



537 | DEC 96

# BATMAN

**...SUDDENLY, THE PREDATOR BECOMES  
THE PREY...**



MOENCH  
JONES  
BEATTY

THE NIGHT  
IS NORMAL  
AGAIN, HOST TO  
NORMAL CRIMES,  
INFESTED WITH  
NORMAL  
CRIMINALS...

# DARKEST NIGHT of the **MAN-BAT**

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TODD KLEIN ANDROID IMAGES JORDAN B. GORFINKEL DENNIS O'NEIL BATMAN CREATED  
LETTERER SEPARATIONS ASSOCIATE EDITOR EDITOR BY BOB KANE

— PART — TWO —  
**PURSUIT**

...HELL'S OWN DARKNESS --  
BUT SOON TO BE BROKEN  
AND BANISHED BY ANOTHER  
DAY OF THE RESTORED SUN.

BUT WILL THE LOOMING  
LIGHT BE TOO LATE FOR A  
CREATURE DRIVEN MAD  
BY ITS ABSENCE?

WHEN THE NIGHT WAS NOT NORMAL,  
WHEN IT THREATENED TO REIGN FOREVER  
... DID IT CONSUME THE MAN-BAT?

THERE WERE TWENTY  
SIGHTINGS OF A  
"BAT-MONSTER"  
DURING THE LONG  
NIGHT...

...BUT NO WORD OR SIGN  
OF THE MAN-BAT SINCE HE  
ESCAPED, VOWING TO  
LEAVE GOTHAM.

AND THE ANTIDOTE--DR.  
KIRK LANGSTROM'S ONLY  
SALVATION FROM HORROR--  
HAS BEEN IN MY BELT FOR  
A WEEK...

...USELESS IF I  
CAN'T FIND HIM.

AND SINCE THE  
LONG NIGHT  
MAY HAVE WRECKED  
HAVOC WITH MAN-  
BAT'S NOCTURNAL  
INSTINCTS...

...I CAN ONLY KEEP  
HOPING FOR SOME  
WORD OF HIS  
WHEREABOUTS...

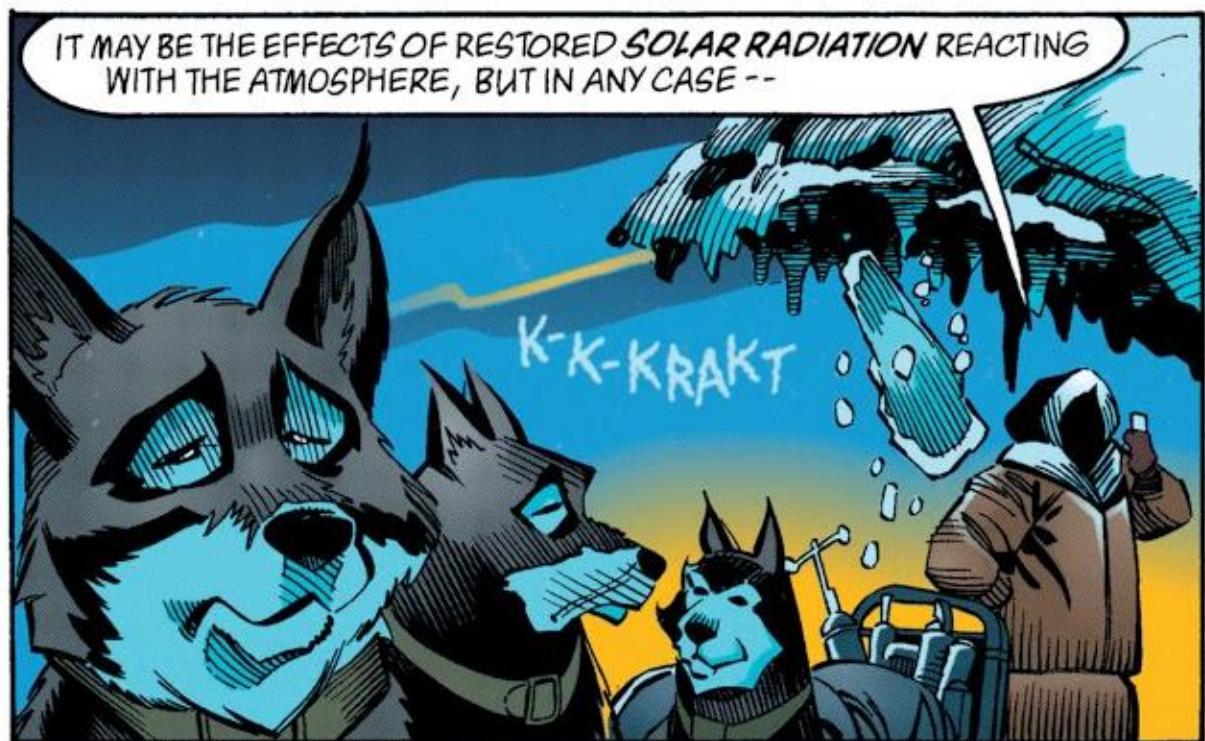
...BY NOW HE COULD BE  
LITERALLY ANYWHERE.

