

MARVEL  
COMICS

THE AMAZING

# SPIDER-MAN

© 1994 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

\$1.50 US  
\$2.05 CAN/UK £1.25

396  
DEC

CC 02457

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
A  
AUTHORITY

BACK FROM THE  
EDGE PART 3 OF 4

SIDE-BY-SIDE  
WITH

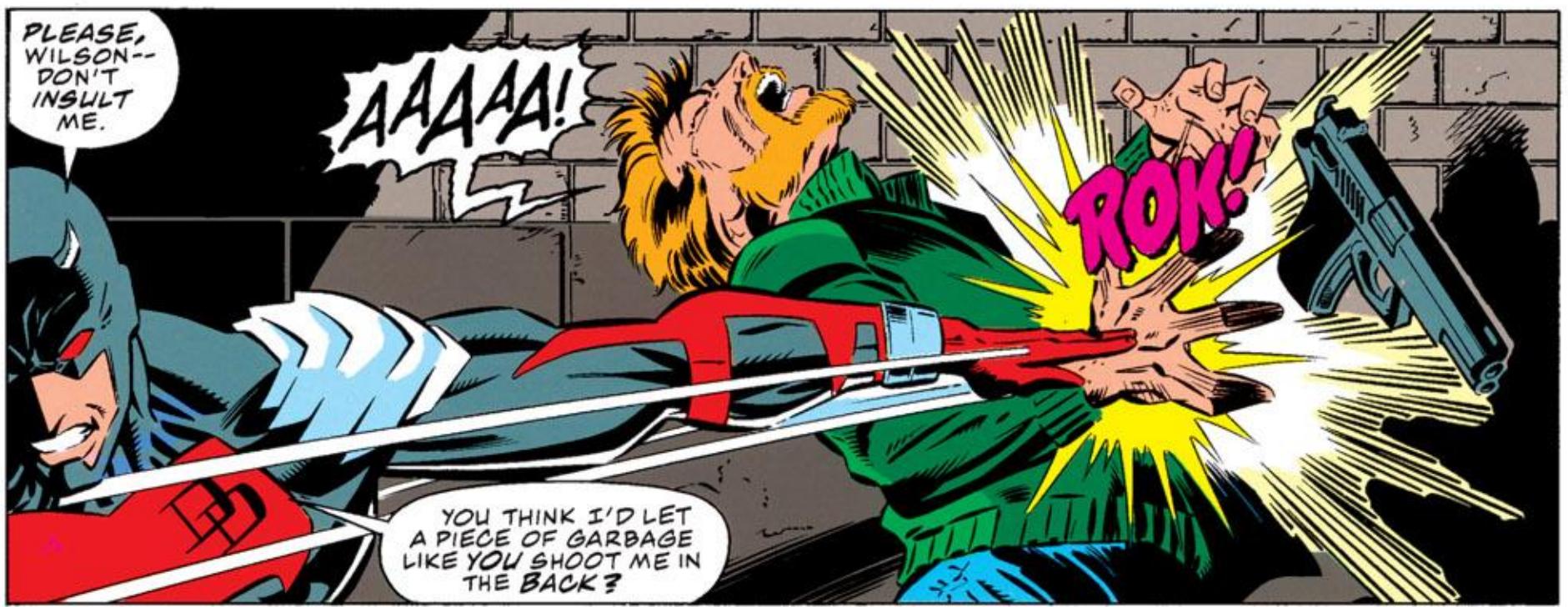
## DAREDEVIL

... AND THE MOST  
SHOCKING  
ENDING OF  
ALL!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee  
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**®



