



ALL NEW!  
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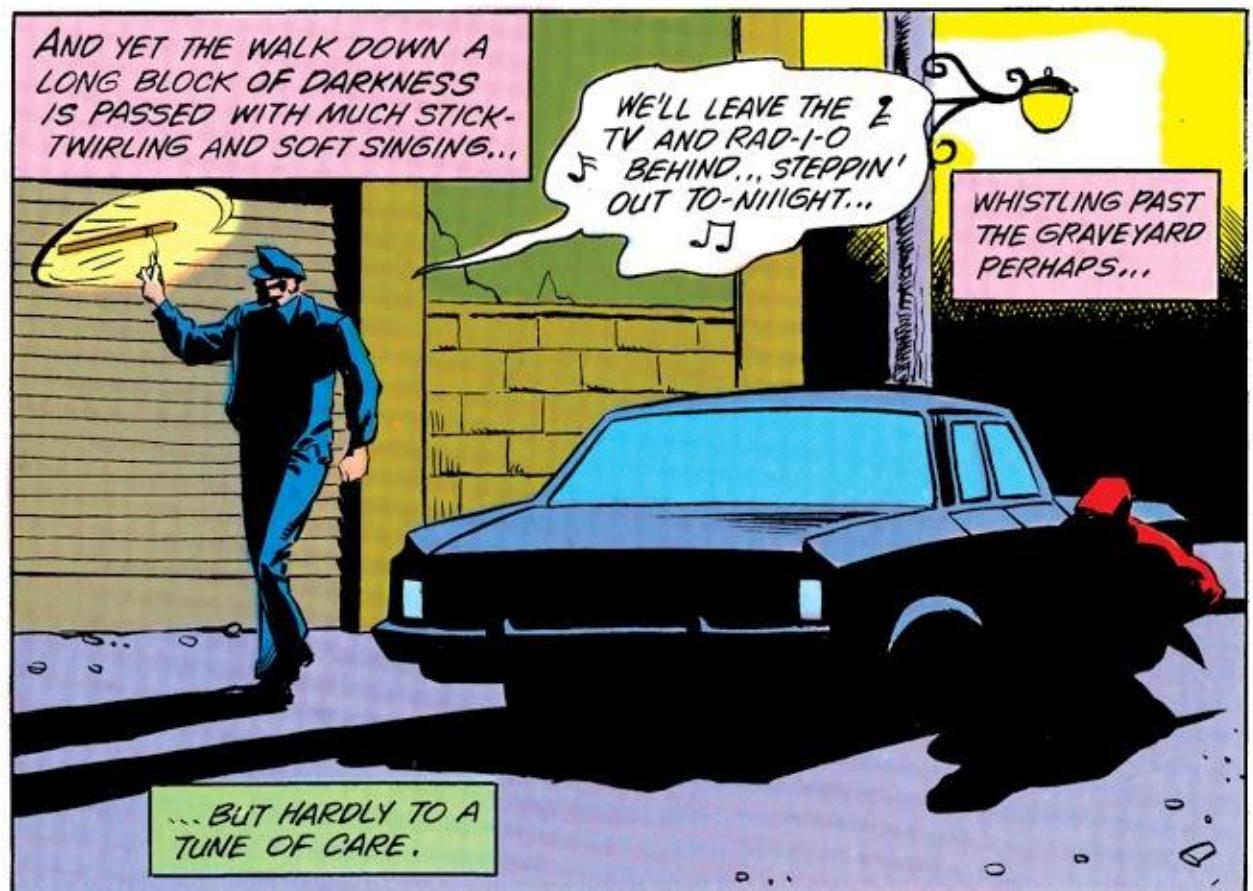
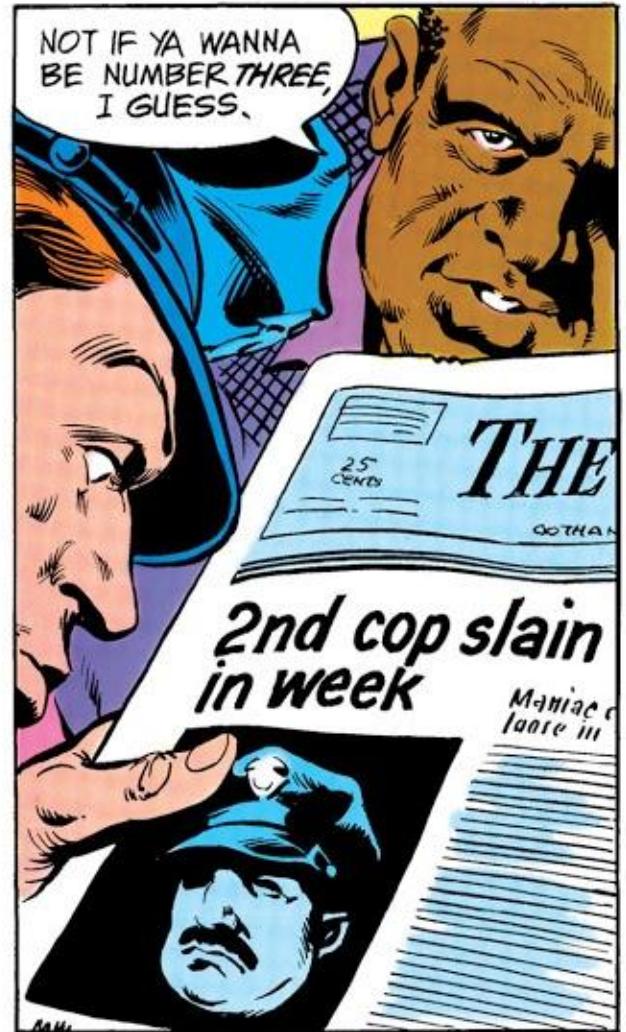
NO. 360  
JUNE



# BATMAN



SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS STALKS...  
**The SAVAGE SKULL!**



..YOU  
DIE!!

