

SPIDER-MAN

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

HELP ME--
BEFORE THIS
FIRE KILLS US
ALL!!

WOUNDED--IN BLINDING
PAIN--THE WEB-SLINGER
FIGHTS HIS MOST
DESPERATE BATTLE--TO
SAVE THE LIFE OF
LIZ ALLEN!!

THE MOLTEN MAN'S LAST STAND!

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

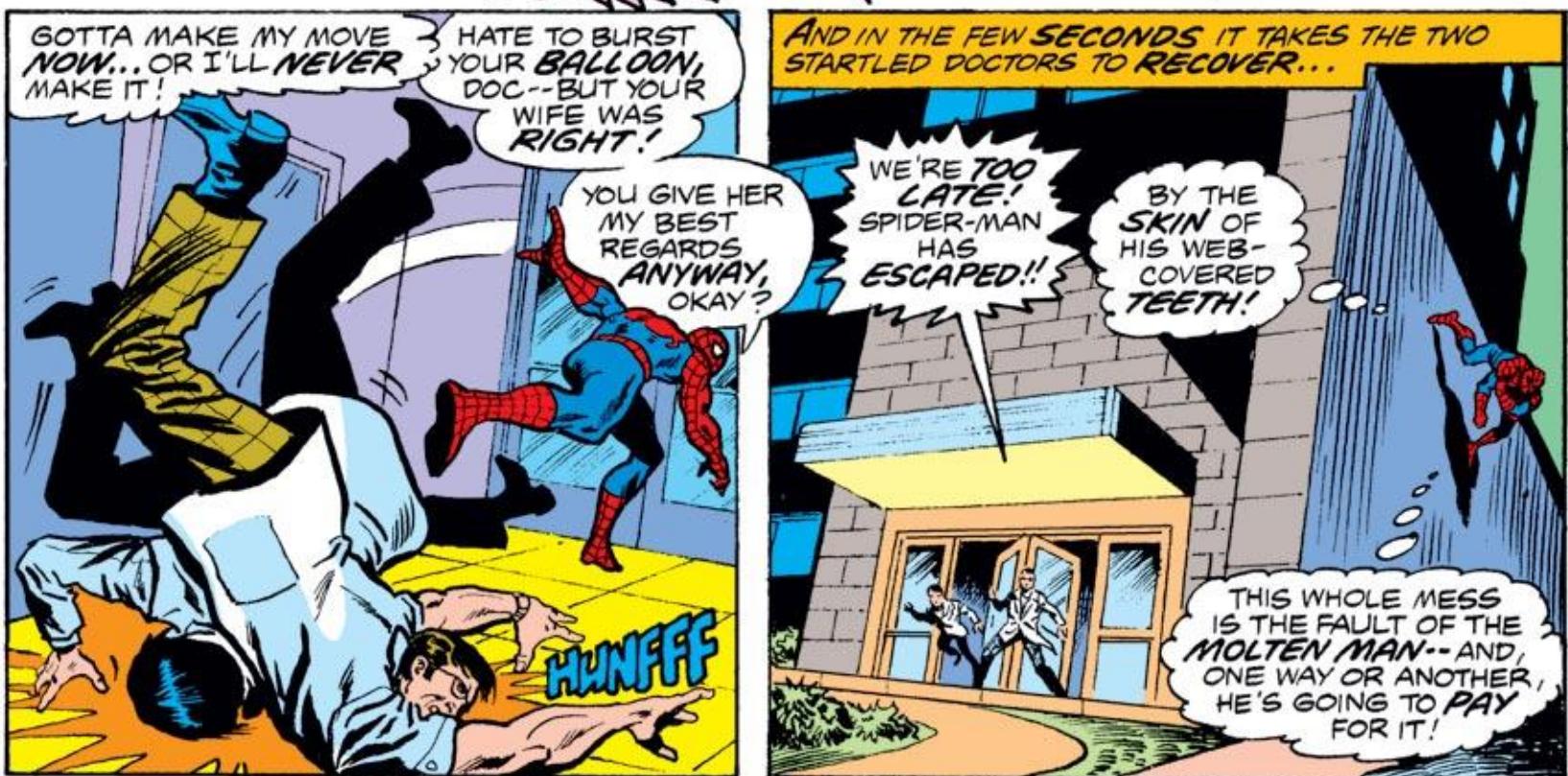
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

LEN WEIN * ROSS ANDRU * JIM MOONEY * GLYNIS WEIN * JOHN COSTANZA
WRITER/EDITOR ILLUSTRATOR EMBELLISHER colorist letterer



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AND EVEN AS OUR HAPLESS HERO REFILLS HIS EMPTY WEB-SHOOTERS, THEN SWINGS PAINFULLY AWAY TOWARDS HIS CHELSEA APARTMENT, WE'D BEST TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN--



...WHERE WE CAN WATCH A MINOR DISASTER DEVELOP INTO A FULL-FLEDGED CATASTROPHE!

HOLY SMOKE!



