



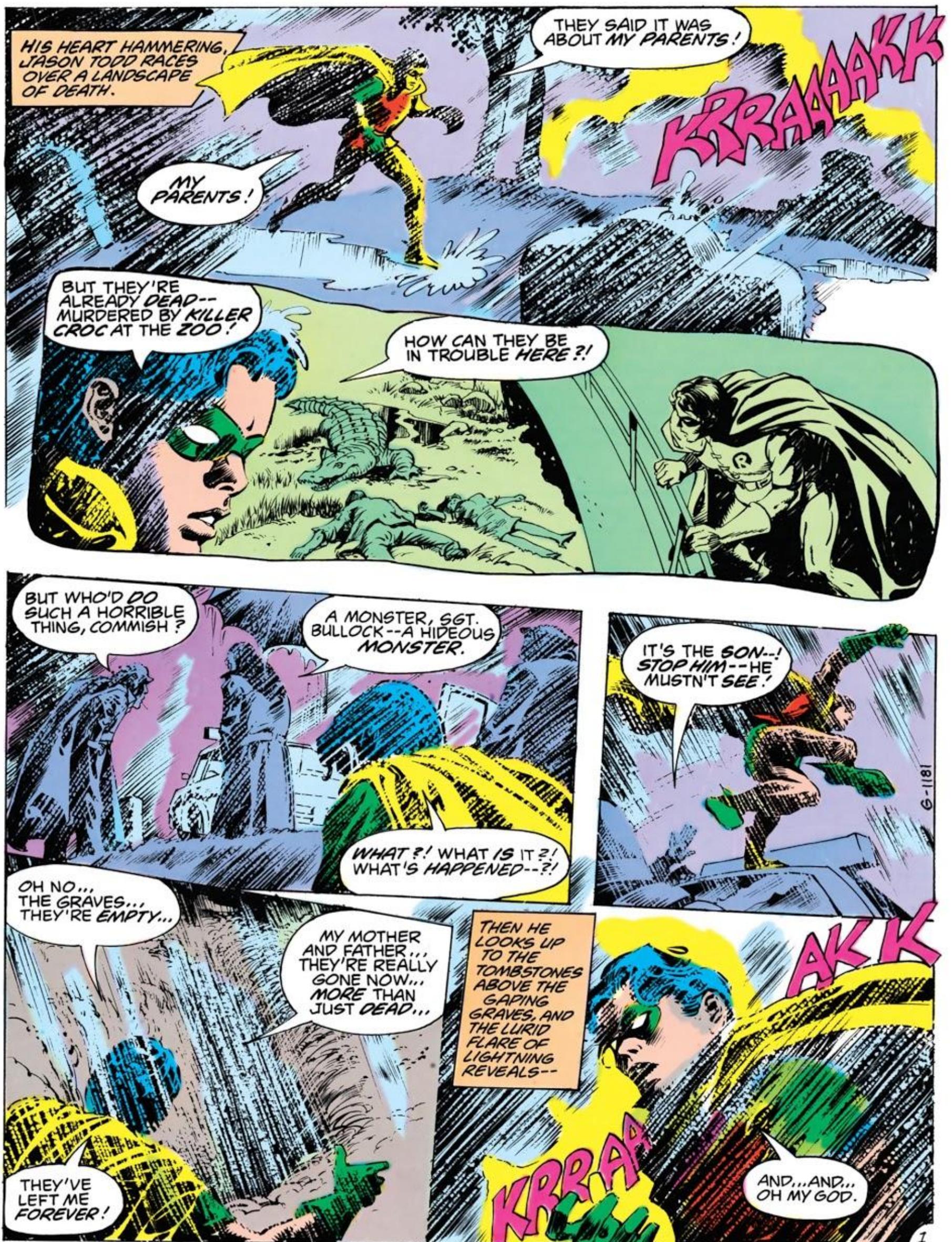
BATMAN

373
JULY 84

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CAC
AUTHORITY



WHERE STALKS THE
SCARECROW!™



BAT MAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

NOOOOO!!

BRUCE!!

NOT YOU
TOO, BRUCE!!

