



# BATMAN®

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369 MAR. 84  
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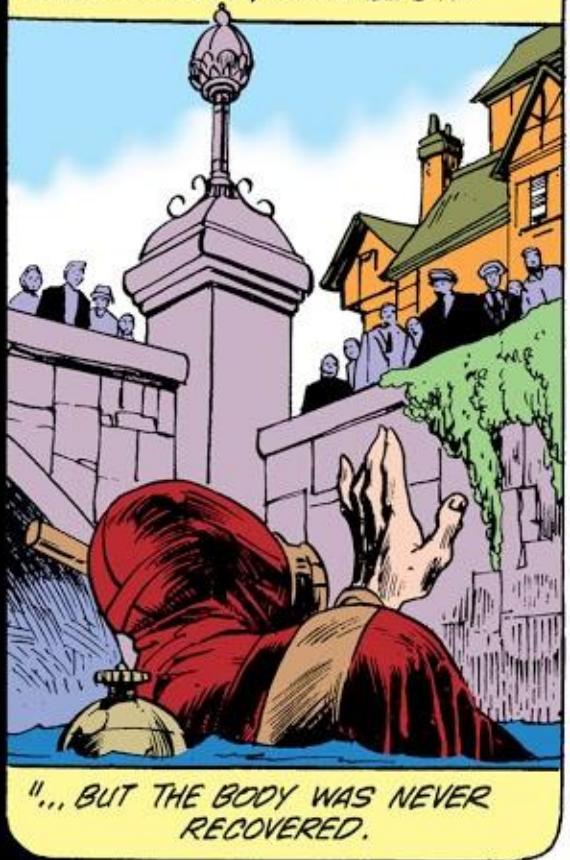
"IT WAS NOT LIKE JACQUES REMARQUE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE SO MYSTERIOUSLY...WITH NEITHER WARNING NOR EXPLANATION."



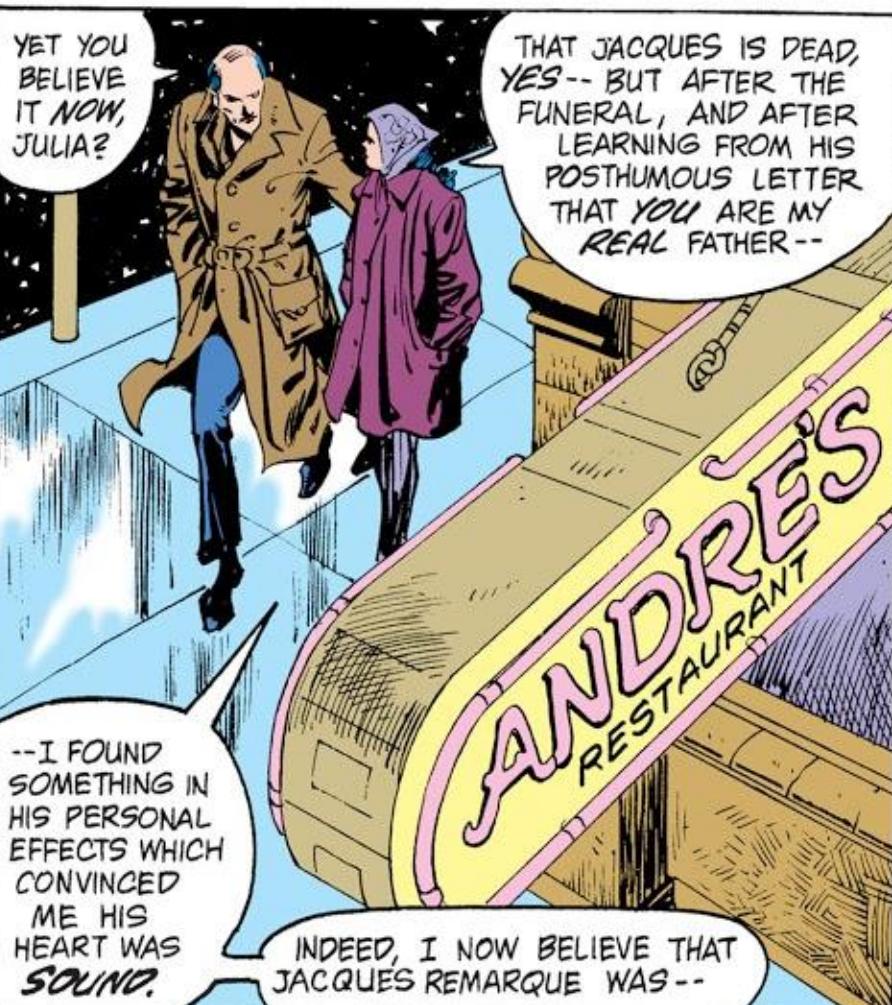
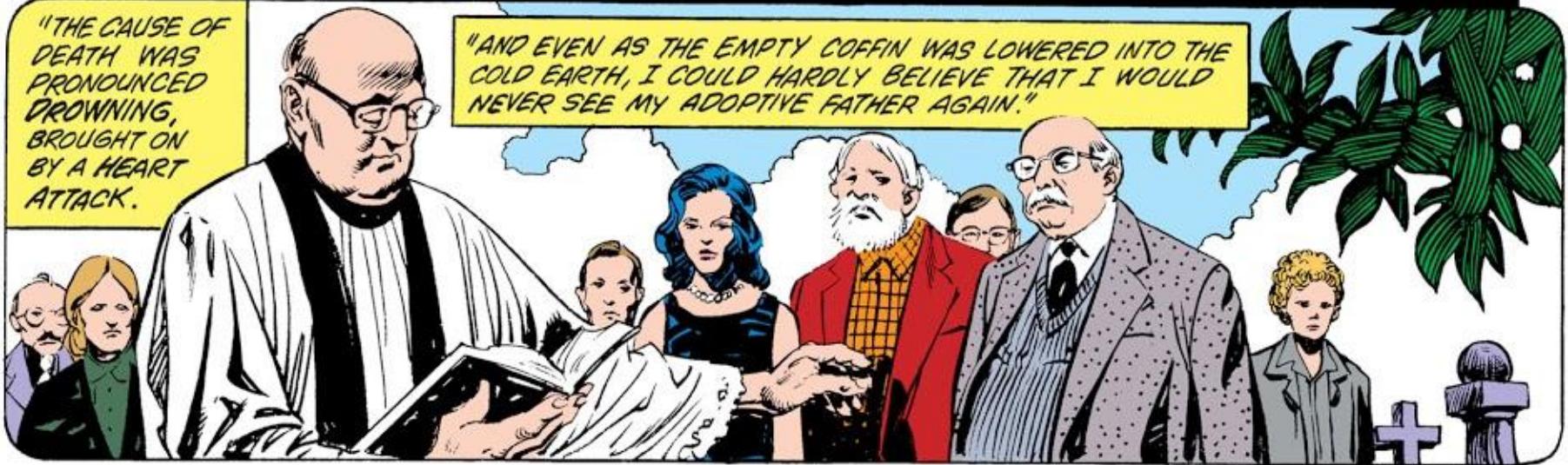
"LATER, HE WAS SEEN BY SOME CHILDREN FROM AFAR, STRIDING QUICKLY ALONG THE SEINE..."



"THE PARISIAN POLICE TRIED EVERYTHING-- DIVERS, DRAGNETS..."



"THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS PRONOUNCED DROWNING, BROUGHT ON BY A HEART ATTACK."



DEATH BY VIOLENCE USUALLY RIDES A DIRECT LINE BETWEEN MURDERER AND VICTIM...

...BUT THEN THERE IS THE DOMINO THEORY, WHEREBY VIOLENCE IS SET IN MOTION FROM AFAR, TO FOLLOW AN INDIRECT ROUTE OF CHAIN REACTIONS WHICH NEVERTHELESS RESULT IN DOWNFALL NO LESS FINAL.

THE THEORY IN ACTION: BULLET IS FIRED AT SUSPENSION-BRACE; BRACE SNAPS, RELEASING SIGN; AND SIGN, LIKE A MAMMOTH ELECTRIFIED DOMINO, TUMBLES DOWN AT ALFREDO AND JULIA PENNYWORTH...



## BAT MAN

CREATED BY  
BOB KANE

AND IN THIS CASE,  
THE THEORY MIGHT  
ALSO BE CALLED--

IT MISSES BY INCHES --  
AND THE MONTREAL  
STREET CORNER EXPLODES  
UNDER A SIZZLING CRASH  
OF SPARKS AND FLYING  
GLASS.

