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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

ONLY ONE MAN
CAN SAVE
SPIDER-MAN FROM
THE HOBGOBLIN...

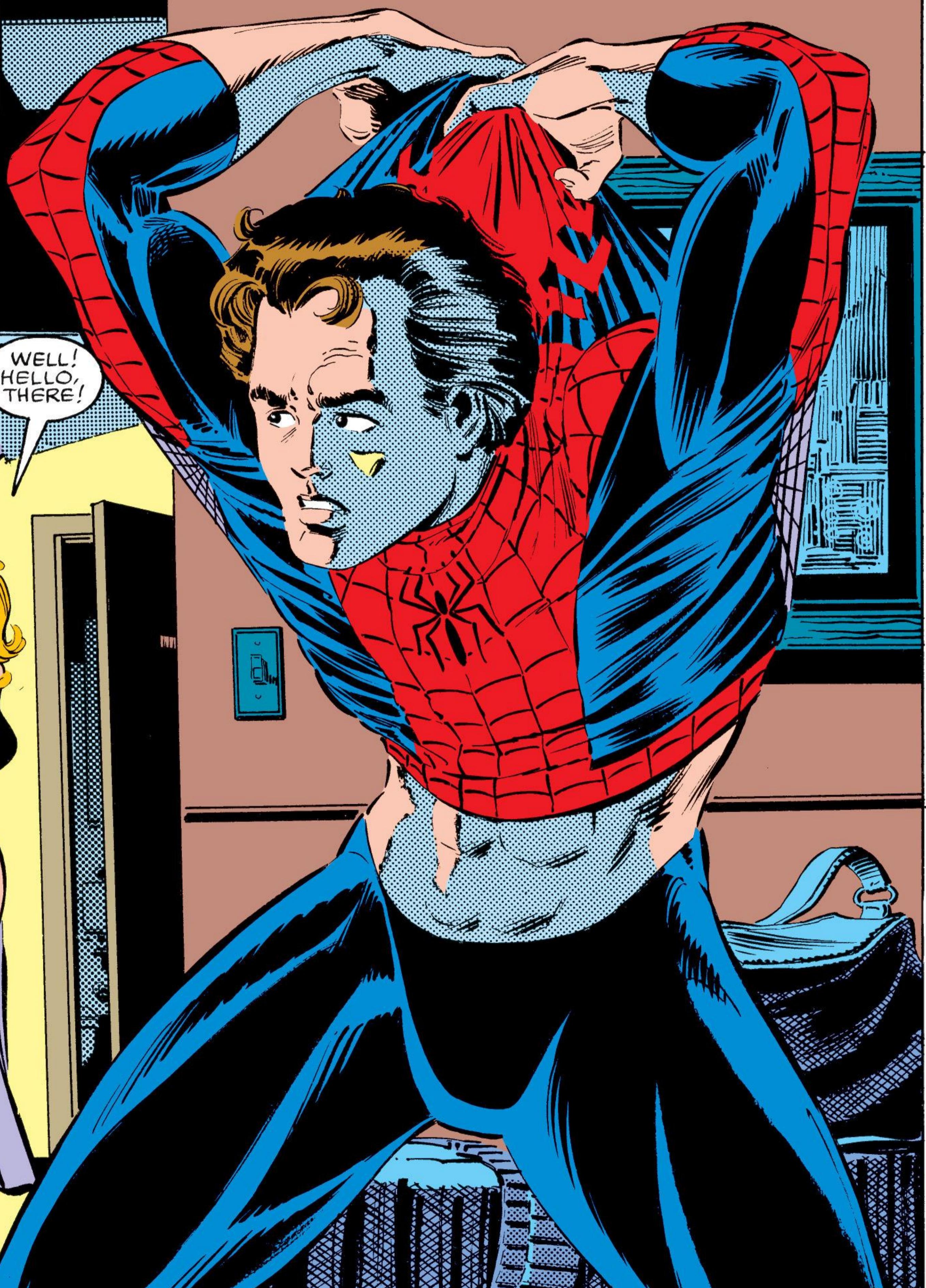
...IF THAT'S
YOUR IDEA OF
BEING SAVED!

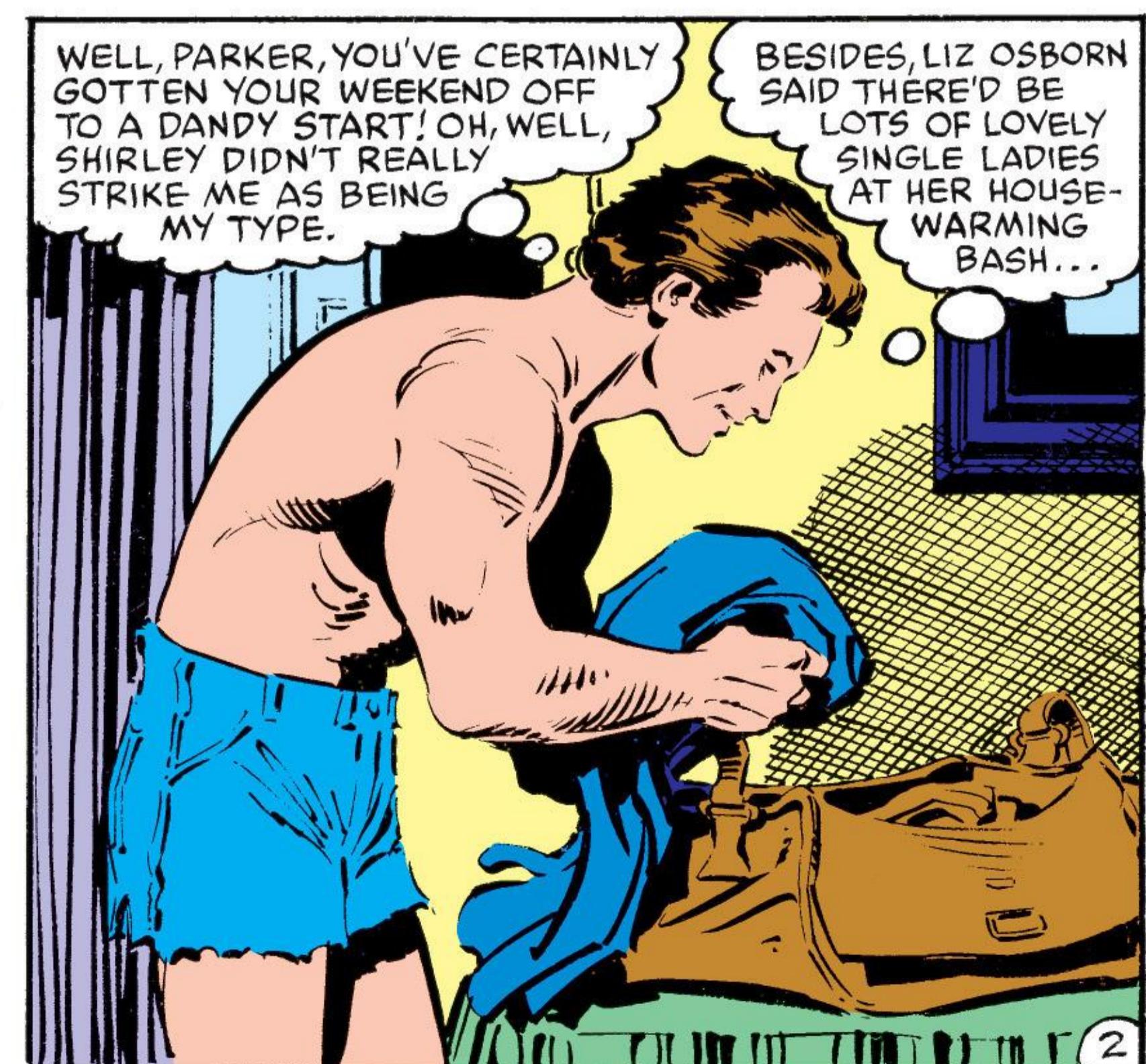
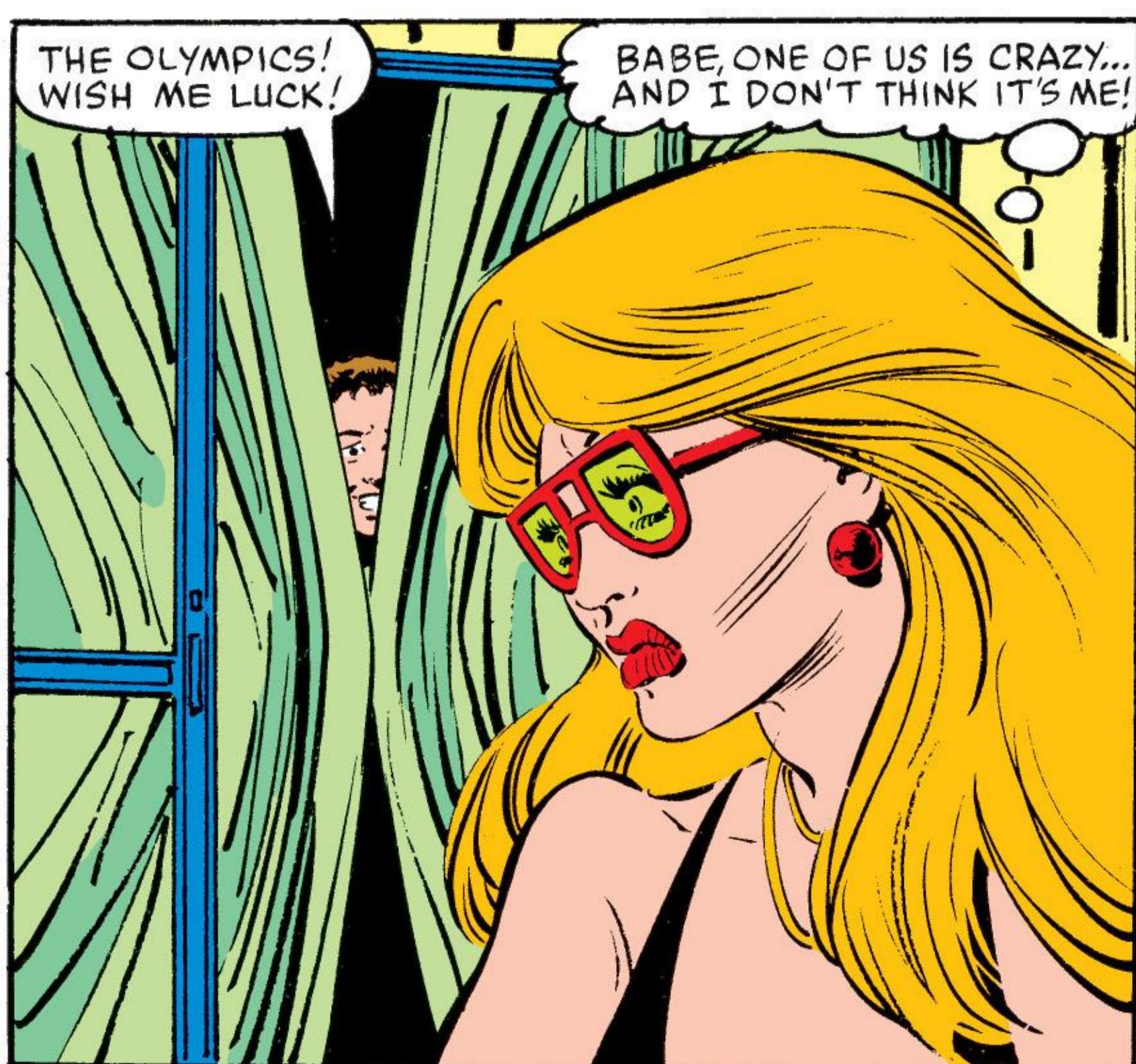
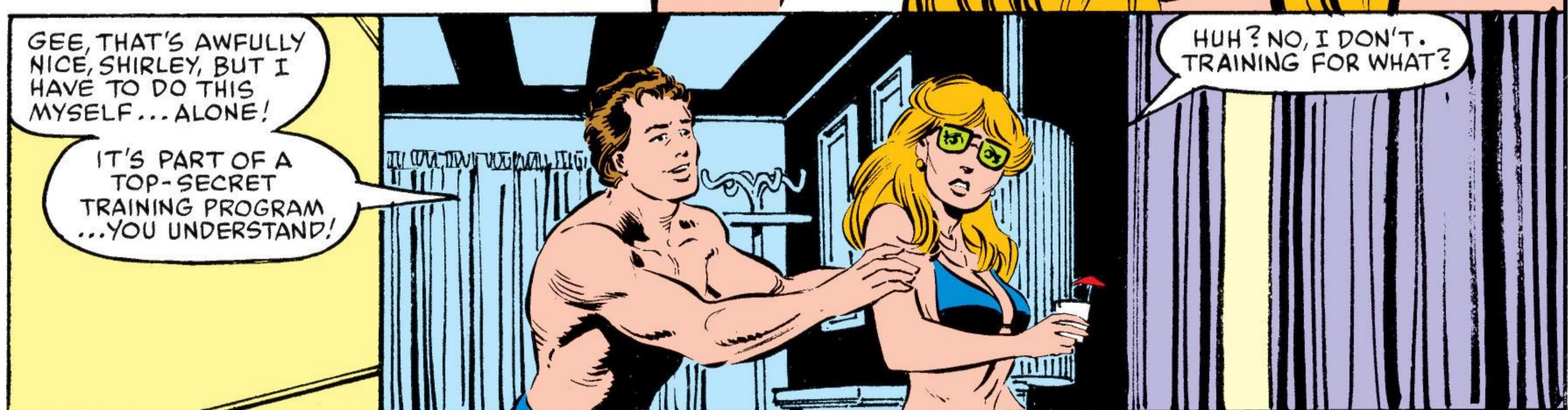
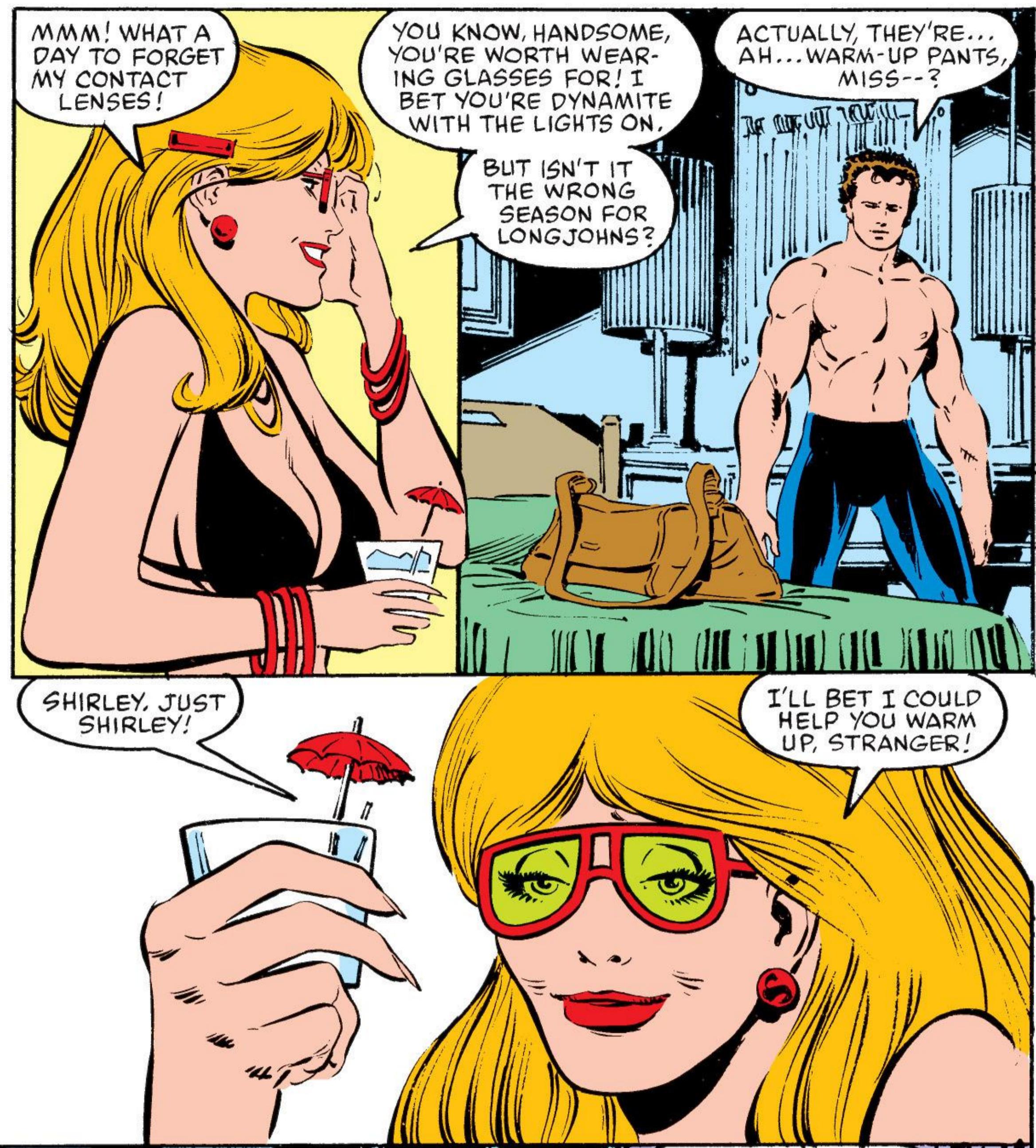
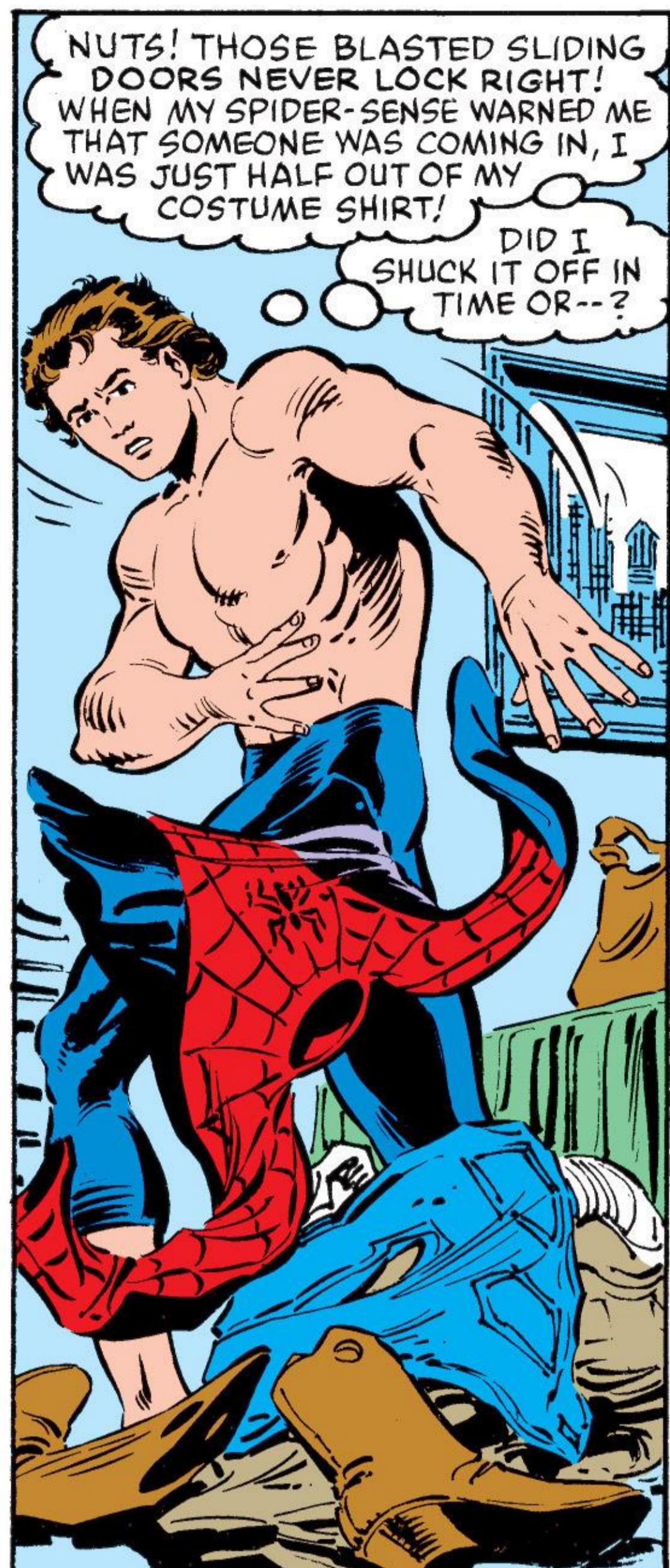


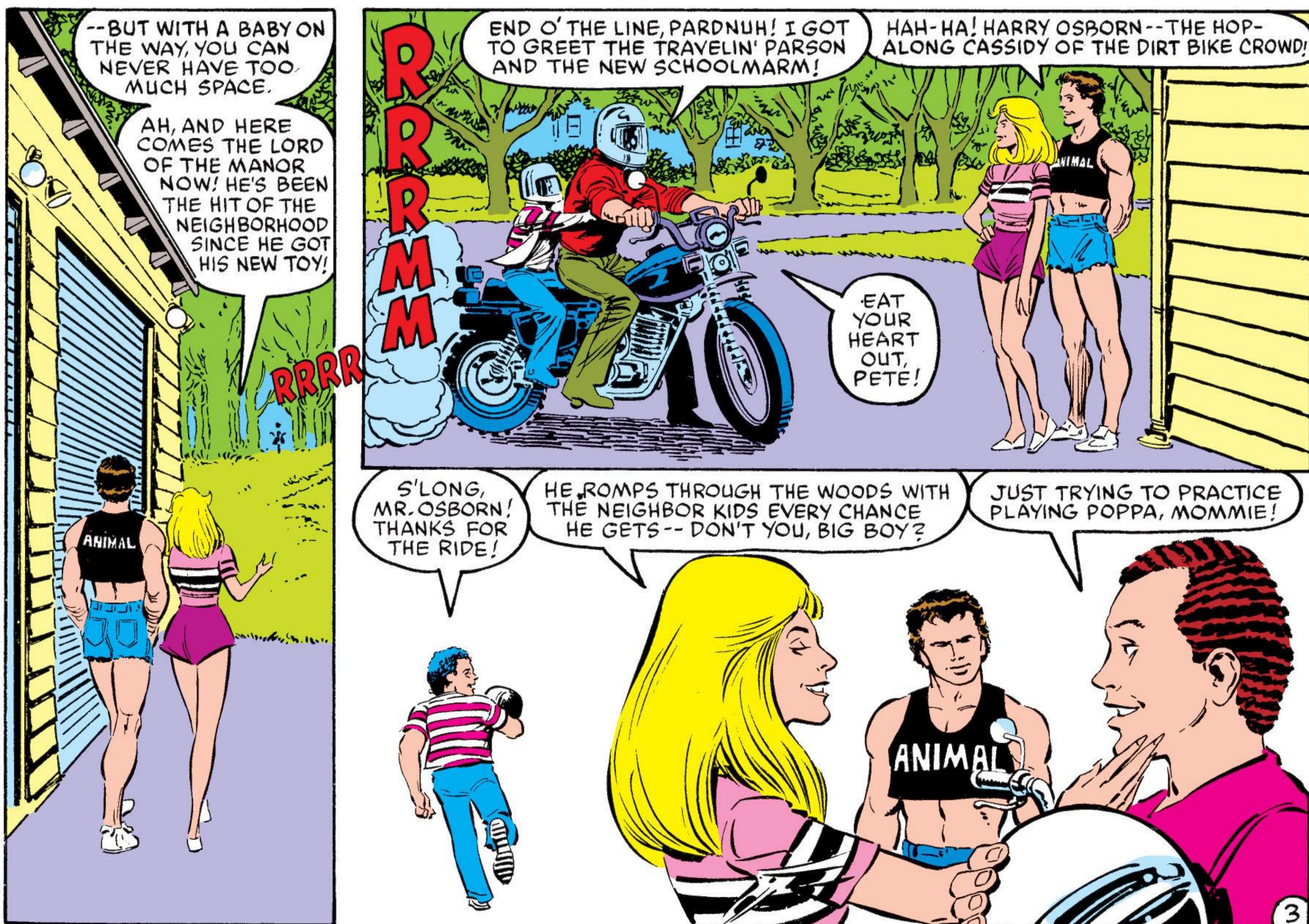
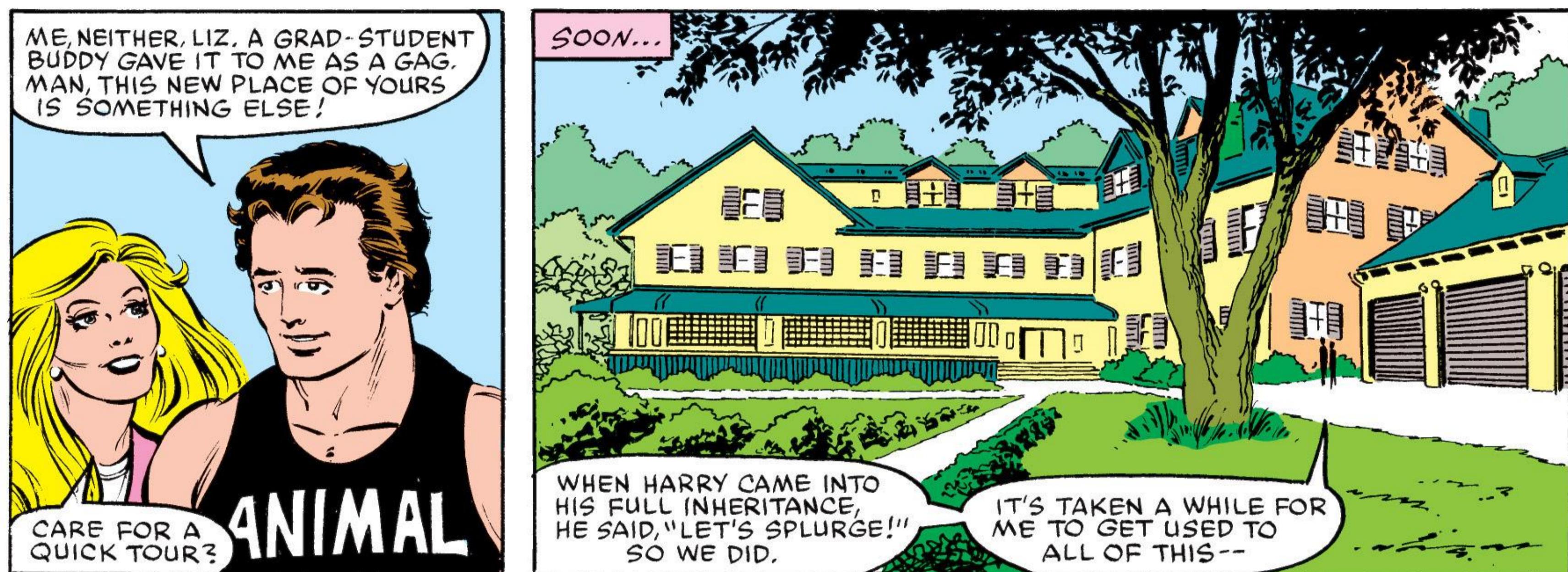
SECRETS!