...BECAUSE WHETHER  
MAN, MONSTER, OR  
EVEN DEAD...

--BE NICE  
TO HAVE MORE  
LIGHT...



--"LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN"  
FOR HALF THE YEAR, BUT RIGHT NOW THE  
TAIL-END OF A SIX-MONTH NIGHT-- AND  
SINCE TIME IS MONEY FOR A SECRET  
PROJECT WITH LIMITED FUNDING...



K-K-K-K

K-K-KRAKT

WHAT THE--?

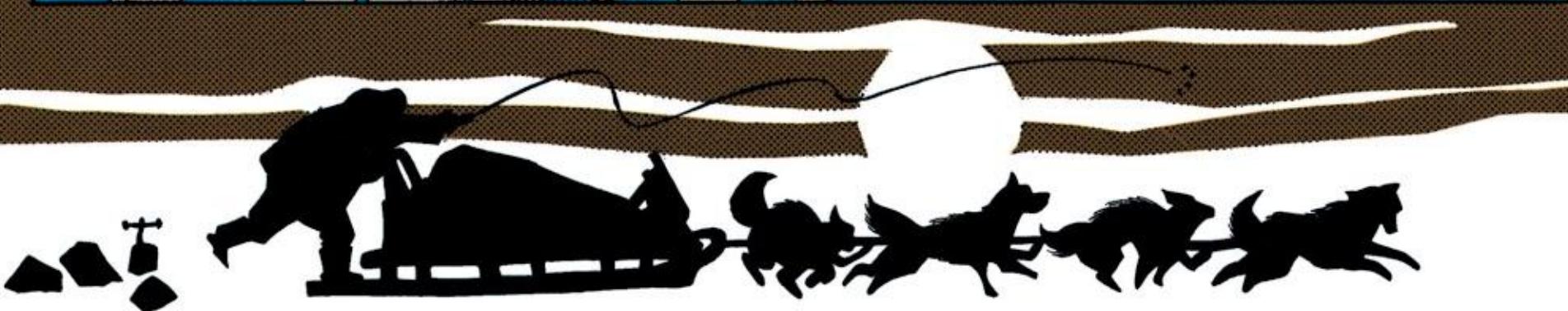
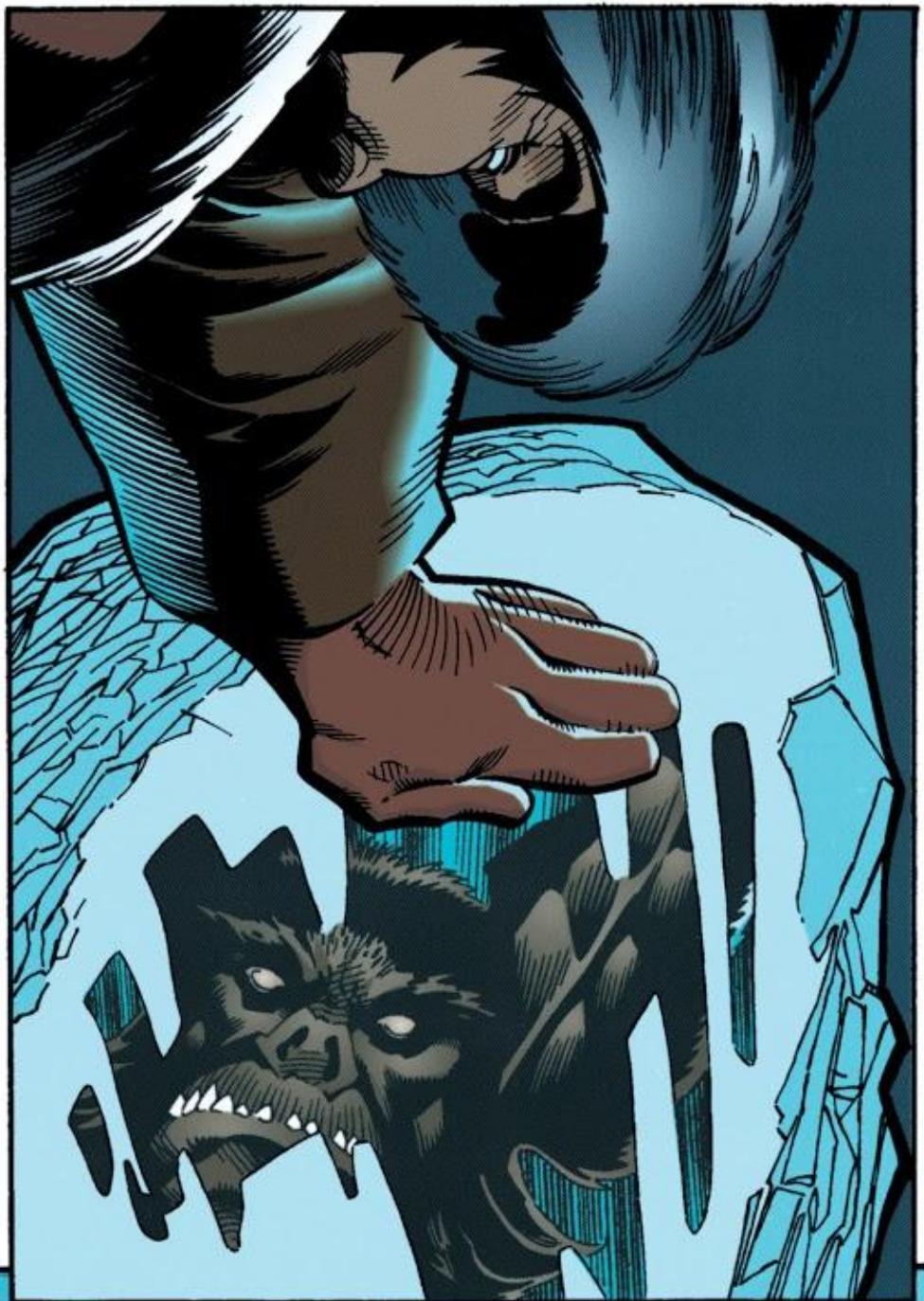
KWUMPH

