the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
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MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢ IND.
67 DEC
ROMITA

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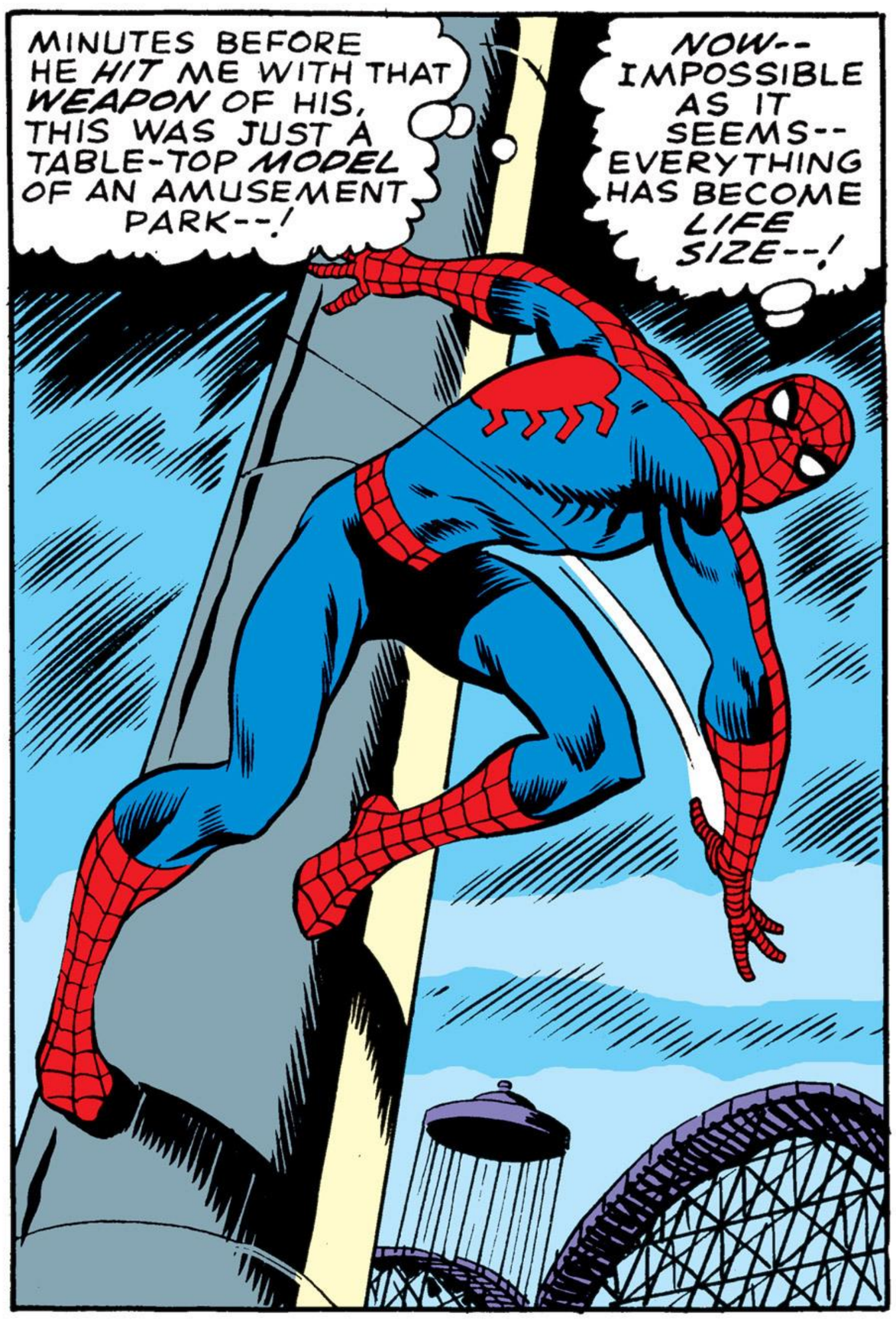
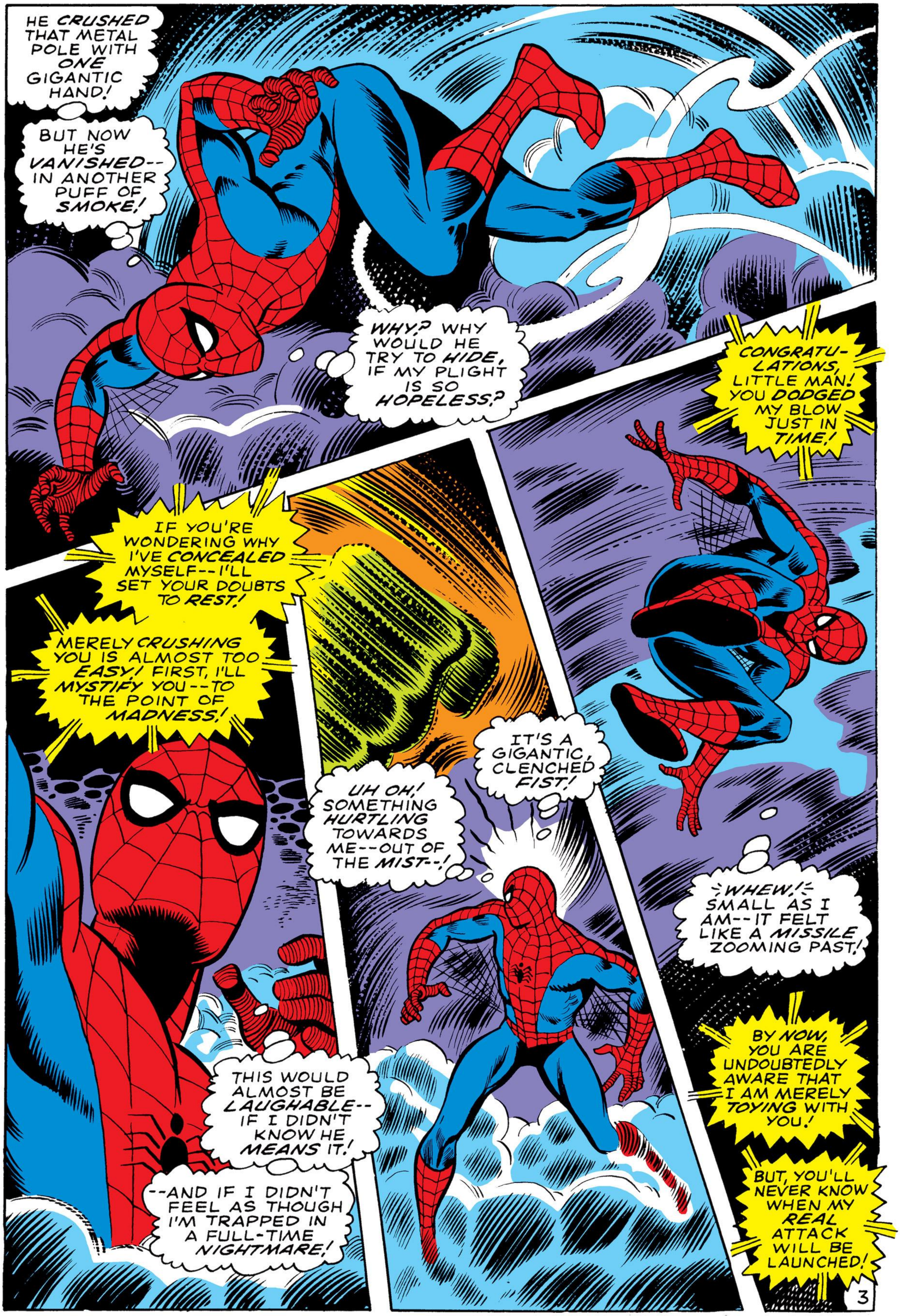
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?? HOW DID HE MAKE ME SO SMALL??
THOOM!!


MINUTES BEFORE HE HIT ME WITH THAT WEAPON OF HIS, THIS WAS JUST A TABLE-TOP MODEL OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK--!
NOW-- IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS-- EVERYTHING HAS BECOME LIFE SIZE--!

BEWILDERED, SPIDER-MAN?? GOOD!
--THAT'S JUST THE WAY I PLANNED IT!

NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU MOVE--
WHAT CHANCE HAS A SIX-INCH NOBODY AGAINST THE MYSTIC MIGHT OF-- MYSTERIO?!!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN WONDERING!


HE CRUSHED THAT METAL POLE WITH ONE GIGANTIC HAND!
BUT NOW HE'S VANISHED--IN ANOTHER PUFF OF SMOKE!
WHY? WHY WOULD HE TRY TO HIDE, IF MY PLIGHT IS SO HOPELESS?
CONGRATULATIONS, LITTLE MAN! YOU DODGED MY BLOW JUST IN TIME!
IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I'VE CONCEALED MYSELF--I'LL SET YOUR DOUBTS TO REST!
MERELY CRUSHING YOU IS ALMOST TOO EASY! FIRST, I'LL MYSTIFY YOU--TO THE POINT OF MADNESS!
IT'S A GIGANTIC, CLENCHED FIST!
UH OH! SOMETHING HURTLING TOWARDS ME--OUT OF THE MIST--!
WHEW! SMALL AS I AM--IT FELT LIKE A MISSILE ZOOMING PAST!
BY NOW, YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT I AM MERELY TOYING WITH YOU!
THIS WOULD ALMOST BE LAUGHABLE--IF I DIDN'T KNOW HE MEANS IT!
--AND IF I DIDN'T FEEL AS THOUGH I'M TRAPPED IN A FULL-TIME NIGHTMARE!
BUT, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHEN MY REAL ATTACK WILL BE LAUNCHED!
3

PERHAPS-- YOUR TIME IS-- NOW?!!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN!

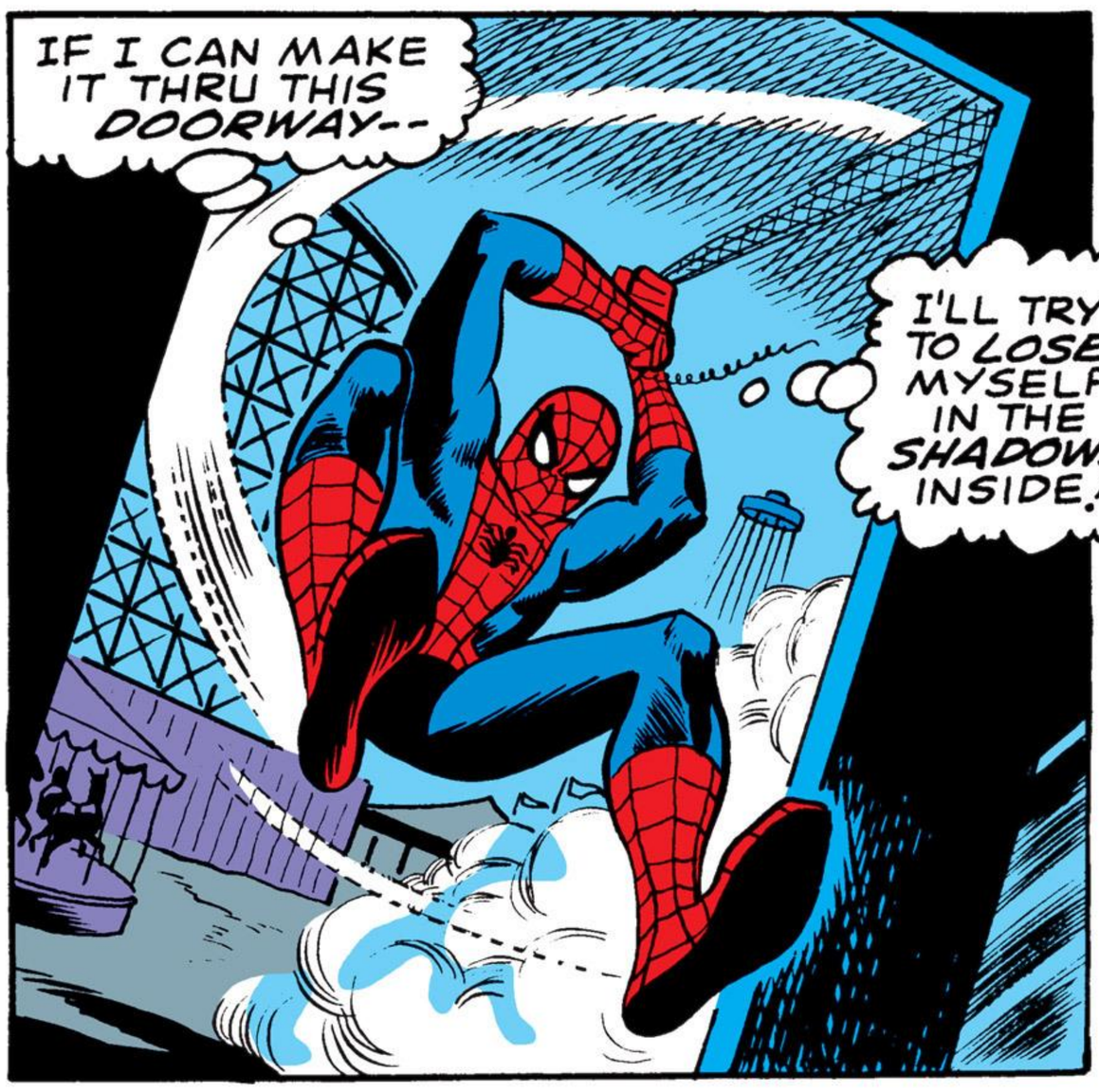
CAN'T STAY LUCKY FOREVER!

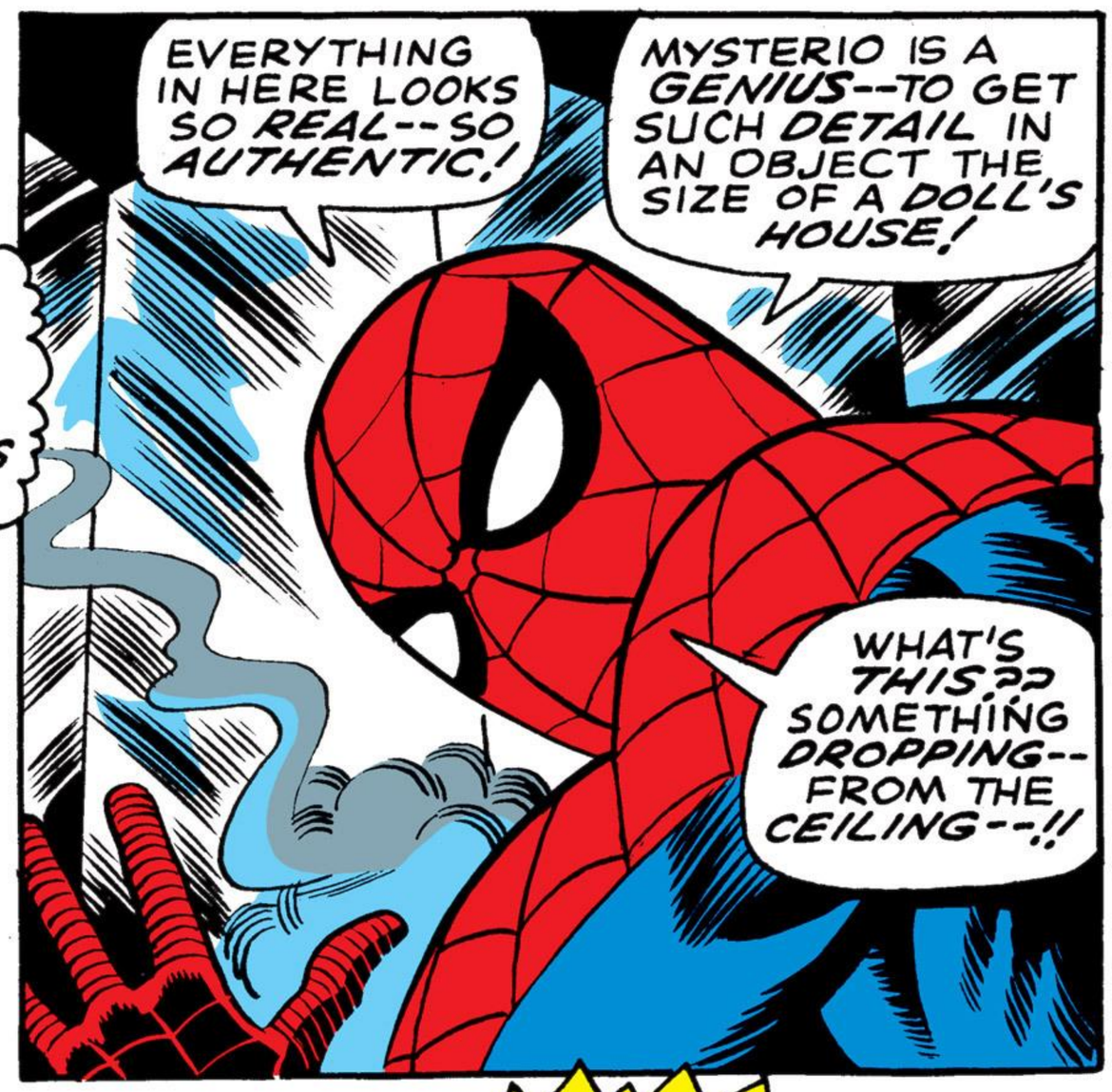
I'VE GOT TO FIND A HIDING PLACE --TO GAIN SOME TIME-- TO THINK THIS OUT!

