

BATMAN

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BRUCE WAYNE: FUGITIVE

PART ONE
64-PAGE
SPECIAL
ISSUE!



MC DANIEL

APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS AGO, BRUCE WAYNE ESCAPED FROM POLICE CUSTODY WHILE BEING TRANSPORTED BACK TO BLACKGATE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE...

POLICE

THE MEETING WITH THE D. A. HAD BEEN LONG AND UNSUCCESSFUL, SINCE WAYNE AND HIS ATTORNEY REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY PLEA AGREEMENT WHATSOEVER...

NOTHIN' IN THERE,
IT'S CLEAN...

WHAT'D YOU
EXPECT? WE'RE
JUST COVERING
THE BASES
HERE...

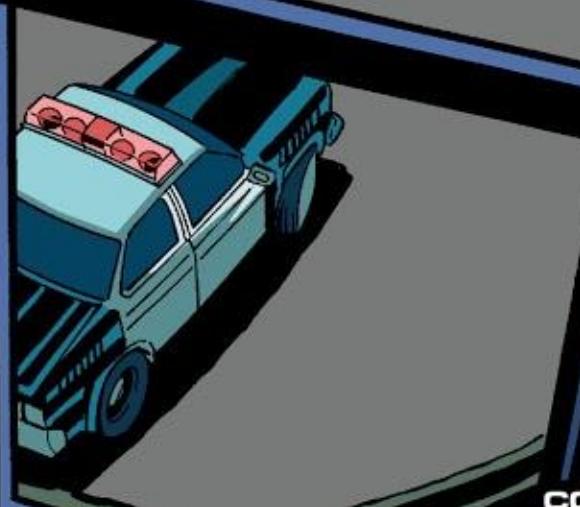
...AND AS THEY LEFT, A FRUSTRATED ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY WARNED THEM AGAINST ANY ATTEMPTS TO PLEAD "TEMPORARY INSANITY."

I HIGHLY DOUBT ANYONE ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS GUY'D BE DUMB ENOUGH TO RUN BACK TO HIS STATELY MANOR.

SHE NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED, THOUGH, BECAUSE THAT HAD NEVER EVEN BEEN A CONSIDERATION...

...BUT SITTING IN A CELL AND WAITING FOR A TRIAL HADN'T BEEN, EITHER.

YEAH, BUT THESE M.C.U. GUYS ARE GRASPIN' AT STRAWS RIGHT NOW... MAYBE THEY WERE HOPIN' IT'D BE LIKE IN THE MOVIES...



The Scene Of The CRIME

"...WHERE THE CRIMINAL ALWAYS RETURNS TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME."

ED BRUBAKER, writer • SCOTT McDANIEL, penciller
ANDY OWENS, inker • GREGORY WRIGHT, colorist
WILDSTORM FX, separations • JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
MICHAEL WRIGHT, associate editor • BOB SCHRECK, editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE



THIS HOUSE... THIS
HOUSE HAS TOO
MANY MEMORIES...

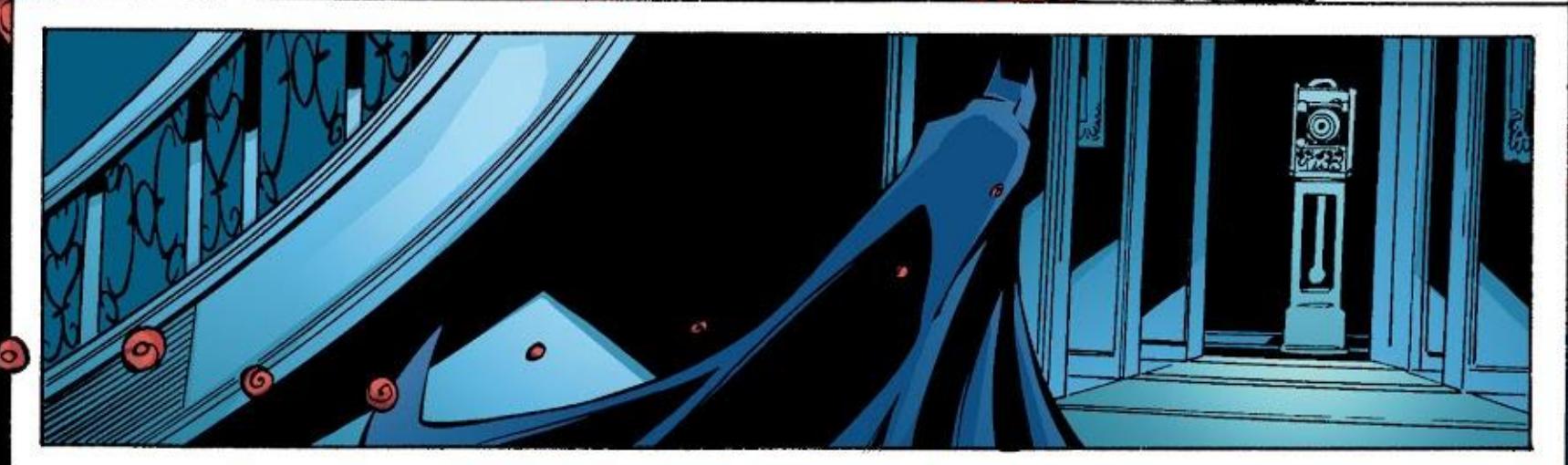
VESPER, YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. A MAN
JUST DOESN'T CANCEL
GOLF WITH THE
PRESIDENT...

-- SHOULD'VE
KNOWN YOU'D
NEVER TAKE THE
TIME FOR THIS
WEEKEND... I GUESS
WOMEN ARE JUST
FOOLS AROUND YOU,
AREN'T THEY,
BRUCE?

I'LL HAVE
TO REMEMBER
THAT, THEN,
WON'T I?

WAIT A
MOMENT,
SILVER, DON'T
BE LIKE
THAT...

THAT THERE'LL
ALWAYS BE
SOMETHING
MORE IMPORTANT
TO YOU THAN I
AM!



THERE,
THERE, MASTER
BRUCE...THERE,
THERE...



NO, THE HELL
WITH THAT! I DON'T
CARE!



IT'S NOT OPEN
FOR DISCUSSION, JASON.
YOU'LL DO AS I SAY,
OR YOU CAN TURN
IN YOUR CAPE.

OH, IS THAT
HOW IT IS, HUH?

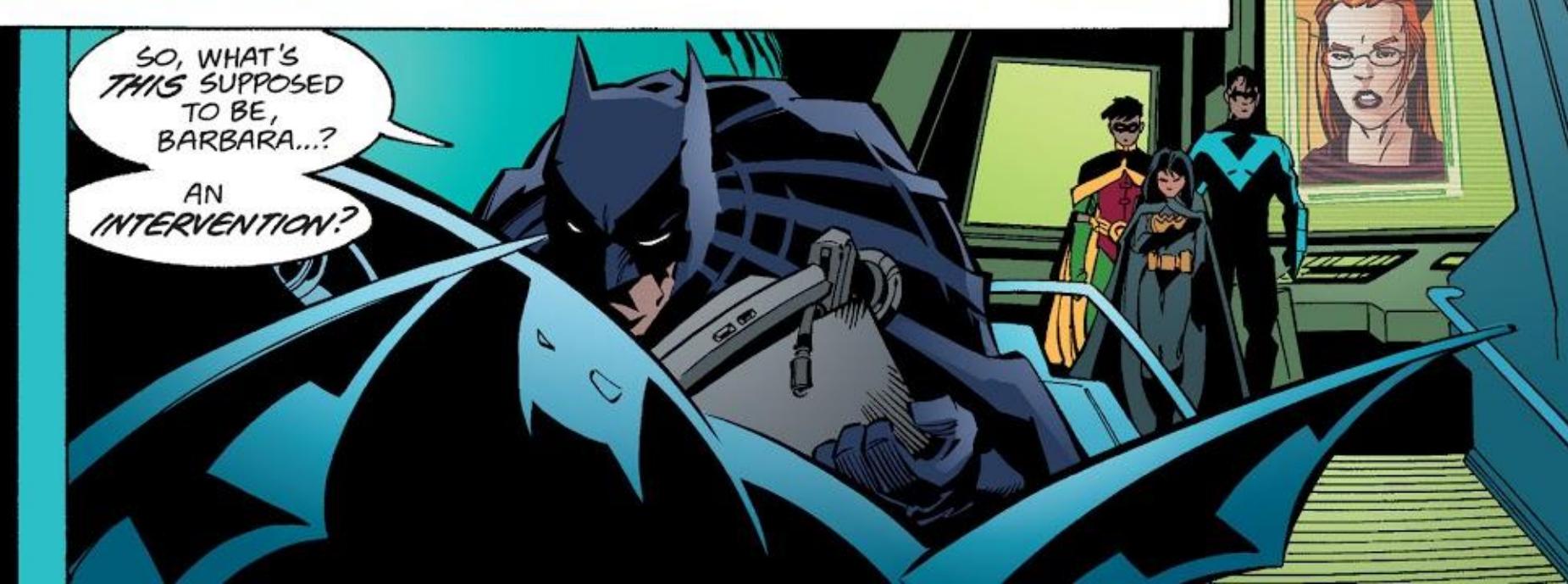
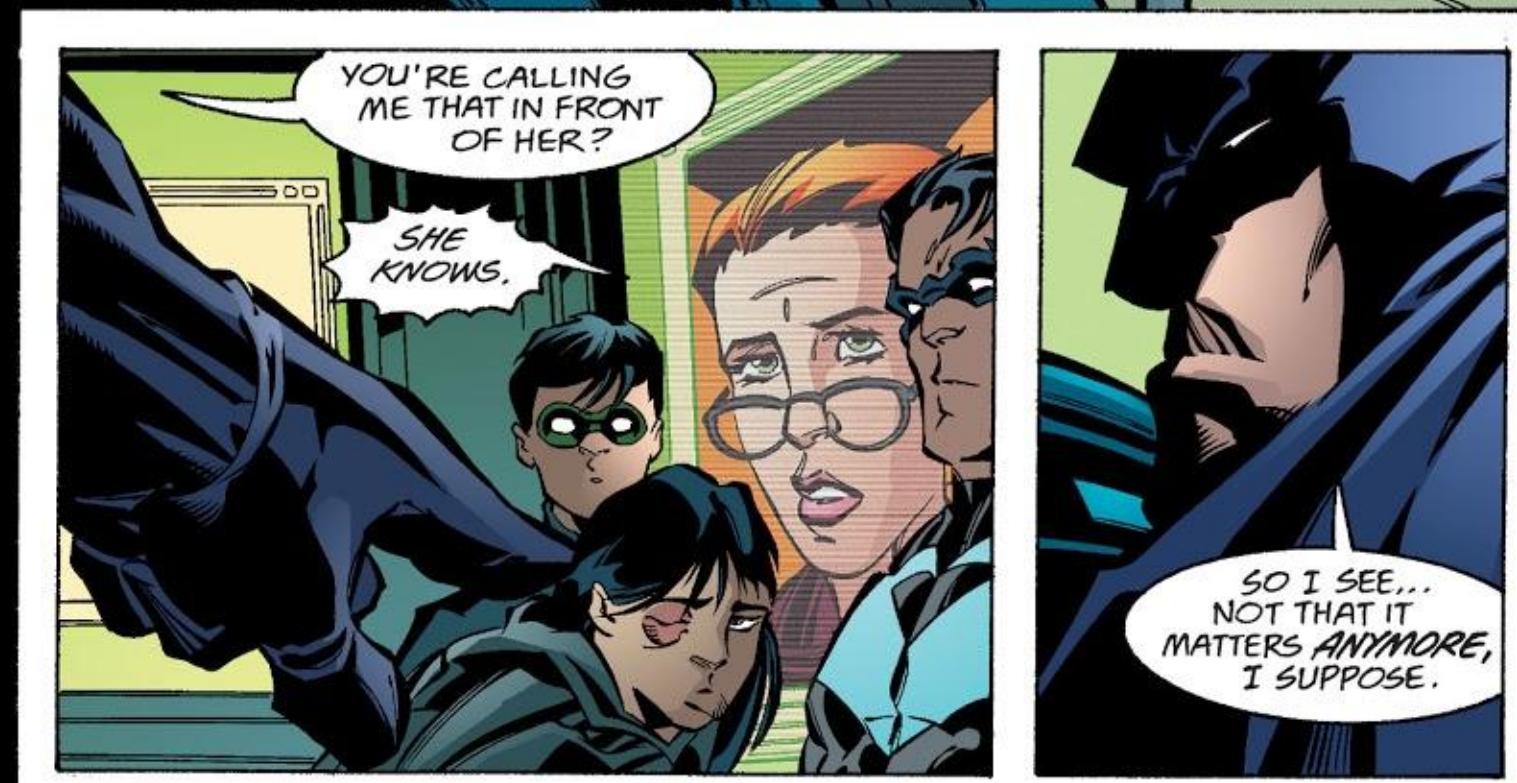
IS THAT WHAT
HAPPENED WITH DICK,
TOO? DID HE DECIDE
TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS
ON HIS OWN AND YOU
COULDN'T TAKE IT?





NO, YOU HEARD ME
RIGHT, BRUCE, HE'S RETIRING...
THEY'LL BE NAMING A NEW
POLICE COMMISSIONER IN
THE NEXT FEW DAYS...





WELL... YOU DIDN'T
BOther TO TELL ANY OF
US YOU WERE PLANNING
ON ESCAPING, SO WE'RE
A LITTLE CONCERNED.

I MEAN, NOW
NOT ONLY ARE YOU
WANTED FOR MURDER,
BUT YOU'RE A FUGITIVE
FROM JUSTICE,
TOO...

SO, WHAT ARE
YOU PLANNING
TO DO?

I'M PLANNING TO
GO BACK TO WORK,
BARBARA. SOMETHING
I CAN'T DO FROM
THE INSIDE OF A
CELL.

AND
WHERE DOES
BRUCE WAYNE
FIT INTO ALL
THIS?

HE
LEAVES...

...AS FAR AS THE REST
OF THE WORLD IS
CONCERNED, BRUCE
WAYNE JUST FLED
THE COUNTRY IN A
PRIVATE JET.

SO... THEN
HOW DOES HE
PROVE HE'S
INNOCENT?

HE
DOESN'T.

EXCUSE
ME?

WHAT?

HAVE
YOU LOST
YOUR
MIND?



I HAVE THINGS TO DO.
THIS CONVERSATION IS OVER.



