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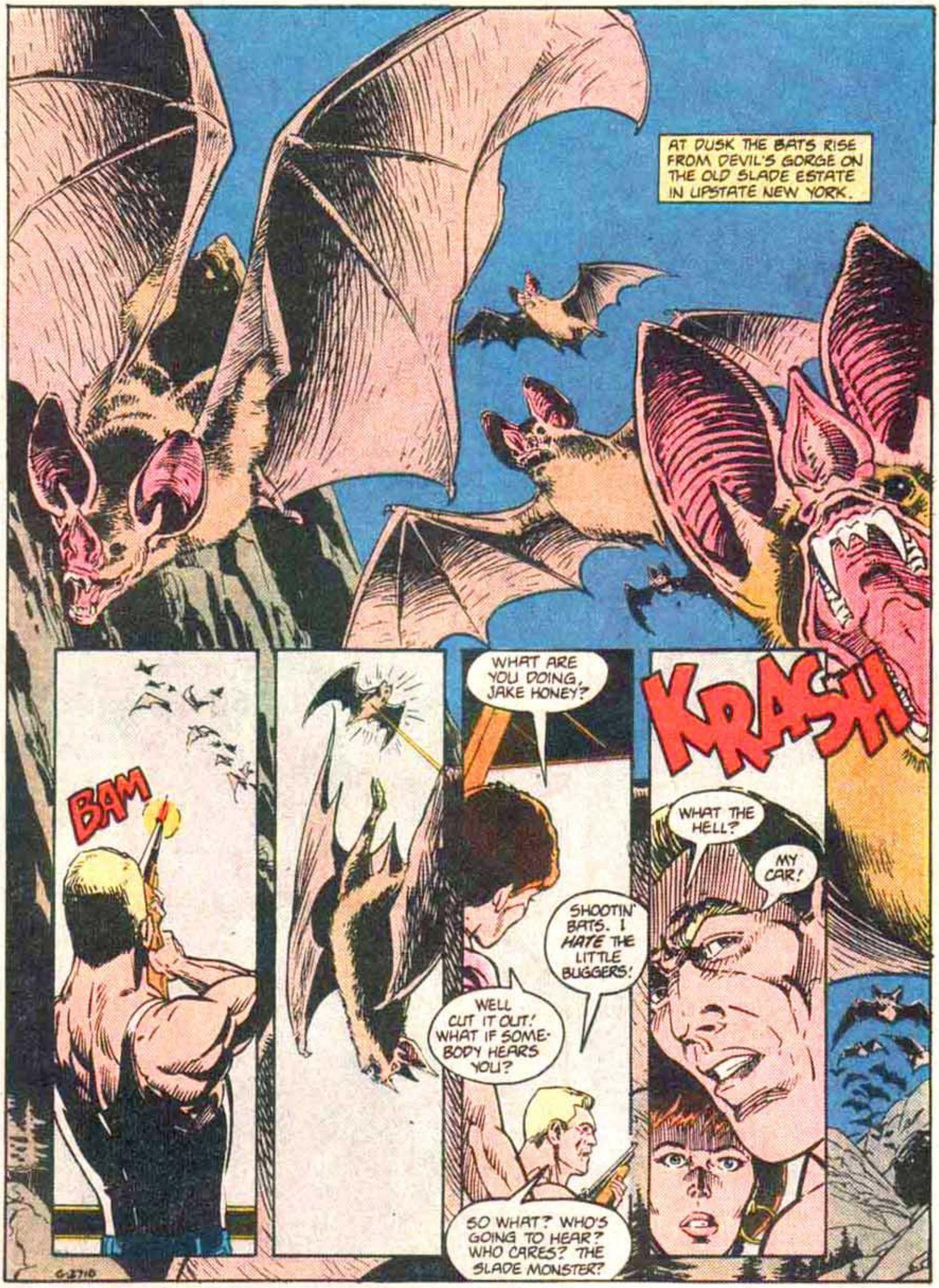
EXTRA FEATURE! "PRIVATE LIVES"
BATMAN
BY BARON, ANDRU & RODIER



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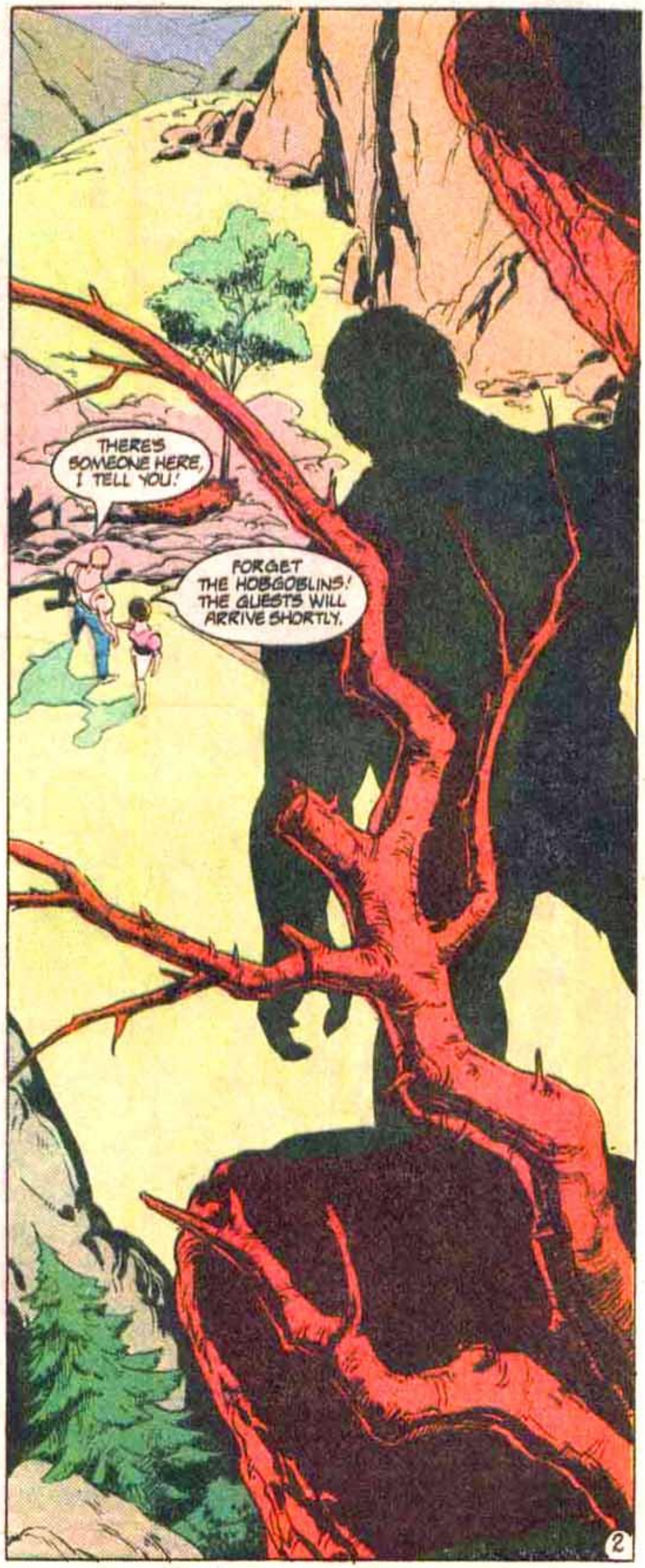
MY CAR!
YOU DIDN'T SET THE BRAKE, JAKE.

I SET THE BRAKE! SOMEBODY MOVED IT! THERE'S SOME CREEP HANGING AROUND HERE-- I KNOW IT!
THAT'S RIGHT, JAKE. THE BLADE MONSTER-- HE'S OUR THIRTEENTH GUEST. COME INSIDE. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO REPORT THAT TO YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY ANYWAY.

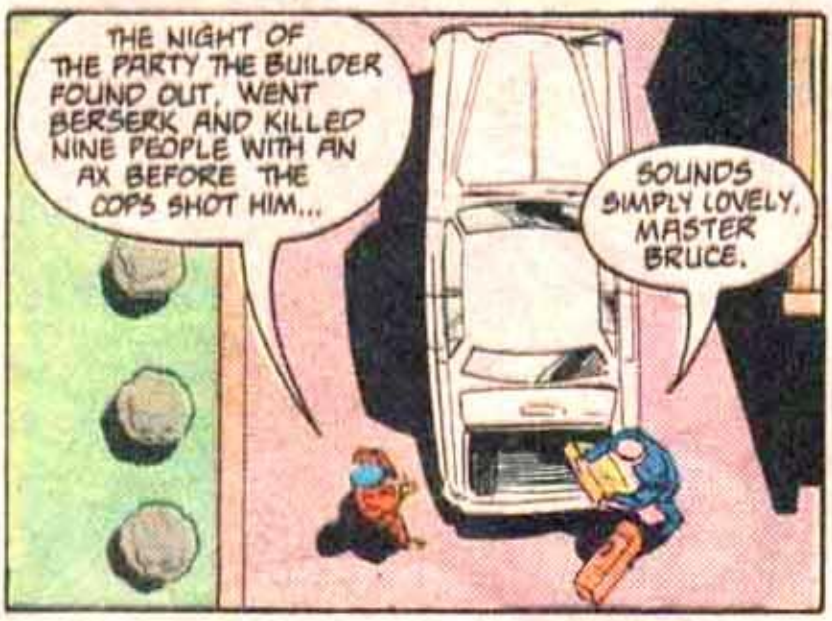

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE, I TELL YOU!
FORGET THE HOBGOBLINS! THE GUESTS WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY.

FUN AND GAMES, MASTER BRUCE?
YOU ARE INVITED TO A MURDER MYSTERY WEEKEND! COME CELEBRATE THE SLADE ESTATE BECOMING A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE! JOIN MONICA SLADE FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED VICTORIAN MURDER-- COUPLES ONLY, PLEASE!
RSVP

NOT ENTIRELY, ALFRED. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SKULDUGGERY. MONICA IS IN DESPERATE FINANCIAL TROUBLE. SHE'D HAVE SOLD THE ESTATE IF SHE COULD, BUT HER FATHER'S WILL WAS IRONCLAD. IT GOES TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WHICH IS WHY I RECEIVED THIS INVITATION.

QUITE THE ARCHITECTURAL CURIOSITY, THEY SAY...
DEACON SLADE WAS A GENIUS AND SLADE MANOR WAS HIS LAST DESIGN, BUT THE ENTERPRISE WAS UNDER A CURSE FROM THE BEGINNING. THE BUILDER'S BEST FRIEND DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION...

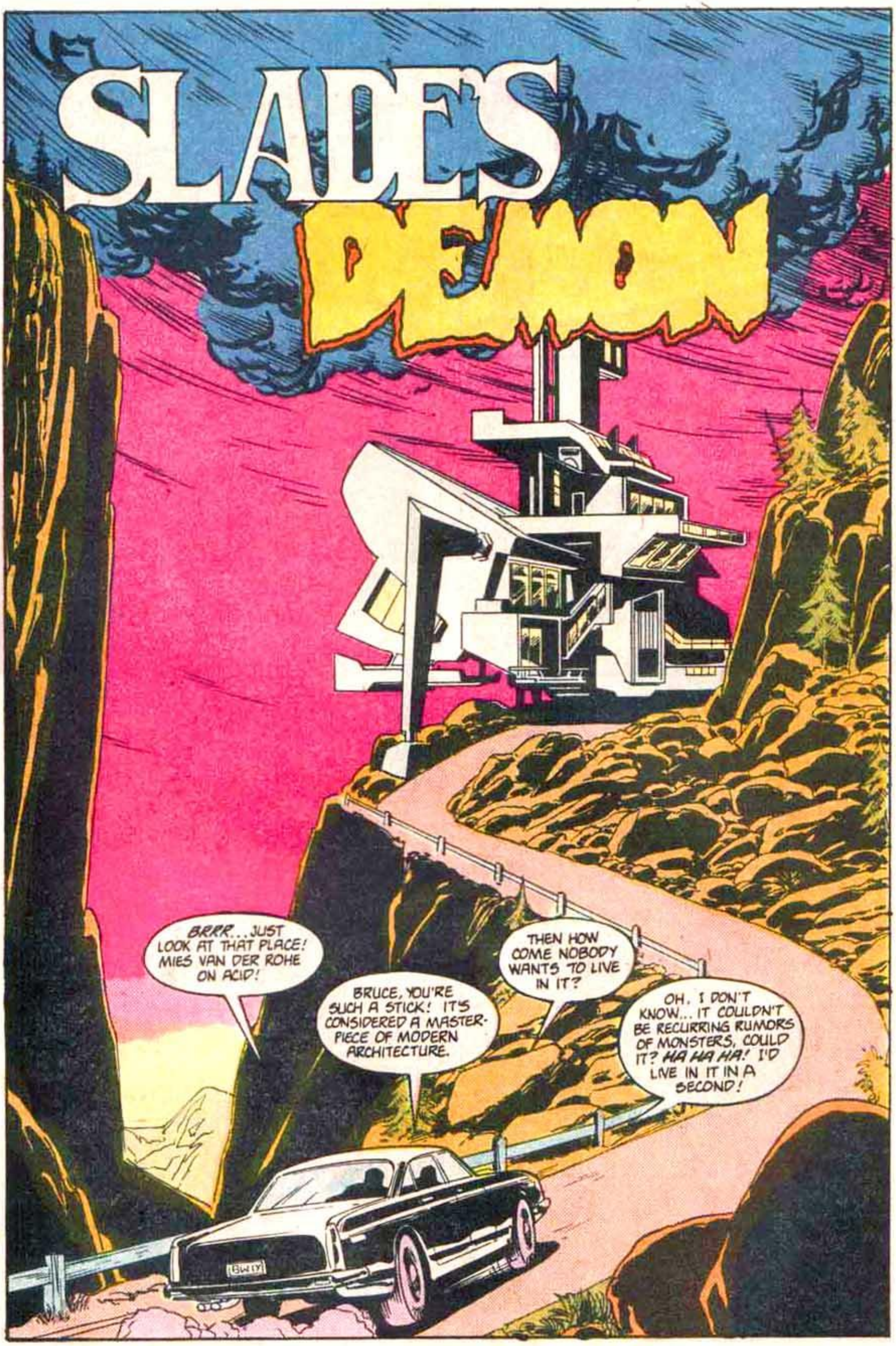
THEY SAY THE PLACE IS HAUNTED. SLADE HELD A PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE MANOR'S CONSTRUCTION ...MONICA WOULD HAVE BEEN FIVE WHEN IT HAPPENED... SEEMS SLADE HAD BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THE BUILDER'S WIFE...


THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY THE BUILDER FOUND OUT, WENT BERSERK AND KILLED NINE PEOPLE WITH AN AX BEFORE THE COPS SHOT HIM...
SOUNDS SIMPLY LOVELY, MASTER BRUCE.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE IS, SLADE WAS HOUNDED BY PERSISTENT RUMORS THAT HE WAS A DEMONOLOGIST AND THAT HE WAS PLANNING SOME GHASTLY SATANIC RITUAL.
AND WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU?

RUBY SMITH.
INDEED.

WELL HAVE A GOOD TIME, SIR.


SLADE'S DEMON
BRRR... JUST LOOK AT THAT PLACE! MIES VAN DER ROHE ON ACID!
BRUCE, YOU'RE SUCH A STICK! IT'S CONSIDERED A MASTERPIECE OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE.
THEN HOW COME NOBODY WANTS TO LIVE IN IT?
OH, I DON'T KNOW... IT COULDN'T BE RECURRING RUMORS OF MONSTERS, COULD IT? HA HA HA! I'D LIVE IN IT IN A SECOND!

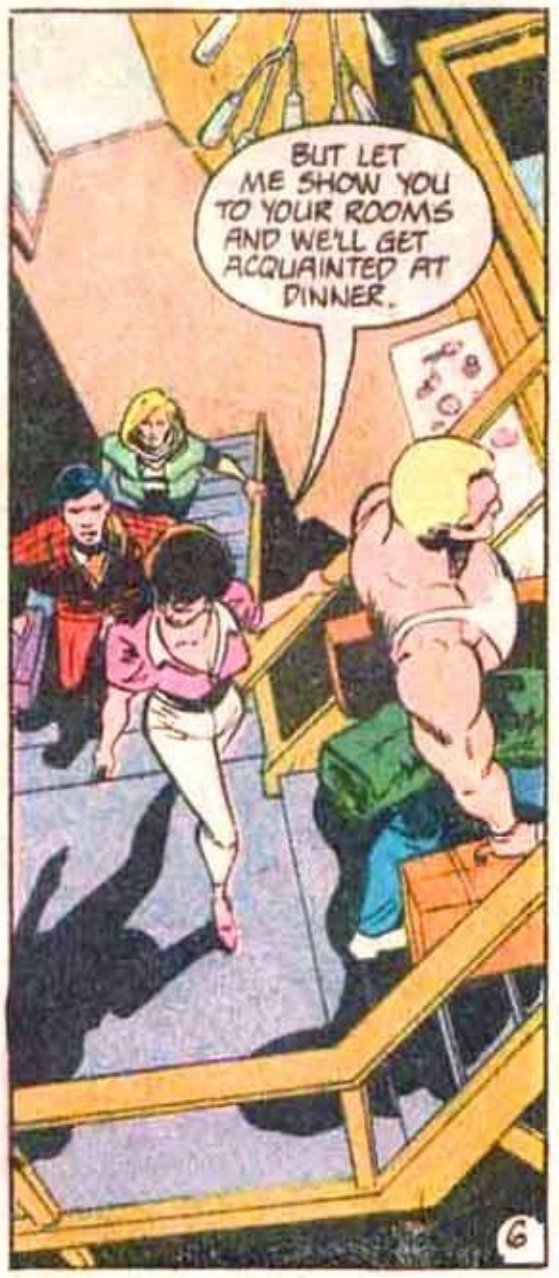
OLD DEACON PRACTICED HUMAN SACRIFICE TO BRING HIM WEALTH AND POWER.
OH COME ON, RUBY...
RUBY! DEAREST RUBY! AND BRUCE, YOU LOVELY MAN!
XZ-70

BRUCIE, THIS IS MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, JAKE SWEENEY!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
BRUCE WAYNE, YEAH! YOU OWN THAT BITCHIN' TOWER WITH THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE! I ALWAYS WANTED TO CLIMB THAT TREE.