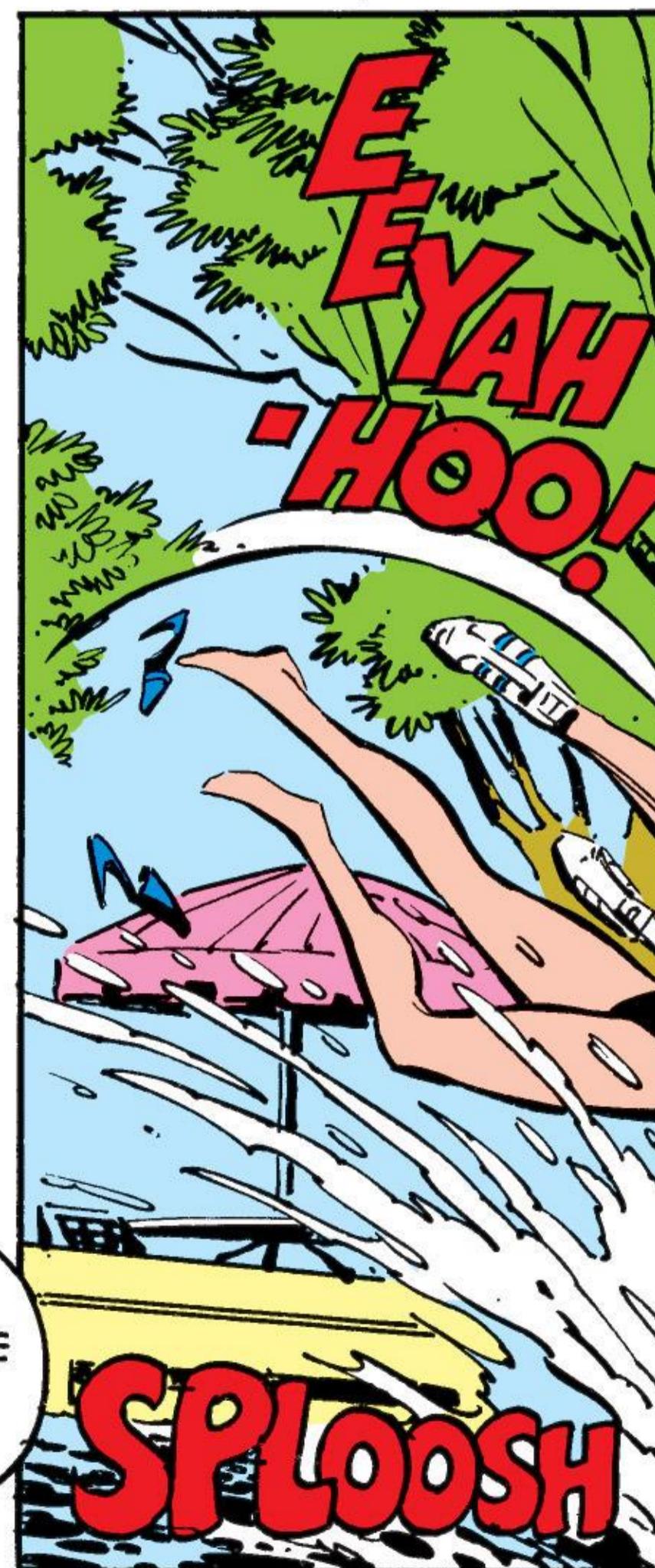
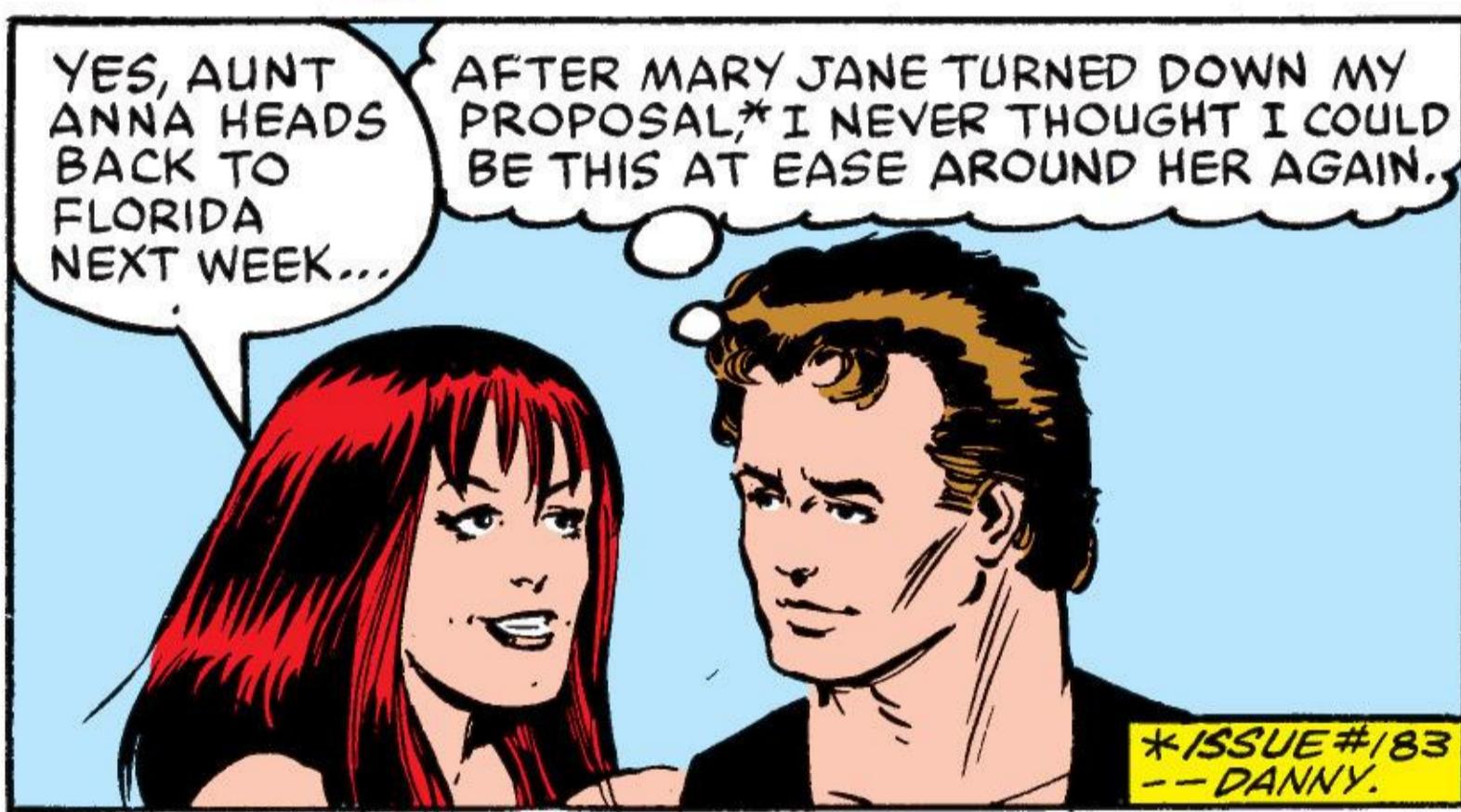
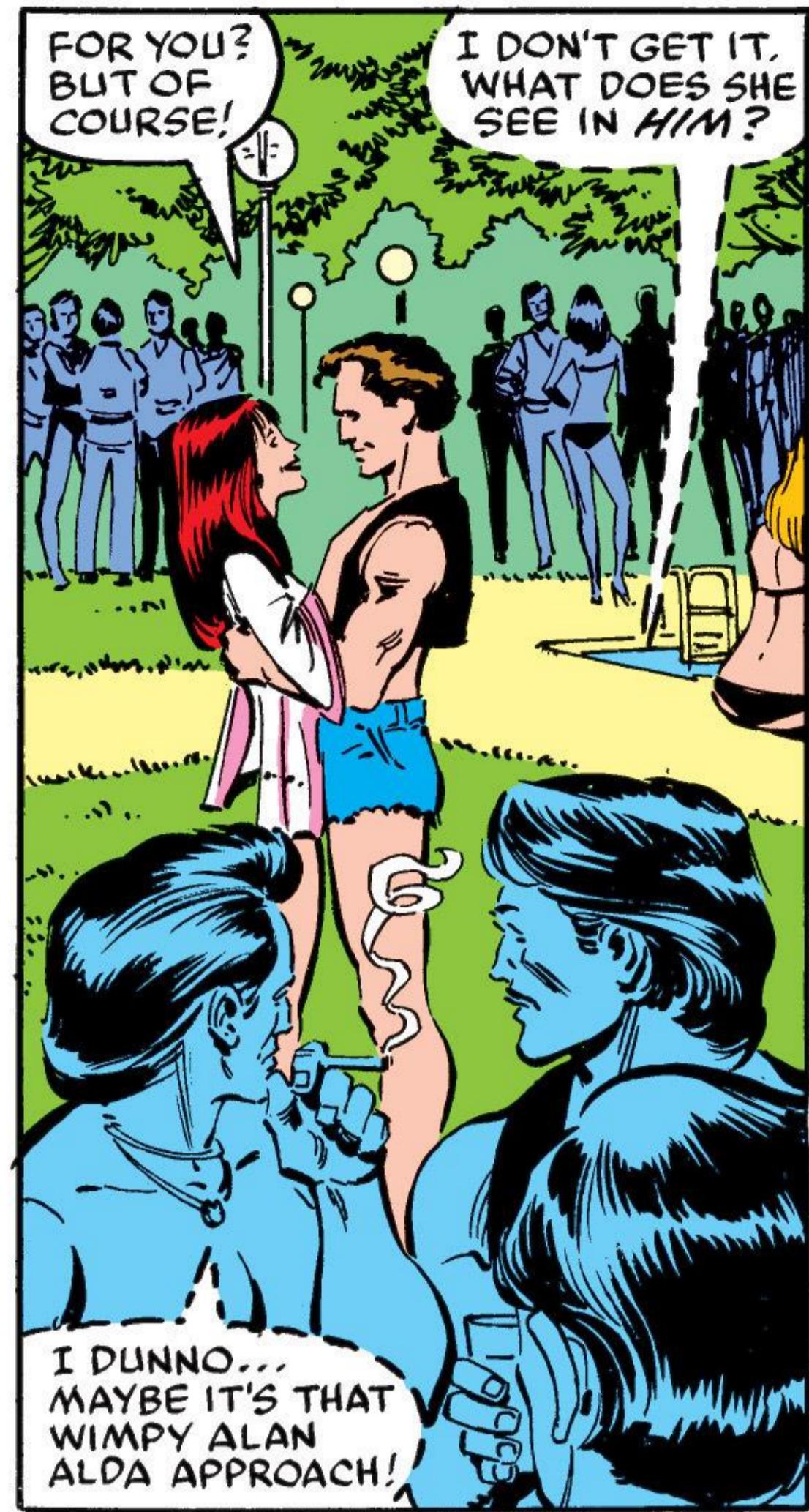
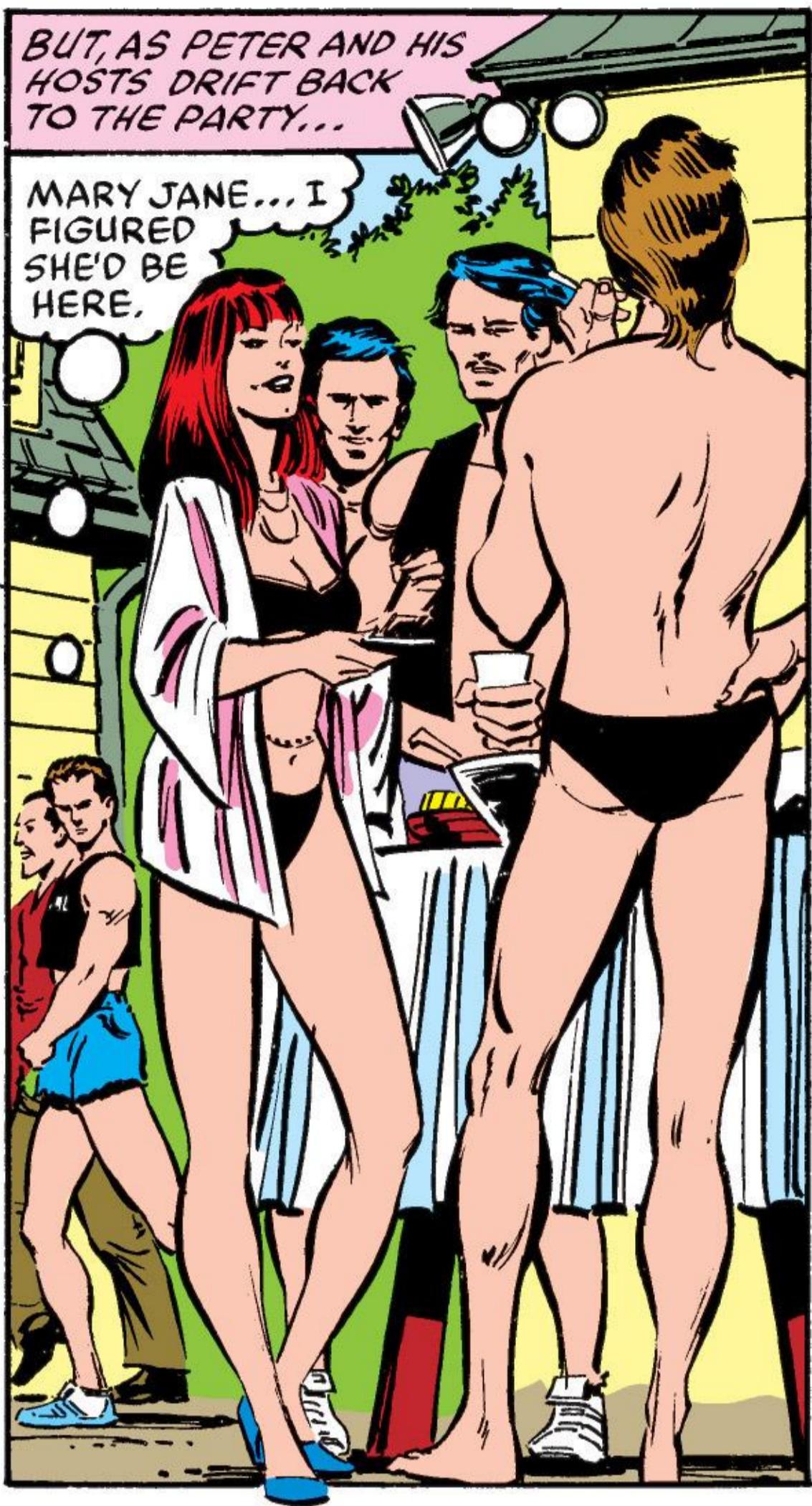
Presented by STAN LEE
Written by ROGER STERN
Breakdowns by JOHN ROMITA JR.
Finishes by DAN GREEN
Letters by JOE ROSEN
Colors by BOB SHAREN
Edited by DANNY FINGEROTH
Chiefed by JIM SHOOTER

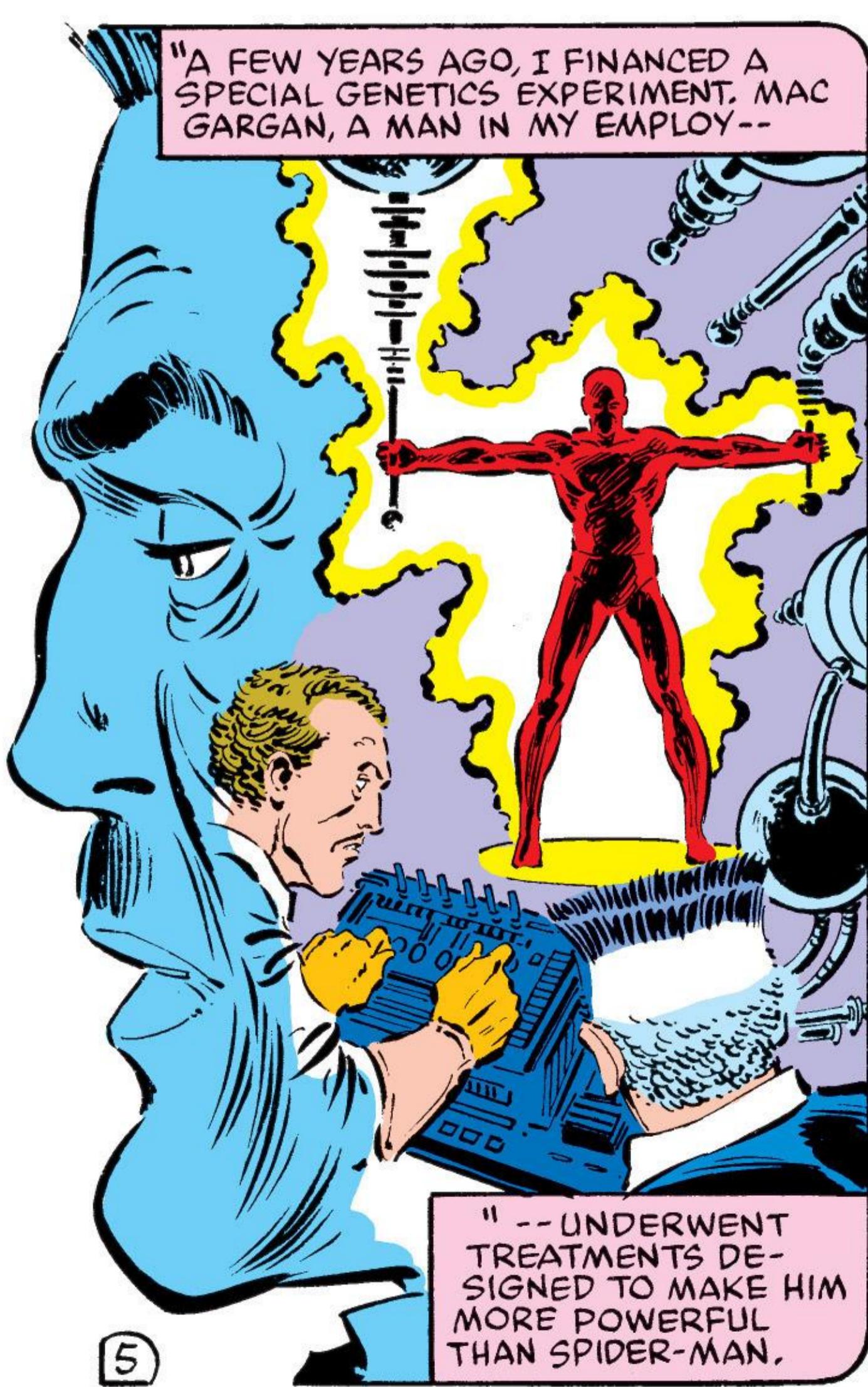
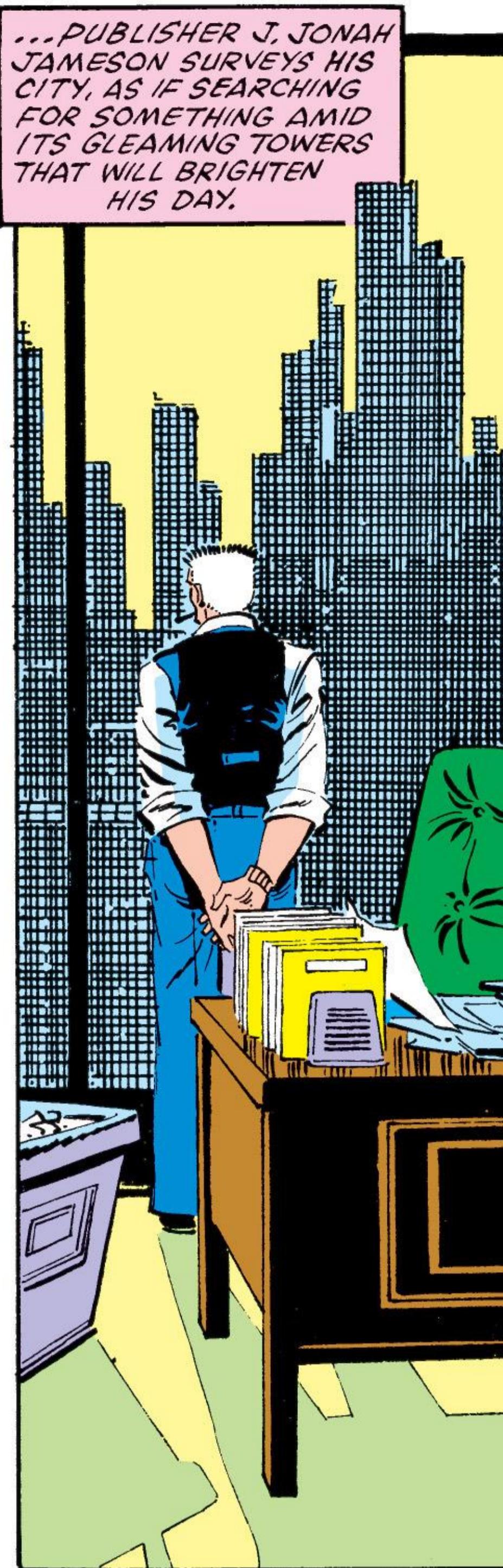
IN A DARKENED
COTTAGE ROOM IN
THE SUBURBAN
COMMUNITY OF
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS,
NEW JERSEY...

