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BATMAN

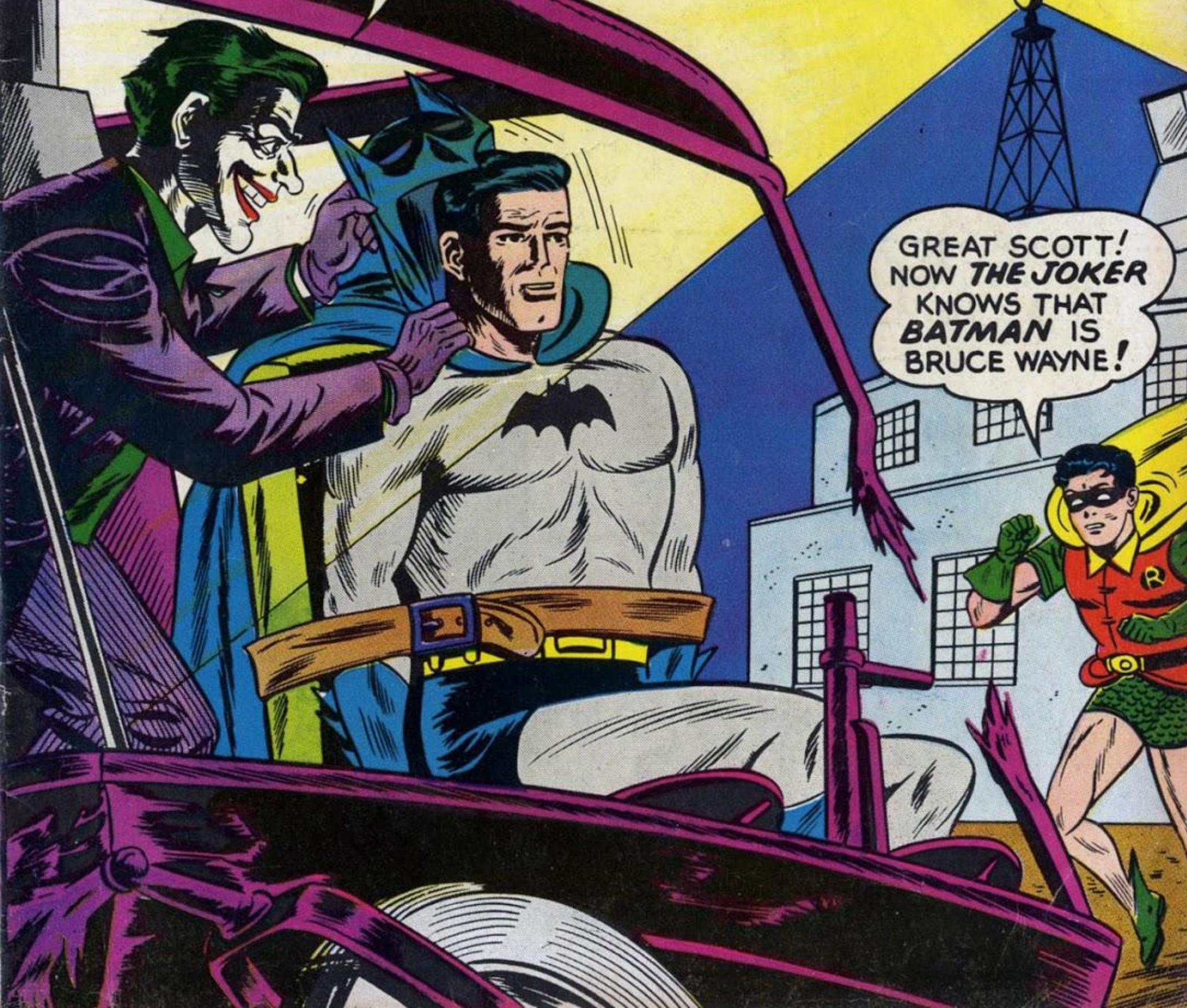
JUNE
NO. 148APPROVED
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C.C.
AUTHORITY

4-17

AT LAST I'VE
UNMASKED **BATMAN**
AND HAVE DISCOVERED
HIS SECRET IDENTITY!

BATMAN UNMASKED!
in
"The JOKER'S GREATEST TRIUMPH!"

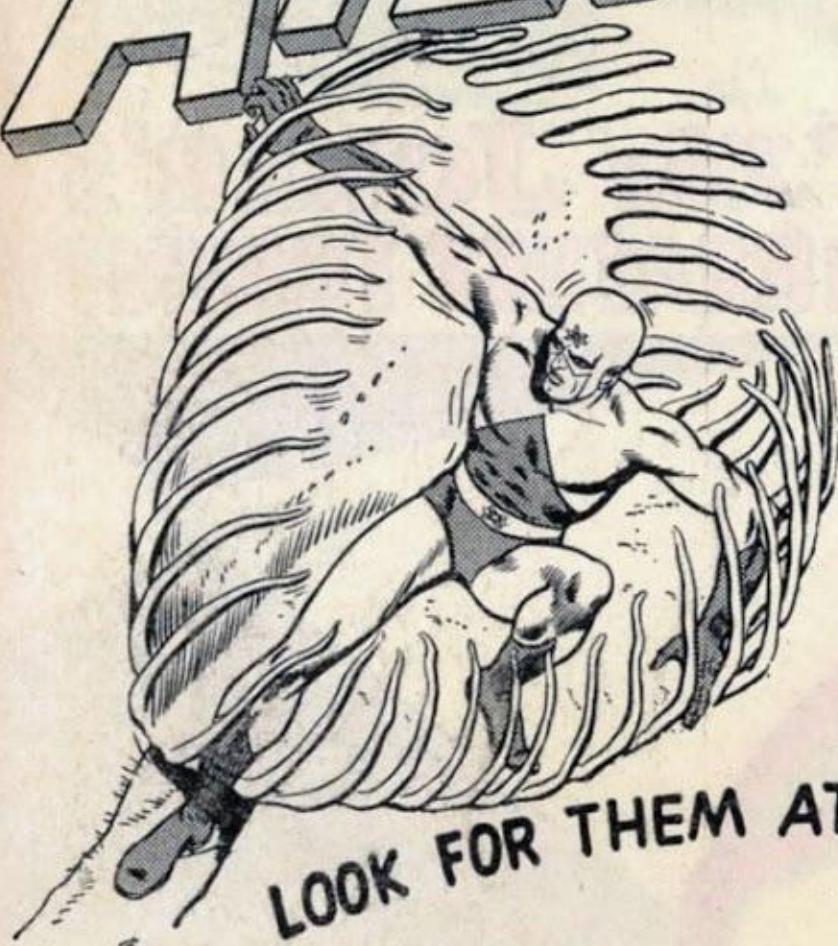
GREAT SCOTT!
NOW **THE JOKER**
KNOWS THAT
BATMAN IS
BRUCE WAYNE!



TOMORROW'S STARS APPEAR TODAY!

The

AQUAMAN



HAWKMAN



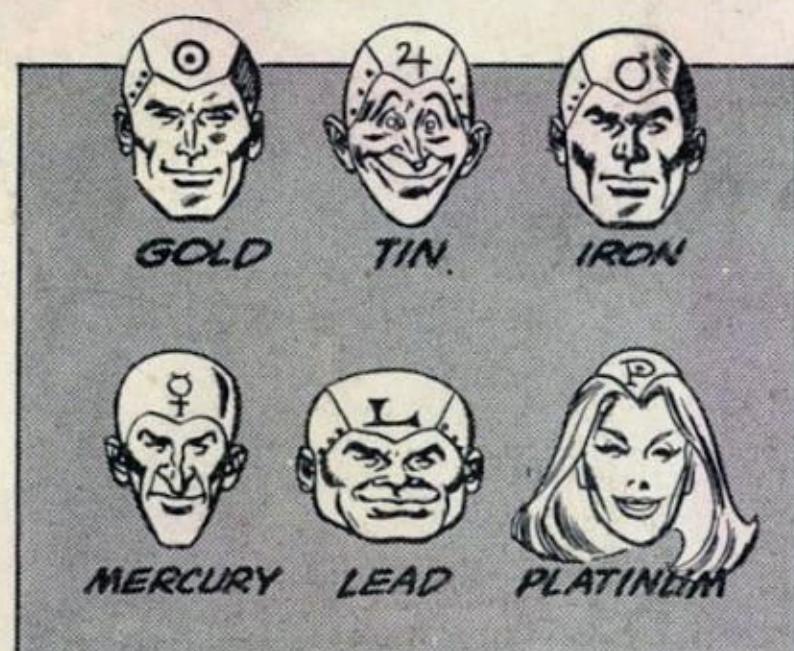
LOOK FOR THEM AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND!

AQUAMAN



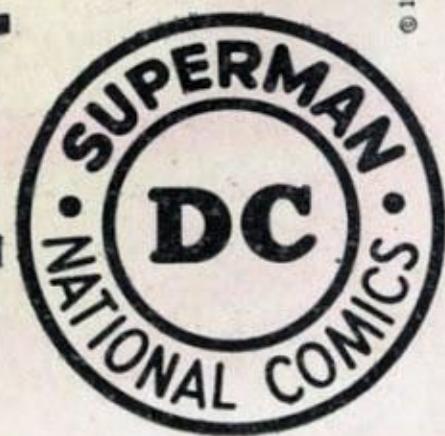
AND HIS YOUNG ALLY,
AQUALAD!

METAL MEN



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THEY'RE DC'S LATEST THEY'RE the GREATEST

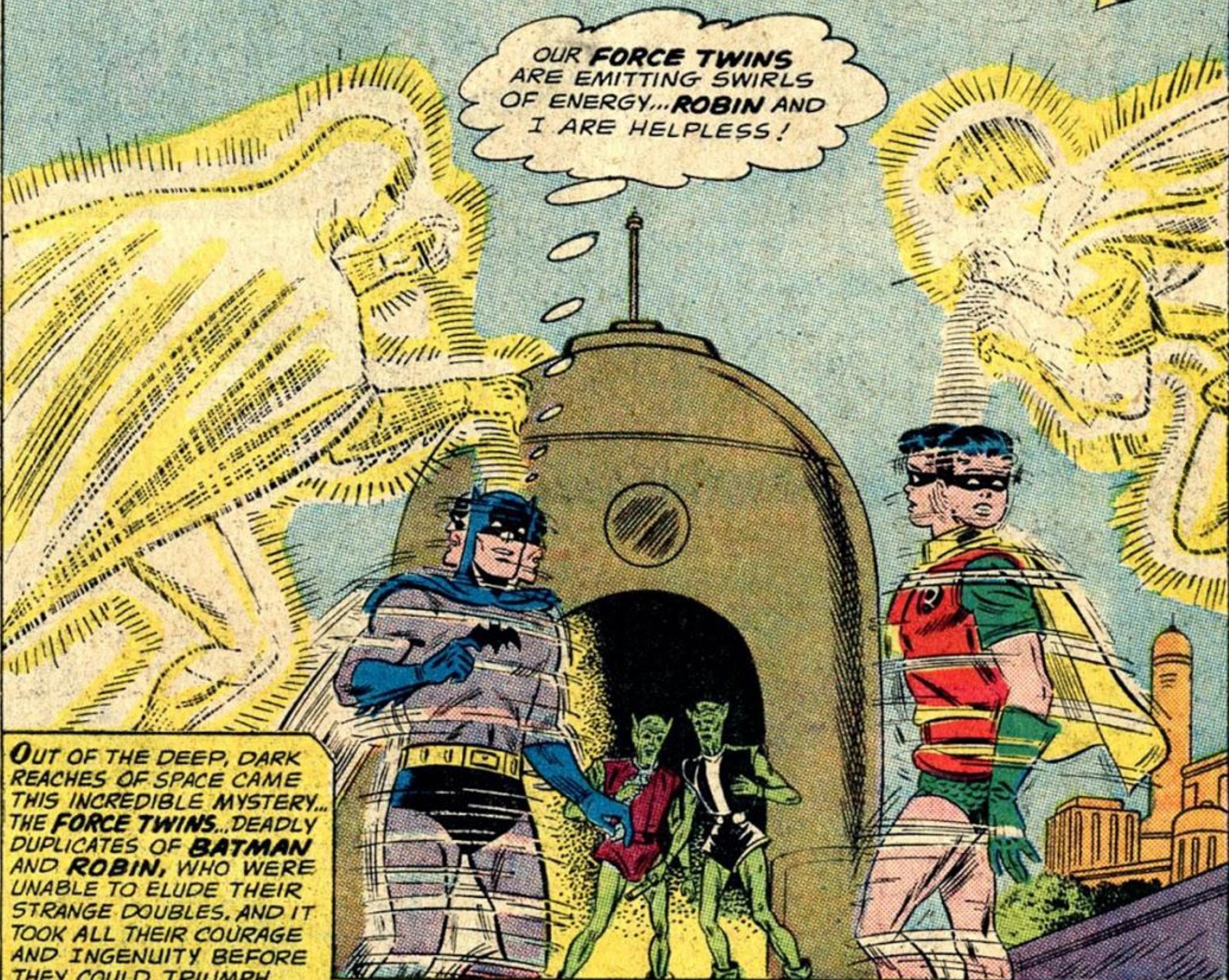


BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

BOB
KANE

OUR **FORCE TWINS**
ARE EMITTING SWIRLS
OF ENERGY...**ROBIN** AND
I ARE HELPLESS!



The ALIEN FORCE TWINS!

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BATMAN



ONE NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, RETURN FROM A BRIEF VISIT TO A DISTANT COUNTRY...

THE STORM HAS GIVEN THE **BAT-PLANE** SUCH A BUFFETING, IT'S THROWN THE INSTRUMENTS OFF-BALANCE! WE'RE FLYING BLIND!



THEN WITH THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN, THE SKY CLEARS...

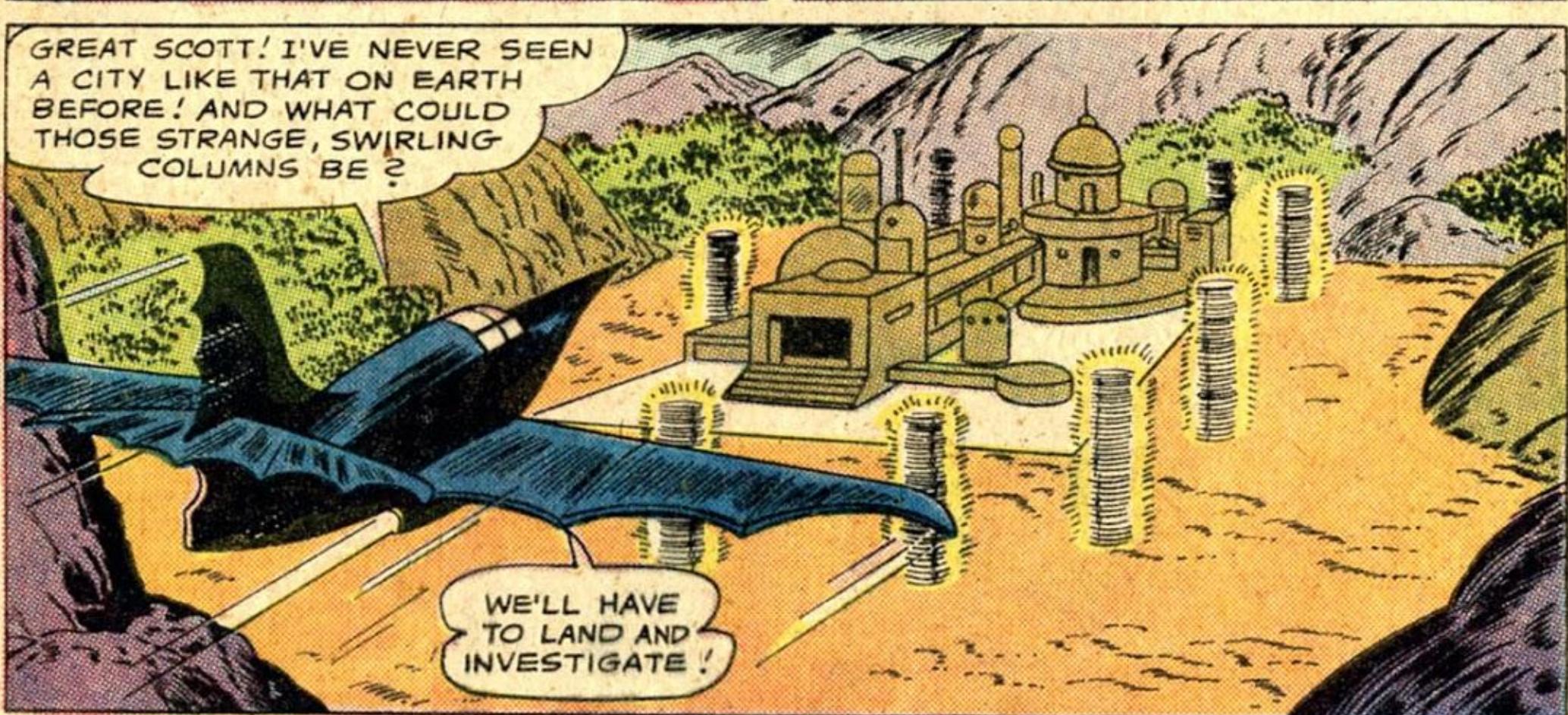
JAGGED PEAKS BELOW INDICATE WE'RE ABOVE THE KSHIHO MOUNTAIN RANGE, THE WORLD'S MOST ISOLATED TERRITORY!

BATMAN!
DOWN THERE!
LOOK!



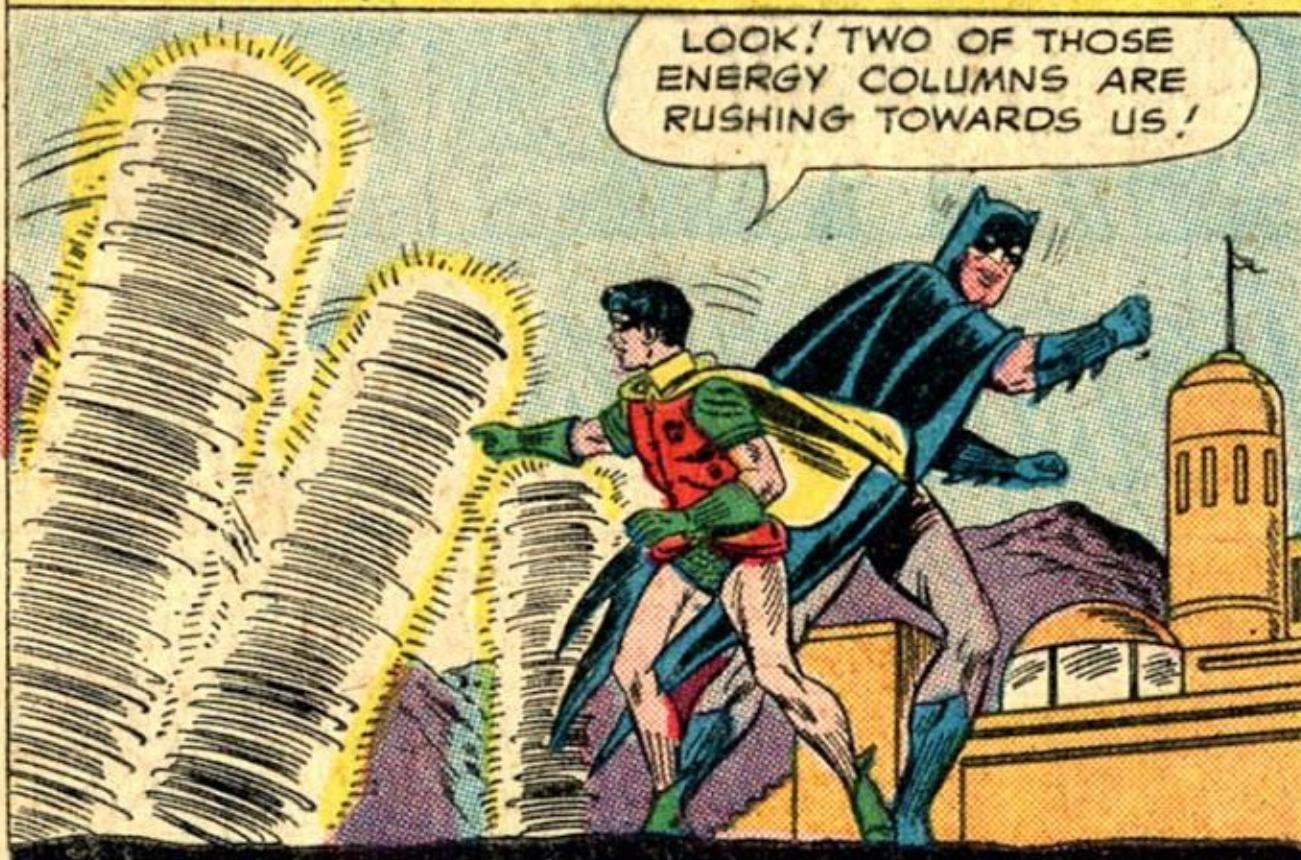
GREAT SCOTT! I'VE NEVER SEEN A CITY LIKE THAT ON EARTH BEFORE! AND WHAT COULD THOSE STRANGE, SWIRLING COLUMNS BE?

