



NO. 323
MAY ALL NEW!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

BECAUSE YOU
DEMANDED IT!!
THE RETURN
OF THE
CATWOMAN!
IS THIS HER
LAST CAPER?



C-2B2
GIORDANO
**THE SHADOW
OF THE CAT!**

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

BAT MAN

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

J-6378

FOR MORE NIGHTS THAN HE CAN REMEMBER, HE HAS FLOWN OVER THIS CITY ON HIS SILKEN ROPE, FULFILLING HIS SACRED VOW TO BRING ALL THOSE WHO FLAUNT THE LAW TO JUSTICE--

--AND HE HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED HIS WORK... UNTIL TONIGHT!

FOR TONIGHT, HE IS ON HIS WAY TO ARREST A WOMAN HE HAS COME TO LOVE!

SHADOW OF THE CAT!

LEN WEIN / WRITER

GLYNIS WEIN / COLORIST

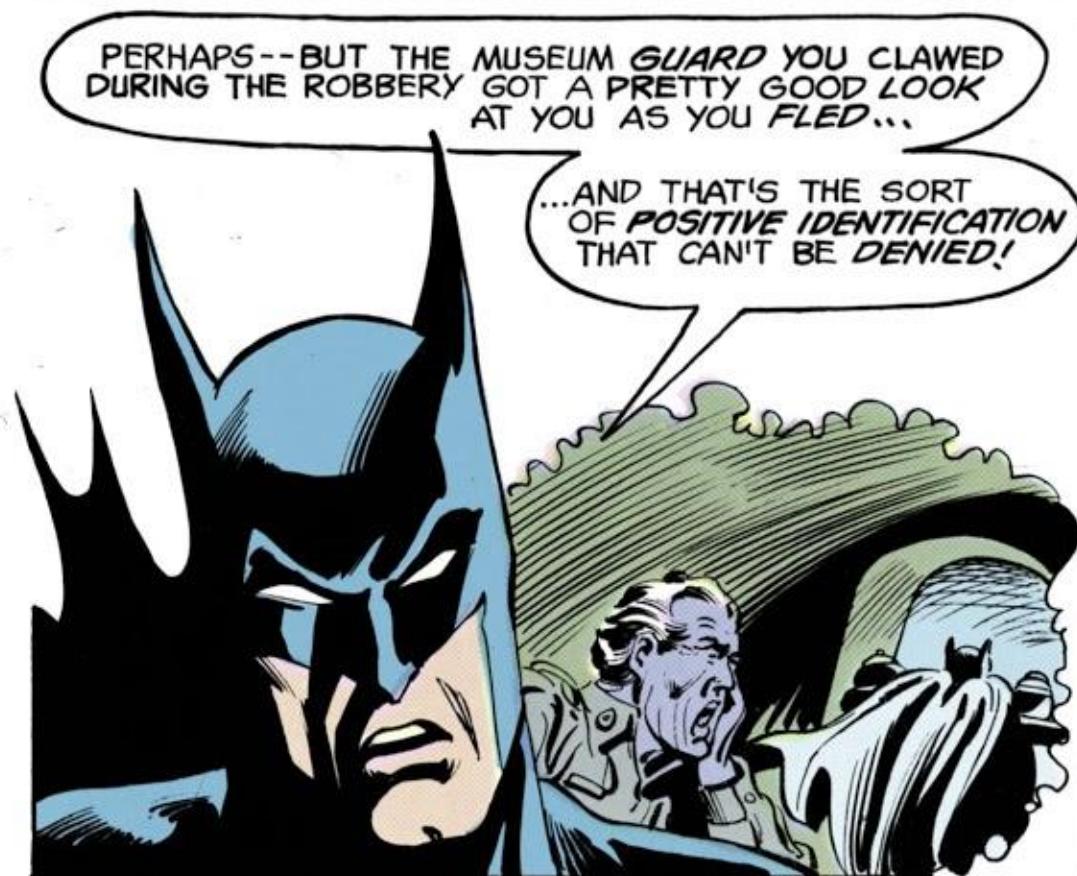
IRV NOVICK & BOB SMITH / ARTISTS

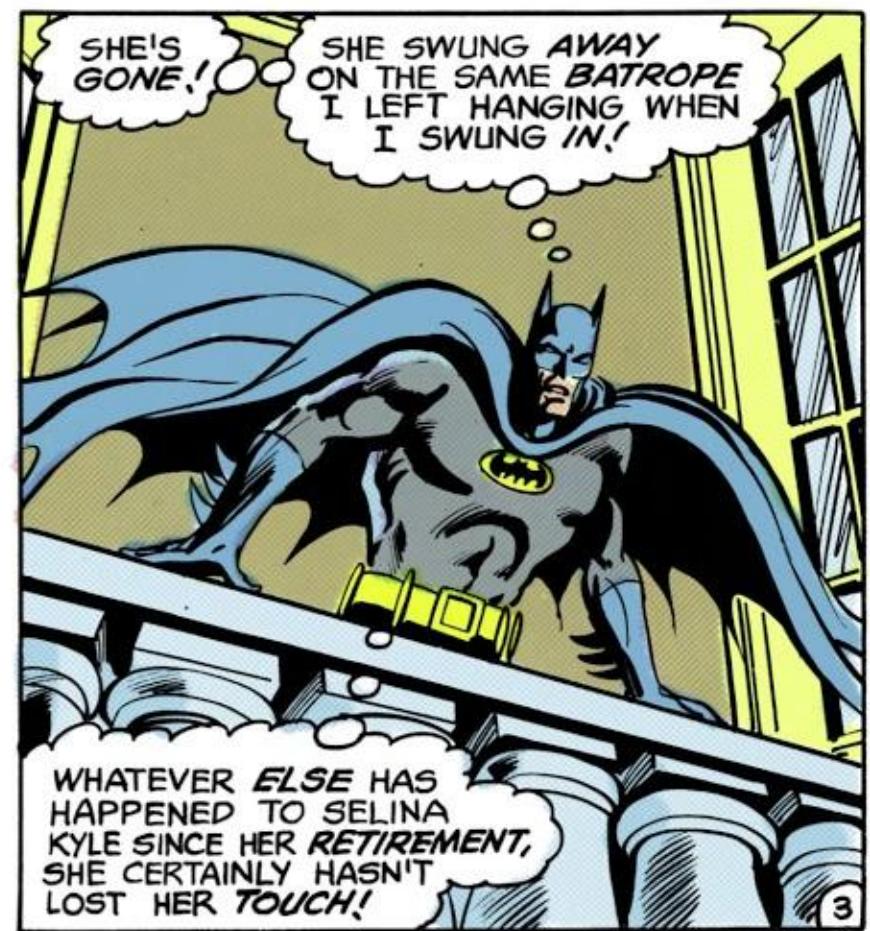
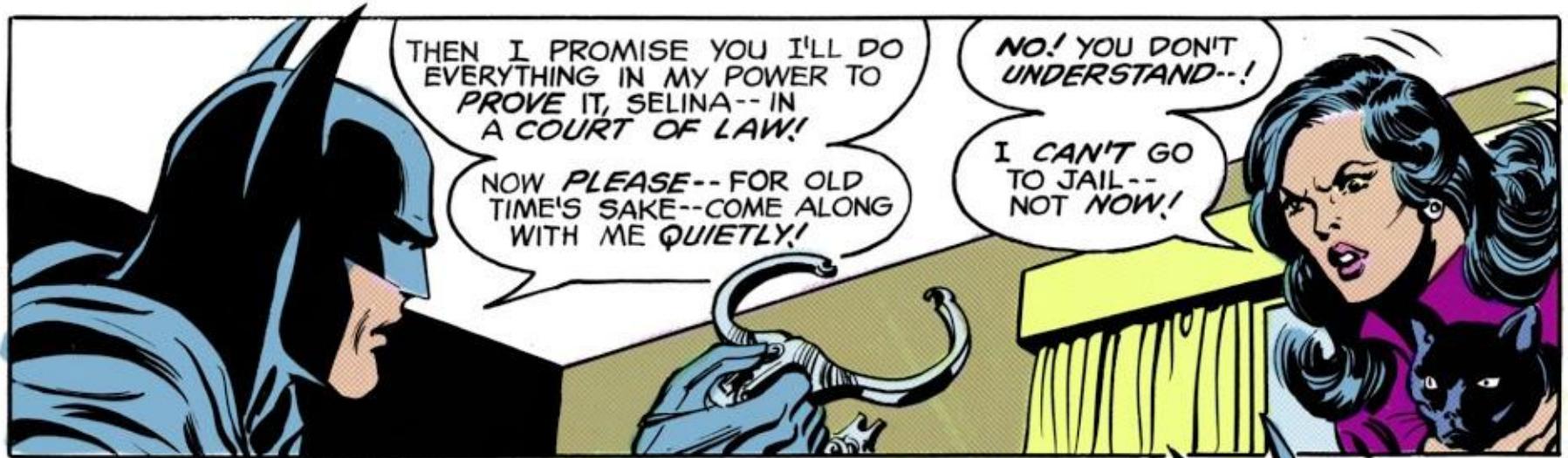
BEN ODA / LETTERER

