



the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

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"IF THIS BE MY DESTINY..."



DEDICATED TO **YOU**, THE
GREAT NEW MARVEL
BREED OF READER!

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

"IF THIS
BE MY
DESTINY...!"

A
NEW ERA IN
THE LIFE OF
SPIDER-MAN
IS ABOUT TO
BEGIN, AND YOU
SHALL LIVE IT
WITH HIM!



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Magnificent Artwork by: STEVE DITKO
Mellifluous Lettering by: SAM ROSEN

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT A TEAM OF STRANGELY-GARBED MEN DESCENDS UPON A PLANT WHICH PRODUCES RADIOACTIVE ATOMIC DEVICES...

SO FAR OUR TIME-TABLE IS PERFECT! WE SHOULD BE FINISHED WITH EXACTLY FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES!



WE FOUND WHAT WE CAME FOR! QUICKLY, GIVE THE SIGNAL FOR DEPARTURE!

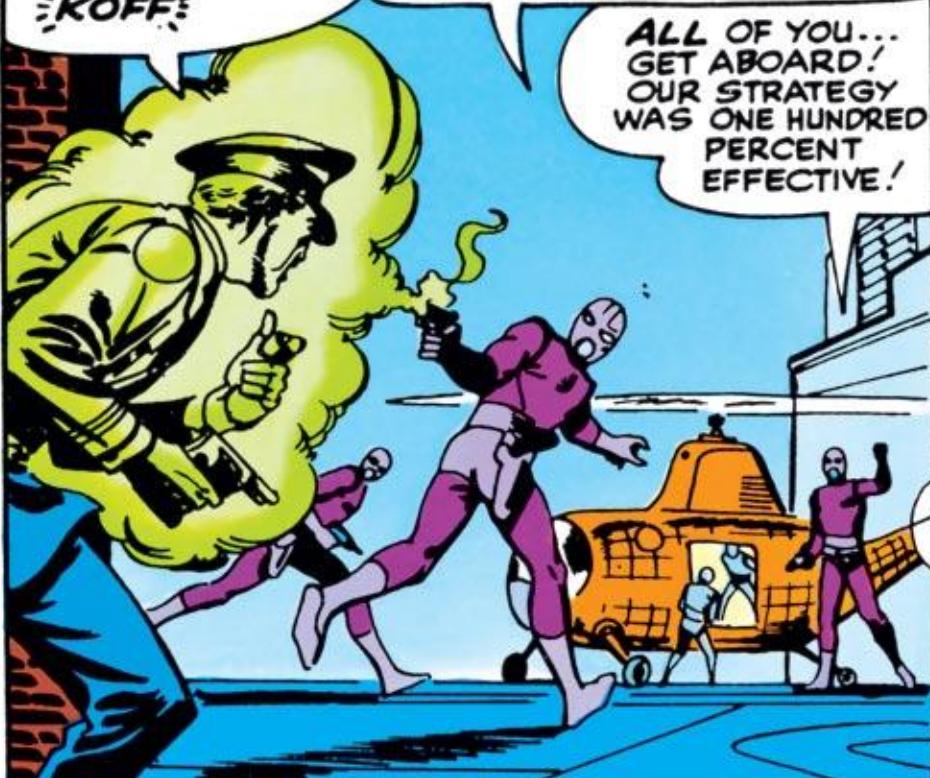
IT WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK! WE STILL HAVE THIRTY SECONDS TO SPARE!



HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON...?? UHH...
EKKOFF! EKKOFF!

A GUARD! ONE QUICK DOSE OF SLEEP-GAS WILL CURB HIS CURIOSITY!

ALL OF YOU... GET ABOARD! OUR STRATEGY WAS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT EFFECTIVE!



BUT, DUE TO THE FACT THAT ANOTHER NOCTURNAL VISITOR HAPPENS TO BE IN THE SAME AREA, THE PERCENTAGE IS WHITTLED DOWN JUST A BIT...

WHATEVER THOSE CHARACTERS WERE UP TO, IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING GOOD!



ANY CROOKS WHO CAN AFFORD A GETAWAY VEHICLE LIKE THIS MUST BE REAL OPERATORS!

IT'S NICE TO KNOW, I'M SWINGIN' IN THE BIG TIME!