SPTAP!

THWIPP!

THWIPP!





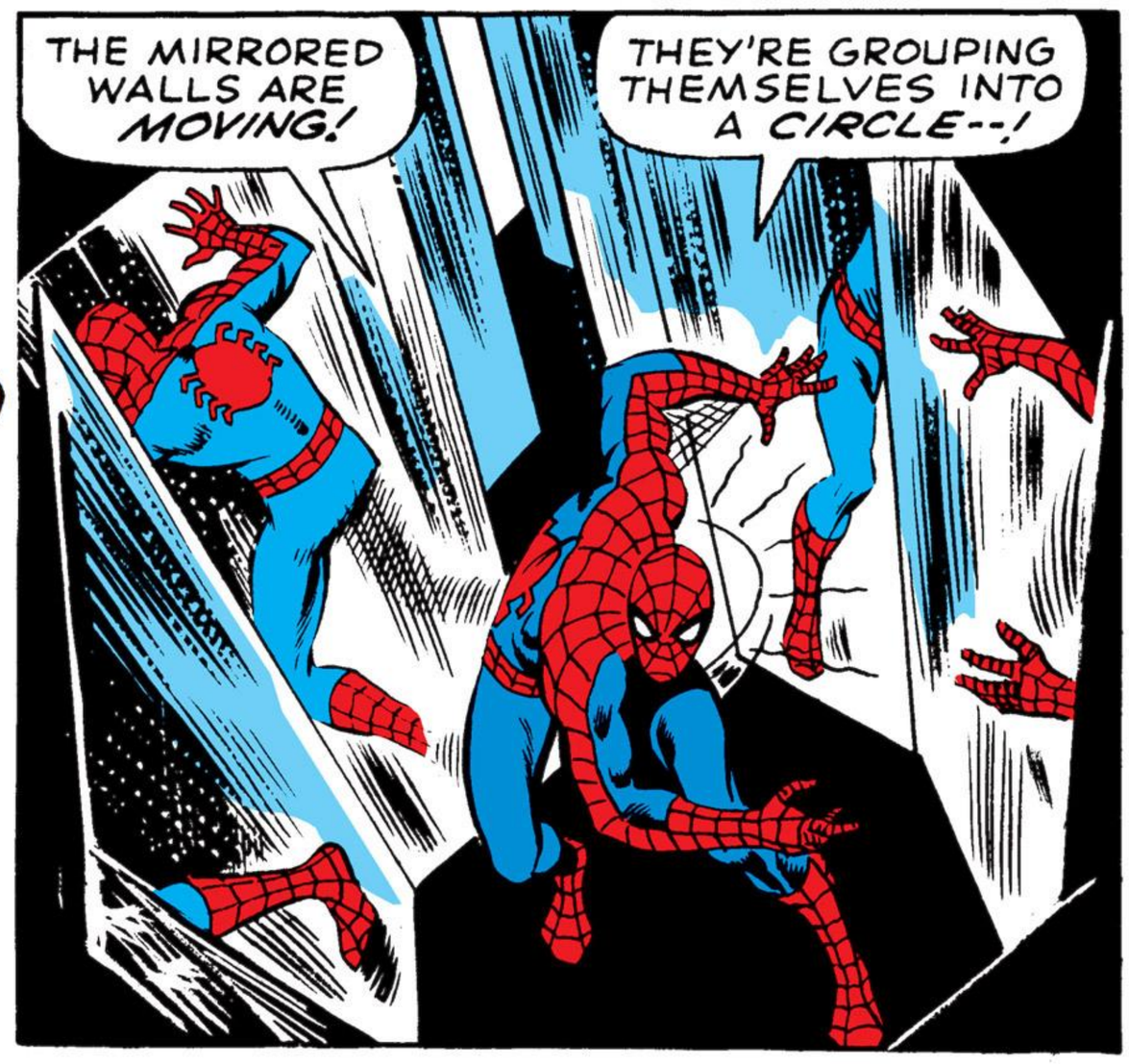
MIRRORS! AN ENTIRE SERIES OF THEM!

IT'S A TRAP! HE EXPECTED ME TO HIDE IN HERE!

BLAM!

THUMP!

NOW THAT YOU'RE MY RELUCTANT GUEST, SPIDER-MAN--
DON'T THINK I'LL FORGET ABOUT YOU!
CLICK!


THE MIRRORED WALLS ARE MOVING!
THEY'RE GROUPING THEMSELVES INTO A CIRCLE--!

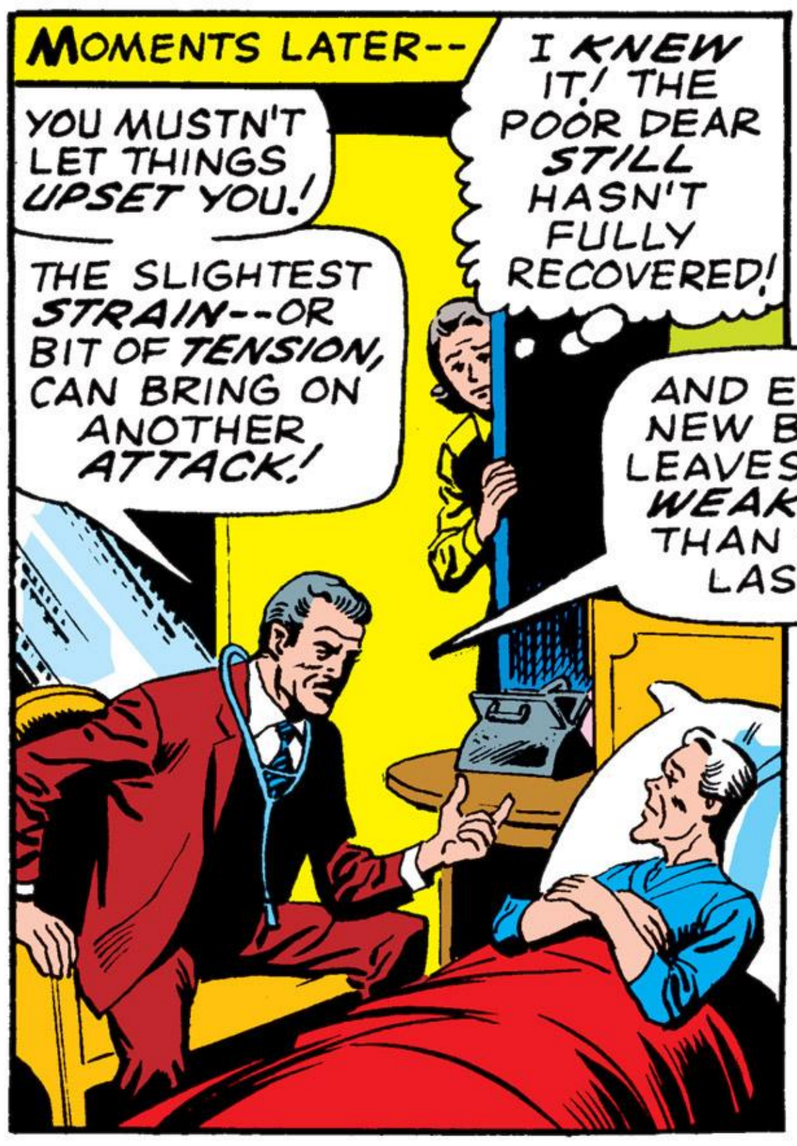
A CIRCLE THAT'S CLOSING IN ON ME!
IF I CAN'T BREAK FREE-- I'M DONE FOR!

CALL IT EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION-- CALL IT A FANTASTIC COINCIDENCE-- CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL--BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AT THE HOME OF ELDERLY MAY PARKER--
PETER!!
PETER-- WHERE ARE YOU?

MAY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ASLEEP!
I WAS, ANNA!
I MUST HAVE BEEN HAVING-- A BAD DREAM!
I SEEMED TO FEEL THAT PETER WAS IN SOME TERRIBLE DANGER!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, DEAR!
I THINK I HEAR THE DOCTOR ARRIVING--!

LOOK AT THAT DOOR! WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED HERE?*
WHERE'S THAT FOOTLOOSE NEPHEW OF HERS?
HE'S NEVER HERE WHEN HE'S NEEDED!
NO WONDER POOR MRS. PARKER'S NERVES ARE SHOT!
*PETEY BROKE IT LAST ISH WHEN HE RACED IN UPON HEARING THE ANGUISHED CRY OF HIS AUNT--REMEMBER?--STAINLESS STAN.

OH, DOCTOR--I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
MAY HAS BEEN--FEELING POORLY AGAIN!
BUT--I'M ALL RIGHT NOW!
LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, MRS. PARKER!

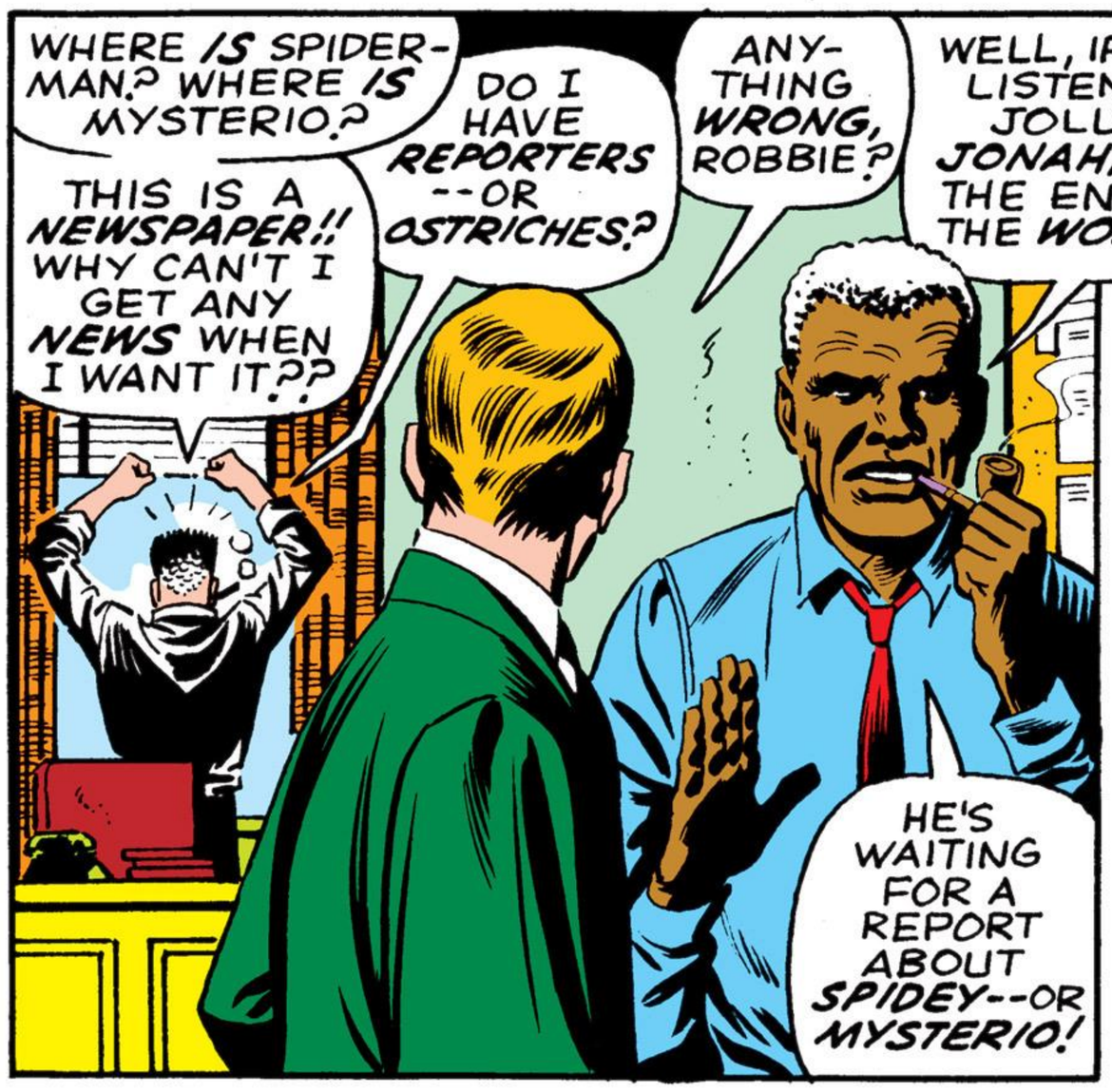

MOMENTS LATER--
YOU MUSTN'T LET THINGS UPSET YOU!
THE SLIGHTEST STRAIN--OR BIT OF TENSION, CAN BRING ON ANOTHER ATTACK!
I KNEW IT! THE POOR DEAR STILL HASN'T FULLY RECOVERED!
AND EACH NEW BOUT LEAVES YOU WEAKER THAN THE LAST!

FOR A MOMENT, I CONSIDERED SENDING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL--FOR COMPLETE REST AND ISOLATION!
BUT, I'D RATHER NOT MOVE YOU RIGHT NOW--SO WE'LL LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE!

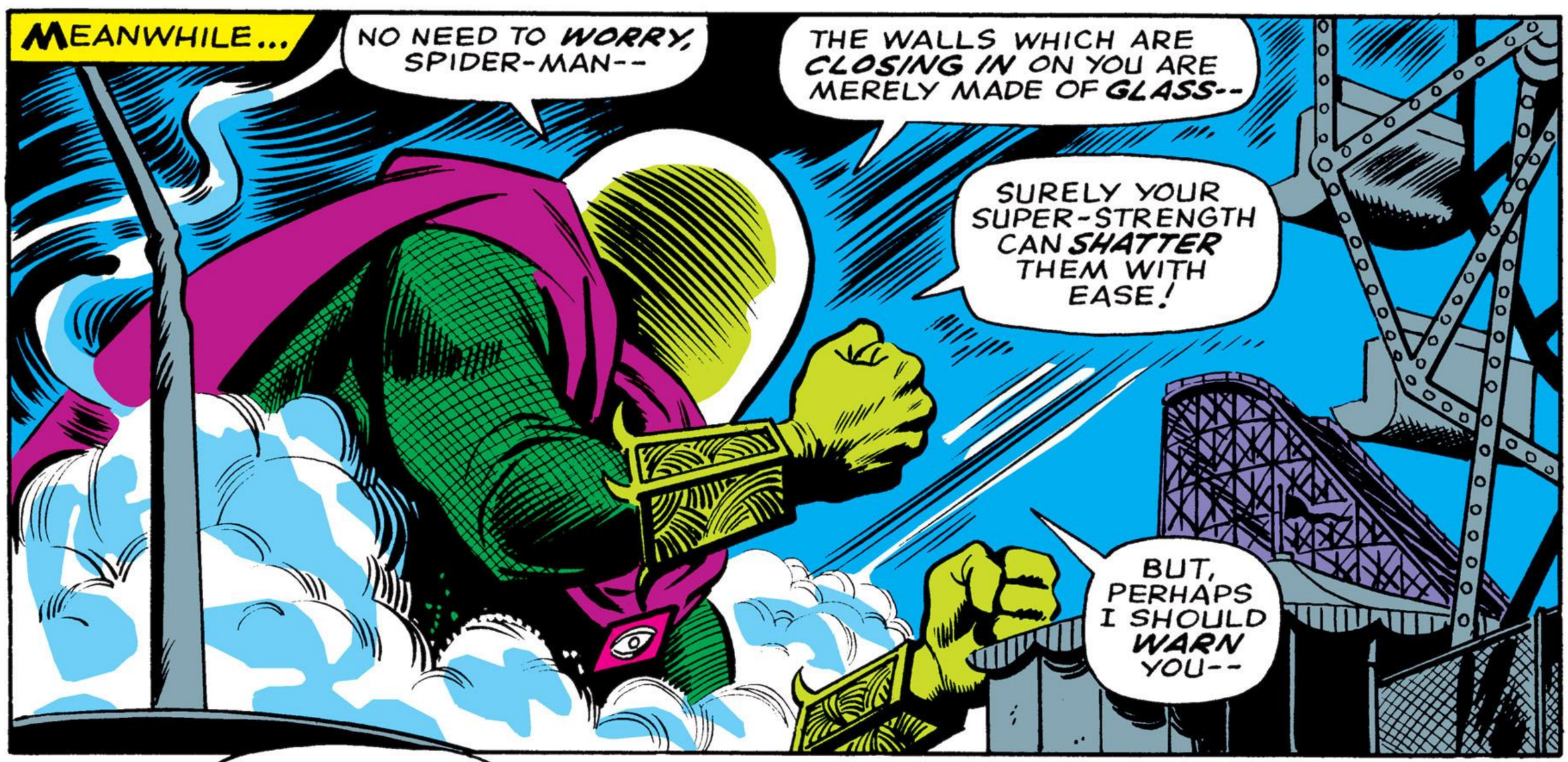
IF YOU SHOULD NEED ANYTHING--
OH, DON'T WORRY, DOCTOR! I HAVE MY DEAR FRIEND ANNA--AND, OF COURSE--MY DEVOTED NEPHEW--PETER!
DEVOTED? HE NEVER SEEMS TO BE HERE!
HE'S THE BEST NEPHEW--IN THE WORLD!
AMAZING HOW SHE LOVES THAT USELESS TEEN-AGER!

