



IN THIS ISSUE:
A FULL-LENGTH BATMAN NOVEL!
plus BATMAN & ROBIN TOGETHER IN A SECOND STORY!

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 329
NOV.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

THE
COIN HAS
SPOKEN,
BATMAN--AND
IT FINDS YOU
GUILTY!

AND IN
TWO-FACE'S
COURT
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
SENTENCE--
DEATH!



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

BATMAN

THE OFFICE OF DR. ALBERT EKHART, DECEASED...

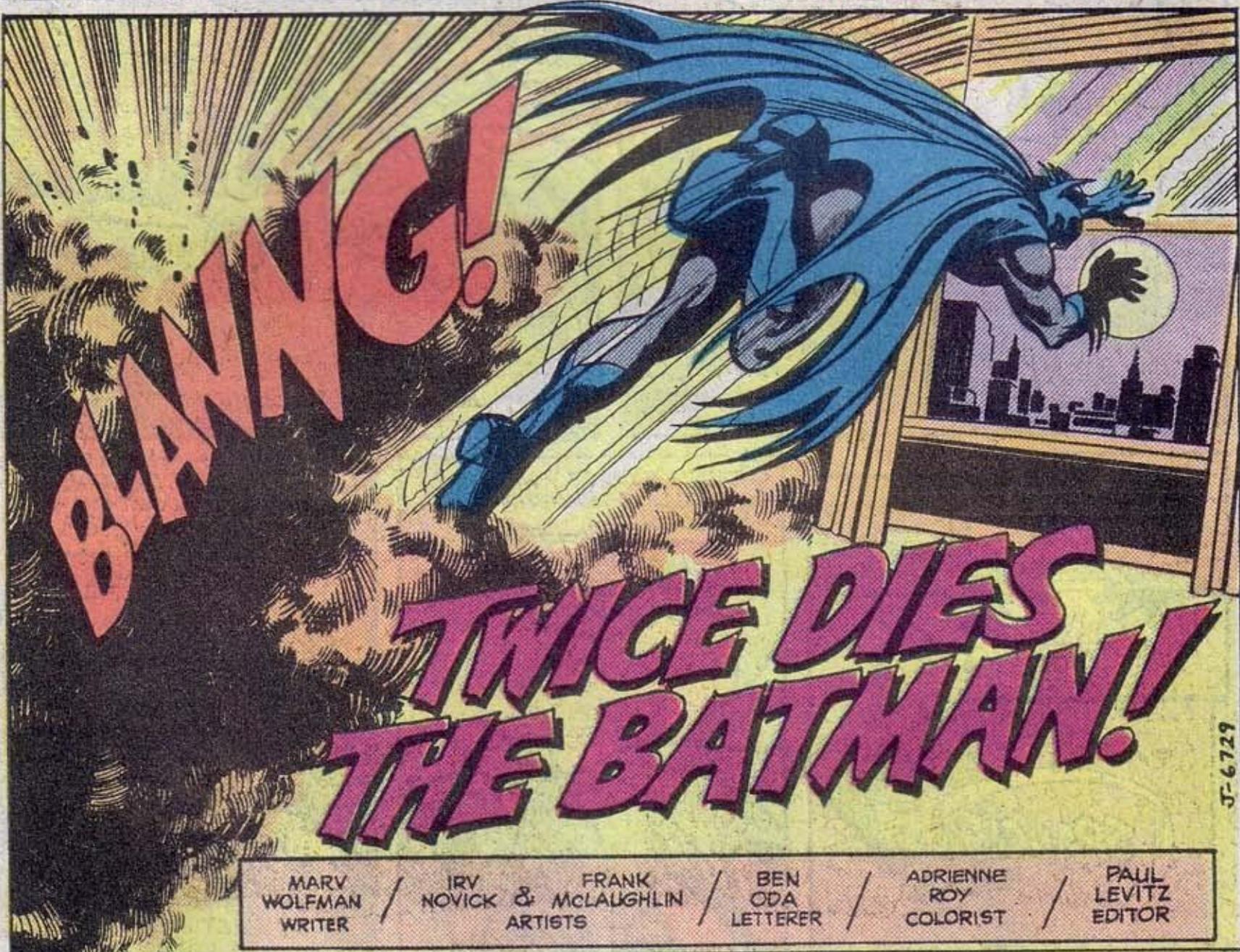
THE WINE-DARK ROOM IS STILL... SILENT...



THEN, A SUDDEN COLD WHISPER OF WIND...



... BECOMES A BONE-CHILLING HERALD OF DEATH!



MARV
WOLFMAN
WRITER

IRV
NOVICK &
FRANK
MC LAUGHLIN
ARTISTS

BEN
ODA
LETTERER

ADRIENNE
ROY
COLORIST

PAUL
LEVITZ
EDITOR

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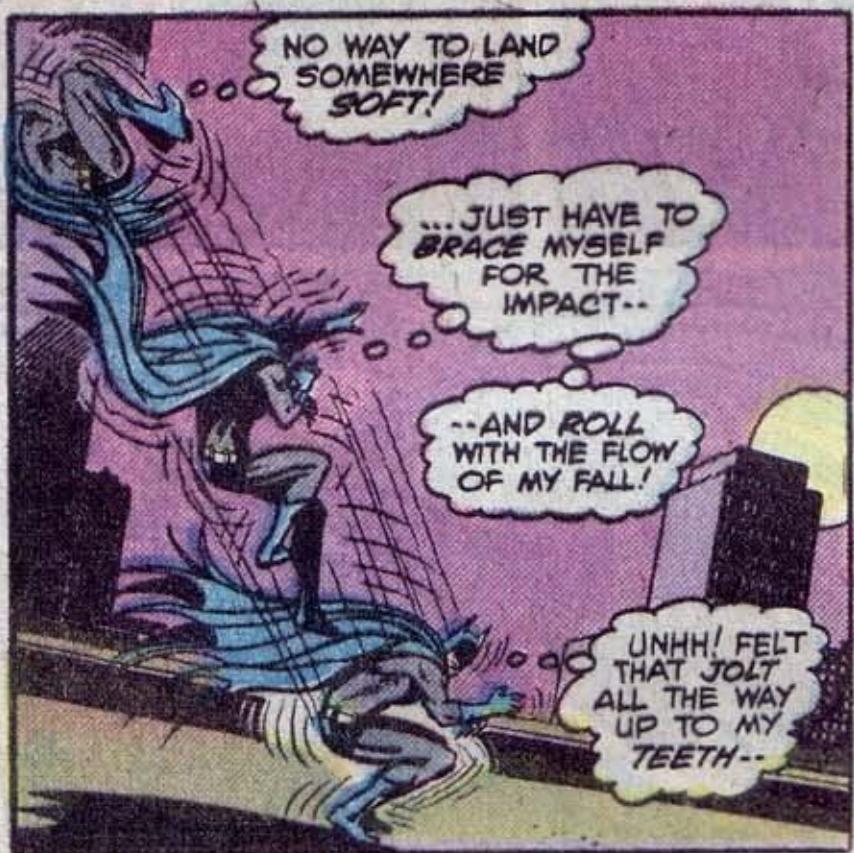
Jenette Kahn, Publisher
Joe Orlando, Managing Editor
Paul Levitz, Editor
Jack Adler, Vice-Pres. Production

Sol Harrison, President
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400

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Phil & Doc Scan



MINUTES
LATER...

EVEN BEFORE THE
BATMAN ENTERS THE
BASEMENT OFFICE, HE
FEELS THE PEATHLY
CHILL RADIATING FROM
THE ROOM WITHIN...



HE HAS VISITED THIS REFRIGERATED
POLICE MORGUE ALL TOO OFTEN IN
THE PAST...

HIS GLOVED HAND REACHES FOR THE INNER
DOOR. SUDDENLY, INSTINCTIVELY HE FALLS BACK...

...AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON...

FELT THE HEAT
COMING THROUGH
THAT DOORKNOB--
THE FILE ROOM IS
AN INFERNO...

FOOSH!



...AND THE FLAMES
ARE SPREADING ALL
TOO QUICKLY!

ONLY WAY
OUT IS THE
WAY I CAME
IN!



LOCKED!
SOMEONE
PLANNED
THIS TRIP,
WELL!

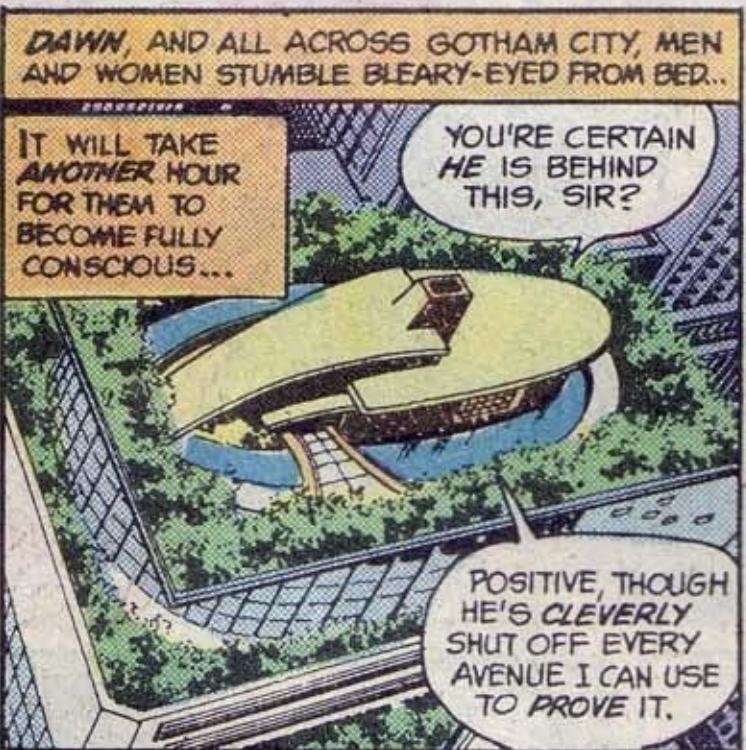
DOORS LOCKED, AND SINCE
THIS ROOM IS SUPPOSED
TO BE REFRIGERATED,
THERE ARE NO WINDOWS!

