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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

SPIDER-MAN--
STOP! YOU CAN'T
BEAT FIRELORD!

WANNA
BET?!

THIS IS IT! THE
FINAL
SHOWDOWN!



THAT GUY--! HE CAME OUT OF THE RIVER... COVERED WITH FLAMES!

I DUNNO! HE LOOKS SOMETHING LIKE THAT HUMAN TORCH FELLA-- BUT IT AIN'T HIM!

YOU THINK HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FOG WHICH SPRANG UP SO SUDDENLY?

WHAT KIND OF FIRE BURNS UNDER THE WATER LIKE THAT?

FOG?! IT FEELS MORE LIKE A BLASTED STEAM BATH OUT HERE!

STREAKING TOWARD THE CITY, FIRELORD PAYS NO HEED TO THE MEN BELOW--

-- AS HE PONDERS THE INFURIATING EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW HOURS!

WHILE ON AN AIMLESS TRIP ACROSS THE COSMOS, HE HAD SPIED A FAMILIAR PLANET...

...EARTH, A WORLD FILLED WITH DELIGHTS AND PLEASURES UN-LIKE ANY OTHERS IN THE UNIVERSE!

-- HE WAS AT-TACKED --

-- BY MEN WHO HAD MISTAKEN HIM FOR AN EARTH-BORN MUTANT, AND CLEARLY SOUGHT HIS DEATH!

FIRELORD STRUCK BACK!

BUT WHEN FIRE-LORD CHOSE TO PARTAKE OF THOSE DELIGHTS--

-- SUDDENLY, AND WITHOUT EXPLANATION --

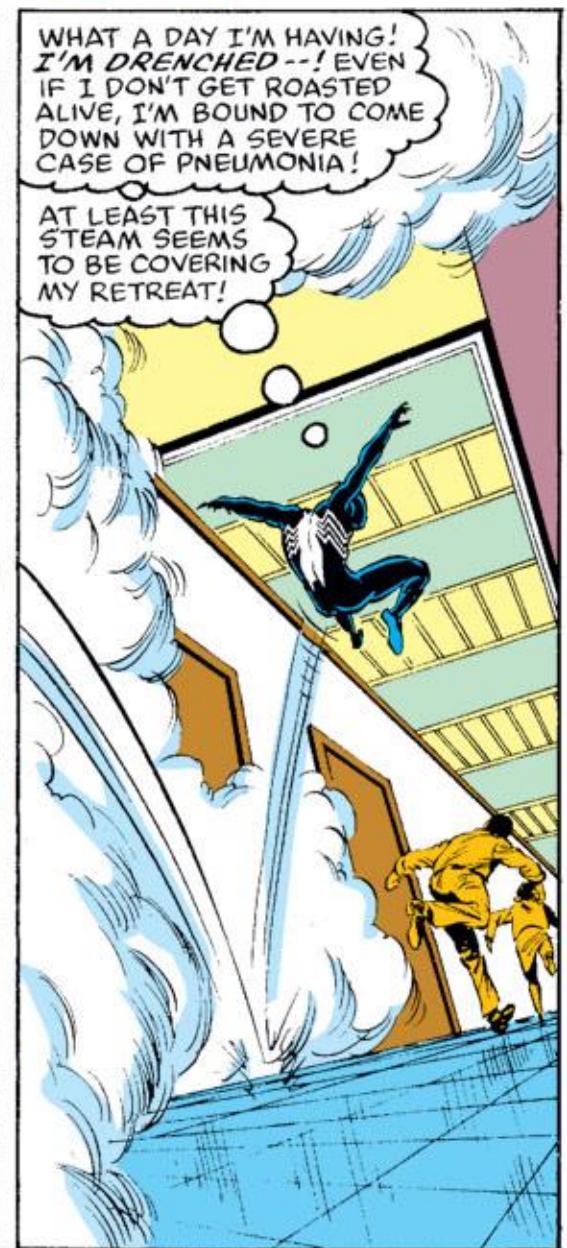
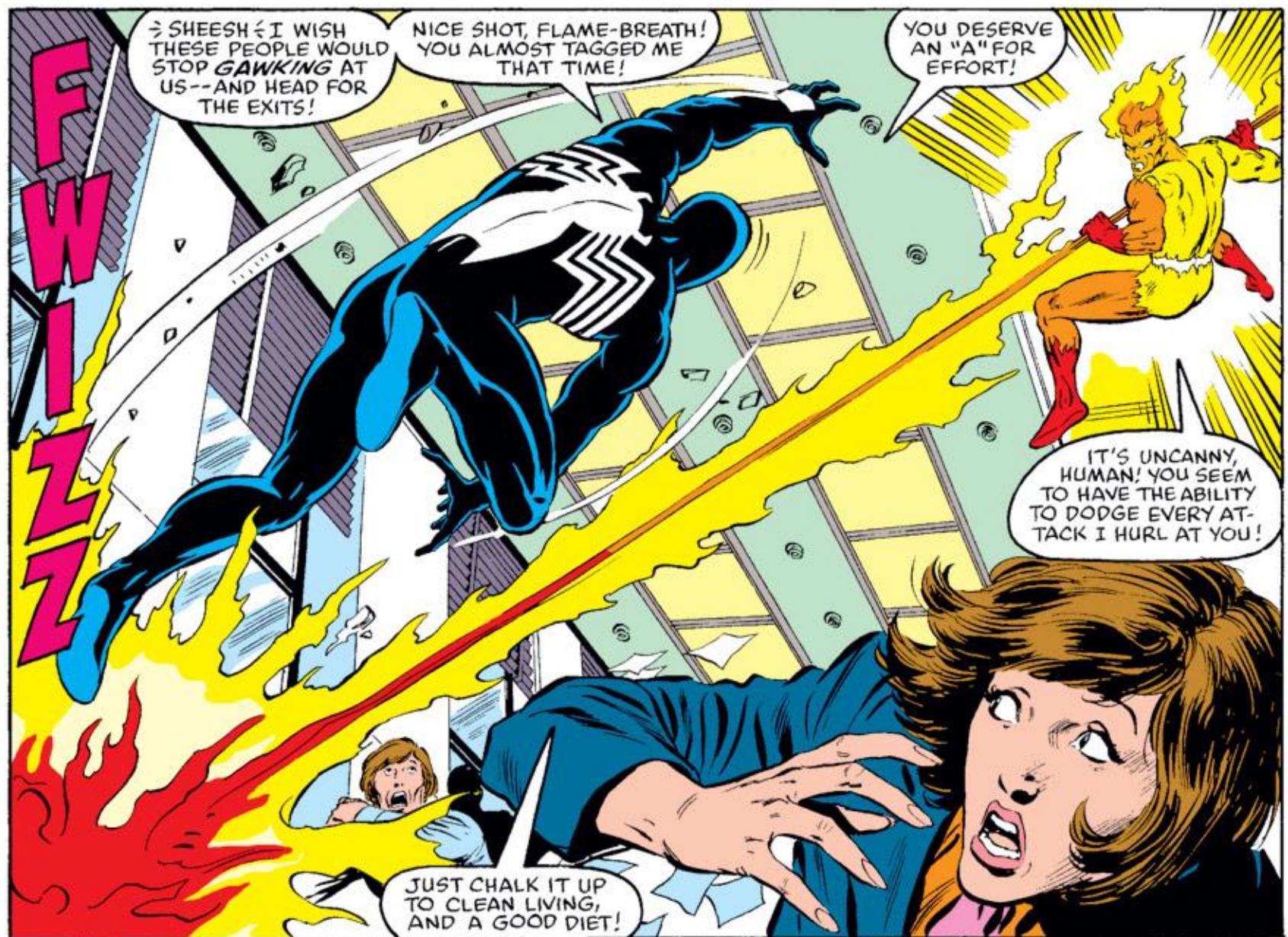
HE WOULD HAVE KILLED HIS ASSAILANTS--

