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SPIDER-MAN

NOV. '96 74



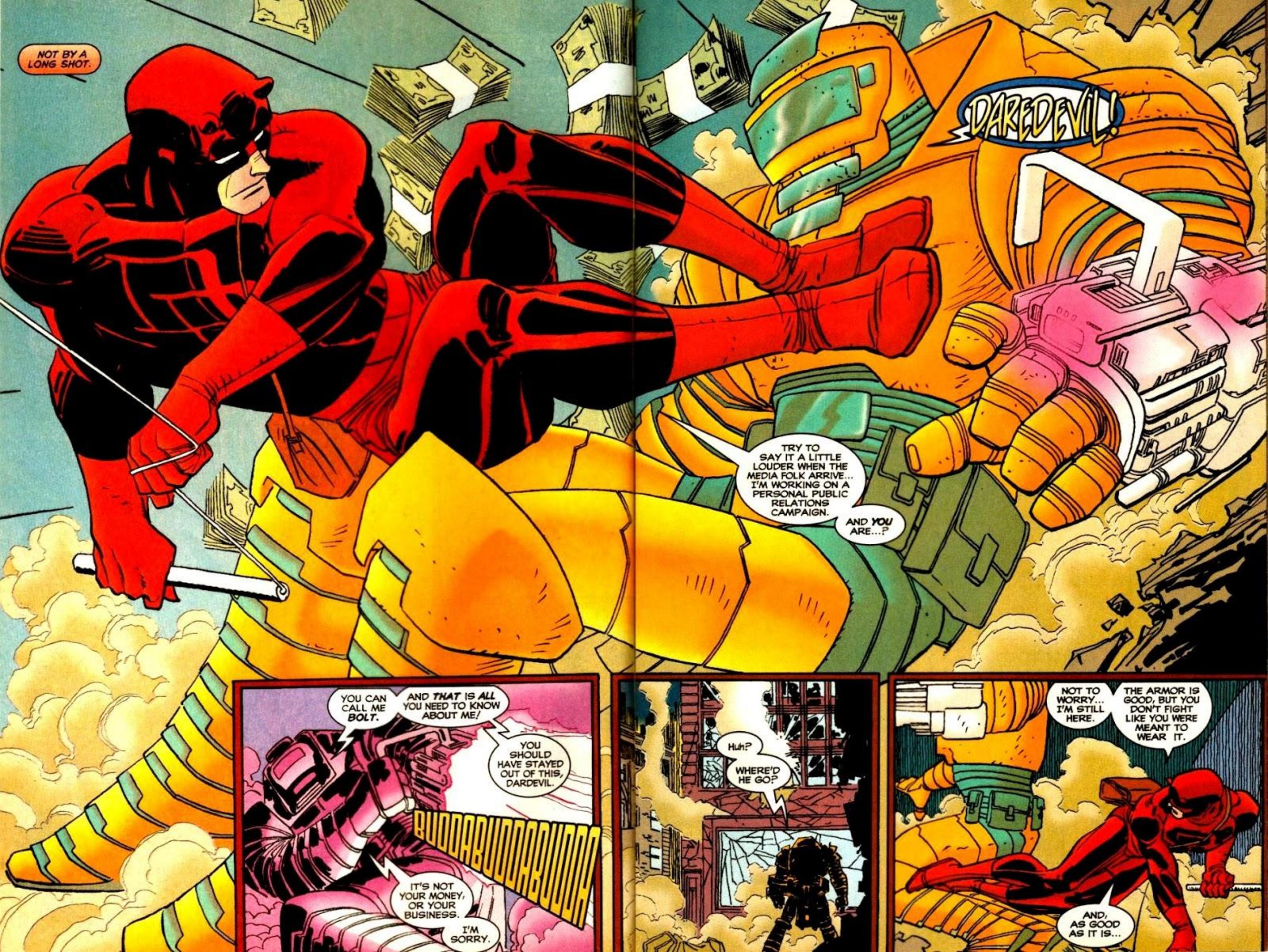
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**NOT BY A
LONG SHOT.**







YOU ALL
KNOW ME. I AM
FORTUNATO.

YOU ALSO
KNOW THOSE
WHO STAND
BEHIND ME.