THIS CONVERSATION HASN'T EVEN BEGIN.

NO... IT ISN'T.



LET GO, TIM.

TELL ME YOU DIDN'T DO IT, FIRST.



OH, I SEE...
IS THAT WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE, THEN?

NO.

YES.

MAYBE...



YOU HAVE TO
ADMIT THAT IF
THIS IS A
FRAME-UP,
WHOEVER
PULLED IT OFF
DID ONE HELL
OF A JOB...

AND YOU TAUGHT US ALL NEVER TO IGNORE THE EVIDENCE... EVEN IF IT POINTS IN A DIRECTION YOU DON'T WANT TO GO. OKAY?

I'M LISTENING.

FOR STARTERS... WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS?

YOU'RE BUYING A GUN, SPECIFICALLY, THE MURDER WEAPON. THAT IS YOU, ISN'T IT?

YES.

WHY WOULD YOU BUY A GUN?

SURVEILLANCE
DIV_CHN_SET
143:021:84
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YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND

TRY ME... PLEASE.



ALL RIGHT THEN,
SO WE'VE GOT BRUCE
WAYNE'S EX-GIRLFRIEND
KILLED WITH BRUCE
WAYNE'S GUN IN WAYNE
MANOR... WHICH IS
BAD ENOUGH...

BUT WE'VE ALSO
GOT A COPY OF THE HARD
DRIVE FROM VESPER'S
COMPUTER.

DO YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA WHAT THE
STORY SHE WAS
WORKING ON WAS?



SHE WAS
TRYING TO FIND
OUT WHO
BATMAN WAS.



ACTUALLY, IT'S WORSE
THAN THAT. SOME OF HER
NOTES HAD BEEN ERASED
PRETTY WELL, SO IT TOOK
A WHILE TO RECALL
THEM, BUT...

SHE KNEW.
SHE HAD ALREADY
FIGURED IT OUT,
AND WAS GOING
TO BROADCAST IT
WITHIN A WEEK.



THAT'S NOT
TRUE.

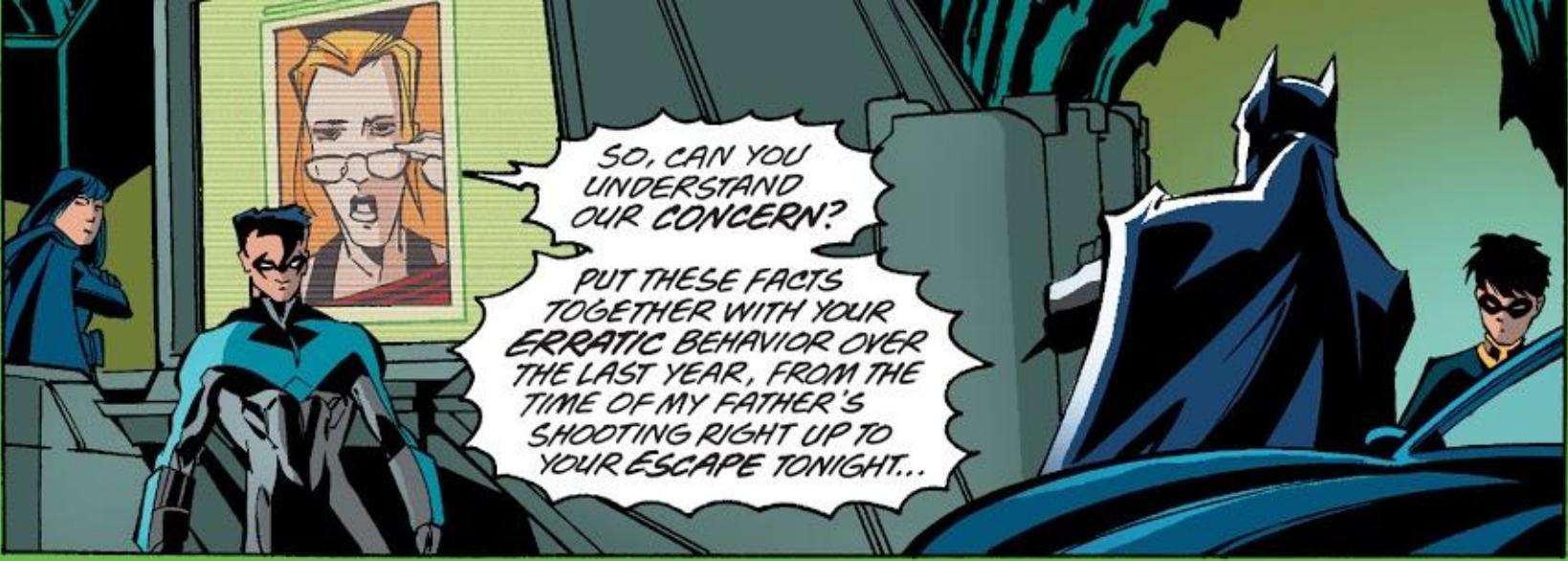


THIS IS FROM TWO
DAYS BEFORE SHE WAS
KILLED... "BRUCE IS BATMAN.
IT MAKES SO MUCH SENSE
THAT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE I
NEVER FIGURED IT OUT
BEFORE. WHY ELSE WOULD
A MAN LIKE BRUCE
WAYNE HAVE MUSCLES
LIKE SCULPTED
STEEL?"

AND A FEW WEEKS
BEFORE THAT... "THIS
AFFAIR WITH BRUCE IS
GETTING TO BE TOO
MUCH. THERE'S A
DANGEROUS PASSION
HIDING SOMEWHERE
BENEATH HIS
SURFACE, AND IT
SCARES ME."



THAT PART WASN'T
ERASED, THOUGH...
ONLY THE
REFERENCES TO
BATMAN WERE.





*SEE NIGHTWING: THE TARGET -- SCHRECK

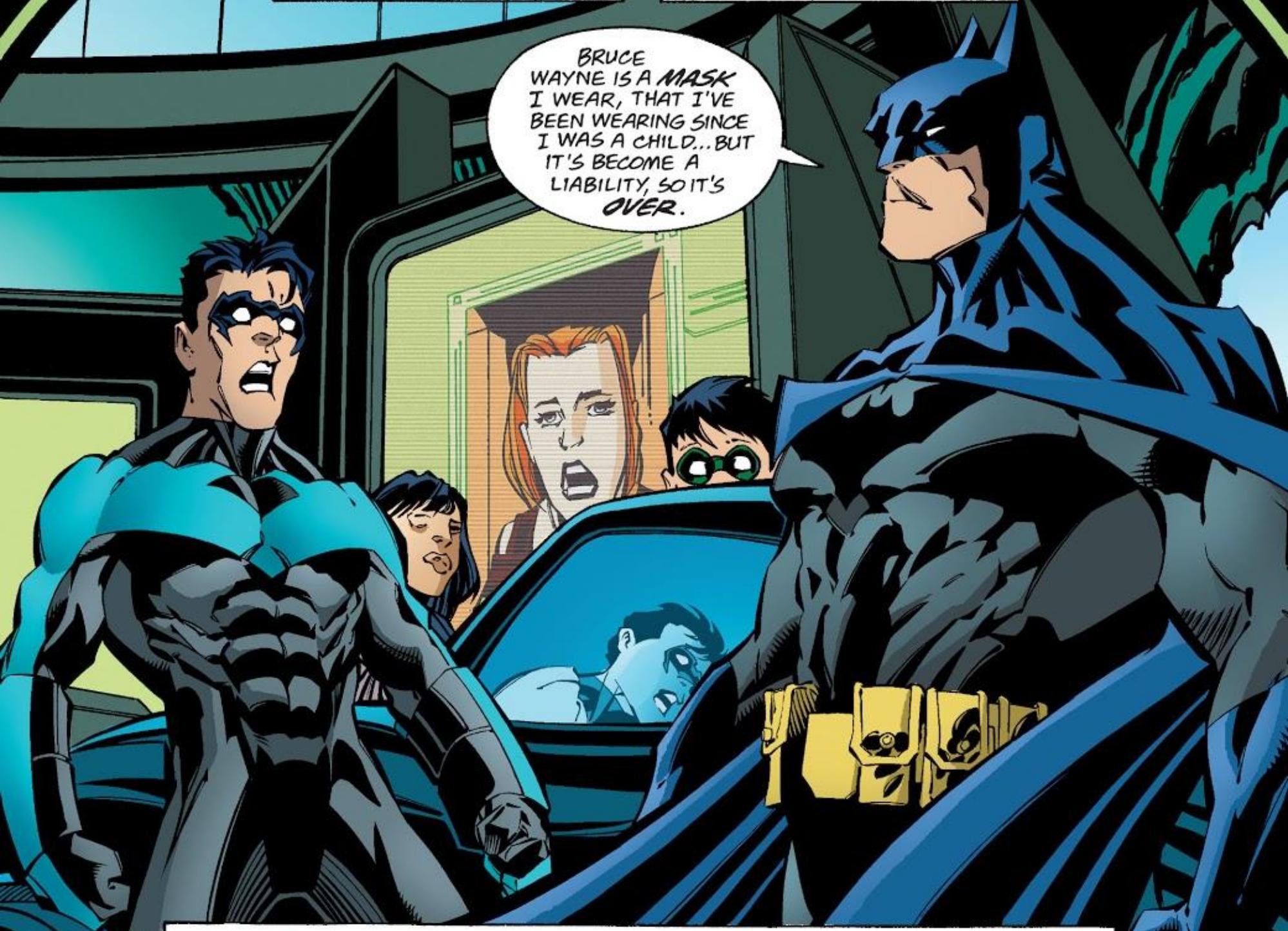




BECUSE
THERE IS
NO BRUCE
WAYNE.



WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?



BRUCE
WAYNE IS A MASK
I WEAR, THAT I'VE
BEEN WEARING SINCE
I WAS A CHILD... BUT
IT'S BECOME A
LIABILITY, SO IT'S
OVER.



YOU CAN'T...
YOU CAN'T
MEAN THAT...





YOU
GET ONE
FOR FREE...
NOW I'M
LEAVING.

NO,
YOU'RE
NOT!

STOP
IT,
DICK!

YOU CAN'T
JUST RUIN AWAY
FROM YOUR WHOLE
LIFE, I WON'T
LET YOU.

YOU
CAN'T STOP
ME.



WE'LL
JUST SEE
ABOUT
THAT!

LISTEN TO
ME, DAMN
IT!

DICK! YOU
CAN'T DO THIS!
THIS WON'T SOLVE
ANYTHING!



STOP
IT! STOP
AVOIDING
ME!

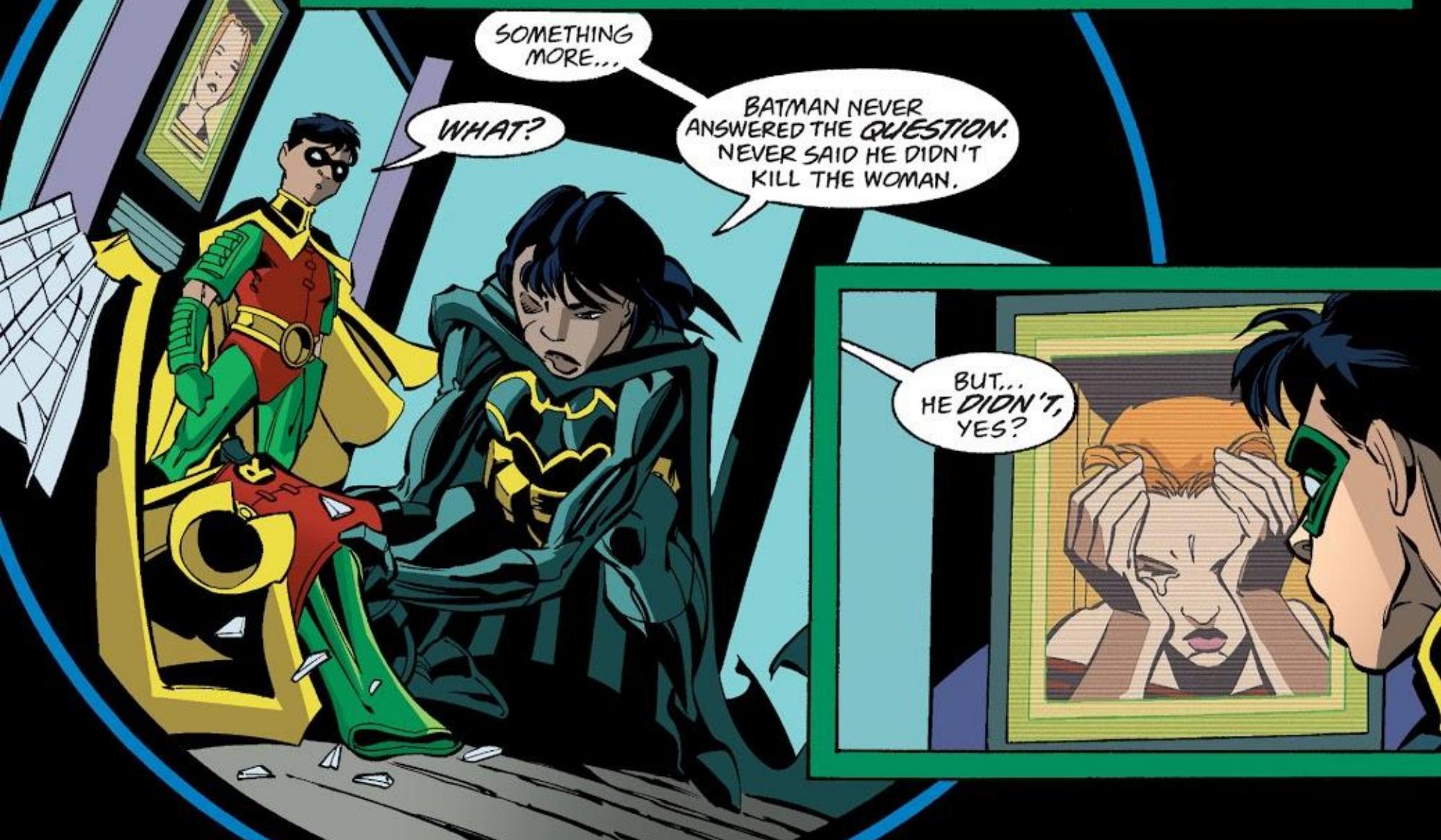














NOTHING WILL STAND
IN THE WAY ANYMORE.