DOCTOR--IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO--ANYTHING I SHOULD KNOW--?
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE, I'M AFRAID!
MRS. PARKER IS VERY WEAK! SHE MUST BE SHIELDED FROM ANY WORRY--AND SUDDEN SHOCKS!
AND THE BEST THERAPY WOULD BE MORE FREQUENT VISITS FROM THAT FLIGHTY NEPHEW OF HERS!

OKAY! SOAP OPERA TIME'S OVER! NOW, BACK TO THE COLD, CRUEL, CALLOUS WORLD OUTSIDE--
IT'S BEEN HOURS SINCE MYSTERIO ISSUED A PUBLIC CHALLENGE TO THAT SLIMY, SPINELESS SPIDER-MAN!
I WANT A FOLLOW-UP STORY! I WANT NEWS, ROBERTSON--NEWS! N-E-W-S!
I KNOW HOW TO SPELL IT, JJ!
BUT NO ONE CAN WRITE IT UP--UNTIL IT HAPPENS!


WHERE IS SPIDER-MAN? WHERE IS MYSTERIO?
THIS IS A NEWSPAPER!! WHY CAN'T I GET ANY NEWS WHEN I WANT IT??
DO I HAVE REPORTERS --OR OSTRICHES?
ANY-THING WRONG, ROBBIE?
WELL, IF YOU LISTEN TO JOLLY JONAH, IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
HE'S WAITING FOR A REPORT ABOUT SPIDEY--OR MYSTERIO!

I'LL SCOUT AROUND AND SEE IF I CAN LEARN ANYTHING!
I WONDER IF CAPTAIN STACY HAS ANY NEW THEORIES?
DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER DATE TONIGHT, HONEY!
THEN I'D BETTER HOPE YOU DON'T LEARN ANYTHING, NED--SO YOU WON'T BE LATE!
I THINK I'LL GIVE HIM A RING!


MEANWHILE...
NO NEED TO WORRY, SPIDER-MAN--
THE WALLS WHICH ARE CLOSING IN ON YOU ARE MERELY MADE OF GLASS--
SURELY YOUR SUPER-STRENGTH CAN SHATTER THEM WITH EASE!
BUT, PERHAPS I SHOULD WARN YOU--

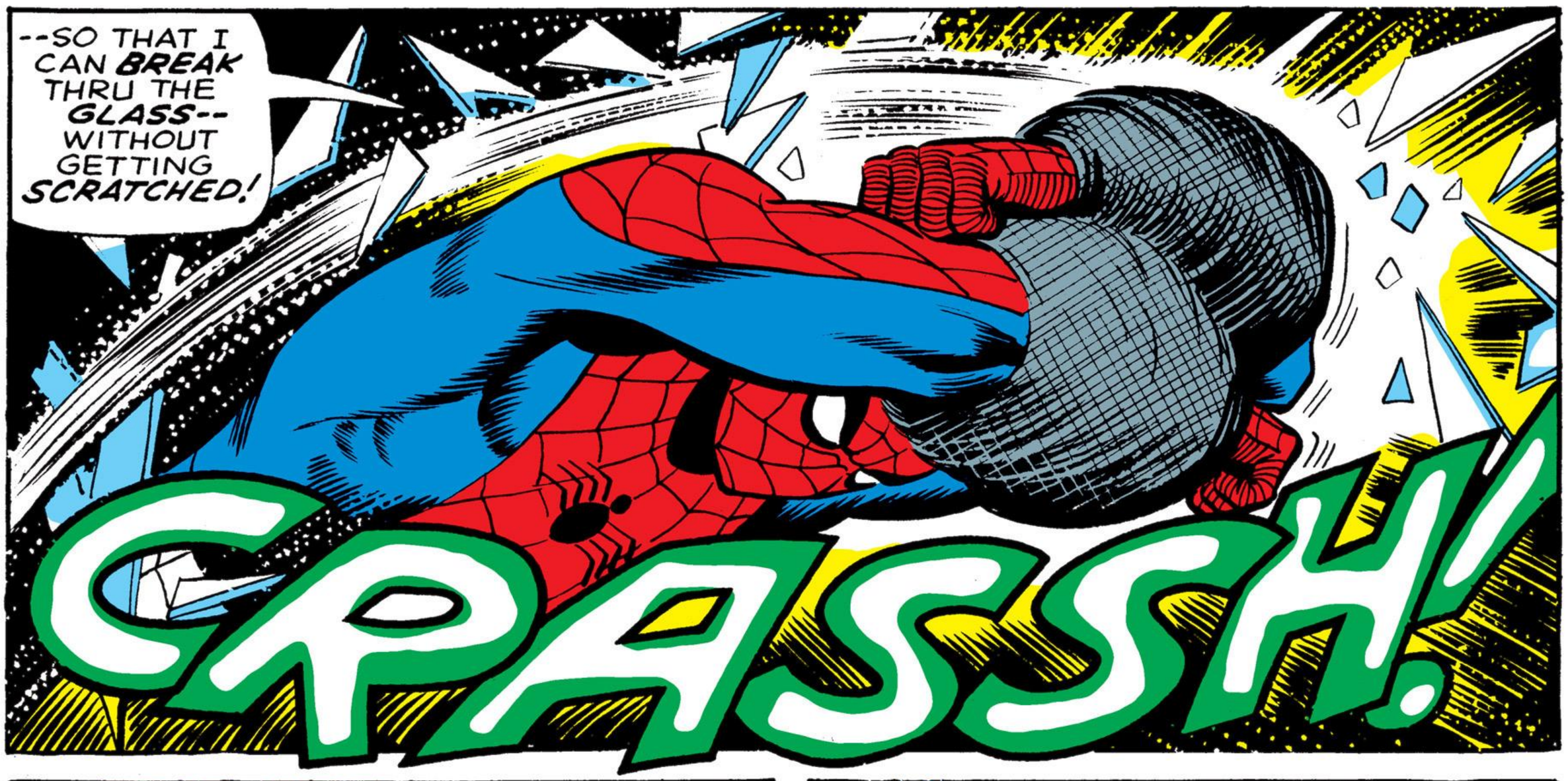
THEY'RE COATED WITH A THIN FILM OF LETHAL POISON!
THE SLIGHTEST SCRATCH WOULD MEAN "FAREWELL, SPIDER-MAN"!
AND I CAN'T BREAK A MIRROR WITHOUT GETTING SCRATCHED!
OR, SO HE THINKS!

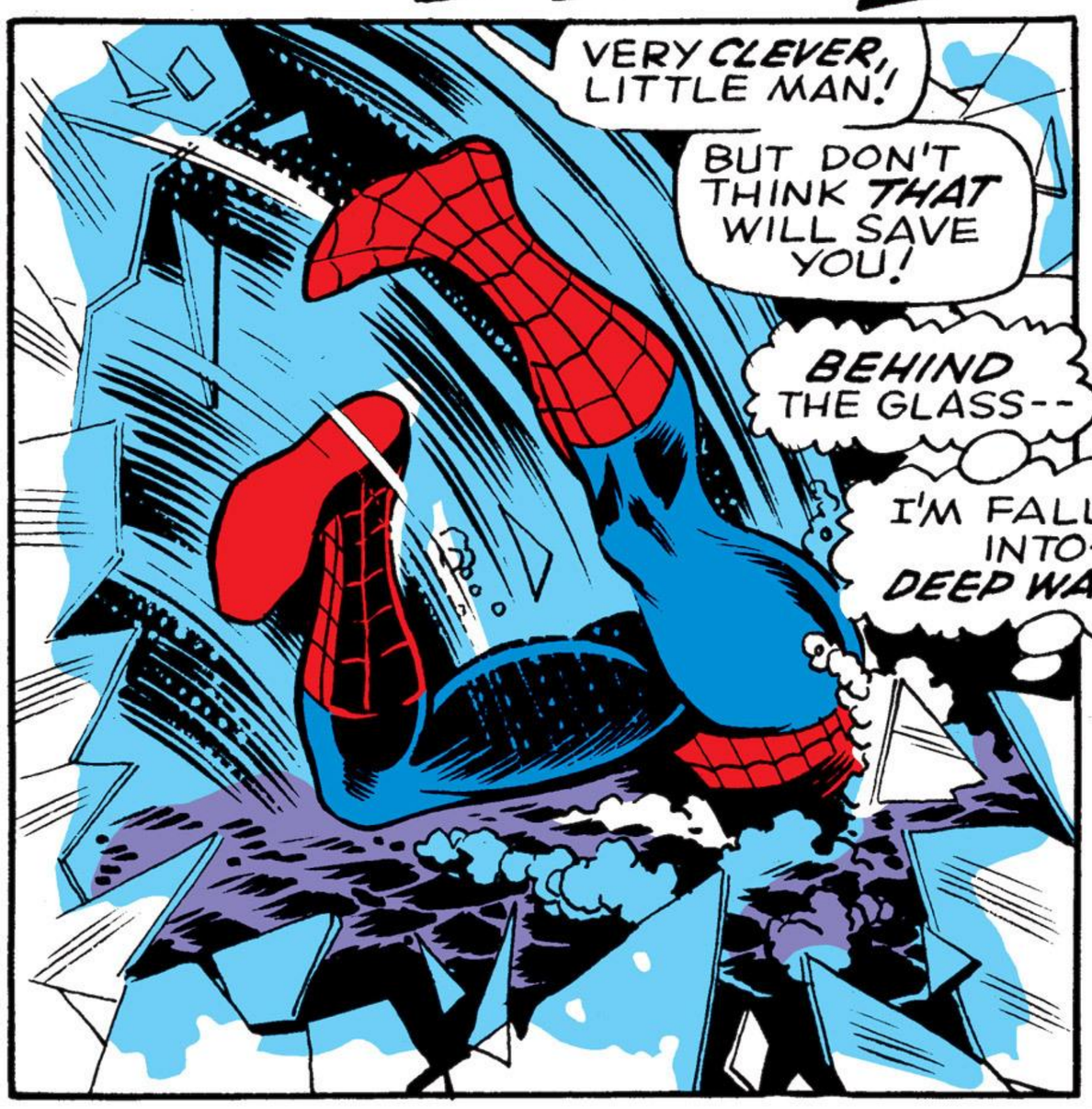
MY FIRST JOB IS TO GAIN SOME TIME!
MAYBE MY WEBBING CAN CLOG THE MECHANISM-- AND SLOW IT DOWN!
THWIP!
I ONLY NEED A FEW SECONDS!

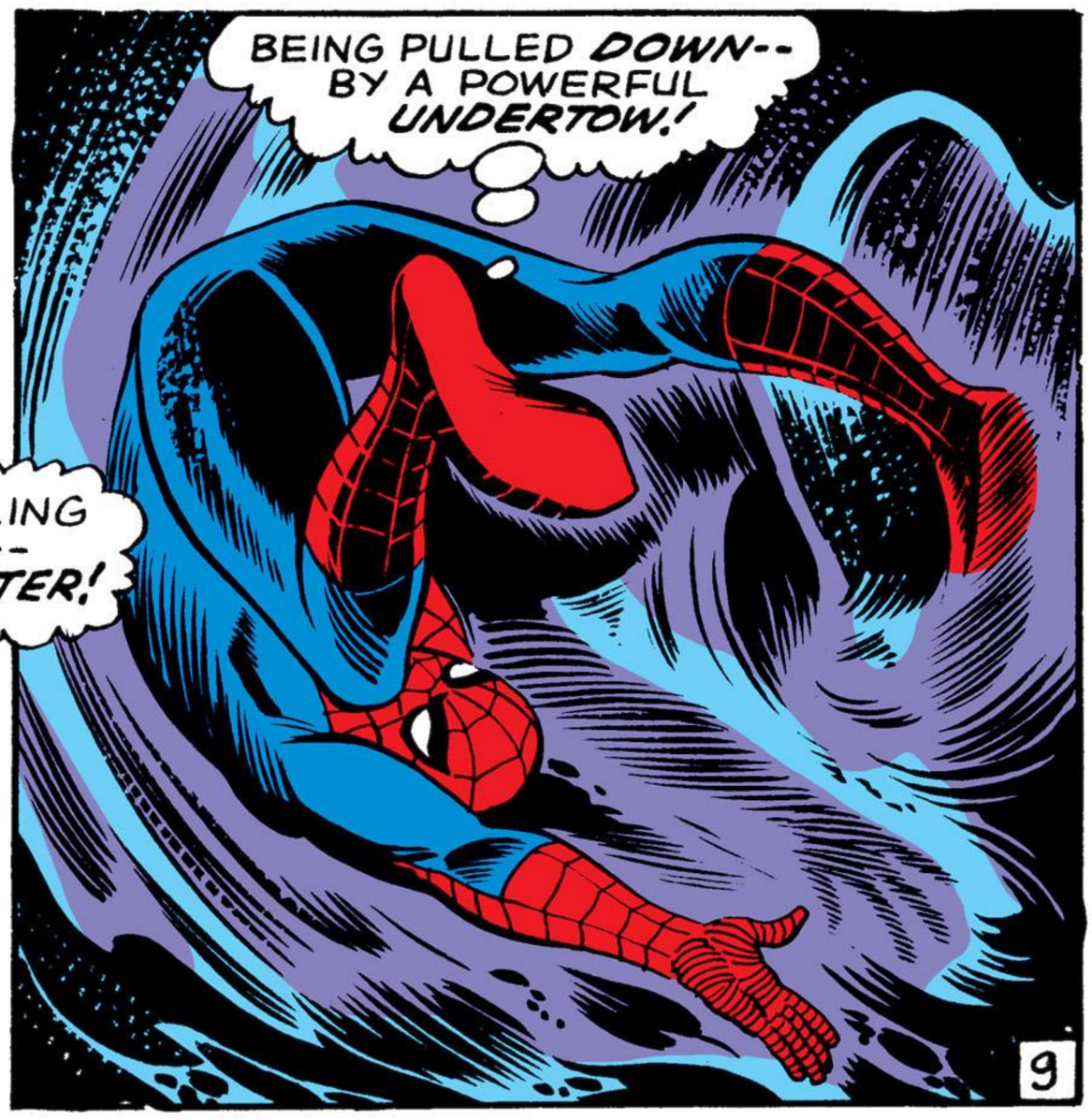
IT WORKED! THEY'RE STILL CLOSING IN-- BUT SLOWER!
IT GIVES ME TIME FOR ONE LAST MOVE--!

