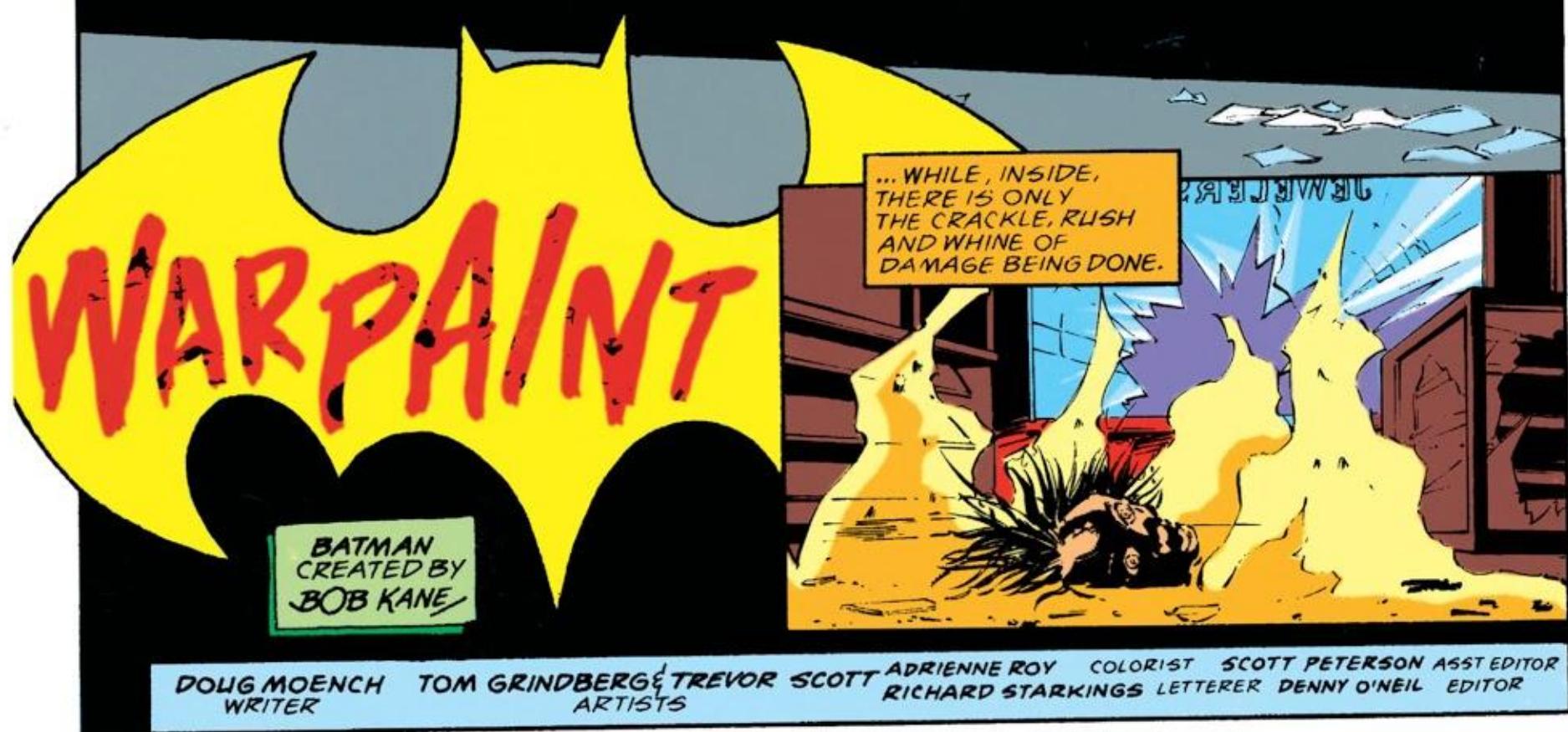
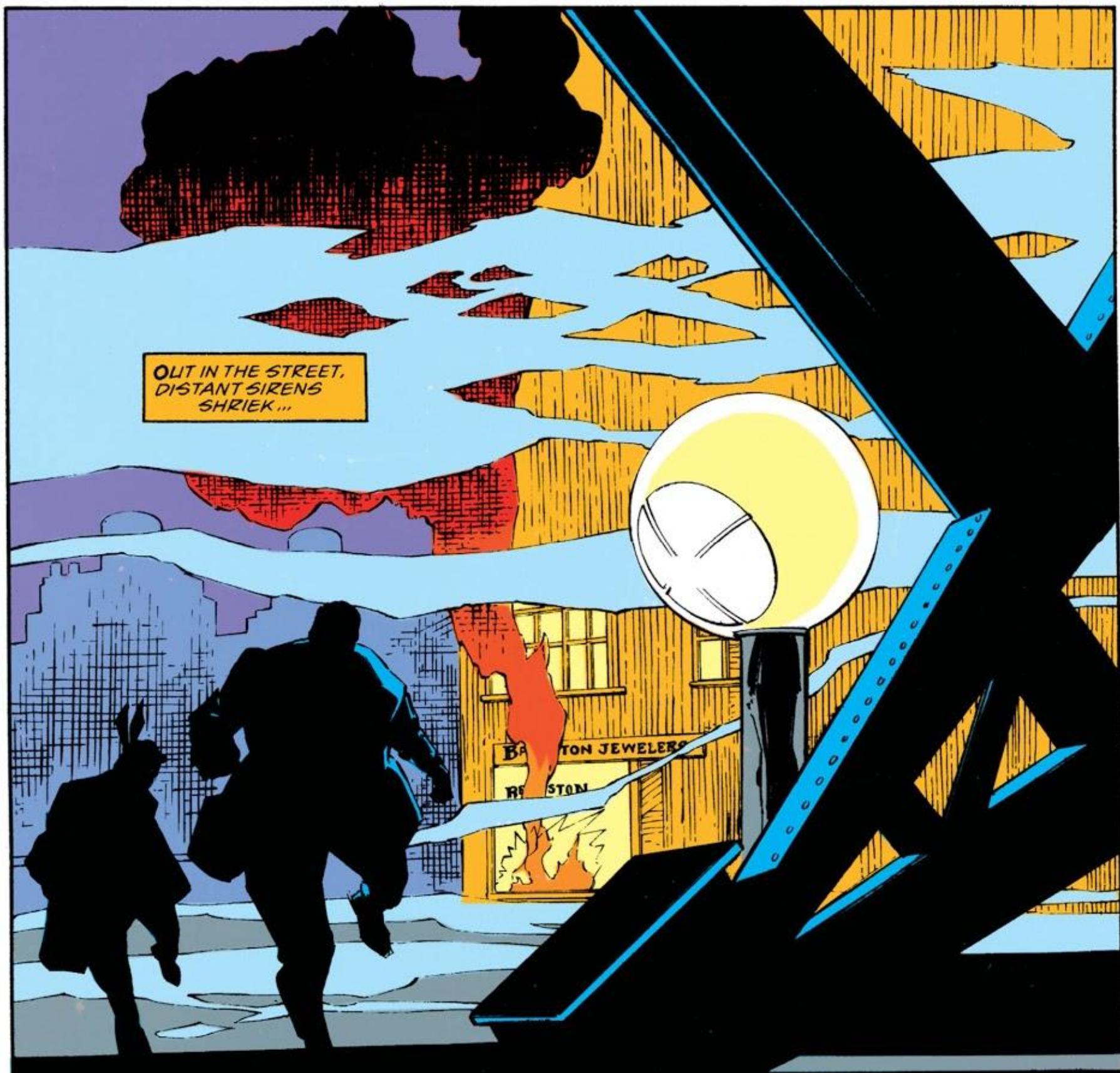


