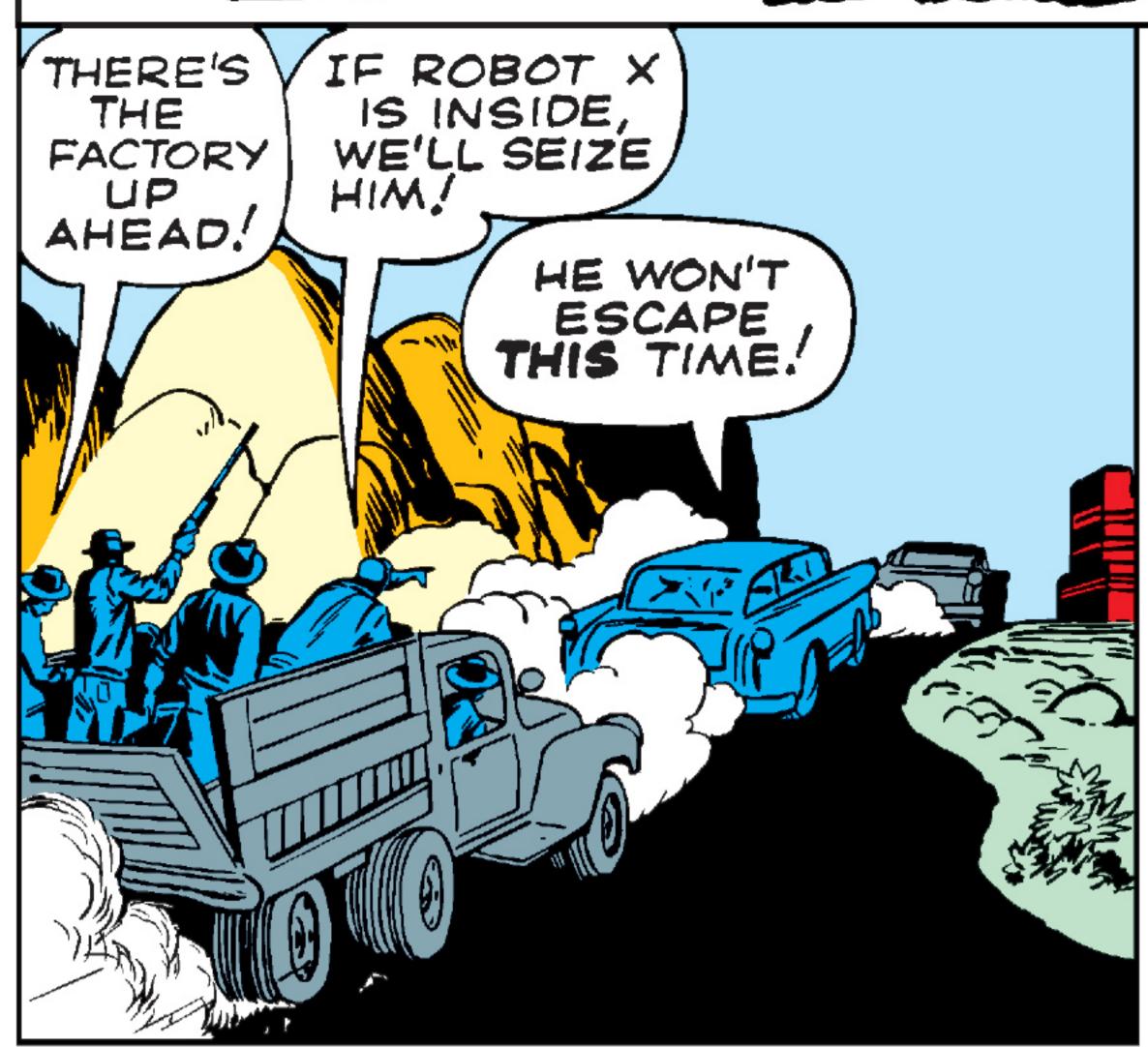
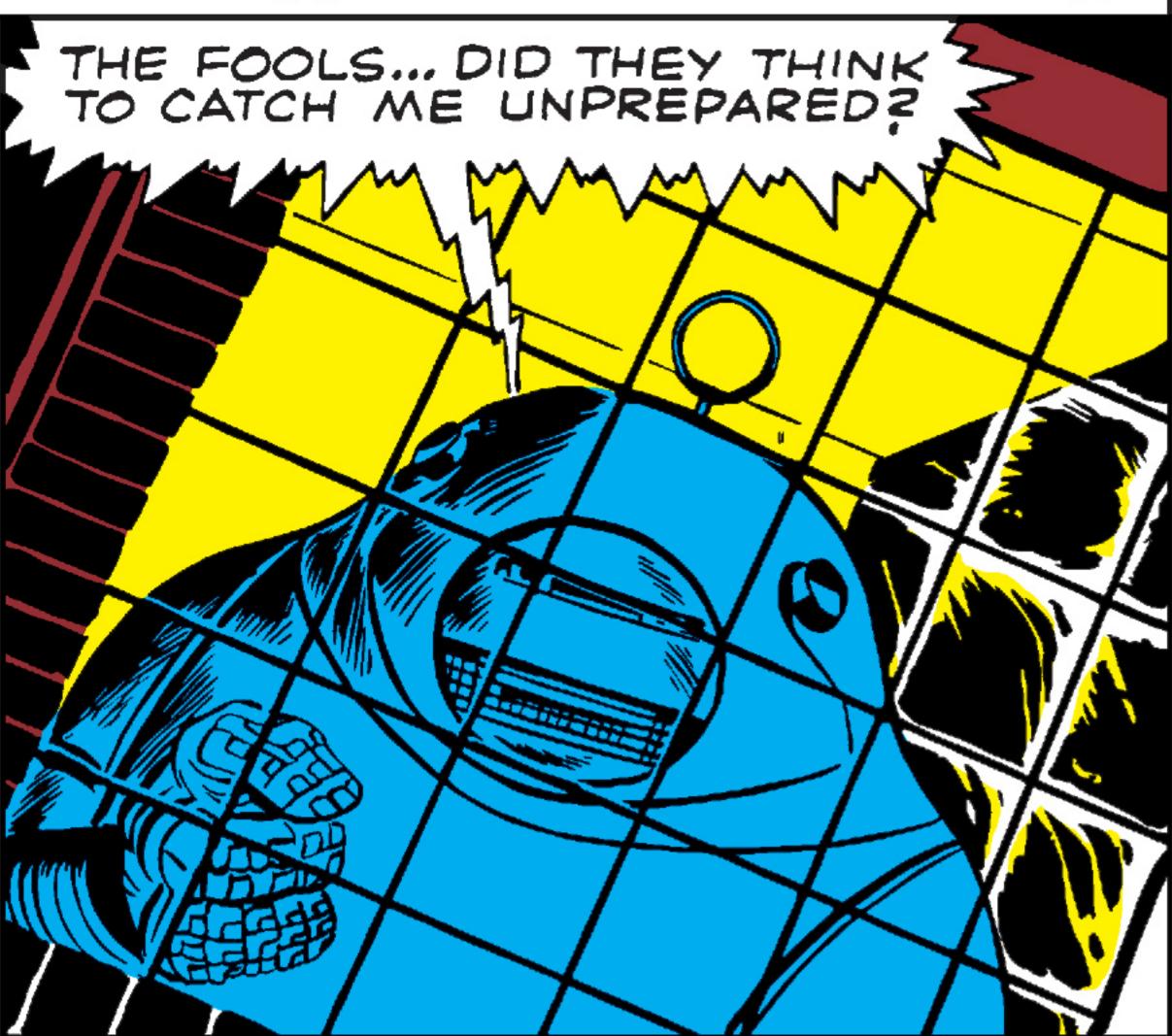
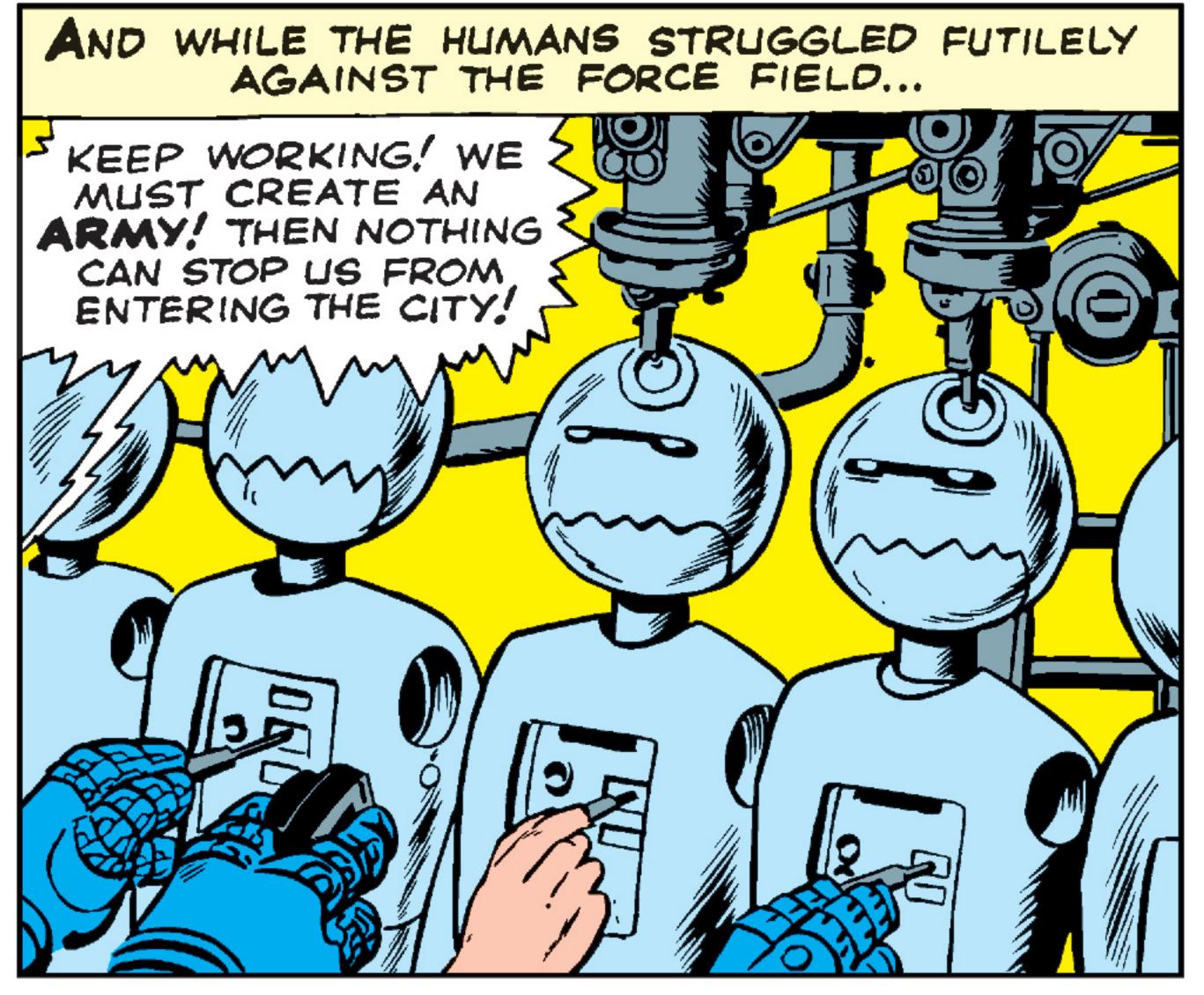