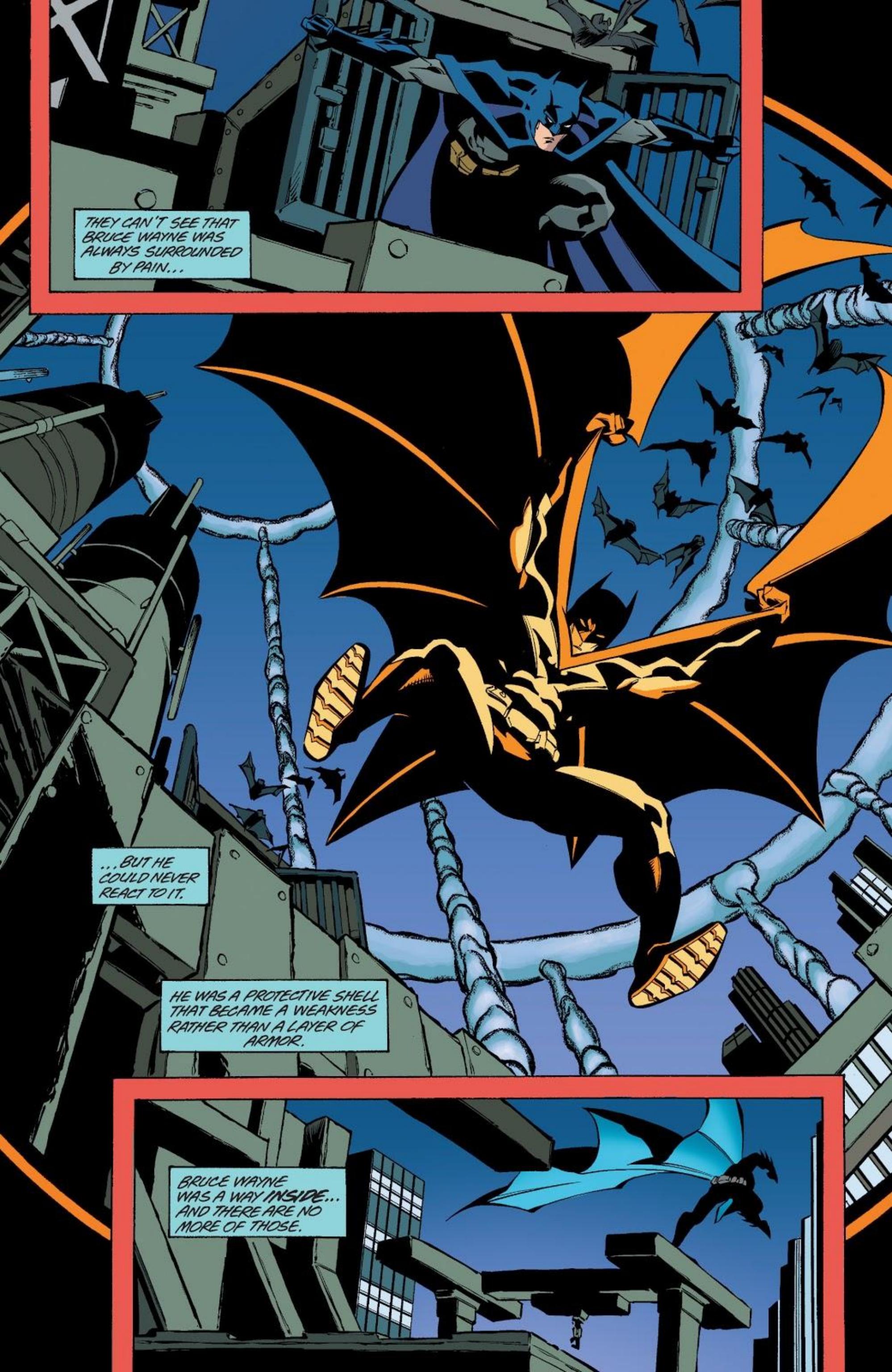


ALFRED DID A GOOD
JOB PREPARING THIS
TEMPORARY BASE
OF OPERATIONS.

AT LEAST HE
HASN'T TURNED
AGAINST ME.

HE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND
EITHER, THOUGH.

I SUPPOSE
NONE OF
THEM CAN...



THEY CAN'T SEE THAT
BRUCE WAYNE WAS
ALWAYS SURROUNDED
BY PAIN...

...BUT HE
COULD NEVER
REACT TO IT.

HE WAS A PROTECTIVE SHELL
THAT BECAME A WEAKNESS
RATHER THAN A LAYER OF
ARMOR.

BRUCE WAYNE
WAS A WAY INSIDE...
AND THERE ARE NO
MORE OF THOSE.



SO I SHOULDN'T EXPECT
THEM TO UNDERSTAND
THE SENSE OF RELIEF
I HAVE NOW...



KNOWING THAT NOTHING
STANDS BETWEEN ME
AND MY WORK... MY
MISSION.



NO FACE ON THE
FRONT PAGE. NO
ONE TO LOCK
AWAY IN A CELL.

NO ONE FORCED
TO PRETEND THE
WORLD IS A
BETTER PLACE.

AND AS THE LAST REMNANTS OF THIS MASK FADE AWAY... I FEEL SOMETHING I HAVEN'T FELT IN NEARLY ALL MY LIFE.

I FEEL FREE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN DETECTIVE COMICS #768...

The End



A WARM AFTERNOON IN GOTHAM CITY FINDS MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON RELAXING AT STATELY WAYNE MANOR...

GEE... THIS REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF THAT OLD **MINING TOWN** OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM IS **FASCINATING**, BRUCE!

--WE NOW HAVE MORE DETAILS ON YESTERDAY'S STARTLING FINDINGS...

PROFESSOR DALTON, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED?

OH, YES **INDEED!** IN A COLLAPSED BUILDING, WE UNEARTHED A CACHE OF **RARE** ARTIFACTS FROM THE LATE 1870S!



MOST INTERESTING WAS A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN DIME NOVEL STARRING A MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER CALLED THE **BLACK BAT**...



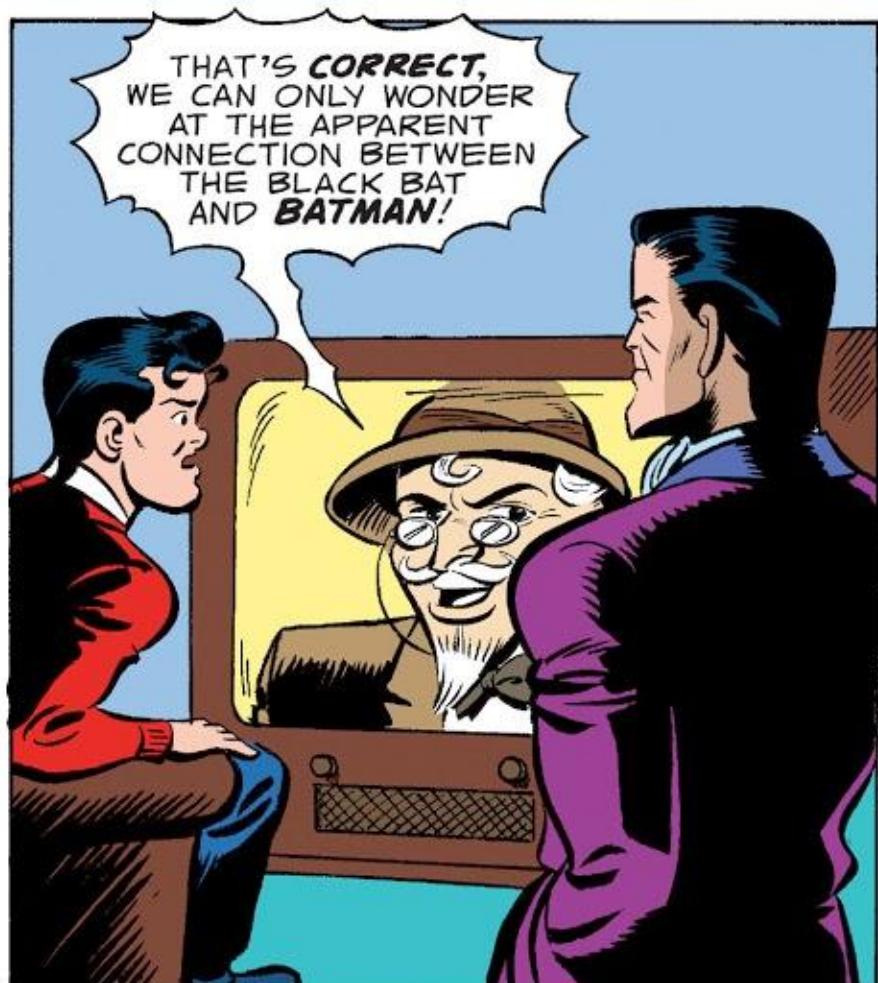
IT APPEARS THAT THE **BLACK BAT** MAY HAVE BEEN A PREDECESSOR OF OUR OWN **BATMAN**, USING **MANY** OF THE SAME METHODS AND EVEN A SIMILAR DISGUISE!



DIME NOVELS--A PRECURSOR TO PULP MAGAZINES, DIME NOVELS WERE POPULAR IN THE 19TH CENTURY, WITH STORIES OFTEN BASED ON **REAL-LIFE HEROES**!

BUT YOU SAY THIS DIME NOVEL HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY ANYONE IN OVER **SEVENTY YEARS**?

THAT'S **CORRECT**, WE CAN ONLY WONDER AT THE APPARENT CONNECTION BETWEEN THE **BLACK BAT** AND **BATMAN**!



DID YOU HEAR **THAT**, BRUCE? I WONDER WHAT THE **TRUE STORY** OF THE **BLACK BAT** REALLY IS?



I DON'T KNOW, DICK, HE MIGHT HAVE SIMPLY BEEN A WORK OF FICTION... BUT I'M **DYING** TO FIND OUT EITHER WAY!

LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON DO SOME INVESTIGATING AS THEIR ALTER EGOS -- **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**...

INTERESTING, ROBIN... THE BAT-COMPUTER SAYS THERE IS A **95 PERCENT CHANCE** THAT THE BLACK BAT REALLY EXISTED!

ACCORDING TO THE FEW HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS I COULD FIND, HE WAS A **MASKED HERO** DURING THE CIVIL WAR!

I WISH WE COULD FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM!

I THINK I KNOW A WAY WE CAN...



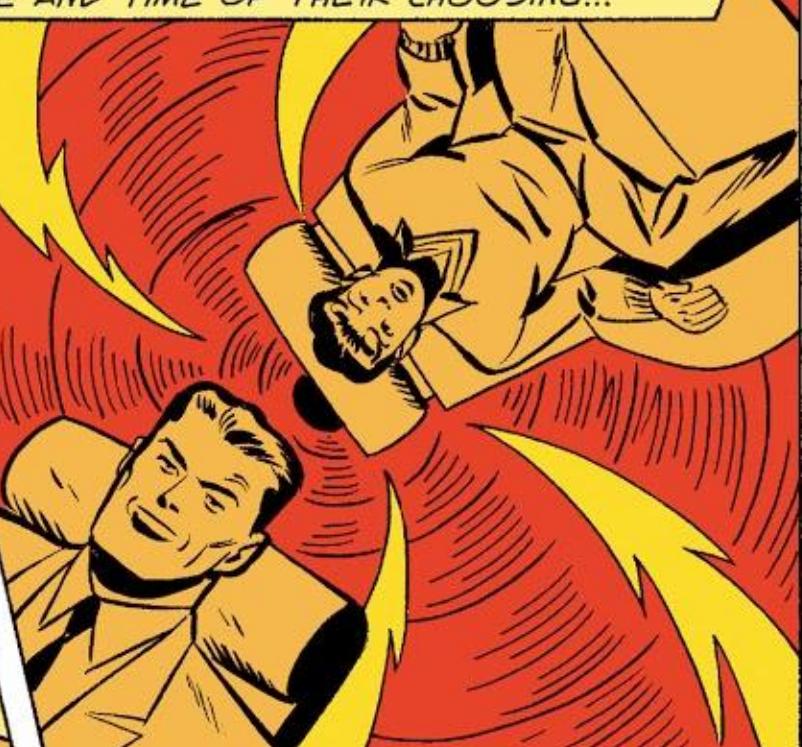
AND SO THE NEXT AFTERNOON, OUR HEROES MEET WITH PROFESSOR NICHOLS, A SCIENTIST WHO HAS HELPED THEM TRAVEL BACK IN TIME ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS...

I'VE MADE A FEW ALTERATIONS TO THE PROCEDURE, MR. WAYNE! I AM NOW ABLE TO SEND YOU TO DIFFERENT PLACES IN TIME, AS WELL!

PERFECT, BECAUSE WE NEED TO GO TO COOPER'S FIELD, VIRGINIA, IN MAY OF 1862!



