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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WHEN A
COBRA COMES
A'CALLING...



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

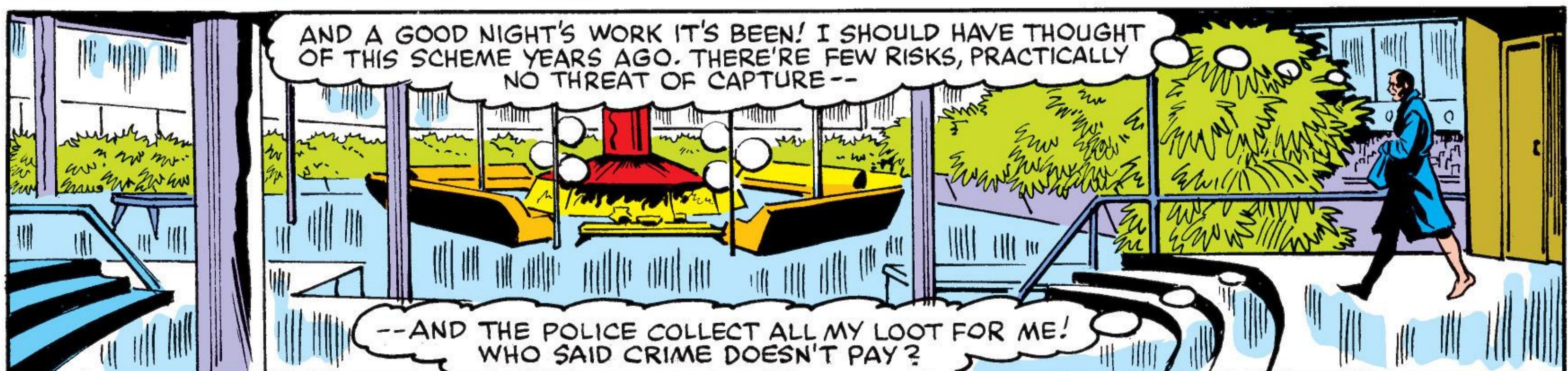
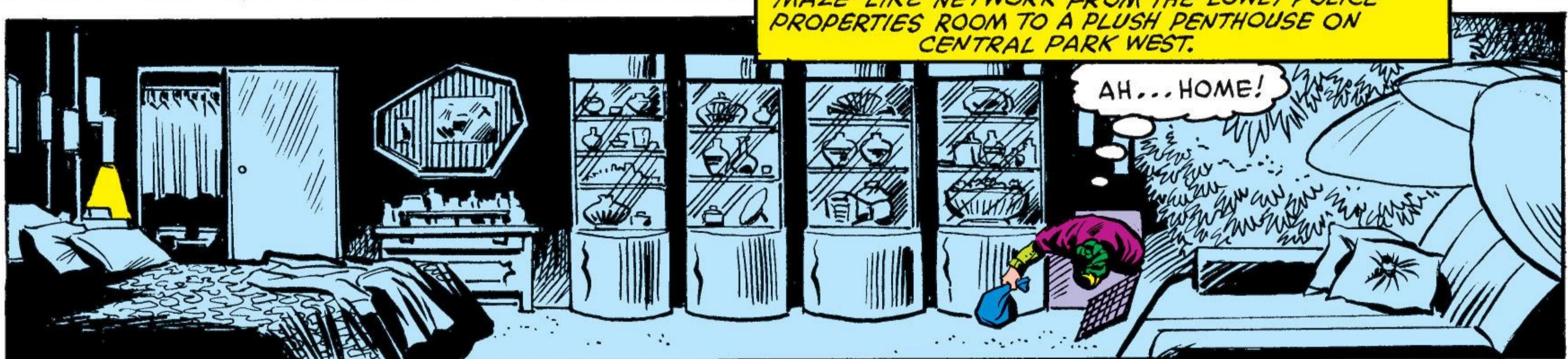
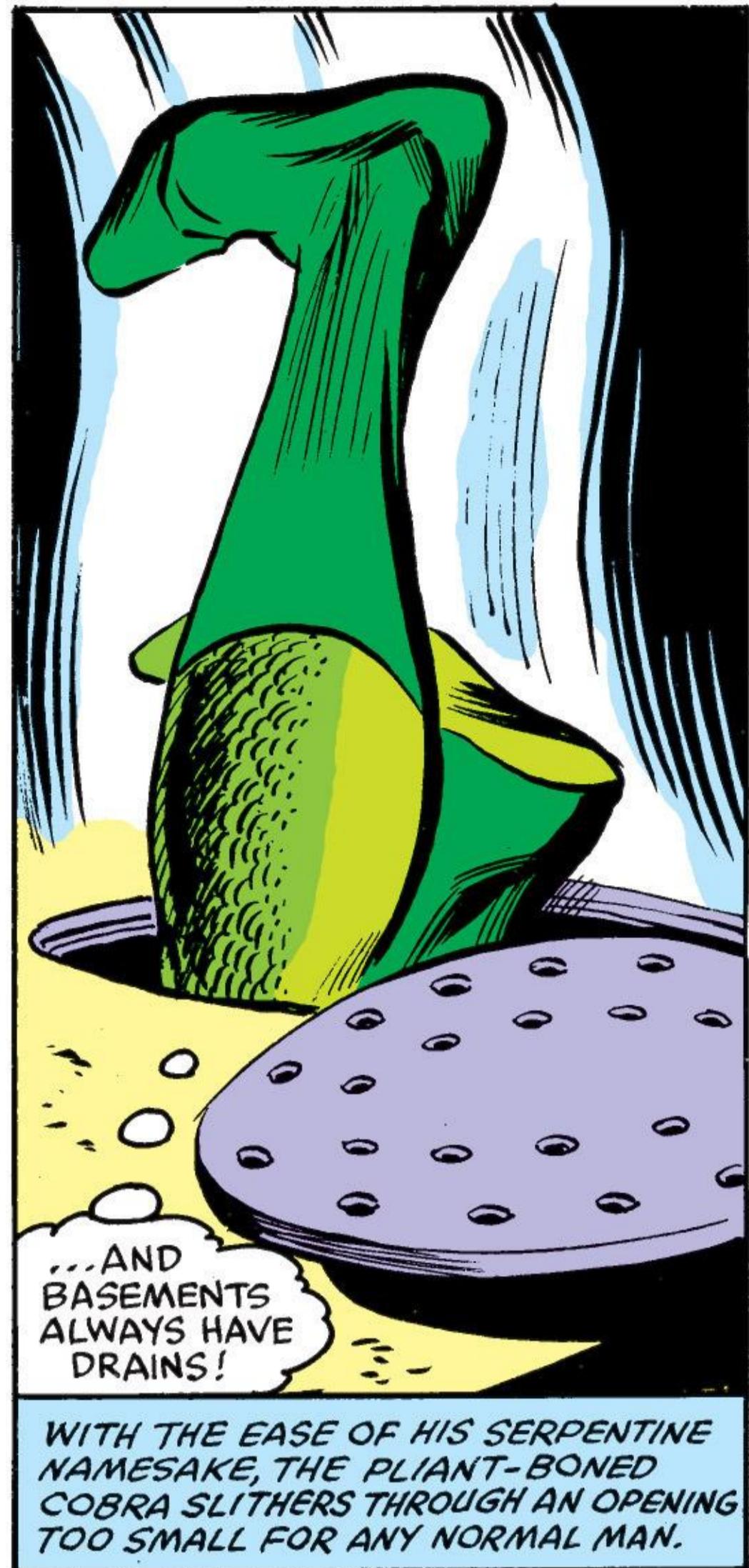
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

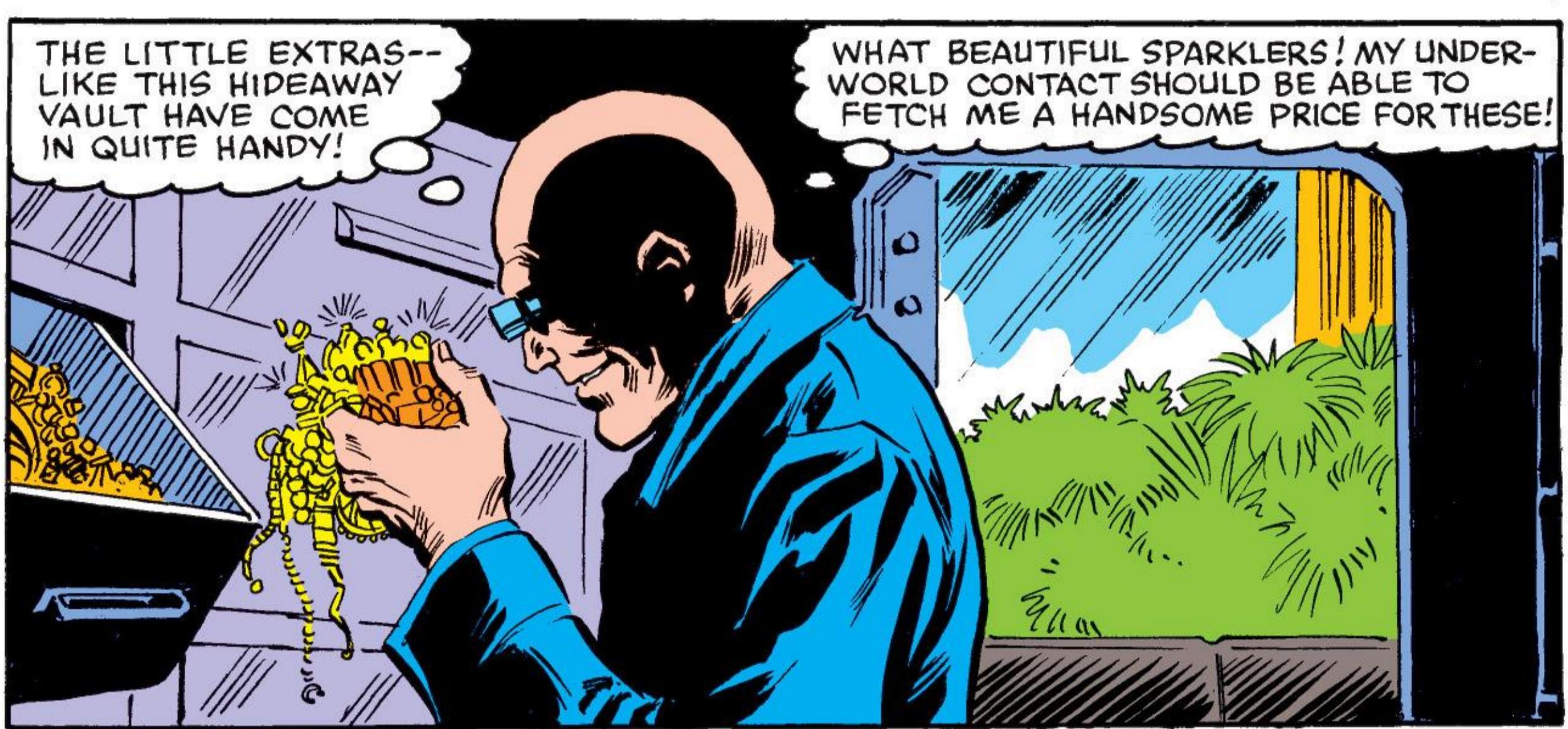
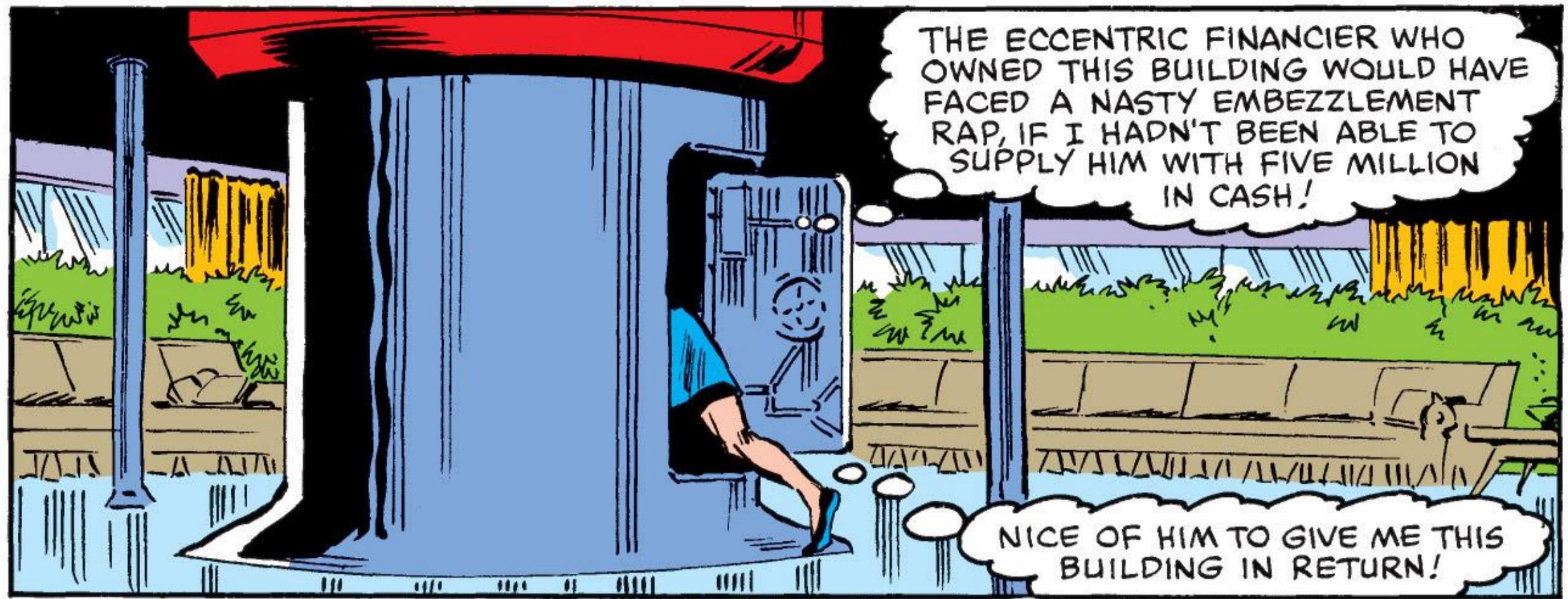
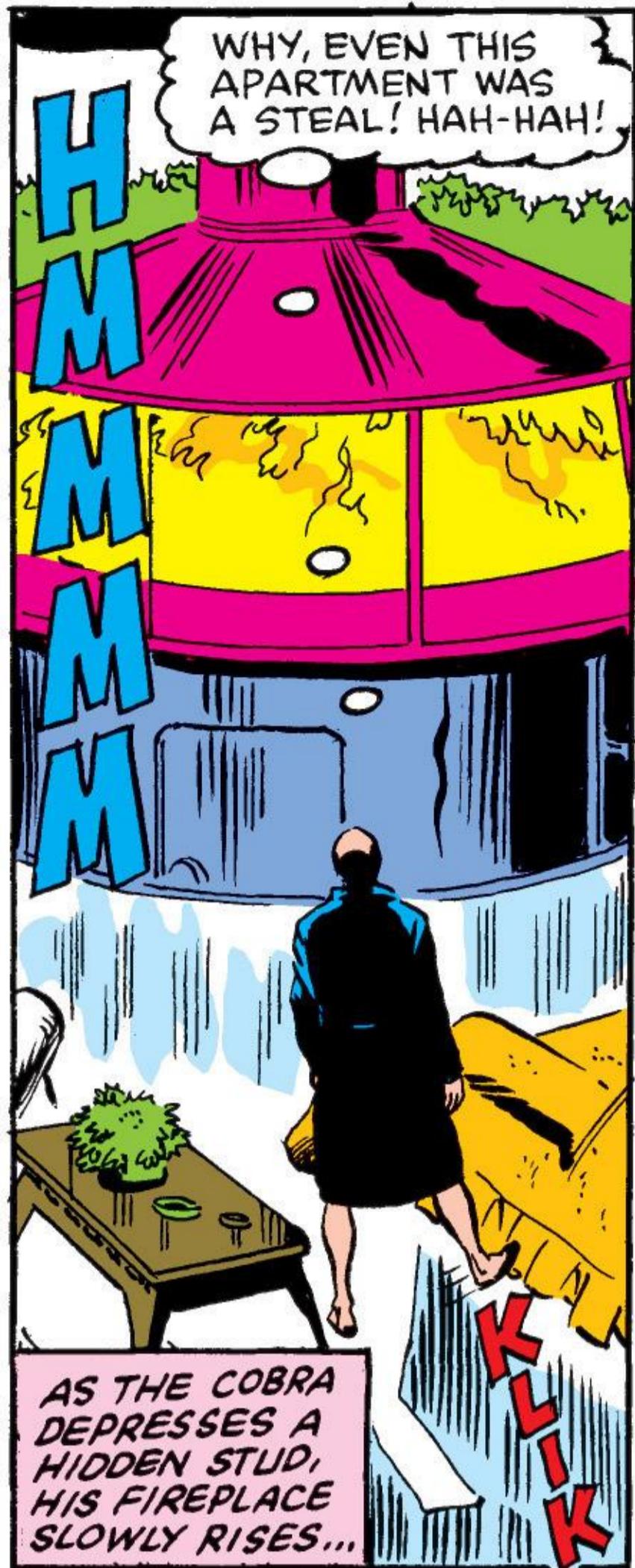


