



APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
  
AUTHORITY

MAY  
NO. 171

# BATMAN®

WHAT'S KEEPING  
THE RIDDLE UP?  
HE TAKES OUR  
HARDEST KNOCKOUT  
BLOWS--

--AND BOUNCES  
RIGHT BACK  
FROM THEM!

HA! HA! HA! HA!



Featuring  
**'REMARKABLE RUSE of the RIDDLER!'**

# BATMAN®

With  
**ROBIN**  
THE  
Boy WONDER

OUT OF THE PAST STEPS A "QUESTIONABLE" FIGURE -- A MASTER THIEF WHOSE TRADEMARK IS--A RIDDLE ! BECAUSE OF A QUIRK IN HIS NATURE, HE NEVER COMMITS A CRIME WITHOUT FIRST TIPPING OFF **BATMAN**-- BY MEANS OF A RIDDLE-- WHERE HE INTENDS TO STRIKE !

BUT WHILE THE **MASKED MANHUNTER** HAS NO TROUBLE SOLVING THE RIDDLES, HE RUNS INTO PLENTY OF TROUBLE WHEN HE TRIES TO CAPTURE HIS ENIGMATIC FOE !

## REMARKABLE RUSE of **THE RIDDLER!**

I'M HITTING THE RIDDLER WITH MY HARDEST BLOWS-- BUT I CAN'T KNOCK HIM DOWN OR OUT !

JUST LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY TO CALL IT QUIT--AND I'LL PULL OFF MY SURPRISE GETAWAY !

EVERY TIME I HIT HIS UNIFORM -- I GET AN ELECTRIC SHOCK !



BOB  
KANE

IN THE OFFICE OF THE WARDEN OF STATE PENITENTIARY, AN INMATE KNOWN AS E. NIGMA STANDS ON THE THRESHOLD OF FREEDOM ...

--AND HERE'S THE MONEY WE GIVE EVERY RELEASED PRISONER--

THANKS, WARDEN. NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A PRESENT IN EXCHANGE-- A RIDDLE !

WHY DO THE CONS IN THIS PRISON CALL IT "FIDDLER'S HOTEL"?

STILL CAN'T RESIST ASKING A RIDDLE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY, eh ? OKAY... I BITE ! WHAT'S THE ANSWER ?

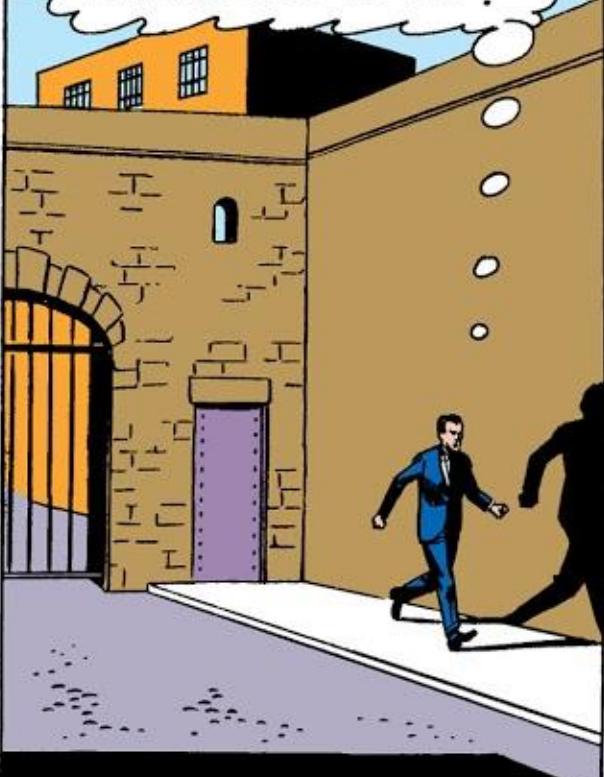
UH-UH-I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU NOW ! BUT IF I'M UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RETURN TO FIDDLER'S HOTEL-- I'LL TELL YOU THE ANSWER THEN !

SOUNDS AS IF HE INTENDS GOING BACK TO HIS LIFE OF CRIME-- WHICH MAKES IT A SURE BET HE'LL BE BACK HERE SOON WITH THE ANSWER TO HIS RIDDLE !



THE FRONT GATE OF THE BIG HOUSE OPENS AND CLOSES BEHIND HIM AS E. NIGMA WALKS AWAY...

EVER SINCE BATMAN SLAPPED ME BEHIND JAIL BARS \* I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A CHANGE OF TACTICS FOR OUR RE-MATCH-- AND I'M ALL SET TO GO !



REACHING GOTHAM CITY, HIS FIRST STOP IS AT A NEWSSTAND WHERE ...

I WANT TO LEARN WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE WORLD WHILE I -- HELLO ! WHAT'S THIS ?



\*Editor's Note: DETECTIVE COMICS #142, DECEMBER, 1948-- "CRIME'S PUZZLE CONTEST!"

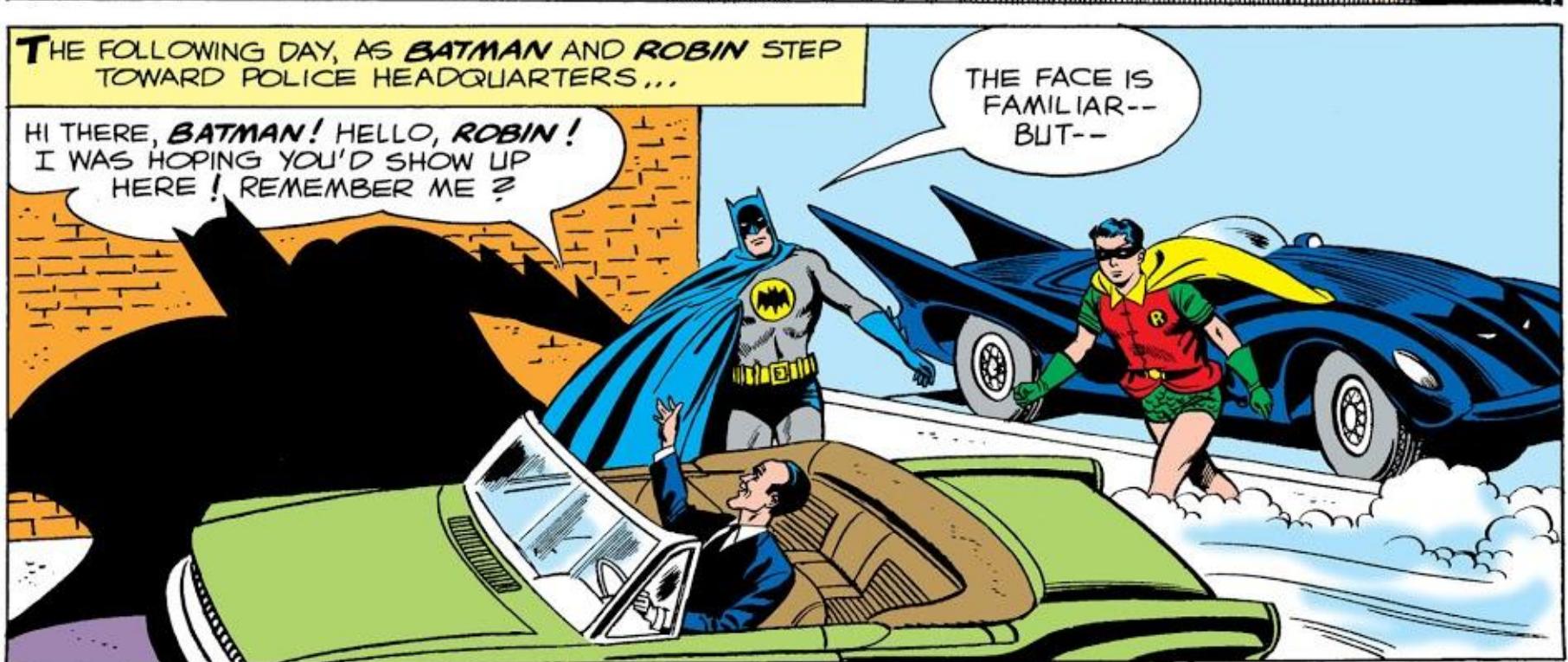
I WANT ALL OF BATMAN'S ATTENTION WHEN I MAKE MY MOVE !  
BUT HE CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ME--IF HE'S OUT CHASING  
SOMEBODY ELSE ! GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS !



THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STEP TOWARD POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

HI THERE, BATMAN ! HELLO, ROBIN !  
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SHOW UP HERE ! REMEMBER ME ?

THE FACE IS FAMILIAR--  
BUT--



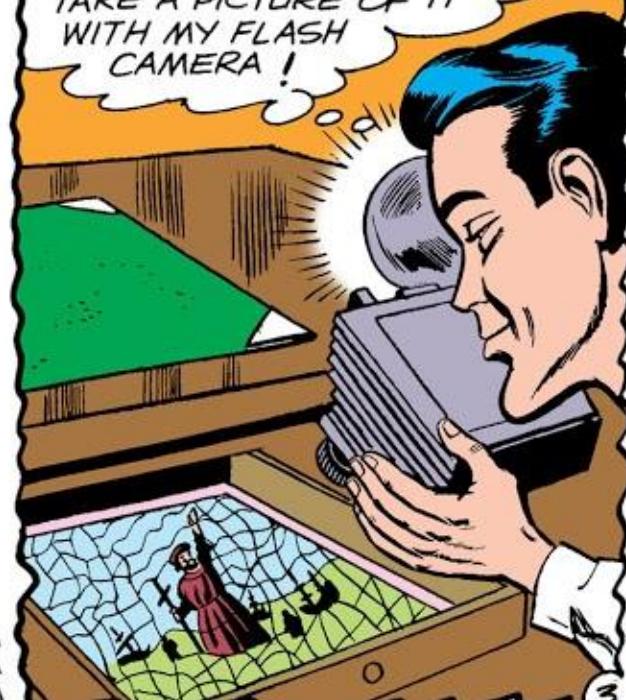
MAYBE YOU DON'T QUITE RECOGNIZE ME BECAUSE I'M OUT OF UNIFORM !  
LET ME GIVE YOU A HINT--WHAT OCCURS ONCE IN A MINUTE-- TWICE IN A MOMENT-- BUT NEVER IN A THOUSAND YEARS ?

YOU'RE THE RIDDLER !

YES--THE RIDDLER !  
THE QUESTION-MARKED COSTUMED CRIMINAL WHOSE DELIGHT IT IS TO CONFFOUND AND CONFUSE LAW OFFICIALS WITH CONCLUDING DRUMS, THE ANSWERS TO WHICH SECRETLY POINT OUT THE CRIME HE IS GOING TO COMMIT ! ONCE AGAIN HE IS FREE AND WITH A BATCH OF READY RIDLES...