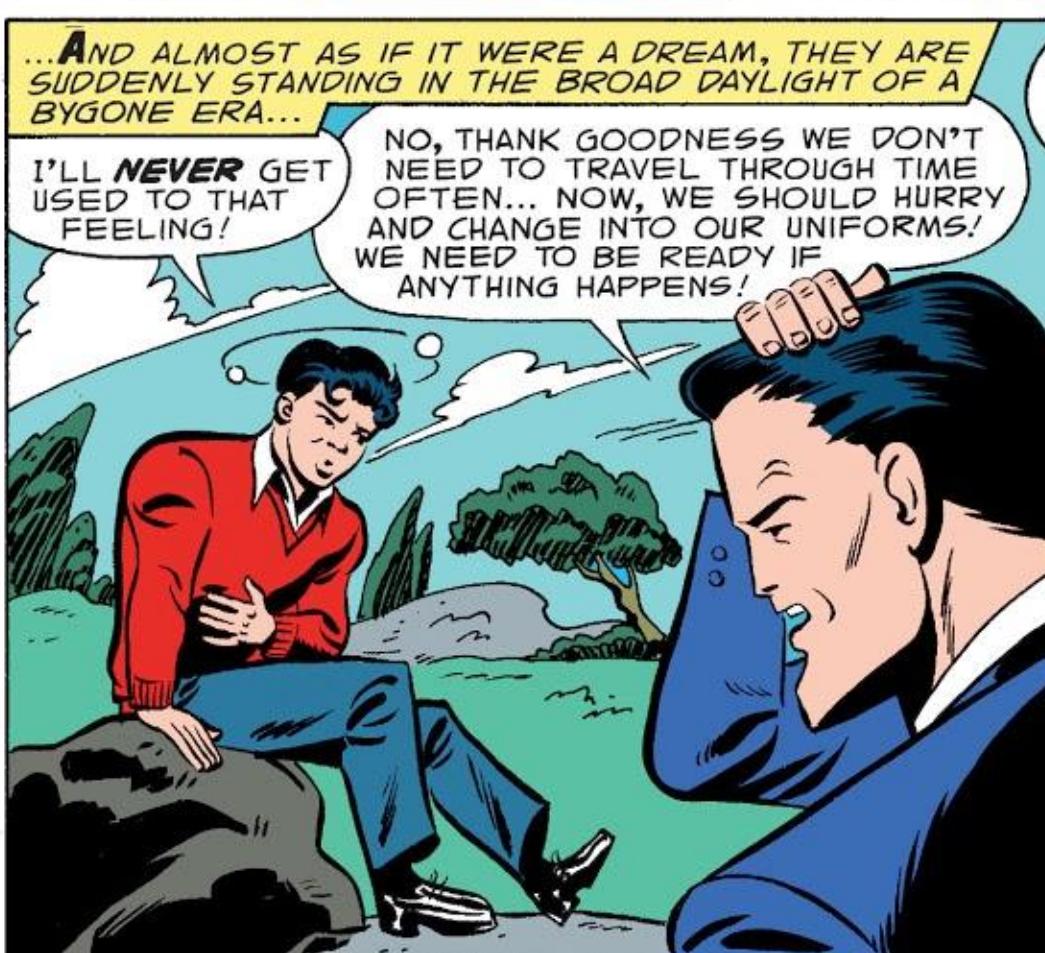
THE TURN OF A KNOB TOSSES BRUCE AND DICK INTO THE ROARING SEA OF TIME, CATAULPTING THEM TO THE EXACT PLACE AND TIME OF THEIR CHOOSING...



...AND ALMOST AS IF IT WERE A DREAM, THEY ARE SUDDENLY STANDING IN THE BROAD DAYLIGHT OF A BYGONE ERA...

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THAT FEELING!

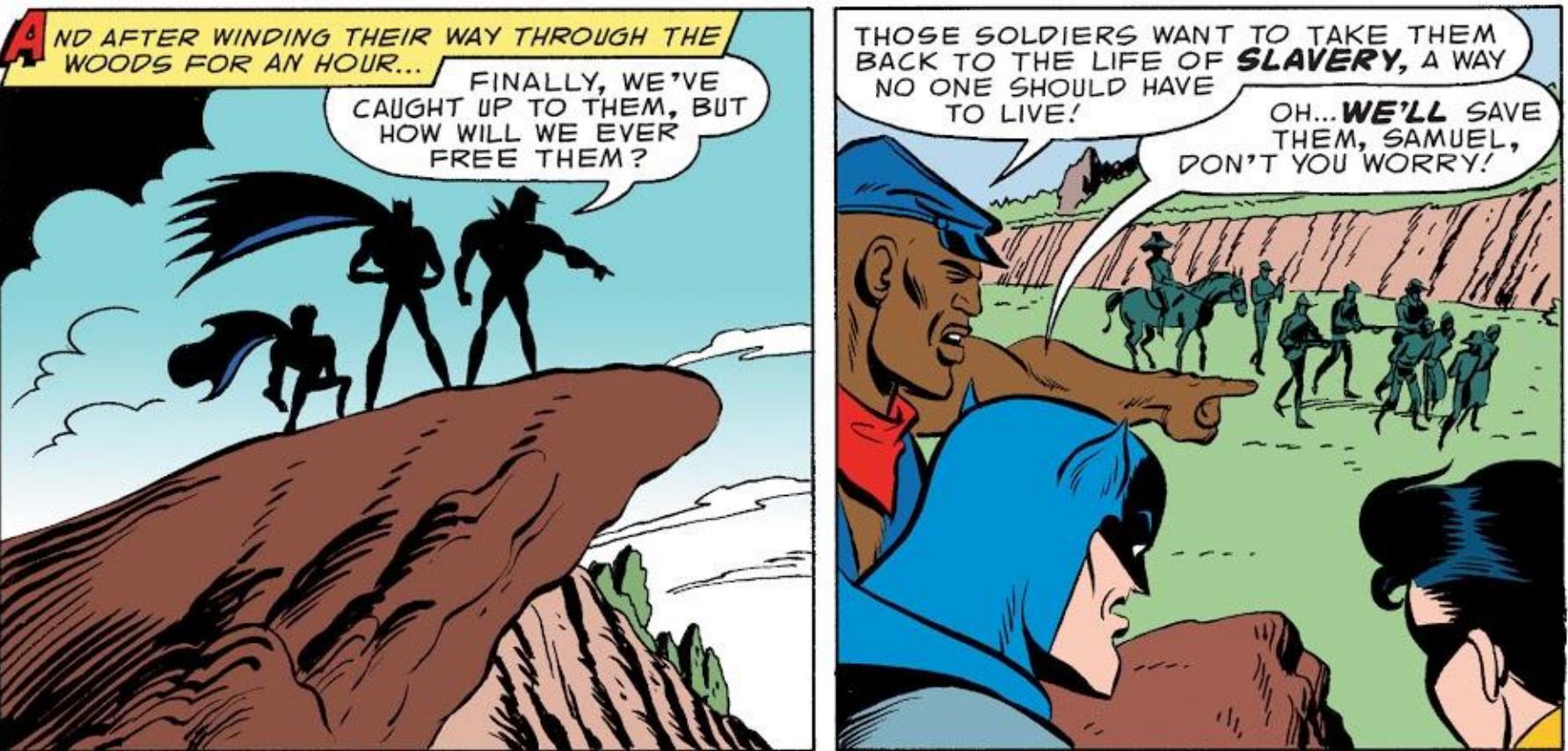
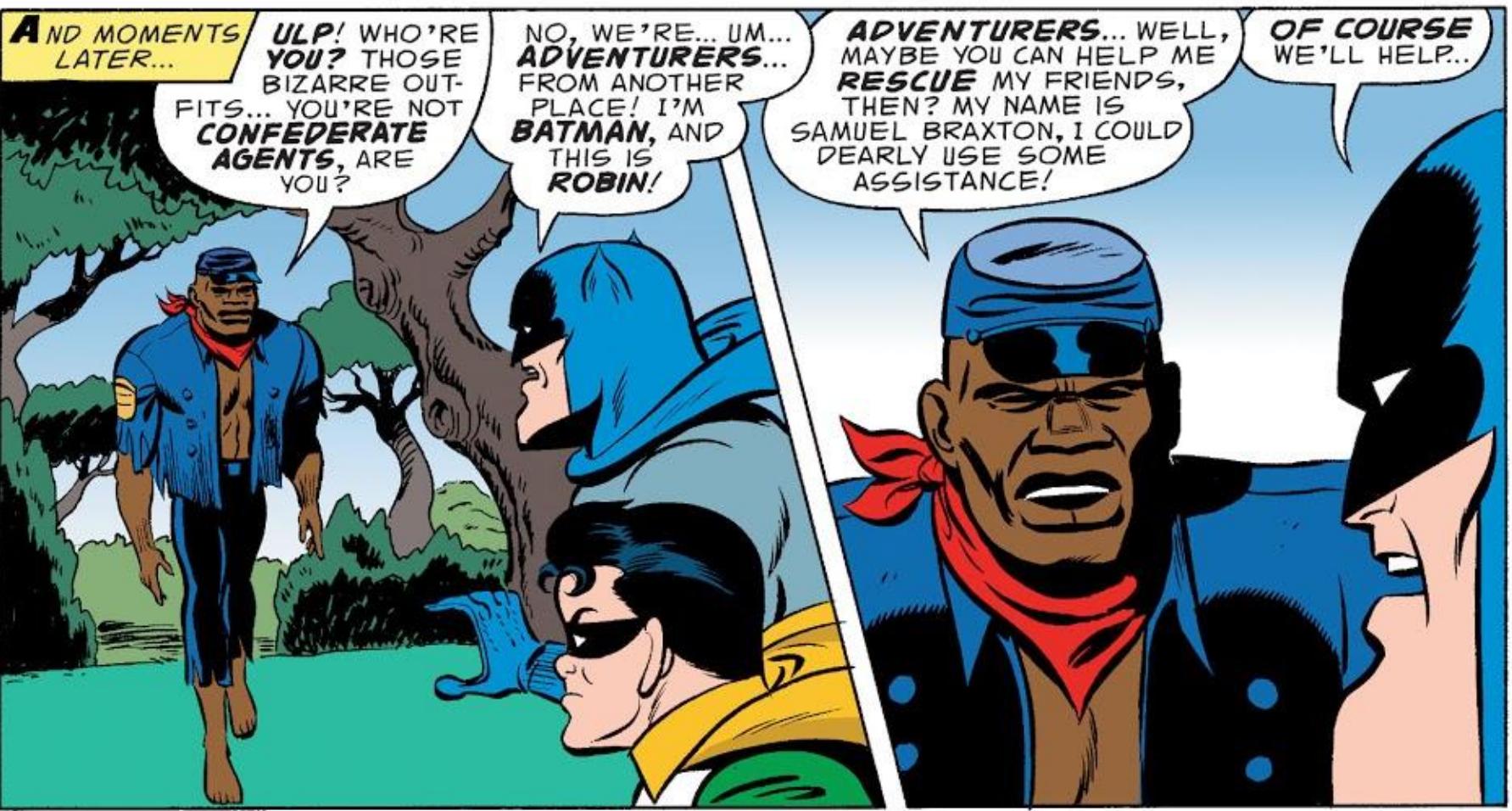
NO, THANK GOODNESS WE DON'T NEED TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME OFTEN... NOW, WE SHOULD HURRY AND CHANGE INTO OUR UNIFORMS! WE NEED TO BE READY IF ANYTHING HAPPENS!



THE EARLIEST REPORTED SIGHTING OF THE BLACK BAT WAS IN COOPER'S FIELD, VIRGINIA, RIGHT AROUND THIS TIME! IF WE'RE LUCKY, WE JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND HIM!

LISTEN, BATMAN! SOMEONE'S COMING THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH!





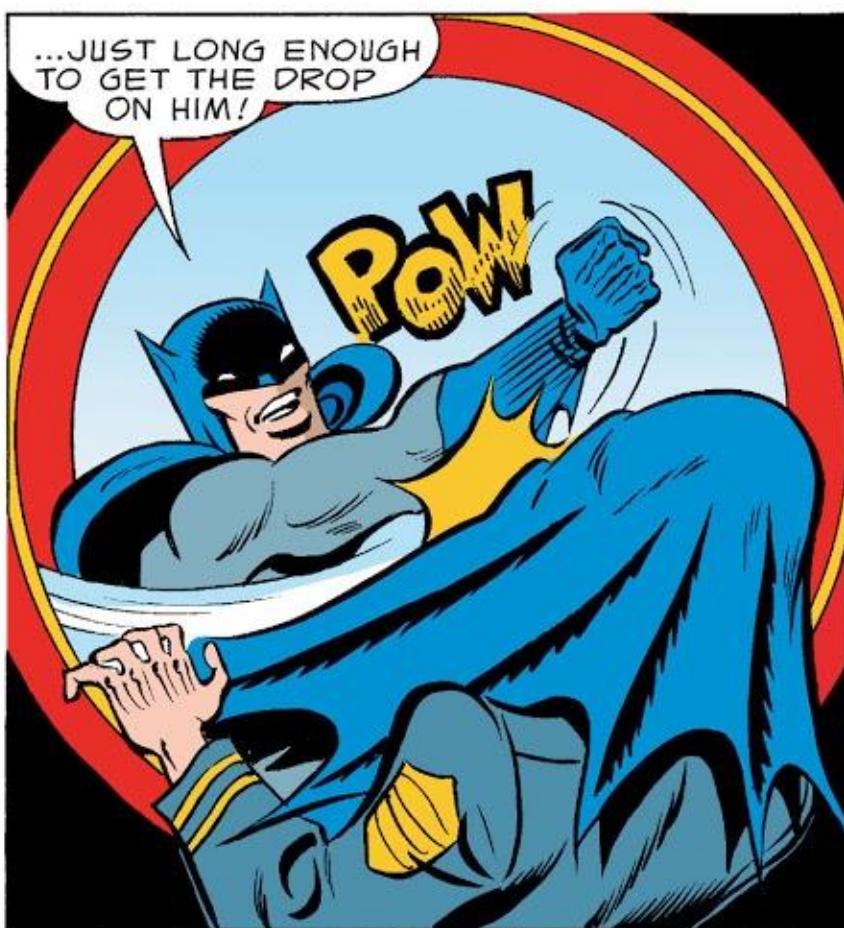
AND BEFORE THE SOLDIERS CAN REACT...

BUT THE GREAT **BATMAN** IS
NOT TO BE OUTDONE...

TRY THIS **BATARANG**
ON FOR SIZE,
SLAVE-MONGER!

WHAT **ARE**
YOU--? WHO--?

SOMEONE WHO
BELIEVES IN
FREEDOM!