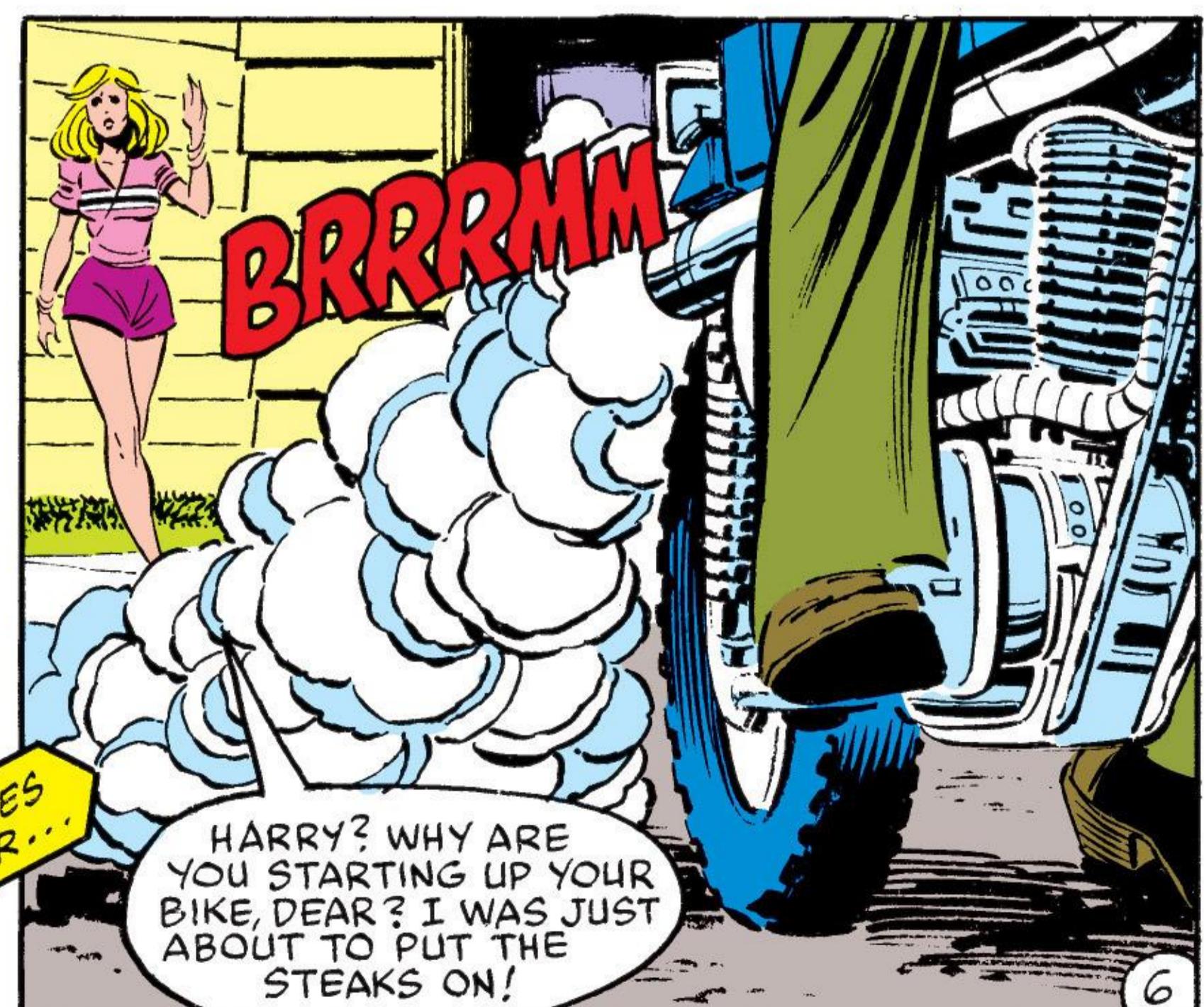
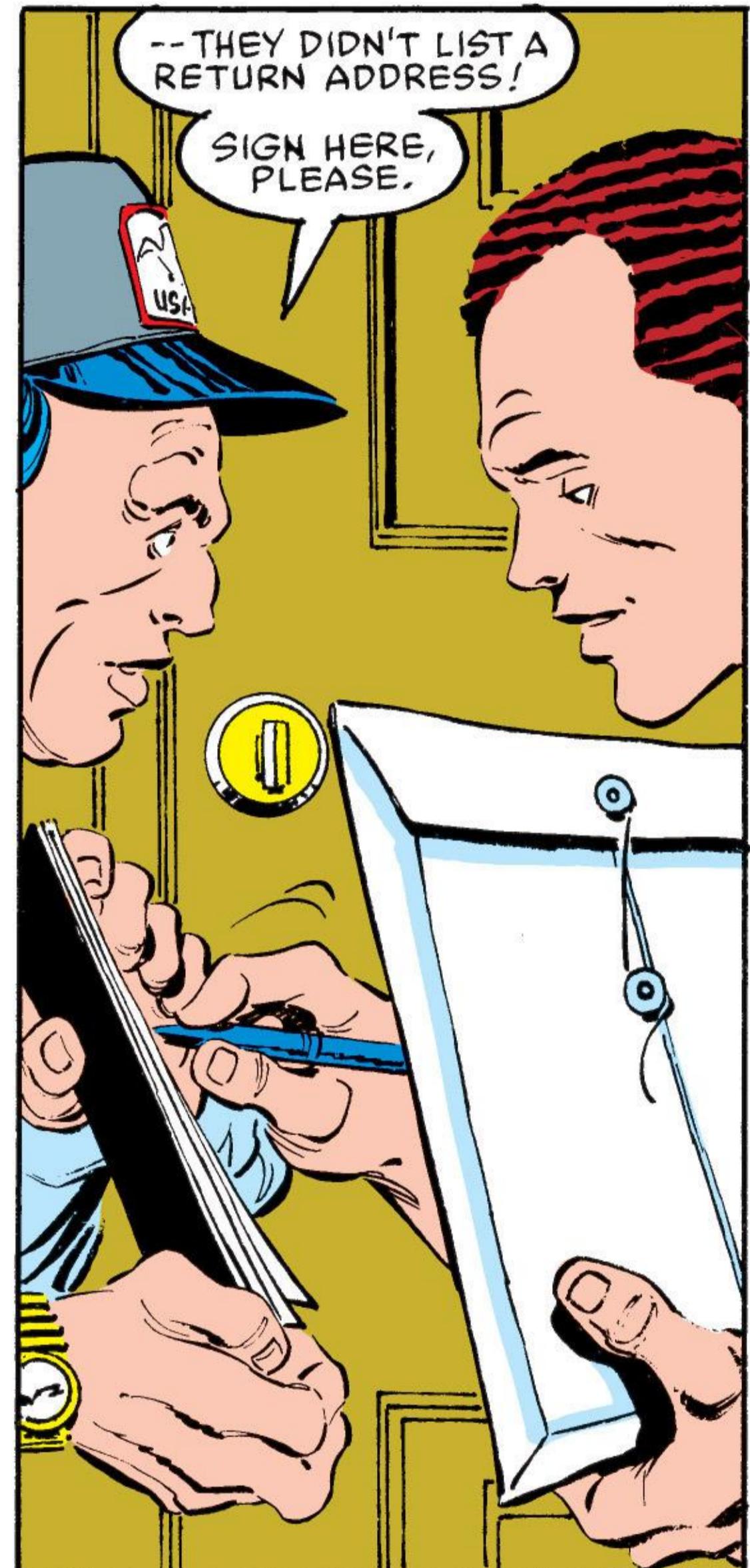
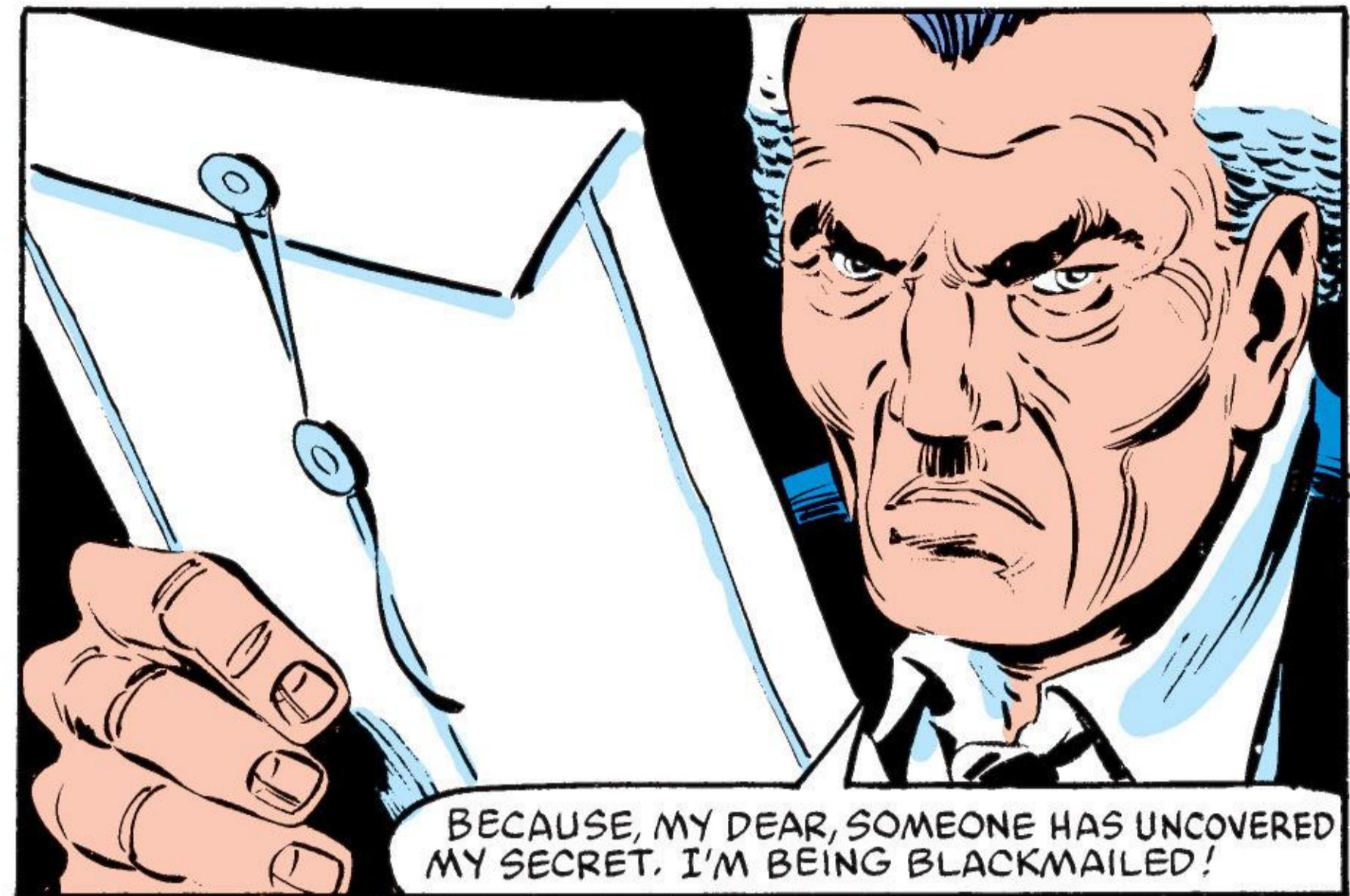
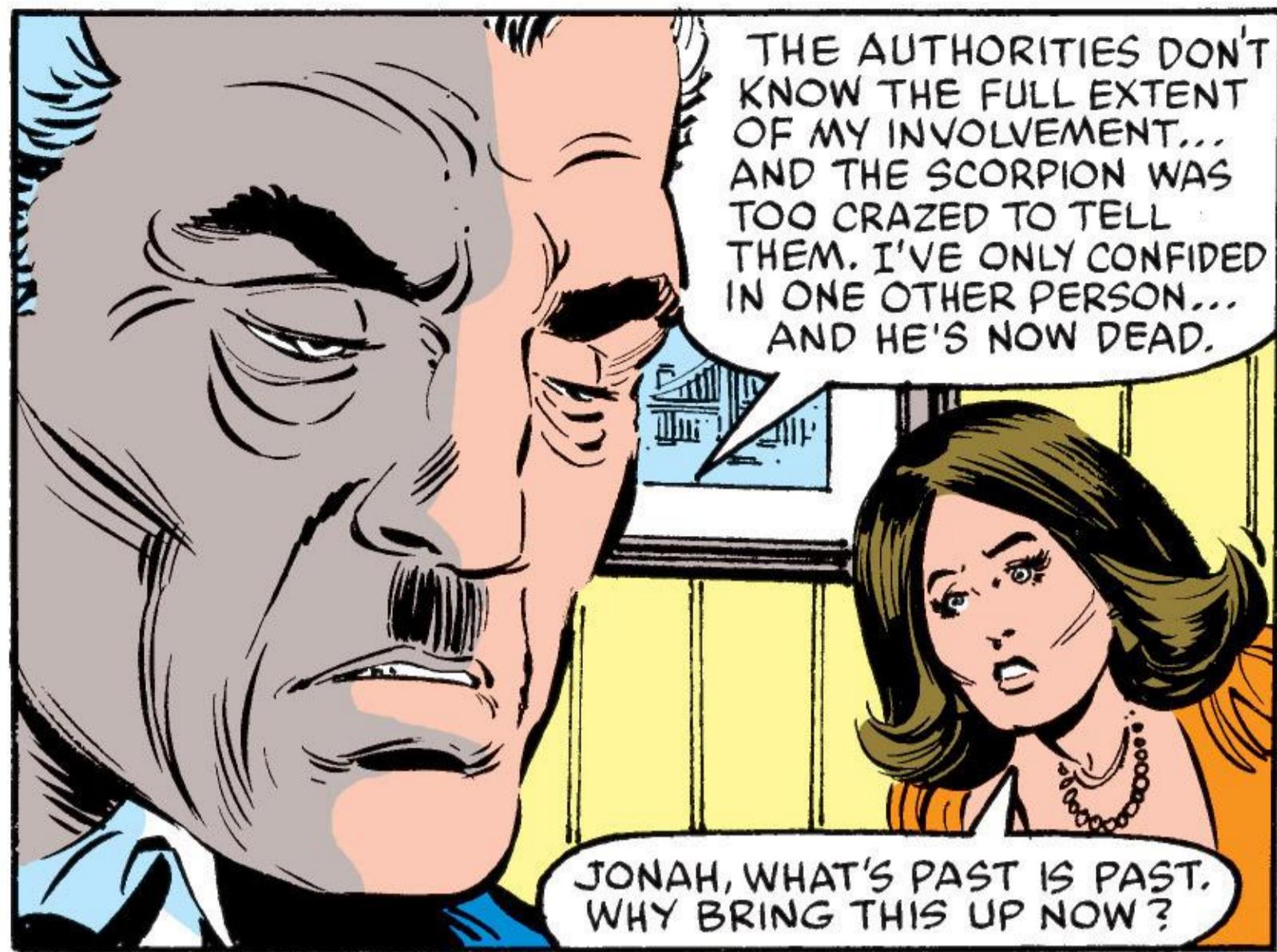


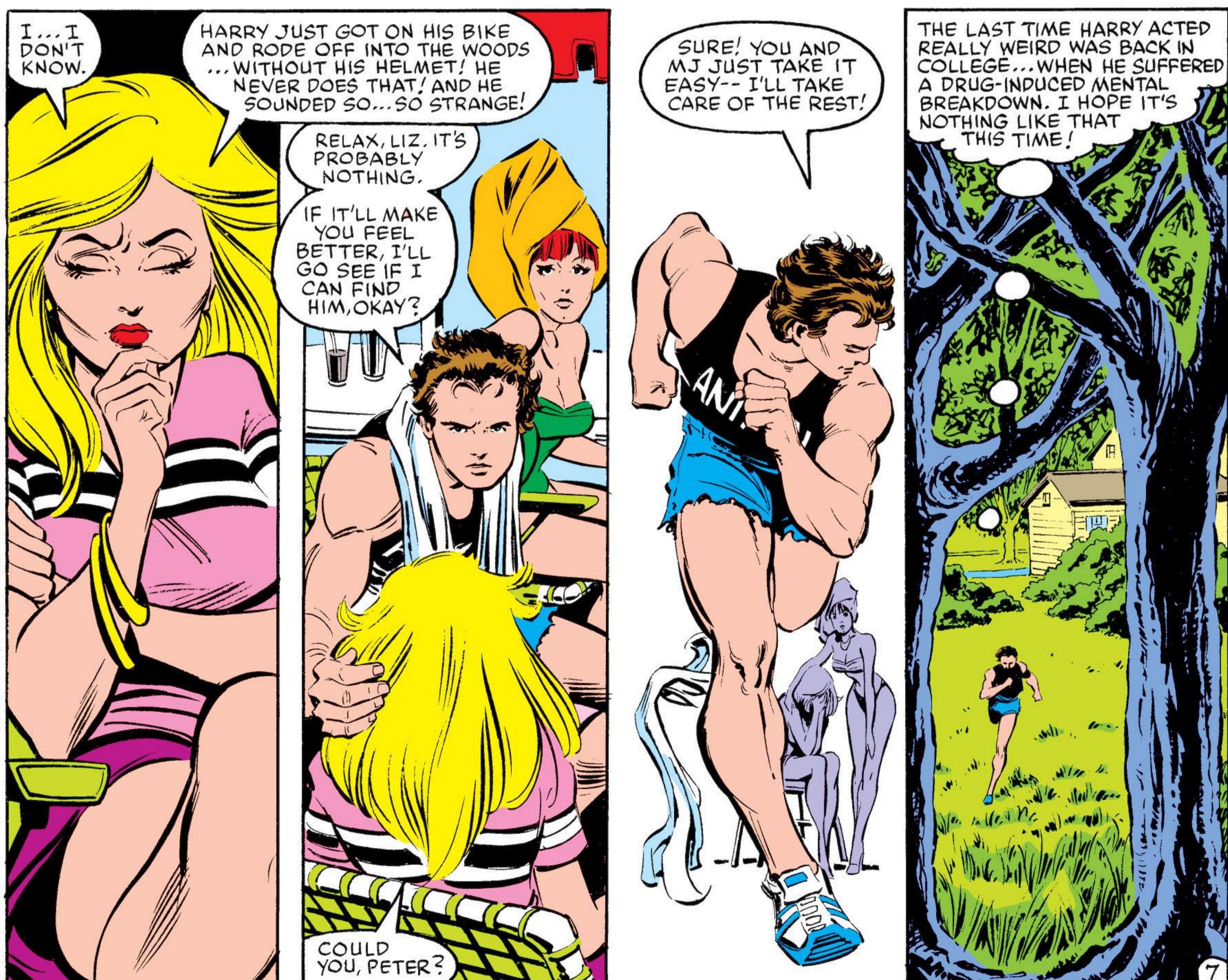
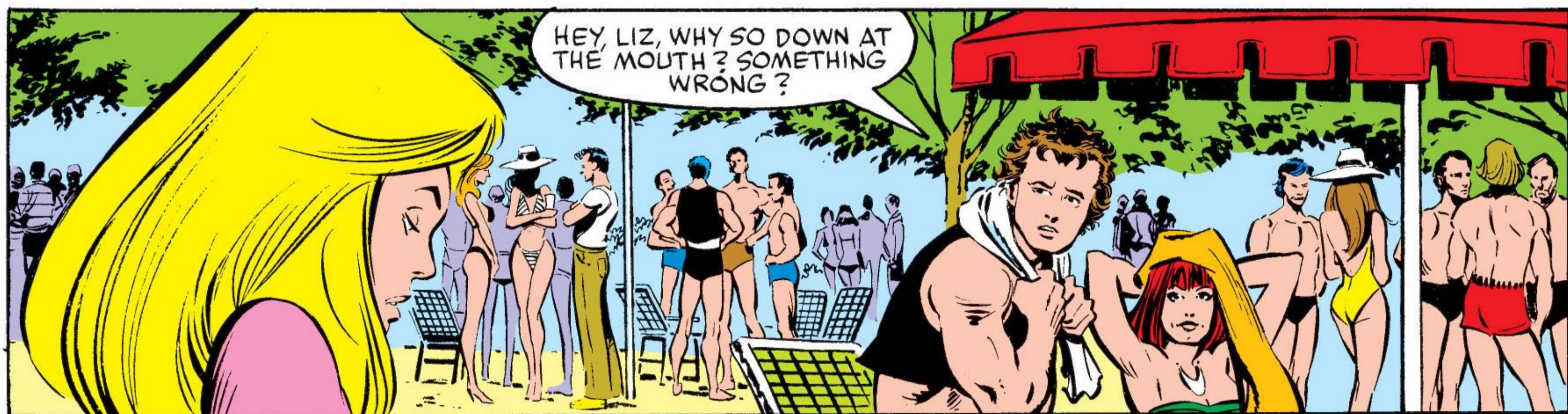
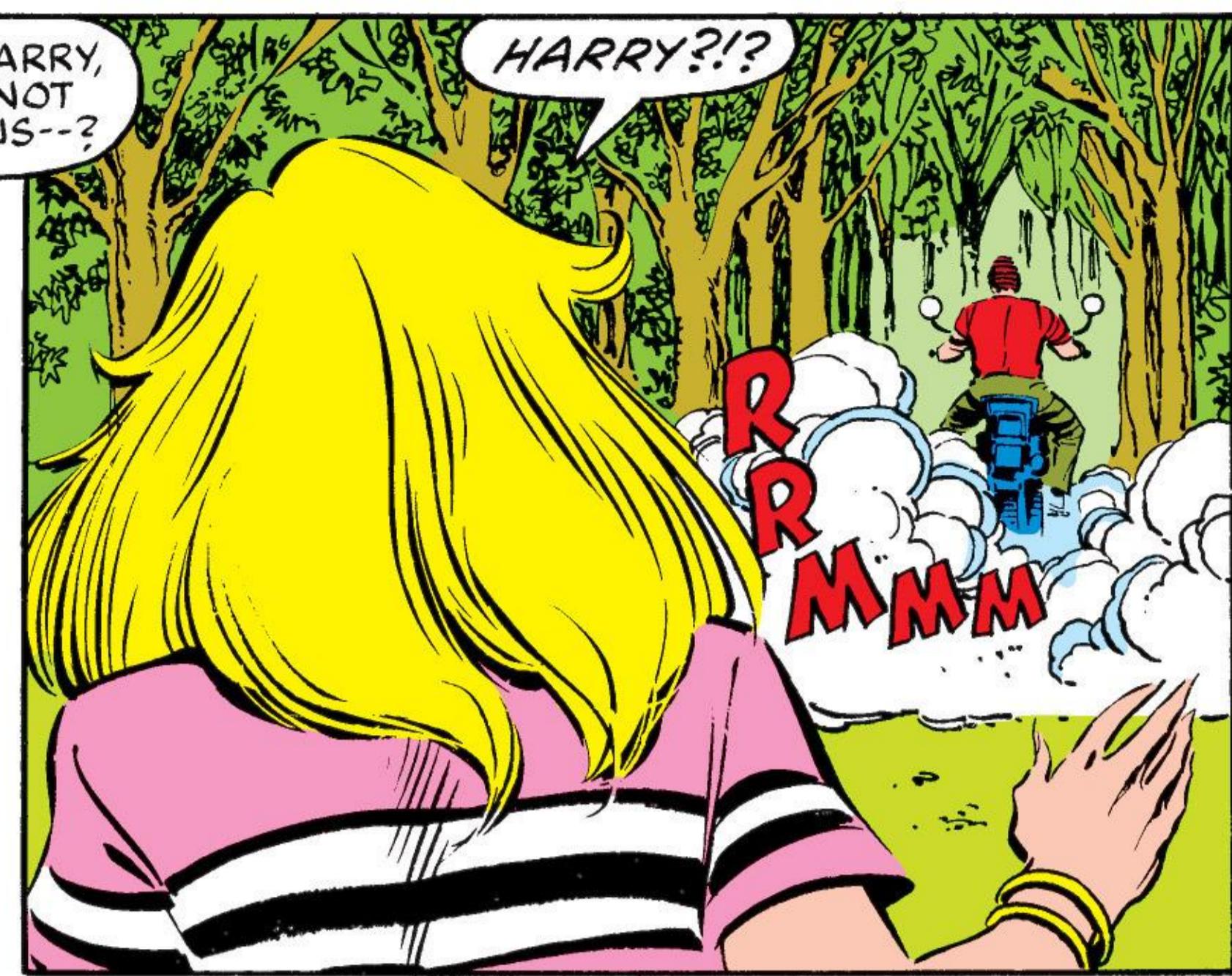
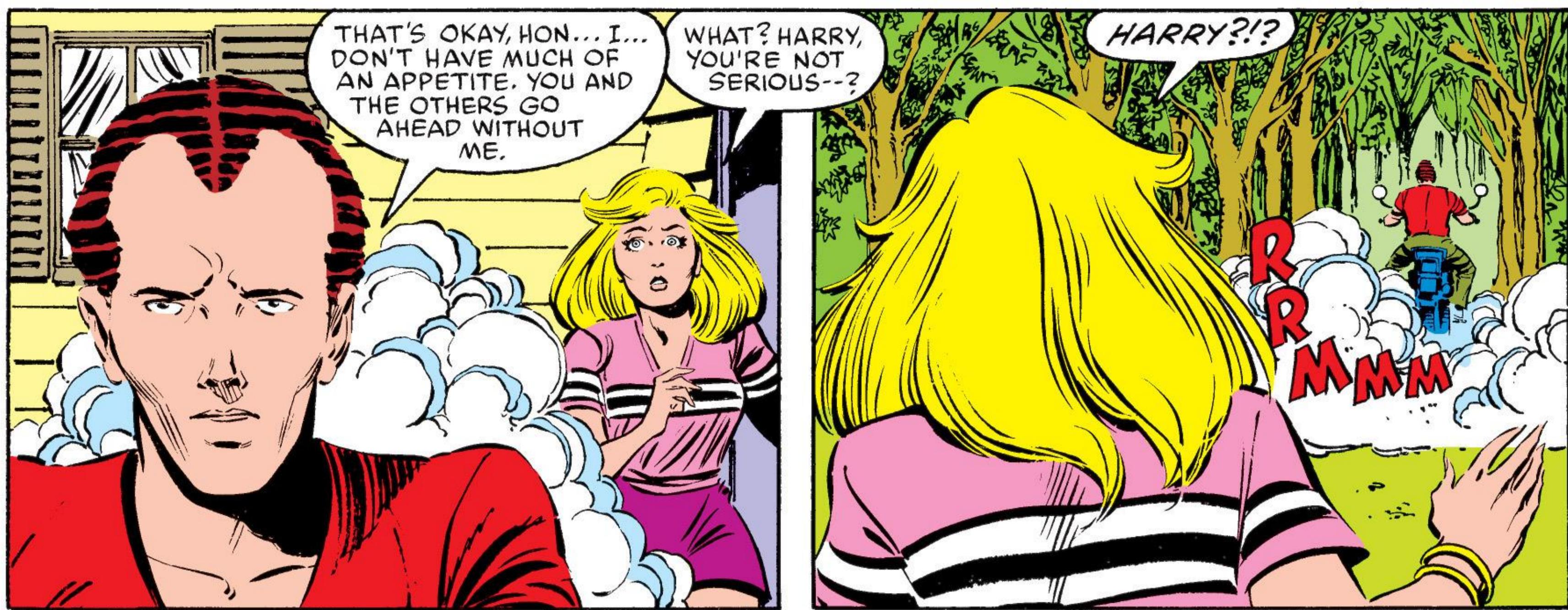












ONCE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE PARTY, PETER BOUNDS INTO THE TREETOPS, HIS AMAZING MUSCULATURE--OVER 40 TIMES STRONGER THAN THAT OF A NORMAL MAN--



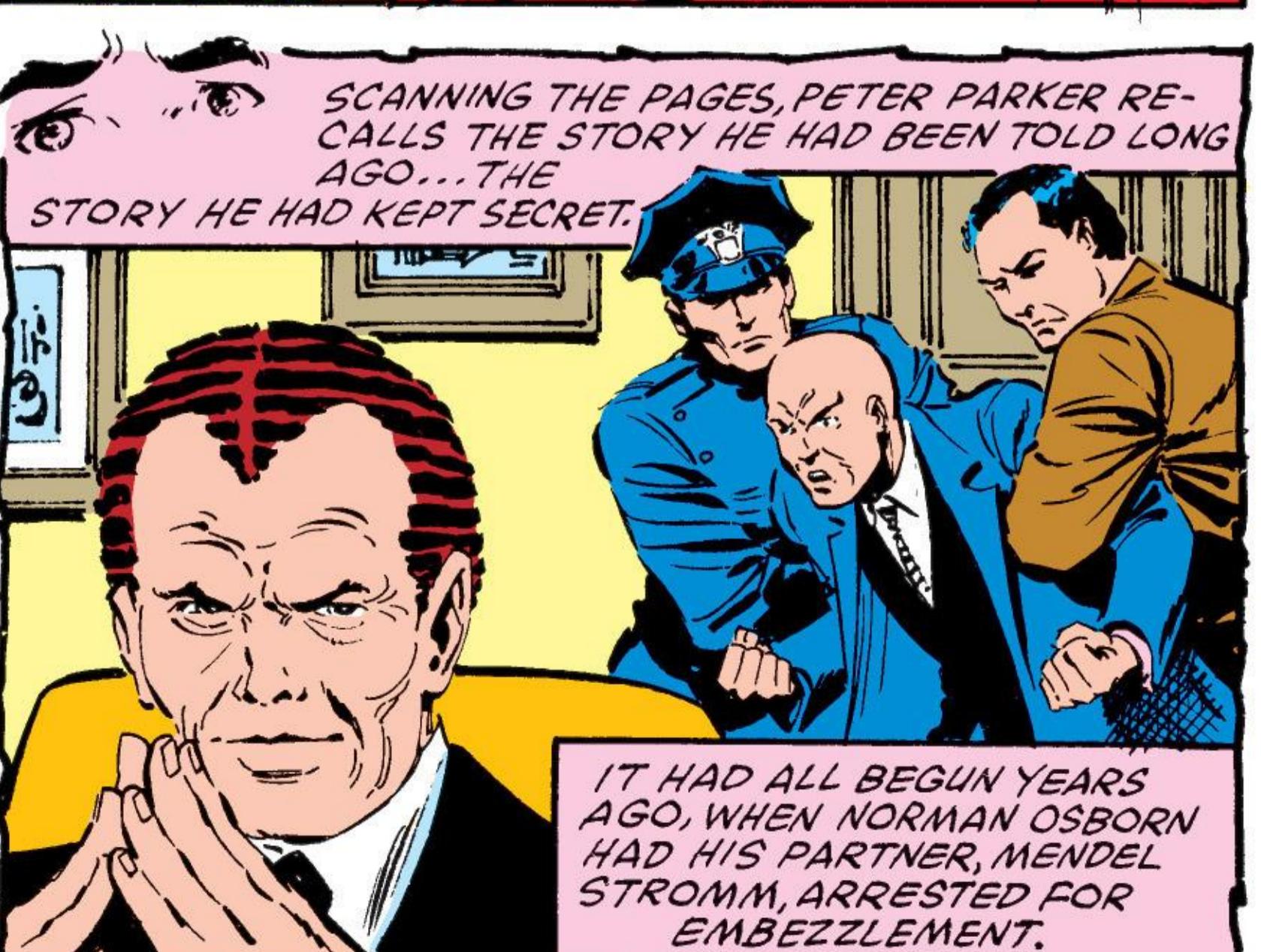
--AND HIS ASTOUNDING AGILITY ENABLING HIM TO COVER VAST DISTANCES...



...IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
THERE HE IS...IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT CLEARING, AT LEAST HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S DONE ANYTHING TOO CRAZY!



PETE, I MAY BE BEYOND HELP. I DON'T KNOW... WHAT I'VE JUST LEARNED IS SO UNBELIEVABLE!
I'VE RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS BLACK-MAIL DEMAND FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS PROOF THAT... THAT MY FATHER WAS THE GREEN GOBLIN!



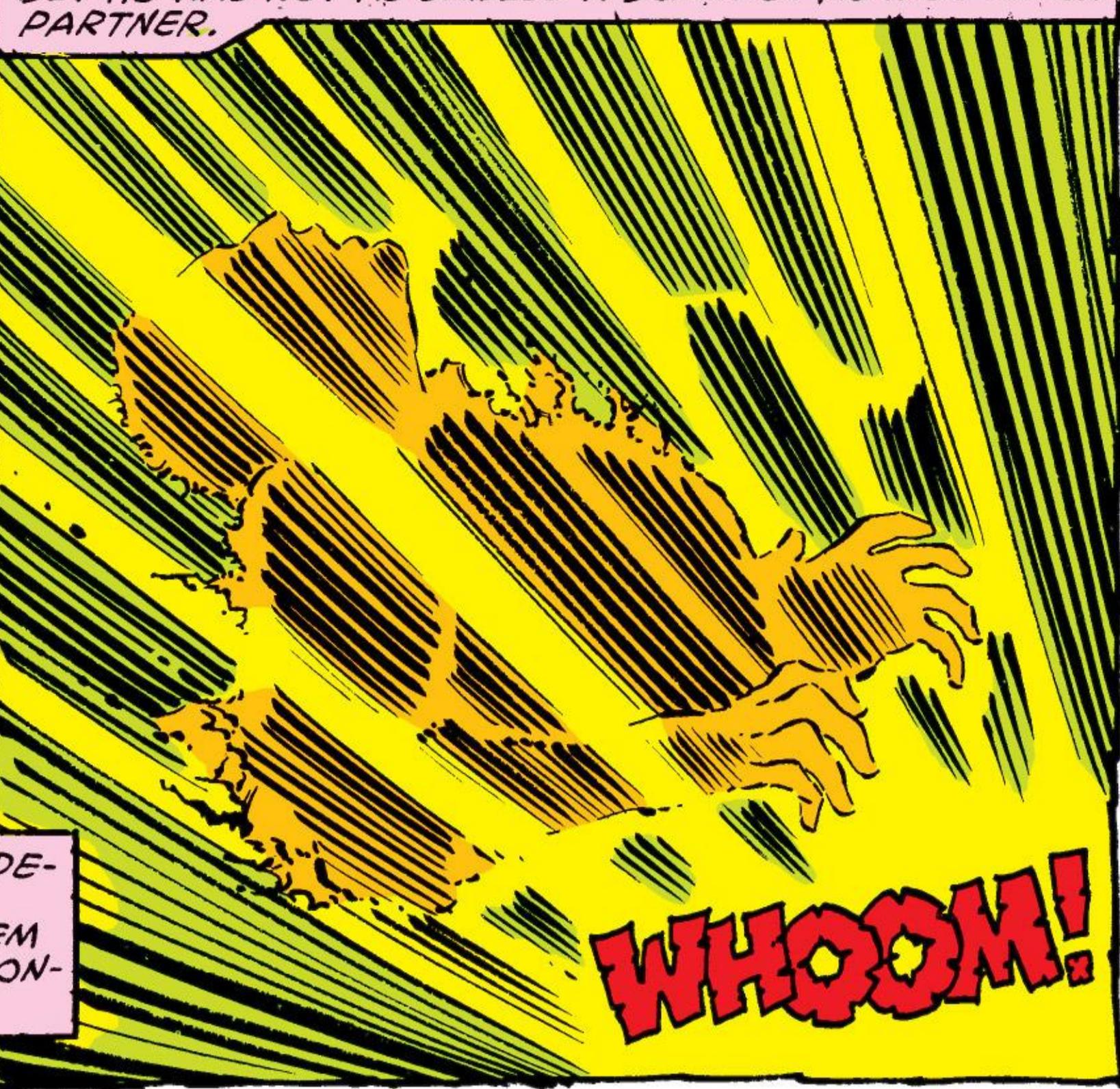
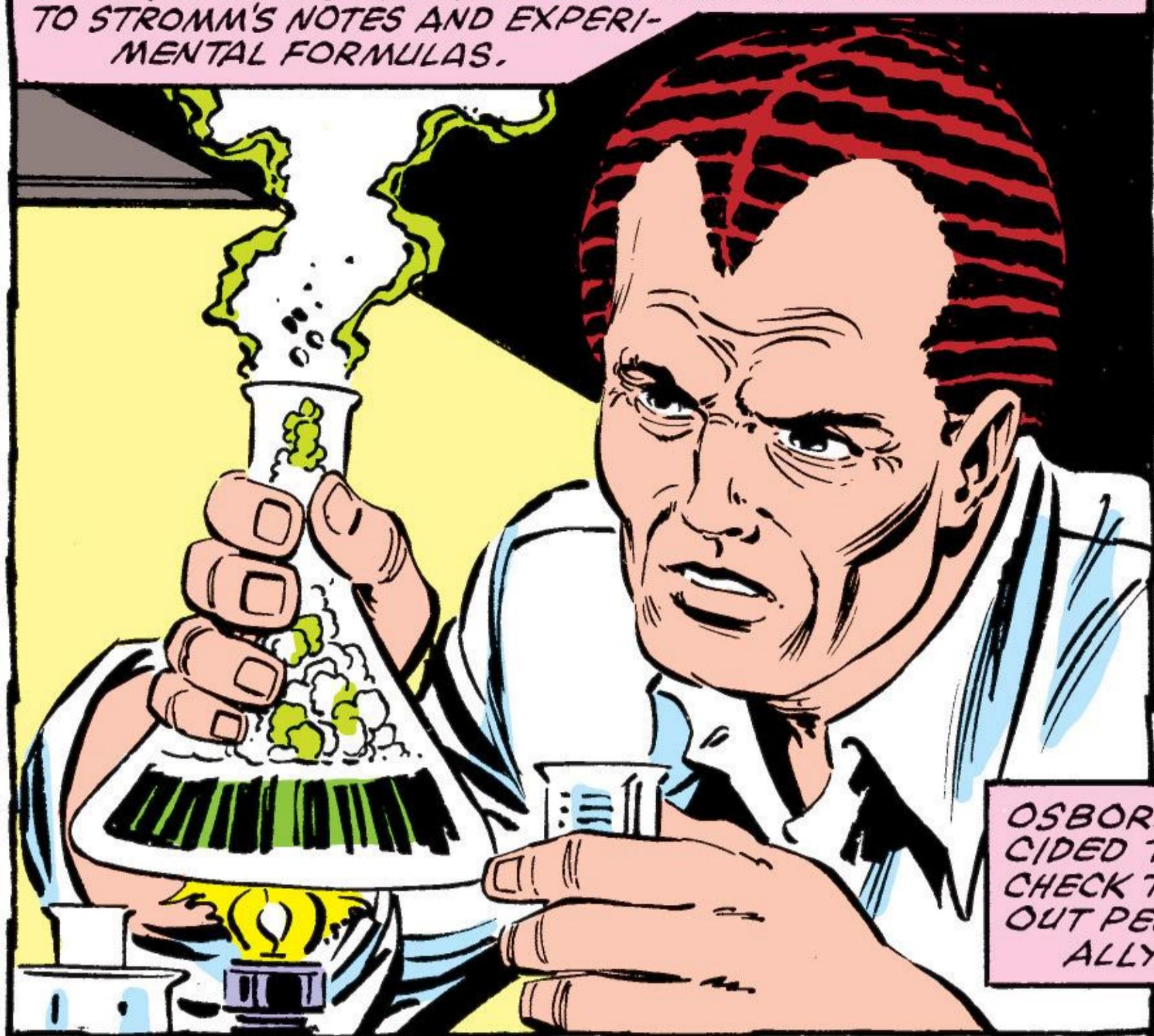
SCANNING THE PAGES, PETER PARKER RECALLS THE STORY HE HAD BEEN TOLD LONG AGO... THE STORY HE HAD KEPT SECRET.



IT HAD ALL BEGUN YEARS AGO, WHEN NORMAN OSBORN HAD HIS PARTNER, MENDEL STROMM, ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

WITH STROMM OUT OF THE WAY, OSBORN GAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OF HIS CHEMICAL COMPANY... AS WELL AS ACCESS TO STROMM'S NOTES AND EXPERIMENTAL FORMULAS.

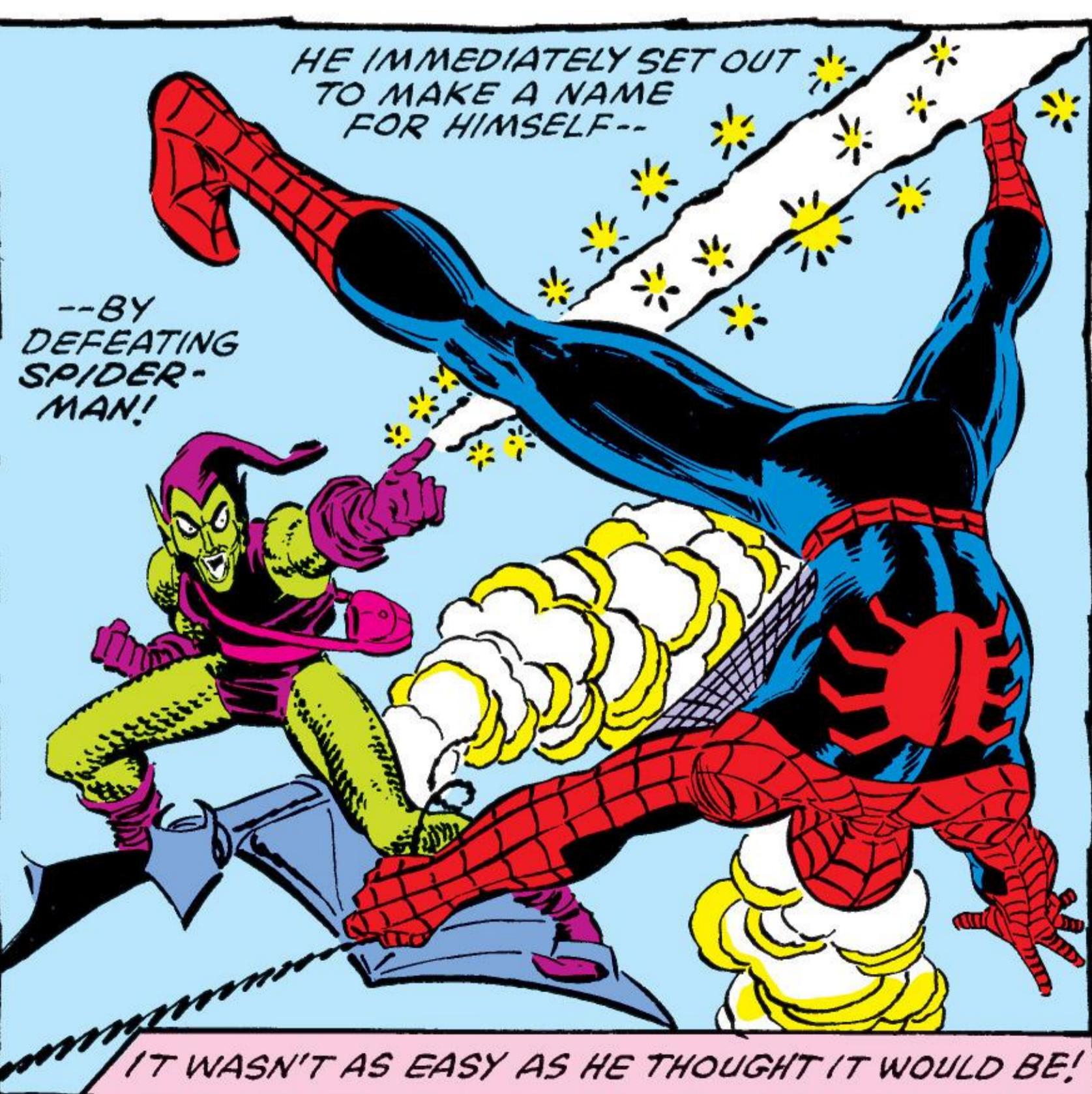
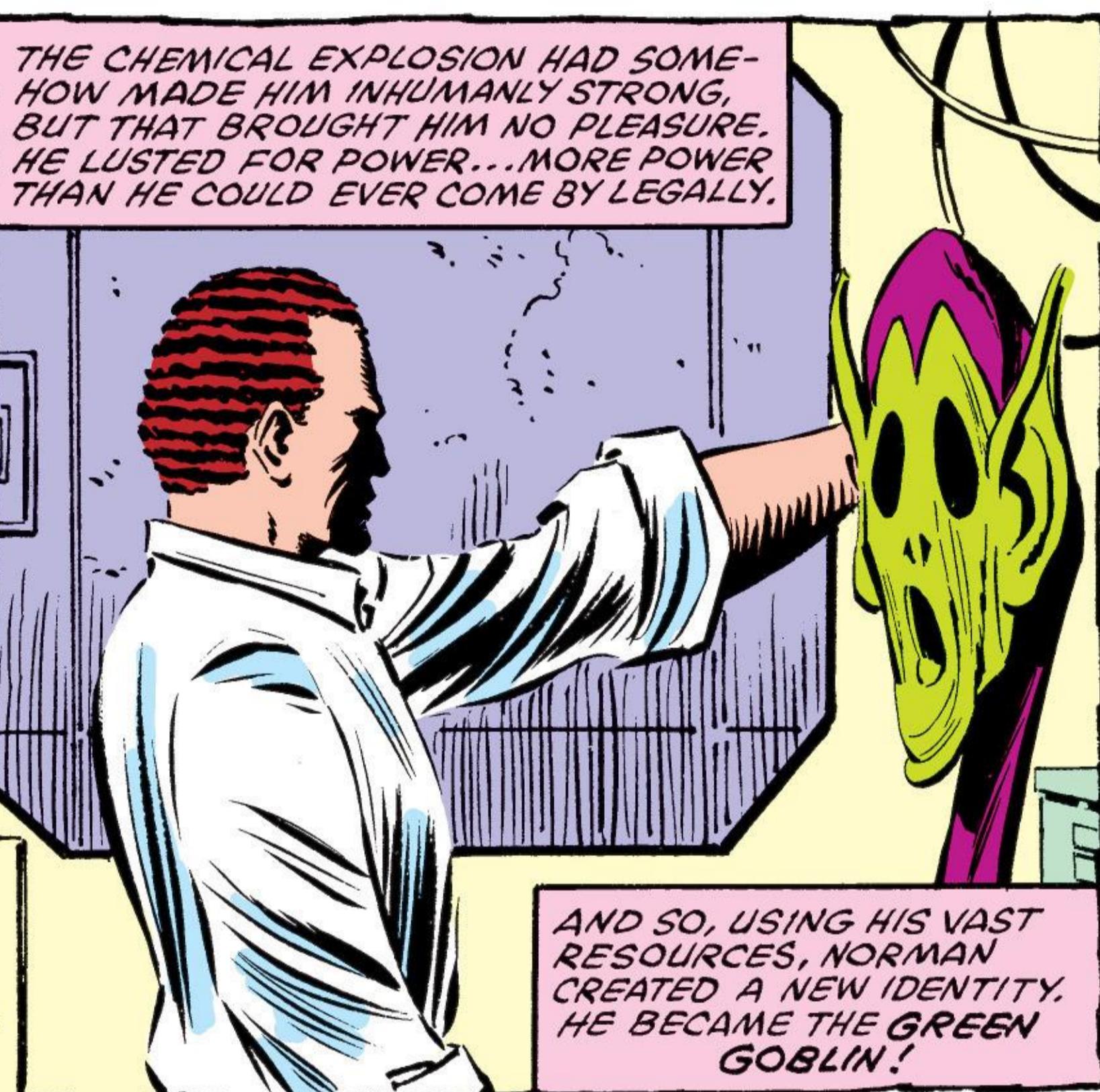
BUT HE WAS NOT AS SKILLED A SCIENTIST AS HIS FORMER PARTNER.

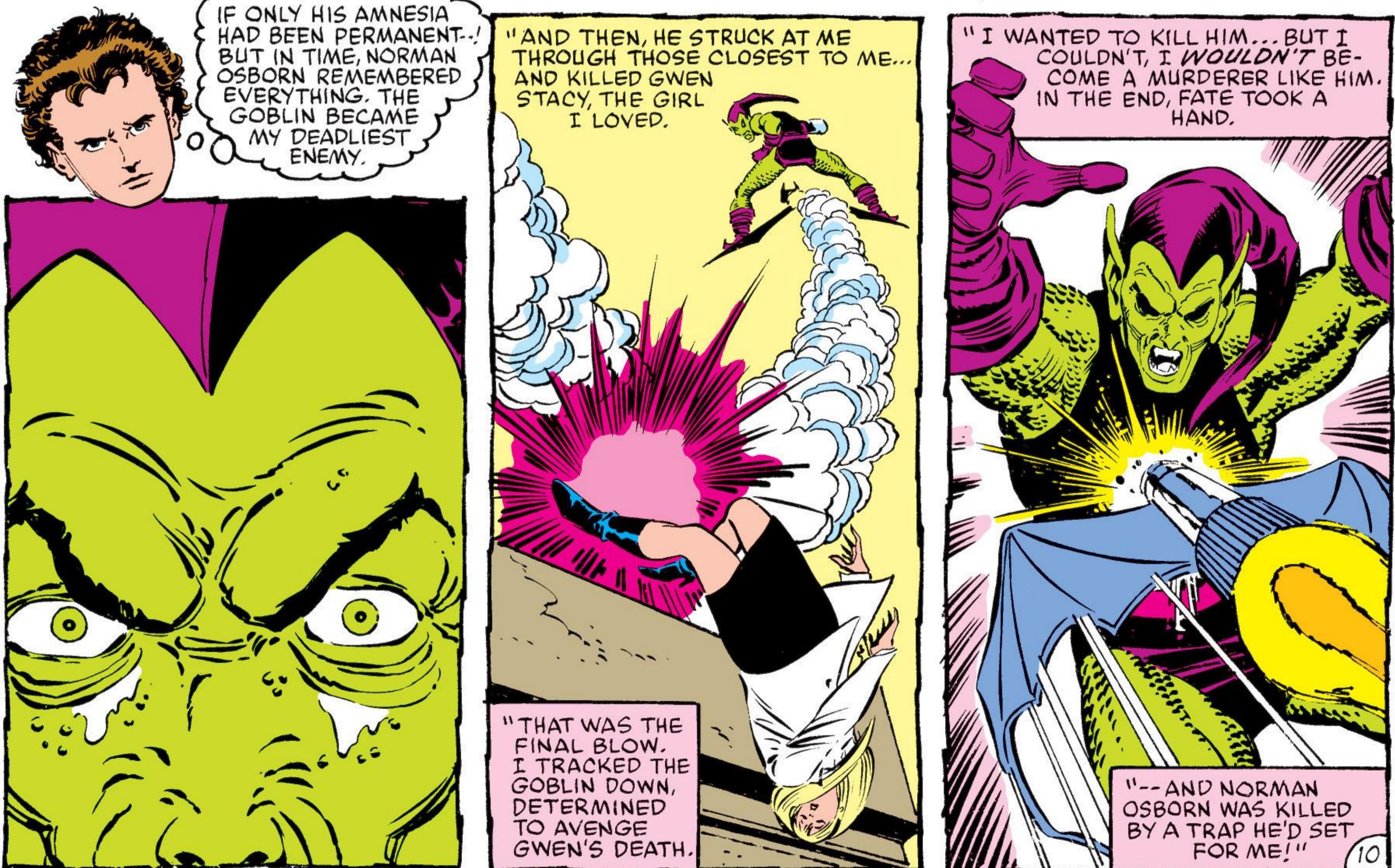
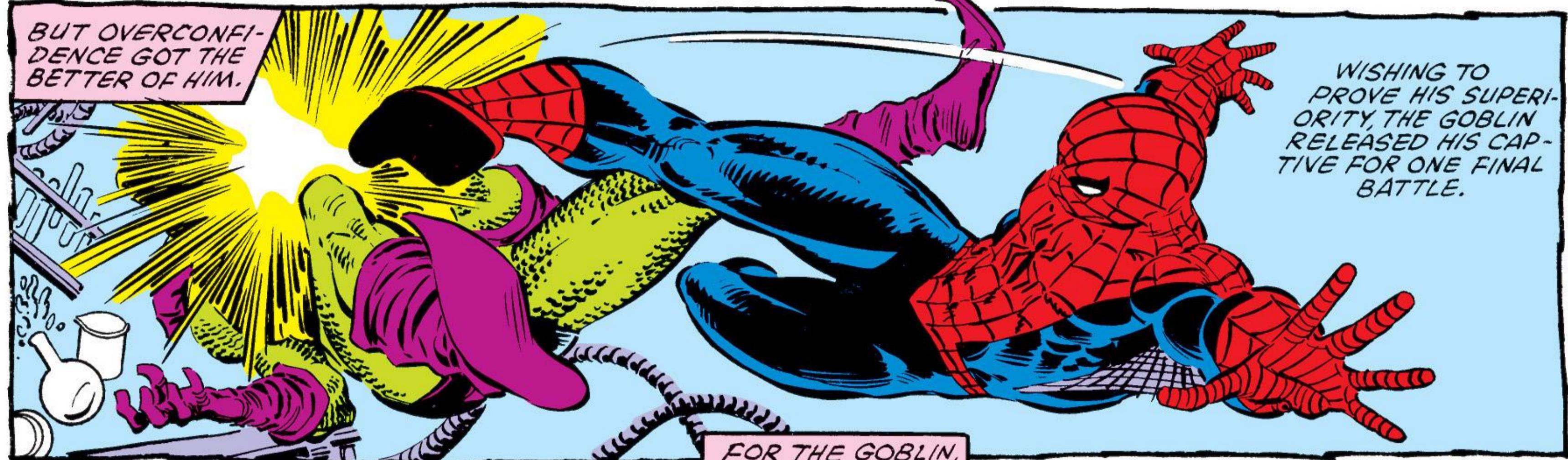


STILL, NORMAN OSBORN HAD ALWAYS BEEN A SURVIVOR. HE RECOVERED.