PAUL LEVITZ / EDITOR

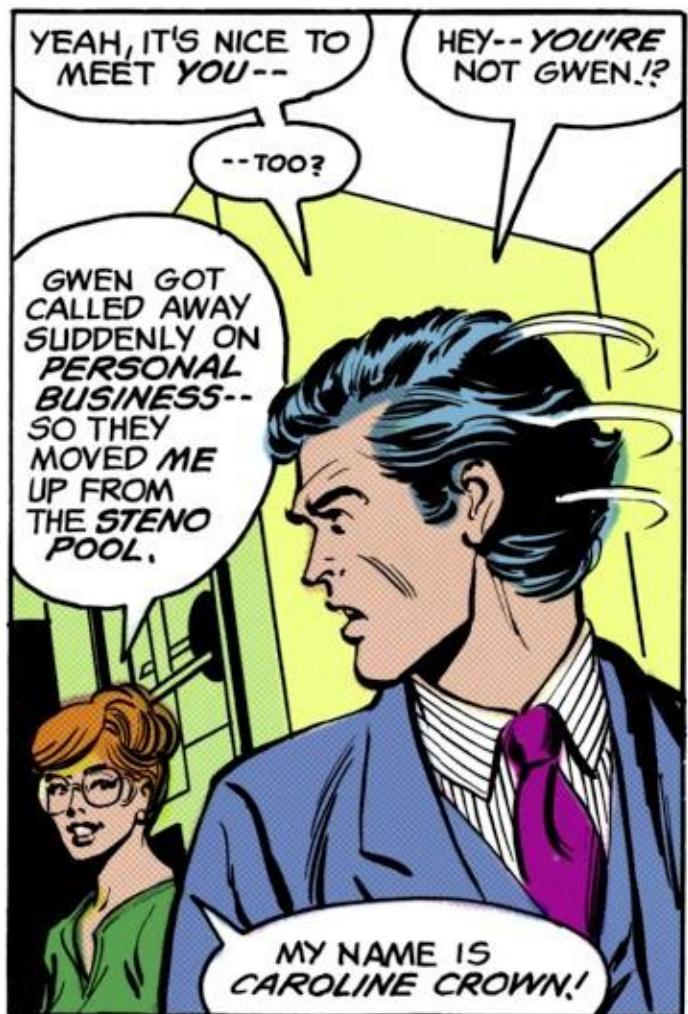


* LAST ISSUE. --PAUL.

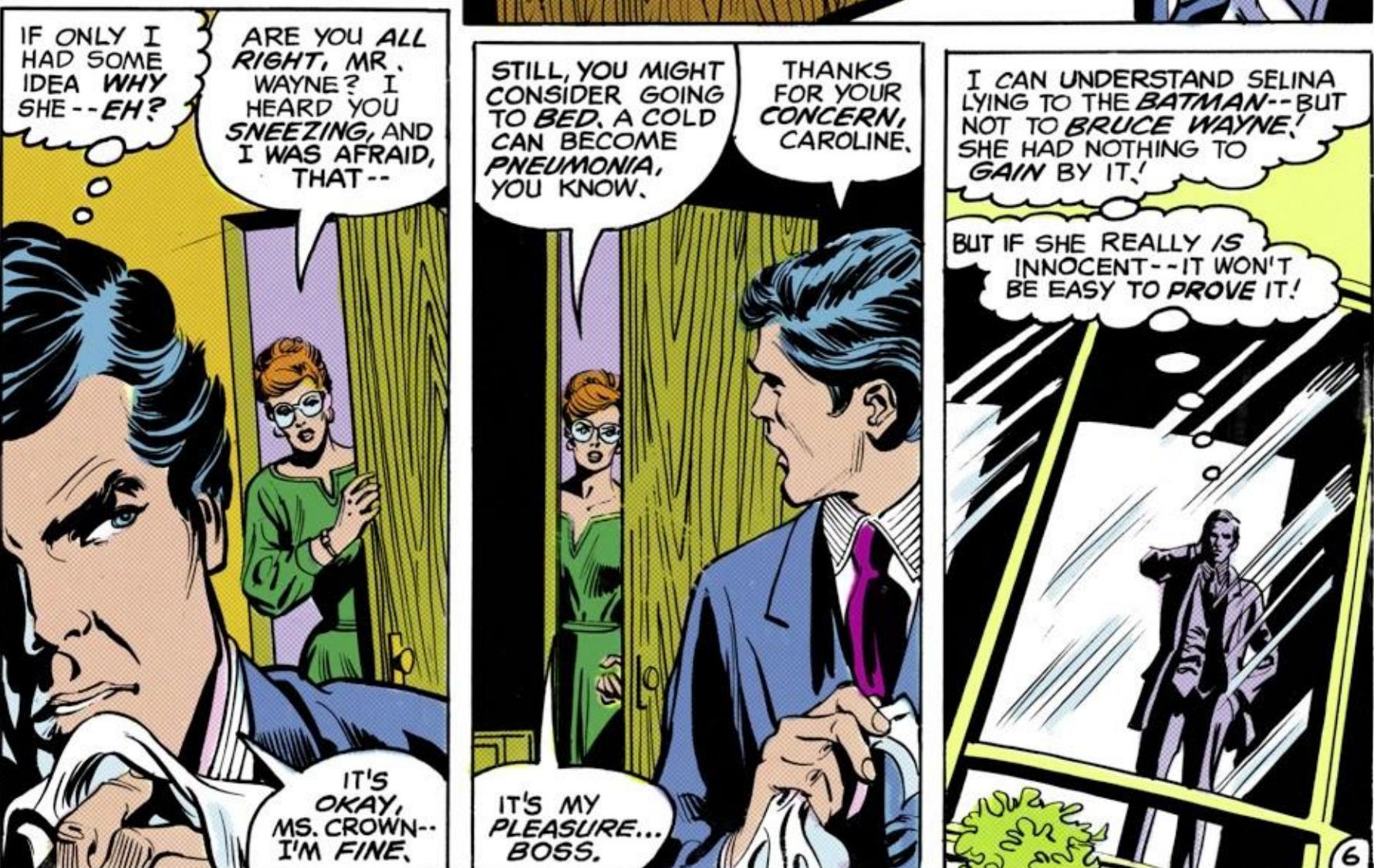




THE MORNING SUN
CASTS GOLDEN SHADOWS
ACROSS GOTHAM CITY'S
MAJESTIC WAYNE
FOUNDATION BUILDING--







RIVERSIDE MUSEUM, AN HOUR AFTER CLOSING--WHERE NOTHING MOVES EXCEPT SHIFTING MOONLIT SHADOWS--



--AND A NERVOUS NIGHT WATCHMAN WHO HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED IN THE COURSE OF HIS NORMAL ROUNDS...

