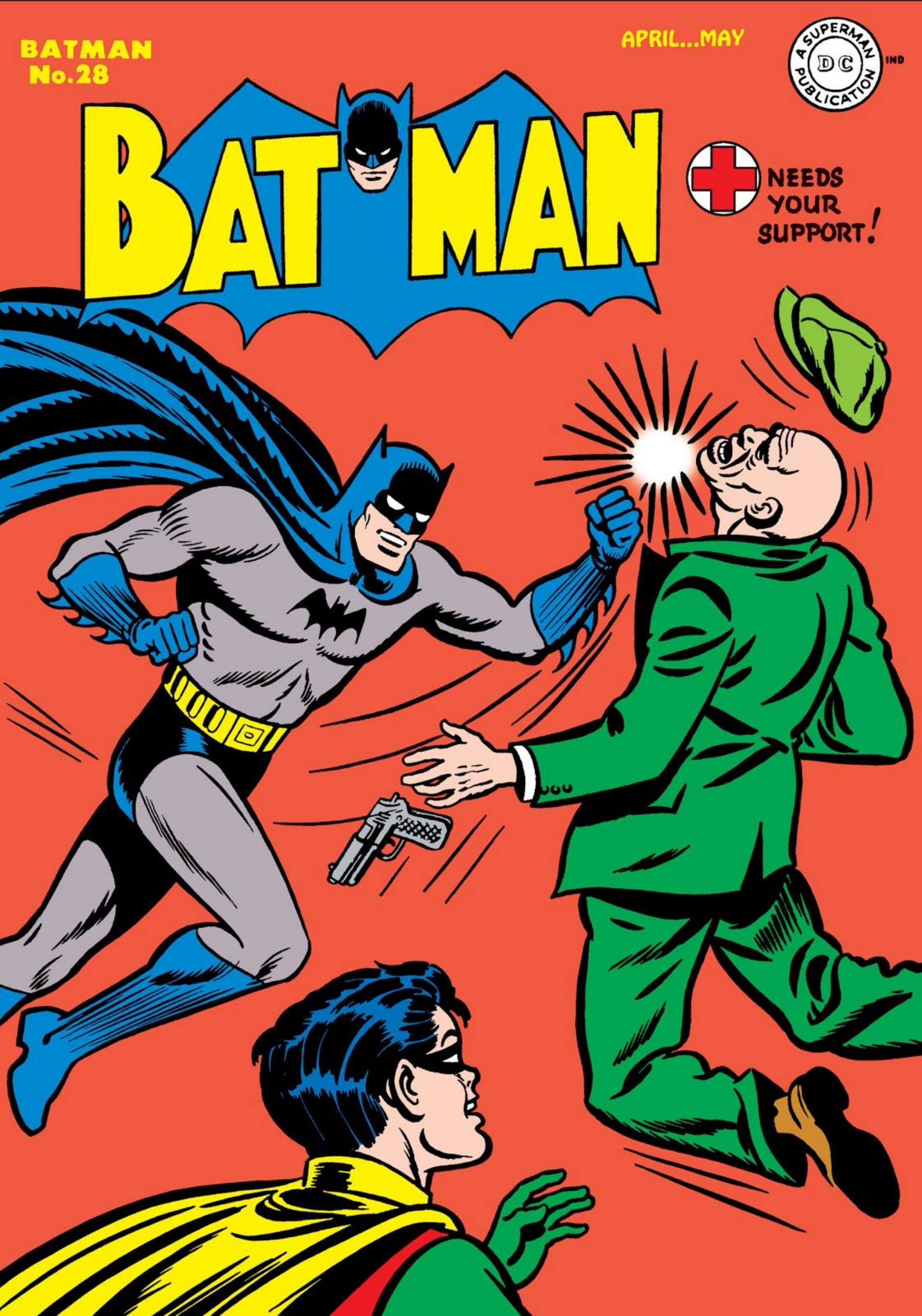
BATMAN
No.28

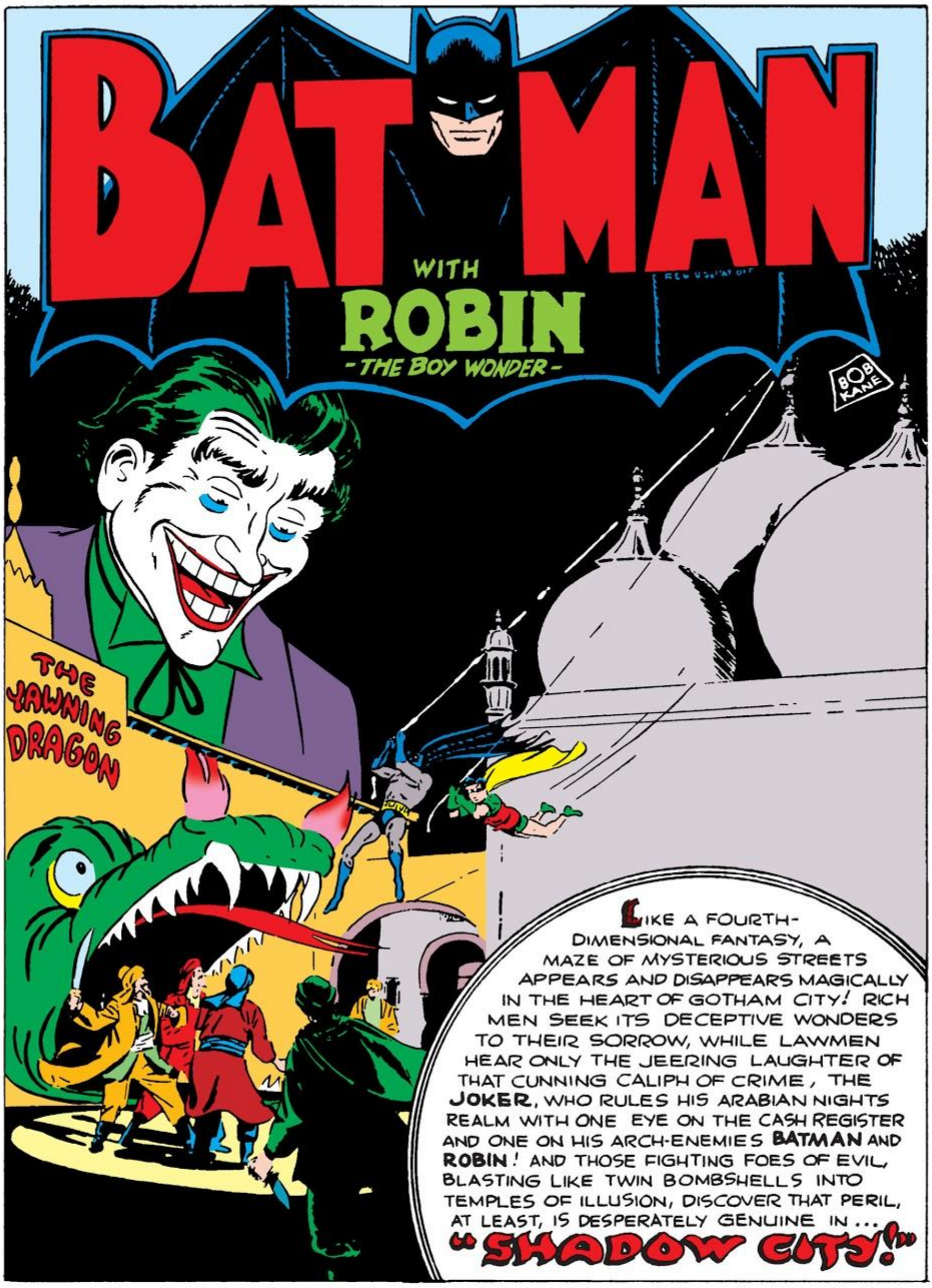
APRIL...MAY

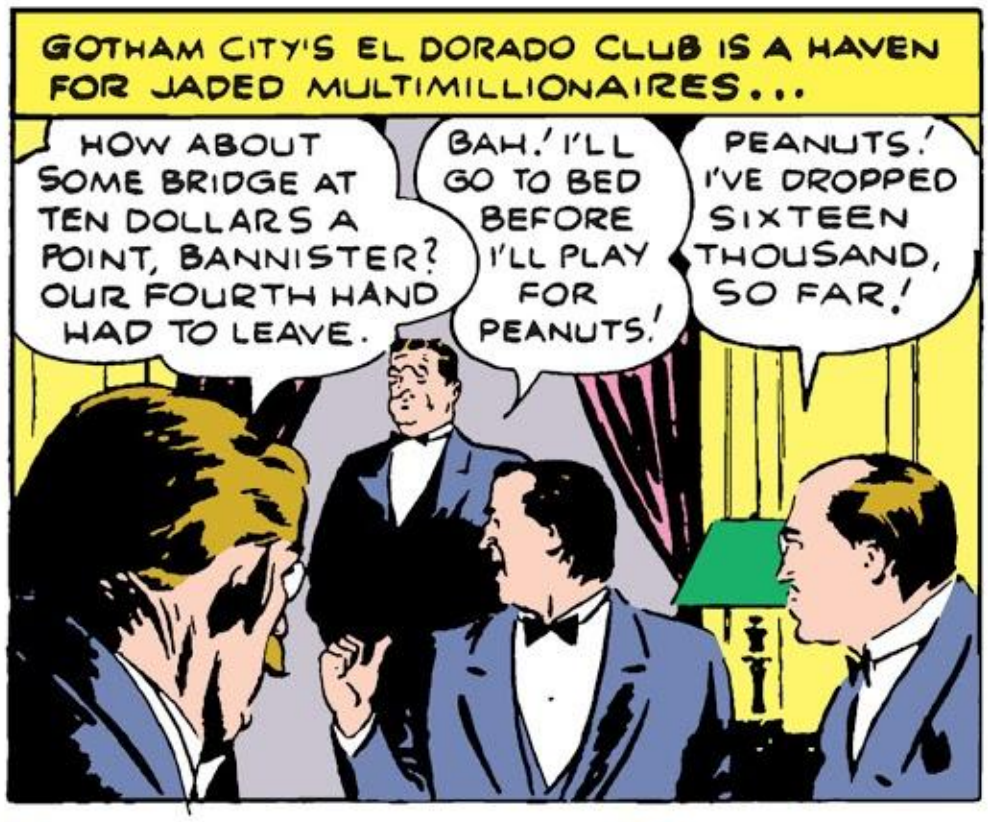
A SUPERMAN DC PUBLICATION IND

BATMAN

NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

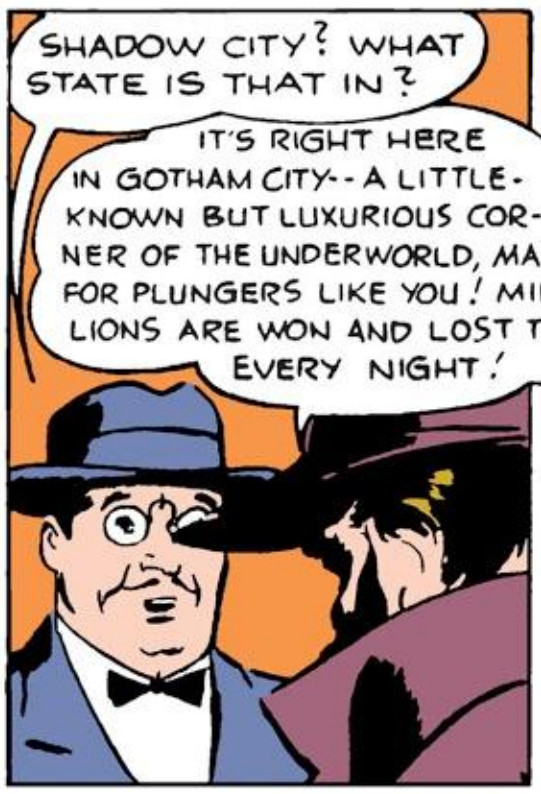



BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
BOB KANE
THE YAWNING DRAGON
LIKE A FOURTH-DIMENSIONAL FANTASY, A MAZE OF MYSTERIOUS STREETS APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS MAGICALLY IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY! RICH MEN SEEK ITS DECEPTIVE WONDERS TO THEIR SORROW, WHILE LAWMEN HEAR ONLY THE JEERING LAUGHTER OF THAT CUNNING CALIPH OF CRIME, THE JOKER, WHO RULES HIS ARABIAN NIGHTS REALM WITH ONE EYE ON THE CASH REGISTER AND ONE ON HIS ARCH-ENEMIES BATMAN AND ROBIN! AND THOSE FIGHTING FOES OF EVIL, BLASTING LIKE TWIN BOMBSHELLS INTO TEMPLES OF ILLUSION, DISCOVER THAT PERIL, AT LEAST, IS DESPERATELY GENUINE IN ...
"SHADOW CITY!"


GOTHAM CITY'S EL DORADO CLUB IS A HAVEN FOR JADED MULTIMILLIONAIRES...
HOW ABOUT SOME BRIDGE AT TEN DOLLARS A POINT, BANNISTER? OUR FOURTH HAND HAD TO LEAVE.
BAH.! I'LL GO TO BED BEFORE I'LL PLAY FOR PEANUTS.!
PEANUTS.! I'VE DROPPED SIXTEEN THOUSAND, SO FAR.!

AS BANNISTER LEAVES...
BET-A-MILLION BANNISTER.! LAST TIME I SAW YOU WAS IN THE GRAND CASINO IN MONTE CARLO, BEFORE THE WAR.!
EH?.. MONTE CARLO?..

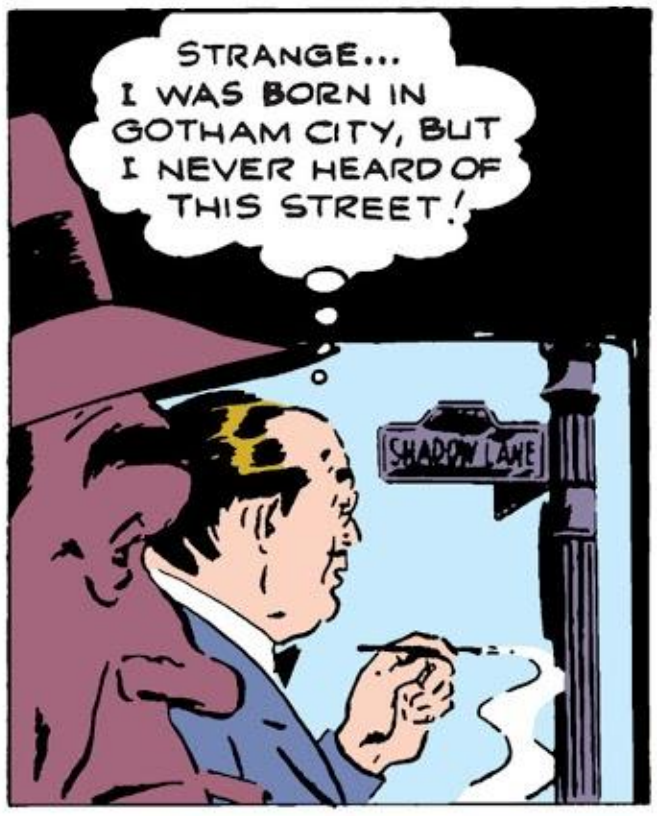
I'VE FORGOTTEN YOU, BUT NOT THE CASINO.! I BROKE THE BANK AT BACCARAT ONE NIGHT.! TOO BAD THEY DON'T HAVE PLACES LIKE THAT IN AMERICA!
BUT THERE ARE EVEN BETTER ONES IN SHADOW CITY.!

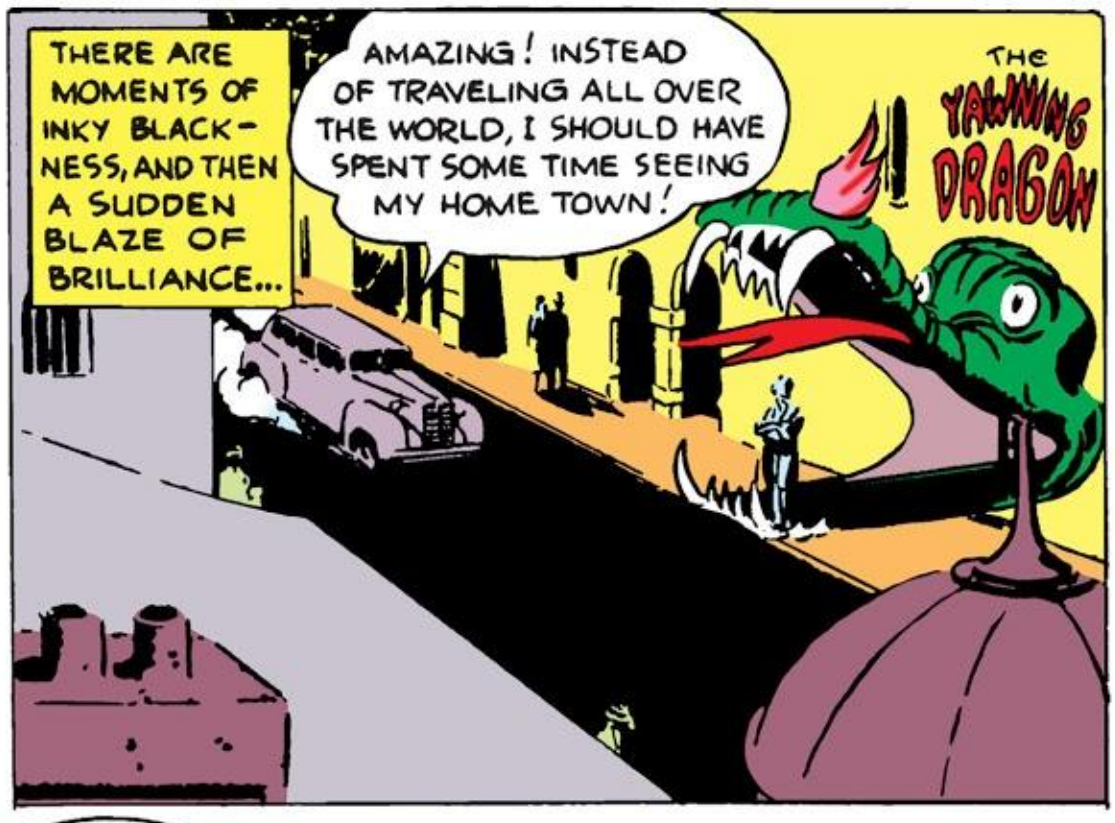

SHADOW CITY? WHAT STATE IS THAT IN?
IT'S RIGHT HERE IN GOTHAM CITY--A LITTLE-KNOWN BUT LUXURIOUS CORNER OF THE UNDERWORLD, MADE FOR PLUNGERS LIKE YOU.! MILLIONS ARE WON AND LOST THERE EVERY NIGHT.!

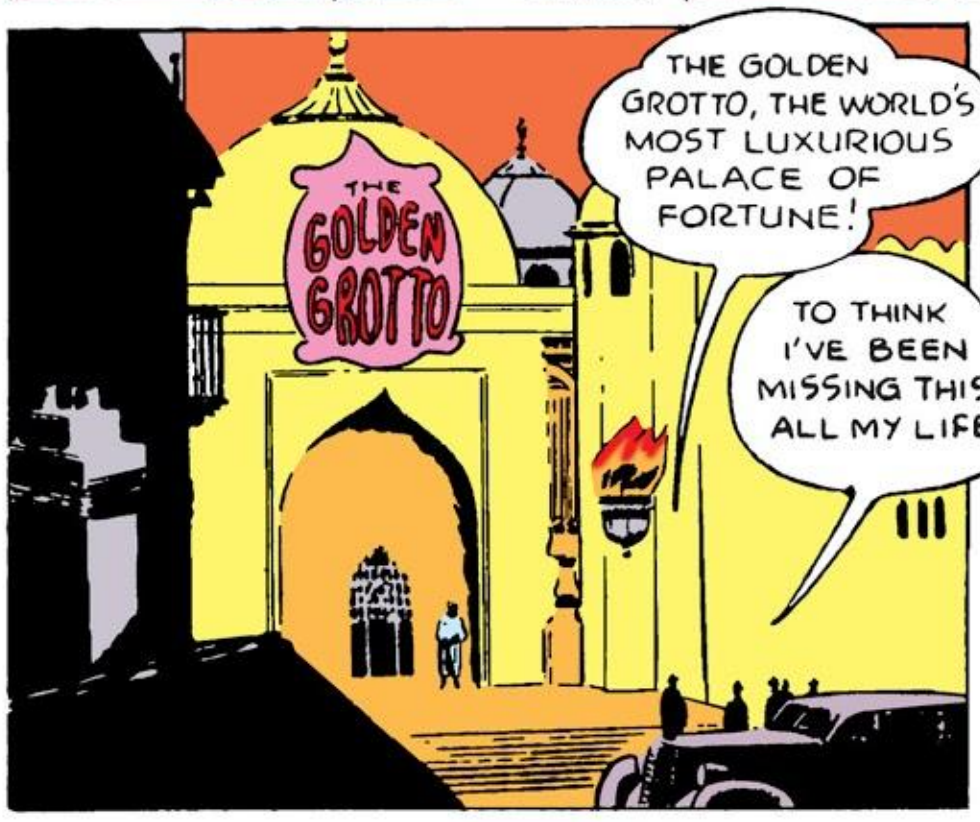
THIS CARD TELLS YOU WHERE YOU CAN GET A SPECIAL BUS TO SHADOW CITY AT MIDNIGHT... WHY DON'T YOU LOOK IT OVER?
THANKS! I MAY, AT THAT.!

NO MAN IS QUITE SANE WHEN STRICKEN WITH THE GAMBLING FEVER--AND SO AT MIDNIGHT...
A FRIEND GAVE ME THIS CARD...
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
ALL ABOARD FOR SHADOW CITY!

THE CROWDED LIMOUSINE BUS SWINGS INTO AN ALLEY...
YOU'VE BEEN TO SHADOW CITY BEFORE?
HAVE I.! I WON EIGHTY GRAND LAST NIGHT, AN' I'M GONNA MAKE A REAL KILLIN' TONIGHT.!


STRANGE... I WAS BORN IN GOTHAM CITY, BUT I NEVER HEARD OF THIS STREET!
SHADOW LANE


THERE ARE MOMENTS OF INKY BLACKNESS, AND THEN A SUDDEN BLAZE OF BRILLIANCE...
AMAZING! INSTEAD OF TRAVELING ALL OVER THE WORLD, I SHOULD HAVE SPENT SOME TIME SEEING MY HOME TOWN!
THE YAWNING DRAGON


THE GOLDEN GROTTO
THE GOLDEN GROTTO, THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS PALACE OF FORTUNE!
TO THINK I'VE BEEN MISSING THIS ALL MY LIFE!

WE DON'T SELL LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS' WORTH OF CHIPS AT A TIME, SIR!
HERE'S A HUNDRED THOUSAND!

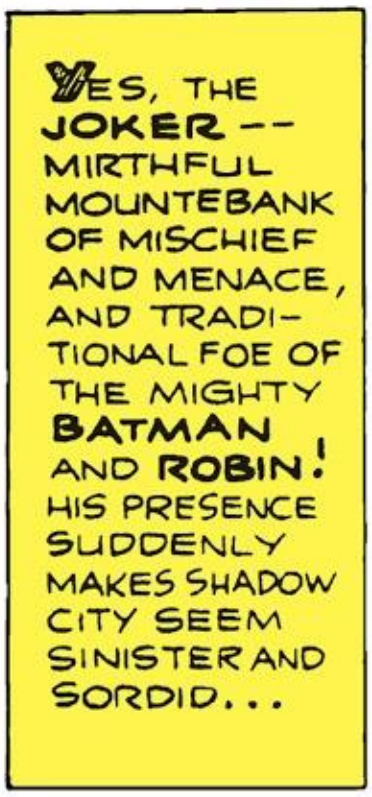
TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND ON THE RED!
ANYTHING YOU SAY, SIR!

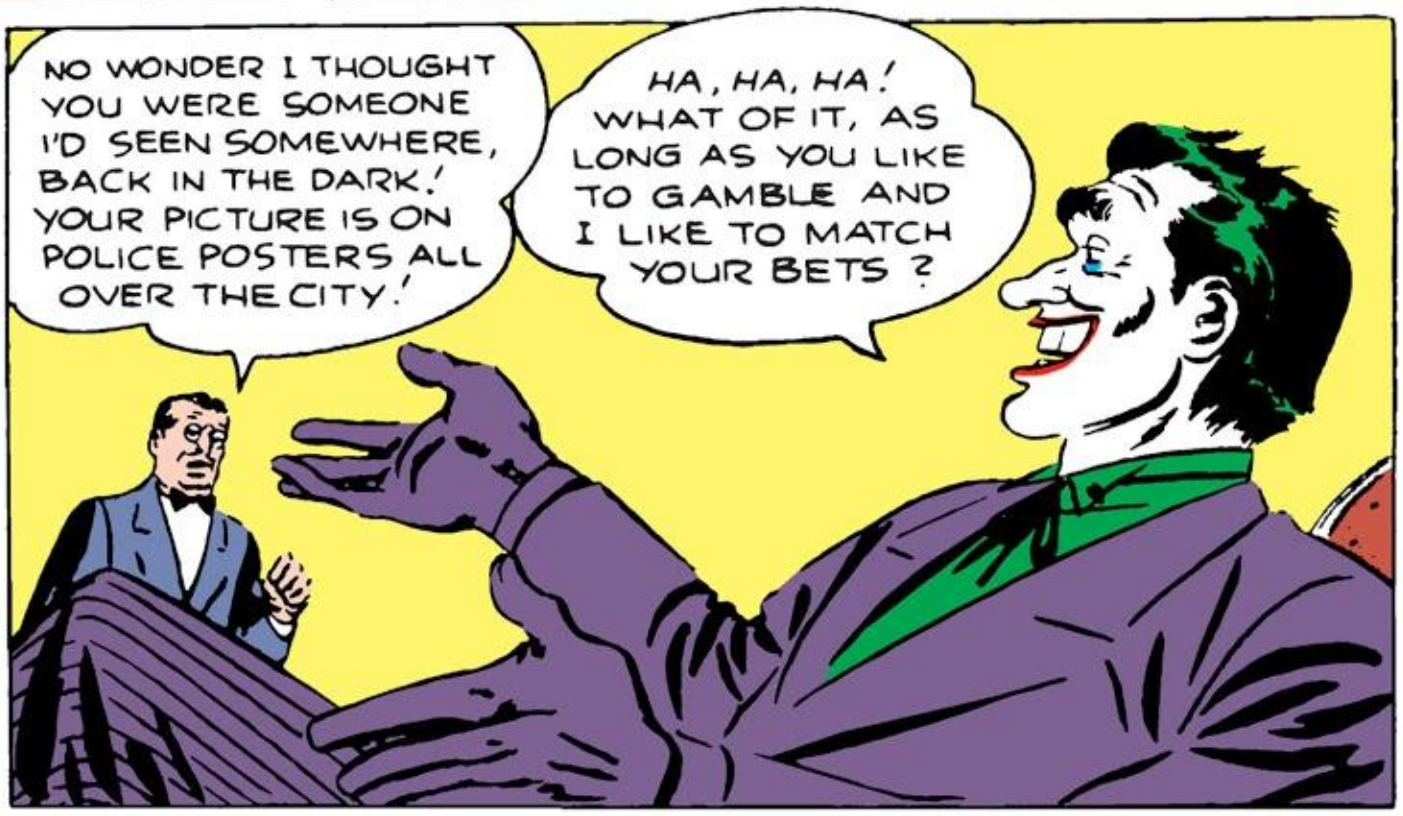
RED WINS -- AND YOU GET BACK FIFTY THOUSAND!
THIS IS MY LUCKY NIGHT! LEAVE IT ALL ON RED!

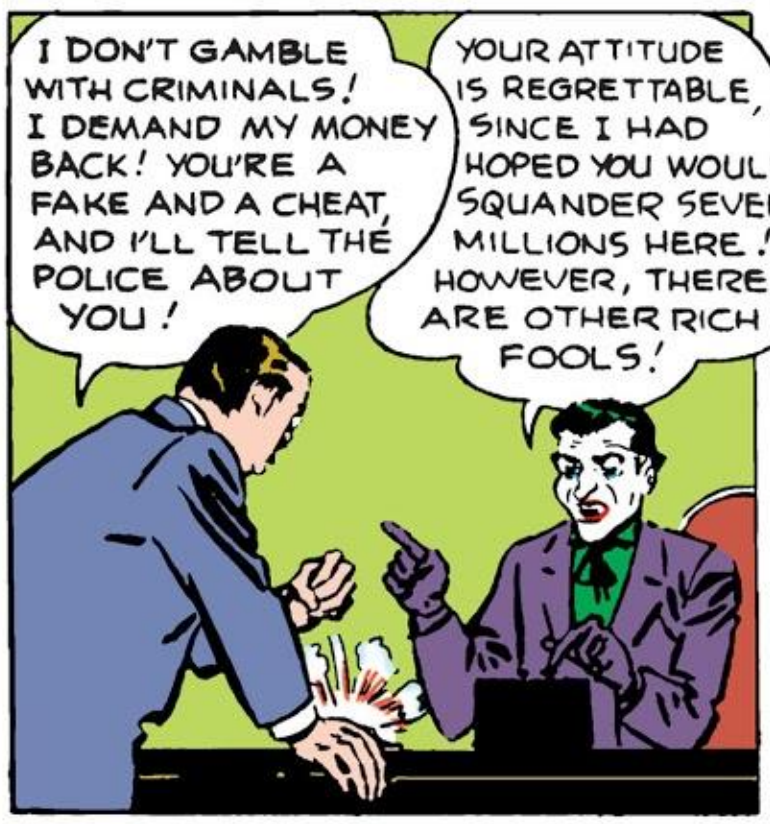
BUT ONE BRIEF FLASH OF LUCK IS ALL THAT IS PERMITTED BANNISTER...
BLACK WINS-- AND YOU LOSE AGAIN!
HERE GOES THE LAST I BROUGHT WITH ME!

LOST AGAIN! THAT'S THAT! WHERE CAN I CASH A CHECK?
YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER, IN THE OFFICE AT THE BACK!

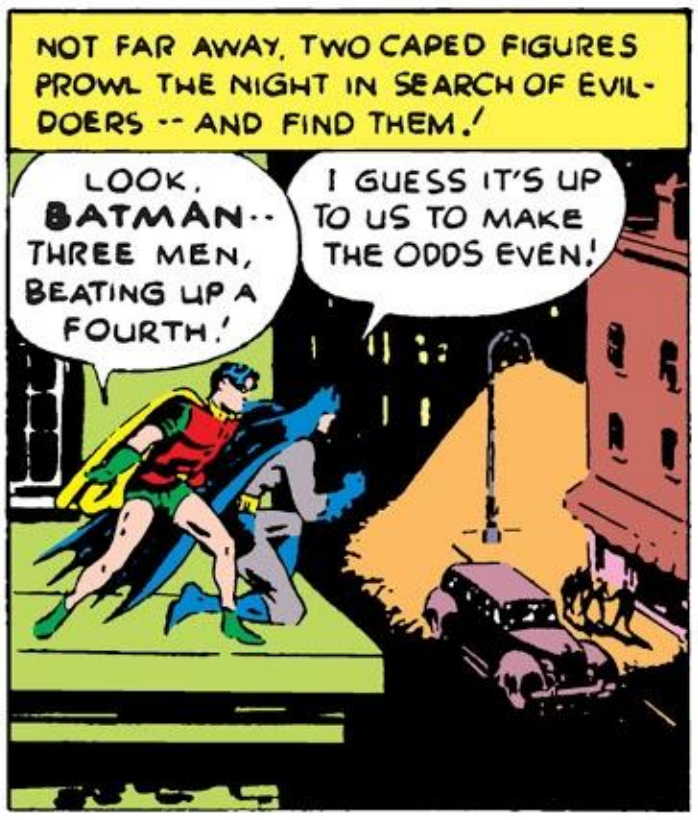
THE MANAGER...
THE JOKER!
WELL, BANNISTER, I SEE YOU TOOK MY ADVICE!