LONG AGO AS A BOY--EDWARD NIGMA WAS HIS FULL NAME-- HE WON AN HISTORICAL JIGSAW PUZZLE IN SCHOOL--BY CHEATING ...

SO THAT'S WHAT THE COMPLETED PUZZLE LOOKS LIKE --COLUMBUS DISCOVERING AMERICA ! I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF IT WITH MY FLASH CAMERA !



FROM THAT DAY ON HE CARVED HIMSELF A CRIMINAL CAREER OUT OF PUZZLES AND RIDDLES, BECOMING MORE AND MORE NOTORIOUS UNTIL HE INEVITABLY CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...\*

AGAIN AND AGAIN HE BATTLED THAT DYNAMIC DUO, EVER CONTRIVING NEW AND MORE DANGEROUS PUZZLE-TRAPS FOR THEM -- SUCH AS THE GREAT GLASS MAZE ON THE GOTHAM CITY AMUSEMENT PIER ...



\*SEE DETECTIVE COMICS #140: "The Riddler!"

UNTIL AT LAST, HARSH REALITY CAUGHT UP WITH THIS PRINCE OF PUZZLERS IN A HALL OF MIRRORS WHEN...



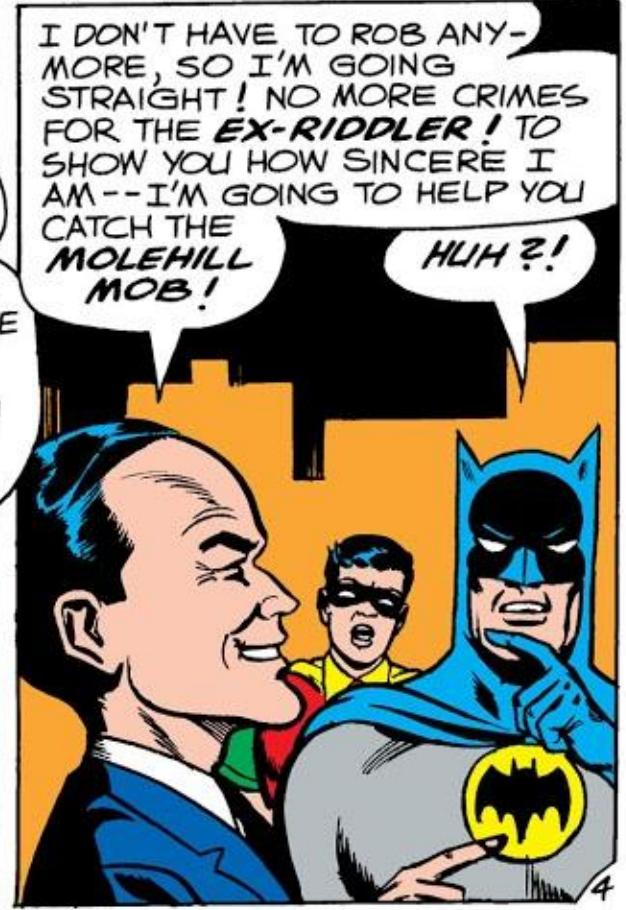
THESE MEMORIES VIVIDLY RETURN TO THE COWLED CRUSADER AS HE STARES COLDLY AT HIS FORMER FOE...

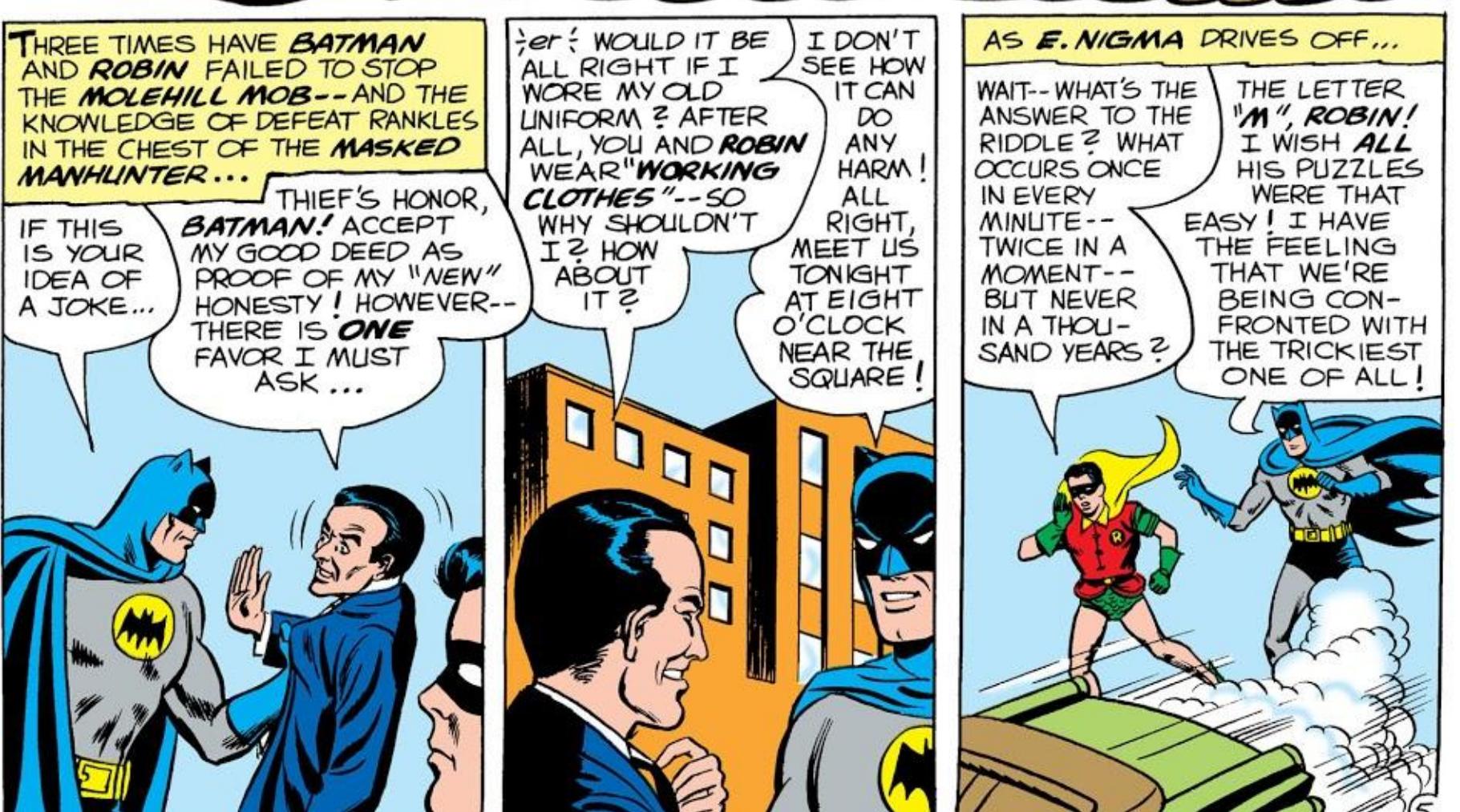
SO YOU'RE GOING BACK TO YOUR OLD WAYS AND GIVING ME THE RIDDLE TO YOUR NEXT CRIME?

BAT-MAN-- YOU MISJUDGE ME! BELIEVE ME, I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! I'VE RE-FORMED!

I DON'T HAVE TO ROB ANYMORE, SO I'M GOING STRAIGHT! NO MORE CRIMES FOR THE EX-RIDDLER! TO SHOW YOU HOW SINCERE I AM -- I'M GOING TO HELP YOU CATCH THE MOLEHILL MOB!

HUH?!





LATER THAT SAME DAY, IN THE STATELY WAYNE MANSION, BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON ARE SHARPENING THEIR MENTAL FACULTIES...

I'M GETTING RID OF ALL SEVEN LETTERS, BRUCE!

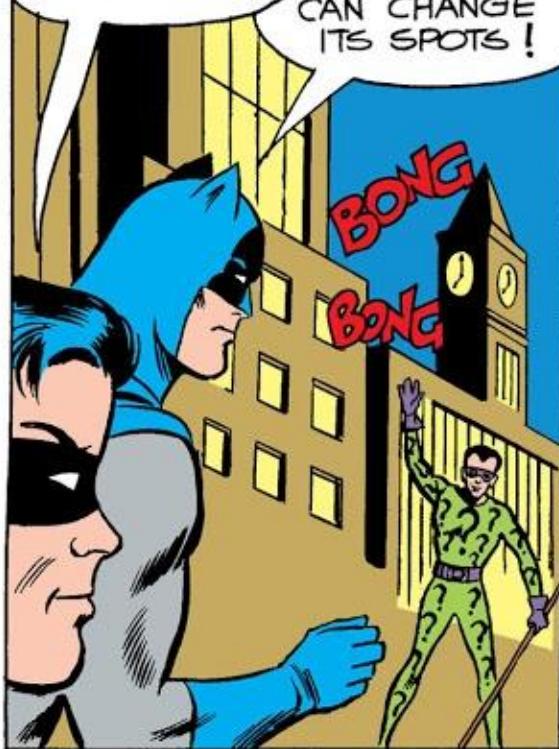
R-I-D-D-L-E-R!  
;Hm: I CAN SEE WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DICK, EVEN WHILE PLAYING THIS GAME OF SCRABBLE!



THAT EVENING AS THE TOWN CLOCK PEALS OUT THE HOUR OF EIGHT, CRIME-FIGHTERS MEET WITH CRIMINAL IN A COMMON CAUSE...

NOW TO SEE IF THE RIDDLER'S REALLY REFORMED!

I WONDER! I DON'T THINK HE CAN CHANGE HIS NATURE ANY MORE THAN A LEOPARD CAN CHANGE ITS SPOTS!



LEADING THE DUO DOWN THE STREET, THE RIDDLER PROPS UP A MANHOLE COVER...

FROM THE GRAPE-VINE AT THE BIG HOUSE, I LEARNED ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THE MOLEHILL MOB HAS ITS HIDE-OUT!

