

BATMAN No.16

10c



APRIL-MAY

BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

SURPRISE!

SOMEBODY LEARNS THE TRUE
IDENTITIES OF BATMAN & ROBIN!
WHO CAN HE BE?



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

YOU HAVE HEARD THAT THE SAVAGE LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE ITS SPOTS, NOR THE CARRION-EATING VULTURE BECOME A GENTLE DOVE . . . BUT AS YOU TURN THE PAGES OF THIS STORY, YOU MAY BEGIN TO HAVE YOUR DOUBTS!

FOR THAT JEERING APE, THE JOKER -- THAT CRAFTY CLOWN OF CRIME, THAT GRINNING GARGOYLE OF GREED -- SUDDENLY FORSAKES HIS EVIL WAYS TO BECOME NOT ONLY AN HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZEN, BUT A FIERCE FOE OF WRONG-DOERS AS WELL! . . .

READ ON -- AND SHARE THE THRILLING, SPINE-CHILLING ADVENTURES OF THOSE SEN-SATIONAL CRIME-CRUSHERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY BATTLE THROUGH THE PITFALLS OF PERIL AND MAZES OF MYSTERY

WHEN "THE JOKER REFORMS!"

by
BOB
KANE

OUR HERO ★★
THE MOST HONEST MAN IN TOWN"



HOTEL



THIS IS THE LAZY LITTLE TOWN OF FARR CORNERS, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE WILDS OF THE OZARK MOUNTAINS...

AND THIS IS A STRANGER IN TOWN--A TALL, TRAVEL-WORN, WAYFARER WHOSE BUSINESS IS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

EXCUSE ME, MY GOOD MAN... CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE?

RECKON YUH MEAN JEB JOHNSON, TH' CONSTABLE... PLAYIN' CHECKERS WITH SAM UPSON IN TH' STORE!

THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE BIGGEST CASE THE CONSTABLE HAS EVER WORKED ON...

GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE
SAM UPSON PROPRIETOR AND POSTMASTER

ARE YOU CONSTABLE JEB JOHNSON?

YEP, YOUNG FELLER--BUT I'M RIGHT BUSY NOW!

HEH, HEH! LOOKS LIKE I GOT YE BEAT, JEB!

IF YOU COULD SPARE A MINUTE FROM YOUR GAME TO LOOK THESE OVER...

JUMPIN' TOAD-FROGS--DIAMONDS! AN' EMERALDS--AN' RUBIES--AN' PEARLS!

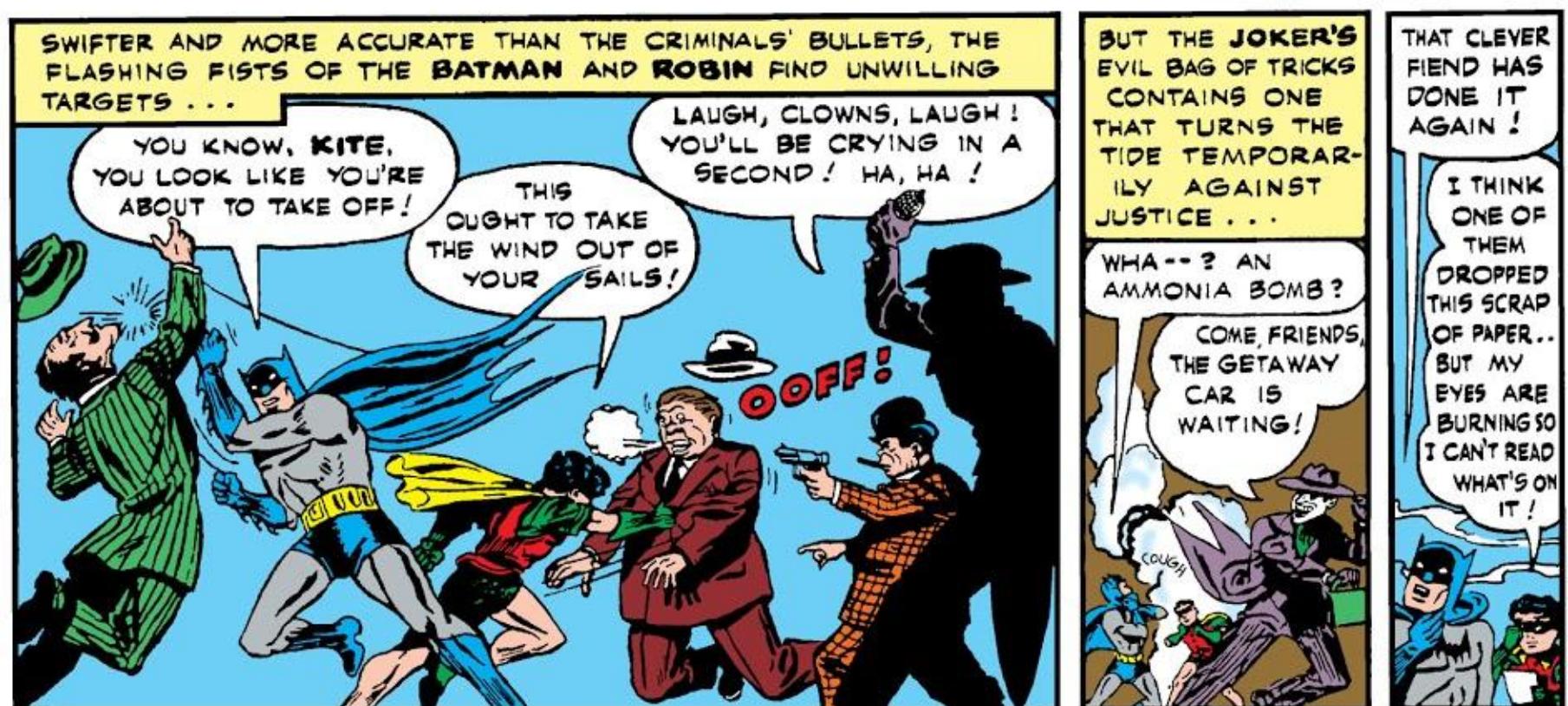
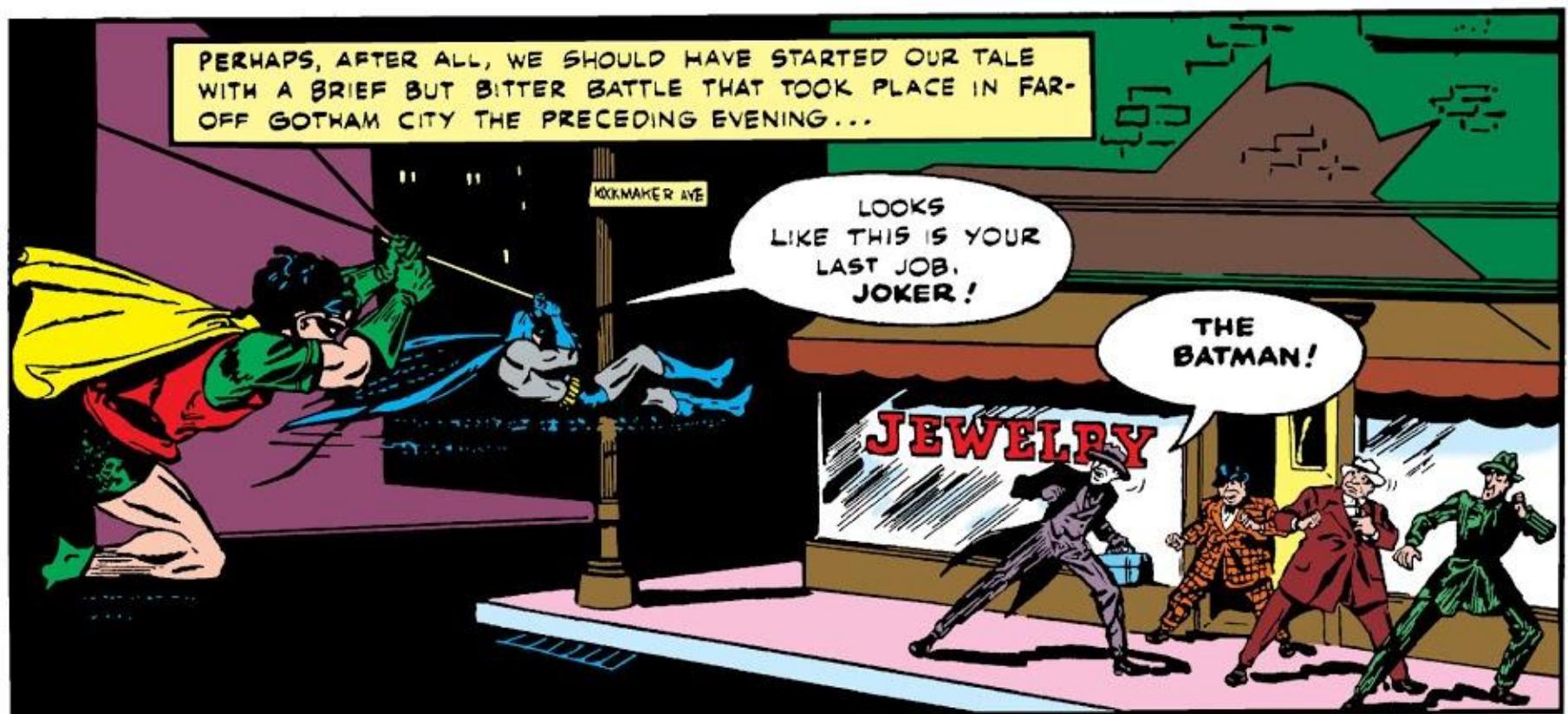
THIS PAPER WAS WITH THE JEWELS! THEY MUST BE THE LOOT FROM THAT ROBBERY IN GOTHAM CITY!

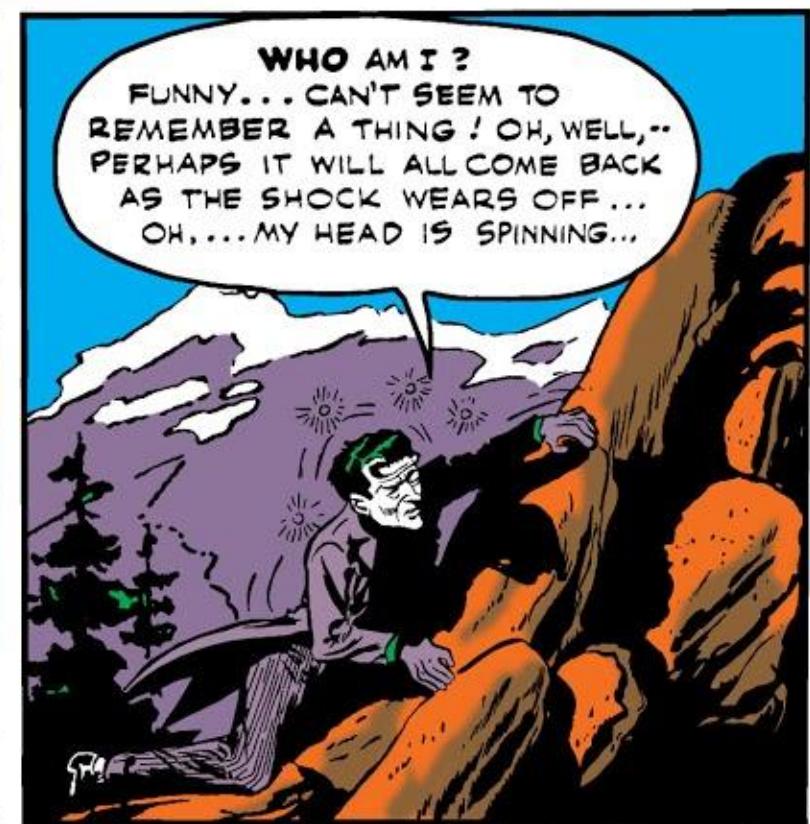
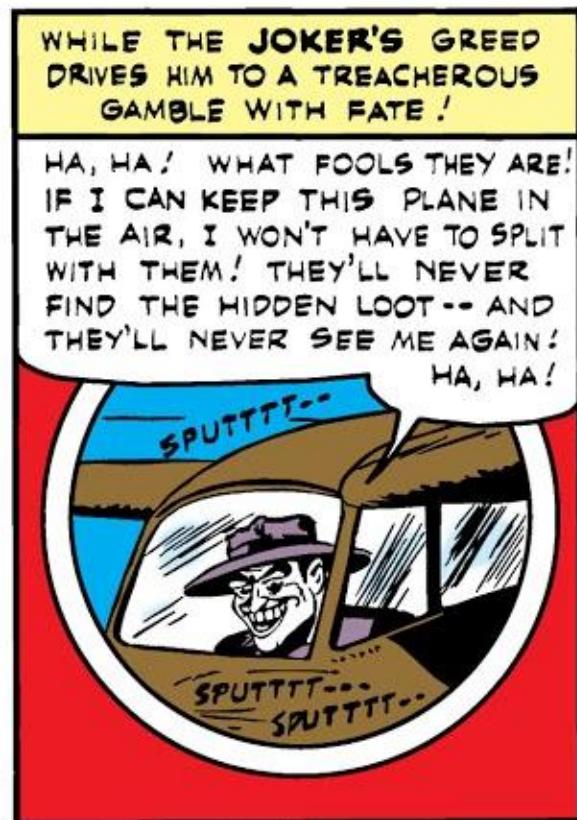
HOLD ON, STRANGER! WHERE'D YOU GET THIS STUFF? WHO ARE YUH?

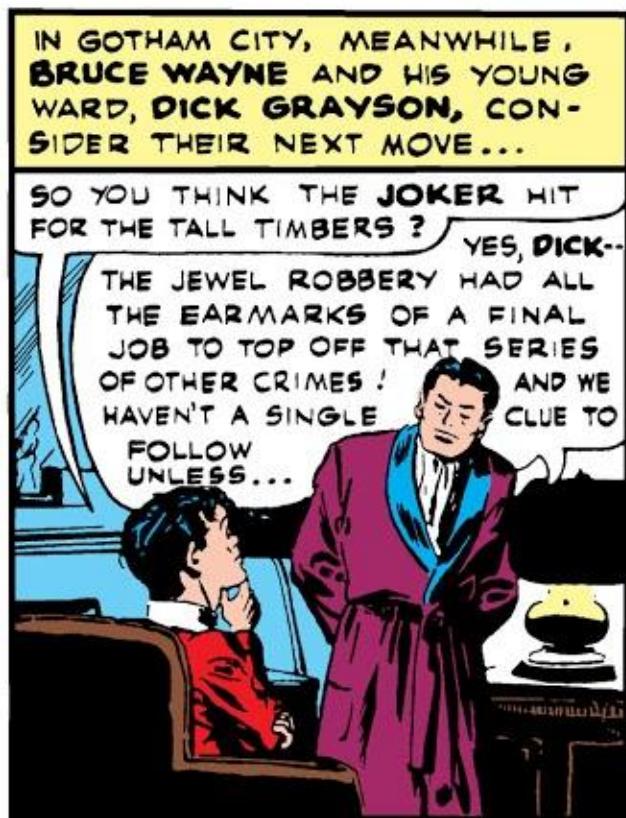
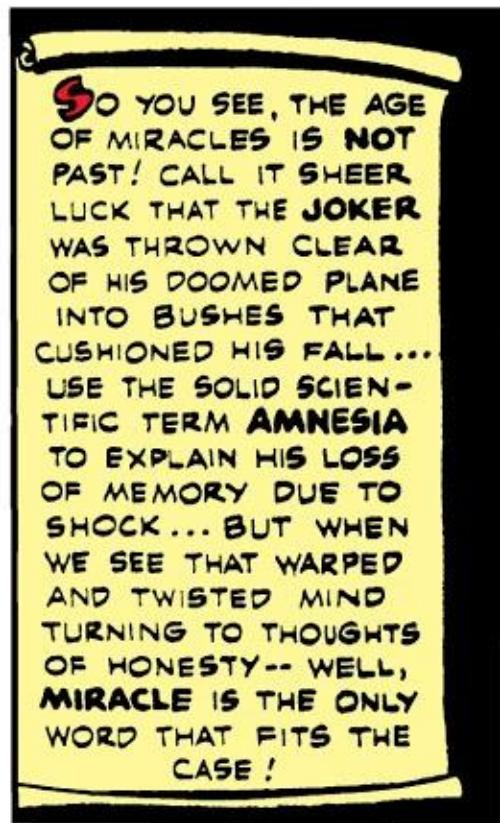
I FOUND THEM NEAR A PLANE THAT CRASHED AND BURNED A FEW MILES AWAY! I NEVER HEARD OF THE JOKER OR THE BATMAN, BUT I FIGURED IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE POLICE!

AS FOR ME, I'M--
ER--
ED SMITH!

WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE HAVE WE SEEN THESE LEERING FEATURES BEFORE--THESE GRINNING, CRIMSON LIPS, THESE GLITTERING EYES, ALIVE WITH SATANIC CUNNING? ...WHY, IT'S THE JOKER HIMSELF--UNDYING ENEMY OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN! BUT AGAIN, WAIT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS GREEDY CLOWN OF CRIME--THIS HARLEQUIN OF HATE--IS ACTUALLY AIDING THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER, SURRENDERING HIS SPOILS TO THE POLICE?







WHILE THE DYNAMIC DUO OF CRIME-SMASHERS IS WINGING SWIFTLY TOWARD ADVENTURE, THREE DOLEFUL CROOKS PLOD GLUMLY TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF FARR CORNERS ...

WHAT A ROTTEN BREAK !
THE JOKER AND THE JEWELS GONE -- AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE SWAG IS PLANTED !

YA WANNA KNOW WHAT I T'INK, KITE ? I T'INK THE JOKER PULLED A FAST ONE AN' LIT OUT WIT' DA BOODLE !

YOU'RE DREAMING, NITRO ! WE DIDN'T SEE HIM JUMP, SO HE MUST HAVE BURNED UP WITH THE CRATE ! IT'S UP TO US TO GET BACK TO THE BIG TOWN AND MAKE ANOTHER STAKE !

I'M GOIN' BACK TA DA BIG TOWN, AWRIGHT, SPARKY--BUT WHEN I GET DERE, I'M GONNA START LOOKIN' FER DAT DOUBLE-CROSSER WIT' A PINEAPPLE IN ME POCKET !

BIGGEST CELEBRATION SINCE MA HUPPER'S FUNERAL, HANK !

THE DEJECTED TRIO HAS SPENT MUCH TIME WANDERING IN THE MOUNTAINS... AND THE SLEEPY VILLAGE HAS TAKEN ON A FESTIVE AIR SINCE LAST WE VISITED IT...

WELCOME OUR HERO

I'LL SAY THIS FUR FARR CORNERS-- NOBODY LIKES T' WORK BUT WHEN THERE'S A PARTY BREWIN', EVERYBODY WAKES UP AN' GETS BUSY !

WONDER WHAT THE HICKS ARE CELEBRATING ?

AS MAYOR O' THIS HERE TOWN, I HAVE ORDERED THIS HERE BLOW-OUT T'DO HONOR TO A STRANGER WHO HAS PUT FARR CORNERS ON TH' MAP AT LAST !

TOMORRA EVERY NEWS-PAPER IN AMERICA WILL TELL HOW ED SMITH BRUNG TO OUR ENTERPRISING' CONSTABULE PRECIOUS JEWELS STOLE BY CROOKS FROM TH' WICKED CITIES O' TH' EAST, WHICH SAME HE FOUND OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS...

AIN'T IT WONDERFUL T' THINK TH' NAME O' FARR CORNERS WILL SMACK EVERY AMERICAN WHO CAN READ RIGHT IN TH' EYE FOLKS ?

