

ALL NEW

NO. 310
APR.

NOW
40¢

BATMAN

BACK, BATMAN--
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR
**THE GENTLEMAN
GHOST!**



THE DARKENED ANTIQUITIES
WING OF GOTHAM CITY'S
SPRAWLING RIVERSIDE MUSEUM,
IN THE EMPTY HOURS BEFORE
DAWN!

NORMALLY, THESE HALLS WOULD BE SILENT NOW--
SAVE, PERHAPS, FOR THE WEARY SHUFFLING OF A
NIGHT WATCHMAN'S FEET, OR THE GENTLE MOAN
OF THE WINTER'S WIND--

--BUT TONIGHT, THIS
CHAMBER ECHOES
WITH THE CRASH OF
SHATTERING DISPLAY-
CASE GLASS, THE
JANGLE OF HASTILY-
GRABBED JEWELRY--

--AND A BLOOD-
CHILLING CRY OF
ALARM!!

COR! H'IT'S
TH' BLOOMIN'
BATMAN!

BETTER MOVE
IT, MATES -- OR
WE'RE FINISHED!

A BRAND-NEW KIND
OF DANKNIGHT
EXCITEMENT FROM --

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THE GHOST WHO HAUNTED BAT-MAN

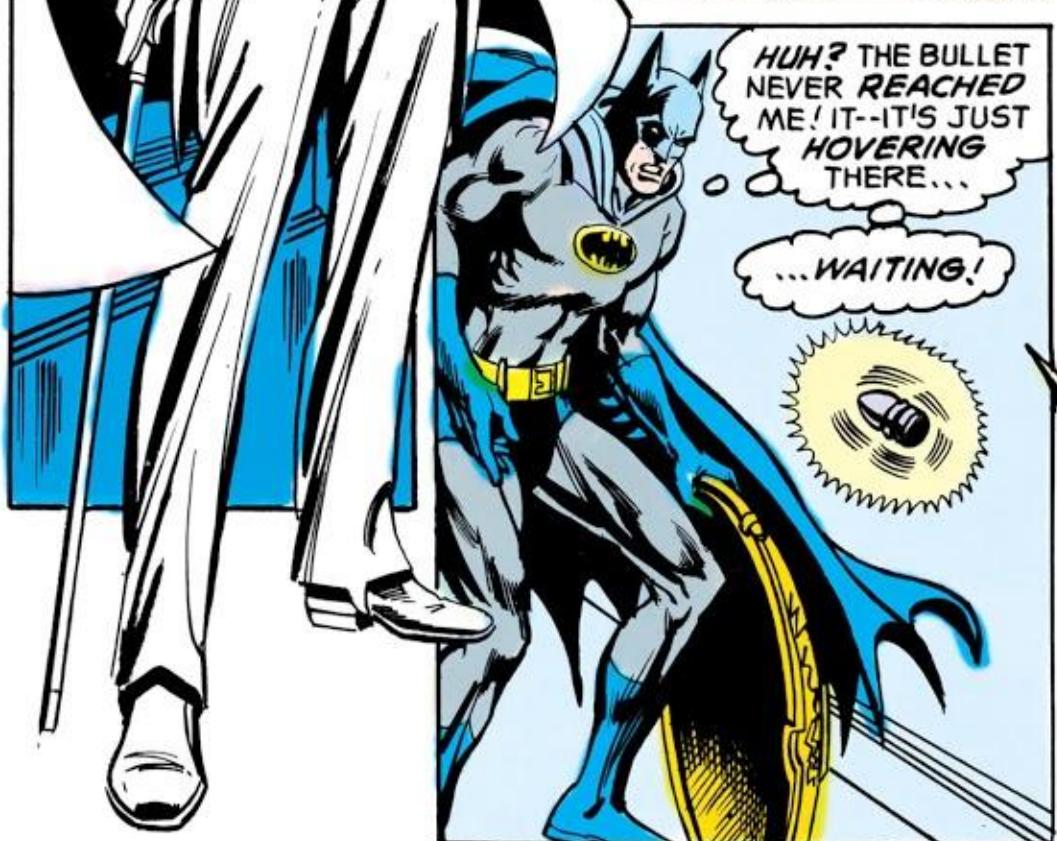
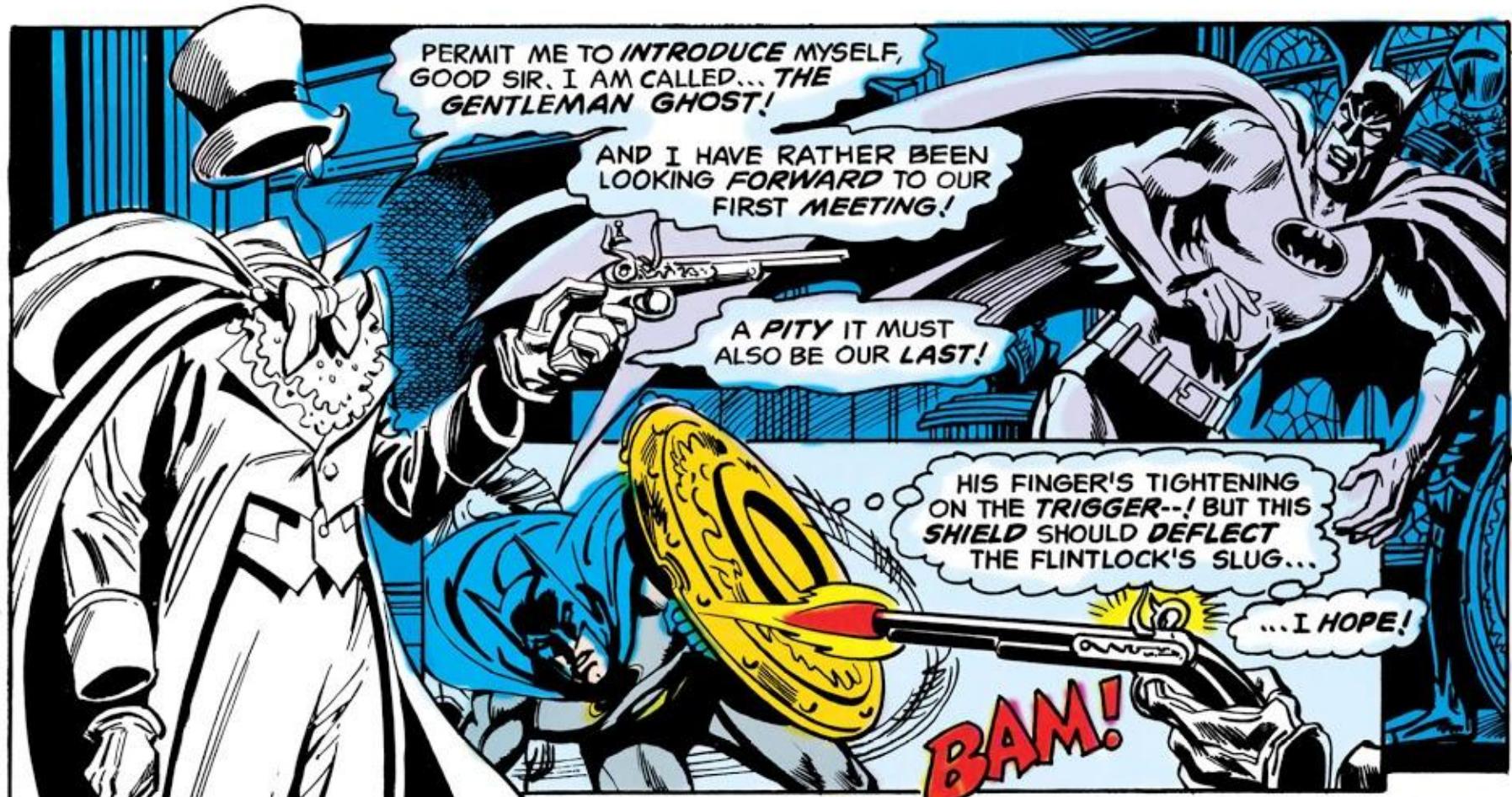
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BUT EVEN AS THE CAPE CRUSADER DESCENDS LIKE A SOMBER SHADOW, HIS PREY IS SCRAMBLING AMONG THE WEAPONS RACKS, AND...