WHAT CAN HE BE UP TO? IF HE'S LEADING US INTO A TRAP-- I'M SURE WE CAN GET OUT OF IT--



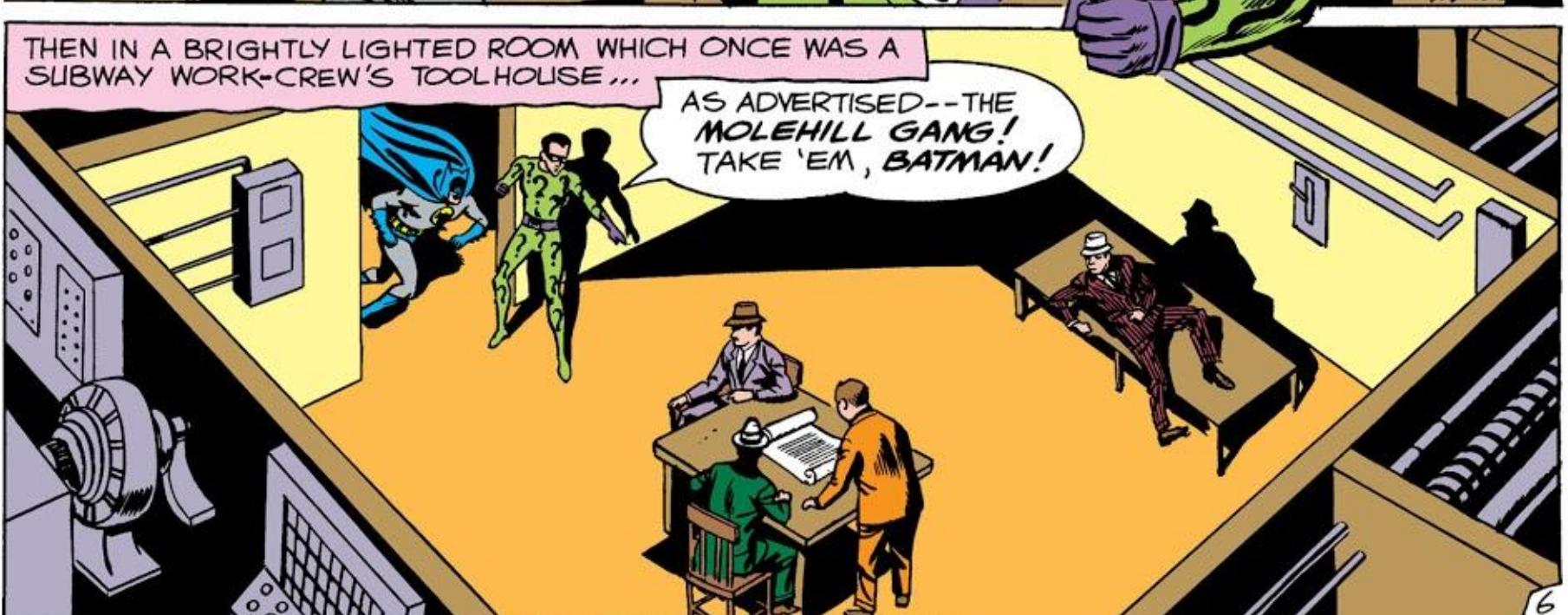
MOMENTS LATER, THE CONUNDRUM CHAMPION LEADS THE WAY PAST MILES OF CABLES, DOWN INTO THE SUB-TERRANEAN PASSAGEWAYS OF GOTHAM CITY...

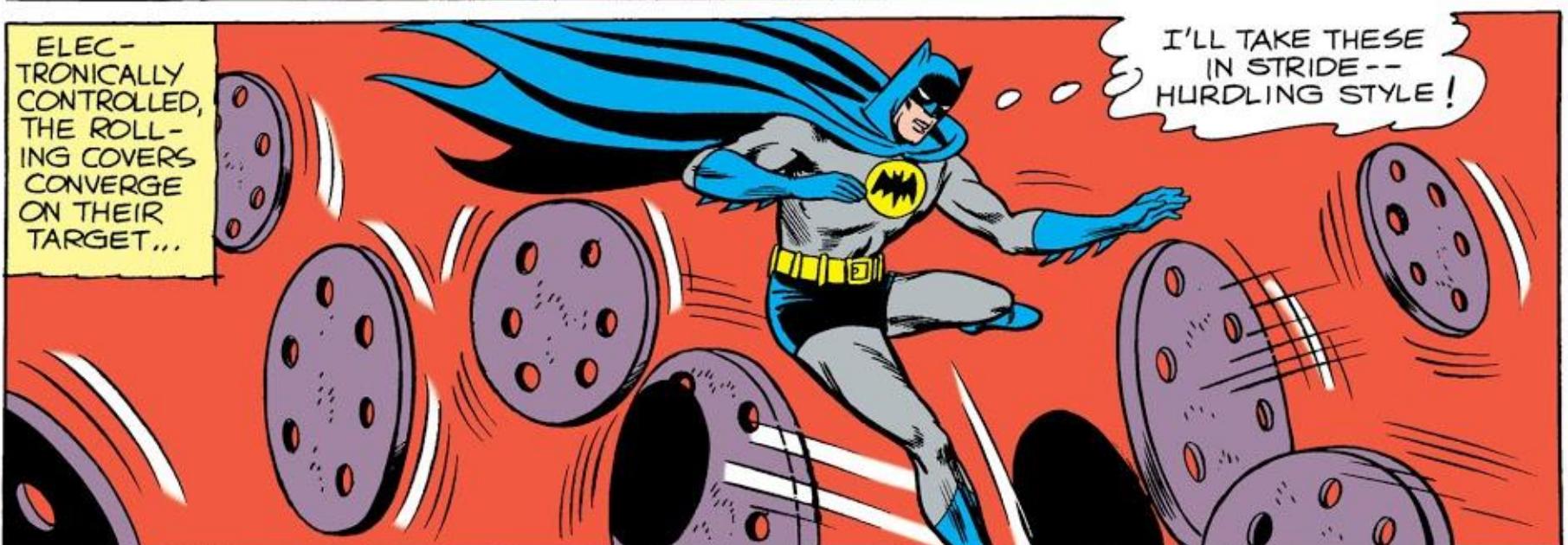
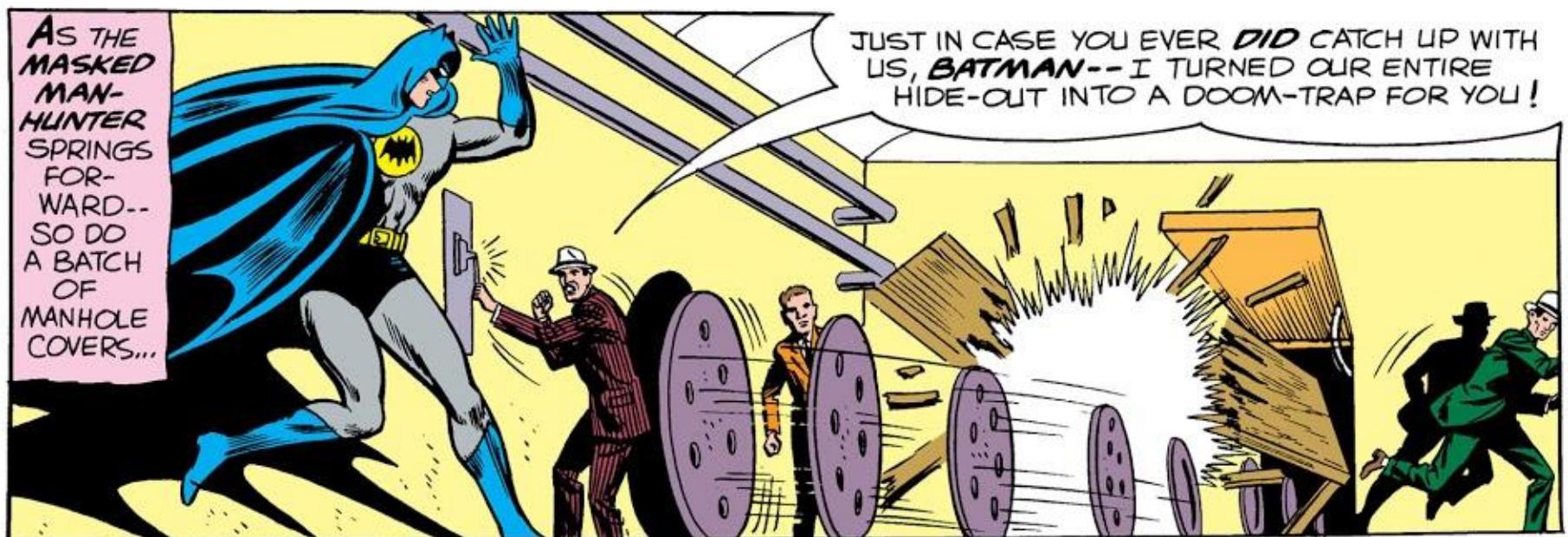
WE'RE ALMOST THERE--



THEN IN A BRIGHTLY LIGHTED ROOM WHICH ONCE WAS A SUBWAY WORK-CREW'S TOOLHOUSE...

AS ADVERTISED--THE MOLEHILL GANG! TAKE 'EM, BATMAN!





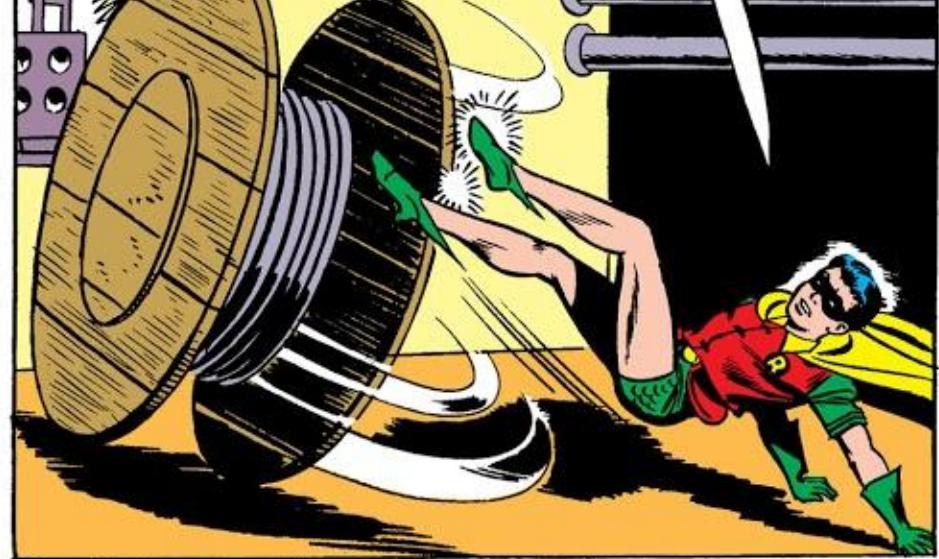
MEANWHILE, A CABLE DRUM IS SENT THUNDERING DOWN ON THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT...

A QUICK BACK-FLIP TO GET OUT OF THE WAY--AND AT THE SAME TIME PUT ME IN POSITION FOR THE FOLLOW-THROUGH...

I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I LED YOU AND BATMAN INTO THIS TRAP, ROBIN!