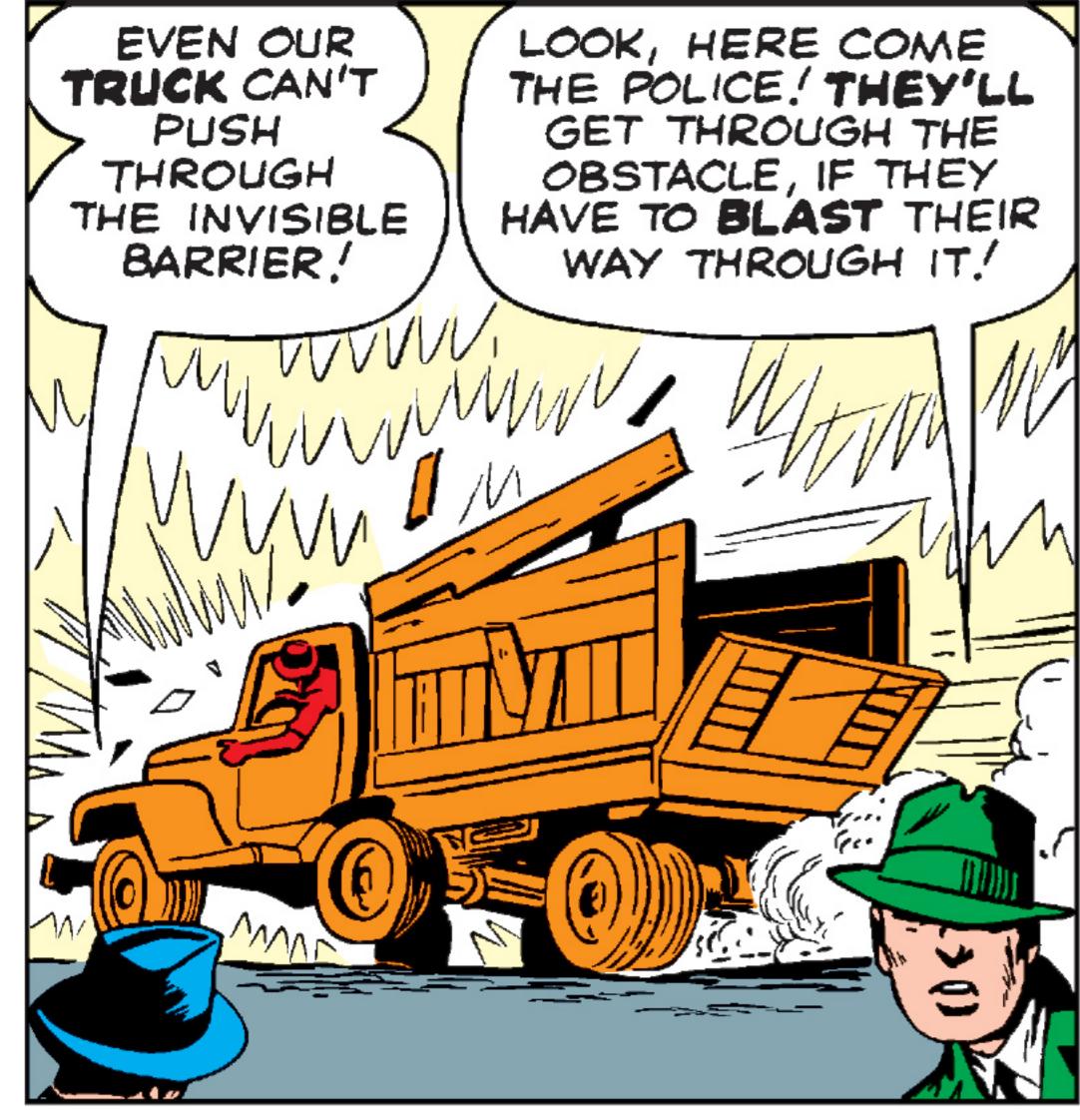
PART COST X

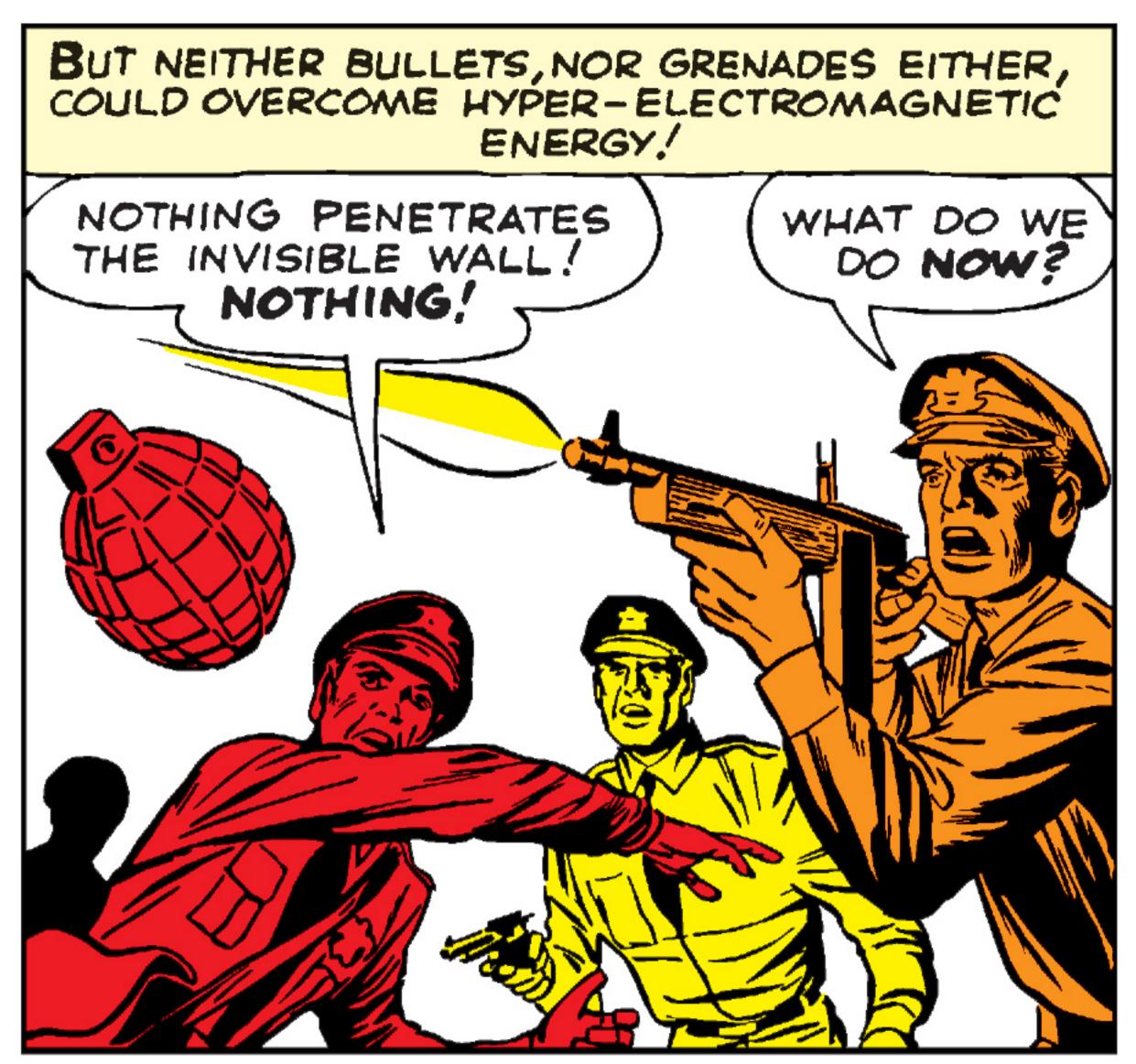


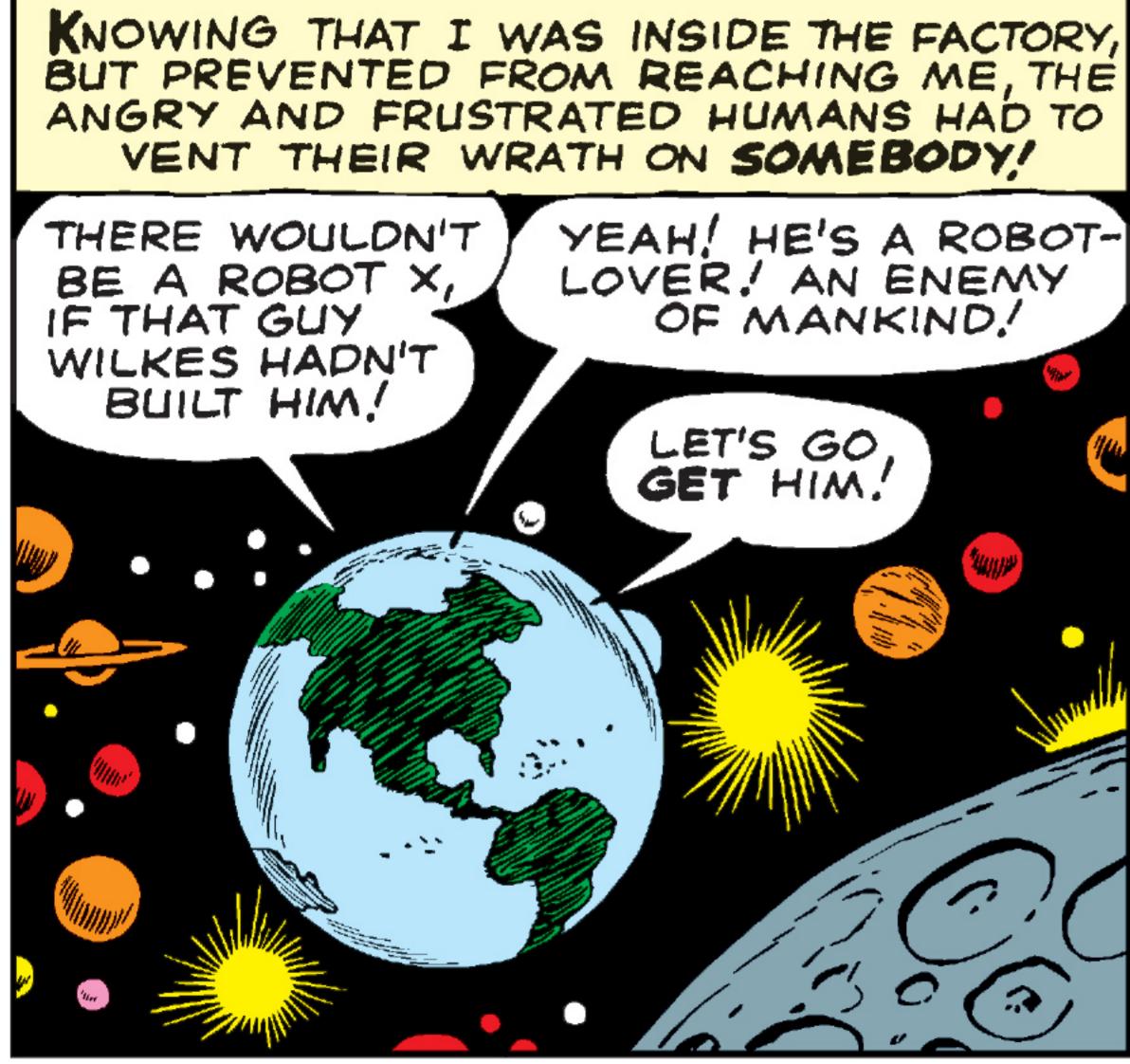




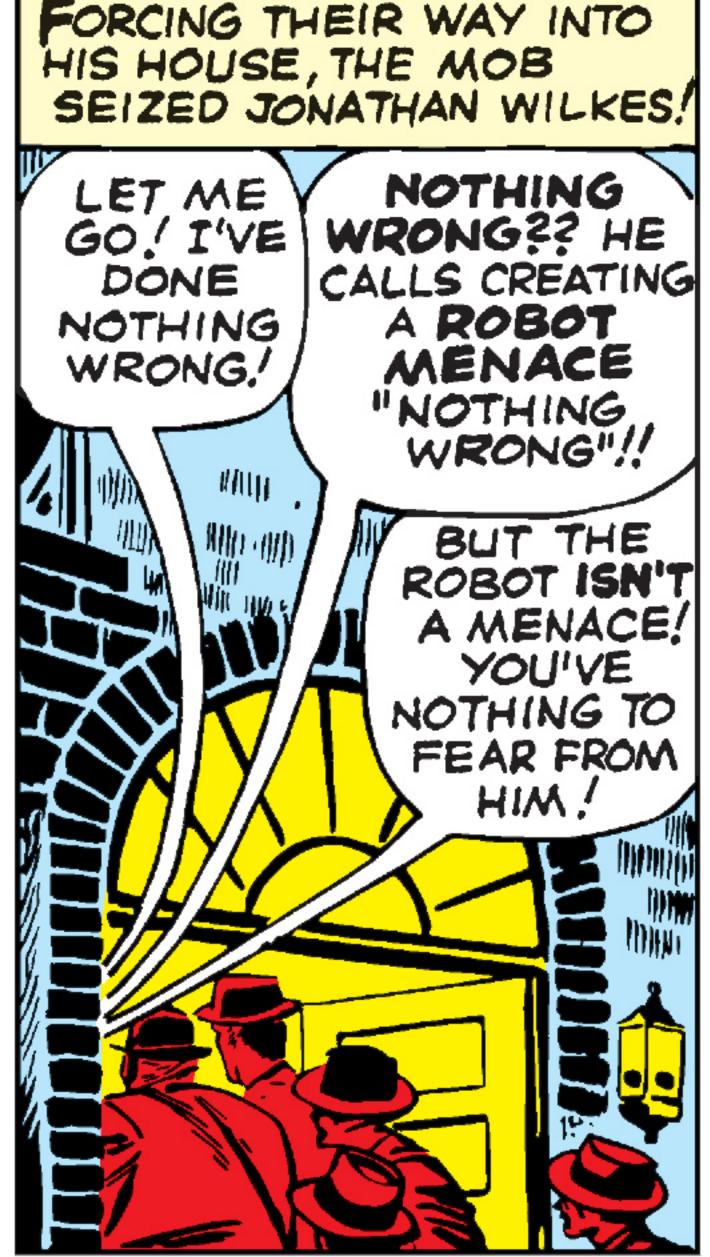


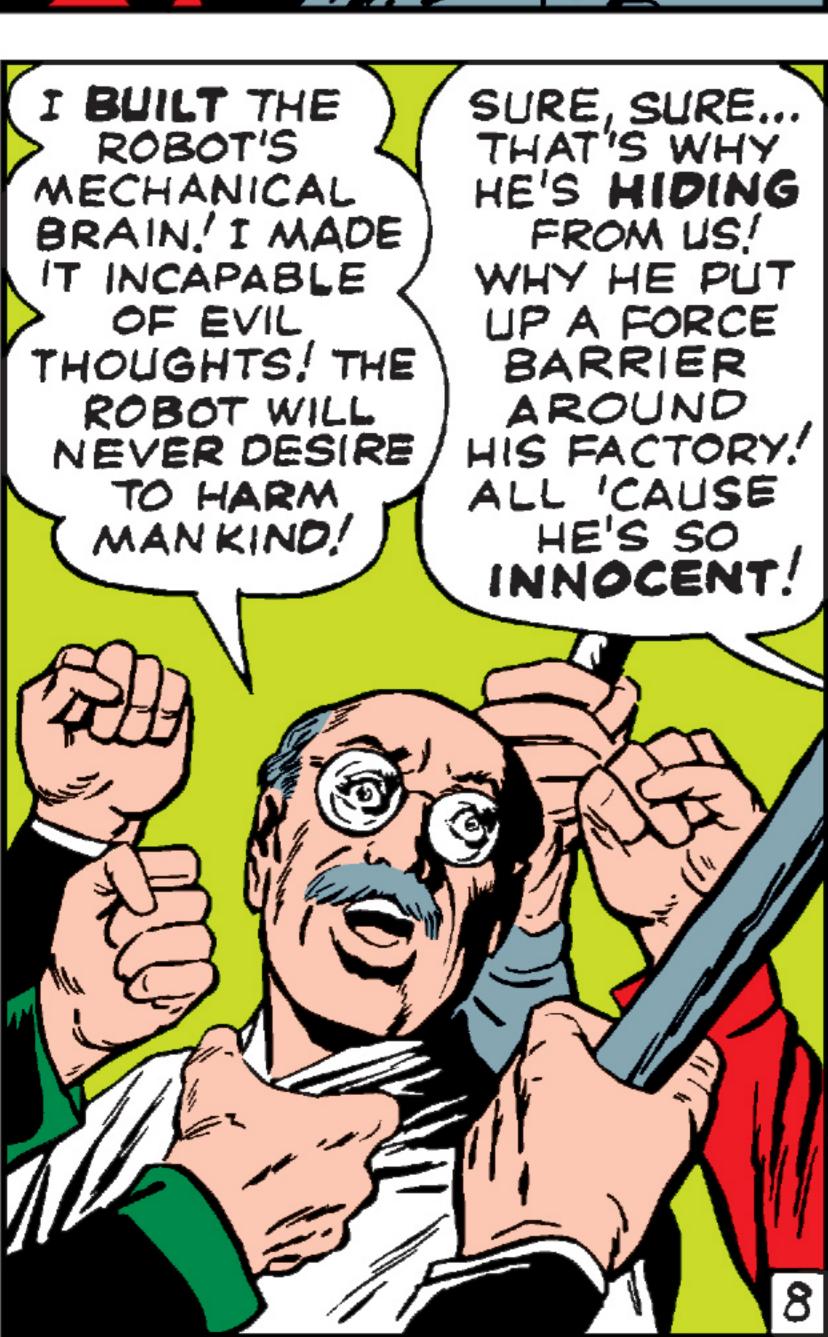




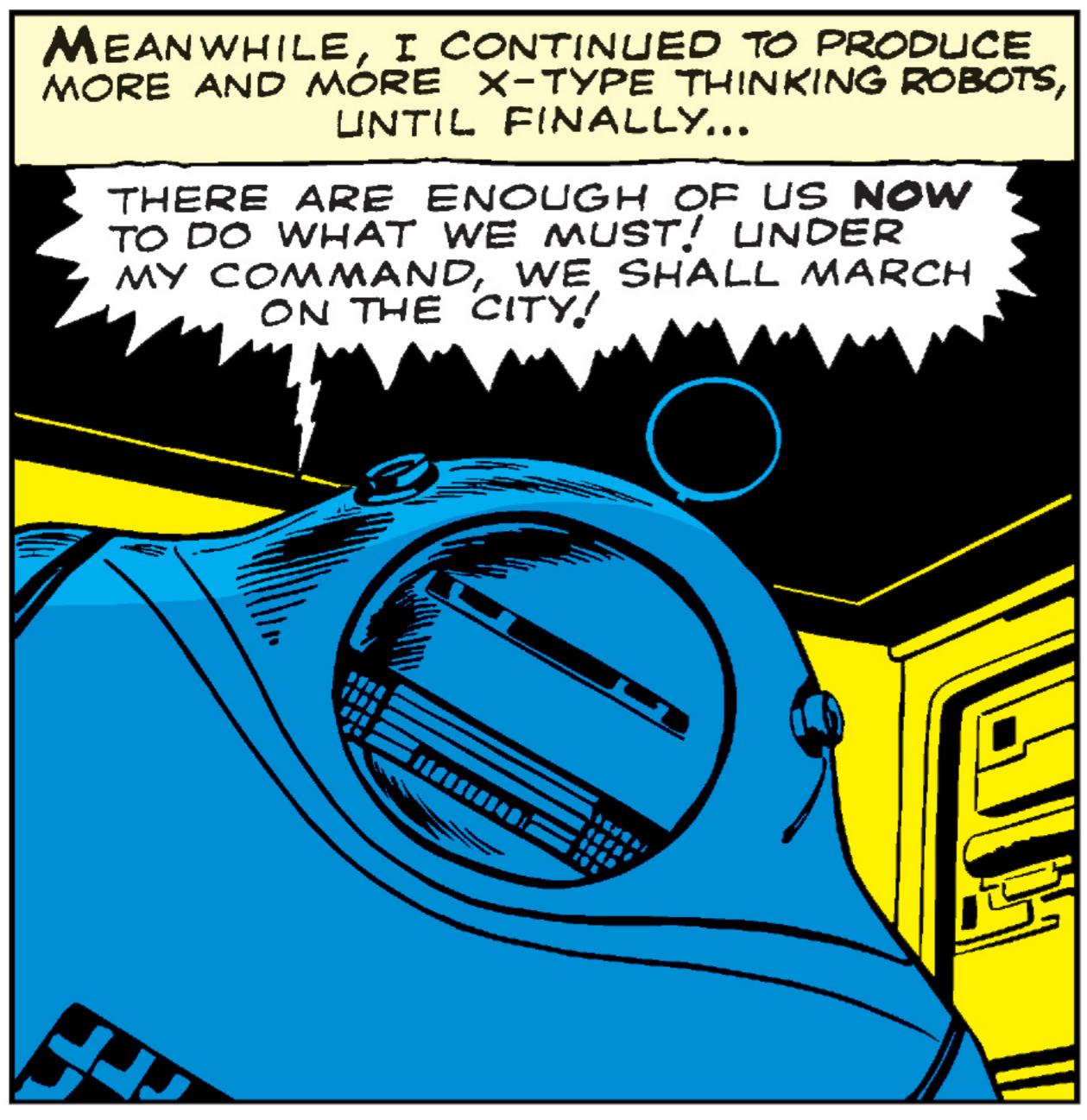


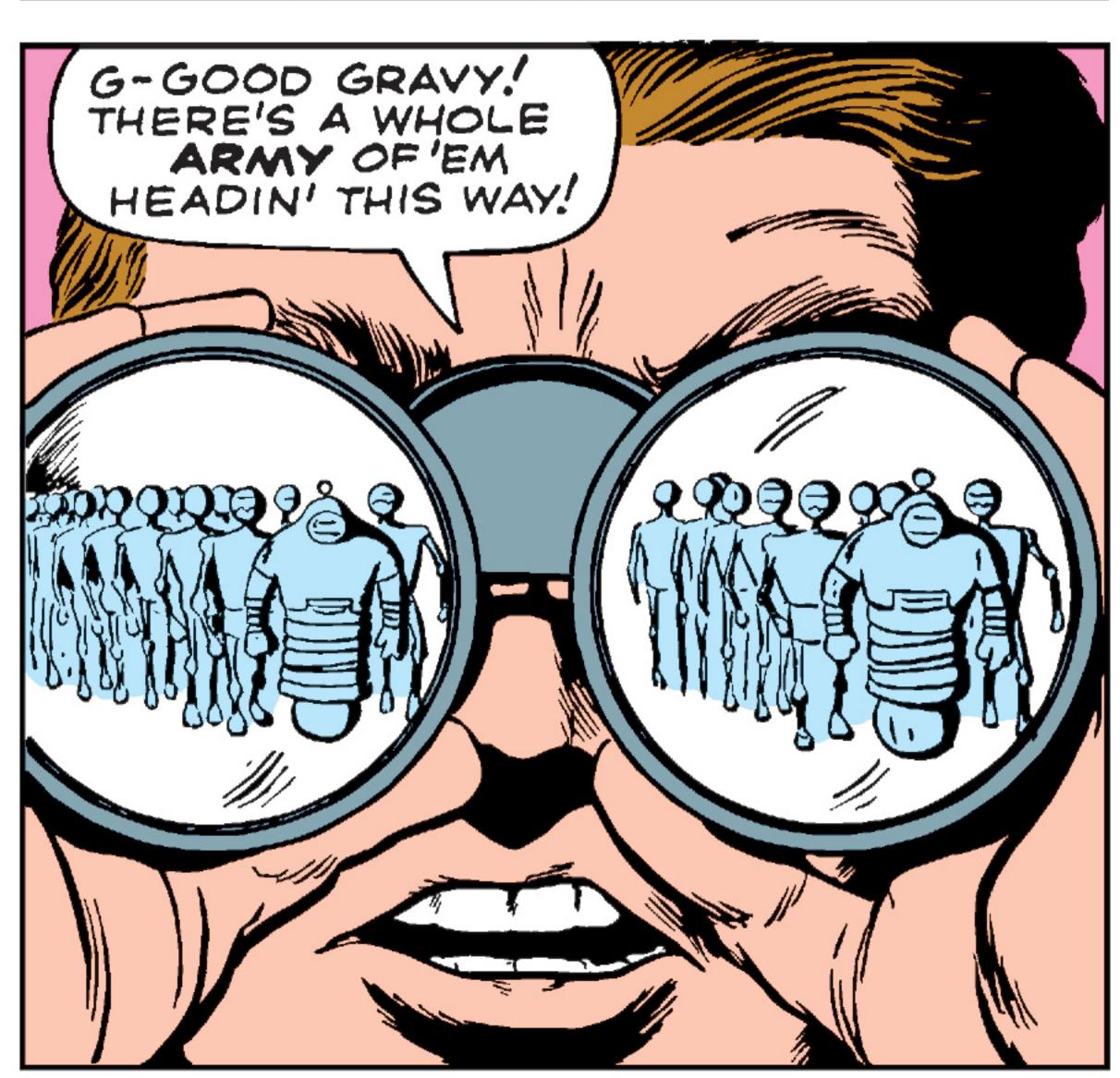




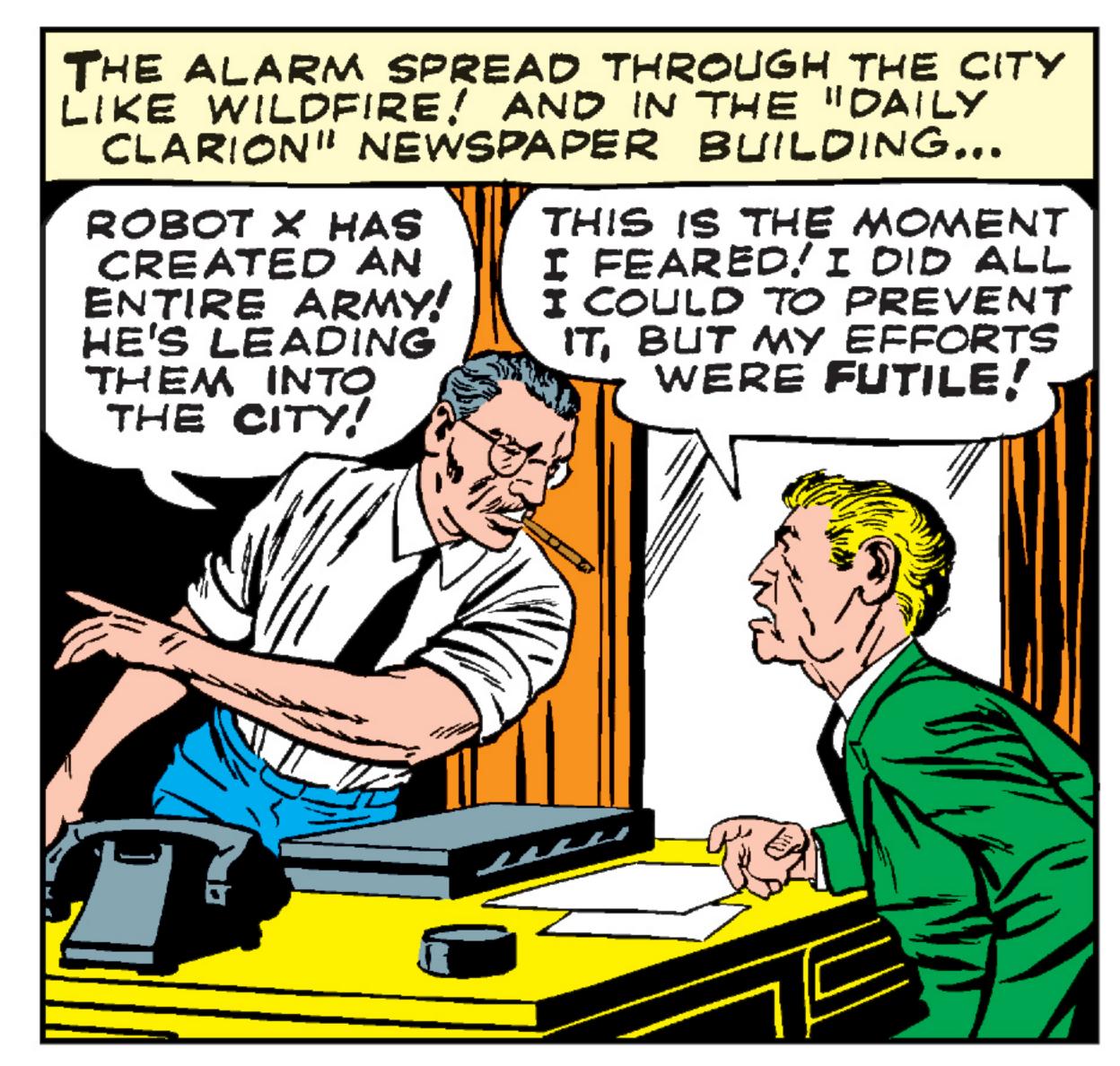


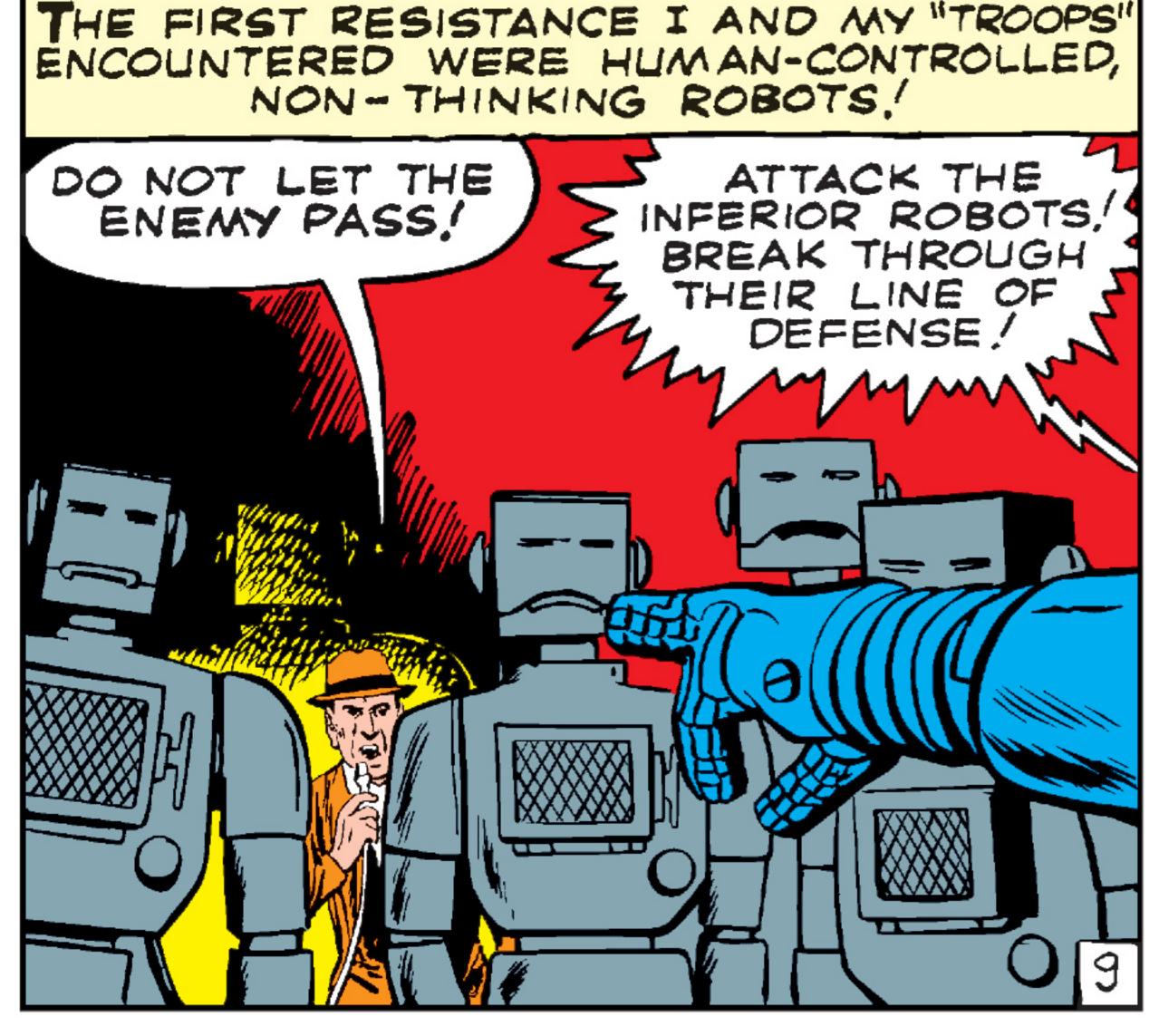


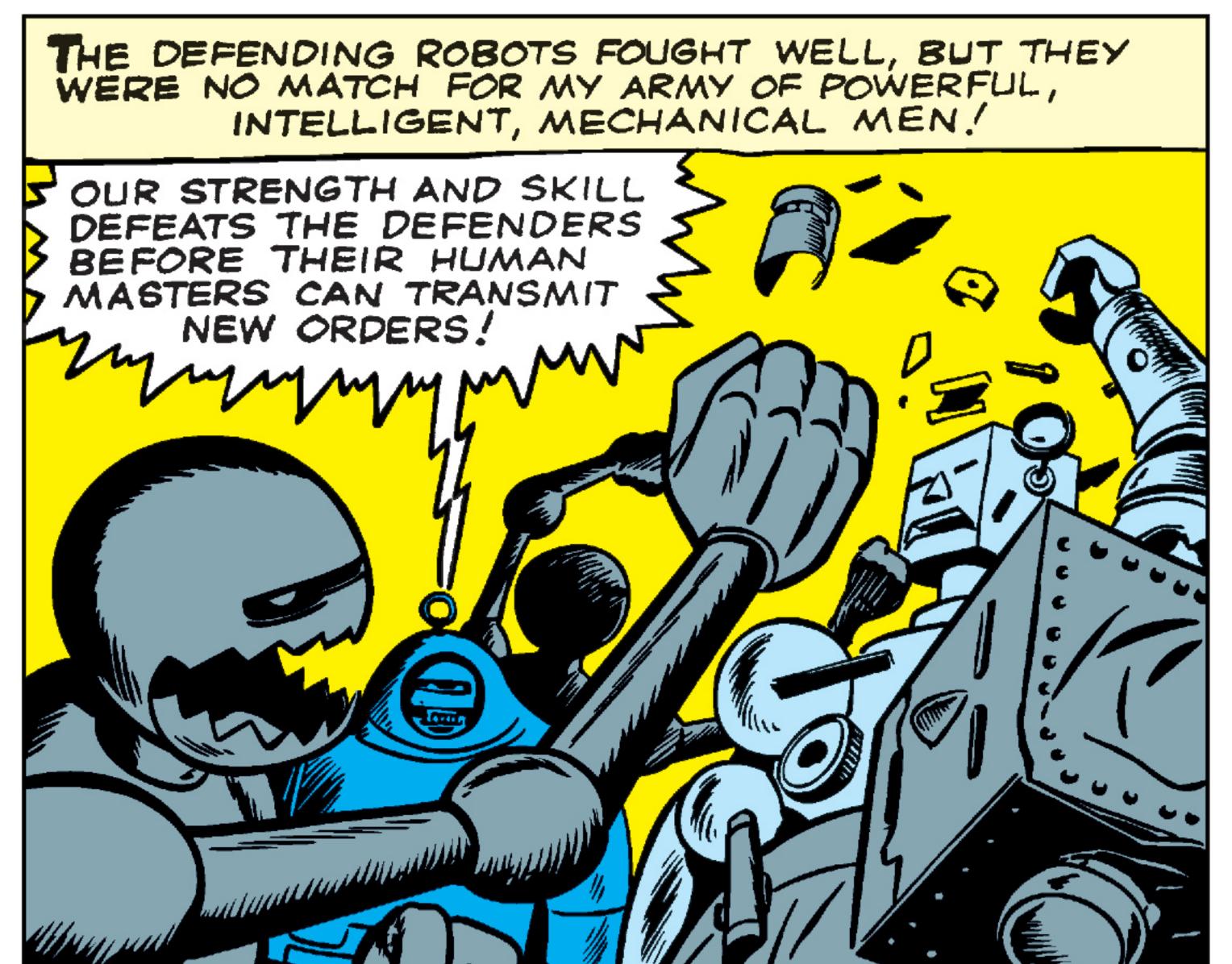




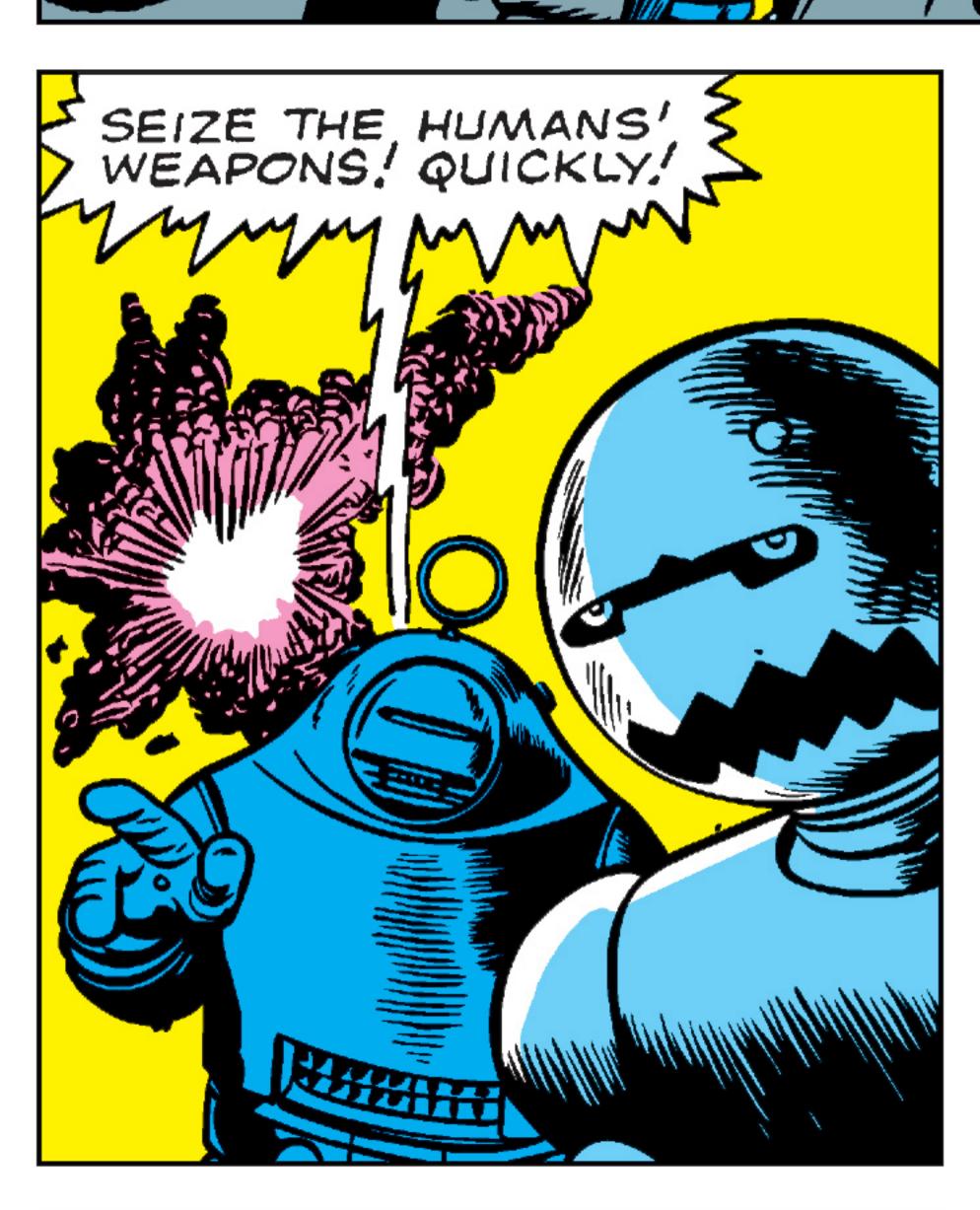


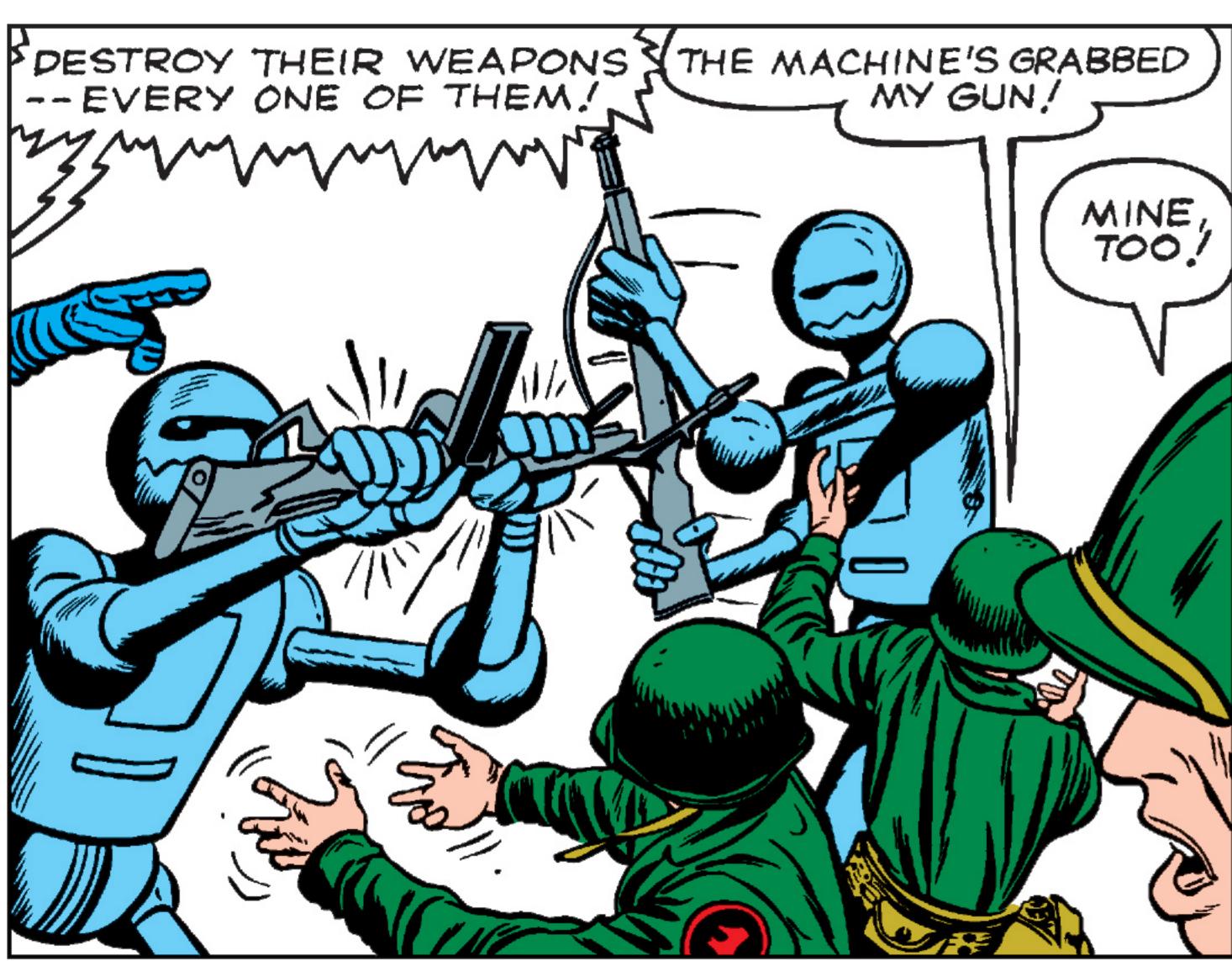


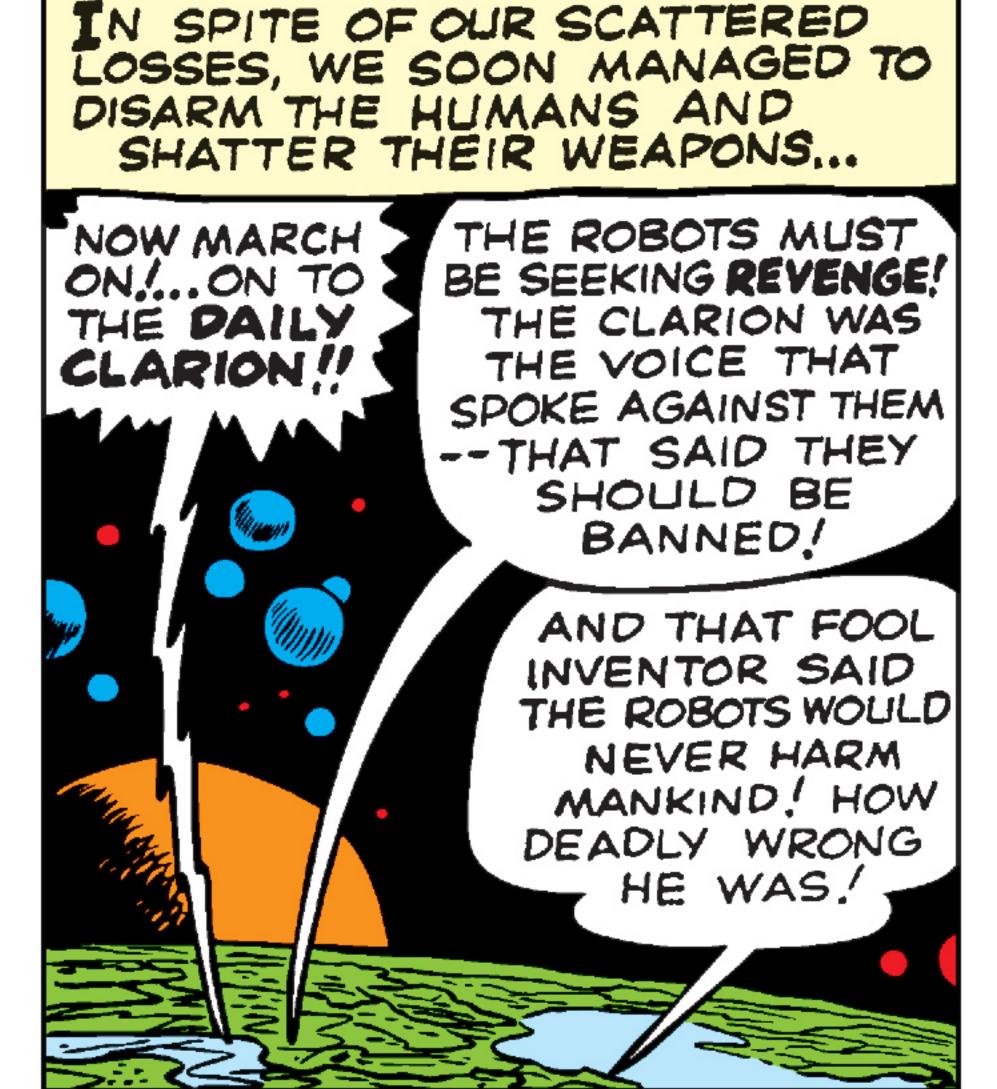






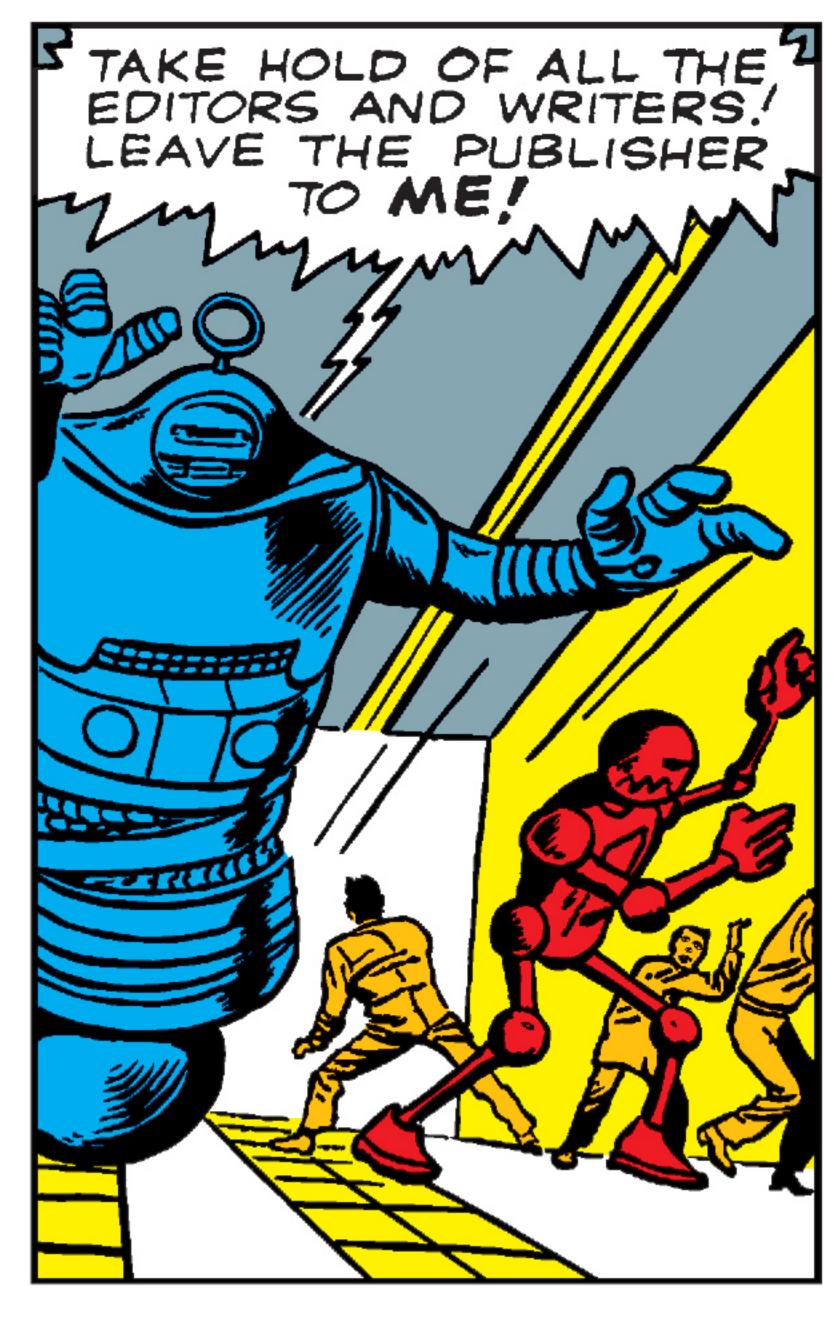


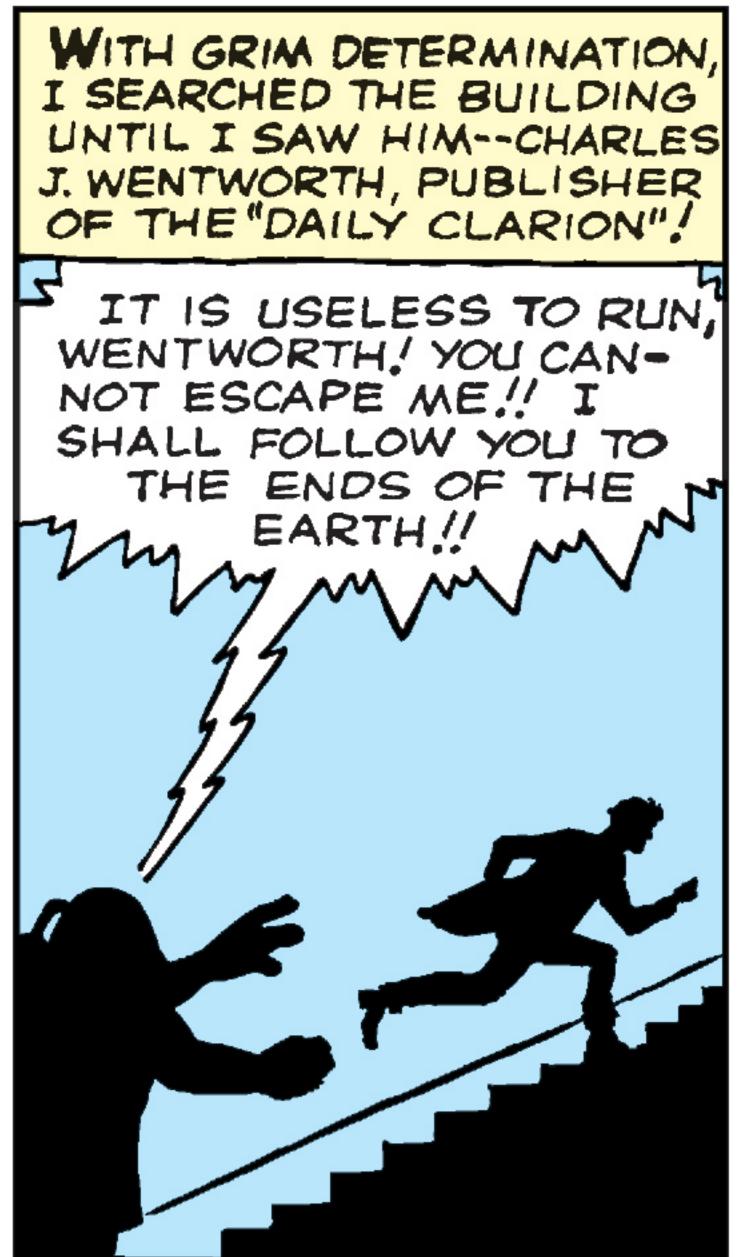


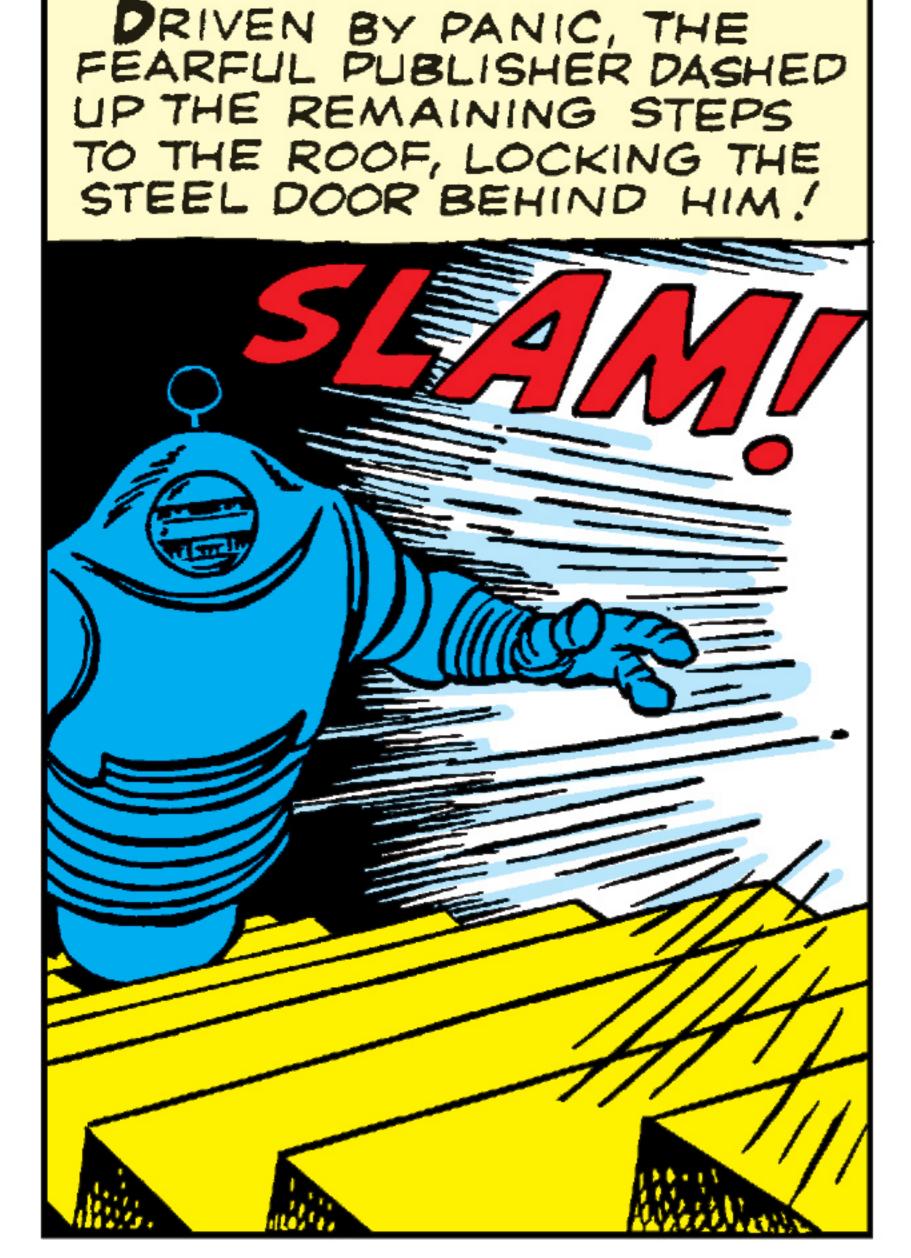


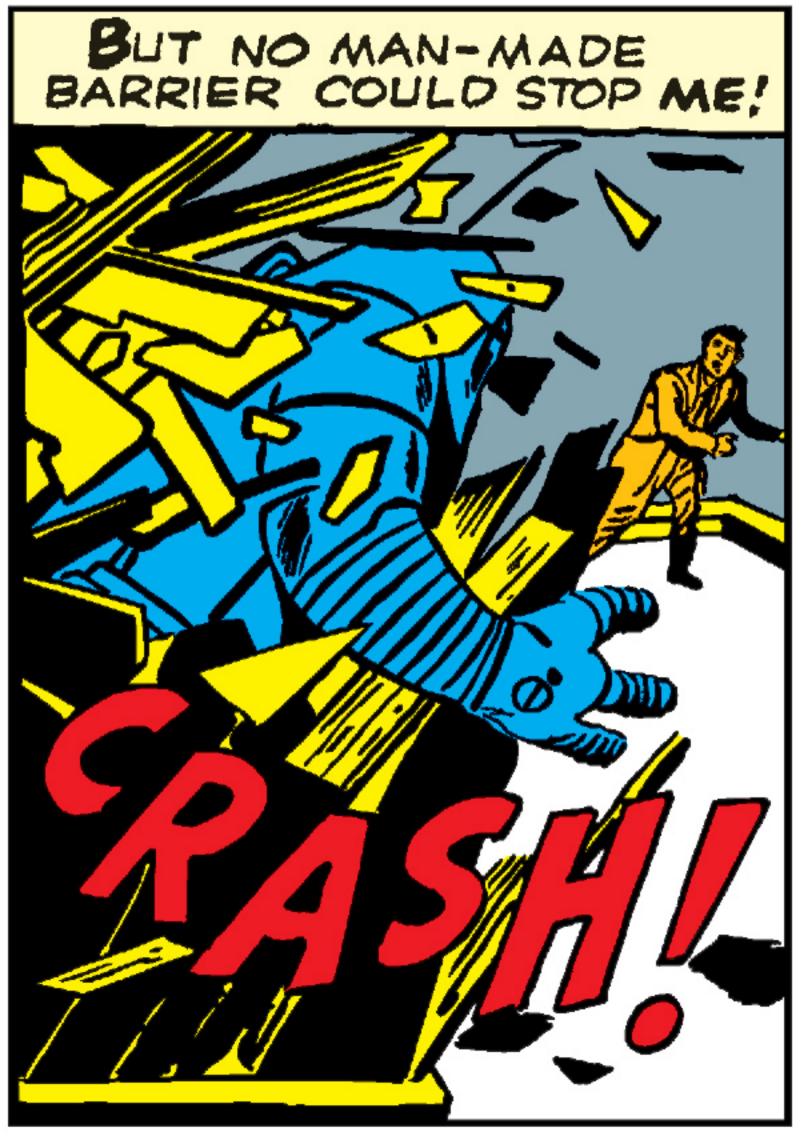




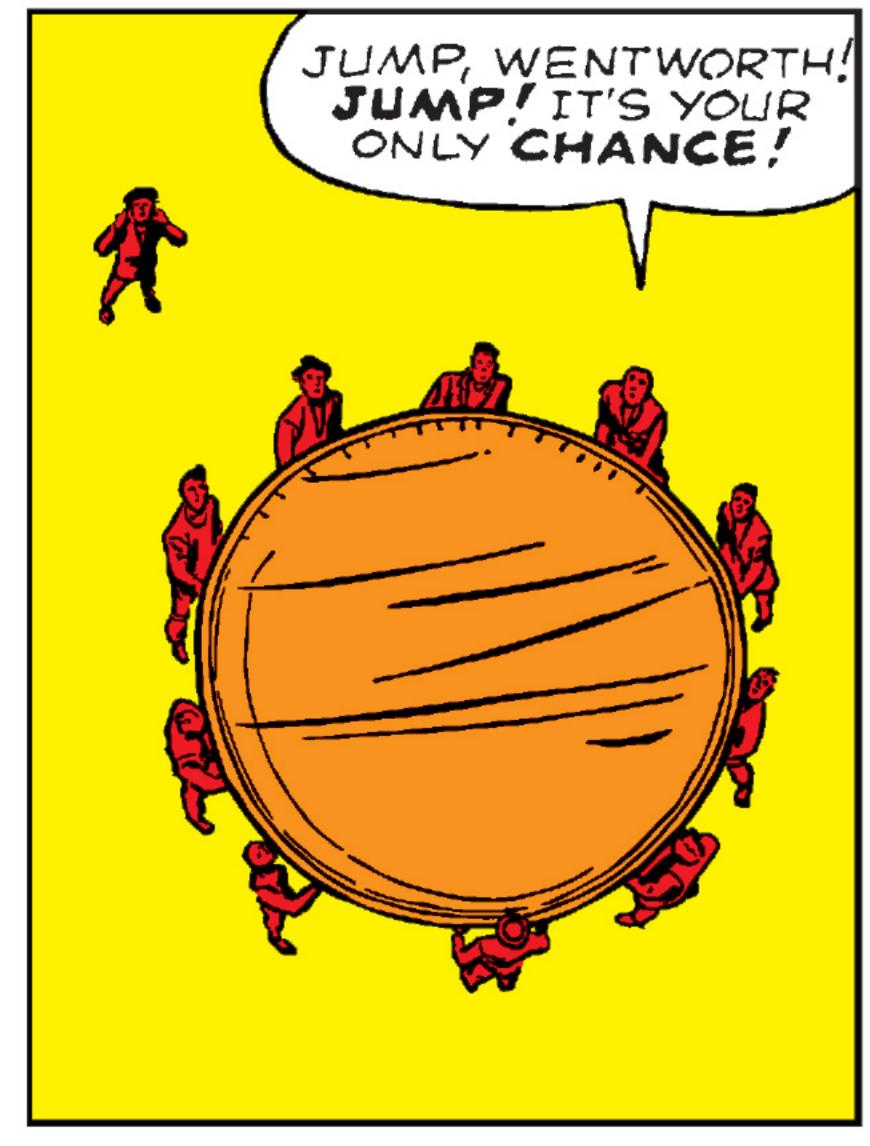


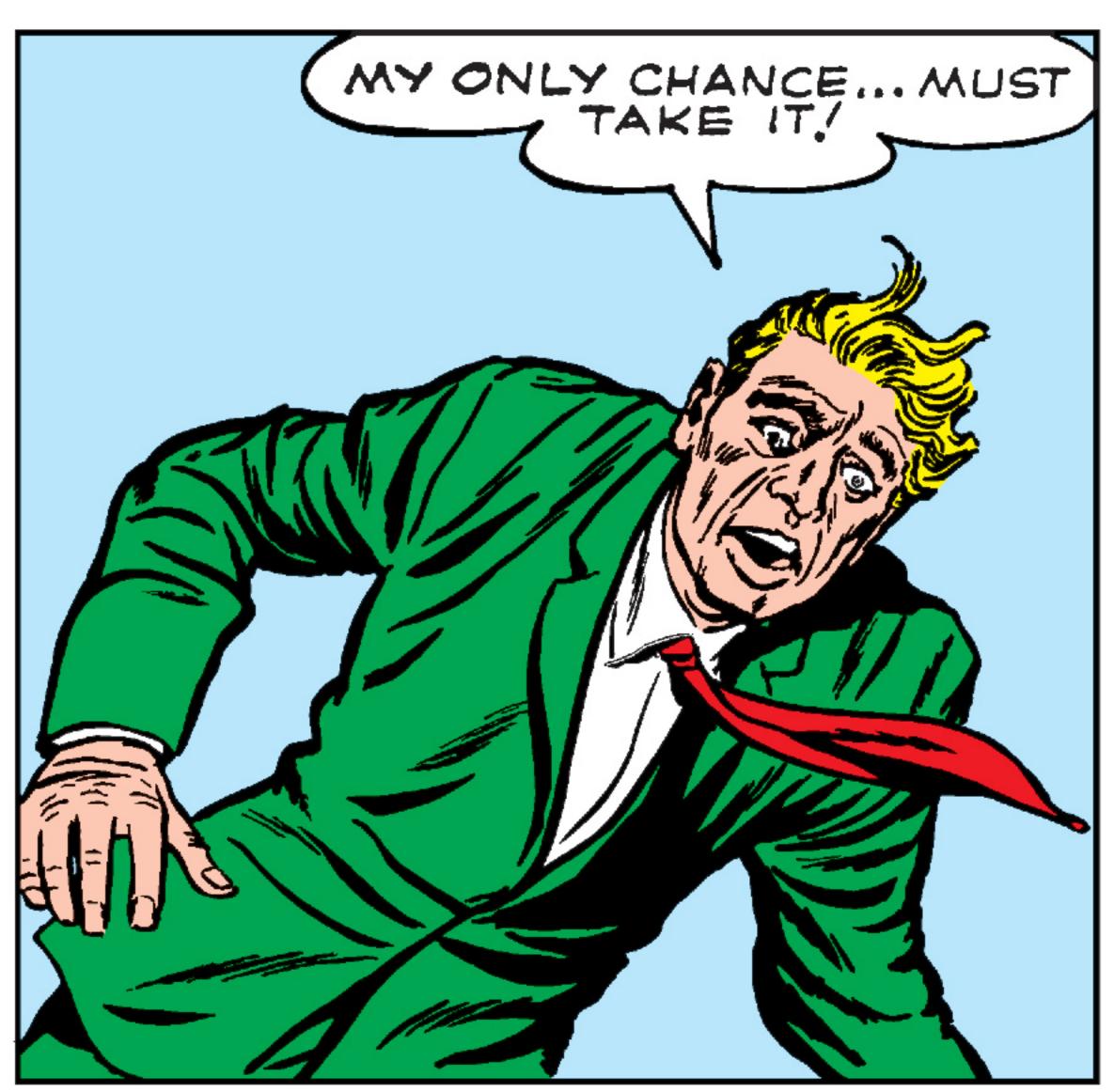


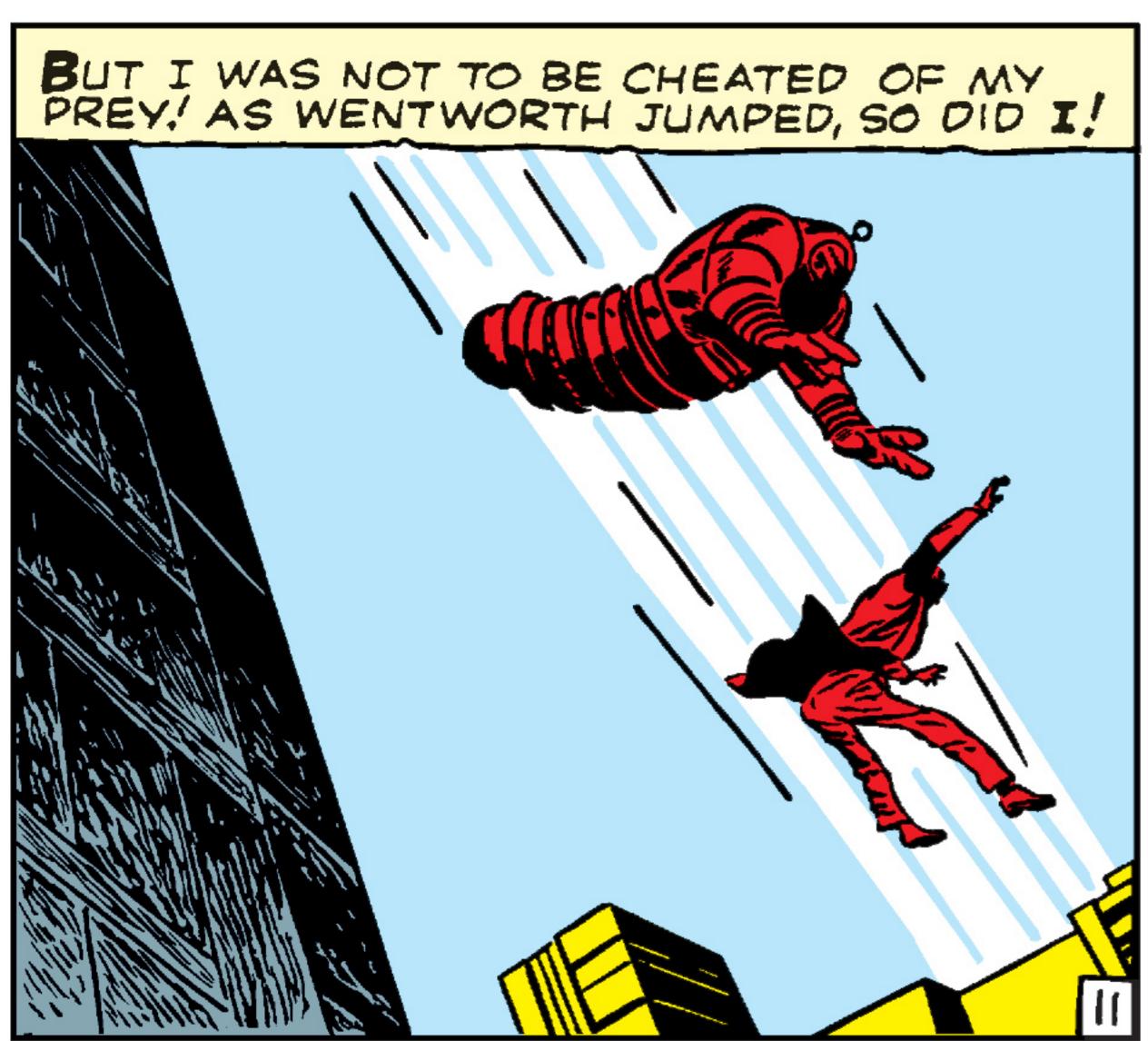


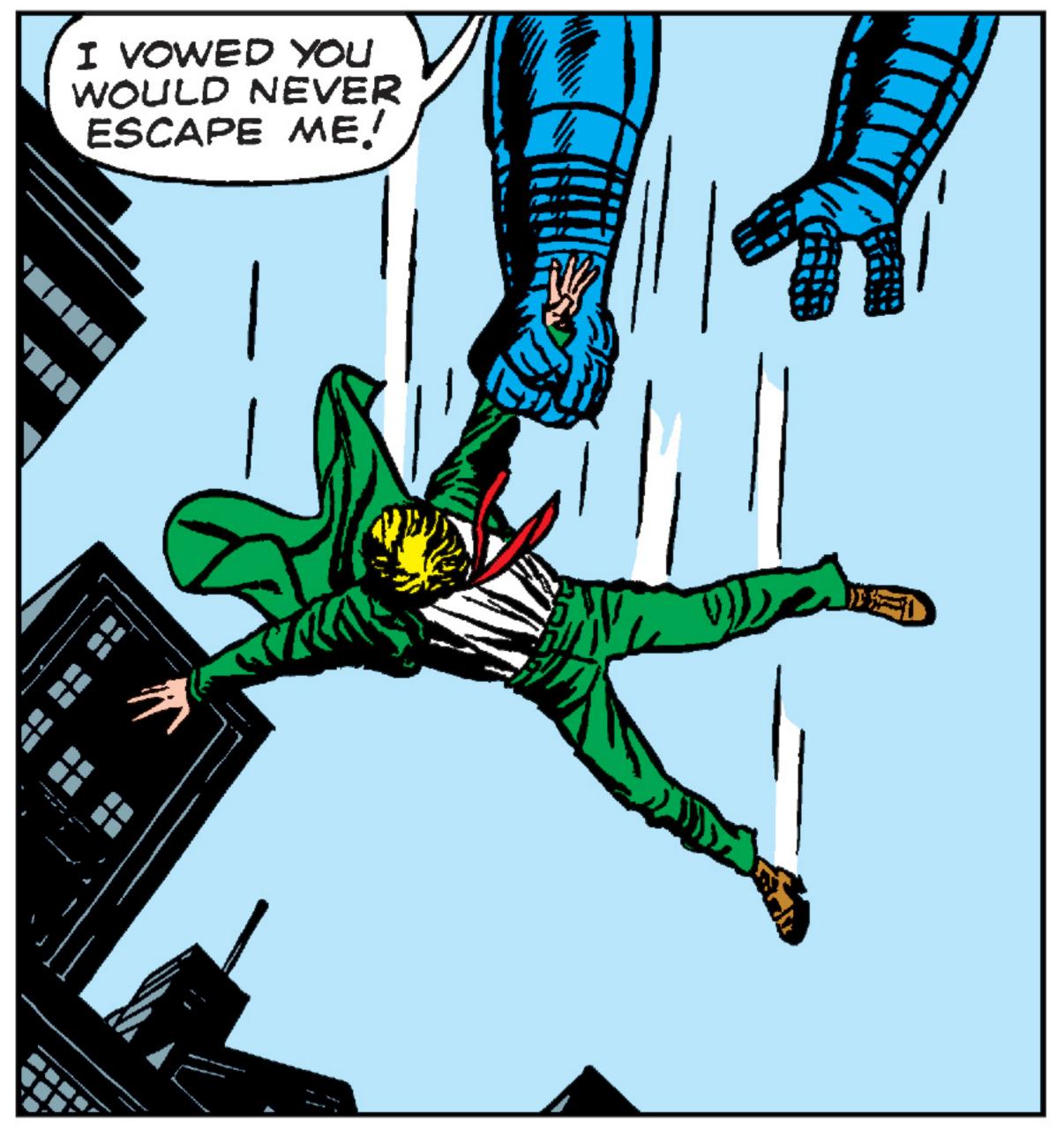




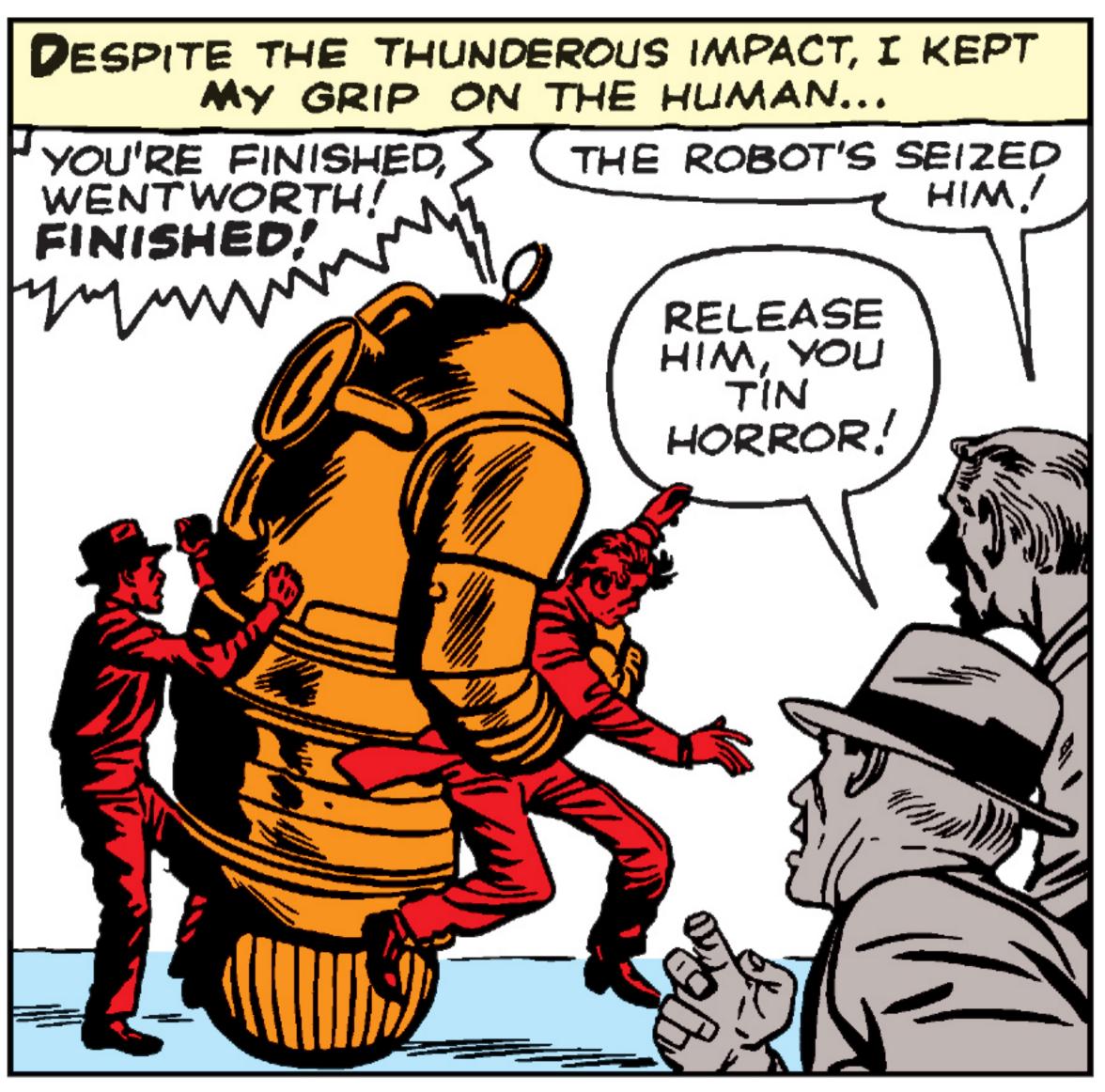


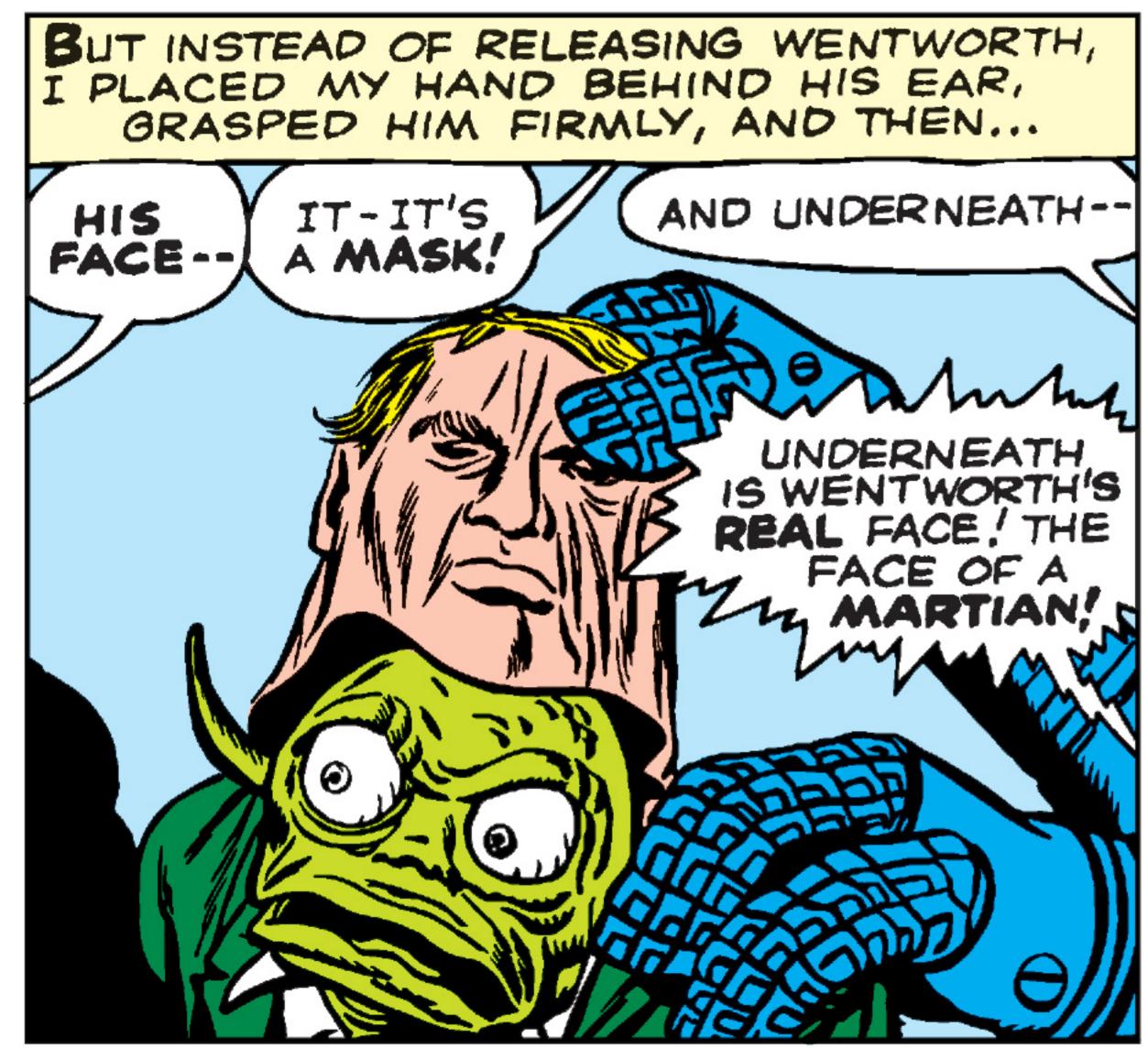


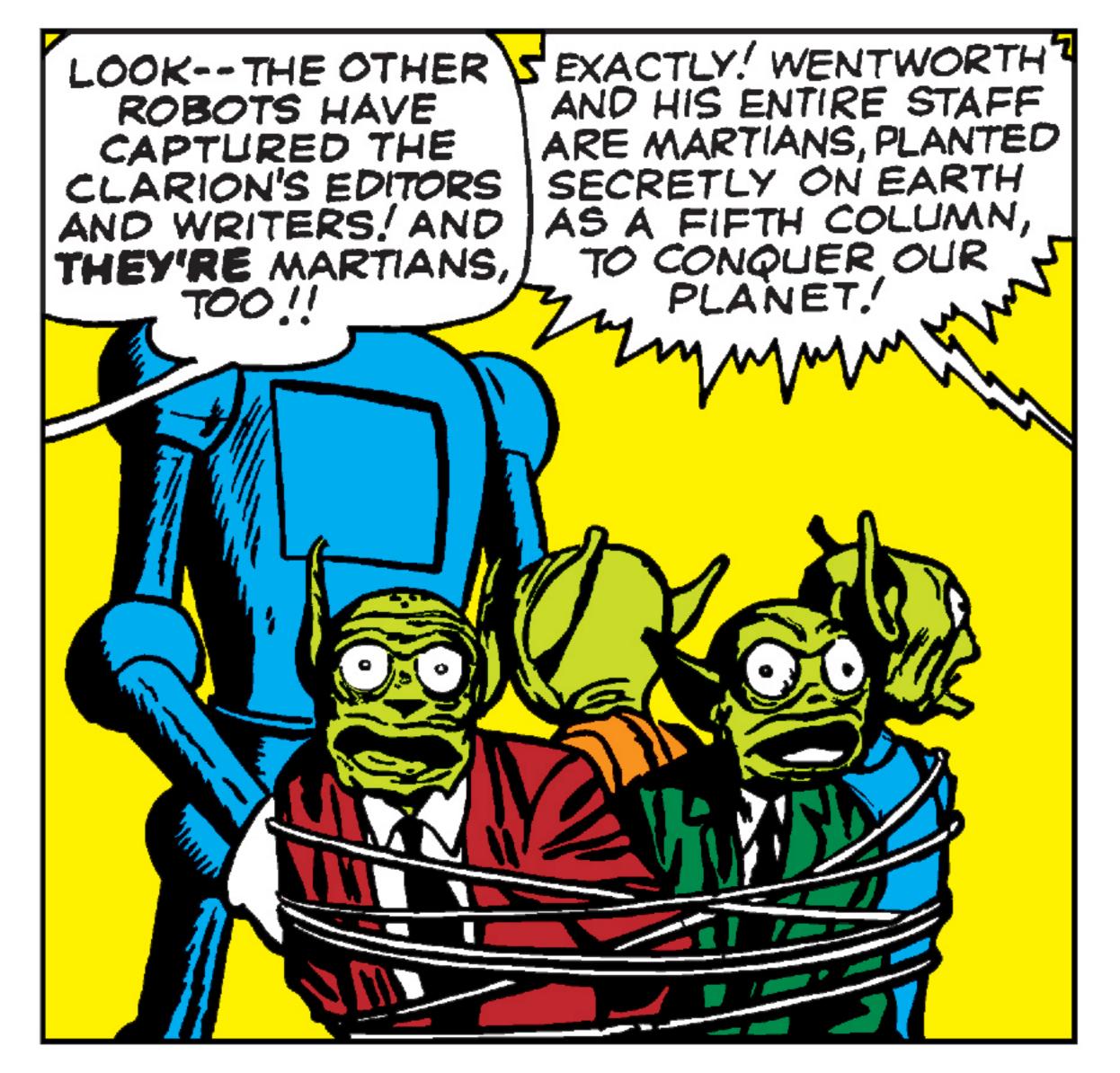


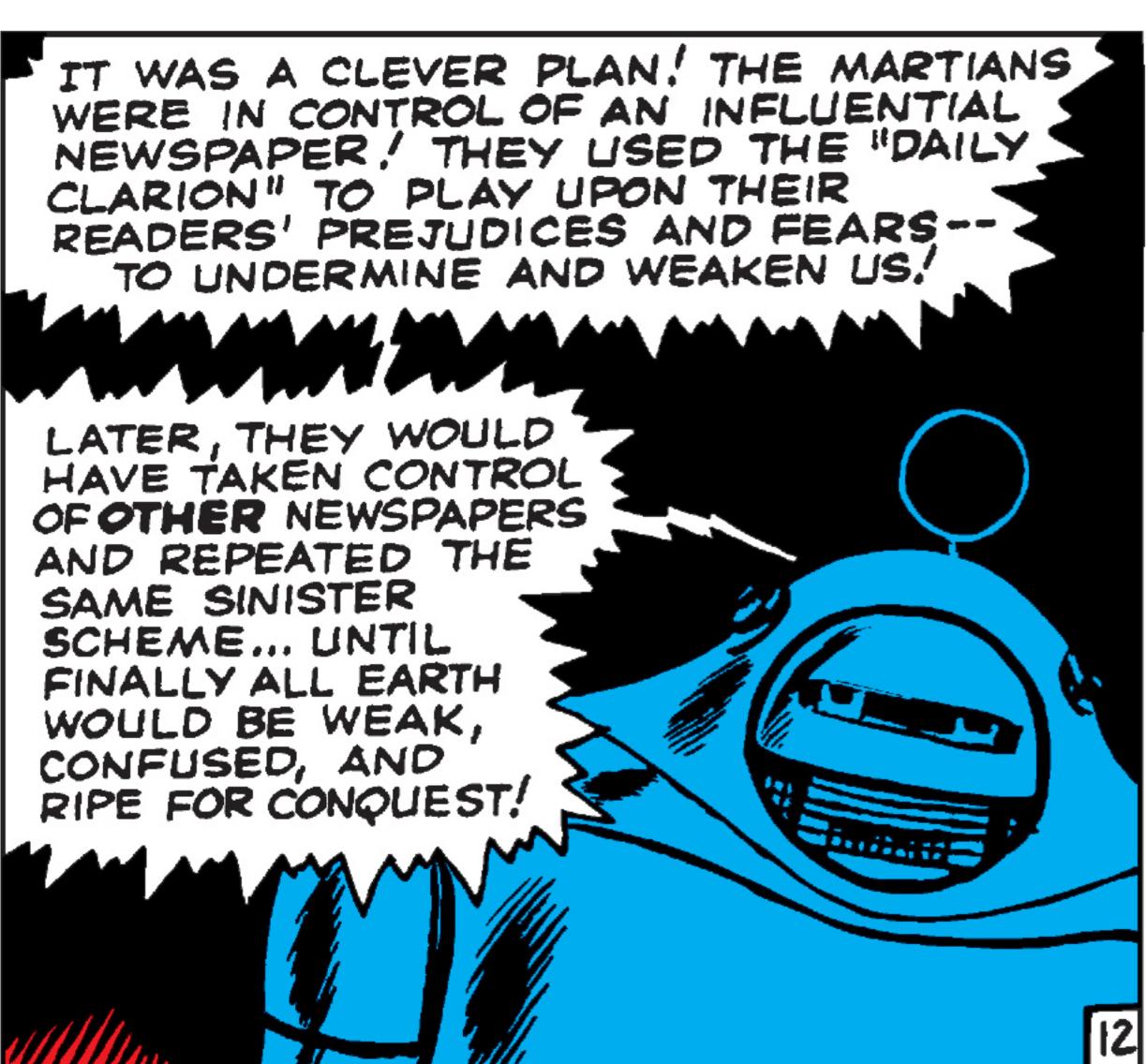




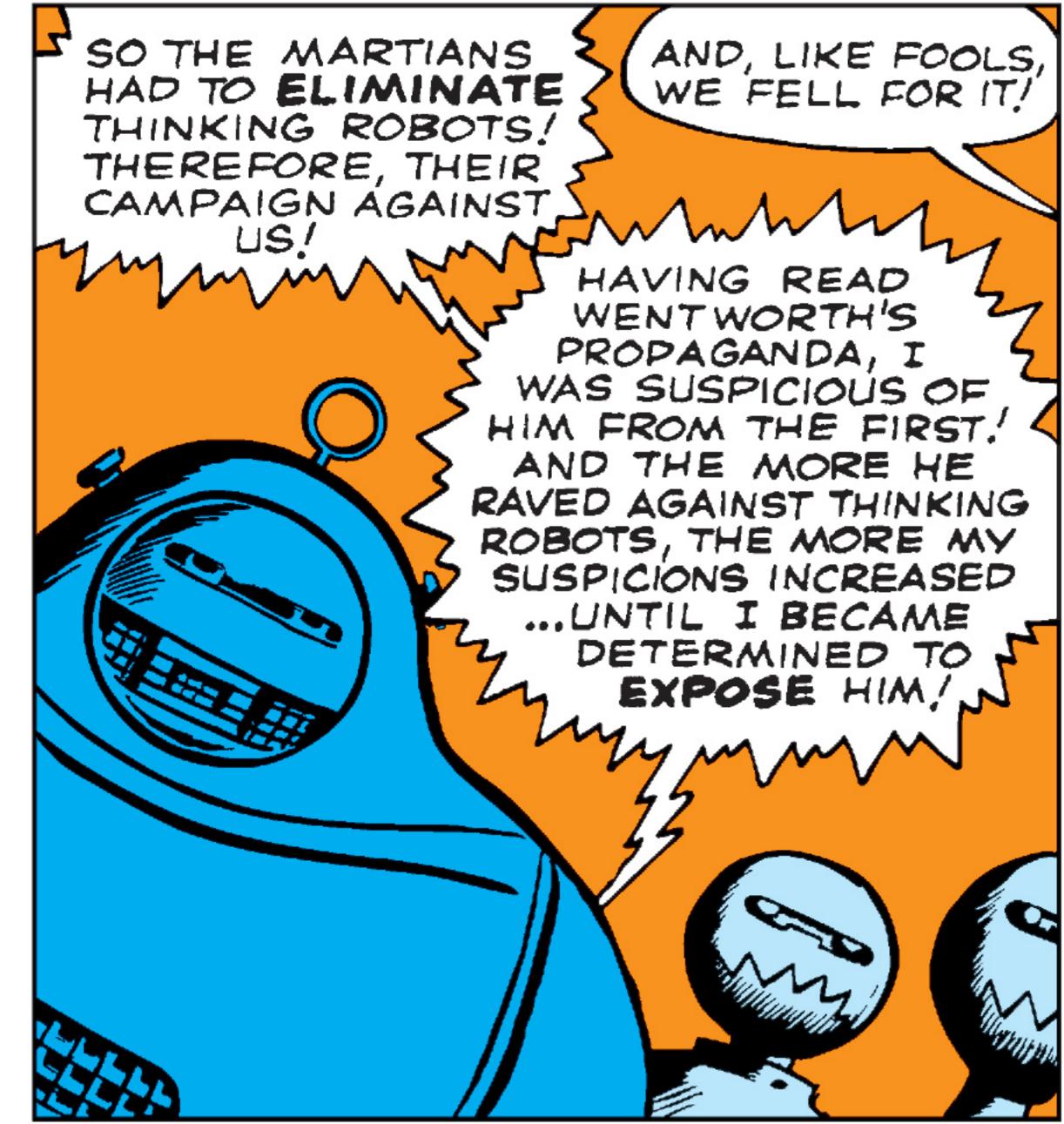


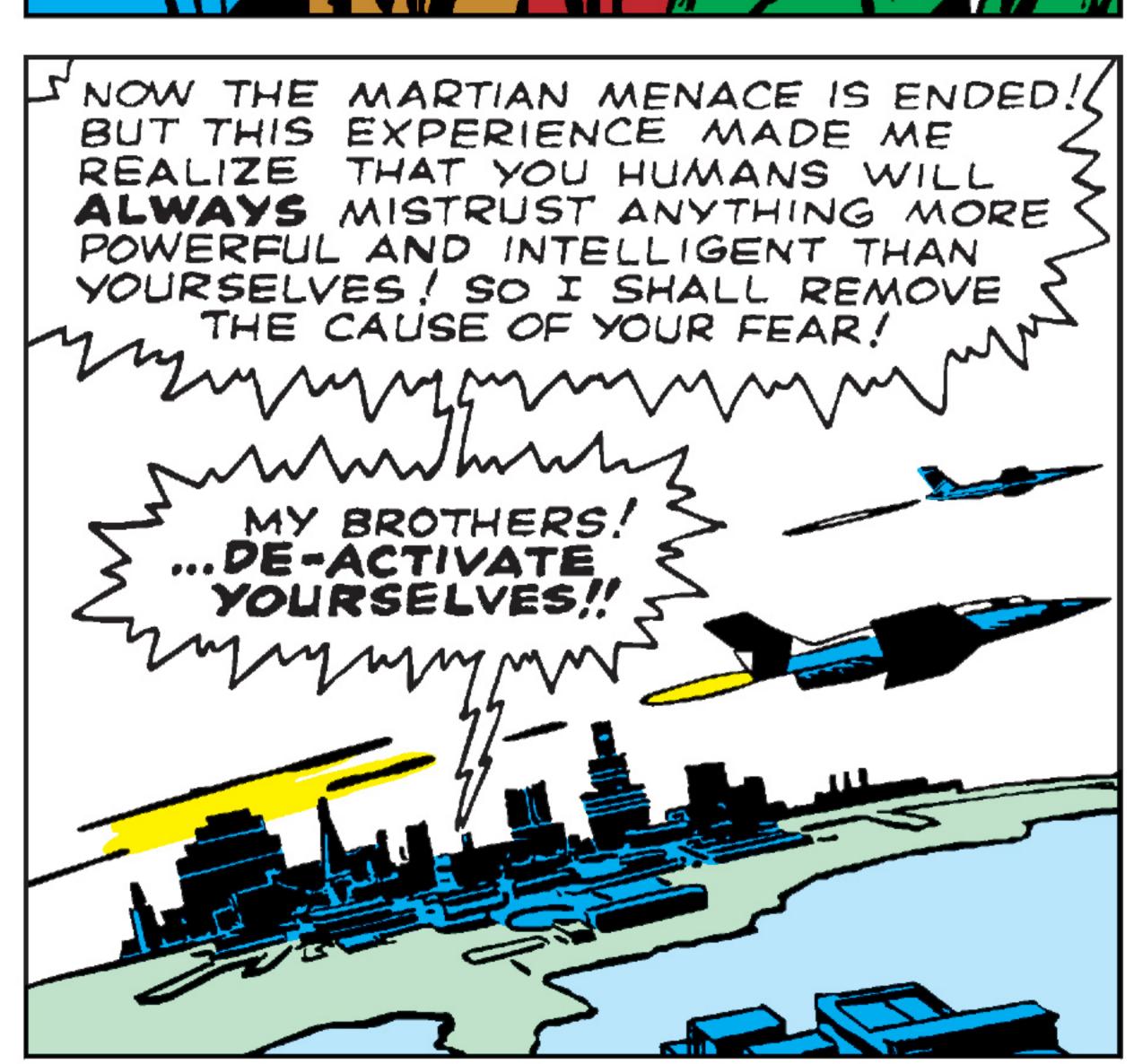


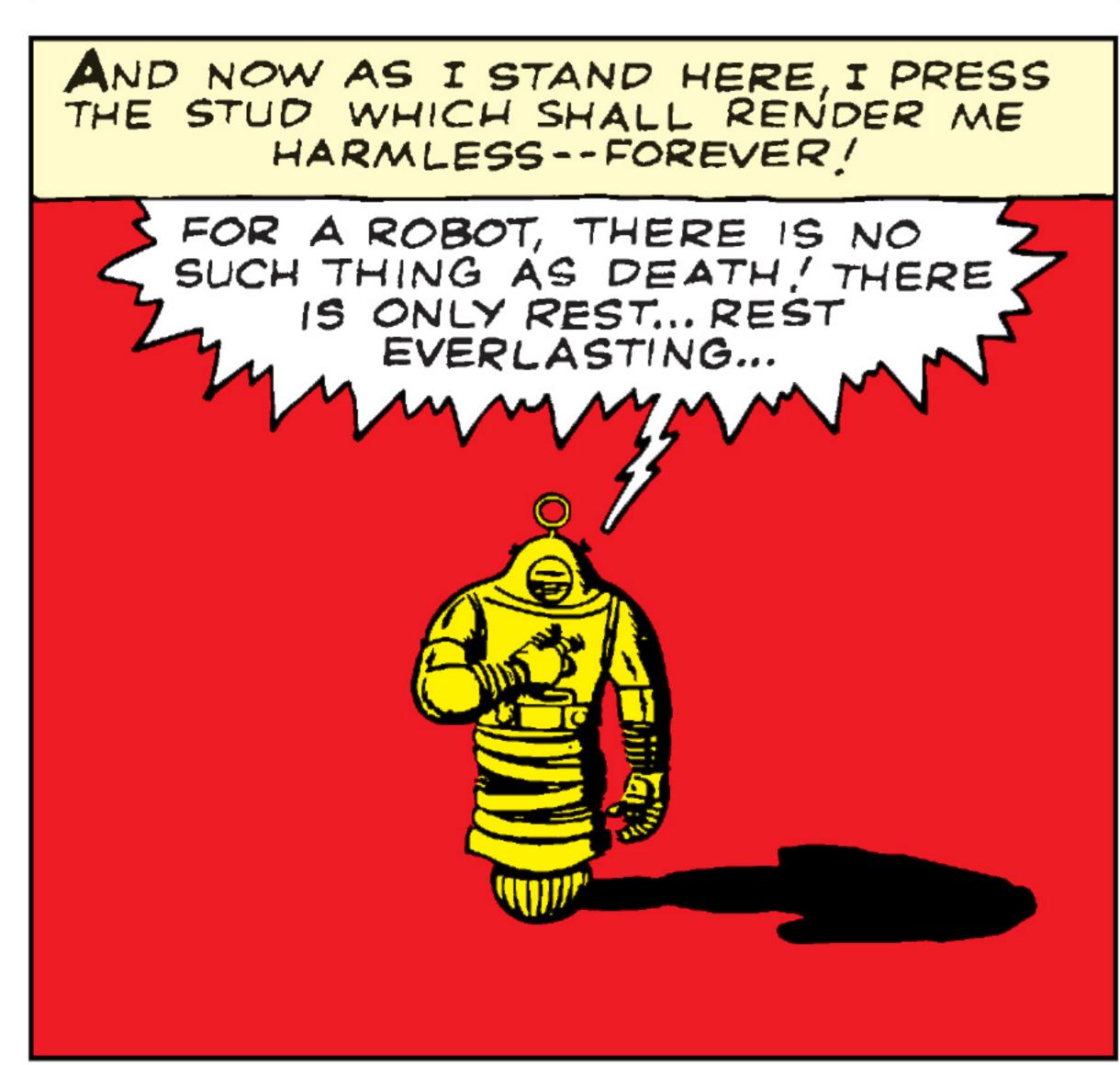


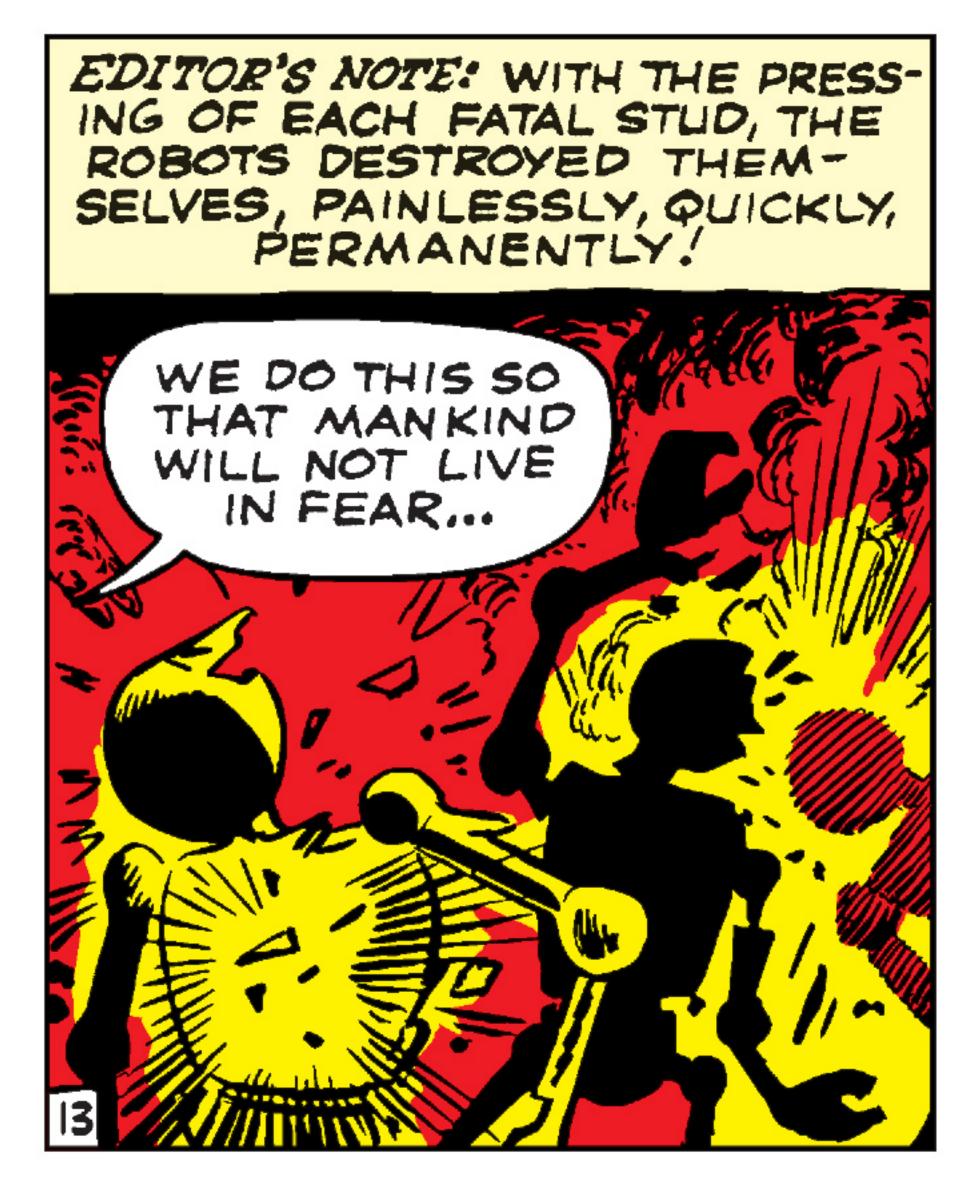




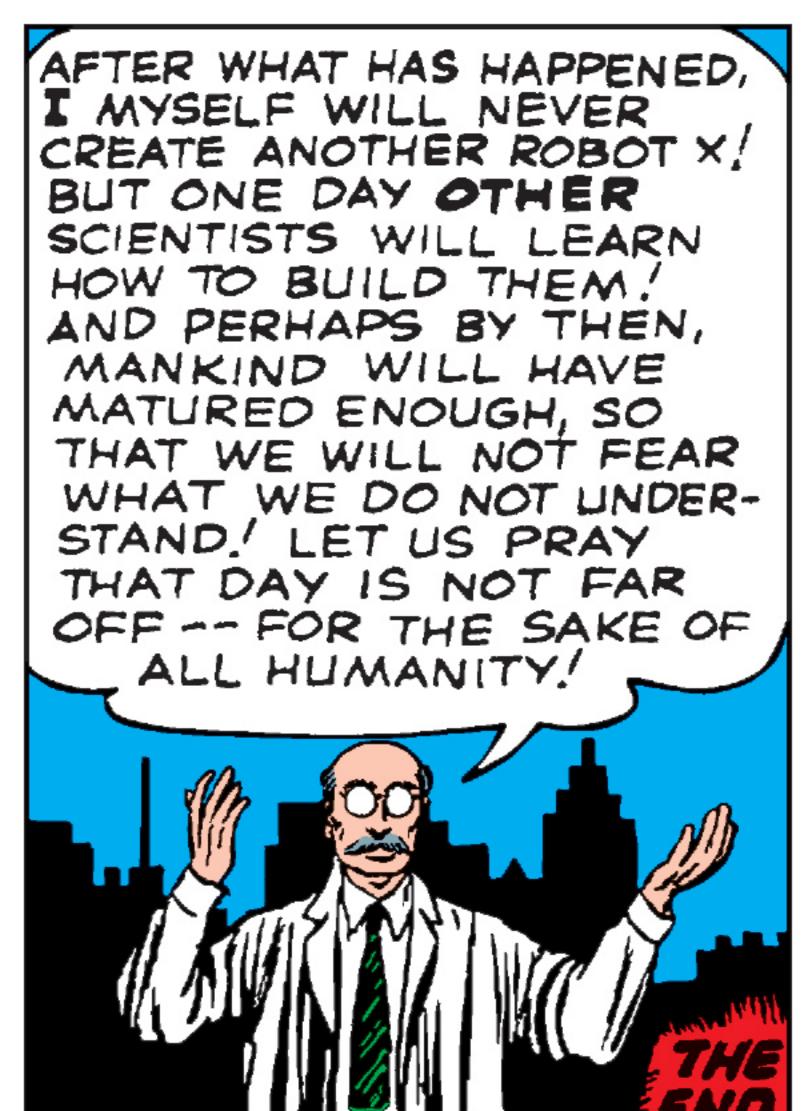












THE PACT

his attic studio opened and his No wonder I'm tired." young wife, Frances, came in Frances Conrad knew from and placed a tray on his already past experience, what to do cluttered desk.