WE'RE COMIN' THROUGH, MATE-- ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!

THEY'VE GOT THE EDGE...





HAWKMAN TOLD ME ALL *ABOUT* THIS SO-CALLED GHOST!

HE CLAIMS TO BE THE SPIRIT OF GENTLEMAN JIM CRADDOCK-- AN ENGLISH HIGHWAYMAN OF THE EARLY 1800'S--AND A NOTORIOUS JEWEL THIEF!

BUT THAT FANCY-DRESSED FAKE DIDN'T JUST EMPTY THE MUSEUM OF ALL ITS GEMS TONIGHT!

HE ALSO TOOK A PAIR OF SOLID GOLD LANTERNS WHICH ONCE HUNG IN FRONT OF WAYNE MANOR--

--AND THAT'S A MISTAKE HE'S GOING TO REGRET!

GRACEFULLY, THE DARK-CLAD FIGURE SWOOPS DOWN TOWARDS THE LOOMING OFFICES OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION--

--AND SWINGS INTO THE PLUSH PENTHOUSE THAT GRACES THE BUILDING'S PEAK!

THE GENTLEMAN GHOST IS A PROBLEM THAT'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT THOUGH!

RIGHT NOW, BRUCE WAYNE HAD BETTER CATCH A FEW HOURS' SLEEP!

ALFRED!

ALFRED,
I'M HOME!

ALFRED?

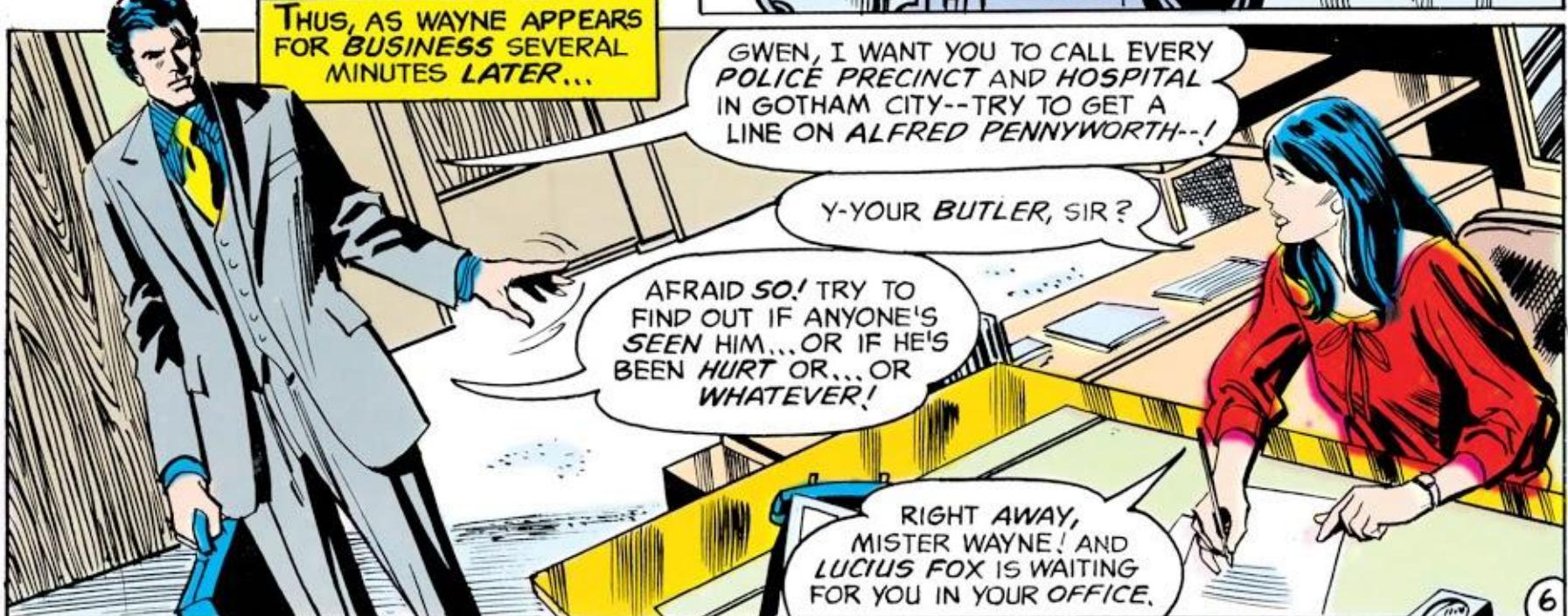
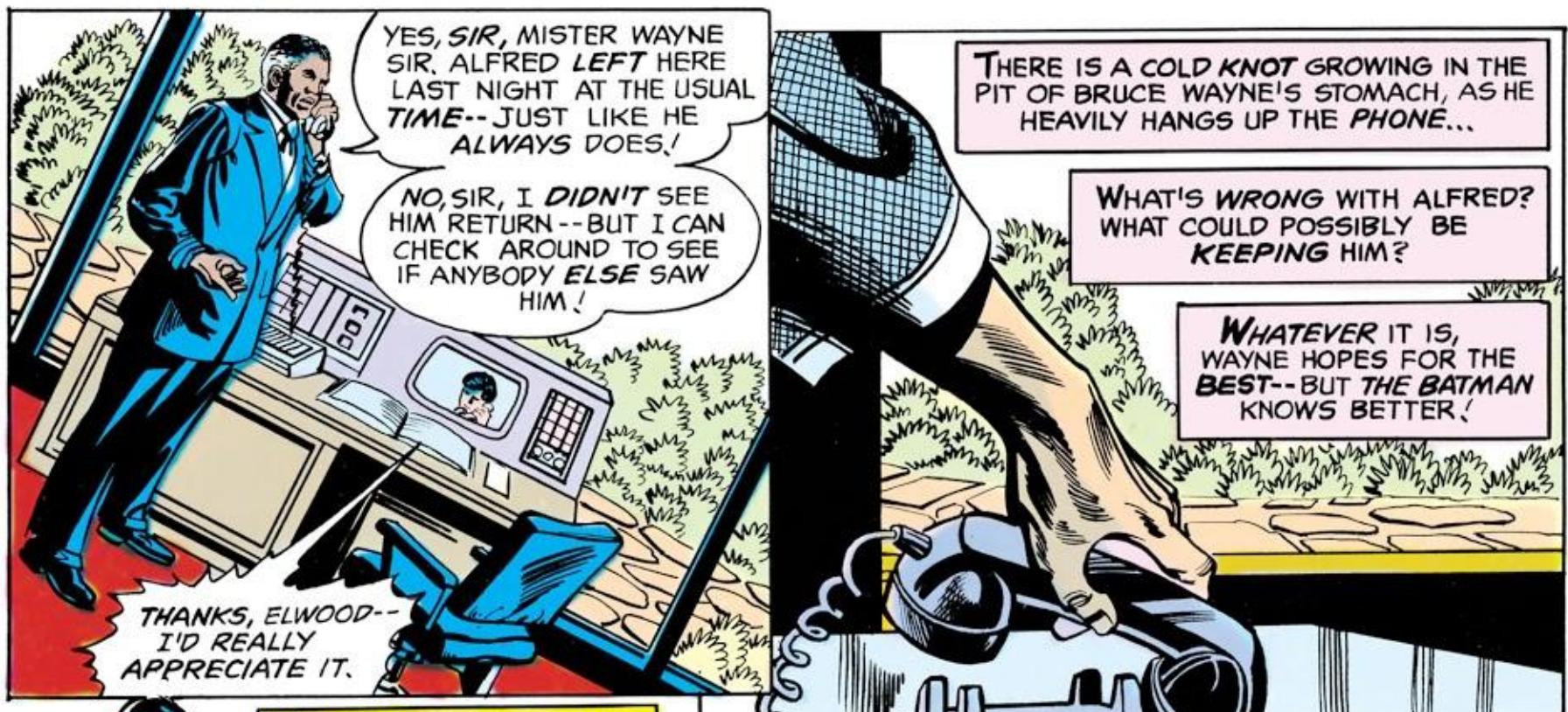
THAT'S ODD.
ALFRED IS ALMOST ALWAYS WAITING FOR ME WITH A CUP OF HOT SOUP!