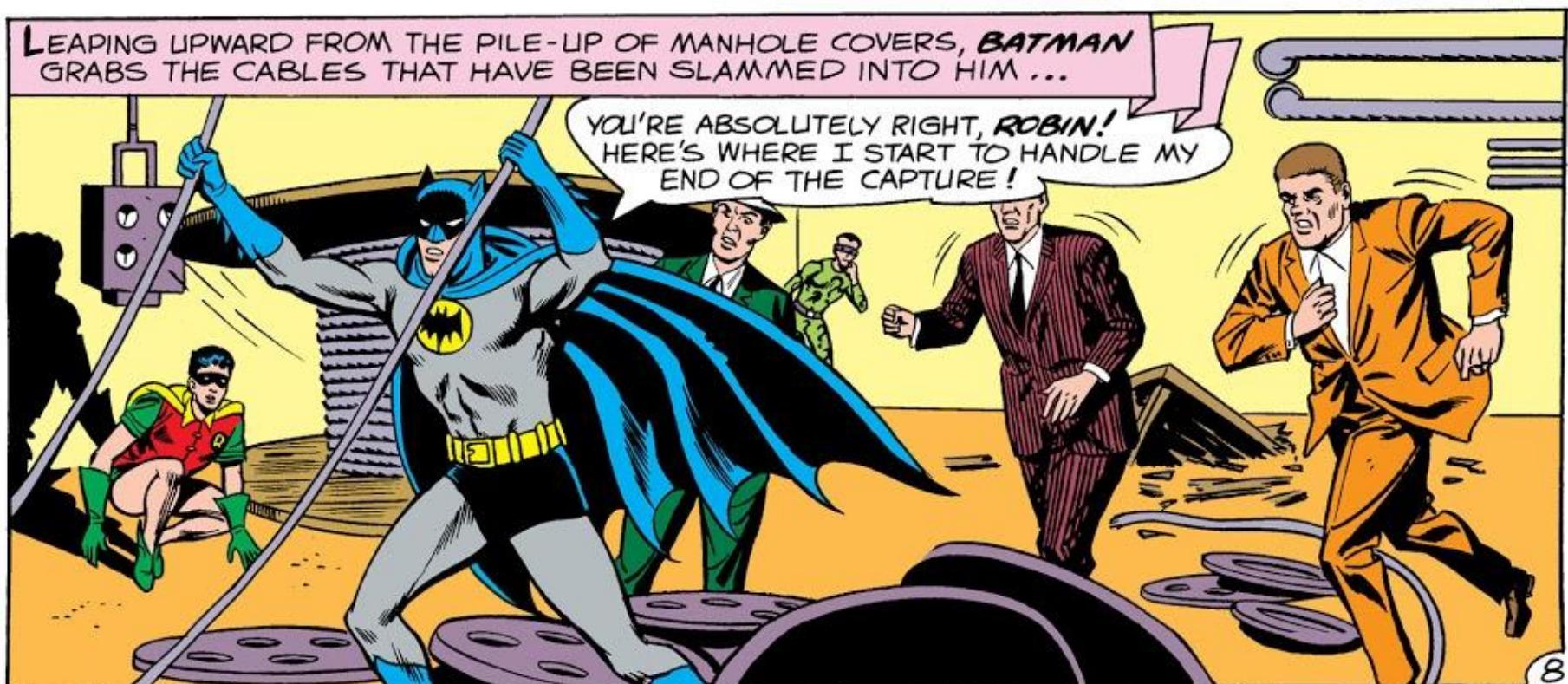
LASHING OUT WITH BOTH FEET, THE BOY WONDER DRIVES THE DRUM INTO THE WALL...

NOT AT ALL, RIDDLER! YOU JUST AGREED TO SHOW US THE CROOKS--IT'S OUR JOB TO CAPTURE THEM!



LEAPING UPWARD FROM THE PILE-UP OF MANHOLE COVERS, BATMAN GRABS THE CABLES THAT HAVE BEEN SLAMMED INTO HIM ...

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ROBIN!  
HERE'S WHERE I START TO HANDLE MY END OF THE CAPTURE!



## REMARKABLE RUSE OF THE RIDDLER--PART 2

THE CABLES RELEASED BY **BATMAN** SNAP BACK AT HIS ATTACKERS! BEHIND HIM, **ROBIN** SPRINGS TO THE ATTACK AGAINST THE **MOLEHILL MOB** CHIEF!

AND STANDING ALOOF FROM ALL THE SOUND AND FURY IS **THE RIDDLER** -- ROOTING FOR HIS FORMER OPPONENTS TO WIN A SMASHING VICTORY...

GET 'EM,  
**BATMAN**  
AND  
**ROBIN**--

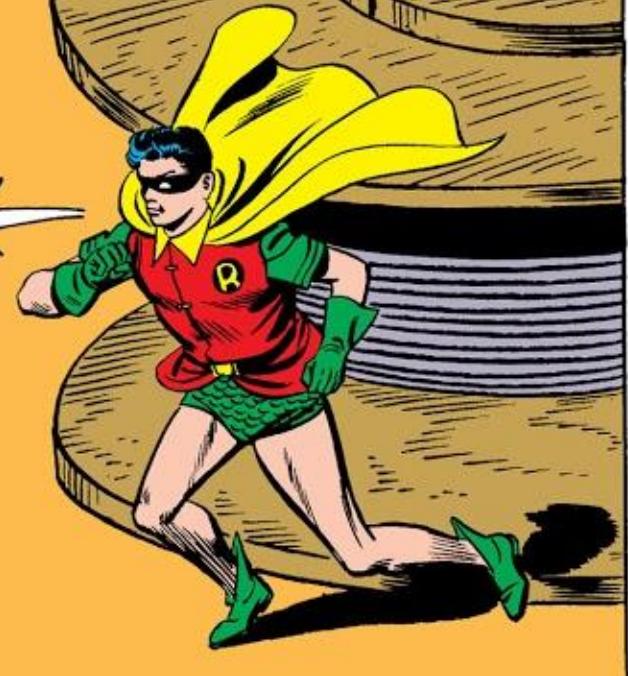
--SO WE CAN GET  
ON WITH OUR OWN  
PERSONAL  
BUSINESS!

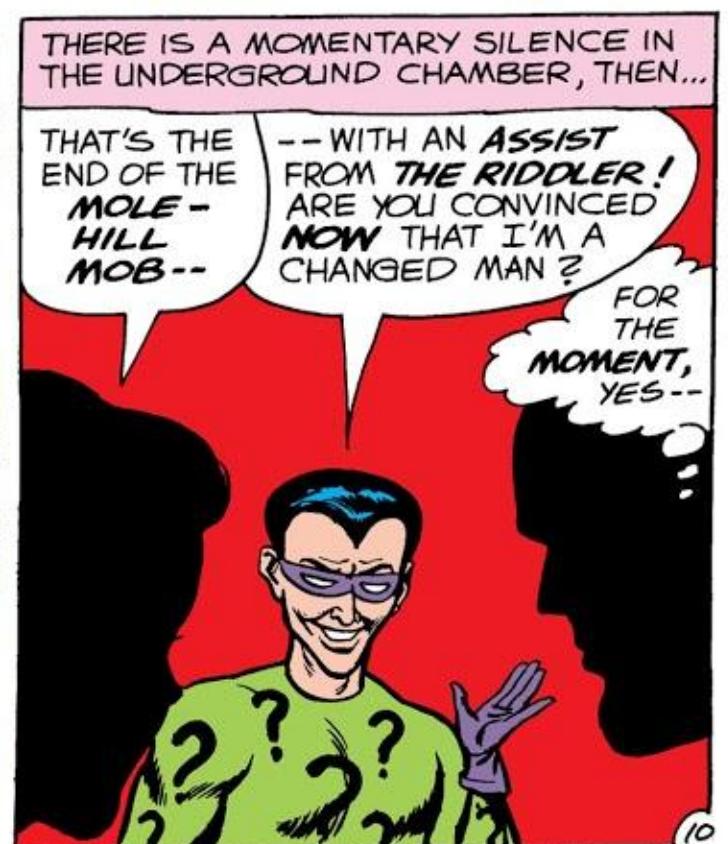
THAT TAKES  
CARE OF THREE  
OF THEM AT  
ONCE!

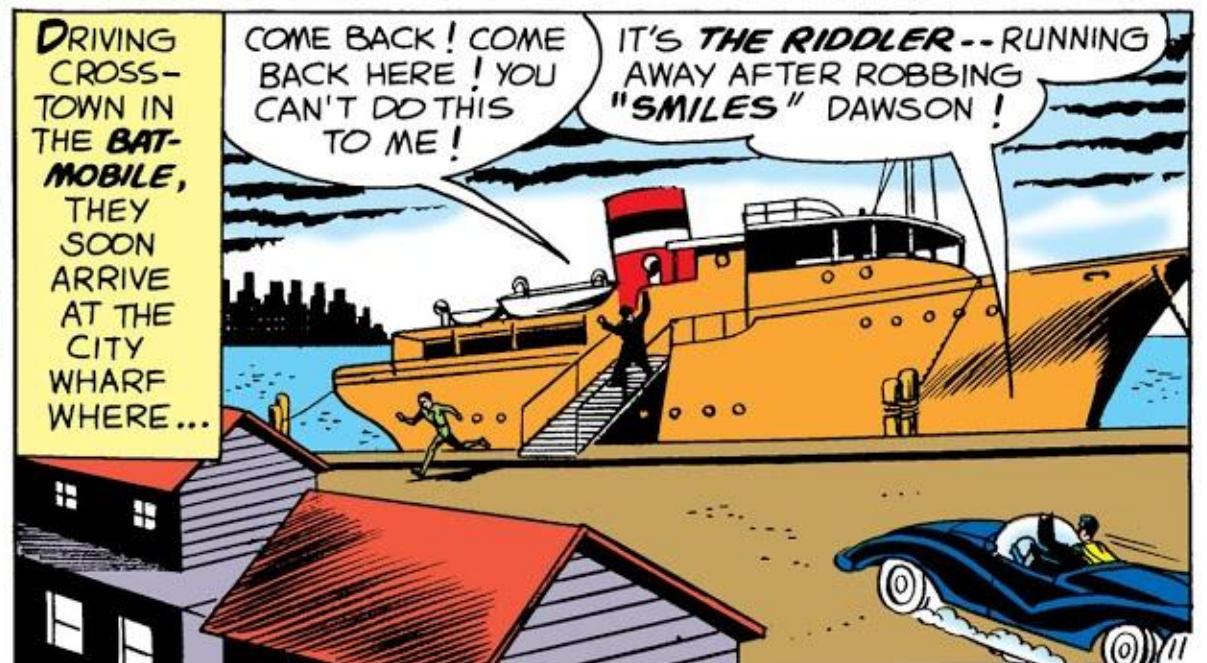
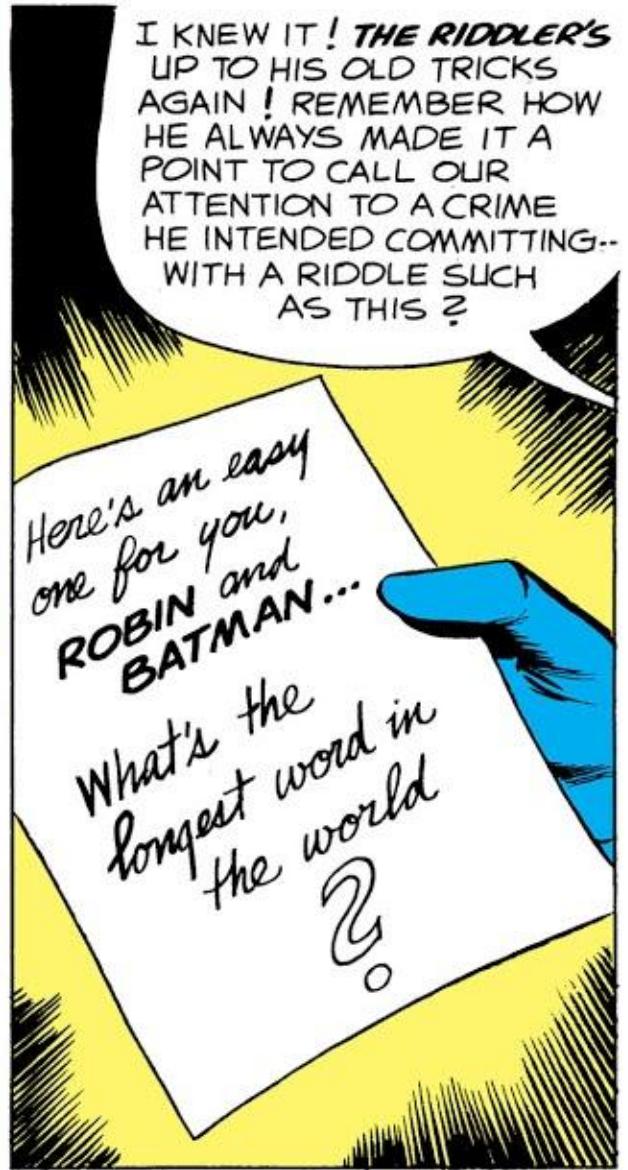


