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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

IN THE SHADOW
OF EVILS PAST!



J.R.JR. & J.R.SR.

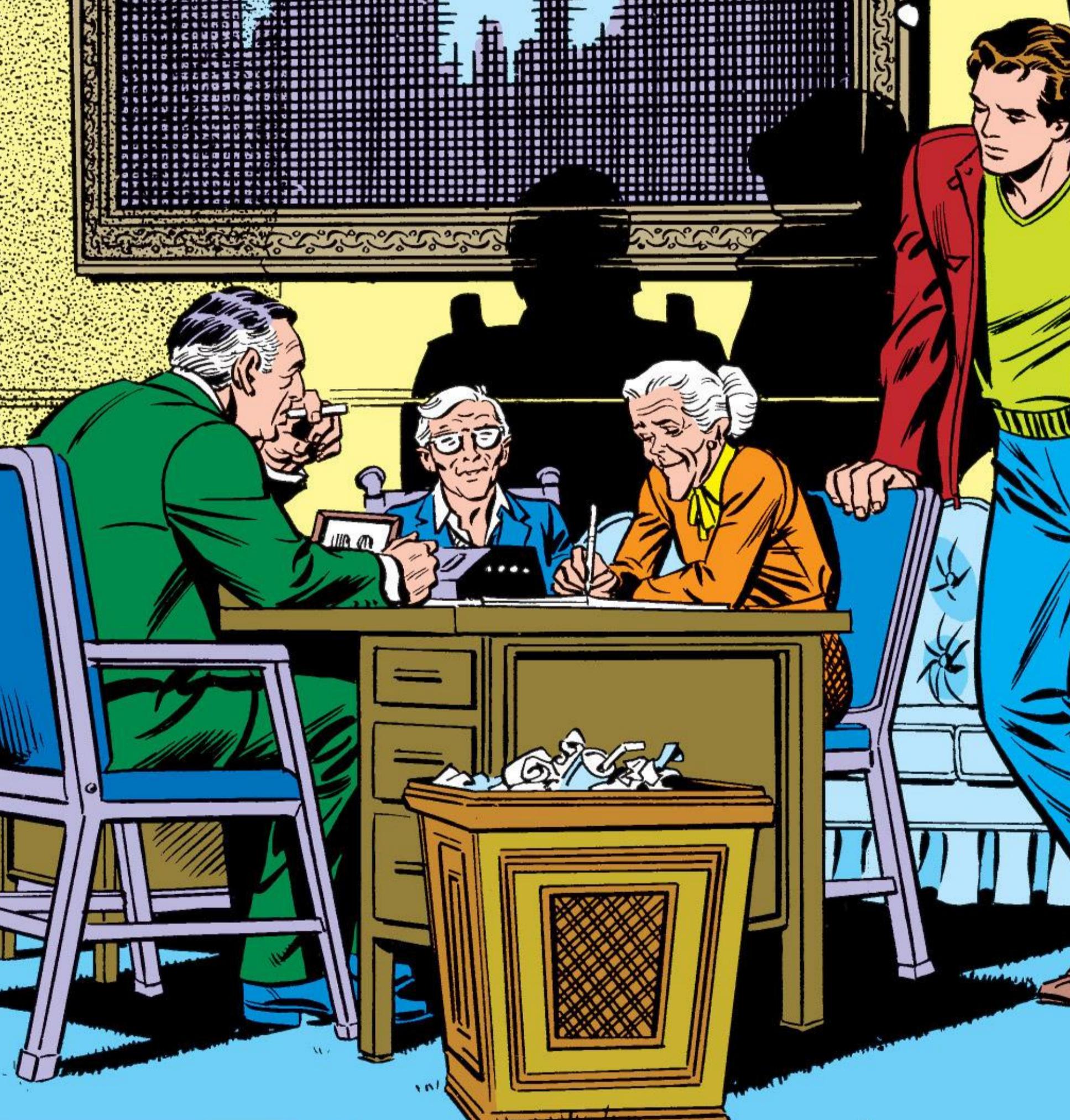
STAN LEE PRESENTS
A MOMENTOUS NEW
EPISODE IN THE LIFE
OF THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

SHADOW OF EVILS PAST!

IT'S FUNNY HOW
JUST A FEW SHEETS
OF PAPER CAN CHANGE
THE WAY PEOPLE LOOK AT
THINGS. AUNT MAY'S BOARD-
ING HOUSE FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS HAS BEEN OPER-
ATING FOR NEARLY A WEEK*

--BUT THE STATE OF
NEW YORK'S TAX PEOPLE
WON'T RECOGNIZE HER AS
A SPECIAL-STATUS LANDLADY
UNTIL SHE FINISHES SIGNING
THOSE FORMS!

GEE...MY
AUNT, THE
BUSINESS-
WOMAN!



*SINCE MARVEL
TEAM-UP #124.

I WONDER WHAT
HER TENANTS WOULD
SAY IF THEY KNEW
THEY WERE LIVING
IN THE HOUSE WHERE
SPIDER-MAN CAME
OF AGE?

ROGER STERN
SCRIPTER

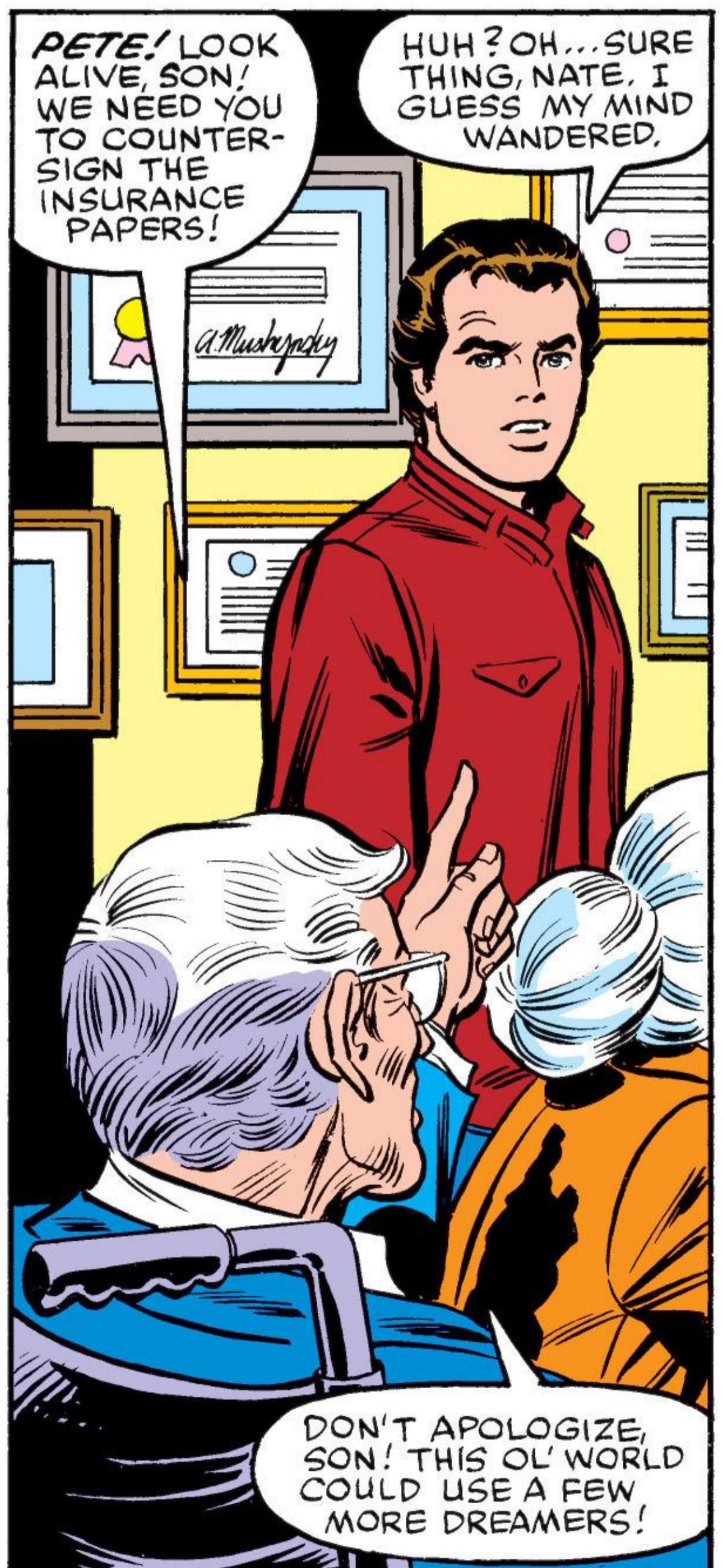
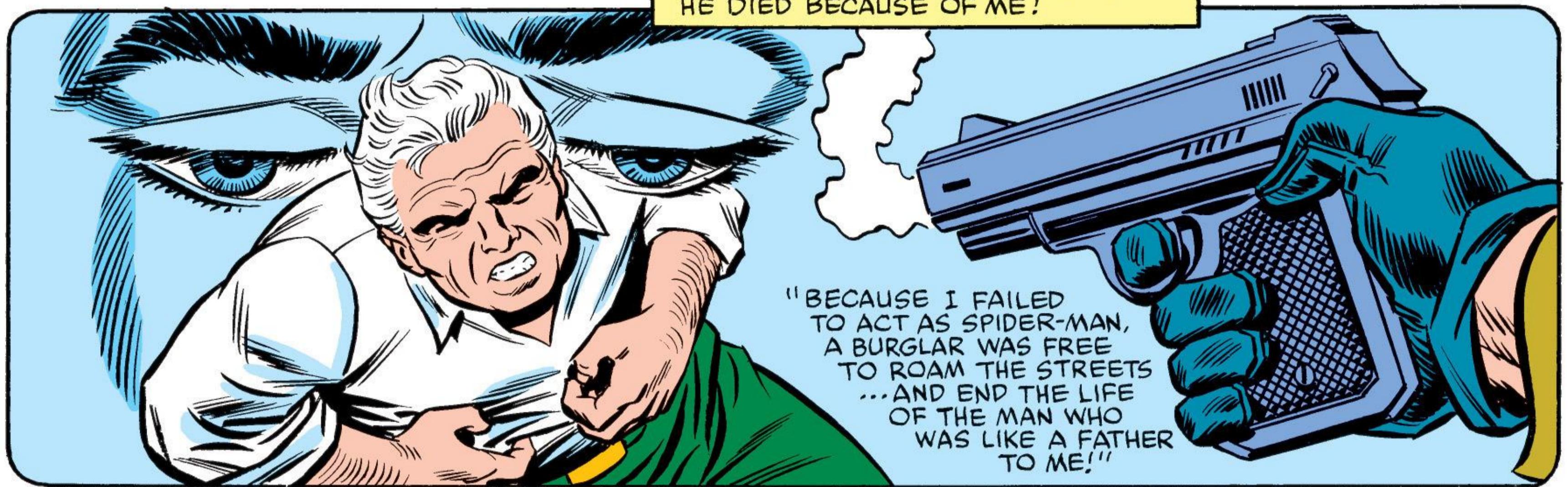
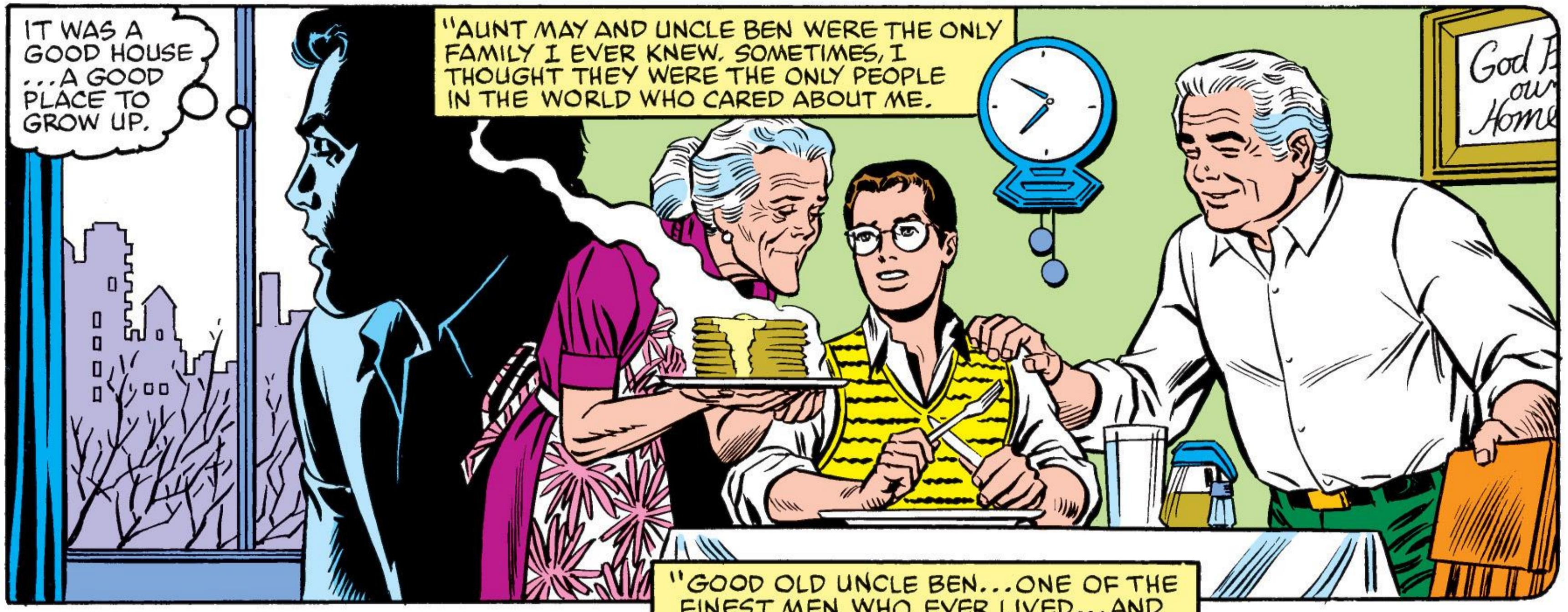
JOHN ROMITA JR.
JOHN ROMITA SR. > ARTISTS

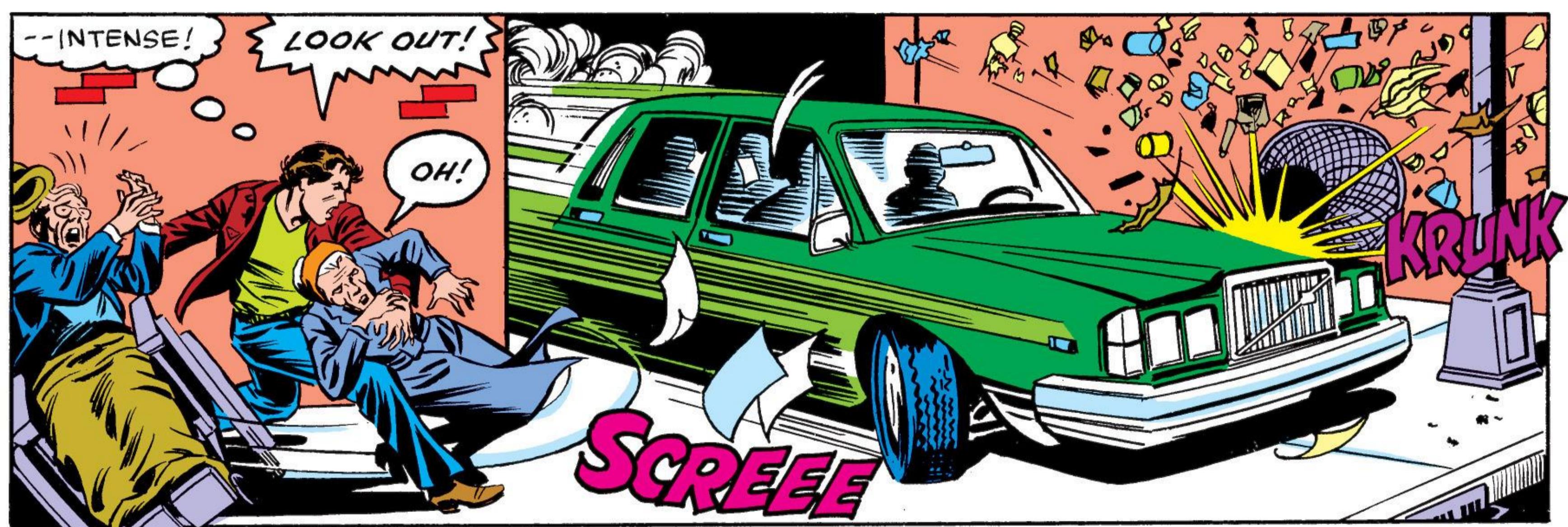
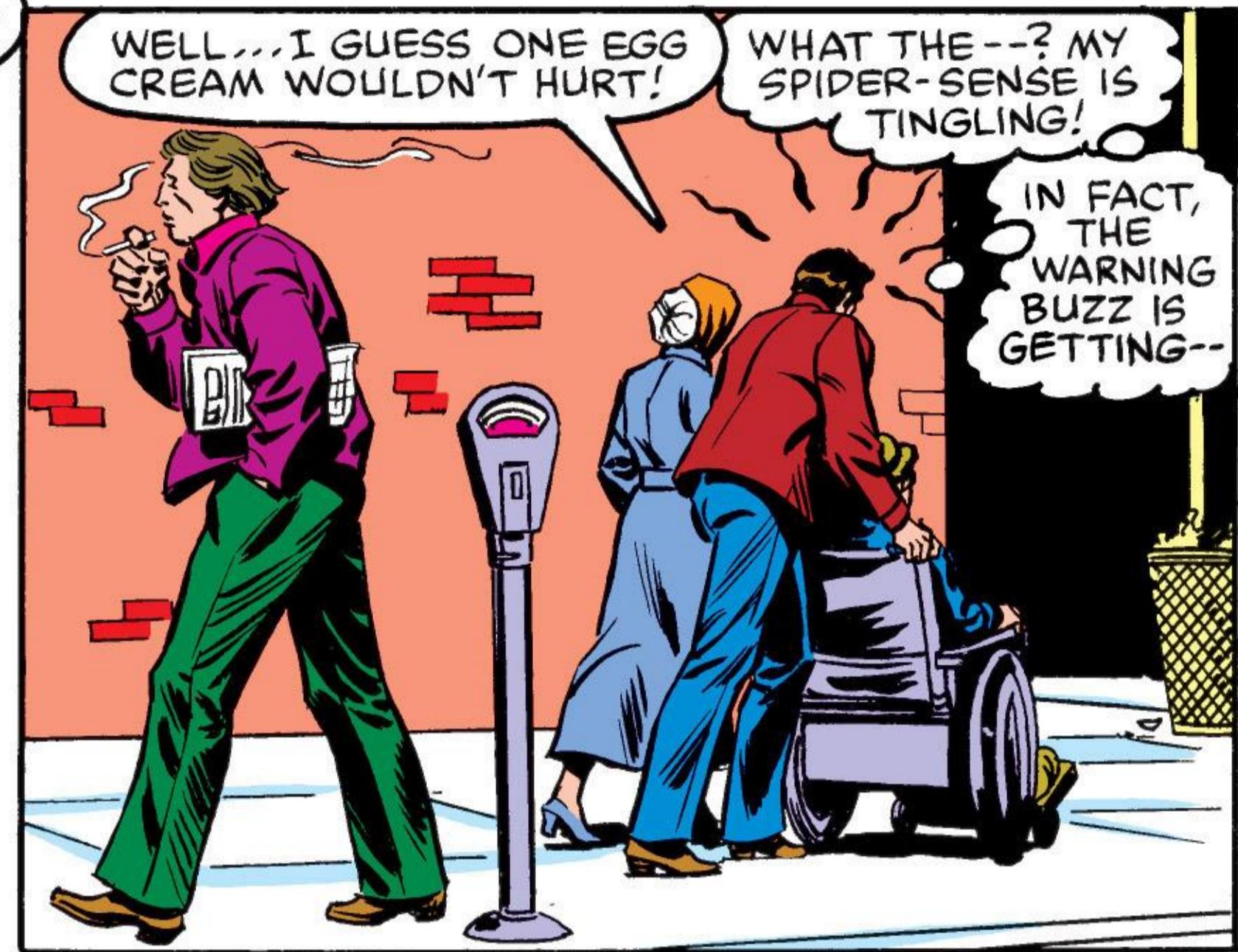
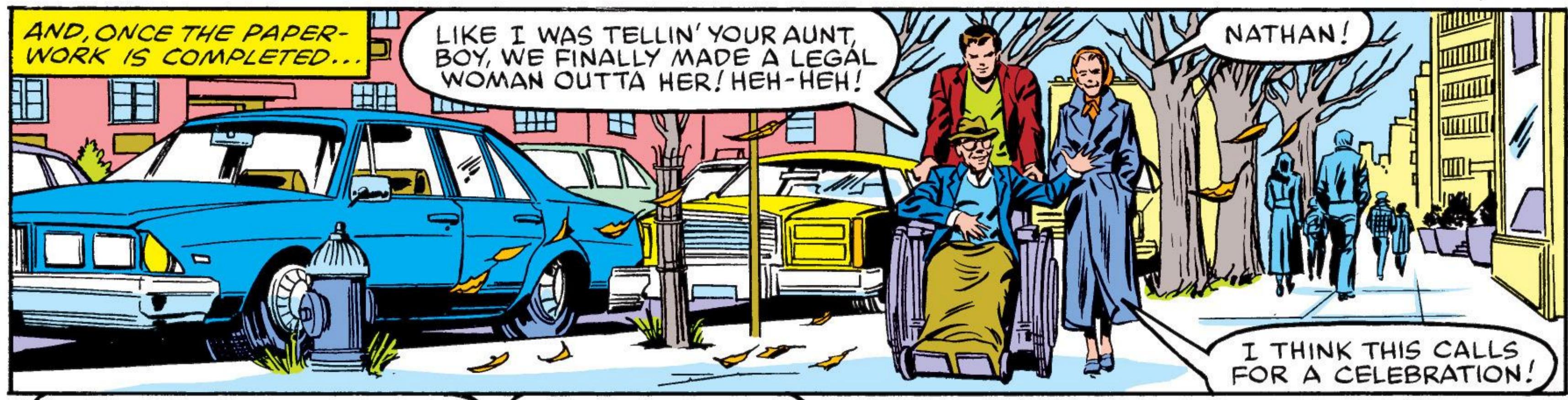
VIRGINIA ROMITA
TRAFFIC MANAGER