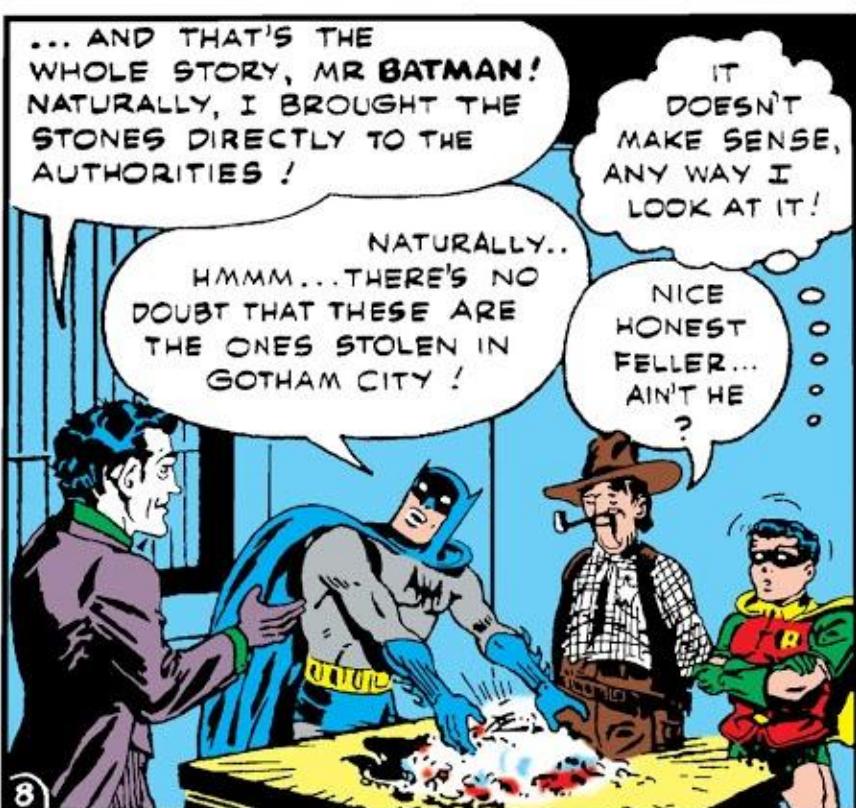
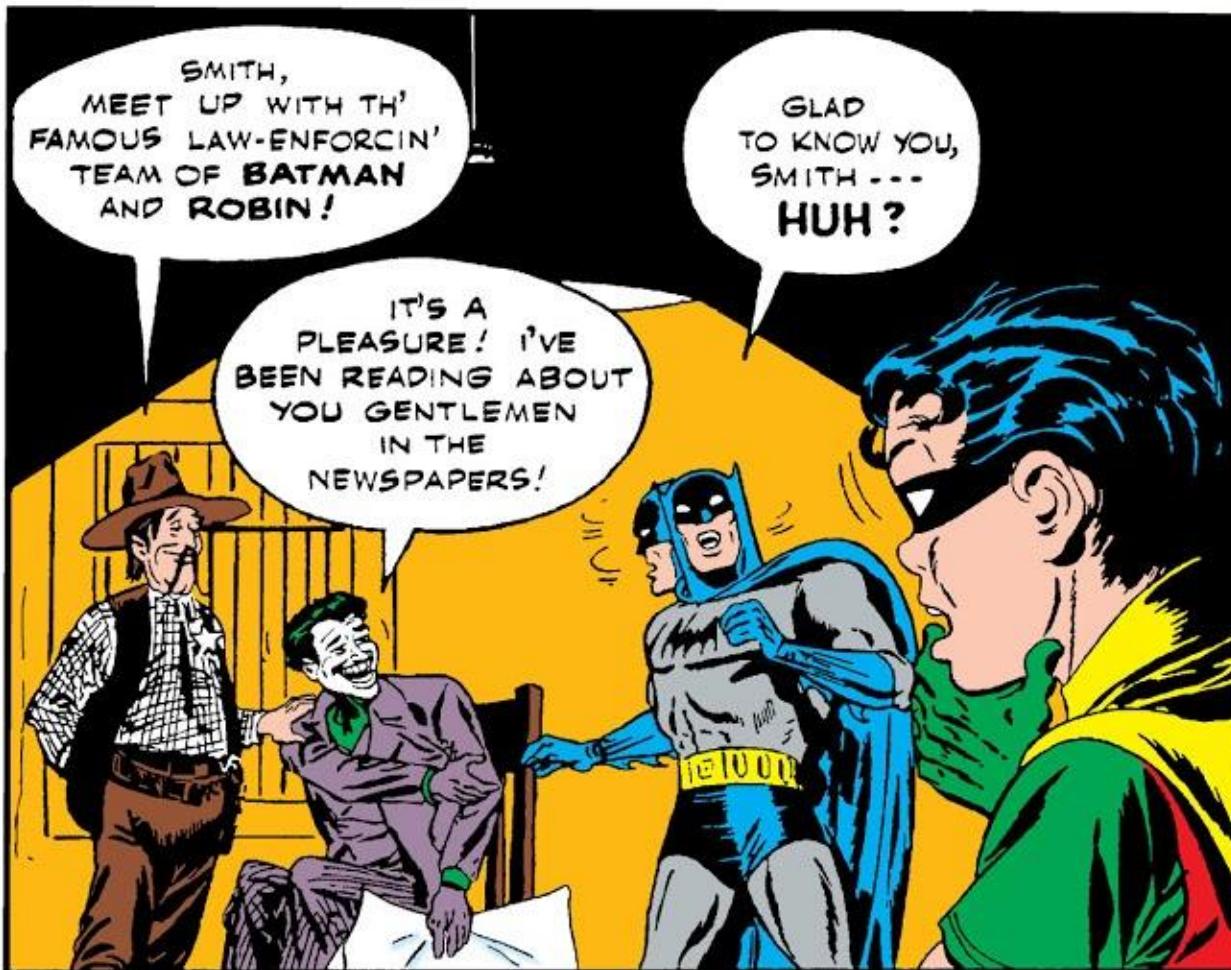
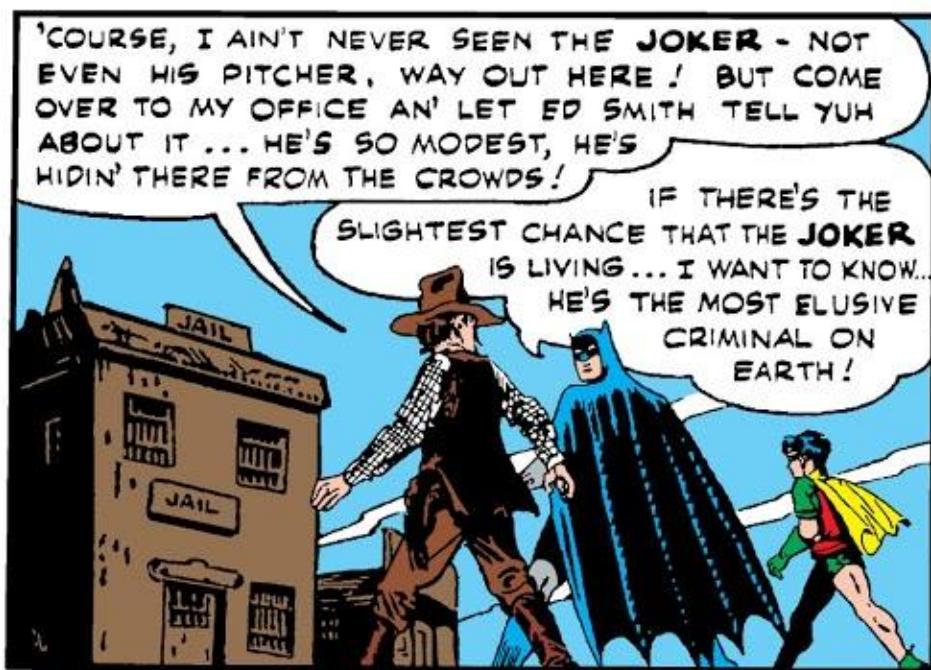
BUT THE JOKER'S ERSTWHILE COMRADES IN CRIME HAVE A SHOCK IN STORE FOR THEM...

AN' NOW I AM RIGHT DUMBFOUNDED WITH JOY T' PRESENT TH' HONESTEST MAN IN THESE PARTS - GUEST O' HONOR -- ED SMITH HISSELF, IN TH' FLESH !

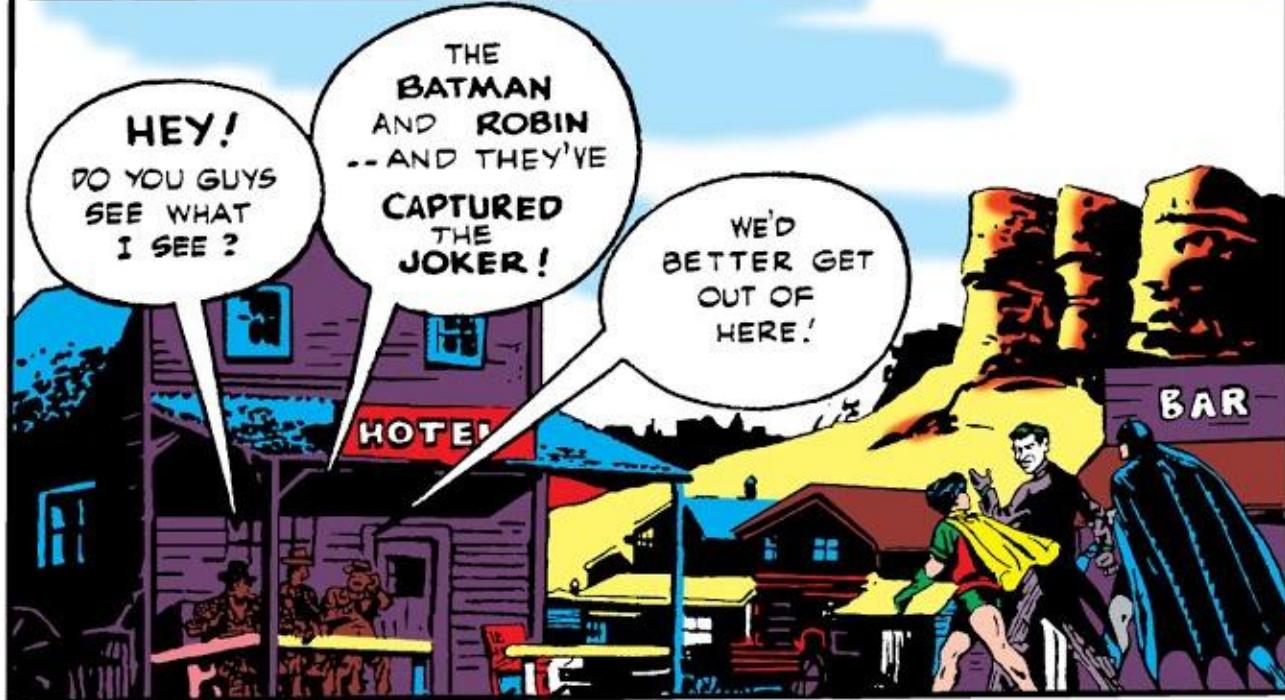
SOMEbody FOUND THE JOKER'S VALISE ! MAYBE WE CAN STEAL IT BACK !

SOME CLOTHOPPER WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOW DA STUFF WAS WOITH DOUGH, I BETCHA !





TO THE SUSPICIOUS EYES OF THREE WATCHERS ON THE VERANDA OF THE LOCAL HOSTELRY, THE APPROACHING GROUP CAN HAVE ONLY ONE MEANING...



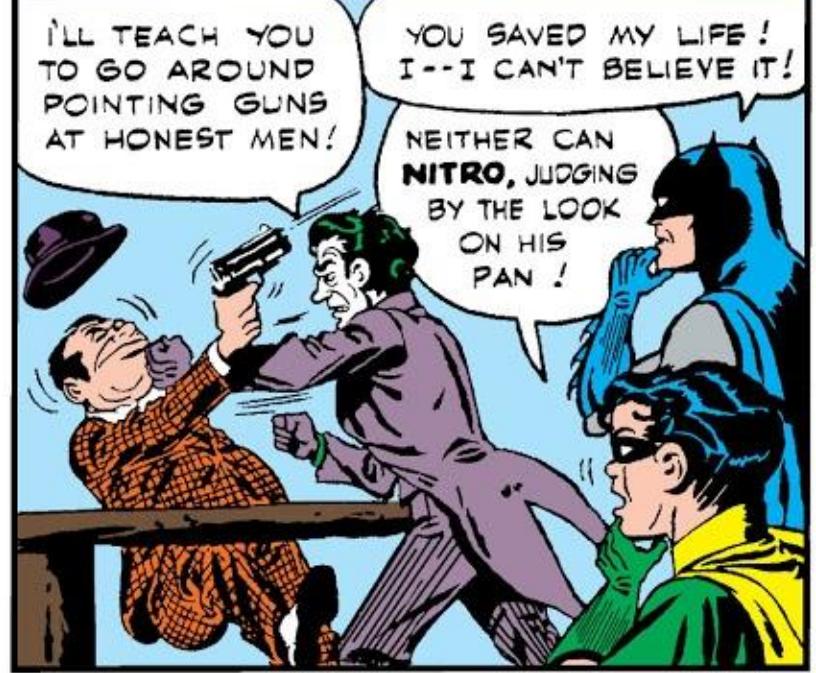
WHADDYA MEAN, GET OUT ? HOW CAN WE GET OUR DOUGH WITHOUT THE JOKER ?



THE NEXT INSTANT...



BUT WITH DEATH A HAIRSBREADTH AWAY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCOVER THAT THEY HAVE AN UNSUSPECTED ALLY !



YOU'RE ONE KITE THAT'S THROUGH WITH HIGH-FLYING FOR A WHILE !

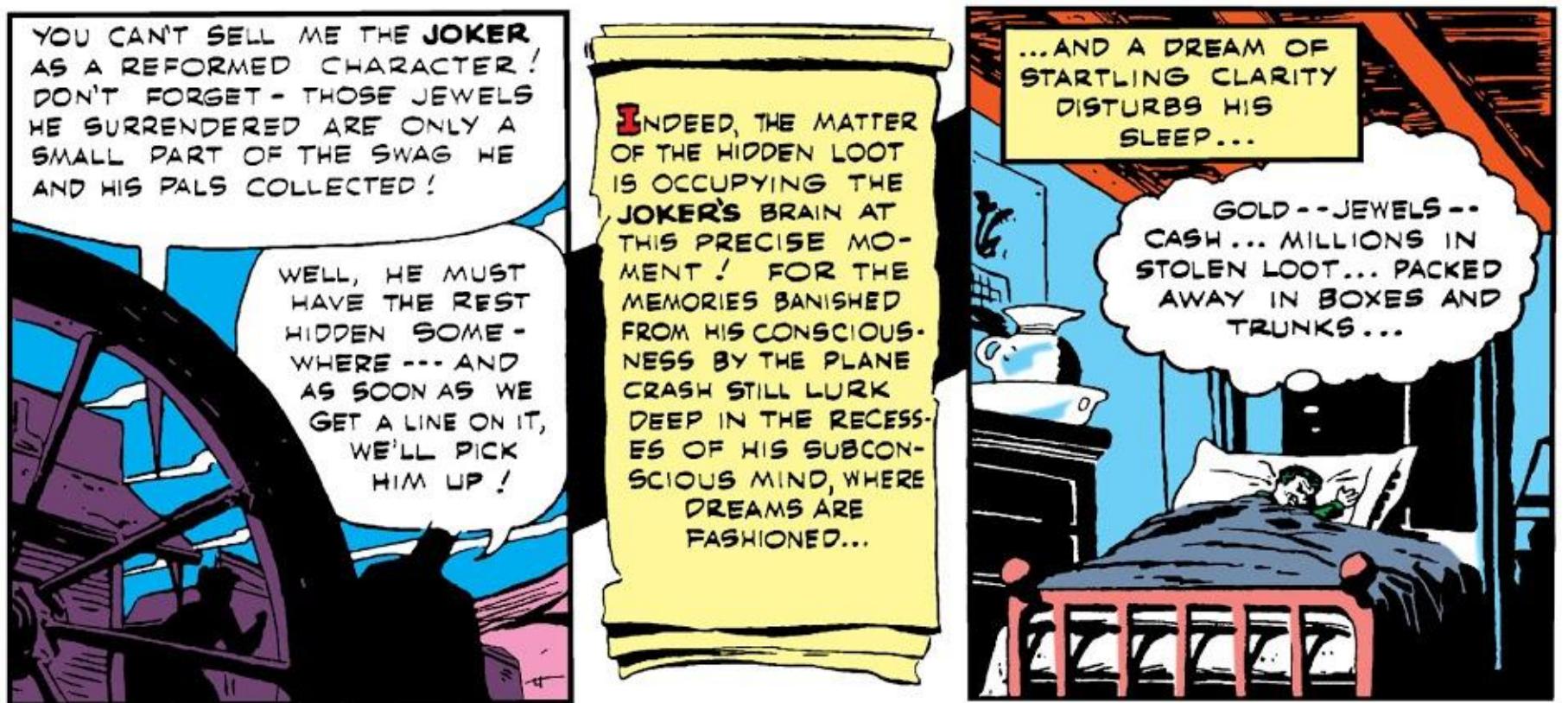
WHY SHOULD THE BATMAN BE SURPRISED BECAUSE I KEPT HIM FROM BEING KILLED, ROBIN ?

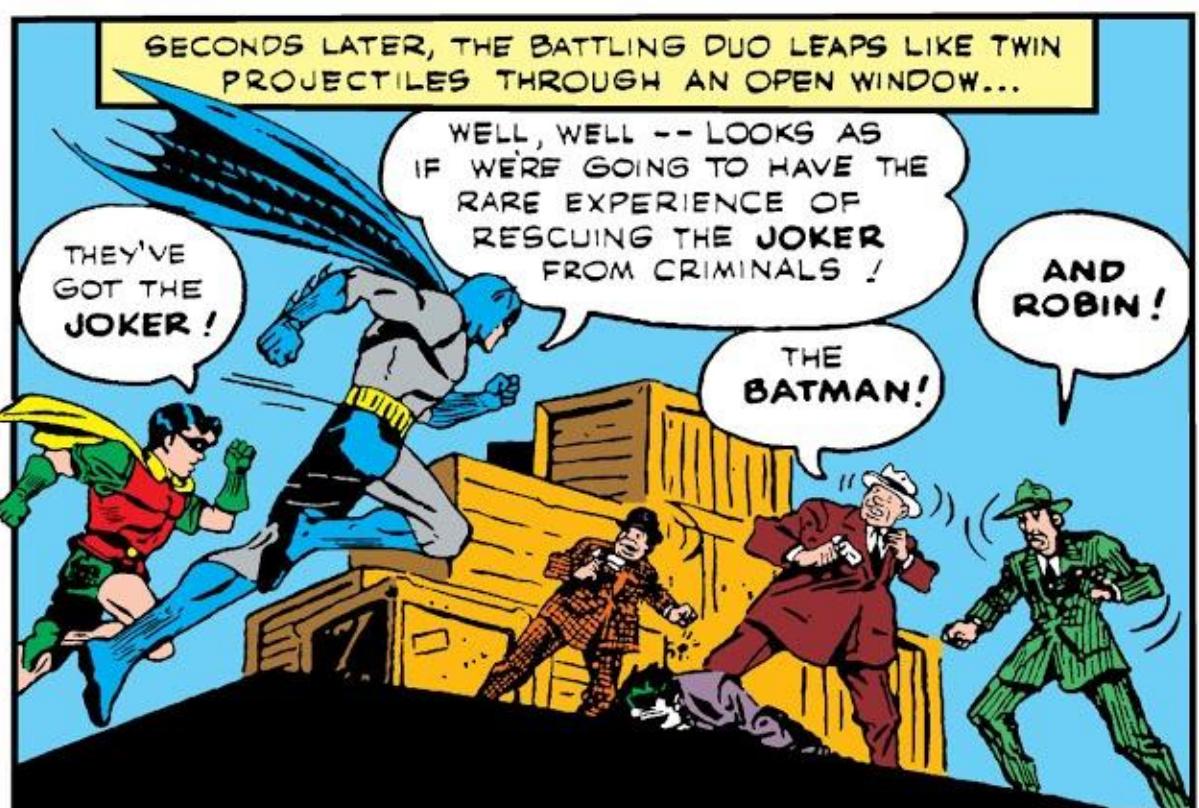
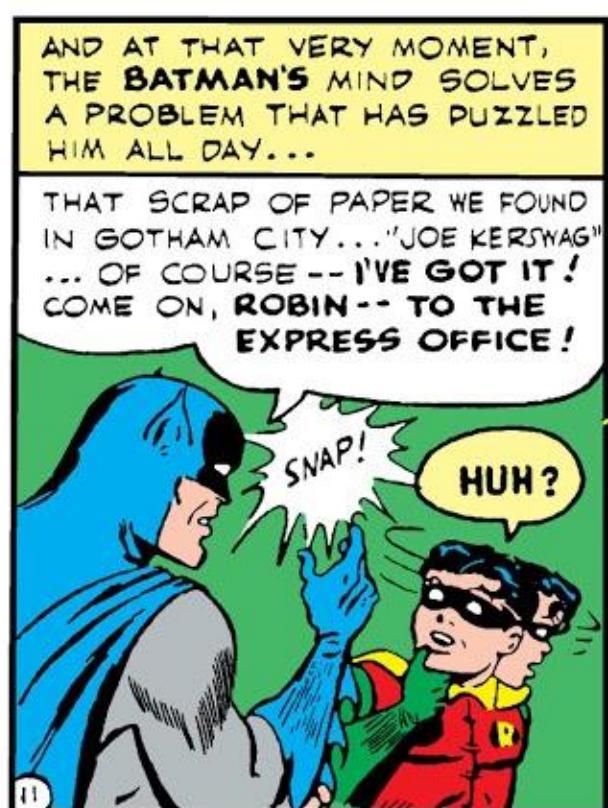
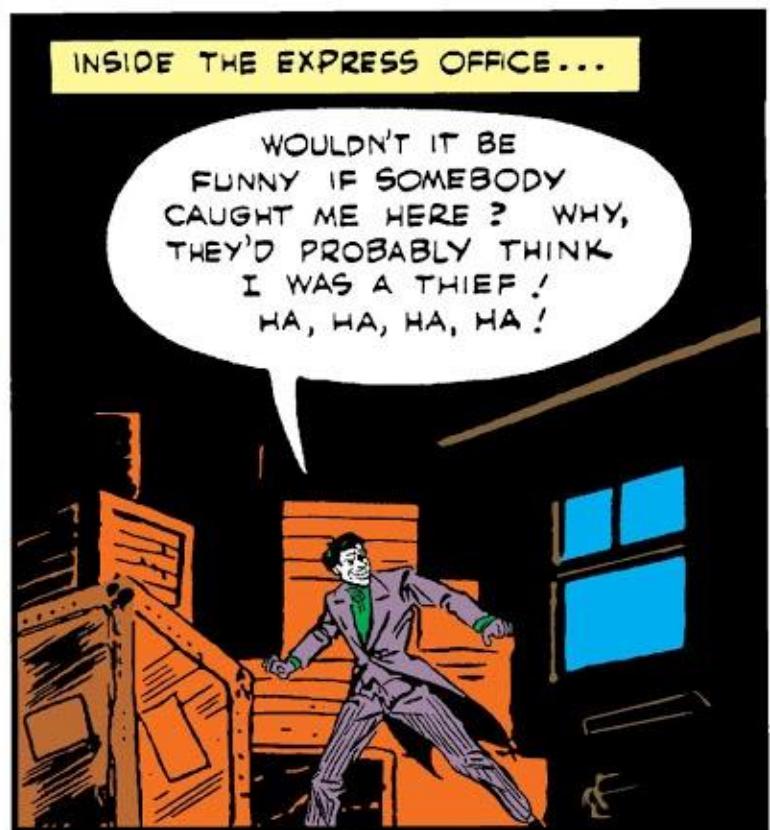
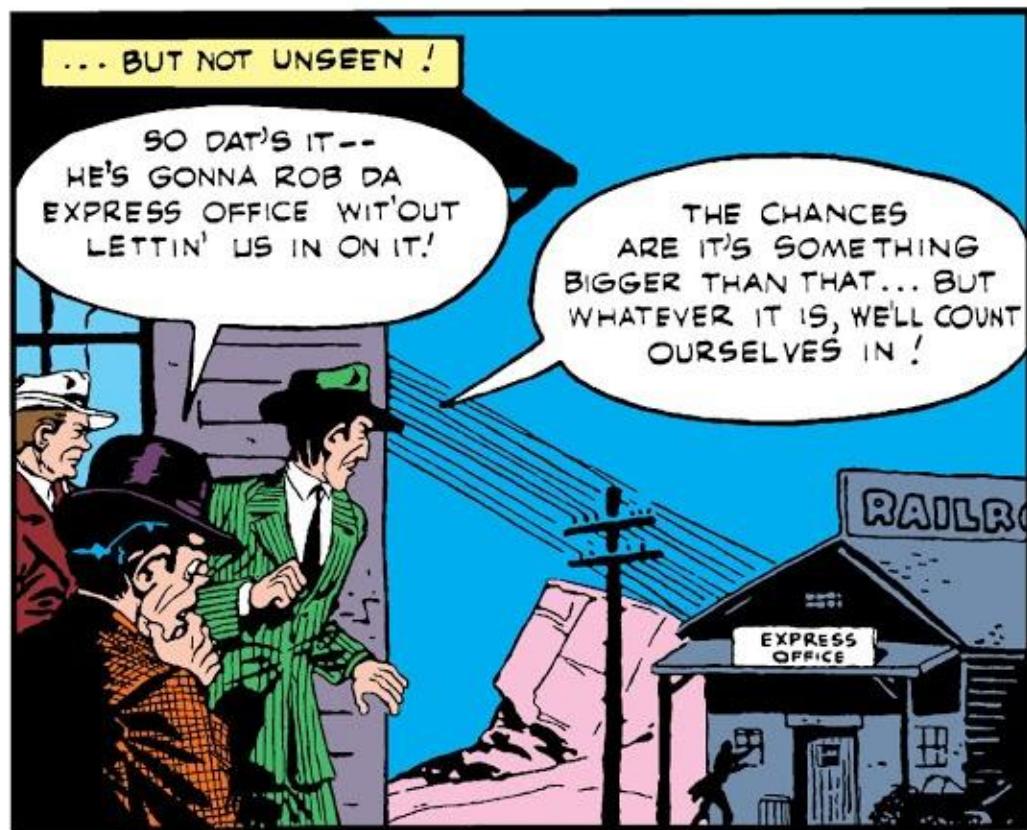