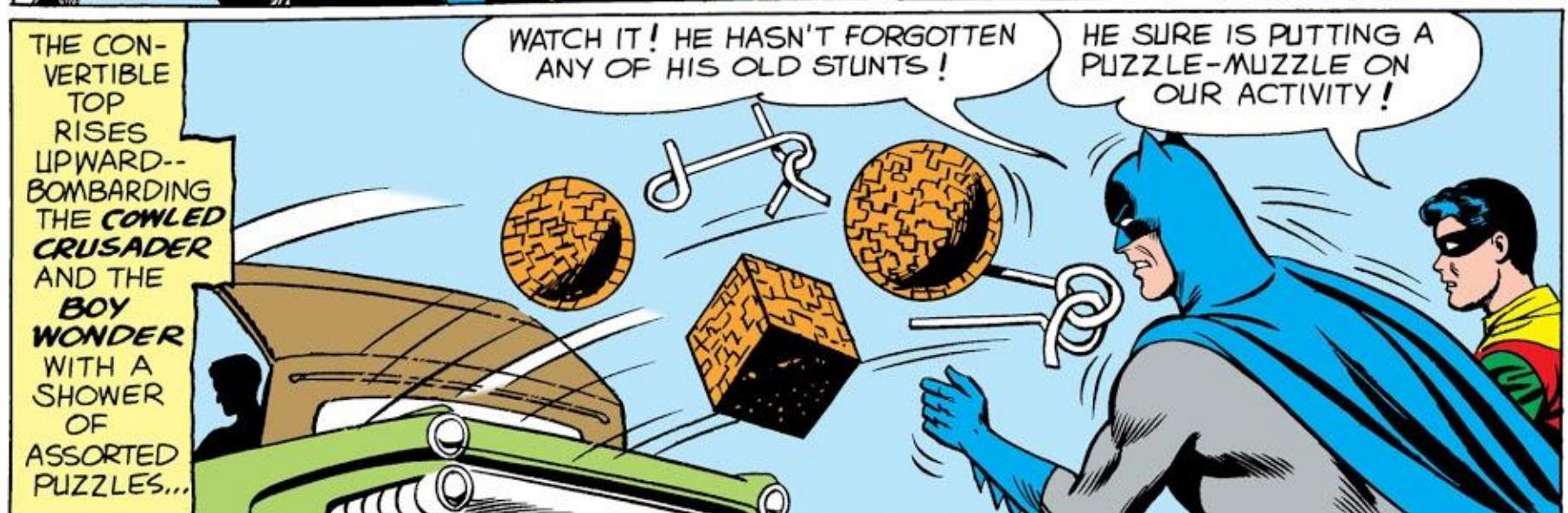
GOT TO RELEASE  
ANOTHER SECRET  
WEAPON TO DROP  
THEM IN THEIR  
TRACKS!

OH, NO  
YOU  
DON'T--!

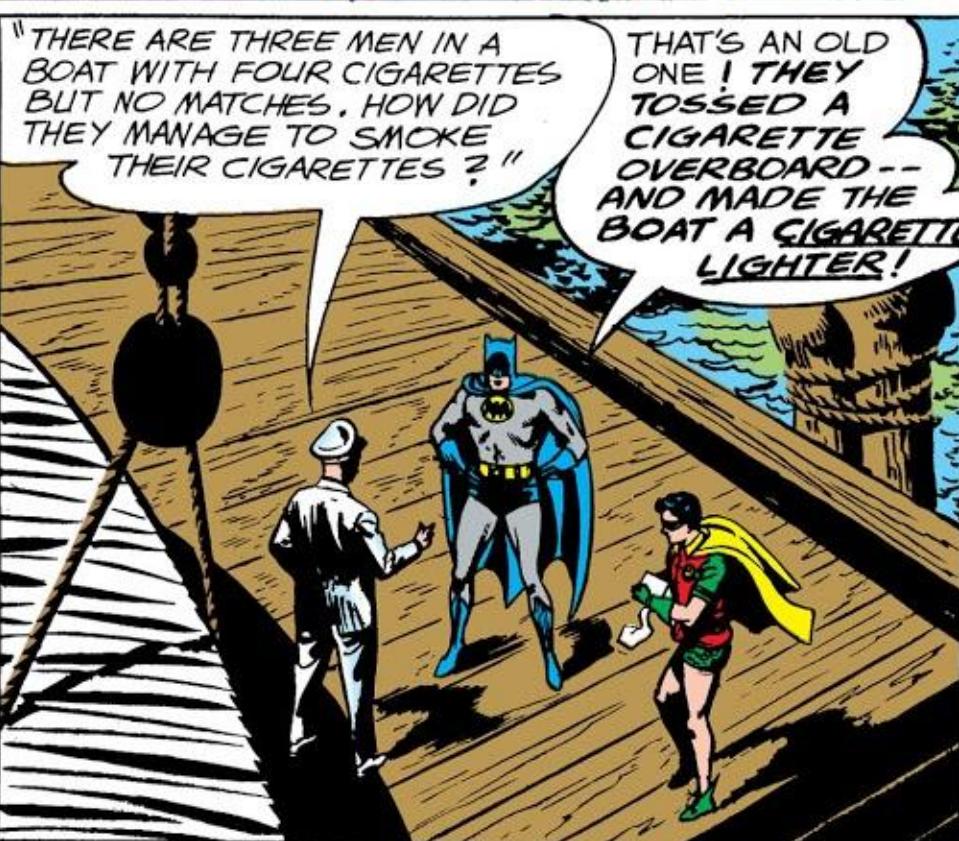
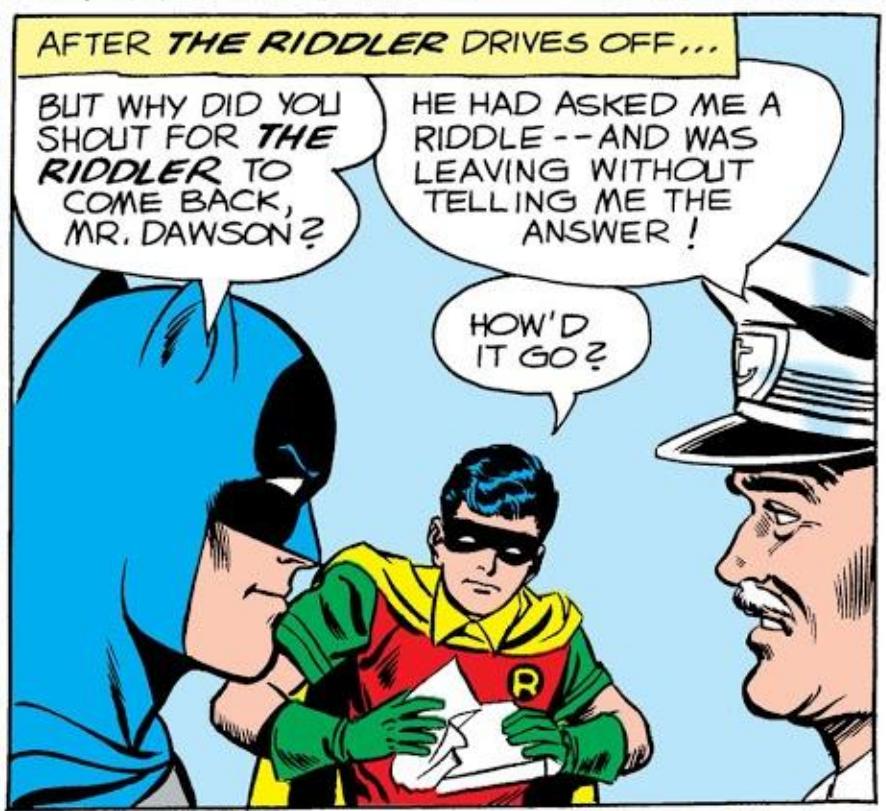
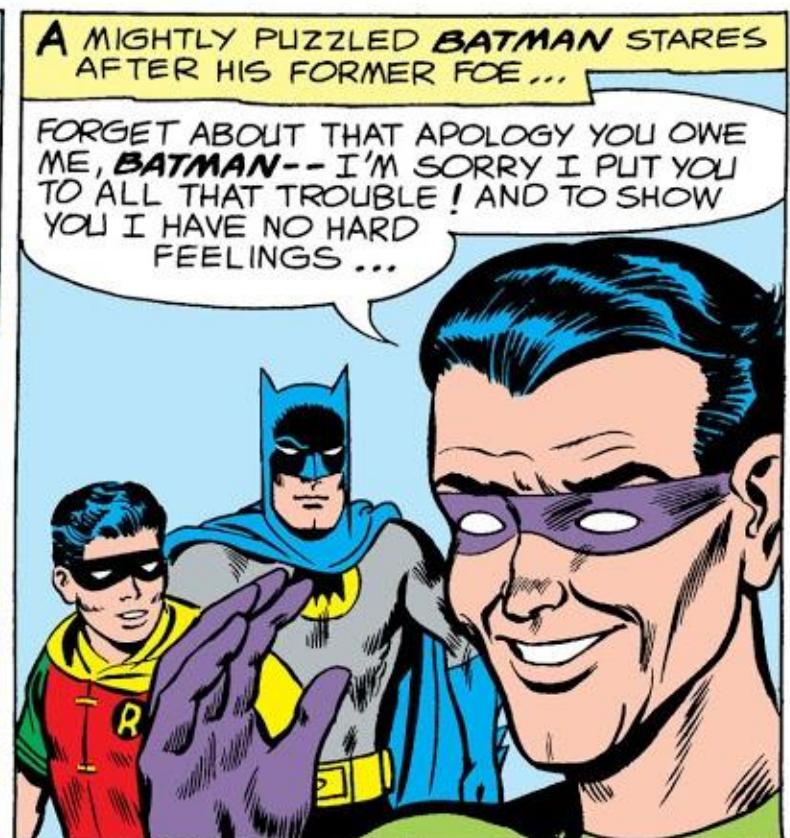
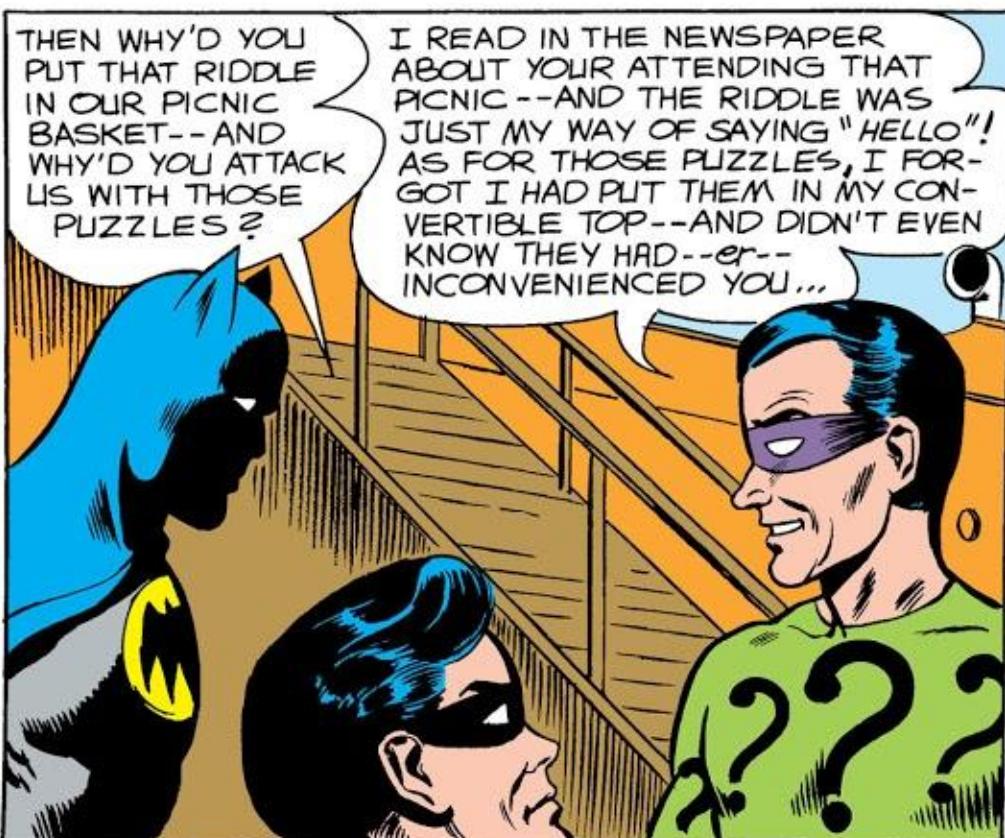


