

MARVEL
comics

RETURN
TO THE MAD DOG WARD

CONCLUSION

SPIDER-MAN®



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MARRINAN
DE LA ROSA

SKRITCH
SKRITCH

COME ON,
JONES, CALL
IT A DAY.

"MOMMY, WHAT'S
SIN?"

"OH, IT'S EVERY LITTLE
THING YOU DO WRONG."

"THINK OF YOUR
SOUL AS A LILY
WHITE HANKE-
CHIEF."

"EVERY TIME YOU
TELL A LIE, A NASTY
BLACK SMUDGE
APPEARS."

"OVER THE YEARS,
ALL THOSE LITTLE
LIES FILL UP THE
CLOTH..."

"...TILL IT'S TERRIBLY
SPLOTCHY... AND GREY..."

"...AND FINALLY:
ALL BLACK."

"AND WHEN YOUR SOUL
IS BLACK, YOU BETTER
DO SOME PENANCE."

NO.

NONONONONO.

I'M
HALLUCCINATING.

I DON'T BELIEVE
IN THOSE THINGS.
THIS IS NO
PENANCE.

I'VE BEEN BURIED
ALIVE BEFORE. I'VE
SURVIVED WORSE.

BUT...

WHY DO I FEEL
LIKE I DESERVE
THIS?

THERE ARE
ALL THOSE
LIES...

ABOUT WHERE I'VE
BEEN AND WHY I'M CUT
AND BRUISED, DIRTY
CHEATING LIES,
SAVING FACE LIES,
PROTECTING LIES
WHITE WHITE LILY
WHITE LIES.

GOD, I'M
TIRED.

LIES NOT TO HURT
FEELINGS, LIES TO
SAVE LIVES... SUF-
FOCATING LIES...

QUICKENING LIES THAT
HARDEN INTO BIGGER
ONES... QUICKSAND LIES,
SINKING LIES, LIES THAT
FORM NOOSES, LIES THAT
TIE, STRANGLING LIES,
ENSNARING LIES, BURIED
IN LIES, TOMB LIES...

EVERY LIE IS LIKE
ANOTHER RUBBER
BAND AROUND MY
BODY...

GOD, IT'S HARD
TO BREATHE DOWN
HERE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS

TRUST

ANN NOCENTI - WRITER
CHRIS MARRINAN - PENCILER
DELA ROSA / HUDSON - INKERS
CHRIS ELIOPOLIOS - LETTERER
KEVIN TINSLEY - COLORIST
DANNY FINGEROTH - EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO - EDITOR IN CHIEF

NO!

NONONONO

THESE ARE PARANOID THOUGHTS. IT WASN'T MY FAULT. THAT BRAINSTORM, HE HAD SOME KIND OF MENTAL POWERS; HE BLASTED ME WITH FEAR AND PARANOIA.

THAT'S WHY MY THOUGHTS ARE SO BLEAK.

I'M LUCKY MY INSTINCTS WERE SO GOOD. WHEN I WAS UNCONSCIOUS, AND WOKE UP TO FIND MYSELF BEING DUMPED OUT OF THE CEMENT MIXER HE PUT ME IN--

-- I INSTINCTIVELY SHOT MY WEBLINES AND HELD ON-- SHOT WILD, BUT IT MAY HAVE SAVED ME.

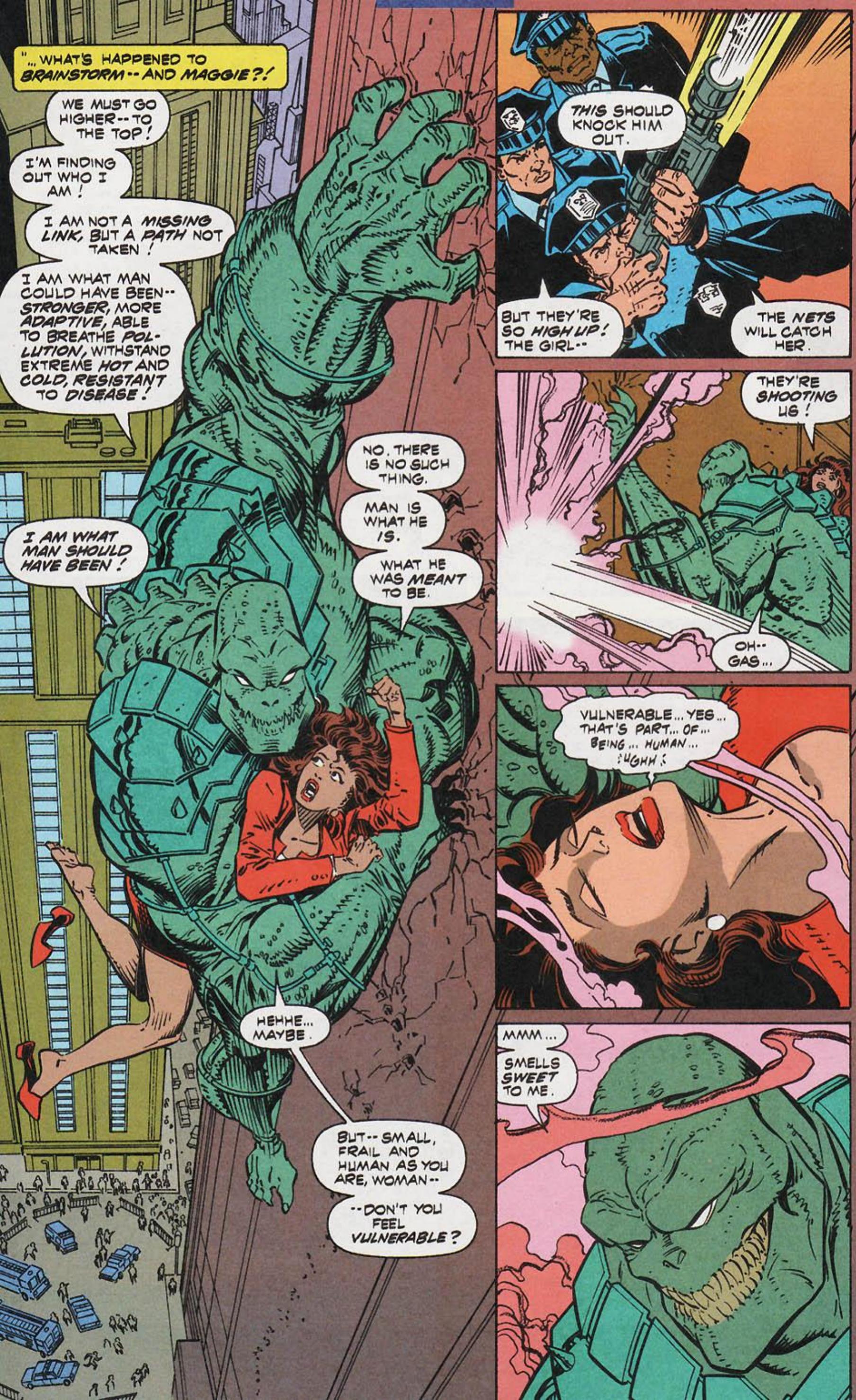
*LAST ISSUE.
--DANNY

TUG
TUG

THEY'RE MY LIFELINE NOW, MY AIR SOURCE. TIME TO GIVE A LITTLE TUG AND SEE IF I CAN GET FREE...

I WONDER--

-- HOW DEEP IN IT AM I? AND...



CITY HOSPITAL...

POLICE ATTEMPTS TO DISLodge THE CREATURE HAVE FAILED...

THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS IS: WHO, OR RATHER WHAT-- IS THAT THING?

A MAGNIFICENT EVOLUTION, IS WHAT. A PRESCIENT DEVOLUTION.

YES, YES, THE NEW RACE IS A RETURN OF THE CYCLOPIAN MAN, ONLY THE THIRD EYE IS NOW AN EMPATHIC TRANSMITTER!

A MORE FOCUSED VISION! A REPTILIAN FORE-BRAIN RECEIVING MESSAGES FROM PREHISTORY!

OKAY, SO I TAKE IT BACK-- HE'S FAR, FAR, AND AWAY 'ROUND THE BEND.

YES, YES. CHEAP THEATRICS FOOL THEM EVERY TIME.

MY EXPERIMENT WORKED ON THE DEPRAVED MIND OF BRAINSTORM. NEXT I SHALL TRY IT ON MY OWN SANE MIND!

SO DEEP. SO TIRED.

SO LITTLE AIR...

EVERY INCH ANOTHER TORMENT.

THE PRESSURE IS ENORMOUS.

