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AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SPECIAL
NORMAL-SIZED
250TH ISSUE!

BEHOLD THE FACE
OF DEATH! BEHOLD...
HOBGOBLIN!

J.R. JR. + K.J. JR.

STAN LEE PRESENTS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN IN...

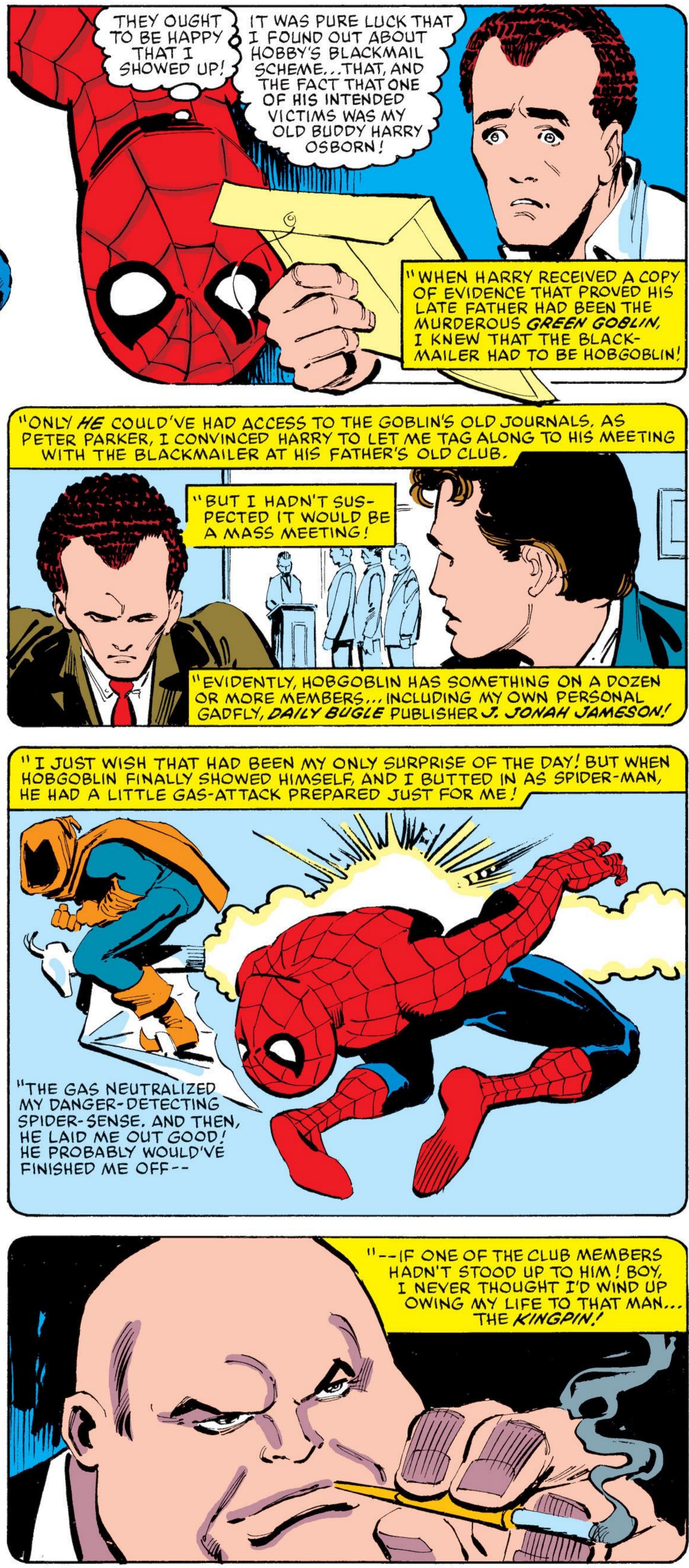
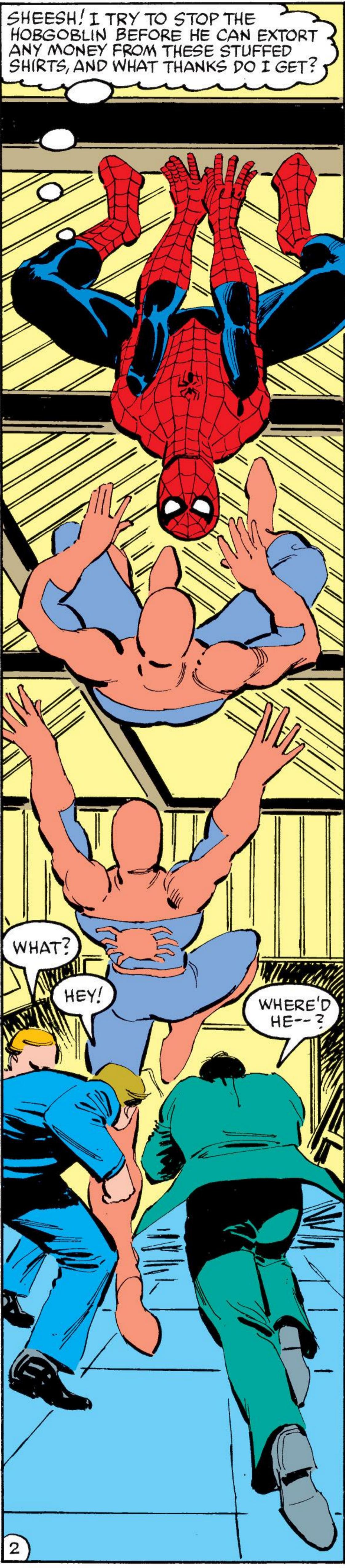
CONFessions!

HE'S BEEN BLASTED, GASSED, AND BEATEN BY THE MYSTERIOUS HOBGOBLIN. AND NOW, BEREFT OF HIS WARNING SPIDER-SENSES, SPIDER-MAN SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY AN ANGRY MOB--

-- OF MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMEN!

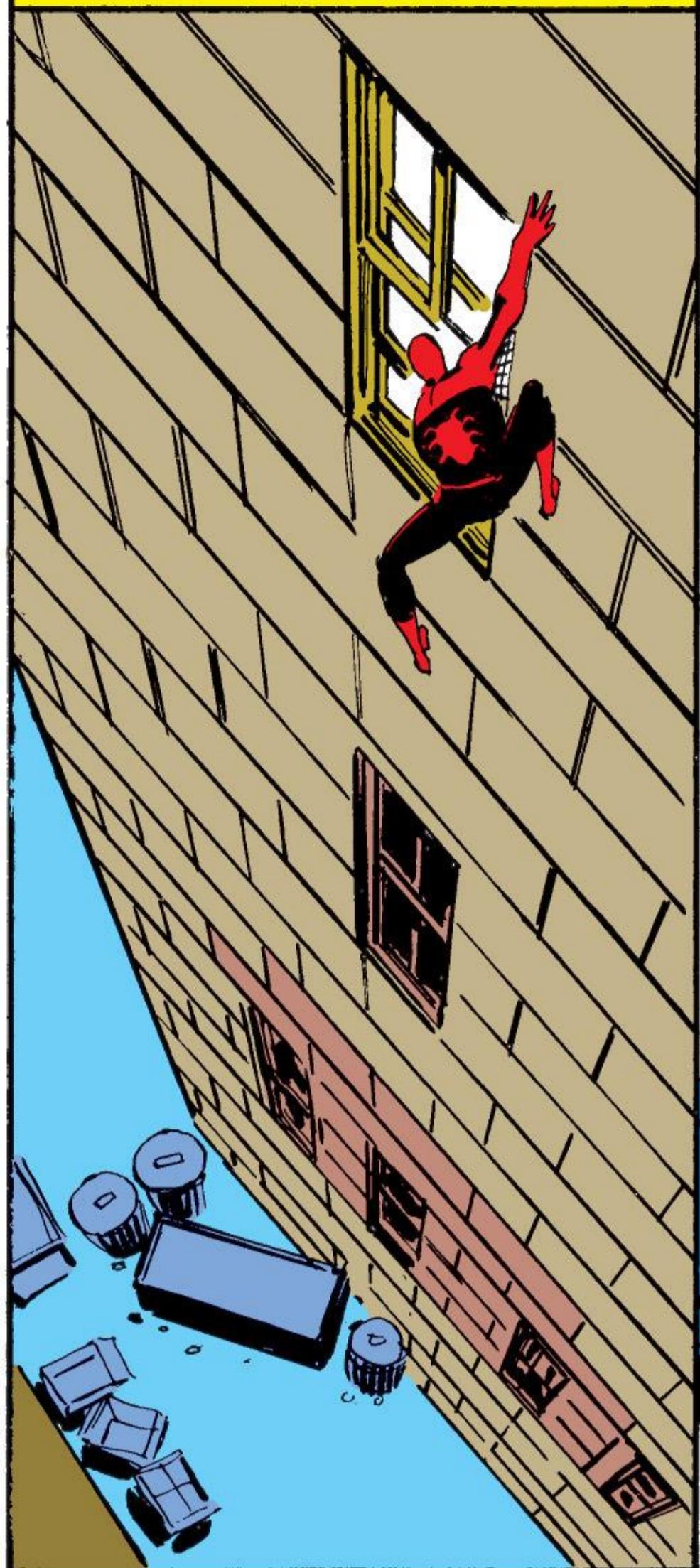
POSSIBLY THE
BEST ISSUE OF
SPIDER-MAN EVER!
WHAT BETTER WAY TO
CELEBRATE OUR 250th
ISSUE?!

ROGER STERN JOHN ROMITA JR. & KLAUS JANSON JOE ROSEN C. SCHEELE DANNY FINGEROTH JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF





...SURREPTITIOUSLY RE-ENTERING
THE CLUB VIA A LITTLE-USED
ROOM--



--TO ASSUME ONCE AGAIN HIS PRIVATE IDENTITY.

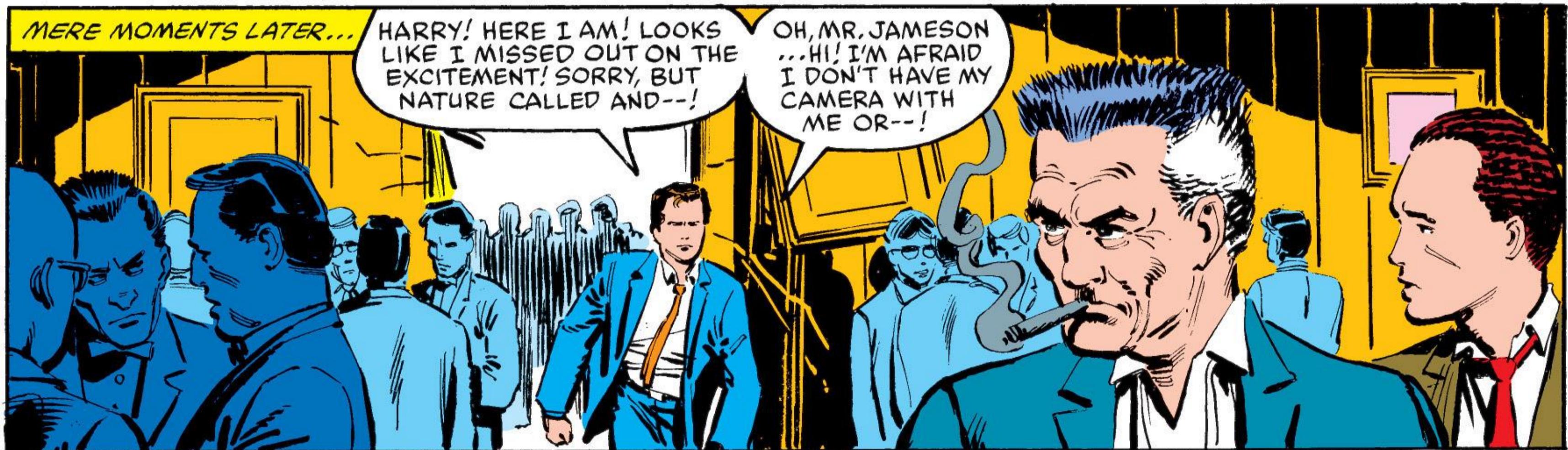
AH, GOOD! MY CIVVIES ARE
RIGHT WHERE I LEFT 'EM.
WHEW! I STILL FEEL A
LITTLE WOODY AFTER THAT
POUNDING HOBGOBLIN
GAVE ME!



MERE MOMENTS LATER...

HARRY! HERE I AM! LOOKS
LIKE I MISSED OUT ON THE
EXCITEMENT! SORRY, BUT
NATURE CALLED AND---

OH, MR. JAMESON
...HI! I'M AFRAID
I DON'T HAVE MY
CAMERA WITH
ME OR--!



THAT'S... JUST AS WELL,
PARKER. I HARDLY NEED
PICTURES TO REMIND ME
WHAT HAPPENED HERE
TODAY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT
JAMESON'S JUST GOING
TO WALK OUT OF HERE...
SURELY NOT BEFORE
THE POLICE GET
HERE!