I KEEP TELLIN' YA TA WATCH WHERE YA THROW YER USED BUTTS, JOE! NOW LOOK WHAT YA DONE!

THUS OCCUPIED, NEITHER GUARD NOTICES A SHADY FIGURE STEAL PAST...



UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL KEEP OUT

...THEN RACE DOWN AN ISOLATED CORRIDOR, TO PAUSE BEFORE A CERTAIN DOOR...

...AND THEN...

WHY DO I KEEP WORKING OVER-TIME THIS WAY?

THE BOSS DOESN'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE IT AND...

WOW, IT'S REALLY GOTTEN HOT IN HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN!

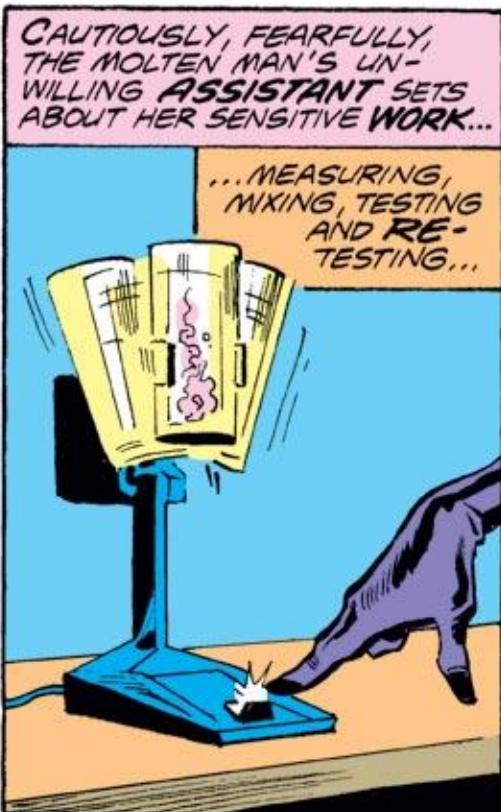
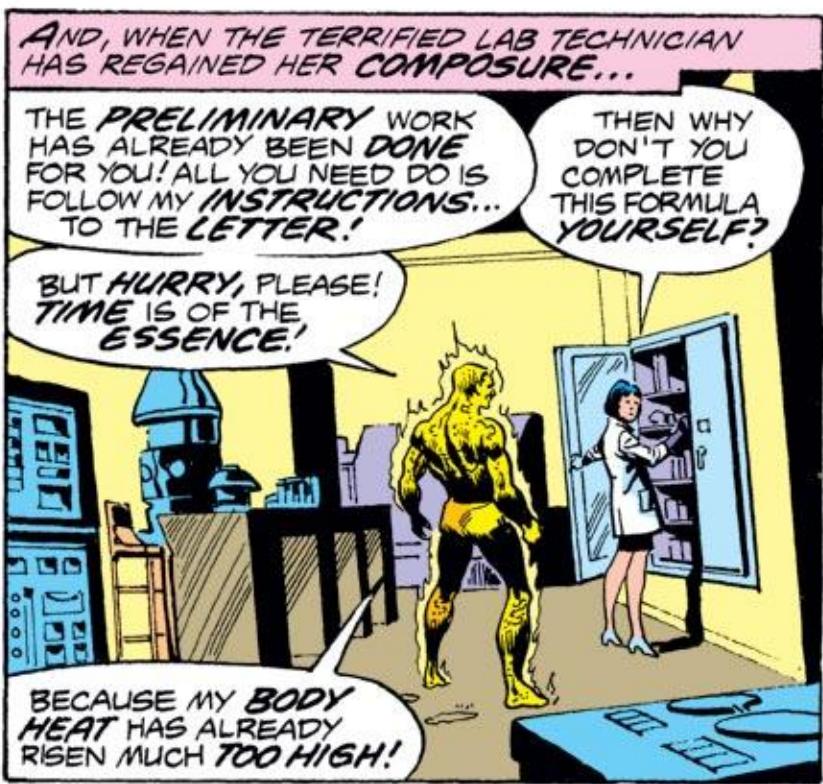
AND IT IS BOUND TO GET A GOOD DEAL HOTTER, WOMAN, BEFORE YOU AND I ARE THROUGH!