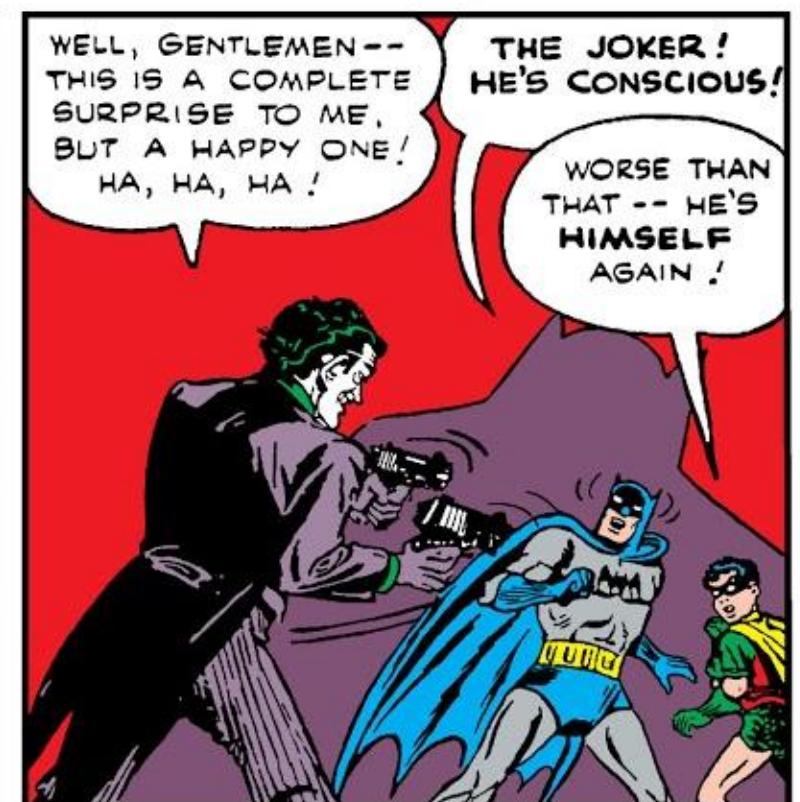
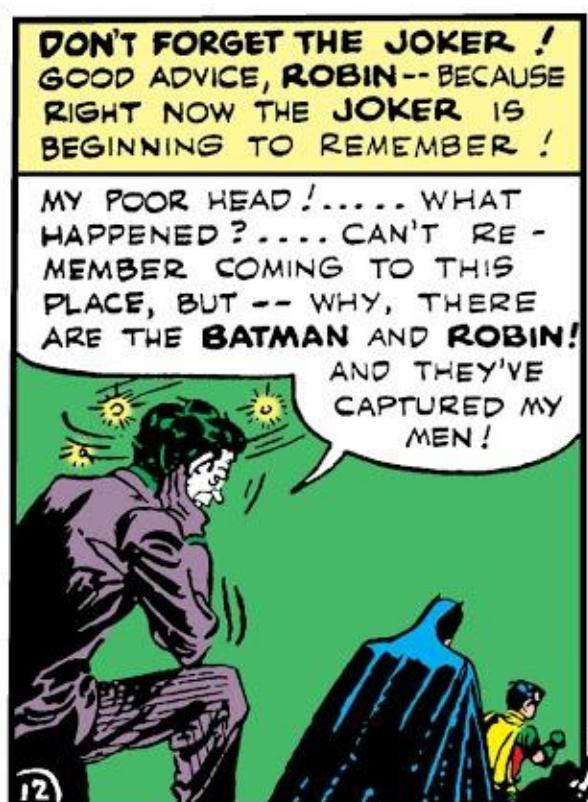
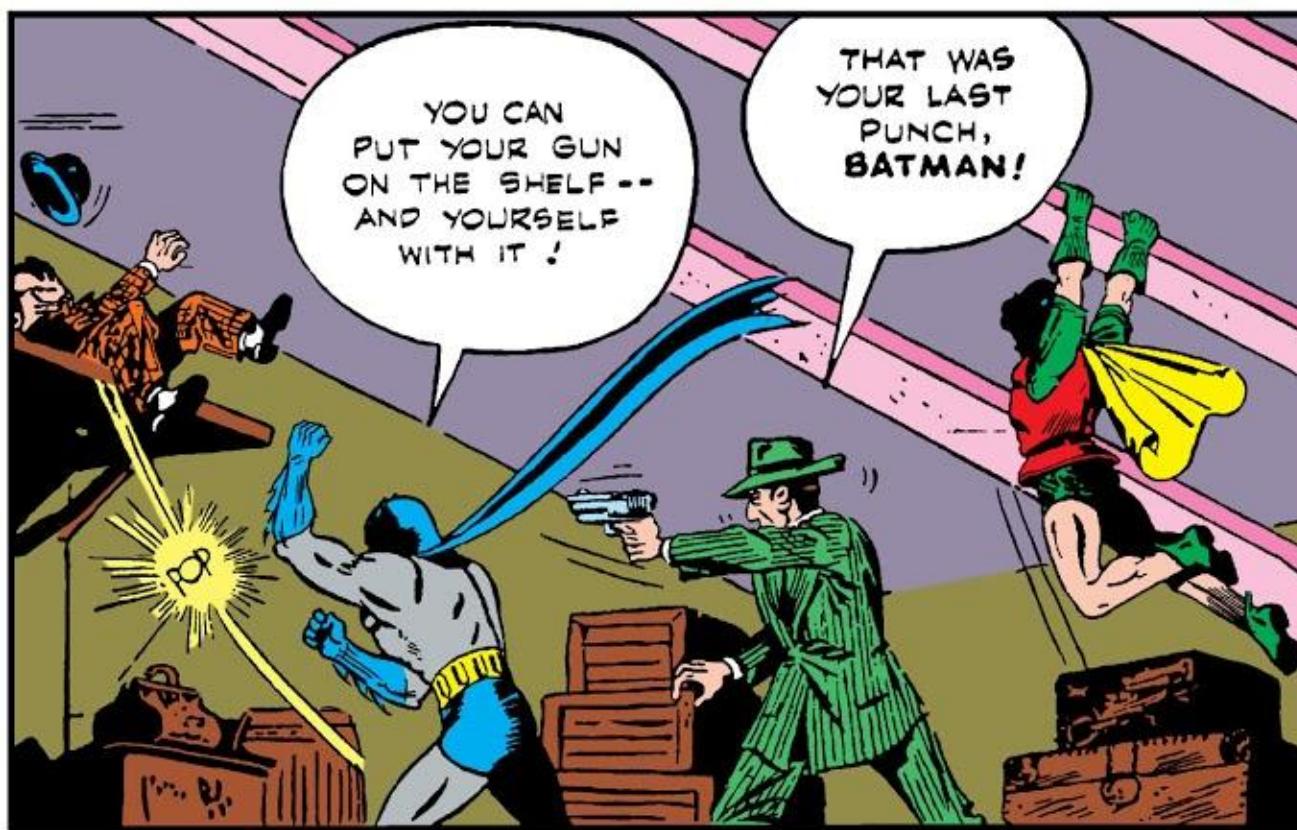
... BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M TRYING TO STRIKE SPARKY'S EYEBROWS !

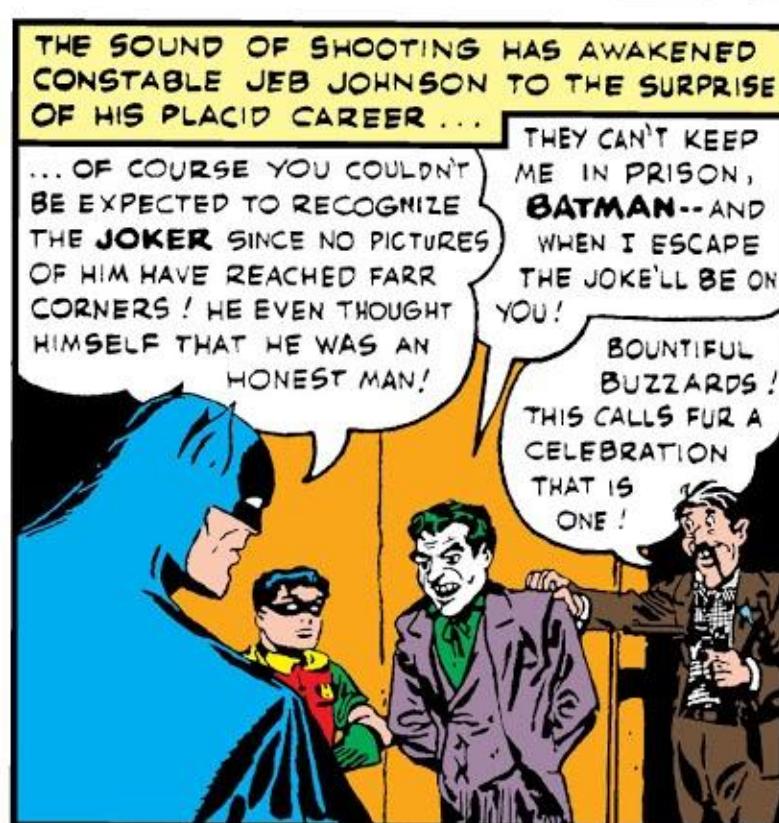
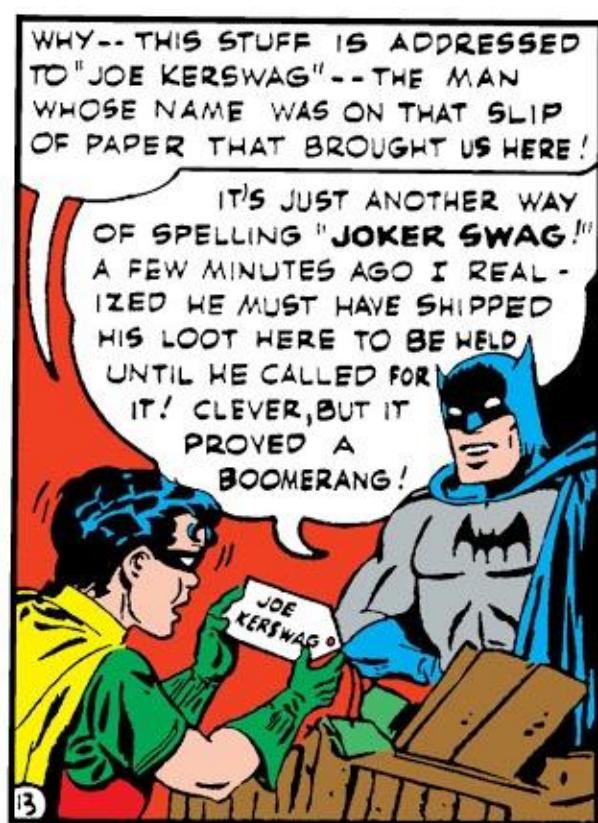
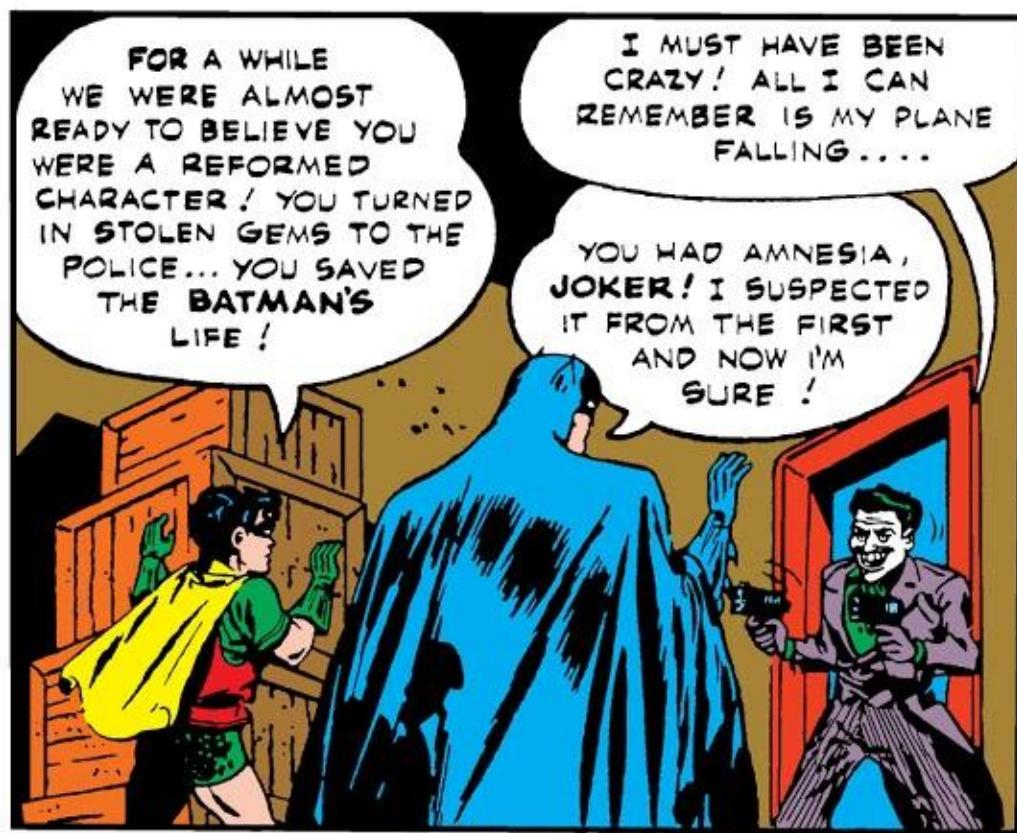


NO USE CHASING THEM IN THE DARK ... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THEY'LL BE COMING BACK !









BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

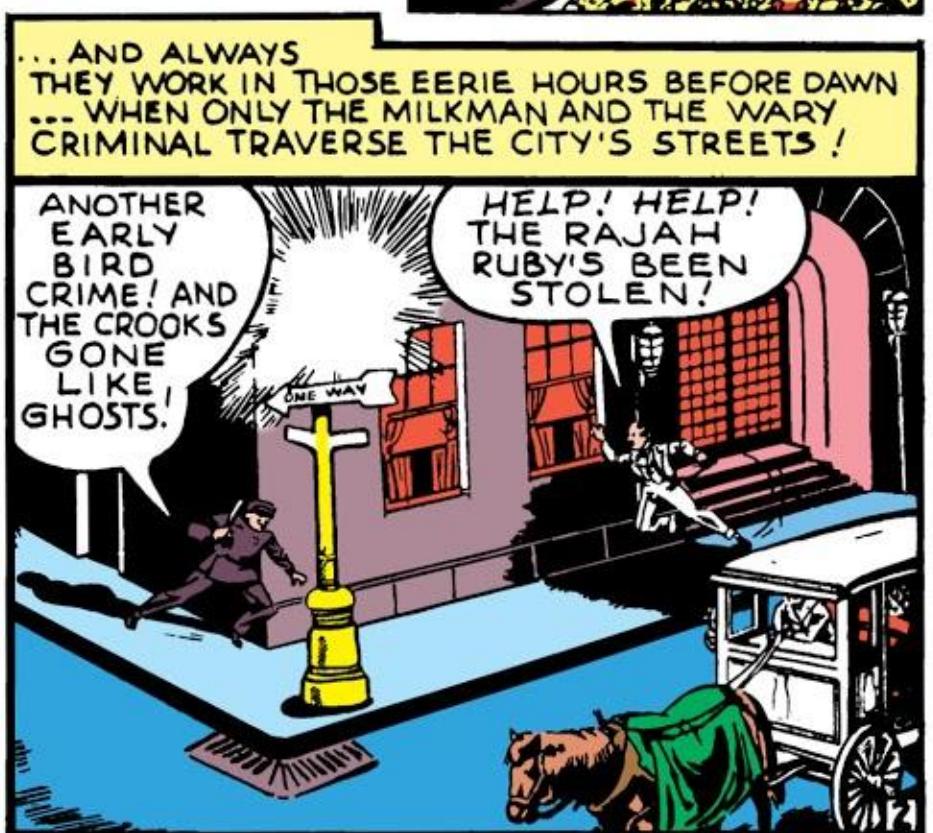
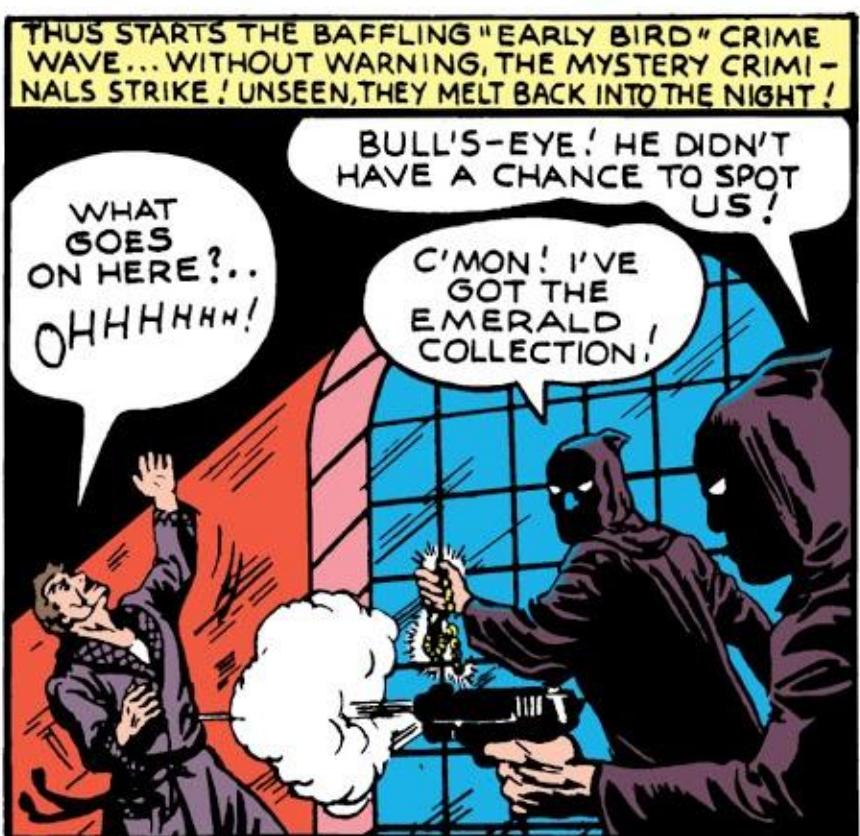
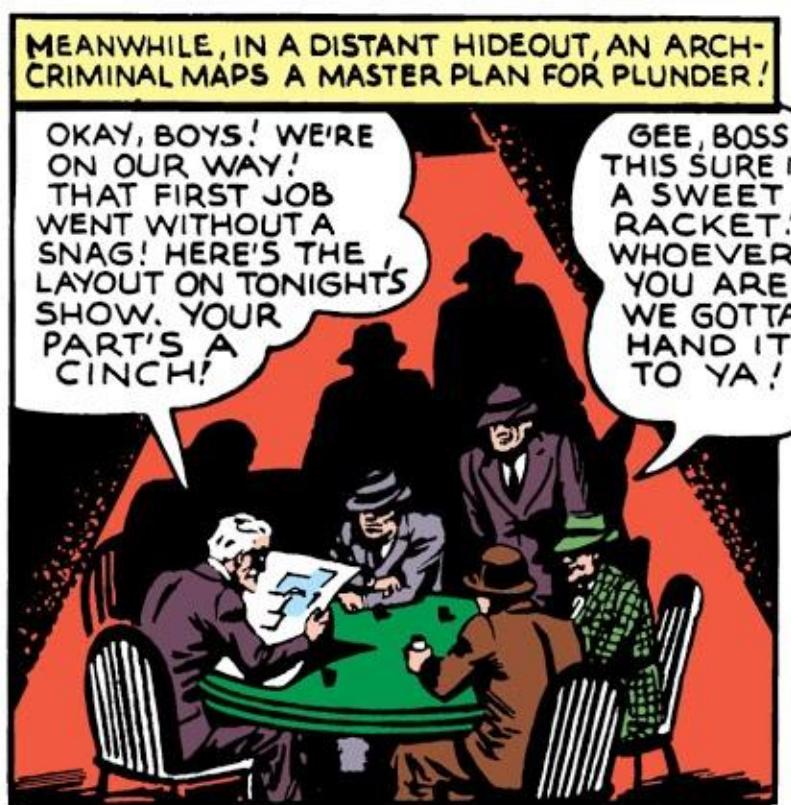
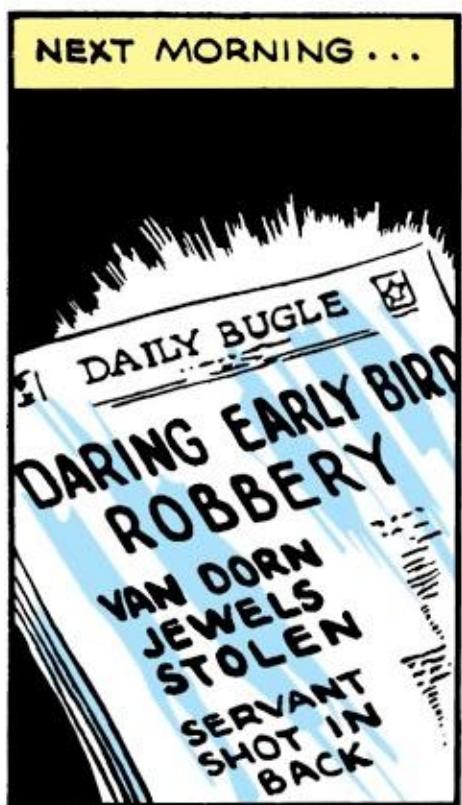
ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE RUN RAMPANT AS A NEW, BAFFLING CRIME WAVE SWEEPS OVER GOTHAM CITY - AN EVIL BREW CONCOCTED IN THE FERTILE BRAIN OF AN INGENIOUS CRIMINAL! UNSUSPECTED, UNKNOWN... HE WALKS AMONG HIS VICTIMS - WHILE HIS HIRELINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE VERY EYES OF THE PUZZLED POLICE! EVEN THE AGILE WITS OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, ARE PUT TO A SEVERE TEST WHEN THEY TRY TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF ---

"The GRADE A CRIMES!"

