



12¢

AUG.  
NO. 204

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN



"OPERATION...  
BLINDFOLD!"

I AM  
BLIND

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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And  
WIN!

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Leader  
NOW!

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**Life Is Great When You're A Winner.  
Everyone Who Tries Can Win!**

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES — FILL IN & MAIL — NO STAMP NEEDED

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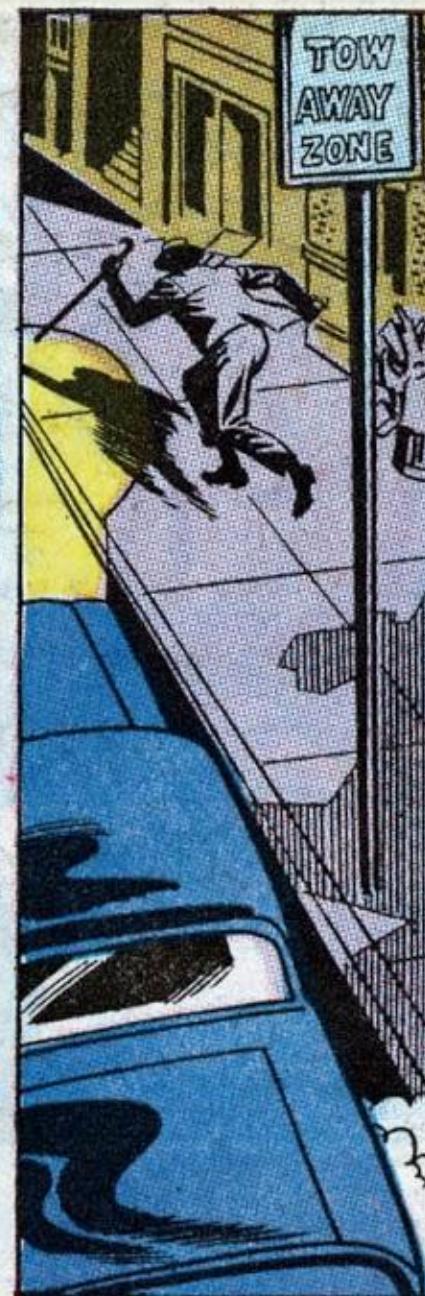
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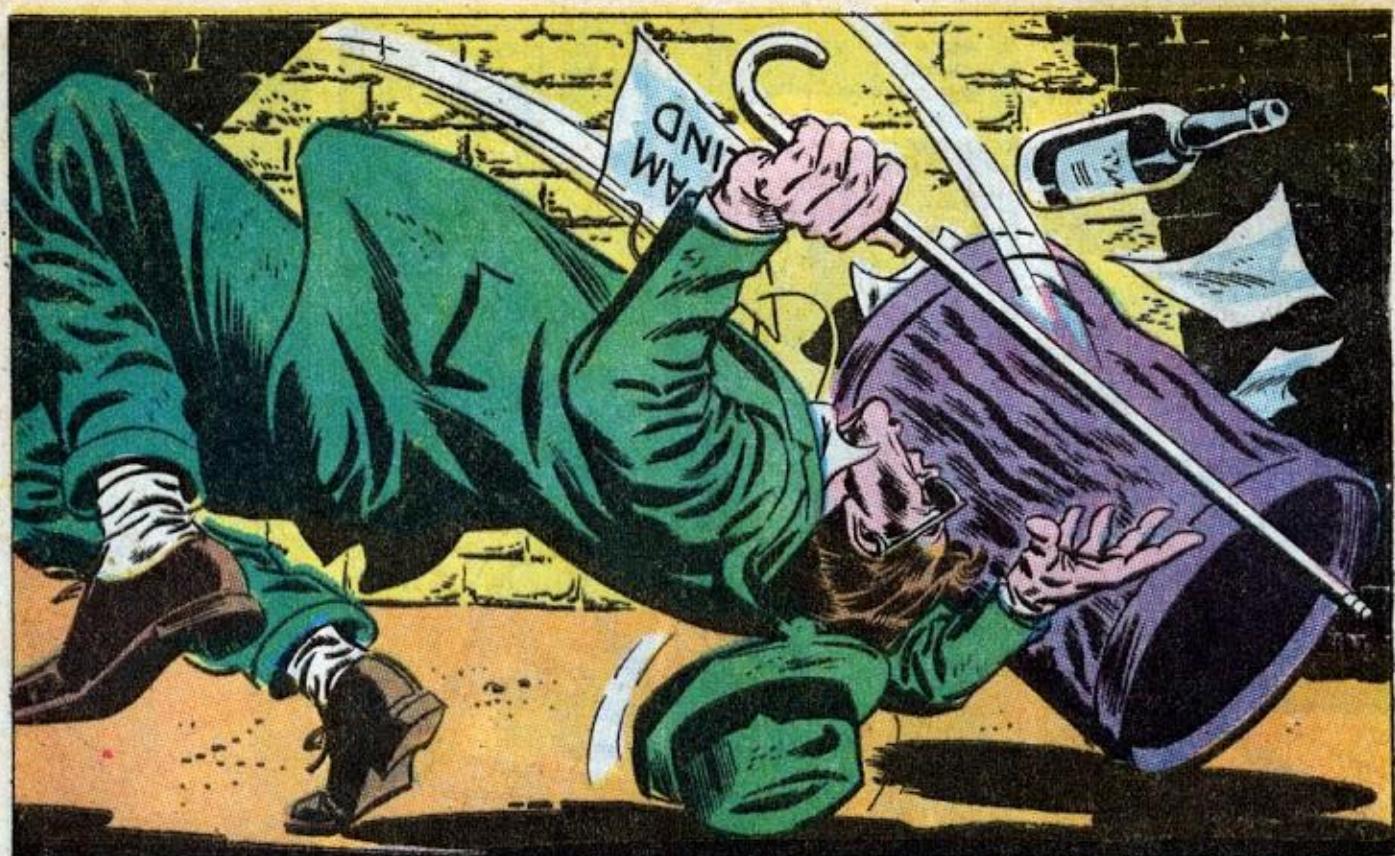
MIDNIGHT... GOTHAM  
CITY... A BLIND MAN  
WALKS A LONELY  
STREET...



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STORY BY:  
FRANK  
ROBBINS



ART BY:  
IRV NOVICK  
&  
JOE GIELLA

AS THE REVERBERATING GUN-BLASTS SUDDENLY CEASE,  
WITH ONLY A RINGING SILENCE ECHOING IN THE EARS  
OF THE KILLERS... THE VICTIM LIES LIMP, SAVE FOR  
A QUIVERING ATTEMPT TO RAISE HIS CANE-HEAD...



AND GUIDED BY A WILL STRONGER THAN DEATH,  
THE CANE, CLUTCHED IN A DEATH-GRIP, STARTS  
TO SCRATCH... A MESSAGE...



AND... AS THE PURR OF FINELY TUNED ENGINES THROB AWAY INTO THE STYGIAN DARKNESS, A LONE  
FIGURE LIES STRANGELY DESERTED... ONLY KEPT COMPANY BY AN EERIE EPITAPH!



2

3

THEIR DEED DONE, THE TWO "HIT" CARS TEAR AWAY FROM THE GRIM SCENE...

BETTER REPORT TO THE CHIEF REAL QUICK! EVERYTHIN'S HANGIN' FIRE TILL HE GETS OUR CALL-IN!

IT WENT OFF SMOOTH LIKE GREASE! THE SCHEMER SURE DREAMS UP THE FOOL-PROOF ONES!

"OPERATION BLINDFOLD" TO SCHEMER... COME IN!

SCHEMER-- HERE...! YOU'VE TAKEN YOUR BLOODY TIME, "BLINFOLD"! WHAT'S THE WORD?

OPERATION... OPERATIONAL! MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, B-D... BATMAN IS DEAD!

HO! HO!  
I WORRY TOO  
MUCH! NOW PUT  
THROUGH AN OUTSIDE  
CALL TO THE FUZZ... AN'  
WHEN COMMISSIONER GORDON  
DIGS OUR... HEE! HEE!...  
GRAVE "MESSAGE"...

GOTHAM CITY IS  
OURS! WE'LL ROB IT...  
BLIND!

AND AS THE CARS PULL UP TO AN OUTDOOR PHONE-BOOTH, THE LIGHT FROM THE PHONE-STATION REVEALS...

I AM BLIND

PUTTING THROUGH A CALL TO POLICE  
"EMERGENCY"...



ENTER PHASE 2! STATION YOUR MEN  
AT DESIGNATED INTERSECTIONS...  
ALL ROADS THAT COULD BE  
POSSIBLE ROUTE OF  
GOLD-BULLION  
PICK-UP TRUCK...

...MUST BE  
COVERED!



AND SO, ON STRATEGIC CORNERS  
THROUGHOUT THE SLEEPING GOTHAM  
METROPOLIS... A NETWORK OF SIGHT-  
LESS "SPOTTERS" IS SET UP...



WHILE SURVEYING THE GRIM EVIDENCE  
LEFT BY THE "KILLER" CARS...

I-I WAS AFRAID  
OF THIS! I  
WARNED HIM...

WARNED BATMAN, COMMISSIONER  
GORDON? OF WHAT? SURELY  
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS  
WOULD HAPPEN?

WHO COULD KNOW, LT. OWENS? NO...  
I FEARED... WHEN BATMAN INSISTED  
ON WORKING UNDERCOVER TO TRAP  
A SMUGGLING RING, THE  
WHARF RATS...

B-BUT HOW CAN  
WE BE SURE... THIS  
BLIND MAN REALLY  
IS BATMAN?

...DISGUISED AS A "BLIND"  
MAN!

COMMISSIONER GOR  
THEY FOUND OUT  
I'M BATMAN

NOBODY KNOWS  
HIS REAL IDENTITY...  
SO ANYBODY  
COULD CLAIM  
TO BE HIM!  
ANYBODY!

ANYBODY BUT... A  
DYING MAN! WHAT  
WOULD HE HAVE TO  
GAIN FROM  
LYING?

