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SPIDER-MAN
JAN '97
76
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PETER PARKER
SPIDER-MAN
S.H.O.C. FOLLOWS S.H.O.C.!
JRJR + S.H.

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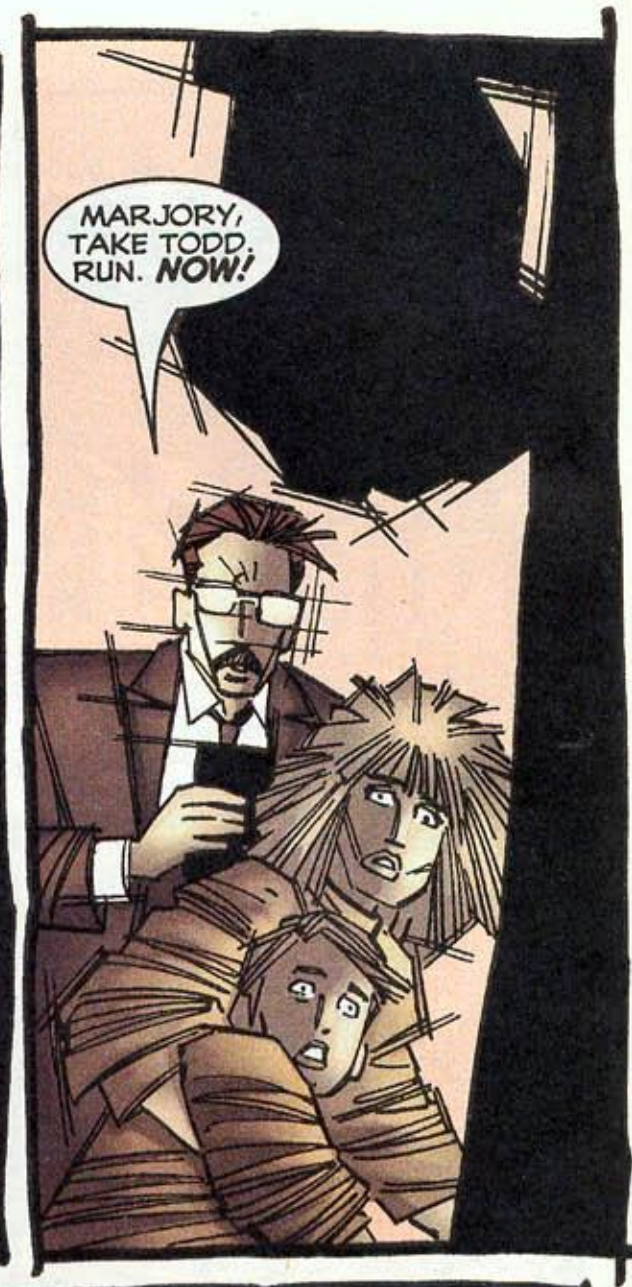
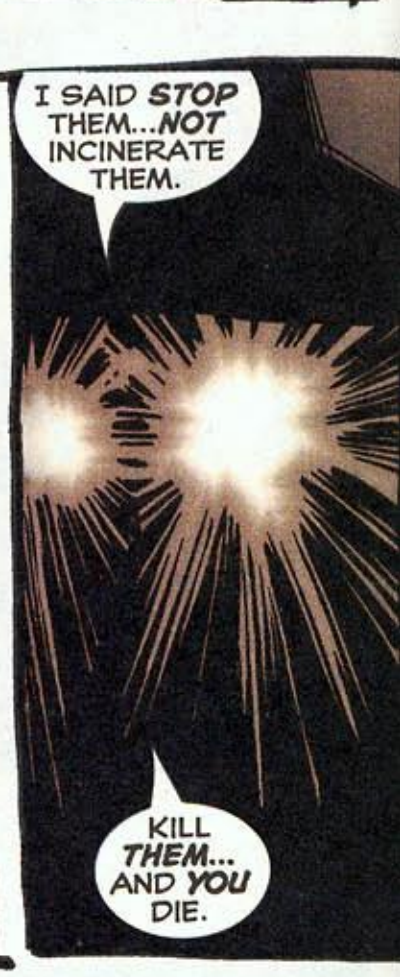
Ah, I SEE YOU DO REMEMBER ME, Dr. "FIELDS."
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN.
YOU KNOW WHY I AM HERE.
BY THE WAY...
... LOVELY FAMILY YOU HAVE.

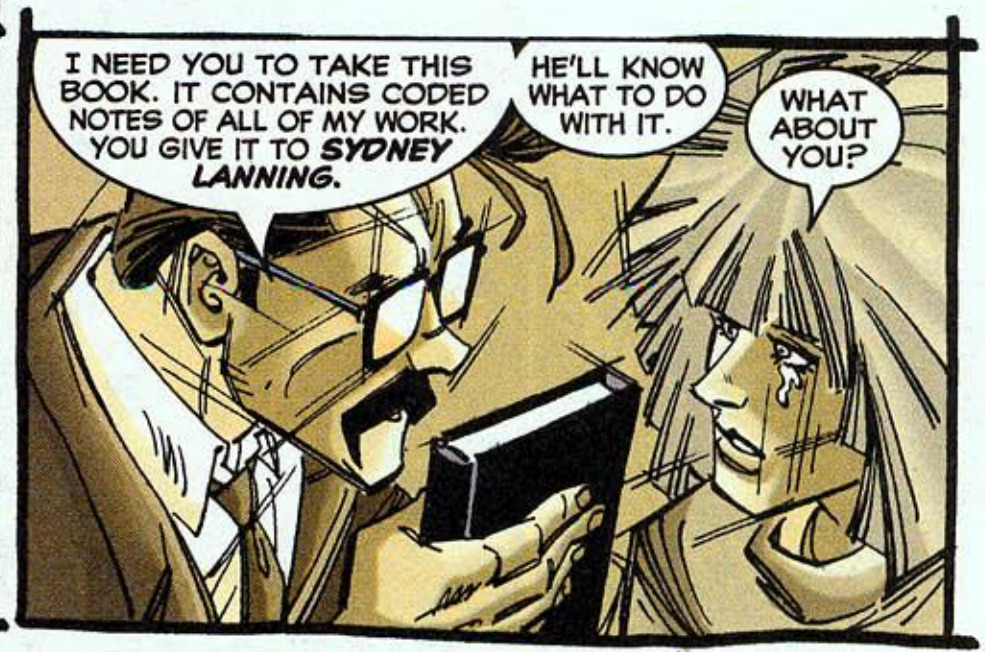

MARJORY, TAKE TODD. RUN. NOW!

COME NOW, DOCTOR, WHERE CAN THEY RUN TO?
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE HURT. JUST GIVE ME THAT WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY MINE.
LOOK! HE'S RUNNING ANYWAY. WAS I TALKING FOR MY OWN GOOD?
STOP THEM.

