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THE ASSASSIN NATION PLOT

PART THREE OF SIX

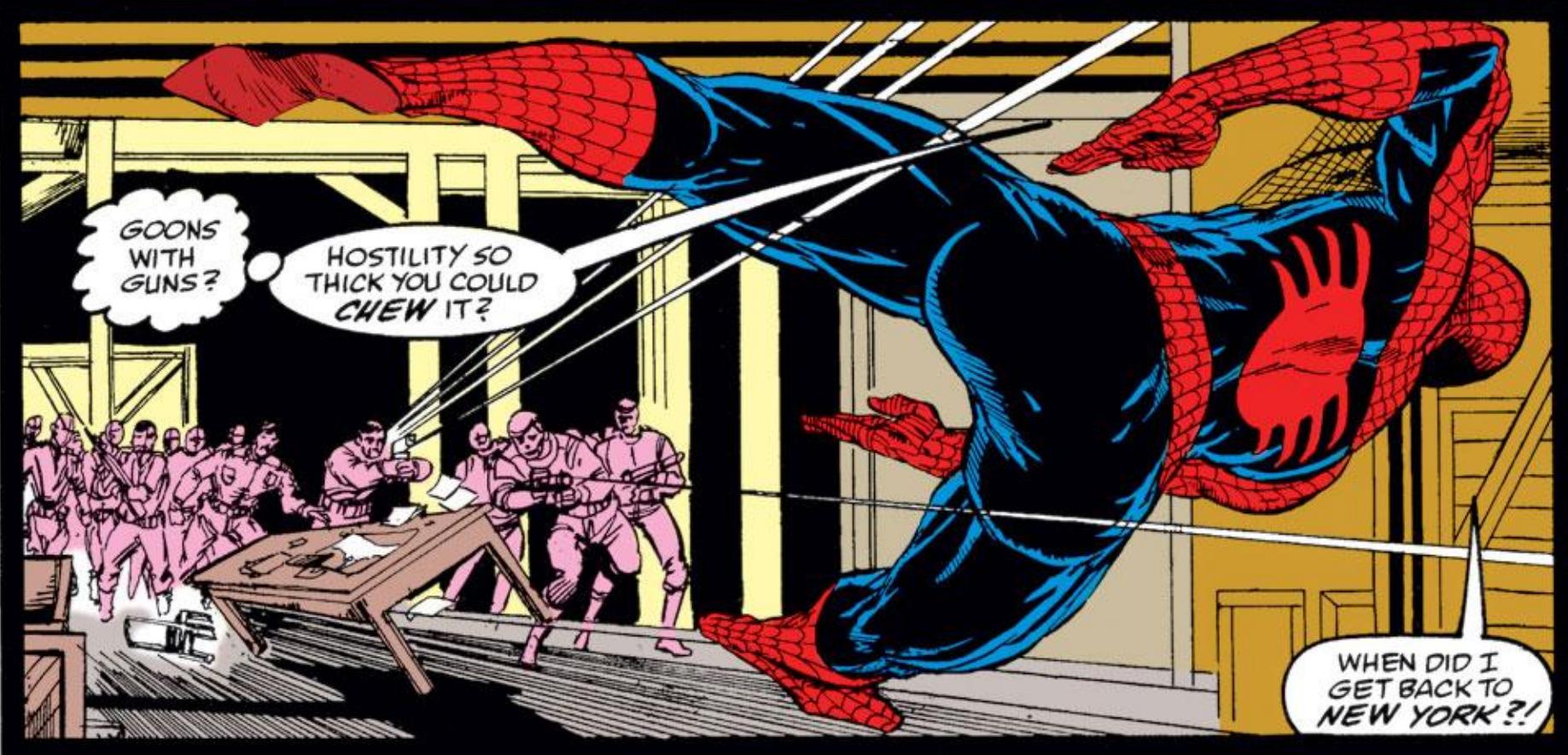
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

DAVID MICHELINIE (WRITER), TODD MCFARLANE (ARTIST), RICK PARKER (LETTERER), DON T. ASKE (COLORIST), JIM SALICRUP (EDITOR), AND TOM D'FALCO (EDITOR IN CHIEF) WOULD LIKE TO JOIN SILVER SABLE AND HER WILD PACK IN WELCOMING THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN TO SYMKARIA! UNFORTUNATELY...





MAYBE I'M JUST
GETTING HOMESICK!

BOONF:

YEEP:

URNK:

DON'T WORRY, IF THESE ARE
THE MEN WE'RE LOOKING FOR,
YOU'LL BE RID OF US SOON
ENOUGH.

NOW, SILVER, HOW CAN YOU
SAY THAT WHEN YOU KNOW
YOU'RE ONE OF MY FAVORITE
PEOPLE? YOU'D BE MY *TOP*
FAVORITE--

--EXCEPT I'VE STILL GOT
THIS CRAZY THING ABOUT
HITLER!



BLAST!

THESE ARE PLANS TO ROB A
GOVERNMENT PAYROLL! THOSE
MEN ARE NOTHING BUT
THIEVES!

WE'VE BEEN
CHASING WILD
GEESE!

AGAIN!

AREA
SECURED.
SEND THE
LIMO UP.

MY MEN WILL TURN THESE
CRIMINALS OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES. YOU'LL ACCOMPANY
ME BACK TO THE CASTLE.

JUST ONCE, I
WISH SHE'D ASK ME TO
DO SOMETHING INSTEAD
OF TELLING ME!

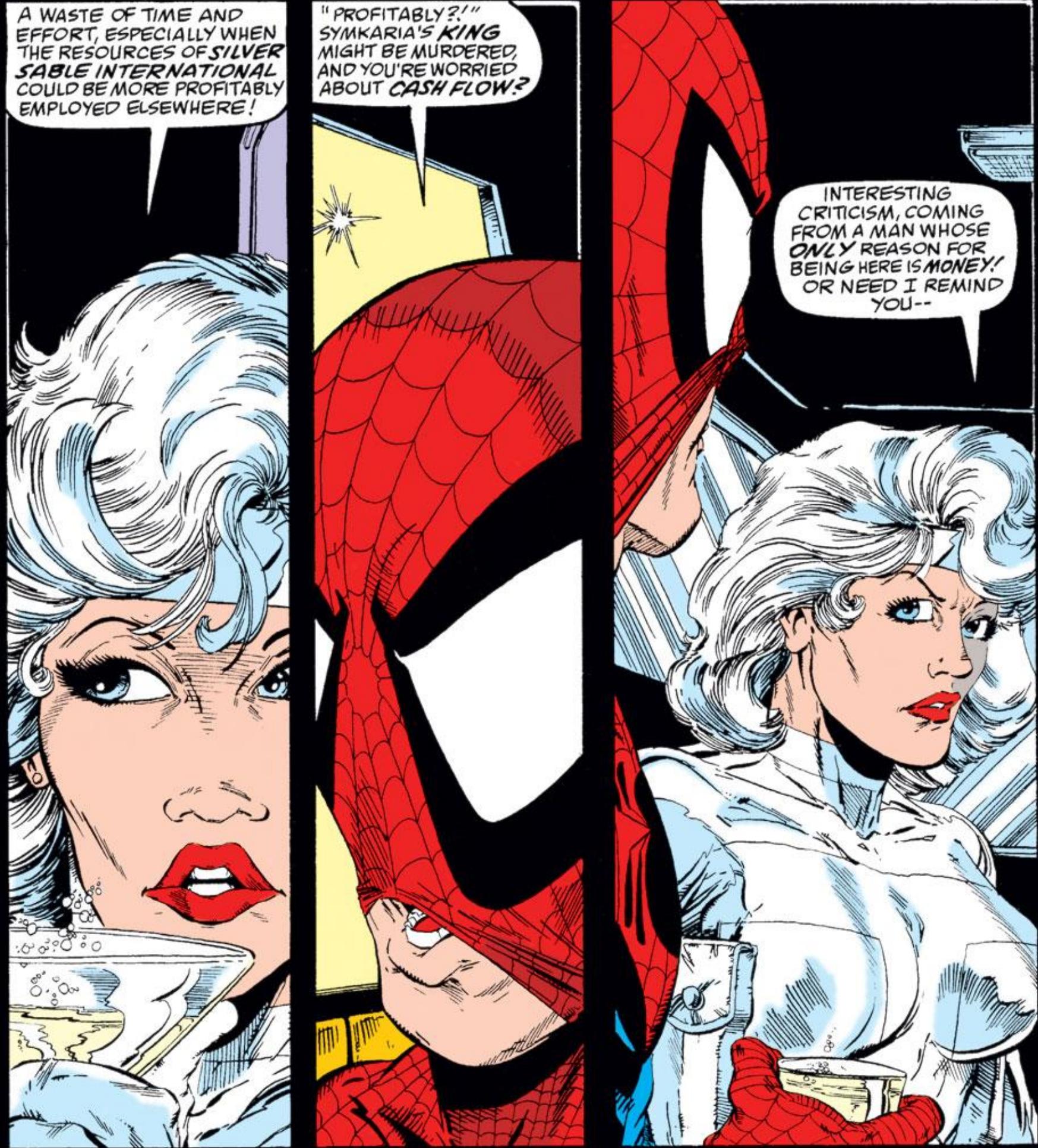
AND, AS THE GLITTERING SILVER
SEDAN WENDS ITS WAY THROUGH
PICTURESQUE SYMKARIAN
COUNTRYSIDE...