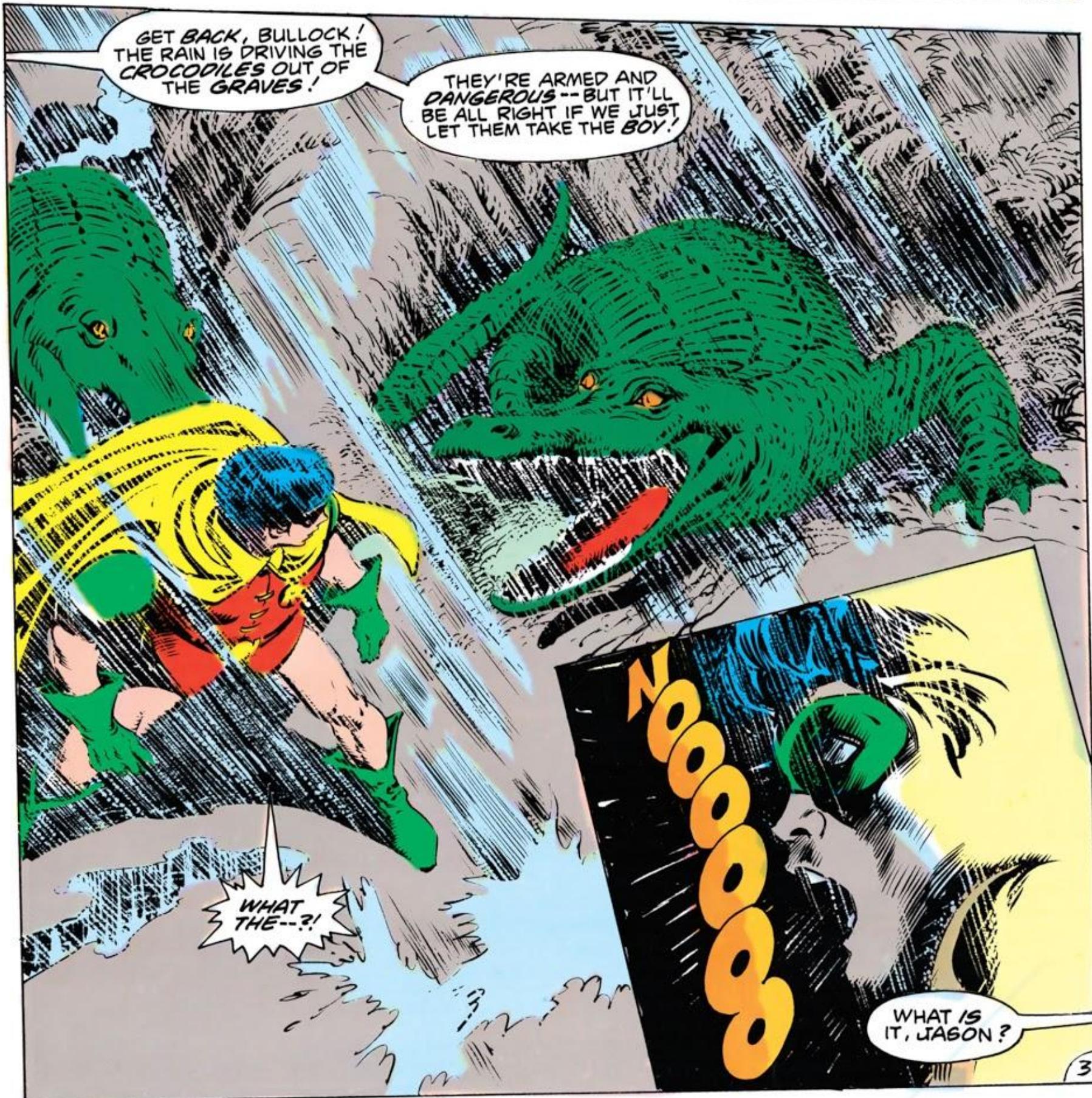
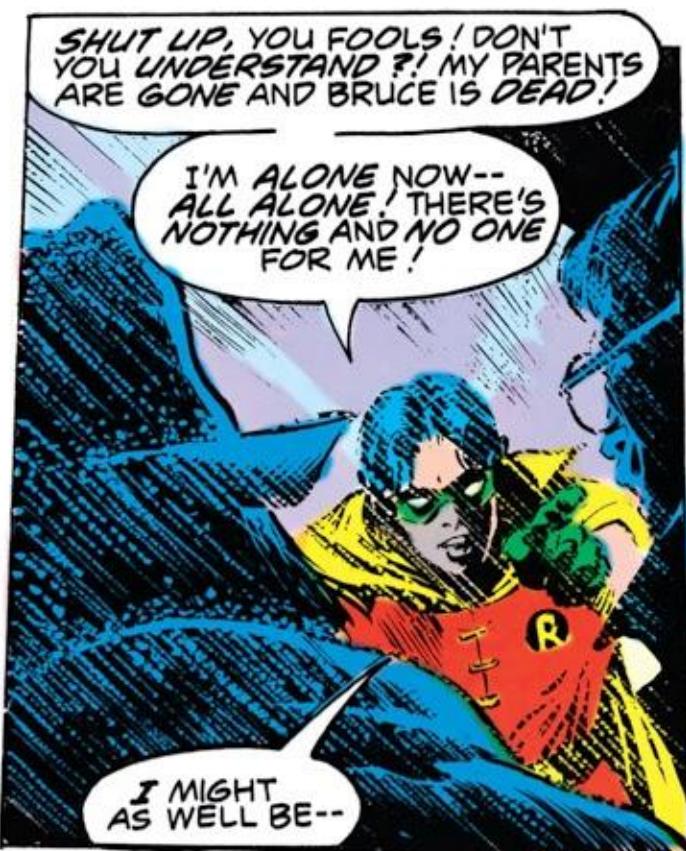
YOU CAN'T
BE DEAD
TOO!!