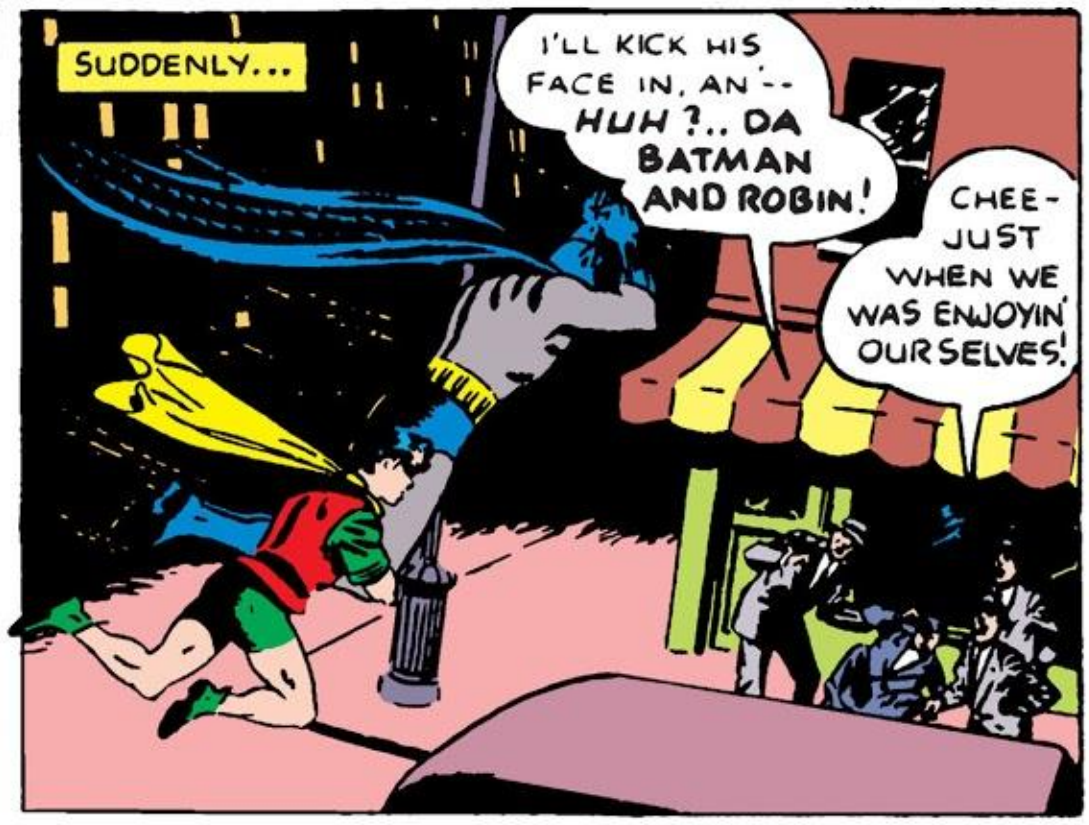

YES, THE JOKER -- MIRTHFUL MOUNTEBANK OF MISCHIEF AND MENACE, AND TRADITIONAL FOE OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN! HIS PRESENCE SUDDENLY MAKES SHADOW CITY SEEM SINISTER AND SORDID...

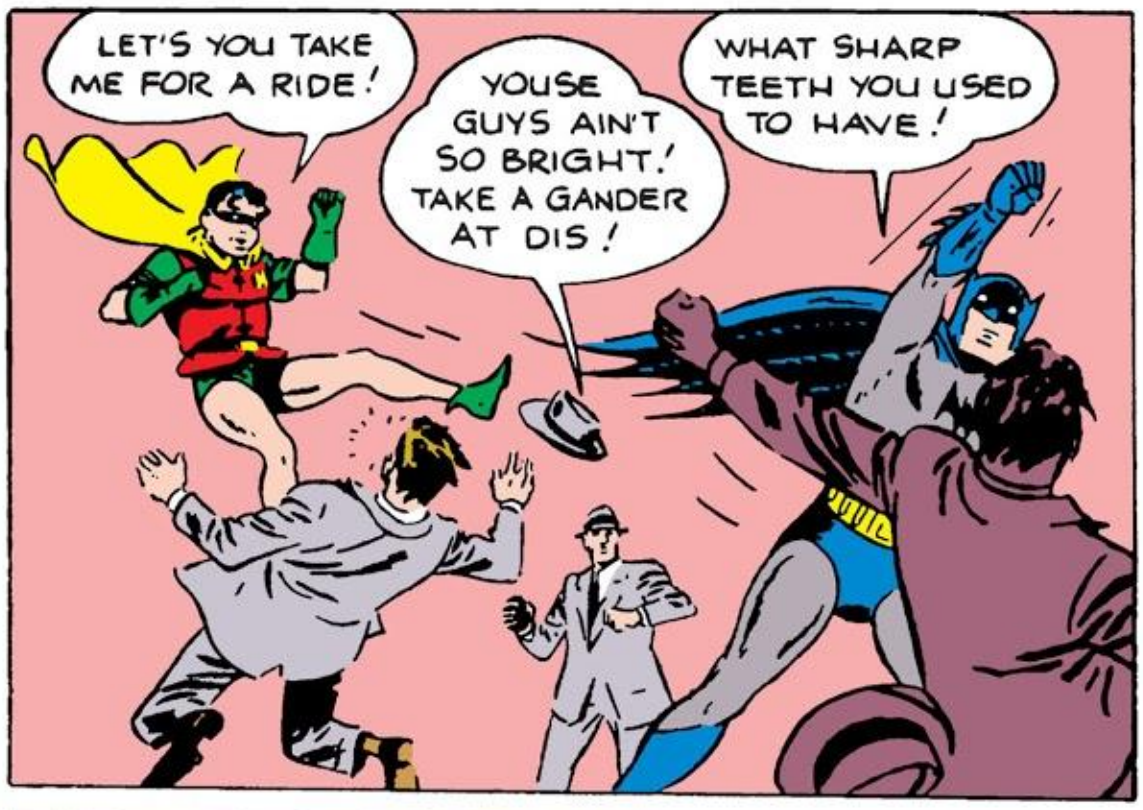

NO WONDER I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE I'D SEEN SOMEWHERE, BACK IN THE DARK! YOUR PICTURE IS ON POLICE POSTERS ALL OVER THE CITY!
HA, HA, HA! WHAT OF IT, AS LONG AS YOU LIKE TO GAMBLE AND I LIKE TO MATCH YOUR BETS?


I DON'T GAMBLE WITH CRIMINALS! I DEMAND MY MONEY BACK! YOU'RE A FAKE AND A CHEAT, AND I'LL TELL THE POLICE ABOUT YOU!
YOUR ATTITUDE IS REGRETTABLE, SINCE I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD SQUANDER SEVERAL MILLIONS HERE! HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER RICH FOOLS!

MR. BANNISTER IS GOING TO TELL THE POLICE ABOUT SHADOW CITY, GENTLEMEN! WILL YOU HELP HIM ON HIS WAY?
WIT' PLEASURE!
TAKE YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!


NOT FAR AWAY, TWO CAPED FIGURES PROWL THE NIGHT IN SEARCH OF EVIL-DOERS -- AND FIND THEM.!
LOOK, BATMAN-- THREE MEN, BEATING UP A FOURTH.!
I GUESS IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE THE ODDS EVEN!


SUDDENLY...
I'LL KICK HIS FACE IN, AN'-- HUH?.. DA BATMAN AND ROBIN!
CHEE- JUST WHEN WE WAS ENJOYIN' OURSELVES!

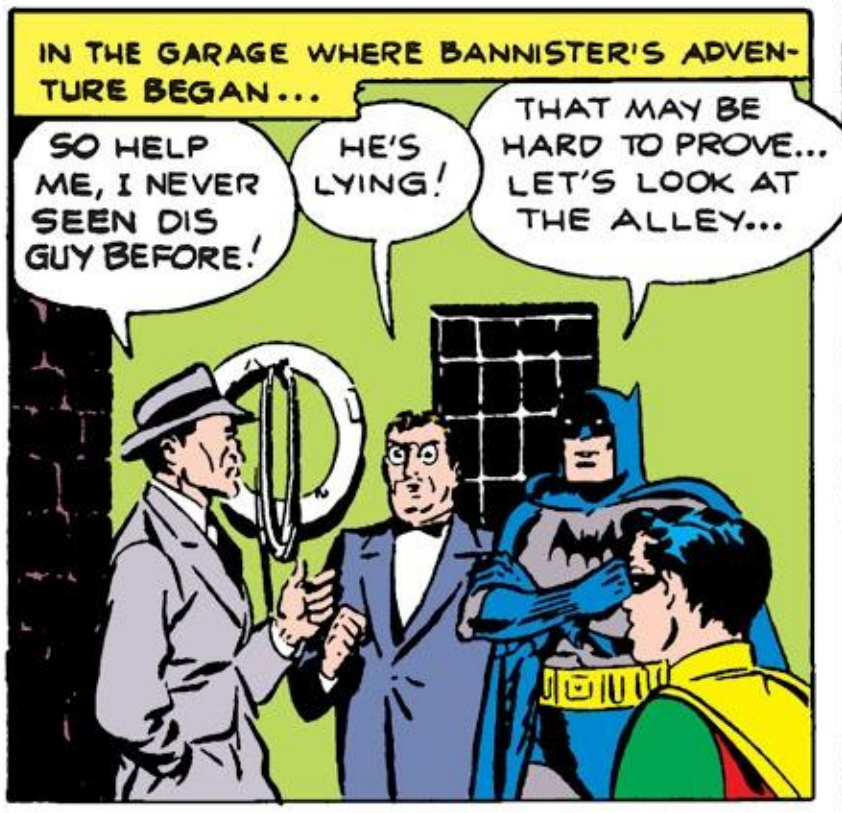

LET'S YOU TAKE ME FOR A RIDE!
YOUSE GUYS AIN'T SO BRIGHT.! TAKE A GANDER AT DIS!
WHAT SHARP TEETH YOU USED TO HAVE!

A BLAST OF BLINDING BRILLIANCE DAZZLES THE DYNAMIC DUO...
PRETTY, AIN'T IT?
WHA--?
I CAN'T SEE!

AND BEFORE THEY CAN SEE CLEARLY AGAIN, THE CRIMINALS HAVE ESCAPED.!
WHAT HAPPENED, BATMAN?
THEY THREW A LIGHT BOMB- A NEW TRICK!
DON'T LET THEM BEAT ME ANY MORE.!

BET-A-MILLION BANNISTER.! HOW DID YOU GET MIXED UP WITH THOSE CROOKS?
GAMBLING CASINO- SHADOW CITY- THE JOKER-

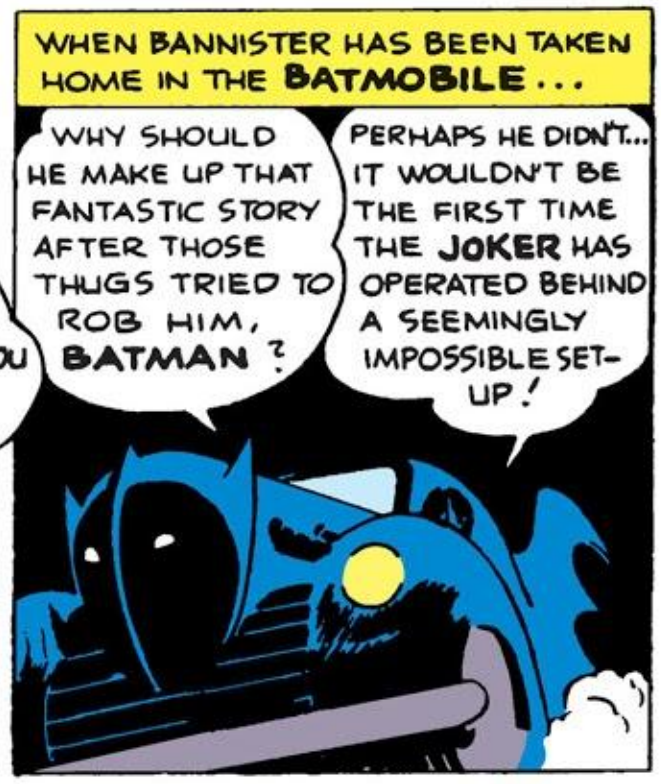
THE VICTIM TELLS HIS FANTASTIC STORY...
... AND THEN THEY BROUGHT ME HERE AND STARTED TO BEAT ME!
BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE OVER-LOOKED A WHOLE SECTION OF TOWN LIKE SHADOW CITY, BATMAN!
IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE- BUT LET'S HAVE BANNISTER SHOW US WHERE HE WENT!

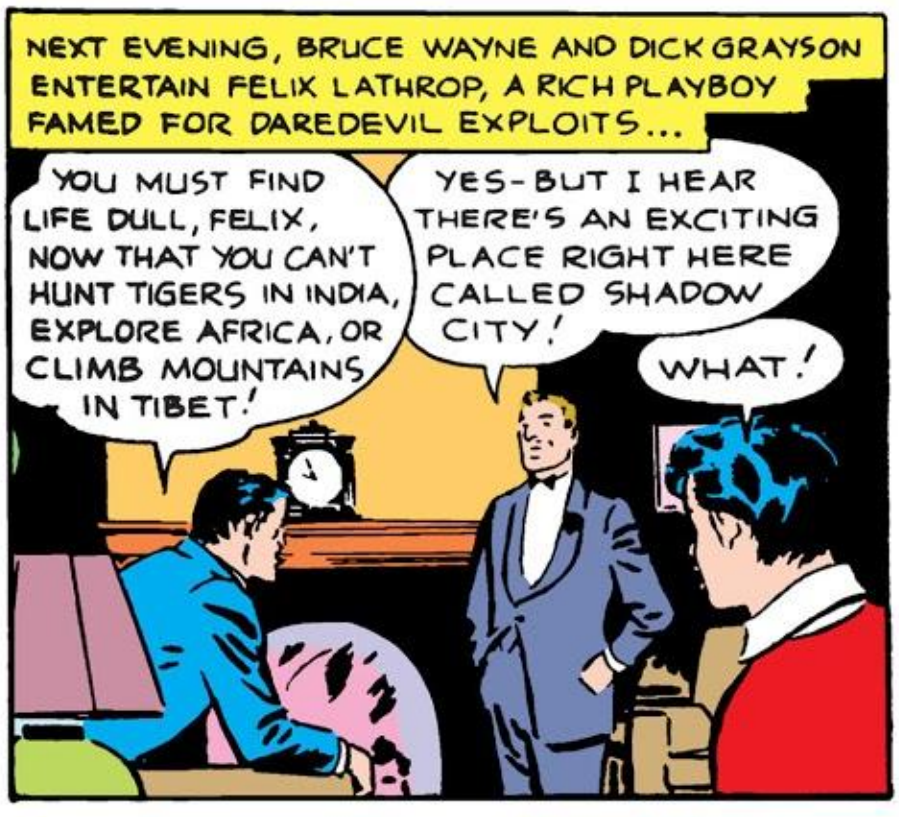

IN THE GARAGE WHERE BANNISTER'S ADVENTURE BEGAN...
SO HELP ME, I NEVER SEEN DIS GUY BEFORE!
HE'S LYING!
THAT MAY BE HARD TO PROVE... LET'S LOOK AT THE ALLEY...

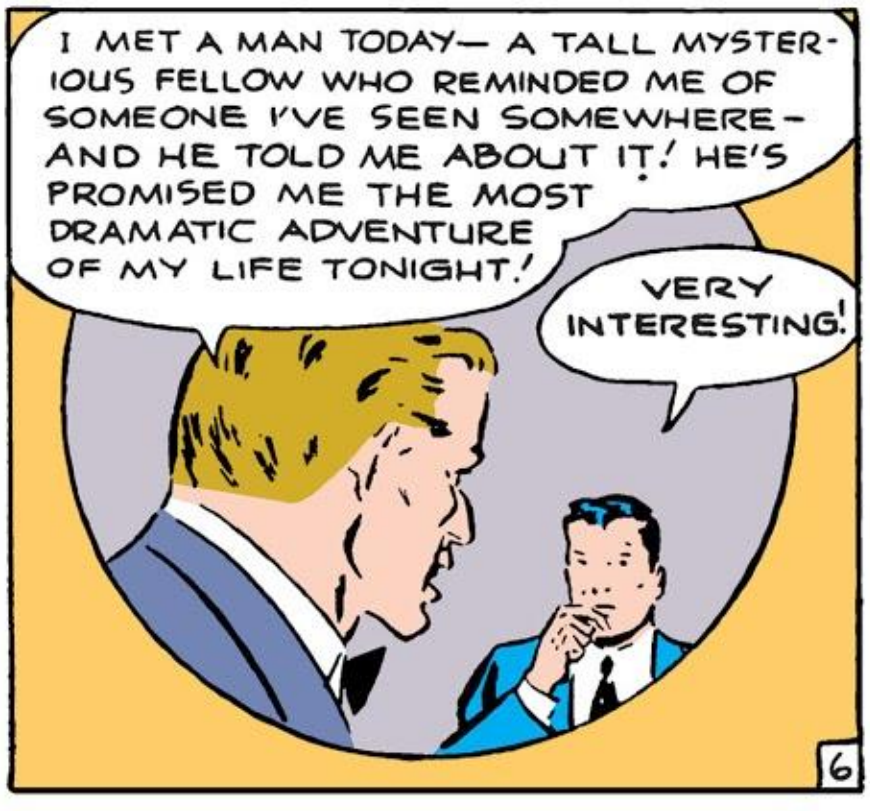
THERE WAS A SIGN HERE WITH THE NAME SHADOW LANE— BUT IT'S GONE!
HERE ARE TRACKS OF A CAR!
A WAREHOUSE... WE'LL SEE IF THERE'S A WATCHMAN ABOUT!
WAREHOUSE

NOPE -- NOTHIN' HAPPENED HERE TONIGHT! BUT YE'RE WELCOME TO LOOK AROUND IF YE'D LIKE, BATMAN!
WE WILL IF YOU DON'T MIND!

THE BUILDIN' AIN'T USED FOR NOTHIN' ANY MORE... I'M JUST HERE IN CASE O' FIRE!
I MUST BE GOING MAD!
MAYBE THAT BEATING MADE YOU IMAGINE THINGS!


WHEN BANNISTER HAS BEEN TAKEN HOME IN THE BATMOBILE...
WHY SHOULD HE MAKE UP THAT FANTASTIC STORY AFTER THOSE THUGS TRIED TO ROB HIM, BATMAN?
PERHAPS HE DIDN'T... IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME THE JOKER HAS OPERATED BEHIND A SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE SET-UP!

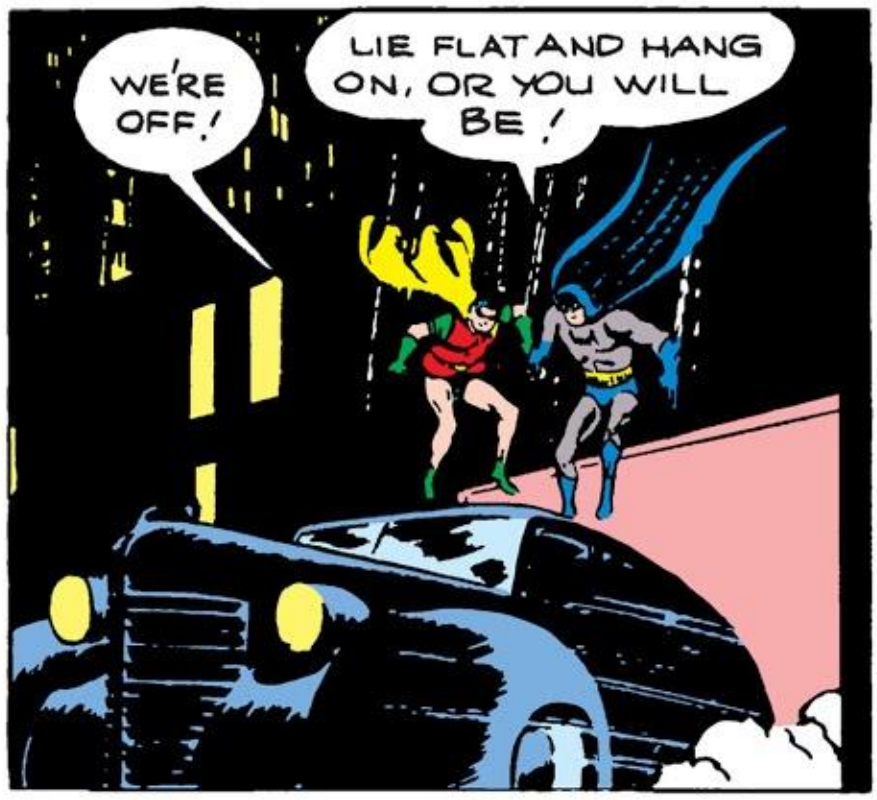

NEXT EVENING, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ENTERTAIN FELIX LATHROP, A RICH PLAYBOY FAMED FOR DAREDEVIL EXPLOITS...
YOU MUST FIND LIFE DULL, FELIX, NOW THAT YOU CAN'T HUNT TIGERS IN INDIA, EXPLORE AFRICA, OR CLIMB MOUNTAINS IN TIBET!
YES-BUT I HEAR THERE'S AN EXCITING PLACE RIGHT HERE CALLED SHADOW CITY!
WHAT!

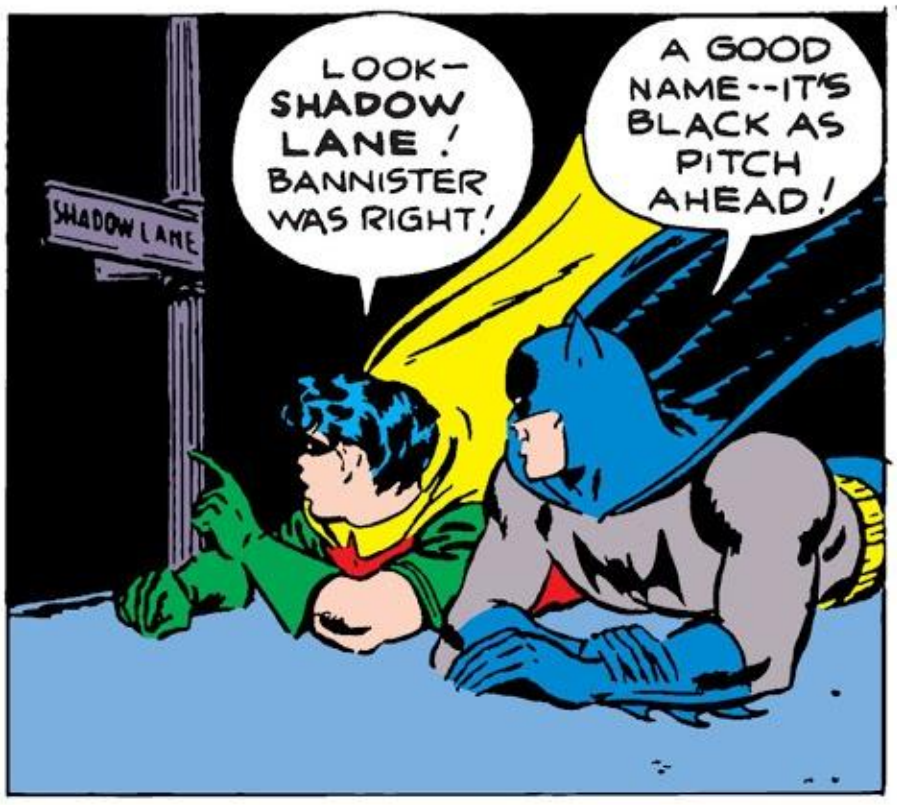

I MET A MAN TODAY— A TALL MYSTERIOUS FELLOW WHO REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE I'VE SEEN SOMEWHERE— AND HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT! HE'S PROMISED ME THE MOST DRAMATIC ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE TONIGHT!
VERY INTERESTING!

I'LL HAVE TO HURRY TO KEEP MY APPOINTMENT... OF COURSE, QUIET, HOME-LOVING PEOPLE LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED...
OH, NO!

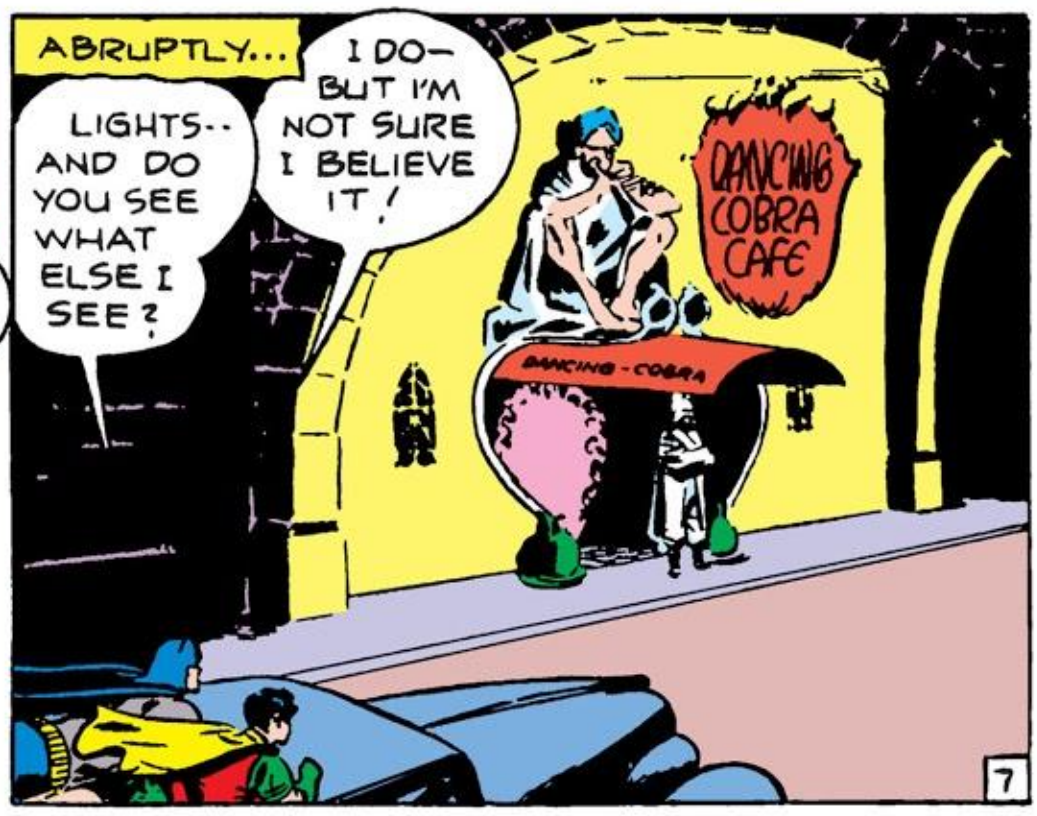
SNAP IT UP, FELLA! WE'VE GOT TO FOLLOW HIM!
NOT INTERESTED, HE SAYS! NOT MUCH!

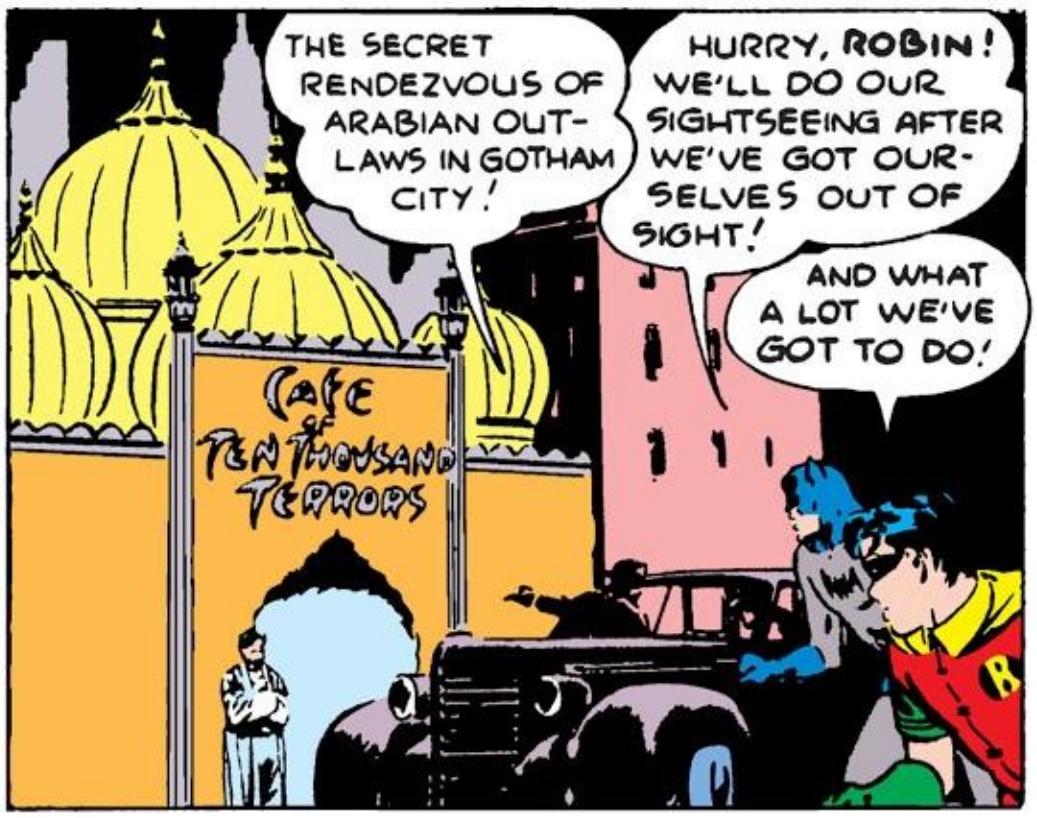
PRESENTLY...
THERE HE GOES--INTO ANOTHER GARAGE!
THE ROOF FOR US!


WE'RE OFF!
LIE FLAT AND HANG ON, OR YOU WILL BE!


SHADOW LANE
LOOK- SHADOW LANE! BANNISTER WAS RIGHT!
A GOOD NAME--IT'S BLACK AS PITCH AHEAD!

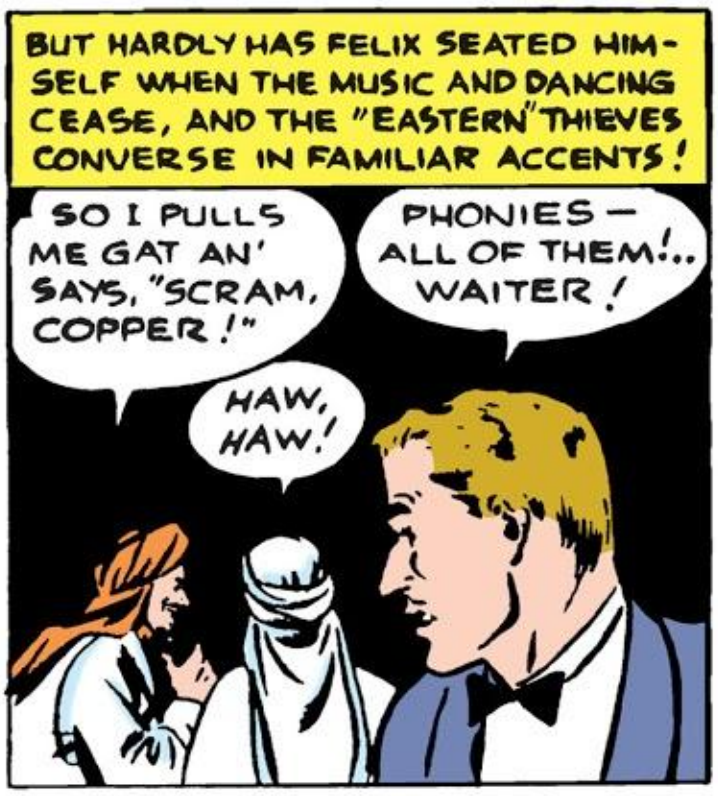
STRANGE- THE WHEELS ARE TURNING, AND THE BUS IS SHAKING, BUT I DON'T FEEL THE BREEZE IN MY FACE AS I DID AT FIRST!
WE SEEM TO BE MOVING, BUT NOT GETTING ANYWHERE! IF I COULD ONLY SEE!


ABRUPTLY...
LIGHTS-- AND DO YOU SEE WHAT ELSE I SEE?
I DO- BUT I'M NOT SURE I BELIEVE IT!
DANCING COBRA CAFE
DANCING-COBRA


THE SECRET RENDEZVOUS OF ARABIAN OUT-LAWS IN GOTHAM CITY!
HURRY, ROBIN! WE'LL DO OUR SIGHTSEEING AFTER WE'VE GOT OUR-SELVES OUT OF SIGHT!
AND WHAT A LOT WE'VE GOT TO DO!
CAFE OF TEN THOUSAND TERRORS

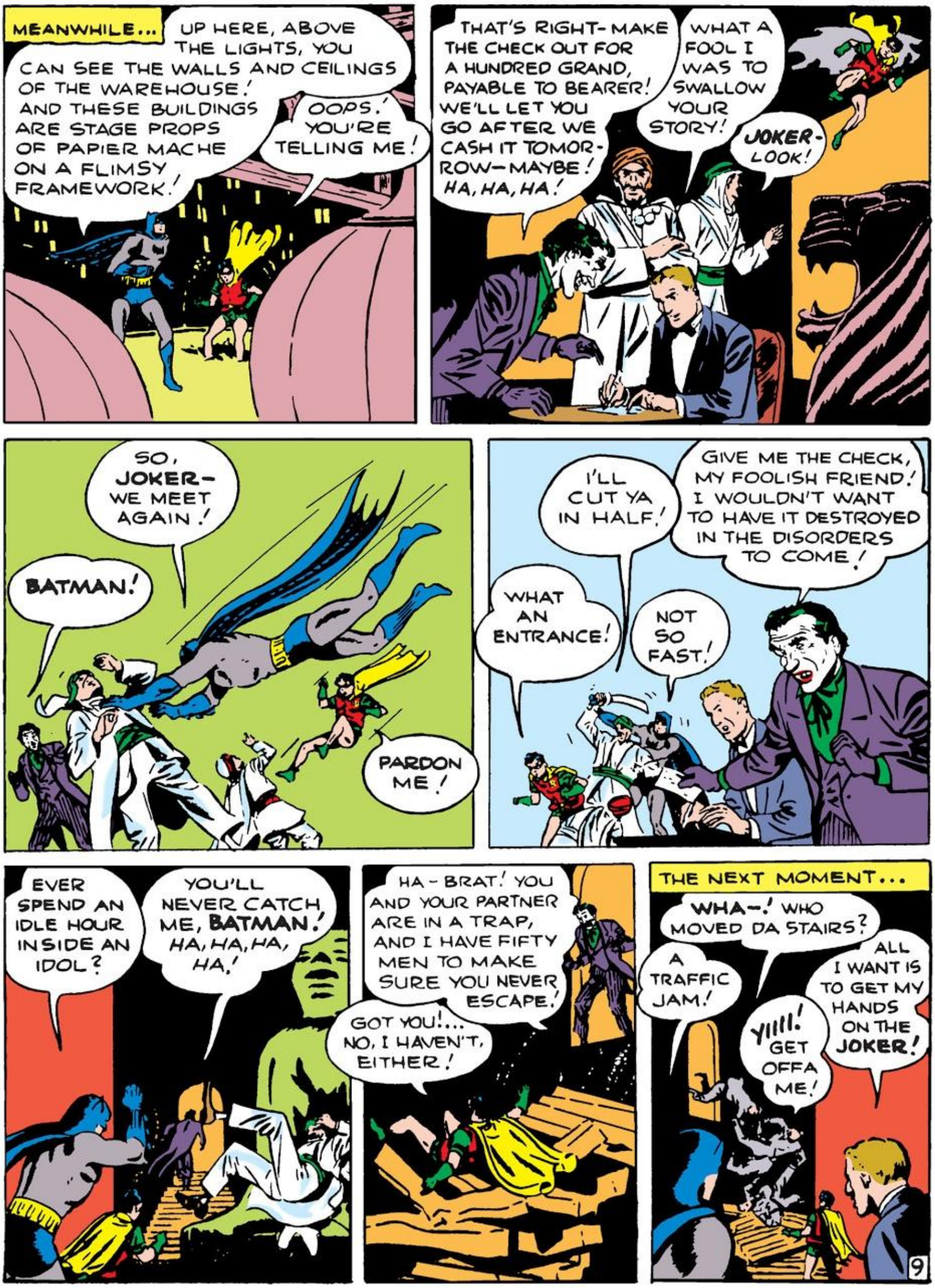
FELIX LATHROP HAS VISITED MANY GLAMOROUS SCENES - BUT NONE MORE THRILLING THAN THIS!
IT'S WORTH PLENTY TO FIND A PLACE LIKE THIS WITHOUT TRAVELING HALF AROUND THE WORLD!
EFFENDI, HAVE YOU ZE COURAGE TO ENTER ZE CAFE OF TEN T'OUSAN' TERRORS -- YESS?