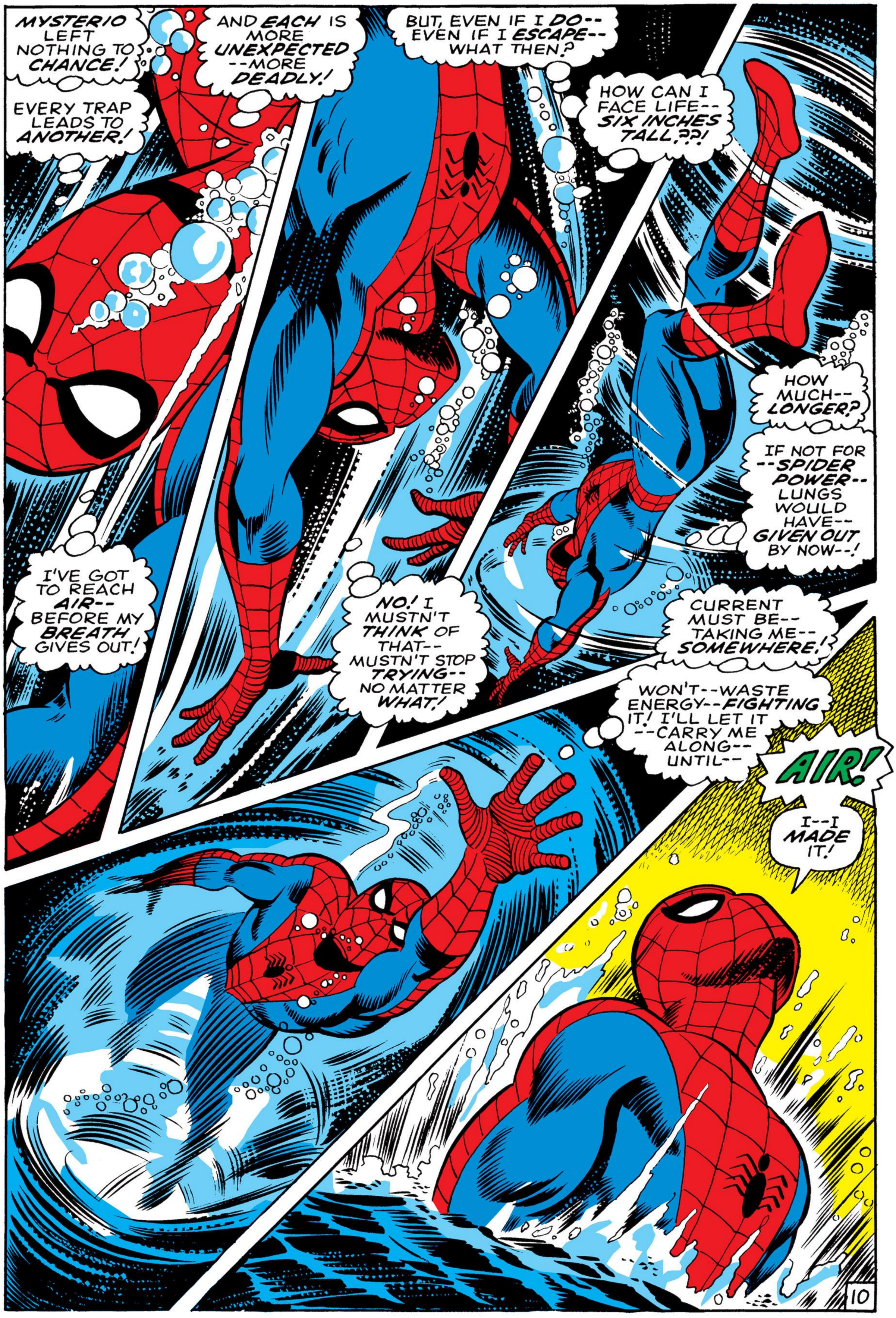
I HATE TO USE UP THIS MUCH WEBBING AT ONE TIME--
BUT I HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE--

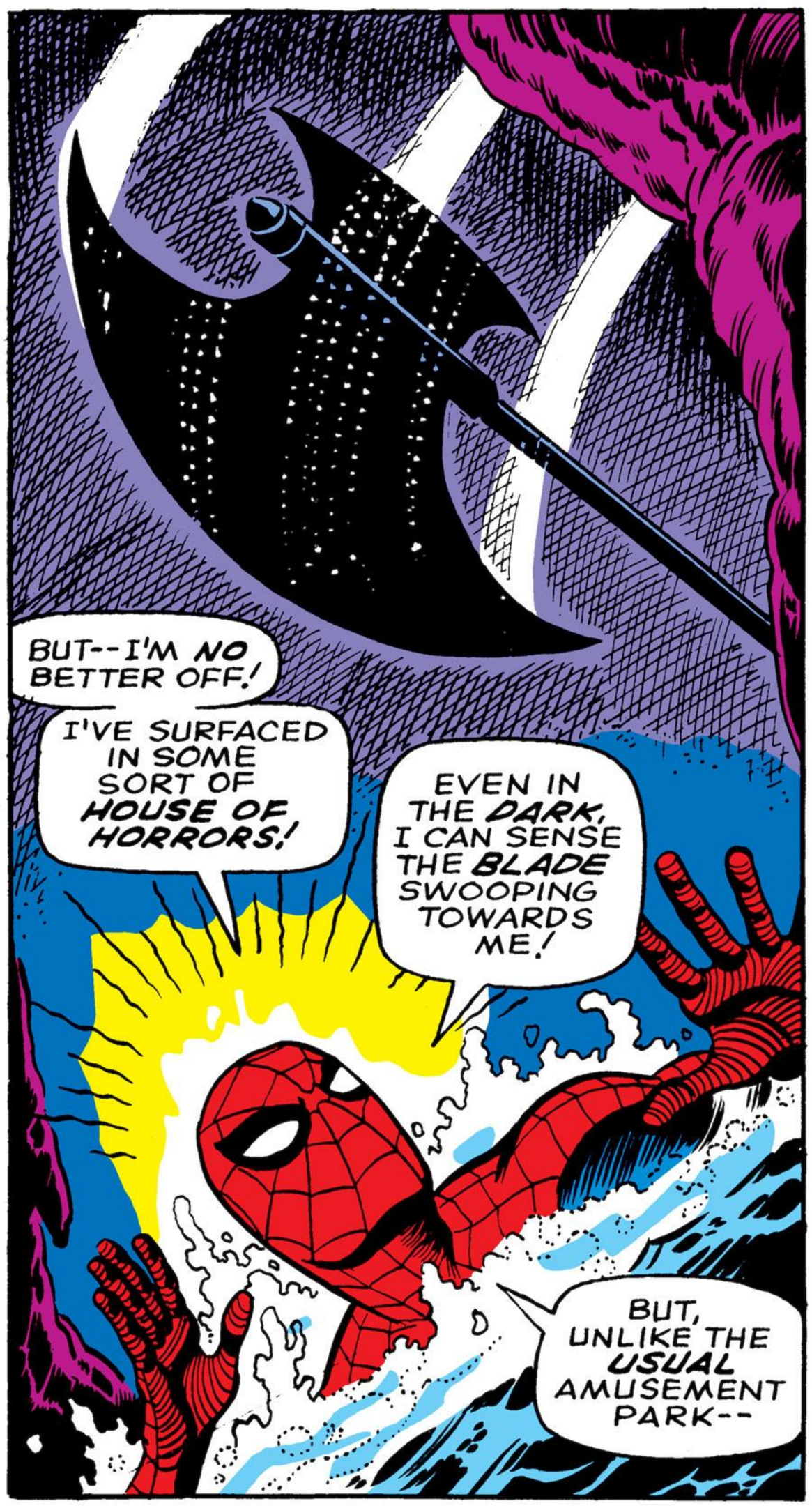
I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE I WRAP IT AROUND ME THICK ENOUGH--


--SO THAT I CAN BREAK THRU THE GLASS-- WITHOUT GETTING SCRATCHED!
CRASSH!

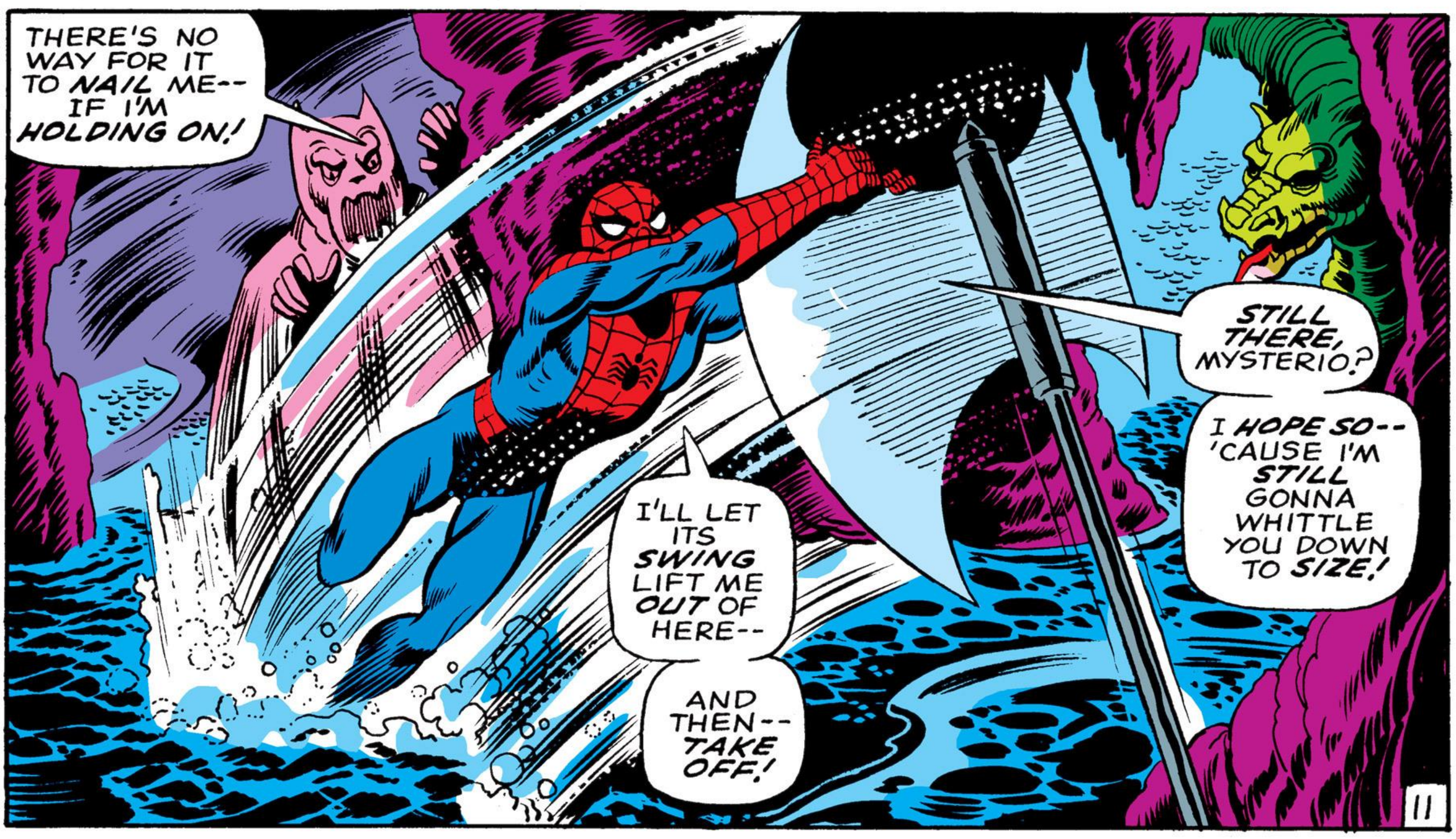

VERY CLEVER, LITTLE MAN!
BUT DON'T THINK THAT WILL SAVE YOU!
BEHIND THE GLASS--
I'M FALLING INTO-- DEEP WATER!


BEING PULLED DOWN-- BY A POWERFUL UNDERTOW!

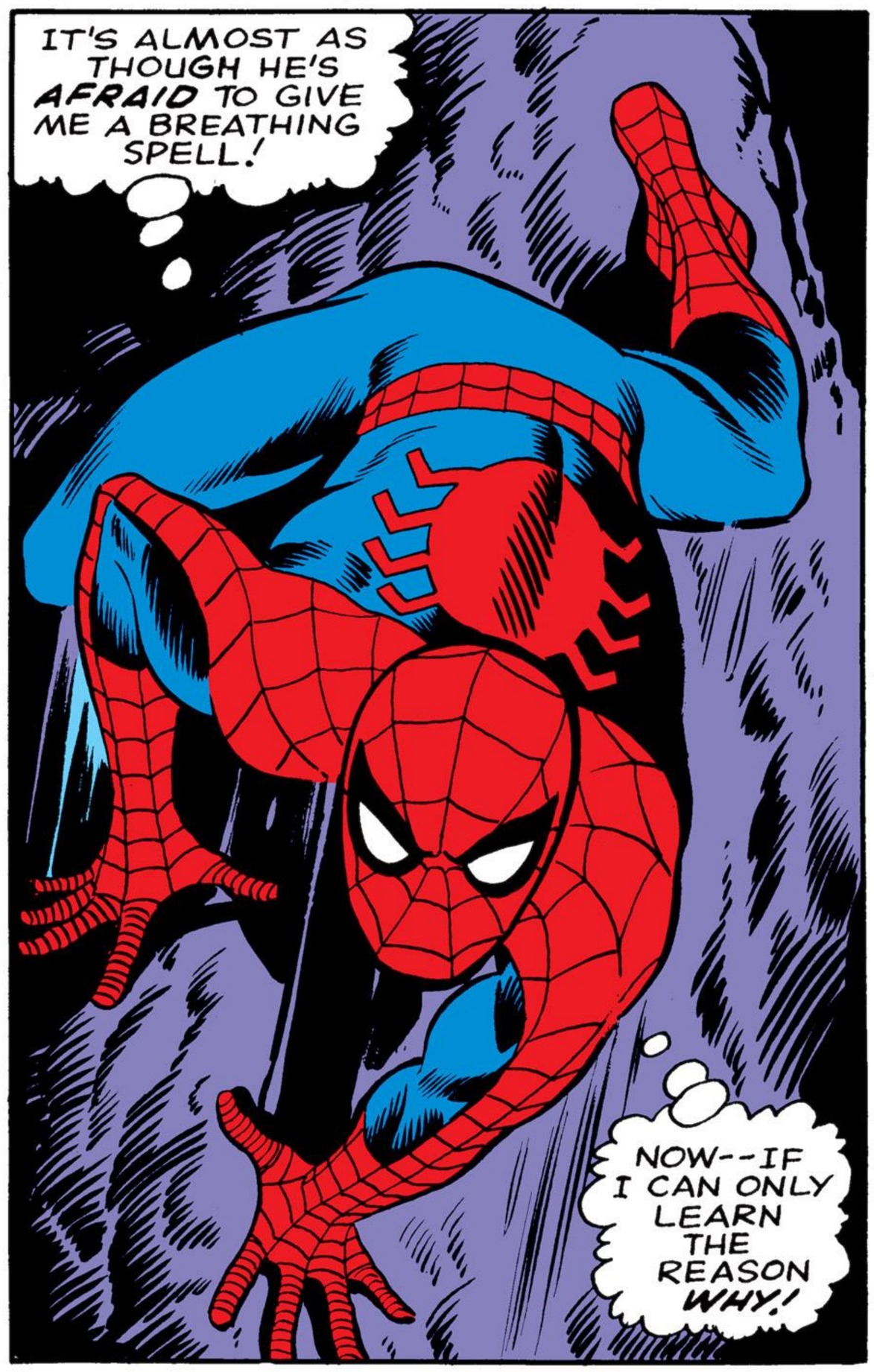

MYSTERIO LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE!
EVERY TRAP LEADS TO ANOTHER!
AND EACH IS MORE UNEXPECTED --MORE DEADLY!
BUT, EVEN IF I DO-- EVEN IF I ESCAPE-- WHAT THEN?
HOW CAN I FACE LIFE-- SIX INCHES TALL,??!
HOW MUCH-- LONGER?
IF NOT FOR --SPIDER POWER-- LUNGS WOULD HAVE-- GIVEN OUT BY NOW--!
I'VE GOT TO REACH AIR-- BEFORE MY BREATH GIVES OUT!
NO! I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT-- MUSTN'T STOP TRYING-- NO MATTER WHAT!
CURRENT MUST BE-- TAKING ME-- SOMEWHERE!
WON'T--WASTE ENERGY--FIGHTING IT! I'LL LET IT --CARRY ME ALONG-- UNTIL--
AIR!
I--I MADE IT!

