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NO. 327
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Plus:
**BONUS
STORY!**
BATMAN and
ROBIN--
TOGETHER
AGAIN!

BAT MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
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THEY SAY
THIS MAN
IS MAD!

THUS, THEY HAVE BOUND HIS ARMS AND LOCKED
HIM AWAY IN A CAREFULLY-PADDDED CELL, TO PREVENT
HIM FROM DOING HARM TO HIMSELF--OR OTHERS!

BUT STUDY THIS MAN
CAREFULLY, FRIEND--AND
PERHAPS YOU WILL RECOGNIZE
THE COLD LIGHT OF SANITY
THAT HIDES BEHIND THE
GLEAM OF MADNESS
IN HIS EYES!

FOR,
YOU SEE--
THIS MAN
IS ME!

J-6826

BAT-MAN ASYLUM SINISTER!

CREATED BY
Bob Kane

LEN WEIN - WRITER
IRV NOVICK &
FRANK McLAUGHLIN - ARTISTS

BEN ODA - LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY - COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR

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MAN, LISTEN TO HIM RAVING IN THERE! THAT GUY IS CRAZIER THAN A BUCKETFUL OF BEDBUGS!



YEAH-- IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY STATE PRISON HAD HIM TRANSFERRED HERE TO ARKHAM ASYLUM!

BUT WHAT AIN'T EASY TO UNDERSTAND IS WHY THE DIRECTOR IS SO INTERESTED IN THIS "SHANK" TAYLOR NUT!



WHITE, IN THE PADDED CELL...

FOOTSTEPS FADING... THEY'RE GONE!



IT'S TIME I DID A LITTLE INVESTIGATING-- FOUND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE--!

AND GETTING OUT OF RESTRAINTS DESIGNED TO HOLD A CRAZED "SHANK" TAYLOR IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS HOOK THE SLEEVES OF MY STRAIT-JACKET UNDER MY HEELS--

--THEN STRAIGHTEN MY LEGS--



--AND I PULL THE JACKET OFF OVER MY HEAD AS EASILY AS PULLING OFF A SWEATER!

IT'S NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING YOUR AVERAGE MENTAL PATIENT CAN MANAGE--



--BUT THEN, YOUR AVERAGE MENTAL PATIENT PROBABLY HASN'T SPENT THE MAJORITY OF HIS LIFE LEARNING HOW TO ESCAPE FROM EVERYTHING FROM A SIMPLE STRAIT-JACKET TO A SOLID-STEEL BANK VAULT!

THE NEXT STEP IS GETTING OUT OF THIS CELL ITSELF--



--BUT THE MINIATURE
PICKLOCK I SMUGGLED
IN HERE UNDER MY
TONGUE SHOULD MAKE
THAT RELATIVELY
SIMPLE!

I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING
MORE IN WITH ME FOR
FEAR IT MIGHT BE
DISCOVERED--

-BUT IF I'D KNOWN
WHAT I WAS GETTING
MYSELF INTO, I
MIGHT HAVE TRIED!

"IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH AN EASY
CASE AT FIRST--UNTIL COMMISSIONER
GORDON INVESTIGATED A COMBINA-
TION JEWEL THEFT/MURDER--

PLEASE STOP ME--
BEFORE I
HURT ANYONE
ELSE!

"A FEW NIGHTS LATER, I RAN INTO A JEWEL
THIEF OF MY OWN--

SKRASH!

--WHO
TRIED TO
RUN ME
DOWN IN
TURN...

"A LITTLE QUICK THINKING--AND A SOLID
STEEL BAR--HELPED ME UNSEAT THE BLOOD-
THIRSTY BIKER, WHO LANDED IN AN AWKWARD HEAP...

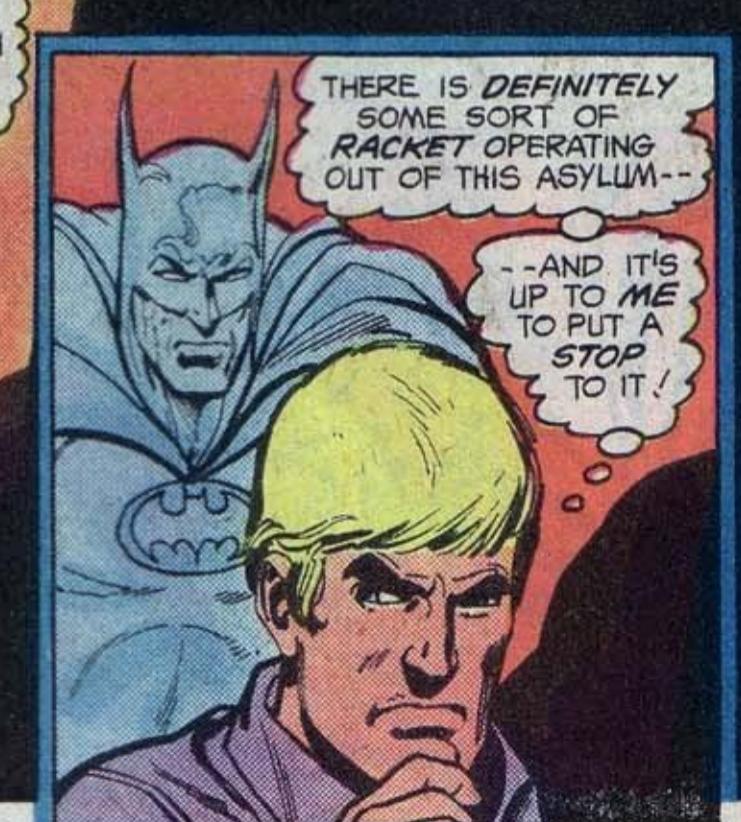
.. HIS RIGHT ARM
OBVIOUSLY BROKEN!

"YET EVEN WITH A WOUNDED WING, HE MANAGED
TO ESCAPE ME--

--THOUGH NOT
BEFORE I GOT A
DECENT CHANCE
TO IDENTIFY HIM...

THAT INSANE CYCLIST
WAS "MADMAN"
MARKHAM--

--A
CHARACTER I
MYSELF HAD
SEEN COMMITTED
HERE TO ARKHAM!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



WHILE, MILES AWAY
FROM ARKHAM ASY-
LUM, IN THE TOWERING
WAYNE FOUNDATION
BUILDING--



WAYNE FOUNDATION

--SPECIFICALLY, IN THE LEGENDARY
BAT-CAVE HIDDEN FAR BELOW IT...



YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ALL
QUITE REASONABLE, SIR--

--BUT I'M AFRAID
YOU SHAN'T BE
AWAKE TO HEAR
ANY ANSWERS!



MY WORD--THE
ANESTHETIC GAS
MASTER BRUCE LEFT
IN MY CARE IS CERTAINLY
EFFECTIVE!

"SHANK" TAYLOR
SHOULD SLEEP
QUITE *SOUNDLY*
NOW!

BUT IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN
TWELVE HOURS NOW, AND THERE
IS STILL *NO WORD* FROM THE
MASTER!

FRANKLY,
I'M BEGINNING
TO GET
WORRIED!

AND WHILE THE EVER-
FAITHFUL ALFRED PON-
DERS THE WHIMSICAL FAN-
CIES OF FATHER TIME--

MASTER BRUCE TOLD ME TO
ALLOW HIM *24 HOURS*, AND IF
HE HADN'T SOMEHOW CONTACTED
ME BY THEN--

--TO IMMEDIATELY
ALERT COMMISSIONER
GORDON TO HIS
PREDICAMENT!

AND YET, TELLING THE
COMMISSIONER MIGHT WELL
JEOPARDIZE THE BATMAN'S
SECRET IDENTITY!

OH, WHY DOES THE
TIME PASS SO UN-
BEARABLY SLOWLY
WHEN ONE IS
WAITING?

PLEASE, MASTER
BRUCE... WHY DON'T
YOU JUST *CALL*?