FFOOM


I SAID STOP THEM...NOT INCINERATE THEM.
KILL THEM... AND YOU DIE.

MARJORY. YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE TODD AND RUN.
NOT WITHOUT *YOU* I WON'T!
YOU'VE *GOT* TO!


I NEED YOU TO TAKE THIS BOOK. IT CONTAINS CODED NOTES OF ALL OF MY WORK. YOU GIVE IT TO ***SYDNEY LANNING.***
HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

THERE IS TOO MUCH OF MY WORK HERE THAT THIS MAN CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO GET HIS HANDS ON. I'M GOING TO DESTROY IT AND THEN... I'M OUT OF HERE!
NOW *GO!*

TODD, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER.
REMEMBER, SON, SOMETIMES WE CAN'T THINK ABOUT OURSELVES, WE'VE GOT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT --
-- FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
SOMETIMES WE'VE GOT TO BE *HEROES*... JUST LIKE THAT GUY YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HAND. I LOVE YOU BOTH.

DADDY..?

FWKOOM

FWOMP

MOM?
DAD?
BKOOM
BKOOM
SEE ME, BOY!
REMEMBER ME!
YOUR FATHER IS GONE!
BUT I WILL REMAIN TO WALK THROUGH YOUR NIGHTMARES FOREVER.
WE WILL MEET AGAIN, BOY.
AND I WILL RECLAIM THAT WHICH SHOULD BE MINE!
REMEMBER.
BKOOM
MOM...

THE PRESENT.

FOREST HILLS, QUEENS, NEW YORK.

Oh, MARY JAY-ANE!

PETER... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HANGING FROM THE WALL AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING?

IT'S EIGHT-THIRTY, Mrs. PARKER, TIME TO RISE AND SHINE.

STAN LEE Presents:

SHOC

A MACKIE/ROMITAJr./HANNA STARKINGS/COMICRAFT/LA BERNARDO/MACCHIO/HARRAS Production!

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I'M MEETING WITH THE ADMINISTRATION TO GET MY TRANSCRIPTS IN ORDER AND YOU...
... GET OFF THE WALL BEFORE --
G-MORNING, AUNT ANNA!
DON'T HAVE TIME FOR BREAKFAST.
FIXED SOMETHING FOR YOU TO EAT ON YOUR WAY.
YOU'RE THE BEST. SEE YA TONIGHT!

PETER? WHAT TIME IS YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR?
NOT TILL TEN-THIRTY, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME, BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP BY THE BUGLE FIRST AND THEN MEET WITH THE KID I'M GOING TO TUTOR.
I'M GOING TO NEED TO USE THE CAMERA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IF WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD A PLACE CLOSER TO CAMPUS.
THOUGH I DO HAVE TIME FOR...
... THIS.
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
'CAUSE YOU'RE JUST SO DARN GORGEOUS AND...
AND WHAT?
IF I'M GOING TO MAKE ANY KIND OF TIME...
SURE! YOU GET ALL THE BREAKS JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER. ME? I'VE GOT TO RELY ON THE SUBWAY.
YEAH, BUT YOU AREN'T A TARGET FOR EVERY BAD GUY WITH A SET OF TIGHTS. THOUGH... IF THEY WERE SMART...
YEAH... RIGHT! YOU OWE ME, BUDDY!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

MARY JANE HAS GOT A POINT.

THERE ARE PLENTY O' POSITIVE SIDES TO HAVING THE PROPORTIONATE POWERS OF A SPIDER.

QUEENS TO MIDTOWN MANHATTAN IN HALF THE TIME THAT MASS TRANSIT TAKES.

FINE. SO I'VE GOT THE SWINGING PART OF THE GIG DOWN...

... I JUST WISH I WASN'T FEELING SO RUSTY ON THE CRIME FIGHTING. GETTING TRASHED BY THE TRAPSTER WAS EMBARRASSING.*

* SEE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN #12 – Ralf-ster.

I TOOK IT SLOW FOR A FEW MONTHS THERE AND NOW I FEEL LIKE I'M STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN...

... JUST WHEN THE REST OF THE SUPER HEROES IN THE CITY DECIDE TO GO M.I.A.

I'LL GET OVER IT!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE LOBBY OF THE DAILY BUGLE...

FLASH?

Hey, PETE. MIND IF I RIDE UP WITH YOU TO THE CITY ROOM?

NOPE.

SO... DID YOU HEAR THAT GWEN'S UNCLE IS BACK IN TOWN?

YEAH, I HEARD.

HAVE YOU MET HIM YET?

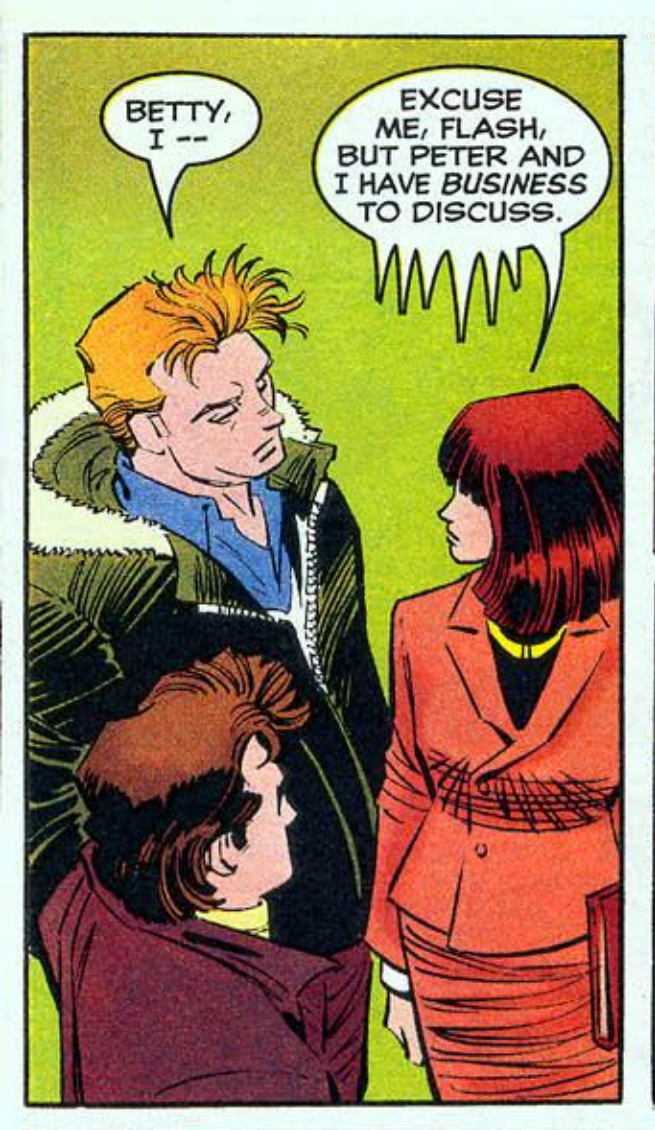
NOPE.