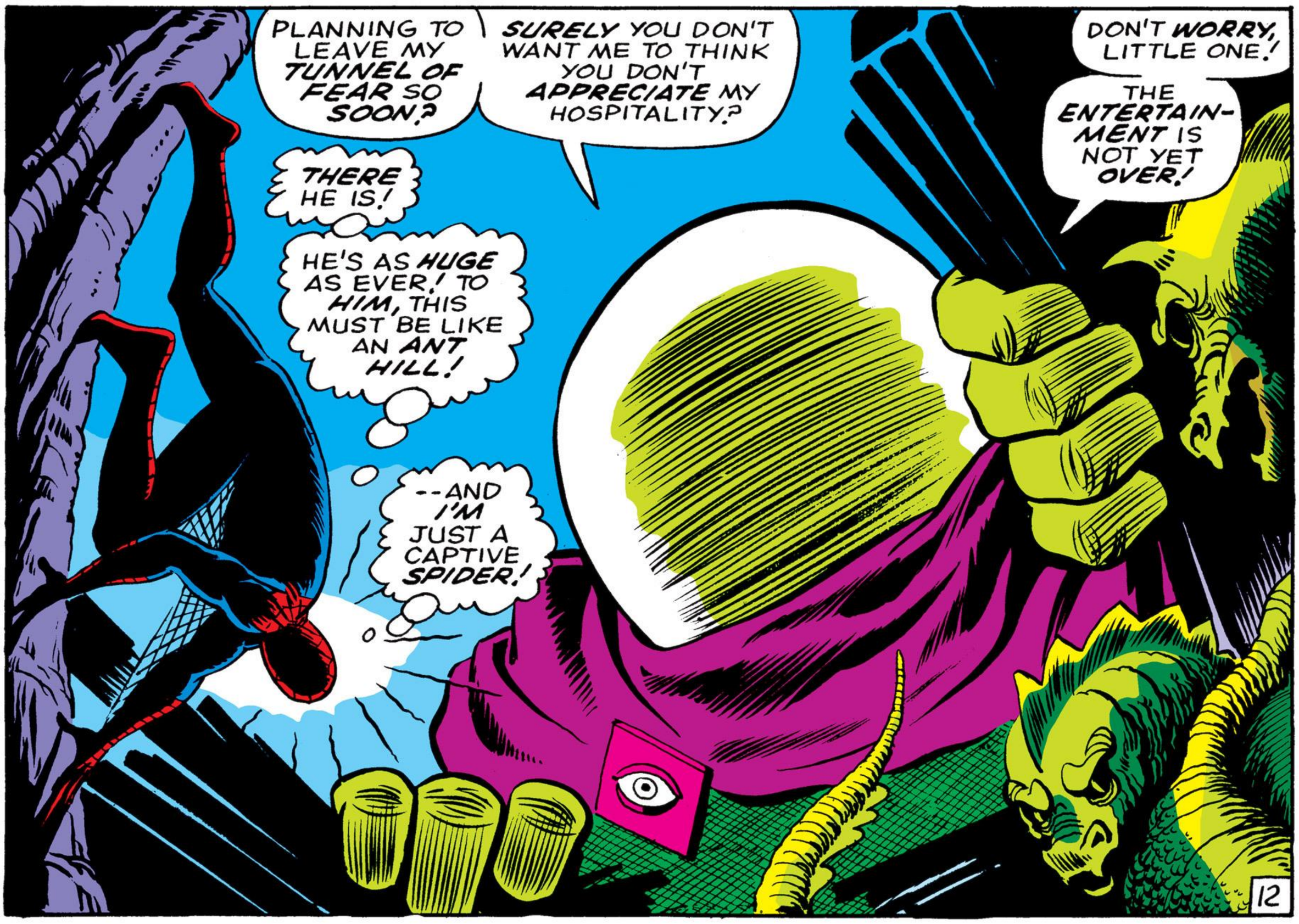

BUT--I'M NO BETTER OFF!
I'VE SURFACED IN SOME SORT OF HOUSE OF HORRORS!
EVEN IN THE DARK, I CAN SENSE THE BLADE SWOOPING TOWARDS ME!
BUT, UNLIKE THE USUAL AMUSEMENT PARK--

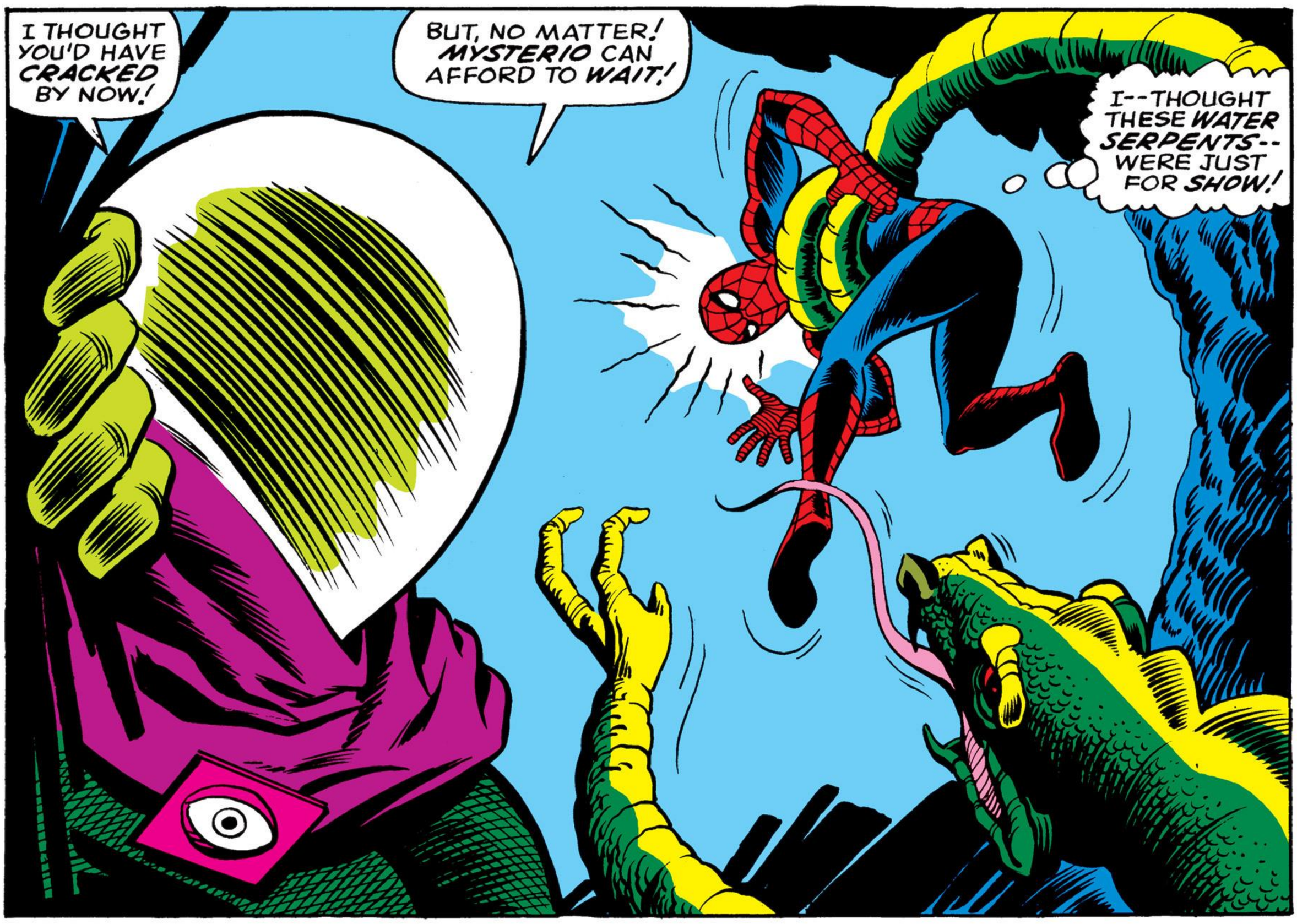
ALL THE SCARY GIMMICKS HERE-- ARE ACTUALLY FOR REAL!
I THREW MYSELF BACK--OUT OF THE WAY-- JUST IN TIME!
BUT I CAN'T KEEP TRYING TO DODGE THAT THING!
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA--!

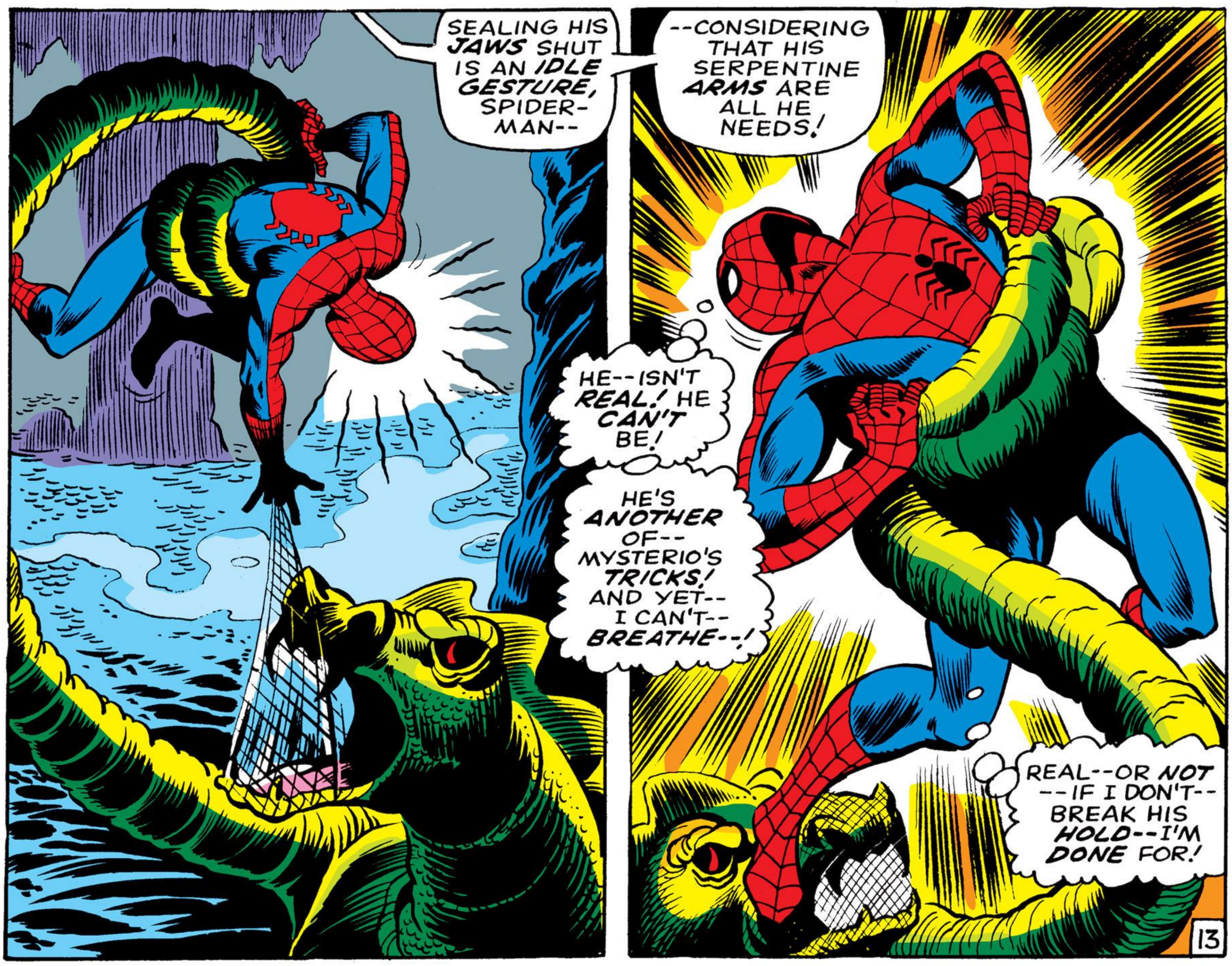

THERE'S NO WAY FOR IT TO NAIL ME-- IF I'M HOLDING ON!
STILL THERE, MYSTERIO?
I HOPE SO-- 'CAUSE I'M STILL GONNA WHITTLE YOU DOWN TO SIZE!
I'LL LET ITS SWING LIFT ME OUT OF HERE--
AND THEN-- TAKE OFF!

YOU EXPECT TO SAVE YOURSELF BY LETTING MY BLADE HURL YOU ONTO THAT WALL?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE SO NAIVE!
HE'S STILL WATCHING-- AS I KNEW HE'D BE!
HE HASN'T ALLOWED ME A SECOND TO STOP--TO THINK!
WHY? WHY DOES HE THROW THINGS AT ME SO FAST?

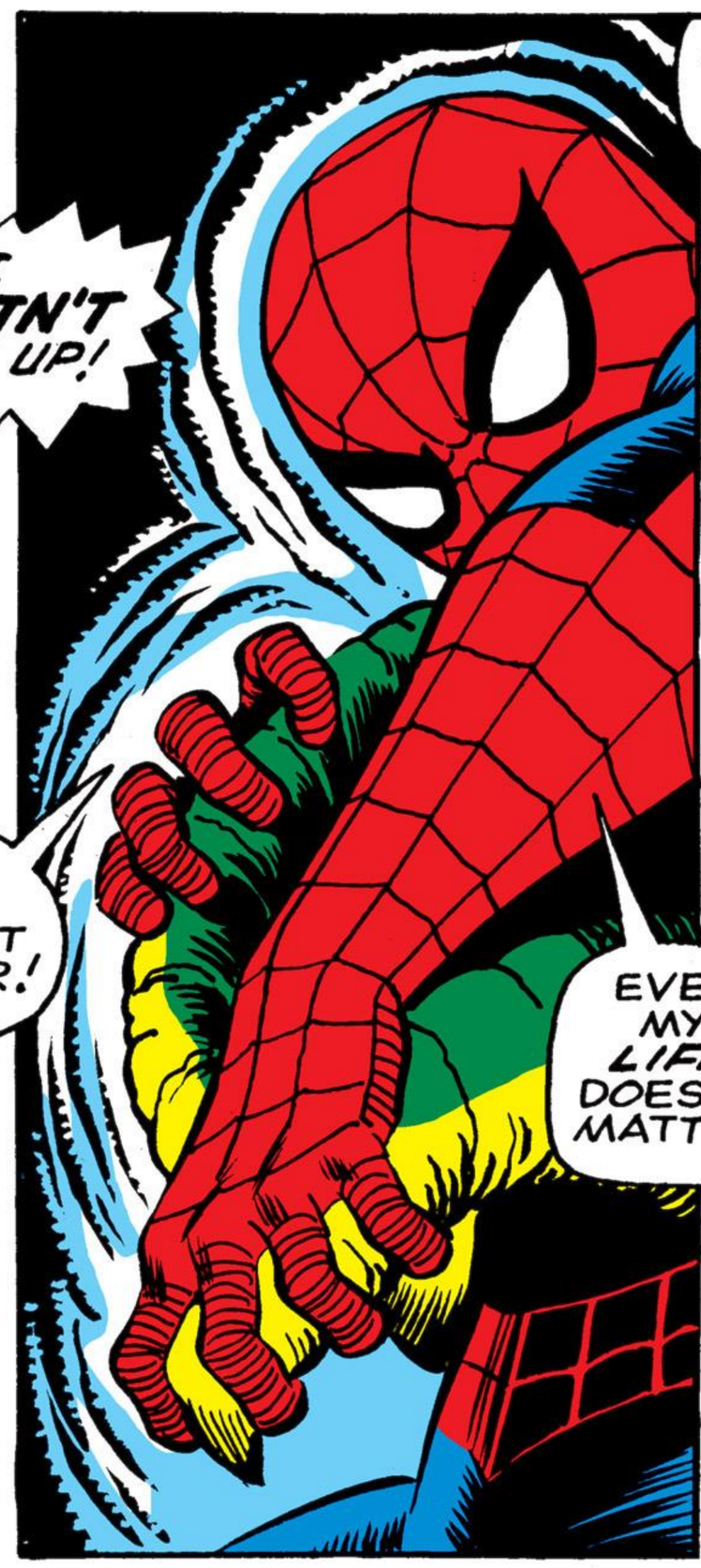

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH HE'S AFRAID TO GIVE ME A BREATHING SPELL!
NOW--IF I CAN ONLY LEARN THE REASON WHY!


PLANNING TO LEAVE MY TUNNEL OF FEAR SO SOON?
SURELY YOU DON'T WANT ME TO THINK YOU DON'T APPRECIATE MY HOSPITALITY?
THERE HE IS!
HE'S AS HUGE AS EVER! TO HIM, THIS MUST BE LIKE AN ANT HILL!
--AND I'M JUST A CAPTIVE SPIDER!
DON'T WORRY, LITTLE ONE!
THE ENTERTAIN-MENT IS NOT YET OVER!

