



# the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL  
COMICS  
GROUP

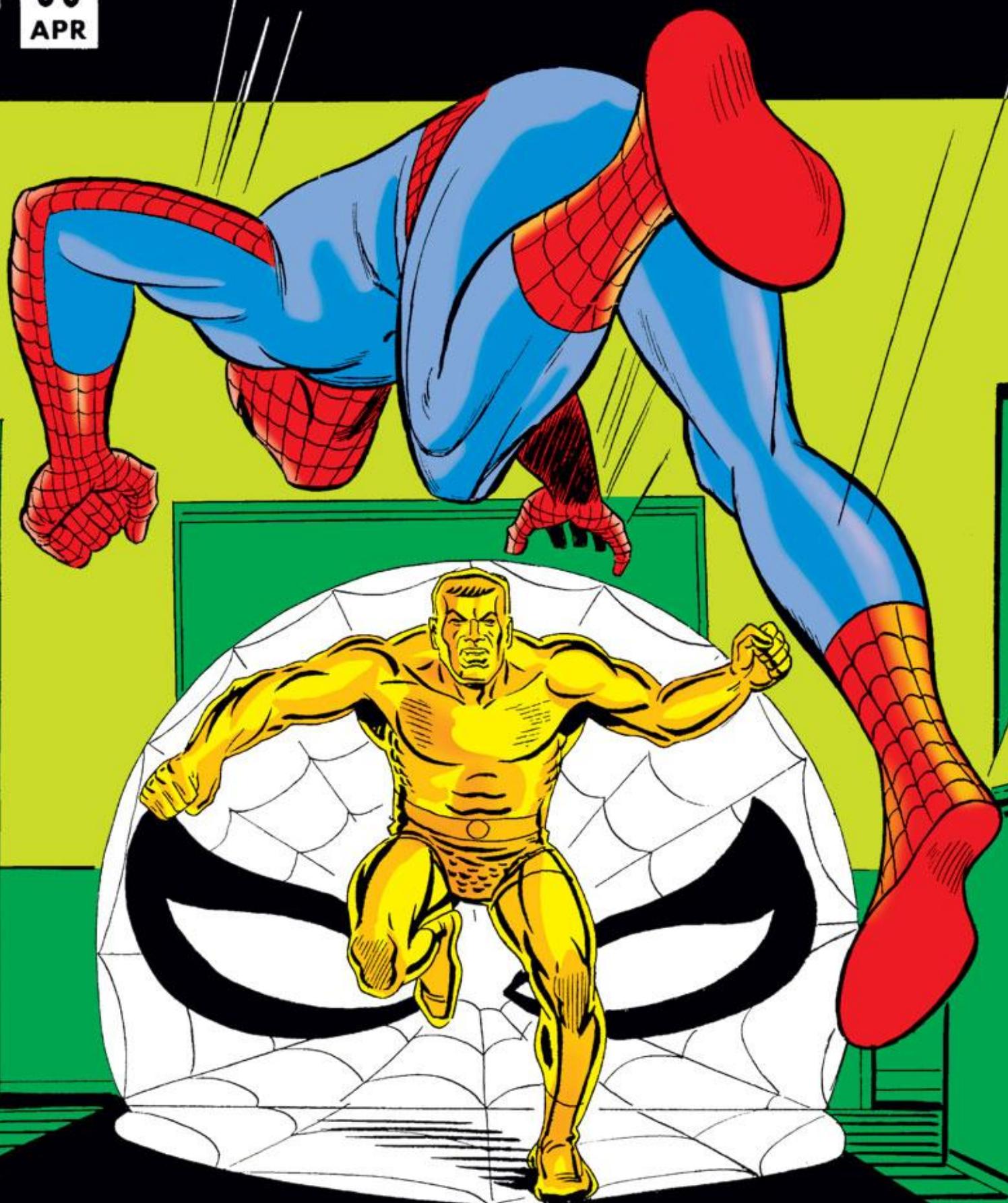
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"The MOLTEN MAN Regrets..."

**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!**

"**THE**  
**MOLTEN MAN**  
**REGRETS....!**

"IT'S CHANGE-OF-PACE  
TIME ONCE AGAIN,  
SO CLIMB ABOARD  
FOR THE ACTION....!"



SCRIPT &  
EDITING.....

**STAN LEE**

PLOT &  
ARTWORK.....

**STEVE DITKO**

LETTERING &  
LOITERING.....

**ART SIMEK**

OUR SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL SAGA BEGINS WHERE SO MANY OF THEM END--IN A COLD, SOMBER PRISON CELL, SOME MONTHS AGO, WHERE WE FIND...

OKAY, RAXTON, LOOK ALIVE! HIZZONER WANTS TO SEE YOU! SO LET'S GO!

FINALLY GONNA SENTENCE ME, HUH? WELL, I'M NOT WORRIED! THEY TELL ME HE'S USUALLY SOFT ON FIRST OFFENDERS!



AND, IT SEEMS THAT THE MOLTEN MAN HAS BEEN TOLD **RIGHT**--!

BECAUSE YOU BECAME WHAT YOU ARE THRU AN UNFORESEEN **ACCIDENT**\*-- AND YOU HAVE OFFERED TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES YOU'VE CAUSED-- I'M GIVING YOU A **SUSPENDED SENTENCE**, RAXTON!

THANKS, YOUR HONOR. YOU WON'T BE SORRY!



\*AS SPRIGHTLY SHOWN IN SPIDEY #28-- STAN.

MINUTES LATER, ONE OF THE STRANGEST FOES SPIDER-MAN HAS EVER FOUGHT LOSES HIMSELF AMONGST THE CITY'S TEEMING MILLIONS ONCE AGAIN...

FREE AT LAST! LUCKY I WAS A MODEL PRISONER AND ACTED REPENTANT!

NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO MAKE SURE I STAY FREE! NO MORE JAILS FOR THE MOLTEN MAN!