DUNNO, CHIEF!  
MAYBE I JUST  
DON'T WANT  
TO BELIEVE...  
THAT BRILLIANT  
BATTLER... IS  
DEAD! BUT  
THERE IS A WAY  
TO CHECK...  
REAL QUICK!

H-HOW...? I-I'LL  
GRASP AT ANY  
FINE STRAW  
RIGHT ABOUT  
NOW... ANY!

COMMISSIONER  
THEY FOUN  
I'M

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# 2001



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from the Movie of the Century!**

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IF BATMAN... IS STILL ALIVE... HE'LL ANSWER HIS HOT-LINE!

OF COURSE... OF COURSE! I'LL TRY AND RAISE HIM AT ONCE!

THAT'S RIGHT, SERGEANT... RELAY ME THROUGH THE HOT-LINE TO BATMAN!

I'LL SWITCH YOU IN, SIR! TAKE JUST A SEC TO UNTANGLE THESE LINES...



AND IN THAT SLIGHT TIME DELAY... AT A WAREHOUSE ON GOTHAM'S MURKY WATERFRONT AREA...



HAS IT FINALLY COME TO PASS? HAS THE DOUGHTY DEFENDER OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE MET... THE UNCONQUERABLE FOE?

I-I REALIZE YOUR DEEP... AND PERSONAL... LOSS, COMMISSIONER GORDON... BUT NOW CAN I TELL GOTHAM CITY-- THE TRAGIC NEWS?

W-WHY NOT? SOONER... OR LATER, DOESN'T MATTER... NOW!

WHILE IN A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE, A MAN PRISES OPEN A PACKING CASE, AND...

SUDDENLY... A BLINDING BEAM SPOTLIGHTS THE CORNERED INVESTIGATOR! IT'S BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE!

WE WUZ RIGHT! Y'RE NOT "BLIND"... Y'RE A POLICE PLANT! MEBBE EVEN... BATMAN!

EITHER WAY... YIVE USED YOUR PEEPERS FER TH' LAST TIME! CUT 'IM DOWN, RATS!

I WAS RIGHT! THE ULTRA IMPORT CO. IS A FRONT FOR THE WHARF RATS SMUGGLING RING!

SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO GORDON... HE WARNED ME THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! AND THE ODDS ARE DEAD AGAINST ME!

# SUPERMAN IS JIMMY OLSEN'S *HANGUP!*

25¢  80 pg. GIANT \$50 APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SEPT. NO. 113

**JIMMY OLSEN**

**SHOCK-FILLED**

**ANTI-SUPERMAN ISSUE!**

**SUPERMAN IS TURNED INTO A DEVIL BY... "THE HELMET OF HATE!"**

**THE MAN OF STEEL IS KNOCKED OUT... OLSEN'S SECRET PICTURE!**

**JIMMY LAUNCHES A KRYPTONITE ATTACK AS... "KING OF THE GIANT ANTS!"**

**THE MAN OF STEEL IS HELPLESS AGAINST THE SUPER-BRAIN OF JIMMY OLSEN!**

**JIMMY EXPOSES HIS BEST PAL'S SECRET IDENTITY IN... "THE BETRAYAL OF SUPERMAN!"**

In this  
COMPLETE  
issue..

**JIMMY  
STRIKES  
BACK!**

JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>  
ON SALE

BUT THERE'S ONE "FAITHFUL"  
WHO WON'T LET BATMAN  
DIE EVEN ONCE... AS LONG  
AS BREATH STIRS IN HIS  
BRAVE LITTLE BODY--ROBIN,  
THE BOY WONDER...

MAKE WAY FOR THE  
HOME-TEAM, RATS...  
I'M THROWIN' A  
BLOCK AN' TACKLE!

B-BLAST  
'IM!  
GGUGH!

AM I EVER  
HAPPY TO SEE EVEN  
HALF A HALF-BACK  
LIKE YOU,  
ROBIN!



TIME TO HIT THE SACK,  
BABY... YOU'RE GOING  
BED-A-BYE!

SHPLU-U-UG!

FLOUR  
**KBL**LOING!

WITH THE TEEN TITAN  
ACTING AS ANCHOR MAN,  
BATMAN QUICKLY WINDS  
UP THE WRIGGLING, WOE-  
BEGONE WHARF RATS  
IN A WHIRLWIND WARE-  
HOUSE FINISH... THAT IS  
ONLY THE BEGINNING!...

NOTHING LIKE  
GETTING "WRAPPED  
UP IN YOUR WORK",  
EH, MICE?

NICE OF YOU  
TO "STRING  
'EM ALONG",  
ROBIN!



G-GOLLY... WAS I  
EVER WORRIED  
WHEN YOU DIDN'T  
"SHOW" AT THE  
APPOINTED TIME!  
DID THEY  
FIND OUT...

...EITHER OF MY  
IDENTITIES? UH-  
UH, ROBIN... THIS  
BLACK-OUT RIG  
MASKED MY FACE...  
AND I NEVER HAD A  
CHANCE TO SWITCH  
INTO BATMAN  
GEAR!

NOW TO CALL THE  
POLICE... GET THESE  
RATS HOLED UP IN A  
CELL! COMMISSIONER  
GORDON MUST BE  
PRETTY WORRIED  
BY MY LONG  
ABSENCE...

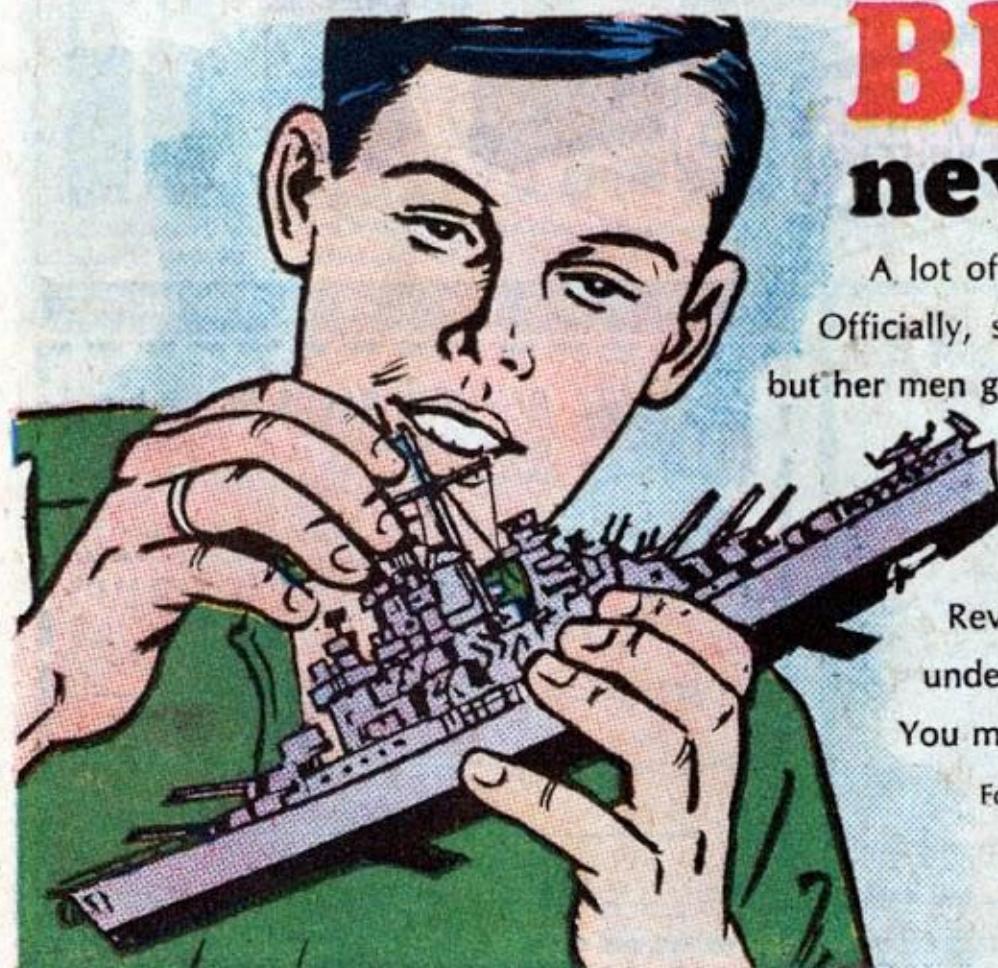
SURE MUST BE!  
MY HAIR ALMOST  
TURNED WHITE  
FROM FRET-  
AND-SWEAT!





11

## BIG MAMIE never lost a man



A lot of men loved "Big Mamie". And she never lost a lover. Officially, she was known as the Battleship USS Massachusetts, but her men gave her the affectionate nickname. They started World War II together with the first salvos in North Africa, and ended it together with the last salvos in the Pacific. They fought 35 sea battles without a fatality. Revell now has a model of the USS Massachusetts, for under \$1.00. She'll be interesting to build, but be careful. You might fall in love.

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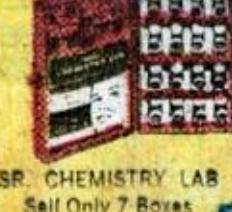


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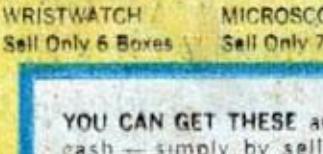
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MY NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Print clearly!