you finish your last chapter," she said, "so I brought you some cold cuts of meat, a glass of milk, and a slice of apple pie. I'm going to bed . . . guess you'll be here until morning."

Henry Conrad turned toward his wife and smiled. Then he looked at that single sheet of paper and sighed. He needed more information about the past to finish his book and he was stuck.

"It was swell of Aunt Agatha to tell us we could spend the summer here in this old colonial house while she went to Europe. The atmosphere is perfect. It was in this very house that my ancestor, Branders Conrad, was accused of practising witchcraft. Most people are still under the impression that a witch is only a female. They don't know a witch can also be a man. That's why Morrison and Linster, the publishers, asked me to write a book on witchcraft in old co- a man of middle height. The was a funny little smile playing lonial days. If I could only find face was wrinkled but there was across his lips. He went to the the evidence, it would show a peculiar gleam in his sunken side of the wall and actually

THE tall, young man sat at his that people did think Branders black eyes. The stranger wore desk and stared steadily at Conrad secretly made a pact with an old blue coat and pantaloons the sheet of paper in his type- the devil. But how can I prove of a bygone day. He might have writer. One more sentence to it? I can't logically interview been seventy or eighty. Without write and then his book on either Branders Conrad or the invitation, the man limped over witchcraft would be finished! devil. Yet, I have to give my to a chair and seated himself. He was tired . . . The door to opinion at the end of the book. "Of course you want to know

under these circumstances. She "I know you won't eat until kissed her husband goodnight and then tiptoed out of the room.

> "Don't work later than 3 in the morning," she advised him.

about company coming to visit self." us tonight. It's really pouring cats and dogs. Goodnight, darling, and I hope you find the answers to those questions."

Henry went back to some of the old manuscripts he had borrowed from the State University ... records of old witchcraft trials. Hours passed as he concentrated on . . . suddenly, he heard footsteps!

"Pardon me," said an unfamiliar voice, "But I thought I might be able to help you. Every- er of second sight so he could one in the village knows that look into the future. Can you the young and brilliant writer, tell me something about this Mr. Henry Conrad, is at present pact? The reference books I've busily engaged on a book con- examined have very little on the cerning the art and practises of subject." witchcraft in ye olden days."

my name," he began, in an accent that seemed strange and out of date, "and I have many names in many lands. Some people spend a lifetime looking for me. You might refer to me as the Uninvited Guest. Though I am sure you won't be shocked "You won't have to worry if I told you I were Satan him-

> Henry could hardly keep from smiling. He had half a mind to throw the old gentleman out but then he decided he'd humor the stranger and perhaps learn something about the past. So half-jokingly, he remarked.