# Target Practice

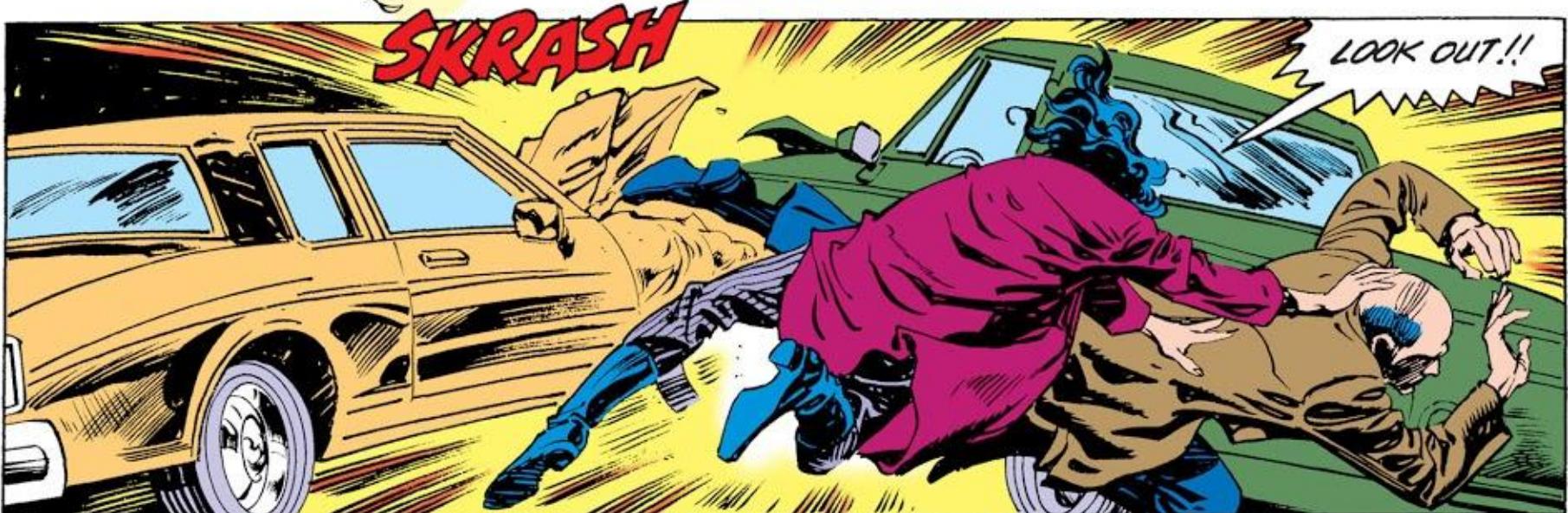
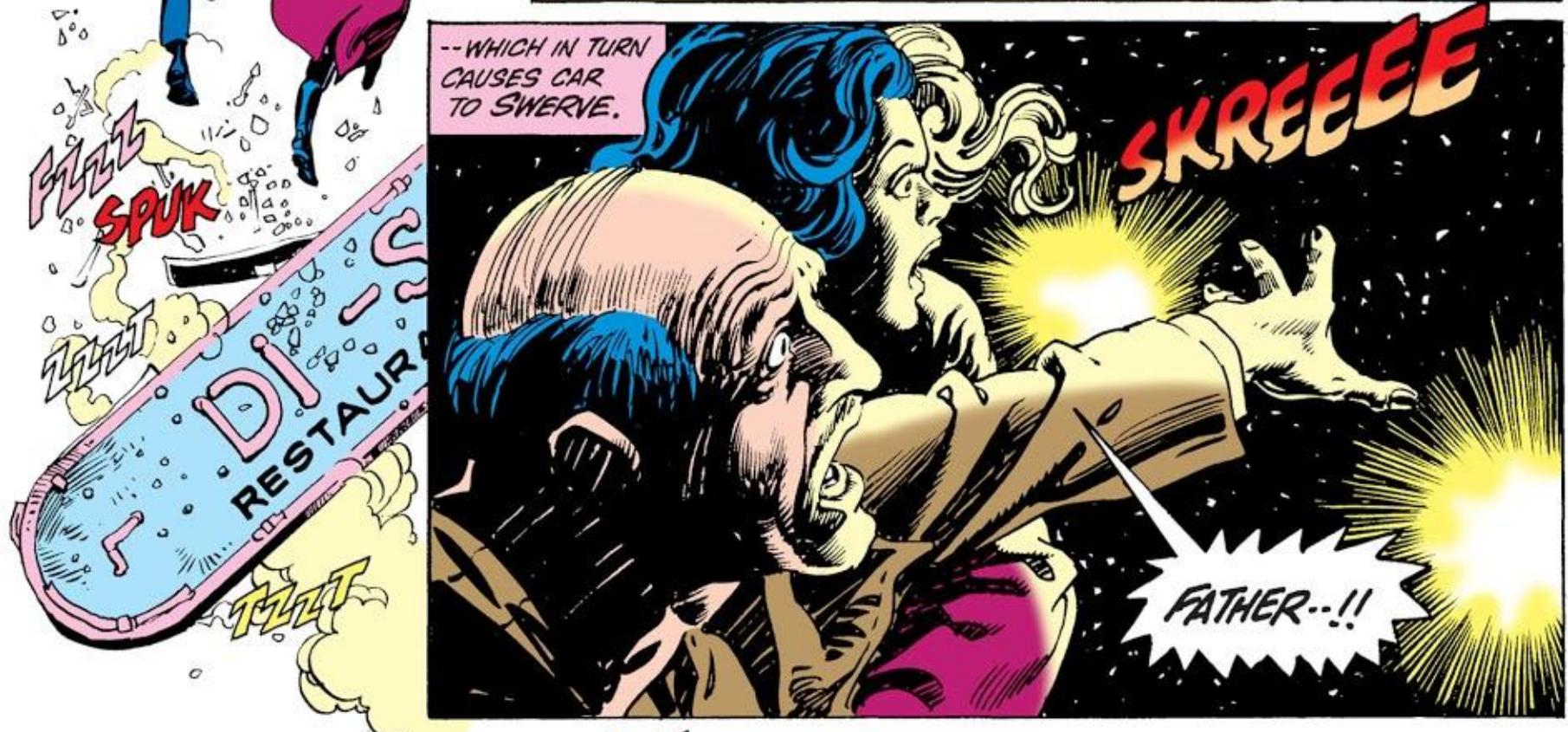
DOUG MOENCH  
writer

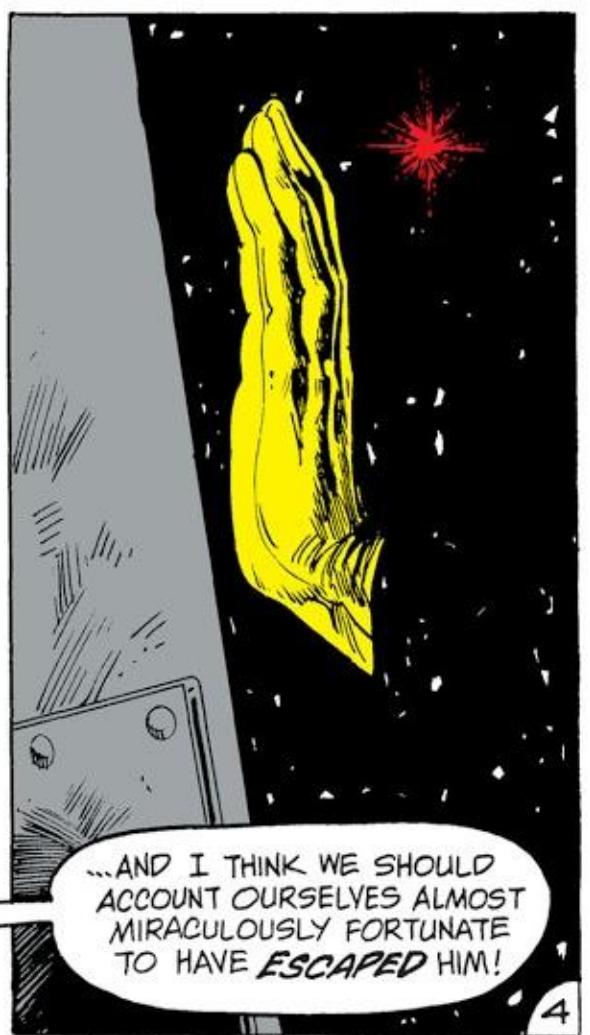
DON NEWTON  
artist

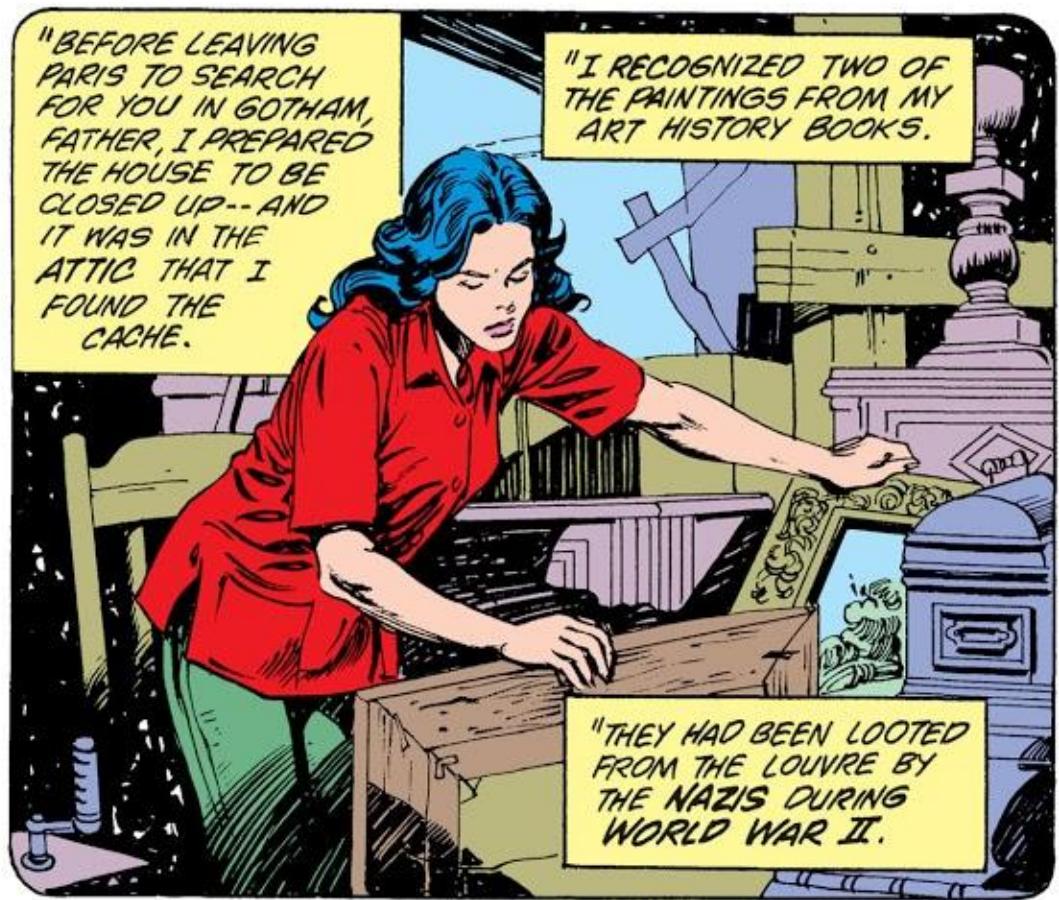
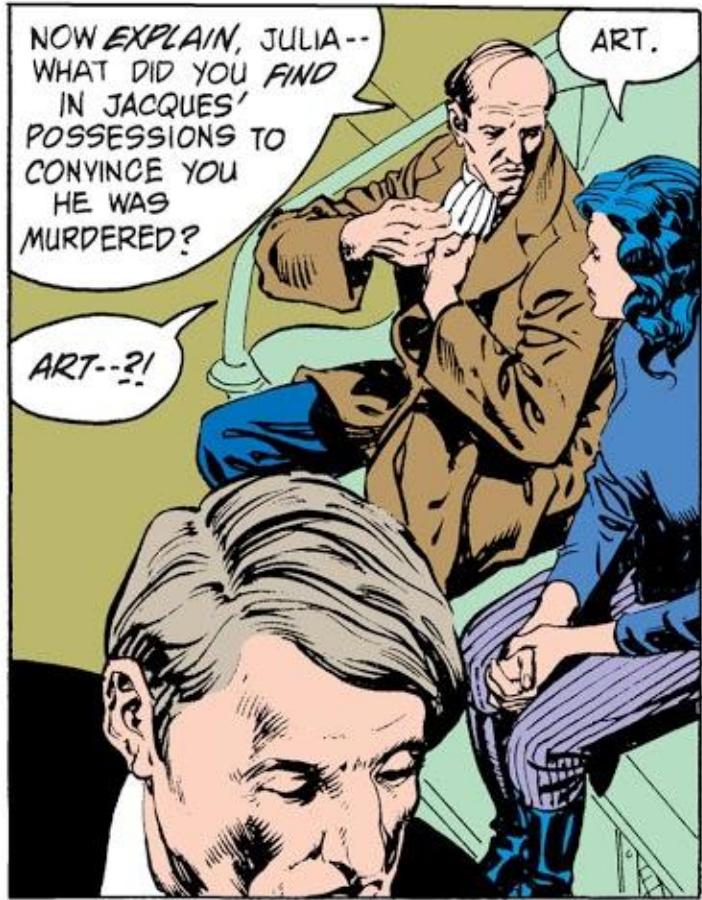
ALFREDO ALCALA  
inker