J-8710

# BAT-MAN®

CREATED BY  
**BOB  
KANE**

## WHEN SLAYS THE SAVAGE SKULL...

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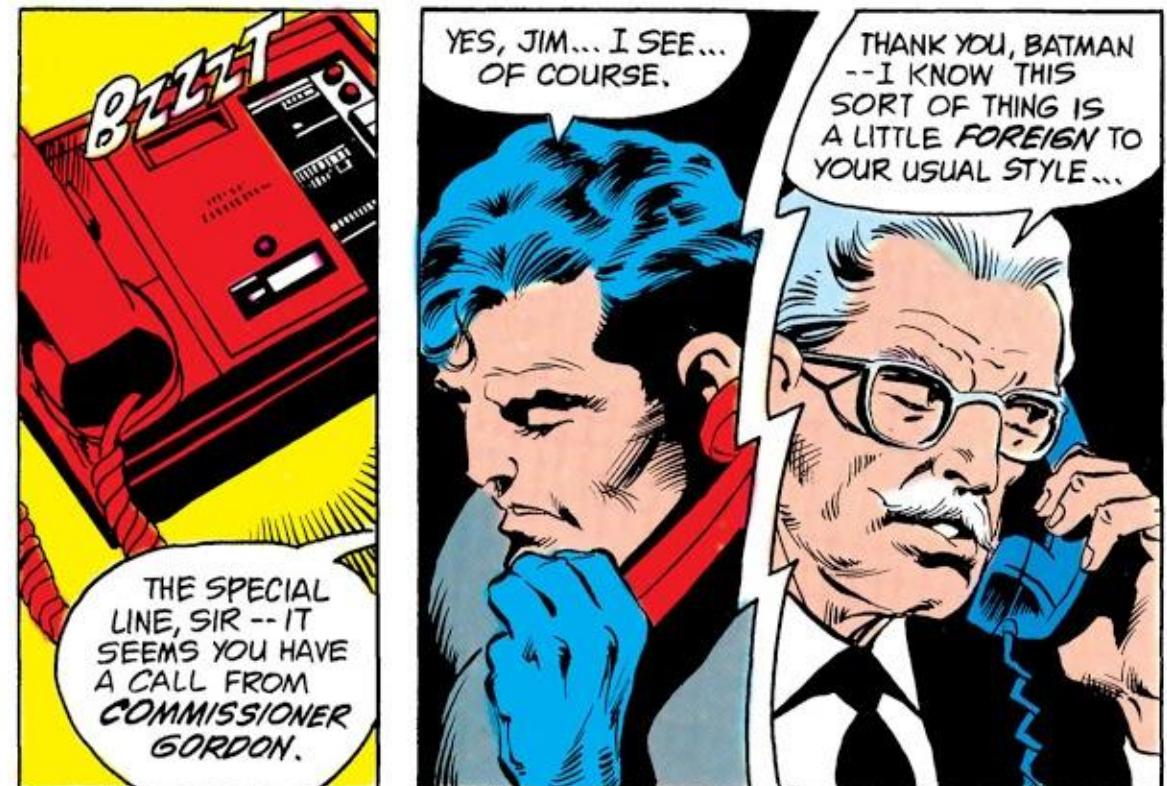