THAT'S THE THIRD
RAID IN THE LAST TWO
DAYS, ALL OF WHICH
PROVED POINTLESS!

A WASTE OF TIME AND
EFFORT, ESPECIALLY WHEN
THE RESOURCES OF SILVER
SABLE INTERNATIONAL
COULD BE MORE PROFITABLY
EMPLOYED ELSEWHERE!

"PROFITABLY?!"
SYMKARIA'S KING
MIGHT BE MURDERED,
AND YOU'RE WORRIED
ABOUT CASH FLOW?

INTERESTING
CRITICISM, COMING
FROM A MAN WHOSE
ONLY REASON FOR
BEING HERE IS MONEY!
OR NEED I REMIND
YOU--



-- THAT MY COMPANY WAS HIRED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE ROYAL JUBILEE, A CELEBRATION OF 500 YEARS OF THE SAME RULING BLOODLINE.

AND THAT, FOLLOWING CLUES OF A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE CROWN, WE TRACED A MAN NAMED CHAKANE TO AMERICA, WHERE HE ATTEMPTED TO SECURE A HIDEOUT FOR A WOULD-BE ASSASSIN!

A PLAN WE FOILED DESPITE YOUR HELPING CHAKANE TO INITIALLY ESCAPE!

HEY, I SAID I WAS SORRY! AND AREN'T I HERE NOW, TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR IT?

YES, I'M SURE THE \$1,000 A DAY WE'RE PAYING YOU HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH YOUR DECISION!

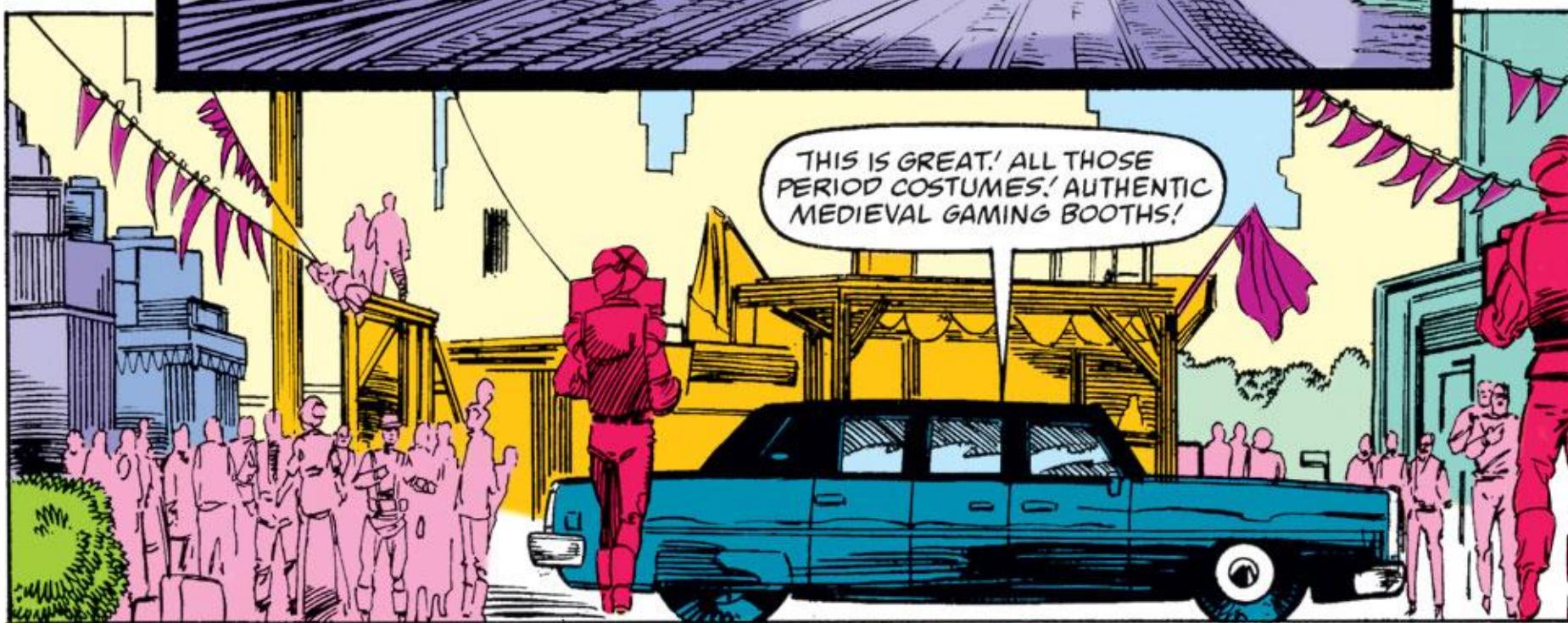
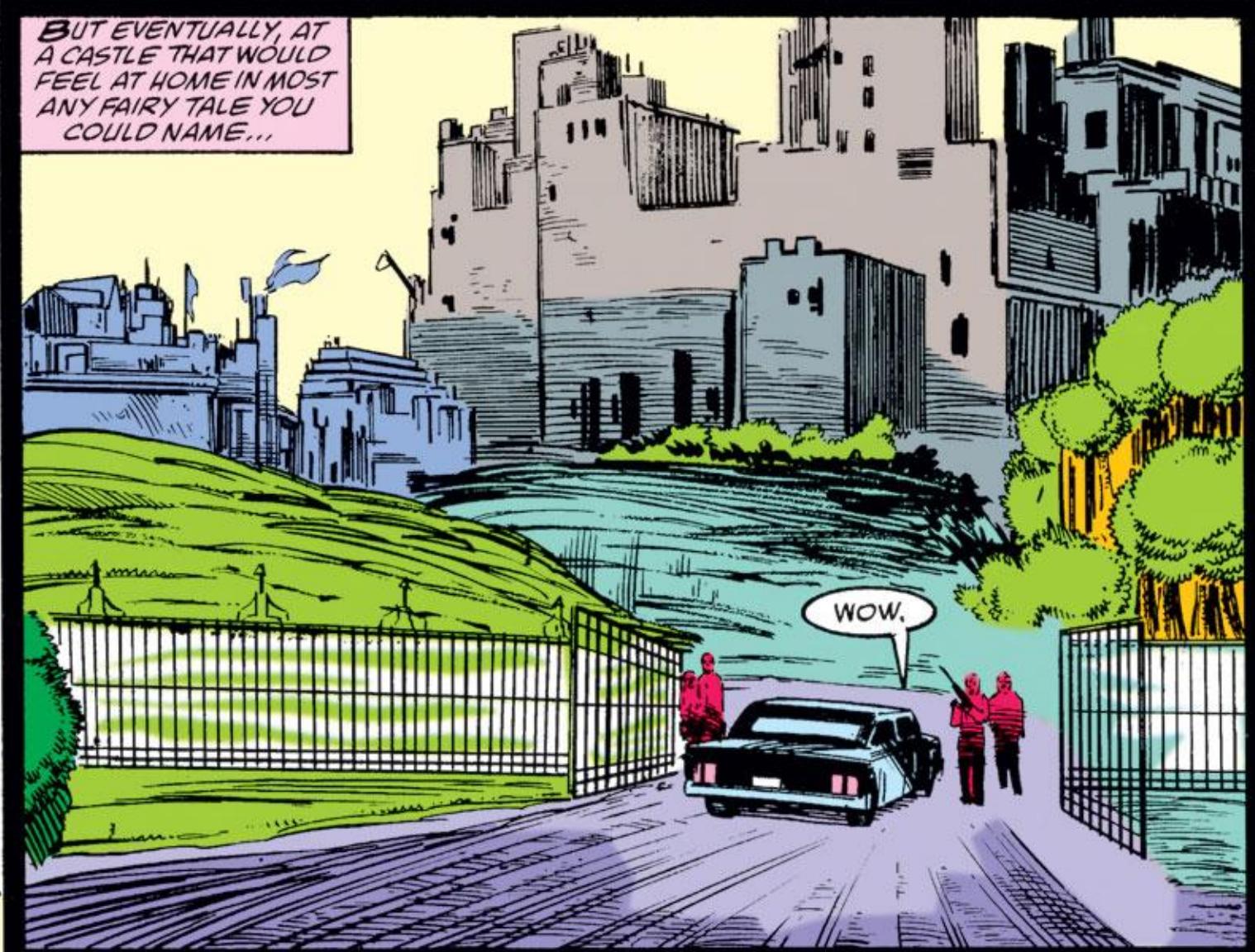
HOW CAN I TELL HER I'VE GOT A WIFE OUT OF WORK? AND A NEW APARTMENT TO PAY FOR?