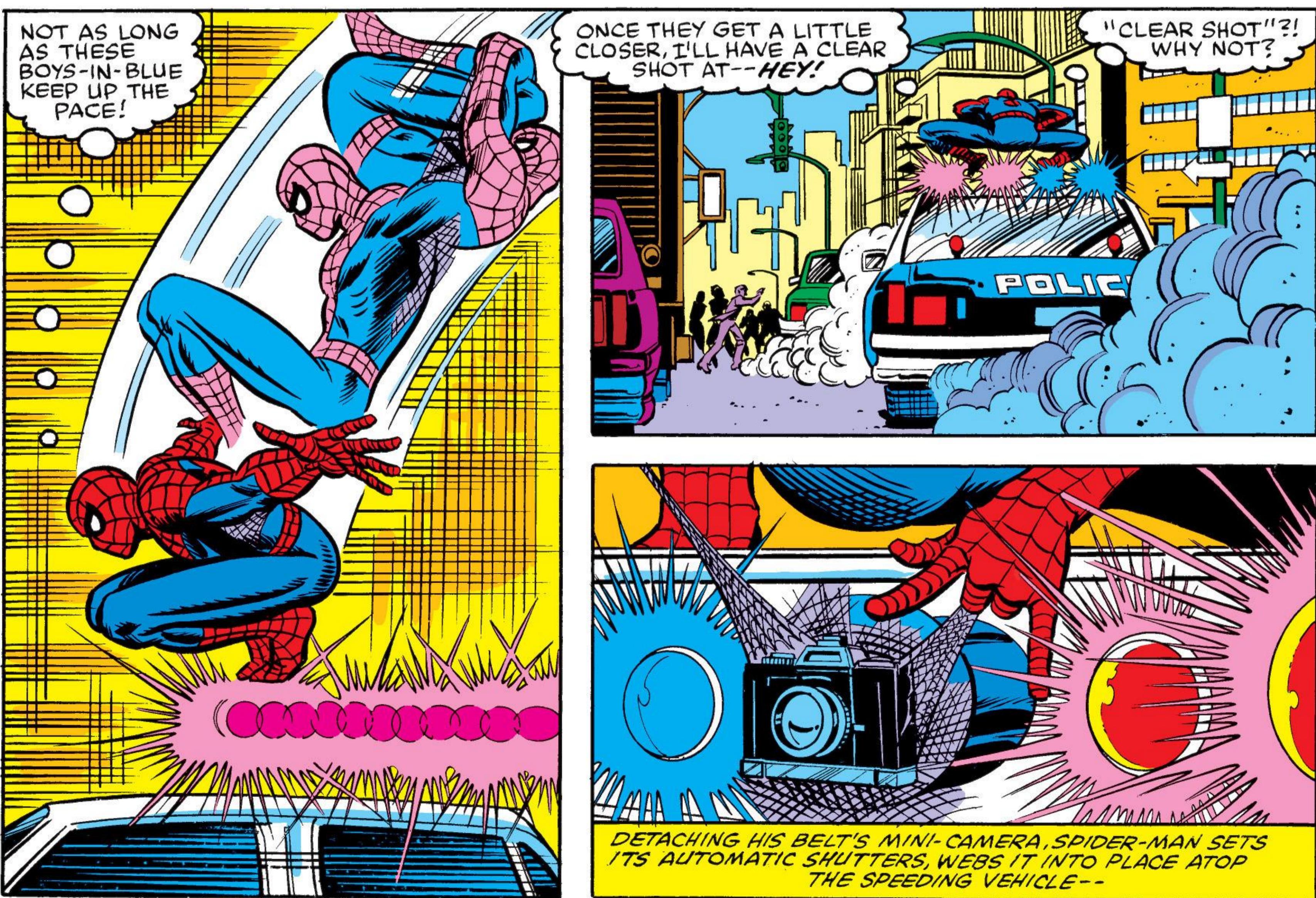
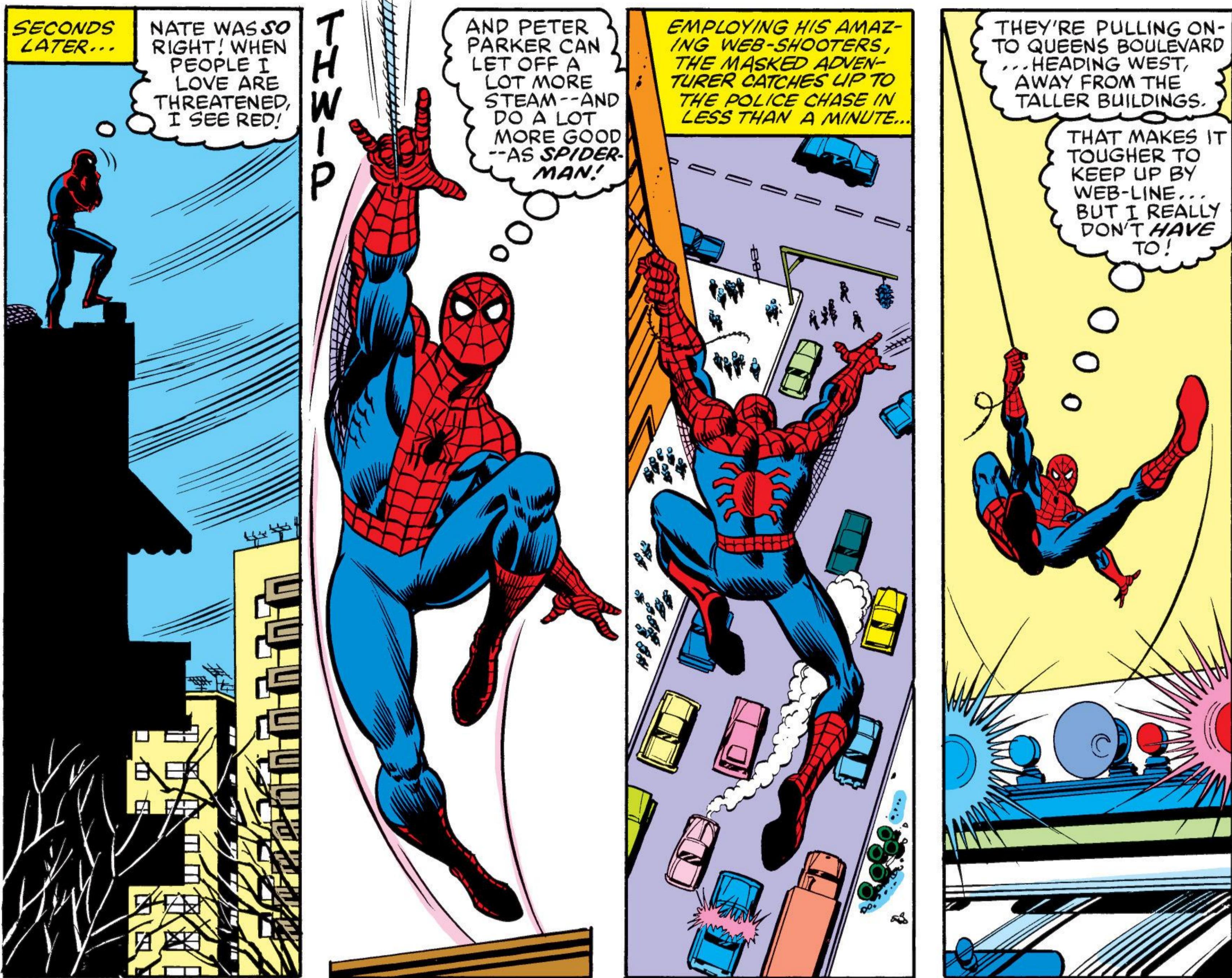
JOE ROSEN - LETTERER
ANDY YANCHUS - COLORS

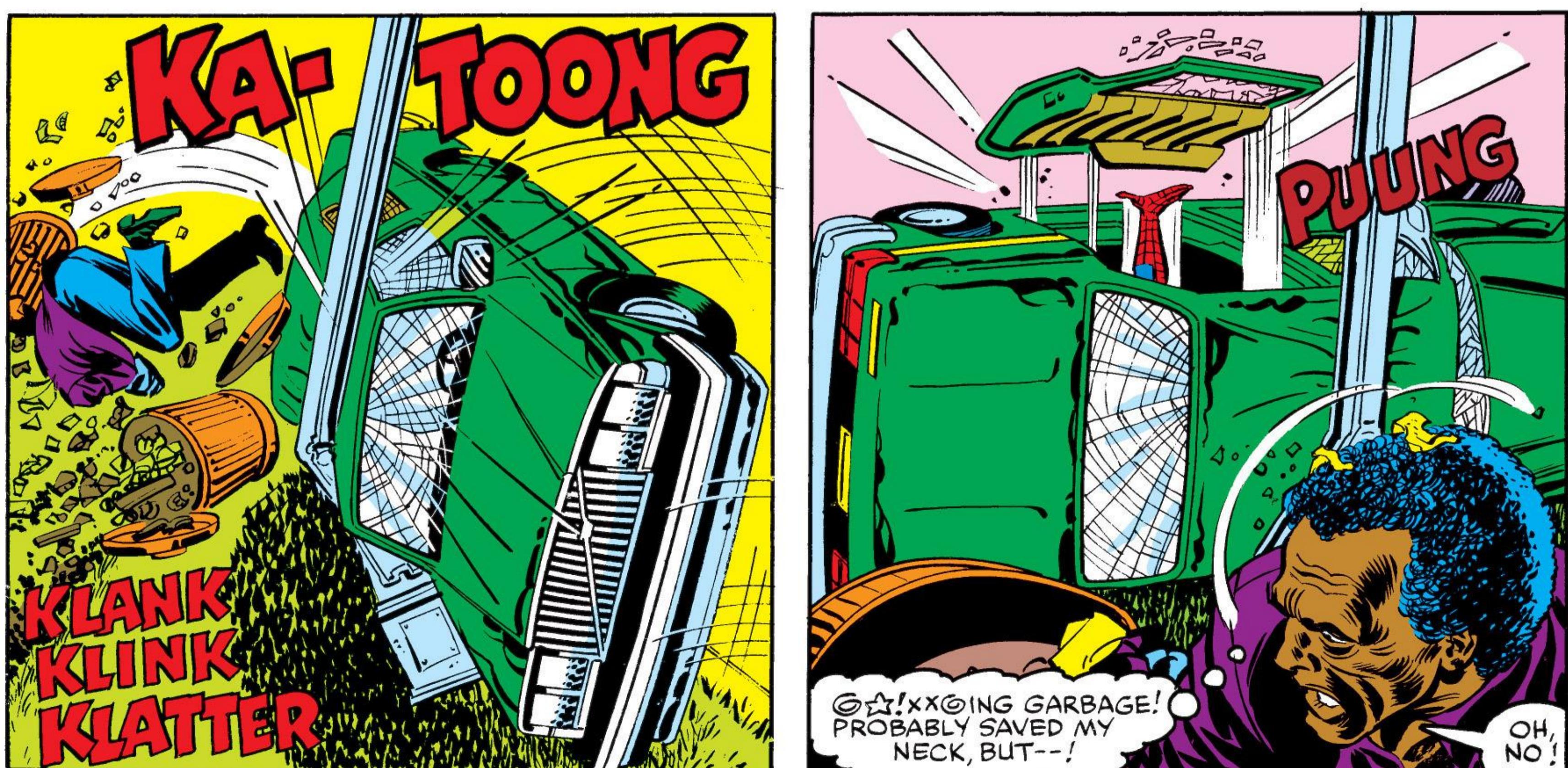
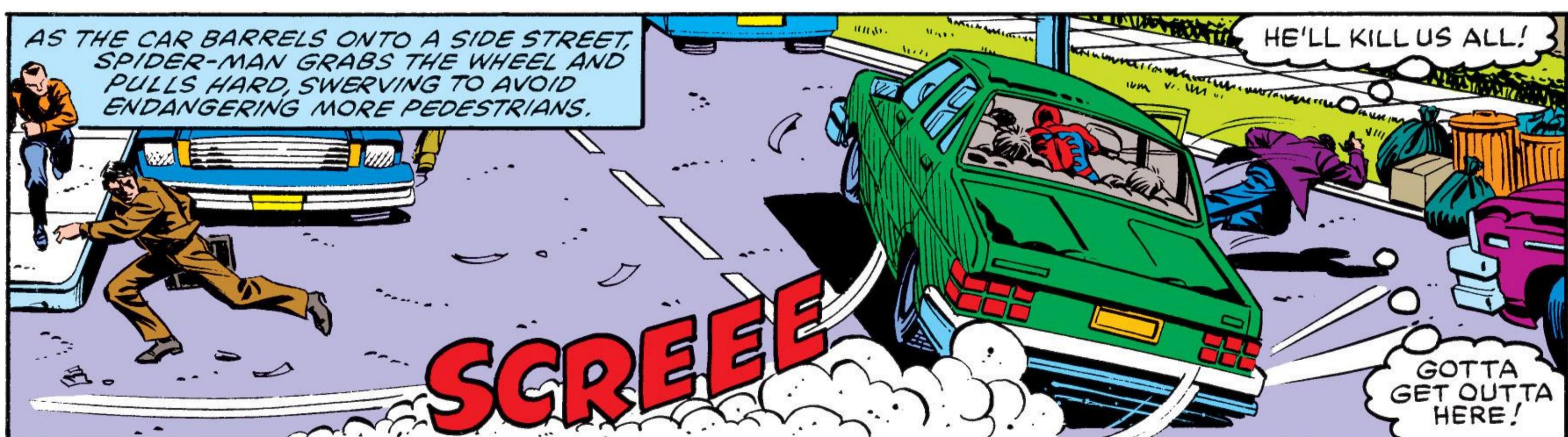
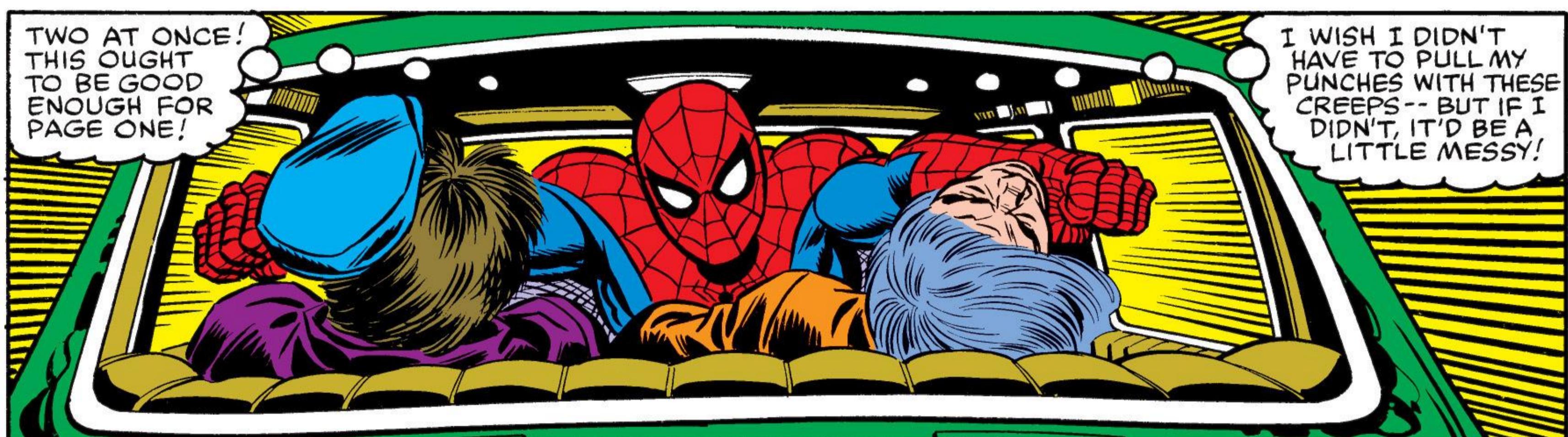
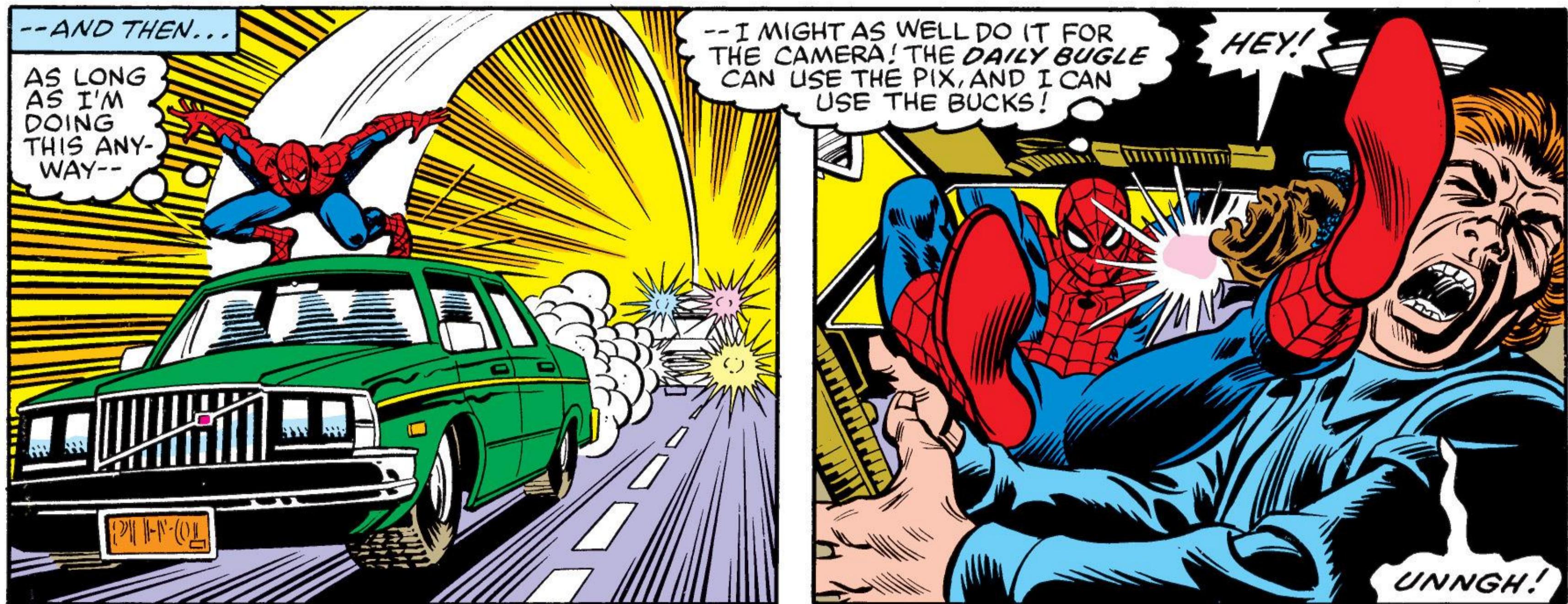
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR