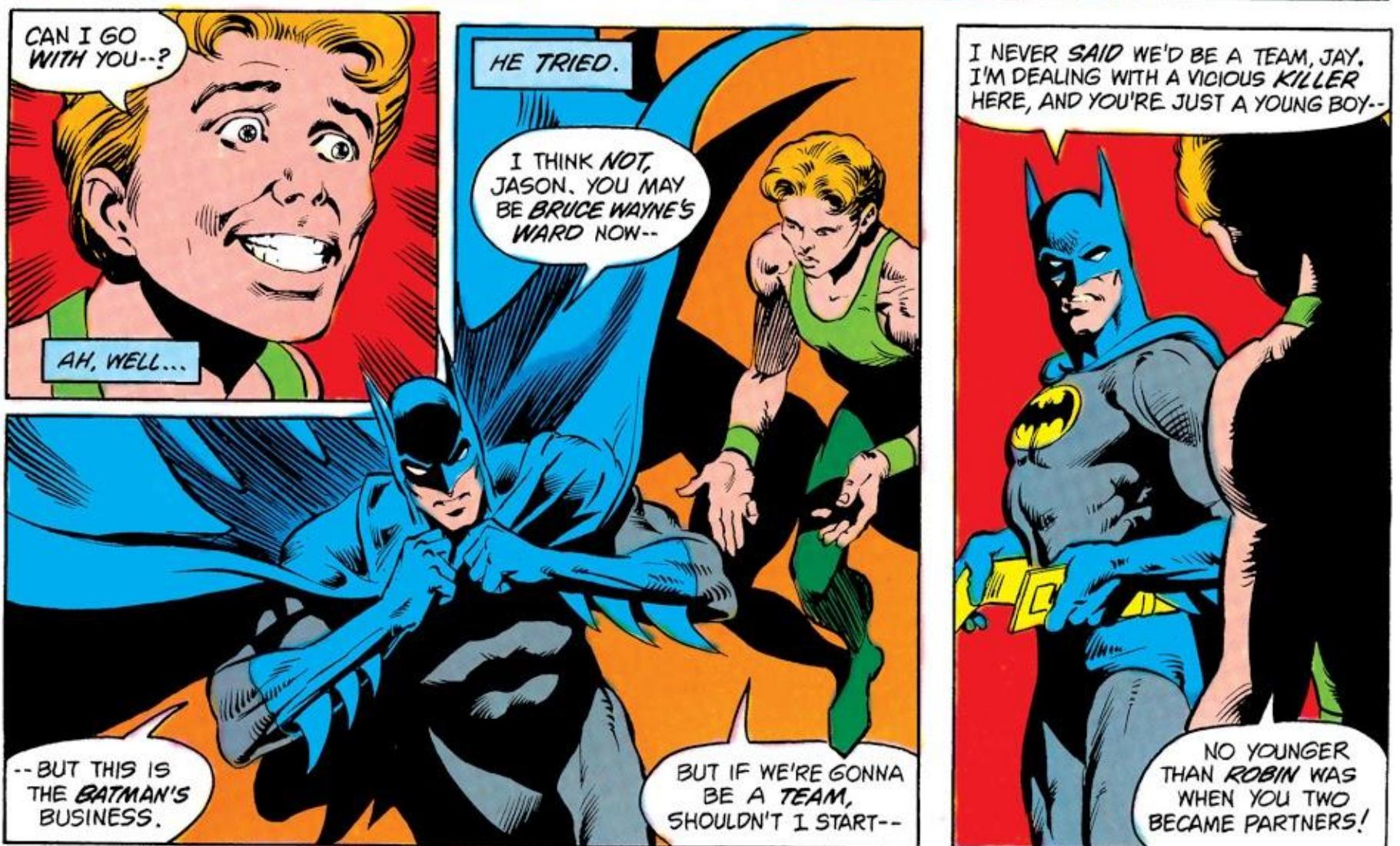


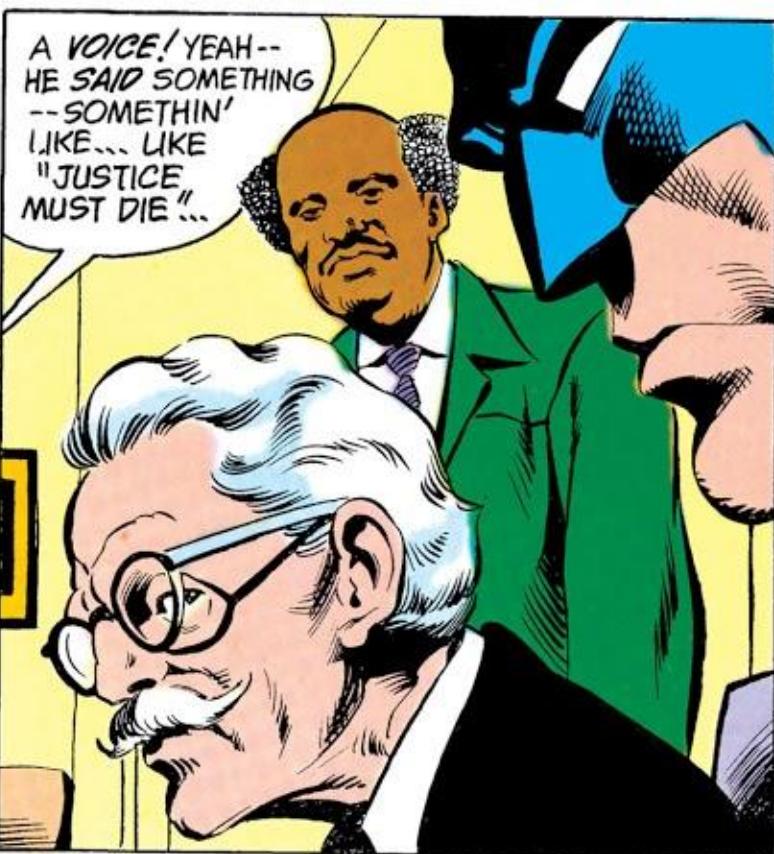
IN VIEW OF YOUR NIGHT'S PATROL,  
SIR-- FOLLOWED BY YOUR WORKOUT  
WITH MASTER JASON -- I THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT WELL BE FAMISHED,  
AND TOOK THE LIBERTY OF  
PREPARING A BREAKFAST  
TABLE RIGHT HERE IN  
THE BATCAVE.



WITH THE AWKWARD MOMENT THUS DEFTLY BROKEN, JASON REMAINS  
NEVERTHELESS REMOTE -- WHILE BRUCE WAYNE FROWNS OVER THE MORNING'S HEADLINE...







SEEMS TO BE THE OBVIOUS THEN--SOME CRIMINAL WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST COPS, SETTING UP HIS OWN PRIVATE SHOOTING GALLERY TO PICK THEM OFF ONE BY ONE--

--EXCEPT THIS BIRD PREFERS THE MORE PERSONAL TOUCH OF THE KNIFE.

I'VE GOT TWENTY PEOPLE GOING THROUGH THE MUG-BOOKS AND RECORDS, LOOKING FOR A KNIFE-FREAK RECENTLY RELEASED OR ESCAPED FROM PRISON.

--HE WAS MERELY REFERRING TO THOSE COPS WITH WHOM HE'S HAD RUN-INS.

ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT-- ALERTED MY PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR SUSPECTS ARRESTED BY THE SLAIN OFFICERS. AND IF YOU'RE INCLINED TO HELP OUT, BATMAN--

--HERE'S A LIST OF ALL THE OFFICERS WHO'VE EVER SERVED AS PARTNERS TO THE THREE VICTIMS.

SO FAR, NOTHING.

WHAT ABOUT THE POSSIBLE ANGLE OF CONNECTIONS? MAYBE THE VENDETTA REALLY IS PERSONAL, AND WHEN HE SAID "YOU'RE ALL GOING TO PAY"--

MAYBE YOU'LL CATCH SOMETHING WE MISSED IN OUR INTERVIEWS--LIKE YOU JUST DID IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM.

AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GO SEE OUR "HONORABLE" MAYOR TO BRIEF HIM ON THIS MESS...

NOT A FAVORITE PART OF MY DUTIES, ESPECIALLY THE WAY HILL'S BEEN R-RUH-RIDING ME LATELY...

SOMETHING WRONG, JIM?

HEADACHE... JUST TIRED, THAT'S ALL...

WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF--AND ADD SOME EXTRA CARE.

REMEMBER-- YOU'RE A COP TOO.

YOU JUST COVER YOUR OWN COWL, FRIEND--WHEN IT COMES TO LAW ENFORCERS, YOU'RE A BIGGER TARGET THAN ANY COP.

DRASTIC SITUATIONS MAY WELL DICTATE CHANGES OF STYLE, BUT FOR THE COWLED AVENGER OF THE NIGHT... DAY'S LONG LIGHT IS MORE THAN A TRIFLE UNCOMFORTABLE.

--THOUGHT OF ANYTHING TO ADD?

NOPE -- JUST THAT WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN, BATMAN. WE'LL CATCH THE FREAK-- AND AFTER WHAT HE DID TO JOE AND ERNIE AND LEW, I JUST HOPE I'M IN ON IT!

...AS IF THE SUN SHOULD WASH AWAY ALL THE HATE AND VENALITY EXPECTED FROM THE DARKNESS.

IT SEEMS NOT EVEN COPS ARE IMMUNE TO CYCLES OF VENGEANCE...

...PERHAPS ESPECIALLY NOT COPS.

AND SO, OPTING FOR THE SHADOWS WHENEVER POSSIBLE, HE INTERVIEWS SEVEN MORE ERSTWHILE PARTNERS OF THE DECEASED...

...LEARNING NOTHING GORDON HAS NOT ALREADY TOLD HIM-- EXCEPT, PERHAPS, THAT THE SPECTER OF THE BAT IS LESS IMPOSING BY DAYLIGHT.

FINALLY, AFTER NO SLEEP, NO FOOD, AND MUCH FRUSTRATION, NIGHT FALLS... MAKING HIM WELL AND WHOLE AND STRONG AGAIN.

AND, AS PARADOX WILL HAVE IT, THE LAST COP ON THE LIST IS THE MOST EARNESTLY CONCERNED...

--WRACKING MY BRAINS FOR SOME CLUE EVER SINCE THE PLAINCLOTHES BOYS TALKED TO ME, BUT THE ONLY THING I'VE COME UP WITH IS MAYBE ANOTHER NAME TO TRY...

JACK CRANE-- HE USED TO BE ONE OF THE GANG WITH THE REST OF US.

