



NO. 292 OCT. 35
30430

BATMAN

I PLEAD GUILTY
TO THE MURDER
OF BATMAN!

I GIVE YOU
EXHIBIT A--
WHAT'S
LEFT
OF HIM!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
 AUTHORITY

"The TESTIMONY
OF
The Riddler!"

BLUE DIAMOND
BRAND
DYNAMITE

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

THE BATMAN

I'VE LIVED TO SEE
IT WITH MY OWN EYES--
AND DO IT WITH MY
OWN HANDS!

THE BATMAN IS DEAD!

BRAIAIAIAIAIA



WHO KILLED THE BATMAN?

THE GREATEST WHO DONE IT OF THE CENTURY!-- ONLY THIS MYSTERY WORKS IN REVERSE! THERE ARE "GUILTY" CANDIDATES GALORE CLAIMING THE HONOR!

**AND AMONG THE MOST VENOMOUS AND
VIOLENT OF THEM--THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS--
WHOSE ASTONISHING STORY EXPLODES IN--**

"THE TESTIMONY OF THE RIDDLE!"

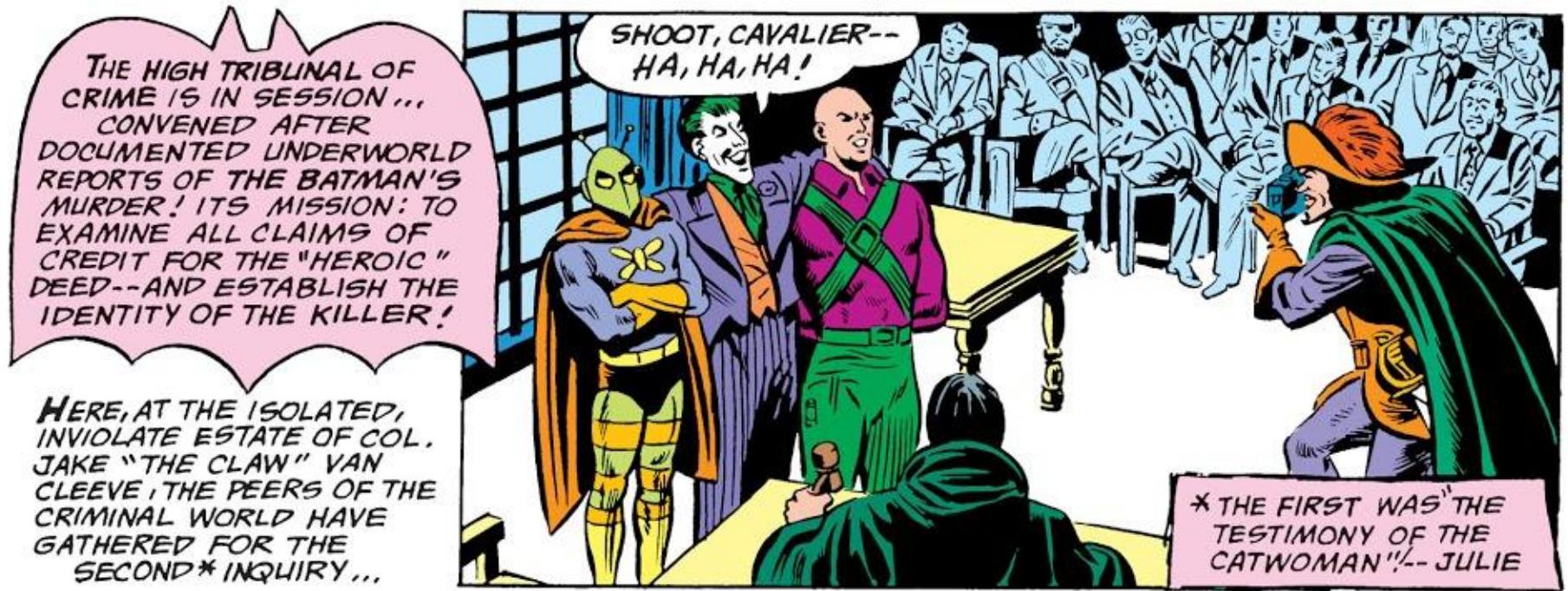
(THE SECOND INSTALLMENT IN OUR
NEW MINI-SERIES...)