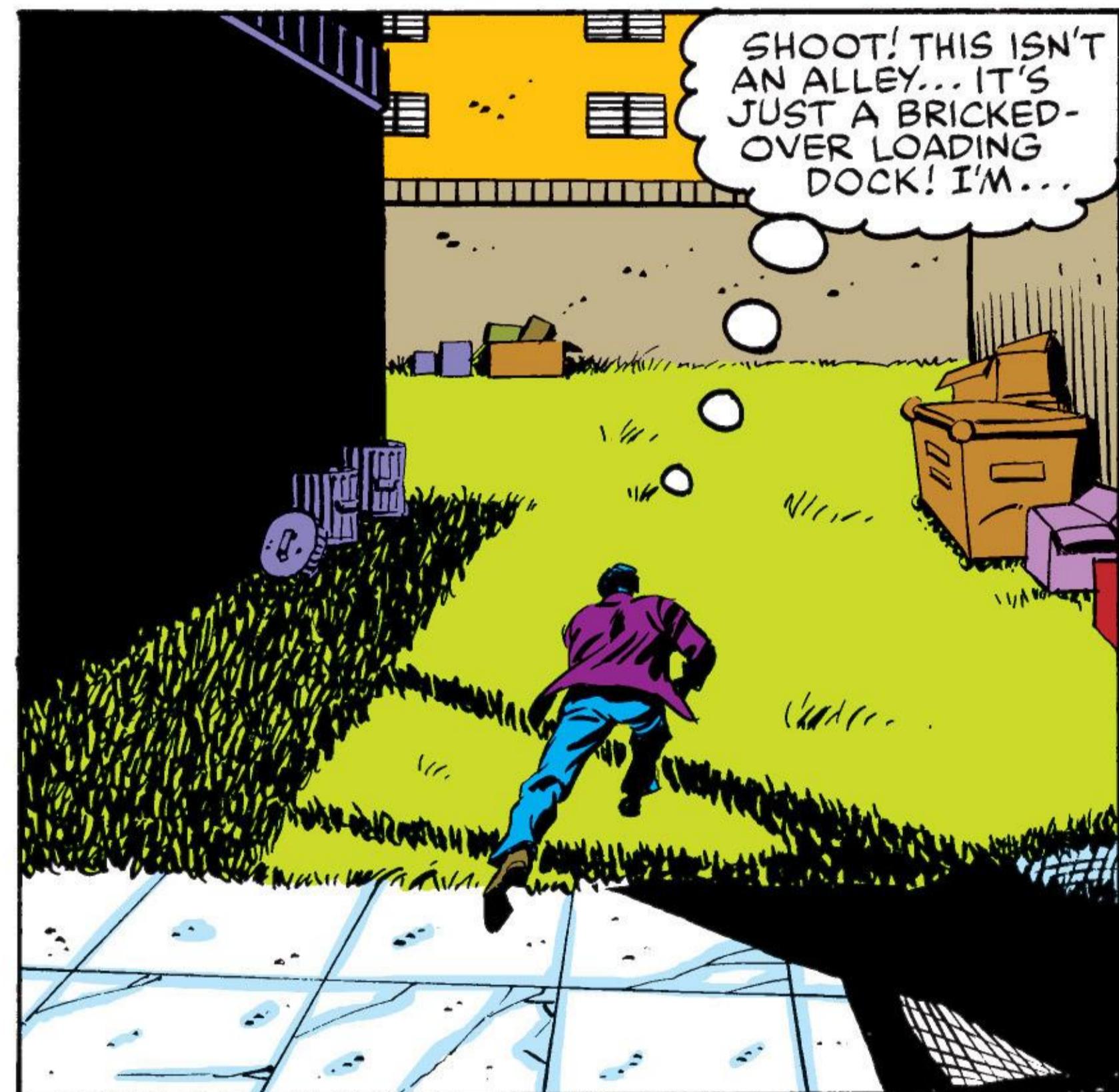
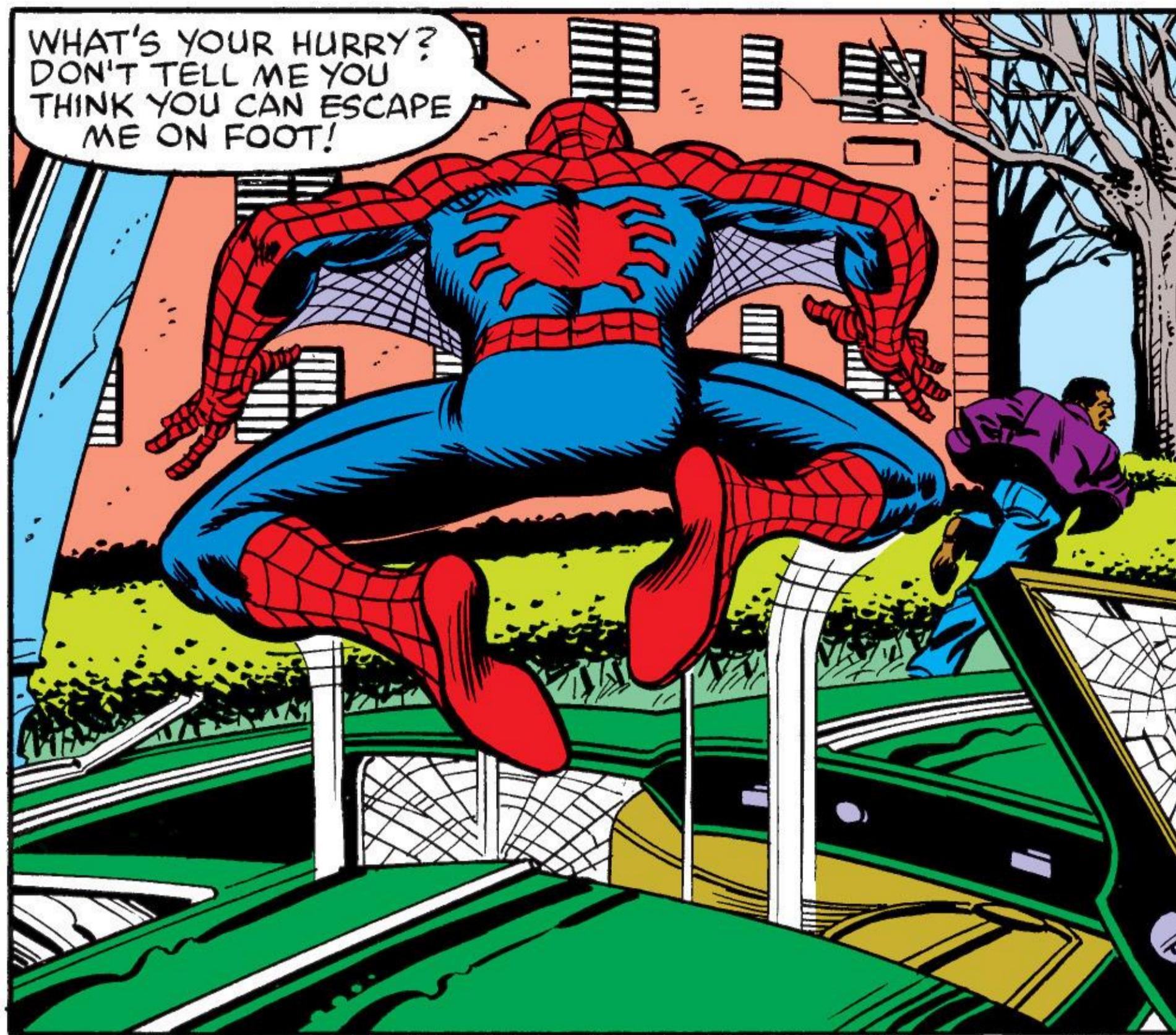
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