LATER, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN APARTMENT, RAXTON PEELS OFF HIS OUTER CLOTHES, AGAIN TO REVEL IN HIS AWESOME POWER...

HAH! I'M AS STRONG AS EVER --MAYBE EVEN STRONGER!



SPIDER-MAN BEAT ME THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT, FOR MY POWER WAS **NEW** TO ME! I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW TO HANDLE IT!

BUT NOW, I'VE HAD TIME TO THINK--TO PLAN--TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MOLTEN MAN WILL NEVER BE BEATEN AGAIN!



I WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF RUNNING WILD A SECOND TIME, USING NOTHING BUT MY POWER! THIS TIME I'VE FIGURED ALL THE ANGLES--

FIRST, I'LL LAY LOW FOR A WHILE --AND THEN-- I'LL STRIKE!



THUS, THRU THE MAGIC OF OUR IMAGINATION, WE NOW BRIDGE THE GAP OF TIME! MANY DAYS LATER, AN EXCLUSIVE MADISON AVENUE JEWELRY SHOP RECEIVES A DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING PATRON...

NO! NO! THOSE GEMS ARE ALL TOO ORDINARY-- TOO PEDESTRIAN! HAVE YOU NOTHING MORE EXOTIC-- MORE EXPENSIVE??

WHY, YES SIR--WE DO! I'LL BE DELIGHTED TO SHOW THEM TO YOU!



REMEMBER, MONEY IS OF NO CONCERN TO ME! I WILL ONLY CONSIDER YOUR VERY FINEST JEWELS!

I WISH I HAD A DOZEN MORE CUSTOMERS LIKE HIM! I COULD RETIRE IN A WEEK!

I'LL HAVE THEM FOR YOU IN A MOMENT, SIR--AS SOON AS I OPEN THE SAFE!



I'M SURE THESE ARE WHAT I WANT! DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO SHOW THEM TO ME! I'LL TAKE THEM ALL!

BUT-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WAIT-- YOU CAN'T-- UHHHHH--!



SO! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CROOK! WELL, YOU MAY HAVE FOOLED ME AT FIRST, BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

IF YOU THINK THAT TOY WILL STOP ME, YOU'RE IN FOR A VERY RUDE SURPRISE!



YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO -- WHA--?!!  
A BULLET-PROOF VEST! THAT HAS TO BE THE ANSWER!

SO YOU THINK IT'S A VEST, DO YOU?

CRACK!



CAN A VEST DO-- THIS?!!

Y-YOU CRUSHED THE GUN-- LIKE AN EGG-SHELL--!!



BUT, AS A SAGACIOUS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, OUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN IS BLITHELY ROMPING ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS DIRECTLY ABOVE AT THAT VERY MOMENT! (WHICH IS AS LUCKY FOR US AS FOR THE MERCHANT BELOW--ELSE WE'D HAVE A SUPER HERO YARN SANS SUPER HERO!)





MINUTES LATER, THE "BIG SPENDER" REACHES HIS DECREPIT DIGS...

THERE! ONCE I DESTROY THIS DISGUISE, THERE'LL BE NOTHING TO LINK THE MOLTEN MAN WITH THAT ESCAPED GEM THIEF!

THE ONLY THING WRONG IS--I ESCAPED EMPTY-HANDED! IN THE EXCITEMENT, I LEFT THE LOOT BEHIND!

SO SPIDER-MAN FOULED ME UP ONCE MORE! BUT IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN--

--'CAUSE IF IT DOES, I'LL FINISH HIM OFF --FOR GOOD!

WHILE, IN A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD, WE FIND OUR FABULOUS, FRUSTRATED FRIEND...

NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE!

WHOEVER HE WAS, HE GAVE ME THE SLIP THIS TIME!

THEN, RETURNING TO HIS NORMAL IDENTITY OF PETER PARKER, THE YOUTH READS A FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAS JUST TRANSPRIRED...

ACCORDING TO THE JEWELRY STORE CLERK'S SWORN STATEMENT, THAT WOULD-BE ROBBER CRUSHED A REVOLVER IN HIS BARE HAND!

AND I BELIEVE IT! THE WAY HE WHOPPED ME, HE'S MORE THAN AN ORDINARY EVERYDAY CROOK!

BUT, HOW MUCH MORE? THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!

THERE WAS SOMETHING DISTURBINGLY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM--IF ONLY I COULD PUT MY FINGER ON IT--!

