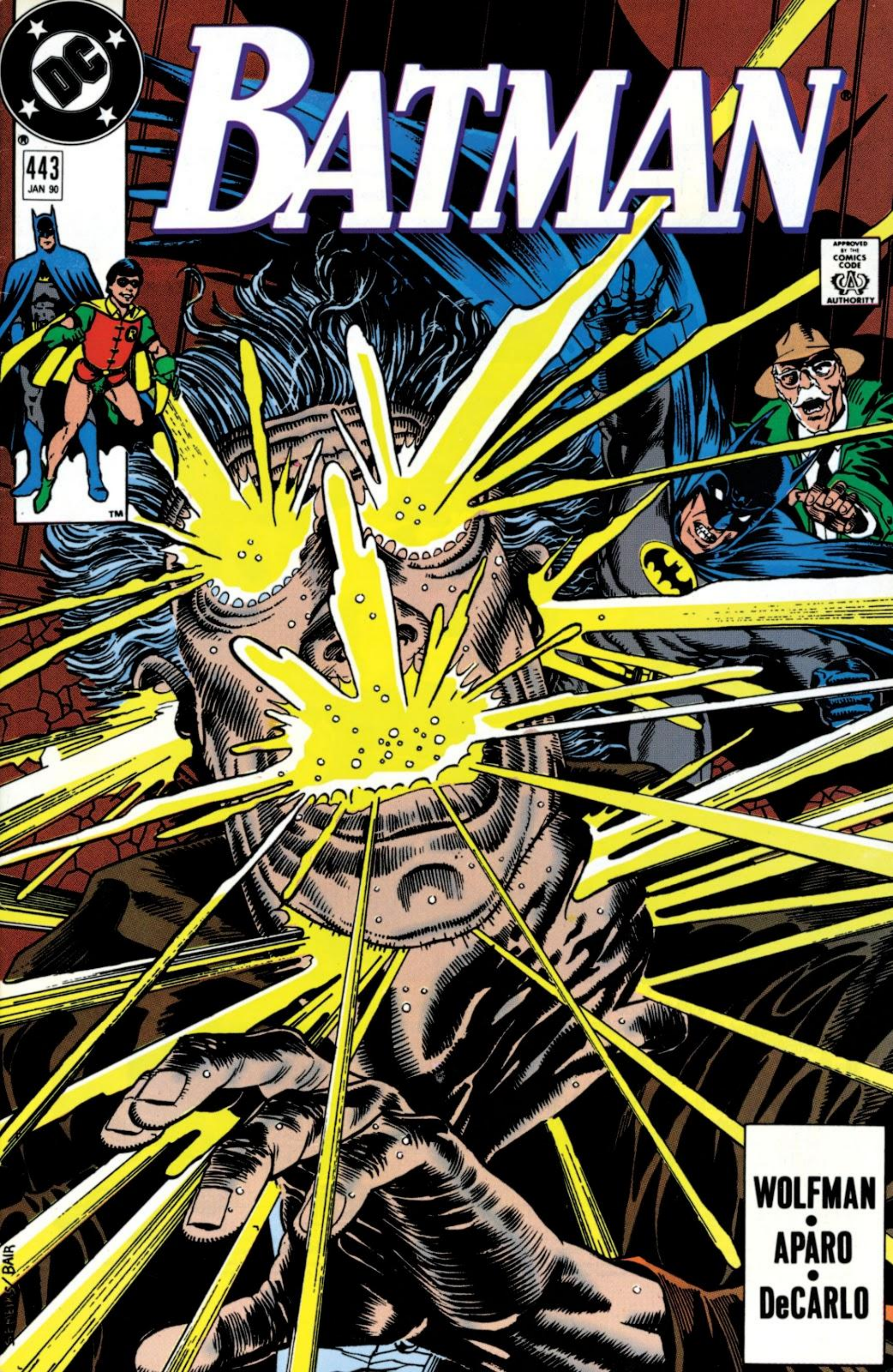

DC
443
JAN 90
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WOLFMAN
APARO
DeCARLO

THEY WERE WRONG.

YO, MOMMA-- RUNNIN' KEEPS YOU HEALTHY, EH?

YOU WANNA *STAY* THAT WAY?

MARY

BB + 2

TIMM

THE COMING OF CRIMESMITH

MARV WOLFMAN writer • JIM APARO penciller • MIKE DECARLO inker • JOHN COSTANZA letterer • ADRIENNE ROY colorist • DAN RASPLER assoc. editor • DENNY O'NEIL editor • BOB KANE creator

WEASEL--SCANNIT! MAN'S WEARIN' A PURSE.
GOT YOUR GOLD CARD IN IT, HON?
OR MEBBE A BANK CARD TO GIVE YOU CASH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?

DIFFERENT ACCENT, PERHAPS DIFFERENT WORDS. BUT HE KNOWS THE ANSWER WITHOUT HEARING IT.
HE'S HEARD IT REPEATED IN HIS MIND LIKE SOME ENDLESSLY LOOPING TAPE.

JUST AS HE KNOWS THAT SAME CARELESS RESPONSE.
YOU'RE CRAZY. GET OUT OF HERE.
FRANK-- DON'T. GIVE IT TO HIM!

YOU BOUGHT IT, MAN.

HE FAILED ONCE, MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO.

HE WON'T PERMIT HIMSELF TO EVER FAIL AGAIN.
AGHHHH

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED, MAN?
DON'T LIKE IT... DON'T LIKE IT NOHOW.
WHO'S OUT THERE, MAN? SHOW YOUR FACE, MAN!

WEASEL--IT'S GOTTA BE THE BAT!! GOTTA BE-- AGHHHH!
OH, MAN, STOSH, I'M LOOKIN', BUT IT'S TOO DARK-- I DON'T SEE NOBODY!

BUT IF HE'S OUT THERE, I'LL GET 'IM.
I SWEAR TO GOD, HE'S MEAT!
BAM BAM BAM

STAY INSIDE. IT'S BEST ONLY TO WATCH.

YOU'RE STILL OUT THERE, AIN'T YA?
YOU'RE NOT PEOPLE! NOTHIN' LIKE YOU CAN BE HUMAN!

YOU AIN'T HUMAN, SO NOTHIN' CAN STOP YOU--
MAN, THAT AIN'T FAIR. THAT AIN'T--
SKRASHHH
NO!!

C-C'MON, MAN! SHOW YOURSELF. DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THIS, MAN.
WHAT'D I DO, MAN? WHAT'D I DO?

TH-THERE YOU ARE--W-WHY'RE YOU COMIN' AT ME, MAN?
C'MON, STAY AWAY--GET AWAY!