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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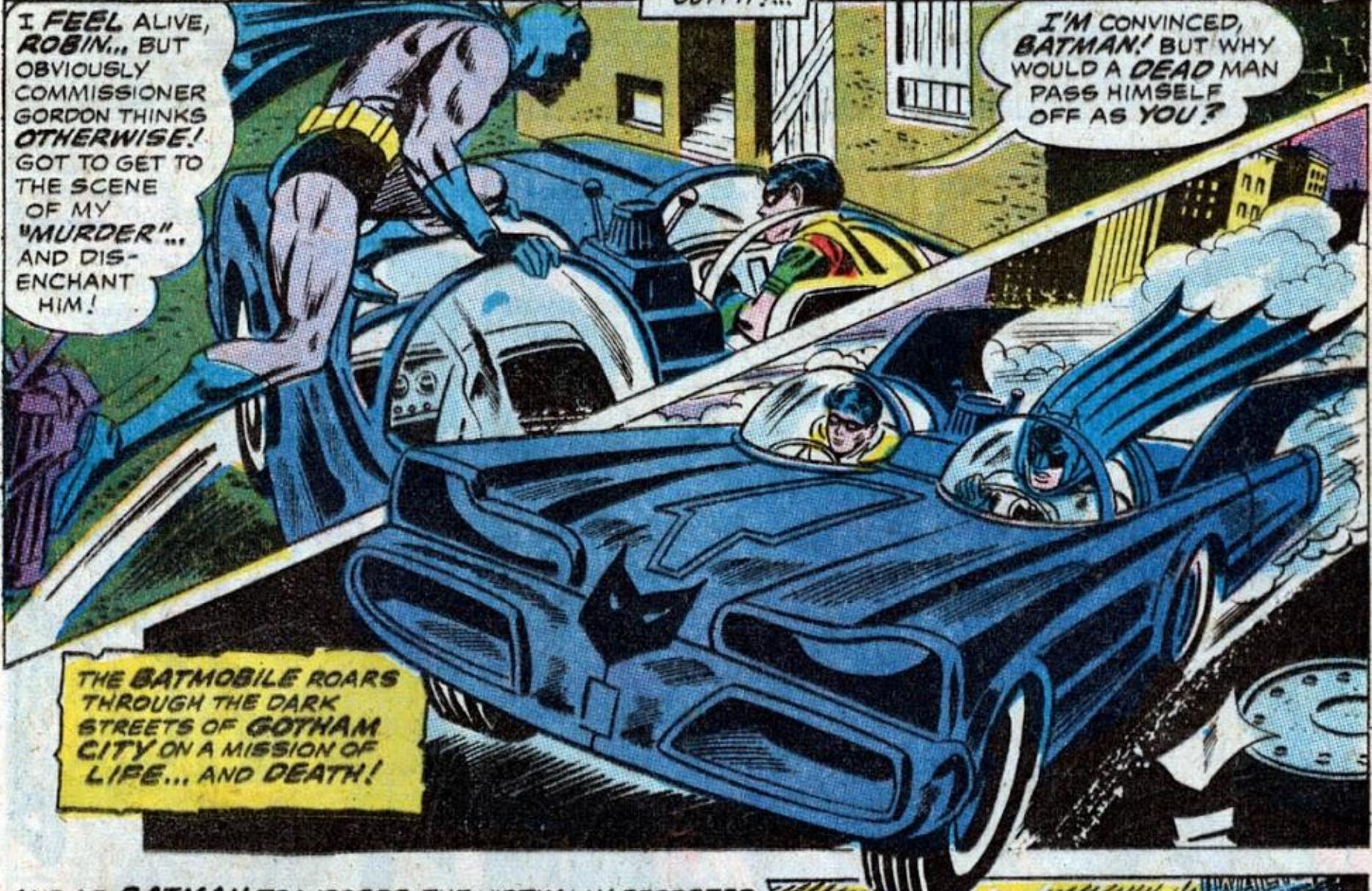
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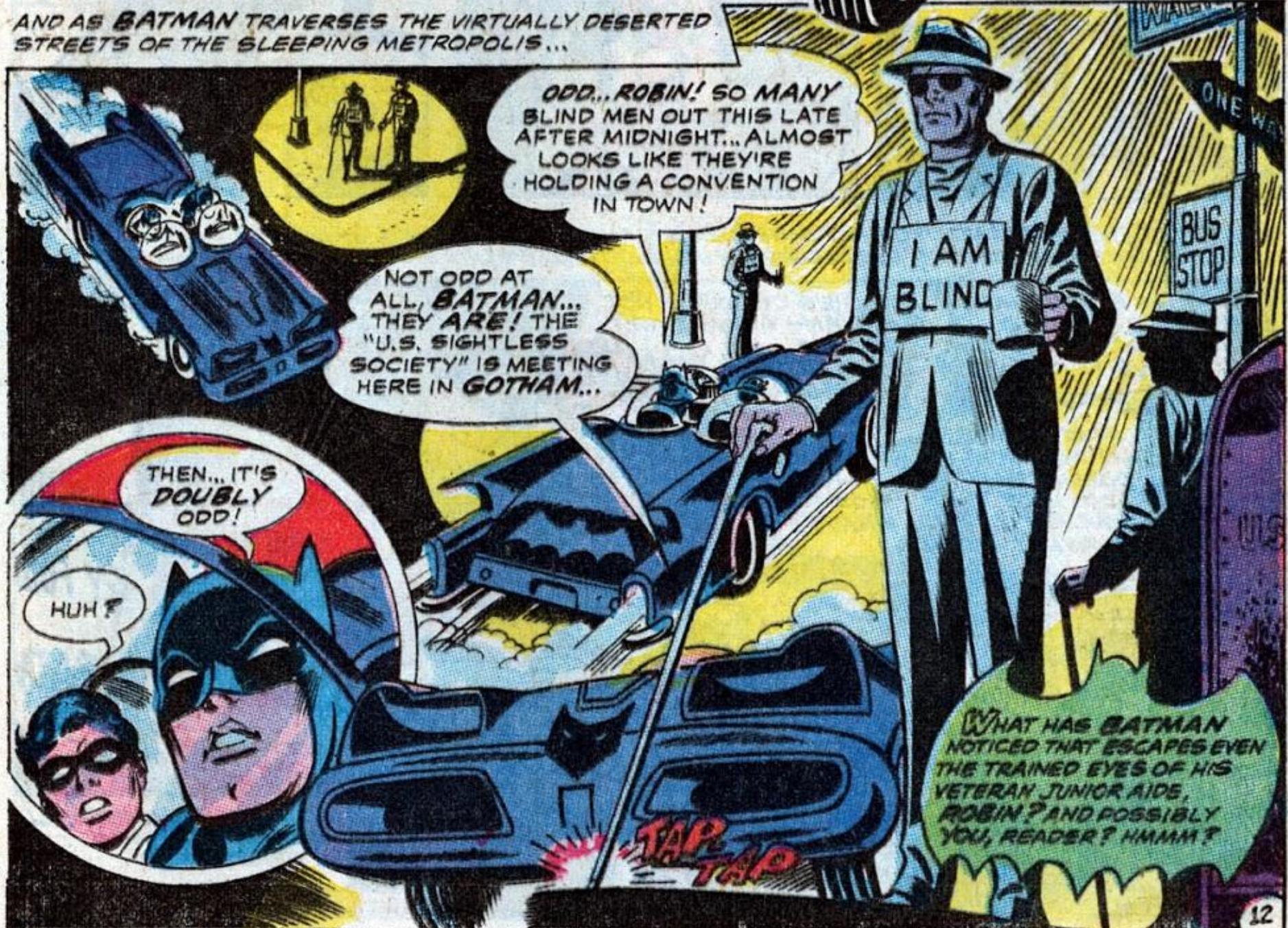
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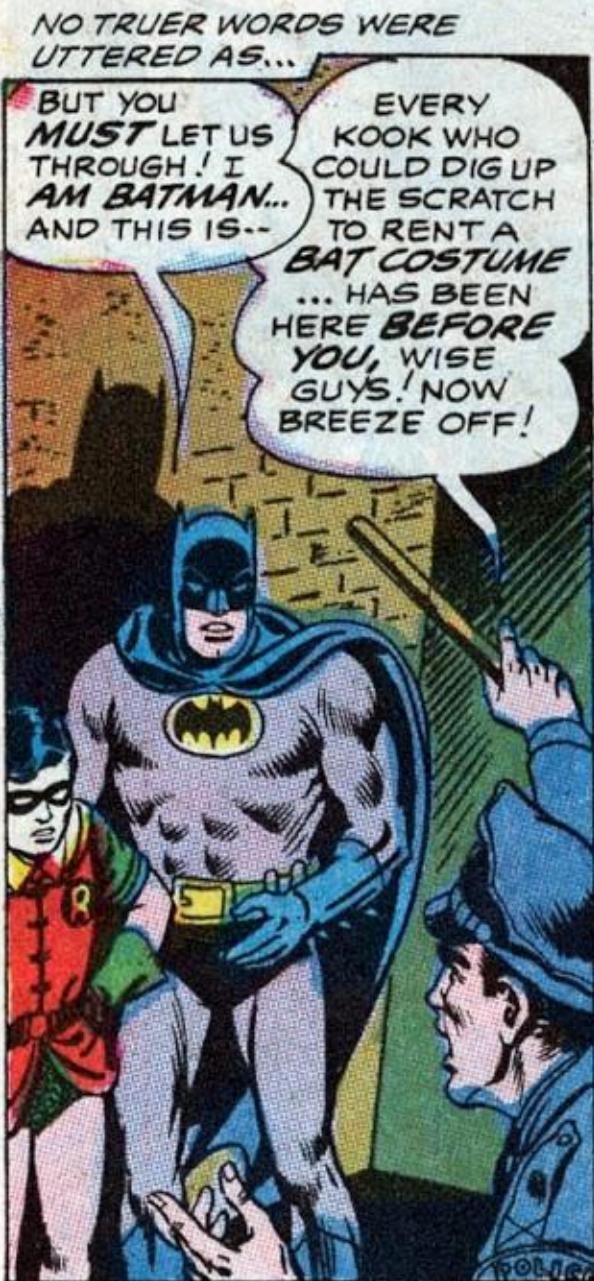
# "OPERATION:BLINDFOLD!" PART TWO

AS IF TO REASSURE HIMSELF THAT THE NEWS OF HIS "DEATH" IS FALSE, BRUCE WAYNE CHANGES INTO HIS BATMAN OUTFIT!...



AND AS BATMAN TRAVERSES THE VIRTUALLY DESERTED STREETS OF THE SLEEPING METROPOLIS...