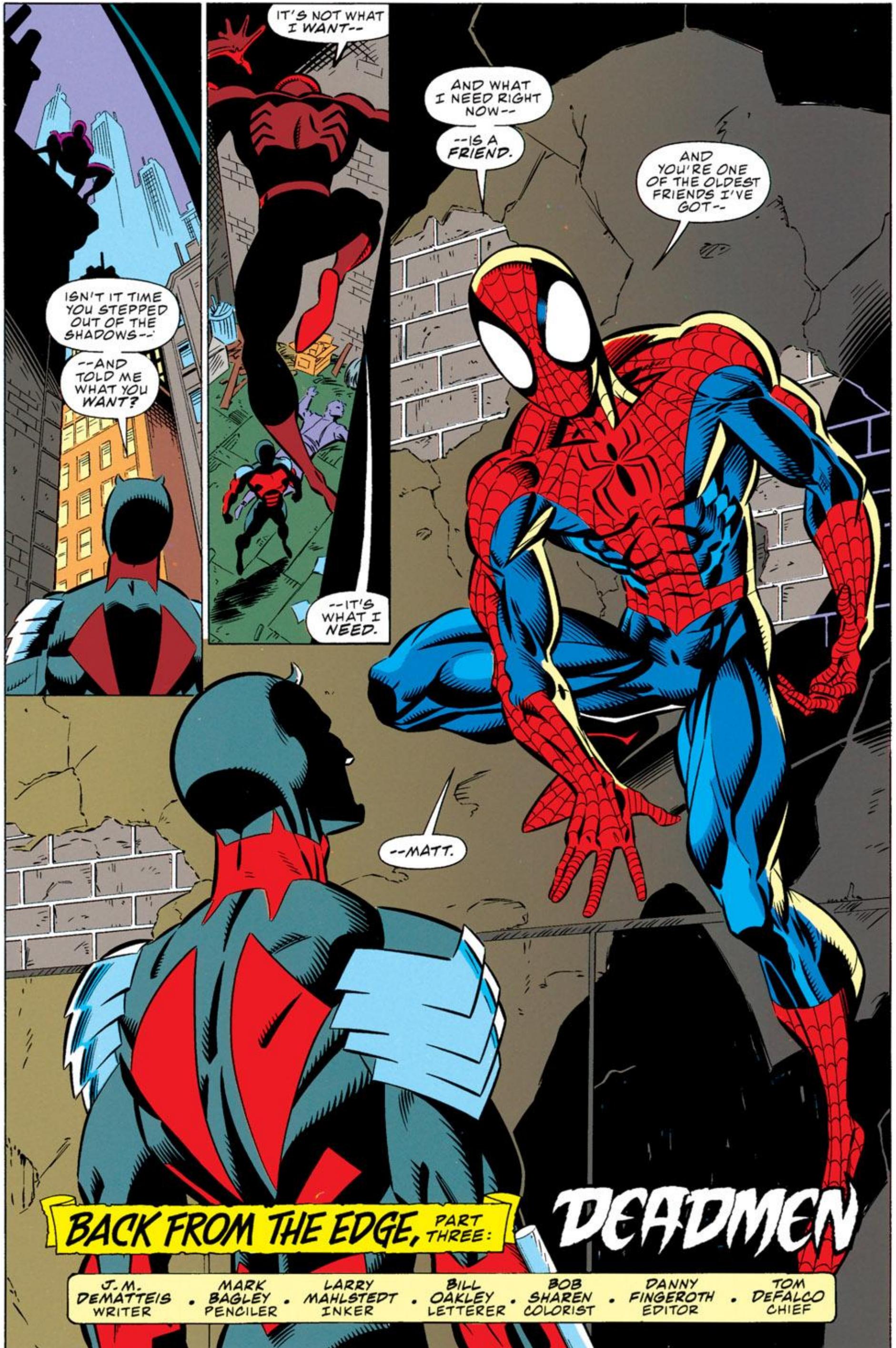


IF YOU DON'T STOP  
TAKING THE LORD'S  
NAME IN VAIN,  
WILSON--

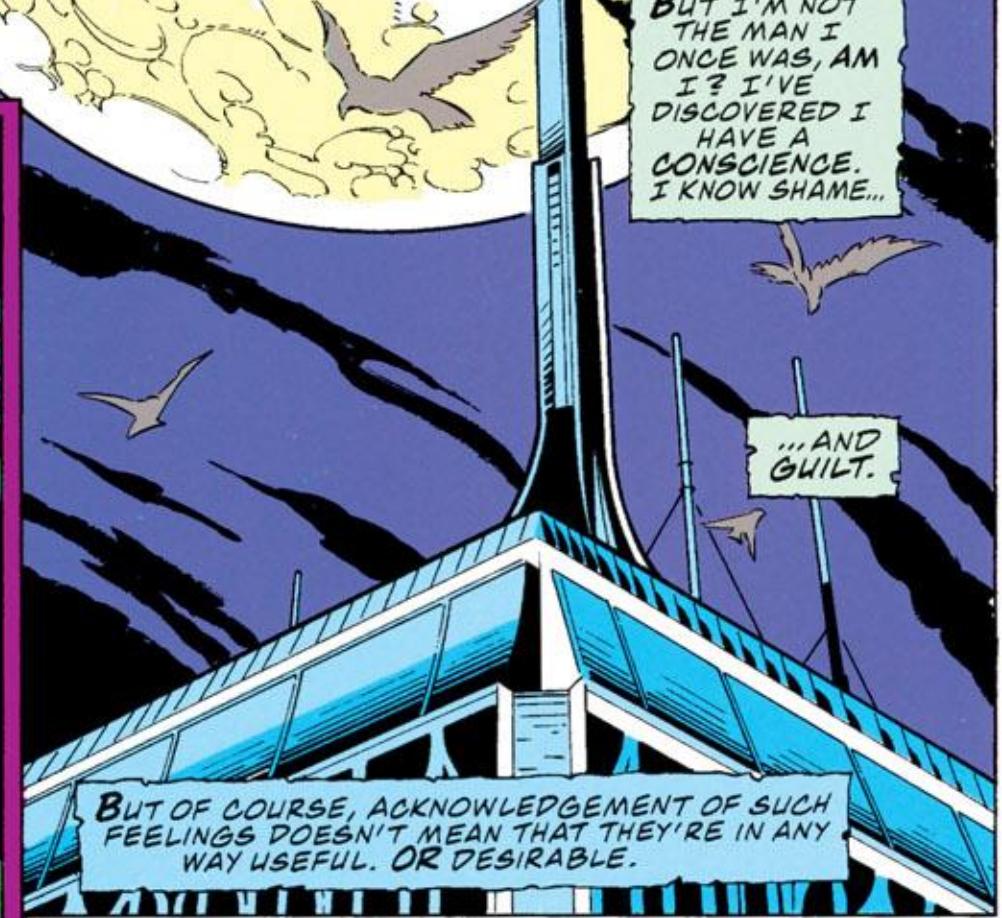
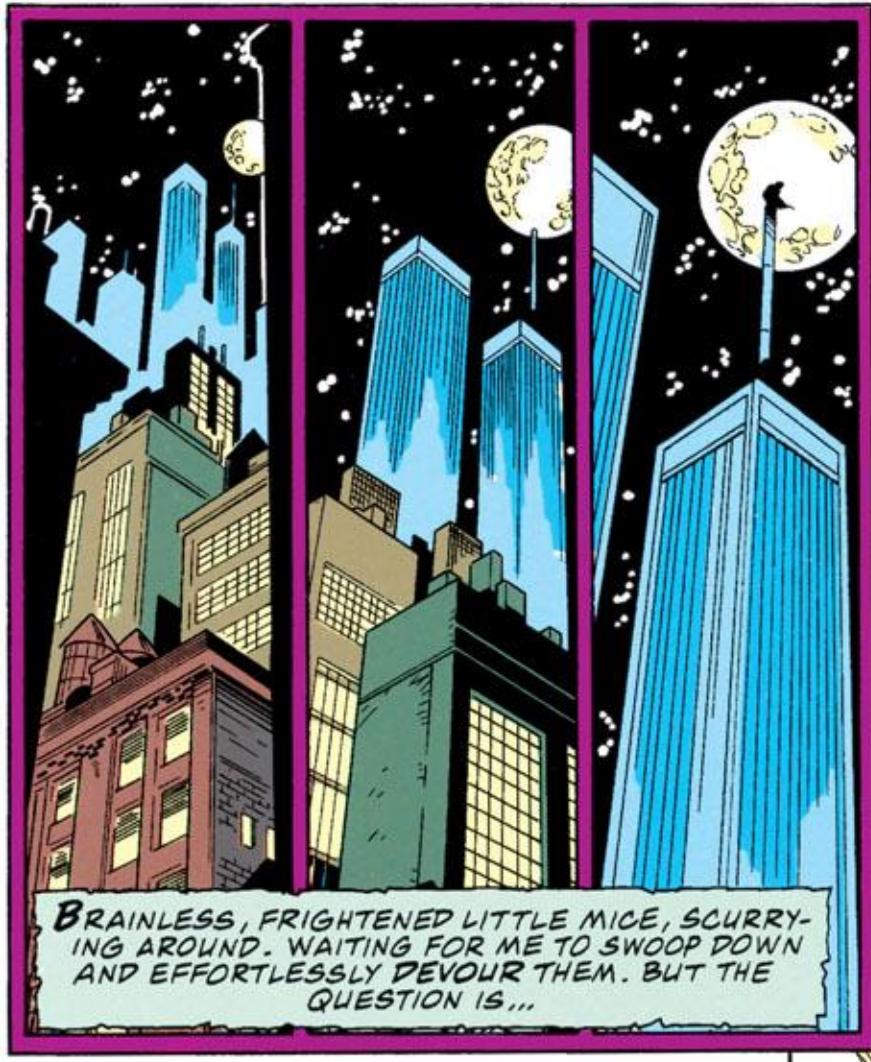
SPANG!

--YOU'LL  
NEVER GET TO  
HEAVEN.









I WAS ONCE LIKE ALL OF YOU DOWN THERE; BLAND AND WITLESS. CAREFUL TO OBSERVE SOCIETY'S RULES AND BOUNDARIES.

I HAD A THRIVING BUSINESS. A LOVING FAMILY. I PERFORMED ACTS OF CHARITY AND GOODNESS.

...I TASTED A FREEDOM, A DIZZYING EUPHORIA, THAT RAISED UP MY DECOMPOSING SOUL-- AND, AT LONG LAST, GAVE ME LIFE!