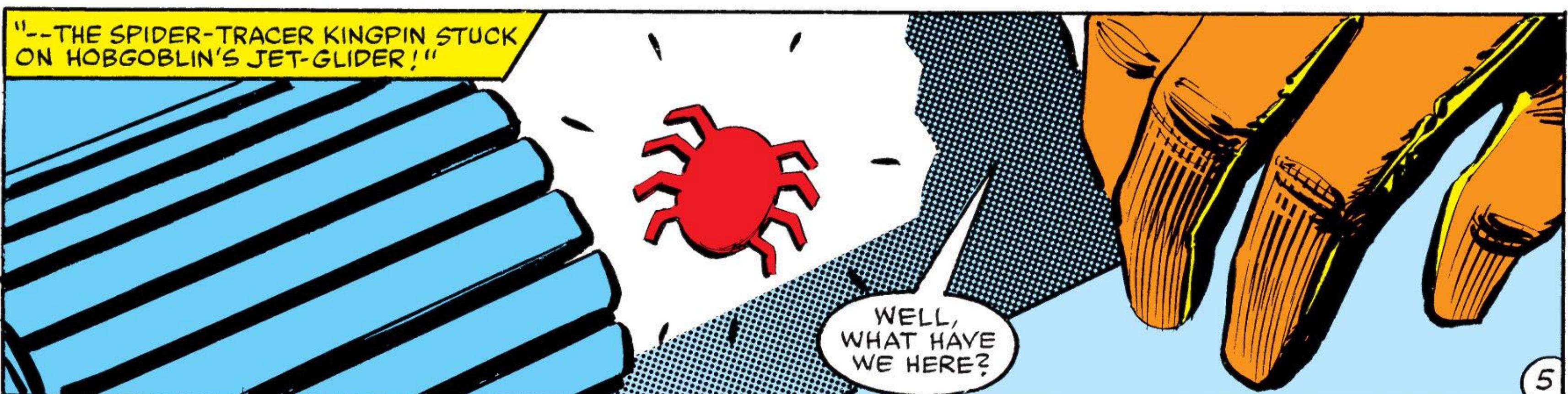
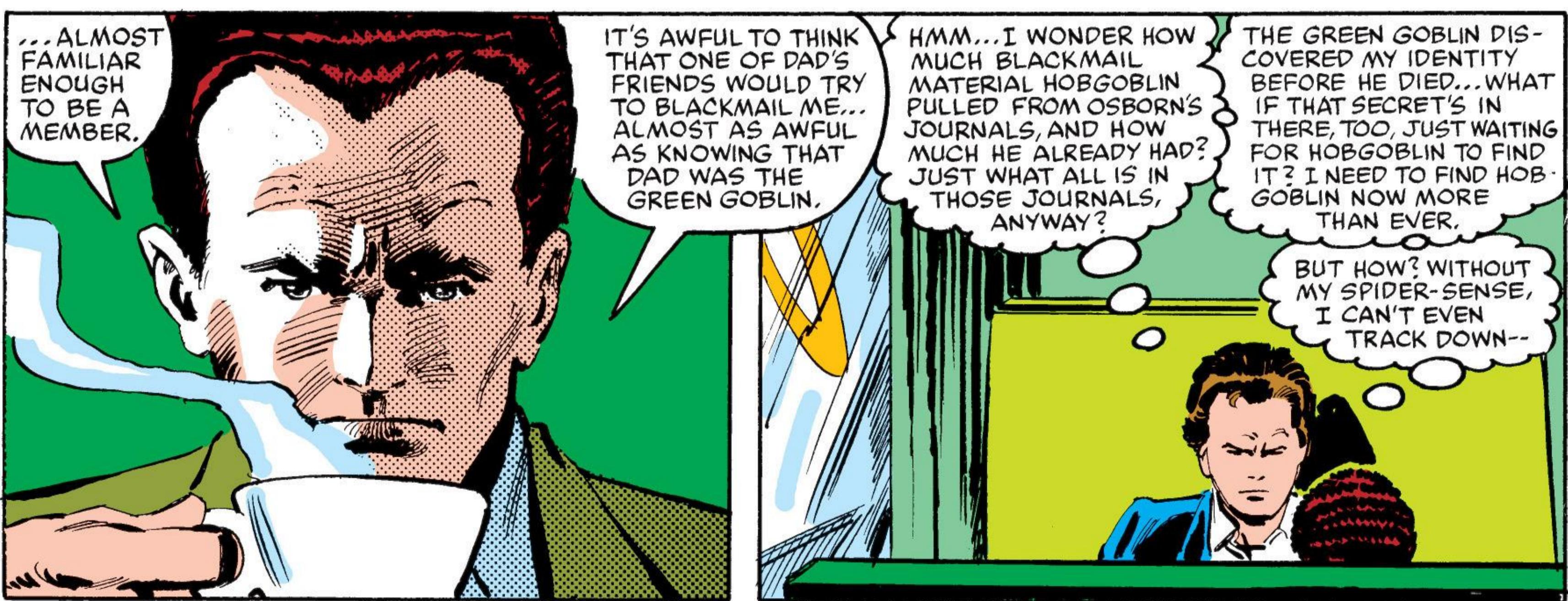
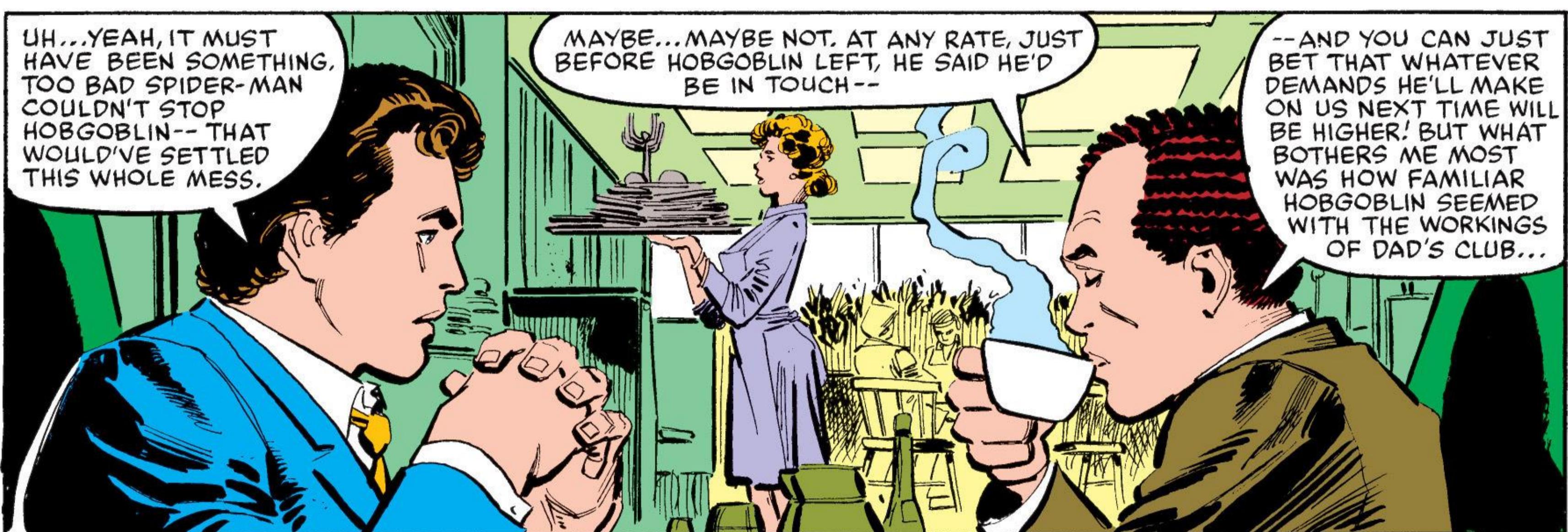
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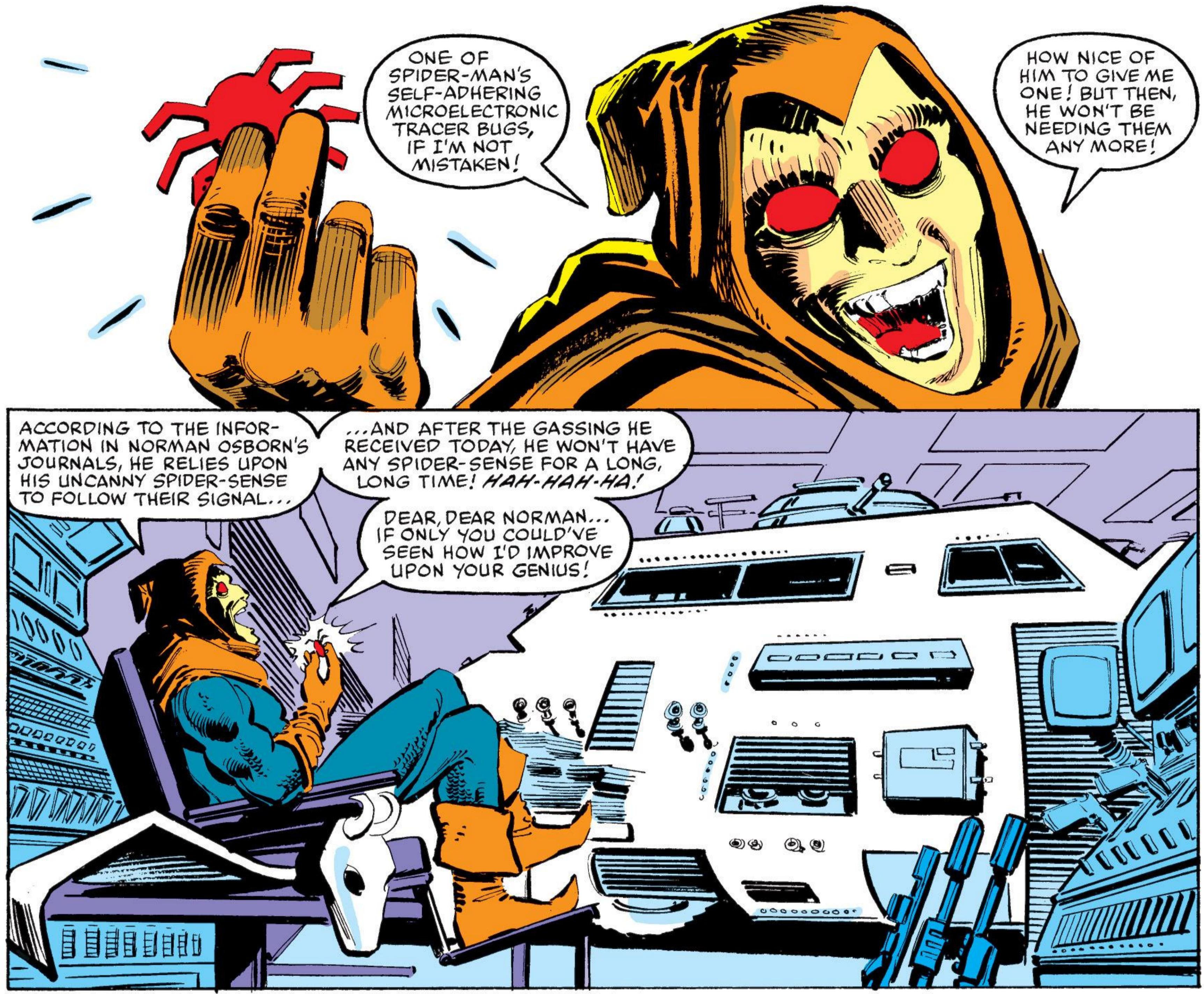
HUH?

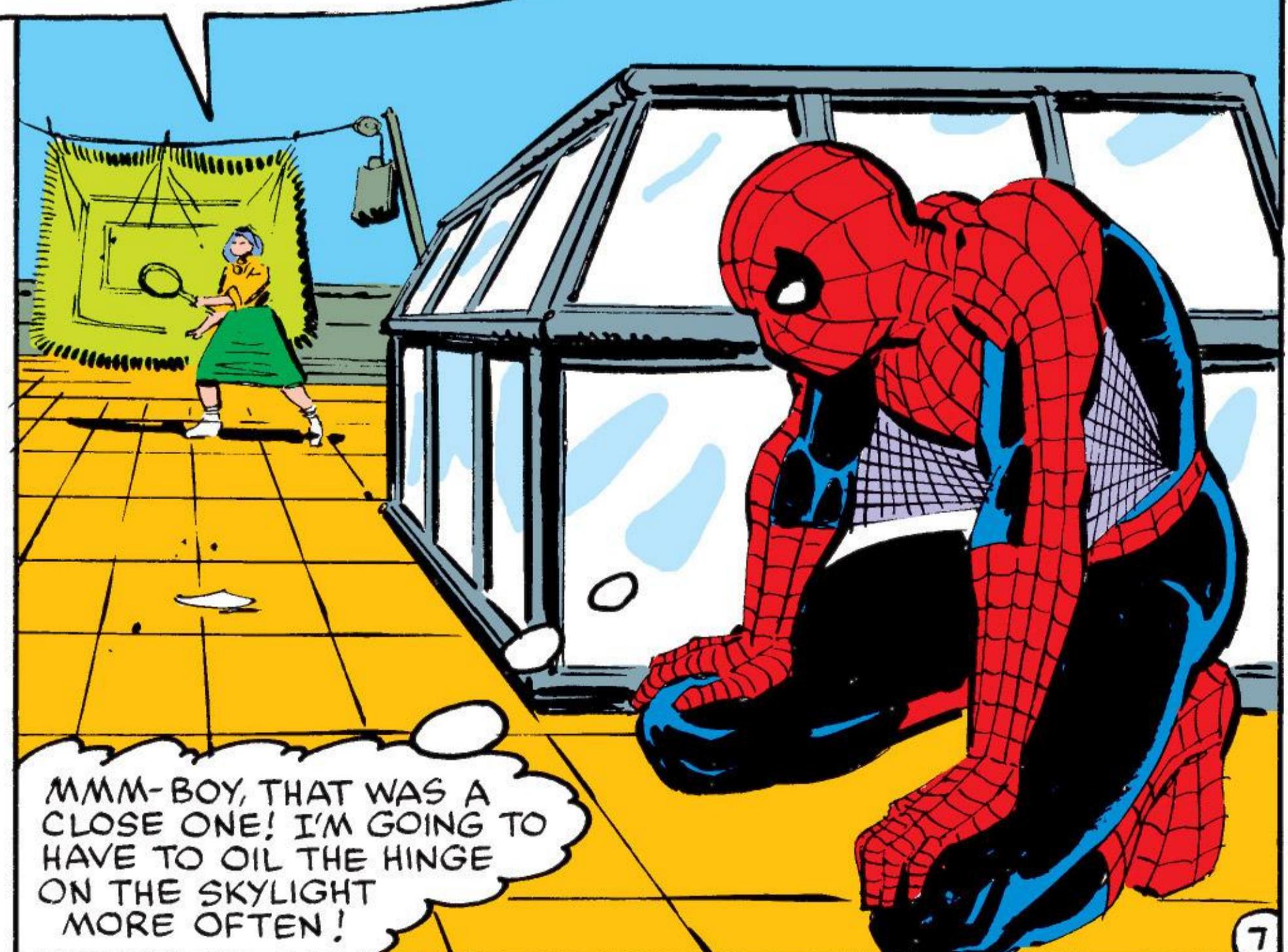
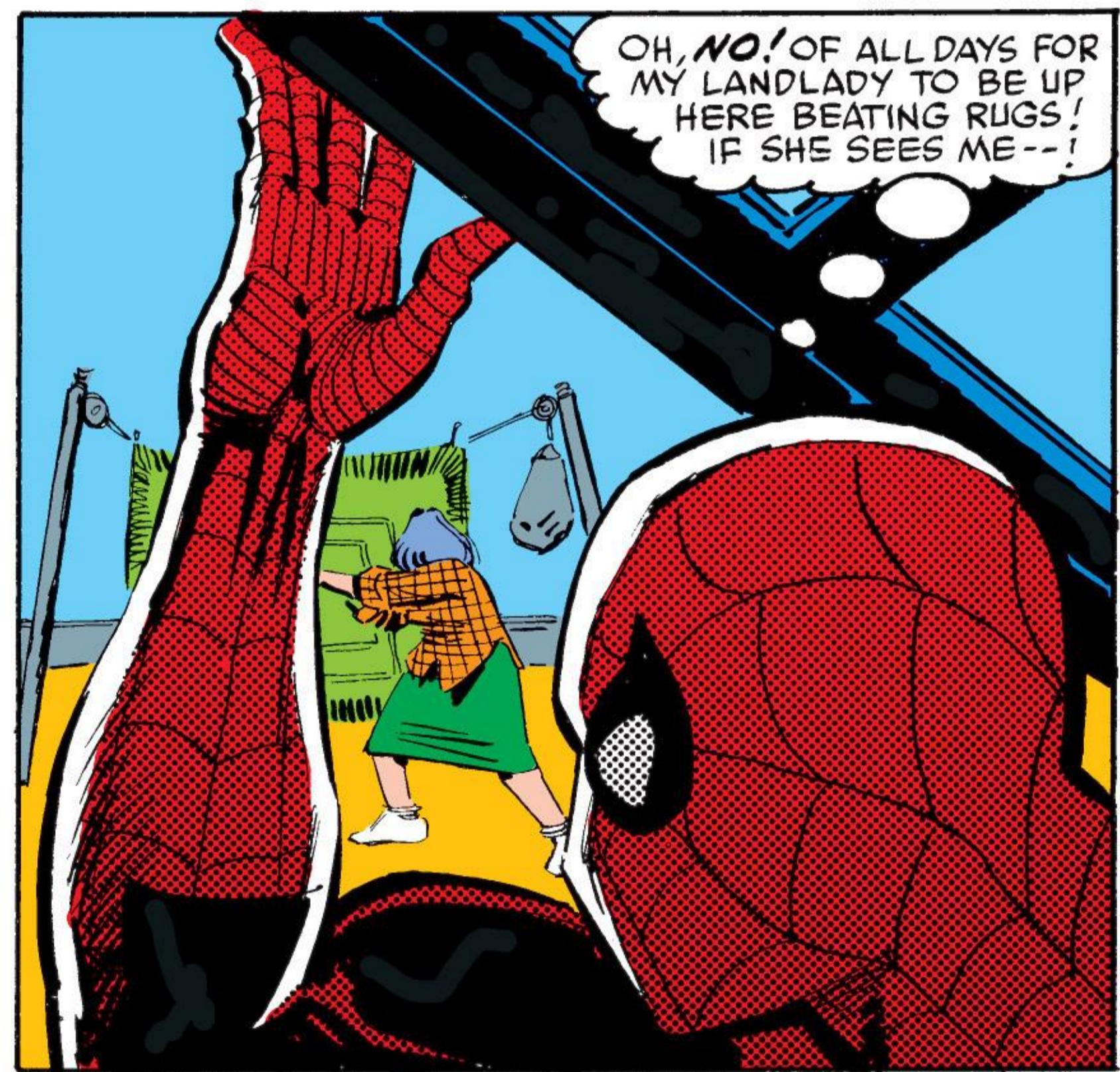
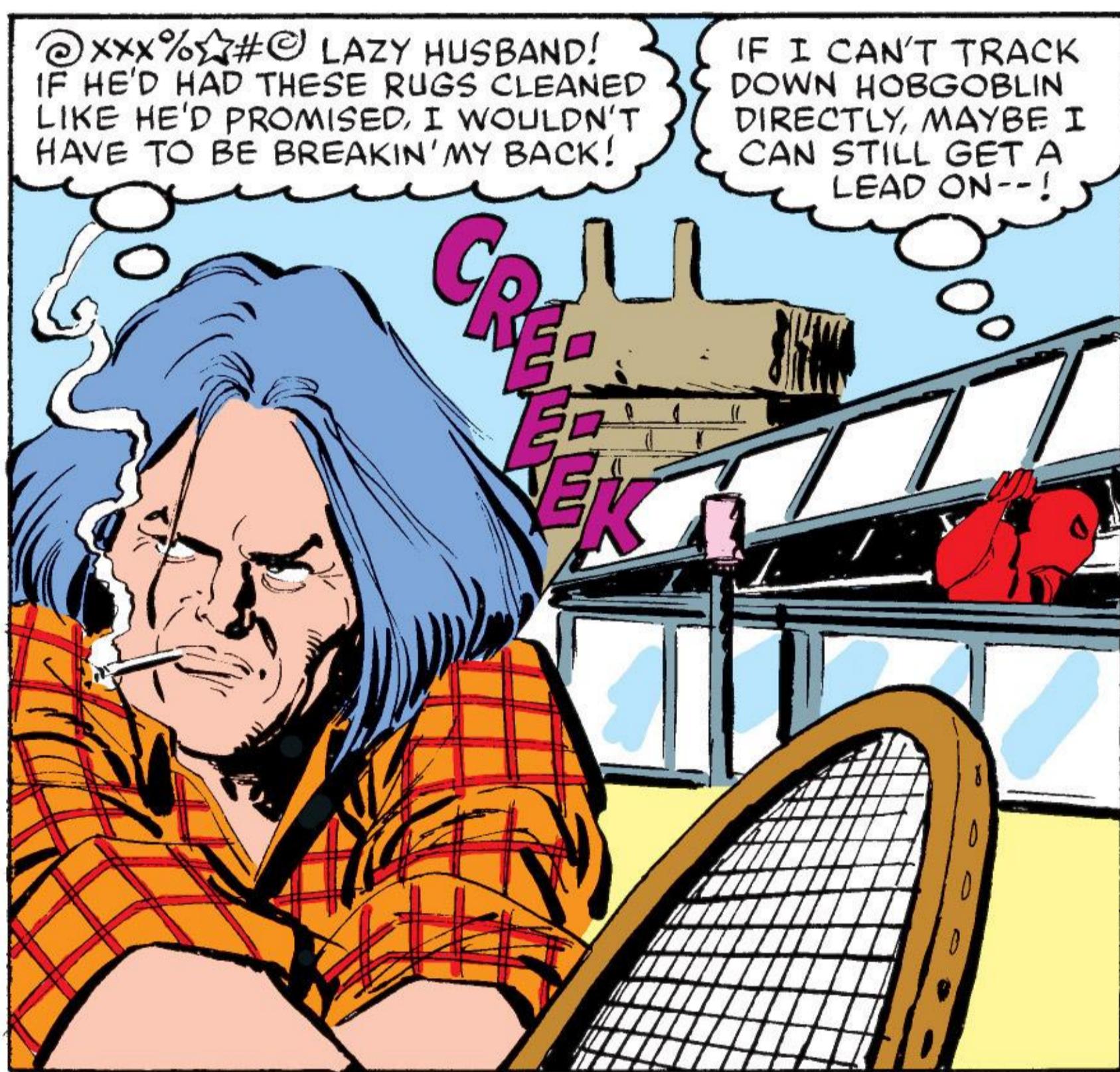
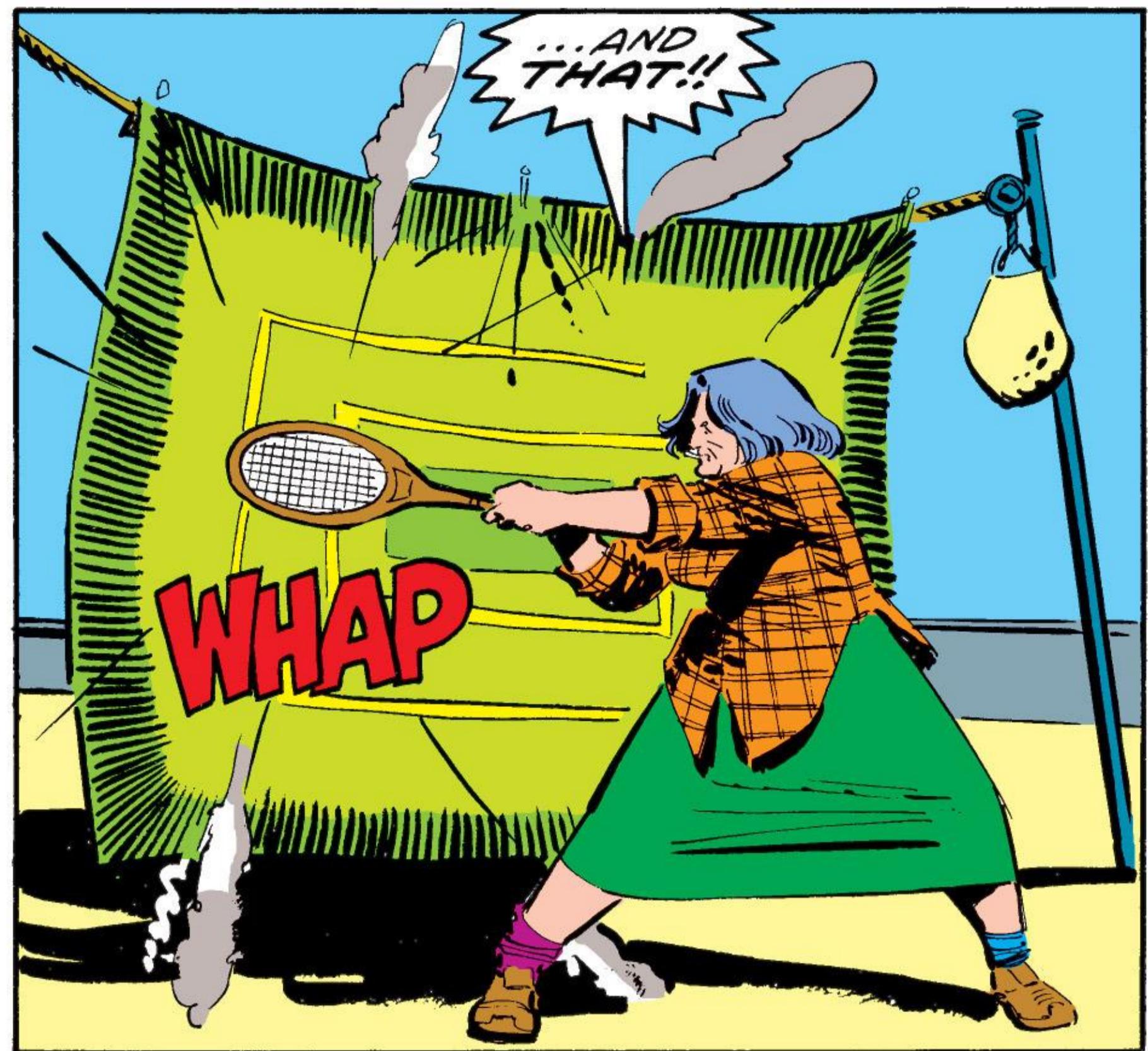
HARRY, WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?