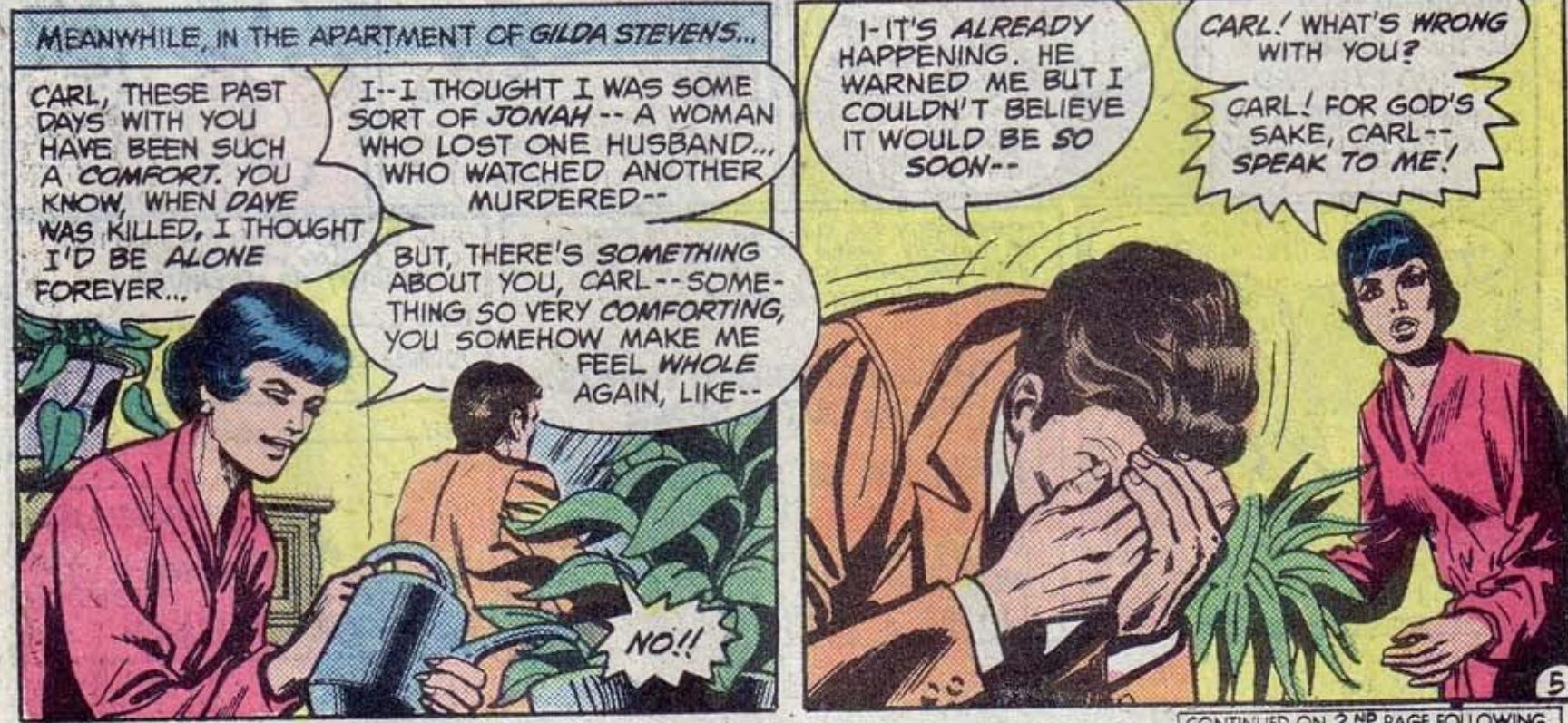
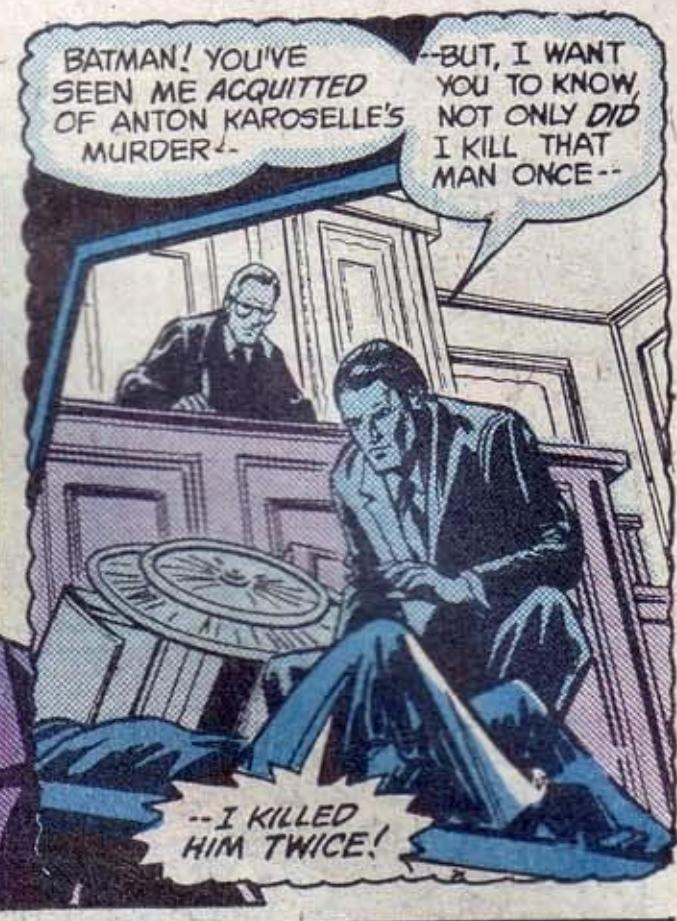


THAT MEANS MY
ONLY AVENUE OF
ESCAPE IS THROUGH
THE FLAMES
THEMSELVES!



FI
RO







ALMOST WITHOUT DIRECTION HE STAGGERS WILDLY ON THE STREET BELOW GILDA STEVEN'S APARTMENT...

HIS DEEP, DARK EYES ABLAZE WITH FIRE, HIS VOICE GURGLES LIKE A THRASHING ANIMAL... THEN HE SCREAMS UNTIL HE CAN SCREAM NO MORE...

IT ALMOST WORKED... GILDA WAS ALMOST MINE AGAIN!

BUT NOW I CAN NEVER HOLD HER... NEVER LET HER LOOK AT THIS FACE... THIS MOCKERY I HAVE ONCE MORE BECOME!

I'VE LOST THE ONLY WOMAN I'VE EVER CARED FOR... EVER LOVED... I'VE LOST HER BECAUSE OF THE CURSE... THE CURSE OF

TWO-FACE!

ANTON KAROSELLE'S MANSION STANDS PROUD AMID SIX ACRES OF WOODS JUST NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY...

TWO-FACE KNEW THE POLICE HAD TRACED DAVE STEVEN'S MURDER TO KAROSELLE... KNEW THE POLICE WERE WATCHING KAROSELLE...



IT FELL, KILLING KAROSELLE INSTANTLY. IT SEEMED TO BE AN ACCIDENT--

...BUT, IF I KNOW TWO-FACE-- IT WAS MURDER... EVEN IF I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY!

SYSTEMATICALLY, THE BATMAN BEGINS A THOROUGH SEARCH OF KAROSELLE'S MANSION, TILL FINALLY...

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS HIDDEN IN KAROSELLE'S SAFE.

SINCE THE MAN DIDN'T SEEM TO BE A COLLECTOR-- EH?

QUICKLY, THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SKITTER OVER THE HEADLINES...

...AND, EVEN AS HE GLEANS THROUGH THE VARIOUS STORIES...

...A MUCH LARGER STORY COMES INTO SHARP FOCUS...

Gilda Gold Wed to Harvey Dent, D.A.

Gilda Gold, daughter of sculptor Alan Gold, was married to former District Attorney Harvey Dent in a Park Hill ceremony last night. Harvey Dent, the former villain Two-Face, had been pardoned for his crimes by Governor Williams.

The in-depth, midnight "freewheeling" news now thrown in the marketplace of searing ghouls at midnight. That's what it's all about.

String marshalling gets us through the night.

GOTHAM TIMES - NEWS
"BOSS" MARONI KILLED BY TWO-FACE, FORMER D.A.



GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL; LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...

WHERE IS MARY ANN'S REGULAR DOCTOR?

TOOK SICK HIMSELF, BATMAN. NOT EVEN WE ARE IMMUNE TO THE COMMON COLD. I'M DR. MCHENRY.

I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE ABOUT MARY ANN WARNER. I UNDERSTAND YOU BROUGHT HER HERE AFTER A MUGGING ATTEMPT.

HOW IS SHE DOING, DOCTOR?

BUT SHE'S A HARDY SOUL -- SHE'LL PULL THROUGH.

I HOPE SO. SHE'S A VALUED FRIEND. PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN FOR HER.

YOU CAN TRUST ME, BATMAN. WE'LL TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF HER.

SHE'S STABLE. STILL SLEEPS MOST OF THE TIME, AND WE HAVE TO KEEP HER SEDATED BECAUSE OF THE PAIN.

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

ACROSS THE BREADTH OF GOTHAM, IN THE APARTMENT OF GILDA STEVENS...

THERE'S NO REASON TO CRY, GILDA.

CARL? YOU'RE BACK?

NOT CARL.

B-BATMAN!?!?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GILDA. I WAS VERY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT DAVE'S MURDER.

HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, BATMAN... THE MAN WHO KILLED HIM NEVER EVEN KNEW DAVE. SO WHY--?

HE KNEW YOU, GILDA. AND HE KNEW YOUR FIRST HUSBAND, HARVEY.

GILDA, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME-- SINCE HARVEY'S TRAGIC ACCIDENT. I'D NEVER KNOWINGLY PUT YOU IN DANGER--

BUT I NEED YOUR HELP, GILDA. I NEED YOUR HELP TO ALLOW ME TO HELP HARVEY!

WHAT?!?

IT WOULD BE SO SIMPLE NOW TO PRESS THIS TRIGGER --TO BE RID OF THAT MASKED MANHUNTER FOREVER!

BUT, BLAST IT--I CAN'T... CAN'T!

AND BECAUSE I CAN'T--THE BATMAN WILL LIVE!