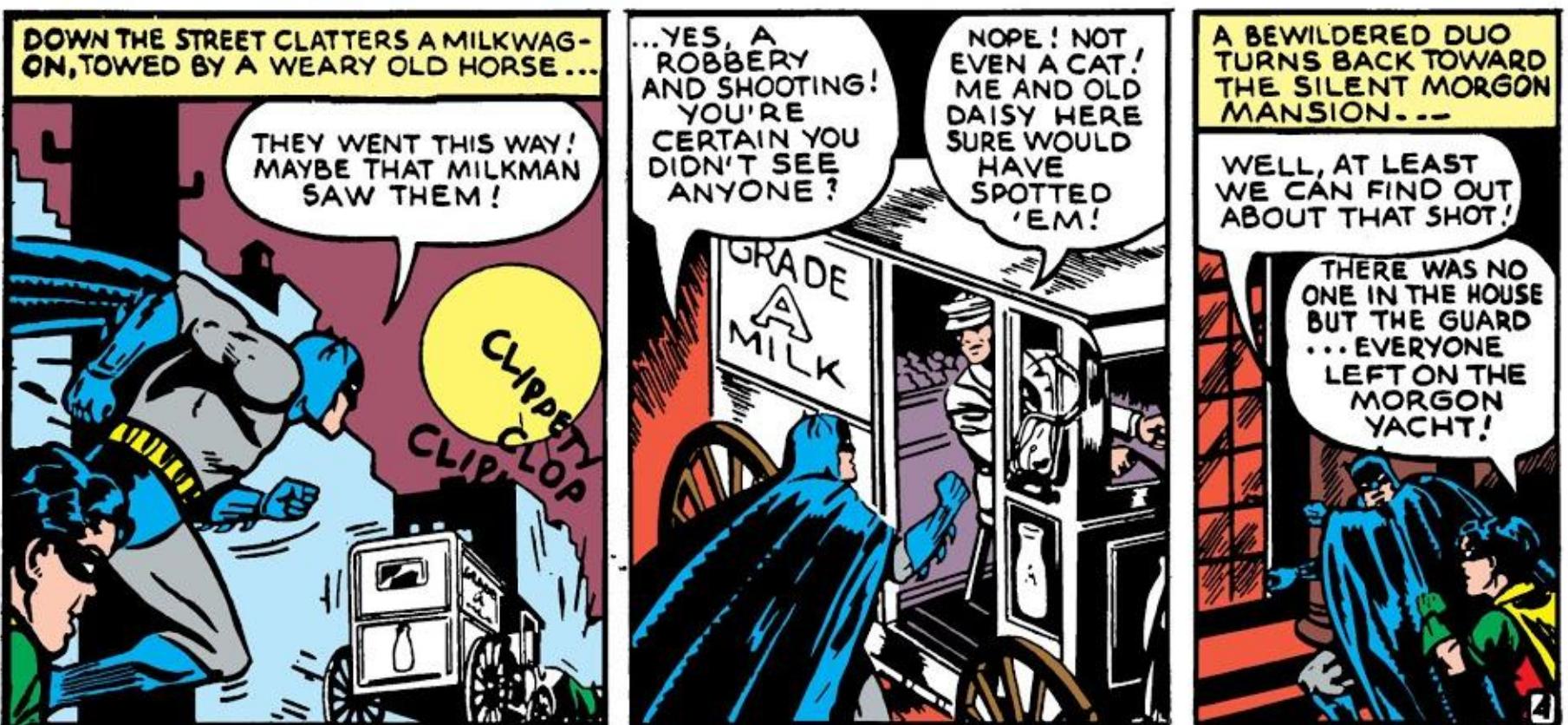
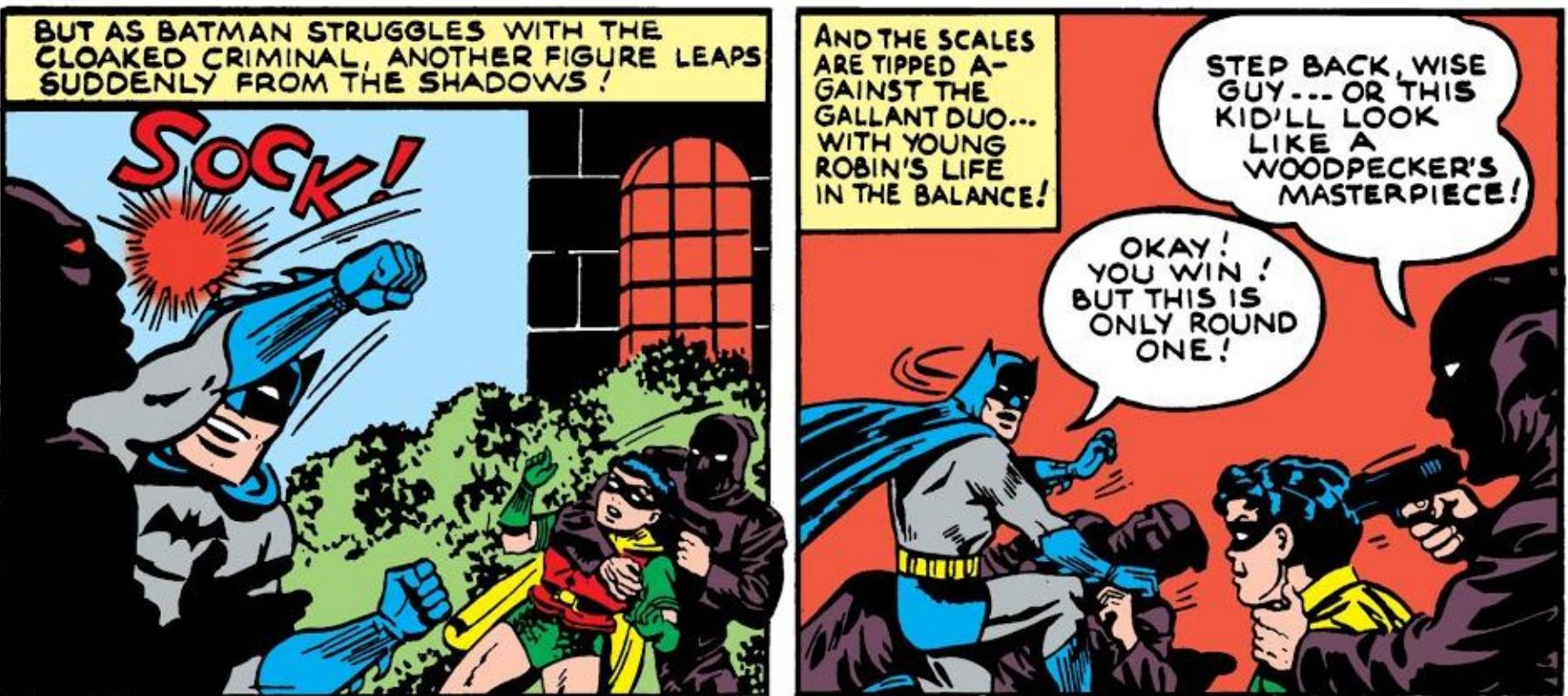


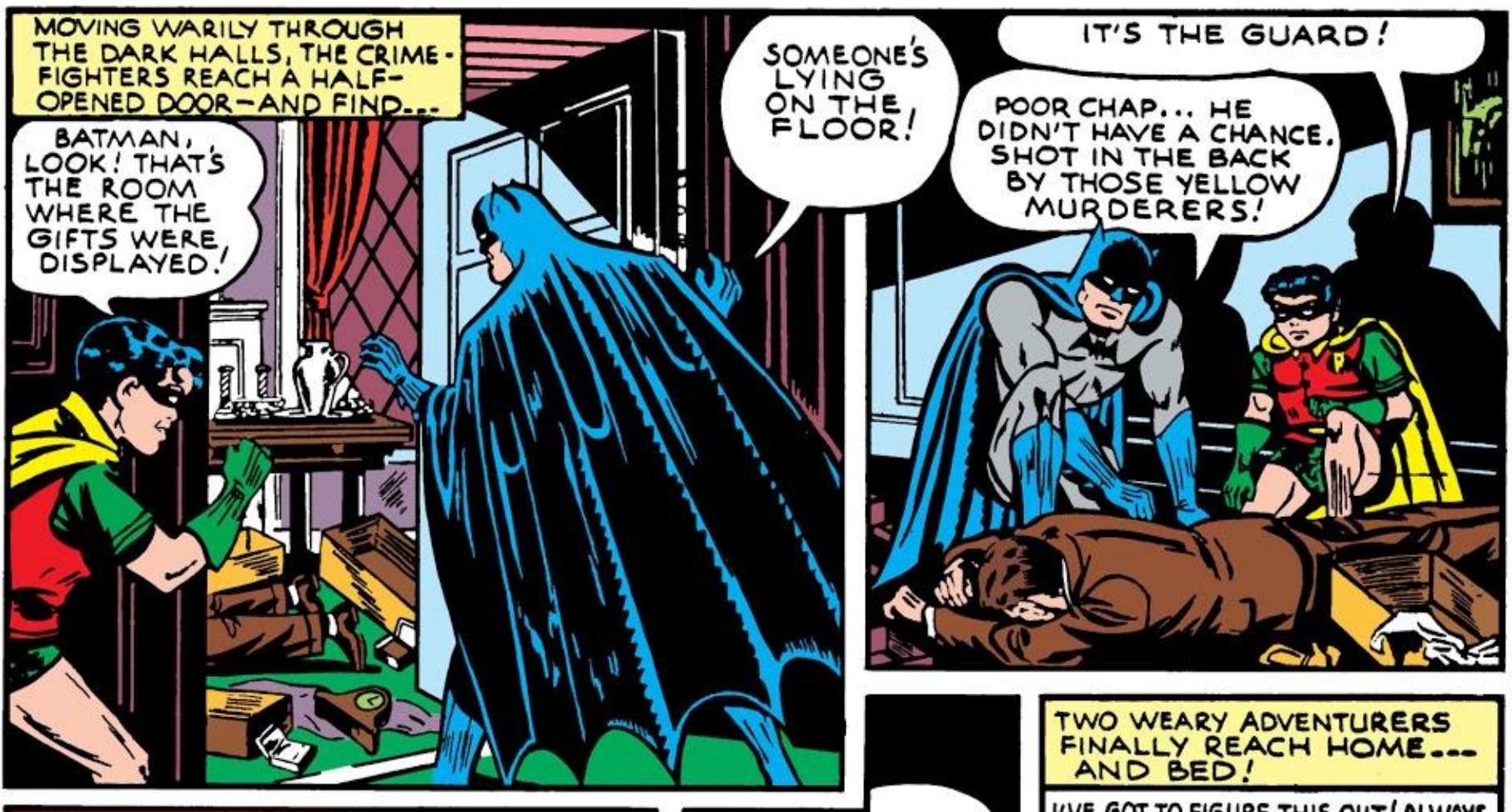
THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN... GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH AND POOR ALIKE..THE MILKMEN!











RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!

OKAY-BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!



IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . .

IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN- GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS...

YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S AFTER THE SHINDIG, TONIGHT?

SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!

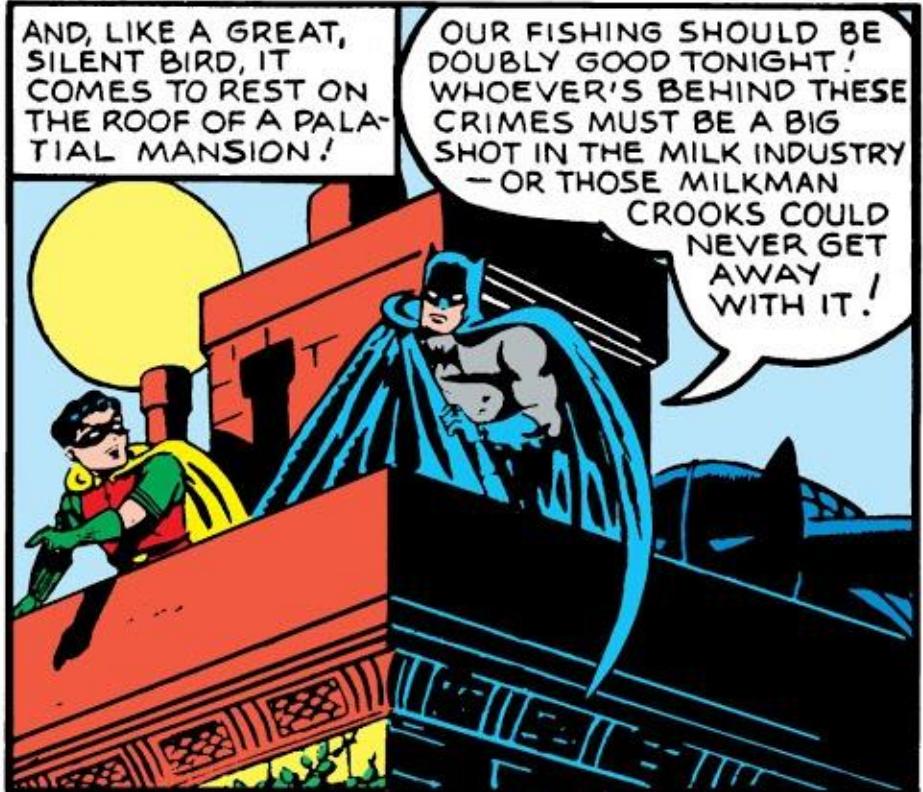
RIGHT!



AS THE MID-NIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!



AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, IT COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!



OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY — OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL...

AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!



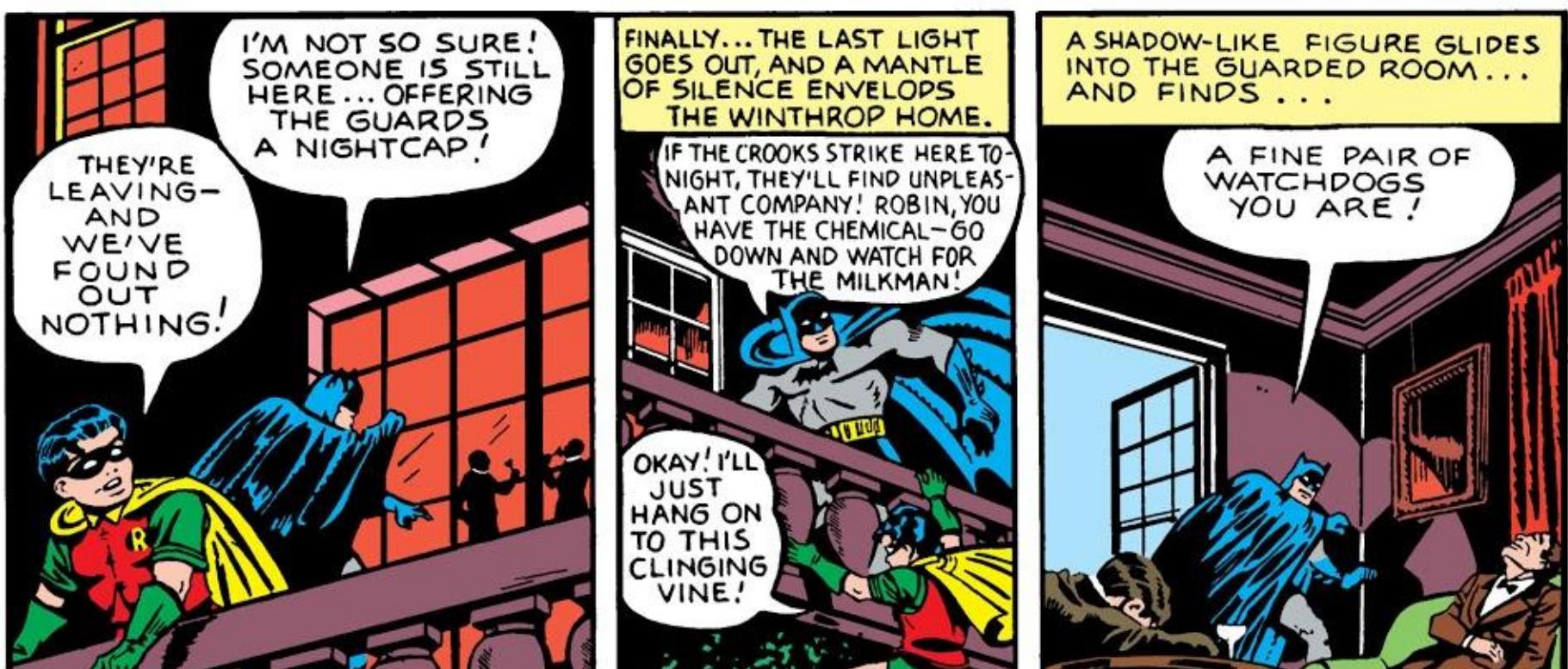
...AND TWO MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!

S-S-SH! HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.

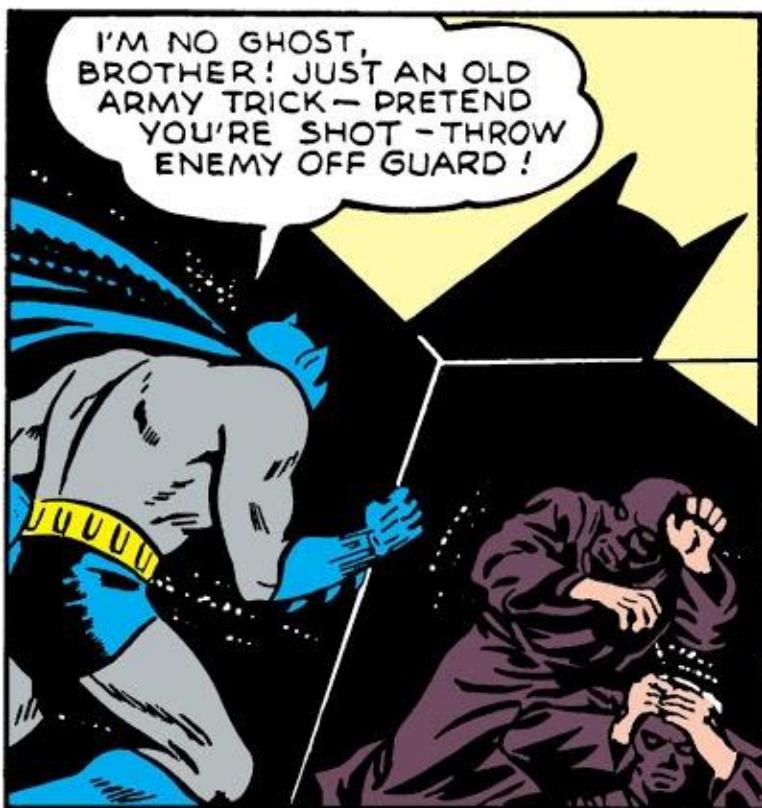
A RARE GEM, BILL! ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!

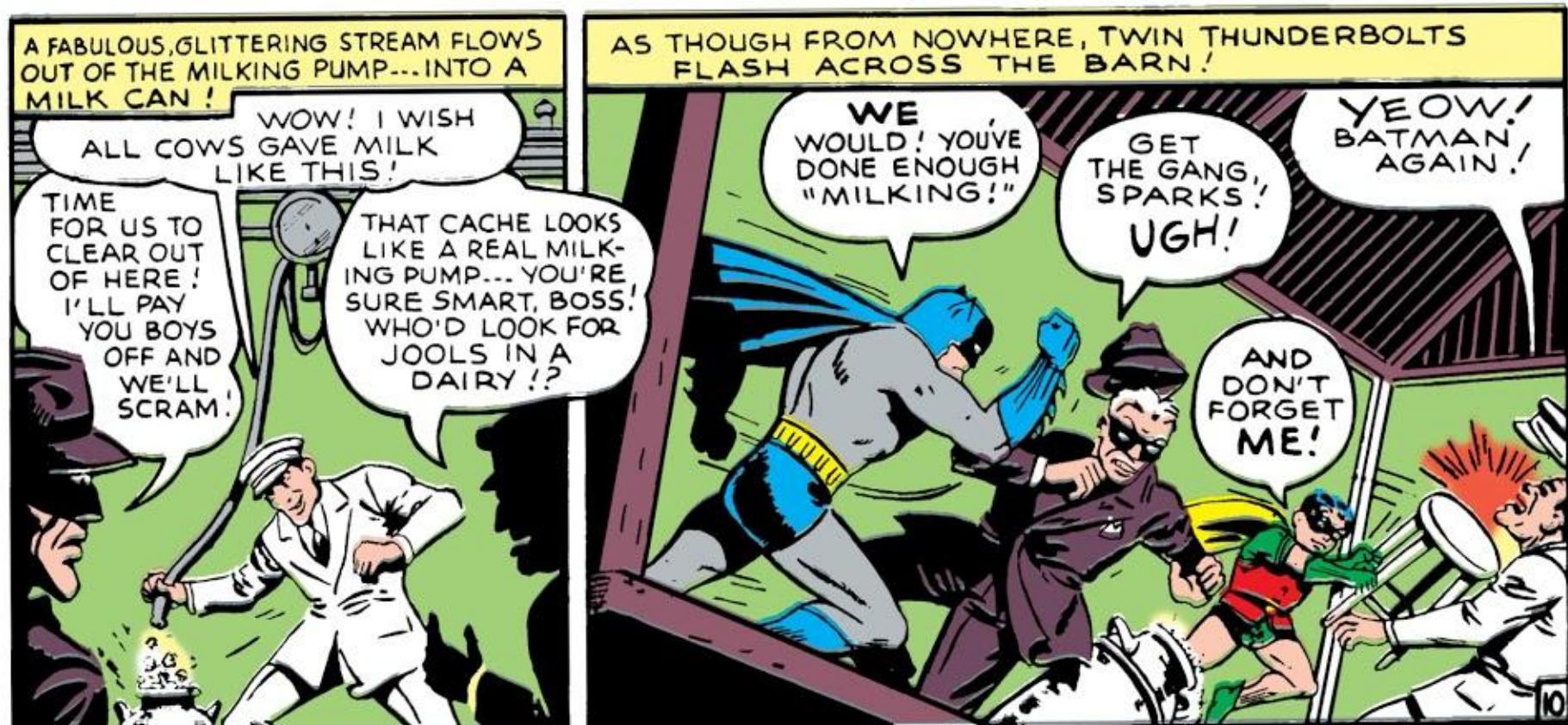
WELL, WINTHROP, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL COLLECTOR YOU SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!