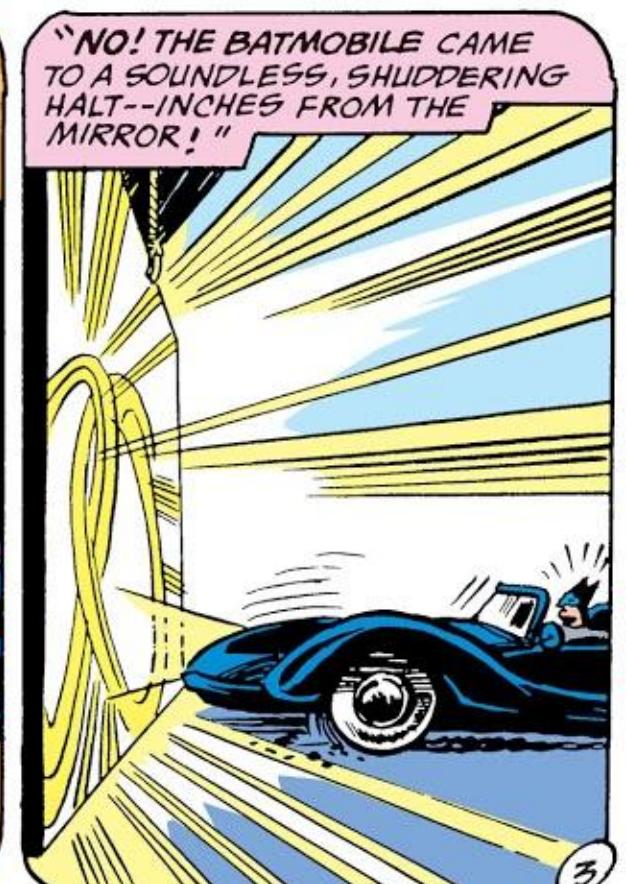
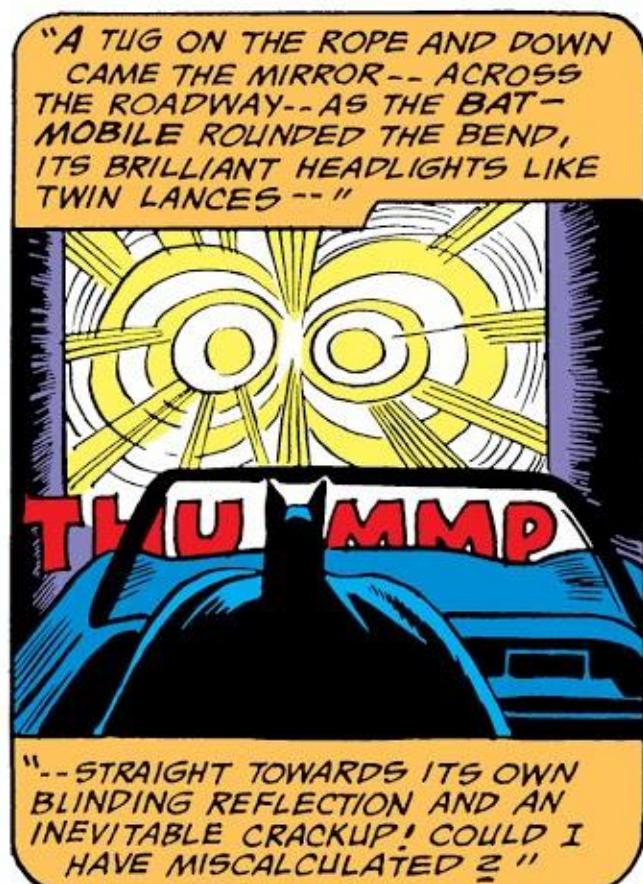
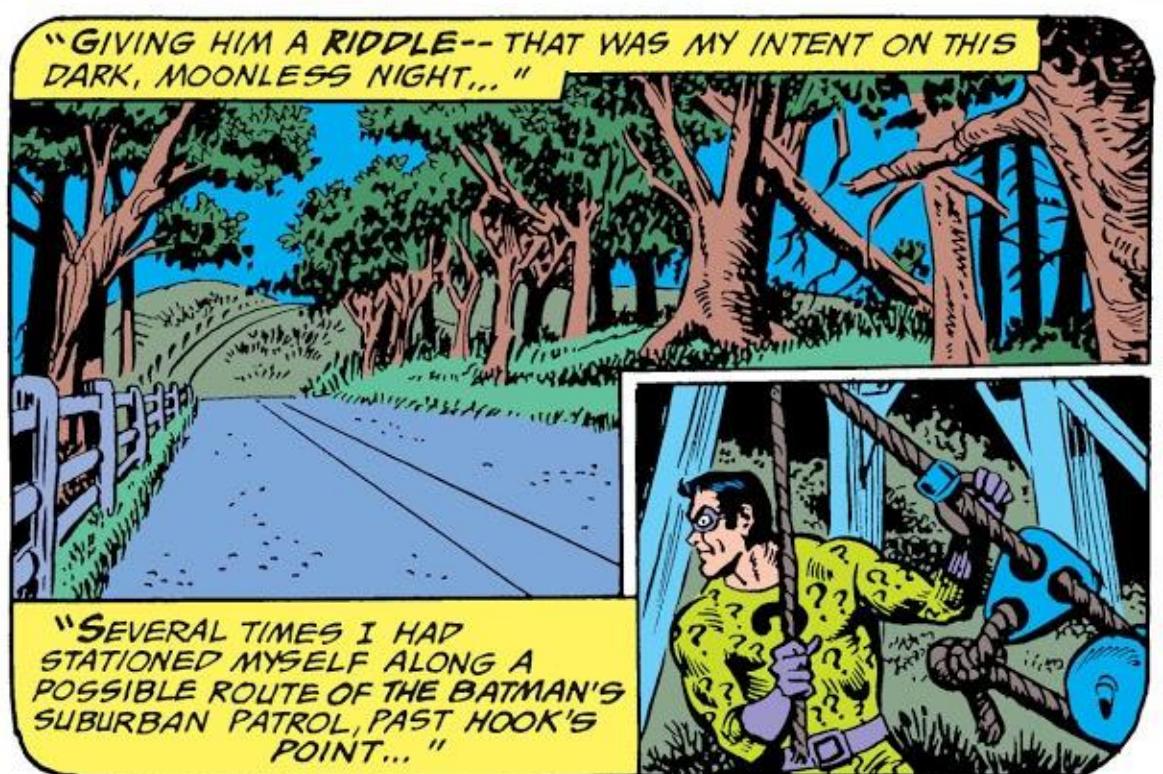
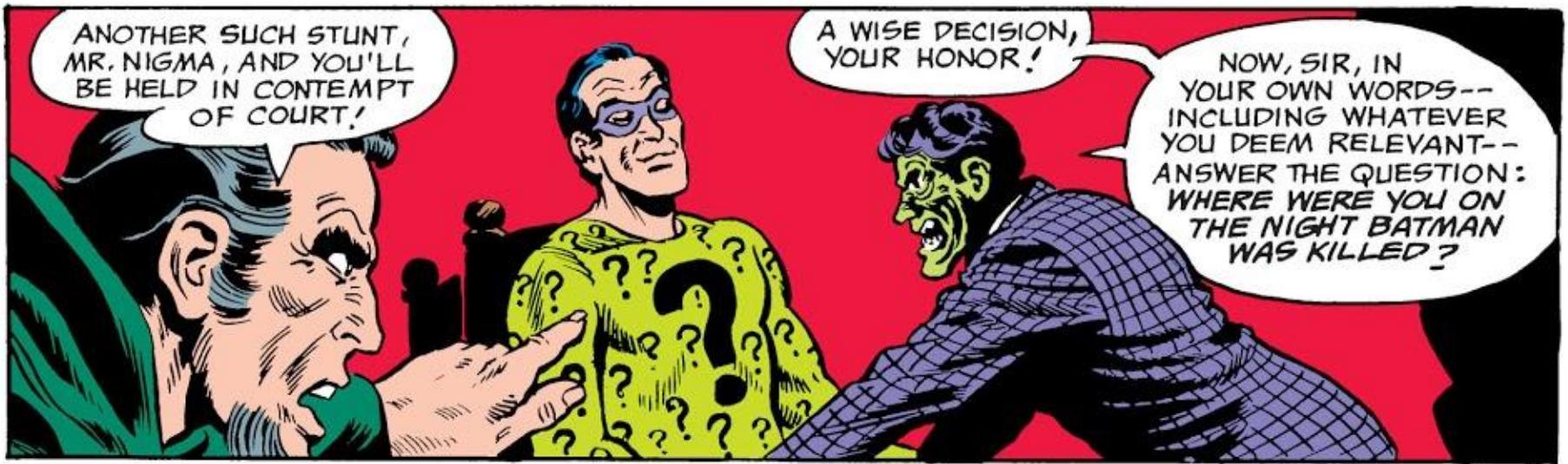
**"WHERE WERE YOU ON THE
NIGHT BATMAN WAS KILLED?"**