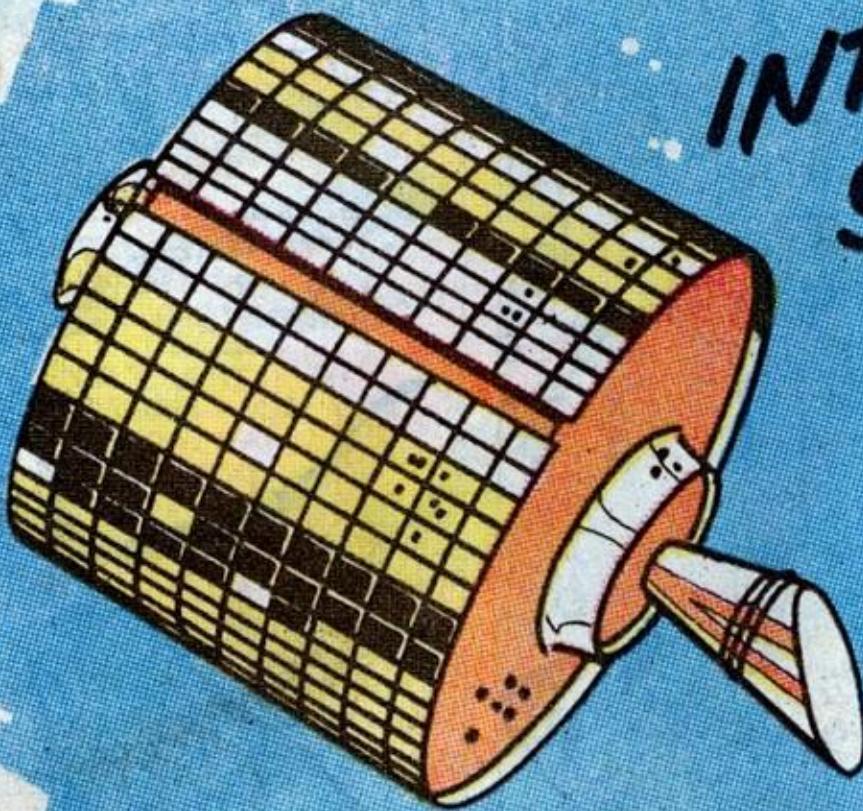




SWIFTLY, HIS EYES OPERATING LIKE A RAPID-SEQUENCE CAMERA, THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TAKES IN ALL THE PERTINENT MINUTAE, AND RECORDS IT IN HIS COMPUTER-LIKE BRAIN...



# \*INTELSAT III SATELLITE



Like the Early Birds, these satellites will hang thousands of miles above the earth. They will be sent up in 1968. Each one can bounce 1200 telephone calls — and four television channels — from one side of the earth to the other all at the same time. They rotate with the earth and always remain above the same spot on the earth. They get their energy from solar energy cells.

## CHEERIOS KID

This is the Cheerios Kid. He gets his energy from Cheerios! Like you he needs go-power every day. And a breakfast of Cheerios with milk is packed with muscle-building protein and energy for go-power. Get yourself Go. Get Cheerios!



I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, COMMISSIONER... WITH A QUESTION! ASK YOURSELF... HOW CAN A "BLIND" MAN SEE TO WRITE?

OH NO! YOU DON'T TRICK ME WITH THAT ONE... WHOEVER YOU ARE! OBVIOUSLY HE WAS NOT... BLIND! AND THEREFORE...

...HE HAS TO BE BATMAN... IN AN UNDERCOVER DISGUISE...

GOOD TRY, GORDON! BUT OUR POOR VICTIM HERE WAS DEFINITELY... SIGHTLESS! AND POSSIBLY FROM CHILDHOOD! OBSERVE THE SKIN AROUND HIS EYES...

YOU SURE DO TAKE THE CAKE, FELLA! WHAT'S SO ODD ABOUT...

THE SKIN IN THE OUTSIDE CORNERS, GORDON... SMOOTH... NO CROW'S FEET! NORMAL-SIGHTED PEOPLE CONSTANTLY SQUINT IN THE PROCESS OF... SEEING! ERGO... HE DIDN'T SEE!



B-BUT... S-SPLIT... T-THIS MAN WASN'T KILLED FOR NOTHING! AND THAT MESSAGE MUST MEAN SOMETHING!

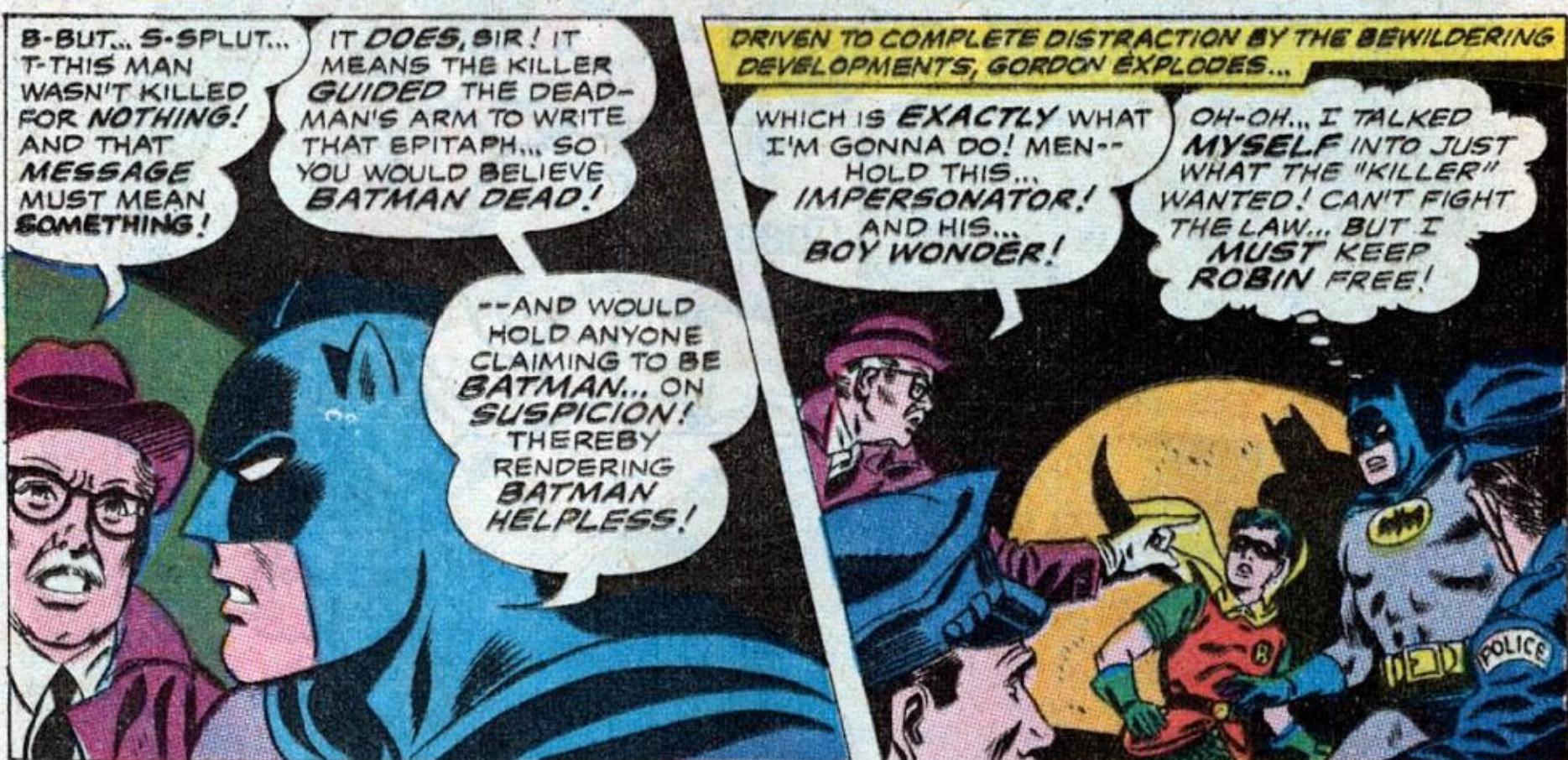
IT DOES, SIR! IT MEANS THE KILLER GUIDED THE DEAD-MAN'S ARM TO WRITE THAT EPITAPH... SO YOU WOULD BELIEVE BATMAN DEAD!

--AND WOULD HOLD ANYONE CLAIMING TO BE BATMAN... ON SUSPICION! THEREBY RENDERING BATMAN HELPLESS!

DRIVEN TO COMPLETE DISTRACTION BY THE BEWILDERING DEVELOPMENTS, GORDON EXPLODES...

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M GONNA DO! MEN-- HOLD THIS... IMPERSONATOR! AND HIS... BOY WONDER!

OH-OH... I TALKED MYSELF INTO JUST WHAT THE "KILLER" WANTED! CAN'T FIGHT THE LAW... BUT I MUST KEEP ROBIN FREE!



USING THEIR INTRA-PERSONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, BATMAN'S FINGERS RAPIDLY RELAY A MESSAGE TO ROBIN...

WATCH ME... THEN BREAK FOR BATMOBILE! PICK UP TRAIL OF ANY ONE OF BLIND MEN WE SAW EN-ROUTE... TAIL HIM! I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER!

I DON'T DIG... WHAT WAS SO ODD ABOUT THE MEN WE SAW?



WHY WOULD A CONVENTION OF "SIGHTLESS" PERSONS, BE OUT ON THE TOWN... SIGHTSEEING? SOMEHOW, ROBIN... THEY'RE TIED IN WITH THIS "BLIND-MAN MURDER"!

AND ONE OF THEM MIGHT JUST... LEAD US TO THE KILLER! CARRY ON, BATMAN... I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD!

AND AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE TAKEN...

GOT TO CREATE A DIVERSION... FOR ROBIN'S GETAWAY... HOLD IT, BOYS! YOU MUST BE BLIND, GORDON! THE ANSWER TO THIS MYSTERY... IS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE! ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU!

BENDING DOWN TO REMOVE THE VICTIM'S DARK GLASSES, THE CAPED CRUSADER'S SHARP EYES DETECT TWO DETAILS HE HAD FORMERLY OVERLOOKED...

DEFTLY ACCOMPLISHING HIS MYSTERIOUS PURPOSE, BATMAN STRAIGHTENS UP, AND...