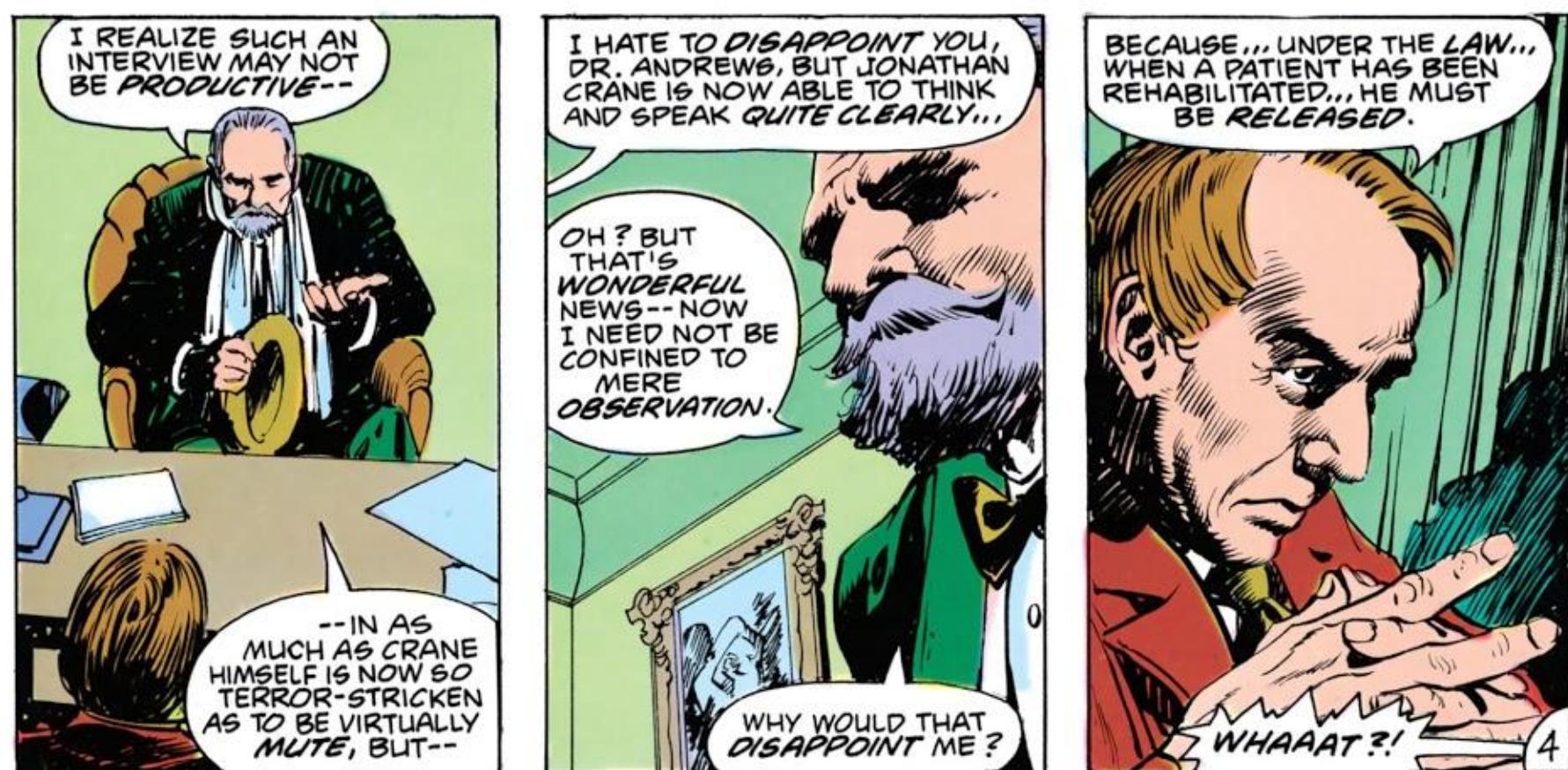
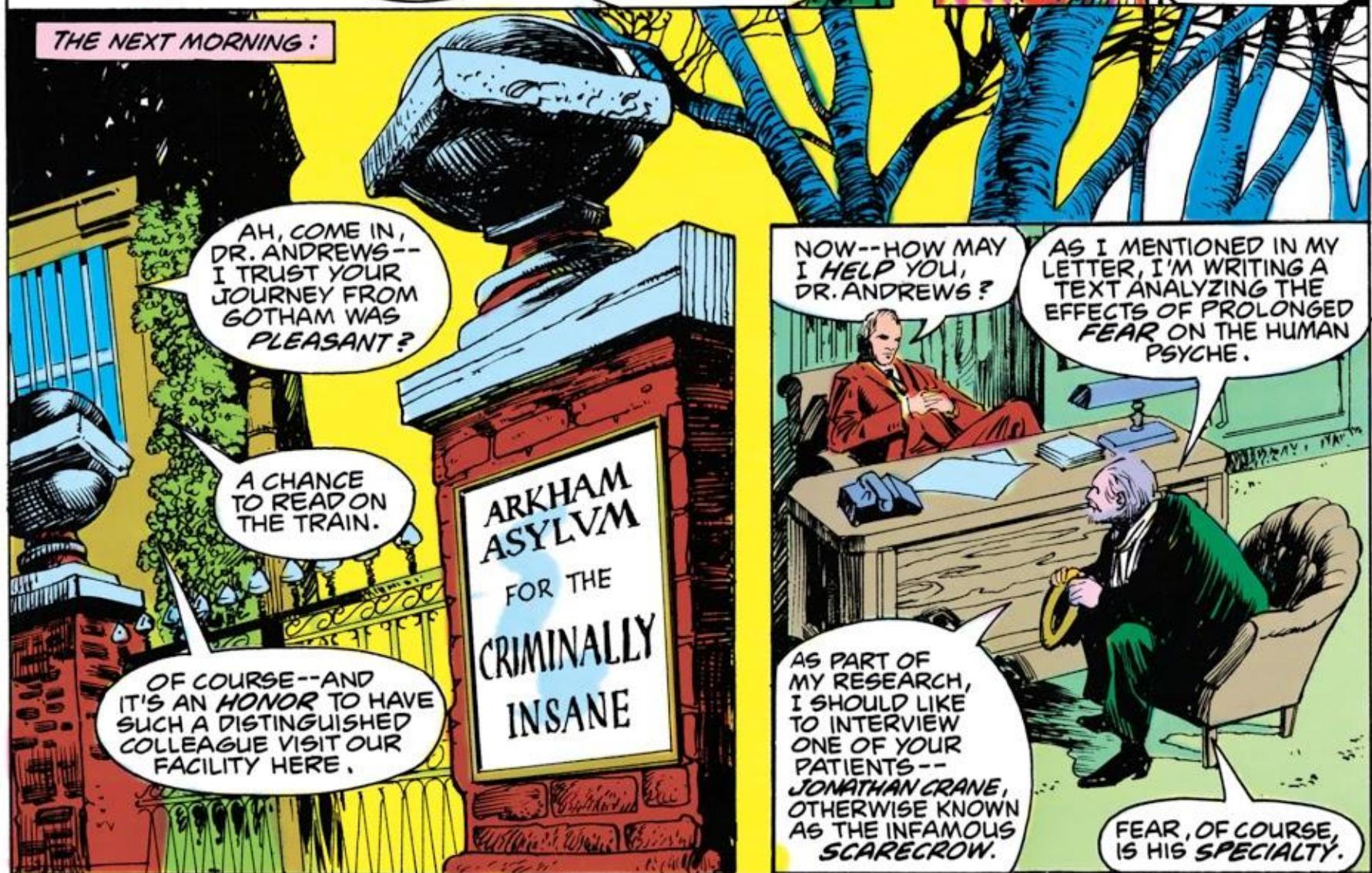
THE FREQUENCY OF FEAR

JOSEPH TOSCANI
BORN 1911
DIED 1965

IRINA TOSCANI
BORN 1911
DIED 1965

DOUG MOENCH * GENE COLAN & ALFREDO ALCALA * ALBERT DE GUZMAN * ADRIENNE ROY * LEN WEIN
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