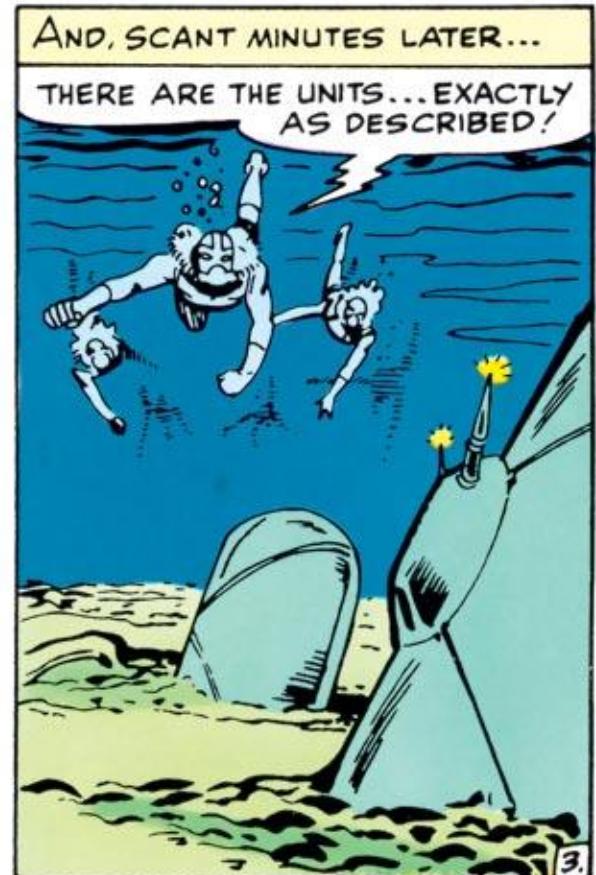


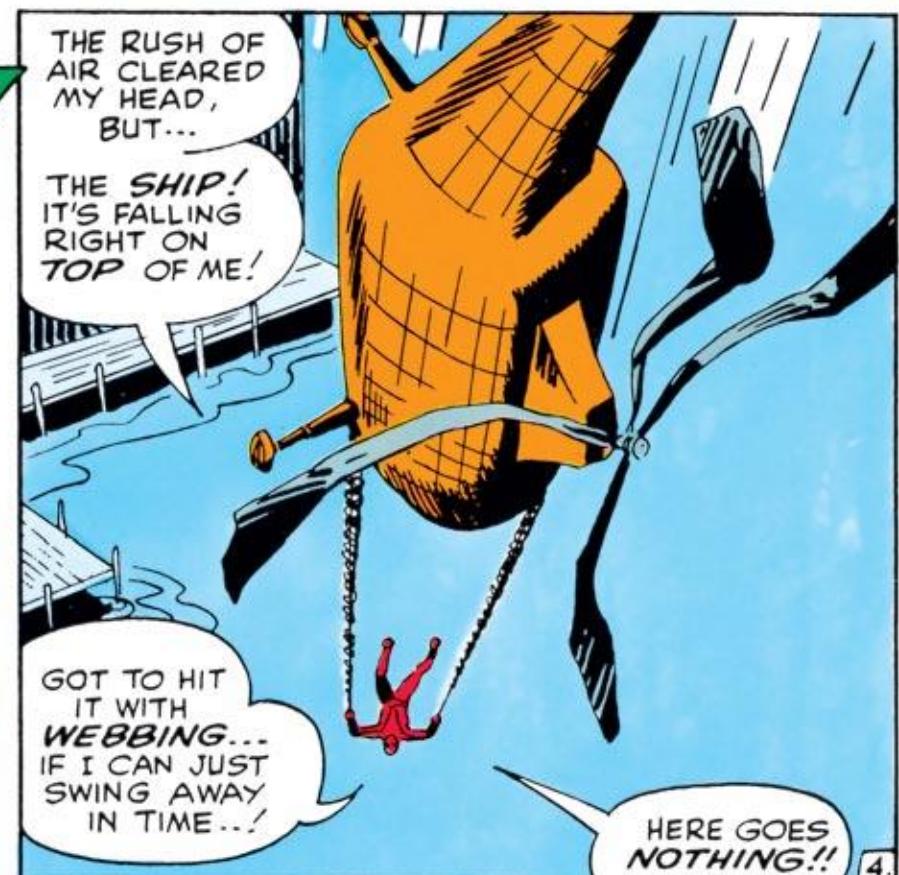
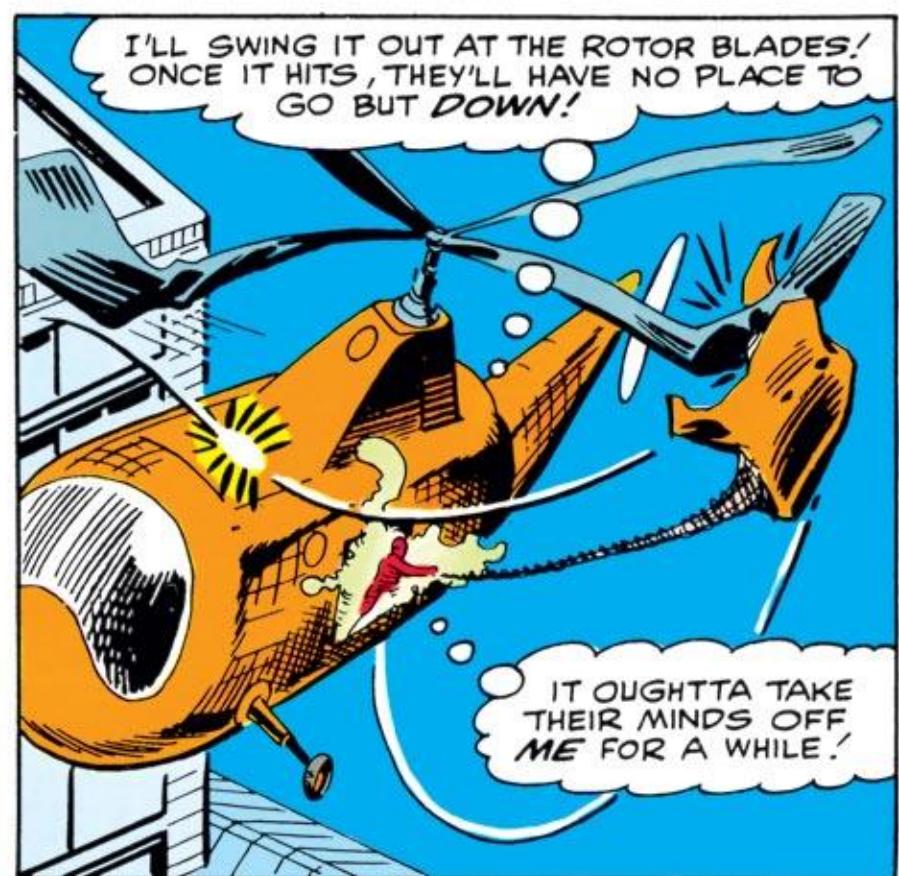
IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

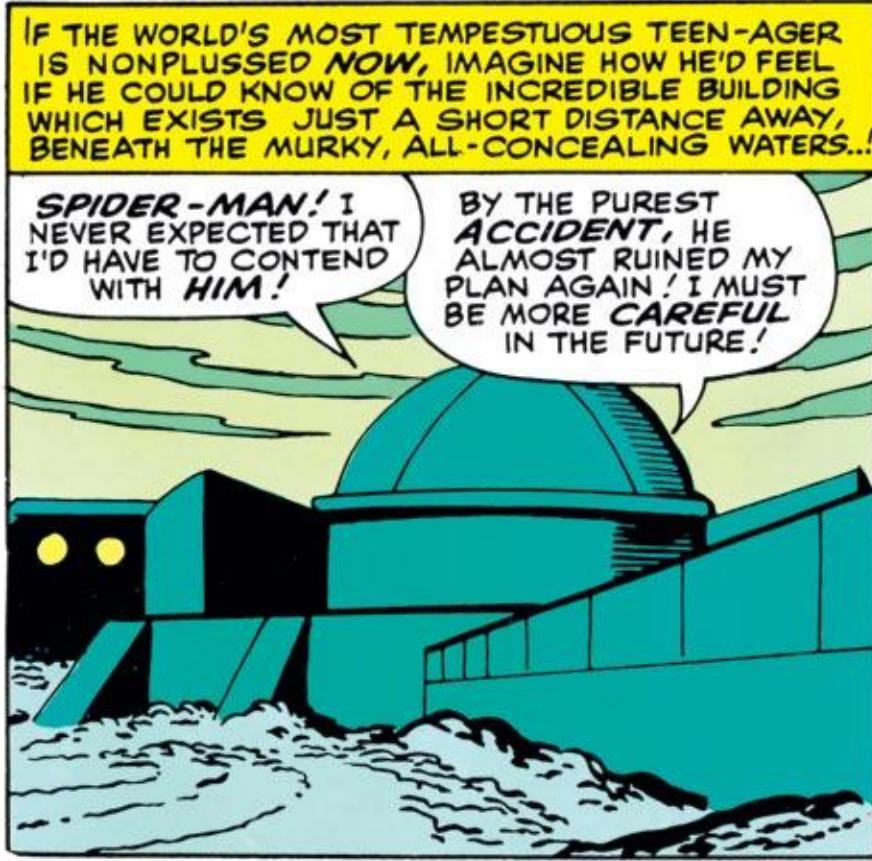
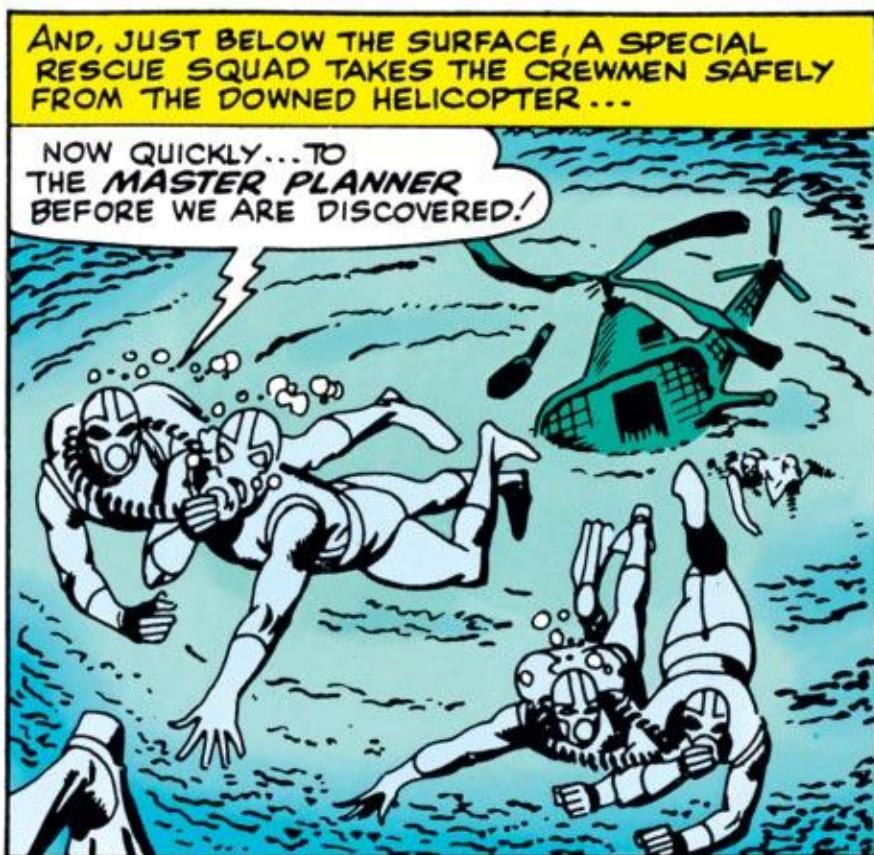
GIVE THE GENT A CIGAR! HE JUST SAID THE MAGIC WORD!