--BACK AT ARKHAM, THINGS ARE STARTING TO PICK UP SPEED...

OKAY, TAYLOR--ON YOUR FEET!

WHY--? WHAT'S HAPPENING--???

SEEMS THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK WITH YOU!

AND HE DON'T LIKE TO BE KEPT WAITING!

THIS IS JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR! MAYBE NOW I'LL FINALLY FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE--

--ALTHOUGH I ALREADY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA!

AH, MR. TAYLOR-- PLEASE COME IN!

I SEE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN AT LAST AFTER YOUR UNFORTUNATE LITTLE OUTBURST LAST EVENING!

YEAH... THAT INJECTION YOUR BULLY-BOYS GAVE ME WORKED WONDERS!

I'D HAVE BEEN ASTONISHED IF IT HADN'T!

BRUNO... GEORGE... YOU MAY RELEASE MR. TAYLOR FROM HIS RESTRAINTS NOW!

WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS--BUT I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!

MY DEAR BRUNO, YOU'RE NOT BEING PAID TO THINK!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU ENJOY A HOT CUP OF TEA, MR. TAYLOR-- WHILE WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?

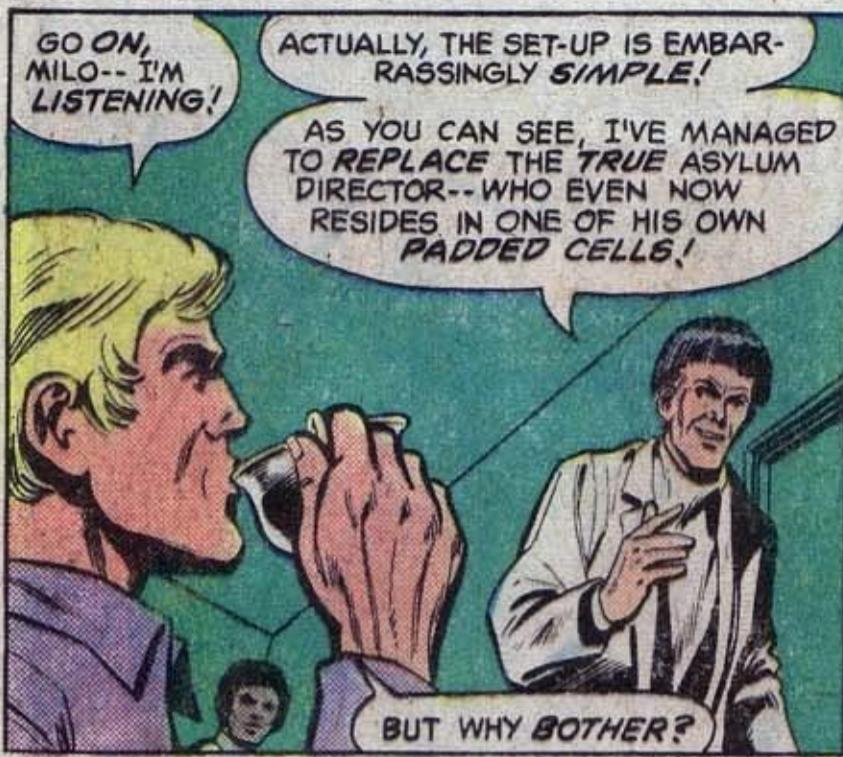
HMM--TEA SMELLS OKAY, BUT I STILL WOULDN'T DOUBT MILO HAS DRUGGED IT SOMEHOW!

BETTER JUST PRETEND TO DRINK IT!

WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS, MILO?

IT'S MOST FORTUNATE YOU ARRIVED HERE WHEN YOU DID, MR. TAYLOR--

--BECAUSE YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME PART OF THE MOST LUCRATIVE MONEY-MAKING SCHEME SINCE THE INVENTION OF THE PRINTING PRESS!



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

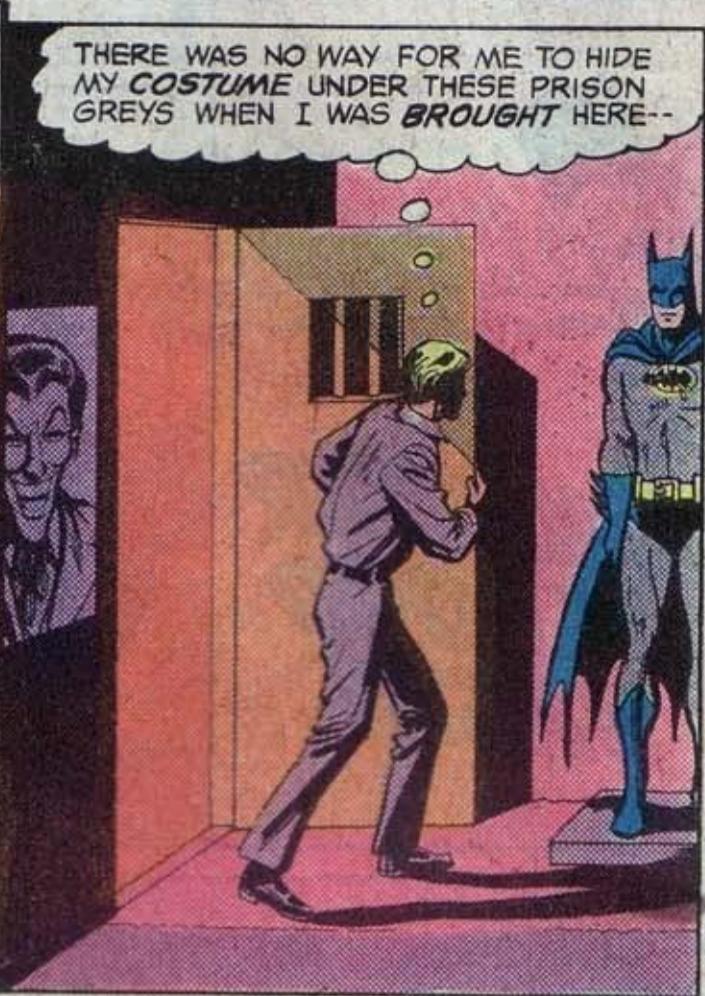
AND A SHORT TIME LATER,
WHEN THE ASYLUM CORRI-
DORS ARE DESERTED ONCE
MORE...

MILo'S
MEGALOMANIA HAS
MADE MY JOB HERE THAT
MUCH EASIER!

HE TOLD ME
EVERYTHING
I NEEDED
TO KNOW,
AND THEN
SOME--

--AND NOW
I'M GOING
TO USE THAT
INFORMATION
TO NAIL HIM!

THERE WAS NO WAY FOR ME TO HIDE
MY COSTUME UNDER THESE PRISON
GREYS WHEN I WAS BROUGHT HERE--



BUT I'LL FEEL
A LOT MORE
COMFORTABLE
PUTTING THEM AWAY
WHILE WEARING MY
WORKING CLOTHES
INSTEAD OF...OF...

WH-WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
ME--?!

MY HEAD--SPINNING--!
CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT--!

EVERYTHING'S
GOING--

--BLACK--

FOR A TIME, THE
BLACKNESS IS ALL
THE DARK KNIGHT KNOWS--

--BUT THEN, AT LAST...

WH-WHAT
HAPPENED...?

EH? MY ARMS--
BOUND!

WH-WHERE
AM I?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AROUND
YOU, MY FRIEND--YOU ARE
WHERE YOU BELONG!

CUTE,
MIL--

--BUT YOUR
LITTLE GAME
WON'T WORK!

THIS
STRAIT-
JACKET
CAN'T
HOLD
ME!

I'M THE
BATMAN,
REMEMBER?

OF COURSE YOU
ARE, MY FRIEND--

--AND THAT
GENTLEMAN IS
NAPOLEON--

--AND THAT
DEAR LADY
IS JOAN
OF ARC!

