some major changes — and I do mean major — in Peter's relationship with Felicia. Stay tuned to all three Spidey books.

By the way, we're tickled pink you like Rick Leonardi's pencils — so tickled, in fact, that we felt we ought to tell you about the new CLOAK & DAGGER comic that Rick is penciling, even as we speak. It's gonna be a regular, bi-monthly book, written by Bill Mantlo, inked by Terry Austin and edited by Carl Potts — and if you don't buy umpteen copies of the first issue you'll never forgive yourself! Look for it in a few months.

Dear Folks,

Just wanted to let you know my opinion of the occurrences in Spider-Man's life during the past few issues.

First, congratulations on the new costume — what a knockout! It would be an understatement to say that Spidey's new look is a sleek and sophisticated step into the '80s. Spider-Man does indeed look more "spidery" than ever: leaner, more athletic, all arms and legs. I'm sure the mysterious qualities the suit possesses will offer some interesting storylines in the months ahead, as well.

Rick Leonardi's pencils in #253 gave this book a style unique to the Amazing Spider-Man, and his rendition of the Rose caught me by surprise. I was expecting something quite different when I first learned of this new villain through the "Coming Attractions" column of MARVEL AGE. "The Rose" brought to mind images of some outlandish super-villainess, a la Poison Ivy — well, when I'm wrong, I'm really wrong! This elegant evildoer is a classic representation of the masked crime lords from the pulp fiction of the '40s. I find something vaguely Nero Wolfe-ish about him, and being a true-blue Rex Stout fan, I mean that as a compliment.

Aunt May's reaction to the news of Peter having left school was realistic and well-handled. That one line — "you've dropped out," in that tiny voice — said it all. Her subsequent refusal to even speak with Peter, as depicted in PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #91, shows how deeply he has inadvertently hurt her. It would seem that an important development in their relationship is on the horizon.

John Garner
5147 Denny, #1
N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Dear Marvel Comics,

I want to congratulate you on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253. I loved it! Rick Leonardi's art was fabulous and the story by Tom DeFalco was great. I especially liked Aunt May's reaction to Peter quitting school. The Rose is awesome, even though he didn't do much. I think he is

going to make a great villain. Keep up the good work!

"Madd John"
(No address given)
New York, NY

Dear Danny and Bob,

The Rose is excellent! It's better to have Spidey fighting down-to-earth organized crime than the usual super villains. It adds some realism to the book. Reading about the Rose in #253 immediately brought to mind another criminal: the Crimemaster. But, please, don't kill off the Rose in two issues like you did to the Crimemaster. Make him last!

Victor Marchetti
7885 15th St.
Bby. B.C. V3N 3A3
Canada

Dear Spider-Guys,

Wow! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #253 was perfect in every way! The story, the art — even the coloring seemed special! Who is this new guy Bill Anderson? He's terrific! He has a unique style which fits Leonardi's pencils even better than Terry Austin's. And I thought that Michael Golden was the ultimate Spider-Man artist! I think I like Leonardi even better. Soon Ron Frenz will be returning, drawing in full pencils! It will be very hard to choose which artist I would rather have.

Tom, the story was great. You obviously spent a lot of time developing it, and the Rose looks like he will be a good returning villain. The story was a good portrayal of modern sports — the things that go on that the public doesn't always know about.

A few last things: Wendy seems like she could be a nice person, but she has to lighten up a bit! Someone as insensitive as her needs to learn to have a little compassion. Also, Spidey's new costume is getting even better and better. It filters unhealthy air, too! But would it be able to survive Los Angeles smog? Great idea about the uniform not fitting around Peter's fingertips when he was holding onto the ramp.

J.M.R.N.
688 E. 7th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11218

NEXT: Spider-Man's showdown with the Rose and the Hobgoblin . . . and a turning point of monumental stature for Mary Jane, Liz . . . and especially for Harry Osborn! Everything comes to a head in "The Sins of My Father!" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #261. You don't wanna miss it.

Danny Fingeroth
P.S. Fans of Spidey's black suit especially won't want to miss next issue — or FANTASTIC FOUR #274, either. You've been notified.