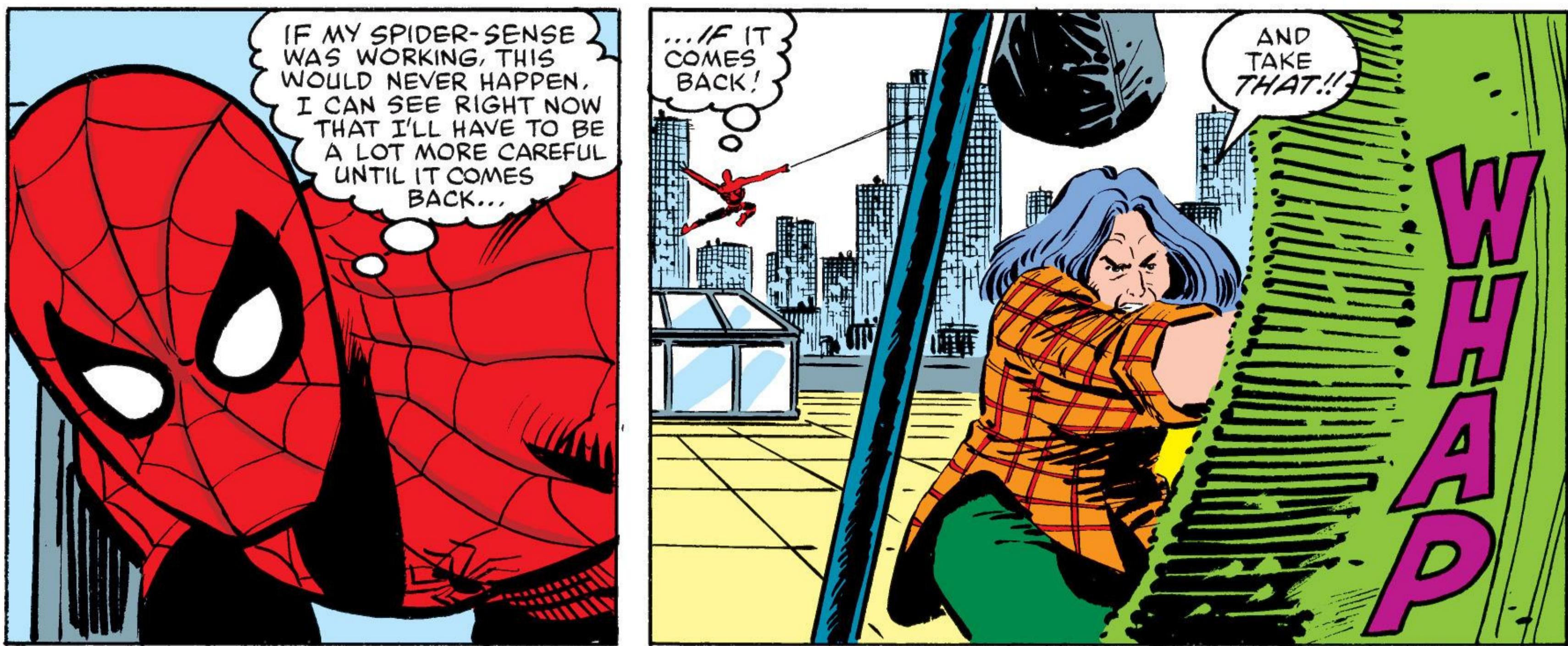
I DON'T THINK ANY-
ONE WILL BE CALLING
THE POLICE, PETE...