LOOK, I MAY BE A MERCENARY, BUT I'M YOUR MERCENARY!

HOW COMFORTING.

AHHHH, NUTS.

BUT EVENTUALLY, AT A CASTLE THAT WOULD FEEL AT HOME IN MOST ANY FAIRY TALE YOU COULD NAME...



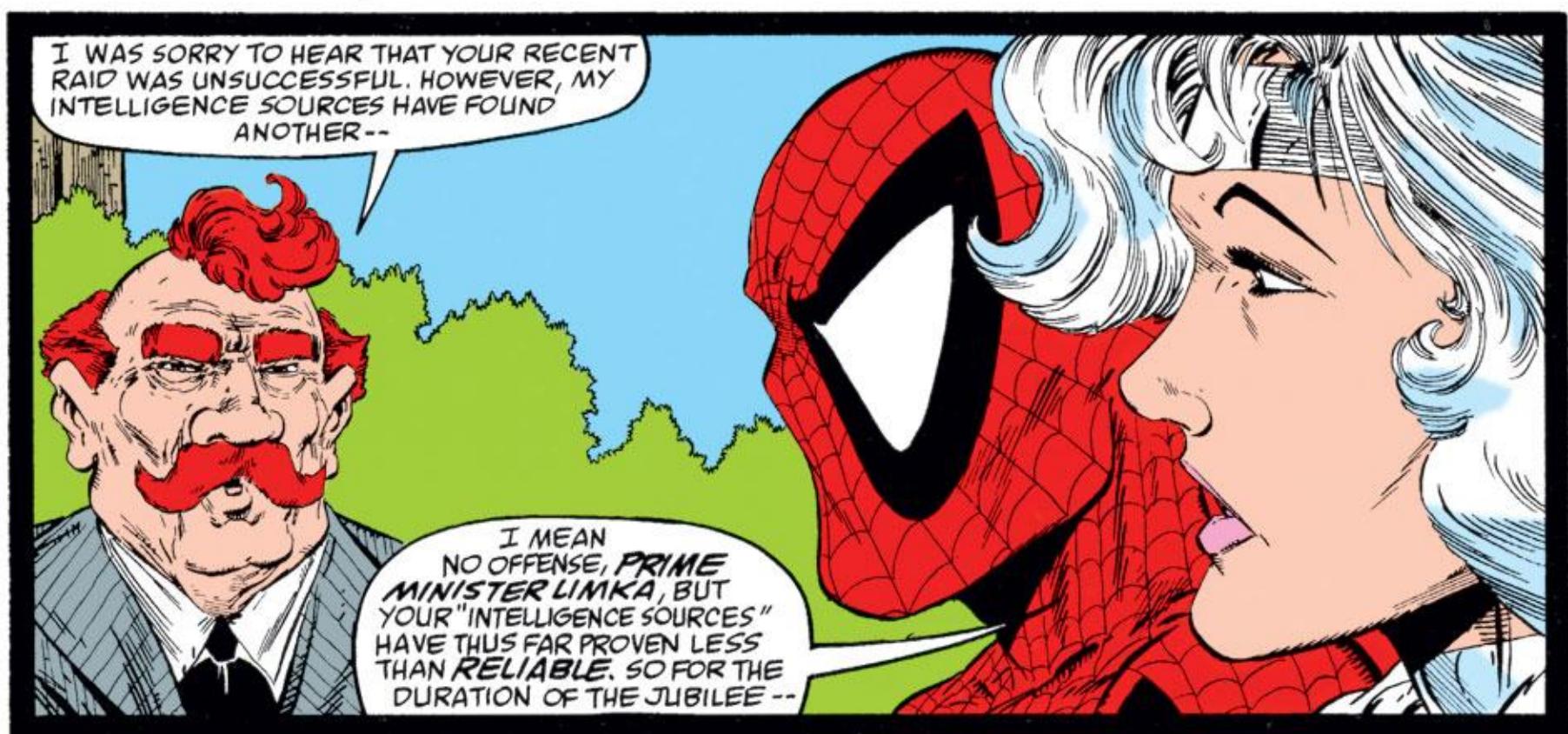
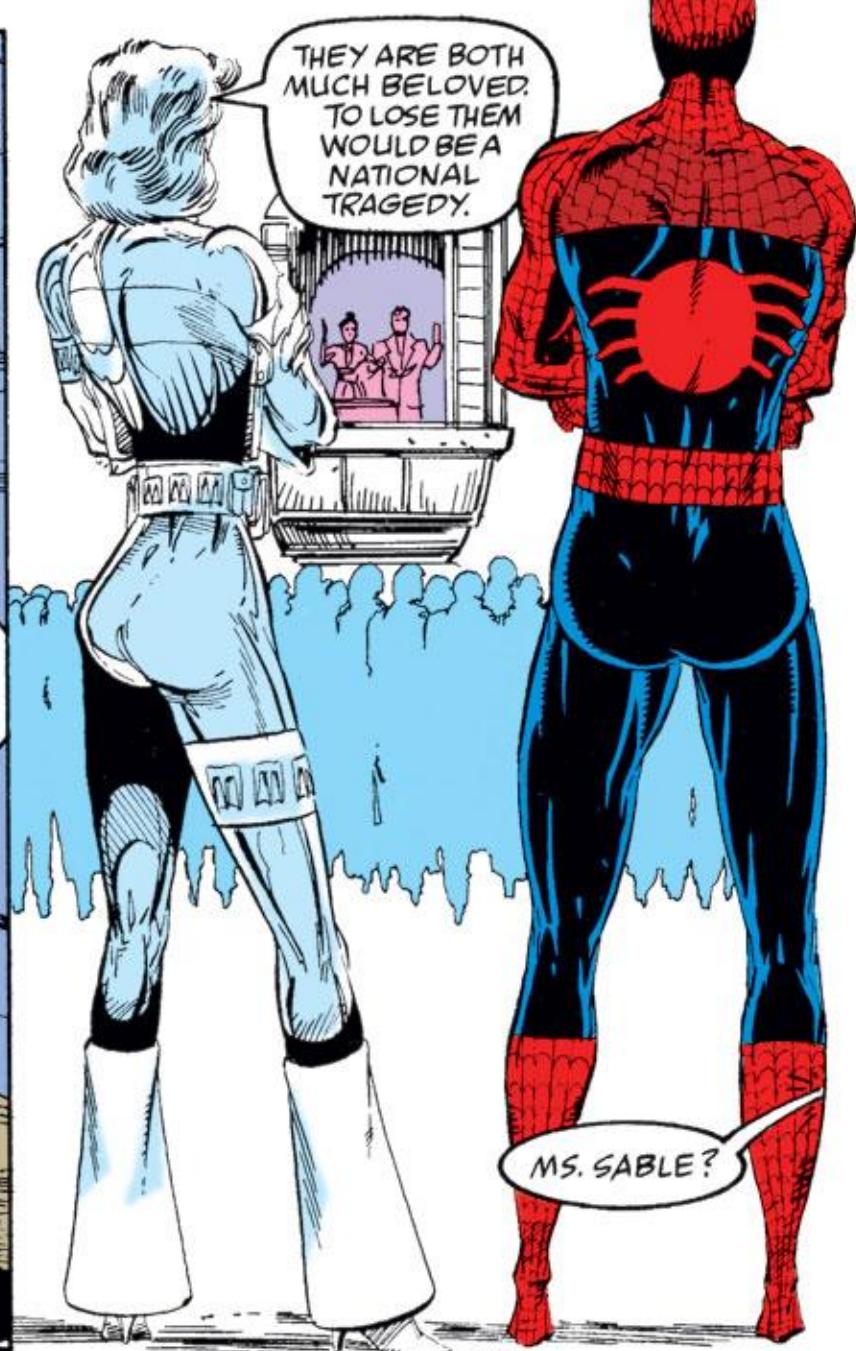
WHEN YOU SYMKARIANS CELEBRATE, YOU DO IT RIGHT!



--THEY ALSO HONOR KING STEFAN'S RECENT ENGAGEMENT, WHICH PROMISES THE POSSIBILITY OF AN HEIR--

--AND A **CONTINUATION** OF THAT BLOODLINE. THERE, THE KING ADDRESSES THE PRESS EVEN NOW.





WE'VE A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE JUBILEE GALA THIS EVENING, SPIDER-MAN. CARE TO JOIN ME IN THE GYM FOR A LITTLE SPARRING PRACTICE?

NORMALLY, SILVER,
THERE'S NOTHING I'D
LIKE BETTER THAN TO
GO A FEW ROUNDS
WITH YOU--

--BUT I'VE REALLY BEEN
LOOKING FORWARD TO A
LITTLE SIGHTSEEING IN
THE NEARBY VILLAGE.