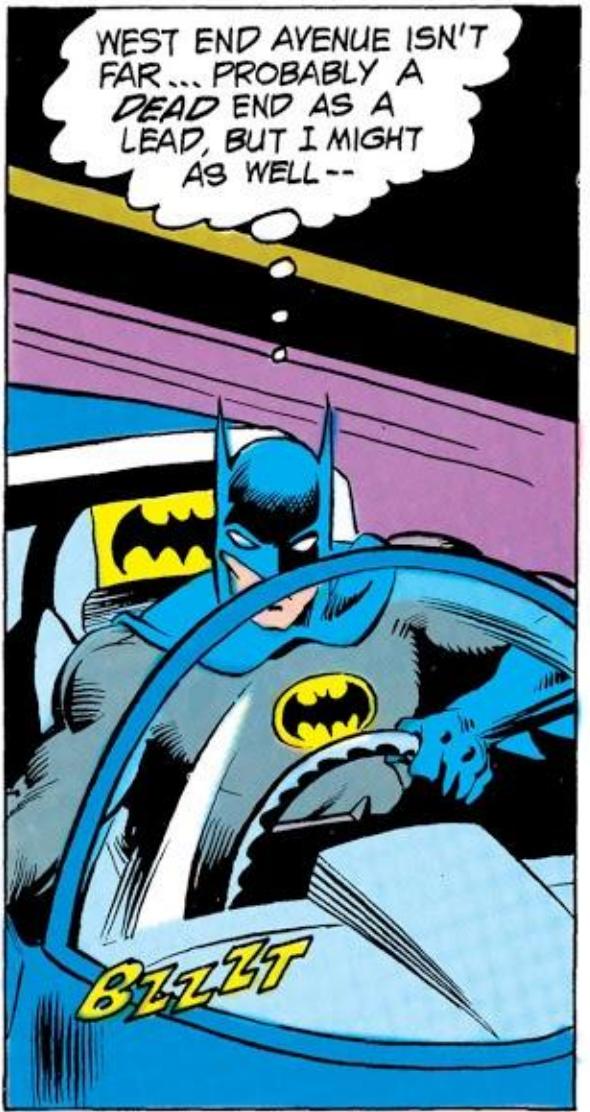
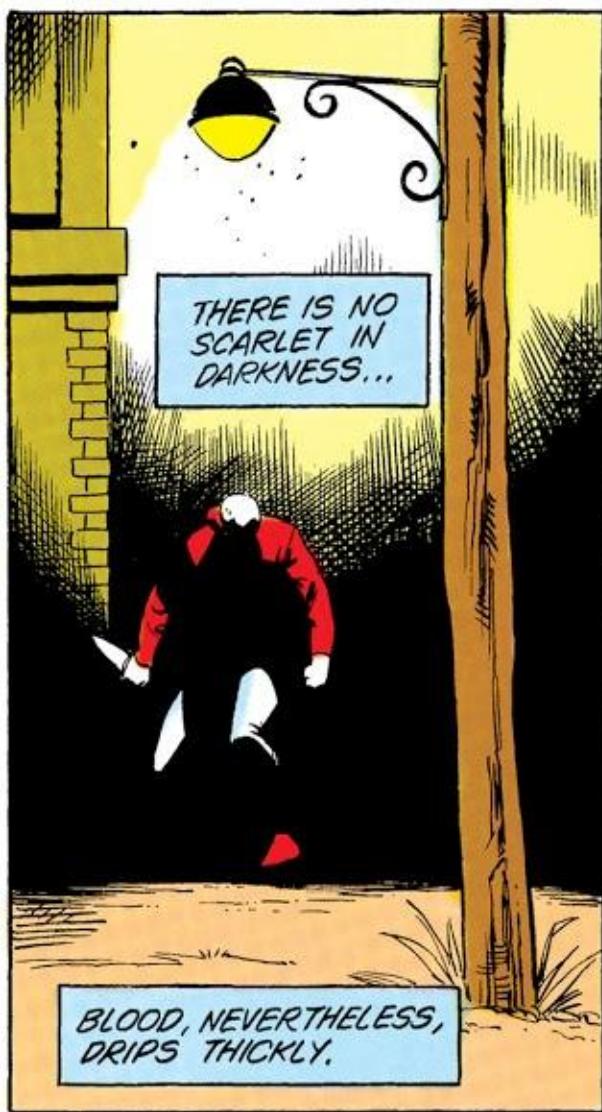
USED TO BE--?

UH... YEAH... HE'S, UH, RETIRED FROM THE FORCE NOW.

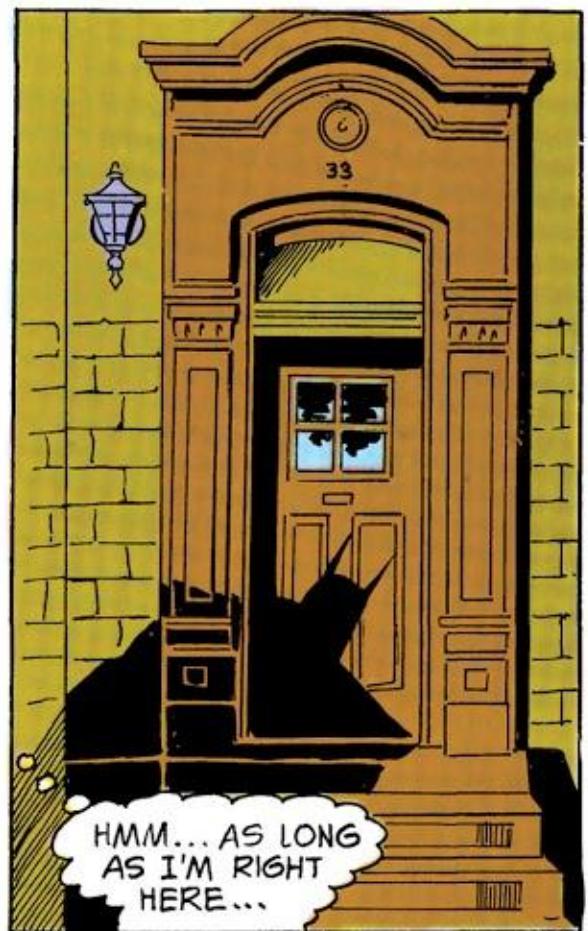
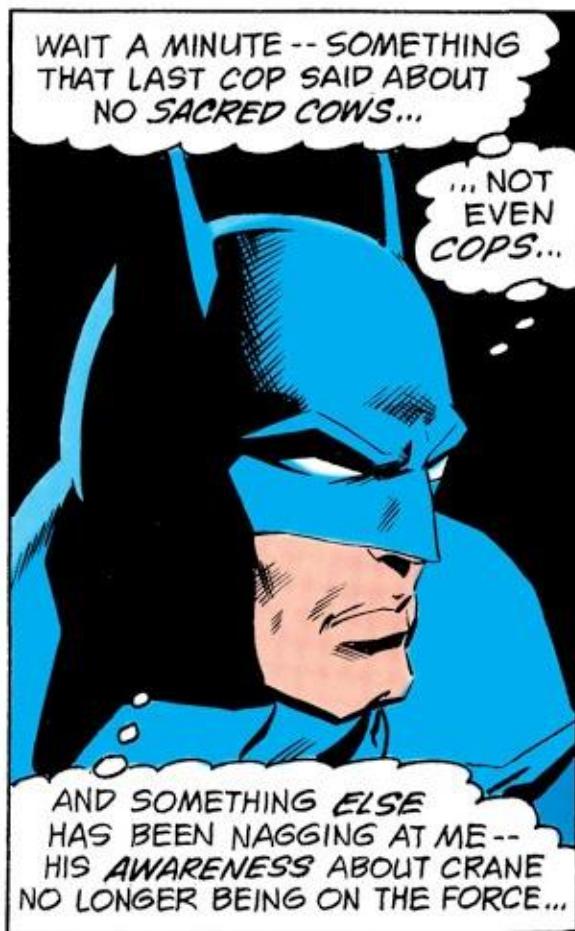
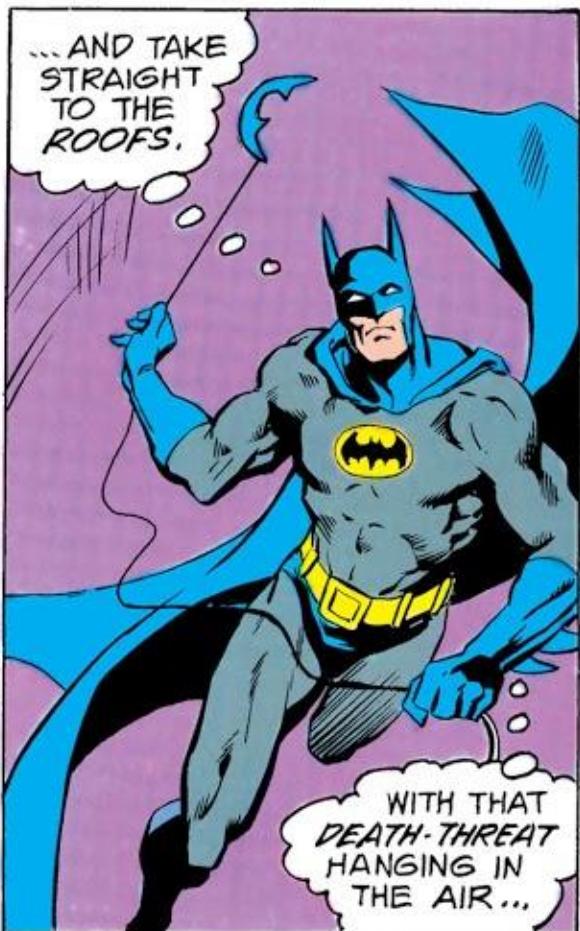
HE LIVES ON WEST END-- NUMBER 33.