ZESE ARE THIEVES AN' MURDERERS FROM ZE EAST, WHO CARRY ON ZEIR FIERCE WAYS HERE! EET WEEL COST YOU TEN T'OUSAN' DOLLARS TO REMAIN!
WHAT A COVER CHARGE! A DOLLAR A TERROR!...BUT I DON'T MIND IF I GET MY MONEY'S WORTH!


BUT HARDLY HAS FELIX SEATED HIM-SELF WHEN THE MUSIC AND DANCING CEASE, AND THE "EASTERN" THIEVES CONVERSE IN FAMILIAR ACCENTS!
SO I PULLS ME GAT AN' SAYS, "SCRAM, COPPER!"
PHONIES — ALL OF THEM!.. WAITER!
HAW, HAW!

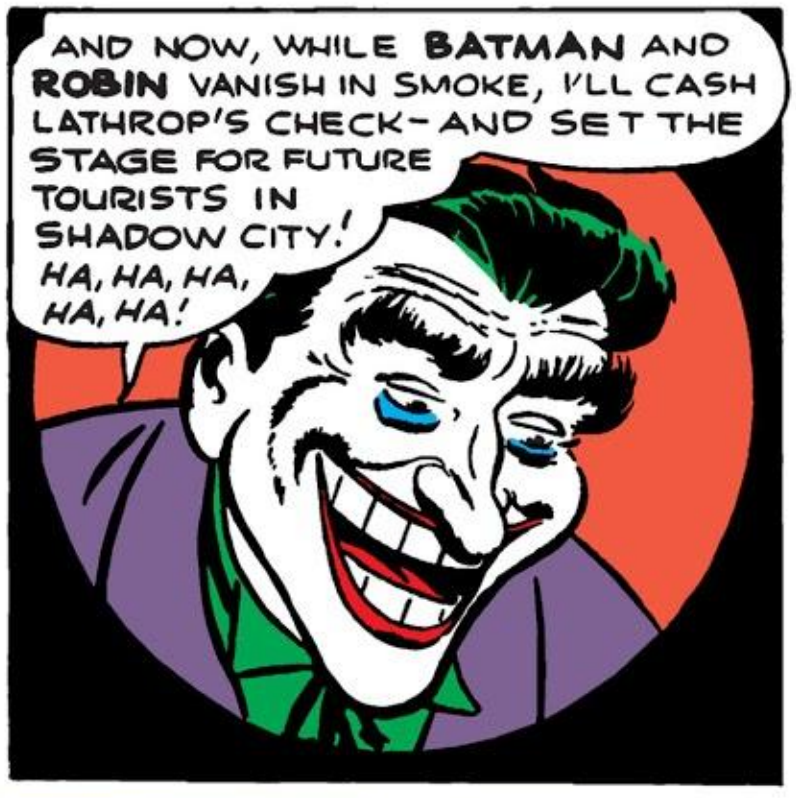
IT'S A RACKET! GIVE ME MY MONEY BACK OR I'LL YELL FOR THE POLICE!
THEY WOULD NOT HEAR YOU — AND ANYWAY, YOUR AD-VENTURE IS NOT YET ENDED, NOR YOUR SPENDING REALLY BEGUN!

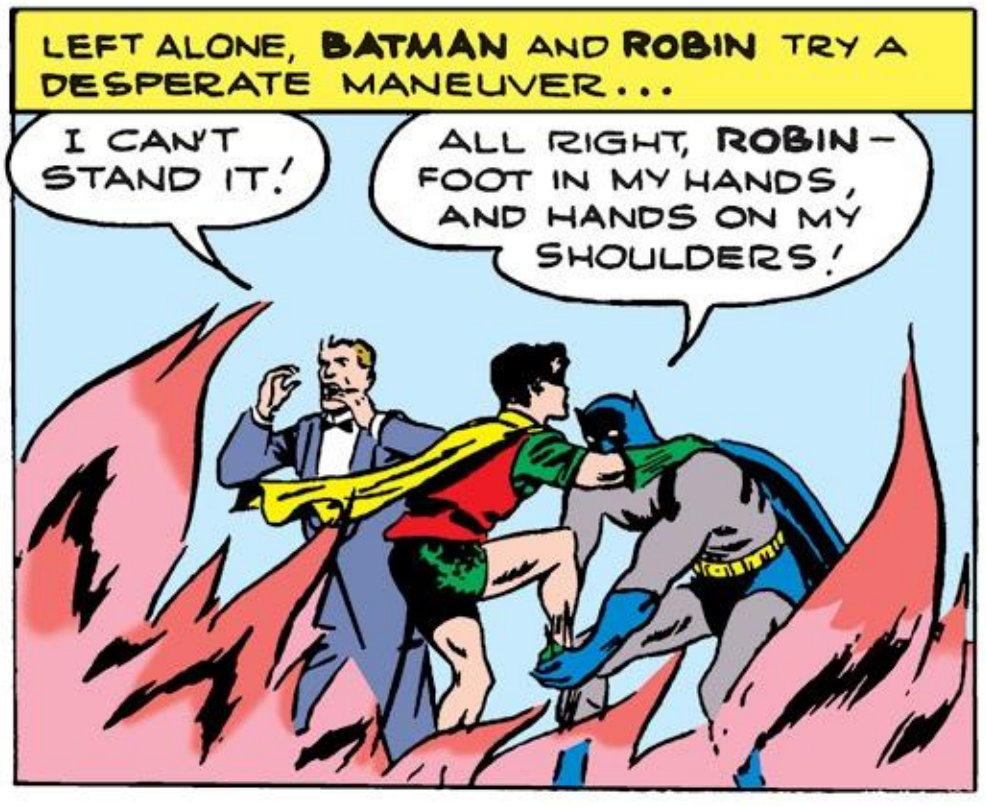
REMEMBER, I PROMISED YOU DANGER — FOR A PRICE?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TALKED ME INTO COMING HERE! NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU-- THE JOKER!
DO WE SLICE HIM UP, BOSS?

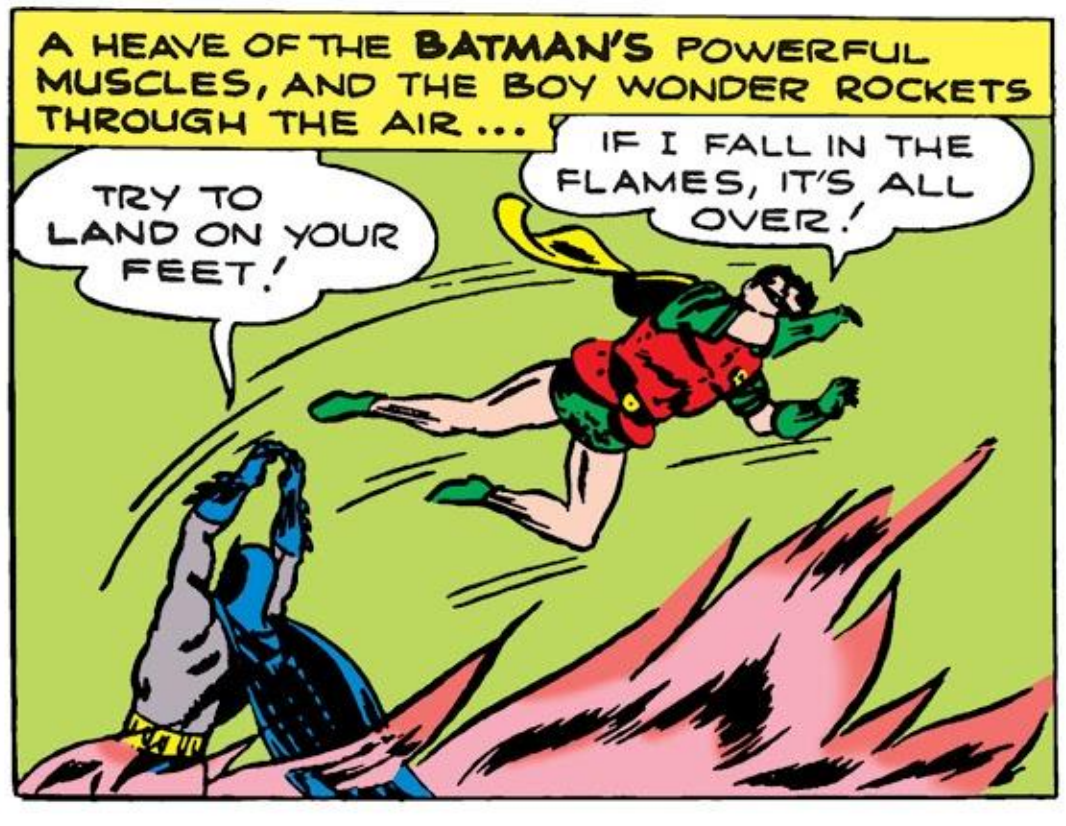

MEANWHILE...
UP HERE, ABOVE THE LIGHTS, YOU CAN SEE THE WALLS AND CEILINGS OF THE WAREHOUSE! AND THESE BUILDINGS ARE STAGE PROPS OF PAPIER MACHE ON A FLIMSY FRAMEWORK!
OOPS! YOU'RE TELLING ME!
THAT'S RIGHT- MAKE THE CHECK OUT FOR A HUNDRED GRAND, PAYABLE TO BEARER! WE'LL LET YOU GO AFTER WE CASH IT TOMOR-ROW—MAYBE! HA, HA, HA!
WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO SWALLOW YOUR STORY!
JOKER- LOOK!
SO, JOKER- WE MEET AGAIN!
BATMAN!
PARDON ME!
I'LL CUT YA IN HALF!
GIVE ME THE CHECK, MY FOOLISH FRIEND! I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE IT DESTROYED IN THE DISORDERS TO COME!
WHAT AN ENTRANCE!
NOT SO FAST!
EVER SPEND AN IDLE HOUR INSIDE AN IDOL?
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME, BATMAN! HA, HA, HA, HA!
HA - BRAT! YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ARE IN A TRAP, AND I HAVE FIFTY MEN TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER ESCAPE!
GOT YOU!... NO, I HAVEN'T, EITHER!
THE NEXT MOMENT...
WHA—! WHO MOVED DA STAIRS?
A TRAFFIC JAM!
ALL I WANT IS TO GET MY HANDS ON THE JOKER!
YIIII! GET OFFA ME!

LEAPING OVER THE WRITHING FORMS OF THE GUNMEN, THE HEROES SEE...
THERE HE GOES!
AND HERE WE GO!
I WARN YOU, I'LL HAVE TO TURN ON THE HEAT IF YOU PERSIST IN ANNOYING ME!
DRAGON

WITHIN THE DRAGON'S HEAD, THE JOKER PULLS A LEVER, AND...
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
WE'RE HEMMED IN BY FLAMES! WE CAN'T MOVE!
AND WE CAN'T STAY EITHER – IF WE WANT TO KEEP LIVING!

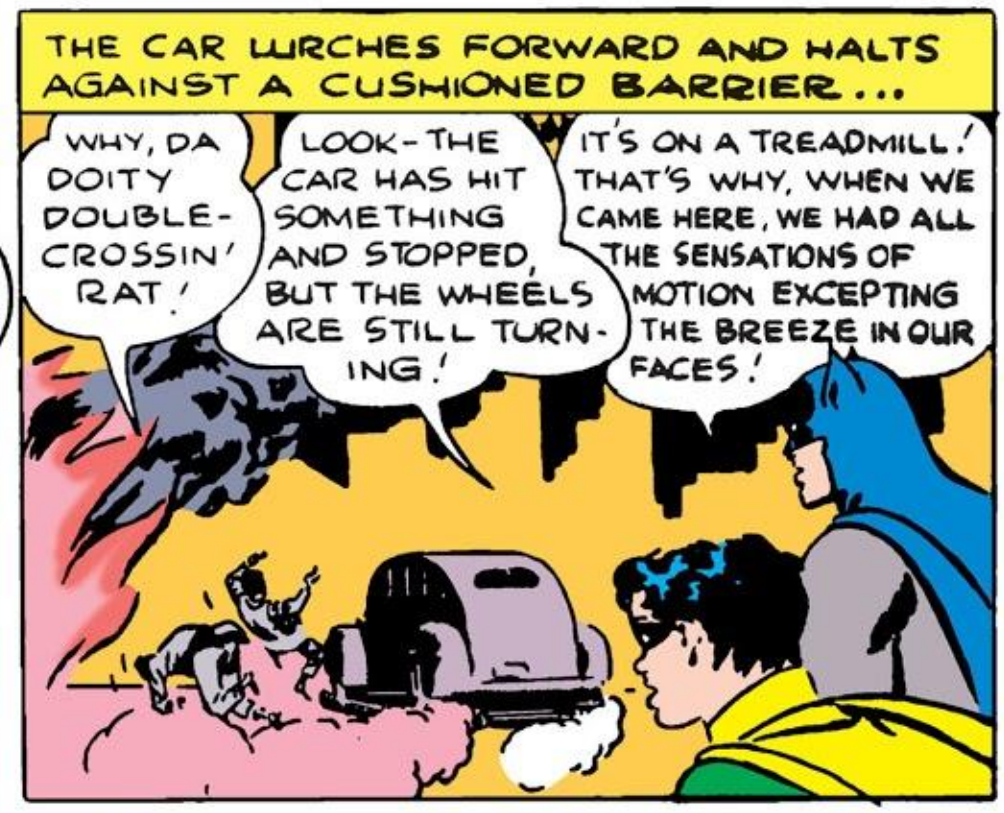

AND NOW, WHILE BATMAN AND ROBIN VANISH IN SMOKE, I'LL CASH LATHROP'S CHECK – AND SET THE STAGE FOR FUTURE TOURISTS IN SHADOW CITY! HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

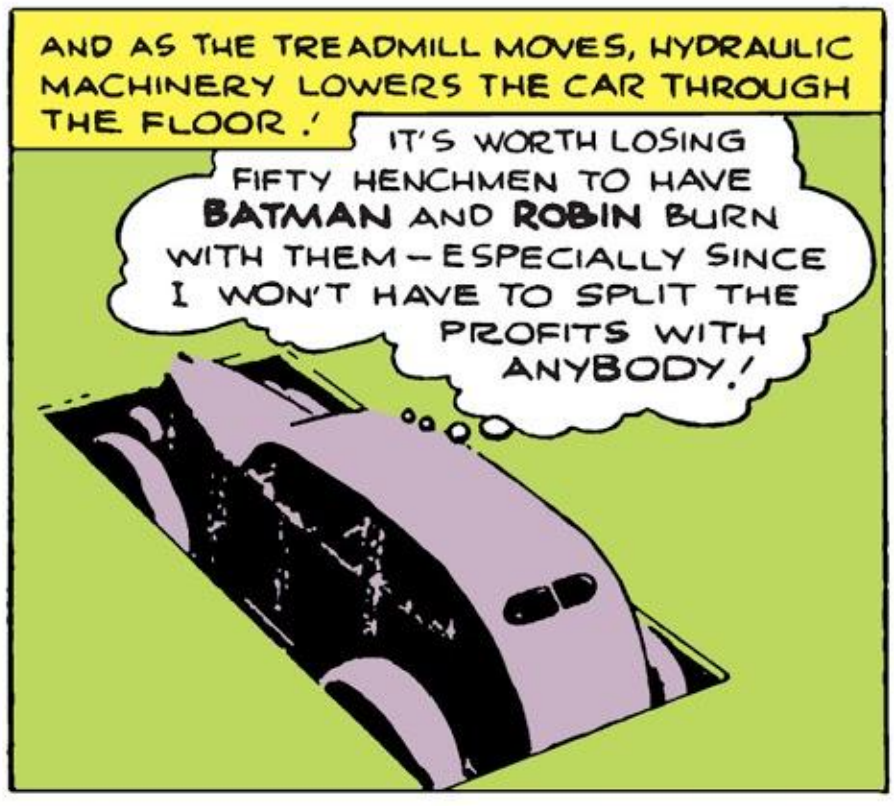

LEFT ALONE, BATMAN AND ROBIN TRY A DESPERATE MANEUVER...
I CAN'T STAND IT!
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN – FOOT IN MY HANDS, AND HANDS ON MY SHOULDERS!

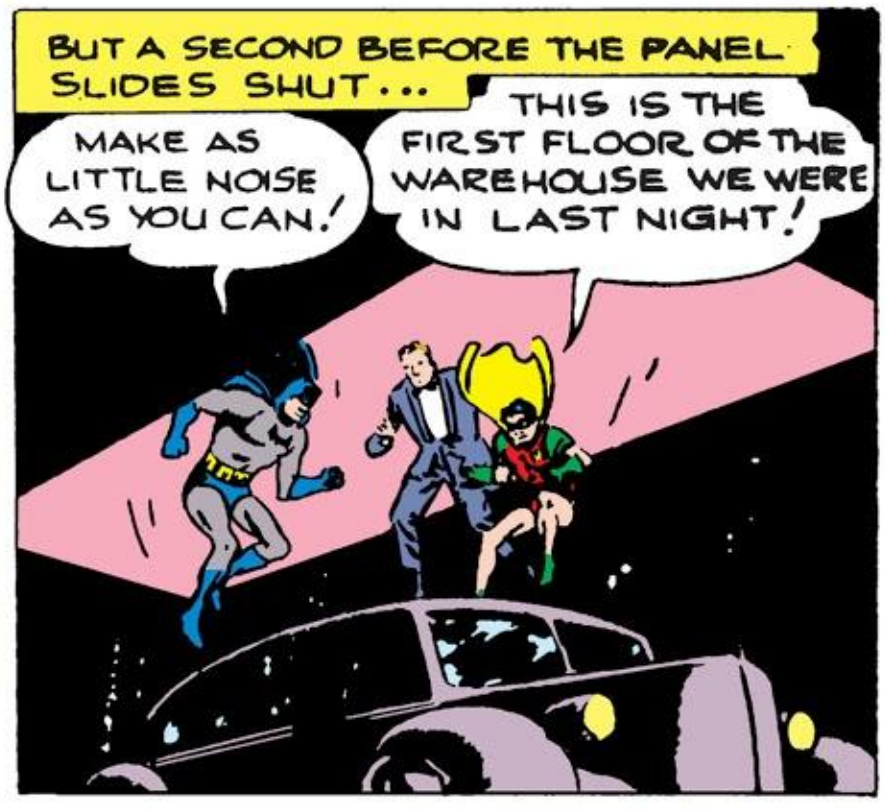

A HEAVE OF THE BATMAN'S POWERFUL MUSCLES, AND THE BOY WONDER ROCKETS THROUGH THE AIR...
TRY TO LAND ON YOUR FEET!
IF I FALL IN THE FLAMES, IT'S ALL OVER!

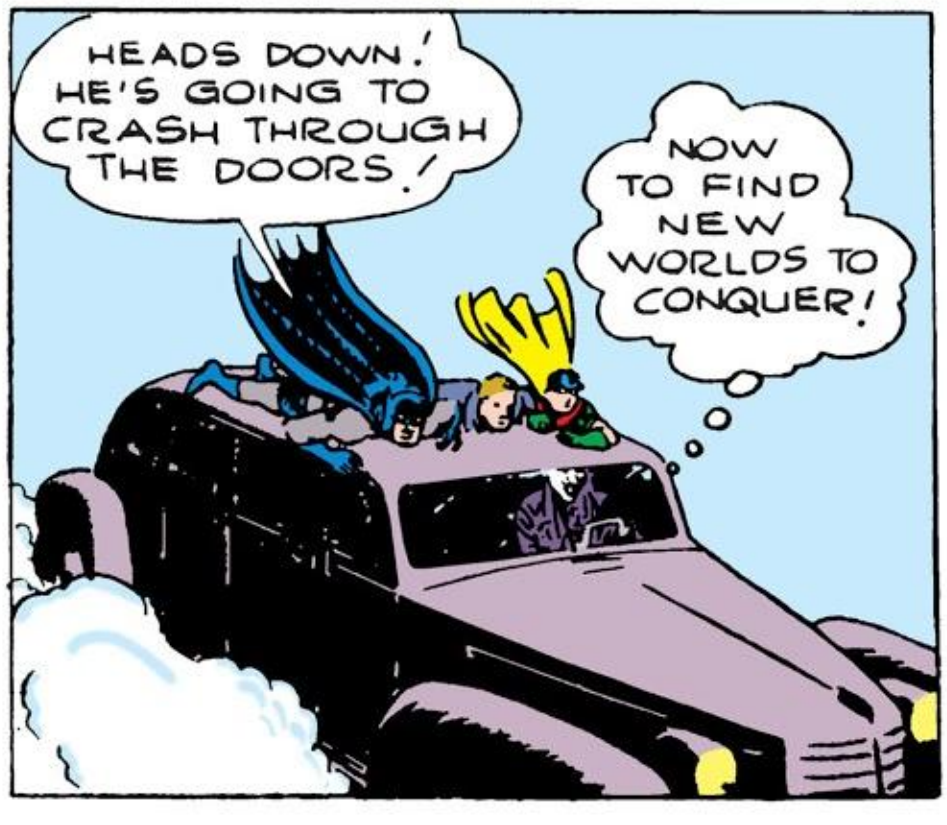
AN INSTANT LATER...
THAT DOES IT!
THE BUILDING'S ON FIRE!
GREAT SCOTT – THE WHOLE SET-UP WILL BURN LIKE TINDER!

SEEING THE LEAPING FLAMES, THE JOKER MAKES A DASH FOR SAFETY...
FIRE! WE GOTTA GET OUT!
MOVE OVER, FOOL! SINCE WE CAN'T ALL RIDE, I'LL TAKE THE LOOT AND GO ALONE!
DA CAR! IT'S DA ONLY WAY!

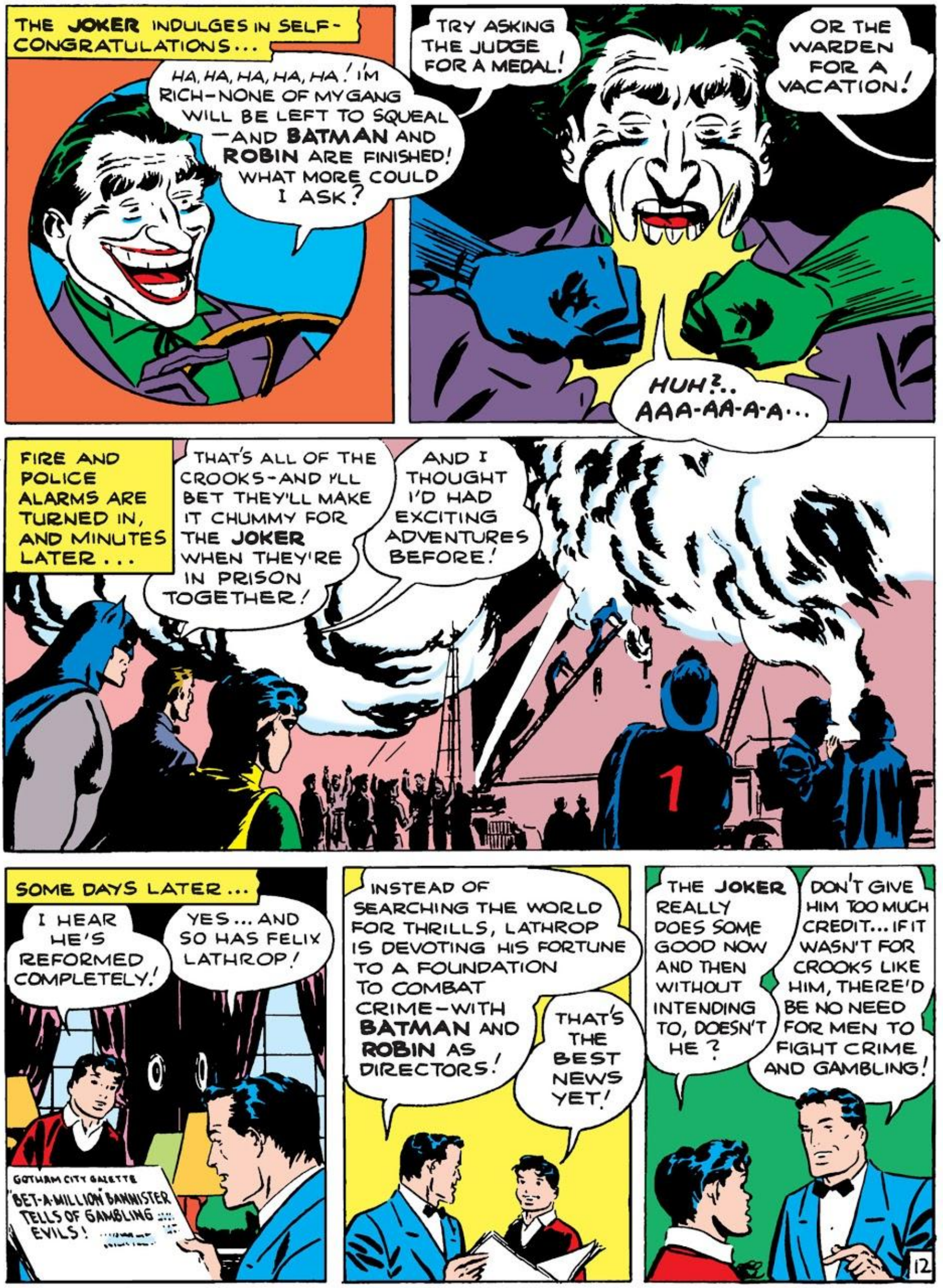

THE CAR LURCHES FORWARD AND HALTS AGAINST A CUSHIONED BARRIER...
WHY, DA DOITY DOUBLE-CROSSIN' RAT!
LOOK - THE CAR HAS HIT SOMETHING AND STOPPED, BUT THE WHEELS ARE STILL TURNING!
IT'S ON A TREADMILL! THAT'S WHY, WHEN WE CAME HERE, WE HAD ALL THE SENSATIONS OF MOTION EXCEPTING THE BREEZE IN OUR FACES!


AND AS THE TREADMILL MOVES, HYDRAULIC MACHINERY LOWERS THE CAR THROUGH THE FLOOR!
IT'S WORTH LOSING FIFTY HENCHMEN TO HAVE BATMAN AND ROBIN BURN WITH THEM - ESPECIALLY SINCE I WON'T HAVE TO SPLIT THE PROFITS WITH ANYBODY!


BUT A SECOND BEFORE THE PANEL SLIDES SHUT...
MAKE AS LITTLE NOISE AS YOU CAN!
THIS IS THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE WAREHOUSE WE WERE IN LAST NIGHT!

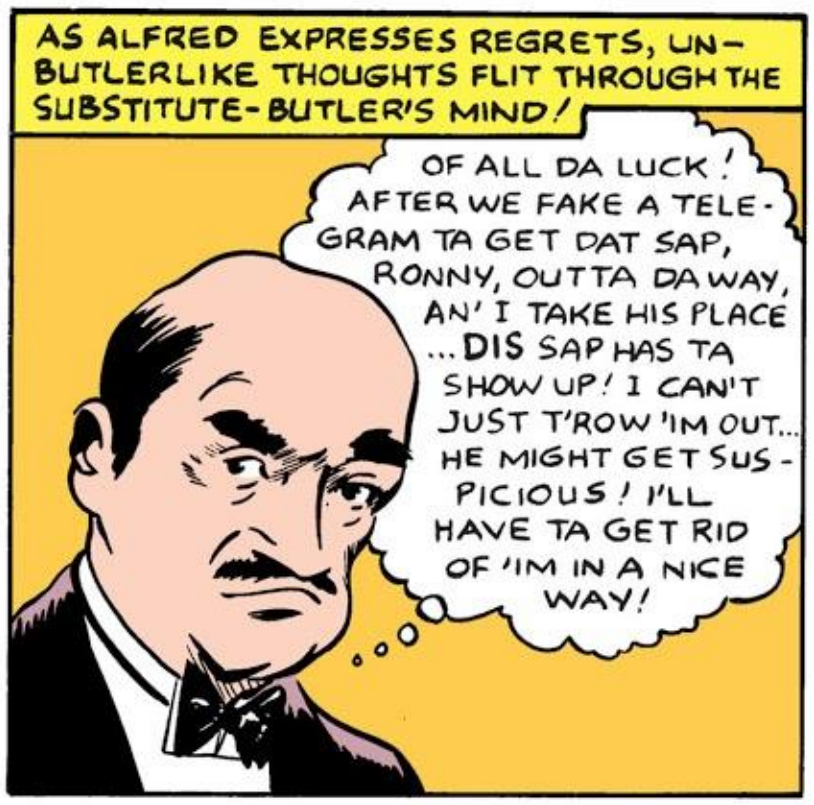

HEADS DOWN! HE'S GOING TO CRASH THROUGH THE DOORS!
NOW TO FIND NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER!

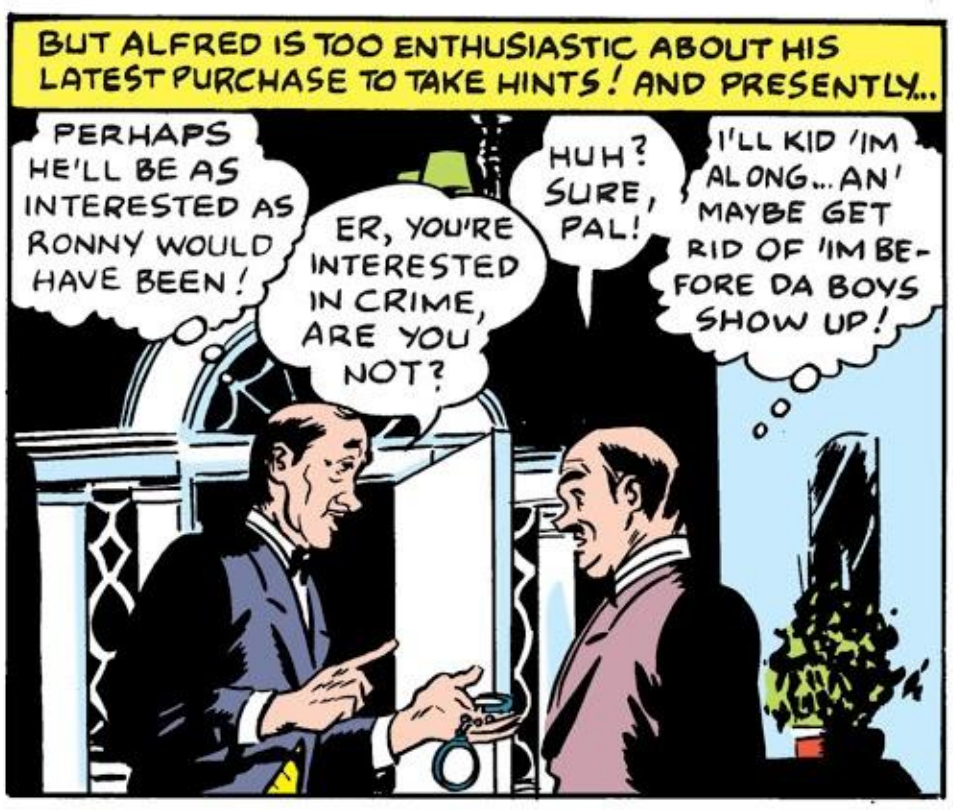
CRASH!