PLANNING ON IT?

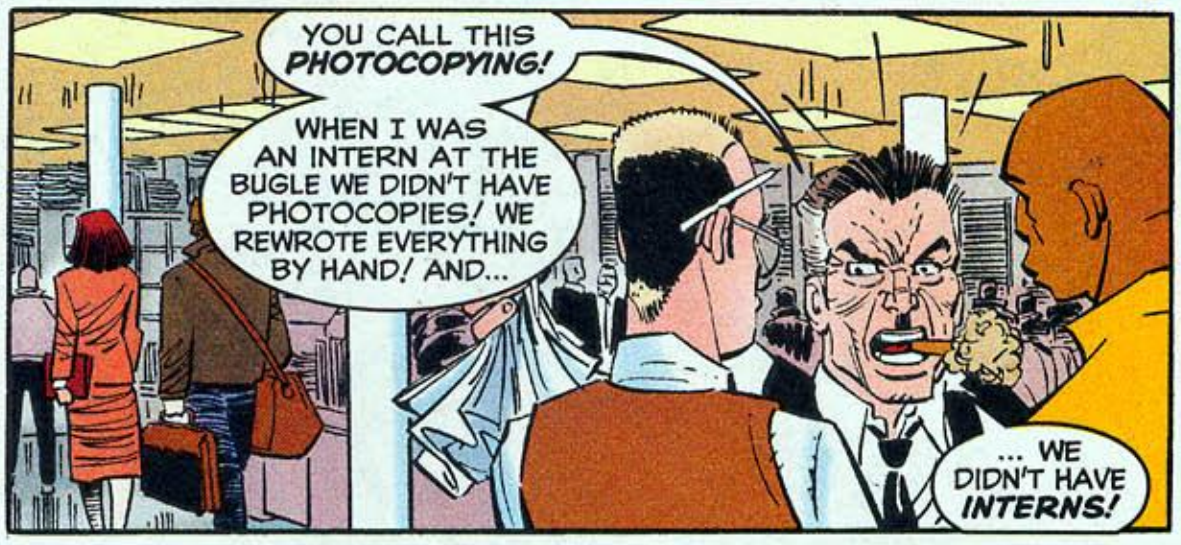
HERE'S OUR FLOOR.

PETER.

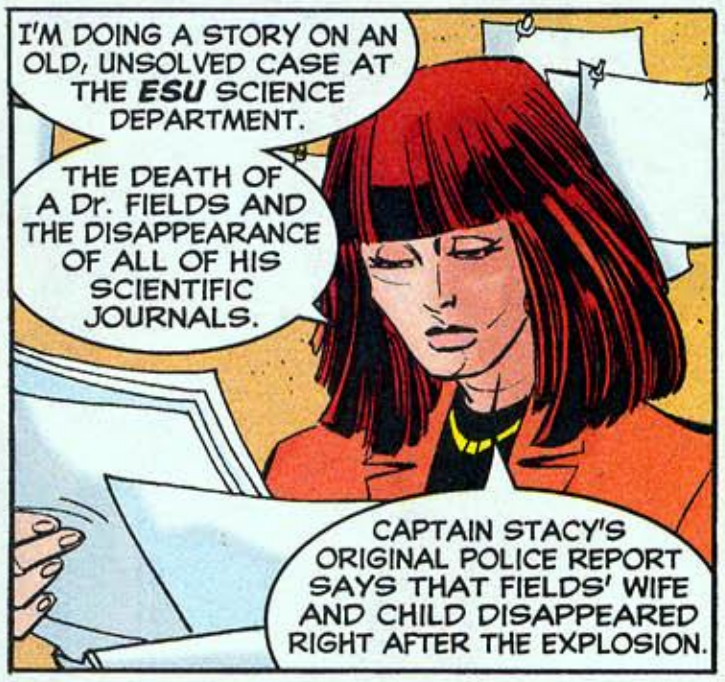
BETTY.

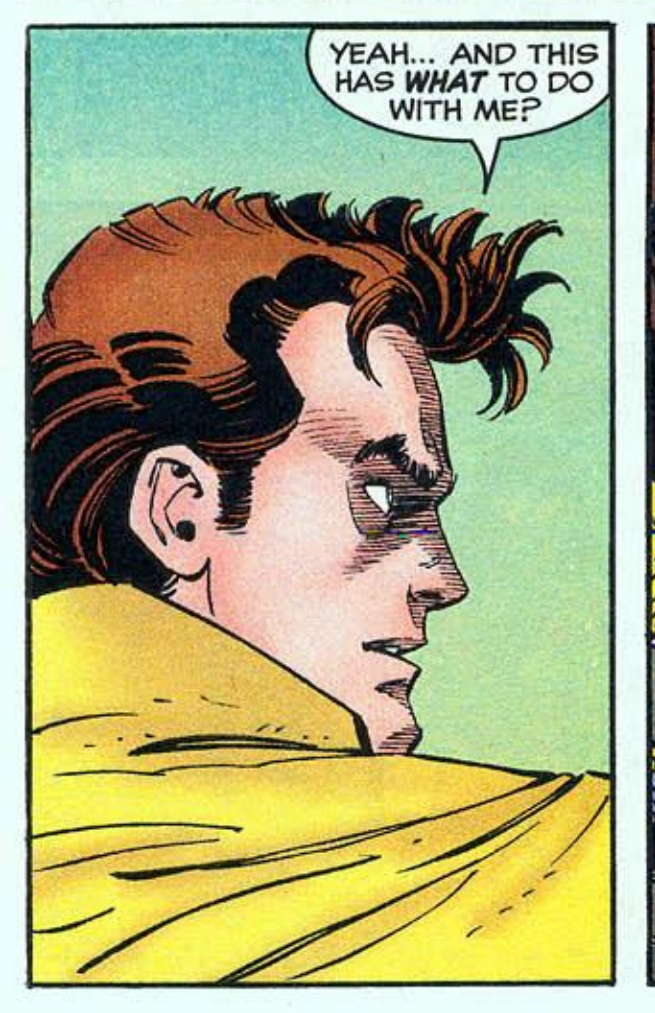

BETTY, I --
EXCUSE ME, FLASH, BUT PETER AND I HAVE *BUSINESS* TO DISCUSS.

I'M SURE YOU CAN FIND YOUR WAY BACK DOWN.
COME ON, PETER, LET'S GO TO MY OFFICE.