CAUGHT IN THE ACT...

by ROGER STERN • JOHN ROMITA JR. & JIM MOONEY • JOE ROSEN • BOB SHAREN • TOM DEFALCO • JIM SHOOTER
SCRIPTER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR PRECINCT CAPTAIN



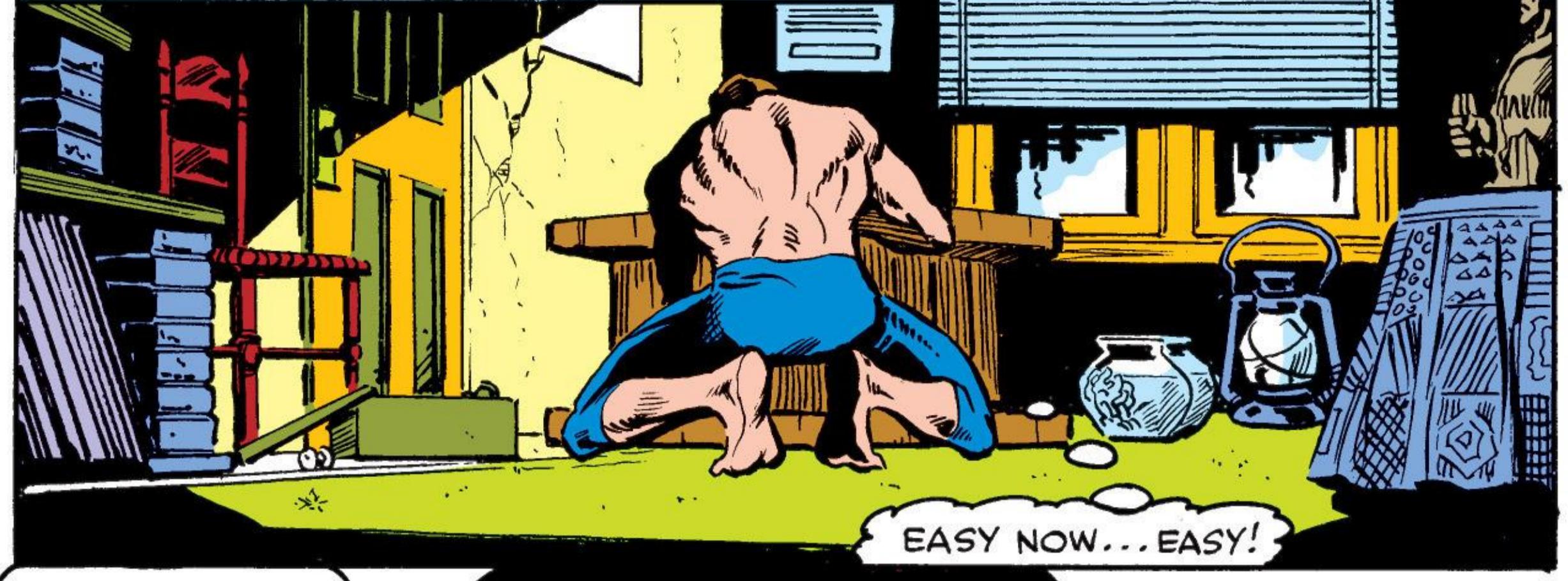




MEANWHILE, SOME FIFTY BLOCKS TO THE SOUTH, IN A MODEST CHELSEA APARTMENT BUILDING...



...GRAD STUDENT PETER PARKER--LIVER OF THE NOT-SO-GOOD LIFE--GIVES HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION TO A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT!



THIS HAS TO FIT JUST SO, OR THE WHOLE THING'S BLOWN!
C'MON, PARKER--LET'S SEE A LITTLE OF THAT FABLED SPIDER-DEXTERITY! YOU CAN DO IT! JUST ONE MORE AND...



WOW, I THOUGHT I'D NEVER FINISH! IT TOOK ME HALF THE NIGHT, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT!



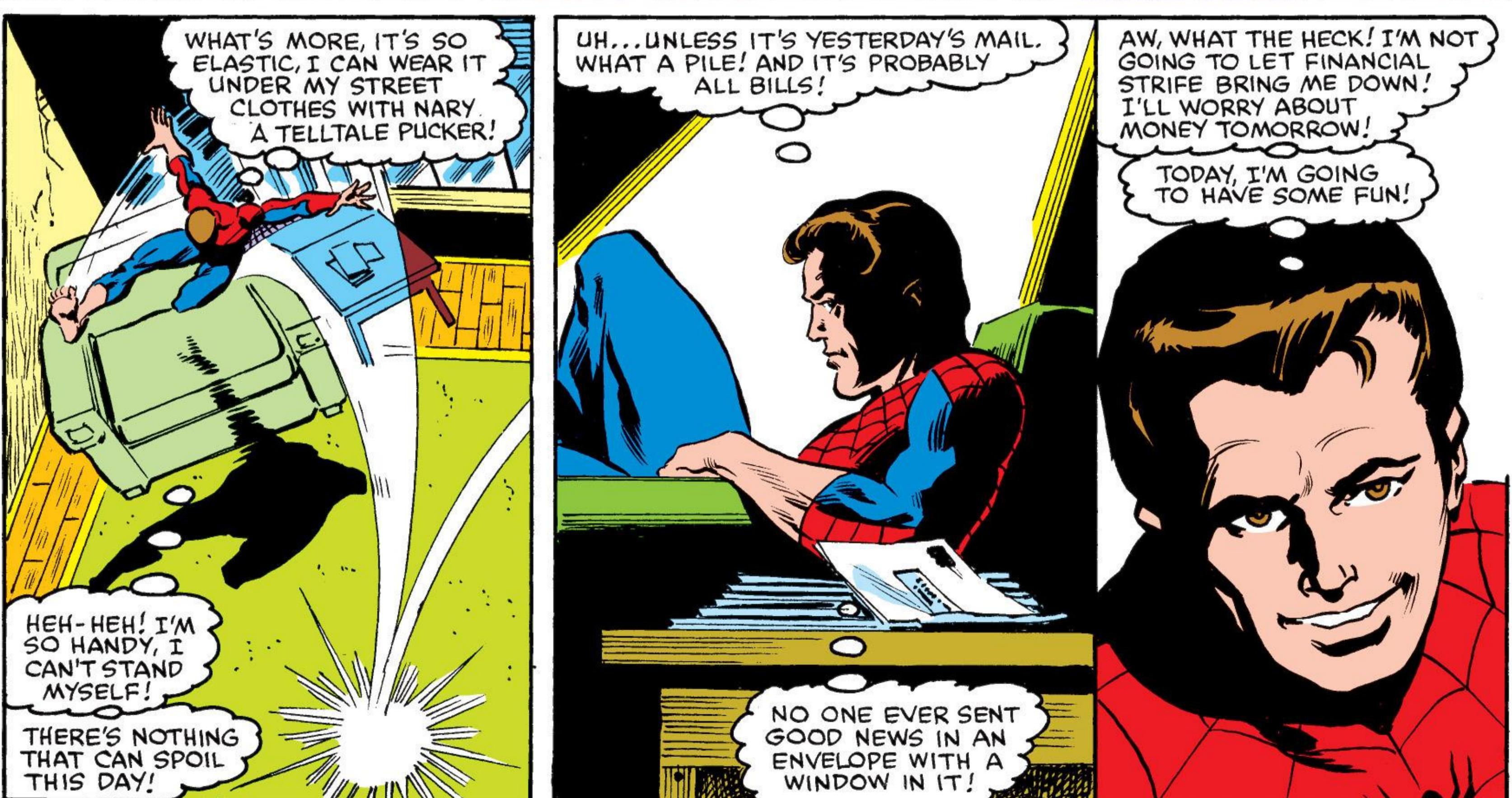
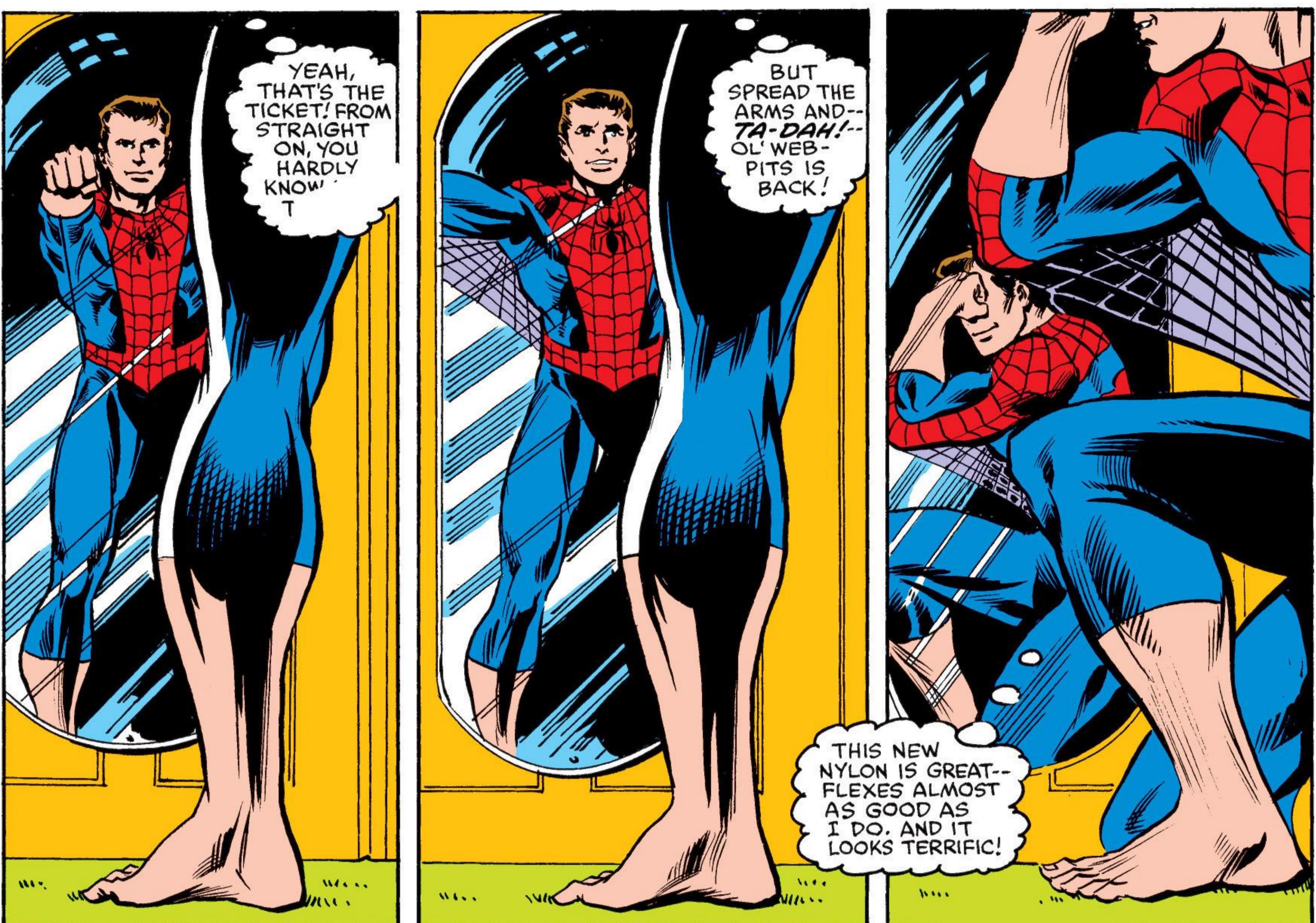
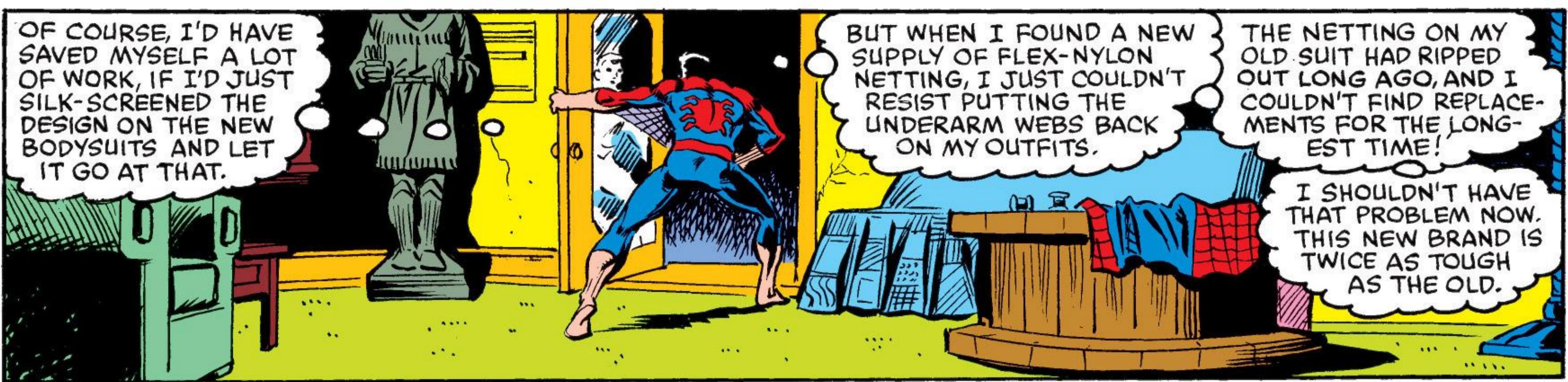
I FINALLY HAVE TWO NEW SPIDER-MAN COSTUMES! NOW TO LOWER THE BLINDS AND TRY 'EM ON!