HIS MIND DID NOT.

THE CHEMICAL EXPLOSION HAD SOMEHOW MADE HIM INHUMANLY STRONG, BUT THAT BROUGHT HIM NO PLEASURE. HE LUSTED FOR POWER... MORE POWER THAN HE COULD EVER COME BY LEGALLY.





NORMAN HAD JUST DIED, WHEN HARRY-- COMING DOWN FROM A BAD ACID TRIP-- FIRST DISCOVERED HIS FATHER'S SECRET. I WAS IN NO SHAPE THEN TO GIVE HIM THE HELP HE NEEDED.

PETE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. MY FATHER WAS A CRIMINAL... A MURDERER! HE... HE KILLED GWEN. IT'S ALL SO SENSELESS. HE MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF HIS MIND!

HE COULDN'T HANDLE IT. HE WENT TOTALLY OFF THE DEEP END... FOR A TIME, HE EVEN THOUGHT HE WAS THE GOBLIN.

IT WAS A BLESSING WHEN HIS MEMORY OF ALL THOSE NIGHTMARES WAS DESTROYED, BUT, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

YEAH... HE MUST'VE BEEN. BUT HE'S GONE NOW... IT'S OVER.

OH, I WISH IT WAS. I'D LIKE TO TELL THIS BLACKMAILING SLIME WHERE TO STICK HIS EVIDENCE. BUT IF THE NEWS GOT OUT, WHAT WOULD IT DO TO LIZ... TO OUR BABY?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

FOR RIGHT NOW, YOU PLAY THIS GUY'S GAME... STRING HIM ALONG AND FIND OUT WHAT HE'S AFTER. MOST OF ALL, PLAY IT COOL! I'LL BE WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

YOU'D STILL HELP ME, PETE... KNOWING WHO MY FATHER WAS AND WHAT HE DID?

DARNED RIGHT, I WOULD! THE GOBLIN'S HURT ENOUGH PEOPLE. I WON'T STAND BY AND SEE HIM HURT YOU, TOO!

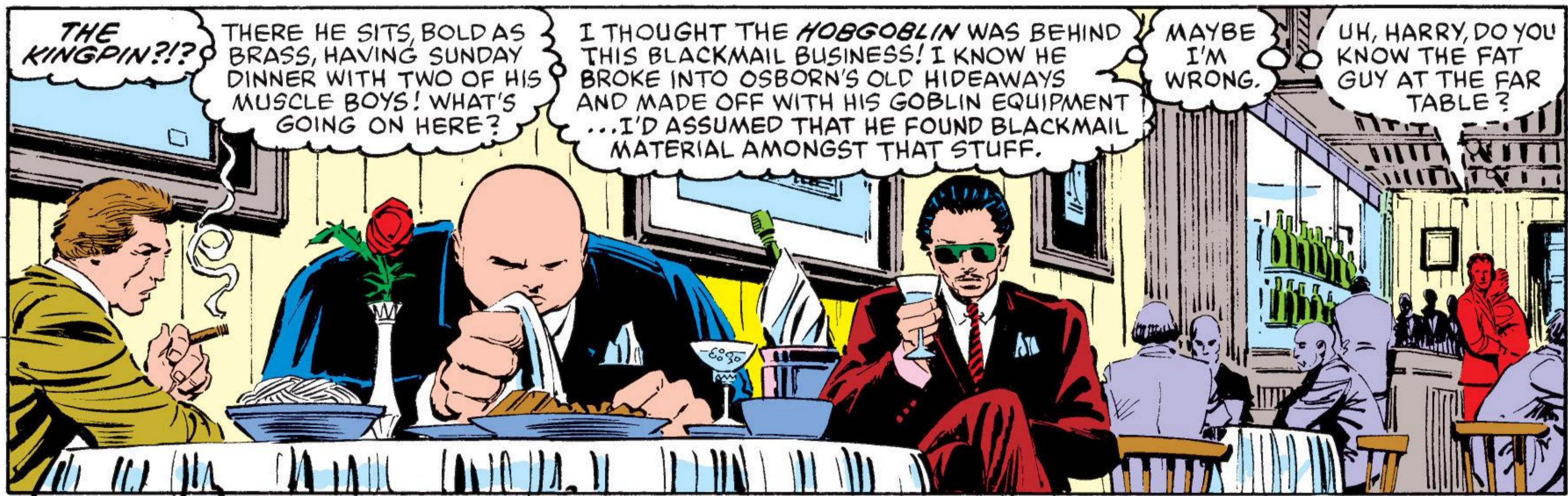
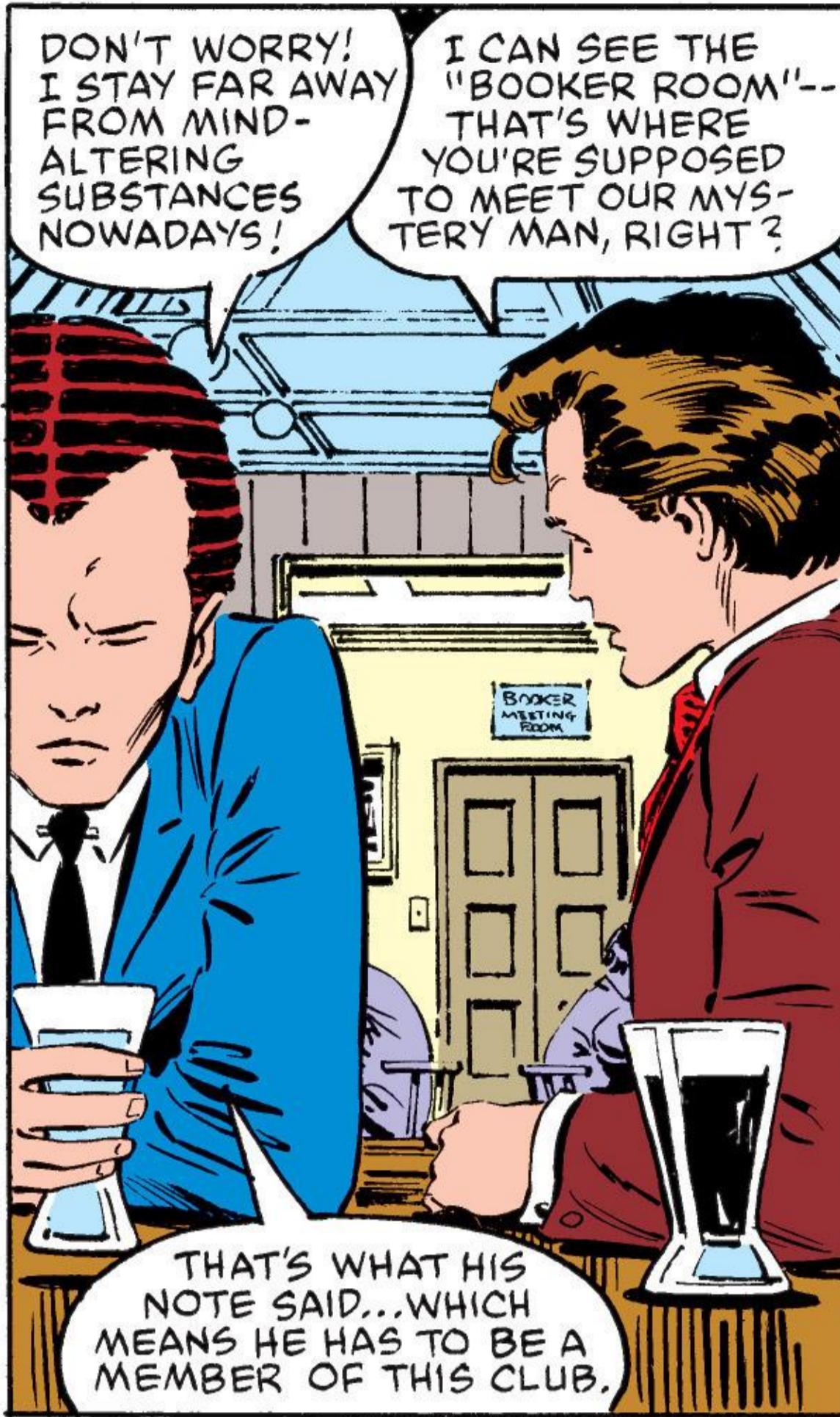
NOW... WHERE AND WHEN ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO MEET THIS CREEP?

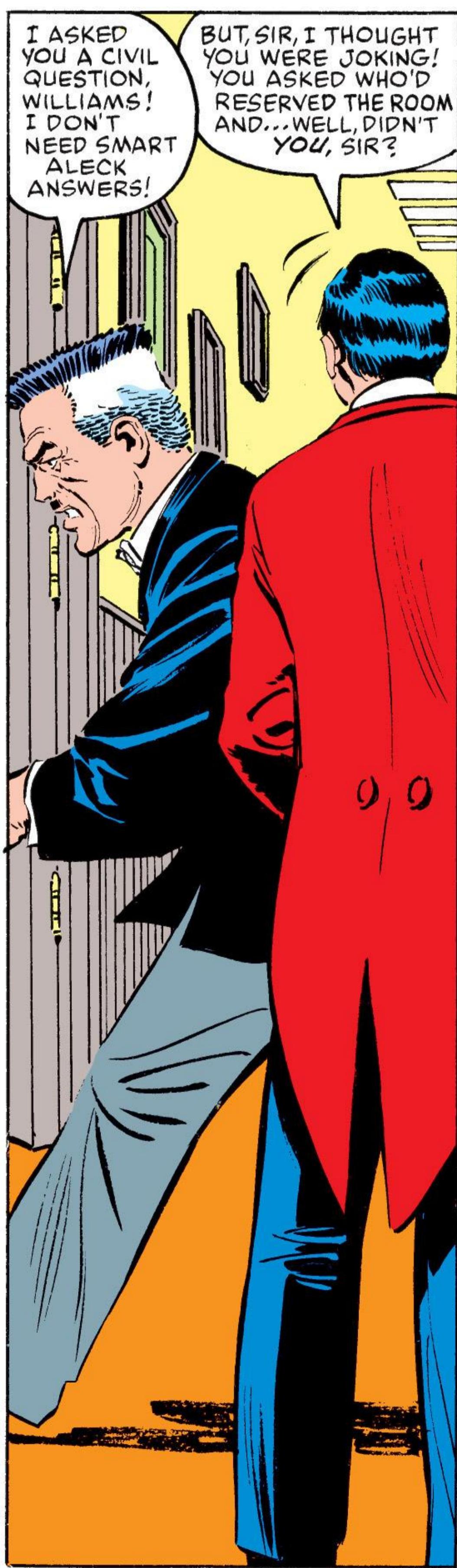
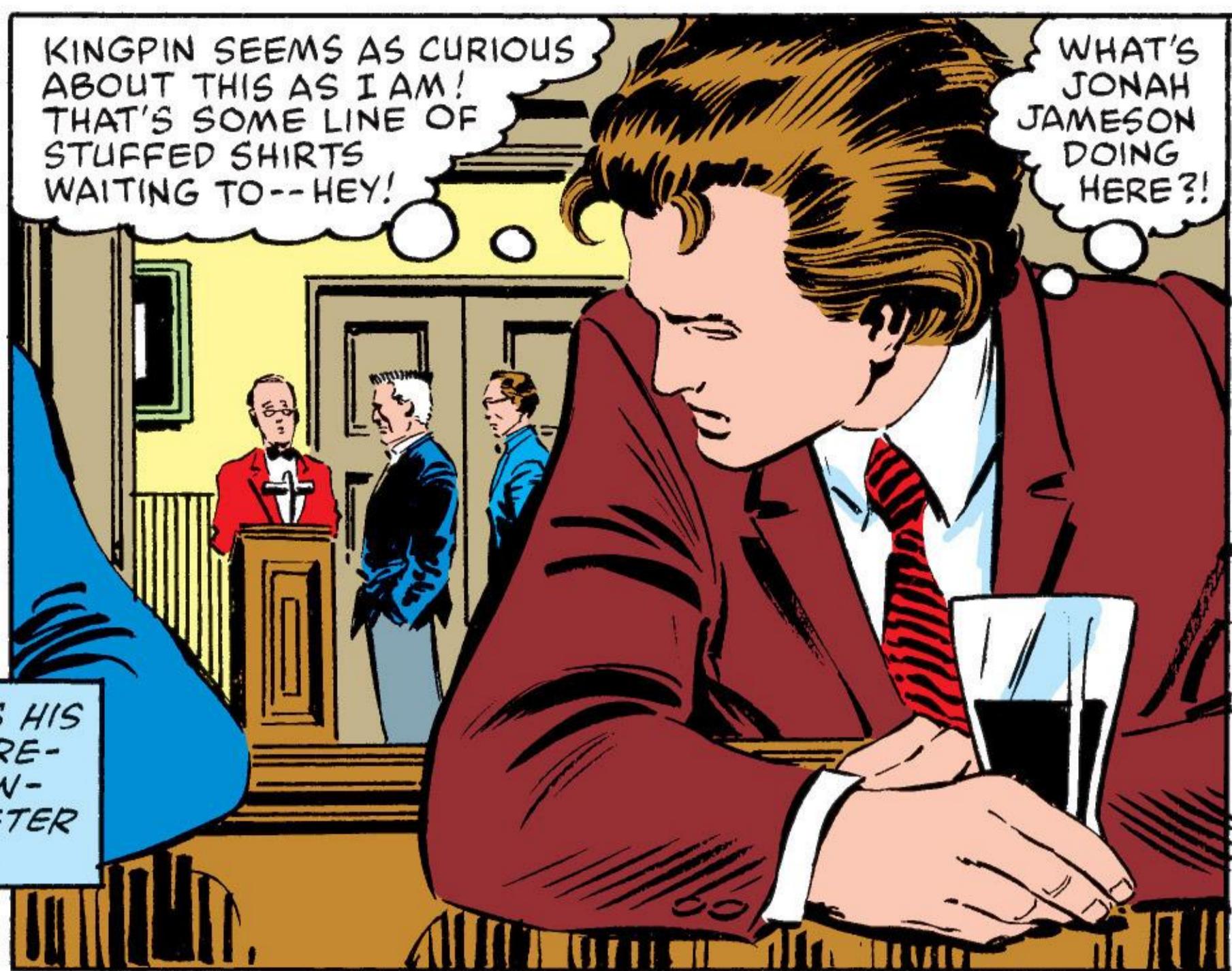
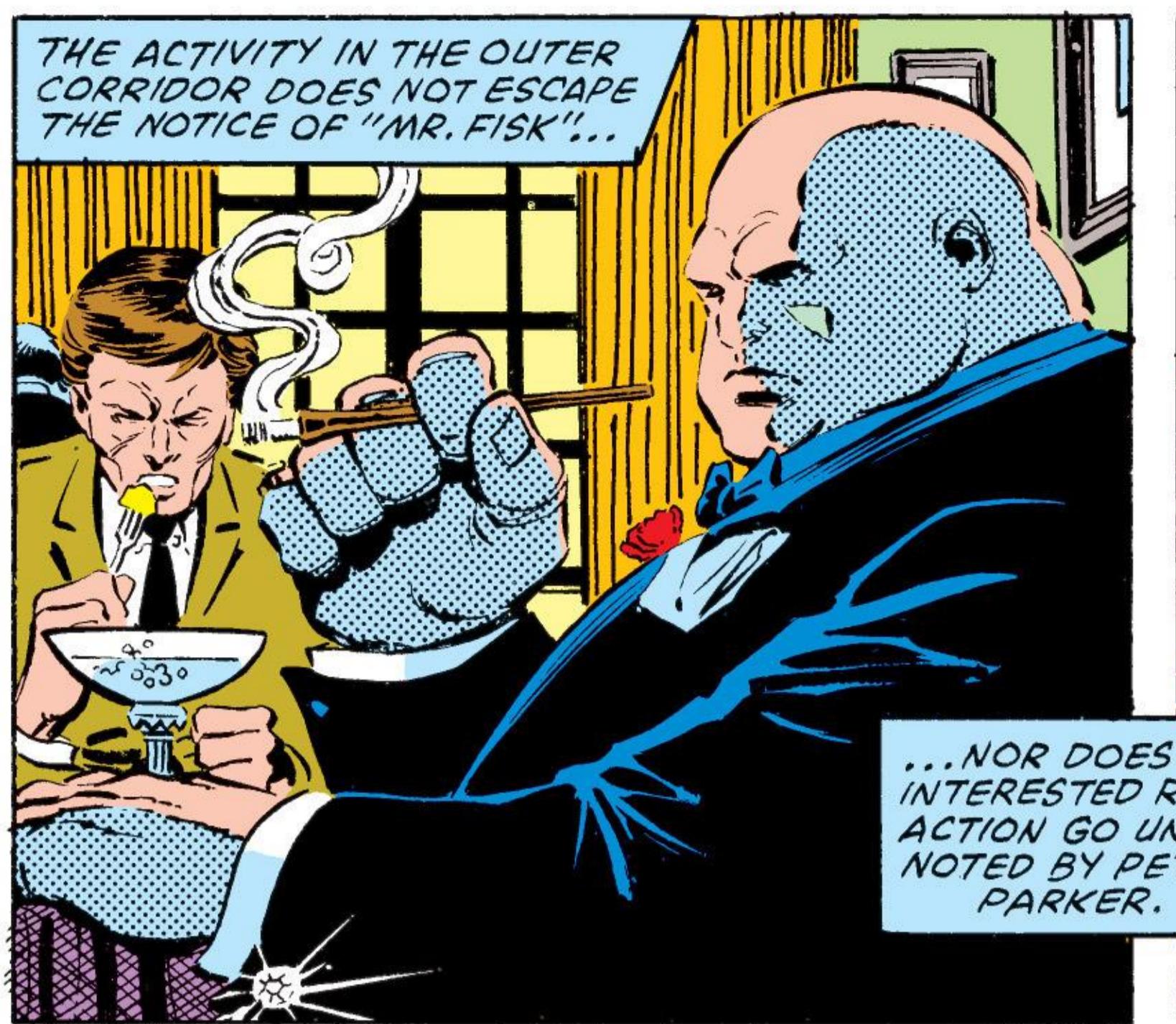
THE NEXT AFTERNOON, AT NEW YORK'S PRESTIGIOUS CENTURY CLUB...

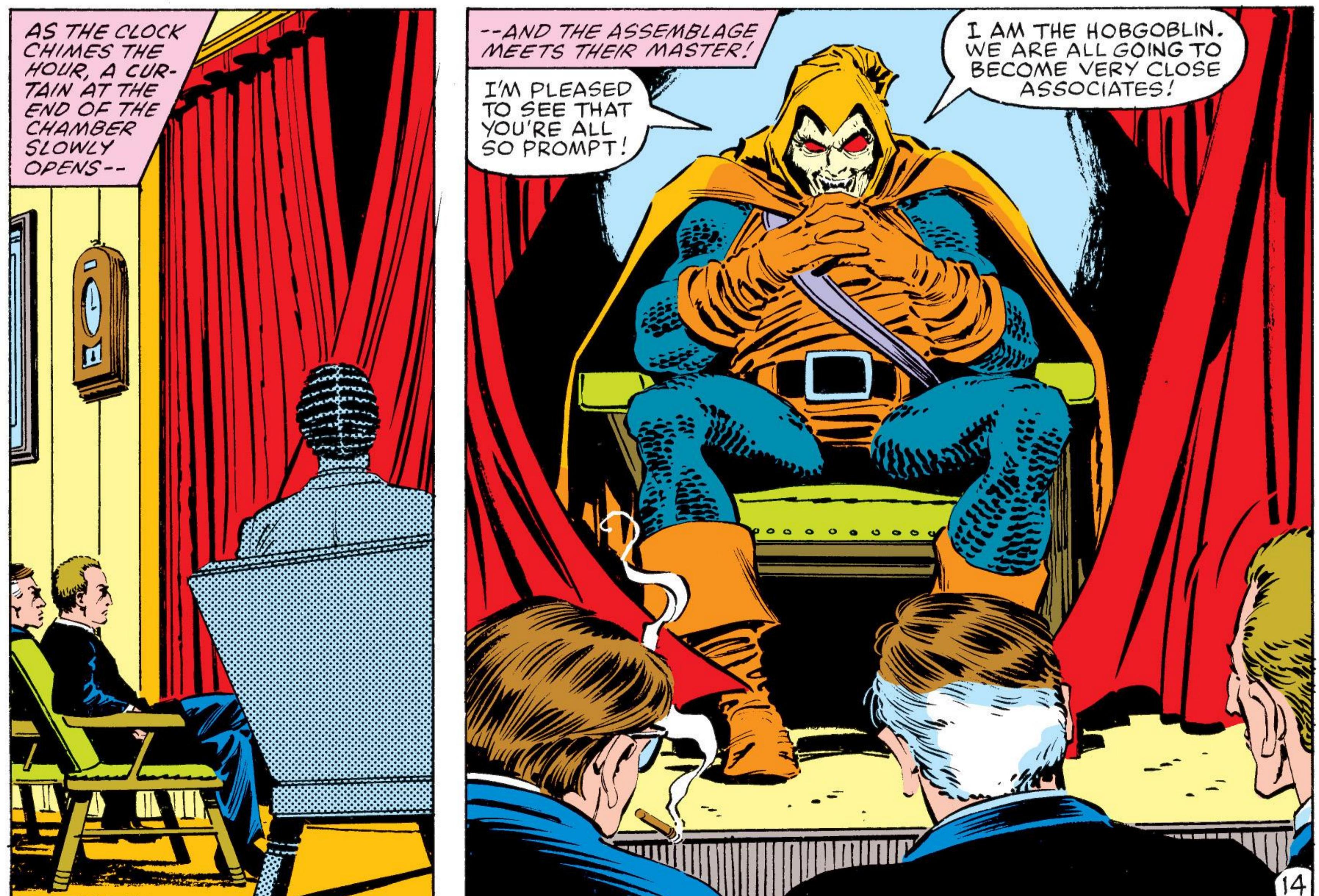
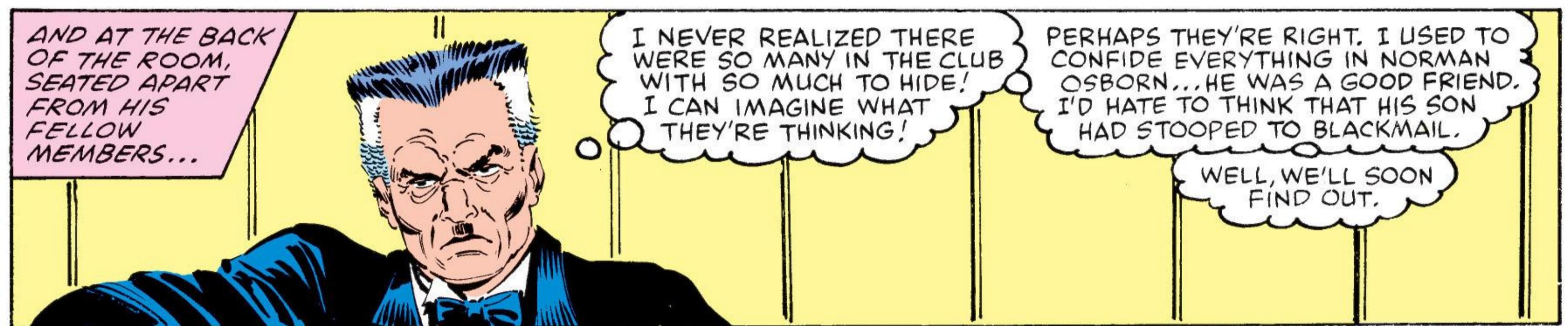
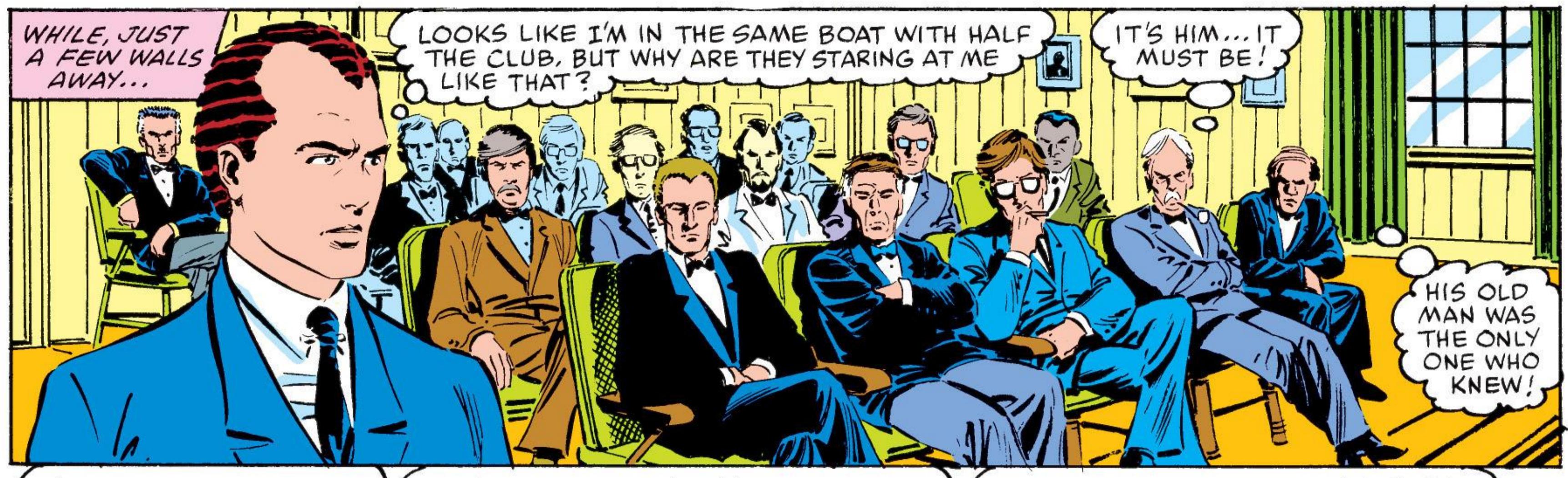
MR. OSBORN! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SIR! AND WHO IS YOUR GUEST?