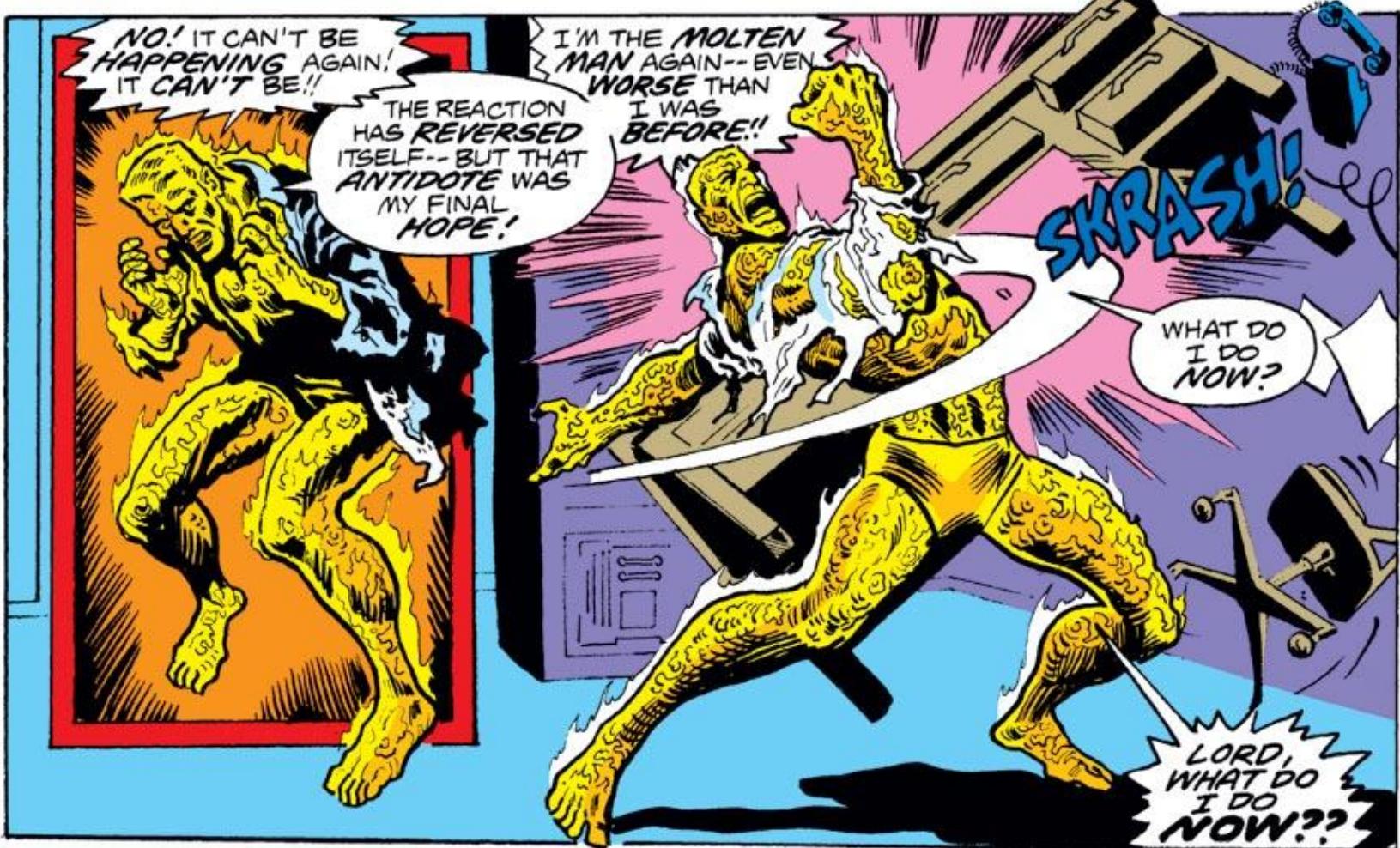
M-MOTHER OF MERCY! WH-WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU?

I AM CALLED THE MOLTEN MAN, MY DEAR--

--FOR REASONS I TRUST ARE OBVIOUS!!





AND ON THAT TRAGIC NOTE, WE MUST REGRETFULLY SWITCH SCENES ONCE AGAIN--TO INTRODUCE THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THIS ISSUE'S CAST...

FOR SOMEBODY JUST OUT OF JAIL, MS. ALLEN--YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT! CARE TO TELL A GIRL YOUR SECRET?

THAT ISN'T FUNNY, MARY JANE. IT WAS KIND OF JOE ROBERTSON TO PUT UP LIZ'S BAIL--BUT PETER SHOULD'VE TOLD ME FIRST!

I'D HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE INHERITANCE TO HELP FREE THE WOMAN I'M GOING TO MARRY!

THEN... MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LEFT ME BEHIND BARS, HARRY. YOU'LL BE COMING INTO CONTROL OF YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS SOON...

...AND IT WON'T HELP YOU TO BE MARRIED TO A JAILBIRD!

SWEETHEART, THAT'S THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING I'VE EVER HEARD!

HARRY'S RIGHT, LIZ, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY AL CAPONE, Y' KNOW.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS EXPLAIN TO THE POLICE WHY YOU WERE TAKING THOSE CHEMICALS FROM THE HOSPITAL *--AND YOU'LL BE IN THE CLEAR.

BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM, MARY JANE. NO MATTER HOW MUCH I MIGHT WANT TO, I...

...I JUST CAN'T!

AND AS IF THINGS WEREN'T ALREADY BAD ENOUGH...

MISS LIZ ALLEN?

YES, SHE IS, BUT...

MISS ALLEN, WE'D LIKE YOU TO ACCOMPANY US, PLEASE!

NO CHANCE, MISTER! THIS LITTLE LADY'S DONE NOTHING TO VIOLATE HER BAIL!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ARREST HER AGAIN, WITHOUT A WHALE OF A FIGHT FROM ME!