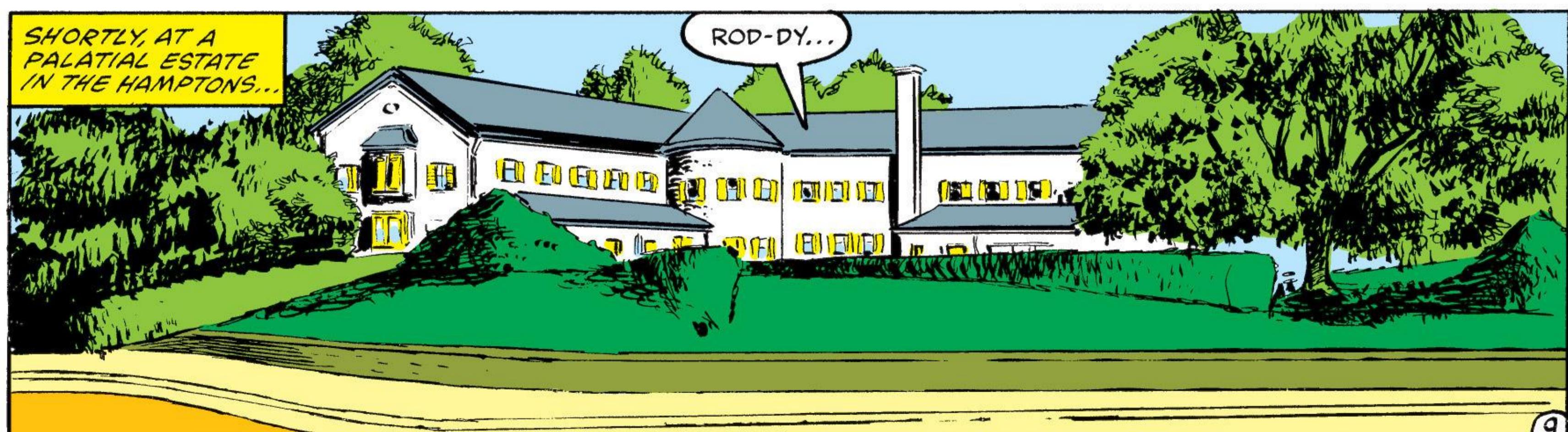


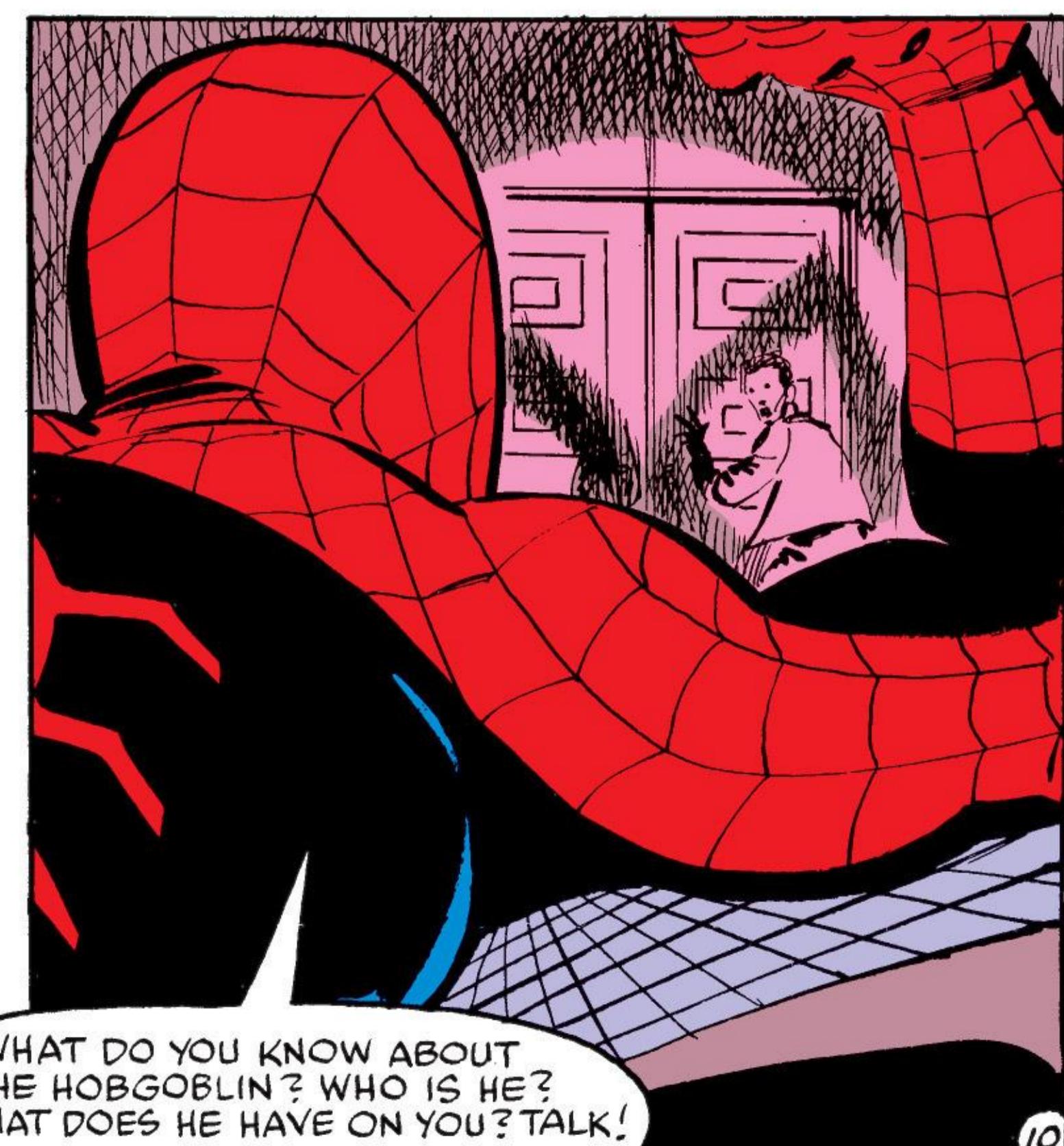
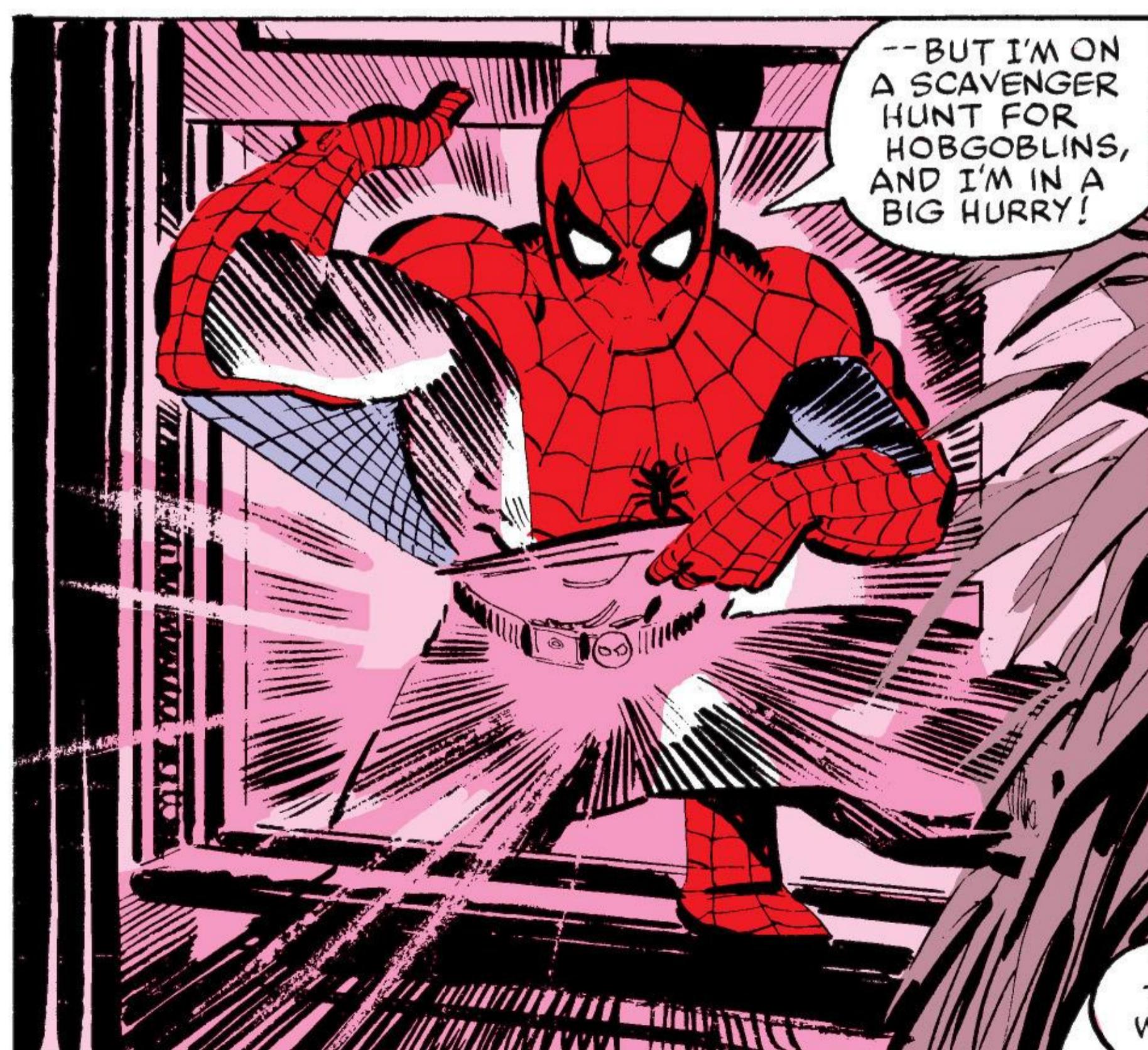
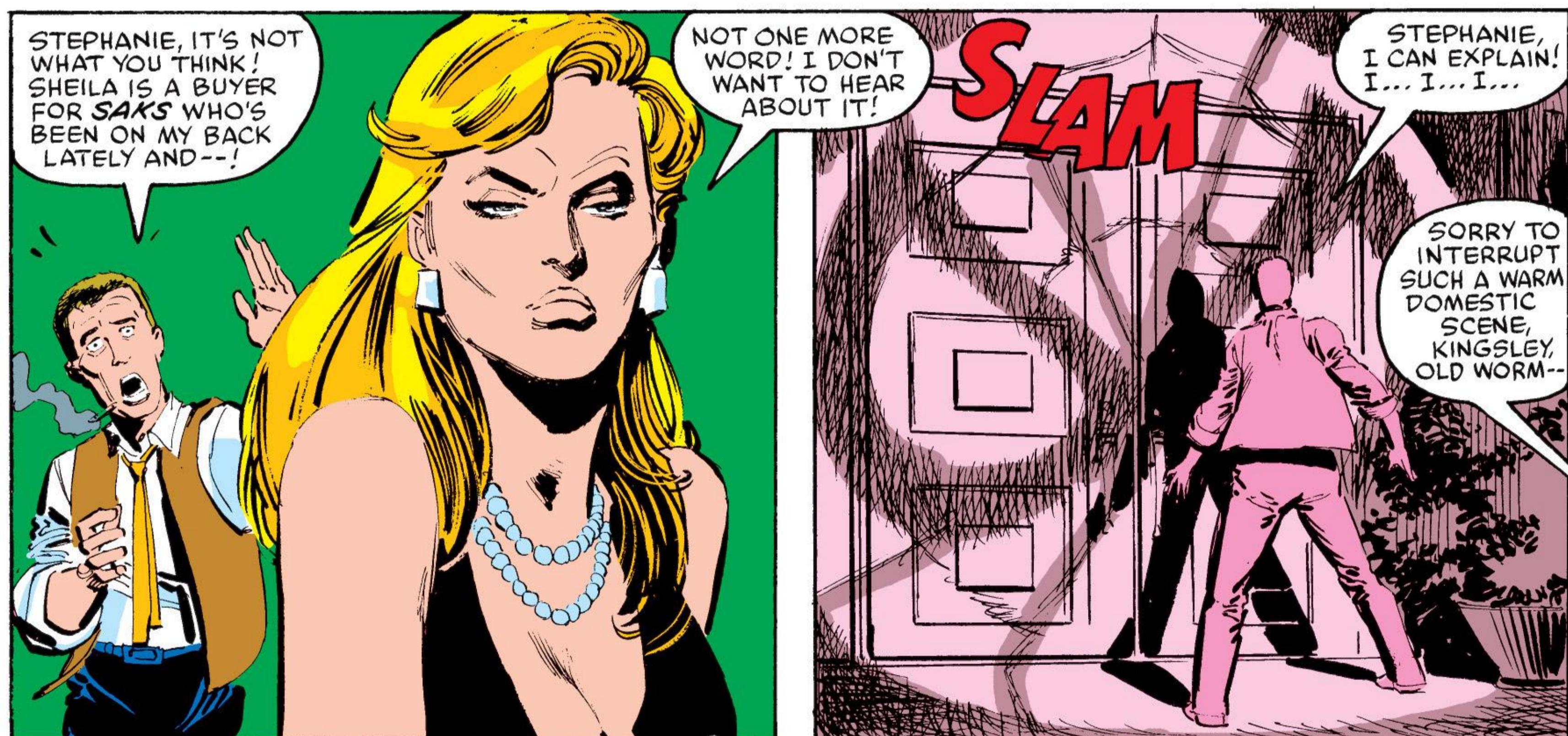
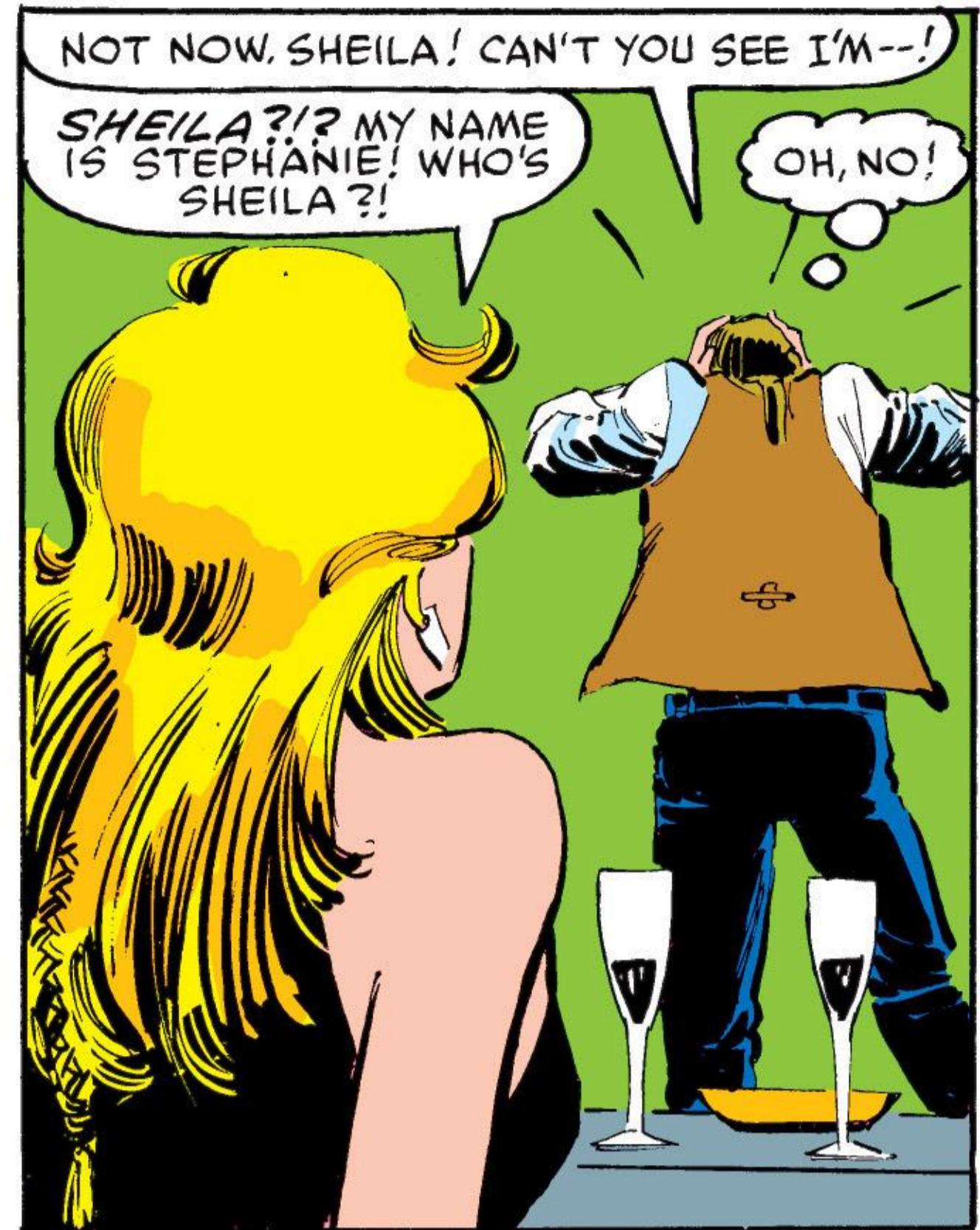
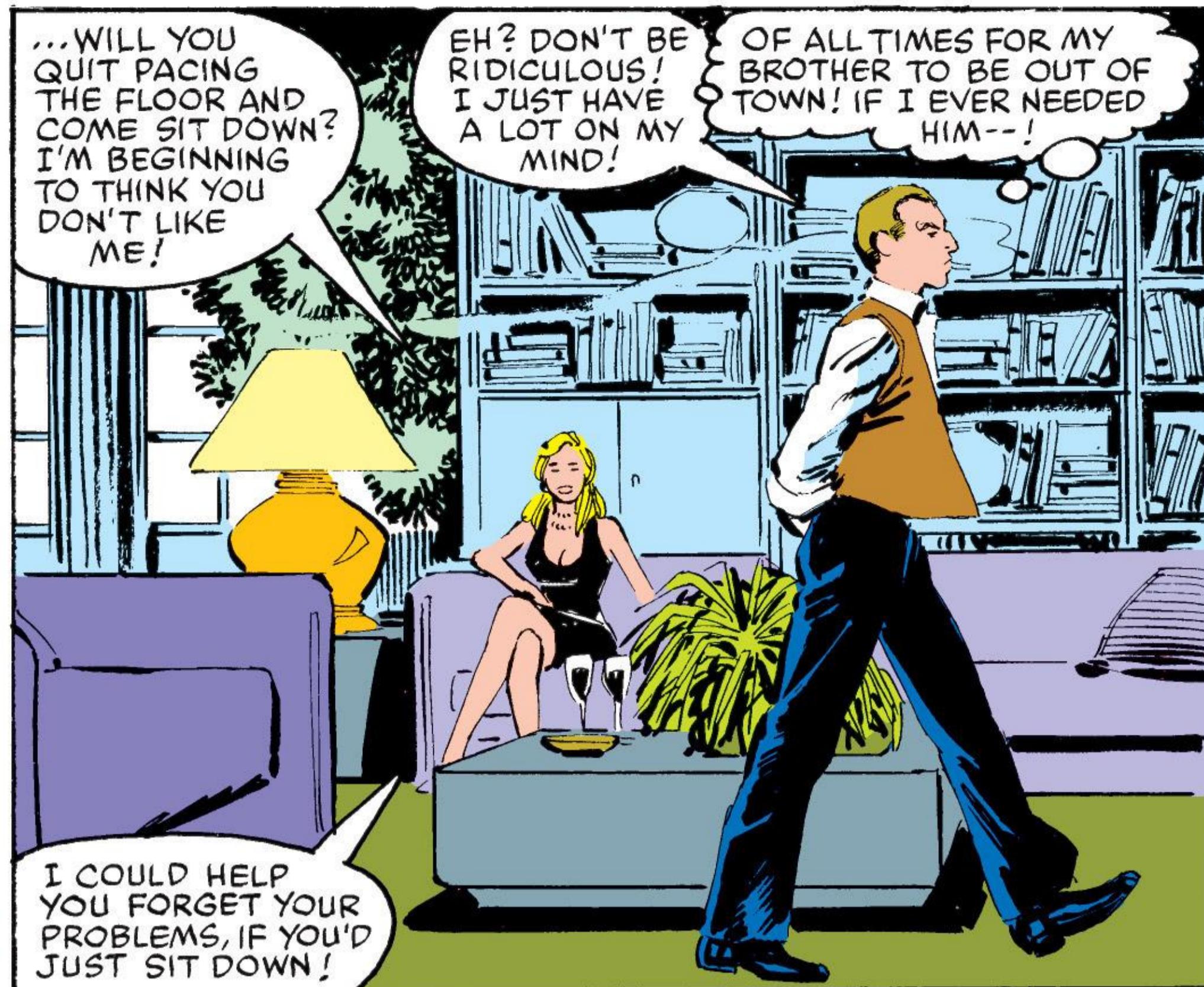


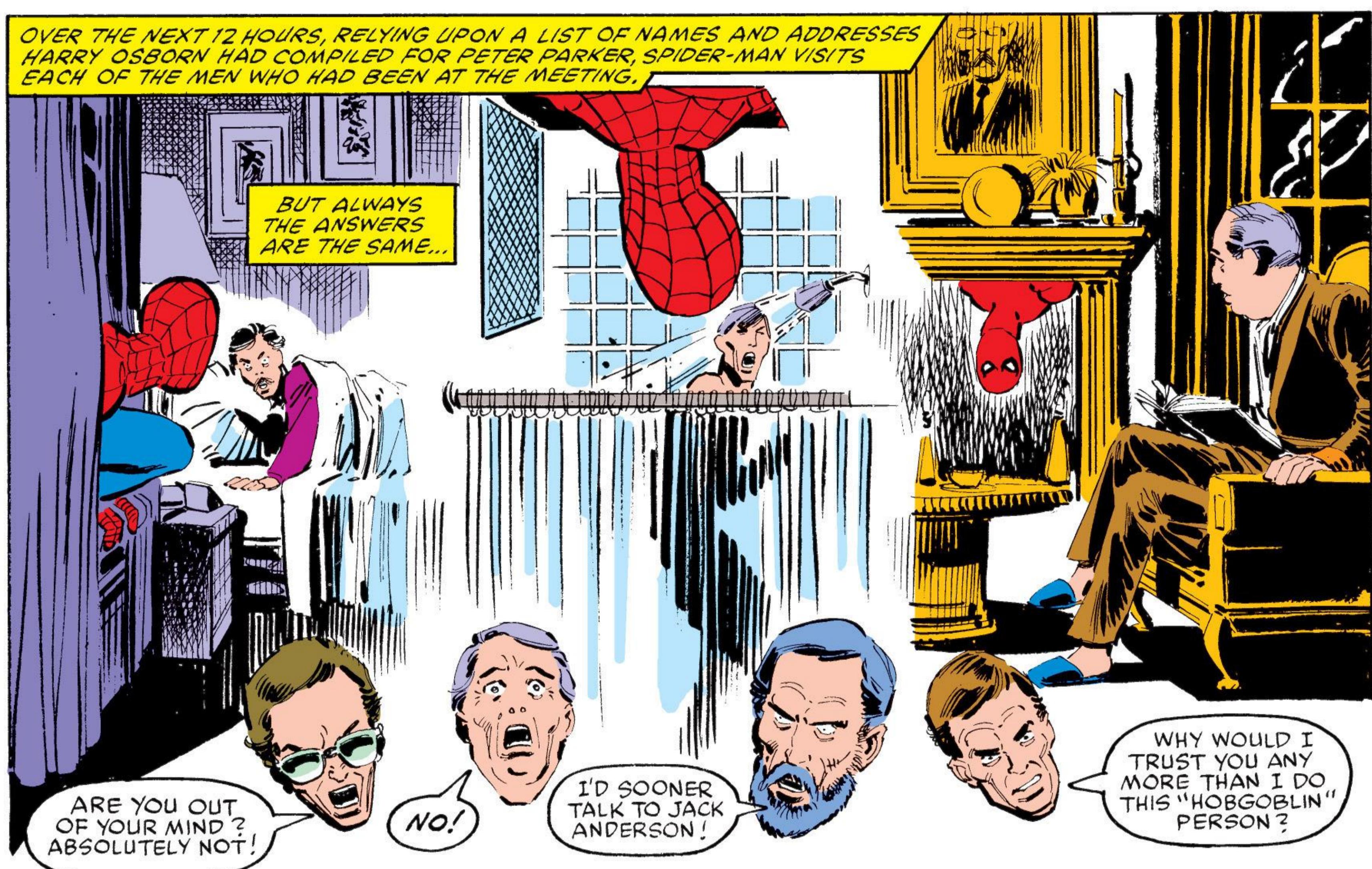












IMAGINE THAT ALL OF YOUR SENSES HAVE BEEN DEADENED... THAT YOU CAN SEE NO LIGHT, THAT EVERY INCH OF SKIN HAS BEEN NUMBED, THAT EVEN THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN HEARTBEAT HAS BEEN DENIED YOU!



NOW IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOUR SENSES SUDDENLY RETURNED, AMPLIFIED A HUNDREDFOLD... JUST AS A BOMB WENT OFF!