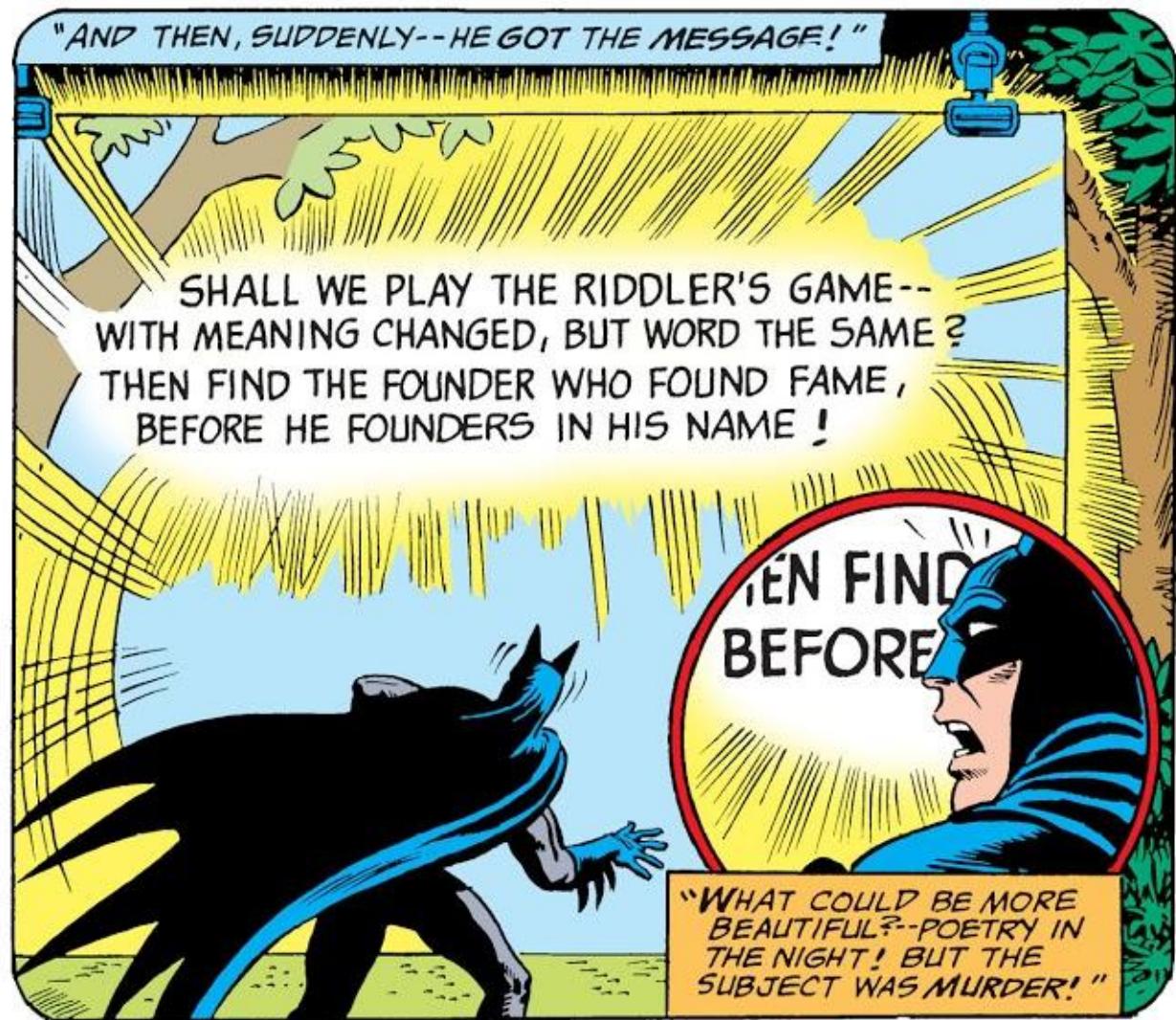
COLORING:
JERRY SERPE
LETTERING:
MILT SNAPINN

STORY:
DAVID W.
REED

ART:
JOHN CALNAN
and
TEX BLAISDELL







"AS EXPECTED, THE BATMAN SOLVED MY RIDDLE--"

IT'S THE RIDDLER'S WORK-- JUST AS HIS RHYME WARNED!

A MAN NAMED JOHN SHOLES... SHOT TO DEATH ON A BOAT THAT FOUNDERED IN THE SHOALS! THE SAME WORD, BUT THE MEANING CHANGED!

A WANTON KILLING-- AS A CLUE!

"FROM MY HIDDEN VANTAGE POINT, I COULD HEAR HIM TALKING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON ABOARD THE BOAT,, WHERE IT HAD RUN AGROUND... "

"BUT-- AS HE NOW REALIZED--IN NO WAY COULD HE HAVE PREVENTED IT... "

"...BECAUSE THIS MURDER--WHICH WAS THE ANSWER TO MY RIDDLE IN THE MIRROR--WAS ONLY A CLUE TO MY REAL CAPER!"

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE RIDDLE--"THE FOUNDER WHO FOUND FAME"?

STILL WORKIN' ON IT, COMMISSIONER!

"AND SO, SATISFIED THAT I HAD FULFILLED MY SELF-IMPOSED OBLIGATION, I MET WITH MY HEAVY-DUTY GOONS FOR THE REAL BUSINESS AT HAND!"

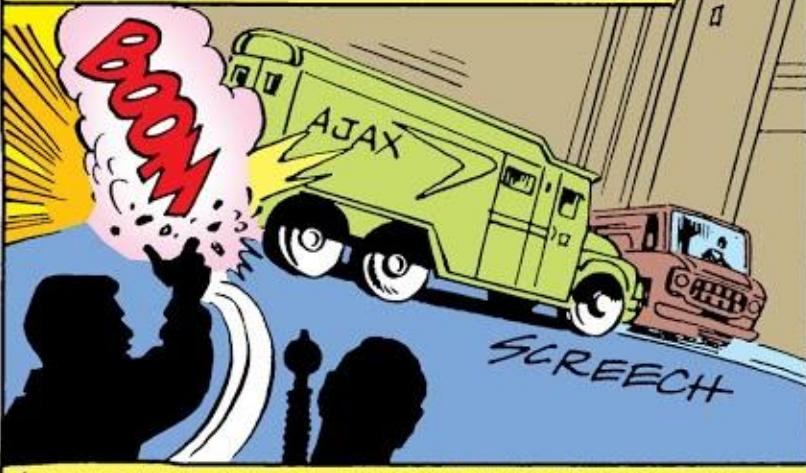
GUNS CHECKED, PLENTY OF AMMO, AND TWO BAGS OF GRENADES!

NICE-- VERY NICE INDEED!

"NEXT EVENING, SHORTLY BEFORE SEVEN O'CLOCK, I WAS IN POSITION TO STRIKE!"

"AT STAKE--A MATCHLESS, FANTASTIC LITTLE OBJECT OF ART--NOTHING LIKE IT ON EARTH-- WORTH THREE MILLION DOLLARS!"

"THE ARMORED TRUCK-- TAKING A SECRET ROUTE THROUGH SIDE STREETS-- WAS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! BUT SO WERE WE!"