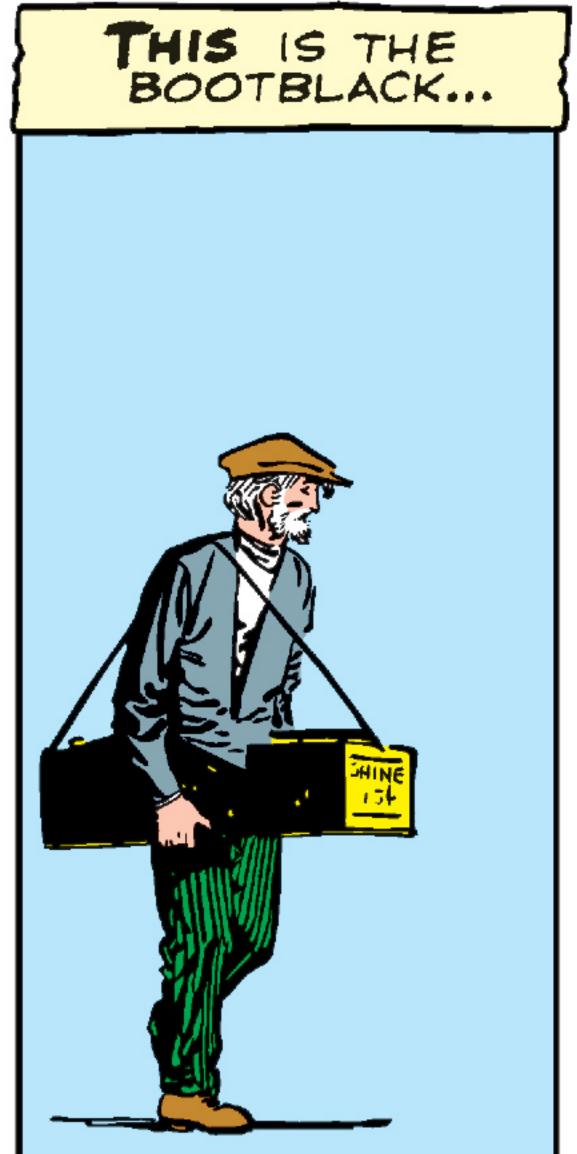
> "My ancestor, Branders Conrad, was accused of making a secret pact with the devil. And since you say you're Satan, that means with you. He sold his soul and in return got the pow-

The Uninvited Guest arose Henry turned around and saw from his chair and bowed. There

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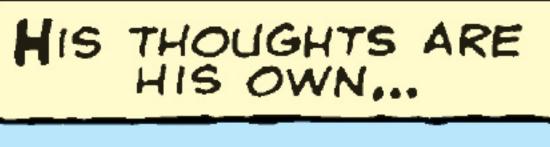
WHO OR WHAT WAS... THE





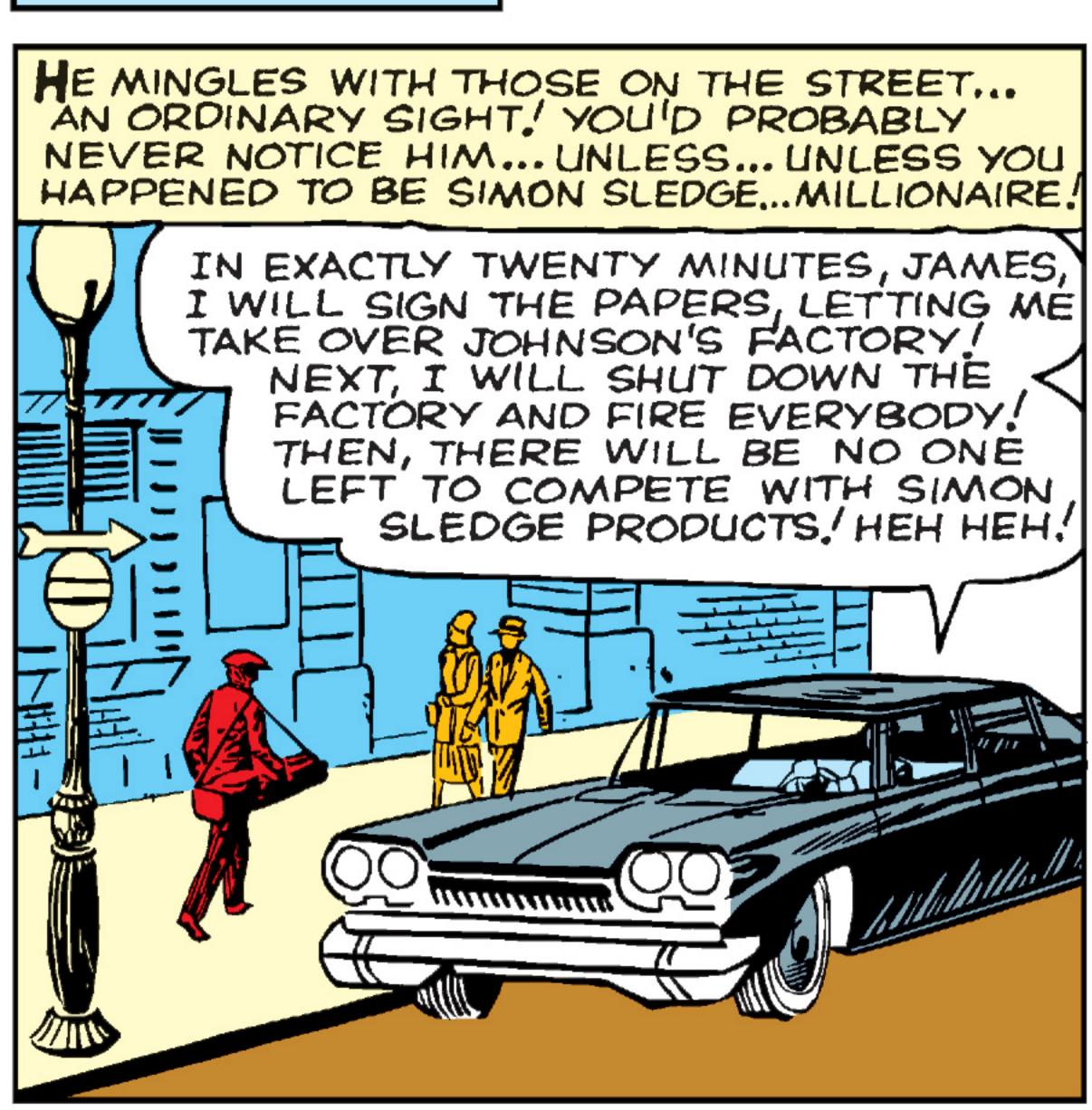


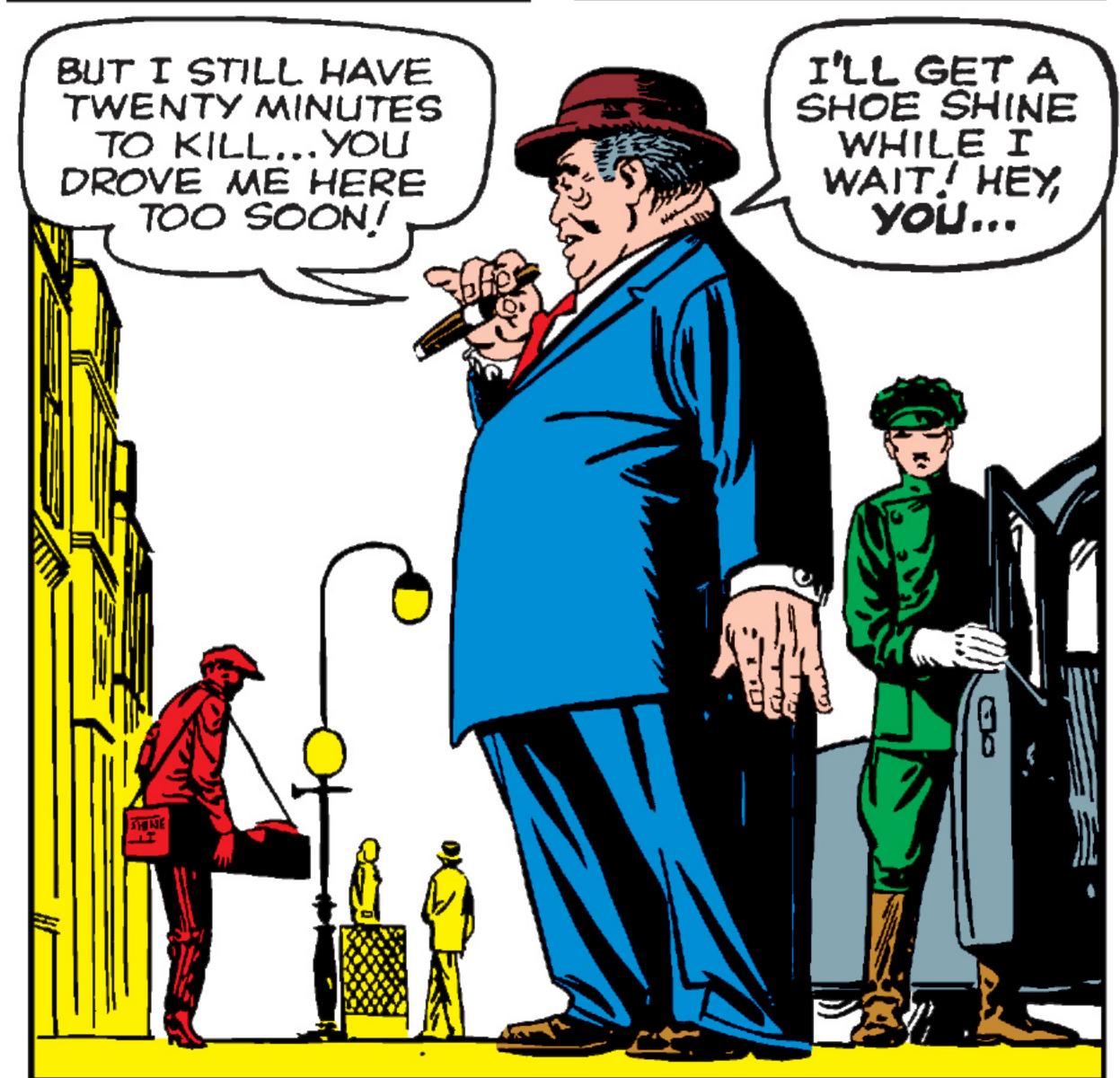










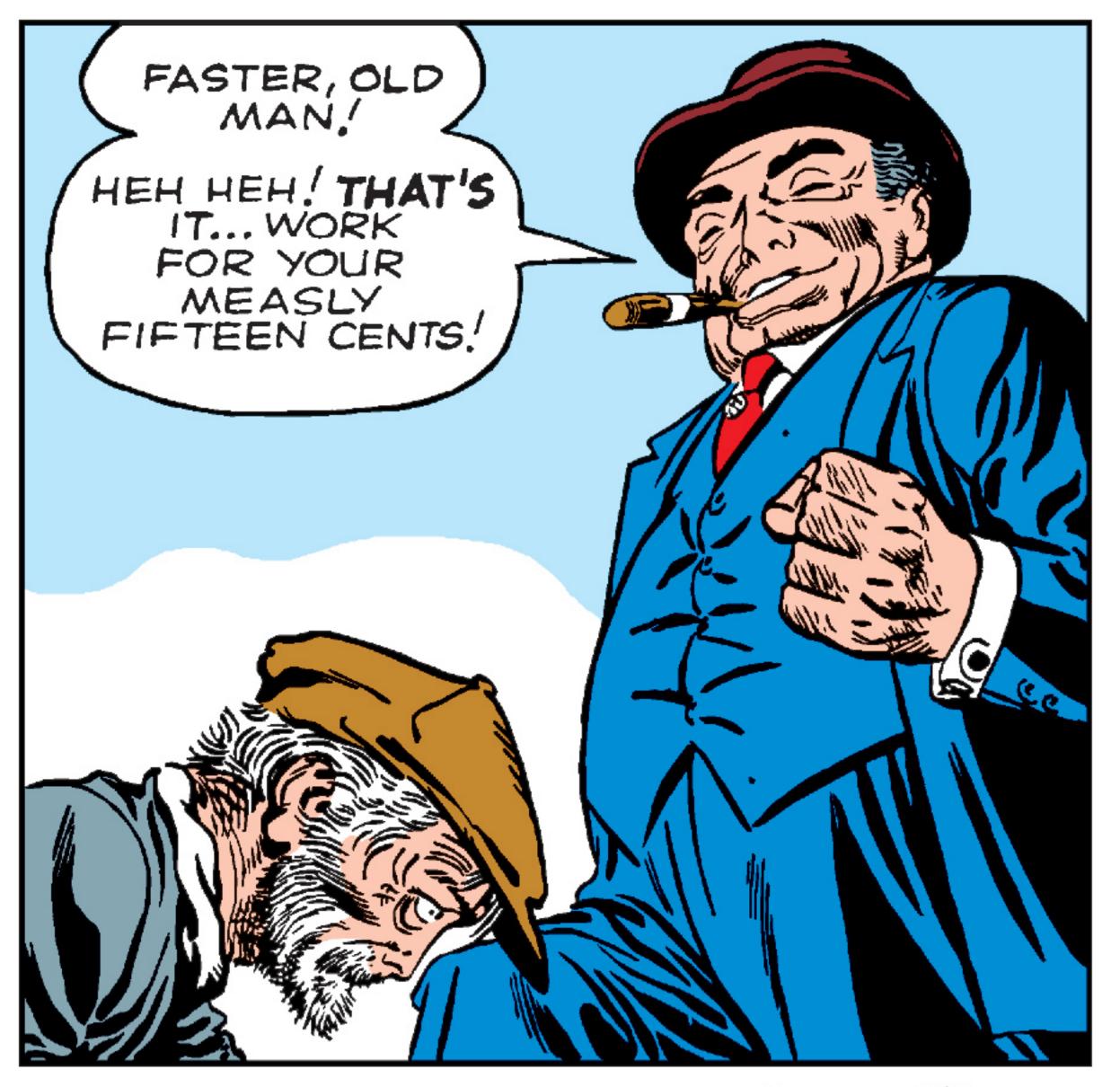


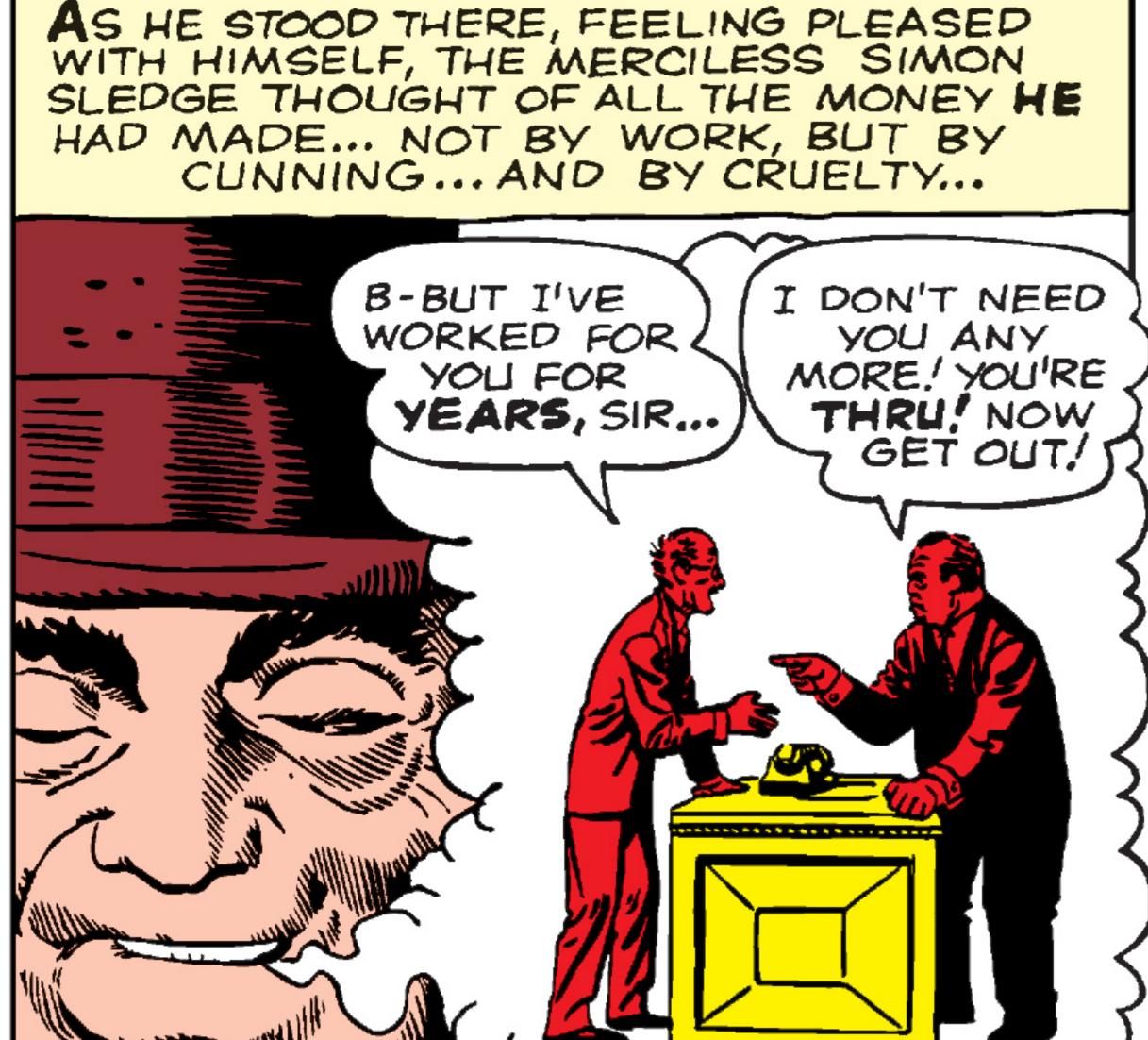


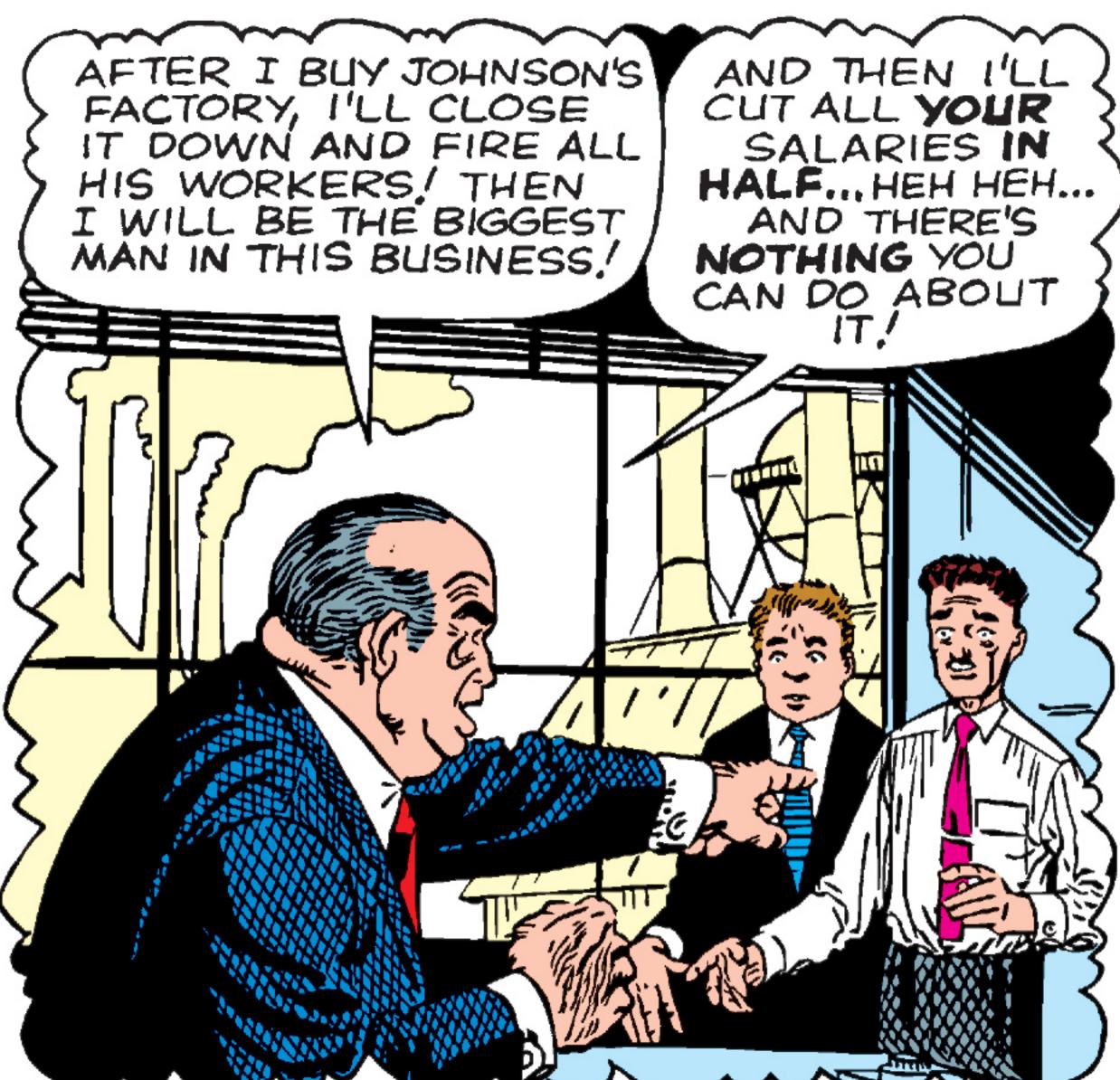
IF I'M LATE, I'LL BE RUINED! BUT I'M NEVER LATE! THAT'S WHY I'M SIMON SLEDGE ... AND NOT A MISERABLE BOOTBLACK LIKE YOU! HEH HEH!