OKAY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE OFF-LIMITS TO--HUH?

THE ROOM IS--EMPTY?!?

CLICK!

BUT I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMEBODY PROWLIN' AROUND IN HERE!

Y'KNOW, MAYBE EMMA IS RIGHT!

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO QUIT DOIN' ALL THIS NIGHT WORK--AN' GET MYSELF A NORMAL JOB!

CLICK!

AND WHEN THE ECHOES OF WEARY FOOTSTEPS HAVE FINALLY FADED...

THAT WATCHMAN WAS A LOT BETTER AT HIS JOB THAN HE GAVE HIMSELF CREDIT FOR!

JUST GLAD HE DIDN'T THINK TO GLANCE UP--OR HE'D HAVE SPOTTED ME BRACED AGAINST THE CEILING!



SO WITH ANY LUCK, THERE'S STILL SOMETHING HERE THEY MISSED--SOMETHING THAT MIGHT GIVE ME A CLUE TO THE REAL --

--THERE!

A PIECE OF THREAD--SNAGGED ON ONE OF THE EXHIBIT CASES!

BETTER GET BACK TO THE BATCAVE-- AND SEE WHAT IT CAN TELL ME!

WHILE IN A GRIMY PAWNSHOP IN A LESS-THAN-AFFLUENT PART OF GOTHAM--



--A LESS-THAN-ADMIRABLE FIGURE SITS HUNCHED OVER A WELL-WORN GEM-STREWN WORK TABLE, SOFTLY CHUCKLING...

I KNOW A CERTAIN COLLECTOR WHO'LL BUY THESE PEARLS FOR TWICE WHAT I PAID FOR THEM!



GOOD FOR YOU, PINCH!

THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT PAY FOR YOUR HOSPITAL BILL --UNLESS YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO TALK TO ME!

CATWOMAN--?!?



I'D HEARD YOU'D RETIRED FROM THE BUSINESS, DEAR LADY--BUT APPARENTLY THE GRAPEVINE WAS WRONG!

EXACTLY WHAT CAN OLD PINCH DO FOR YOU, MY DEAR?

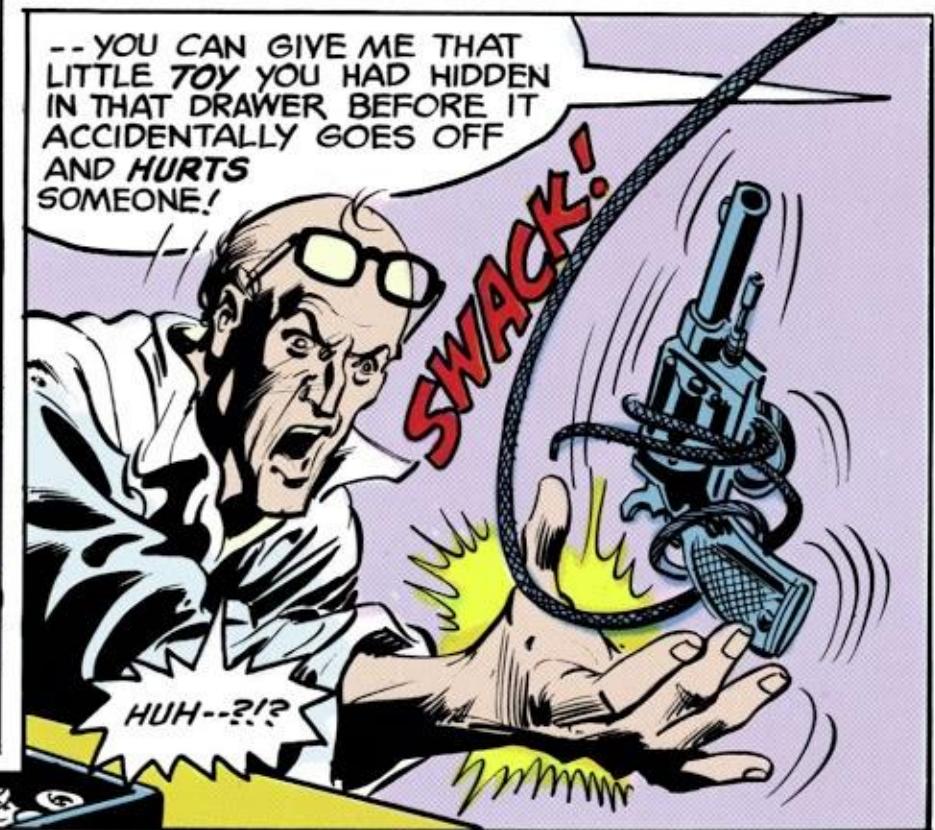


WELL, FOR ONE THING--

--YOU CAN GIVE ME THAT LITTLE TOY YOU HAD HIDDEN IN THAT DRAWER BEFORE IT ACCIDENTALLY GOES OFF AND HURTS SOMEONE!