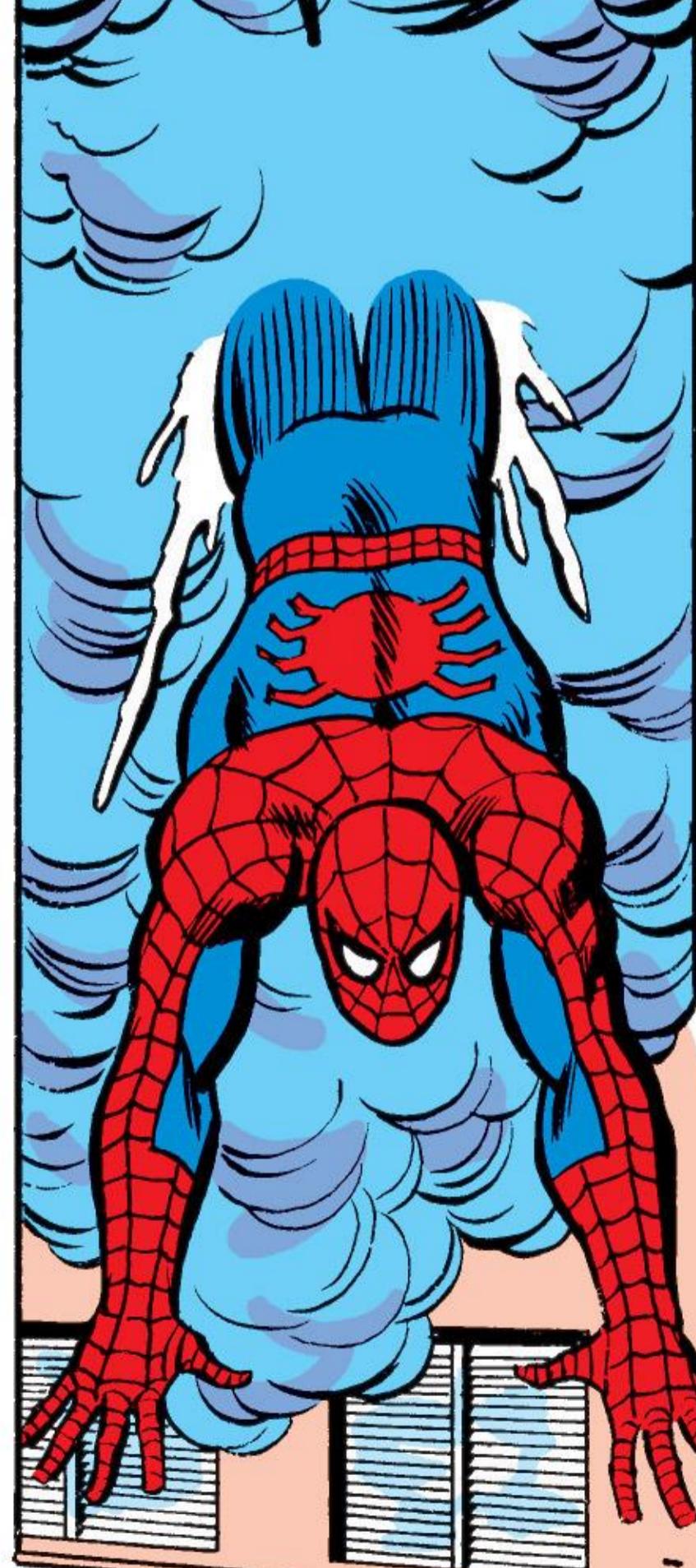


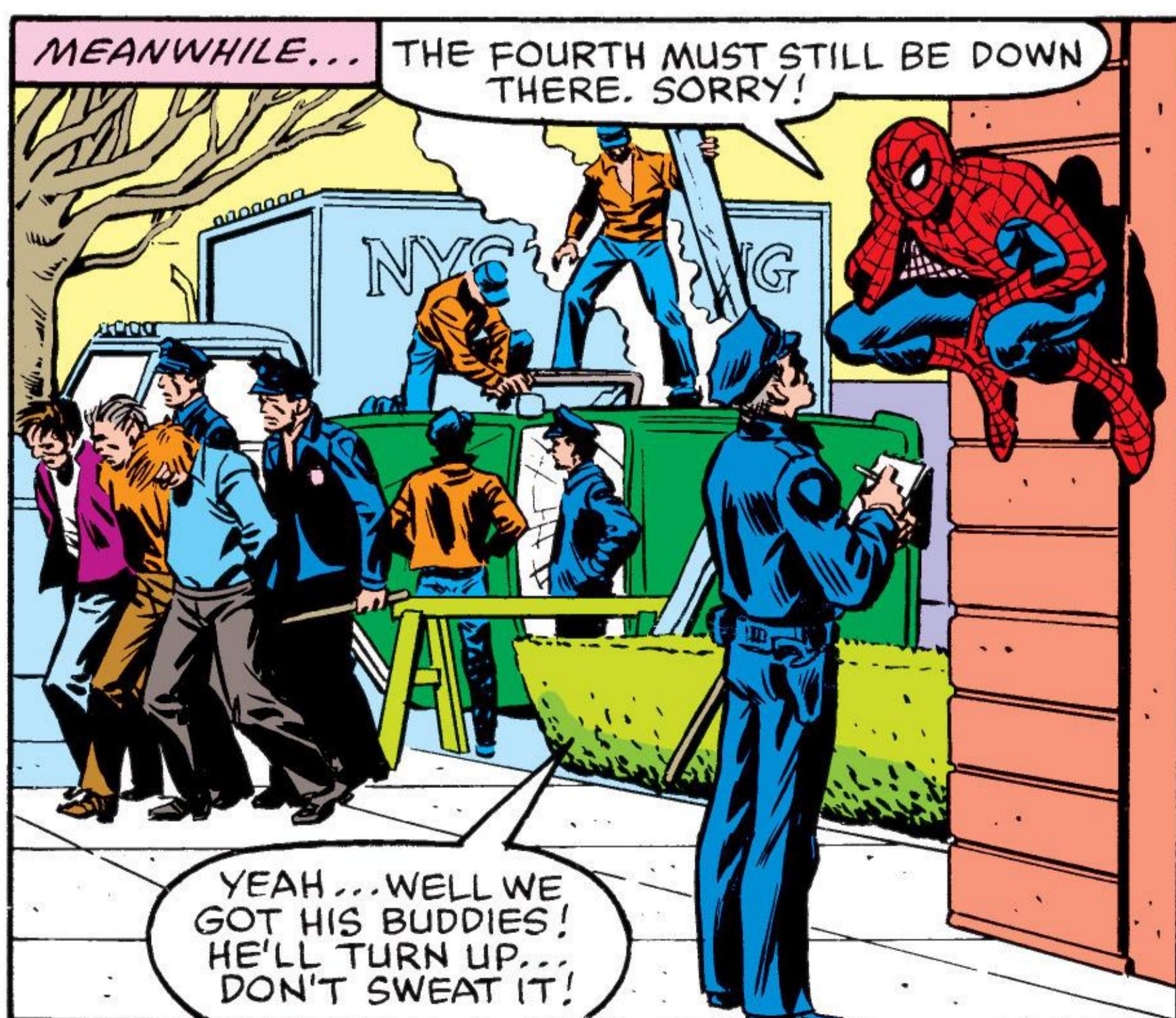
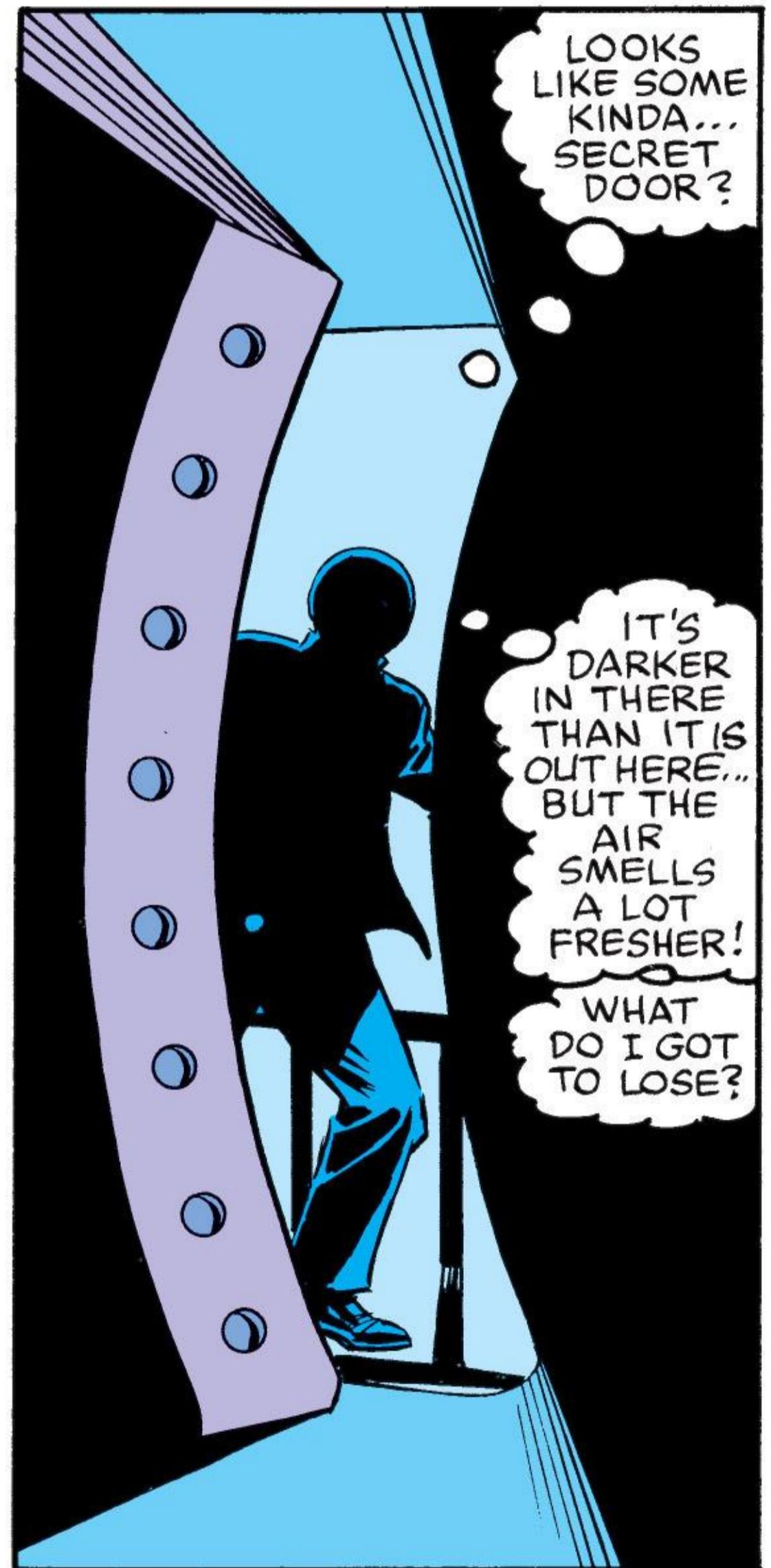
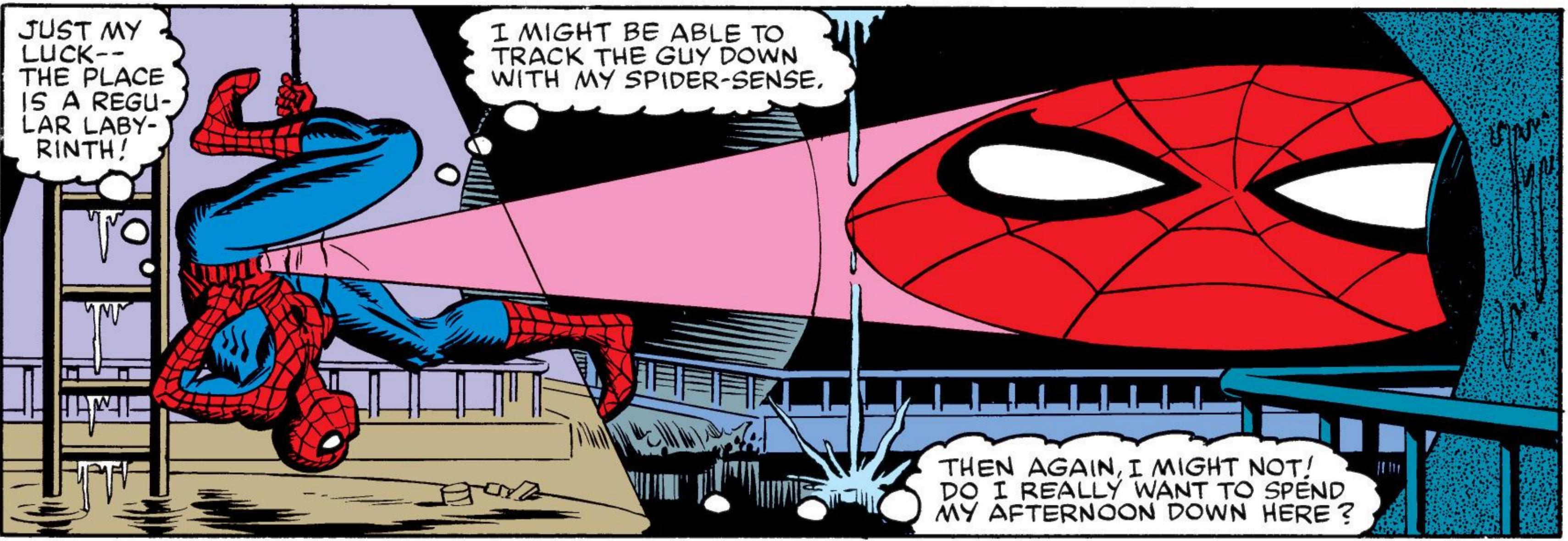


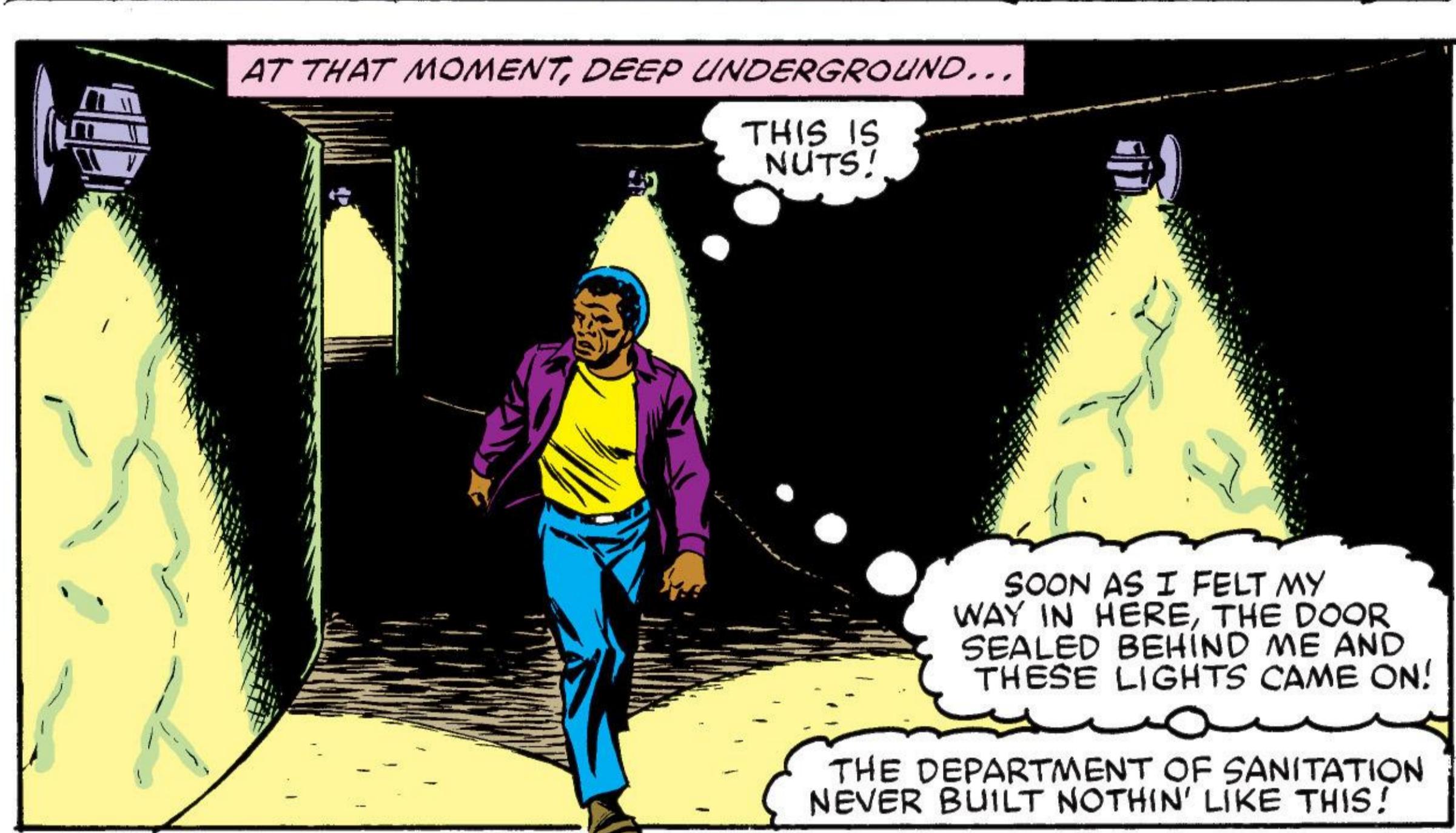
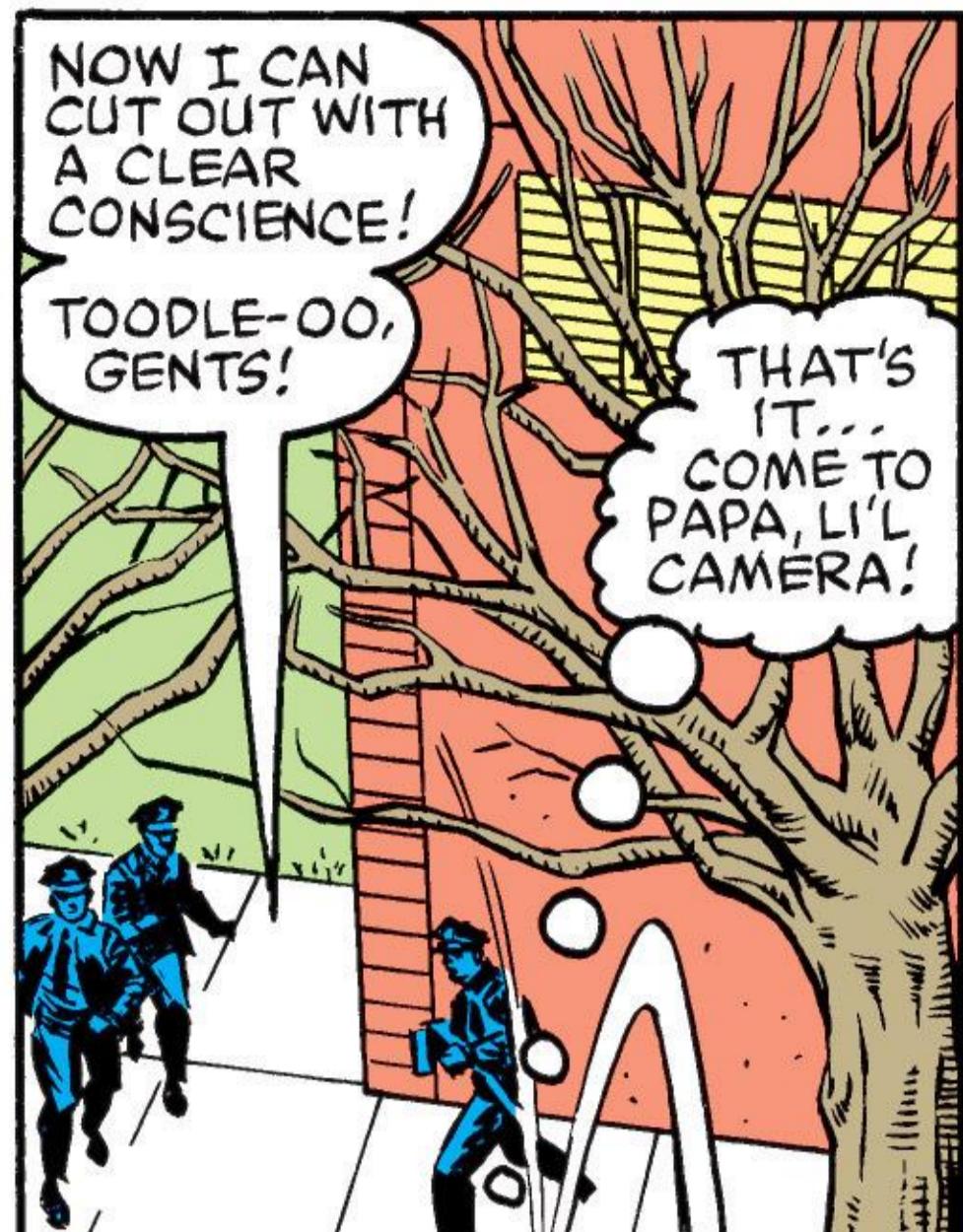












MEANWHILE, AS MAY AND NATHAN MAKE THEIR WAY HOME...

HAVE THERE BEEN
ANY CALLS FOR
ME, MARTHA?

WHY... NO, MAY!
YOU WERE
EXPECTING--?

OH, SHE'S JUST WORRYIN'
TO MAKE HER HEAD SPIN, MARTHA!

THAT'S ALL WELL AND
GOOD FOR YOU TO SAY,
NATHAN LUBENSKY! YOU
NEVER LOST A CHILD
LIKE I...

RINNG

HELLO...
PETER?

NO, BUT I'LL GIVE YOU
A SECOND GUESS!
ANNA!
ANNA WATSON--

--HOW ARE
YOU? HOW'S
FLORIDA?
SUNNY
AS EVER!

I WANTED TO CALL
AND CONGRATULATE
YOU ON OPENING YOUR
BOARDING HOUSE!

YES, I JUST
GOT YOUR
CARD!

WELL, YES, IT
TOOK ME AWHILE
TO ADJUST TO
SUNBELT LIVING--
BUT I HAD
SOME HELP!

SAY "HELLO"
FOR ME! I'M
OFF TO THE
BEACH!

