



10¢

DEC.
NO. 112

BAT MAN

THE FAMED LAWMAN
ASKS THE BIGGEST
QUESTION OF HIS LIFE--
**"AM I REALLY
BATMAN?"**

THERE'S THE MAN WHO
THINKS HE'S *BATMAN*,
OFFICER--BUT THIS IS THE
REAL BATMAN NEXT
TO ME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING
TO ME? IF I'M NOT
BATMAN--WHO
AM I?



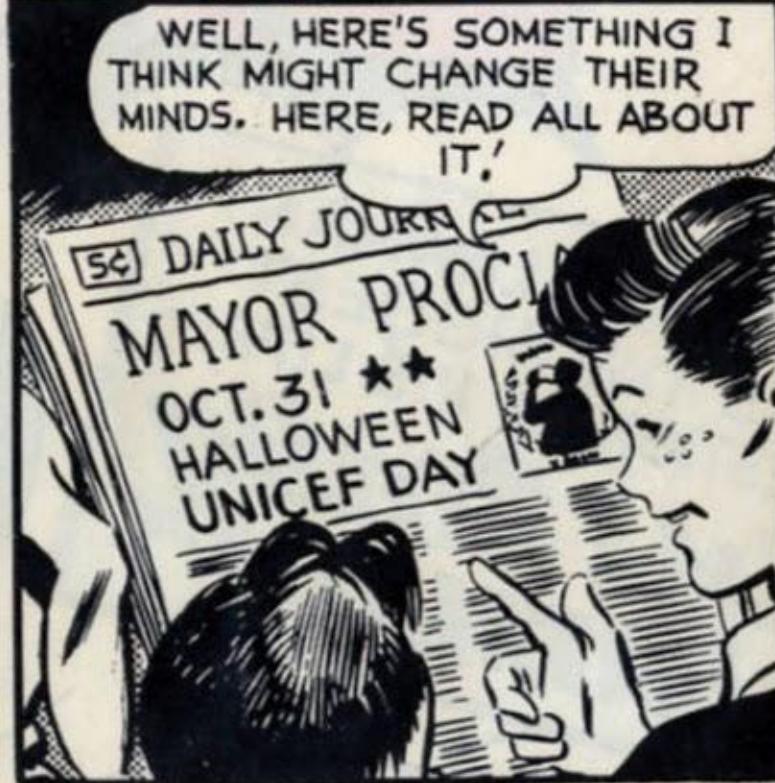
The TRICK is to TREAT All The World's Children!



SAY, ALLERGY, AREN'T YOU JUMPING THE GUN ON HALLOWEEN? IT'S STILL TWO DAYS OFF. AND WHY ALL THE GLOOM?

AW, WE WERE JUST TRYING ON OUR COSTUMES. BUT ALL THE PARENTS HAVE GANGED UP AND SAY WE CAN'T GO OUT. THEY SAY WE'LL GET IN TROUBLE.

WELL, HERE'S SOMETHING I THINK MIGHT CHANGE THEIR MINDS. HERE, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

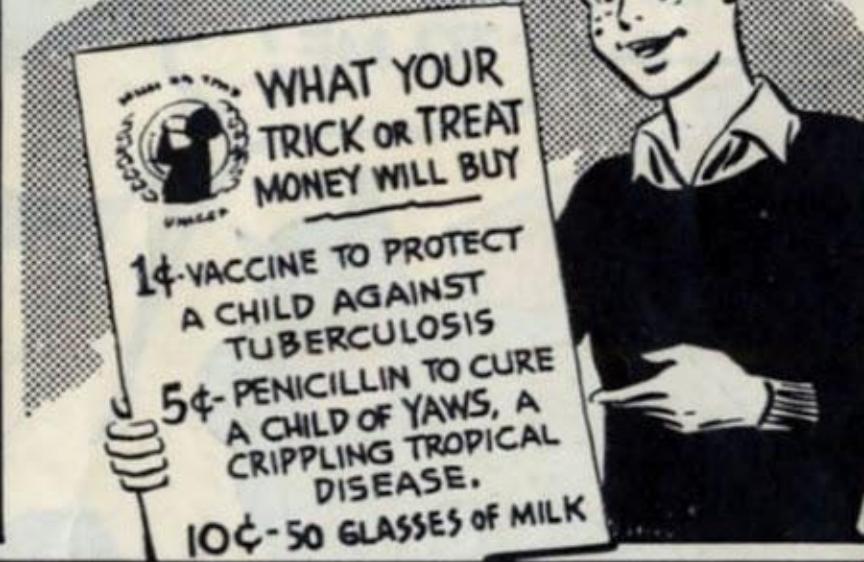


THAT NIGHT...

SEE, DAD THIS IS A **GOOD THING**. THE TRICK-OR-TREAT PENNIES, NICKELS AND DIMES WE COLLECT GO TO HELP SICK, HUNGRY KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD. AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?

WELL, I MIGHT... WHERE ARE **YOU** OFF TO, BINKY?

OH, MY CROWD'S HELPING WITH THIS, TOO--MAKING POSTERS. HERE'S MY FIRST ONE.



AND SO, ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT...

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF!

WITH PLEASURE!



LATER...

SOME PARTY THEY'RE GIVING US!

YOU DESERVE IT. YOU KIDS HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB TONIGHT FOR UNICEF--THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND!

OUR KIDS
DONE IT
AGAIN

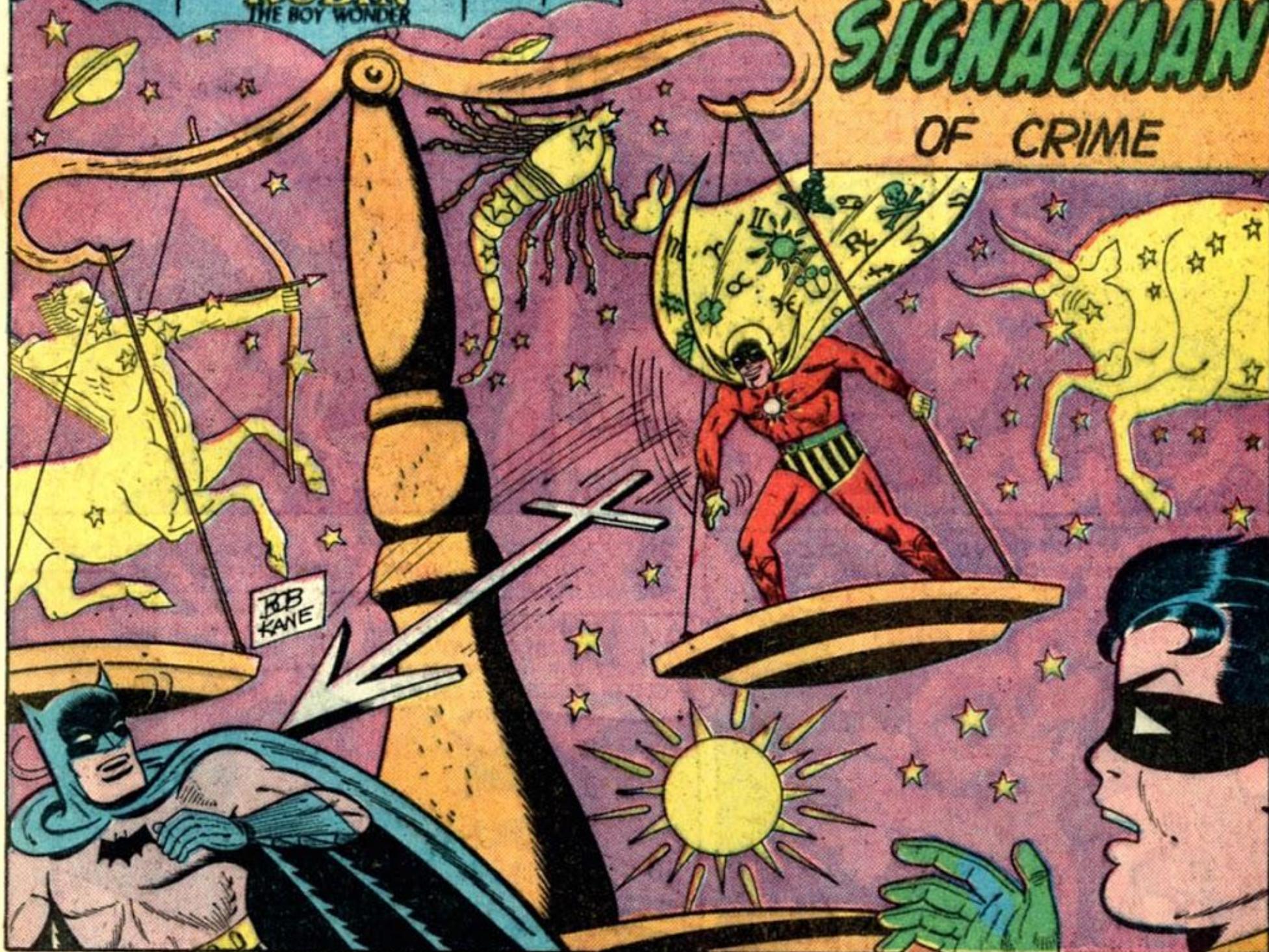


BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

IN THEIR TIME, BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE FOUGHT AND CONQUERED MANY FORMIDABLE FOES -- THE JOKER, THE PENGUIN, AMONG OTHERS. BUT NOW THEY ARE CHALLENGED BY A NEW THREAT, A BIZARRE BANDIT, WHO USES SIGNS FOR CRIME! HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN FARED IN THEIR BATTLE AGAINST THIS UNIQUE CRIMINAL CAN BE SEEN IN THE AMAZING ADVENTURE OF...

THE SIGNALMAN OF CRIME



ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY, ONE DAY, PHIL COBB--A SMALL-TIME CROOK WITH BIG IDEAS--APPROACHES A SIGN THAT NOT ONLY POINTS THE WAY, BUT WILL INFLUENCE HIS CAREER...

THE BIG CITY AT LAST! HERE'S WHERE MY PLANS WILL PAY OFF AND MAKE ME A BIG SHOT!

BUT, LATER, WHEN COBB MAKES AN EFFORT TO FORM A GANG...

WHO ARE YOU? WE NEVER HEARD OF YOU-- PUNK! ON YOUR WAY!

GET YOURSELF A REP FIRST-- THEN WE'LL TALK BUSINESS!



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BATMAN



EMBITTERED BY HIS FAILURE,
COBB STALKS THE STREET
UNTIL ANOTHER SIGNAL--
IRONICALLY, THE **BATSIGNAL**--
INSPIRES HIM WITH AN IDEA...

A SIGNAL--THAT'S THE
ANSWER! LIKE THE **JOKER**
AND THE **PENGUIN**, I'LL
MAKE A QUICK REPUTATION
AS A CRIMINAL BECAUSE
I'LL BE UNIQUE! BUT
I'LL BE SMARTER
THAN THEM-- I
WON'T GET
CAUGHT!

THUS, TWO NIGHTS LATER, AS
WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND
HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON,
VIEW THE BEACON THAT
SUMMONS THEM TO POLICE
HEADQUARTERS...

LET'S GO, DICK! WE'VE
GOT TO CHANGE TO OUR
BATMAN AND **ROBIN**
COSTUMES!

SOON AFTER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE
COMMISSIONER GORDON... **BATMAN** IS
HANDED A NOTE THAT HAS COME FOR HIM...

THIS CAME FOR YOU A
FEW MINUTES AGO--!

BATMAN -
I'M CHALLENGING
YOU TO A BATTLE OF
WITS! SEE IF YOU
CAN FOLLOW THE
SIGNS TO MY
ROBBERY TONIGHT--
IF YOU CAN!
The Signalman

ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE CHEAP HOODLUMS
WHO THINKS HE CAN MAKE A REPUTATION
FOR HIMSELF BY OUTSMARTING THE LAW!
YOU'VE GOT TO **STOP HIM, BATMAN--**
AND STOP HIM FAST!

THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF
THE TWO ACCOMPANYING CLUES SENT BY THE
SIGNALMAN...

A BROOM--WITH THE SIGN
OF THE ATOM! WHAT DOES
THE SIGN OF A BROOM MEAN?
A CLEAN SWEEP OF CRIME?

"CLEAN SWEEP!"
HMM-MM I
WONDER...



LATER, A STRANGE FIGURE SECRETS HIMSELF IN THE SHADOWS OF THE BALCONY OF THE HOBBY SHOW...

WELL-- I MIGHT AS WELL GET
STARTED! HA! HA! **BATMAN**
WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE
CLUES I SENT HIM!



A BROOM AND AN ATOMIC SIGN!
READER, CAN YOU DECIPHER THOSE CLUES? 2



BATMAN



AND SO, A SIGN--BECOMES THE SIGNAL FOR THE START OF THE SIGNALMAN'S CRIME CAREER...



BUT AS HE EAGERLY GRASPS THE SHOW'S PRIZE EXHIBIT--A PURE JADE MODEL OF THE ATOMIC SUBMARINE, NAUTILUS---

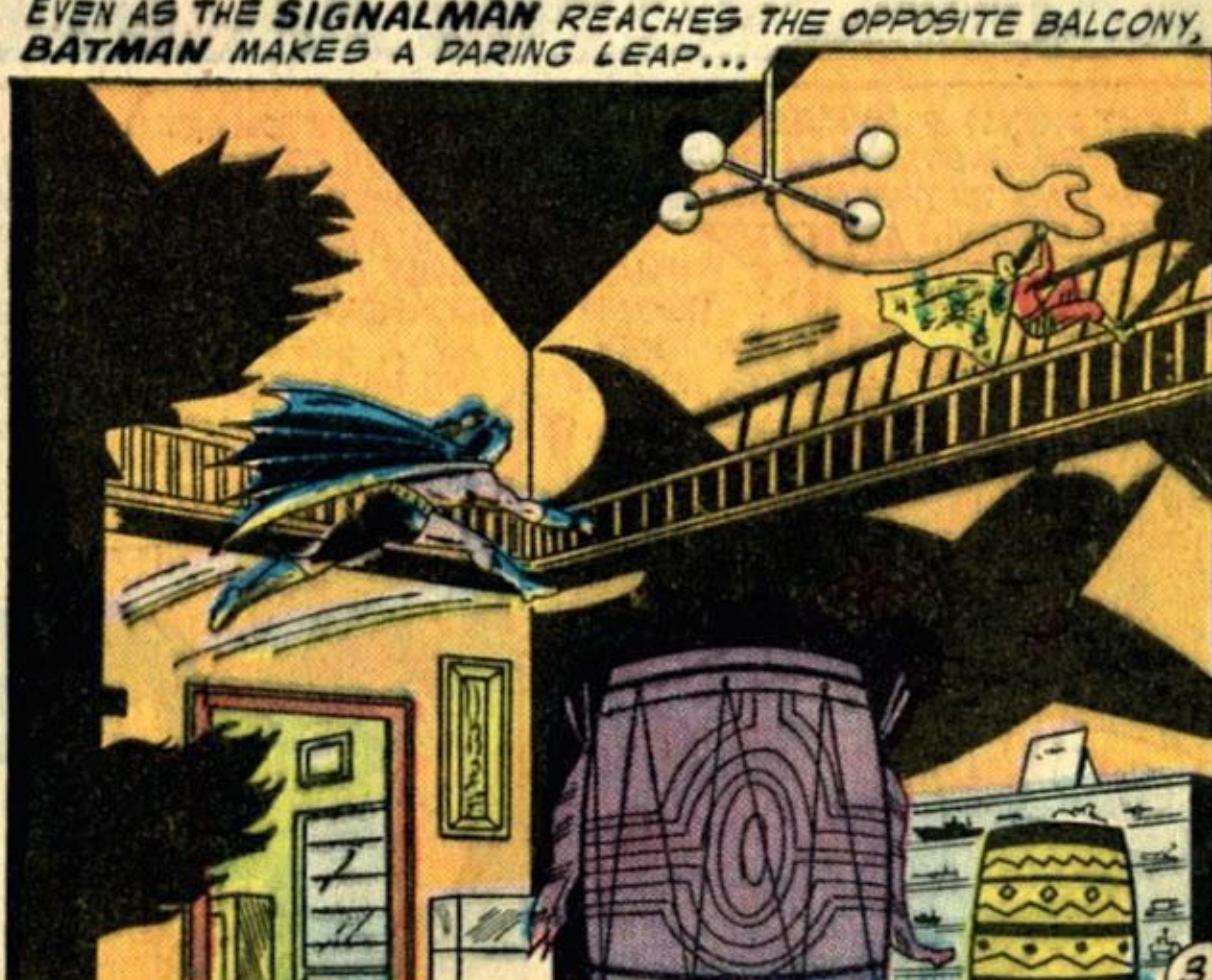


AS THE PANICKY CROWD FLEES, A BIZARRE FIGURE SWINGS DOWN FROM THE BALCONY...



