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BATMAN

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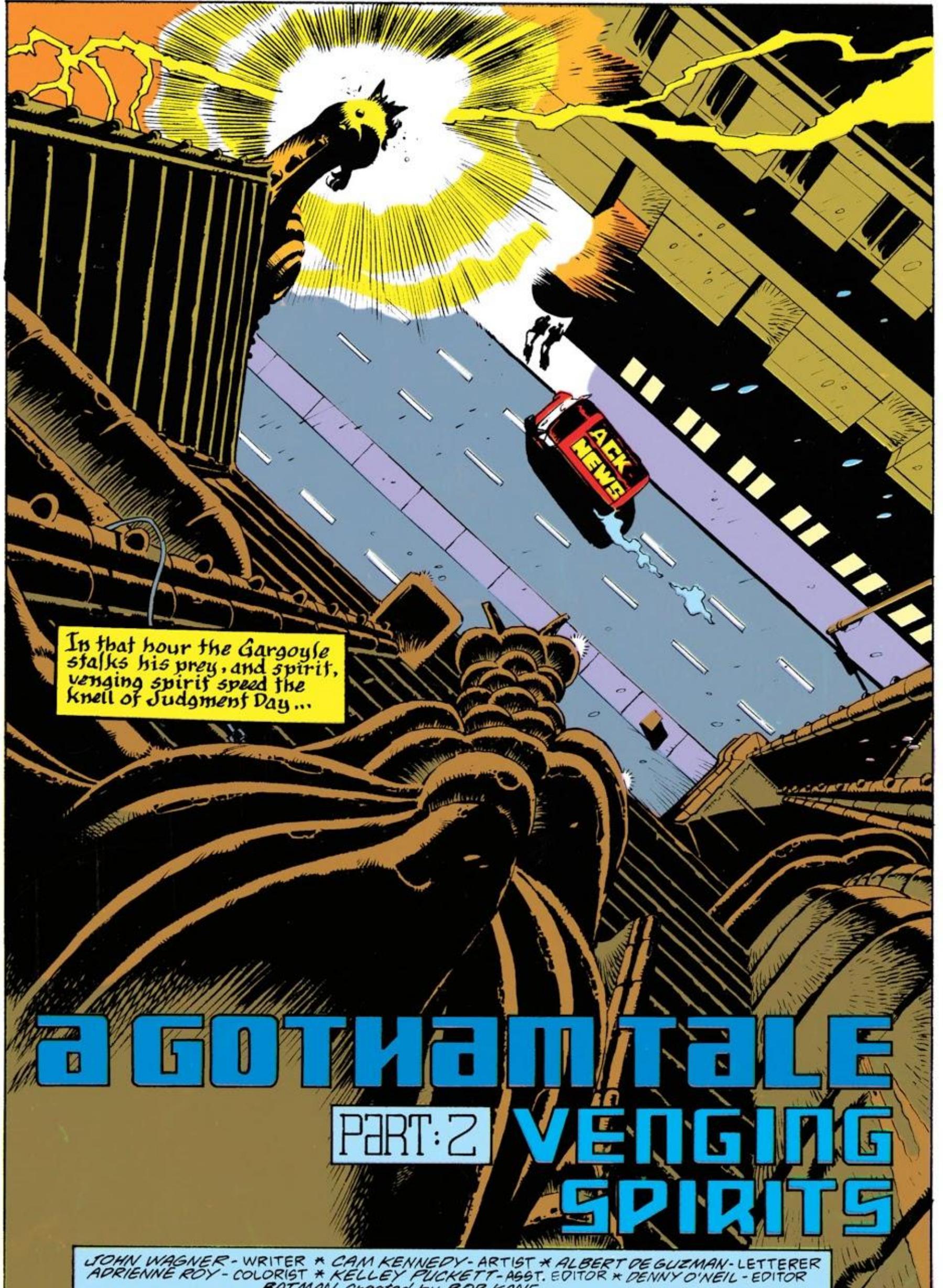
Gotham Hates