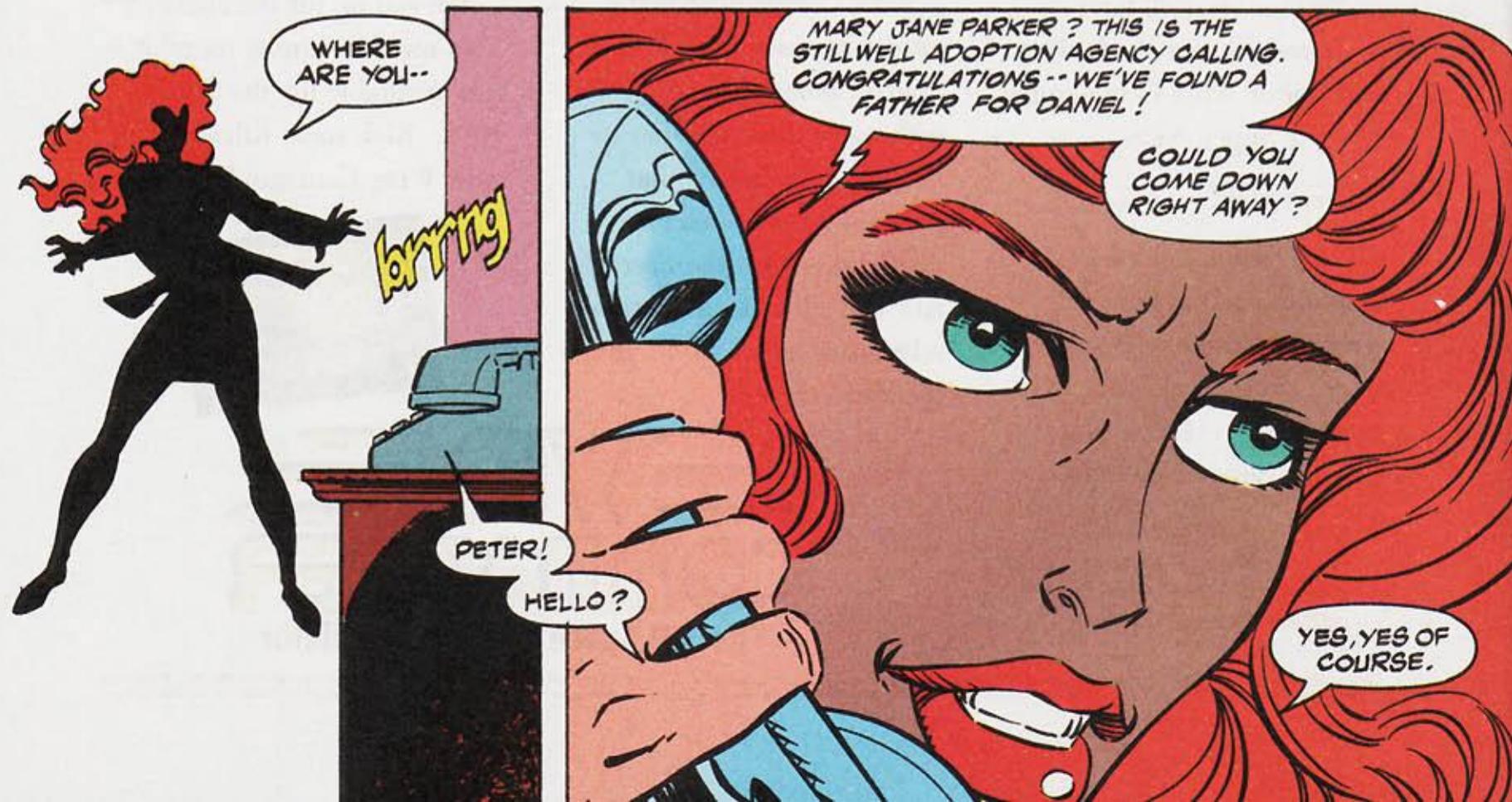
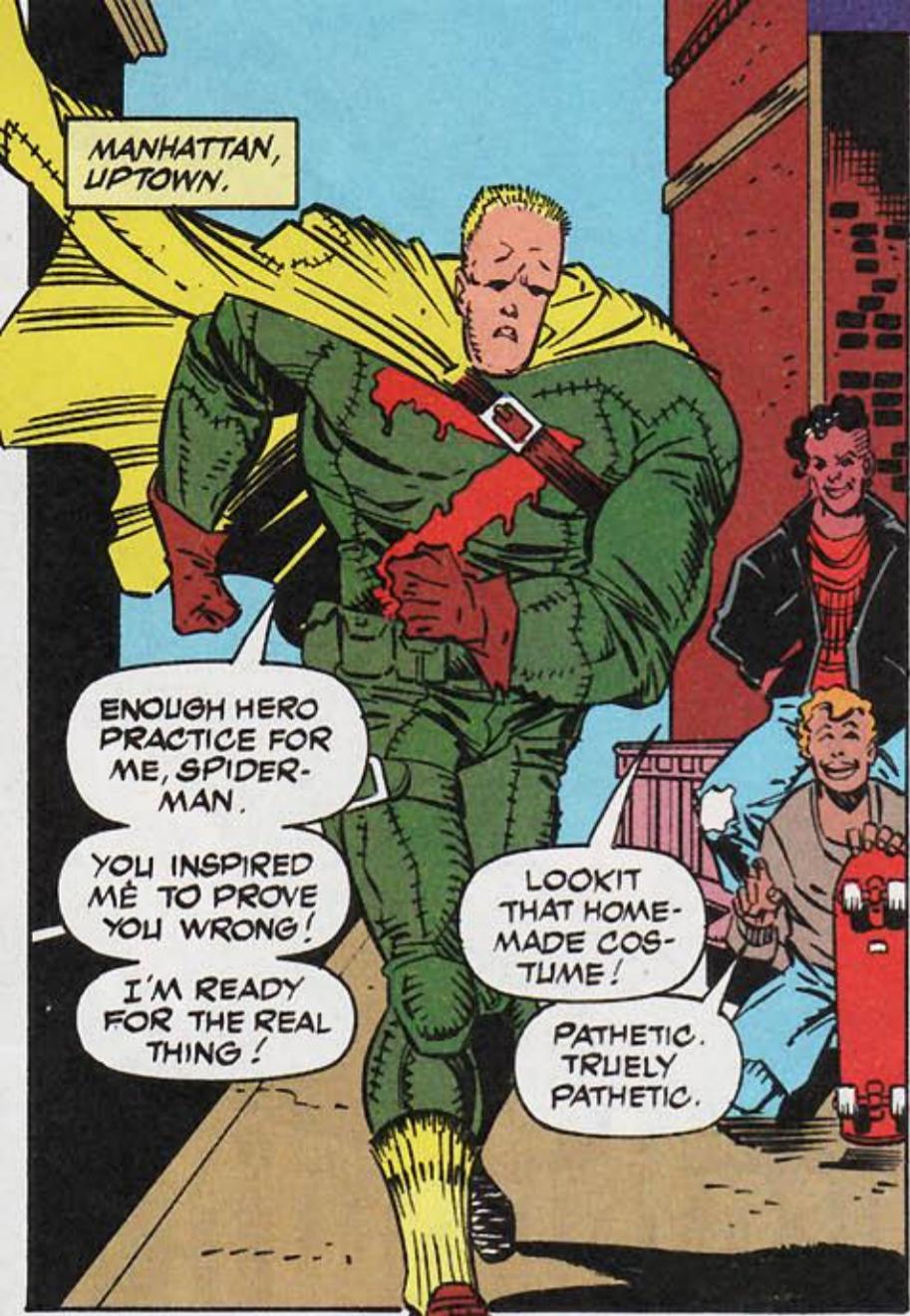
THIS BRUTAL WORLD NEEDED A TOUGHER MAN.

DR. HOPE, I KNOW WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM WE WRAP YOUR BRILLIANT MIND BACK UP IN TRANQUILIZERS AND A STRAIGHTJACKET...

BUT YOU REALLY DON'T SOUND SO CRAZY TO ME AT ALL.

MY RIBS ACHE
MY LUNGS ARE COLLAPSING...

OH, GOD, WHAT IF I'M NOT EVEN MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?



THAT GIRL,
MAGGIE, THE
CREATURE
MUST HAVE
HER...

GOTTA GET
OUT... SAVE
HER...

HARD TO
BREATHE...

... LUNGS IN
A VISE GRIP...

ONE MORE
INCH... AN
INCH... MORE...

CLIMBING THROUGH
ALL THIS MUCK, ALL
THESE... LIES.

DOES EVERYONE
KNOW? DO THEY
ALL KNOW HOW
MUCH I HAVE
TO LIE?

WHO WILL BE LEFT
TO HAVE FAITH IN
ME? BELIEVE ME--

--MARY JANE.

HEY YOU!
MADDOD!

I KNOW
YOU!

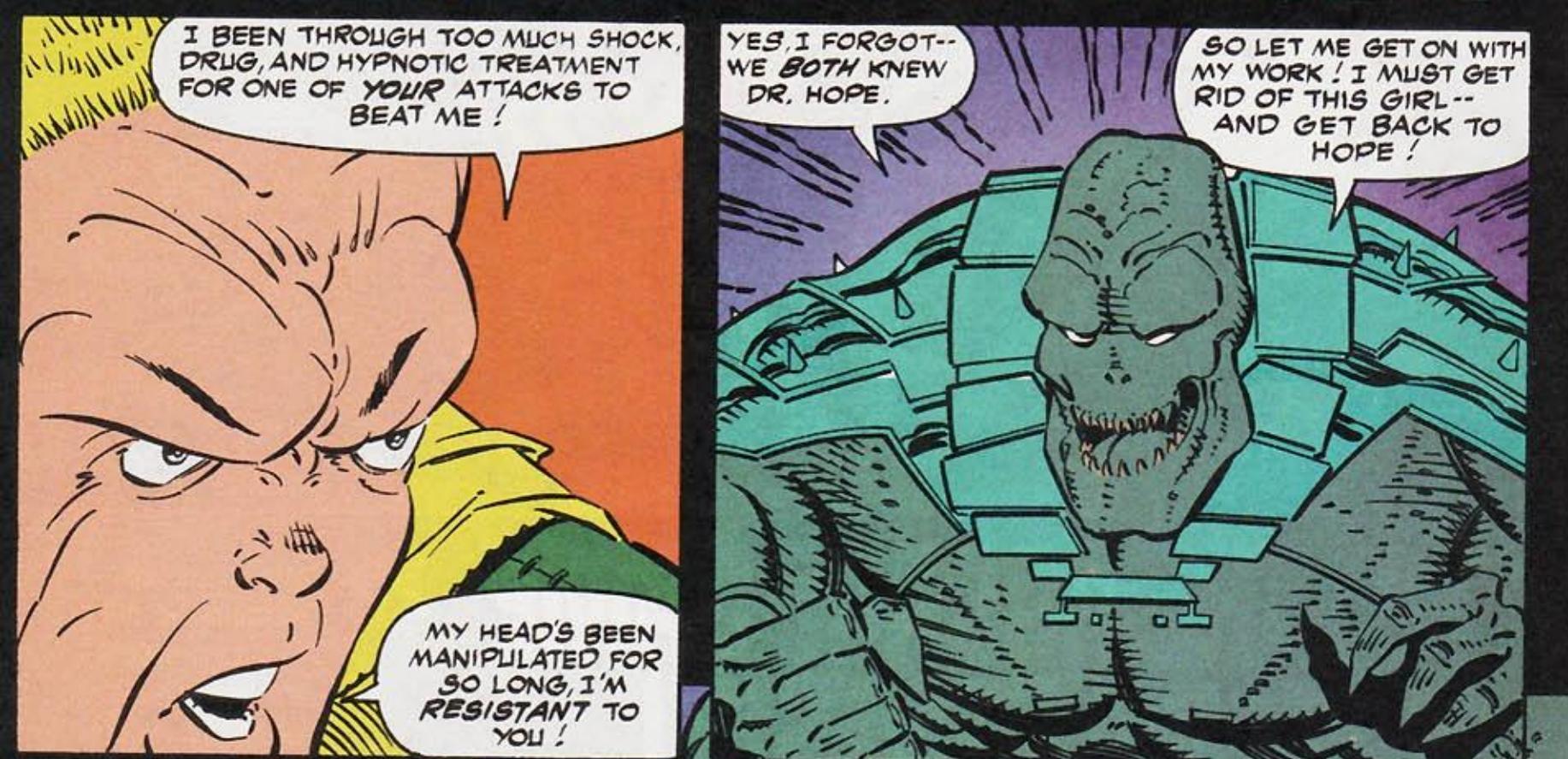
I REMEMBER
YOU--CAPTAIN
ZERO--

FROM PLEASANT
VALLEY, REMEMBER?
DOCTOR HOPE'S
PATIENT!