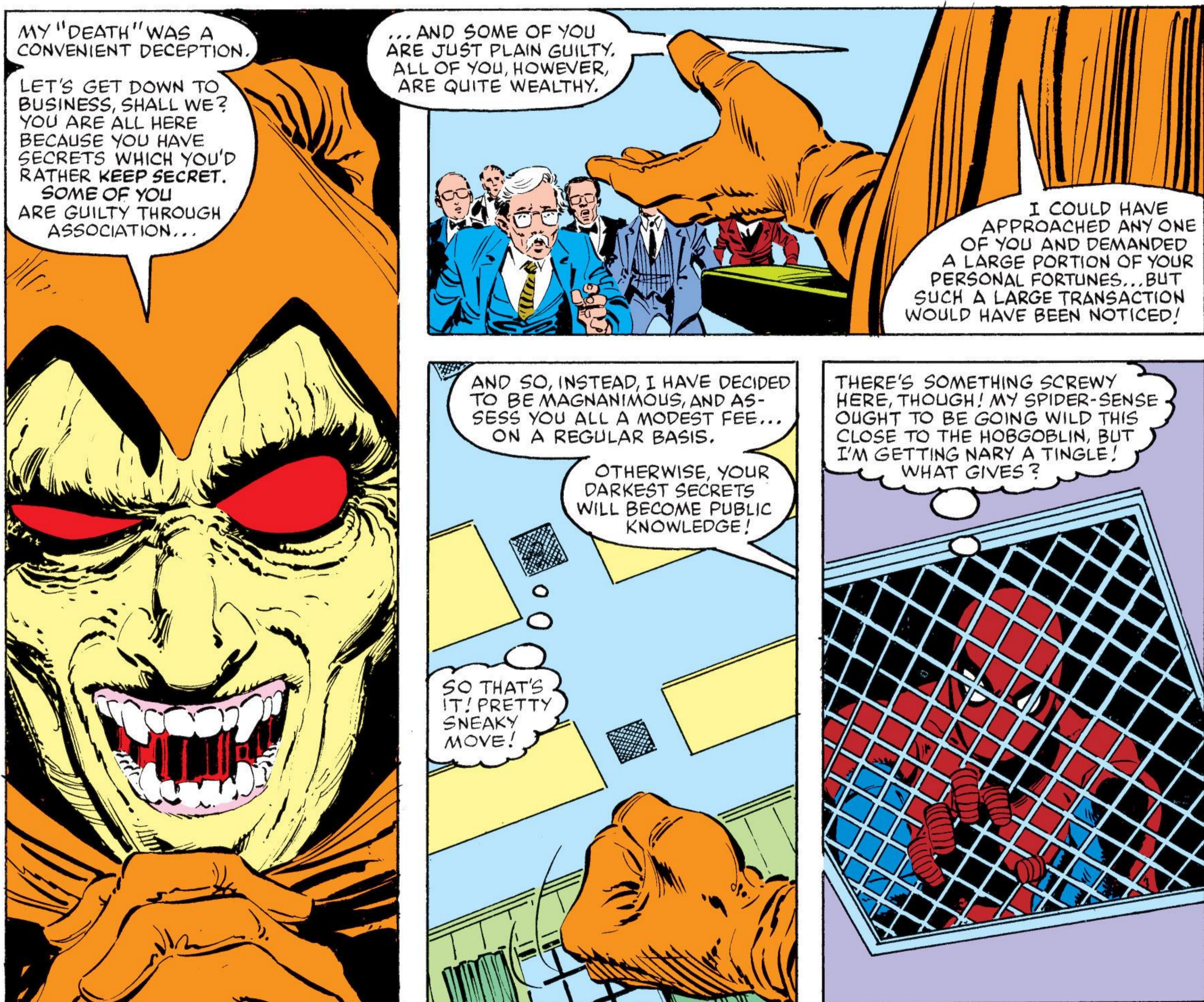
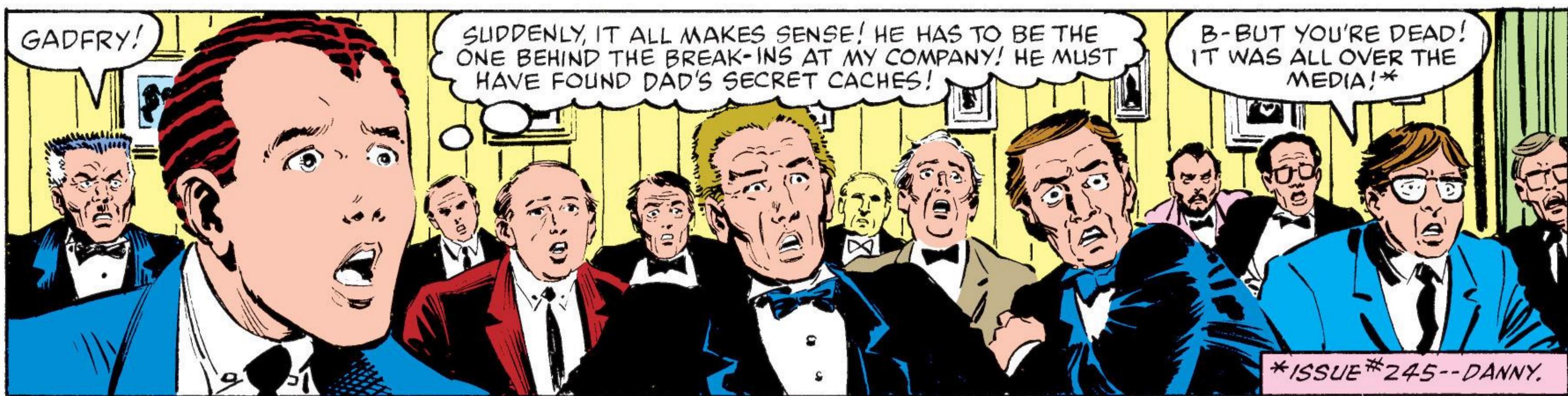
THIS IS MR. PARKER, A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE. WE'RE CONSIDERING HIM FOR MEMBERSHIP.

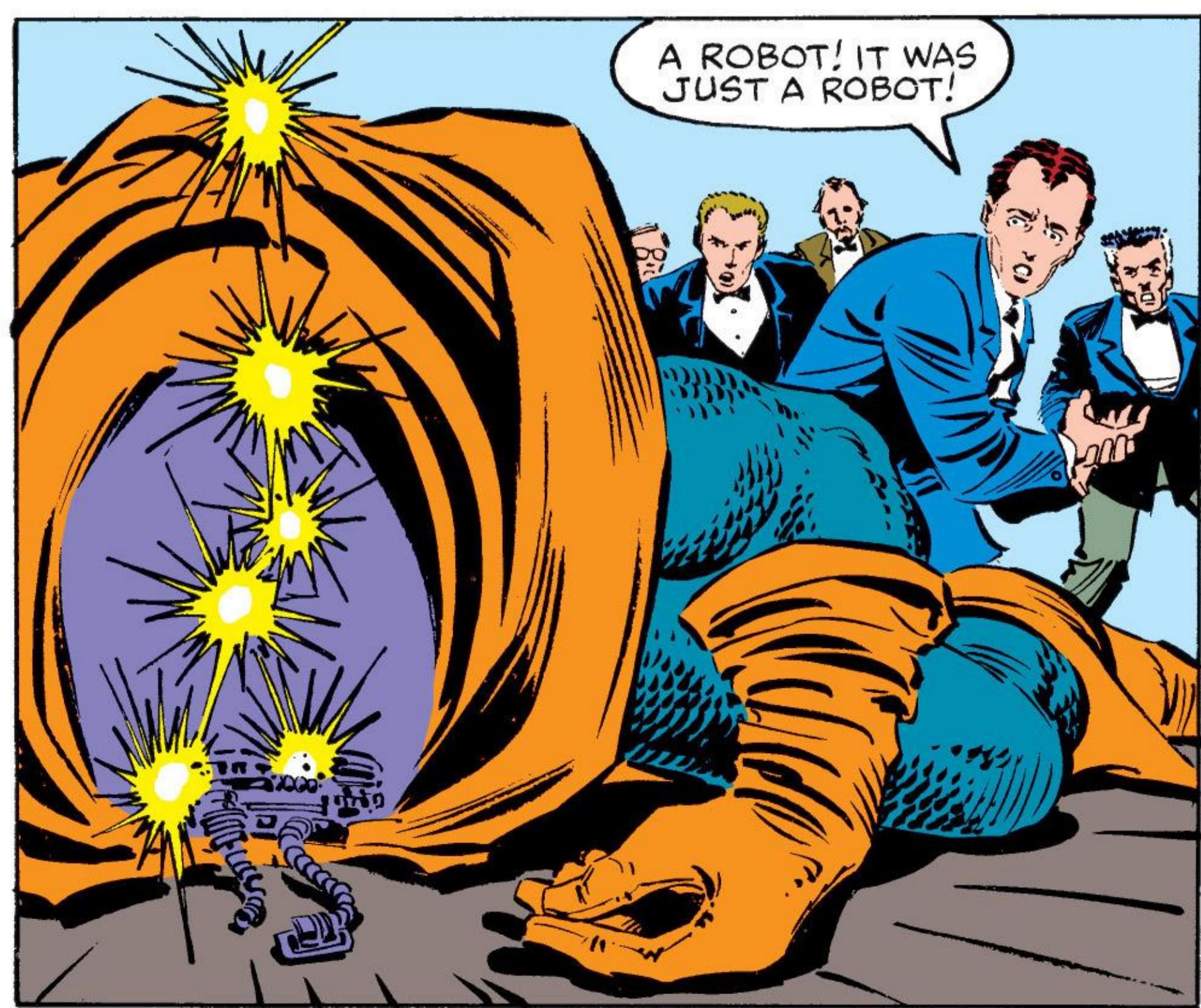
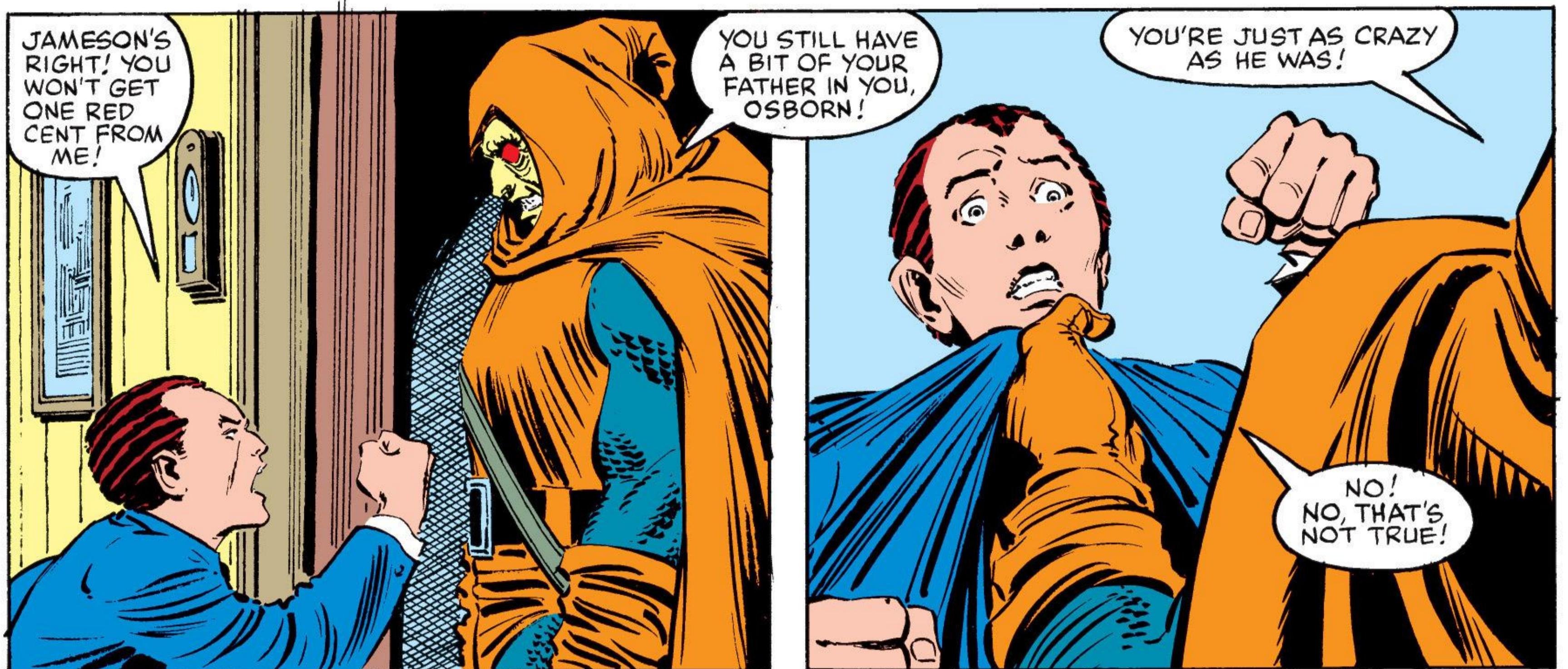
VERY GOOD, SIR. THE CLUB ROOM IS NOW OPEN FOR YOUR PLEASURE.

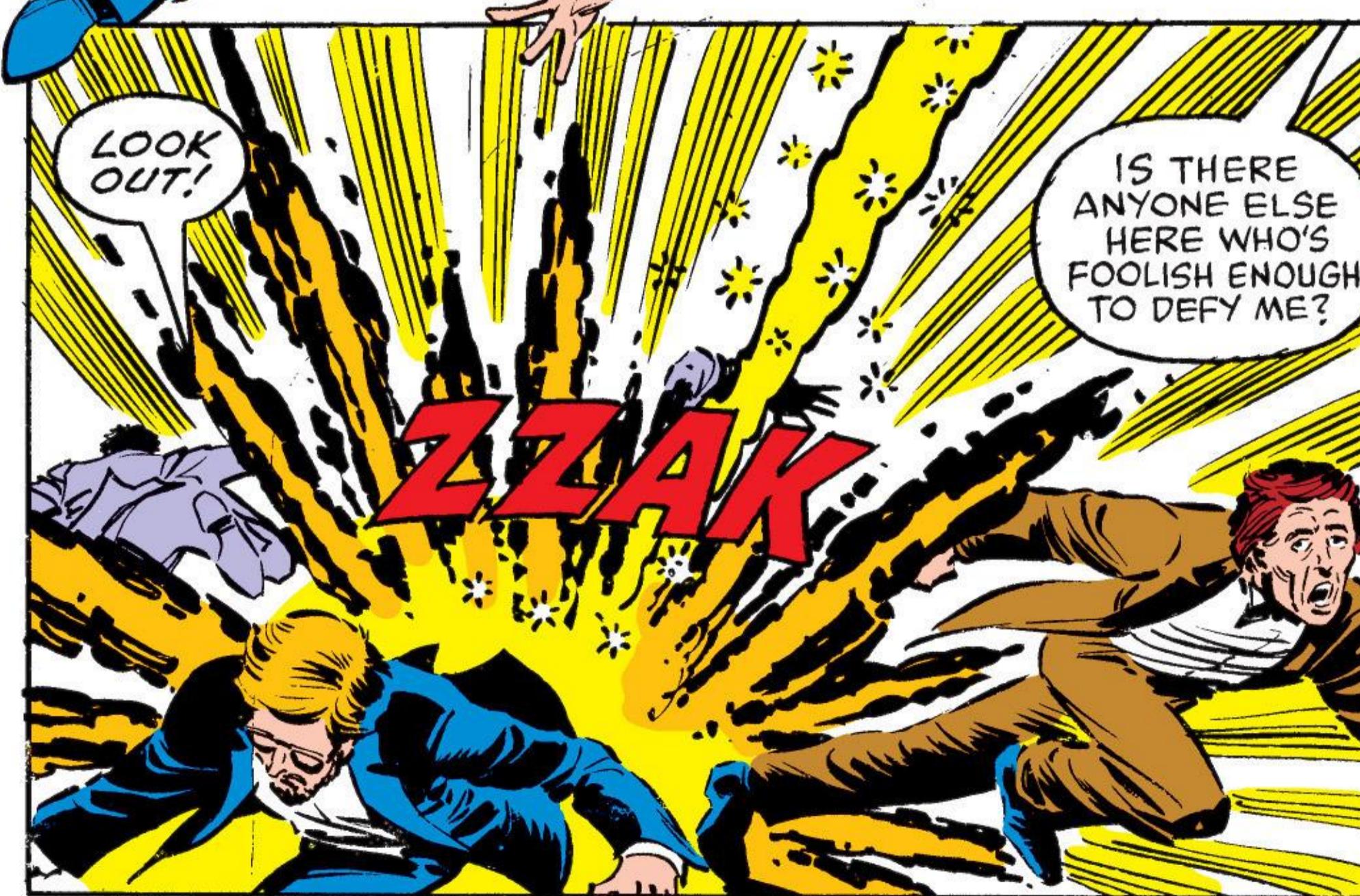
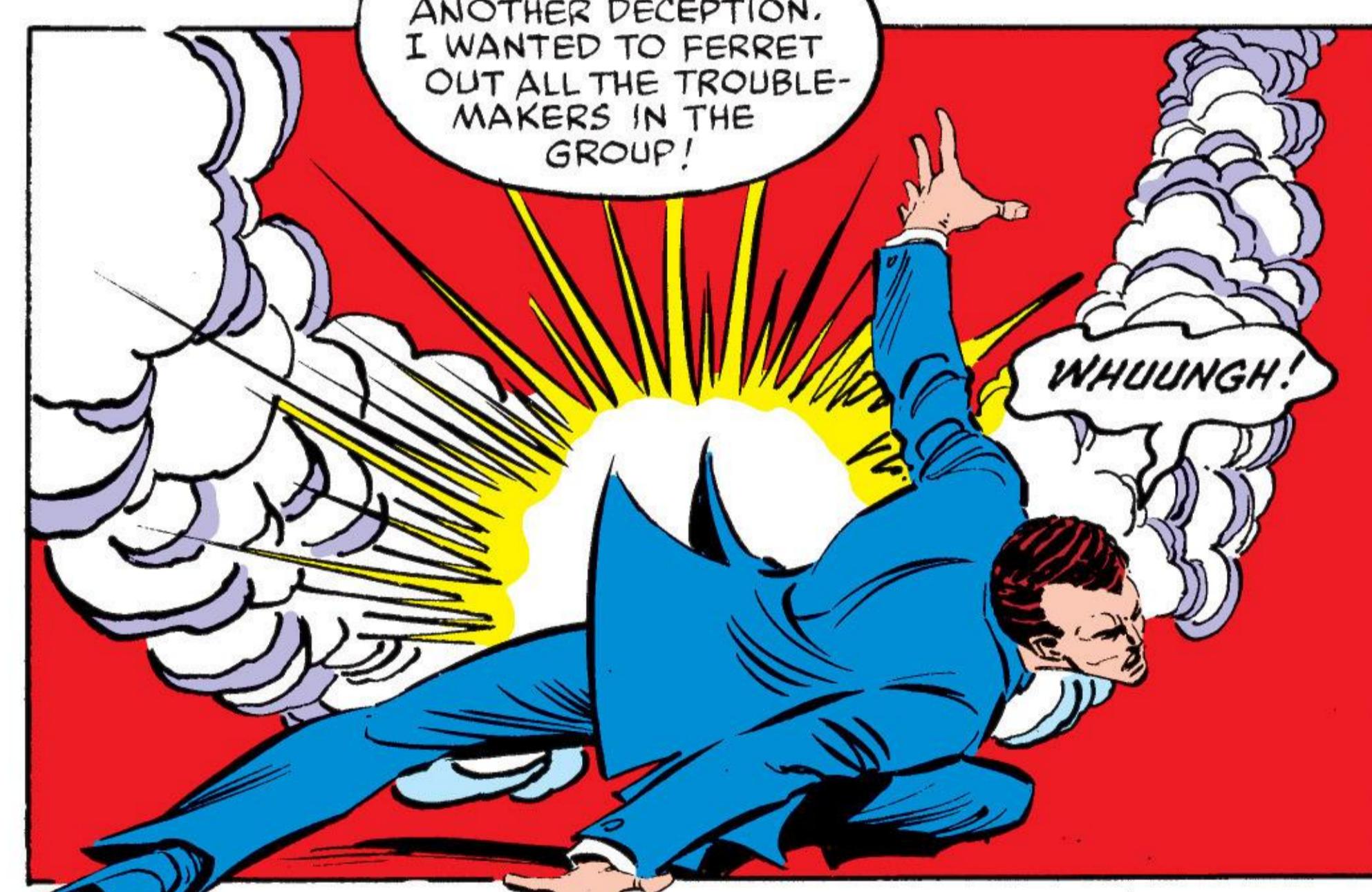
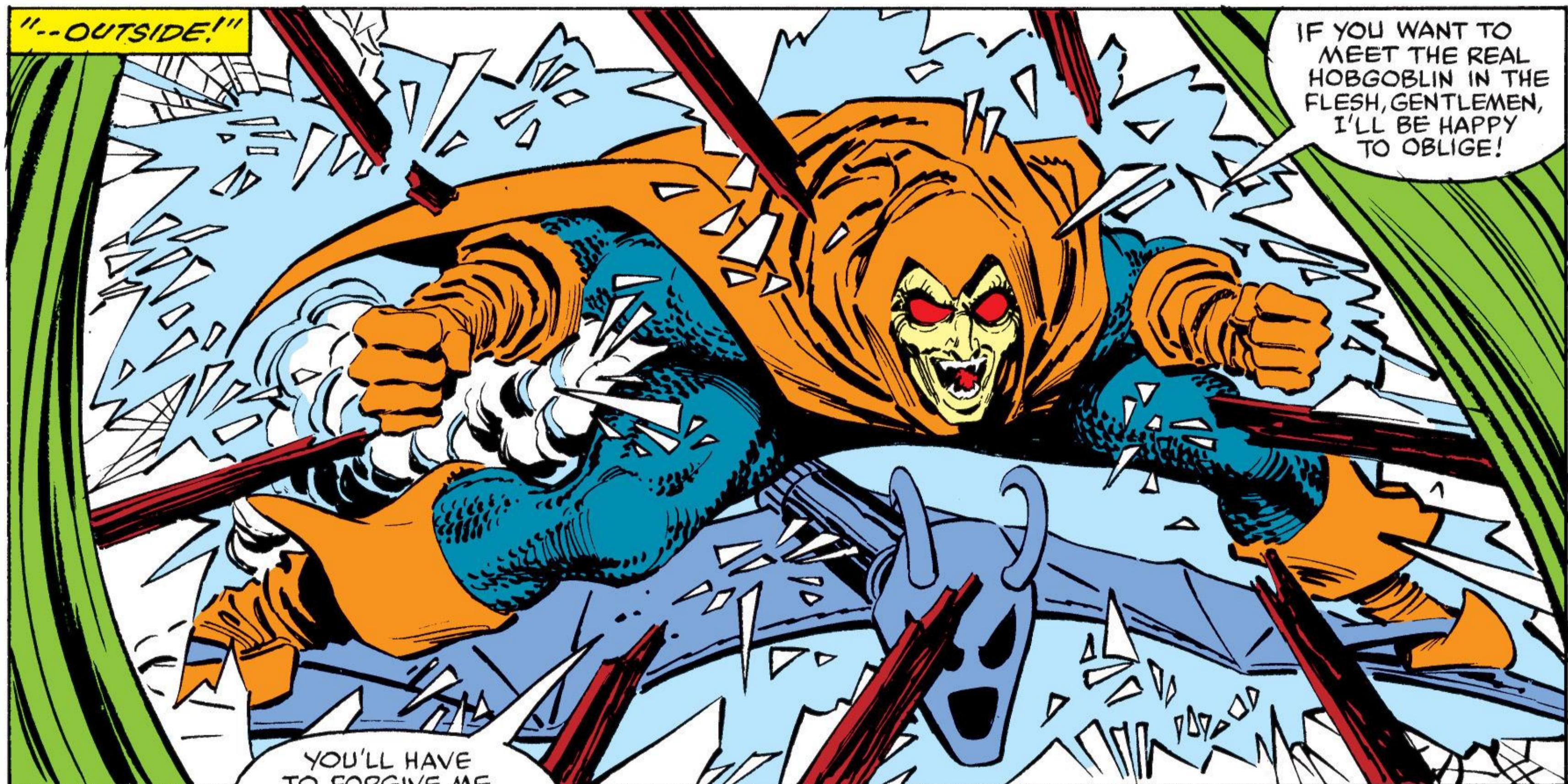