YOU CALL THIS *PHOTOCOPYING!*
WHEN I WAS AN INTERN AT THE BUGLE WE DIDN'T HAVE PHOTOCOPIES! WE REWROTE EVERYTHING BY HAND! AND...
... WE DIDN'T HAVE *INTERNS!*

JONAH SEEMS IN HIS USUAL SWEET FORM.
Uh Huh.
YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND FLASH?
NOPE.
OKAY... SO WHY AM I HERE?


I'M DOING A STORY ON AN OLD, UNSOLVED CASE AT THE *ESU* SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.
THE DEATH OF A Dr. FIELDS AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL OF HIS SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.
CAPTAIN STACY'S ORIGINAL POLICE REPORT SAYS THAT FIELDS' WIFE AND CHILD DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER THE EXPLOSION.


YEAH... AND THIS HAS *WHAT* TO DO WITH ME?

RUMOR HAS IT THAT A Dr. LANNING IS PICKING UP FIELDS' WORK.
AND I'M TRYING TO GET ON Dr. LANNING'S RESEARCH PROJECT.
SORRY, BETTY, I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH IT.

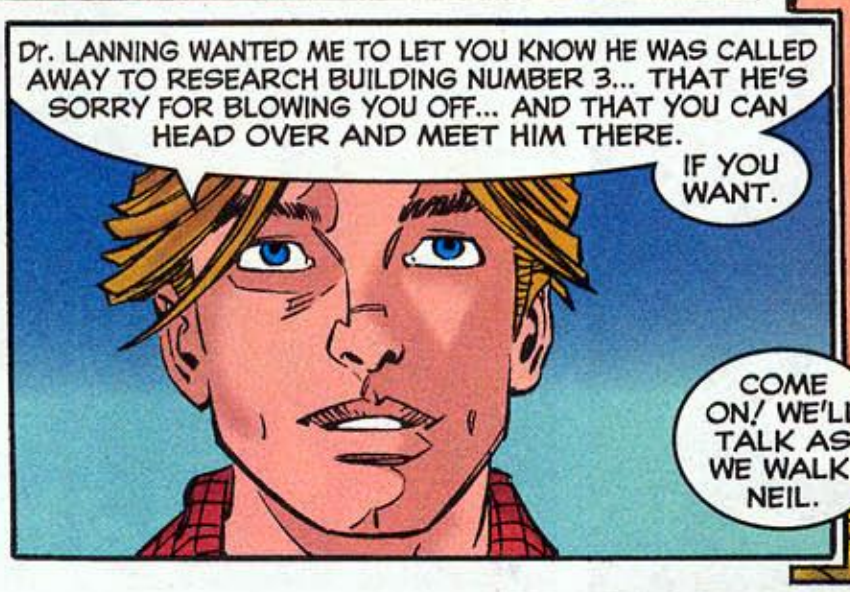
BESIDES... I'M LATE FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

THE SCIENCE BUILDING AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
WEBS AND ALL...

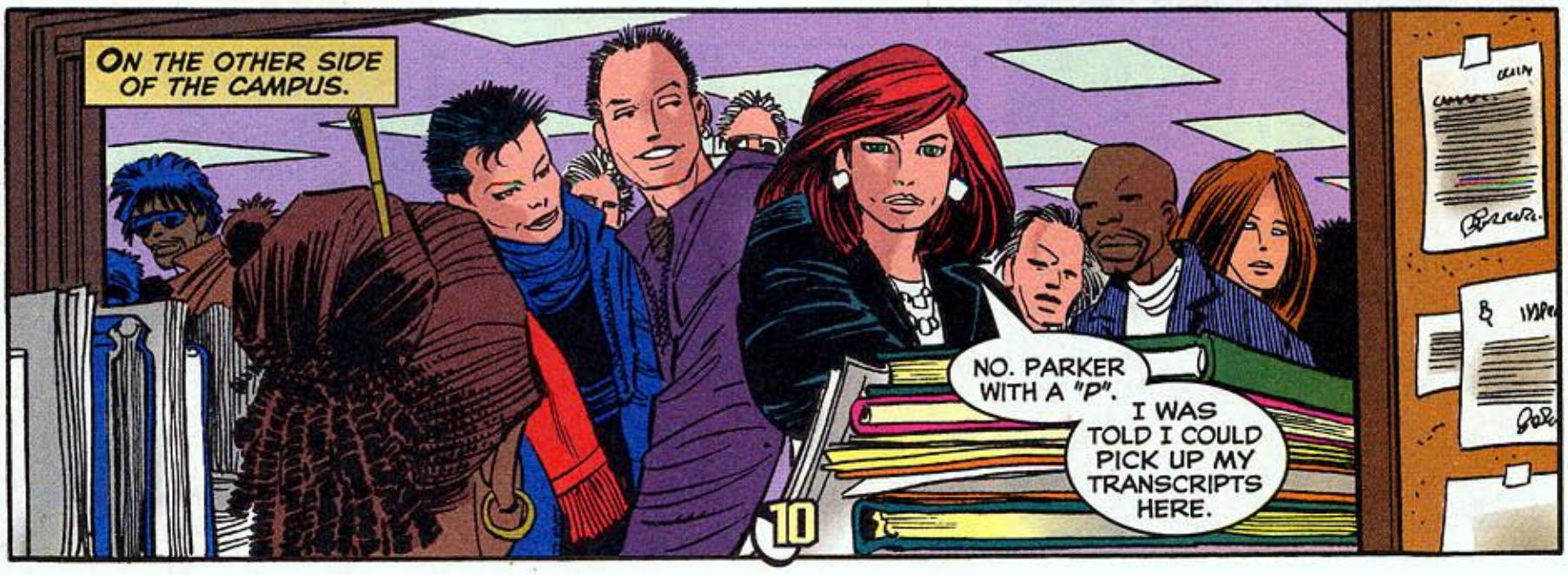
... I'M STILL LATE!
Dr. LANNING'S NOT IN.
THANKS. I CAN SEE THAT.

NOT BACK ON CAMPUS FIVE MINUTES AND I'M ALREADY BLOWING IT.

ARE YOU PETER PARKER?
IN THE FLESH.
I'M NEIL AIKEN.
YOU AND I WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET TWENTY MINUTES AGO ABOUT A TUTORING JOB.
Oh, YEAH... SORRY.