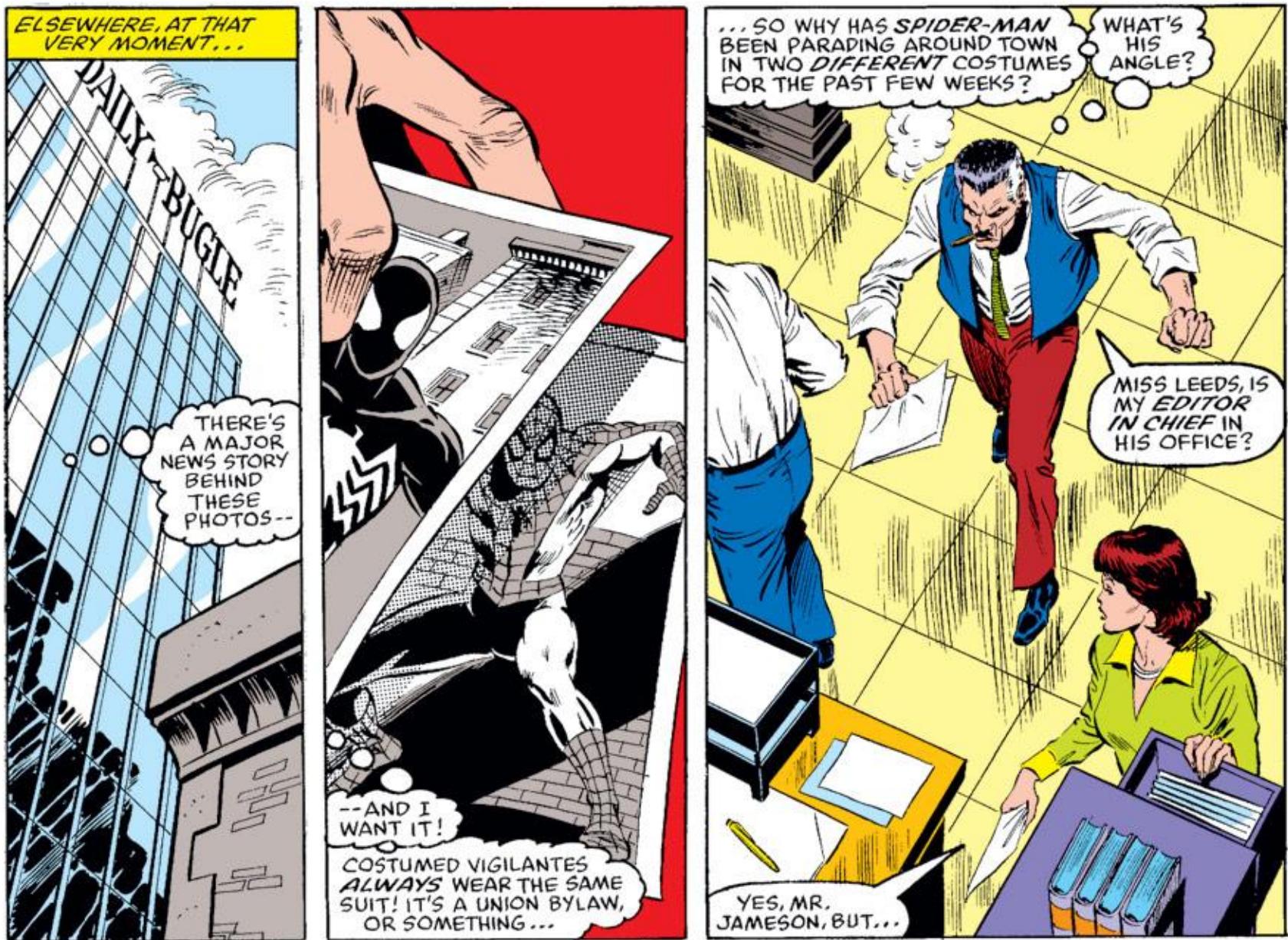
-- IF NOT FOR THE TIMELY INTERVENTION OF SPIDER-MAN!