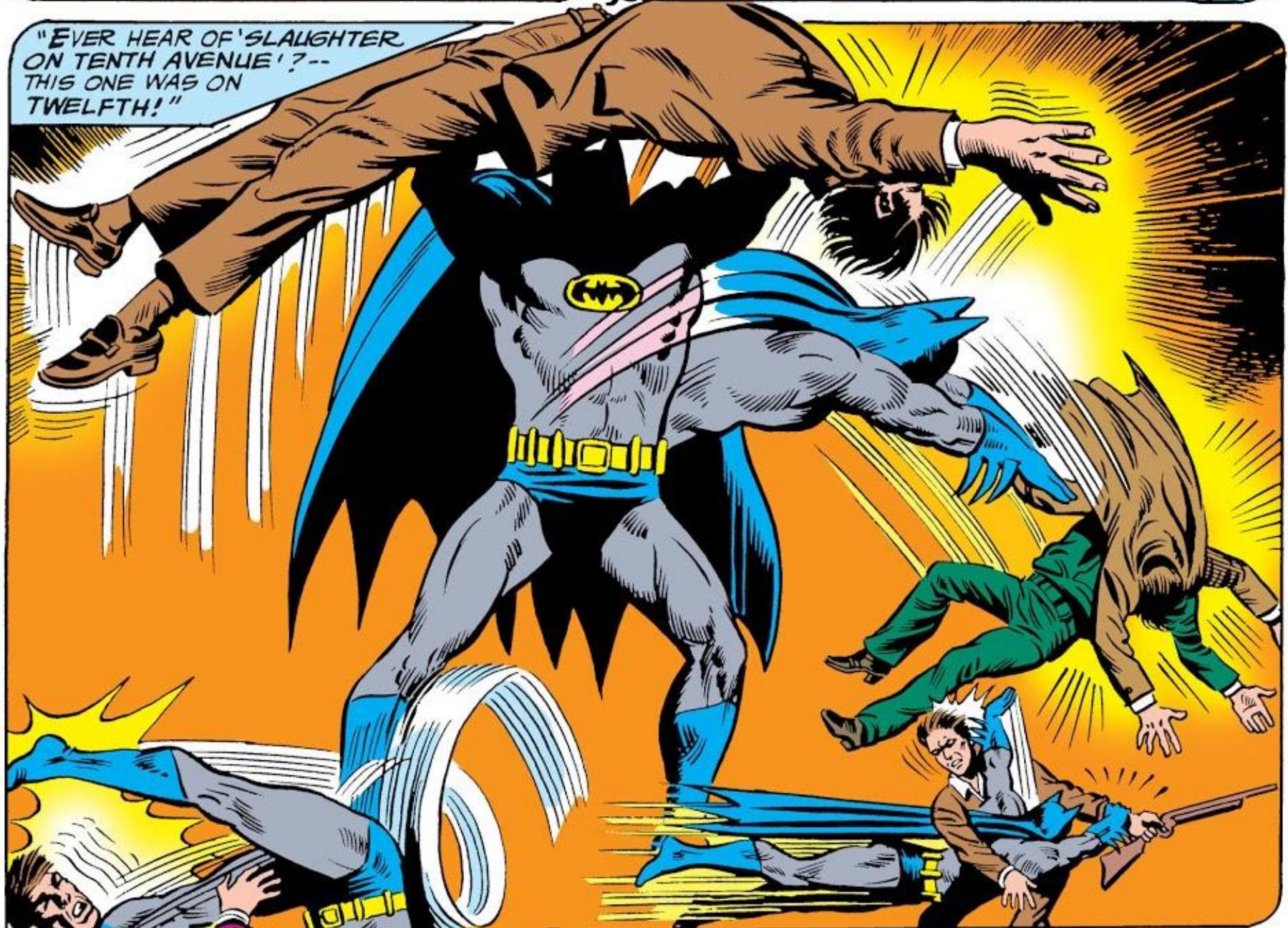


"STEP ONE-- BLOCK OFF THE TRUCK! STEP TWO-- GRENADES-- TO BLAST IT OUT OF COMMISSION!"

"UNFORTUNATELY, WE NEVER GOT TO STEP THREE--"



"EVER HEAR OF 'SLAUGHTER ON TENTH AVENUE'?-- THIS ONE WAS ON TWELFTH!"

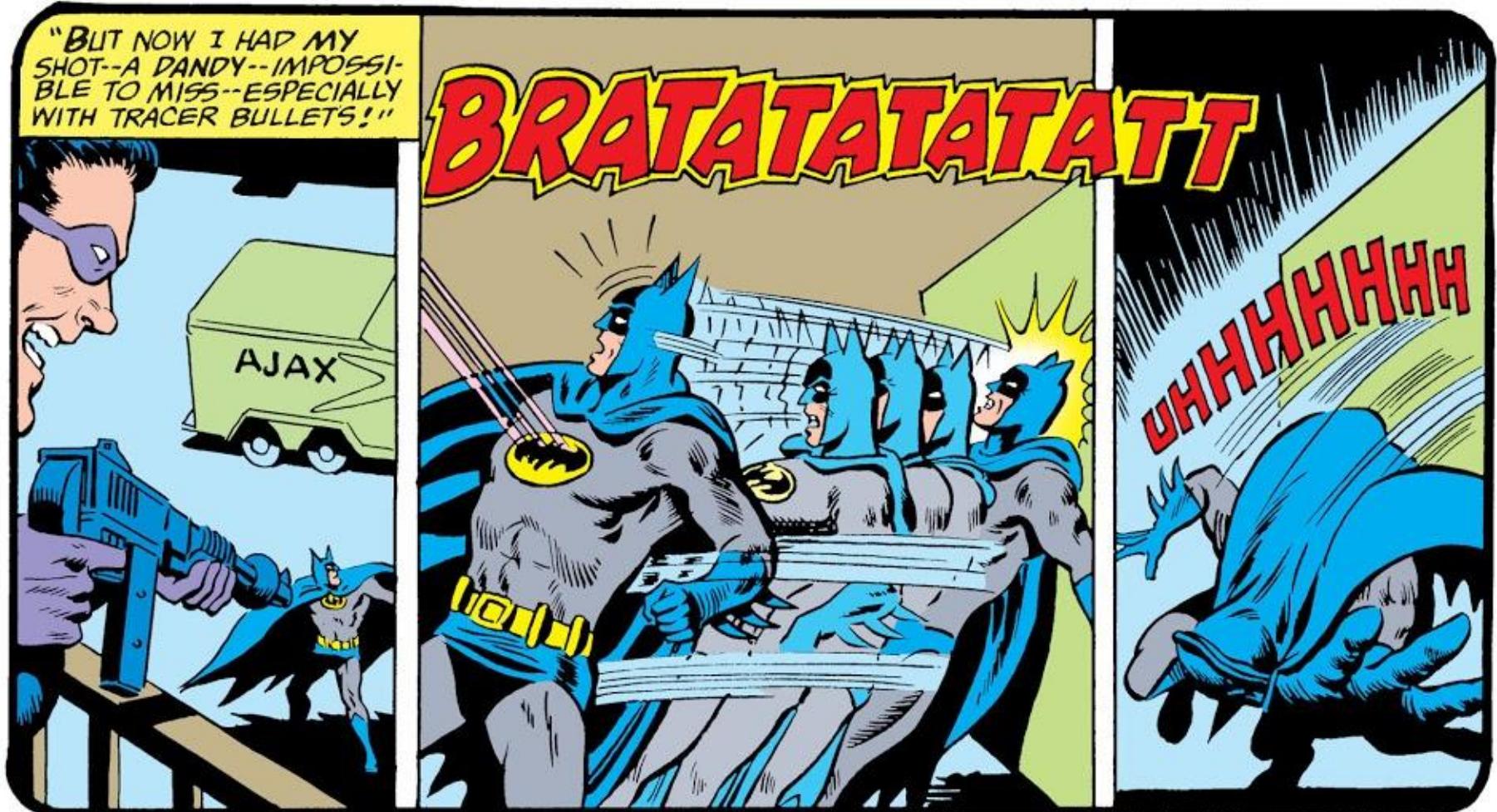
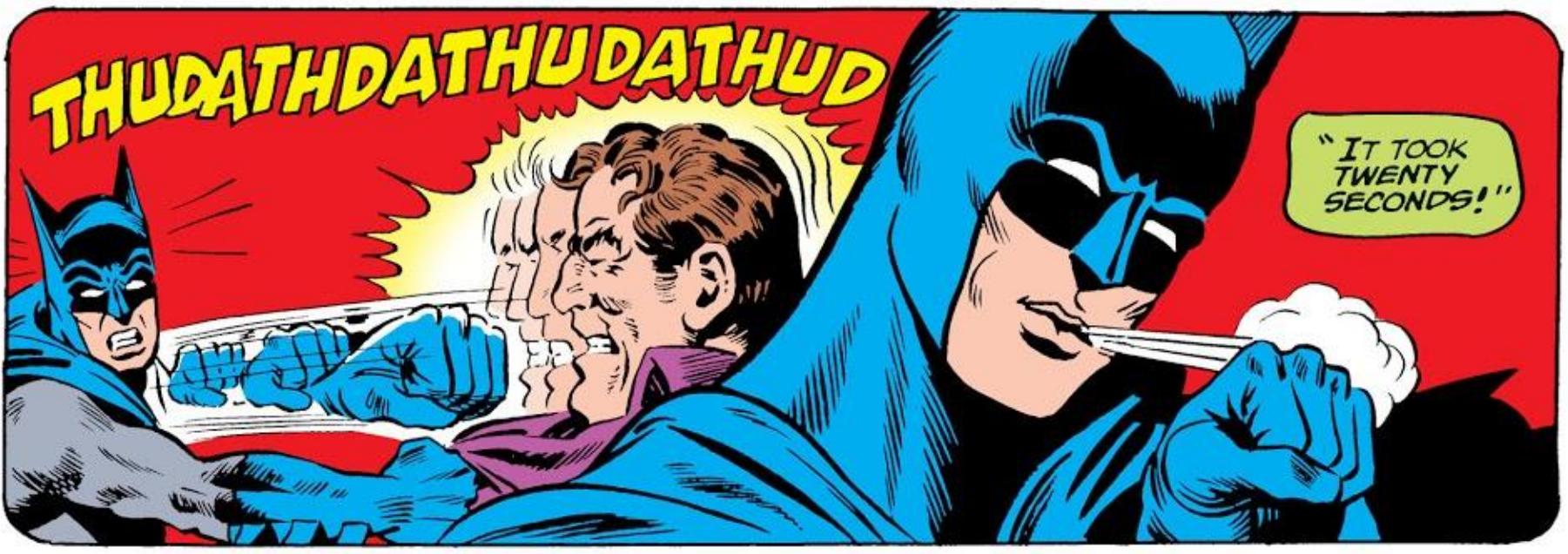