YOU'VE BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW THIS TIME!









THE NEXT MORNING, PETER PARKER BIDS HIS DOTING AUNT MAY GOODBYE AS HE HEADS FOR THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

I'VE GOT TO RUSH, AUNT MAY! IT'S TIME TO REPORT FOR REGISTRATION AT COLLEGE!

GOOD LUCK, DEAR! I HOPE YOU'LL BE PLEASED WITH YOUR SCHEDULE!

HE'S JUST LIKE HIS FATHER... CHEERFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND BRIGHT! HE'S BEEN LIKE A SON TO ME ALL THESE YEARS!

AND, HE WAS SO HAPPY, THAT I DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART TO SPOIL IT... BY TELLING HIM... HOW VERY ILL I'VE BEEN FEELING...



FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS, PETER PARKER IS KEPT SO BUSY THAT HE HASN'T TIME TO THINK OF HIS AUNT MAY, OF THE STRANGE HAPPENINGS OF LAST NIGHT, OR OF ANYTHING, SAVE THE DAWNING OF A NEW AND EXCITING CAMPUS CAREER...



FINALLY, AS PETER PREPARES FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

I'LL BE UP EARLY TO MAKE BREAKFAST FOR YOU TOMORROW, DEAR!

YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER, AUNT MAY! I CAN FIX IT! YOU NEED YOUR REST!

NONSENSE, PETER! I WANT TO... OHHH....

AUNT MAY! WHAT'S WRONG?!

SHE.. SHE'S FAINTED!

I'VE GOT TO SEND FOR THE DOCTOR ... RIGHT AWAY!



A HALF HOUR LATER ...

YOU MAY COME IN NOW, SON!
HOW IS SHE, DOC?

SHE'S VERY WEAK, MY BOY!

I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT'S WRONG, BUT, AT HER AGE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY CHANCES! I'LL SEND FOR THE AMBULANCE!

AMBULANCE? YOU MEAN...?

YES, PETER!
SHE'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL TESTS!

IT.. IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY!



THEN, AFTER A SWIFT AMBULANCE RIDE ...

SHE'S A BIT STRONGER NOW! THE MEDICATION SEEMS TO HAVE HELPED!

PETER...

I'M RIGHT HERE, AUNT MAY!

EASY, SON..

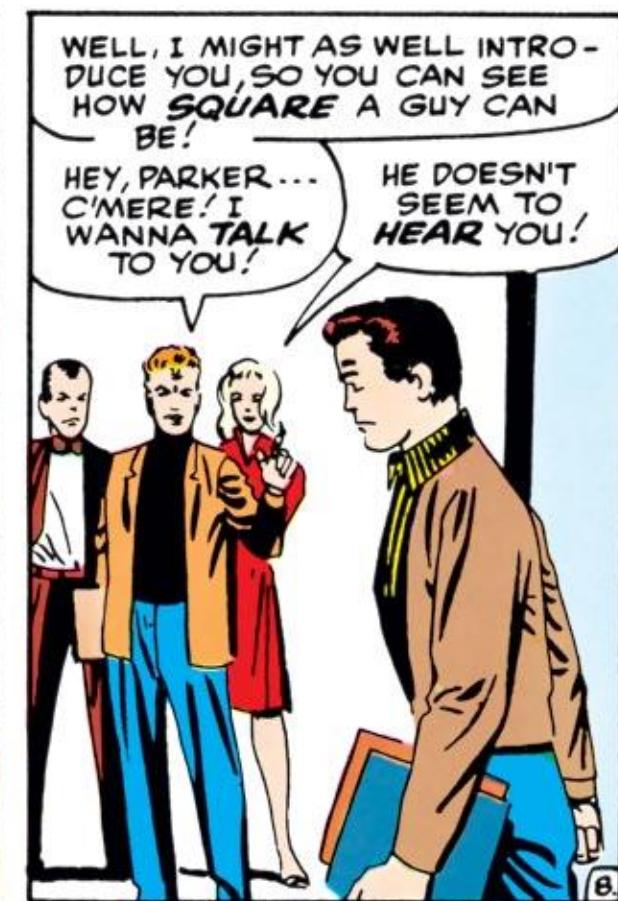
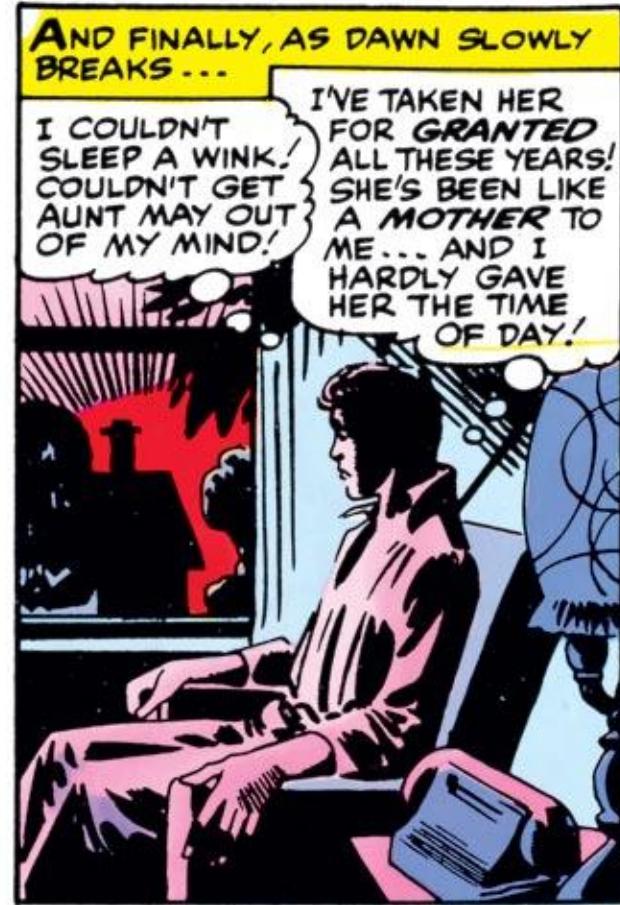
DON'T TIRE HER!

YOU MUST TRY TO GET SOME REST NOW, MRS. PARKER!

