



NO. 285
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BATMAN

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**BEAR-DEMON...
I SUMMON YOU
FROM THE
NETHER WORLD--**

--TO DESTROY
THE PREY I HOLD
FOR YOU--
THE BATMAN!



BATMAN

BY THIS YOU WILL
REMEMBER ME,
BATMAN--

--WHEN YOU
MOST WANT
TO FORGET!

GRANTED... THE
BATMAN IS A SUPER-
LATIVE CRIMEFIGHTER--
BRILLIANTLY TRAINED
AND LEARNED... ENDOWED
WITH GENIUS!

THE QUESTION IS
--WHAT GOOD
DOES ALL THIS
DO HIM WHEN HIS
ADVERSARY IS
DR. TZIN-TZIN:
DIABOLIST,
SORCERER, AND
MASTER OF
INFERNAL MAGIC!

AND THIS TIME -- TO QUOTE THE
EVIL DOCTOR -- THE STAKES ARE
"INFINITELY PRECIOUS AND
IRREPLACEABLE!"

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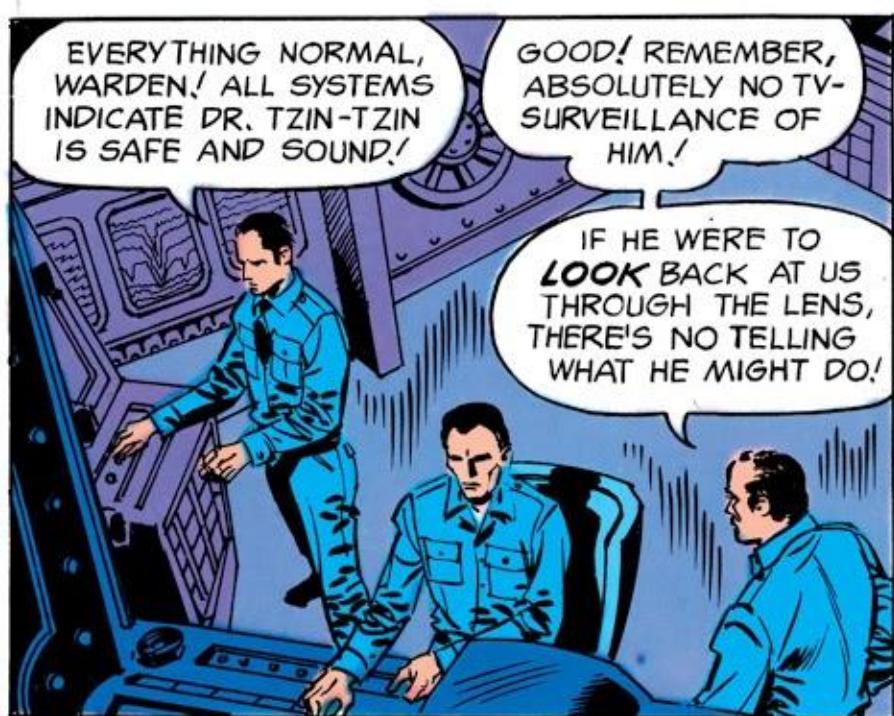
ROMEO TANGHAL,
FRANK SPRINGER,
Artists

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"The Mystery of Christmas Lost!"



December 23, 1976
The Malevolent Tzin-Tzin has been a prisoner for six days... in a specially monitored cell... completely insulated from all human contact.



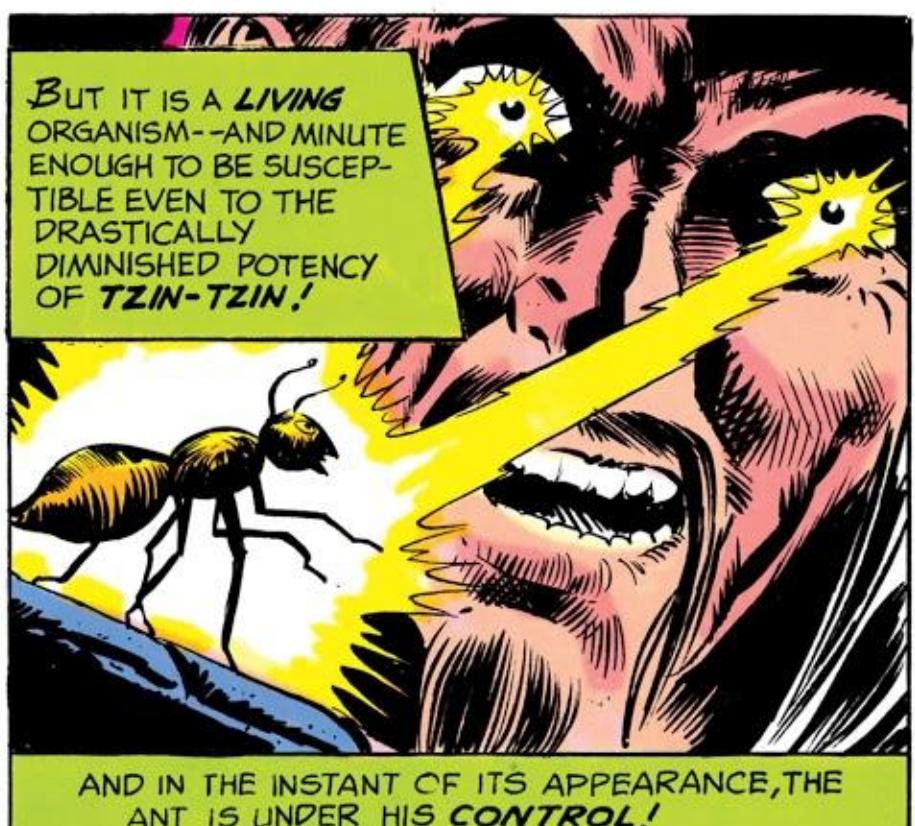
FOR SIX DAYS, THE DIABOLICAL WIZARD HAS BEEN KEPT FROM MOBILIZING THE FULL STRENGTH OF HIS ASTONISHING POWERS BY A RANDOM SERIES OF LIGHTS AND SOUNDS--



-- STIMULI JUST SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT THE COMPLETE CONCENTRATION OF MIND FROM WHICH HE GATHERS THE TSAL OR ENERGY FOR HIS MAGICAL PROWESS!