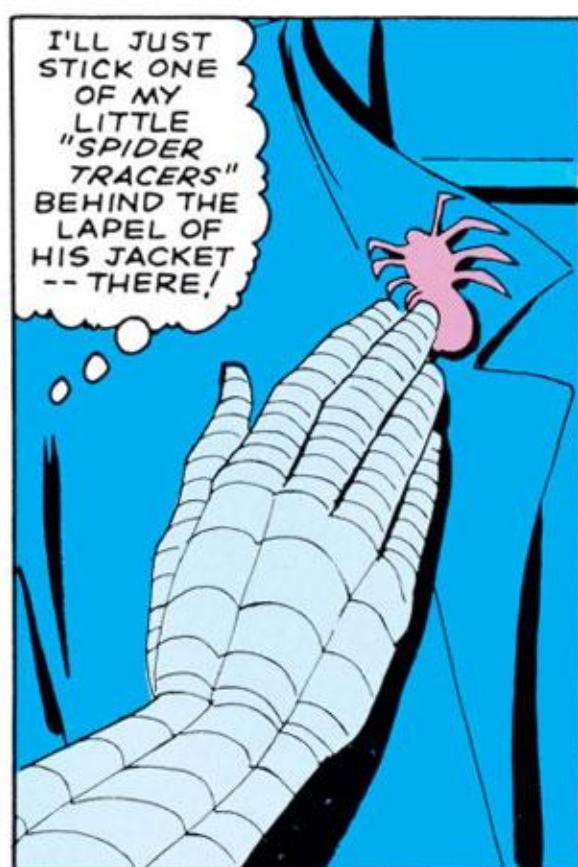
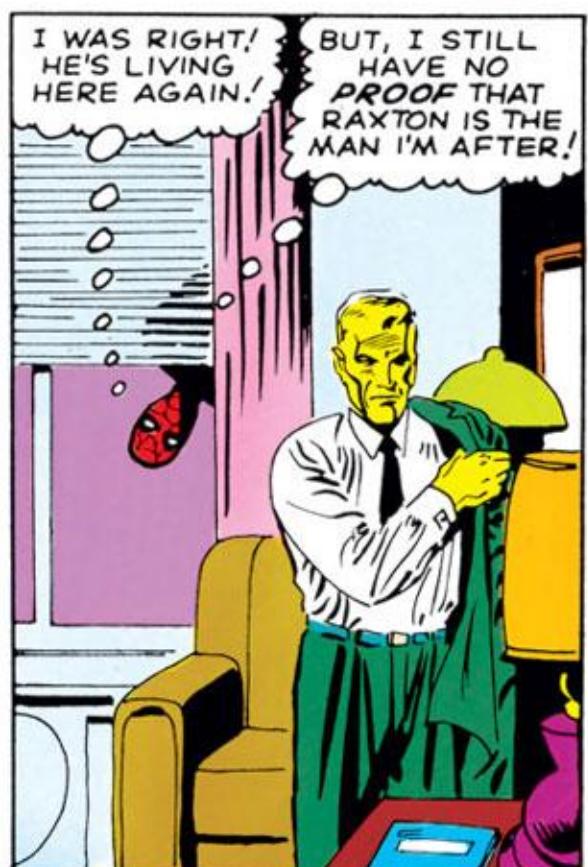
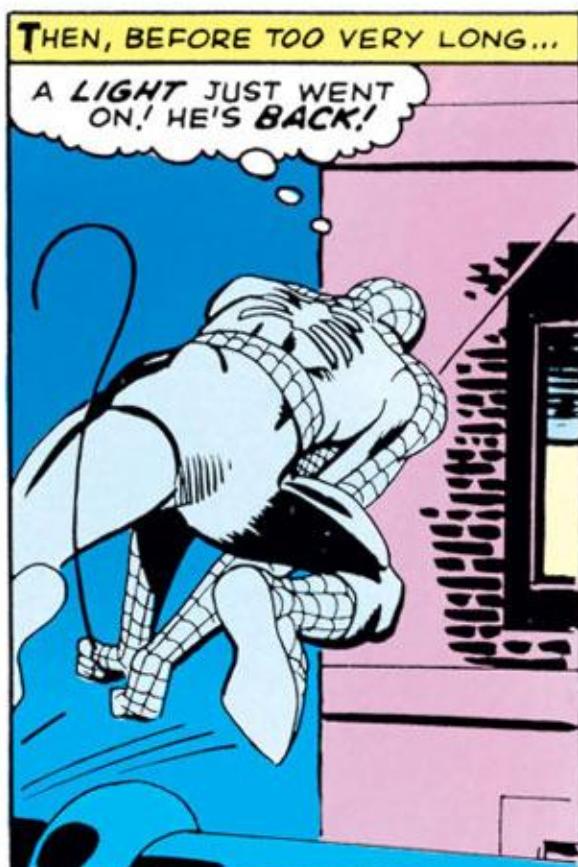
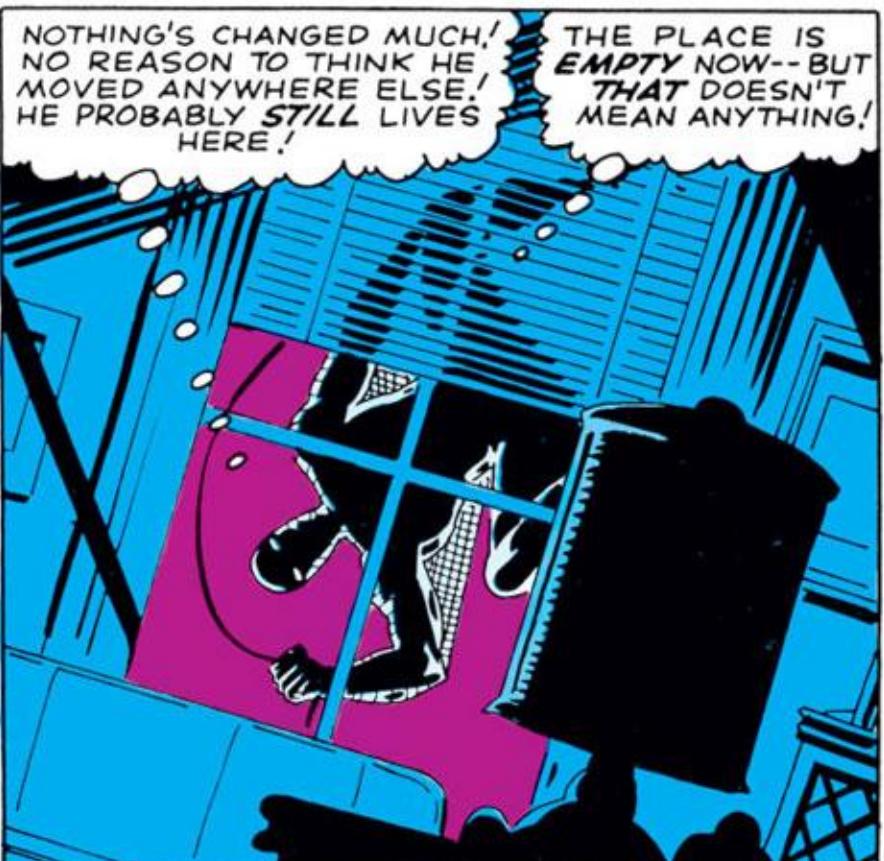
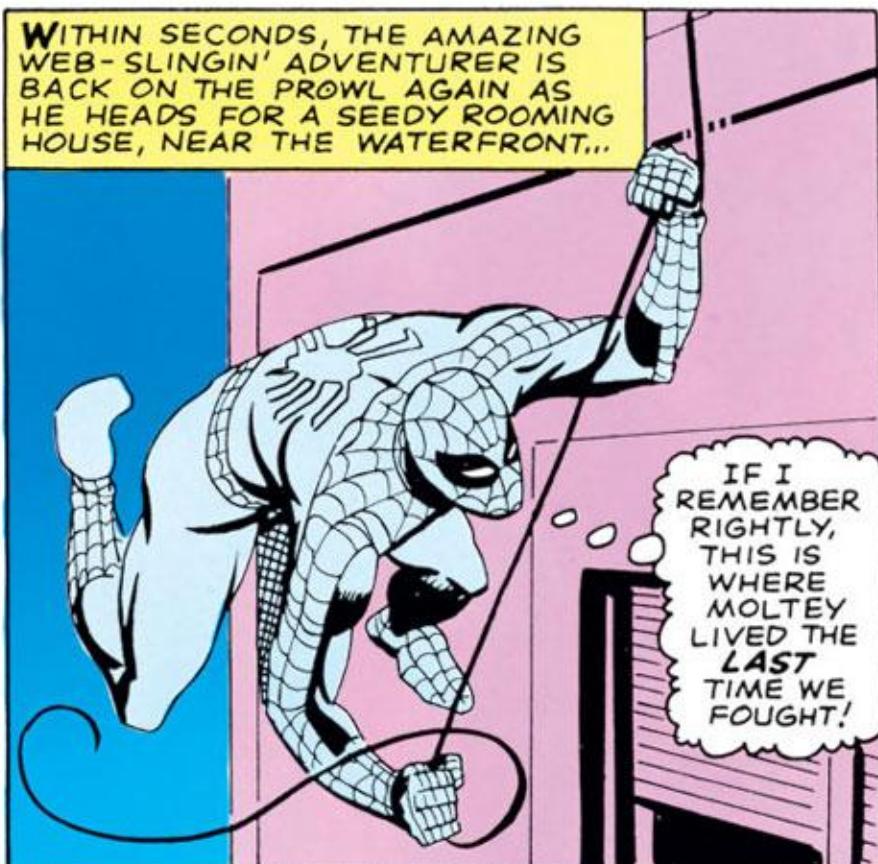
HE COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN WEARING A DISGUISE-- SO HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ALMOST ANYBODY! PERHAPS EVEN SOME FORMER ENEMY OF MINE!