CLIMB THE TREE?
HERE--LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT STUFF. YEAH, I'M A DARE-DEVIL. I DO THINGS LIKE CLIMB SKYSCRAPERS.

YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT GUY PARACHUTED INTO GOTHAM STADIUM? THAT WAS ME.
WELL MERCY ME. DIDN'T THEY ARREST YOU OR SOME-THING?

THEY HADDA LET ME GO. WHAT COULD THEY DO? IT WASN'T LIKE I KILLED SOMEONE OR SOMETHING...
STOP RIGHT THERE! EVERY GUEST MUST ADOPT A PERSONA UNTIL THE MURDER IS SOLVED! AND BECAUSE THIS IS MY PARTY, I GET TO CHOOSE YOUR PERSONAS.



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I HOPE THIS IS SATISFACTORY. DINNER'S AT EIGHT. NOW REMEMBER --ONCE YOU COME DOWN, YOU MUST REMAIN IN CHARACTER UNTIL THE MURDER IS SOLVED!
JUST ONE THING, MONICA. IF I GET THE MAGNIFYING GLASS, WHO GETS THE GUN?

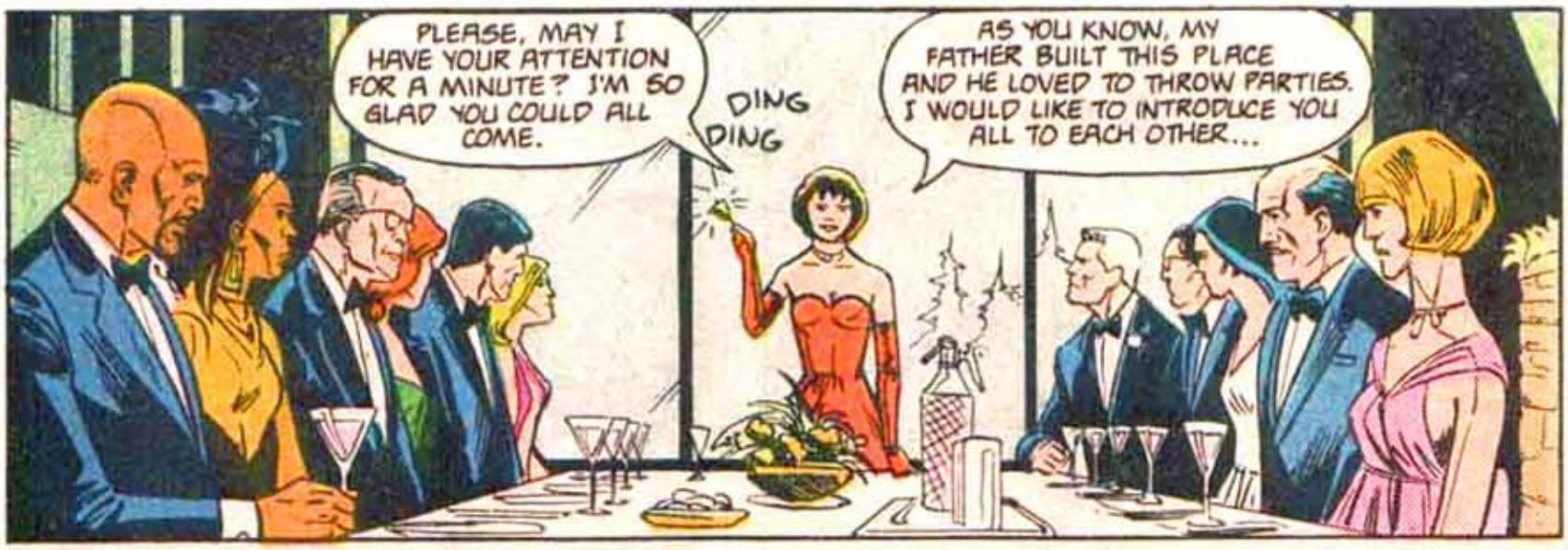
THE GANGSTER, OF COURSE! SEE YOU AT DINNER. OH, AND I MUST ASK YOU TO STAY OUT OF THE TOWER. CERTAIN PARTS OF THE HOUSE ARE OFF-LIMITS.

LOOK AT THIS, BRUCE--A SCHEMATIC OF THE HOUSE. THEY SAY THERE ARE SECRET PASSAGES... OLD DEAC WAS A BIT OF A PERV...LIKED TO SPY ON THE HOUSEGUESTS.
SOUNDS LIKE A THOROUGHLY UNPLEASANT MAN. SHALL WE GO AMONG THEM?
FIVE MORE MINUTES.

READY.

MMM. ENCHANTING.
HMM. YOU KNOW, BRUCIE, IF I EVER DECIDE TO GET ROMANTIC, I MIGHT JUST GIVE YOU A CALL.

AH. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND JAKE FOR YOU. NOW WE CAN BEGIN! PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS WHERE YOU SEE YOUR NAMES.


PLEASE, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A MINUTE? I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD ALL COME.
DING DING
AS YOU KNOW, MY FATHER BUILT THIS PLACE AND HE LOVED TO THROW PARTIES. I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU ALL TO EACH OTHER...

RANDY McEWEN, CHIEF ARCHITECT FOR SLATS AND McEWEN. BUT THIS WEEKEND, RANDY IS THE GANGSTER! HIS LOVELY WIFE MAUREEN IS A FANCY WOMAN HE PICKED UP IN MANHATTAN.

LYLE HENDERSON IS THE TYCOON! HIS CHARMING AND BEAUTIFUL WIFE LIL IS HIS WIFE, BUT SHE SECRETLY HATES HIM FOR CARRYING ON NUMEROUS EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIRS!

YOU ALL KNOW BRUCE WAYNE. BRUCE HAS CONSENTED TO BE THE DETECTIVE!
ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR MONICA!

HE IS GUARDING THE LIFE OF THE TEMPTRESS, GLAMOROUS MOVIE STAR RUBY SMITH.
PLEASE, NO AUTOGRAPHS.

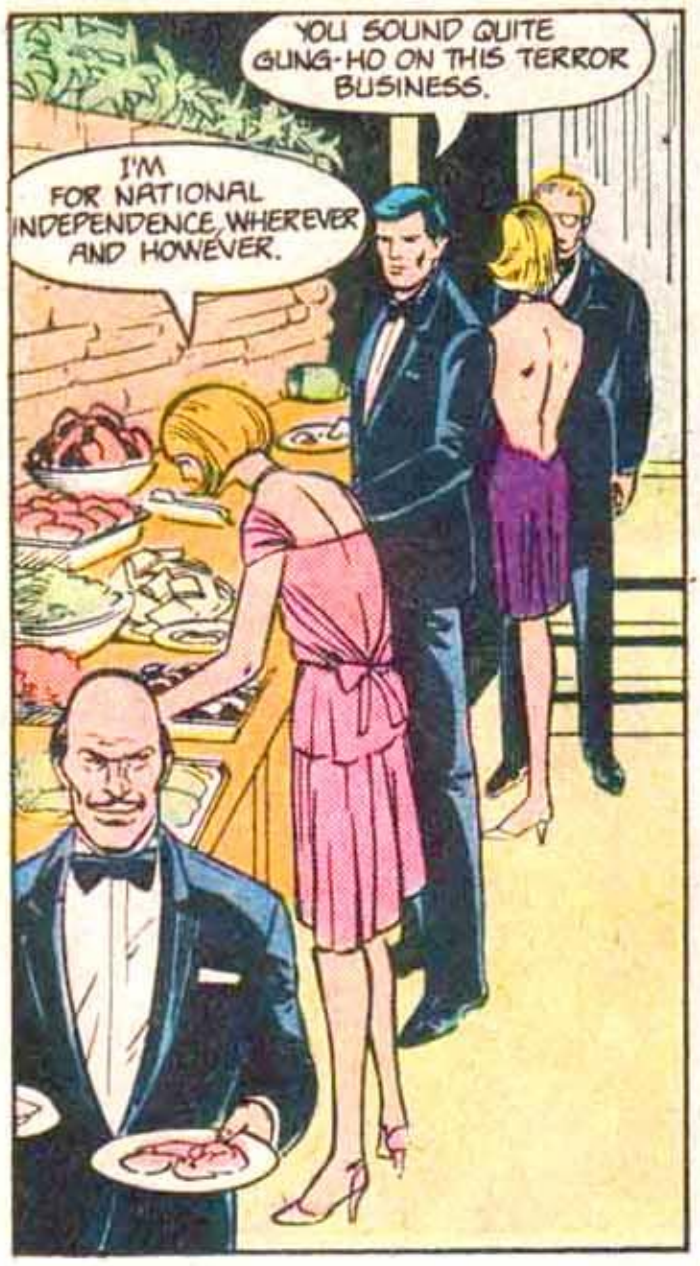
THIS GORGEOUS HUNK IS THE ENGINEER! VICTOR PEI IS THE LAWYER! CLARICE IS THE TENNIS PRO!
HAVE YOU FILLED OUT A WILL?
TENNIS, ANYONE?
I SURE DIG THIS JOB!

LASTLY, VICTOR'S OLD FRIEND RENE CESAR, THE WITCH DOCTOR, AND HIS WIFE PATRICIA, THE TERRORIST!
IT'S GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU!
U.S. OUT OF NICARAGUA!

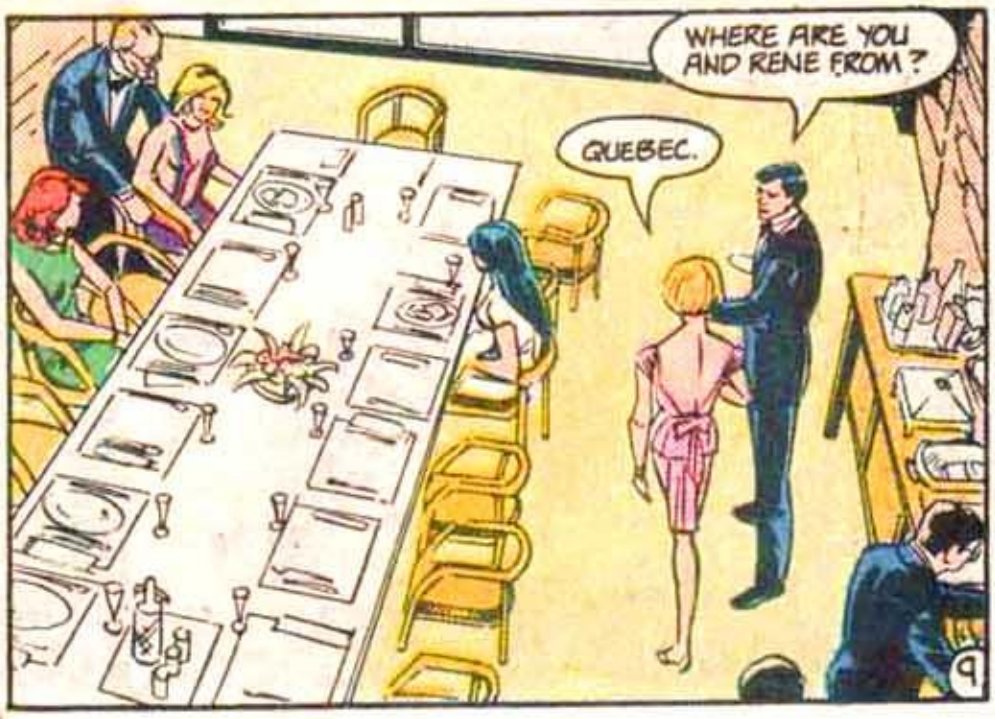
WHO'S THE THIRTEENTH PLACE FOR?
AN OLD FRIEND, BUT HE COULDN'T MAKE IT. JUST AS WELL... THIRTEEN'S UNLUCKY.

RUMBLE
NOW YOU'LL ALL HAVE TO SERVE YOURSELVES ...WE'RE ON OUR OWN FOR THE WEEKEND.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN REAL LIFE, RENE?
PLEASE, MONSIEUR DETECTIVE...WE MUST MAINTAIN CHARACTER. I AM AN IMPORTER. ALL QUITE HARMLESS, I ASSURE YOU.
UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU REFUSE HIS BUSINESS! THEN RENE CAN BE QUITE NASTY! I PREFER TO ATTACK THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE.


YOU SOUND QUITE GUNG-HO ON THIS TERROR BUSINESS.
I'M FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WHEREVER AND HOWEVER.

U.K. OUT OF IRELAND! ISRAEL OUT OF THE WEST BANK! RUSSIA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! THERE'S PLENTY OF IT AROUND.


WHERE ARE YOU AND RENE FROM?
QUEBEC.

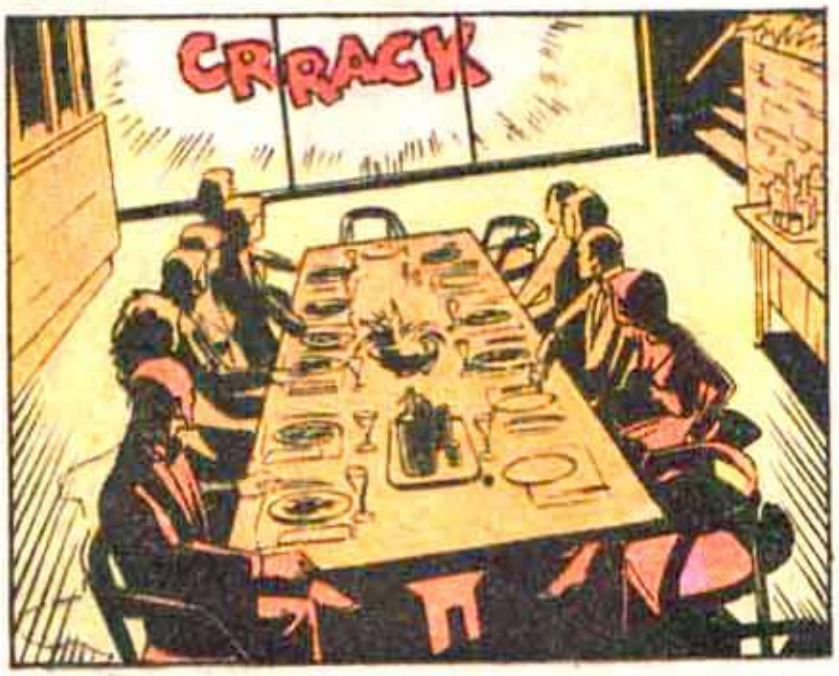
I THINK I SHOULD KNOW YOU. IS RENE IN ADVERTISING?
MONSIEUR DETECTIVE, HE IS AN INFAMOUS MAN, MY HUSBAND RENE. HE IS A GANGSTER!

CRACK

BOOM
OH DEAR! THERE GOES THE POWER. EVERYONE STAY EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE...I HAVE SOME FLASHLIGHTS AND CANDLES IN THE KITCHEN.
MONICA! YOU PLANNED THIS...
I, MUJOBO, AFRICAN MEDICINE MAN, WELCOME THE DARKNESS!

CRACK
RANDY...
HUSH, FANCY WOMAN!
EVERYONE STAY HERE.

HOW'S IT GOING, TEMPTRESS?
ISN'T THIS JUST LIKE MONICA? SO MELO-DRAMATIC.