WELL, WELL, A
FELLOW INMATE
FROM THE
ASYLUM.

--A BIG
SUPERDRAG.





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I'M SO HAPPY YOU'VE AGREED TO TAKE DANIEL, MR. HERNANDEZ.

STILLWELL ADOPTION AGENCIES

I WANT TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIS CARETAKER FIRST--

--THEN I'LL CALL YOU RIGHT OVER TO MEET DANIEL.

AH, YOU ARE SUCH AN OPTIMIST, MARY JANE!

AND... IS THERE A POTENTIAL MOTHER FOR DANIEL, ALSO?

I HAVE YET TO MEET THE BOY. WHAT IF HE DOES NOT FIND ME TO HIS LIKING?

OH, DANIEL WILL LOVE YOU! HOW COULD HE RESIST?

YOU FLATTER ME.

MR. HERNANDEZ IS A VERY HANDSOME MAN.

HOW NICE...

WHY DON'T YOU
PUT YOUR NEW
STRENGTHS TO
BETTER USE,
BRAINSTORM?

I AM RECEIVING
MESSAGES--FROM
THE PAST, FROM THE
FUTURE--SOON I WILL
KNOW WHAT I AM
TO DO.

IN THE MEANTIME,
IT IS INTERESTING
TO FIGHT WITH
YOU--!

IT ALLOWS ME
TO DISCOVER --

-- JUST HOW
SUPERIOR
I AM.

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

I CAN TUG
ON THE--NO!
MY WEBLINE
MUST BE
DISSOLVING...

SO
TIRED...

EVERYTHING
ACHEs, NOTHING
WORKS...

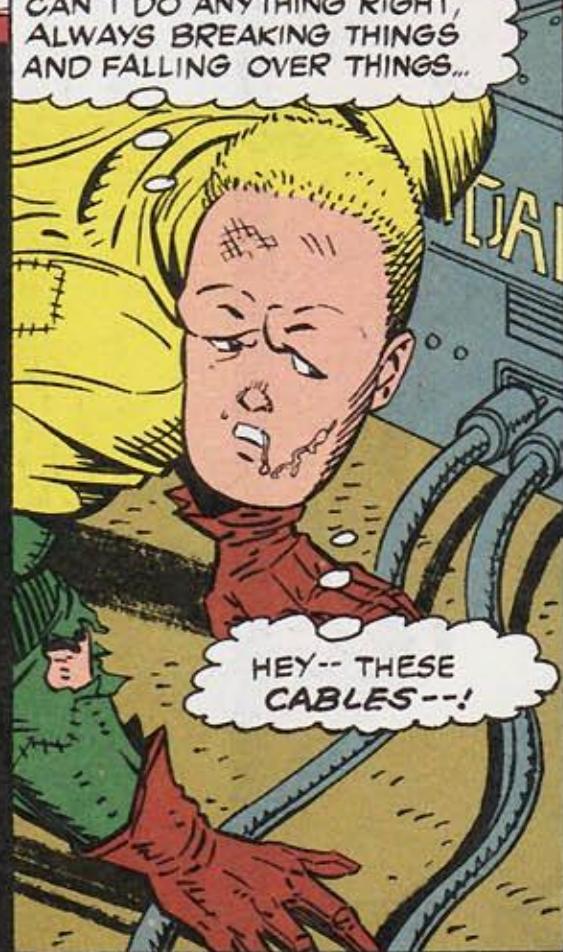
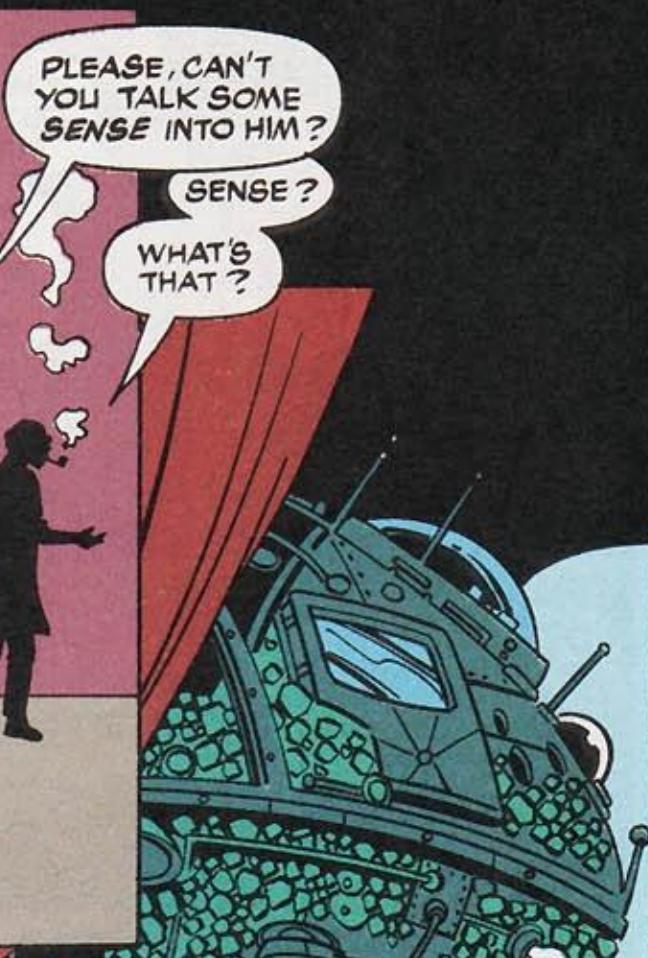
WHY KEEP
GOING?

MARY
JANE...

IF I CAN
JUST HOLD... HER
BEAUTIFUL FACE...
IN MY MIND...

AND THINK
ABOUT... HOW
MUCH I LOVE
HER...

THEN MAYBE...
I WON'T GIVE
UP... I WON'T
DIE...



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STILL NO WORD FROM PETER...

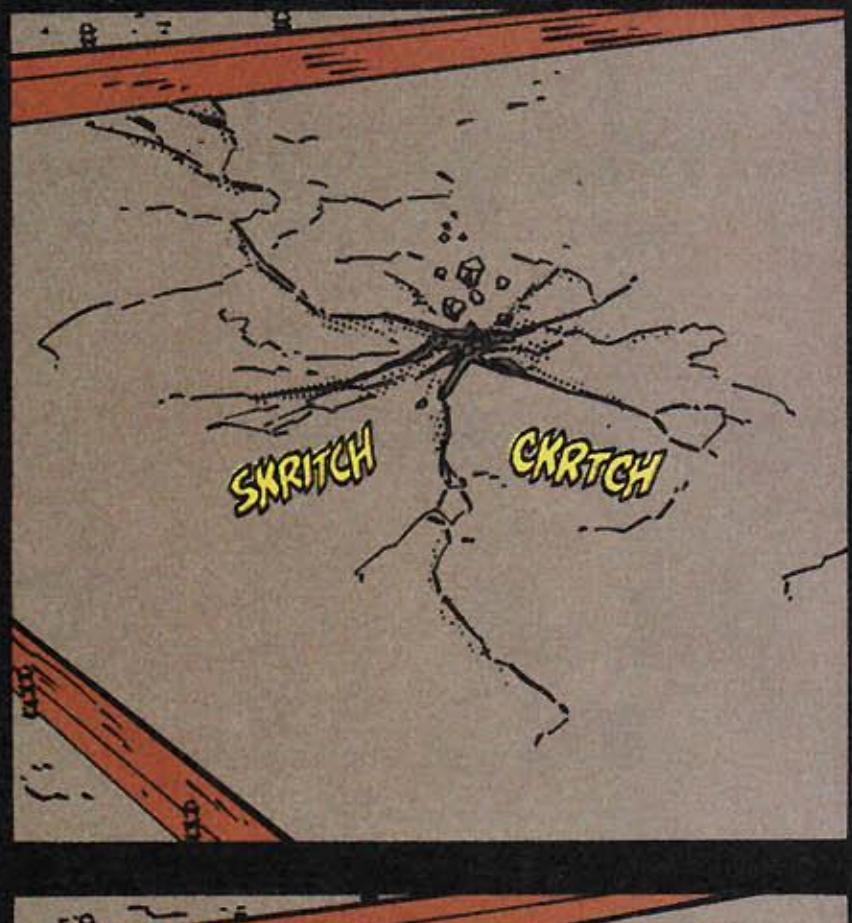
I'M GOING OUT OF MY MIND!

WHAT IF IT WASN'T THE GIRL, WHAT IF HE'S IN TROUBLE?

OH, PLEASE PETER!