BEN ODA - letterer  
ADRIENNE ROY - colorist

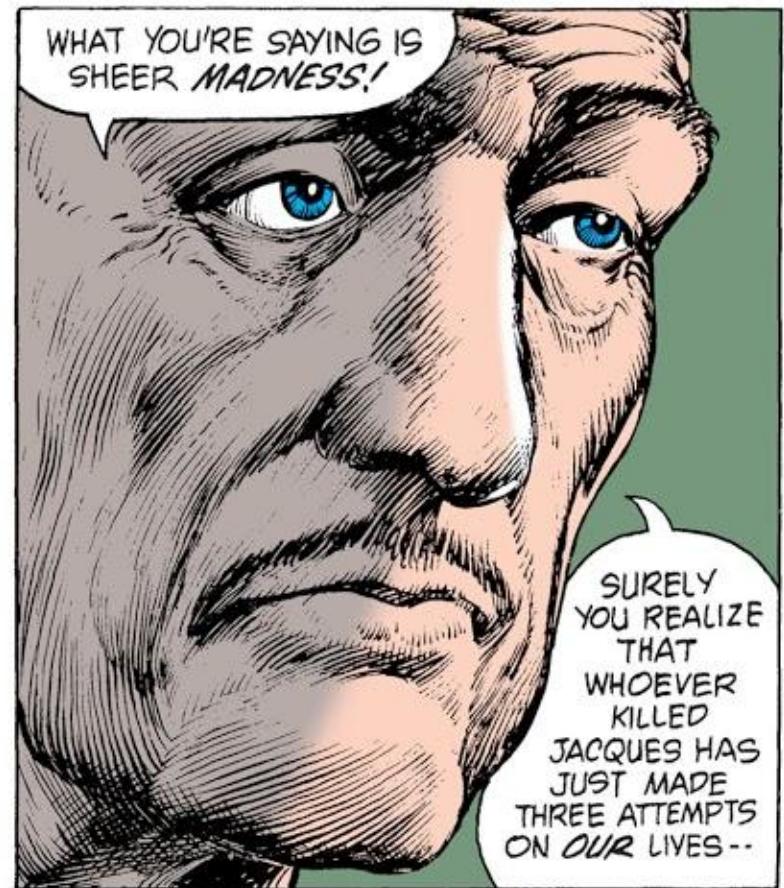
LEN WEIN  
editor

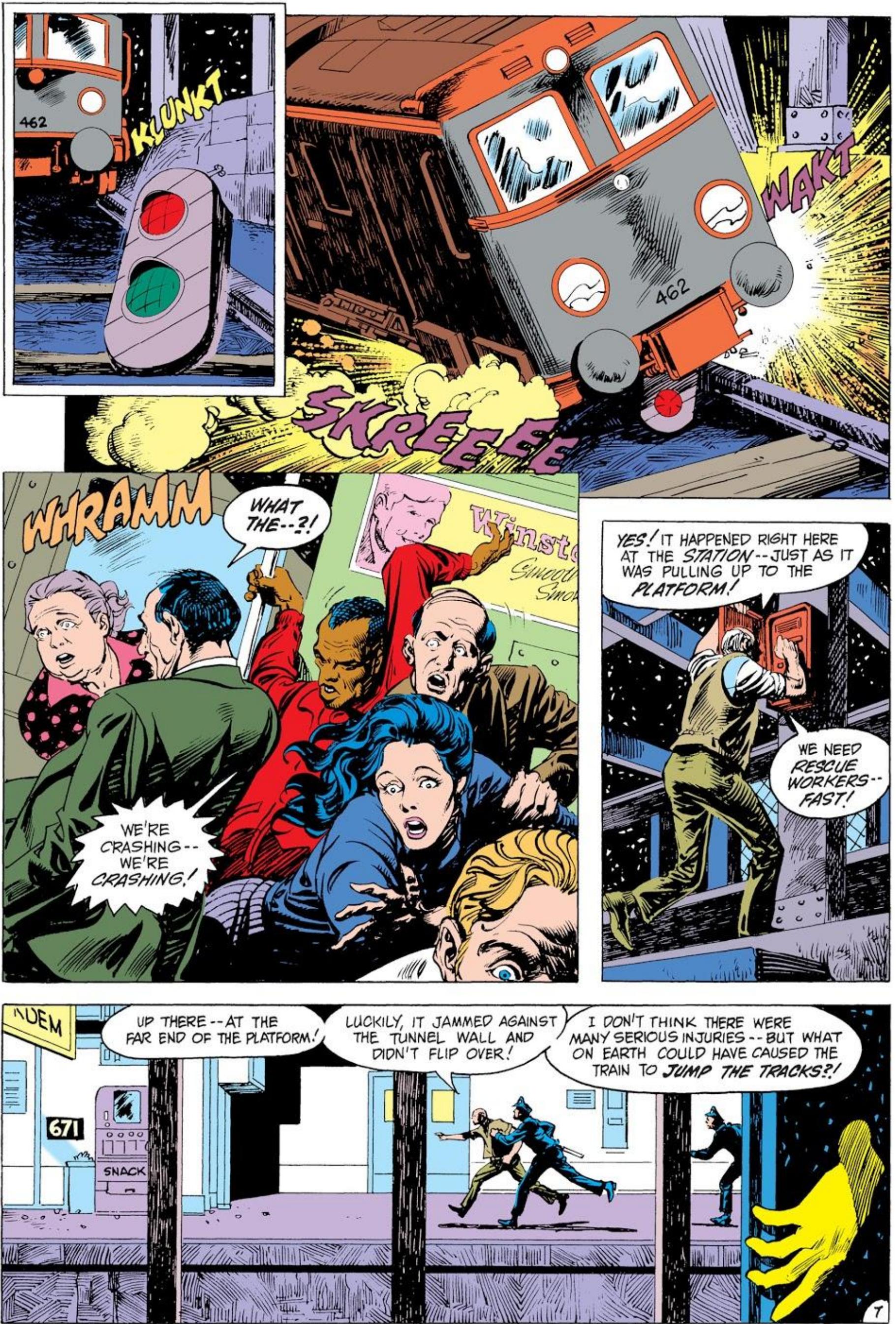




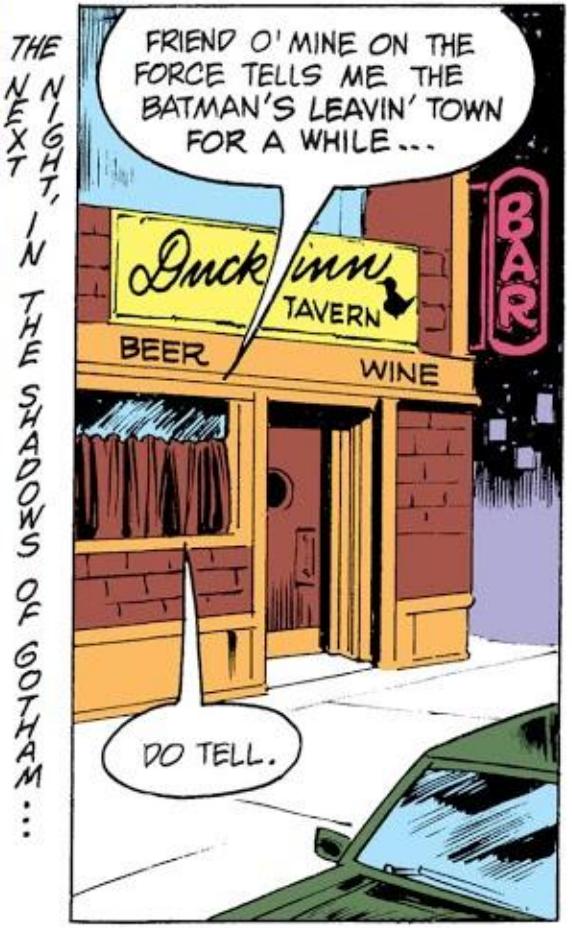


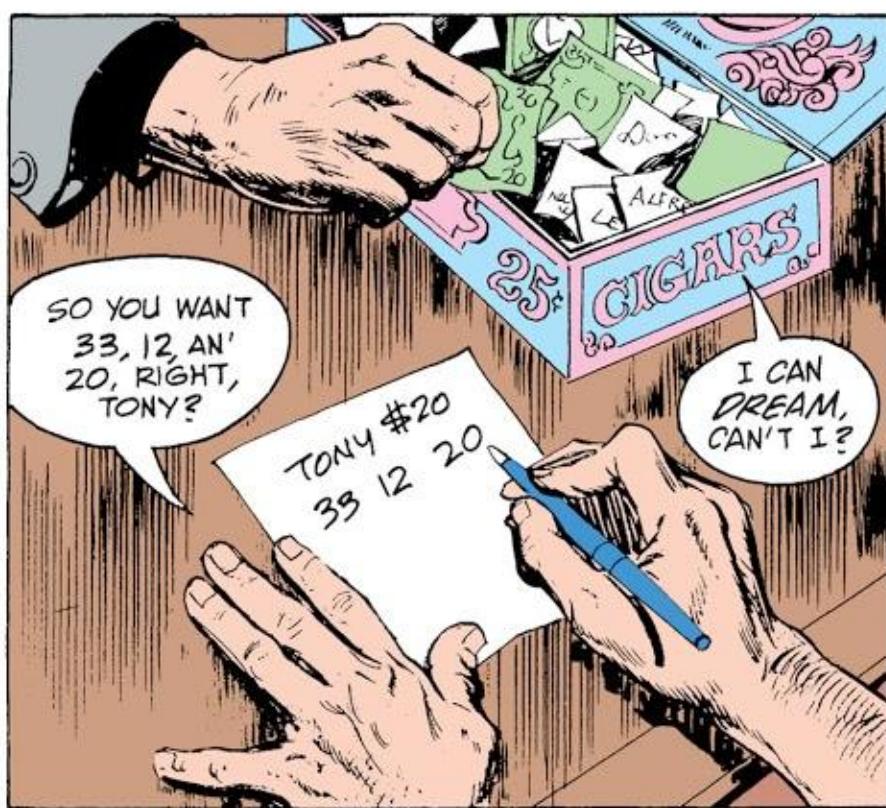
"IT WAS IN HIS JOURNAL THAT I DISCOVERED A CRYPTIC NOTE; IT GAVE YESTERDAY'S DATE, THEN STILL WEEKS AWAY, AND SAID: 'FIGURINE TO HENRI LAROUCHE, 573 LORRAINE, MONTREAL.'"