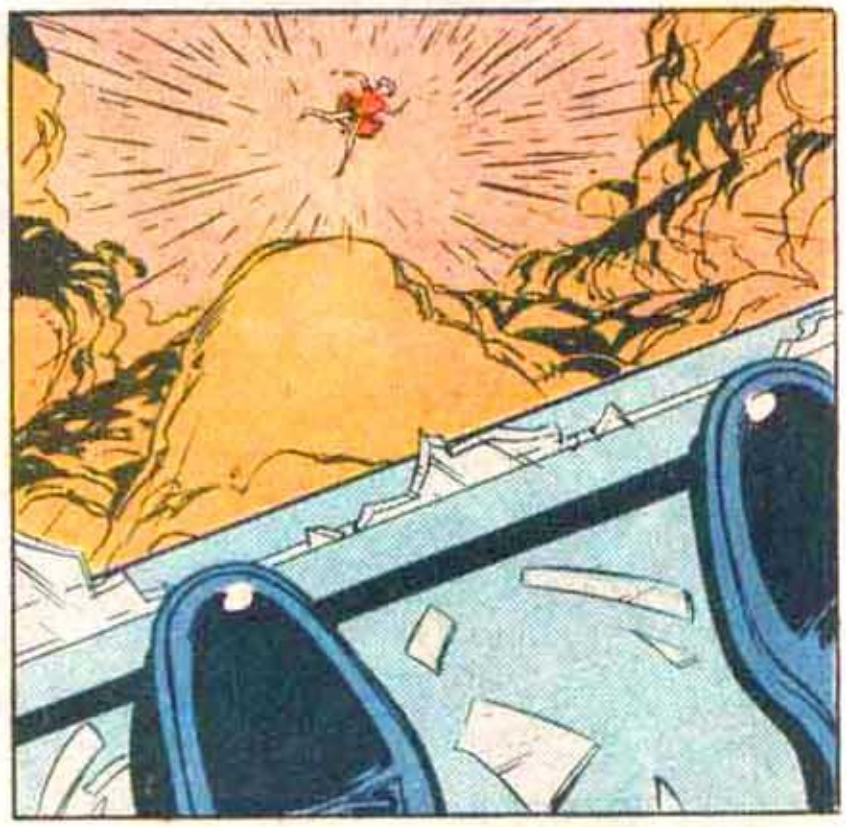

CRRACK

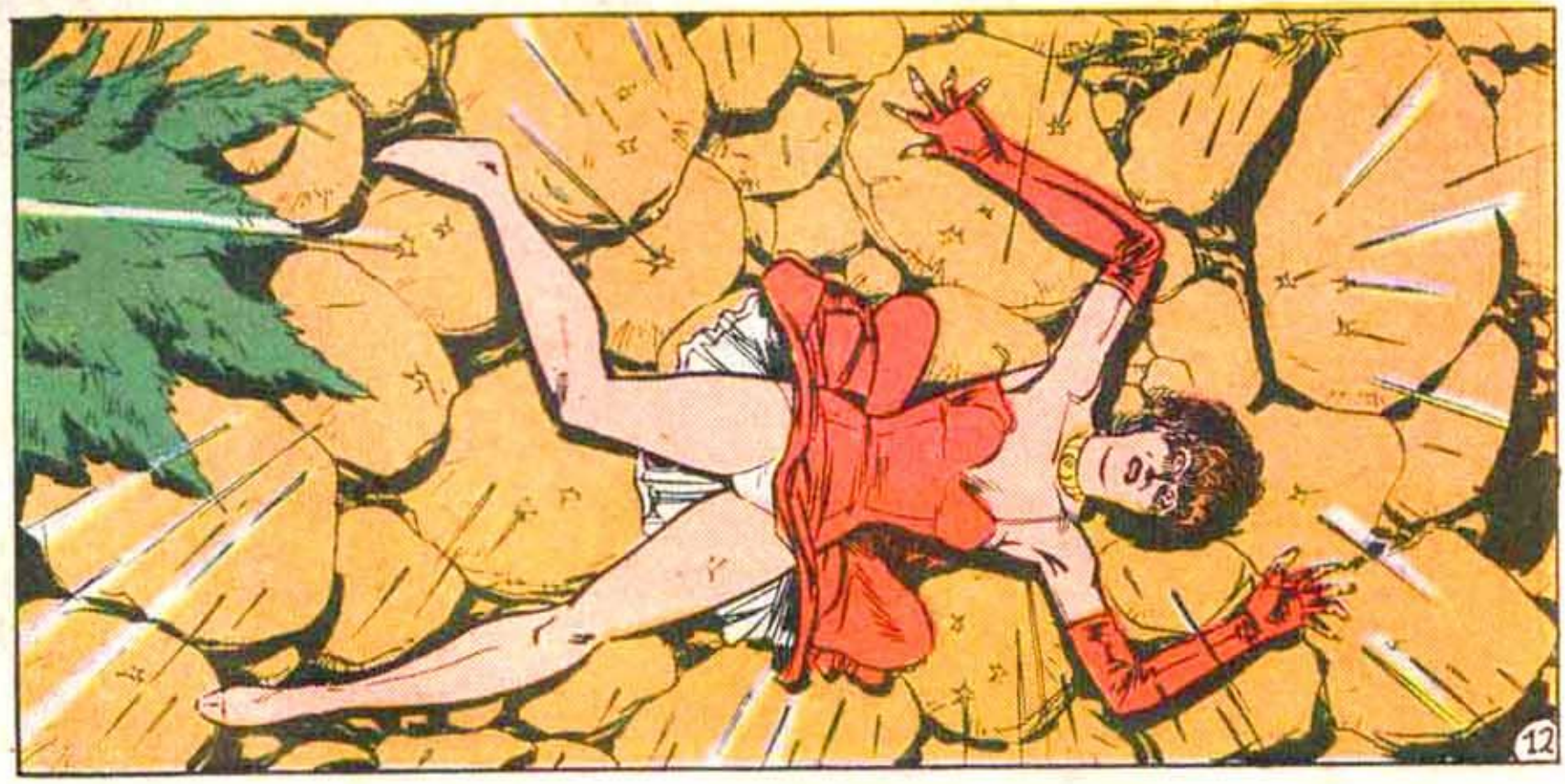
EEEEEE

THAT CAME FROM UPSTAIRS. WAIT HERE...
WAIT! I'LL COME WITH YOU! I WANT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS TOO!
YES! AND I HAVE TO COME TO SEE IT'S NOT ONE OF LYLE'S BIMBOS!
NO! THIS MAY NOT BE A GAME!
OF COURSE IT'S A GAME! MONICA'S OUR HOSTESS! OF COURSE SHE'S THE VICTIM! SHE'S GOING TO ASK ONE OF US TO DIE? NO WAY, HONEY! I CAME HERE TO PARTY!
IF I MEMORIZED THE FLOOR PLAN CORRECTLY, THAT CRASH CAME FROM THE SALON IN THE TOWER.

DOOR'S OPEN. MONICA SAID THIS ROOM WAS OFF-LIMITS...

SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE...





IT'S MONICA-- SHE'S DOWN THERE!
MONICA? MY GOD, MONICA? IT'S PROBABLY JUST A DUMMY.

IT MIGHT BE HER. EVERYBODY GO BACK TO THE DINING ROOM. I'M GOING DOWN THERE!
JUST A MINUTE, MR. DETECTIVE.

THIS IS STILL JUST A GAME, RIGHT? AND IF IT'S NOT, I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF. I DON'T NEED YOU, MR. WAYNE, TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
OKAY, JAKE. YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK, I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BOTTOM.

FLASH

JEEZ... WHERE'D WAYNE GO?

I'LL BE LONG GONE BY THE TIME JAKE GETS DOWN HERE. HE WASN'T AT HIS SEAT WHEN THE LIGHTS BLEW... AND HE WAS TOO QUICK TO THE TOWER.
DAMN. IT'S MONICA.

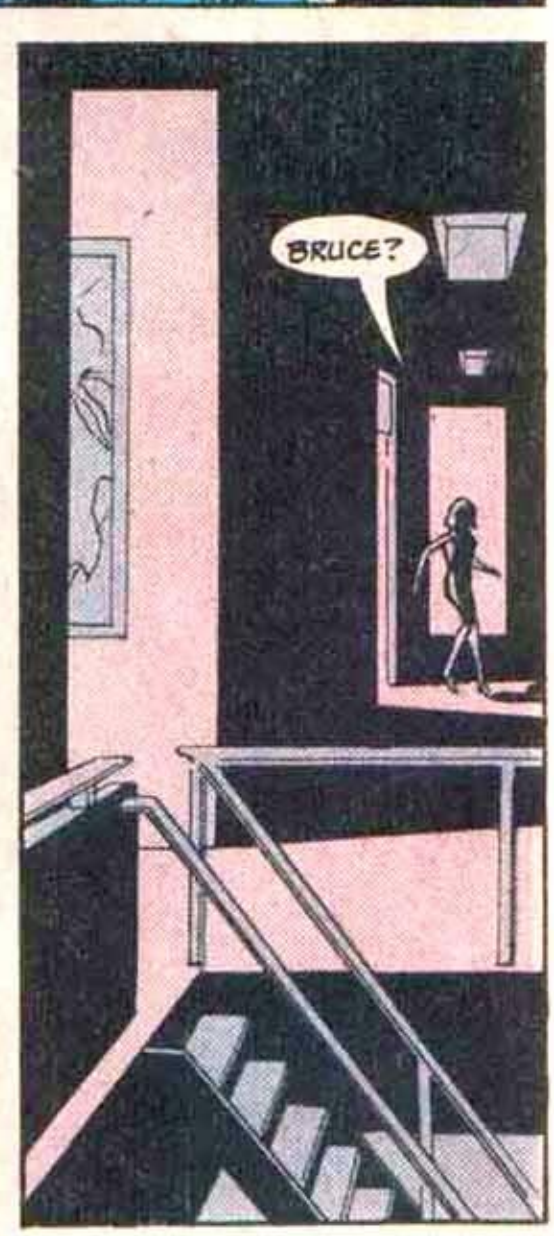
TISSUE UNDER HER FINGERNAILS... SHE MAY HAVE MARKED HER MURDERER...

JAKE!

OH MY GOD! MONICA! MONICA!
I'LL GET THEM FOR YOU, I SWEAR!

JAKE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE... PATRICIA THE TERRORIST AND RENE THE GANGSTER WERE NOT IN THEIR SEATS WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT.

BRUCE! ARE YOU IN HERE?
YES.



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WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S BRUCE?
IT WAS MONSTROUS! SOMEBODY GET HELP!
SOME KIND OF GIANT ATTACKED US...I SHOT AT HIM...MAY HAVE HIT HIM...
MY GOD. MY GOD.

YOU SAY YOU WERE ATTACKED BY A GIANT?

BATMAN! MY GOD! HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN YOU'RE REALLY HE?

JUST LOOK AT HIM, LYLE!

IT WAS AFTER ME! THE DAMN THING WAS EIGHT FEET TALL! THERE IS A SLADE MONSTER, I TELL YOU!

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I'LL FIND THE MISSING GUESTS. IN THE MEANTIME, MR. HENDERSON, I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF YOU'D GIVE ME THAT GUN.
YOU WOULD? WELL, I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF I KEEP IT! MY GOD! WE'VE ALREADY BEEN ATTACKED AND YOU WANT TO TAKE AWAY MY GUN!

WHY DO YOU CARRY A GUN, MR. HENDERSON?
I DEAL IN SECURITIES. I HAVE A LICENSE, AND I'M NOT GIVING UP THIS GUN TO ANYONE.
VERY WELL, BUT IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME.

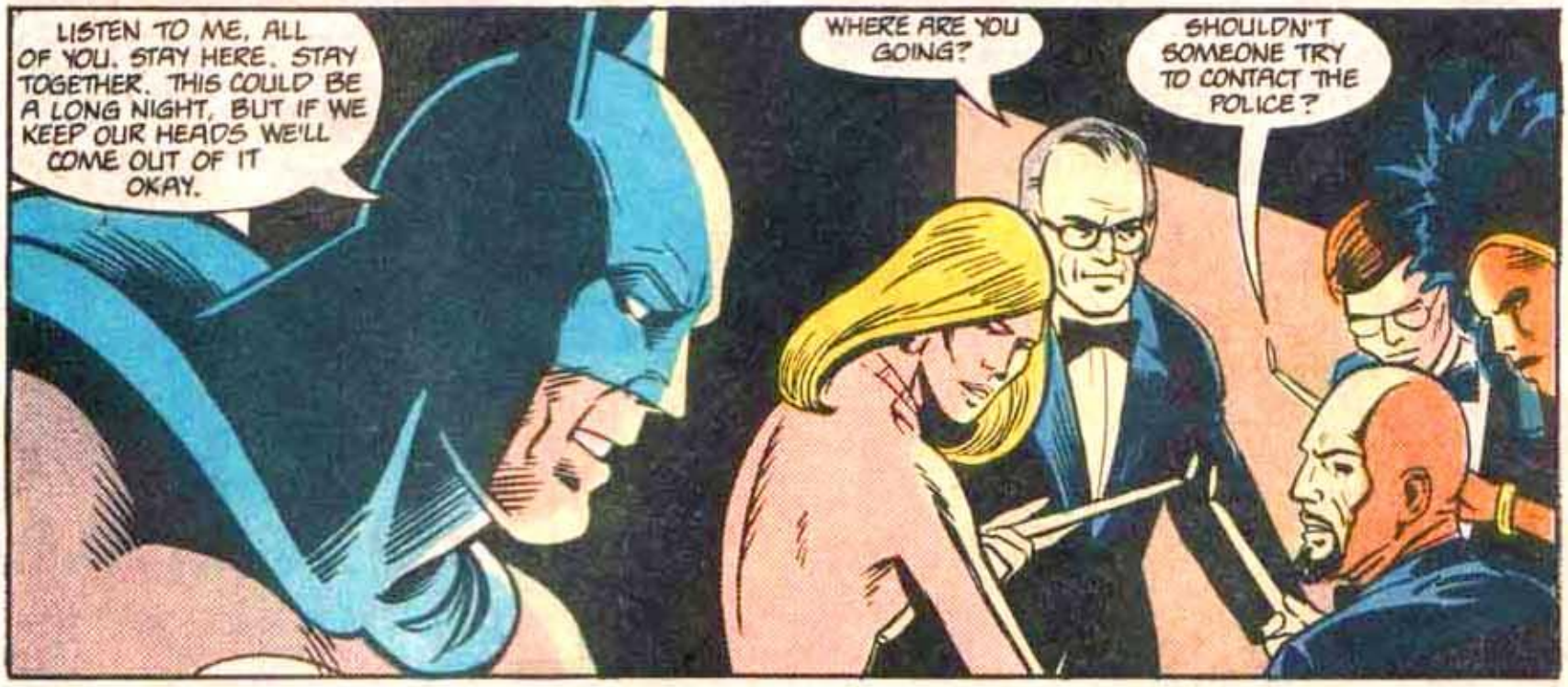
MR. PEI, WHAT ABOUT THIS THING THAT ATTACKED YOU? ANY IDEAS?
YOU KNOW MONICA AND I HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A BITTER DISPUTE OVER CONTROL OF SLADE ENTERPRISES...
TAKE MY GUN AWAY?! HMPH!
LYLE, ONE OF US SHOULD TRY TO GET DOWN THE MOUNTAIN AND CALL THE POLICE.
IN THIS RAIN?

ARE YOU SUGGESTING MONICA MIGHT HAVE HARBORED MALICIOUS INTENTIONS TOWARD YOU?
YES! SHE SEEMED SO EASYGOING. BUT INSIDE SHE WAS A NEUROTIC MESS! SHE WAS RUINING SLADE!
BY THE SAME TOKEN, YOU HAVE A MOTIVE TO MURDER HER, IF YOU BELIEVED SHE WAS A THREAT TO YOUR POSITION.

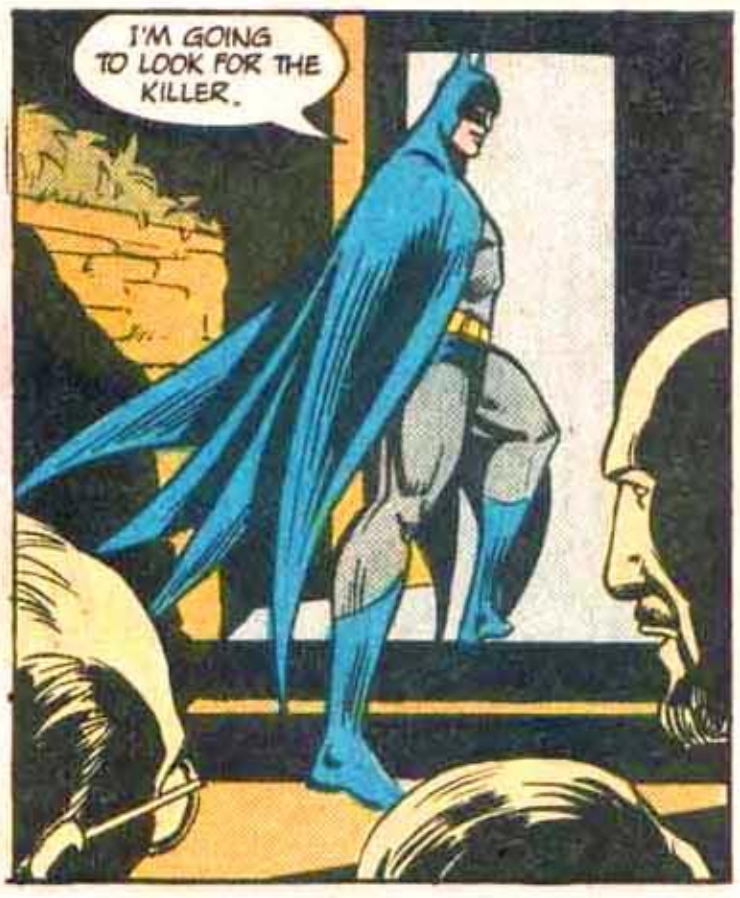
BUT I NEVER LEFT THE DINING ROOM!

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT MONICA-- SHE HAD AN AFFAIR WITH LYLE!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
SHE JOKED TO ME THAT SHE WAS INCLUDING ONE EX-LOVER ON THE GUEST LIST! WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?