THE JOKER INDULGES IN SELF-CONGRATULATIONS...
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA! I'M RICH—NONE OF MY GANG WILL BE LEFT TO SQUEAL —AND BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE FINISHED! WHAT MORE COULD I ASK?
TRY ASKING THE JUDGE FOR A MEDAL!
OR THE WARDEN FOR A VACATION!
HUH?.. AAA-AA-A-A...
FIRE AND POLICE ALARMS ARE TURNED IN, AND MINUTES LATER...
THAT'S ALL OF THE CROOKS—AND I'LL BET THEY'LL MAKE IT CHUMMY FOR THE JOKER WHEN THEY'RE IN PRISON TOGETHER!
AND I THOUGHT I'D HAD EXCITING ADVENTURES BEFORE!
1
SOME DAYS LATER...
I HEAR HE'S REFORMED COMPLETELY!
YES... AND SO HAS FELIX LATHROP!
GOTHAM CITY GAZETTE
"BET-A-MILLION" BANNISTER TELLS OF GAMBLING EVILS!
INSTEAD OF SEARCHING THE WORLD FOR THRILLS, LATHROP IS DEVOTING HIS FORTUNE TO A FOUNDATION TO COMBAT CRIME—WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN AS DIRECTORS!
THAT'S THE BEST NEWS YET!
THE JOKER REALLY DOES SOME GOOD NOW AND THEN WITHOUT INTENDING TO, DOESN'T HE?
DON'T GIVE HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT... IF IT WASN'T FOR CROOKS LIKE HIM, THERE'D BE NO NEED FOR MEN TO FIGHT CRIME AND GAMBLING!

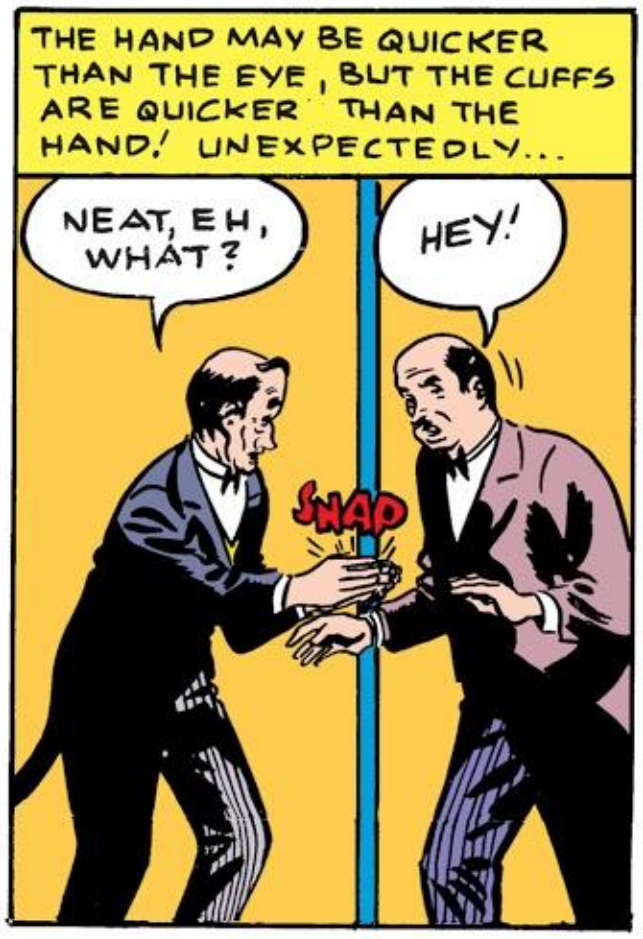
The Adventures of ALFRED

ALFRED, THE PEERLESS BUTLER, HAS HIS OWN EXTRAORDINARY METHODS OF TRAPPING CRIMINALS! AND HIS VICTIMS WRITHE VAINLY IN THEIR IRON SNARES, AS THE AMATEUR DETECTIVE DISPLAYS HIS FEATS AS... "THE GREAT HANDCUFF KING!"


AS ALFRED EXPRESSES REGRETS, UN-BUTLERLIKE THOUGHTS FLIT THROUGH THE SUBSTITUTE-BUTLER'S MIND!
OF ALL DA LUCK! AFTER WE FAKE A TELEGRAM TA GET DAT SAP, RONNY, OUTTA DA WAY, AN' I TAKE HIS PLACE ...DIS SAP HAS TA SHOW UP! I CAN'T JUST T'ROW 'IM OUT... HE MIGHT GET SUSPICIOUS! I'LL HAVE TA GET RID OF 'IM IN A NICE WAY!

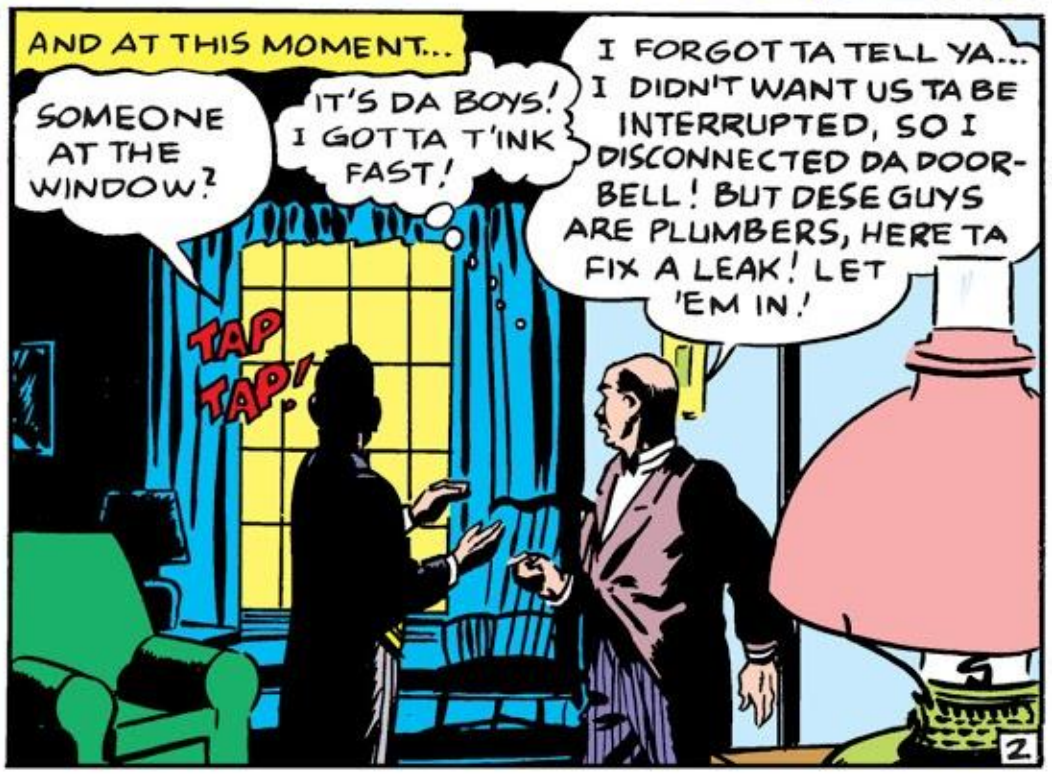

BUT ALFRED IS TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS LATEST PURCHASE TO TAKE HINTS! AND PRESENTLY...
PERHAPS HE'LL BE AS INTERESTED AS RONNY WOULD HAVE BEEN!
ER, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN CRIME, ARE YOU NOT?
HUH? SURE, PAL!
I'LL KID 'IM ALONG... AN' MAYBE GET RID OF 'IM BEFORE DA BOYS SHOW UP!

NOW, IF YOU WERE A CRIMINAL IN MY CHARGE, THESE HANDCUFFS WOULD ENABLE ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU WITHOUT HAMPERING MY OWN ACTIVITIES! OBSERVE...


THE HAND MAY BE QUICKER THAN THE EYE, BUT THE CUFFS ARE QUICKER THAN THE HAND! UNEXPECTEDLY...
NEAT, EH, WHAT?
HEY!
SNAP

NEAT AIN'T THE WORD FOR IT! GET ME OUT OF THIS, YA SAP!
TUT, TUT, NO NEED TO GET EXCITED! I SIMPLY TURN THE KEY, AND...

GOODNESS GRACIOUS, I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE THE KEY!

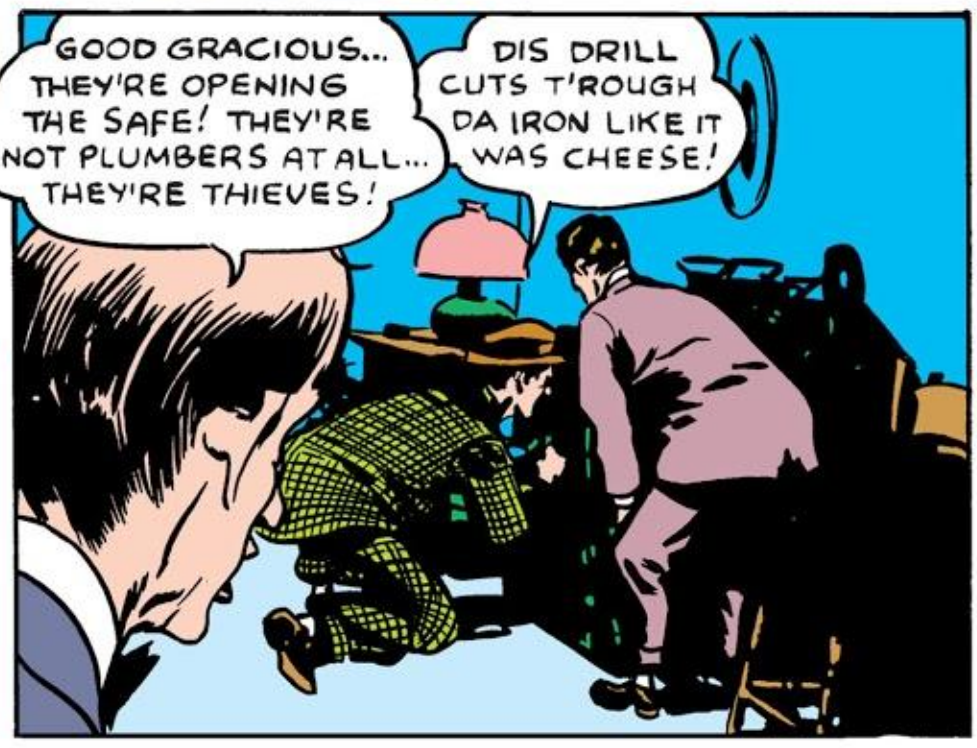

AND AT THIS MOMENT...
SOMEONE AT THE WINDOW?
IT'S DA BOYS! I GOTTA T'INK FAST!
TAP TAP!
I FORGOT TA TELL YA... I DIDN'T WANT US TA BE INTERRUPTED, SO I DISCONNECTED DA DOORBELL! BUT DESE GUYS ARE PLUMBERS, HERE TA FIX A LEAK! LET 'EM IN!

ALWAYS WILLING TO OBLIGE! BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING AS PLUMBERS ENTERING THROUGH A WINDOW! I'LL LET THEM IN THROUGH THE SERVANTS' ENTRANCE!

NO ANSWER! SLICK MUSTA FALLEN DOWN ON DA JOB!
THIS WAY, MY GOOD FELLOWS!
HUH..? SLICK AIN'T HERE... BUT DIS GUY'S INVITIN' US IN!

MY FRIEND, SLICK, IS, ER, SLIGHTLY INDISPOSED! BUT I TRUST YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
SURE, PAL, IT WON'T TAKE US LONG!

HERE'S DA SAFE! LET'S GO!
WHAT..? PLUMBERS TO FIX A SAFE?


GOOD GRACIOUS... THEY'RE OPENING THE SAFE! THEY'RE NOT PLUMBERS AT ALL... THEY'RE THIEVES!
DIS DRILL CUTS T'ROUGH DA IRON LIKE IT WAS CHEESE!

HEY! GET 'IM, SLUG! HE'S GONE WHACKY!
STOP, THIEF! HELP, POLICE!

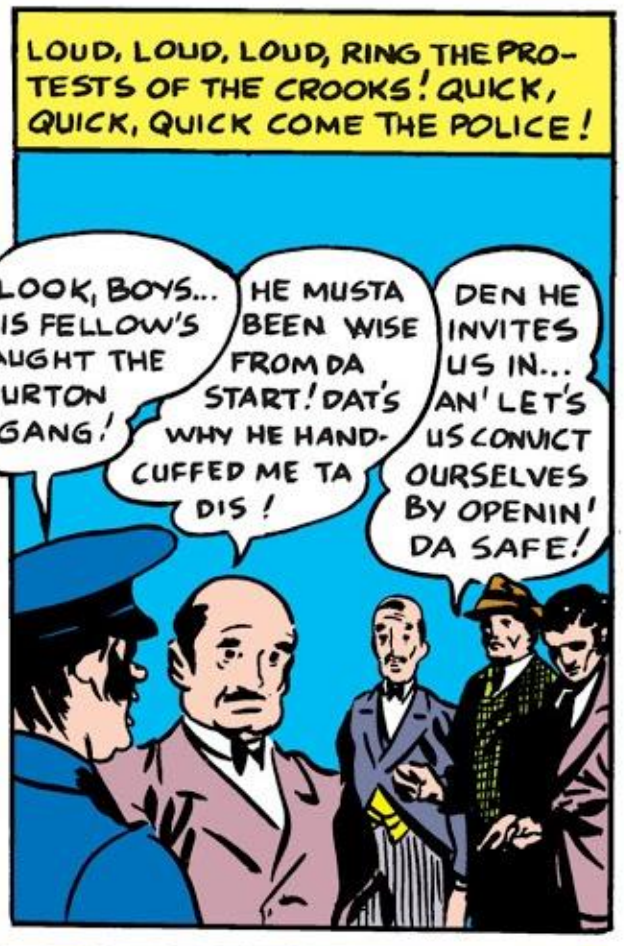
YEOW! GET 'IM OFF ME, MIKE!
JUST A SECOND, SLUG... I'LL FIX 'IM WID HIS OWN HANDCUFFS!
HELP! POLICE!

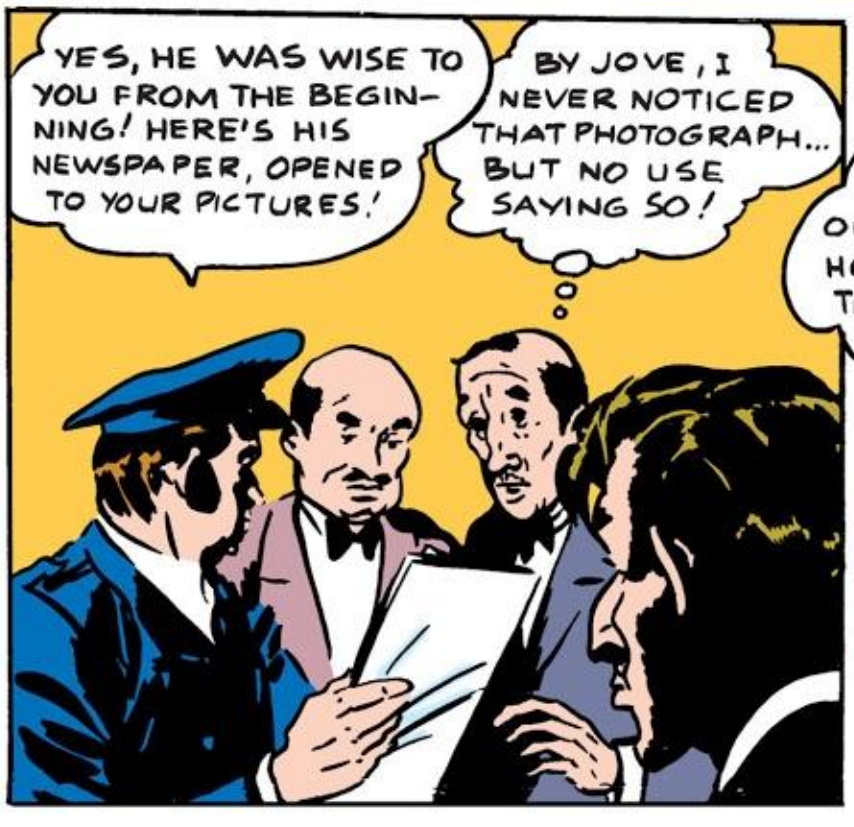
THAT GOT 'IM! HE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' NOW!
YIII...! YA SAP, DAT WAS MY HAND! FIND DA KEY AN' LET ME OUT OF DIS, QUICK!
SNAP

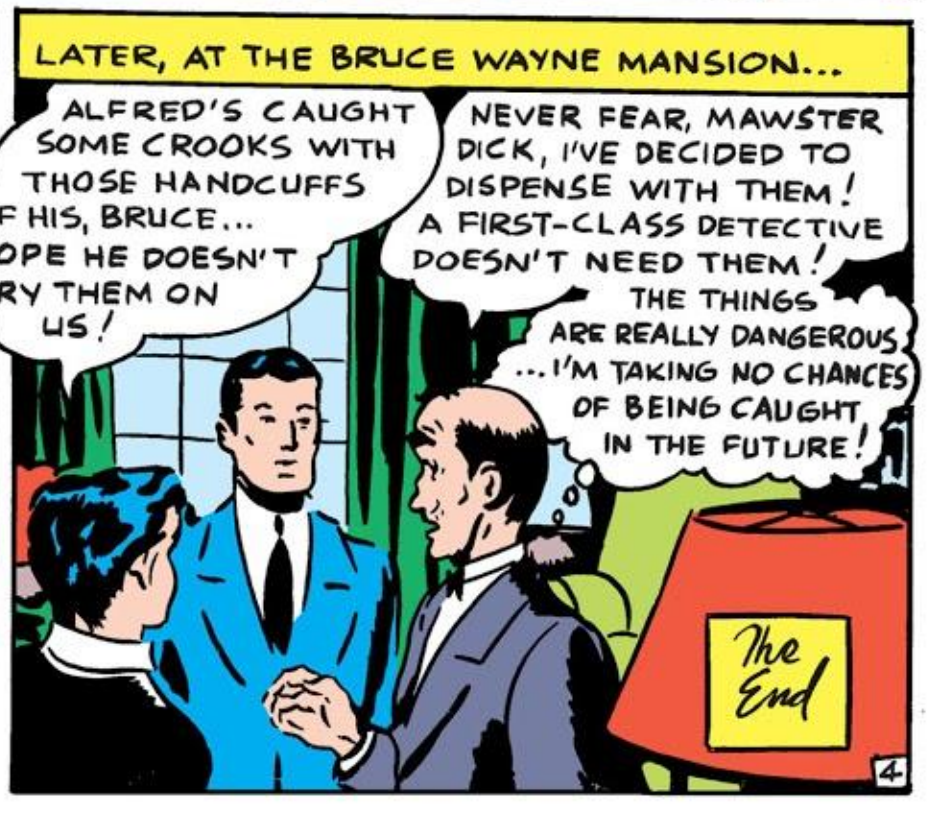
JUST A MINUTE, JUST A MINUTE... WHAT'S DAT?
SNAP

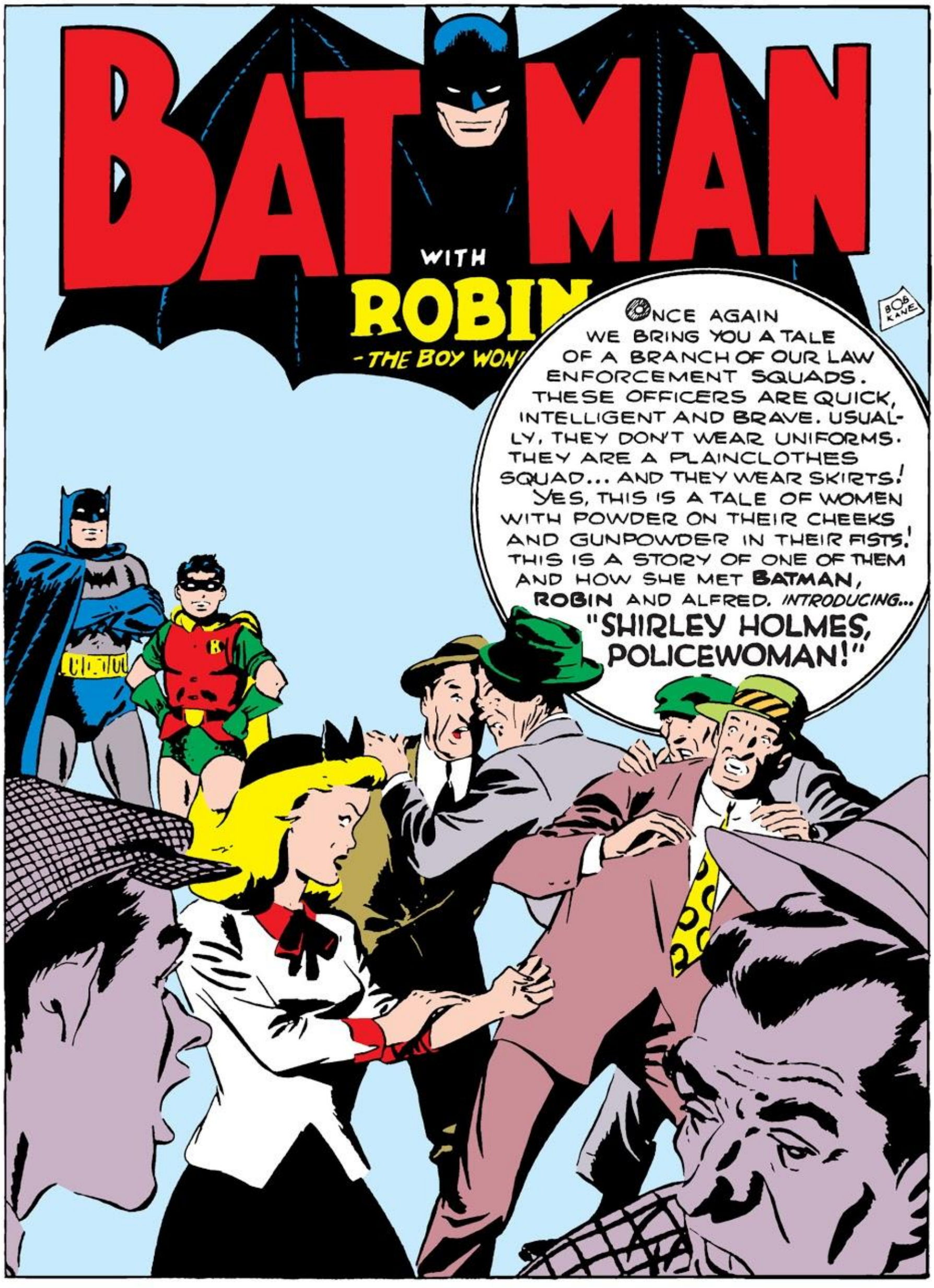
YA NITWIT! YA SNAPPED ONE OF DEM ON YERSELF! HOLD STILL ...I'LL GET 'EM OFF!
STAY AWAY... LET ME HANDLE DIS!

SNAP
YII! NOW THE OTHER ONE!
SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! SING THE HANDCUFFS...

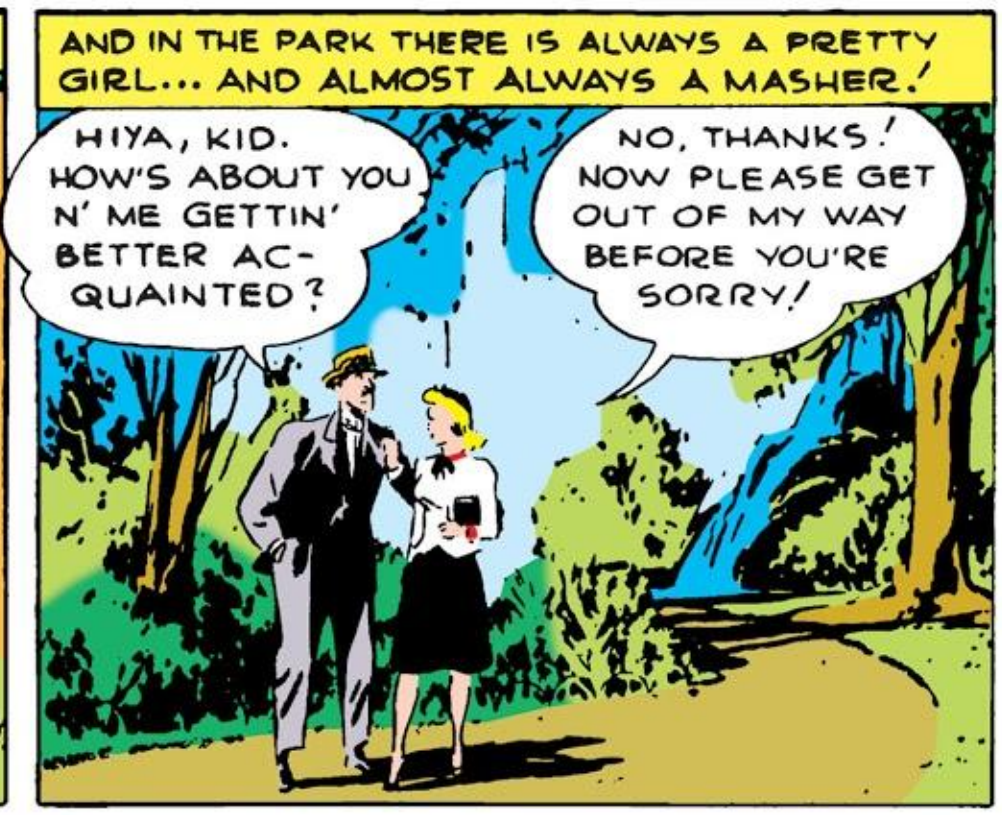

LOUD, LOUD, LOUD, RING THE PROTESTS OF THE CROOKS! QUICK, QUICK, QUICK COME THE POLICE!
LOOK, BOYS... THIS FELLOW'S CAUGHT THE MURTON GANG!
HE MUSTA BEEN WISE FROM DA START! DAT'S WHY HE HANDCUFFED ME TA DIS!
DEN HE INVITES US IN... AN' LET'S US CONVICT OURSELVES BY OPENIN' DA SAFE!


YES, HE WAS WISE TO YOU FROM THE BEGINNING! HERE'S HIS NEWSPAPER, OPENED TO YOUR PICTURES!
BY JOVE, I NEVER NOTICED THAT PHOTOGRAPH... BUT NO USE SAYING SO!


LATER, AT THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION...
ALFRED'S CAUGHT SOME CROOKS WITH THOSE HANDCUFFS OF HIS, BRUCE... HOPE HE DOESN'T TRY THEM ON US!
NEVER FEAR, MAWSTER DICK, I'VE DECIDED TO DISPENSE WITH THEM! A FIRST-CLASS DETECTIVE DOESN'T NEED THEM!
THE THINGS ARE REALLY DANGEROUS ...I'M TAKING NO CHANCES OF BEING CAUGHT IN THE FUTURE!
The End


BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WON
BOB KANE
ONCE AGAIN WE BRING YOU A TALE OF A BRANCH OF OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT SQUADS. THESE OFFICERS ARE QUICK, INTELLIGENT AND BRAVE. USUALLY, THEY DON'T WEAR UNIFORMS. THEY ARE A PLAINCLOTHES SQUAD... AND THEY WEAR SKIRTS! YES, THIS IS A TALE OF WOMEN WITH POWDER ON THEIR CHEEKS AND GUNPOWDER IN THEIR FISTS! THIS IS A STORY OF ONE OF THEM AND HOW SHE MET BATMAN, ROBIN AND ALFRED. INTRODUCING... "SHIRLEY HOLMES, POLICEWOMAN!"

IN THE SPRING, A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY TURNS TO WALKS IN THE PARK, AND ALFRED IS NO EXCEPTION...
♪ THE BIRDS THAT SING IN THE SPRING, TRA ♪ LA... ♪


AND IN THE PARK THERE IS ALWAYS A PRETTY GIRL... AND ALMOST ALWAYS A MASHER!
HIYA, KID. HOW'S ABOUT YOU N' ME GETTIN' BETTER ACQUAINTED?
NO, THANKS! NOW PLEASE GET OUT OF MY WAY BEFORE YOU'RE SORRY!

ENTER THE HERO!
C'MON, KID. I'M NOT SO HARD TO TAKE!
JOVE! I MUST STOP THE BULLY BEFORE HE GETS TOO OBNOXIOUS!
SEE HERE, MY MAN, LEAVE THIS YOUNG LADY ALONE, ELSE I LOSE MY TEMPER!

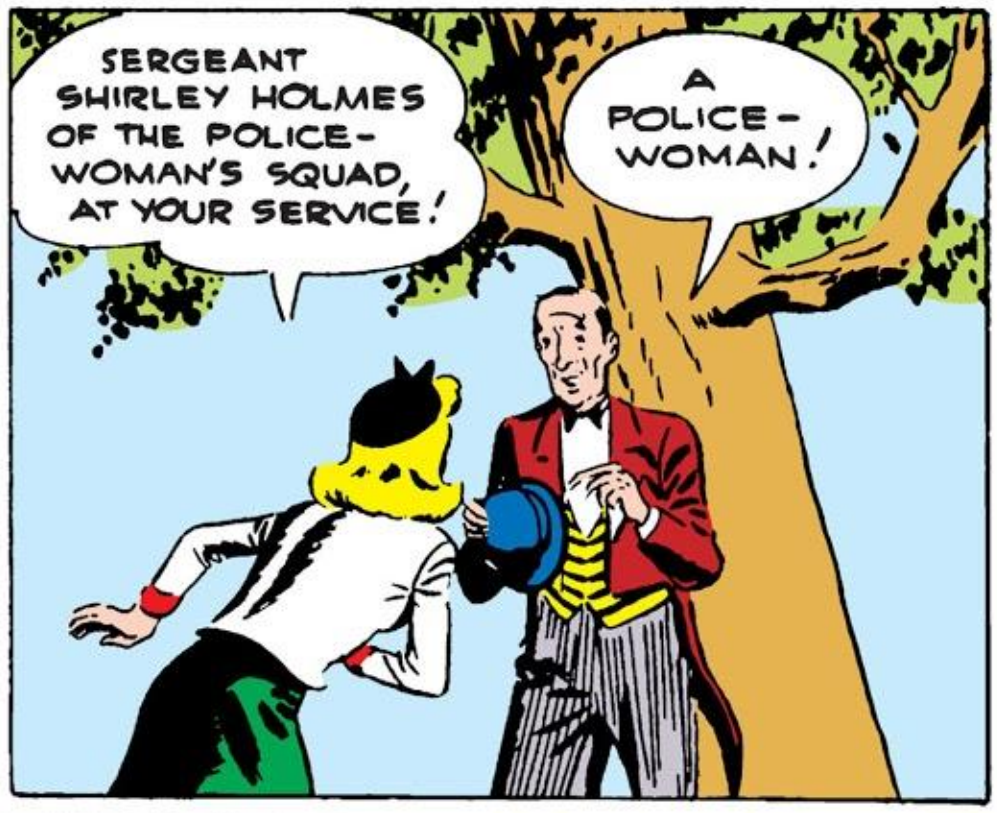
ON YER WAY, BOY SCOUT!

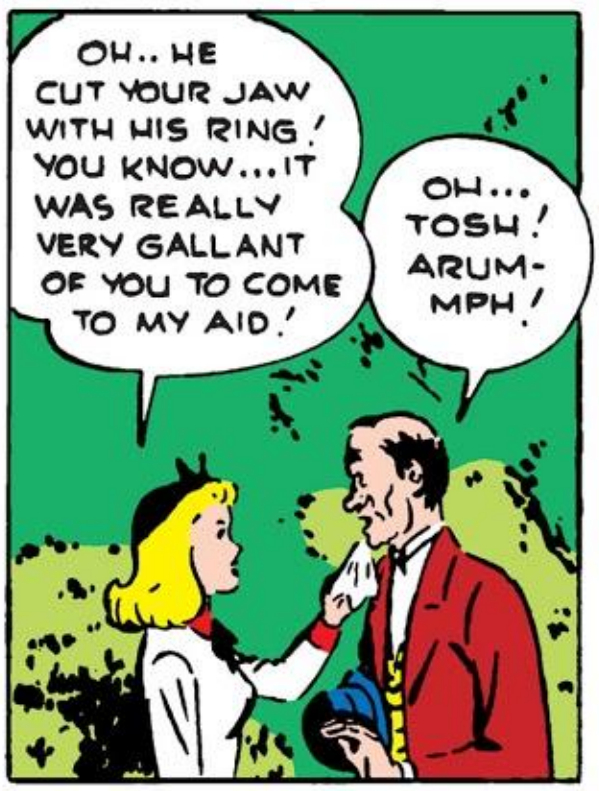
WAIT, MISS! I'M STILL CONSCIOUS! I SHALL YET DEAL WITH THAT BULLY!
HEY!
DON'T FRET, PET! I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS LUG MYSELF! YOU SEE...

...THERE'S REALLY...

... NOTHING TO IT!
MY WORD! THAT BLOW HAS MADE ME QUITE DIZZY! I COULD SWEAR I SAW THAT MERE SLIP OF A GIRL THROWING THAT BIG BULLY!

I SAY, DID YOU REALLY DO THIS, OR IS IT A DELUSION? ARE THOSE HANDCUFFS?
WHO SLUGGED ME WIT' A TREE!
HE'S LYING DOWN, I'M STANDING UP! DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS! YES, THESE ARE HANDCUFFS! I'M ARRESTING THIS MAN!

