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BATMAN®

"DANGER
ON THE WING!"



GOTHAM'S GREATEST ROBBERY
BEGINS IN THE AIR--
WILL IT END IN DEATH?

AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE,
HE PROWLS THROUGH THE NIGHT--
PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITES
LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE
NAME HE HAS ADOPTED...

BAT MAN

CREATED BY

B
C
B
KANE

HE HOVERS OVER THE
STRAINING STEEL TOWERS
OF HIS CITY LIKE A PROTEC-
TIVE PARENT-- WHICH IS,
IN ITS WAY, MOST IRONIC!

FOR, IN FACT, THIS DARK-
COWLED CRUSADER IS VERY
MUCH GOTHAM'S CHILD--
BORN IN THE BLINDING BLAST
OF A SINGLE GUNSHOT-- AND
IN THE STILLING OF TWO
LOVING HEARTS!

NOW HE STALKS THESE
MEAN STREETS BY
MOONLIGHT, NEVER
ALLOWING GOTHAM CITY
TO FORGET WHAT ITS
VIOLENCE HAS SPAWNED!

DANGER ON THE WING!

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THE SCENE IS **GOTHAM CITY HALL**: WHERE PLASTIC BUILDINGS RISE IN **MICROCOSM**...

...AND DEATH LOOMS AS LARGE AS EVER!

MODEL OF GOTHAM CITY

BUT EVEN AS FINELY-HONED STEEL **SLASHES** THROUGH THE SHADOWS...

HUH--?!?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME--?

THE BATMAN DOES NOT ANSWER, WHICH IS PROBABLY JUST AS WELL...

... SINCE HIS ERSTWHILE ASSAILANT CAN NO LONGER **HEAR** HIM ANYWAY!

WHUMPI!

THAT'S **ONE**--
AND HERE'S **NUMBER TWO**!

MAYBE YOU TOOK **ARNIE**,
BATS--BUT YOU AIN'T NEVER TAKIN' **ME**!

I'M FASTER THAN ARNIE--TOUGHER THAN HIM TOO!

COME AN' GET ME, HERO-- SO'S MY **NUNCHAKU** CAN BUST YOUR POINTY HEAD **WIDE OPEN**!

THAT'S THE **SECOND** TIME THIS MONTH SOMEBODY'S **THREATENED** ME WITH ONE OF THOSE--

--AND I'M GETTING GOOD AND **TIRED** OF IT!

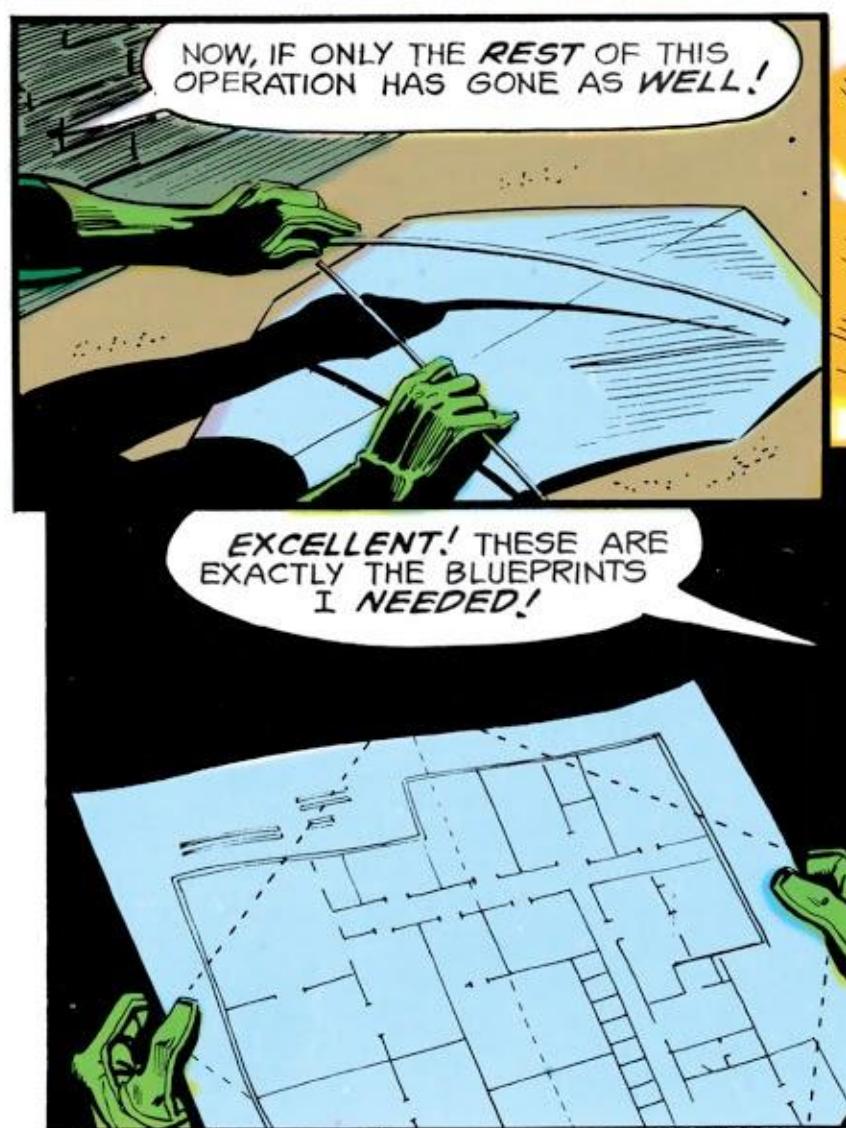
WHEN I'M **FINISHED**, LITTLE MAN! I SAW **THREE** OF YOU PUNKS BREAK IN HERE! WHERE'S THE **THIRD**?

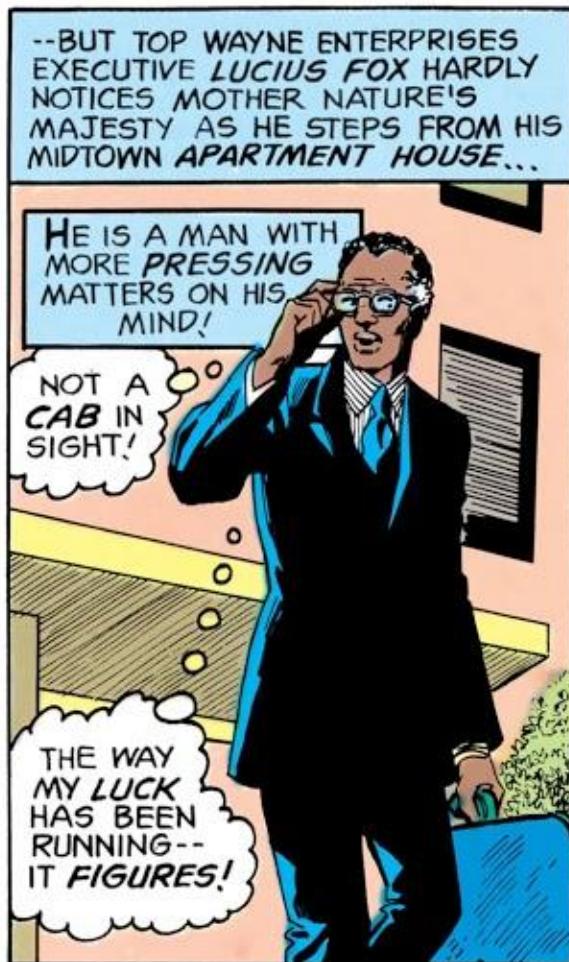
H-HE'S UP ON THE **ROOF**!