HUH--?!?

SWACK!



YOU--YOU HURT ME!

NOT NEARLY AS BADLY AS I'M GOING TO, OLD MAN--UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW!



YOU ARE GOING TO BE A SWEETHEART AND DO THAT LITTLE THING FOR ME...

ANYTHING, CATWOMAN--YOU JUST ASK!

...AREN'T YOU, PINCH?

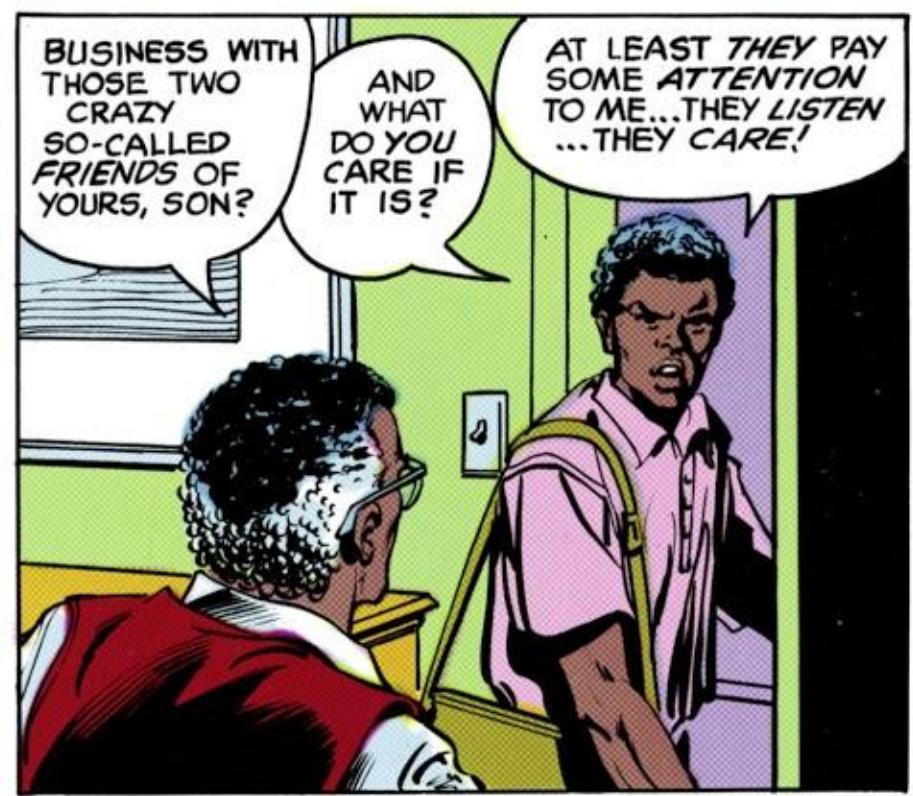
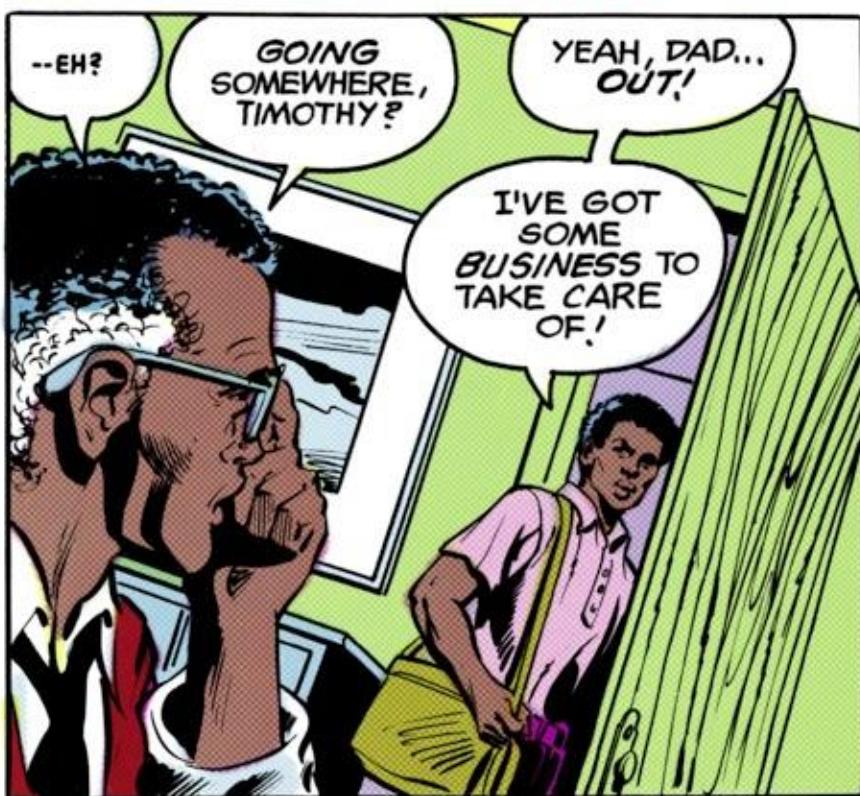
TRUST ME, LITTLE MAN --I WILL!