IF YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, THEN YOU MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF THE PAIN SPIDER-MAN HAS JUST EXPERIENCED!

ONLY HIS AMAZING REFLEXES AND HIS WEB-SHOOTERS SAVE HIM FROM A THIRTY STORY FALL!

GHAAA!..

WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?!?

HAS MY SPIDER-SENSE RETURNED--?

NO... NO, THE OLD FAMILIAR BACKGROUND BUZZ IS STILL DEADER THAN A DOORNAIL... JUST LIKE I ALMOST WAS.

I'M NOT SURE HOW HOBGOBLIN'S GAS WORKS, BUT I THINK IT SOMEHOW NUMBS THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM... MY SPIDER-SENSE IS STILL THERE, I JUST CAN'T FEEL IT!



THE ONLY THING I CAN FIGURE IS THAT SOME DANGER... SOME REALLY BIG DANGER FLASHED INTO BEING FOR A SPLIT-SECOND... SOMETHING BIG ENOUGH AND WEIRD ENOUGH--

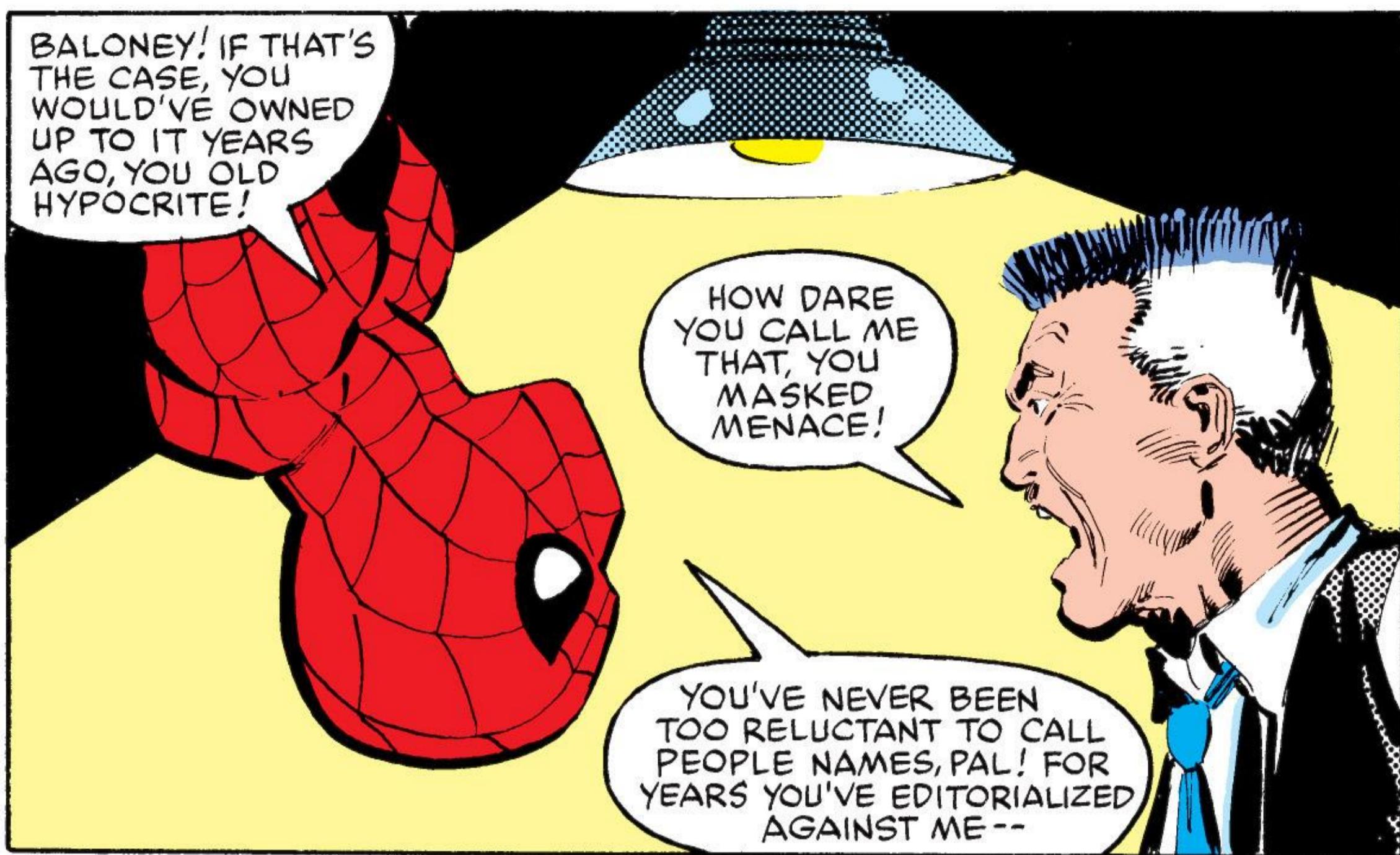
--TO NEARLY TAKE THE TOP OF MY HEAD OFF! BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO HUGE A THREAT THAT I'D STILL FEEL IT THROUGH THE NUMBNESS? AND HOW COULD IT DISAPPEAR SO QUICKLY?!



MINUTES LATER, THE WORRIED WEB-SLINGER FINALLY ARRIVES AT HIS DESTINATION...

...JUST OUTSIDE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICES OF THE DAILY BUGLE'S PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!

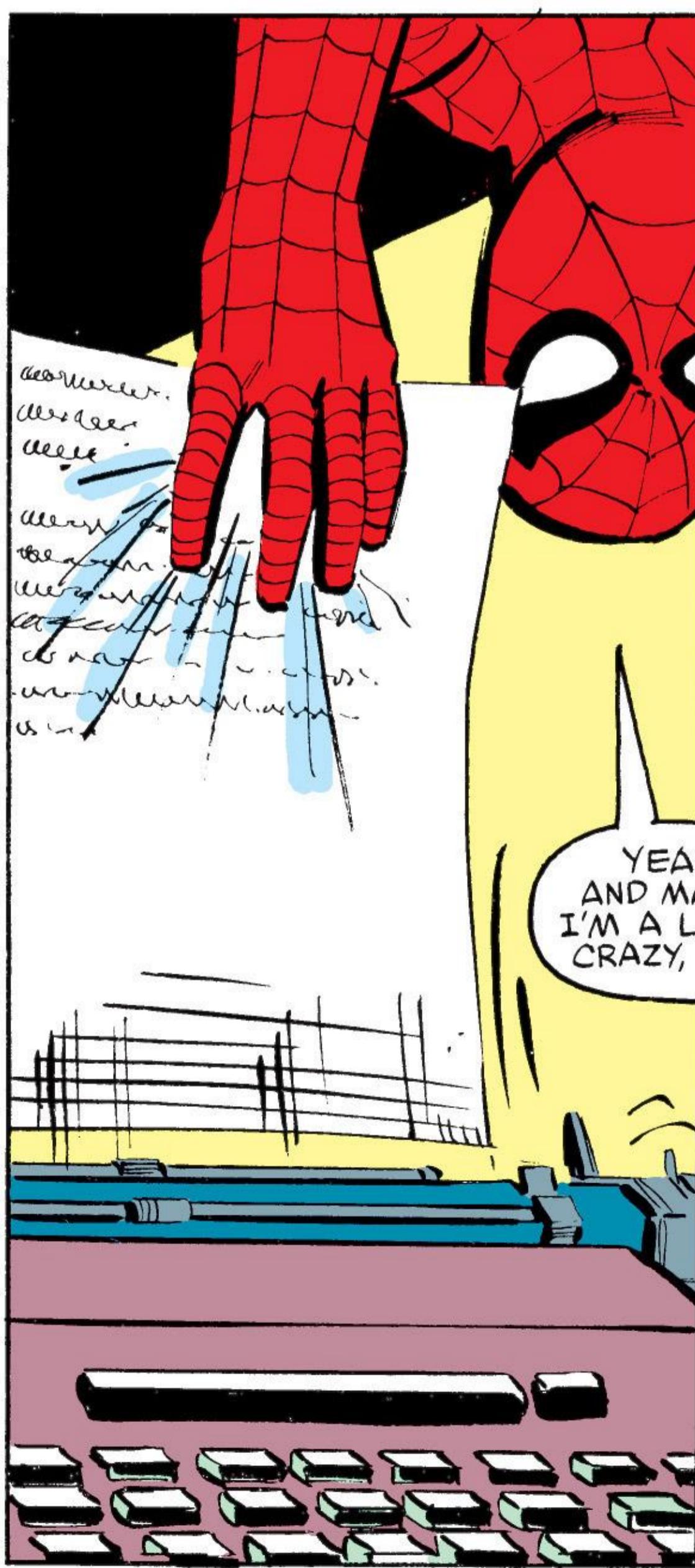
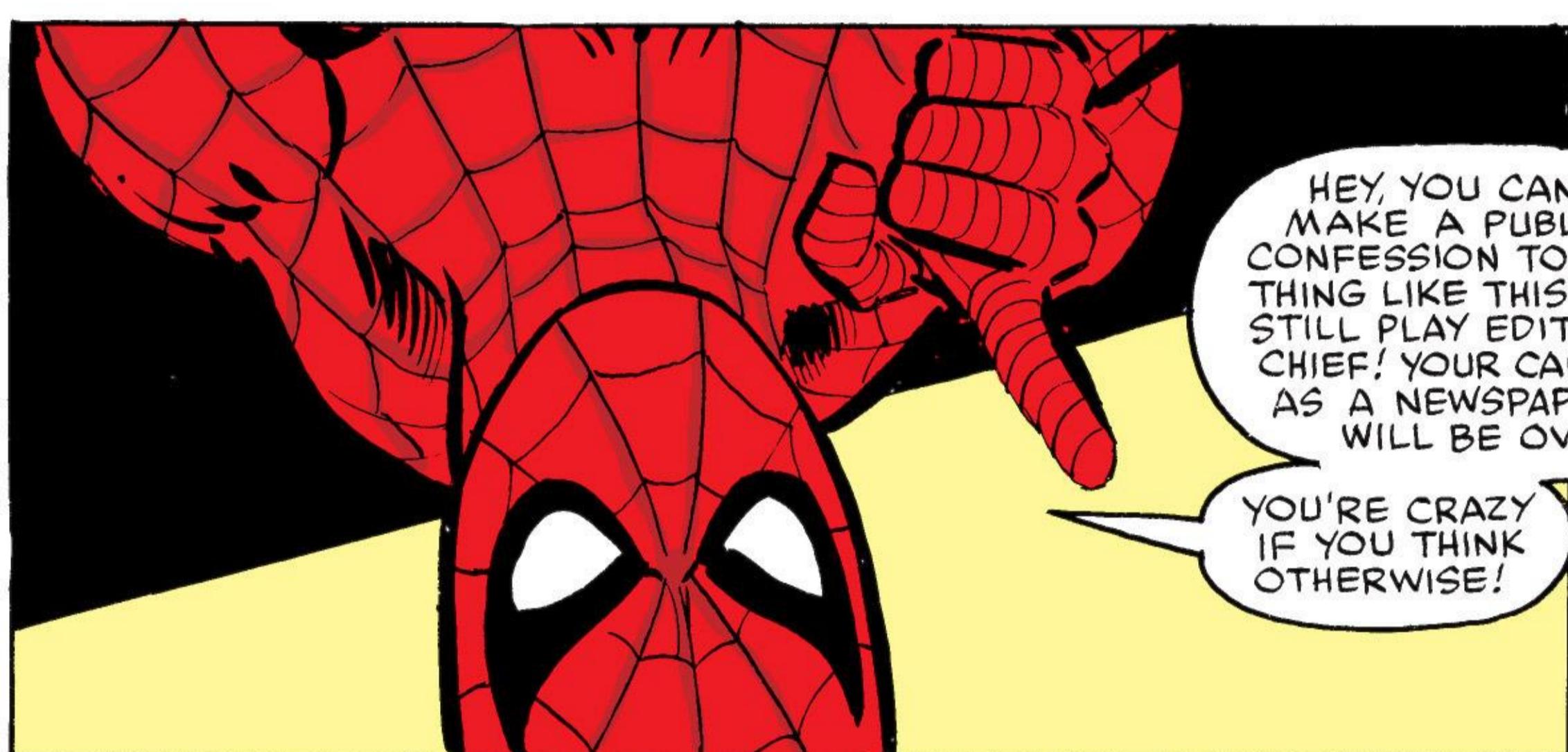


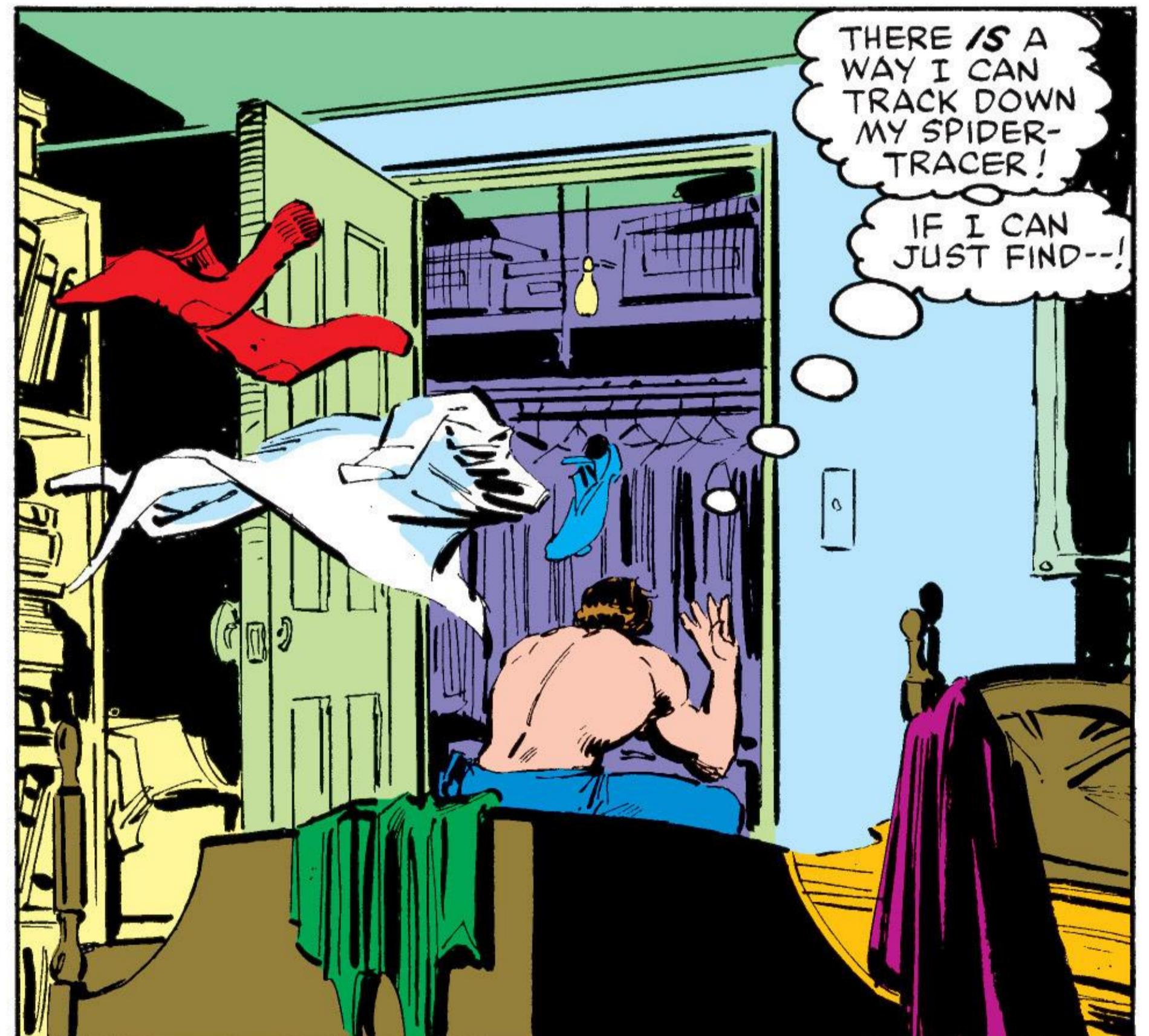
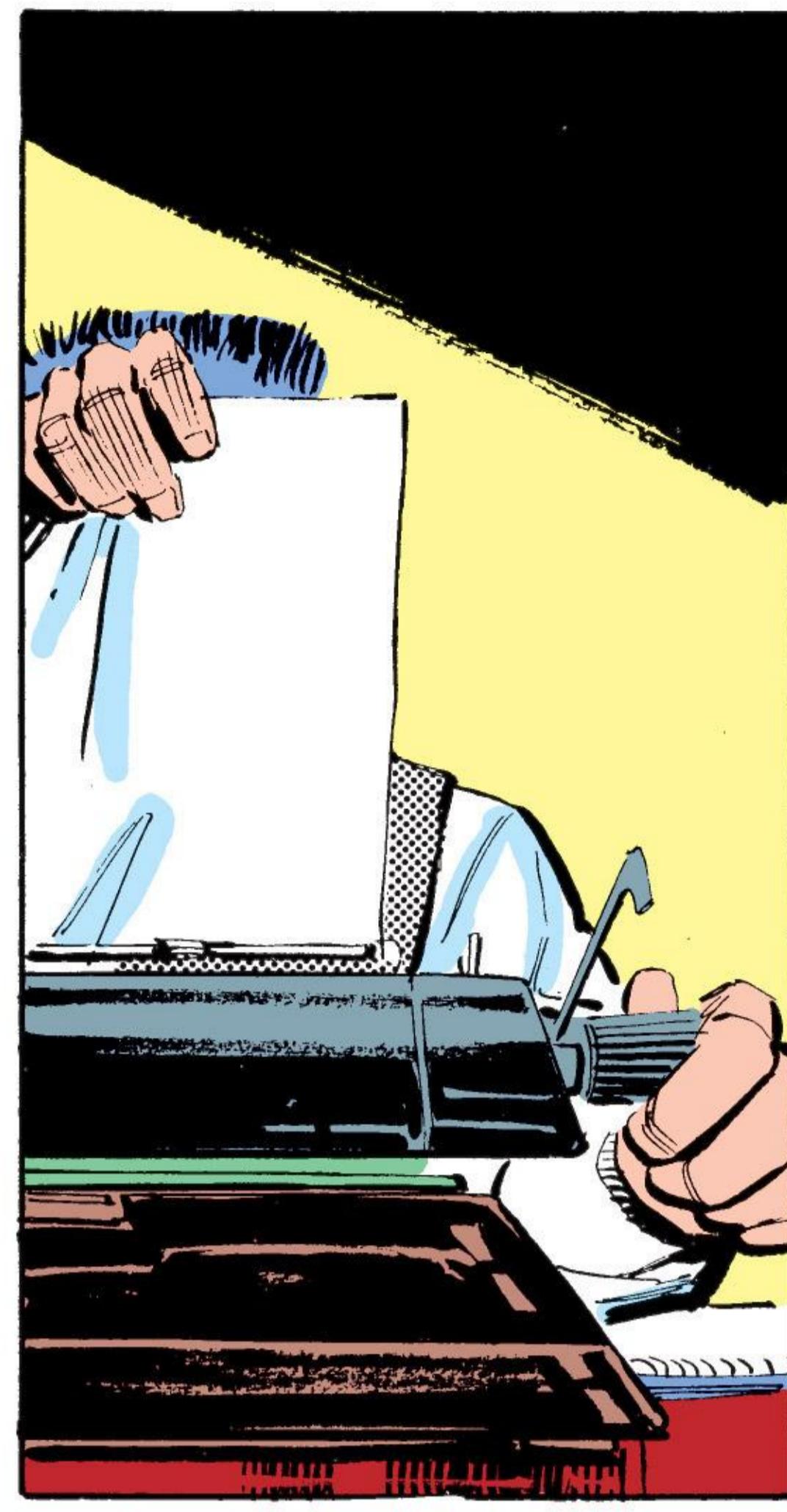