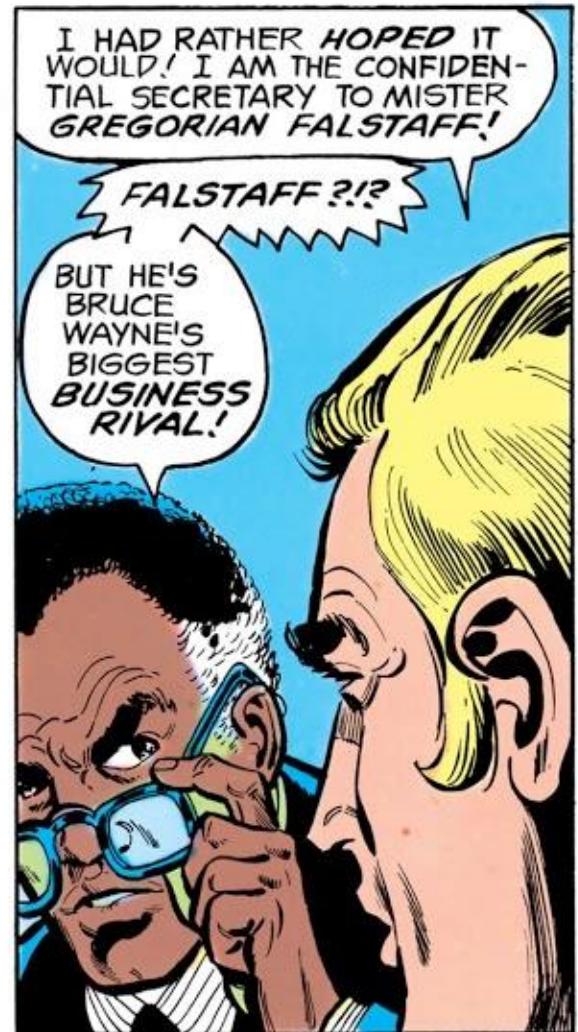
WH-WHY DON'T YOU GO PICK ON **HIM**?