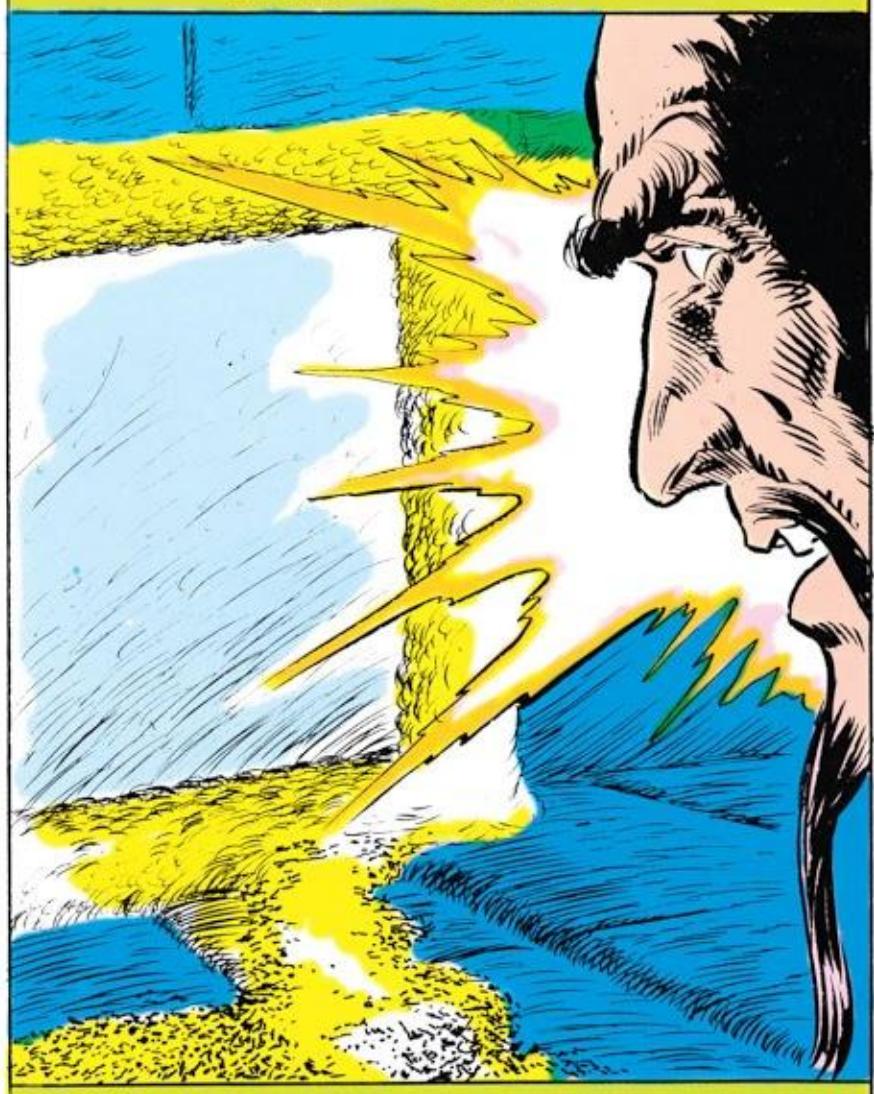


-- AN ANT HAS SOMEHOW FOUND A CREVICE INTO DR. TZIN TZIN'S CELL... A NOT UNCOMMON ANT... *SOLENOPSIS MOLESTA*--THE YELLOW-GOLDEN "THIEF" ANT!



AND IN THE INSTANT OF ITS APPEARANCE, THE ANT IS UNDER HIS CONTROL!

THE ANT SCURRIES AWAY...TO RETURN WITHIN MOMENTS -- LEADING A HORDE--A GOLDEN RIVER OF ANTS!



AND EACH ANT IN THAT MULTITUDE -- EACH TINY INDIVIDUAL, INSTINCTIVELY DISCIPLINED AND INTELLIGENT-- KNOWS EXACTLY ITS PLACE AND ITS FUNCTION!



A FULL COMPLEMENT OF GUARDS CHARGES THE PRISON YARD-- RIOT GUNS AT THE READY!