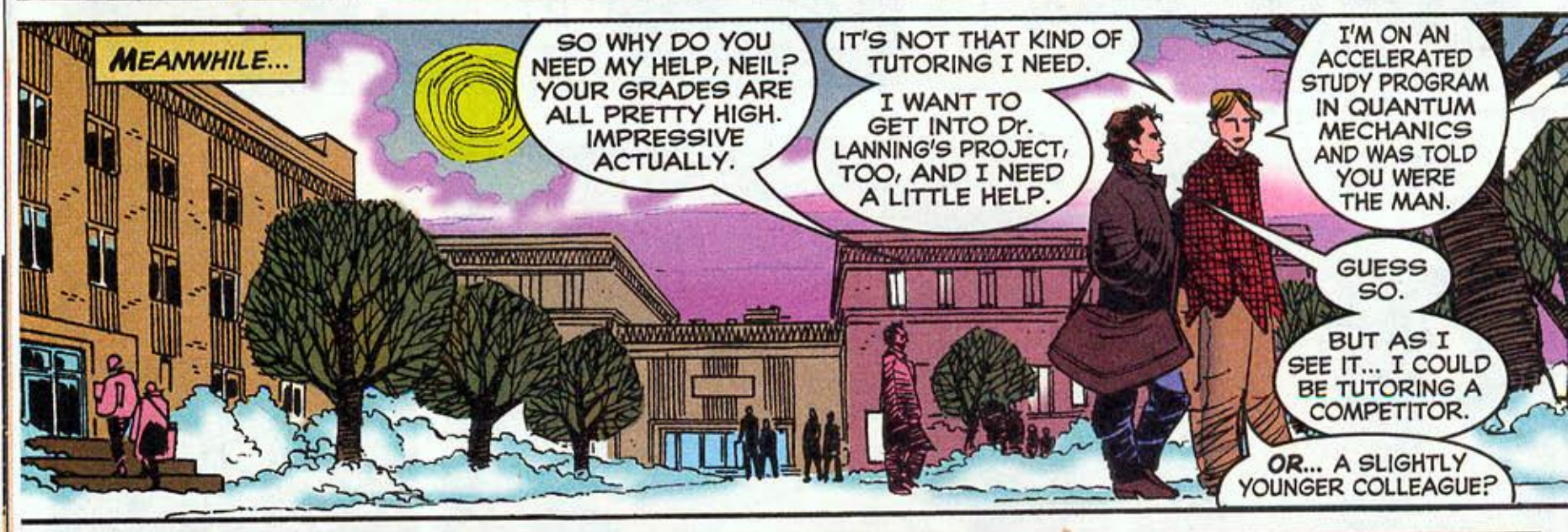

Dr. LANNING WANTED ME TO LET YOU KNOW HE WAS CALLED AWAY TO RESEARCH BUILDING NUMBER 3... THAT HE'S SORRY FOR BLOWING YOU OFF... AND THAT YOU CAN HEAD OVER AND MEET HIM THERE.
IF YOU WANT.

COME ON! WE'LL TALK AS WE WALK, NEIL.


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAMPUS.
NO. PARKER WITH A "P".
I WAS TOLD I COULD PICK UP MY TRANSCRIPTS HERE.

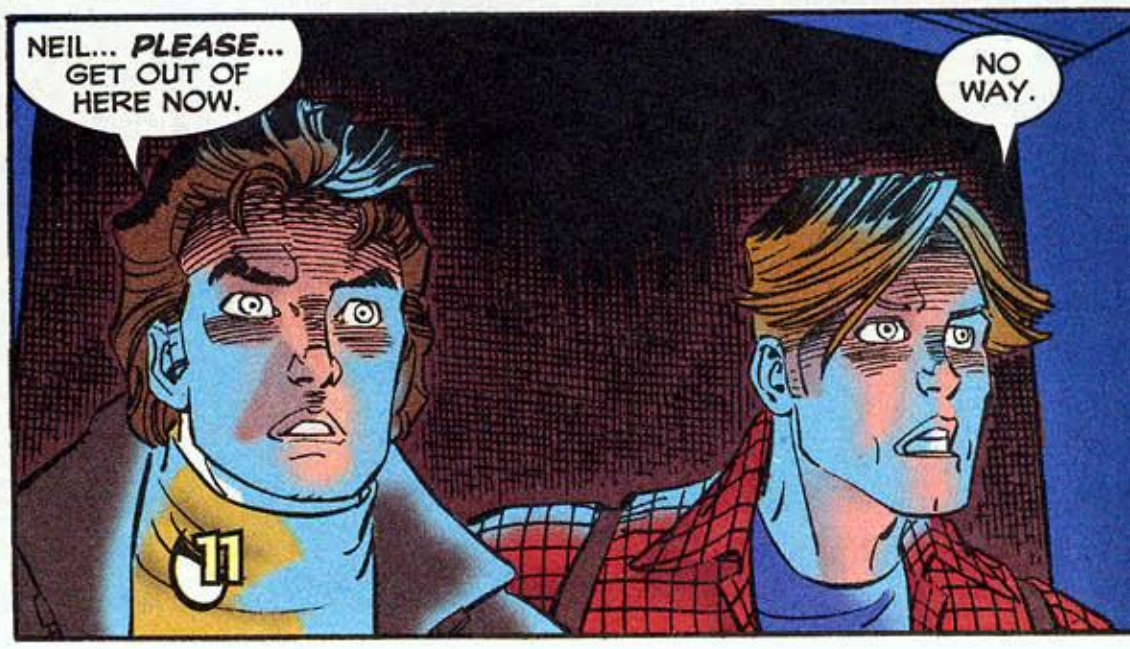
I'M SORRY. I HAVE NOTHING HERE FOR A MARY BETH PARKER.
MARY... JANE.
WHATEVER.
MARY JANE PARKER?

THAT'S RIGHT. NOW IF YOU COULD JUST FIND MY --
-- WHO THE --?


MEANWHILE...
SO WHY DO YOU NEED MY HELP, NEIL? YOUR GRADES ARE ALL PRETTY HIGH. IMPRESSIVE ACTUALLY.
IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF TUTORING I NEED.
I WANT TO GET INTO Dr. LANNING'S PROJECT, TOO, AND I NEED A LITTLE HELP.
I'M ON AN ACCELERATED STUDY PROGRAM IN QUANTUM MECHANICS AND WAS TOLD YOU WERE THE MAN.
GUESS SO.
BUT AS I SEE IT... I COULD BE TUTORING A COMPETITOR.
OR... A SLIGHTLY YOUNGER COLLEAGUE?

FWKOOM
WHOA!

NEIL, GO GET HELP!
YOU GO GET HELP!
I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S UP!


NEIL... PLEASE... GET OUT OF HERE NOW.
NO WAY.

WELCOME, GENTLEMEN.

PLEASE... COME IN, JOIN US.

DOCTOR LANNING AND I WERE JUST ENGAGING IN A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE.

THE DOCTOR IS A STAUNCH BELIEVER IN THE LAW OF CONSERVATION OF MATTER WHICH STATES THAT MATTER CAN NEITHER BE CREATED NOR DESTROYED.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM PREPARING TO PRESENT A COUNTER ARGUMENT WITH THE GOOD DOCTOR'S HEAD IF HE DOES NOT HAND OVER THE DEVICE HE HOLDS IN HIS HANDS ALONG WITH EVERY SHRED OF MATERIAL EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE LATE DOCTOR FIELDS' RESEARCH.