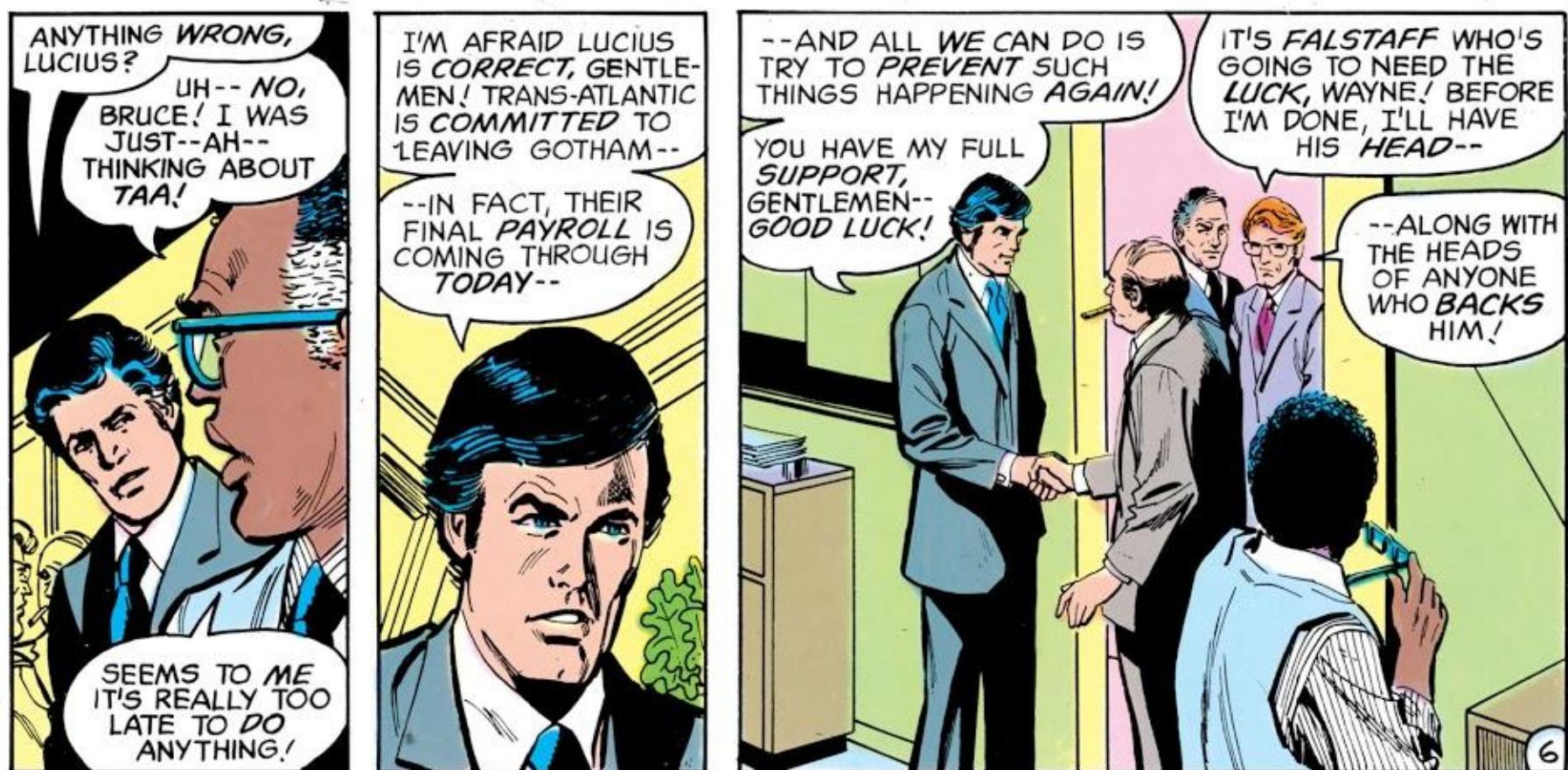
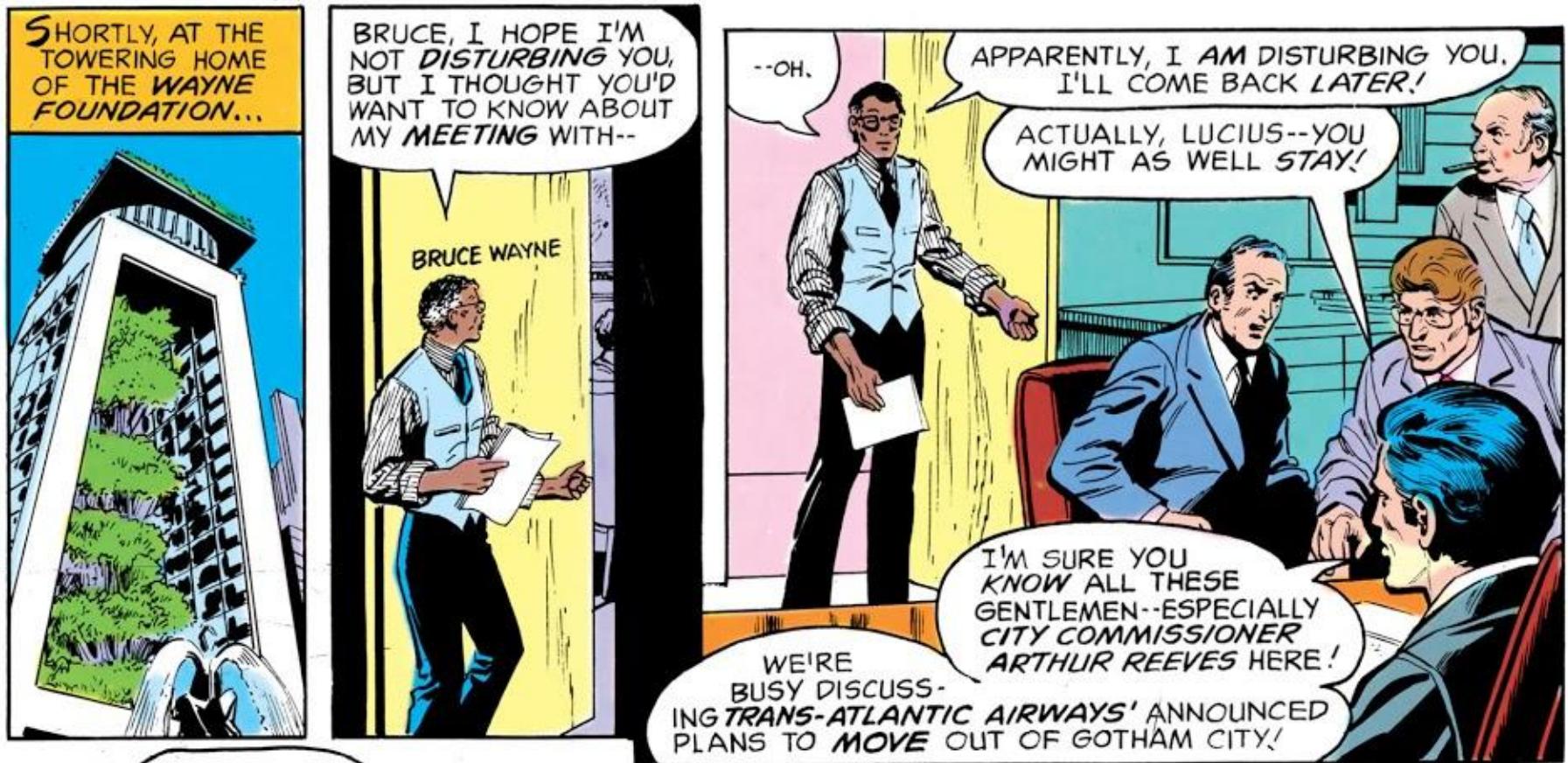
HEY--
DON'T!

LET
GO!









AND WHEN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO BETTER GOTHAM'S BUSINESS HAS DEPARTED...

THANKS FOR STAYING, LUCIUS--REEVES SPEW OUT ENOUGH HOT AIR TO TAKE THE CREASE OUT OF MY SUIT!

NOW WHAT WAS IT YOU THOUGHT I'D WANT TO KNOW?

OH, IT WAS --UH-- NOTHING, BRUCE!

NOTHING VERY IMPORTANT...

I COULDN'T TELL BRUCE ABOUT FALSTAFF'S OFFER-- ESPECIALLY AFTER I HEARD REEVES THREATEN TO CRUCIFY ANYONE HE CATCHES PLAYING FOOTSIE WITH THE MAN!

...NOT NOW!

NO, IF I'M GOING TO DIVE HEAD FIRST INTO HOT WATER-- I'M GOING TO DO IT ALONE!

HIS DECISION MADE, LUCIUS FOX TURNS AWAY FROM HIS WINDOW-- AND THUS, HE DOES NOT NOTICE THE GAILY-COLORED KITES HOVERING HIGH ABOVE THE MIDTOWN OFFICES OF TRANS-ATLANTIC AIRWAYS...

...KITES WHICH SUDDENLY EXPLODE, PAINTING THE HAZY SKY IN IRIDESCENT SHADES OF GOLD AND GREEN AND CRIMSON!

TAA

HOLY SMOKES!

WILL YA LOOK AT THAT?!?

WITHIN SECONDS, TRAFFIC HAS STOPPED COLD--THE SIDEWALKS ARE JAMMED WITH SPECTATORS--

-- AND EVEN TRANS-ATLANTIC'S CRACK SECURITY STAFF IS LURED OUTSIDE BY THE UNSCHEDULED DISPLAY OF PYROTECHNIC WONDER...

CRIPES!

WHAT IN--?!

... WHILE A TRIO OF INNOCUOUSLY-GARBED WORKMEN, EACH CARRYING A HEAVY TOOL-BOX, STEALS INTO THE BUILDING UNSEEN!

WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON UP THERE?

BEATS ME, PAL! THE FOURTH OF JULY AIN'T TILL NEXT MONTH!

AS IF THEY ACTUALLY BELONG THERE, THE COVER-ALLED FIGURES SCURRY ACROSS THE SPACIOUS LOBBY--

--USING A LOCKPICK TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO A RARELY-USED UTILITY STAIRWELL--



--MERE INSTANTS BEFORE THE CONFUSED SECURITY GUARDS RETURN TO THEIR WORK...

ANY IDEA WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?

MAYBE A PUBLICITY GIMMICK-- TO PROMOTE A LITTLE GOOD WILL?

YEAH, TRANS-ATLANTIC AIN'T EXACTLY THE MOST POPULAR OUTFIT IN TOWN THESE DAYS!