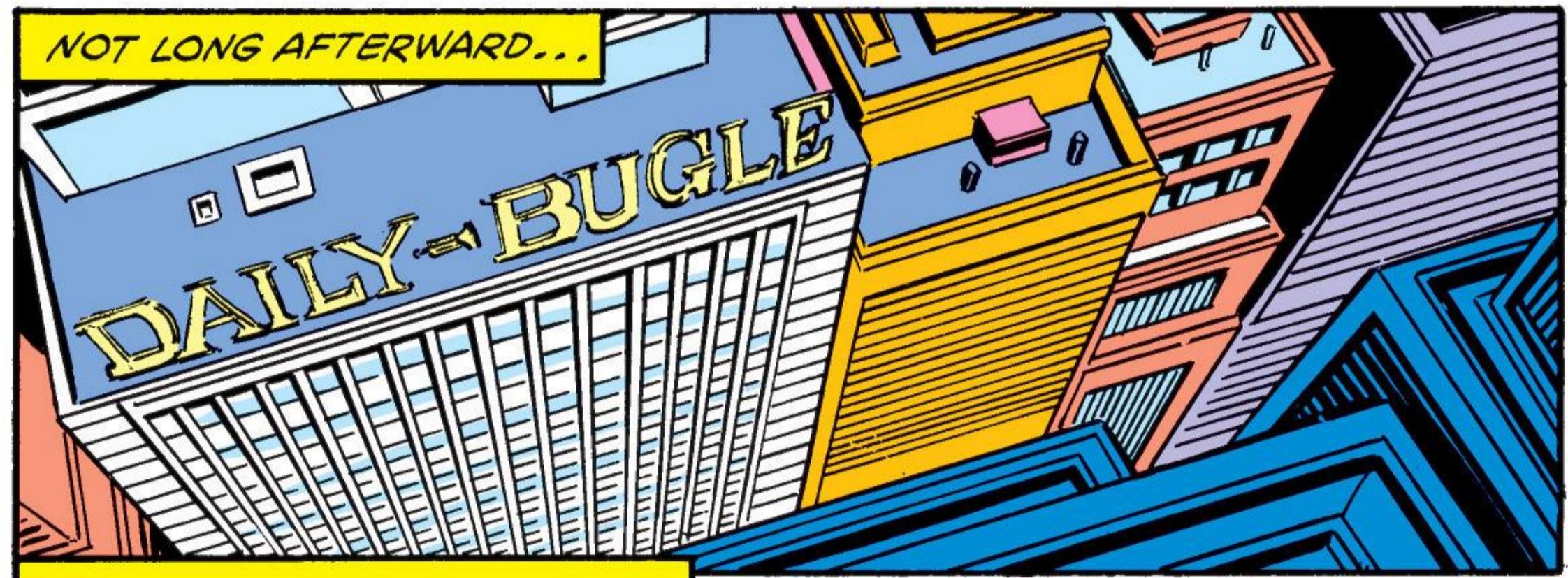
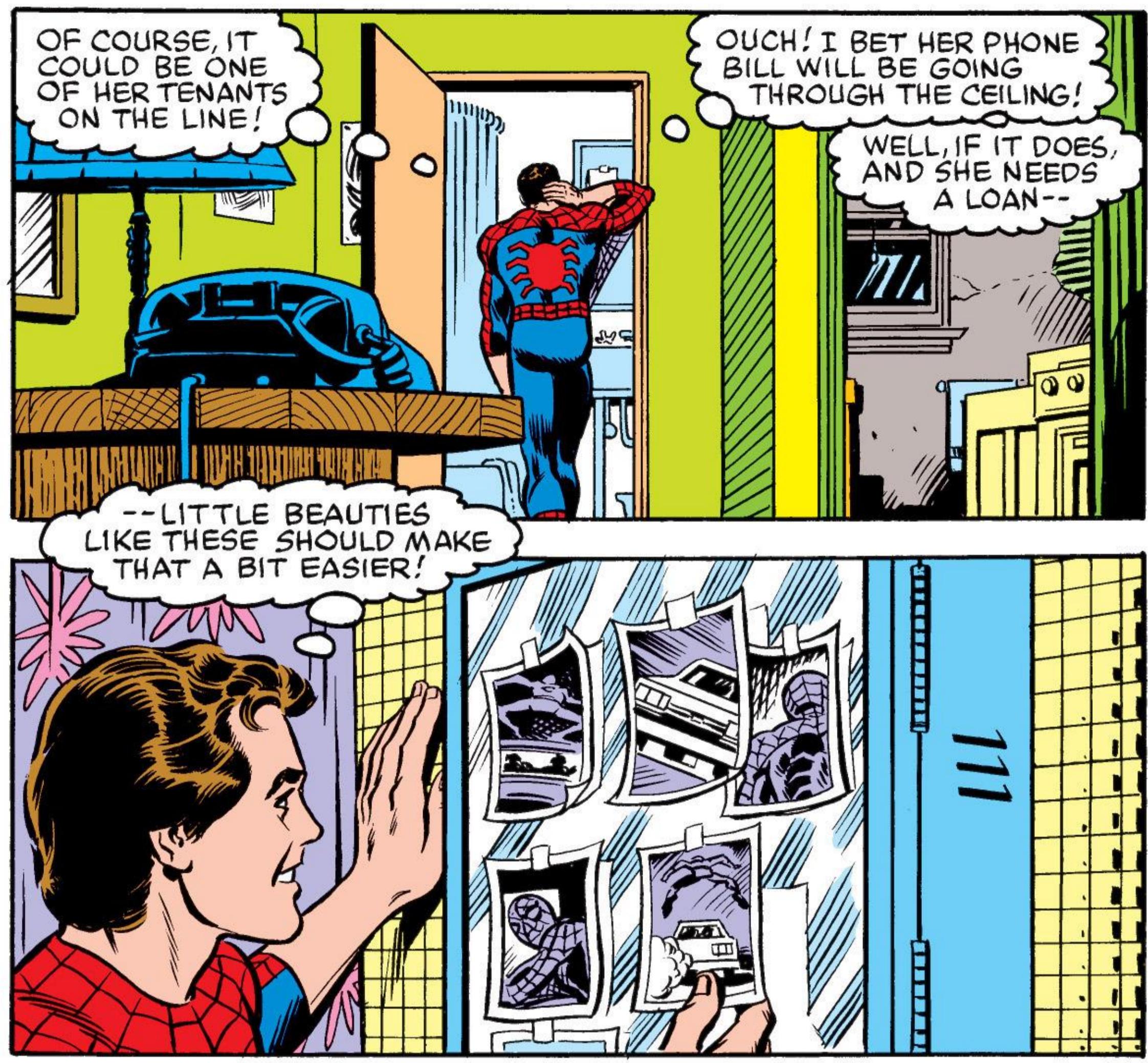
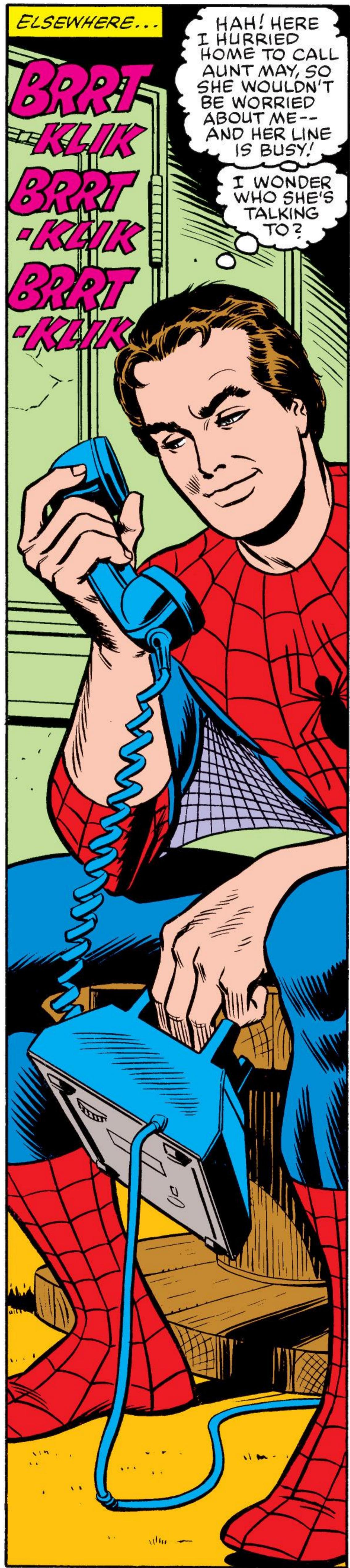
WHAT? NO, THAT
CRIME WAVE WAS
FARTHER SOUTH!

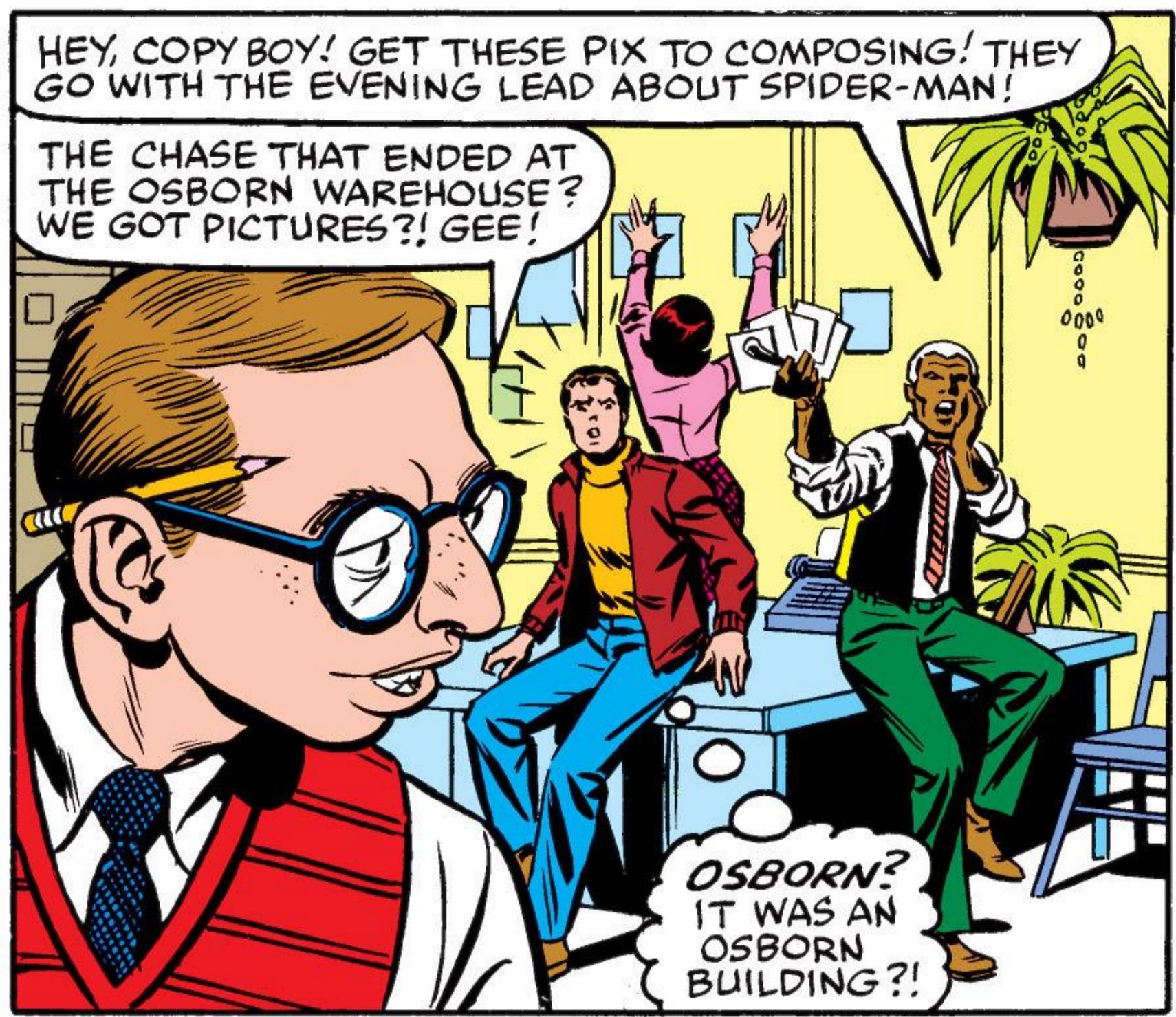
YES, MY NIECE
HAS BEEN STAY-
ING WITH ME!

MARY JANE
SAYS, "HELLO!"

GIVE HER MY
BEST, ANNA!
OH, IT'S SO GOOD
TO HEAR YOUR VOICE,
TOO! YOU REALLY MUST
COME BACK NORTH
FOR A VISIT!

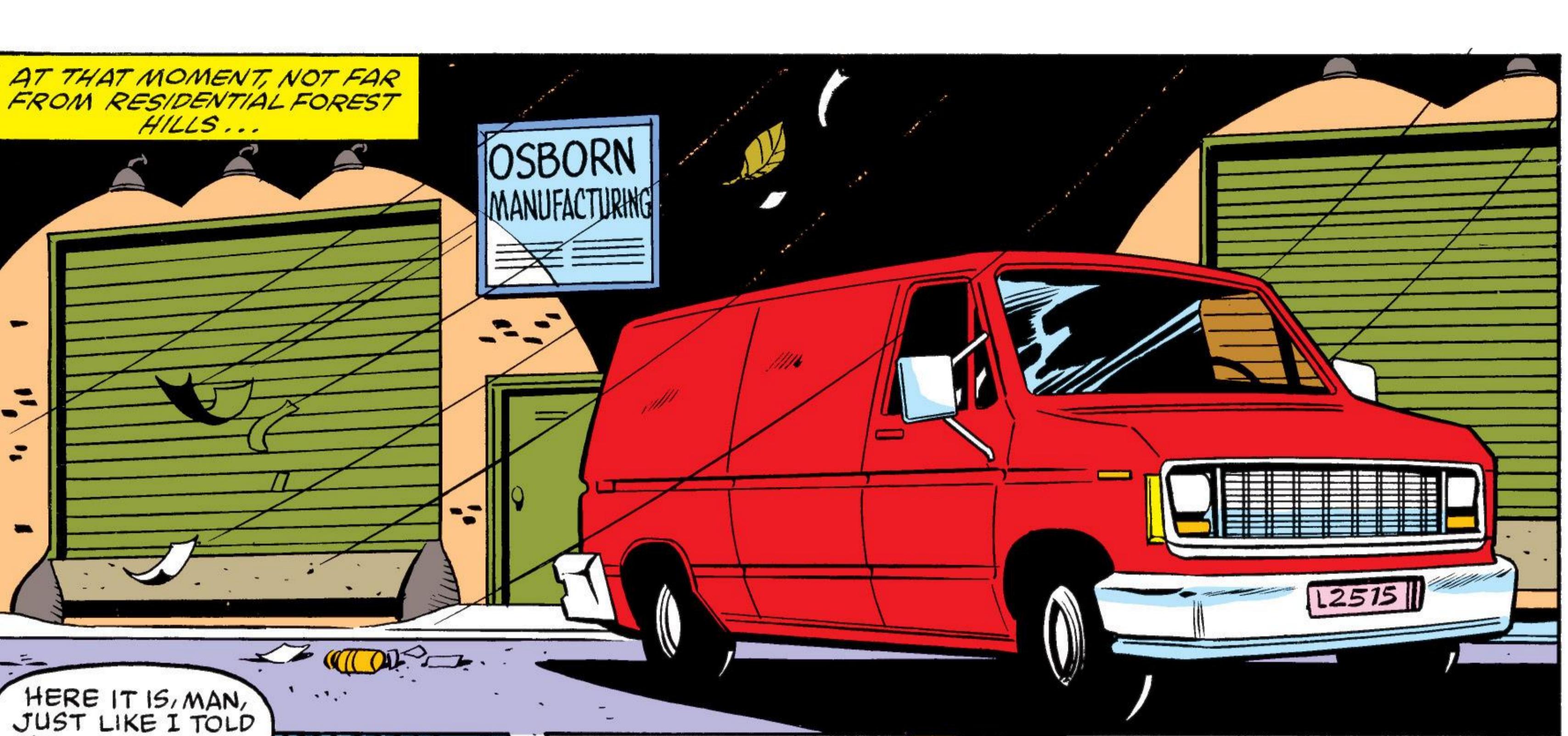
YOU WON'T
BELIEVE HOW
WE'VE FIXED UP
THE OLD PLACE!





AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR FROM RESIDENTIAL FOREST HILLS...

OSBORN
MANUFACTURING



HERE IT IS, MAN,
JUST LIKE I TOLD
YA... THE GREEN
GOBLIN'S OLD
HIDEOUT!

NOTES, PRIVATE JOURNALS
...ALL THIS EQUIPMENT!

YEAH, I FIGURED
A DUDE LIKE YOU'D
BE INTERESTED!

YOU FIGURED CORRECTLY, GEORGIE.
I WANT YOU TO LOAD EVERYTHING
THAT CAN BE MOVED INTO THE VAN!



SOMETIME
LATER...

I REALLY
APPRECIATE
THE LIFT,
ROBBIE!

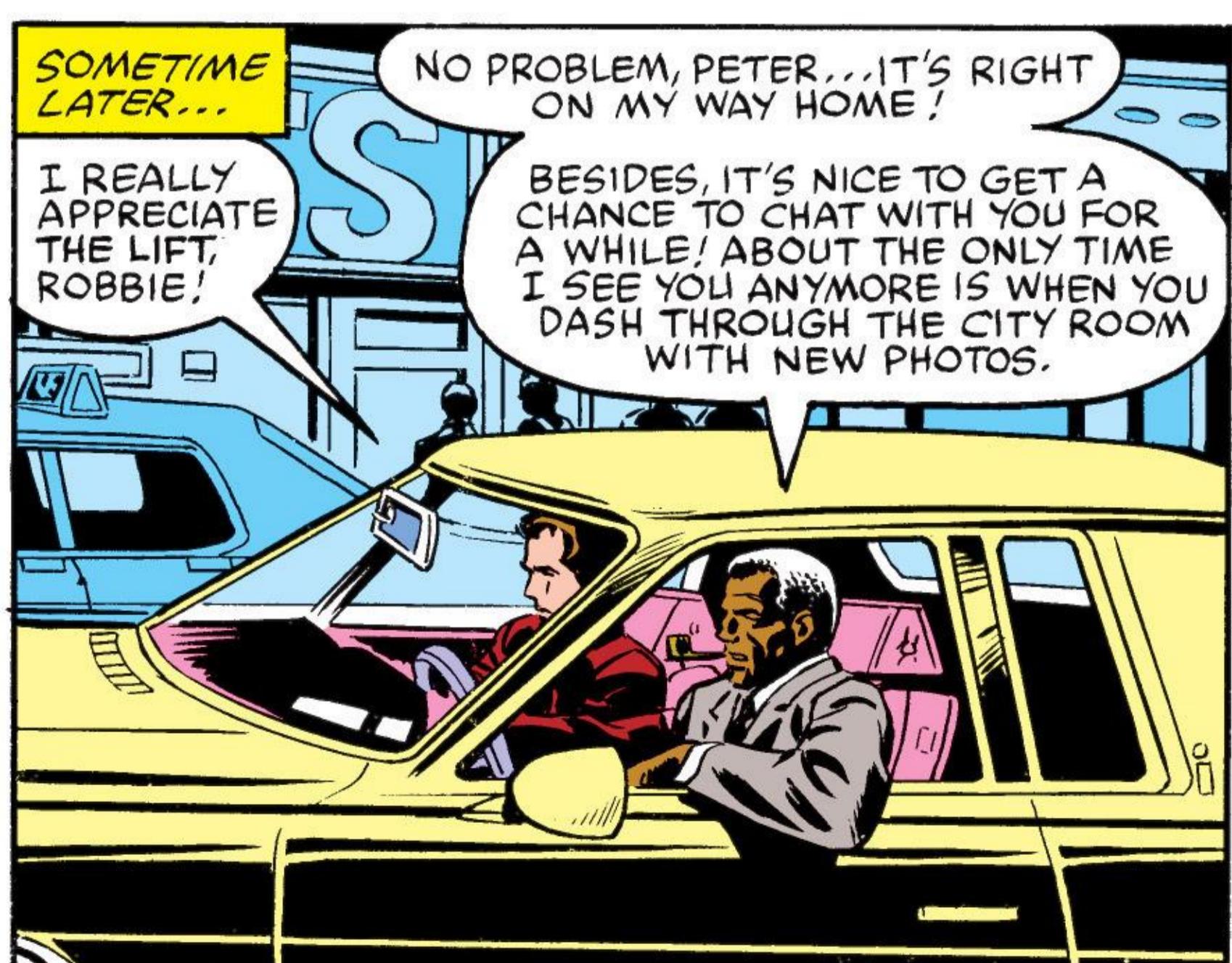
NO PROBLEM, PETER... IT'S RIGHT
ON MY WAY HOME!