PART TWO • BY WAGNER & KENNEDY



TOM TAGGART

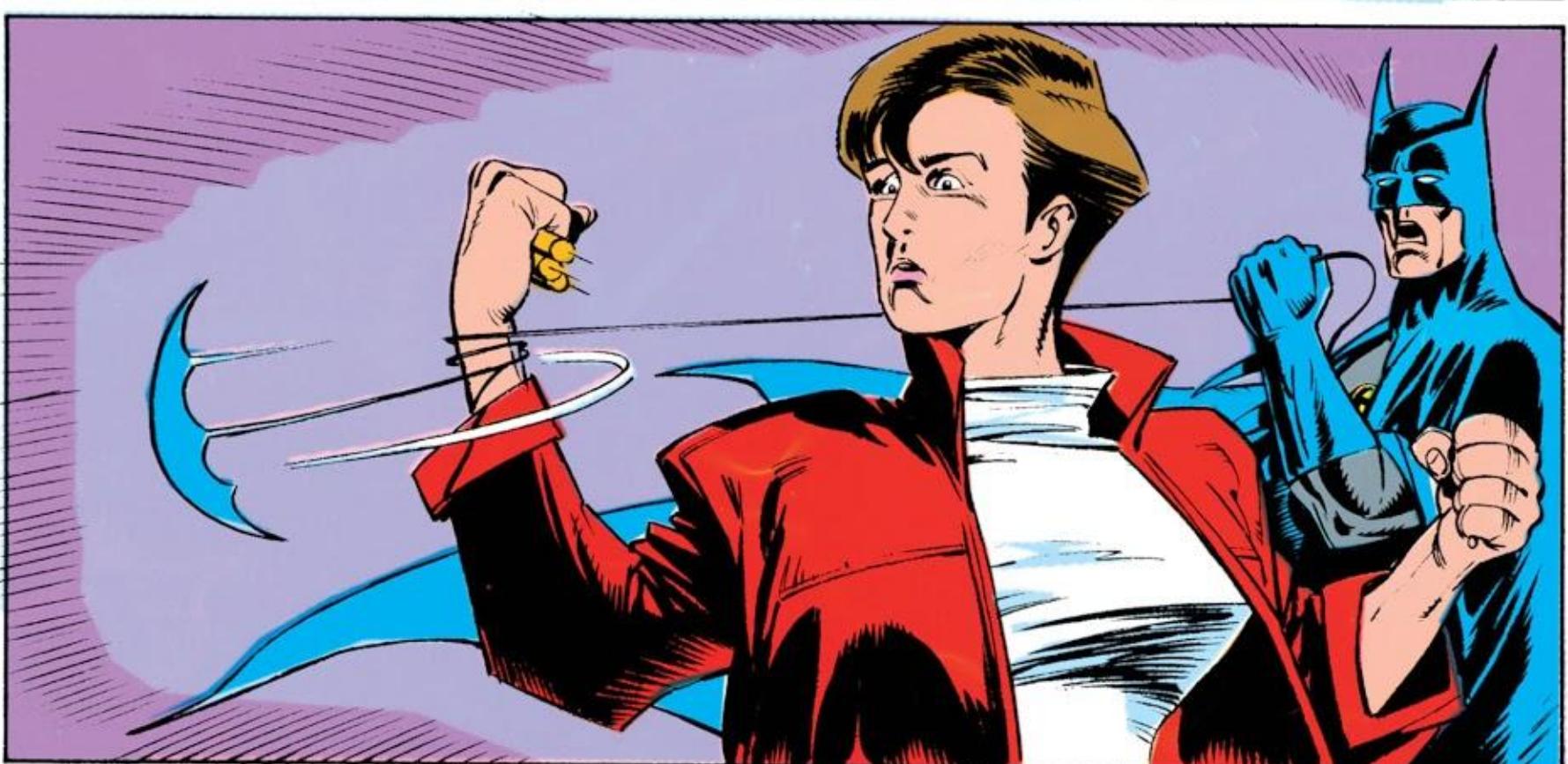


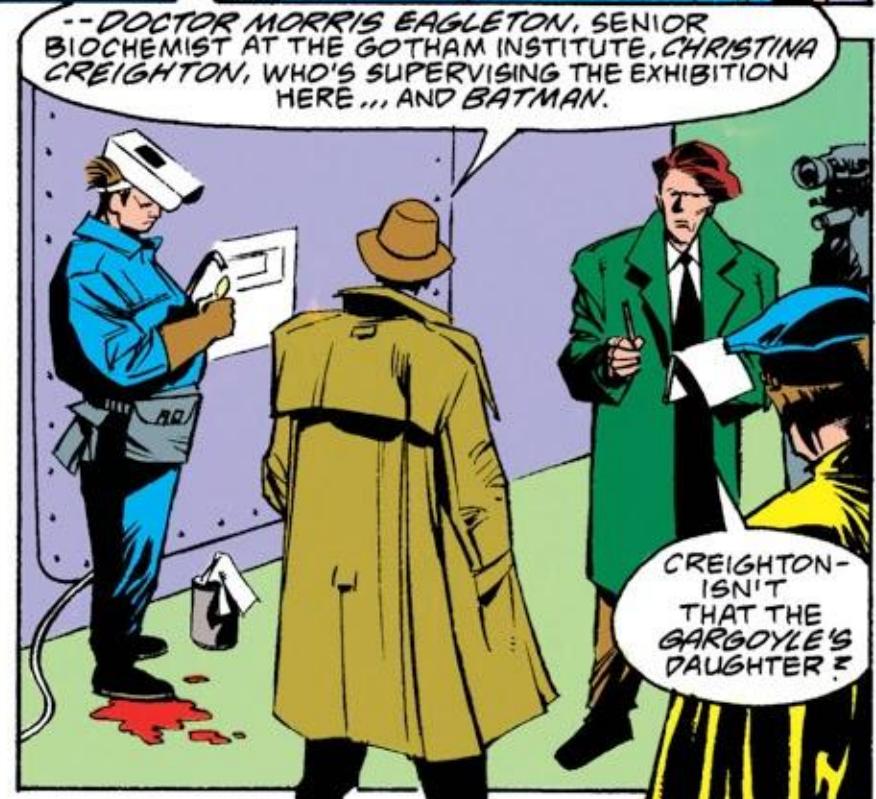
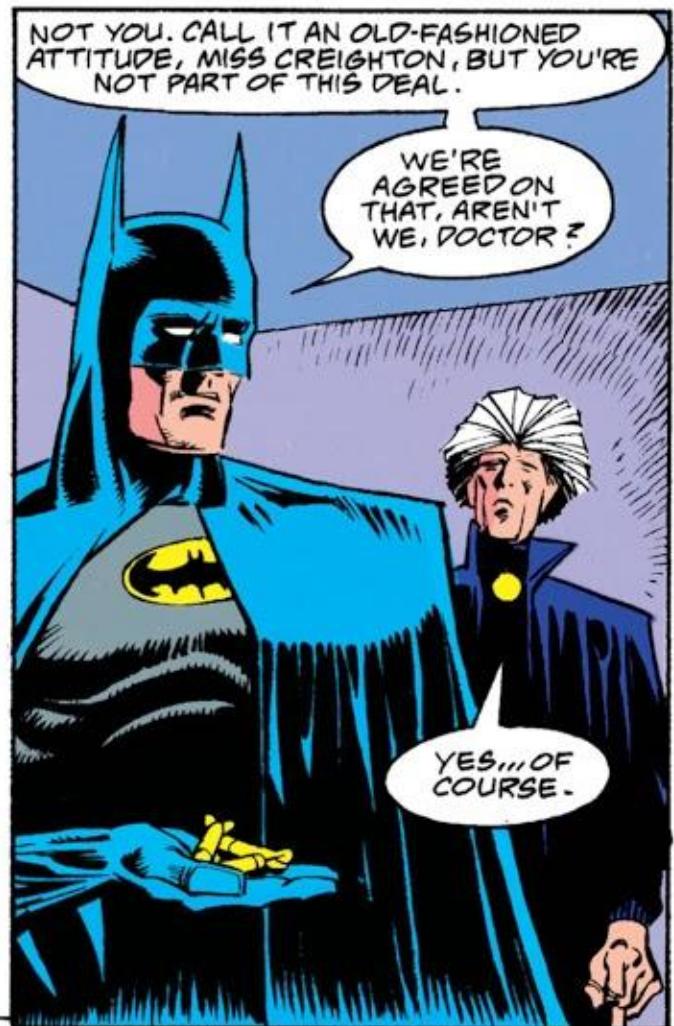


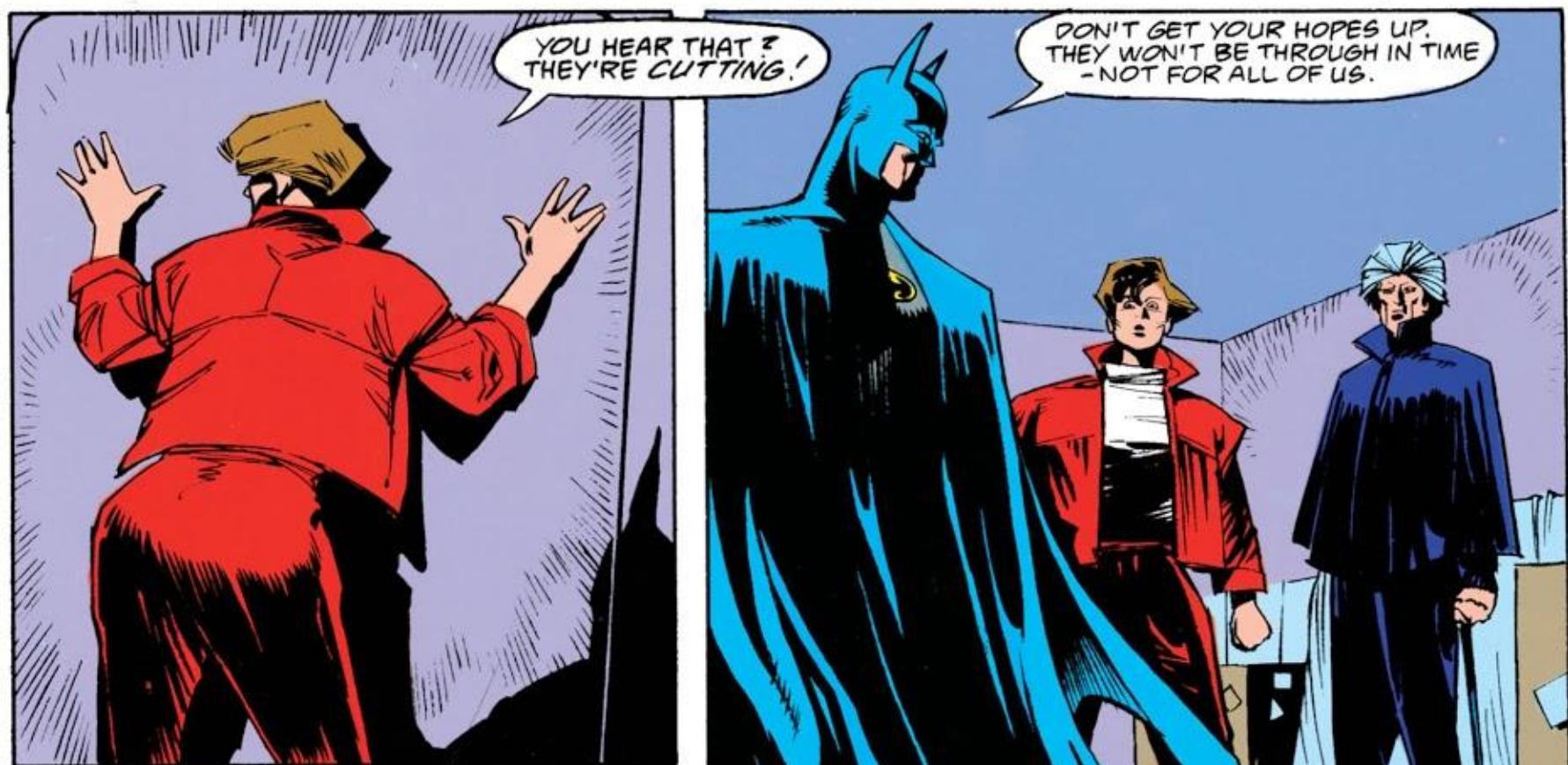
In that hour the Gargoyle stalks his prey, and spirit, vengeful spirit speed the knell of Judgment Day ...

a GOTHAM TALE PART:2 VENGING SPIRITS

JOHN WAGNER - WRITER * CAM KENNEDY - ARTIST * ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY - COLORIST * KELLEY PUCKETT - ASST. EDITOR * DENNY O'NEIL - EDITOR
BATMAN Created by BOB KANE









IN THE MATTER OF YOUR FATHER, CHRISTINA - IN CONCEALING THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM - AS FAR AS YOU ARE AWARE, I AM AS GUILTY AS YOU.

THEN THERE IS BATMAN.



HERO OF GOTHAM. DARK KNIGHT OF JUSTICE. HOW MANY LIVES HAS HE SAVED? HOW MANY EVILDOERS HAS HE PLACED BEHIND BARS?

AND HE'S YOUNG, STRONG, SO MANY GOOD YEARS AHEAD - FIGHTING CRIME, DEFENDING THE WEAK AND THE INNOCENT...

NEVER MIND. LET ME RELIEVE YOU OF IT. I HAD NO INTENTION OF KEEPING THIS FOOLISH BARGAIN IN ANY CASE.

OH, IF BATMAN HAD BEEN THE ONE CHOSEN FOR CHRISTINA, IT WOULD HAVE SUITED ME WELL ENOUGH - FOR, CHRISTINA, I COULD NOT HAVE LET YOU DIE EITHER... UNLESS IT WAS BY MY OWN HAND.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T LIKE THE TURN OF THIS CONVERSATION, EAGLETON.



AIR'S RUNNING OUT - GET ON WITH IT.