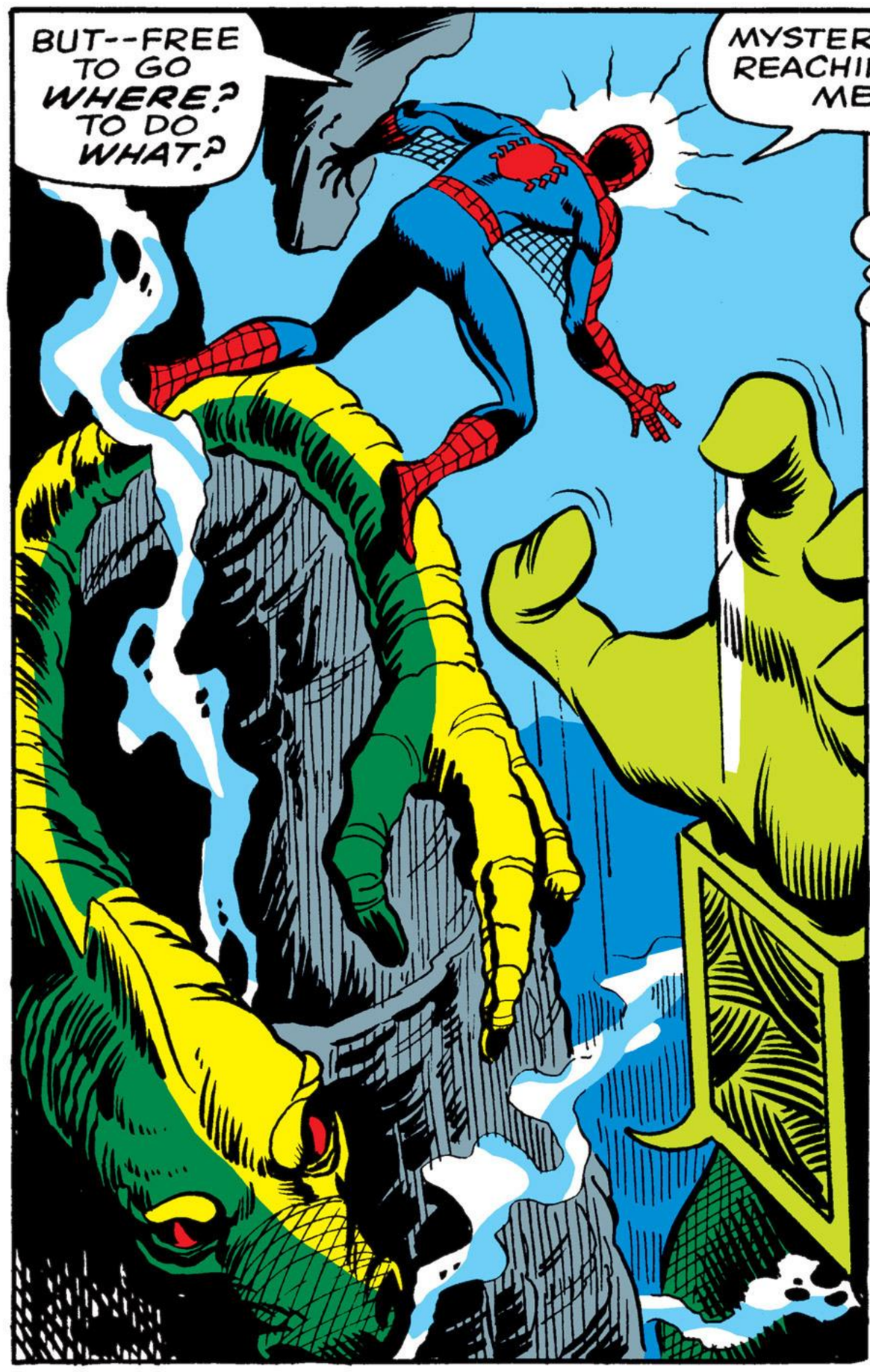

I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE CRACKED BY NOW!
BUT, NO MATTER! MYSTERIO CAN AFFORD TO WAIT!
I--THOUGHT THESE WATER SERPENTS--WERE JUST FOR SHOW!


SEALING HIS JAWS SHUT IS AN IDLE GESTURE, SPIDER-MAN--
--CONSIDERING THAT HIS SERPENTINE ARMS ARE ALL HE NEEDS!
HE--ISN'T REAL! HE CAN'T BE!
HE'S ANOTHER OF--MYSTERIO'S TRICKS! AND YET--I CAN'T--BREATHE--!
REAL--OR NOT--IF I DON'T--BREAK HIS HOLD--I'M DONE FOR!

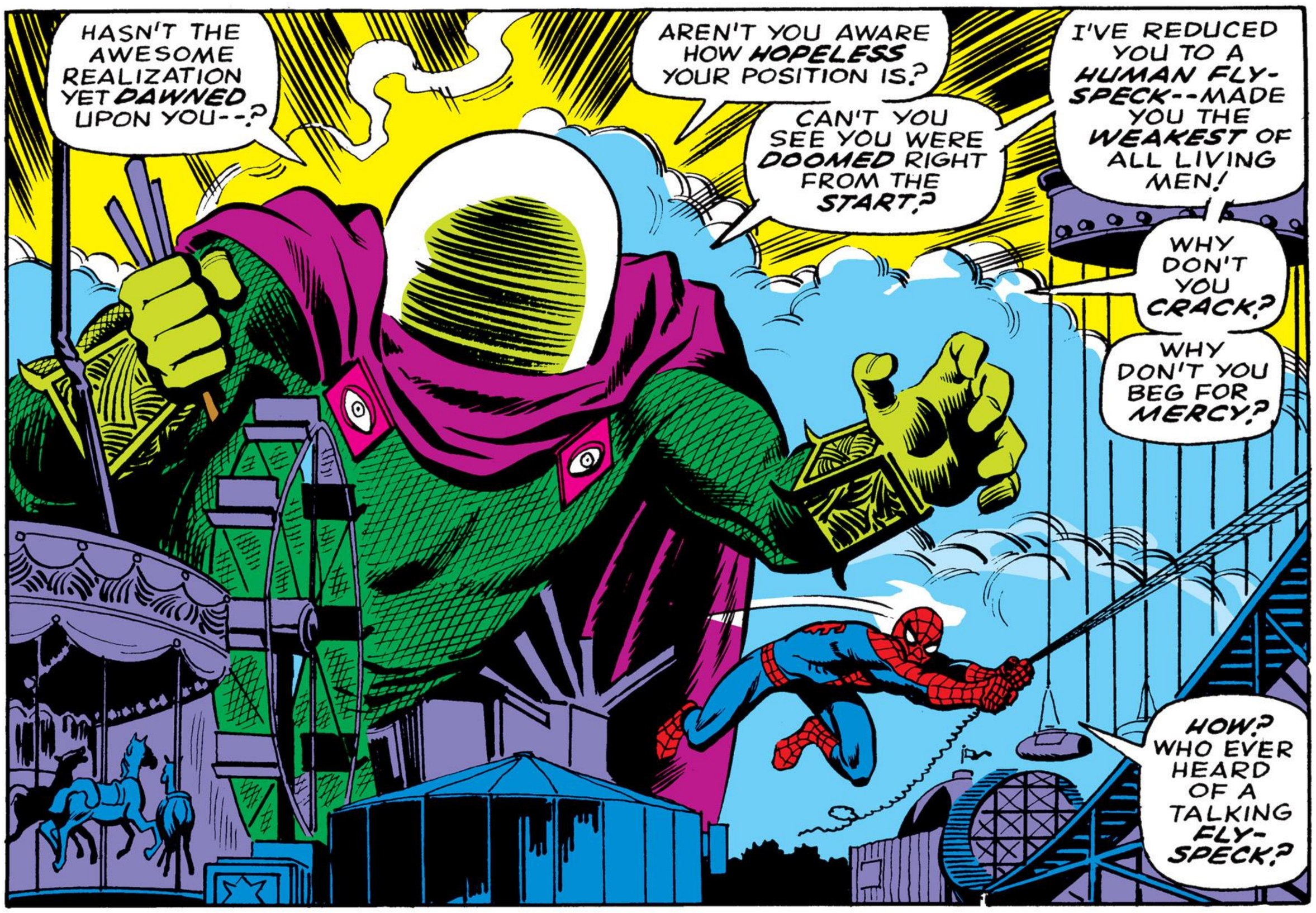
NO MATTER HOW SMALL I AM--
NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS EVERYTHING SEEMS--
I MUSTN'T GIVE UP!
MY SIZE DOESN'T MATTER!

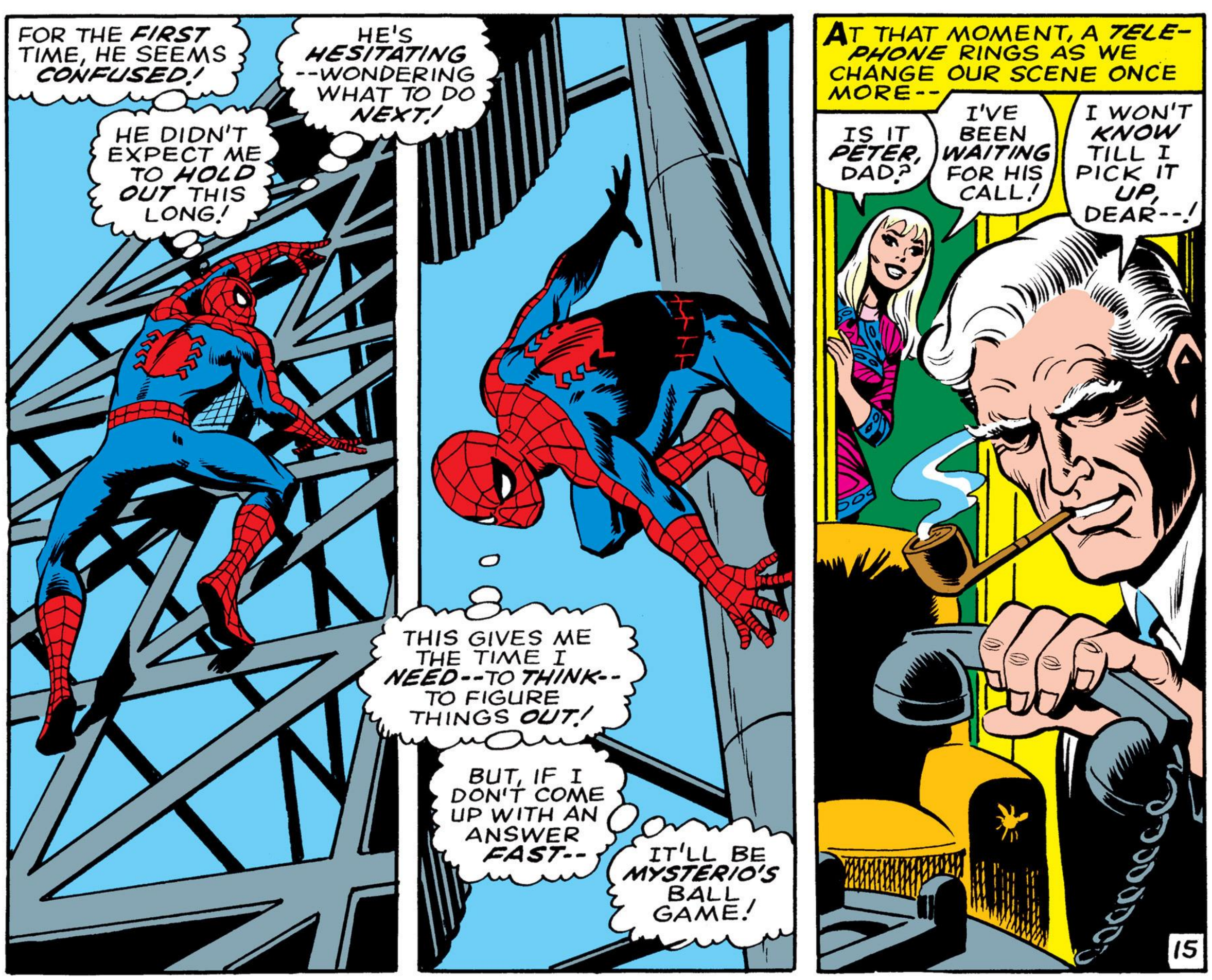

EVEN MY LIFE DOESN'T MATTER!

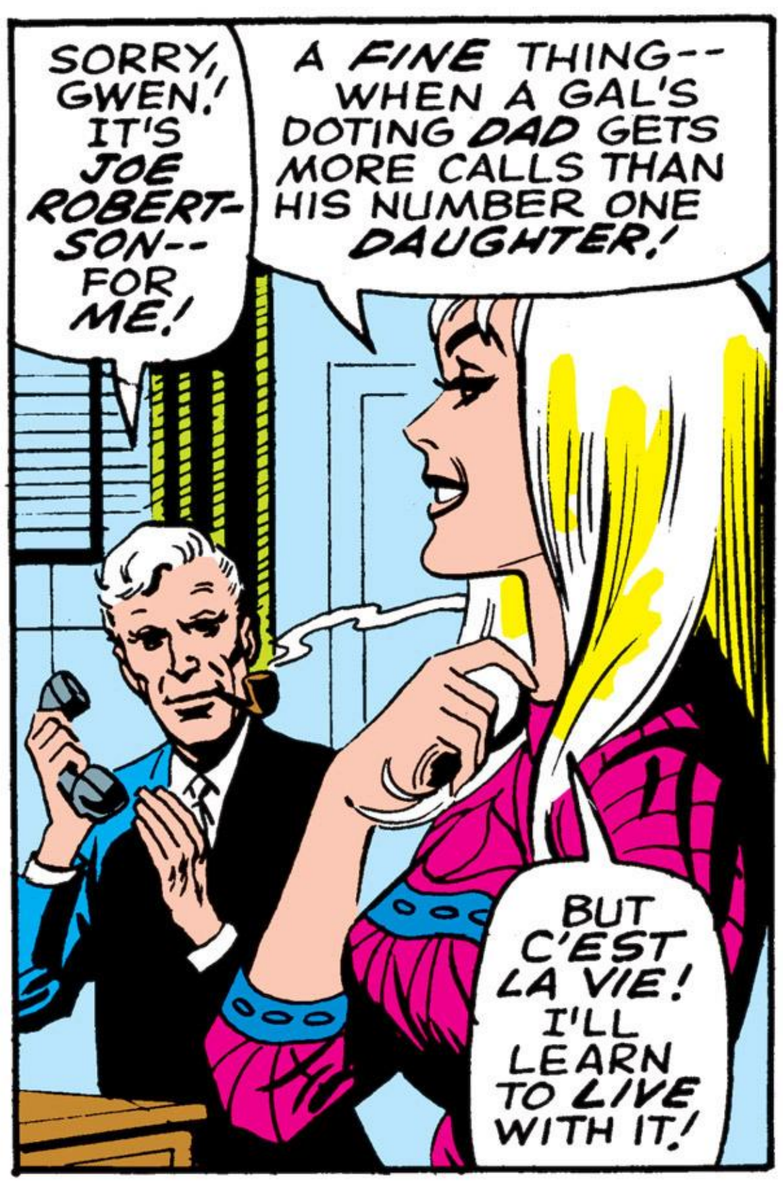
NO ONE CAN WIN--EVERY BATTLE--
BUT--NO MAN SHOULD FALL-- WITHOUT A STRUGGLE!
I DID IT!! I'M FREE!

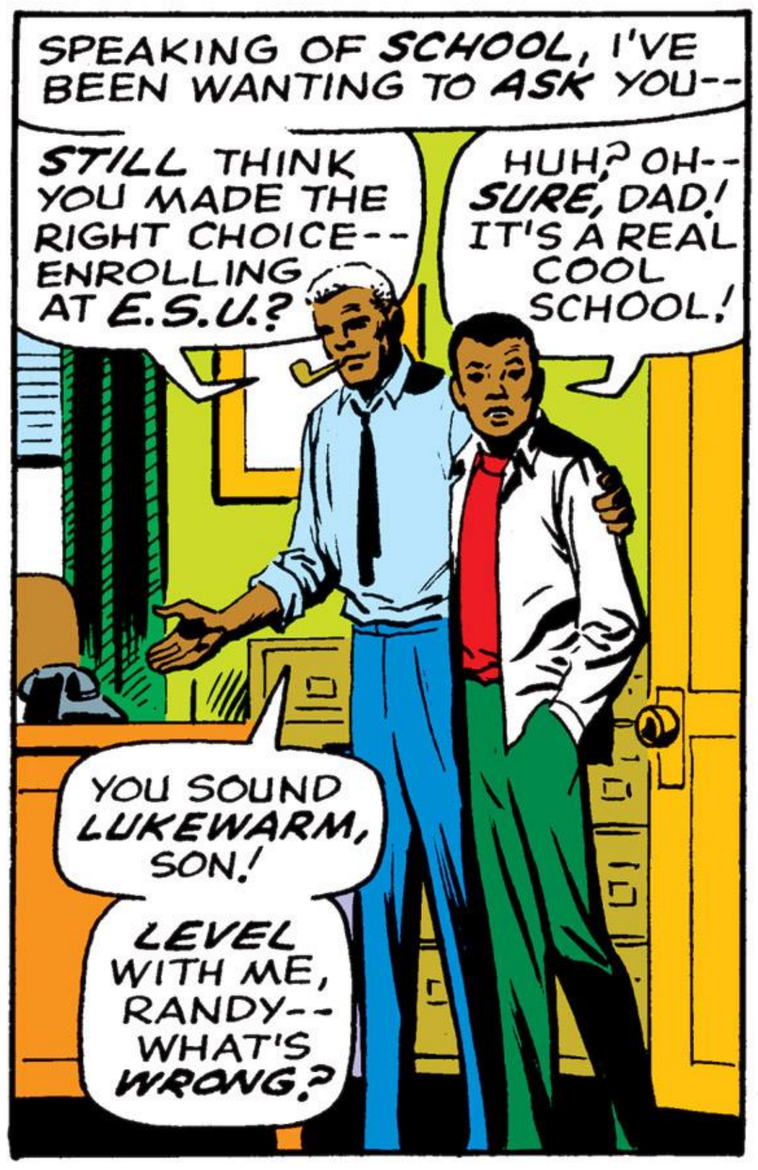

BUT--FREE TO GO WHERE? TO DO WHAT?
MYSTERIO'S HAND-- REACHING TOWARDS ME AGAIN!