THEY ARE
THE HEADS
OF THE MOST
POWERFUL CRIMINAL
ORGANIZATIONS
IN THIS
CITY.

I, AND
MY HYDRA *
BRETHREN, HAVE
BROUGHT YOU ALL
HERE IN THE HOPES
OF FORGING A NEW
ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE
AND PROSPERITY
FOR US ALL.

A PEACE
FOR WHICH WE
ARE MORE THAN
WILLING TO
FIGHT.

BUT I
HAVE NOT
COME HERE
TO MAKE
THREATS.

LEST
YOU THINK I
COME BEFORE
YOU WITH EMPTY
PROMISES.

I NOW
OFFER YOU
PROOF OF NOT
ONLY MY GOOD
INTENT, BUT OF
MY STRENGTH
AS WELL.

JIMMY-6.
THE CURTAIN.

I GIVE
TO YOU ONE
OF THE LAST OF THE
"HEROES." ONE WHO
HAS BEEN A THORN
IN THE SIDE OF
OUR BUSINESS
OPERATIONS...

... SPIDER-MAN!

TONIGHT,
AT MIDNIGHT,
WE WILL UNMASK
HIM WHO HAS SO
PLAGUED YOU, MY
FRIENDS, AND
THEN... HE
SHALL DIE.

AND
YOU WILL
ALL KNOW THAT
FORTUNATO IS
A MAN OF HIS
WORD.

STAN LEE Presents:

Last of the Heroes

Brought to you by:

**HOWARD MACKIE &
JOHN ROMITA JR.**

Story and Art

AL WILLIAMSON Inker

RICHARD STARKINGS &

COMICRAFT/LA Letters

KEVIN TINSLEY Colors

RALPH MACCHIO Editor

BOB HARRAS Chief

In Memory of
MARK GRUENWALD
Last of our Heroes

Oh,
THIS IS
NICE!

I CAME
HERE TO TRY
AND SAVE THE
LIFE OF AN OLD MAN
WHO I THOUGHT
JIMMY-6 WAS
GOING TO
KILL. *

TURNS
OUT THE OLD
MAN IS THE LATEST
IN THE SUPER CRIME
LORDS... WHO HAPPENS
TO BE JIMMY'S DADDY...
AND JIMMY CAME HERE
TO SAVE THE OLD
MAN'S LIFE --

-- WHICH, BY
THE WAY, DIDN'T
NEED SAVING AFTER
ALL... THANKS TO
FORTUNATO'S
HYDRA BUDDIES!

NOW
I'M ON THE
HOT SEAT AND
JIMMY-6 ISN'T
LIFTING A FINGER
TO HELP ME.

* LAST ISSUE.
- Old Ralf.

AFTER
I SAVED
HIS LIFE...*

... NOT
TO MENTION
LETTING HIM
CRASH AT MY
APARTMENT
AND USE MY
TOOTHPASTE!

* BACK IN ISSUE #71
- Ungrateful Ralf.

THANKS, BUDDY!
HOPE YOUR DADDY'S
PROUD OF YOU.

JIMMY!
DON'T
JUST STAND
THERE.

WE
HAVE WORK
TO DO.

OUTSIDE...

AH, HYDRA'S INVOLVED!
HAD A RUN-IN WITH THEM
ONCE. CHARMING BUNCH.

LIKE I SAID...

... HOW TOUGH
COULD IT BE?

BEFORE WE CONTINUE WITH MY SIGN OF GOOD FAITH, I REQUIRE A SMALL DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR OWN GOOD LOYALTY TO OUR CAUSE.

HERE WE HAVE ONE OF YOUR OWN RANK... TOMBSTONE.

IT WAS HE WHO LED THE UNFORTUNATE ASSAULT ON MY HOME.

SO I FEEL IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT IT IS HE WHO SHALL PAY FOR THE INDISCRETION.

THESE OTHERS... THEY ARE NOBODIES...

... CIVILIANS TAKEN FROM THE TERRITORIES CONTROLLED BY THE REST OF YOU.

THEY, TOO, SHALL PAY FOR THE INDISCRETION.



THEIR BLOOD WILL BE ON YOUR HANDS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY... IF THERE IS EVEN A HINT OF DISLOYALTY FROM ANY OF YOU... THERE WILL BE MUCH MORE INNOCENT BLOOD SPILLED.