WE'LL HAVE TO LAND AND INVESTIGATE!



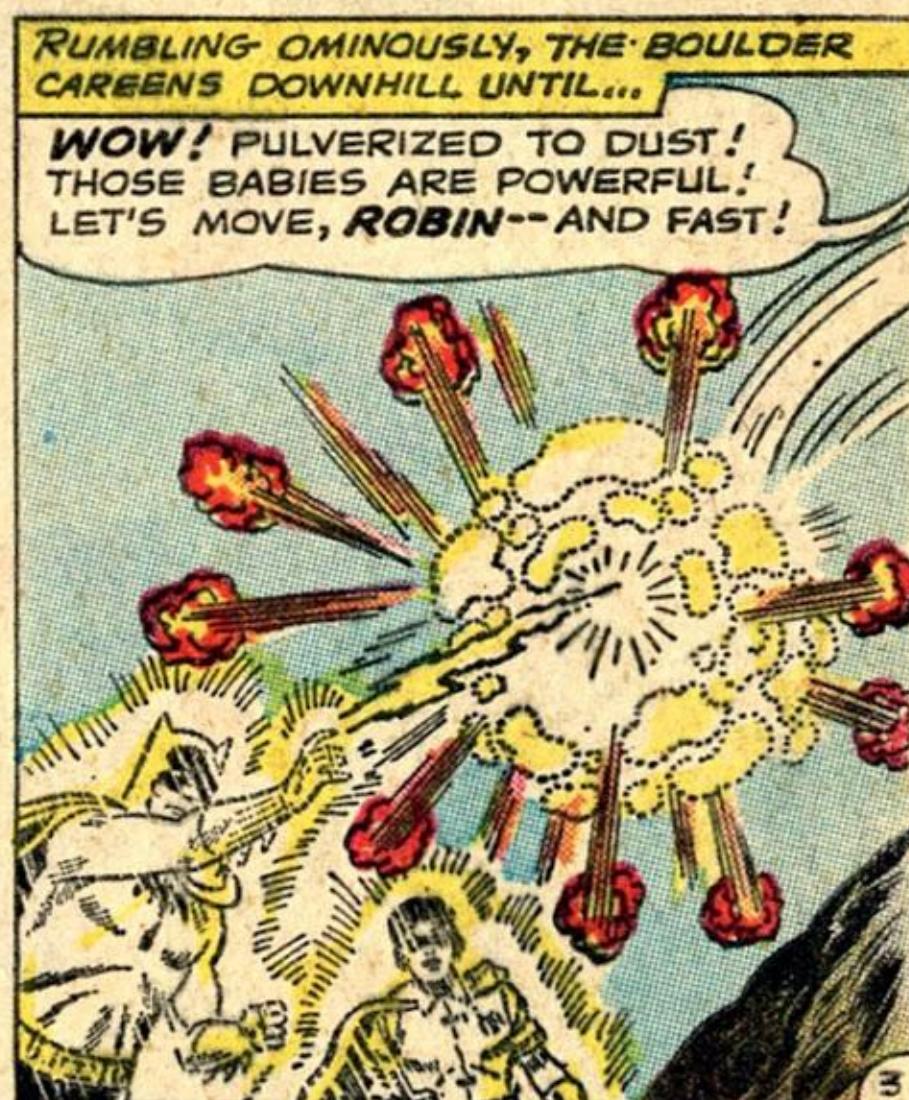
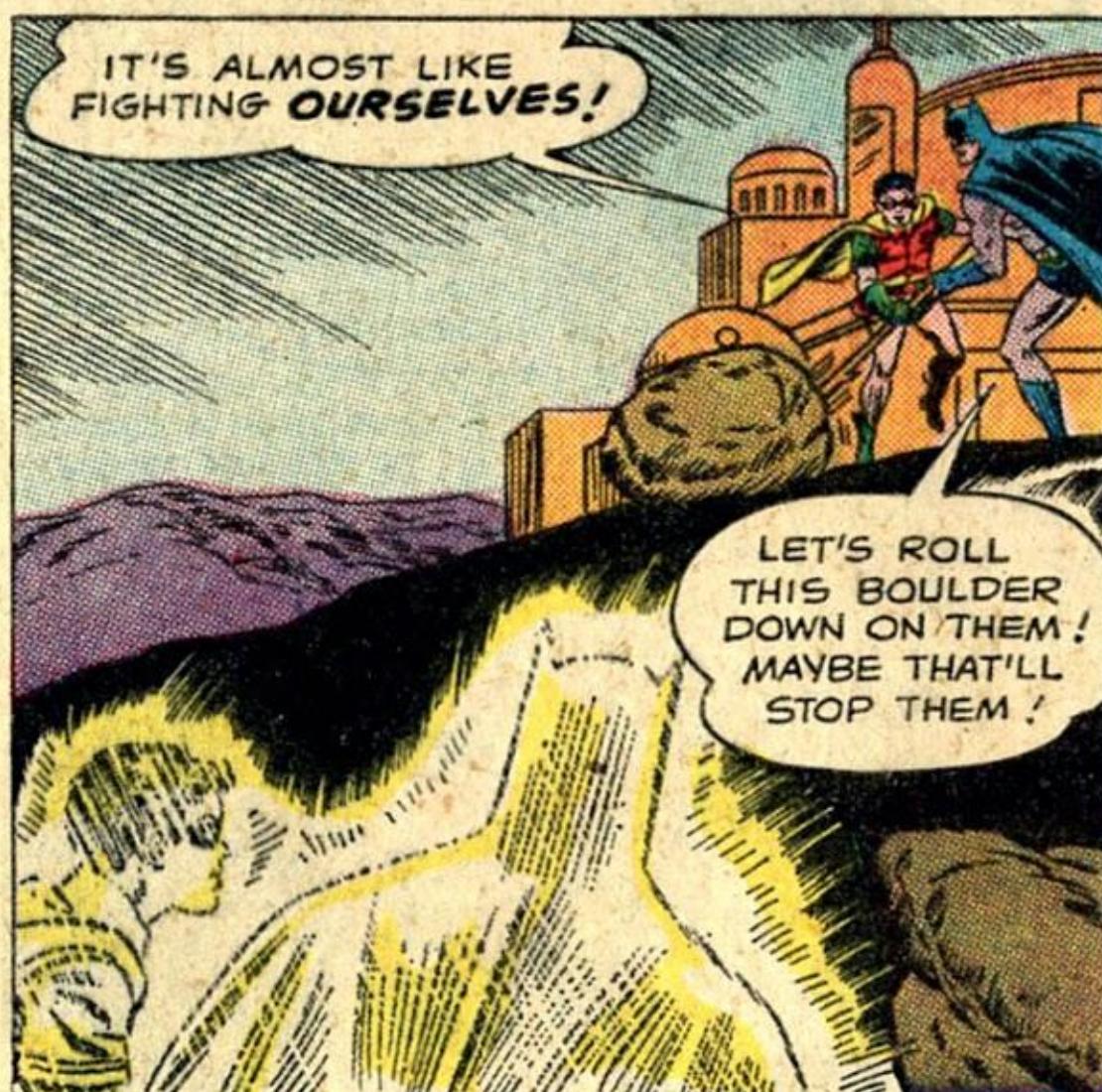
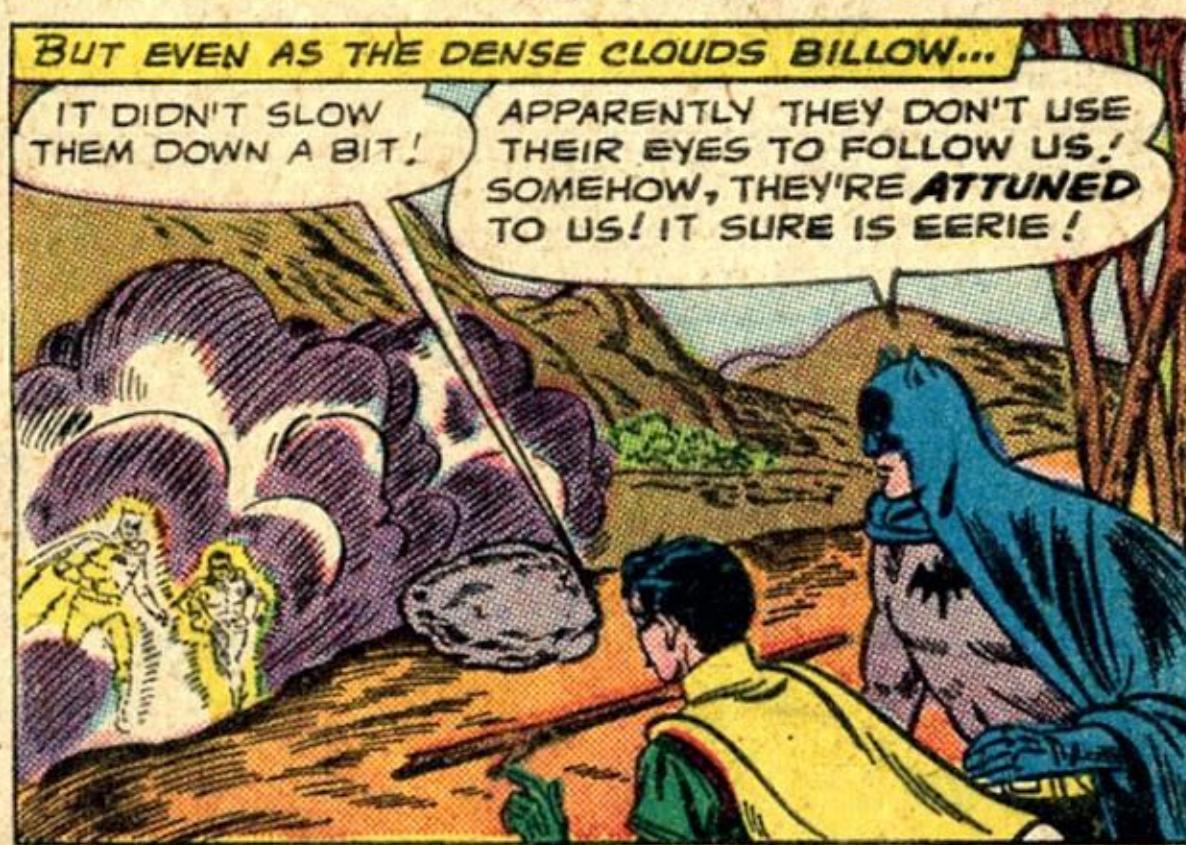
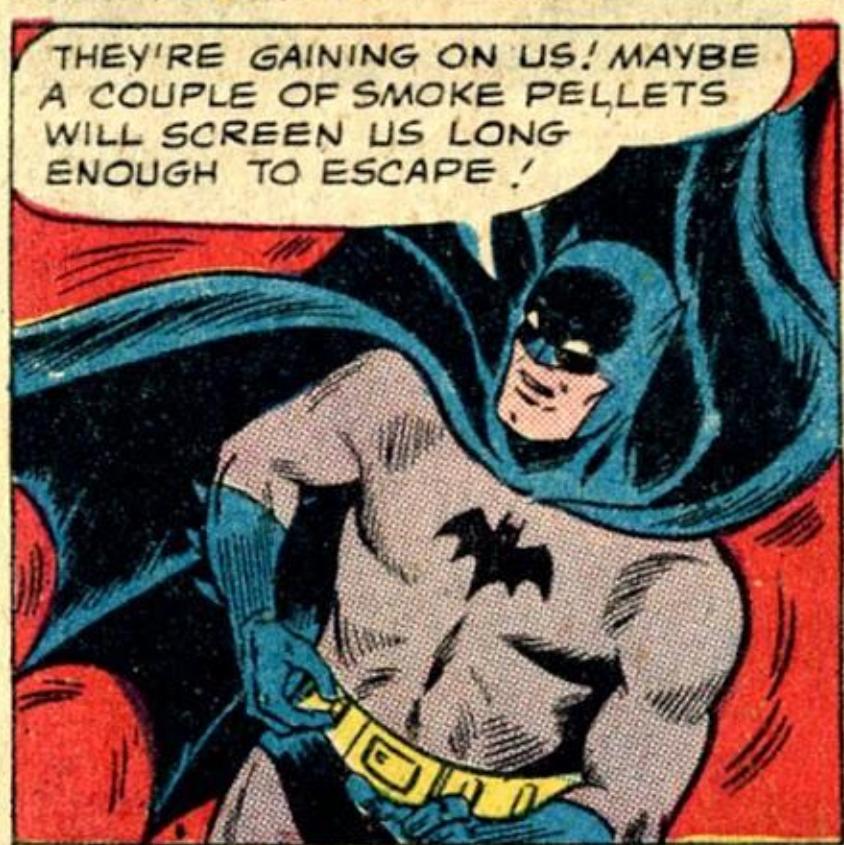
NOT LONG AFTER, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO CAUTIOUSLY ADVANCE...

LOOK! TWO OF THOSE ENERGY COLUMNS ARE RUSHING TOWARDS US!



GREAT GUNS, **BATMAN!**
THEY'RE CHANGING--TAKING
ON HUMAN SHAPE!

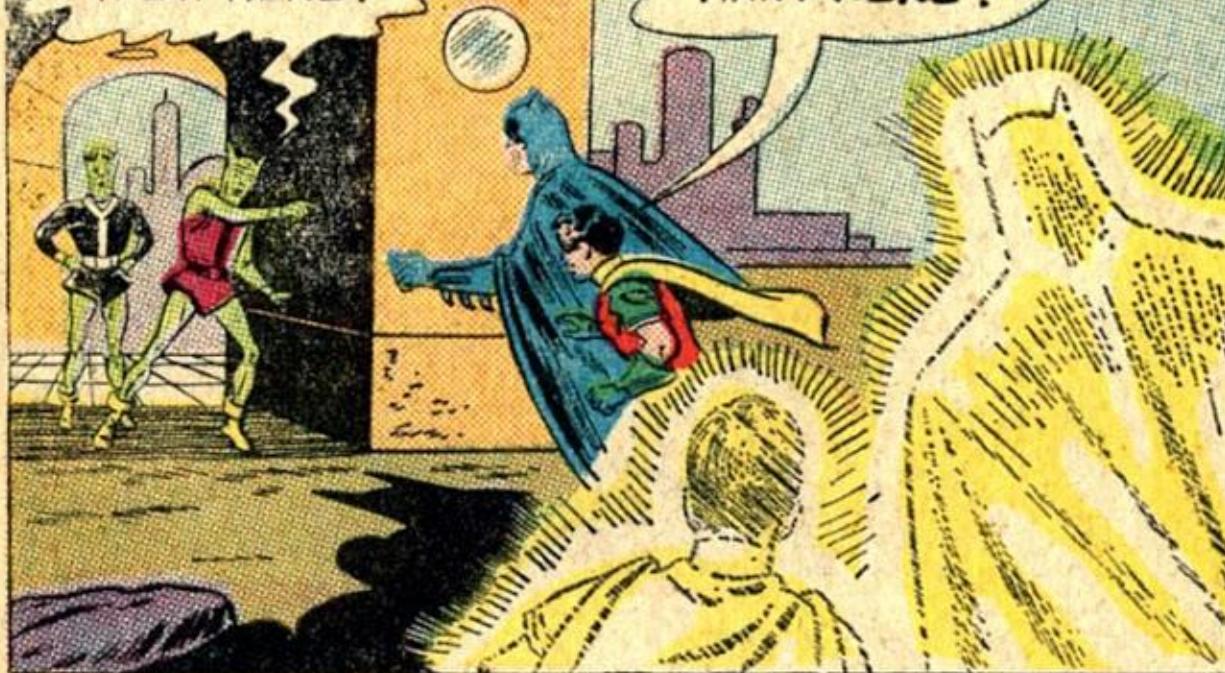




THEN, AS THEY NEAR THE REFUGE OF THE CITY...

BEHOLD! OUR **FORCE TWINS** HAVE ASSUMED THE SHAPE OF NATIVE PEOPLE AND PURSUE THEM HERE!

GREAT SCOTT! ALIENS FROM ANOTHER WORLD, COMMUNICATING WITH US BY SOME KIND OF TELEPATHY! WHAT CAN THEY WANT **HERE?**



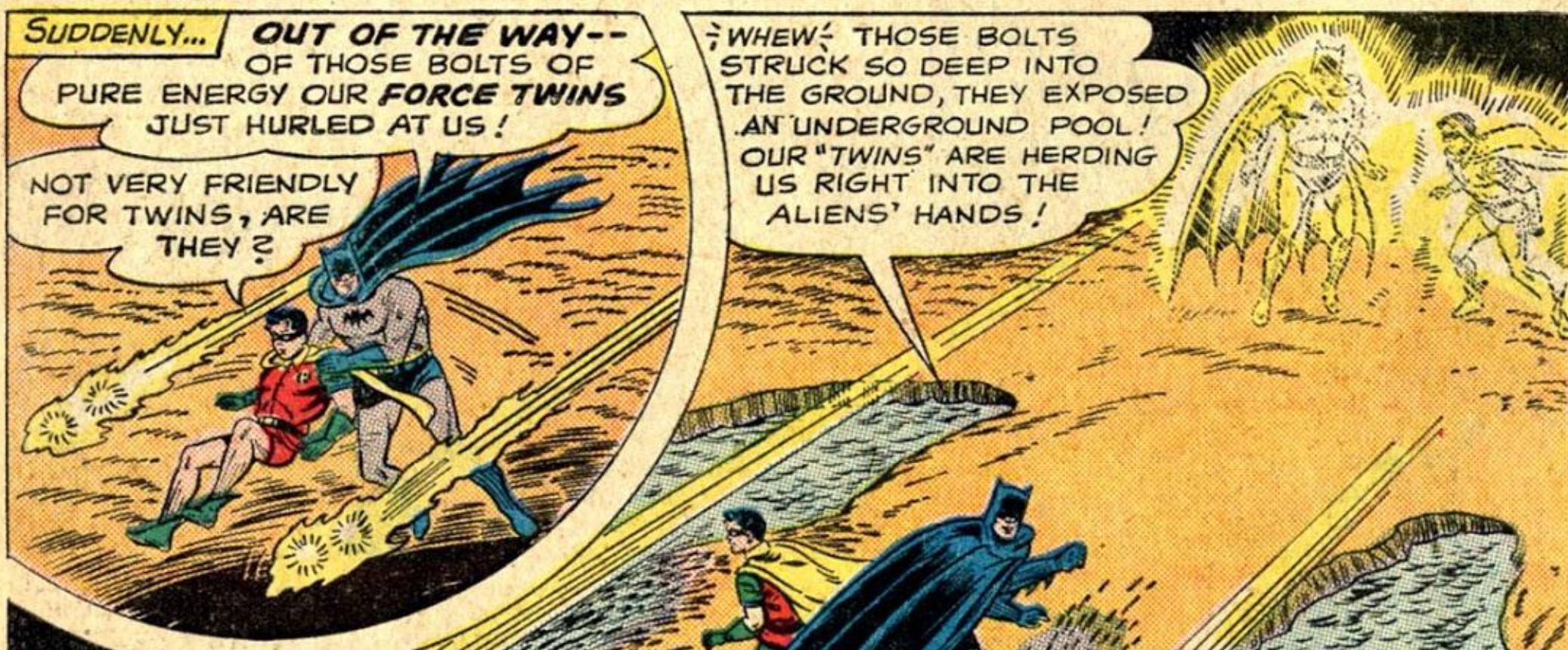
WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THAT OUT, IF WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THOSE **ELECTRONIC WATCHDOGS!** IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY, THEY WERE SET TO TAKE THE SHAPE OF INTRUDERS, BRING THEM INTO THE CITY, AND WARN THE ALIENS THAT THERE ARE TRESPASSERS!