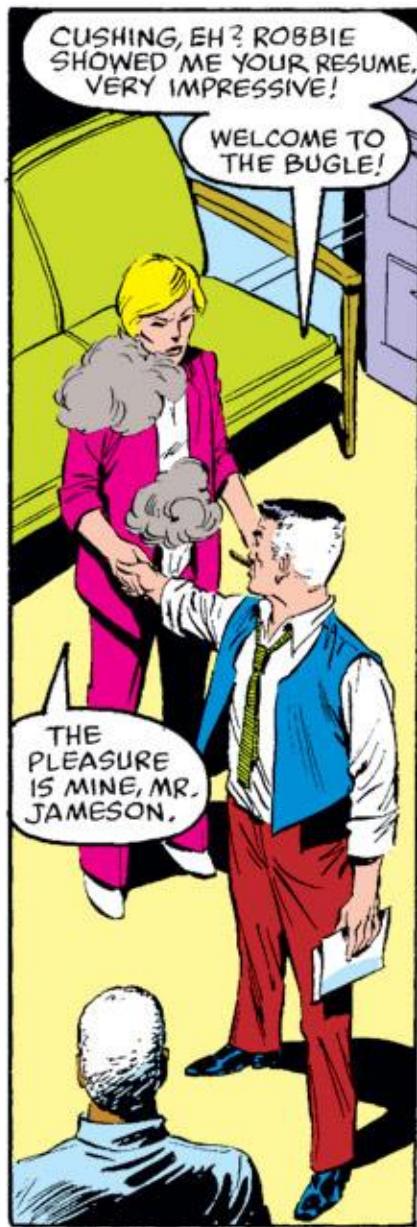


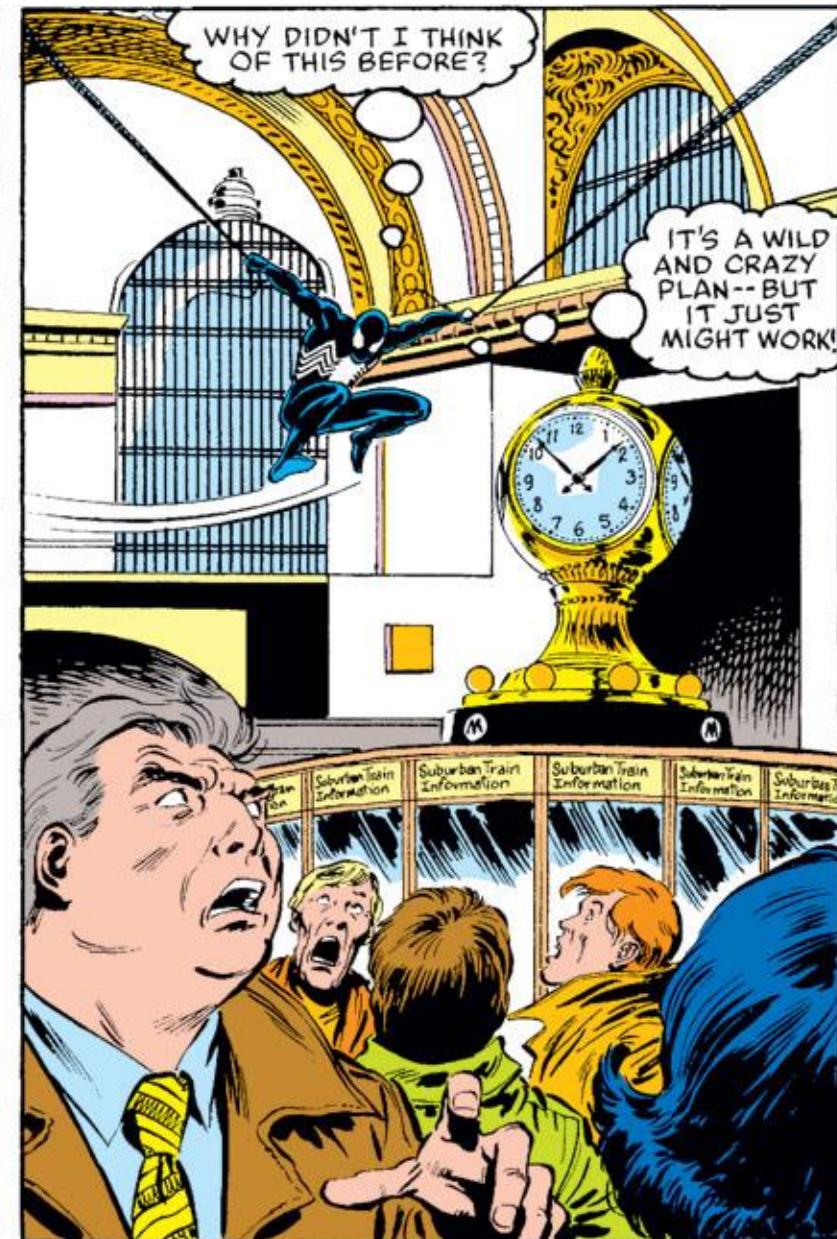
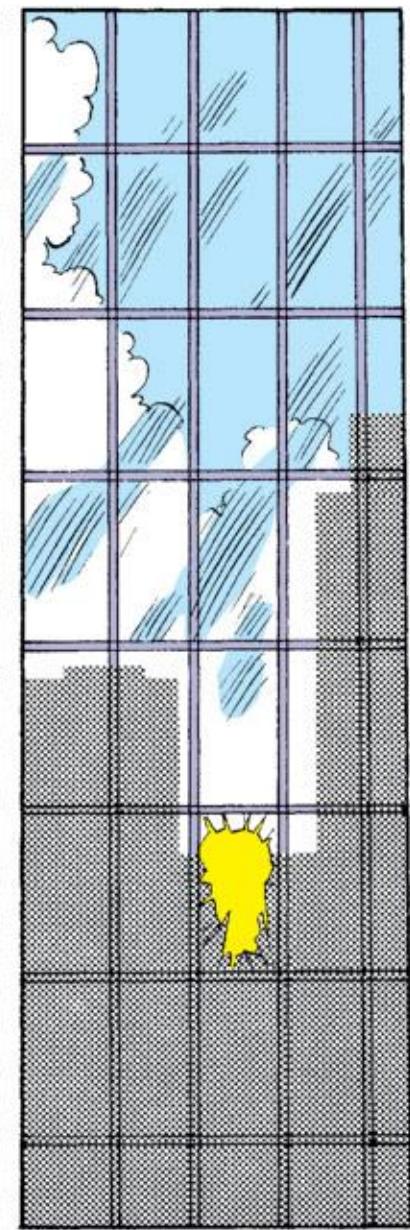
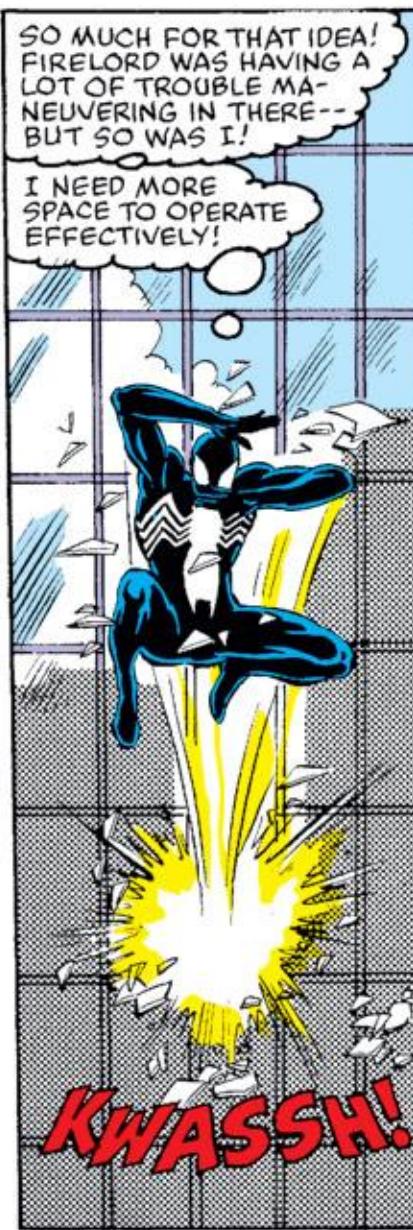
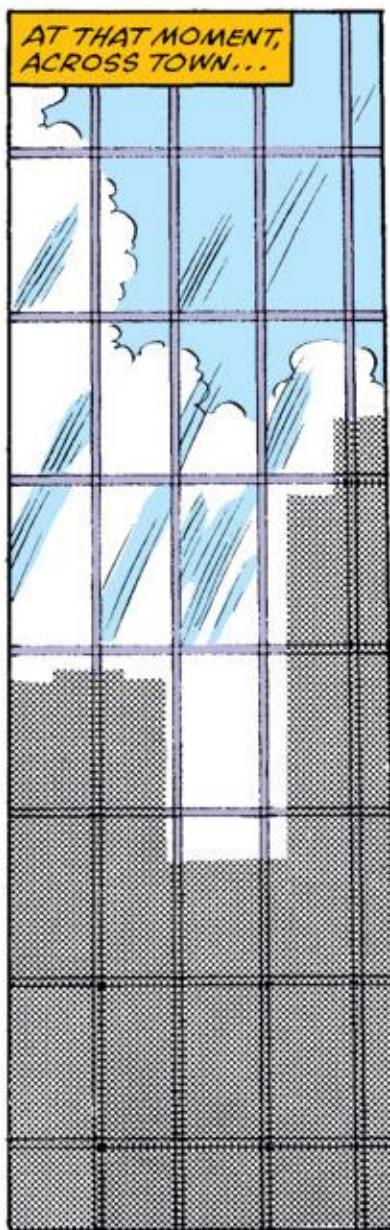