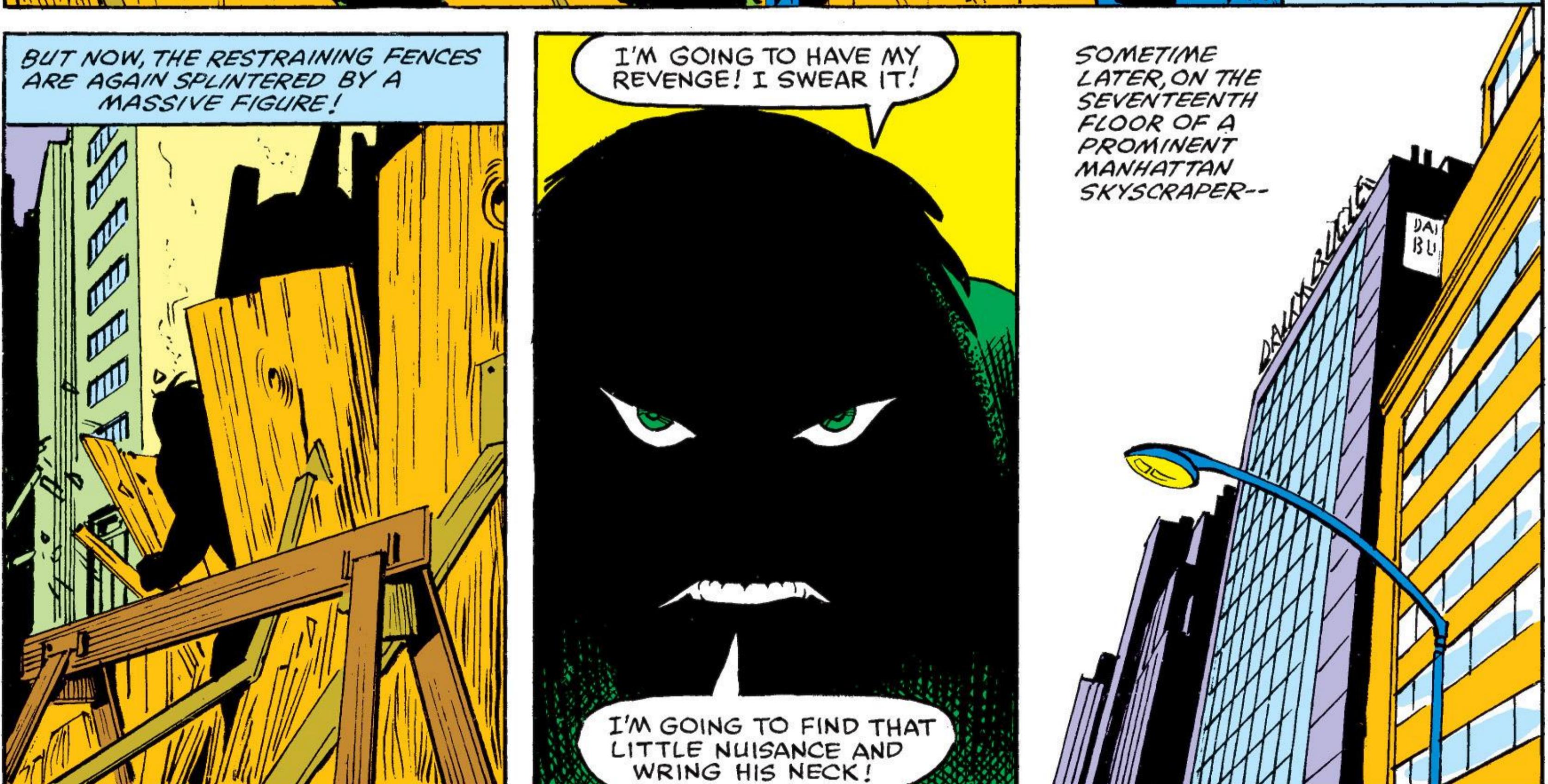
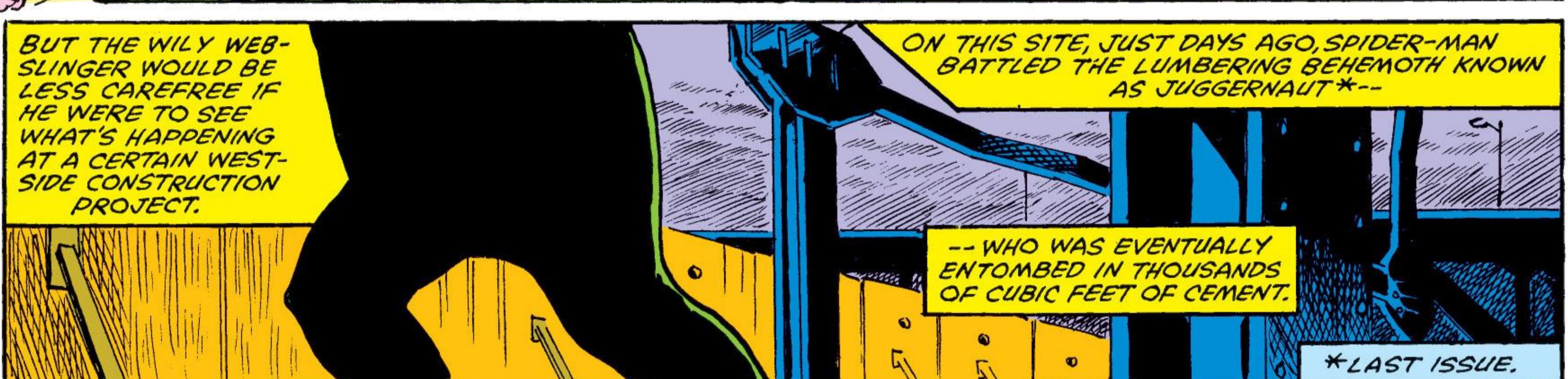
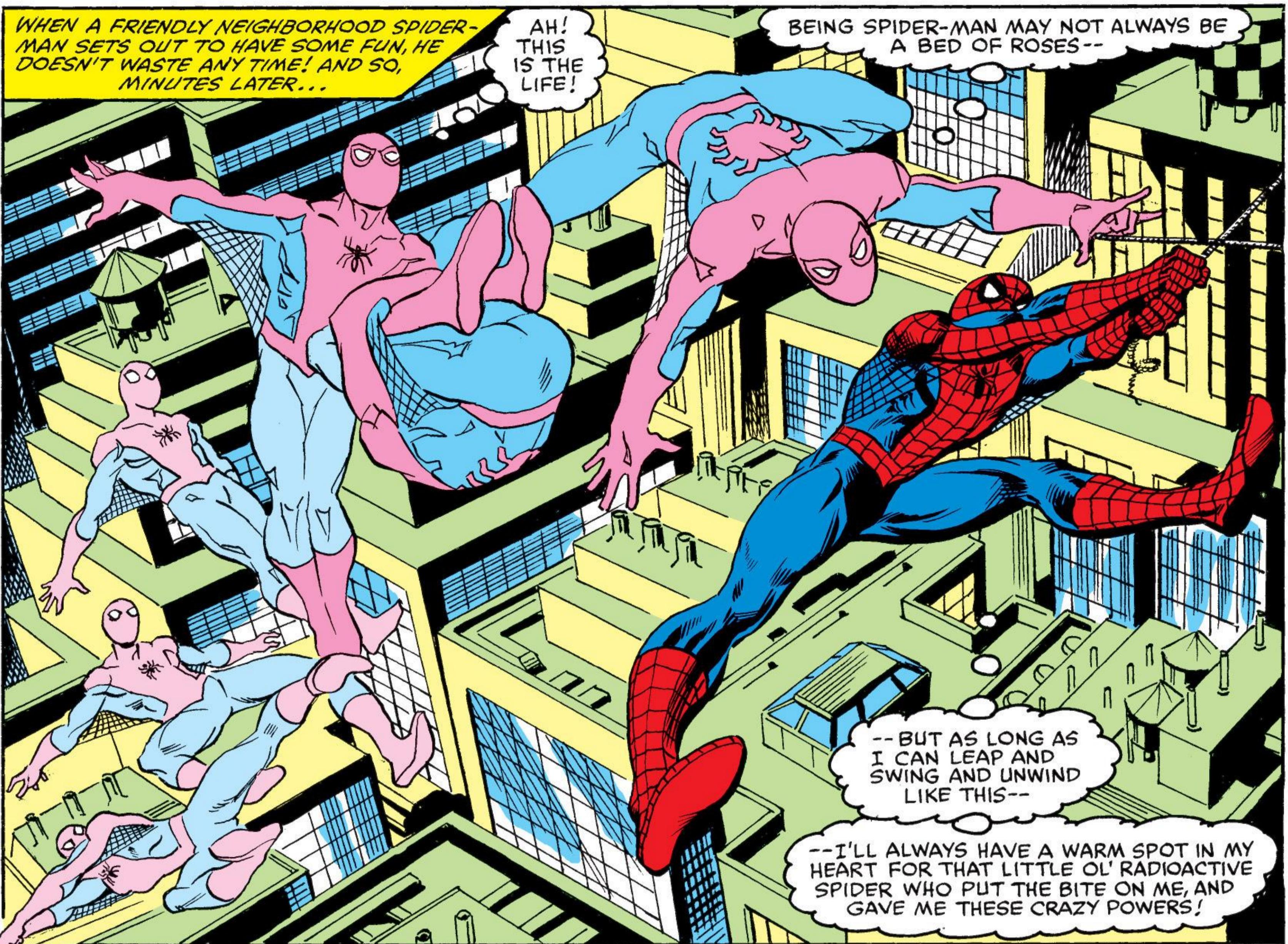


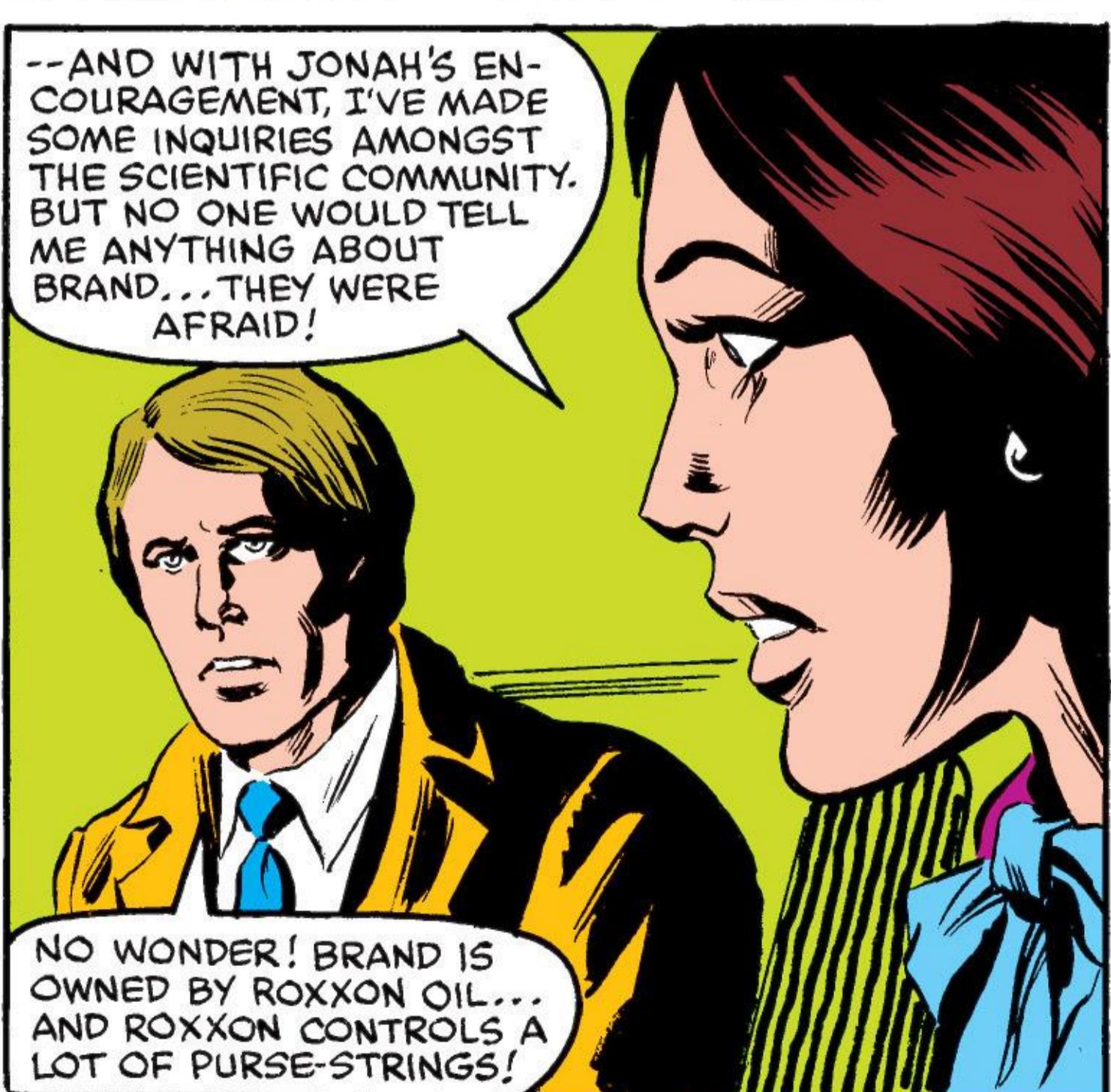
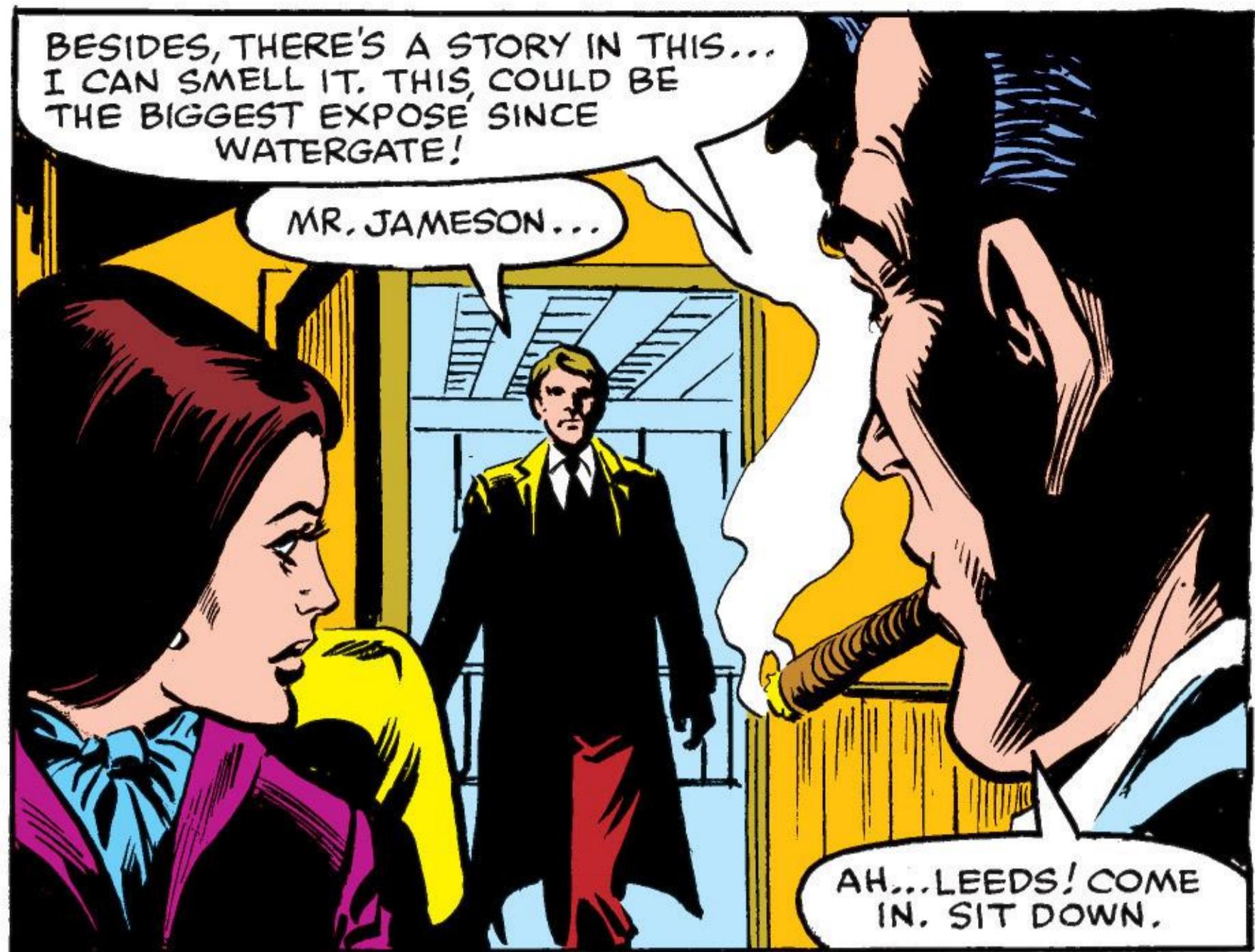
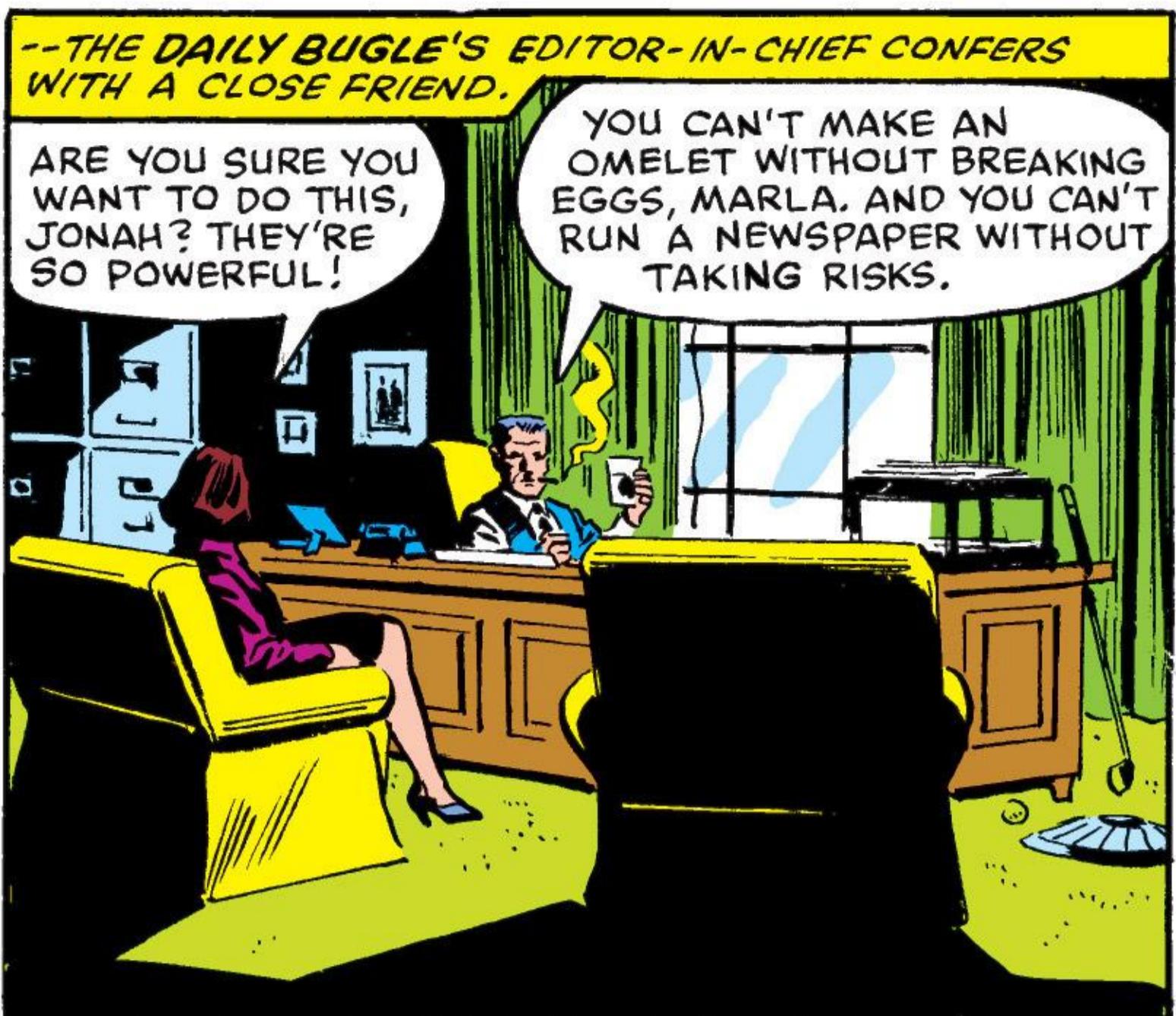
I'VE NEEDED A COUPLE NEW OUTFITS FOR A LONG TIME. THE WAY MY OLD SPIDER-SUIT'S BEEN GETTING SHREDDED LATELY*