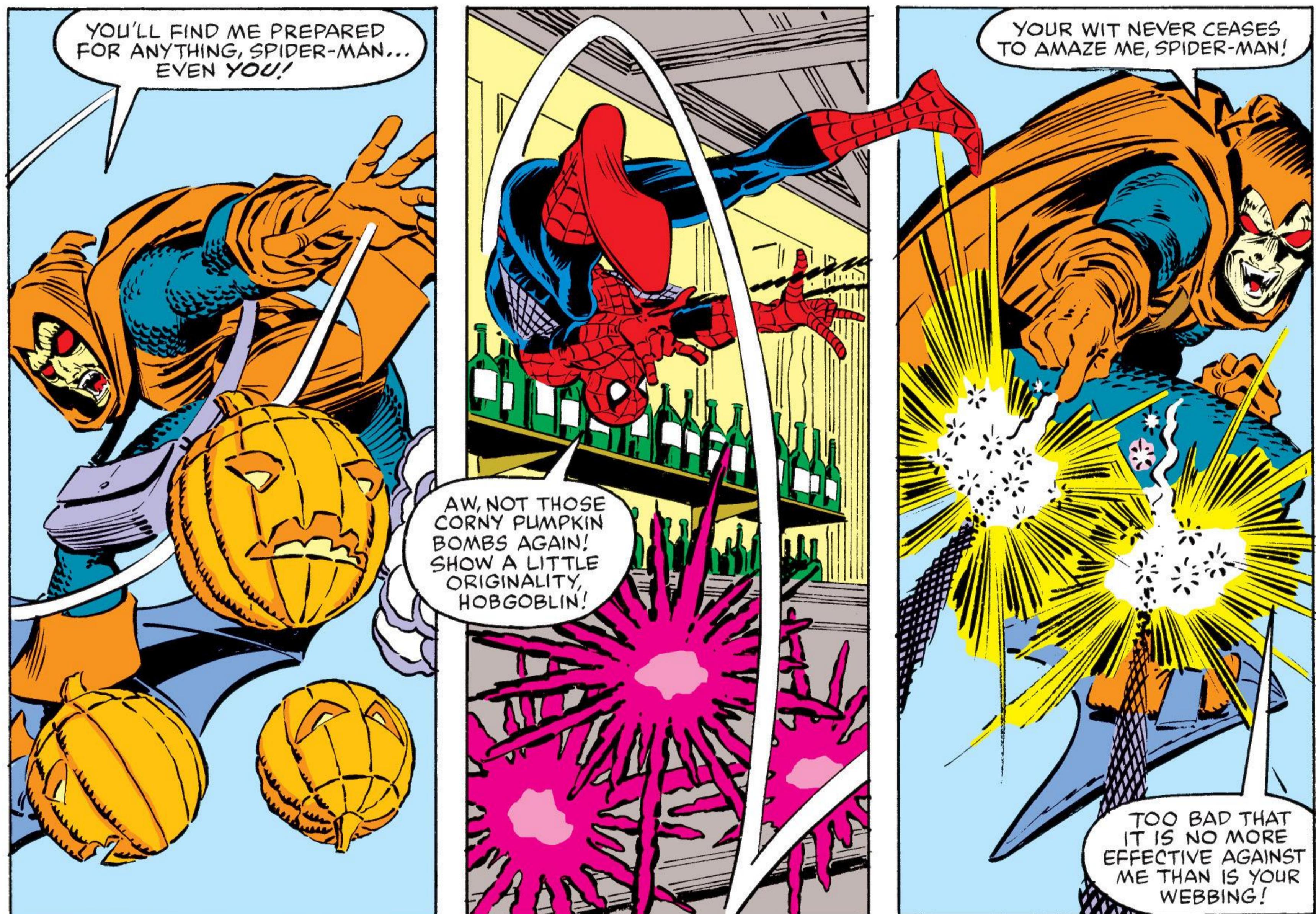
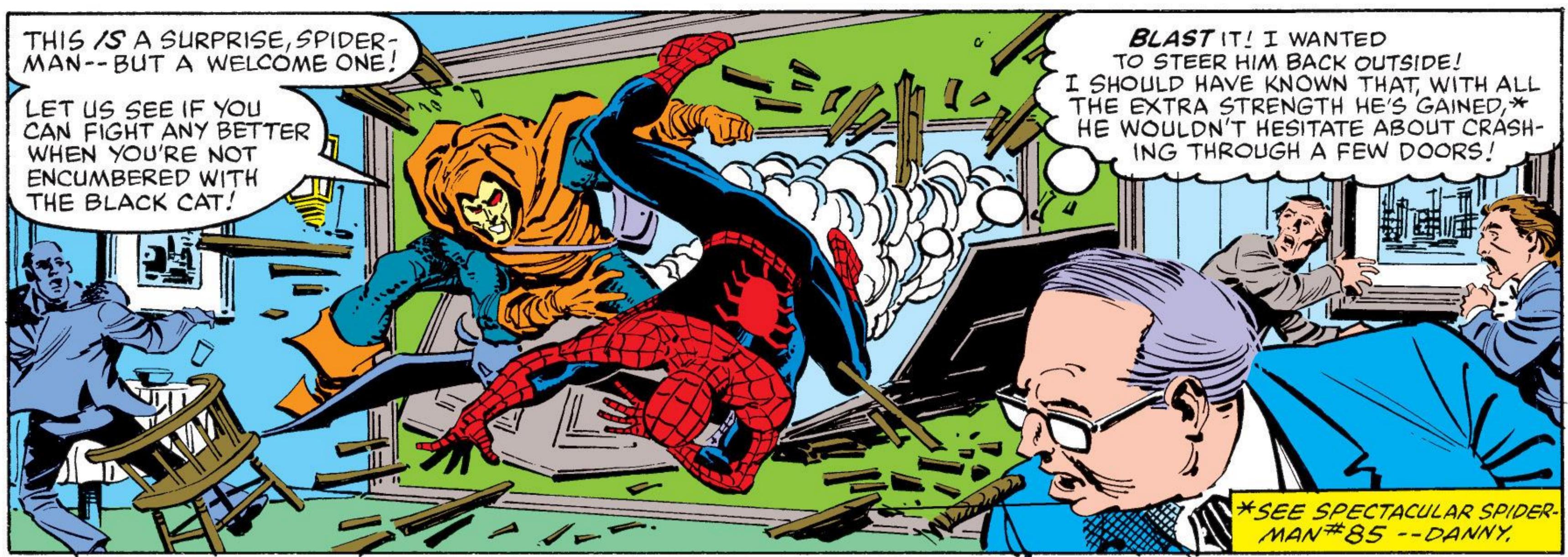


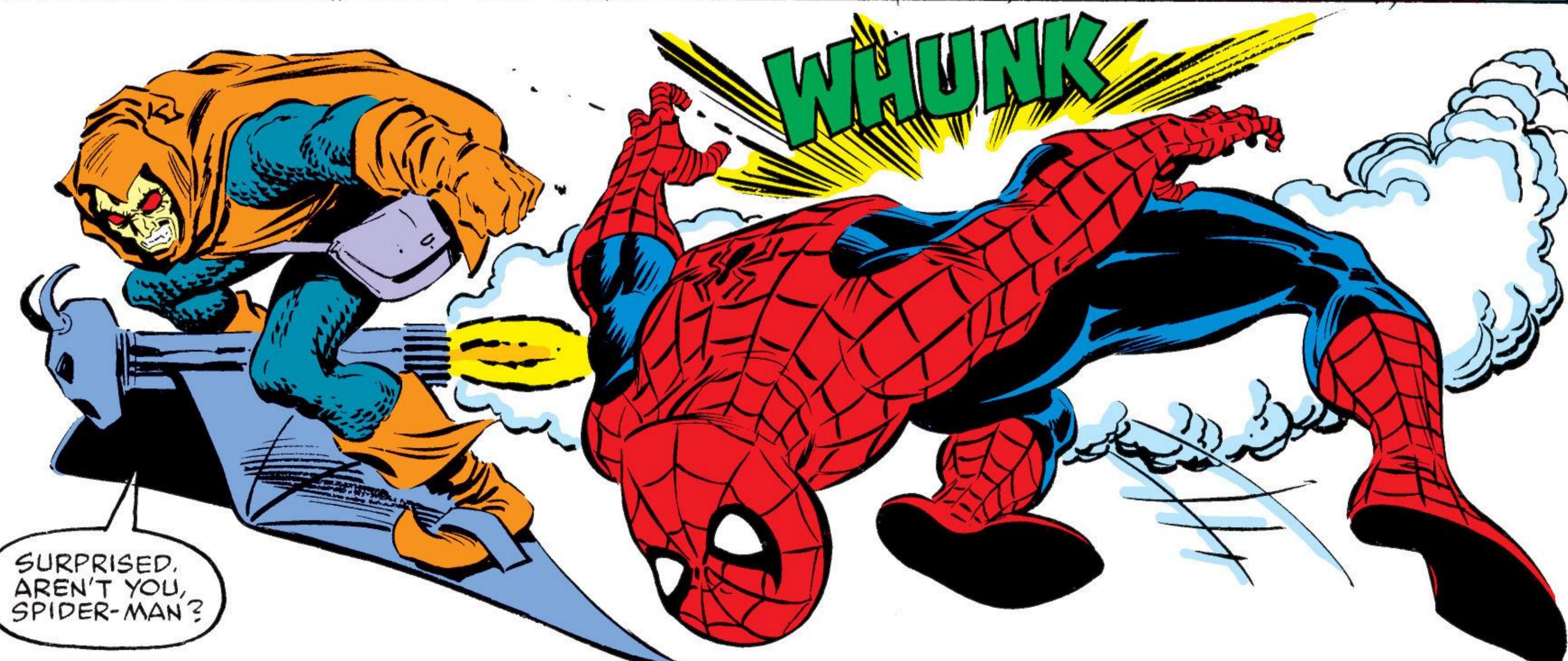
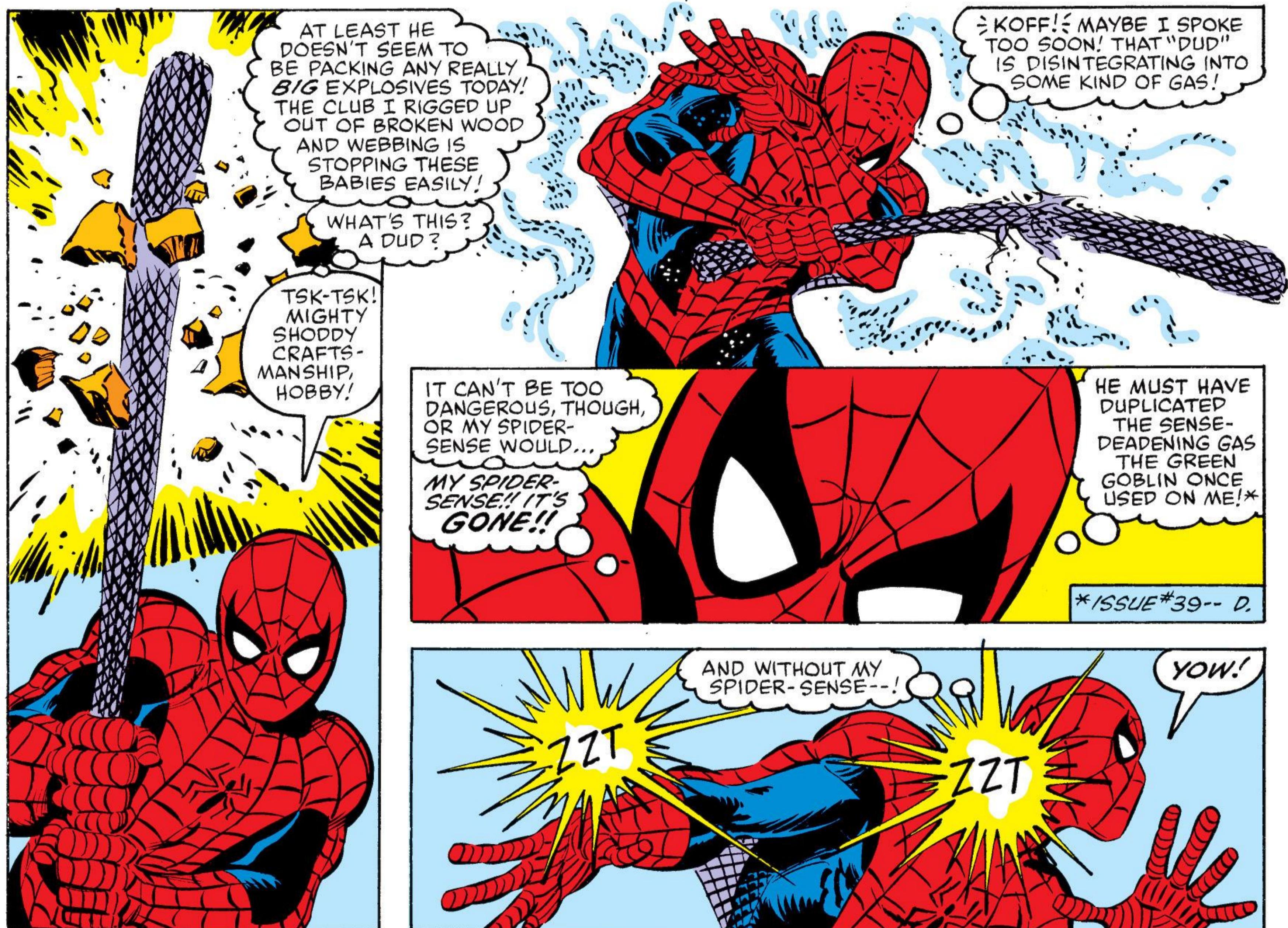
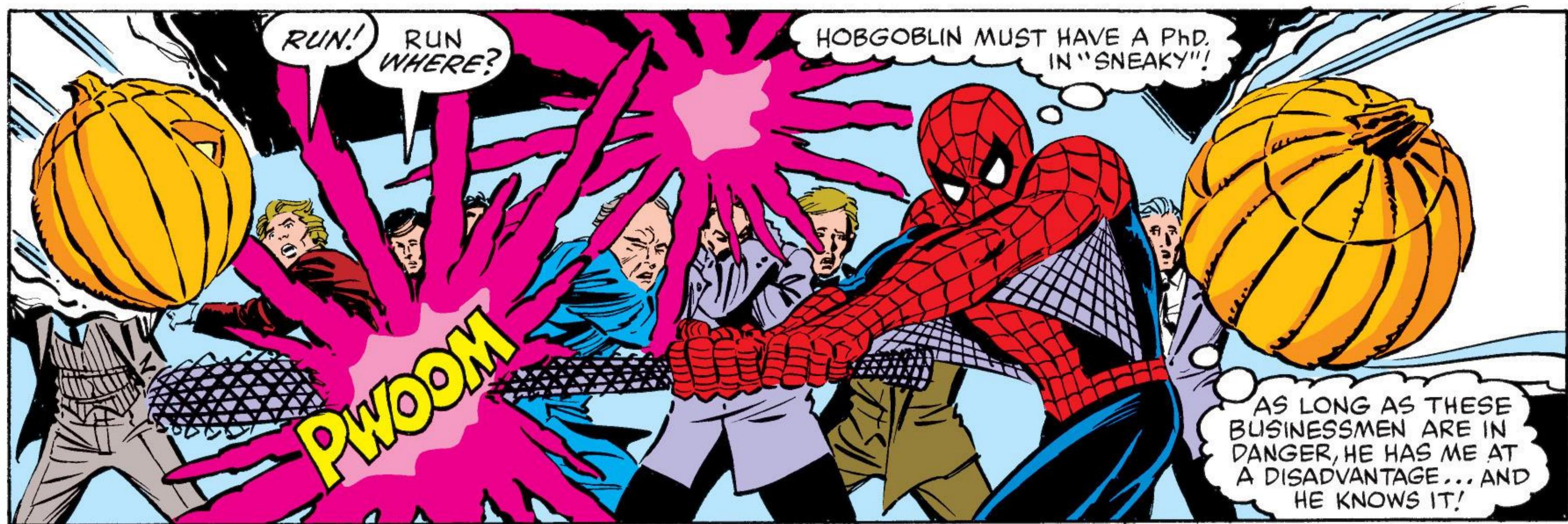


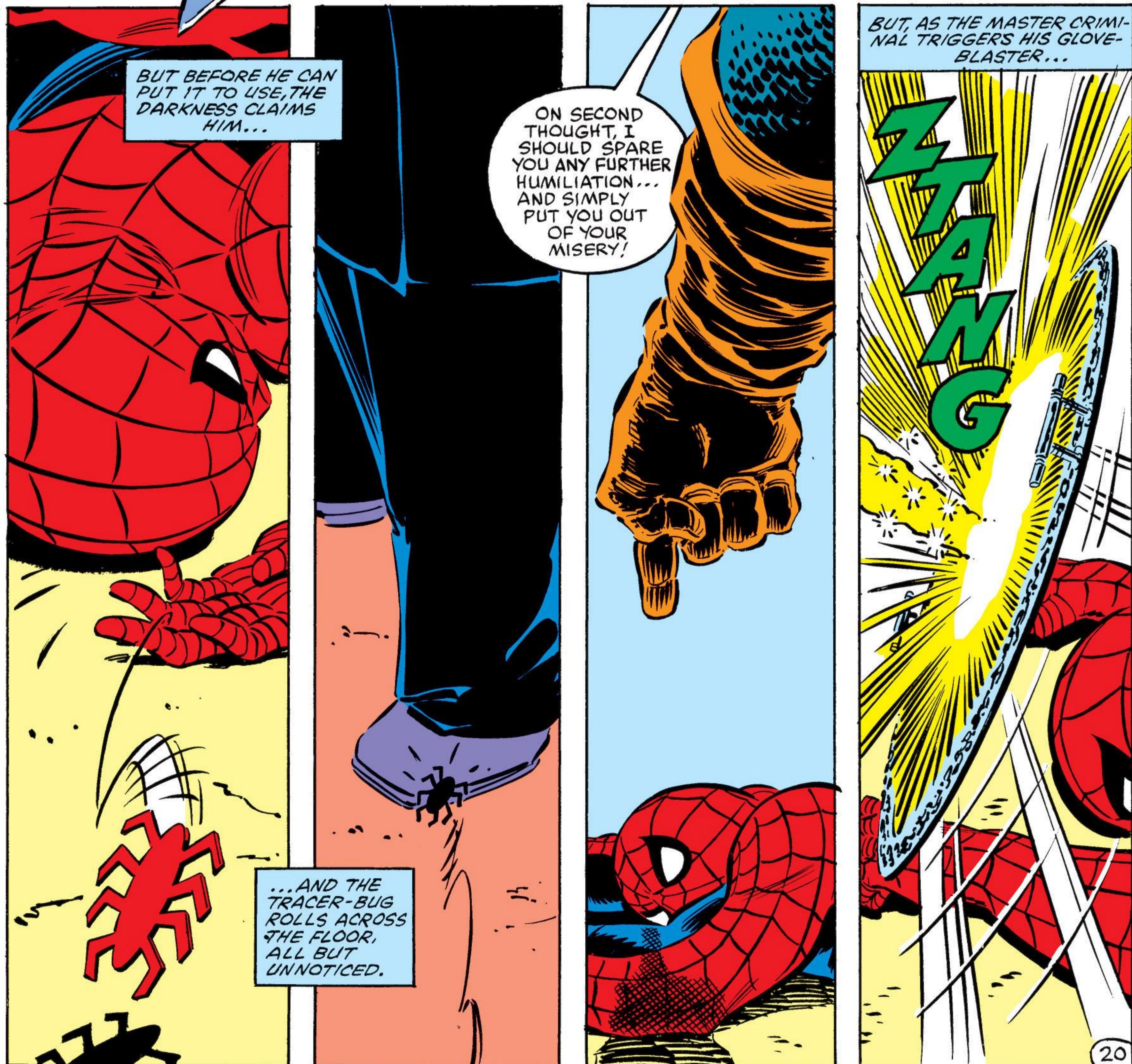
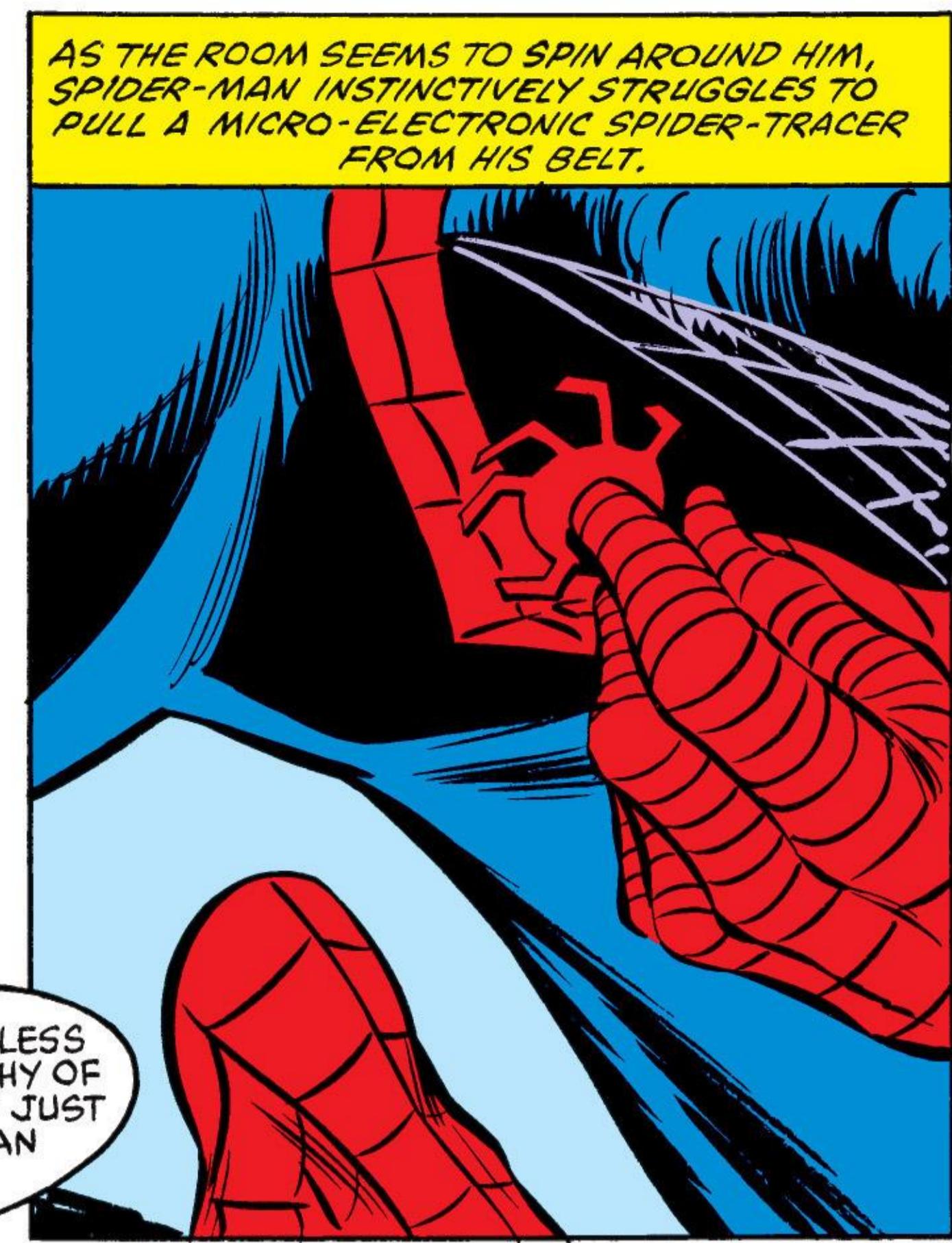
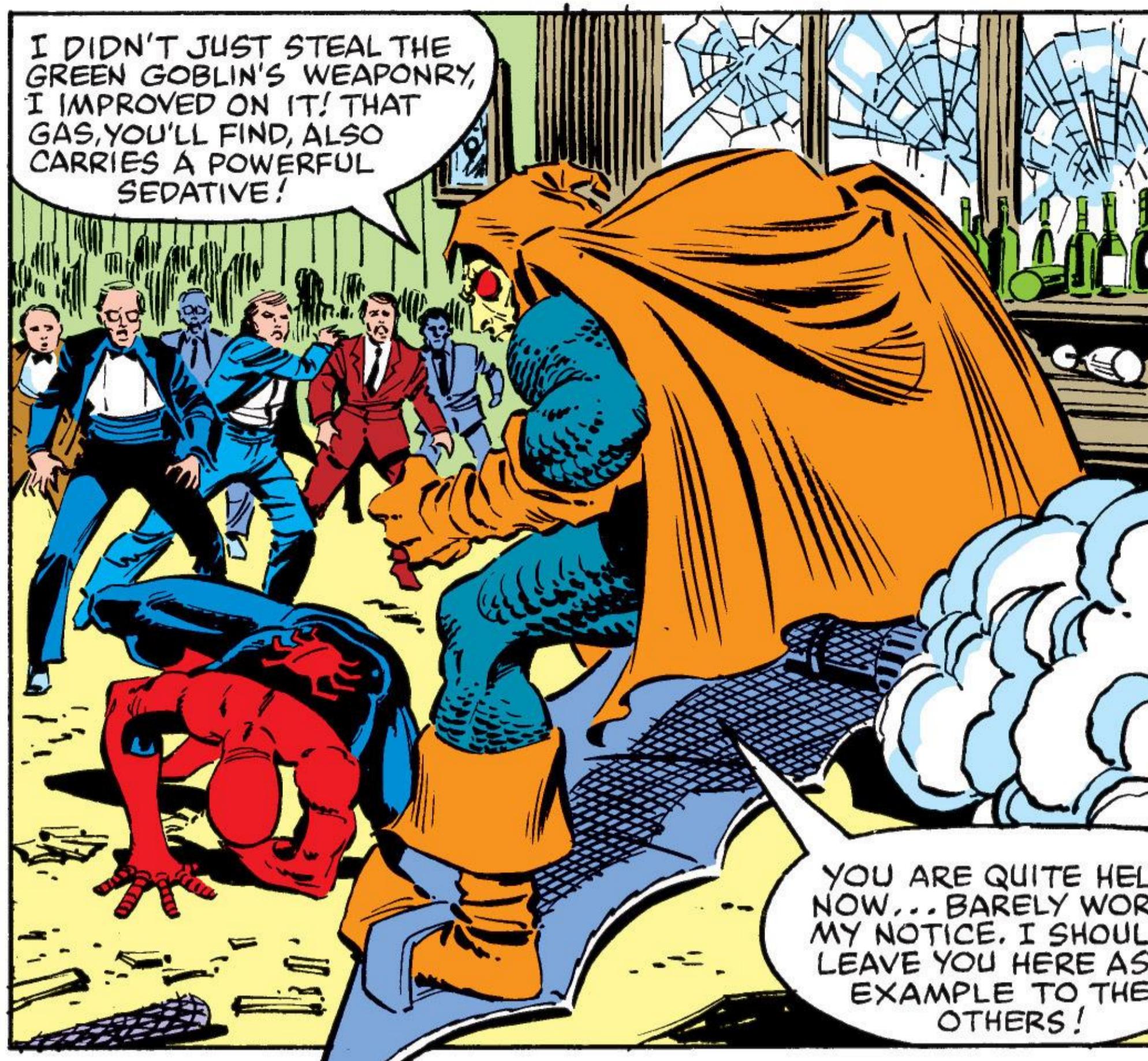