EASY, SON--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE'RE NOT ARRESTING MISS ALLEN...WE NEED HER HELP!

PLEASE, HARRY--I CAN HANDLE THIS MYSELF!

FINE, THEN WE CAN...

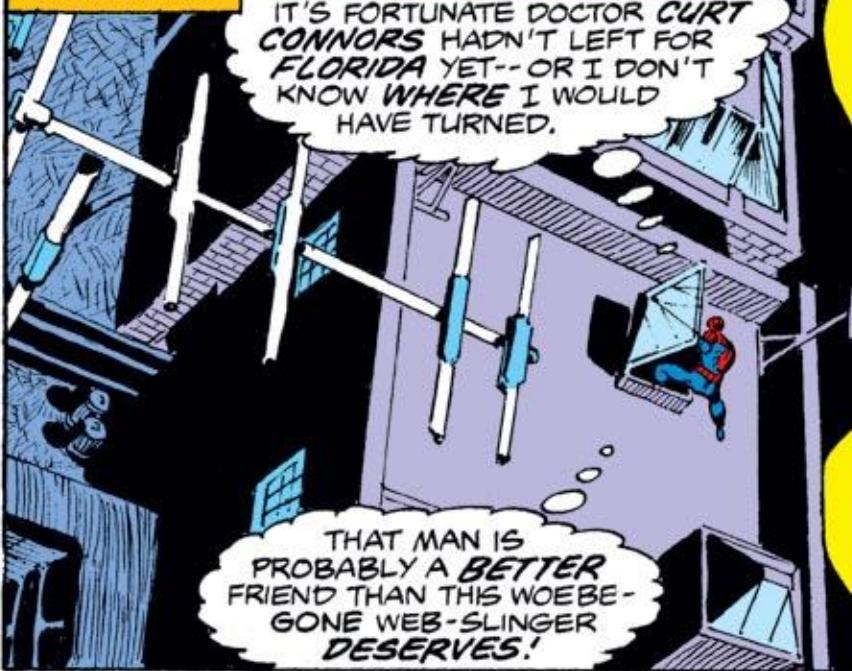
OFFICER, I'D BE HAPPY TO ACCOMPANY YOU,

A MAN NAMED MARK RAXTON IS THREATENING TO DESTROY THE FENSTER PHARMACEUTICAL LABS, UNLESS HE SPEAKS TO THIS LADY IMMEDIATELY!

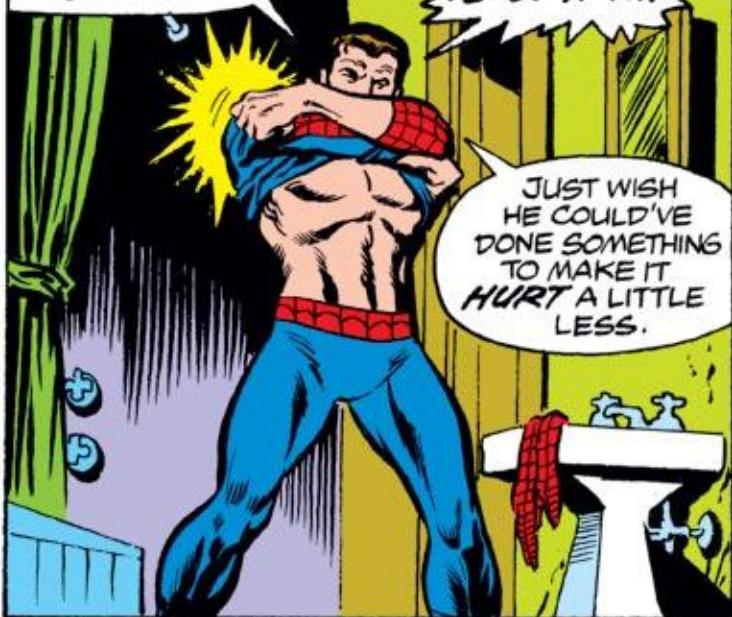
SORRY--BUT MY FIANCÉE ISN'T DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT...

THANK YOU, MISS... WE REALLY APPRECIATE THIS.

AND, SHORTLY, AT THE AFOREMENTIONED CHELSEA APARTMENT HOUSE OF A CERTAIN PETER PARKER...



HE DISINFECTED MY WOUND... BANDAGED IT... AND NEVER ONCE ASKED ME HOW I GOT IT.



STILL, IF I JUST FAVOR THE ARM FOR A FEW DAYS, IT SHOULD BE AS GOOD AS... UH-OH.

THERE'S THE MAIL-- INCLUDING THE USUAL NUMBER OF BILLS, I SEE...

...AND WHAT COOKS LIKE AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM EMPIRE STATE U!

"DEAR MR. PARKER, WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT DUE TO FAILING GRADES IN SEVERAL OF YOUR COURSES, YOU WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO GRADUATE THIS YEAR WITH THE REST OF YOUR CLASS..."

SWELL.

SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

I'VE BEEN HALF-EXPECTING THIS FOR MONTHS, AND I STILL FIND IT NUMBING.