SKRITCH

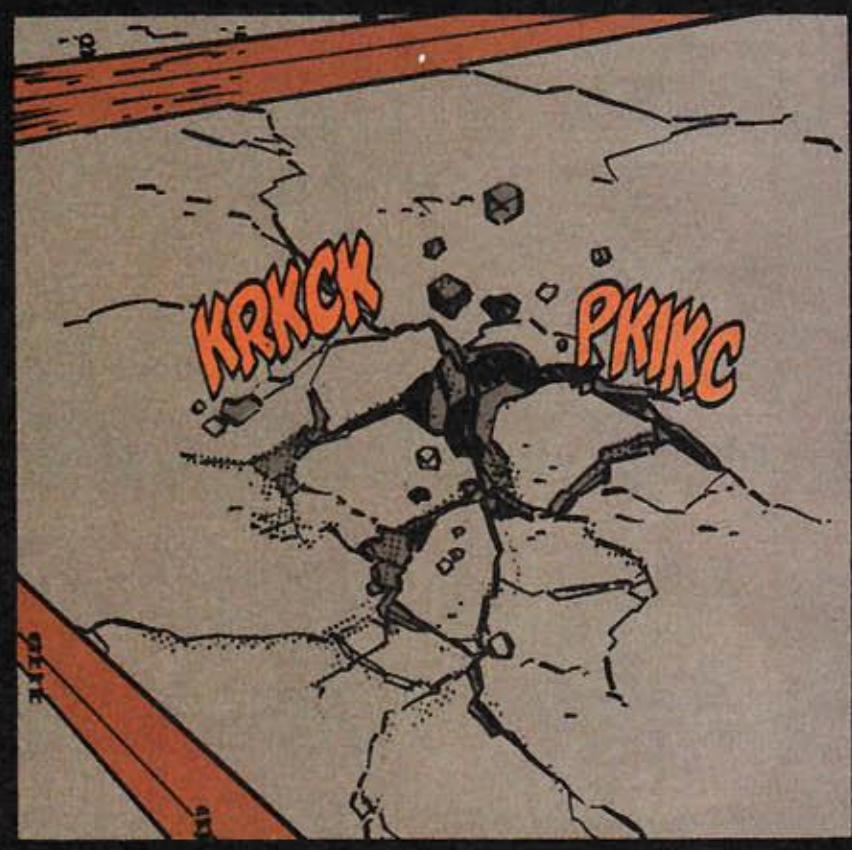
CKRITCH



HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF FAITH?

THE OLD MAN'S WORDS...

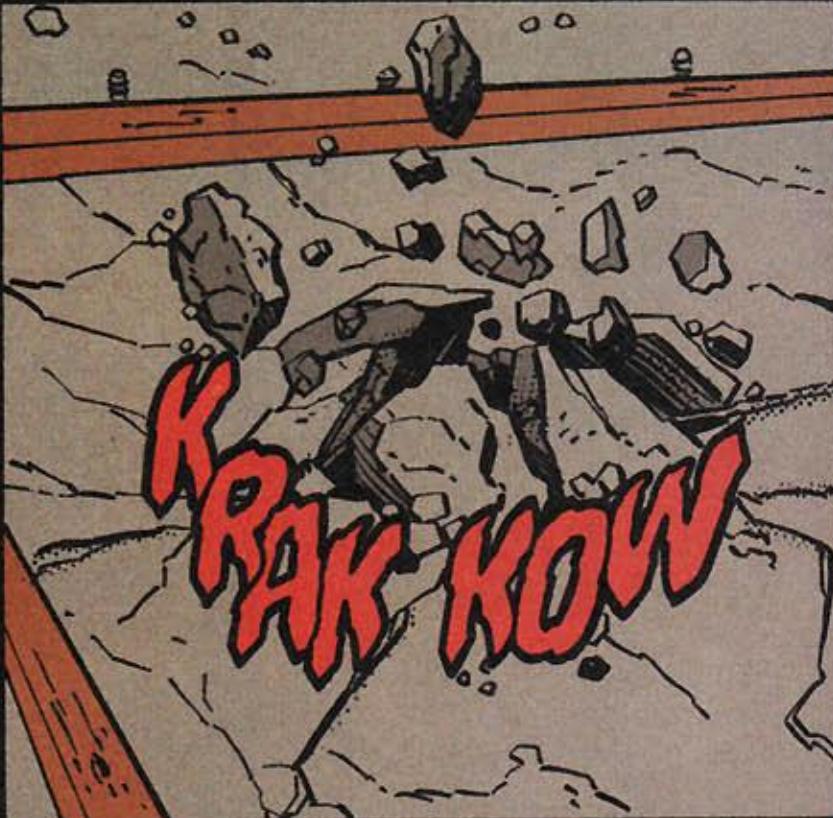
DID I SIMPLY LOSE FAITH? IS THAT WHY PETER HAS VANISHED?

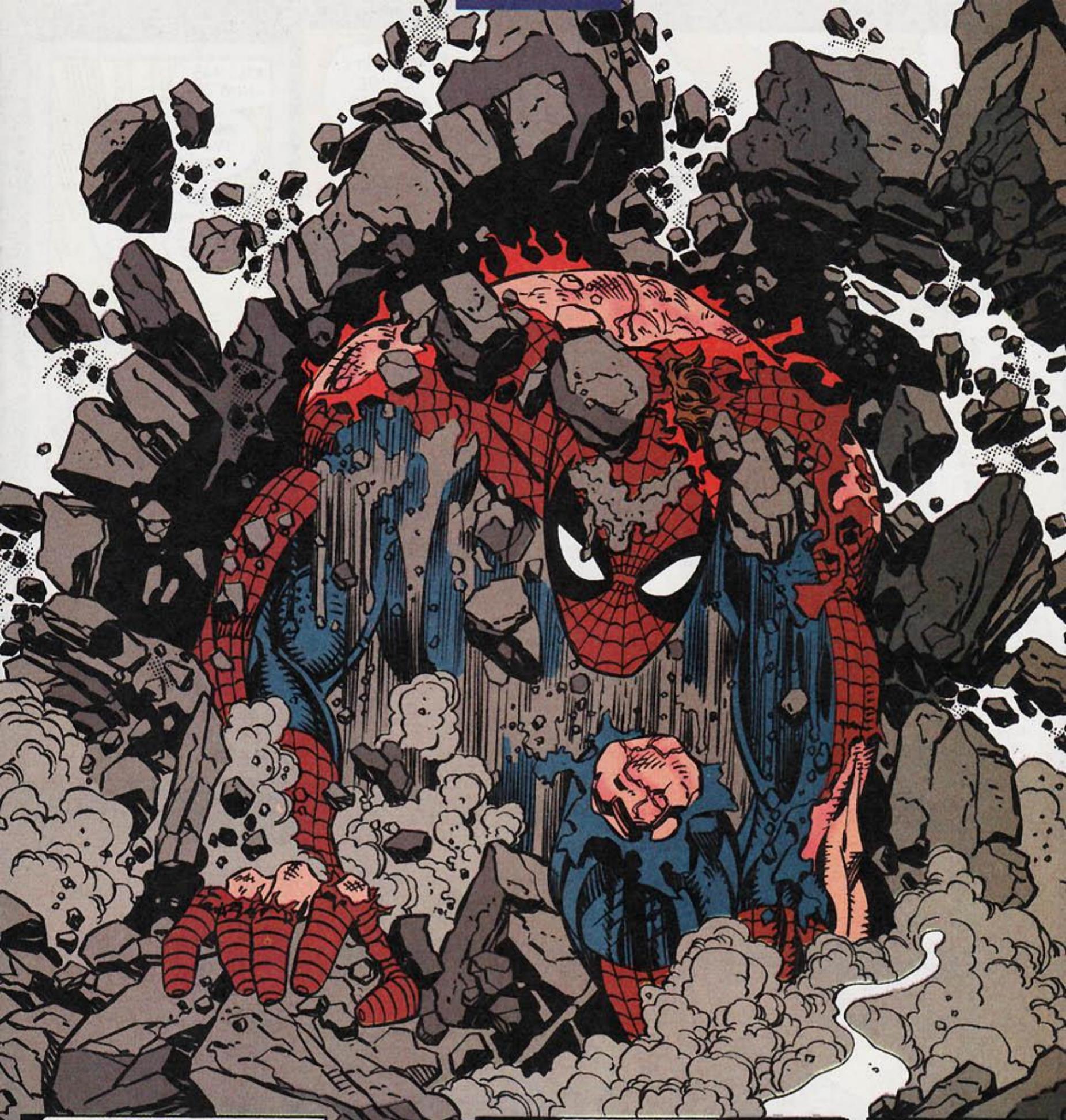


I LOVE YOU, PETER, AND I TRUST YOU AND I KNOW YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME!



KRAK KOW





HELLO? MR. HERNANDEZ.
THIS IS MARY JANE PARKER.

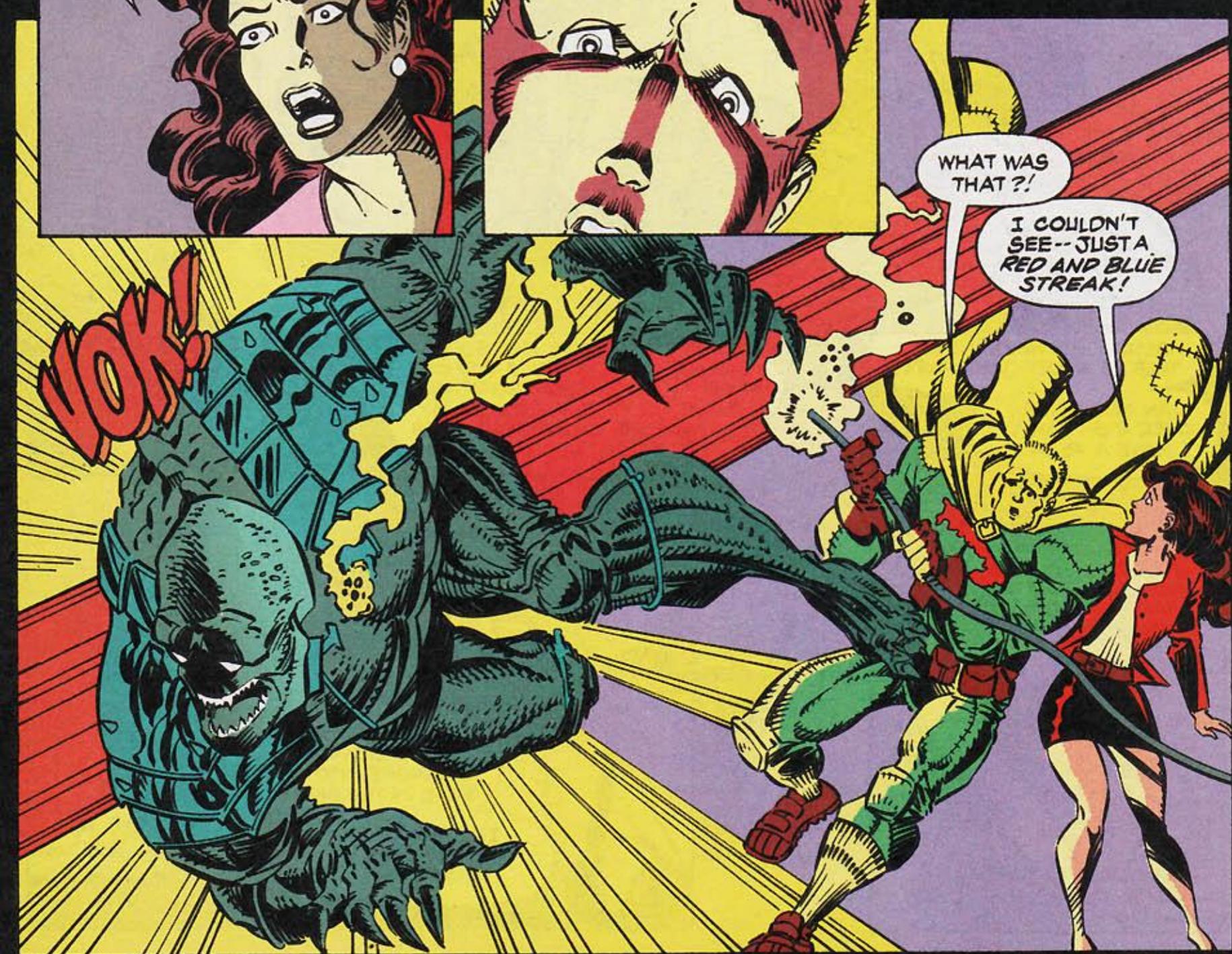
CAN YOU COME
OVER RIGHT AWAY?
I HAVE A PLAN...