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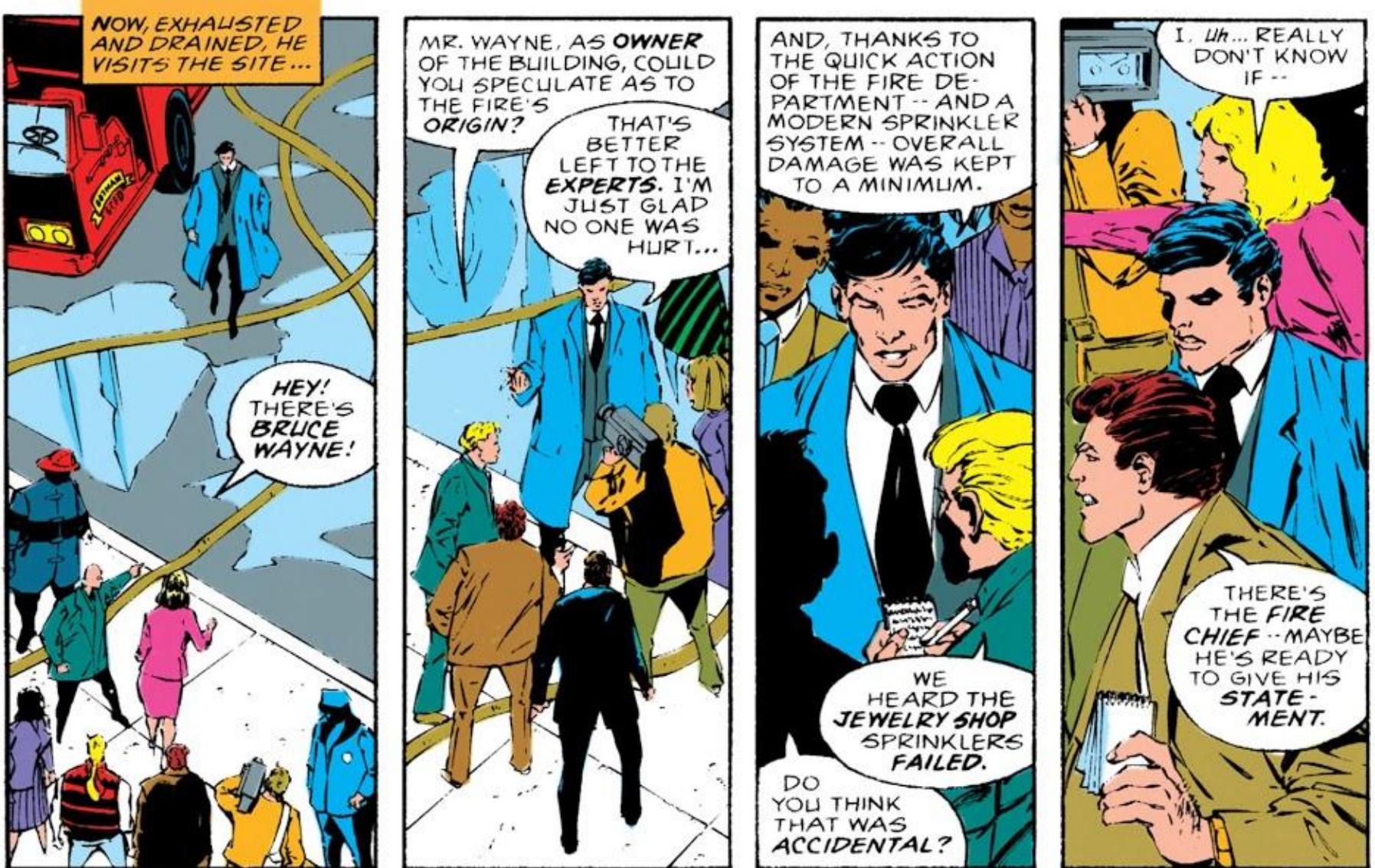




BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE

...WHILE, INSIDE,
THERE IS ONLY
THE CRACKLE, RUSH
AND WHINE OF
DAMAGE BEING DONE.

DOUG MOENCH WRITER
TOM GRINDBERG & TREVOR SCOTT ARTISTS
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS LETTERER
SCOTT PETERSON ASST EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL EDITOR





HE TURNS AWAY FROM THE WOMAN HE HAS LOST, AND GRAVITY SEEMS TO DOUBLE, THE EXTRA WEIGHT PRESSING ON HIS SHOULDERS, FILLING THE PIT OF HIS STOMACH.

BRANSTON JEWELERS

JEWELERS

FOR A MOMENT, HE ACTUALLY FEELS HE CAN'T GO ON, CAN'T FUNCTION ANYMORE, LIVING TWO LIVES WITH ENOUGH STRESS FOR TEN BUT LESS THAN ENOUGH SLEEP FOR ONE.

HE FEELS SUDDENLY FRAGMENTED, EACH SIDE TORN APART AND DISTORTED BY THE OTHER.

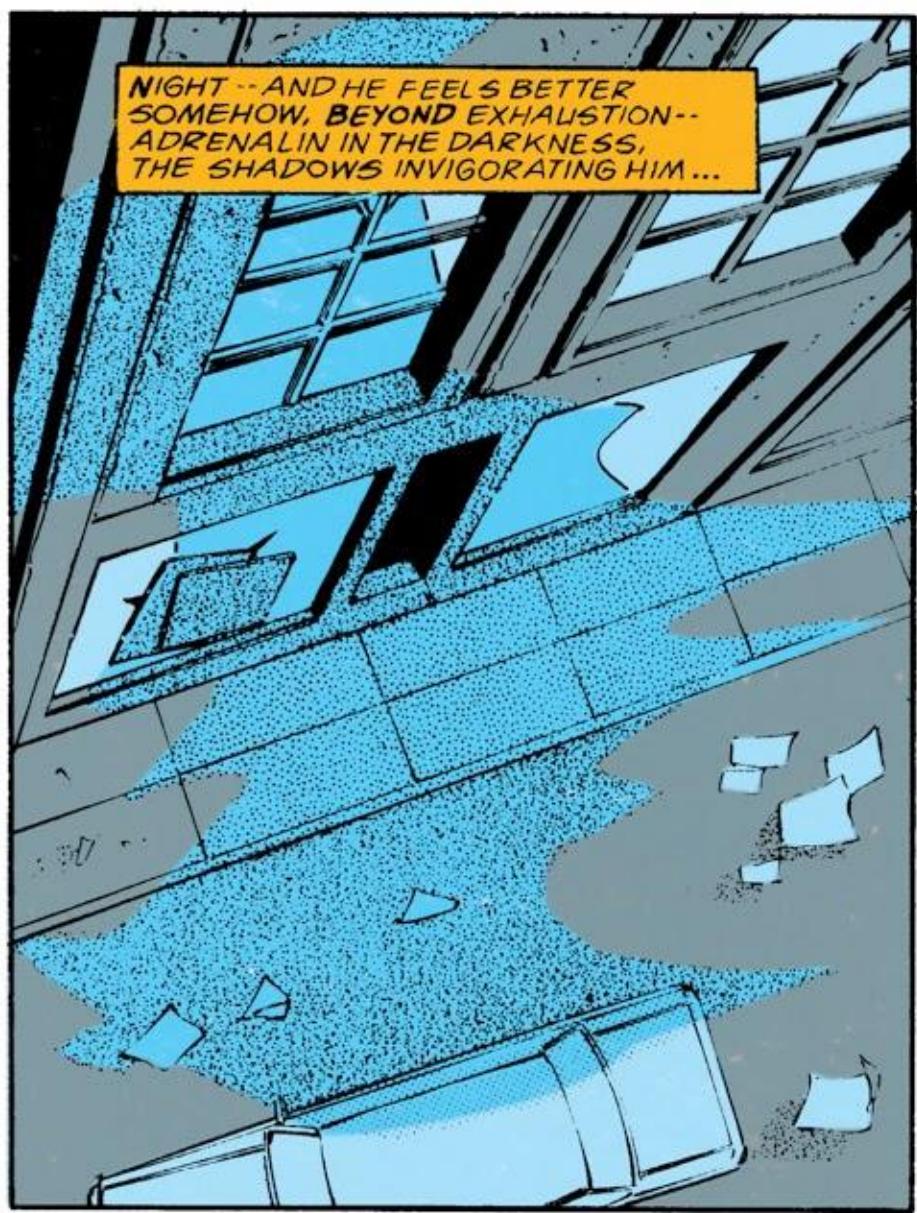
THE SYNERGY IS NO LONGER WORKING, NIGHT AND DAY NO LONGER FORMING A PERFECT WHOLE.