TO BREAK THE BONDS OF LAW AND MORALITY... TO STEAL, TO LIE, TO TERRORIZE AND MURDER... THESE THINGS BECAME MY REASONS FOR EXISTENCE.

BUT SOMEWHERE IN THE OWL'S HEART, OWLSLEY'S VOICE WAS HEARD-- CRYING FOR REDEMPTION...FOR HUMANITY.

AND I LISTENED: SURRENDERING MY WINGS AND GIVING MYSELF UP TO THE VERY WORLD I'D FOUGHT SO HARD TO ESCAPE FROM.

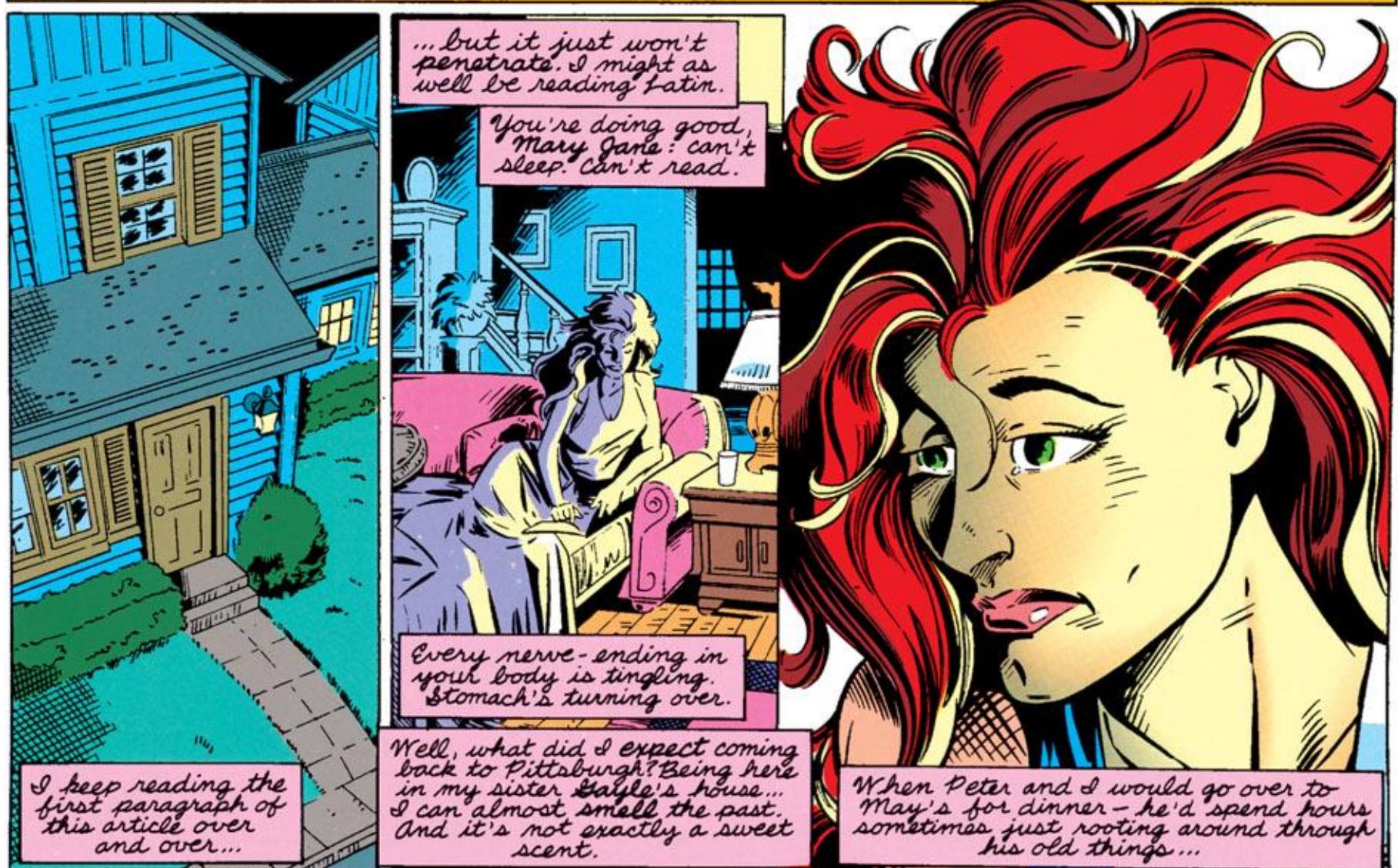
BUT LELAND OWLSLEY'S SOUL-- WAS DEAD.