BUT I AM
THE BATMAN--
I AM!

NO, YOU AREN'T-- YOU'RE
JUST ONE OF US!

AND THAT
MEANS
YOU'RE
STARK,
RAVING MAD!!

I STILL CAN'T SEE WHY WE DON'T KILL THE BATMAN, AND BE DONE WITH IT!

BECAUSE IT LACKS FINESSE, GEORGE. WHAT GREATER IRONY THAN TO REDUCE THE BATMAN TO MINDLESS JELLY, AND LEAVE HIM HERE--

--A HELPLESS PRISONER IN THE SELFSAME ASYLUM TO WHICH HE'S SENT SO MANY OTHERS!

THE FOOL STILL DOESN'T REALIZE THAT I EXPECTED HIM TO AVOID DRINKING THE DRUGGED TEA--

--SO I COATED THE CUP ITSELF WITH A SPECIAL CONTACT POISON THAT HE ABSORBED RIGHT THROUGH HIS PORES!

INGENIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?

YOU KNOW, IF YOU REALLY ARE THE BATMAN, MY FRIEND-- YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVE IT!

SURELY THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE FREEING HIMSELF FROM THE STRAIT-JACKET THAT BINDS YOU!

JUST WATCH ME, WISE-GUY!

AND ONCE I FINISH WITH THIS JACKET, I'M GOING TO START ON YOU--!

HAVING DIFFICULTY, MY FRIEND?

I...I...

WHICH IS ONLY NATURAL SINCE I TAMPERED WITH THE JACKET A LITTLE EARLIER!

STILL TOO WEAK... TOO DIZZY...

COME NOW, MY FRIEND-- PERHAPS YOU CAN PASS A SIMPLER TEST!

YOU WIN, MILO-- FOR NOW!

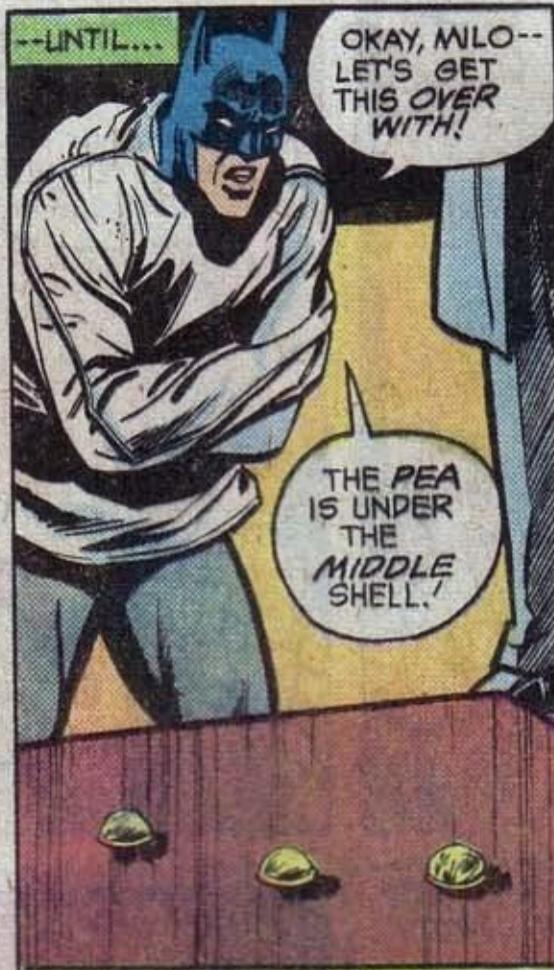
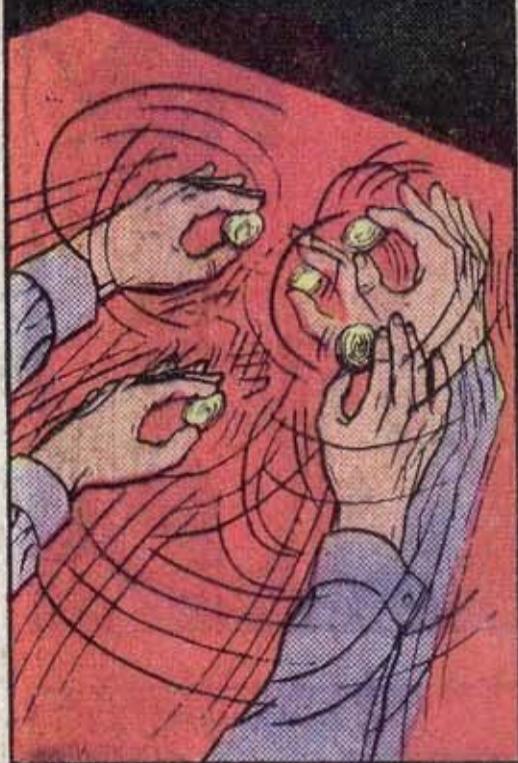
WOULD THE EVER-OBSERVANT BATMAN HAVE ANY TROUBLE SPOTTING WHICH SHELL THE LITTLE PEA IS HIDDEN UNDER?

THIS IS ABSURD, MILO!

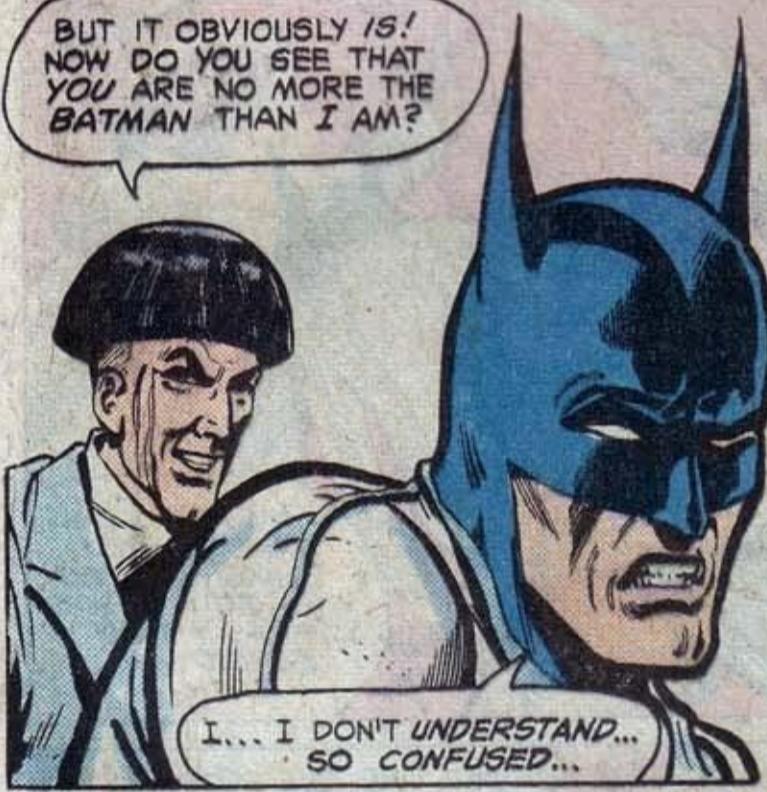
HUSH, MY FRIEND-- AND WATCH CLOSELY!



WITH A SKILL BORN OF AL-MOST-RELENTLESS PRACTICE, THE GARNED HANDS MANEUVER THE WORN WALNUT SHELLS AROUND THE TABLE--



BUT IT OBVIOUSLY IS! NOW DO YOU SEE THAT YOU ARE NO MORE THE BATMAN THAN I AM?



IS IT TRUE? AM I ONLY A MADMAN? I AM I...

WAIT! MY EYES-- THE PUPILS SO DILATED--!

NO WONDER I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT!

I'VE OBVIOUSLY BEEN DRUGGED BY--

UH-OH!

MILO!!!

IT APPEARS OUR LITTLE CHARADE IS OVER, BOYS! HIS CURSED CONSTITUTION IS FIGHTING OFF THE INJECTION!