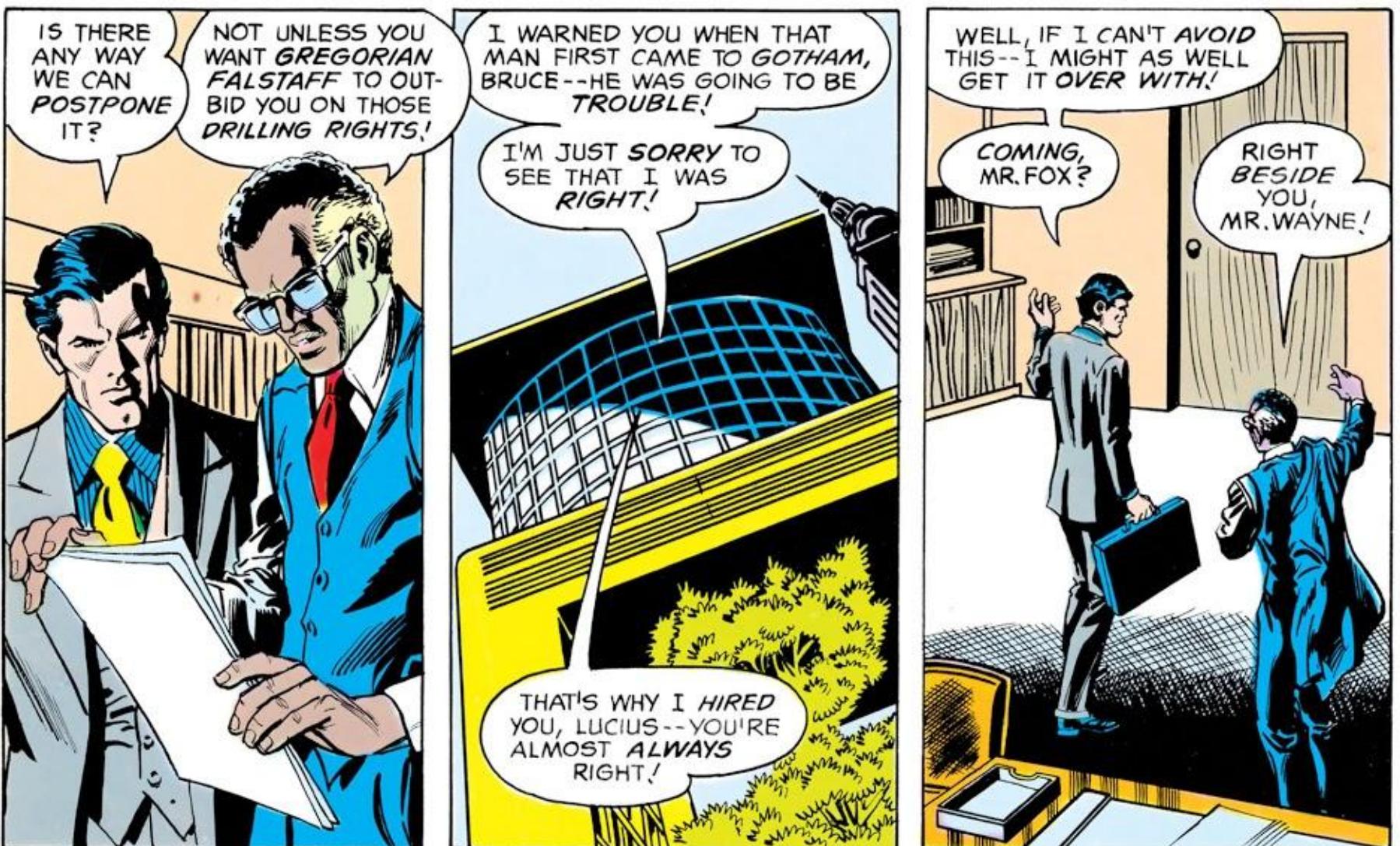
I KNOW TONIGHT WAS HIS NIGHT OFF-- BUT HE'S USUALLY BACK BY NOW!