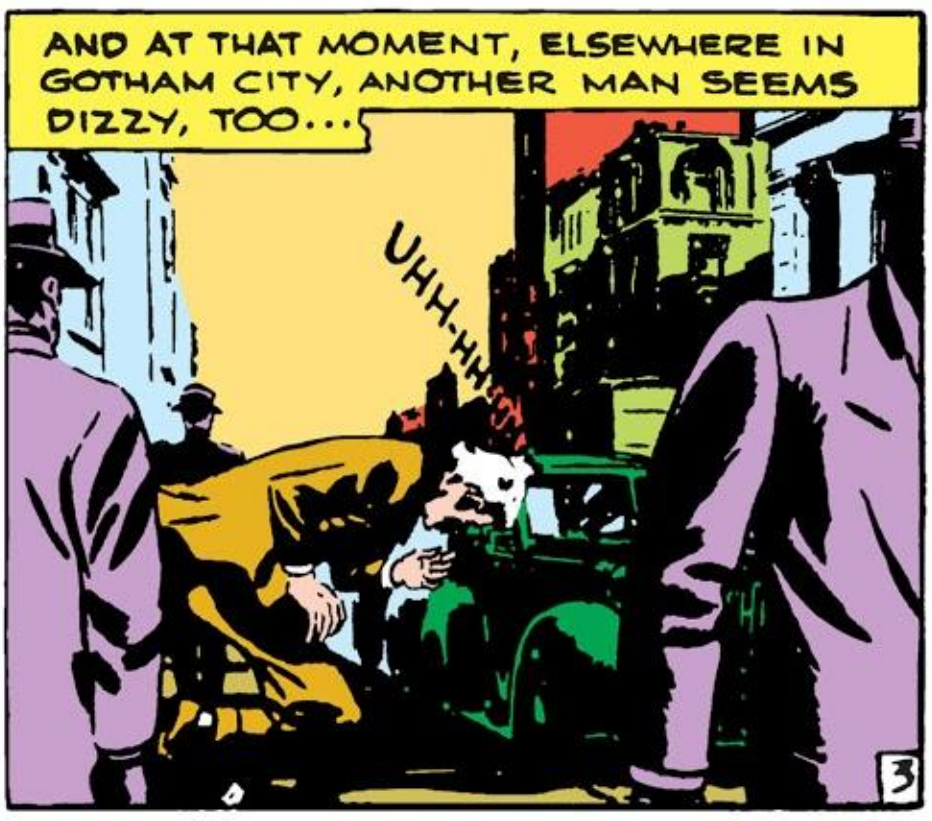

SERGEANT SHIRLEY HOLMES OF THE POLICE-WOMAN'S SQUAD, AT YOUR SERVICE!
A POLICE-WOMAN!


OH.. HE CUT YOUR JAW WITH HIS RING! YOU KNOW...IT WAS REALLY VERY GALLANT OF YOU TO COME TO MY AID!
OH... TOSH! ARUM-MPH!

A HERO SHOULD HAVE A PROPER REWARD!

A GOIL DID THIS TO ME! A GOIL!
LOOK ME UP SOMETIME! 'BYE!

JOVE! BY JOVE!


AND AT THAT MOMENT, ELSEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY, ANOTHER MAN SEEMS DIZZY, TOO...
UHH-HH
3

HE'S FAINTED!
HERE! LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT HIM!

UH...WH.. WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU FAINTED, OLD-TIMER! ARE YOU ILL?

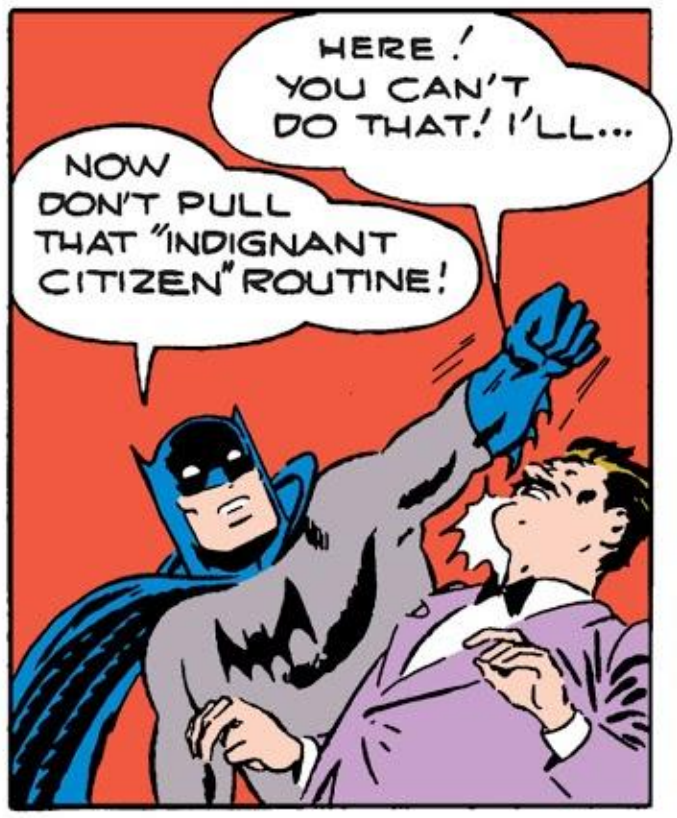
I GUESS I MUST BE SICKER'N I FIGGERED! Y'SEE... I AIN'T ATE ANYTHIN' FOR TWO DAYS NOW...
OH!
THE POOR MAN!
WHAT A SHAME!

AN OLD MAN... STARVING IN THIS DAY AND AGE! IT'S AN INJUSTICE! IT'S OUR CIVIC DUTY TO HELP THIS MAN! I'M GOING TO PASS THE HAT AROUND, FOLKS! LET'S ALL GIVE WHAT WE CAN! HERE'S MY FIVE DOLLAR BILL TO START IT!

STARVING! TCH-TCH! I'LL GIVE TWO DOLLARS!
HERE'S MY DOLLAR!
GUESS I CAN SPARE A HALF!

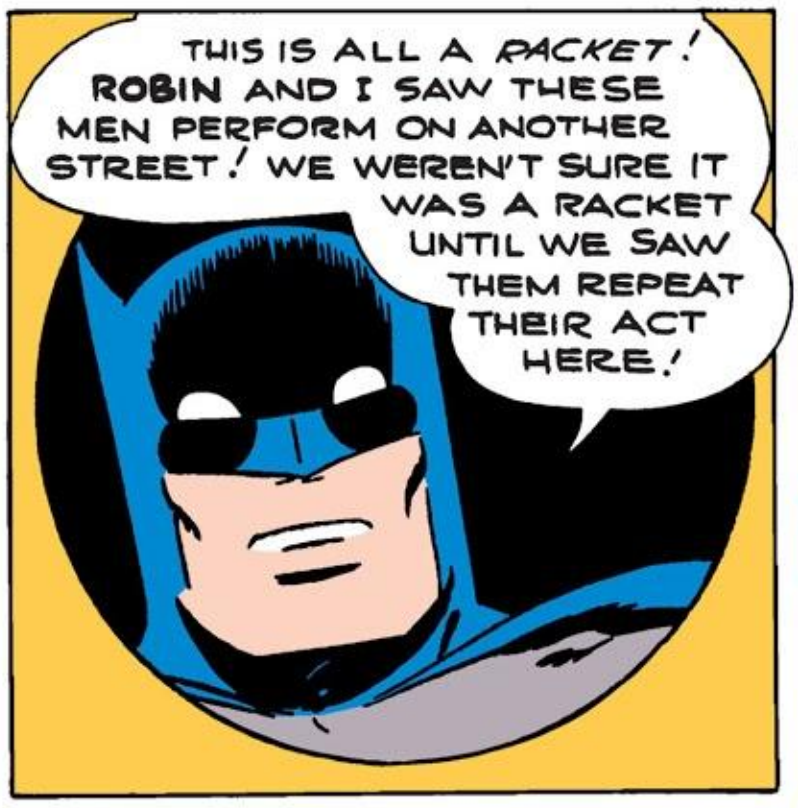
GULP..I.. GOSH... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU KIND FOLKS...
DON'T TRY! JUST TAKE THIS MONEY AND GET SOME GOOD FOOD IN YOUR STOMACH AND WARM CLOTHES ON YOUR BACK! HERE!

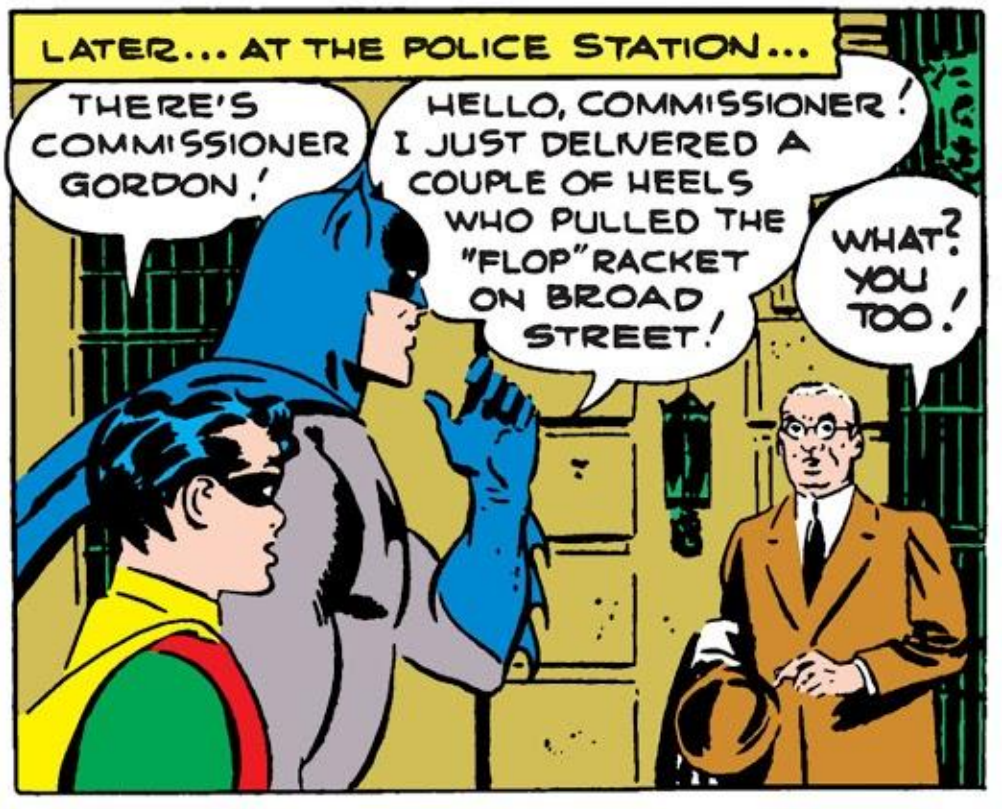
I'LL TAKE THAT!

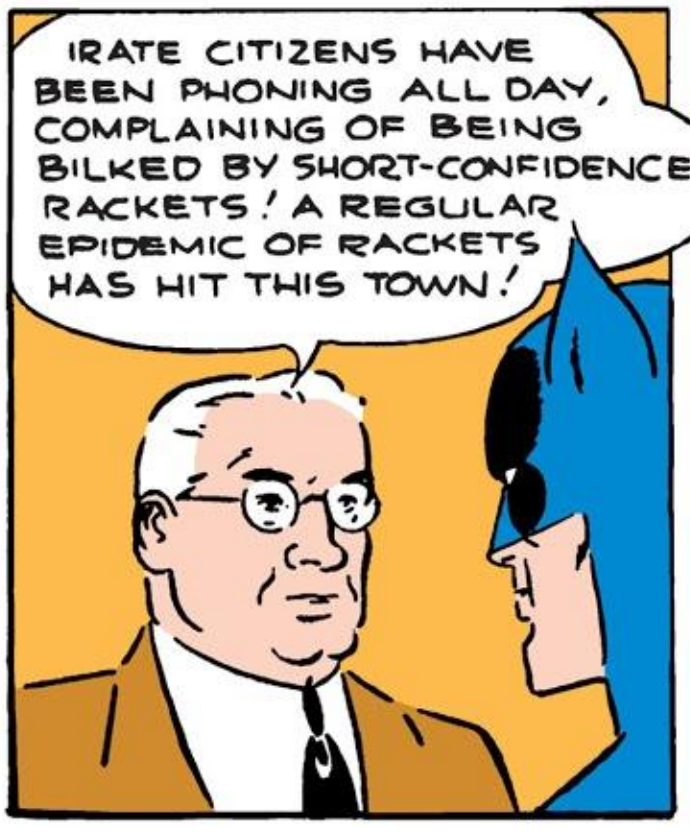

HERE! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I'LL...
NOW DON'T PULL THAT "INDIGNANT CITIZEN" ROUTINE!

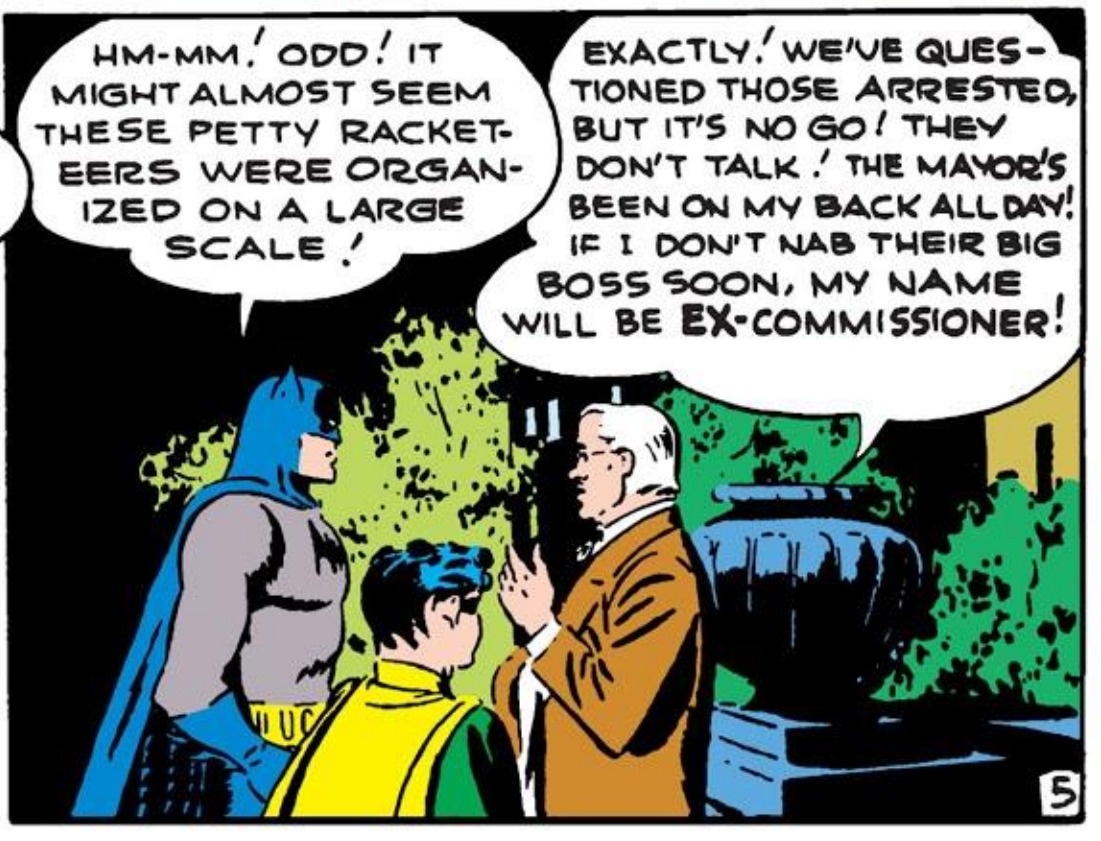
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME!
STICK AROUND, GRANDPA!

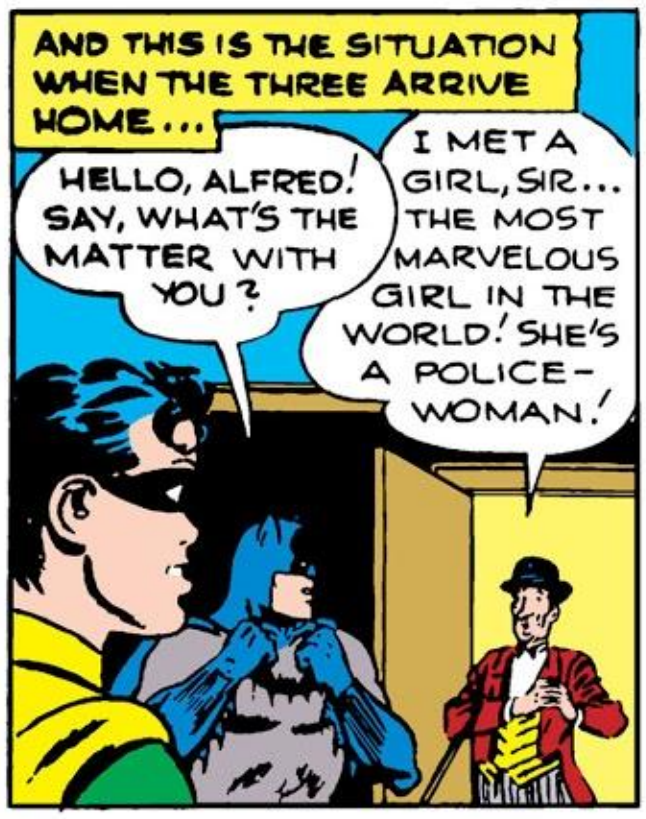
ANGRY AT BATMAN'S AND ROBIN'S SEEMING CALLOUSNESS, THE CROWD SURGES FORWARD!
WHAT'S THE IDEA?
HURT A STARVING OLD MAN, WILL YOU? GIVE THAT OLD MAN HIS MONEY!
WAIT! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!


THIS IS ALL A *RACKET*! ROBIN AND I SAW THESE MEN PERFORM ON ANOTHER STREET! WE WEREN'T SURE IT WAS A RACKET UNTIL WE SAW THEM REPEAT THEIR ACT HERE!


LATER... AT THE POLICE STATION...
THERE'S COMMISSIONER GORDON!
HELLO, COMMISSIONER! I JUST DELIVERED A COUPLE OF HEELS WHO PULLED THE "FLOP" RACKET ON BROAD STREET!
WHAT? YOU TOO!


IRATE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN PHONING ALL DAY, COMPLAINING OF BEING BILKED BY SHORT-CONFIDENCE RACKETS! A REGULAR EPIDEMIC OF RACKETS HAS HIT THIS TOWN!

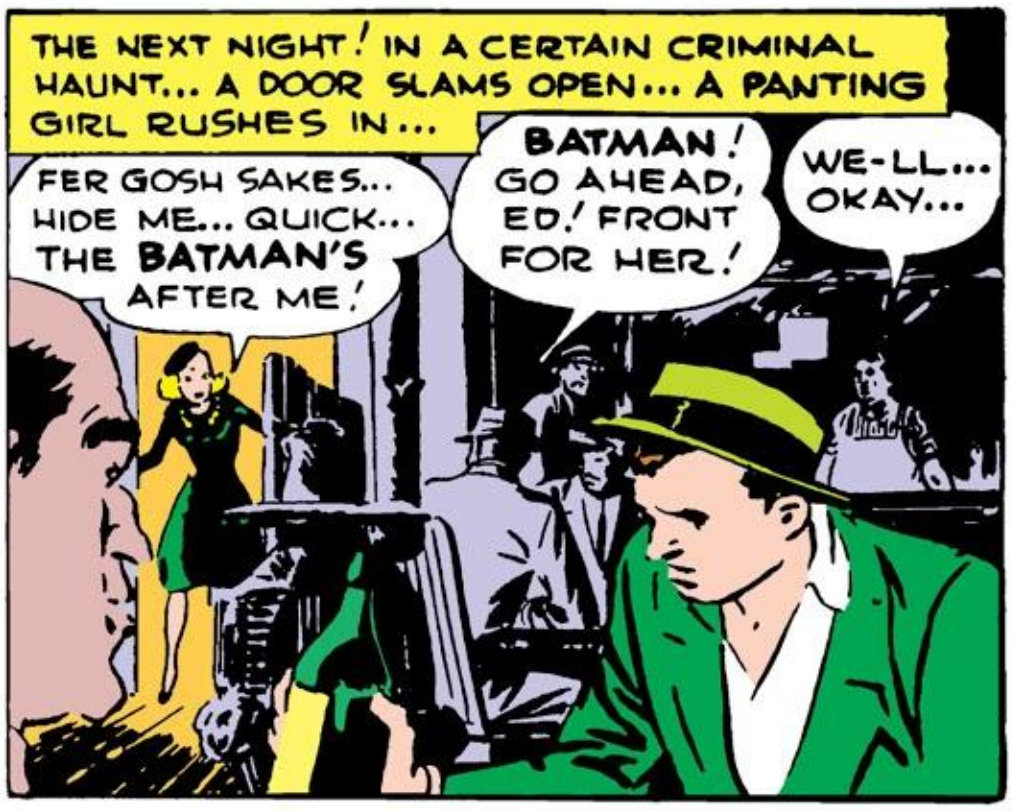

HM-MM! ODD! IT MIGHT ALMOST SEEM THESE PETTY RACKETEERS WERE ORGANIZED ON A LARGE SCALE!
EXACTLY! WE'VE QUESTIONED THOSE ARRESTED, BUT IT'S NO GO! THEY DON'T TALK! THE MAYOR'S BEEN ON MY BACK ALL DAY! IF I DON'T NAB THEIR BIG BOSS SOON, MY NAME WILL BE EX-COMMISSIONER!


AND THIS IS THE SITUATION WHEN THE THREE ARRIVE HOME...
HELLO, ALFRED! SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
I MET A GIRL, SIR... THE MOST MARVELOUS GIRL IN THE WORLD! SHE'S A POLICE-WOMAN!

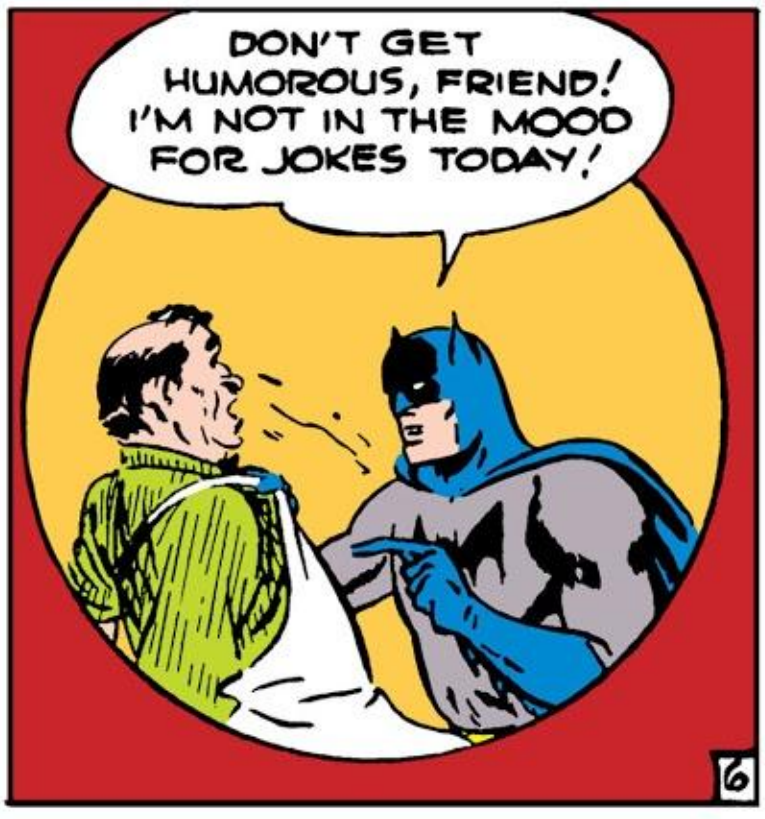
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HER THROW THAT BULLY AROUND! IT WAS QUITE A TREAT!
A POLICE-WOMAN! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE! PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES, DICK... WE'RE GOING OUT AGAIN!

SERGEANT SHIRLEY HOLMES? SHE'S IN THE GYMNASIUM!
THANKS!

... SO YOU SEE HOW IT IS, SERGEANT! THEY MIGHT SUSPECT A MAN, BUT NOT A WOMAN!
IT'S OKAY WITH ME, IF IT IS WITH THE COMMISSIONER!


THE NEXT NIGHT! IN A CERTAIN CRIMINAL HAUNT... A DOOR SLAMS OPEN... A PANTING GIRL RUSHES IN...
FER GOSH SAKES... HIDE ME... QUICK... THE BATMAN'S AFTER ME!
BATMAN! GO AHEAD, ED! FRONT FOR HER!
WE-LL... OKAY...

DID A GIRL RUN IN HERE?
A GOIL? I DON'T KNOW! I DIDN'T SEE! I WUZ TOO BUSY PLAYIN' TIDDLY-WINKS!


DON'T GET HUMOROUS, FRIEND! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR JOKES TODAY!

WELL, DID YOU SEE HER?
NAW... WE AIN'T SEEN NOBODY COME IN.'
ALL RIGHT, BUT IN CASE OYSTER ANNIE SHOULD COME BY, YOU MIGHT TELL HER SHE'D BETTER GET AN HONEST JOB AND FORGET HER SWINDLE RACKET.' LET'S GO, ROBIN.'
HE'S GONE.' YA KIN COME OUT NOW.'
THANKS, GUY.' I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS.'

HOW COME HE CALLS YOU OYSTER ANNIE? WHAT'S YOUR SWINDLE GAME?
HA.' HA.' IT'S LIKE THIS.' I GO INTO A FANCY RESTAURANT AND ORDER OYSTERS.' I START EATING THEM WHEN SUDDENLY I YELL, GRAB MY JAW AND PULL A ROUND WHITE MARBLE OUT OF MY MOUTH.'

"I KEEP MOANING UNTIL THE MANAGER COMES OVER. HE TAKES A LOOK AT THE MARBLE IN MY HAND AND YELLS OUT..."
WHY, MISS... YOU'VE FOUND A PEARL IN THAT OYSTER.'
OH... MY TOOTH.'.. WHAT DO I CARE ABOUT THAT PEARL.' I AMOST BROKE MY JAW ON IT.' OHH.' OHH.'

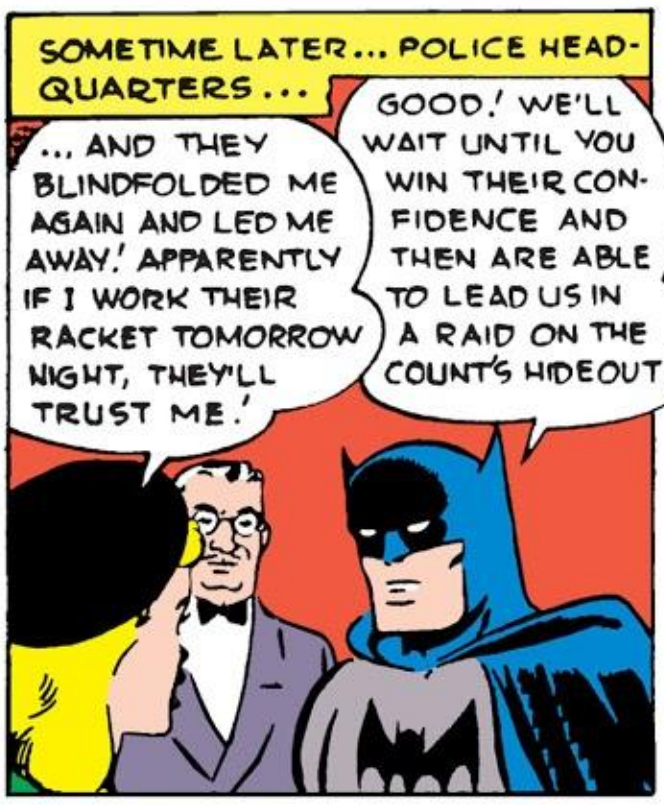
"THEN A DIGNIFIED-LOOKING DINER COMES OVER AND LOOKS AT THE PEARL..."
A VERY FINE SPECIMEN.' IT MUST BE WORTH AT LEAST $500.'
YOU CAN KEEP THAT PIECE OF ROCK.' MY JAW IS BROKEN.' I'LL SUE YOU.' I'LL MAKE YOU PAY FOR MY DENTIST'S BILLS.'

I GET IT NOW.' DE MANAGER GIVES YOU SAY $200 CASH TO DROP DE SUIT, AN HE KEEPS DE POIL.' ONLY, IT AIN'T A REAL POIL.'
IT'S A PHONEY YOU PLANTED IN THE OYSTER.' WHAT A SWINDLE.' BUT HOW ABOUT THE GUY WHAT SAID THE POIL WAS REAL?
HE'S MY PARTNER - LEASTWAYS HE WAS, TILL THE BATMAN NABBED HIM.' I GOT AWAY.' NOW THE HEAT'S ON THE OYSTER SWINDLE.' I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AROUND FOR SOME OTHER RACKET.'

SUDDENLY... SOMEBODY WHIPS A BLINDFOLD AROUND THE GIRL'S EYES.'
RELAX, SISTER.' WE'RE GONNA TAKE YOU TO SEE A GUY WHO CAN GIVE YOU A JOB.'
WHA..?!!
YEAH... ONLY HE'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T KNOW HIS HIDEOUT JUST YET.' IT'S SAFER FOR HIM THAT WAY.'
7

BLINDFOLDED, SHIRLEY WALKS WHAT SEEMS TO BE A LONG DISTANCE... SHE ENTERS A ROOM... HEARS VOICES DISCUSS HER... AND THEN...
WE'VE BEEN DISCUSSING YOU, OYSTER ANNIE! I WELCOME YOU TO OUR MIDST! I AM MICHAEL STRAIT... ALIAS THE COUNT!
OH... I'VE HEARD OF YOU! YOU'RE ONE MAN I'D LIKE WORKING WITH!

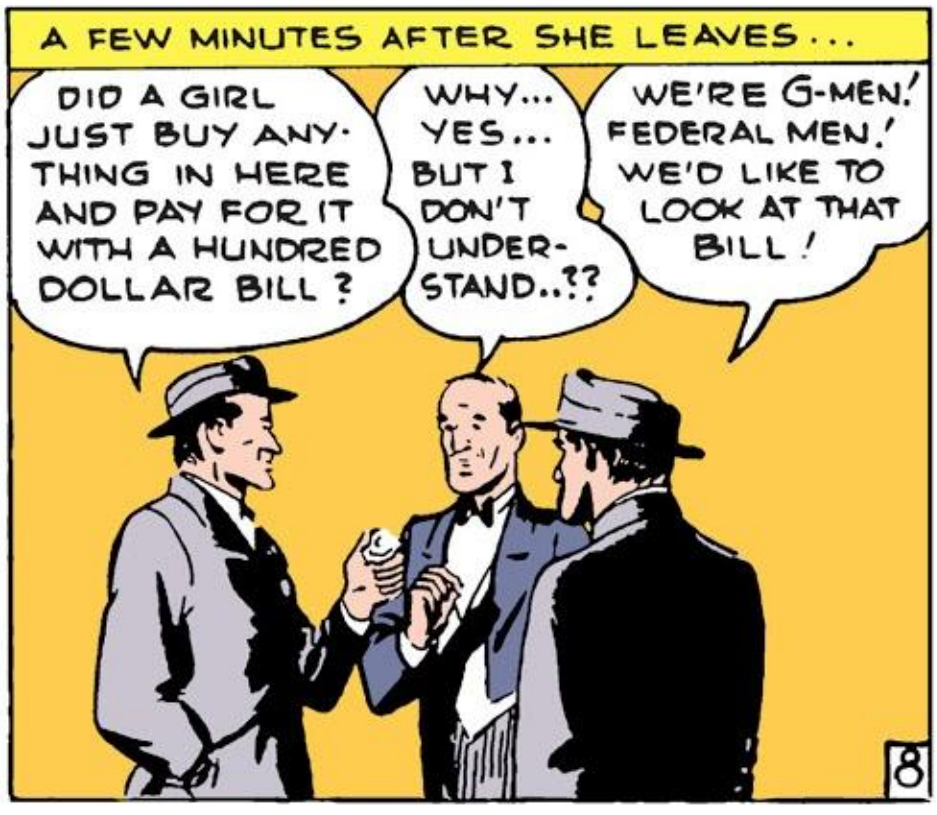
NOT "WITH"... FOR! I'M RUNNING THINGS! I'VE ORGANIZED BUNCO RACKETS IN THIS TOWN! NOW, IF YOU PERFORM WELL, IT WILL PAY YOU WELL! COME CLOSER AND LISTEN CAREFULLY...!


SOMETIME LATER... POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
... AND THEY BLINDFOLDED ME AGAIN AND LED ME AWAY! APPARENTLY IF I WORK THEIR RACKET TOMORROW NIGHT, THEY'LL TRUST ME!
GOOD! WE'LL WAIT UNTIL YOU WIN THEIR CONFIDENCE AND THEN ARE ABLE TO LEAD US IN A RAID ON THE COUNT'S HIDEOUT!

THE NEXT NIGHT... "ANNIE" MEETS TWO CO-WORKERS...
HELLO, BOYS! HOW DO I LOOK? LIKE REAL SOCIETY STUFF, EH?
NOT BAD, BUT YOU SHOULD WEAR A CORSAGE OF FLOWERS! YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK LIKE BIG MONEY WHEN YOU GO INTO THAT JEWELERS!