JUST WISH THEY'D TELL US ABOUT THESE THINGS, THOUGH!

CLICK!

IT'D SAVE US ALL A LOT OF TROUBLE!

LUNCH HOUR IN GOTHAM IS MUCH LIKE LUNCHTIME IN ANY OTHER CITY WHERE EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE ATTEMPT TO SQUEEZE INTO SIX MILLION COUNTER SPACES SIMULTANEOUSLY...

...AND FOR MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE, IT'S ABOUT TO GET WORSE!

SORRY I'M LATE, SELINA!

THAT'S NOT ALL YOU HAVE TO BE SORRY FOR, MISTER!



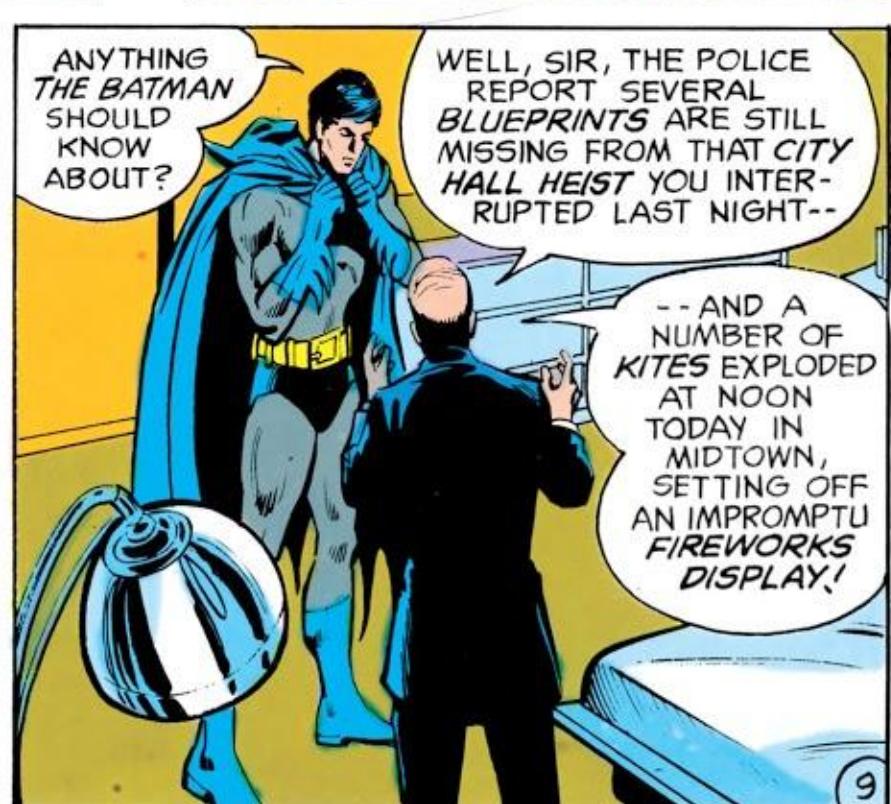
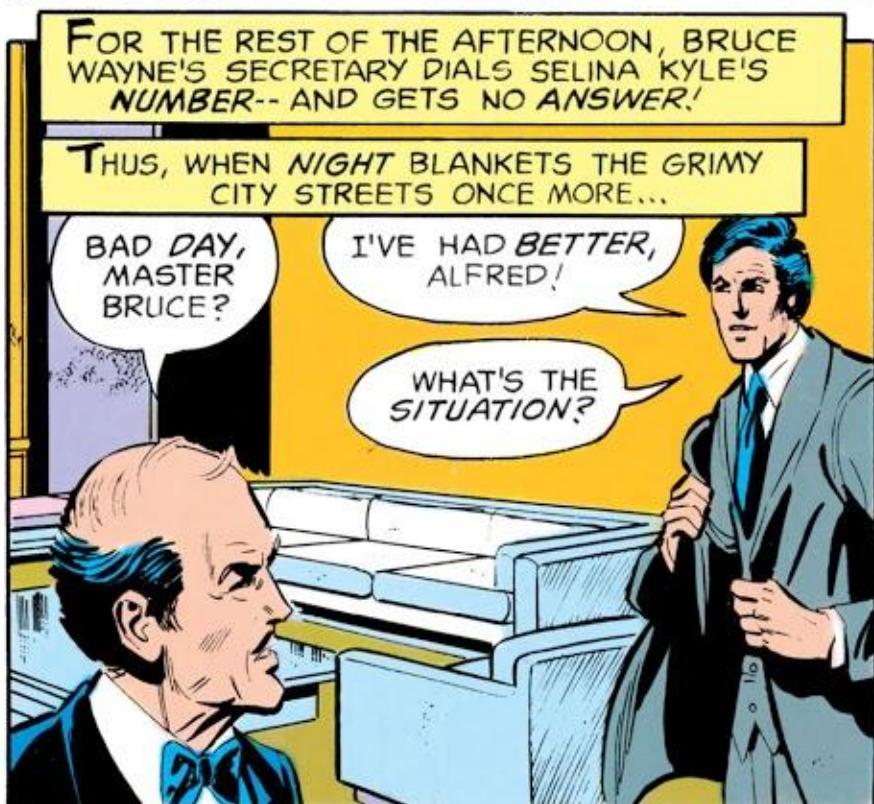
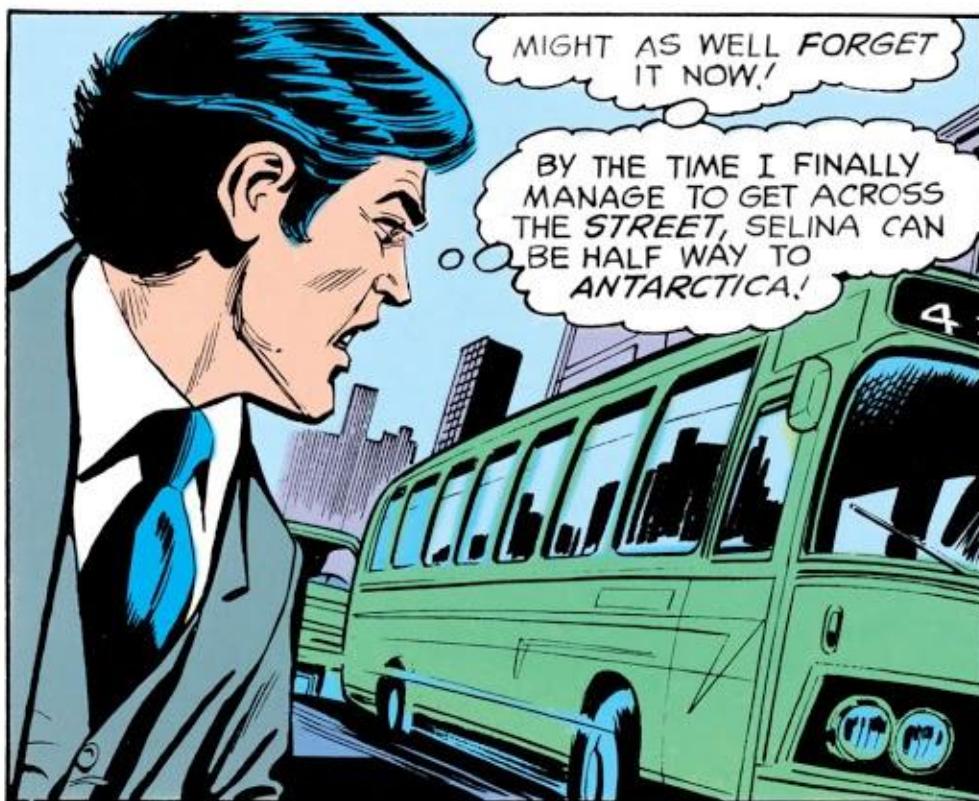
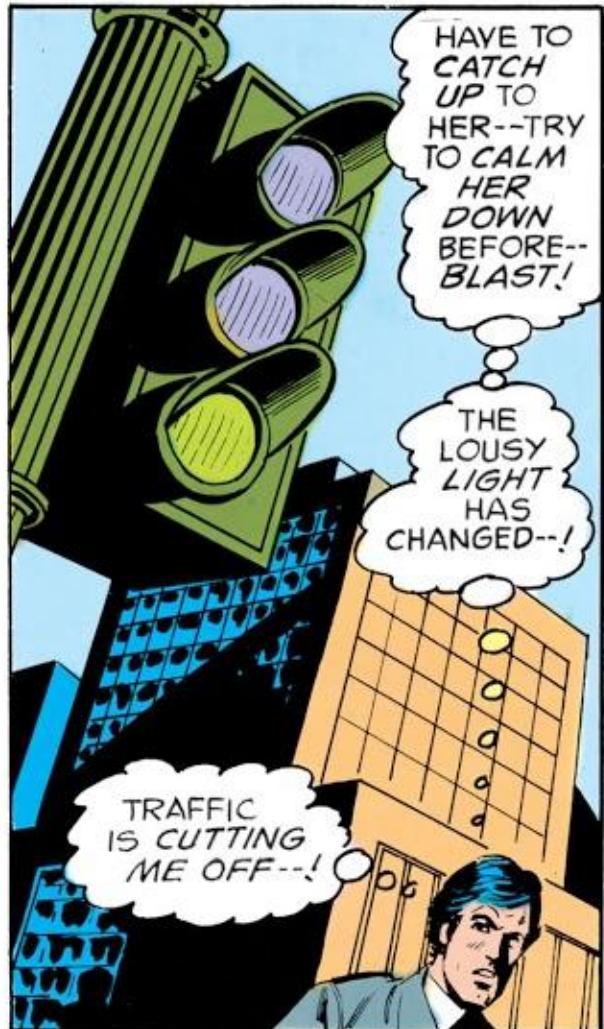
UH-OH--THAT SOUNDS OMINOUS!