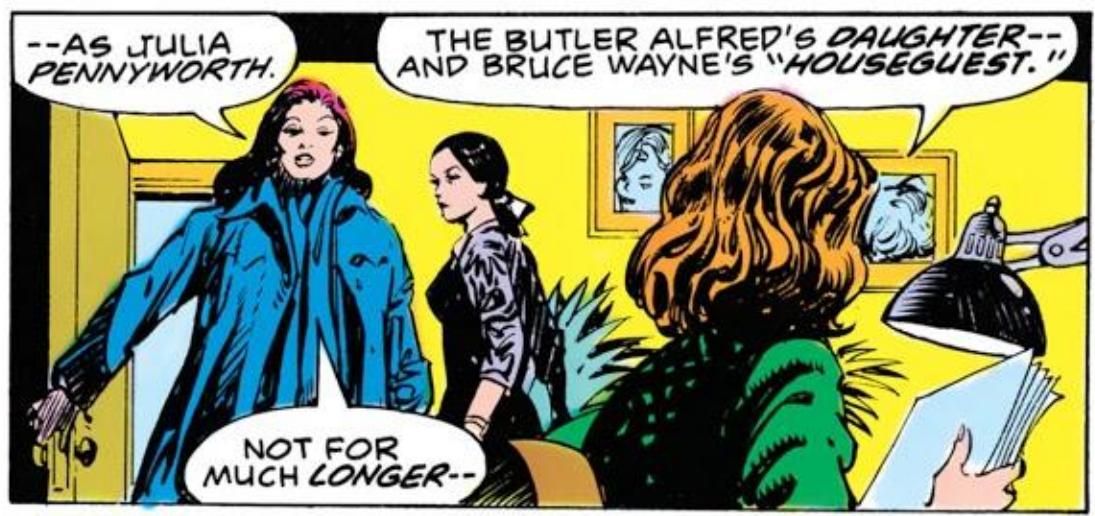


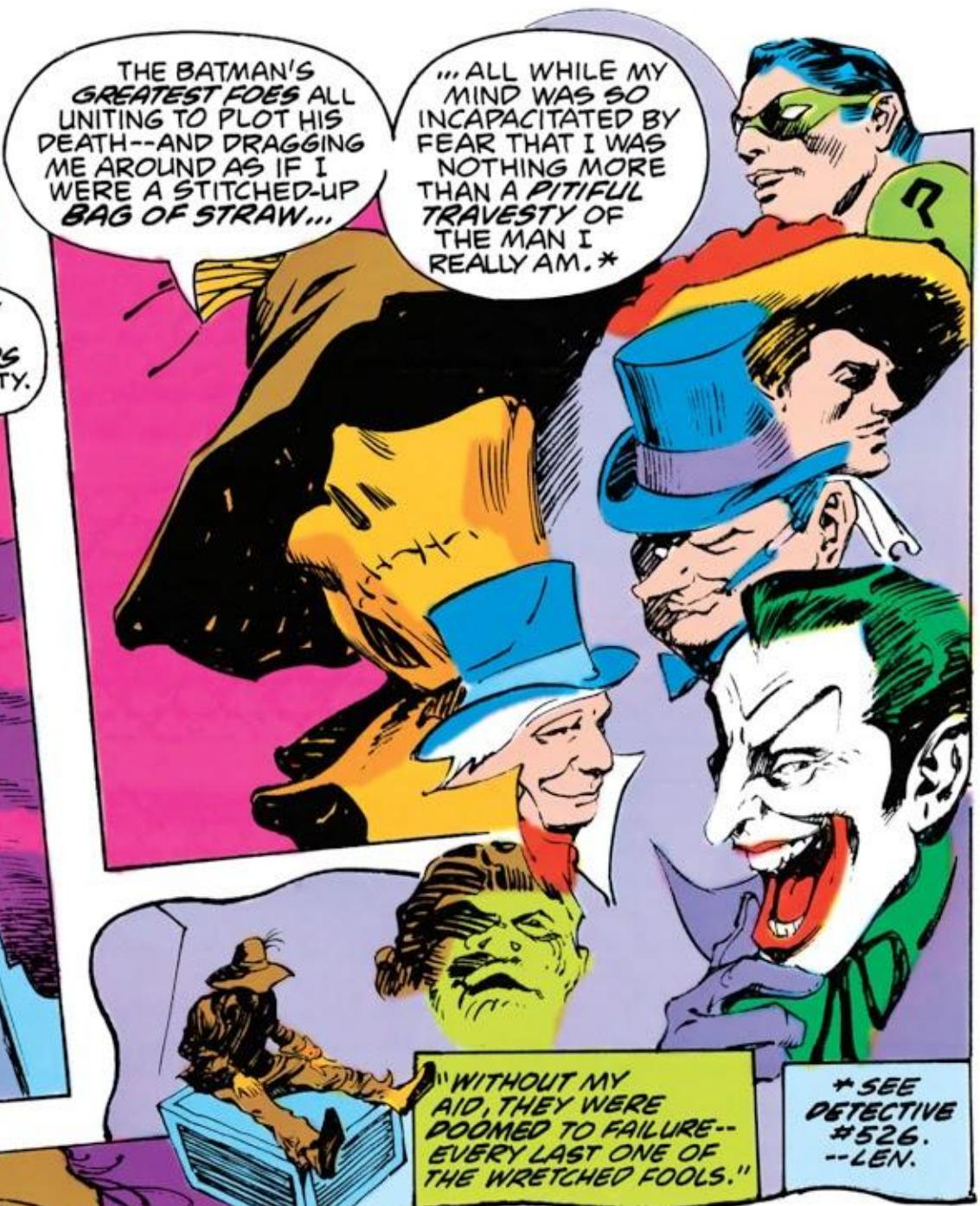




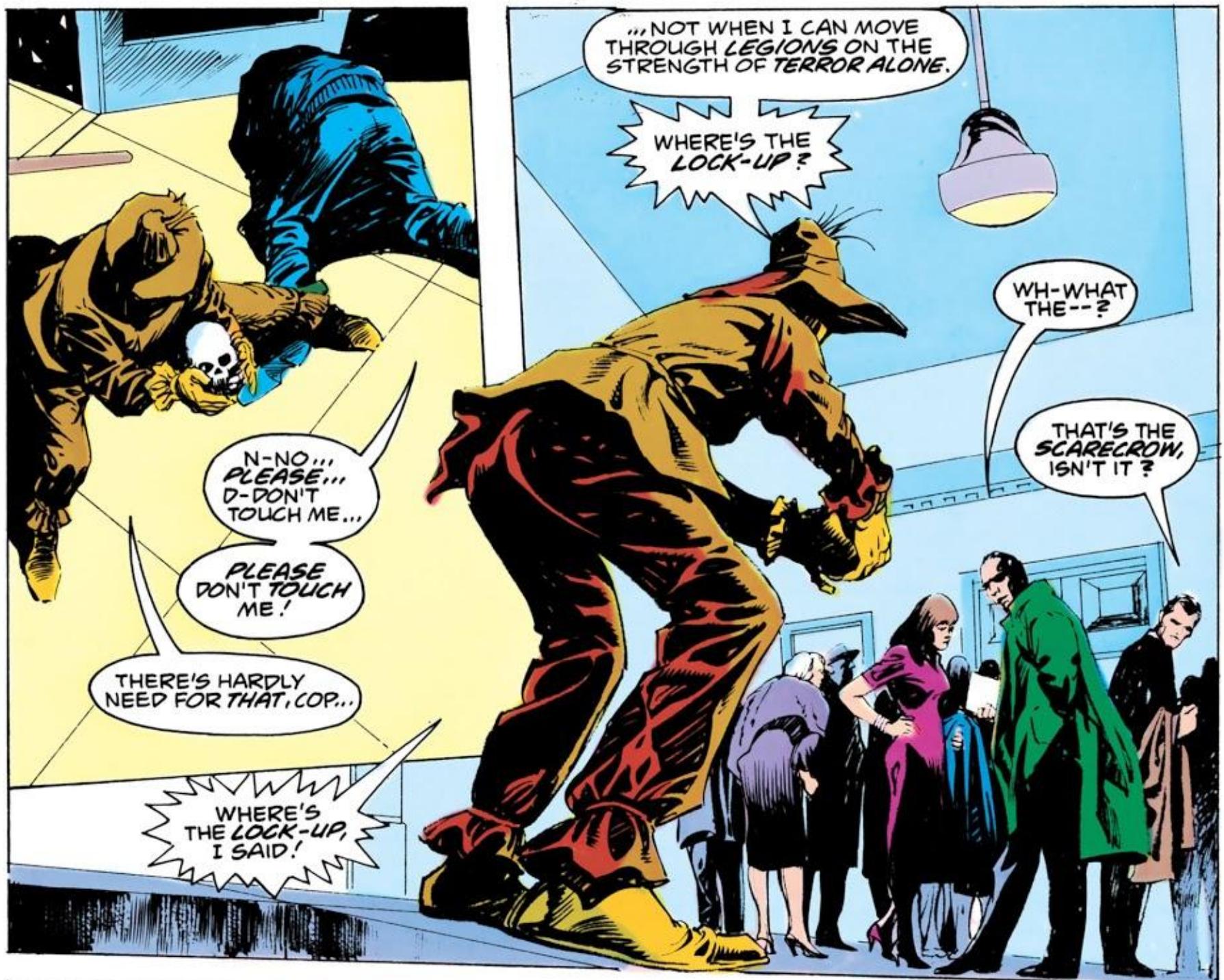
THE CAMPUS OF GOTHAM
UNIVERSITY, LATER THE
SAME DAY...