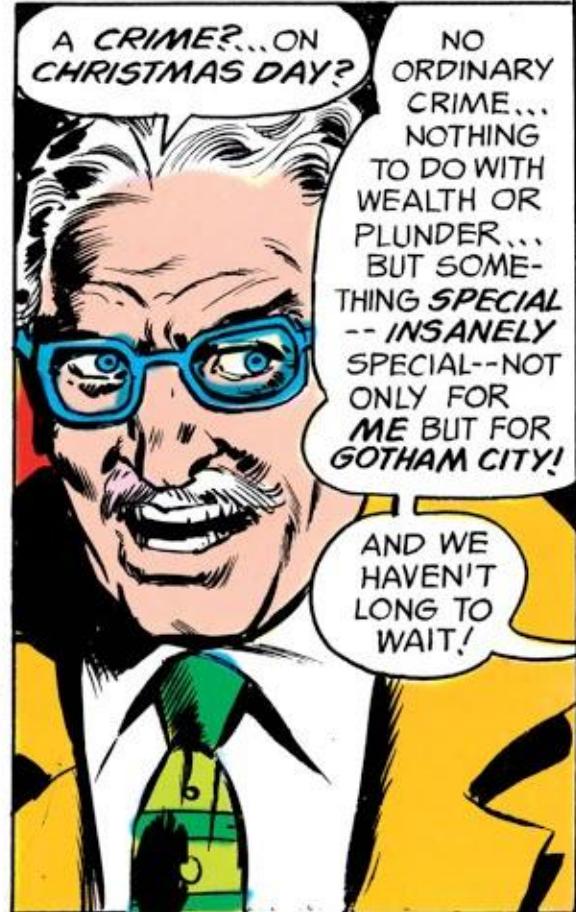
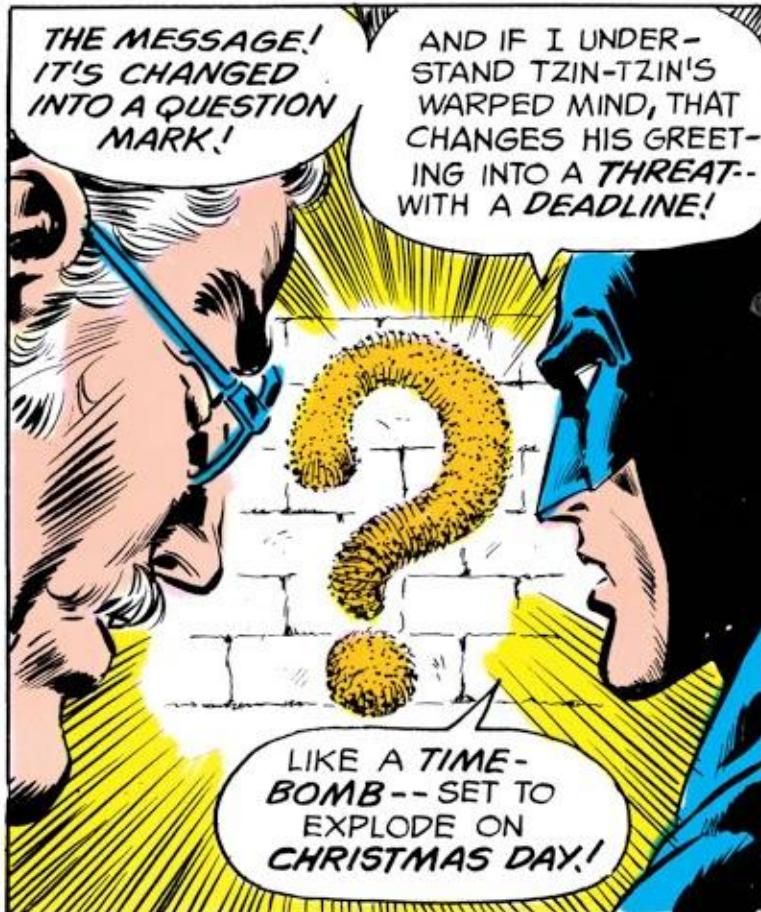
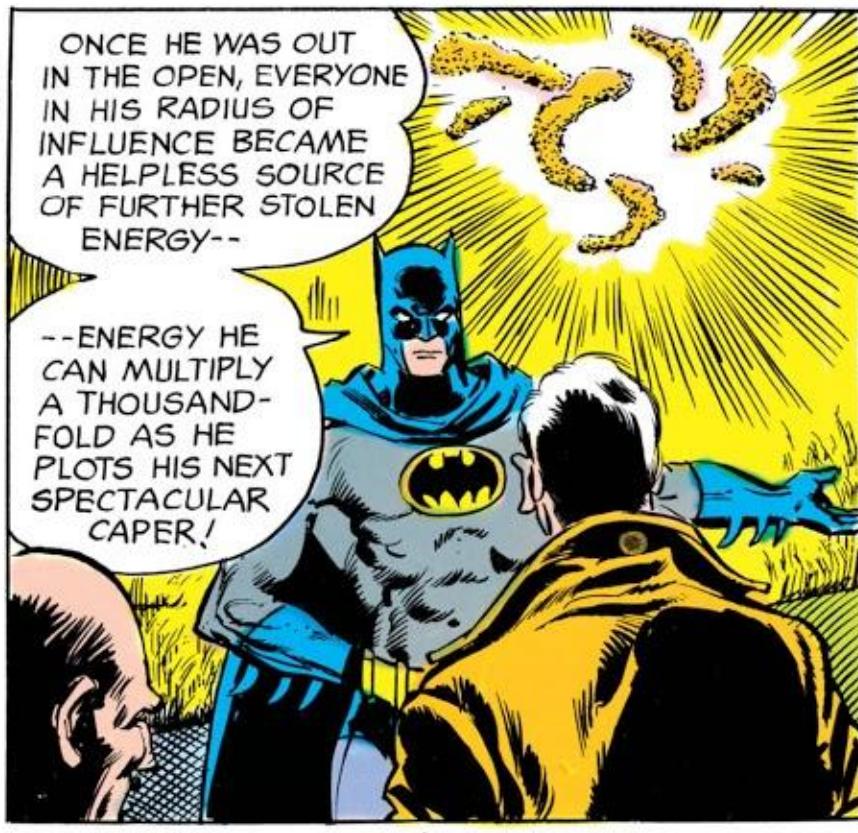


BUT THE NEXT INCREDIBLE MOMENT...

AND TO THE ROAR OF A GUN SALUTE--DR.TZIN-TZIN EXITS IN A STYLE BEFITTING THE MYSTIC MASTER OF TIBET!



IT IS LATER. SUMMONED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, THE BATMAN GRIMLY SURVEYS THE REMARKABLE SCENE IN THE CELL LATELY OCCUPIED BY TZIN-TZIN -- A TESTIMONIAL TO THE WIZARD'S ENDLESS RESOURCEFULNESS...

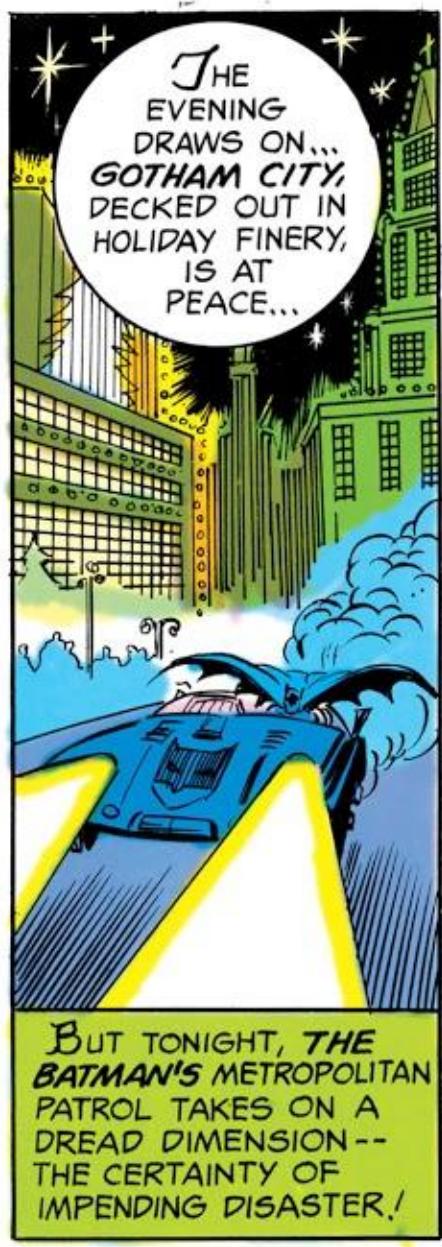


ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN-- HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! IN HIS SECRET AERIE, DR. TZIN-TZIN IS ALREADY DEEP IN HIS DEMONIST RITES...