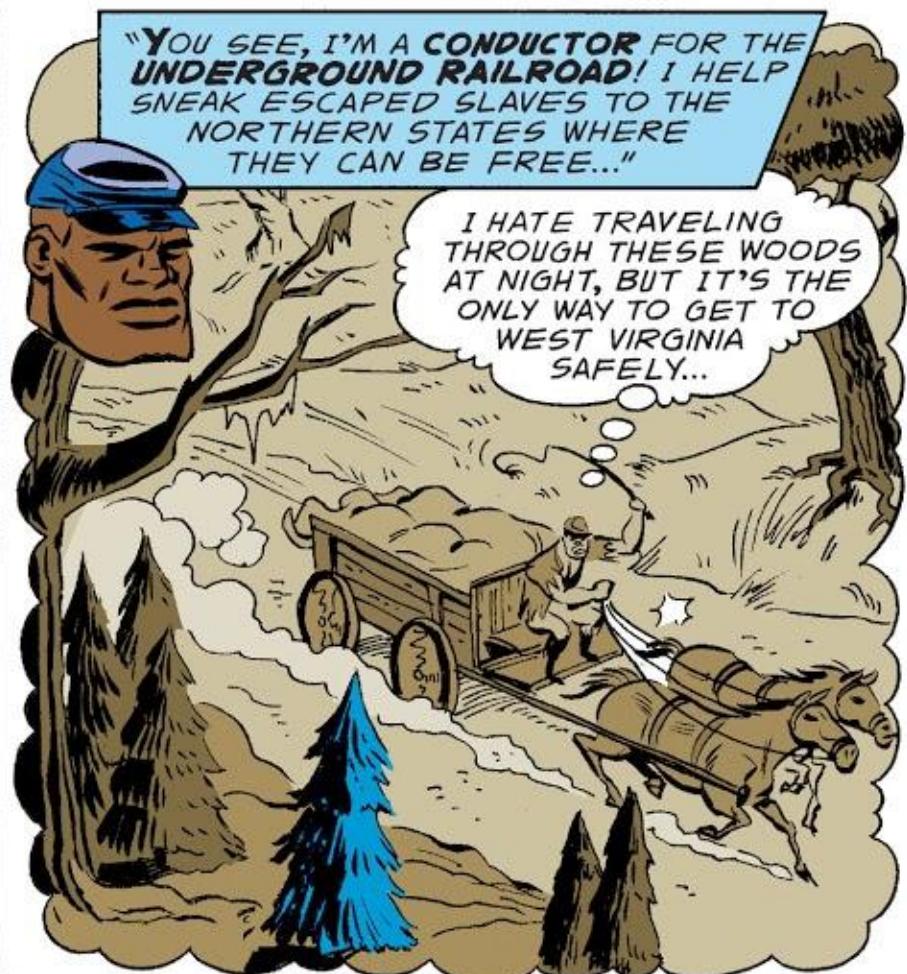
WELL, NOW THAT WE'VE SAVED THEM, I'M IN A REAL PINCH FOR TIME...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



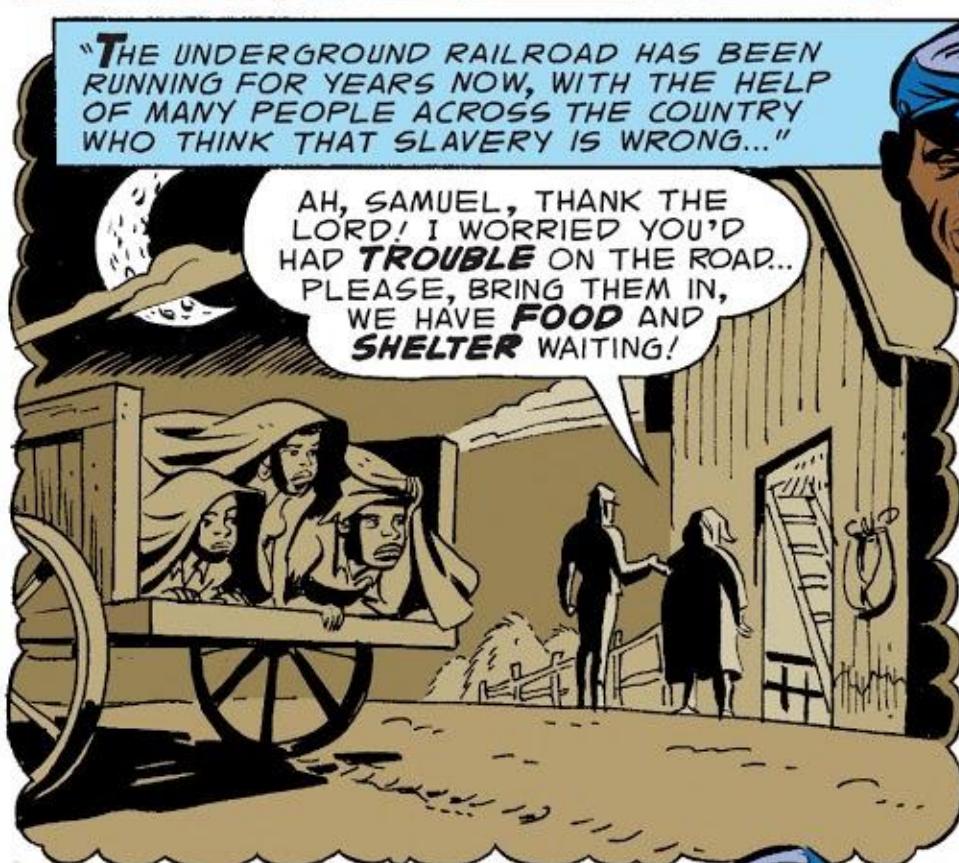
"YOU SEE, I'M A CONDUCTOR FOR THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD! I HELP SNEAK ESCAPED SLAVES TO THE NORTHERN STATES WHERE THEY CAN BE FREE..."

I HATE TRAVELING THROUGH THESE WOODS AT NIGHT, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET TO WEST VIRGINIA SAFELY...

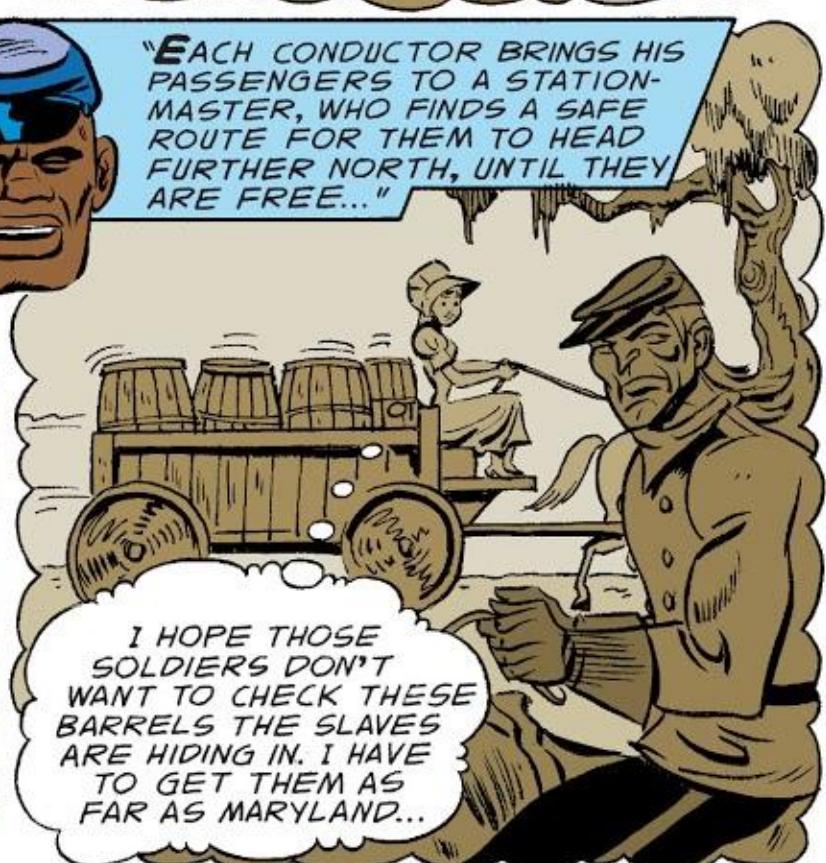


"THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR YEARS NOW, WITH THE HELP OF MANY PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO THINK THAT SLAVERY IS WRONG..."

"EACH CONDUCTOR BRINGS HIS PASSENGERS TO A STATION-MASTER, WHO FINDS A SAFE ROUTE FOR THEM TO HEAD FURTHER NORTH, UNTIL THEY ARE FREE..."



AH, SAMUEL, THANK THE LORD! I WORRIED YOU'D HAD TROUBLE ON THE ROAD... PLEASE, BRING THEM IN, WE HAVE FOOD AND SHELTER WAITING!



I HOPE THOSE SOLDIERS DON'T WANT TO CHECK THESE BARRELS THE SLAVES ARE HIDING IN. I HAVE TO GET THEM AS FAR AS MARYLAND...

"IT'S A HARD ROAD, HIDING IN CRAMPED SPACES, BUT WE'RE REUNITING FAMILIES, AND GETTING PEOPLE TO FREEDOM! IT'S THE BEST THING WE CAN DO UNTIL SLAVERY IS ABOLISHED..."



OH, NETTIE, HOW I MISSED YOU!

I MISSED YOU, TOO, BALDWIN!

BUT I LOST A FEW DAYS BECAUSE THOSE SOLDIERS WAYLAID US, AND I'VE GOT TO MEET UP WITH HARRIET TUBMAN DOWN SOUTH TOMORROW TO PICK UP ANOTHER BATCH OF PASSENGERS...

AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOT THESE PEOPLE TO MILLER'S FARM!

WE CAN HELP! JUST GIVE US DIRECTIONS, AND WE'LL MAKE SURE THEY GET THERE SAFELY!

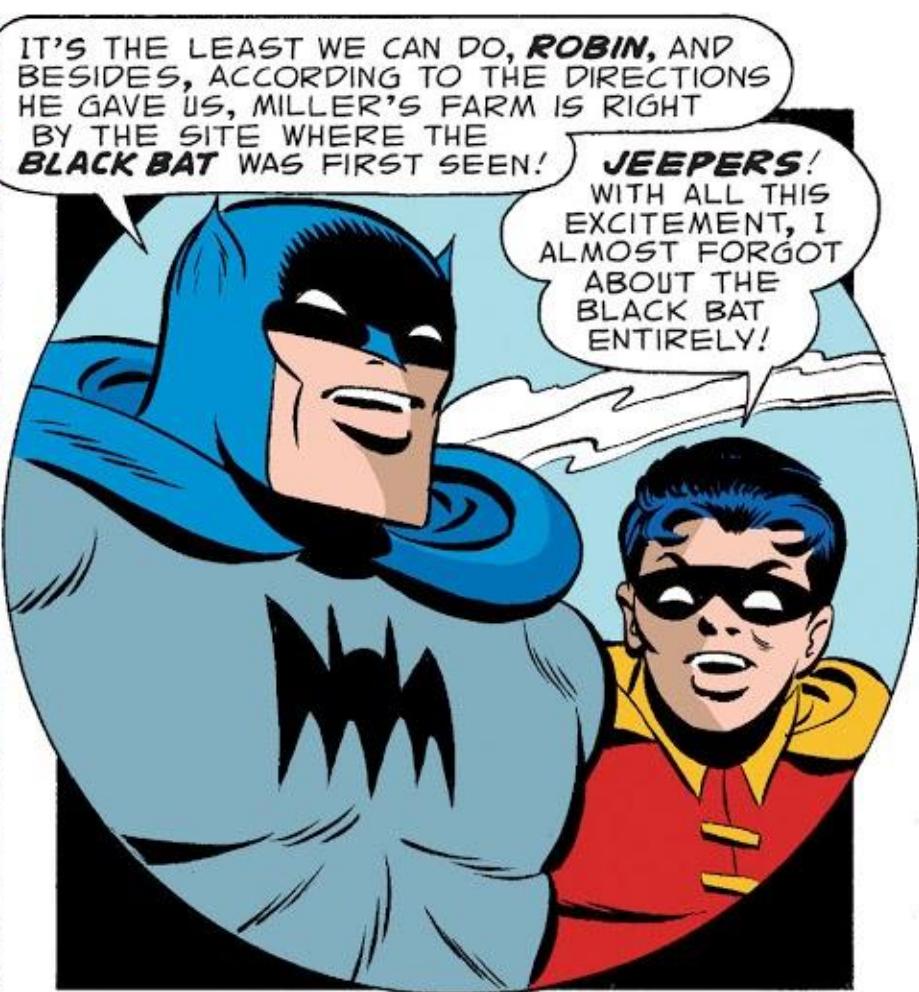
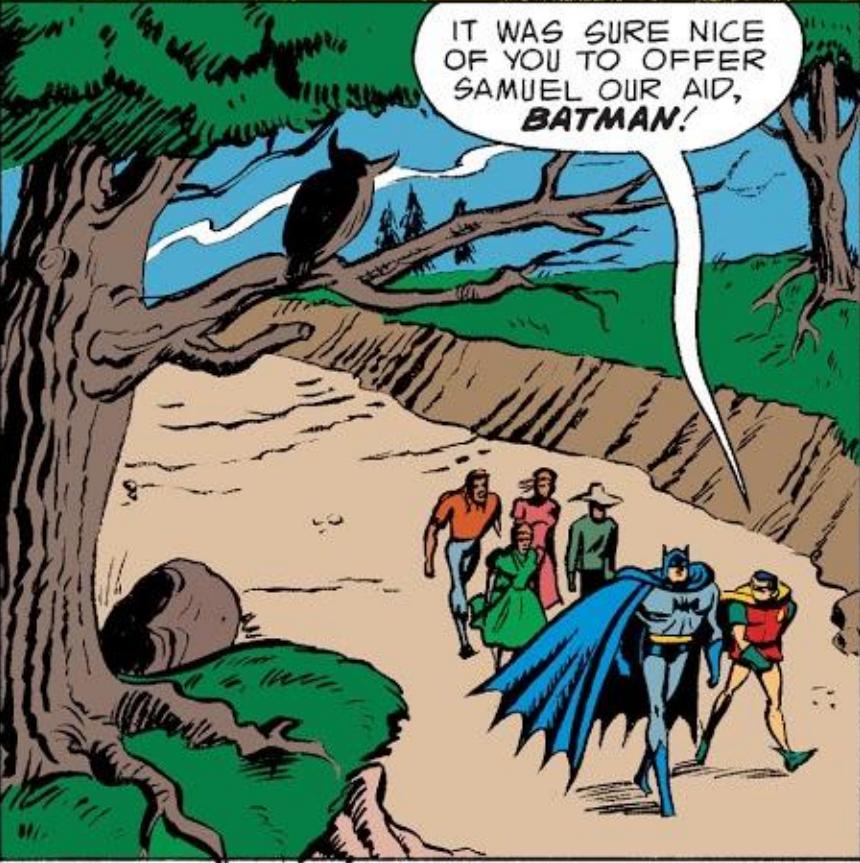


LATER, THE CAPE CRUSADERS LEAD THE ESCAPED SLAVES THROUGH THE FOREST ON THE ROUTE OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD...

IT WAS SURE NICE OF YOU TO OFFER SAMUEL OUR AID, BATMAN!

IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO, ROBIN, AND BESIDES, ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS HE GAVE US, MILLER'S FARM IS RIGHT BY THE SITE WHERE THE BLACK BAT WAS FIRST SEEN!