AND BRUCE WAYNE, HE REALIZES, HAS ALREADY LOST SOME OF HIS EDGE...

BUT TIME TO MOVE ON, TIME FOR THE NEXT SERIES OF MEETINGS, AND THEN...

THEN IT WILL BE DARK.

HOW LONG, HE WONDERS, BEFORE THE BATMAN STARTS LOSING IT, TOO?



KNOW THAT, THROUGH THE SUBLIMATION OF PERSONALITY, INHIBITIONS DIE AND THE NATURE OF THE WEAVER IS ALTERED -- SO THAT DEEPER DRIVES AND MORE PRIMITIVE INSTINCTS RISE TO THE SURFACE.

SOON, YOU WILL ALL BE NEW BEINGS AND I WILL BE YOUR MASTER.

I AM **BLACK MASK** -- AND I WILL MAKE YOU RICH.



IN RETURN, YOU MUST SERVE ME IN OTHER WAYS -- IN MATTERS NOT OF LOOT BUT OF VENGEANCE.

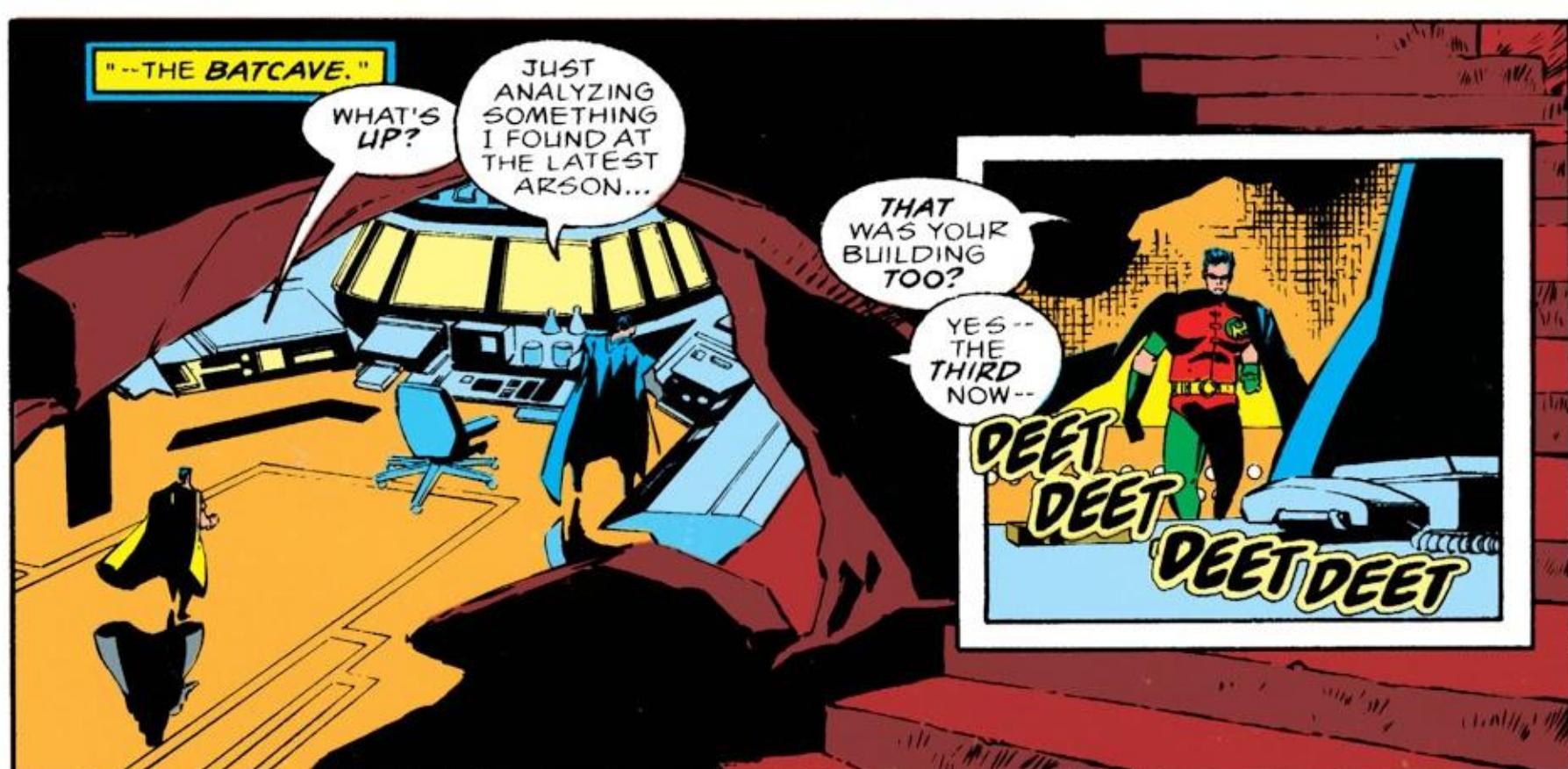
THERE IS ONE WHO MUST PAY FOR DESTROYING MY FORMER IDENTITY...