DON'T WORRY ABOUT AIR. BEFORE LONG, I'M AFRAID, NEITHER OF YOU WILL NEED TO BREATHE.

DEAR, DEAR CHRISTINA... YOU'VE CONVINCED YOURSELF THE REASON DAVID HID YOU AWAY IN ENGLAND WAS TO PROTECT YOU FROM HIMSELF. BUT YOU'RE WRONG. QUITE, QUITE WRONG.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ? I HEARD MY FATHER CONFESS !

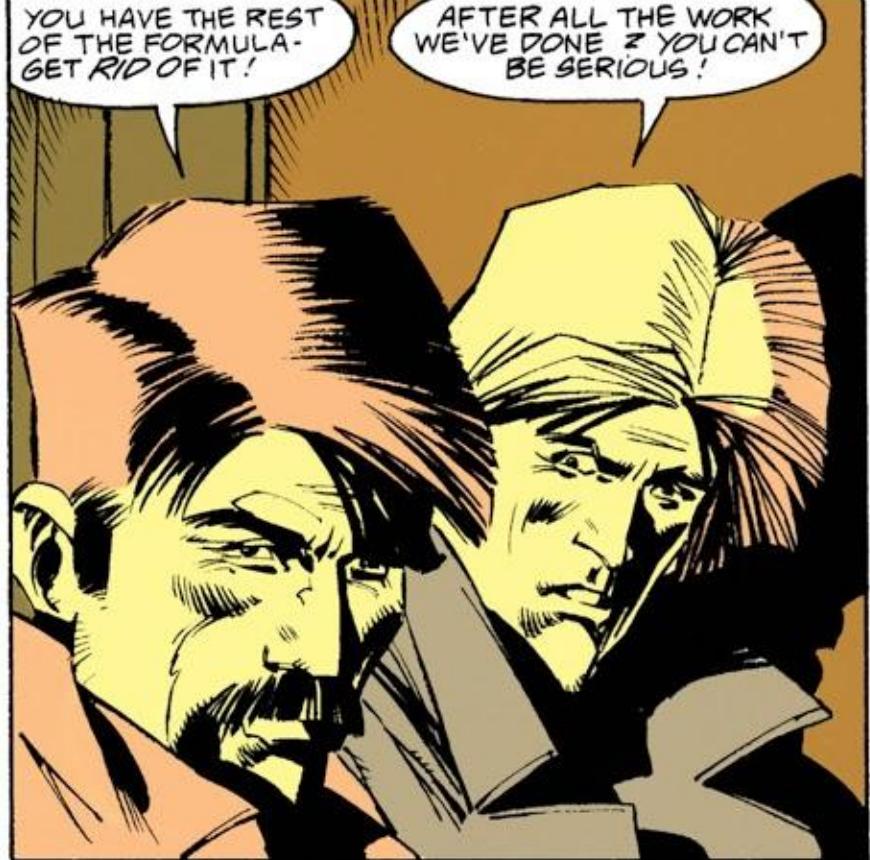
YOU SEE,
I AM THE
GARGOYLE.

OH, YES, IT'S TRUE - HE WAS THE GARGOYLE THAT FIRST NIGHT. HE DID PURSUE YOU WITH MURDEROUS INTENT. BUT NEVER AGAIN...

I WOULD HAVE KILLED HER, MORRIS! JUST BECAUSE WE USED HER BLOOD IN THE FORMULA... I WOULD HAVE KILLED HER.

YOU HAVE THE REST OF THE FORMULA - GET RID OF IT!

AFTER ALL THE WORK WE'VE DONE Z YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS !



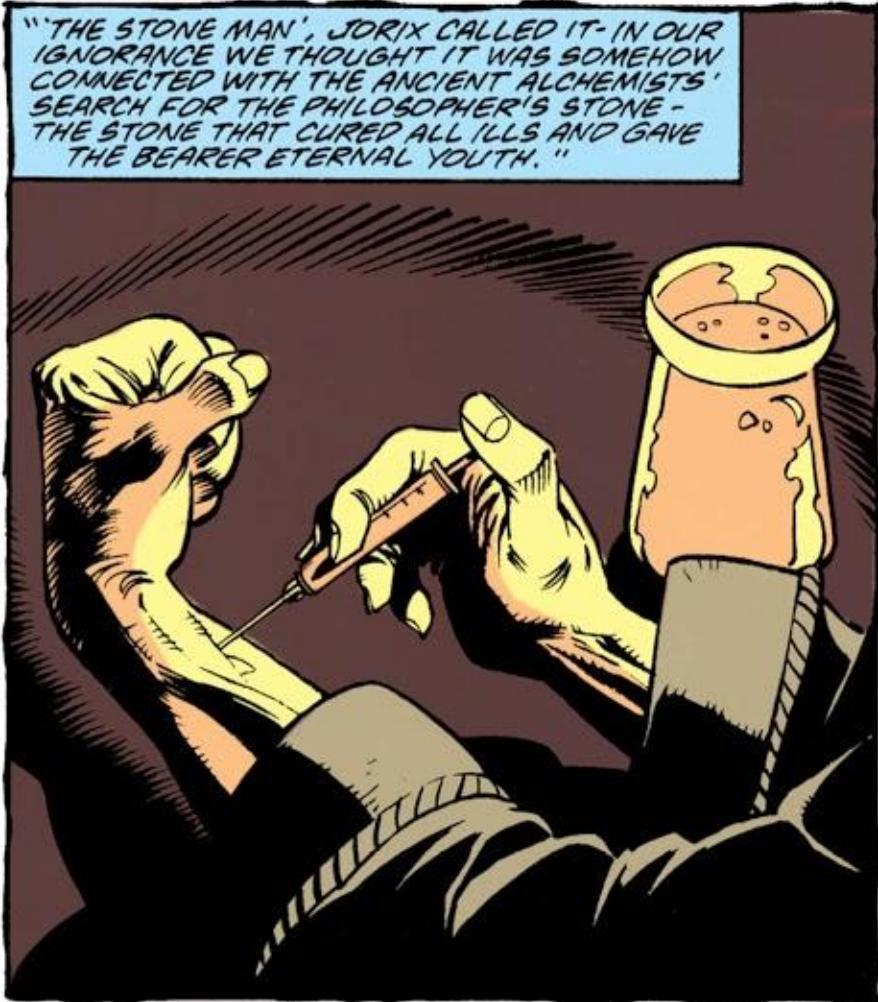
IT'S NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT WE WERE CREATING ! IT'S EVIL, MORRIS ! DESTROY IT, D'YOU HEAR ?

"BUT I COULDN'T JUST THROW AWAY THE KNOWLEDGE WE'D GAINED - THE SECRET WE'D UNCOVERED. NOT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO EXPERIENCE IT..."



"BESIDES, IT WAS MINE AS MUCH AS DAVID'S. HE'D DISCOVERED THE ALCHEMIST'S MANUSCRIPT, BUT HE COULD NEVER HAVE HANDLED THE CHEMISTRY. I HAD A RIGHT TO KNOW!"

"THE STONE MAN', JORIX CALLED IT-IN OUR IGNORANCE WE THOUGHT IT WAS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH THE ANCIENT ALCHEMISTS' SEARCH FOR THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE - THE STONE THAT CURED ALL ILLS AND GAVE THE BEARER ETERNAL YOUTH."