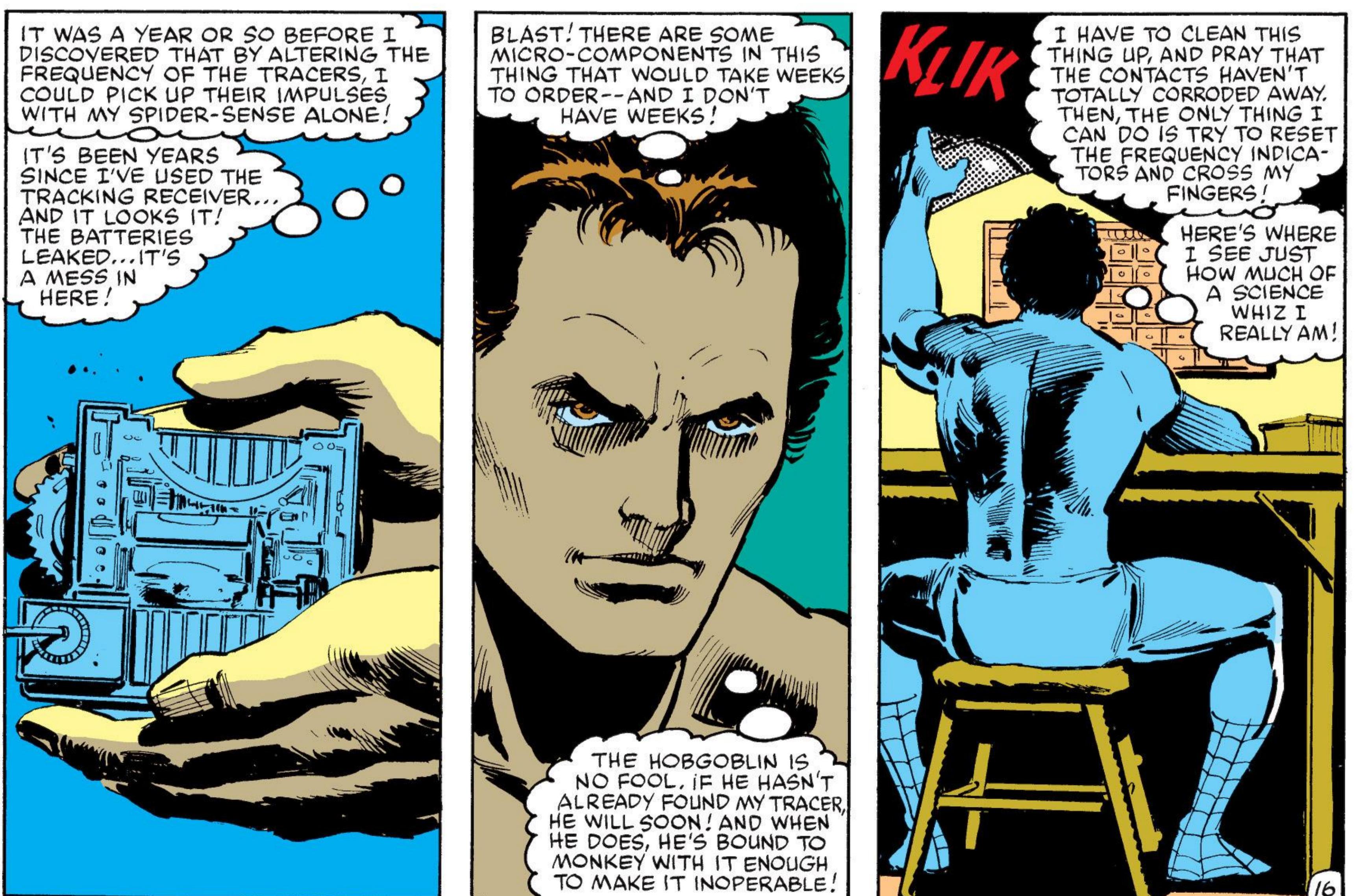
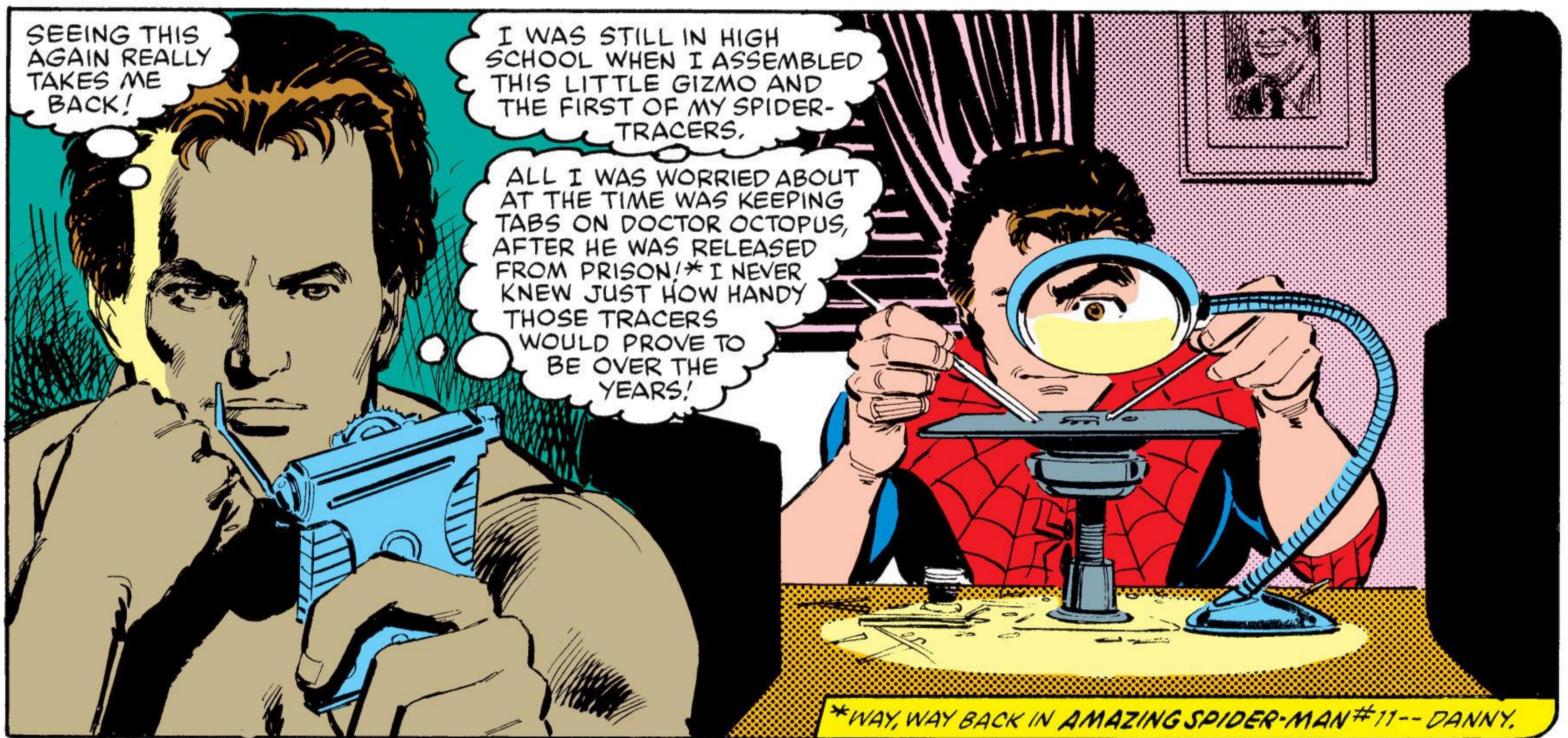
-- SAYING I WAS A VIGILANTE, OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW! WELL, ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'VE DONE? YOU AND YOUR SCORPIONS AND HIRED HEROES AND SPIDER-SLAYER ROBOTS! YOU'RE AS MUCH AN OUTLAW AS I AM!

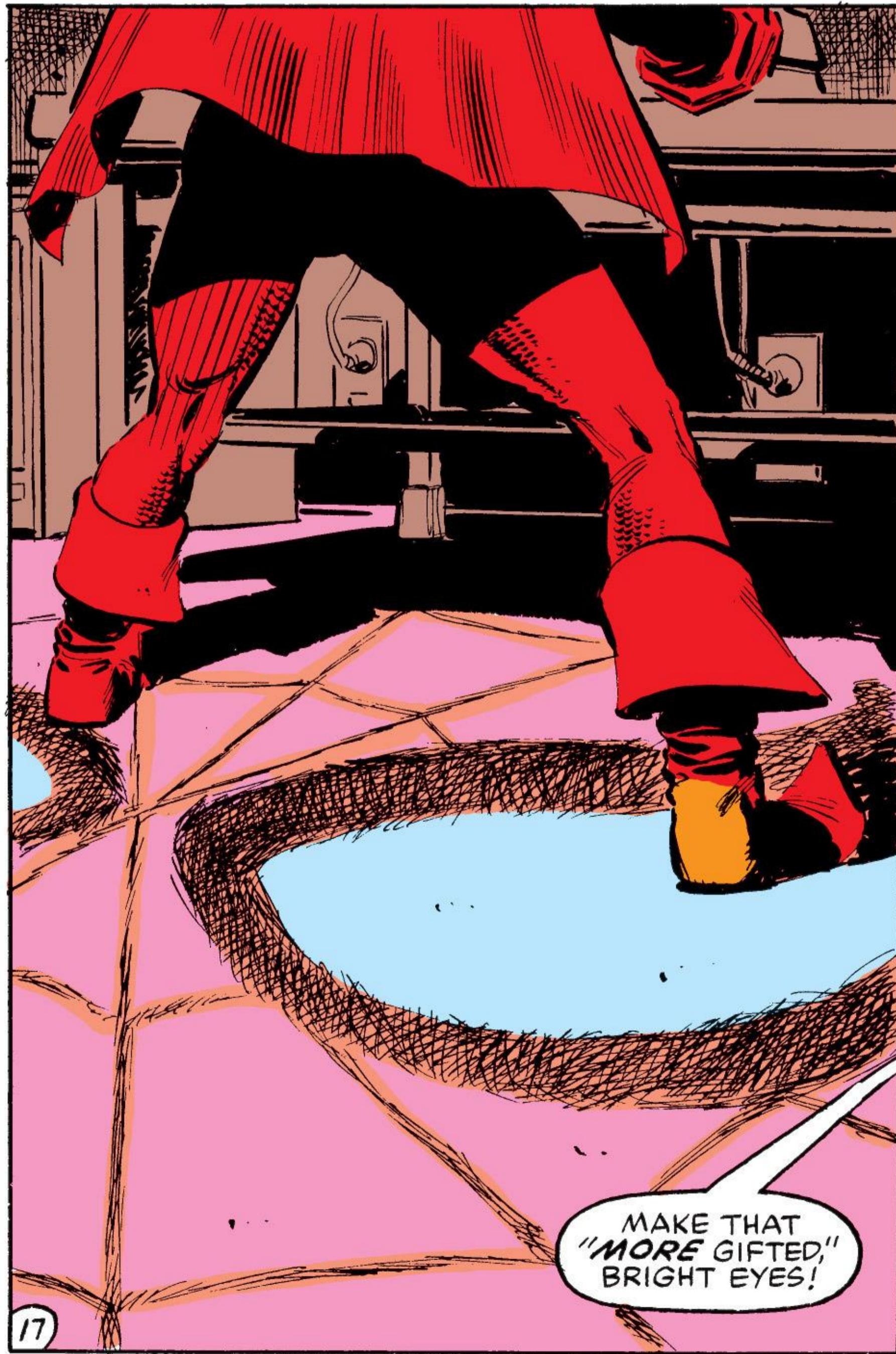
AND NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT BY SOMEONE WHO HAS PROOF, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN PUT ON A HAIR SHIRT AND THROW YOURSELF AT THE PUBLIC'S MERCY?

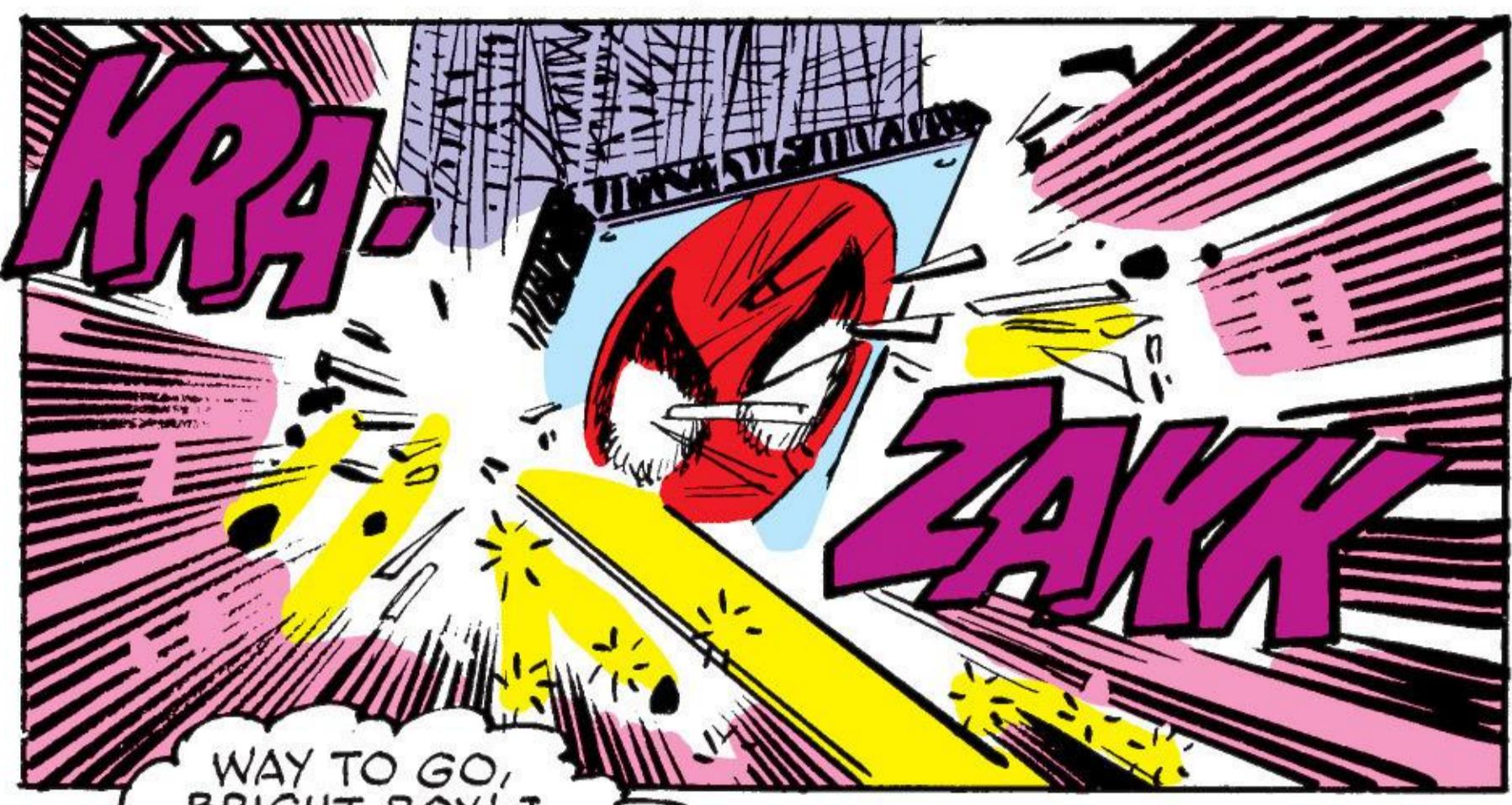
THE PUBLIC MAY JUDGE AS THEY WISH!