SO, BATMAN--YOU KNEW THAT A BROOM IS HOISTED ON A NEW SUBMARINE AFTER A SUCCESSFUL FIRST RUN--A SIGNAL OF A "CLEAN SWEEP"! VERY SMART--BUT I'M SMARTER! HA! HA!

CAN'T REACH HIM...



...AND REBOUNDS TO THE BALCONY!



THAT NIGHT, IN HIS FANTASTIC HIDE-OUT, THE SIGNALMAN GLOATS OVER THE NEWS HEADLINES...



BUT UPON OPENING THE DOOR, BATMAN BURSTS INTO...



NEXT DAY, THE DYNAMIC DUO STUDIES ANOTHER SET OF SIGNS POINTING TO THE SIGNALMAN'S NEXT CRIME...

A FIR TREE-- AND TWO ASTRONOMICAL SIGNS!

WHAT WOULD THEY MEAN?



IT'S CUSTOMARY FOR BUILDERS TO HOIST A FIR TREE ATOP A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SKYSCRAPER-- AS A SIGN THAT IT HAS "GROWN!"

CRIME AT A NEWLY BUILT OBSERVATORY!

AND THE ASTRONOMICAL SYMBOLS REPRESENT EARTH AND MARS! HE MUST INTEND TO PULL A

NOTICE, ROBIN, THAT THE PLANETS ARE CLOSE TOGETHER! EARTH AND MARS WERE CLOSEST LAST YEAR-- IT COULDN'T HAPPEN NOW! BUT THERE IS ONE PLACE THAT CAN REPRODUCE THAT SKY SPECTACLE! LET'S GO--!

READER, CAN YOU GUESS WHAT BATMAN MEANS?

BATMAN

THERE IT IS, ROBIN--
THE NEW SCIENCE
BUILDING--WITH
A PLANETARIUM
ON TOP! THAT'S
WHERE THE
SIGNALMAN
WILL BE!

INSIDE, WEALTHY GUESTS, WHO CONTRIBUTED TO
THE PURCHASE OF THE PLANETARIUM'S PROJECTOR,
GATHER FOR THE DEDICATION...

...AND HERE YOU
SEE A CLOSEUP OF THE
PLANET, MARS...

UNNOTICED, AN UNINVITED
GUEST CREEPS FORWARD...

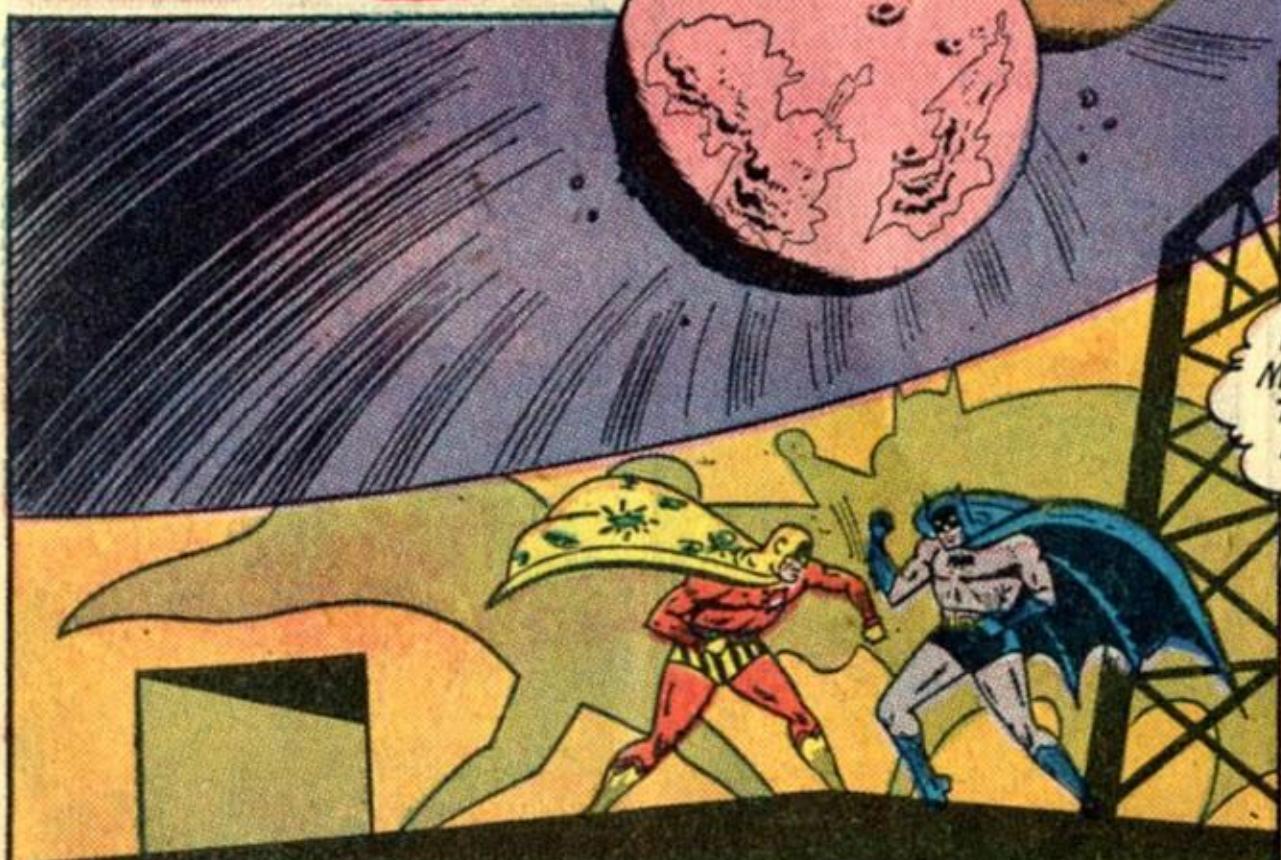
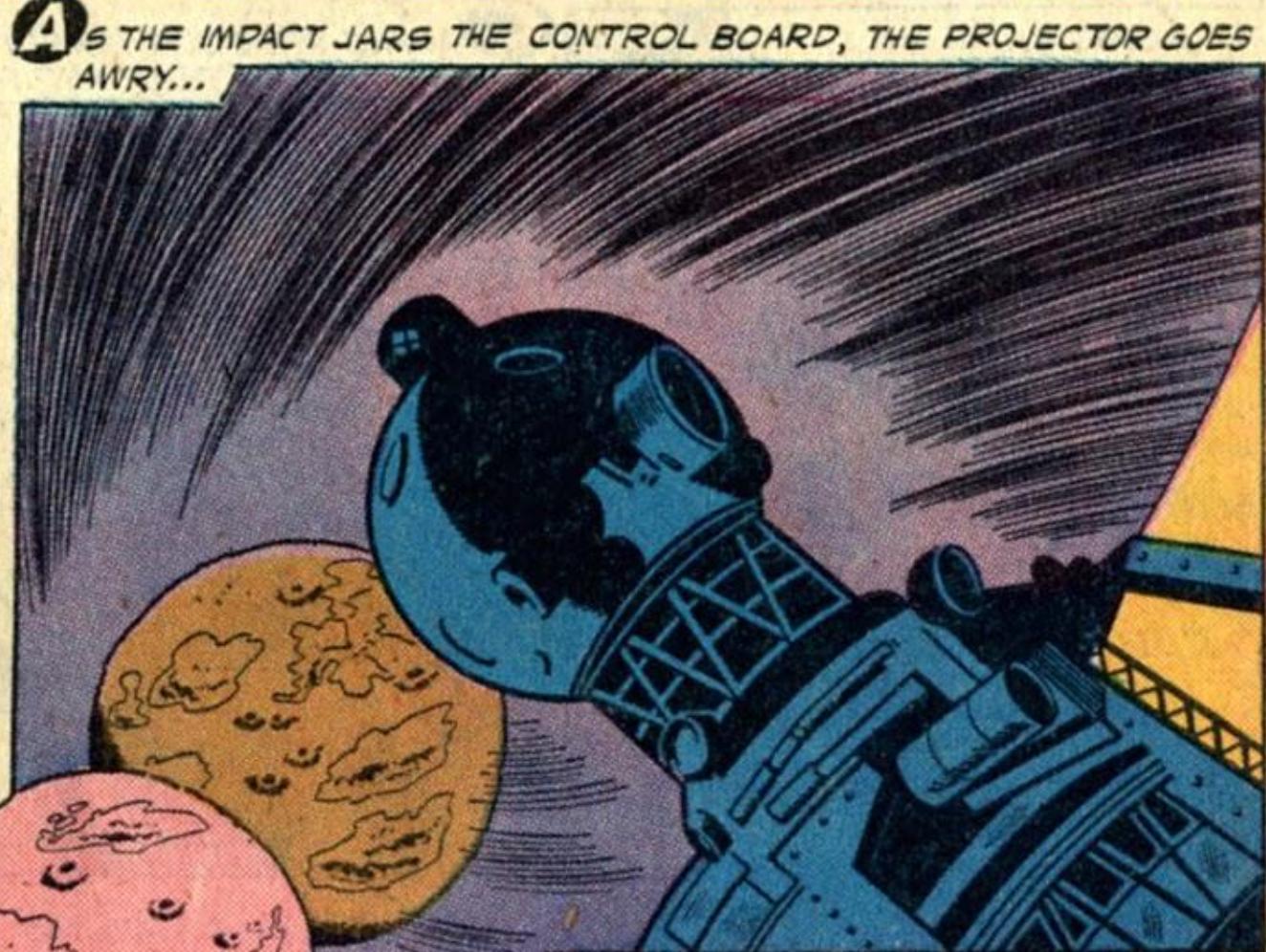
SHE MAY BE INTERESTED IN
PLANETS -- BUT I'M MORE
EXCITED BY "STARS"--THE
STAR SAPPHIRES OF HER
NECKLACE!



ABRUPTLY...

BATMAN!

AS THE IMPACT JARS THE CONTROL BOARD, THE PROJECTOR GOES
AWRY...



UNEXPECTEDLY, THE PIVOTED PROJECTOR
SLAMS INTO BATMAN, AND...



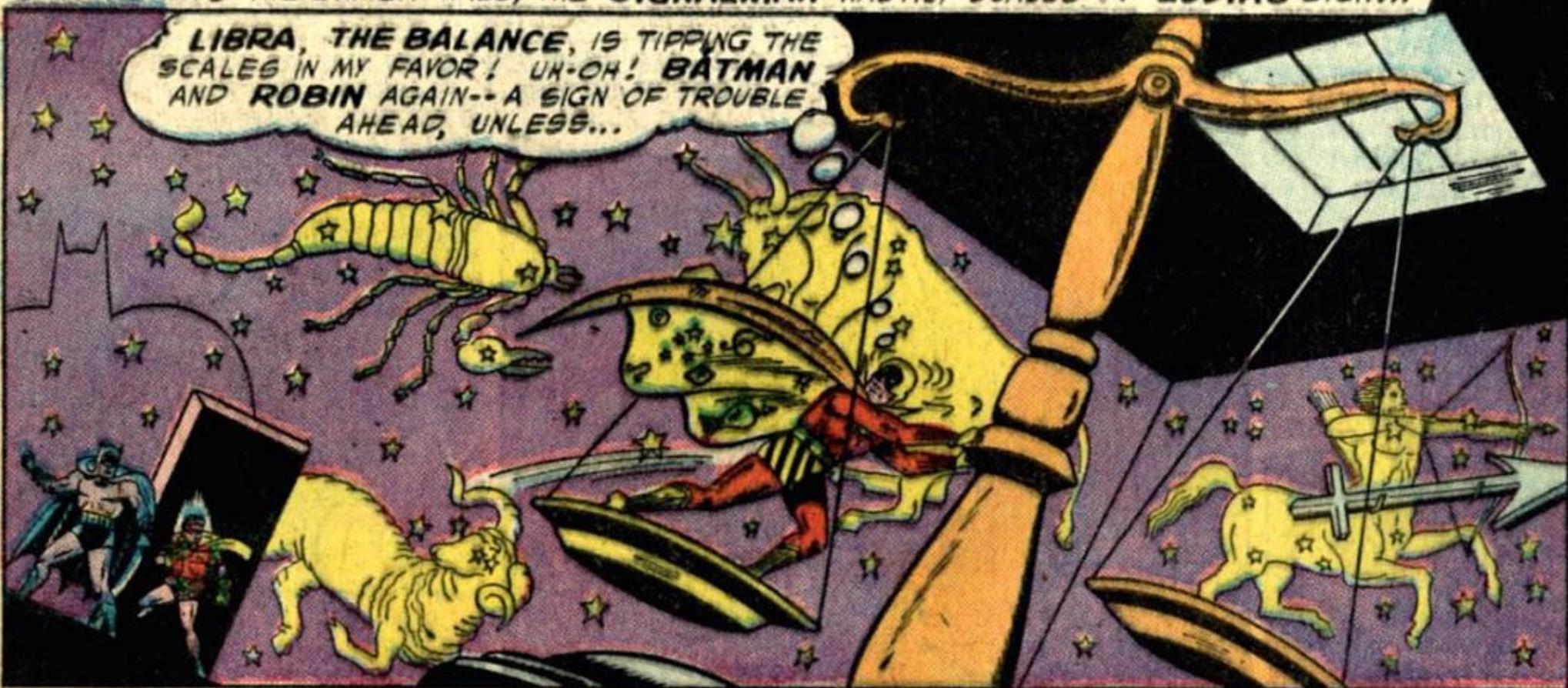


BATMAN

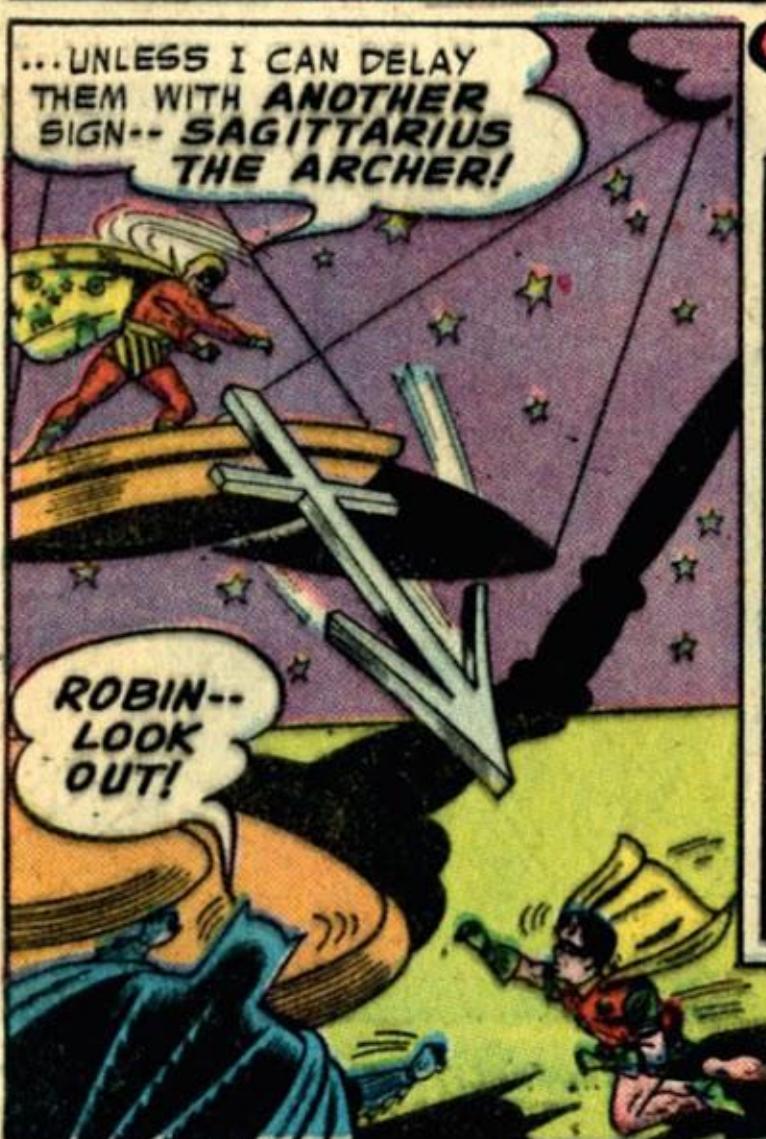


DARTING INTO THE EXHIBIT HALL, THE SIGNALMAN HASTILY SCALES A ZODIAC SIGN...