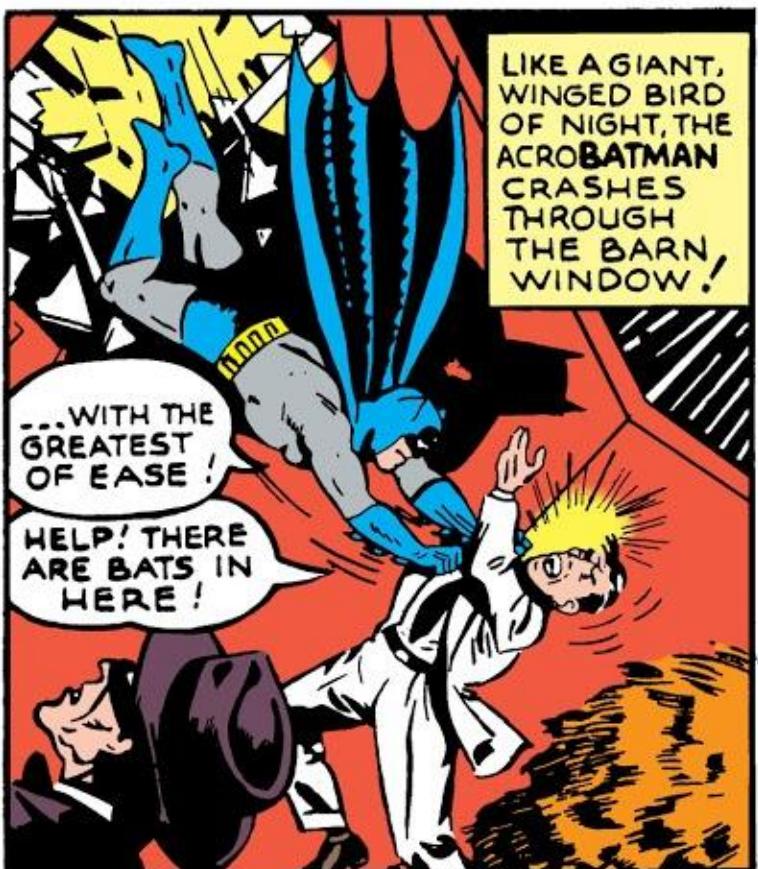
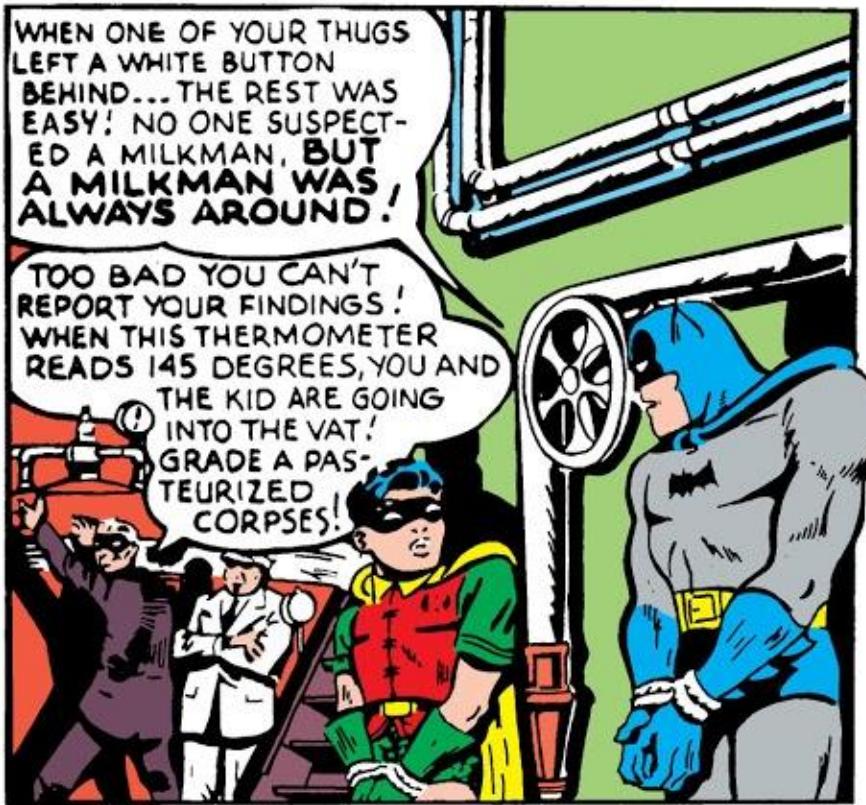












AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY---

HEAVE HO!
AWAY WE GO!

UGH!
GLUG.

A YOUNG DYNAMO MAKES A SURPRISE ! ENTRANCE !

WHEE ! THIS IS BETTER THAN THE CHUTE-THE-CHUTE !

AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UN-EVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED !

LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE ! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER !

(PUFF)
(PUFF)
THESE CROOKS
MUST CARRY
LEAD
WEIGHTS ON 'EM !

A GLORIOUS SUNRISE
FILLS THE SKY—
AS THE VALIANT VICTORS WING HOMeward !

LATER --- IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE ...

IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET ! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM — OR THE MILKMEN ?

THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP ! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS — WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOBBY !

I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY. THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE !

THAT EXPLAINS A LOT ! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLED WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY — AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD ! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS !

BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...

I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE "EARLY BIRD" CROOKS !

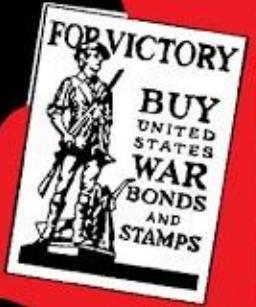
IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE ! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS ! MMM.. SURE IS GOOD !

THE END

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -



I T'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE PAID SOME ATTENTION TO ME--THE PAPER ON WHICH THIS **BATMAN** MAGAZINE IS PRINTED! AND IF YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING EXCITING ABOUT A SHEET OF NEWSPRINT THAT WOULDN'T RATE A SECOND LOOK EXCEPT FOR THE WORDS AND PICTURES -- WHY, THAT JUST PROVES YOU HAVEN'T BEEN AROUND! EVER SINCE I WAS A TALL YOUNG SPRUCE TREE IN THE BIG WOODS I'VE SEEN THINGS THAT WOULD CURL YOUR WHISKERS. IF ANY--AND THEN, I SAW THE BATTLING **BATMAN** AND THE RECKLESS **ROBIN** PUNCH THEIR WAY RIGHT ALONG WITH ME FROM LOGGING CAMP TO PULP MILL TO THE THUNDERING PRESS ROOM! LIFE, DEATH, THRILLS, CHILLS--YOU'LL LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT ALL OF THEM AS YOU TURN THE PAGES AND READ -- "THE ADVENTURES OF THE BRANDED TREE!!"



MARK WELL THIS TREE
WITH THE DAGGER-
SHAPED SCAR CUT
DEEP IN THE LIVING
WOOD...



... FOR HERE BEGINS A DEADLY NORTH
WOODS DRAMA OF RAZOR-EDGED WITS
AND STEEL-HARD WEAPONS !

AY WONDER WHAT
THIS DAGGER MARK
BANE MEAN .
SCOTTY ?

FOOSH, YONSON -- I
DINNA DOOBT IT
MEANS NAETHIN' AT
ALL ! SOME DAFT
HUNTSMAN HACKED
IT HAVIN' NA
BETTER WOR-
R-R-RK !

AH, WEEL -- TWILL MAKE GOOD PULP
PAPER AT THE MILL, FOR A' IT'S
UGLY CAR-R-R-RVIN' !

AY BANE GLAD HUNTING
SEASON OVER ! WOODS NOT
BANE SAFE FOR LUMBER-
YACKS WHEN CITY FALLERS
YUMP AROUND SHOOT-
ING EVERYT'ING
IN SIGHT !



BUT OLAF YONSON HAS SPOKEN
TOO SOON -- FOR A CERTAIN BREED
OF "CITY FALLERS" DOES NOT RECOG-
NIZE ANY CLOSED SEASON ON ITS
ILICIT HUNTING EXPEDITIONS...

IT'S RIGHT CLOSE BY... KEEP YOUR
EYES SKINNED FOR THE SIGN OF THE
DAGGER !
LISSEN--I HEAR
SOMEBODY CHOPPIN' !

WHY'D THEY HAFTA PICK THAT TREE
OUT OF THE WHOLE FOREST ? YA DON'T
THINK THEY'RE WISE, DO YA, BULL ?

SHUT UP AND GET READY
TO PLUG 'EM WIT' DAT SILENCED
RIFLE ! WE'LL DO OUR T'INKIN'
AFTER WE'VE FINISHED DIS
JOB !

A MUFFLED POP-- AND A
STEEL- JACKETED SLUG
BORES INTO A MAN'S
DEFENSELESS BACK !

AAAA-A-A-A...

EH ?
MON, WHAT
AILS YE ?



REACH FOR DA
SKY, OR YA'LL
GET A TASTE
O' DA SAME !

WHY, YE MUR-R-R-RDERIN' SONS
O' SATAN -- YE'LL NA HAE THE
SATISFACTION O' SEEIN' THE PRIDE
O' GLEN CAMERON GROVEL AFORE
YER COWARDLY WEAPONS !

I'LL BREAK YE WITH BARE FISTS - AAA-A-A-A...

OKAY-- YA'RE ASKIN' FOR IT !

WHY DIDN'T YA LET ME
USE THIS ? THEY'LL HEAR
THAT SHOT AT THE
LOGGIN' CAMP !



NOT FAR AWAY, TWO OTHER "CITY FALLERS" HAVE INVADED THE BIG WOODS IN SEARCH OF NOTHING MORE SINISTER THAN RELAXATION --



-- BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY SPORTSMAN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON !

OUTER GARMENTS FLUNG ASIDE, THE PAIR BECOMES THE FAMOUS CRIME-CRUSHING TEAM OF BATMAN AND ROBIN !



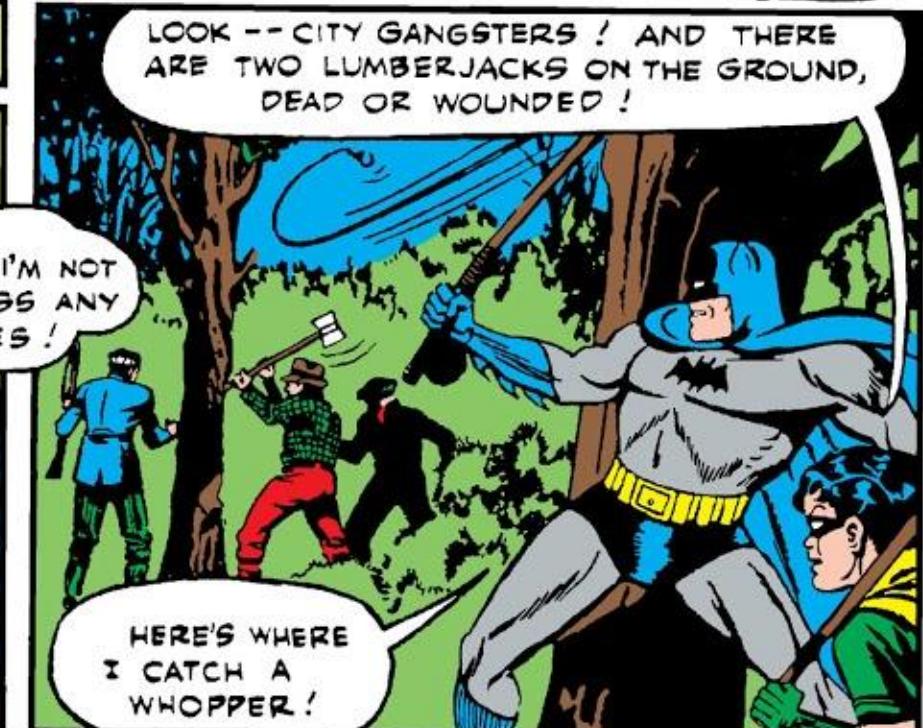
PRETTY, EH? ... LISTEN!

CRACK!

HUNTER, NOTHING ! THAT WAS A .45 CALIBER PISTOL -- AND A PISTOL SHOT USUALLY MEANS TROUBLE !



LOOK -- CITY GANGSTERS ! AND THERE ARE TWO LUMBERJACKS ON THE GROUND, DEAD OR WOUNDED !



BEFORE THE SHOCK OF THE SURPRISE HAS WORN OFF, TWIN FIGURES OF FIGHTING FURY CHARGE THE CRIMINALS !



WELL, WELL-- IF IT ISN'T A FELLOW-CITIZEN OF GOTHAM CITY -- BULL BEETON!

I WISH I WAS SOMEBODY ELSE!

TOO BAD I DIDN'T WEAR MY HOBNAILED BOOTS!

A STORM OF SNARLING SLUGS DRIVES THE DYNAMIC DUO TO COVER...

IF I GET THE BATMAN, I'M GONNA HAVE HIM STUFFED FOR A TROPHY!

THIS WILL BE GOOD--IF IT WORKS!



A PERFECT CAST-- BUT I'D HATE TO HAVE TO EAT WHAT I'VE CAUGHT!



TWANG!



YA'RE TELLIN' ME!

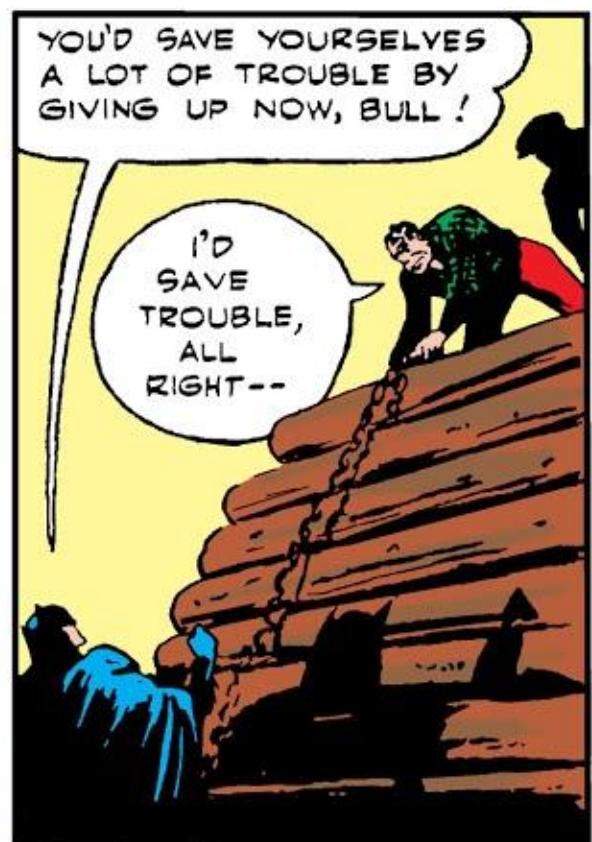
A LOAD OF SAWN LOGS, LEFT BY WORKMEN AT THE SOUND OF THE DINNER BELL, BLOCKS THE TRAIL...

MAKE IT FAST, YOUSE GUYS! I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO STOP THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!



YOU'D SAVE YOURSELVES A LOT OF TROUBLE BY GIVING UP NOW, BULL!

I'D SAVE TROUBLE, ALL RIGHT--





LATER, WHEN FIRST AID HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED TO THE ONE LIVING VICTIM OF THE COWARDLY SHOOTING...

THAT'LL HAVE TO DO TILL WE CAN GET YOU TO A DOCTOR, SCOTTY!

THEY GOT AWAY AND OLAF IS DEAD! HAVEN'T YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WERE AFTER?

WEEL, YE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THOT TREE WE WERE WOR-R-KIN' ON... IT WAS MARKED WI' A DAGGER, YE KEN!

BUT THE DAGGER-BRANDED TREE HAS ALREADY STARTED ITS JOURNEY TO THE MILL...

OUI, M'SIEU BATMAN -- PIERRE AN' I SEE ZE MARK BUT WE SINK NOZZING OF EET!

WE FEENISH CUTTING DOWN ZE TREE, AN' SAW EET UP, AN' SEND EET DOWN TO ZE RIVER!

MINUTES LATER...

ROBIN! SAY SOMETHING! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FELLA?

HUH?... HANG ONTO MY HEAD, BATMAN --- IT WON'T STOP SPINNING!



THEN WE'D BETTER LOOK IN THE RIVER!

YOU WOULD NOT FIND IT EEN A LIFETIME, M'SIEU! ZERE ARE TOUSAN'S OF LOGS, EACH EXACTLY LIKE ZE OZZER!

BATMAN, IT LOOKS AS IF WE'RE STUCK IN A LOG JAM!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

ALL WE CAN DO IS TO TRY TO TRACK DOWN BULL AND HIS MOB!

ANYWAY, THESE FISH DIDN'T GET AWAY-- AND THEY TASTE TWICE AS GOOD NOW THAT WE'VE WORKED UP AN APPETITE!

DO THEY? ... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY, TRYING TO THINK WHY GANGSTERS SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN ONE PARTICULAR TREE OUT OF A MILLION, I HAVEN'T NOTICED!

WHAT STRANGE SECRET, SYMBOLIZED BY THIS SINISTER SIGN OF THE DAGGER, HAS LURED DESPERATE MEN FROM THEIR UNDERWORLD HAUNTS TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE DEEP WOODS? LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A CLUE IN THE GRIM EVENTS YET TO COME ...



THAT NIGHT, VIOLENCE FLARES IN A NEARBY TOWN ...

SURE I WORK ON THE LOGS
AT THE PAPER MILL! WHY?
...OOOoo...

YA MEAN YA USED TO WORK THERE!

COME ON -- WE GOTTA KNOCK A COUPLE MORE OFFA DA PAYROLL!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

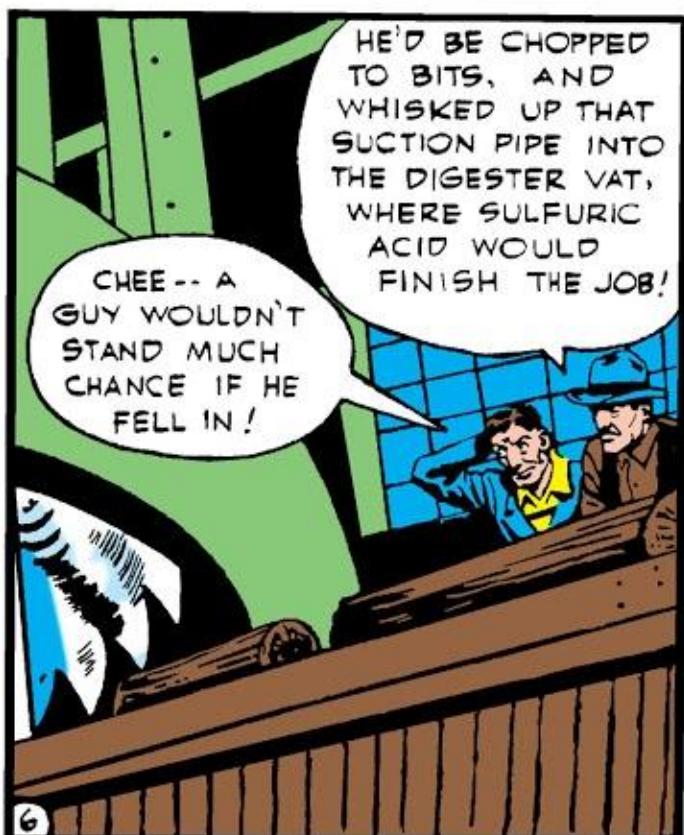
YOU'RE ALL HIRED! THREE OF OUR LOG HANDLERS MET WITH MYSTERIOUS ACCIDENTS LAST NIGHT AND ARE LAID OFF!



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE THE LOGS KEEP GOING UP THAT BELT INTO THE MILL!

WOTTA BREAK! WE CAN'T MISS DA LOG WE'RE AFTER!

YOUR JOB IS TO WATCH THE LOGS AS THEY MOVE TOWARD THE CHOPPER, AND TAKE OUT THE ONES WITH KNOTS OR ROTTED PLACES, CUT THEM SPOILED PLACES OUT FASCINATIN'! WITH THIS SAW AND PUT THE LOGS BACK!



CHEE -- A GUY WOULDN'T STAND MUCH CHANCE IF HE FELL IN!

HE'D BE CHOPPED TO BITS, AND WHISKED UP THAT SUCTION PIPE INTO THE DIGESTER VAT, WHERE SULFURIC ACID WOULD FINISH THE JOB!

FROM THE DIGESTER, THE SOLUTION GOES THROUGH BLEACHING AND TINTING VATS AND INTO THE PAPER MACHINES! IT COMES OUT OF THE ROLLERS AT THE END AS FINISHED PAPER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL POLICE STATION...

DO TELL!

NO, I AIN'T SEEN NO SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS -- BUT SOMEBODY BEAT UP THREE O' THE PAPER MILL WORKERS AN' SENT 'EM TO THE HOSPITAL LAST NIGHT!

HMM--THAT MEANS THE PAPER MILL WILL HAVE TO HIRE THREE NEW MEN! I GET THE PICTURE!





FLASHING, SPINNING KNIVES SNARL HUNGRILY AS THE HELPLESS CRIME FIGHTERS ARE BORNE TOWARD A TERRIBLE FATE...

WAKE UP, BATMAN! SPLIT SECONDS CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

WHAAA---!
A LOG CONVEYOR IN
A PULP MILL!
.... ROBIN!

OH-H-H-H
.... WHAT
A HEADACHE!
.... GOT
TO SLEEP!

NO CHANCE OF REACHING HIM IN TIME -- BUT IF I CAN BLOCK THE OPENING TO THE CHOPPER WITHOUT SMASHING HIS SKULL...

SUPPLE SINews ARE TAXED TO THEIR UTMOST AS THE DARK-CLAD WARRIOR HURLS LOGS FASTER THAN THE WHIRLING TEETH OF STEEL CAN CHEW THEM?!

IF EVER A LOG JAM WAS NEEDED, NOW'S THE TIME!

COME ON,
FELLA--
WE'VE GOT
A LITTLE
CHORE TO
DO!

DIS IS YOUR
FAULT! YA
SHOUDA HAD SENSE
ENOUGH TA GIVE 'EM
AN EXTRA WHACK
AS DEY WENT BY!...
GIMME DAT CYLINDER!

GREAT SCOTT--
IT ALMOST
HAD ME!