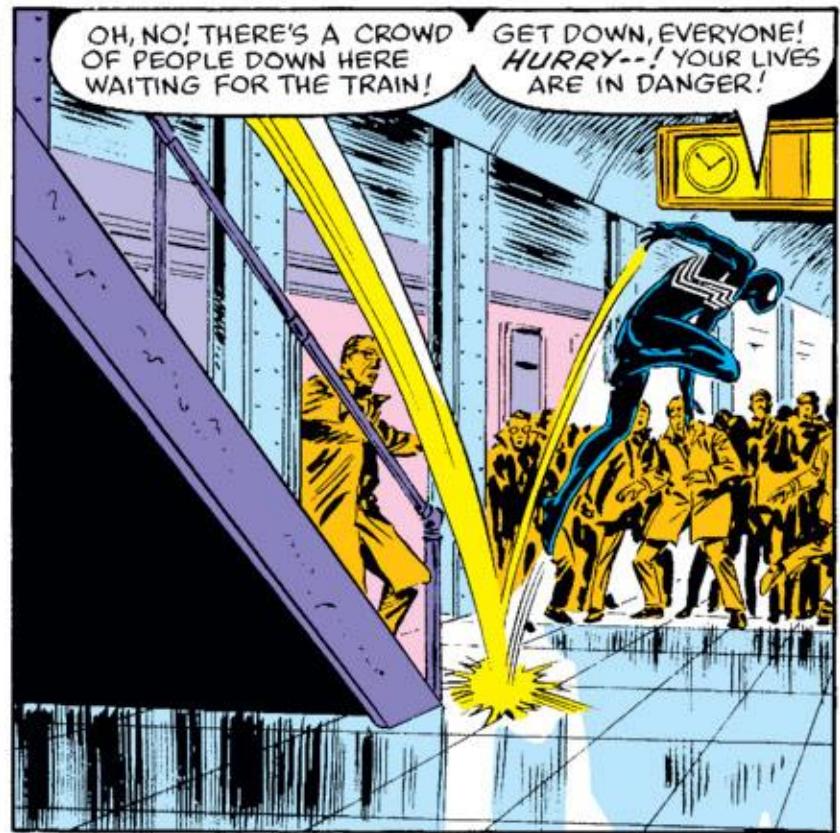


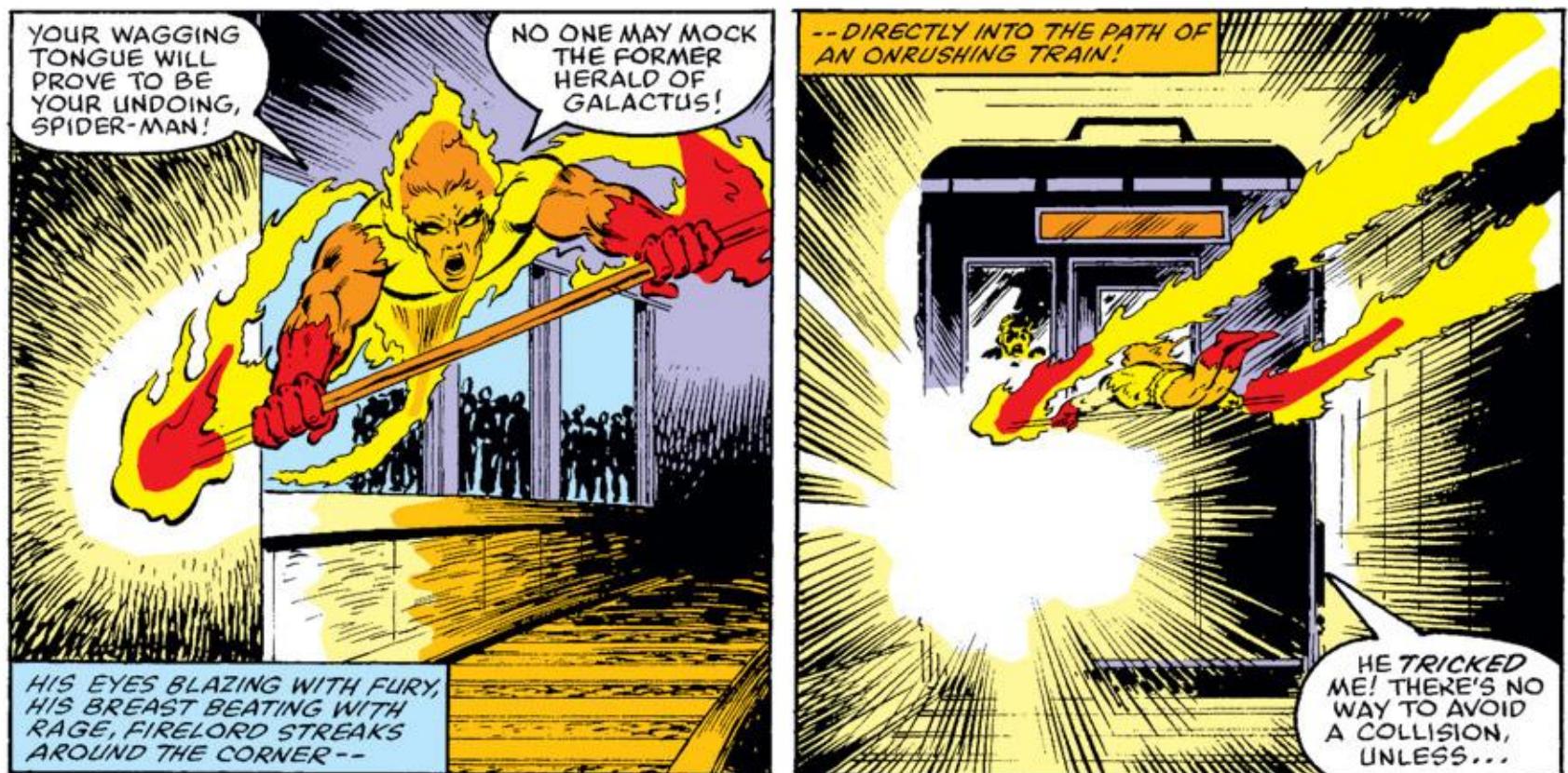
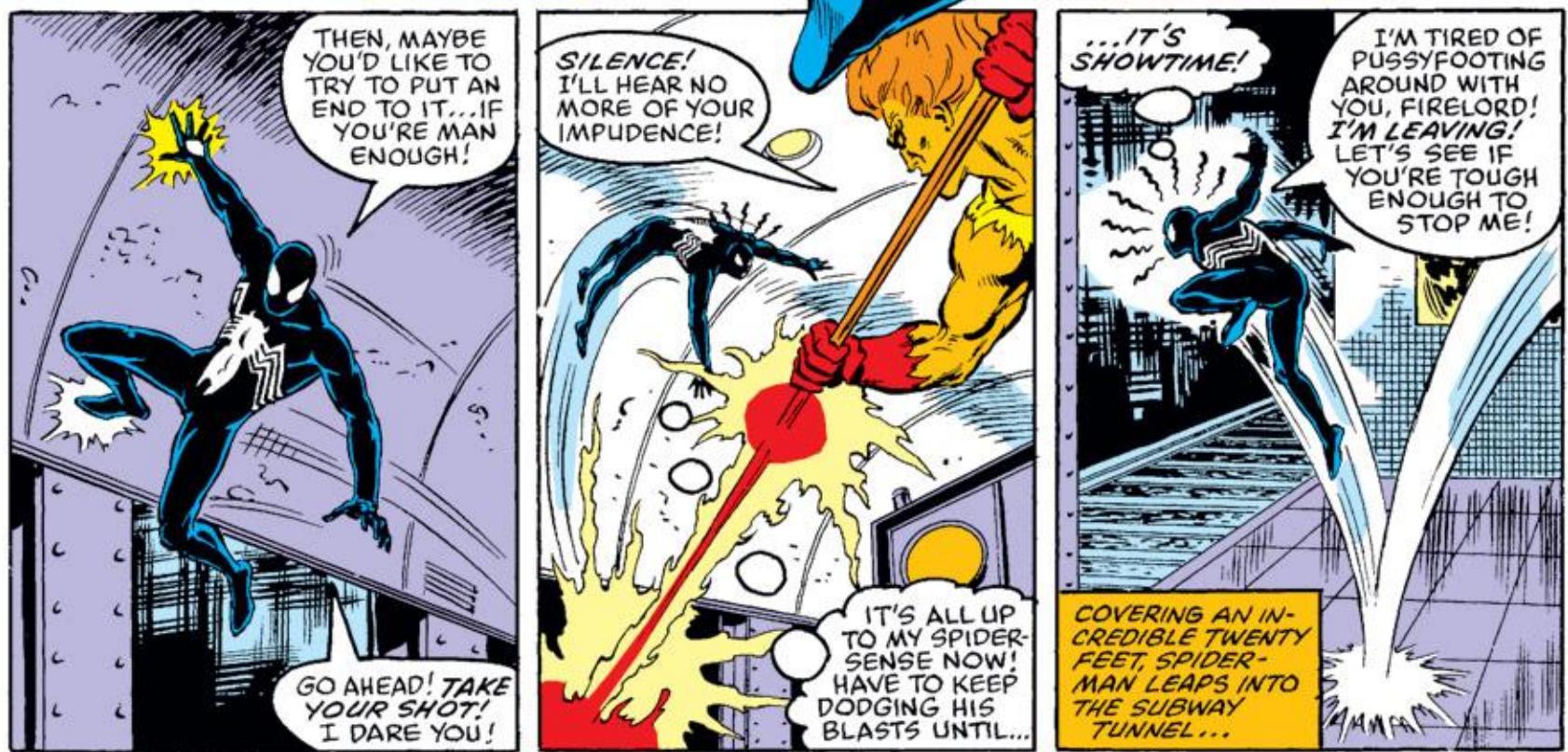