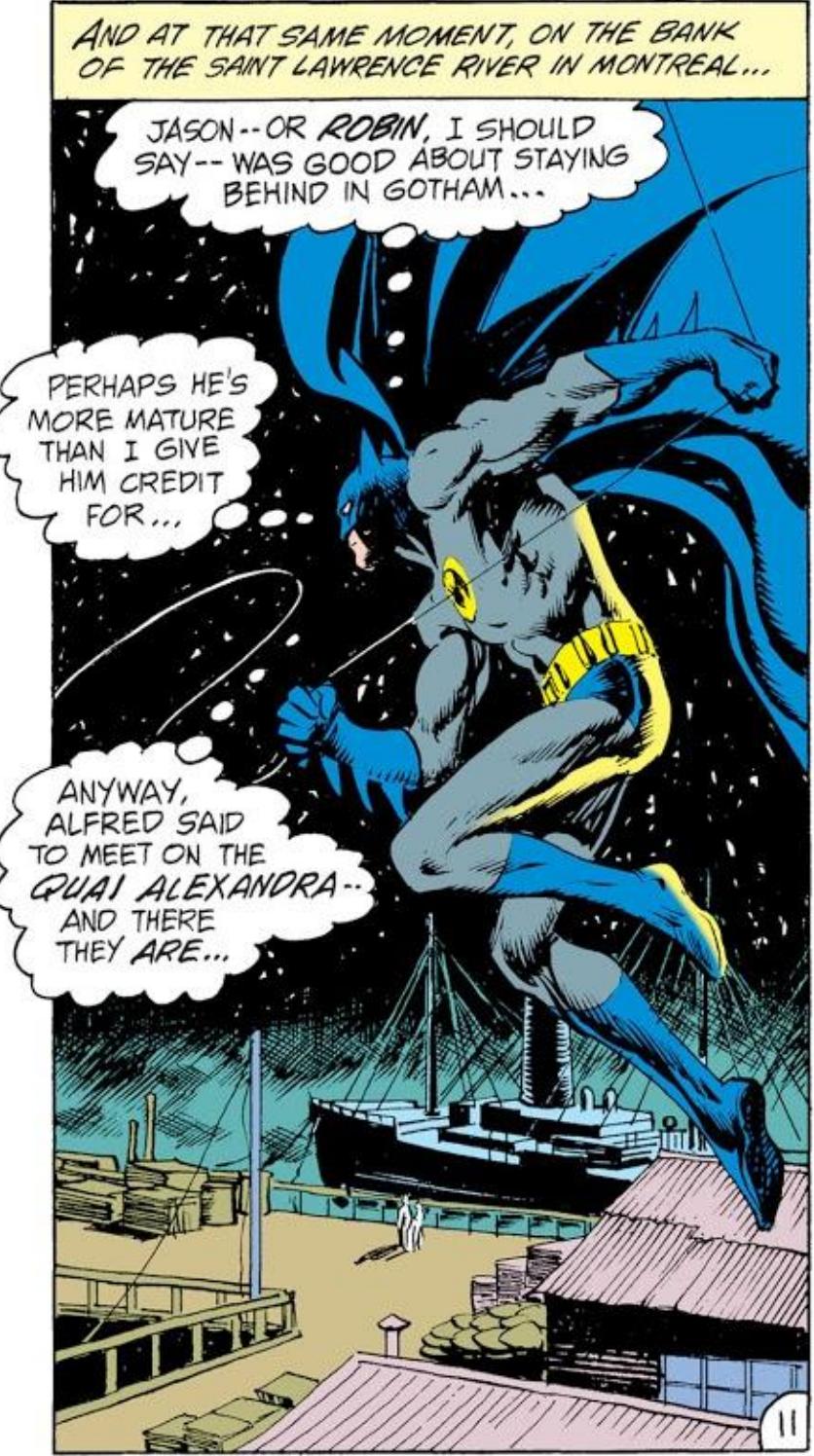
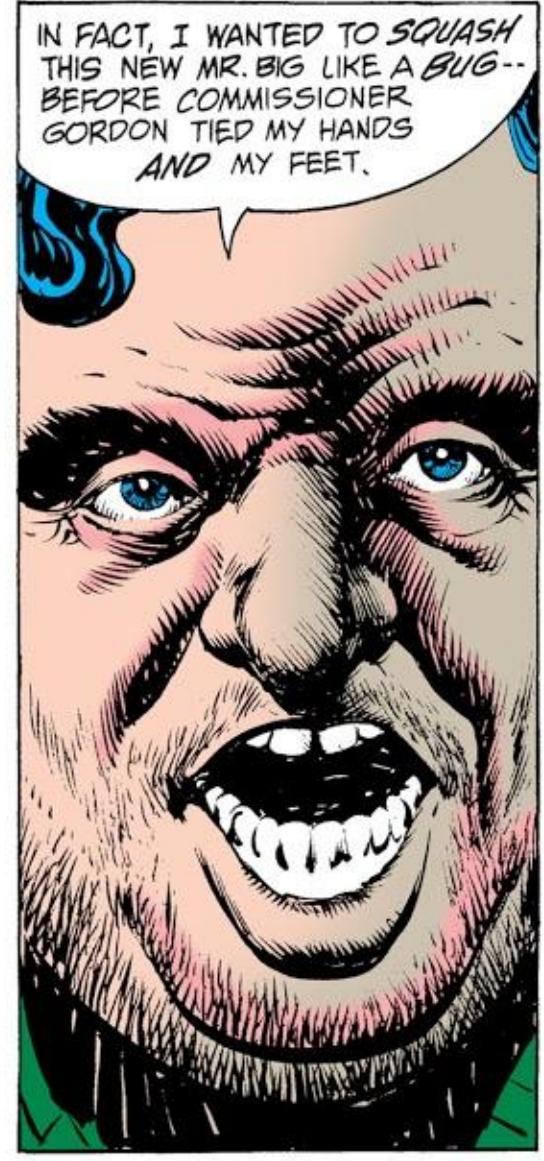


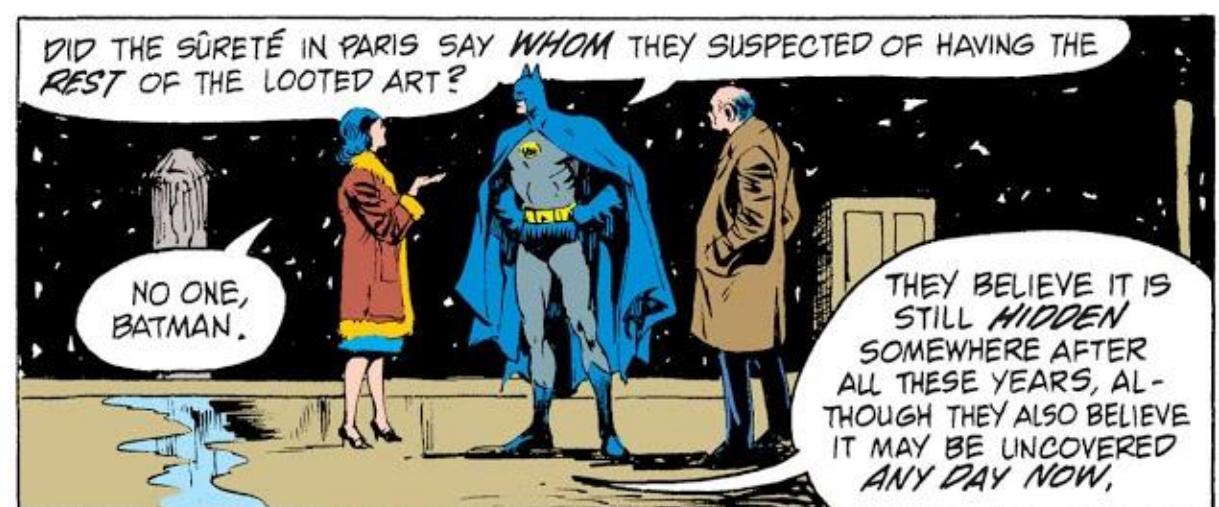


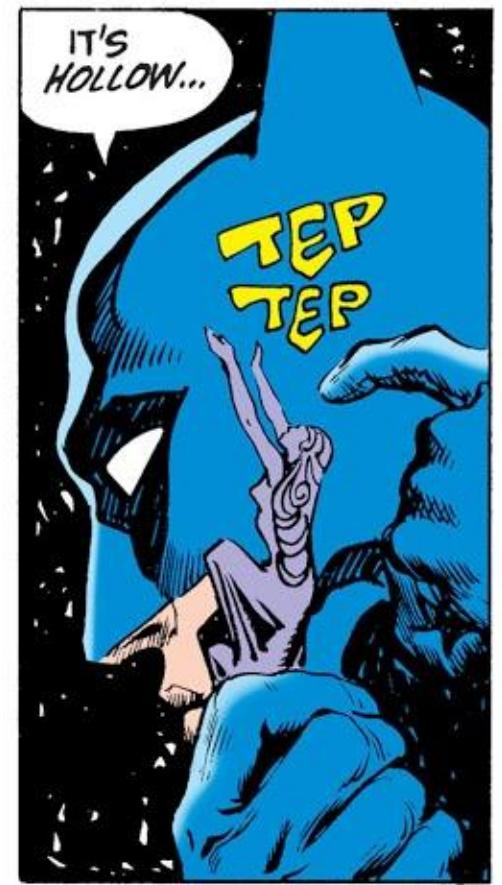
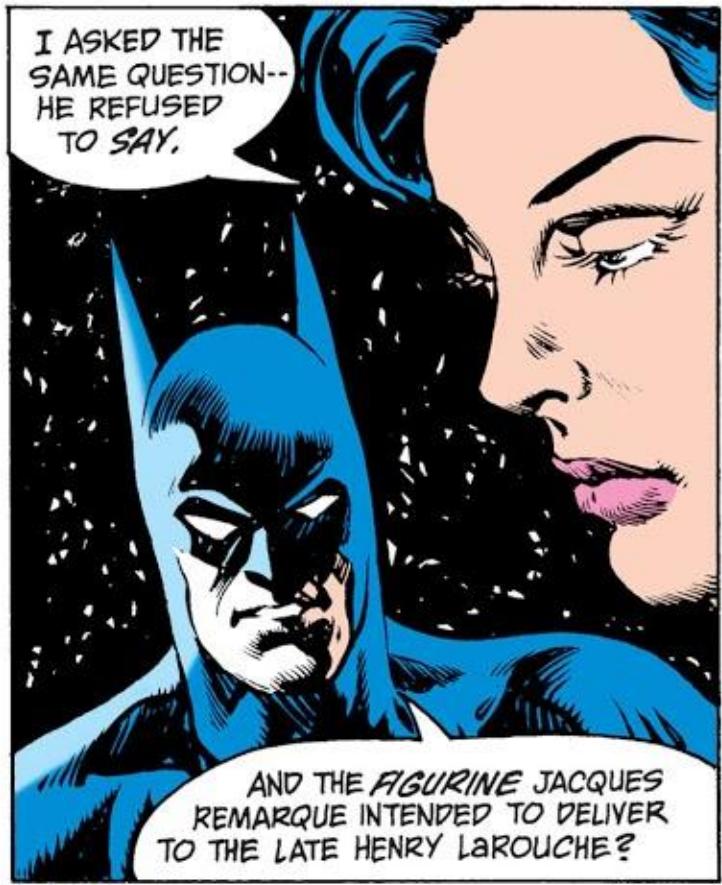