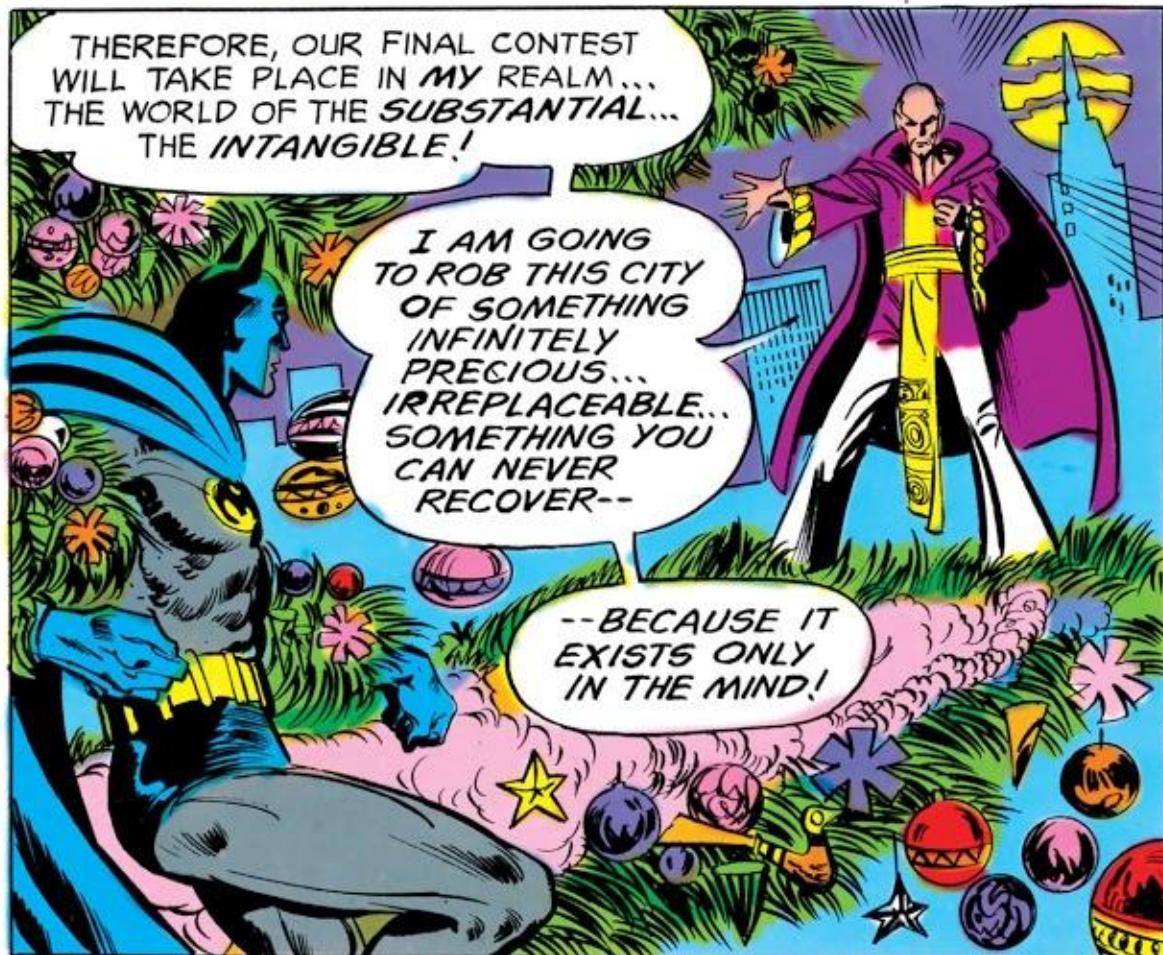
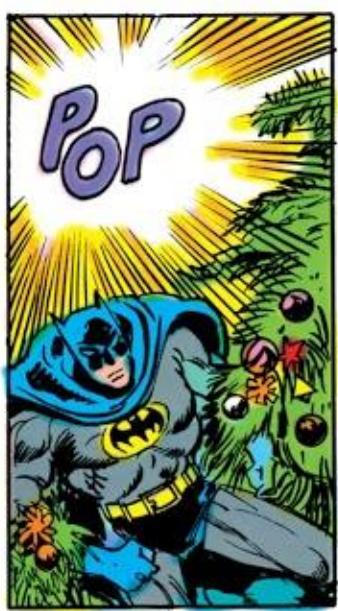
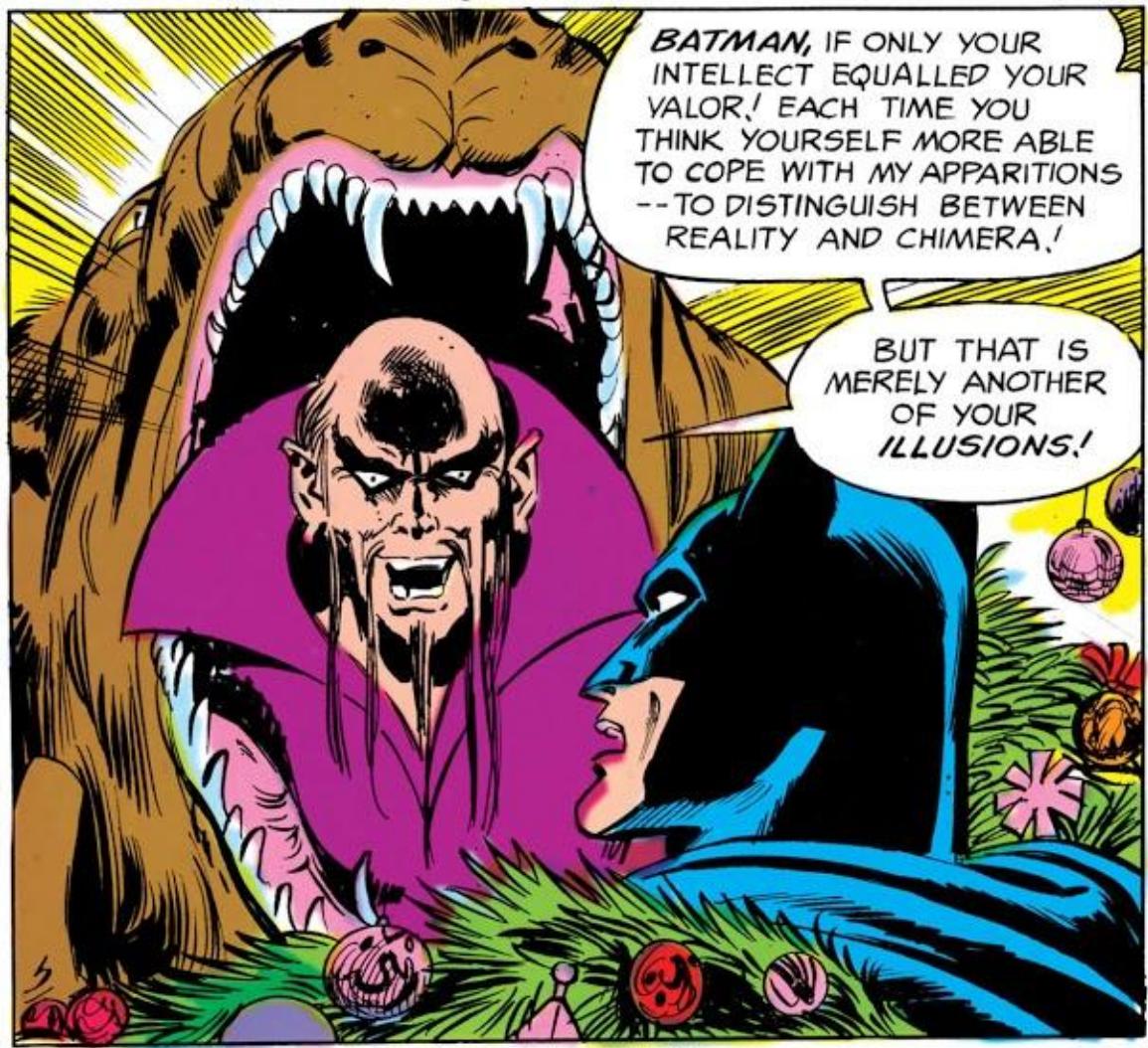