THAT CANE... AND--! NO WAY TO GET THAT WALKING STICK NOW, BUT... I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO PALM THE OTHER!

HERE... TRY LOOKING THROUGH THESE!

AND AS ALL EYES FOCUS ON GORDON...

I-I SEE... NOTHING!

HMM? THAT DOES KIND OF BLACK-OUT EVERYTHING... DOESN'T IT?

BATMAN'S RUSE SEEMS TO BE WORKING, BUT... WHAT DID HE PALM?

ROBIN MAKES A BEE-LINE FOR THE BATMOBILE... INTENT ON CARRYING OUT HIS ASSIGNED MISSION! AND IN THE ALLEY BEHIND...

THE KID'S GONE! THAT WAS A SHABBY TRICK, "BATMAN"...

MAYBE, GORDON! BUT NO TRICK'S TOO LOW FOR AN "IMPOSTOR", EH?

AND AS THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT STREAKS AWAY ON HIS ERRAND...

GOT TO FIND ME ONE OF THOSE "BLIND" MEN... AND LATCH ONTO HIM!

GET OUT AN ALL-CARS ALERT! I WANT THAT ROBIN-MASQUERADE BROUGHT IN...! AND AS FOR YOU...

I'M PUTTING YOU IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY... AGAINST ME! GET IN THE SQUAD-CAR...

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, COMMISSIONER! SOMEONE'S PLANNING A BIG CAPER TONIGHT--AND YOU ARE HELPING HIM!

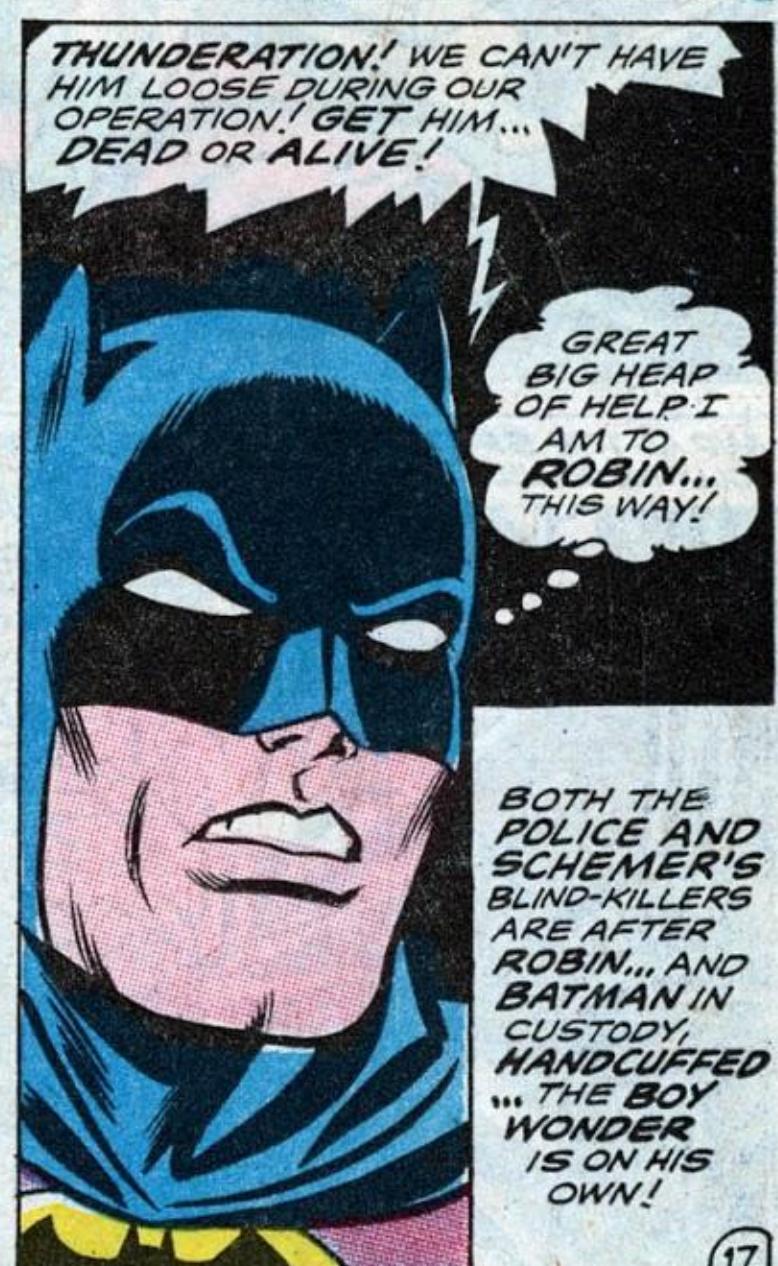
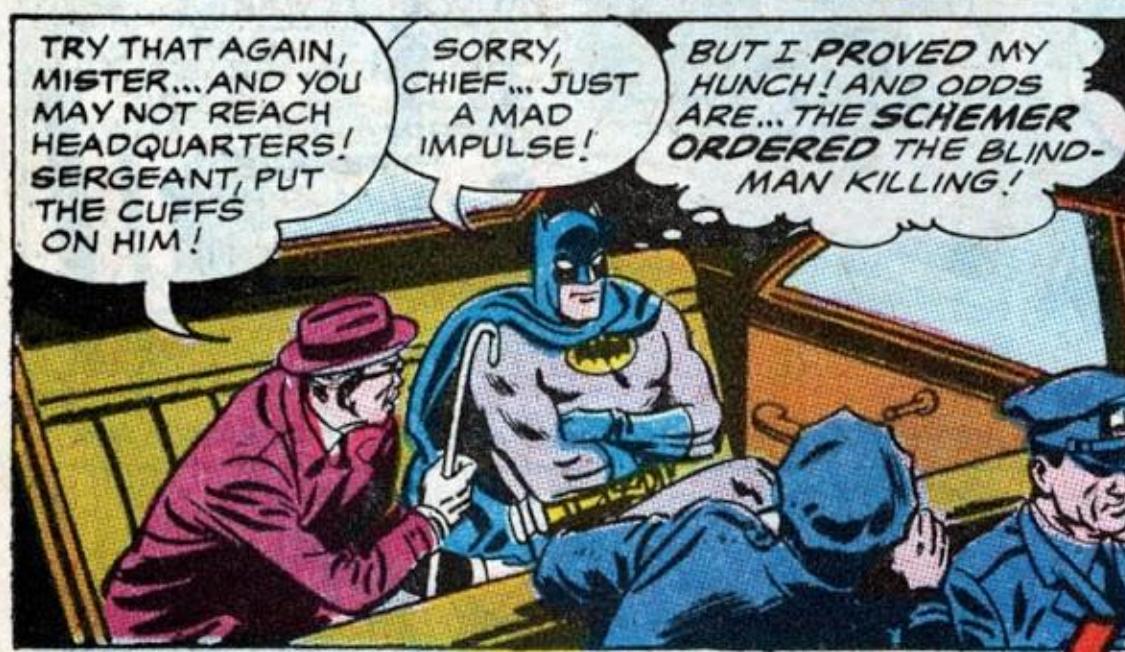
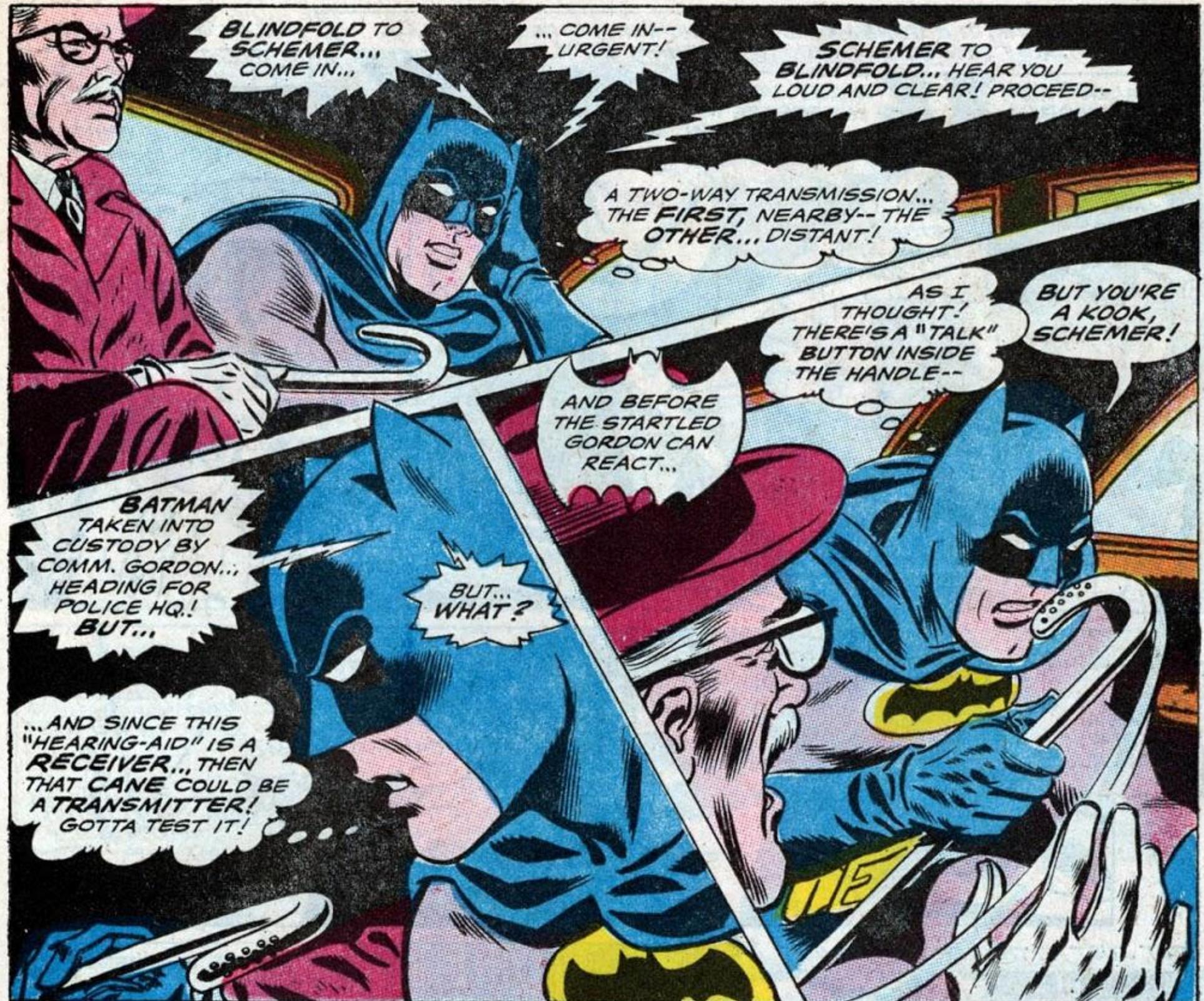
I'LL TAKE THE "EVIDENCE" WITH ME! TAKE THE D.O.A. TO THE CITY MORGUE... GIVE IT THE USUAL ONCE-OVER...