NOT A FLOWER SHOP ON THE STREET!
I GOT IT! GET A CORSAGE OF THOSE NOVELTY FLOWERS. THEY'LL DO OKAY FOR OUR PURPOSE! PUT 'EM ON AND THEN WORK THAT JEWELRY SHOP. GET STARTED!
NOVELTY SHOP
AVOID ACCIDENTS AT NIGHT! WEAR CHEMICALLY TREATED LUMINOUS FLOWERS THEY SHINE IN THE DARK

MINUTES LATER... "OYSTER ANNIE" HAS MADE A PURCHASE IN A FASHIONABLE JEWELRY SHOP...
AS LONG AS THE RING'S PRICE, INCLUDING TAX, IS EXACTLY A HUNDRED DOLLARS, I'LL PAY FOR IT WITH THIS HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL... THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
OF COURSE NOT, MADAM! THANK YOU, AND CALL AGAIN!

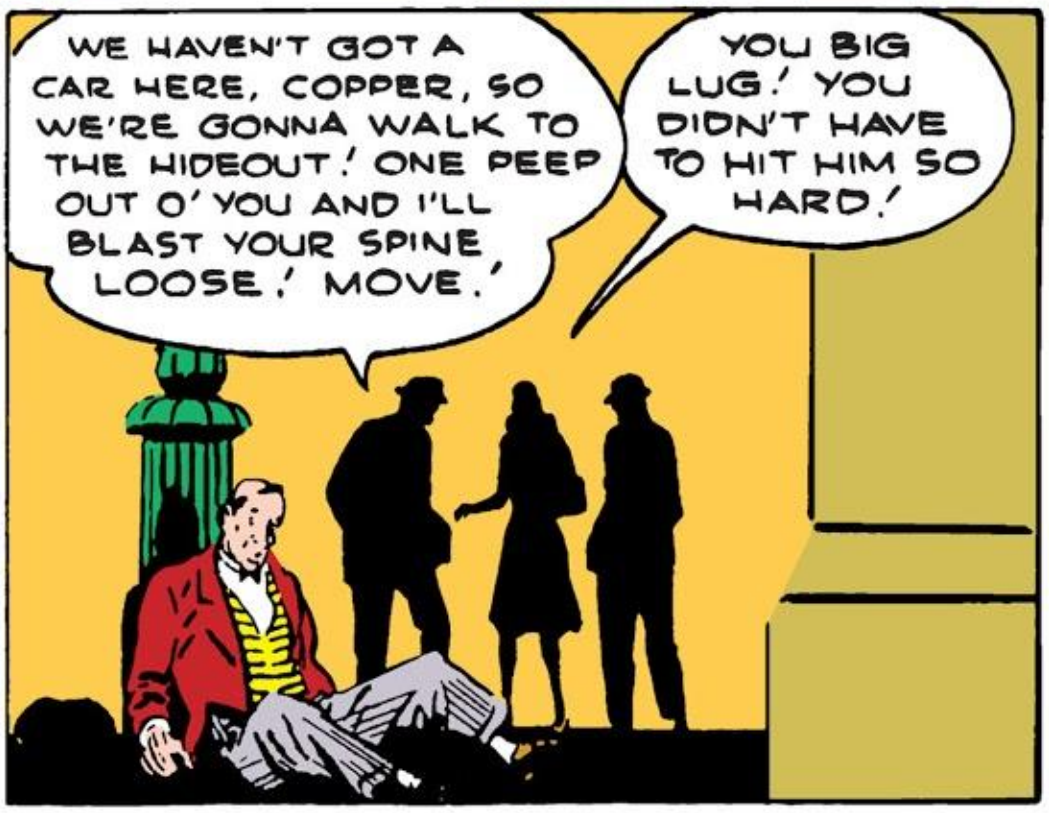

A FEW MINUTES AFTER SHE LEAVES...
DID A GIRL JUST BUY ANYTHING IN HERE AND PAY FOR IT WITH A HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL?
WHY... YES... BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND..??
WE'RE G-MEN! FEDERAL MEN! WE'D LIKE TO LOOK AT THAT BILL!

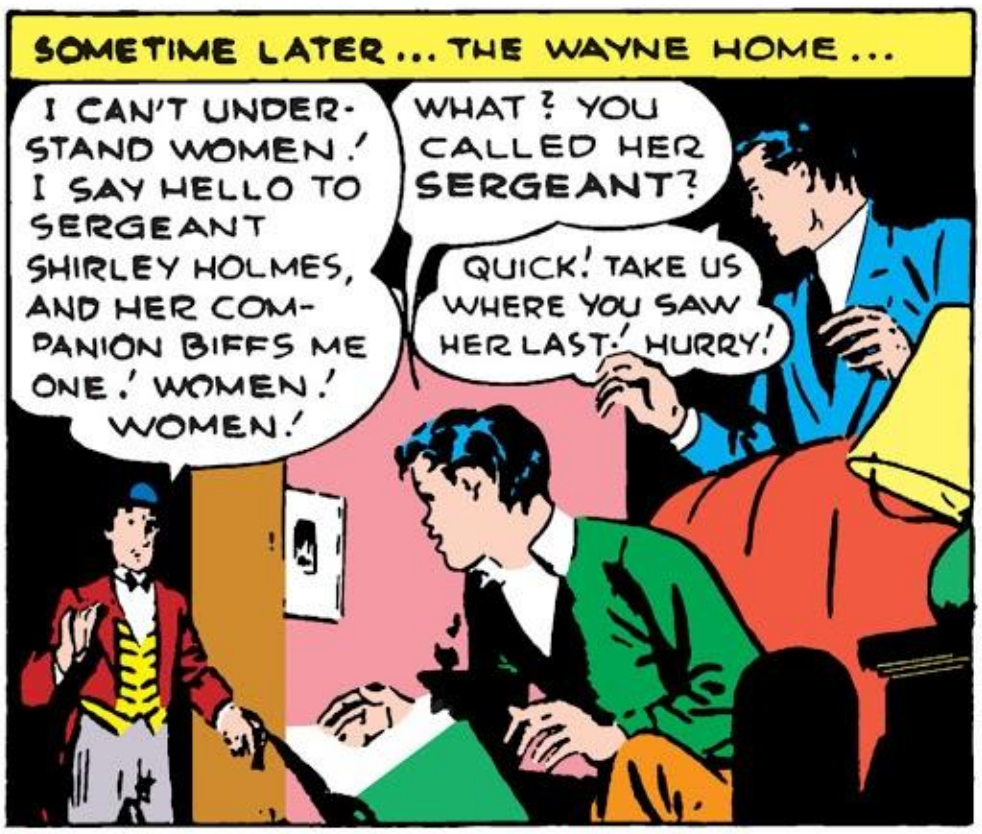
JUST AS WE THOUGHT.' IT'S COUNTERFEIT.' THAT WOMAN WAS A NOTORIOUS BUNCO WORKER.' WE'VE BEEN ON HER TRAIL FOR A LONG TIME.'
I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT BILL WITH US.' OFFICIAL EVIDENCE.' I'LL GIVE YOU A RECEIPT FOR IT TILL WE CAN ARREST HER.'
COUNTERFEIT?

AND BUT A MOMENT LATER...
HOW'D IT GO?
SMOOTH AS SILK.' THE POOR CHUMP NEVER KNEW THE BILL WAS REAL.'
YEAH.' WE GOT OUR MONEY BACK AND HE'S OUT A RING.' YOU DID OKAY, ANNIE.' NOW WE'RE GONNA TAKE YOU TO THE HIDEOUT...WITHOUT THE BLINDFOLD THIS TIME.'

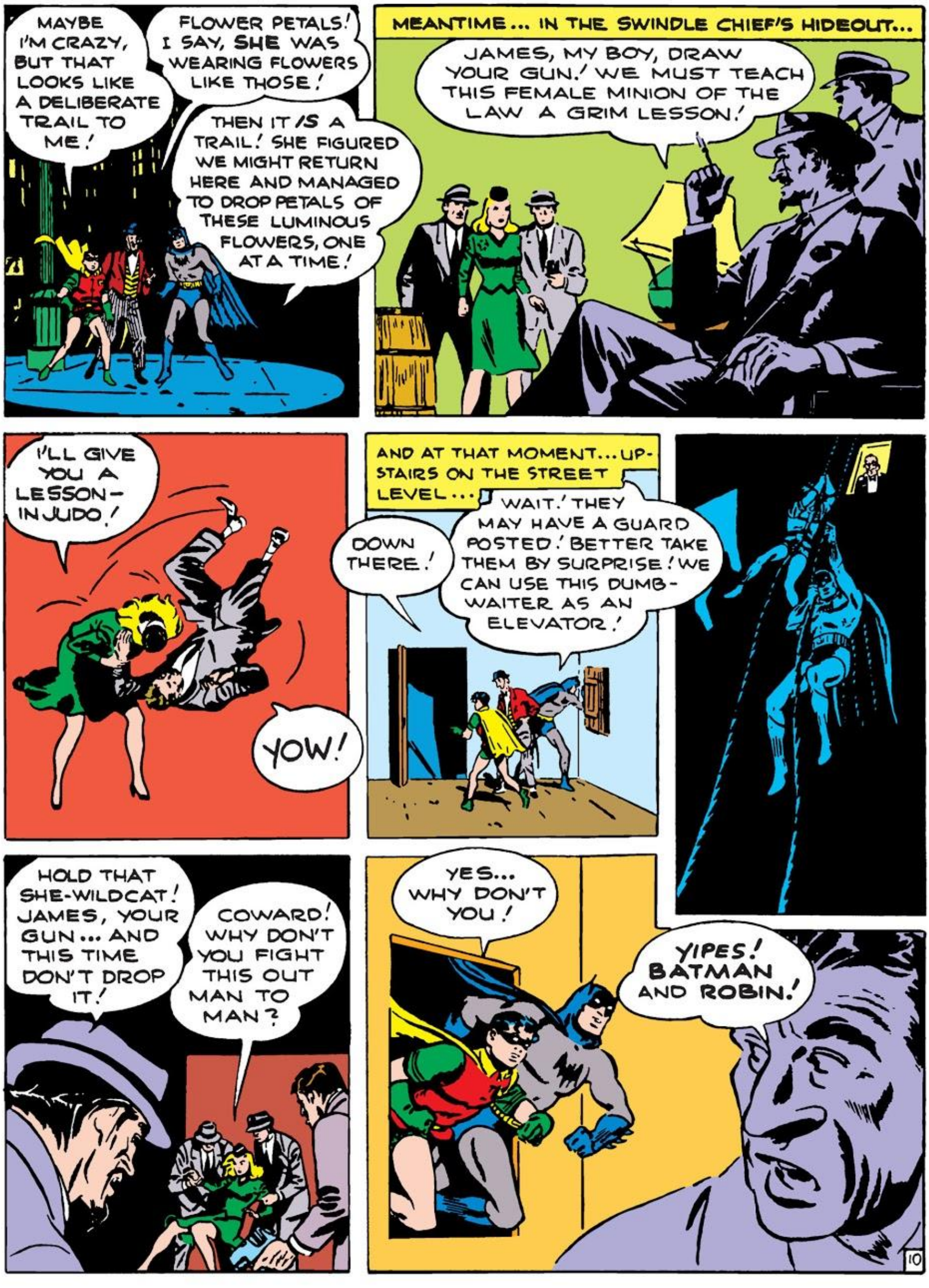
AND THEN IT HAPPENS.' WHO SHOULD BE PASSING BY, AT JUST THAT MOMENT BUT ALFRED.'
JOVE.' HELLO.' SERGEANT SHIRLEY HOLMES OF THE POLICE-WOMAN'S DIVISION, I BELIEVE.'
POLICE-WOMAN ?!?
OHH-HH.'

UH.'


WE HAVEN'T GOT A CAR HERE, COPPER, SO WE'RE GONNA WALK TO THE HIDEOUT.' ONE PEEP OUT O' YOU AND I'LL BLAST YOUR SPINE LOOSE.' MOVE.'
YOU BIG LUG.' YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT HIM SO HARD.'


SOMETIME LATER... THE WAYNE HOME...
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN.' I SAY HELLO TO SERGEANT SHIRLEY HOLMES, AND HER COMPANION BIFFS ME ONE.' WOMEN.' WOMEN.'
WHAT? YOU CALLED HER SERGEANT?
QUICK.' TAKE US WHERE YOU SAW HER LAST.' HURRY.'

I'M SORRY, SIR.' I DIDN'T KNOW...
IT'S MY FAULT.' I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SHE WAS WORKING WITH US.' IF ONLY WE HAD SOME LEAD...
LOOK.' LOOK OVER THERE.'


MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE A DELIBERATE TRAIL TO ME!
FLOWER PETALS! I SAY, SHE WAS WEARING FLOWERS LIKE THOSE!
THEN IT IS A TRAIL! SHE FIGURED WE MIGHT RETURN HERE AND MANAGED TO DROP PETALS OF THESE LUMINOUS FLOWERS, ONE AT A TIME!
MEANTIME... IN THE SWINDLE CHIEF'S HIDEOUT...
JAMES, MY BOY, DRAW YOUR GUN! WE MUST TEACH THIS FEMALE MINION OF THE LAW A GRIM LESSON!
I'LL GIVE YOU A LESSON— IN JUDO!
YOW!
AND AT THAT MOMENT... UP-STAIRS ON THE STREET LEVEL...
DOWN THERE!
WAIT! THEY MAY HAVE A GUARD POSTED! BETTER TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE! WE CAN USE THIS DUMB-WAITER AS AN ELEVATOR!
HOLD THAT SHE-WILDCAT! JAMES, YOUR GUN... AND THIS TIME DON'T DROP IT!
COWARD! WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT THIS OUT MAN TO MAN?
YES... WHY DON'T YOU!
YIPES! BATMAN AND ROBIN!

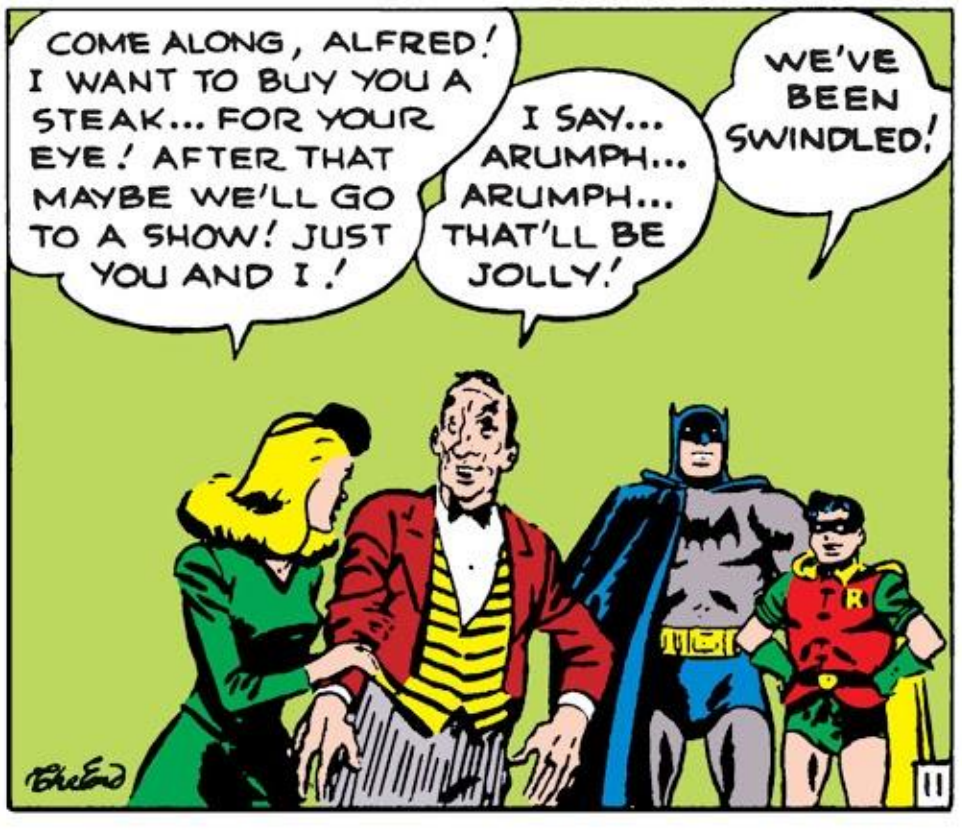
WELL... LOOKS LIKE OLD HOME WEEK!
WHOA!
WOO!

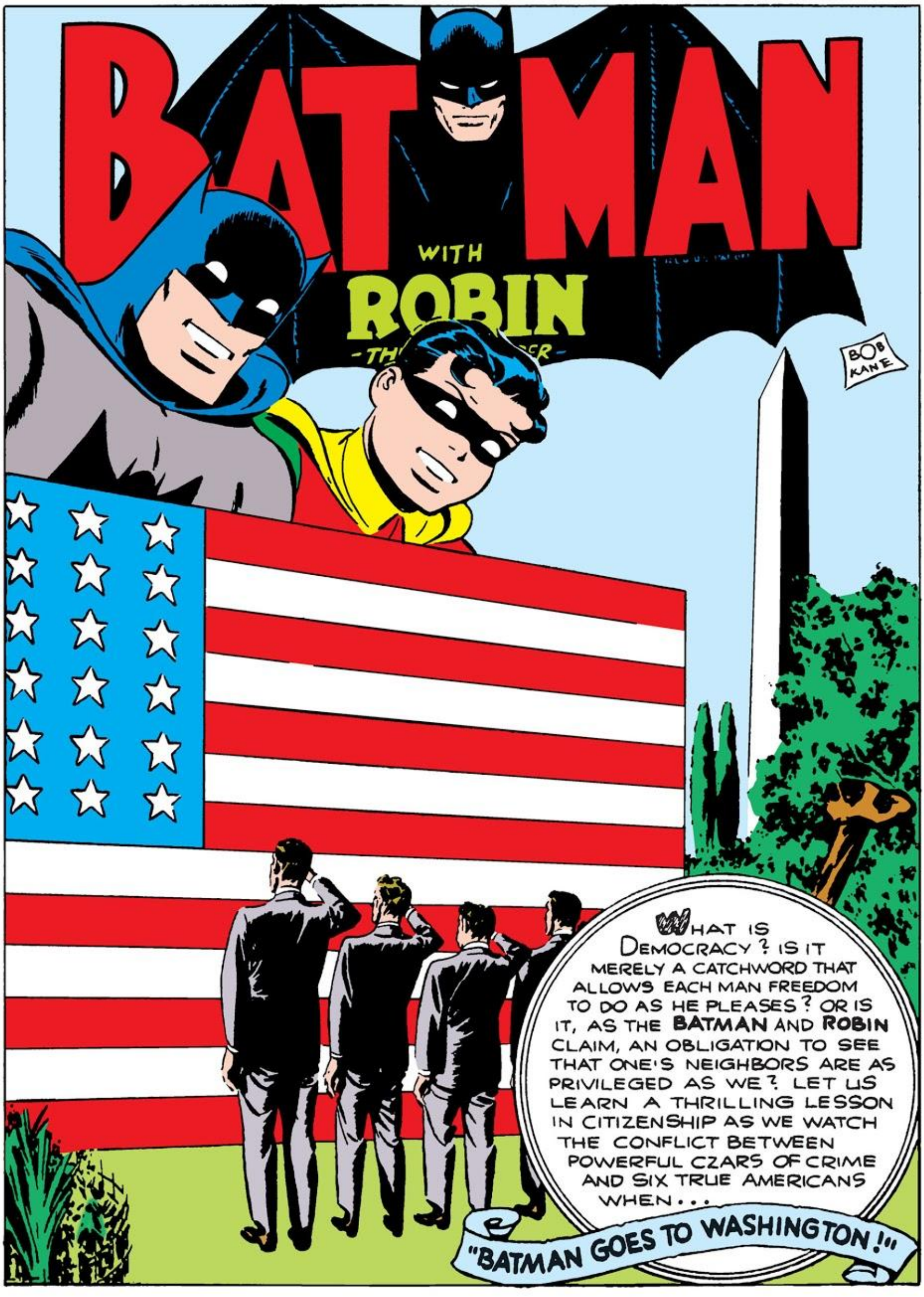
I'LL FIX THAT LADY COPPER ONCE AND FOR ALL!

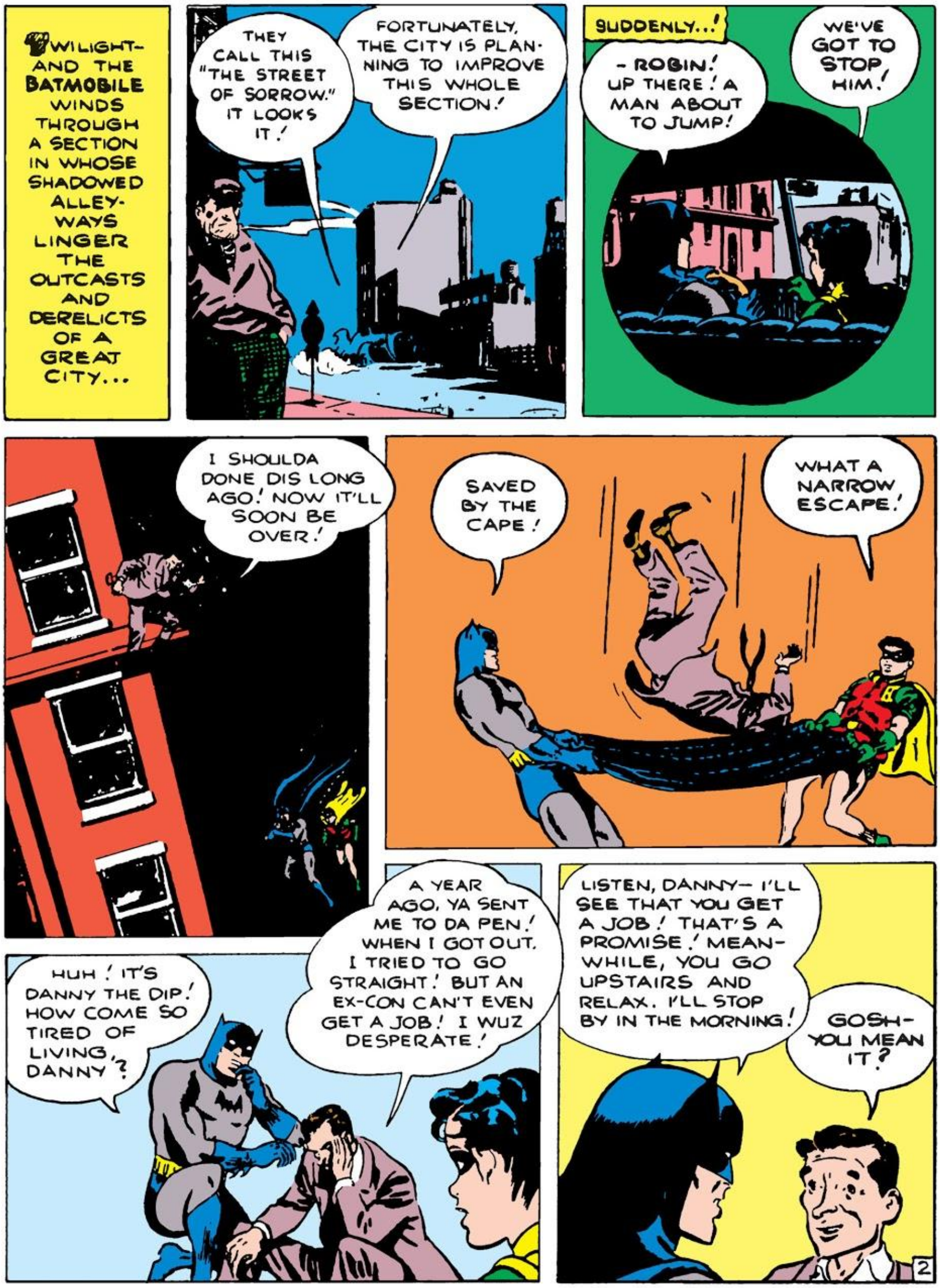
CAD! BOUNDER! KNAVE!

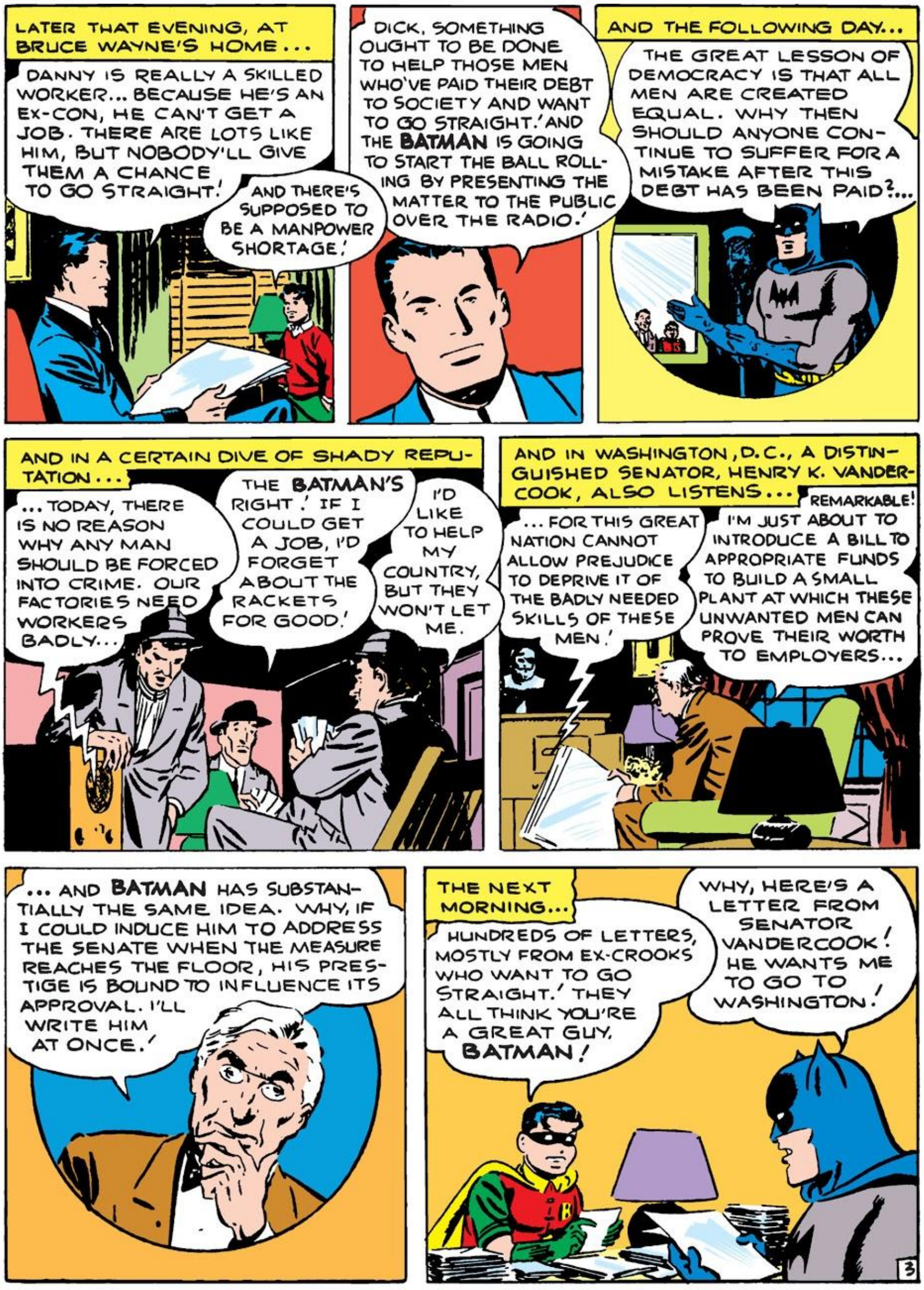
AND A VERY NICE TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!
AND NOW, WHAT, MAY I AWSK?
AMEN!

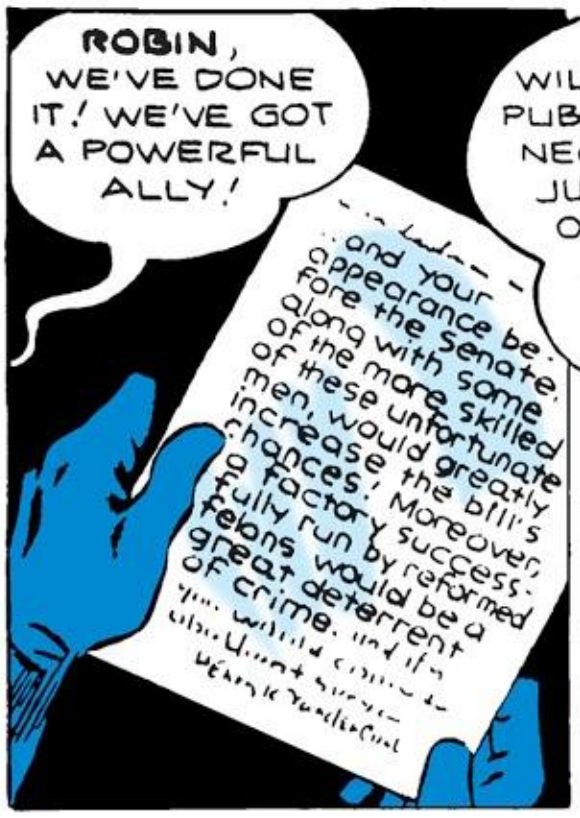
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! LET'S ALL OF US GET TOGETHER, EH?
NOT ALL! I WANT ALFRED ALL TO MYSELF! HE JUST SAVED MY LIFE!

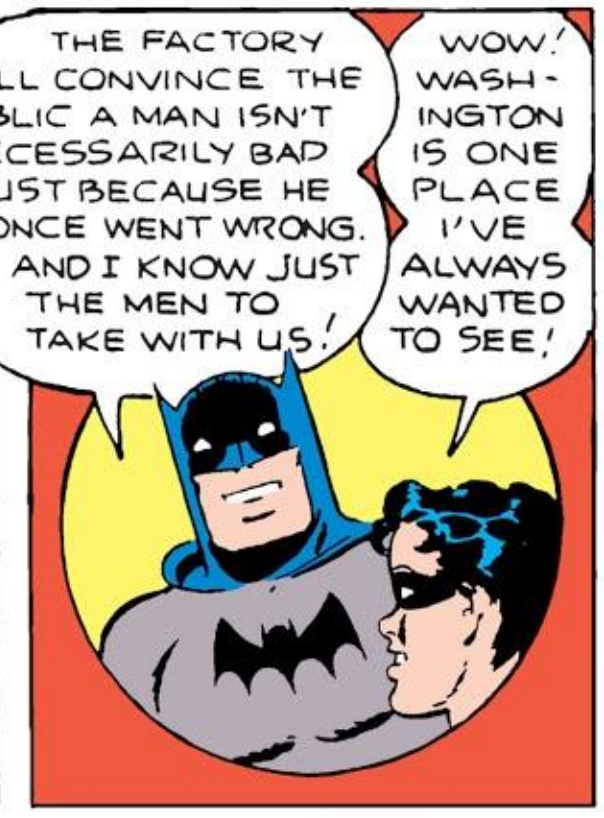

COME ALONG, ALFRED! I WANT TO BUY YOU A STEAK... FOR YOUR EYE! AFTER THAT MAYBE WE'LL GO TO A SHOW! JUST YOU AND I!
I SAY... ARUMPH... ARUMPH... THAT'LL BE JOLLY!
WE'VE BEEN SWINDLED!

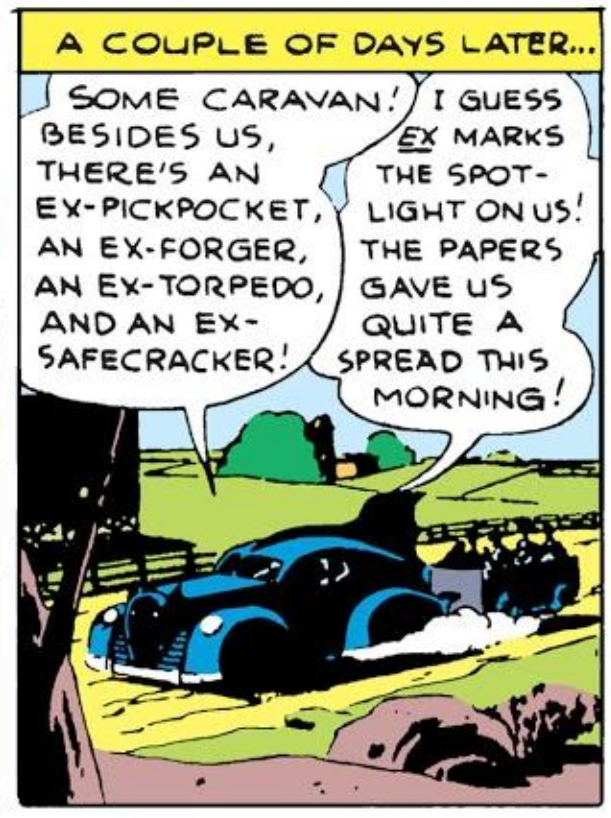

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
BOB KANE
WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? IS IT MERELY A CATCHWORD THAT ALLOWS EACH MAN FREEDOM TO DO AS HE PLEASES? OR IS IT, AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CLAIM, AN OBLIGATION TO SEE THAT ONE'S NEIGHBORS ARE AS PRIVILEGED AS WE? LET US LEARN A THRILLING LESSON IN CITIZENSHIP AS WE WATCH THE CONFLICT BETWEEN POWERFUL CZARS OF CRIME AND SIX TRUE AMERICANS WHEN...
"BATMAN GOES TO WASHINGTON!"