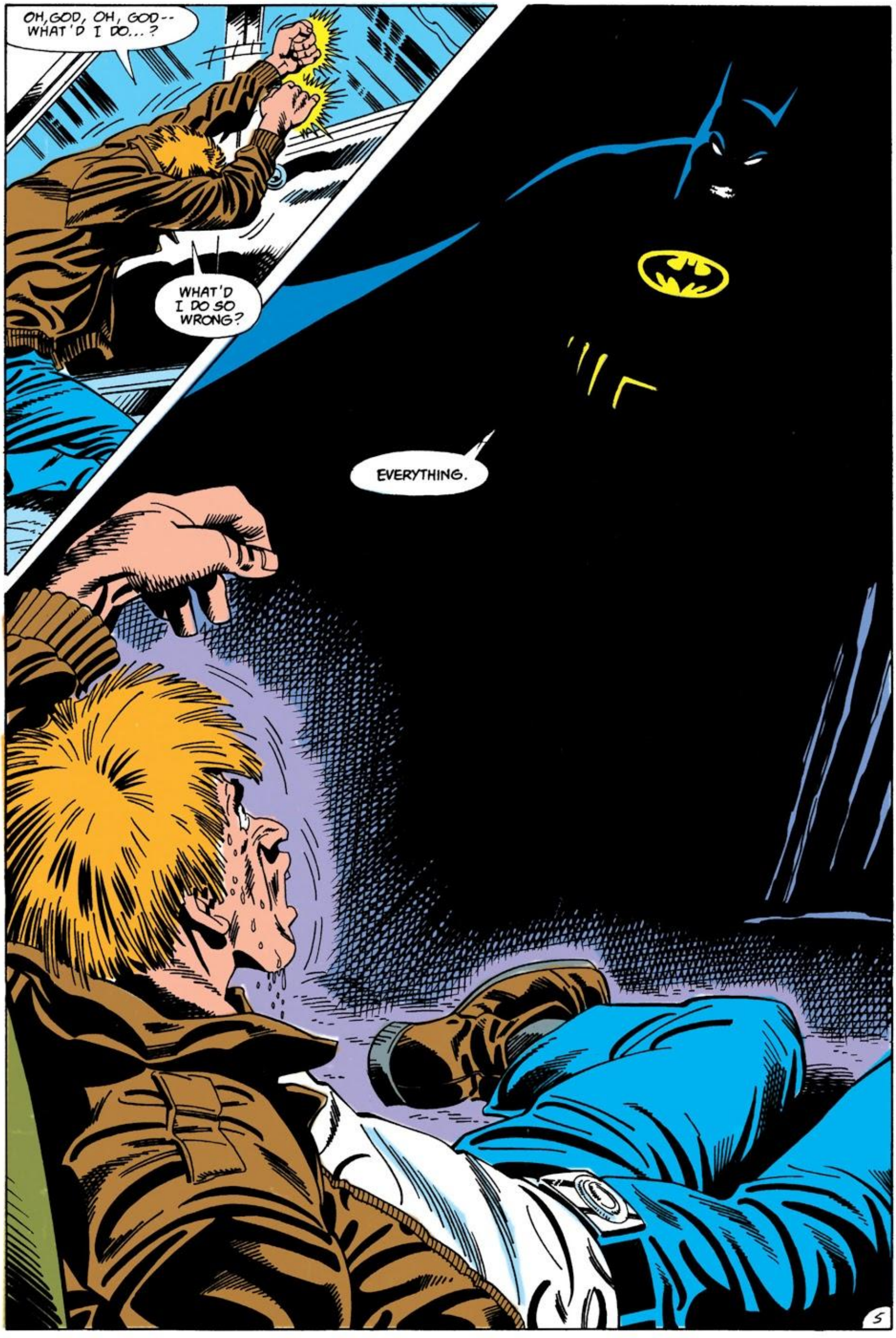
GET AWAY!
GET AWAY!!
GET AWAY!
BAM BAM

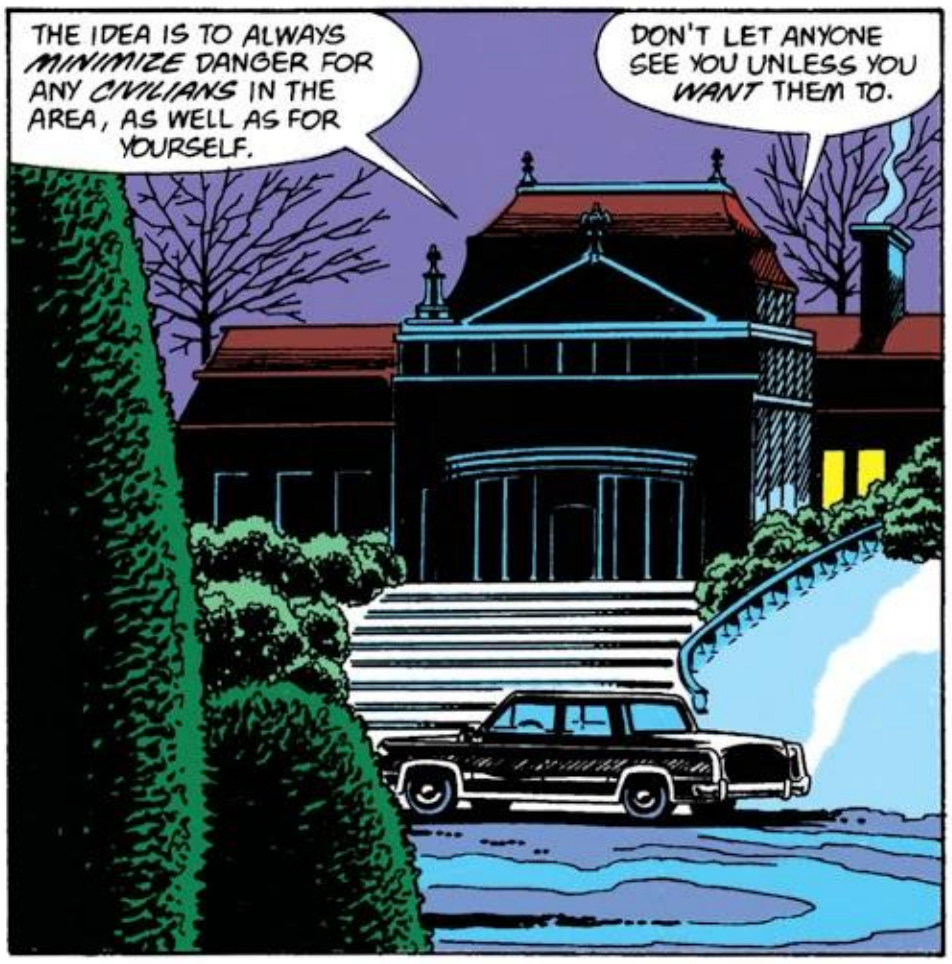
OH, GOD--OH GOD!!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ME, MAN.
I-I SEE MY WAY OUTTA HERE.

C'MON, LET ME IN! I CAN'T SEE YA, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE.
LET ME IN, DAMMIT--LET ME IN!!

WHAT DO WE DO?
HE CAN HANDLE THIS WITHOUT OUR HELP.
YOU'RE HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE.


OH, GOD, OH, GOD-- WHAT'D I DO...?
WHAT'D I DO SO WRONG?
EVERYTHING.
5


THE IDEA IS TO ALWAYS MINIMIZE DANGER FOR ANY CIVILIANS IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS FOR YOURSELF.
DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU UNLESS YOU WANT THEM TO.

SO WHEN DO I GET TO GO OUT WITH YOU AS ROBIN AGAIN?
YOU DON'T.
NOT FOR A LONG TIME.

BUT I PROVED--
YOU PROVED YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD PARTNER. THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS BEING ONE.
SIR, IT'S TIME FOR MASTER TIM TO BE RETURNED TO HIS SCHOOL'S DORMITORY.

YOU'RE A NOVICE. IN KINDERGARTEN AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.
BUT, HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE I'M READY?

I'M NOT MAKING ANY MISTAKES THIS TIME.
YOU'LL BE READY WHEN I SAY YOU'RE READY.

ALFRED WILL CONTINUE WITH YOUR TRAINING NEXT WEEKEND.
ALFRED? BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHEN ALFRED FEELS YOU'RE READY FOR ME, THEN YOUR REAL WORK-OUT WILL BEGIN.

OR YOU CAN FORGET THE WHOLE THING NOW, IF YOU WISH.
NO-- BEING ROBIN MEANS TOO MUCH TO ME.
WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'LL DO IT.

HE'S GOT THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD PARTNER.
WHAT DO I NEED ANOTHER PARTNER FOR?
THIS CAN BE ENDED NOW BEFORE THE BOY IS HURT...
...LIKE...
...LIKE JASON.
THE WARMTH OF THE FIREPLACE SUDDENLY REMINDS HIM HOW COLD IT HAS BECOME.
NOISE RUMBLES IN THE BACKGROUND; DISTRACTIONS FORCE CONCENTRATION.
... IN SCIENCE WE MUST CONSIDER MORE THAN DRY RECITATION OF NAMES, DATES AND FACTS.
WE SCIENTISTS SHOULD CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE PSYCHOLOGY AND IMPACT OF CHANGE...
HOW WE AFFECT MANKIND IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT AS THE DISCOVERIES WE MAKE.
THE DISTRACTIONS OVERWHELM HIS CONCENTRATION.
THIS IS DR. JEFFREY FRASER FOR "EYE ON SCIENCE." NEXT WEEK: HADRONS, BARYONS, MESONS AND QUARKS.
PEACE AND PROGRESS!
RING RING RING
UNNNN
UHNNNHH-- THE PHONE? WHO'D BE CALLING NOW?
WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?
BRUCE, IF THIS IS YOU, GO TO BED. LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M ASLEEP, AND I LIKE IT THAT WAY.
LUCIUS, WE'VE GOT TO TALK.
UNHHHH, GOOD IDEA, BRUCE. TOMORROW. AS IN AFTER I GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

IT'S NOT EVEN MIDNIGHT. YOU CAN SLEEP LATER.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DR. JEFFREY FRASER?
DIDN'T I HEAR ELLIE SAY HE CALLED YOU YESTERDAY?