...ENOUGH TO  
ENSURE A SPEC-  
TACULAR DISPLAY  
OF AURORA  
BOREALIS.

A HUGE ICICLE--CRACKED  
LOOSE BY THE VIBRATIONS OF MY  
VOICE, LIKE A GUNSHOT  
TRIGGERING AN AVALANCHE...

STRANGE LOOK TO IT... ODD SHAPE...  
OPAQUE CORE... ALMOST AS IF THERE'S  
SOMETHING EMBEDDED IN THE  
ICE...

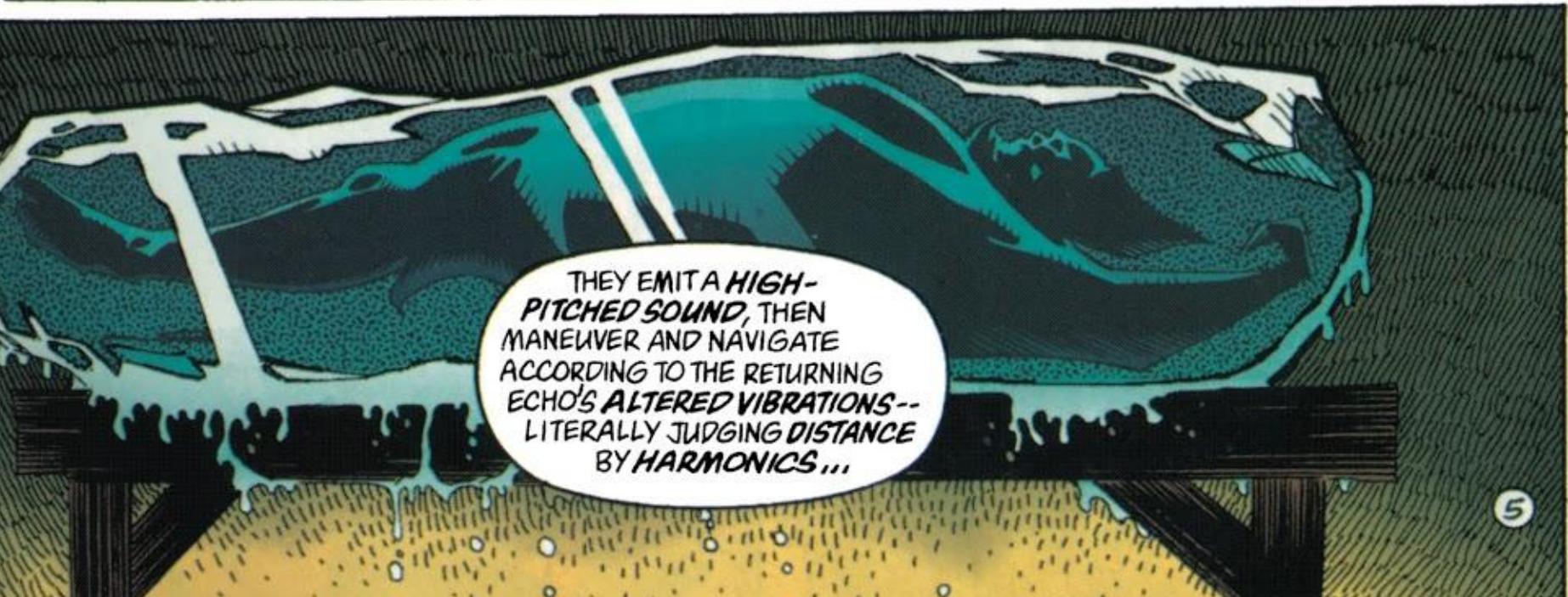
BUT WHAT  
COULD IT--

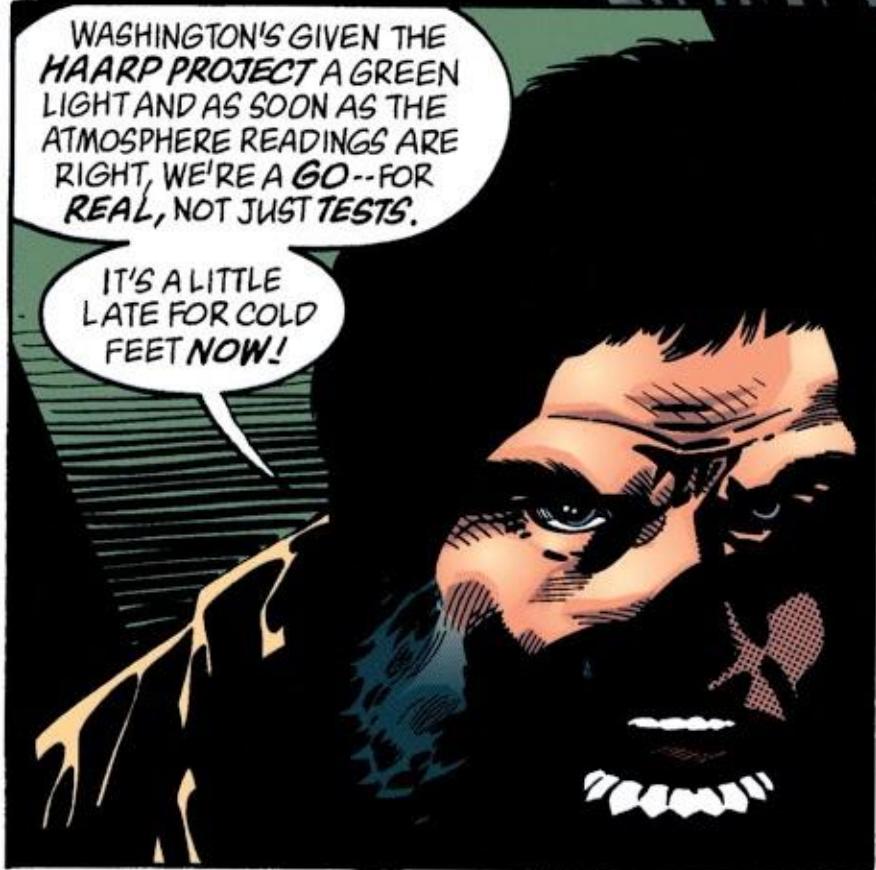