LIBRA, THE BALANCE, IS TIPPING THE SCALES IN MY FAVOR! UH-OH! BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN--A SIGN OF TROUBLE AHEAD, UNLESS...



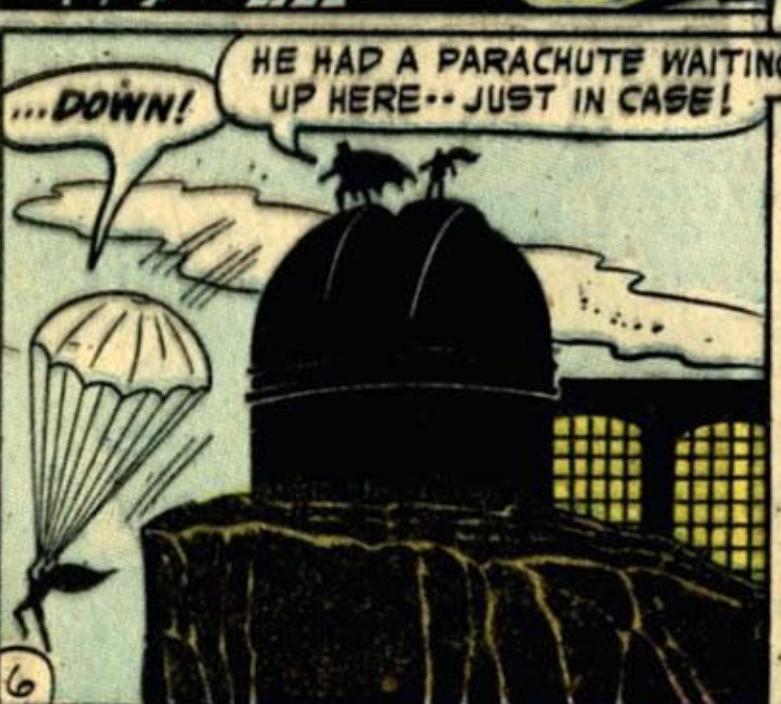
...UNLESS I CAN DELAY THEM WITH ANOTHER SIGN-- SAGITTARIUS THE ARCHER!



GAINING PRECIOUS MOMENTS, THE SIGNALMAN ESCAPES THROUGH THE TRAP AND EMERGES ON THE PLANETARIUM'S GREAT DOME, BUT...

BETTER GIVE UP,
SIGNALMAN!
YOU CAN'T GO
ANYWHERE
FROM HERE!

BUT THERE IS SOMEWHERE
I CAN GO!



THAT NIGHT, ONCE AGAIN THE SIGNALMAN HAS CAUSE TO GLOAT... / MAYBE I DIDN'T GET THAT NECKLACE--BUT I DID GET MORE HEADLINES! ONE MORE JOB, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO RECRUIT THE BIGGEST MOB IN TOWN!

THE NEXT MORNING, A THIRD SET OF SIGN-CUES ARRIVES FROM THE SIGNALMAN... / AND A

A BLACK FLAG--
THE SIGN OF PIRATES!

BAT-SIGNAL!
BATMAN MUST INTEND TO USE YOU TO COMMIT PIRACY!





BATMAN



LATER, IN THEIR SWIFT BAT-LAUNCH, THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTERS TOUR GOTHAM BAY...

THERE HE IS-- CLIMBING ABOARD THAT ANCHORED CABIN CRUISER!

I'LL CUT THE MOTOR SO WE CAN DRIFT UP QUIETLY AND SURPRISE HIM!

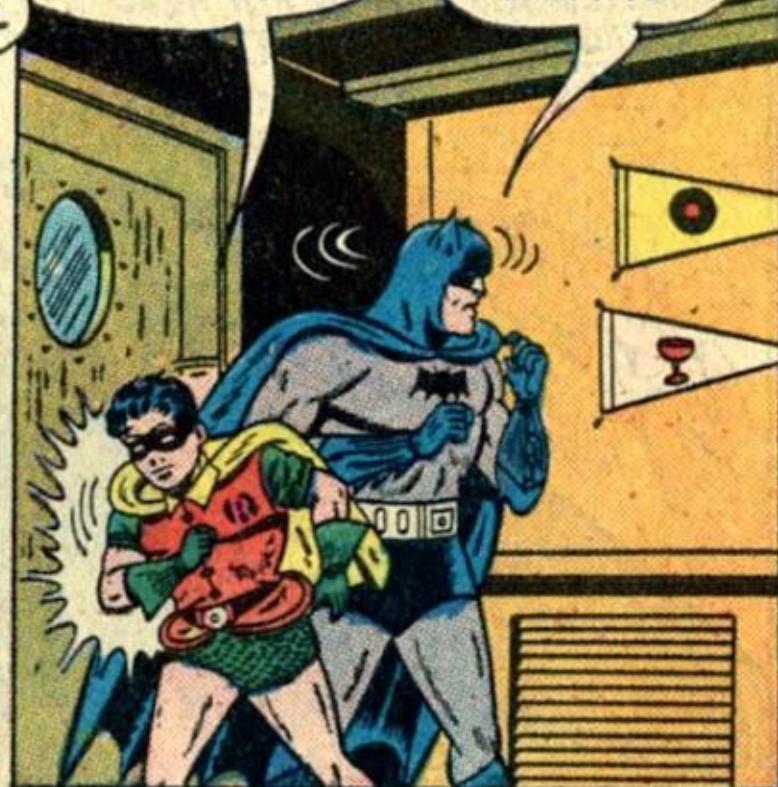
CLIMBING ABOARD, BATMAN AND ROBIN BEGIN TO SEARCH THE CABINS, WHEN...

HA! HA! YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP! NEAT, EH, BATMAN? I WAS HIDING BEHIND THE DOOR!

IN EXACTLY 10 MINUTES, A BOMB WILL EXPLODE IN THE ENGINE ROOM! MEANWHILE, I'LL BE USING YOUR BAT-LAUNCH TO ROB THE GUESTS ON THE VAN DORF YACHT! THEY'LL SEE YOUR BAT-LAUNCH APPROACHING, AND WON'T SUSPECT ANYTHING UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE! HA! HA!

UGH--THE DOOR WON'T BUDGE! IF ONLY WE COULD SIGNAL FOR HELP IN SOME WAY!

MAYBE WE CAN, ROBIN-- WITH ONE OF THOSE PENNANTS--!



MINUTES LATER, AS A MOTOR LAUNCH PASSES BY...

LOOK AT THAT FLAG! IT'S AN INVITATION TO COME ABOARD AND SHARE A LONELY SKIPPER'S HOSPITALITY!

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GO ABOARD!

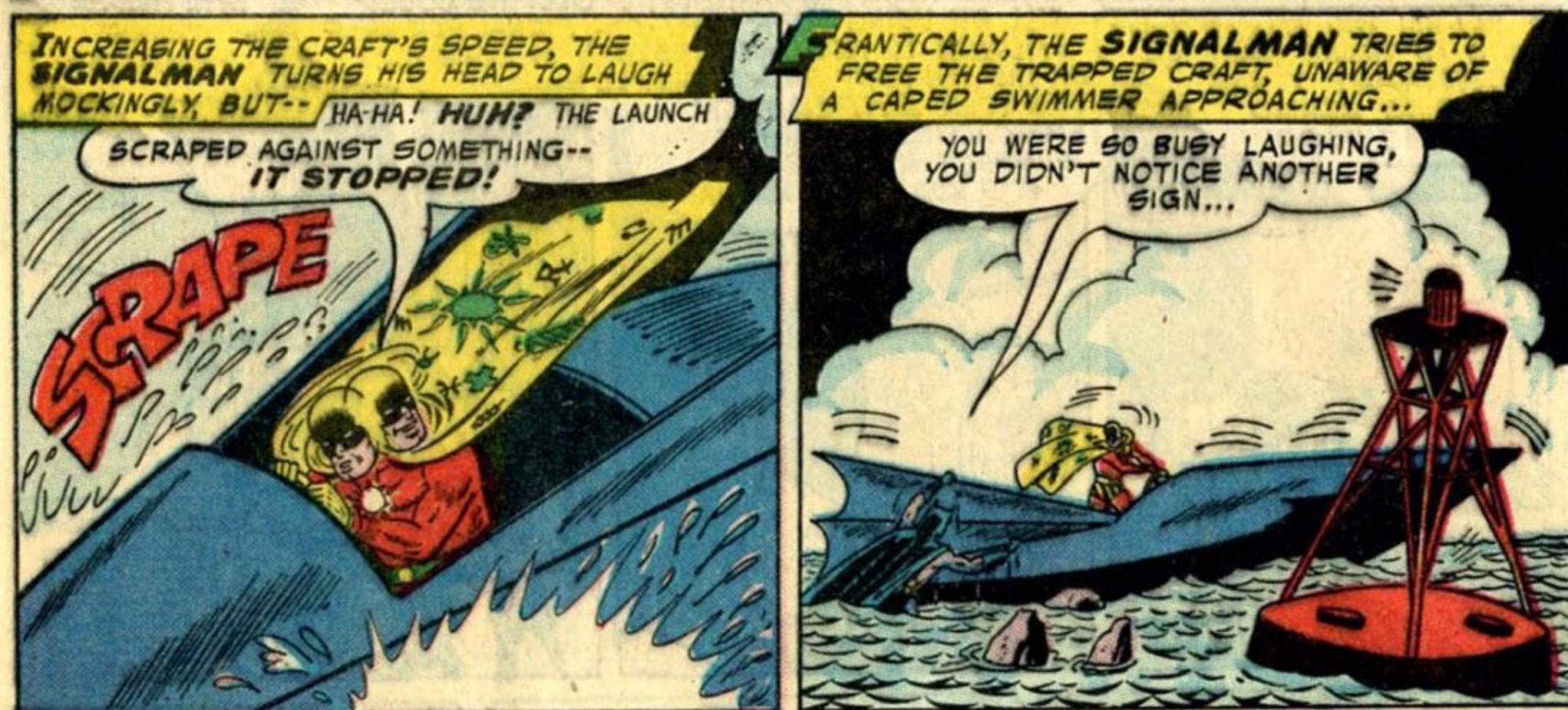
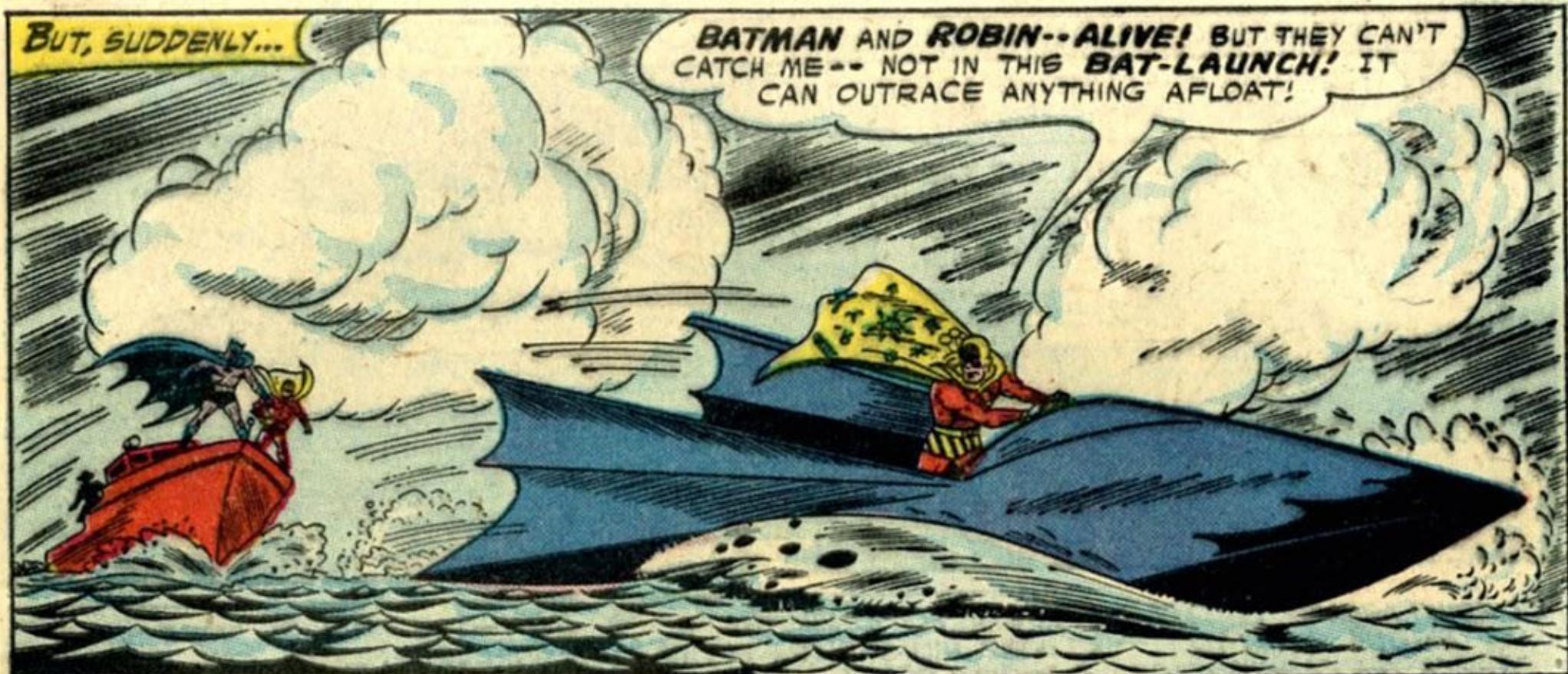
BATMAN AND ROBIN! BUT HOW COME YOU WERE LOCKED IN...?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! WE'VE ALL GOT TO GET OFF HERE-- AND FAST!

MOMENTS LATER, FROM THE SAFETY OF THE BAT-LAUNCH, THE SIGNALMAN HEARS THE EXPLOSION THAT SEEMS A SIGN FOR THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...



I DID IT! I DID WHAT NOBODY ELSE COULD! I FINISHED BATMAN! WHEN THE UNDERWORLD HEARS ABOUT THIS, THEY'LL BE BEGGING TO JOIN MY GANG!



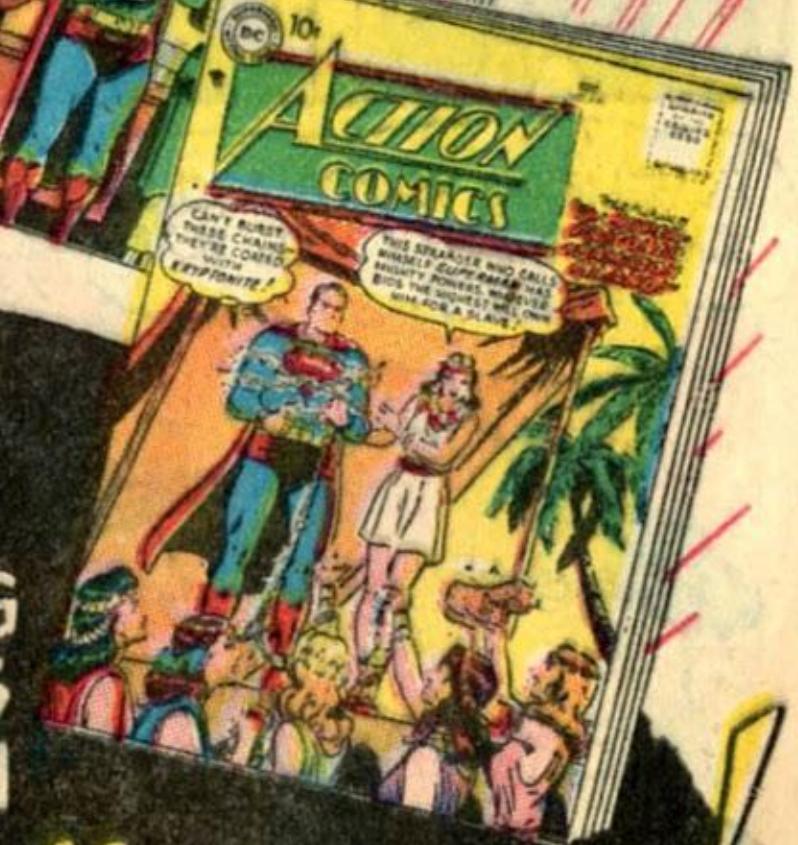
The ONE and ONLY SUPERMAN

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

is STILL

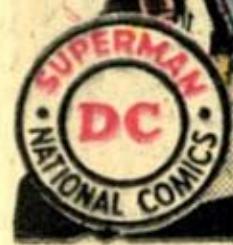
AMERICA'S MOST
TALKED-ABOUT
COMICS MAGAZINE
and TV CHARACTER!