LET'S SEE--WE USED HIM AS A CONSULTANT THREE YEARS AGO. HE SAVED THE ASTRO-CHART PROJECT.
AND HE'S GOR-GEOUS!
WHY?

HE CALLED TO OFFER HIS HELP SMOOTHING OUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WE'VE BEEN HAVING AT WAYNETECH LATELY.
A LITTLE PUBLIC RELATIONS COULDN'T HURT.

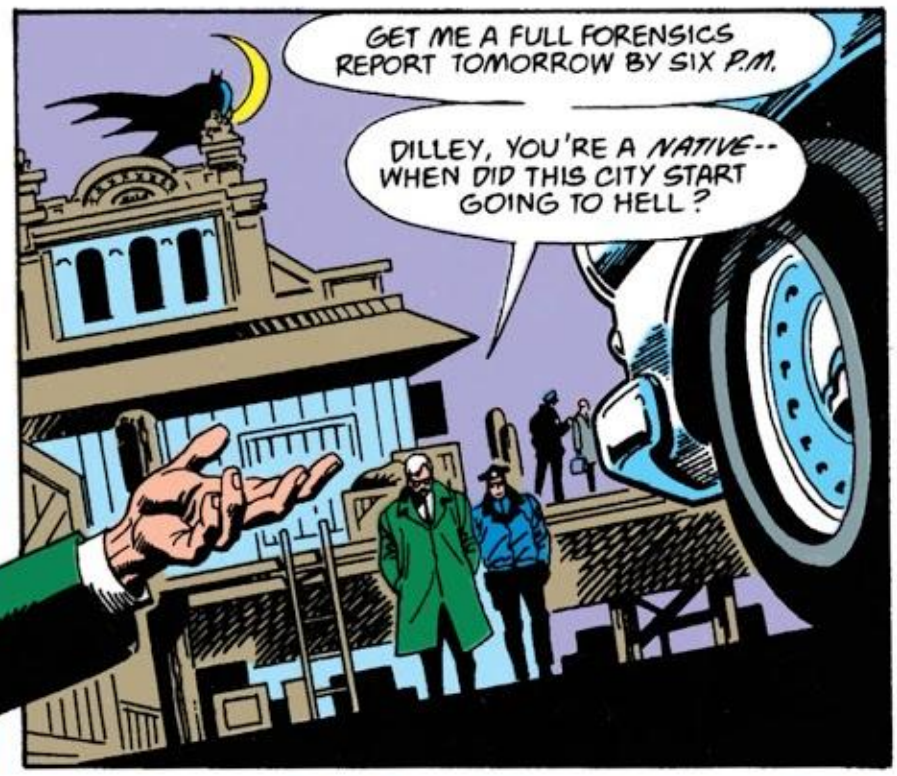
SOUNDS GOOD. I'LL CALL HIM BACK FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. GOOD NIGHT, BRUCE.
I GUESS IT IS GETTING LATE, ISN'T IT?

BRUCE WAYNE ACTUALLY INTERESTED IN WORK? WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE!
I THOUGHT HE LEFT EVERYTHING FOR YOU TO HANDLE.
BRUCE IS SOMETIMES SO HARD TO FIGURE OUT, HON.

SOMETIMES YOU THINK WHAT GOES ON IN WAYNE ENTERPRISES IS THE LAST THING ON HIS MIND--
--THEN HE'LL SUDDENLY SAY SOMETHING TO PROVE HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING.
HE'S A FASCINATING MAN, HON. SIMPLY FASCINATING.

...WITHOUT A FULL AUTOPSY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED A BURN OF THIS MAGNITUDE...
LORD...
...BUT FROM THE DIRECTION OF WHAT REMAINS OF HIS FLESH, I'D VENTURE TO SAY THE BURN PATH WAS FROM THE INSIDE PUSHING OUT.

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO GOTHAM I THOUGHT THIS CITY COULDN'T SINK ANY LOWER.
EVERY DAY PROVES ME WRONG!


GET ME A FULL FORENSICS REPORT TOMORROW BY SIX P.M.
DILLEY, YOU'RE A NATIVE-- WHEN DID THIS CITY START GOING TO HELL?

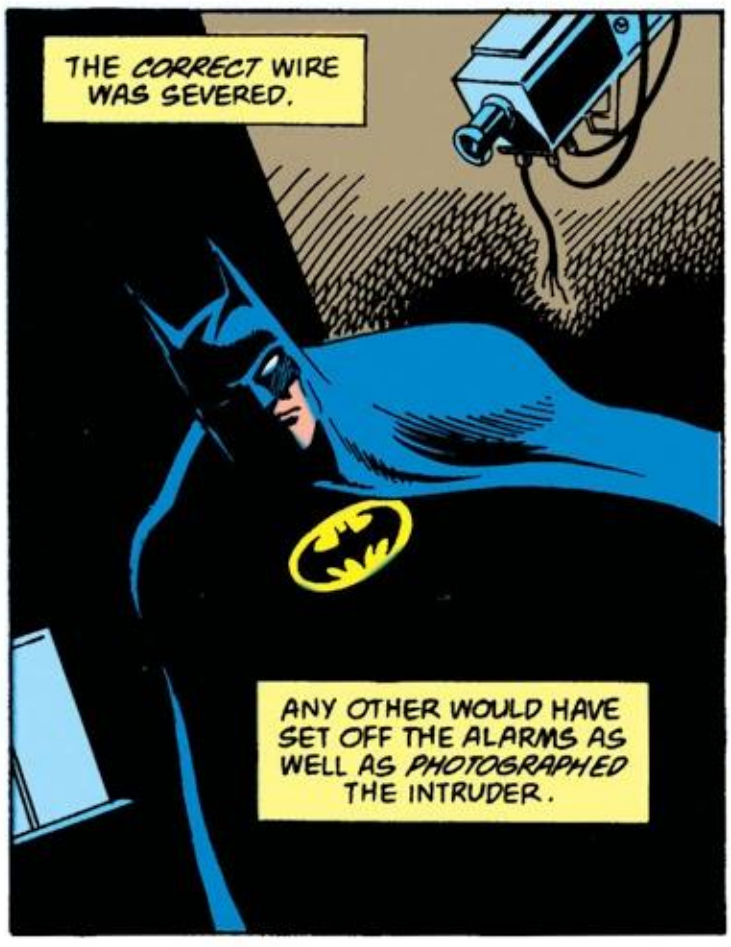
BEEN THAT WAY ALL MY LIFE, COMMISSIONER.
POLICE
WHY WAS I AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT?

NOTHING HERE TO INTEREST. FOLLOWING POLICE REPORTS DON'T ALWAYS PAN OUT. HE TURNS TO LEAVE AND SEES IT.
THE PHOSPHORESCENT SWEEP OF LIGHT BURNS FOR AN INSTANT, THEN IS GONE.

AN ACCIDENTAL SIGHTING. IF HE HAD TURNED HIS HEAD A SECOND LATER HE WOULD HAVE SEEN NOTHING.
BUT HE DID SEE IT. AN INSTANT OF LIGHT WHERE THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN DARK.
IN THAT SAME INSTANT, HE IS GONE.

THE GUARD.
POISON. QUICK AND SILENT.
HE WAS DEAD BEFORE HE COULD KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

THE LOCK READS CARDS IMPRINTED WITH A PERSONALIZED COMPUTER CODE.
IT'S BEEN ELECTRONICALLY BYPASSED.