THEN YOU'D
BEST TAKE THIS I.D.
BADGE TO GET PAST
OUR ELECTRONIC
SECURITY. I'LL
PUT MY LIMO AT
YOUR DISPOSAL.

THANKS--

--BUT I THINK I
CAN SWING MY OWN
TRANSPORTATION!

THWIPP

THIS MAKES THINGS TRICKIER,
BUT NOT IMPOSSIB--

WE USE WHATEVER IS
NECESSARY, INCLUDING
SECRET PASSAGES
OF WHICH EVEN YOUR
KING IS UNAWARE. THE
PLAN GOES WELL?

EXCELLENT.
THEN WE
SHALL
BOTH
HAVE WHAT
WE WANT!

PROBLEMS,
MR. PRIME MINISTER?

M-M-MAJOR
WEIL?

DON'T YOU
ULTIMATUM
SOLDIERS
EVER USE
DOORS?

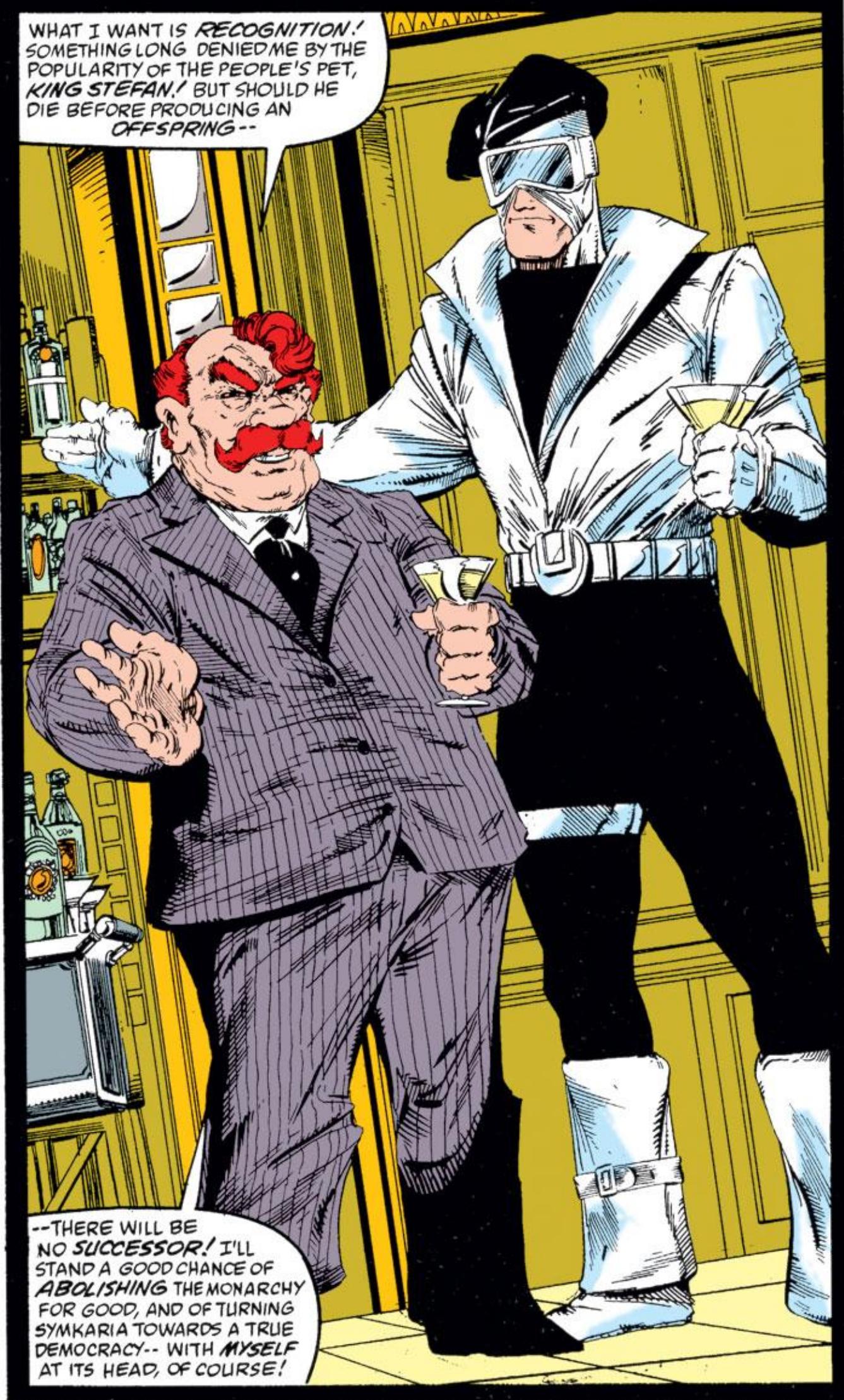
I'M AFRAID MS.
SABLE WON'T FOLLOW
ANY MORE FALSE
LEADS. BUT I STILL
THINK TOMORROW'S
AIR SHOW WILL
PROVE QUITE A
SUCCESS.

WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF SYMKARIA'S SYMBOLIC LEADER, ULTIMATUM'S GOAL OF DIS-SOLVING NATIONAL IDENTITIES DRAWS CLOSER. WHILE YOU, HERR LIMKA, WILL GET THE POWER YOU CRAVE!



WHAT I WANT IS RECOGNITION! SOMETHING LONG DENIED ME BY THE POPULARITY OF THE PEOPLE'S PET, KING STEFAN! BUT SHOULD HE DIE BEFORE PRODUCING AN OFFSPRING--

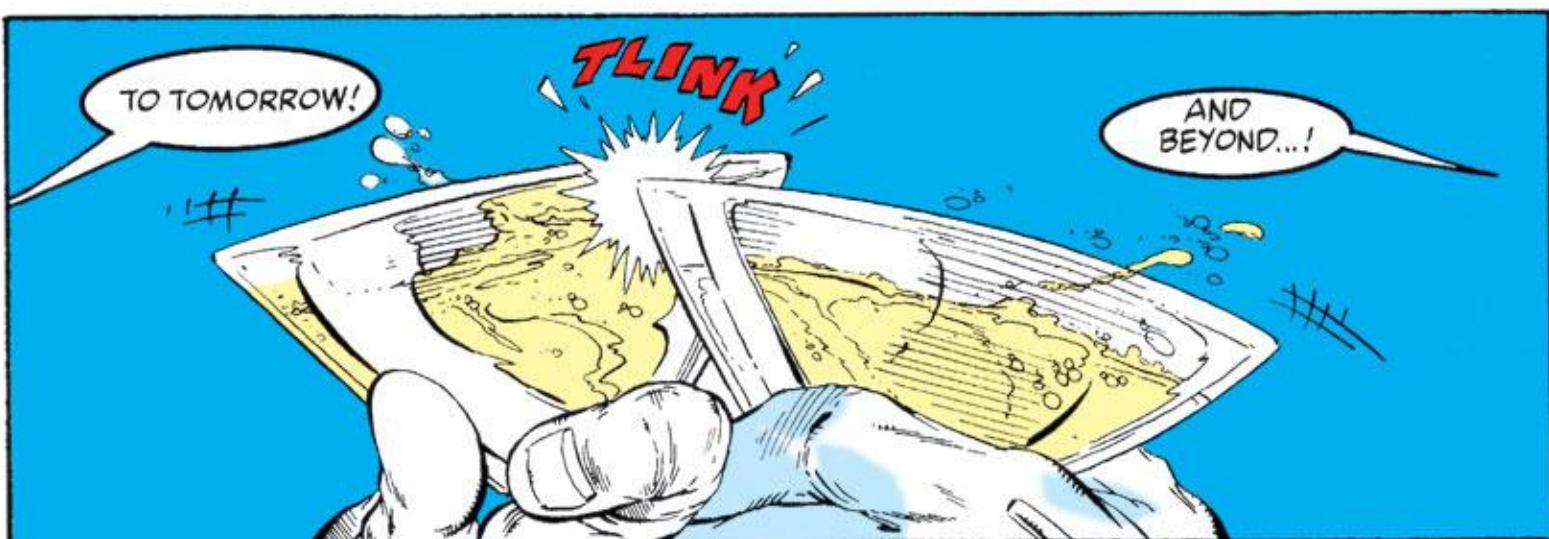
--THERE WILL BE NO SUCCESSOR! I'LL STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF ABOLISHING THE MONARCHY FOR GOOD, AND OF TURNING SYMKARIA TOWARDS A TRUE DEMOCRACY-- WITH MYSELF AT ITS HEAD, OF COURSE!