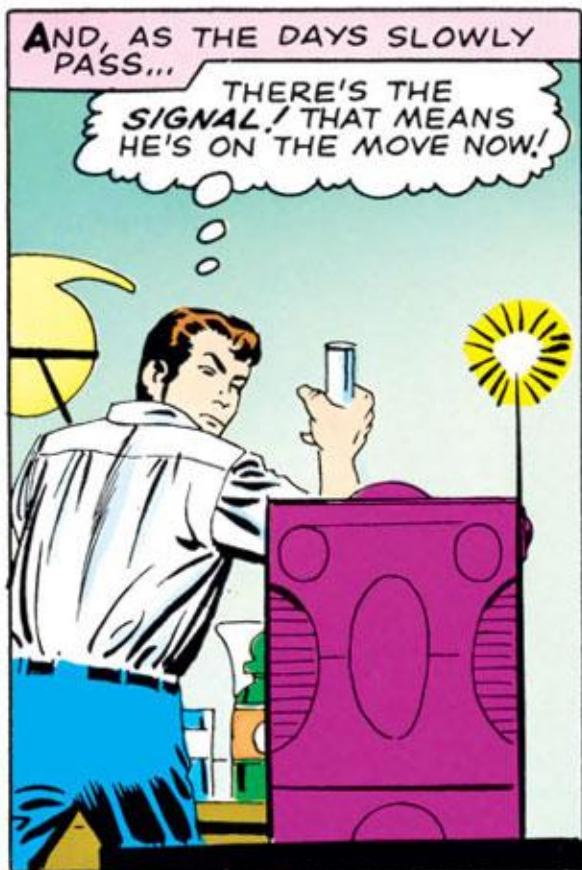
BOY, HE SURE PACKED A PUNCH LIKE IRON!

IRON! IRON'S A METAL! AND HIS PUNCH FELT LIKE METAL!