STILL, I NEEDN'T WORRY. MY BRIGHT-EYED BUTLER CAN MORE THAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!

I'M SURE HE'LL TELL ME ALL *ABOUT* IT WHEN I WAKE UP!







BUT, APPARENTLY, NOTHING ANYONE DOES ACCOMPLISHES ANYTHING!

THUS, AS GOTHAM IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS ONCE MORE...

NOT A WORD FROM ALFRED ALL DAY! IT'S AS IF THE CITY SIMPLY SWALLOWED HIM WHOLE!

ON HIS EVENINGS OFF, ALFIE ALWAYS PASSES THE TIME IN A QUIET ENGLISH-STYLE PUB ON THE WEST SIDE--



--A LITTLE PLACE CALLED YE PIPE AND HEARTH!

IF I INTEND TO PICK UP ALFRED'S TRAIL, THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START!



AND, MINUTES LATER, A JAUNTY ROTUND FIGURE WITH PENETRATING EYES AMBLES AMIABLY INTO THE WELL-PACKED PUBLIC HOUSE...

IT WOULDN'T BE WISE TO START PEOPLE WONDERING WHY THE BATMAN IS ASKING AFTER BRUCE WAYNE'S VALET--

--BUT NOBODY'S EVEN LIKELY TO NOTICE ANOTHER BUTLER ASKING!

BUT WHEN THE GUILEFULLY-GUISED BATMAN POSES A FEW CAREFULLY-CONCEIVED QUESTIONS...

ALFRED? AYE, HE WAS IN LAST NIGHT AS USUAL--AND NOTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS HERE!

YOU'RE CERTAIN OF THAT?

WOULDN'T BE SO CERTAIN IF I WAS 'IM, MATE. SEEKS I REMEMBER A CHAP WHAT FOLLOWED OL' ALFIE OUT OF 'ERE LAST NIGHT.

BIT OF A TOFF 'E WAS, TOO!

DID YOU SEE WHICH WAY THEY WENT?

WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY THEN. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, GENTLEMEN -- AND YOUR INFORMATION!

...WHAT LITTLE THERE WAS OF IT!

MATE, BY THAT TIME, I WAS LUCKY TO SEE THE BOTTOM O' ME GLASS!

THUS, SHORTLY...

COULDN'T TRACK DOWN A TRACE OF ALFRED ONCE HE LEFT THAT PUB!

MIGHT AS WELL CHECK BACK HERE AT HOME-- SEE IF ALF'S BEEN FOUND YET!

IF NOT, I HAVE A FEW THINGS DOWN IN THE BAT CAVE THAT MAY HELP ME PICK UP HIS--

--EH?
SOMEONE'S INSIDE MY APARTMENT--!?

THANK GOD-- IT'S ALFRED!
HE'S ALL RIGHT!

BUT HE MIGHT NOT REMAIN THAT WAY FOR LONG-- CONSIDERING THE COMPANY HE'S KEEPING!

HAVE A CARE, YOU DOLTS-- THAT'S A PRICELESS ANTIQUE YOU'RE MANHANDLING HERE!

SORRY, GUV'NOR--WE'RE DOIN' THE BEST WE CAN!

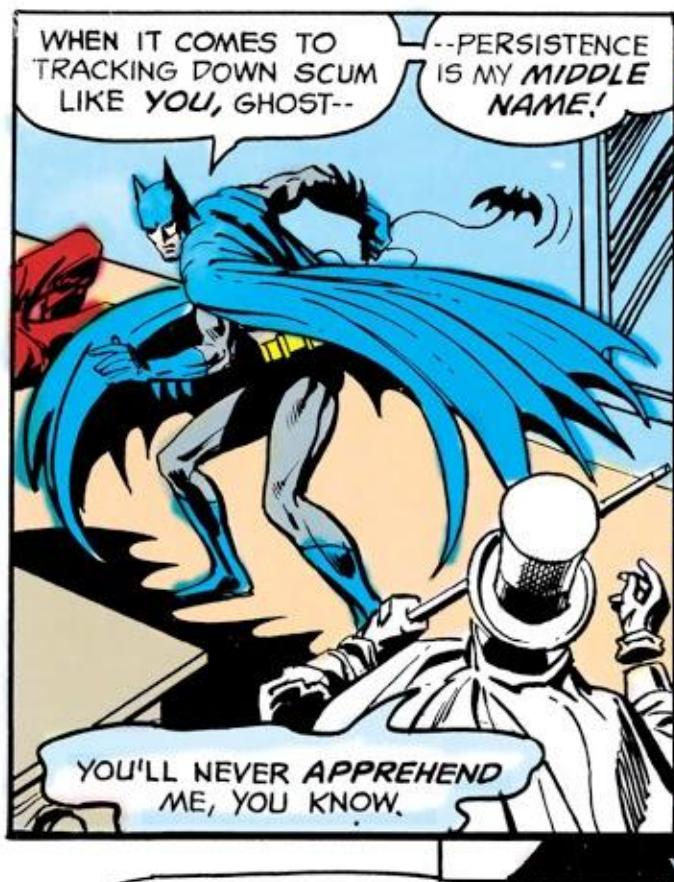
POOR ALFRED--THIS JUST HASN'T BEEN HIS DAY, HAS IT? HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN HOME JUST IN TIME TO CATCH THE GHOST AND HIS GANG IN THE ACT!