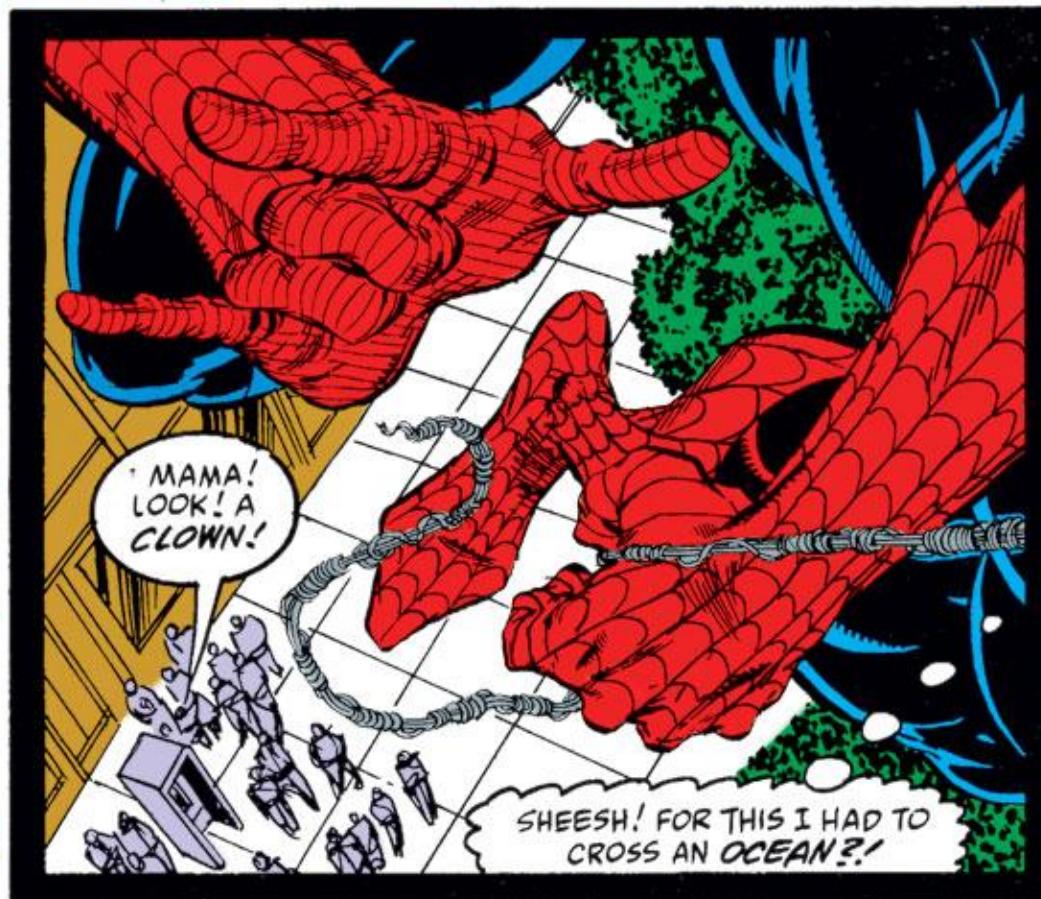
TO TOMORROW!

TLINK!

AND BEYOND...!



BUT TOMORROW, AS THE SONG GOES, IS A DAY AWAY...



HOWEVER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT BODY OF WATER...

DIDN'T THINK I'D GET SO NERVOUS!

BUT AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS AS A TOP MODEL, IT'S ROUGH HAVING TO PROVE MYSELF AGAIN! THE ROLL OF "SYBIL" IS A SMALL ONE-- JUST A WHINY, ARROGANT WITCH-- BUT IT'S A STEADY PAY-CHECK WITH GOOD EXPOSURE!

GUESS THAT'S WHY ABOUT A MILLION OTHER WOULD-BE'S ARE HERE! HOW CAN I MAKE MYSELF STAND OUT?

MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER?

THINK FAST, MJ!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ FOR US NOW?

...NO! DO YOU THINK I'M SOME COW, TO BE KEPT WAITING WITH THE REST OF THE HERD?

I JUST HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE YOU ALMOST HAD OF WORKING WITH ME!

I KNOW. BUT IT'S EXACTLY HOW SYBIL WOULD ACT!

TOOK A HECK OF A CHANCE! THEY'LL EITHER LOVE ME, OR STICK PINS IN MY PUBLICITY STILL'S!

I'M SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!

NEED TO FIND A PARTY...!



AH, THAT'S EASY-- JUST CHECK OUT THE ROYAL PALACE IN SYMKARIA.

WHERE THE JUBILEE GALA IS UNDERWAY.

A FÊTE THAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD FERVENTLY LIKE TO CHECK OUT OF!

I'M NOT USED TO BEING SOMEWHERE JUST AS SPIDER-MAN, WITHOUT MY PETER PARKER IDENTITY TO ESCAPE INTO!

I FEEL SILLY!

I HAVE TO SLEEP IN MY COSTUME, EAT IN MY COSTUME! AND AS FOR THIS BLASTED MONKEY SUIT--!

HUH, LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS A LITTLE SPACE, TOO!

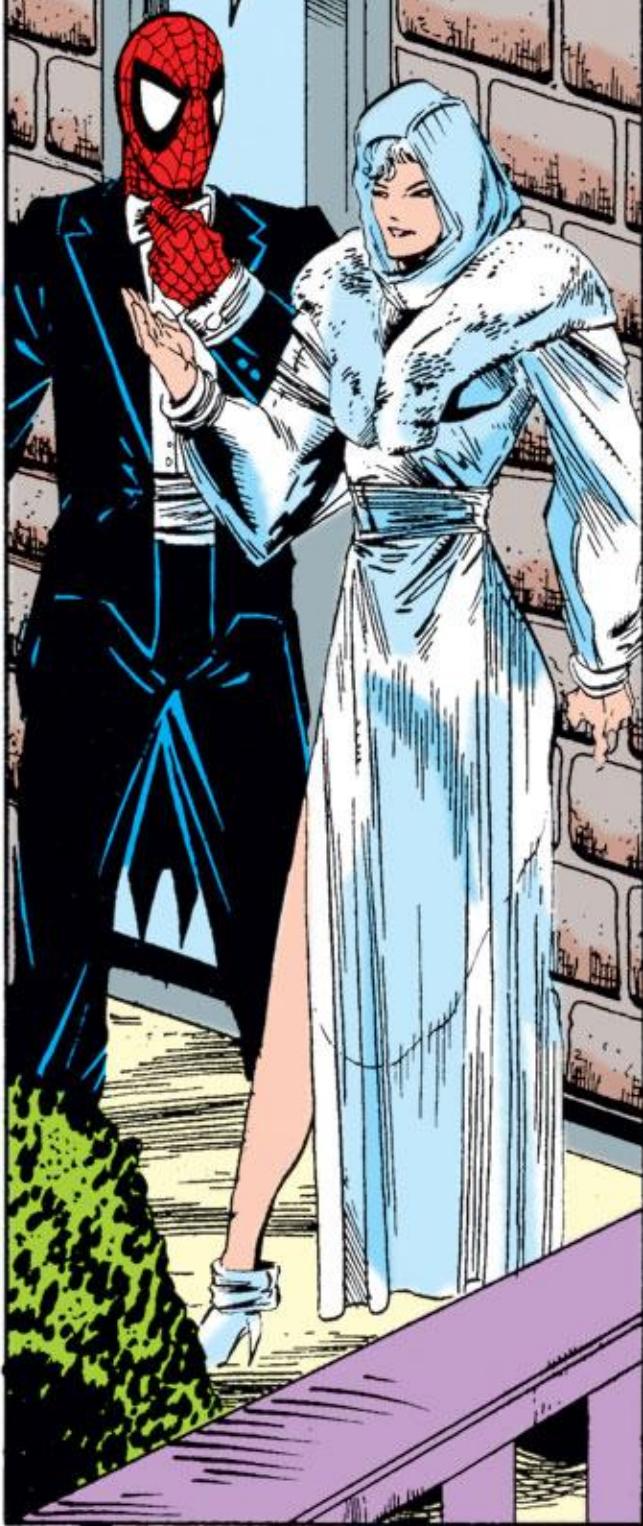
TAKING A BREAK, SILVER?

CHECKING PERIMETER SECURITY.

GEEZ, AREN'T YOU EVER OFF DUTY?

THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO RELAX. KING STEFAN IS VITAL TO THE SYMKARIAN PEOPLE. IF HE WERE TO BE KILLED, THEIR SPIRIT COULD BE BROKEN. SYMKARIA COULD SINK INTO A NEW DARK AGE.

WELL, WELL, THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN YOUR ICY BUSINESSWOMAN FAÇADE!



THERE ARE LEVELS TO MY PERSONALITY YOU CAN'T EVEN GUESS.



I... I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T GUESS I'VE EVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT!

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD, MEANWHILE, GET SOME SLEEP.

YOU'LL NEED TO BE FRESH TOMORROW MORNING, TO PROTECT MY COUNTRY!

BUT AS SPIDER-MAN TAKES THE DIRECT ROUTE TO HIS UPPER-FLOOR ROOM --

-- HIS MIND SWIRLS WITH TROUBLED THOUGHTS, WITH UNFAMILIAR CONSIDERATIONS.