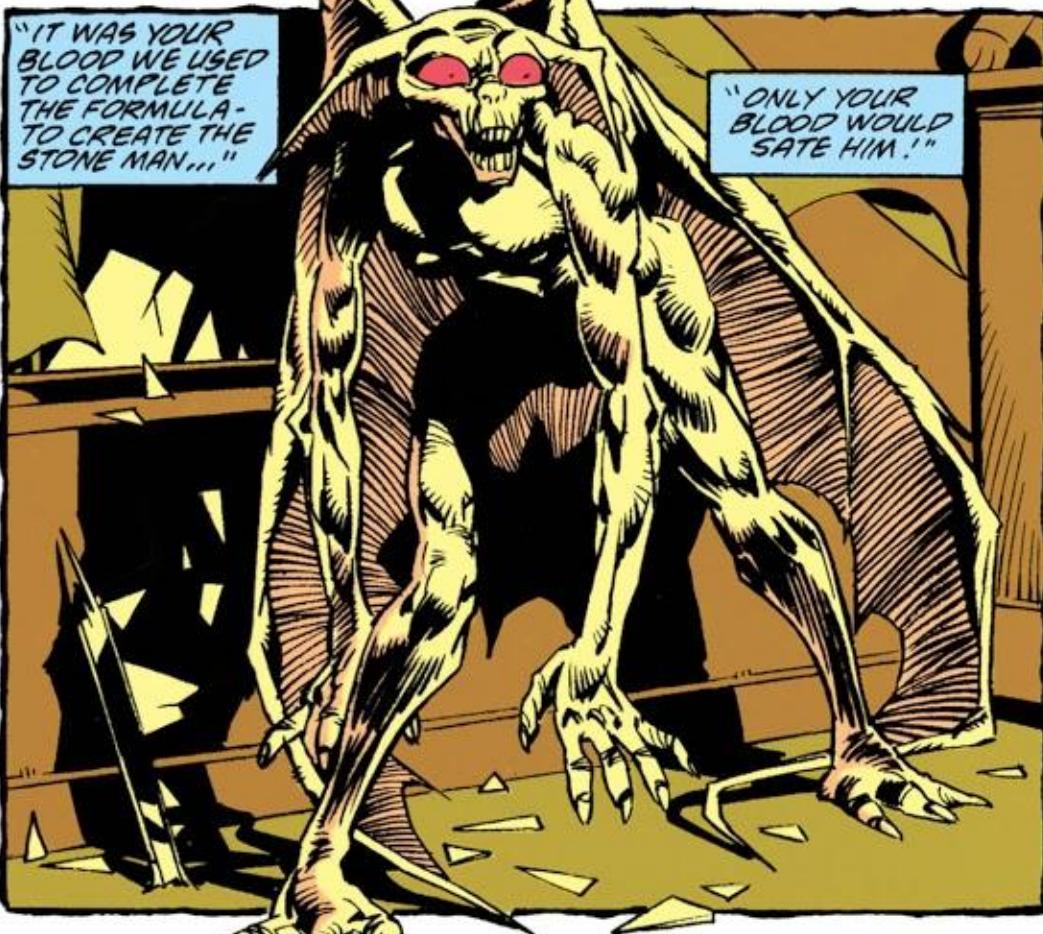
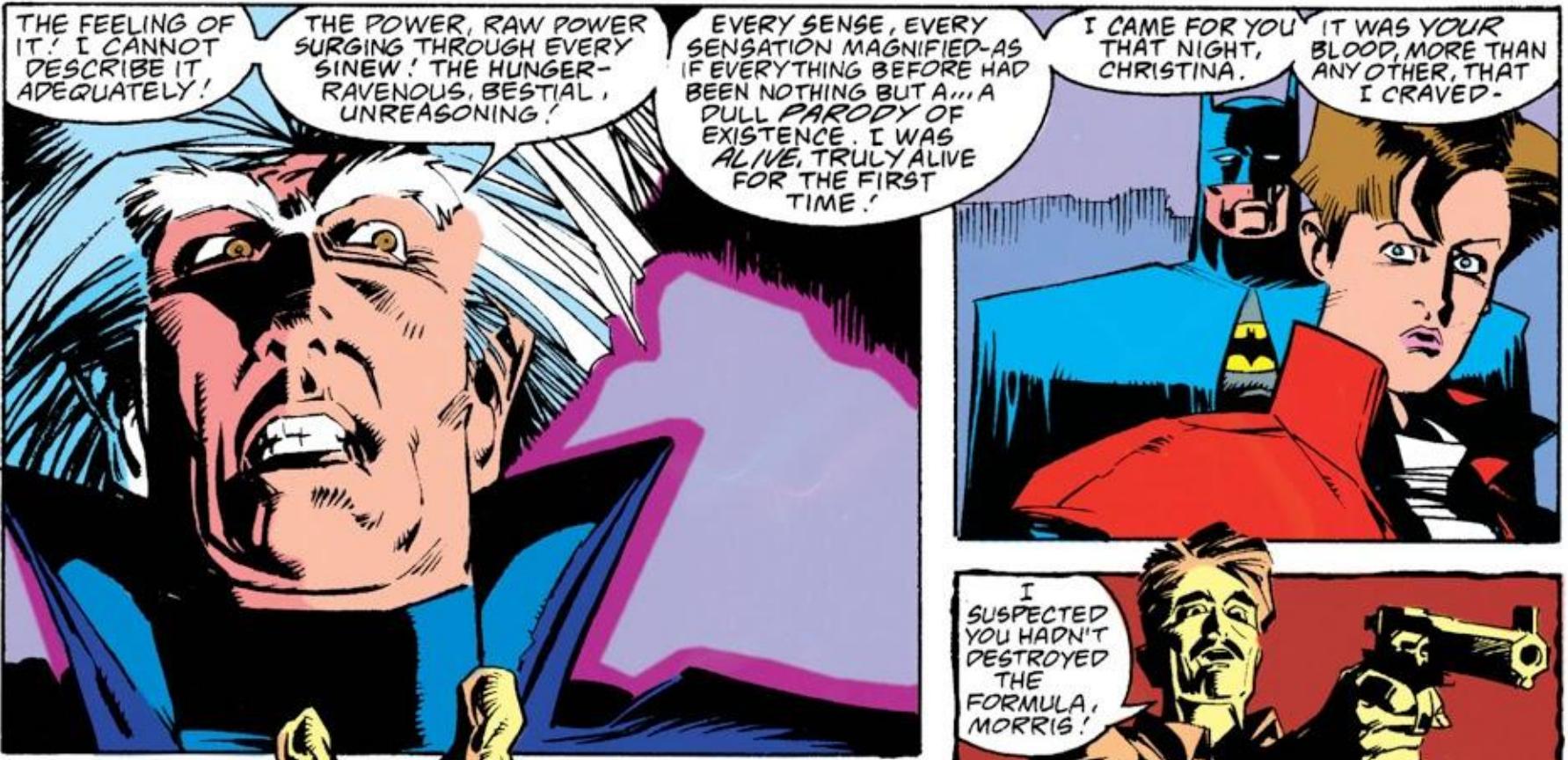


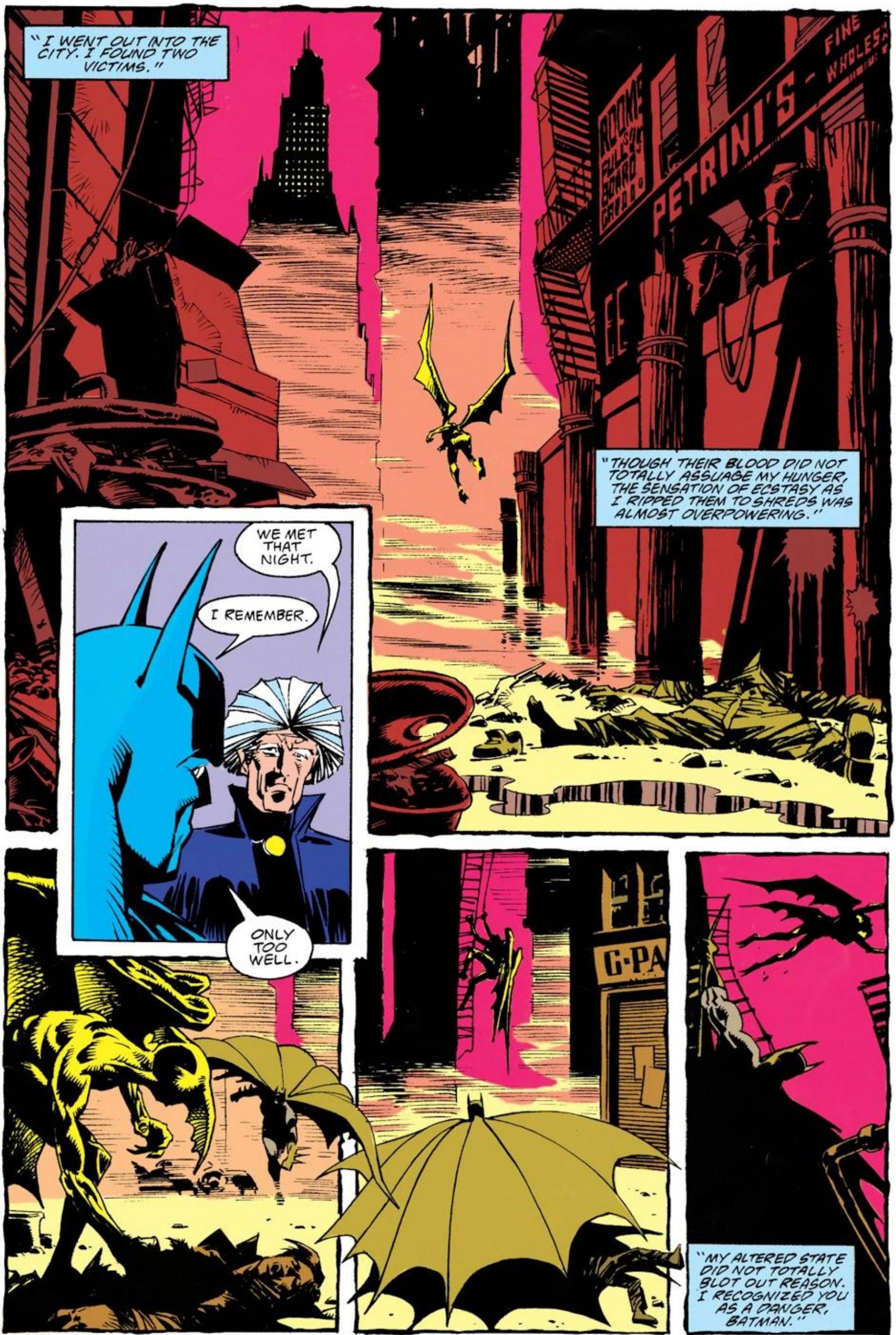
"WHAT WE CREATED WAS SOMETHING DIFFERENT..."