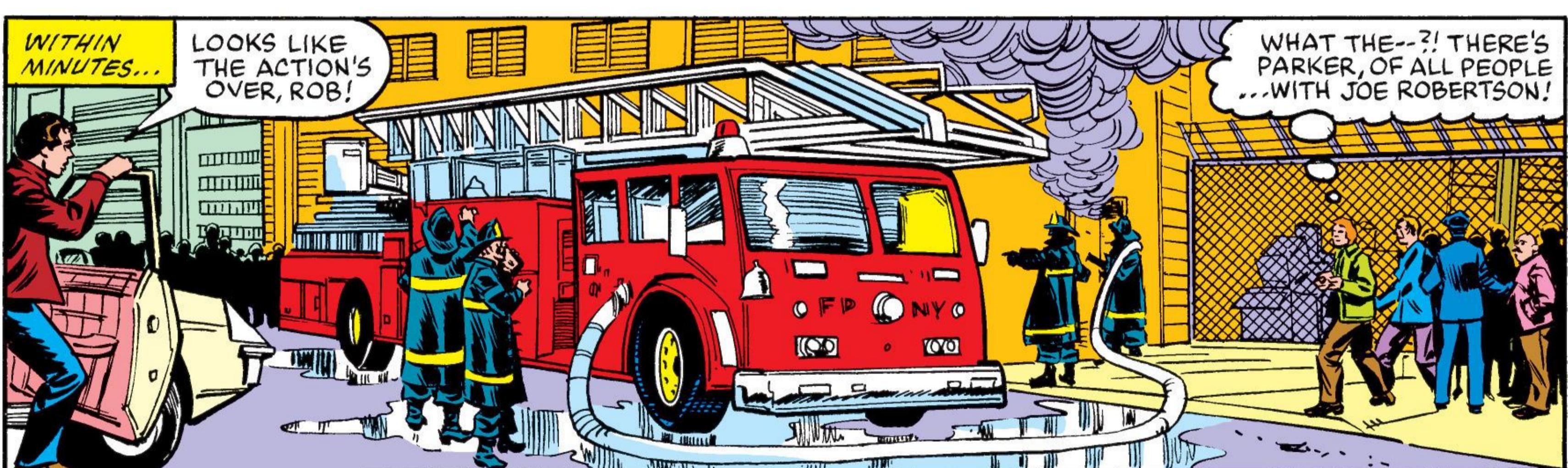
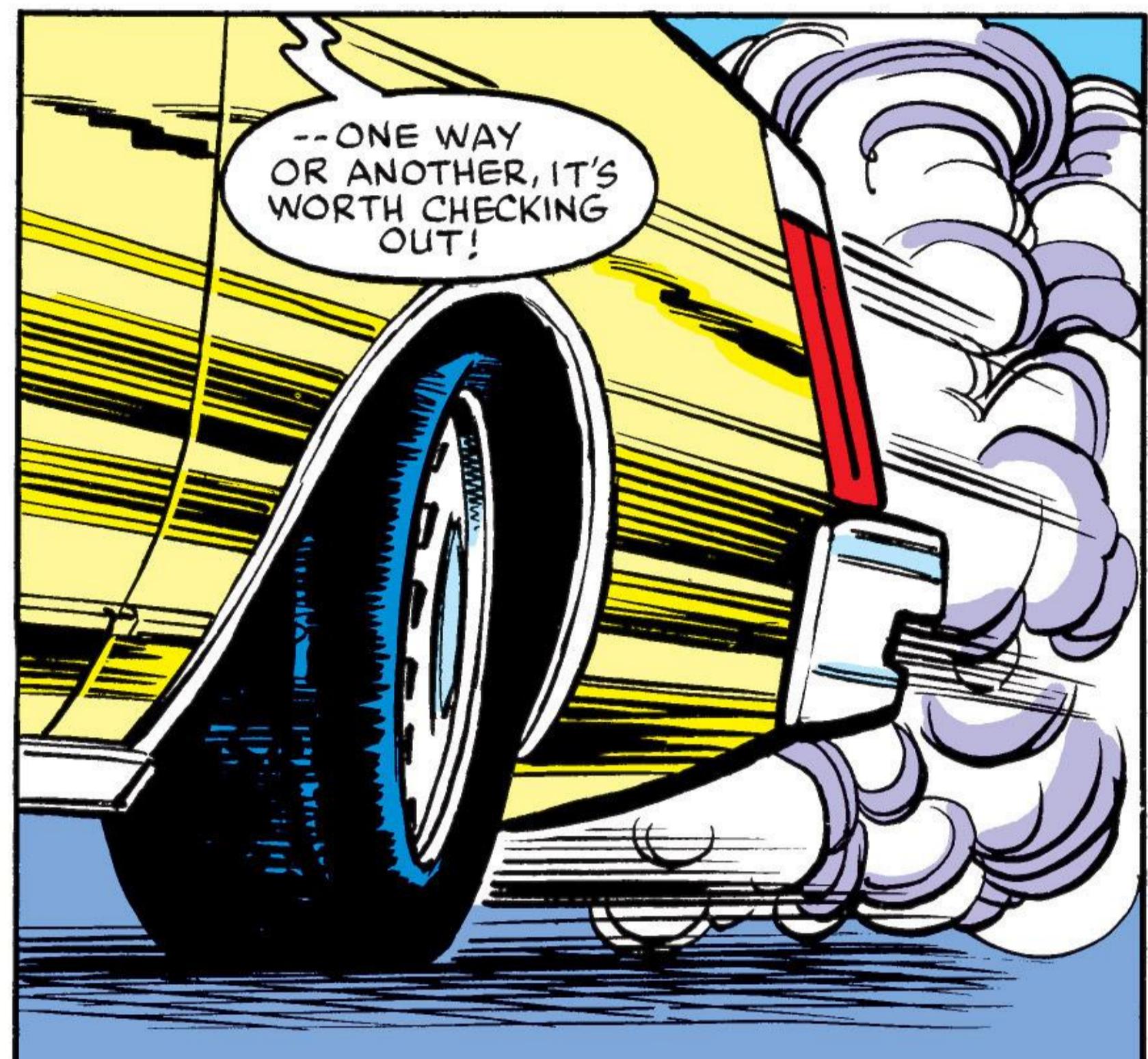
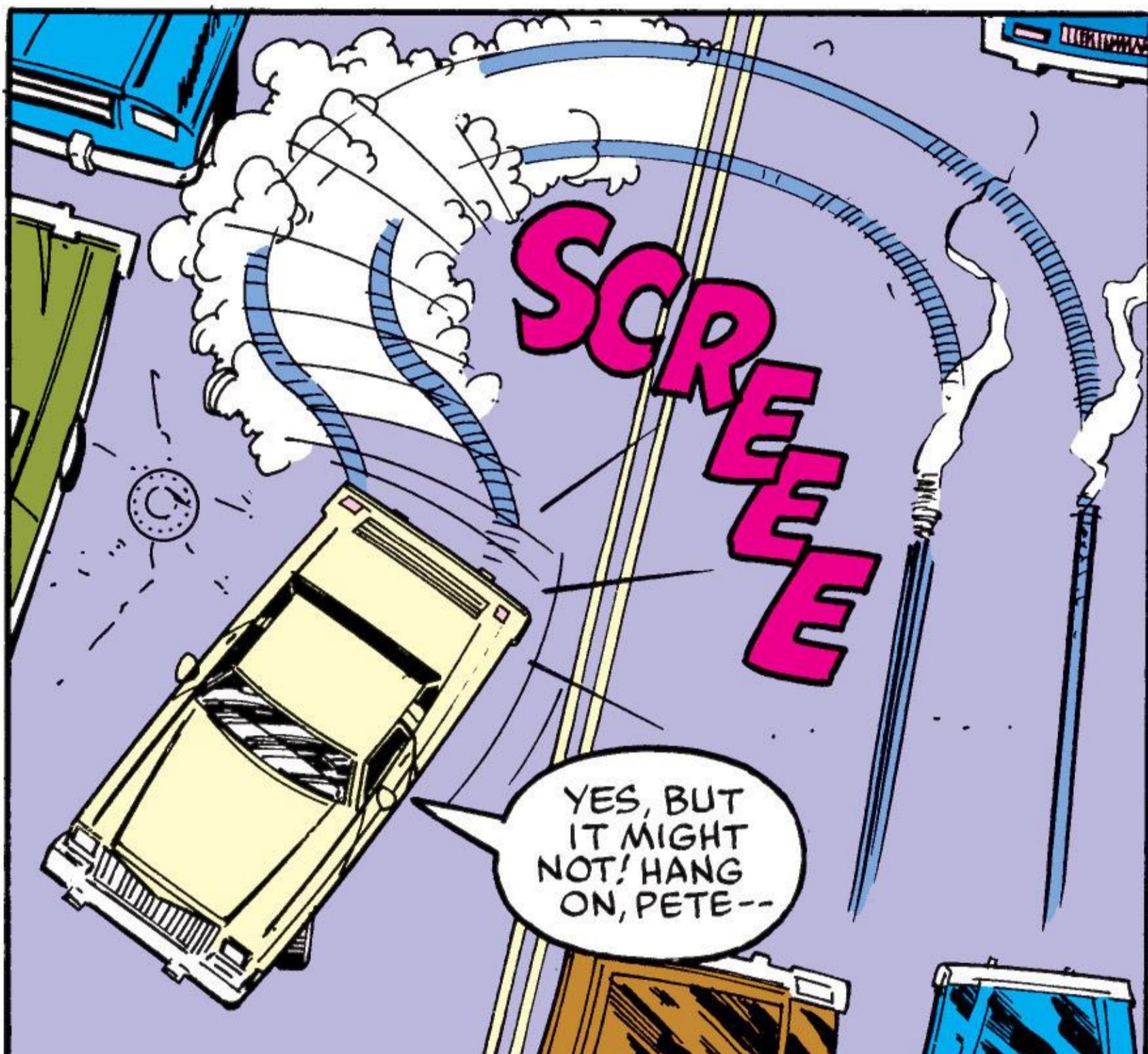
BESIDES, IT'S NICE TO GET A
CHANCE TO CHAT WITH YOU FOR
A WHILE! ABOUT THE ONLY TIME
I SEE YOU ANYMORE IS WHEN YOU
DASH THROUGH THE CITY ROOM
WITH NEW PHOTOS.

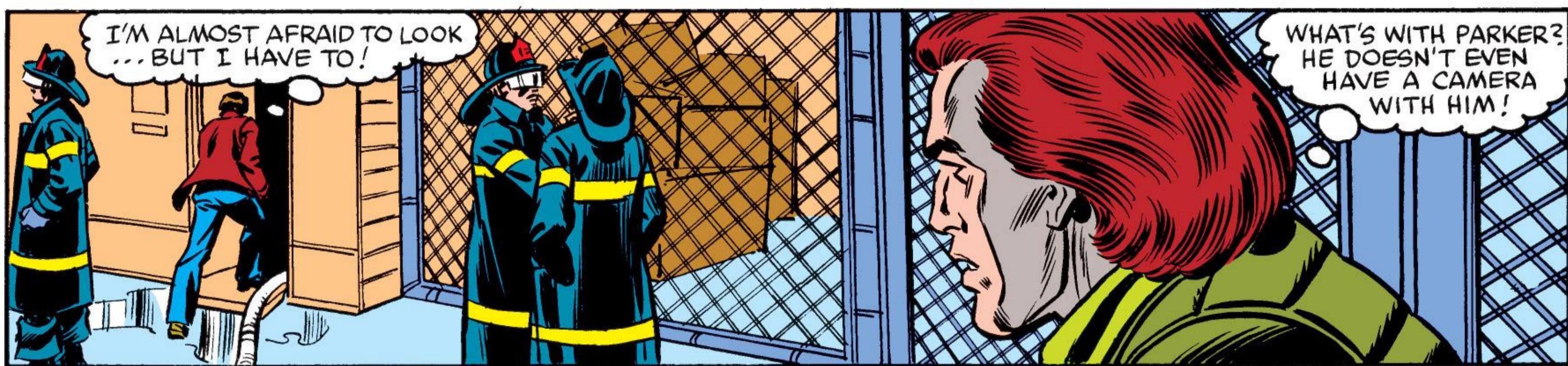
I'M AFRAID SO.
I JUST DON'T
HAVE MUCH TIME
TO HANG OUT AT
THE BUGLE
LIKE I USED TO.

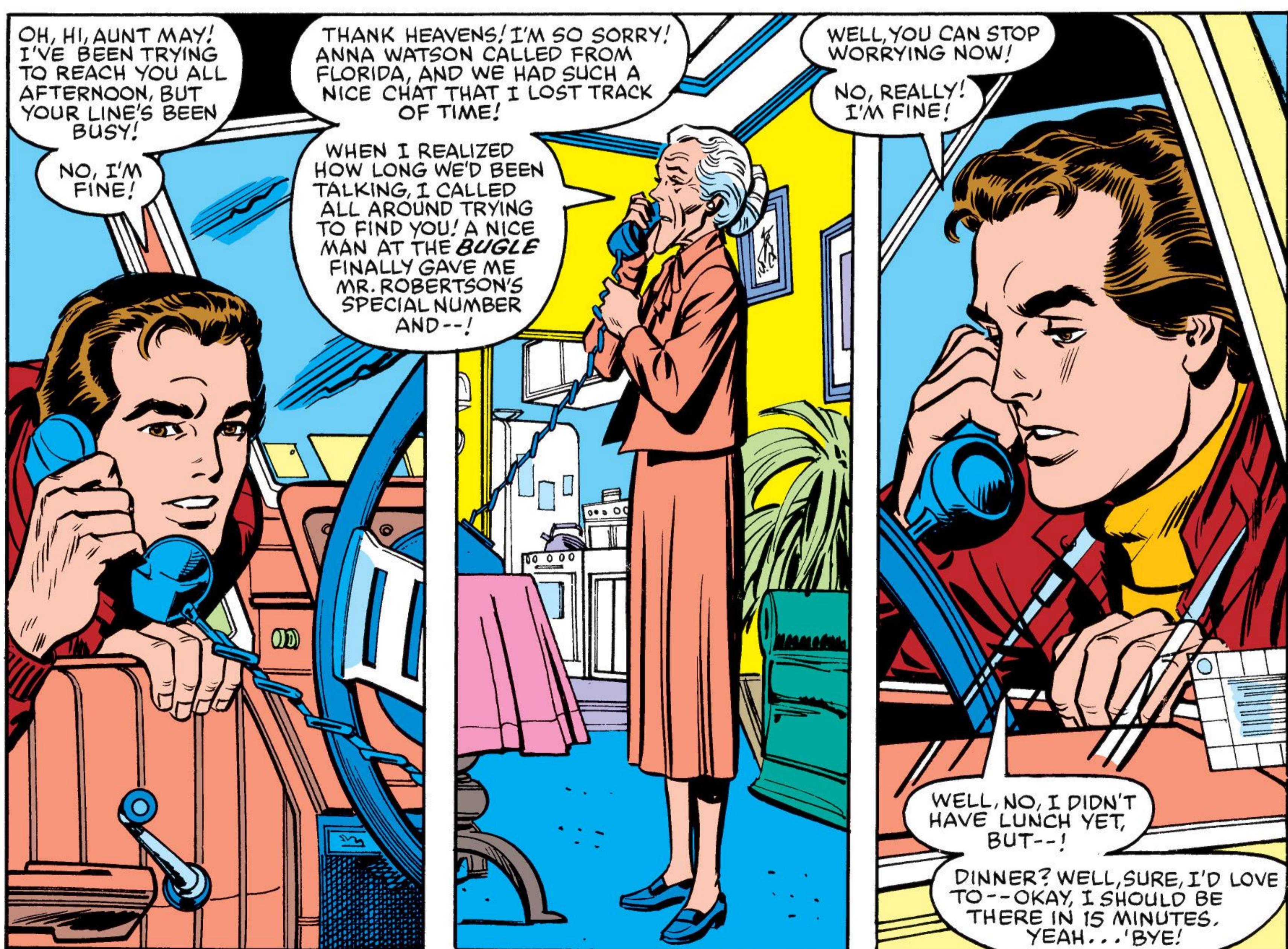
WELL, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.
YOUR GRADUATE STUDIES
MUST TAKE UP A LOT
OF TIME.

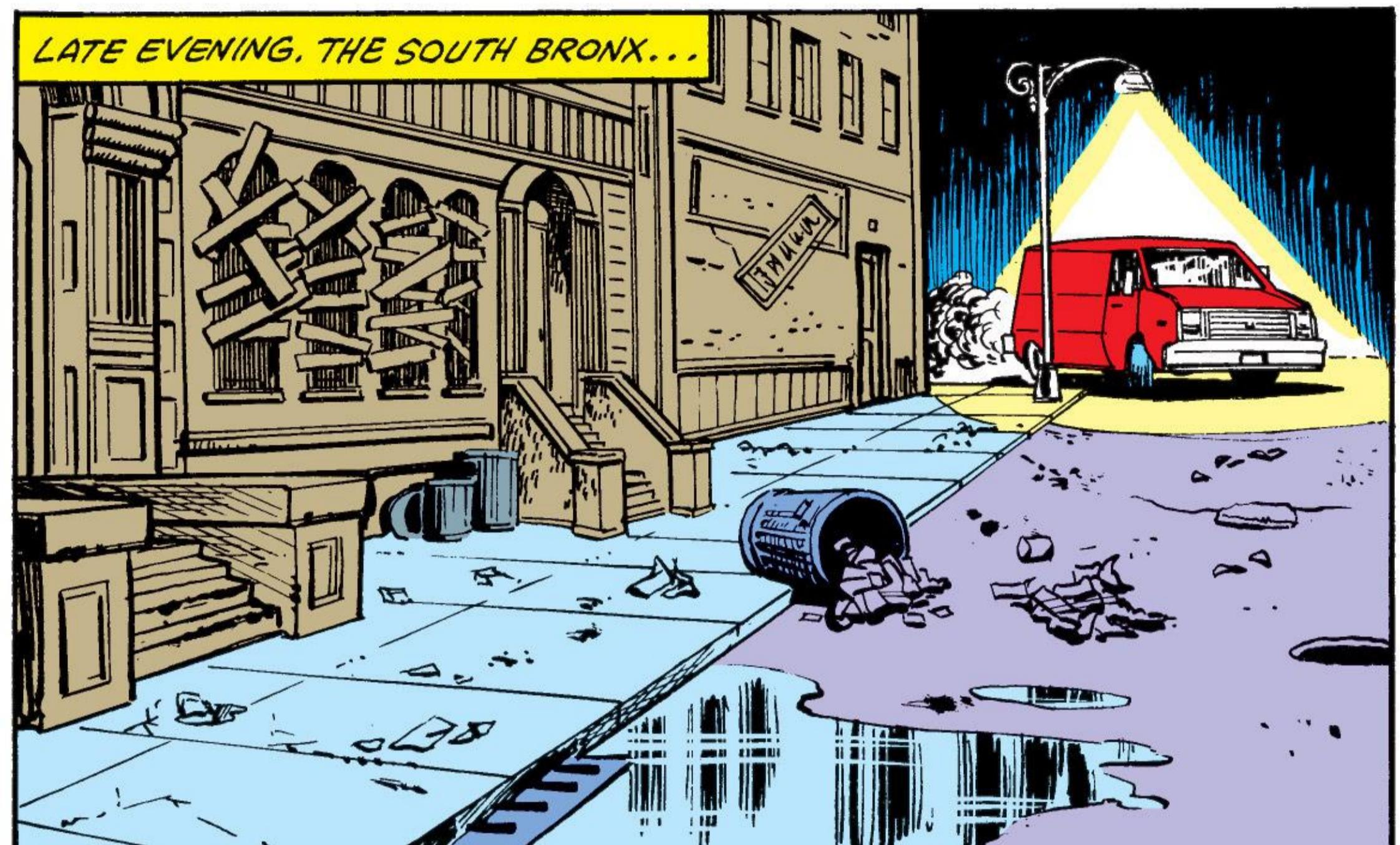
STILL, I DON'T
WANT YOU TO
BECOME A
STRANGER!