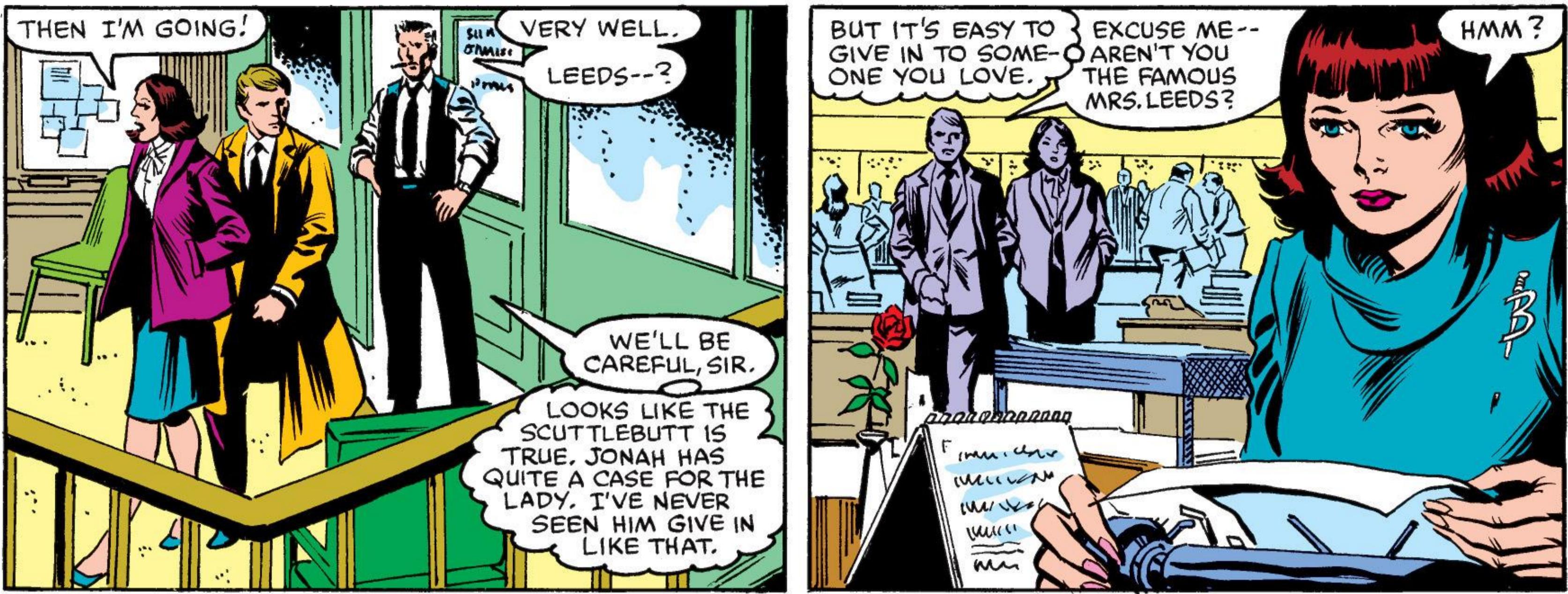


*SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 AND LAST ISSUE.









SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, IN AN OFFICE ON THE CAMPUS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...

RRRING

GOOD AFTERNOON! DEPARTMENT OF BIO-PHYSICS... MS. WHITMAN SPEAKING.

THIS IS BETTY LEEDS CALLING... UH... FROM THE DAILY BUGLE. I MUST SPEAK WITH PETER PARKER!

WELL, HE DOESN'T WORK HERE AS A TEACHING ASSISTANT ANY MORE, BUT I THINK HE'S IN ONE OF THE LABS.

HOLD ON, I'LL TRANSFER YOU.

BUT ONCE THAT WORK IS DONE...

OH, PETER! IF WHAT I SUSPECT ABOUT YOU IS TRUE,* A CALL FROM THE **BUGLE** CAN ONLY MEAN TROUBLE!

KLIK-KLIK
PING

EMERGENCY
911

IN HER WORK, DEBRA WHITMAN IS A MODEL OF EFFICIENCY.

*FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE RECENT ISSUES OF SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

MEANWHILE, IN A NEARBY LABORATORY...

PETE? CALL FOR YOU!

HMM? OH, SURE! BETTER TAKE OVER FOR ME HERE, ROG.

OUR EXPERIMENT'S REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE.

FOR NEARLY TWENTY MINUTES, PETER LISTENS AS BETTY CHOKES OUT HER WORRIES AND FEARS, UNTIL FINALLY...

AND I JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO TURN TO.

THEN I'M GLAD YOU CALLED, BETTY. BUT YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T LET YOURSELF GET UPSET LIKE THIS.

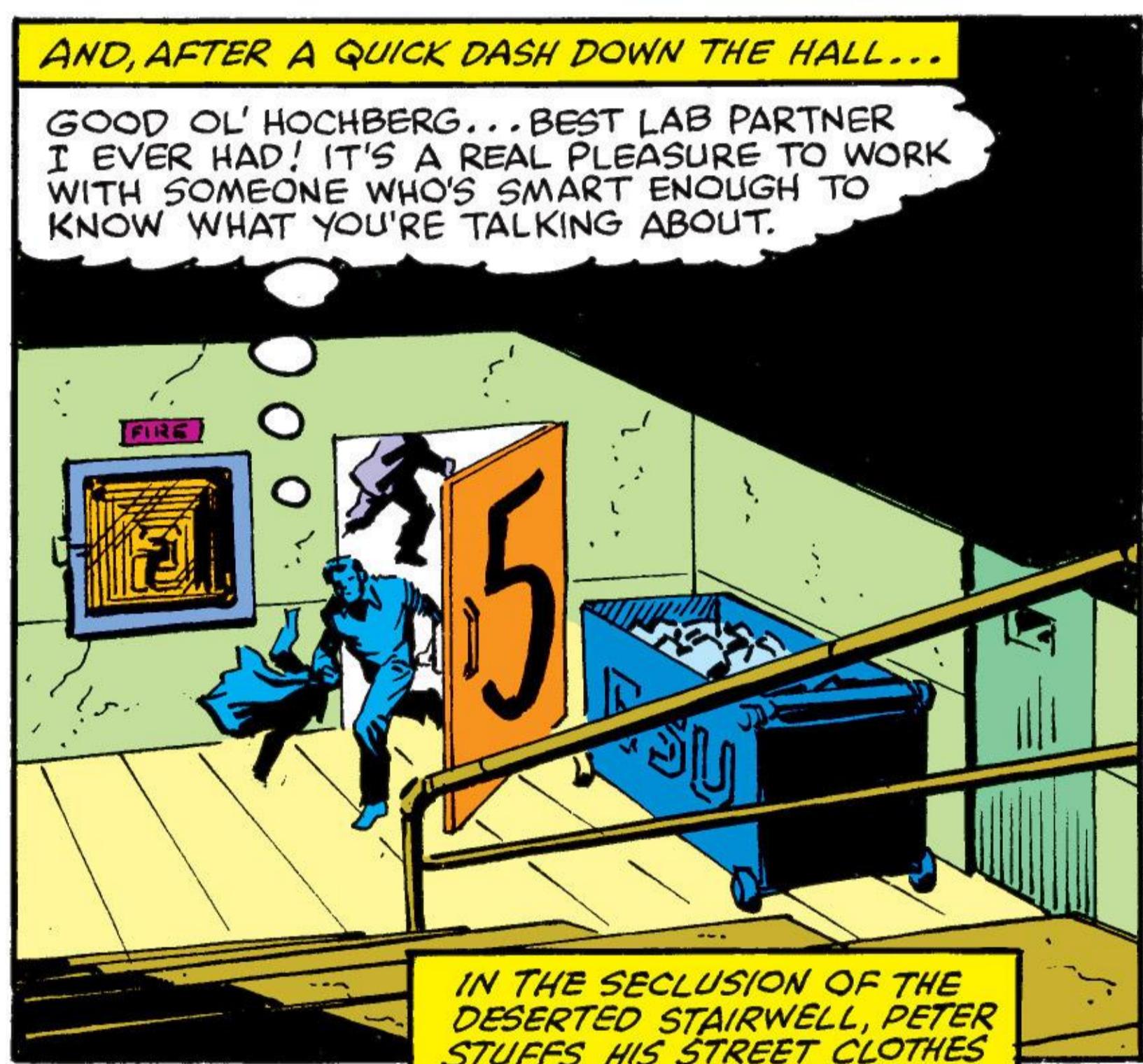
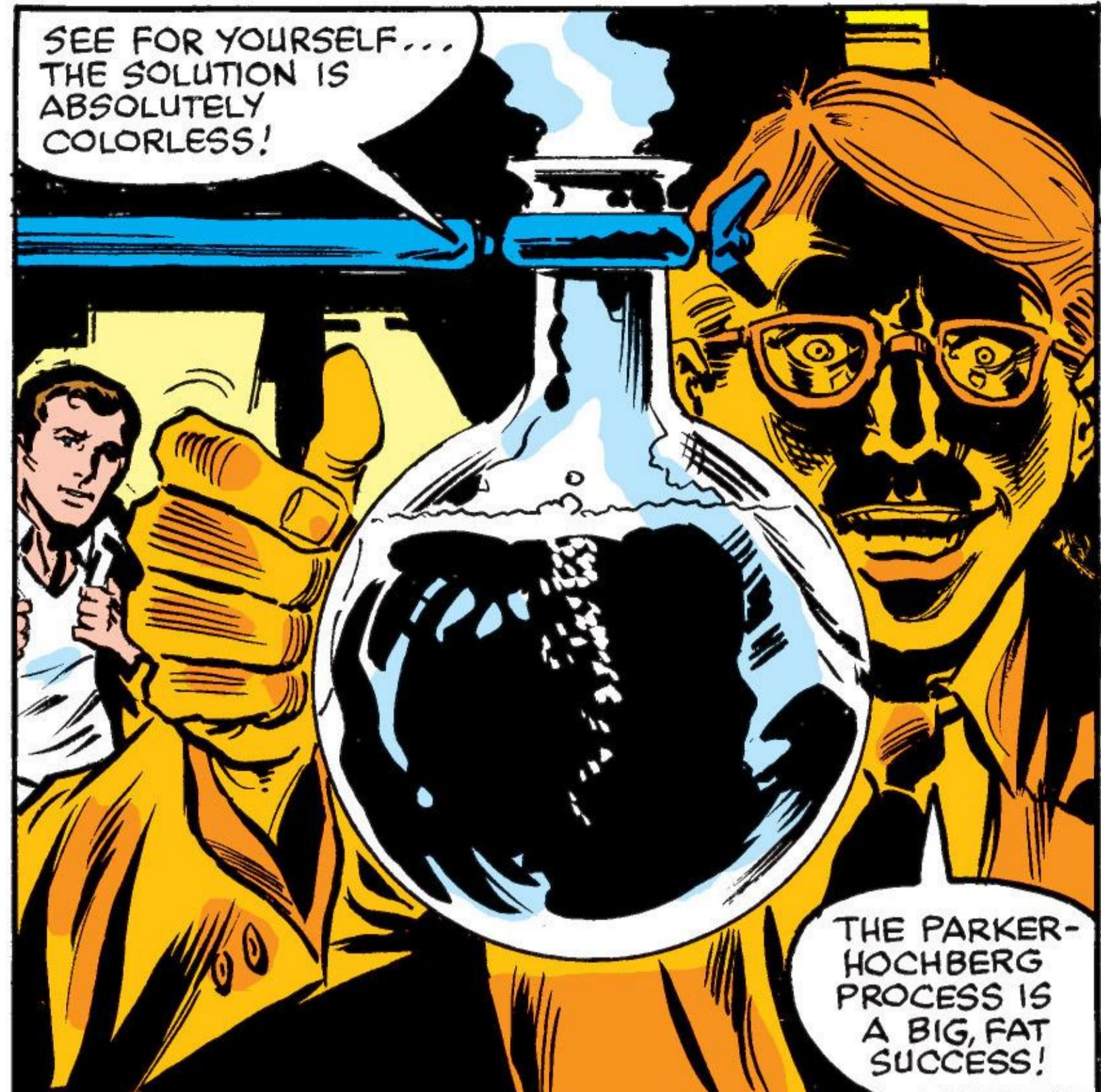
NED'S A BIG BOY... HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