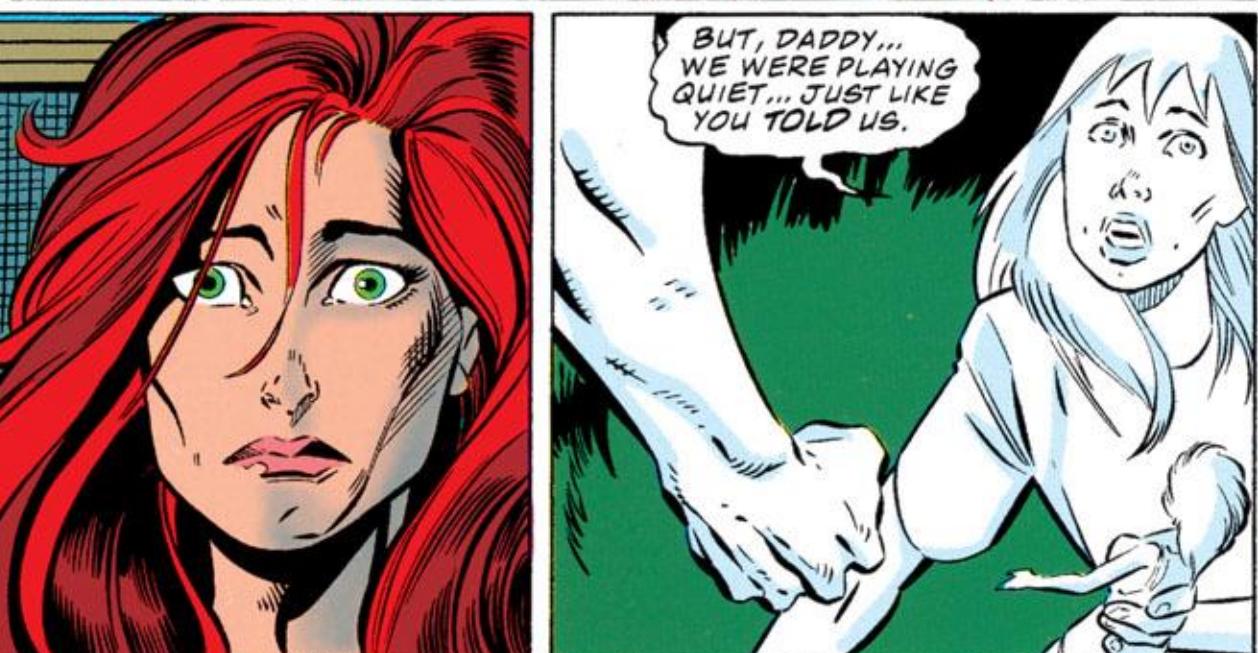
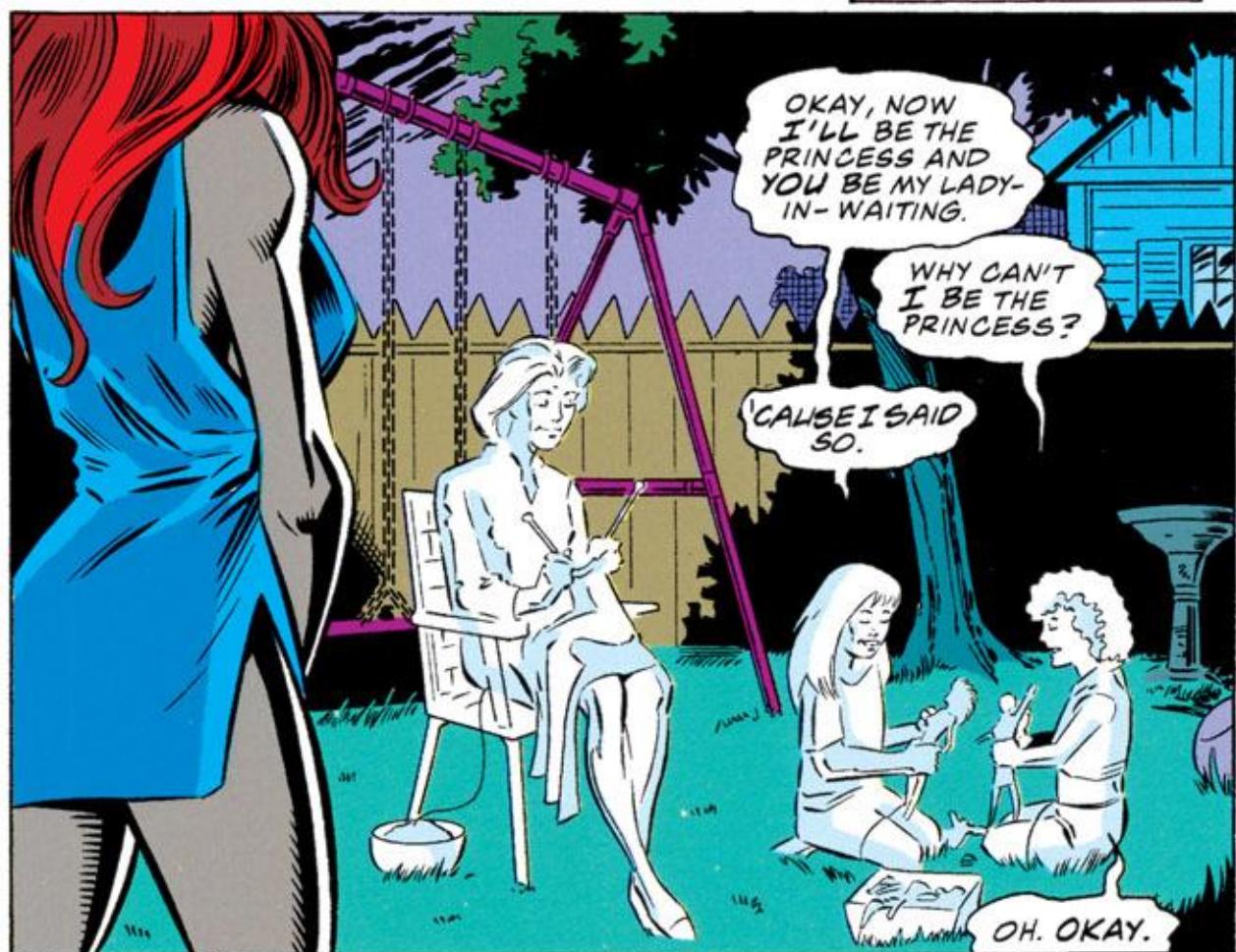
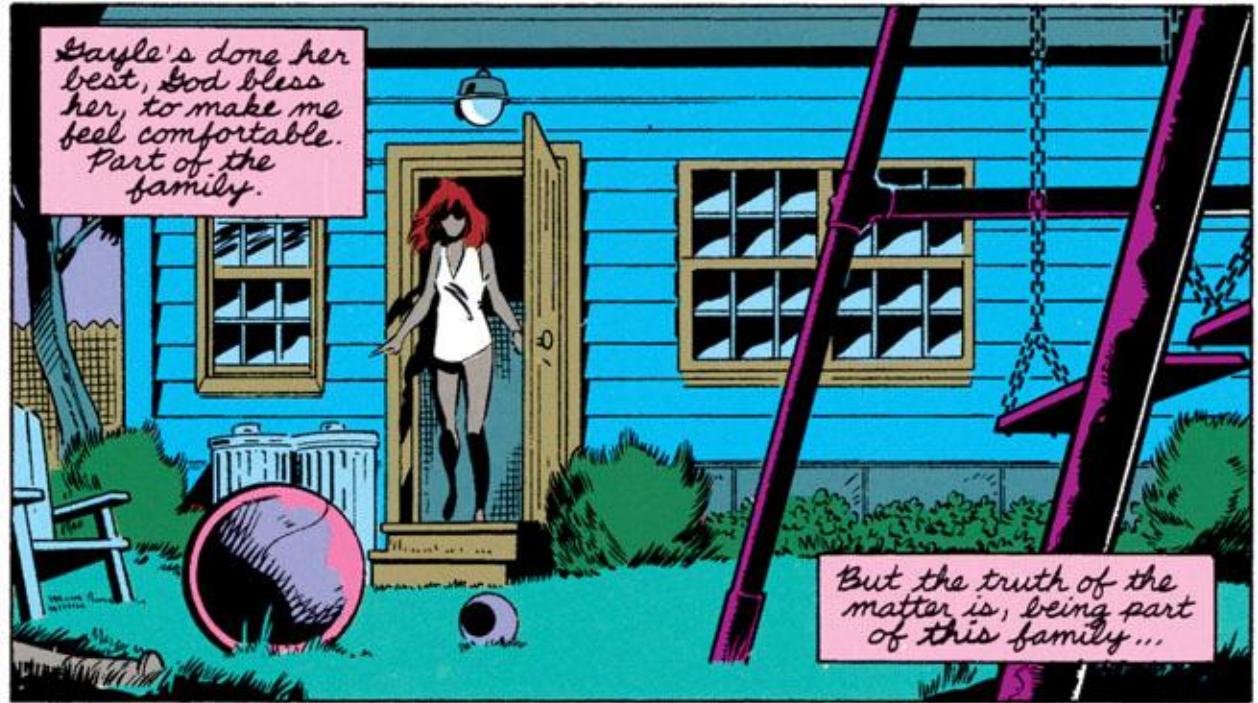
WHEN I FINALLY STEPPED OVER THE EDGE... SPREAD THE OWL'S WINGS AND FLEW INTO THE NIGHT...