ON SALE
AT ALL
NEWSSTANDS



HIS AMAZING
ADVENTURES
APPEAR IN

4 GREAT MAGAZINES!

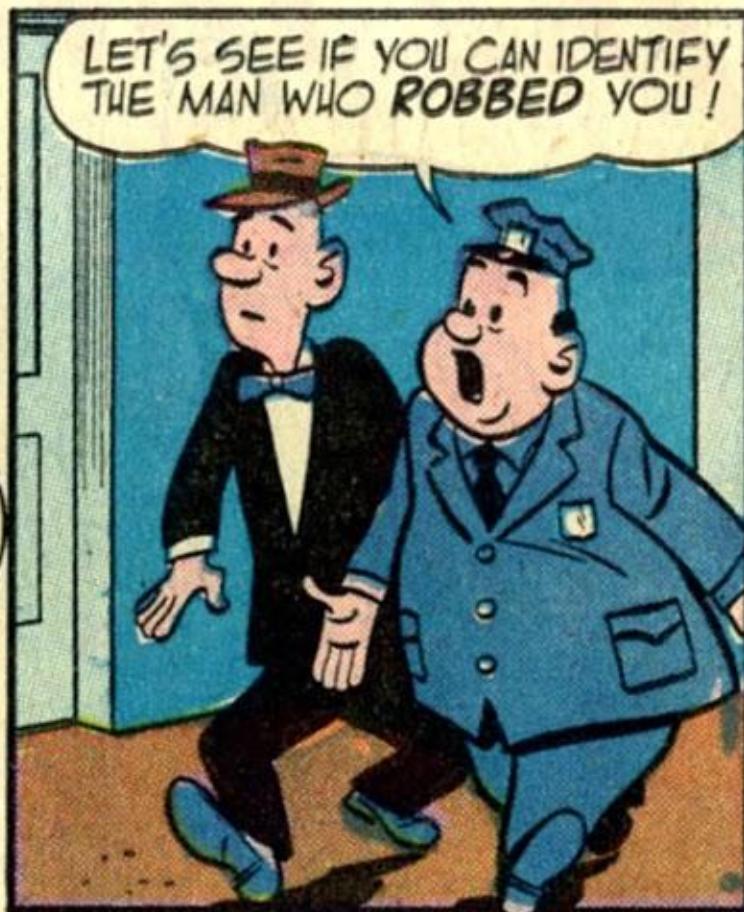




BATMAN



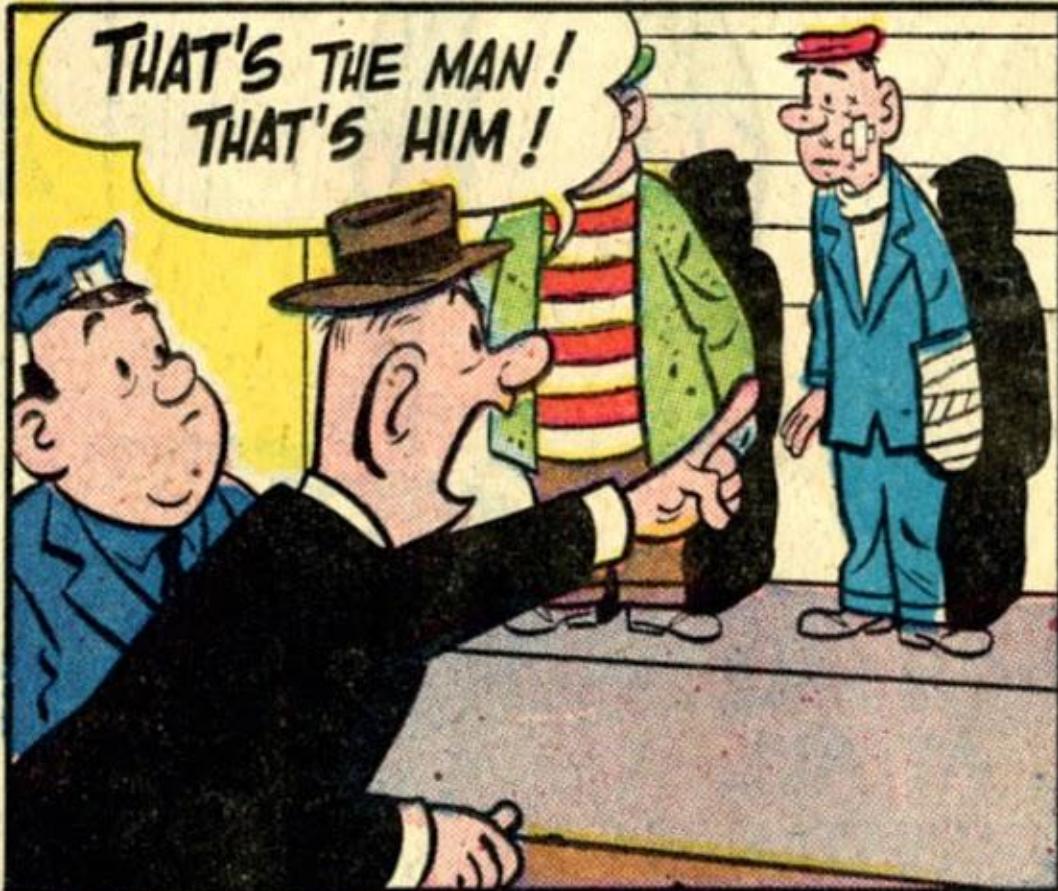
CASEY THE COP



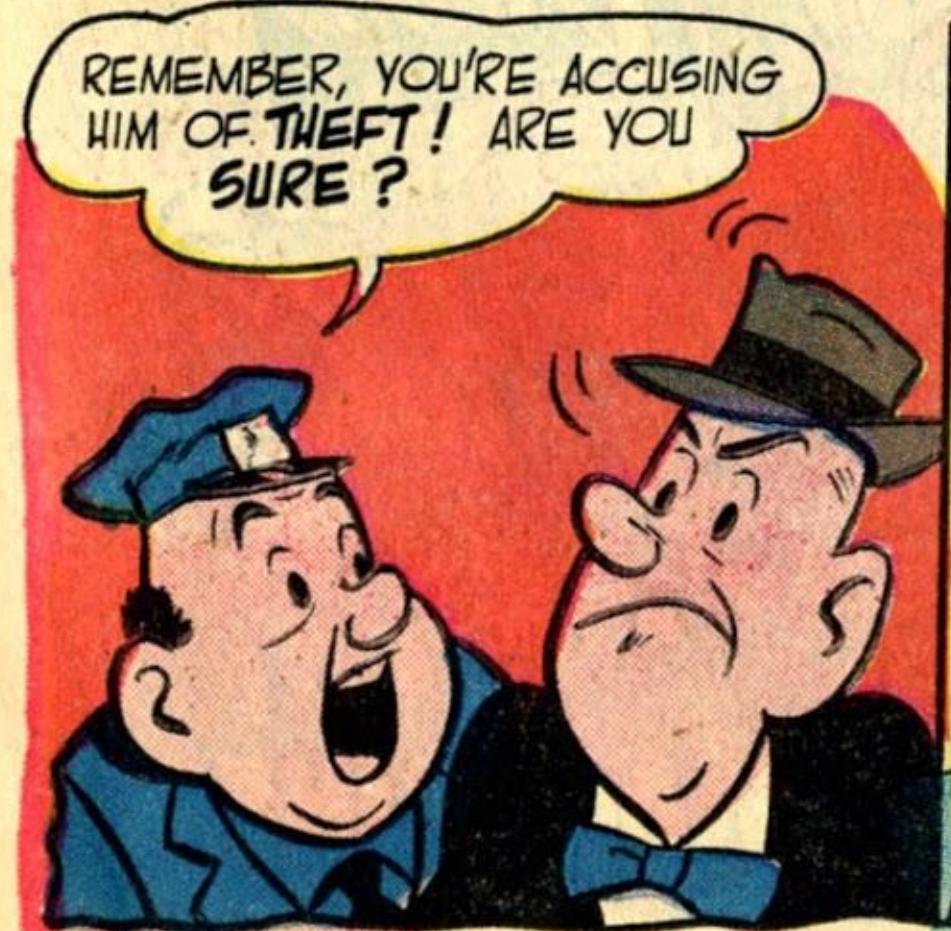
THESE ARE ALL THE MEN WE PICKED UP TODAY!



THAT'S THE MAN!
THAT'S HIM!



REMEMBER, YOU'RE ACCUSING HIM OF THEFT! ARE YOU SURE?



I'LL SAY I'M SURE!
THE PACKAGE HE STOLE FROM ME HAD THREE LIVE LOBSTERS IN IT!



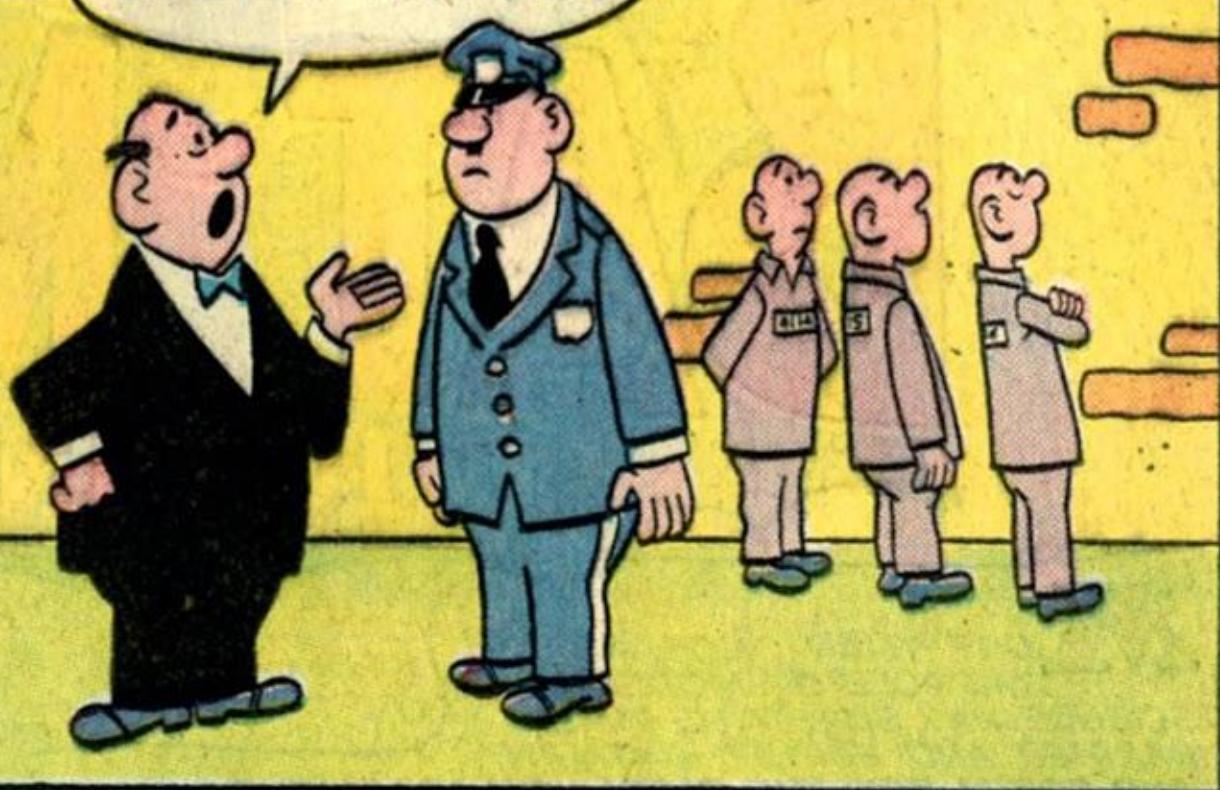


BATMAN



WARDEN WILLIS

THOSE MUST BE THE THREE NEW PRISONERS!



YES, WARDEN. THEY JUST CAME IN TODAY. THEY'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT STARING AT THE WALL FOR HOURS!



GUARD! KEEP THOSE NEW MEN AWAY FROM THE WALL AT ALL TIMES!

WHY, WARDEN?



THEY WERE ACROBATS BEFORE THEY CAME HERE!

NOW PLAYING
The
FLYING TOLEDOS

SENSATIONAL ACROBATS





BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

MORE THAN ONCE, A MIRACLE OF MODERN SCIENCE HAS BURST THE TIME-BARRIER AND HURLED **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** INTO THE PAST! NOW AGAIN, THEY PLUNGE ACROSS THE AGES TO A PAST CENTURY, ON THE MOST PERILOUS TIME-QUEST THEY HAVE EVER DARED! FOR THIS TIME, IT IS A LIFE-OR-DEATH MISSION THAT TAKES THEM BACK TO THE ANCIENT WORLD FOR...

BATMAN'S ROMAN HOLIDAY!

THIS GIANT STATUE... OUR BEST PLACE TO HIDE BEFORE THOSE ROMAN WAR GALLEYS REACH SHORE!

IN A GOTHAM CITY LABORATORY, FAMED SCIENTIST DR. CARTER NICHOLS PLANS HIS MOST DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT...

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT... THE TIME-RAY I DEVELOPED FROM MY TIME HYPNOSIS TECHNIQUE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SHOW IT TO BRUCE AND DICK!

WHEN WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON ARRIVE...

WITH MY TIME-RAY, I'VE SENT YOU TWO TO MANY AGES OF THE PAST! NOW, I AM GOING BACK THROUGH TIME, TO SEE THE WONDERS OF ROME WITH MY OWN EYES!

BUT-- DR. NICHOLS... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU! BESIDES, WHO WILL OPERATE THE APPARATUS TO DRAW YOU BACK TO 1957?



THIS MACHINE INCLUDES AN AUTOMATIC CONTROL, WHICH, IN EXACTLY 10 DAYS, WILL TURN THE RAY ON AND DRAW ME BACK HERE-- PROVIDED I'M IN THE EXACT SAME PLACE IT SENDS ME TO!

BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING PREVENTED YOU FROM GETTING BACK TO THE SAME PLACE? IT'S TOO RISKY!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ROME, YOU CAN SEND US BACK THERE AGAIN!

NO, I WANT TO SEE ANCIENT ROME WITH MY OWN EYES, AS YOU DID! STAND BACK-- THE RAY IS ABOUT TO COME ON...

A MIGHTY FORCE STREAMS FROM THE PROJECTOR, AND...

BRUCE,
HE'S
DISAPPEARING!

YES, THE RAY IS FORCING HIM BACK ACROSS THE TIME-DIMENSION, INTO THE PAST!

I T IS 10 DAYS LATER WHEN THE DUO RETURNS TO THE LABORATORY...

THE RETURN TIME-RAY CAME ON AUTOMATICALLY... IT'LL DRAW HIM BACK TO 1957 NOW!

WE HOPE!

BUT, WITH THE PASSING MINUTES COMES A DREAD REALIZATION...

THE RAY DIDN'T DRAW HIM BACK! SOMETHING MUST HAVE KEPT HIM FROM RETURNING TO HIS POINT OF ARRIVAL!

AND THAT MEANS DR. NICHOLS IS MAROONED IN ANCIENT ROME! DICK, WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND FIND HIM-- AS BATMAN AND ROBIN! WE CAN SAY THAT BRUCE WAYNE ASKED OUR AID!

A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME, AND A FAMED TEAM OF LAW-MEN EMBARKS ON A FATEFUL MISSION...

I SET THE AUTOMATIC CONTROL AGAIN... IT'LL TURN ON, 10 DAYS FROM NOW, TO DRAW US BACK!

THE RAY'S HITTING US NOW-- I'M PASSING OUT...

A MOMENT OF BLACKNESS, A SENSATION OF FALLING-- AND THE DYNAMIC DUO COMES TO IN...

THE FORUM OF ANCIENT ROME! I REMEMBER IT FROM OUR FIRST TIME-TRIP HERE!

AND WE MUST RETURN TO THIS EXACT SPOT, 10 DAYS FROM NOW, FOR THE RAY TO DRAW US BACK... OTHERWISE, WE'LL BE MAROONED HERE, TOO!



IN THE CROWDED STREETS OF MIGHTY ROME, THEY SEARCH VAINLY FOR DR. NICHOLS, UNTIL ...

ODD-- NOT THE SLIGHTEST CLUE TO...

WAIT, ROBIN--
LOOK! THE "ORNAMENT"
THAT CHARIOTEER IS
WEARING AROUND HIS NECK...
IT'S A 20TH CENTURY
WRIST WATCH! HE
COULD ONLY HAVE GOTTEN
IT FROM DR. NICHOLS!