PLOK!



EVEN AS THE MAN CALLED PINCH BABBLER NERVOUSLY TO THE SULTRY CATWOMAN, IN A PLUSH EAST SIDE APARTMENT, BRUCE WAYNE'S BUSINESS ADVISOR, LUCIUS FOX, MUTTERS ONLY TO HIMSELF...

COMPANIES OWNED BY GREGORIAN FALSTAFF HAVE BEEN UNDERBIDDING WAYNE ENTERPRISES RIGHT AND LEFT-- AND IT'S STARTING TO HURT!



WHILE, IN THE CAVERNOUS BATCAVE BENEATH THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING OVER THAT BIT OF THREAD FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, MASTER BRUCE.

PERHAPS A NICE HOT CUP OF TEA MIGHT HELP TO RELAX YOU.

THANKS, ALFRED -- I COULD REALLY USE ONE.



I'VE BEEN STARING THRU THIS MICROSCOPE FOR SO LONG, I'M STARTING TO GET CROSS-EYED!

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE THREAD, SIR?

NOT AS MUCH AS I'D HOPED TO, OLD FRIEND-- BUT IT'S GIVEN ME SOME PLACE TO START!

THE FIBER ITSELF IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE--

--BUT IT HAD COLLECTED ENOUGH DUST FOR ME TO PINPOINT WHERE IT'S BEEN LATELY!

IS THAT WHERE YOU EXPECT TO FIND MISS SELINA?

I SINCERELY HOPE NOT, ALFRED!

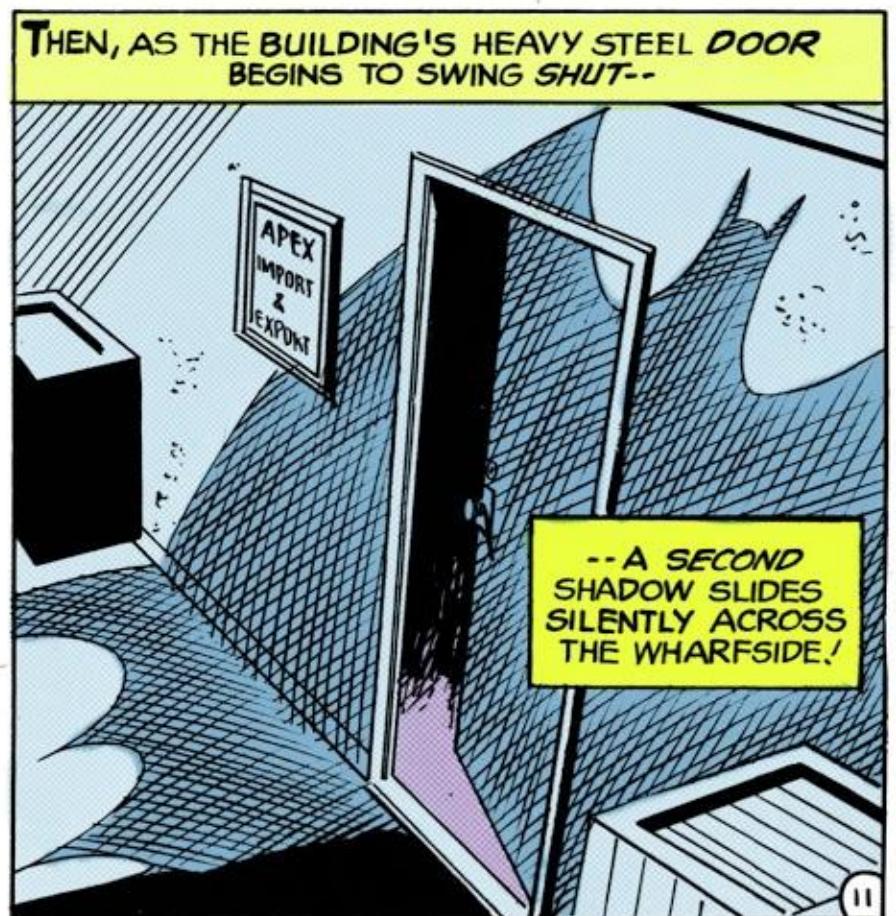
I'M RAPIDLY BECOMING MORE AND MORE CONVINCED SHE WAS TELLING ME THE TRUTH!

WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO TRACK DOWN THE REAL THIEF BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE--

--FOR BOTH OF US!