SO HOW DO I TELL AUNT MAY THAT HER FAVORITE NEPHEW HAS LET PLAYING SUPER-HERO SCREW UP HIS ENTIRE...

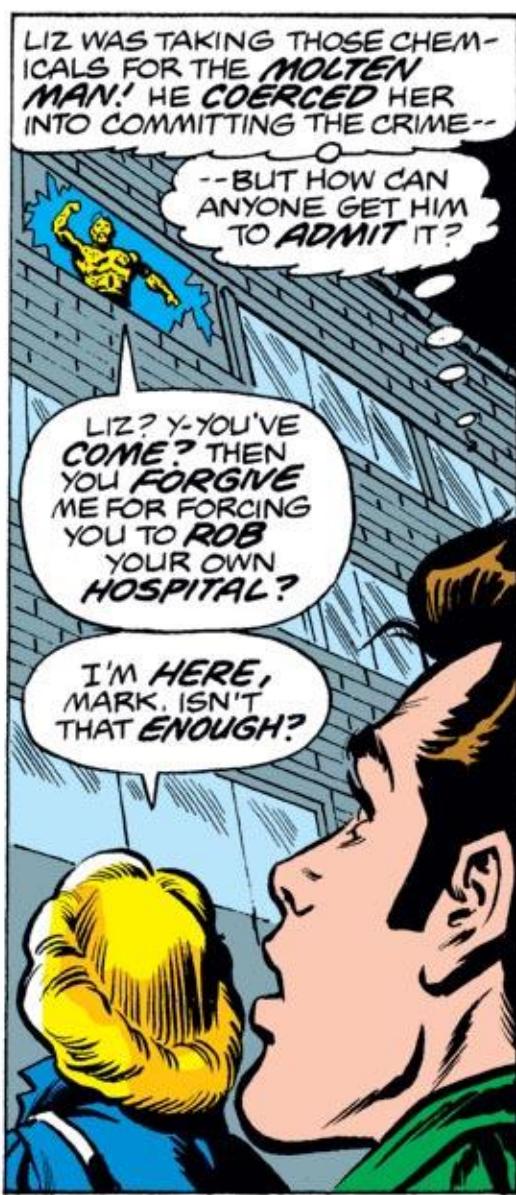


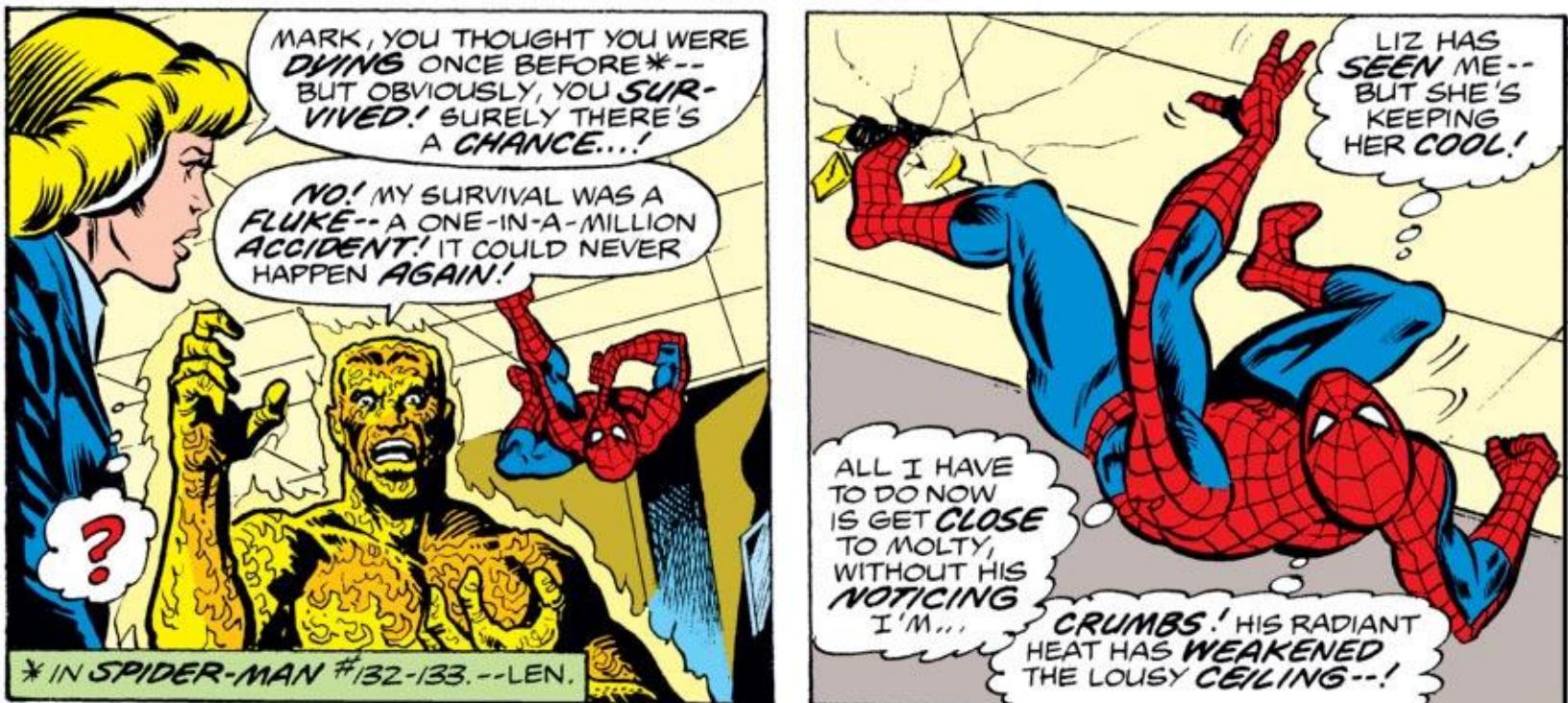
HELLO? OH... HI, ROBBIE.