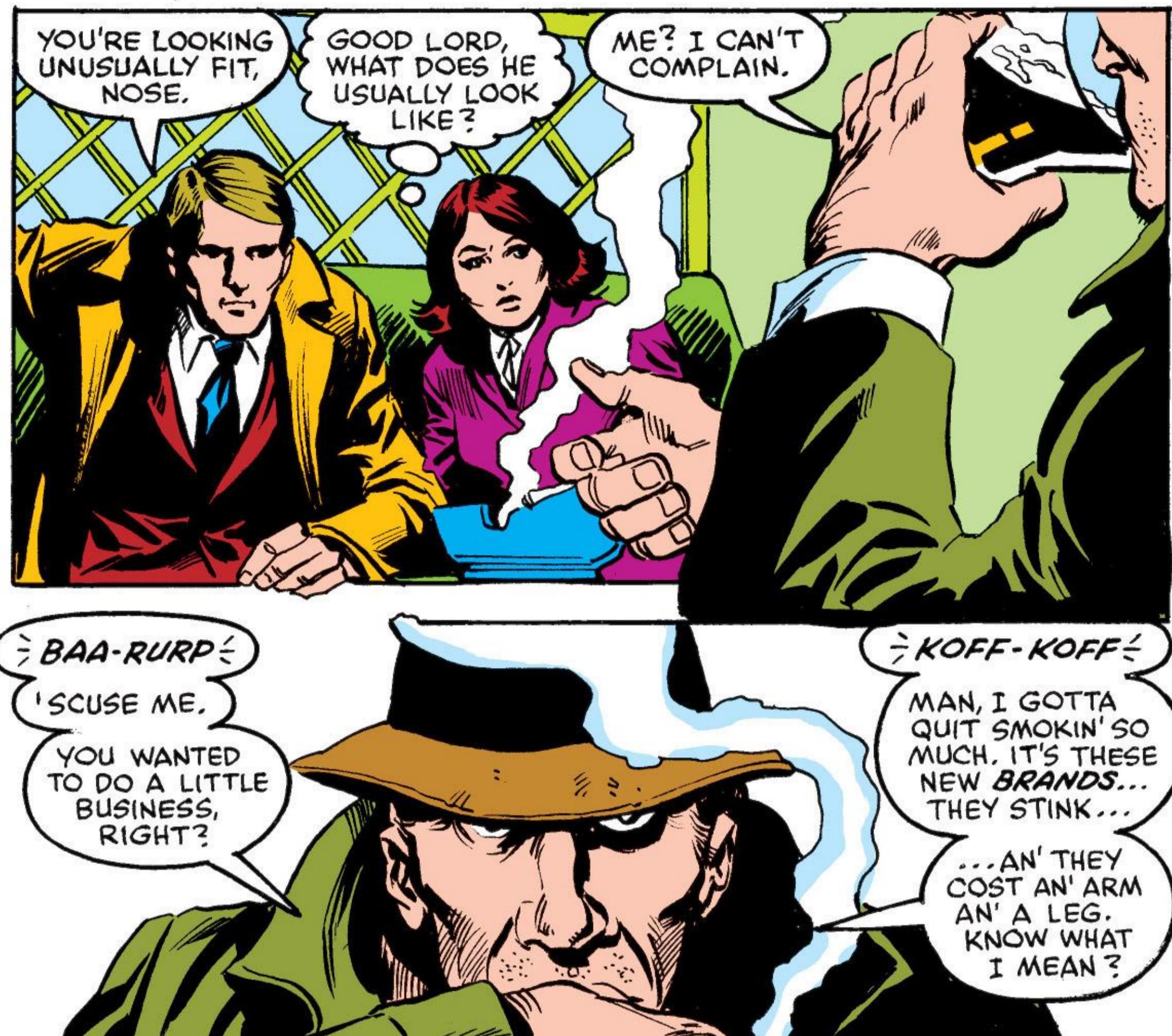
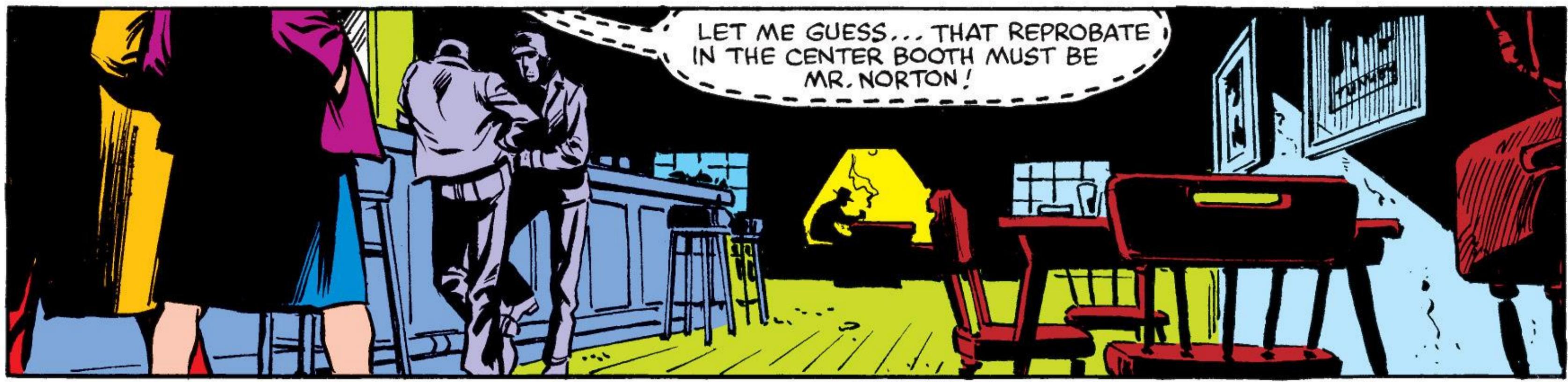
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, PETER. I DO FEEL BETTER FOR HAVING TALKED TO YOU.

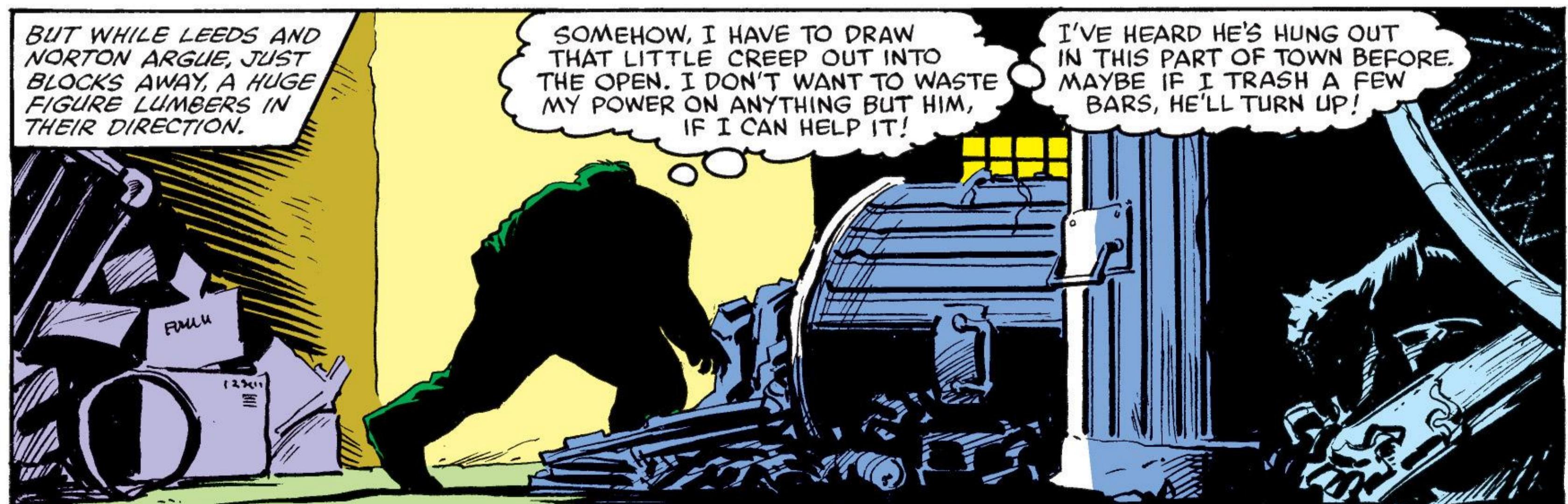
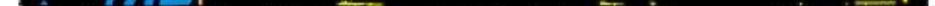
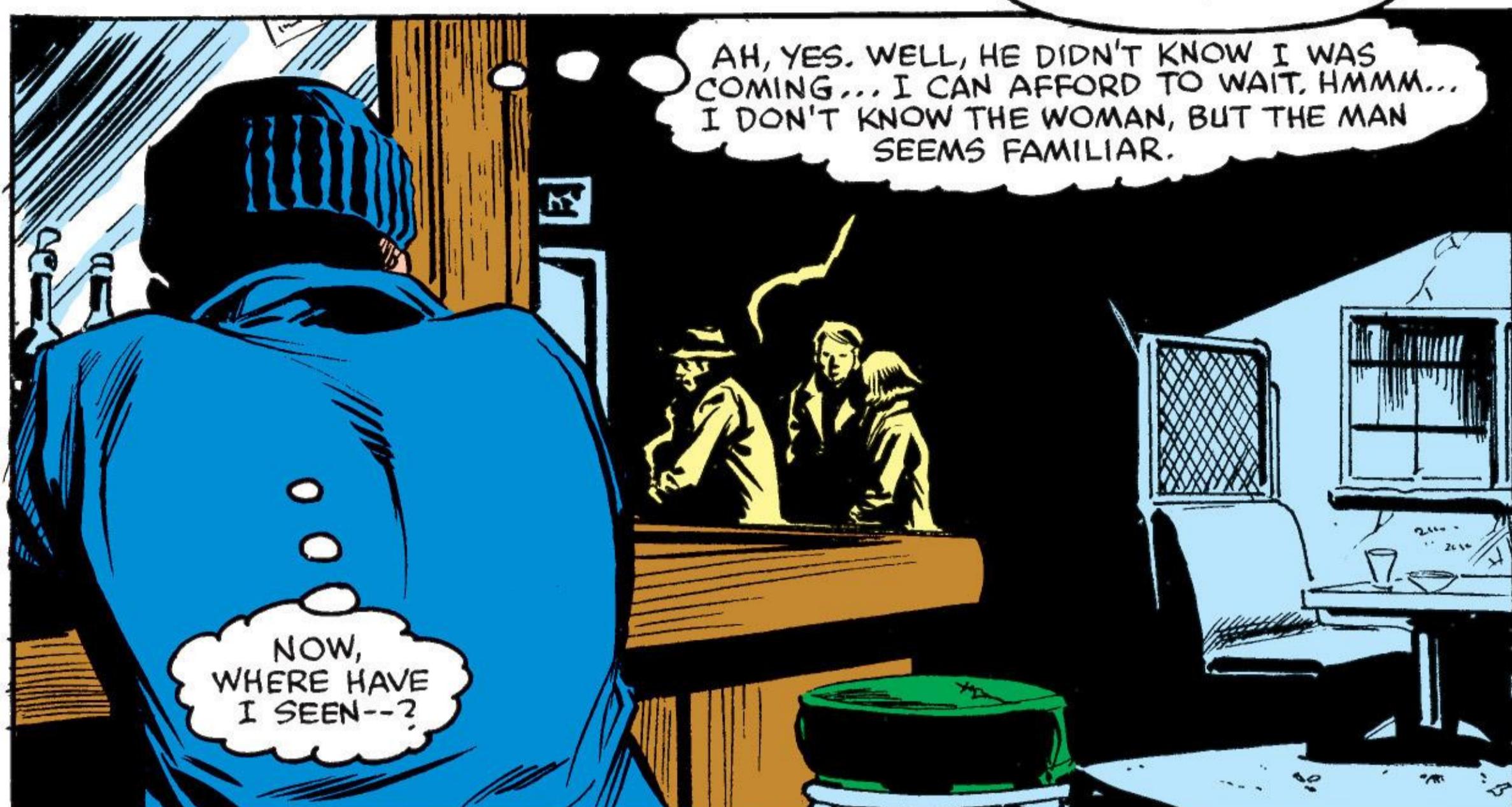
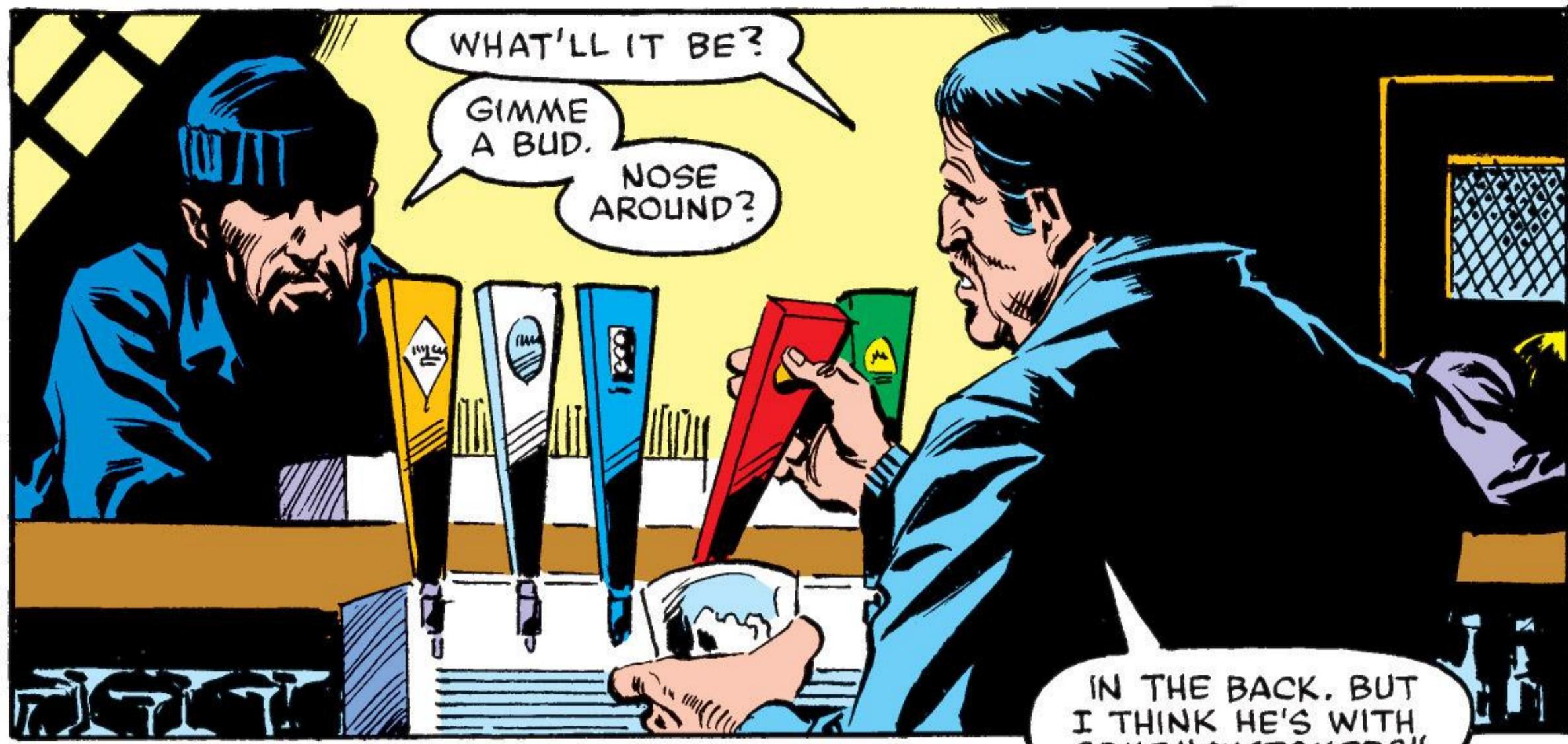
THAT'S WHAT OLD FRIENDS ARE FOR, BETTY. YOU TAKE CARE, YA HEAR?