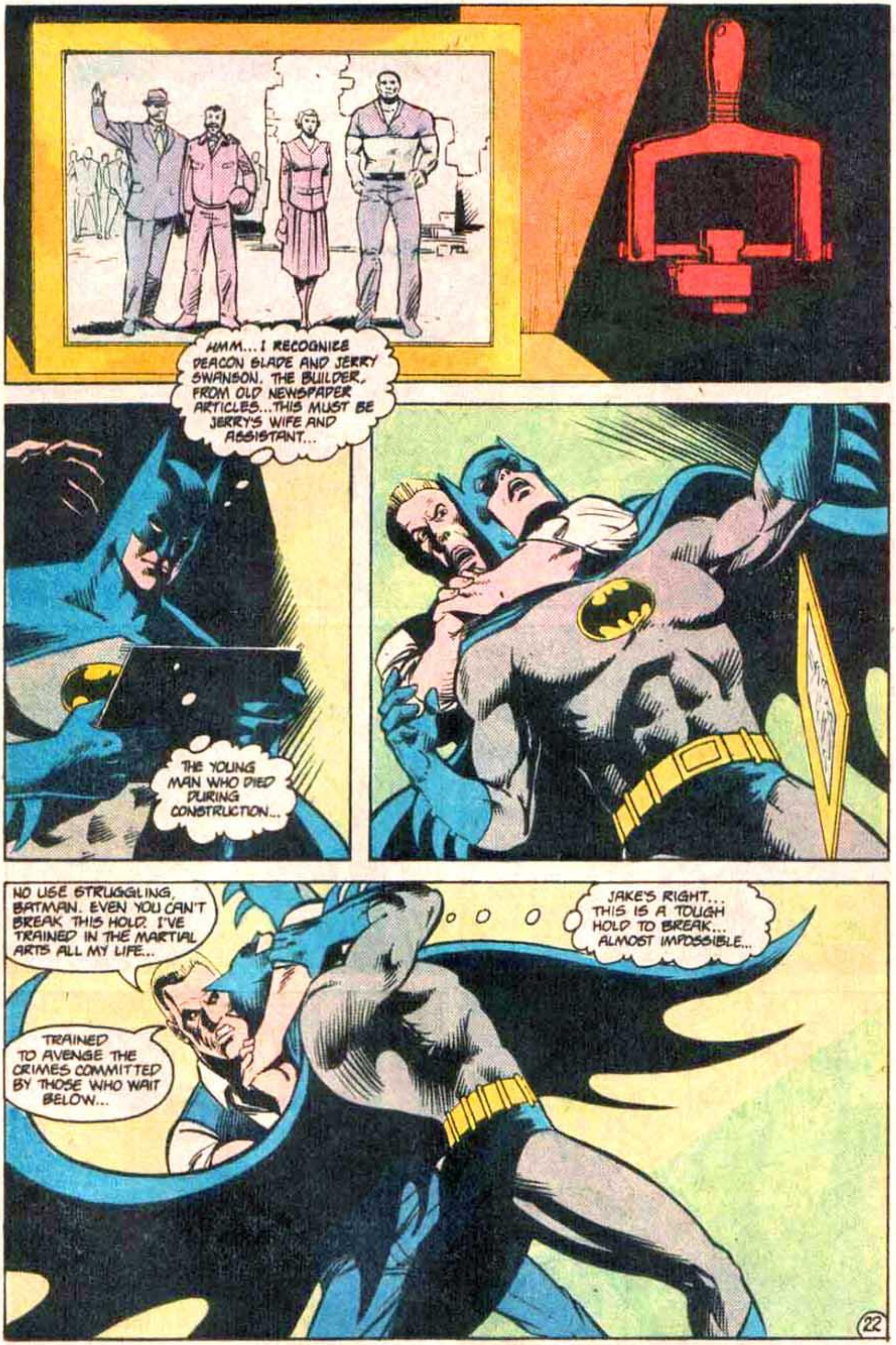
SHE DIDN'T KNOW WAYNE OR RENE CESAR BEFORE THIS, AND SOMEHOW, I COULDN'T SEE HER GETTING IT ON WITH RANDY.
ALL RIGHT. KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF.

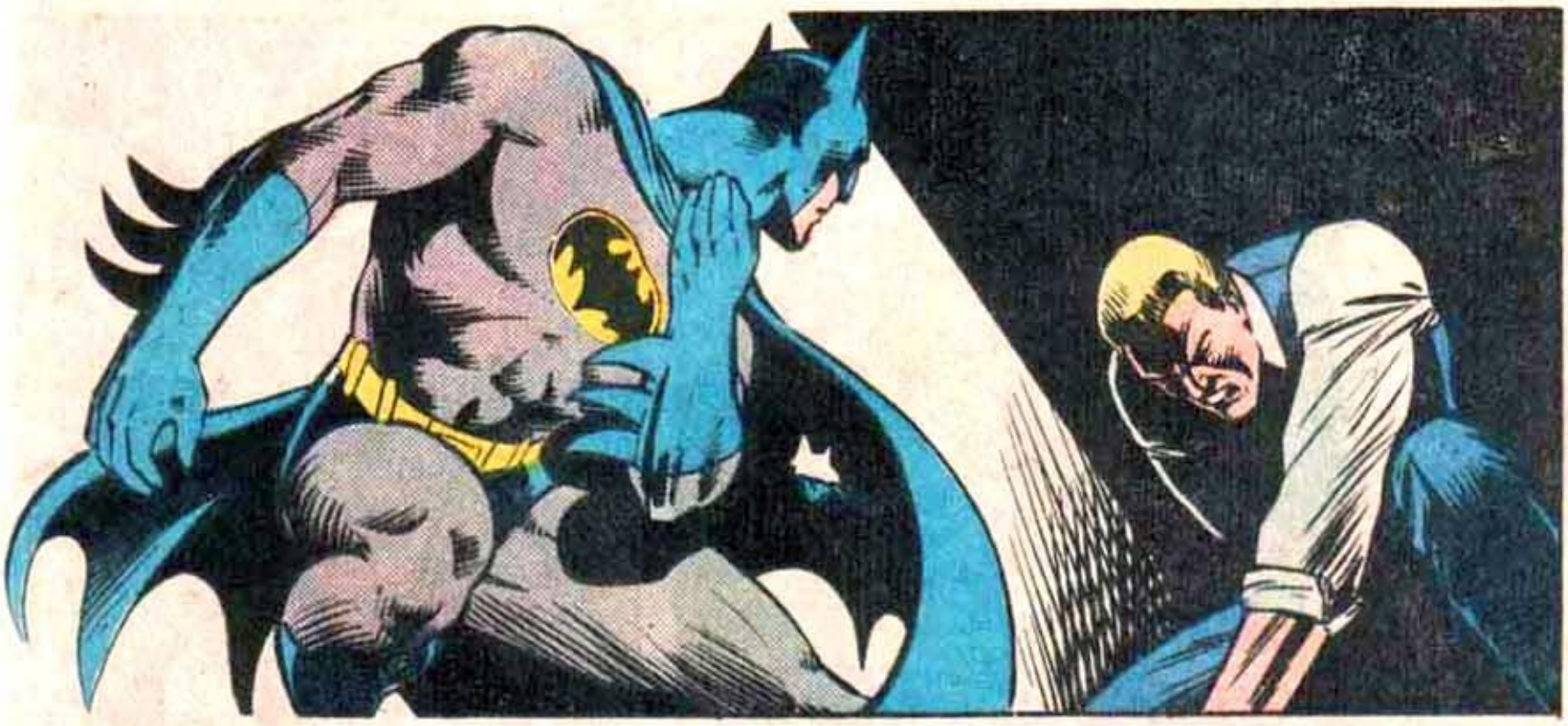

LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU. STAY HERE. STAY TOGETHER. THIS COULD BE A LONG NIGHT, BUT IF WE KEEP OUR HEADS WE'LL COME OUT OF IT OKAY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SHOULDN'T SOMEONE TRY TO CONTACT THE POLICE?

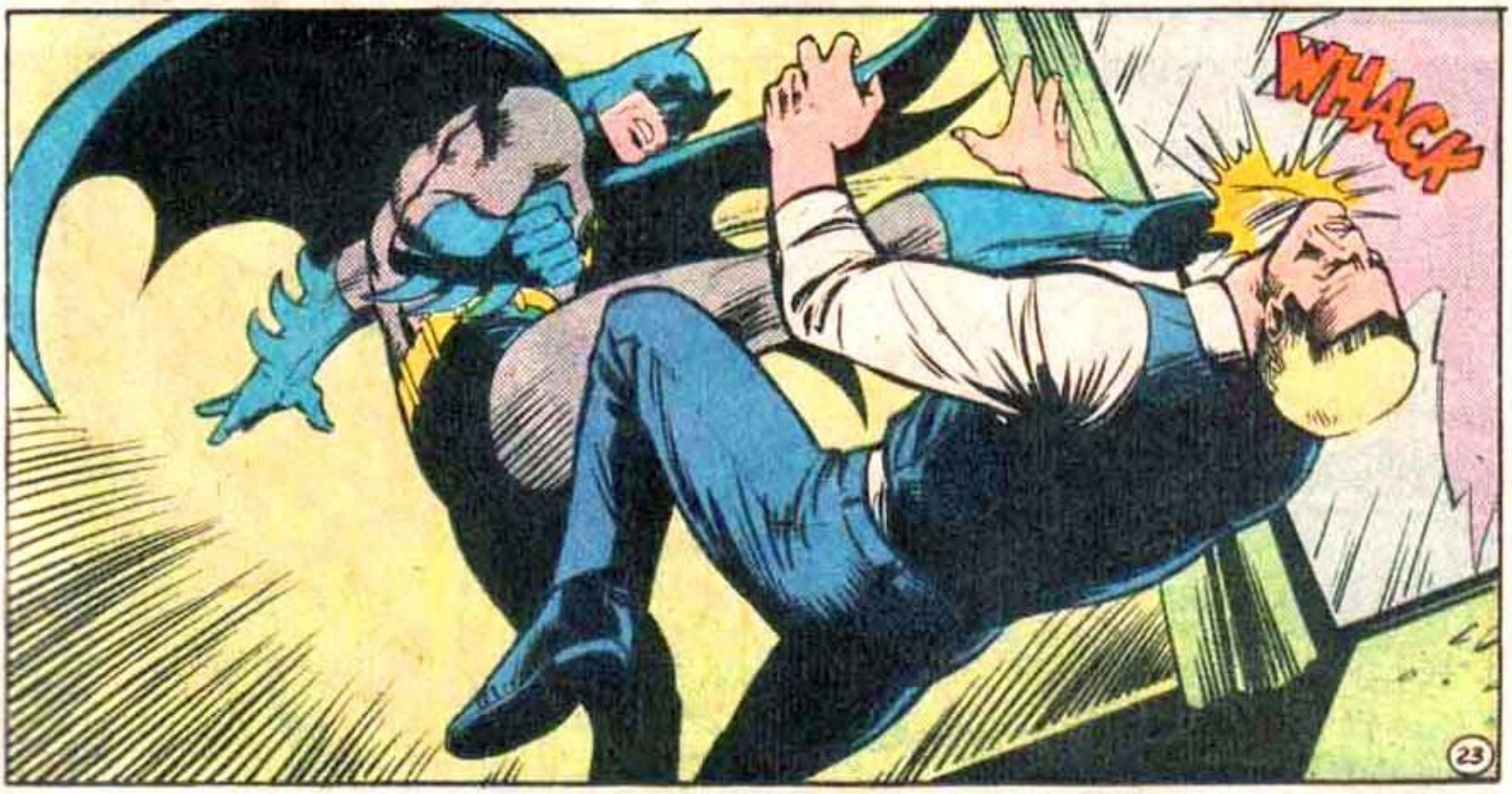
YOU'LL BE SAFE IF YOU STICK TOGETHER. OUT THERE, IN THE RAIN, THE KILLER CAN PICK ANYONE OFF AT HIS OR HER LEISURE.


I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR THE KILLER.

WHY DID MONICA COME HERE? WAS SHE MEETING SOMEONE?


HMM... I RECOGNIZE DEACON BLADE AND JERRY SWANSON. THE BUILDER, FROM OLD NEWSPAPER ARTICLES...THIS MUST BE JERRY'S WIFE AND ASSISTANT...
THE YOUNG MAN WHO DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION...
NO USE STRUGGLING, BATMAN. EVEN YOU CAN'T BREAK THIS HOLD. I'VE TRAINED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS ALL MY LIFE...
TRAINED TO AVENGE THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY THOSE WHO WAIT BELOW...
JAKE'S RIGHT... THIS IS A TOUGH HOLD TO BREAK... ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE...





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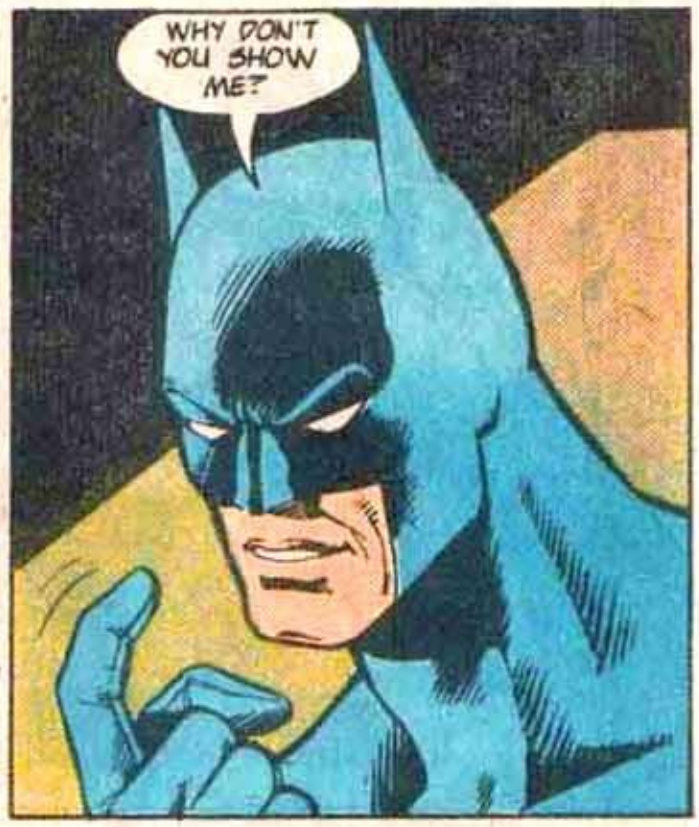