YOU WANT ME TO GET DOWN TO WHERE? TO TAKE PHOTOS OF WHO?

NO, YOU'RE NOT BOthering ME AT ALL, PAL. I'M ON MY WAY!

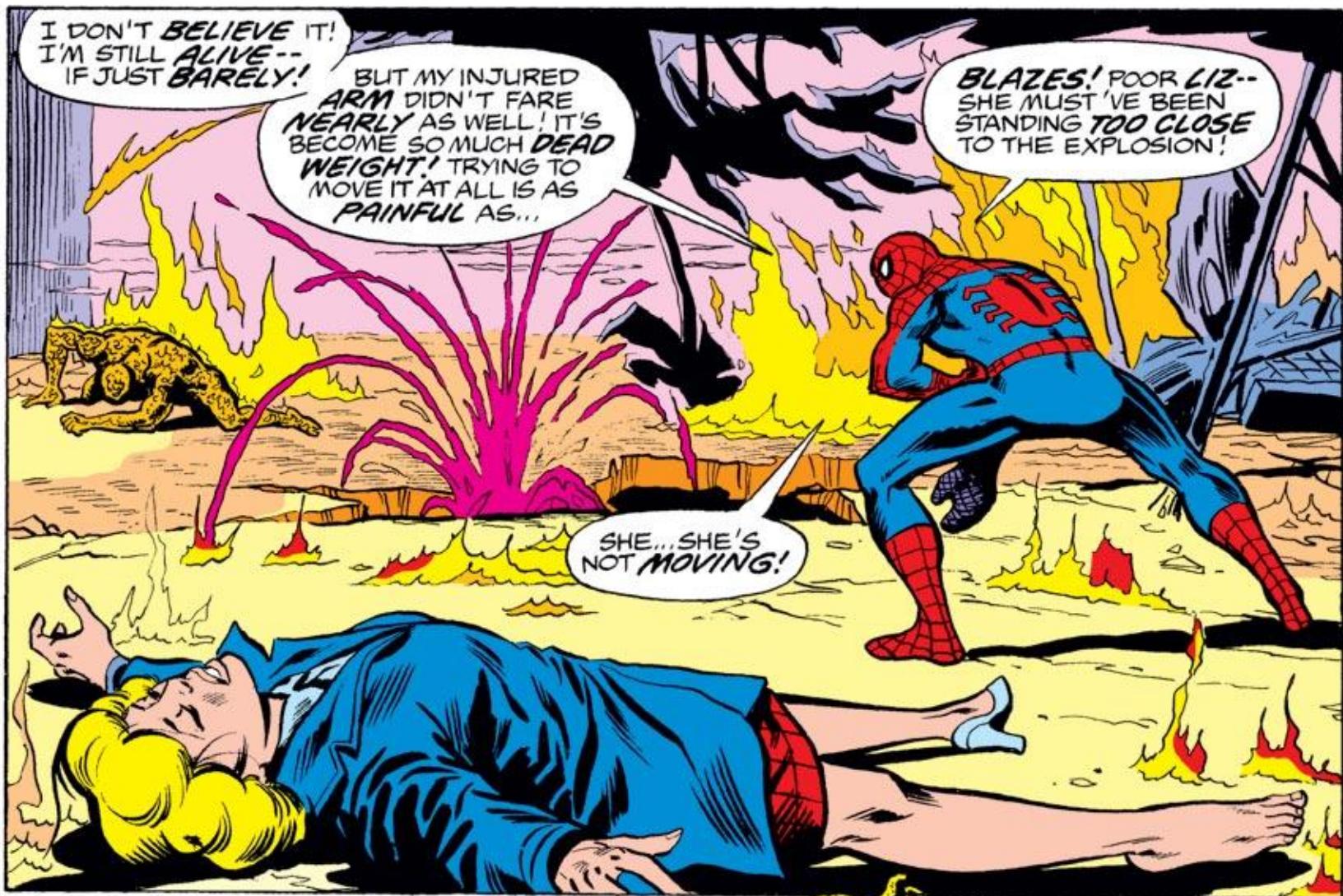
AND NOW THAT WE'VE ASSEMBLED ALL OUR PLAYERS, THE DRAMA CAN BEGIN IN EARNEST...