THE BLIND VICTIM COULD'VE HAD ANOTHER AFFLICTION! IN WHICH CASE, THIS IS JUST ANOTHER SELF-CONTAINED... MINI-HEARING-AID! OR...

BUT AS THEY PASS A HIDDEN OBSERVER...

OPERATION BLINDFOLD TO SCHEMER... OPERATION BLINDFOLD TO...

EH? I'M PICKING UP A... RADIO TRANSMISSION! WHICH MEANS... THIS "HEARING-AID" IS ACTUALLY A... FIXED-FREQUENCY RECEIVER!



WITHIN MOMENTS, THE SCHEMER'S GRIM ORDERS ARE RELAYED TO ALL HIS "SPOTTERS" STAKED-OUT AROUND GOTHAM CITY...

AND AT THAT INSTANT...

RED ALERT! RED ALERT! ROBIN ON THE LOOSE!

MUST NOT INTERFERE WITH OPERATION BLINDFOLD!

ZONE 5... GRID REFERENCE 31 REPORTING, SCHEMER! "GOLD PICK-UP TRUCK" CROSSING MY CHECK POINT... HEADING SOUTH ON MAIN BLVD.--

STOP HIM... AT ALL COSTS!

I AM BLIND

PICK IT UP, ZONE 4 STAKE-OUTS...

I AM BLIND

SHORTLY, NEAR A ZONE 4 CORNER...

AH! THERE'S ONE OF OUR "SIGHTLESS" SIGHTSEERS! BETTER DOUSE MY LIGHTS... PARK... AND TAKE COVER IN A HALLWAY WHERE I CAN WATCH HIM!

BUT JUST AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND...

ZONE 4... GRID REFERENCE 60 REPORTING! OBJECTIVE TURNING CORNER MAIN AND CLARK... HEADED WEST--

AND AS THE SPOTTER TURNS TO FOLLOW HIS QUARRY'S PASSAGE... ROBIN IS CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED... FULLY REVEALED...

ROBIN...?!

H-HE'S "SEEN" ME! AND HE'S AIMING THAT CANE...?!

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AND AS THE OBJECTIVE NEARS CHECK-POINT GRID ZZ...



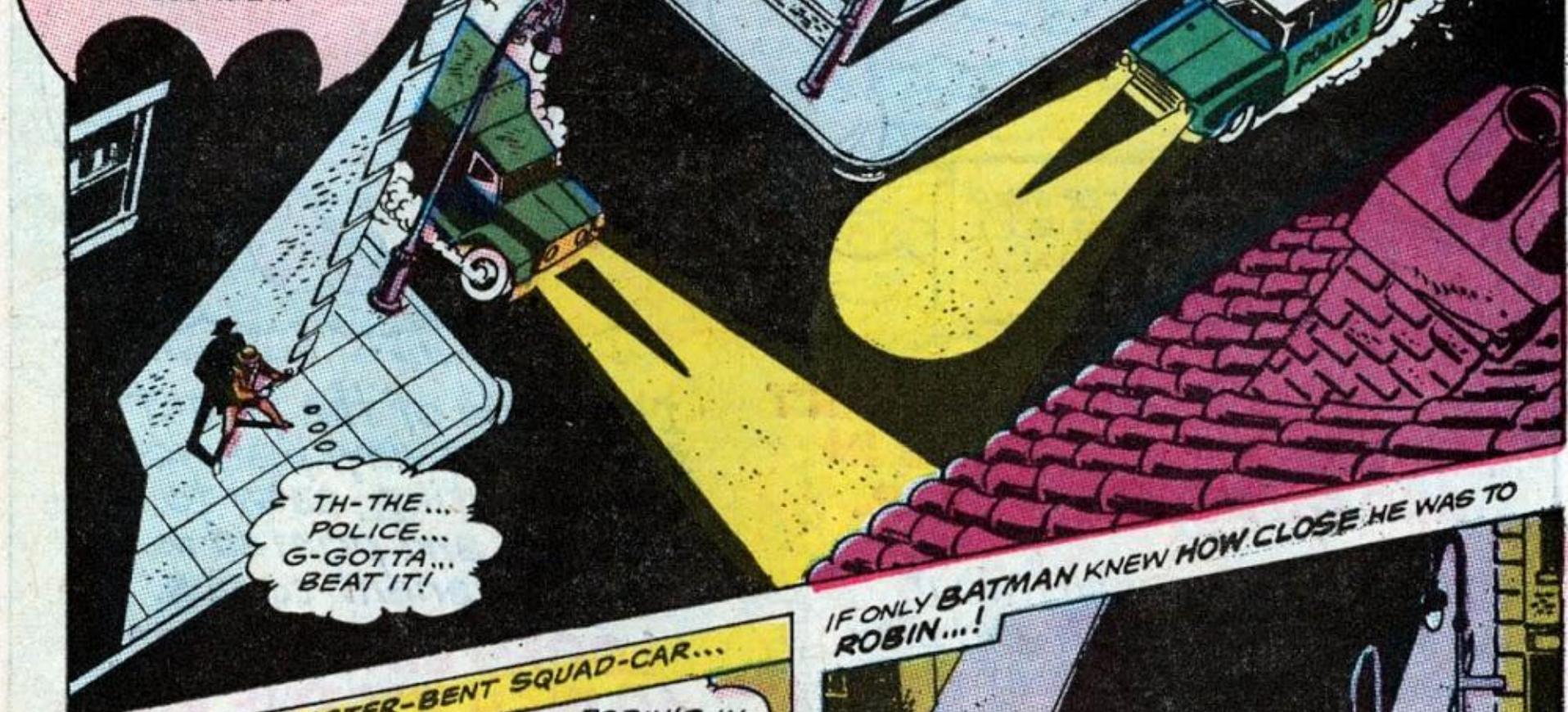
I CAN PICK 'IM OFF WITHOUT RUFFLING THE FEATHERS OF THAT TRUCK CREW! WITH THIS CO-2\* SILENT PROPELLANT...

ALERT FOR MORE "SIGHTLESS" STAKE-OUTS, ROBIN SPOTS APPROACHING DOOM...

GOING TOO FAST TO DROP OFF... SURE DEATH! BUT IF I DON'T...? MAYBE CAN EDGE AROUND TO FAR SIDE... OF TRUCK...

\*COMPRESSED-AIR CARTRIDGE...

BUT AT THAT INSTANT, TEARING ALONG ON A COLLISION COURSE...



AND INSIDE THE DISASTER-BENT SQUAD-CAR...

ROBIN'S IN DANGER... SOMEWHERE! BEEN PICKING UP THE "BLINDFOLD" GANG'S KILL ORDERS! IF ONLY I COULD ESCAPE--

H-HOLD TIGHT... WE'RE GONNA CRASH-STOP!

IF ONLY BATMAN KNEW HOW CLOSE HE WAS TO ROBIN...!

ZOOM



CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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FIRST ON  
YOUR  
BLOCK TO  
HAVE ONE.

send for the  
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SWIM TOY  
today.



SWERVING AT THE LAST INSTANT, BRAKES BURNING... THE MOVING OBJECT IS BROUGHT TO A PANIC-STOP... BY AN IMMOVABLE OBJECT! THE REAR DOOR SPRINGS OPEN, AND...

I'M... FREE! GOT TO GET AWAY! SAVE ROBIN! THAT CANE MAY COME IN HANDY...

KERASH!



WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON AND THE POLICE MOMENTARILY STUNNED, BATMAN CONTINUES TO ROLL... DOWN A LONG FLIGHT OF STAIRS, TO WHERE ANOTHER MAN ALSO FLEES!...

AND THE PROGRESS OF BOTH IS BROUGHT TO A... SUDDEN STOP!

DAZED, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER LIES... HANDCUFFED AND HELPLESS...

B-BATMAN! Y'SURE DON'T STAY DEAD, DO YA? WELL... IT'S TIME WE CHANGED THAT!



WITH BATMAN IN A FATAL BIND, HIS FELLOW TEEN-CRUSADER IS EQUALLY BOUND...AS IF HANDCUFFED  
...TO THE CAREENING ARMORED-TRUCK...

SO NEAR... AND YET--! I'M  
WANTED BY THE POLICE  
TOO... AND BATMAN IS IN  
JAIL WHERE HE  
CAN'T HELP ME!

FORGET  
THE BRAT... FOR  
NOW! I'VE GOT  
THEIR TARGET  
PINPOINTED!  
GRID AREA 2  
CONTAINS...

AND AS  
THEY PASS  
ANOTHER  
STAKE-OUT  
CHECKPOINT...

"OBJECTIVE"  
HEADING TOWARD  
GRID-AREA 2...  
ROBIN STILL  
ABOARD! SHALL  
I ALERT...

THE FIRST  
FEDERAL BANK!  
THAT'S GOT TO BE  
THE PICK-UP POINT FOR  
THE GOLD-BULLION!  
CALL IN ALL  
STAKE-OUTS...

THEY'RE TO CONVERGE  
ON OUR TARGET... USING  
OPERATIONAL PLAN "A"!