TWILIGHT- AND THE BATMOBILE WINDS THROUGH A SECTION IN WHOSE SHADOWED ALLEY-WAYS LINGER THE OUTCASTS AND DERELICTS OF A GREAT CITY...
THEY CALL THIS "THE STREET OF SORROW." IT LOOKS IT!
FORTUNATELY, THE CITY IS PLANNING TO IMPROVE THIS WHOLE SECTION!
SUDDENLY...!
- ROBIN! UP THERE! A MAN ABOUT TO JUMP!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!
I SHOULDA DONE DIS LONG AGO! NOW IT'LL SOON BE OVER!
SAVED BY THE CAPE!
WHAT A NARROW ESCAPE!
HUH! IT'S DANNY THE DIP! HOW COME SO TIRED OF LIVING, DANNY?
A YEAR AGO, YA SENT ME TO DA PEN! WHEN I GOT OUT, I TRIED TO GO STRAIGHT! BUT AN EX-CON CAN'T EVEN GET A JOB! I WUZ DESPERATE!
LISTEN, DANNY— I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A JOB! THAT'S A PROMISE! MEANWHILE, YOU GO UPSTAIRS AND RELAX. I'LL STOP BY IN THE MORNING!
GOSH- YOU MEAN IT?


LATER THAT EVENING, AT BRUCE WAYNE'S HOME...
DANNY IS REALLY A SKILLED WORKER... BECAUSE HE'S AN EX-CON, HE CAN'T GET A JOB. THERE ARE LOTS LIKE HIM, BUT NOBODY'LL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO GO STRAIGHT!
AND THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MANPOWER SHORTAGE!
DICK, SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE DONE TO HELP THOSE MEN WHO'VE PAID THEIR DEBT TO SOCIETY AND WANT TO GO STRAIGHT.' AND THE BATMAN IS GOING TO START THE BALL ROLLING BY PRESENTING THE MATTER TO THE PUBLIC OVER THE RADIO.'
AND THE FOLLOWING DAY...
THE GREAT LESSON OF DEMOCRACY IS THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. WHY THEN SHOULD ANYONE CONTINUE TO SUFFER FOR A MISTAKE AFTER THIS DEBT HAS BEEN PAID?...
AND IN A CERTAIN DIVE OF SHADY REPUTATION...
... TODAY, THERE IS NO REASON WHY ANY MAN SHOULD BE FORCED INTO CRIME. OUR FACTORIES NEED WORKERS BADLY...
THE BATMAN'S RIGHT! IF I COULD GET A JOB, I'D FORGET ABOUT THE RACKETS FOR GOOD!
I'D LIKE TO HELP MY COUNTRY, BUT THEY WON'T LET ME.
AND IN WASHINGTON, D.C., A DISTINGUISHED SENATOR, HENRY K. VANDERCOOK, ALSO LISTENS...
... FOR THIS GREAT NATION CANNOT ALLOW PREJUDICE TO DEPRIVE IT OF THE BADLY NEEDED SKILLS OF THESE MEN!
REMARKABLE!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO INTRODUCE A BILL TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO BUILD A SMALL PLANT AT WHICH THESE UNWANTED MEN CAN PROVE THEIR WORTH TO EMPLOYERS...
... AND BATMAN HAS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME IDEA. WHY, IF I COULD INDUCE HIM TO ADDRESS THE SENATE WHEN THE MEASURE REACHES THE FLOOR, HIS PRESTIGE IS BOUND TO INFLUENCE ITS APPROVAL. I'LL WRITE HIM AT ONCE.'
THE NEXT MORNING...
HUNDREDS OF LETTERS, MOSTLY FROM EX-CROOKS WHO WANT TO GO STRAIGHT.' THEY ALL THINK YOU'RE A GREAT GUY, BATMAN!
WHY, HERE'S A LETTER FROM SENATOR VANDERCOOK! HE WANTS ME TO GO TO WASHINGTON!
3


ROBIN, WE'VE DONE IT! WE'VE GOT A POWERFUL ALLY!
and your appearance before the Senate, along with some of the more skilled of these unfortunate men, would greatly increase the bill's chances! Moreover, a factory successfully run by reformed felons would be a great deterrent of crime.

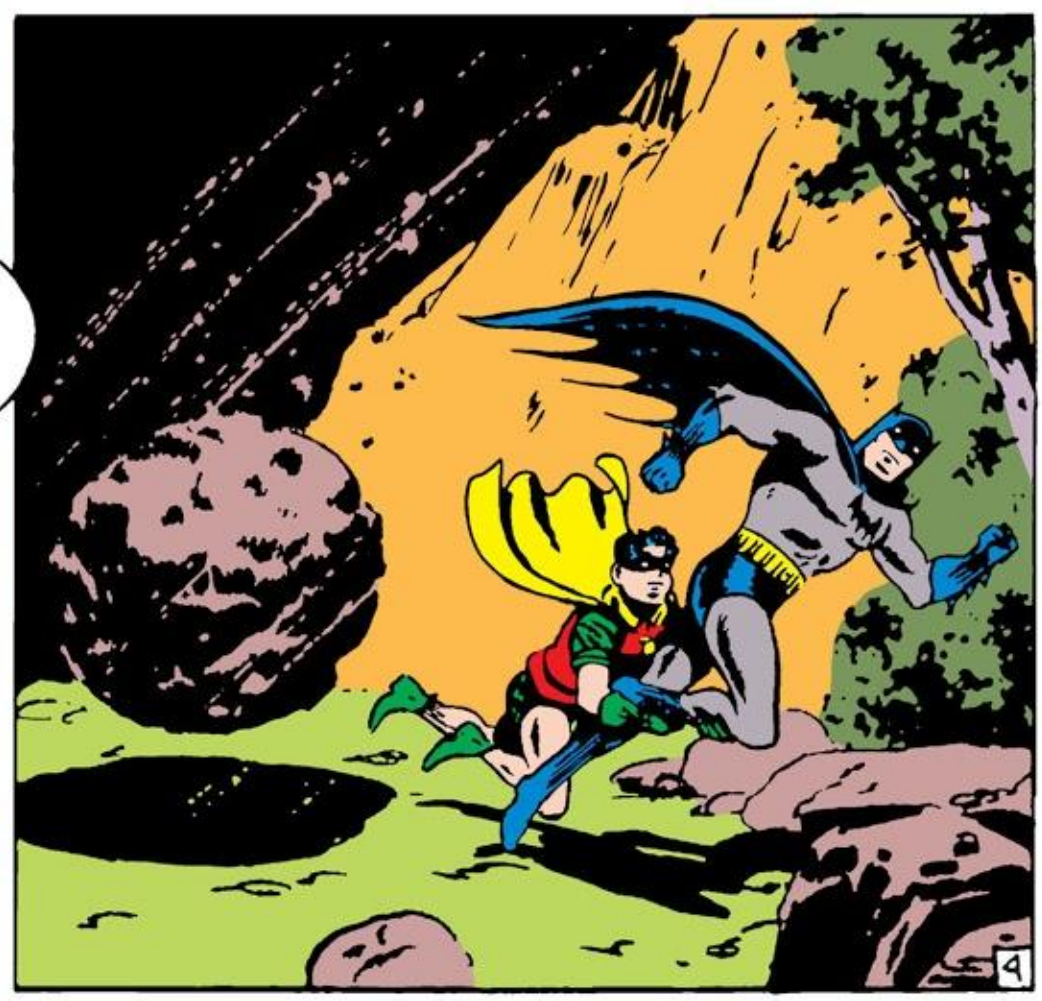

THE FACTORY WILL CONVINCE THE PUBLIC A MAN ISN'T NECESSARILY BAD JUST BECAUSE HE ONCE WENT WRONG. AND I KNOW JUST THE MEN TO TAKE WITH US!
WOW! WASHINGTON IS ONE PLACE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE!


A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...
SOME CARAVAN! BESIDES US, THERE'S AN EX-PICKPOCKET, AN EX-FORGER, AN EX-TORPEDO, AND AN EX-SAFECRACKER!
I GUESS EX MARKS THE SPOTLIGHT ON US! THE PAPERS GAVE US QUITE A SPREAD THIS MORNING!

LOOK AT ALL DA SCENERY! I'M JUST REALIZIN' WHAT A BIG BEEOOTIFUL COUNTRY WE LIVE IN!
YEAH—AN' SOON WE'RE GONNA HAVE OUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHIN' FOR IT!

ROBIN! LOOK! A MAN LYING IN THE ROAD!

HE MUST HAVE STUMBLED AND FALLEN DOWN THE MOUNTAINSIDE!
BATMAN! WATCH OUT!



WHEW! CLOSE! SAY—THAT'S ONLY A DUMMY! ROBIN—THAT FALLING BOULDER WAS NO ACCIDENT!
BATMAN! ANOTHER ONE! BACK, QUICK!

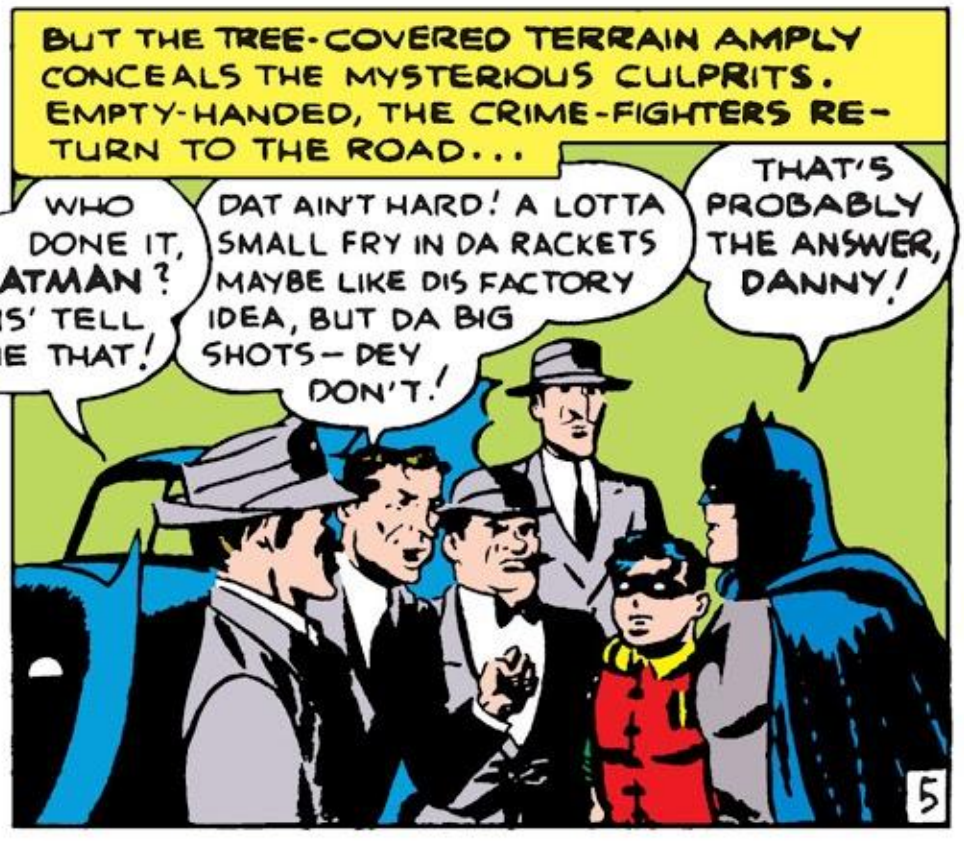
THAT WAS A STEPPING-STONE TO OBLIVION! C'MON—WE'RE GOING UP THAT MOUNTAINSIDE!

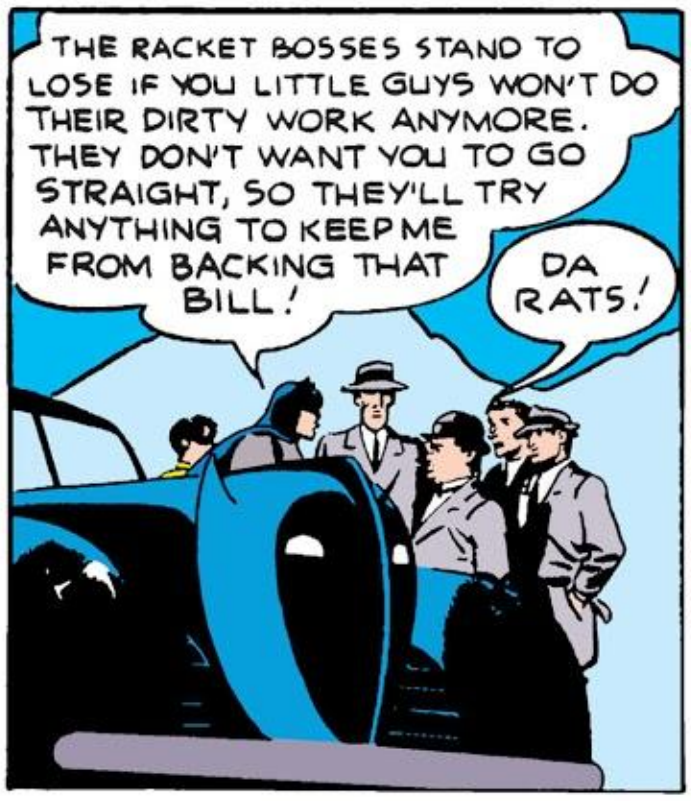
SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT US TO GET TO WASHINGTON—THAT'S CLEAR! HEY!
WOW! AM I STILL IN ONE PIECE?

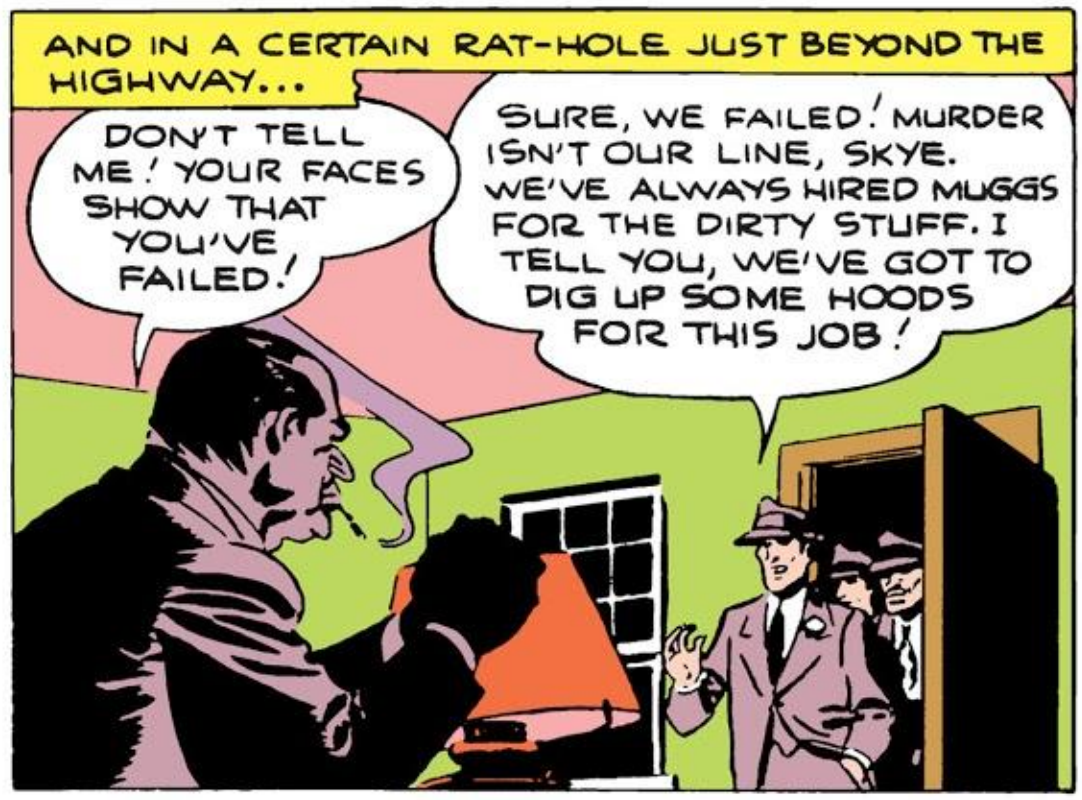
I'M AFRAID THIS ONE'S GOT OUR NAMES ON IT!
NOW I KNOW WHAT A BOWLING PIN FEELS LIKE!

GOO OLD GUARDIAN ANGEL! ALWAYS AROUND AT THE RIGHT TIME!
THE ROTTEN MURDERERS! WHEN WE CATCH UP WITH THEM—!

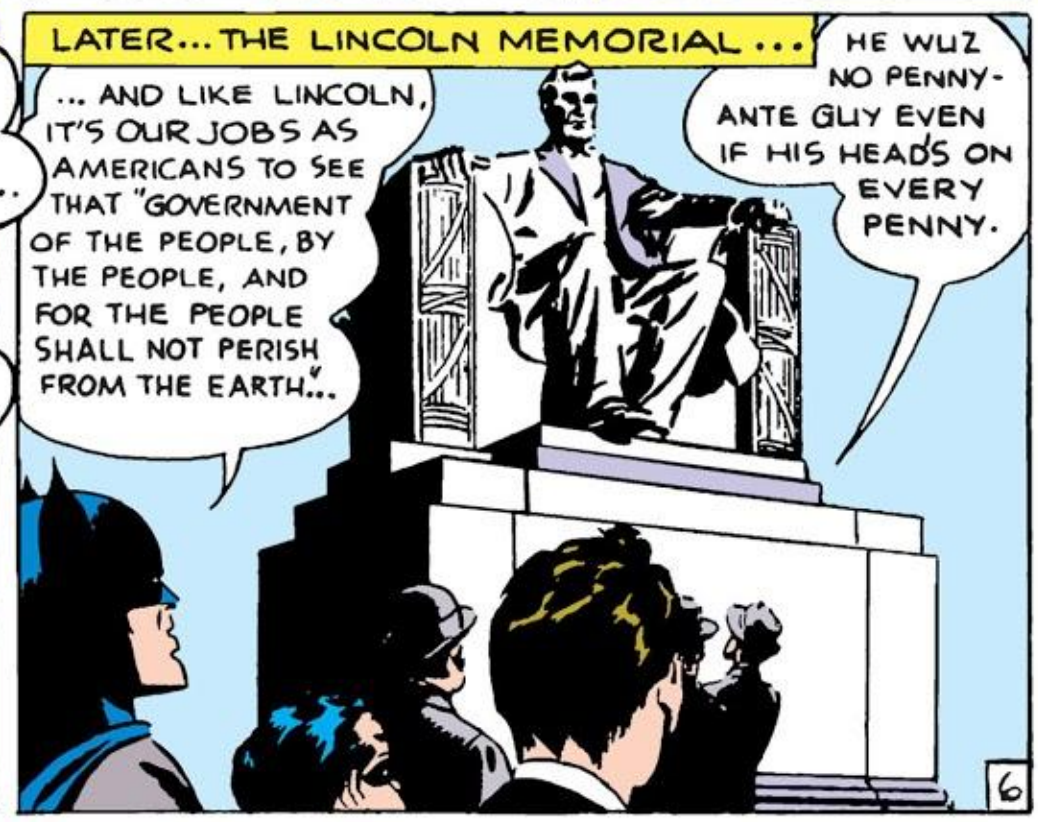
THERE THEY GO!
QUICK—BEFORE WE LOSE THEM IN THE WOODS!

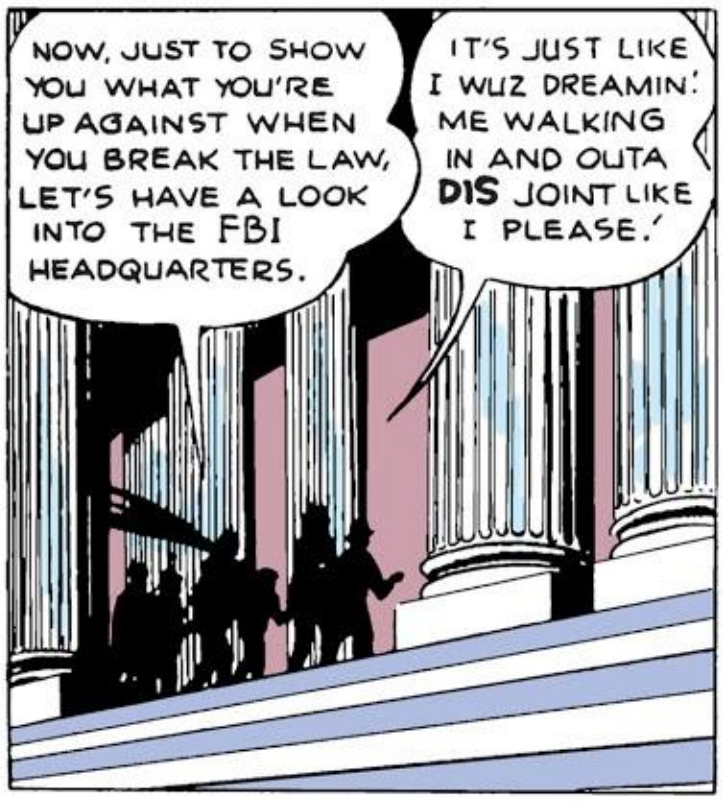

BUT THE TREE-COVERED TERRAIN AMPLY CONCEALS THE MYSTERIOUS CULPRITS. EMPTY-HANDED, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RETURN TO THE ROAD...
WHO DONE IT, BATMAN? JUS' TELL ME THAT!
DAT AIN'T HARD! A LOTTA SMALL FRY IN DA RACKETS MAYBE LIKE DIS FACTORY IDEA, BUT DA BIG SHOTS—DEY DON'T!
THAT'S PROBABLY THE ANSWER, DANNY!





WASHINGTON—THE LEGISLATIVE HEART OF A SOVEREIGN DEMOCRACY, UPON WHOSE MAGNIFICENT MONUMENTS HISTORY HAS GRAVEN HER GRANDEST ACHIEVEMENTS. TO THIS CITY COME BATMAN AND ROBIN TO ADD ANOTHER STONE TO THE STRUCTURE OF LIBERTY EVEN AS MOBSTER MOGULS SEEK TO DETER THEM...




NOW, JUST TO SHOW YOU WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST WHEN YOU BREAK THE LAW, LET'S HAVE A LOOK INTO THE FBI HEADQUARTERS.
IT'S JUST LIKE I WUZ DREAMIN'! ME WALKING IN AND OUTA DIS JOINT LIKE I PLEASE.'

EACH OF THOSE MILLIONS OF CARDS CONTAINS A MAN'S COMPLETE RECORD. YET THOSE MACHINES CAN PICK OUT A SINGLE CARD IN A FEW SECONDS.
DEY SURE GOT DA CARDS STACKED AGAINST CRIME!

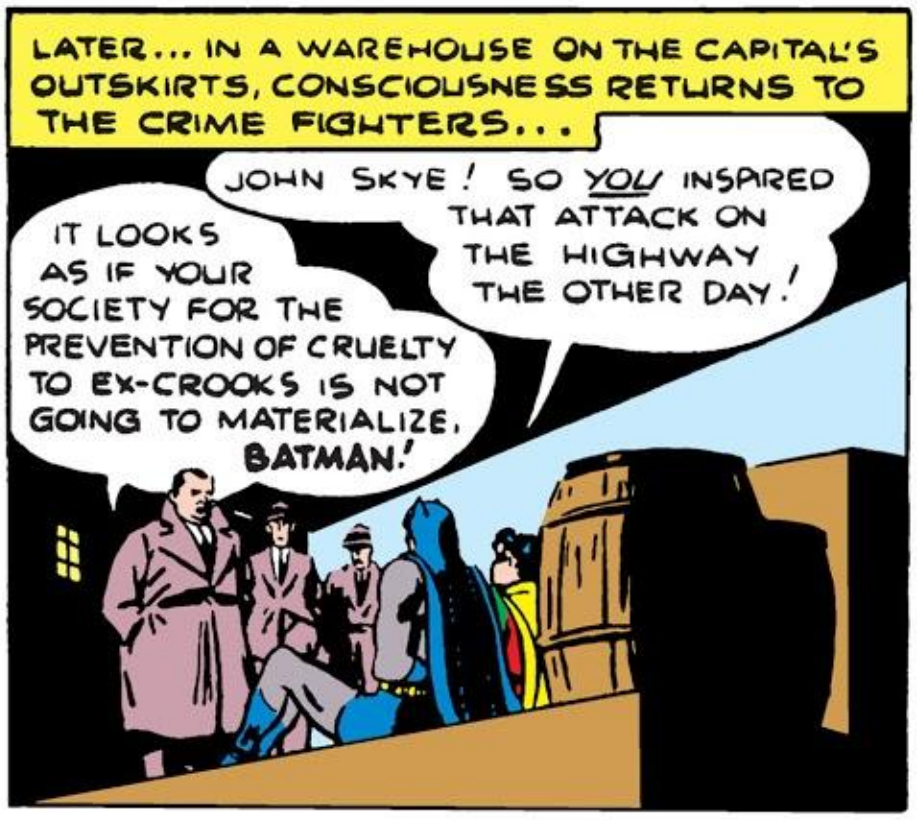
THE DAY CONCLUDES WITH A VISIT TO THE CAPITOL...
THE CAPITOL.' WHERE THE PEOPLE'S WILL BECOMES LAW!
DA PEOPLE! WHY, DAT'S US!
YES - AND WE'LL ALL MEET HERE TOMORROW WHEN THE SENATE TAKES UP THE FACTORY BILL!
BUT WILL THEY?

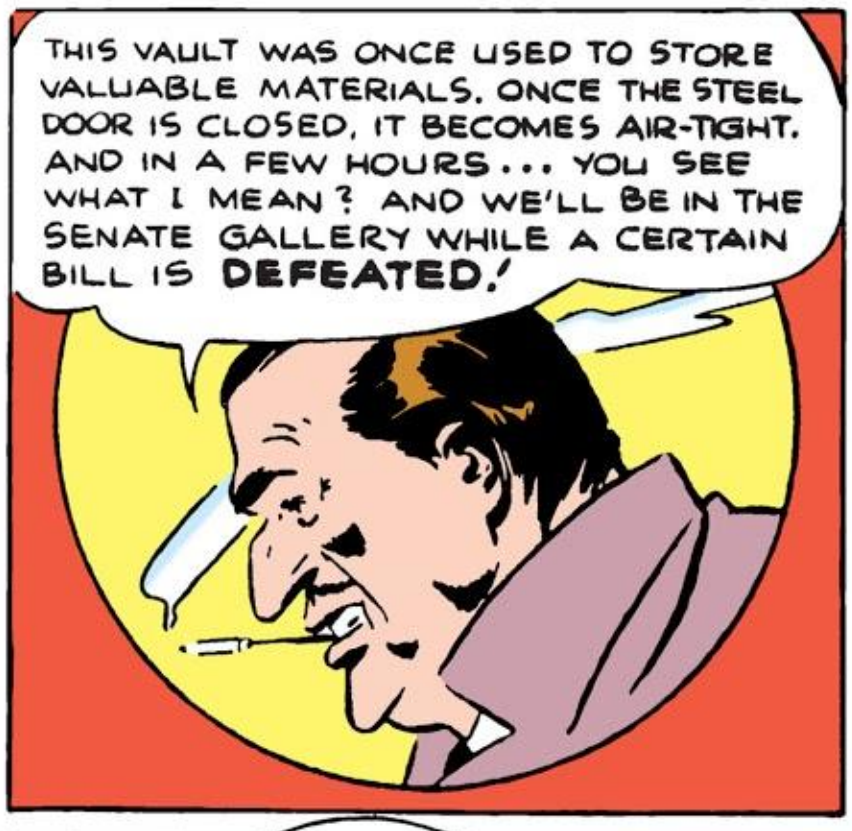
THE NEXT DAY—IS IT CHANCE OR CHOICE THAT PARKS A CERTAIN LONE CAB NEAR THE BATMAN'S HOTEL? LET US SEE...
THE SENATE CONVENES IN TWENTY MINUTES. THERE'S A CAB— BUT NO—IT'S TAKEN!
IN CROWDED WASHINGTON, A CAB NEVER LEAVES FOR DOWNTOWN WITHOUT A FULL LOAD. I ONLY SEE THREE PASSENGERS - THERE'S ROOM FOR TWO MORE-

BATMAN! WATCH OUT!
WHA-!
SORRY TO HEAD YOU OFF, BATMAN-- BUT WE AREN'T GOING TO THE CAPITOL TODAY!

WHY, YOU SNEAKING RAT!

A BOP ON THE KNOB SHOULD SETTLE YOUR HASH!
ALL RIGHT, BENDER— TO THE WAREHOUSE!


LATER... IN A WAREHOUSE ON THE CAPITAL'S OUTSKIRTS, CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO THE CRIME FIGHTERS...
JOHN SKYE! SO YOU INSPIRED THAT ATTACK ON THE HIGHWAY THE OTHER DAY!
IT LOOKS AS IF YOUR SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO EX-CROOKS IS NOT GOING TO MATERIALIZE, BATMAN!


THIS VAULT WAS ONCE USED TO STORE VALUABLE MATERIALS. ONCE THE STEEL DOOR IS CLOSED, IT BECOMES AIR-TIGHT. AND IN A FEW HOURS... YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN? AND WE'LL BE IN THE SENATE GALLERY WHILE A CERTAIN BILL IS DEFEATED!

GOOD THING I'VE GOT THIS IN MY POCKET. IF IT ONLY WORKS...
SO... YOU'RE GOING TO THE SENATE GALLERY TO GLOAT, EH?
THAT GETS YOUR GLOAT, DOESN'T IT? IF YOU'LL PARDON THE PUN...

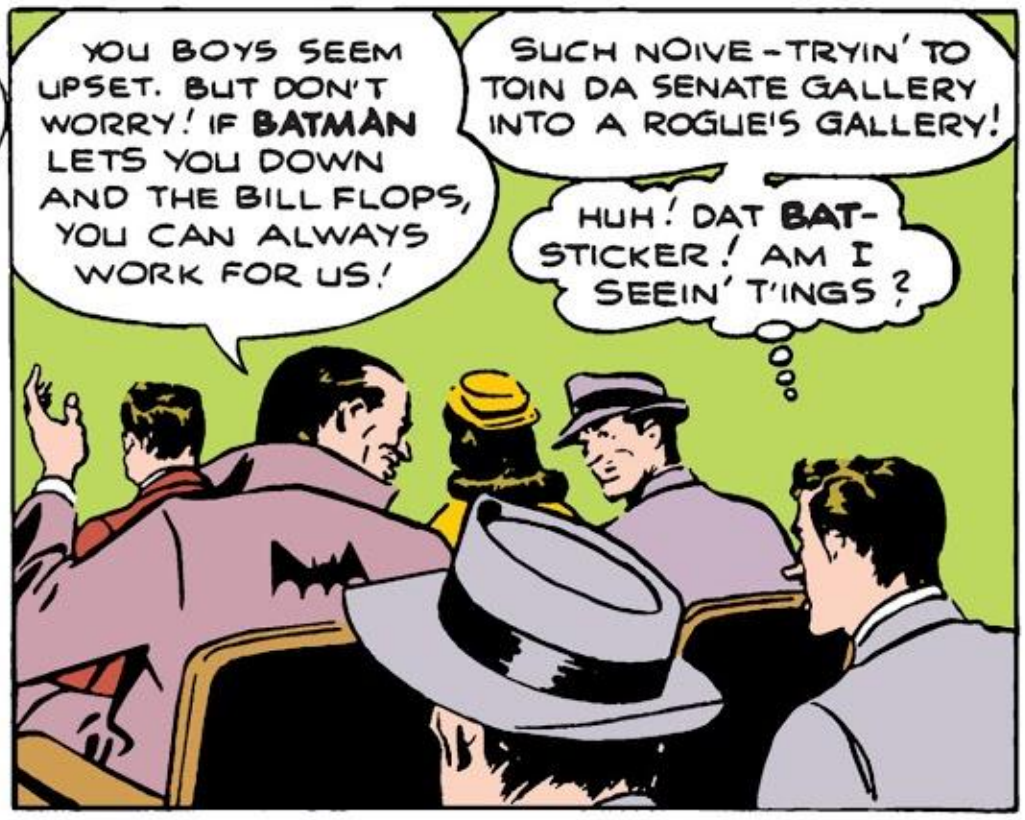
DON'T, BATMAN! YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE! THEY'LL KILL YOU!
HEY!
WHY, YOU SNAKE!

I WON'T SOIL MY HANDS ON YOU, BATMAN. THERE'LL BE SATISFACTION ENOUGH FOR ME IN THE SENATE SESSION TODAY AND BY THE TIME IT'S OVER, YOUR RAGE WILL HAVE COOLED— FOR GOOD!