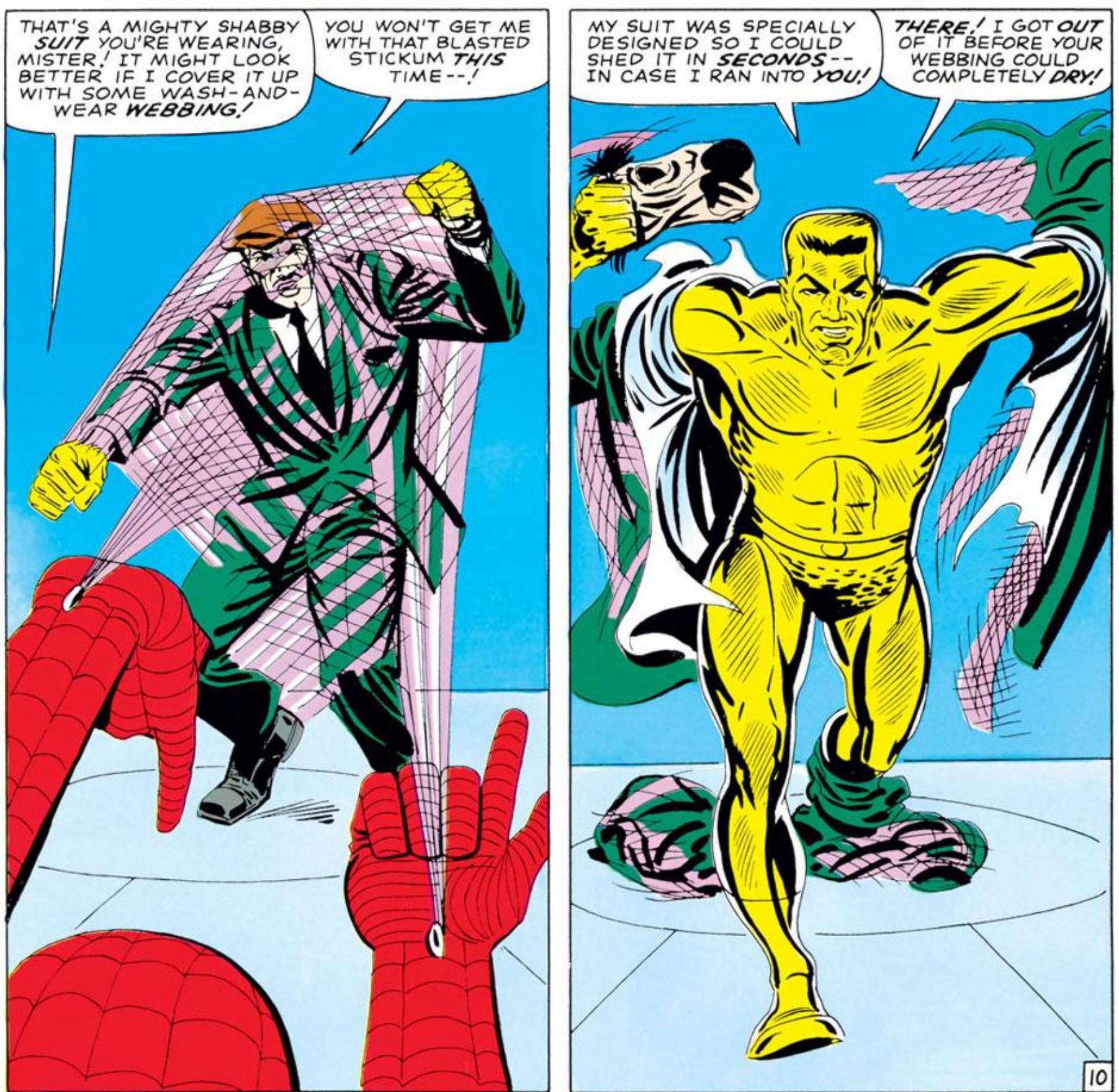
IT'S A LONG SHOT --BUT IT COULD BE-- THE MOLTEN MAN! I'D BET ON IT!

WITHIN SECONDS, THE AMAZING WEB-SLINGIN' ADVENTURER IS BACK ON THE PROWL AGAIN AS HE HEADS FOR A SEEDY ROOMING HOUSE, NEAR THE WATERFRONT...





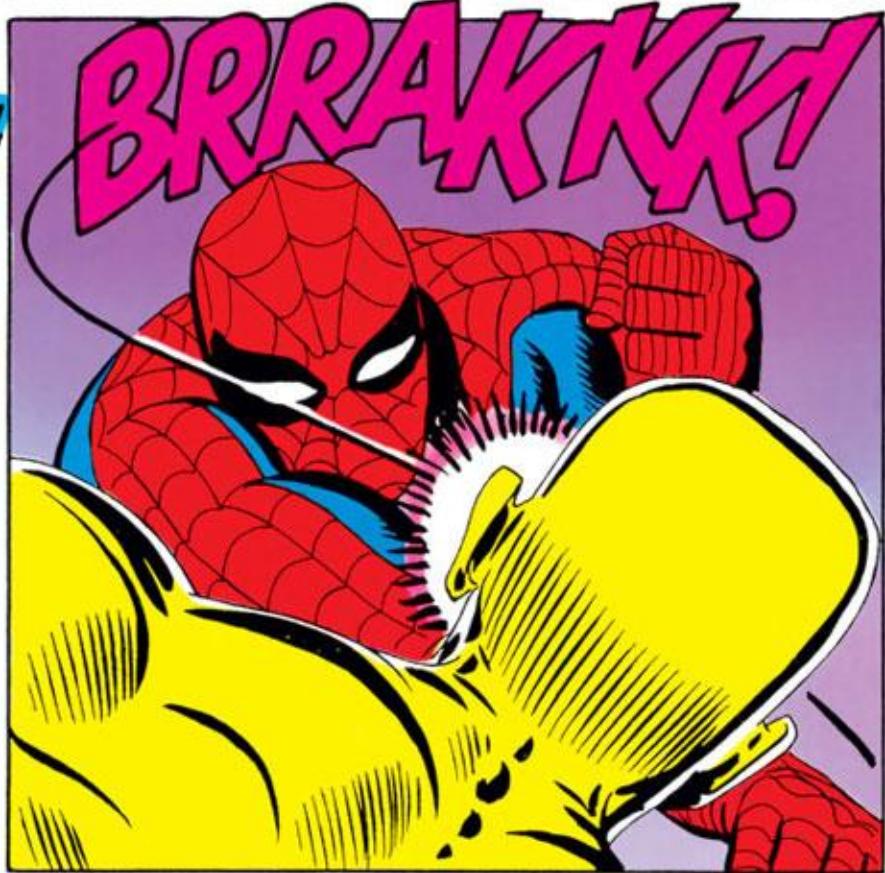




SO, YOUR BEST WEAPON IS TOTALLY USELESS! IT CAN'T STICK TO MY SLIPPERY, MOLTEN BODY!