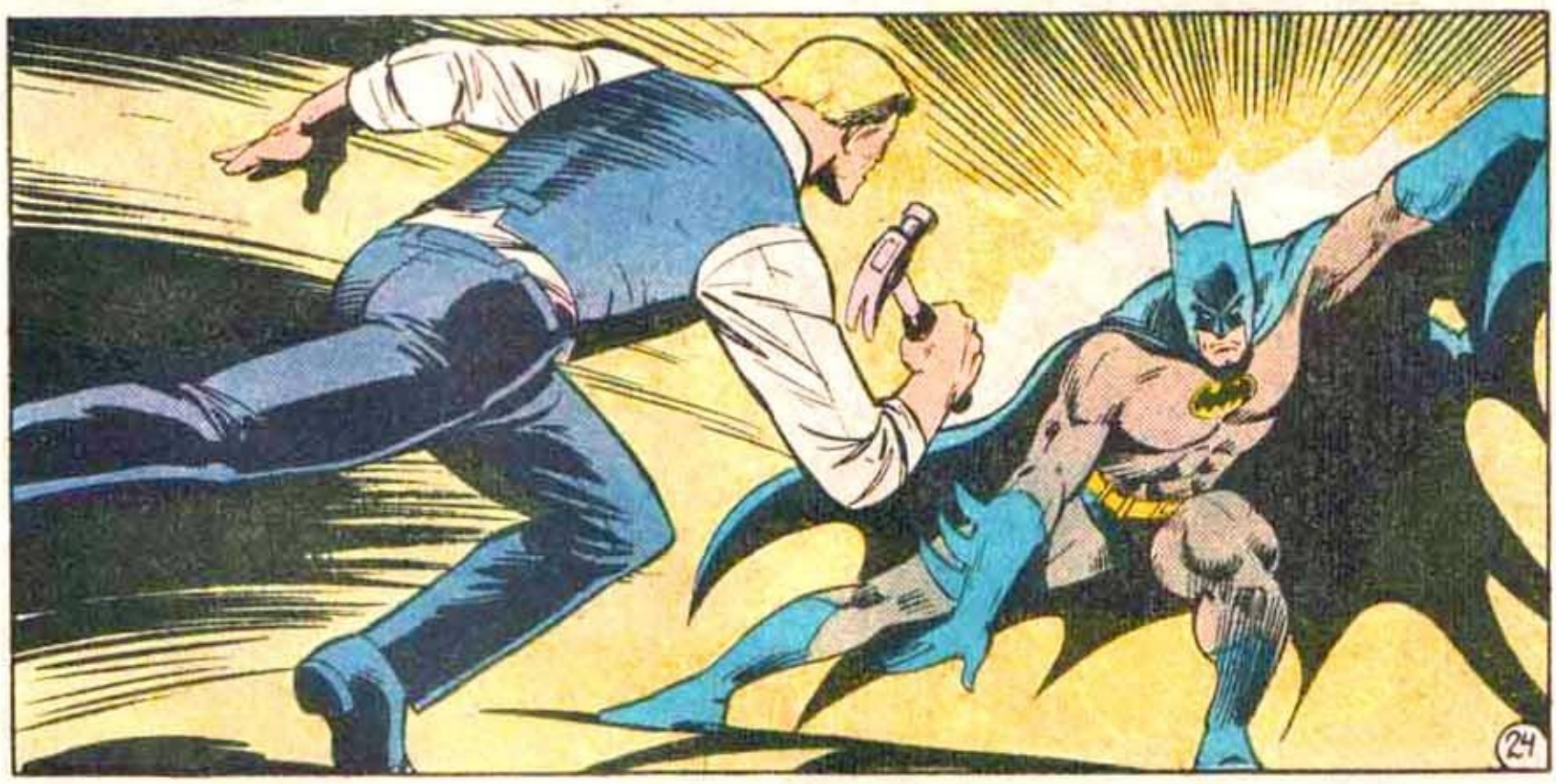

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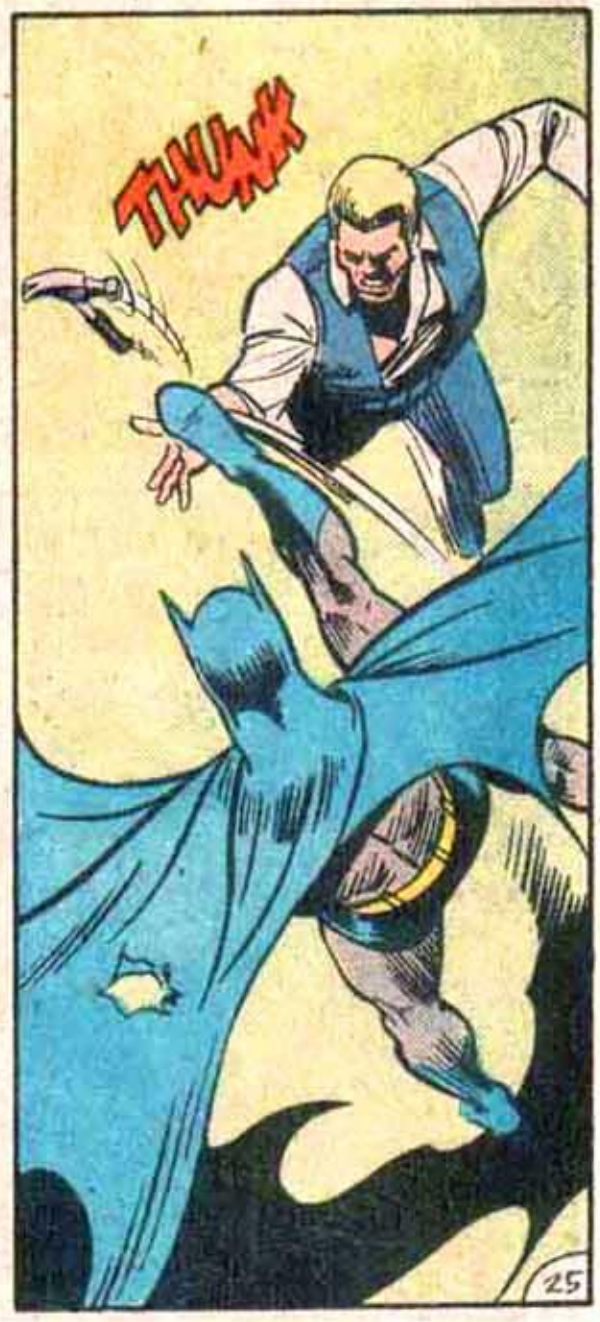
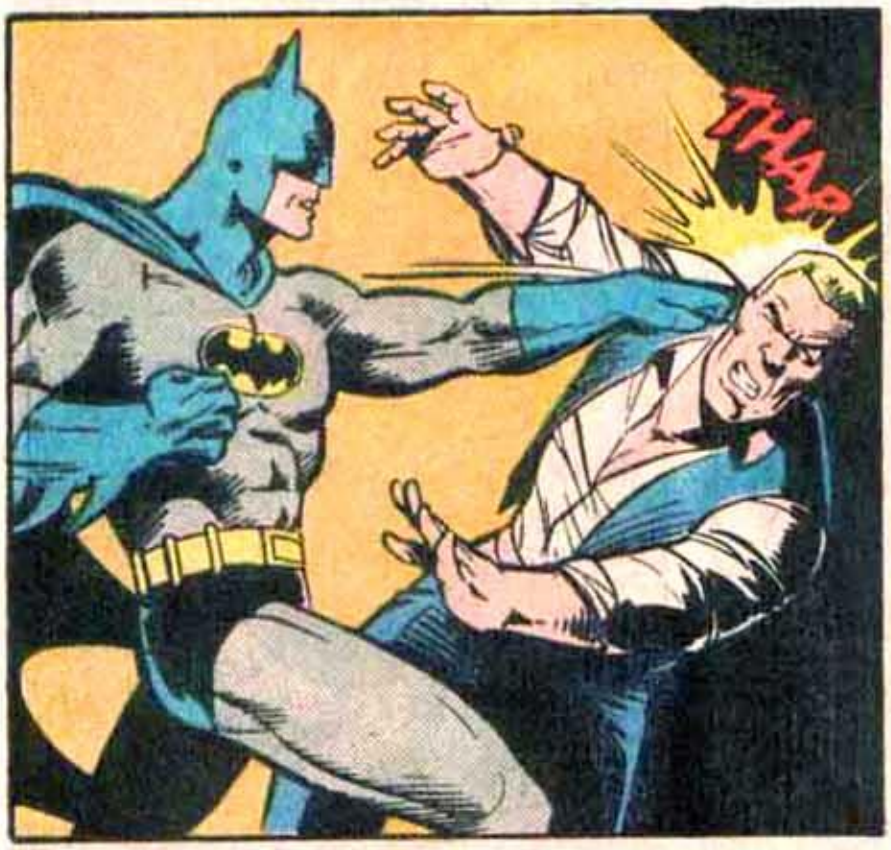
SHOW ME AGAIN!

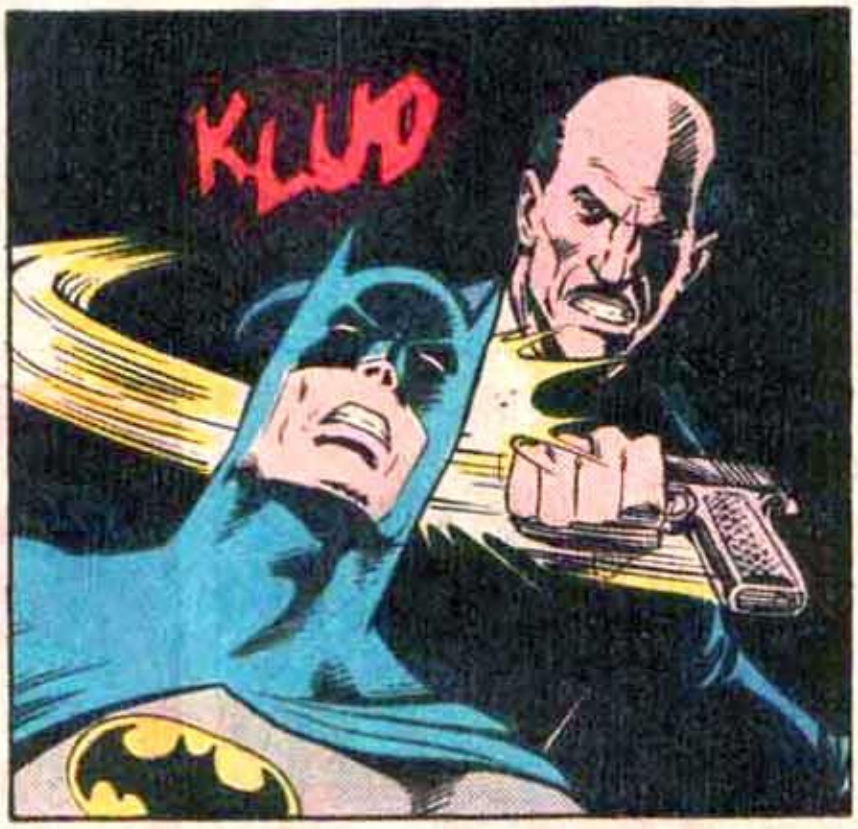
HAIEE!


THUNK


THAP

WHACK

THE DINNER PARTY IS OVER.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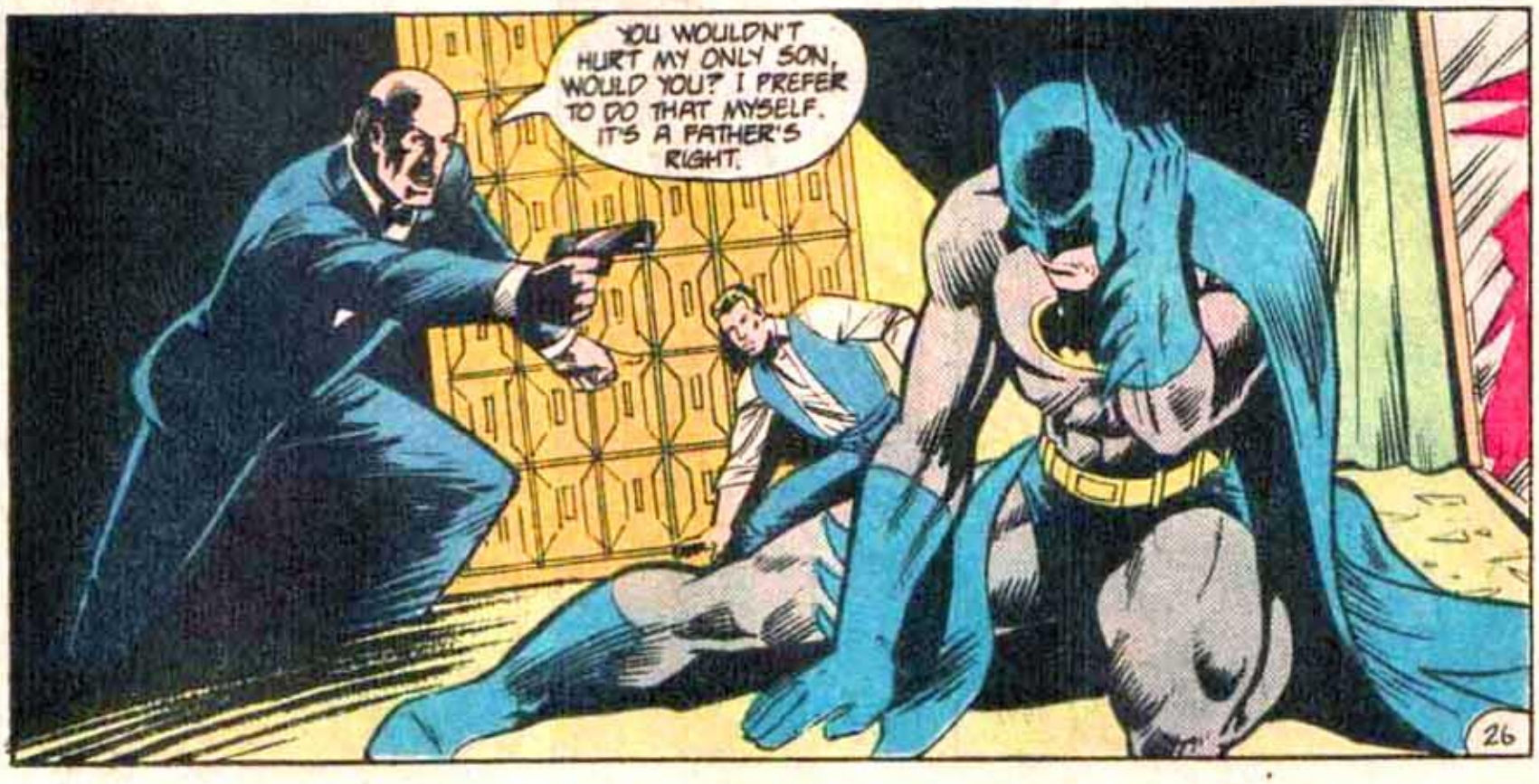

YOU WOULDN'T HURT MY ONLY SON, WOULD YOU? I PREFER TO DO THAT MYSELF. IT'S A FATHER'S RIGHT.

YOU!

DON'T FORCE ME, BOY!
YOU KILLED HER, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT IF I DID? YOU INTENDED TO KILL EVERYONE HERE! ANOTHER STUPID BLOODY MASS SACRIFICE, JUST LIKE DEAR OLD DAD USED TO DO!

YOU'RE DEACON SLADE'S SON...
THAT'S RIGHT. LYDIA SWANSON WAS MY MOTHER. DEACON SLADE FORCED HIMSELF ON HER! MY FATHER -- THE MAN WHO COULD HAVE BEEN MY FATHER -- WAS BRILLIANT, AND DEACON SLADE DESTROYED HIM.

WHEN MY FATHER FOUND OUT, HE WENT BERSERK! MY MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO ME IN A MENTAL ASYLUM! SLADE TURNED HIS BACK TO US COMPLETELY.

BLADE... HE MURDERED MY FATHER'S ASSISTANT, TOO, PUSHED HIM OFF THE CLIFF AS PART OF HIS BIG SACRIFICE.
YOU CAN'T BE MY FATHER.

CAN'T I? THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE BRUISED FRUIT. I SOUGHT MONICA OUT, YOU KNOW... I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO... HER PARENTS WERE GONE, BUT SHE LIVED ON, THROWING THE MONEY AWAY. I SEDUCED HER WHEN SHE WAS IN MONTREAL... I DIDN'T FIND OUT UNTIL QUITE RECENTLY THAT SHE HAD A SON...

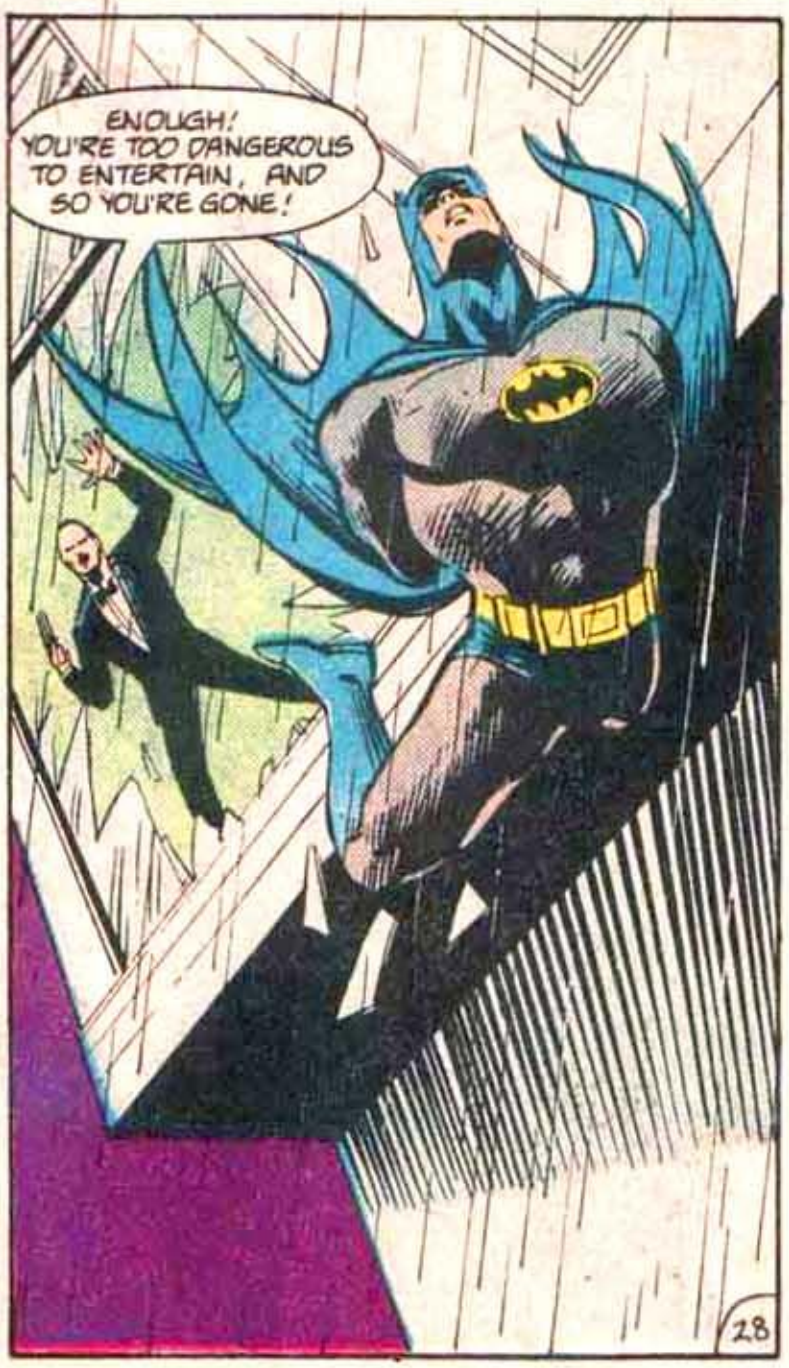
TIE HIS HANDS, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE.
WHY NOT JUST SHOOT ME?
OH NO. SATAN DEMANDS A SACRIFICE.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS.

I AM SERIOUS. I'VE STUDIED DEACON SLADE AND IT WORKED FOR HIM, FOR A WHILE.
SLADE FELL BECAUSE HE FAILED IN THE FINAL SACRIFICE. BUT I WON'T FAIL. FIRST. BATMAN— OUT THE WINDOW.