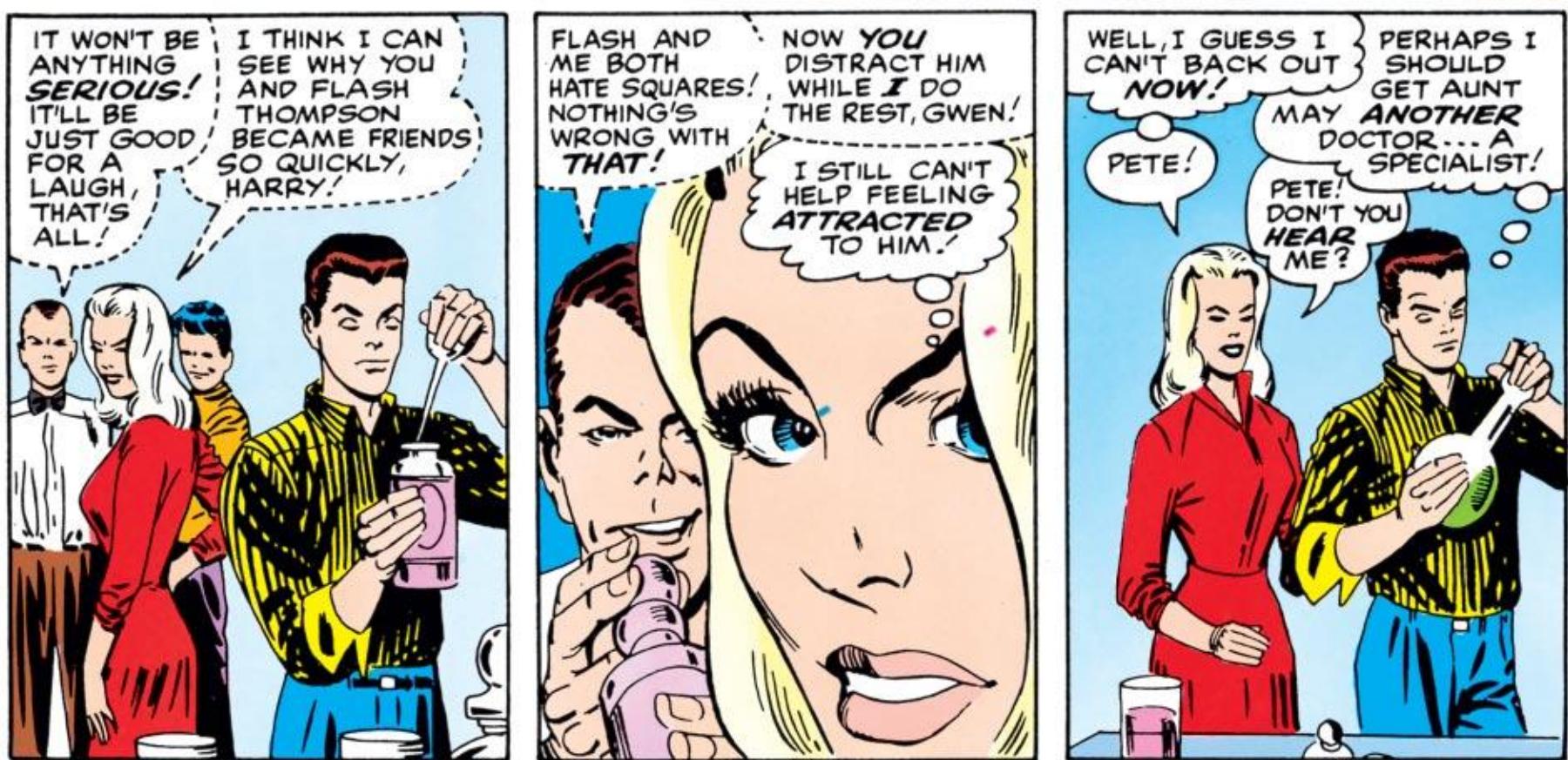
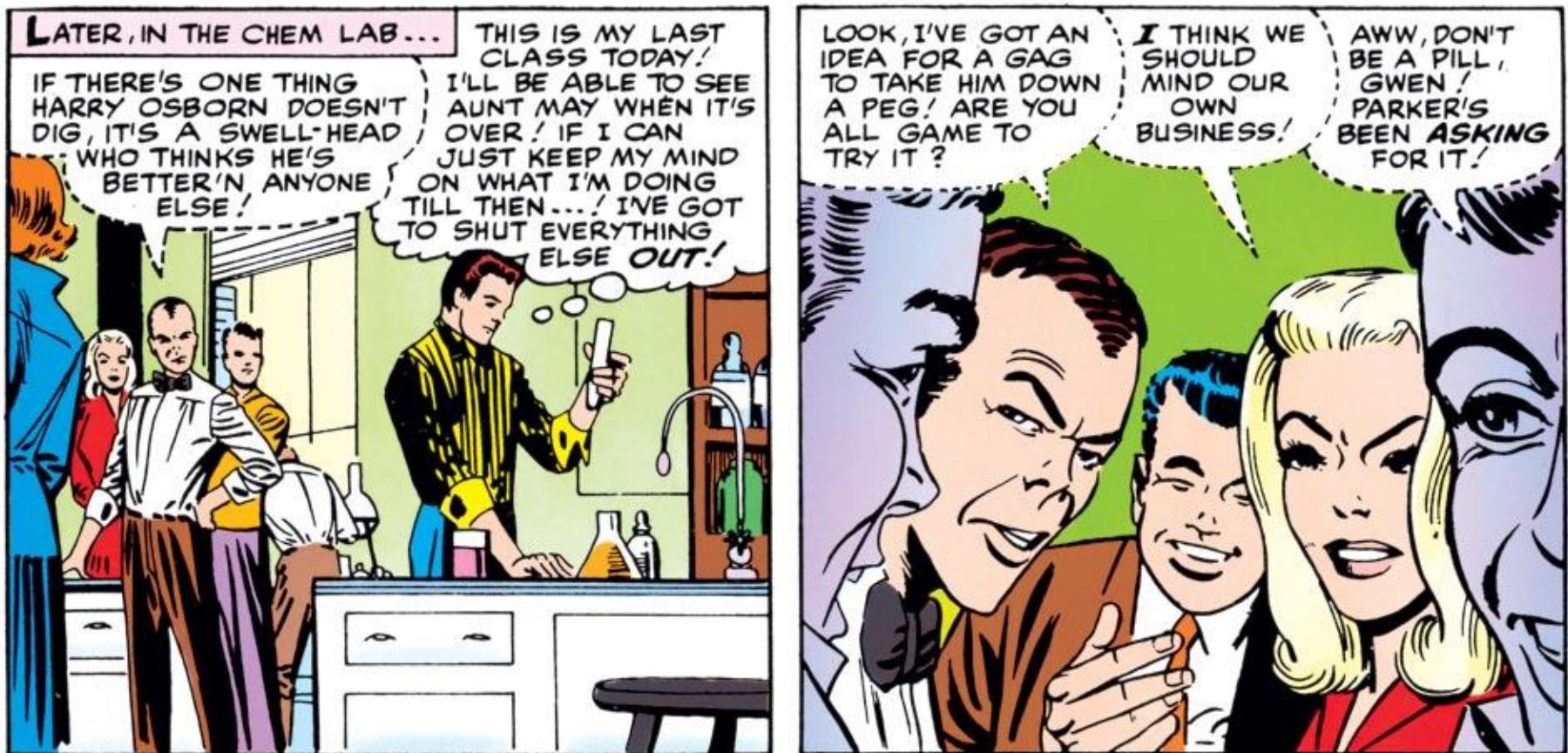
I WILL.. BUT, POOR PETER... FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TOMORROW... SHOULD BE ASLEEP... NOT WAITING UP... HERE!