WHO DO ***YOU*** THINK WILL WIN THE DEBATE?

PLEASE... WHOEVER YOU ARE --

YOU MAY CALL ME ***CROWN.***

FINE. MISTER CROWN.

JUST CROWN. NO NEED TO STAND ON CEREMONIES.

PLEASE... MY RESEARCH ON Dr. FIELDS' NOTES ARE INCOMPLETE.

DOCTOR, YOU ARE HURTING MY *HEAD* WITH THIS ENDLESS *PRATTLE.*

I HAVE NO INTEREST WITH *YOUR* CONCERNS.

TRUST ME... I KNOW *WHAT* THE ENERGY CAN ACCOMPLISH. I JUST WANT COMPLETE AND TOTAL ACCESS TO IT.

AN EXAMPLE NEEDS TO BE MADE IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE TONIGHT.

KILL THE TWO WHO JUST CAME IN.

NEIL... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME WHEN I SAY...

FWOOSH

... *RUN!*

MAN! DO I KNOW HOW TO STEP INTO IT, OR WHAT?

ANYBODY ELSE'S FIRST DAY BACK ON CAMPUS WOULD INVOLVE PROBLEMS WITH THE BIG MAN ON CAMPUS.

AND I'VE CERTAINLY BEEN *THERE!*

BUT *ME* I'VE GOT TO STEP INTO THE MIDDLE OF...OF...

... WHAT *DID* I STEP INTO THE MIDDLE OF?

I CAN HANDLE IT.

SURE... I'M A LITTLE RUSTY, BUT... I CAN HANDLE IT.

SHOVE THE KID IN THE JANITORIAL CLOSET.

KEEP HIM SAFE FROM HARM.

BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL.

WAIT FOR THE BIG, UGLY, BAD GUY TO ROUND THE CORNER, AND...

... CLOTHESLINE!

UGPH!

HE WENT DOWN LIKE A TON O' BRICKS.

NO SUPER POWERS... THE UGLY LOOK IS JUST A MASK.

THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE PRETTY EASY.

DOWN THE HALL...

I'M WAITING, DOCTOR LANNING.

LET ME SHUT DOWN THE GENERATOR.

GIVE ME WHAT I WANT AND YOU CAN.

OTHERWISE WE WILL ALL STAND RIGHT HERE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SCIENCE BUILDING WHEN Dr. FIELDS' ENERGY GENERATOR FLIES OUT OF CONTROL.

THINK BACK TO HOW MUCH WAS LEFT OF Dr. FIELDS AFTER THAT LITTLE INCIDENT OF SEVEN YEARS AGO.

NO!

I WON'T STAND HERE AND LET YOU INCINERATE US ALL!

I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!

FAZZAT

Oh... BUT I'M AFRAID YOU ARE!

THAT, DOCTOR, IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THIS BUILDING IF I DO NOT GET WHAT I WANT.

IF THE GENERATOR RUNS OUT OF CONTROL AND DESTROYS ALL EVIDENCE OF ITSELF... SO BE IT.

IN TRUTH, THE GENERATOR ITSELF MEANS MUCH LESS TO ME THAN DO THE NOTES.

BUT, WITHIN THE NOTES ARE THE LOCATIONS OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MAKE THIS LITTLE WEAPON I HOLD IN MY HAND LOOK LIKE A PEA-SHOOTER BY COMPARISON.

AND *WHAT* WILL YOU DO WITH THEM WHEN YOU FIND THEM?

ROB A BANK?

TAKE OVER THE WORLD?

USE IT TO COLLECT ALL THE GOLD STARS AND SAVE THE PRINCESS?

SPIDER-MAN?

Oh, I *NEED* THIS!

I HAVE *NO* TIME FOR YOUR INANE BANTER OR YOUR SPANDEX SUPER-HEROICS.

SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU *LIKED* MY ENTRANCE?

NO... I'M SAYING I *ABHOR* HEROES!

OOPS! SORRY! WHY DON'T YOU PUT AWAY THE *RAY GUN* AND WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT.

I'VE HEARD OF A REAL GOOD TWELVE STEP PROGRAM FOR SUPER VILLAINS WHO HATE SUPER HEROES, BUT CAN'T STOP DRESSING THE PART.

Nah! THAT WAS ON SALLY JESSE RAPHAEL LAST WEEK.

SORRY... I'VE BECOME MORE OF A ROSIE KINDA GUY LATELY.

WHO HASN'T... RIGHT?

GOOD-BYE, SPIDER-MAN.

NO... NO... NO!

THIS IS NOT HOW IT WORKS.

I MAKE AN ENTRANCE, THROW AROUND SOME ONE-LINERS...

...YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR PLAN AND THEN WE FIGHT.

PARDON ME, BUT I THINK I'LL JUST JUMP RIGHT AHEAD TO WHERE YOU DIE!

FINE, BUT COULD YOU TELL ME ONE THING FIRST.

I WAS WONDERING...

... WHO IS THAT?

SHOC? NO. THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

IT CANNOT BE HIM BECAUSE I SAW HIM DIE.

WELL... KILL HIM AGAIN!

KILL THEM ALL!

YEAH... NICE TRY!

WHERE DID YOU GET THESE LAME-OS? RENT A THUG?