IT BETTER  
BE! THE BANK-  
TRANSFER WILL  
BE THEIR MOST  
VULNERABLE  
TIME! IF YOU  
GOOF THAT...  
THEY'LL PROCEED  
WITH THE  
50 MILLION...

... TO GOTHAM  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRFIELD...  
WHERE A VIRTUAL  
ARMY WILL GUARD  
IT TILL TAKE-OFF  
TO EUROPE! SO...  
DON'T GOOF!

AND... HEH! HEH!... Y'CAN  
POLISH OFF THE... HA! HA!...  
BOY WONDER AT THE  
SAME TIME! A TIGHT  
PLAN, EH... BRAIN-  
DRAIN?

HOOOT  
MON! WHOO-  
HOO!

UNDERSTOOD...  
SCHEMER!

BATMAN'S HEAD CLEARS QUICKLY AS  
SCHEMER'S URGENT ORDERS ARE  
RELAYED THROUGH TO ALL "SPOTTERS!"

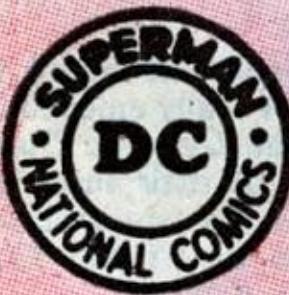
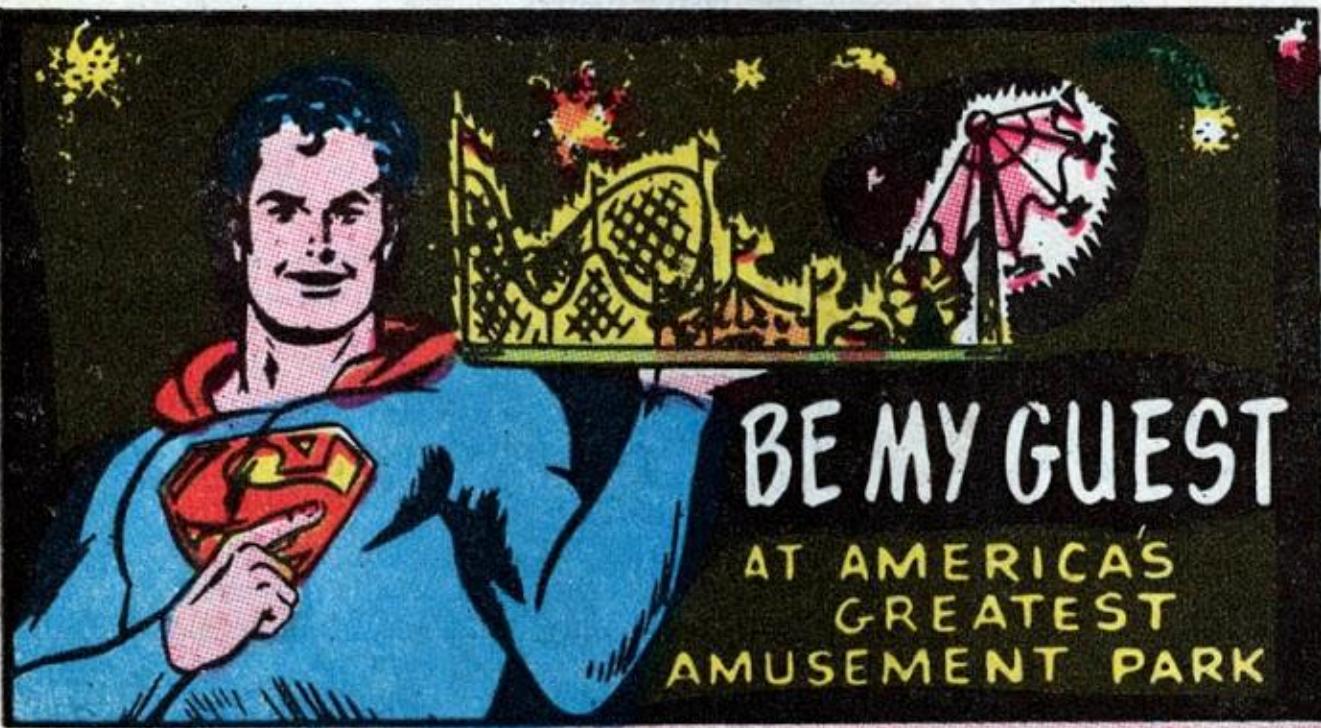
IMPERATIVE! PROCEED TO  
FIRST FEDERAL  
BANK! USE PLAN "A"...  
TO FINISH OFF  
ROBIN AT  
SCENE!

SPOTTER GRID 22  
REPORTING IN TO  
SCHEMER! WILL  
JOIN OTHERS AS  
SOON AS I...  
ELIMINATE--  
BATMAN!

COMING OUT  
OF IT, EH,  
BATMAN?  
GOOD... I  
WANTED YOUR  
EYES OPEN,  
SO YOU  
COULD  
SEE  
YOURSELF  
GET IT!

NOW BATMAN KNOWS THE PRIMARY  
OBJECTIVE OF OPERATION: BLINDFOLD...  
AND ITS GRIM SECONDARY OBJECTIVE...  
THE DEATH OF HIS TEEN WARD, ROBIN!  
BUT, IF HE CANNOT RELIEVE HIS OWN  
PLIGHT... WHAT GOOD WILL THAT KNOW-  
LEDGE DO HIM--IN HIS GRAVE? A  
GRAVE PLIGHT... THAT WE CANNOT  
MAKE LIGHT OF! IF TWIDDLE YOUR  
THUMBS WILL RELIEVE YOUR TENSION  
TILL THE NEXT (SEPTEMBER) ISSUE...  
TWIDDLE WHILE BATMAN BURNS!

33



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# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

As one of the original *Batman* fans from *Batman* #1 through #200, I wish to congratulate you and the *National* staff upon reaching the 200th issue milestone in the greatest series of comic magazines ever published!

It seems only yesterday I used to lay out the issues of *Batman* as they were published to admire the "finest covers in comics," but now with 200 issues there just isn't room.

And what a legendary life our *Batman* had led: from a long-eared solitary phantom; teaming up with *Robin*, the perennial *Boy Wonder*; acquisition of *Alfred*, the faithful butler, the *Caped Crusader* has clashed victoriously against a horde of fascinating villains: *Joker*, *Penguin*, *Catwoman*, etc. Nor has *Batman* confined his adventures on this Earth; he has fought aliens of every sort. He has teamed up with the World's Greatest Heroes: *Superman*, *Flash*, *Green Lantern*, etc.

The merits of this adventures could go on and on, but it is today we're concerned with. I believe the 200th issue's book-lengther, "The Man Who Radiated Fear," was a perfect selection to designate just what *Batman* and *Robin* are today. Despite opinions to the contrary, I feel the *Dynamic Duo* has remained basically the same crime-fighting team as they were originally created. For does not Mike Friedrich's fine story give us the flair of puns that the team is famous for? Our boy Mike gave us an issue of issues—as in one story we had the *Scarecrow*, *Joker*, *Penguin* and *Killer Moth*. And those panels—someone must have suggested Bob Kane research his early adventures for samples of his finest period of art. I refer to the first panels of pages 14, 17, 18, as well as all the pages of *Batman & Robin*'s origins.

The story moved fast, the art free and flowing—yet when you look back, much was told. I regard this adventure as a classic!

—Biljo White, Columbia, Mo.

(So has decreed *Batmaniac* #1 on *Batman* #200. And who would deign to disagree? A lone female voice in the wilderness . . .? —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Concerning *Batman* #200—what a letdown! What a disappointment! After all those cute little drawings of the DC editorial office with a huge lock and signs saying "Off Limits", "Do Not Disturb", "Keep Out", etc., and especially after your promise in *Batman* #196 of something spectacular for issue 200, I was expecting "something spectacular".

"Now what could they be planning?" I wondered. "A brand new character or villain who completely changes the lives of *Batman* and *Robin*? A revolutionary concept in story writing?"

But, alas, no! Instead of this great classic I was anticipating we get just an ordinary tale which, for all its ingenuity and plot, might have been found in issue 238 and nobody would have known the difference.

And another thing, the cover was very good—picturing past covers was a little of the revolution I was hoping for—but somehow, shocking pink just doesn't seem synonymous with the *Caped Crusaders*. Midnight blue or moon yellow maybe, but not pink! Shocking!

Well, even though it wasn't what I had hoped for, "The Man Who Radiated Fear" was pretty good. The part where *Batman* and *Robin* decided to hang up their capes and *Alfred* changes their minds with flashbacks was really grand. Another good thing about this story was that it was the first one with a clue I solved! I guess that about wraps it up, except for the very good art, as usual.

After discovering that Mike Friedrich authored the story, I wasn't too disappointed about #200. As they say, there's always *Batman* #300.

—Susan Hendrix, Cedartown, Ga.

Dear Editor:

In one sense, it's a shame that milestones in comic magazine publishing don't come with, say, every 25th issue so that a "something special", the March *Batman*, could happen more often. However, I suppose it's also true that the rarer these gems are, the more they are appreciated.

I want to thank Mike Friedrich for his fine story. Being, if nothing else, a typical reader, I do have two criticisms. I found bits of this novel somewhat overly sentimental; secondly, much as I enjoyed the "fear" element, I would have liked a really crackling detective story. But I hasten to add that sentimentality was quite appropriate to this issue and the plot was certainly well handled, especially as regards managing to include *Batman*'s traditional foes.

Naturally, I enjoyed immensely the extras—the cover, the old cuts, the interview, etc. I continue to be happily astounded by what I can only term the "new art". And the new techniques—artwork flowing wildly across the pages, completely ignoring the panel lines. Marvelous!

Conclusions? A very special issue that succeeded in that which I judged to be its intent. I'd imagine that you had fun preparing it. I certainly did reading it. Many thanks.

—Moira L. Maynard, St. Paul, Minn.

(Now—how about the new team of Frank Robbins—Irv Novick—Joe Giella we've sprung on you with this issue? We're reaching for even greater heights—so hang on, Bat-fans! —Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

During the summer of '67, Mike Friedrich was our roommate. He had come to New York to try his hand at writing *Batman* stories after a long career as major critic and letter writer.