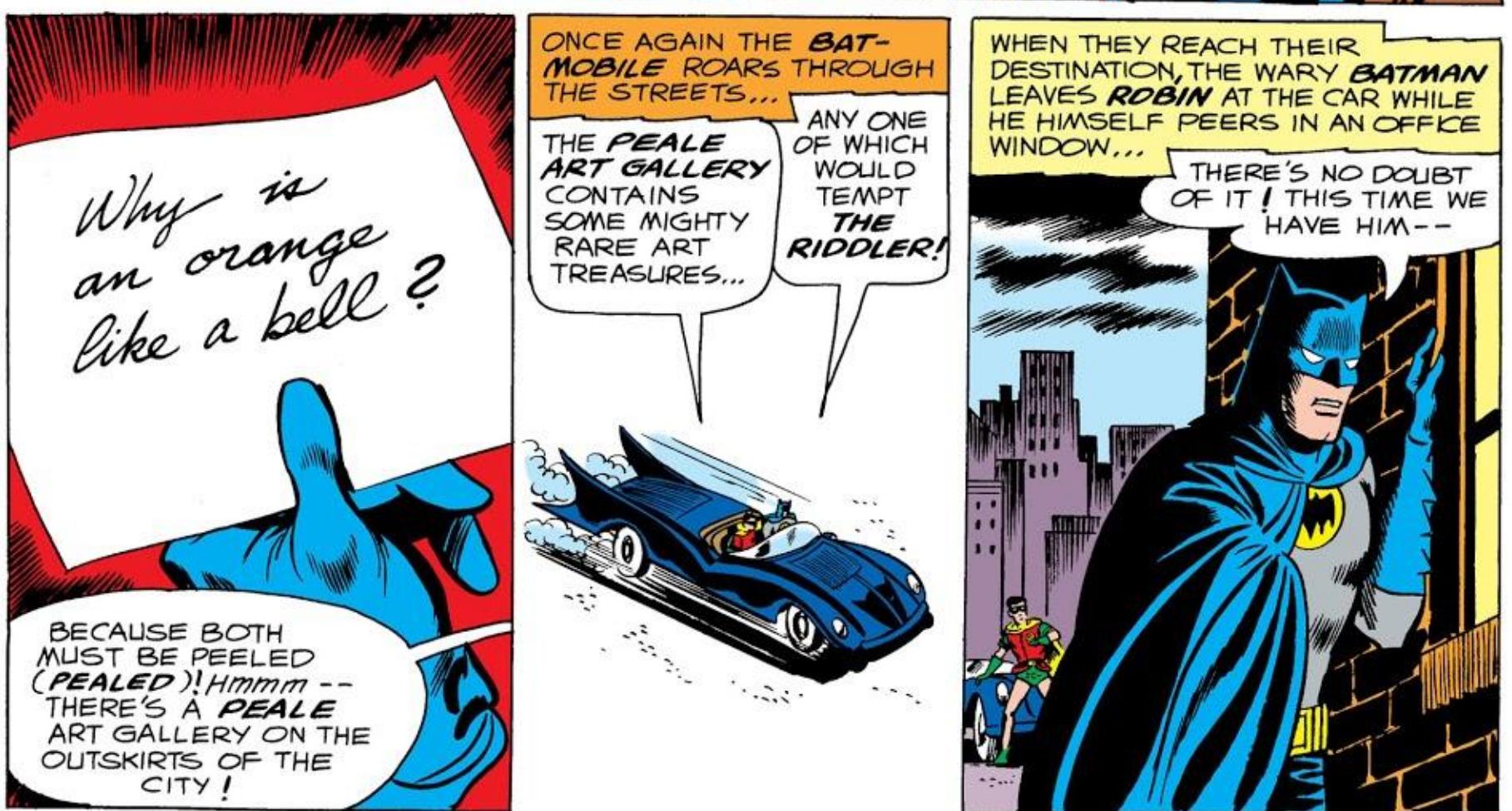








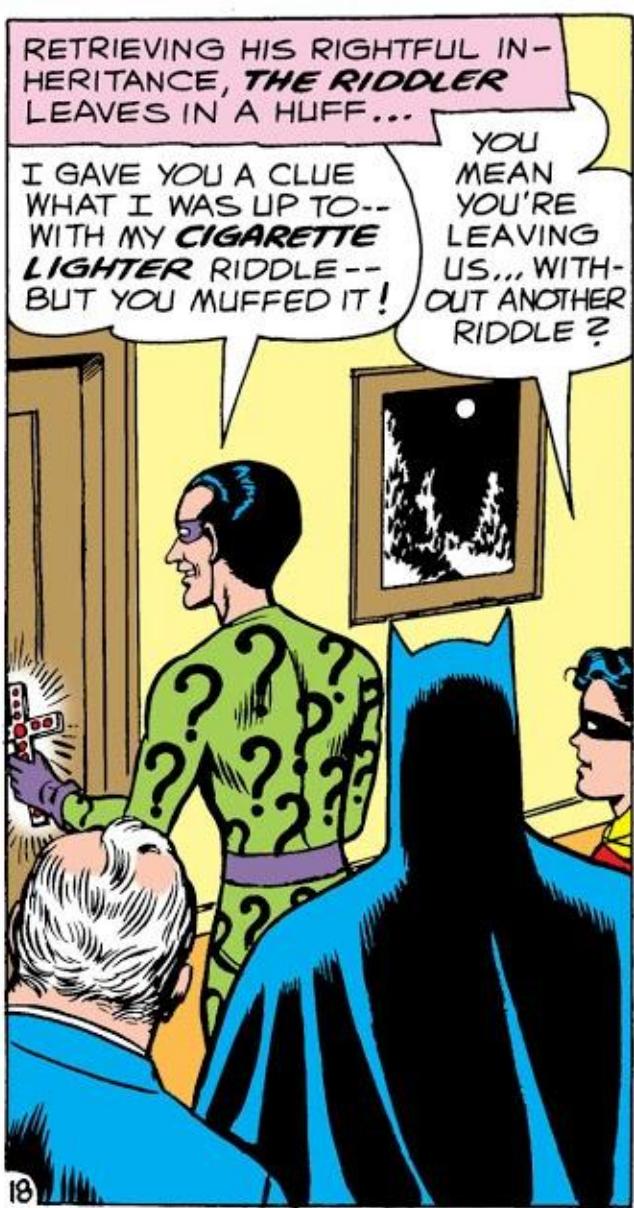
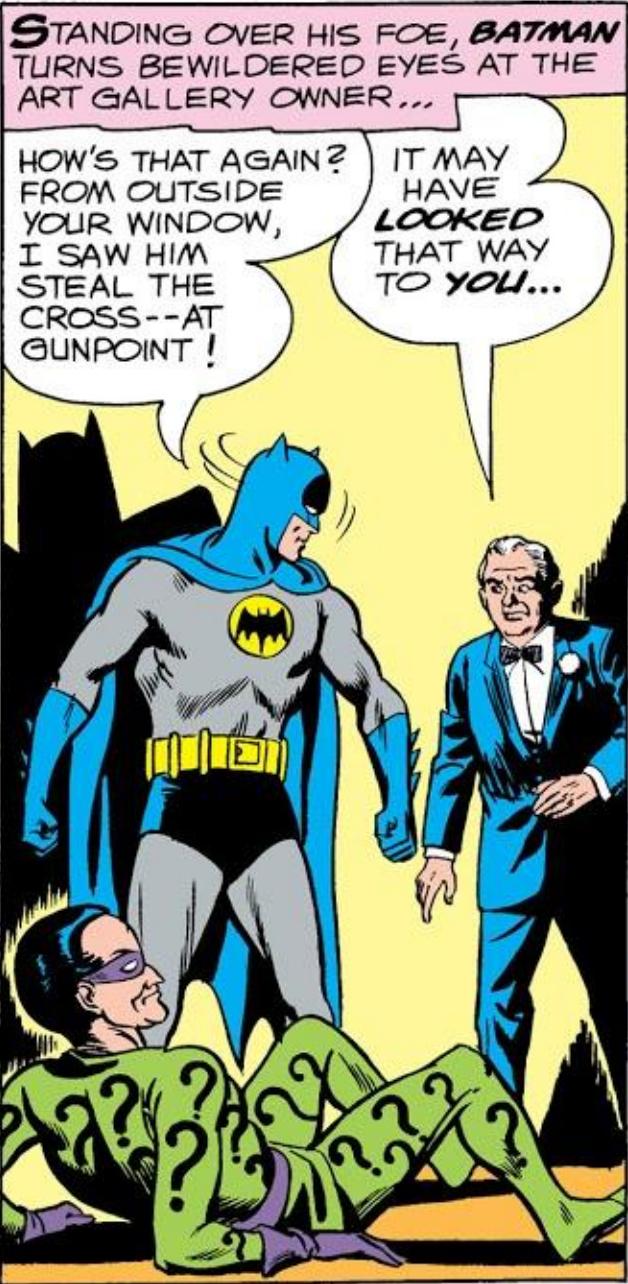