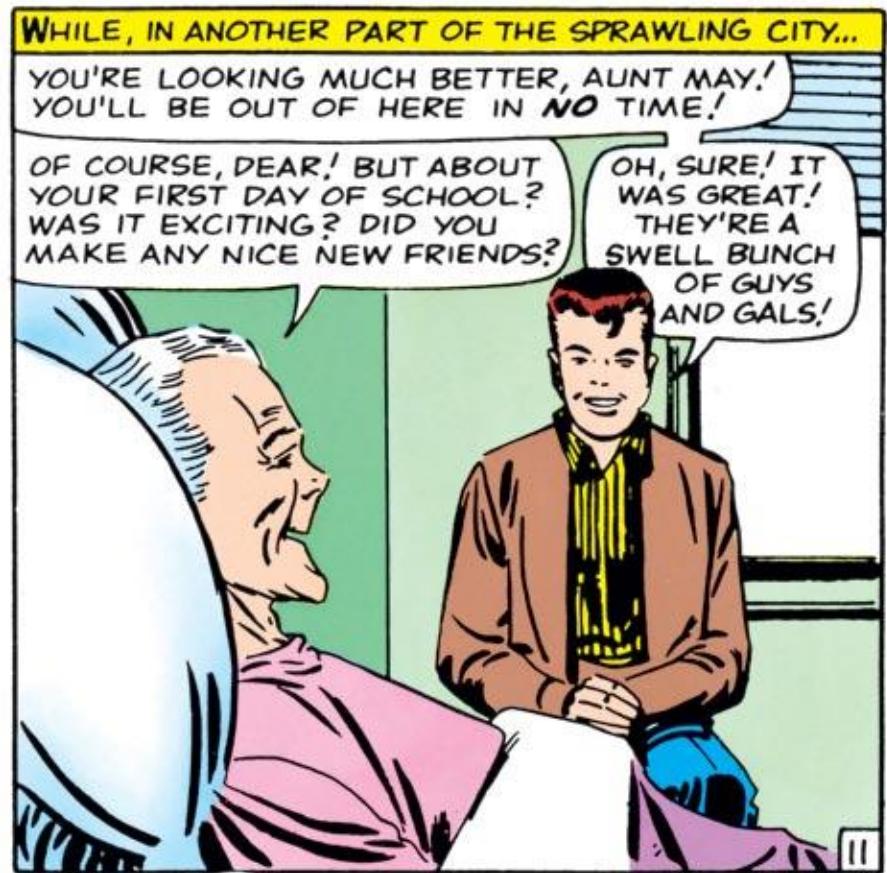
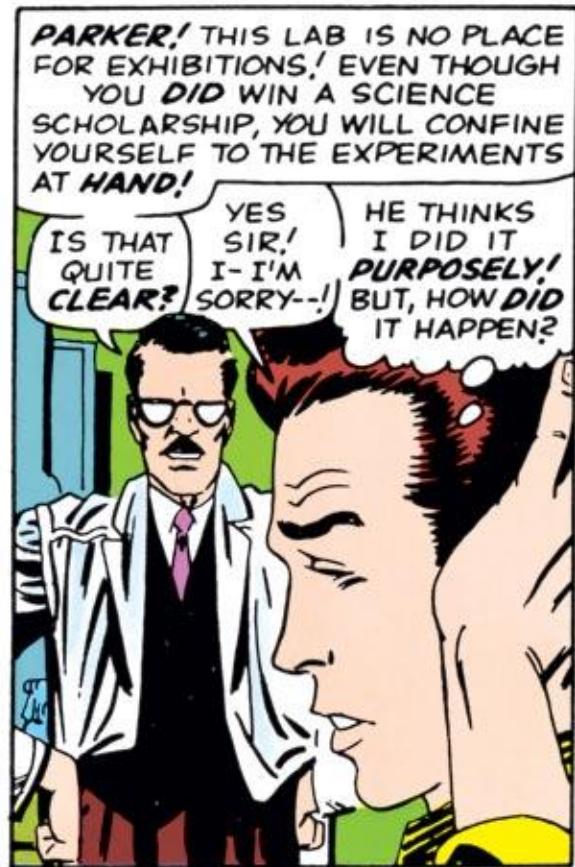
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME, AUNT MAY! JUST YOU REST AND GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK, HEAR? I'LL BE JUST FINE!

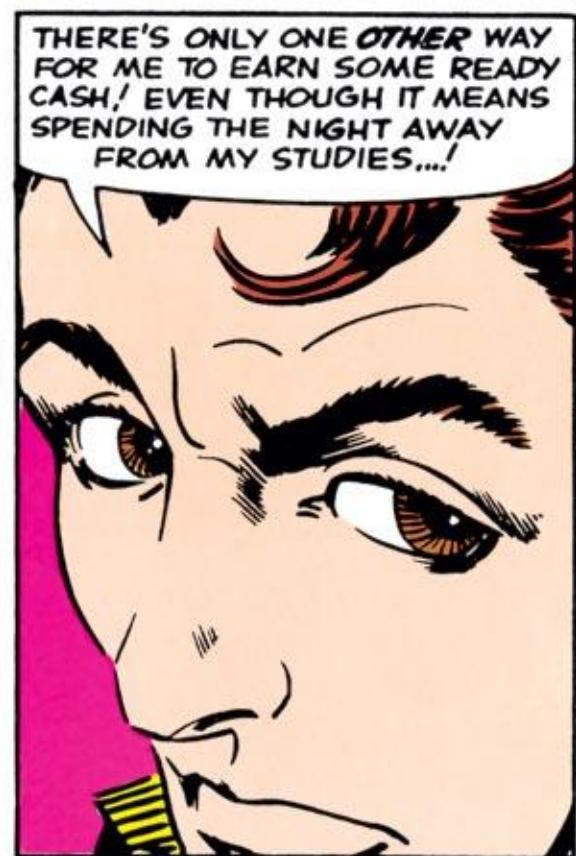
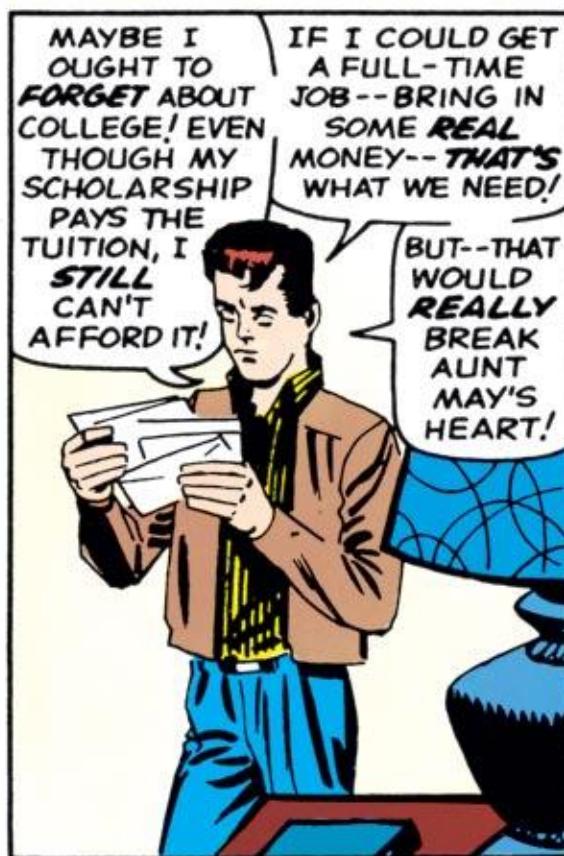