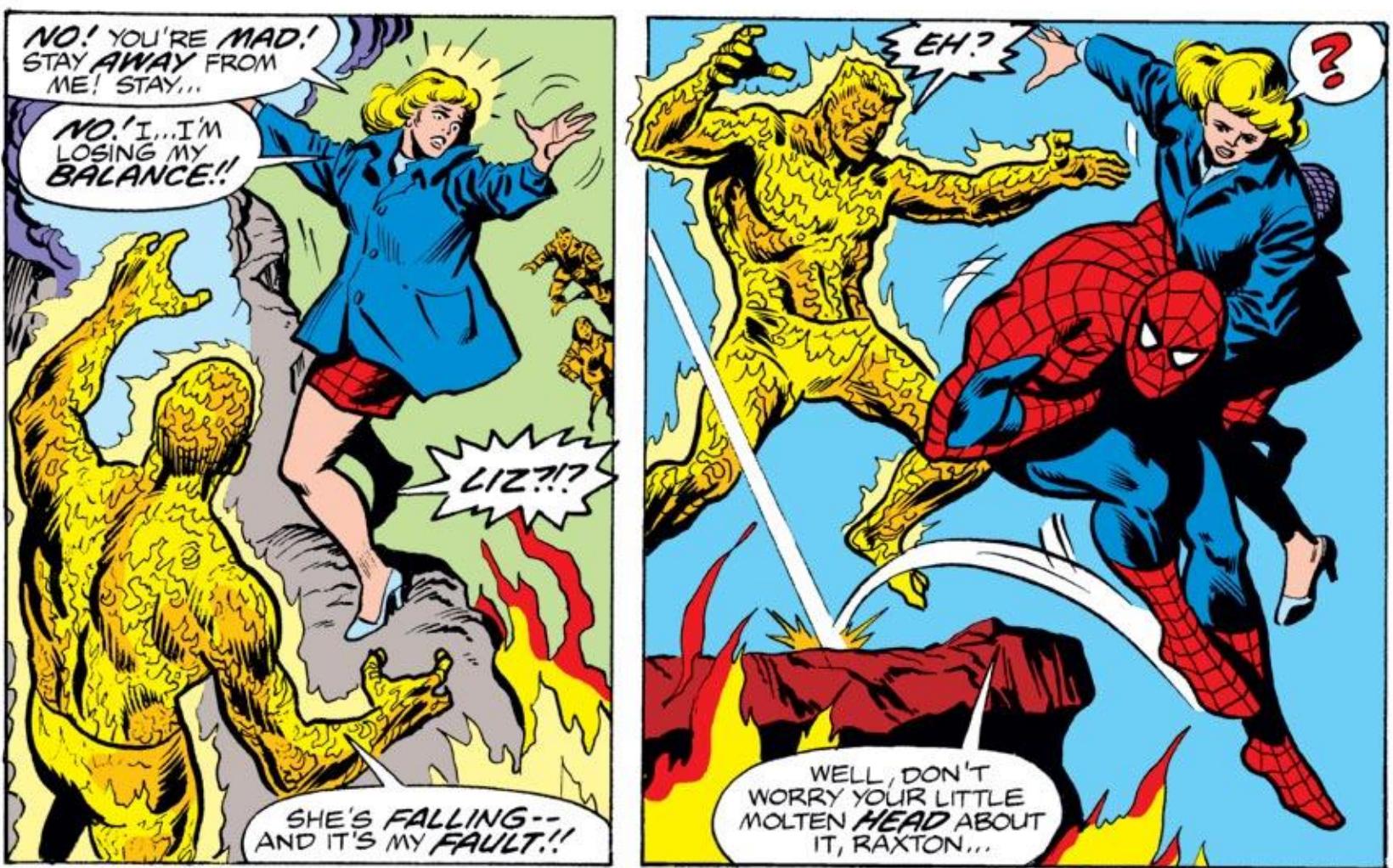










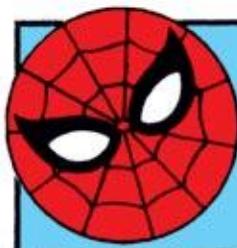






NEXT ISSUE: THE HITMAN'S BACK IN TOWN!

AND J. JONAH JAMESON IS NUMBER ONE ON HIS HIT PARADE! BE HERE, OKAY?



THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Len and Ross,

Your work in SPIDER-MAN recently has been simply fabulous. Ross's pencils have been super. I would like to see him draw THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN too. The Will-o'-the-Wisp/Spider-Slayer series was one of your best stories ever and I hope we'll be seeing more of Will-o'-the-Wisp and the mysterious Dr. Jonas Harrow.