IT WILL FLOW UNTIL YOUR TERRITORIES RUN RED WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS. HOW LONG COULD THIS GO ON? HOW LONG BEFORE YOU ARE HUNTED DOWN LIKE MONSTERS AND DRIVEN AWAY? THIS IS THE PRICE YOU WILL PAY. DO YOU ALL AGREE?



YOU, CAESAR CICERO?

YEAH.

AND YOU, SILVERMANE...

... GAVIN THORPE...

... GENERAL COY...

... HAMMERHEAD...

... ROSE ...

... SLUG?



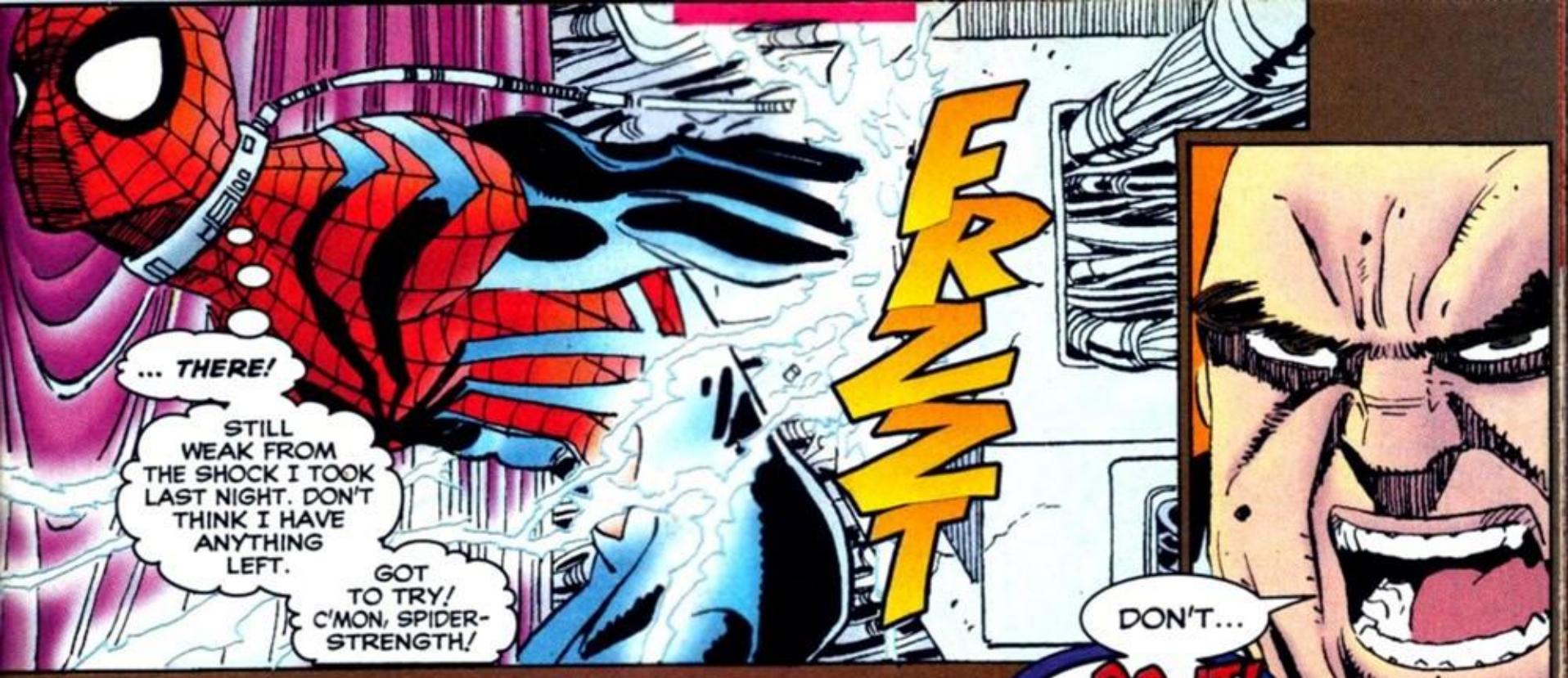
JIMMY-6, GIVE THEM THE WEAPONS. THEY WILL PERFORM THIS TASK PERSONALLY.