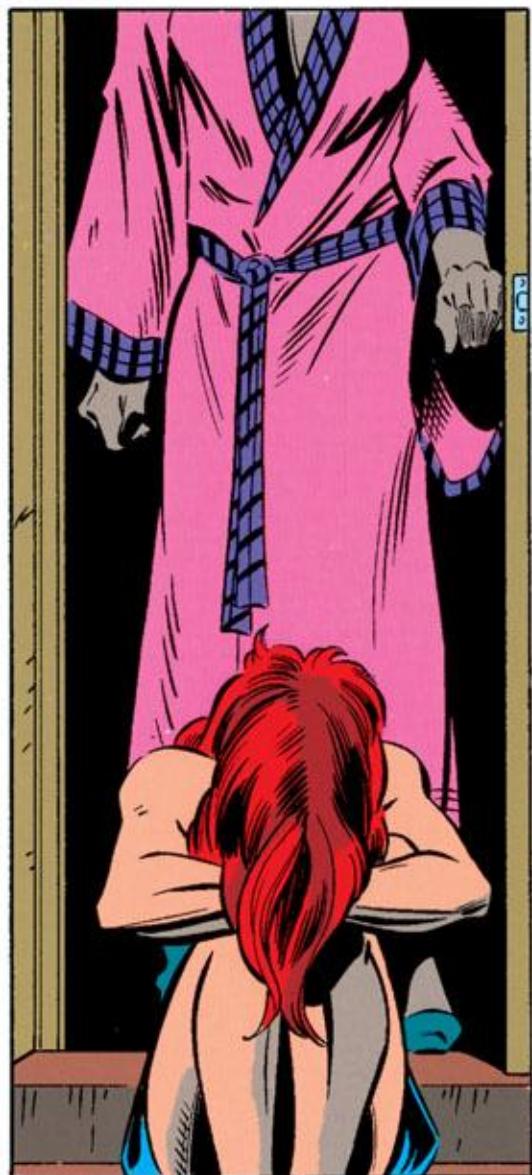
...REDUCING OWLSLEY AND THE OWL BOTH...

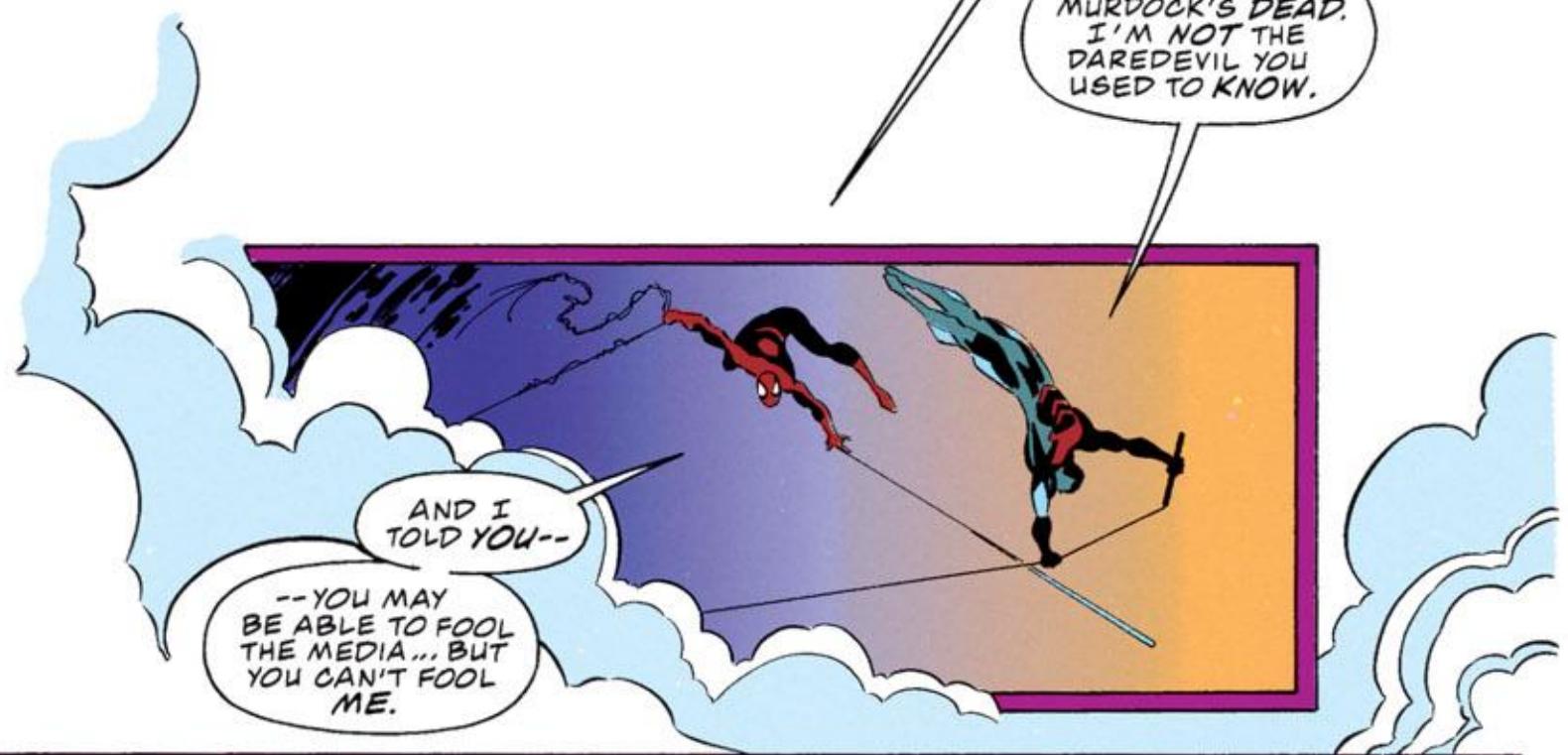
AH-- HERE YOU ARE!

...TO SOMETHING EVEN SMALLER THAN A MOUSE.