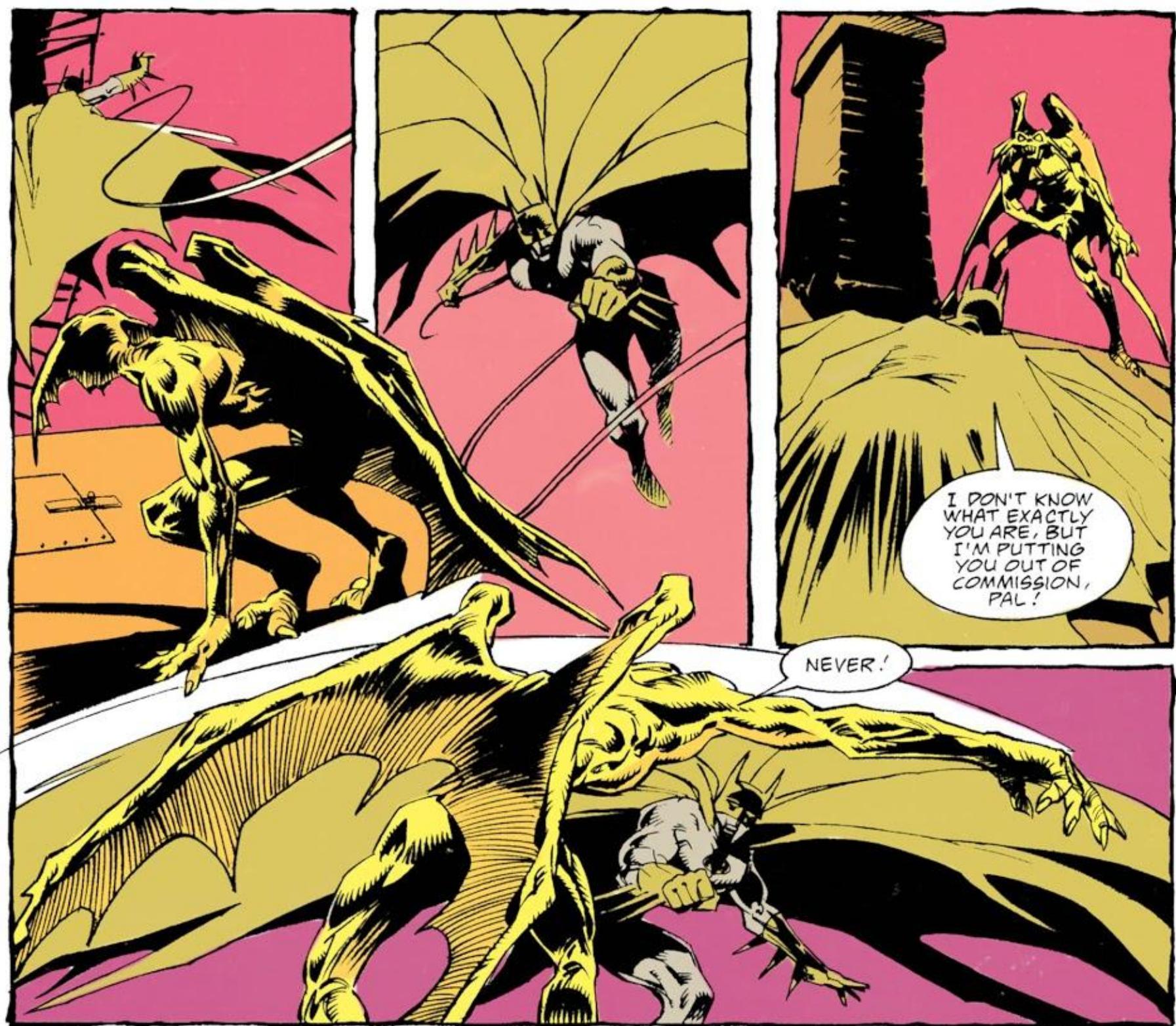


"MUCH, MUCH DIFFERENT."

"BUT IN ITS OWN WAY, NO LESS MARVELOUS!"









THESE ARE DETAILS
ONLY THE GARGOYLE
COULD KNOW...

AH, YOU'RE
BEGINNING TO
BELIEVE ME
NOW.

THE NEXT DAY DAVID BEGGED ME TO
DESTROY THE FORMULA. BUT THE
GARGOYLE—AS THE PRESS CAME TO
CALL IT—ALREADY HAD TOO STRONG
A GRIP ON ME.

I FELT SOME...REGRET FOR THE VICTIMS,
OF COURSE—BUT IT WAS NOTHING TO THE
URGE, THE CRAVING, TO LET HIM TAKE
POSSESSION OF ME AGAIN, TO FEEL THOSE
DARK DESIRES PULSING IN ME...

DAVID THREATENED TO GO TO THE
AUTHORITIES AND I LAUGHED AT
HIM. MILD-MANNERED ACADEMIC
TURNS INTO A RAVING MONSTER?
WHO WOULD BELIEVE HIM?

A FEW DAYS LATER HE
SENT YOU AWAY, OUT OF
MY REACH.

AND ALL THROUGH THE YEARS
HE KEPT QUIET? CUT ME OUT OF
HIS LIFE AND LET YOU GO ON
KILLING? I—I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHY DIDN'T HE JUST TELL
SOMEONE?

BLAME THE GARGOYLE. IT
GOT ITS CLAWS INTO HIM TOO.
HATE IT THOUGH HE MIGHT, HE
COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO
COMMIT THAT FINAL ACT—
TO DESTROY WHAT HE
HAD CREATED.

BESIDES,
THERE WEREN'T
SO VERY MANY
KILLINGS.