HE'S STILL DETERMINED TO KEEP ME ON THE RUN--
WHY WON'T HE GIVE ME A BREATHER?
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!


HASN'T THE AWESOME REALIZATION YET DAWNED UPON YOU--?
AREN'T YOU AWARE HOW HOPELESS YOUR POSITION IS.?
CAN'T YOU SEE YOU WERE DOOMED RIGHT FROM THE START.?
I'VE REDUCED YOU TO A HUMAN FLY-SPECK--MADE YOU THE WEAKEST OF ALL LIVING MEN!
WHY DON'T YOU CRACK.?
WHY DON'T YOU BEG FOR MERCY.?
HOW.? WHO EVER HEARD OF A TALKING FLY-SPECK.?


FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE SEEMS CONFUSED!
HE'S HESITATING --WONDERING WHAT TO DO NEXT!
HE DIDN'T EXPECT ME TO HOLD OUT THIS LONG!
THIS GIVES ME THE TIME I NEED--TO THINK-- TO FIGURE THINGS OUT!
BUT, IF I DON'T COME UP WITH AN ANSWER FAST--
IT'LL BE MYSTERIO'S BALL GAME!
AT THAT MOMENT, A TELE-PHONE RINGS AS WE CHANGE OUR SCENE ONCE MORE--
IS IT PETER, DAD.?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HIS CALL!
I WON'T KNOW TILL I PICK IT UP, DEAR--!





BUT, SPEAKING OF PROBLEMS--

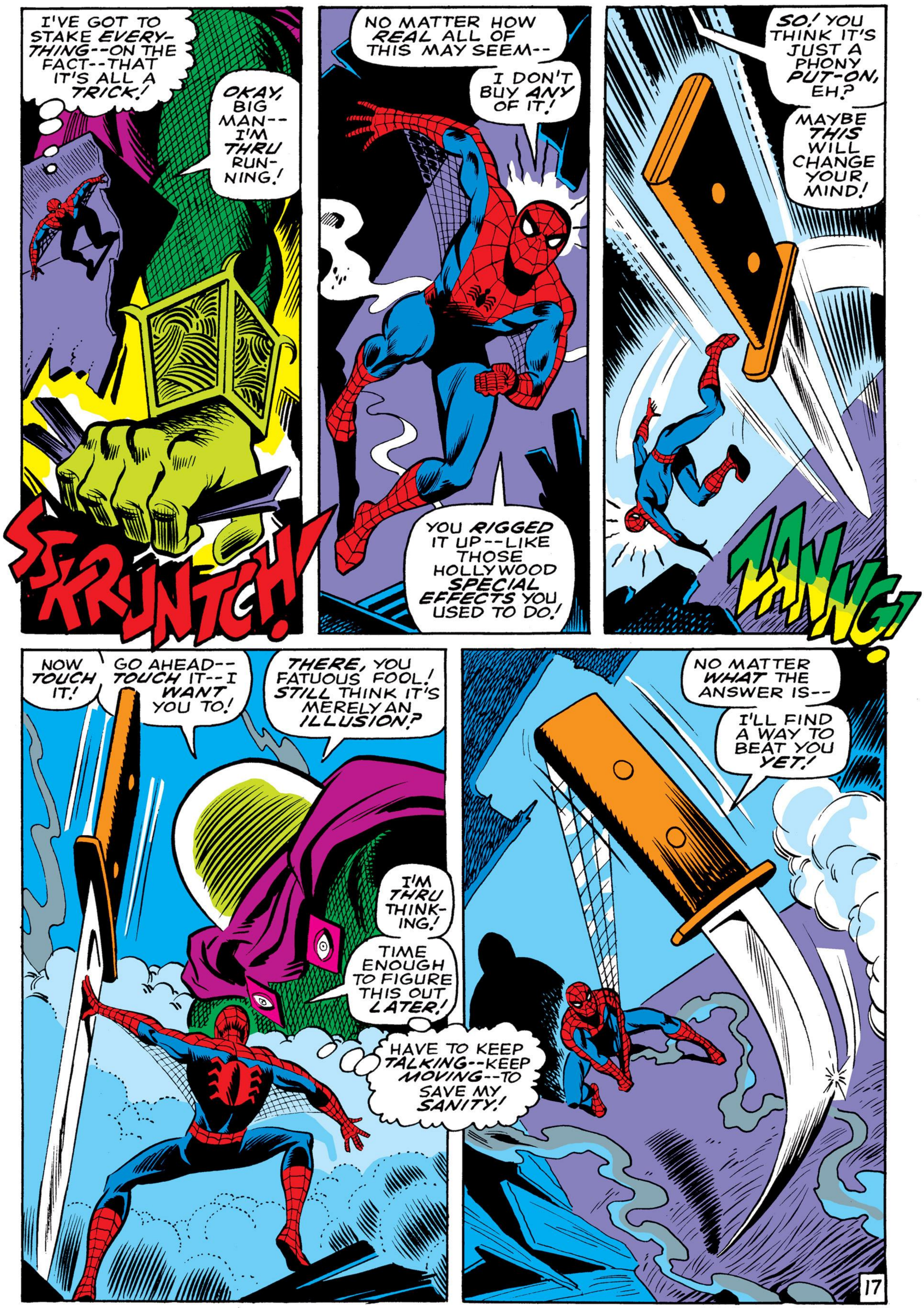
THIS IS IT! HE'S COMING AFTER ME AGAIN!

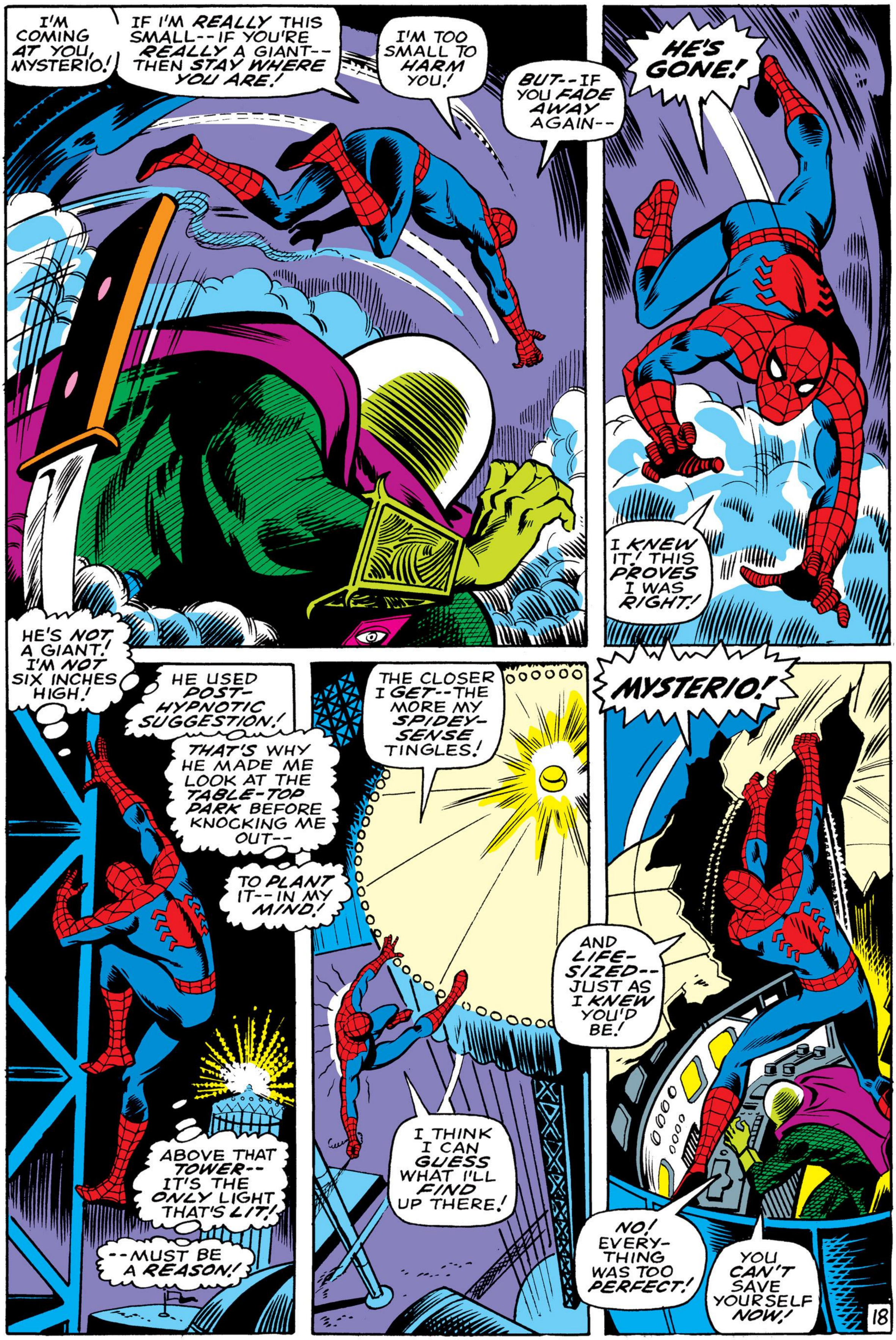
BUT I MUSTN'T PANIC! I MUST KEEP REMINDING MYSELF--IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION--

IT HAS TO BE AN ILLUSION-- OR ELSE--I'M AS GOOD AS DONE FOR!

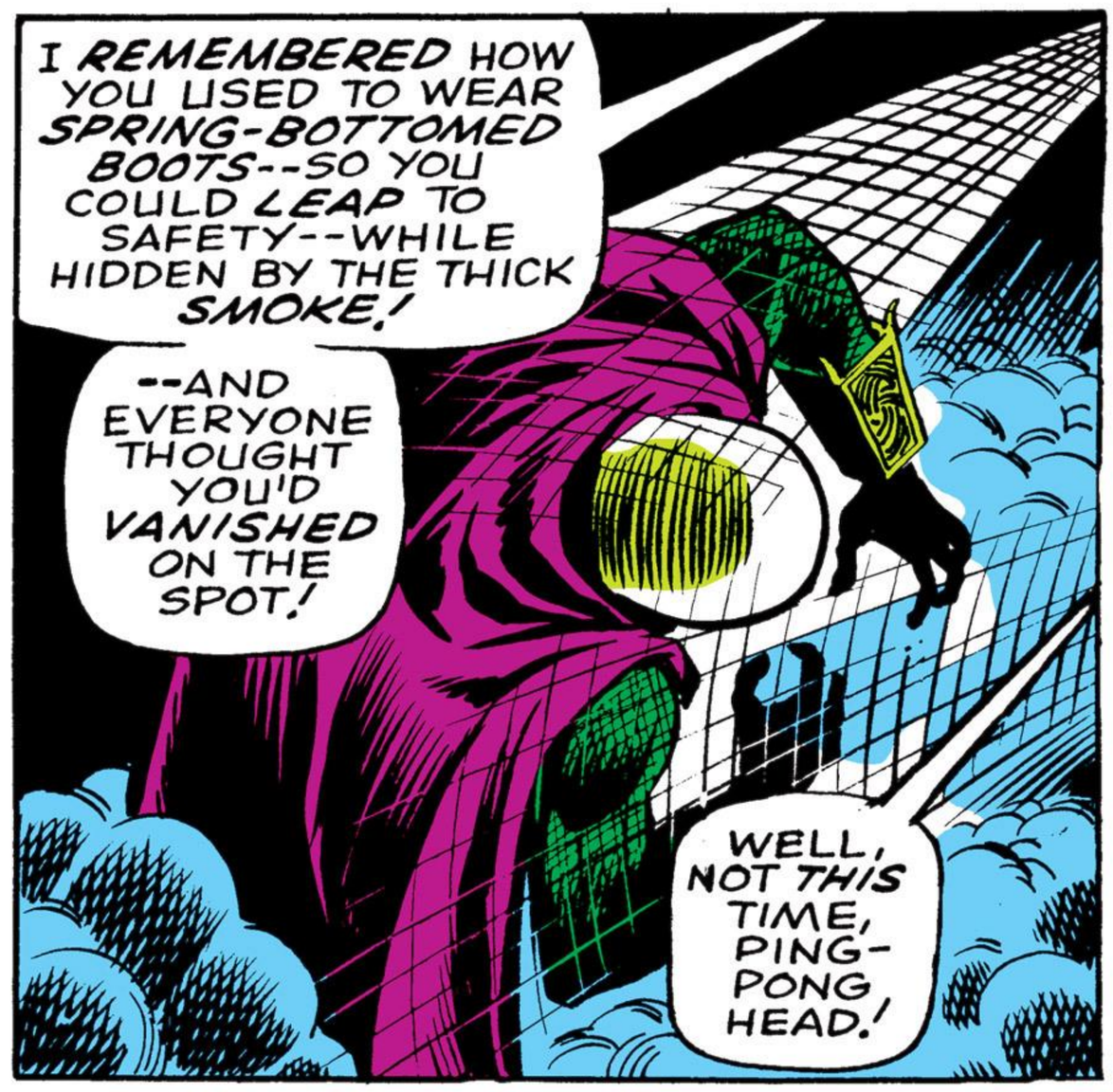
AND NOW, IT'S TIME TO END OUR LITTLE CHARADE!

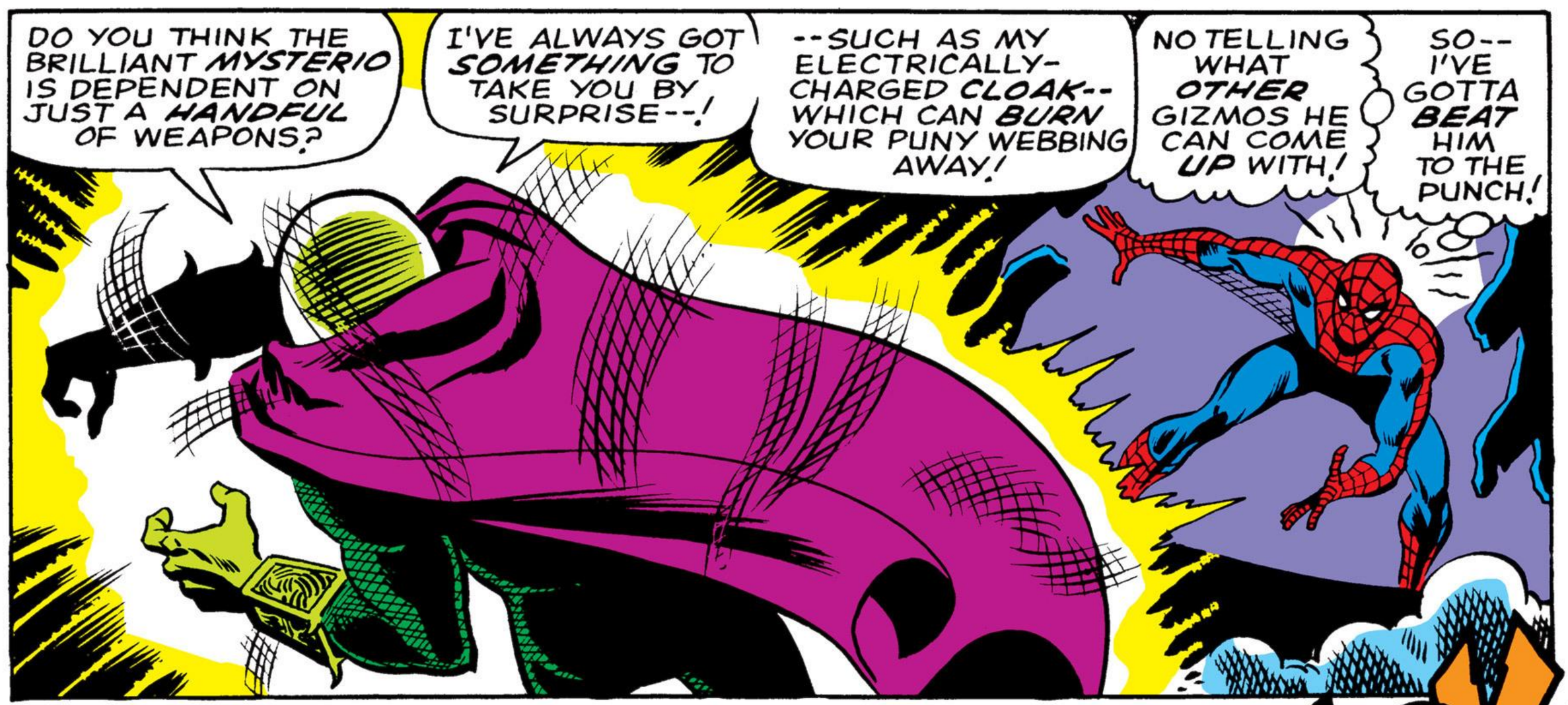
KRAK!