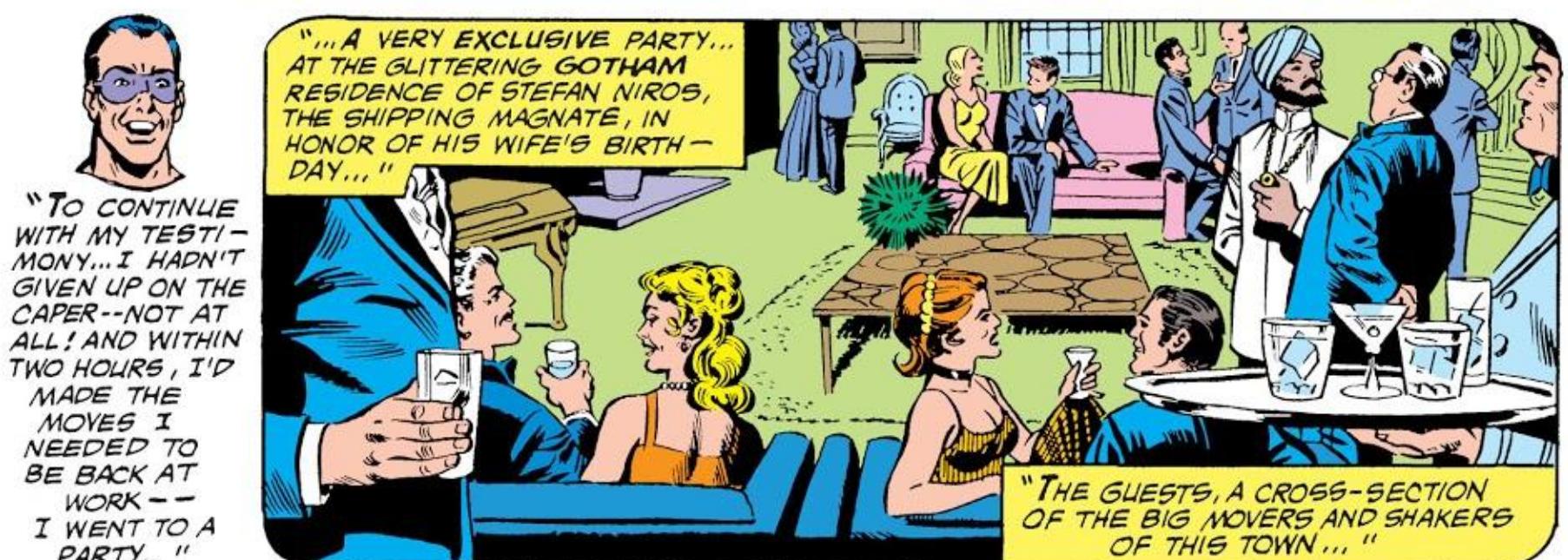
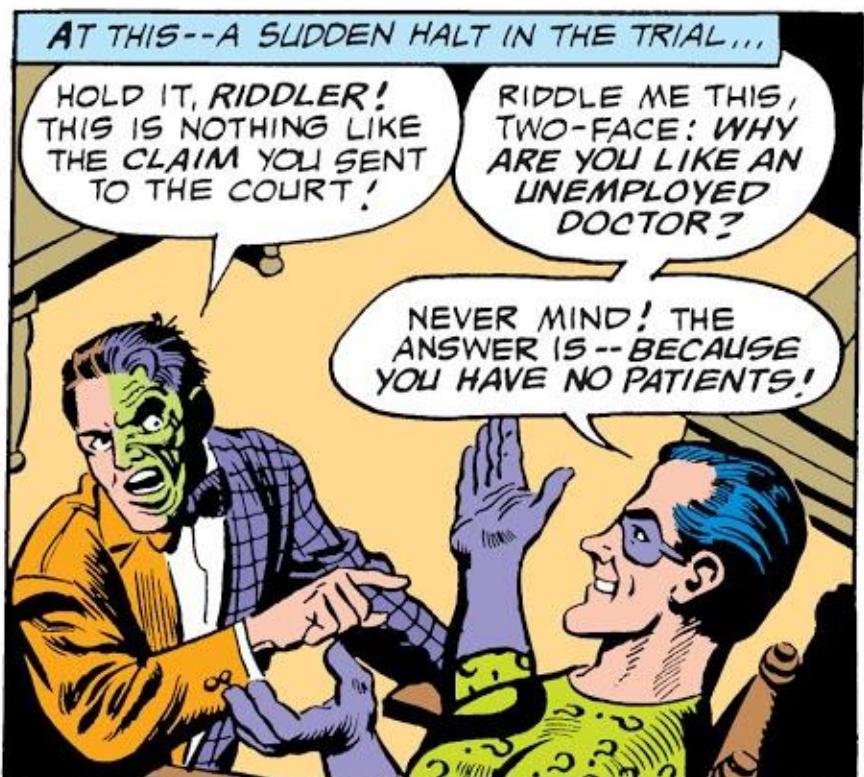
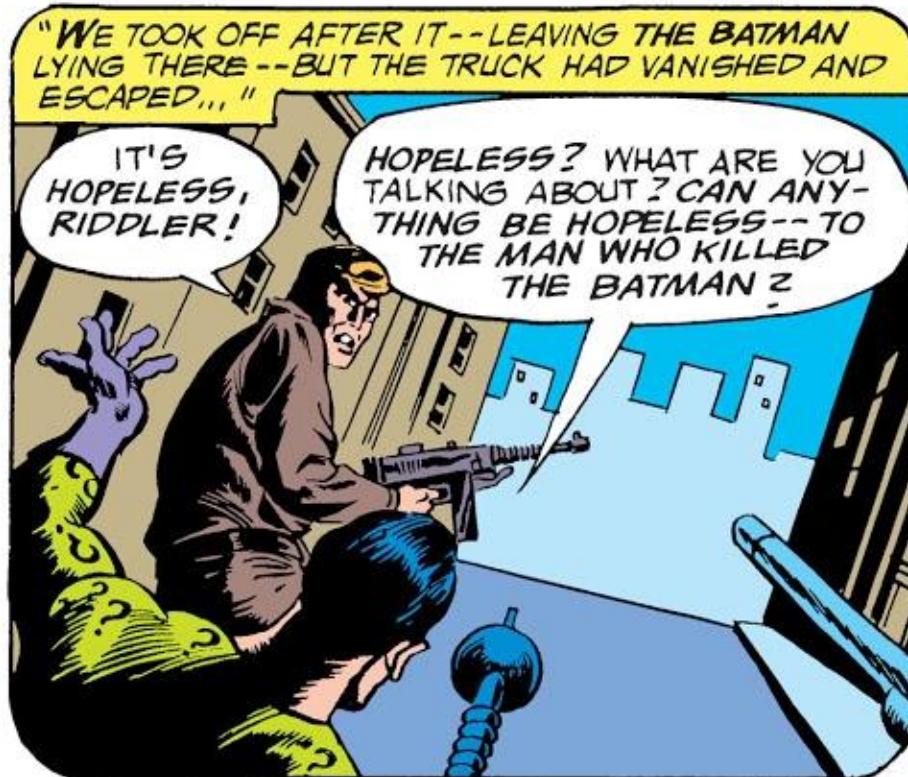
"I WATCHED THE COMBAT, WAITING FOR A CLEAR SHOT-- THE BATMAN ALONE..."