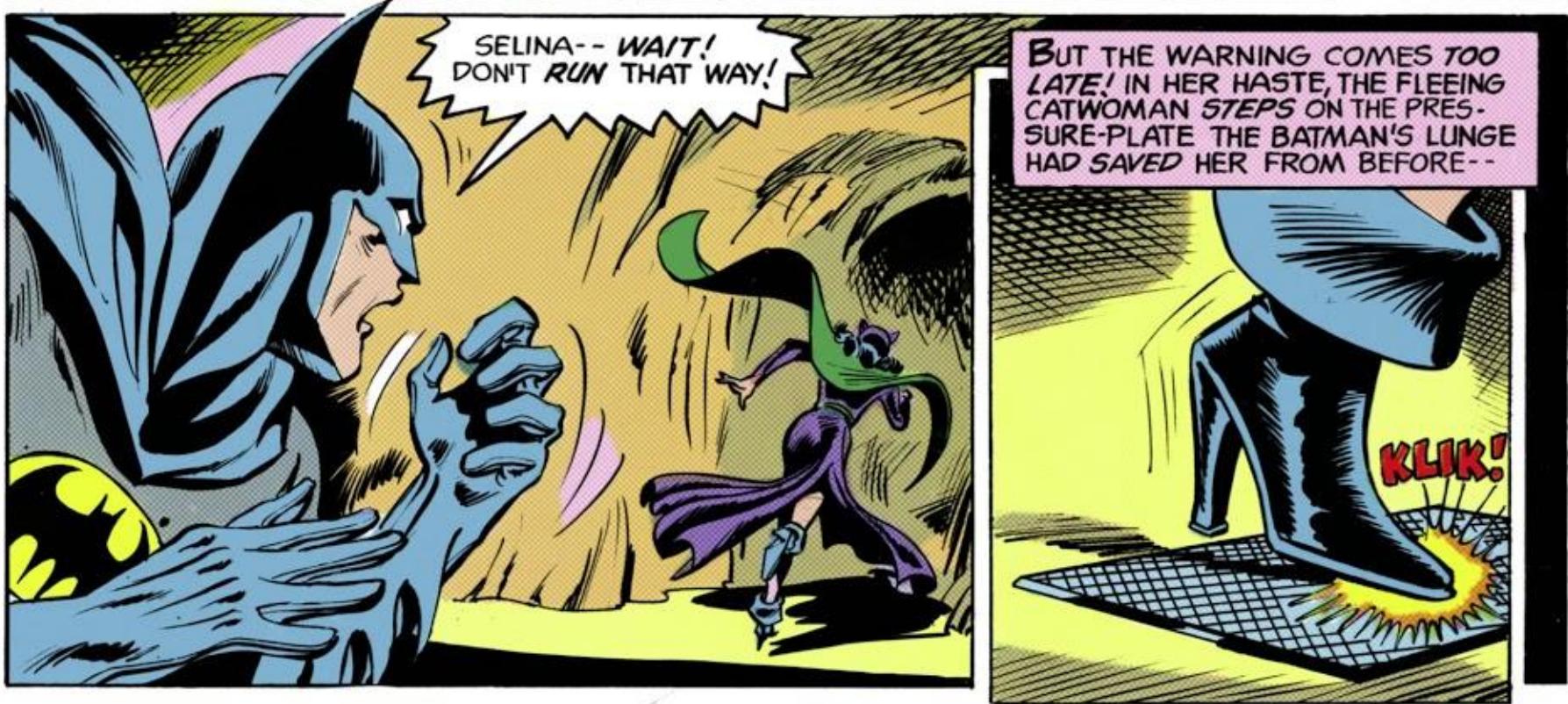
THEN GOOD LUCK, SIR!

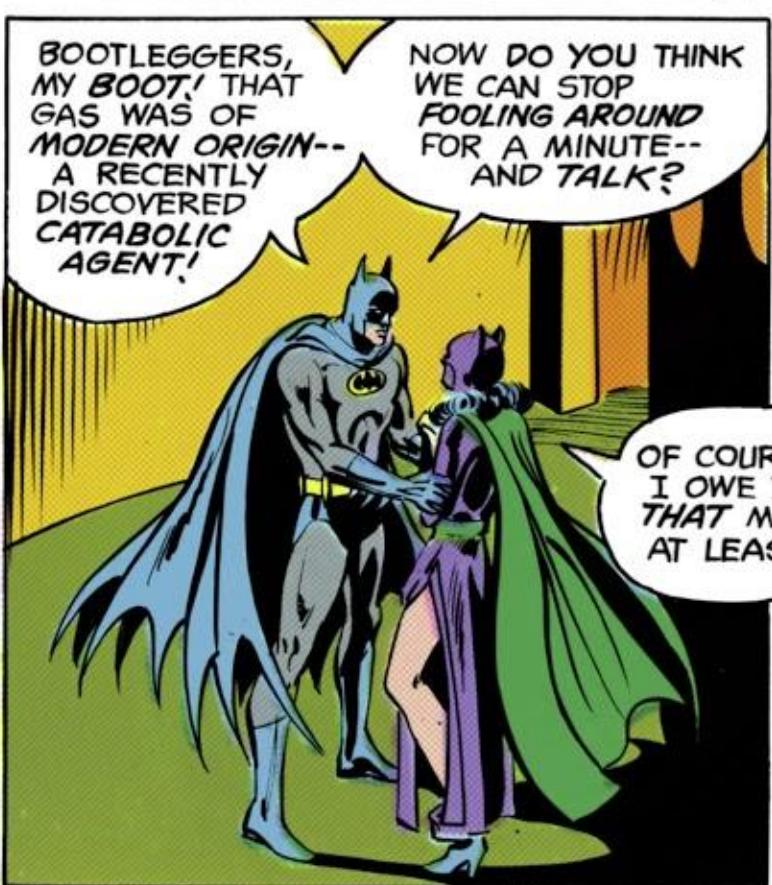
...AND GOOD HUNTING!