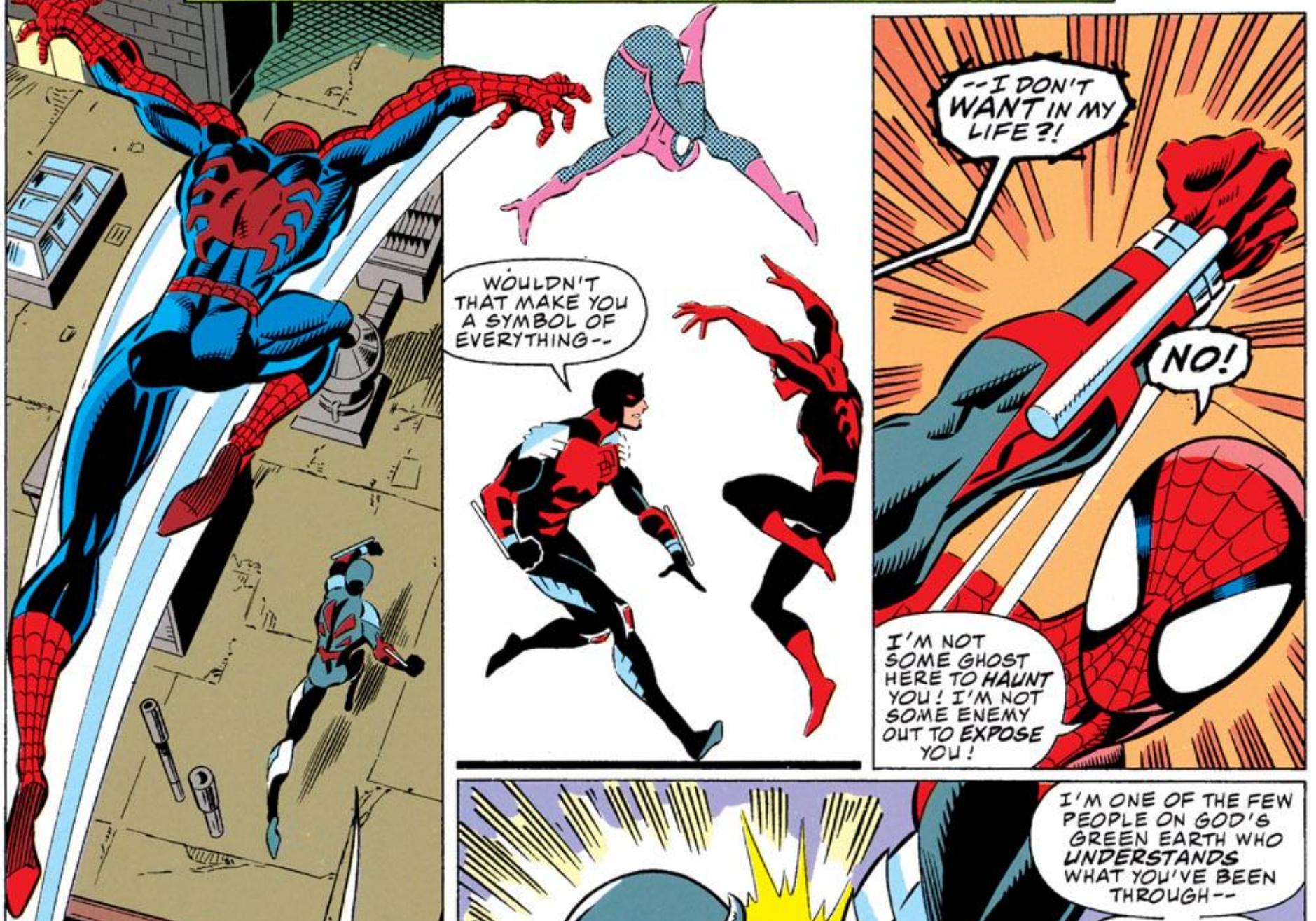
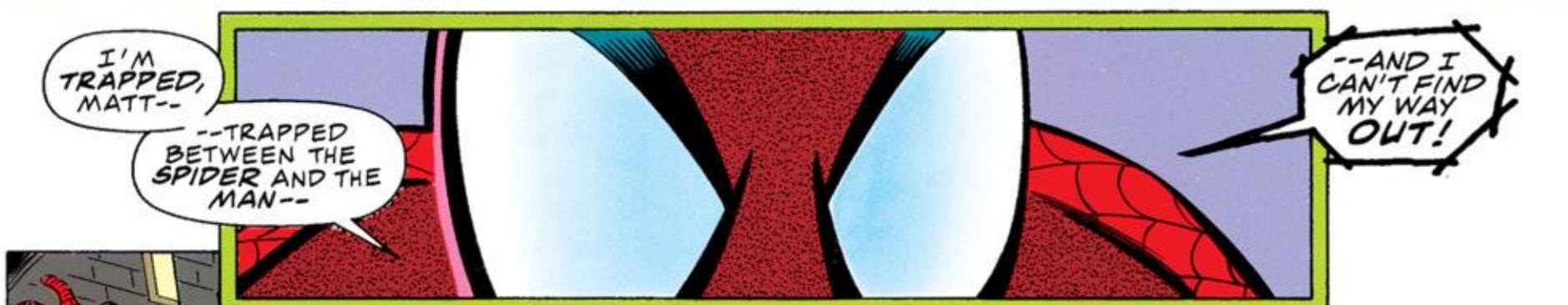