ARE YOU STILL MIFFED BECAUSE I STOOD YOU UP THE OTHER NIGHT?

DON'T PLAY CUTE WITH ME, BRUCE! I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO INVESTIGATE ME?

I SAW YOUR FLUNKY FOX--AND HE ADMITTED YOU HAD ME CHECKED OUT WHEN I FIRST CAME TO SEE YOU!





THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE IS *SILENT* AS A HIDDEN ELEVATOR DESCENDS INTO THE CAVERNOUS BATCAVE, THEN ...

WELL, AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHO WE'RE UP AGAINST-- AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE'S AFTER!

ALFRED, WHAT TIME IS THAT TRANS-ATLANTIC AIRWAYS PAYROLL BEING DELIVERED TONIGHT?

UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, SIR--THE SPECIAL HELICOPTER THEY'RE USING SHOULD ALREADY BE AIRBORNE!

THEN YOU'D BETTER WISH ME *LUCK*, OLD FRIEND!

I'M GOING TO NEED IT IF I INTEND TO CATCH THE KITE-MAN BEFORE HE CAN FLY FREE!

LIKE SOME SOMBER BLACK SHADOW, THE SLEEK BATMOBILE HURTS ALONG THE TWISTING STREETS OF GOTHAM--

-- RUNNING A DESPERATE RACE AGAINST TIME--

--A RACE THAT MAY ALREADY BE LOST!

APEX JEWELRY

RRRINGO

A BURGLAR ALARM--!

SOMEONE BROKE INTO THAT JEWELRY STORE-- AND RECENTLY!

ANY OTHER TIME I'D STOP AND CHECK IT OUT!

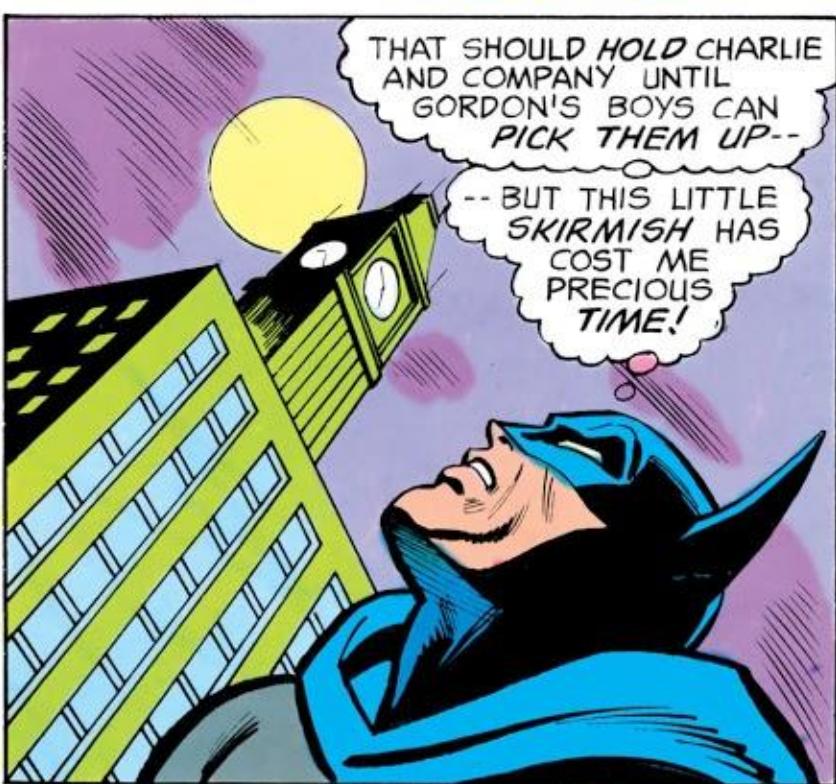
BUT RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T AFFORD TO--

--TO--

AH, WHO THE HECK DO I THINK I'M KIDDING?