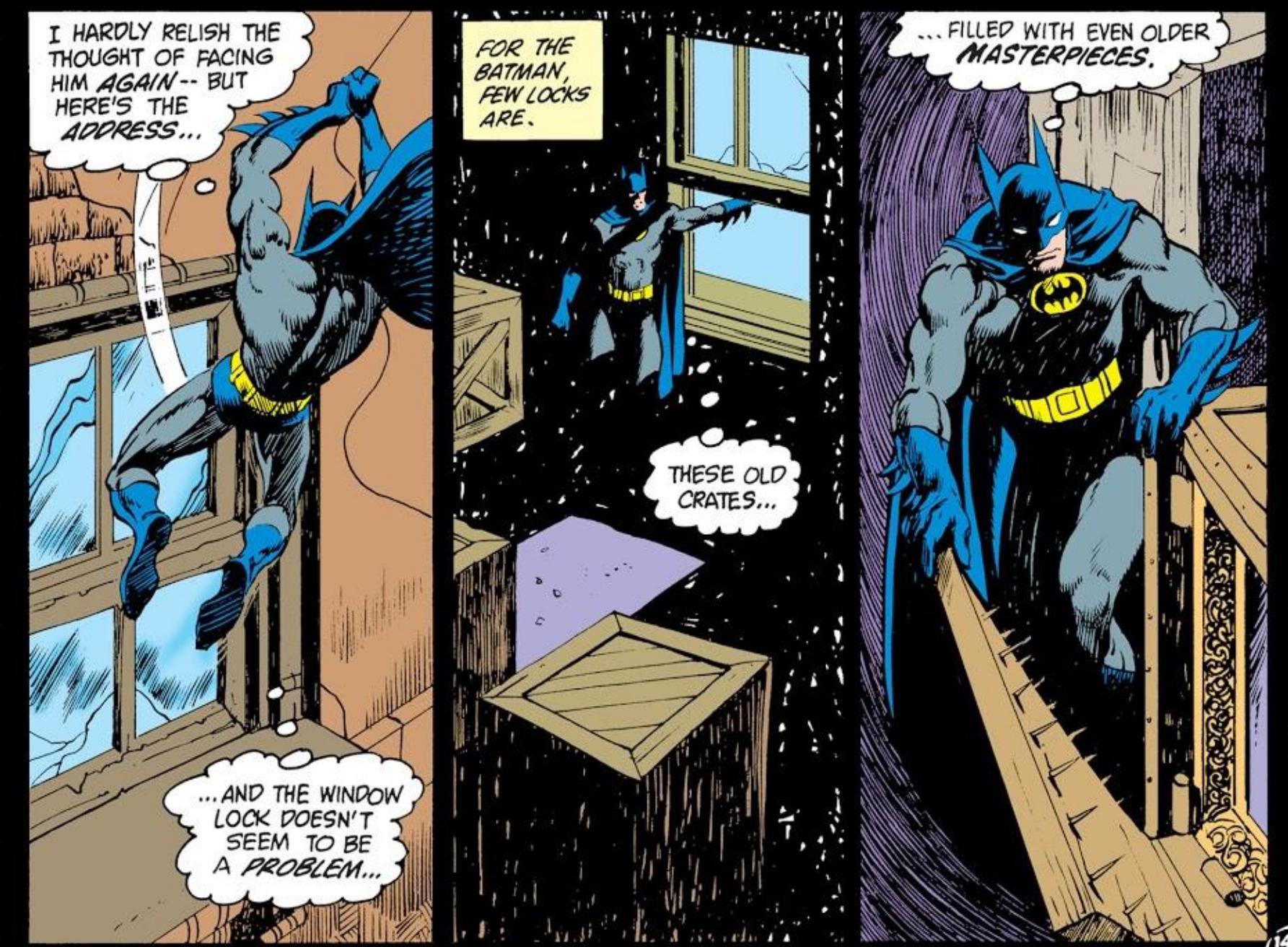
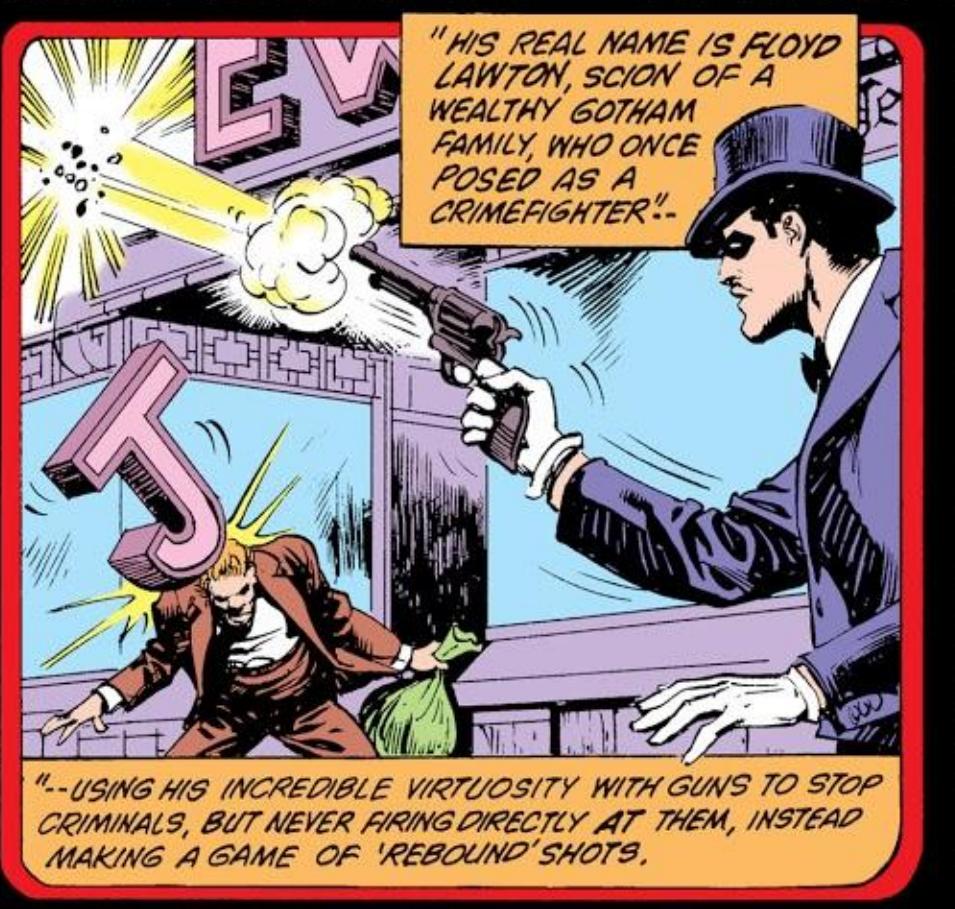
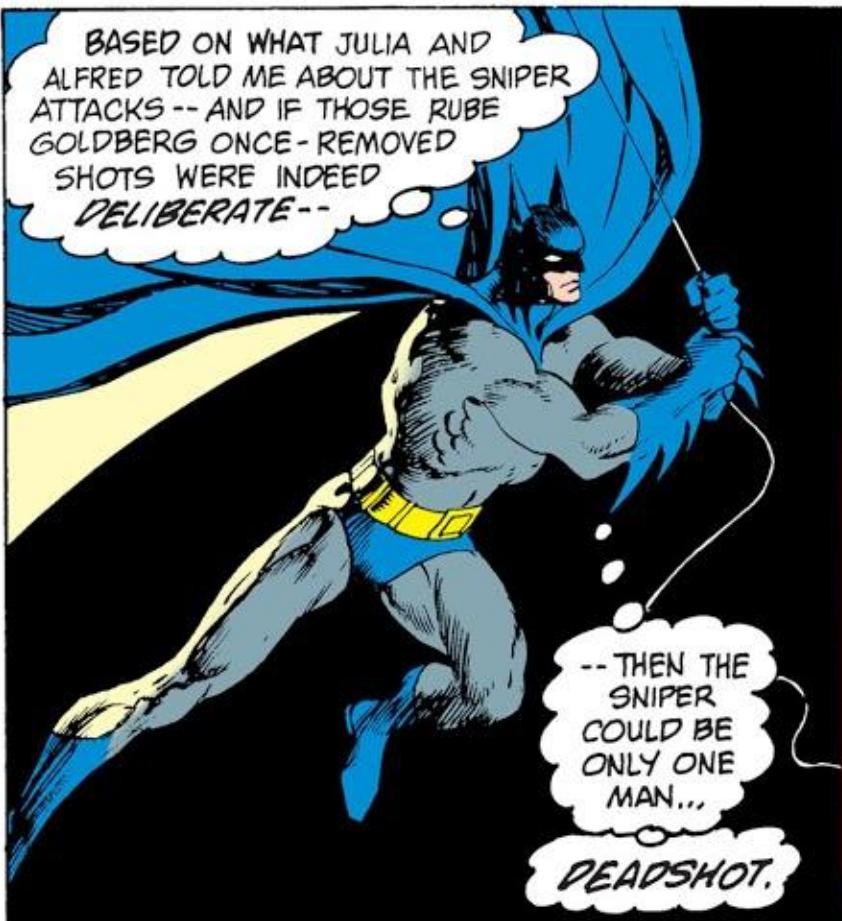