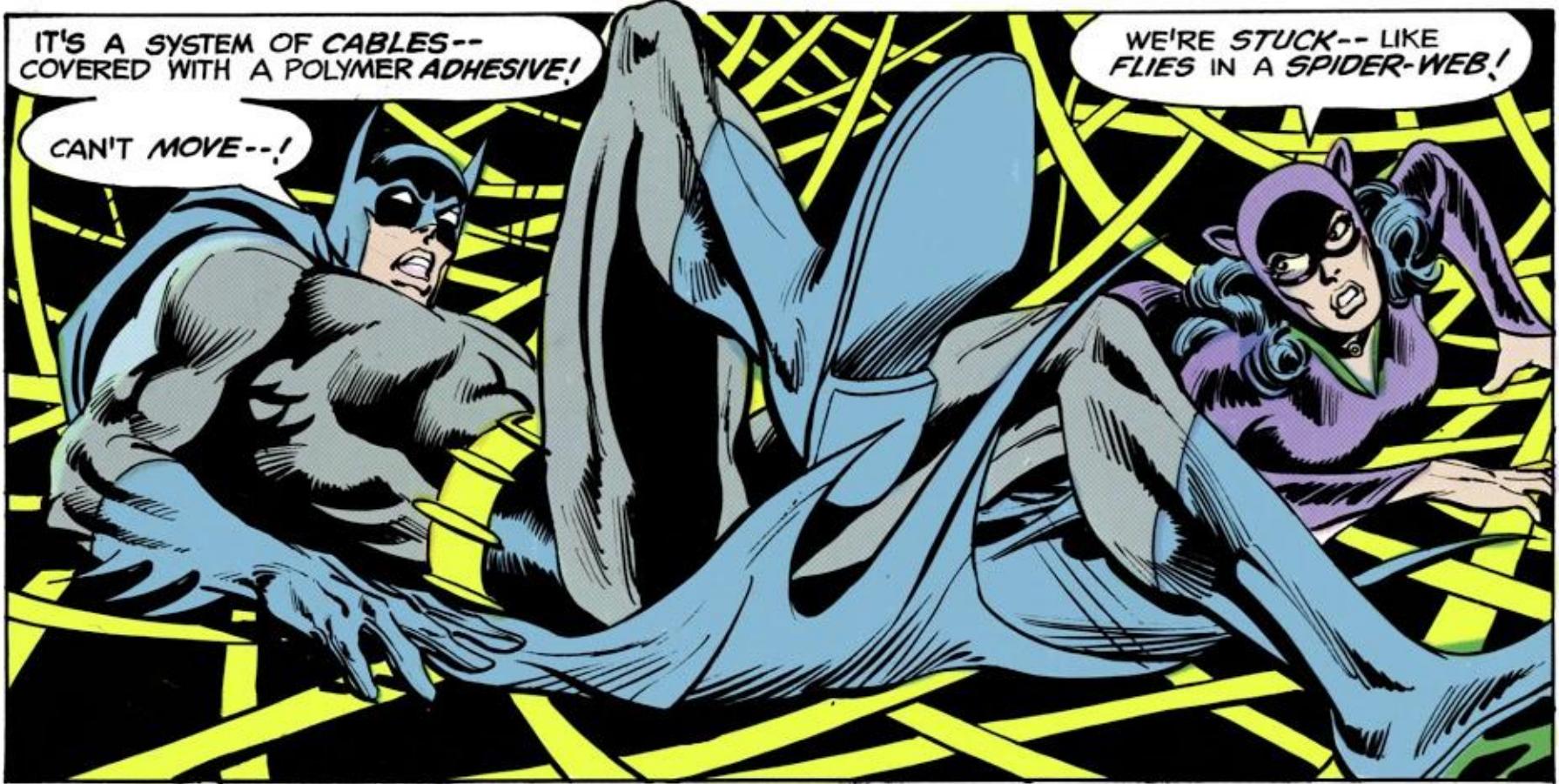












FRANKLY, SPORT, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS OBVIOUS!

WHO ELSE WOULD THINK TO TRAP YOU IN A GIANT CAT'S CRADLE IF NOT--

..THE
CAT-MAN,
THE VILLAIN
WITH NINE
LIVES!



17

NEXT ISSUE

(ASSUMING BATMAN AND THE CATWOMAN LIVE THAT LONG):

IT'S A CHASE ACROSS THE WORLD TO CAPTURE ...

"THE CAT WHO WOULD BE KING!"
YOU'LL HATE YOURSELF IF YOU MISS IT!