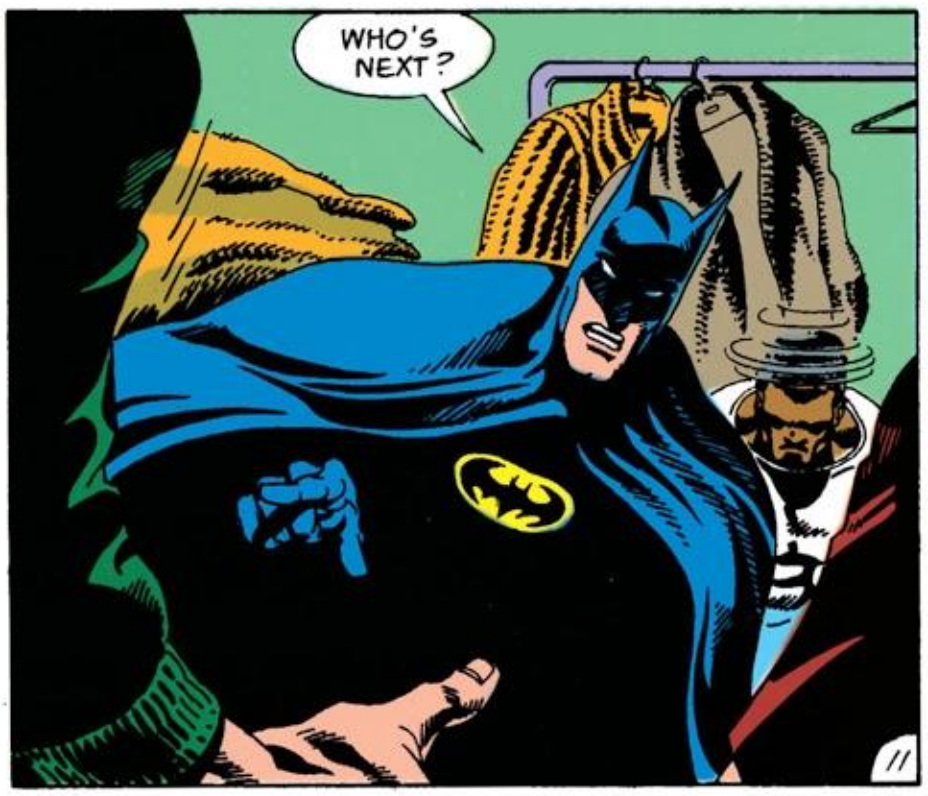

THE CORRECT WIRE WAS SEVERED.
ANY OTHER WOULD HAVE SET OFF THE ALARMS AS WELL AS PHOTOGRAPHED THE INTRUDER.

THE VAULT TIME LOCK WAS CIRCUMVENTED. PROFESSIONALS. PERFECTLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED.
I-I DON'T LIKE WHAT HE DID TO EDDIE.
EDDIE DESERVED IT... HE STARTED TO TALK, DIDN'T HE?
Y-YEAH, I GUESS SO. I'M JUST NERVOUS. WH-WHAT'S TAKIN' SO LONG?

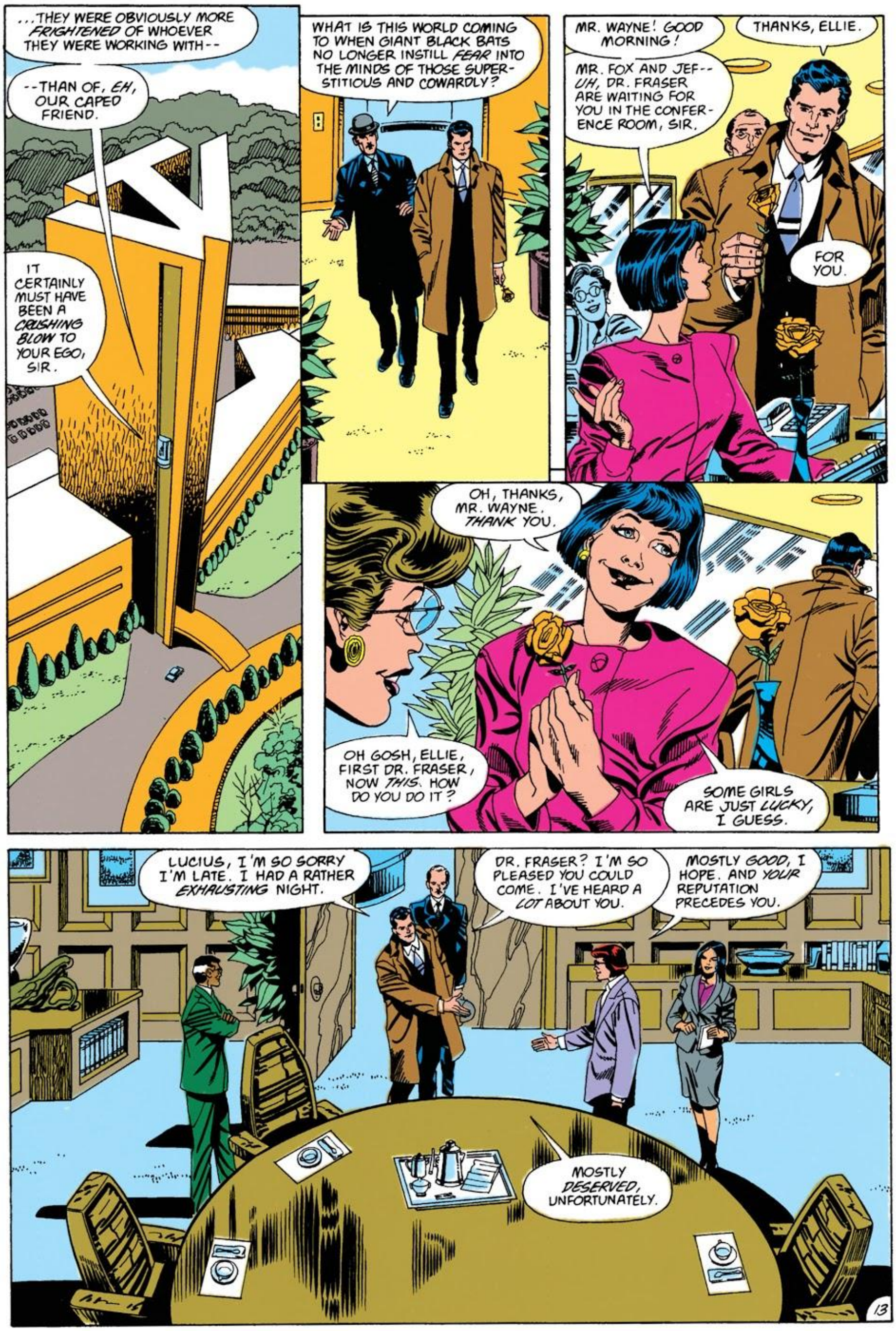
SHUT UP, MONTE. THE GIZMO'S WORKIN' JUST LIKE HE SAID IT WOULD.
LOOKATIT, PAL-- AT LEAST THREE MIL IN FURS.
CALL THE BOYS AN' TELL 'EM TO GET THE TRUCKS HERE NOW.

AND THEY'RE STAYING RIGHT WHERE THEY BELONG.
BATMAN?

DON'T WORRY, REESE. HE AIN'T DOIN' NOTHIN'!


WHO'S NEXT?

HE GOT CAMBY! I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
THE SECOND THUG FALLS WITHOUT PROBLEM. ONLY THE FINAL ONE REMAINS.
H-HE'S NOT CHASING ME?
WHAT DO I DO? HE COULD CHANGE HIS MIND.
FORGET THE FURS. GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE.
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SO EASY.
HE FIGURED IT ALL OUT. HE GAVE US EVERYTHING.
WE BLEW IT AN' HE HANDED IT ALL TO US.
EXIT
EVEN IF WE FAIL, HE'S GONNA WANT HIS MONEY!
WHAT DO I TELL 'IM? HOW DO I EXPLAIN? HE'LL KILL ME!
TRUST ME.
HE WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE.
YAHHHHH
12