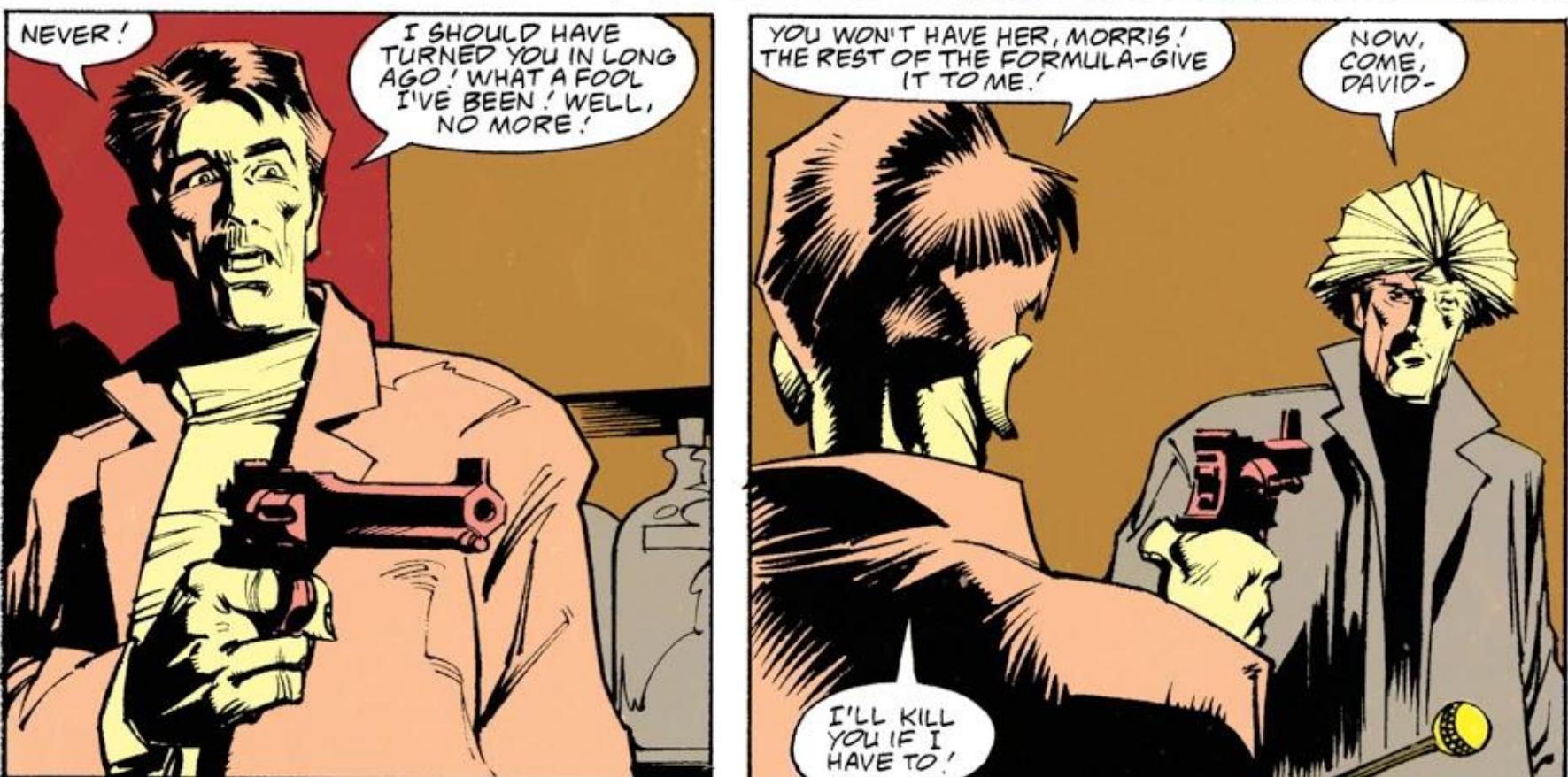
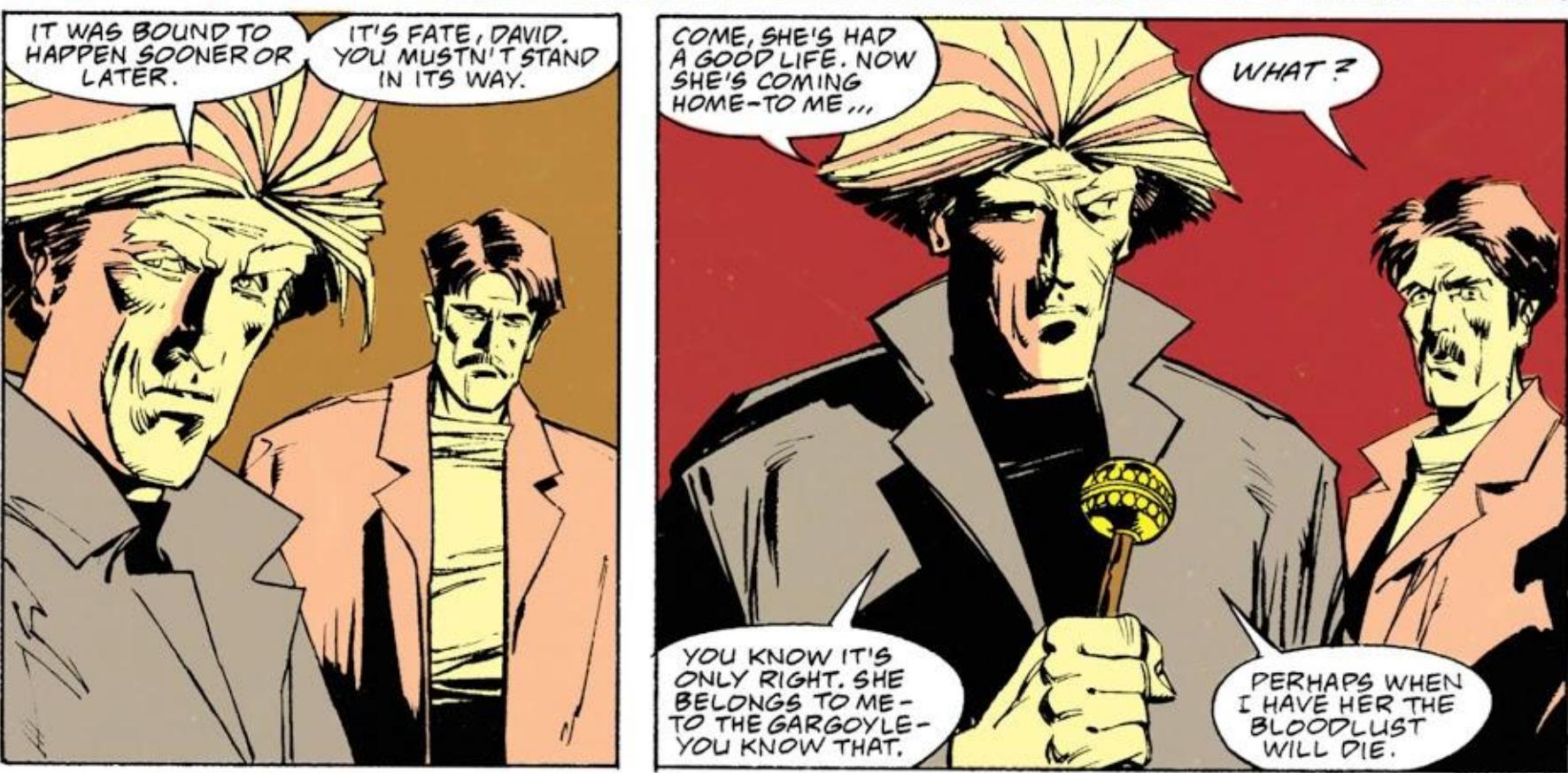
SIXTEEN
VICTIMS ISN'T
MANY?

YOU MAY SCOFF, BUT
THERE COULD HAVE BEEN
MORE, MANY MORE. BUT
AFTER OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER,
I KNEW I MUST BE MORE
CAREFUL. I TRIED TO
RATION MYSELF.

BESIDES, FAR
FROM ETERNAL
YOUTH, I COULD
SEE THAT USE OF
THE FORMULA WAS
AGING ME...

I SUPPOSE
EVERYTHING HAS
A PRICE...

THE
INFREQUENCY
PUZZLED ME.
THAT'S WHAT
MADE YOU SO
HARD TO FIND.