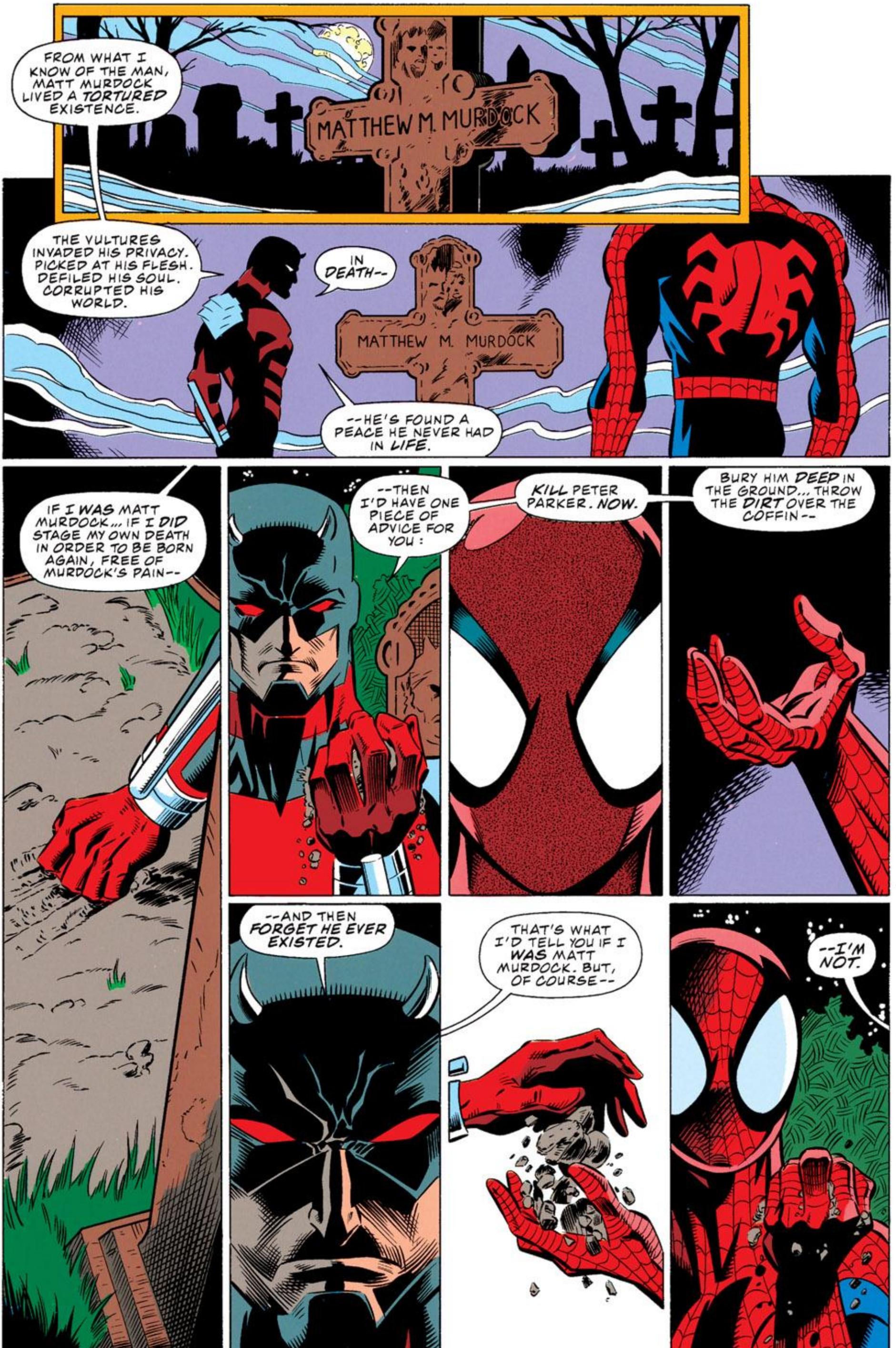


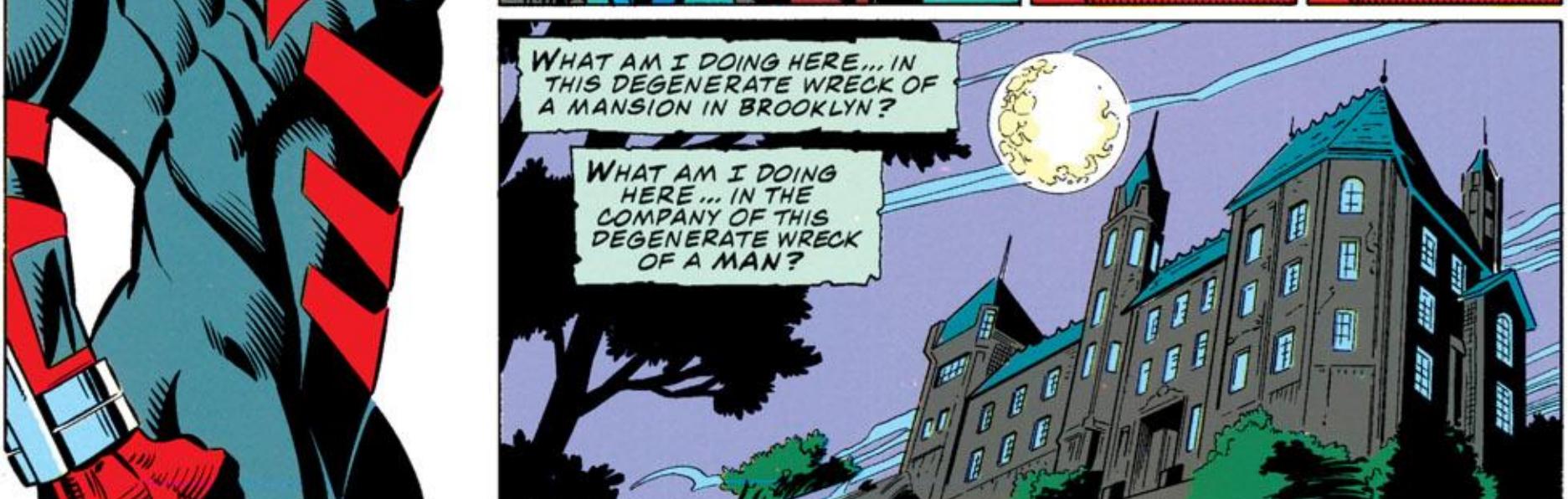














YOU'RE A PHILOSOPHICAL MAN. SO TELL ME: WHAT IS THE KEY TO IDENTITY?

IS IT OUR OWN KNOWLEDGE OF OURSELVES... OR OTHER PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE OF US?

IF I SAY THAT I AM NO LONGER ADRIAN TOOMES... THAT I AM THE NEW VULTURE NOW AND FOREVER, DOES THAT MAKE IT SO?

OR DOES THE MEMORY OF TOOMES IN OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS MEAN THAT HE STILL EXISTS?

NOW WHERE DID I PUT THAT--?

AH... HERE HE IS!

P-PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME!

BUT IF HE CEASES TO EXIST--

--DON'T WE?

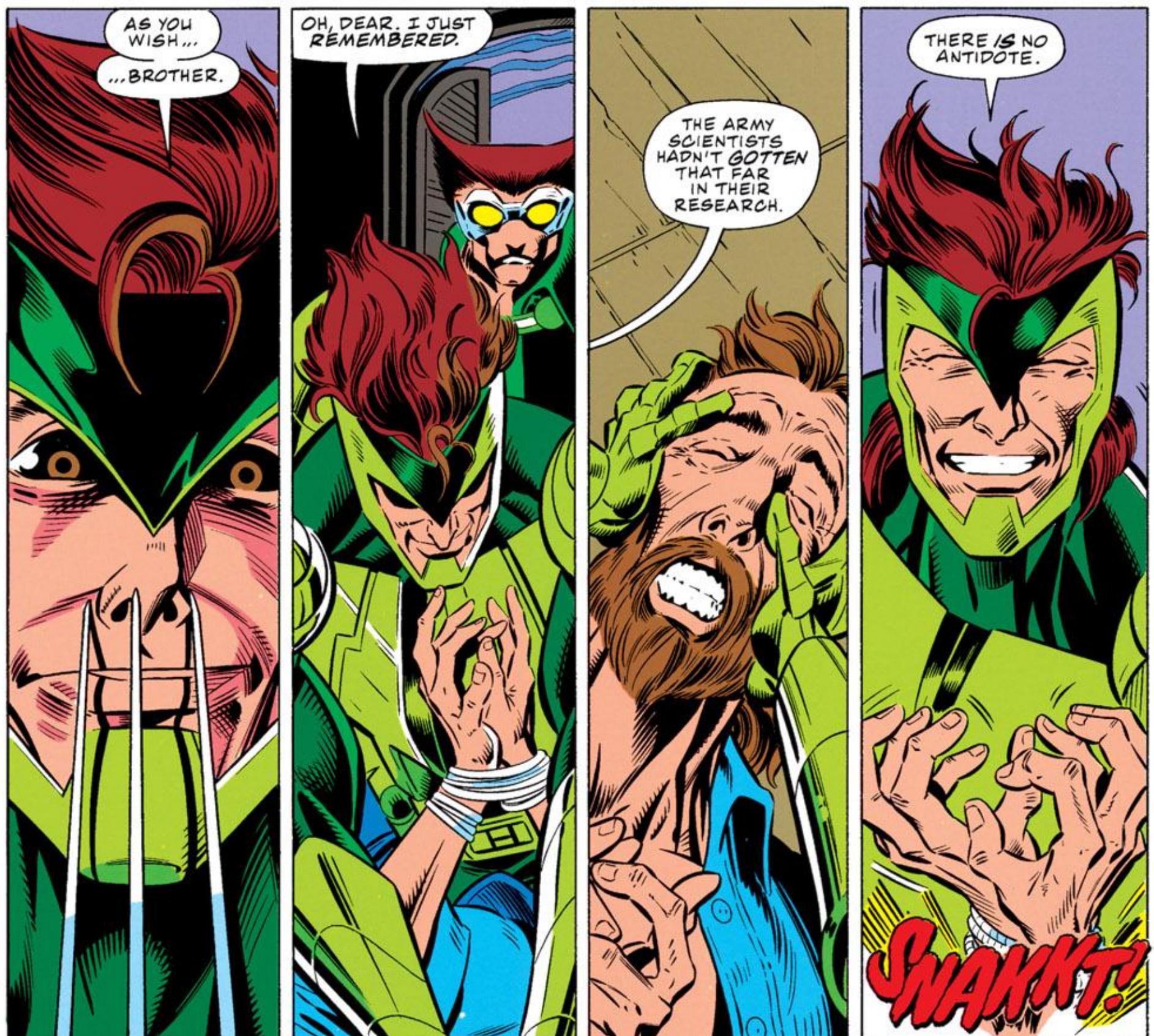
I SNATCHED THIS SPECIMEN OFF THE STREETS OF LOWER MANHATTAN THIS MORNING. SCAVENGING FOOD OUT OF A GARBAGE CAN.