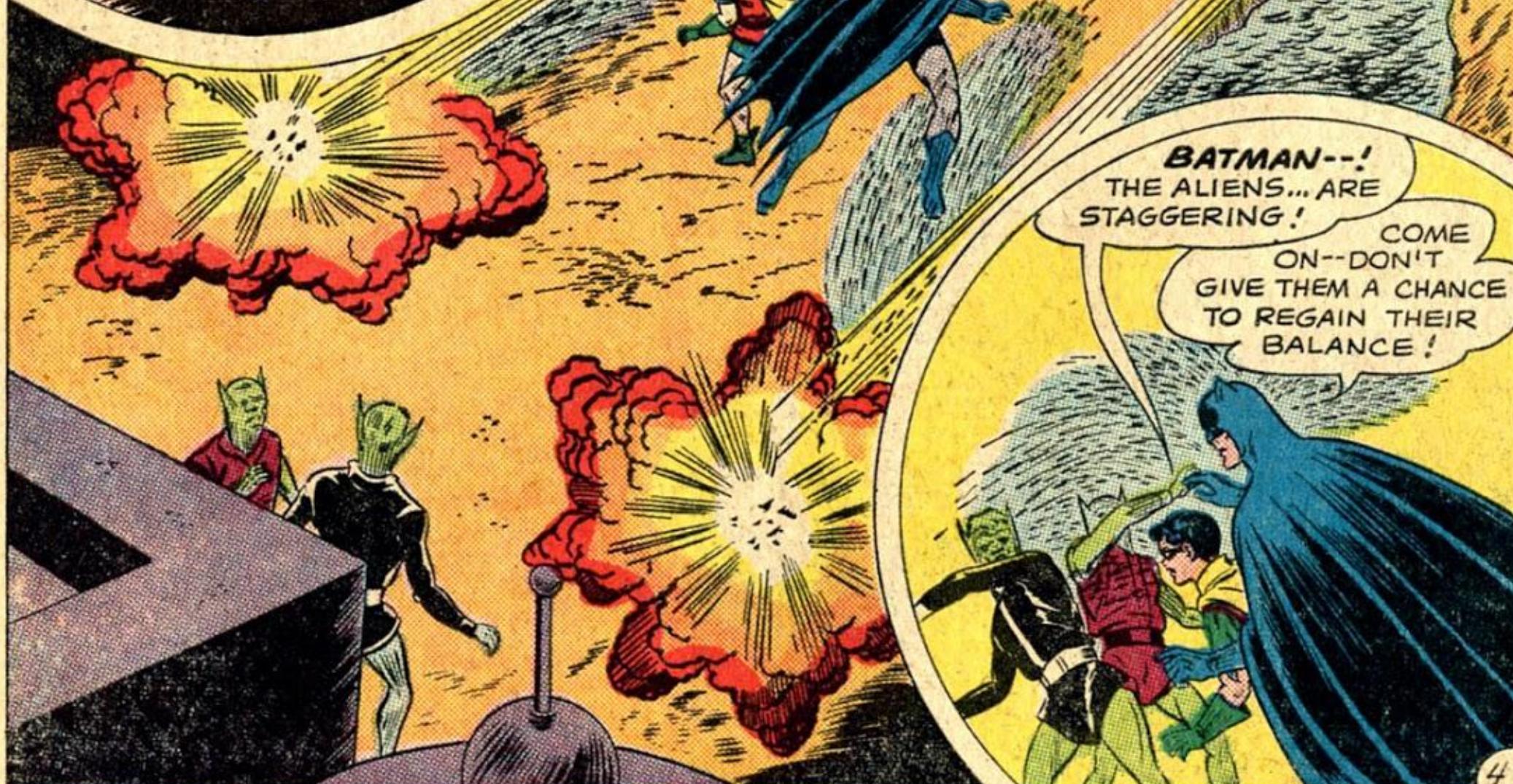
SUDDENLY... **OUT OF THE WAY--** OF THOSE BOLTS OF PURE ENERGY OUR **FORCE TWINS** JUST HURLED AT US!

NOT VERY FRIENDLY FOR TWINS, ARE THEY?

WHEW! THOSE BOLTS STRUCK SO DEEP INTO THE GROUND, THEY EXPOSED AN UNDERGROUND POOL! OUR "TWINS" ARE HERDING US RIGHT INTO THE ALIENS' HANDS!



BATMAN--!
THE ALIENS... ARE STAGGERING!
COME ON--DON'T GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO REGAIN THEIR BALANCE!



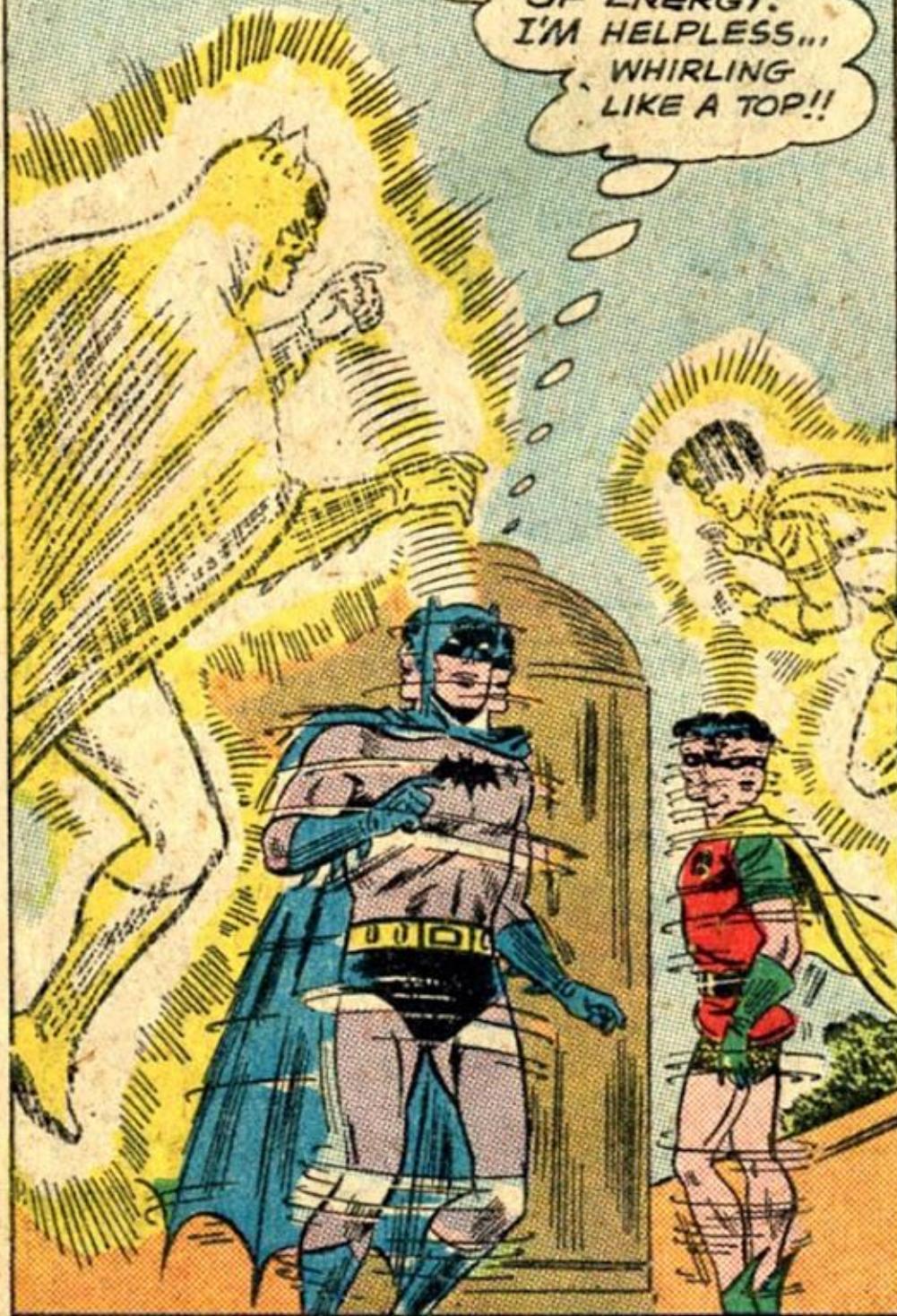


BATMAN



DESPERATELY, BATMAN'S EYES DART AROUND FOR AN AVENUE OF ESCAPE, WHEN...

OUR FORCE TWINS...
EMITTING SWIRLS
OF ENERGY!
I'M HELPLESS...
WHIRLING
LIKE A TOP!!



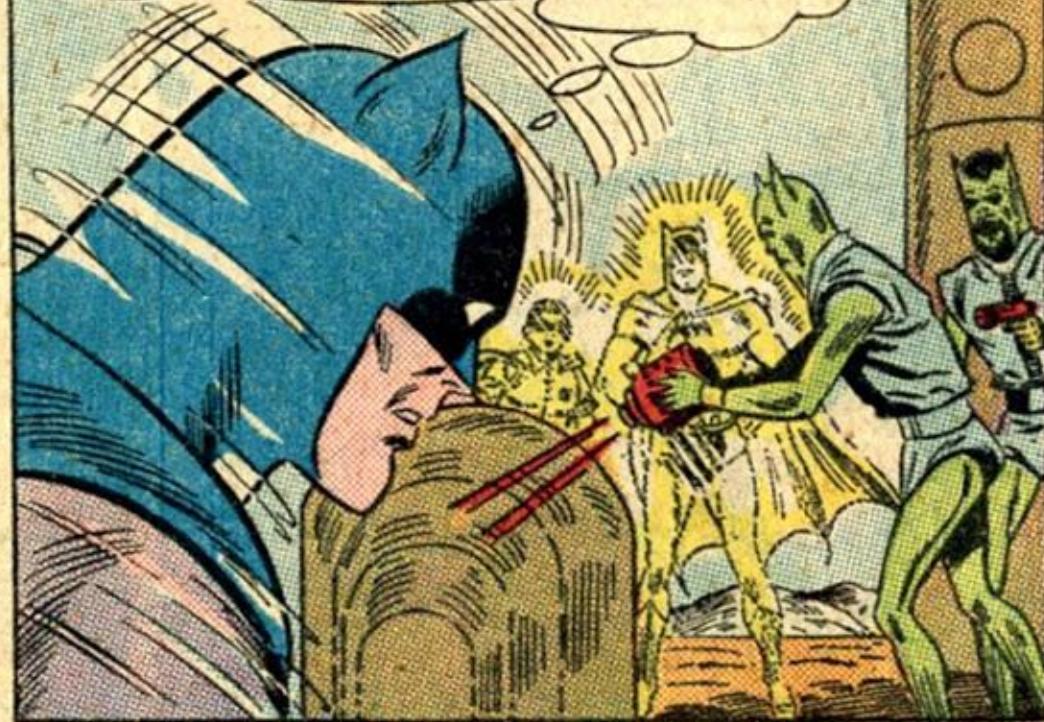
AS SUDDENLY AS THEY STARTED TO SPIN, THE TWO STOP, DAZED AND REELING... SO DIZZY...

HARD FOR ME TO
KEEP MY BALANCE!



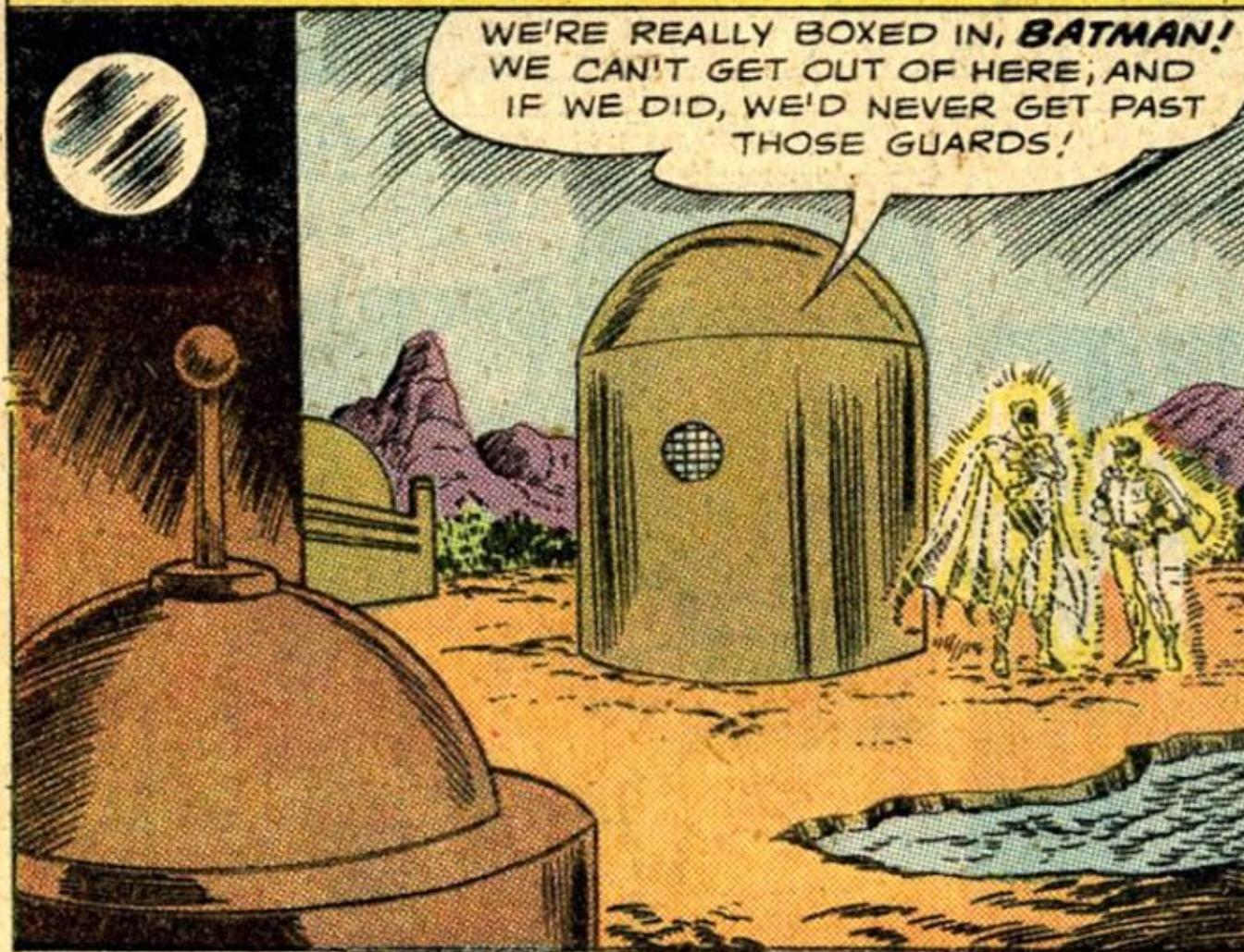
AND THEN, ANOTHER STUNNING SURPRISE...

HE'S USING AN **ENLARGING RAY** ON THAT TINY JAIL! SO THAT'S THE MEANS THEY USED TO TRANSPORT AN ENTIRE CITY HERE!



AFTER THE CAPED CRIMEFIGHTERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED...

WE'RE REALLY BOXED IN, **BATMAN**!
WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE, AND
IF WE DID, WE'D NEVER GET PAST
THOSE GUARDS!



HMM... THIS FLOOR IS MADE OF SOME KIND OF PLASTIC...
I HAVE A TERRIFIC IDEA!
LUCKY THEY DIDN'T TAKE
OUR UTILITY BELTS! LET'S
START DIGGING!