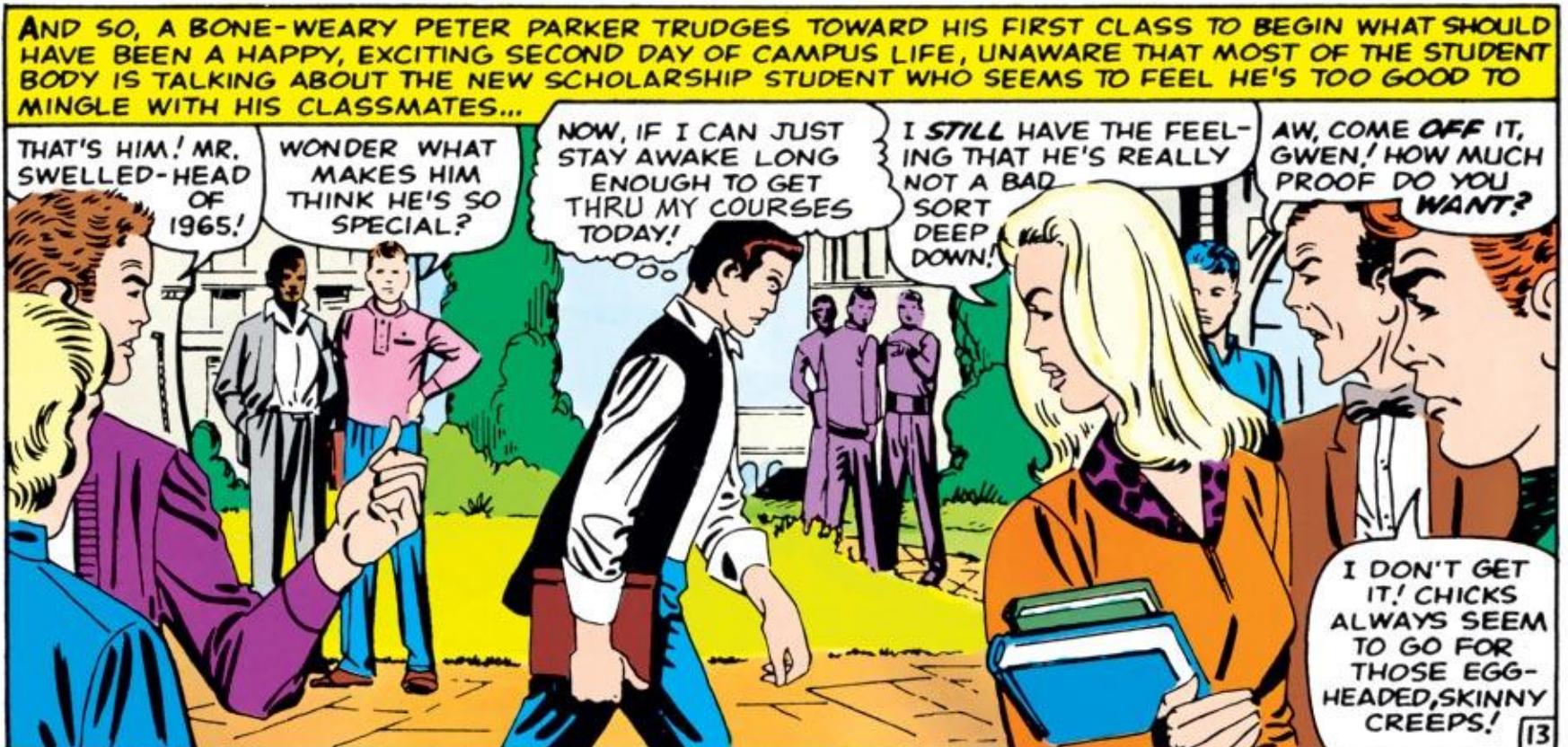












BUT NOW, LET'S CHANGE OUR SCENE BRIEFLY, AS WE PAY A VISIT TO THAT DEMON NEWSPAPERMAN, J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE FAMOUS DAILY BUGLE...

NEWS! I WANT NEWS! SOMETHING MUST BE HAPPENING SOMEWHERE!

I CAN'T SELL A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT NEWS! WHY DOESN'T SOMETHING HAPPEN?!

MISS BRANT, WHAT ABOUT THAT WEAK-KNEED BOY FRIEND OF YOURS? WHY HASN'T HE BROUGHT ME ANY NEWS PHOTOS LATELY?

I HAVEN'T SEEN MUCH OF PETER PARKER MYSELF LATELY, MR. JAMESON!

HE MUST BE BUSY WITH HIS STUDIES SINCE SCHOOL STARTED!

FOSWELL! YOU'RE ONE OF MY TOP REPORTERS! WHAT AM I PAYING YOU FOR?

SORRY, MR. JAMESON! I ONLY REPORT THE NEWS--I CAN'T MANUFACTURE IT!

DON'T GET CLEVER WITH ME! CLEVER PEOPLE MAKE ME NERVOUS! JUST BRING ME A STORY!

WHAT ABOUT THOSE ROBBERIES OF ALL THAT SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT? THERE OUGHT TO BE A STORY THERE SOMEWHERE! GO FIND IT!

I'M ON MY WAY! HE MAY BE RIGHT! IT'S TIME FOR "PATCH", THE STOOLIE, TO MAKE THE SCENE AGAIN!

DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ME YET?

I'M SORRY NED! I SIMPLY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE UP MY MIND!

AND I MUST BE FAIR TO PETER! I HAVE TO SPEAK TO HIM FIRST!

SURE, BETTY! I UNDERSTAND!

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVEN'T CHANGED MY MIND! I STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU-- AND

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR ANSWER JUST AS SOON AS I LEARN SOMETHING--I PROMISE! I'LL KEEP ASKING-- UNTIL YOU SAY YES!

LEARN SOMETHING? YOU SOUND VERY MYSTERIOUS, BETTY!

I KNOW PETER IS KEEPING SOME SECRET FROM ME! I JUST MUST FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!

AND WHAT OF THE MAN CALLED PATCH? WE FIND HIM FREQUENTING THE USUAL UNDERWORLD HAUNTS, WHERE HIS IS A FAMILIAR FACE...

THINGS ARE QUIET-- TOO QUIET! IT GIVES ME THE FEELING OF THE LULL--BEFORE A STORM!



BUT THEN, THE ALERT INFORMER CATCHES A SNATCH OF CONVERSATION THAT GIVES HIM PAUSE...

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE LOADING A CARGO OF NUCLEAR DEVICES AT PIER 6 TONIGHT!

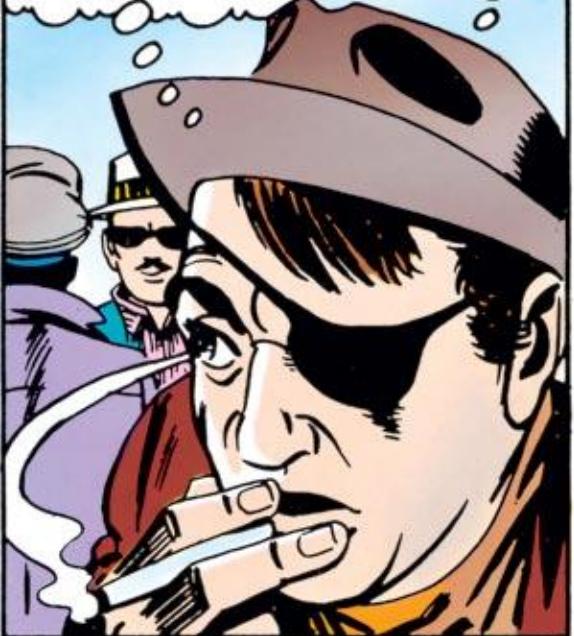
NOTHING, SAILOR--I WAS JUST CURIOUS!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU, MATE?



THAT CHARACTER TALKING TO THE SEAMAN IS FOXY BRIGGS! HE'S ONLY CURIOUS ABOUT ONE THING --ROBBERY!

THIS MAY BE THE LEAD I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



THUS, WHEN FOXY BRIGGS LEAVES THE WATERFRONT SALOON, A SHABBY-LOOKING MAN WITH AN EYE PATCH FOLLOWS AFTER HIM...

I BETTER NOT STAY TOO CLOSE TO HIM! I DON'T WANT HIM GETTING SUSPICIOUS!



BUT, WHEN "PATCH" TURNS A CORNER...



NOW WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T TELL THE POLICE WHAT I LEARNED-- I HAVEN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE!

AND, IF I EVER GIVE THEM A BUM STEER, THEY WON'T BE SO TRUSTING OF ME IN THE FUTURE!



HONEST TO GOSH-- WE DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT SPIDER-MAN! YOU'LL SEE HIM REAL SOON--WE PROMISE! BUT FIRST, LET'S RETURN TO EMPIRE STATE U. JUST ONCE MORE--

PETER PARKER IS THE ONLY BOY I'VE MET WHO HASN'T GIVEN ME A TUMBLE!



AND THAT'S A CHALLENGE NO GIRL CAN RESIST!

HE'S LEAVING THE LAB NOW! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER!