POOR BETTY... I CAN UNDERSTAND HER FEARS. I HOPE LEEDS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING. THAT IS A ROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD.

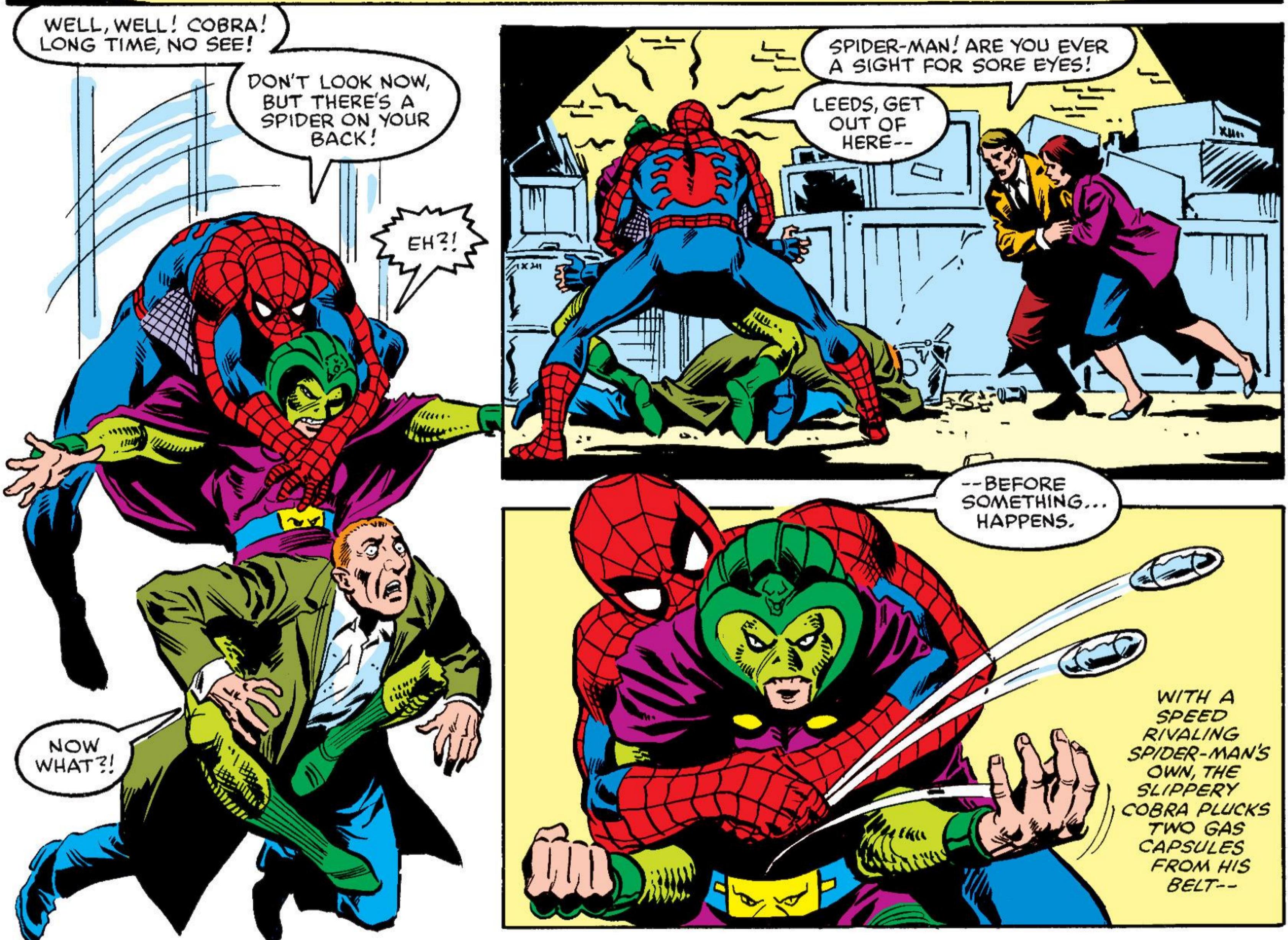
I'M TEMPTED TO CHECK UP ON HIM, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THIS EXPERIMENT UNTIL...

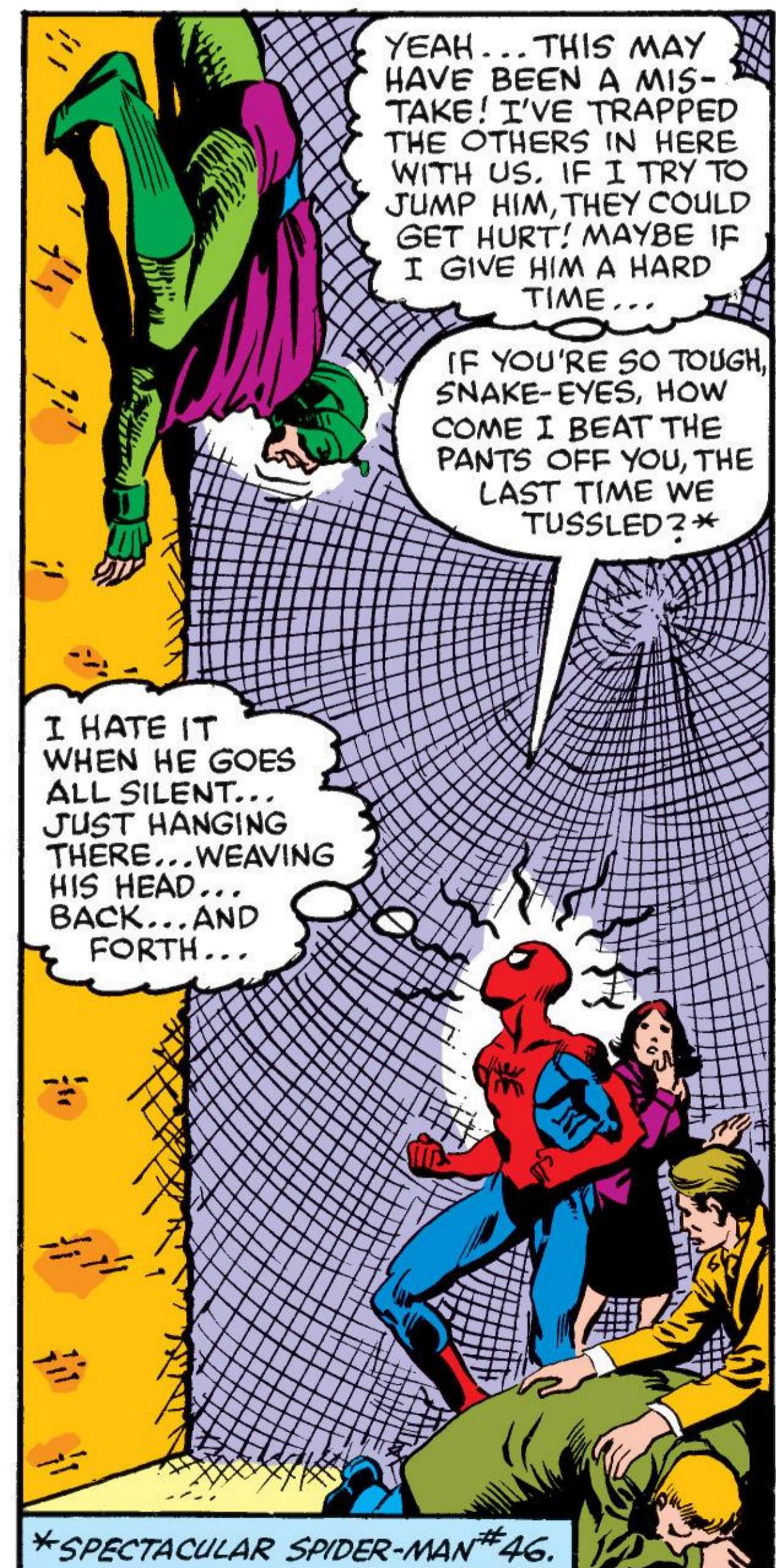
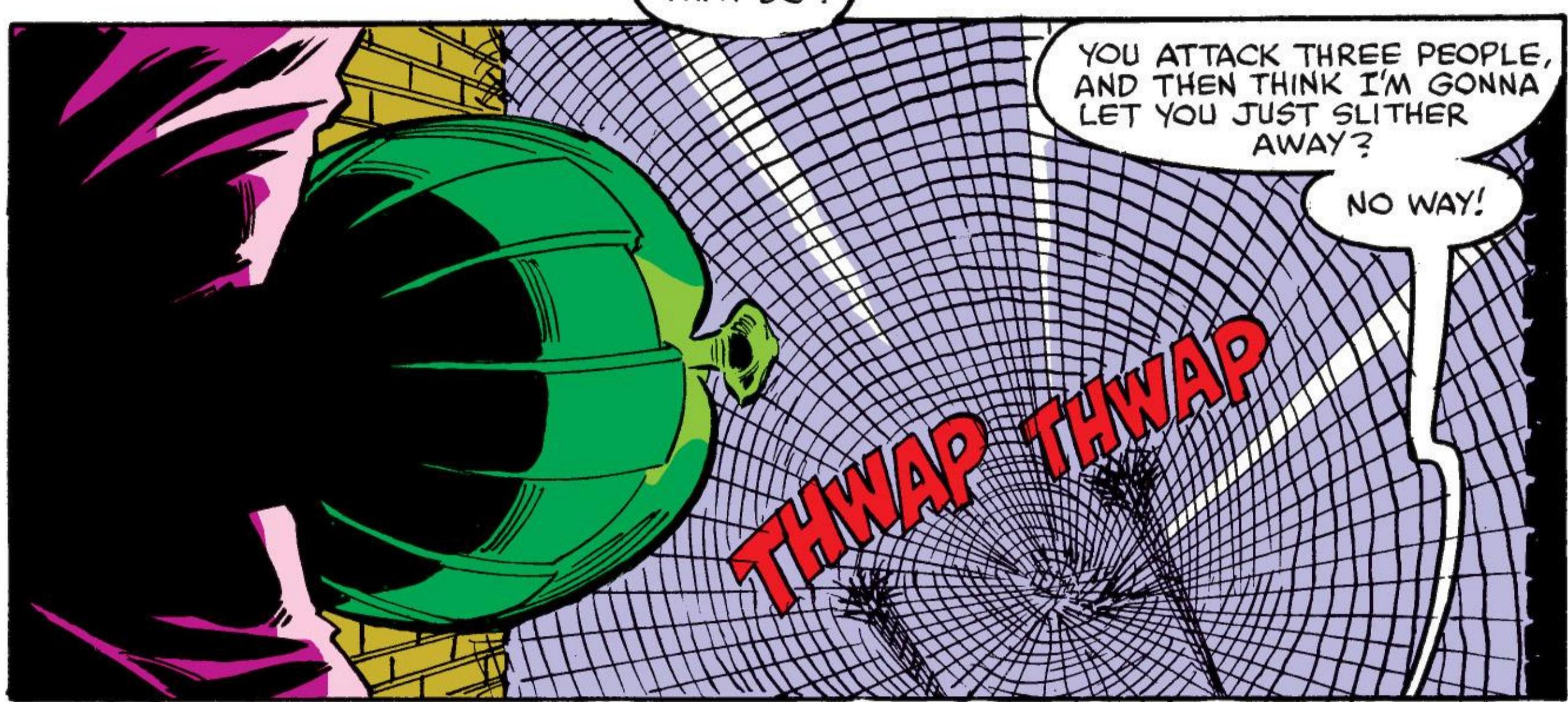