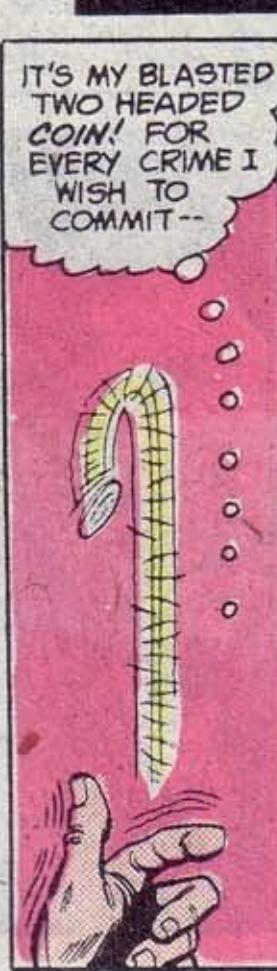
IT'S MY BLASTED TWO HEADED COIN! FOR EVERY CRIME I WISH TO COMMIT--

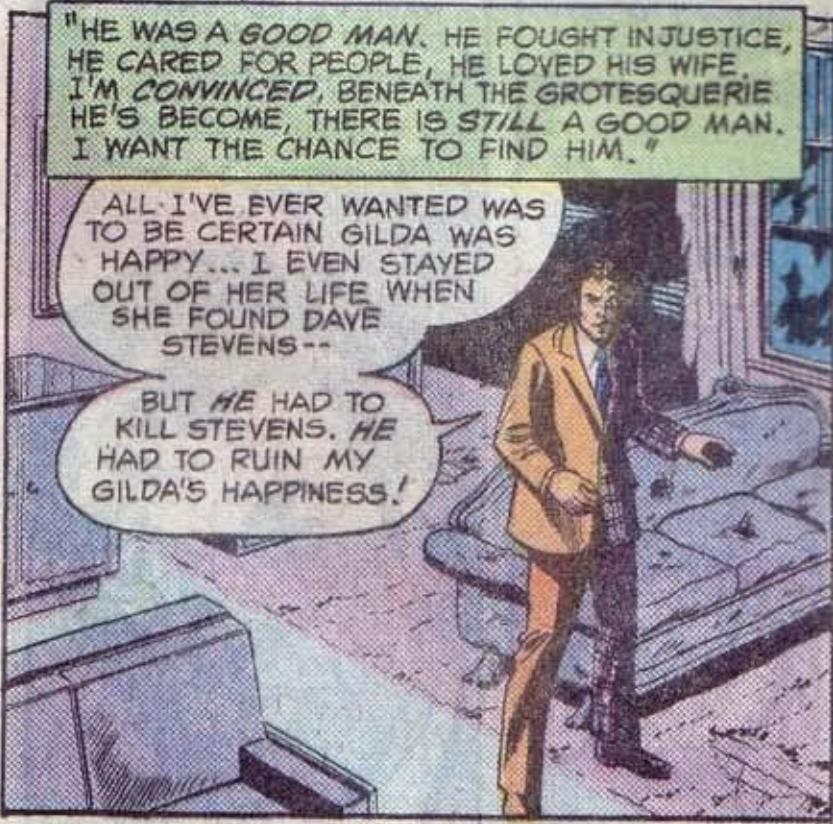
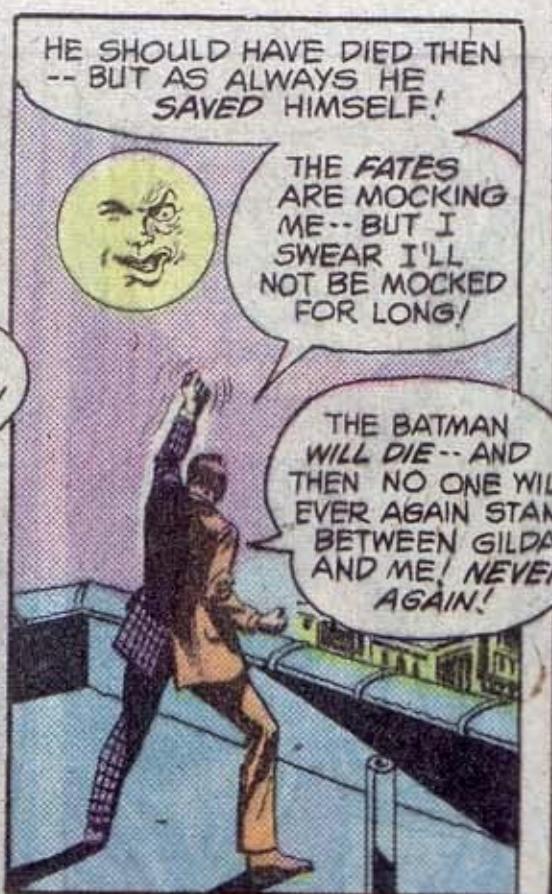
--FOR EVERY ACT I WISH TO TAKE-- I MUST FLIP THE COIN...