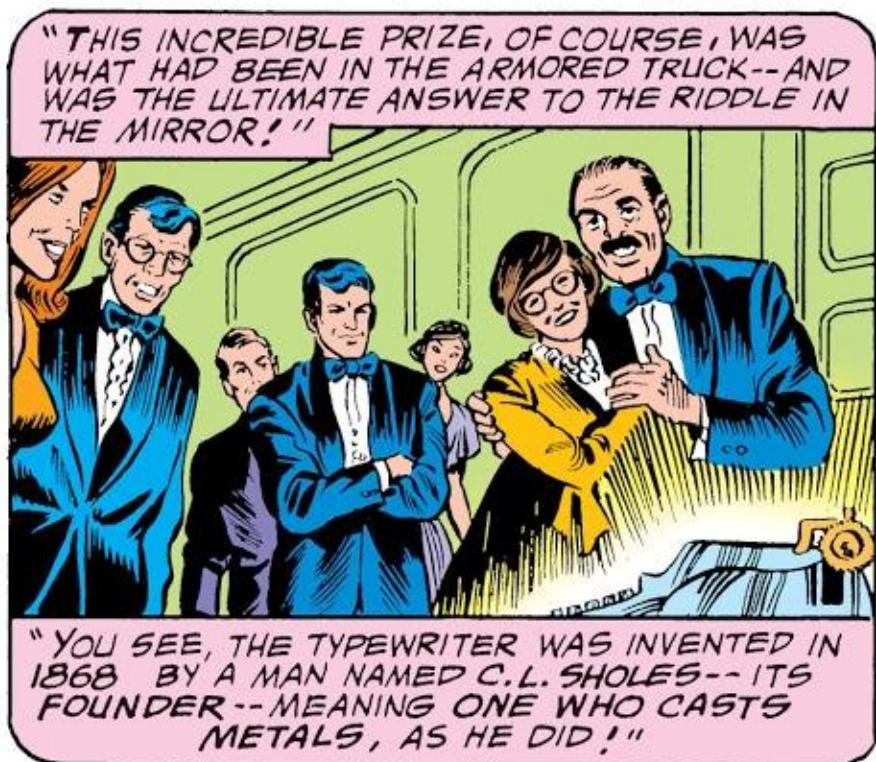


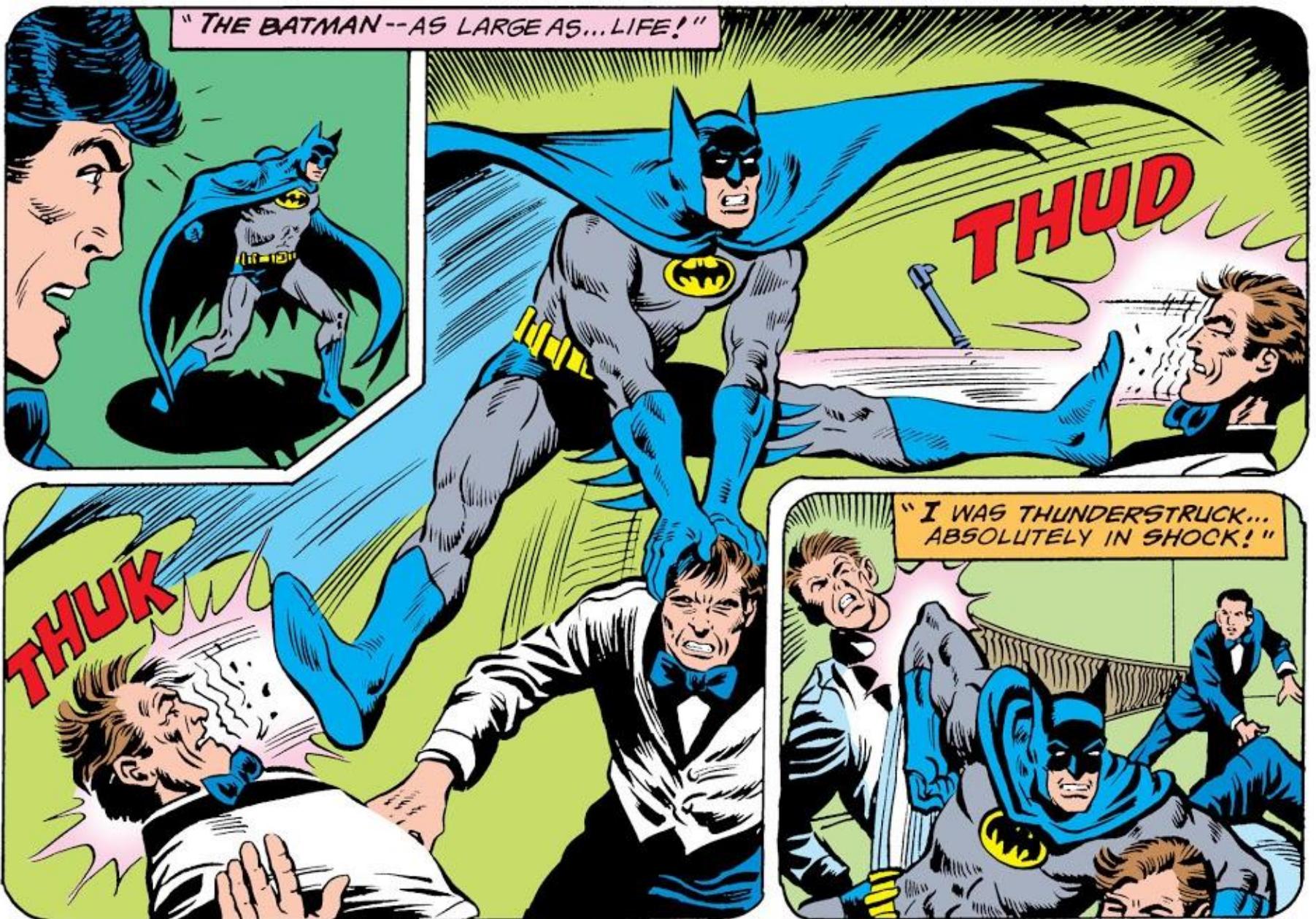
"AND WITH THAT HUMAN HURRICANE IN ACTION, I ESTIMATED IT WOULD TAKE MAYBE A MINUTE!"