SKEEEEEEFF

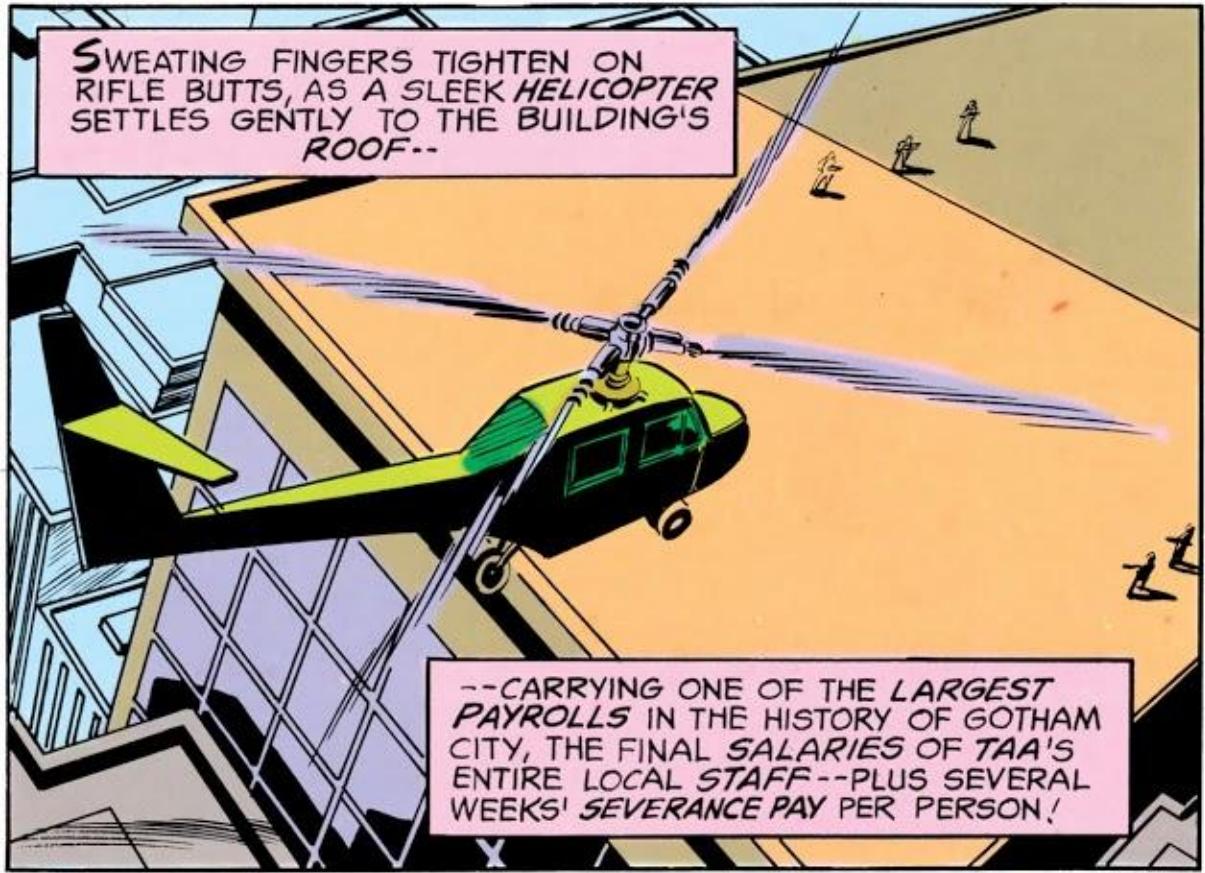




IT MAY NOT BE OBVIOUS AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT THE TRANS-ATLANTIC AIRWAYS BUILDING IS A VERITABLE FORTRESS TONIGHT--



--ITS ENTRANCES SEALED, AND THE STREET SURROUNDING IT RINGED WITH HEAVILY-ARMED GUARDS!



SWEATING FINGERS TIGHTEN ON RIFLE BUTTS, AS A SLEEK HELICOPTER SETTLES GENTLY TO THE BUILDING'S ROOF--

--CARRYING ONE OF THE LARGEST PAYROLLS IN THE HISTORY OF GOTHAM CITY, THE FINAL SALARIES OF TAA'S ENTIRE LOCAL STAFF--PLUS SEVERAL WEEKS' SEVERANCE PAY PER PERSON!



IT IS A SUPREMELY TEMPTING TARGET FOR ANY THIEF, CERTAINLY--

--AND THUS, A TARGET TO BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS!



AN ANT COULDN'T GET ONTO THIS ROOF TONIGHT WITHOUT TRIPLE SECURITY CLEARANCE--

--BUT A FLOCK OF BRIGHTLY-PAINTED BOX KITES IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY!

HEY-- WHAT THE DEVIL ARE THOSE TOYS DOING UP HERE?



IN ANOTHER INSTANT, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BECOMES PAINFULLY OBVIOUS...

LORD-- NO!

THAT STUFF'S--
'KAF'--'KAF'
--NERVE GAS!



THOSE "TOYS" ARE COMMITTING ARMED ROBBERY!

AND EVEN AS THE HAPLESS SECURITY MEN TUMBLE UNCONSCIOUS TO THE CONCRETE...

THE WIND IS BLOWING THE NERVE GAS AWAY--PRECISELY AS PLANNED!

LET'S MOVE, MEN--WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE!

WILL YA LOOK AT ALL THIS LOOT?

STOP CONGRATULATING YOURSELVES--AND HELP ME ASSEMBLE THIS THING!

IT WAS WORTH HIDIN' IN THAT CRAMPED UTILITY DUCT ALL DAY TO MAKE A SCORE LIKE THIS!

PIECE BY PIECE, THE TOOLBOXES ARE EMPTIED, AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETE...

WELL DONE, GENTLEMEN! NOW IF YOU'LL KINDLY HAND ME THE MONEY--?

SURE, KITE-MAN--YOU'RE THE BOSS!

YOU SURE THIS HANG GLIDER GIZMO IS STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY ALL THREE OF US OFF THIS ROOF BEFORE THEM OTHER GUARDS SHOW UP?

A RATHER EXCELLENT QUESTION, MY FRIENDS--BUT YOU REALLY NEEDN'T WORRY!

WE JUST GOT ONE QUESTION!

YOU SEE, THE HANG GLIDER WILL ONLY HAVE TO CARRY ONE OF US!

KITE-MAN--NO!!