I'VE GOT TO STAKE EVERY-THING--ON THE FACT--THAT IT'S ALL A TRICK!
OKAY, BIG MAN-- I'M THRU RUN-NING!
SSKRUNTCH!
NO MATTER HOW REAL ALL OF THIS MAY SEEM--
I DON'T BUY ANY OF IT!
YOU RIGGED IT UP--LIKE THOSE HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL EFFECTS YOU USED TO DO!
SO! YOU THINK IT'S JUST A PHONY PUT-ON, EH?
MAYBE THIS WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!
ZANG!
NOW TOUCH IT!
GO AHEAD-- TOUCH IT--I WANT YOU TO!
THERE, YOU FATUOUS FOOL! STILL THINK IT'S MERELY AN ILLUSION?
I'M THRU THINK-ING!
TIME ENOUGH TO FIGURE THIS OUT LATER!
HAVE TO KEEP TALKING--KEEP MOVING--TO SAVE MY SANITY!
NO MATTER WHAT THE ANSWER IS--
I'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT YOU YET!


I'M COMING AT YOU, MYSTERIO!
IF I'M REALLY THIS SMALL--IF YOU'RE REALLY A GIANT--THEN STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
I'M TOO SMALL TO HARM YOU!
BUT--IF YOU FADE AWAY AGAIN--
HE'S GONE!
I KNEW IT! THIS PROVES I WAS RIGHT!
HE'S NOT A GIANT! I'M NOT SIX INCHES HIGH!
HE USED POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION!
THAT'S WHY HE MADE ME LOOK AT THE TABLE-TOP PARK BEFORE KNOCKING ME OUT--
TO PLANT IT--IN MY MIND!
ABOVE THAT TOWER--IT'S THE ONLY LIGHT THAT'S LIT!
--MUST BE A REASON!
THE CLOSER I GET--THE MORE MY SPIDEY-SENSE TINGLES!
I THINK I CAN GUESS WHAT I'LL FIND UP THERE!
MYSTERIO!
AND LIFE-SIZED--JUST AS I KNEW YOU'D BE!
NO! EVERY-THING WAS TOO PERFECT!
YOU CAN'T SAVE YOURSELF NOW!

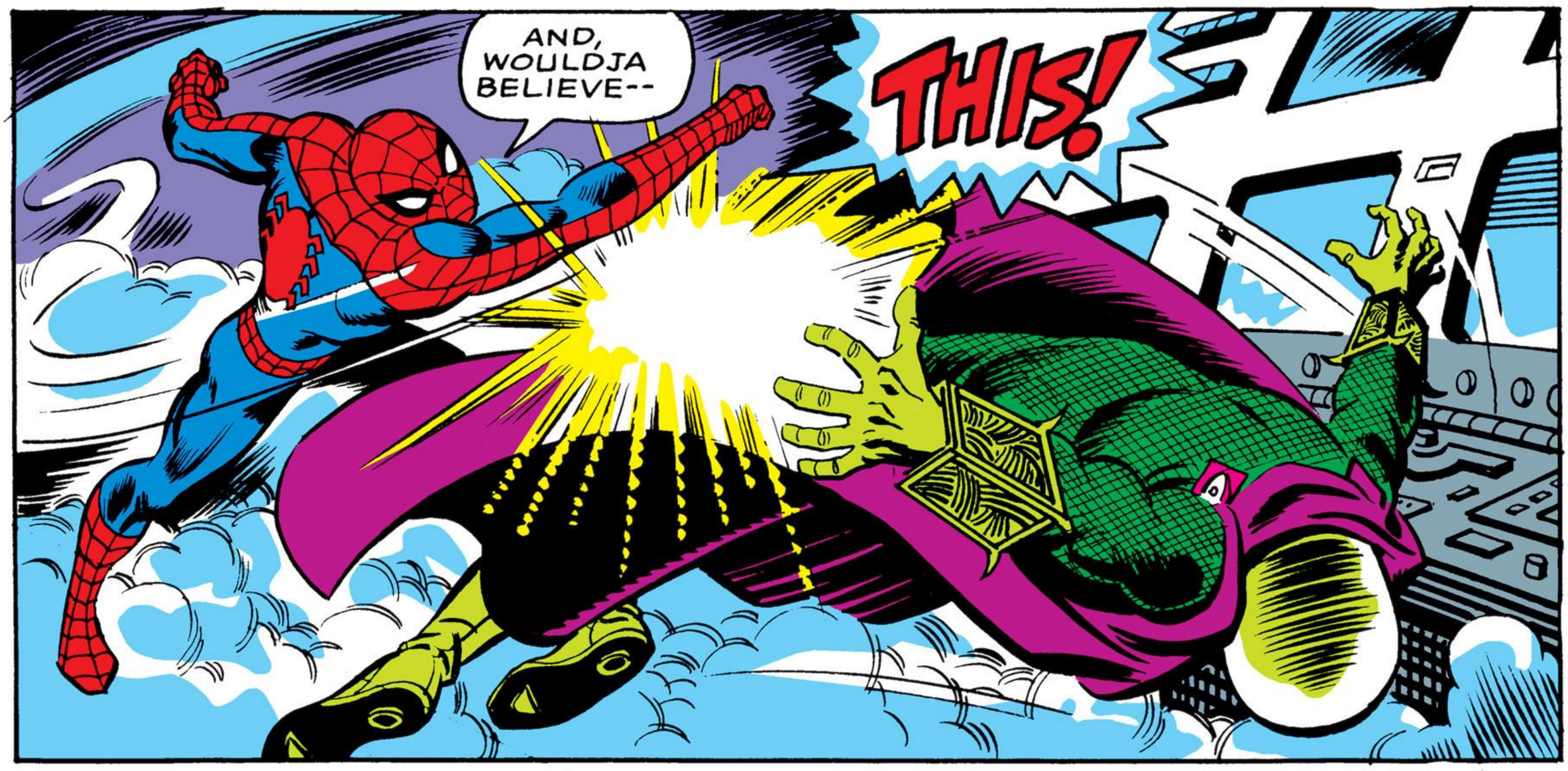
TRYING TO VANISH IN YOUR FAST-FORMING FOG AGAIN?
SORRY, MISTER! THIS TIME I'M READY FOR YOU!
THWIPP!
THWIPP!

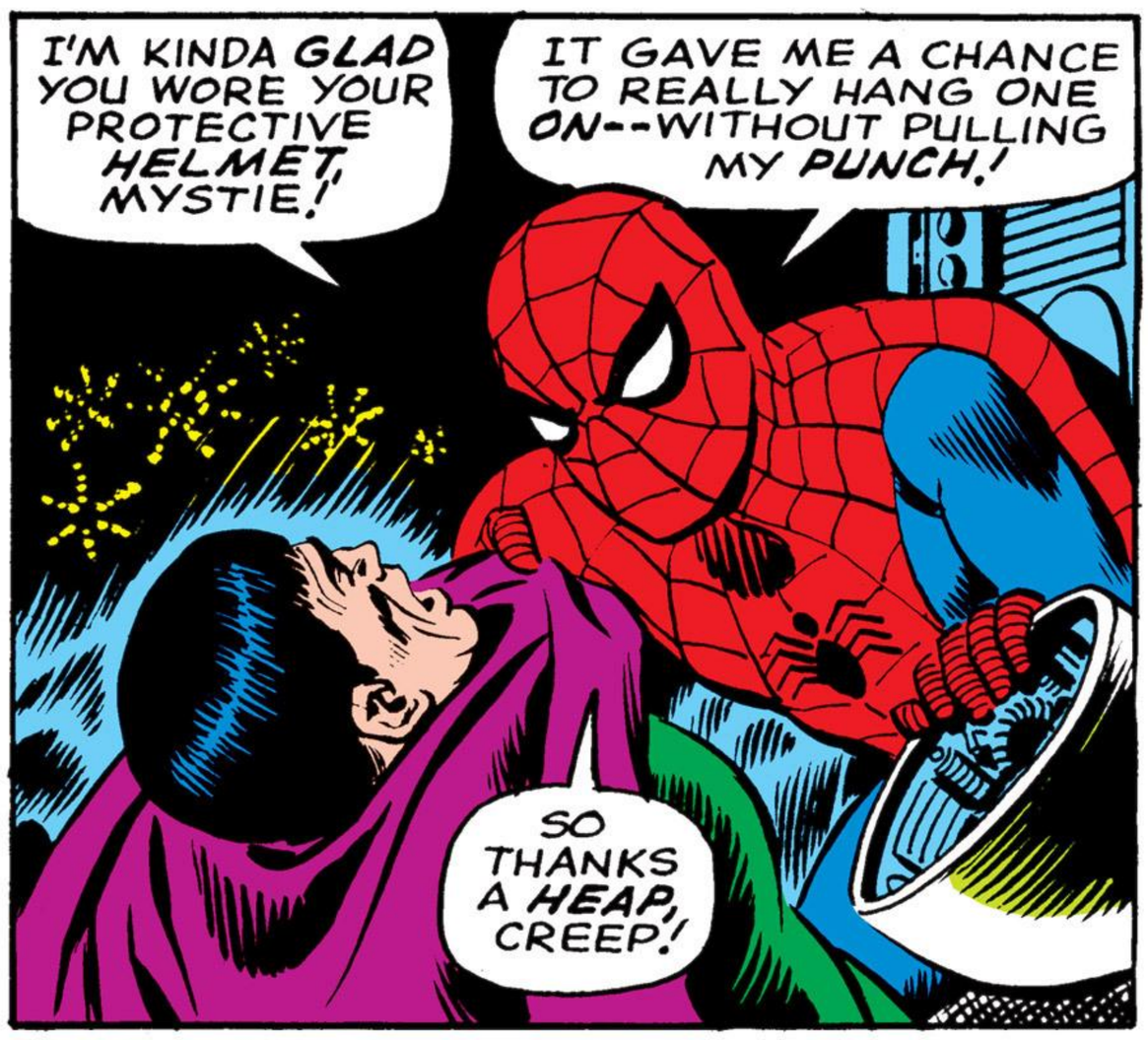

I REMEMBERED HOW YOU USED TO WEAR SPRING-BOTTOMED BOOTS--SO YOU COULD LEAP TO SAFETY--WHILE HIDDEN BY THE THICK SMOKE!
--AND EVERYONE THOUGHT YOU'D VANISHED ON THE SPOT!
WELL, NOT THIS TIME, PING-PONG HEAD!


DO YOU THINK THE BRILLIANT MYSTERIO IS DEPENDENT ON JUST A HANDFUL OF WEAPONS?
I'VE ALWAYS GOT SOMETHING TO TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE--!
--SUCH AS MY ELECTRICALLY-CHARGED CLOAK--WHICH CAN BURN YOUR PUNY WEBBING AWAY!
NO TELLING WHAT OTHER GIZMOS HE CAN COME UP WITH!
SO--I'VE GOTTA BEAT HIM TO THE PUNCH!

WHOOPFF!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A CLOAK TO GET YOU OUT OF THIS!

SOK!
--OR THIS!


AND, WOULDJA BELIEVE--
THIS!


I'M KINDA GLAD YOU WORE YOUR PROTECTIVE HELMET, MYSTIE!
IT GAVE ME A CHANCE TO REALLY HANG ONE ON--WITHOUT PULLING MY PUNCH!
SO THANKS A HEAP, CREEP!

AND NOW, WITHOUT YOUR TRICKY, GIMMICK-PACKED THREADS, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER HUNGOVER HOOD, WHO DIDN'T MAKE THE GRADE!
LOOK--CALL THE COPS AND SPARE ME YOUR SPEECHES, WILL YOU?

AND I THOUGHT I WAS BEING SO ELOQUENT!
OH WELL--CAN'T WIN 'EM ALL!
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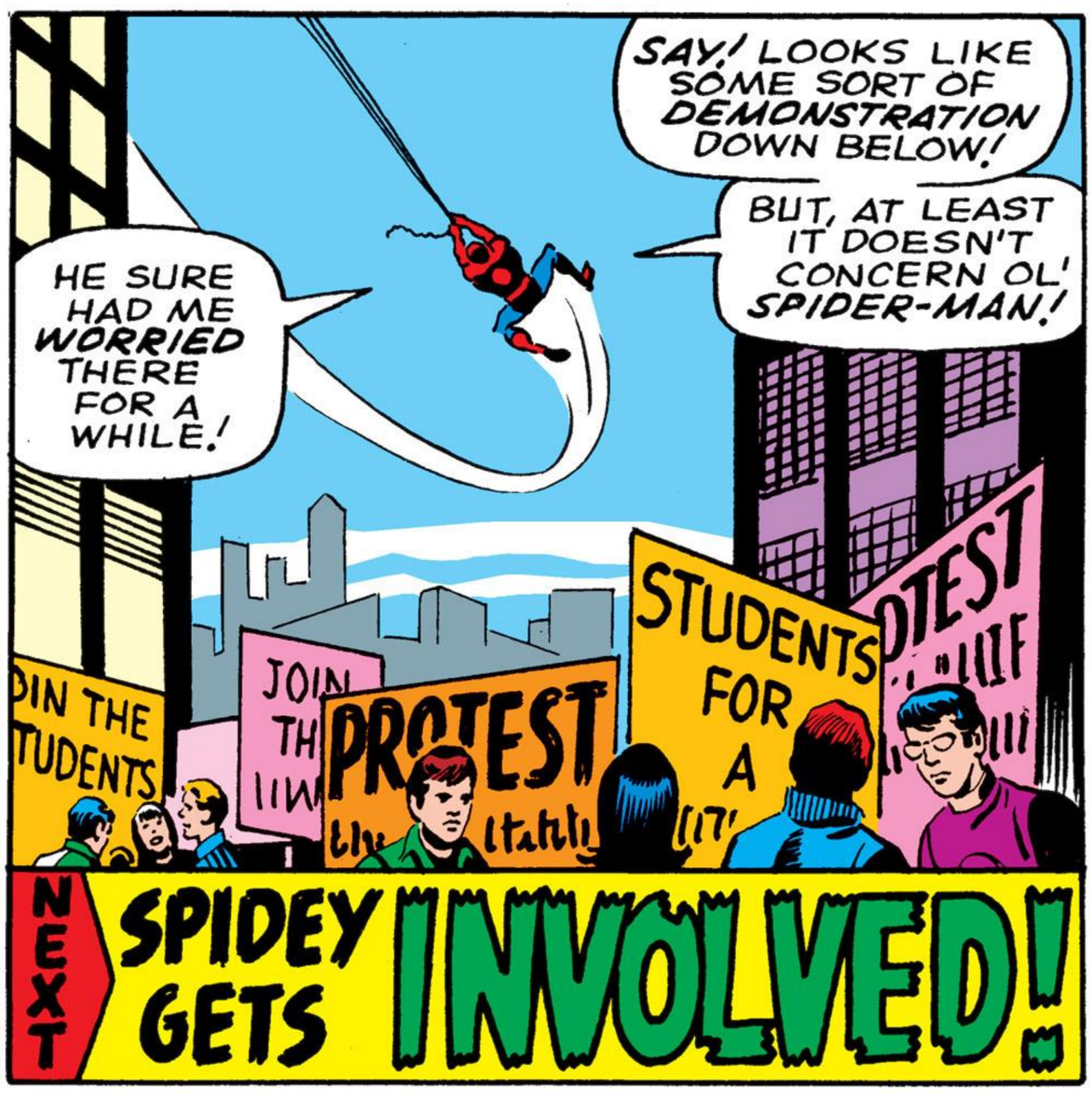
SAY! LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF DEMONSTRATION DOWN BELOW!
BUT, AT LEAST IT DOESN'T CONCERN OL' SPIDER-MAN!
HE SURE HAD ME WORRIED THERE FOR A WHILE!
STUDENTS FOR A
PROTEST
NEXT
SPIDEY GETS INVOLVED!

Tyrant
Lizard
King
EMPIRE