THE SCARRED HEAD LEANS ME TOWARD CRIME... THE CLEAN HEAD TOWARD GOOD--

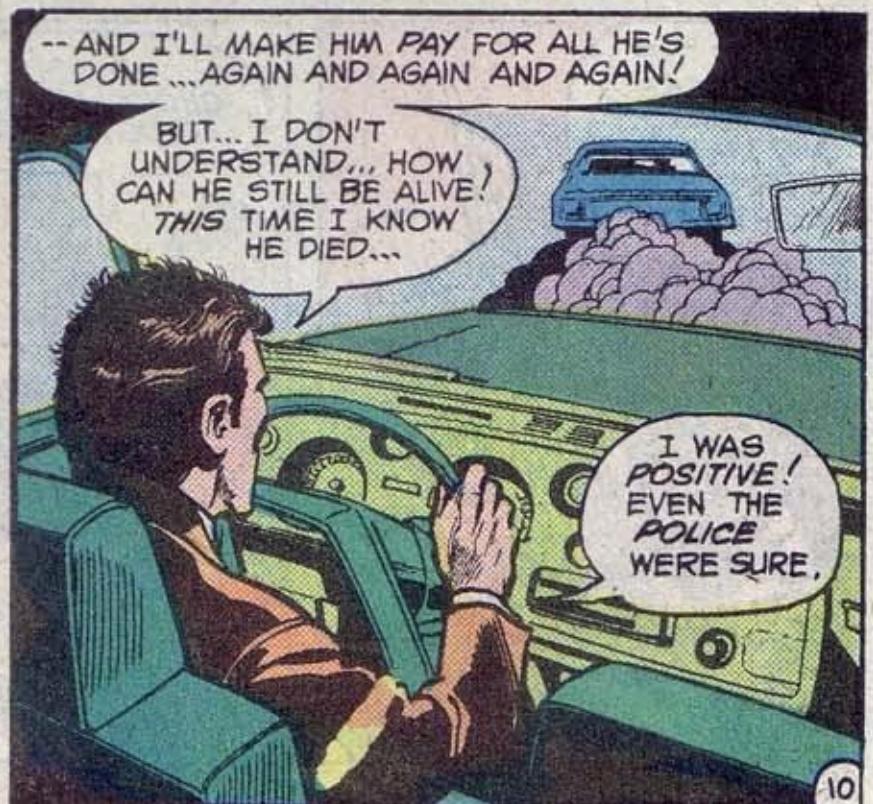
--AND FOR WEEKS NOW, EVERY TIME I COULD HAVE KILLED THAT CAPED CRUSADER--

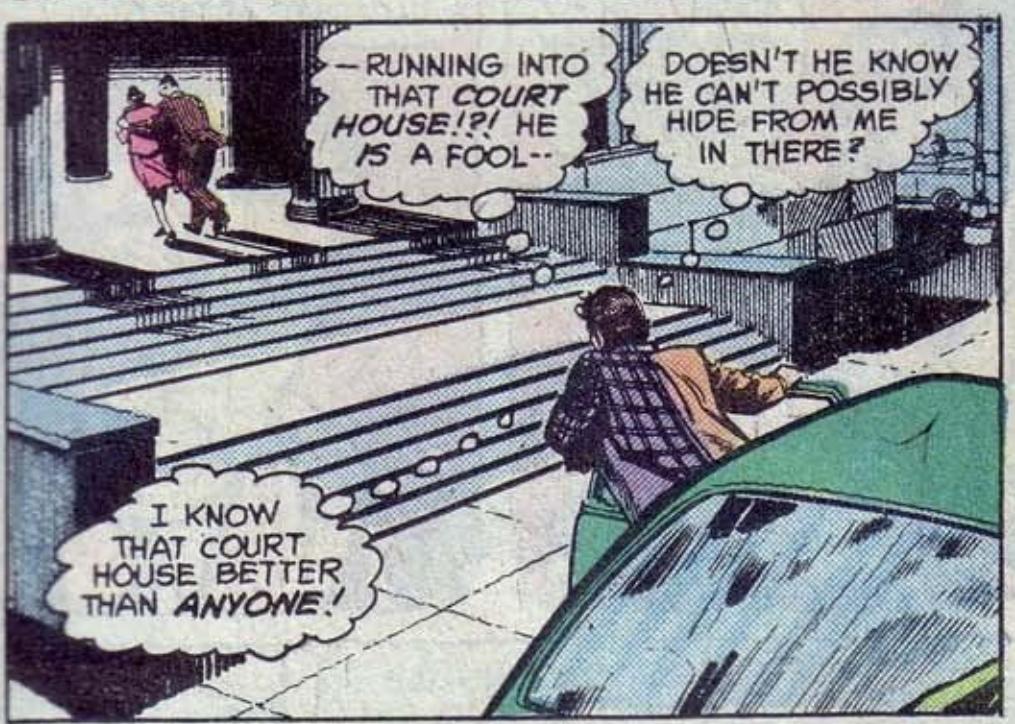
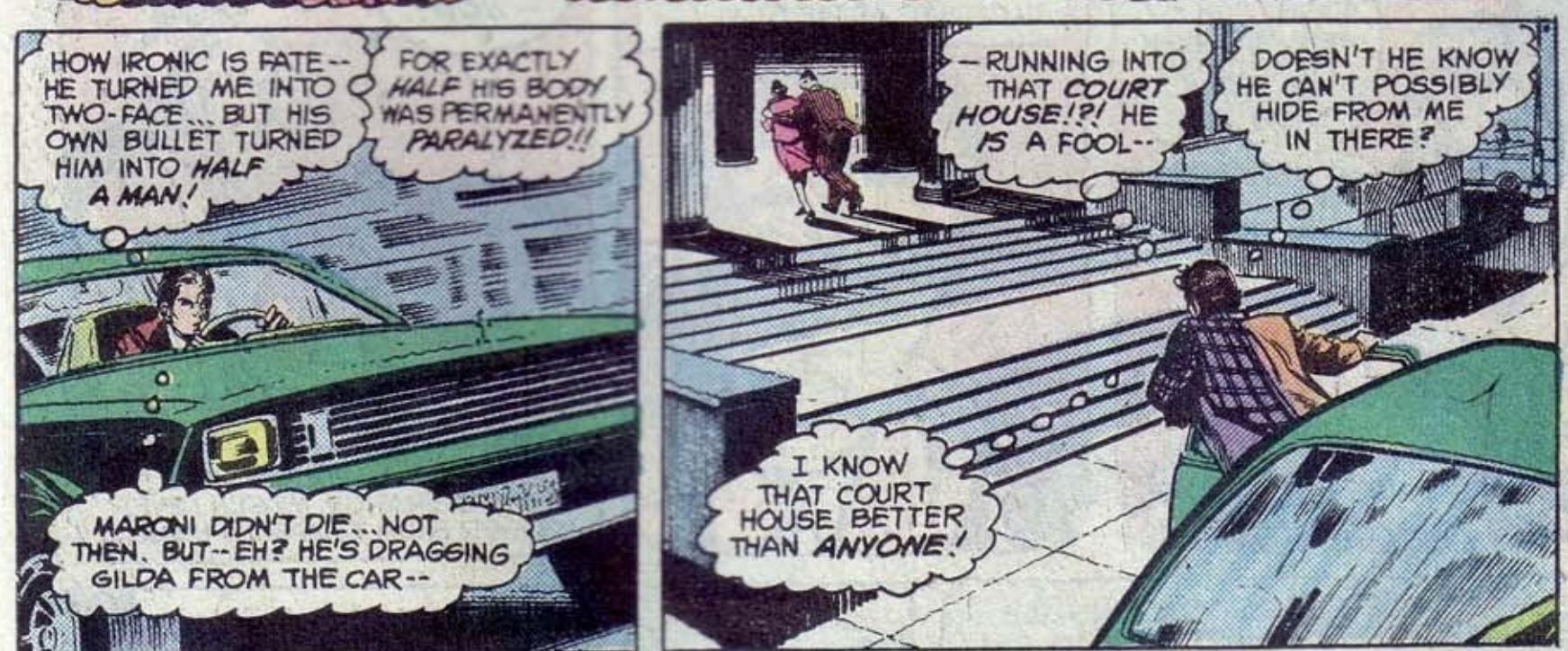
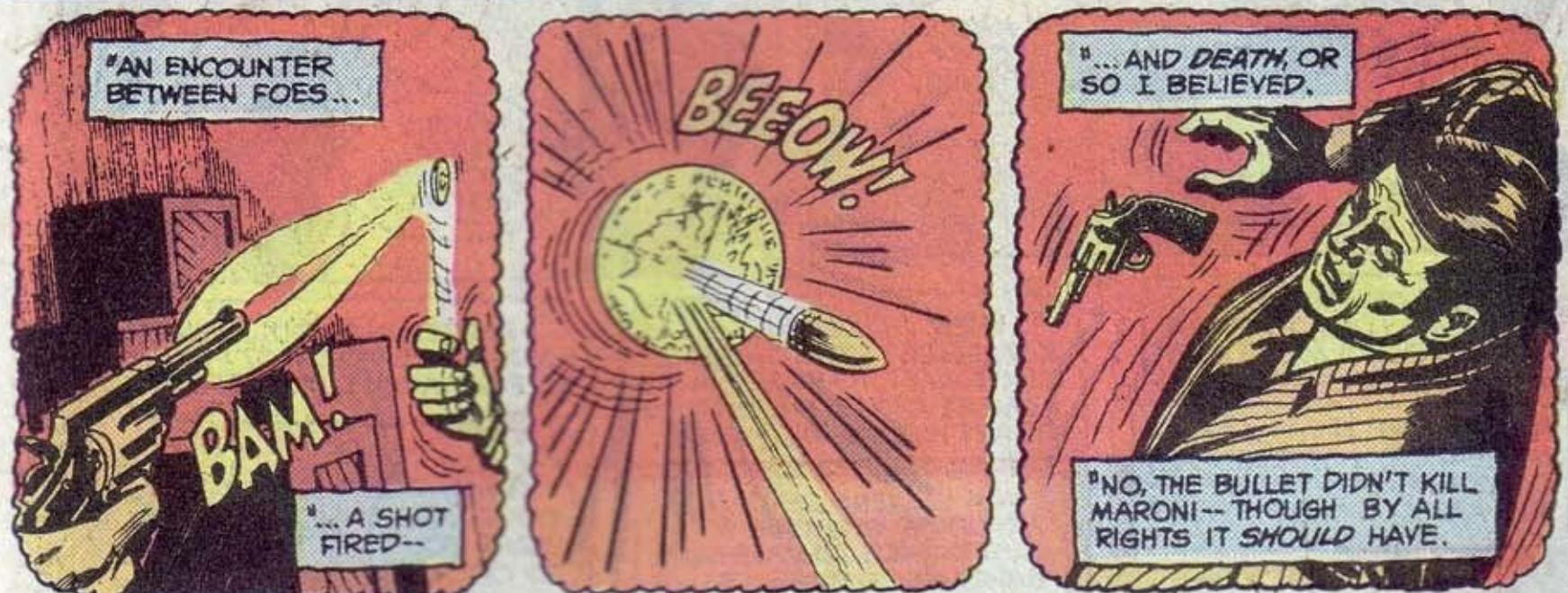
--MY COIN ALWAYS TURNED UP GOOD!

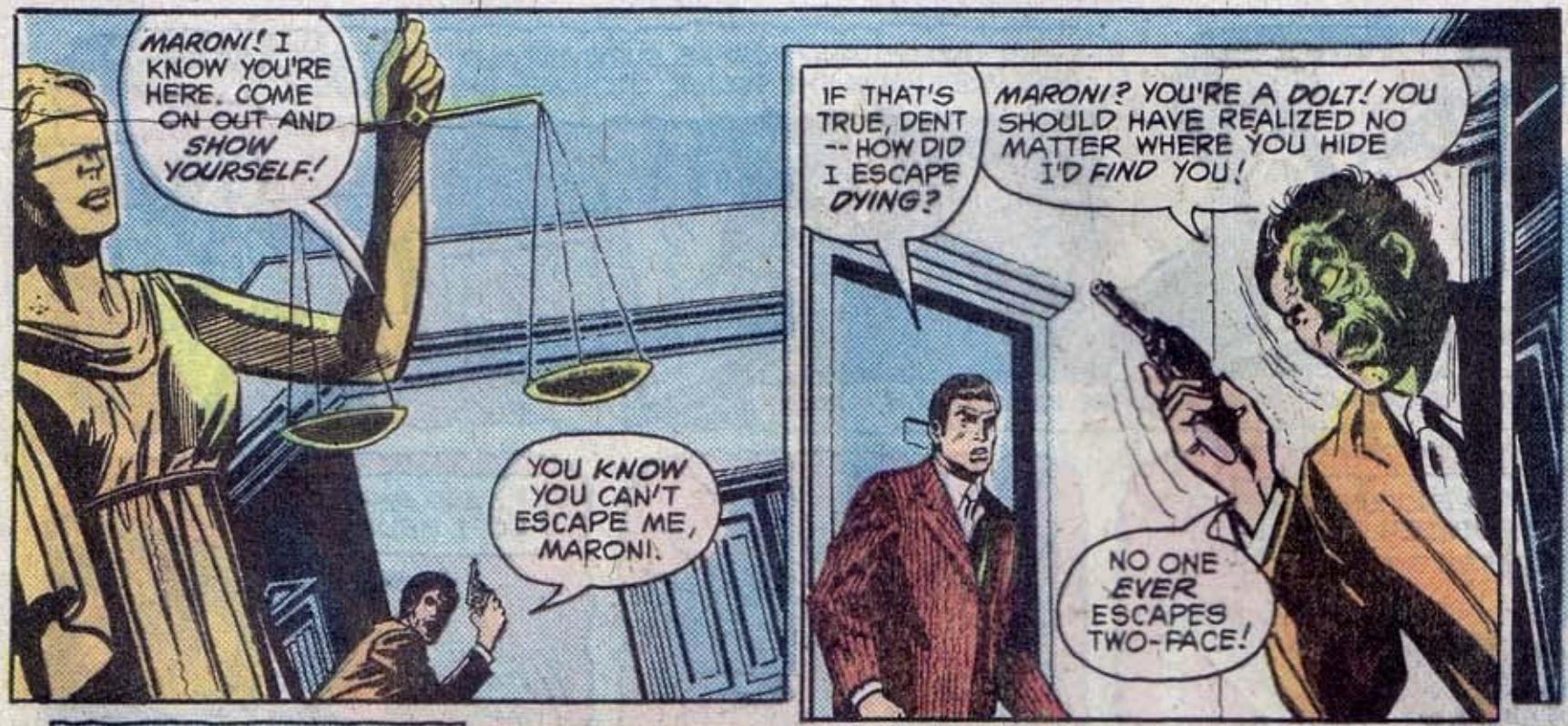




CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.







IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOU KILLED STEVENS. YOU WERE GETTING BACK AT ME FOR CRIPPLING YOU --

--GETTING BACK AT ME THROUGH GILDA! THROUGH THE WOMAN I LOVE!

YOU CAN'T BE MARONI--IF YOU WERE YOU'D BE Crippled ... AND IF YOU'RE NOT MARONI--YOU'VE GOT TO BE--

JUST HOLD IT, MARONI--DON'T MOVE ANOTHER--EH? THAT DOOR SIGN?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, MARONI? MARONI...??

--THE BATMAN!

IT'S ALL OVER, HARVEY.

LET'S GO BACK TO ARKHAM.

NEVER, MANHUNTER!

ARKHAM'S A CRAZY HOUSE-- IT'S FOR LOONS LIKE THE JOKER! I'VE NEVER BEEN INSANE--

IT'S YOU, MANHUNTER-- YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS WHO NEVER UNDERSTOOD.

NOW, BATMAN -- WHERE IS GILDA? YOU BROUGHT HER HERE, AND I WANT TO SEE HER -- NOW!

LOOK AROUND YOU, HARVEY-- DOESN'T THIS ALL SEEM FAMILIAR?

YOU WORKED HERE, HARVEY... YOU ONCE BELIEVED IN THE PRINCIPLES THIS CHAMBER STANDS FOR.

ENOUGH, BATMAN. ANOTHER WORD AND THEY'LL BE PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY ON YOU BY MORNING!

YOU DO THINK YOURSELF SO CLEVER, BATMAN-- BUT YOU'RE NOT. YOU SEE, THERE IS NO MORE HARVEY DENT.

HE DIED THE DAY HIS FACE WAS RAVAGED!

CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW, BATMAN--
EVERYTHING HE BELIEVED IN
DIED WITH HIM THE DAY
TWO-FACE WAS BORN!

I REFUSE TO
BELIEVE THAT, HARVEY.
WE WERE FRIENDS
FOR TOO LONG. I
KNOW HOW STRONG
YOUR FEELINGS
WERE FOR JUSTICE--

ALMOST AS
STRONG AS
YOUR LOVE
FOR GILDA.