THIS
IS WHY I
LEFT IN THE
FIRST PLACE.
I WON'T
DO IT.







YEARS AGO, A YOUNG MAN WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER.

THE IRRADIATED VENOM WHICH COURSED THROUGH HIS BODY QUICKLY ALTERED HIS NORMAL METABOLISM.

HE GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND ACROBATIC ABILITIES OF A SPIDER AND SOON TOOK ON A COSTUMED IDENTITY.

ZAP! AN EARLY TRAGEDY INVOLVING THE DEATH OF HIS BELOVED UNCLE SET SPIDER-MAN ON A PATH WHICH HE WOULD FOREVER FOLLOW.

He learned that with great power must come great responsibility.

No matter what has been thrown at him... the death of loved ones, super-villains, clones... that simple, though profound maxim, guided his life through the darkest of times.

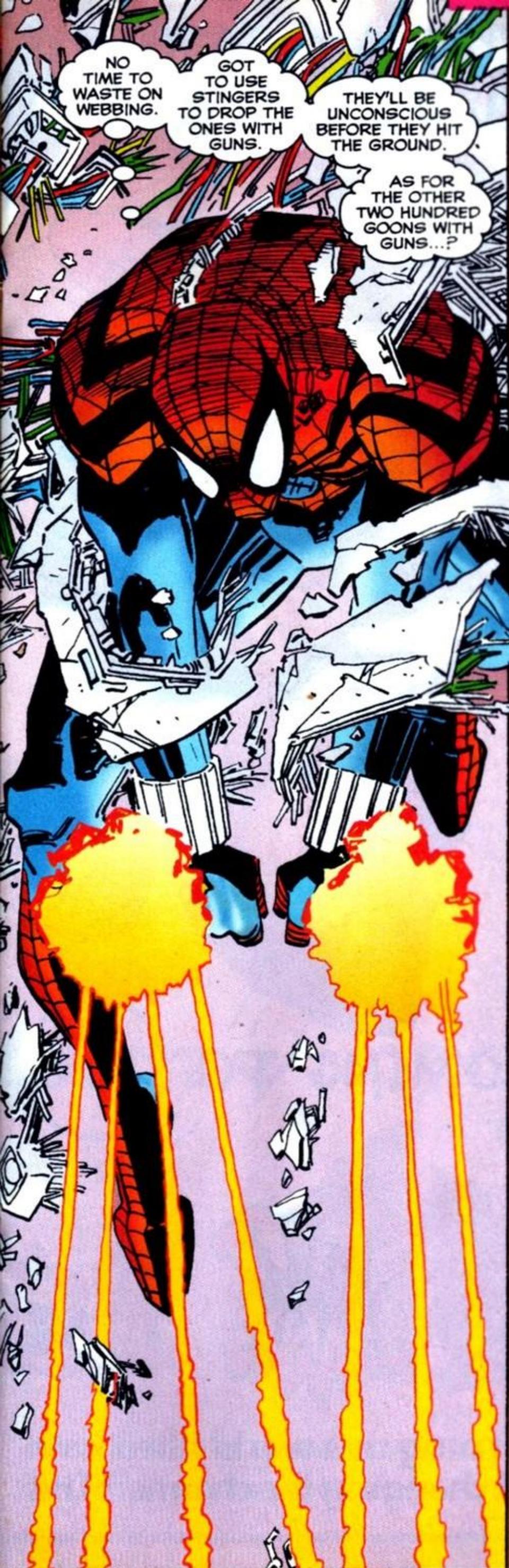
TODAY HE KNOWS HE HAS THE POWER...

... AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REACH WITHIN HIMSELF AND DRAW ON HIS DEEPEST RESOURCES...

... TO TAP THE WELLSPRING OF HIS BEING FOR THE STRENGTH TO SUCCEED.

HE IS SPIDER-MAN.

AND HE SUCCEEDS!





GO BACK ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS. HOPE I DIDN'T INTERRUPT ANYTHING!





FOLKS, IF
YOU COULD
STAND BACK?