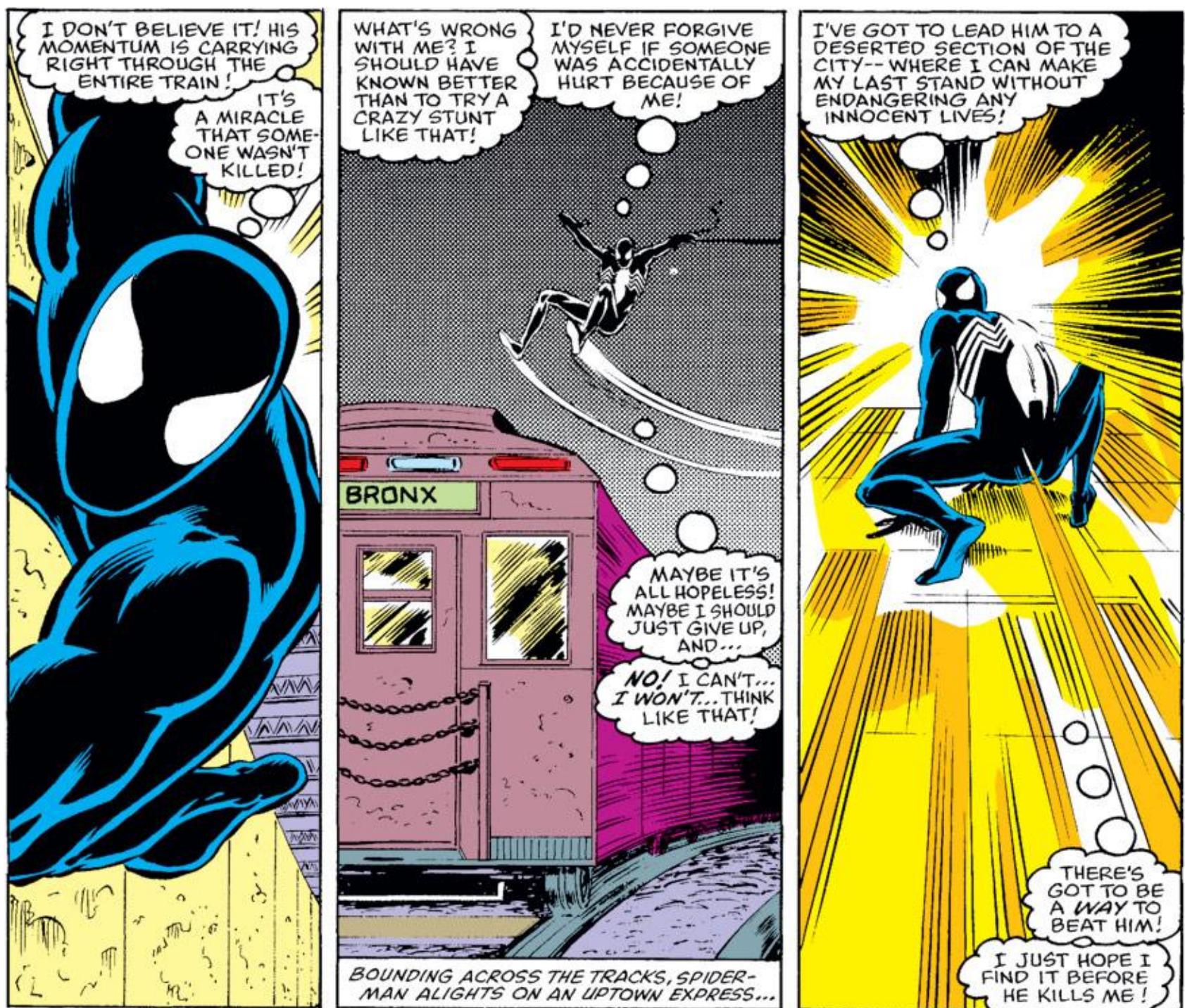






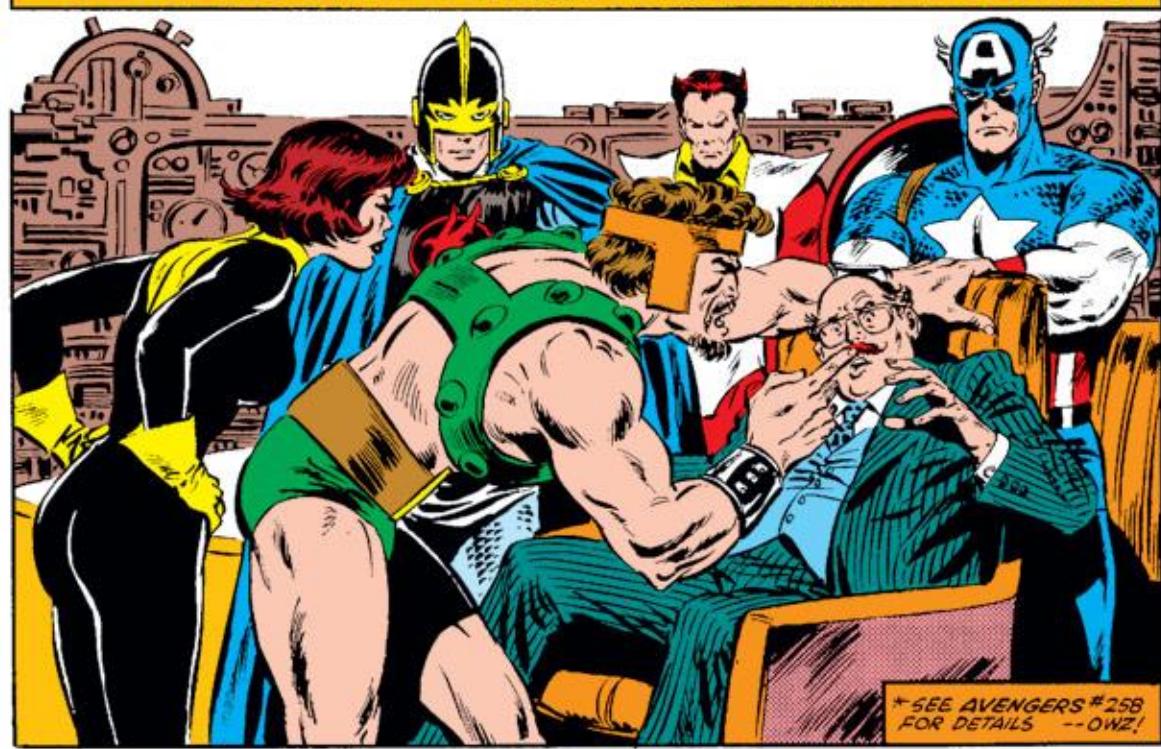
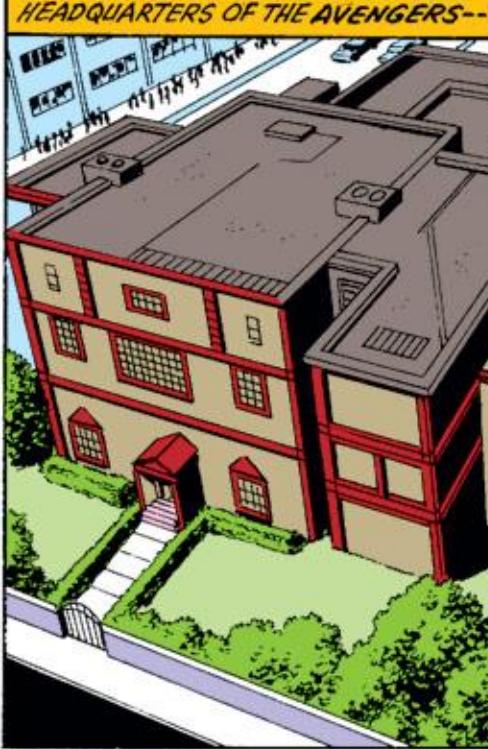






JUST THEN, IN THE FIFTH AVENUE MANSION WHICH HOUSES THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AVENGERS--

--FIVE OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HEATED DISCUSSION WITH AGENT RAYMOND SIKORSKI OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL!*



* SEE AVENGERS #258 FOR DETAILS --OWZ!

SUDDENLY...

BZZTT

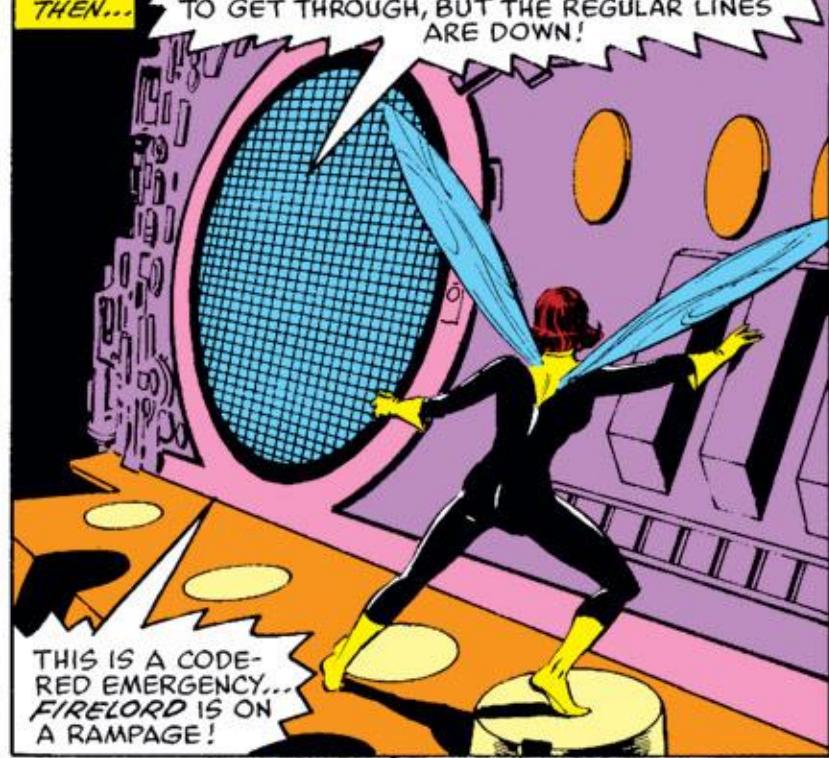
THAT'S OUR BACK-UP EMERGENCY SIGNAL FROM THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT!