DON'T DARE MENTION
THAT NAME, BATMAN. DON'T
DARE BRING HER INTO
THIS.

MASTER BRUCE
INSISTED I REFRAIN
FROM RUNNING HIS
FILM UNTIL THE LAST
POSSIBLE MOMENT.

UNLESS I MISS MY
GUESS, I FEAR THAT
MOMENT
HAS ARRIVED.

SUDDENLY, THE OUTER CHAMBER
LIGHTS GO DIM. THEN...

WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE, BATMAN?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

LET'S JUST
PRAY HE STAYS
CALM AND
RATIONAL
ENOUGH TO
FIND OUT...

I HAVE PROOF THAT
MARONI SHOT "BOOKIE"
BENSON -- FOUND ON THE
SCENE OF THE CRIME,
MARONI'S LUCKY PIECE--
A TWO-HEADED SILVER
DOLLAR--WITH HIS
FINGERPRINTS ON IT!

IT'S A MOVIE...
OF MY BEGIN-
NINGS. WHERE
DID YOU GET
THIS, BATMAN?
WHERE?

I WANT YOU
TO STOP
THIS NOW,
BATMAN.

DO YOU HEAR
ME, BATMAN--
STOP THIS
NOW!!

OKAY,
PRETTY BOY
-- I'LL FIX
YOU!

LOOK OUT,
D.A., HE'S
THROWING
ACID!

UGH!
MY
FACE!

I'M PLEADING
WITH YOU, BATMAN!
I-- I CAN'T SEE IT
ANY MORE!

FOR PITY'S SAKE--
PLEASE -- DON'T
LET THIS CONTINUE!

TODAY WE TAKE THIS BANDAGE OFF!

HAND ME A
MIRROR, BATMAN.
I WONDER WHAT
MY FACE WILL
LOOK LIKE.

TWO-FACE TURNS
FROM THE SCREEN,
BUT THE IMAGE IS
JUST AS BRIGHT IN
HIS OWN MIND'S
EYE. HE CAN SEE
THE BANDAGES
PEELED AWAY... AND
HE CAN SEE THE
FACE BEHIND...
HORRIBLE, SCARRED
... A TERRIBLE
TWISTED MASS OF
FLESH AND TISSUE...

YOU'VE PUSHED ME TOO FAR, BATMAN. NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU NOW--YOU WILL DIE!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR COIN, HARVEY--THE ONE YOU TOOK FROM MARONI!

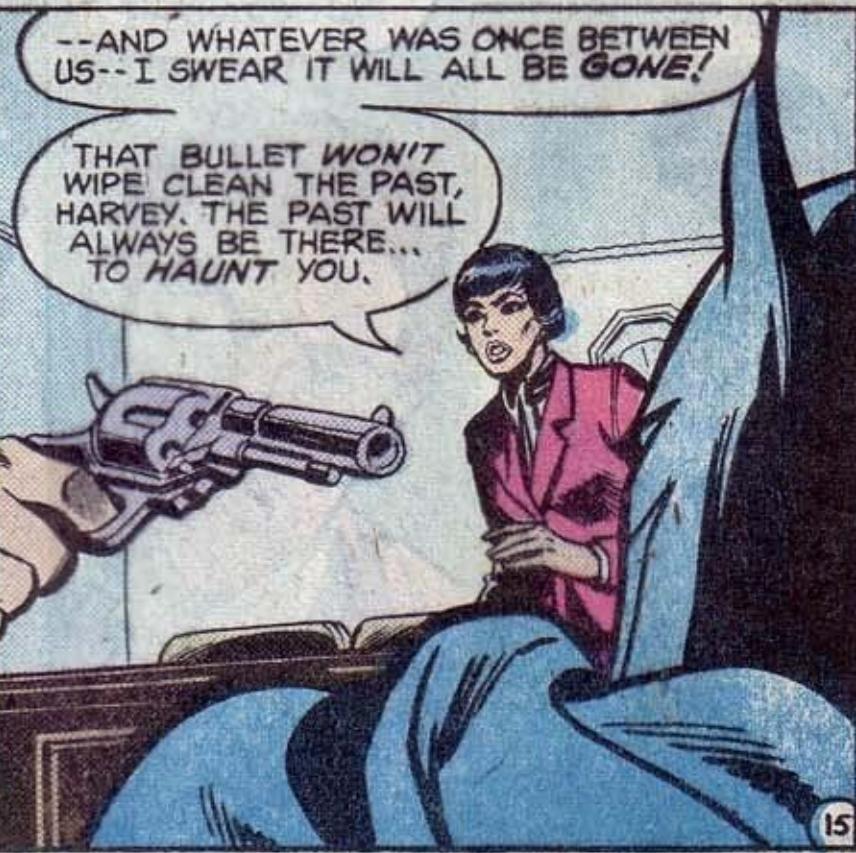
YOU ALWAYS USE IT TO GIVE YOUR VICTIMS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE.

M-MY COIN--? YES, OF COURSE I'LL FLIP IT, BUT THIS TIME I'M NOT WORRIED.

MARONI IS DEAD, EKHART IS DEAD. SOON YOU WILL JOIN THEM. THEN ONLY GILDA AND I WILL LIVE!

WE CAN BEGIN ANEW--BUT ONLY WHEN ALL THE VESTIGES OF THE PAST ARE DEAD AND BURIED!!

I WISH TO GOD IT WAS TRUE, HARVEY--BUT IT'S NOT.



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, GILDA.
BATMAN WILL HAVE A *CHANCE*--
A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE
TO LIVE.

YOU SEE, I WON'T
BE KILLING HIM--
IT WILL BE THE
COIN--IT TELLS
ME WHAT TO DO.

BY GOD, HARVEY--YOU
USE THAT THING LIKE
A *CRUTCH*! IT CRIPPLES
YOU MORE THAN YOUR
ACCIDENT *EVER* DID!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT ANY
COIN OR ANY EVEN CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL--
I WANT *YOU*-- WITHOUT THAT COIN--TO
MAKE THE CHOICE.

I CAN'T PROMISE THAT
IF YOU PUT DOWN THAT
GUN IT WILL *EVER*
BE THE SAME BETWEEN
US--



THIS ISN'T *FAIR*,
GILDA... I--I HAVE
TO USE THE COIN...

I-IT'S *ALWAYS*
TOLD ME WHAT TO...
GOOD HEAVEN,
GILDA--CAN'T YOU
UNDERSTAND--?

GILDA...
OH, GOD,
GILDA...

PLEASE...

...HELP...
...ME...

PUNK!

GILDA, I'LL RETURN TO ARKHAM.
WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

WAIT TO SEE IF I
CAN BE CURED?

IF YOU WANT
TO BE, HARVEY,
YOU WILL BE.

... AND, AS HE IS SLOWLY LED AWAY, FOR THE
FIRST TIME IN ALL-TOO-MANY YEARS, HE DOES
NOT LOOK BACK...

BUT
AHEAD...

I THINK THIS TIME
HE'LL MAKE IT.

I HOPE SO,
GILDA.

SILENTLY, TWO-FACE TURNS FROM THE WOMAN HE LOVES AND THE MAN HE HAS FOR SO LONG TRIED TO KILL...

ONE THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BATMAN.
I SAW YOUR HANDS WERE FREE--

--YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED HARVEY AT ANY TIME, BUT YOU DIDN'T, EVEN THOUGH HE COULD HAVE SHOT YOU.

HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WOULDN'T FIRE?

I DIDN'T.
BUT HARVEY
WAS ONCE
MY FRIEND.

IF THERE WAS EVEN THE SLIMMEST CHANCE HE COULD LIVE AGAIN--

--IT WAS WORTH ANY RISK!

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS TOLD ME YOU WERE SOMEONE TO BE FEARED ... BUT ALL I SEE IS THE GENTLEST... KINDEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

ALFRED, EVERY SO OFTEN I FIND MYSELF WONDERING IF THIS CRUSADE OF MINE MEANS ANYTHING. I WONDER IF IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE.

AND, IF THE TRUTH CAN BE TOLD, THERE ARE TIMES I DESPAIR FOR WANT OF AN ANSWER!

BUT THEN...
TIMES LIKE THIS JUSTIFY ALL THE HORRORS AND ALL THE HELLS.

NOW, LET'S GET HOME!

FOR A CHANGE I
THINK IT'S GOING TO
BE A GOOD NIGHT!

NEXT ISSUE: TARGETED FOR DEATH!

A 25-PAGE
SPECTACULAR!

BAT MAN

AND

ROBIN

THE TEEN WONDER

-- TOGETHER
AGAIN!

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL: THERE'S A COLD SOUND TO THE WORDS, DISGUIISING THE WARMTH OF THE COMPASSION AND HEALING WITHIN...

BUT THIS NIGHT,
THE COLD OF
JUSTICE HAS
CREPT IN...

MAYBE YA DIDN'T
BUY OUR DISGUISES
BATMAN, BUT IT DON'T
MATTER NOW! LEAVE
OR ROBIN BUYS
IT!

POW!

SOK!

DON'T
GASP!
LISTEN
TO HIM,
BATMAN...

IT'S NO PROBLEM
TO DE-FEET THIS
CLOWN!