BUT WHEN BATMAN TRIES TO QUESTION THE CHARIOT DRIVER...

OUT OF THE WAY--I ANSWER NO QUESTIONS, STRANGER!

BUT I ONLY WANT TO KNOW--LOOK OUT!
YOU'RE SIDESWIPING THAT OTHER CHARIOT!



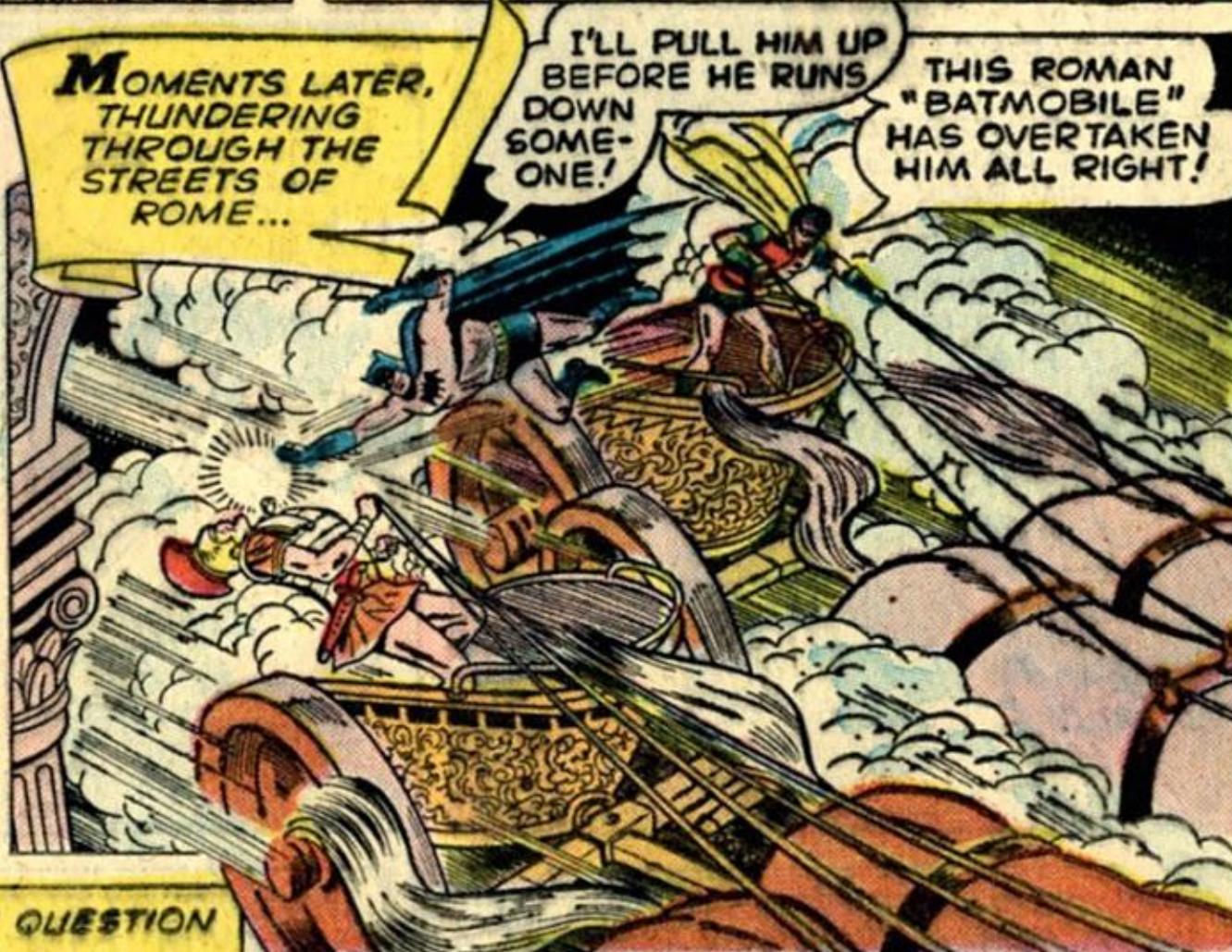
THAT'S THERSUS,
THE ARROGANT
AMBASSADOR
OF THE TYRANT
KING OF RHODES!
HE SHOULD BE
PUNISHED FOR
HIS RECKLESS
DRIVING!

LEND ME
YOUR
CHARIOT
AND WE'LL
TRY TO
BRING HIM
TO JUSTICE!

MOMENTS LATER,
THUNDERING
THROUGH THE
STREETS OF
ROME...

I'LL PULL HIM UP
BEFORE HE RUNS
DOWN SOME-
ONE!

THIS ROMAN
"BATMOBILE"
HAS OVERTAKEN
HIM ALL RIGHT!



AFTERWARDS, WHEN THEY QUESTION
THE MAN IN PRIVATE...

I WILL NOT
TELL YOU
WHERE I GOT
THAT
ORNAMENT!

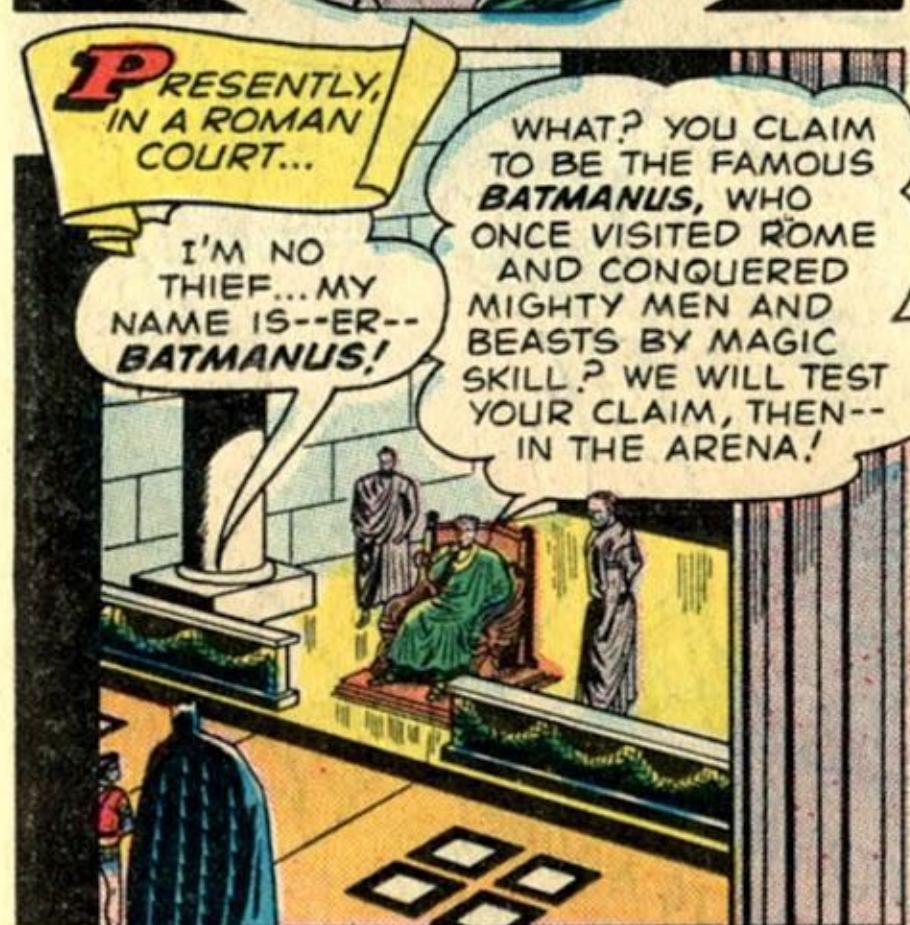
HMM... MAYBE WE CAN
SURPRISE IT OUT OF
HIM! THE FLASHBULB
FROM YOUR UTILITY
BELT MIGHT DO THE
TRICK, ROBIN!

NEXT INSTANT...

POP!
WHAT--?
THAT TERRIBLE
LIGHT... YOU TWO
WORK THE SAME
MAGIC AS THE
SORCERER
NICHOLUS!

NICHOLUS?...
NICHOLS!
THEN YOU
HAVE SEEN
HIM! WHERE
IS HE?

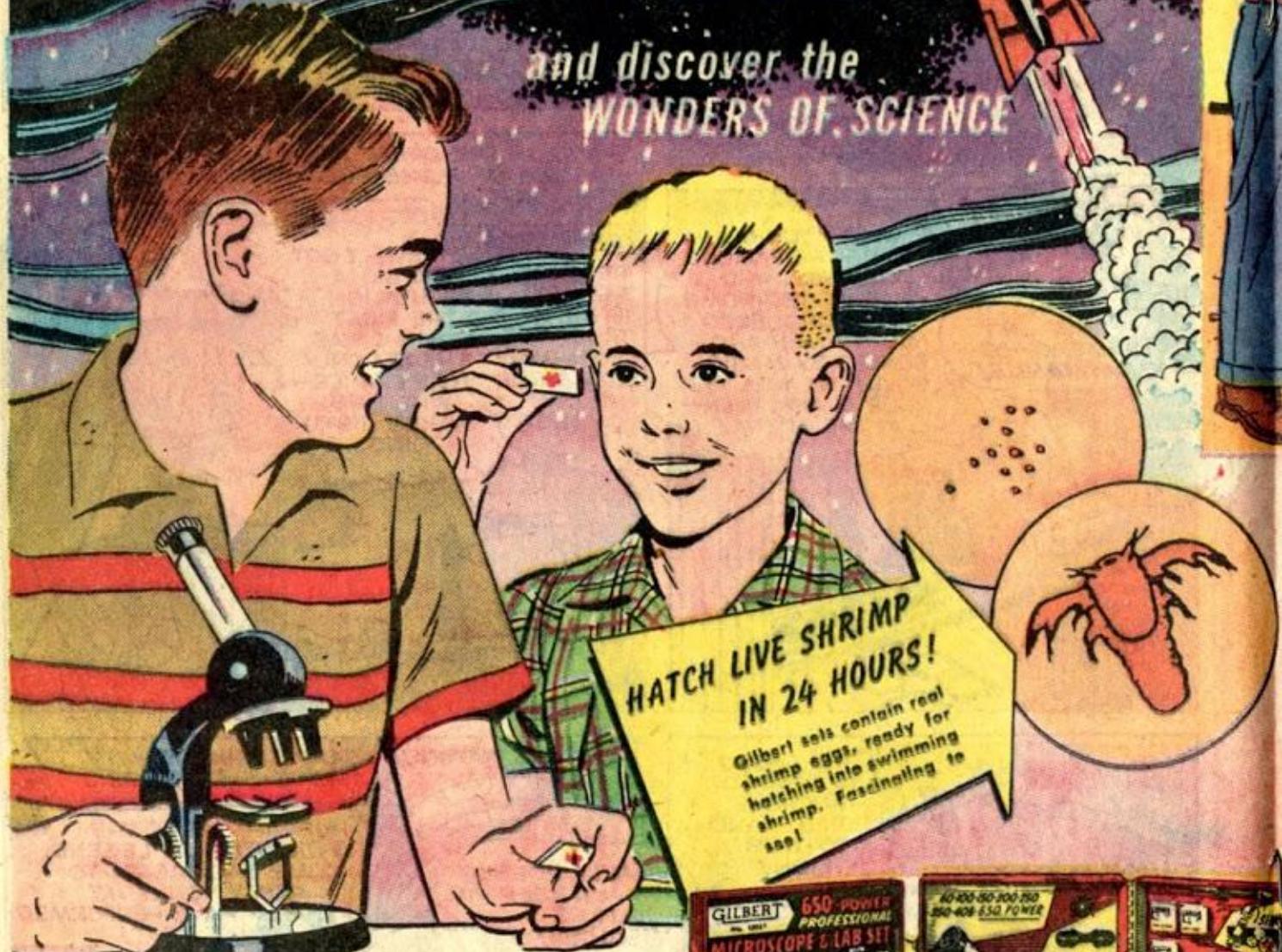




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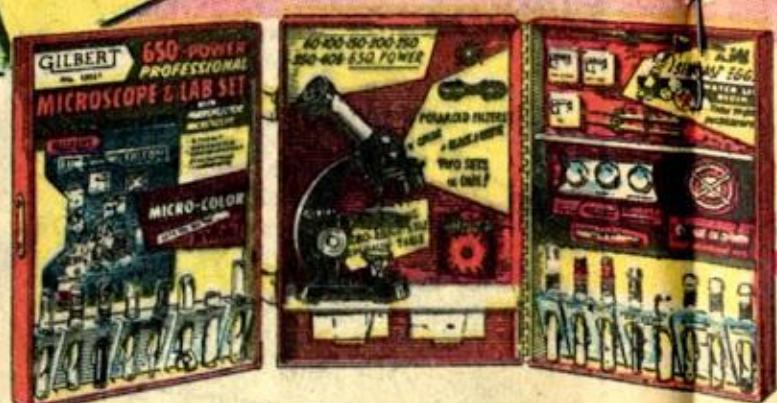
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BATMAN



BUT, THOUGH BATMAN HAS BEEN CLEARED,
ROBIN SEES A NEW DANGER...

BATMAN, IF DR. NICHOLS EVER HEARS THAT YOU WERE IN ROME BEFORE, HE'LL REALIZE THAT BRUCE WAYNE, WHO HE ONCE SENT BACK TO ROME, IS BATMAN!

I KNOW... I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THAT EVER SINCE NICHOLS CAME INTO THE PAST!

BATMANUS! I SENT TO ARREST THERSUS FOR MAKING FALSE CHARGES AGAINST YOU, BUT HE HAS LEFT BY GALLEY TO RETURN TO RHODES!

THEN WE'LL FOLLOW HIM! WE HAVE TO RESCUE A FRIEND THERE ANYHOW!

EXCELLENT! KING PHORBUS OF RHODES IS AN AMBITIOUS PLOTTER... WE WILL HAVE ONE OF OUR OWN GALLEYS TAKE YOU TO RHODES, IF YOU CAN STOP HIS PLANS!

THANK YOU... WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE!

DAYS LATER, AS A ROMAN GALLEY APPROACHES THE ISLAND OF RHODES...

SO THAT'S THE FAMOUS COLOSSUS OF RHODES THAT STANDS OVER THE HARBOR ENTRANCE! SOME STATUE, BATMAN!

LOOK AT THOSE WAR-GALLEYS COMING OUT TO US! THAT RASCAL THERSUS MUST HAVE CARRIED A WARNING!

SOON...

THOSE TWO MASKED STRANGERS ARE THE ONLY ONES WE WANT-- NO ONE ELSE WILL BE BOthered!

I WAS RIGHT... THERSUS HAD THEM WAITING FOR US! IT'S TOO HOT HERE FOR US...

...SO WE'LL COOL OFF THE FAST WAY!

RIGHT... IN THEIR HEAVY ARMOR, THEY CAN'T DIVE IN AFTER US!



BATMAN



BUT AS THE DUO SWIMS SHOREWARD...

OH, OH--
THE GALLEYS
ARE COMING
AFTER
US!

WE'VE GOT TO
HIDE BEFORE
THEY GET
HERE!

OUR BEST
BET IS THIS
STATUE... THEY'D
NEVER FIGURE
WE COULD
CLIMB IT!

WHewe
IT'S LIKE
TRYING TO
SCALE A
SKYSCRAPER!





BATMAN



LATER, UNDER A FULL MOON, TWO SHADY SHAPES LOOM ABOVE THE ANCIENT CITY OF A TYRANT...



THE PALACE WILL BE GUARDED, BUT WE CAN SWING DOWN ONTO ITS ROOF, AND SEARCH IT BY LOOKING INTO ITS WINDOWS!

CLAMBERING EXPERTLY ALONG THE MASONRY WALLS, THE DYNAMIC DUO MOVES FROM ONE WINDOW TO ANOTHER, UNTIL...



BUT AS THEY LEAP IN...



WHAT--? A TRAP!

WE COULD JUMP THEM, BUT THEIR ARROWS MIGHT HIT DR. NICHOLS... CAN'T RISK THAT!

IF YOU TWO ARE FRIENDS OF THIS MAGICIAN NICHOLUS, PERHAPS YOU ARE ALSO MAGICIANS FROM THE FUTURE?



UH--YES, KING PHORBUS... WE ARE FROM THE FUTURE!

NICHOLUS HAS REFUSED TO MAKE FUTURE-TYPE WEAPONS FOR ME, BUT YOU CAN DO IT! MAKE THEM, AND I WILL LET YOU ALL GO FREE!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL MAKE A THING OF THE FUTURE THAT CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON, IF YOU GET ME THE NEEDED SUPPLIES!