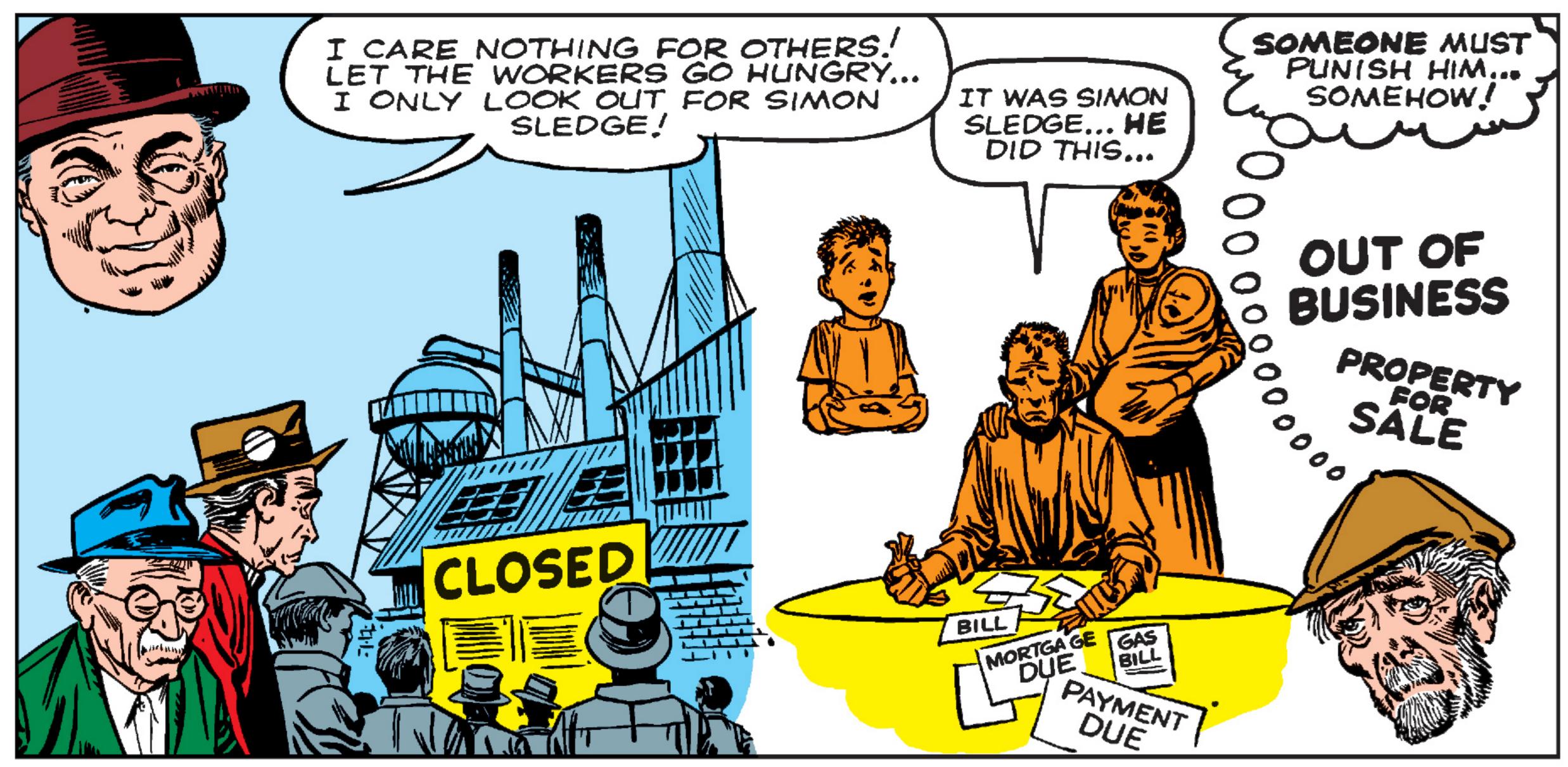








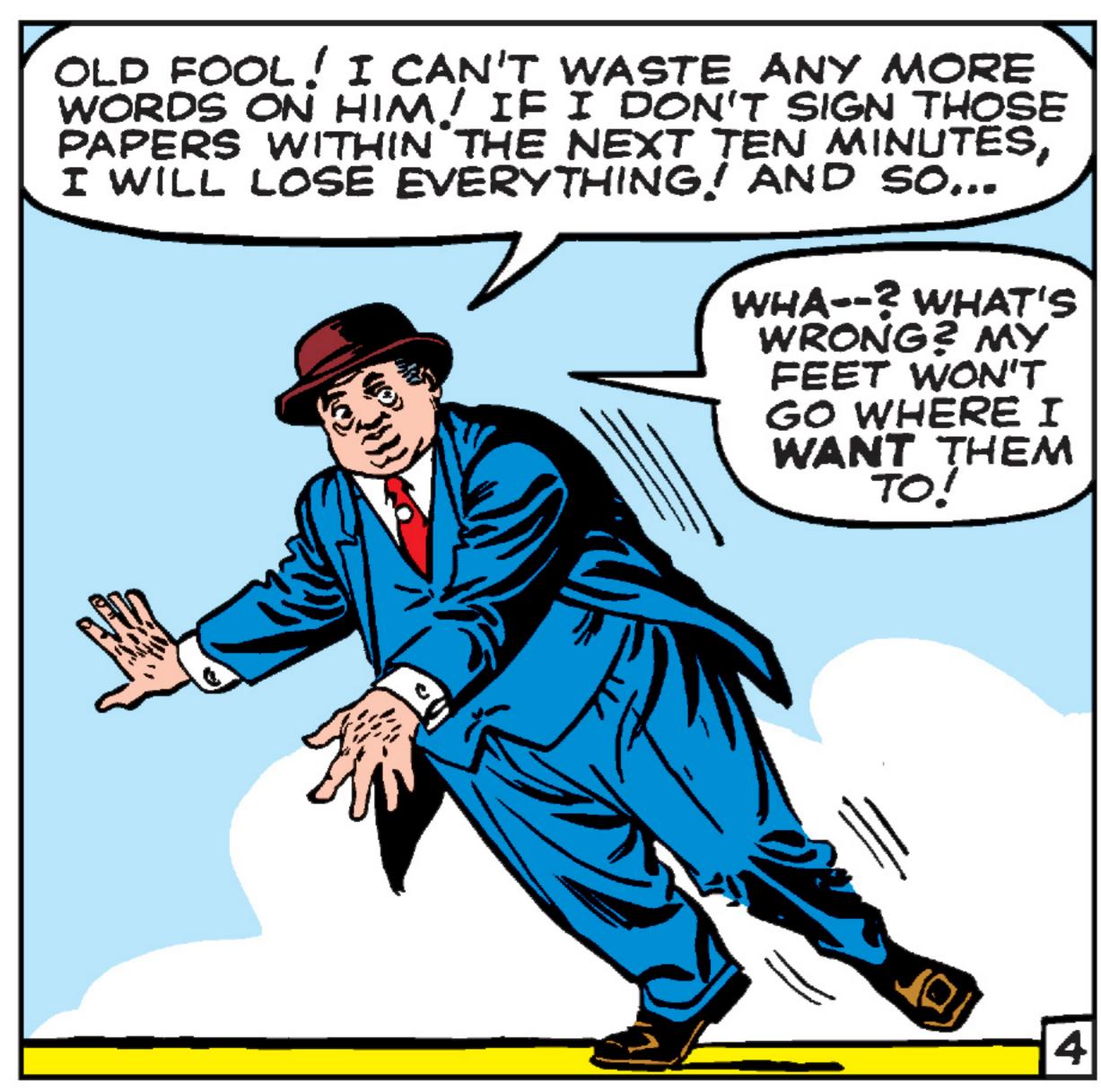


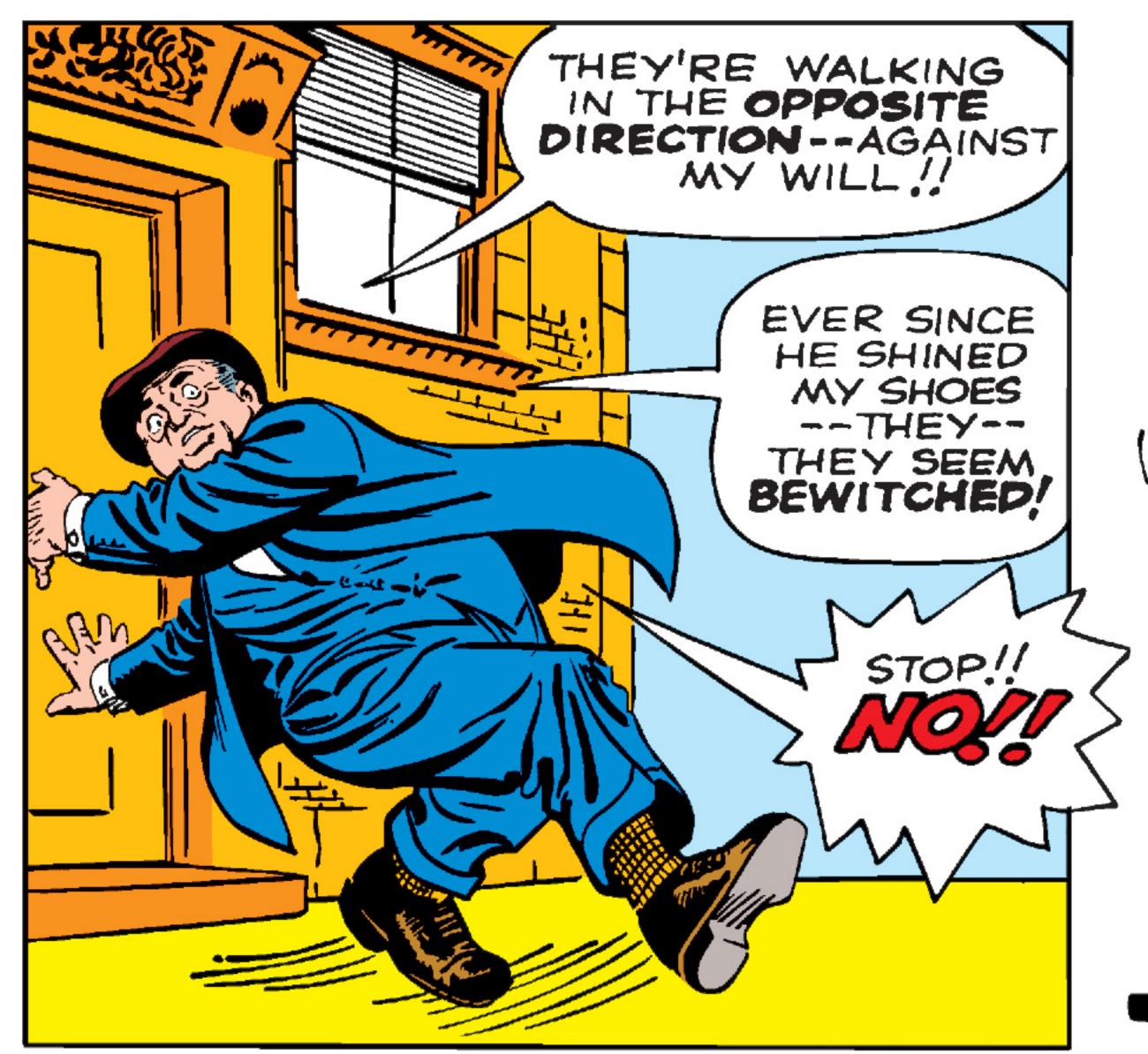


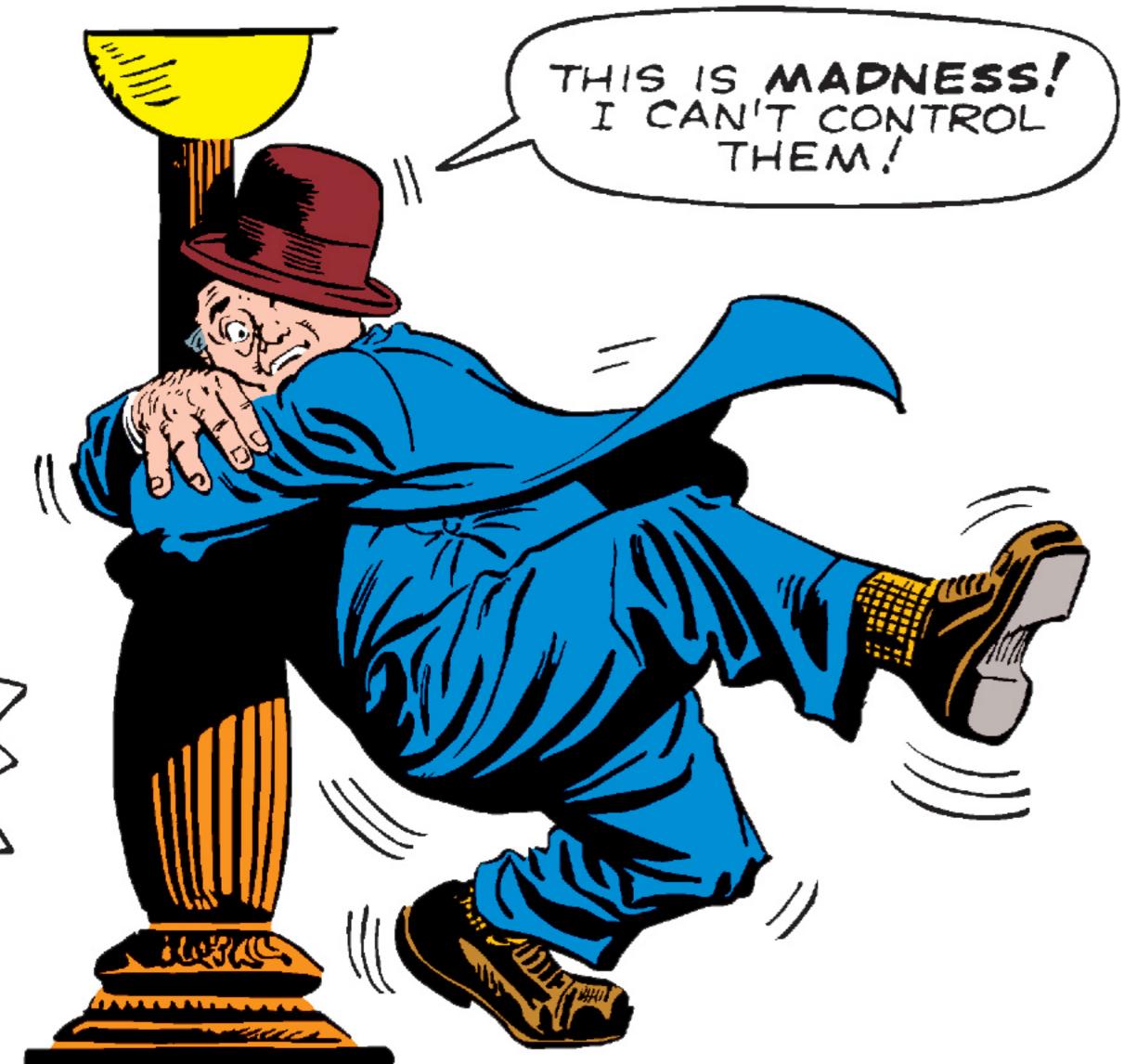




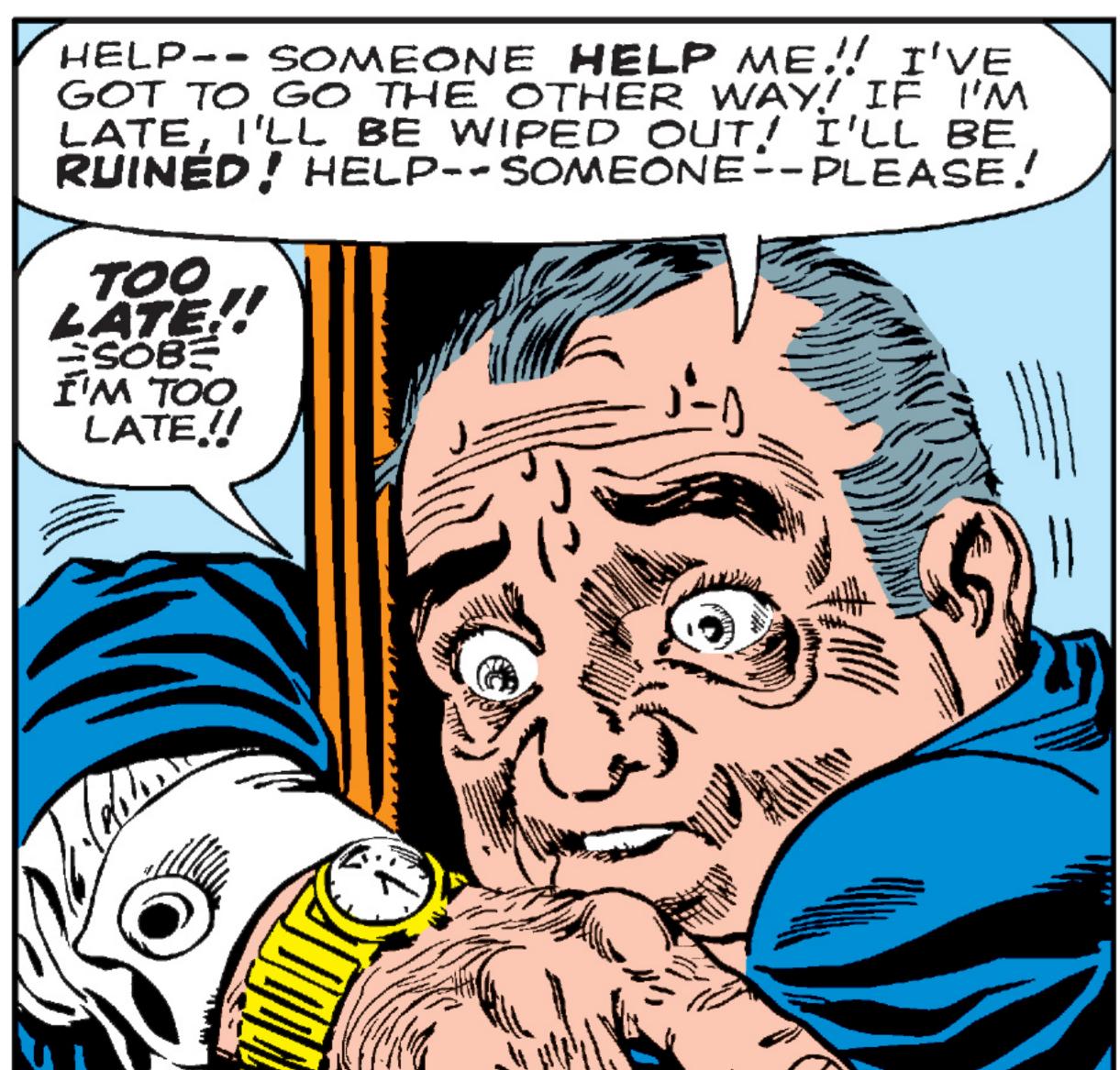


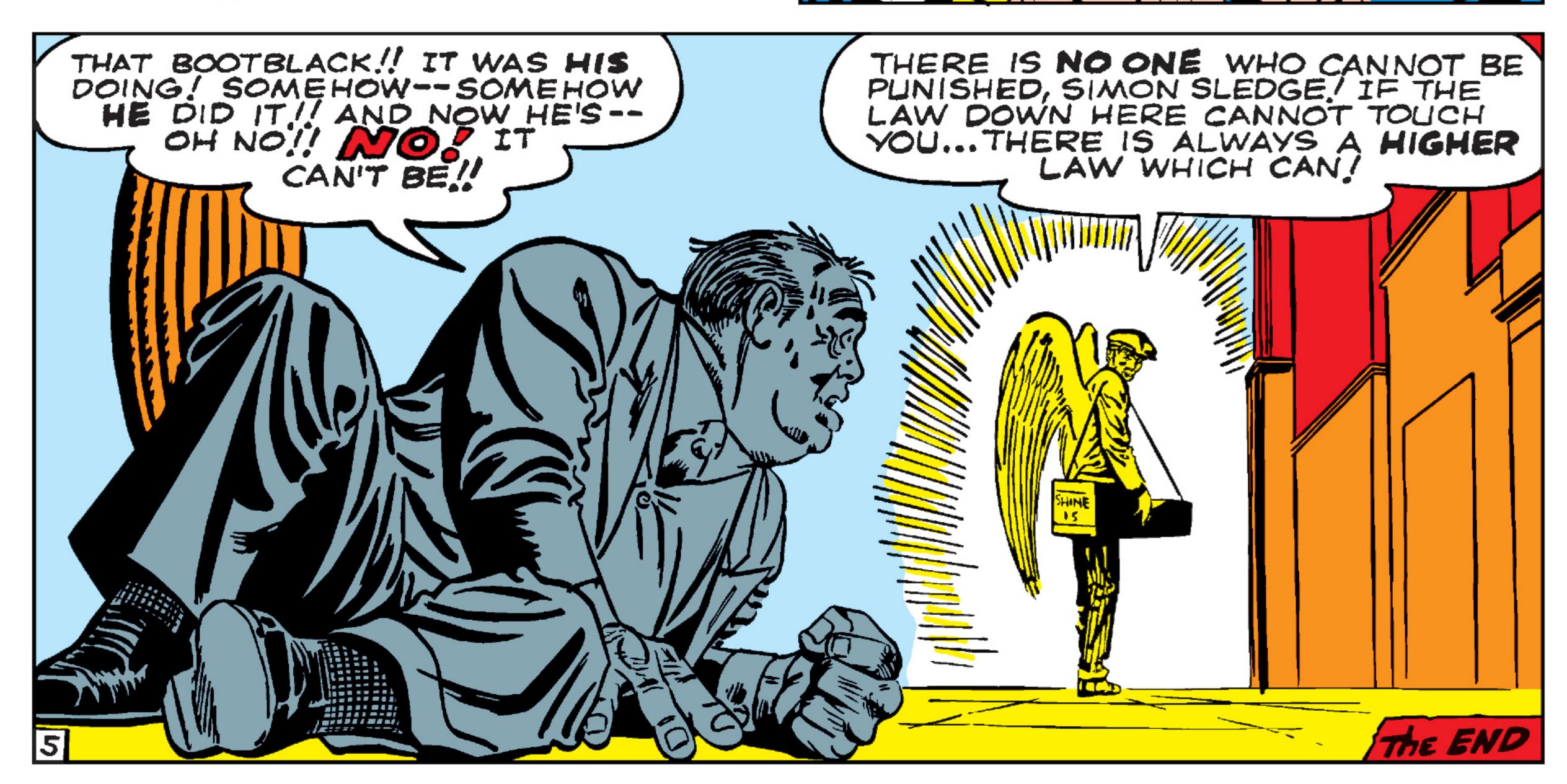












CONTINUED

to you I will let you see things was a double blood transfusion. of a very beautiful woman. The for yourself. The year is 1693, "From now on," announced third picture was that of a man the month is June, and the day the devil, "Part of me will al- being burned by fire. Branders is the fifteenth. Come and watch ways be with you. My blood shouted with an anguished cry with me."

were guiding him, Henry Conrad of you will always be with me. beauty if I have to die and lose rose from his chair and walked Whenever you wish to know the my soul?" over to the side of the Uninvited future you merely cover your Guest. They were looking into eyes and repeat the words: Estea, invited Guest motioned to Henwhere a man with long brown will forgive me, I must be on force made him take this seat. hair, dressed in colonial garb, my way. Seems a man in France He listened as the uninvited was standing facing... the is also calling me. Have to make guest spoke. devil! The devil spoke, "Oh, a pact with him." Branders Conrad, you have summoned me, from the world below, by calling my secret name three times. I am here to listen to what you desire of me. So speak, oh mortal man and have no fear."

Branders Conrad was not the kind of a man to know fear. He had fought pirates and Indians ... and won! Now, he wanted the most deadliest knowledge ever desired by mankind, and he was willing to pay the price.

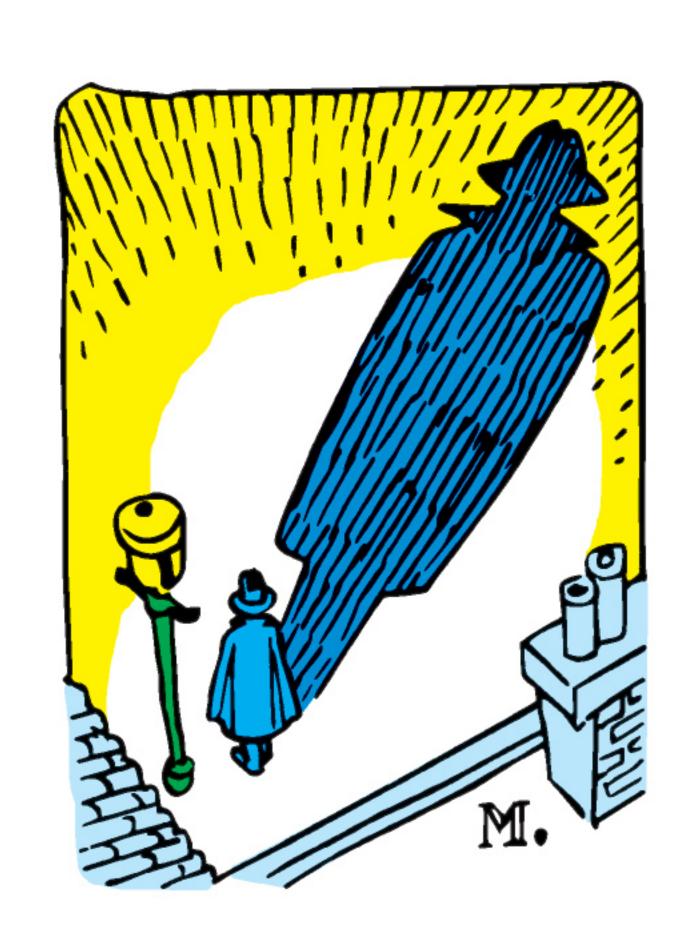
"I want the power of second sight," he said, "so that I can look into the future. Give me Branders Conrad turned to in the typewriter. Evidently he this and my soul is yours. I want the fireplace and stared into the must have finished the chapter the power now, so let's seal the dying embers. Then he turned for he had written that he had bargain."

mented to Henry, "That little "I want to look into the tu- devil. Half-dazed, he went downdisgusting creature happens to ture. Three things I wish to stairs alone to the kitchen, be me. Now you will see how know this moment. How rich Frances was still asleep. He

his. pocket and made a cut in die?" his arm. He let some blood drip. When he finished making his Suddenly, his face froze with into a small dish. Then he made requests he repeated the three horror. There, on the ground, a cut in Branders' arm. The words the devil had told him were footprints! The print of a blood from this wound dripped to use. There was a blinding shoe and next to each shoe mark into another dish. The devil flash and a picture appeared the print of a cloven hoof! then poured his blood into above the fireplace. It showed

pushed it open. Then he spoke. Branders' wound and Branders' a table full of gold. This van-"Rather than explain matters blood into his own wound. It ished and then came the picture

will flow with your blood that pierced the household. As though some mystic force through your veins. And part an old colonial living room mortia, futoro. And now, if you ry to sit down. Again the mystic



around and covered his eyes found definite proof that his an-

the pact was signed." shall I be? The kind of a woman opened the back door. The rain The devil took a knife from I will marry? And how will I had stopped during the night

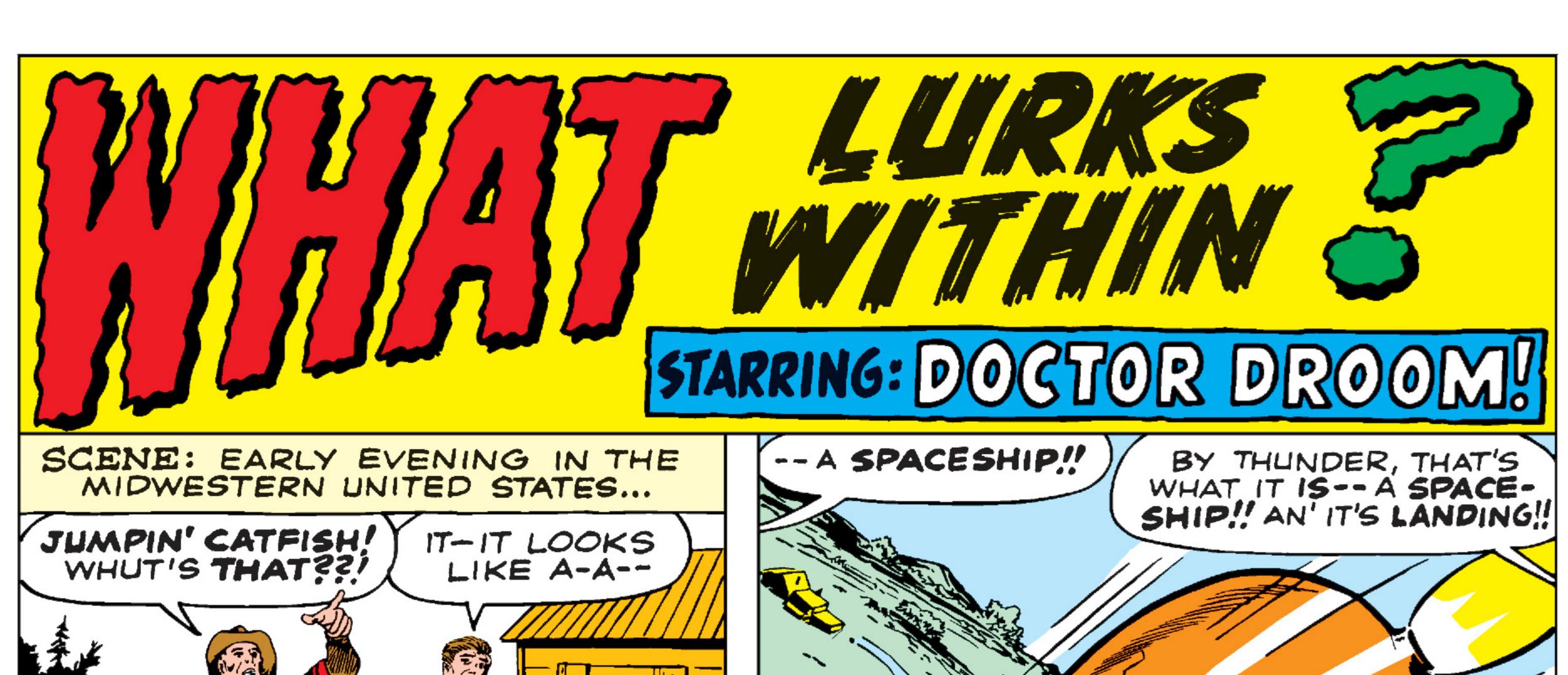
"Of what good is gold and

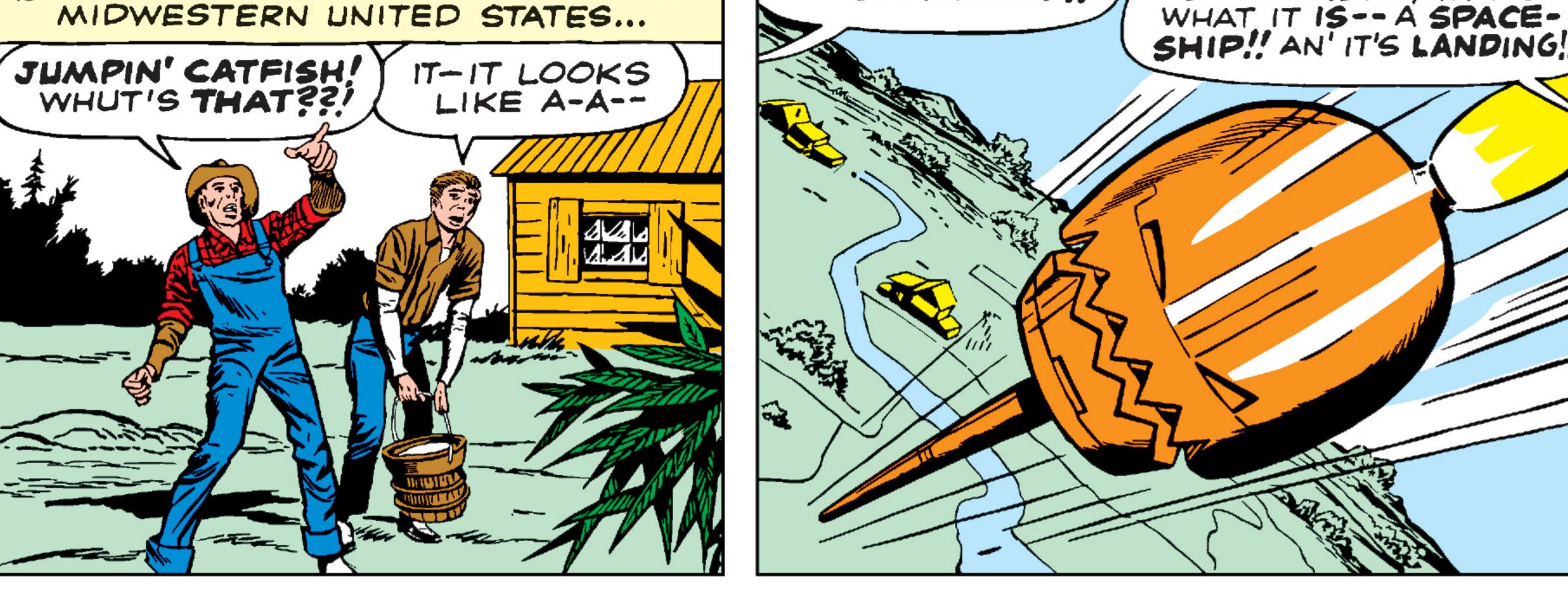
The wall closed and the Un-

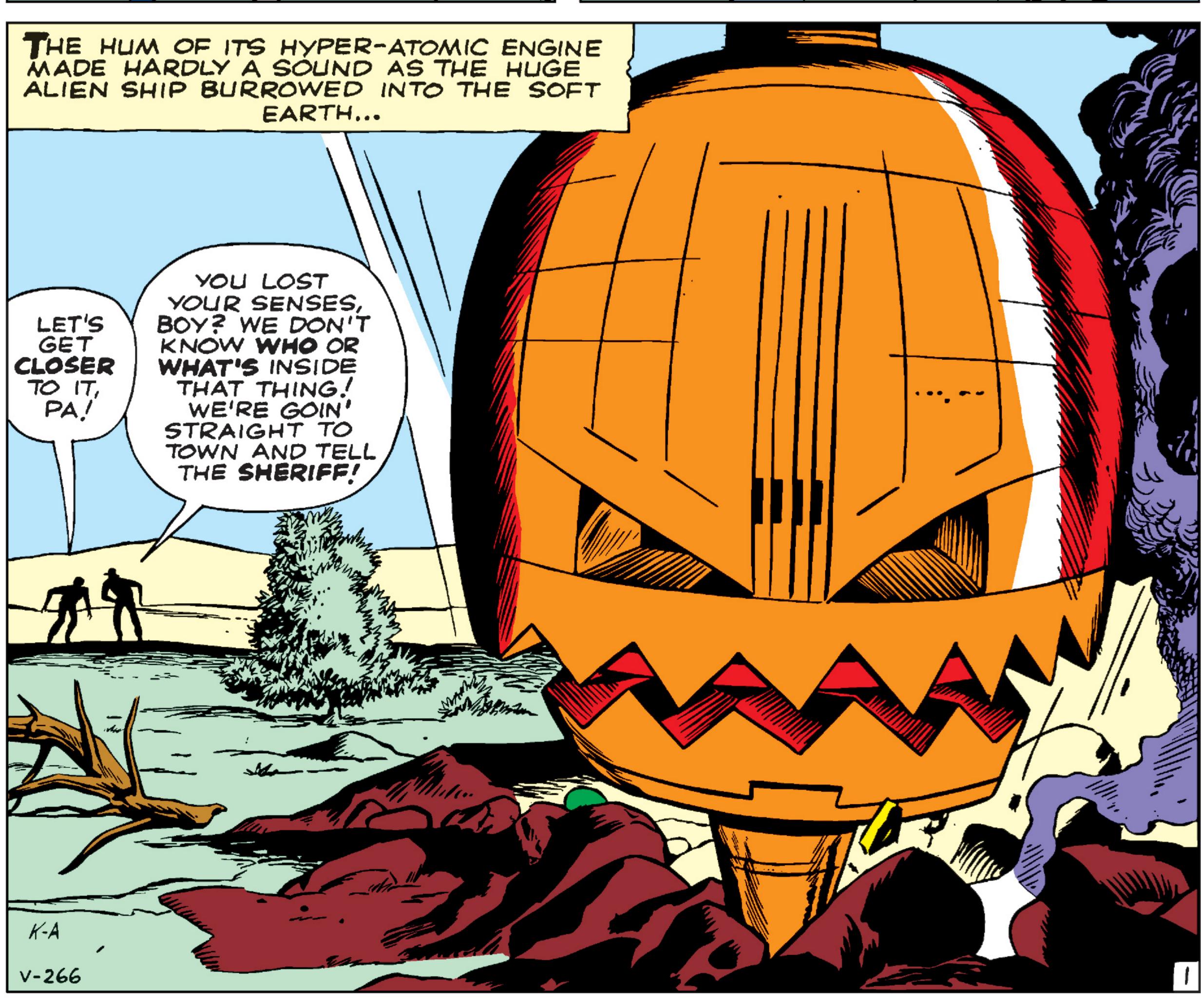
"They were all like your ancestor . . . wanted power from me. Of course they had to pay the price. But they didn't think about it when they summoned me. Only after they had my gifts did they feel they had lost the world Really, if more people had sense they wouldn't sell their souls to me. I hope I've helped you tonight. Must be on my way to the regions below. Some important pressing matters."

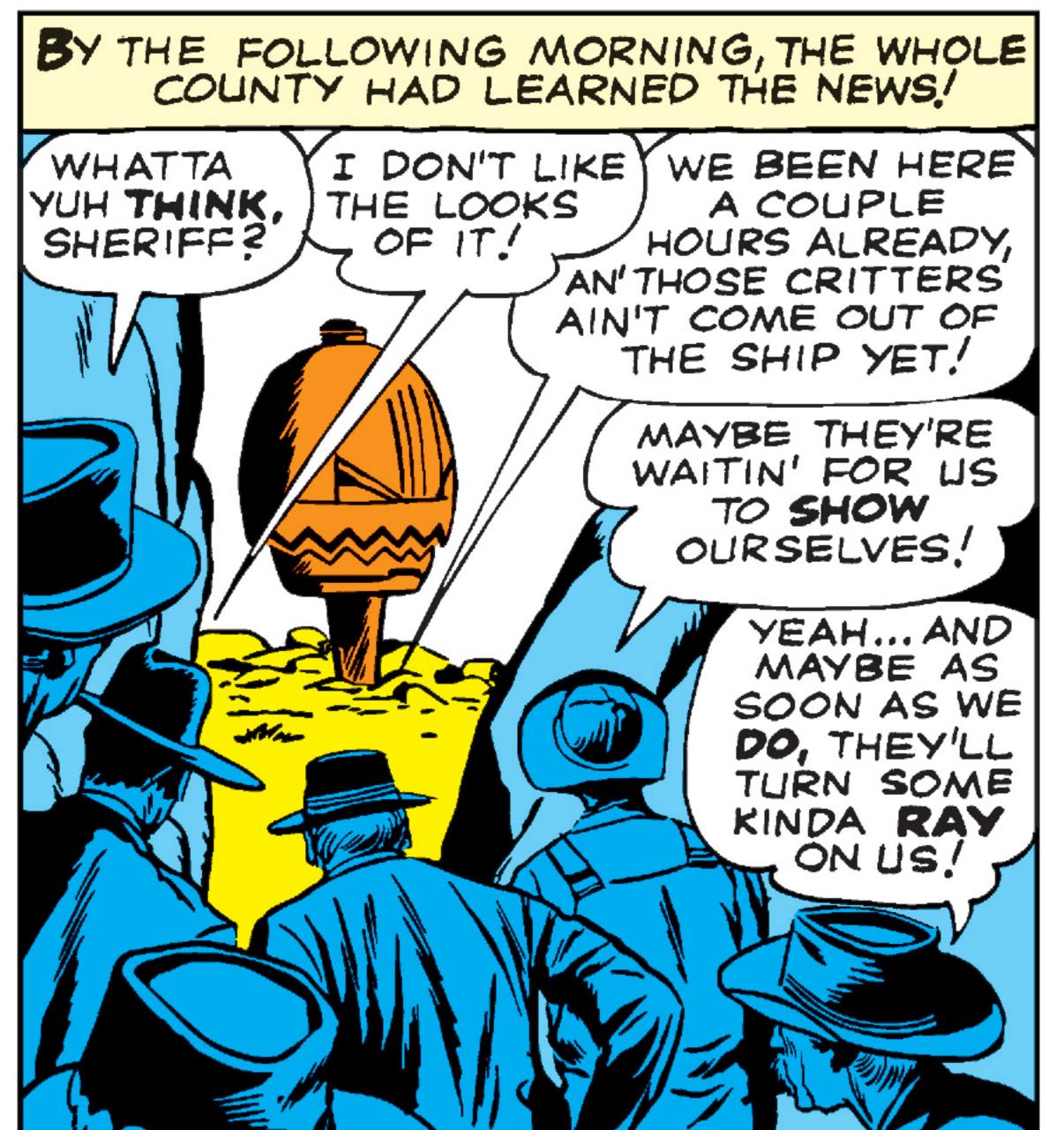
It was morning when Henry awoke. He had slept in the chair all night. He gazed at the paper The Uninvited Guest com- with his hands and said, cestor had made a pact with the but the ground was still muddy.