I'M AFRAID YOU WERE RIGHT, GEORGE-- WE WILL HAVE TO KILL HIM, AFTER ALL!

PROFESSOR, IT'LL BE OUR PLEASURE!

I'M WARNING YOU BOTH--IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU WON'T TRY IT!

THIS IS ONE PIG I WANT TO HEAR SQUEAL!



THAT'S REAL TOUGH TALK COMING FROM A GUY WHO'S ALL WRAPPED UP IN A STRAIT-JACKET!

IT ISN'T JUST TALK, CREEP!



THE DAY I CAN'T TAKE CLUMSY PUNKS LIKE YOU WITH BOTH HANDS LITERALLY TIED BEHIND MY BACK--

--IS THE DAY I'LL START DIGGING MY OWN GRAVE!



WELL DONE, LAD--BRAVO!

LOOKS LIKE I'VE SUDDENLY DEVELOPED MY OWN FAN CLUB IN HERE!

AND THAT MAY JUST BE MY TICKET OUT--!



YOU-- JOAN OF ARC!
DO YOU SEE THAT KNIFE
LYING THERE?

I PRAY THEE-- PICK
IT UP AND BRING
IT HERE!

IT IS SUCH A NICE
KNIFE! LOOK, M'SIEU--
DO YOU SEE HOW IT
GLEAMS?

OUI,
MA'MSELLE --IT
BELONGED TO THE
ENGLISH DOG
WHO IMPRISONED
ME HERE!

NOW CAREFULLY--
VERY CAREFULLY--
YOU MUST USE IT TO
CUT THESE STRAPS
THAT BIND ME!

BUT IT IS
SUCH A
PRETTY
KNIFE, M'SIEU
... SO BRIGHT
... SO SHARP!

SWOOSH!

... SO
VERY,
VERY
SHARP!

D-DID I DO
WELL, M'SIEU?
OUI, MA'MSELLE
-- YOU DID!

LA BELLE FRANCE IS FOREVER
IN YOUR DEBT, JEANNE D'ARC...

AND
SO AM
I!

NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL EXCUSE ME, I'M AFRAID I
STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO!

HURRY, ALL-- HURRY! WE HAVE
A JOB TO DO--A JOB TO DO!

OH, GREAT! THAT'S
ALL I NEED-- MY
OWN PRIVATE ARMY!



BUT EVEN AS THE DESPERATE MILO UNJAMS THE OTHER DOOR, AND THROWS IT OPEN...



AND THEN, LIKE A SURGING TIDE, THEY ARE UPON HIM--SWEEPING INTO THE GAS-CHOKED OFFICE AS ONE, CHITTERING AND GIGGLING AS THEY COME...

NO! YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!
THE GAS WILL DRIVE YOU MAD!

BUT WHAT MATTERS MADNESS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY FELT ITS TERRIBLE TOUCH?

SCREAMING INCOHERENTLY, THE STRUGGLING MILO DISAPPEARS BENEATH A RELENTLESS WAVE OF WRITHING, BABBLING FLESH--

--AND WHEN THE GRIM BATMAN IS AT LAST ABLE TO RE-ENTER THE ROOM TO RESCUE THE HAPLESS PROFESSOR--

--IT IS ALREADY FAR, FAR TOO LATE!

MILO?

OH... MY... GOD...

MILO!!

BUT THE CREATURE THAT SITS DROOLING ON THE COLD OFFICE FLOOR, HIS PROTECTIVE HELMET SHATTERED, CAN NO LONGER HEAR THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE--

--CAN NO LONGER HEAR ANYTHING, IN FACT, SAVE FOR THE PRIVATE DEMONS WHICH WILL HAUNT HIM FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

By tomorrow, everything will be back to normal here at Arkham-- and, for some, it will be a new beginning...

BUT, FOR OTHERS-- REGRETTABLY, IT IS THE END!

NEXT ISSUE: A JURY ACQUITTED HIM OF MURDER, BUT HE SAYS HE DID KILL THE VICTIM-- TWICE! AND HE'S CHALLENGING BATMAN TO PROVE IT! WHAT IS THE SECRET OF
"DOUBLE JEOPARDY!"? PLUS: BATMAN IN A SPECIAL STORY WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON!

MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON: ORPHANED IN SEPARATE TRAGEDIES WHEN CRIMINALS MURDERED THEIR PARENTS, JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT CRIME AND INJUSTICE AS THE DYNAMIC DUO--

BAT MAN

AND

ROBIN

THE TEEN WONDER

IT'S
BEEN GOOD
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN,
DICK!

YOU
KNOW YOU'RE
ALWAYS WELCOME,
ANY TIME YOU CAN
GET AWAY FROM
YOUR STUDIES AT
HUDSON U.!

AND
YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH I
APPRECIATE
IT, BRUCE--
THANKS!

BRUCE!
BRUCE
WAYNE!

IT BEGINS WITH A FAREWELL--BUT IT DOESN'T
END WITH A GREETING, FOR ALTHOUGH THIS
JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH
A SINGLE STEP, THIS IS A TRAIN RIDE THAT'S AN...