SHRINKING TO INSECT SIZE, THE WASP SPEEDS ACROSS THE ROOM...

AND THEN...

WASP, THANK HEAVENS... WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THROUGH, BUT THE REGULAR LINES ARE DOWN!



THIS IS A CODE-RED EMERGENCY... FIRELORD IS ON A RAMPAGE!

MEANWHILE...

HEY! WHY DID THE STREET SUDDENLY START SHAKING?!



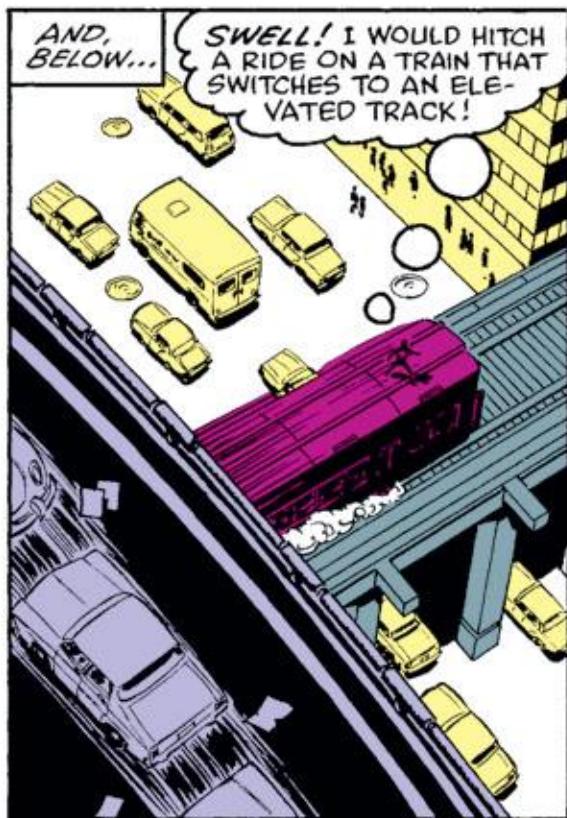
HOLY--!
THAT THING... JUST BURST OUTTA THE GROUND LIKE SOME KINDA NUCLEAR WARHEAD!

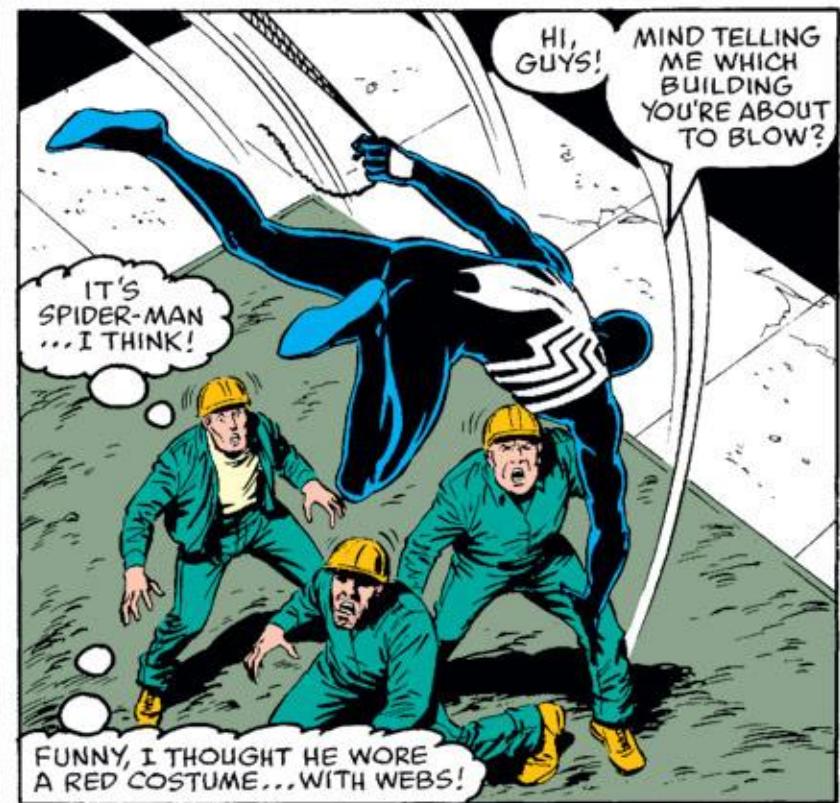
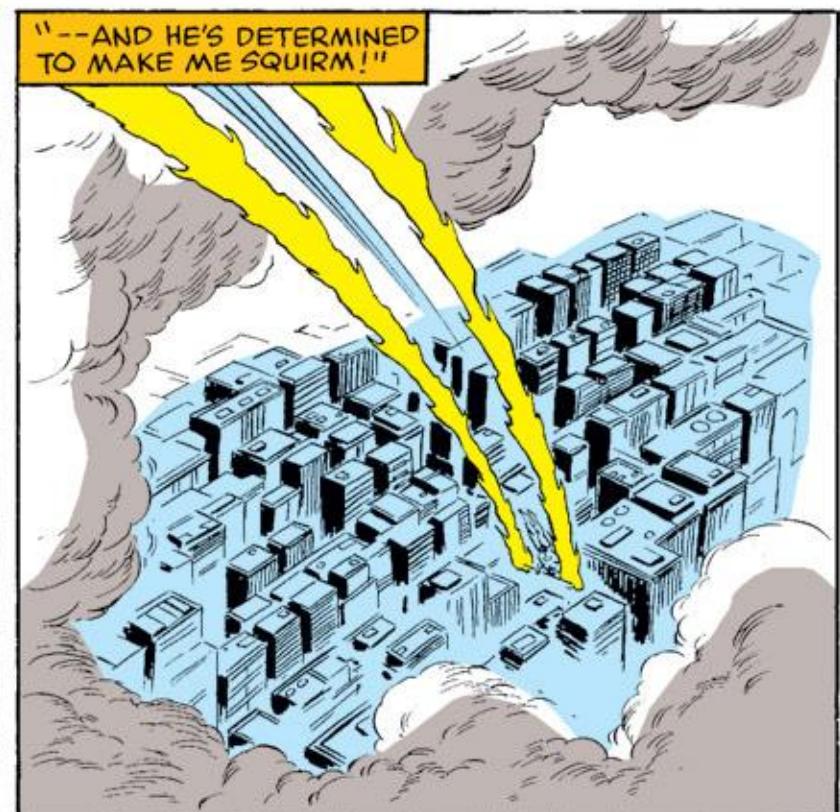
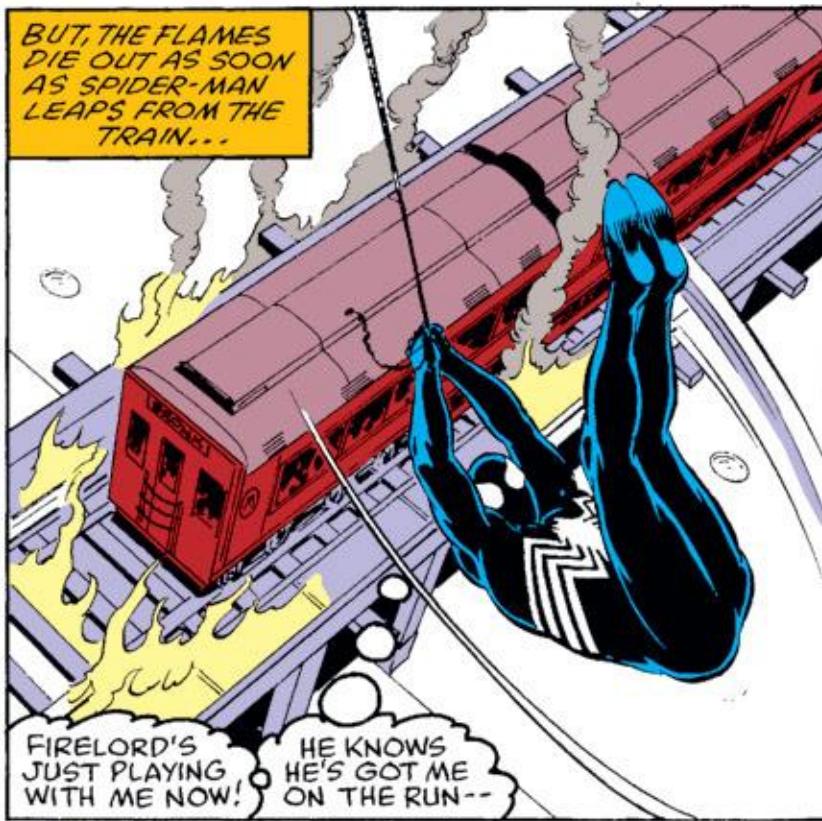