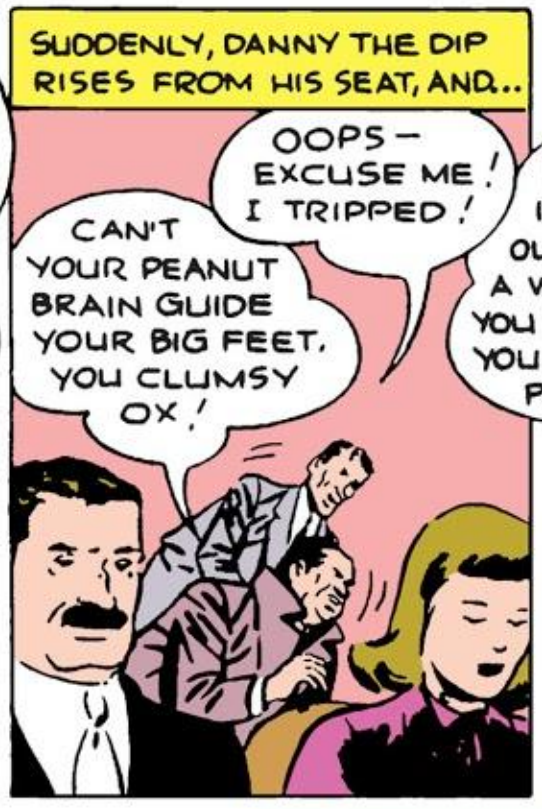
AND SO, THE GREAT STEEL DOOR CLANGS SHUT, AND SETS THE SEAL OF DOOM ON BATMAN AND ROBIN...
MIGHTY CLEVER, PURCHASING THIS WAREHOUSE THROUGH A DUMMY CORPORATION. NO ONE CAN GET BY THE GUARDS WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT PASS, AND OFFICIALS COMING TO CHECK OUR STORE OF ESSENTIAL MATERIALS WILL NEVER SUSPECT THAT REAR VAULT!
BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL ROT THERE FOR YEARS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE SENATE GALLERY...
THEY'RE STARTIN' ALREADY. WHERE KIN THE BATMAN BE?
REMEMBER DAT ATTACK ON DA ROAD? MAYBE DERE'S MORE DOITY WOIK GOIN' ON!
HE WOULDN'T LET US DOWN- NOT HIM!

HEY – LOOKIT WHO'S HERE! DA BIGGEST GANG LEADERS IN DA COUNTRY – DA GUYS WHUT STAND TO LOSE DA MOST IF DA BILL PASSES!
NOW I KNOW DERE'S DOITY WOIK AFOOT. DEY LOOK TOO HAPPY!

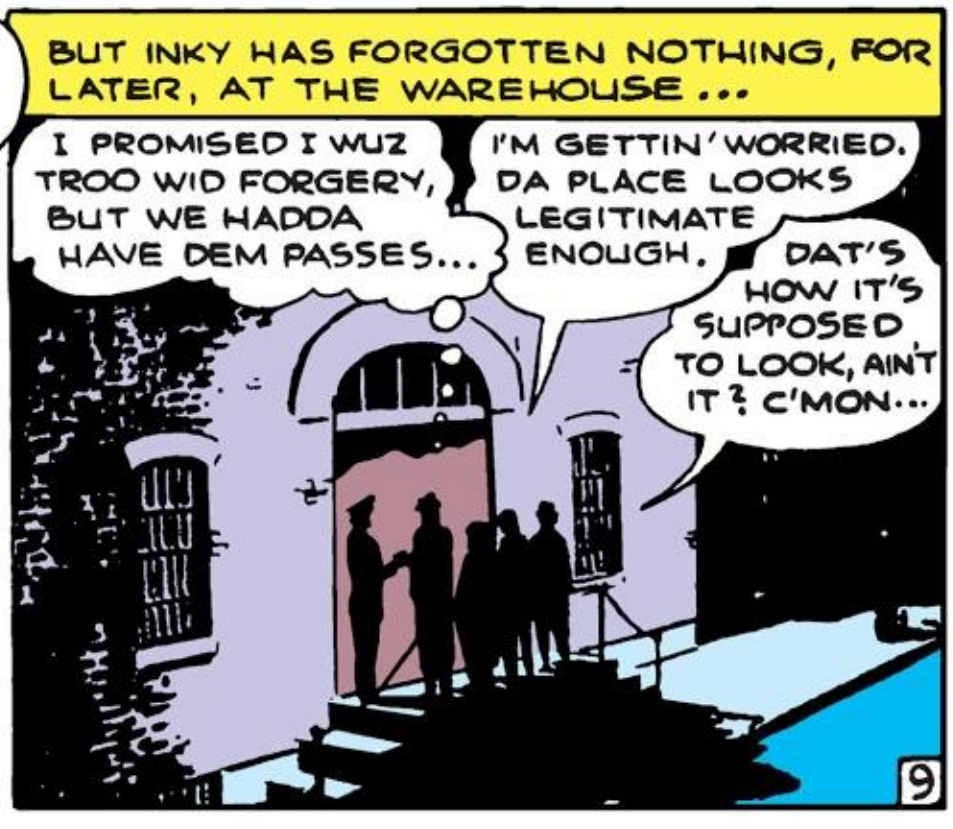

YOU BOYS SEEM UPSET. BUT DON'T WORRY! IF BATMAN LETS YOU DOWN AND THE BILL FLOPS, YOU CAN ALWAYS WORK FOR US!
SUCH NOIVE – TRYIN' TO TOIN DA SENATE GALLERY INTO A ROGUE'S GALLERY!
HUH! DAT BAT-STICKER! AM I SEEIN' T'INGS?

BATMAN MUSTA PUT IT DERE! AN' IF IT'S ON HIS BACK, IT MEANS HE DON'T KNOW IT!
YER'RIGHT! BATMAN KNEW DEY WUZ COMIN' HERE. HE WUZ TRYIN' TO TIP US OFF! IF WE COULD SOICH SKYE'S HOTEL, WE MIGHT LOIN SUMP'N...


SUDDENLY, DANNY THE DIP RISES FROM HIS SEAT, AND...
OOPS – EXCUSE ME! I TRIPPED!
CAN'T YOUR PEANUT BRAIN GUIDE YOUR BIG FEET, YOU CLUMSY OX!

THEN – A SLY SIGNAL FROM DANNY, AND THE REFORMED FOURSOME SLIP SILENTLY FROM THE GALLERY-
NOW WHATSA IDEA CALLIN' US OUT? HOLY SMOKE! A WALLET! DIDN'T YOU PROMISE BATMAN YOU WUZ TROO PICKIN' POCKETS?
BUT DIS WUZ AN EMOIGENCY! I HADDA LOIN HIS ADDRESS! IT'S SKYE'S WALLET!

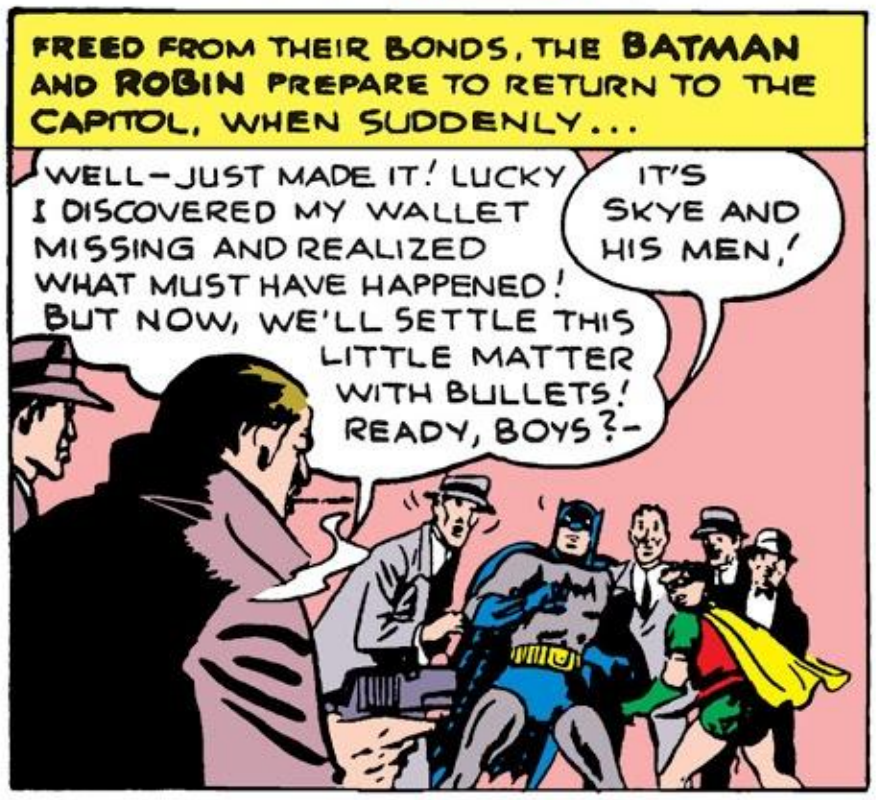
HUH! AN OFFICIAL PASS FER A WAREHOUSE STORIN' ESSENTIAL MATERIALS. SKYE IN A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS? BUNK! DA JOINT MUST BE A FRONT! SAY – IF WE COULD GET DERE AN' SNOOP AROUND... BUT WE AIN'T GOT PASSES... OR AM I FORGETTIN' SUMP'N?

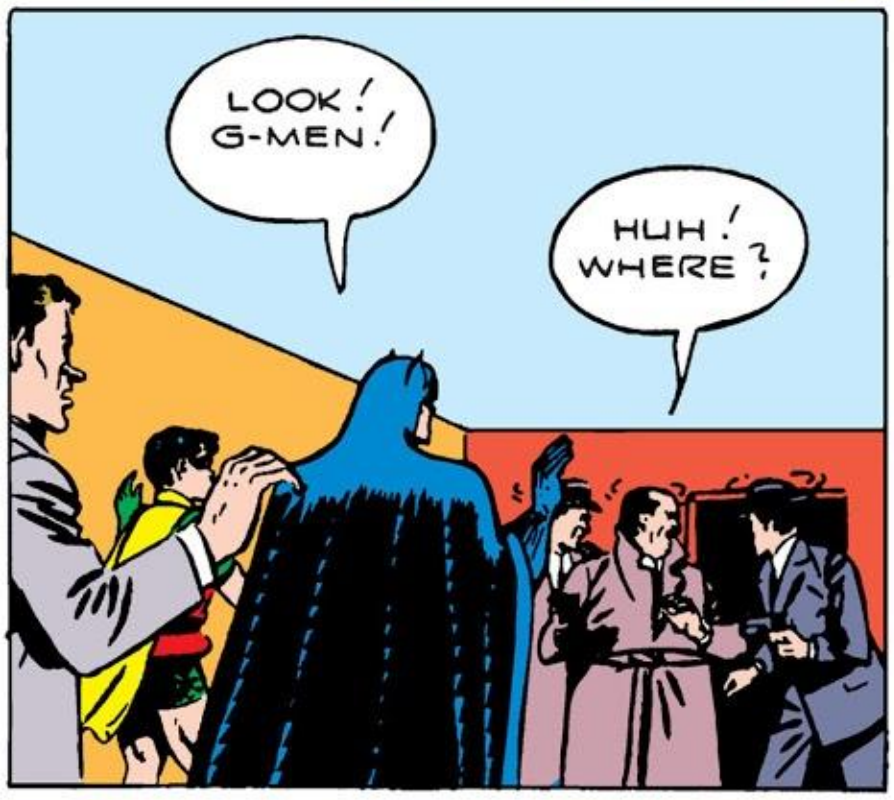

BUT INKY HAS FORGOTTEN NOTHING, FOR LATER, AT THE WAREHOUSE...
I PROMISED I WUZ TROO WID FORGERY, BUT WE HADDA HAVE DEM PASSES...
I'M GETTIN' WORRIED. DA PLACE LOOKS LEGITIMATE ENOUGH.
DAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK, AIN'T IT? C'MON...

DAT VAULT! IT'S DE ONLY PLACE WE AIN'T LOOKED. WE GOTTA SOICH IT!
BUT GENTLEMEN, IT'S LOCKED! AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT'S NEVER BEEN USED! WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!

IT'S LOCKED, HUH? WELL, JUST LET ME AT IT!
ER... THIS SEEMS HIGHLY IRREGULAR, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL RIGHT AS LONG AS YOUR PASSES ARE IN ORDER...

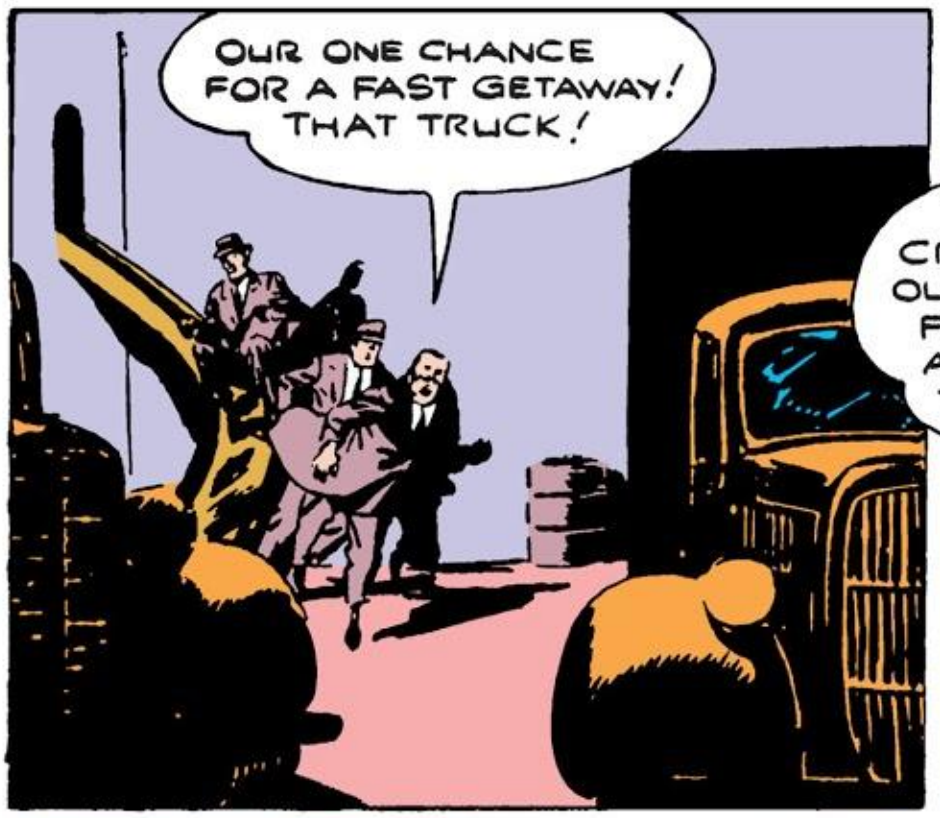
THE TUMBLERS OF THE GREAT LOCK SOON RESPOND TO THE SKILLED MANIPULATIONS OF THE EX-SAFE-CRACKER, AND...
LOOK! DA BATMAN AND ROBIN!
YOU GOT HERE! ANOTHER HALF HOUR AND WE'D HAVE SUFFOCATED! LUCKY I WAS ABLE TO PLANT THAT BAT-STICKER ON SKYE WHEN I TRIPPED HIM!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE UP TO!


FREED FROM THEIR BONDS, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PREPARE TO RETURN TO THE CAPITOL, WHEN SUDDENLY...
WELL—JUST MADE IT! LUCKY I DISCOVERED MY WALLET MISSING AND REALIZED WHAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED! BUT NOW, WE'LL SETTLE THIS LITTLE MATTER WITH BULLETS! READY, BOYS?—
IT'S SKYE AND HIS MEN!


LOOK! G-MEN!
HUH! WHERE?

JUST BE PATIENT! YOU'LL MEET HIM SOON ENOUGH!
SOMETIMES AN OLD TRICK WORKS BETTER THAN A NEW ONE!

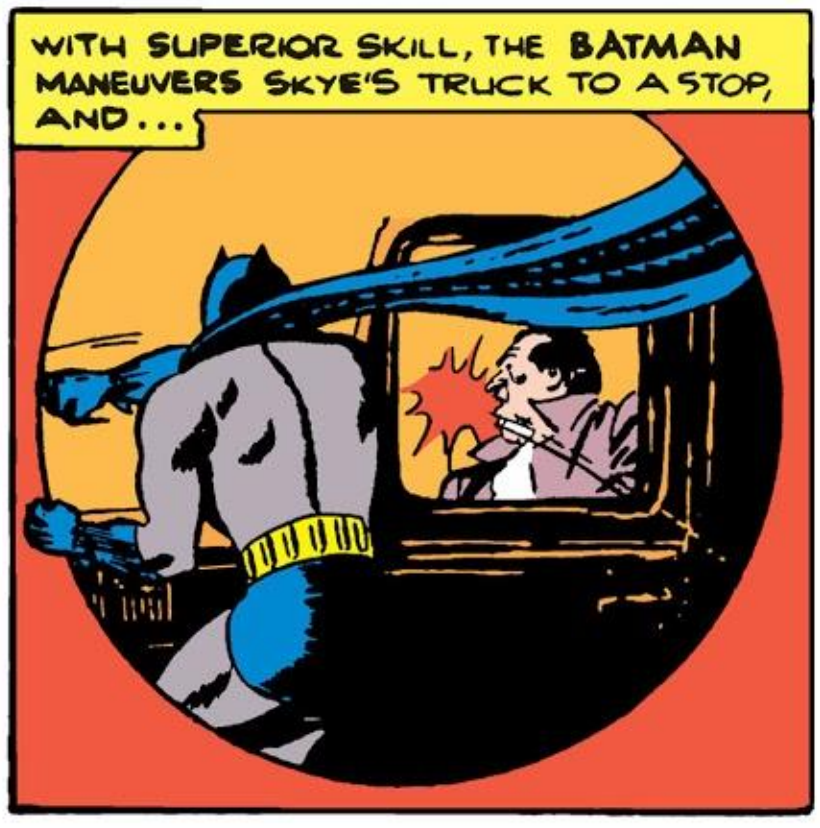
TIME TO GET OUT OF THIS TOWN!
QUICK-DOWN THE CHUTE!

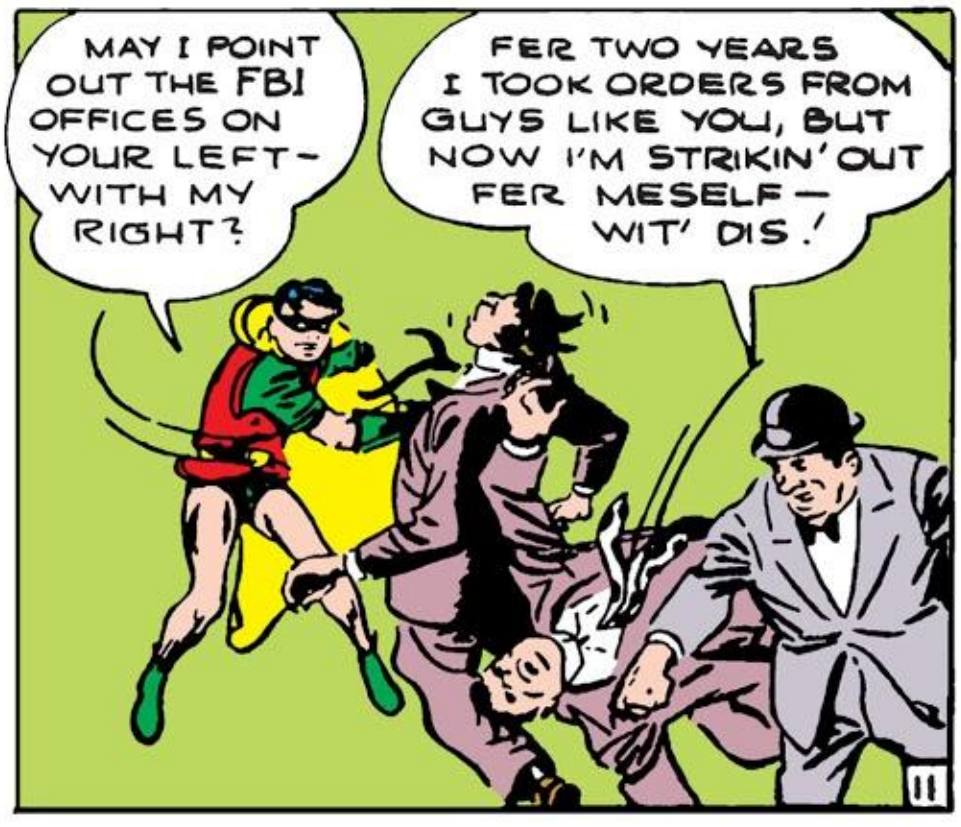

OUR ONE CHANCE FOR A FAST GETAWAY! THAT TRUCK!

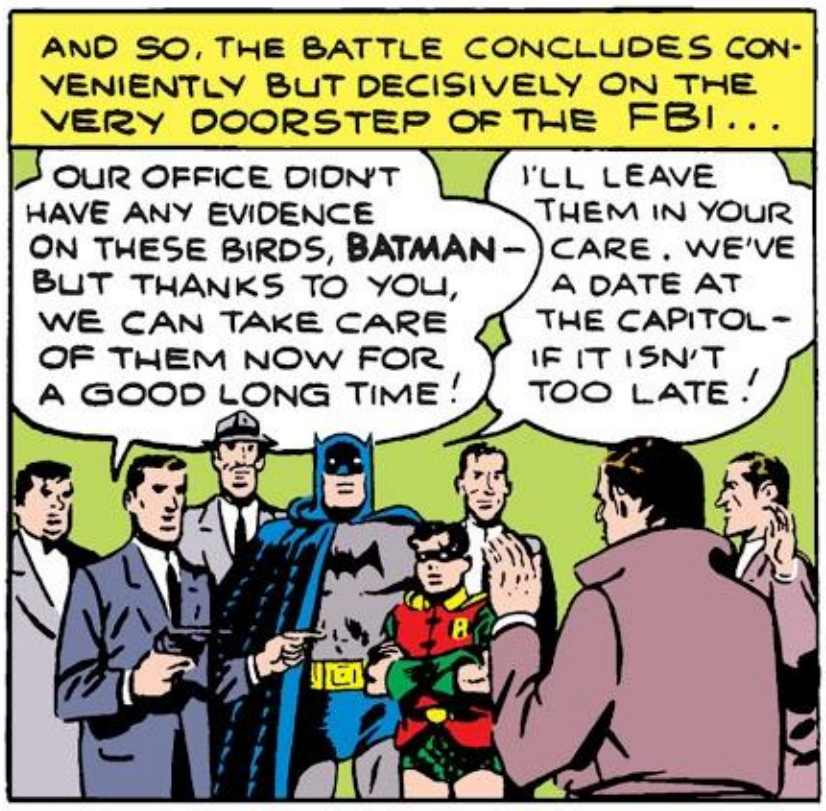
THEY'RE CRASHING OUT! WE'LL FOLLOW IN ANOTHER TRUCK!

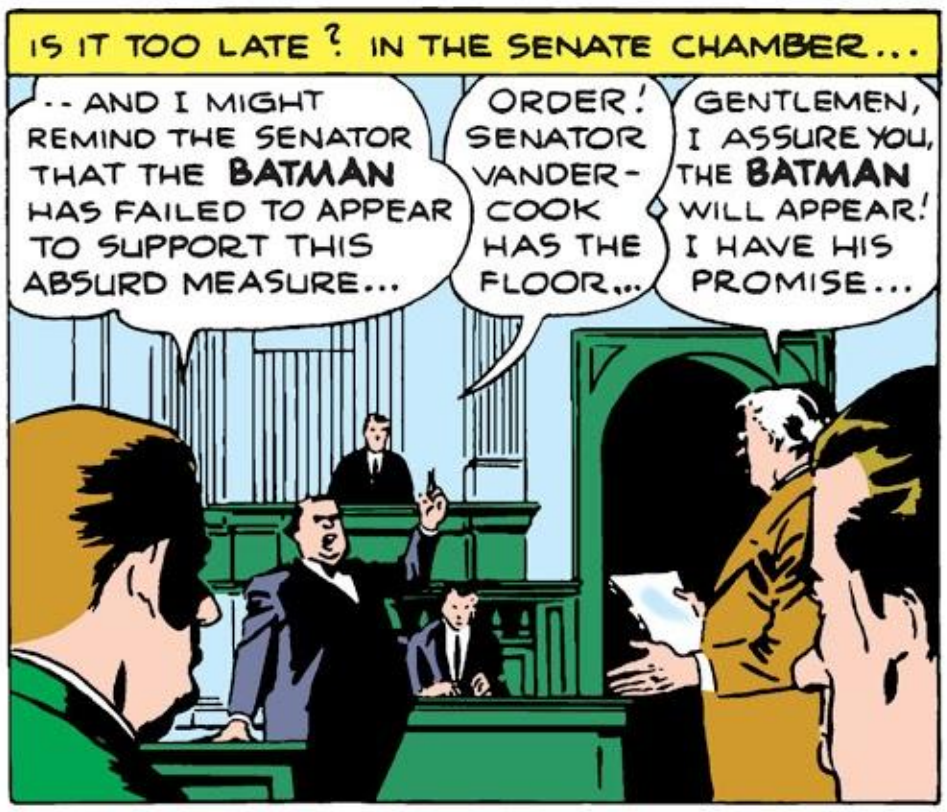
STEP ON IT, SKYE - THEY'RE GAINING! CRACK THE HEAD OF THE FIRST MAN THAT TRIES TO HOP ON!

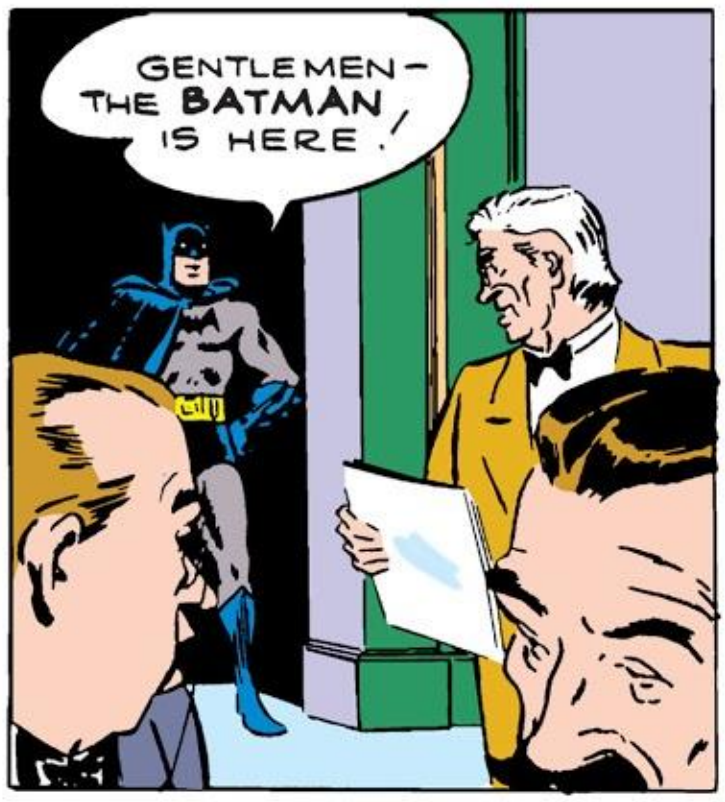
HEY, ROBIN - WE'RE PASSIN' DA WASHINGTON MONUMENT AGAIN! TOO BAD WE'RE SO BUSY!
YES - THIS MIGHT'VE BEEN A NICE SIGHT-SEEING TOUR!


WITH SUPERIOR SKILL, THE BATMAN MANEUVERS SKYE'S TRUCK TO A STOP, AND...

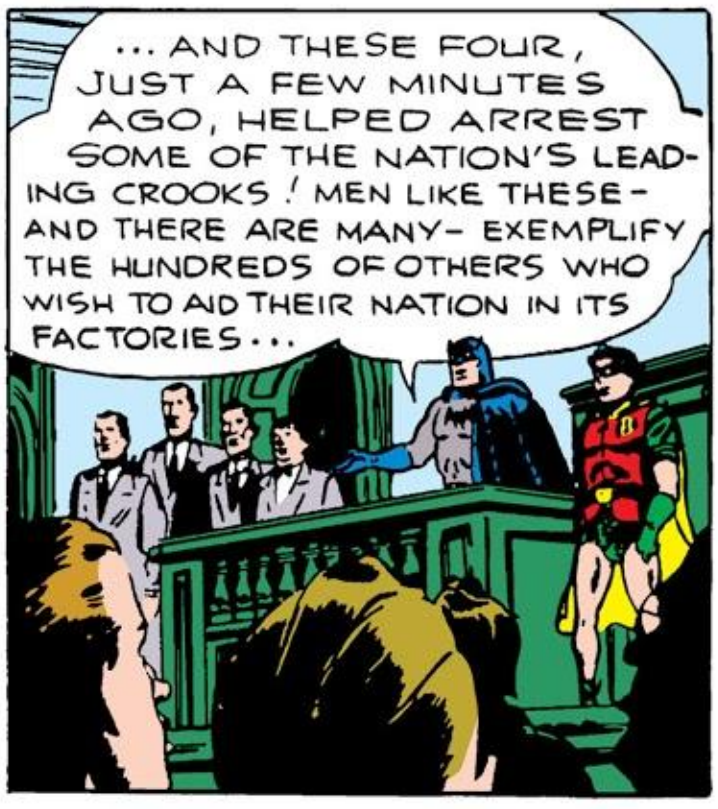

MAY I POINT OUT THE FBI OFFICES ON YOUR LEFT - WITH MY RIGHT?
FER TWO YEARS I TOOK ORDERS FROM GUYS LIKE YOU, BUT NOW I'M STRIKIN' OUT FER MESELF - WIT' DIS!

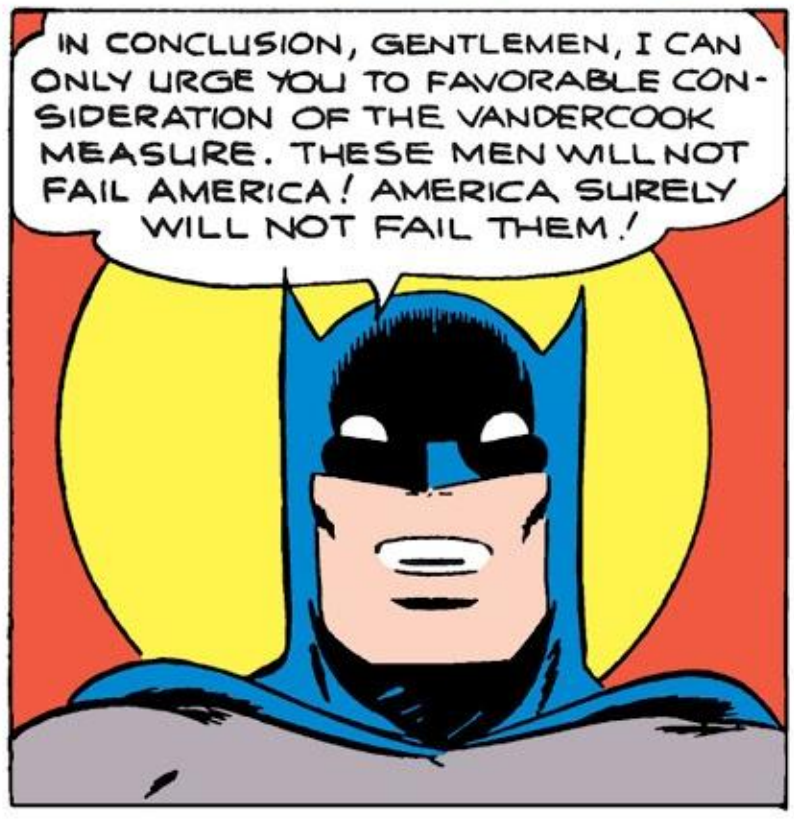

AND SO, THE BATTLE CONCLUDES CONVENIENTLY BUT DECISIVELY ON THE VERY DOORSTEP OF THE FBI...
OUR OFFICE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE ON THESE BIRDS, BATMAN— BUT THANKS TO YOU, WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW FOR A GOOD LONG TIME!
I'LL LEAVE THEM IN YOUR CARE. WE'VE A DATE AT THE CAPITOL— IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE!


IS IT TOO LATE? IN THE SENATE CHAMBER...
--AND I MIGHT REMIND THE SENATOR THAT THE BATMAN HAS FAILED TO APPEAR TO SUPPORT THIS ABSURD MEASURE...
ORDER! SENATOR VANDER-COOK HAS THE FLOOR...
GENTLEMEN, I ASSURE YOU, THE BATMAN WILL APPEAR! I HAVE HIS PROMISE...


GENTLEMEN— THE BATMAN, IS HERE!

AS HONORED GUESTS, THE FABULOUS CRIME FIGHTER AND HIS COMPANY ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE SENATE FROM THE PLATFORM...


...AND THESE FOUR, JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, HELPED ARREST SOME OF THE NATION'S LEADING CROOKS! MEN LIKE THESE— AND THERE ARE MANY— EXEMPLIFY THE HUNDREDS OF OTHERS WHO WISH TO AID THEIR NATION IN ITS FACTORIES...


IN CONCLUSION, GENTLEMEN, I CAN ONLY URGE YOU TO FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THE VANDERCOOK MEASURE. THESE MEN WILL NOT FAIL AMERICA! AMERICA SURELY WILL NOT FAIL THEM!

AND AMERICA DOES NOT FAIL THEM!
YEP... SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY WE WUZ WEARIN' STRIPES... AN' TODAY WE KIN REACH FER DA STARS!
YEAH... DA STARS AN' STRIPES FOREVER!
GEE... DAT'S POETRY!
POETRY NUTHIN'! DAT'S AMERICA!