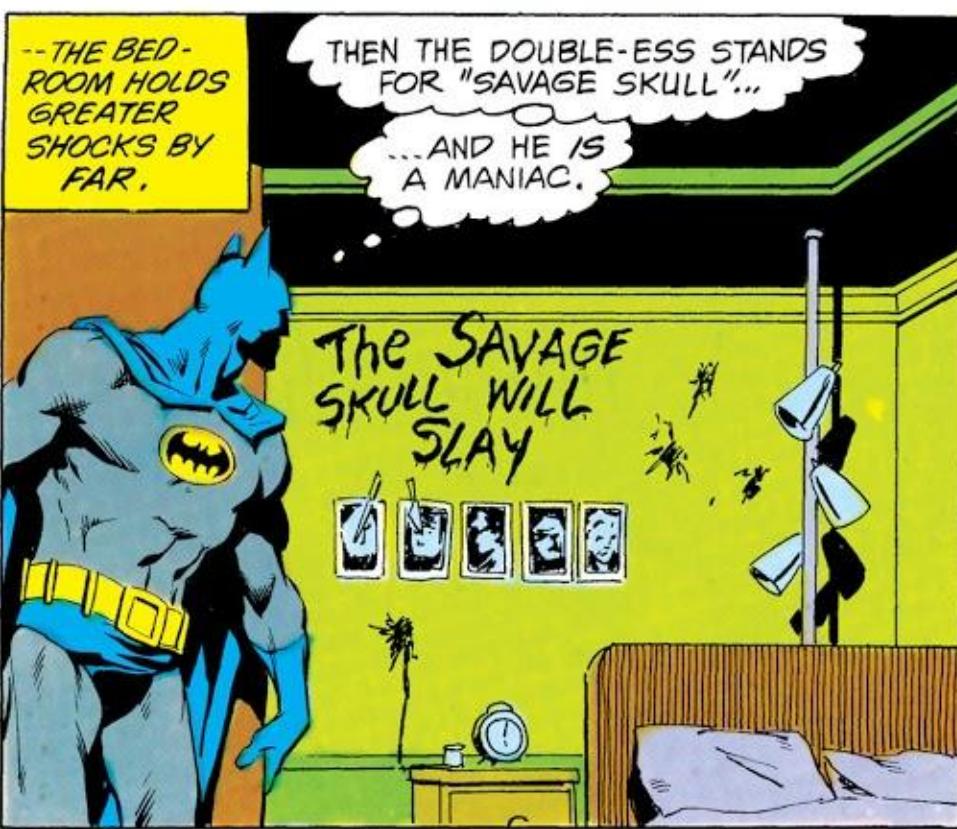


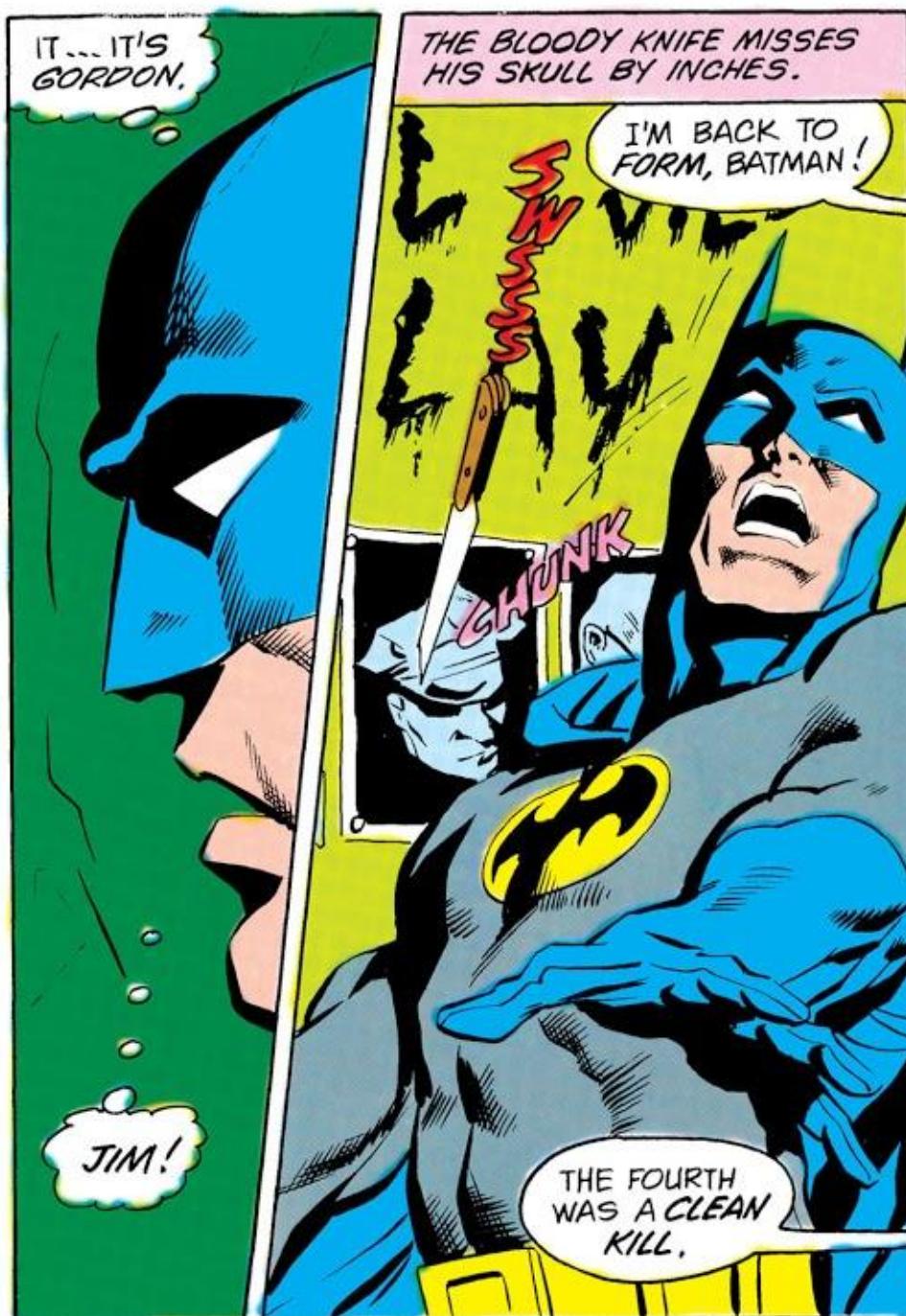




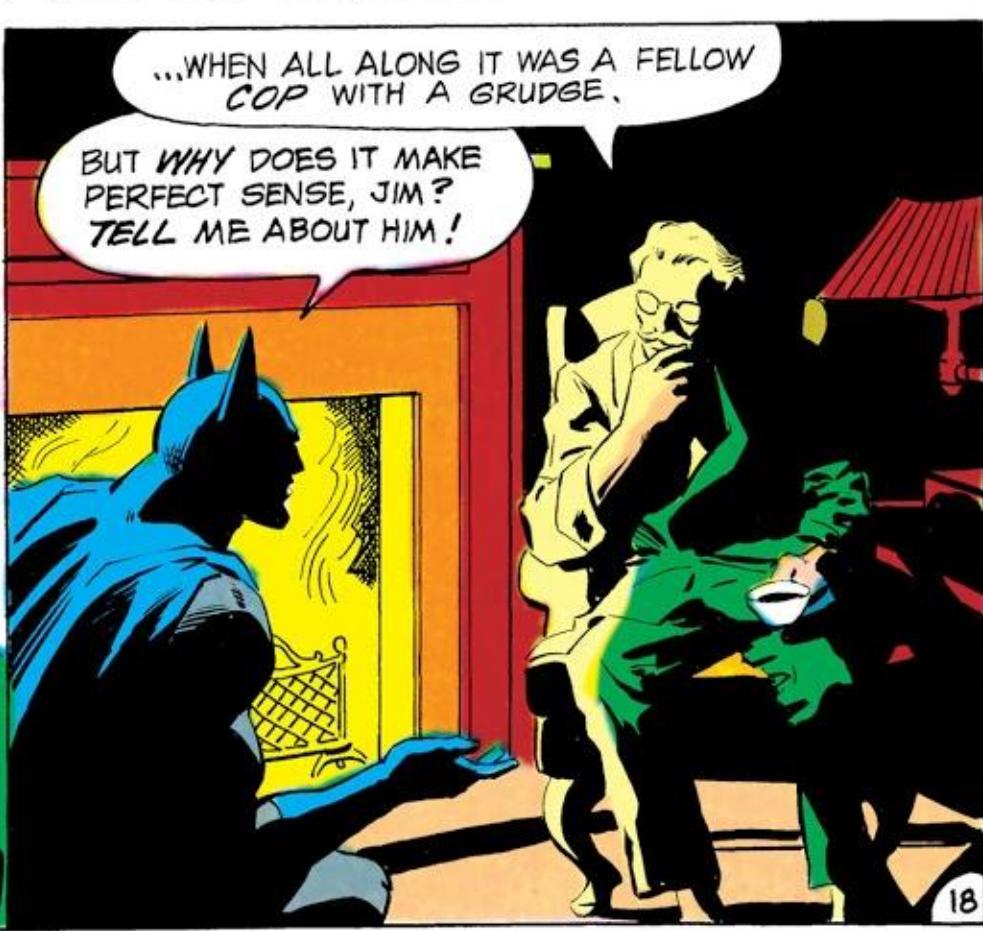