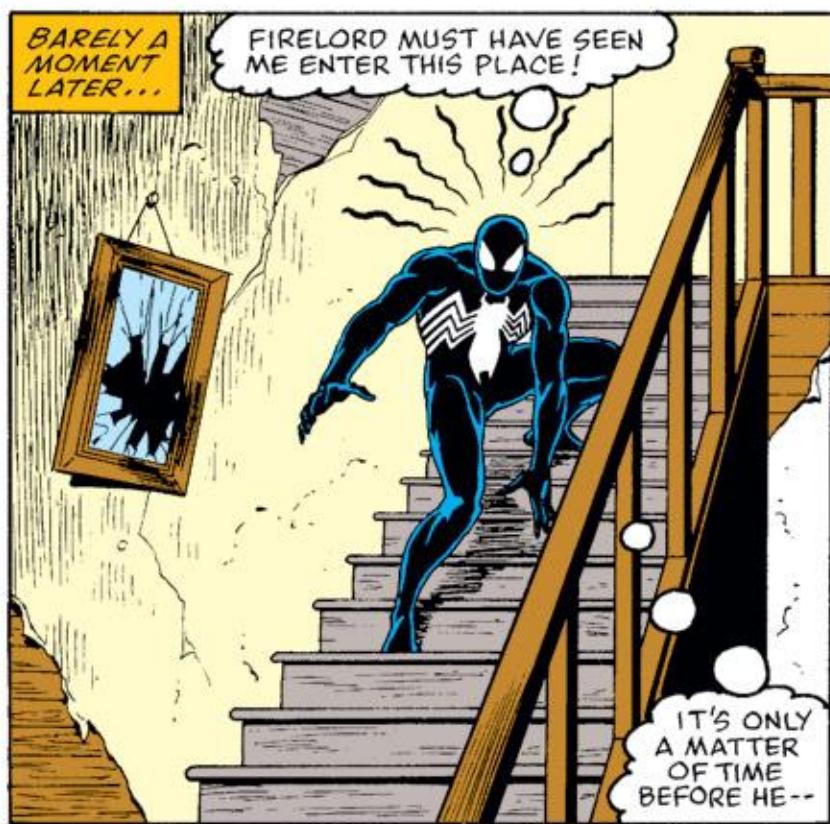
I LOST SPIDER-MAN AMID THOSE CONFUSING TUNNELS.

NO MATTER! HE'LL HAVE TO EMERGE FROM THEM EVENTUALLY-- AND I SHALL BE READY!

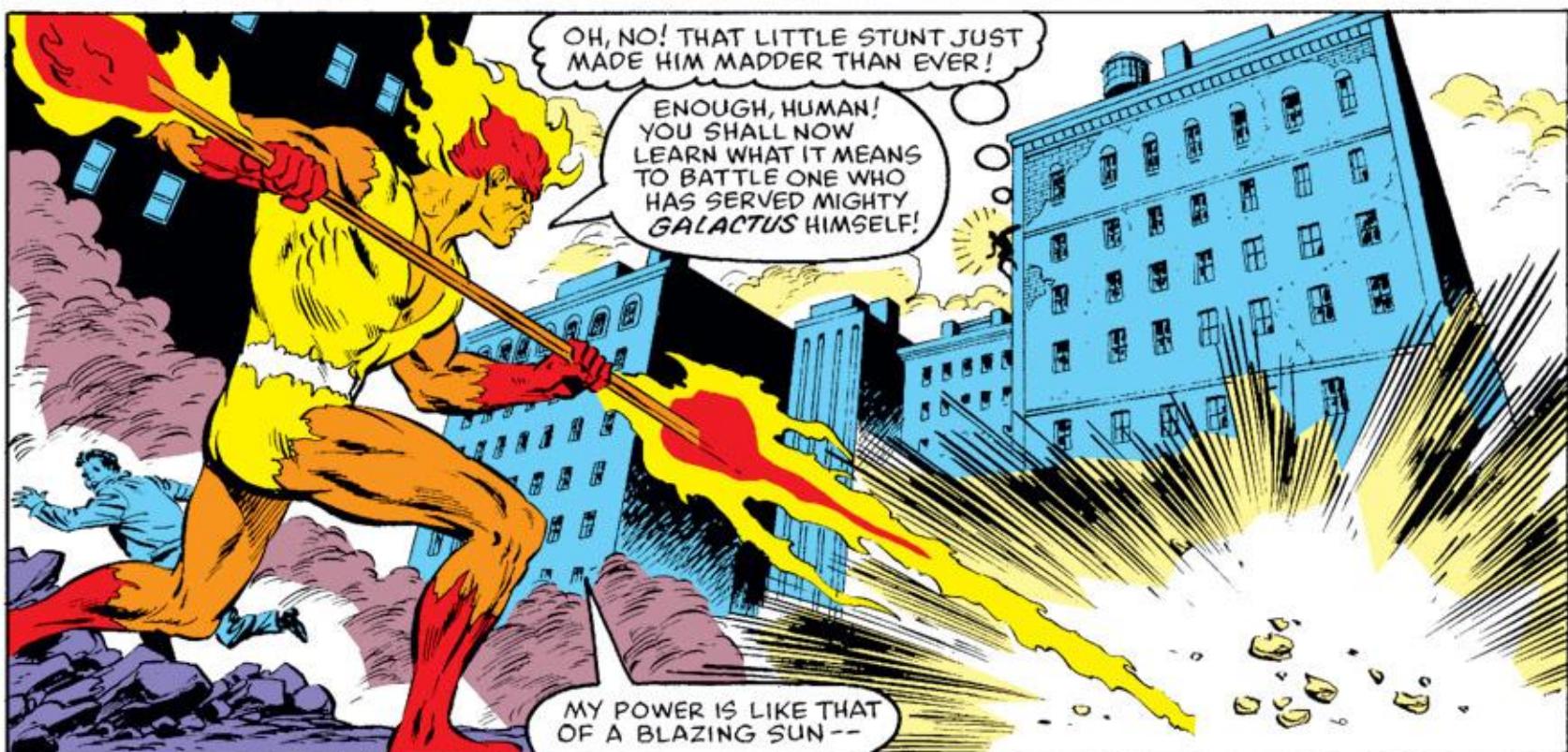
STREAKING UPWARD, FIRELORD BEGINS SCOURING THE CITY IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES...