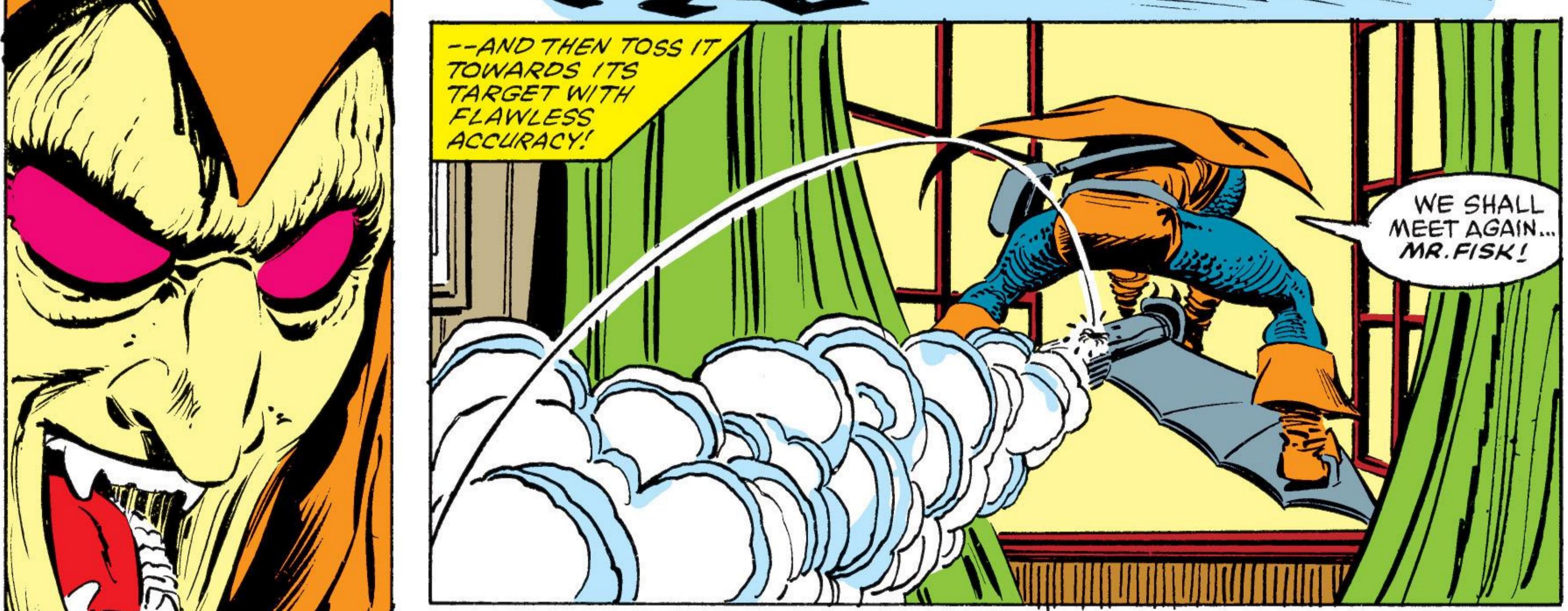
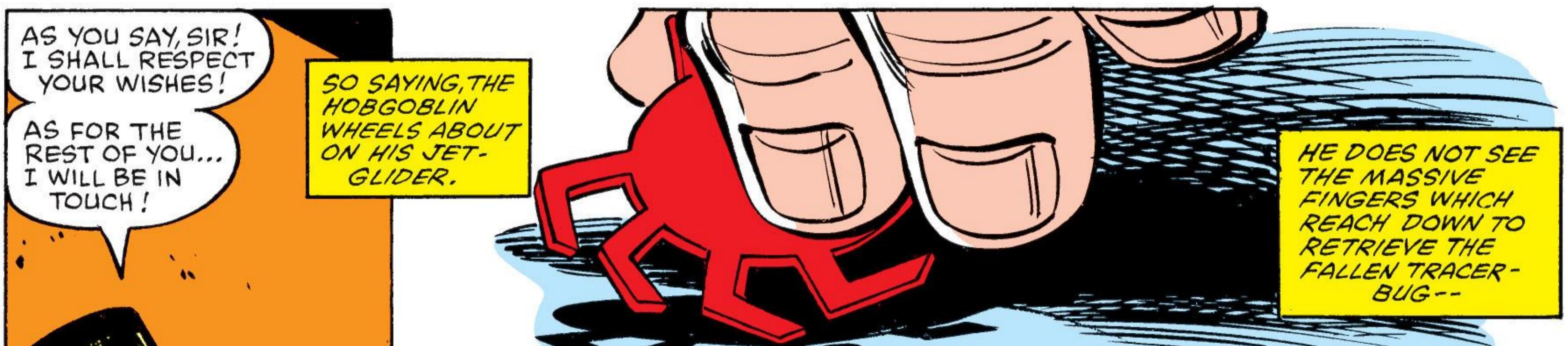
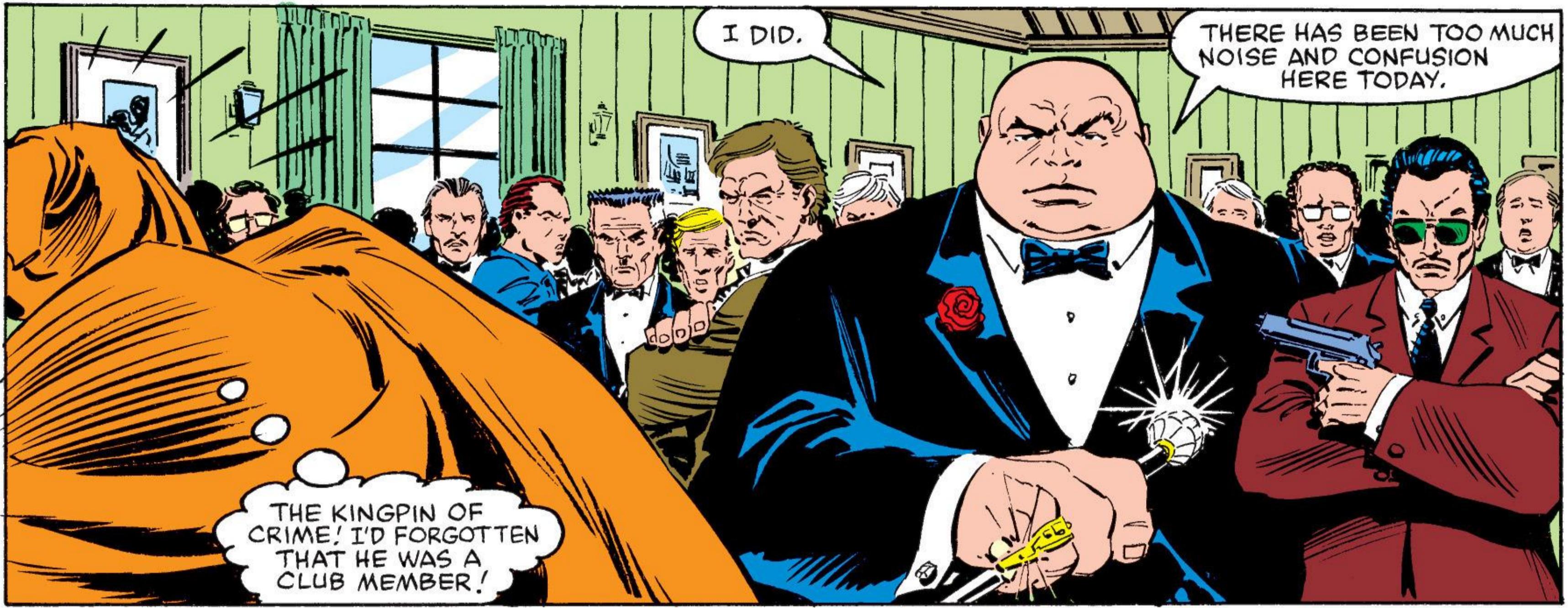


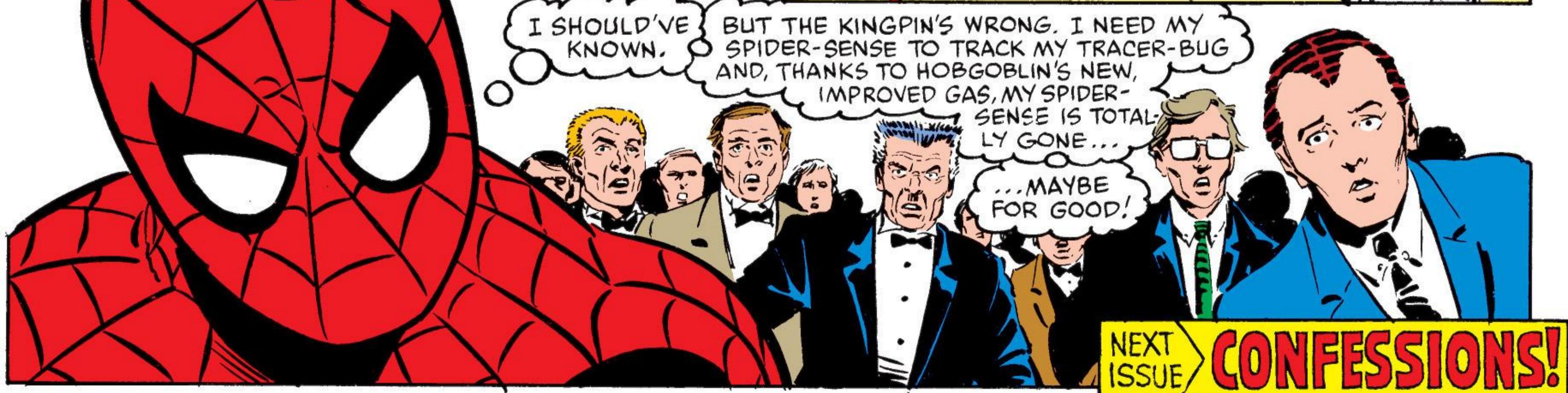
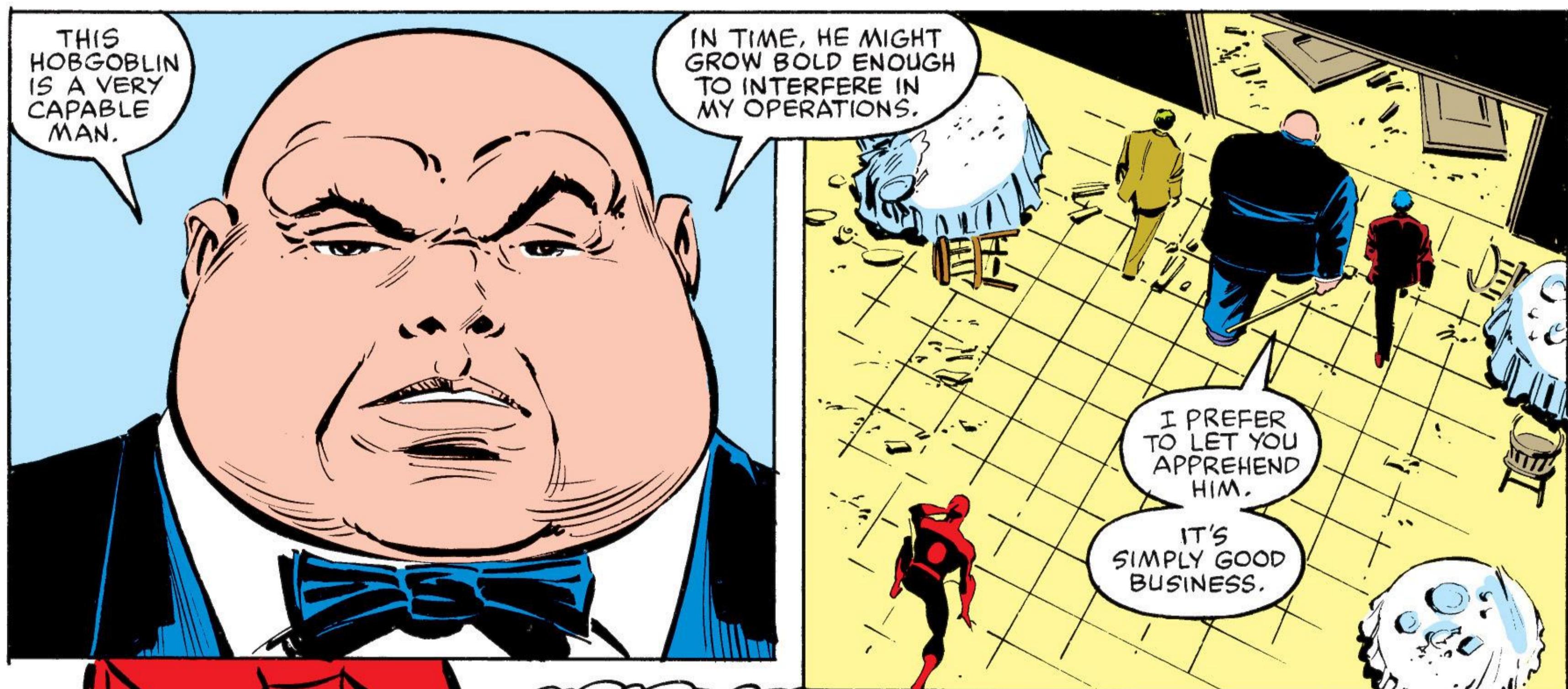
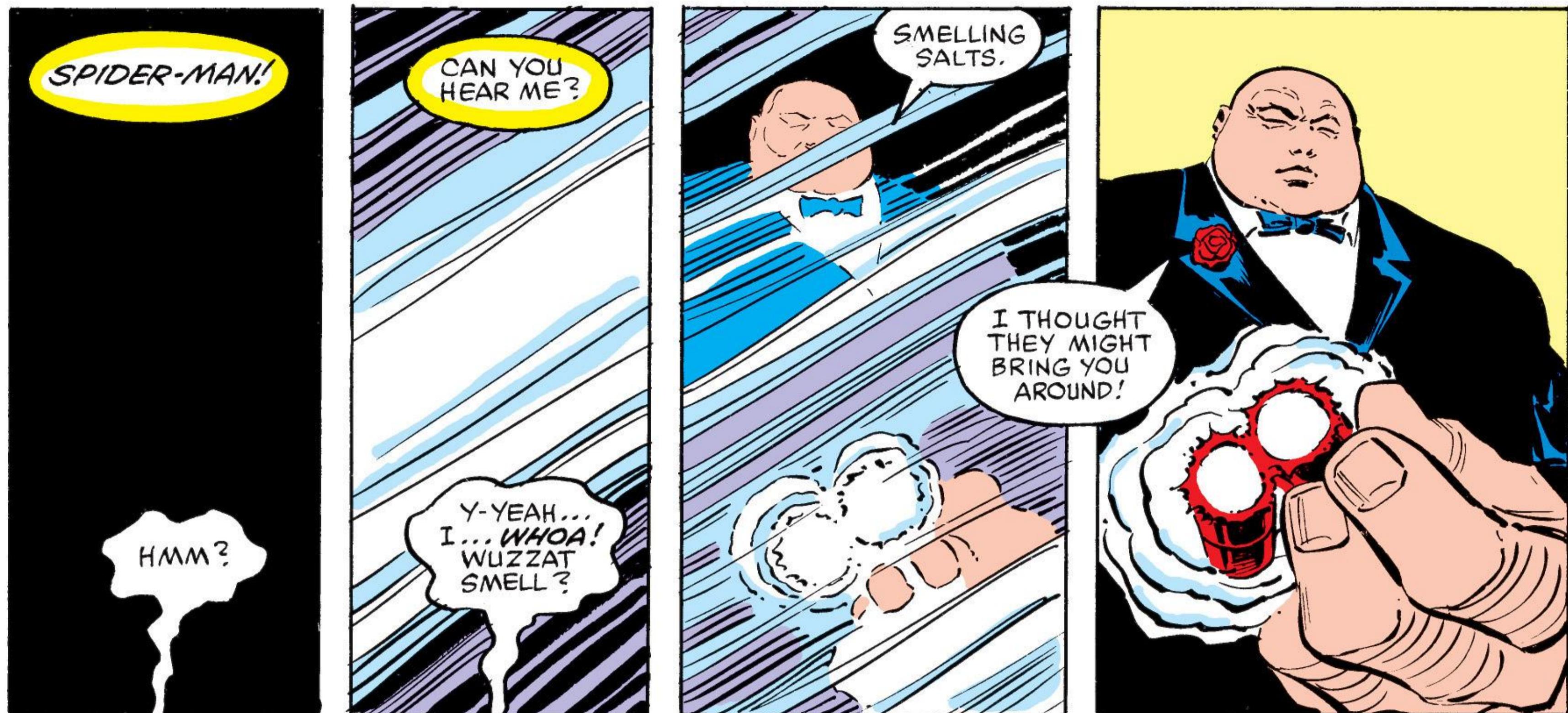












THE SPIDER'S WEB

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

DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

How embarrassing. While I was away on the west coast last month, frolicking in the sun and being a comics con celebrity with the rest of Marvel's editors, my assistant, Bob DeNatale, hung around here and totally outclassed me! I mean, he, Roger Stern, John Romita, Jr., Ron Frenz, Brett Breeding, and Terry Austin got together behind my back and made last month's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN one genuinely great comic! I was truly impressed by it — and I'd be highly surprised if you folks weren't, too, though it's too early for us to have gotten your mail on that issue yet. Anyway, now that I'm back, I can see that I'm going to have to work twice as hard to keep up with what Bob and company did. There's no justice, I tell you!

Well, while I cry in my beer, here's a look at your comments on SPIDER-MAN #244 . . .

Dear Roger, John, & Klaus:

Do you know what I like about SPIDER-MAN #244? Everything!

I really dug the cover . . . one of the best to date. In fact, "Ordeals!" was one of the best issues of SPIDER-MAN yet! (Of course, I know you can top it if you really try.)

I'm a college student, and sometimes it seems like I've been in school for decades—I'm 25, pushing 26—and I have to tell you that the way you handled Pete's formal leave-of-absence added a nice, perhaps even *ironic*, touch to the story. I've waited in lines throughout my college career (they are definitely part of the reality of academic life). I could both empathize and sympathize with Pete's frustrated attempts to get the necessary signatures for his forms. Dean Krenshaw's attitude of thinking that he was doing Peter a favor is also something you encounter in higher education. (Thankfully, there are also a lot of professors who will go out of their way to help you.) Peter's timely application of webbing to Krenshaw's door was poetic justice.

Mary Jane Watson? What can you say about that vibrant, bouncy redhead? Not much, 'cause we really don't know enough of her past to know what makes her tick. (I can't wait to see why she avoids committing herself to serious relationships!)

Spider-Man really jumped to conclusions about Lefty Donovan being the Hobgoblin. He's in for quite a shock. And if Hobgoblin can duplicate the experiment that gave Norman Osborn the strength of the Green Goblin, look out!

By the by, not only can Roger Stern really script those stories . . . not only is John Romita, Jr. as good, if not better than, his father . . . but Klaus Janson really inks J.R.'s pencils well. John and Klaus are a good art combo, and I'd really like to see them work together again.

Keep it coming, guys! The saga of the Hobgoblin could well become one of Marvel's finest hours!

Will Rose
Carrollton, CA 30117

John and Klaus together, Will? How about next issue?!

Dear Roger and John:

Once again, the turbulent personal life of Peter Parker undergoes a major change in the pages of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, this time with Peter taking a leave of absence from graduate studies. I know that Pete has always had problems, but it's getting a little old. Just once, I'd like to see Parker do one thing without screwing up!

Now, I'm not panning Spider-Man himself! The ol' Wall-crawler is as refreshing now as he was back in AMAZING FANTASY #15. But it's time for Peter Parker to rise above his image of the eternal loser and have a streak of good luck for a change.

Roger Stern is definitely a master craftsman. He's managed to weave the many series subplots into one interesting adventure in issue #244's "Ordeals!" And John Romita Jr. is the best penciler that this book has had in some time, but the dark and moody inks of Klaus Janson don't fit John's pencils that well.

Despite my criticisms, I feel that SPIDER-MAN is one of the most entertaining super hero features around, and entertainment is what it's all about, right?

Michael Fury
Concord, NC 28025

Right you are, Mike! And say, we don't mind the criticism in the least! As we've always said, time and time again, we openly solicit good, constructive criticism. 'Cause if we're doing something you don't like, and you don't tell us, we'll never get a chance to fix it!

'Nuff said?

Dear Roger and John,

I'd like to give my approval to Pete's quitting school. It's a good idea, a great change of pace, and should make for interesting stories.

Secondly, I love the ever-building feeling of suspense around the Hobgoblin. I have the distinct feeling that he is going to be one gigantic pain in the neck for Spider-Man.

Third, I have to say that SPIDER-MAN is probably the best comic around. It's better than X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, and everything else. Keep up the good work.

Mario Tiamberg Jr.
Duncanville, TX 73116

We'll do our best, Mario! (Hope I spelled your last name correctly!)

Dear Mr. Stern and Mr. Romita:

SPIDER-MAN #244 was beautiful. The standout scenes were those of Pete going through the agonies of standing in line while quitting school by the book. I myself am in college, and I know the feeling. His retaliation on Dean Krenshaw was superb — and it showed a lot of style.

The warehouse brawl likewise was vintage SPIDER-MAN, especially with SM's wise-guy joking in the midst of battle.

Let's see more of the Hobgoblin. He is slowly turning out to be an excellent SPIDER-MAN villain.

And, please, more of Mary Jane and the rest of the gang!

David Long
Arlington, VA 22204

Guys:

When Norman Osborn became the

Green Goblin, the explosive chemicals which gave him his great strength also drove him insane. Now, if the Hobgoblin uses the same chemicals, will he now become just as insane?

As for the letters page of ASM #244, there were a number of people who ventured guesses as to the identity of Hobgoblin. Well, I'm sorry but I think they're all wrong. For instance, someone guessed that Hobby was J. Jonah Jameson. No way. Jonah hates costumed characters, he certainly isn't going to become one. Dr. Bart Hamilton . . . definitely not, he's dead. Both Jack O'Lantern and the Chameleon are familiar with Spider-Man's fighting style, and they'd be better prepared for him. Neither Roger Hochberg nor Lance Bannon have the resources to finance Hobgoblin's operations.

The man who is the Hobgoblin already owns stock in Osborn Manufacturing. He is also an extremely powerful man position-wise. He obviously has some scientific and mechanical knowledge, as well as a general knowledge of chemical explosives. Wealth, power, intelligence, plus a good physical build all adds up to one person . . . Flash Thompson!

Shan Ferguson
(No address on letter)

**Flash Thompson?!? Wealth? Power?
Intelligence?!?! (Psst! Hey, Shan, you
know something we don't know?)**

Dear Rog,
The Hobgoblin, huh? Roger Hochberg?
Jameson? Bannon? Nah!
I think I've got it . . . Lt. Keating!

Jay Beauvillia
Appleton, WI 54915

You're not fooling me. The Hobgoblin is really Stan Lee!

Clarence Pruitt
Argyle, TX 76226

The Hobgoblin can be one of two people: K. J. Clayton or Aunt May's gentleman friend Nathan Lubensky (he's just using the wheelchair to throw suspicion away from him).

Raymond Hulin
Seattle, WA 98107

Dr. Jonas Harrow!!

Douglas Faber
and Paul Neitzke
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Ned Leeds is the Hobgoblin.

Shane Moody
Orlando, FL 32809

The Hobgoblin is obviously Aunt May!
Lee Hester
Palo Alto, CA 94396

Who is the Hobgoblin? The answer lies in the future.

Thirty days in the future is AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #250 The story is called "Confessions!" We think you're going to like it . . . a lot!

'Nuff said.

Danny Fingeroth