HELLO,
FRED? MARY
JANE.

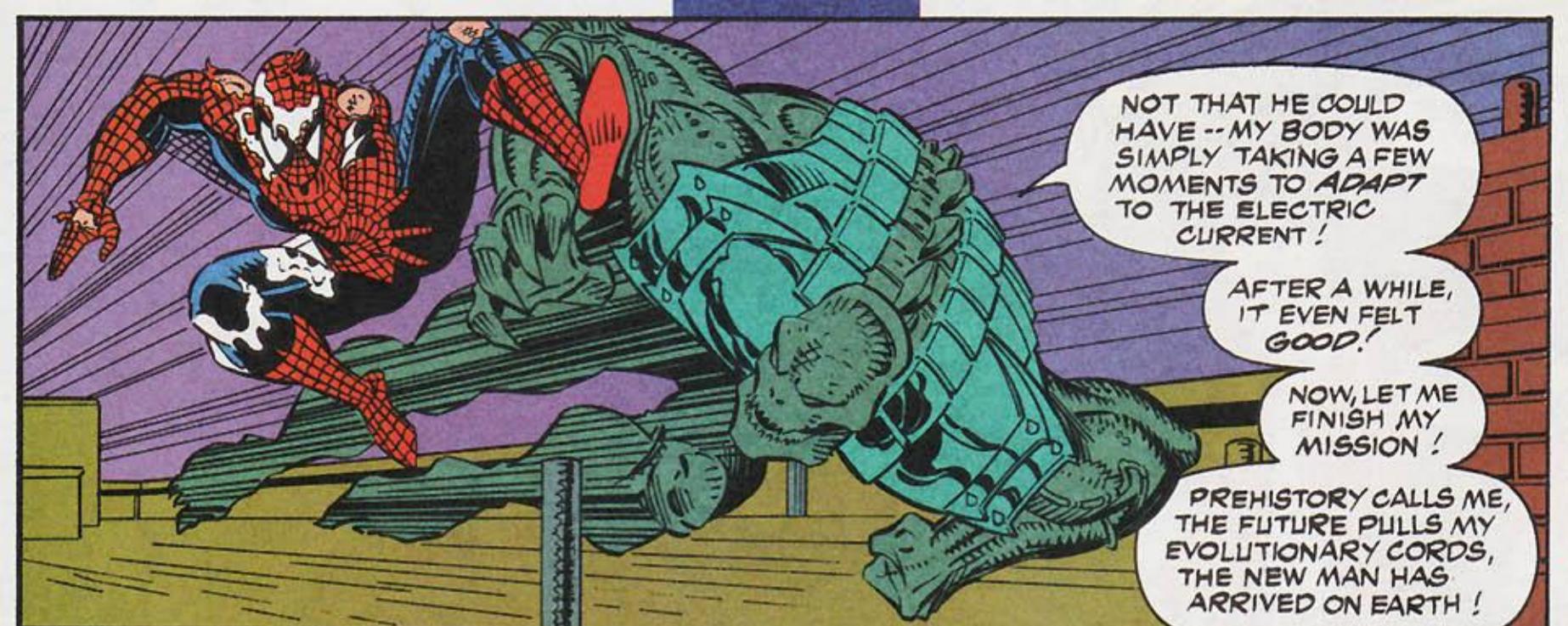
I'VE GOT SOME
POPULARITY ON
YOUR SOAP AND
I'M SICK OF MY
CHARACTER BEING
SUCH A BIMBO.

I WANT TO HELP
WRITE SOME
CHANGES INTO MY
ROLE IN THE SHOW.
I'LL TALK TO
YOU IN PERSON
TOMORROW.









NOT THAT HE COULD HAVE -- MY BODY WAS SIMPLY TAKING A FEW MOMENTS TO ADAPT TO THE ELECTRIC CURRENT!

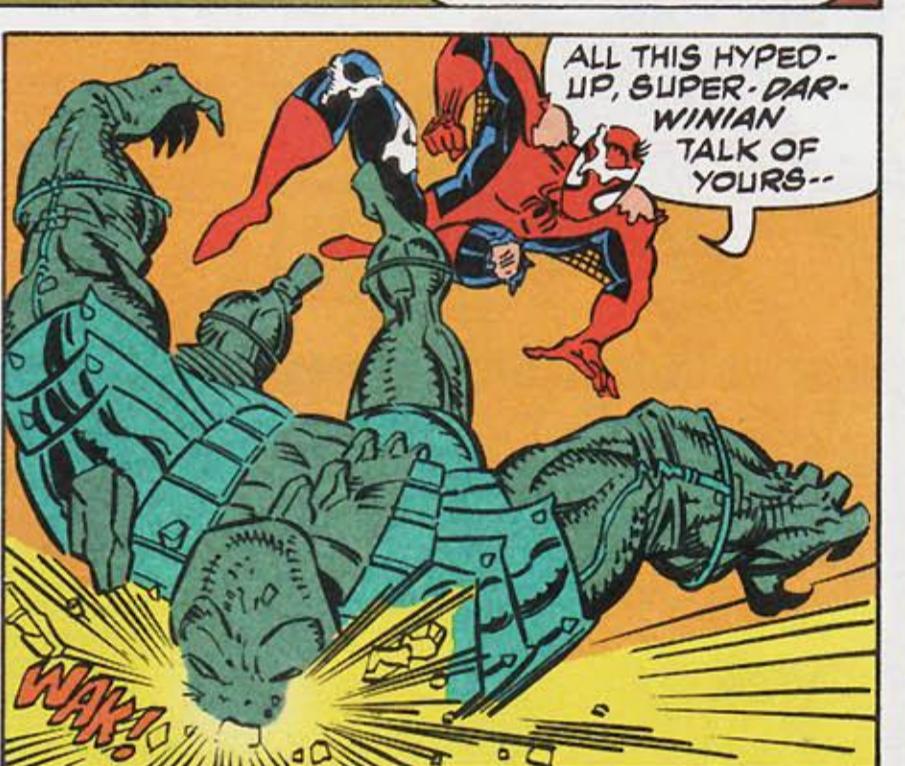
AFTER A WHILE, IT EVEN FELT GOOD!

NOW, LET ME FINISH MY MISSION!

PREHISTORY CALLS ME, THE FUTURE PULLS MY EVOLUTIONARY CORDS, THE NEW MAN HAS ARRIVED ON EARTH!



KRAK!



ALL THIS HYPERDUPER-SUPER-DARWINIAN TALK OF YOURS--

VAK!

--SOUNDS IRONICALLY RELIGIOUS TO ME!



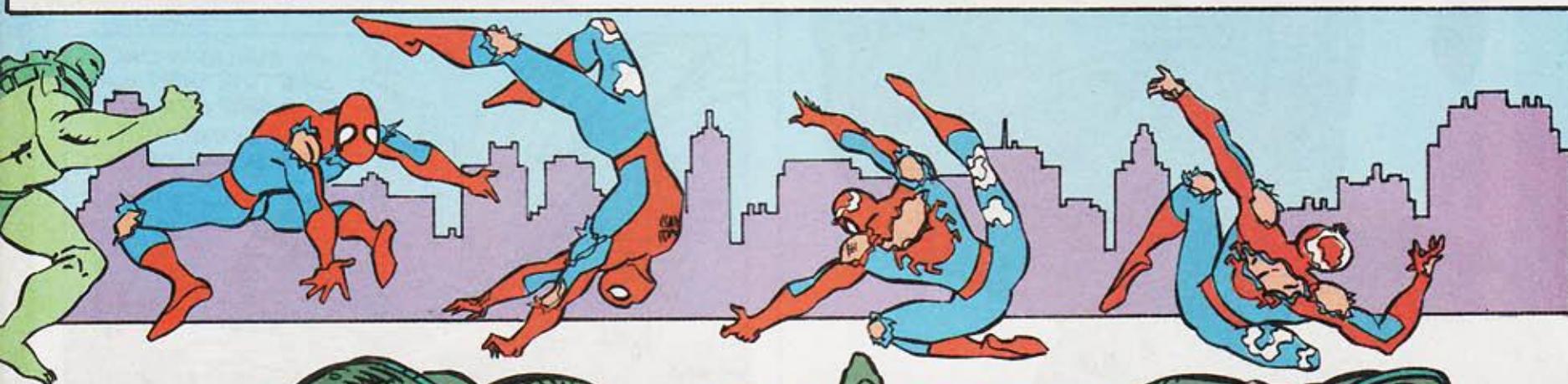
ONE MAN'S FAITH IS ANOTHER MAN'S SCIENCE!