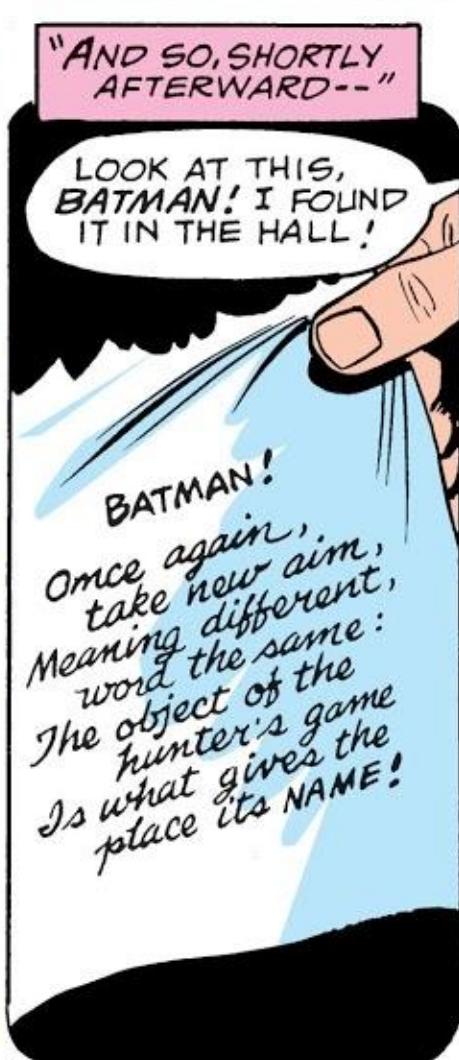


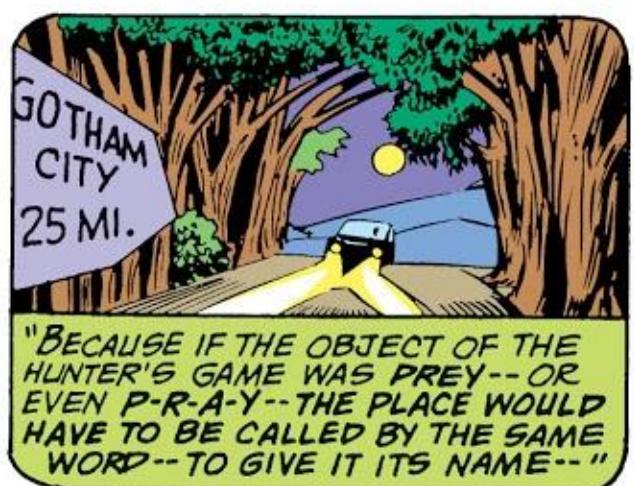
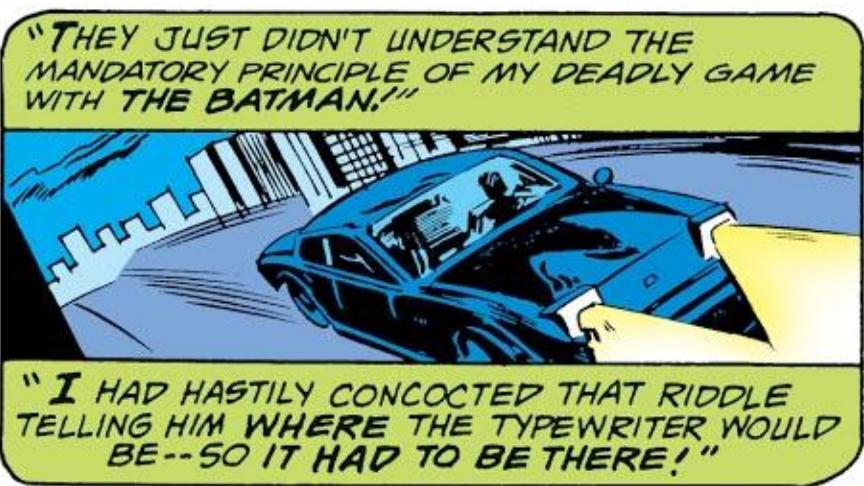












I INTERCEPTED YOUR MURDEROUS CREW AT THE KINGSBORO BRIDGE! THEY'RE SAFELY IN CUSTODY, TOGETHER WITH THE TYPEWRITER!

YOU SENT ME ONE RIDDLE TOO MANY--AND QUARRY WAS HARDLY UP TO YOUR USUAL STANDARD!

YOU'D HAVE BEEN BETTER ADVISED TO REMAIN DISGUISED AS BRUCE WAYNE... EVEN THOUGH--AS YOU HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING--I HAD PHONED WAYNE SHORTLY BEFORE THE PARTY--

--IN FLORIDA!

"BY THEN, I WAS BEYOND SURPRISE .., BEYOND ALL FEELING... EXCEPT FOR THE GREAT BITTERNESS THAT WELLED UP IN ME! ONLY THAT STROKE OF LUCK-- THAT COINCIDENTAL PHONE CALL-- HAD SAVED HIM!"

I COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU AT THE PARTY...

"HE SPOKE SOFTLY, MOTIONLESS-- BUT I KNEW THAT AT MY SLIGHTEST MOVE, HE'D LEAP AT ME--"

--BUT I HAD TO GIVE YOU TIME TO DISPATCH YOUR THUGS HERE--TO MAKE YOUR QUARRY RIDDLE LEGITIMATE!

BUT BEFORE-- HOW DID YOU SURVIVE MY TOMMY-GUN BURST?