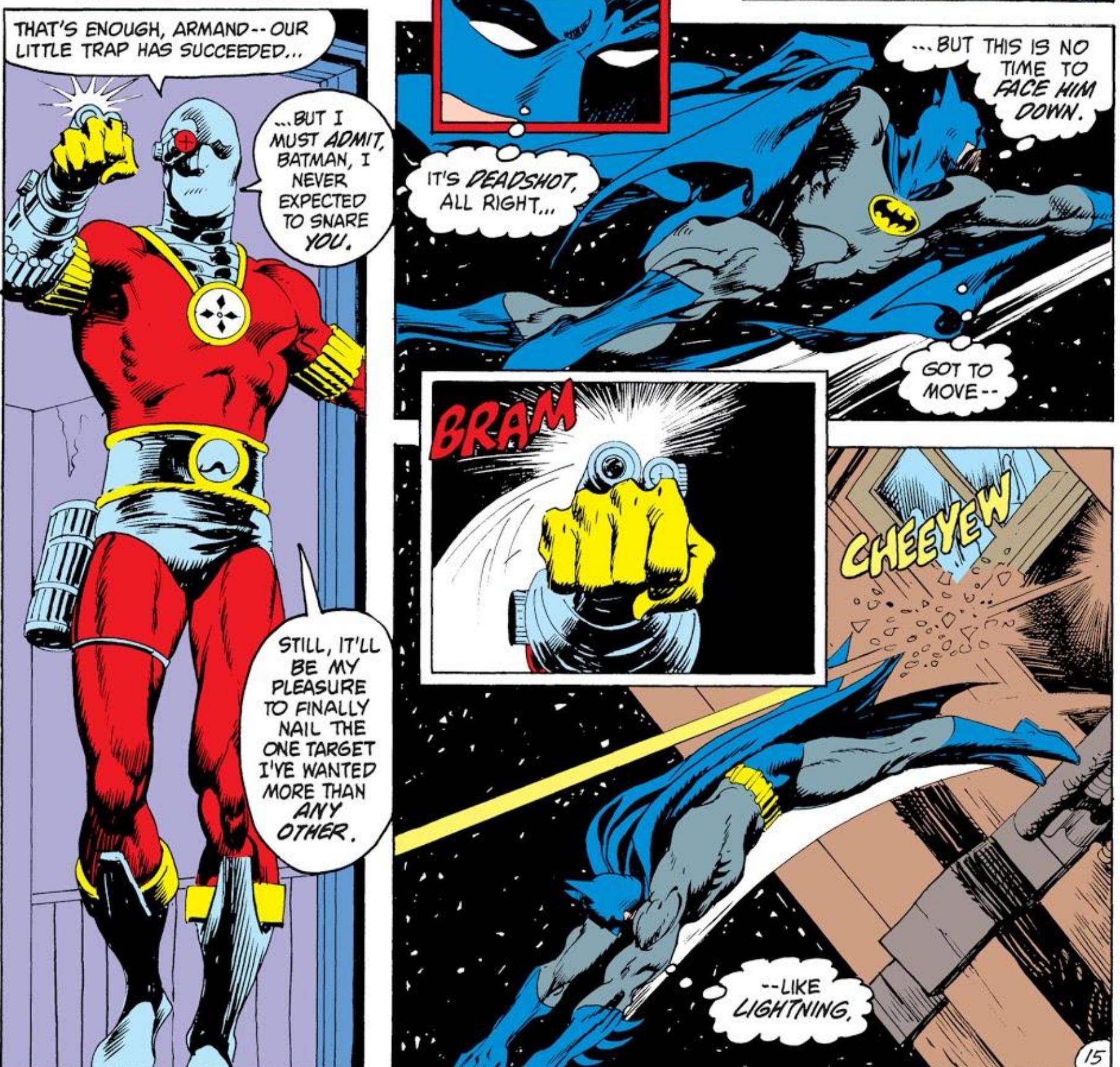




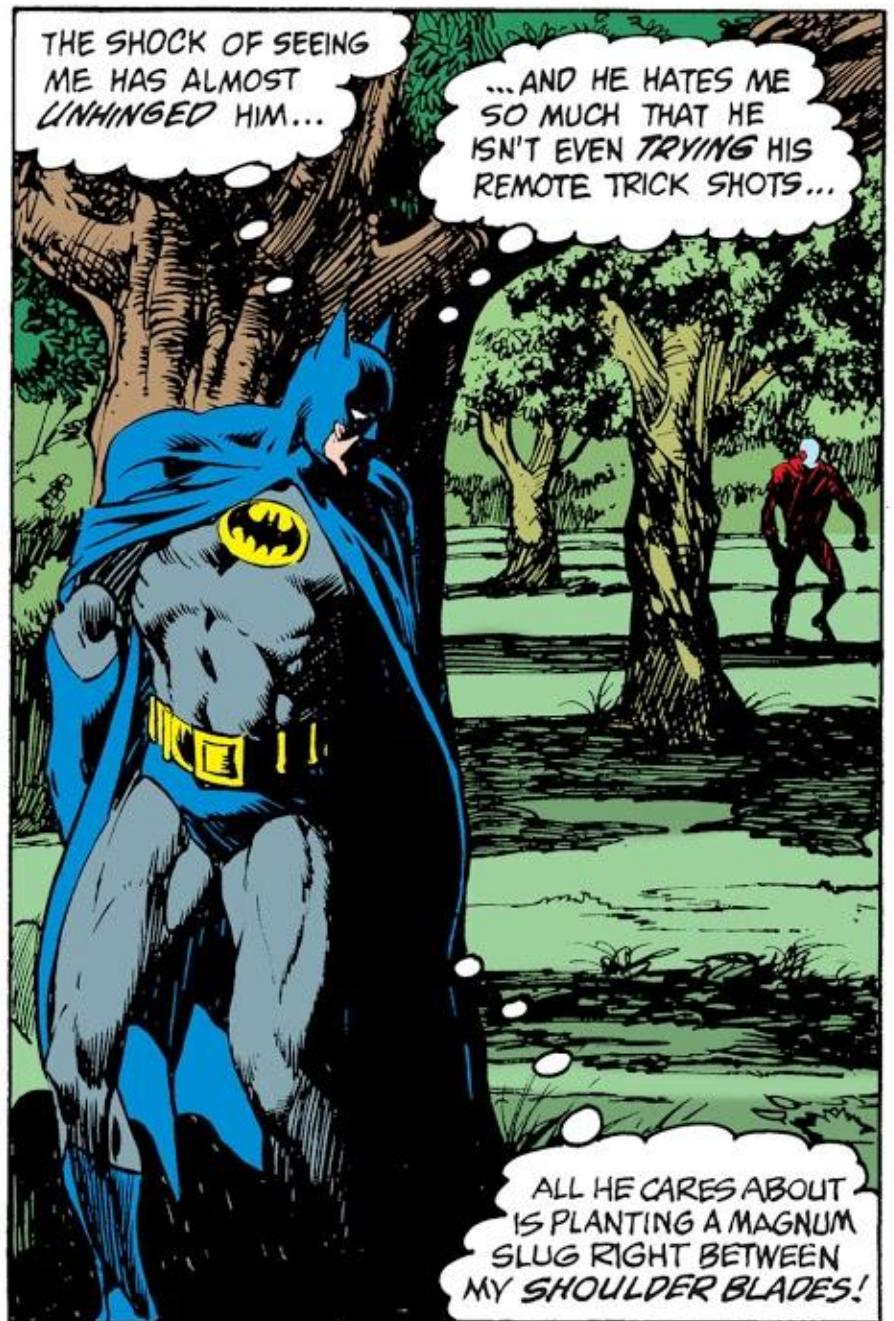


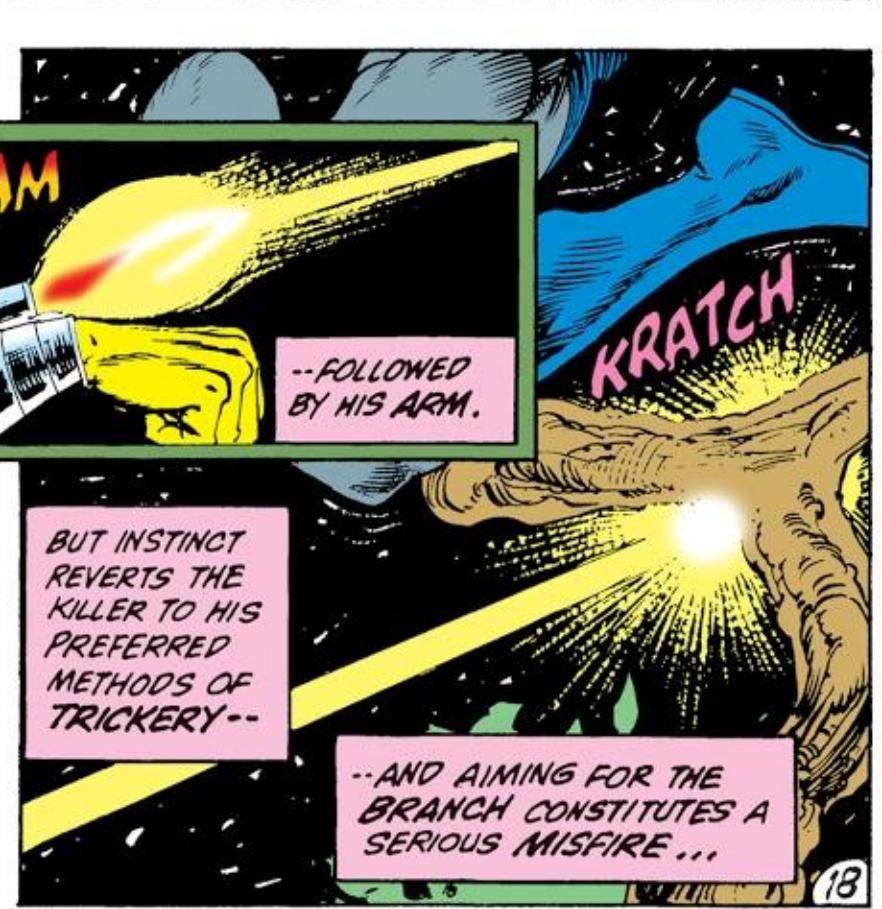


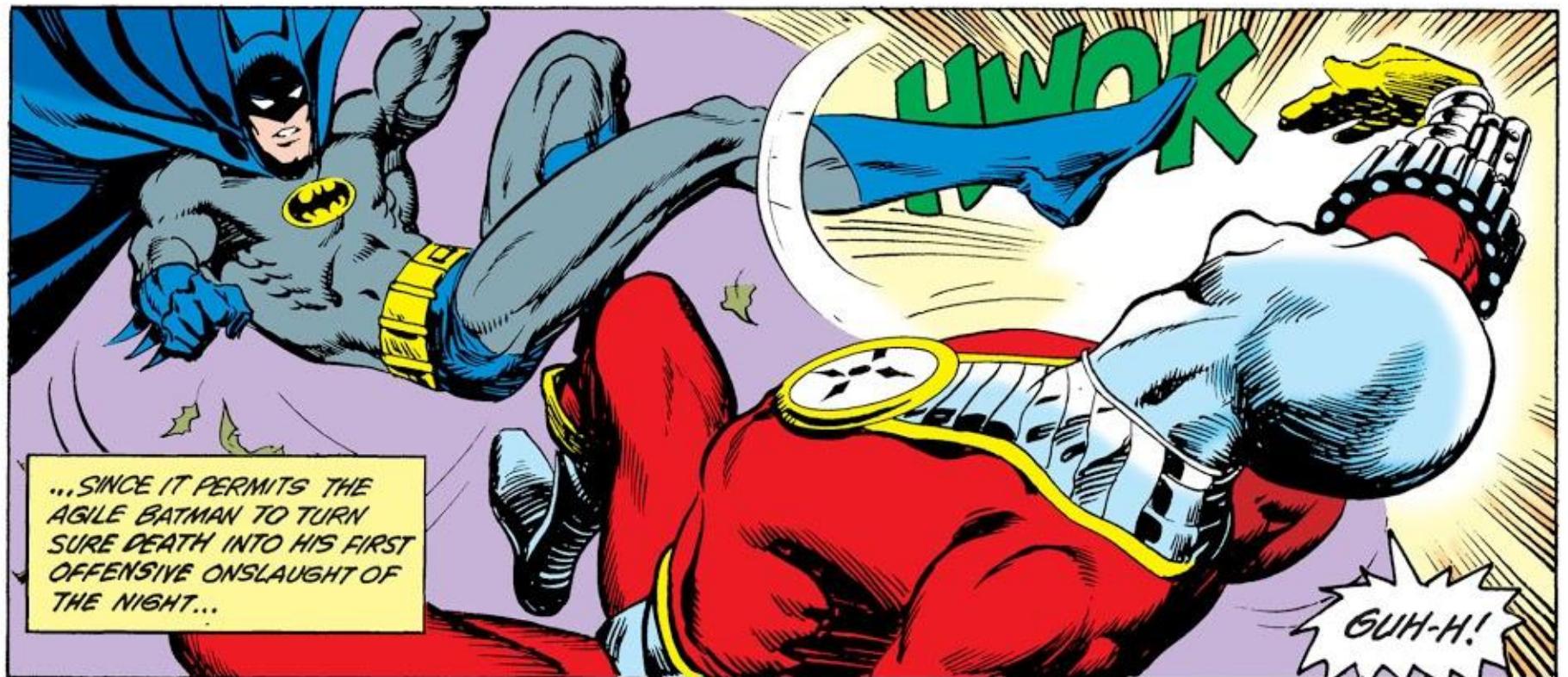










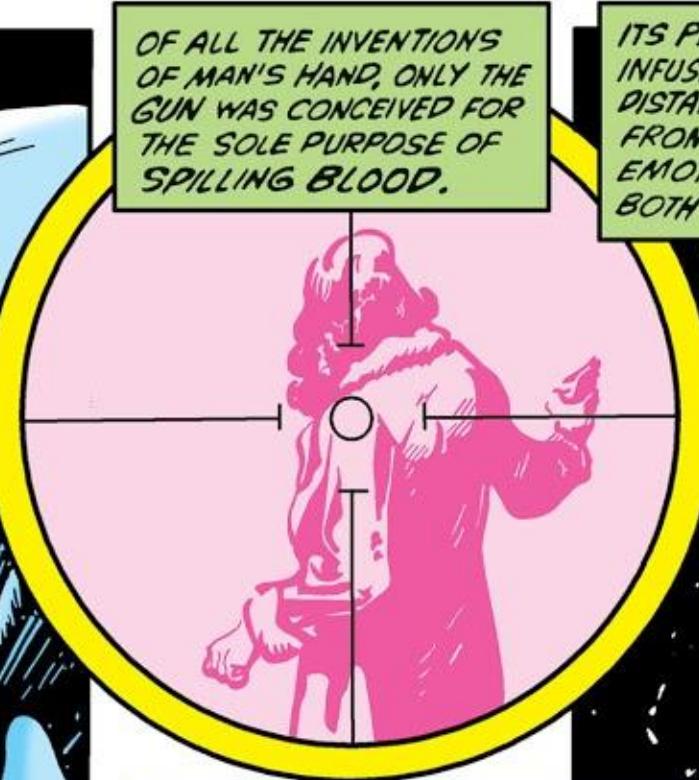
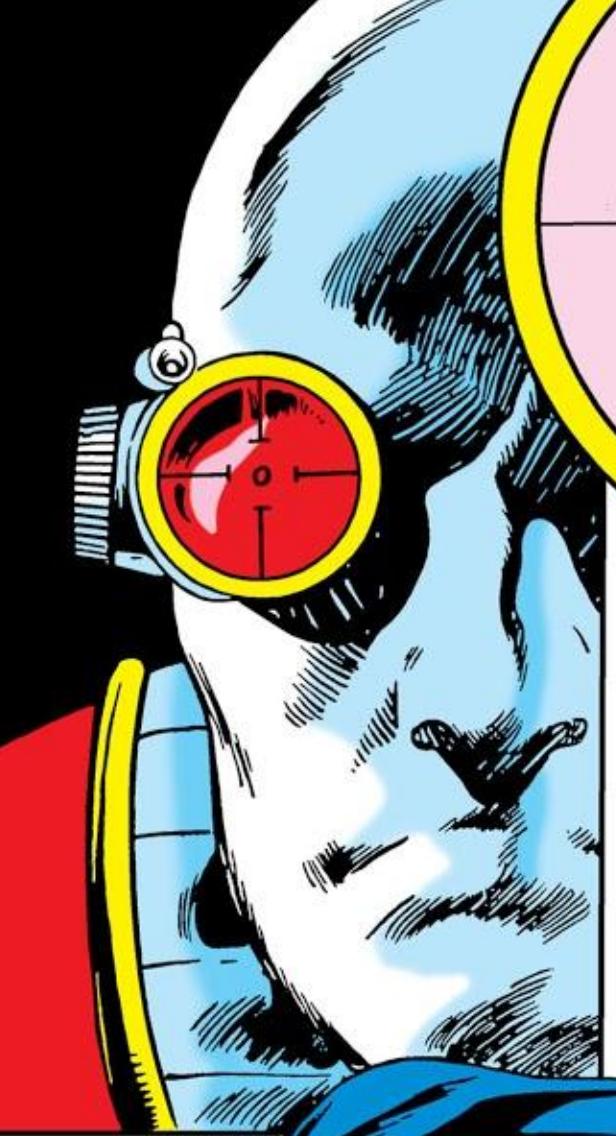




EVEN A KNIFE CAN CUT BREAD;  
EVEN A SWORD CAN CHOP  
FIREWOOD; EVEN A SPEAR  
CAN SUPPORT A TENT...

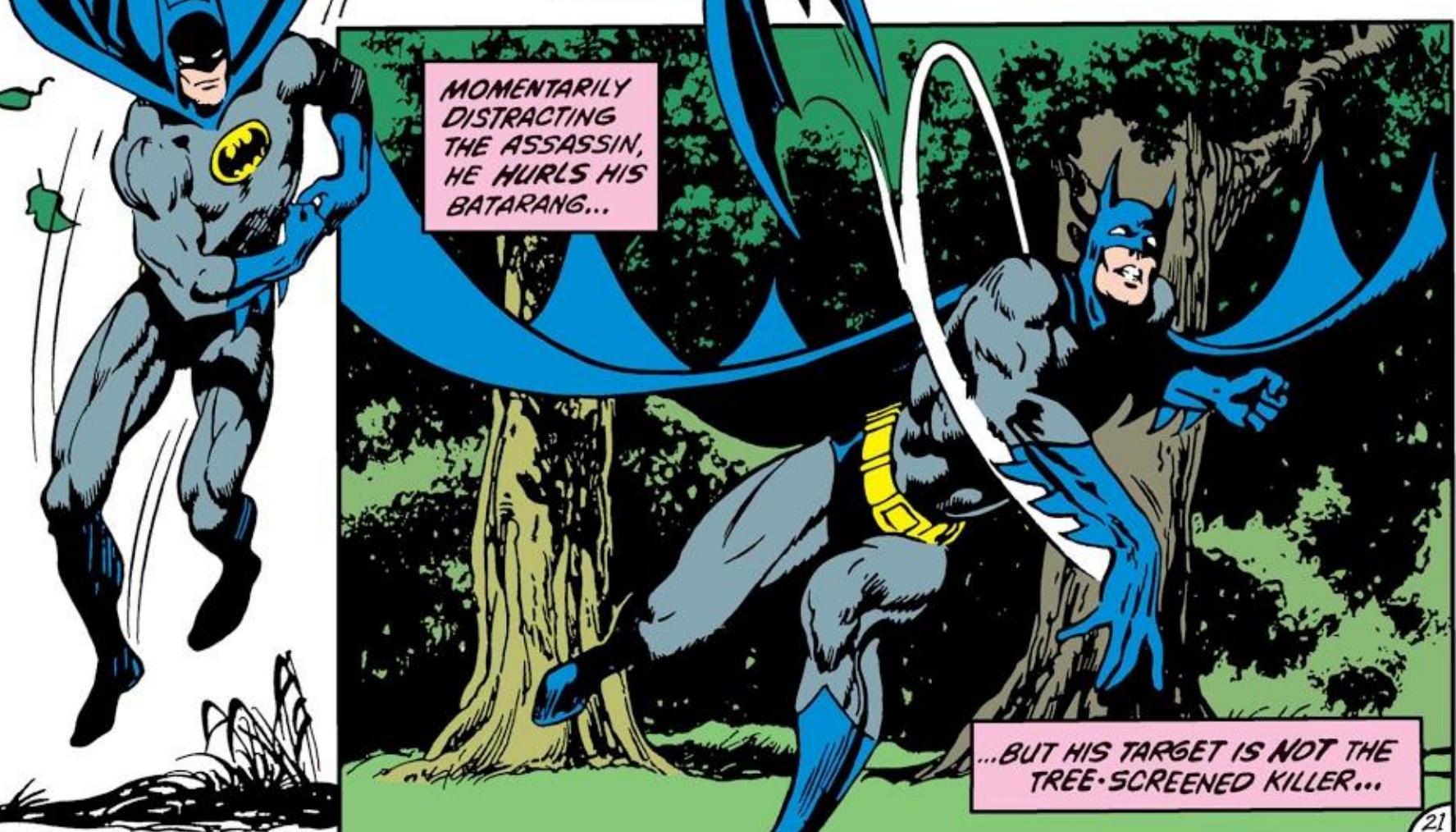
OF ALL THE INVENTIONS  
OF MAN'S HAND, ONLY THE  
GUN WAS CONCEIVED FOR  
THE SOLE PURPOSE OF  
SPILLING BLOOD.

ITS PRECISION MECHANICS ARE DIRECTLY  
INFUSED WITH THE MALEVOLENT, AND ITS  
DISTANCE OF USE, ITS SEPARATION  
FROM TARGET AND THUS FROM  
EMOTION, MAKE THE ACT OF KILLING  
BOTH EASY AND COWARDLY.



TWO PEOPLE, NOW, ARE UNDER  
THE SPELL OF ITS COLD AND  
HEAVY METAL...

ONE OF THEM IS  
SURELY DESTINED  
TO FALL.



IT IS, INSTEAD, THE COLD PIECE OF METAL IN JULIA'S HAND.

WAKT

BRAM

NOOOO!!

THE GUN IS FORCED UP AND AROUND, ITS TRIGGER INVOLUNTARILY SQUEEZED...