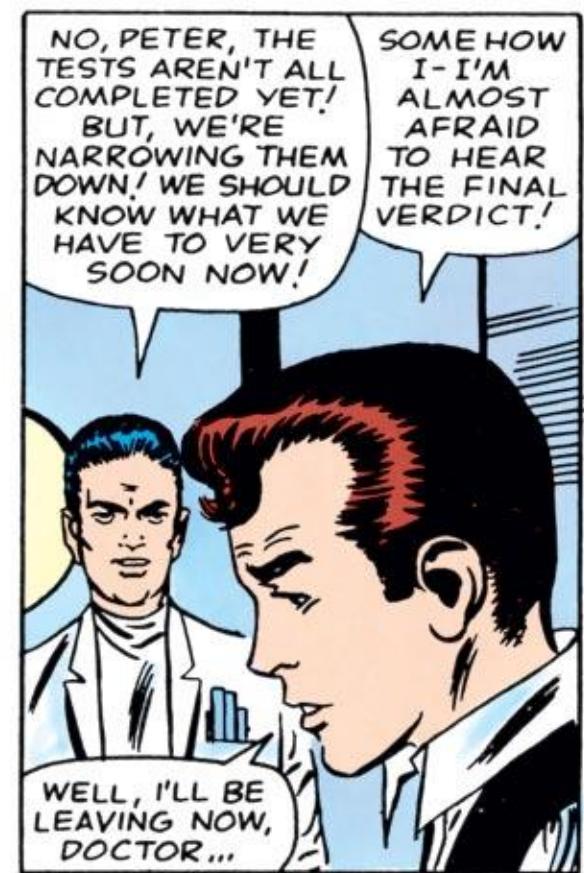
IF I GET TO THE HOSPITAL EARLIER, I'LL BE ABLE TO VISIT LONGER WITH AUNT MAY!



HELLO THERE, PETER! I'M GLAD I BUMPED INTO YOU! DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE--?

I'M AWFULLY SORRY! YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME! I'M IN A REAL BIG HURRY! CAN'T STOP NOW!







MEANWHILE, HIGH ABOVE THE FIGHTING TEEN-AGER...

NOW THAT I'VE GAINED CONTROL OF THE CARGO BOOM, I'LL USE IT TO FINISH OFF SPIDER-MAN!

BUT, THE MASKED CRIMINAL HAD RECKONED WITHOUT OUR HERO'S AMAZING SPIDER SENSE...

SOMETHING SWINGING TOWARDS ME! I'LL JUST LEAP ABOARD FOR THE RIDE!

BLAST IT! HE'S USING IT TO BOWL OUR OWN MEN OVER LIKE TEN-PINS!

DON'T RUSH, BOYS! I'LL GET TO ALL OF YOU!

UH OH! THEY'RE TRYING TO DISPOSE OF THE EVIDENCE AGAIN BY DROPPING IT IN THE WATER!

HOLD IT, GROUP! WAIT FOR ME!

YOU'RE LIABLE TO DROP THOSE CRATES! BUT, THIS STICKY WEBBING WILL HOLD THEM FAST!

NO, DON'T THANK ME! IT'LL MAKE ME BLUSH!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

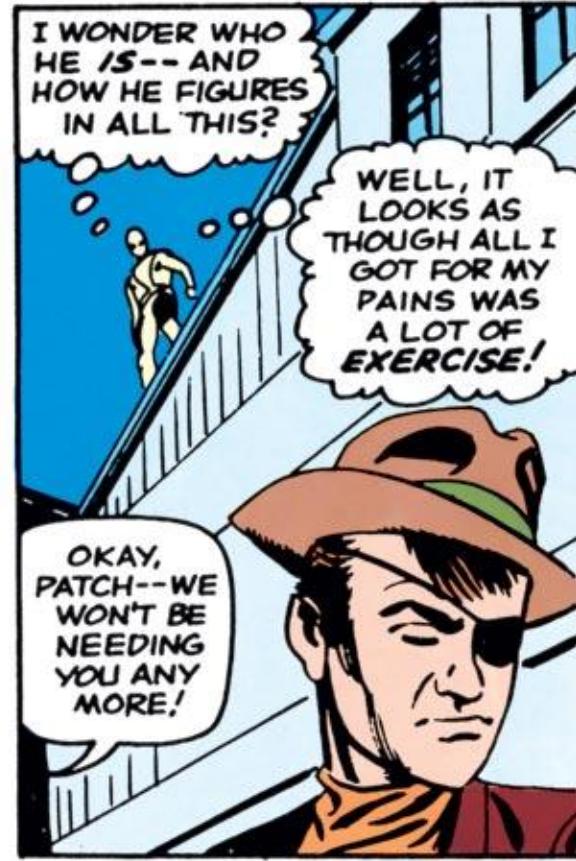
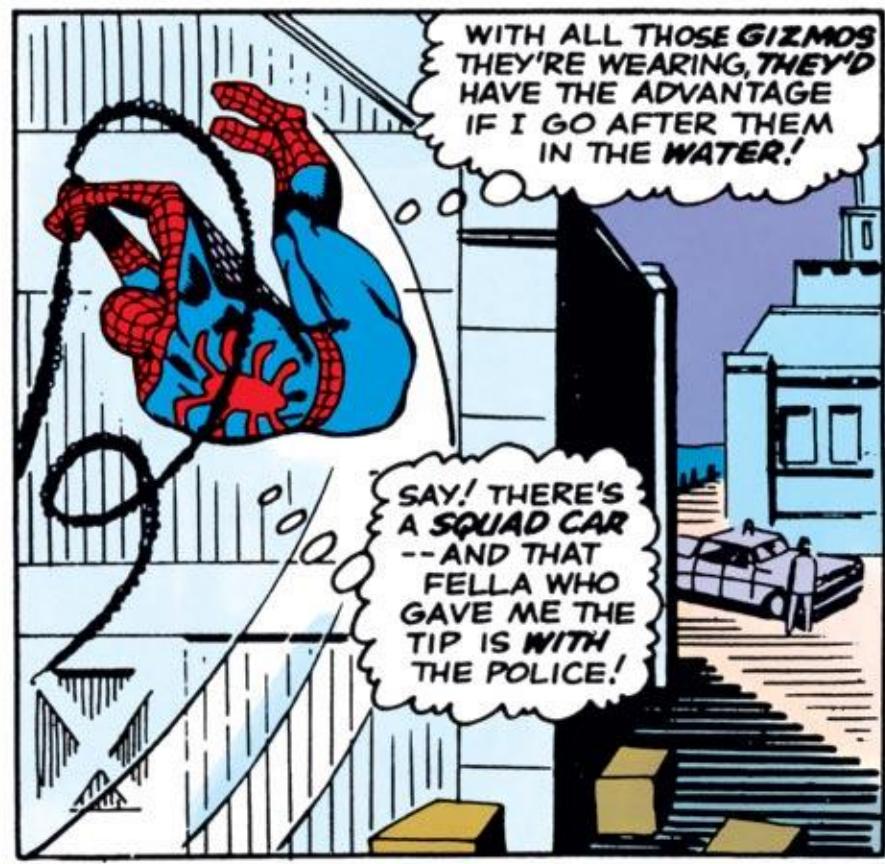
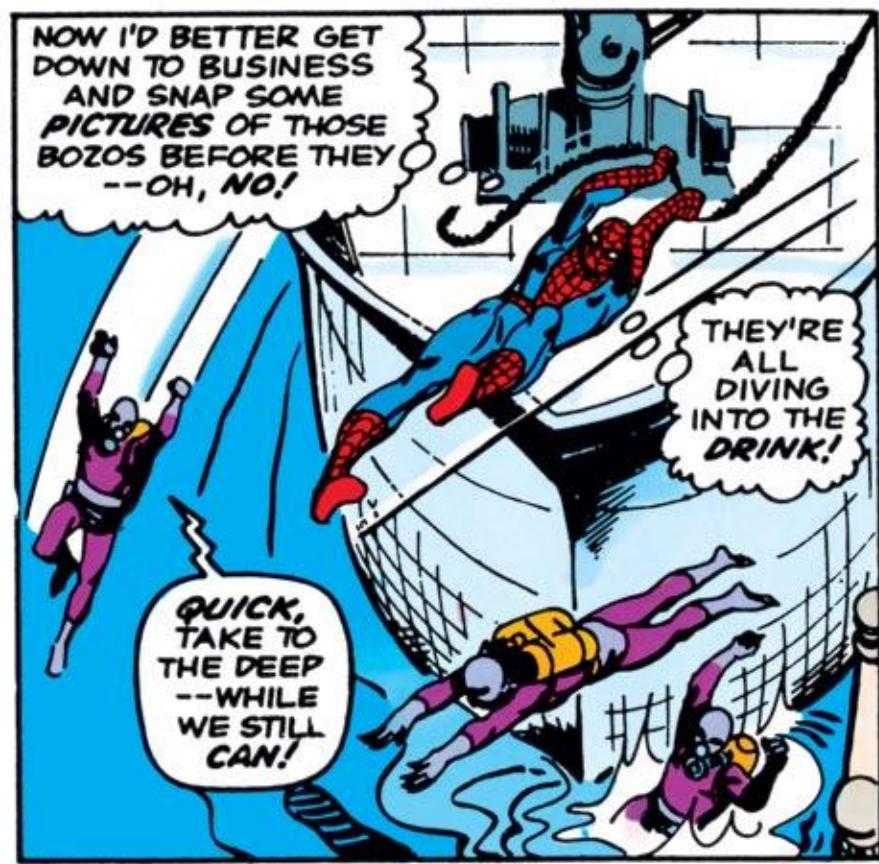
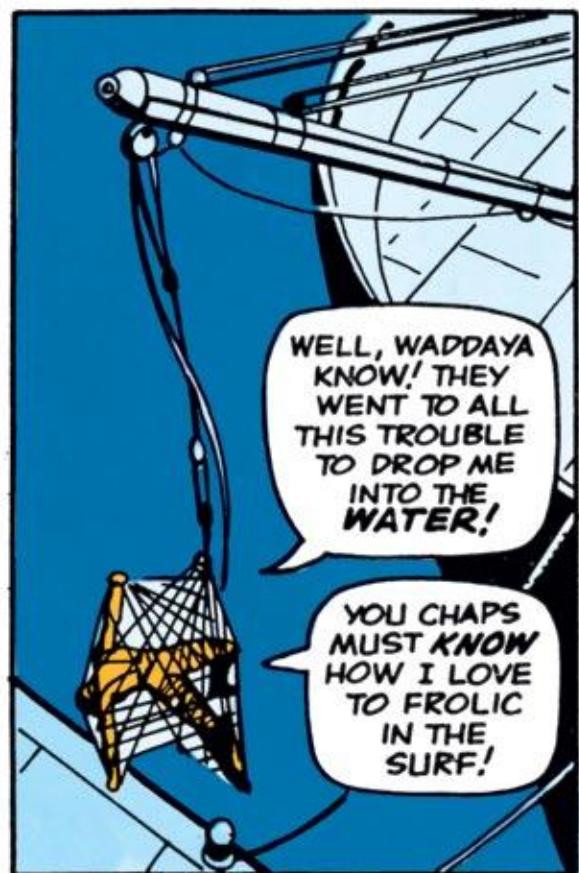
A FINE WAY TO TALK ABOUT THE FRIENDLIEST CRIME-FIGHTER IN TOWN!