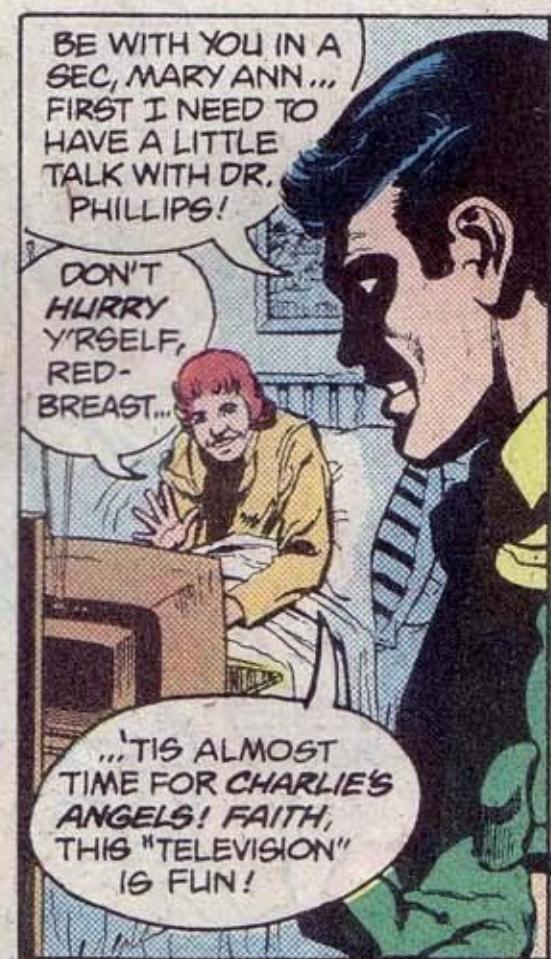
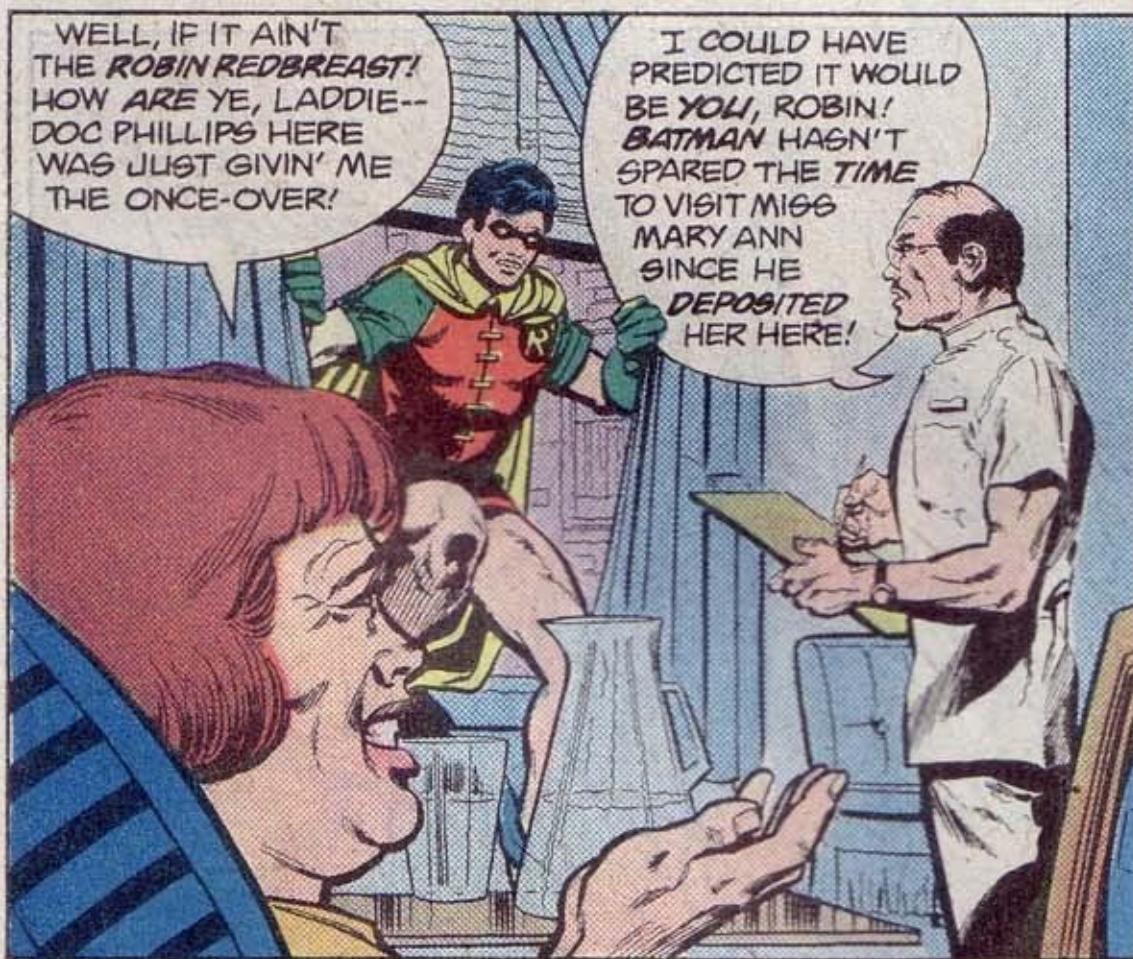
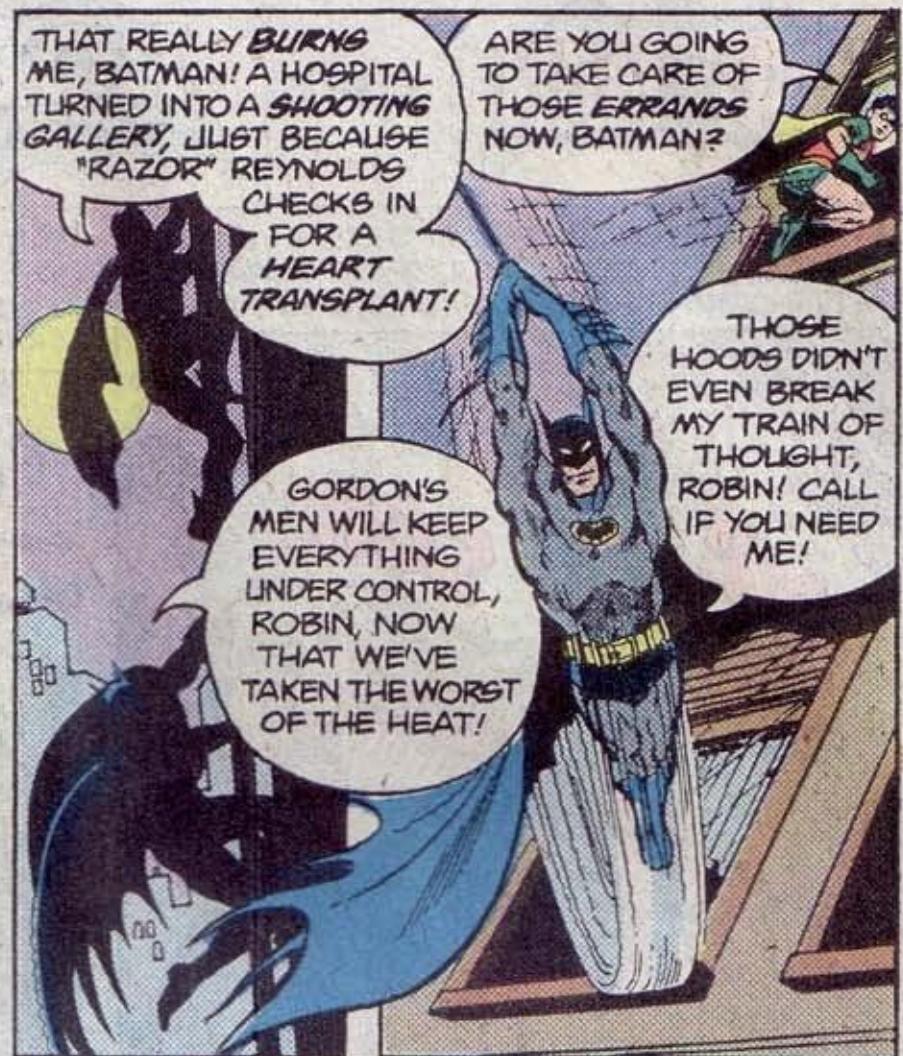
NEVER
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE,
CHUM!

OOFF!

MIKE W. BARR, WRITER
RICHARD F. BUCKLER &
FRANK McLAUGHLIN, ARTISTS
TODD KLEIN, LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ, EDITOR

THE CASE OF THE

HIJACKED HEART!



*LAST ISSUE--PAUL

EVEN A THUG LIKE "RAZOR" REYNOLDS HAS VISITORS--BUT BATMAN'S TOO BUSY BEATING PEOPLE UP TO CARE ABOUT HUMAN EMOTIONAL NEEDS!

BATMAN'S GOT HIS OWN WAYS, DOC--MAYBE SOMEDAY YOU'LL REALIZE THEY WORK, TOO!

METAL DETECTOR SAYS YOU'RE CLEAN, CARDONA --GO AHEAD!

THANKS FOR NOT CREEPING MY DUDS, FLUNKY--HERE, BUY YOURSELF THE GOTHAM BRIDGE!

BEEP BEEP

HEY, RAZOR, HOWZABOY, HUH? NOT EVERY DAY A GUY GETS A NEW HEART!

YOU DON'T GIVE A SCREAM ABOUT ME, CARDONA! *[kaff]* YOU COULD'A BEEN BEHIND THAT HIT ON ME TONIGHT!

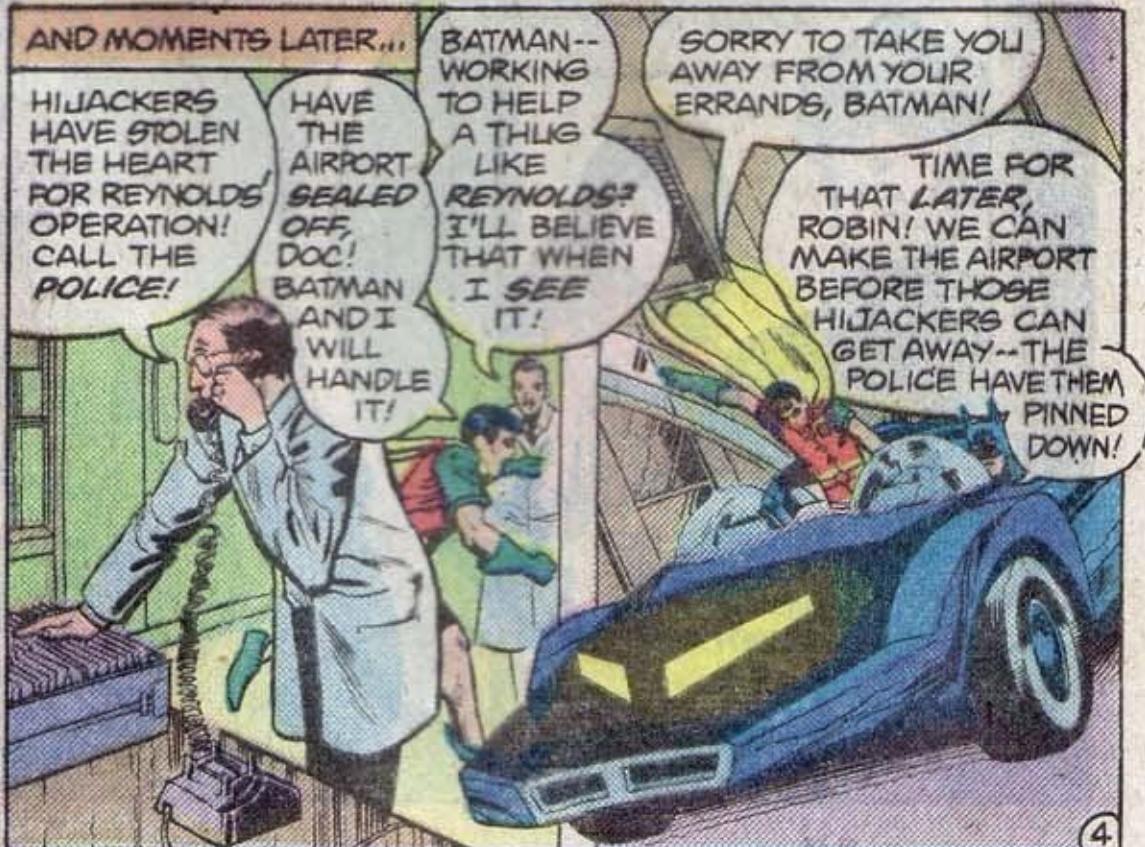
YOU'RE TOO HUNGRY, "DUDS"... I MADE YOU MY BEST BOY--BE HAPPY WITH THAT!