AGH-H!!

...AND, FOLLOWING ONE LAST EXPLOSION OF VIOLENCE...

BAOUUM

--DEADSHOT DROPS LIKE A NAILED TARGET, VICTIM OF THE BATMAN'S OWN TRICK SHOT.

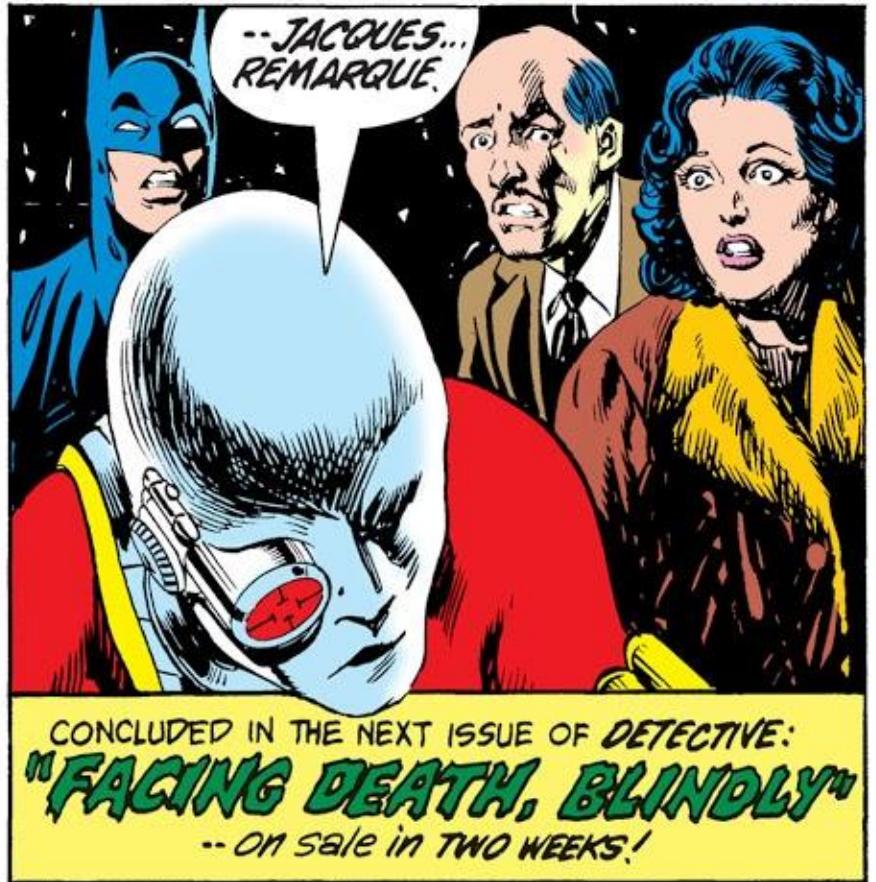
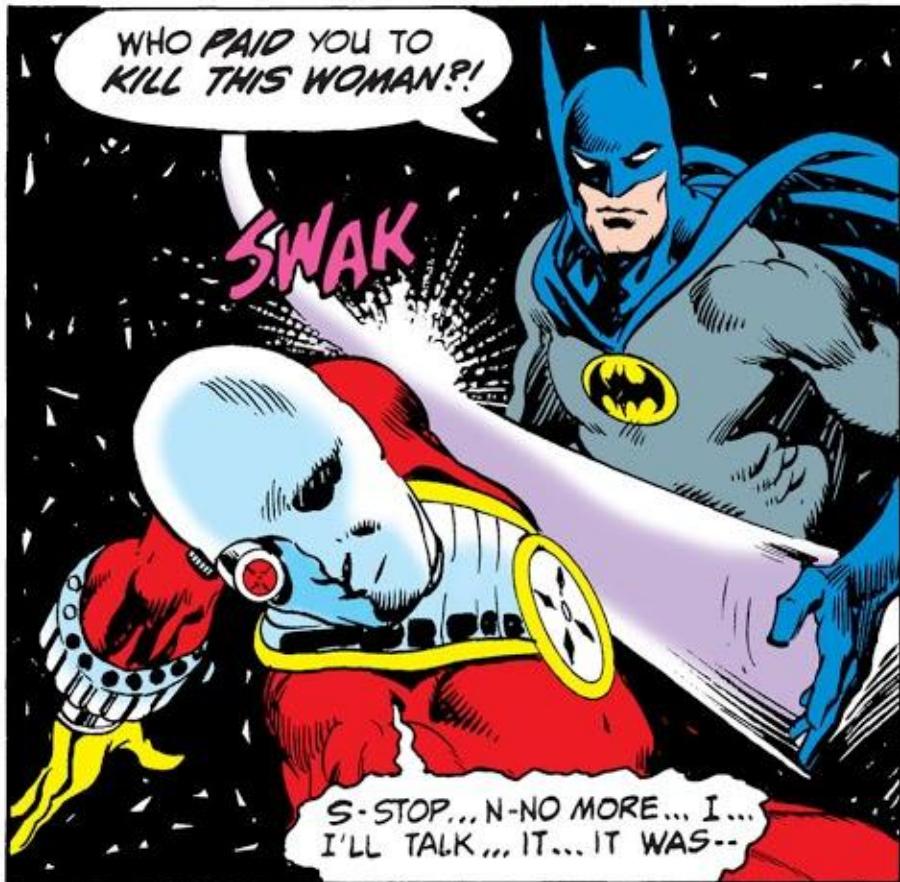
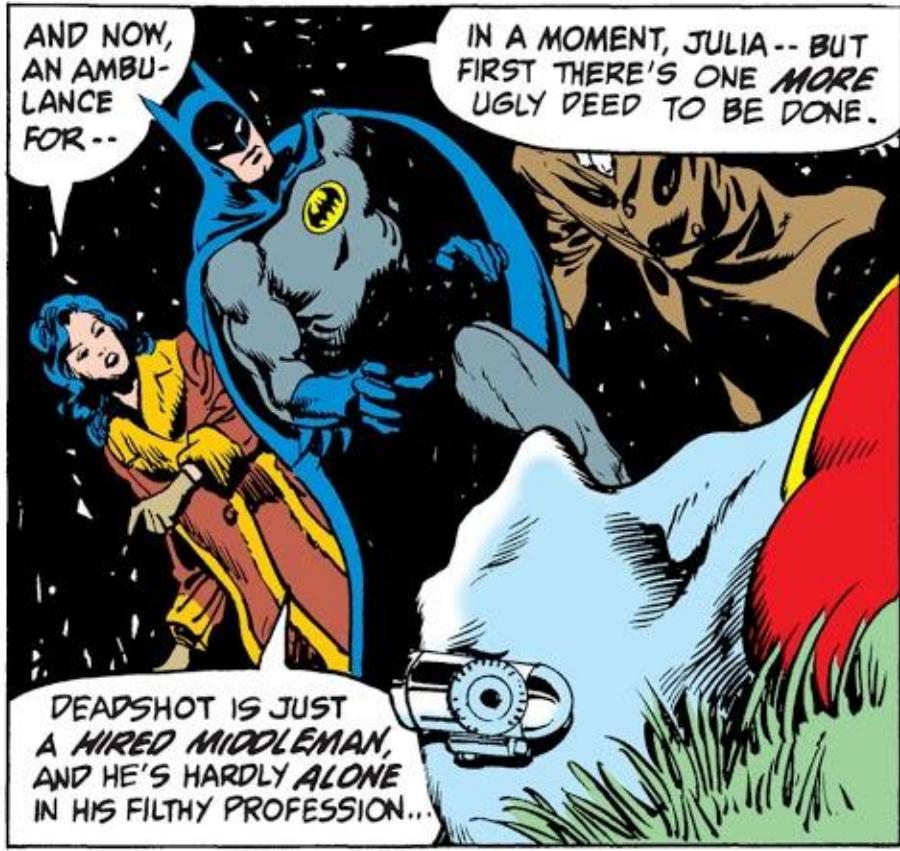
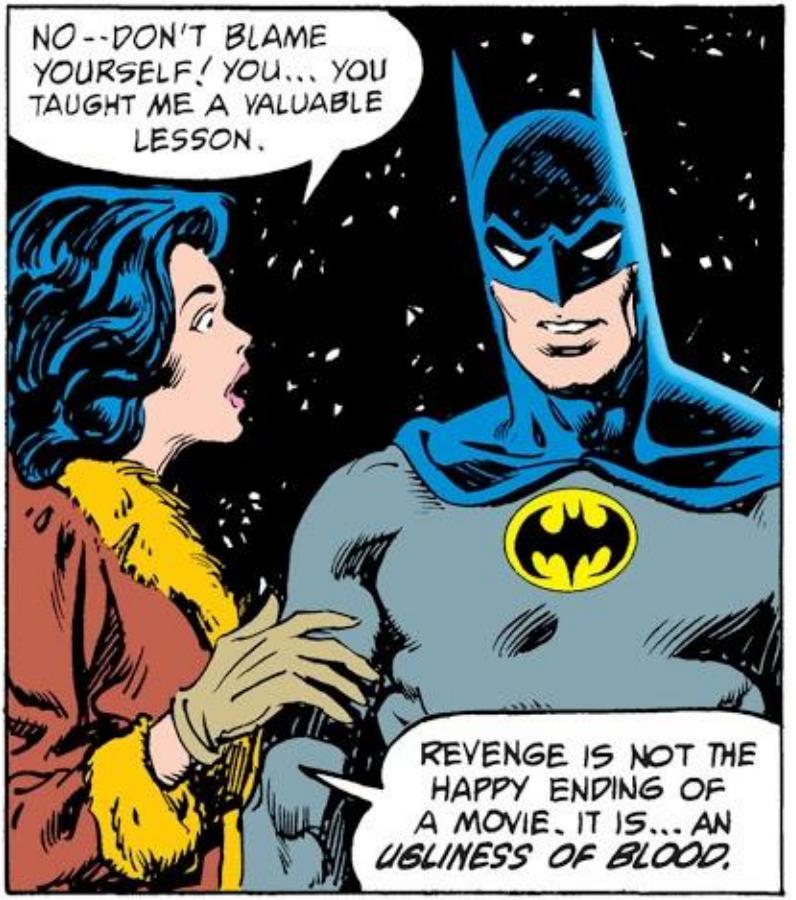
THEORIES OF TOPPLING DOMINOES ARE THE LAST THING IN JULIA'S MIND...

SHE STANDS AS FORMLY ROOTED AS THE TREES AROUND HER, AND EVEN THE WEIGHT OF A SMOKING PISTOL HANGS FORGOTTEN IN HER HAND...

I... I COULD HAVE KILLED HIM... COULD HAVE COMMITTED MURDER...

OR BEEN MURDERED BY HIM. I TRIED TO TELL YOU, JULIA...

MY... MY LEG...!





**novus**  
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