Now to the matter at hand, SPIDER-MAN #169. "Confrontation" was a good story. Seeing Jameson trying to pull the "mask" off Parker's face and then discovering he wasn't wearing one was simply hilarious. Using the fake photos to make Jameson think that his pictures were the double exposures was sheer genius on Peter's part! It was nice to see Peter's photographing ability being highlighted. The fight with Doctor Faustus's gang showed Spidey at his best. Watching that guy punching away at Spidey with no effect was nice to see. Too often lately Spidey has been taken out by blows he shouldn't have even felt! Dr. Faustus has never been one of my favorite villains, but I'm sure Len will make him interesting.

Now it's no-prize time. On page 15, panel 4, Peter tells Jameson, "Well-er-what about Harry Osborn? We were still roommates while he was the Green Goblin." The only thing wrong with this is that Peter's the only one who knows Harry ever was the Green Goblin! Check the ending of SPIDER-MAN #137. Everyone thought Harry was crazy when he told them he was the Green Goblin *and* that Peter Parker was Spider-Man! If they had believed him they would have learned Spidey's "secret identity"!! Try to wiggle out of that one!

Randy Divinski

1639 Maryland Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, Minn. 55426

Wiggle all we might, Randy, you've still got us pinned—you and about a million other True Believers—so there's not much we can do beside give you your coveted no-prize.

Truth to tell, Lively Len Wein realized his error after scripting SPIDER-MAN #169, and had intended to go back and adjust the offending line when the original artwork returned to the Bullpen for proofreading, but somehow, the line slipped by him again.

So, for the multitude of you who might have been bothered by the Lively One's error, please go back to your copies of SPIDER-MAN #169 and insert the words "thought he" before the phrase "was the Green Goblin" and everything should work out just fine.

Dear Marvel,

Things have really shaped up. Catching up on six months of SPIDER-MAN really proved interesting. It's so obvious that all those little loose ends have been tied together.

Not only has Peter Parker straightened out his love life, but he has also seen his other anxieties working out. Len Wein certainly does know how to control a story. We haven't been lost in a mountain of forgotten sub-plots, either. J. Jonah Jameson has again become a prominent character in the strip, as have the remaining supporting figures. Harry and Liz are to be married. You're hinting at a possible relationship between J.J.J. and Dr. Marla Madison. Even new material is being added to the scene. "Robbie" Robertson has shown indications of some intriguing problems. Dr. Hamilton seems to be becoming another character in the Peter Parker annual.

The sub-plot side of Spider-Man improved, and we can also see a variation in the incidents that have occurred. When was the last time someone's boss came by and grabbed the hero's

hair in order to prove something? This scene was one of the most unique ever. The past few issues presented another side of Spider-Man. The Will-O-The-Wisp worked magnificently with Spidey and brought forth some of Pete Parker's more rational moments.

We're even back to the old stunts. Spider-Man has a hole in his boot! Fantastic. Something like this wouldn't work in the newest sensation known as NOVA. Spider-Man even mistook Dr. Faustus as the Kingpin. Where else could this happen?

Ross Andru's work has improved tremendously. Since I last read an issue of SPIDER-MAN, Ross has taken the time to take snap photos of the areas Spidey is to be located. Also, I've seen an improvement in the variation of angles of each panel.

What more could I say?

Michael Biegel

6 Valley Lane

Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Well, Mike, we thought about it for quite a while, and as near as we can figure it, you've just about said it all!

Thanks, Effendi.

Dear Len & Ross:

You guys never cease to amaze me, either that or I get to try for a no-prize—again. You will note that in SPIDER-MAN #169, on page 17, Spidey reads the sign 'Do Not Enter'. Yes, I realize that our beloved web-spinner can read, but from that distance, at night on a dark city street? I was not aware he had gained super-sight. No, I will not accept the excuse he had carrot soup for dinner, or even lunch.

Let me close though, by saying that Marvel produces the best mags around, and it's a real special thanks to people like you and the rest that make them so... 'Nuff Said!

Tony Sprague

150 Capri St.

Morro Bay, CA 93442

Would you believe that the same radioactive spider bite that gave our hero his wall-crawling abilities and the proportionate strength of a spider, gave him the proportionate sight of a spider as well?

No, huh? Well, Tony, would you believe you've got your no-prize then? Man, this just seems to be our month for giving away those delectable non-entities, doesn't it?

Let us close though, by saying that we loved your last paragraph. It's comments like that that keep us trying. 'Nuff Said?

Mr. Len Wein:

Fool!! Do you really think that you can keep me hidden in the recesses of Harry Osborn's mind much longer?? Eventually, young Osborn will stumble onto one of the secret places where I keep my costumes; something will click in his mind, and Voila!! Look out, accursed Web-Slinger!

I know I will not have to wait much longer, so even now I am planning my next diabolical crime. Care to guess? Right!! I'm going to knock Mary Jane Watson off the Empire State Building!!!! HA HA HA HEE HEE HEE HO HO HO HO HUH HUH!!!

The GREEN GOBLIN

121-122 Pumpkin Place

Snuff Gwen City, NY 01313

And on that rather disconcerting note, we take our leave until next time. In the meanwhile, don't take any wooden spiders, okay?

And be kind to one another.