Each time he set out for the offices of D.C., script in hand, it was a toss-up as to whether he would come home cheerful or depressed. It depended, of course on whether his story ideas were accepted or not. Quite often he would leave our pad "full of beans", only to come back, "shot down" (in his own words)!"

After being a *Batman* reader since the '40's it was a special treat to watch a budding writer at work (although it did cost a few nights sleep!).

I am delighted to have finally seen Mike's efforts rewarded so beautifully by putting his great story in the important issue #200.

The cover idea was sensational! A cover which will be long remembered.

Three cheers to D.C. for giving the younger generation a chance to bring their talents into the comic magazine field!!! Certainly, a fan's loyalty can have no finer reward.

—Shel Dorf, New York, N.Y.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

You will probably receive many letters in regard to number 200 of the *Batman* magazine. I really enjoyed it. It not only included flashbacks of the *Dynamic Duo*'s beginnings but also included some of their most infamous enemies. I especially relished the two excerpts from the very early *Batman* issues. In all, I found #200 most entertaining and well worth my money.

I already love *Robin* and *Batman* for eternity. In issue 200 on the next to the last panel at the end of the story, *Batman*'s arm is on *Robin*'s shoulder. Thank you, for I love these tender scenes between the greatest guys in any fiction literature.

—Alice Herman, Richmond Hill, N.Y.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Do you know 10 people? Of course you do! Add up a half-dozen relatives, perhaps 5 neighbors, the butcher, the baker, the milkman, the grocer, your dentist, several friends and other tradespeople—and you've probably got even more than 20. So what are you waiting for? These folks alone can bring you in at least \$50.00, probably \$100.00 to \$200.00 extra money in just a few hours spare time. And this is just a start! Almost everyone you know needs Christmas Cards, and when you show them the spectacular nationally famous 1968 Wallace Brown Line of Cards and Gift Items—it's love at first sight. They'll snap up 2, 3, 6 or more Christmas Card Boxes right on the spot. Keep up to 50¢ of every dollar you take in! This is the fun way of making money because it's so easy. You don't have to be a salesman because we send you samples that do the selling for you. And besides making money you'll save money on your own Christmas Cards, Gifts, etc. at wholesale prices. See for yourself without risking a penny. Mail the coupon today! You'll be glad you did!

### IT COSTS NOTHING TO TRY— FREE CATALOG, TOO

Be first in your neighborhood to cash in on this easy way to extra money with the 1968 Wallace Brown Line of Christmas Cards and Gift Items. Mail coupon this minute! You'll get 2 Greeting Card Assortments on approval. And Free Album of Name-Imprinted Personal Christmas Samples. Plus Free full-color catalog showing lots more money-makers, including many Christmas Assortments, Everyday Greeting Card Assortments, Decorated Stationery, Gift Wrappings, Household Items, etc. Everything you need to start making money at once—and we show you how.

# FREE

Album of Popular-Priced,  
Name-Imprinted PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thrill your friends and neighbors and make even MORE MONEY for yourself with custom-designed Special Value PERSONAL Christmas Cards at amazingly low prices... from only \$1.95 to \$3.95 for 25 cards with name imprinted! A large variety of exclusive, original designs for folks who want the finest quality in Personalized Christmas Cards at prices everybody can afford. It's so easy, too...they sell just by being shown! Just send the coupon for your FREE big, beautiful Album of actual samples of these fast-selling Special Value Personal Christmas Cards! Mail coupon TODAY for this exciting new Album!

#### ORGANIZATIONS:

Churches, clubs, veterans' auxiliaries, etc. can now add hundreds of dollars to their treasuries with these fast sellers. Give organization name on coupon for Fund-Raising Plan. Mail coupon NOW!

#### SEND NO MONEY

Paste Coupon on postcard  
or mail in envelope

WALLACE BROWN, INC., Dept. WBT-510  
10 Martine Avenue, White Plains, N.Y. 10606

Send 2 Greeting Card Assortments on approval, plus FREE Album of Name-Imprinted Personal Christmas Cards, FREE full-color Catalog, and details of simple money-making plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (PRINT CLEARLY)

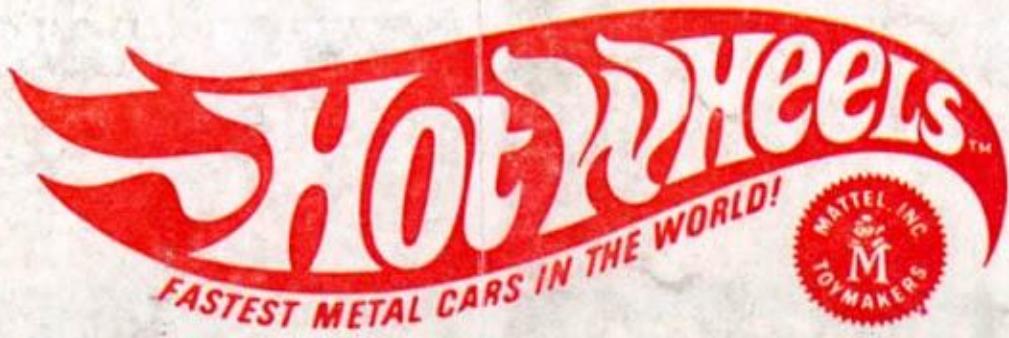
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

If writing for an organization, give its name \_\_\_\_\_

10 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, N.Y. 10606



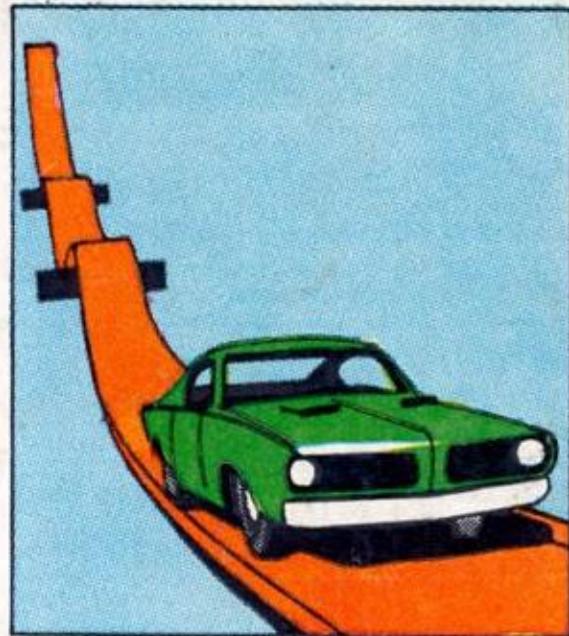
# New from Mattel. Action sets for the fastest miniature metal cars you've ever seen!

New Hot Wheels out-race, out-stunt, out-distance any other kind of miniature car.

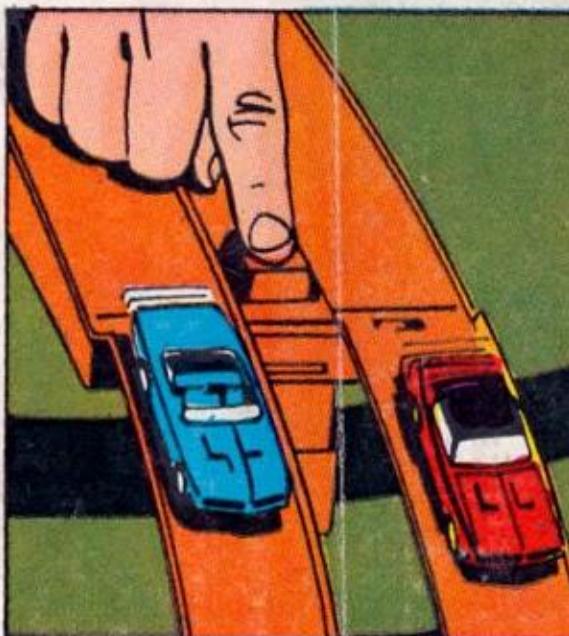
**Stunt Action Set.** Comes with California styled Hot Wheels car, dare devil loop that sends other miniature cars tumbling, ramps for jumps other cars can't make, trestle, 16 feet of special track, collector button.



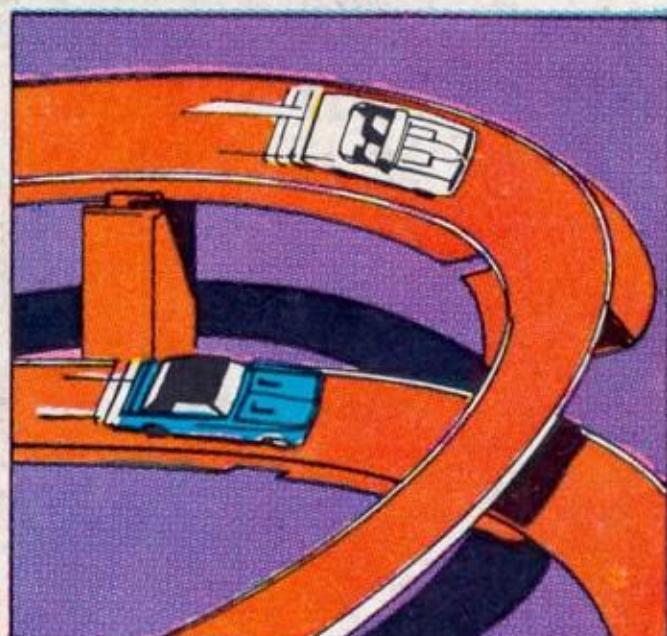
## Three other great sets to choose from!



Strip Action Set. Complete with Hot Wheels car, 10 feet of track, collector button.



Drag Race Action Set. Comes with 2 cars, starting and finishing gates, elimination lane merger, 30 feet of track, collector button.



Hot Curves Race Action Set. Comes with 2 Hot Wheels cars, 4 banked curves, 6 trestles, starting and finishing gates, 32 ft. of track, collector button.

**Collect Hot Wheels separately, too. 16 custom styled cars to choose from!**