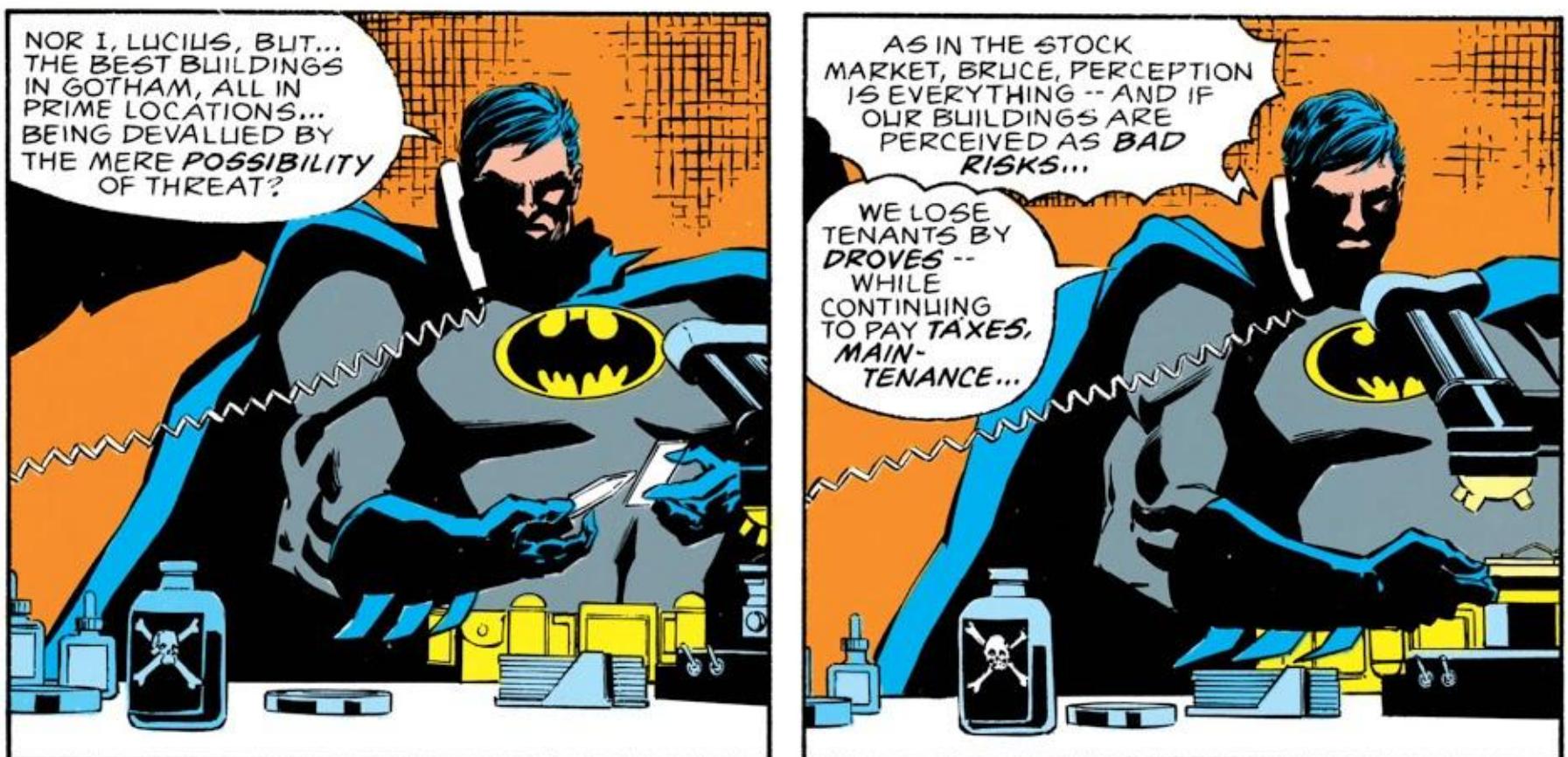
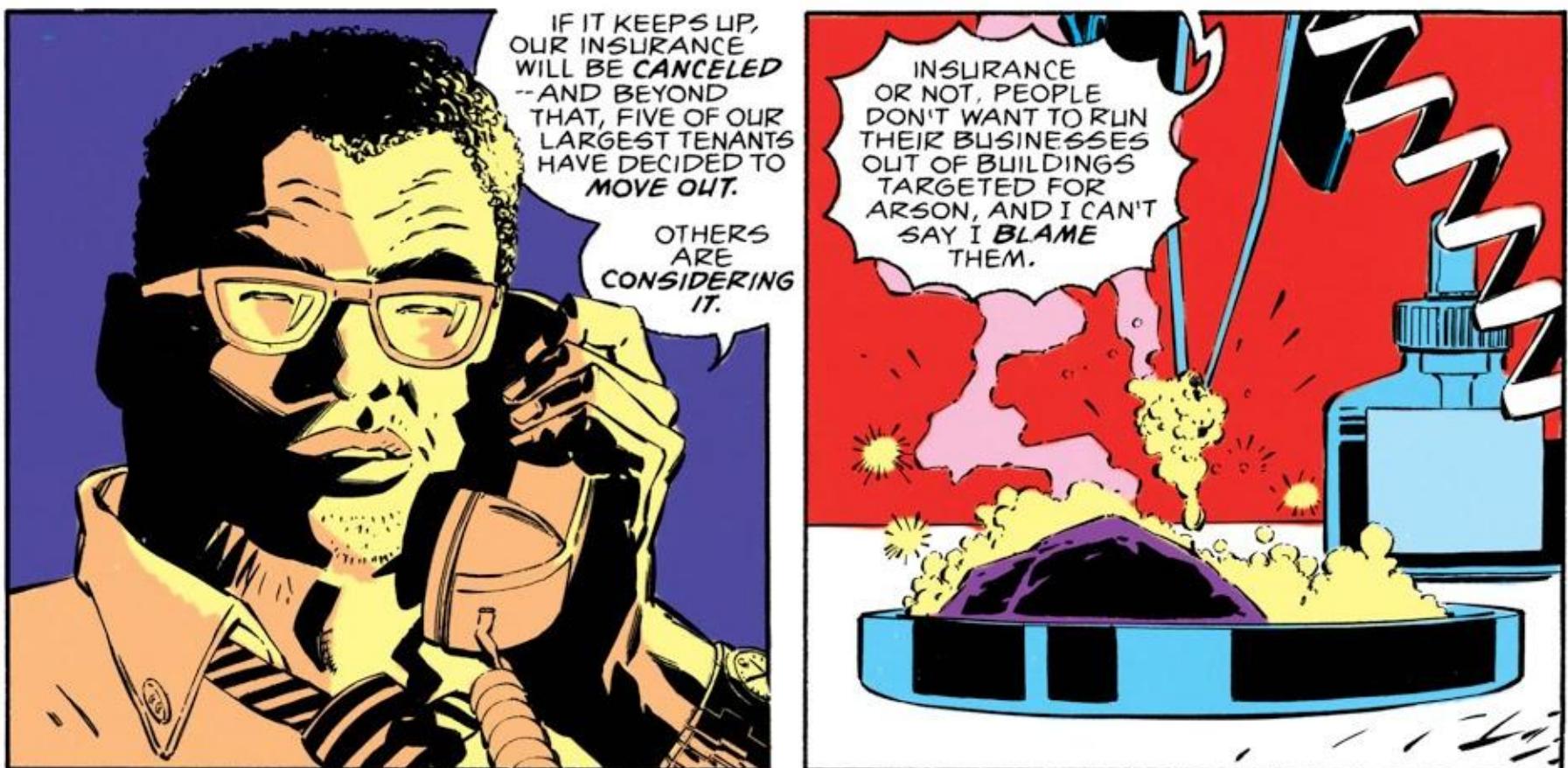
...ONE WHO MUST DIE FOR GIVING BIRTH TO MY NEW IDENTITY--