A REGRETTABLY CRUDE TERM FOR IT--BUT NONTHELESS ACCURATE!

I HOPE YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEARTS TO FORGIVE ME SOMEDAY--

WE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!

--BUT WHERE THE KITE-MAN FLIES, HE FLIES ALONE!

HIS GLIDER WINGS CATCHING THE WIND, THE KITE-MAN SOARS HIGH OVER THE YAWNING CONCRETE CANYONS OF GOTHAM CITY--

--A GREAT STREAMLINED BIRD OF PREY, THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF ALL HE SURVEYS--

--BUT IT IS A TITLE HE DOES NOT HOLD FOR LONG!

THAT SILHOUETTE AGAINST THE MOON--!?!?

WHAT IS IT--?/?

ANOTHER NOCTURNAL PREDATOR, KITE-MAN -- WHO ALSO CLAIMS THE DARKNESS AND THE SKY AS HIS NATURAL ELEMENTS...

...IN SHORT, AN AIRBORNE BATMAN!

WHEN I REALIZED I'D NEVER BE IN TIME TO NAIL THE KITE-MAN AT THE TAA BUILDING, I KNEW THIS WAS MY ONLY OTHER CHANCE--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE MY LONG SHOT PAID OFF!

DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME, BATMAN--

--BUT YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!

BLAM!

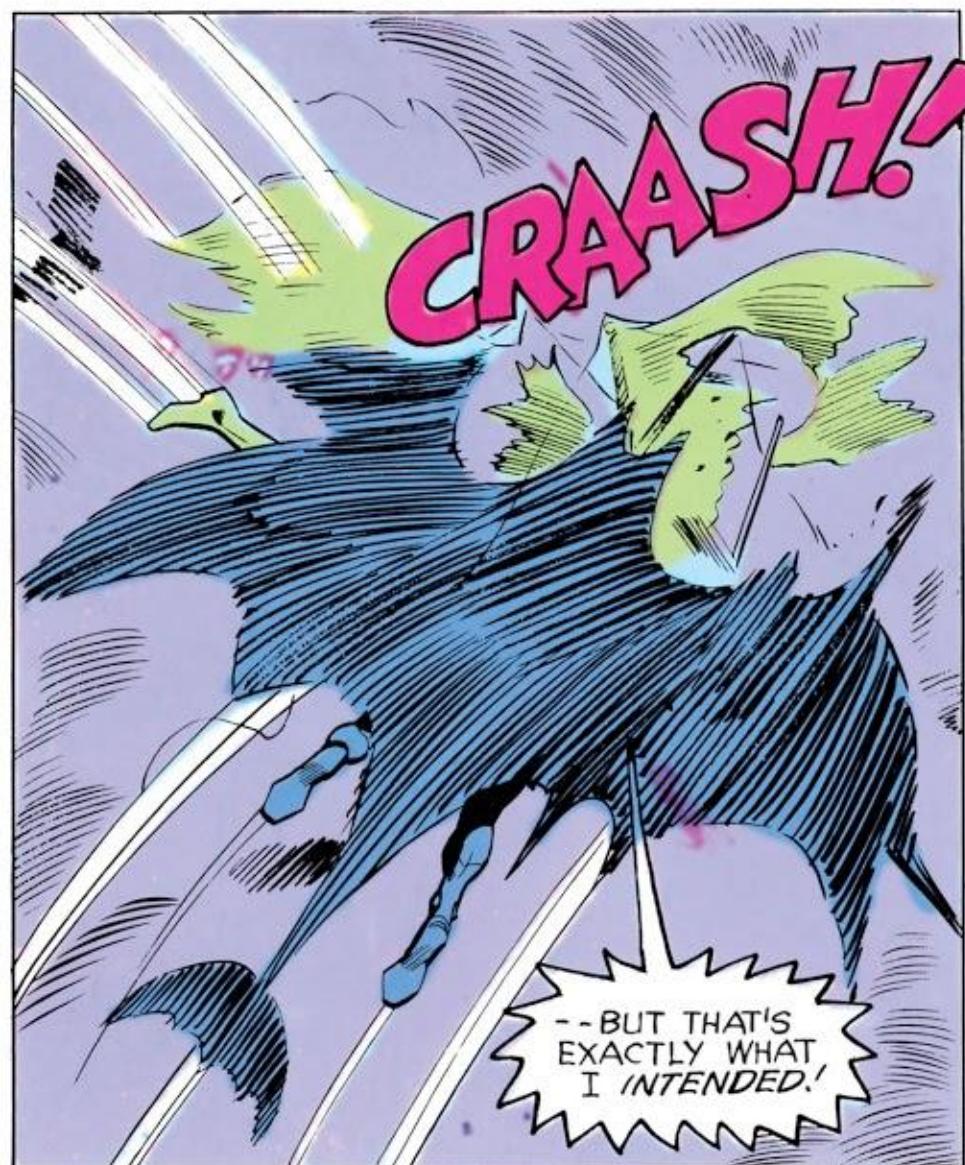
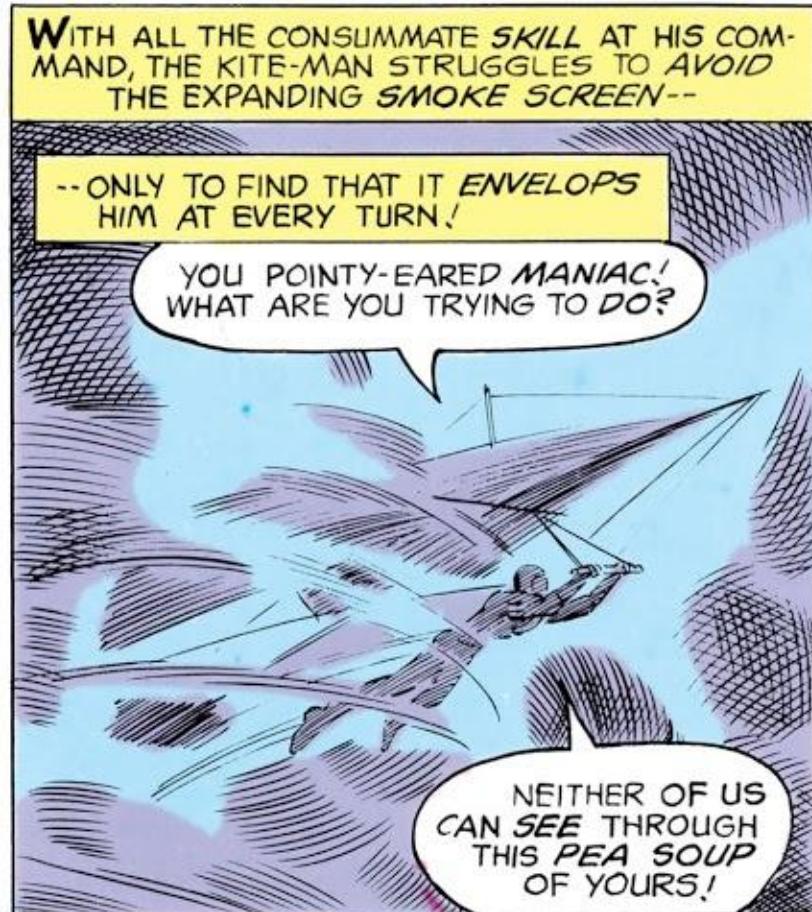
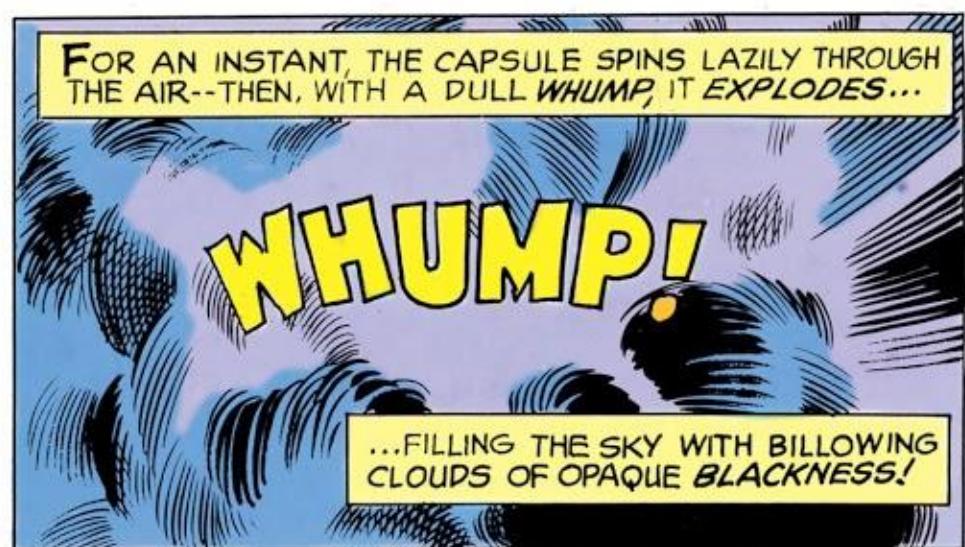
BAM!