KRUSH!



I GOTTA KEEP HITTING HIM IN THE HEAD, KEEP HIM GROGGY, SO HE CAN'T BRAINSTORM ME!

TIRE HIM OUT TILL I CAN WEB HIM UP!

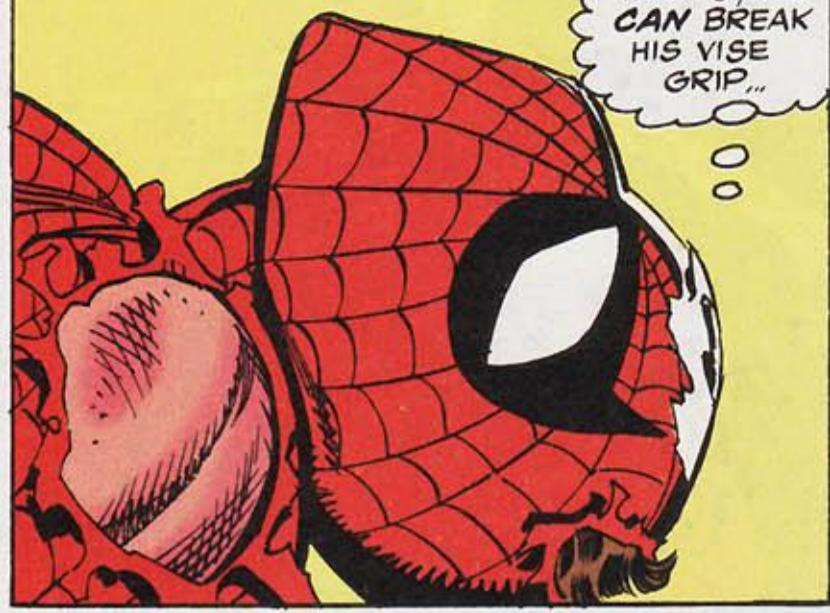


HE'S CRUSHING ME, I'VE GOT TO HIT
HIM HARD IN HIS HEAD, GET HIM
SPINNING AND WEB HIM UP!

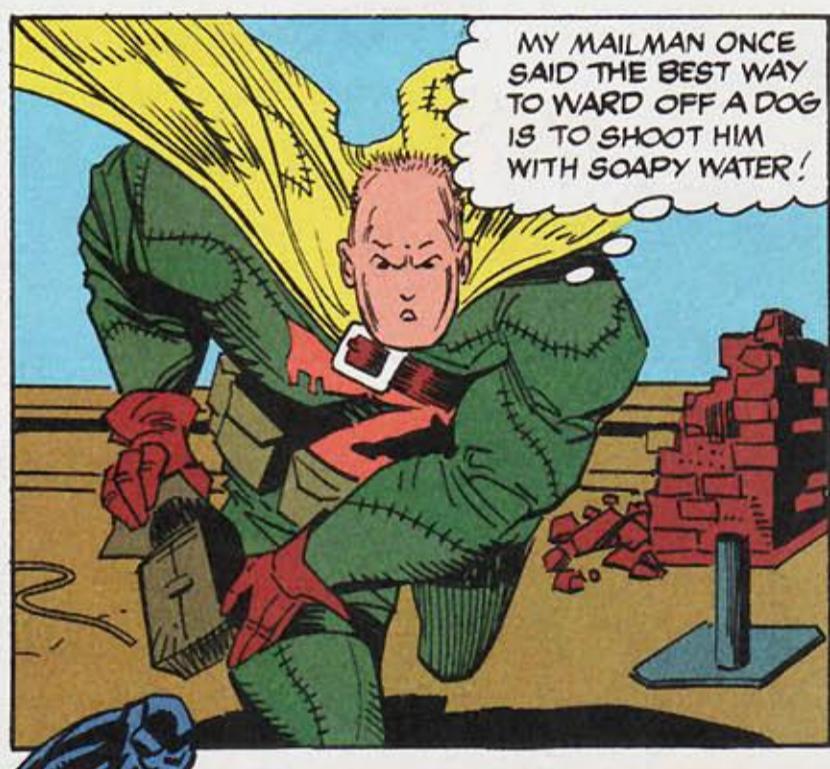


OKAY, GOTTA GIVE IT MY ALL, BREAK FREE
AND GO FOR A DOUBLE PLAY!

THAT IS, IF I
CAN BREAK
HIS VISE
GRIP...



MY MAILMAN ONCE
SAID THE BEST WAY
TO WARD OFF A DOG
IS TO SHOOT HIM
WITH SOAPY WATER!



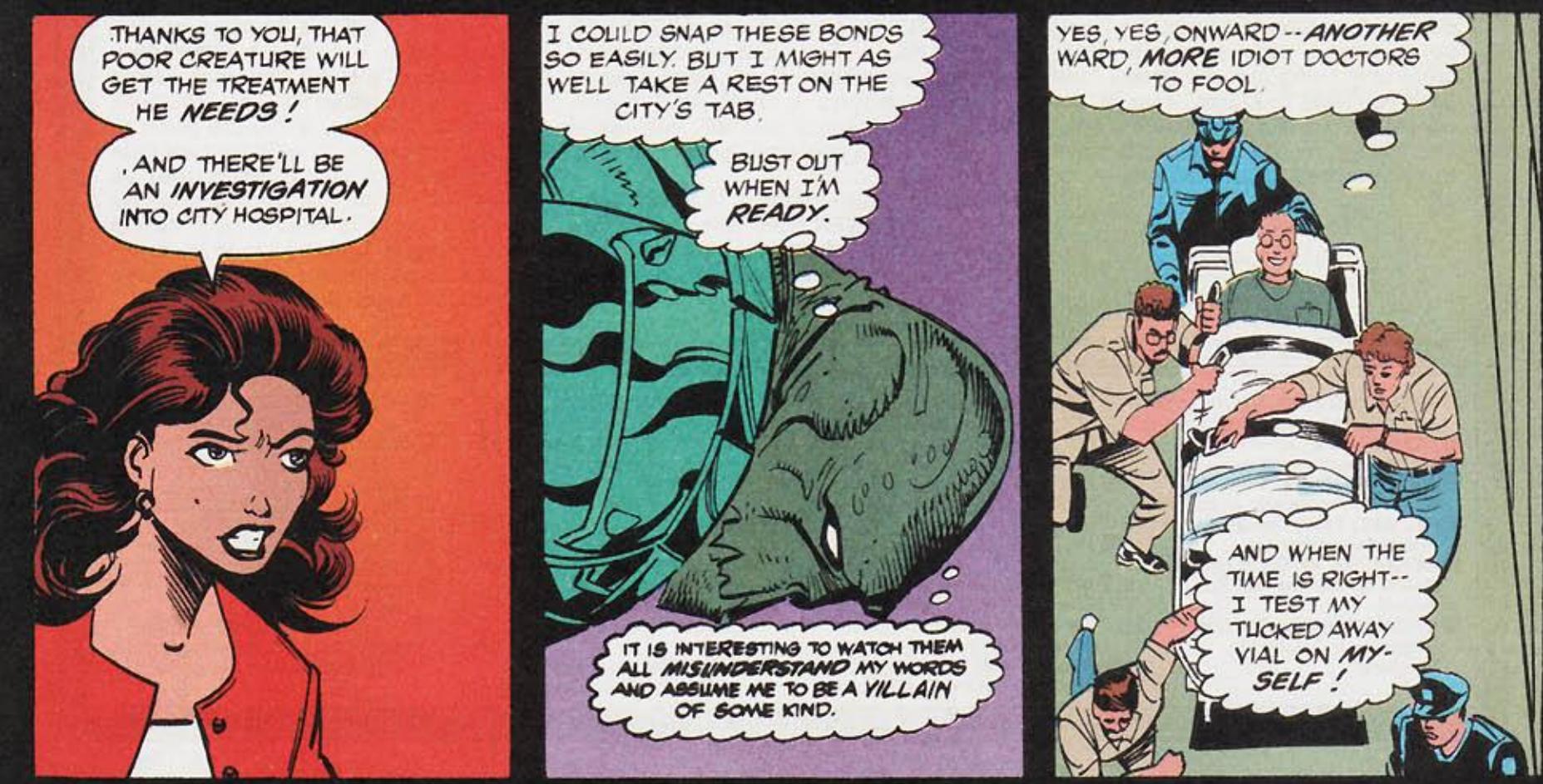
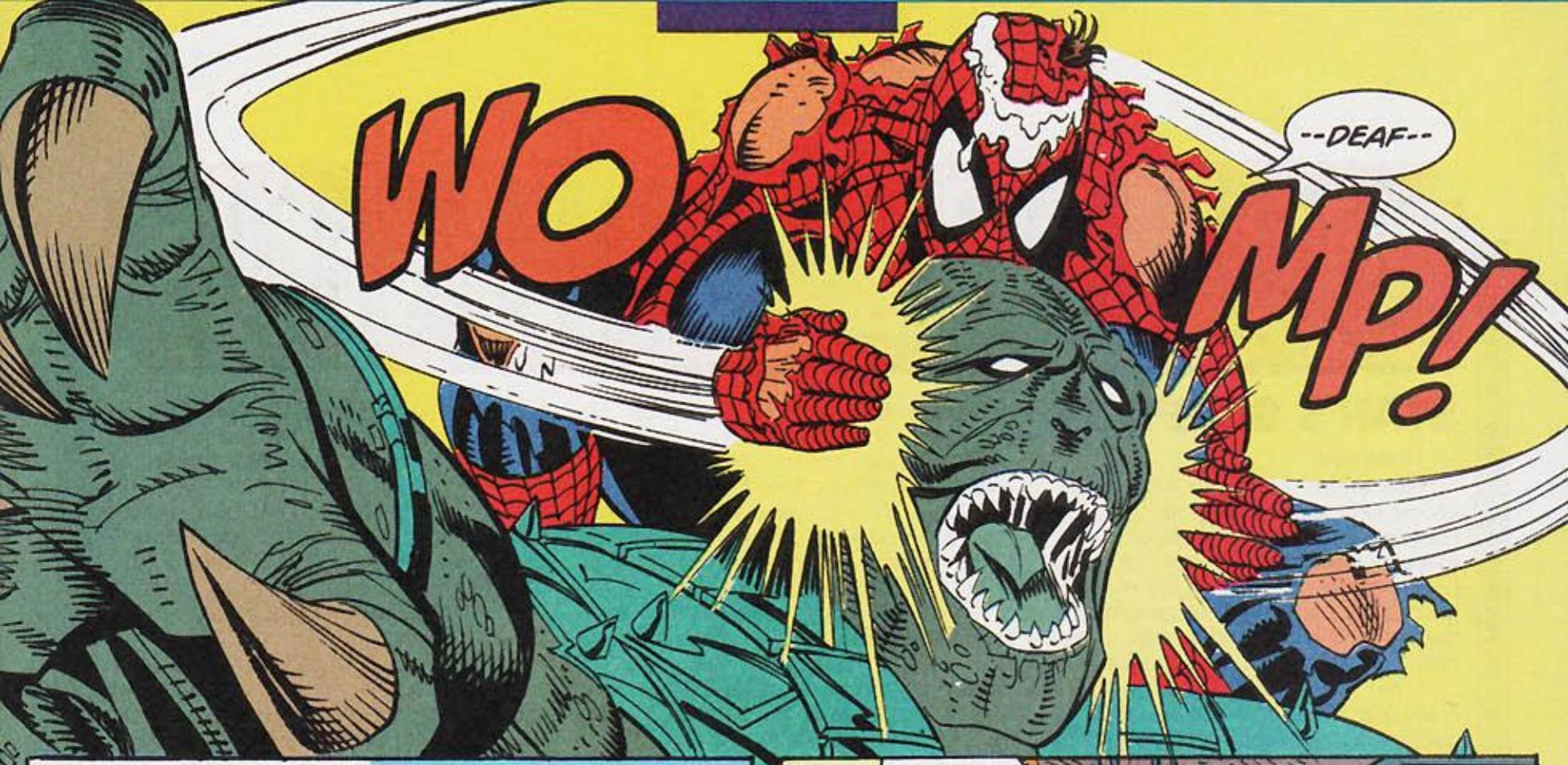
PERFECT
TIMING!