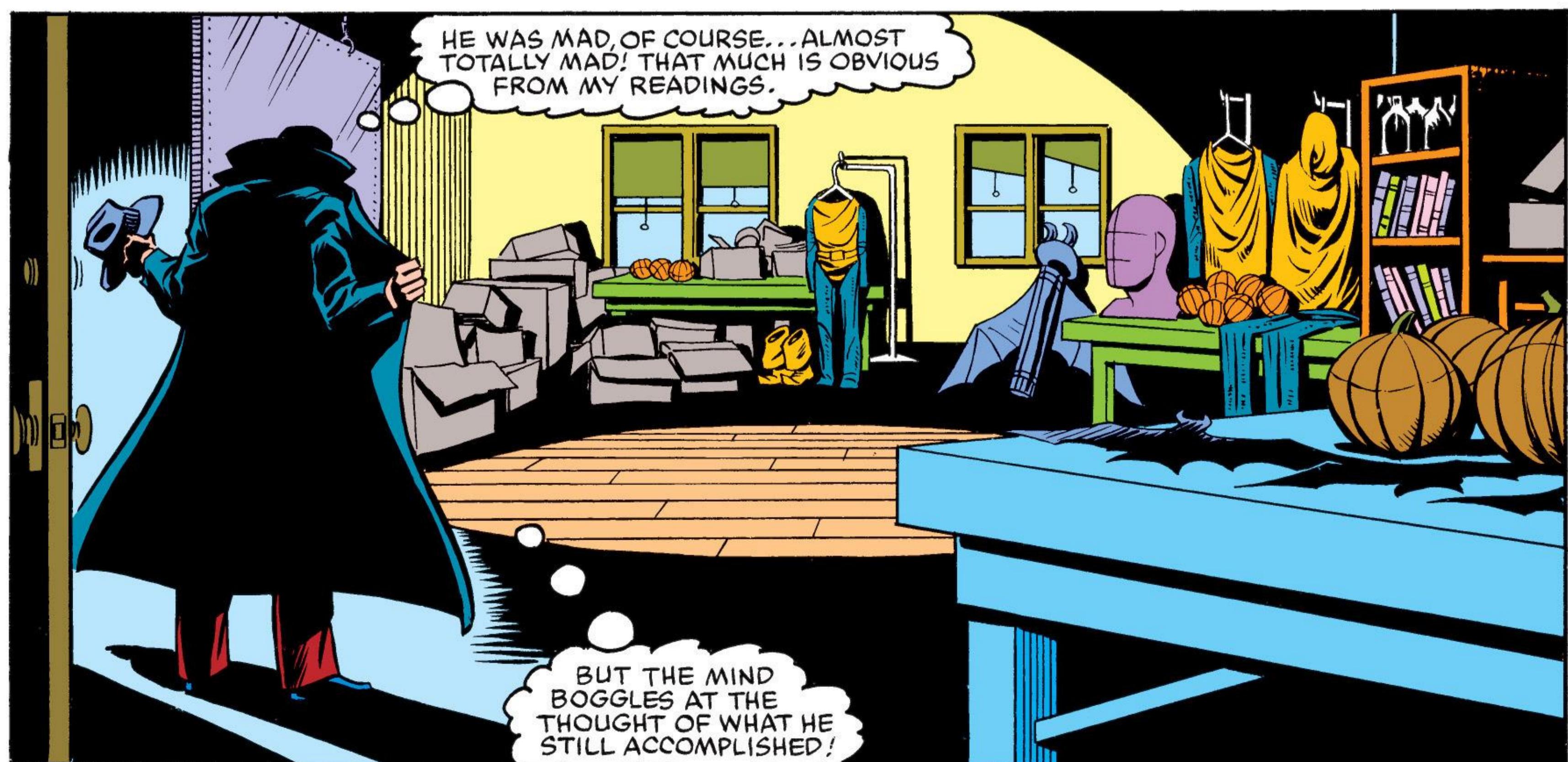
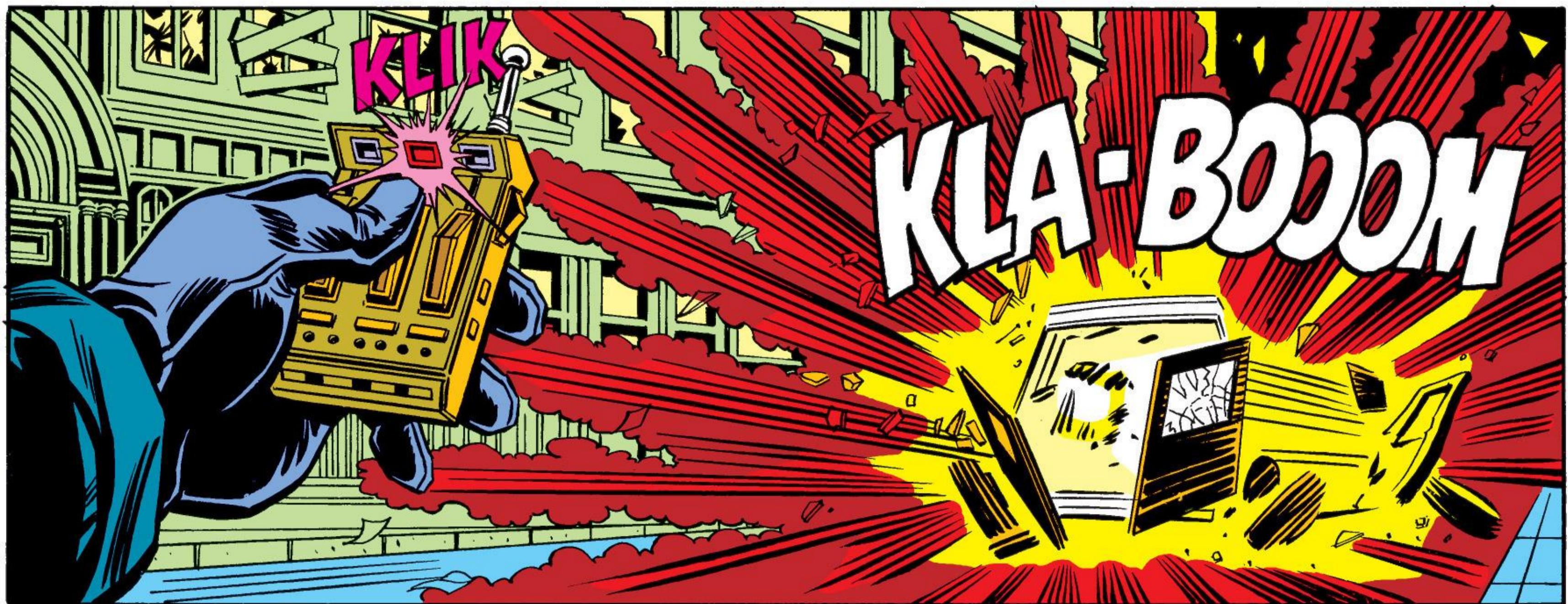


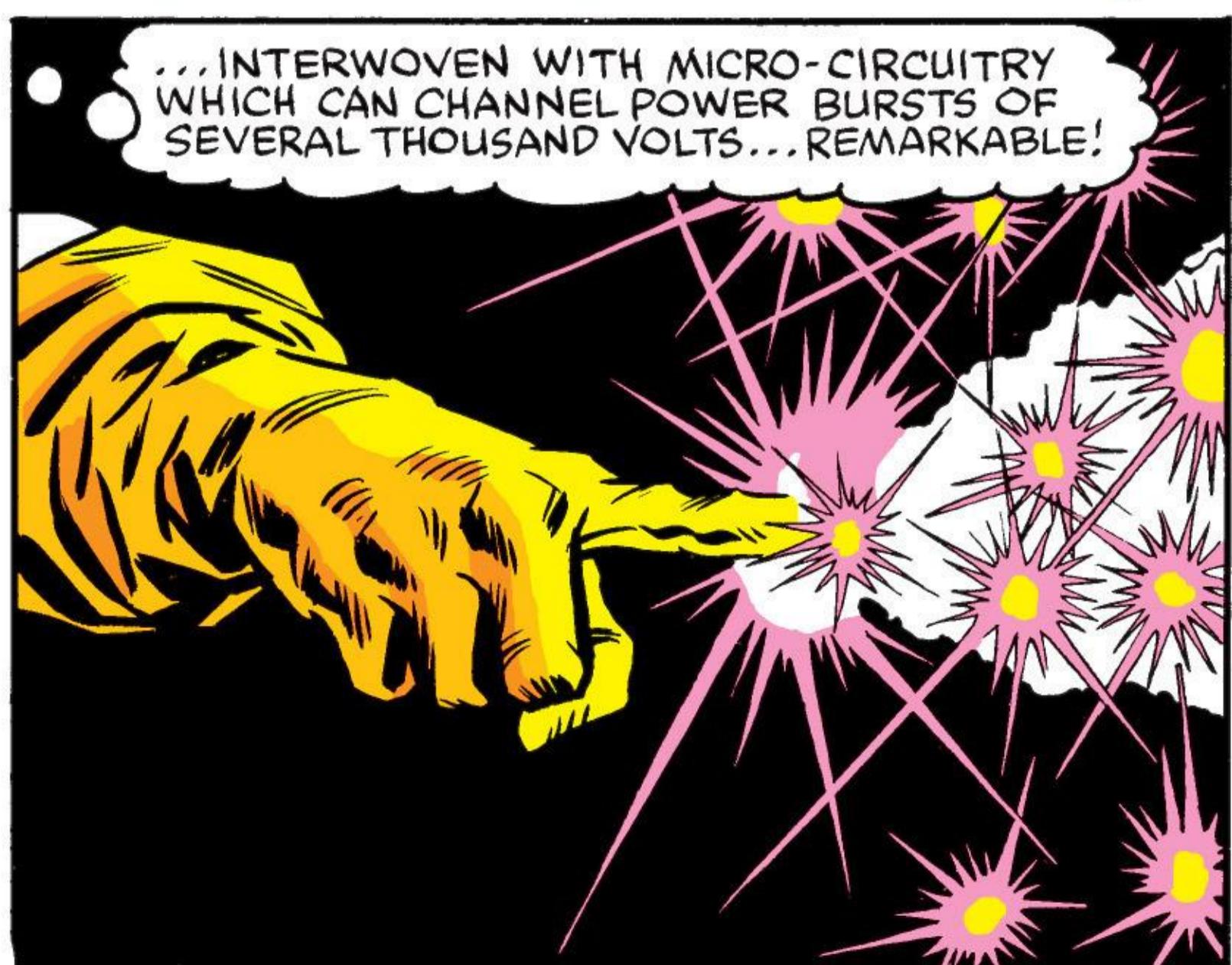
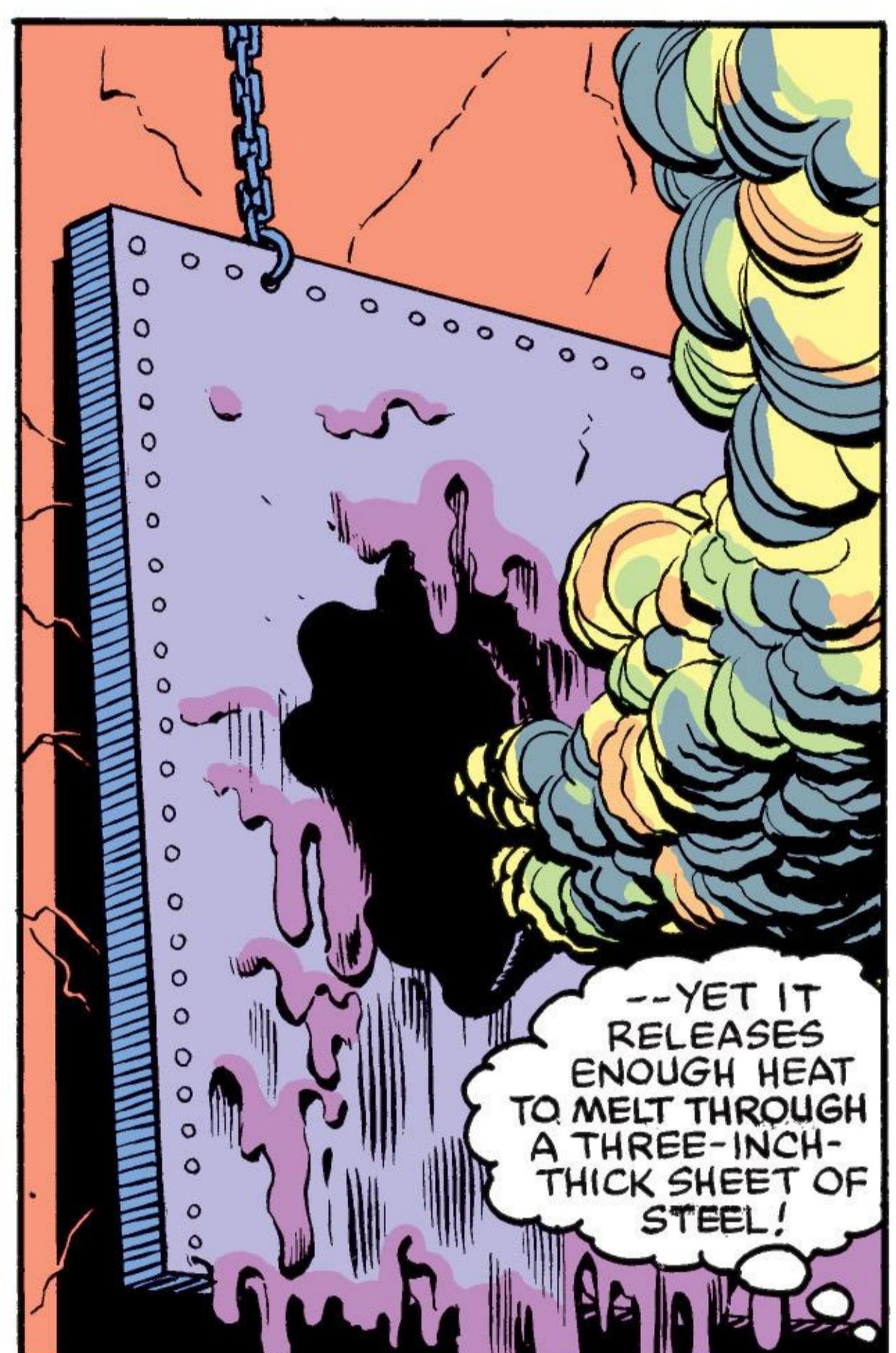
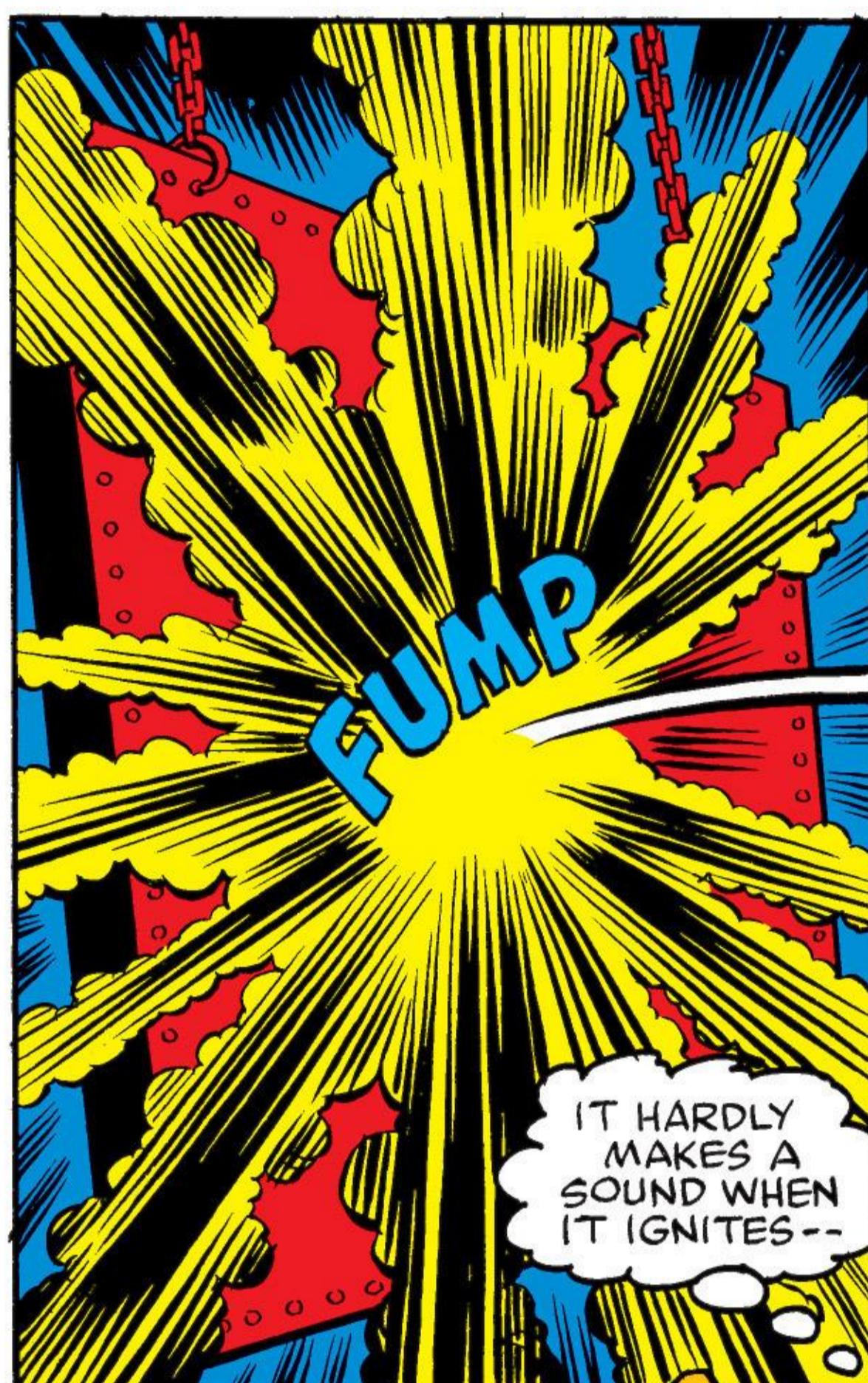
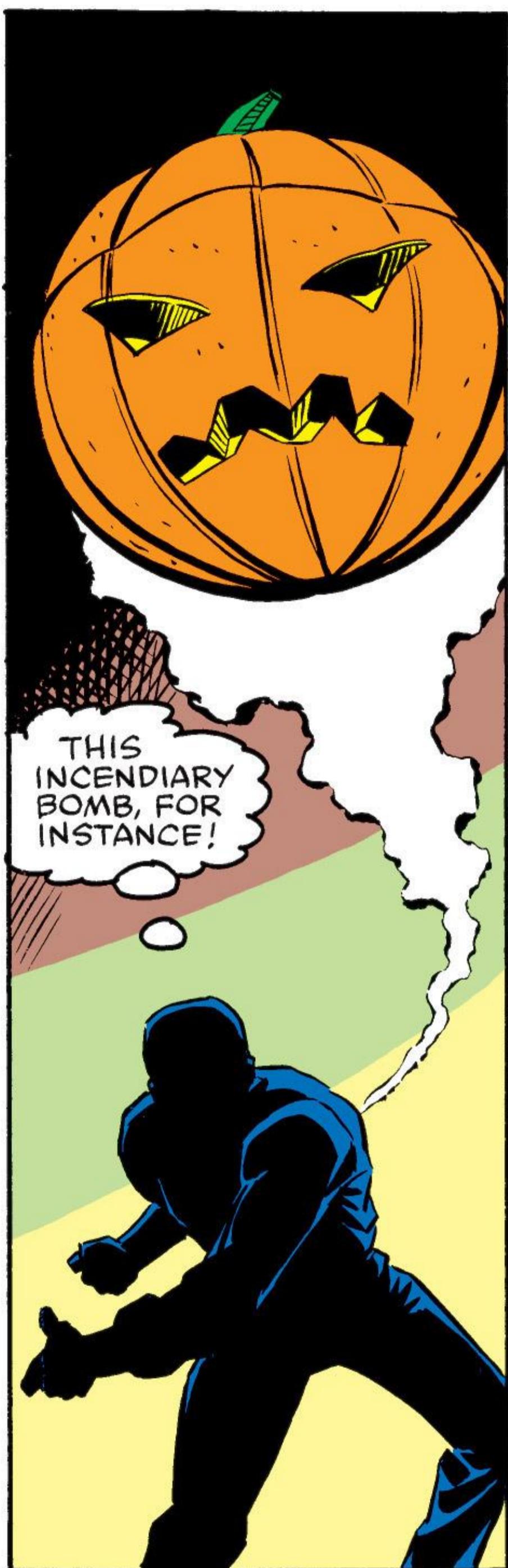