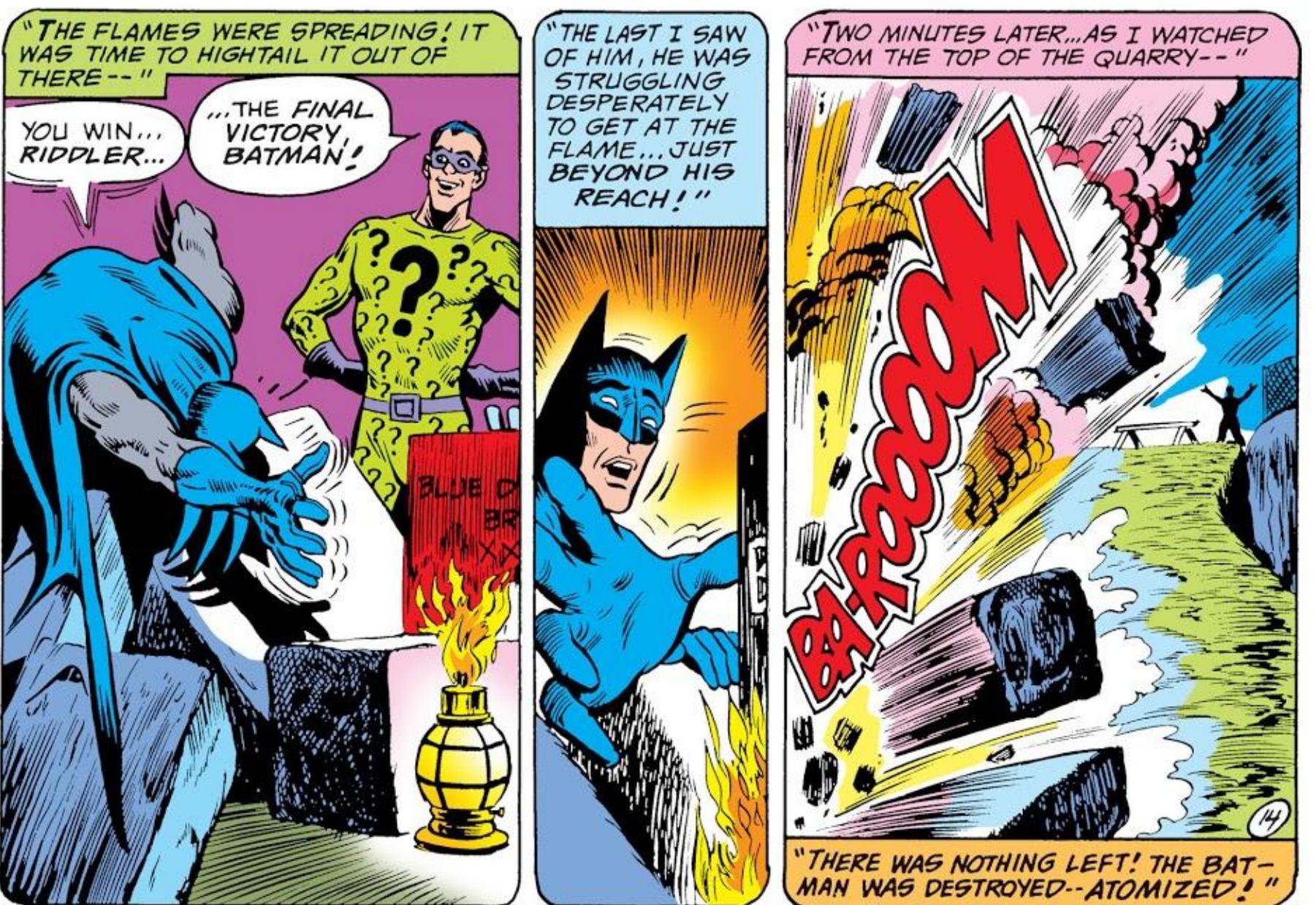
THAT'S MY SECRET-- WHICH I MAY WANT TO USE AGAIN!

"I JUMPED ASIDE AS MY KNIFE CUT THROUGH THE ROPE..."

SNIC

--AND--"

KAROOOM



THE TESTIMONY HAS ENDED! THE RIDDLER TRIUMPHANTLY SCANS THE BUZZING CHAMBER UNTIL HIS EYES MEET THE MALEVOLENT GAZE OF THE PROSECUTOR...



AND NOW, TWO-FACE, YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY MY CIGAR WAS LIKE MY TESTIMONY... BECAUSE THEY BOTH WENT BOOM AT THE END!



--SUCH CLUMSY FICTION IS A FLAGRANT MOCKERY OF THE COURT! I WON'T EVEN BOTHER TO CROSS-EXAMINE THIS MYTHOMANIAC!

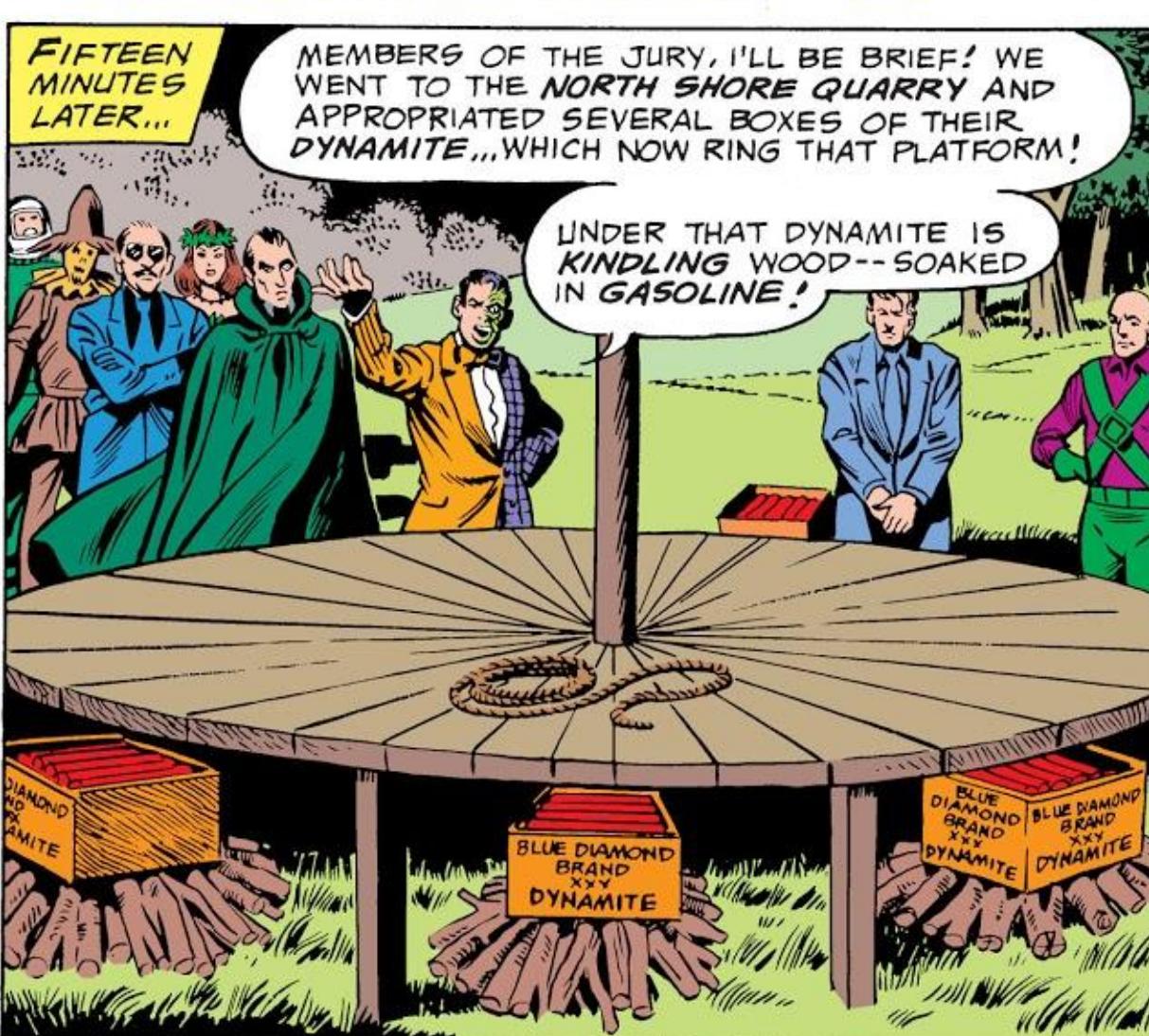
YOUR HONOR, MAY I APPROACH THE BENCH?

A SHORT WHISPERED CONVERSATION... THEN--

AFTER A 15-MINUTE RECESS, THE COURT WILL RECONVENE OUTDOORS, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE!

LUTHOR, WHAT IN BLAZES IS TWO-FACE UP TO?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT, KILLER MOTH!



NOW--THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS MERCHANT OF BUNK...

BAILIFFS--SEIZE THE RIDDLER--AND TIE HIM TO THE POST ON THE PLATFORM!