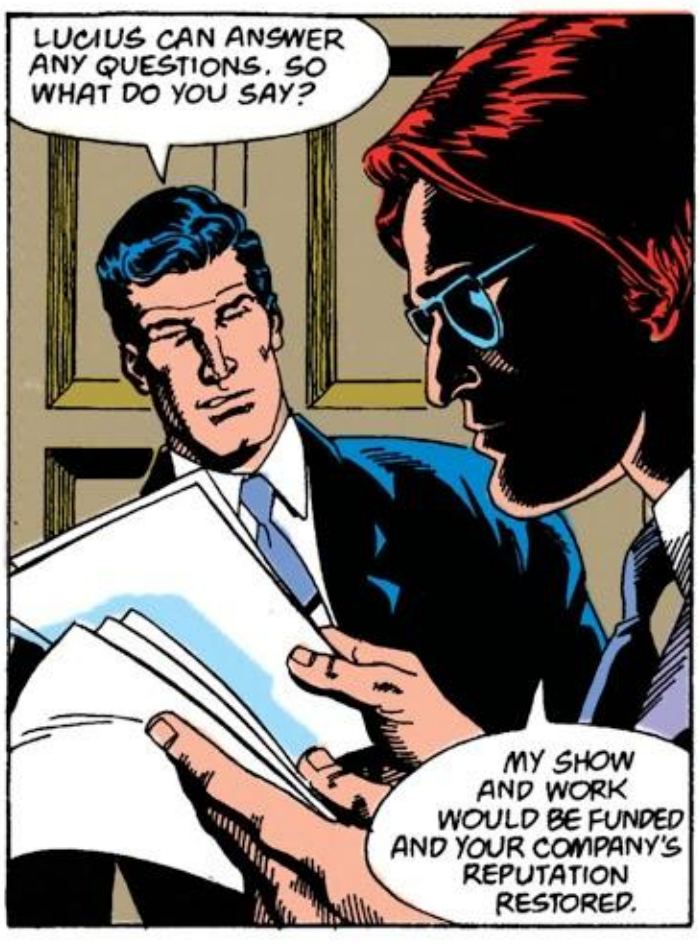

...THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY MORE FRIGHTENED OF WHOEVER THEY WERE WORKING WITH--
--THAN OF, EH, OUR CAPED FRIEND.
IT CERTAINLY MUST HAVE BEEN A CRUSHING BLOW TO YOUR EGO, SIR.
WHAT IS THIS WORLD COMING TO WHEN GIANT BLACK BATS NO LONGER INSTILL FEAR INTO THE MINDS OF THOSE SUPERSTITIOUS AND COWARDLY?
MR. WAYNE! GOOD MORNING!
MR. FOX AND JEF-- UH, DR. FRASER ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, SIR.
THANKS, ELLIE.
FOR YOU.
OH, THANKS, MR. WAYNE. THANK YOU.
OH GOSH, ELLIE, FIRST DR. FRASER, NOW THIS. HOW DO YOU DO IT?
SOME GIRLS ARE JUST LUCKY, I GUESS.
LUCIUS, I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE. I HAD A RATHER EXHAUSTING NIGHT.
DR. FRASER? I'M SO PLEASED YOU COULD COME. I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU.
MOSTLY GOOD, I HOPE. AND YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU.
MOSTLY DESERVED, UNFORTUNATELY.

RAYA WILL TAKE NOTES WHILE WE TALK.
AFTER YOUR PROBLEM WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WAYNETECH OBVIOUSLY HAS A SEVERE CREDIBILITY GAP.
I CAN HELP YOU TURN THAT AROUND.

BUT I'M A SCIENTIST, NOT A PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT.
DR. FRASER...
PLEASE--IT'S JEFFREY. TITLES ARE SO... OFFPUTTING.
SCIENCE FUNCTIONS BEST WHEN PROPERLY FUNDED. I'D HATE TO SEE WAYNETECH'S FINANCES DRY UP BECAUSE OF AN UNFORTUNATE... MISTAKE.

IF YOU CAN HELP US, JEFFREY, WAYNETECH WILL GUARANTEE YOUR FUNDING FOR FIVE YEARS.
IN RETURN, YOU'D ACT AS OUR PUBLIC ADVISOR AND SPOKESMAN, WHICH, OF COURSE, YOU WILL BE FURTHER COMPENSATED FOR.

I THINK LUCIUS HAS PREPARED A SUMMARY OF ALL WORK IN PROGRESS.
YOU'LL OF COURSE BE PERMITTED ACCESS TO ALL OUR PAPERS.
YOU'LL PROBABLY WIND UP KNOWING MORE ABOUT WAYNETECH THAN I DO.


LUCIUS CAN ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
MY SHOW AND WORK WOULD BE FUNDED AND YOUR COMPANY'S REPUTATION RESTORED.

WE'LL GO OVER YOUR FILES, AND IF EVERYTHING IS AS YOU SAY THEY ARE...
...WE JUST MIGHT HAVE A DEAL.

I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, JEFFREY.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON OUR TEAM.

RAYA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MR. WAYNE?
HE TALKS DISINTERESTEDLY, AS IF HE ALLOWS FOX TO MAKE ALL THE DECISIONS FOR WAYNETECH, BUT HE OBVIOUSLY IS THE MAN IN CHARGE.
THERE IS DEFINITELY MORE TO HIM THAN MEETS THE EYE.

BEFORE I AGREE, I THINK WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE DEAR OLD BRUCE.
GET ON IT IMMEDIATELY. I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS.
YOU WILL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, BRUCE? WILL HE TAKE THE OFFER?
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE, WON'T WE?

HE SLEEPS PEACEFULLY UNTIL THE DREAMS COME THAT MOISTEN HIS FACE AND HANDS AND DRY HIS THROAT AND TONGUE...
BARBARA-- N...NO... NO!
JIM...

THEN, AS ALWAYS, HE AWAKENS WITH A START...
WHAT?
...I NEED INFORMATION THAT CANNOT WAIT TILL MORNING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HAVE THERE BEEN ANY UNUSUAL BREAKINS LATELY?
EXPERT PENETRATION OF SECURITY SYSTEMS?

I'D ASK HOW YOU KNEW, BUT I ALMOST DON'T WANT THE ANSWER.
THERE'VE BEEN FOUR IN THE PAST MONTH, BUT WE'VE KEPT THEM UNDER WRARS.

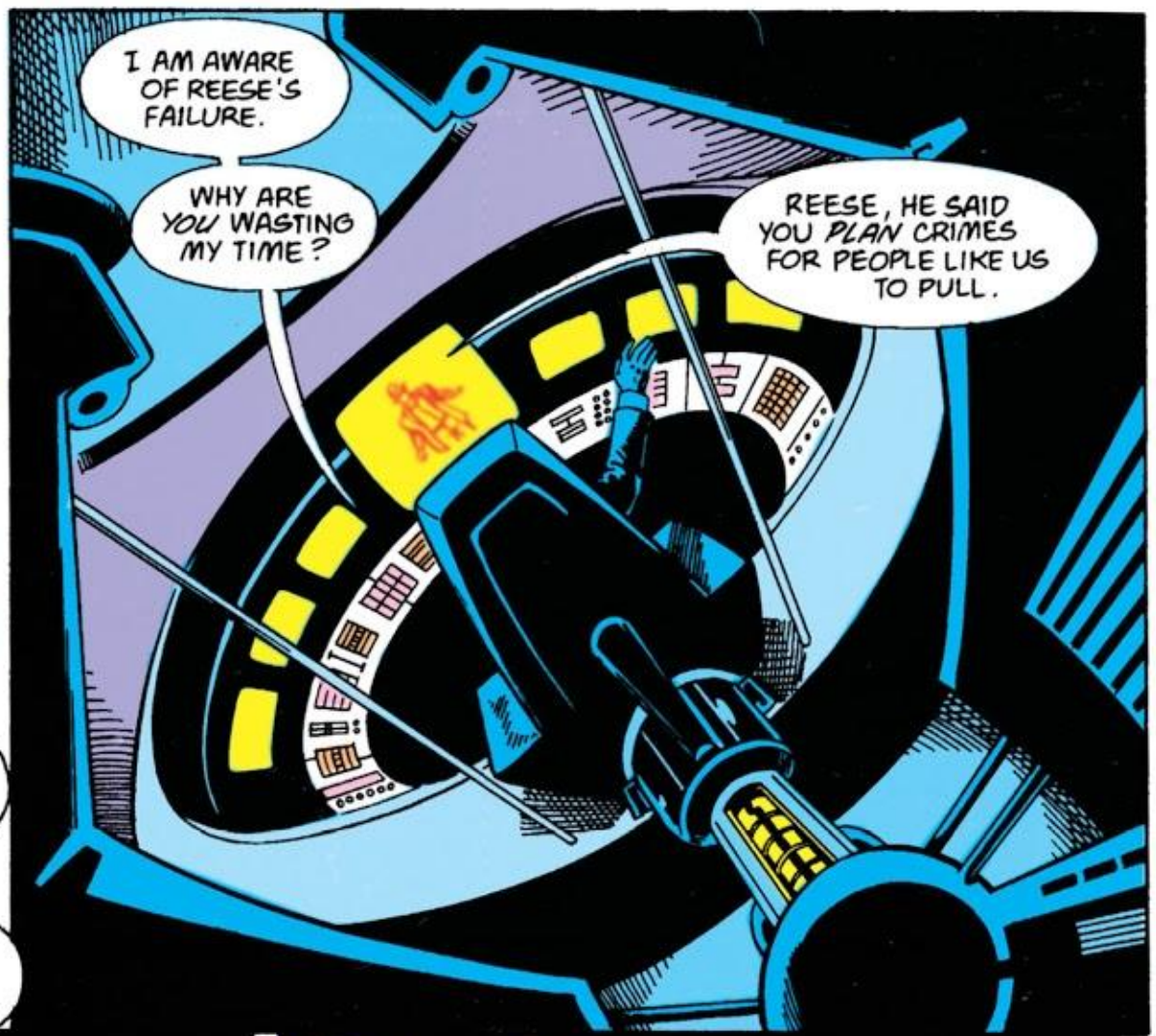
TELL ME ALL ABOUT THEM.
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING.