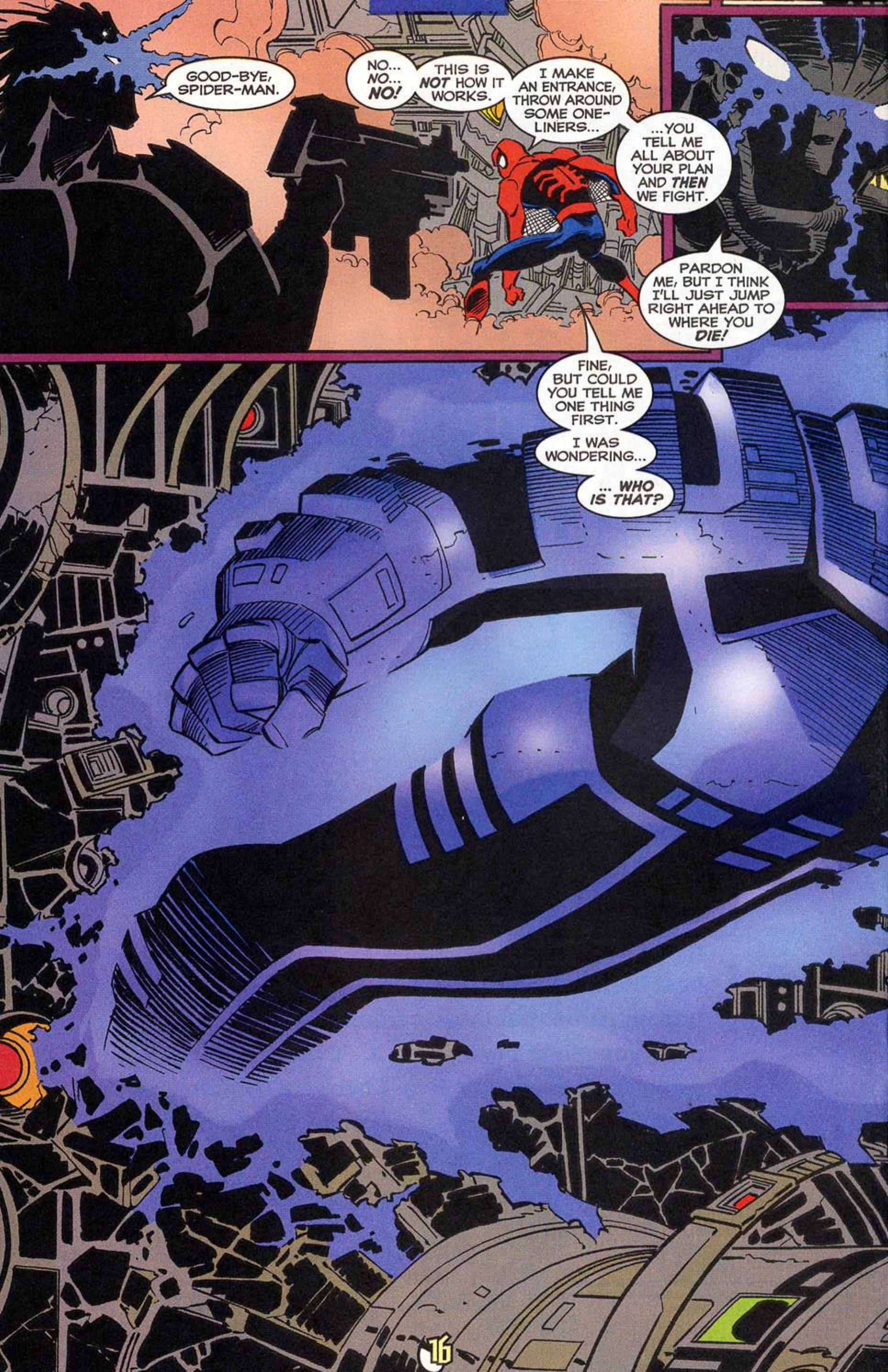
"LAME-OS?"

EXCUSE ME, BUT THE SHOC I KNEW DID NOT ENGAGE IN THE USAGE OF SLANG WHILE IN THE COURSE OF BATTLE.

THE SHOC I KNEW WAS THE STRONG, SILENT TYPE.

THE SHOC I KNEW WOULD NEVER HAVE WASTED HIS ENERGIES WITH THE TRANSMOGRIFICATION OF THE FLOOR IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF INNOCENTS...

... WHILE LEAVING ME FREE TO SIMPLY STEP AROUND IT TO FINISH THE DEED.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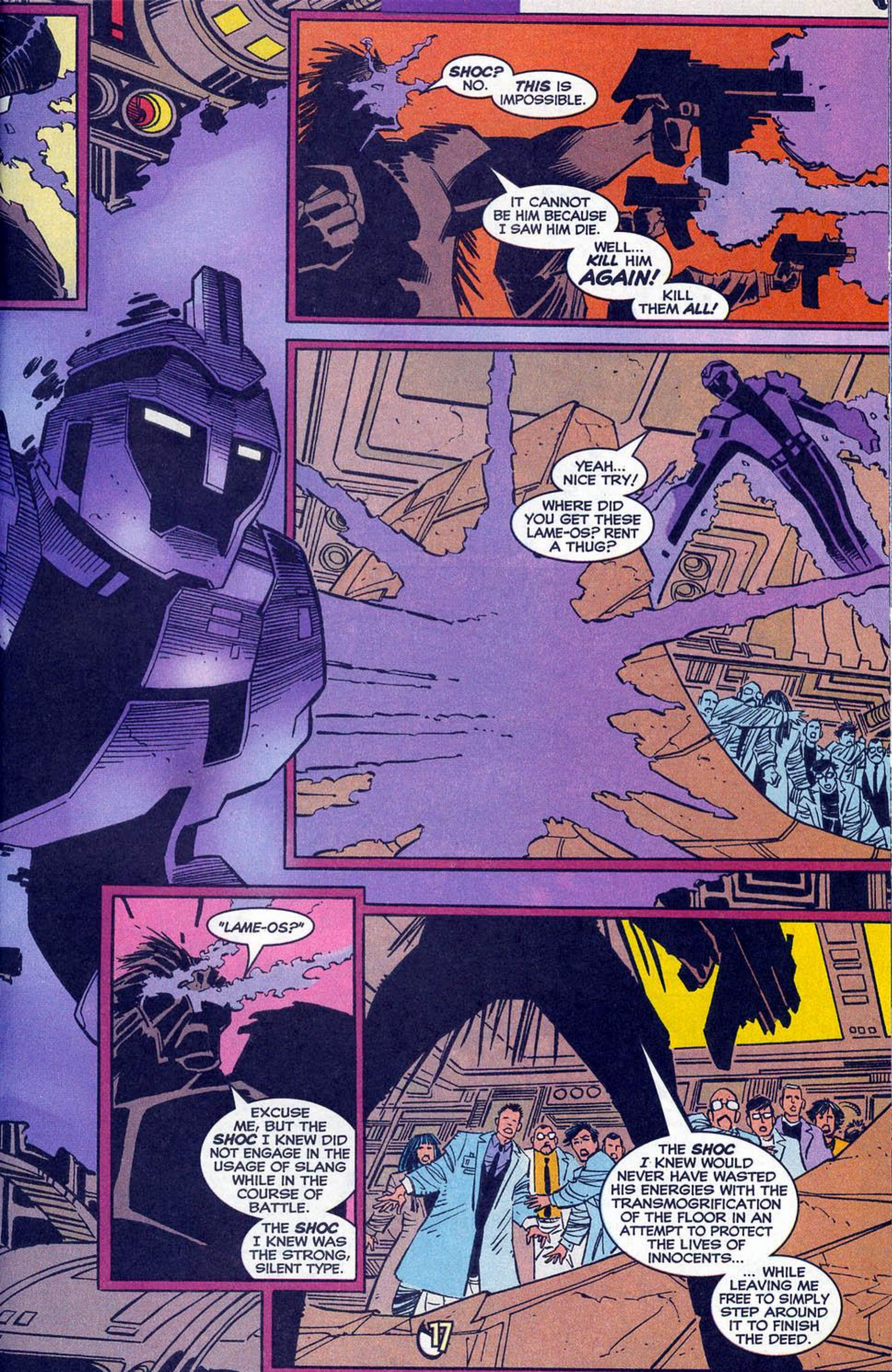
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SO WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME ...
...IS THAT YOU TWO GO WAY BACK... RIGHT?
AND SHOC STANDS FOR WHAT?
SHOC STANDS FOR EVERYTHING WHICH I OPPOSE!
THAT IS ONE WAY OF ANSWERING THE QUESTION, BUT I MEANT --
-- WHOA! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?
SHOC AND I DRAW OUR POWERS FROM THE SAME SOURCE, BUT SHOC... IS...DEAD!
I'M THINKING HE'S LOOKING PRETTY LIVELY TO ME.
WHAT DO YOU FOLKS THINK? Er... LET'S KEEP IT MOVING WHILE WE THINK ABOUT IT.
MAYBE STRONG HEART OF GOLD.
IT'S SHOC NOT SHOG.
MEANWHILE, IF WE DON'T SHUT DOWN THE CORE OF LANNING'S MACHINE, THIS ENTIRE BUILDING IS TOAST!
I'LL HANDLE THAT IF YOU CAN GET THE REST OF THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE AND...