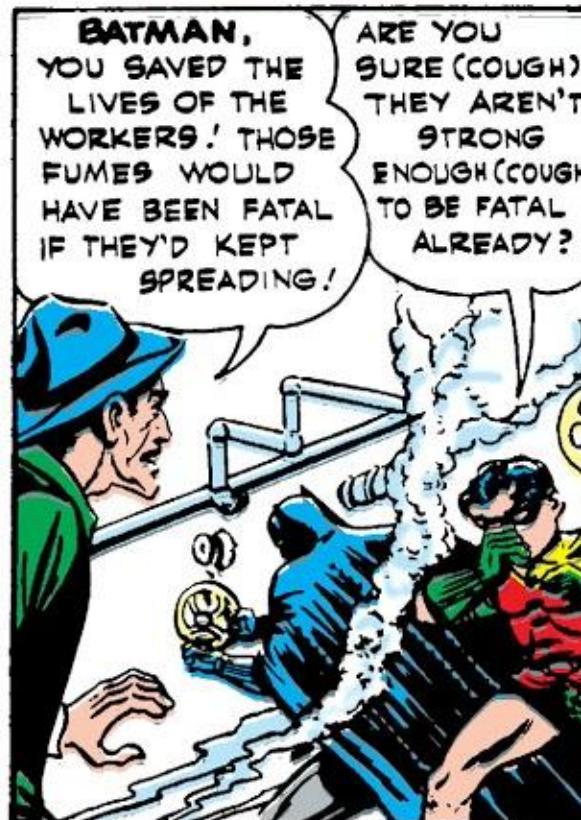
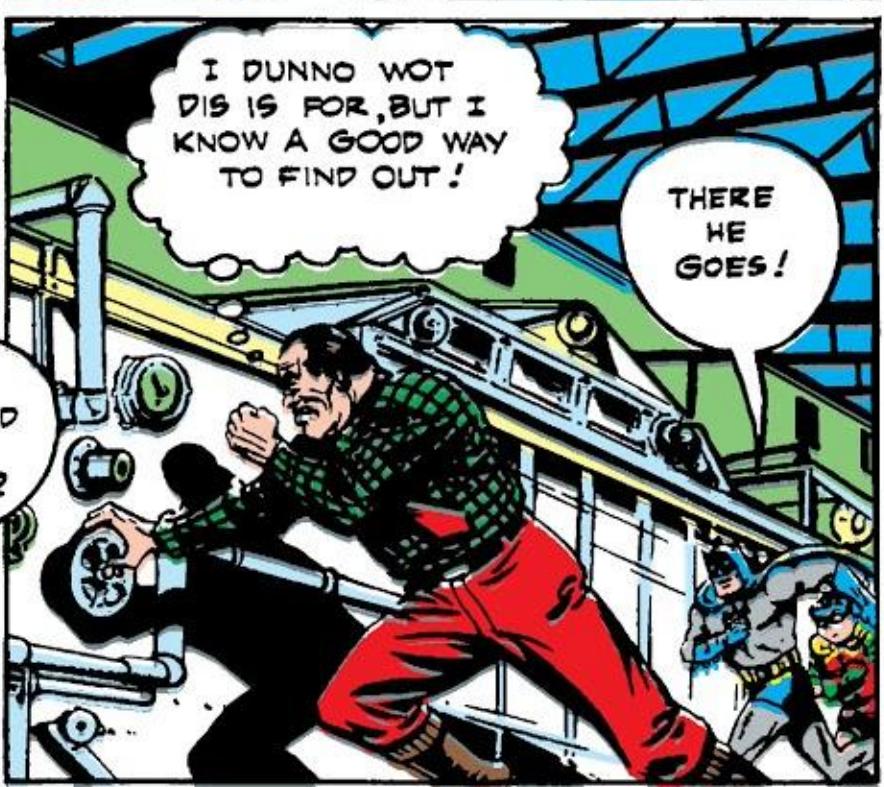
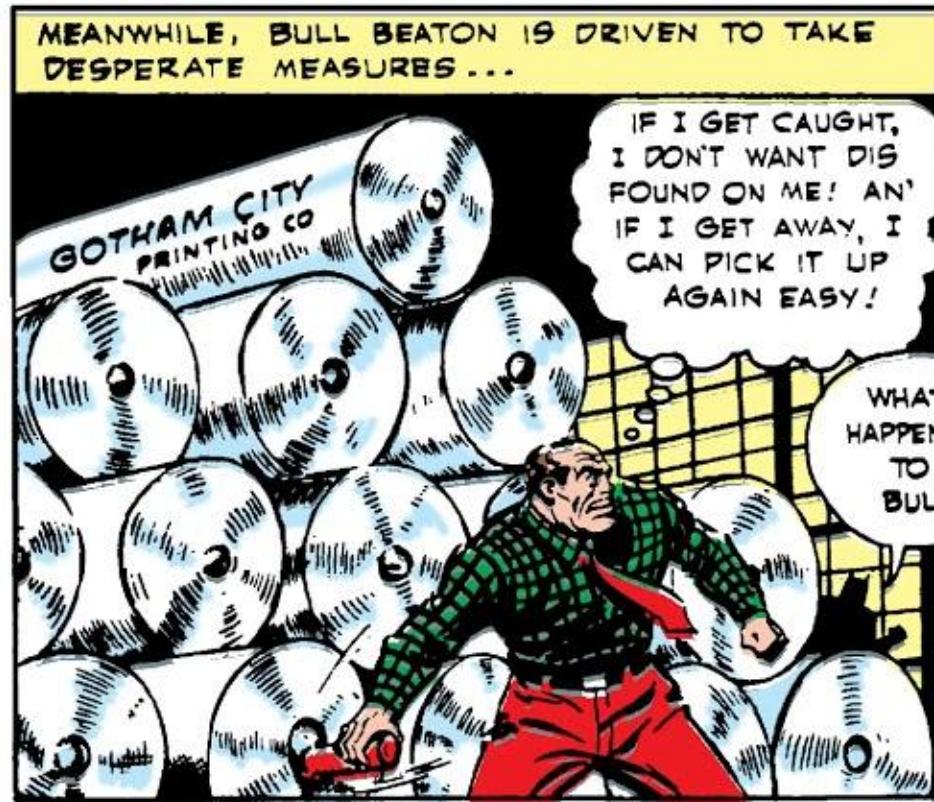
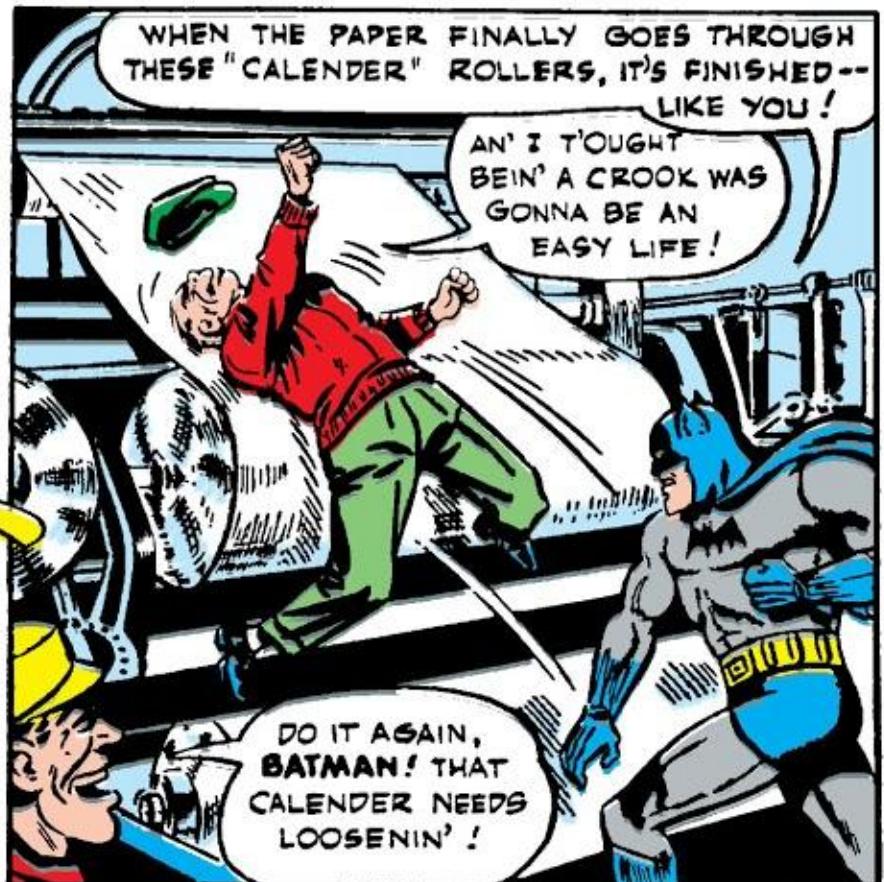
YOU SKUNKS ARE GOING
THROUGH THE MILL
THIS TIME -- ON A
PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOUR!

AND IF WE
MISS
ANYTHING, WE'LL
DO IT TWICE!

GET 'EM
BEFORE
THEY GET
US!

THIS IS THE WAY THEY
TRIM THE LOGS BEFORE
THEY TURN THEM INTO
PULP! GET IT?

YEOW



BUT A CAREFUL SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL EITHER THE MYSTERIOUS CYLINDER OR THE FUGITIVE CRIMINALS --- AND TWO DAYS LATER ...

I THOUGHT THAT FISHING TRIP WOULD DO YOU GOOD, BRUCE -- BUT YOU'VE BEEN NERVOUS AS A CAT EVER SINCE WE GOT BACK!

I'LL GIVE YOU THREE GUESSES WHY!

I KNOW... IT BURNS ME UP, LOSING THOSE KILLERS TWICE IN A ROW AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND THAT CYLINDER THEY LEFT BEHIND!

THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT WITH THEM -- BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THEY LEFT IT UP THERE EITHER! I THINK BULL PUT SOMETHING EXTRA CLEVER OVER ON US!

NEWSPRINT FROM THE PERKINS MILL! MAYBE IT'S THE SAME WE SAW BEING MADE!

HUH? ... I WONDER...?

MIDNIGHT-- AND THE NIGHT WATCHMAN AT THE PRINTING PLANT HAS UNEXPECTED VISITORS...

TAKE US TA DA PRESS-ROOM, SEE? OR D'YA WANT SOMEBODY TA TAKE YA TA A CEMETERY?

D-DON'T SHOOT! I'LL T-TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU SAY!

AH-- HERE WE ARE! DA SMARTEST TRICK O' DA YEAR, IF I DO SAY IT MESELF!

OKAY, POP-- TAKE A REST!

YOU'RE A GENIUS, BULL!

IT AIN'T HERE!

NOT HERE, EITHER... GOSH -- WHAT IF IT GOT LOST?

KEEP YER SHIRTS ON!

A FORTUNE! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE ALL BIG SHOTS!

I'M GONNA BUY A TICKET TO SOMEPLACE WHERE DA BATMAN WON'T NEVER CATCH UP WIT' ME!

I'M GONNA BUY ME A YACHT!

A GOOD IDEA, SQUIDGE -- BUT
A TRIFLE LATE!

NOW LET'S GO OUT AN'
CELEBRATE OUR --
HUH? ... DAT
SHADDER ...

LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY A MANTLED
FIGURE SWOOPS -- THE BATMAN!

NO! NO!
IT CAN'T
BE
TRUE!

LOOKS
LIKE I'M
JUST IN
TIME!

AM I GOIN' CRAZY
-- OR DOES IT
LOOK LIKE A BAT?

BUT IT IS TRUE,
MY FINE-
FEATHERED
FELONS!

A FEW
OUNCE
S OF LEAD
WILL TIP
THE BALANCE
OUR WAY!

IF I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
HOW I USED TO BIRL
LOGS, MAYBE I CAN
BREAK THIS UP!

HEY, KID -- WATCH
WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'
YOU'LL HURT SOMEBODY!

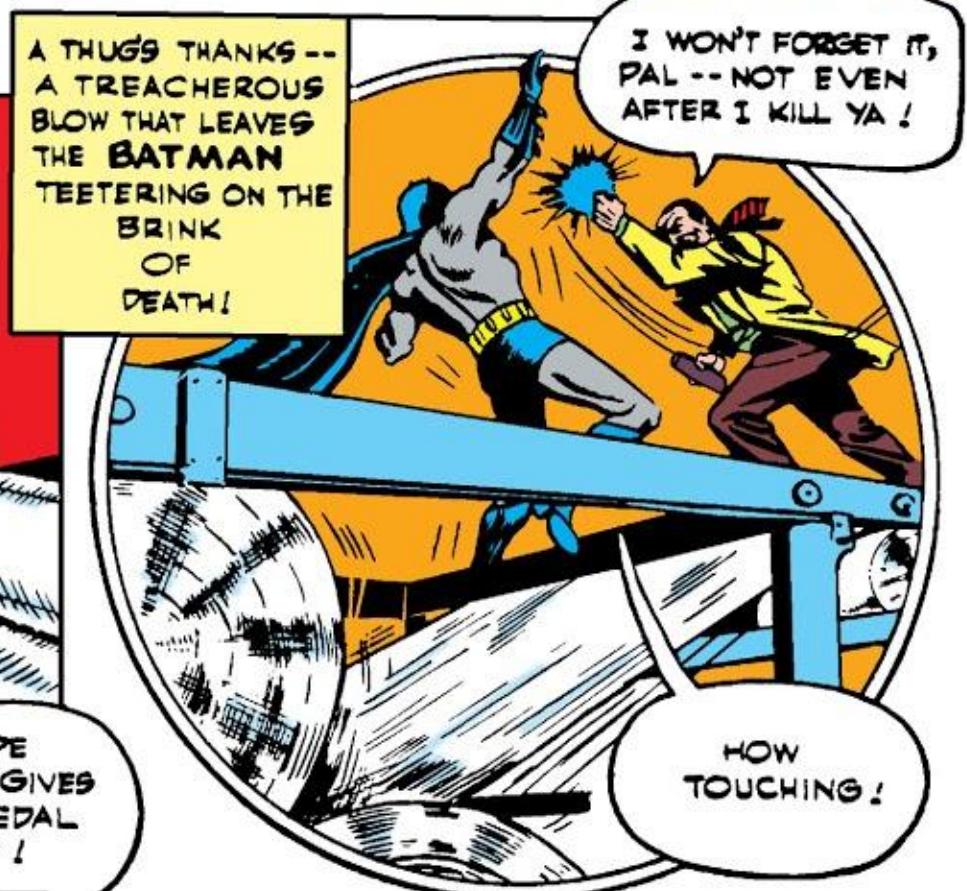
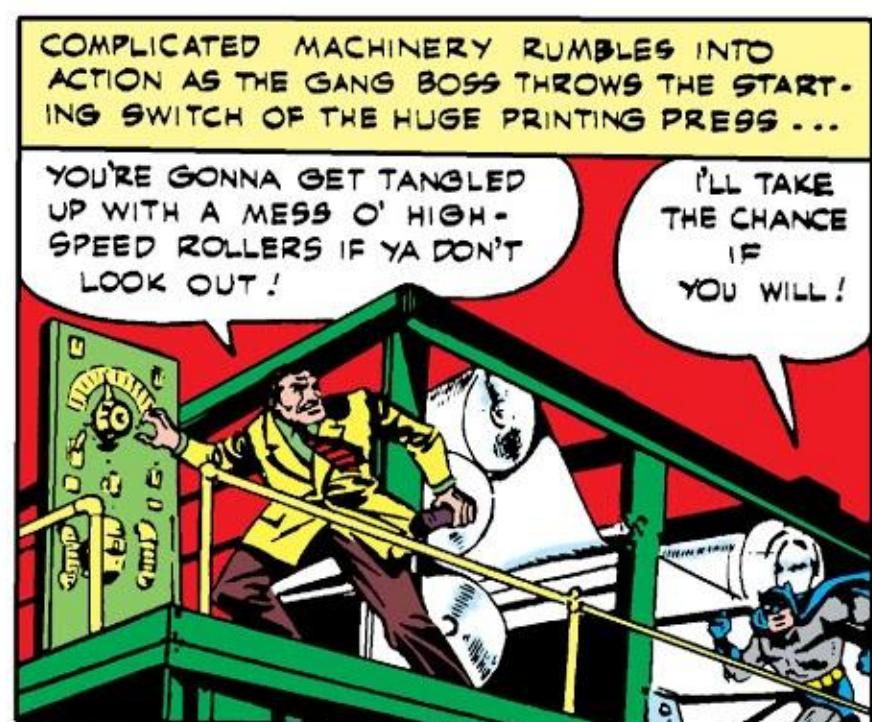
I'M JUST
PLAYIN'
STEAM-
ROLLER!

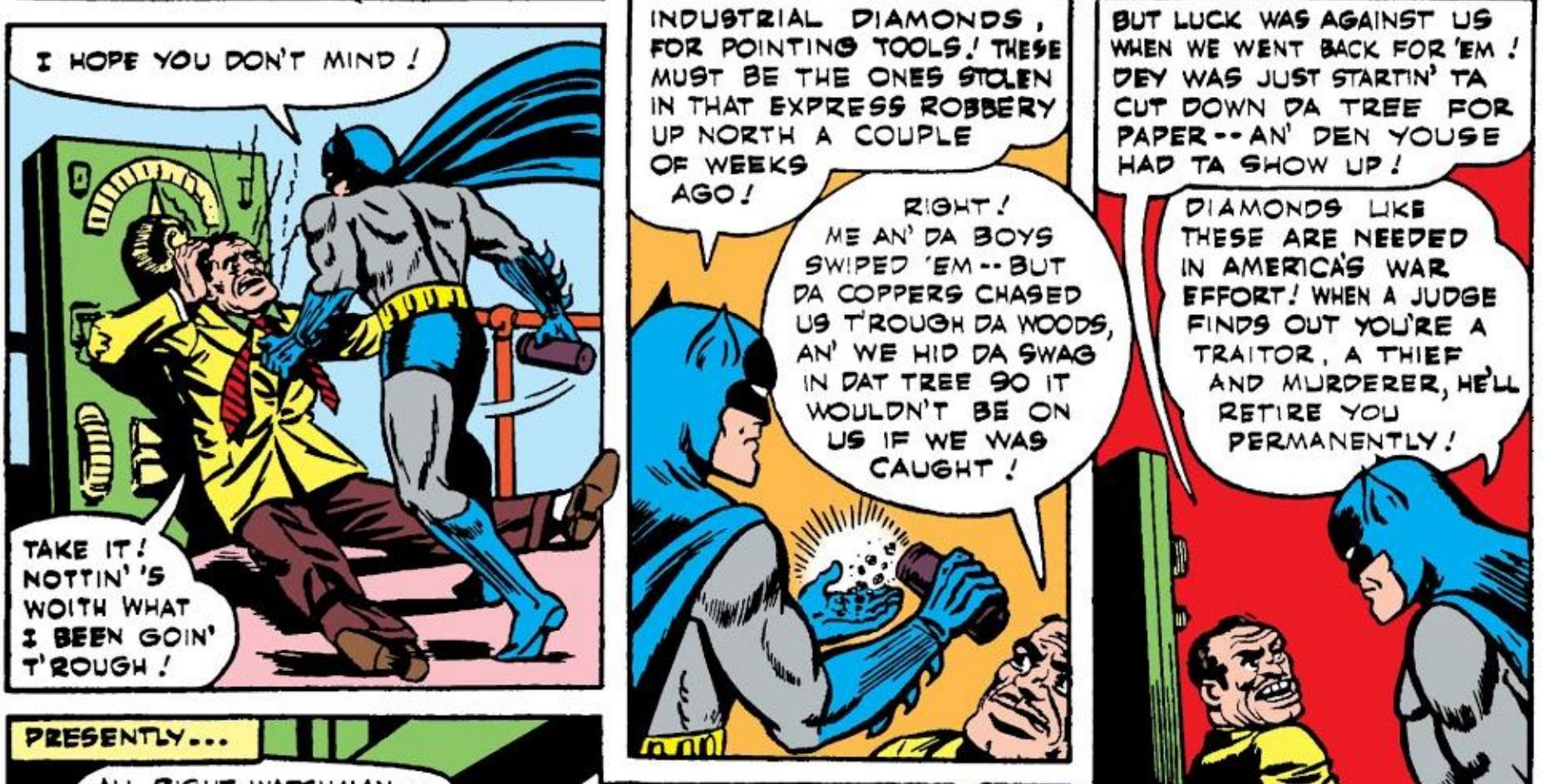
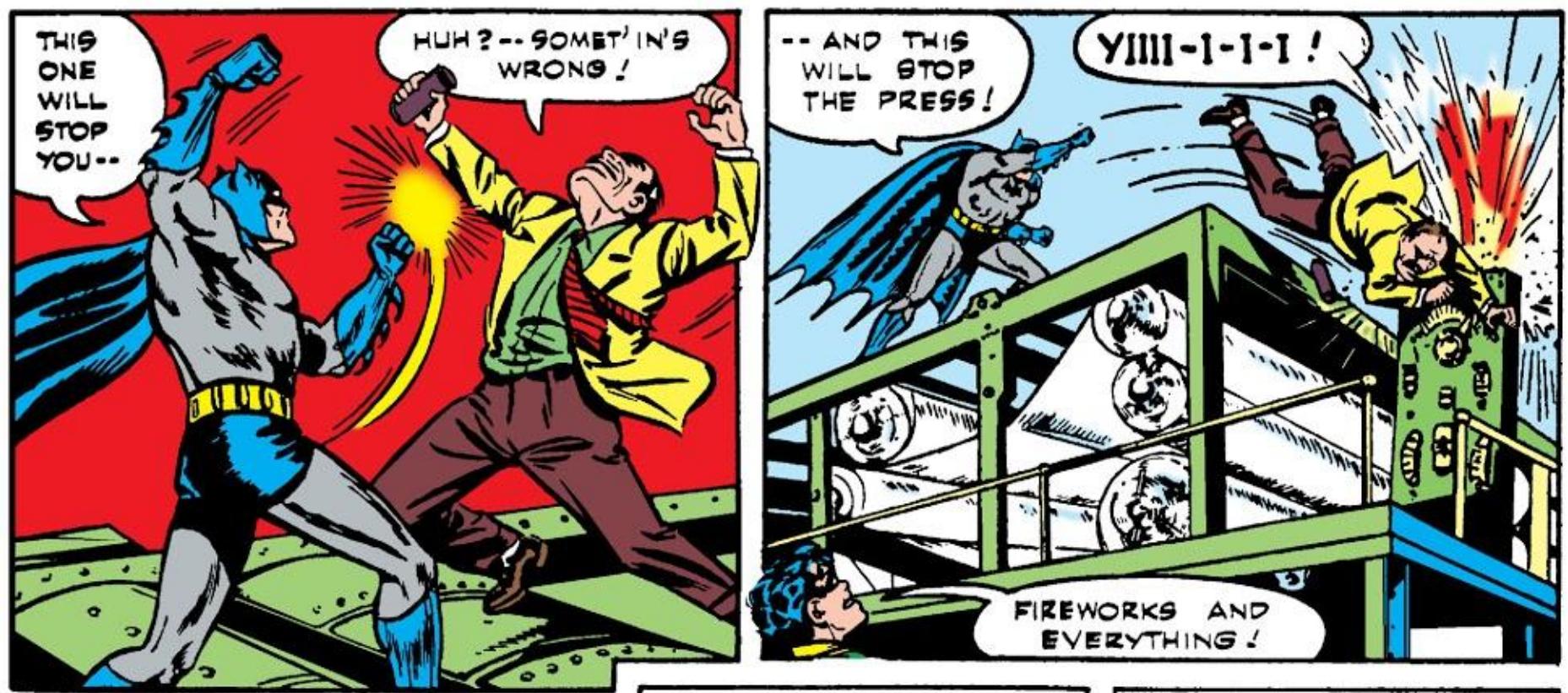
NICE
WORK,
ROBIN!