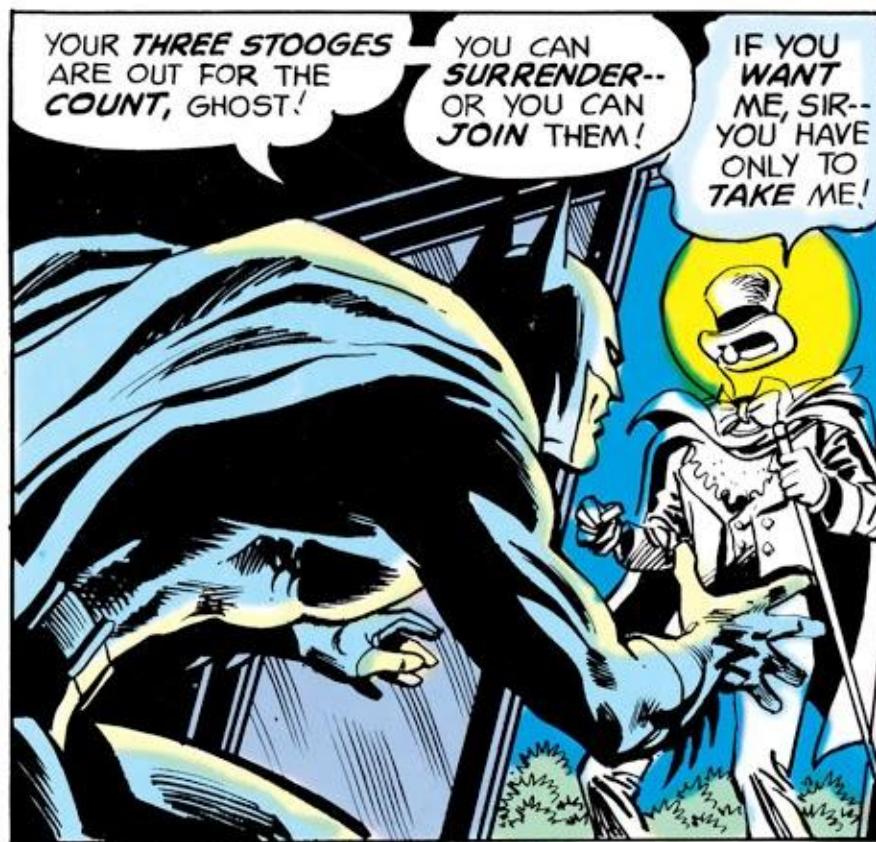
THUS FAR,
IT APPEARS
THEY HAVEN'T HURT HIM--

--AND I INTEND TO SEE IT STAYS THAT WAY!

HELL'S BELLS!
IT'S THE BLASTED BATMAN AGAIN!

YOU CERTAINLY ARE A PERSISTENT SORT, OLD CHAP!





AND WHEN THE CAPED CRUSADER STRUGGLES BACK TO **CONSCIOUSNESS** ONCE MORE...



I WOULD HAVE BEEN **PREPARED** FOR AN ATTACK BY THE **GHOST** OR ONE OF HIS **GOONS**...



THE ONLY **QUESTION** NOW IS--**HOW** DID ALFRED MANAGE TO FALL UNDER THE GHOST'S **CONTROL**?

AND WHY HAS THE **GENTLEMAN GHOST**--WHO HAS ONLY STOLEN JEWELS IN THE PAST--SUDDENLY STARTED STEALING **GOLD LANTERNS** AND ANTIQUE **CHAIRS**?

OF WHAT POSSIBLE **USE** COULD THEY BE TO--?

OF COURSE! IT'S THE ONLY ANSWER THAT MAKES ANY **SENSE**!

I KNOW WHY THE GHOST HAS BEEN **STEALING** FROM ME-- AND THAT TELLS ME WHERE TO **FIND** HIM!



ON AN EMERALD KNOLL SEVERAL MILES OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, A SPRAWLING **MANSION** RISES MAJESTICALLY AGAINST THE MOONLIGHT...

THIS IS **WAYNE MANOR**--ANCESTRAL HOME OF **BRUCE WAYNE**...



...BUT TONIGHT, THE ABODE OF A VERY **DIFFERENT** DARK-NIGHT DENIZEN...