I'M NO
SUPER-
DRAG!

GIVE IT
TO 'IM,
CAPTAIN!

NOW HE'S
BLINDED--





BULLPEN

MARVEL
COMICS

BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi Heroes!

Remember long ago when most young kids wanted to grow up to be policemen, firemen, or cowboys? Well, that was then but this is now! Judging by the avalanche of mail we receive, practically all the young people out there — and a lot of older ones, too — now want to draw for comicbooks!

Most of the letters ask the same questions: What do I have to study to become a comicbook artist, and how do I break into the field? Well, just to show our Christmas spirit, I'll try to give you a capsule answer to those queries, to save you the trouble of writing any additional letters!

The most important rule I can think of is — don't just try to be a comicbook artist; first become an artist! Study the whole world of art — anatomy, composition, perspective, portraiture, color, etc. The more knowledge you bring to your craft, the more effective your panels will be. Not until you've become proficient in all the essential elements of illustration should you try to zero in on the technique of drawing comics.

Always remember, comicbook artists are like movie directors. They must decide on the best "camera angle" for each panel. They must be able to cast the best actor in each role (by drawing characters who most perfectly suit the situation) and they must know how to frame each panel, how to light each panel and how to keep the reader's eye moving from panel to panel in the smoothest way. So study movies as much as you study comics. There's a great parallel between the two.

As for "how to break into comics," the method is simple, though the competition is tough. Once you think your work is up to professional standards, draw a few sample pages depicting some typical superhero situation, preferably using our characters, and send your illos to Marvel, care of The Submissions Editor. If you're the artist he's looking for, his reply might prove to be your best Christmas present of all!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

- AVENGERS #359: Arkon's back and there's gonna be trouble!
- CONAN #265: Conan and Isparana battle Karlik the Great!
- DARK ANGEL #8: It's like American comics with an accent!
- DR. WHO #194: Remember, the British are our friends!
- DOOM 2099 #2: Doom plays a deadly chessgame with Rook Seven!
- EXCALIBUR #62: The final Phoenix vs. Galactus! Be there!

- FISH POLICE #5: With the voice of John Ritter as Inspector Gill!
- G.I. JOE #133: Duke, Roadblock, Snake-Eyes — Which one is Joe?
- GIANT-SIZED X-MEN #1 MARVEL MILESTONE: Classic reprint!
- HELLRAISER #19: It's Clive Barker-ific!
- INCREDIBLE HULK #402: Doc Samson! The Juggernaut! And the rain forest! Which of these three doesn't belong?
- MARVEL AGE #121: Ren & Stimpy! The Mys-Tech War! The Bossman!

The holiday season is upon us. It's time to decorate your tree with hologram covers, Marvel action figures, and MARVEL MASTERPIECE Trading Cards. Time to make a list, and check it twice, and find out which titles are crossing over with next year's INFINITY CRUSADE mega-epic.

Hildy Mesnik's assistant, Kevin Kobasic, is fulfilling a Christmas dream of his own right now, as he leaves staff to pursue a stint as a freelance penciler! Kevin's work has appeared in such titles as CAPTAIN AMERICA and PUNISHER,

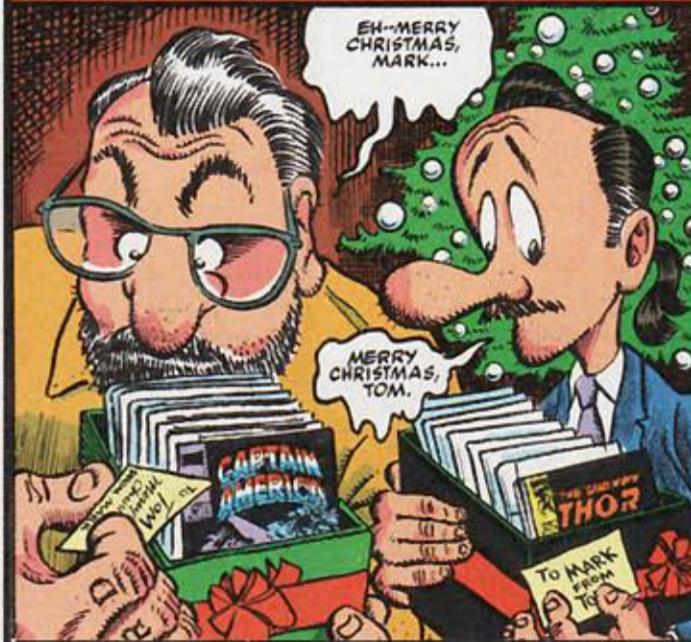
Bal of his very own, the lovely Kirsten Smith. The ceremony featured a reading by Ron's former teacher, Jim Starlin, of WARLOCK and INFINITY WATCH/GAUNTLET/WAR/CRUSADE/Whatever fame. We're not sure, but we think the reading was from one of Jim's classic SILVER SURFER issues! Jim and Ron are now the co-writers of THOR, presenting cosmic adventure that would astound even Carl Sagan! In attendance at Ron's wedding were a virtual who's who of upstate New York comics legends: Terry Austin, Fred Hembeck, Bernie Wrightson, Jack Morelli, and Christie Scheele! Rumor has it that Ron used a cosmic-powered surfboard to get to the church on time!

Church-goers are in for a treat with the arrival of an all-new line of religious comics. Thomas Nelson Publishing, one of the largest publishers of Christian inspirational books, specializing in children's and adventure fiction, has teamed with Marvel, the maker of such books as ST. FRANCIS and THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, to produce a whole series of titles primarily for the inspirational book market. Marvel will produce the comics while Thomas Nelson will distribute them to religious bookshops all over the world.

The first three titles in our religious line debut this month. They are: PARAGON, which is a bi-monthly 48 page series about a brand new teen super hero, by Glenn Herdling, Craig Brasfield, and Frank Turner; PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, a 96 page adaptation of the classic novel by Martin Powell, Seppo Makinen, and Bob Downs; and THE CHRISTMAS STORY, a 32 page retelling of the Nativity, by Louise Simonson, Mary Wilshire, and Bill Anderson. More titles, regular series as well as adaptations of Christian classics, are in the planning stages. This exciting new venture puts our comics in a venue where they've never been before. As long as there are readers out there who aren't Marvel Comics readers, we're going to keep trying out new and more varied comics to try to get them to join our flock!

THE BULL'S EYE

by Barry Dutter & Rick Parker



and he is currently wrapping up a tour of duty in THE 'NAM! Assuming Kevin's position is James Felder. After a year of hanging around the Marvel Building, working as an underpaid intern, James has finally joined the Marvel staff. James and Hildy work on such titles as BARBIE, BARBIE FASHION, DARKHOLD, NIGHT-STALKERS, and the all-new MIDNIGHT SONS UNLIMITED. Just goes to show you that sometimes if you hang around someplace long enough and make enough of a pest of yourself, eventually people will give you what you want just to shut you up!

This coming Christmas is a very special one for SILVER SURFER scripter Ron Marz — it's the first time he's spending the holidays as a married man! This past August, Ron tied the knot with a Shall-

- MARVEL TALES #270: Reprinting the intro of the Puma!
- MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW 92: Cover by John Romita Jr!
- MORBIUS #6: The poor little rich vampire vs. Basilisk!
- NIGHTBREED #24: The search for a new Midian begins!!
- PUNISHER #75: Puny steps on the Master of Crack!
- SHIELD #44: With Captain America — the original super agent!
- SLAPSTICK #4: The limited series concludes! A knee-slapper!

- SPIDER-MAN #31: Concluding "Return to Mad Dog Ward!"
- WARLOCK & THE INFINITY WATCH #13: Hulk vs. the Destroyer! Yow!!
- WHAT IF... #46: What If Cable Had Destroyed the X-Men?
- X-FACTOR #87: New penciler Joe Quesada debuts!
- X-MEN #17: Featuring Omega Red!
- X-MEN ADVENTURES #4: We had to give Ralf something to do! An adaptation on the hit cartoon!