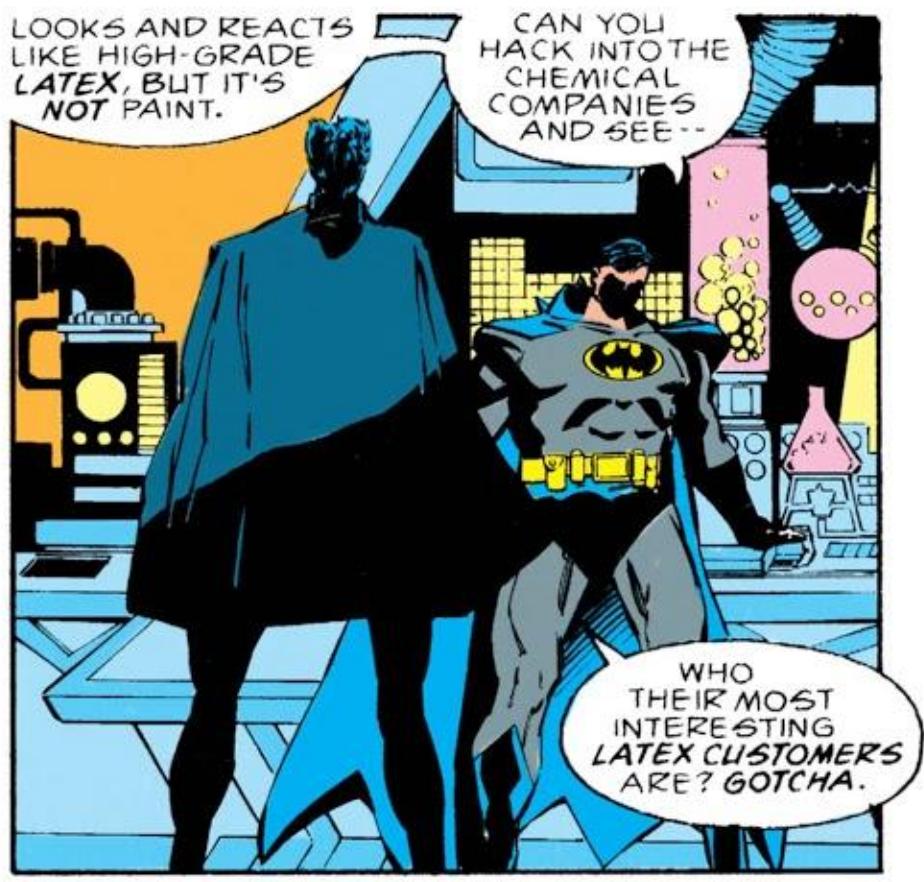
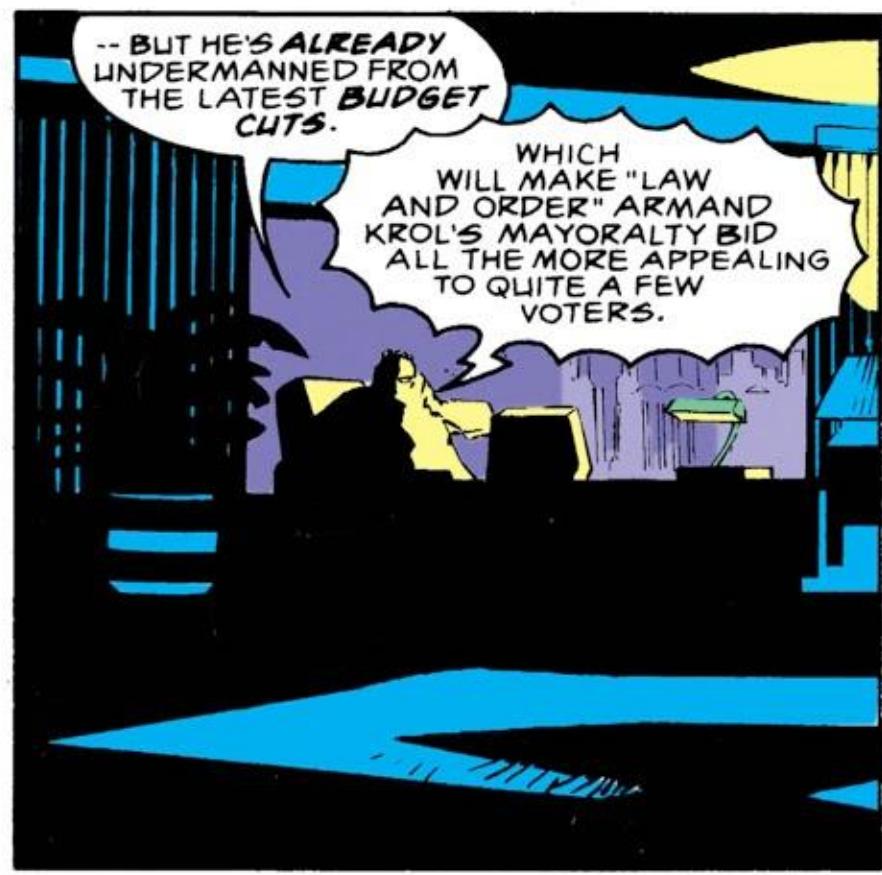
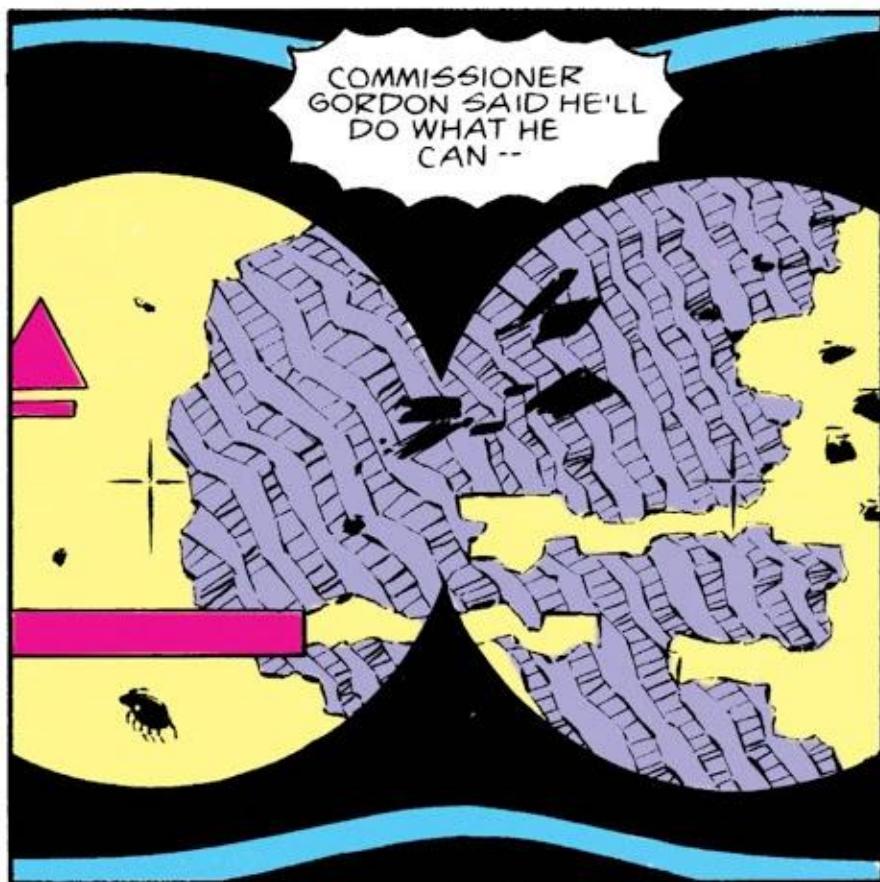
--FOR CREATING BLACK MASK.