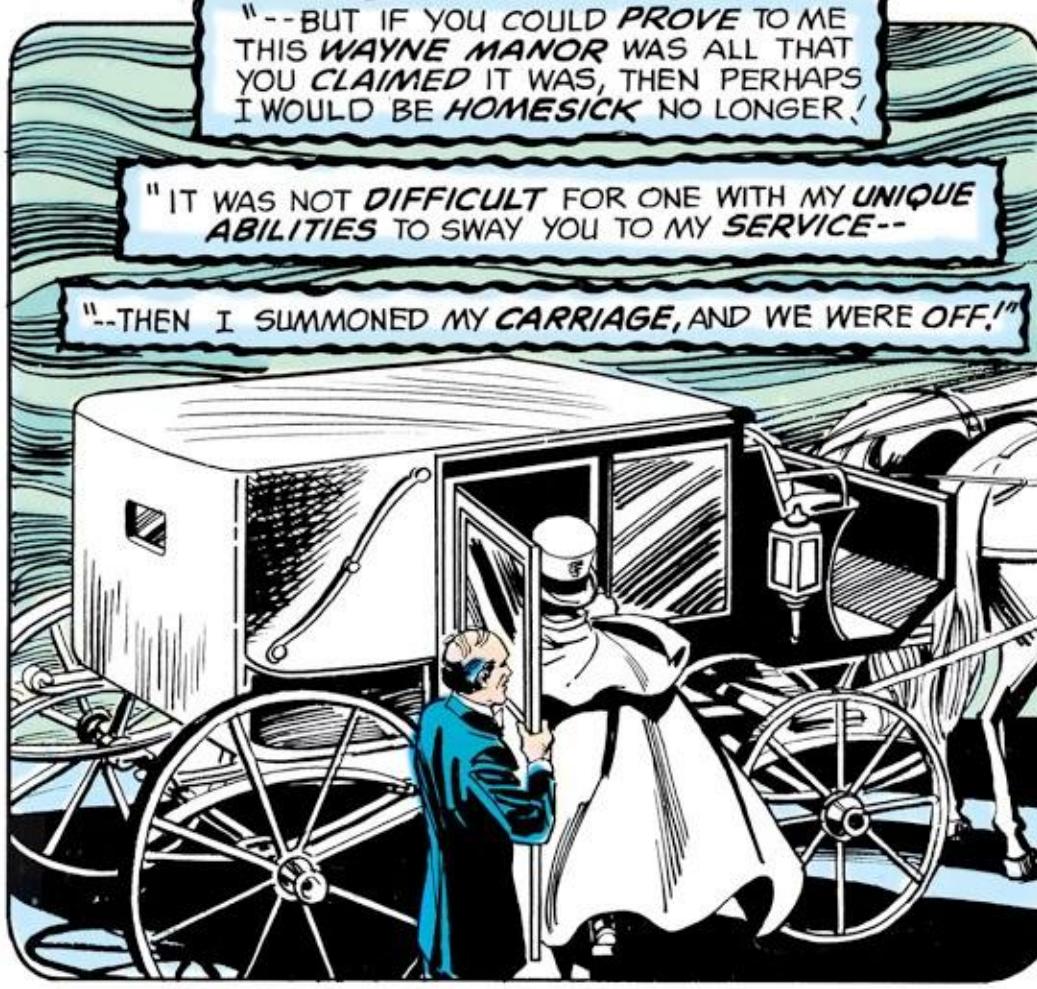
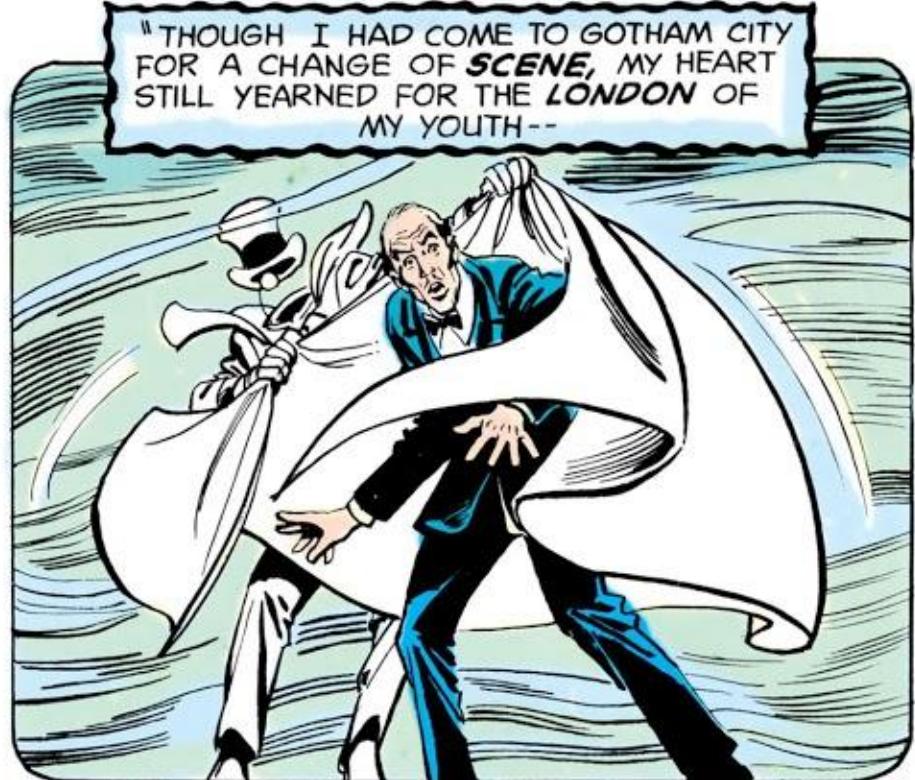
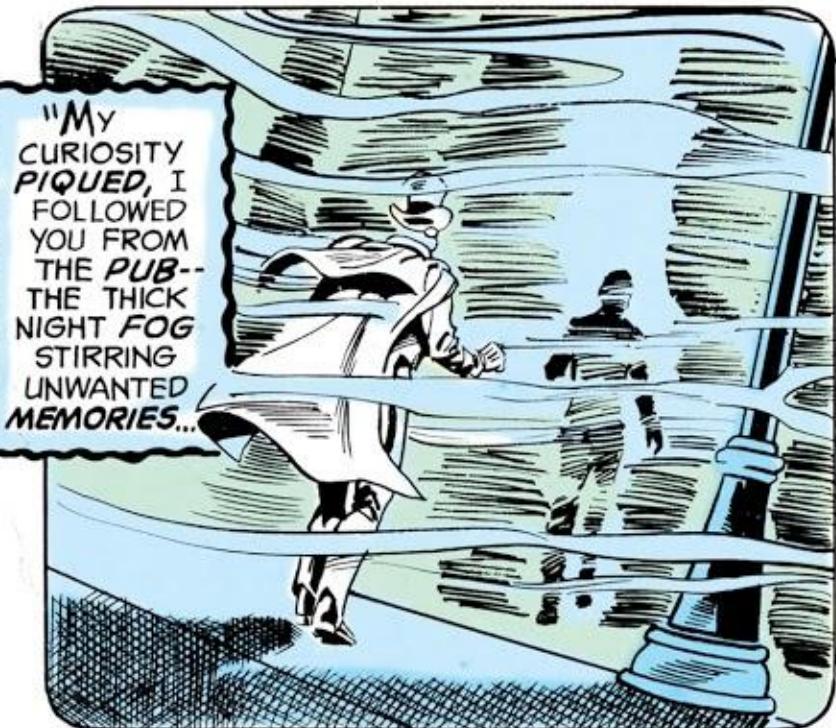
IS EVERYTHING **SATISFACTORY**, MASTER CRADDOCK?