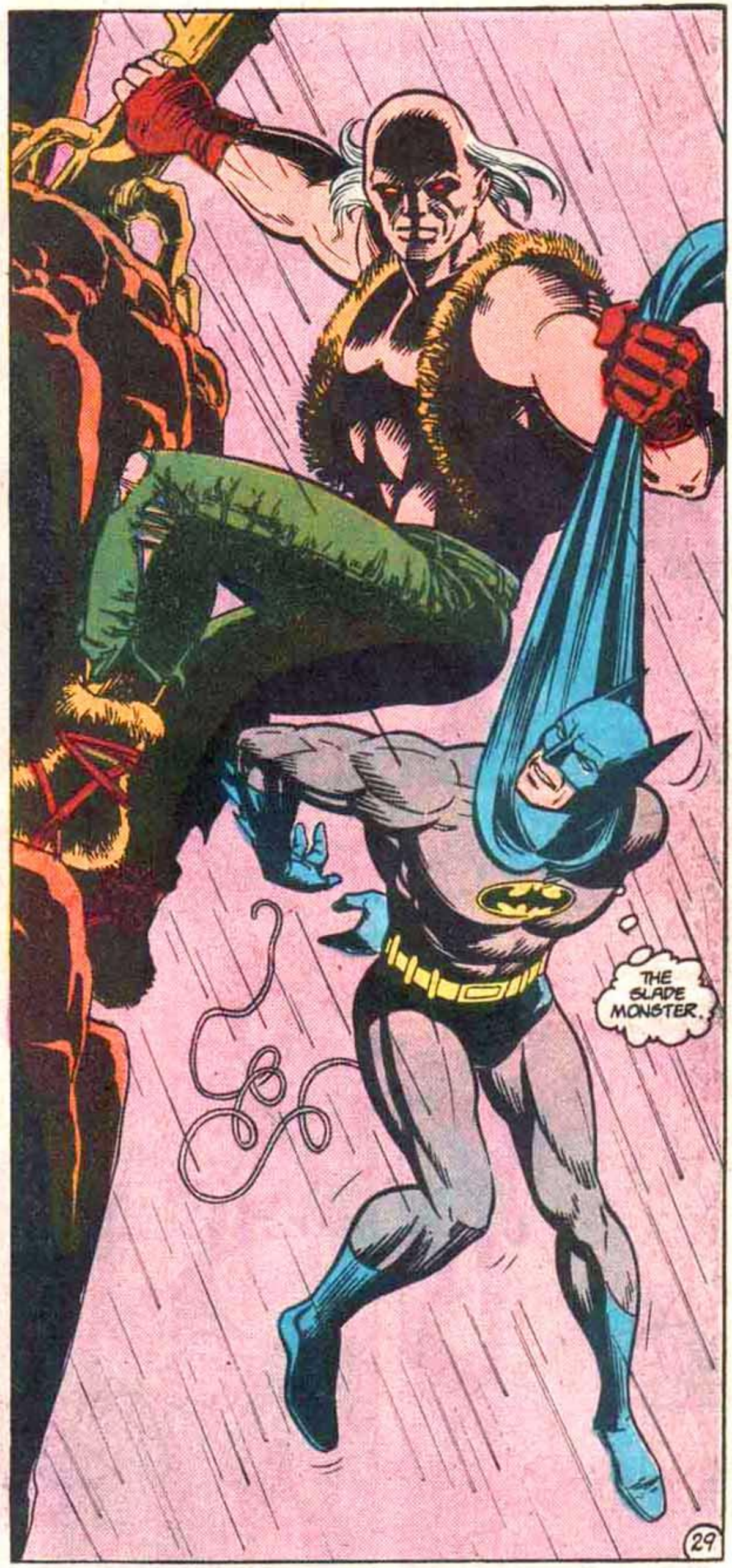
AND THEN I'LL THROW THIS SWITCH. IT'S CONNECTED TO A SERIES OF CHARGES ATTACHED TO THE MAIN SUPPORTS. IT WILL SEND THE WHOLE WRETCHED PLACE SLIDING INTO THE GORGE.

WHY, CESAR? WHY DID JERRY SWANSON BUILD SUCH A THING?

DON'T YOU SEE? HE WAS IN THRALL TO SLADE! HE THOUGHT SATAN WOULD REWARD THEM, UNTIL HE LEARNED ABOUT MY MOTHER...


ENOUGH! YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO ENTERTAIN, AND SO YOU'RE GONE!

I'LL HAVE MY HANDS FREE IN SECONDS, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TIME...ONLY HOPE-- TO SNAG MY CAPE ON A TREE...


THE SLADE MONSTER.

HE CRAWLS OVER THIS CLIFF LIKE A MOUNTAIN GOAT. MUST BE SEVENTY, AT LEAST.

YOU WERE SWANSON'S ASSISTANT. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
RRR... HAMISH STEWART ...SO LONG SINCE I TALKED TO ANYONE...

SLADE'S SON IS ABOUT TO SEND THE HOUSE SLIDING INTO THE GORGE. IS THERE A WAY TO THE TOWER?
YES...BUT MAYBE THIS PLACE SHOULD DIE. IT'S BEEN CURSED SINCE WE BROKE GROUND..

WE BEGGED DEACON NOT TO BUILD HERE. THIS WAS A SACRED PLACE TO THE INDIANS. BUT HE WAS CRAZY FOR POWER--WANTED TO LIVE FOREVER. HE TRICKED ME--SHOVED ME INTO THE GORGE AT NIGHT--AS A SACRIFICE, DON'T YOU SEE? BUT THE BRANCHES BROKE MY FALL--THERE USED TO BE SO MUCH MORE OF THEM...

THERE.
WHY DID YOU ATTACK THE DINNER PARTY?
I WAS TRYING TO HELP. BUT THEY NEVER GAVE ME A CHANCE.

BOOM
BOOM
HE'S FIRED THE CHARGES! I'VE GOT TO GET UP THERE!
GO. I'LL TRY TO HOLD THE HOUSE.

IT'LL ALL BE OVER SHORTLY, FOLKS. AND IF YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO GUESS THE MURDERER...

THUNK

QUICK! GRAB PATRICIA AND GO OUT THE FRONT DOOR! THE HOUSE IS SLIDING INTO THE GORGE.

YOU'D LIKE TO KILL ME, WOULDN'T YOU, SON?
DON'T CALL ME SON! YOU'RE AS BAD AS THE OTHERS! YOU USED MY MOTHER! YOU NEVER LOVED HER!
RRUMBLE

LOVE HER? SHE WAS A BLADE! CURSED, LIKE HER OLD MAN! LOOK WHAT SHE'S DONE TO YOU!
SETTING YOU UP AS HER PARAMOUR... YOU MUST BE SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL SWAMP!

SHUT UP...
SHUT UP!

SHUT UP!
BLAM

GRAB YOUR SON. WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT.
YES... WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT...
RUMBLL

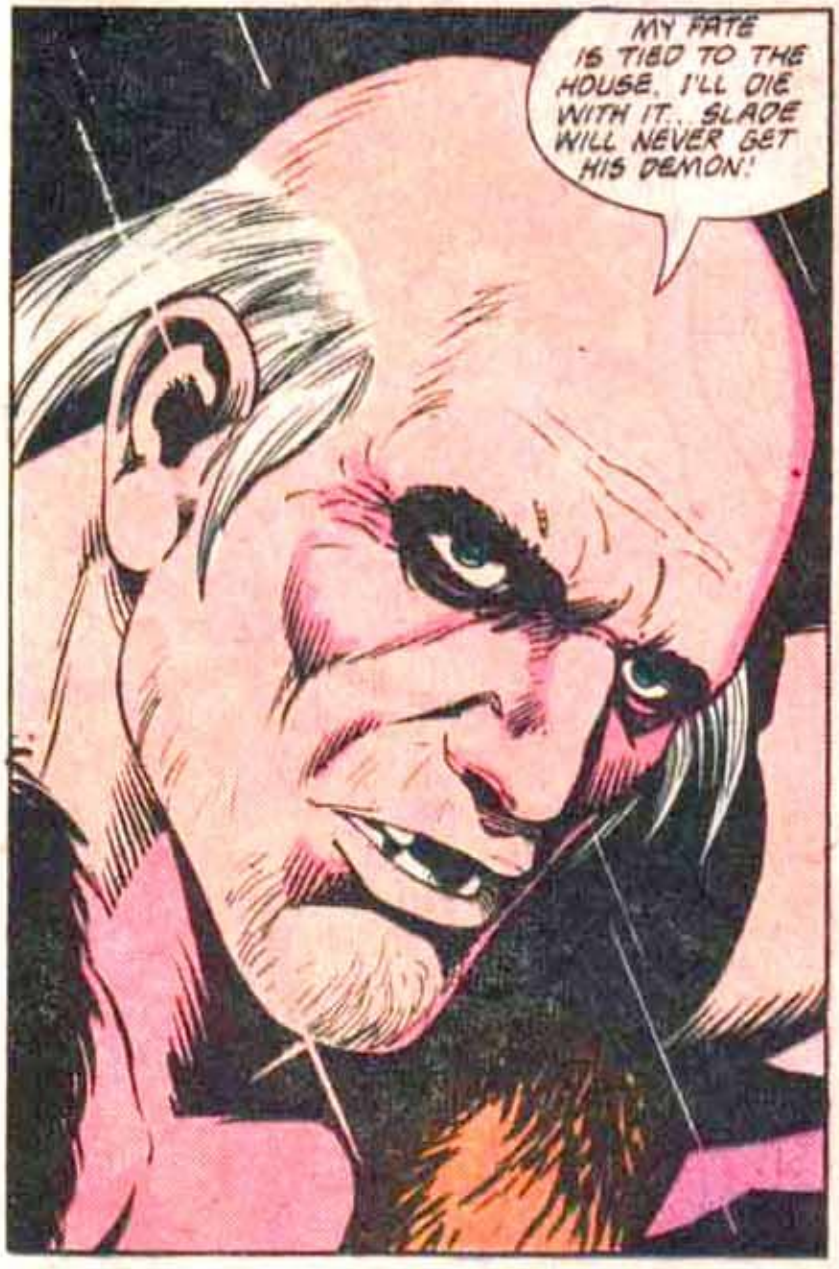
GRIND
NO!

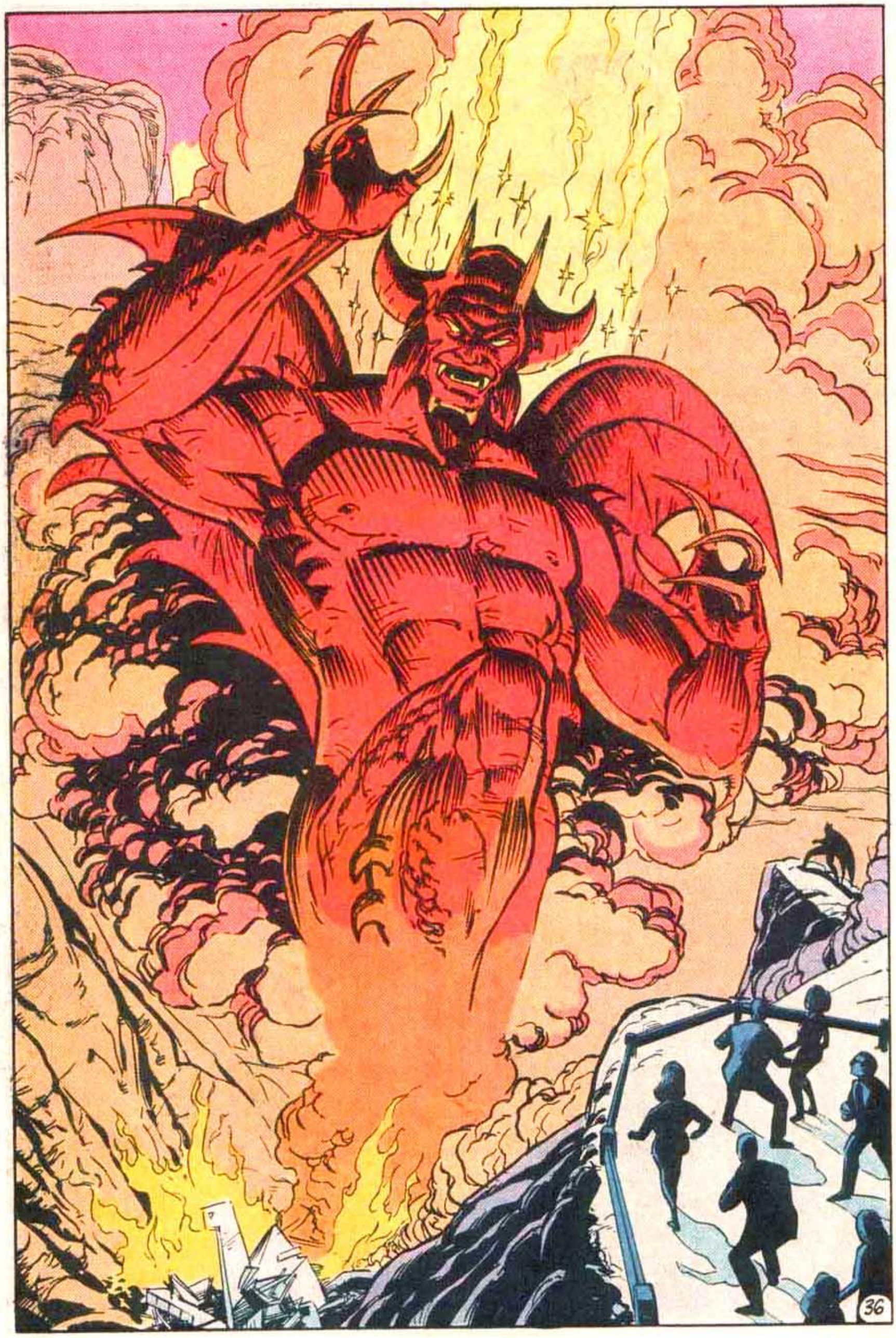
YAHHHHHH...

CREAK

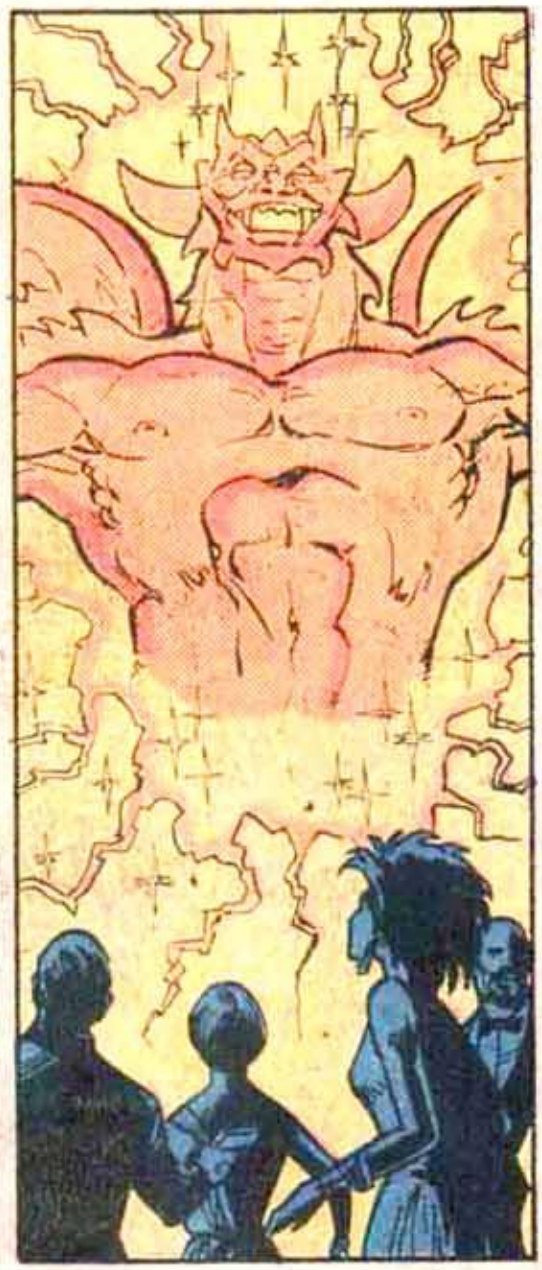
STEWART! GET OUT OF THERE! WE'RE ALL OUT OF THE HOUSE!
I CAN'T...

CRUNCH


MY FATE IS TIED TO THE HOUSE. I'LL DIE WITH IT... SLADE WILL NEVER GET HIS DEMON!



MY GOD!
WHAT IS IT?