NO, BATMAN! YOU CAN'T MAKE WEAPONS FOR THIS TYRANT... YOU MUSTN'T!

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO, DR. NICHOLS? I HAVE TO GET YOU BACK TO 1957... THAT'S WHY BRUCE WAYNE SENT US HERE TO FIND YOU!



IS IT POSSIBLE?... BATMAN MAKING A DEAL WITH A VILLAINOUS KING?

IT CERTAINLY SEEMS THAT WAY, AS DAWN BREAKS OVER THE PALACE COURTYARD...

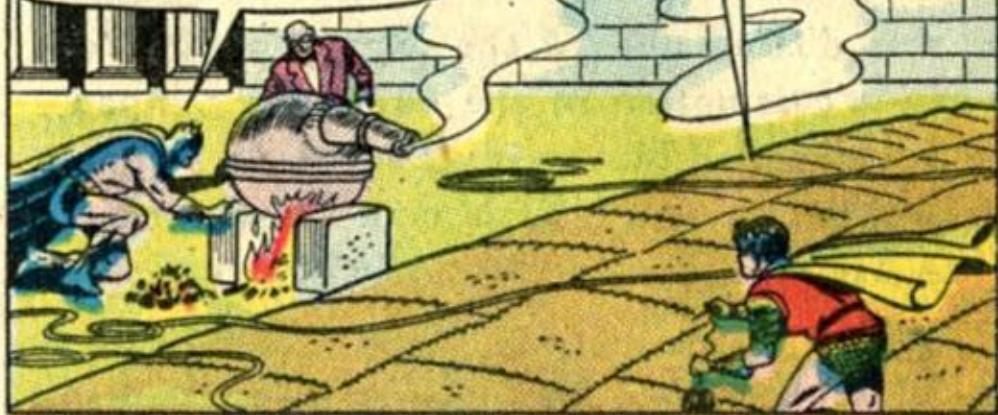
HERE ARE THE PARCHMENT SHEETS, MINERALS AND BASKET YOU ASKED FOR--THOUGH WHAT THEY CAN MAKE IS BEYOND ME!

YOU'LL SOON SEE! ROBIN, YOU START SEWING THE PARCHMENTS TOGETHER, WHILE DR. NICHOLS AND I MIX THE CHEMICALS!

HOURS LATER...

IT'S NOT A CHEMICALLY PURE GAS, BUT IT'LL SERVE THE PURPOSE! NOW WE HAVE TO HURRY, WHILE THE WIND IS RIGHT!

I'VE FINISHED SEWING--WE CAN START FILLING WITH THE GAS!



SHORTLY, AMAZED ANCIENT WARRIORS SEE A FEARSOME SHAPE TAKE FORM...

WHAT IS THAT THING, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH IT? YOU SAID IT COULD BE USED AS A WEAPON!

IT COULD-- BUT IT WON'T... BECAUSE WE'RE USING IT AS OUR CONVEYANCE!

AND AS THE CRUDE GAS-BALLOON SHOOTS UP OUT OF THE OPEN COURTYARD...

IT SHOULD... I WAITED TILL WE HAD A GOOD STRONG WIND IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION! I CAN DESCEND NEAR ROME BY LETTING THE GAS ESCAPE SLOWLY!



BUT, AWHILE LATER, BACK IN THE IMPERIAL CITY...

LOOK! IT'S THE GREAT BATMANUS, WHO VISITED ROME ONCE BEFORE! EH--? WHAT DO THEY MEAN? HOW COULD YOU HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

OH, OH-- I WAS AFRAID OF THIS!

ER... REMEMBER, I CAME BACK TO THIS SPOT DAYS AGO!

OH-- OF COURSE... THAT

MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN!

>WHEW! FAST THINKING! GOOD THING THE RAY'S STARTING TO PULL US NOW-- BEFORE THE CROWD GIVES BATMAN AWAY COMPLETELY!

AND SO, AFTER ANOTHER DIZZYING TRIP, THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF THE TIME-BARRIER, BACK TO 1957...

YOU SAVED ME, BATMAN-- BUT I NEVER WANT TO GO INTO THE PAST AGAIN! I'LL SEND BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, INSTEAD!

THAT'S FINE... I'LL --UH-- TELL BRUCE RIGHT AWAY!



8
THE END

Trouble on the London Express

INSPECTOR Mike Lansing didn't expect to run into any trouble, en route to Scotland Yard, which he was to visit for a month. But, then, Lansing was an American detective—and trouble was his business, everywhere.

The flight across had been uneventful. Now, he was dozing aboard the express to London, when a commotion in the adjoining compartment compelled him to investigate. In response to his knock, a spry, little man flung open the door. He eyed Lansing, quizzically.

"I'm sorry to intrude," said Lansing. "But there seems to be a disturbance here. I happen to be an American detective, and if—"

"An American detective! Oh, how wonderfully fortunate," interrupted a typical English dowager, who rushed up to him. "You must recover my necklace!"

"Well, madame, I'll try, but you'll have to start at the beginning," said Lansing, in a comforting voice.

"The lady is too distressed," said the little man, balancing a coffee cup in his hand. "Allow me to enlighten you. I am Doctor Arndt of Paris, Berlin, Rome—a man of the world, so to speak. I am sharing this compartment with the victim of this unfortunate experience, and these two gentlemen—Mr. Vandermeer, an importer from Holland, and Mr. Gibbons, an insurance executive—when all of a sudden just as we enter the tunnel, the lights are extinguished, and the lady cries out, 'Help! My necklace!'"

"It was an anniversary gift from my husband," the woman moaned in anguish. "Rubies and emeralds. Hubert will never forgive me."

The little man threw her a consoling glance, then went on. "Just as we emerged from the tunnel, the lights go on, and madame confronts us with an accusation: 'One of you tore it from me. I must have it back, or not one of you will leave the train! The police will search every nook of this compartment!'"

Lansing eyed the three suspects. "Will the thief hand over the necklace, or must I do it the hard way?"

"You behave just like the American detective so familiar in the cinema," scoffed the insurance executive.

"Now, now," cautioned Dr. Arndt. "We must extend him every courtesy. Besides, if you're not guilty, you shouldn't mind being searched. In fact, sir, you may begin with me."

The other men yielded, too, but the search was in vain. Lansing frowned, then began a systematic scrutiny of the compartment, omitting the baggage because the culprit hadn't had time to conceal it. That proved fruitless, too.

"Ah, my coffee has become cold," said Dr. Arndt, making a wry face as he tasted it. "Perhaps, some hot coffee will refresh us all. I'll ring for the steward."

"That's a good idea," agreed Lansing. "You do that."

Dr. Arndt pressed a buzzer, then stepped towards the carafe, his back to the others. "I'll just pour it back into this," he said.

There was a knock. "Steward!" came a muffled voice from behind the door.

Lansing opened it. "Here! Take this away," said Dr. Arndt, extending the carafe to him, "and fetch us some hot coffee. Bring four cups, too."

But instead of the steward's hand, it was Lansing's that gripped the carafe. Abruptly, he flipped open its top, pushed back his shirt sleeve, and submerged his hand. To the surprise of all, except one, there was the necklace in his clenched hand, as he removed it.

"The—the necklace!" gasped Dr. Arndt.

"And it shouldn't be any surprise to you, Herr Doktor," said Lansing. "I noticed that you were the only one drinking when I entered. What better place to drop the necklace than into your cup, then remove it via the carafe!" Suddenly, Lansing's foot lashed out at the door, slamming it shut as the steward tried to bolt. "And, no doubt, this steward was in cahoots with you, because someone had to snap off the compartment's lights on the master control panel."



BATMAN



IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE, AS EVERYTHING THAT BATMAN TOOK FOR GRANTED SUDDENLY SEEMED A LIE--SOMETHING HE IMAGINED! INDEED, EVEN DICK GRAYSON, WHO IS REALLY ROBIN, DENIED KNOWING BATMAN'S EXISTENCE! THUS, THE MAN WEARING THE BATMAN COSTUME SOON HAD TO ASK HIMSELF THE TERRIBLE QUESTION...

BAT-MAN

With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

AM I REALLY BATMAN?

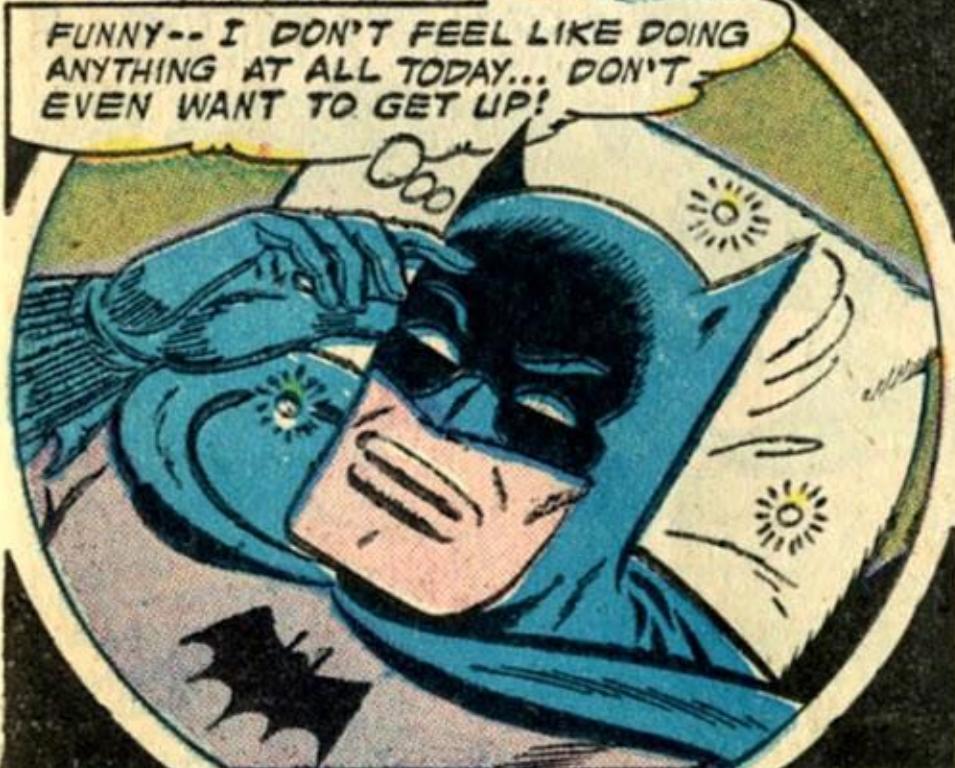
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, DICK? I'M BRUCE WAYNE... BATMAN!

NO! YOU'RE NOT THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE-- AND THE REAL BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT BATMAN!



A CAPED FIGURE AWAKENS FROM SLEEP, STIRS LISTLESSLY...

FUNNY-- I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING AT ALL TODAY... DON'T EVEN WANT TO GET UP!



SUDDENLY, THE EYES SNAP OPEN AS THEY BECOME AWARE OF THE STRANGE SURROUNDINGS...

WHAT--? I'M IN A CELL--A PADDED CELL!



BATMAN





BATMAN



ONE THOUGHT DRIVES BATMAN ONWARD...
ESCAPE...

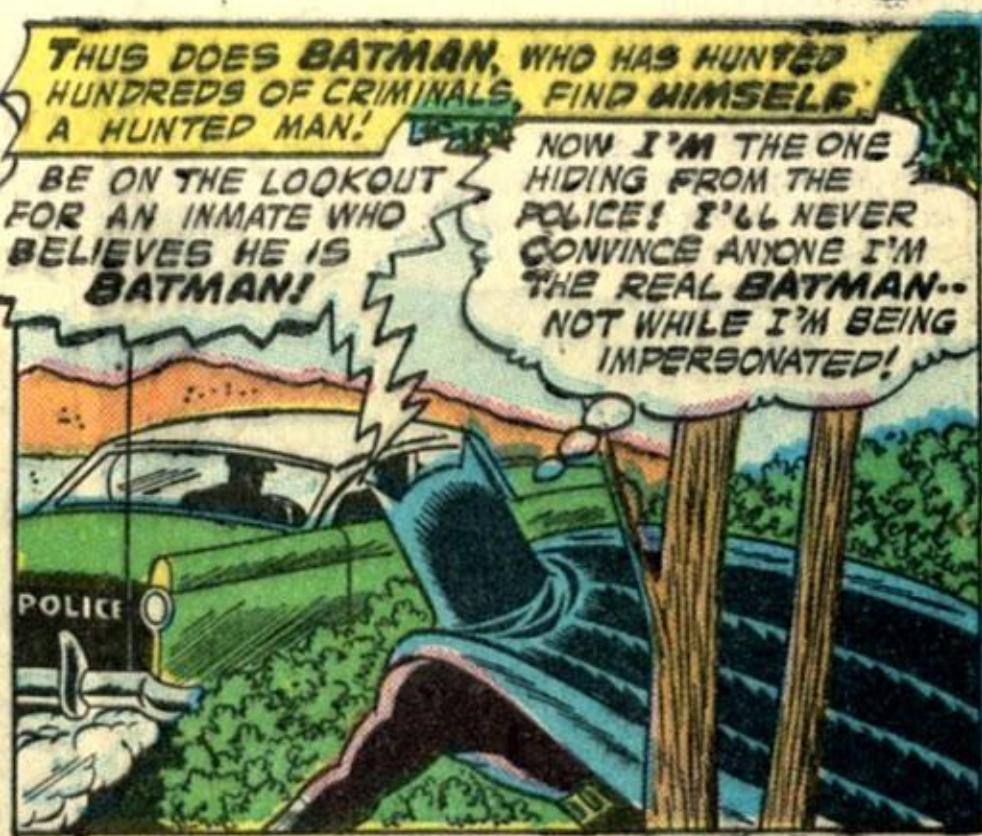
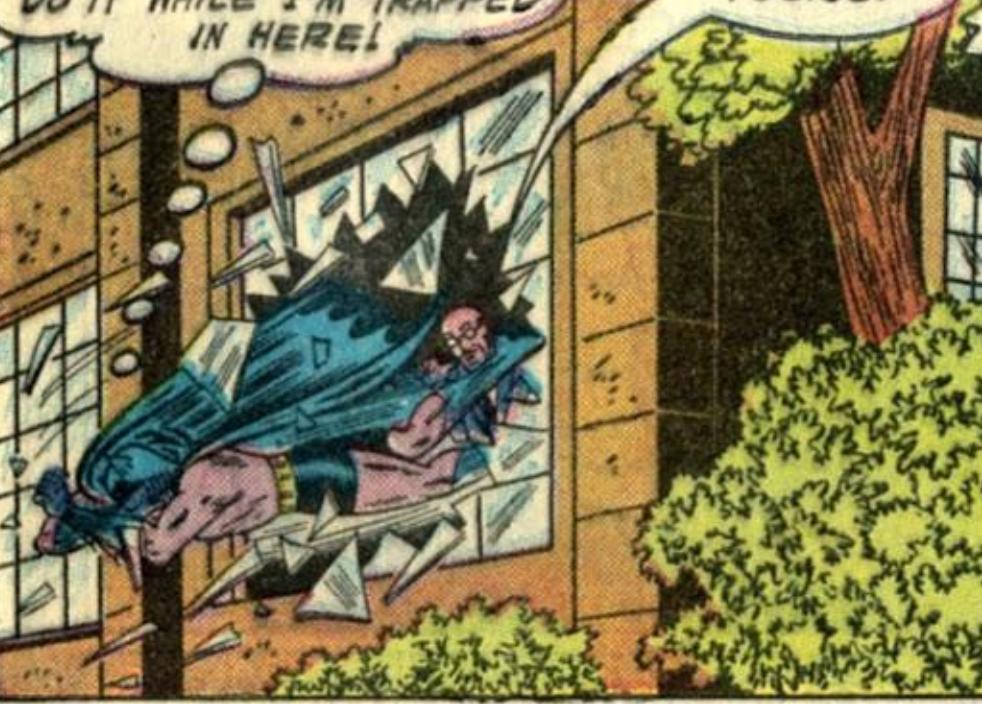
I'VE GOT TO PROVE MY
IDENTITY--AND I CAN'T
DO IT WHILE I'M TRAPPED
IN HERE!

JOE! HE'S GETTING
AWAY! PHONE THE
POLICE!

THUS DOES BATMAN, WHO HAS HUNTED
HUNDREDS OF CRIMINALS, FIND HIMSELF
A HUNTED MAN!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT
FOR AN INNATE WHO
BELIEVES HE IS
BATMAN!