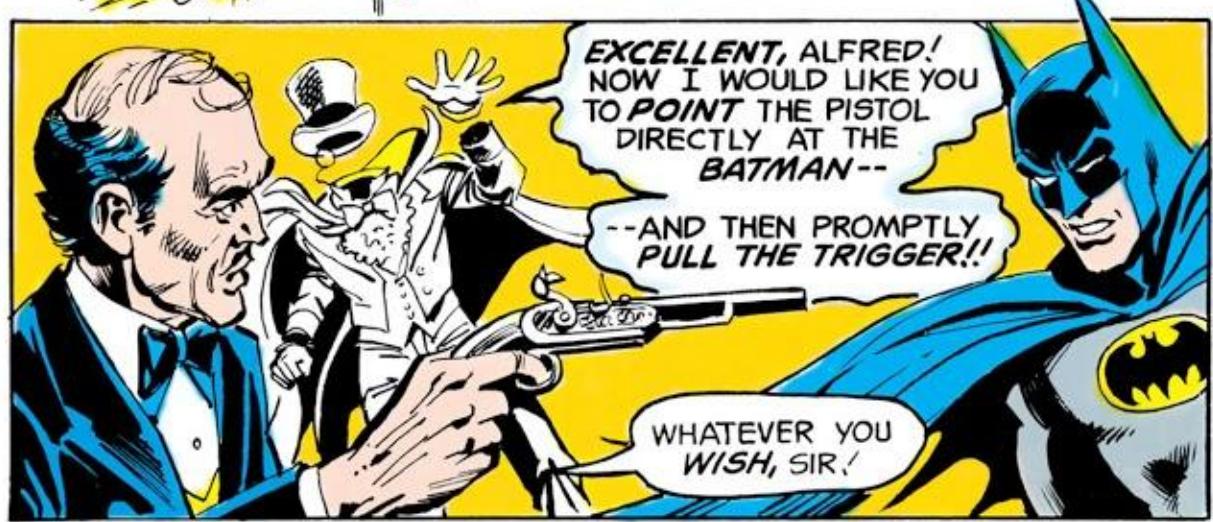
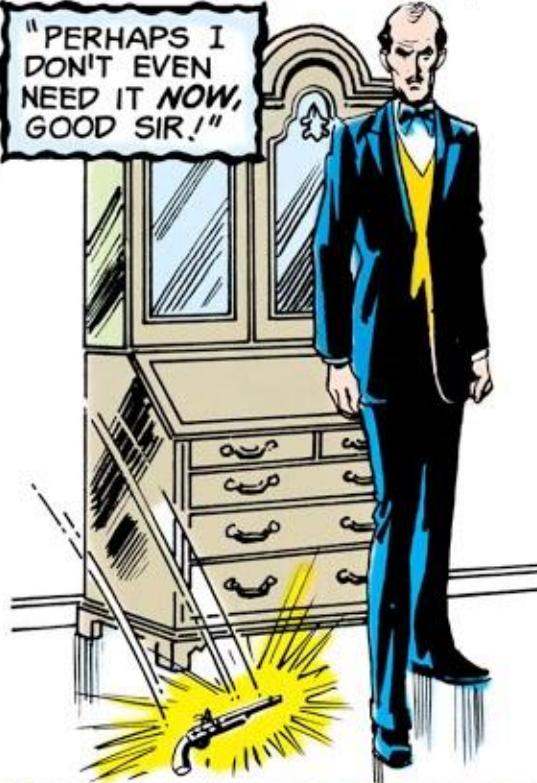
QUITE SO, ALFRED! YOUR **SERVICE** THUS FAR HAS BEEN **EXEMPLARY!**

"IT'S FORTUNATE I WAS TAKING MY **EASE** LAST EVENING IN THE **PIPE AND HEARTH PUB**--AND THUS CHANCED TO **OVERHEAR** YOUR CONVERSATION..."