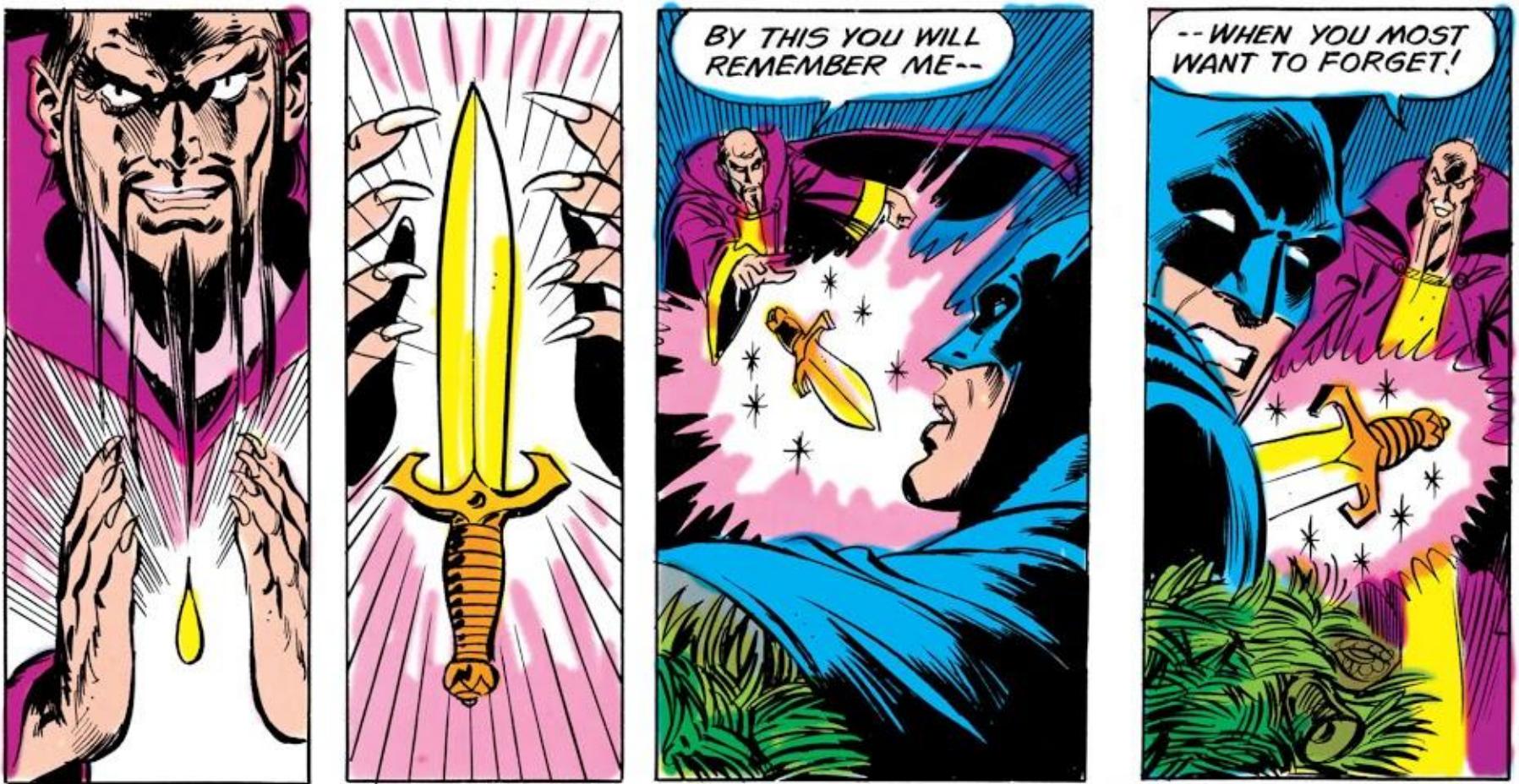
AS SWIFTLY AS IT APPEARED-- THE INVOKED SPIRIT IS VANISHED!