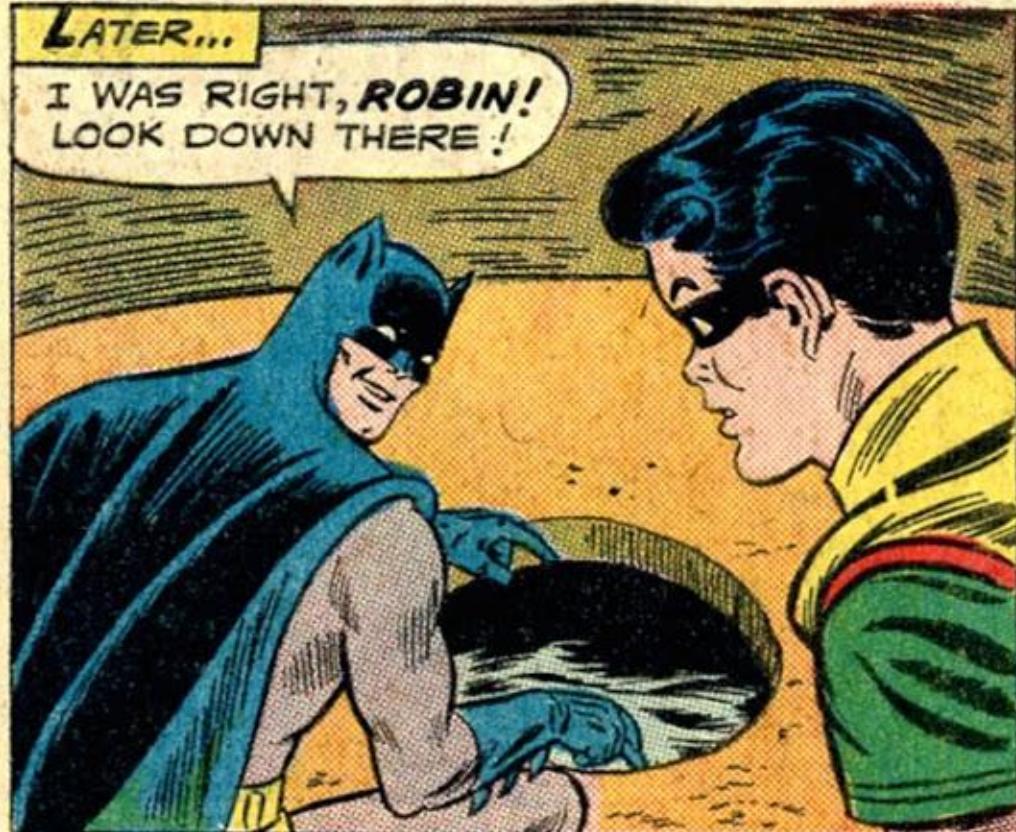


BATMAN

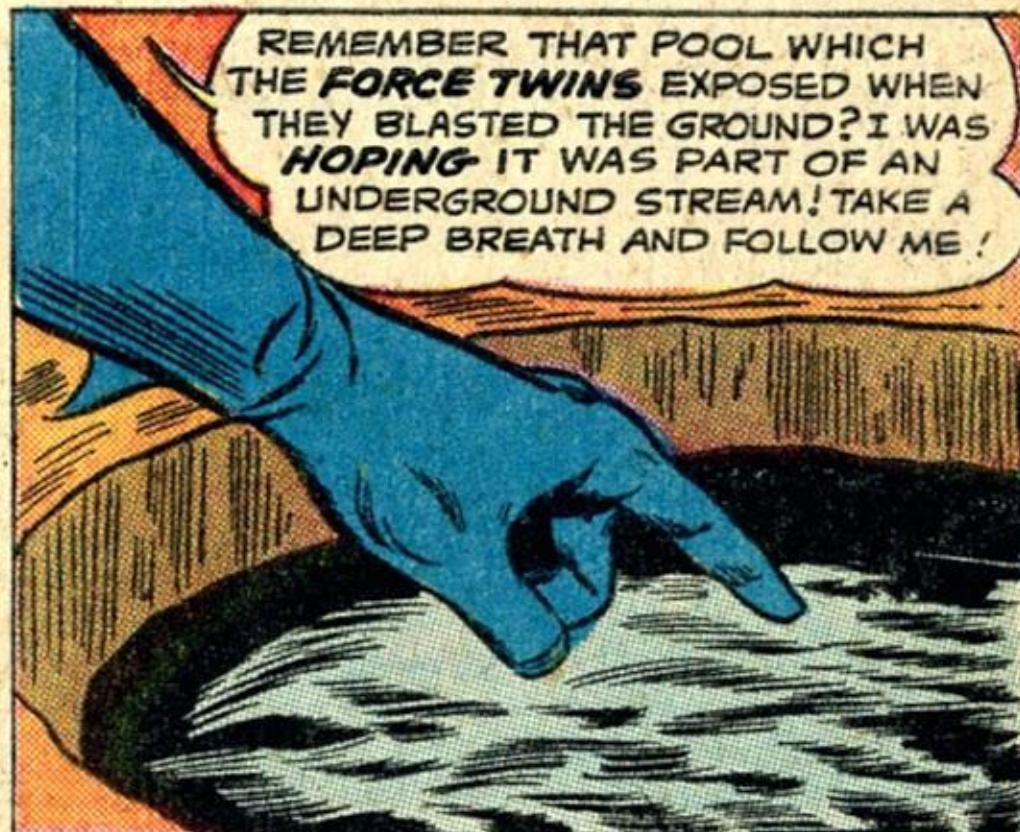


LATER...

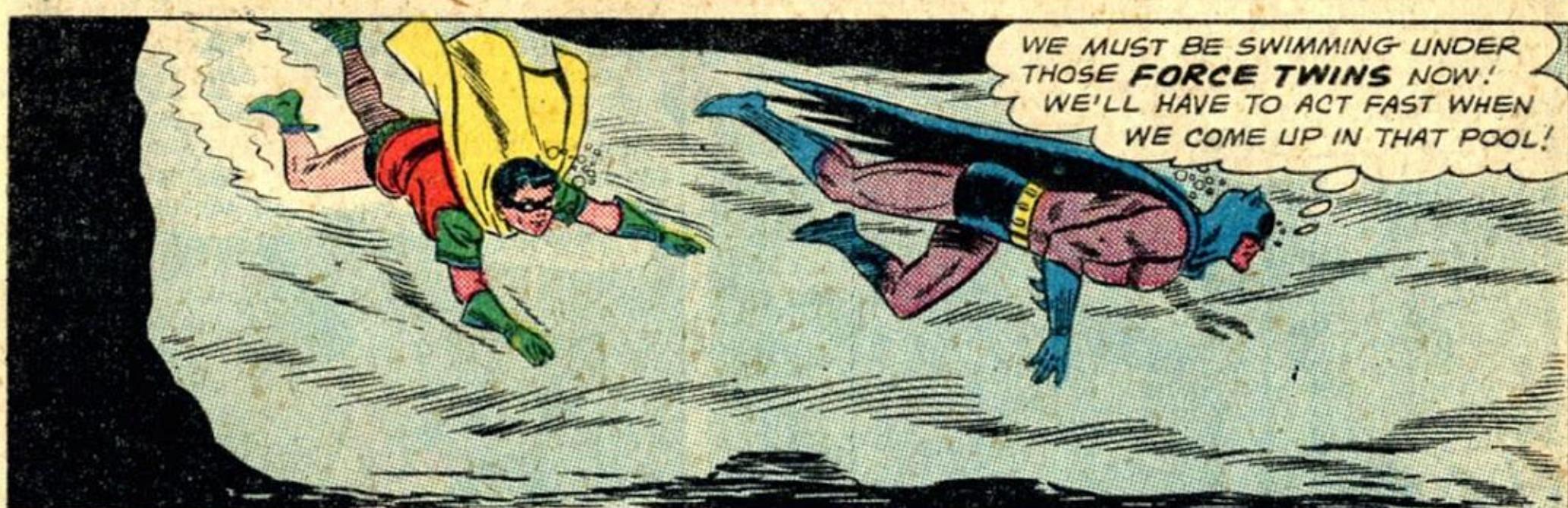
I WAS RIGHT, ROBIN!
LOOK DOWN THERE!



REMEMBER THAT POOL WHICH
THE **FORCE TWINS** EXPOSED WHEN
THEY BLASTED THE GROUND? I WAS
HOPING IT WAS PART OF AN
UNDERGROUND STREAM! TAKE A
DEEP BREATH AND FOLLOW ME!



WE MUST BE SWIMMING UNDER
THOSE **FORCE TWINS** NOW!
WE'LL HAVE TO ACT FAST WHEN
WE COME UP IN THAT POOL!



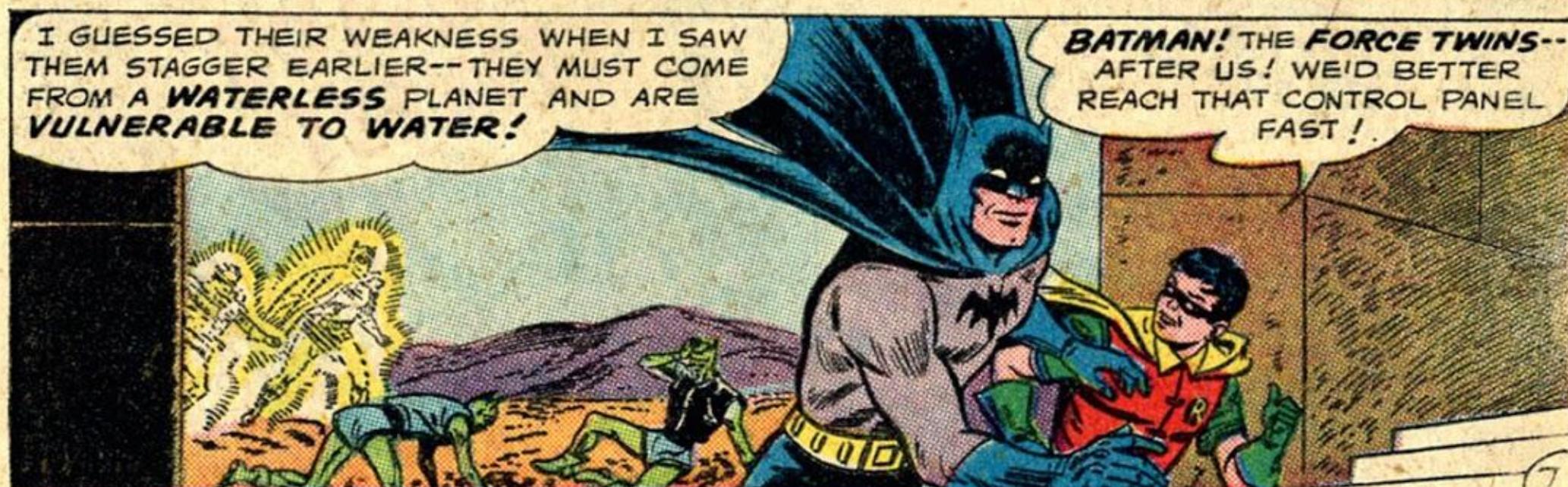
MOMENTS LATER...

DON'T BE AFRAID OF THOSE ALIENS,
ROBIN! JUST GET SOME DROPS OF
WATER ON THEM-- LIKE THIS!



I GUessed THEIR WEAKNESS WHEN I SAW
THEM STAGGER EARLIER-- THEY MUST COME
FROM A **WATERLESS** PLANET AND ARE
VULNERABLE TO WATER!

BATMAN! THE **FORCE TWINS**--
AFTER US! WE'D BETTER
REACH THAT CONTROL PANEL
FAST!



SCANT SECONDS LATER...

BATMAN!
QUICK! THE
SWITCH!



'WHEW! JUST IN TIME!
THEY'RE GONE... JUST LIKE
A LIGHT THAT'S BEEN
TURNED OUT!'

AND SO WILL THE
ALIENS BE, AS SOON
AS WORD OF OUR
VICTORY WITH THE
WATER GETS AROUND!



PRESENTLY, AFTER THE WEIRD VISITORS
HAVE REDUCED THEIR CITY AND LOADED
IT ABOARD THEIR SPACESHIP...

NOW THAT WE
KNOW THEIR
WEAKNESS, **THEY'LL**
NEVER BE BACK
AGAIN!

I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D BE SO HAPPY
TO SEE A DOUBLE
OF MINE LEAVE!



THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL
IS YOUR
Guarantee
OF THE **BEST**
IN COMICS
READING



Get



ON SALE
APR. 24th

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BATMAN ADVENTURES
in the latest issues of
BATMAN and
WORLD'S FINEST
COMICS



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Start me in as a GRIT salesman NC6-2
Name
Age Date Born Year
In care of
Street or R. D.
Post Office
Are You a Boy? State
Please Print Your Last Name Plainly Below

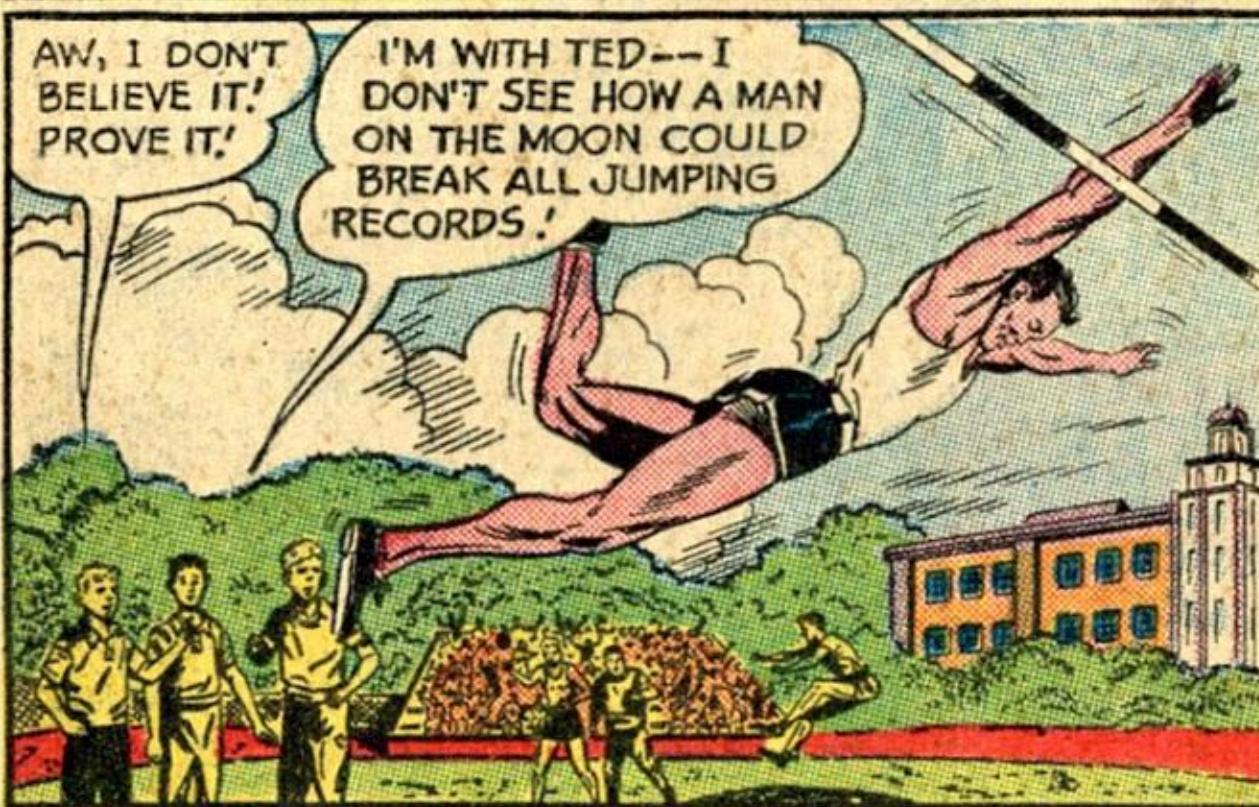


In an envelope or pasted on a postcard

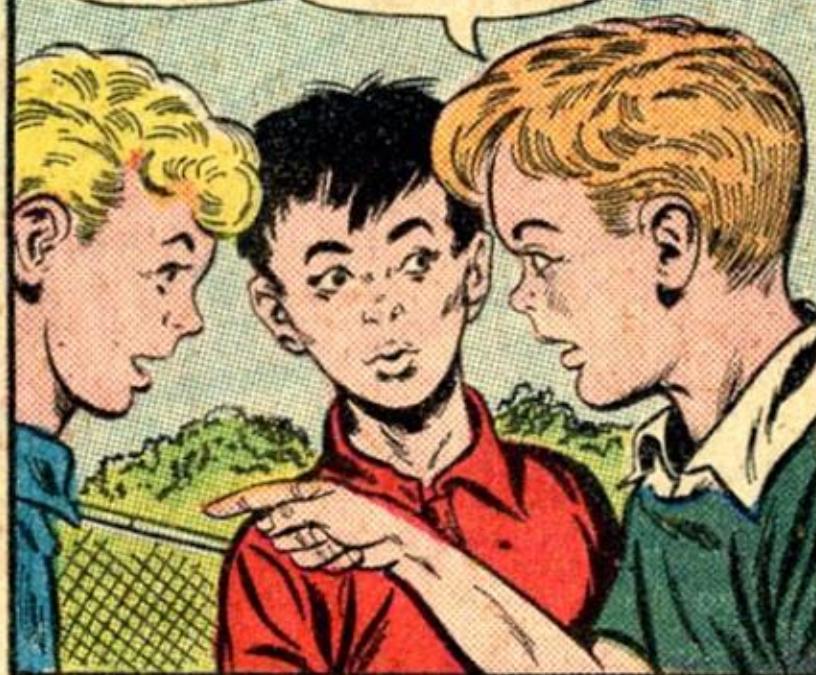
"Your Pass to New Worlds!"

AW, I DON'T BELIEVE IT! PROVE IT!

I'M WITH TED--I DON'T SEE HOW A MAN ON THE MOON COULD BREAK ALL JUMPING RECORDS!



ALL RIGHT...RIGHT AFTER THE TRACK MEET, I'LL SHOW YOU!



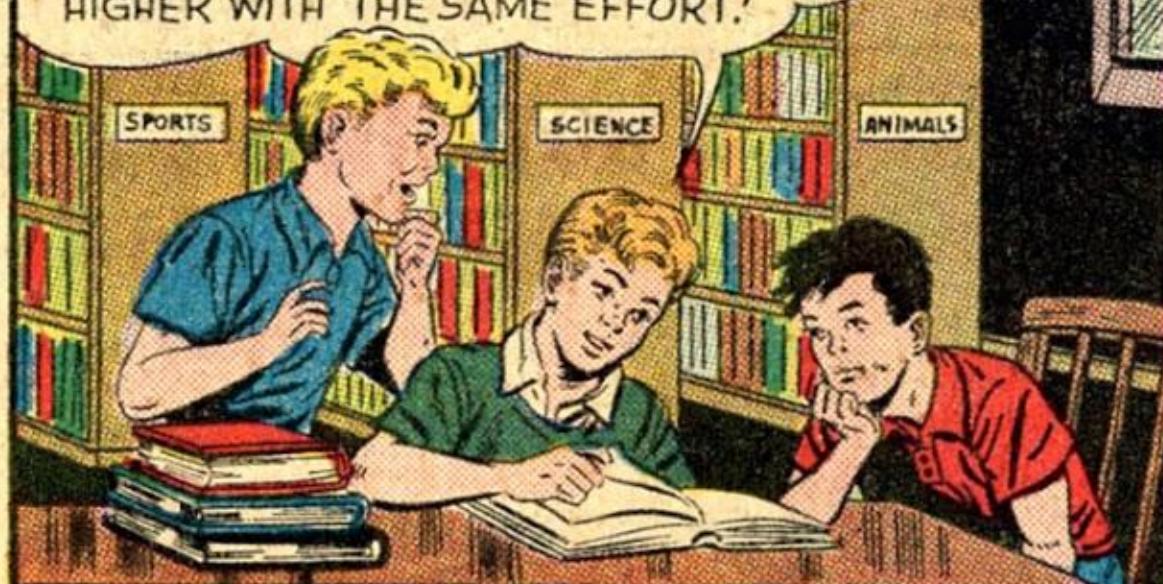
LATER...

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, FRANK?

TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY! THEY'VE GOT A TERRIFIC BOOK I JUST FINISHED READING--ALL ABOUT THE MOON!



THERE, SEE? IT'S THE **FORCE OF GRAVITY** THAT PULLS YOU BACK TO EARTH--AND ON THE MOON IT'S SIX TIMES **LESS** THAN ON EARTH! THAT MEANS A MAN COULD JUMP MUCH FURTHER AND HIGHER WITH THE SAME EFFORT!



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!... SAY, THIS BOOK LOOKS PRETTY INTERESTING -- I'D LIKE TO READ IT!

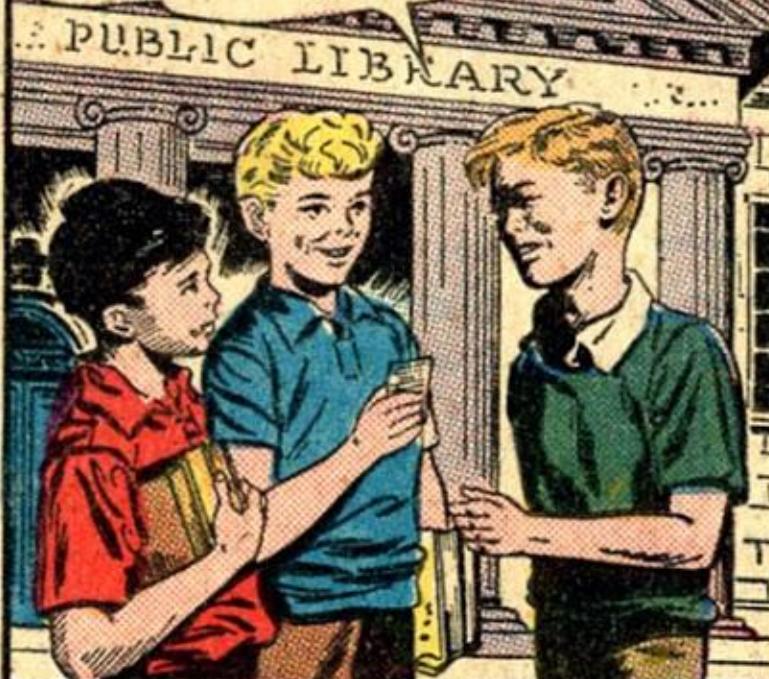
WHY DON'T YOU GET A LIBRARY CARD? YOU CAN TAKE THE BOOK HOME WITH YOU!