AND HE KNOWS THAT SLEEP WILL NOT BE EASILY FOUND.



BUT MORNING, ADHERING TO ITS OWN SELFISH ROUTINE, ARRIVES RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

CASTLE GATES ARE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC; THE ROYAL JUBILEE BEGINS.

AND ALL THE WHILE, COSTUMED WARRIORS STAND GUARD.

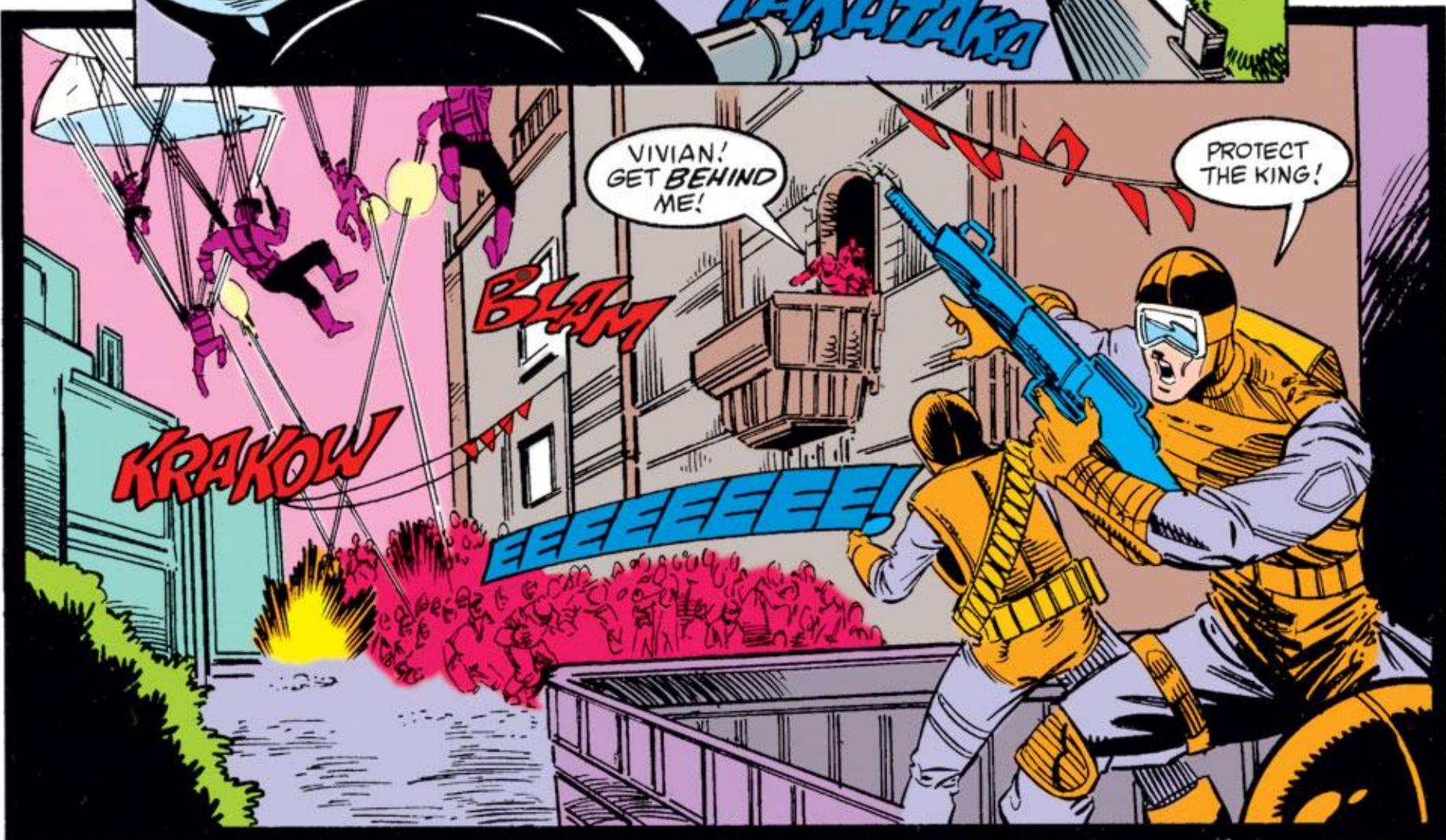
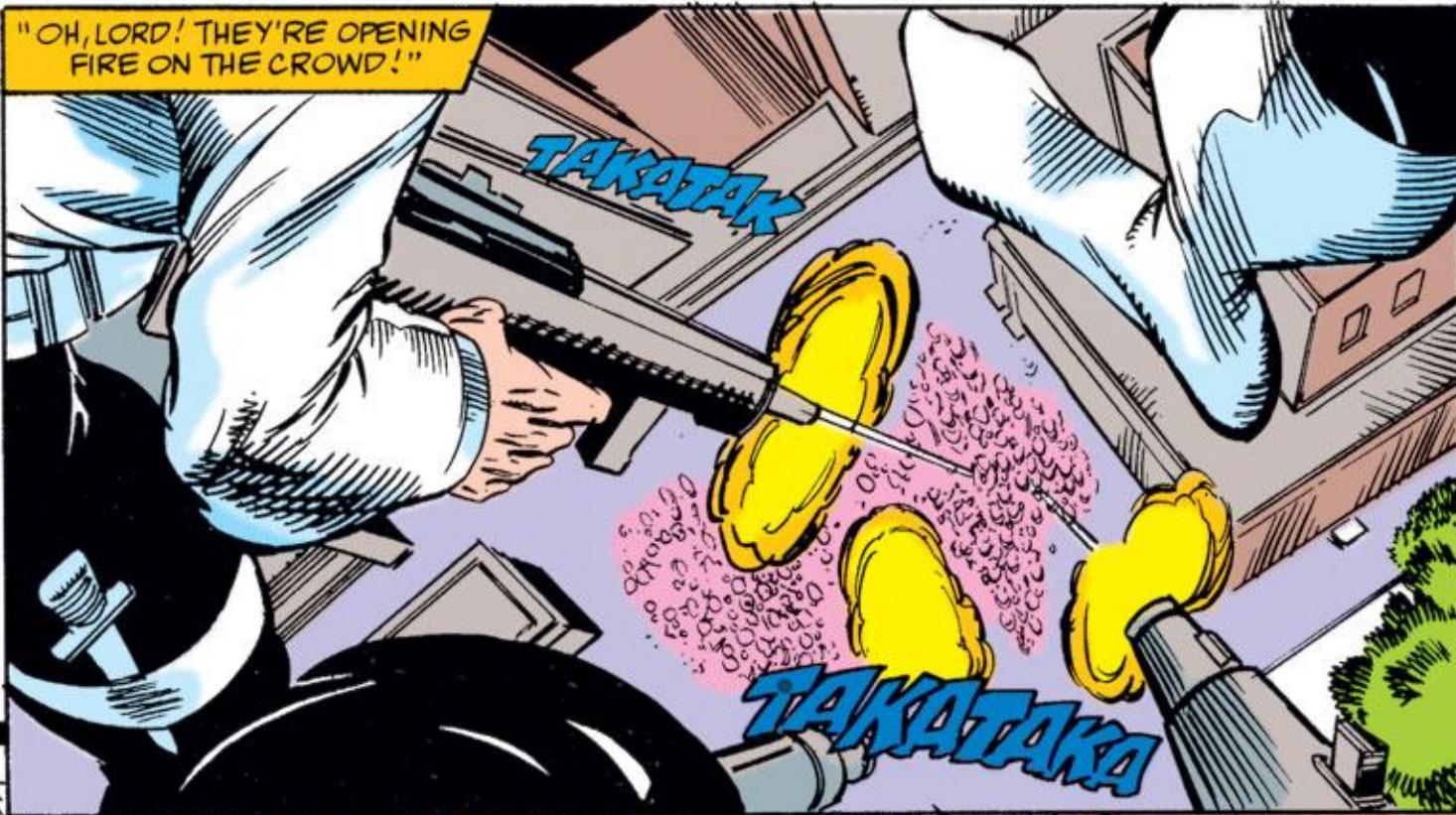
WATCHING FROM EVERY ANGLE. EVEN, SEEMINGLY--

--FROM ABOVE.

AND NOW, MEMBERS OF THE ELITE ROYAL AIR FORCE PARATROOPS WILL PERFORM AERIAL STUNTS FOR YOUR AMAZEMENT!



"OH, LORD! THEY'RE OPENING FIRE ON THE CROWD!"



QUICK! INTO THE CASTLE!
THE MILITARY'S STAGING
A COUP!