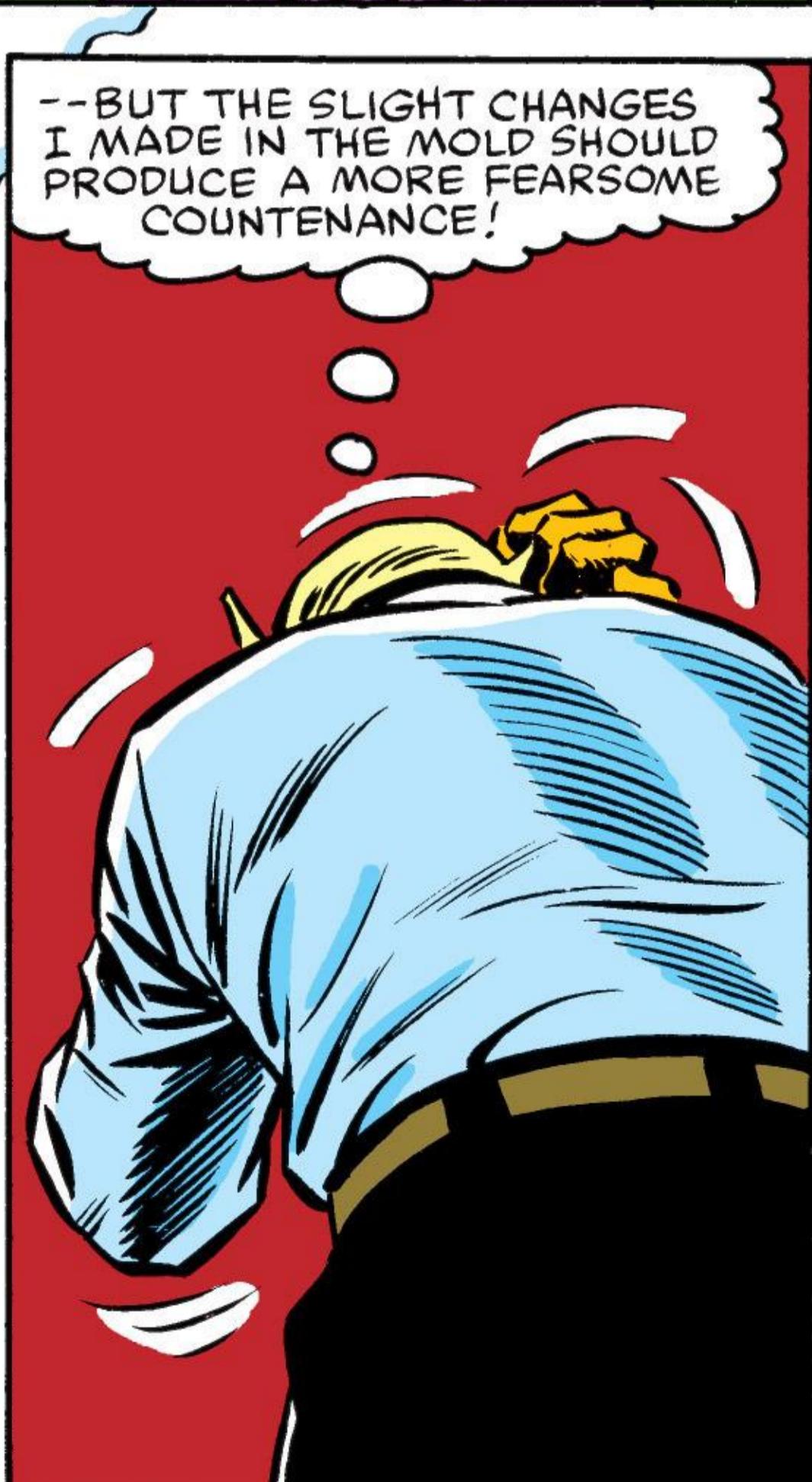
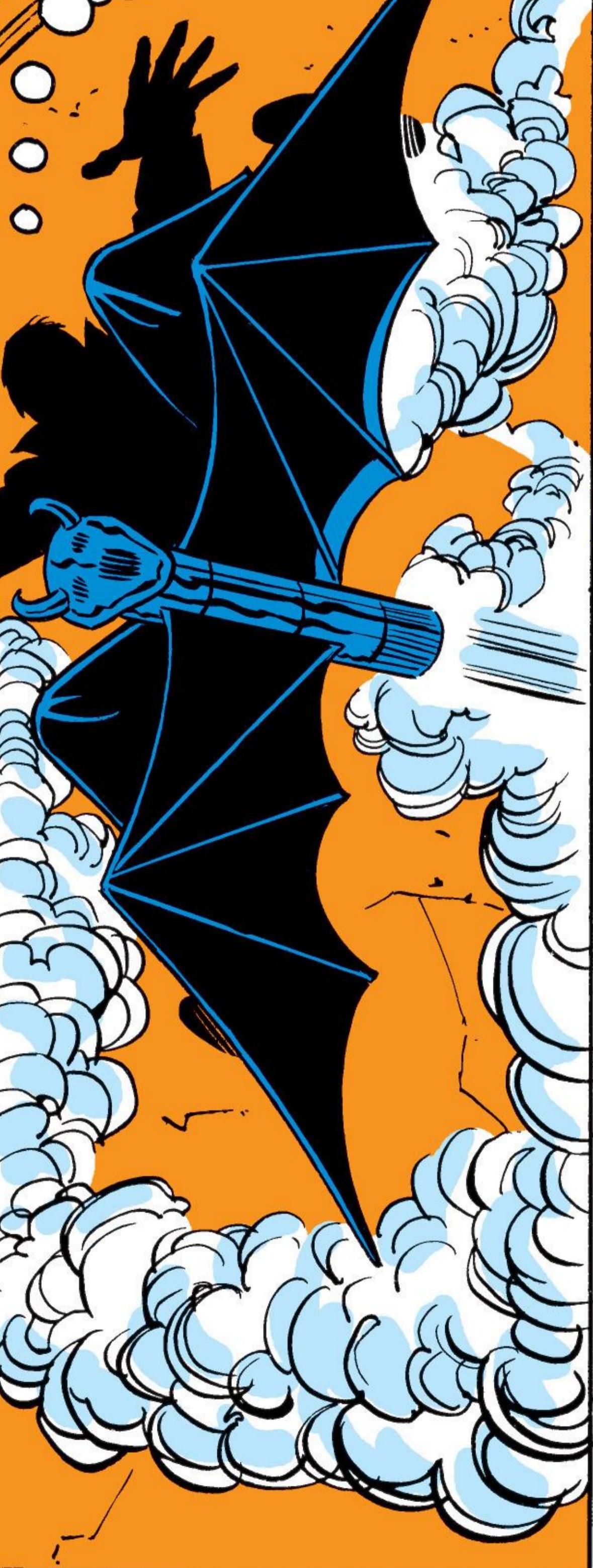
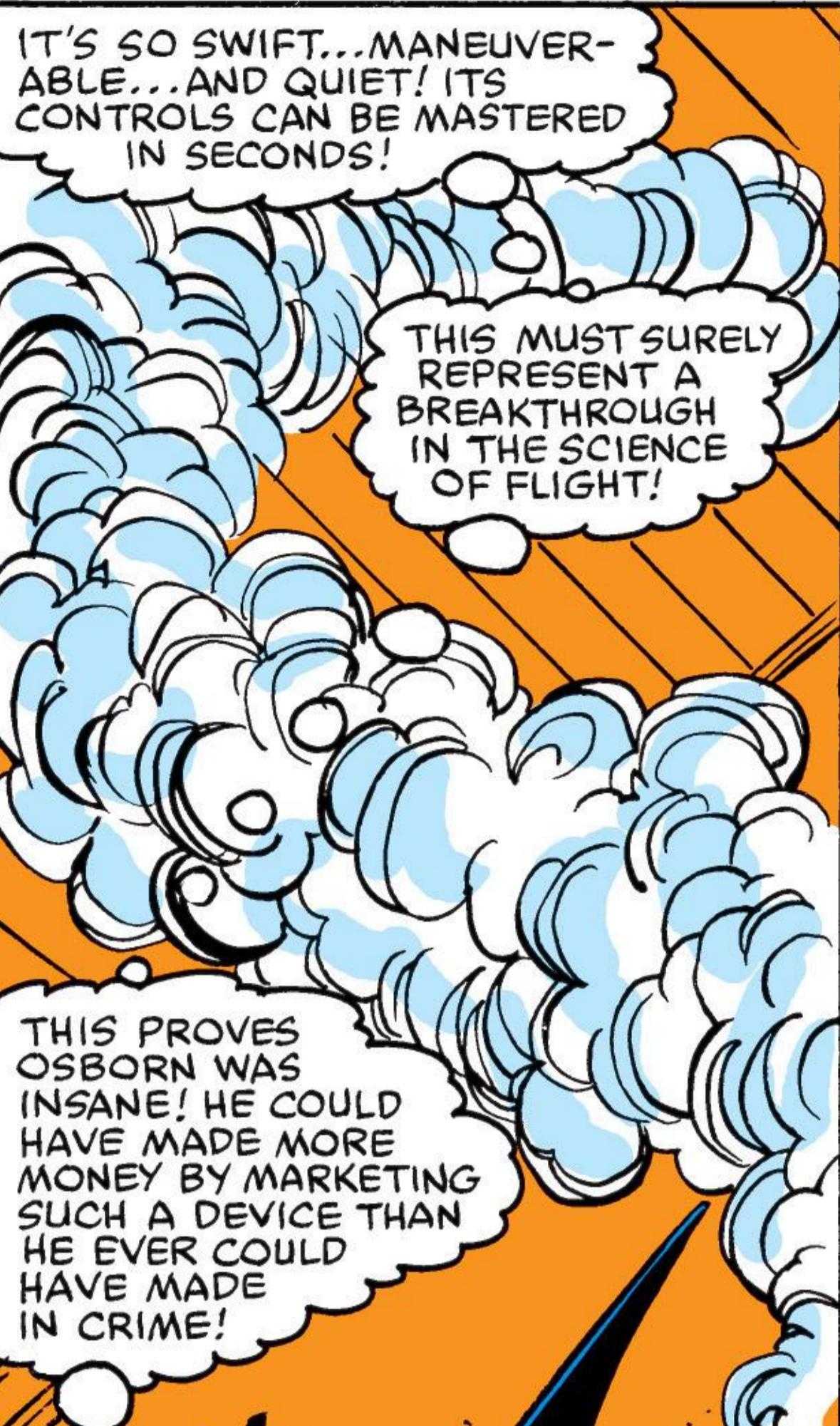














BUT IN HIS PLACE
NOW STANDS--



THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom:

Yesterday, I bought AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #233. After reading "Where The @%# Is Nose Norton?" last night, I just couldn't keep from expressing my feelings.

I've been collecting comics for fourteen years, and I've always enjoyed them. Spider-Man has been my favorite hero ever since the first time I touched an issue. I have seen Spider-Man grow up over the years. How can you *not* feel something about such a character, even if he is pure fiction? That is why I've been disappointed when the excitement and the enjoyment just wasn't there anymore. For the last two years, I searched for some of the fun I had grown up with, but it just wasn't there.

At first, I thought it was me. Maybe the fun and the thrill was there, and I just didn't find it to be fun or thrilling anymore. This led to a sobering conclusion: Maybe I had outgrown comic books. I never thought that could happen to me. Somehow, this possibility made me feel a little older, a little more somber, than a college student should. I would like to believe that I have some carefree, free-wheeling days left in me.

Finally, I learned to appreciate more fully the greatness of those SPIDER-MAN tales of the past, the ones I'd taken for granted. I remembered kindly the issues that continually defied the old routine and set new standards for all the other titles. I recalled those special issues that held only a few pages of battle—or even none at all!—where the issue was dedicated to developing the characters of the subplots. It was this uniqueness—not the flash and color—that made SPIDER-MAN a legend.

Well, I am delighted to say that SPIDER-MAN IS BACK! It has been building up for a few months now, but it was issue #233 that really kicked off the Spider-Man Revival. As I read the story for a second time, I kept repeating, "I like it, I like it!". It had all the elements I've been seeking for over two years.

First, the art. You can't imagine how satisfying it is for an old Spider-Man fan to see a Romita working on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN on a regular basis. The Web-slinger has not looked better than he did this issue for a very, very long time. John Romita Jr. handled the other characters in the story with a finesse that perhaps no other SPIDER-MAN artist has ever achieved. The last five issues have been masterpieces.

I should have suspected that Roger Stern would be the man to bring back the old spirit . . . he's done it on every strip he's written (INCREDIBLE HULK, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, etc.) The Juggernaut tale, the Cobra-Hyde fracas, and the Tarantula story were all near perfect. But it was the latter that got me excited again. Issue #233 was nostalgic yet fresh, and that is what the book has needed. The beginning of the Bugle exposé on the Brand Corporation is a brilliant backdrop for a lengthy plot, and you're wise in not restricting it to just being a subplot which builds to a two-part conclusion. Thanks for having Peter give up his Teaching Assistant job. It was the most logical thing to do, as now he can get to the Bugle more often and still see the college gang in his graduate studies courses.

Thanks for bringing Ned and Betty Leeds back, and for adding Ben Urich and that nifty-looking Amy to the cast. Just keep sailing along the way you are. Keep the intrigue going. Since Tarantula is under Brand's thumb, it shouldn't be too long until we see him again. One more thing, bring back the Black Cat!

Tom, I think it's quite apparent that this return to the basics of quality storytelling started to take shape when you took control of all the Spider-titles. You have everything moving in the right direction, and you are to be commended for the vast improvement. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has not been this interesting for well over six years. I thank you for putting it all together and saving the best super hero on the market. I'm eagerly awaiting the many more terrific issues to come. You've managed to rekindle that old flame that I thought had burnt out. Comic books are still fun and still will be, as long as the care and craftsmanship that are now on display in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN continues.

Michael Kramer
R.R. #1

Trempealeau, WI 54661

Thanks for writing, Michael! I just wish I'd had room to print all of your letter.

Dear Spider-Crew:

The way you handled Spider-Man in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #233 was great! I particularly loved the way you people finally realized that Tarantula was *never* a match for Spider-Man in the first place. (Lord only knows how he was able to stand up to the old Wall-crawler in past issues, though you did give an acceptable explanation.)

I also love the way you've been putting more emphasis on his speed and spider-strength. Superb!

Oh, yes! Let me not forget to compliment the art. The work of John Romita Jr. is indeed awesome. Keep up the good work, people!

John Jackson
3515 North 47th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68104

Dear Tom:

The art and the action alone were enough to make AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #233 great. The story made it excellent.

How about bringing back some more of the web-slinger's old enemies . . . guys like

the Vulture, White Dragon, the Chameleon, Electro, and the Shocker.

Keep up the good work.

David Duncan

175 Nassau Drive
Springfield, MA 01129

Well, the Shocker is currently appearing in the AVENGERS, as part of the new Masters of Evil, Dave. As for the others . . . anything is possible!

Dear Tom and Linda,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #233
Terrific!

I love it! Stupendous script, awesome artwork, lusciously legible lettering, capital coloring, etc.!! This is the kind of work I expect from Marvel.

I'm puzzled on one point, however. Wasn't Ben Urich killed by Elektra in DAREDEVIL #179? Or did I miss something?

Christopher Harris
10 Rebecca Court
Landing, NJ 07850

Sounds like what you missed was DAREDEVIL #180, Chris! That's the issue wherein Ben Urich recounted his stay in the hospital!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

For all of you who have been clamoring for the return of the Black Cat, allow me to direct your attention to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #74-76! That continued saga brings the quirky Ms. Felicia Hardy bouncing back into the life of our wild-and-woolly Web-head! And that plotline continues in these pages . . .

NEXT ISSUE: There's a mystery break-in in New Jersey! There's confusion in the boardroom of Osborn Manufacturing! And there's a Hobgoblin on the loose. But Spider-Man is at the side of the Black Cat . . . oblivious to all these goings-on, until the mysterious Madame Web re-enters his life! And if that's not enough to keep you on the edge of your seat, we also have a wild chase through lower Manhattan, a desperate search or two, and at least one semi-romantic interlude! How do we do it? You'll find out in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #239, on sale in just thirty days! Until Then . . .

Tom DeFalco