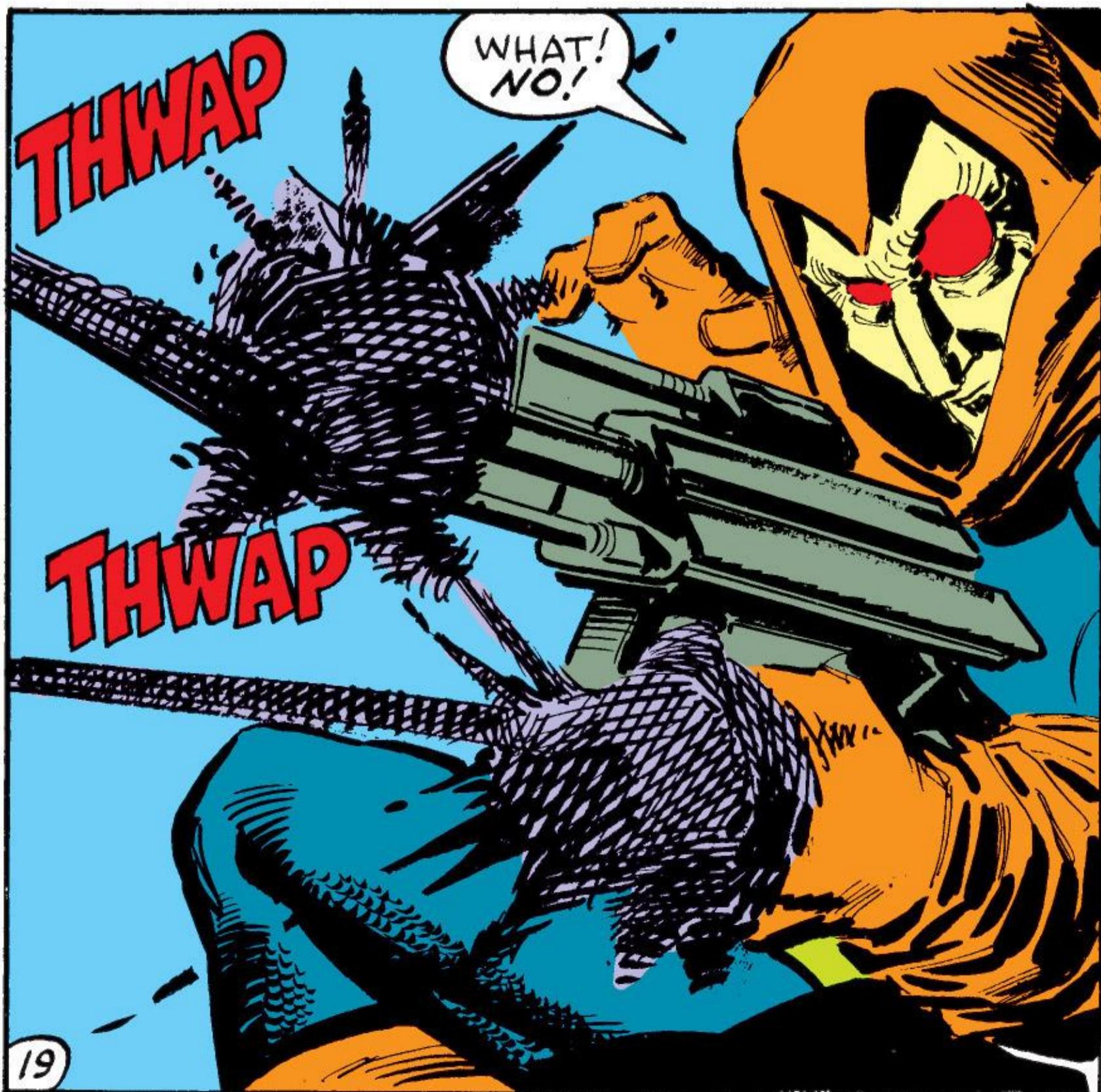
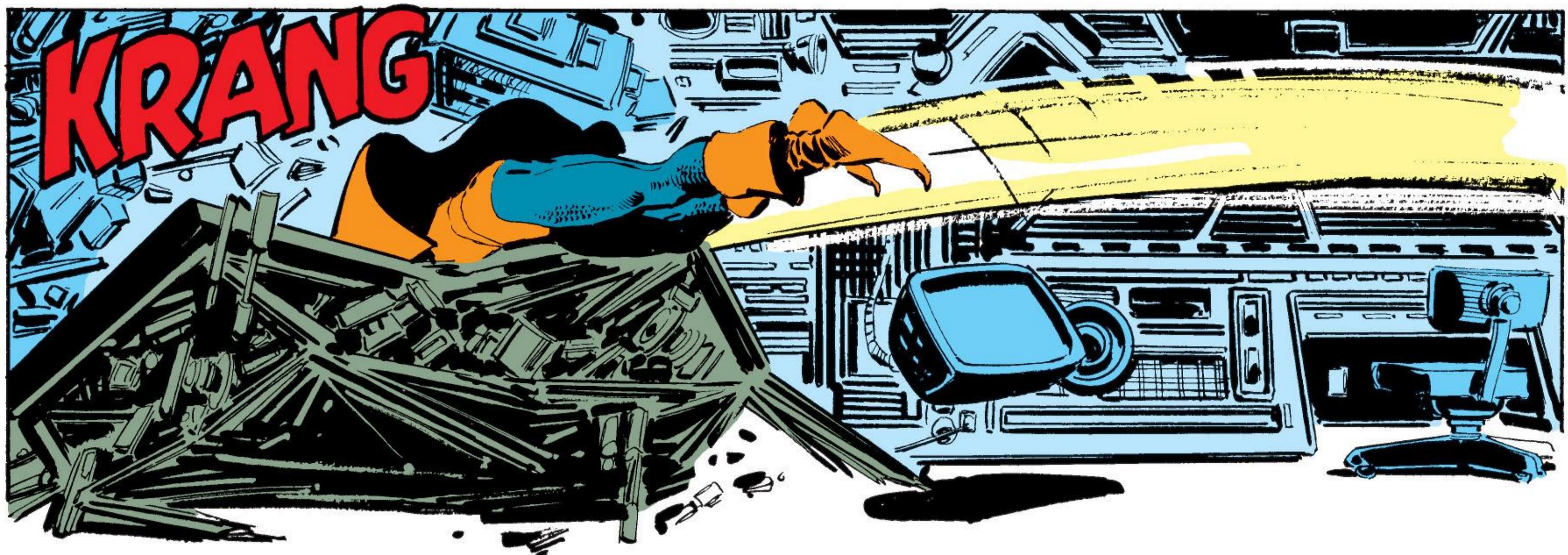


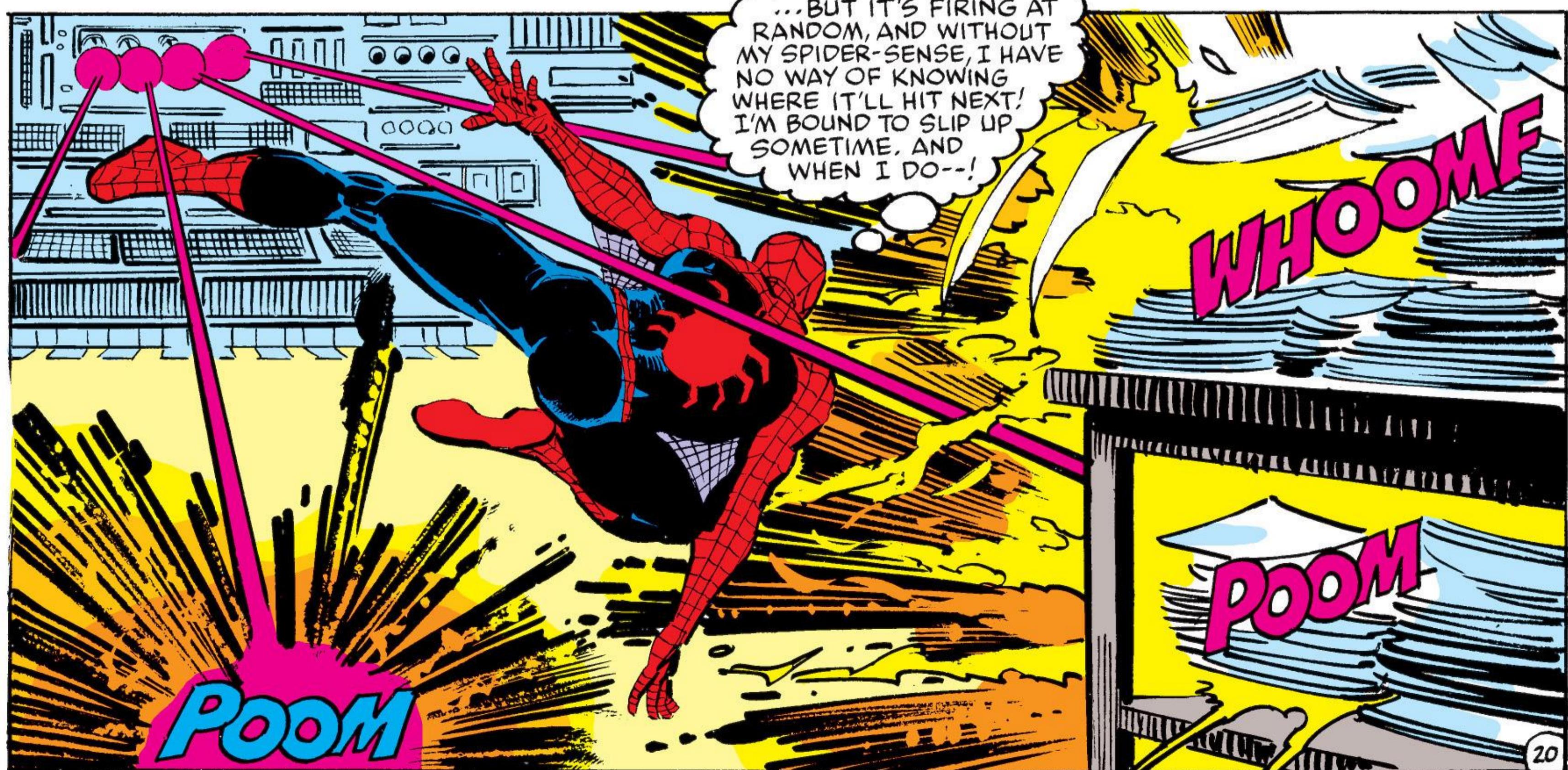
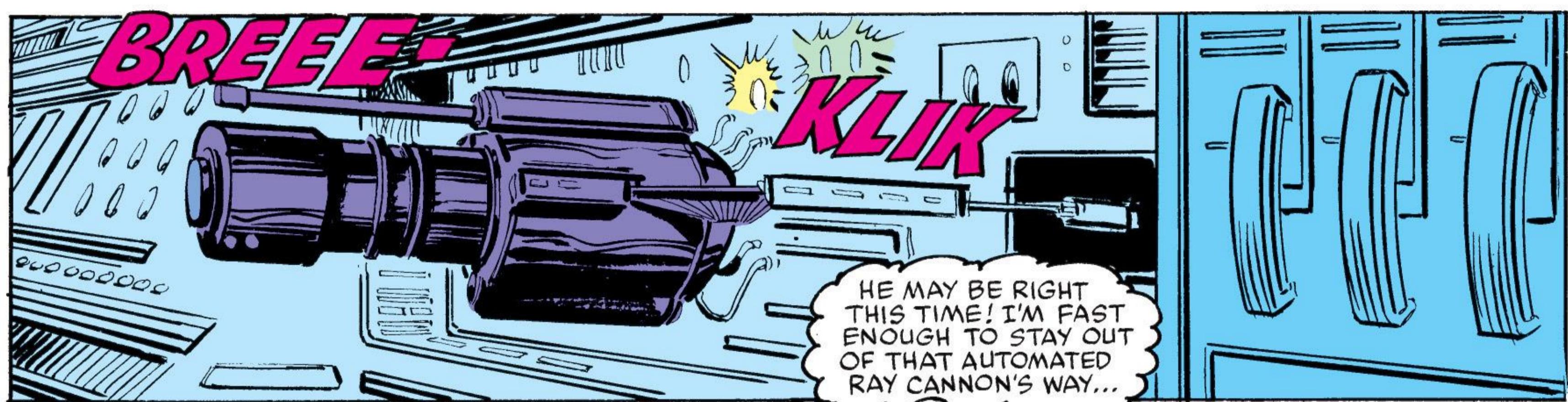