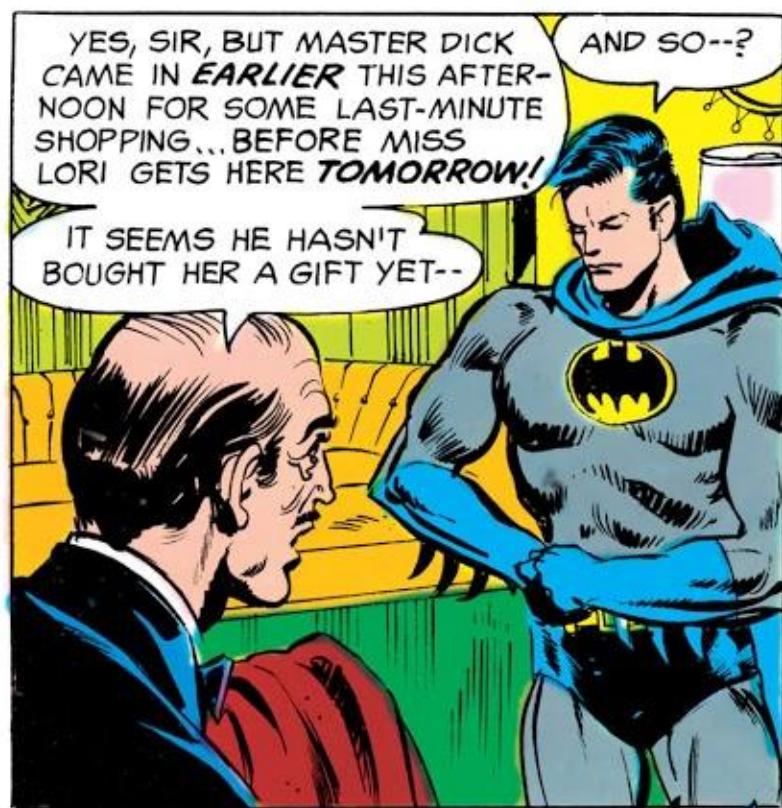


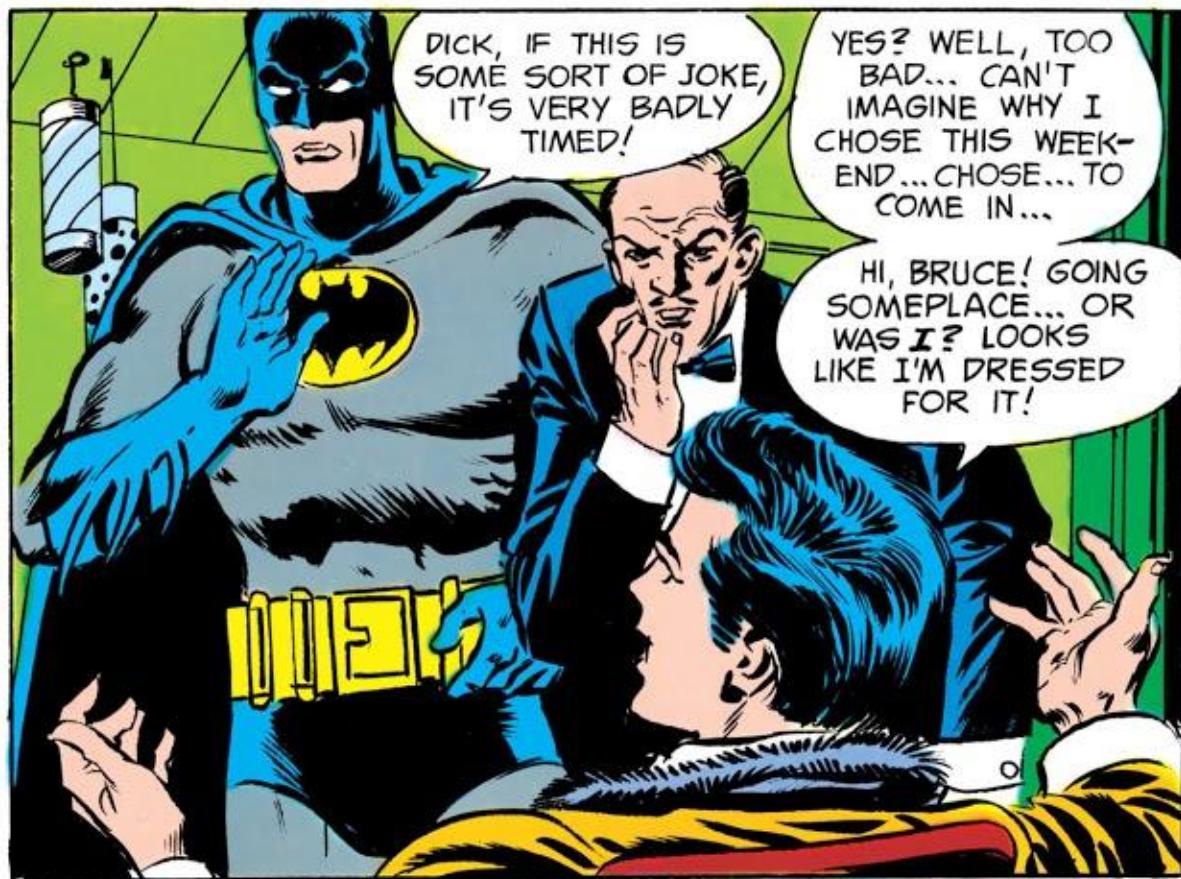


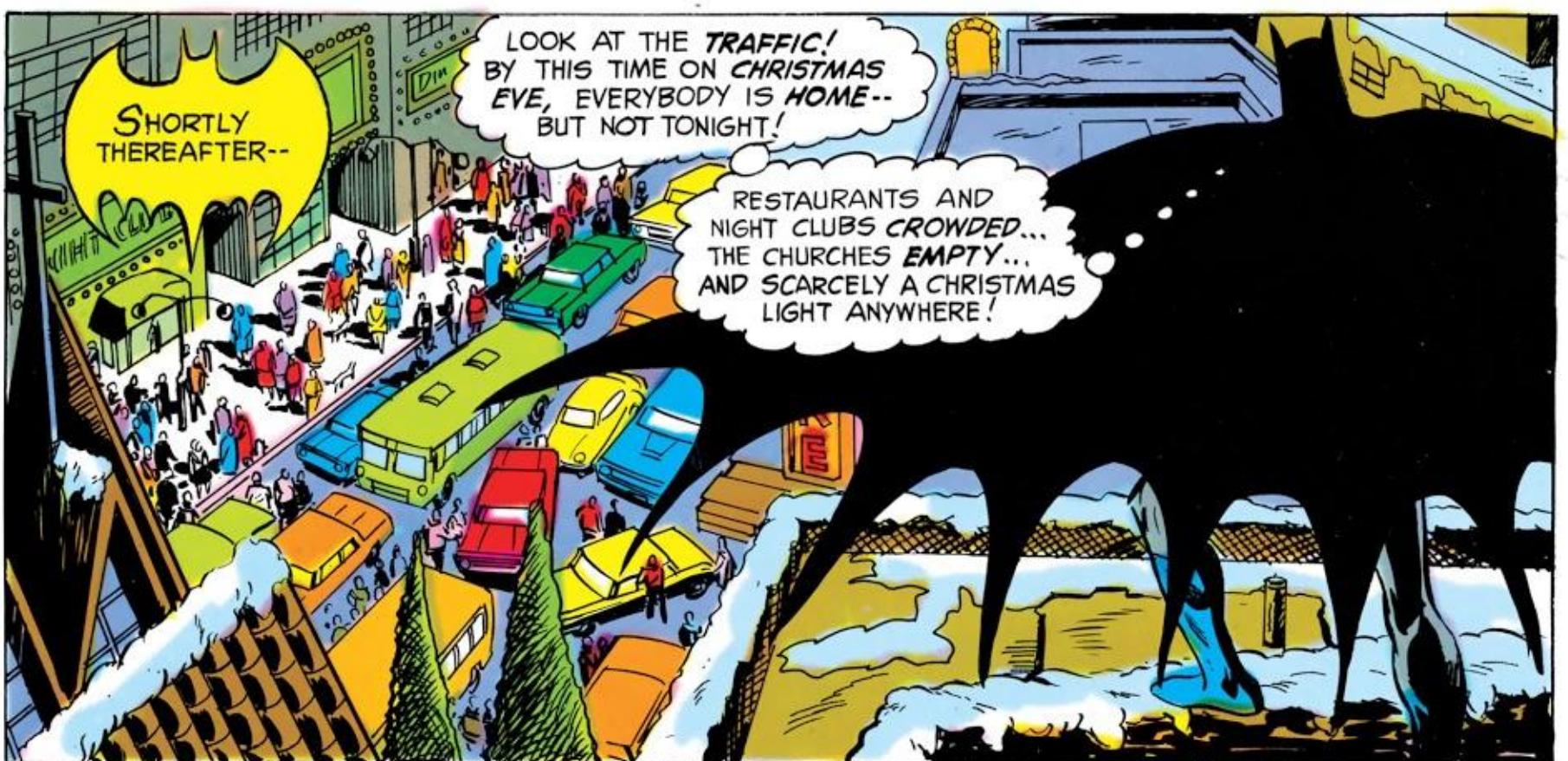












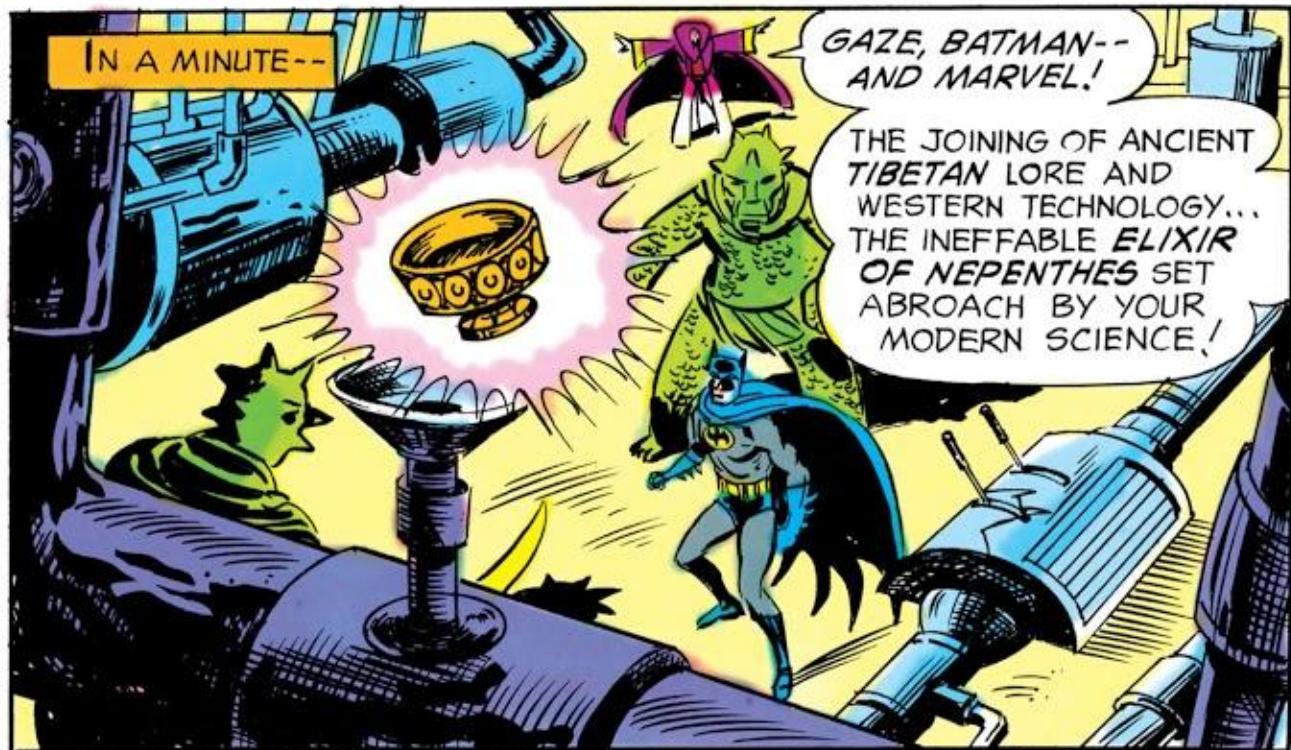


SEVEN LONG MINUTES LATER...
WITHIN THE MANUFACTORY
ENCLAVE OF THE GOTHAM CITY
STEAM COMPANY, NOW THE
DESERTED DOMINION OF
DR. TZIN-TZIN...

FINALLY...THE
END OF THE LINE!

TIME TO WELCOME
MY IMPLACABLE
FOE--AND
EXACT HIS
CONFESSTION
OF DEFEAT!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
BATMAN!







IT IS OVER NOW... AND THE CAPE CRUSADER IS HOME FOR CHRISTMAS...



TWO THINGS HAD TO HAPPEN--TZIN-TZIN HAD TO MAKE A MISTAKE--AND I HAD TO FIND IT AND TAKE IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE!

HE'D ALREADY MISCALCULATED ONCE -- THE SNOWFALL! WITHOUT THAT, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE BEEN LED TO THE STEAM-PIPES!



SO I THOUGHT, IF I DESCENDED INTO THOSE PIPES, PERHAPS HE COULD BE PERSUDED I'D BEEN OVERCOME... NEEDED MORE ANTIDOTE...

... AND HE MIGHT GET CARELESS ABOUT LETTING ME APPROACH WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE!