WHO'RE YOU TAKIN' ME TO SEE?
YOU FINALLY GET THROUGH TO MY LAWYER?
C'MON, ANSWER ME. WHO'S--

REESE--
--NOW WE'RE GOING TO TALK!

HOW LONG IS THIS GONNA TAKE?
ANYONE LISTENING TO ME?
IDENTIFICATION IS COMPLETE.
MONTGOMERY MARR, AGE 43. FOUR CONVICTIONS: ASSAULT, 1981. PETTY LARCENY, 1983. NUMBERS RUNNING, 1987. BREAKING AND ENTERING, 1988.
YOU ARE CURRENTLY WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH PAROLE VIOLATION.
WHY ARE YOU SEEKING MY SERVICES?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THEY CALL *CRIMESMITH*, RIGHT? YOU SET UP THE *FUR HEIST* FOR REESE.
REESE *BOTCHED* IT, CRIMESMITH. HE COULDN'T REMEMBER THE *FLOOR PLAN* YOU GAVE HIM SO HE USED A *FLASHLIGHT*.
BATMAN GOT HIM AND CAMBY. I--I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT AWAY, BUT I DID...BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH.


I AM AWARE OF REESE'S FAILURE.
WHY ARE *YOU* WASTING MY TIME?
REESE, HE SAID YOU *PLAN* CRIMES FOR PEOPLE LIKE US TO PULL.

HE SAID YOU WORK THEM OUT ON *COMPUTERS*. YOU FIGURE OUT *EVERYTHING*.
HE SAID IF YOU FOLLOW CRIMESMITH'S PLAN, THERE'S *NO* WAY YOU CAN FAIL.
CRIMESMITH, I WON'T SCREW IT UP LIKE REESE DID. I WANT *IN*.

MY CUT IS SIXTY PERCENT.
SIXTY? THAT'S ROBBE-- YEAH, IT IS, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, OKAY. YOU *GOT* IT, CRIMESMITH.
FORTY PERCENT IS *BETTER'N* NOTHIN', I ALWAYS SAY!

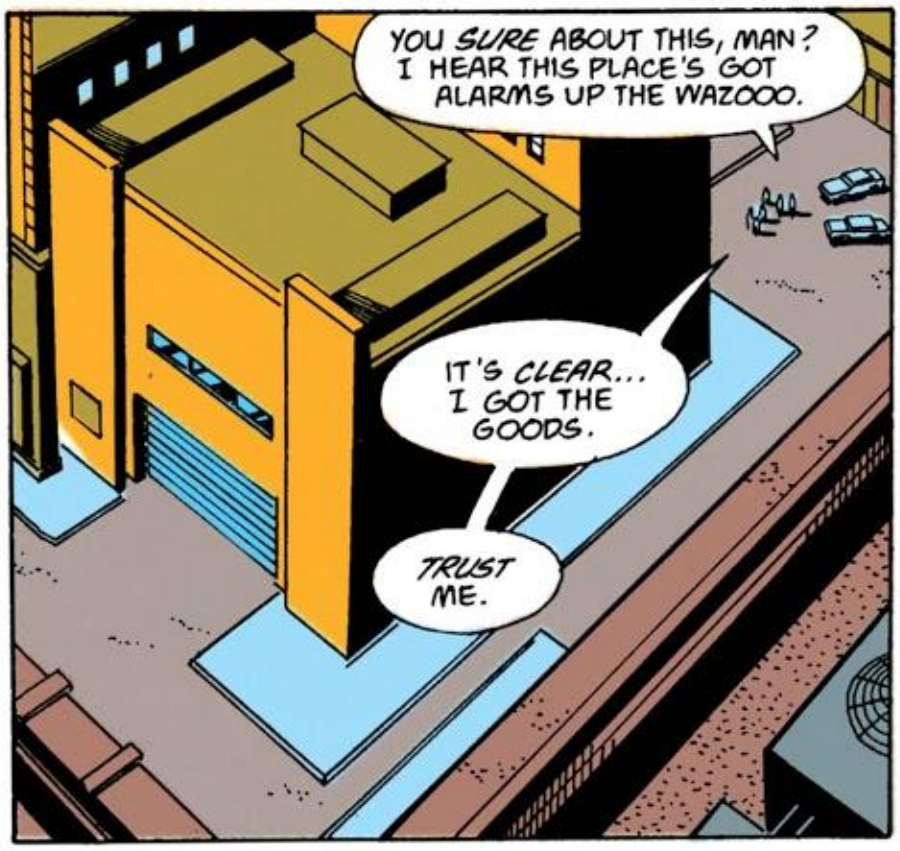
REESE FAILED *TWICE*. MY NAME AND WHEREABOUTS WERE NEVER TO BE MENTIONED. NOT TO THE POLICE...
...NOT EVEN TO YOUR *UNDERLINGS*.
HEY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. *MUM'S* THE WORD, PAL.

WHAT--?
A *GUARANTEE* AGAINST BETRAYAL.
ONE THAT IS QUITE *EFFECTIVE*.

HE WAITS AS HE HAS FOR THE PAST SIX HOURS. WAITS AND LISTENS.
REESE WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO TALK. CAMBY COULD BARELY REMEMBER HIS OWN PHONE NUMBER.
BUT THERE WAS A THIRD PUNK IN THE WAREHOUSE, THE ONE WHO GOT AWAY.

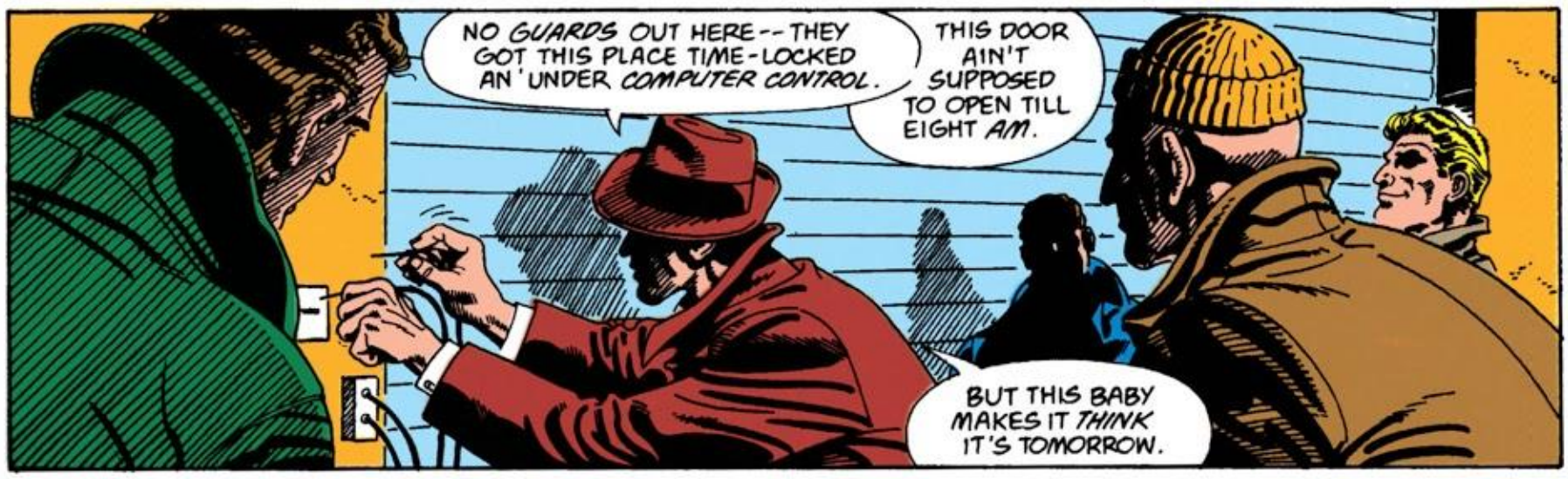
BATCAVE COMPUTER SHOWED REESE AND CAMBY SHARED A CELL AT GOTHAM PENETENTIARY WITH SOMEONE ELSE: MONTGOMERY MARR, SECOND-STORY MAN, THIRD-RATE LOSER.
...IT'S A CINCH. HE, UHHH-- I WORKED OUT THE PLANS TO GET US PAST THEIR SECURITY.