THE END 9734



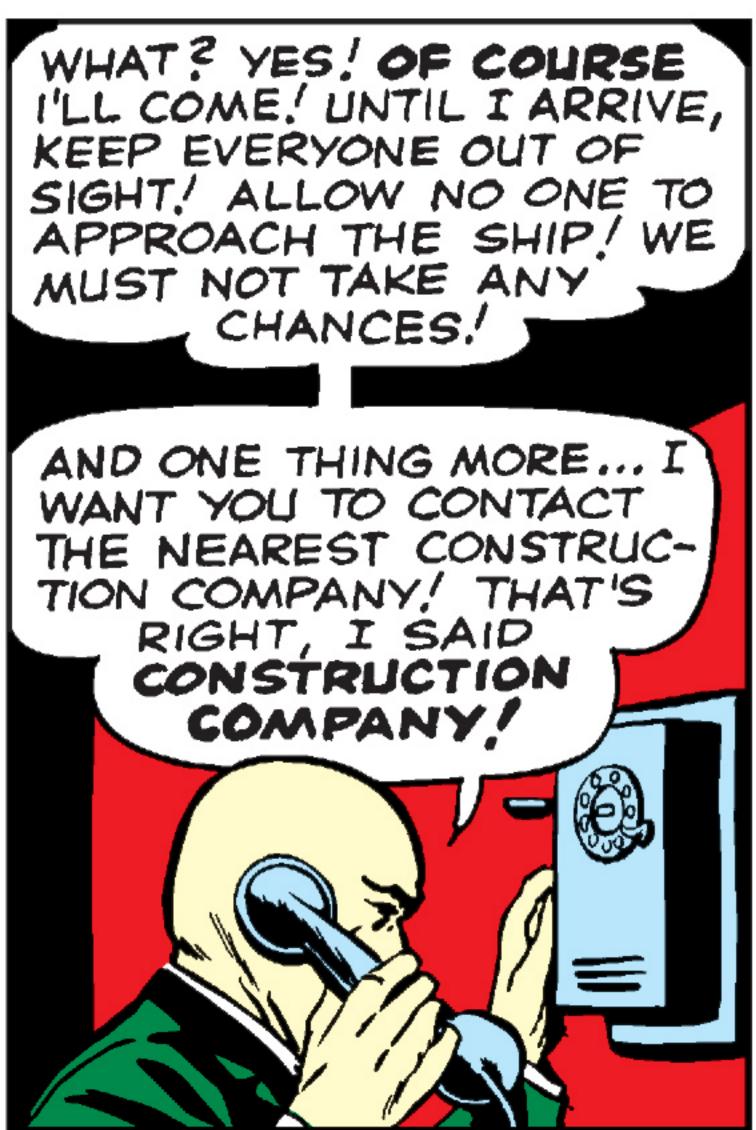


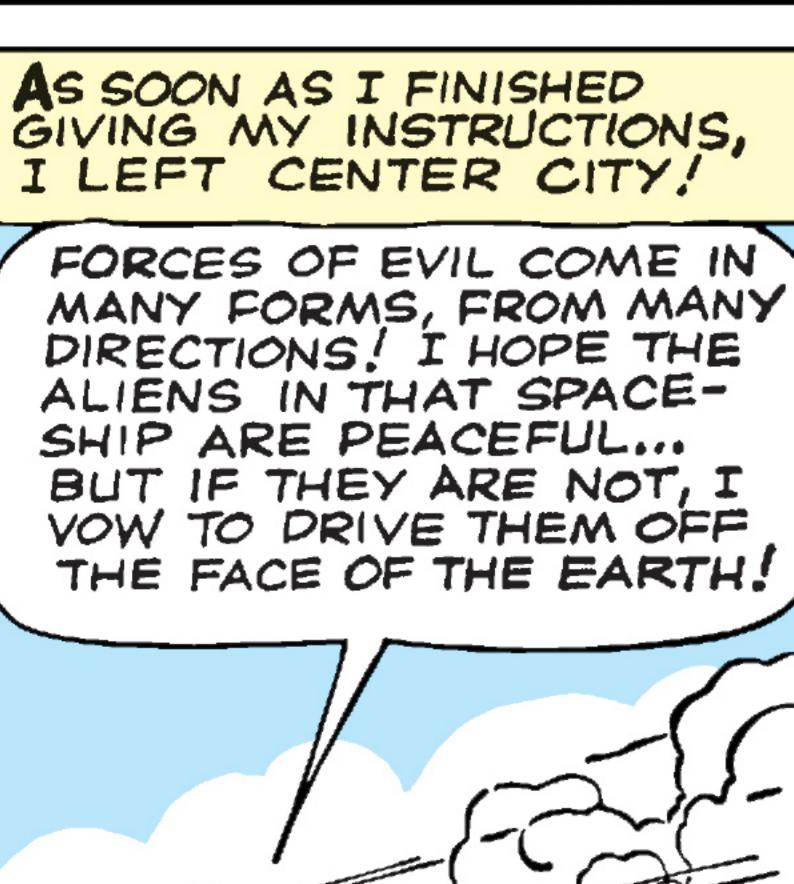


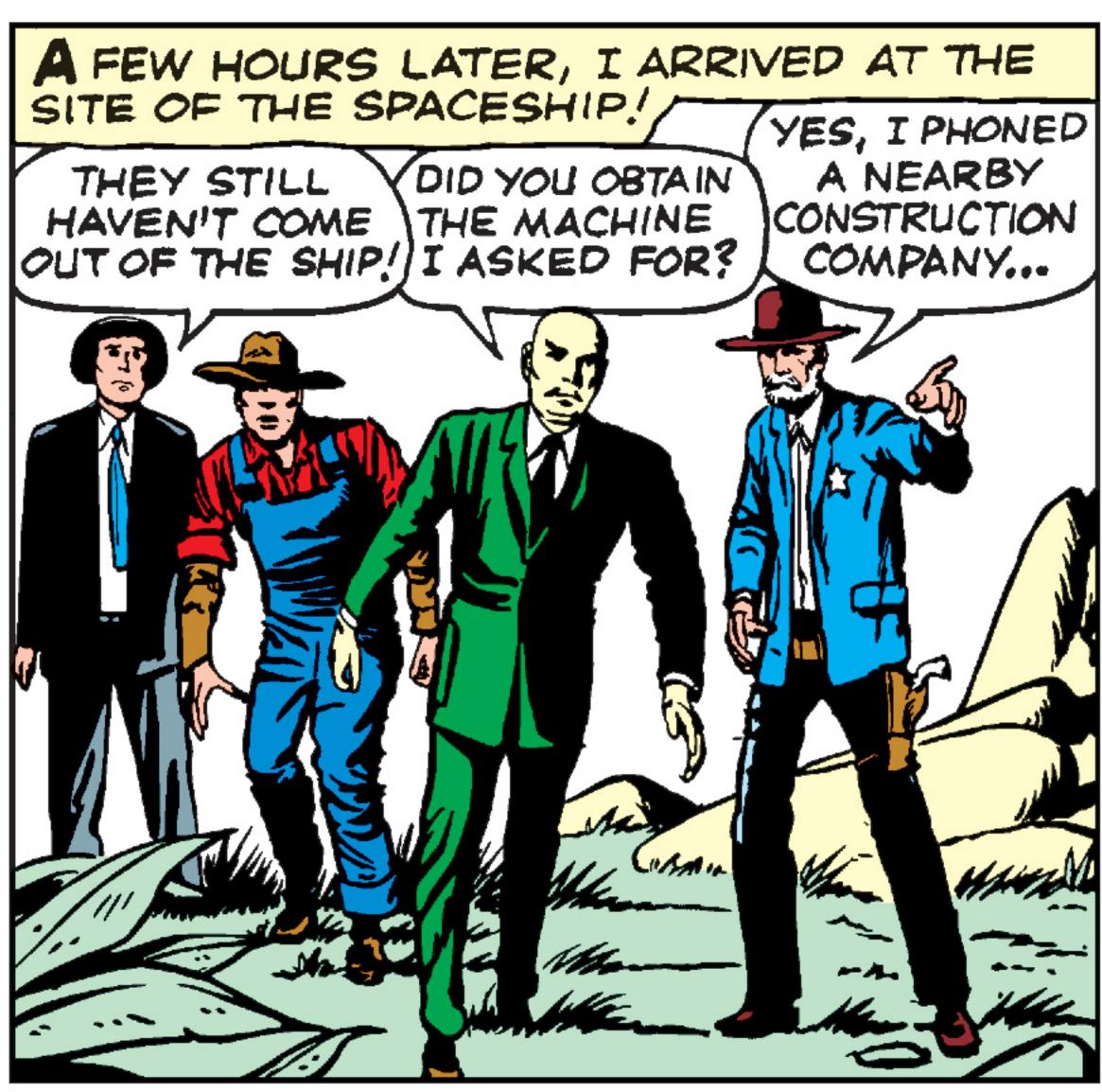


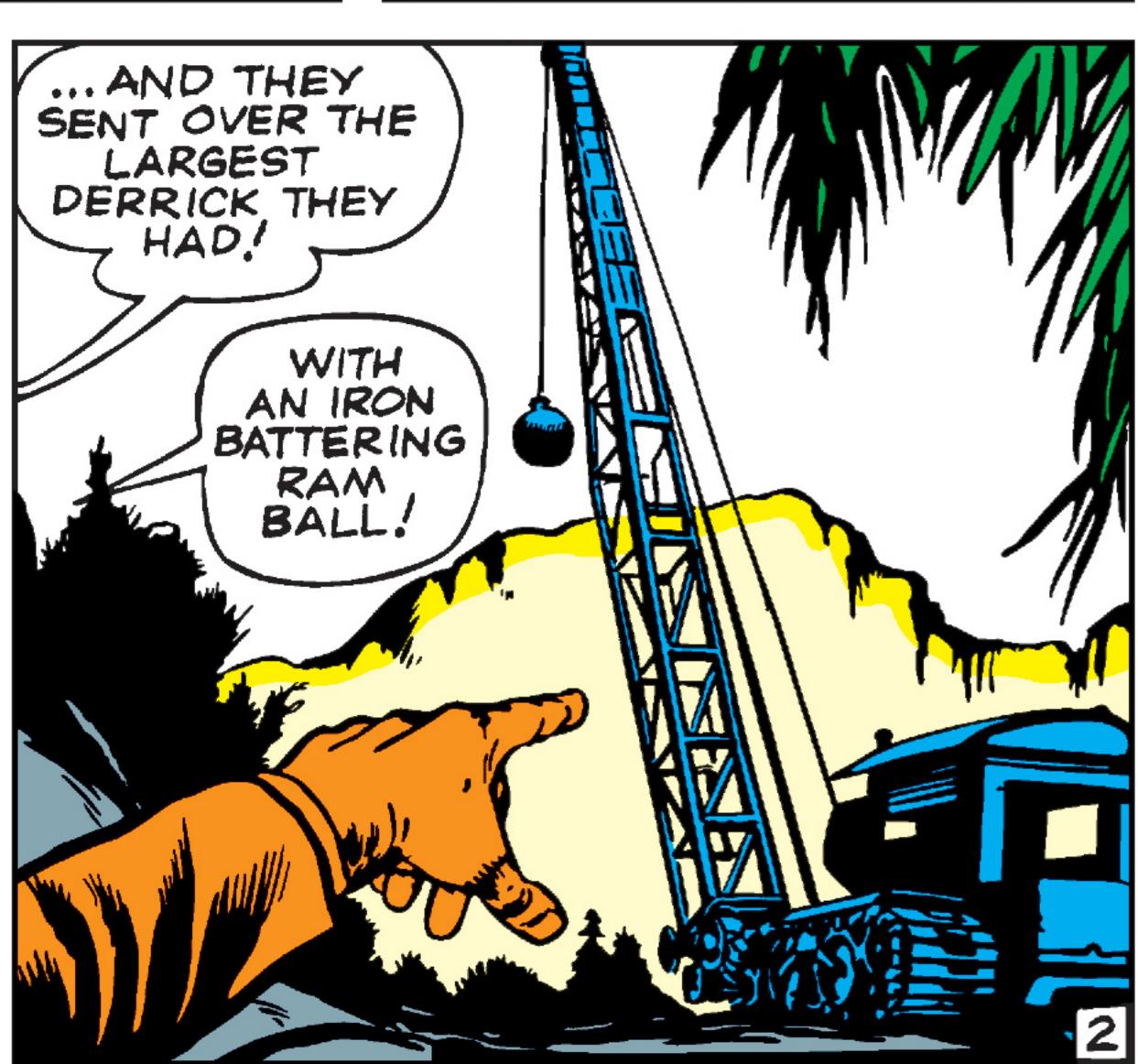


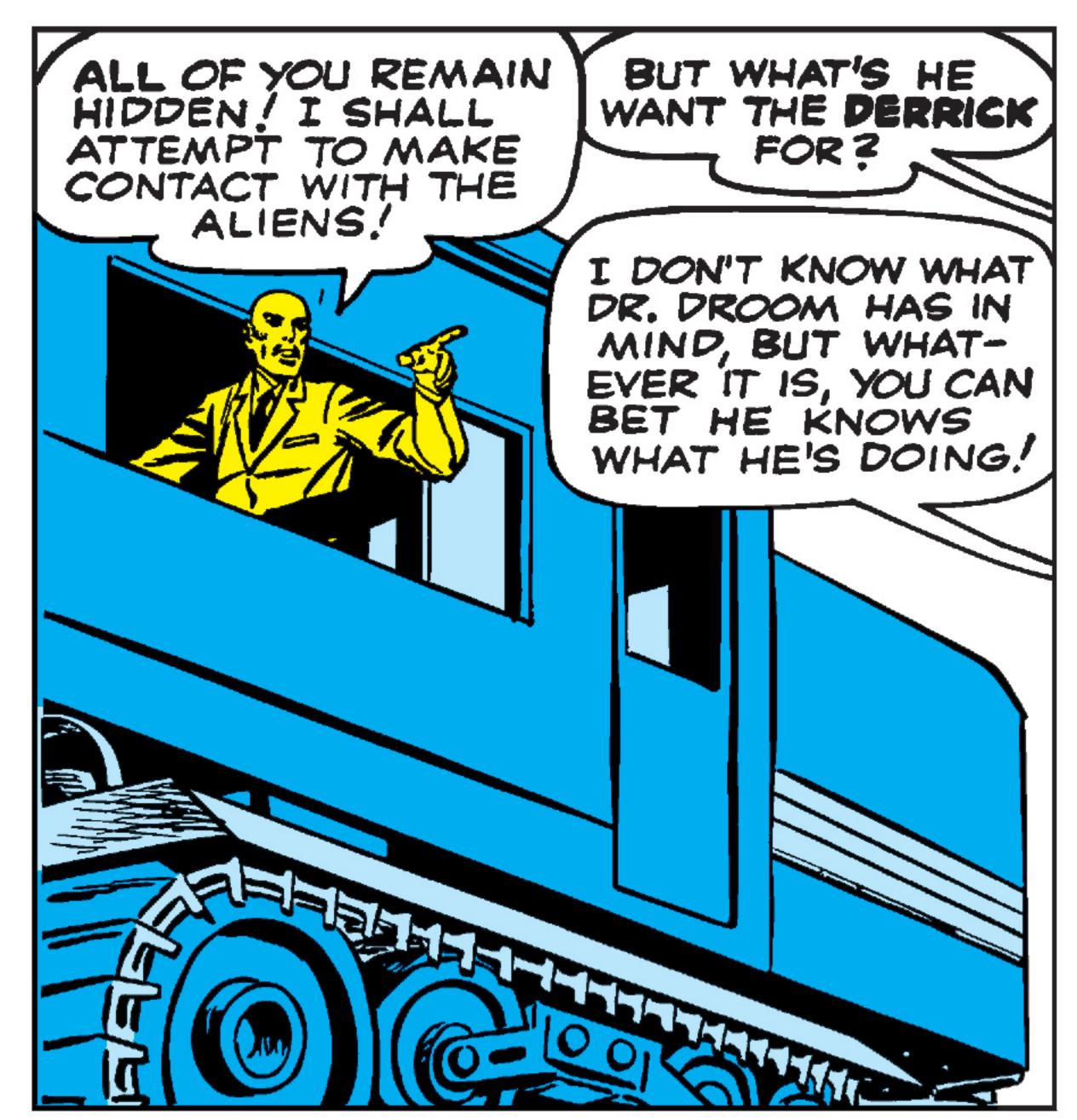




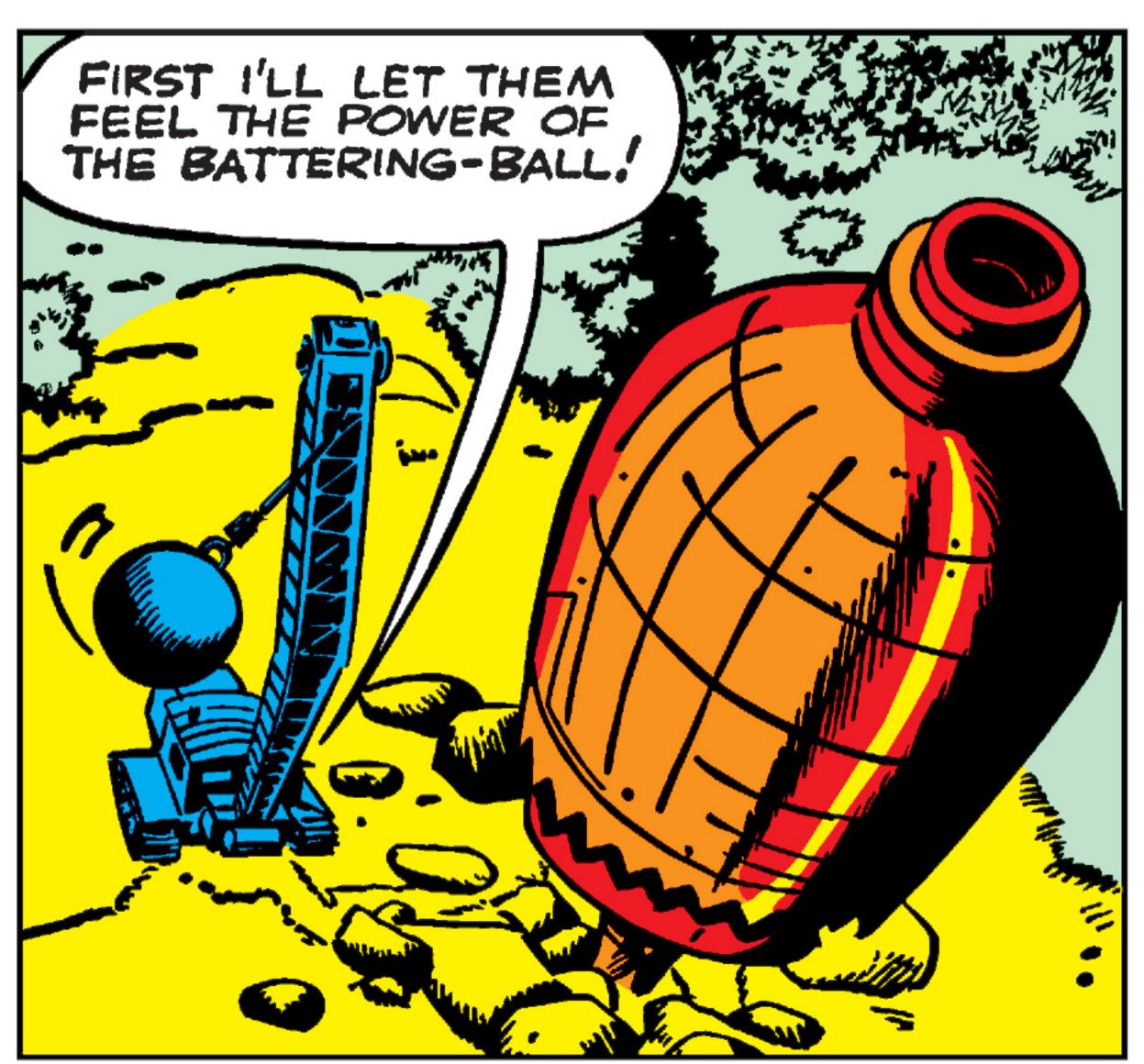


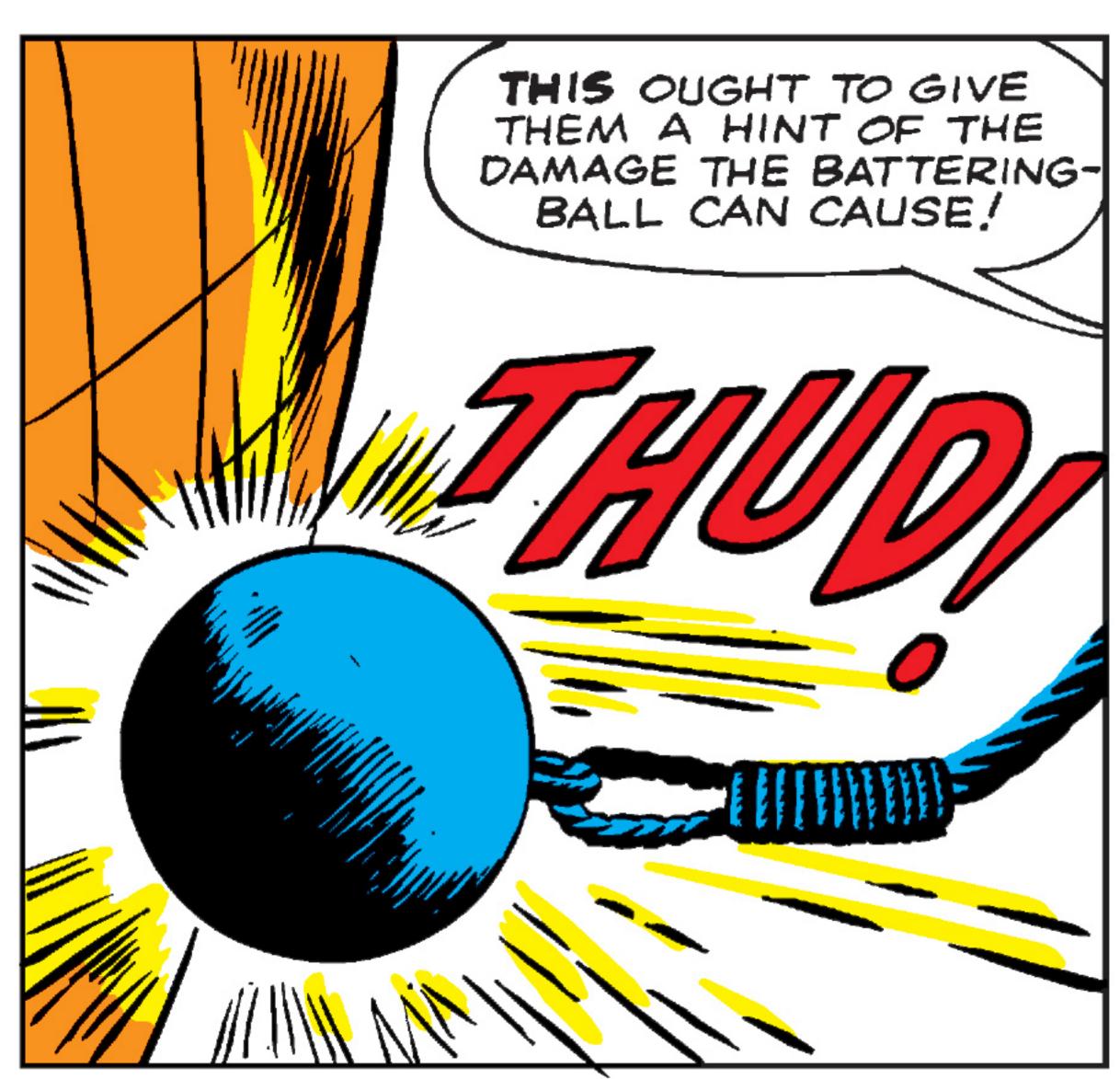


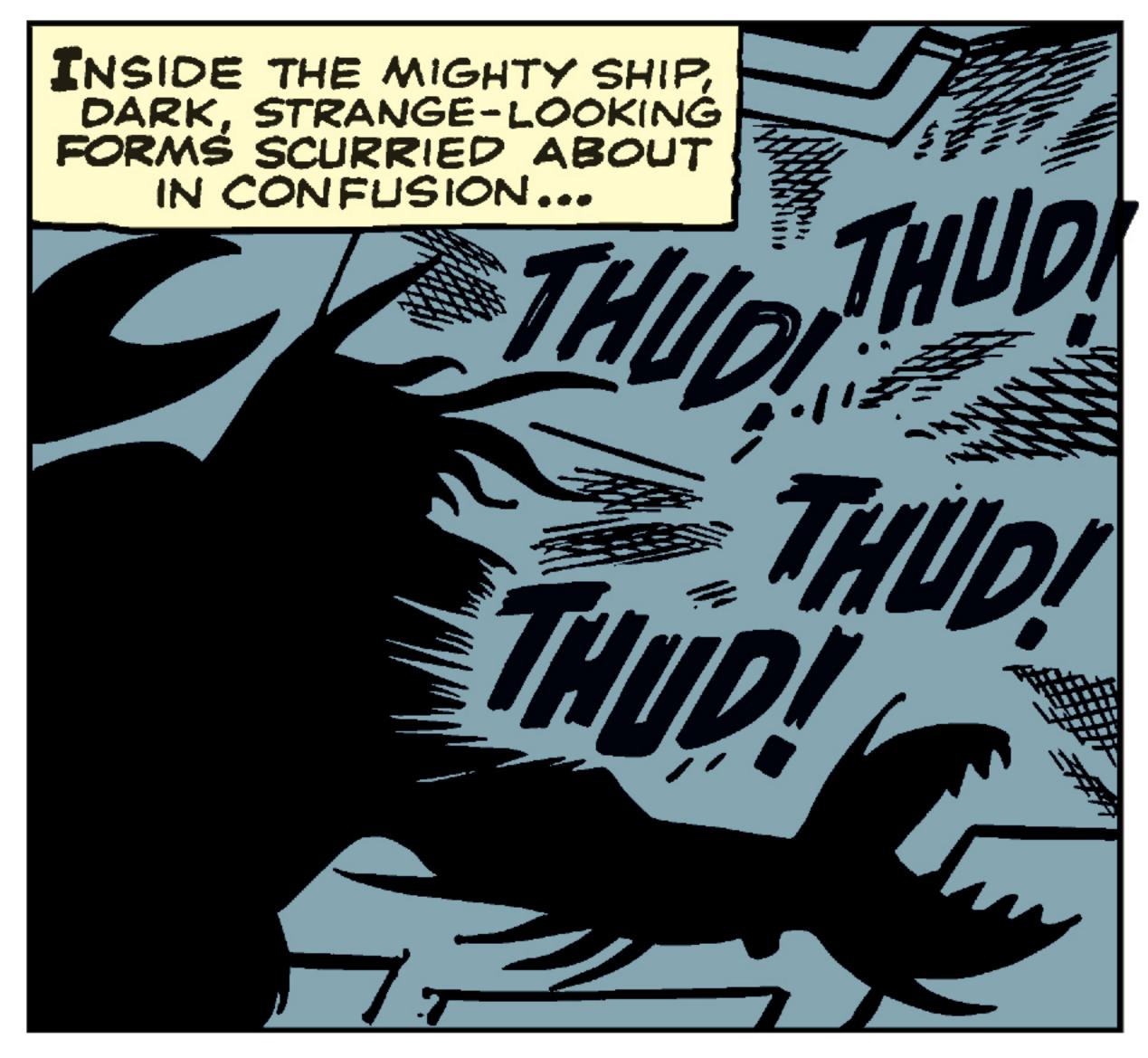








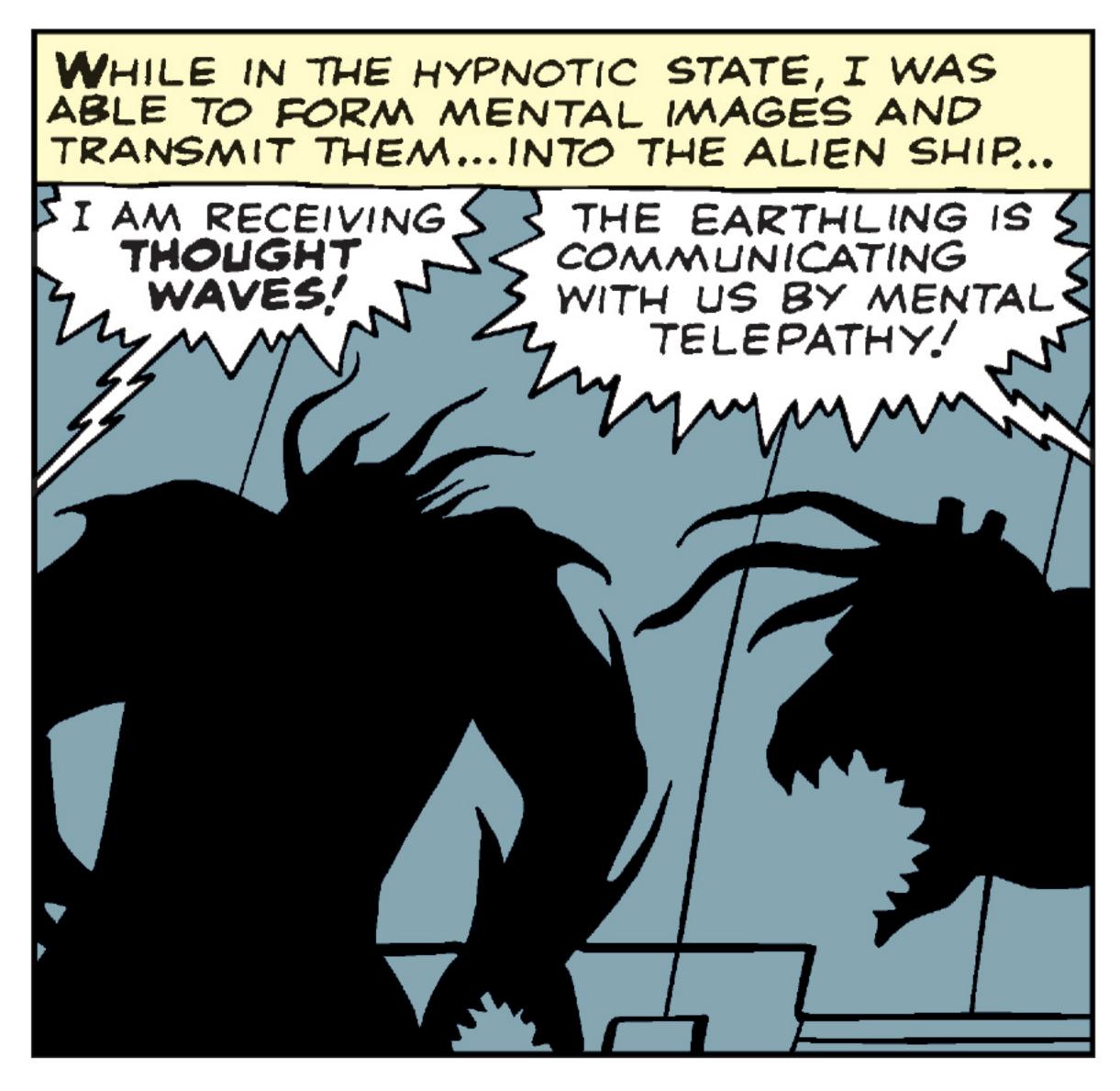