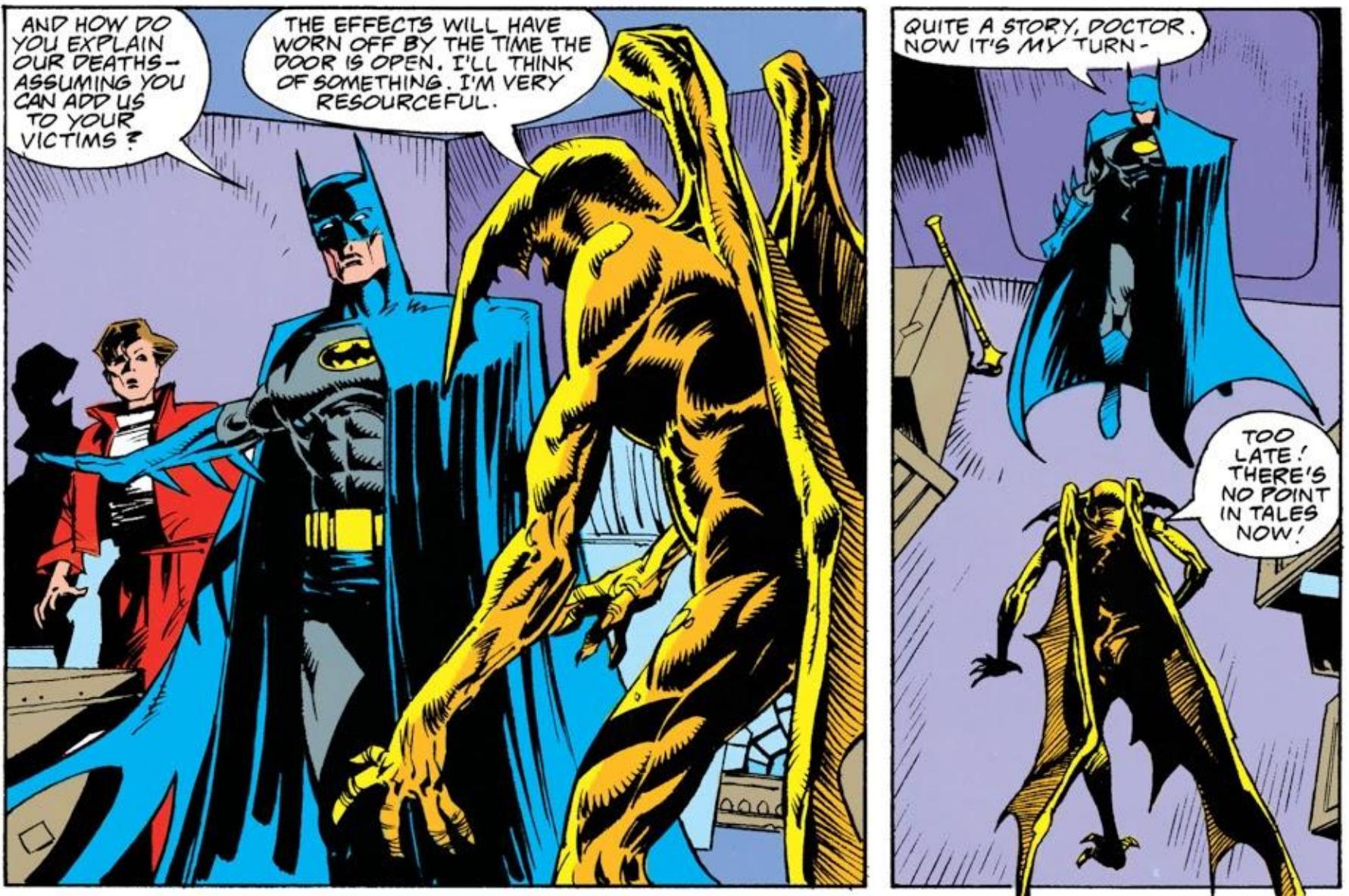


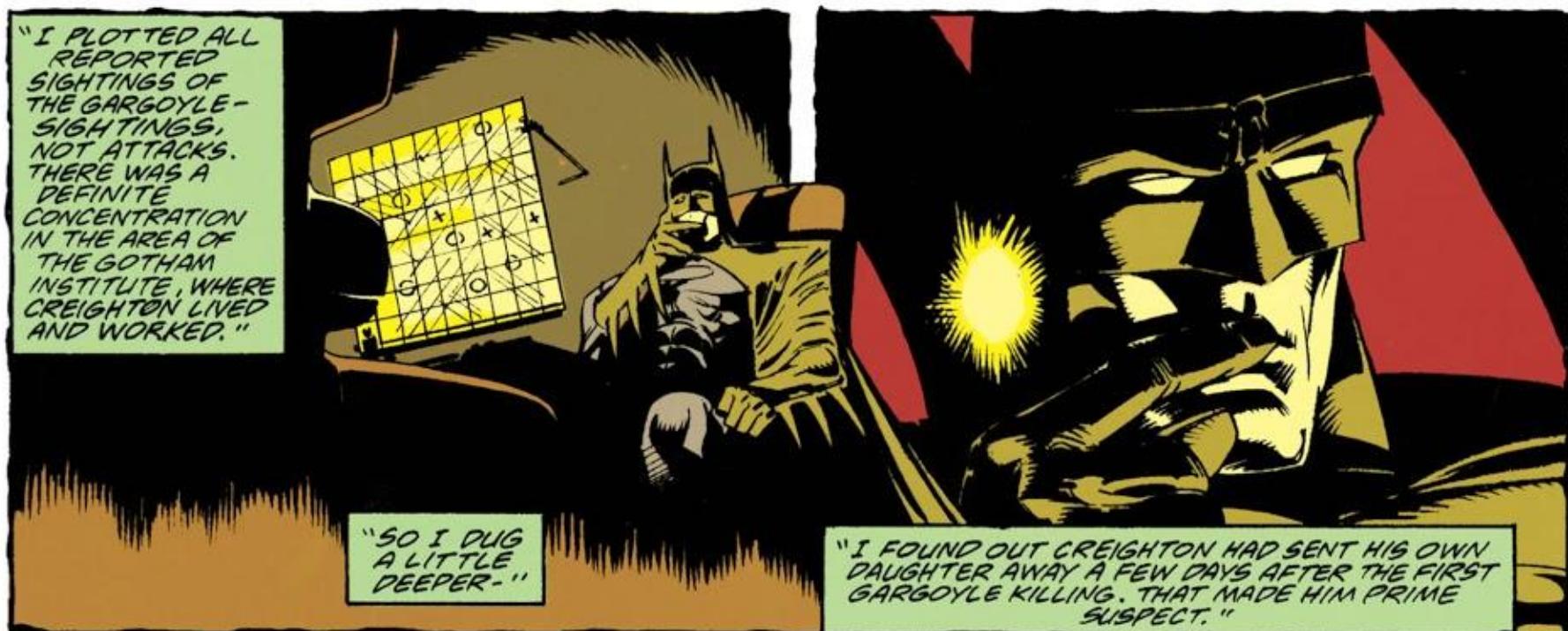


"BUT THAT WORKED TO MY ADVANTAGE. THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT DAVID CREIGHTON WAS THE GARGOYLE."