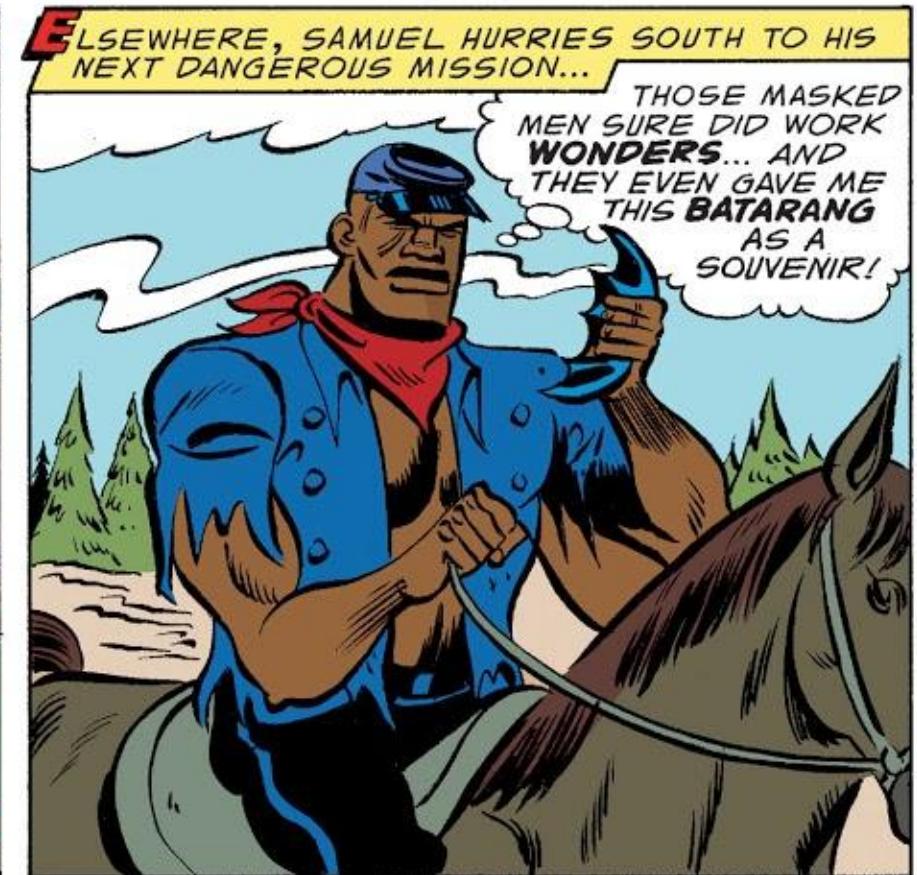
JEEPERS! WITH ALL THIS EXCITEMENT, I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THE BLACK BAT ENTIRELY!



"AND IT SEEMS TO ME WE'VE ALREADY MET PLENTY OF HEROES ALREADY, BATMAN!"

"TRUE, ROBIN... VERY TRUE!"

ELSEWHERE, SAMUEL HURRIES SOUTH TO HIS NEXT DANGEROUS MISSION...



BUT SUDDENLY HIS SHARP EYES NOTICE SOMETHING AMISS...

WHAT'S THIS? THESE TRACKS ARE RECENT! IT LOOKS LIKE A CONFEDERATE PATROL IS HEADED RIGHT WHERE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GOING...



AND AN HOUR LATER, SAMUEL'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE AS OUR HEROES EXIT THE FOREST TRAILS...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YANKEE SPIES!



ROBIN, WE'RE SURROUNDED!

WHAT'LL WE DO? THEY'VE GOT THE DROP ON US!

LEFT WITH NO CHOICE, THE DYNAMIC DUO SURRENDERS...

WE'LL FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS LATER, ROBIN! WE CAN'T LET ANY OF SAMUEL'S PASSENGERS GET HURT, THOUGH!

I UNDERSTAND, BUT I DON'T LIKE IT!

BUT SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...

A BATARANG?!



AND FROM THE HILLTOP A HEROIC FIGURE EMERGES...

BANG! BANG?



IT'S THE BLACK BAT, HERE TO SAVE US!

OUT FOR THE COUNT!

BANG



AND TOGETHER, THEY TURN THE TIDE IN THE BATTLE...



IF YOU SAY SO, ROBIN, BUT THE BLACK BAT HAS GOT TO GET THESE PEOPLE TO MILLER'S FARM RIGHT AWAY AND THEN GET BACK TO THE SOUTH...

WAIT! I'M LOSING SIGHT OF THE PAST, BATMAN...

I THINK WE'RE HEADED BACK TO THE FUTURE, ROBIN. WE'D BETTER CHANGE, QUICK!

SUDDENLY THE GROUND DROPS OUT FROM BENEATH THEM, AND OUR HEROES RUSH THROUGH THE REVOLVING DOOR OF TIME YET AGAIN...



...AND ARE PULLED QUICKLY BACK TO THEIR PRESENT TIME...

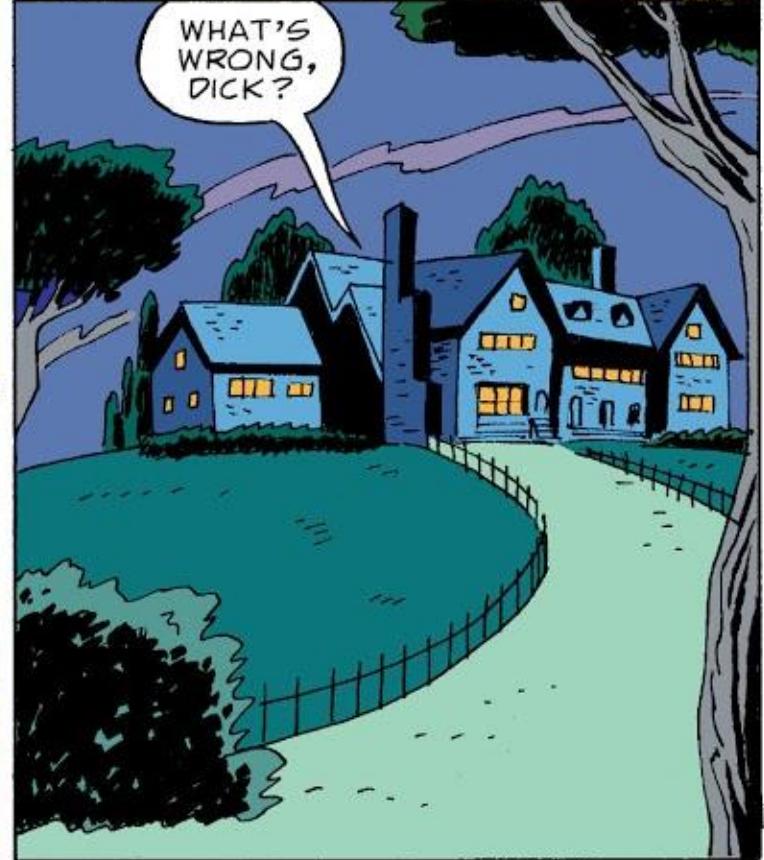
WAS THIS TRIP INTO THE PAST AS SUCCESSFUL AS YOU'D HOPED, MR. WAYNE?

IN MORE WAYS THAN I COULD EXPLAIN, PROFESSOR!



AND LATER, AT STATELY WAYNE MANOR...

WHAT'S WRONG, DICK?



I'M JUST CONFUSED, BRUCE! WAS SAMUEL BRAXTON ALWAYS THE BLACK BAT, OR DID HE JUST BECOME THE BLACK BAT BECAUSE HE MET US?

I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN...

WE WENT BACK IN TIME TO FIND THE BLACK BAT, BUT IF WE HADN'T GONE BACK IN TIME, THERE MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE BEEN A BLACK BAT! BUT THERE ALREADY WAS ONE BECAUSE WE SAW THE DIME NOVEL, SO--

PLEASE, STOP, DICK... YOU'RE MAKING ME DIZZY!



THE END.



BATGIRL

with ROBIN -THE BOY WONDER-



WHAT COULD BE WORSE THAN THE **JOKER** ON A RAMPAGE ALL OVER GOTHAM CITY? WELL, FOR ONE THING, **BATMAN** HAPPENS TO BE OUT OF TOWN ON BUSINESS WITH THE **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, LEAVING **ROBIN** AND **BATGIRL** TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES. AND TO MAKE MATTERS EVEN MORE INSANE, THE **JOKER** HAS STOLEN THE **MAD HATTER'S HAT** AND IS USING ITS **MIND-CONTROL POWERS** TO TEAR THE CITY APART AND HUMILIATE OUR NEW BAT-DUO!

JOKER TIPS HIS HAT!

DON'T **FIGHT IT**, KIDS! THERE'S NO USE **RESISTING** THE JOKER'S NEW TRICK... NOW LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

CAN'T STOP
MYSELF...
JOKER'S
CONTROLLING
MY EVERY...
MOVE...

IT ALL BEGINS ONE CRAZY NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY...

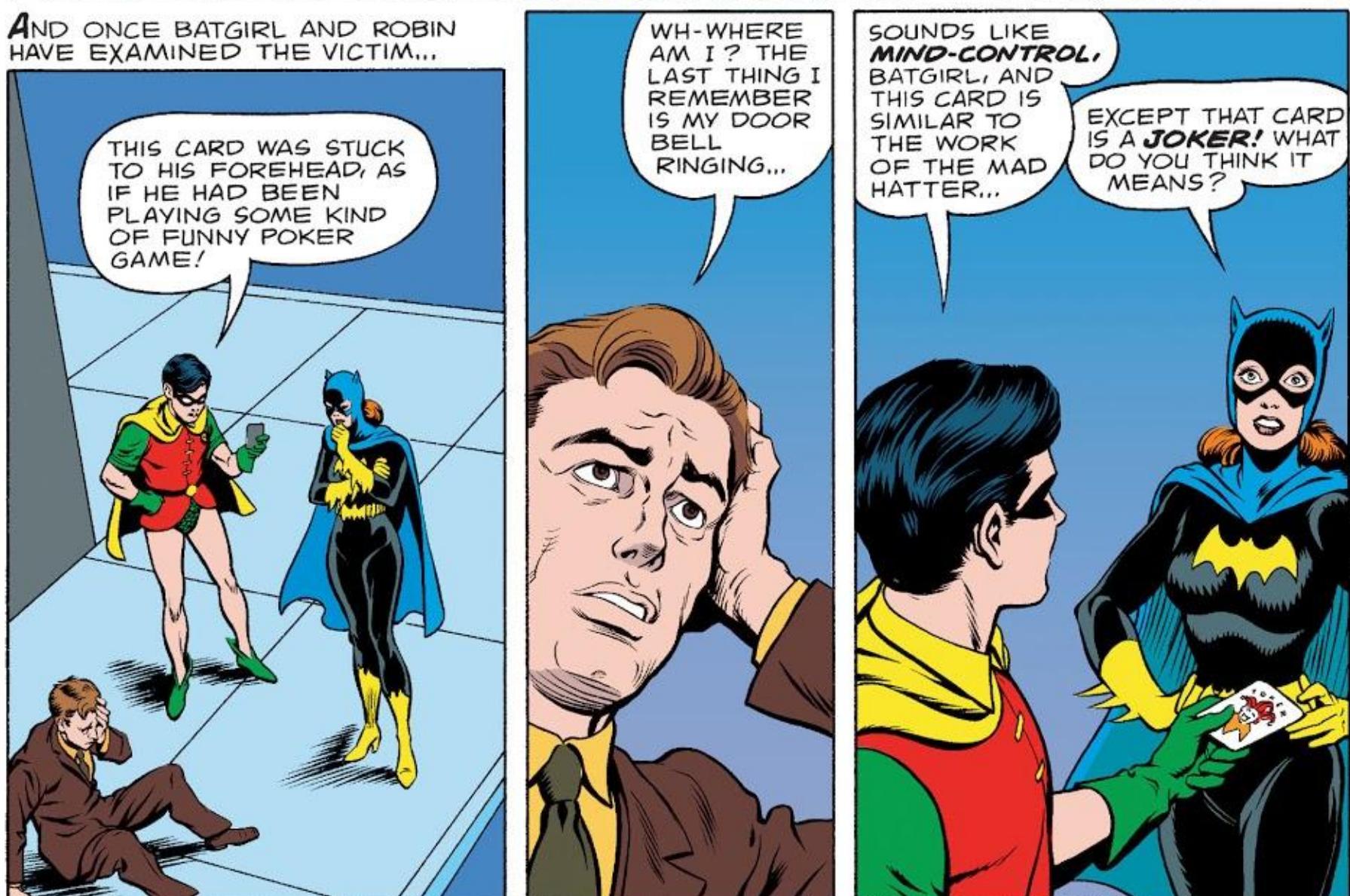
I SURE AM GLAD YOU'VE AT LEAST GOT YOUR OWN **CYCLE**, BATGIRL... OR WE'D BE WALKING OUR PATROL TONIGHT!

WELL, WITH BATMAN OUT OF TOWN FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IT'S UP TO US TO PROTECT GOTHAM, ROBIN, SO--

AAIIIEEEEE!

WHAT'S THAT?!

WE'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT! LET'S GO!



BUT SUDDENLY A SINISTER VOICE CALLS FROM BEHIND...

IT MEANS **YOU TWO** ARE SPOILING ALL MY **FUN!**



AND **JOKER** DOESN'T LIKE THAT ONE LITTLE BIT! HA HA HA!

AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT THROUGH TO GET THIS OLD TOP HAT THE **LEAST** YOU COULD DO IS LET ME **ENJOY** IT!



BUT THE JOKER SPEEDS AWAY BEFORE OUR HEROES HAVE A CHANCE TO GRAB HIM...

HA HA HA!
LATER,
GATORS!

QUICK,
ROBIN,
TO THE
BATBIKE!



BUT AS THEY GIVE PURSUIT,
THE HIP YOUNG DUO ENCOUNTERS ANOTHER DILEMMA...

BATGIRL, **LOOK OUT!**
THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL UNDER MIND-CONTROL--
ATTACKING US!



WE CAN'T FIGHT INNOCENT PEOPLE, ROBIN... AND WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO THE JOKER NOW!



BUT THE BOY WONDER HAS A BRAINSTORM...

HOLD ON, BATGIRL!
MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY WE CAN CATCH HIM, INSTEAD!

A LITTLE LATER, OUR BAT-DUO PAYS A LATE-NIGHT VISIT TO A CERTAIN INMATE...

WHAT--WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?



-- JERVIS TETCH, THE MAD HATTER!

THE JOKER'S RUNNING AROUND WITH YOUR **HAT**, JERVIS, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

BAH! THE JOKER! WHAT A **FALSE FRIEND!**

"THE LAST TIME WE WERE CELL-MATES, JOKER ACTED LIKE HE REALLY WANTED TO BE PALS...