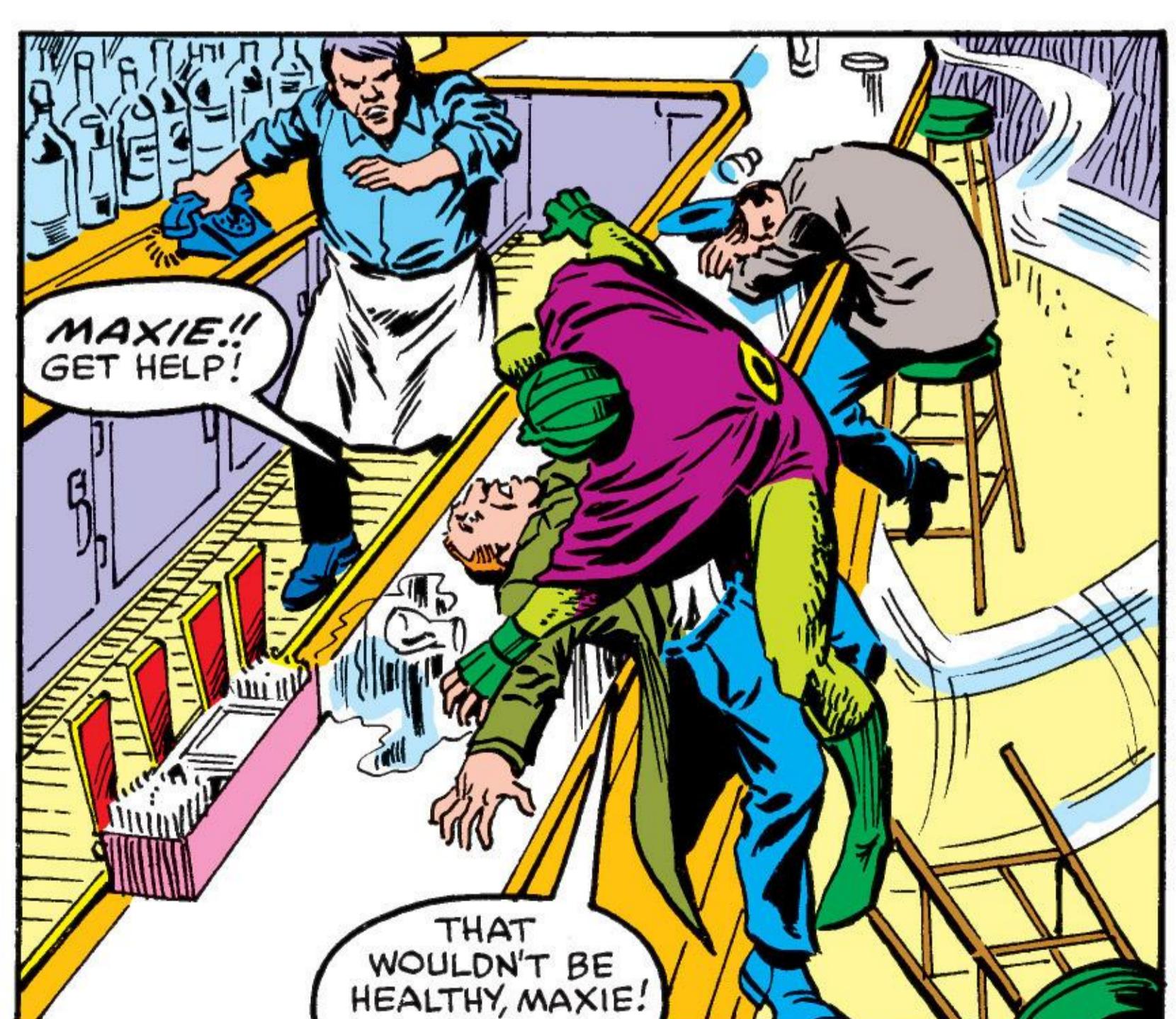
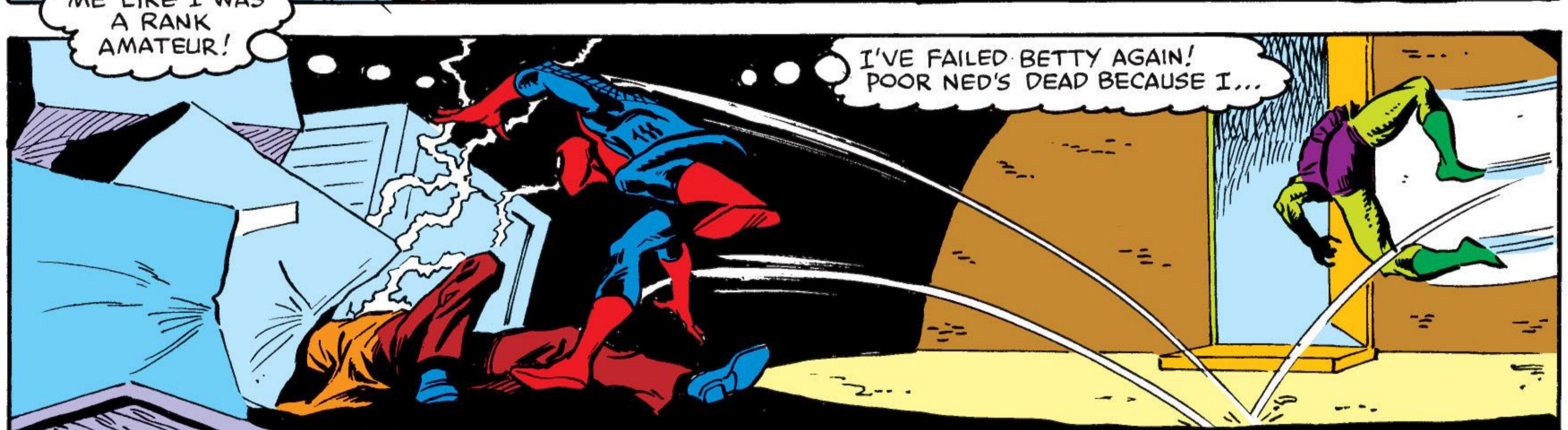