--AND I WOULD MATCH **WAYNE MANOR** AGAINST ANY **OTHER** ESTATE OF ITS AGE IN THIS **COUNTRY--OR THE WORLD!**

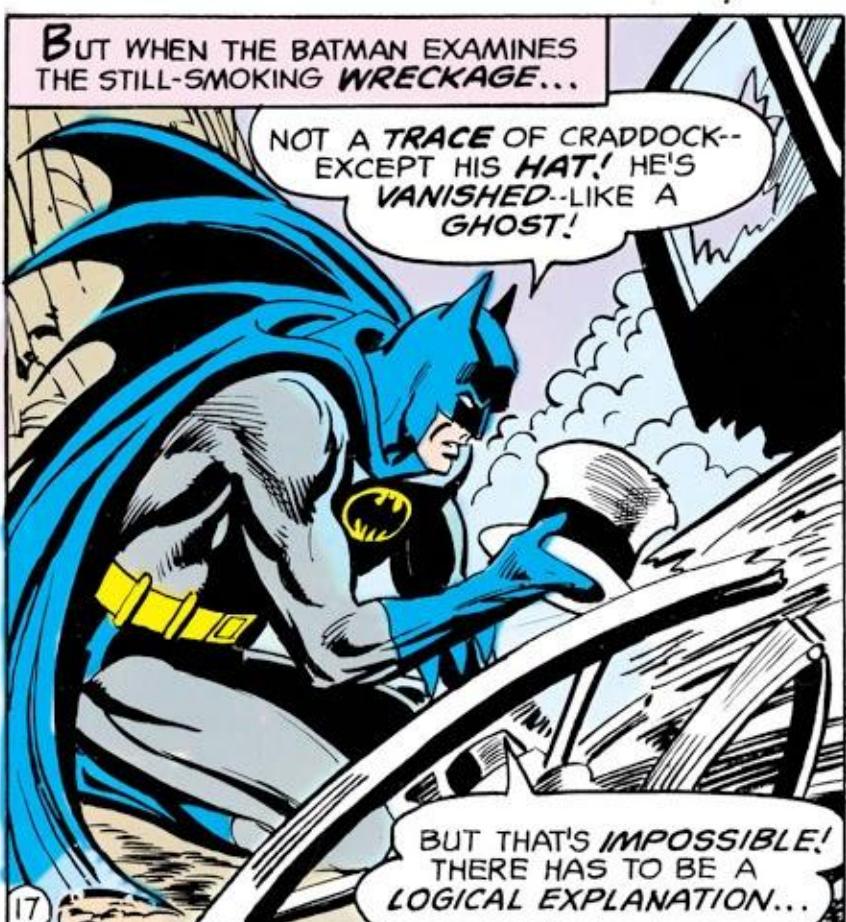
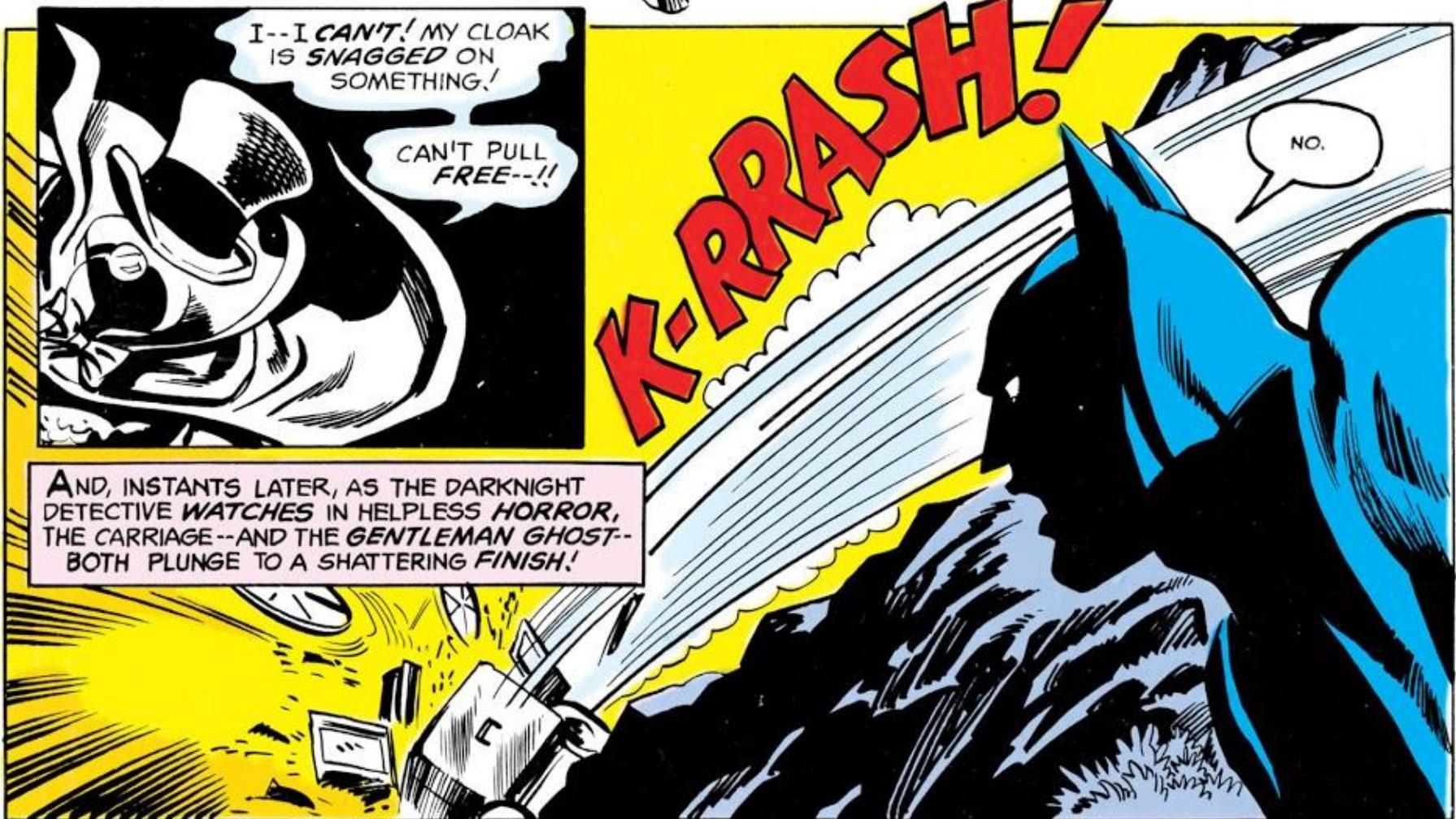
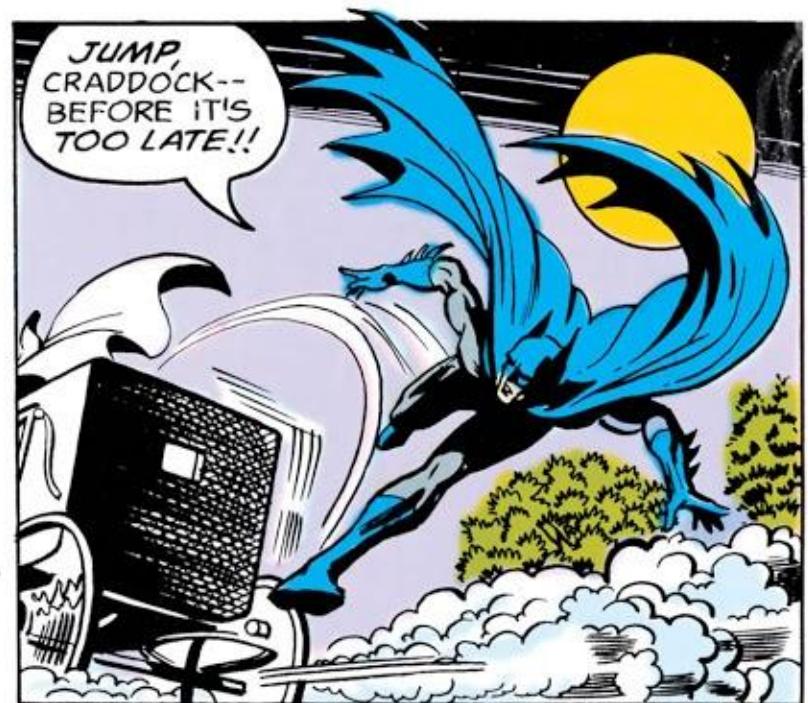
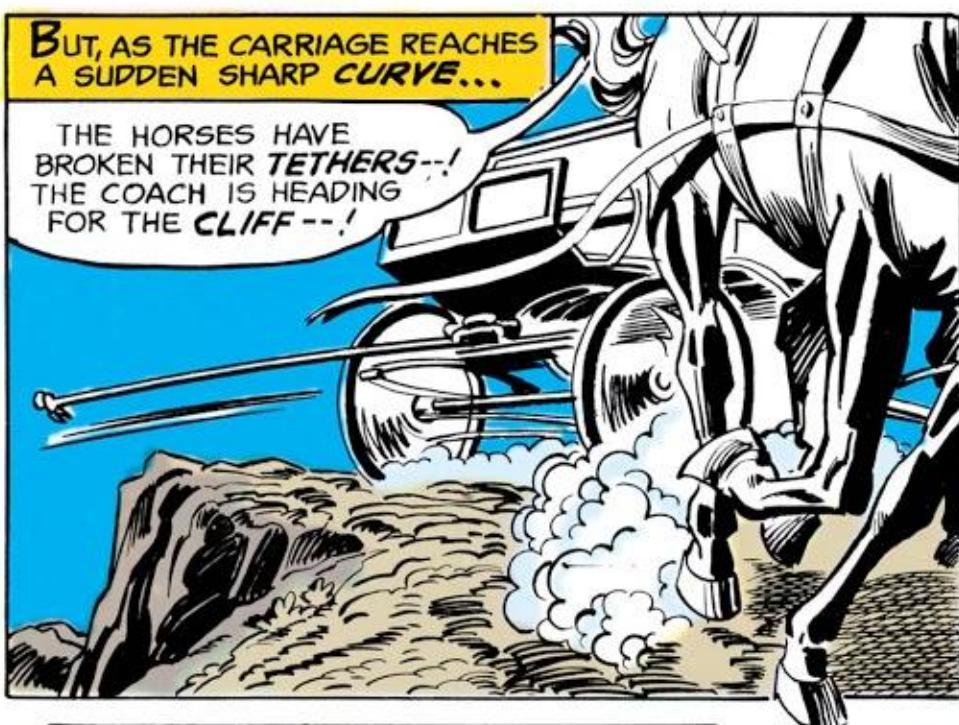
I WAS PRIVILEGED TO **SERVE** THERE FOR MANY YEARS--UNTIL MASTER BRUCE DECIDED TO **CLOSE** THE MANOR, AND MOVE TO **GOTHAM PROPER!**











**NEXT: TOGETHER AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN TEN YEARS: THE BATMAN--AND BATGIRL!!**



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