HERE, JERVIS, HAVE MY DESSERT, TOO... I'M NOT THAT HUNGRY!

WHY... **THANKS**, JOKER!

ANYTHING FOR A FRIEND!

"BUT IT WAS ALL A RUSE TO GET ME TO TELL HIM WHERE I HID MY EXTRA HAT AND HOW IT WORKED..."

WELL, I SUPPOSE I CAN TELL **YOU**, SINCE WE'RE SUCH **GOOD CHUMS**... I HID IT IN THE BOTTOM OF A CRATE IN THE ALLEY BEHIND...

NEXT THING I KNOW, THE JOKER'S ESCAPING AND LEAVING ME BEHIND... SOME FRIEND **HE** TURNED OUT TO BE!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET A LITTLE REVENGE ON YOUR OLD FRIEND, IN THAT CASE?

IN A HEARTBEAT, BOY WONDER! WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?



AN HOUR LATER,
OUR HEROES RUSH
BACK INTO
GOTHAM...

DO YOU
THINK THE MAD
HATTER'S IDEA
WILL WORK,
ROBIN?

IT HAD
BETTER.
IT'S OUR
ONLY
CHANCE!

NO SOONER DO THEY REACH
THE CITY LIMITS THAN...

THEY'RE
EVERYWHERE,
NOW!

JUST
LET THEM
TAKE US,
BATGIRL!

THE MIND-CONTROLLED
CROWD CARRIES OUR
HEROES STRAIGHT TO
THE JOKER...

TAKE THEM TO
THE MASTER...
TO THE MASTER...

JUST AS YOU
THOUGHT,
ROBIN!

ONCE MY JOKER
CARDS ARE IN PLACE,
YOU'LL BE NOTHING
BUT MY SLAVES, AS
WELL, BAT-TWERPS!

STOP!
THIS IS
CRAZY,
JOKER!

OF
COURSE
IT IS!
HA HA HA!

IT APPEARS THAT OUR YOUNG BAT-DUO IS AT
THE MERCY OF THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME...

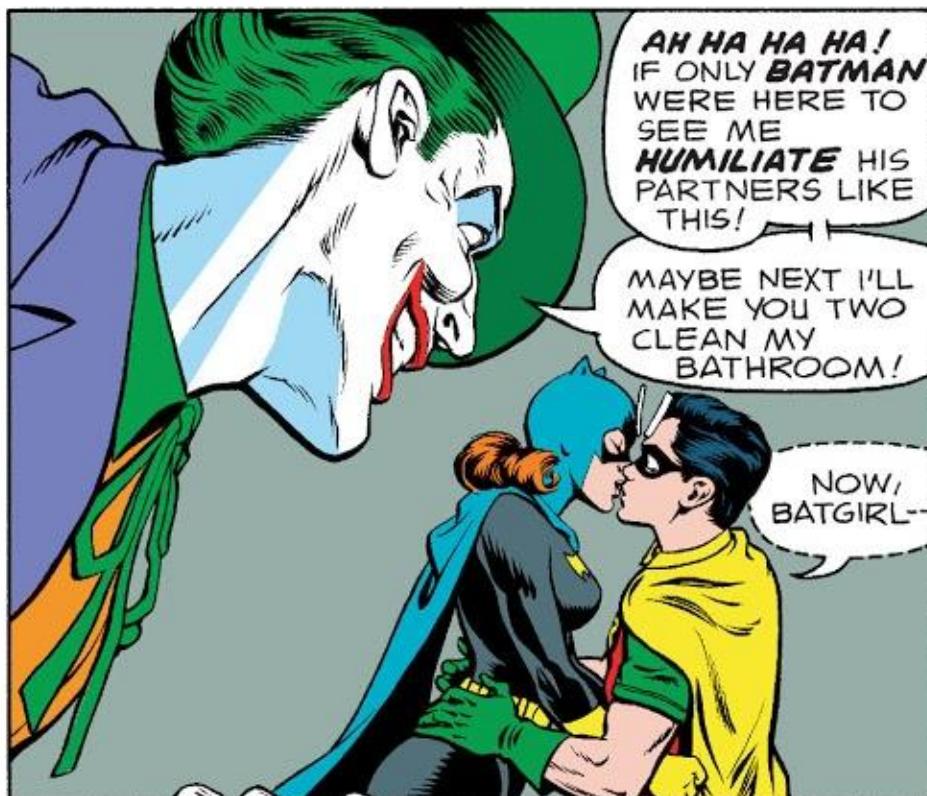
WHAT TO **DO?**
WHAT TO **DO?**

OH, I
KNOW!

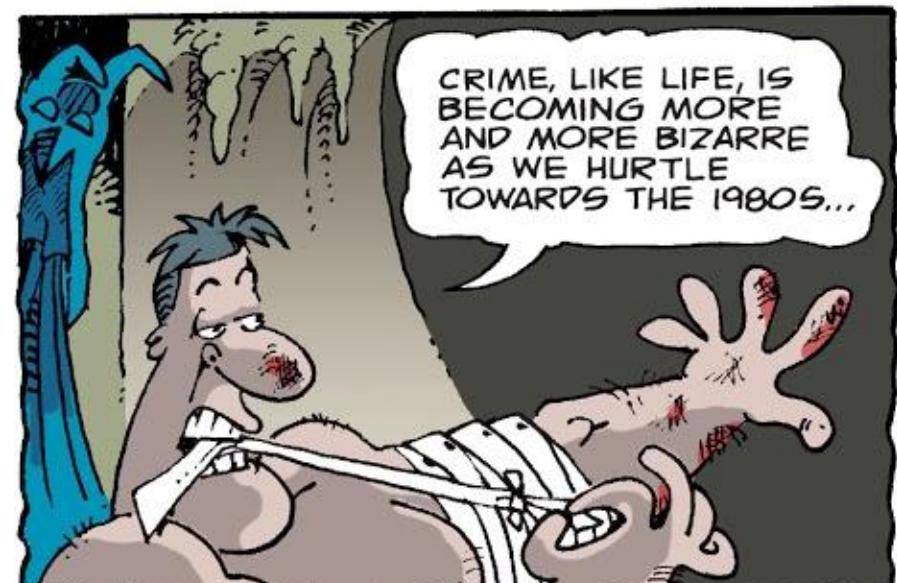
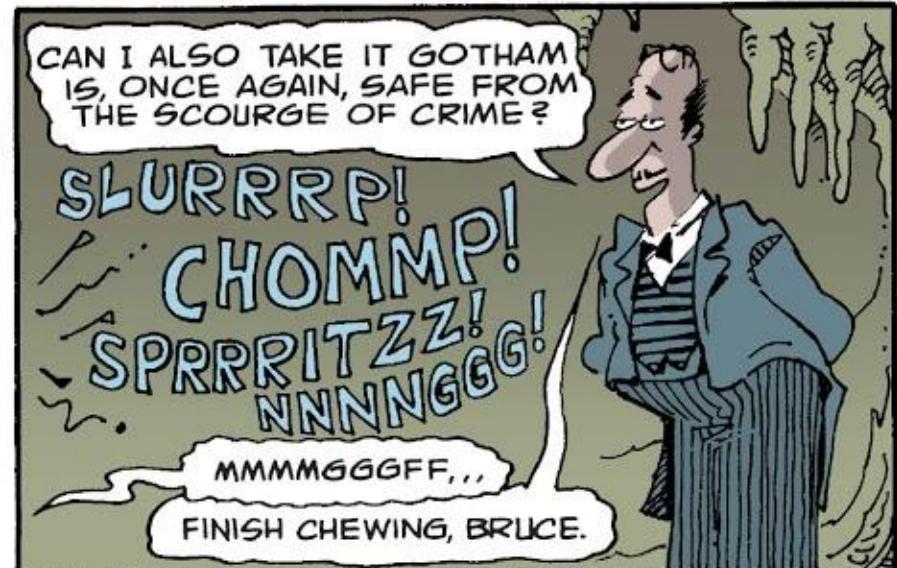
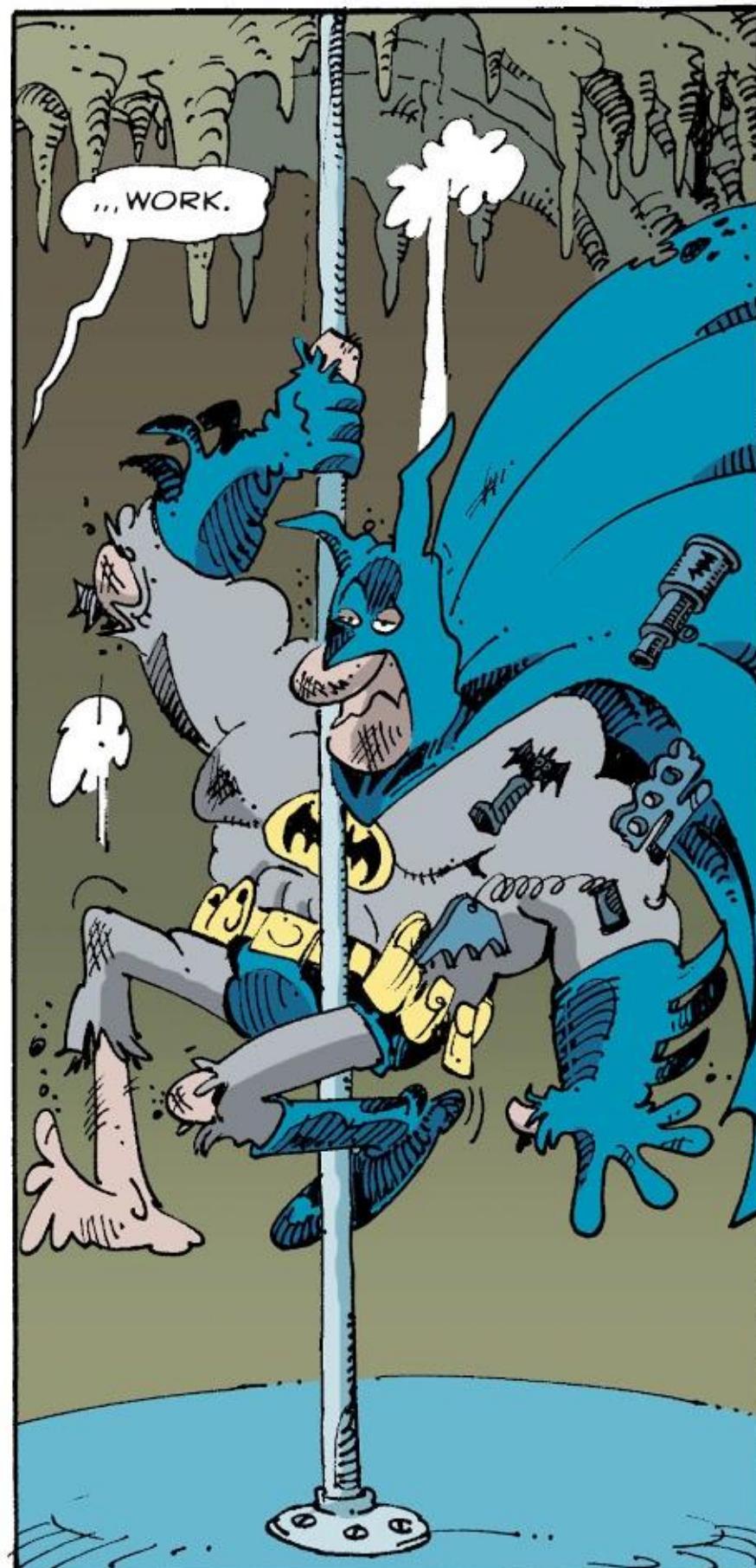
FOR STARTERS--
LET'S SEE YOU
TWO KISS!

SORRY... BATGIRL...
CAN'T FIGHT IT...

ME... EITHER...
ROBIN...



"THE DARK, GROOVY, SOLID, FAR-OUT, RIGHT-ON AND COMPLETELY WITH-IT KNIGHT RETURNS"



AUGUST 20, 1978... I'D LAID A TRAP FOR THE STREAKER AT A FONDUE RESTAURANT. PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE IF SOMEONE WANTS TO FLAP HIS FLABBIES AT SOCIETY'S ELITE...



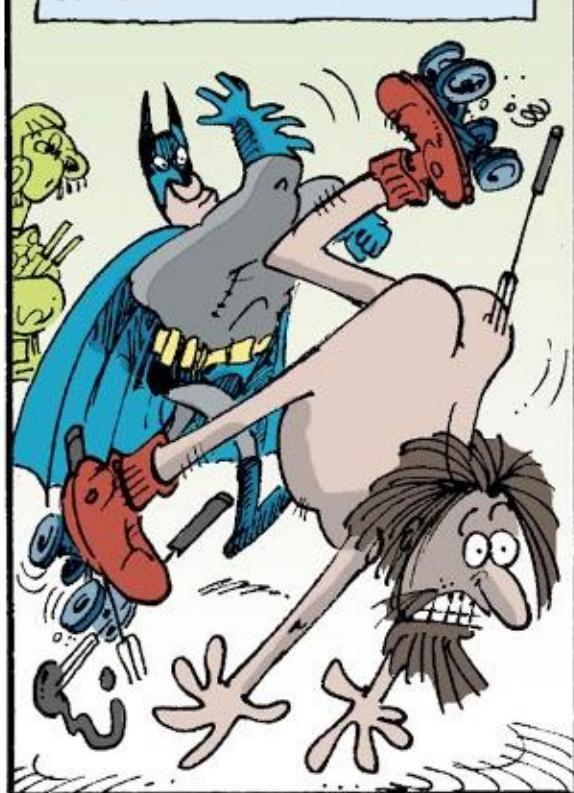
BUT THIS PLUCKED CHICKEN WAS THE DIVERSION FOR A SERIES OF SNEAK-THEFT ROBBERIES. AND I'D CONNECTED THE FENCING PROFITS TO A COCAINE RING. IT WAS TIME TO MAKE HIM SQUAWK.



NOTE TO SELF: STUDY SHOE-TO-SKATE CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY FOR INVESTIGATION INTO ROLLERSKATING SUBWAY MIME GANG.