... KEEP CROWN OFF MY BACK!
OKAY... MAYBE WE'LL GO FOR PLAN B.
AND THAT WOULD BE..?
YOU'RE THE HERO. I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD HAVE A PLAN B.
Oh, I'M SORRY, LET ME CHECK MY SECRET DECODER RING. OOPS, I LEFT THAT IN MY UTILITY BELT!
THIS APPEARS TO BE YOUR FIGHT I WALKED INTO THE MIDDLE OF.
YOU TELLING ME YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEAT THIS GUY --?
I KNOW HOW...
... I'M JUST HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE DOING IT RIGHT THIS SECOND!
RELAX, GENTLEMEN, THE WORST IS ALMOST OVER.
IN A SECOND, THE GENERATOR WILL GO AND, WHILE I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO OBTAIN FIELDS' RECORDS...
... I WILL RECEIVE A MASSIVE INFLUX OF ENERGIES WHICH SHOULD PUT ME IN A POWER LEVEL SOMEWHERE IN THE REALM OF... Oh, I DON'T KNOW...
... A GOD!
I'M THINKING MAYBE THAT'S NOT A GOOD THING!
YOU THINK?

YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING HERE?
YOU ARE THE EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE TWO OF US. I MEAN... I'M THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
SO THIS ENERGY GENERATOR THING... IS IT REALLY AS DANGEROUS AS HE SAYS?
MORE.
THWAP
AND YOU CAN SHUT IT DOWN?
I THINK SO.
THINK SO? WONDERFUL. OKAY... IT'S THE BEST CHANCE WE'VE GOT... GET READY... SET...
... GO!
A FACE FULL OF STICKY STUFF?
Hey! IT'S WEB FLUID AND IT WORKED... DIDN'T IT?
I SUPPOSE.
WORKS EVERY TIME.
WELL... MOST OF THE TIME.
OKAY... A FEW TIMES.
THIS THING IS GOING TO BLOW ANY MINUTE NOW.
BE READY. THIS IS GOING TO BE CLOSE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M INTERFACING MY SUIT WITH THE CORE OF THE GENERATOR, REVERSING THE FLOW OF ENERGY AND CAUSING IT TO FEED BACK UPON ITSELF.
SO WHY DOES IT LOOK SO PAINFUL?
PROBABLY BECAUSE THE SUIT IS PART OF ME!
GRAB CROWN AND HIS THUGS AND TOSS THEM INTO THE RIFT.
I WON'T KILL THEM?
IT'S NOT...GOING TO...KILL... THEM! I'VE CONTAINED THE FLOW OF ENERGY.
RIGHT NOW IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A ONE WAY TRIP BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
AND WHERE IS THAT?
A PLACE YOU DON'T WANT TO EVER SEE.
NOW COULD... YOU... JUST... DO IT! PLEASE? THIS IS REALLY STARTING TO HURT.
THEY'RE HISTORY! NOW GRAB CROWN BEFORE HE...
TOO LATE!
I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT...
... YOU ARE NOT HALF THE MAN THE ORIGINAL SHOC WAS.

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH! AND I DON'T KNOW WHO ***ANY*** OF YOU ARE!

GOOD-BYE, ***CROWN!***

NOOO!

YOU CANNOT SEND ME BACK! NOT BACK ***THERE!***

NOOOO!

I ***WILL*** BE BACK! I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL!

Oh, THAT WOULD BE A NEW ONE!

C'MON, ***SHOC,*** LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT BLOWS.

YOU KNOW I'D LIKE TO. I REALLY WOULD, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE SCREWED UP HERE.

THE ENERGY LOOP BETWEEN MY SUIT AND THE GENERATOR DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TOO EASY TO BREAK.

HOLD ON THEN. ***THIS...***

... IS WHERE ***EXPERIENCE,*** AND A LITTLE WEB FLUID, PAYS OFF!

THWAP

GET DOWN!

IT'S GOING TO...

"... BLOW!"

THAT'S IT?

A BIG LIGHT SHOW, A LITTLE SMOKE AND ONE MACHINE FRIED. ***THAT'S*** WHAT WE WERE ALL WORRIED ABOUT?

YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO FEEL IT FROM ***MY*** SIDE OF THIS SUIT.

I ABSORBED THE WORST OF THE BLAST.

COOL. THANKS.

SO... YOU READY TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

NOPE.

WHAT IF I INSIST?

THEN THINGS COULD GET INTERESTING.

Nah! NEVER BEEN INTO THAT WHOLE HERO VS. HERO THING. I'LL FIGURE THINGS OUT FOR MYSELF.

SURE YOU WILL.

WHILE YOU'RE AT IT...

...MAYBE YOU SHOULD POKE AROUND HYDRA A LITTLE BIT.

YOU ***HAVE*** HEARD THEY'RE IN TOWN... RIGHT?

I'VE HEARD.

TAKE CARE, HERO!

WAIT! I'VE GOT IT! ***S***UPER ***H***ERO ***O***F ***C***OURSE.

CUTE.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

COAST IS CLEAR, NEIL.

DON'T YOU ***EVER*** DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO ME AGAIN!

UNDER-STAND?

TOTALLY, START TUTORING TOMORROW?

YEAH... WHATEVER.

OUTSIDE...

PETER! OVER ***HERE!***

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO I MET TODAY. GO AHEAD... GUESS. YOU'LL ***NEVER*** GUESS.

I GIVE UP. WHO?

YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS.

PETER PARKER I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET...

... ***JILL STACY.***

SHE'S GWEN'S COUSIN, PETER. AND PUT YOUR TONGUE BACK IN YOUR MOUTH!

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO MEET YOU FOR SO LONG, PETER.

END