FOLLOW WHAT I SAY AN' THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEMS.
WE'RE GONNA BE SWIMMIN' IN DOUGH.
SIX HOURS OF WAITING PAYS OFF.

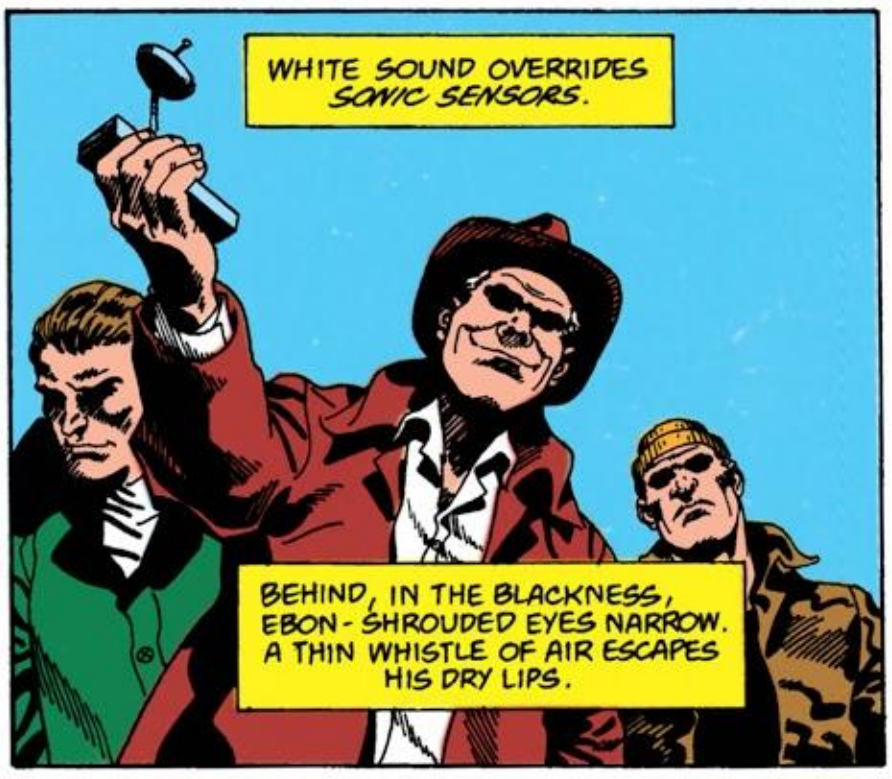

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, MAN? I HEAR THIS PLACE'S GOT ALARMS UP THE WAZOOO.
IT'S CLEAR... I GOT THE GOODS.
TRUST ME.

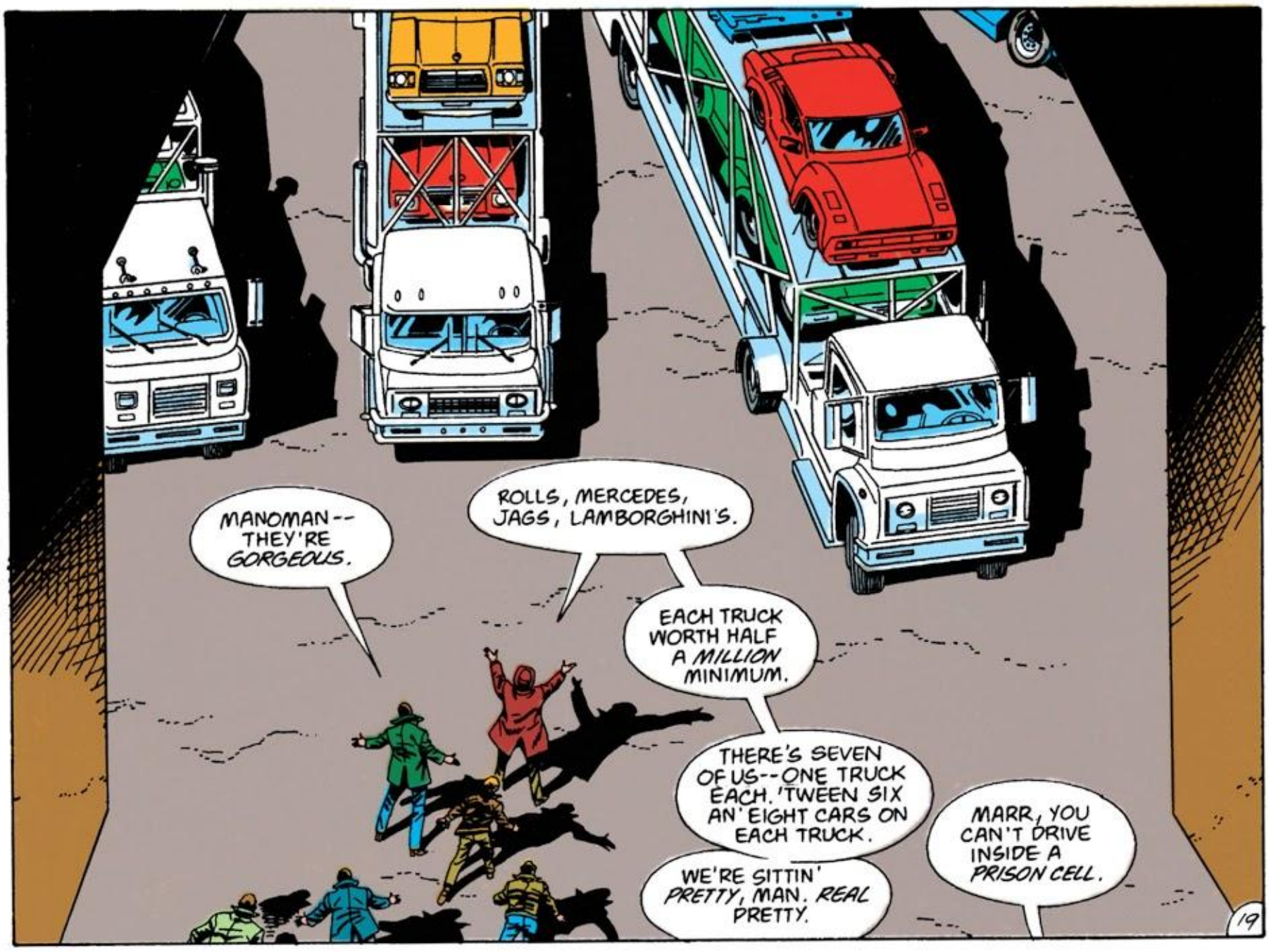
AL, STAY ON LOOK-OUT. USE THE RADIO IF THERE'S ANY TROUBLE.
NO PROBLEM, MAN. I GOT IT ALL.

YOU GOT THE HARD JOB. I GOT IT EASY.


NO GUARDS OUT HERE -- THEY GOT THIS PLACE TIME-LOCKED AN' UNDER COMPUTER CONTROL.
THIS DOOR AIN'T SUPPOSED TO OPEN TILL EIGHT AM.
BUT THIS BABY MAKES IT THINK IT'S TOMORROW.