BEAUTIFUL, ALFRED! YOUR BEST TREE EVER!



COME, LET'S GO OUTSIDE AND LISTEN TO THE CARILLON CONCERT FROM THE CATHEDRAL!

MASTER BRUCE, AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING DR. TZIN-TZIN IN CUSTODY?

HARDLY, ALFRED. THE NEW SKIN HE'LL BE GROWING WILL ITCH HIM ENOUGH TO MAKE HIS TSAL CONCENTRATION IMPOSSIBLE FOR MONTHS!

WE'LL START WORRYING THEN!



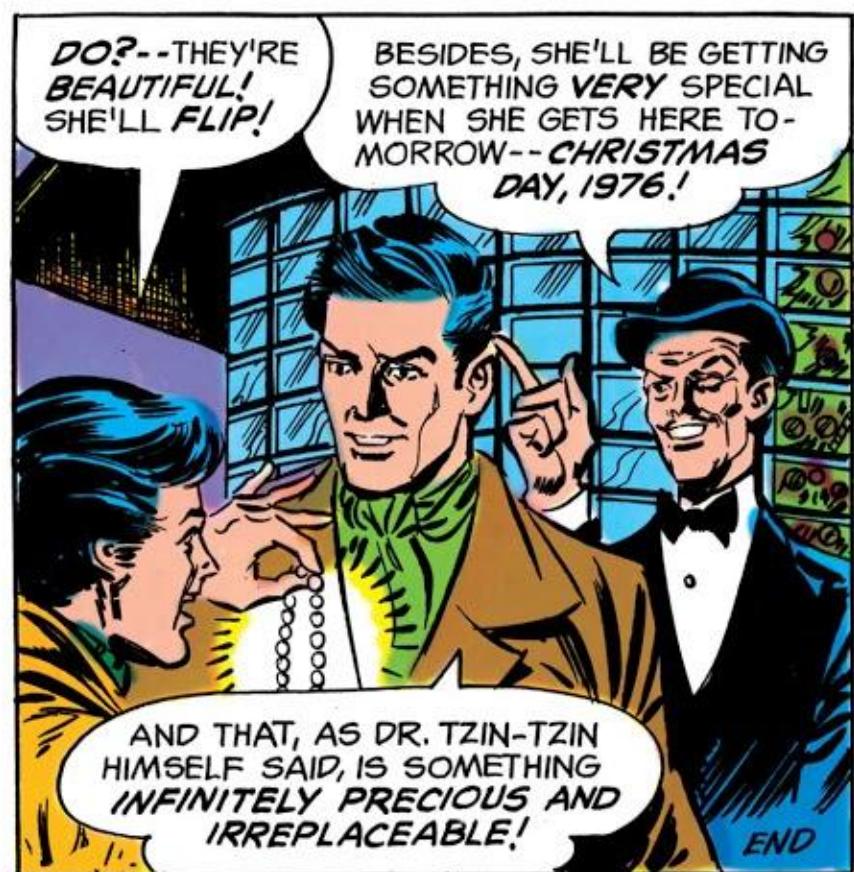
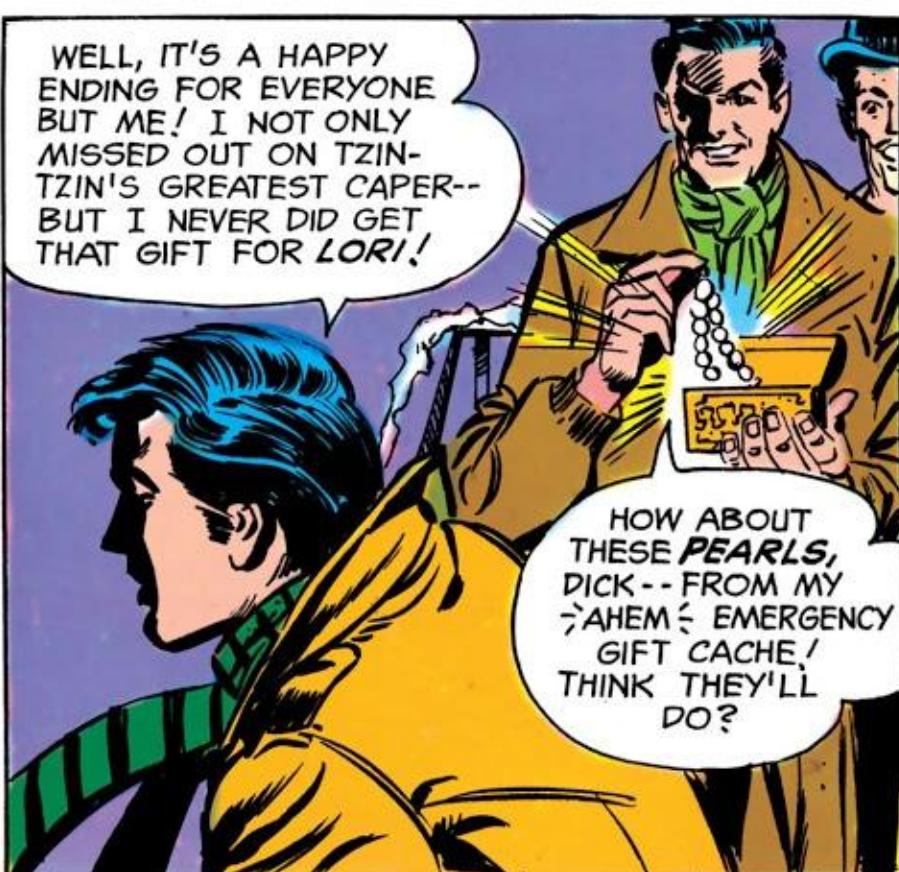
WELL, IT'S A HAPPY ENDING FOR EVERYONE BUT ME! I NOT ONLY MISSED OUT ON TZIN-TZIN'S GREATEST CAPER-- BUT I NEVER DID GET THAT GIFT FOR LORI!

HOW ABOUT THESE PEARLS, DICK -- FROM MY 'AHEM' EMERGENCY GIFT CACHE! THINK THEY'LL DO?

DO?--THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL! SHE'LL FLIP!

BESIDES, SHE'LL BE GETTING SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL WHEN SHE GETS HERE TOMORROW--CHRISTMAS DAY, 1976!

AND THAT, AS DR. TZIN-TZIN HIMSELF SAID, IS SOMETHING INFINITELY PRECIOUS AND IRREPLACEABLE!



END



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