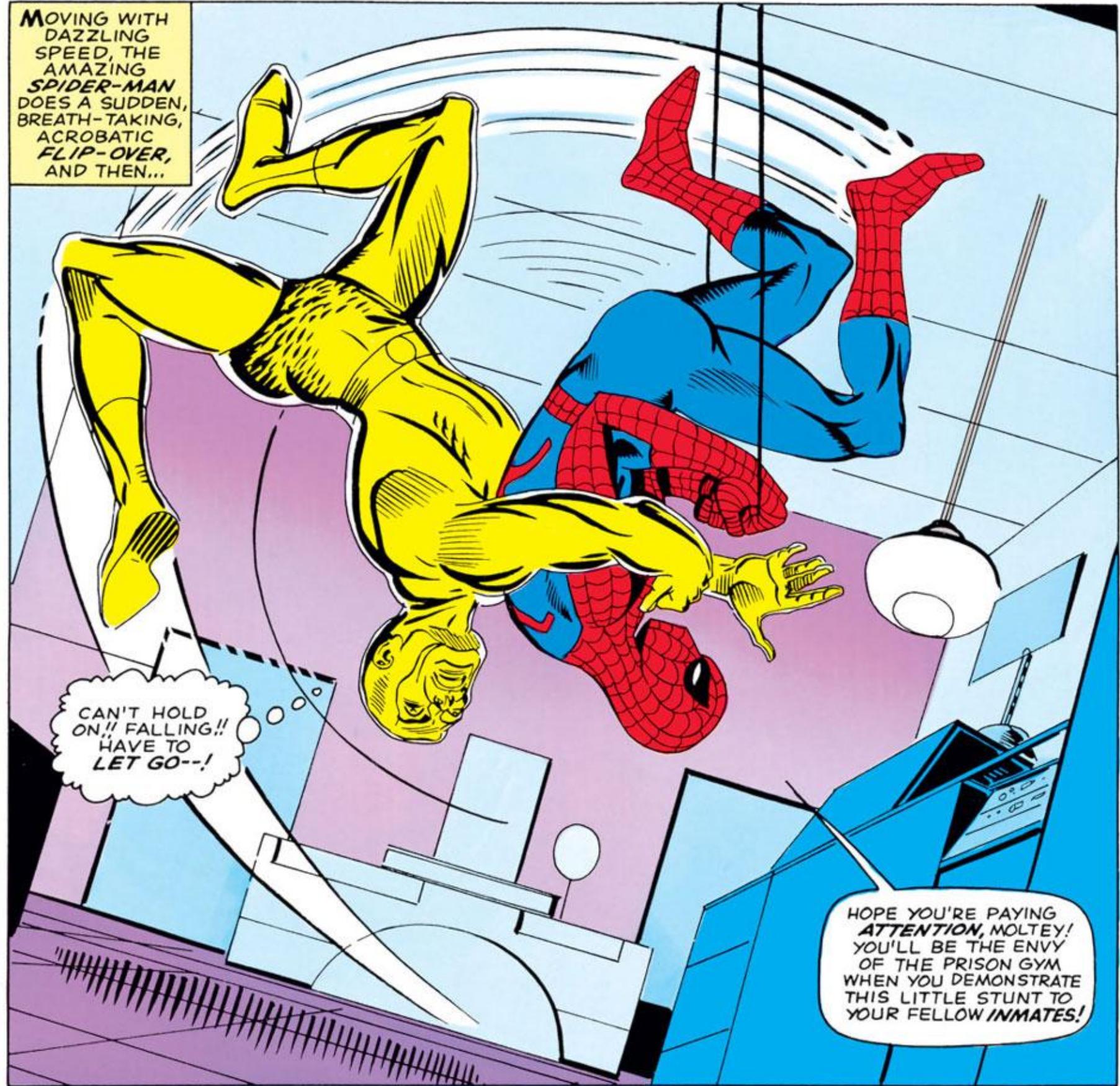
TOO BAD! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PLEASURE TO SHUT YOUR SLIPPERY, MOLTEN MOUTH FOR YOU!

AND NOW, WE PROMISED ARTIE SIMEK WE'D LET HIM GO WILD WITH SOUND EFFECTS FOR A PAGE OR TWO, SO HERE GOES--

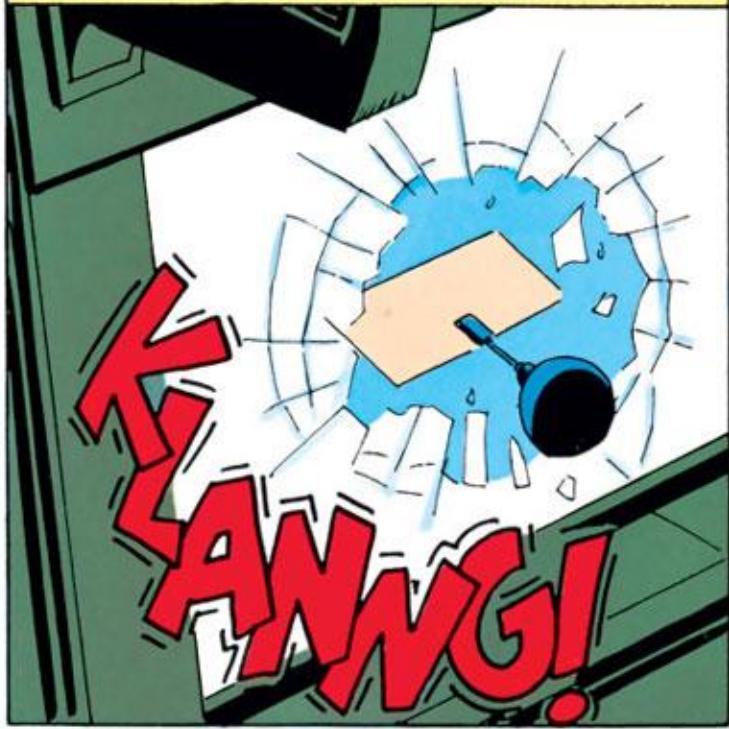




MOVING WITH DAZZLING SPEED, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN DOES A SUDDEN, BREATH-TAKING, ACROBATIC FLIP-OVER, AND THEN...