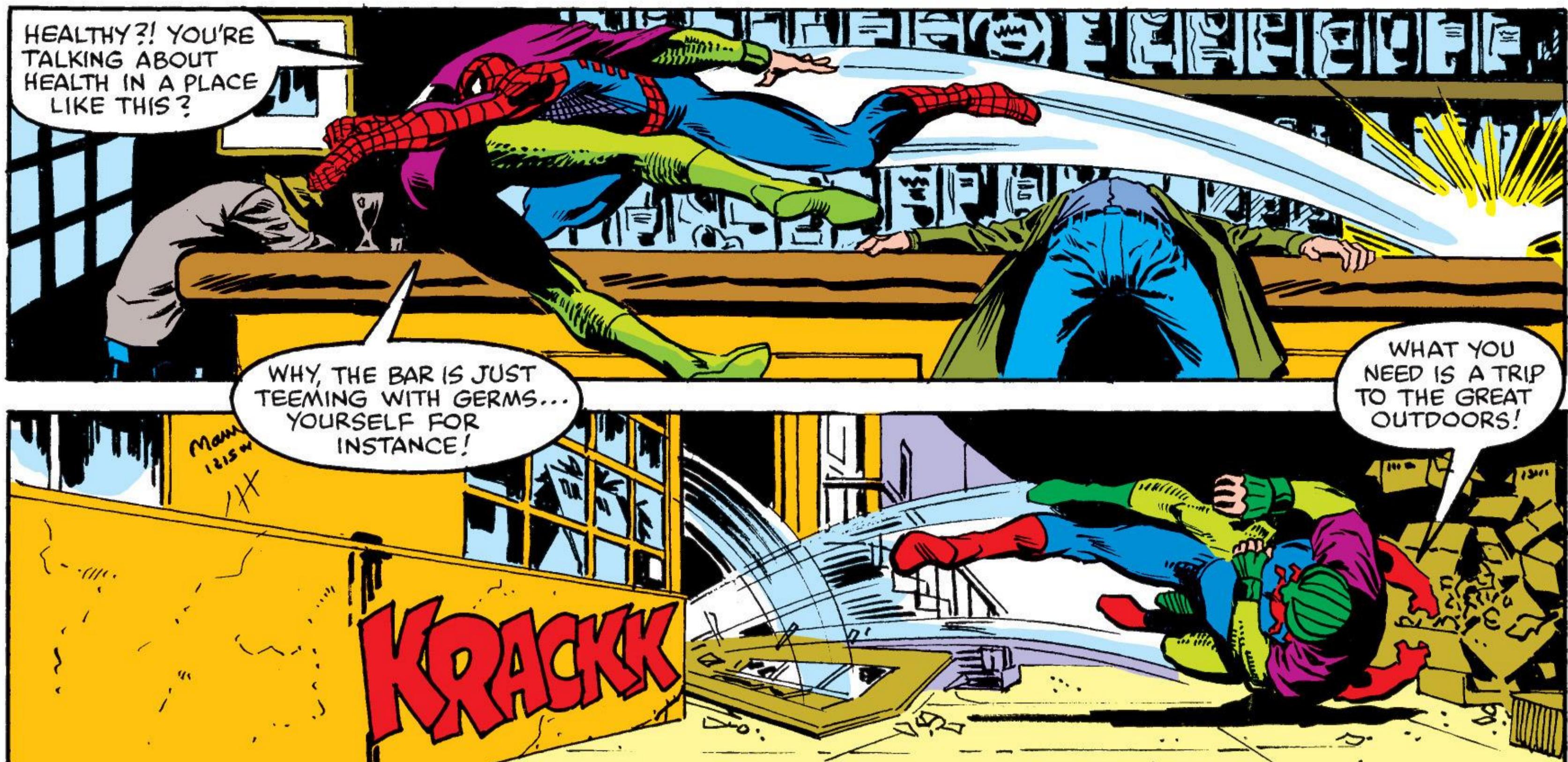


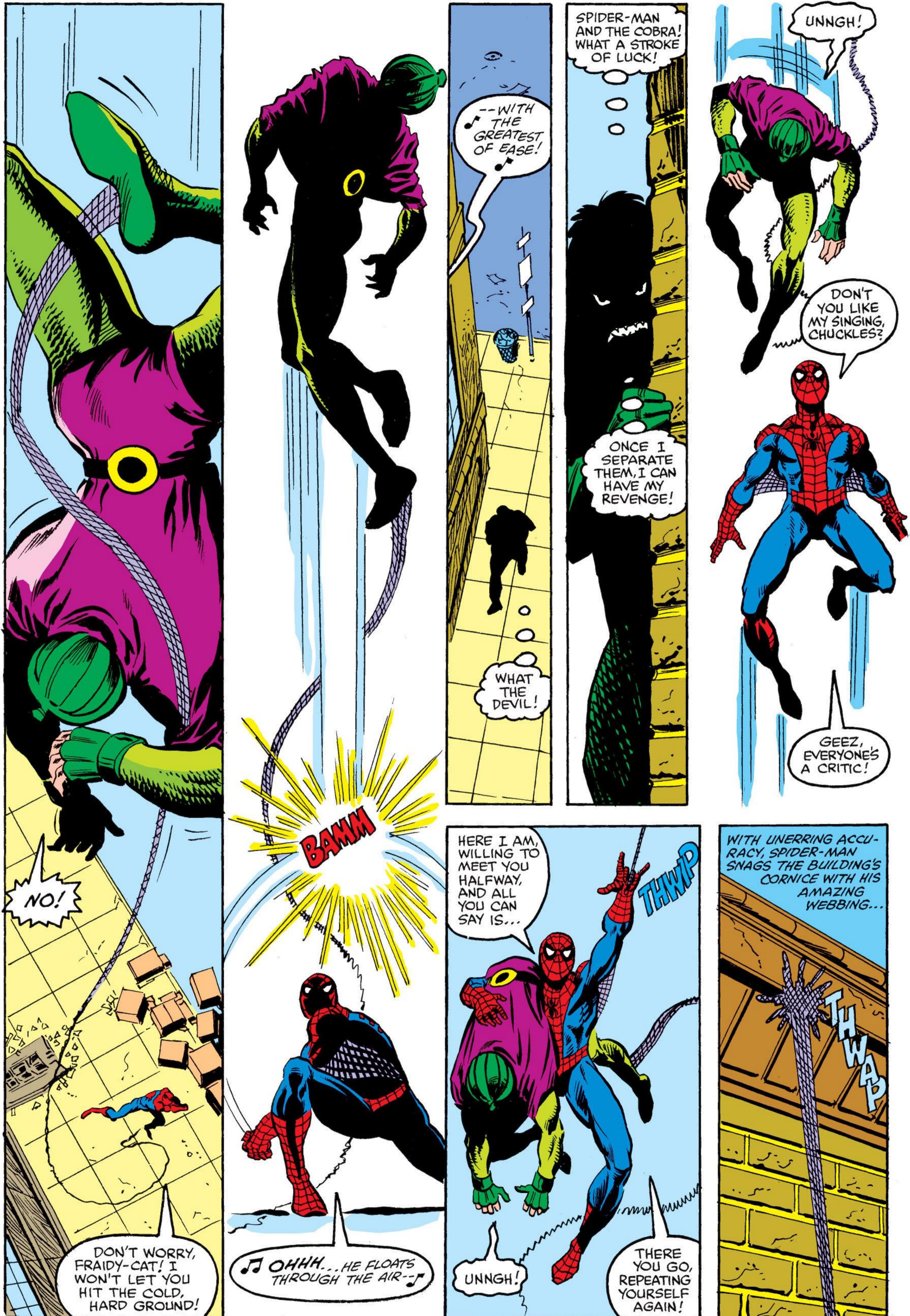


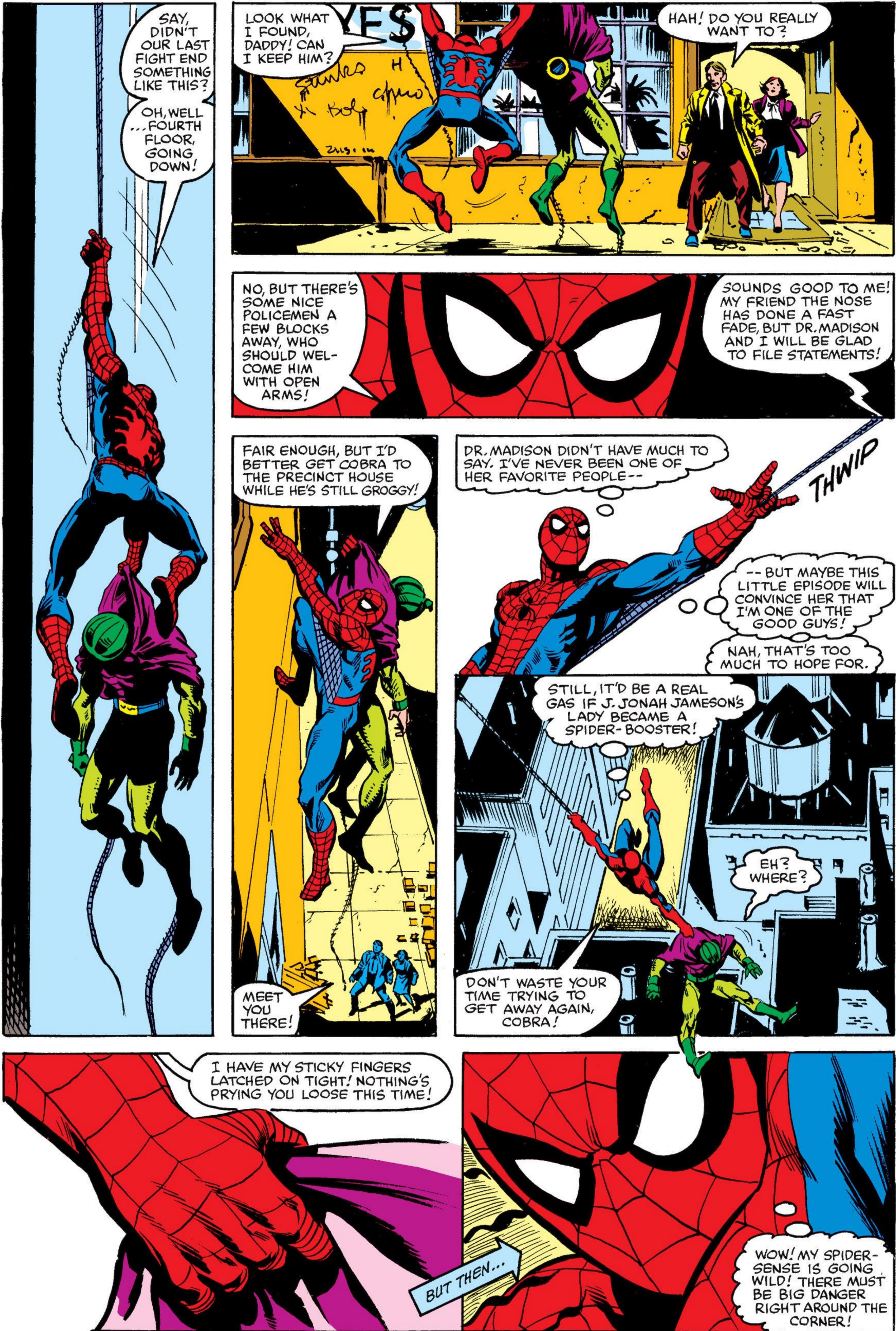


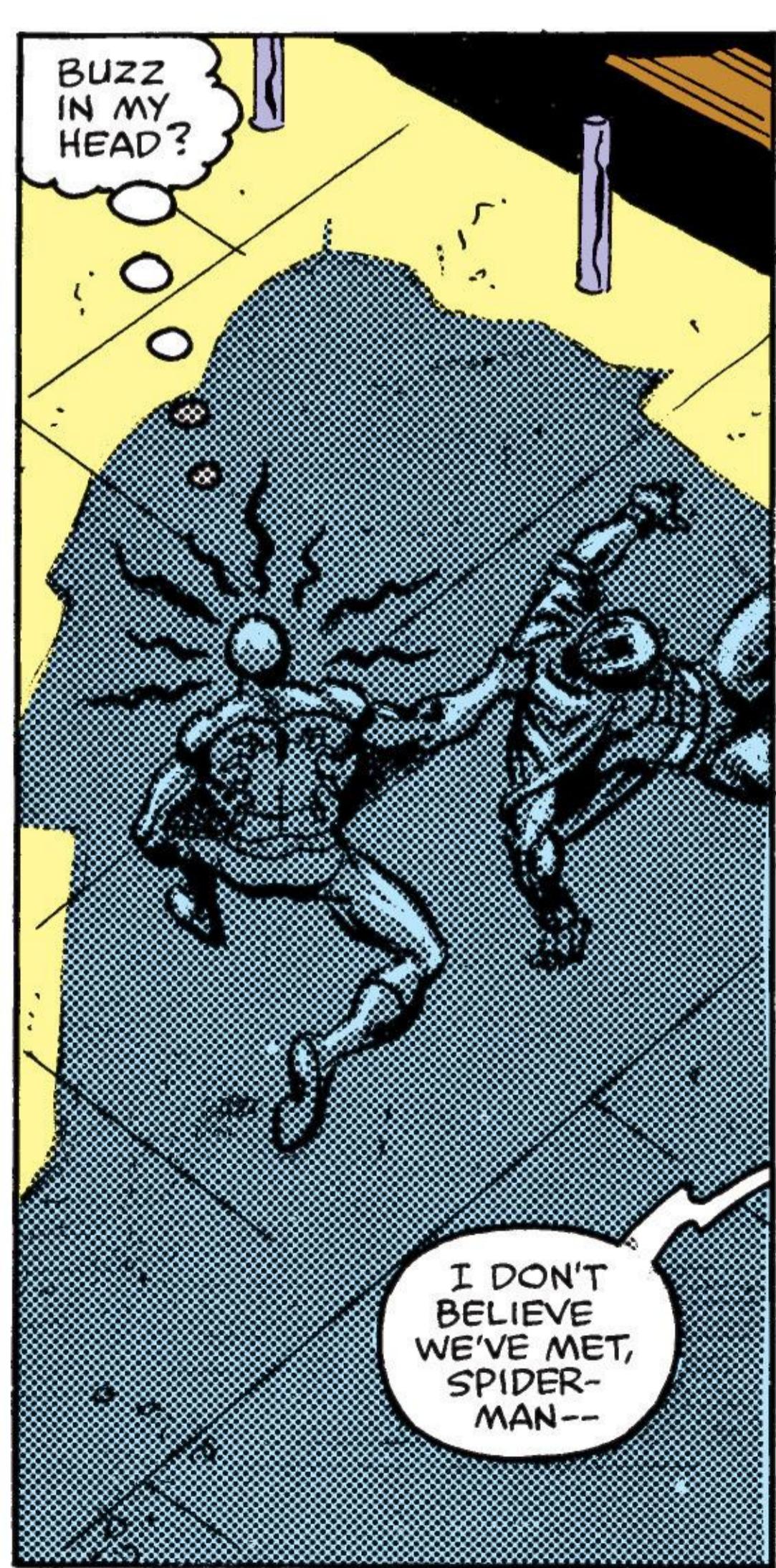
DRAWING SPIDER-MAN'S ATTENTION WITH AN ALMOST MESMERIZING GAZE, THE COBRA FEINTS TO HIS LEFT--



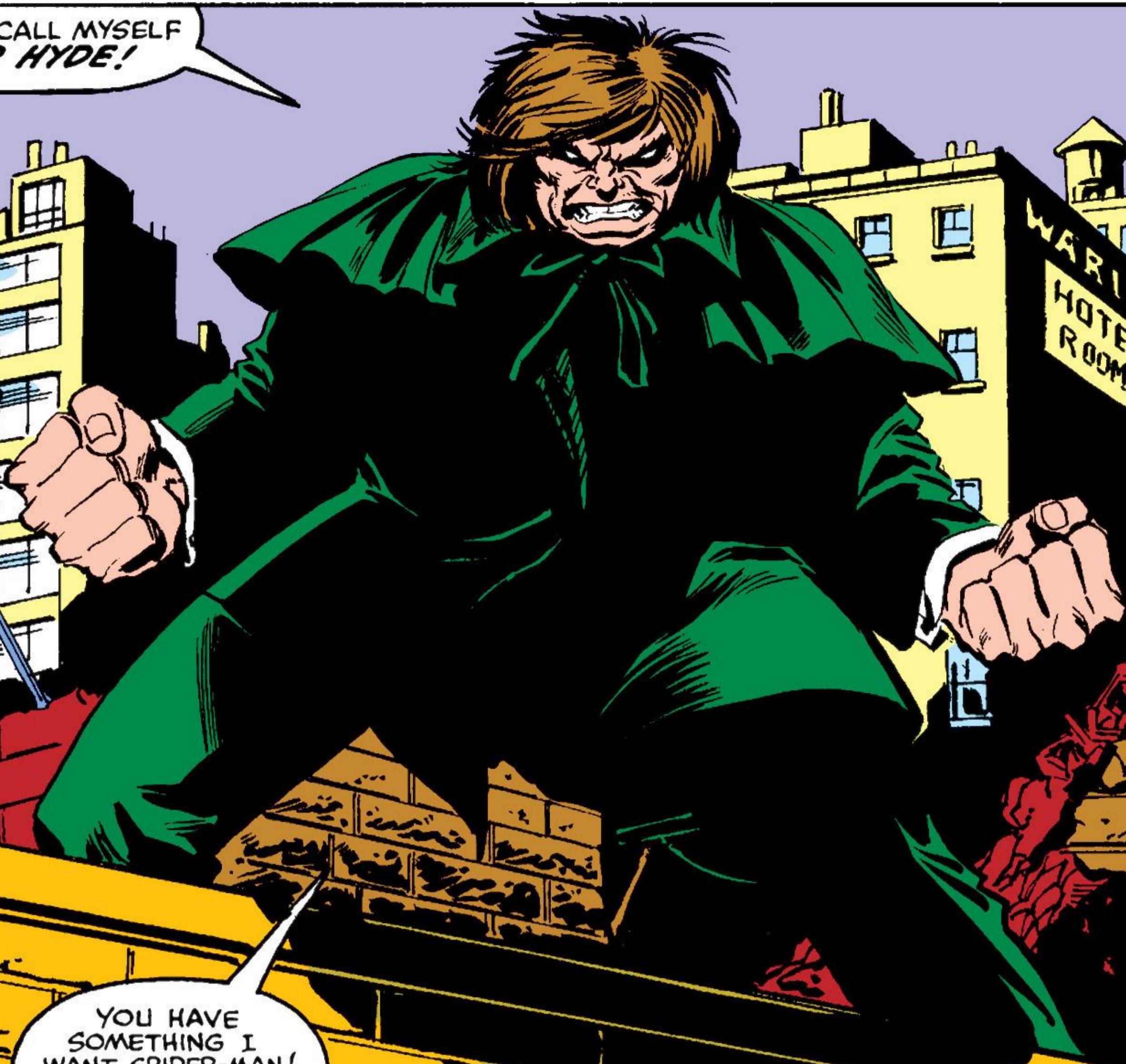








--BUT I CALL MYSELF
MISTER HYDE!



YOU HAVE
SOMETHING I
WANT, SPIDER-MAN!
GIVE ME THE COBRA
...AND I MAY
LET YOU LIVE!

OH,
BOY!



DON'T MISS NEXT ISSUE'S THRILLER.
HYDE IN PLAIN SIGHT!

THE SPIDER'S WEB

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Friends,

If I was nervous about the return of the Black Cat in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226, I had cause. After all, in her first appearance, she had grace and style and wit to match Spider-Man himself. And what happened? She's off her rocker, you said.

Then I thought: No, it's a trick. Obviously, Felicia doesn't want to go to jail... so she pretended to be psycho, and Parker fell for it.

Then I thought: they'll never say so. After all, they don't care, do they?

I had so little faith.

Okay, now I'm happy. She's back, her grace and style and wit are undimmed, and Parker's visit to the laundromat looked like the story of my life. Things are looking up. There is hope on the horizon.

I have a few reservations. The panel where B.C. landed on Spider-Man's back disturbed me. The theme that women with powers can't be as competent as men offends me. Are you afraid that she would upstage Spider-Man?

Okay, I'll cool it with the complaints. The Black Cat looks good, and I for one would like to see more of her.

The fourth page was a classic. Good stuff, indeed.

Elizabeth Holden
120 Lewis Street, Apt. 2
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K2P OS7

Liz, Liz, Liz! If we didn't care, we wouldn't be in this crazy business!

And we're afraid that you misconstrued Spider-Man's little sacrifice play at the party. He let the Black Cat slam into him to discourage her from wanting to become his partner. Like the man said, he works alone. We never meant to imply that B.C. wasn't competent. Obviously, nothing could be further from the truth.

But we are glad you enjoyed the story. You certainly weren't alone!

Dear Weblings,

All right! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226 was the best Spider-tale that I have read in a long time! What can I say, except that it was marvelous... from the eerie cover, all the way to page 22.

I'm thrilled to see that John Romita Jr. is really getting into action on the art. Sure, he did an awesome job on IRON MAN, but his SPIDER-MAN is just so great!!

Roger, you turned out a masterful script as usual. I liked the way you tied last issue's Foolkiller storyline in with this one. I must also thank you for bringing back Captain Jean DeWolf, who had not been seen for quite a while. The Black Cat is going straight? Well, I'll be Jameson's uncle! (I just can't see it as a lasting relationship, though.)

Tom, I must salute you for doing something that no other Editor has ever done: namely, linking all of Spider-Man's mags together. At last, we're beginning to find out just when some of his MARVEL TEAM-UP adventures take place. Keep up the good work. And please, involve Peter Parker a little more with the *Daily Bugle*, okay?

What do you have planned for issue #231? After all, that issue will mark twenty

years since Spider-Man first appeared in AMAZING FANTASY #15. Will you give it a king-size format like FANTASTIC FOUR #236?

Thank you for a great 1981. I'm looking forward to 1982 with great expectations. Happy New Year!

Andrew Krepela
6102 138th Street SE
Everett, WA 98204

Actually, Andy, we're holding the larger format in reserve for Spider-Man's twenty-fifth anniversary! We're celebrating the twentieth year by trying to make every issue special in its own right... and by bringing back the classic original SPIDER-MAN stories in MARVEL TALES.

But, since you brought it up, we have an important question to put to everyone reading these words. This issue, bearing an August, 1982 cover-date, marks the twentieth year of Spider-Man. But the twentieth anniversary of this magazine, the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, won't occur until issue #238, cover-dated March, 1983! When the 25-year mark swings around, which anniversary should we celebrate... that of the magazine? Or that of ol' Spidey himself? Or both? We'll leave it up to you!

Dear Tom,

On page three of "But the Cat Came Back..." I thought to myself, "Boy, have these guys ever blown it now!" Here's an indication that the Black Cat was only faking her obsessive infatuation with Spider-Man in order to get lenient treatment. I was greatly disappointed, since she was much more impressive to me as a kooky admirer of Spider-Man, than as just a scheming, two-faced enemy.

Of course, as the story went on, B.C. put some real moves on Spider-Man in order to convince him that she wants to go straight, and all because of her love for him. Whether she is sincere or not is still up in the air.

Well, I think it's great that you've cooked up some suspense from the situation. I only hope that when the smoke clears, it will end up that she really does love Spider-Man... and is still a criminal. To have a criminal who's in love with a super hero would be a fine hook on which to hang some plot threads in the future. And, as Spider-Man is apparently drawn to her as well, we could see some classic, "I love her/him, even though I know it can never work" stories. We are all, oftentimes, the captives of our emotions.

So don't turn the Black Cat into just another villain with an unusual *modus operandi*. Let it be a case of "outlaw love".

T. M. Maple
(No street address given)
Toronto, Ontario

"Outlaw love"? Hey, wouldn't that make a wild comics title?

But seriously, T.M., it looks like you've been reading our minds again, you rascally ol' Spiderphile, you!

Dear Tom,
I loved AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226.

Or rather, I should say that I loved the Black Cat. I hope you bring her back frequently. Page four, panel five had me rolling in laughter for an hour. In fact, I still chuckle when I look at it.

Isn't it the end of November in New York? Shouldn't there be a little snow on the ground?

Glad you gave us a nice ending to lift our spirits.

David Lipson
5432 South Ingleside
Chicago, IL 60615

Actually, winters in New York tend to be a bit milder than the ones you experience in the Windy City, Dave. (Though we'd probably all like to forget the past winter, right?) But then, we never said that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226 took place in November, now did we?

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226 was a very good story indeed. And I think the most intriguing element was Ms. Felicia Hardy. I'm generally not too keen on female characters in comics, but the Black Cat is something else.

"But the Cat Came Back..." was an excellent return. I have to admit that I'd fallen for the mental instability bit. The fact that she pulled that stunt just to avoid prison shows that she is even craftier than Spider-Man.

I hope you bring Felicia back... not in a book of her own, just in an occasional appearance, every five or six issues.

I'd like to see more of Captain Jean DeWolff, too. I see her relation to Spider-Man in much the way Nick Fury relates to Captain America.

On the whole, SPIDER-MAN looks to be in great shape. Keep up the good work!

Dave Levy
RD #3, 1140 Lawrence Avenue
Toms River, NJ 09757

Not to worry, Dave. You haven't seen the last of the Black Cat... not by a long shot!

NEXT ISSUE: Join us as we launch the 21st year of Spider-Man with "Hyde in Plain Sight". 'Nuff said!