NOW I'M THE ONE
HIDING FROM THE
POLICE! I'LL NEVER
CONVINCE ANYONE I'M
THE REAL BATMAN--
NOT WHILE I'M BEING
IMPERSONATED!



HOW COULD ALL THIS HAVE HAPPENED? THE
LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS CAPTURING
THAT RENEGADE SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR
MILANO... BUT THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER!
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER
THAT?



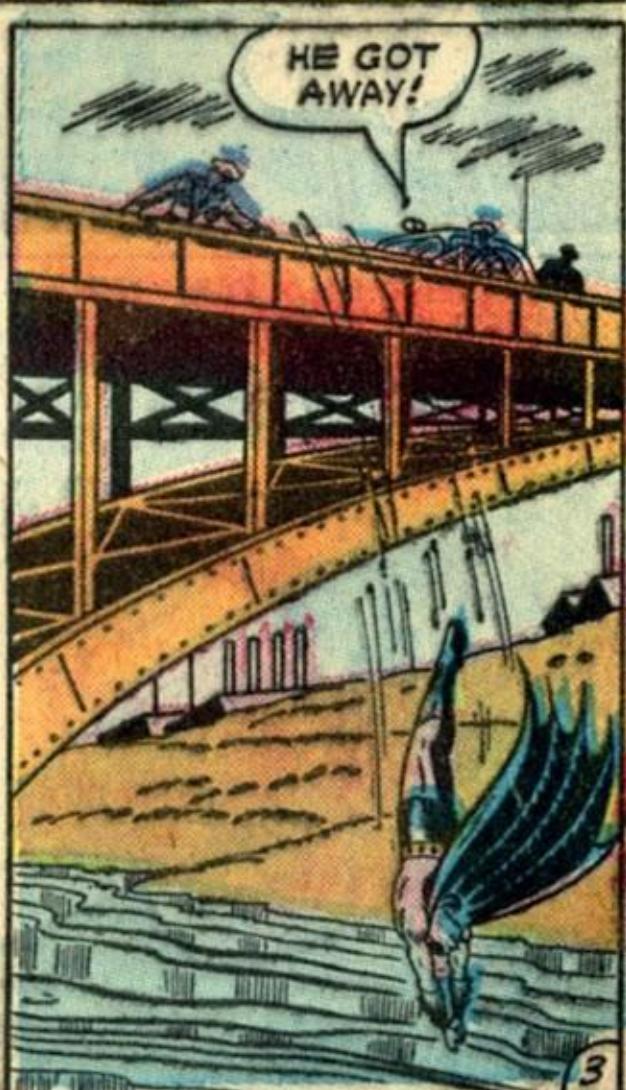
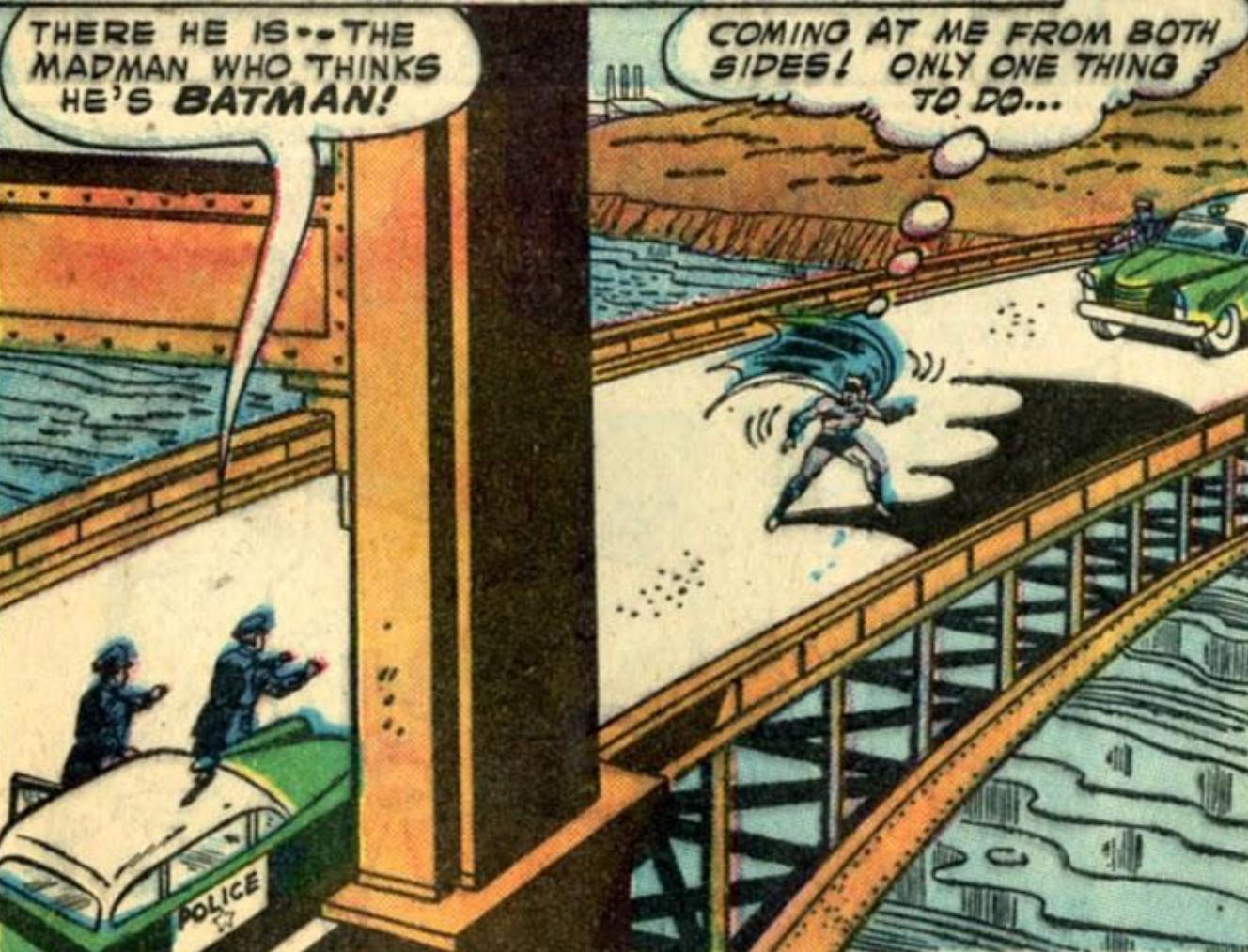
WHERE CAN I GO NOW? HOME?... TO THE WAYNE
MANSION? OF COURSE... I'M REALLY BRUCE
WAYNE... AND ROBIN IS REALLY DICK GRAYSON,
MY WARD! ONCE I UNMASK MYSELF, DICK WILL
KNOW THE TRUTH!



BUT THE WAY HOME IS A PATH OF CONSTANT PERIL...

THERE HE IS--THE
MADMAN WHO THINKS
HE'S BATMAN!

COMING AT ME FROM BOTH
SIDES! ONLY ONE THING
TO DO...





BATMAN



LATER, AS BATMAN APPROACHES THE WAYNE MANSION... MUST MAKE SURE THE POLICE HAVEN'T TRAILED ME HERE... OTHERWISE THEY'LL REALIZE THAT THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE!

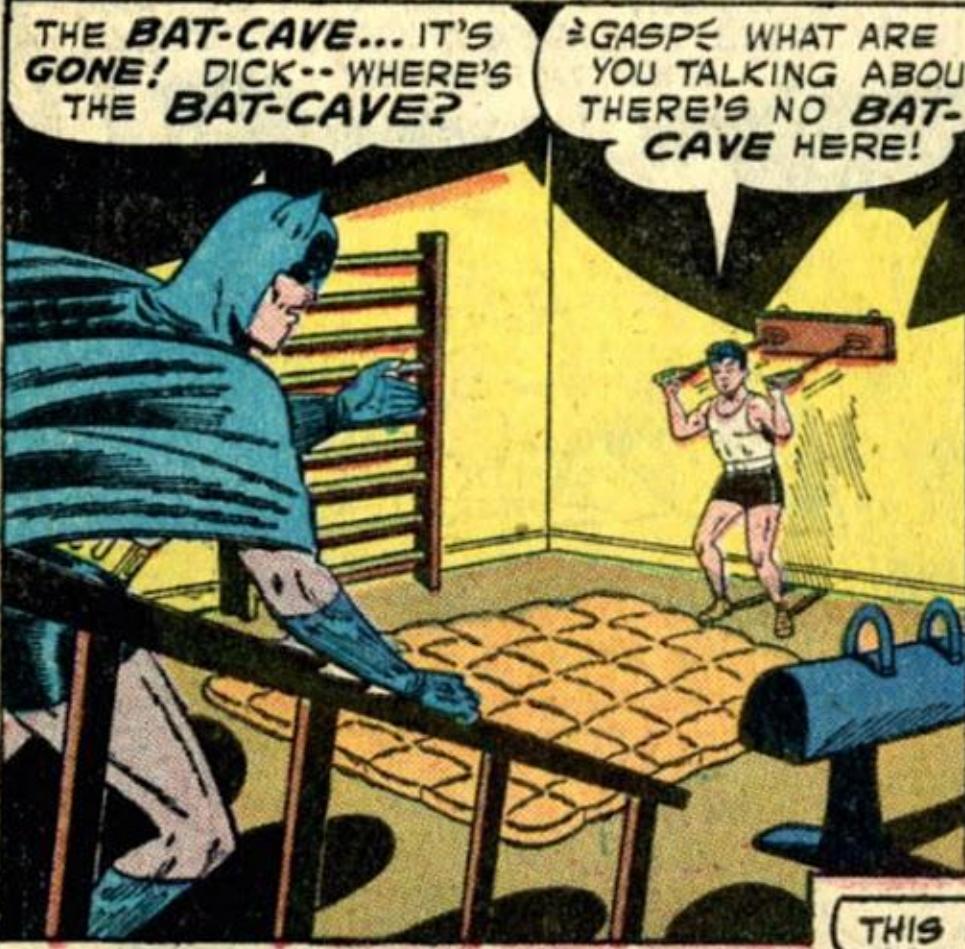
AND SO AT LAST, THE HUNTED MAN REACHES HIS REFUGE... ALFRED! IT'S GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE AGAIN! WHERE'S DICK? IS HE DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE?

EH--? WHERE?



SWIFTLY, BATMAN RUSHES PAST THE BUTLER AND HURRIES DOWNSTAIRS, ONLY TO DISCOVER...

MINUTES LATER, ANOTHER SHOCK GREETS BATMAN AS A THIRD FIGURE DESCENDS...



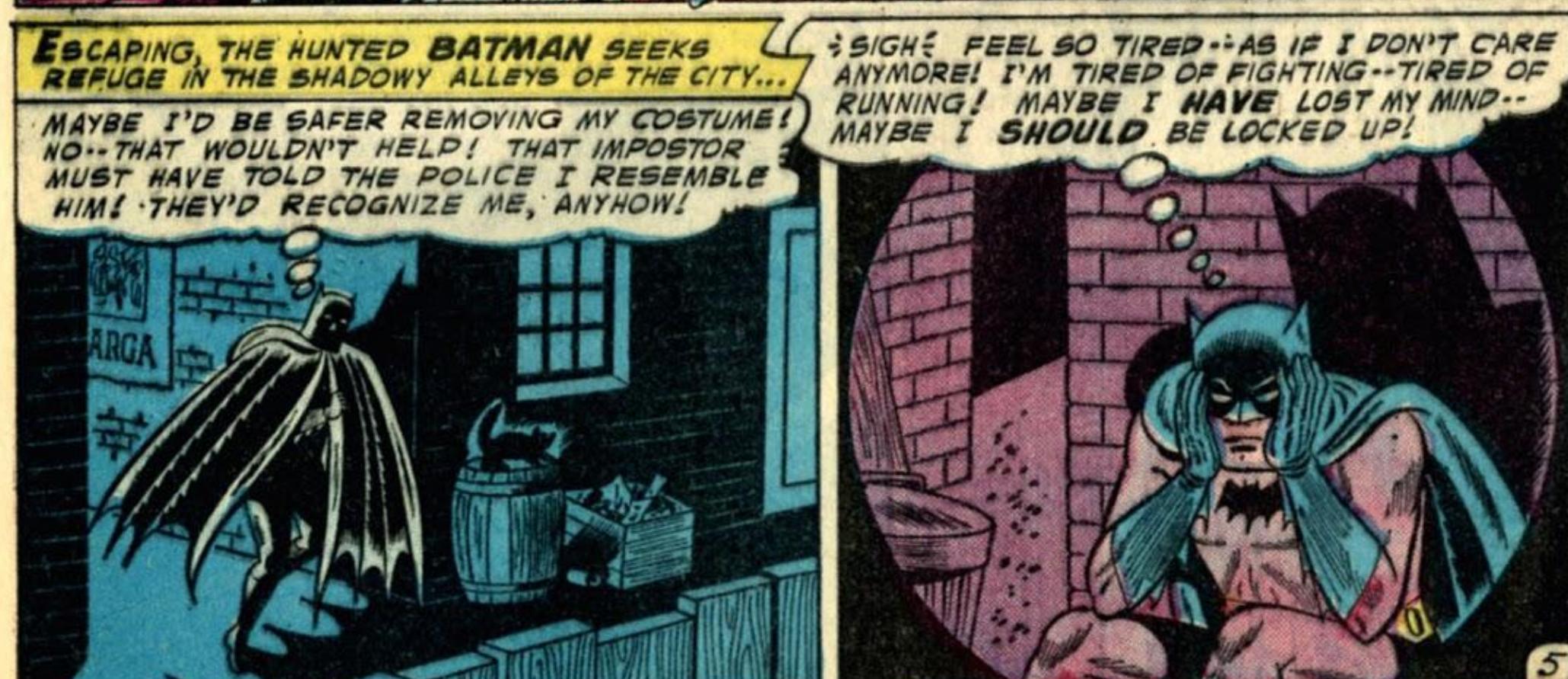
YOU CAN'T BE! I'M BRUCE WAYNE! YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR! DICK, LOOK AT MY FACE! HE'S TRICKED YOU! YOU KNOW MY SECRET IDENTITY-- YOU KNOW I'M BATMAN!

THIS MUST BE THAT ESCAPED MADMAN! POOR FELLOW... HE'S READ SO MUCH ABOUT BATMAN THAT HE FINALLY IMAGINED HE IS BATMAN! AND, BECAUSE HE RESEMBLES ME, HE THINKS BRUCE WAYNE IS BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!

TCH-TCH... AND HE PROBABLY THINKS I'M ROBIN!



BATMAN





BATMAN



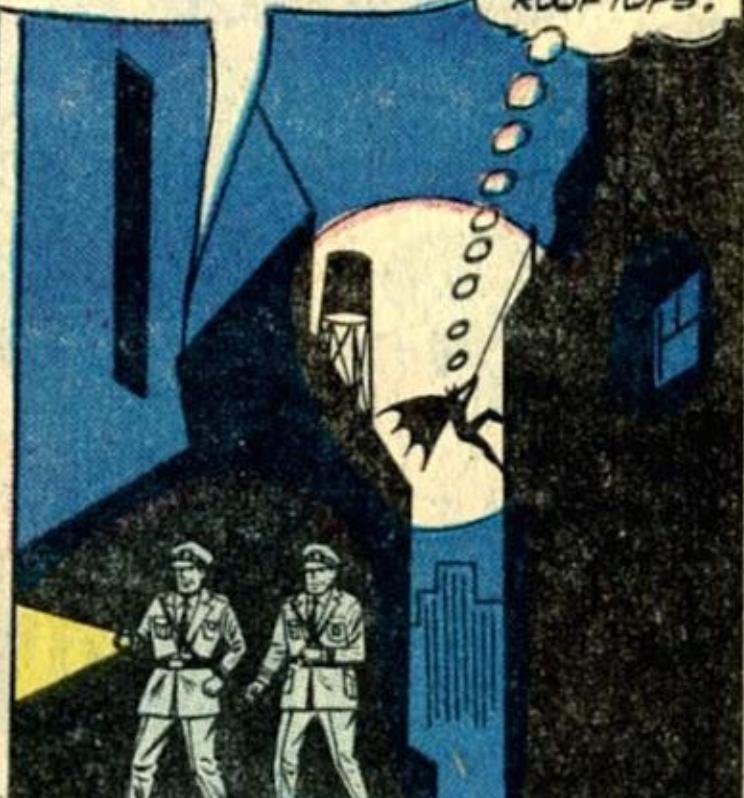
IT'S--IT'S LIKE A NIGHT-MARE! MAYBE I'M DREAMING IT ALL... MAYBE I SHOULD SLEEP--AND WHEN I AWAKEN, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT AGAIN! SLEEP--MUST SLEEP--SLEEP...