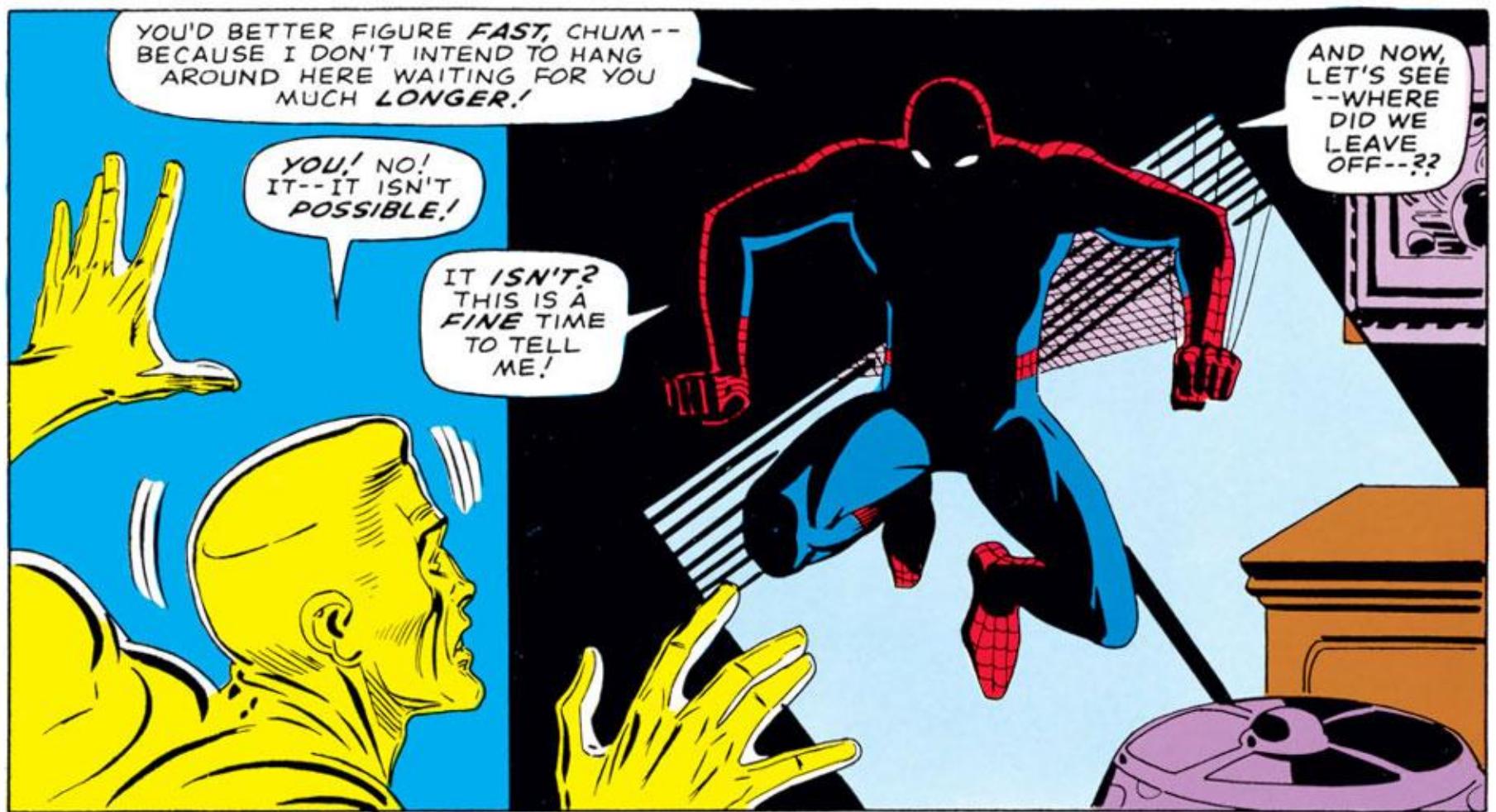


BUT, HIS RANDOM KICK DOES HELP THE MOLTEN MAN, FOR IT CAUSES SPIDEY TO COVER HIS FACE IN ORDER TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM FLYING GLASS--!