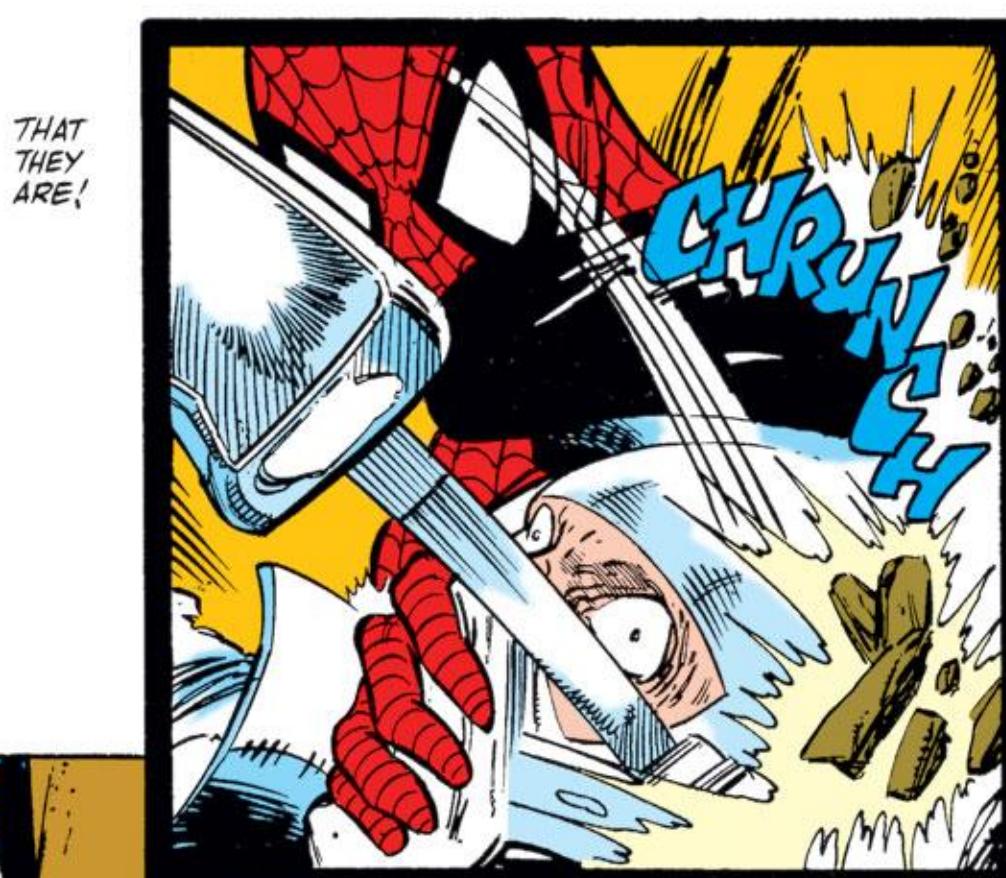
I RECOGNIZE THE UNIFORMS!
THEY'RE TERRORISTS FROM
AN ORGANIZATION CALLED
ULTIMATUM!

AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW
WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!



AND THEY'RE
UP AGAINST THE FIGHT
OF THEIR LIVES!

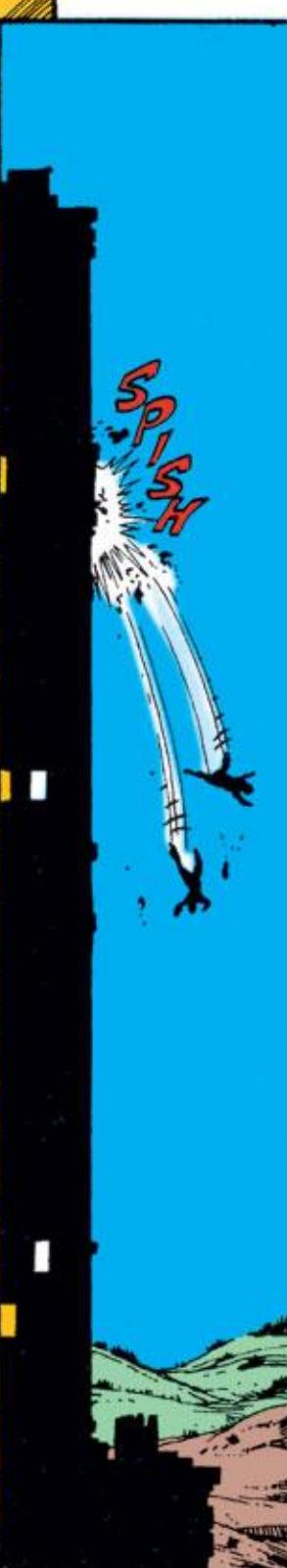
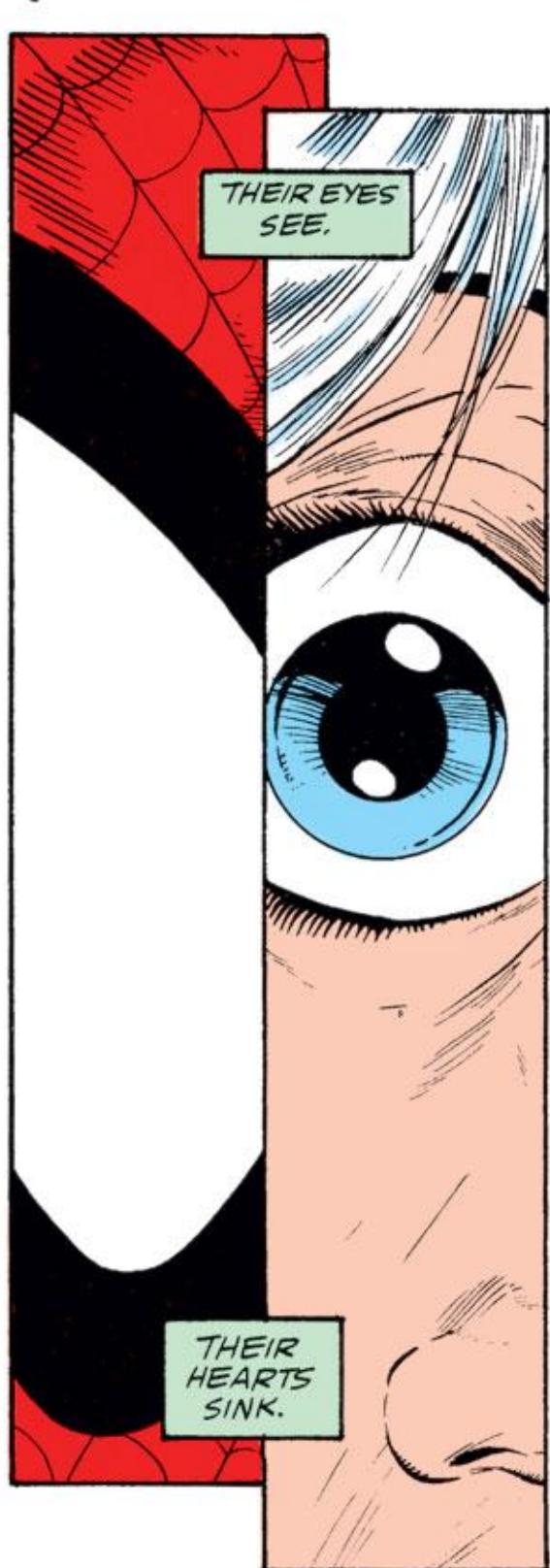
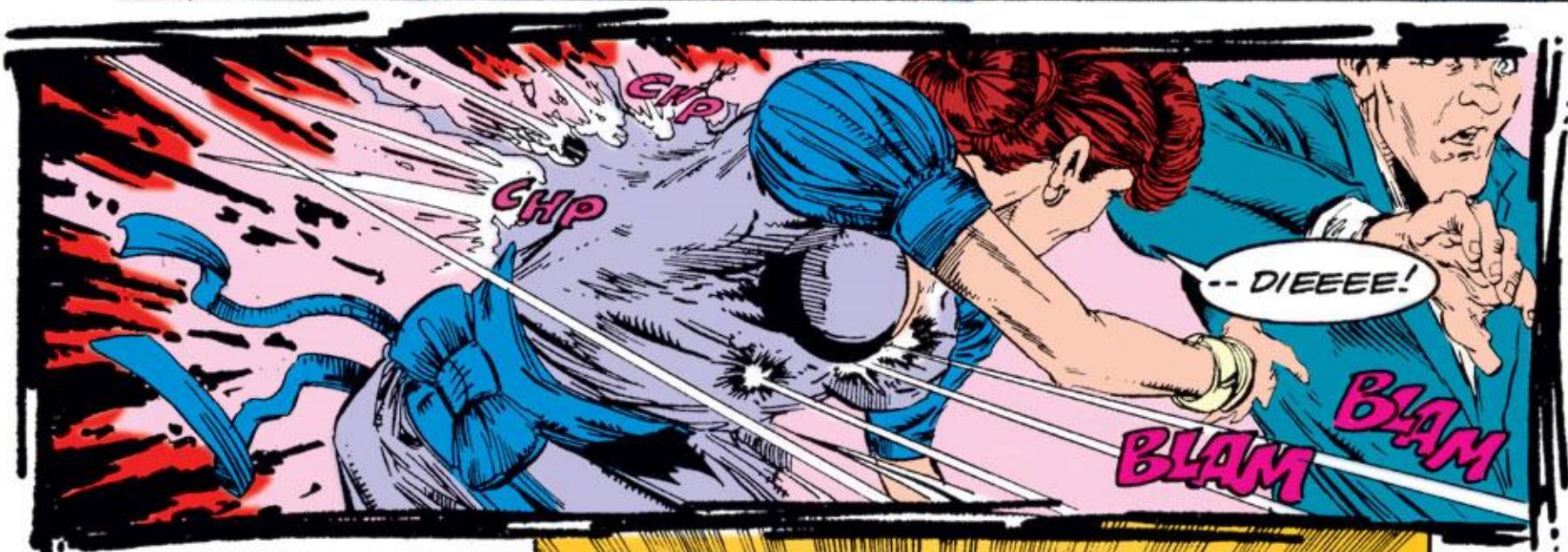
SHLAK