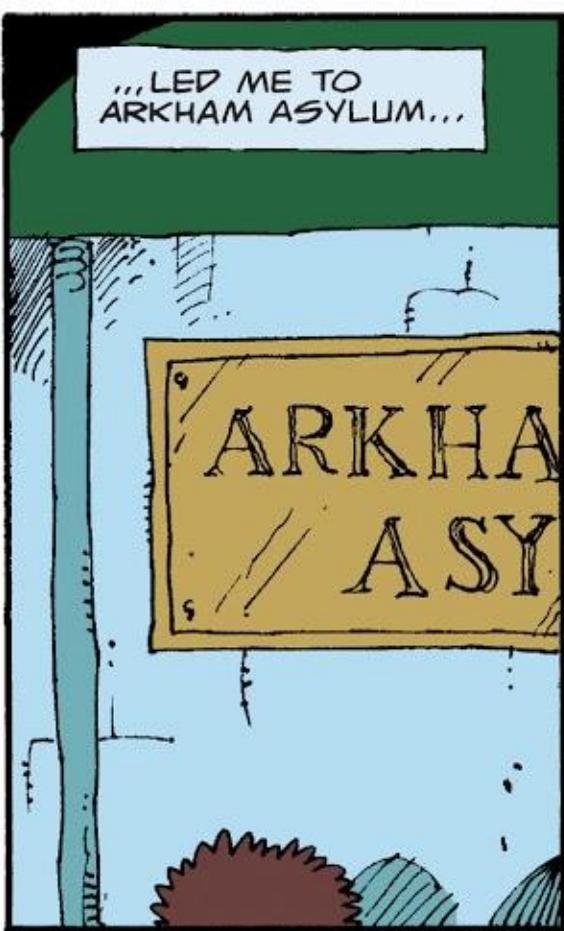
SCORE ONE RUDE NUDE 'DUDE' FOR THE DARK KNIGHT...



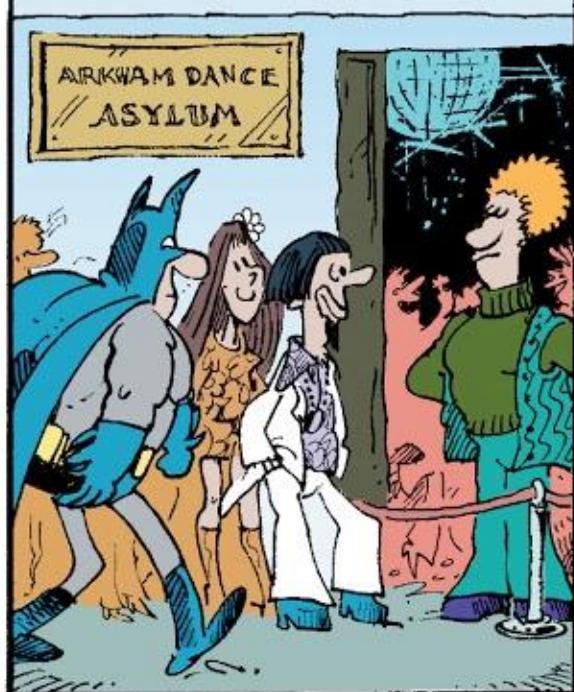
A QUICK INTERROGATION...



...LED ME TO ARKHAM ASYLUM...



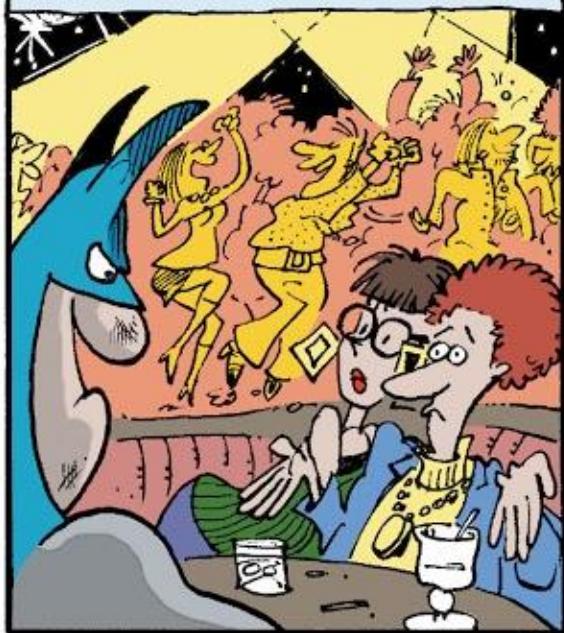
...THAT IS, THE ARKHAM DANCE ASYLUM, THE SUPER EXCLUSIVE GOTHAM NIGHTCLUB. TOO ENRAGED TO TAKE THE BUILDING BY TRICK...



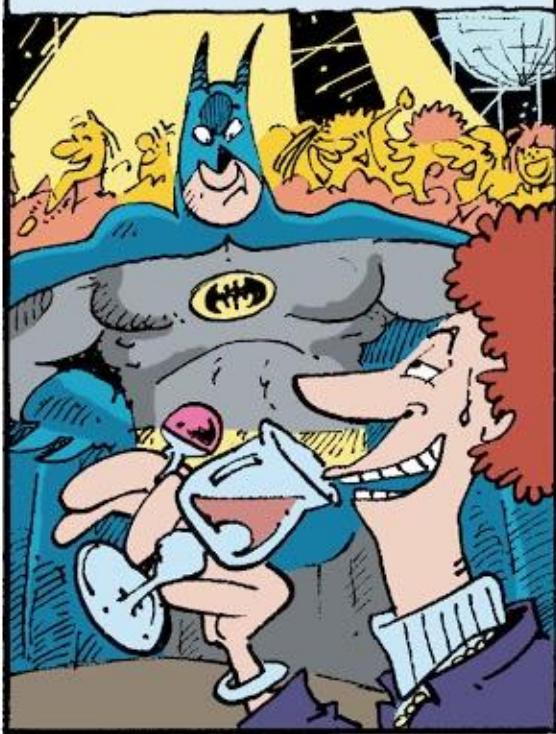
...I OPTED FOR FORCE. NOTE TO SELF: INTENSIFY VELVET ROPE AND STANCHION TRAINING. I SEEM TO BE FIGHTING WITH THESE THINGS A LOT LATELY.



ARKHAM'S OWNER, STEVE RUDELL, DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT. BUT I KNEW I WAS STARING AT THE HEART OF THE HYDRA. AND SOMETHING WAS TALKING LOUDER THAN RUDELL'S NASAL VOICE...



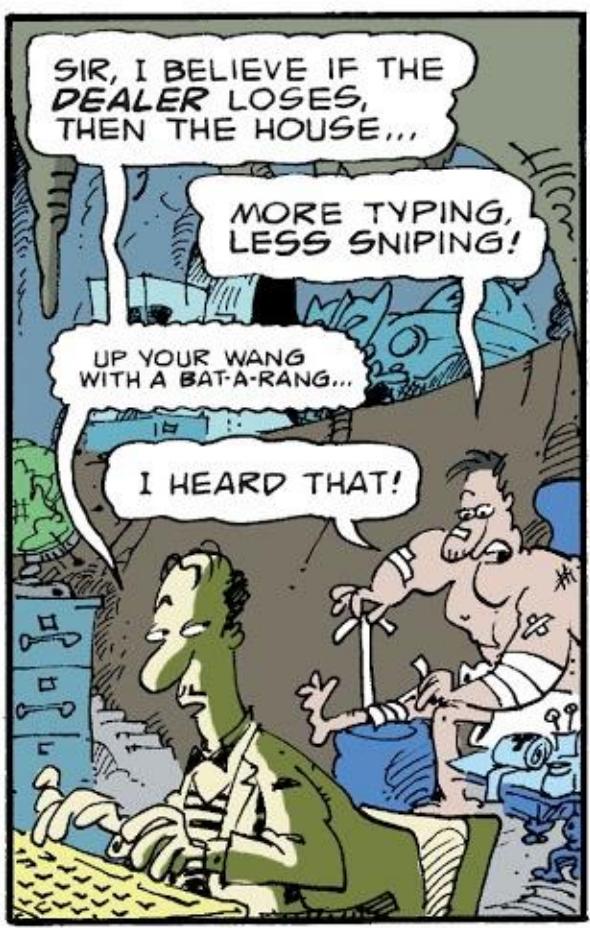
RUDELL'S "VIBE" RING WAS A BRIGHT PINK. NERVOUS. IF HE'D BEEN TELLING THE TRUTH, IT WOULD'VE BEEN DARK BLUE FOR "CALM".



"THE DEALER HAD DRAWN FROM A CROOKED DECK ONE TOO MANY TIMES. GAME OVER. HOUSE WINS..."



SIR, I BELIEVE IF THE DEALER LOSES, THEN THE HOUSE...



YOU'LL WANT YOUR USUAL THREE HOURS OF TORMENTED SLEEP! I'VE DRAWN THE COVERLET ON THE WATERBED IN THE EAST BEDROOM...

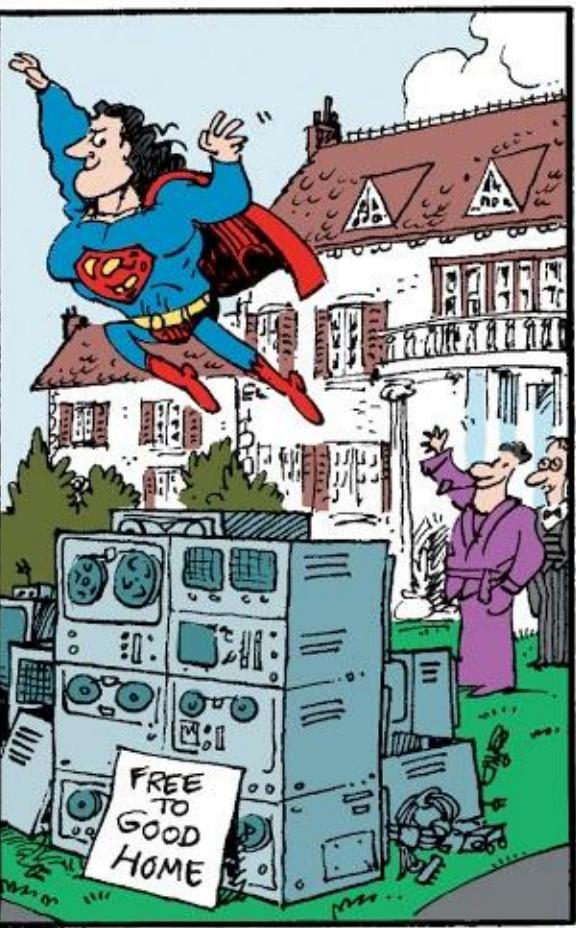
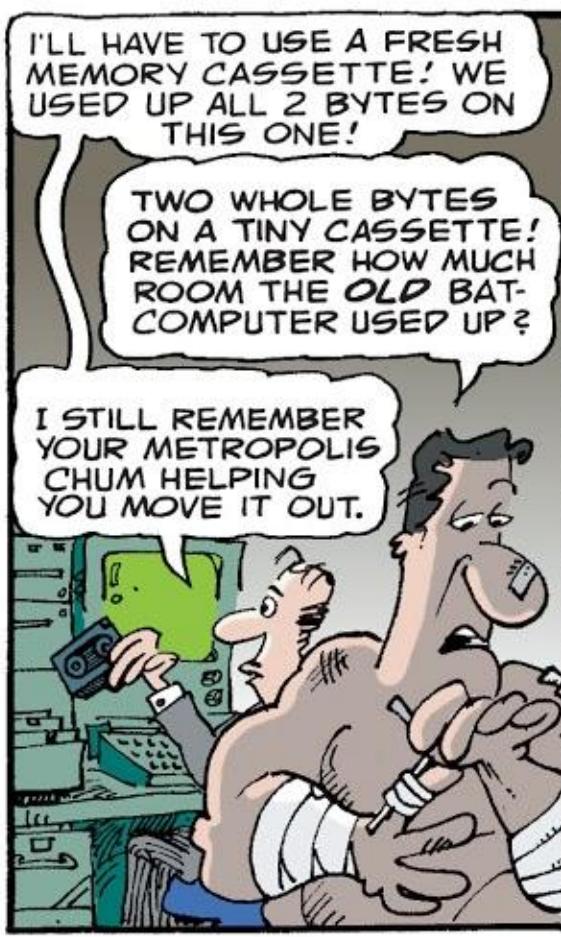
PREPARE ANOTHER ENTRY...



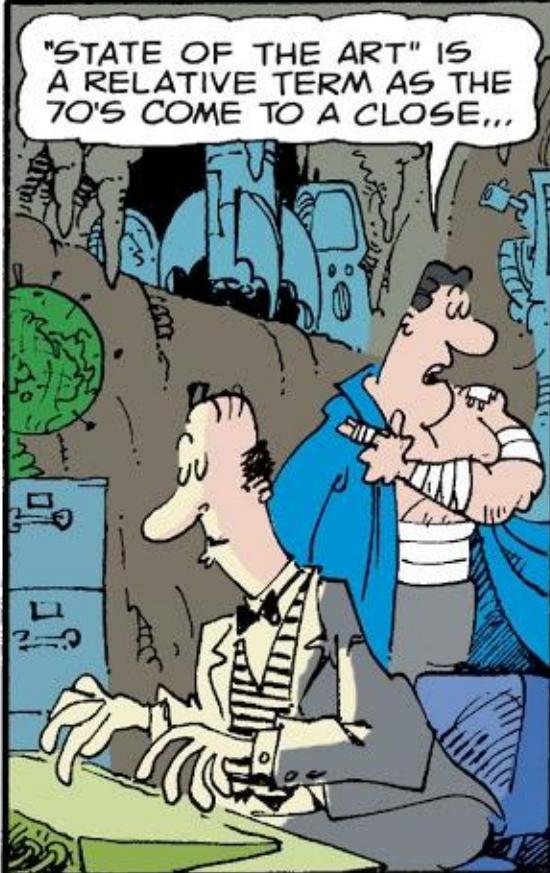
I'LL HAVE TO USE A FRESH MEMORY CASSETTE! WE USED UP ALL 2 BYTES ON THIS ONE!

TWO WHOLE BYTES ON A TINY CASSETTE! REMEMBER HOW MUCH ROOM THE OLD BAT-COMPUTER USED UP?

I STILL REMEMBER YOUR METROPOLIS CHUM HELPING YOU MOVE IT OUT.



"STATE OF THE ART" IS A RELATIVE TERM AS THE 70'S COME TO A CLOSE...



NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT BETTER THAN THE CRIMINALS...



...SINCE IT SEEMS AS IF THE PUBLIC EMBRACES THEM!

HANDS OFF, SQUARE!



PROG DIED IN '74, GRAMPS!