OOPS --
SLIPS!

YOU TWO BACK FOR MORE?
THIS'LL LAST YOU
QUITE A WHILE!

OUCH! YA
DONE THAT
ON PURPOSE!





BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

TWO'S A PERFECT FIGHTING TEAM, AND THREE'S A CROWD IN THE CASE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND WHAT A CROWD, WHEN THE THIRD IS THE SINGULAR GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET! LANDING IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE AFTER A VIOLENT CROSSING OF MANY OCEANS, NONCHALANTLY ATTRACTING VIOLENCE WHEREVER HE MOVES, THIS AMAZING FELLOW GIVES AMERICA'S ACE CRIME-SMASHERS THE MOST VIOLENT SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES -- AND MAKES THEM LIKE HIM FOR IT! YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT YOU'LL BE EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

AND NOW SIT TIGHT, FOR -
"HERE COMES ALFRED!"

BOB KANE



NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WARTIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...



TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE 'WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALL THAT BALLY TOSH!

AH, MY ENGLISH FRIEND, I HOPE YOU FIND HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THIS STRANGE LAND OF AMERICA!

YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EH? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

"HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE IN TEN EASY LESSONS"... SO YOU'RE A SLEUTH?

AND RAWTH'R GOOD AT IT, IF I DO SAY SO!

HMM... I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THERE WAS SOMETHIN' MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT GENTLEMAN!

TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT! ... NEXT!

AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...

ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAPPY BODIES!

I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!

AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!

SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO

FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHENEVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!

PRESENTLY...

I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

STEAM

PIER 2

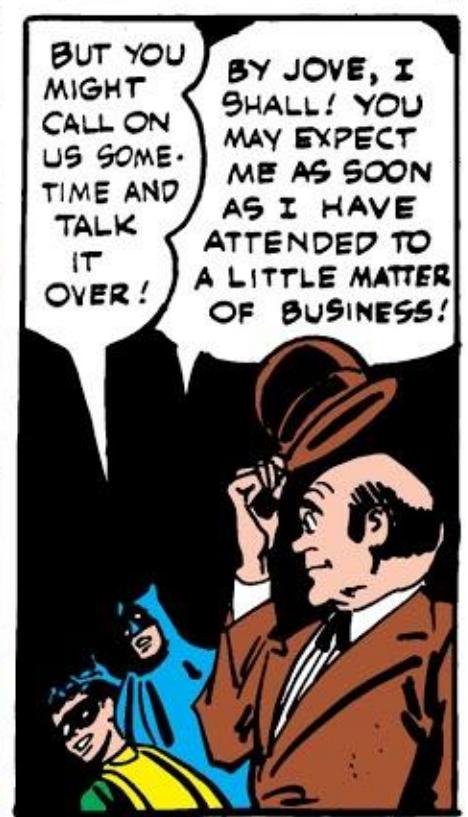
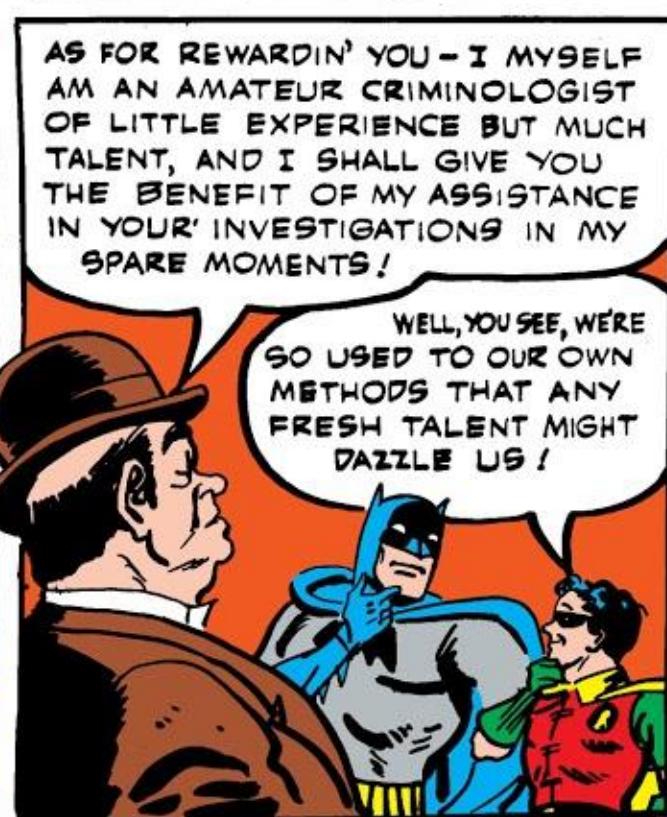
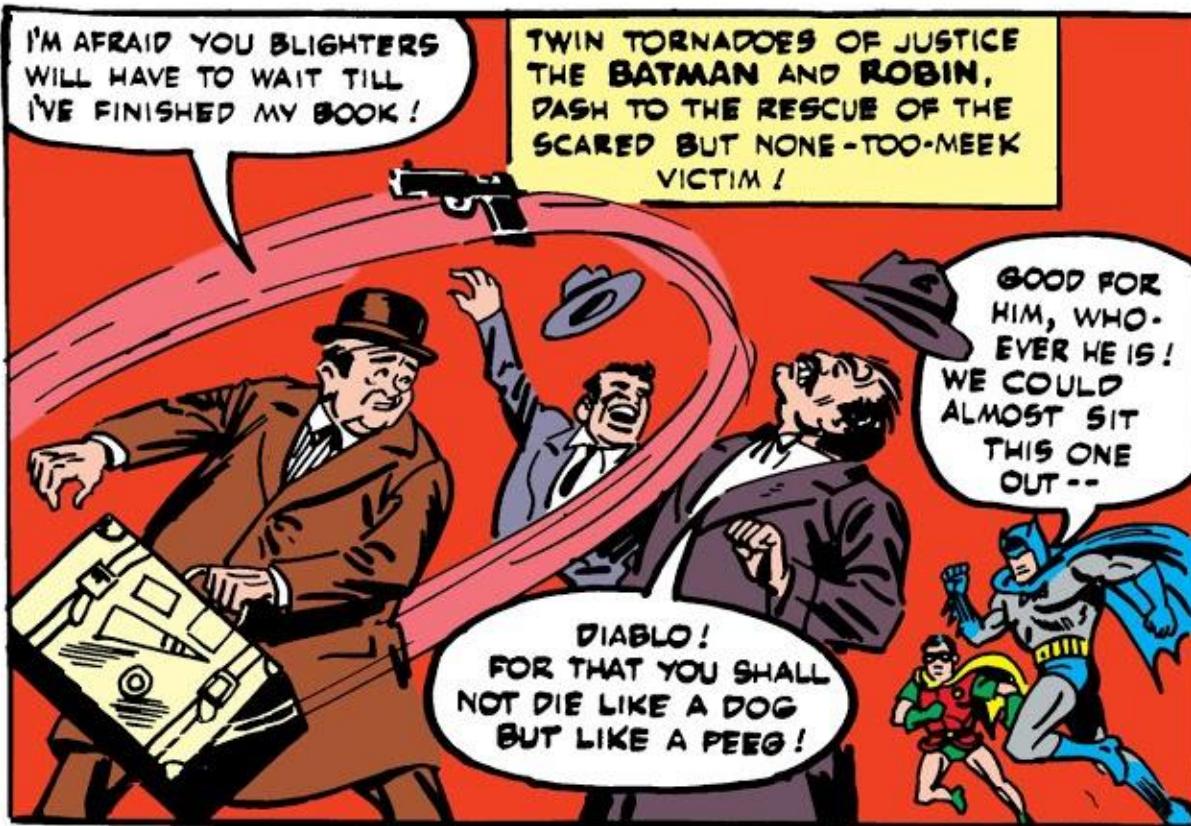
IT IS HE! REGARD THE VALISE!

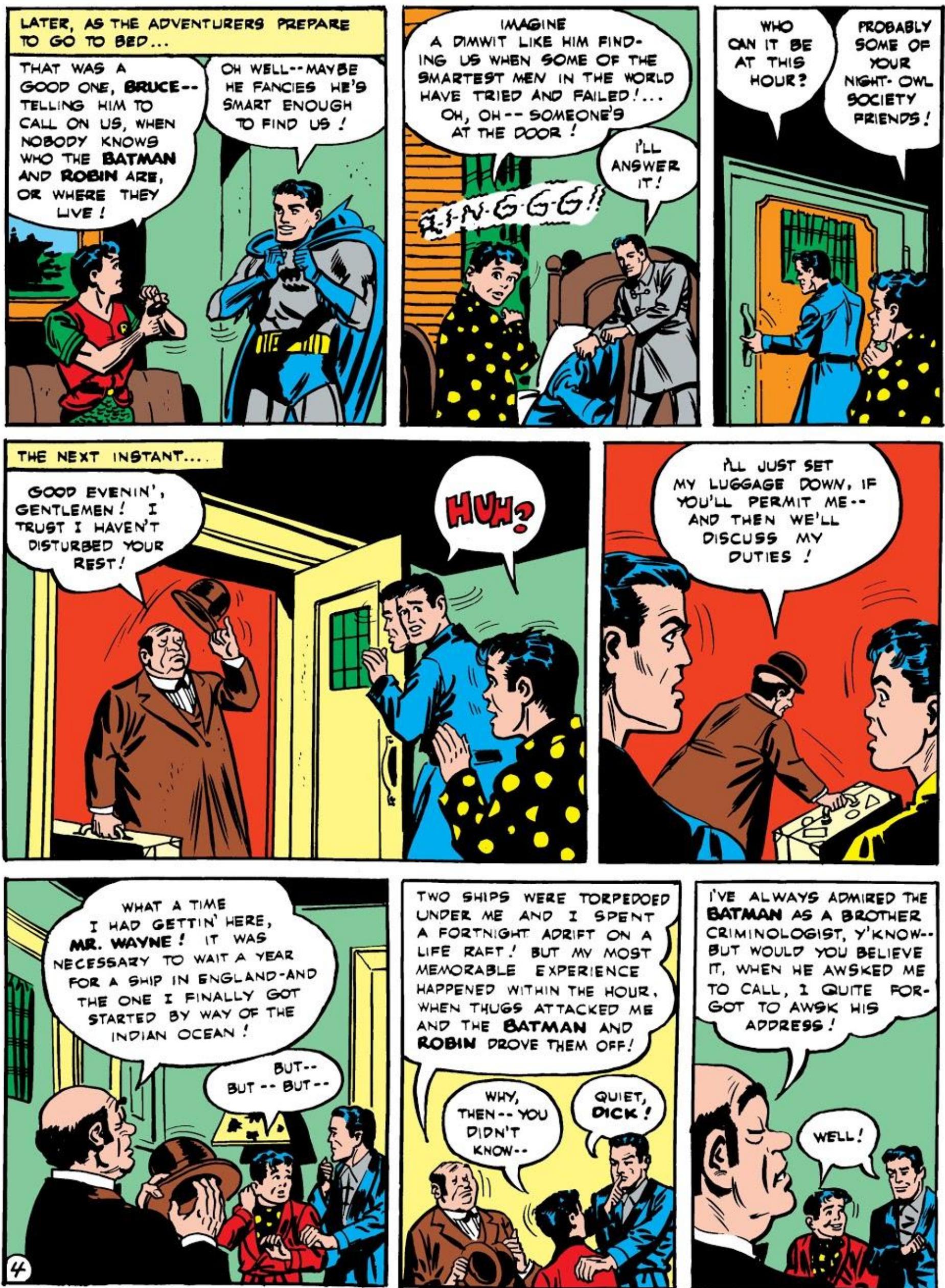
HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!

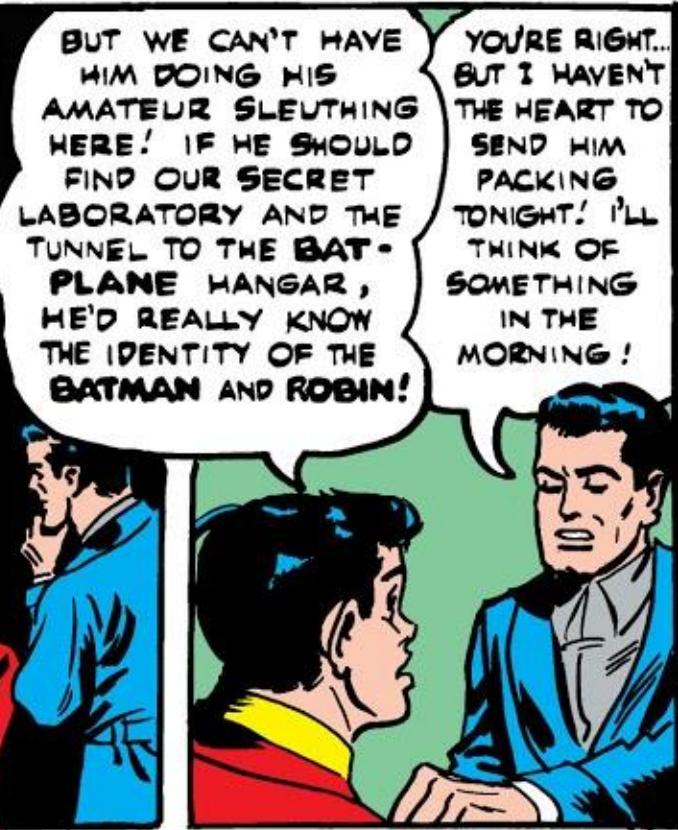
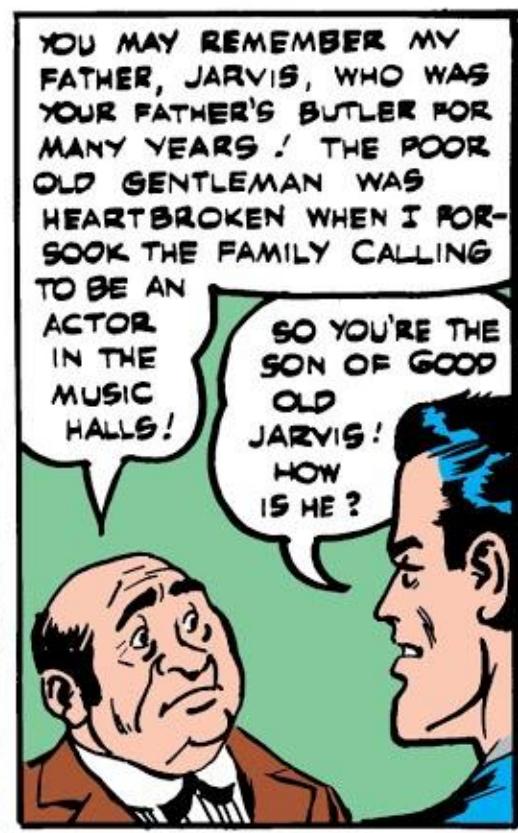
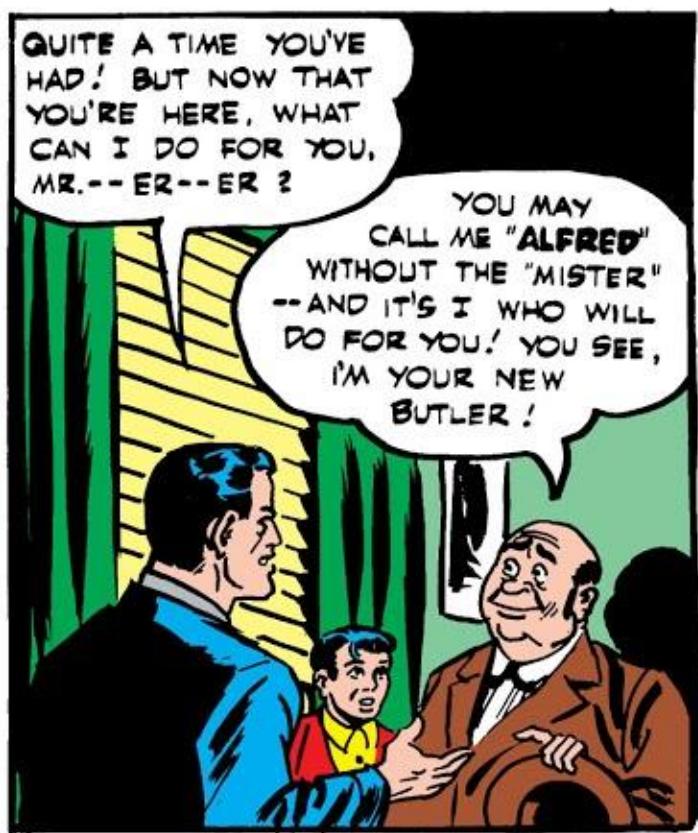
GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

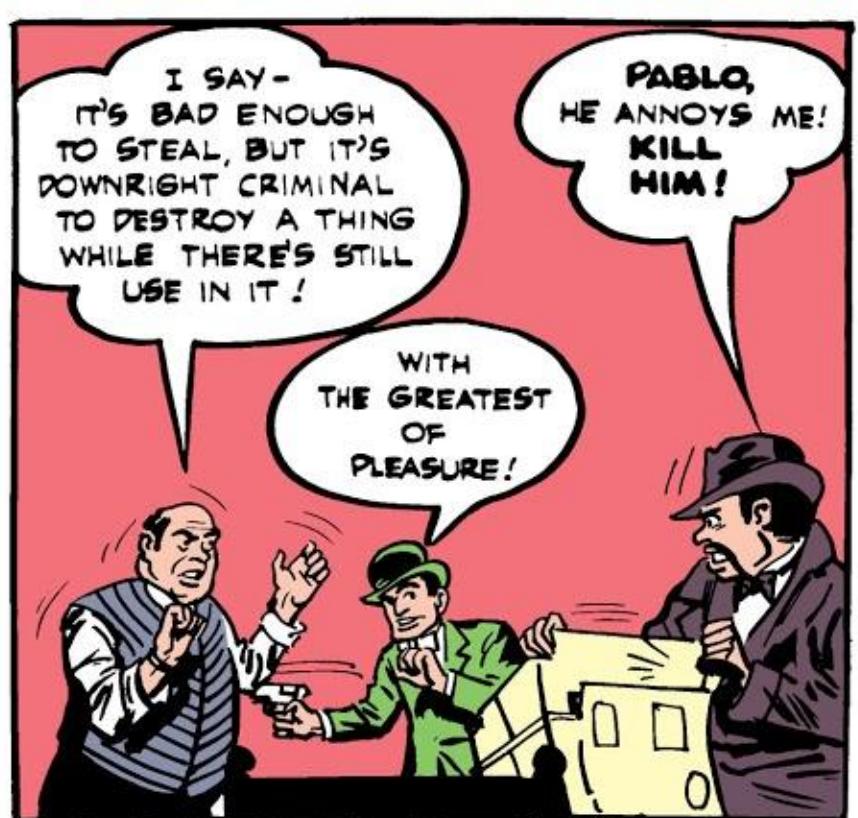
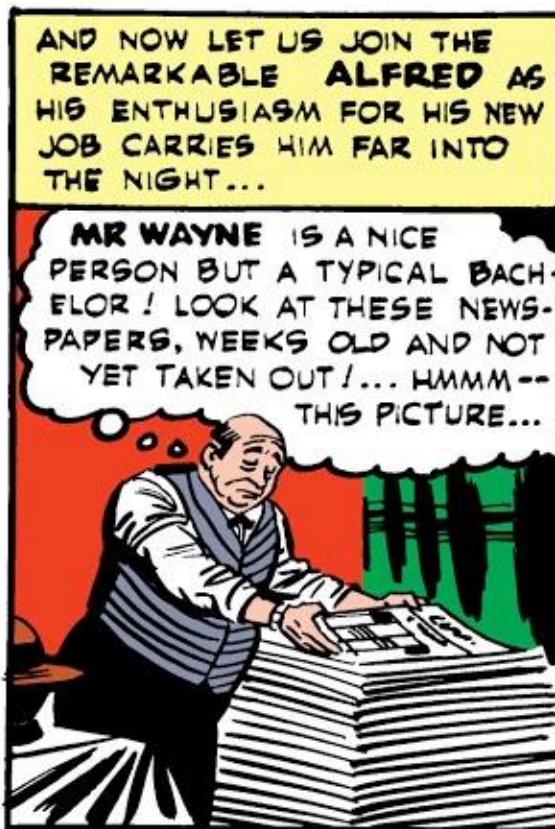
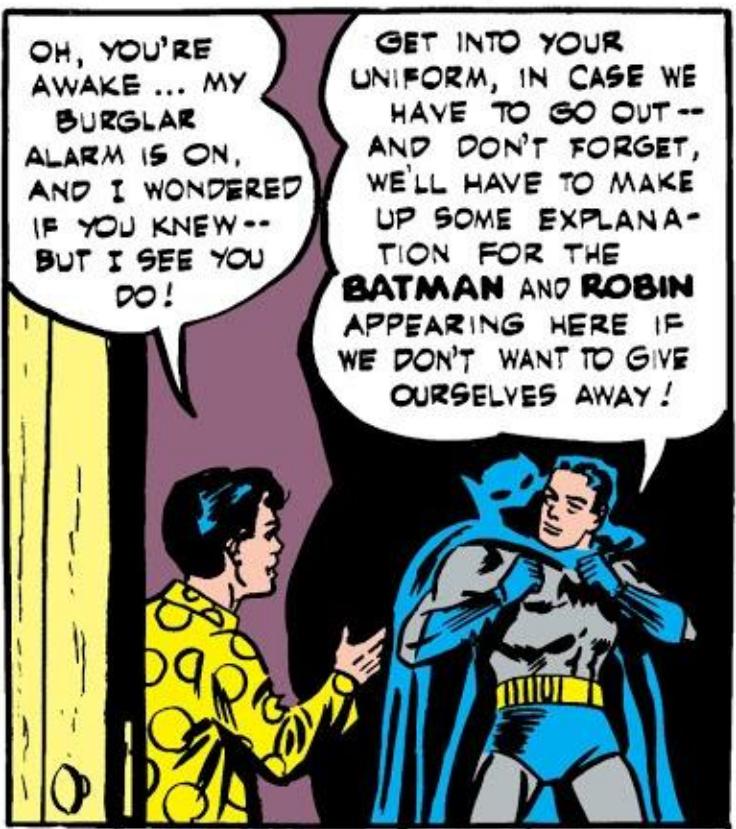
OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

EH--WHAT?... OH-H-A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...