HE'S IN THE ROOM WITH US. HE SEES US. HE RECOGNIZES US AS THE VULTURE AND THE OWL.

DO YOU SEE WHAT I'M GETTING AT? ONCE I DIE IN HIS MIND--

--I'M LEFT FREE TO TOTALLY REINVENT MYSELF, IN WHATEVER IMAGE I CHOOSE!

VULTURE  
--STOP THIS!





WHY DID I RUN? BECAUSE I WAS  
REPULSED BY WHAT HE'S PLANNING?

OR BECAUSE -- I WAS  
SO SOREL TEMPTED?

ARE ALL MY SELF-  
DOUBTS... ALL MY  
BURNING QUESTIONS  
... JUST SMOKE-  
SCREENS-- MASK-  
ING THE TRUTH  
THAT THE VULTURE  
SEES SO PLAINLY?

"TWO OF A  
KIND."

IF WE ARE... IF THAT MAN IS A MIRROR OF MY OWN  
HEART... IF MY DESTINY IS TO BE A SOULLESS  
SCAVENGER, SWOOPING DOWN OUT OF THE SKIES...  
THEN HEAVEN HELP ME.

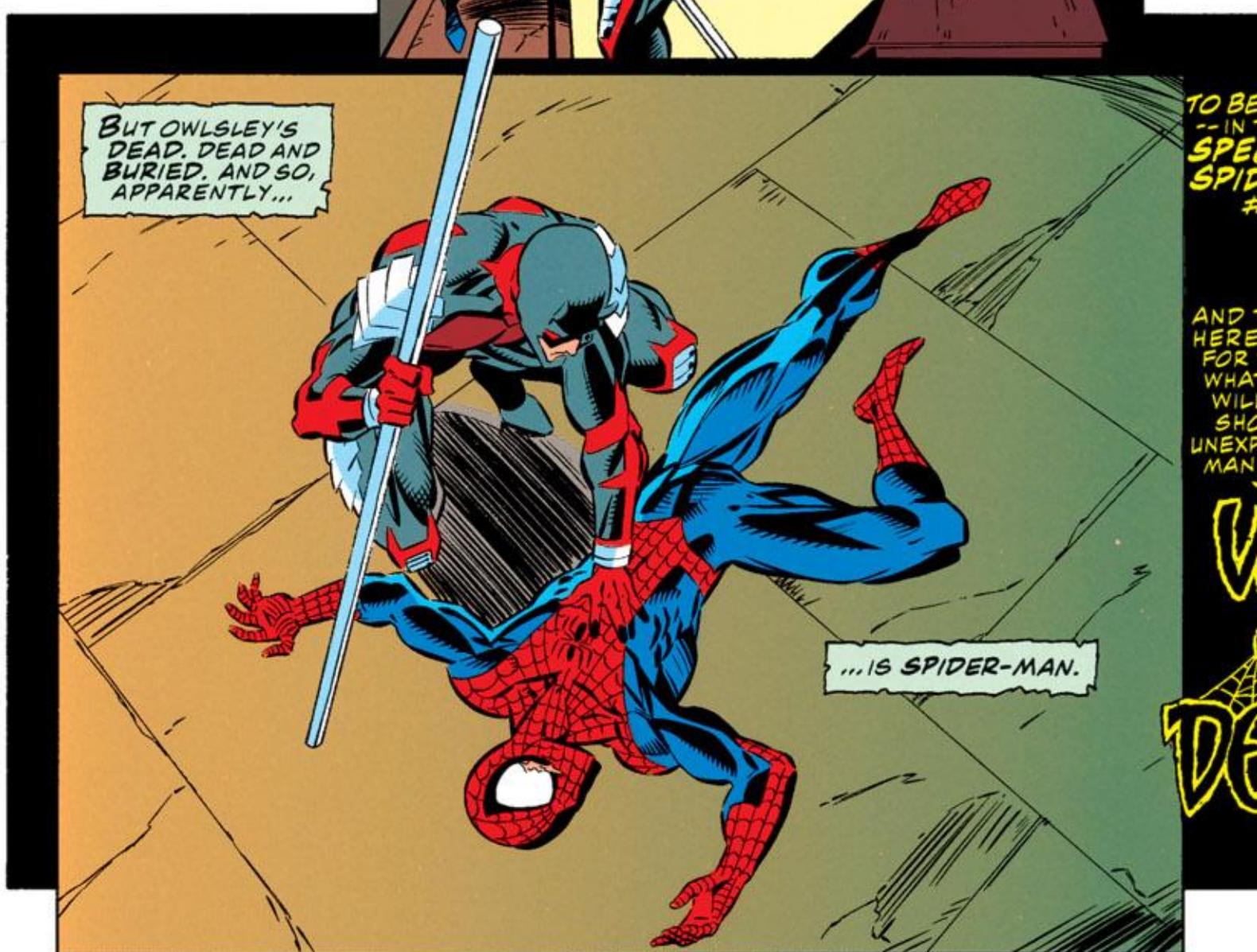
AND HEAVEN  
HELP THE  
WORLD.

AND SO I MUST RETURN  
TO THE ORIGINAL  
QUESTION. PERHAPS...  
THE ONLY QUESTION:

WHO  
AM I?

OWL!





TO BE CONCLUDED  
--IN THE PAGES OF  
**SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**  
**#219!!**

AND THEN BE BACK HERE NEXT MONTH, FOR THE START OF WHAT WE PROMISE WILL BE THE MOST SHOCKING AND UNEXPECTED SPIDER-MAN SAGA OF ALL:

**WEB OF DEATH!**