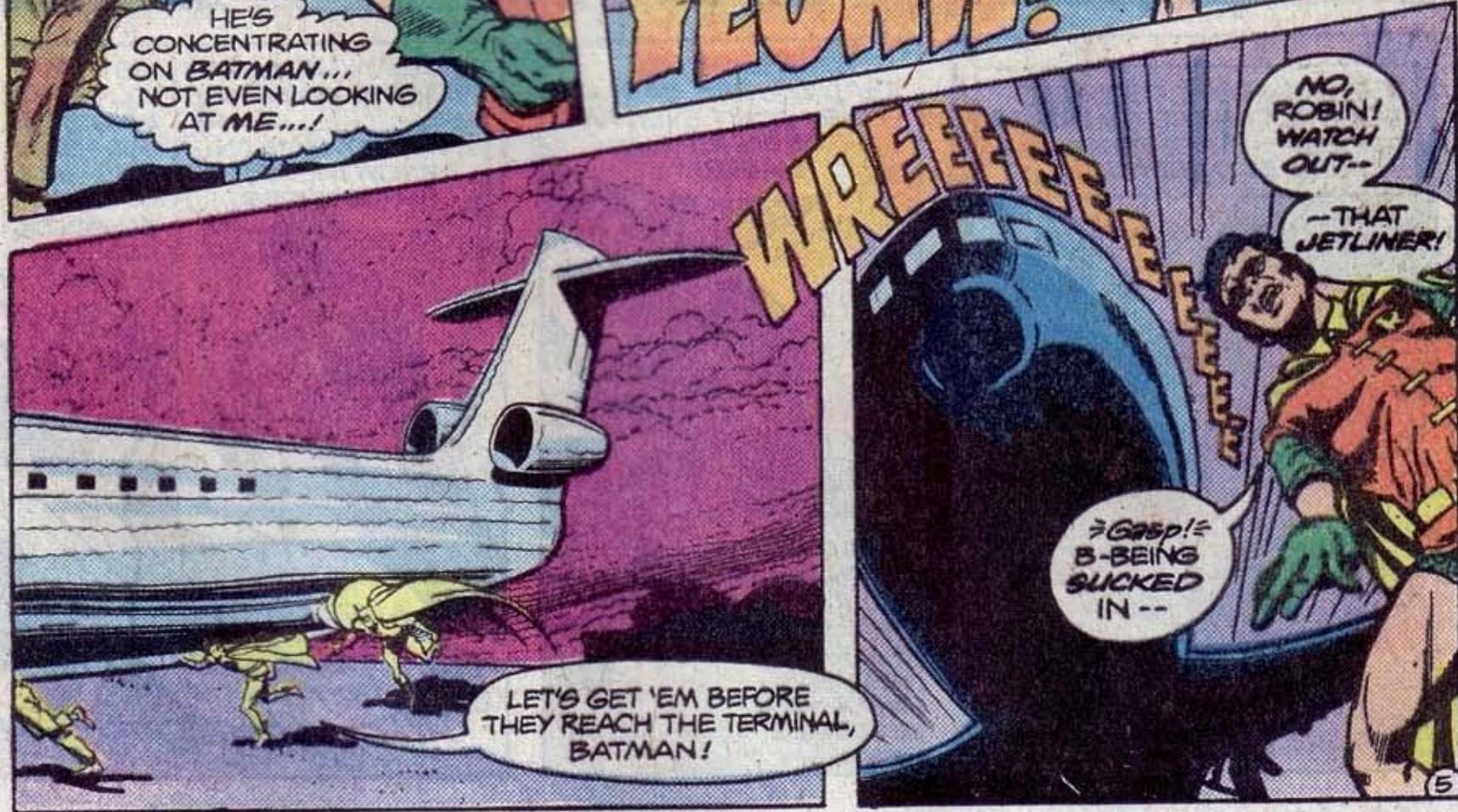
ANOTHER VISITOR, MR. REYNOLDS, SAYS HER NAME IS PAMELA --DO YOU KNOW HER?

IT'S CRAZY, DAD--I ONLY WANTED TO WISH YOU GOOD LUCK ON YOUR OPERATION, BUT CARDONA COULD GET IN EASIER THAN I COULD!

'COURSE I DO, STUPID. *[kaff]* THAT'S MY DAUGHTER!

YOU'RE EDGY, HONEY...CALM DOWN! YOUR MOTHER NEVER LIKED HOSPITALS EITHER, GOD REST HER SOUL!

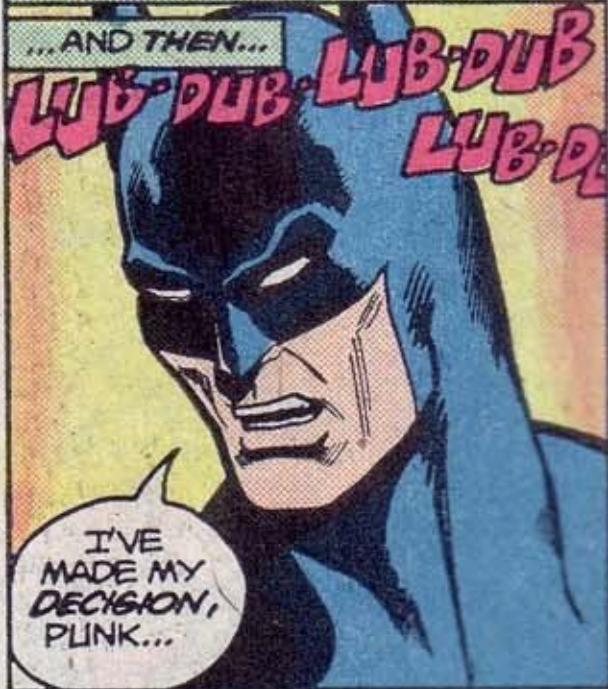




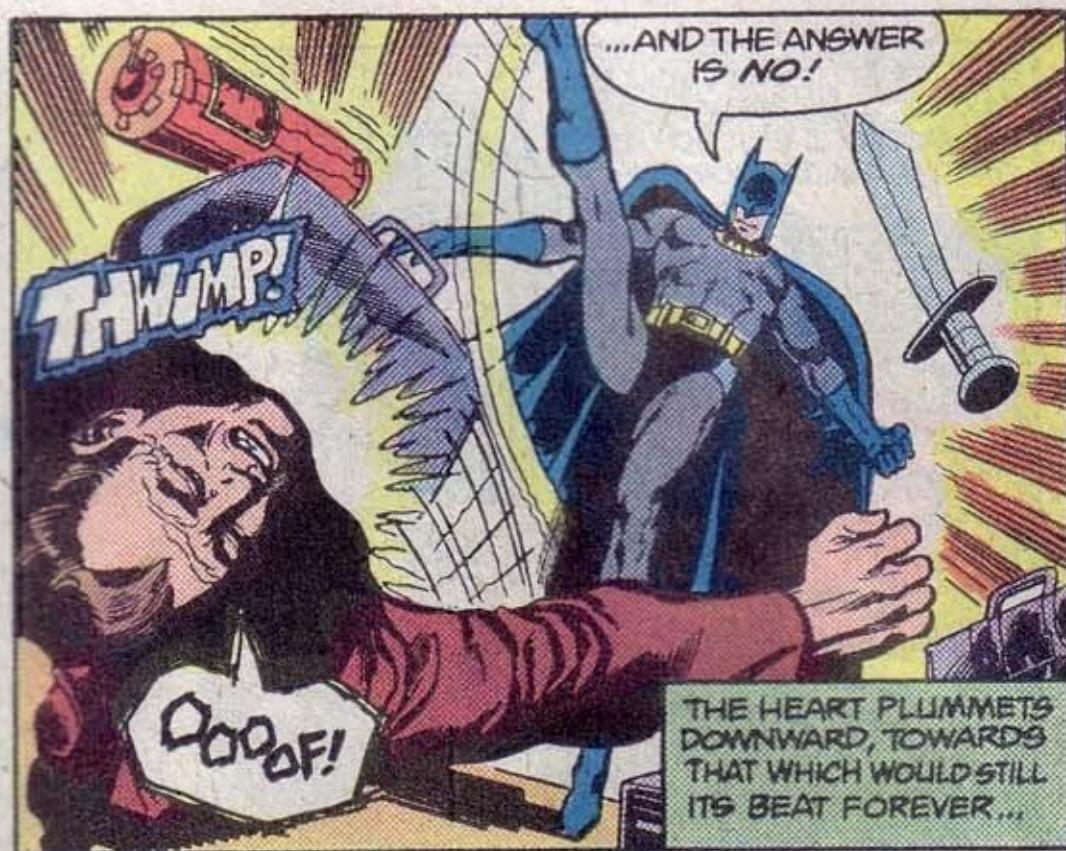


FOR A FULL MINILITE, THE BATMAN IS SILENT... THE BEATING OF THE HIDEOUS HEART THE ONLY SOUND HEARD IN THE TERMINAL...

...AND THEN...



I'VE MADE MY DECISION, PUNK...



...BUT AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT...