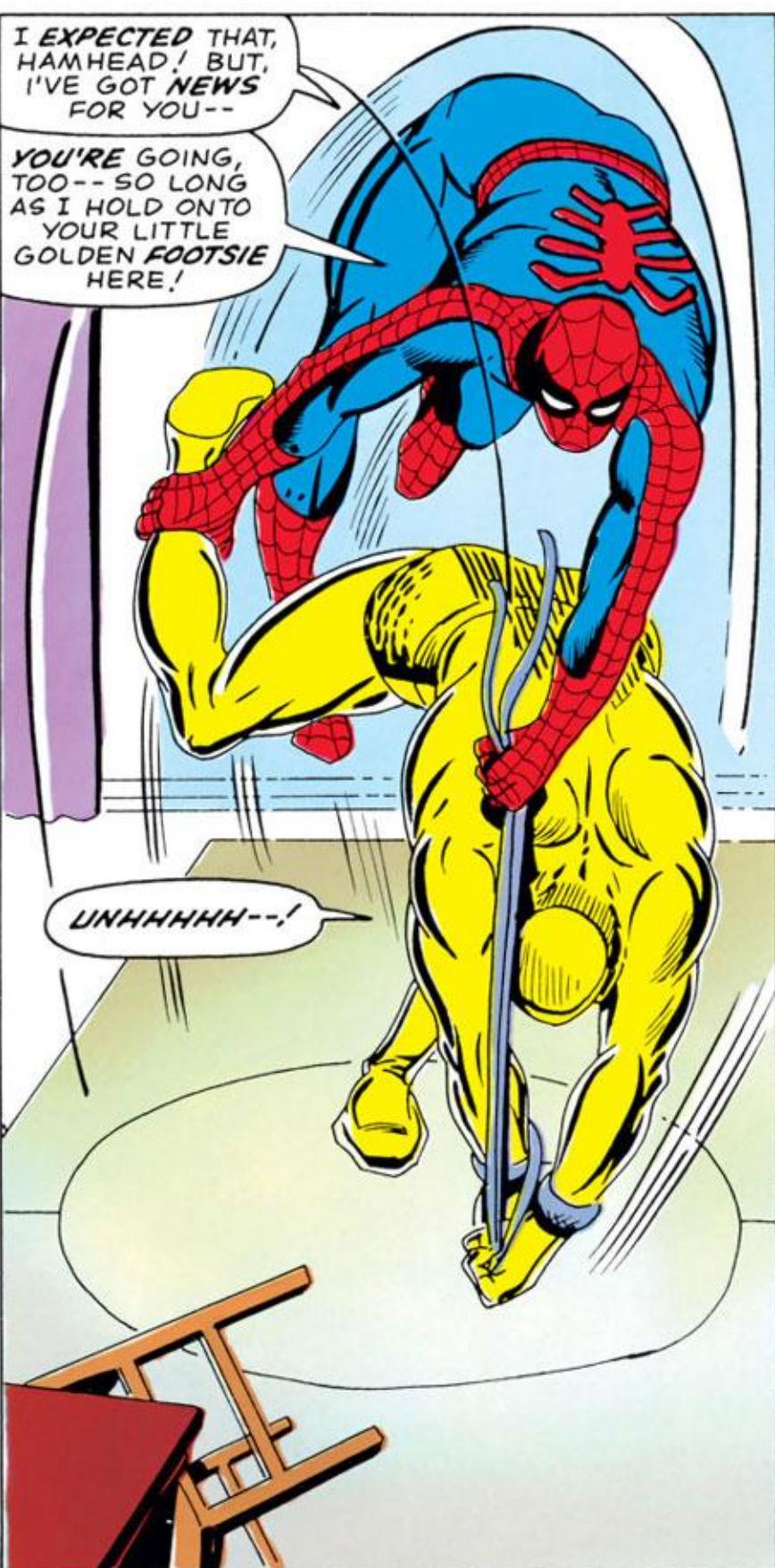


AND, IN THAT BRIEF INTERVAL, THE METALLIC MENACE MANAGES TO GAIN THE INITIATIVE AGAIN--ALBEIT TEMPORARILY!









MINUTES LATER, A SCENE WHICH OCCURRED A FEW MONTHS AGO IS REPEATED ANEW-- TO THE EXTREME DISCOMFITURE OF A MAN NAMED RAXTON...

GET ME OUT OF HERE!  
YOU'VE NOTHING ON ME!

ACCORDING TO THIS NOTE FROM SPIDER-MAN, IF WE HOLD YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE, HE'LL BRING US PROOF THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN SOME ROBBERY ATTEMPTS!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS GETTING TO BE A HABIT WITH YOU, FELLA!

WELL, I GUESS WE CAN STAND YOUR COMPANY FOR A WHILE, IF YOU'LL PUT UP WITH OURS!

GET HIM DOWN FROM THERE! WE'LL HOLD HIM ON SUSPICION OF ROBBERY FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN!

HOLD IT, NOW! EVEN THOUGH THE ACTION'S OVER, WE WANT YOU TO STICK AROUND FOR THE WRAP-UP! IT WON'T TAKE LONG...

FOR ONCE EVERYTHING WORKED OUT PERFECTLY! I HAD MY CAMERA ALL SET UP AND SNAPPED EVERYTHING I NEED!

WOW! I CAN HEAR RAXTON BELLOWING TO BEAT THE BAND FROM 'WAY OUT HERE!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!  
I KNOW MY RIGHTS! YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! I'M AS INNOCENT AS A NEW-BORN BABY!

WE'RE GLAD TO HEAR THAT, RAXTON! WANT US TO FETCH YOUR FORMULA FOR YOU?

ANYWAY, IF YOU GO CHARGING OUT OF HERE, YOU'LL PROBABLY JUST GET TIED UP BY SPIDER-MAN AGAIN! YOU'RE BETTER OFF WHERE YOU ARE!

YOU TELL 'IM, SARGE!

MY EARS WERE BURNING!  
SOMEONE MENTION MY NAME?

THESE PICTURES SHOULD GIVE YOU ALL THE EVIDENCE YOU NEED TO HOLD THE MOLTEN MAN UNTIL HE TARNISHES!

SPIDER-MAN!  
YOU KEPT YOUR WORD!

LET ME SEE  
WHAT'S IN THAT ENVELOPE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

SURE, TAKE A LOOK! BELIEVE IT NOW, MISTER RAXTON?

SHOTS OF ME CHANGING DISGUISE--BREAKING INTO THE SHOP--EVERYTHING! H-HOW--??

BRING YOUR NOTEBOOK, LOU!  
WE'VE GOT A CONFESSION COMING UP!

BUT, ENOUGH OF SUCH SORDID GOINGS-ON! LET US NOW CHANGE OUR SCENE--IT'S A SHORT TIME LATER--AS WE VISIT THE DAILY BUGLE WITH A PENSIVE PETER PARKER...



HELLO, BETTY! IS J. J. IN HIS OFF--WHA--?  
YOU'RE NOT BETTY!!

OH, YOU MUST BE PETER PARKER, THE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER I HEARD ABOUT!

YES, I GUESS THAT'S RIGHT! BUT--WHERE'S BETTY? IS SHE ON VACATION?



NO! SHE DOESN'T WORK HERE ANY MORE!

BUT SHE LEFT SOMETHING WITH ME! I WAS ASKED TO GIVE IT TO YOU WHEN I SAW YOU....!

WHAT?! SHE'S GONE??

MY PHOTO! IS--IS THIS ALL?

WHY, YES! I'M AFRAID SO--!



WHAT ABOUT NED LEEDS? DID HE LEAVE-- TOO?

I BELIEVE HE DID GO TO THE WEST COAST! ACTUALLY, I'M STILL NEW HERE--I'M NOT SURE OF EVERYBODY'S WHEREABOUTS!

HE'S BEEN WANTING TO MARRY HER! AND NOW--THEY'RE BOTH GONE! IT MUST MEAN--THAT THEY--THEY--

AWW, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?? WHAT DO I CARE??!

HERE! I BROUGHT THESE PHOTOS FOR JAMESON! HE CAN HAVE THEM!

BUT, WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHECK?

HE KNOWS MY ADDRESS--LET HIM MAIL IT!