THE EXHAUSTED BATMAN COLLAPSES INTO DEEP SLUMBER--UNTIL A SHRILL NOISE SHOCKS HIM AWAKE...

A SIREN! POLICE--SEARCHING FOR ME! THIS IS NO DREAM, AFTER ALL! GOT TO HIDE--KEEP MOVING!

NO SIGN OF HIM HERE! LET'S TRY THE NEXT ALLEY! REMEMBER--LOOK FOR A GUY WEARING A BATMAN COSTUME!

I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MOVING--GO OVER THE ROOFTOPS!



LATER, AS THE MOON LOOKS DOWN ON THE FUGITIVE BATMAN-- AND MEN OF CRIME...

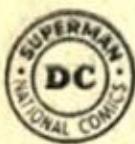
CROOKS--GETTING AWAY WITH SOME LOOT! IF I COULD CAPTURE THEM, THAT WOULD PROVE TO MYSELF-- AND THE POLICE-- THAT I'M REALLY BATMAN!



HITCHING A RIDE ON THE MECHANICAL GOLFER, BATMAN GETS DRIVEN RIGHT AT THE BANDITS...

YI-I-I-I! IT'S BATMAN!





BATMAN



LANDING ON THE ADVERTISING SIGN'S SHOPPING BAG,
THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTER FIGHTS WITH A FURY BORN
OF DESPERATION...

PITCHING HIS UNCONSCIOUS FOE INTO THE
COLOSSAL SHOPPING BAG, **BATMAN**
PULLS ON THE DRAWSTRING, AND...

GOT TO CAPTURE THEM...

GOT TO PROVE THAT ONLY **BATMAN**
COULD HANDLE CROOKS
THIS FAST!

WHEN THE CROOKS TELL HOW I
CAPTURED THEM, THE POLICE
MIGHT REALIZE I'VE BEEN TELLING
THEM THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!

UP AT
OWN
FOOD
SHOPS!

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT...

MY IMPERSONATOR--AND
ROBIN! THEY'VE COME
TO INVESTIGATE THE
ROBBERY! HMM--A
THOUGHT SUDDENLY
OCCURS TO ME!
I WONDER...

LATER, WHEN THE **BATMOBILE**
RETURNS TO THE **BAT-CAVE**, A
FIGURE WARILY OPENS THE TRUNK...

THEY DIDN'T KNOW I CLIMBED IN
HERE WHILE THEY WERE CHECKING
ON THAT ROBBERY! SO, I'M NOT
CRAZY AFTER ALL! THE **BAT-CAVE**
WAS HERE ALL THE TIME--FORMED
INTO A "BASEMENT" BY PROP
WALLS!

ABRUPTLY...

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS--
START EXPLAINING! THE
POLICE WEREN'T SEARCHING
FOR A MAN WHO RESEMBLED
BRUCE WAYNE--WHICH
MEANS YOU DIDN'T TELL
THEM! WHY?...BECAUSE
YOU WANTED TO **PROTECT**
BATMAN'S IDENTITY!

AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN
THE MAN POSING AS BRUCE WAYNE
COULD ONLY BE SOMEBODY WHO
ALREADY KNEW MY IDENTITY

WE SHOULD'VE REALIZED WE
COULDN'T OUTSMART YOU,
BATMAN! BUT WE CAN
EXPLAIN--NOW THAT 24
HOURS HAVE PASSED!



BATMAN

SWIFTLY, THE IMPOSTOR REMOVES PADDED GARB AND MAKEUP, TO REVEAL...

ALFRED--JUST AS I FIGURED! YOU WERE MY IMPERSONATOR!

IT ALL BEGAN LAST NIGHT, BATMAN, WHEN YOU AND I WERE AFTER PROFESSOR MILO! YOU MADE ME WAIT OUTSIDE HIS HIDEOUT, IN CASE HE SNEAKED OUT-- WHILE YOU RUSHED IN AFTER HIM...



"WHEN YOU BROUGHT MILO OUT, YOU SUDDENLY KEELED OVER..."

HA, HA... I'VE BEATEN BATMAN AT LAST! WHEN HE CHARGED INTO MY LABORATORY, HE DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FILLED WITH A GAS MADE FROM A RARE AMAZON PLANT! IT DIDN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE I WAS WEARING NOSE FILTERS...

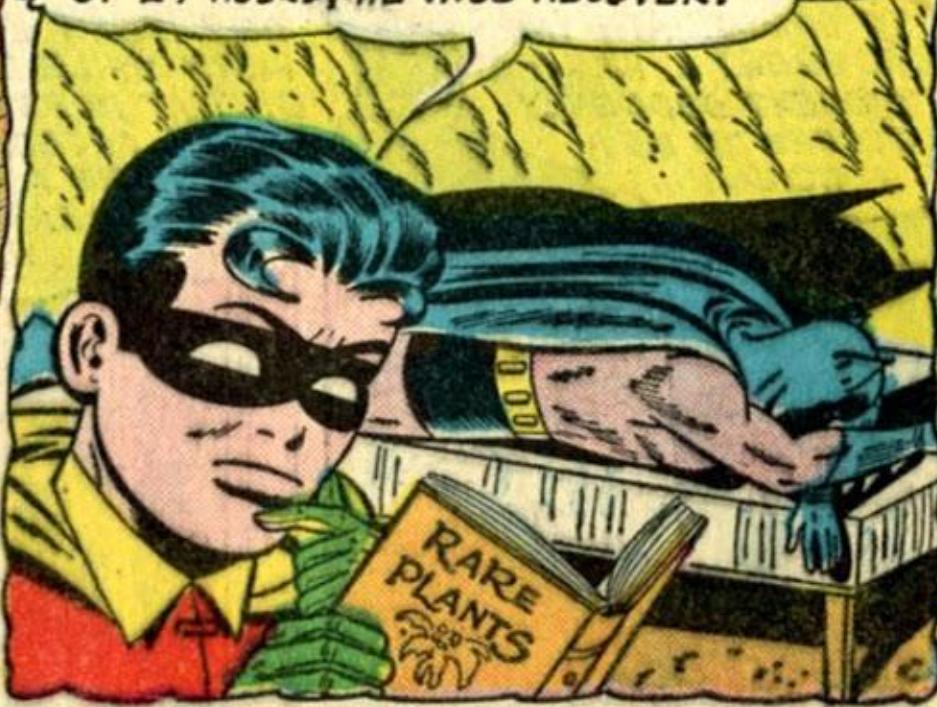


THE GAS HAS A UNIQUE EFFECT ON THE PERSON INHALING IT... THE PERSON LOSES THE DESIRE TO LIVE! HE LIES ABOUT LISTLESSLY, REFUSING TO EAT, AND EVENTUALLY HE DIES!

HA, HA, HA!

"I QUICKLY DID SOME RESEARCH ON THE PLANT, AND LEARNED ONE FACT..."

"...IF THE PATIENT CAN BE GIVEN THE DESIRE TO LIVE, AND IS KEPT MOVING, AT THE END OF 24 HOURS, HE WILL RECOVER!"



"SO I WENT TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON WITH A PLAN..."

...YOU SEE, WE MUST GIVE BATMAN A PURPOSE FOR LIVING, A PROBLEM TO SOLVE--A PROBLEM SO SHOCKING THAT HE WON'T REST UNTIL HE HAS THE ANSWER!

ALL RIGHT, ROBIN... THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE AT THE MENTAL INSTITUTION WILL COOPERATE! WE ALL WANT TO SEE BATMAN LIVE!

SO I GOT ALFRED TO IMPERSONATE YOU, AS BATMAN AND BRUCE WAYNE -- AND THE REST YOU KNOW!

IT WAS A DRASIC MOVE-- BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE!

BUT--IT'S ALL OVER NOW! I CAN GO TO SLEEP AND WAKE UP TOMORROW, KNOWING THAT EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL!

YES... AND THAT BATMAN WILL BE BACK ON THE JOB-- AS USUAL!



THE END

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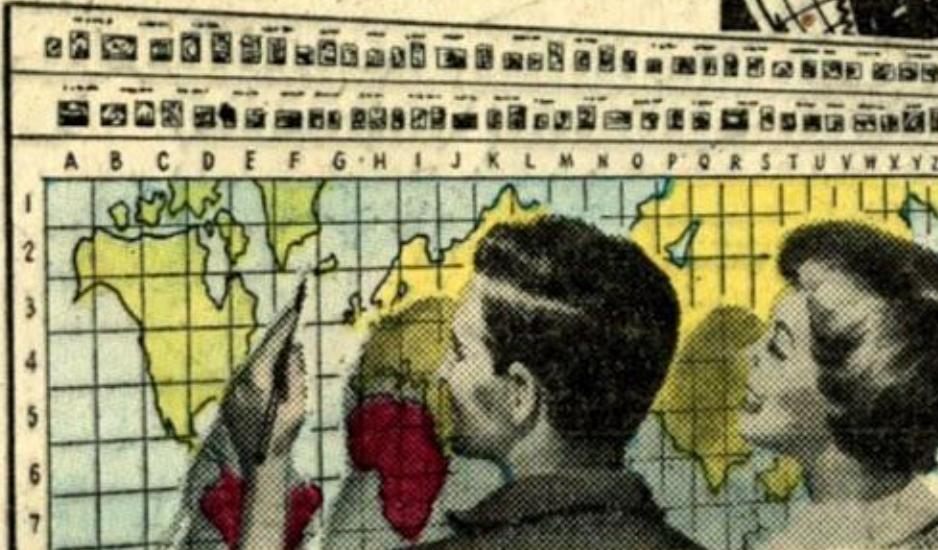
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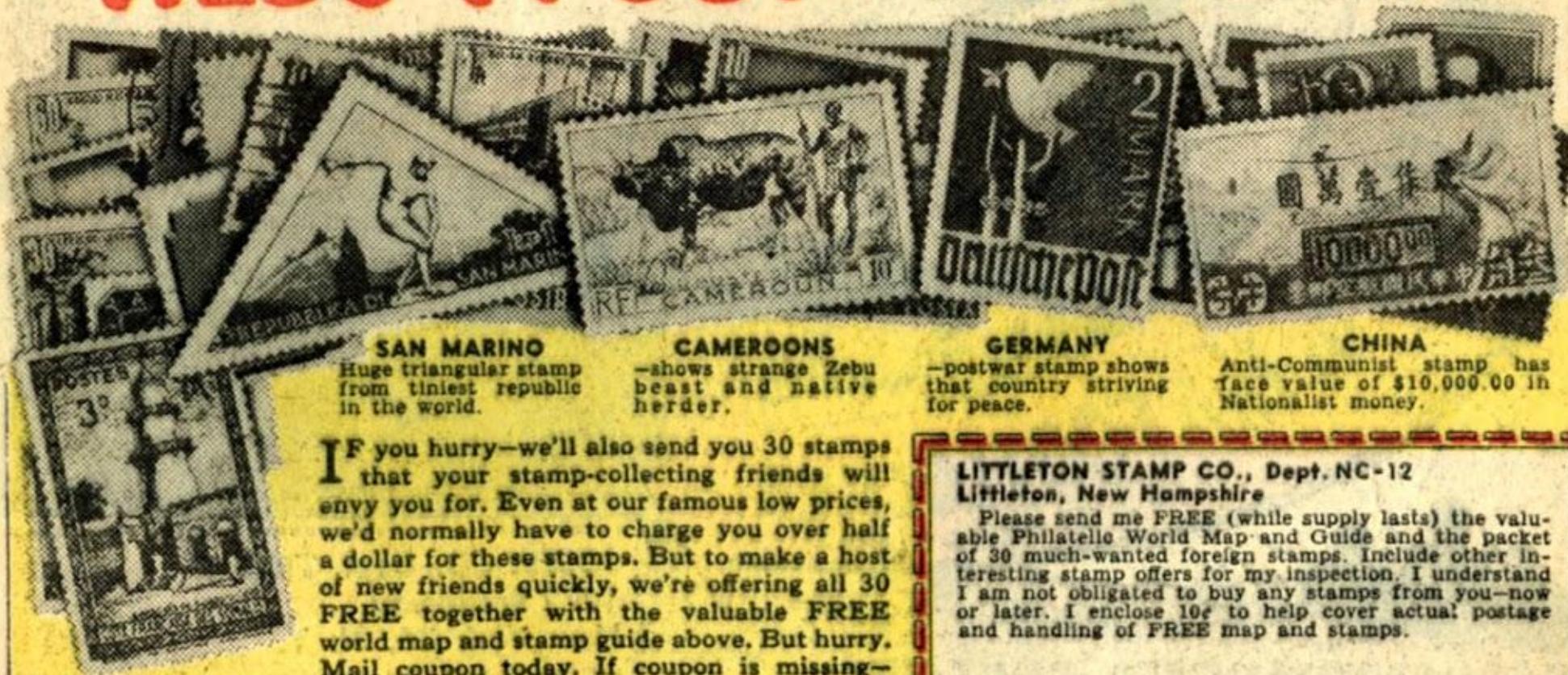


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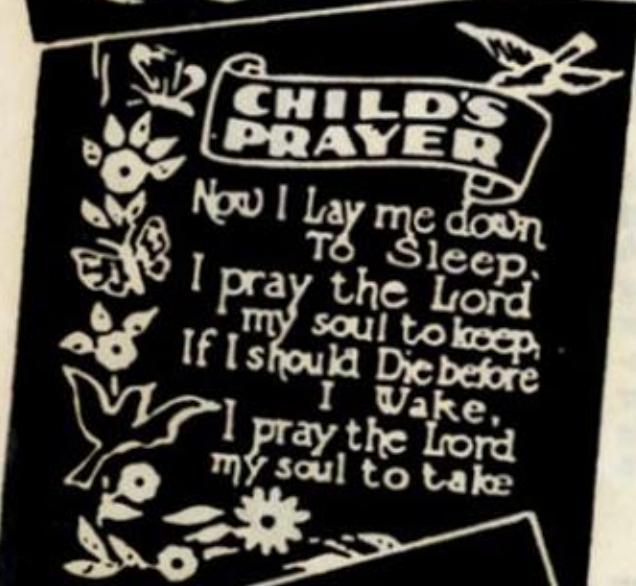
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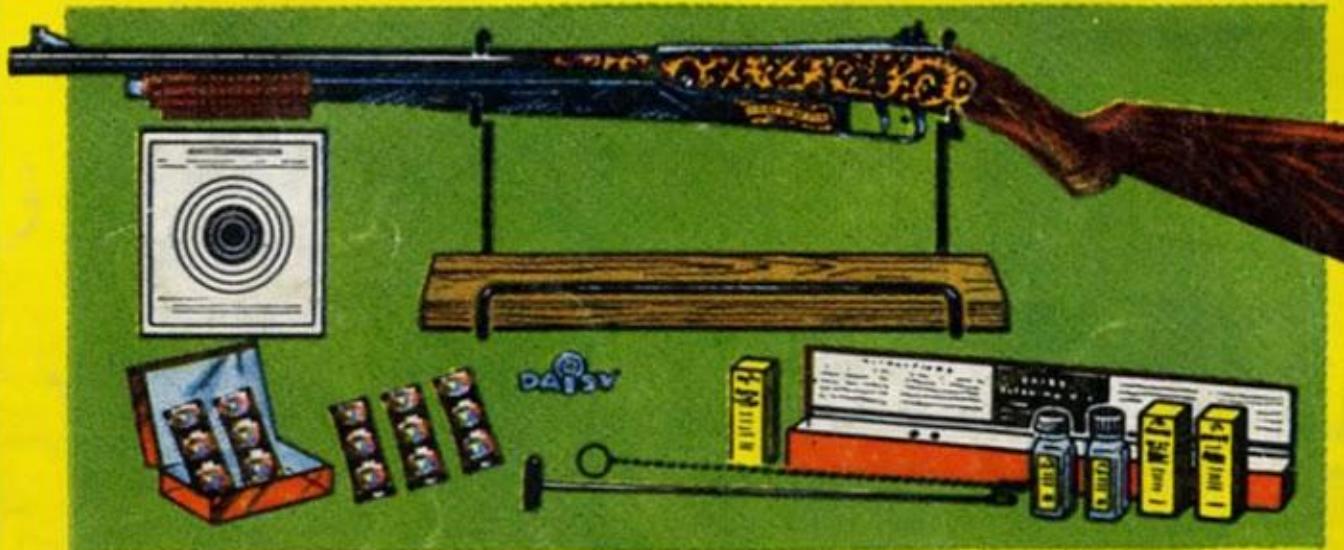
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