I'D LIKE TO GET A CARD, TOO! I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE LIBRARY WAS PRETTY DULL--I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD SUCH SWELL BOOKS!



YOU HAVE A REAL TREAT AHEAD FOR YOU! AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE MOON FOR IT, EITHER!



BIG-BIG-BIG NEWS

**ABOUT
A
SMALL-SMALL-SMALL SUPER-HERO**

A SMASHING SUCCESS
in SHOWCASE,
The **ATOM**

HAS WON THE
RIGHT TO APPEAR IN A
MAGAZINE OF HIS OWN!

The WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO
EXPLODES INTO ACTION IN THIS POWER-PACKED ISSUE...

ATOM
12¢

ATOM - IN HIS OWN MAGAZINE...
BY THE CRADLE COMICS CO.

IF MY VENUS'S-
FLYTRAP CAN OVERCOME
THE MIGHTY ATOM,
THEN NOTHING WILL
STAND IN THE WAY OF
MY PLANT-CONQUEST
OF EARTH!

ON SALE
EVERWHERE
APRIL 24th

STARRING THE WORLD'S
SMALLEST SUPER-HERO
**MASTER of the
PLANT-WORLD**





BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

IT TAKES A LOT TO BE ROBIN! COURAGE, INGENUITY, AGILITY, GREAT ATHLETIC PROWESS... THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TRAITS THE BOY WONDER NEEDS! WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE ELSE TRIES TO PLAY THE ROLE IS THE AMAZING TALE OF...

THE BOY WHO WAS ROBIN

WHAT--? THAT PHONY ROBIN SENT THE REAL ONE FLYING UP TO ME!

BOB KANE



ONE AFTERNOON, A SERIOUS CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR MY YOUNG COUSIN, VANDERVEER WAYNE, TO SPEND A WEEK HERE! WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO GUARD THE SECRET OF OUR BATMAN AND ROBIN IDENTITIES!

I SHALL BE THE SOUL OF CAUTION, SIR!

YOU CAN RELY ON ME, BRUCE!



ALFRED AND DICK CERTAINLY MEAN WHAT THEY SAY--BUT FATE CAN TAKE SOME STRANGE TWISTS!

LATER, AS THE SCION OF A SUPER-FASHIONABLE FAMILY ARRIVES...

DICK, OLD CHAP!... GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! HMM-- THAT JACKET OF YOURS... IT'S VERY NICE BUT LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED! I'LL GIVE YOU THE NAME OF MY TAILOR... ABSOLUTELY THE BEST IN GOTHAM CITY!

WHY--
ER--
THANKS,
VAN...



AND AFTERWARD, AS DICK ENTERTAINS HIS GUEST...

HMM... NOT A BAD PASS, DICK--BUT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE! I'M CHAMP OF MY FENCING CLUB, YOU KNOW!

WHEW! IT LOOKS AS IF VAN HAS TO BE BEST IN EVERYTHING! IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK, TO CONCEAL MY SECRET IDENTITY!

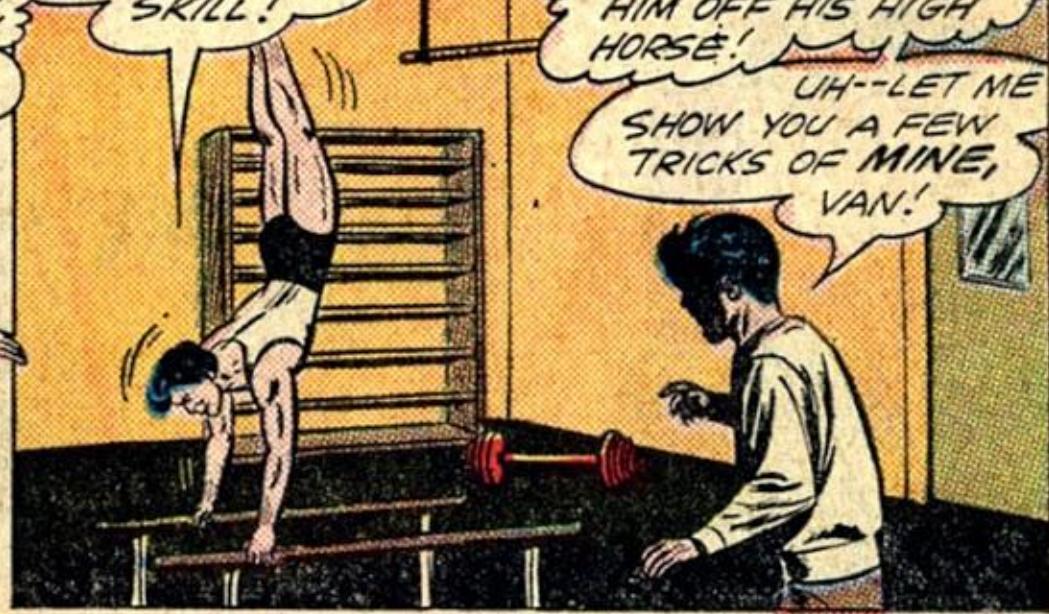


BUT NEXT DAY, IN THE WELL-EQUIPPED WAYNE GYM...

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS? MY PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR SAYS NO ONE SURPASSES ME IN GYMNASTIC SKILL!

OH-H... HE'S GETTING ON MY NERVES! A WEEK OF THIS WILL BE TOO MUCH... I'VE GOT TO KNOCK HIM OFF HIS HIGH HORSE!

UH--LET ME SHOW YOU A FEW TRICKS OF MINE, VAN!



AND AS DICK, SECRETLY THE INCOMPARABLE ROBIN, GOES THROUGH A SERIES OF SPARKLING ACROBATIC FEATS...

THIS'LL SHOW HIM UP, ONCE AND FOR ALL--
GOLLY!... VAN'S ACTUALLY ON THE VERGE OF TEARS! HE CAN'T STAND BEING BESTED!



BUT DICK'S TRIUMPH IS SHORT-LIVED-- FOR WHEN HE IS ALONE WITH BRUCE...

IF YOU SHOW OFF LIKE THAT A FEW MORE TIMES, YOU'LL CERTAINLY GIVE OUR IDENTITIES AWAY!

GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT, BRUCE. I WAS RASH! I JUST COULDN'T STAND HIS BEING SO SUPERIOR... I'M SORRY!





BATMAN



YES, DICK HAS BEEN INCAUTIOUS--BUT THAT'S MILD COMPARED TO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT MORNING, WHEN HE AND VAN RETURN FROM HORSEBACK RIDING...



...AND MAKE SURE TO RETURN THEM TO THE ACME COSTUME RENTAL COMPANY, AFTER DICK AND I WEAR THEM TO THAT MASQUERADE BALL NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT!

THAT'S QUICK THINKING ON BRUCE'S PART! LUCKILY, THERE IS A BALL NEXT WEEK!



LATER THAT AFTERNOON...

I'VE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR VANDERVEER, BRUCE, AND CAN'T FIND HIM! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE?

GOSH, NO!



AH, I SEE THOSE BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES HAVE ARRIVED! HANG THEM UP IN OUR BEDROOM, ALFRED...



HOWEVER, VANDERVEER HAS ALSO BEEN THINKING, AND BRUCE AND DICK WOULD BE AMAZED TO DISCOVER JUST WHAT THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN RACING THROUGH HIS MIND...

HMM--THOSE COSTUMES... THEY'VE GIVEN ME A FASCINATING IDEA!



WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOW, THOUGH... WE'RE ALREADY LATE FOR THE EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY THE READ-A-GOOD-BOOK COMMITTEE!

YES... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT HIM!





BATMAN



SHORTLY, AT THE EXHIBIT...



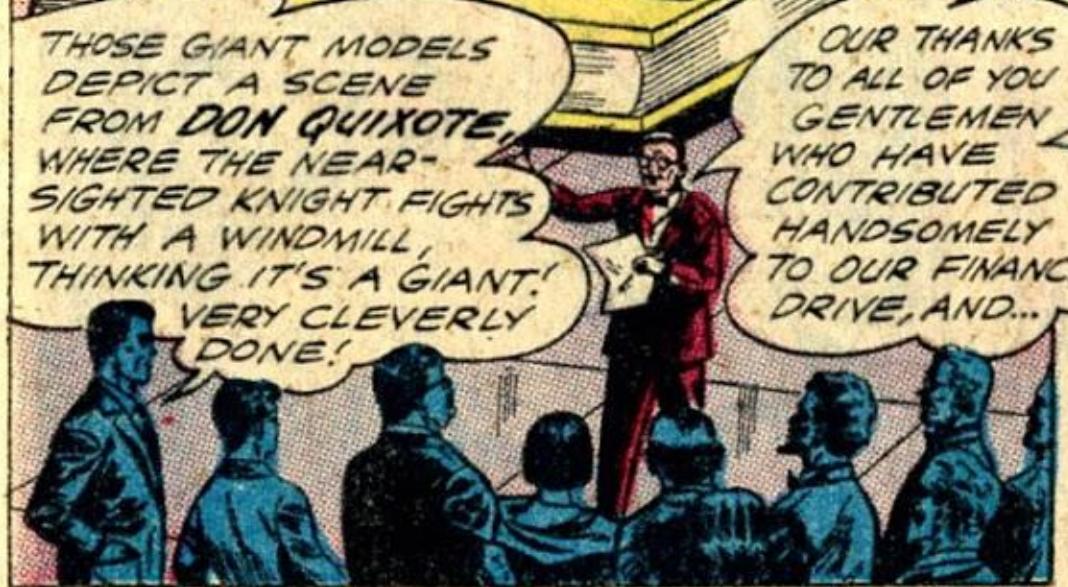
SUDDENLY...

THAT WINDOW--BURSTING INTO FLAMES! IT MIGHT BE THE HEAT OF THE SUN'S RAYS, REFLECTED OFF THAT BRIGHT SHIELD! WE'D BETTER SWITCH SECRETLY TO OUR BATMAN AND ROBIN IDENTITIES, BEFORE THE FIRE SPREADS!

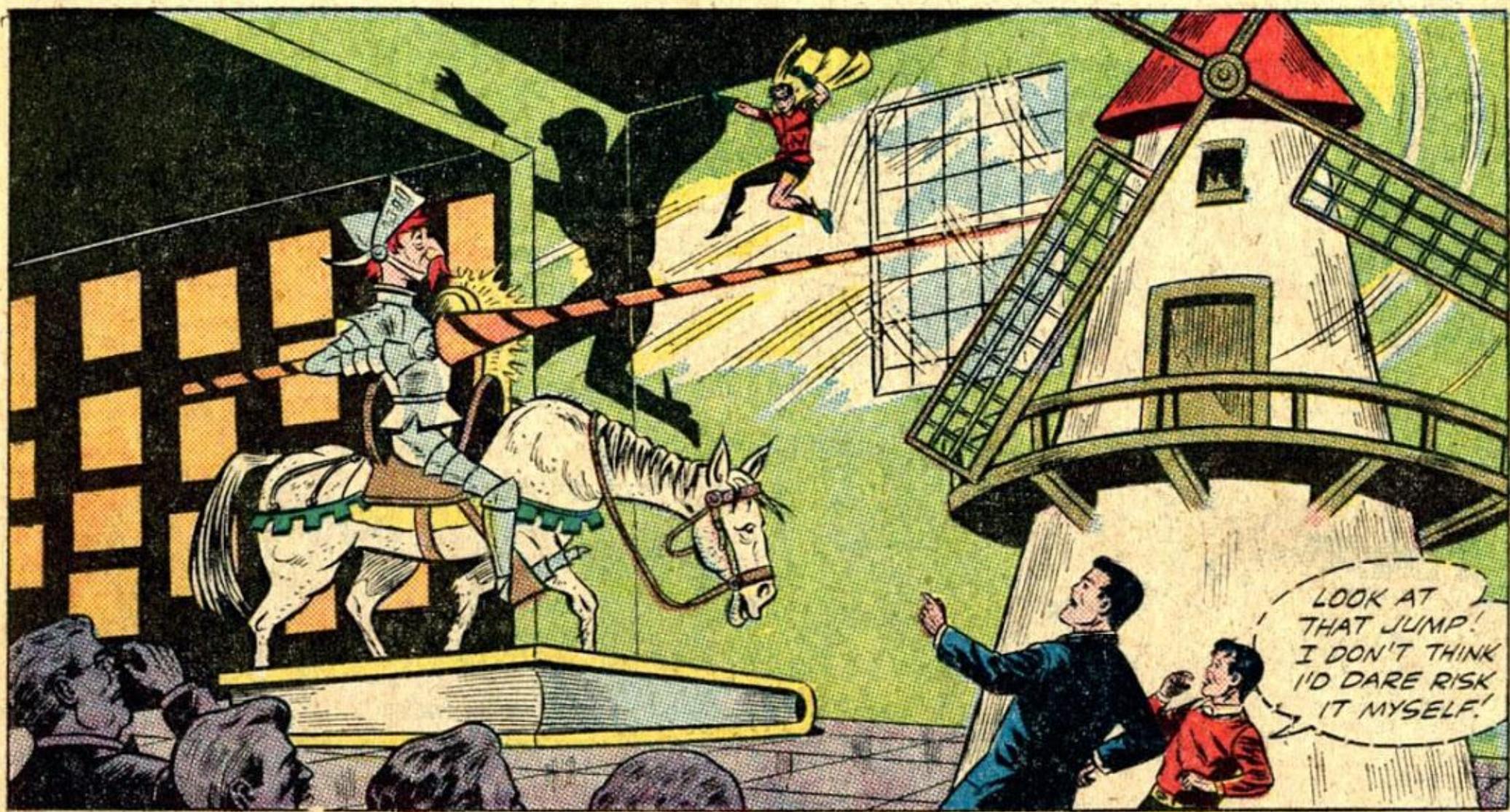


BUT, THE VERY NEXT INSTANT...

GREAT SCOTT! ANOTHER BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM!



BATMAN



SNARING THE LANCE WITH INCREDIBLE AGILITY, THE MYSTERY BOY MAKES HIS WAY TO THE GLISTENING SHIELD, WHERE...

SANDPAPER, RUBBED ON THAT SHIELD, WILL DULL THE REFLECTION SO IT WON'T START ANY MORE FIRES!
WHO IS THIS INCREDIBLE TEAM?



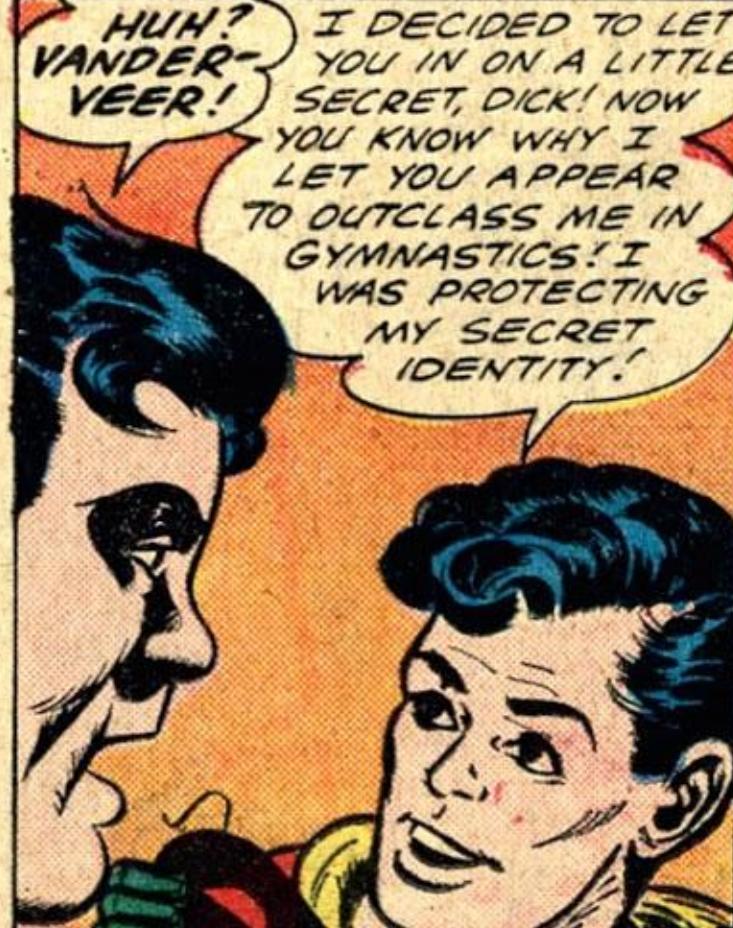
AFTERWARD, TO DICK'S AMAZEMENT...

THAT "ROBIN"... HE'S WALKING OVER HERE-- TO ME! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



HUH?
VANDER-
VEER!

I DECIDED TO LET YOU IN ON A LITTLE SECRET, DICK! NOW YOU KNOW WHY I LET YOU APPEAR TO OUTCLASS ME IN GYMNASTICS! I WAS PROTECTING MY SECRET IDENTITY!



HE BORROWED OUR COSTUMES AND GOT SOMEONE TO PLAY THE PART OF BATMAN, JUST TO PROVE TO ME THAT HE WAS BETTER IN GYMNASTICS! HOW IRONIC THAT HE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE ME THAT HE'S ROBIN!



LATER, WHEN ALL THE OTHERS HAVE LEFT...

JUST AS I SUSPECTED... THEY MUST HAVE COME EARLIER AND SET THIS SCENE UP! THERE'S A THIN, ALMOST INVISIBLE WIRE LEADING TO THE MILL... THAT'S HOW VAN "LEAPED!" THEY SET THE FIRE THEMSELVES, WITH A POWERFUL LENS!

WE CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS... WE'LL HAVE TO TEACH HIM A LESSON!

BUT FATE ITSELF IS TEACHING VAN A LESSON-- IN THE APARTMENT OF HIS PAID ACCOMPLICE, EX-VAUDEVILLE ACROBAT "JUMPY" REGAN...

WE SURE FOOLED 'EM, KID, BUT I'VE GOT BIGGER IDEAS! BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE SOME KIDS THROUGH THE STUART ICE CREAM PLANT... WE'LL GET THERE FIRST AND SNAG THE PAYROLL!

NOT ME, JUMPY! I WAS WILLING TO PLAY A HOAX--BUT THAT'S WHERE I DRAW THE LINE!

WELL, I DRAW THE LINE HERE, AT THE POINT OF YOUR CHIN! I'LL LOCK YOU IN, AND GO MYSELF, AS BATMAN!

MEANWHILE, AT THE WAYNE MANSION...

NO, MASTER BRUCE, VANDERVEER HASN'T RETURNED! HOWEVER, I HAVE A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS! I FELT SO BAD ABOUT THAT LITTLE INDISCRETION OF MINE THAT I... ER-KIND OF EAVESDROPPED ON HIM...

...AND HEARD HIM CALL A THEATRICAL AGENCY AND ASK FOR A WELL-MUSCLED ACROBAT! THEY REFERRED HIM TO A MR. JUMPY REGAN!