EXPRESS TO NOWHERE

MIKE W. BARR: WRITER

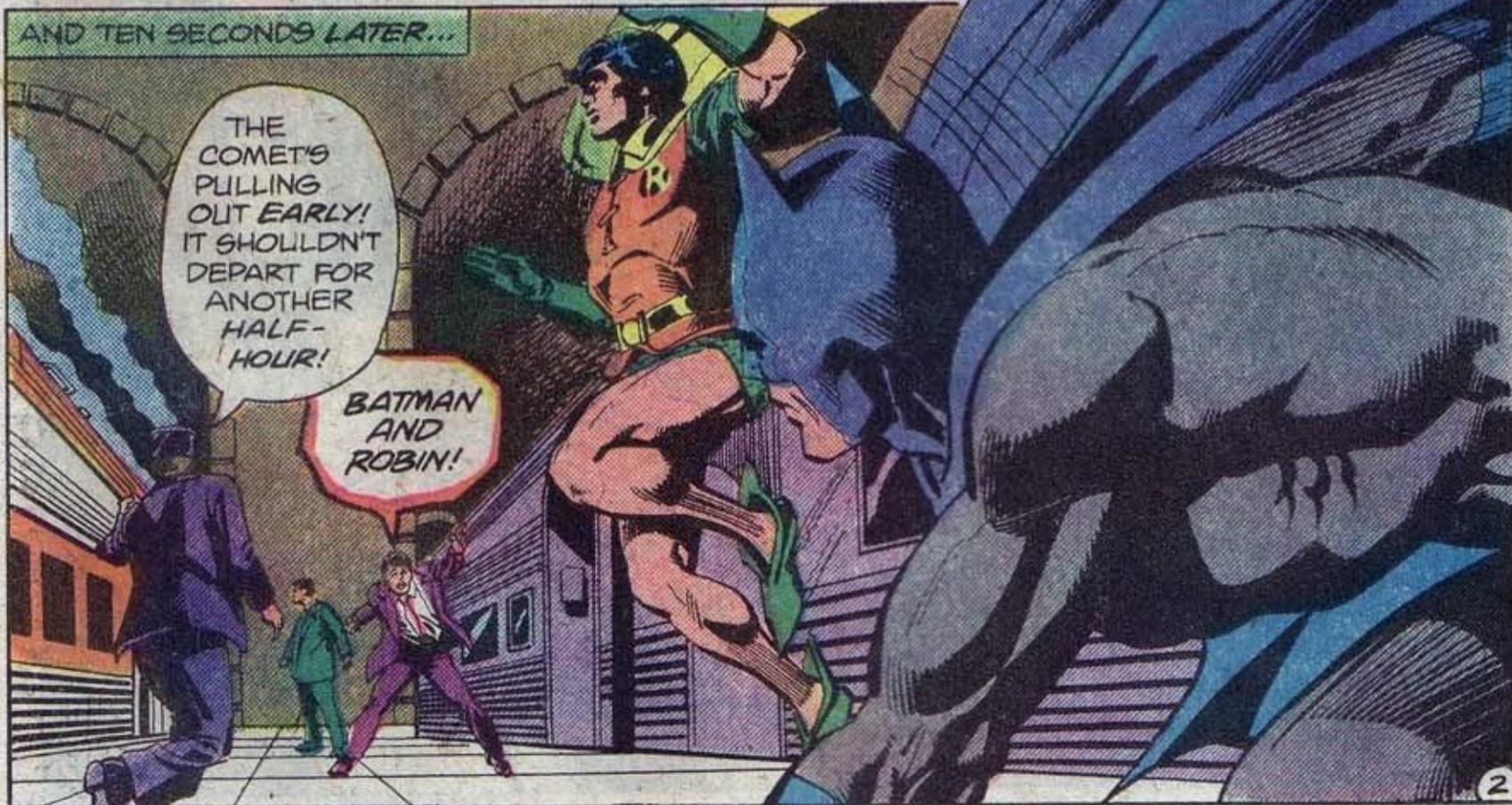
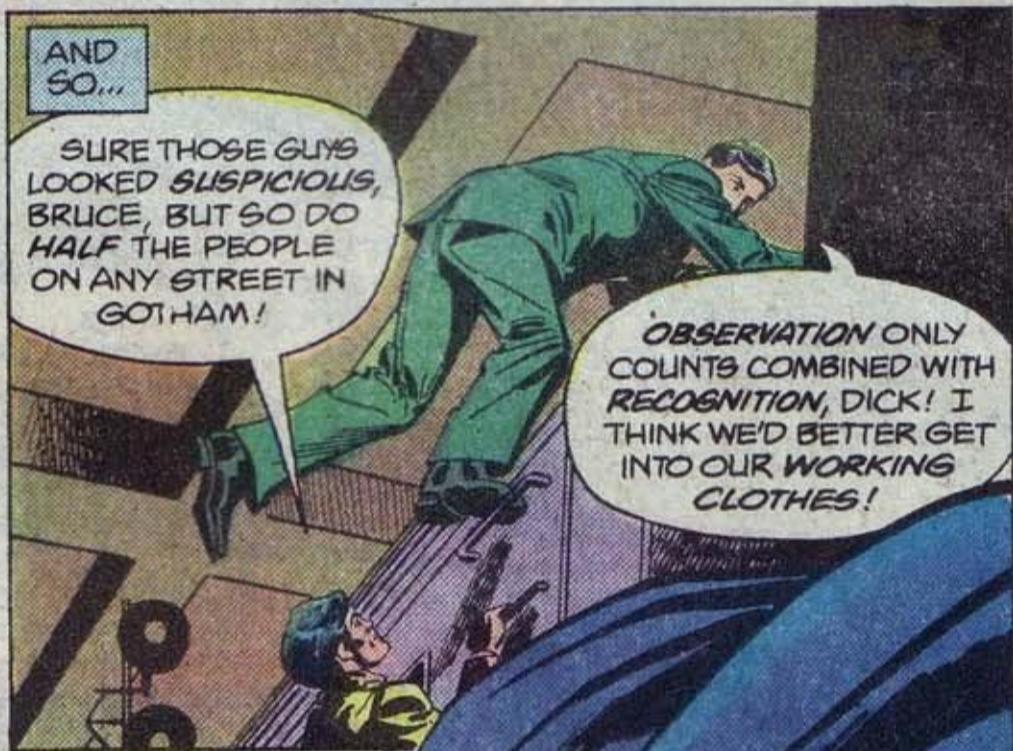
DICK GIORDANO &
STEVE MITCHELL: ARTISTS

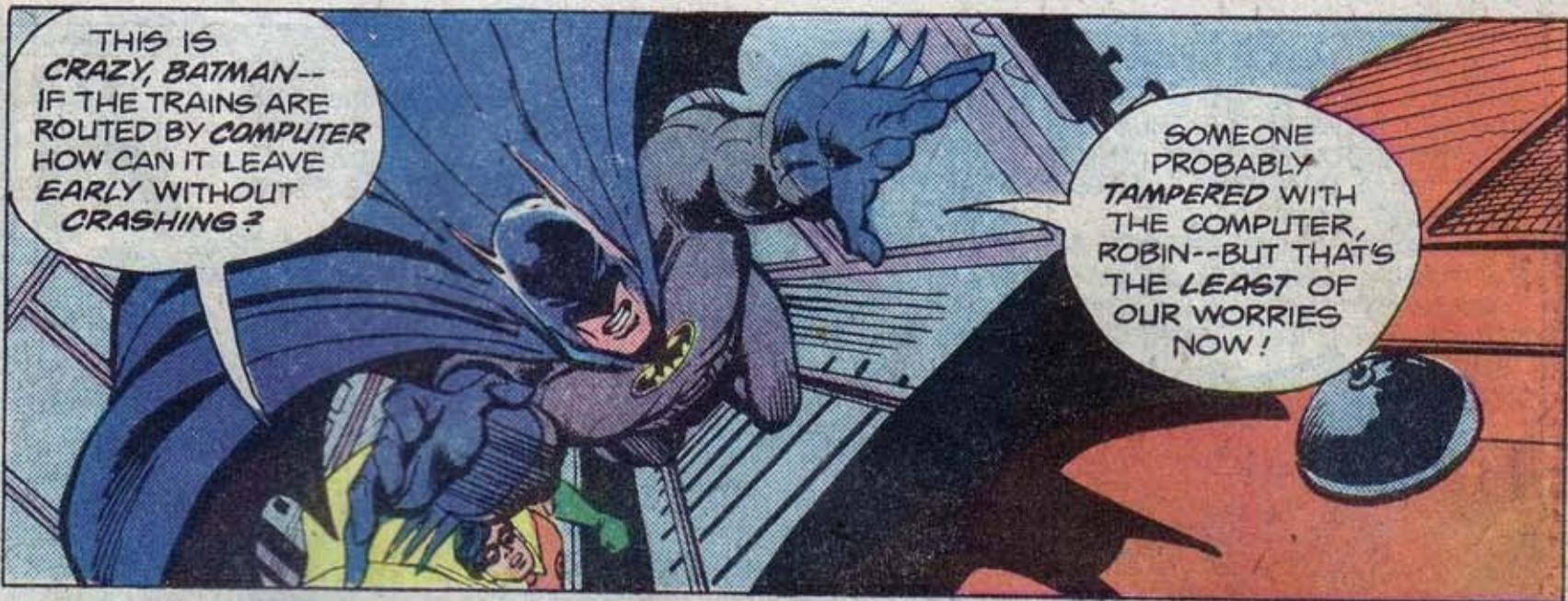
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER

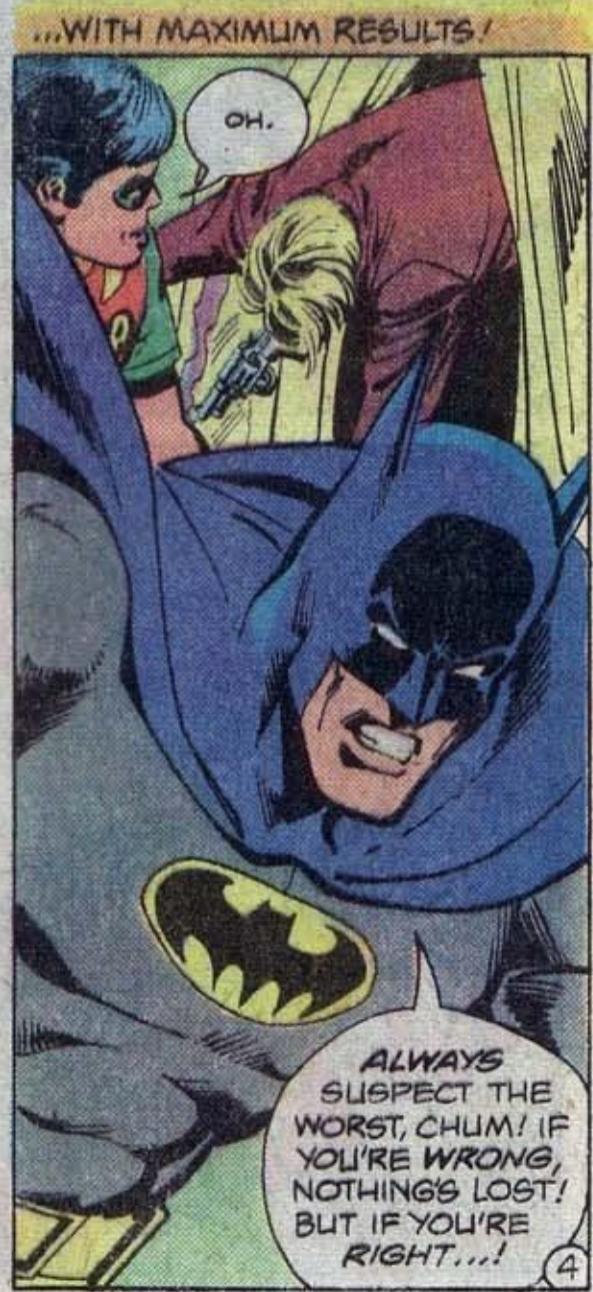
ADRIENNE ROY: COLORIST

PAUL LEVITZ: EDITOR

HELLO, JOHN! DICK, THIS IS JOHN TAGGART, VICE-PRESIDENT OF TAGGART TRAIN LINES! JOHN MY WARD, DICK GRAYSON!







AND AS THE GOTHAM GOLIATHS CHARGE INTO THE NEXT CAR...

I LOST MY GUN BACK THERE--BUT THAT DON'T STOP YOU FROM TAKIN' THE BIG FALL!



ROBIN! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

RIGHT, BATMAN!

TOO LATE, BATMAN! THAT CANARY CAN'T FLY WITHOUT WINGS! HE'LL BE UNRECOGNIZABLE WHEN HE HITS GROUND --UHHH!



YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE KILLED THE GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, PLUNK--

--BUT ROBINS CAN FLY, TOO!!

STEP ONE--
LASSO AN OBLIGING RAILROAD TIE!