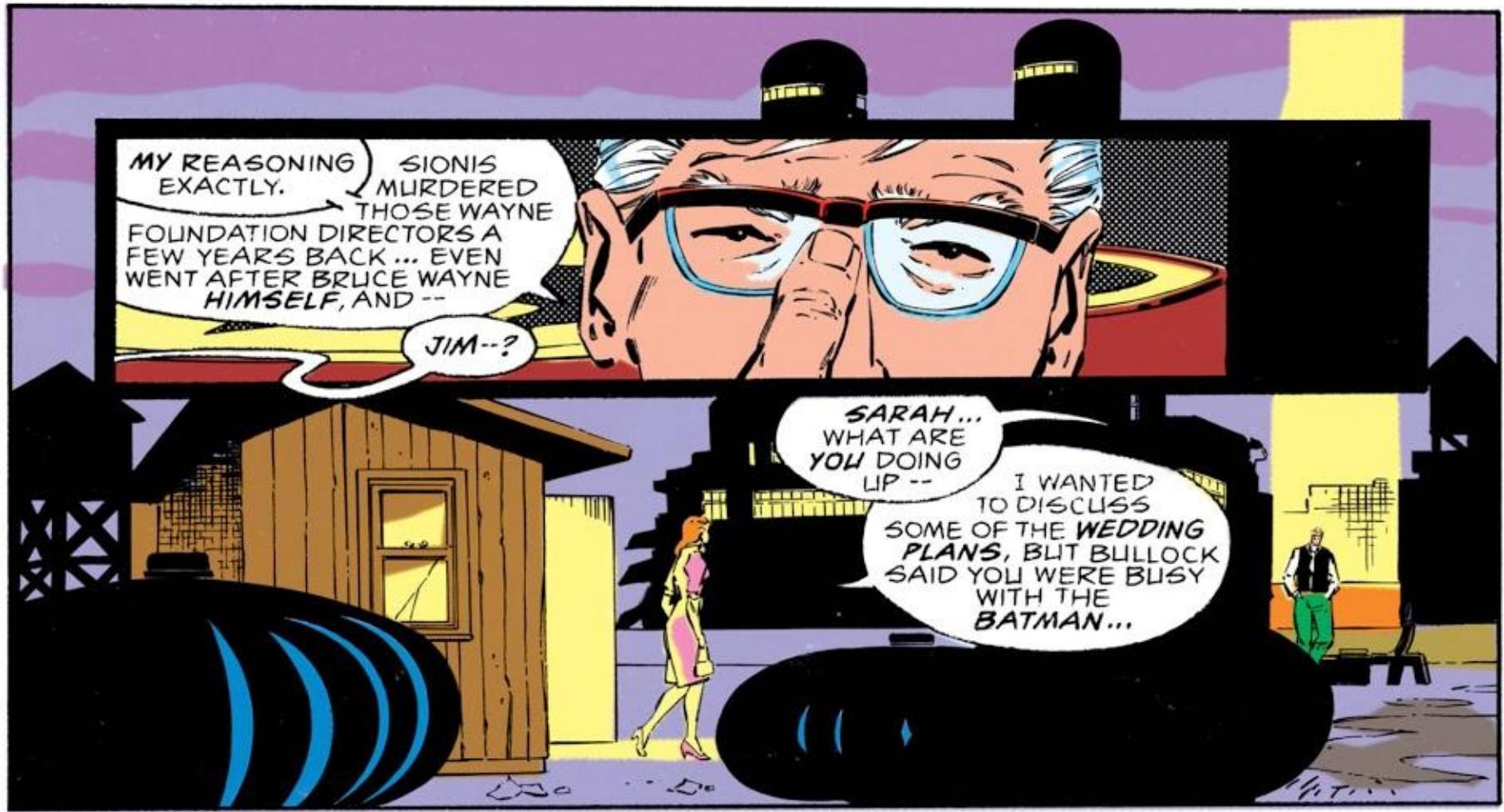


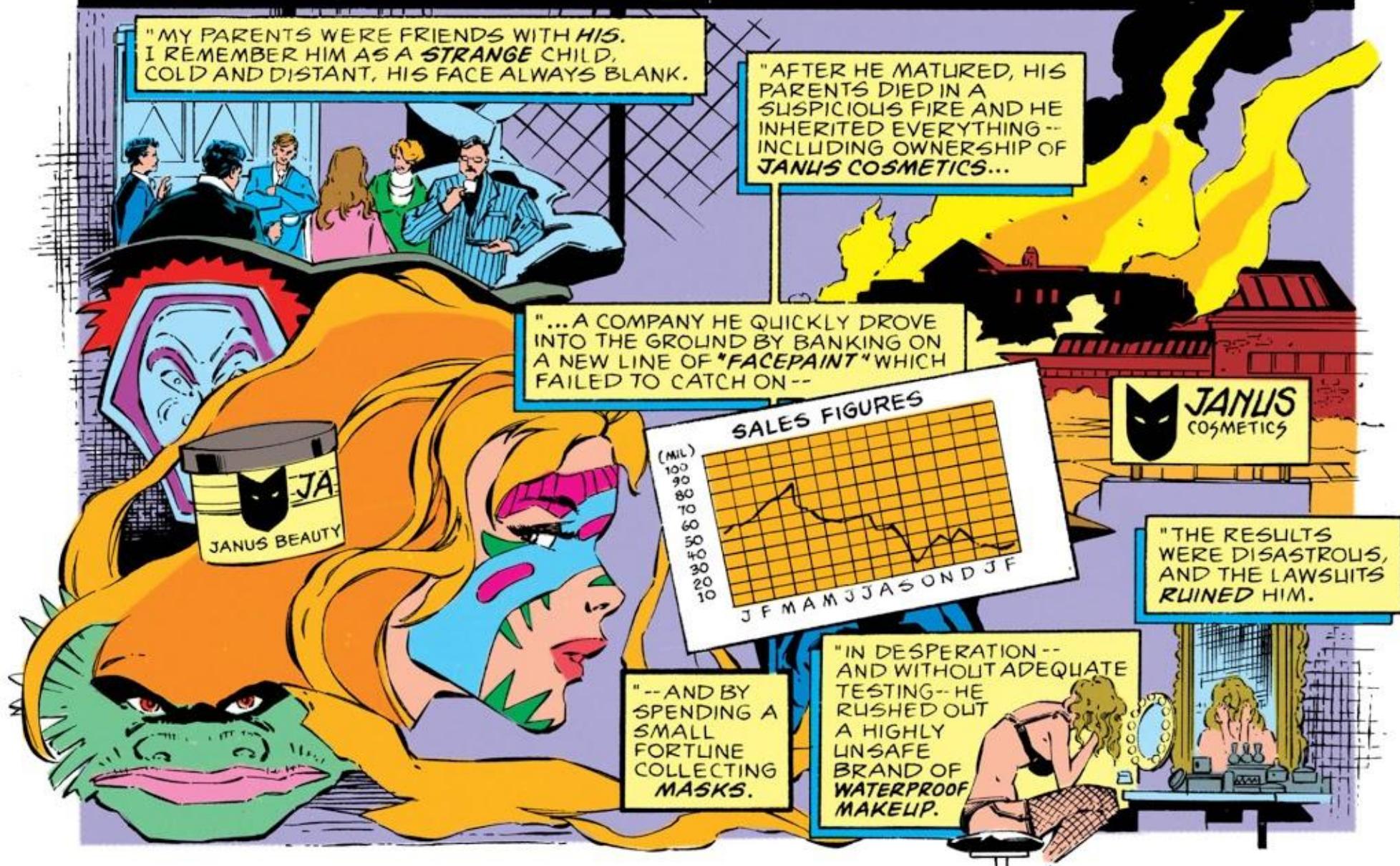