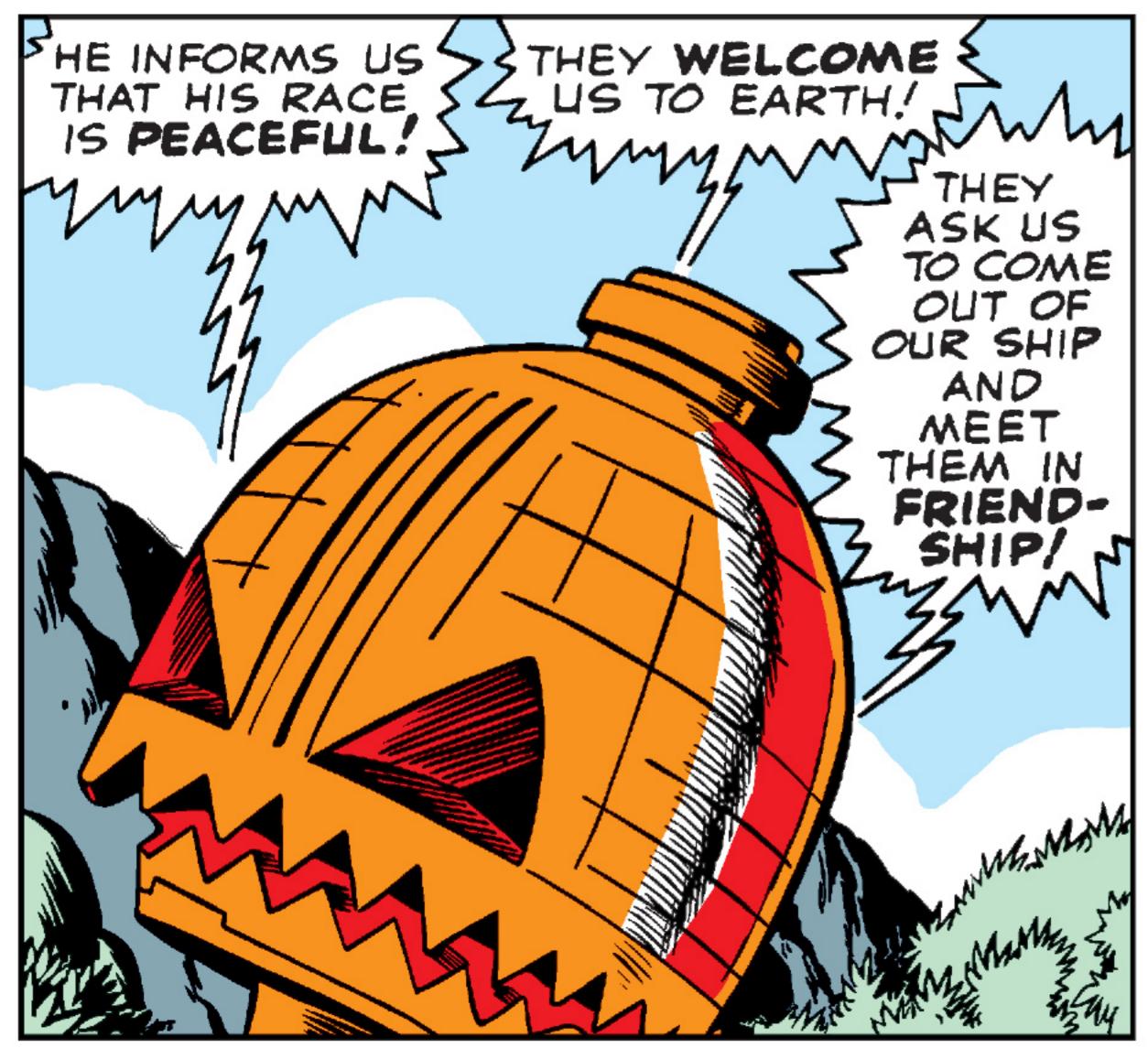


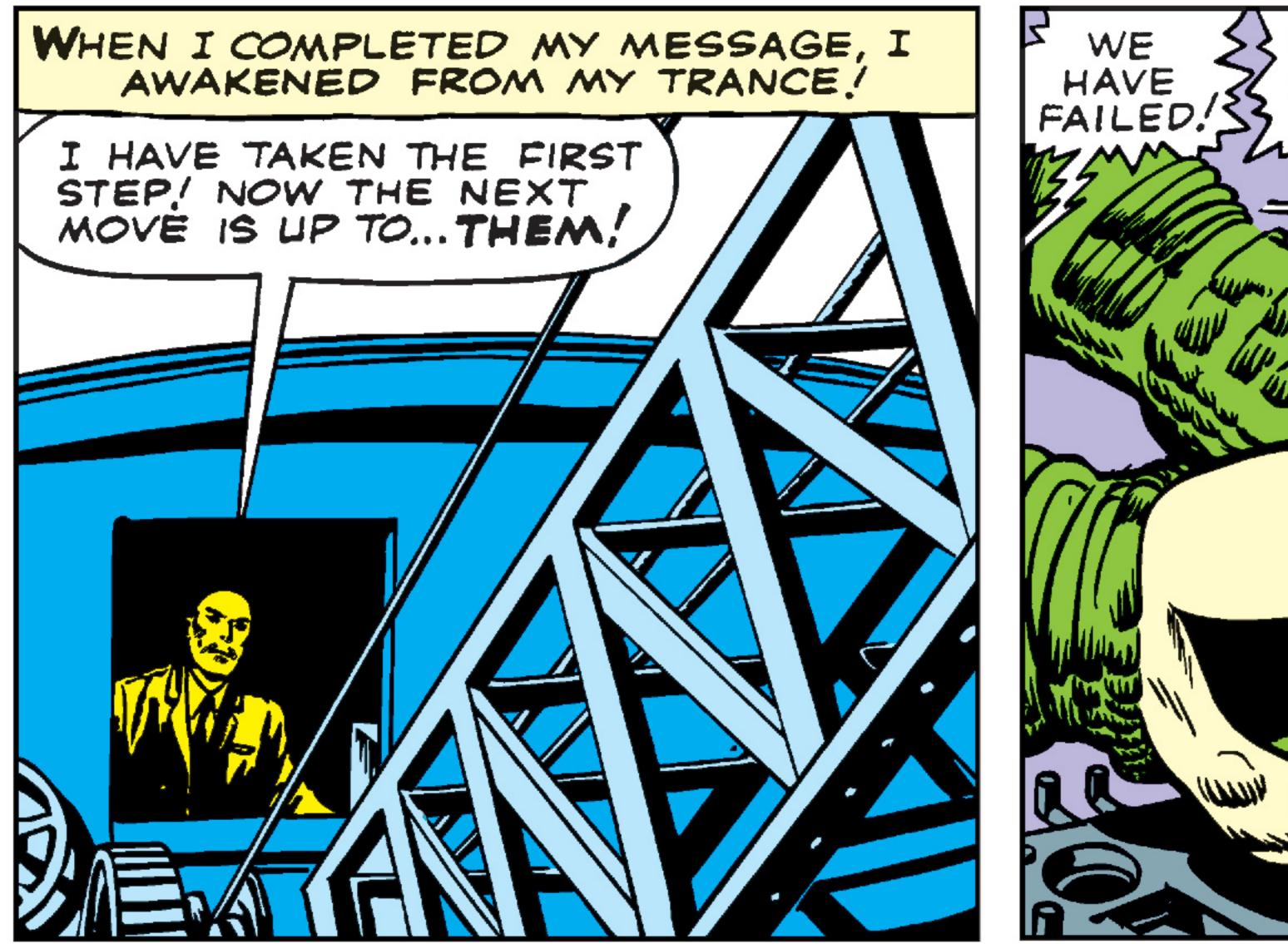


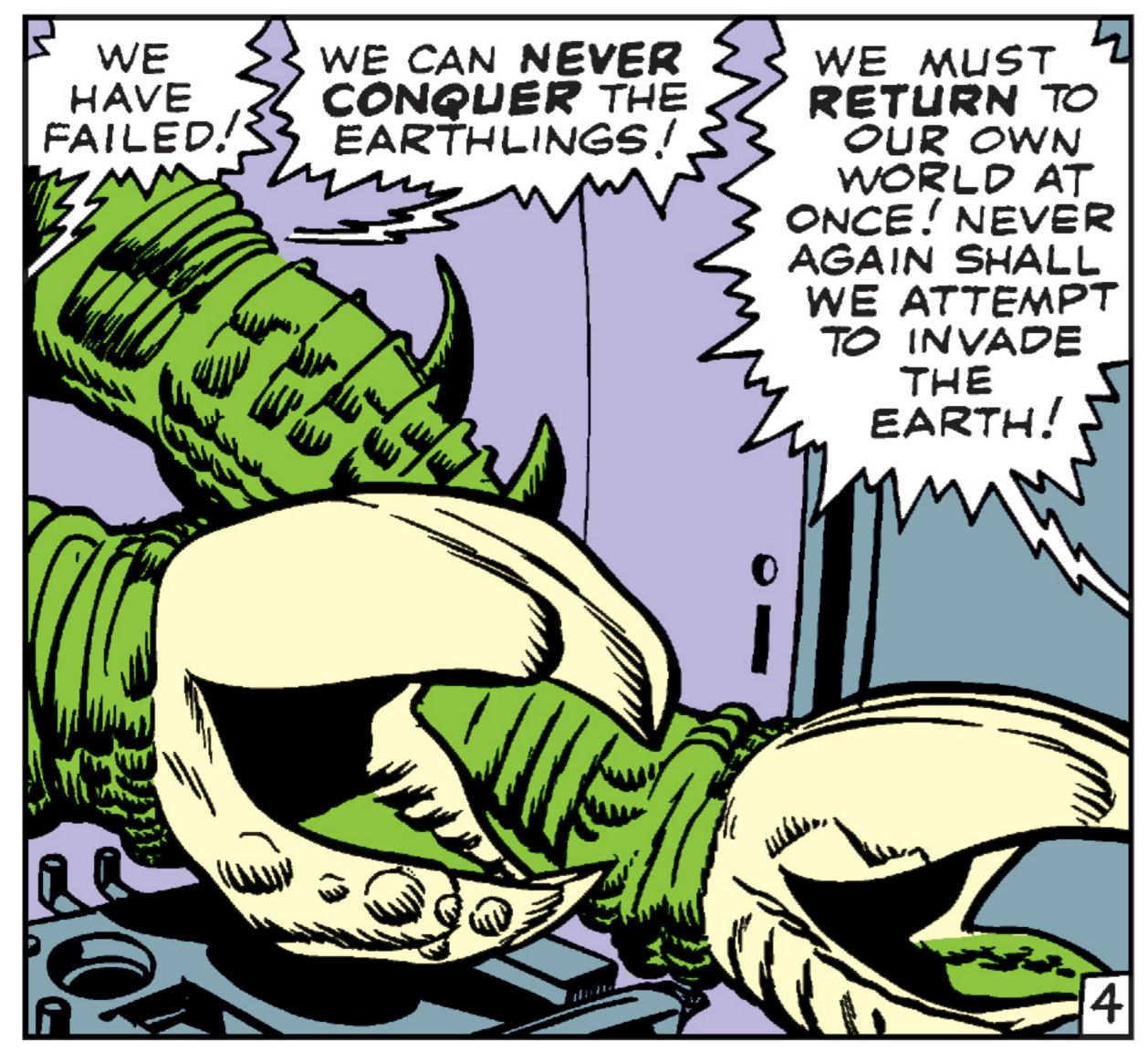


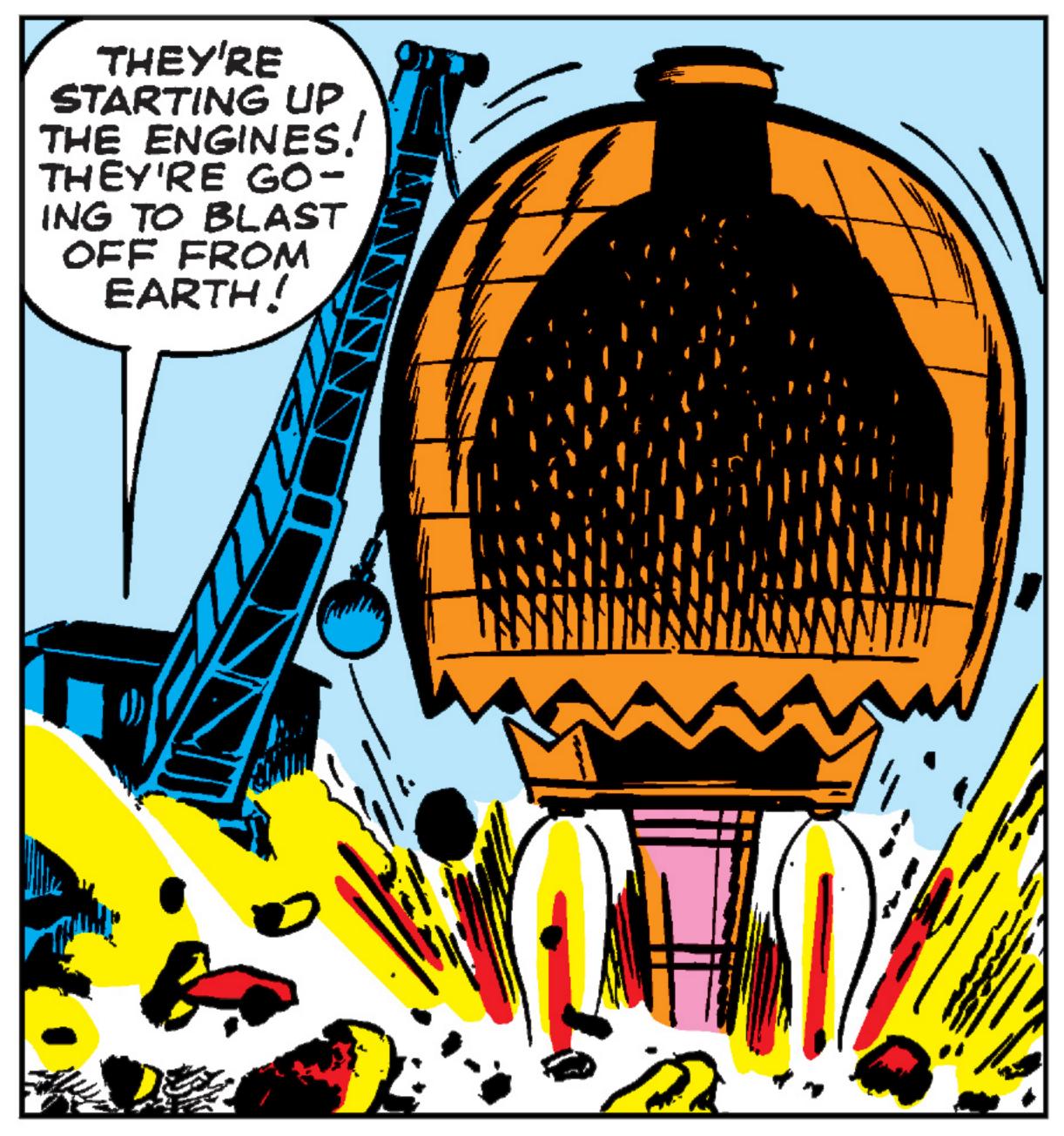


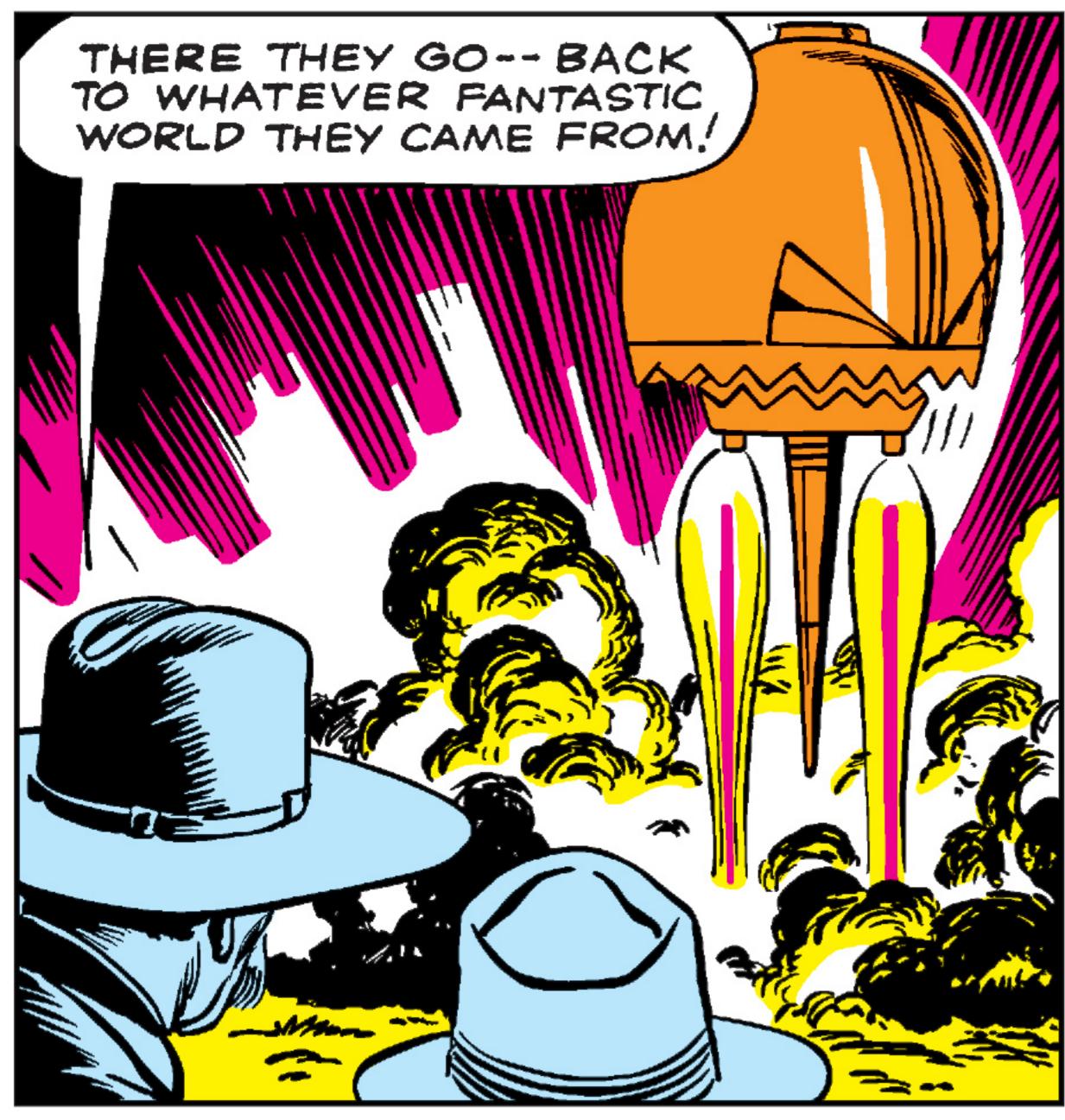




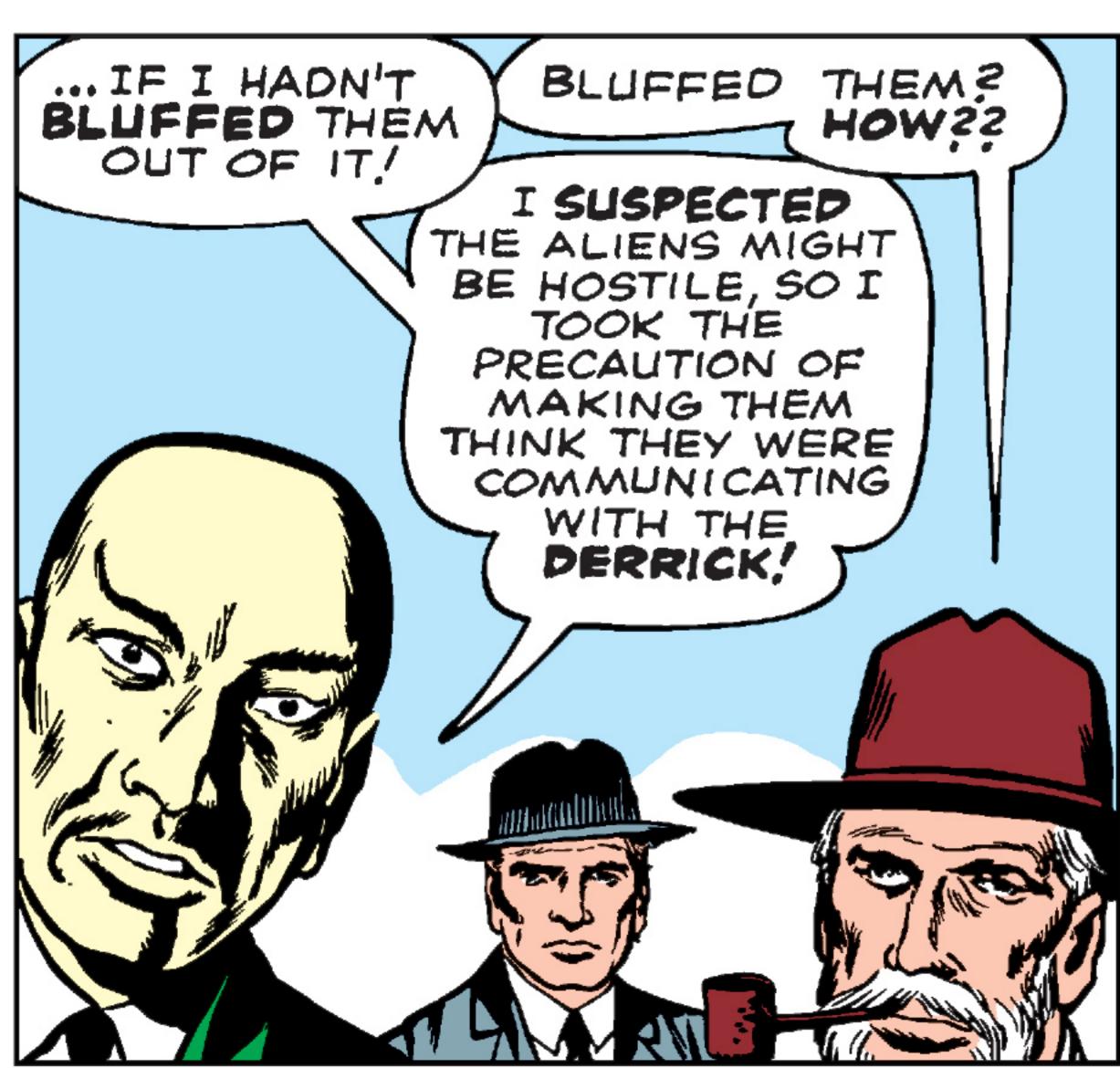


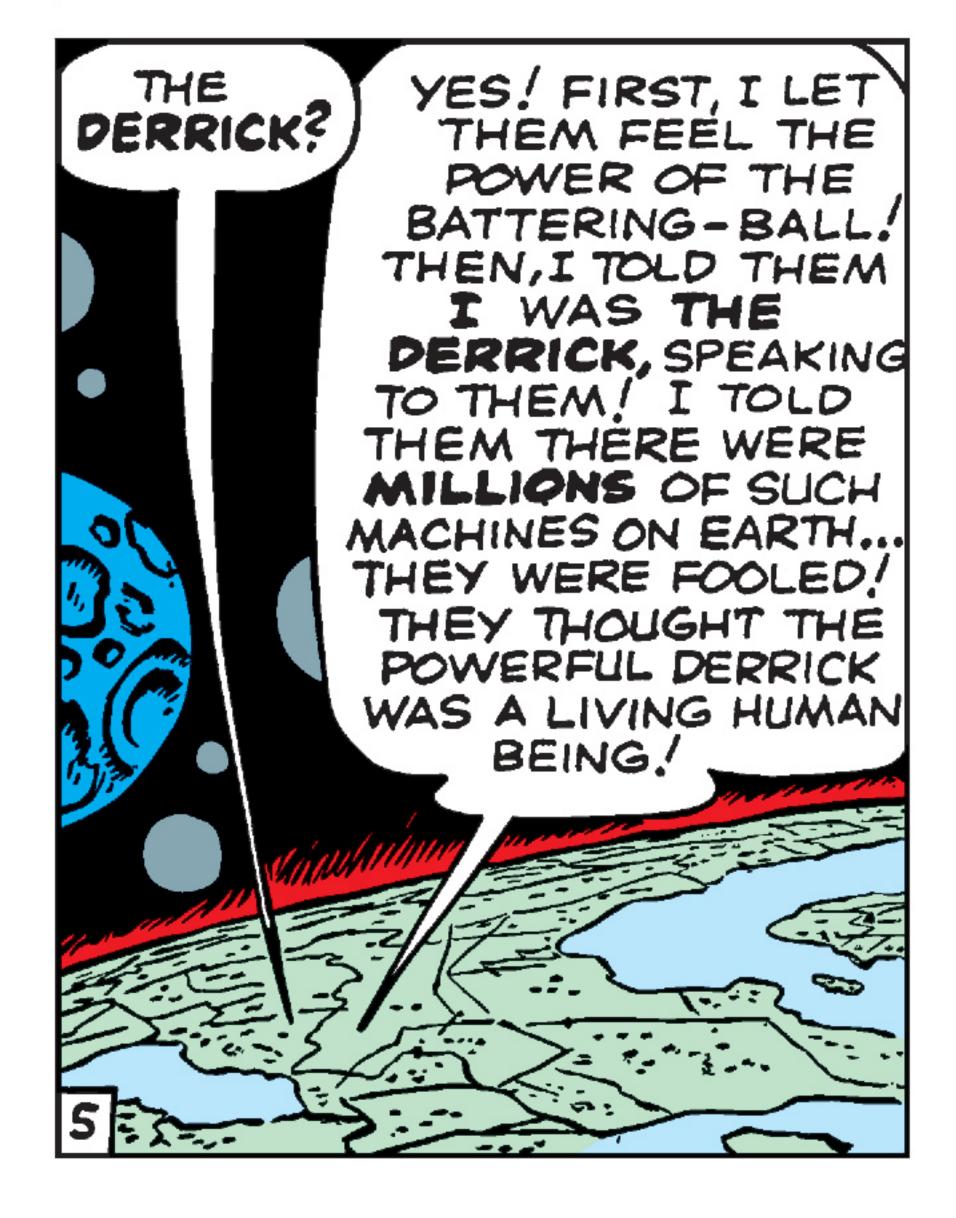


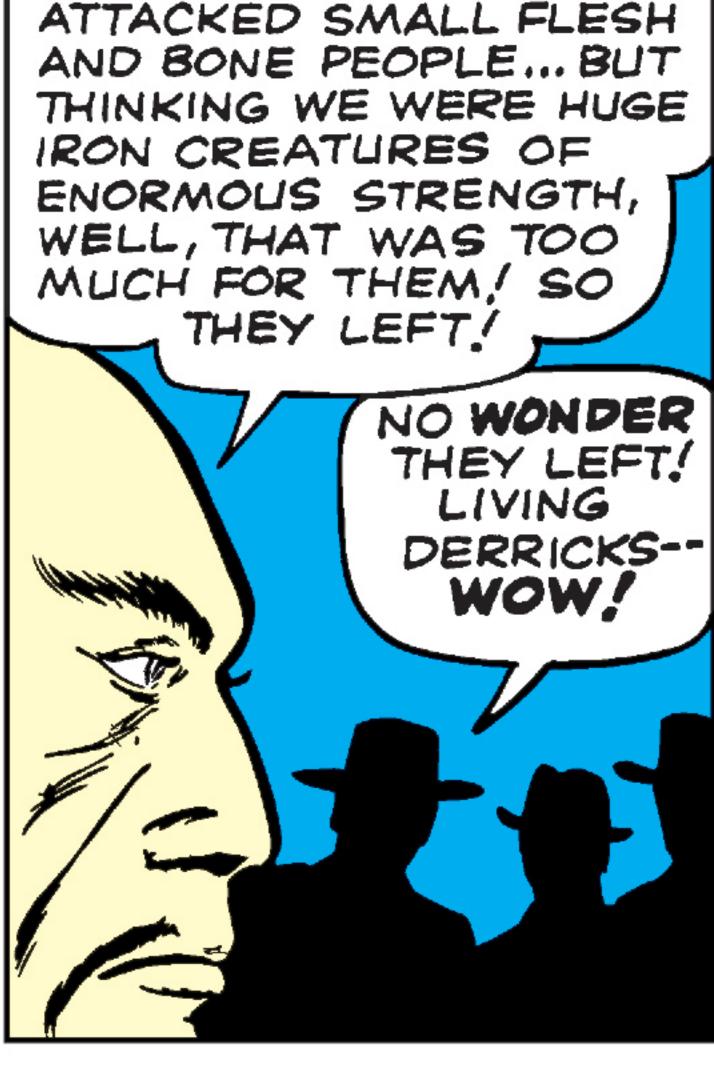












THE ALIENS MIGHT HAVE