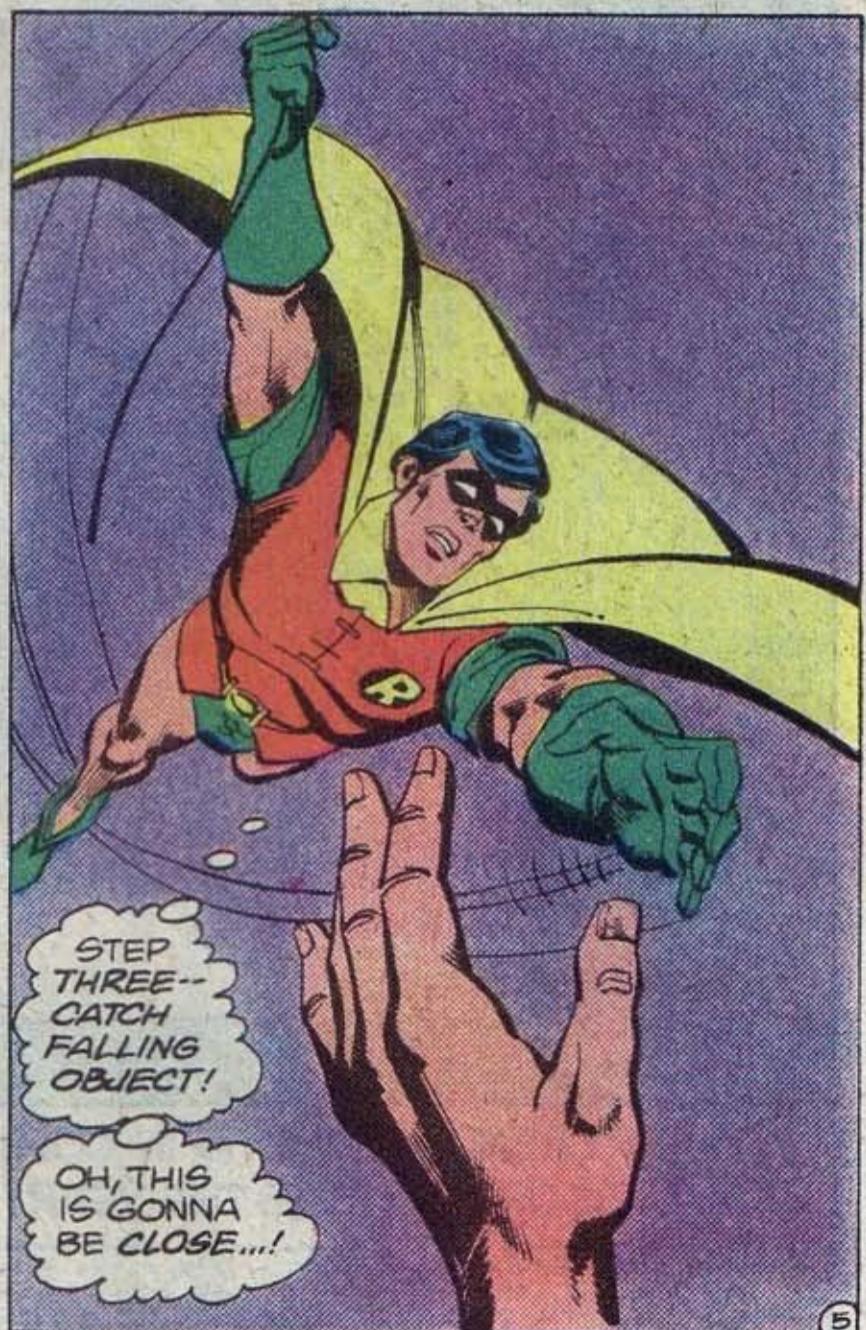


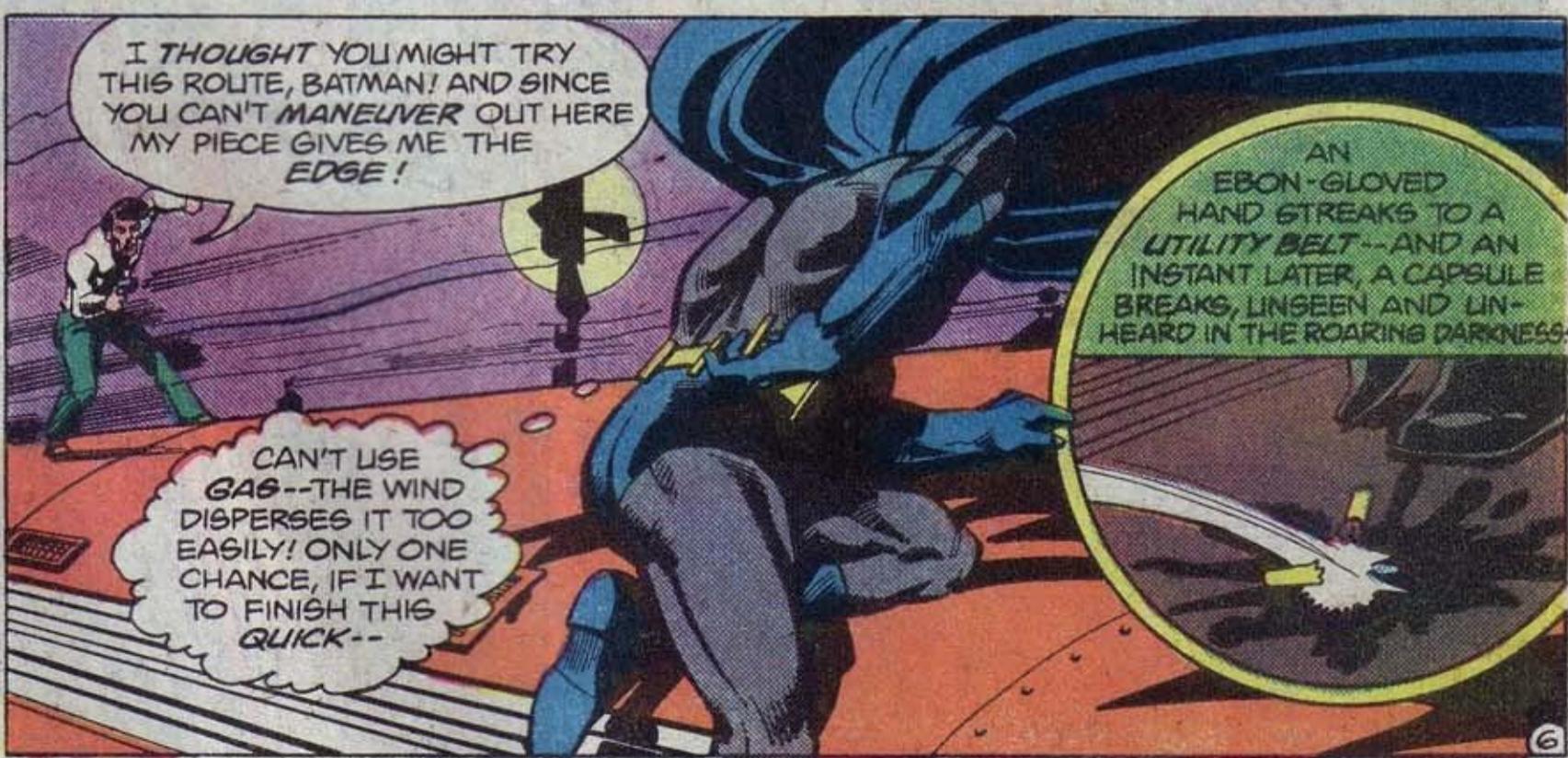
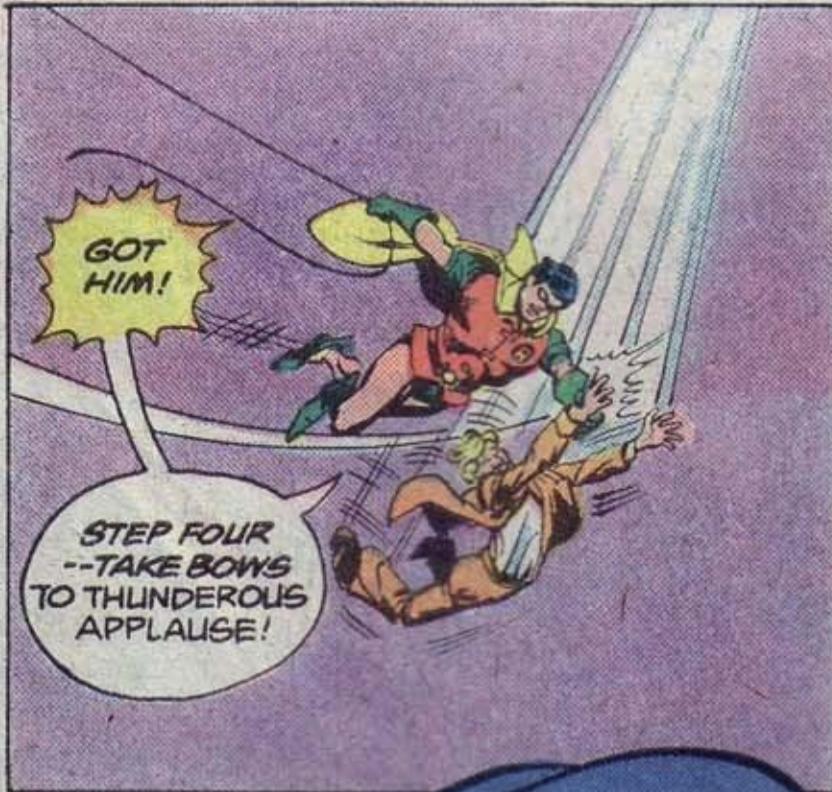
STEP TWO--
USE THE TRAIN'S MOMENTUM TO SWING IN A LONG ARC TOWARD FALLING OBJECT...

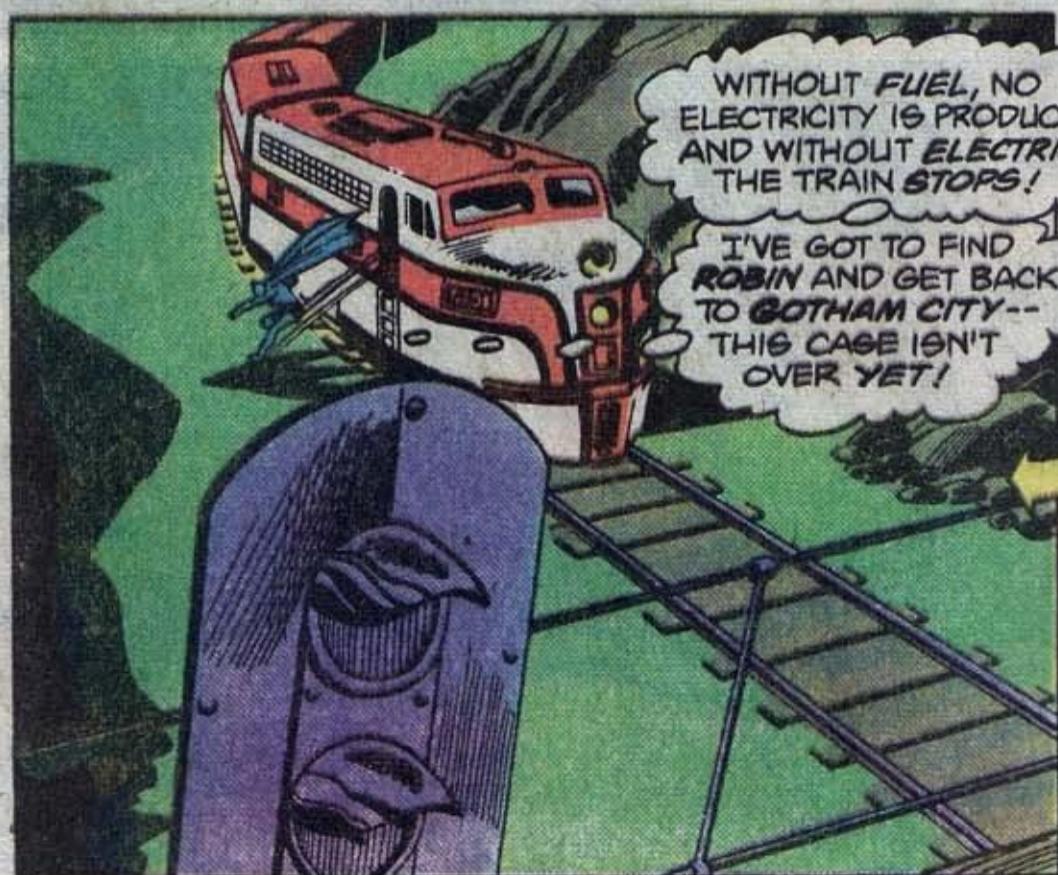
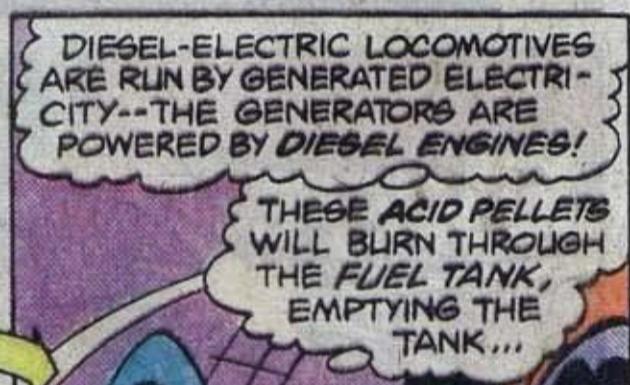
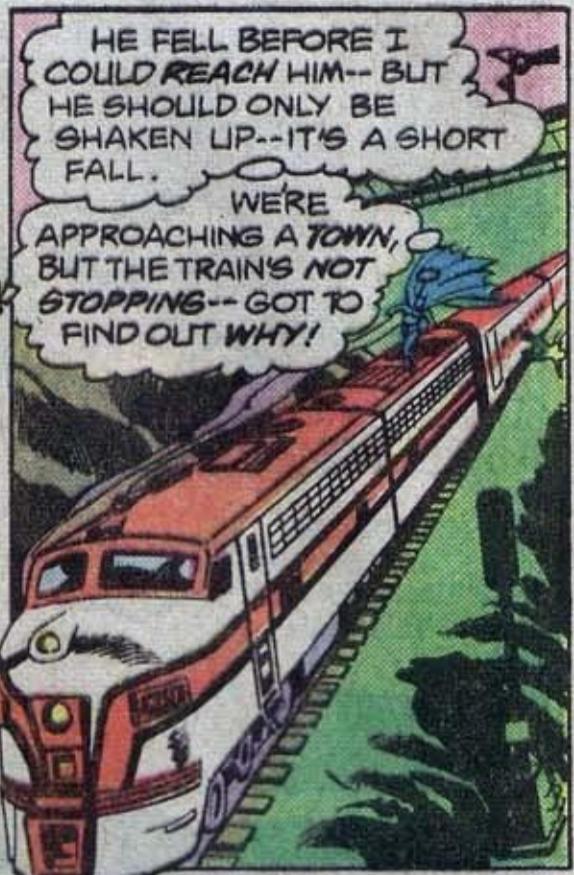