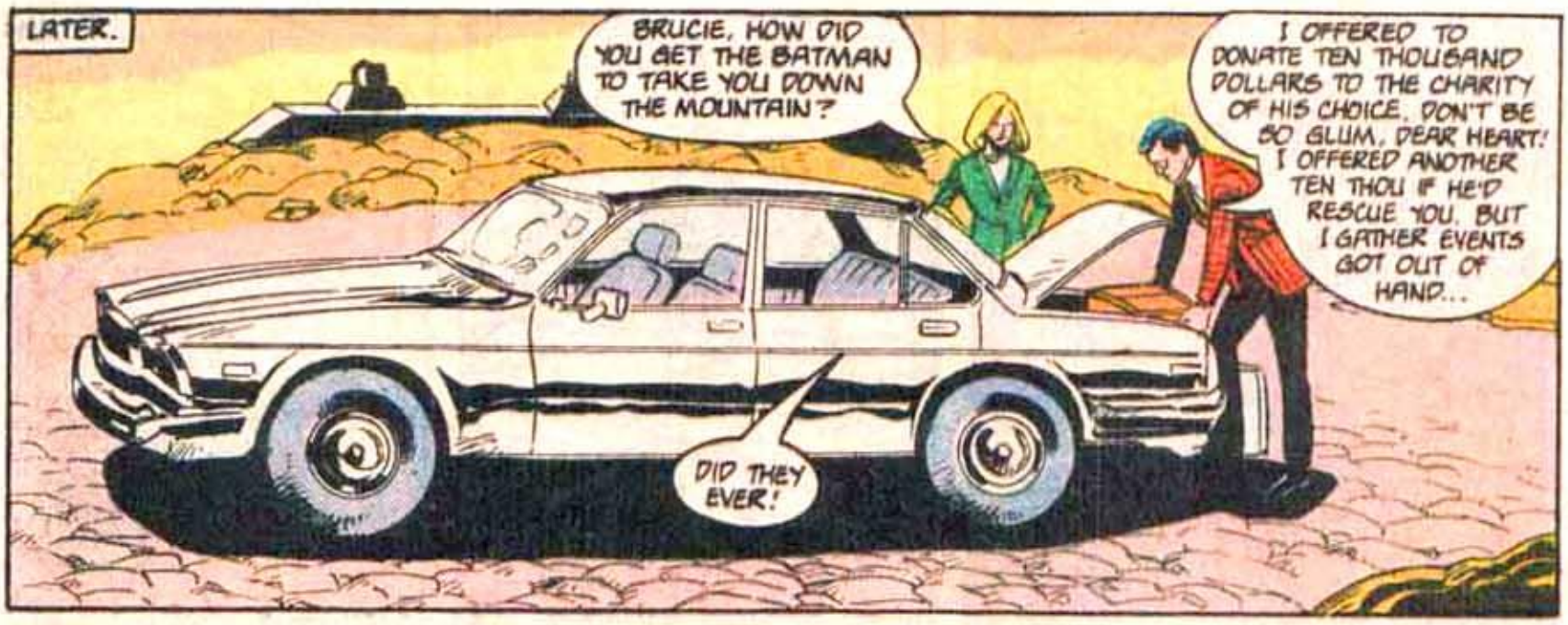


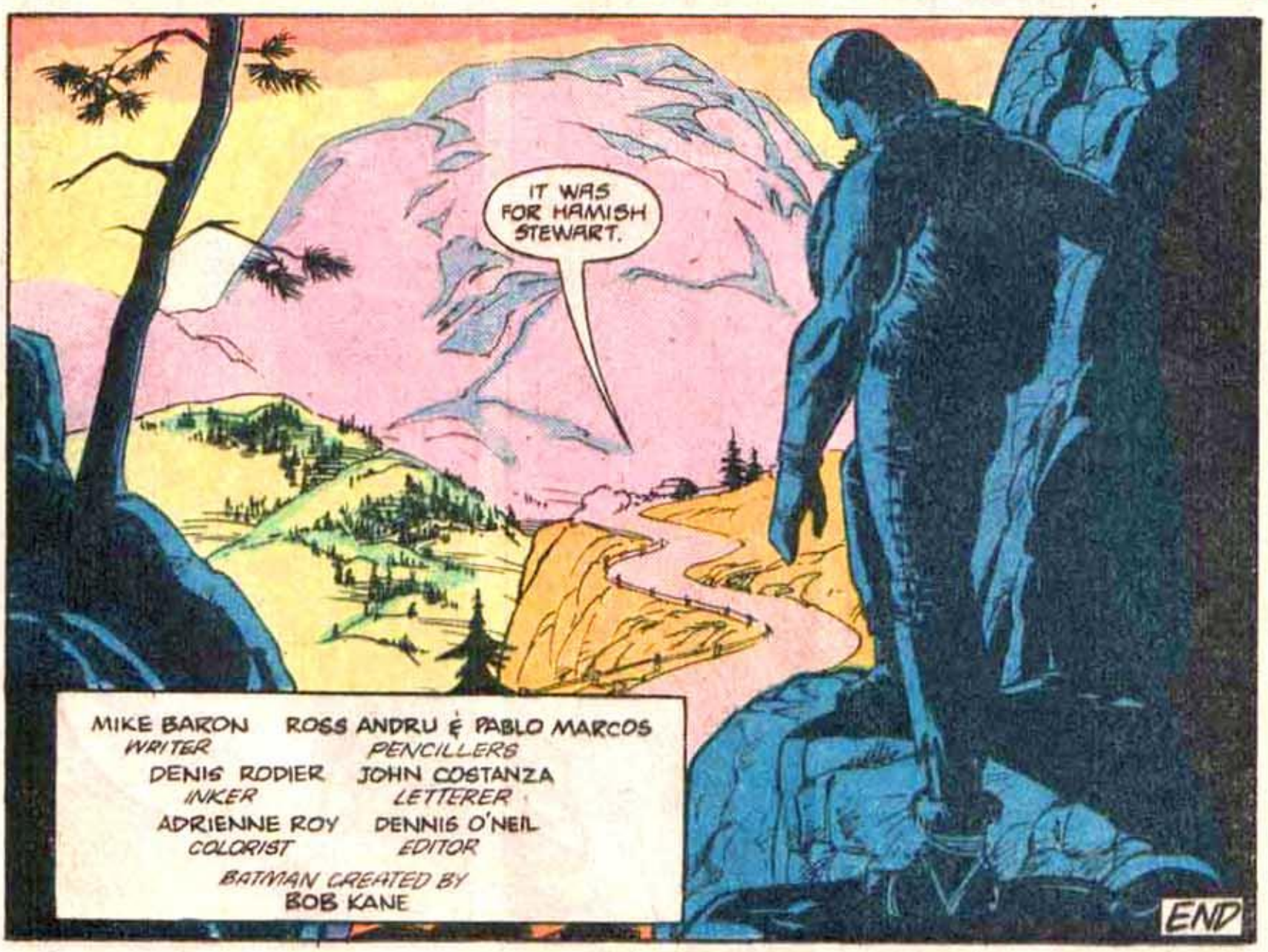
THE DANGER IS PAST. REMAIN HERE-- THE POLICE WILL BE ALONG SHORTLY.
IT'S SLADE'S DEMON, GONE AT LAST...

WHERE ARE RENE CESAR, JAKE, AND WAYNE?

CESAR AND JAKE ARE DEAD. WAYNE IS WITH THE POLICE. I TOOK HIM DOWN THE MOUNTAIN EARLIER THIS EVENING.

FAREWELL.





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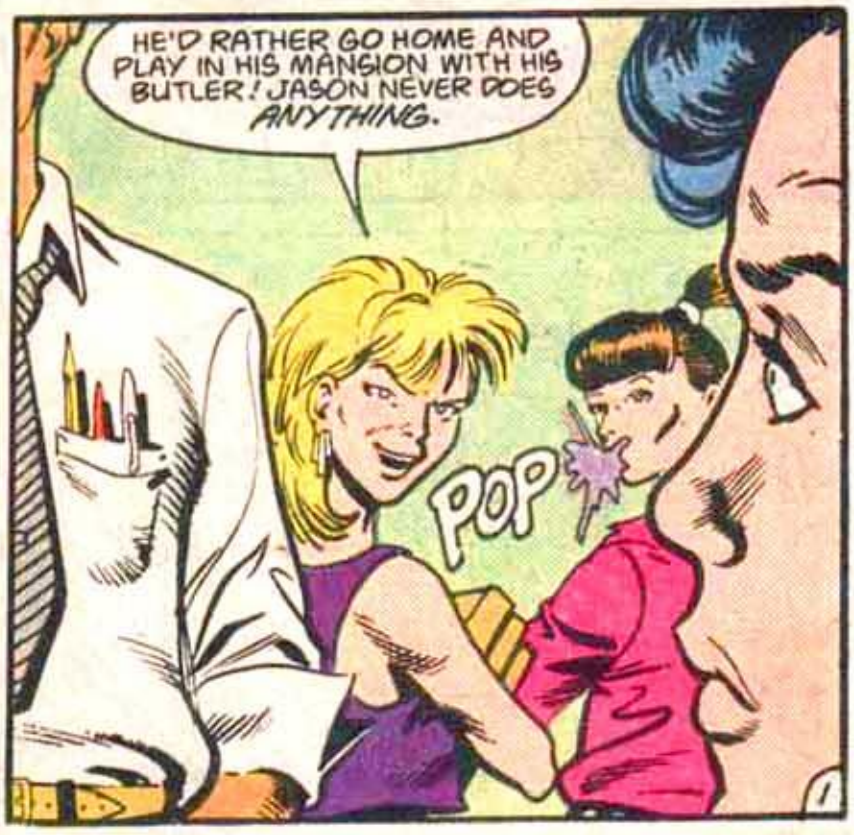
ROBIN™

THE BELL HAS RUNG AND FOR JASON TODD, IT MEANS THE END OF ONE EXISTENCE AND THE ANTICIPATION OF BEGINNING ANOTHER EXISTENCE. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT TO BE A TYPICAL AFTERNOON OF HOMEWORK IN THE BATCAVE...

JASON, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SCHOOL...

THE BACK-UP

ROBERT GREENBERGER * NORM BREYFOGLE * ALBERT DE GUZMAN * ADRIENNE ROY
WRITER ARTIST LETTERER COLORIST



I HAVE A LOT OF HOMEWORK-- I NEVER THOUGHT SEVENTH GRADE WOULD INVOLVE SO MUCH... WORK!
YEAH, LOTS OF WORK STUDYING TO BE THE BEST ROBIN POSSIBLE! WHAT CAN I SAY?
MODERN MATH

YOU'RE A GOOD STUDENT, BUT I THINK YOU NEED SOME ROUNDING OUT. GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, JASON. GOOD AFTERNOON.

IT WOULD BE A BLAST TO WORK ON A PLAY, BUT HOW DO I EXPLAIN MISSED REHEARSALS? "SCUSE ME, BUT I HAD TO STOP THE KGBEAST." NO WAY.

YO, JASON TODD! GONNA STAY LATE FOR A CHANGE? WE COULD USE AN EXTRA HAND.
HERE'S THE BEEF
WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME? I'M NOT ON YOUR SQUAD.

NOT YET, BUT THAT TIME YOU HELPED US REWIRE THE SOUND BOARD PROVES YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE JUST NEED HANDS TODAY.
AUDITORIUM
YEAH, WE HAVE NEW LIGHTS TO INSTALL OVER THE STAGE.
I SUPPOSE I CAN BE LATE TODAY...
ESPECIALLY WITH BRUCE OFF AT JLI'S NEW YORK BASE.
OKAY, JASE, WE'RE GOING UP THE CATWALKS. EVER BEEN?

THESE THINGS ARE THE BEST. WE CAN GO FROM THE CHEM LAB TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AND STOP AT THE SCHOOL STORE...

GREAT, STUART, BUT HOW DO YOU GET IN?

HERE'S THE BEEF

ERNIE, THE CHIEF CUSTODIAN, TRUSTS THE *HIGH SCHOOL INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL SQUAD* WITH HIS KEYS. WE CAN GET IN ANYWHERE. LET'S SHOW HIM, RICKY.

PAT PAT

SURE 'NUFF. LET'S SHOW JASON *EVERYTHING!*

WE'VE BEEN AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHERE THEY KEEP EVERYTHING. I HAVEN'T HAD TO BUY A PEN EVER SINCE STU FOUND THE ACCESS LADDER TO THE STORE SUPPLY ROOM.

OH GREAT. HAVE I JUST SIGNED UP FOR A YEAR'S WORTH OF DETENTION?

SEE, JASE? WANT SNICKERS OR THREE MUSKETEERS?

THESE CATWALKS EVEN CONNECT TO AIRDUCTS THAT GIVE US ACCESS EVERYWHERE. CHECK OUT TOMORROW'S EXPERIMENT--BUBBLING YAK JUICE!

OKAY, NO ONE'S NEARBY. WANT TO SEE MAGIC, JASON ?

REPORT CARD TIME IS FRIDAY. ALL THE GRADES ARE ON THESE DISCS AND TOMORROW THEY'LL PRINT THEM OUT FOR US. WE HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL DESTINY...
HERE'S THE BEE
I JUST WANT TO FLUNK DENISE HOPE !

ERNIE AND THE BOYS WILL BE CLEANING IN HERE SOON. WE CAN'T FIX OUR GRADES YET. LET'S FINISH THE LIGHTS AND THEN COME BACK BEFORE DINNER.
JUST A FEW POINTS OR PEOPLE WILL WONDER--LIKE MY DAD !

WE CAN HELP YOUR AVERAGE TOO, JASON. OF COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED US TO HELP THAT! HA-HA-HA !
YEAH, HE'S PROBABLY PULLING BETTER THAN A 95 ! WHAT GOOD IS CHANGING THAT TO 96 ? HA-HA !

THIS STINKS ! I HAVE TO STOP THEM AND DO IT WITHOUT LOOKING LIKE A GOODY TWO-SHOES... OR ROBIN THE BOY WONDER ! AT LEAST I HAVE A FEW HOURS.