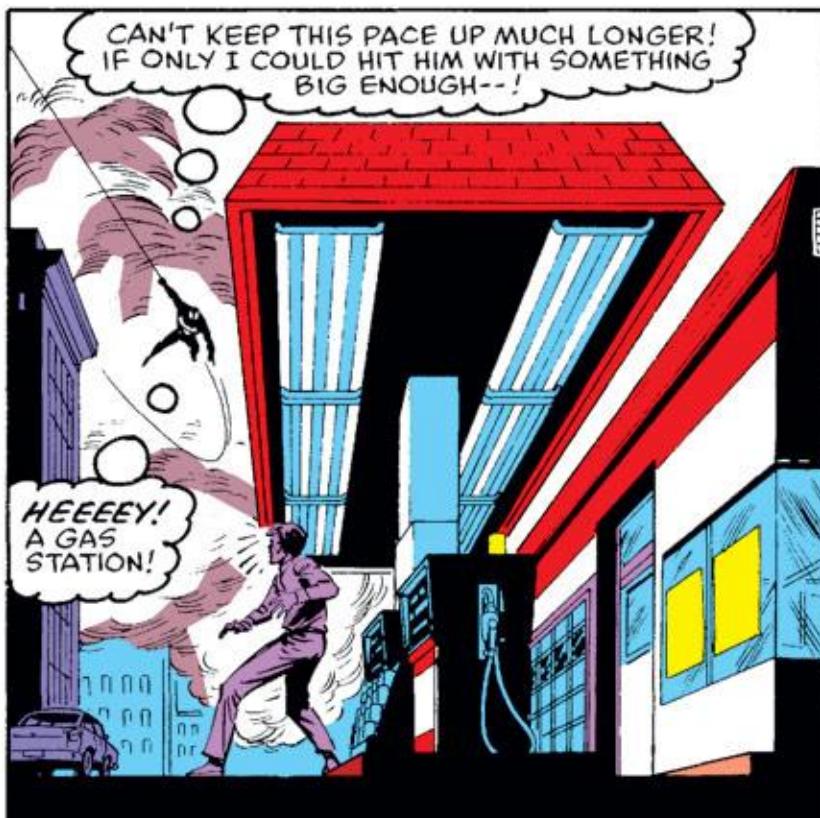


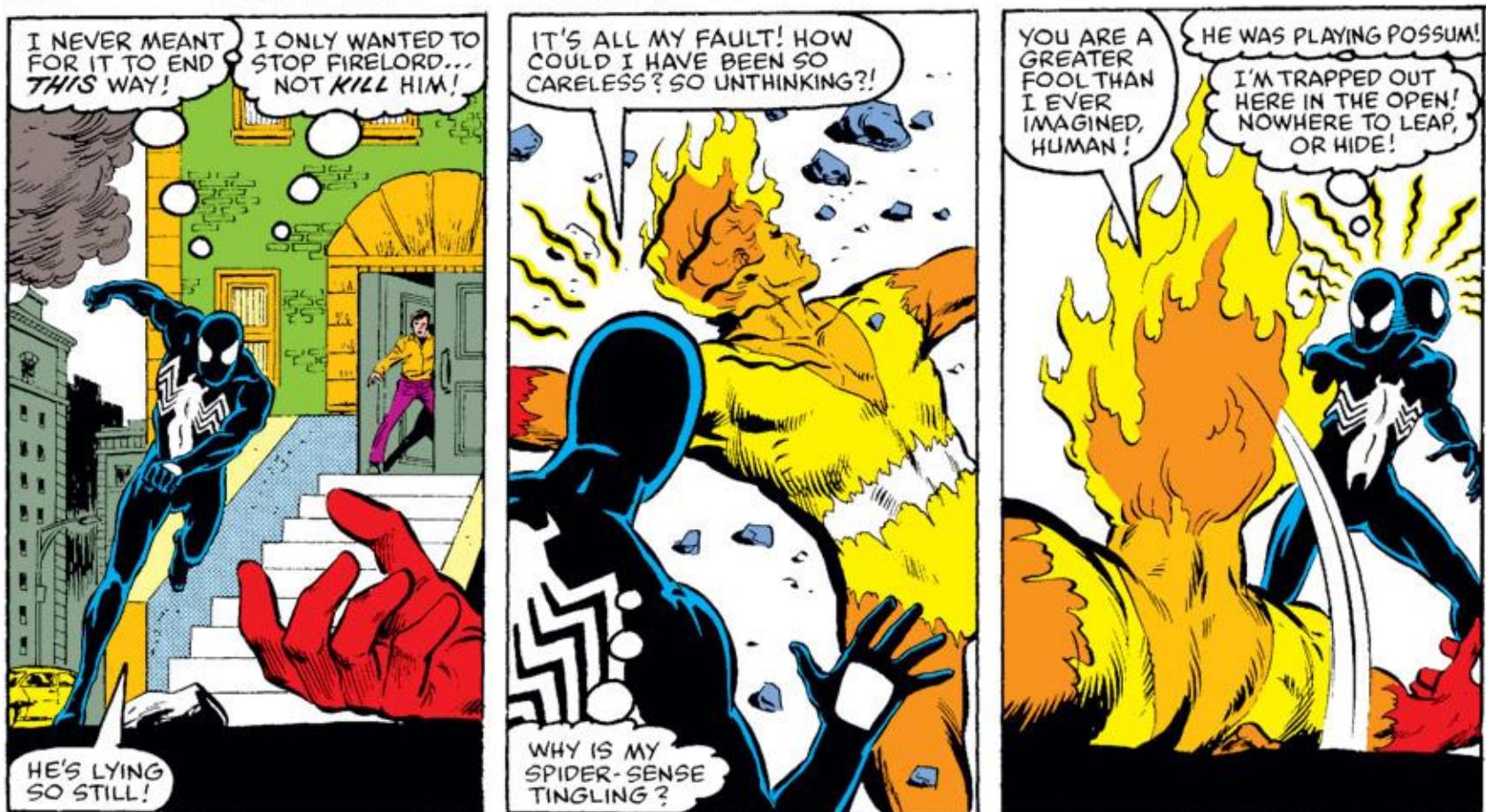
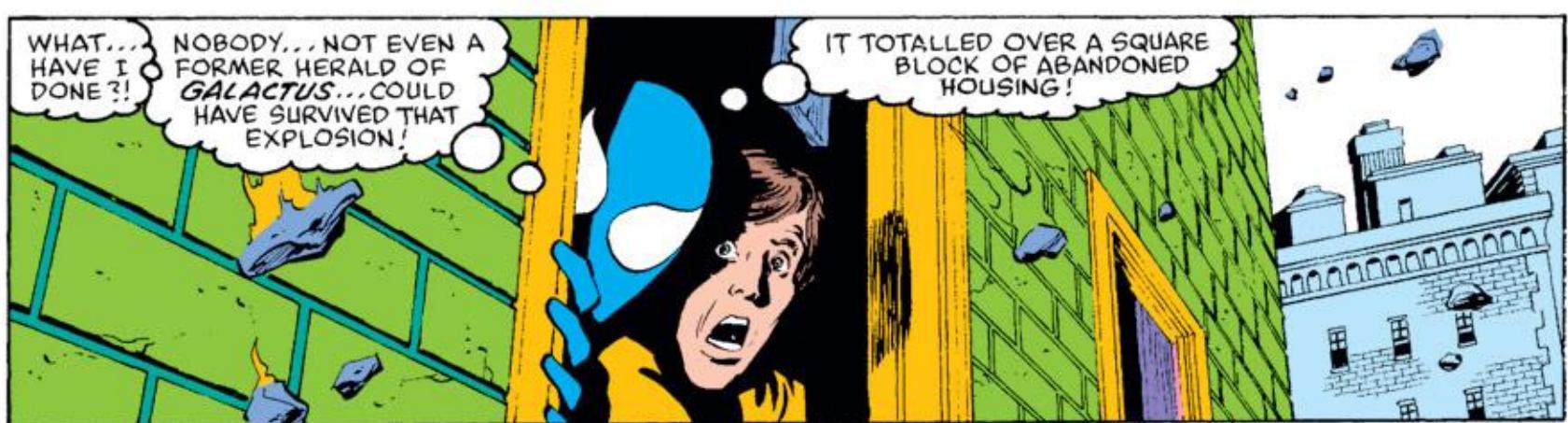














DESPERATE, ON THE VERGE OF PANIC, SPIDER-MAN EXPLODES INTO ACTION--