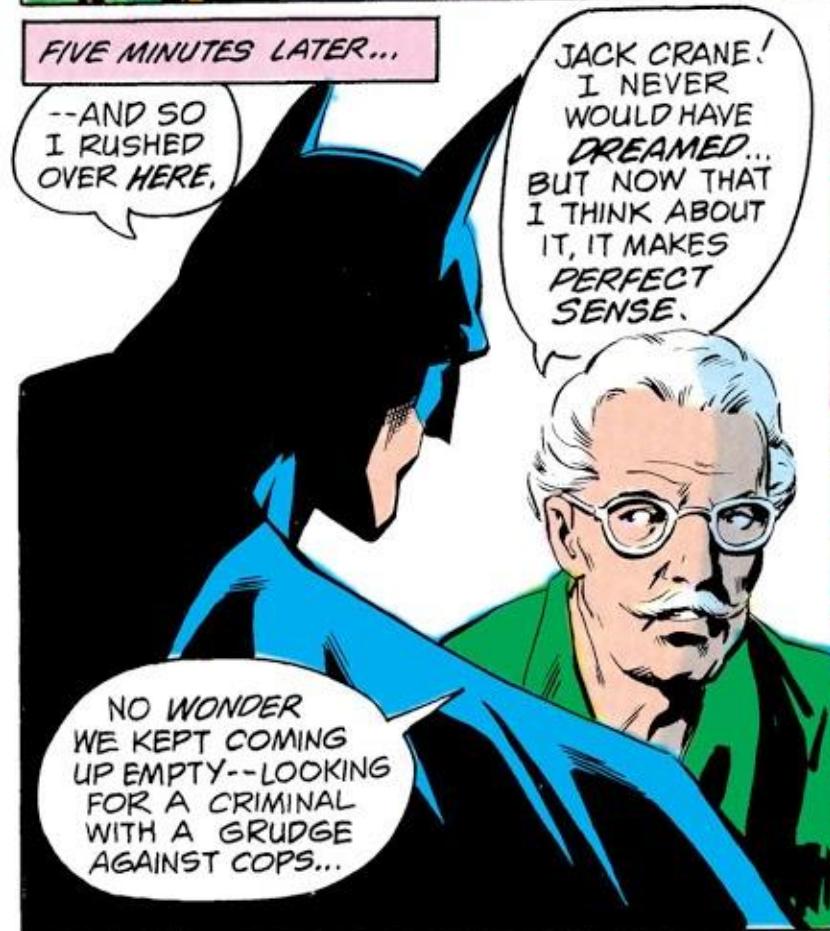
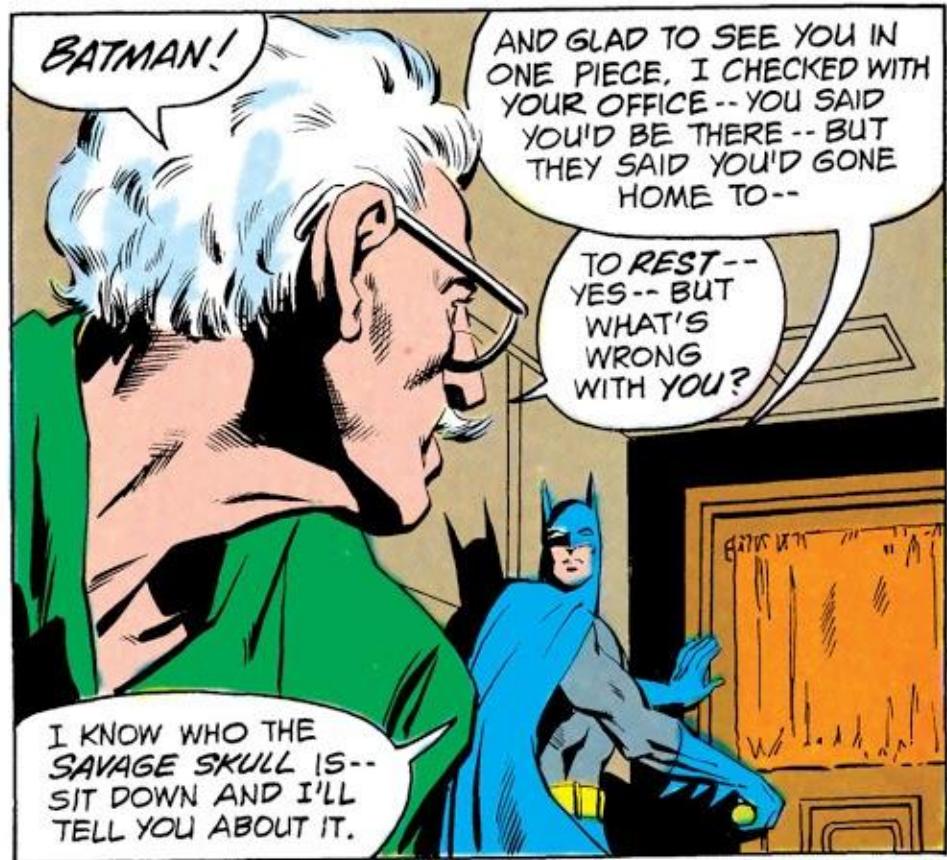