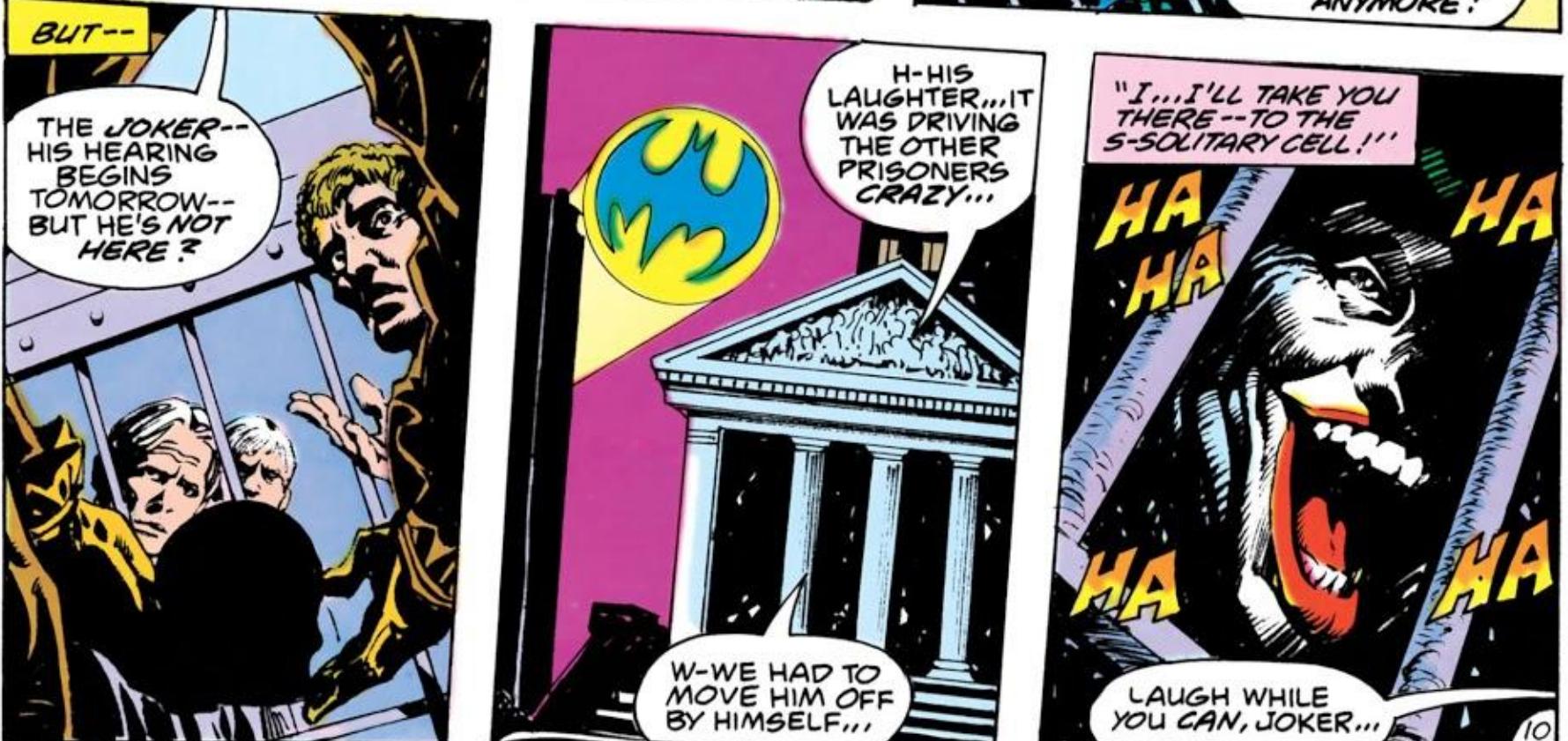














THAT CELL STAYS LOCKED, SCARECROW, AND THE JOKER STAYS ALIVE TO RECEIVE HIS JUST PUNISHMENT--

--AS LONG AS A SINGLE BREATH REMAINS IN MY BODY!

THE BATMAN!

TASTE FEAR, BATMAN--FEEL IT IN YOUR EVERY BONE!

ONLY YOU WOULD RISK YOUR LIFE TO PROTECT A MORTAL ENEMY...

...MAKING IT ALL THE EASIER FOR THE REST OF US!

AND THE TODDS-- KILLED AT THE ZOO!

I...I COULDN'T STOP THEM... THE C-CROCODILES....!





HIS INITIAL FEAR ALREADY FADING, AND WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT--



--HE VAULTS
ONTO THE
TIGHTROPE,
AND RUNS ITS
PRECARIOUS
LENGTH...

WAHNNNGGG

NEVERTHELESS, HE
IS BUT HALFWAY
ACROSS WHEN THE
SCARECROW REACHES
THE OPPOSITE BUILDING.



GLOVED HANDS
MANIPULATE THE
BASE OF A SKULL--

--AND THE NEW ROBIN