THEN, BEFORE SPIDEY CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE...

A CARGO NET! DROPPED ON ME FROM A CRANE!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D CLASSIFY YOUR ACTIONS AS INCREASINGLY HOSTILE!

DUCK! WE'LL GET HIM FROM ABOVE!



THE ONLY **GOOD** THING THAT HAPPENED IS THAT I STOPPED THEM FROM STEALING WHATEVER THEY WERE AFTER...

...AND THE DEVICE I RIGGED UP TO OUTWIT THEIR GAS GUNS REALLY **WORKED!**



MY DRY CHEMICAL FILTER SUCCEEDED IN NEUTRALIZING THE GAS AND MAKING IT SAFE TO BREATHE!

I SURE AM GLAD I DECIDED TO MAJOR IN **SCIENCE**-- WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT IT?



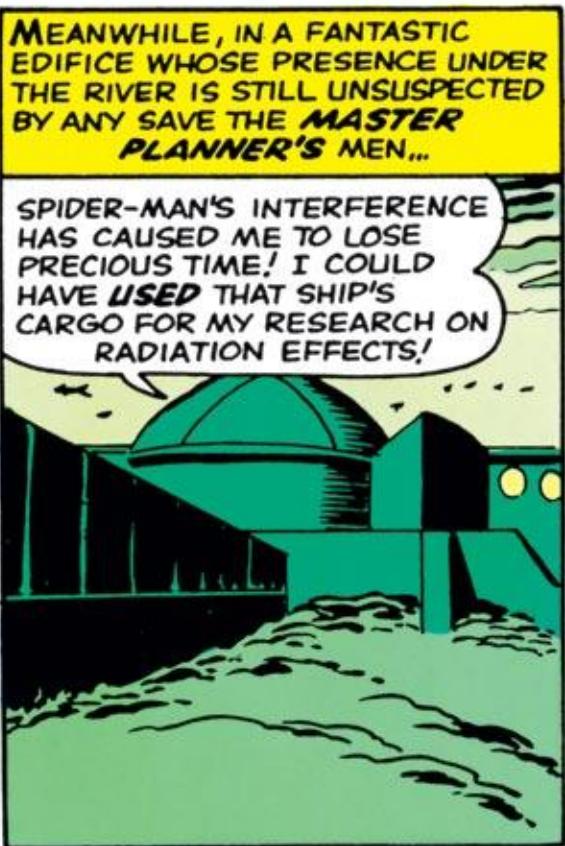
WELL, I CAN ALWAYS PAT MYSELF ON THE BACK **LATER!** RIGHT NOW, I'D BETTER START HUNTING FOR SOME MORE NEWS PHOTOS!

AND, IF I FIND ANY, I HOPE I REMEMBER TO SNAP 'EM NEXT TIME!



MEANWHILE, IN A FANTASTIC EDIFICE WHOSE PRESENCE UNDER THE RIVER IS STILL UNSUSPECTED BY ANY SAVE THE **MASTER PLANNER'S** MEN...

SPIDER-MAN'S INTERFERENCE HAS CAUSED ME TO LOSE PRECIOUS TIME! I COULD HAVE **USED** THAT SHIP'S CARGO FOR MY RESEARCH ON RADIATION EFFECTS!



IF MY **RAY** CONTINUES TO FUNCTION WELL AND I CAN UNLOCK THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF ATOMIC RADIATION, I SHALL BE ABLE TO RULE THE WORLD IN TIME!



BUT, I SHALL TOLERATE NO FURTHER MEDDLING BY **SPIDER-MAN!** EVEN HE HAS NOT THE POWER TO STOP ME!



AND, AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LABORATORY WHERE MAY PARKER'S TESTS ARE BEING STUDIED...

ARE YOU CERTAIN? PERHAPS THERE HAS BEEN A MISTAKE!

NO! IT'S JUST WISHFUL THINKING ON YOUR PART!



BUT, BEFORE WE TELL HER THE NEWS, RERUN THE TEST JUST **ONCE** MORE!

VERY WELL, BUT THE RESULTS ARE SURE TO BE THE SAME! ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE SAME INESCAPABLE CONCLUSION...



...THE POOR WOMAN CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER!



NEXT ISSUE: WE SHALL LEARN THE FATE OF PETER PARKER'S **AUNT MAY**, AS WELL AS THE IDENTITY OF--THE **MASTER PLANNER!** BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR KIND OF READER, WE OFFER THIS ADMONISHMENT--YOU MUST NOT MISS IT! 'NUFF SAID!