CRANE WAS NEVER A GOOD COP, BATMAN...

OH, HE WAS EAGER AND AMBITIOUS ENOUGH -- TOO MUCH SO, AND THAT'S WHY I NEVER TRUSTED HIM.

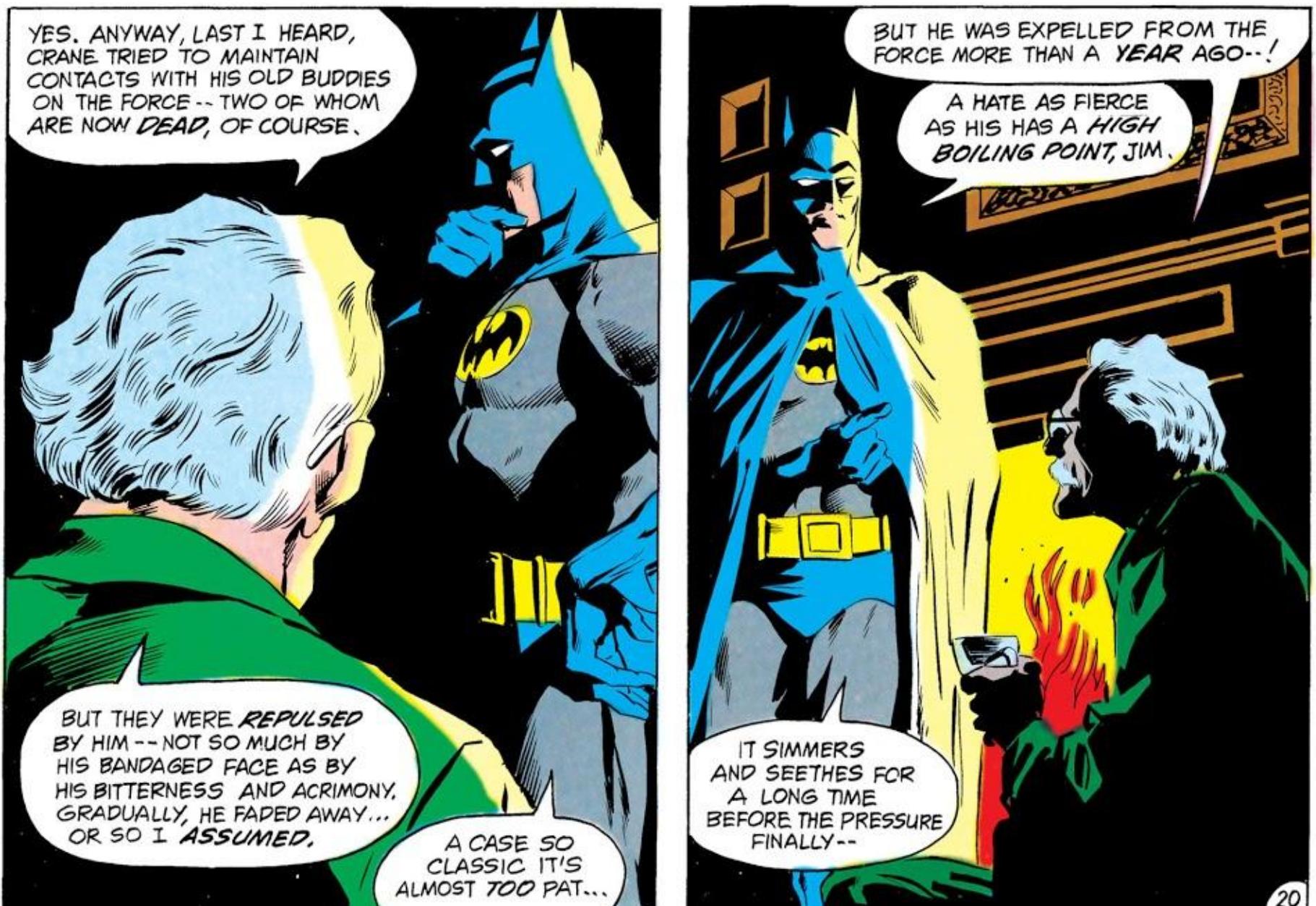
IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD A YEAR-AND-A-HALF AGO -- WHEN HE CAME UPON A BURNING TENEMENT JUST AS A TEENAGER APPEARED IN THE DOORWAY HOLDING A GASOLINE CAN... OR AT LEAST CRANE SAID IT WAS A GAS CAN...

HE DREW HIS PISTOL AND CHASED THE KID BACK INTO THE BUILDING, INTO THE FIRE...

"HE CLAIMED THE KID WAS LYING IN WAIT FOR HIM INSIDE -- JUMPED OUT AND SLUGGED HIM FROM BEHIND WITH A BOARD.

"BEFORE HE WENT OUT, HE SAID HE SHOT THE KID ON REFLEX.

"AND WHEN HE CAME TO, A PORTION OF THE BURNING CEILING FELL ON HIM. HE MADE HIS WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING-- BUT HIS FACE AND SCALP WERE LITERALLY ON FIRE..."