TASTES A FEAR NEVER
BEFORE KNOWN.



IT SPIKES HIS
OWN SKULL--
TO THE
VERY CORE
OF HIS
BRAIN.

V-VERTIGO...
DIZZY... C-CAN'T
KEEP MY B-BALANCE...
GOING TO--



IT IS CALLED ACROPHOBIA,
AND IT IS A FIERCE AND
UNCONTROLLABLE FEAR
OF HEIGHTS.

FOR A TIGHTROPE
WALKER, IT IS
CERTAINLY FATAL.

SINCE LEAVING THE CIRCUS, HOWEVER, JASON TODD HAS BECOME MORE THAN A MERE AERIALIST.



HE IS NOW PARTNER TO THE BATMAN.



WE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE IN THE ADJACENT BUILDING-- AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE SCARECROW MADE A CLEAN ESCAPE.



THEN MY WORST FEAR CAME TRUE -- I DID FAIL.



THE GOTHAM CHILD WELFARE BUREAU; NEXT DAY...

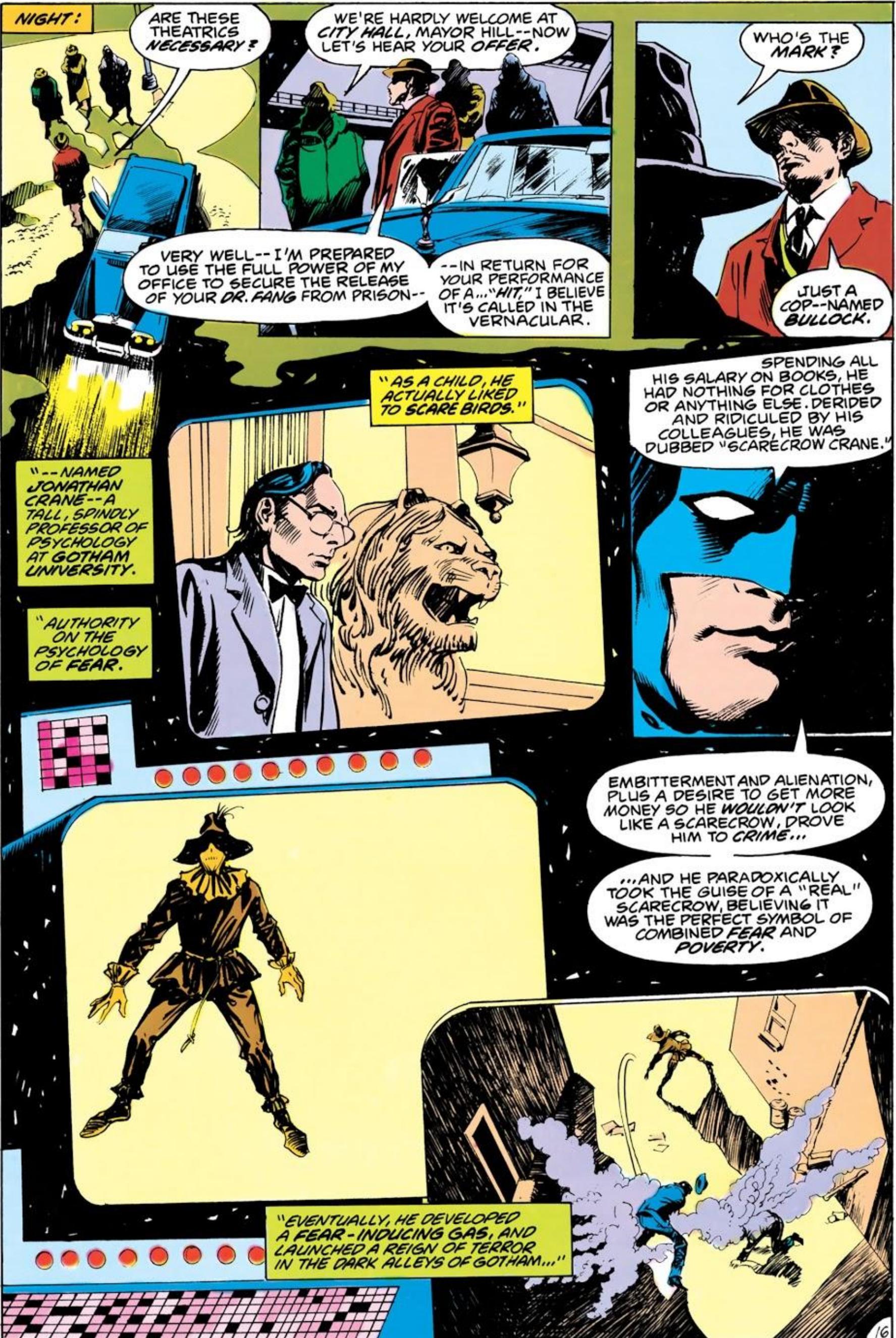
-- REPORT FROM A TEACHER THAT ONE OF HER STUDENTS IS HABITUALLY FALLING ASLEEP IN CLASS.