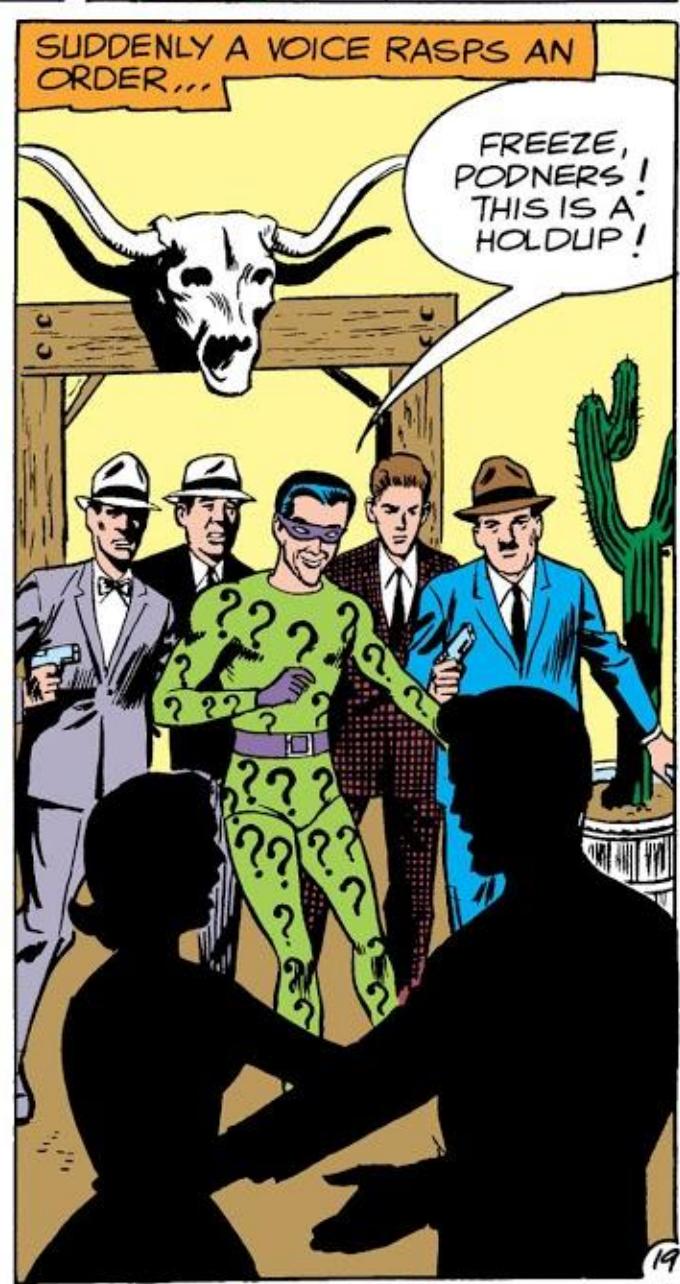
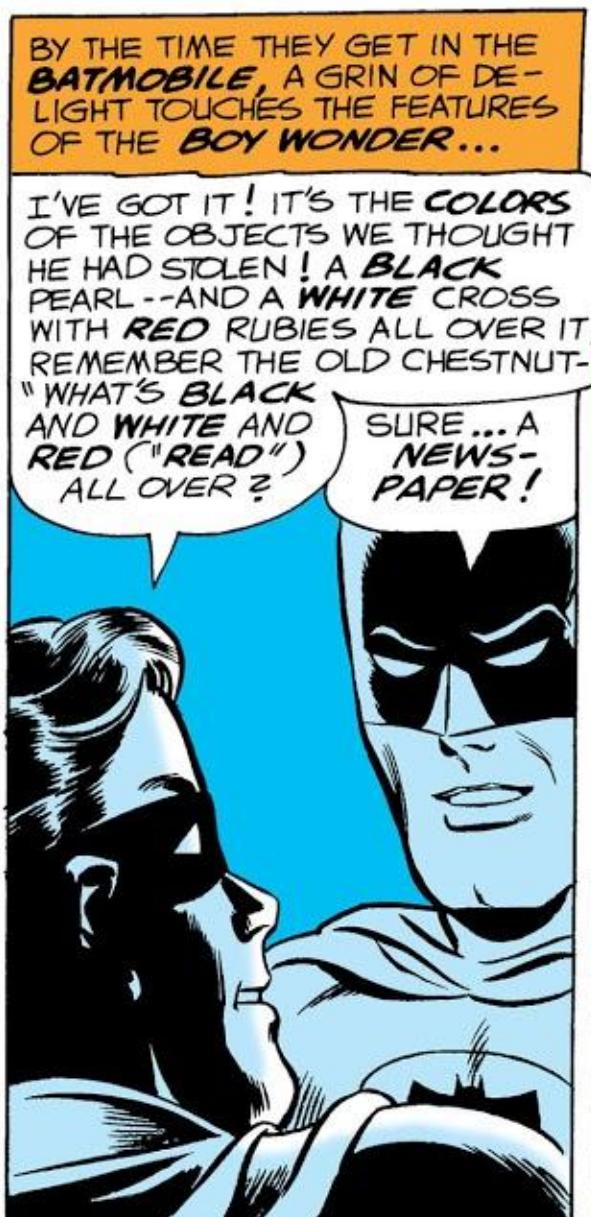