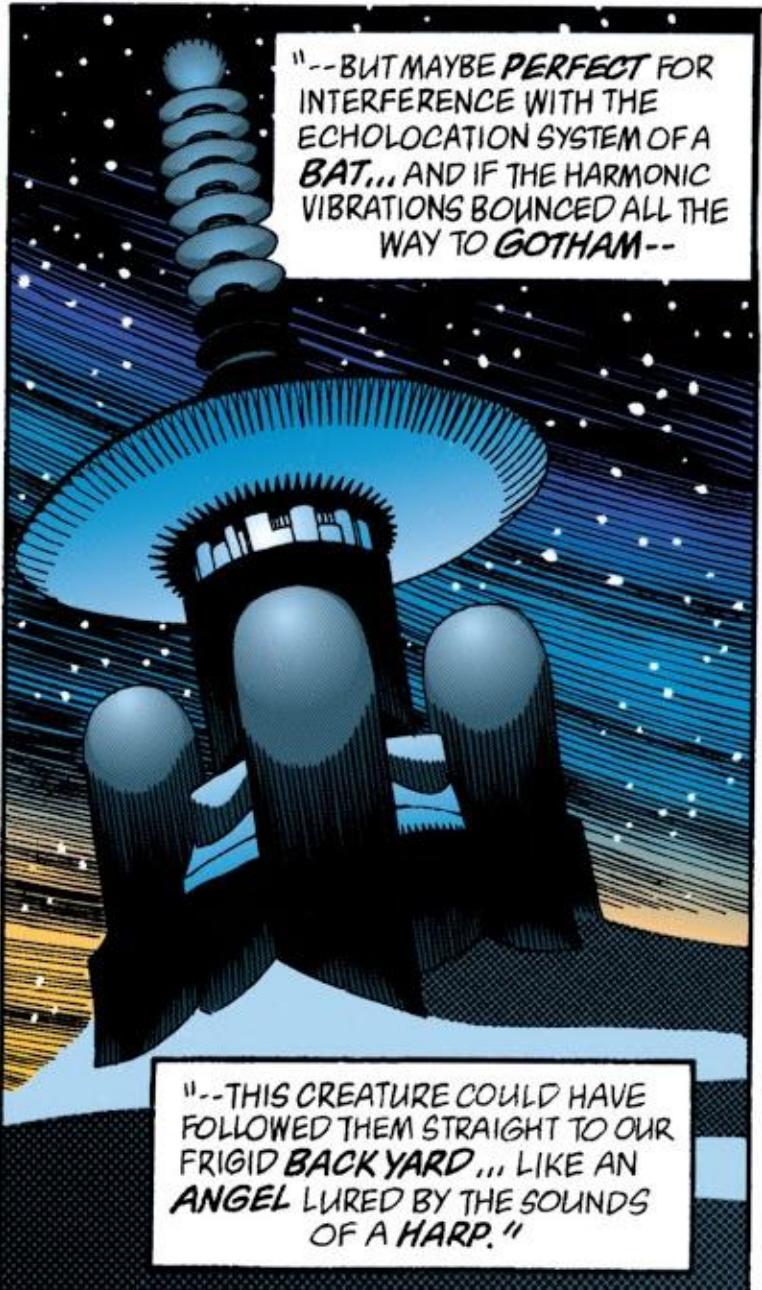


--BE?... OTHER THAN SOME CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL NIGHTMARE!

IT'S CLEARLY NO HOAX,  
SO MAYBE THOSE RUMORS ABOUT  
THE ADMIRAL BYRD EXPEDITION  
WERE TRUE...

YOU MEAN THE STORIES ABOUT  
FINDING AN ARCTIC OPENING TO A LUSH  
HOLLOW EARTH POPULATED BY BIZARRE  
UNKNOWN LIFEFORMS...?