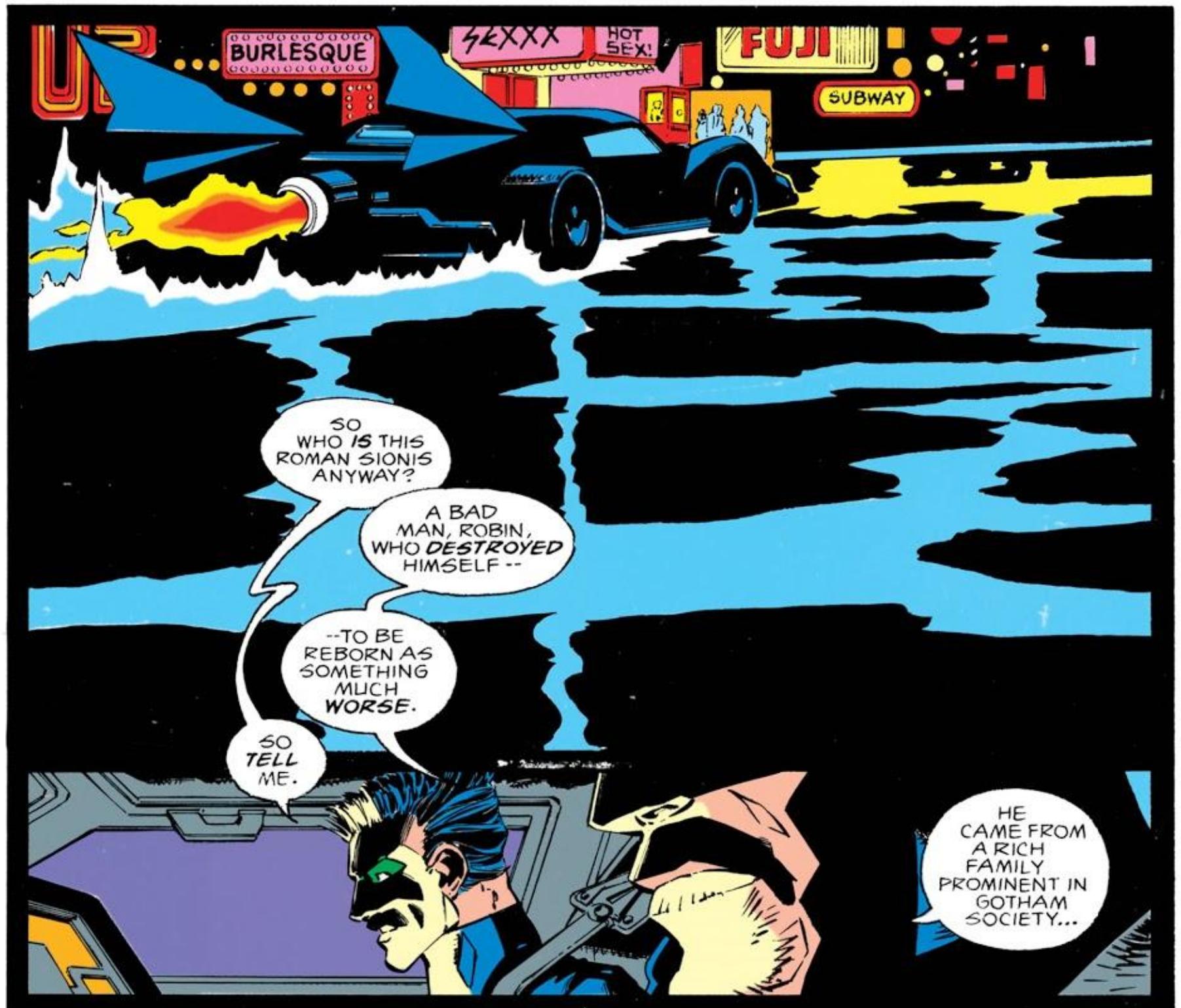