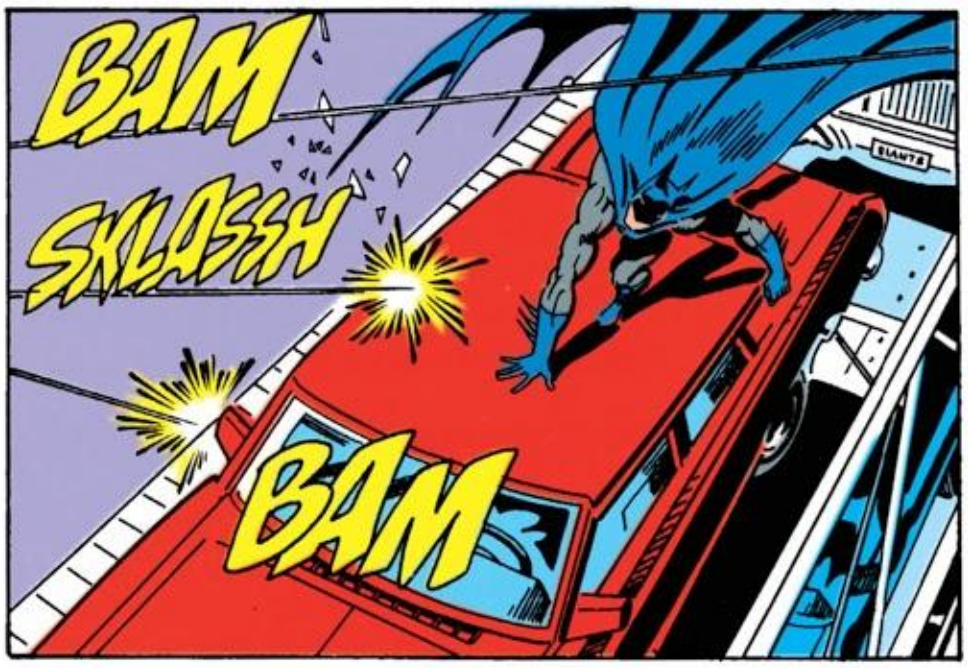
I DON'T FREAKIN' BELIEVE IT. WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW, MAN.
C'MON -- HURRY! AND ONCE INSIDE -- SHUT UP. NO TALKIN'.


WHITE SOUND OVERRIDES SONIC SENSORS.
BEHIND, IN THE BLACKNESS, EBON-SHROUDED EYES NARROW. A THIN WHISTLE OF AIR ESCAPES HIS DRY LIPS.


MANOMAN -- THEY'RE GORGEOUS.
ROLLS, MERCEDES, JAGS, LAMBORGHINI'S.
EACH TRUCK WORTH HALF A MILLION MINIMUM.
THERE'S SEVEN OF US -- ONE TRUCK EACH. 'TWEEN SIX AN' EIGHT CARS ON EACH TRUCK.
WE'RE SITTIN' PRETTY, MAN. REAL PRETTY.
MARR, YOU CAN'T DRIVE INSIDE A PRISON CELL.

BATMAN? HOW?!?
WHO CARES?
KILL HIM!

BAM
BAM
BAM


BAM
SKLASSH
BAM

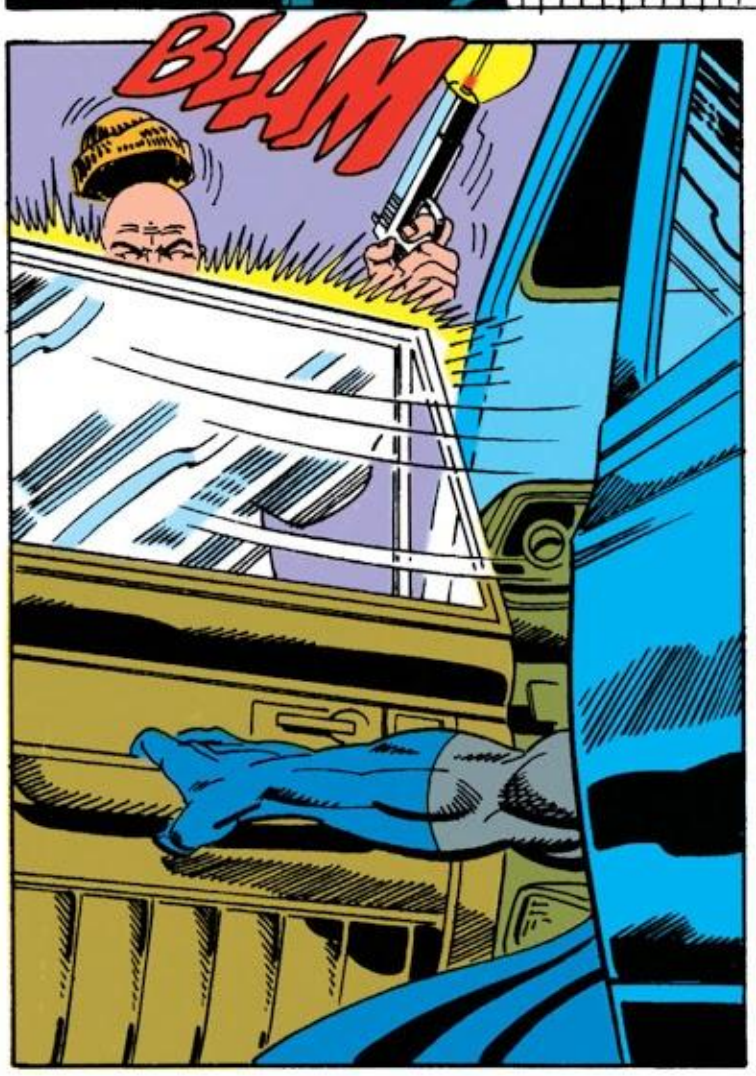
BAM BAM BA
C'MON-- DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
YEAH? HOW? HE AIN'T REAL!
I--I DON'T LIKE THIS. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
SPLIT UP! WE'LL FIND 'IM.

YOU THINK HE'S HERE? I HOPE HE'S NOT HERE. YOU DON'T THINK HE'S HERE, DO YOU?
NAH. HE'S AFTER MONTE.
THAT SPOOK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT GUYS LIKE--

--US?!?

I SAW SOMETHING UP HERE. IT'S GOT TO BE HIM.
THEN WE GOT HIM.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
THEY SAY HE'S SO FAST YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT HITS--

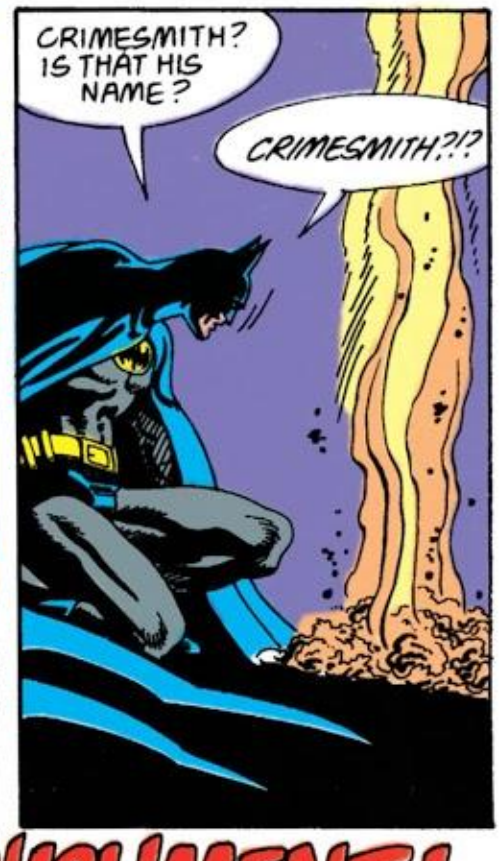

BLAM

MY BROTHER SAID HE ONCE SHOT 'IM SQUARE IN THE CHEST AN' IT DIDN'T EVEN SLOW 'IM DOWN.
THIS IS A MISTAKE, MAN. THE MONEY'S NOT WORTH IT.

MEBBE IT'S TRUE. MAYBE HE AIN'T HUMAN.
MEBBE HE'S ALREADY DEAD. MEBBE THAT'S WHY NOBODY CAN KILL 'IM.
WHADDAYA THINK, MAN? YOU THINK HE'S ALREADY DEAD.

TEDDY? TEDDY?
OH, GOD.

WHAT ARE YOU TWO--OH, SWEET LORD!
BATMAN?
YOU'RE NEXT, MARR.



NEXT: CRIMESMITH and PUNISHMENT!

OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
novus
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