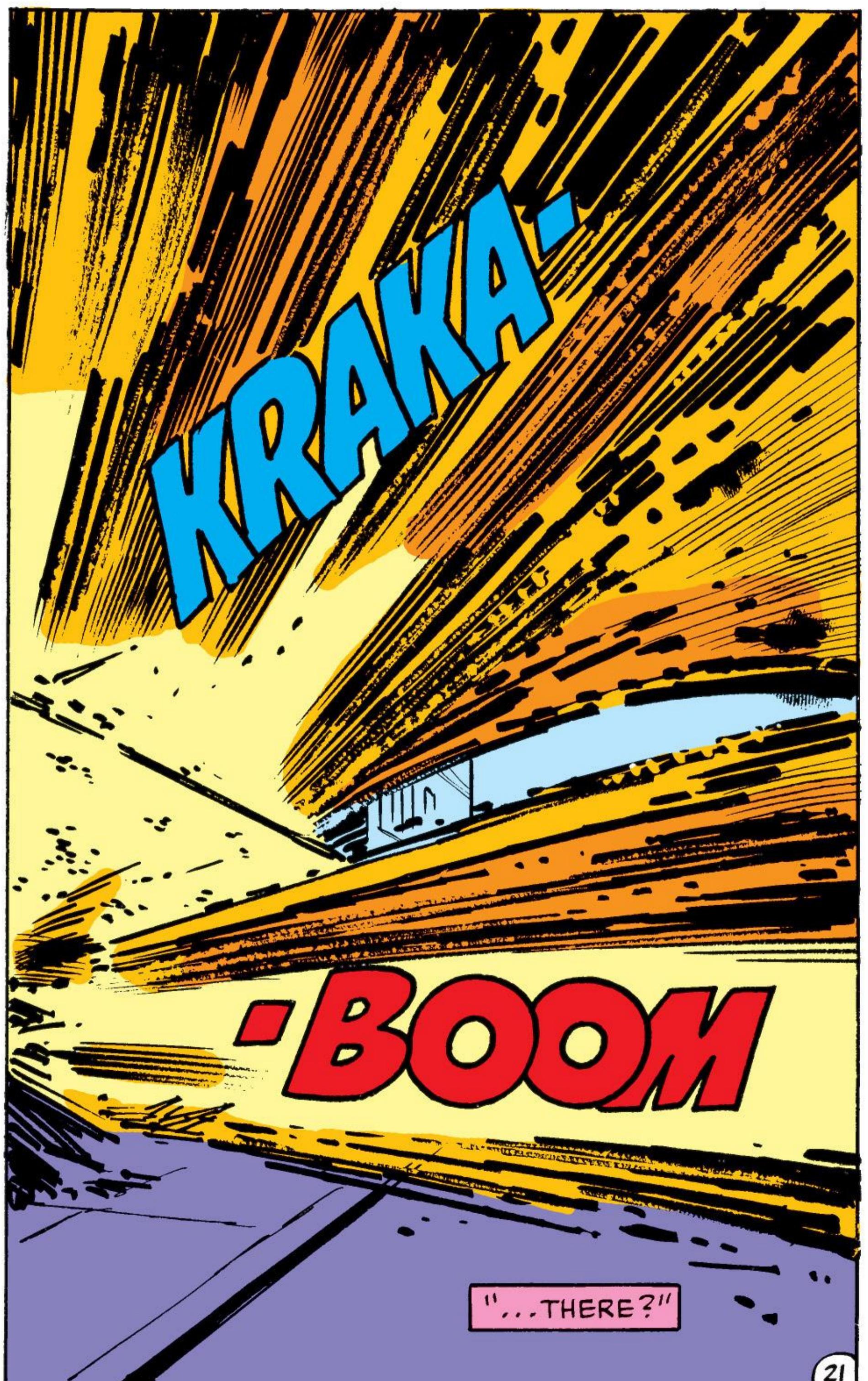
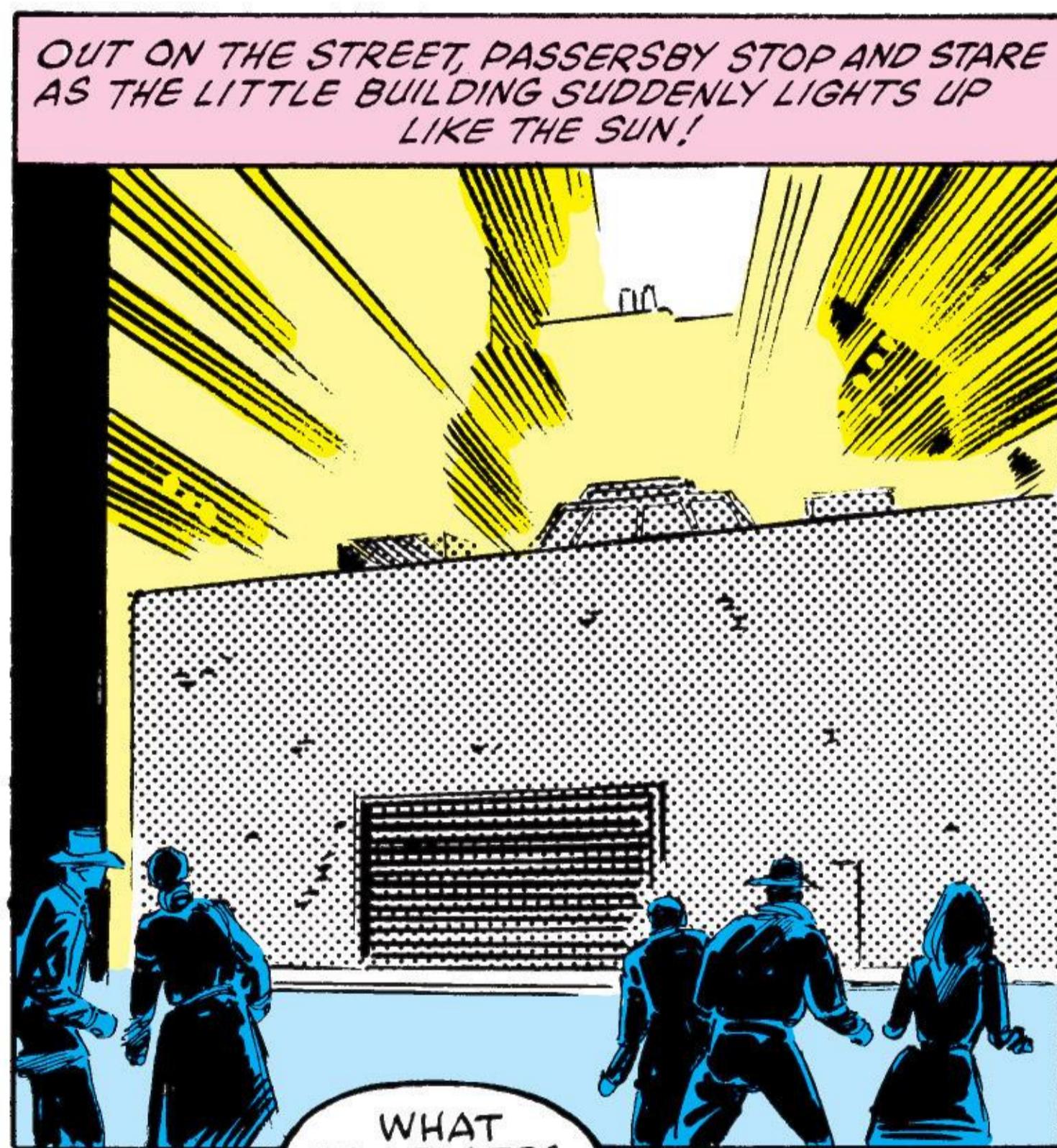
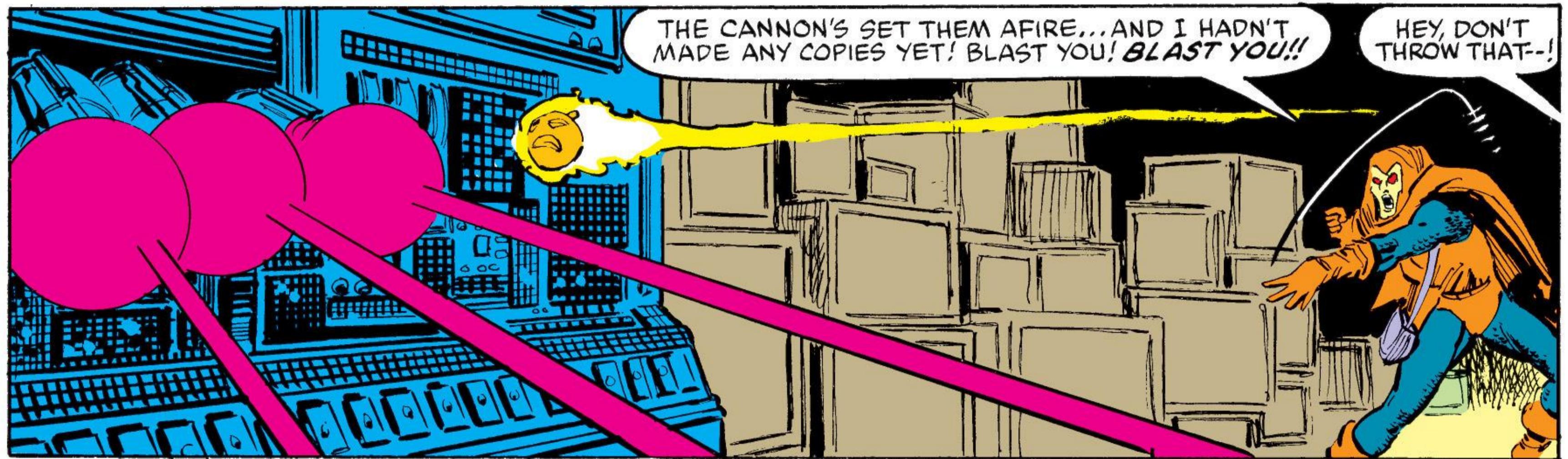




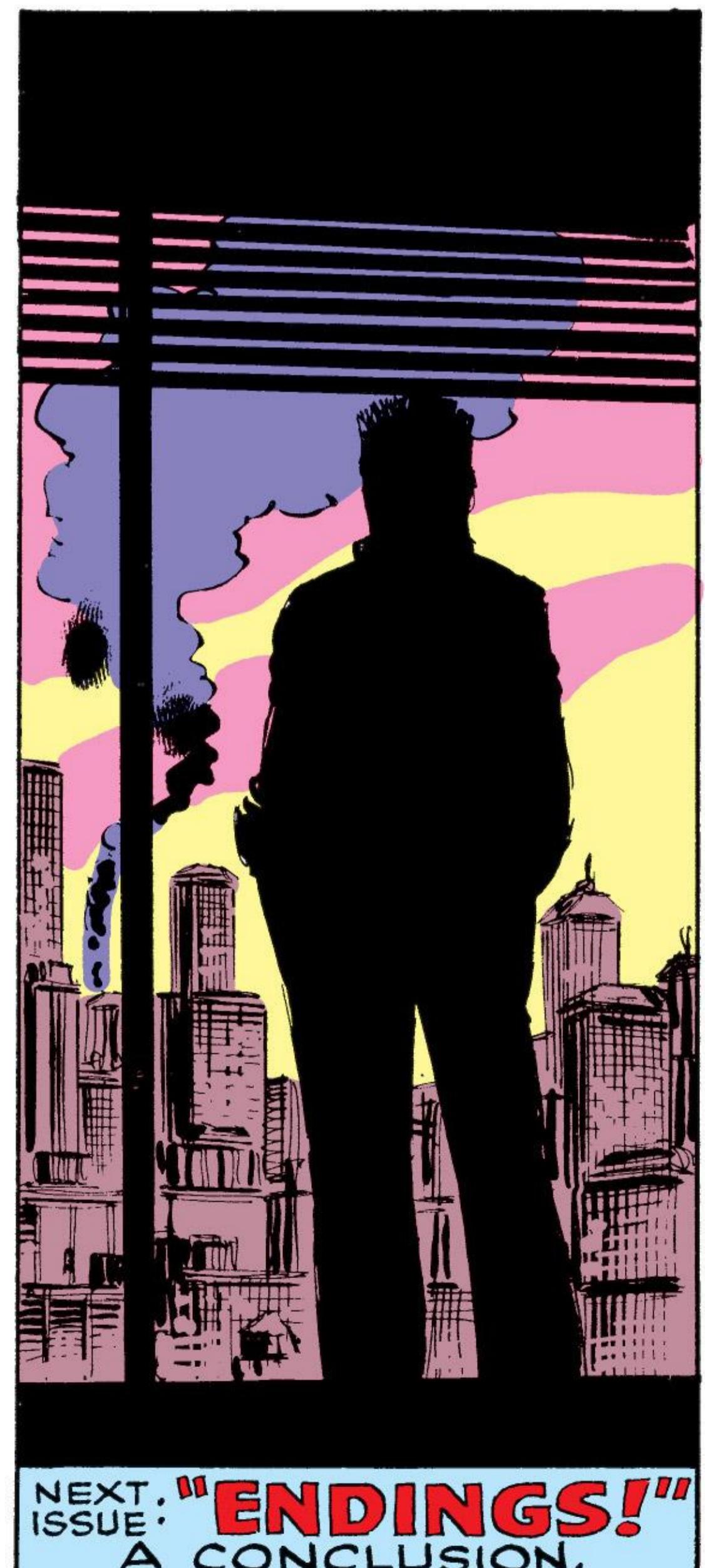








THE EXPLOSION IS FOLLOWED BY FIRE. IN INSTANTS, THICK, ACRID SMOKE FILLS THE MANHATTAN SKIES!



NEXT ISSUE: **"ENDINGS!"**
A CONCLUSION.

THE SPIDER'S WEB

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP

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New York, New York 10016

DANNY FINGEROTH

EDITOR

BOB DeNATALE

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Welcome to the 250th issue of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN . . . and to the middle chapter of what we think may well be the Spider-trilogy of the 1980s. (Though, of course, we'll always be trying to top it.)

Some of you may be wondering why ASM #250 isn't a double-sized issue. A few of you may even feel disappointed (while others are no doubt relieved that it only costs 60 cents). Well, shucks, we agree that double-sized issues make for a nice way to celebrate special occasions . . . but the thing that's first and foremost on our minds when we sit down to plot any issue is to make sure we come up with a good story. And in coming up with this latest Spider-Man/Hobgoblin opus, it soon became obvious that a double-sized issue just wouldn't work out here. In fact, we soon saw that there wasn't enough room even in a double-sized issue to hold all of the story . . . that's how it grew into three issues.

Just thought you'd like to know! And now, on with our letters page . . .

Dear Roger and John,

The new cover format on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #245 really makes the cover look thousands of times better. And, of course, J.R.'s artwork was brilliant. The story also seemed much better than the previous ones, although the former weren't bad by any means. This one just seemed more cohesive, as Spider-Man really got on the trail of the Hobgoblin, rather than just thinking about it as a sidebar to his romance with the Black Cat. Lefty Donovan obviously wasn't the Hobgoblin, but the ending was unexpected nonetheless. How do I know? We already know that the Hobgoblin's identity won't be revealed until issue #250!

Joe Sollitto
Revere, MA

The Hobgoblin's identity will be revealed in issue #250? Who ever said that?

Dear Rog and John,

Boy, you guys really had me going in issue #245! I thought that Spider-Man had the Hobgoblin in his grasp that time!

The story was great and the art was excellent. I'm eagerly awaiting issue #250, but please don't wait until then to give away Hobby's identity.

By the way, is the Hobgoblin a member of the Secret Empire? In CAPTAIN AMERICA #285, when the Porcupine contacted the Secret Empire, the face on the screen looked very much like the Hobgoblin's. Just a guess.

Raymond Riley
Tucson, AZ

Secret Empire, Ray? Gee, beats me! Maybe they just have the same tailor!

Dear Guys,

I am one of the biggest, if not the biggest SPIDER-MAN fan around. I've been with the wall-crawler from the very beginning, sharing with him all of the changes, triumphs, and tragedies.

It is very pleasing to see the things that are happening with ol' Web-head. The continuity that all the writers and artists are developing between all three Spider-titles is very exciting. The Hobgoblin storyline is the best to appear in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN in over four years. Please, please, PLEASE! Do not make the Black Cat Spider-Man's sidekick or partner. What has always made Spider-Man so special is that he works best by himself. He's a loner and he should stay that way!

I have recently finished reading the entry on Spider-Man in issue #10 of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, and I thought everything was fine except the listing of his weight. I am a bodybuilder and weight training instructor, and I can tell you that there's just no way that Spider-Man could weigh only 165 pounds. Maybe Peter Parker weighed that much before he became Spider-Man, but having gotten older and stronger, he has to weigh more. For his height and build, he has to weigh at least 200 pounds. Please clear this up.

Russ Smith
Parma, OH

Actually, Pete only weighed about 130 when he was first bitten by that radioactive spider, Russ. And, yes, he has put on some weight over the years, but you have to remember that his muscles aren't like those of a typical person.

Dear Roger and John,

It was in 1971, that I wrote my first letter to Marvel Comics . . . about Spider-Man, of course. I was eleven years old, and my letter went something like: "Wow, SPIDER-MAN is great!"

Now, twelve years later, I'm writing again to say the same thing.

Roger's handling of Spider-Man's characterization and his solid plotting reminds me of the days when Stan Lee was still writing this book. And John's art—! Never let these guys get away! Thanks to the both of you for putting the magic back into the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

In parting, just let me say that I think that Lance Bannon is the Hobgoblin. Am I right?

Paul Olivieri
Fishkill, NY

Who knows, Paul? Maybe we'll find out next issue. Maybe.

Dear Roger, John, and Tom:

You're all doing a spectacular job on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Roger's scripts continue to provide the best storytelling around and, under the expert DeFalco editorial touch, he gives the readers a solid link with all the other Spider-titles. And, of course, John Romita Jr.'s art continues to amaze and delight. If you can continue to provide this high quality of story and art, you'll always have a bestseller.

As for issue #245, the gym bag Jameson was carrying on page eight could be a clue that JJJ is the Hobgoblin. He could have

been toting the costume inside. One question, though . . . why didn't you ever show Lefty Donovan's face anywhere in the story? Spider-Man saw it, so why hide it from the readers?

Carl Fornaris
Miami, FL

Why not, Carl?

Dear Marvel Folk,

All right, you fiends, enough is enough! As per the examples of his editorial columns in MARVEL AGE magazine, Tom DeFalco is keeping with his own twisted style *vis-a-vis* the secret of Hobgoblin's identity. But, darn it all, why did he have to corrupt writer Roger Stern?

I mean, it's twisted Tom's style to keep the audience guessing, crying, sobbing, and going absolutely crazy over the mysteries in his books. But now, he's changed poor Roger, as well. Hanging around with Tom was too much for you, eh, Rog?

How did Tom do it? Bribery? Brainwashing? Hypnotism?

Oh, well, it keeps us guessing and pays the local shrink's bills!

You're driving me crazy. Keep it up, I love it!

Logan DeAngelis
New Milford, NJ

That's strange, Logan. Just the other day, Rog was claiming that he was the one who corrupted Tom! And, by the way, you really can't blame Tom for keeping the secrecy lid on Hobgoblin's identity. Tom still doesn't know who Hobby is! Neither do Bob and I . . . and, yes, it's driving us crazy, too!

Dear People,

It is plain as day that the Hobgoblin is Spider-Man's evil side, separated from his body as a result of a delayed mutation, caused by the bite of that radioactive spider. I mean, who are you trying to kid?

Paul Yelovich
Staten Island, NY

I think the Hobgoblin is Wilbur Day—the Stilt-Man!

Sam Lawvere
Unityville, PA

Hobgoblin is either Ned Leeds or Mysterio.

Ferny Ruiz
North Arlington, NJ

I believe that District Attorney Blake Tower is the guilty party.

John Garner
Anaheim, CA

Personally, I think Hobgoblin looks a lot like AVENGERS editor Mark Gruenwald. (Oh, you guys are talking about under the mask!)

**NEXT ISSUE: "Endings!"
'Nuff said.**

Danny Fingeroth