STEP THREE--
CATCH FALLING OBJECT!

OH, THIS IS GONNA BE CLOSE....!







LATER IN GOTHAM CITY DEPOT, AFTER "CANARY" CARSON HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES...

HEY, BATMAN!
HOW ABOUT A PICTURE
WITH MR. TAGGART?

CERTAINLY,
BOYS! GLAD TO
OBLIGE!

HUH?
POSING FOR THE
NEWSPAPERS?
THAT'S NOT LIKE
BATMAN!

THAT POSE IS FINE,
BATMAN!

SUIT YOURSELVES,
BOYS! THIS IS ALL
I WANTED!

MY
COMPUTER
CONTROLLER
--NO!

YES, TAGGART! I
WONDERED HOW THE
COMET COULD LEAVE
AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
WITHOUT COLLIDING
WITH ANY OTHER TRAINS!

ONLY YOU, AT THE SCENE,
COULD HAVE RESCHEDULED
THE TRAIN WITH YOUR POCKET
COMPUTER CONSOLE!

N-NO!
I DENY
EVERYTHING!

YOUR THUGS WILL TESTIFY TO
SAVE THEIR OWN SKINS--AND
THAT WILL BE EVIDENCE ENOUGH!

YOU SOLD OUT THE GOVERN-
MENT'S SCHEME FOR MONEY,
TAGGART! ENOUGH TO SAVE
YOUR FAILING BUSINESS?

DON'T
MAKE ME
LAUGH!

GET
AWAY!
GET
AWAY,
OR
I'LL--

UNHHH

AND
NOT
LONG
AFTER...

HE THOUGHT HE
WAS CLEVER--BUT
YOU REALLY ENGINEERED
HIS DEFEAT,
BATMAN!

CUTE,
ROBIN--
BUT
MEANWHILE,
YOUR TRAIN
LEFT WITHOUT
YOU...AND WITH
YOUR
LUGGAGE!

WHAT
A SHOT!
THANKS,
BATMAN!

PUN
YOUR WAY
OUT OF THAT
--WHILE I WARM
UP THE
BATMOBILE!

END



L-569

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Paul:

If I had to think of a good, solid villain to challenge Batman, chances are the first name that came to mind wouldn't be that Down-Under second-stringer Captain Boomerang. But, despite his Flash-affiliation, CB turns up in #322. That's bad, right?

Wrong. I liked #322, and it wasn't just because of my letter in *Bat-Signals*, it was many things. For one, Alfred's sincere inquiry, "Then you will be calling in Master Flash on this one, sir?" You just knew Bruce was going to be cranky over that, even if this was a *BRAVE AND BOLD* story where a Flash appearance would be inevitable. And, in spite of CB's inferiority, the duel of boomerangs between him and Batman was exciting and neatly executed.

Of course, the good Captain was not the true villain of the issue, even with his cover scene. The smoldering Catwoman sub-plot is beginning to catch on fire, and that takes precedence.

Hey, I'm ready for the Catwoman-Batman confrontation, and obviously, Paul, so are you. Let me have it!

Mark Lagasse
RD #1, Box 116
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Ready and done, Mark, as you've seen in the past few issues. Now we're setting our sights on new confrontations, which begin in this very issue. And, also beginning in this issue, is a new format, as we add an additional story to give each BATMAN 25 pages of new comics excitement. Sometimes it'll be a second Batman tale, or Batman and Robin like this month, sometimes a surprise...which with any luck, you'll find just as good (or even better than) the lead features we've run this past year!—PL.

* * * *

Dear Len,

Of all the comic book characters around, including Marvel's, Batman has always been my favorite. Yet, I hate to tell you this, but I didn't enjoy *BATMAN* #322.

I think the worst part was when Capt. Boomerang cut the newspaper van in two with his...uh...boomerang?? After seeing that I just couldn't enjoy the story. It was too silly.

I was wondering what stupid thing will happen next, and sure enough, there's a giant boomerang, then Batman trying to karate chop a boomerang thrown at him, then a boomerang-batarang duel. How can you do this to me!

I know the Batman has done some pretty weird things over the years, but I've always stuck with him. I know what the right writer and artist can do with him. How about giving me a little better Batman story next time?

William E. Torbett
1615 State Route 41 N.E.
Washington C.H., OH 43160

There's a tendency with a guest villain to carry over some of the flavor of comic where the villain usually appears, and we might have let some of Flash's fantasy-action slip in where it doesn't belong. Sorry.—PL.

* * * *

Dear Editor:

"Chaos—Coming and Going" could have been entitled The Captain and the Catwoman, as these two were the main

players in the story. I knew that the Catwoman sub-plot was coming to a climax, but I would never have predicted that her death was in the forecast.

Hopefully, Selina will be able to get her hands on a cure, because she is one character worth keeping around. The novelty of the story was provided by Captain Boomerang's motive for visiting Gotham: instead of planning a massive crime spree, he came strictly on business. It is kind of hard to imagine a super-villain planning his "legal" retirement.

The boomerang death-trap, although seen many times before in *THE FLASH*, was nice in that Batman had to escape it without any super-powers. A great thanks must go to Len for #322, and Novick and Colletta did a very fine job with the art.

Kent A. Phenix
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We try to create a world in which anything is possible, Kent, from super-villains retiring to dying; or even being acquitted of their crimes. Marv Wolfman's debut as a Batman writer next month is marked by just such a crook, who adds insult to injury by writing Batman to say that he's guilty of the crimes he was acquitted of...and there's no way for Batman to prove otherwise! That's "Double Jeopardy" lurking behind a Kubert cover, backed up by the return of the Catwoman.—Paul Levitz

Because our new "fewer ads" policy has also eliminated the Daily Planet, we'll be incorporating a mini-checklist on this page from now on...and all Dollar Comics will include a full Planet listing.

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