WHAT? GOOD WORK, ALFRED... YOU'VE MADE UP FOR YOUR SLIP!

REGAN HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD... VAN COULD BE IN REAL DANGER! IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN TO GET INTO ACTION! WE'LL START BY CHECKING EVERY PLACE WHERE WE'RE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR TODAY!



BATMAN



BUT AT THIS VERY INSTANT, IN THE STUART ICE CREAM PLANT...

I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THE RIVER MOB IS AFTER YOUR PAYROLL! MIND IF I... ER... CHECK UP BEFORE I START MY TOUR?

THEY'LL LEAVE ME ALONE, AND BURGLAR TOOLS IN MY PHONY UTILITY BELT WILL KNOCK THAT SAFE OPEN IN A JIFFY!

GLAD TO HAVE YOU DO IT, BATMAN! THE SAFE IS OUT THERE... ON THE BALCONY ABOVE THE DISPLAY ROOM!

MEANWHILE, LOCKED IN REGAN'S APARTMENT...

MY STUPID PRIDE CERTAINLY CAUSED A MESS OF TROUBLE! IF I COULD ONLY GET OUT OF THIS ROOM, I COULD-- WAIT!

THAT CORNICE ON THE ROOF THERE...

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

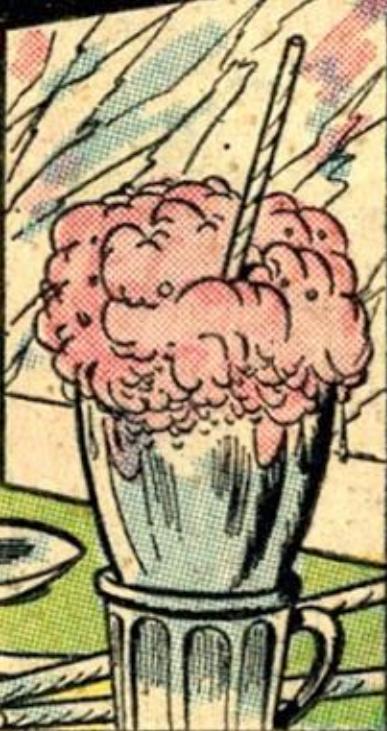
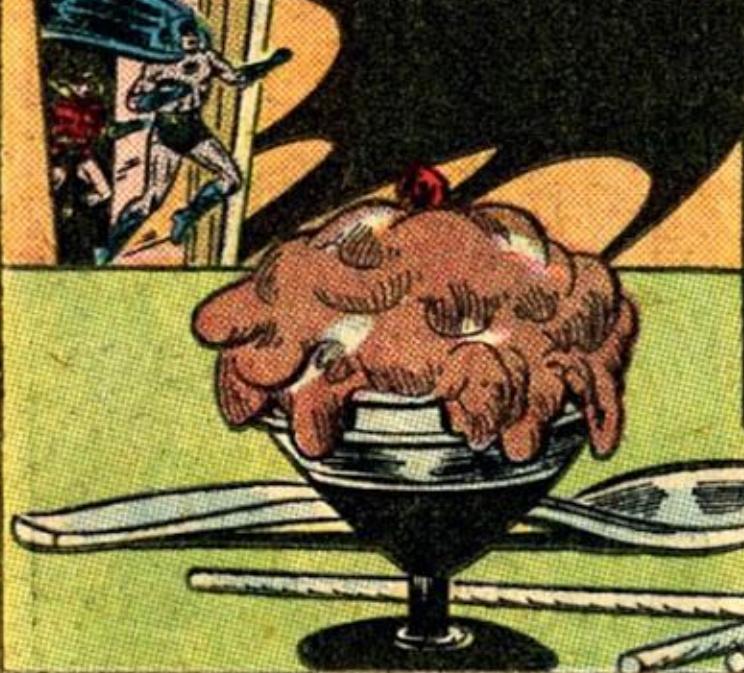
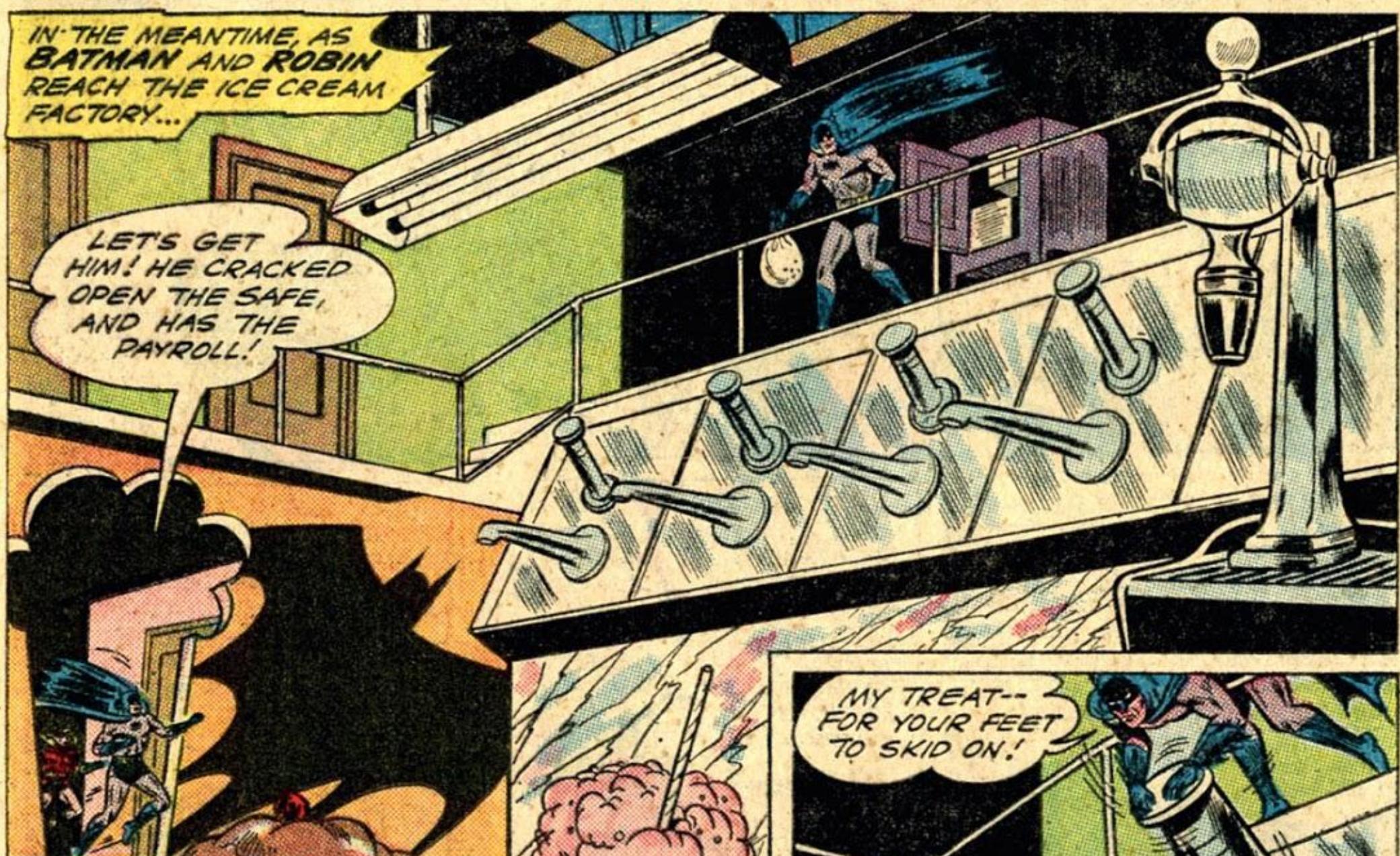
WITH ROPE FROM THE WINDOW BLINDS, VANDERVEER TIES A NOOSE, LASOSES THE PROJECTING CORNICE OF THE NEIGHBORING ROOF, AND...

AHH... THE REAL ROBIN WOULD BE PROUD OF ME, NOW!



IN THE MEANTIME, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN REACH THE ICE CREAM FACTORY...

LET'S GET HIM! HE CRACKED OPEN THE SAFE, AND HAS THE PAYROLL!



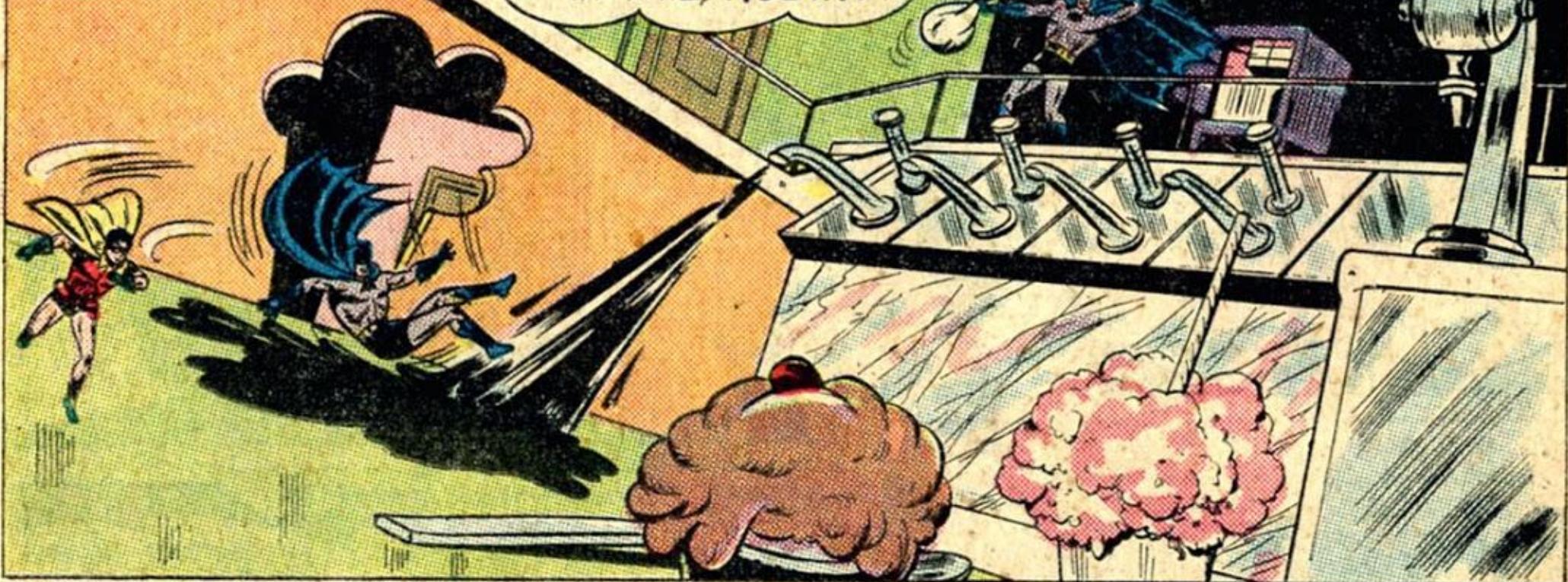


BATMAN



AND AS BATMAN
SLIPS ON THE THICK
SYRUP...

NOW TO MAKE MY GETAWAY
WITH THIS LOOT! YOU'LL
NEVER REACH ME
IN TIME, ROBIN!



BUT THIS
ROBIN WILL,
REGAN!

AS THE ENRAGED IMPOSTOR GOES FOR VANDERVEER...

DON'T TRY TO FIGHT HIM! JUMP--
INTO THAT GIANT SPOON RIGHT
BELOW YOU!



AS VANDERVEER LEAPS DOWN...

UP I
GO...



THE BOY WONDER GRASPS THE OVERHEAD
LIGHT, AND...



HE'S GOING TO
SHOOT AT
BATMAN--I'LL
HAVE TO KNOCK
THAT GUN OUT
OF HIS HAND...



...AND GIVE HIM
A GOOD WHIPPING
BESIDES!



LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION...

NICE WORK, VANDERVEER!
ACCORDING TO WHAT
BATMAN TOLD ME, YOU
MAY ONE DAY BE GOOD
ENOUGH TO TAKE
ROBIN'S PLACE
FOR REAL!

IF ANYONE TAKES
ROBIN'S PLACE,
IT'LL BE YOU,
DICK!

HMM...
IT LOOKS AS
IF VAN HAS
LEARNED HIS
LESSON BY
HIMSELF!



THE END

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN 12¢

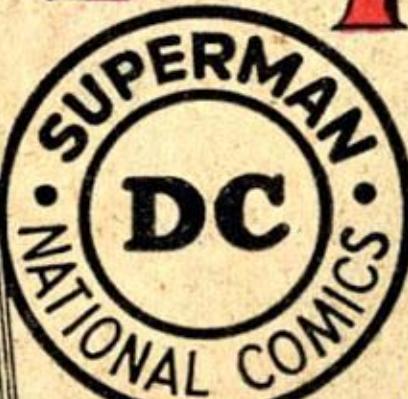
JULY 1962 APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

Featuring "SECRET of the SPACE SPECTACULAR!" ALSO "DEATH CROWNED THE CHALLENGER KING!"

ON SALE APR. 12TH

THAT AQUA-BEAST IS SHOOTING STEAM AND BLASTS AT US--AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS BLIND CANYON!

For The VERY BEST



in
COMICS
READING

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED 12¢

JULY 1962 APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

"The Betrayal of SPACE RANGER!"

SPACE RANGER IS THE MAN YOU WANT--HE'S PLOTTING TO DESTROY YOUR WORLD!

GREAT STARS! MY OWN ASSISTANT, CRYLL, FALSELY ACCUSING ME OF A TERRIBLE CRIME!

ON SALE APR. 12TH

CASEY

THE COP



OH, YOU MEAN 'CAUSE
I'M CARRYING THIS
CASE?

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK -

BUT I'M GOING TO PLAY
BASEBALL!



BE MY GUEST AT
PALISADES AMUSEMENT
PARK, NEW JERSEY.

THIS COUPON ENTITLES YOU TO
FREE ADMISSION
PLUS 2 **FREE RIDES**...
ACTS AND PARKING!



ADMIT ONE (1) To
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ADMIT ONE
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ADMIT ONE
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WORTH
65¢

THIS COUPON
APPEARS IN ALL
JUNE and JULY
ISSUES

Letters to the BAT-CAVE



Dear Editor: Rutland, Vermont, a community of some 18,000 people, had the fun and excitement of BATMAN featured in its past Hallowe'en festivities. The Rutland Recreation Department, headed by John W. Cioffredi, sponsored a parade with over 1,000 marchers. Included in the float lineup was one depicting BATMAN.

Our "Batman" (who, like your hero, prefers to remain unidentified, and who has read the feature since its beginning) suggested the idea for the float. Hours were spent fashioning a costume, and drawing and painting a seven-foot square poster depicting BATMAN and BAT-MITE.

Band members pounded on drums, shouting "Hi, BATMAN!" or "I don't see that spotlight in the sky!" or "Where's ROBIN?" As the float passed by, several fathers, holding children too small to march, pointed to the black-caped mystery man, saying, "That's BATMAN. I used to read about him. He looks just like he does in the comic books."

I don't know how many BATMAN comics were sold the next day, in Rutland, but this still proves BATMAN and ROBIN are popular figures.

Tom Fagan, Rutland, Vt.

Committeeman, Rutland Recreation Dept.

(*Our thanks to all our fans in Rutland. We hope to continue bringing you the stories that have made BATMAN and ROBIN such popular figures everywhere.—Ed.*)

Dear Editor: You story, "THE MENACE OF CLAY-FACE," was one of the greatest. Will CLAY-FACE ever come back to battle BATMAN and ROBIN?

David Olson, Forest City, Iowa

(*We'll be bringing you "THE RETURN OF CLAY-FACE" in the JUNE issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 304.—Ed.*)

Dear Editor: To confuse an investigation, criminals sometimes wear trick gloves containing phony fingerprints. Has BATMAN ever been fooled this way?

Abbe Funt, Phoenix, Ariz.

(*It's been tried on BATMAN—to no avail. Real fingerprints always include a small residue of perspiration, which can be detected chemically, even after it dries up.—Ed.*)

Dear Editor: Recently, a friend of mine got lost in a strange woods. Because he had no compass, and the sun was hidden by clouds, he was unable to tell directions. He kept going around in circles, until a rescue party found him, hours later. I'm sure every camper would like to know how BATMAN would handle himself in a similar predicament.

Al Davidson, Roanoke, N. C.

(*One sure way out is by following the trees. BATMAN, like all experienced woodsmen, knows that moss only grows on the north side of trees. Once this direction is established, the rest is easy.—Ed.*)

Dear Editor: BATMAN and ROBIN once trapped a burglar by spotting particles of a smashed window pane outside the premises. I forget, though, how this simple clue led them to their man. Can you recall it?

Mary McCarthy, Santa Barbara, Calif.

(*The solution to that case was the result of a simple but clever deduction by the caped crime-fighters: One of the robbed victims claimed he had seen the burglar break in through the window. BATMAN and ROBIN reasoned, therefore, that the shattered glass should have been inside the house. Caught in this lie, the "victim" admitted to the crime, by which he'd hoped to collect insurance money. He'd made the mistake of smashing the window from the inside.—Ed.*)

Dear Editor: You once ran a story in which BATMAN attained super-powers. Has the same thing ever happened to ROBIN?

Will Barnes, Cleveland, Ohio

(*Yes, it has—and you'll be reading all about it in the AUGUST issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 149, where BATMAN'S junior partner becomes "ROBIN, THE SUPER BOY WONDER!"—Ed.*)



BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

OVER THE YEARS, THE JOKER, GRINNING CLOWN OF CRIME, HAS ENGAGED IN A RUNNING DUEL OF WITS WITH HIS ENEMY, BATMAN! BUT THE SEESAW BATTLE BETWEEN ARCH-CRIMINAL AND CRIME-FIGHTER IS NOW ABOUT TO END FOR ALL TIME, AS BATMAN FACES THE SHATTERING DILEMMA WHICH, WIN OR LOSE, CAN ONLY END IN...

the JOKER'S GREATEST TRIUMPH

NOW TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FACE BEHIND THAT MASK! WHY SHOULD THE JOKER BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY?

BOB KALE



ONE DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

THE PACKAGE CAME BY MESSENGER, ADDRESSED TO YOU, BATMAN! I'M AFRAID YOUR OLD ENEMY, THE JOKER, IS ON THE LOOSE AGAIN!

HMM... SOUNDS TO ME LIKE ANOTHER ONE OF HIS CHALLENGES TO A DUEL OF WITS!

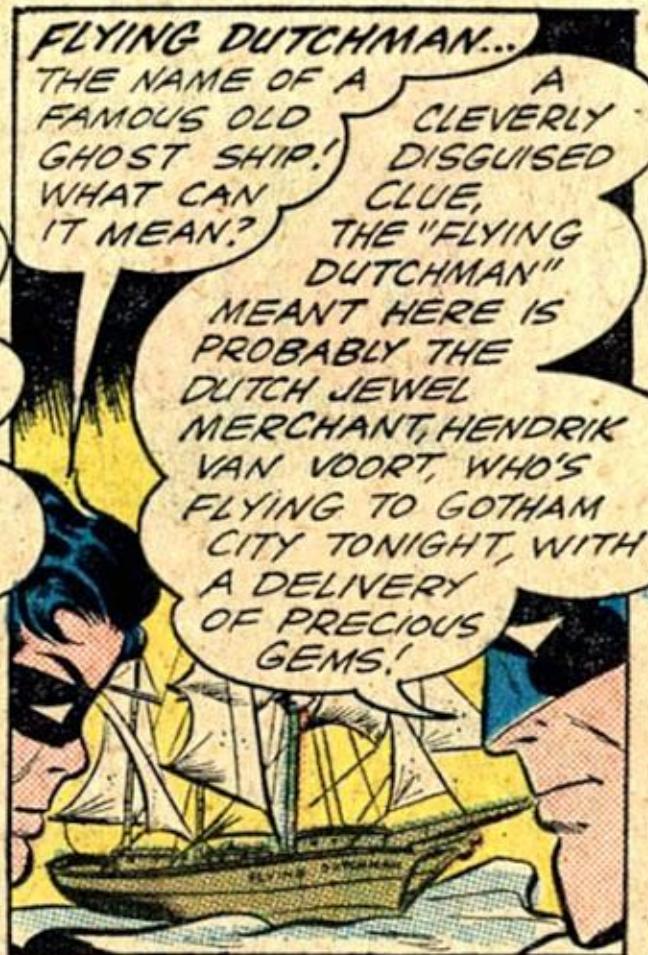
FLYING DUTCHMAN...