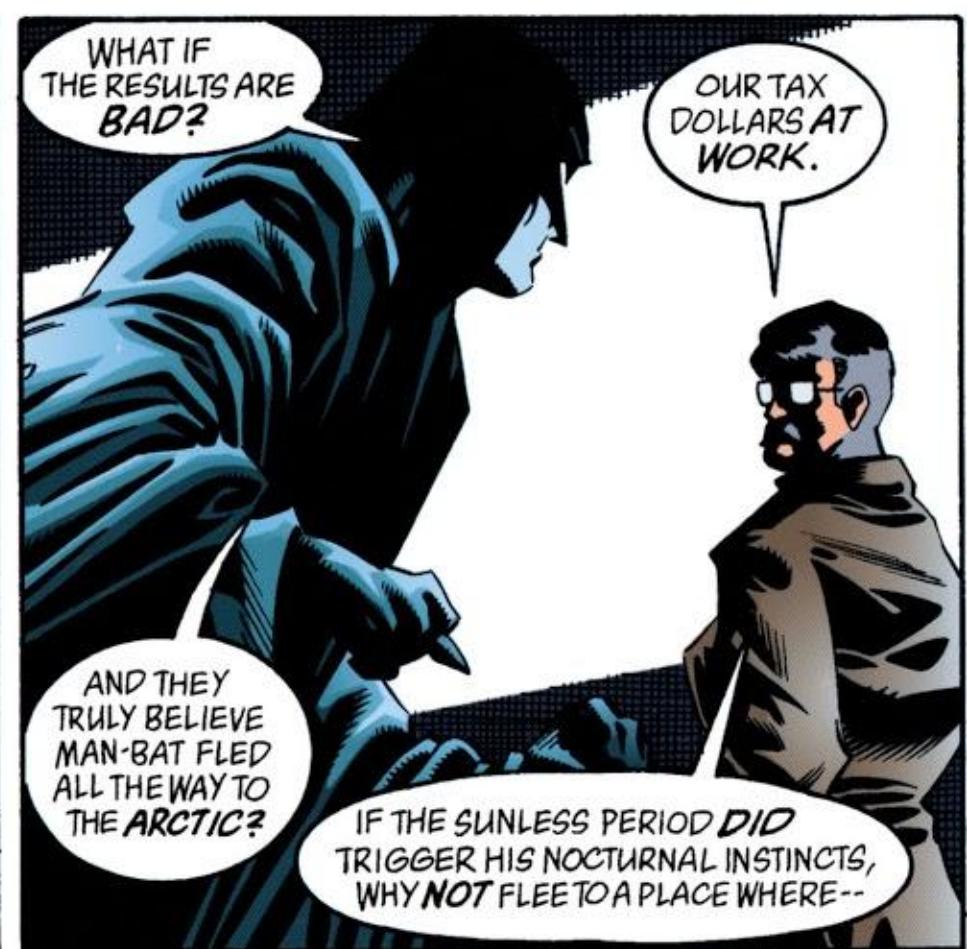
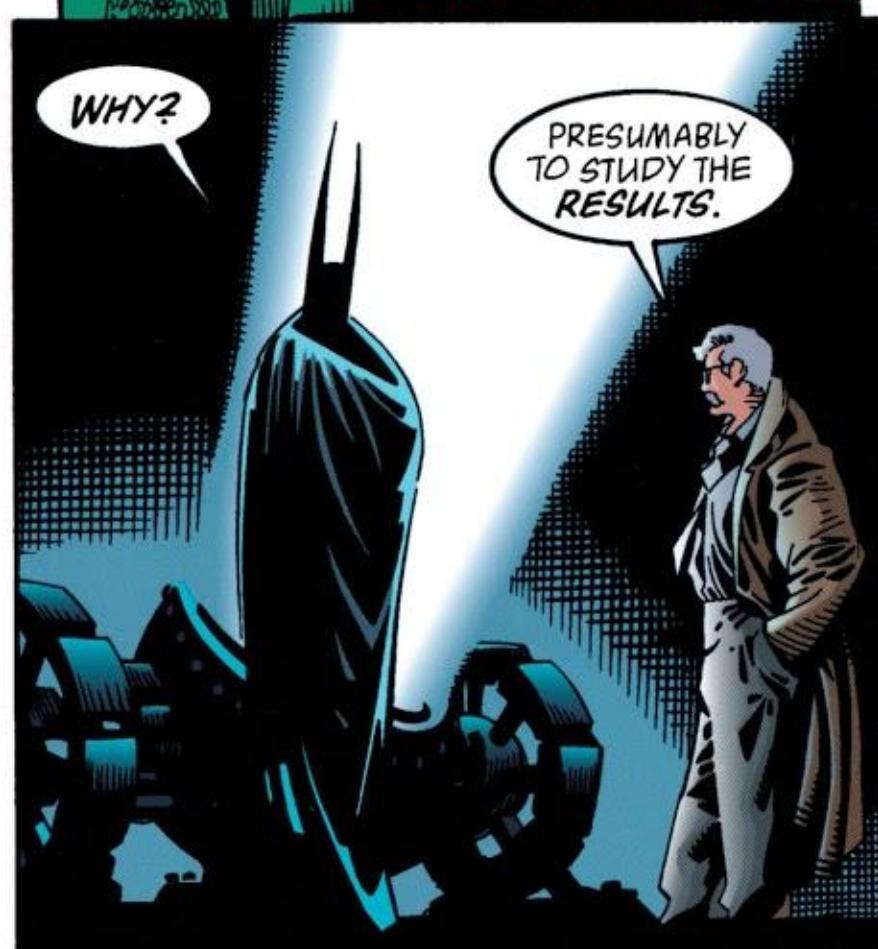