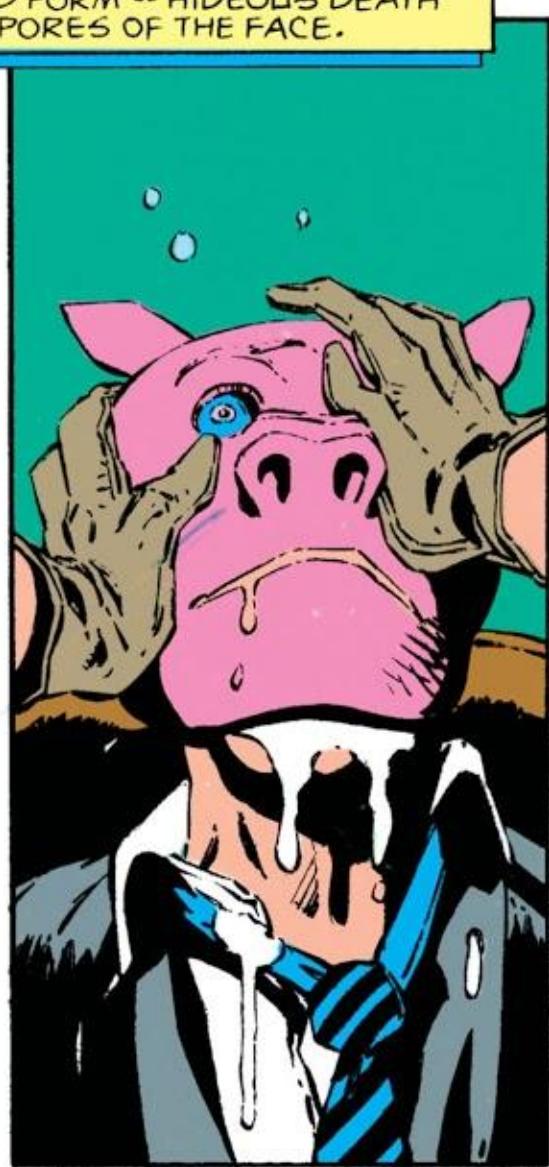




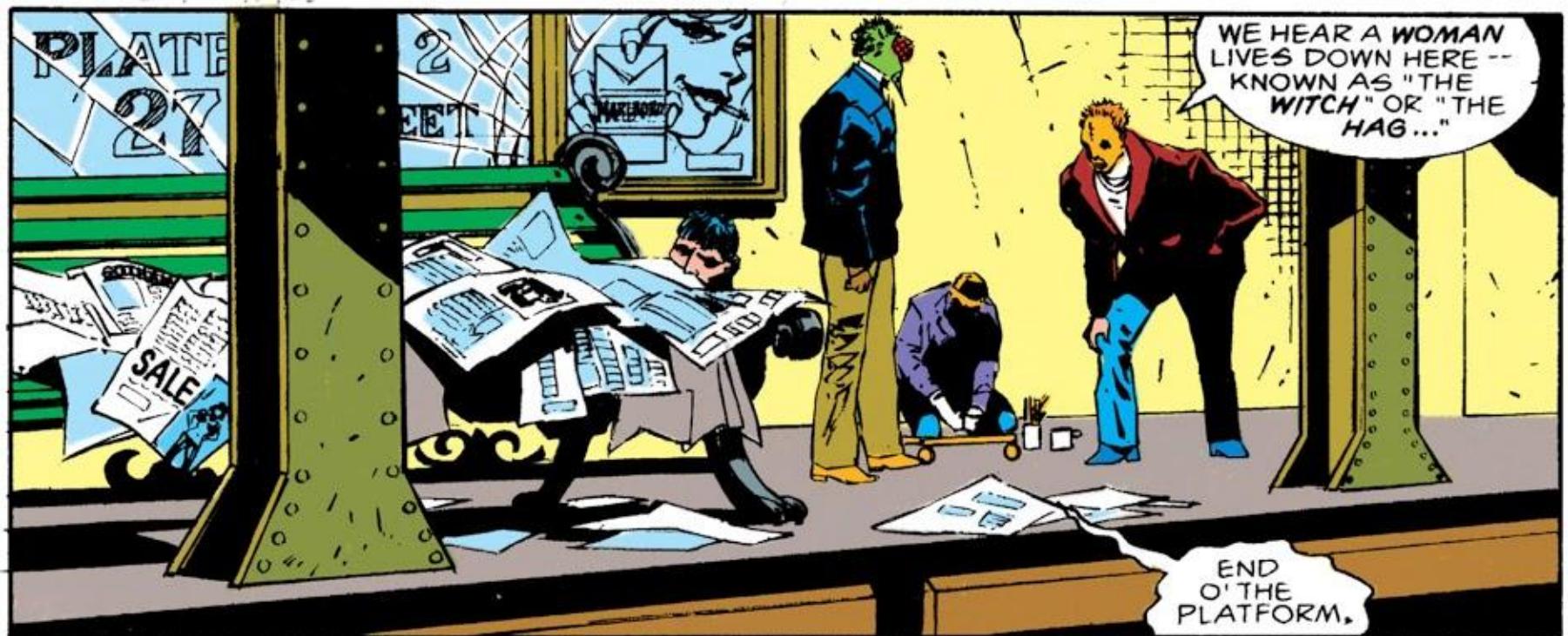


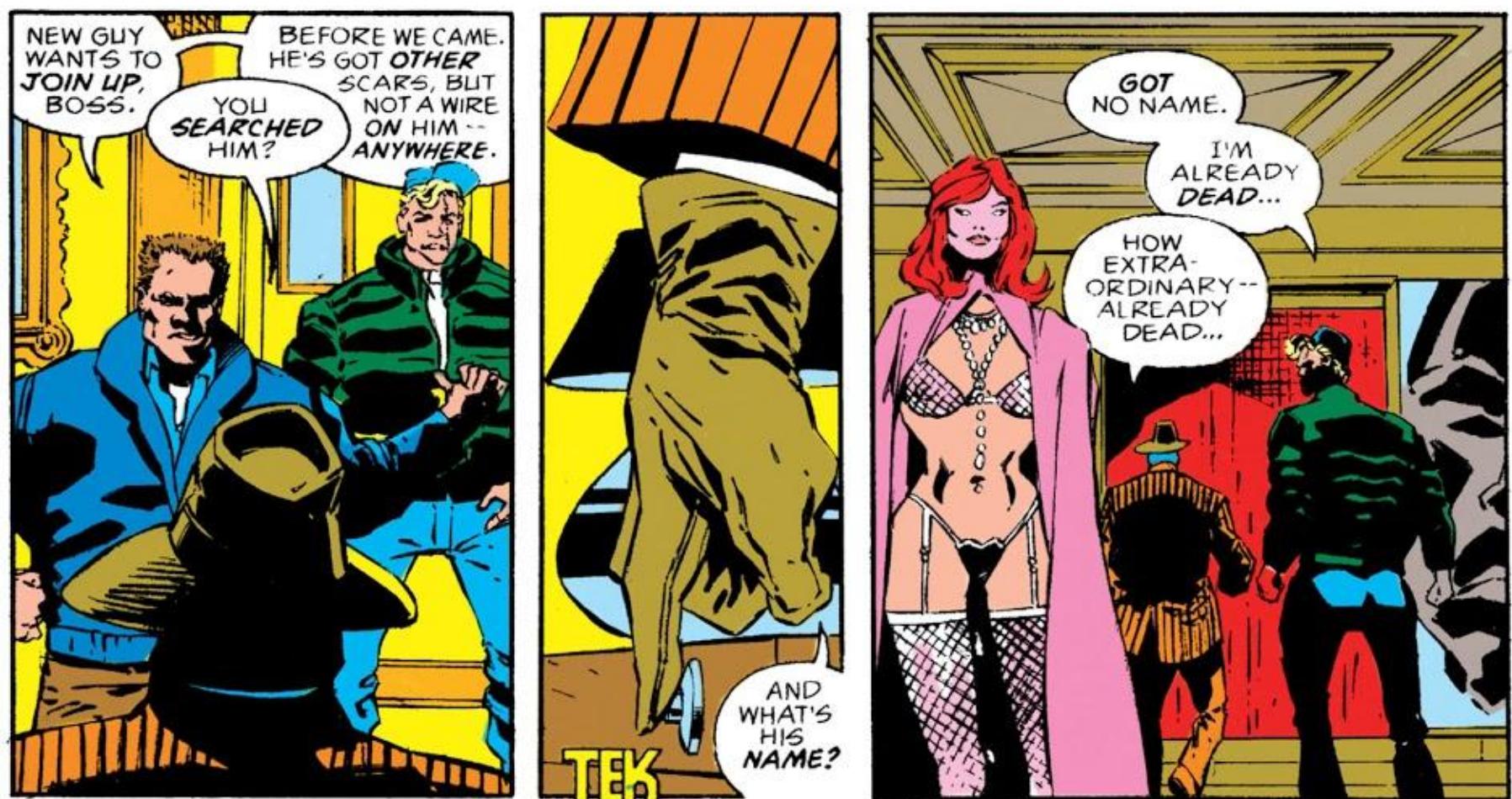






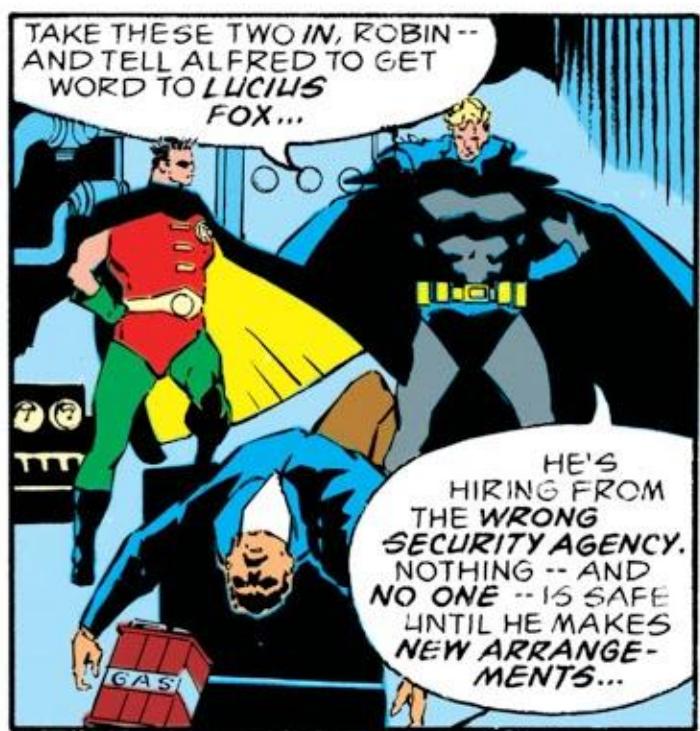














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