A FAMOUS OLD GHOST SHIP! CLEVERLY DISGUISED WHAT CAN IT MEAN?

MEANT HERE IS PROBABLY THE DUTCH JEWEL MERCHANT, HENDRIK VAN VOORT, WHO'S FLYING TO GOTHAM CITY TONIGHT, WITH A DELIVERY OF PRECIOUS GEMS!

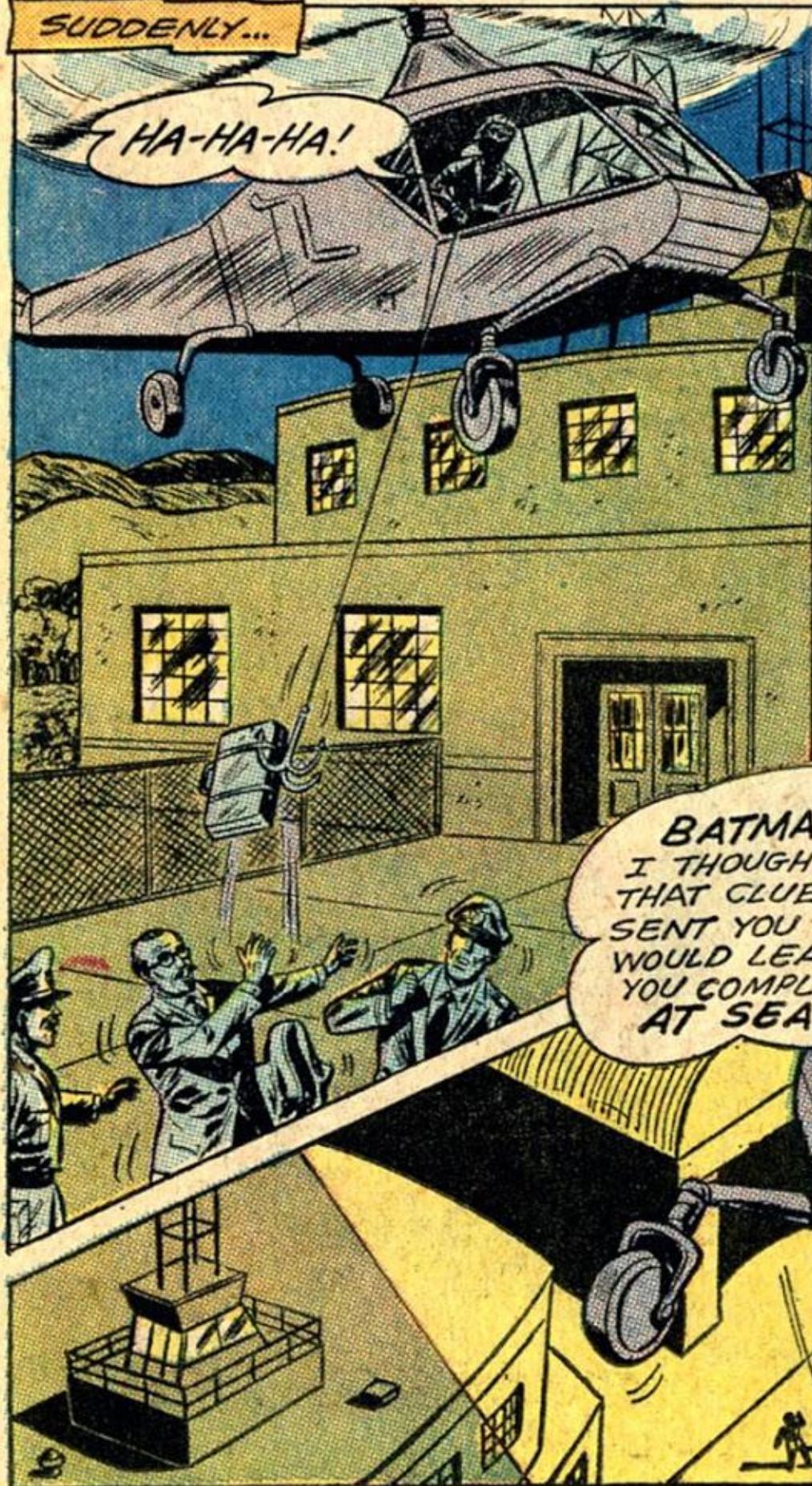
THAT EVENING, AT GOTHAM AIRPORT...

THE ARMORED CAR IS ALREADY WAITING TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR DESTINATION, MR. VAN VOORT!



SUDDENLY...

HA-HA-HA!



BUT THE FAMILIAR ECHO OF CLOWNISH LAUGHTER FADES ABRUPTLY, AS...

NO, JOKER--I'M AFRAID THIS LEAVES YOUR PLANS UP IN THE AIR!

BATMAN!
I THOUGHT THAT CLUE I SENT YOU WOULD LEAVE YOU COMPLETELY AT SEA!





WITH BATMAN STUNNED BY THE UNEXPECTED
MANEUVER, THE JOKER IS QUICK TO
CAPITALIZE ON HIS ADVANTAGE...

FIRST TO TIE HIM SECURELY,
BEFORE HE COMES TO!



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AS ROBIN, WHO
HAS JUST LANDED THE BAT-PLANE,
COMES RACING TOWARD THE WRECKED
HELICOPTER...

YOU FOILED MY PLANS, BATMAN--
BUT BEFORE THE POLICE GET HERE,
I'M GOING TO LIFT THAT MASK OF
YOURS, AND FIND OUT WHO YOU
REALLY ARE... HA, HA, HA!



AT LAST, I'VE UNCOVERED
THE GREAT SECRET OF
BATMAN'S IDENTITY...
HA, HA, HA!

GREAT SCOTT! THE JOKER
HAS UNMASKED BATMAN!
NOW HE KNOWS THAT
BATMAN IS REALLY
BRUCE WAYNE!



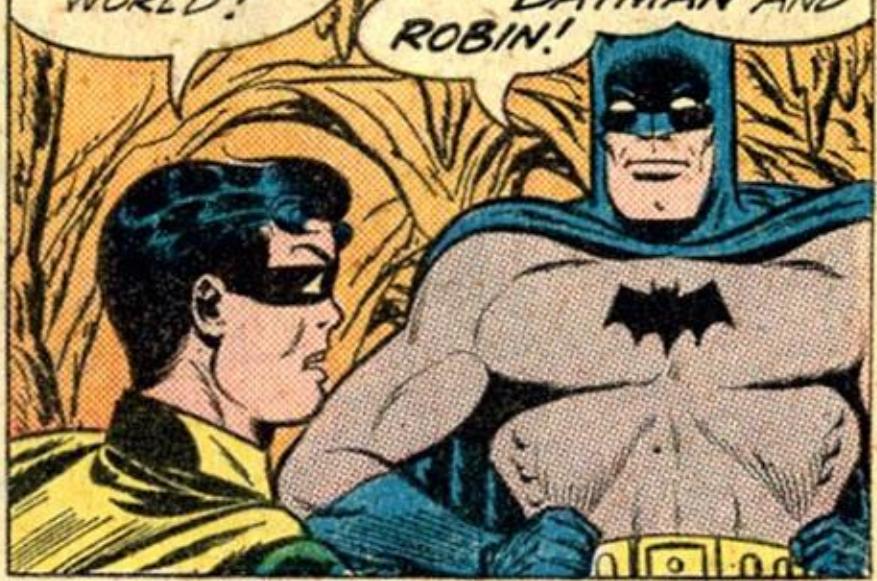
NEXT MOMENT, BEFORE ROBIN, AND THE APPROACHING AIRPORT POLICE CAN SEIZE HIM...



LATER, IN THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...

NOW THAT THE JOKER KNOWS YOUR IDENTITY, BATMAN, I'M AFRAID IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE REVEALS IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

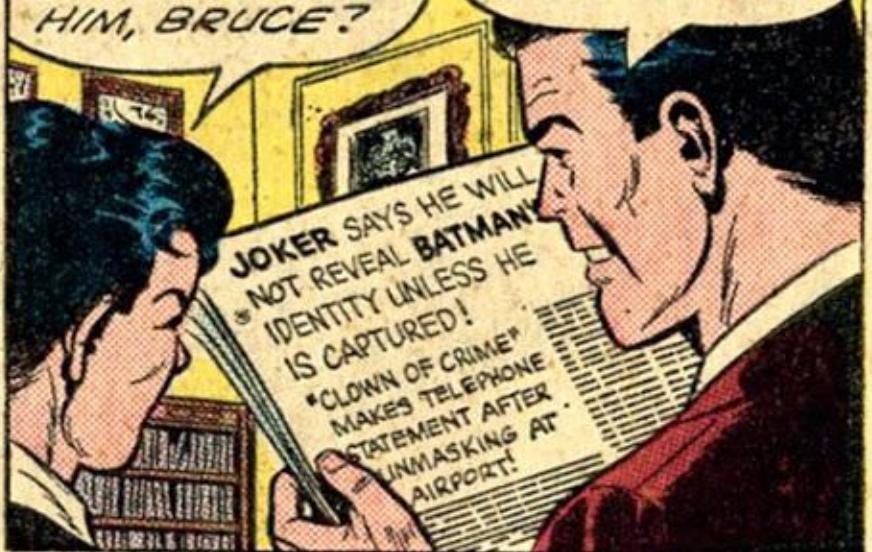
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, ROBIN... THE END OF OUR CAREERS AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!



BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT BREAKFAST, IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

DOES HE THINK THAT'LL STOP US FROM GOING AFTER HIM, BRUCE?

IF HE DOES, DICK, HE'S VERY MUCH MISTAKEN!



SHORTLY AFTER THE JOKER'S MESSAGE APPEARS IN THE PRESS...

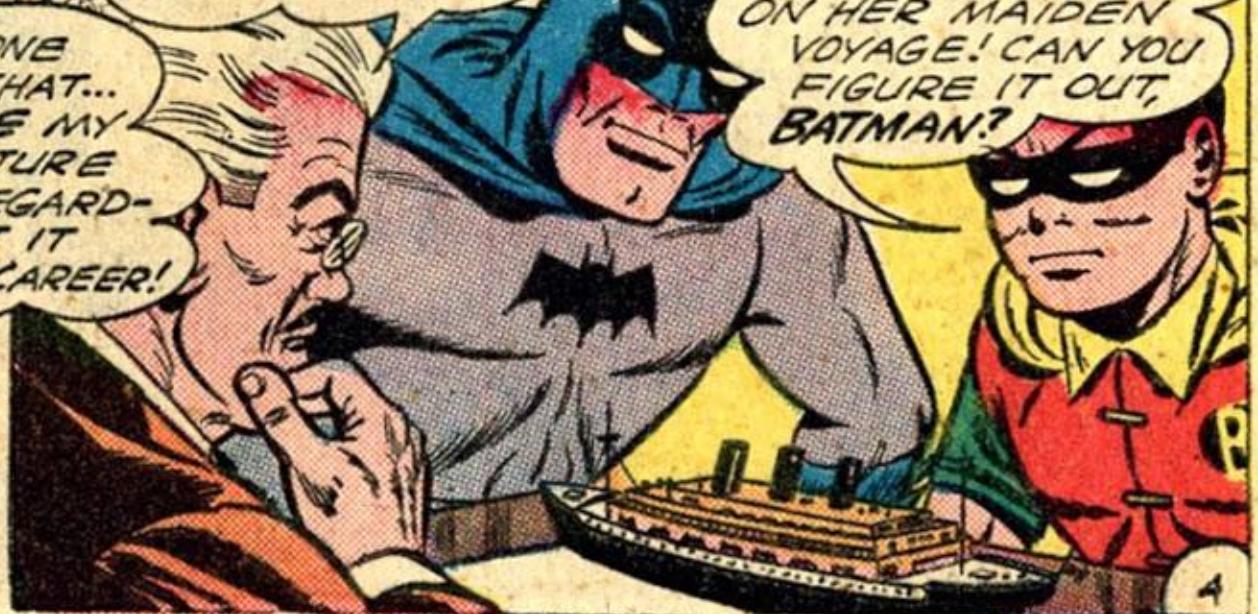
...SO THE QUESTION NOW ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS, WILL BATMAN RELAX HIS EFFORTS TO CAPTURE THE JOKER, IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS SECRET IDENTITY?

ANSWER TO THAT... I'LL REDOUBLE MY EFFORT TO CAPTURE THE JOKER, REGARDLESS OF WHAT IT DOES TO MY CAREER!

BATMAN'S CHANCE COMES THAT SAME AFTERNOON, WITH ANOTHER CALL TO HEADQUARTERS.

THE JOKER DIDN'T LOSE ANY TIME! THIS MODEL WAS MAILED TO YOU HERE THIS MORNING!

THE TITANIC... THE STEAMSHIP THAT WAS SUNK BY AN ICEBERG ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE! CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT, BATMAN?



MAYBE... A STONE FIGURE OF TITANIC SIZE WAS DUG FROM ANCIENT RUINS ABOVE GOTHAM CITY! THEY'RE BRINGING IT DOWNRIVER BY BARGE, FOR AN EXHIBITION! THE JOKER MAY BE AFTER THE PRICELESS JEWELS IN THE STONE HEAD!

NEXT DAY, ON GOTHAM RIVER, TEN MILES NORTH OF THE CITY...

STOP THE BARGE! THE CRAZY FOOL UP THERE IS LOWERING THE DRAWBRIDGE!
WE'LL NEVER GET PAST!

BUT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP THE BARGE IN THIS CURRENT!!

MOMENTS LATER...

AND JUST AS THE BATMOBILE ARRIVES...

WHAT--? THERE GOES THE JOKER'S GETAWAY TRUCK, AND THE DRAWBRIDGE IS BEING RAISED BACK!

THE BATMOBILE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT-- BUT, MAYBE I CAN!

CRASH
NOW WE'RE MAKING "HEADWAY"...
HA, HA! LET'S GET THAT HEAD INTO THE TRUCK...
HA, HA, HA!

A LEAP FROM THE BATMOBILE, AND A QUICK DASH UP THE ASCENDING SLOPE...

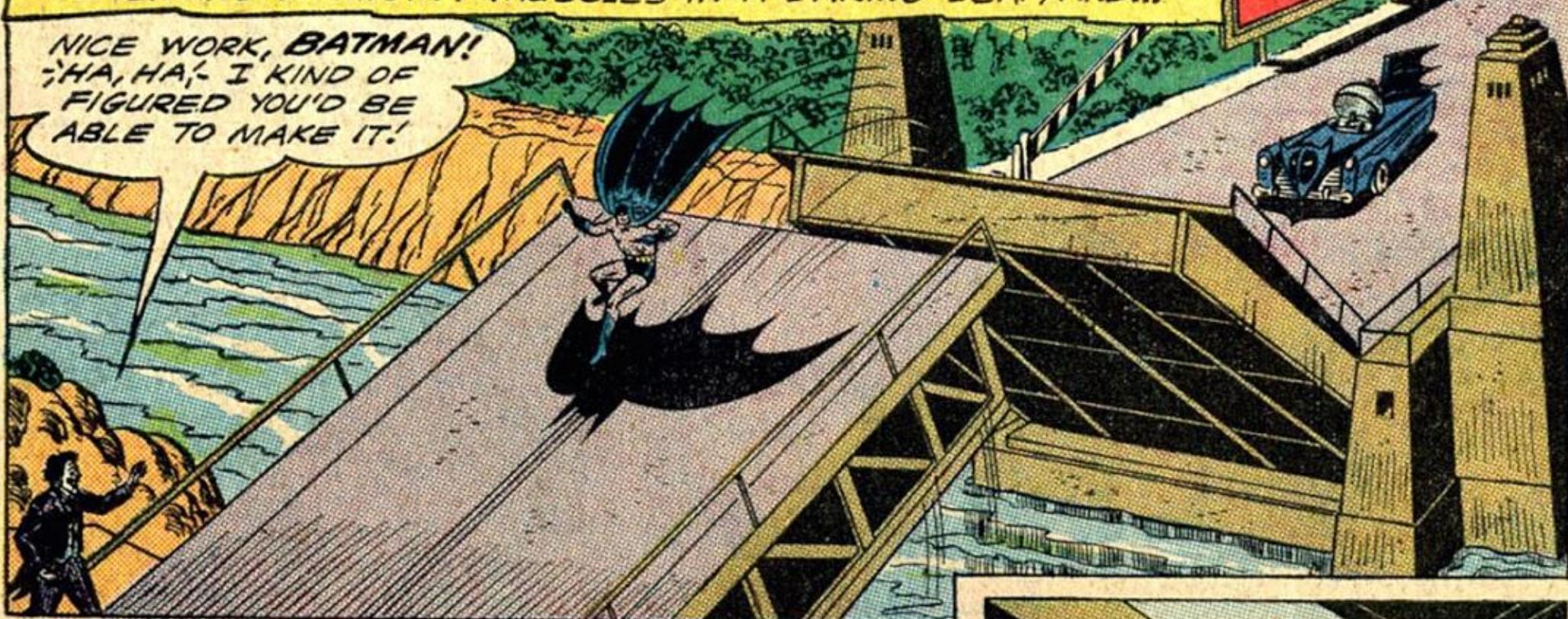


BATMAN



THE TENSING OF MIGHTY MUSCLES IN A DARING LEAP, AND...

NICE WORK, BATMAN!
-HA, HA! - I KIND OF
FIGURED YOU'D BE
ABLE TO MAKE IT!



ALL RIGHT, MEN! GET
HIM! -HA, HA! - INSTEAD
OF BATMAN CAPTURING
THE JOKER, I'VE TURNED
THE TABLES!

GREAT SCOTT... I'VE
RUN STRAIGHT INTO
A TRAP! I'M HOPE-
LESSLY OUTNUMBERED!



AFTER SWIMMING TO THE OPPOSITE SHORE,
AND JOINING ROBIN...