LUCIUS FOX ARGUED THAT THE WAYNECORP JET WAS RESERVED FOR IMPORTANT BUSINESS; I AGREED IN BRUCE WAYNE'S VOICE, AND TOOK IT.



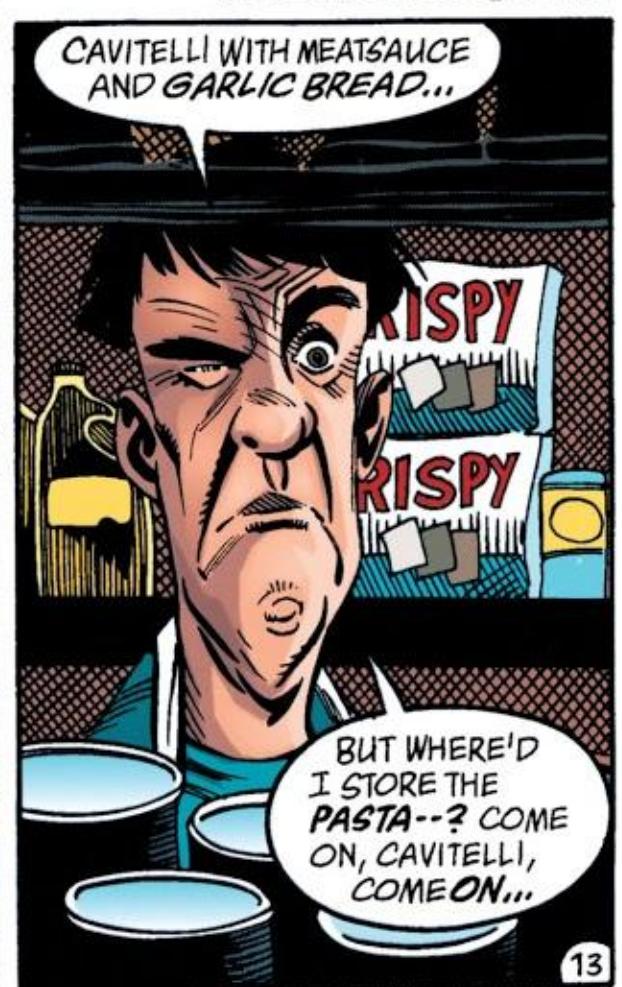
AND FROM THERE, SIR?



TISSUE PALPITATION INDICATES COMPLETE THAW.