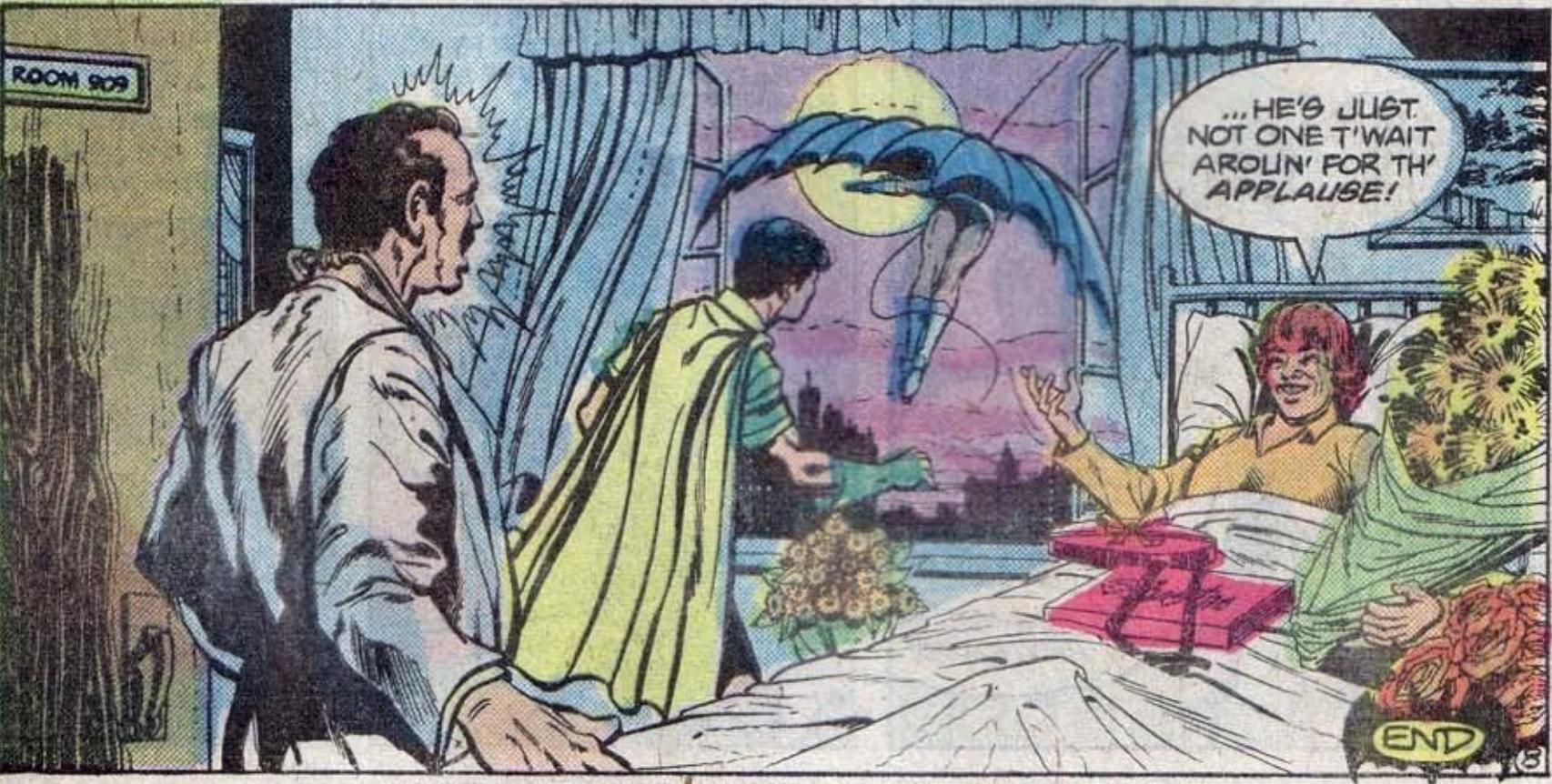
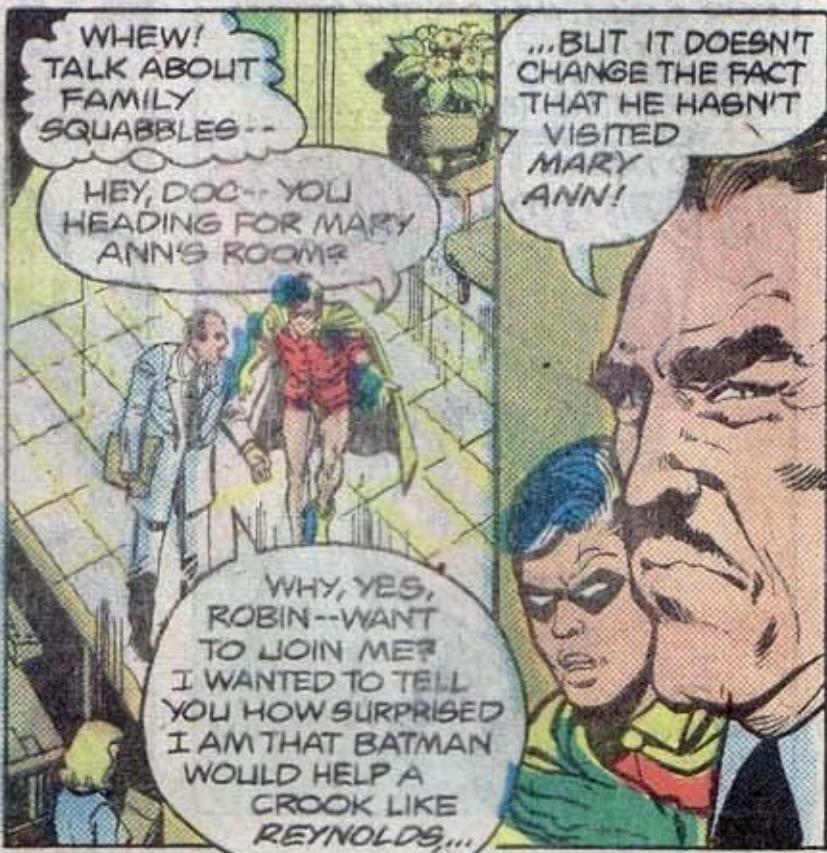


AND IN A MOMENT, WE'LL HAVE THE NAME OF THIS THUG'S EMPLOYER--MONT WE?



MINILITES LATER...





NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER



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75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

L-591

Dear Friends:

Not bad at all—*Batman* #324, "The Cat Who Would Be King," that is. You used a bad villain, Cat-Man, in about the best way he COULD be used—as half-serious competition for Catwoman—and killed him off at the end. (For once, let a Bat-villain die. Cat-Man always was a piker—I won't miss him a bit.) Batman and Catwoman made a good team, for once fighting on the same side, and Mr. Akropolis made an interesting villainous character to spice things up. A nice finish to the whole "return of Catwoman" series—except—the ending itself, when Selina was "cured" by Cat-Man's "magic" cape. Ah, C'MON, people. Talk about your anti-climaxes...Batman's stories always take place relatively close to real-life, and such an incongruous element—even though you did not specifically say the cloak DID cure Selina—just hits the wrong note. Also, after all the struggling Selina did—if you do NOT accept the supernatural explanation—then it was all for nothing? No, the ending did not quite measure up to what went before...

Hey, you mean Selina's going to stay on in Gotham? Keep on being Bruce Wayne's girlfriend? You mean he's actually going to have a regular lover, over a long period of time? Wow. Best of luck, people—I wish Selina all the luck in the world—but the track record shows that Bruce isn't big on long-term relationships. Ask Kathy Kane (or her ghost), Vicki Vale, Julie Madison, Talia, and the rest. (Although Catwoman comes closest, I must admit, to being Bruce and Batman's most constant romantic attachment.)

Al Schroeder III
3608 Richland Avenue
Nashville, Tenn. 37205

Constant, perhaps not, but since Selina's debut in *BATMAN* #1, we do think she qualifies as his longest-standing relationship. And make no mistake, she will be returning to these pages...although another of Batman's beautiful playmates will be featured next issue!—PL.

Folks,

It's great to be back!

Y'see, the last time I picked up a copy of *Batman* was somewhere late in 1972. But not much has seemed to change (or maybe things are changing back). For instance, I noticed Irv Novick listed as artist. It seems like I remember him listed as such back then too, right? He and Jim Aparo are the artists for *Batman* in my book.

And although I can't remember him on this book before, it was a pleasant surprise to see Len Wein (as well as his wife, Glynis) as the writer. It makes me wish that you guys would bring *Swamp Thing* back as a regular series again. What do you think?

I wonder how I would have reacted in 1971 or 1972 to learn that Batman would fall in love with Catwoman? I probably would have considered it a vague sort of blasphemy. But now I think it's a very human thing to have happen to a comic book character. I like the idea. I congratulate whoever came up with it. It's immediately obvious that something's wrong with Selina by page three, where she says "I can't go to jail—not now! I'll never live long enough to stand trial!" It's going to be interesting to see why she would "never live long enough" and

even more so to see Batman's reaction if she actually does die!

I've got to admit when I ordered the subscription, I never expected anything quite this detailed. So you might have me around a lot longer this time.

Keep it up!

Alan Sissom

Route 1, Box 389
Bradyville, TN 37026

We'll try, Alan. But meanwhile, in case you want to brush up on what you missed, our next correspondent has a list that's just perfect for you!—PL.

Dear Editor:

Having perused every *BATMAN* of the 1970's (#218-318) I decided to declare the awards for best story for all ten years (January-December).

1970: "Hot Time in Gotham Town Tonight" by Michael Friedrich

1971: "Night of the Reaper" by Dennis O'Neil

1972: "The Demon Lives Again" and/or "Silent Night, Deadly Night" both by Dennis O'Neil

1973: "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" by Dennis O'Neil

1974: "Moon of the Wolf" by Leonard Wein

1975: "The Daily Death of Terry Tremaine" by David V. Reed

1976: "Stop Me Before I Kill" by David V. Reed

1977: "The Joker's Playground of Peril" by Dennis O'Neil

1978: "The Adventure of the Houdini Whodunit" by Gerry Conway

1979: "Dark Messenger of Mercy" by Leonard Wein

Mark Young

2420 W. Raye

Seattle, WA 98199

Off-hand it sounds reasonable to us, Mark, though we might differ in a couple of places. Any other readers want to take issue?—PL.

Dear Editor:

"The Cat who would be King" was an excellent story. From beginning to end, this comic was a great reading experience. The cat's cradle death trap was the best trap that Batman has been in, in a very long time. This really gave the Darknight Detective a chance to earn his title as the world's greatest escape artist. Having to save himself as well as the Catwoman was reminiscent of the many times Batman had to save both himself and Robin from many a good death trap. Selina Kyle is one great lady, and I am glad that she is not going to die. The way she handled herself in that Greek bar was magnificent, and I really believe that she is a perfect mate for the Batman. And therein lies the problem, after having spent two issues with the Batman and his saving her life and all; it looks as if Selina's affection might be switching from Bruce to Batman. I just hope that the old dual identity love crisis does not come into too much play here.

Novick and Smith handled the art with a skill that is amazing. Their work on this book makes it one of DC's best. This package embellished with a startling Jim Aparo cover made the total issue very memorable.

Kent A. Phenix

1082 Sherwood Court #603
Greenwood, IN 46142

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