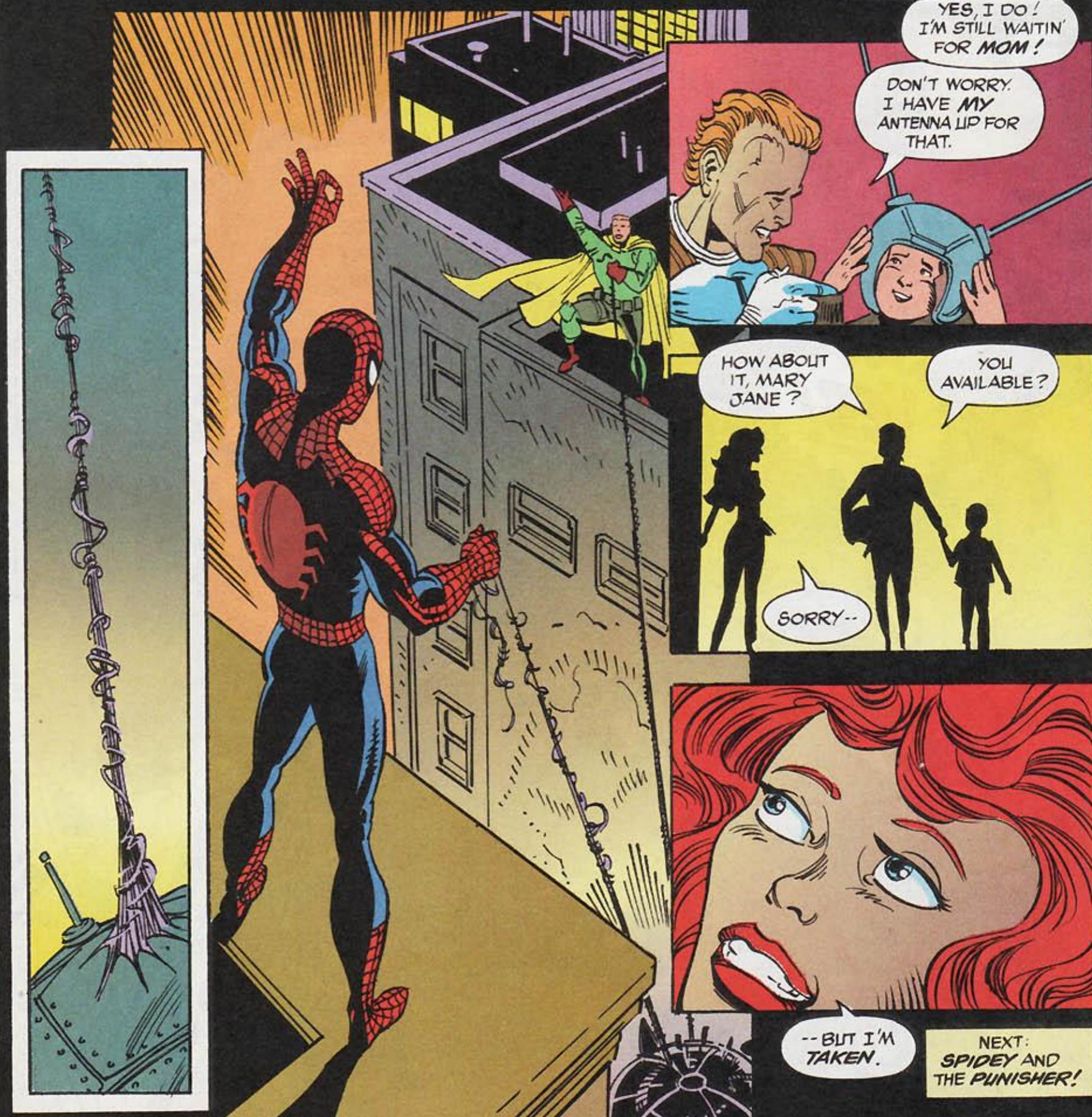
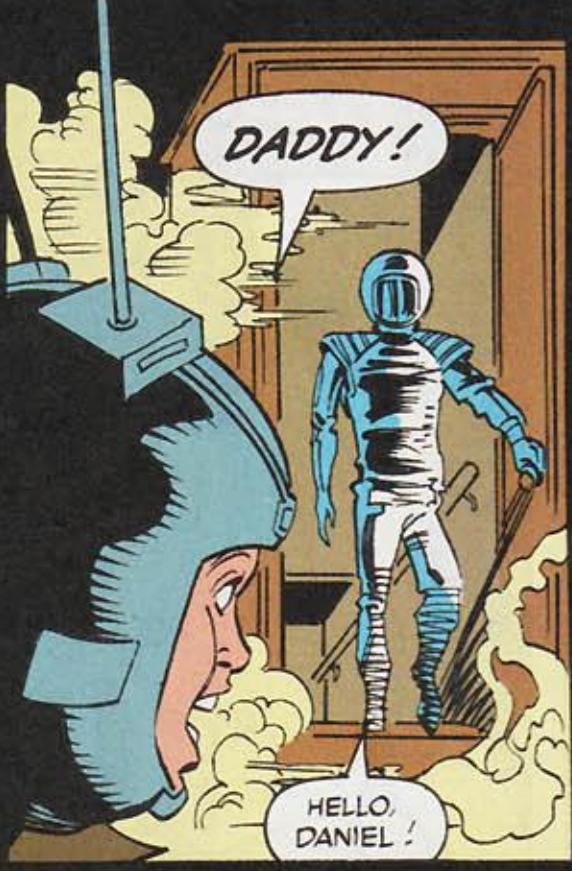
HYPELINE: ON SALE THIS WEEK



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CRAWL SPACE

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

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
MIKE LACKEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Crawl Space,

I loved the "Revenge of the Sinister Six" series — it was even better than "Round Robin: The Sidekick's Revenge" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #353-358. The covers were awesome and the storyline was great. I love the way Erik does the covers — Spidey looks awesome!

I liked having all of those characters helping Spider-Man. I would love to see solo, Sleepwalker, and Deathlok team up with Spidey more often. How about giving Solo his own comic?

Why don't you guys give Spider-Man a new costume. A red, white, and blue one would be nice for the Fourth of July, a blue and yellow one would be neat, or maybe an orange and navy blue one. The choice is yours.

That's all for now!

Nathan Kilness
(Address withheld by request)

A new costume, Nathan?! No, sorry, but we're rather attached to the good ol' red and blue! Of course, we said that before we made Spidey's costume black and white for a few years, too.

Dear Crawl Space,

It is high time somebody told you how awesome, great, wicked, and magical your "Revenge of the Sinister Six" was. The best had to be issue #23, the conclusion. The artwork was superb, the color great, the captions even better, and the plot — oh, the plot! It was the best ever!

That's all! Bye!

Robert Luck
8510 Image Way
Louisville, KY 40299

For Venom, check out the current "Spirits of Venom" storyline in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE. Then, follow that up with Venom appearances in AMAZING #s 373-375 (a giant-sized anniversary issue with a metallic cover). And then, be sure to check out Venom's own limited series, on sale in January! Enough Venom for ya? No? Then see the answer to "Houdini" Houde's letter below.

Dear Crawl Space,

Issue #23 — what an issue! Full of non-stop action. The cover even had action! Not a flaw. I can't wait to see future issues! This whole series was great. Keep up the good work!

Aaron Moore
385 Spring Lake Dr.
Pinehurst, NC 28374

We intend to, Aaron!

Dear Crawl Space,

I just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #s 18-23 and I have to say they were great. But, the art was even better!

The Sinister Six is my favorite team, so please bring them back. I also have a question: Will Spidey ever be in a DEATHLOK issue due to Spidey and Deathlok's deal in SPIDER-MAN #21?

So, until Spidey gets bitten by another radioactive bug, Make Mine Marvel!

Justin "Houdini" Houde
(Address withheld by request)

Spidey and Deathlok...well, just check out the incredible 14-parter crossing through all the Spidey titles (including the new SPIDER-MAN UNLIMITED), beginning in March. It's got Deathlok, and features two guys named Carnage and Venom!

Dear Crawl Space,

Let's see, what word describes SPIDER-MAN #23? Explosive? Amazing? Spectacular? They're all *understatements*!!! This was by far the best comic I ever read. But there was one itsy bitsy eeny weeny matter that I couldn't agree with. When issue #23 ended, the web-head was left in a very, very serious predicament, and he got out of it just like that! Hey, don't get me wrong, I know that Spidey's the best, but it seemed like everything happened too fast. Aside from that one little thing, this was the best comic I ever read.

I'd like to congratulate Mr. Larsen and everyone else who helped create "The revenge of the Sinister Six." And last but not least, until Mary Jane gets divorced and marries "Arnold Schwarzenheimer," Make Mine Marvel!

Gino Barrice
169 Brandon
Conroe, TX

Thanks for the praise, Gino. Hope we're living up to it.

Dear Webslingers,

I'm glad I decided to buy SPIDER-MAN #23. It was an excellent comic. I liked the fact that it had a 3 page gate-fold cover. The storyline was superb. I like the SPIDER-MAN series. It's definitely worth the extra money you have to pay for it.

"The Revenge of the Sinister Six" was a great story. Speaking of the Sinister Six, why don't we see characters like Electro and Mysterio against Spider-Man without having the rest of the Sinister Six involved? I think a comic featuring Electro vs. Spider-Man would be a definite hit. I, for one, would buy it. You don't see very much of these charac-

ters, and I would like to see more of them. They are some of Marvel's greatest villains.

Well, in the meantime, keep those cool comics coming, and until Spidey gets a job at a pesticide company, Make Mine Marvel!

Ben Cressey
5345 Moss Creek Lane
Clemmons, NC 27012

Ben, Electro was just in AMAZING, and Mysterio was in the history-making 30th Anniversary issue of WEB. And Electro's going to be playing a big part in an upcoming three-parter in this title. It's by J.M. DeMatteis and Klaus Janson and it's gonna be great! Look for it later in '93.

NEXT ISSUE: Spidey and the Punisher go against each other and against the all-new menace of the *Master of Vengeance* who — dressed as the web-slinger — is murdering folks! It's written by Steven Grant and drawn by Bob McLeod, and it's some of the finest work both have ever done. Be here and see for yourself!