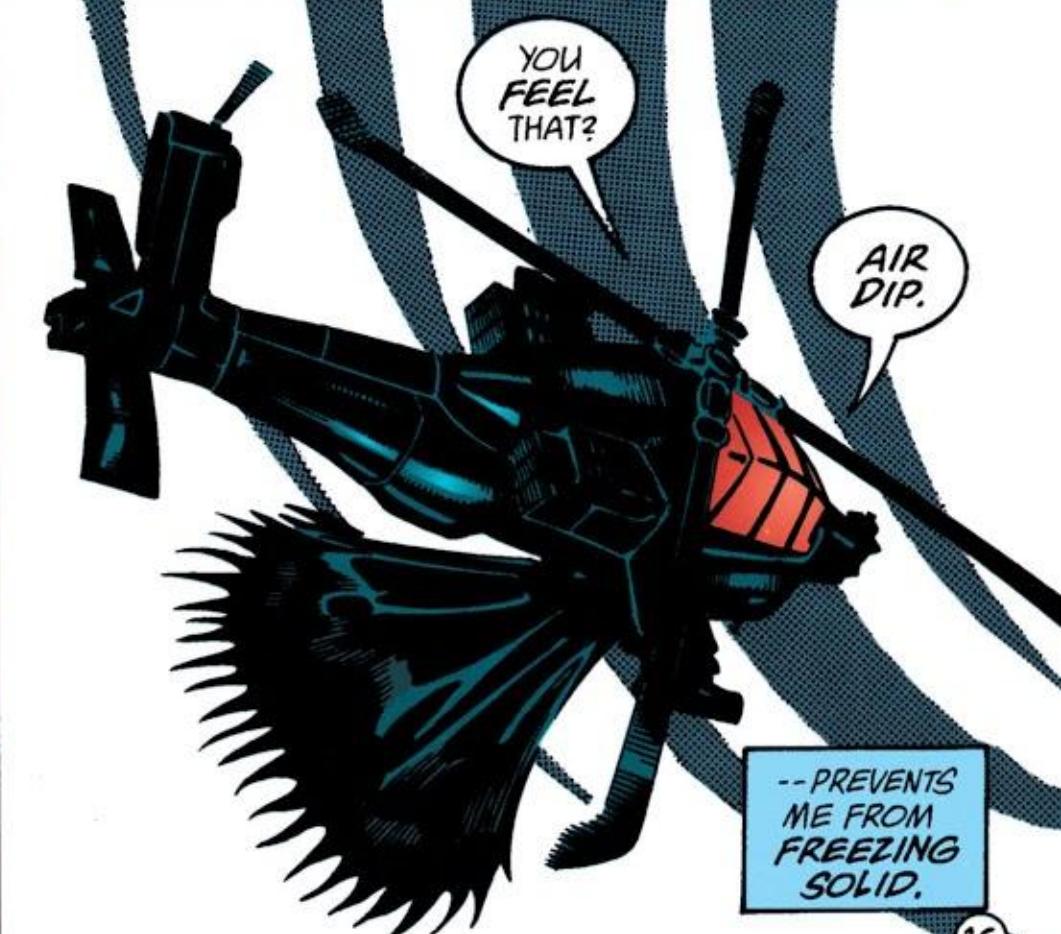












ATMOSPHERIC READINGS JUST HIT OPTIMUM,  
TRASK--ELECTROMAGNETIC LEVELS WELL BEYOND  
AURORA BOREALIS CONDITIONS.

IT'S TIME  
TO FLIP THE  
SWITCH FOR  
REAL.

ALL RIGHT--YOU GO  
OUT AND STOKE YOUR  
GIZMO, HESSLER, WHILE  
I SCARE UP THE OTHERS.

BALDINI--! JENKS! WHAT THE  
DEVIL HAPPENED IN HERE?!

IT... IT'S  
ALIVE, TRASK...  
THE B-BAT  
CREATURE IS  
ALIVE!

STEINMAN--  
ON THE DOUBLE!  
AND GRAB A  
WEAPON!

Y-YOU'VE... GOT  
TO... ST-STOP IT!

MMMMMM! MMM!

PERFECT  
CONDITIONS--  
PULSE INJECTOR'S  
READY...

WHAT'S  
KEEPING  
THEM?

WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

"WASHINGTON MUST'VE  
MADE A LAST-MINUTE  
DECISION TO SEND  
OBSERVERS."

EH?

SOUNDS  
LIKE A  
CHOPPER...

ALL RIGHT,  
CHECK YOUR  
WEAPONS.

MONSTER  
HUNT'S ABOUT  
TO COMMENCE.







THE TROUBLE-SHOOTERS --  
FROM FRYING PAN  
TO FREEZING FIRE.





NEXT ISSUE:  
THE LITERALLY  
SHOCKING CONCLUSION--  
**PREDEMPTION**





**novus**  
Distributions