I'D LIKE YOU TO INVESTIGATE THE CHILD'S PARENTS, AMANDA.



COME ON, ROBIN--IT'S TIME TO GO.







ADD TO THAT AN INCREASED SECRETION BY THE PITUITARY GLAND OF ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE --

-- WHICH ACTS ON THE CORTEX OF THE ADRENAL GLANDS --

-- LEADING TO A GREATER OUTPUT OF CORTICAL STEROID HORMONES, CHANGING METABOLIC ACTIVITY AND THE CELLULAR COMPOSITION OF THE BLOOD...

... ALL OF WHICH INDUCES THE CLASSIC "FIGHT OR FLIGHT" RESPONSE.

AND THE KEY TO ALL OF IT IS THE INTERCONNECTION OF PREGANGLIONIC FIBER SYNAPSES, WHICH CAN BE DIRECTLY ATTACKED BY THE ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCIES OF MY FEAR-DEVICE...

... AND ATTACKED WITH SUCH SAVAGERY THAT THE RESPONSE BECOMES A SHEER HELPLESSNESS BEYOND FIGHT OR FLIGHT.

FURTHERMORE, VARYING FREQUENCIES PRODUCE DIFFERING RESULTS --

-- FROM THE SUBJECTIVE PROJECTION OF FEAR-IMAGE HALLUCINATIONS SUCH AS SPIDERS AND BATS...

... TO A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL'S GREATEST FEAR OR PHOBIA, SUCH AS THE BATMAN'S FEAR OF FAILING TO STOP EVIL...



... TO A SPECIFIC NON-SUBJECTIVE FEAR KEYED TO PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCE, SUCH AS THE ACROPHOBIA INDUCED IN ROBIN ON THAT HIGHWIRE.



--THEN I'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO ELIMINATE HIM FIRST...



...AFTER REDUCING HIM AND THAT BRAT ROBIN TO GIBBERING MASSES OF TERROR, OF COURSE.

BUT NOW MY IMMEDIATE PLANS MUST CHANGE.

IF THE BATMAN IS TOO MUCH THE FOOL TO LET ME RID HIM OF HIS GREATEST ENEMIES, ONE BY ONE --

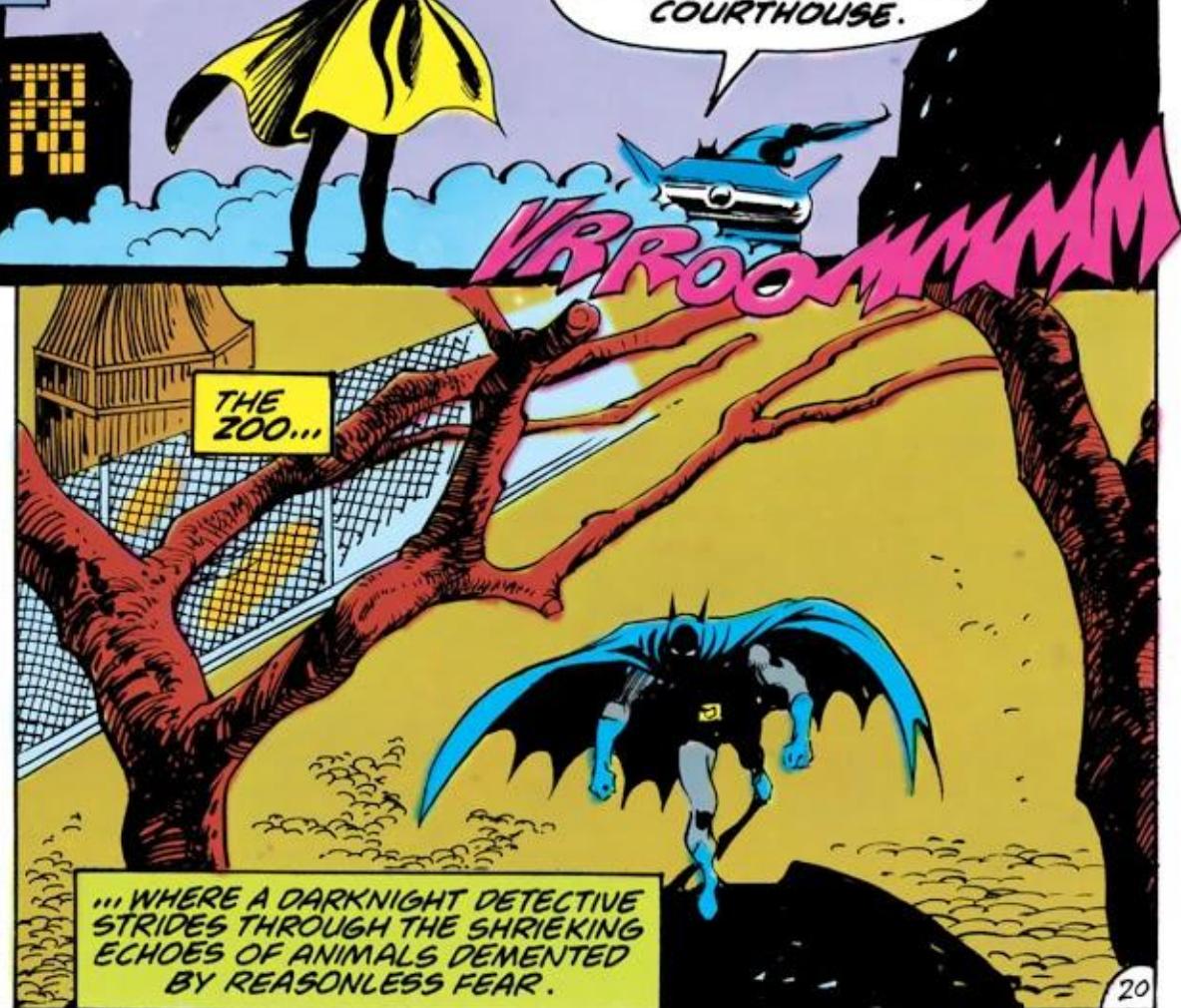
POLICE HEADQUARTERS:

I'M AFRAID THE SCARECROW HAS STRUCK AGAIN, BATMAN...



DON'T BE AFRAID, GORDON--THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON THE JOKER?

NO--SECURITY ON THE JOKER HAS BEEN TRIPLED--HE'D BE MAD TO TRY THAT AGAIN ...



THROUGH IT ALL HE SEES NOTHING BUT THE FACE OF THE JOKER, GLIMPSED IN GLOOM THROUGH THE BARS OF HIS CELL, LEERING AND LAUGHING IN COLD-BURSTS OF INSANITY.

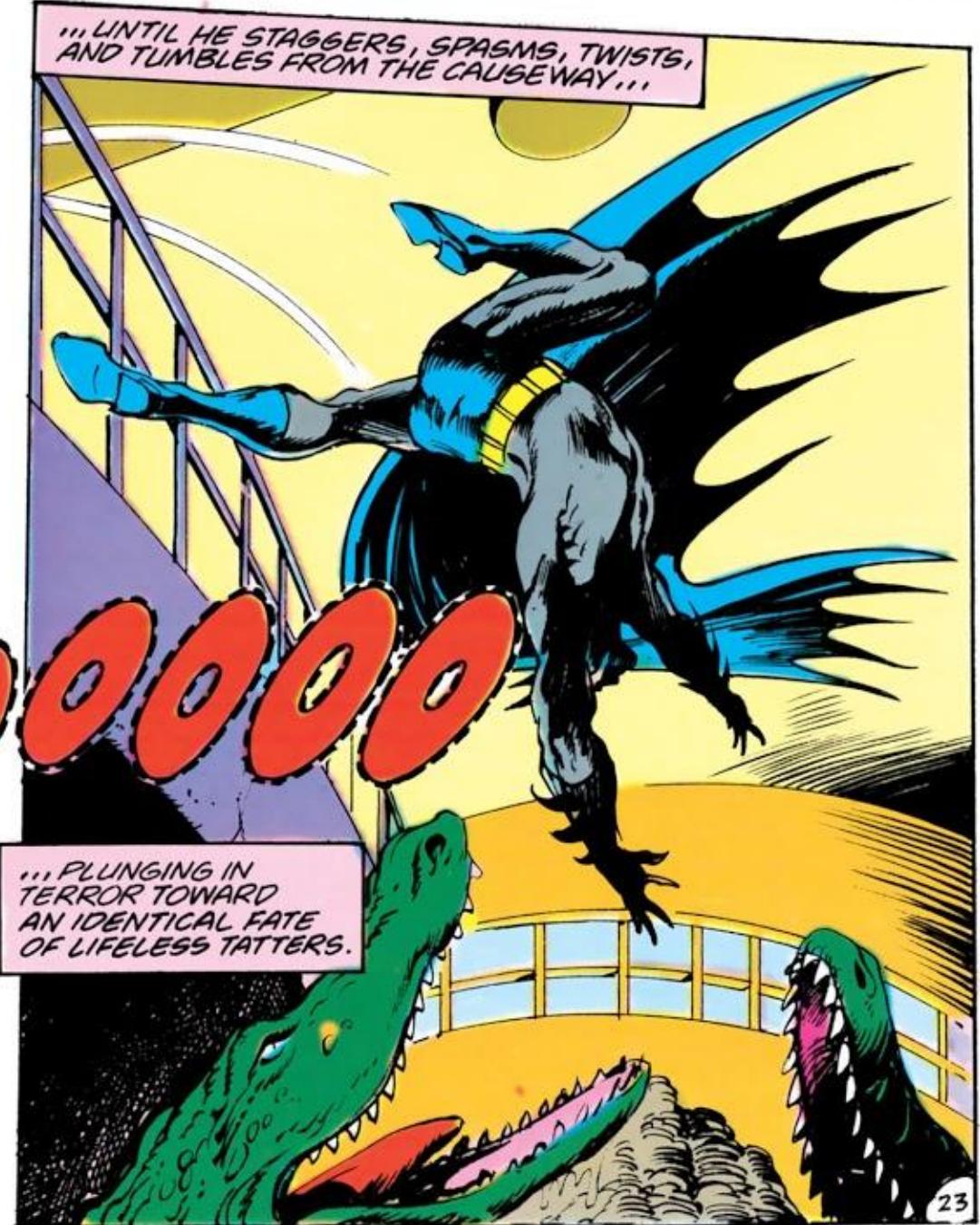
BOTH UNSETTLE HIM, BEASTS AND VISION, AND IF THE TRUTH WERE DEMANDED, HE WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE IS STILL SHAKEN BY THE LINGERING GRIP OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S FEARS...







HE REELS BACK FROM THE HORROR
SPRAWLED BELOW--THE YOUNG, TOO-
OF RED, GOLD, AND GREEN...



CONCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE!



novus
Distributions