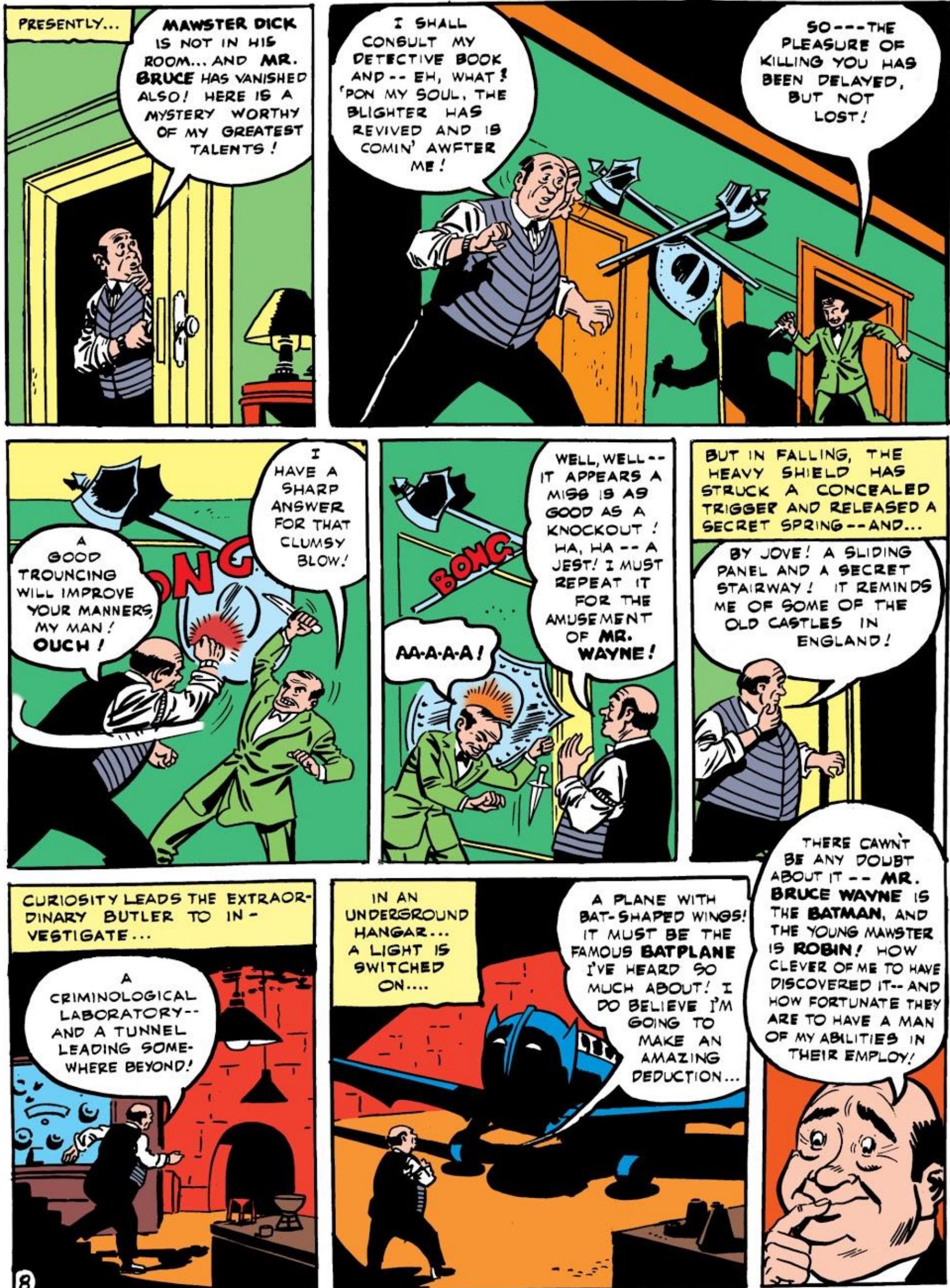












MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING MANUEL...

THERE THEY ARE -- TURNING THAT CORNER AHEAD! STEP ON IT! IF WE DON'T CATCH THEM NOW, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!



MOMENTS LATER...

THERE'S THEIR CAR -- BUT WHERE ARE THEY?

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY BETTER HIDEOUT THAN AN ABANDONED THEATER!



STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A LOCKED DOOR, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES INTO COBWEB-DRAPE DARKNESS...

SPOOKY PLACE, ISN'T IT? I'LL BET NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS!

YOU'D LOSE YOUR MONEY! EVEN ALFRED WOULD KNOW BETTER SEEING THESE FOOT-PRINTS IN THE DUST!



BRRR-R-R! I CAN HEAR THE GHOSTS OF DEAD PLAYS MOANING!

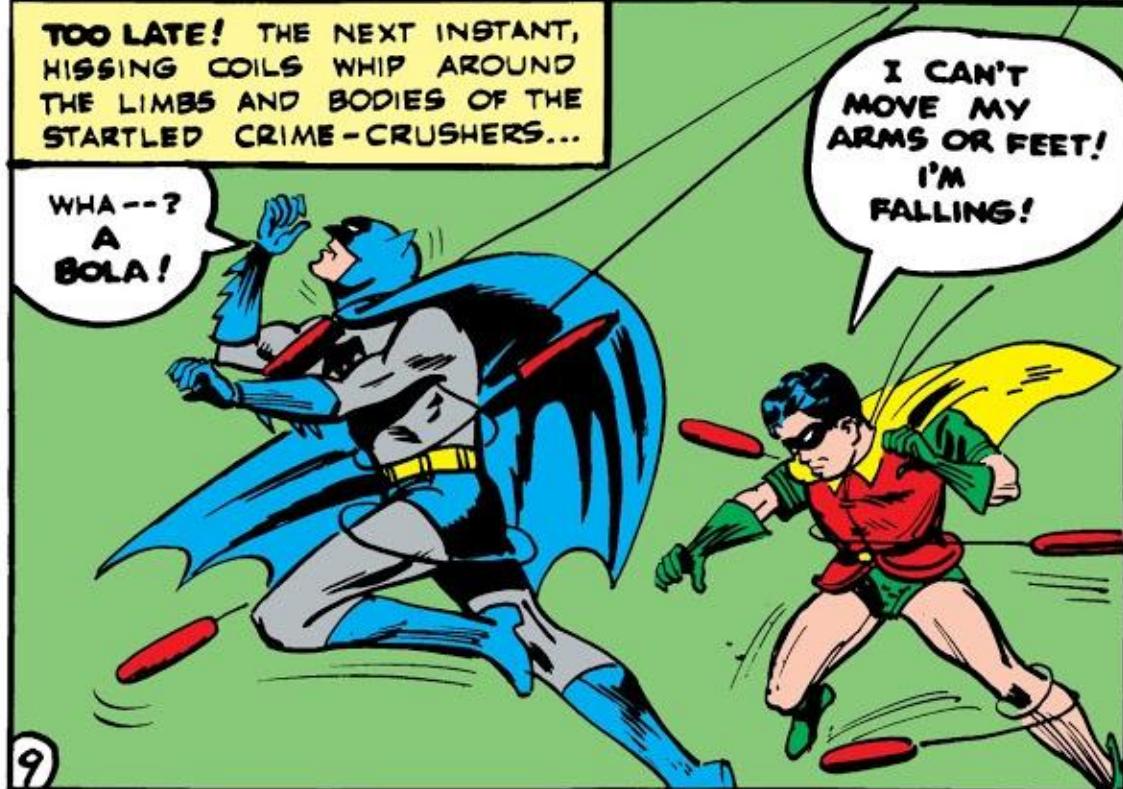
THERE'S A STRANGE WHIRRING SOUND COMING FROM SOMEWHERE!



TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT, HISSING COILS WHIP AROUND THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...

WHA--? A BOLA!

I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS OR FEET! I'M FALLING!



AS FINE A CAST AS WAS EVER MADE! NOW TO FINISH THEM!

NOT YET! LET US DO ALL OUR KILLING AT ONCE, AND DISPOSE OF THE BODIES TOGETHER! THESE STUPID ONES WILL BE SAFE IF WE TIE THEM TIGHTER AND HOIST THEM INTO THE AIR!



BOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...

AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!

SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS -- BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A CODE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!

LEFT ALONE, THE PLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...

WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!

OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...

WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEART-BROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!

WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...

PIGHEADED INDEED! I LET THE BLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!

OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM... HMM -- QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!

"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...

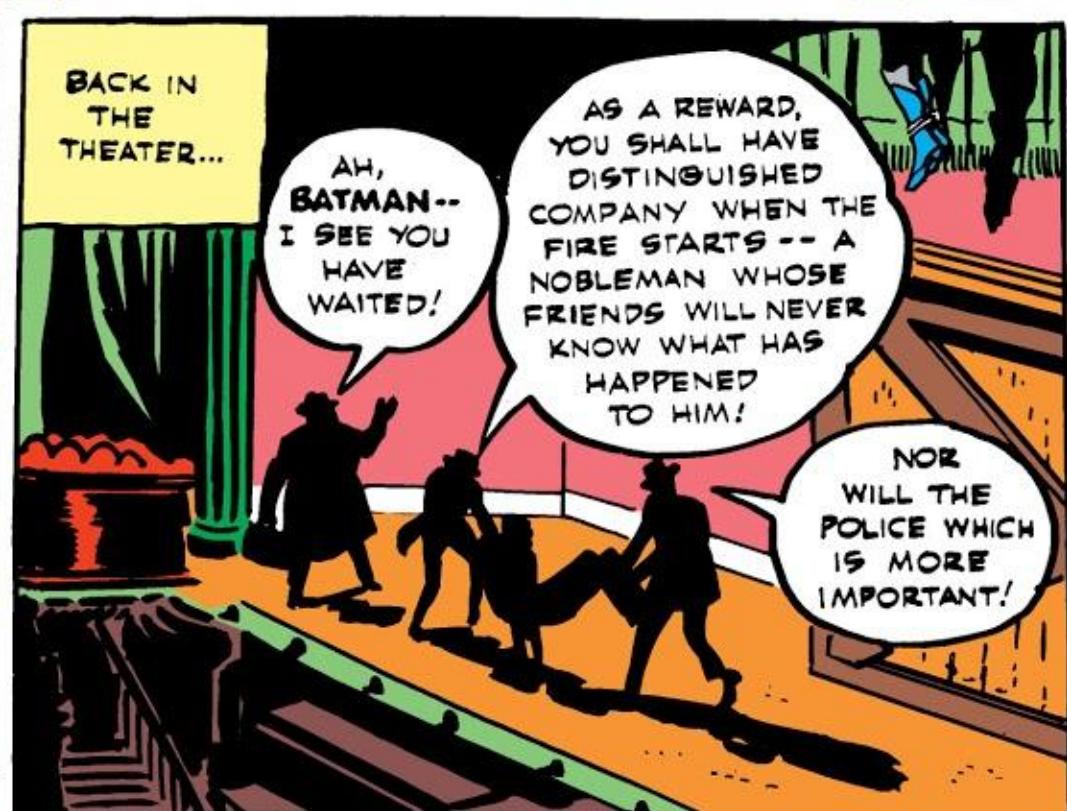
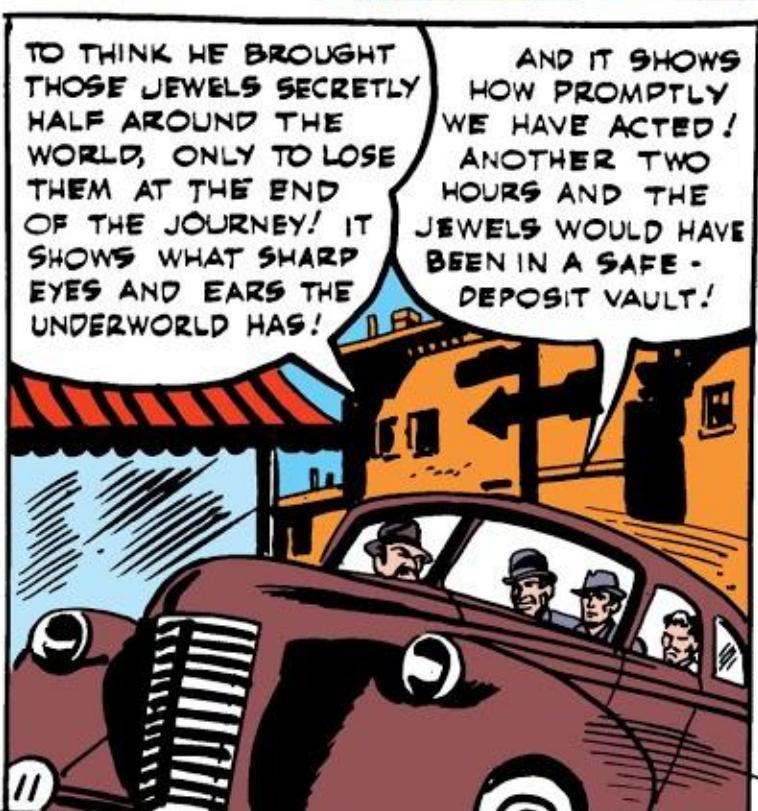
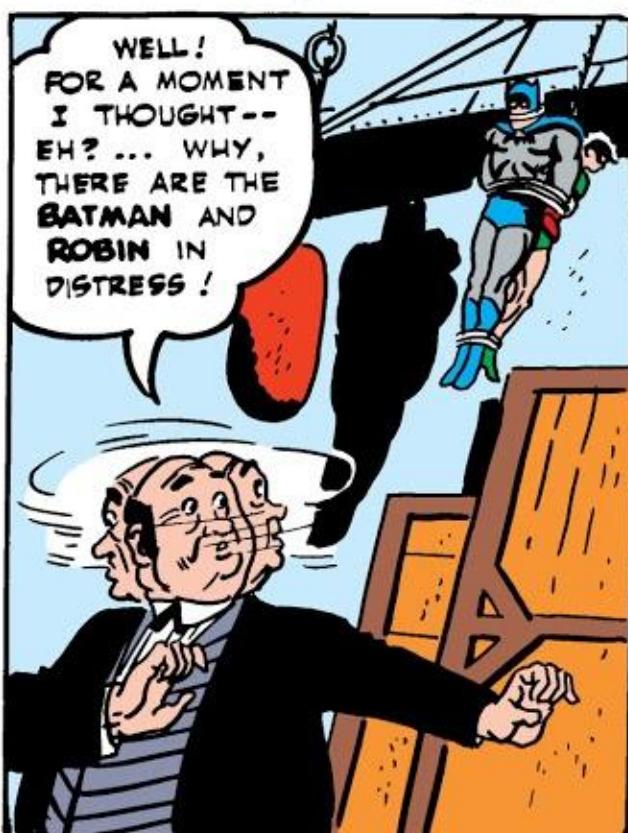
PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW DID IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE 'NOTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?

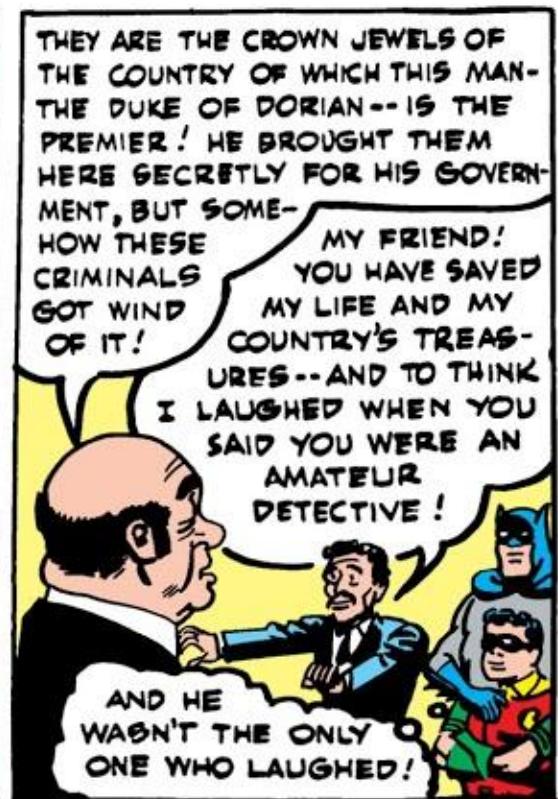
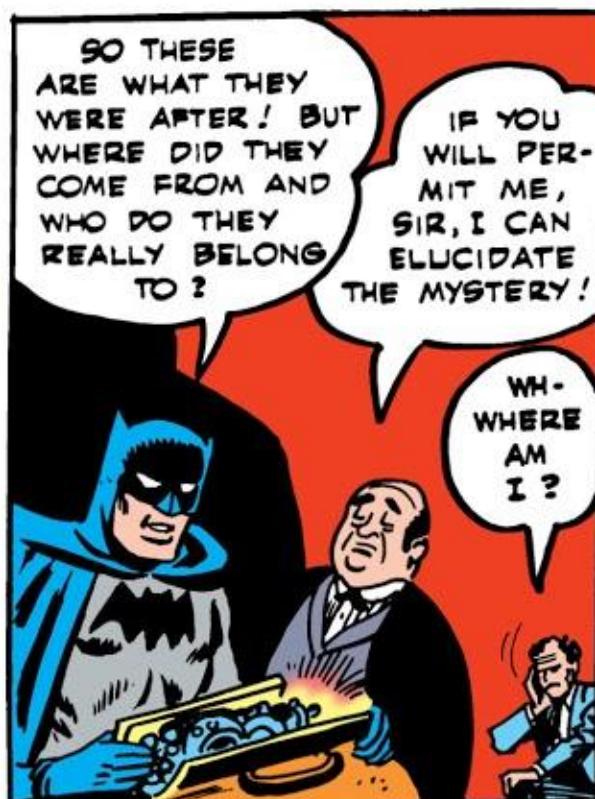
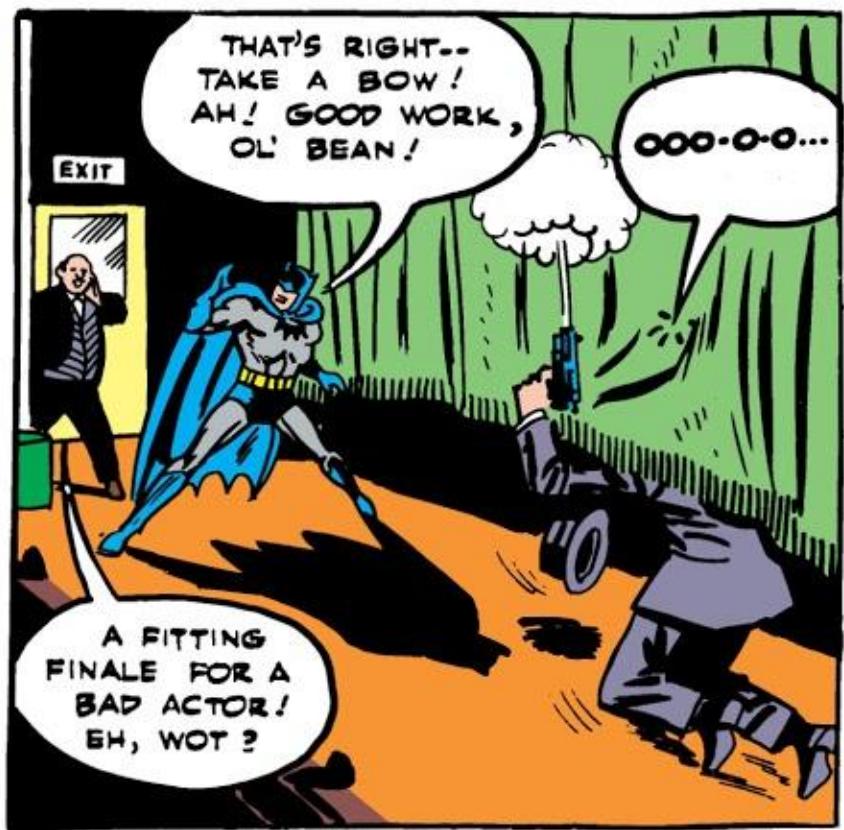
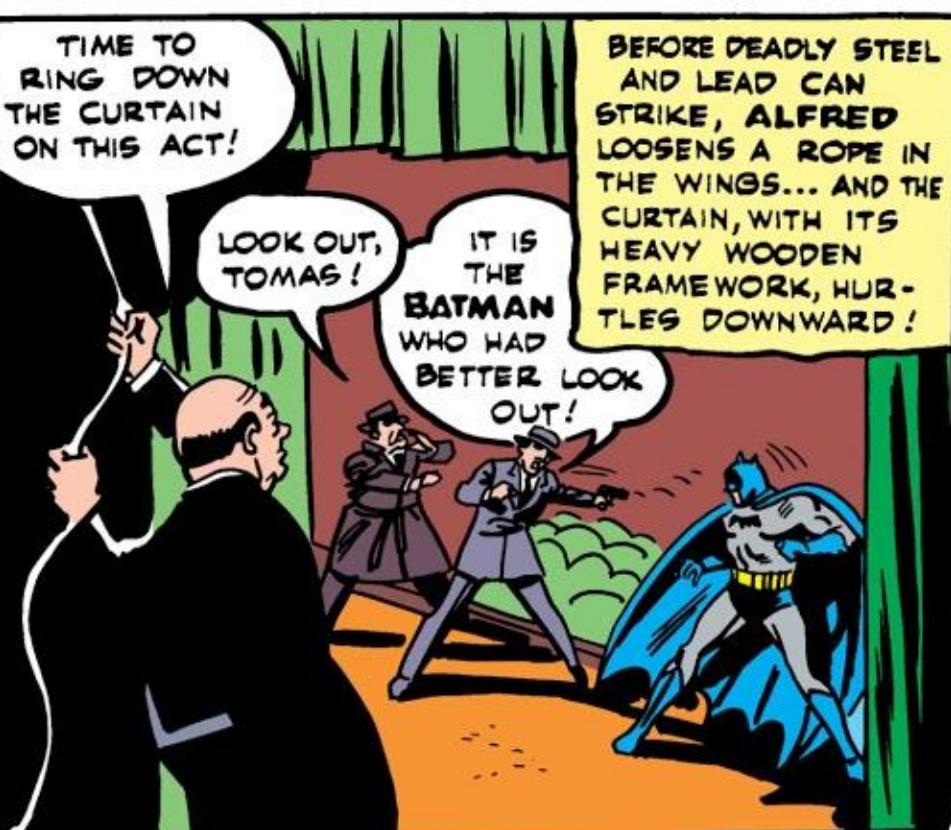
HIGH OVERHEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAMA...

IF ONLY HE'D FORGET THE CORN AND LOOK THIS WAY!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION... MAYBE IF I START SWINGIN...

H'I'M FAIR FED UP WITH GHOSTS, SO H'AM! H'I SHALL TURN IN MY NOTICE!





THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!

FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!

BEG PARDON, SIRS... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!

WHAT'S THIS?

HUH?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!

THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!

WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION!

YOUR CLOAK, SIR...

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...

AND AS THE DARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!

THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!

ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!

KEEP AN EYE ON ALFRED! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HIM!