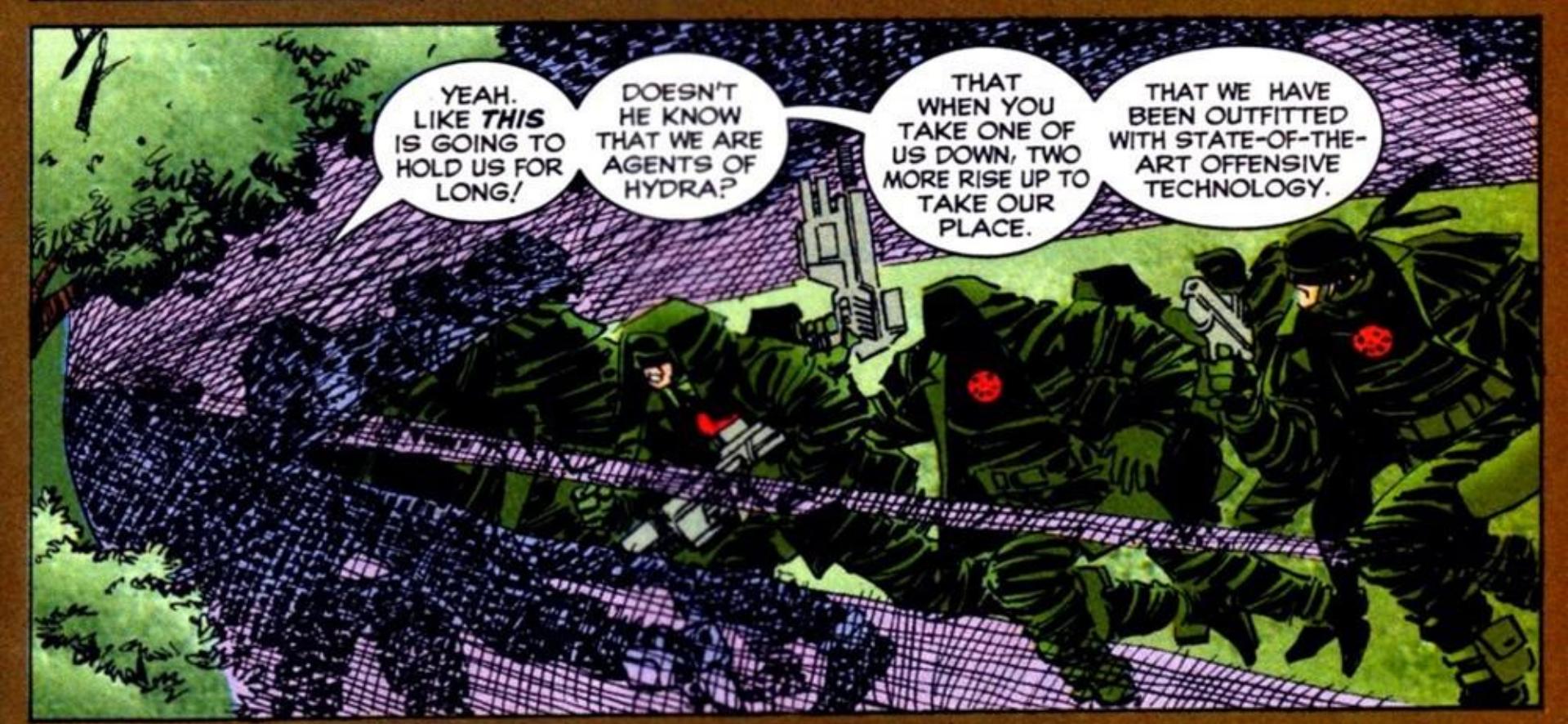
IT SEEMS
LIKE OUR GUESTS
ARE NONE TOO HAPPY
ABOUT OUR DECIDING
TO LEAVE THE PARTY
PREMATURELY.

THWIP



KEEP
MOVING --
THIS SHOULDN'T
TAKE BUT A
MINUTE.

I
HOPE.



YEAH.
LIKE THIS
IS GOING TO
HOLD US FOR
LONG!

DOESN'T
HE KNOW
THAT WE ARE
AGENTS OF
HYDRA?

THAT
WHEN YOU
TAKE ONE OF
US DOWN, TWO
MORE RISE UP TO
TAKE OUR
PLACE.

THAT WE HAVE
BEEN OUTFITTED
WITH STATE-OF-THE-
ART OFFENSIVE
TECHNOLOGY.



HAIL
HYDRA!

Er... Uh...
GUYS?