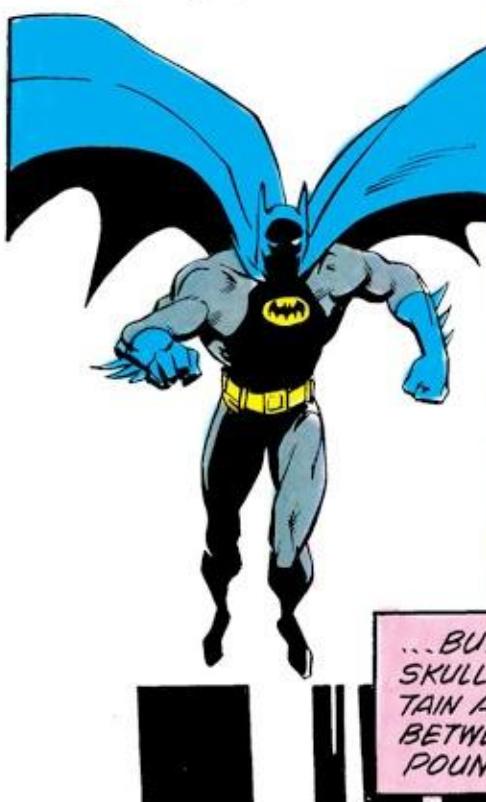




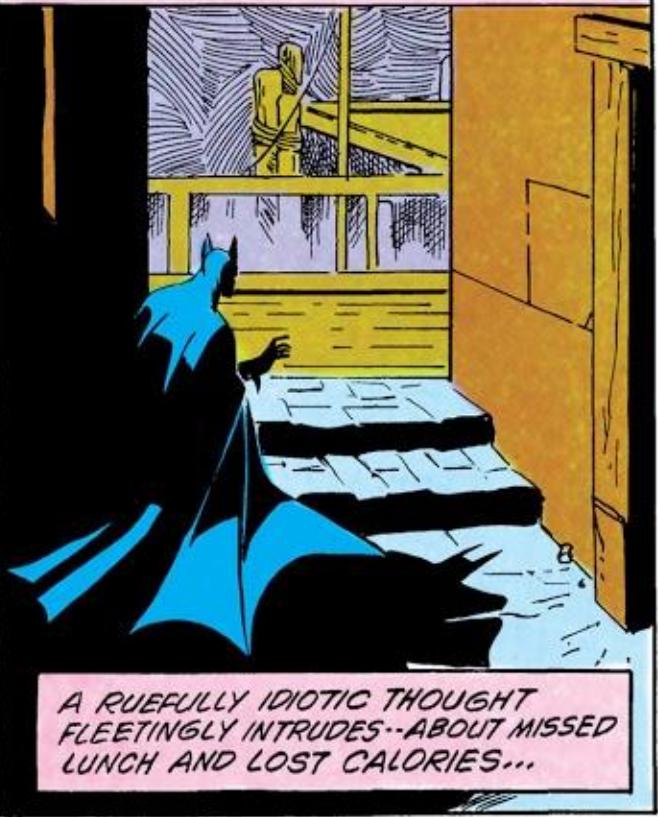
THEY RACE THROUGH  
NINE BLOCKS OF  
DESERTED  
DARKNESS...

WERE THE BATMAN NOT SUFFERING  
FROM NEAR EXHAUSTION, PERHAPS IT  
MIGHT END MORE SWIFTLY...

IT LEADS, FINALLY, TO THE GOTHAM  
RIVER QUAYS, WHERE THE DARKNIGHT  
DETECTIVE SLOWS TO A WARY PROWL...



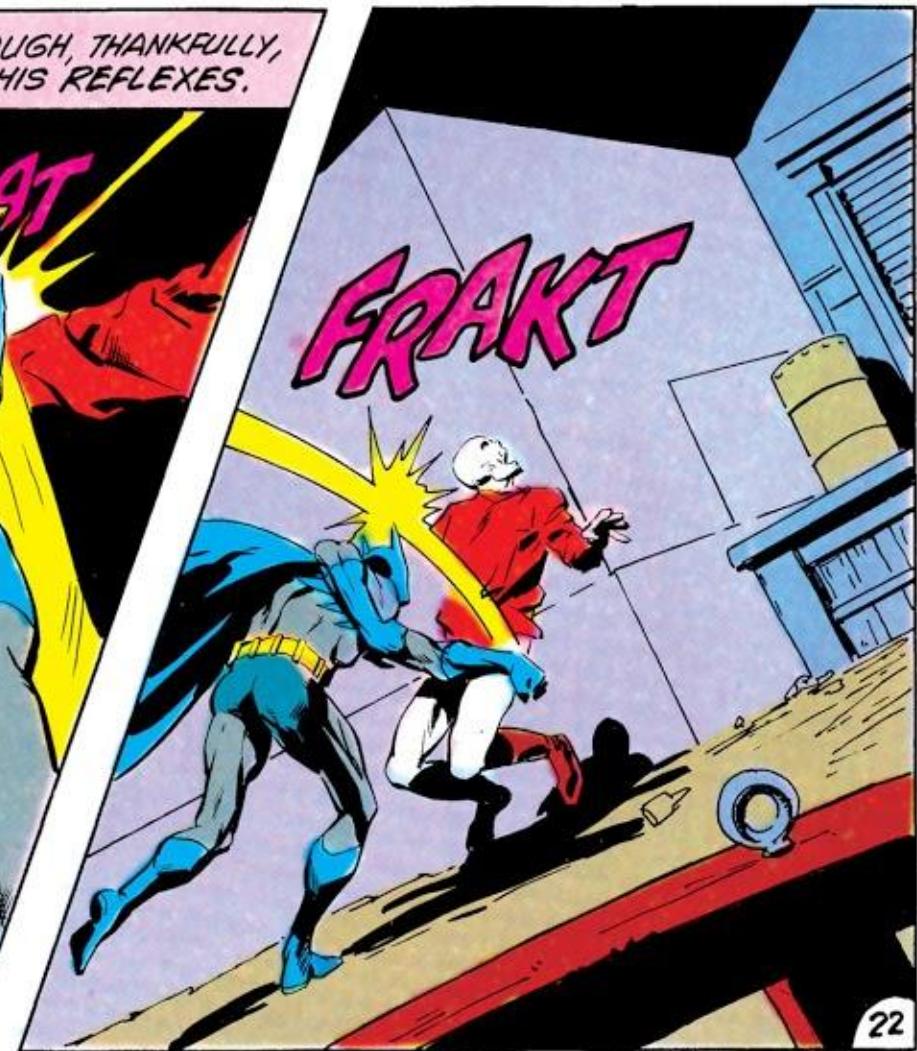
...BUT AS IT IS, THE  
SKULL IS ABLE TO MAIN-  
TAIN A CONSTANT GAP  
BETWEEN THEIR  
POUNDING BOOTS.



A RUEFULLY IDIOTIC THOUGHT  
FLEETINGLY INTRUDES--ABOUT MISSED  
LUNCH AND LOST CALORIES...



--THOUGH, THANKFULLY,  
NOT HIS REFLEXES.







**novus**  
Distributions