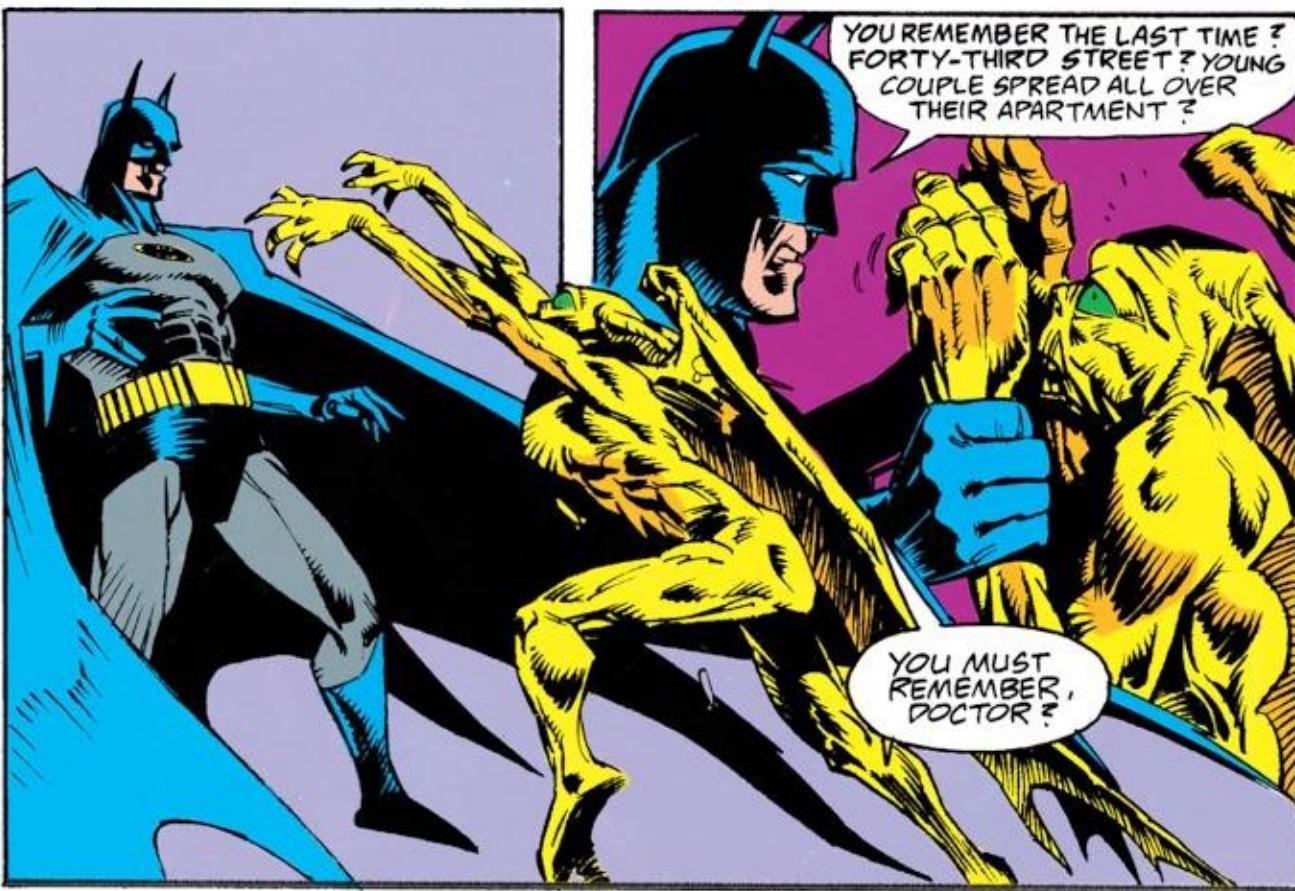


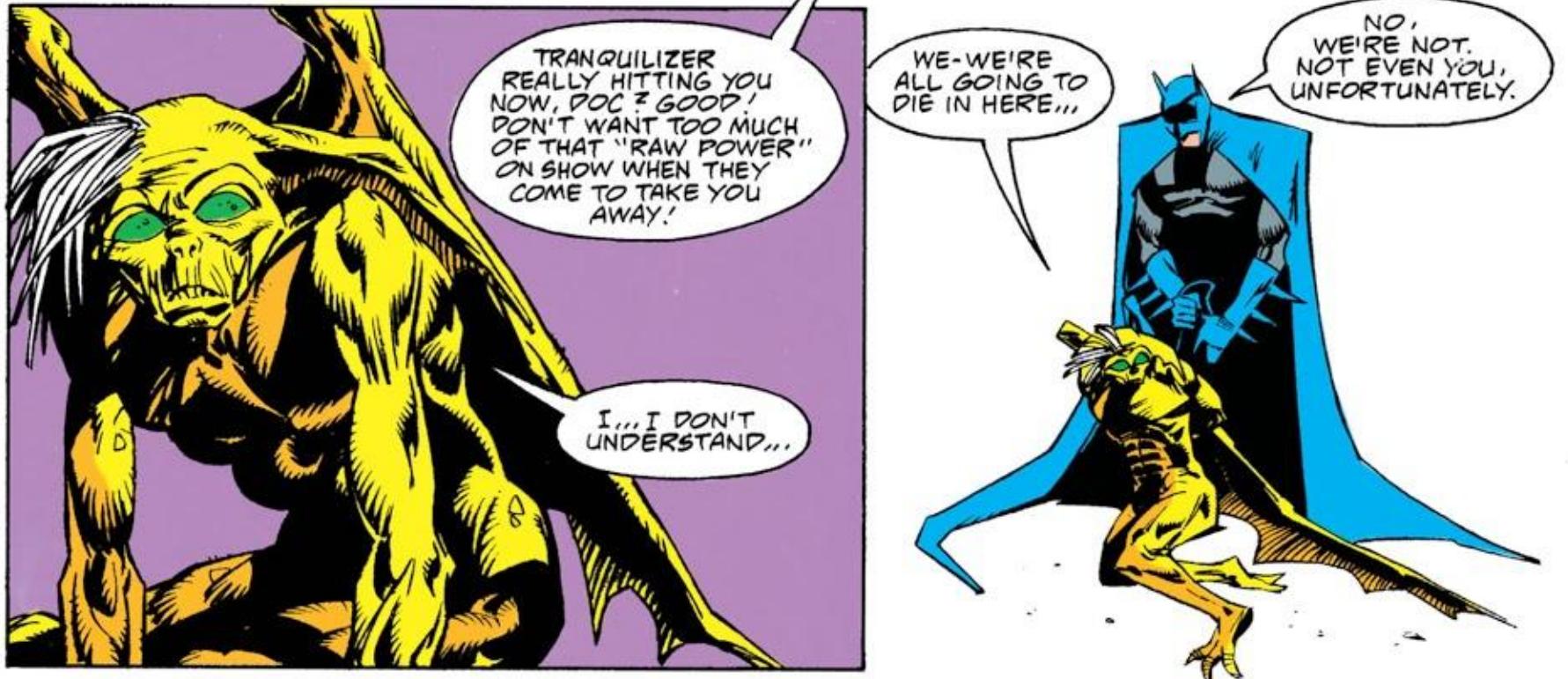
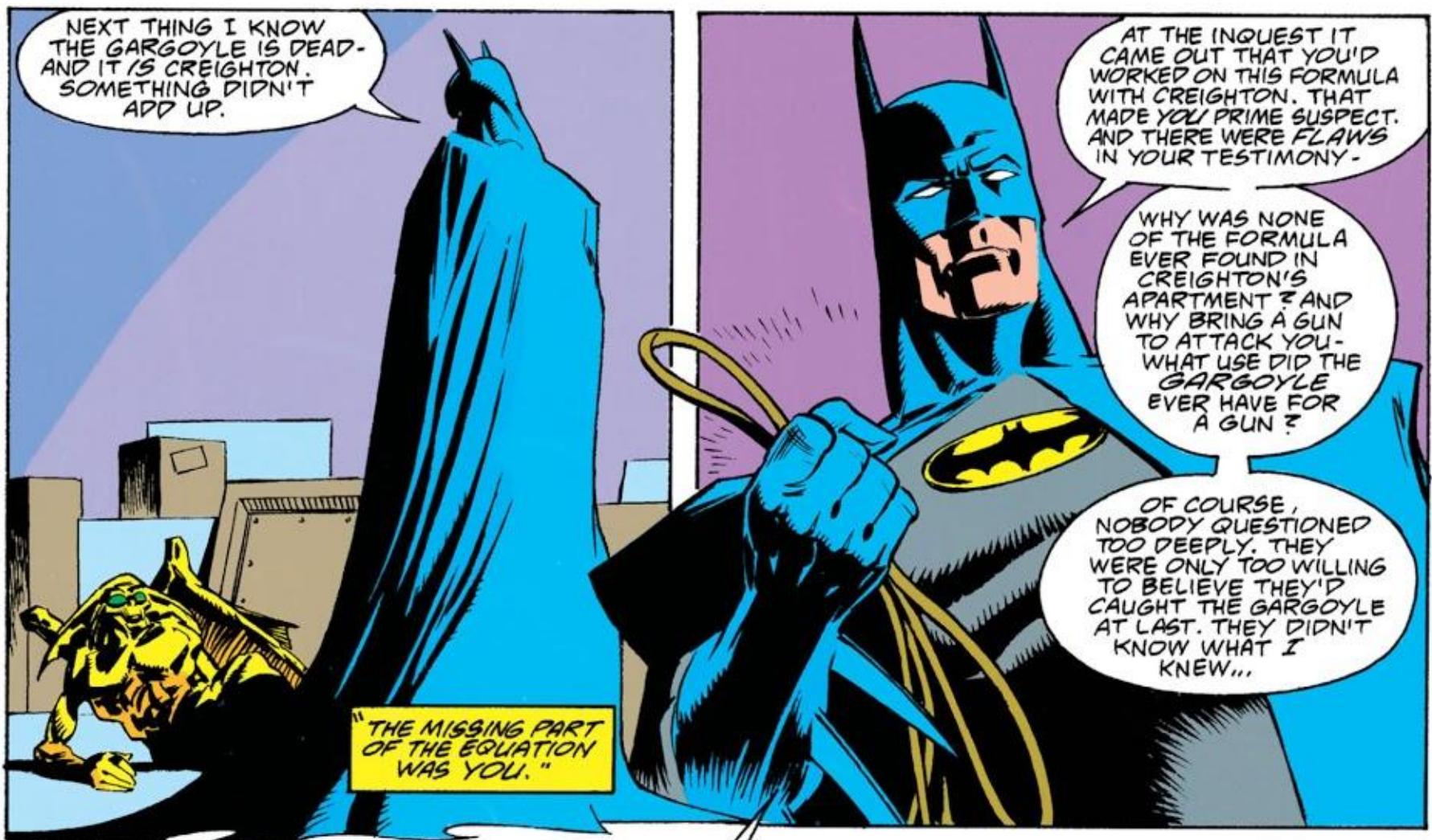


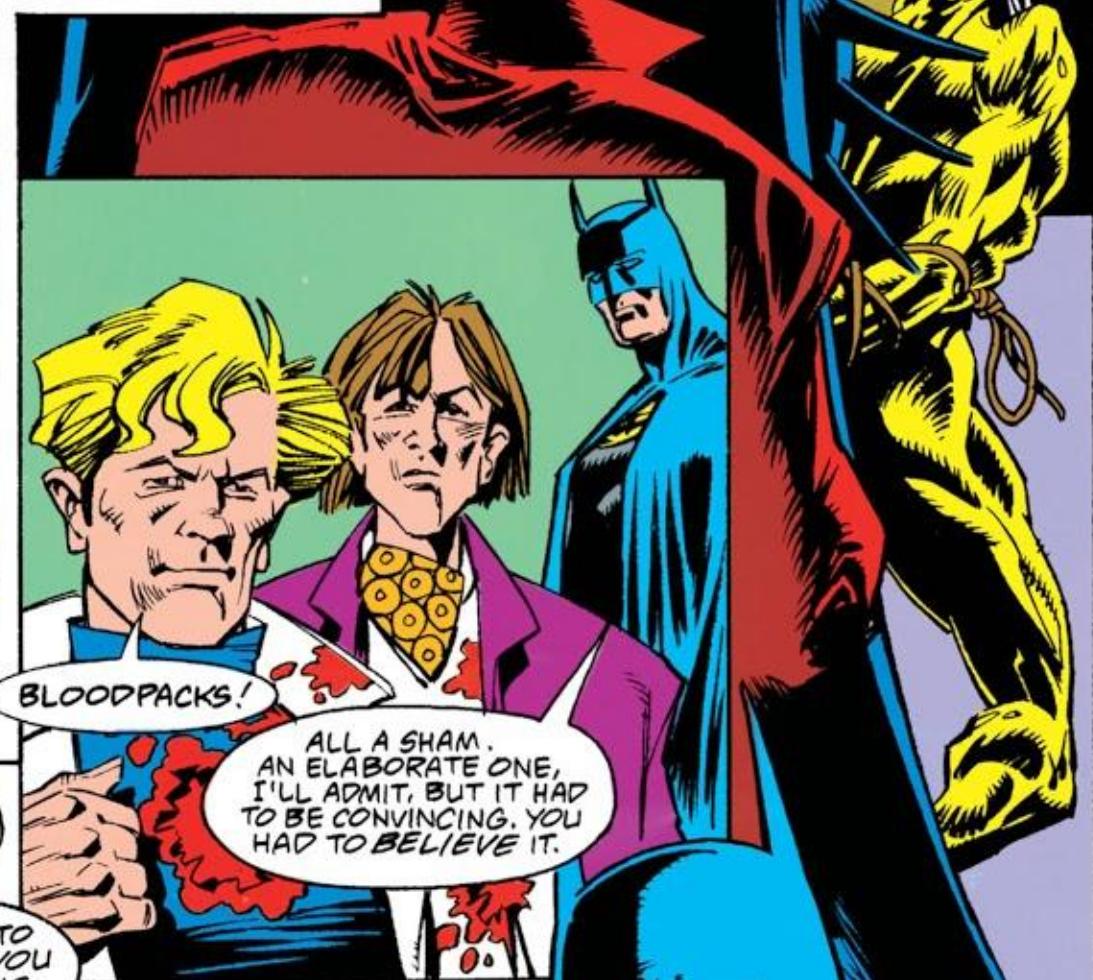














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