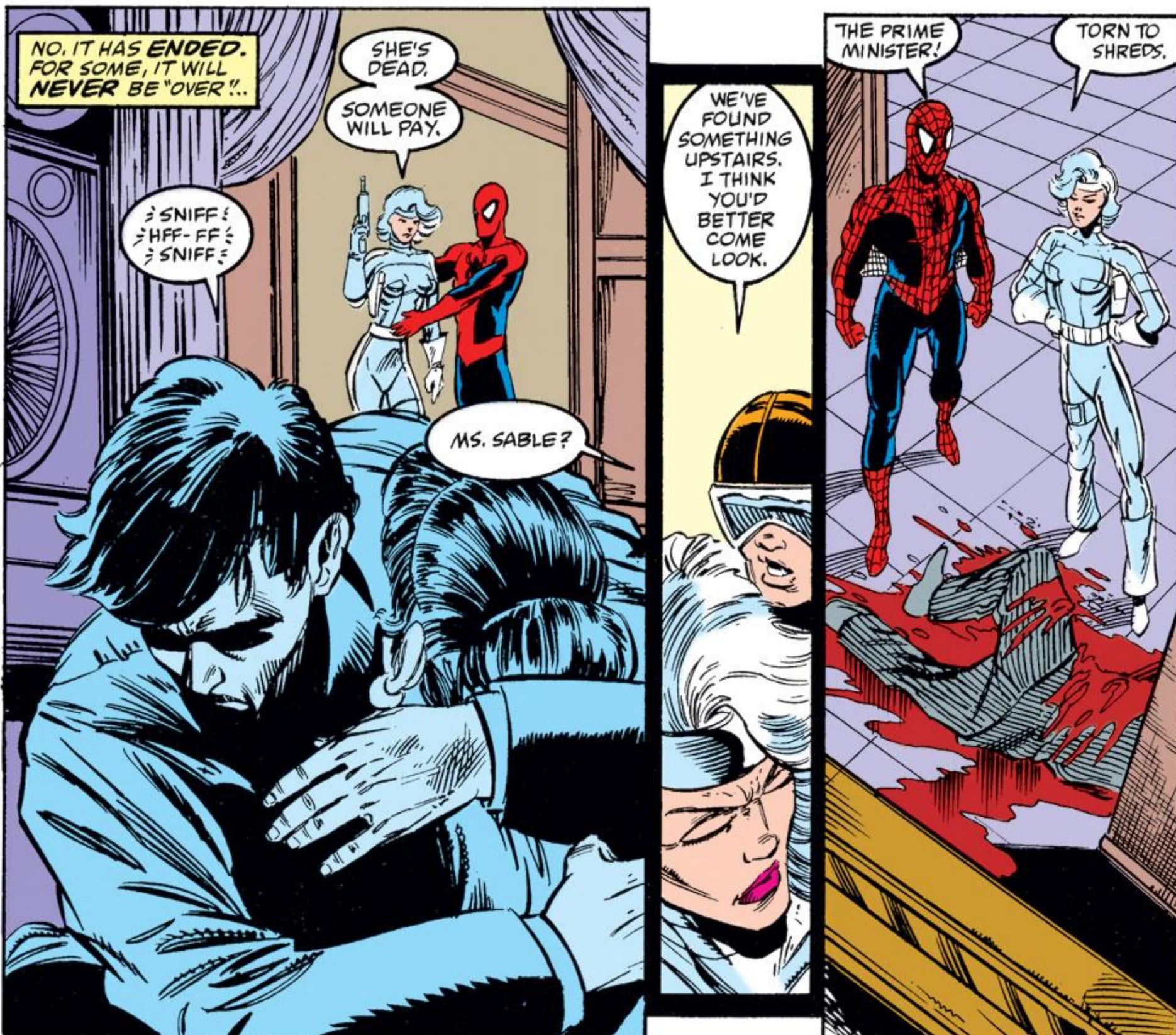
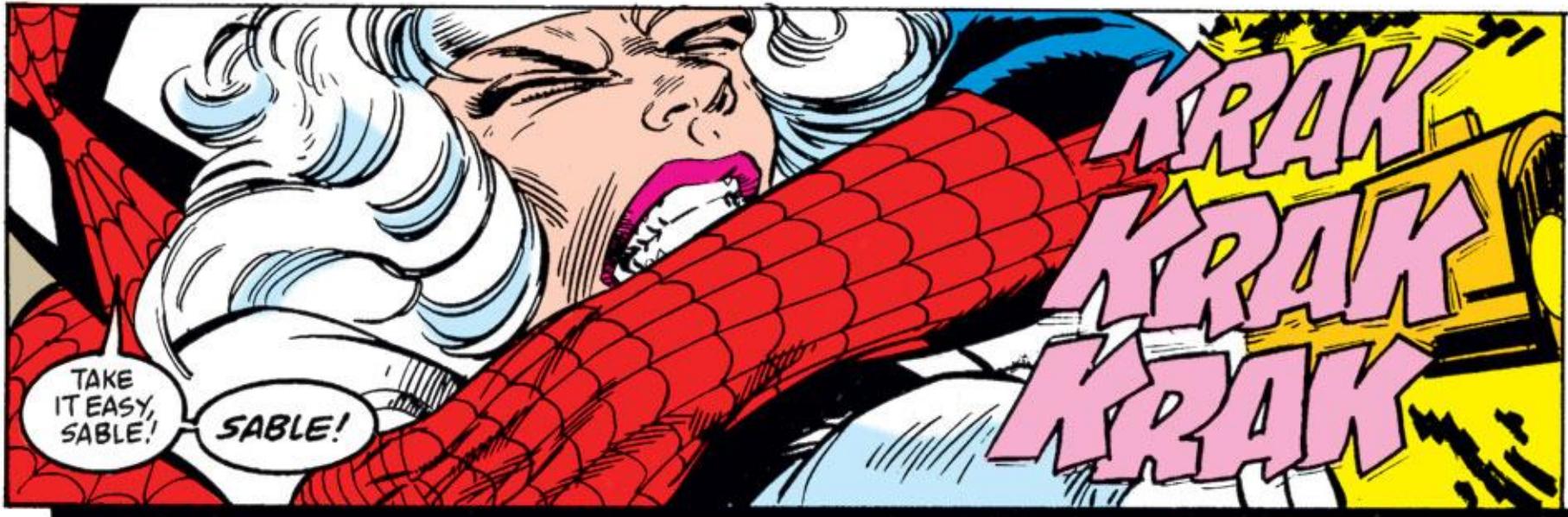
THAT
THEY
ARE!











HIS DEATH WILL WEAKEN
THE GOVERNMENT,
THE COUNTRY.

COULD BE HE WAS THE
REAL TARGET
ALL ALONG! AND IF
THAT'S THE CASE--

--THERE MUST BE
AN INCREDIBLE
MASTERMIND
BEHIND THIS AFFAIR!

SABLE! WE FOUND
A SLIDING DOOR TO A
SECRET PASSAGEWAY--
EMPTY, UNFORTUNATELY!
BUT HOW WE FOUND IT--

--WAS BY SPOTTING THIS PIECE
OF **FABRIC** IN THE DOOR SEAM!
APPARENTLY, THE ASSASSIN
CAUGHT HIS **CLOTHING** IN THE
DOOR AS HE ESCAPED! AND IT
LOOKS LIKE HE TORE HIS
POCKET--

WE'LL RUN A FULL
CHEMICAL ANALYSIS,
OF COURSE.

--BECAUSE WE FOUND
THIS **CAPSULE** ON THE
FLOOR JUST INSIDE!

BUT FROM
ITS COLOR--

--AND AROMA, I'M 99%
SURE THIS IS **PANADOXIN**,
A UNIQUE SYNTHETIC POISON
USED IN **SUICIDE** CAPSULES.
AND DISTRIBUTED EXCLU-
SIVELY TO AGENTS OF--

--THE
C.I.A.!

NEXT ISSUE:
**CAPTAIN
AMERICA!**

SNAP