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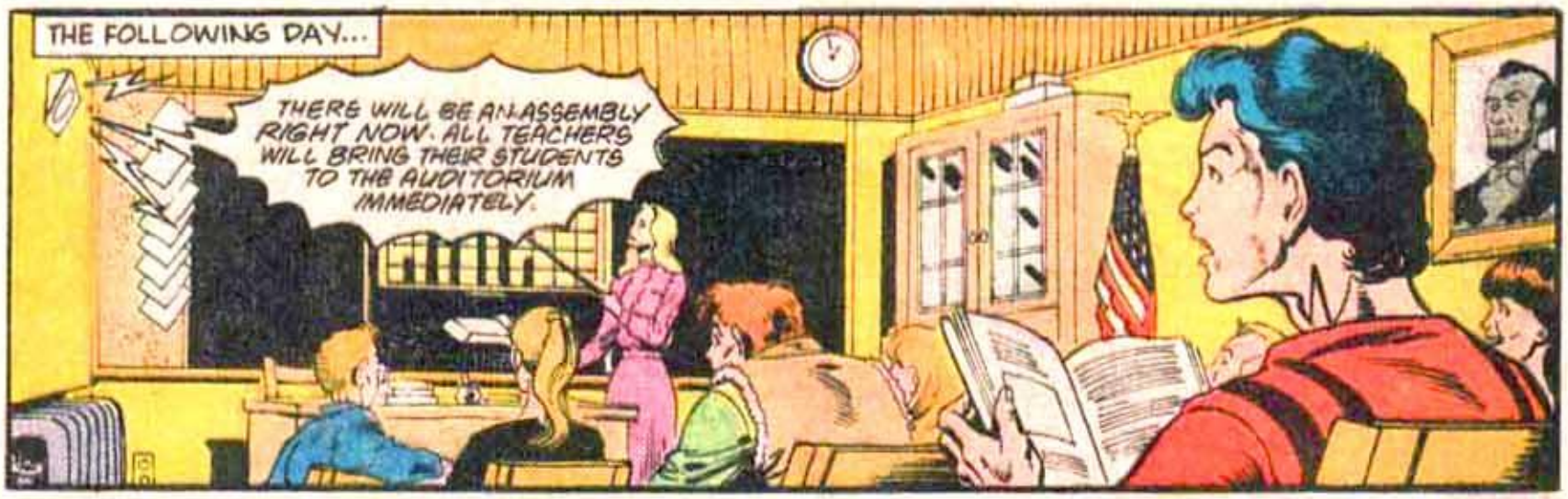
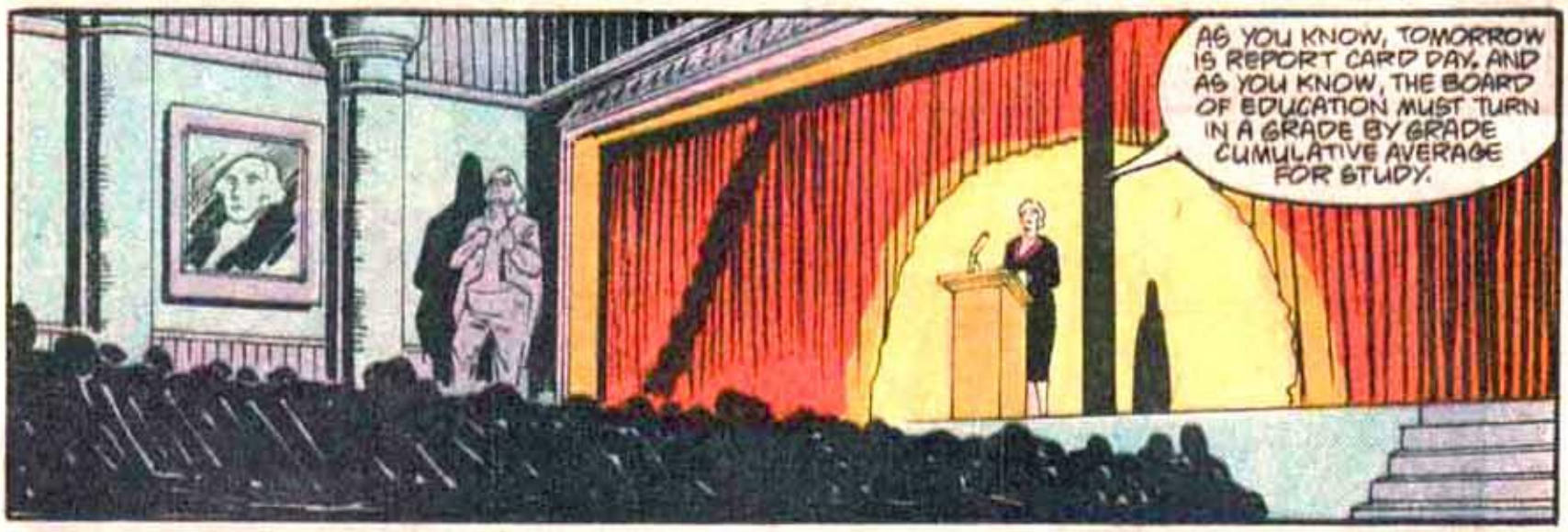
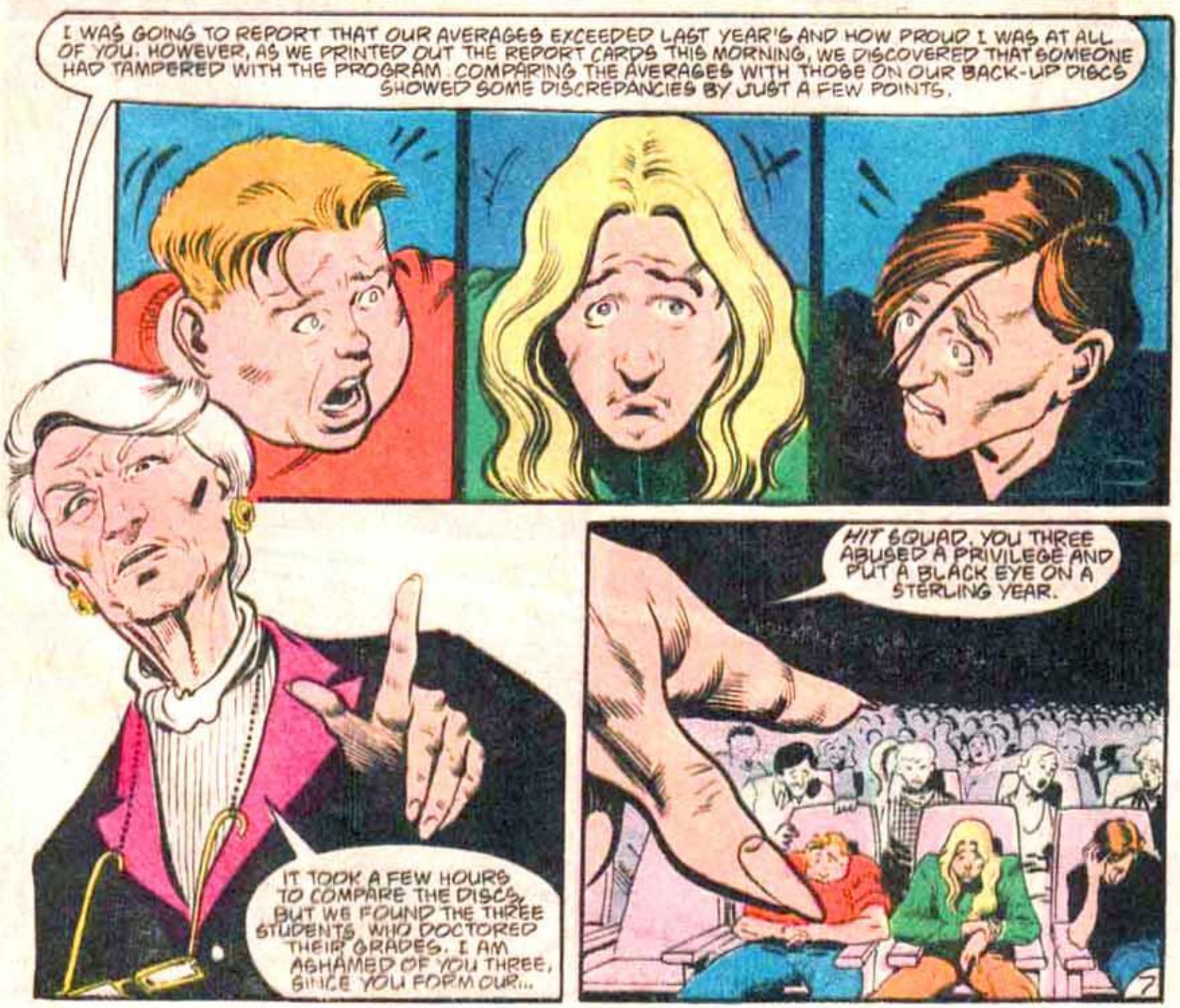
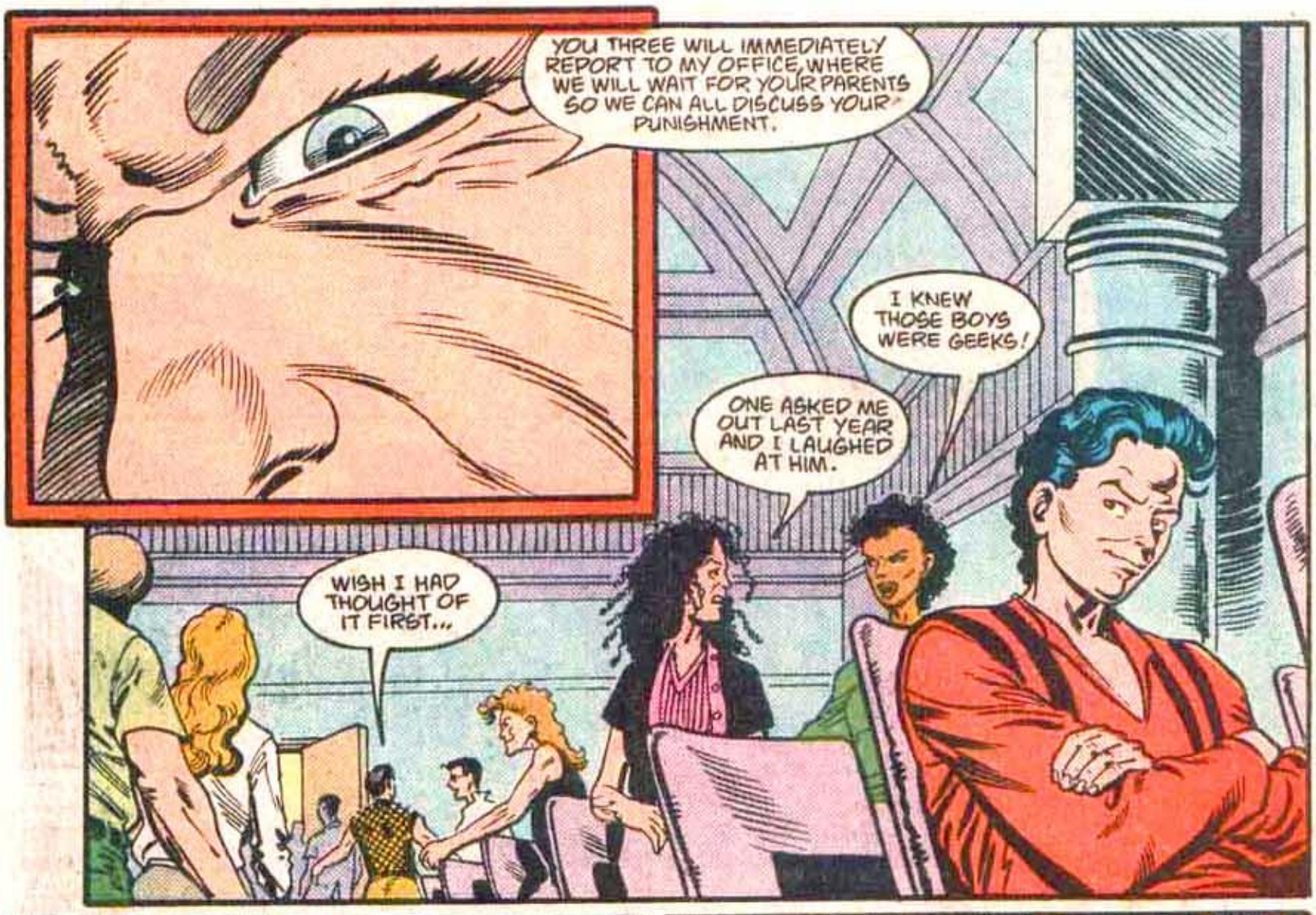
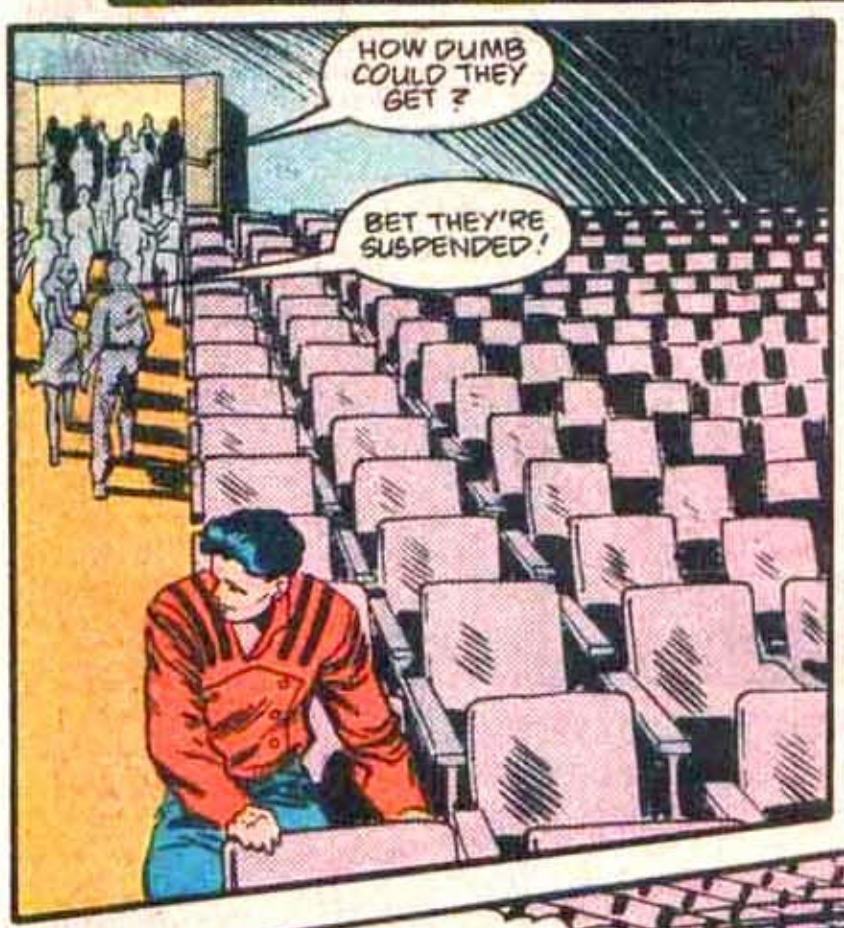
YOU WERE RIGHT, RICKY! JASON HAS BETTER THAN A 94 AVERAGE AND DIDN'T NEED US!
NAME
G.P.A
TIDALGO, MICHAEL
TIDEK, STEVEN 86.0
TILLEY, JERRY 69.5
TIPTON, ANTHONY 72.9
TODD, JASON 50.5
TREMPER, RUSS 94.8
TRITT, GREGORY 89.9
TROWELL, WILLIAM 78.2
I'LL TAKE AN 87 IN EARTH SCIENCE. THAT WILL GIVE ME A SOLID 85 AVERAGE.
HERE'S THE BEEF
YOUR WISH IS MY ETCETERA, ETCETERA. WOULD YOU LIKE AN EXTRA CREDIT MARK FOR SEXED?
VERY FUNNY, ZIT-HEAD.
BRUCE WOULDN'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES. BUT THESE ARE THE CLOSEST THINGS TO FRIENDS I'VE GOT. I DON'T WANT TO LOSE 'EM OVER THIS.
BETTER GET THIS OVER WITH... WHAT'S THIS? HMMM. WHAT WAS THAT BRUCE SAID?
BACK-UP DISKS
WHENEVER POSSIBLE, JASON, LET THE CRIMINALS TRIP THEMSELVES UP. THE EVIDENCE WILL STAND UP BETTER IN COURT AND WON'T INVOLVE US. WE'RE THERE WHEN THE SYSTEM FAILS.
6


THE FOLLOWING DAY...
THERE WILL BE AN ASSEMBLY RIGHT NOW. ALL TEACHERS WILL BRING THEIR STUDENTS TO THE AUDITORIUM IMMEDIATELY.

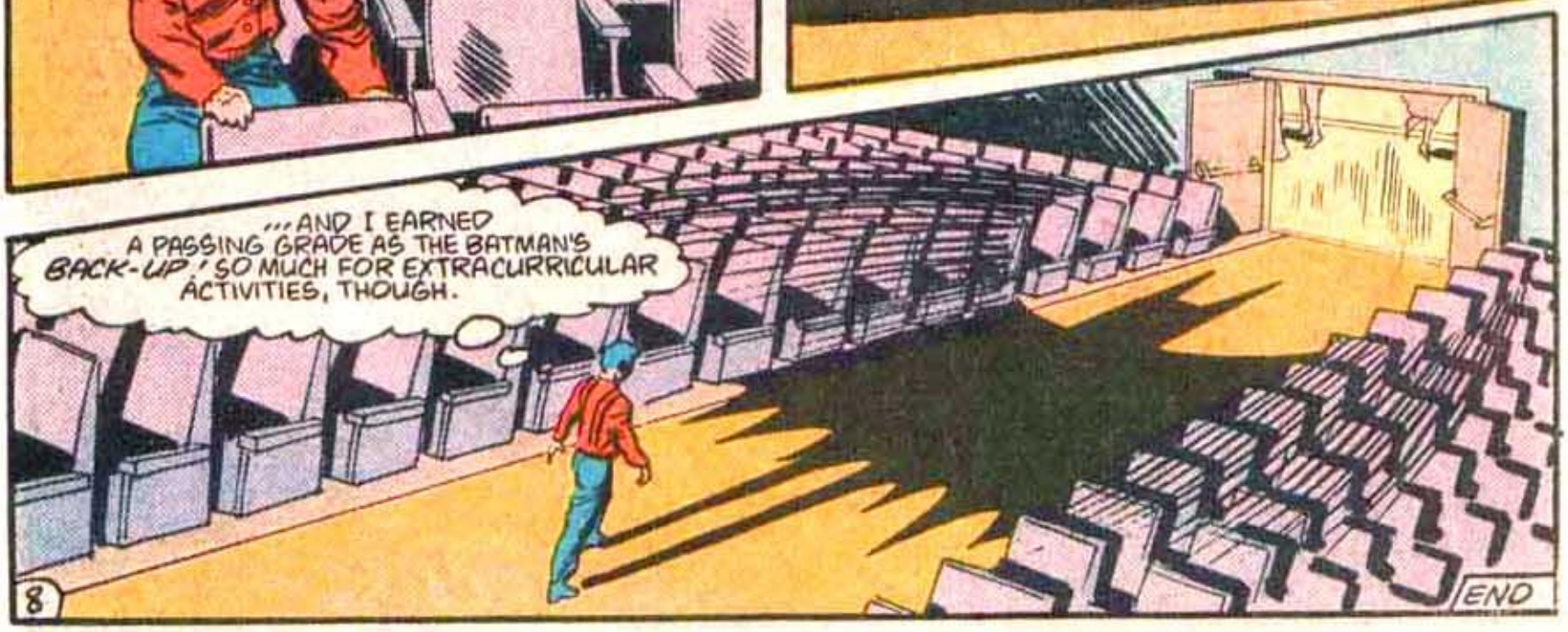

AS YOU KNOW, TOMORROW IS REPORT CARD DAY. AND AS YOU KNOW, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MUST TURN IN A GRADE BY GRADE CUMULATIVE AVERAGE FOR STUDY.


I WAS GOING TO REPORT THAT OUR AVERAGES EXCEEDED LAST YEAR'S AND HOW PROUD I WAS AT ALL OF YOU. HOWEVER, AS WE PRINTED OUT THE REPORT CARDS THIS MORNING, WE DISCOVERED THAT SOMEONE HAD TAMPERED WITH THE PROGRAM. COMPARING THE AVERAGES WITH THOSE ON OUR BACK-UP DISCS SHOWED SOME DISCREPANCIES BY JUST A FEW POINTS.
IT TOOK A FEW HOURS TO COMPARE THE DISCS, BUT WE FOUND THE THREE STUDENTS WHO DOCTORED THEIR GRADES. I AM ASHAMED OF YOU THREE, SINCE YOU FORM OUR...
HIT SQUAD, YOU THREE ABUSED A PRIVILEGE AND PUT A BLACK EYE ON A STERLING YEAR.


YOU THREE WILL IMMEDIATELY REPORT TO MY OFFICE, WHERE WE WILL WAIT FOR YOUR PARENTS SO WE CAN ALL DISCUSS YOUR PUNISHMENT.
I KNEW THOSE BOYS WERE GEEKS!
ONE ASKED ME OUT LAST YEAR AND I LAUGHED AT HIM.
WISH I HAD THOUGHT OF IT FIRST...


HOW DUMB COULD THEY GET?
BET THEY'RE SUSPENDED!

I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO DO IT, BUT WHO WAS I TO TALK THEM OUT OF IT? AT LEAST THEY'RE STILL MY FRIENDS...


...AND I EARNED A PASSING GRADE AS THE BATMAN'S 'BACK-UP.' SO MUCH FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, THOUGH.
END