## REMARKABLE RUSE of THE RIDDLER--PART 3

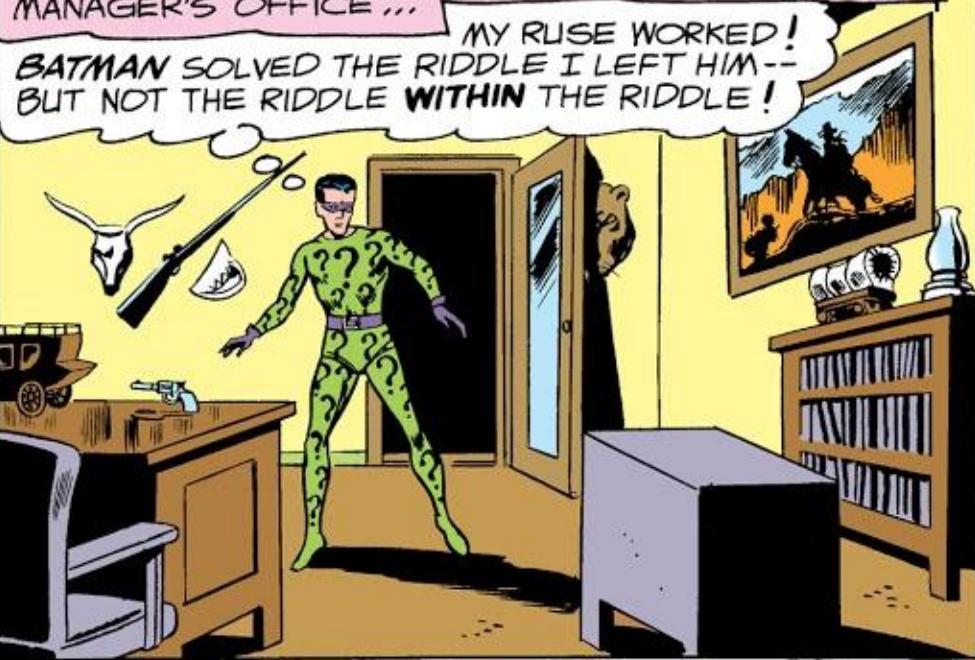






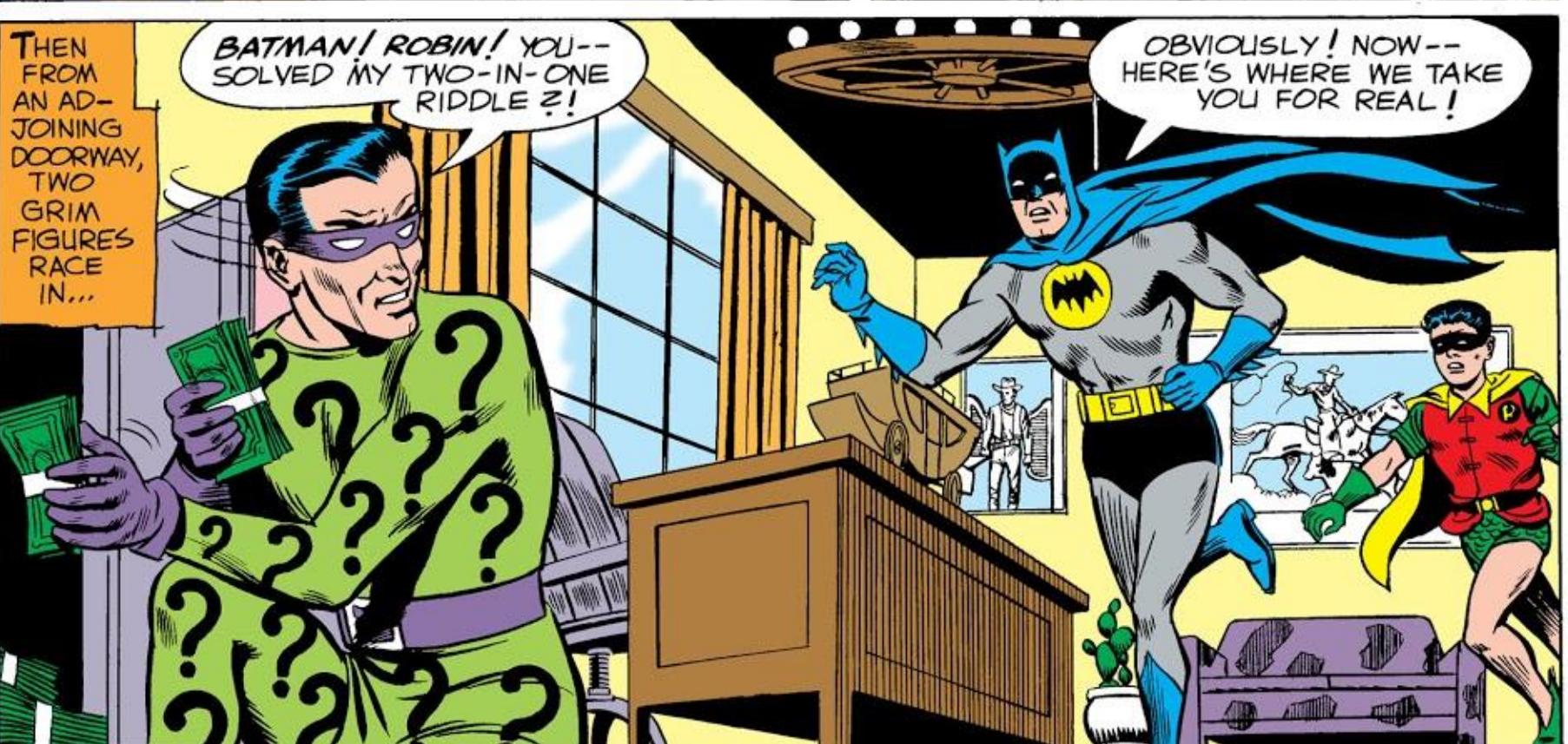
AS THE RIDDLER'S GANG HERDS THE FUN-MAKERS INTO ANOTHER ROOM TO DEPRIVE THEM OF THEIR VALUABLES, THE RIDDLER ADVANCES INTO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE...

MY RUSE WORKED!  
BATMAN SOLVED THE RIDDLE I LEFT HIM--  
BUT NOT THE RIDDLE WITHIN THE RIDDLE!



THEN FROM AN AD-JOINING DOORWAY, TWO GRIM FIGURES RACE IN...

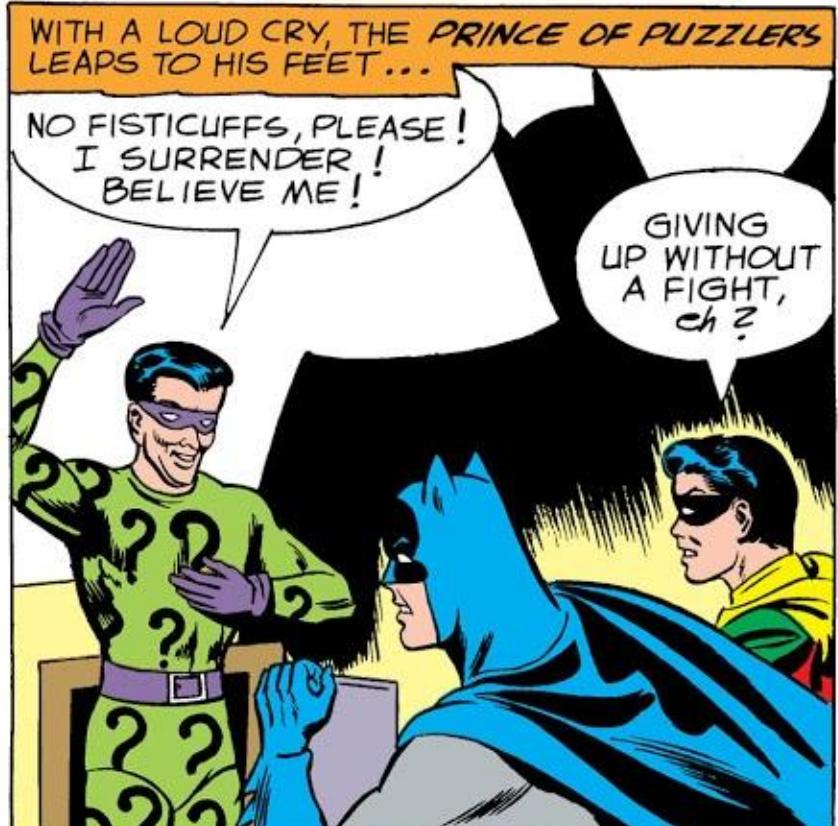
BATMAN! ROBIN! YOU--  
SOLVED MY TWO-IN-ONE RIDDLE?!



WITH A LOUD CRY, THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS LEAPS TO HIS FEET...

NO FISTICUFFS, PLEASE!  
I SURRENDER!  
BELIEVE ME!

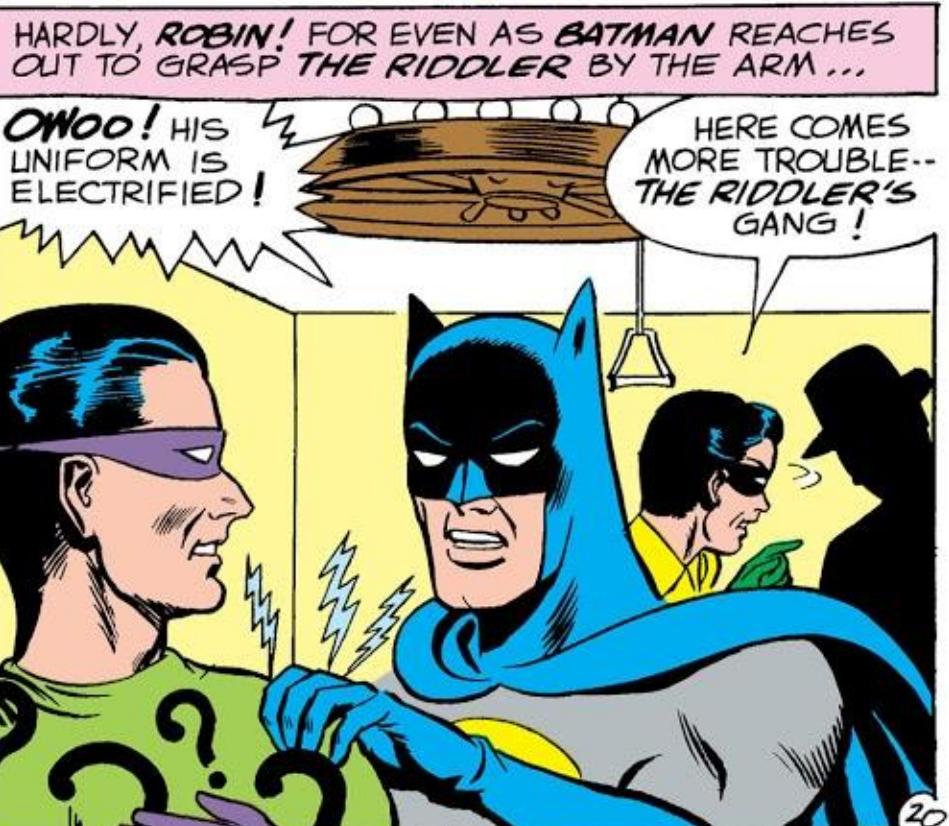
GIVING UP WITHOUT  
A FIGHT, CH?



HARDLY, ROBIN! FOR EVEN AS BATMAN REACHES OUT TO GRASP THE RIDDLER BY THE ARM...

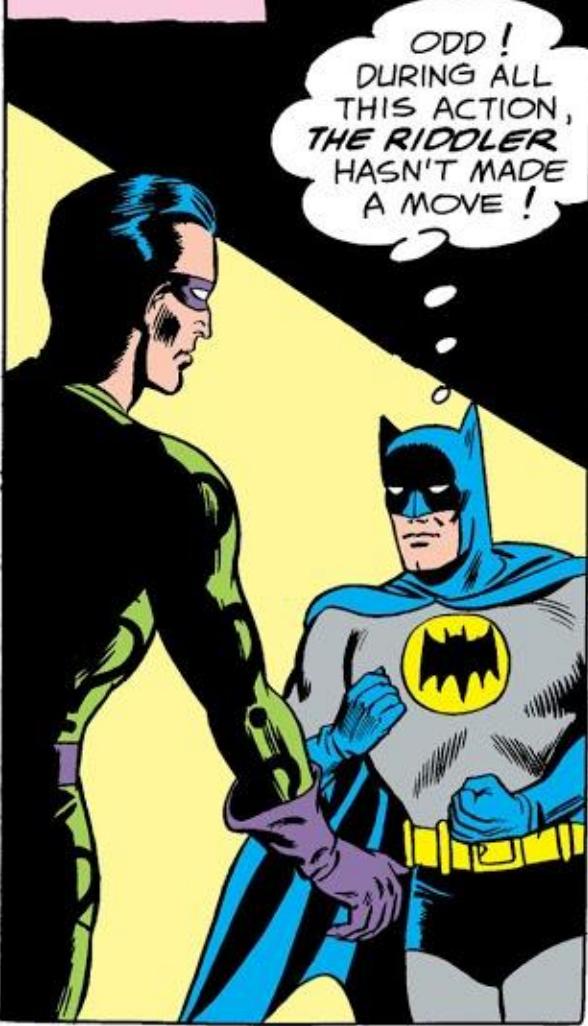
OWOO! HIS UNIFORM IS ELECTRIFIED!

HERE COMES  
MORE TROUBLE--  
THE RIDDLER'S  
GANG!





ONE LAST OPPONENT REMAINS-- AS THE **COWLED CRUSADER** ADVANCES TOWARD HIM, FISTS CLENCHED...



TAKING DEAD AIM, HE RAMS A SOLID FIST AGAINST THE JAW OF THE MOTIONLESS RIDDLER...



THE RIDDLER BANGS INTO THE FLOOR--AND TO THE STUNNED AMAZEMENT OF THE **DYNAMIC DUO**, PROMPTLY STARTS SWINGING BACK TO AN UPRIGHT POSITION...



HERE-- LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT THAT ROLY-POLY RIDDLER!

FISTS FLAIL THE AIR AND REBOUND OFF THE JAW OF THE RIDDLER AS FIRST ONE CRIME-FIGHTER AND THEN THE OTHER SLAMS HIM HARD...