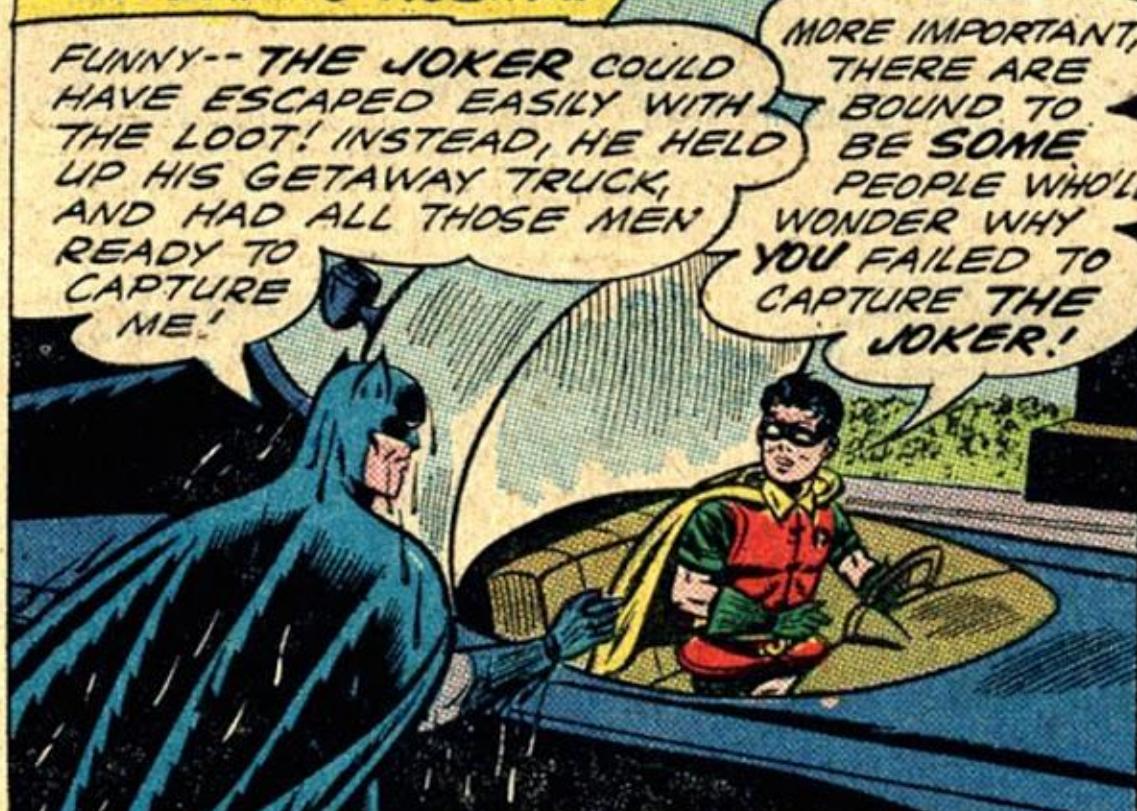
FUNNY-- THE JOKER COULD
HAVE ESCAPED EASILY WITH
THE LOOT! INSTEAD, HE HELD
UP HIS GETAWAY TRUCK,
AND HAD ALL THOSE MEN
READY TO CAPTURE
ME!

MORE IMPORTANT,
THERE ARE
BOUND TO
BE SOME
PEOPLE WHO'LL
WONDER WHY
YOU FAILED TO
CAPTURE THE
JOKER!

INDEED, THAT SAME EVENING...

...AND THERE ARE THOSE
WHO ARE ASKING IF
BATMAN'S FAILURE
TO CAPTURE THE
JOKER, THIS AFTER-
NOON, COULD HAVE
BEEN AN EFFORT
TO SAVE HIS
IDENTITY AND HIS
CAREER!

DICK--THIS
MEANS THAT
NEXT TIME,
WE CAN'T
FAIL! WE
MUST GET
THE JOKER!



"NEXT TIME" IS NOT LONG IN COMING--FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT HEADQUARTERS...

NOW THE JOKER'S SENT US THIS MODEL OF THE MERRIMAC, THE SHIP THAT FOUGHT THE MONITOR DURING THE CIVIL WAR!

HMM -- MERRIMAC... MERRIMAC... WAIT! I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

IT MUST REFER TO THE FAMOUS CLOWN, MERRY MACK, WHO'S APPEARING AT TONIGHT'S SPECIAL CIRCUS CHARITY PERFORMANCE! THE JOKER'S PROBABLY AFTER THE COLLECTION OF RARE EASTERN IVORIES TO BE EXHIBITED IN THE SIDESHOW TENT!

LATER, BACK AT THE BAT-CAVE...

YOU UNDERSTAND, ROBIN, THAT IF WE'RE NOT SUCCESSFUL TONIGHT, OUR CAREERS ARE OVER! NO MORE CRIME-FIGHTING... NO MORE BAT-CAVE...

I KNOW -- CHOKE! BUT--JUST THE SAME--WE CAN'T FAIL!

THAT NIGHT, AMONG THE CROWD GATHERED FOR THE SPECTACLE AT GOTHAM ARENA, LITTLE DOES ANYONE DREAM THAT HE MAY ALSO WITNESS THE FINAL SCENE IN THE BRILLIANT CAREERS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN...

WATCH MERRY MACK, THE GREATEST CLOWN ON EARTH, PERFORMING IN THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

BUT SUDDENLY, FROM THE SIDESHOW TENT...

HELP! THOSE THIEVES ARE GETTING AWAY WITH THE RARE IVORY COLLECTION!



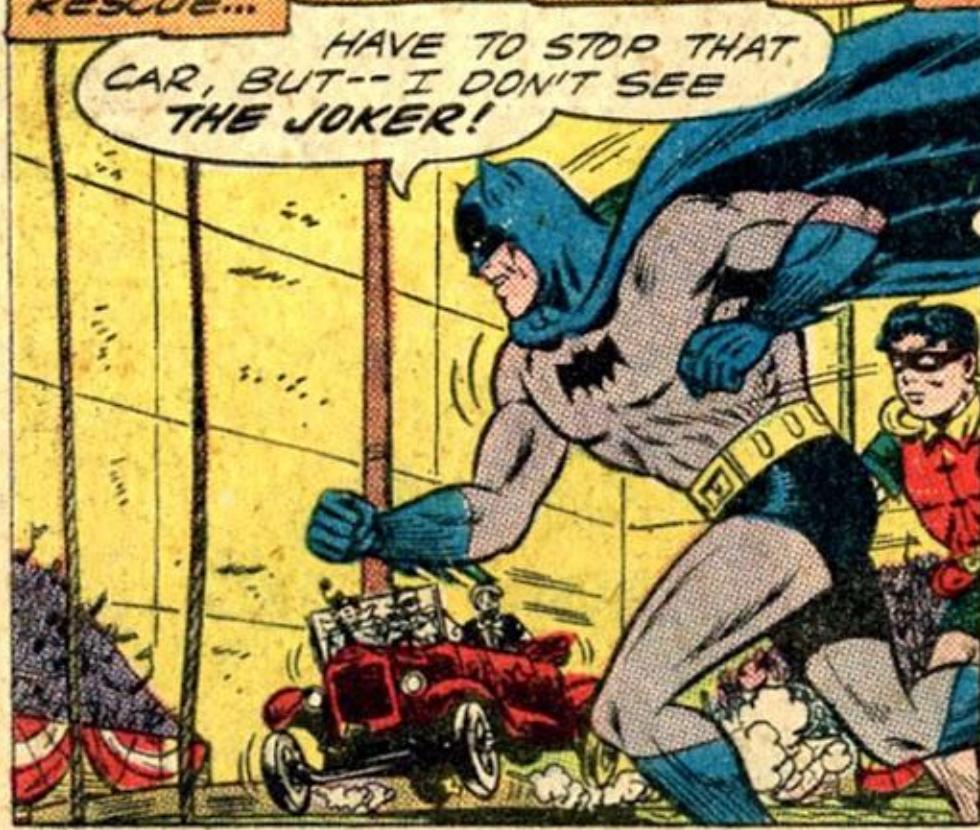


BATMAN

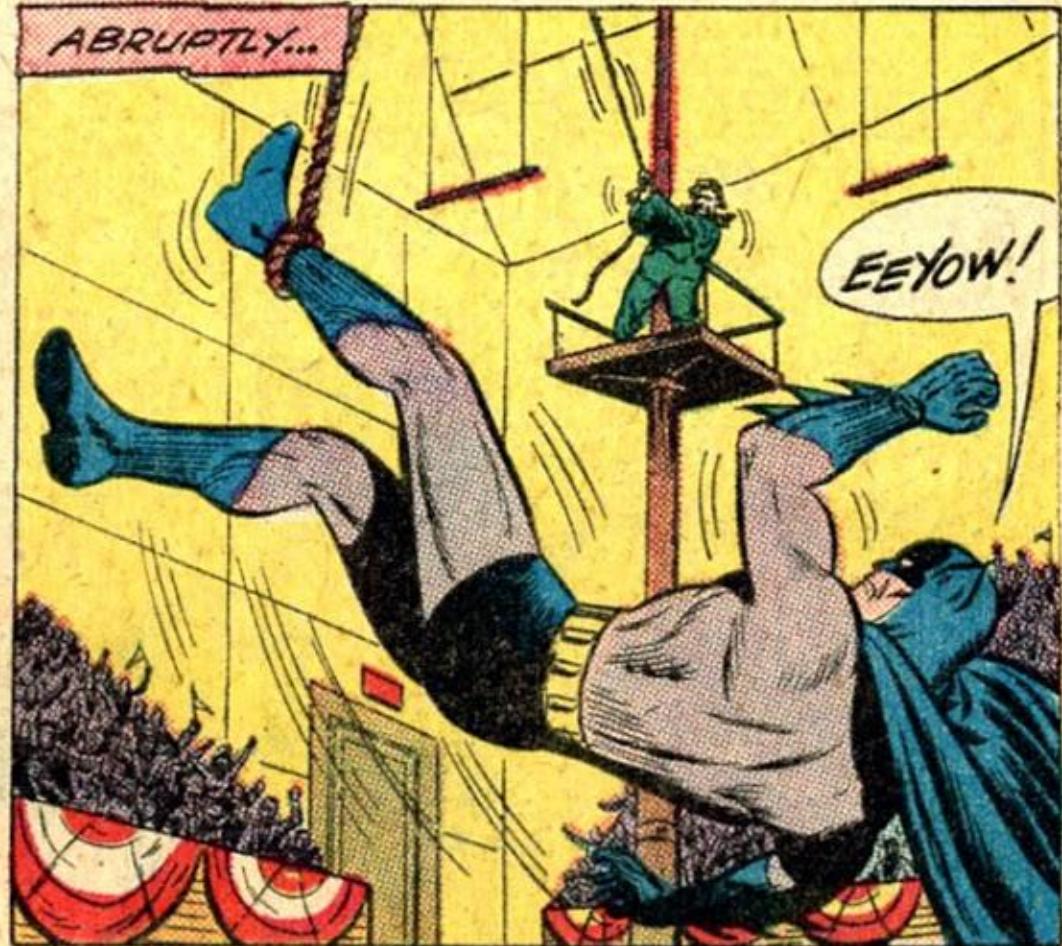


SWIFTLY, TWO FIGURES GO RACING TO THE RESCUE...

HAVE TO STOP THAT CAR, BUT-- I DON'T SEE THE JOKER!



ABRUPTLY...



AS BATMAN IS HAULED TO THE PLATFORM HIGH ABOVE THE ARENA, MERRY MACK THE CLOWN REACHES OUT, AND...

WHAT?? THIS--THIS ISN'T BATMAN! IT'S A ROBOT!



IN THAT SAME INSTANT...

I FIGURED MY ROBOT WOULD ENTICE YOU INTO GIVING YOURSELF AWAY!

OOF!



NOW--TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK AT THE FACE BEHIND THAT MASK! WHY SHOULD THE JOKER BE THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY?

NOW TO UNMASK ONE CLOWN AND FIND
ANOTHER--THE JOKER! YOU
MUST'VE WAYLAID THE REAL
MERRY MACK, AND TAKEN
HIS PLACE!

AND SO, AFTER FREEING THE KIDNAPED
CLOWN, AND TURNING THEIR CAPTIVES OVER
TO THE POLICE...

HEY, JOKER--WHAT ABOUT YOUR
THREAT TO REVEAL BATMAN'S
IDENTITY IF HE CAPTURED YOU?

BAH!

IT WAS JUST AN EMPTY THREAT,
BECAUSE HE NEVER KNEW
MY IDENTITY! I REALIZED
THAT WHEN HE TRIED TO
CAPTURE ME ON GOTHAM
BRIDGE! WHY SHOULD HE
DO THAT, UNLESS HE WERE
STILL TRYING TO DISCOVER
MY IDENTITY?

BUT, BATMAN...
I SAW HIM LIFT
YOUR MASK AND
LOOK AT YOU AT
THE AIRPORT!

YES--BUT APPARENTLY,
THE LIGHT OF THE AIRPORT
BEACON HE WAS FACING
WAS TOO BLINDING
FOR THE JOKER
TO MAKE OUT
MY FACE!

9.

THE END

HAWK-A-A-A!

BLACKHAWK

That's the ringing cry that summons
the bold **BLACKHAWKS**
to daring action against
bizarre foes!

ORDER OF THE DAY

"VENGEANCE of VAKOMA!"
"BLACKHAWK GAZETTE!"
"The SUPER JUNGLE MAN!"

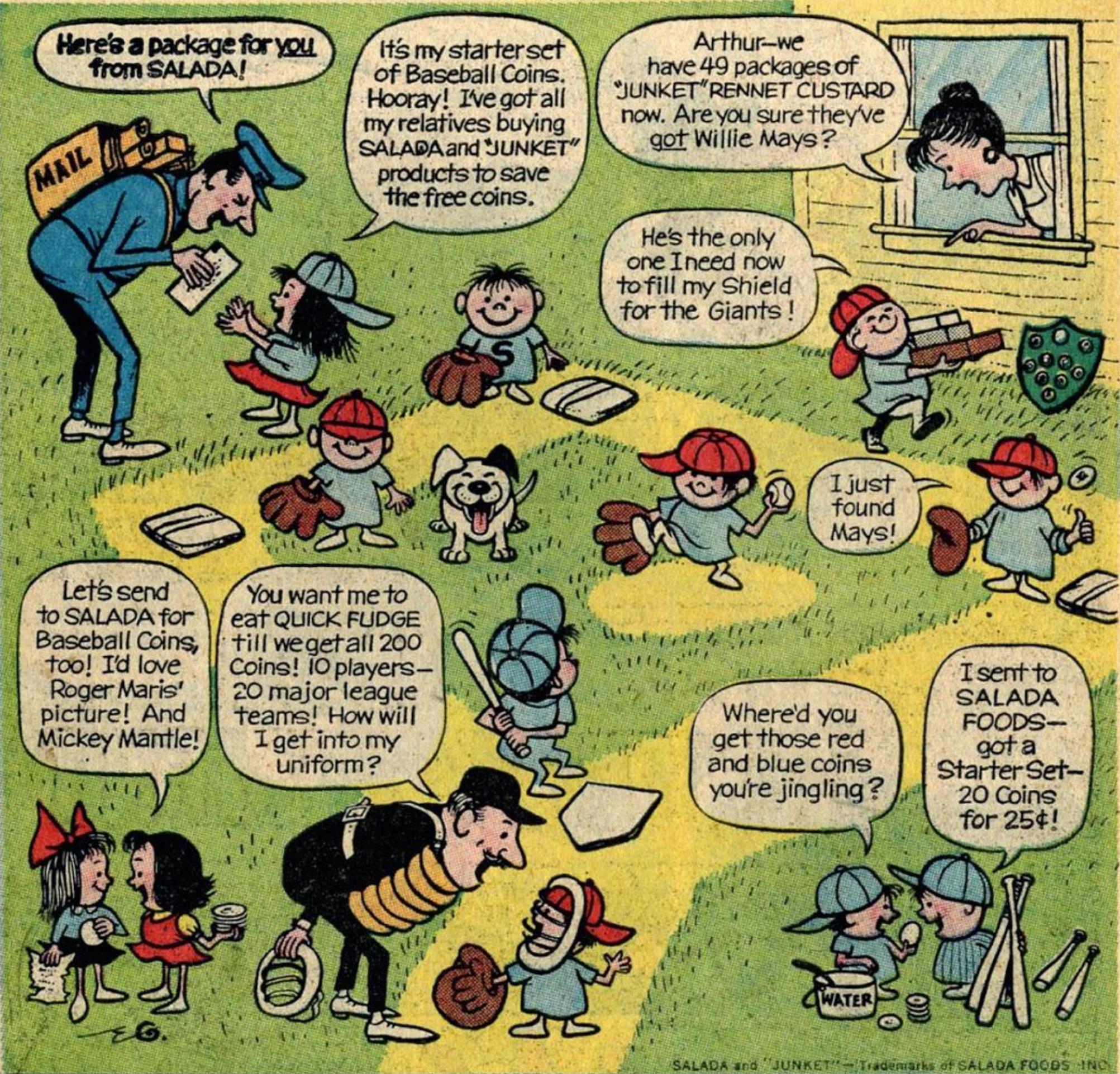
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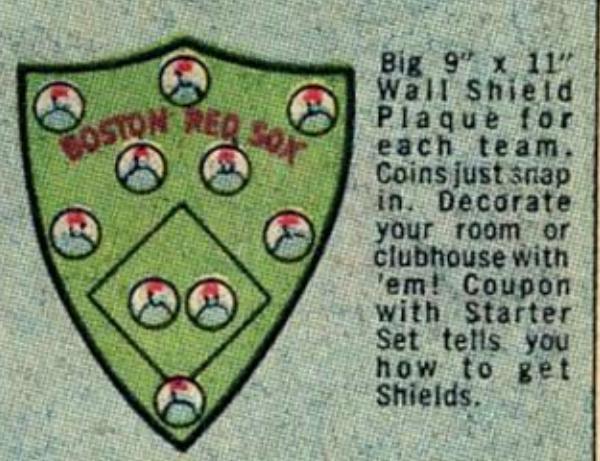
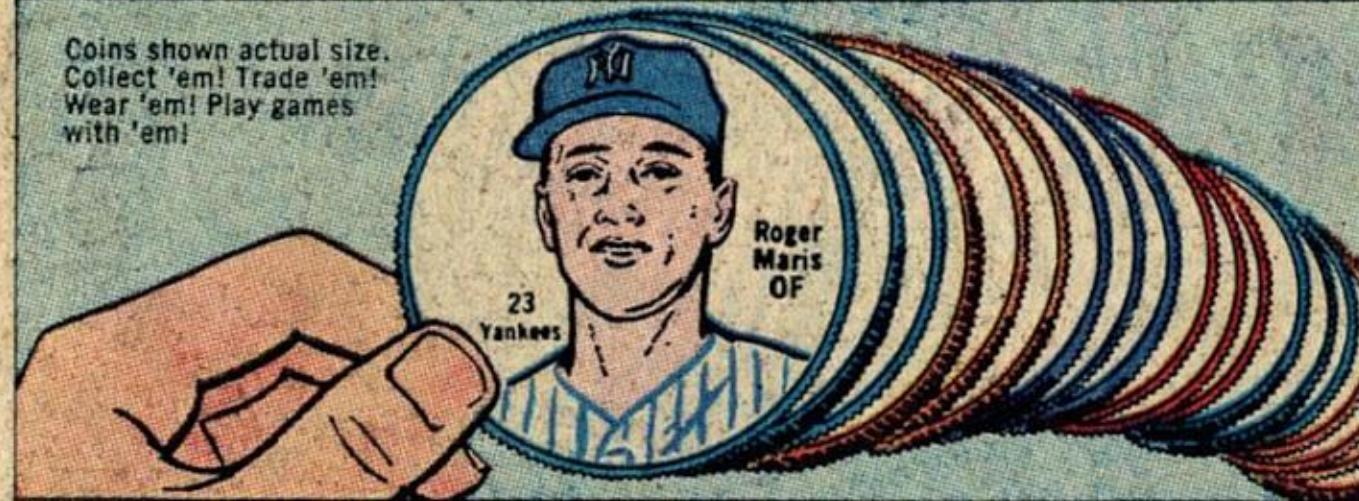
IT'S THE JUNGLE MAN--ATTACKING A SAFARI CAMP! WE'RE JUST IN TIME!





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Wear 'em! Play games
with 'em!



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*in COMICS
ENTERTAINMENT*



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where are the rest?

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