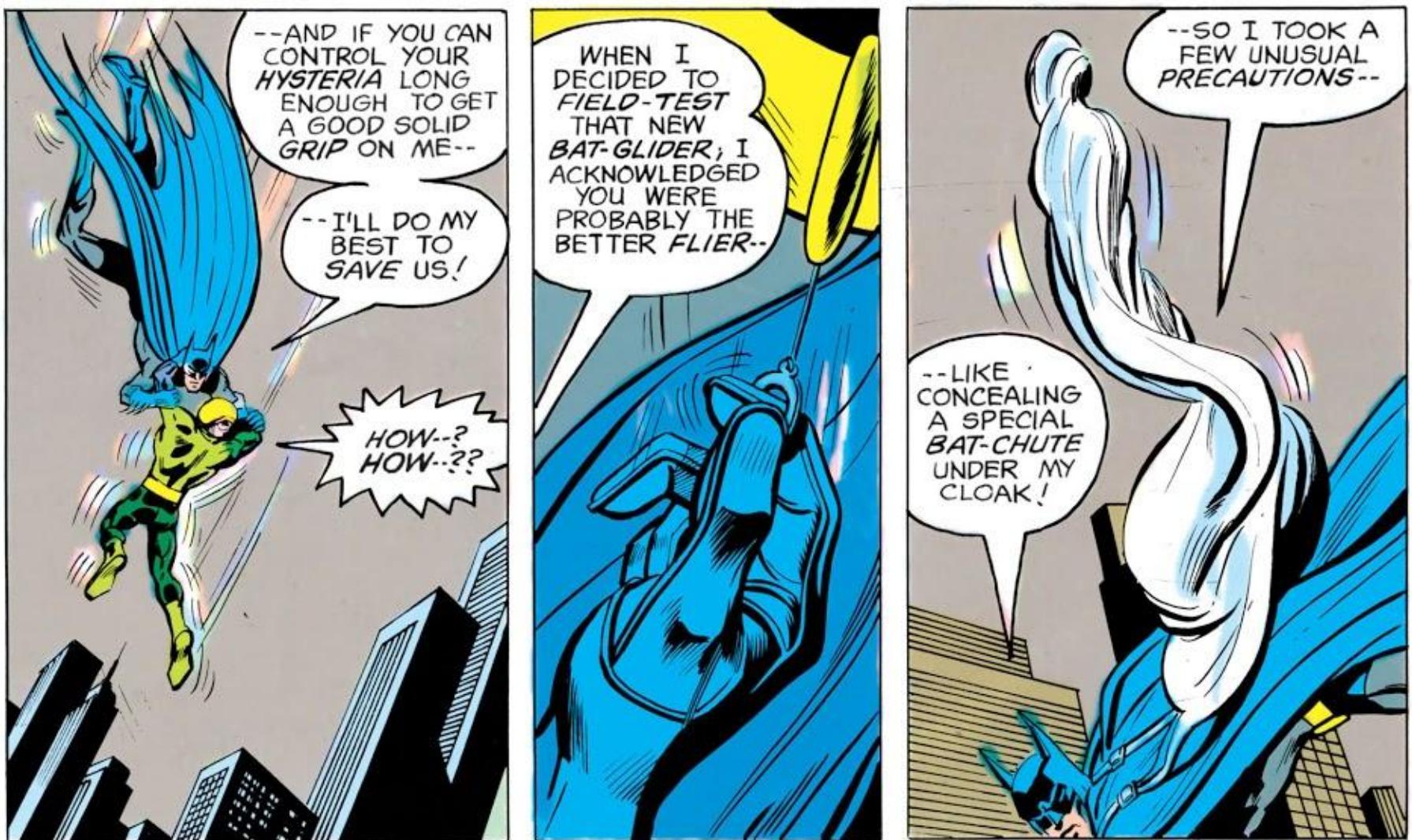
OUR LAST ENCOUNTER COST ME YEARS BEHIND BARS--

--AND I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO GET EVEN!

THAT LAST SHOT CAME UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE-- BUT THEN, THE KITE-MAN HAS A LOT MORE EXPERIENCE MANEUVERING ONE OF THESE THINGS!

BEEOW!





NEXT ISSUE:

ROBIN IS BACK IN TOWN, TO HELP THE CAPE CRUSADER BATTLE THE INCREDIBLE MENACE OF--
CRAZY-QUILT! JOIN US FOR...
"COLOR ME DEADLY!"



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