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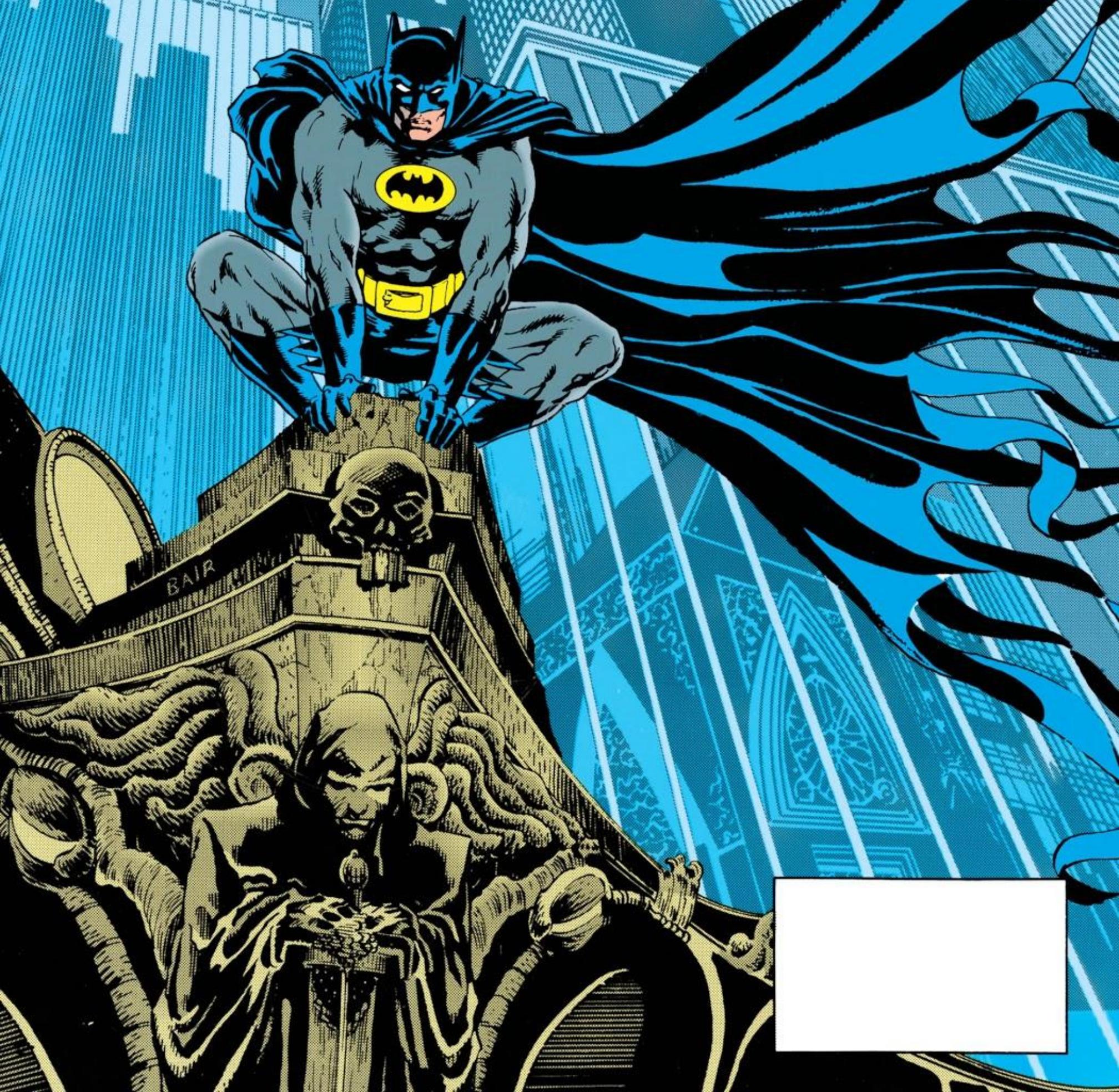
FEB 90



BATMAN



**STALKING THE
CRIMESMITH!**



CRIMESMITH and PUNISHMENT

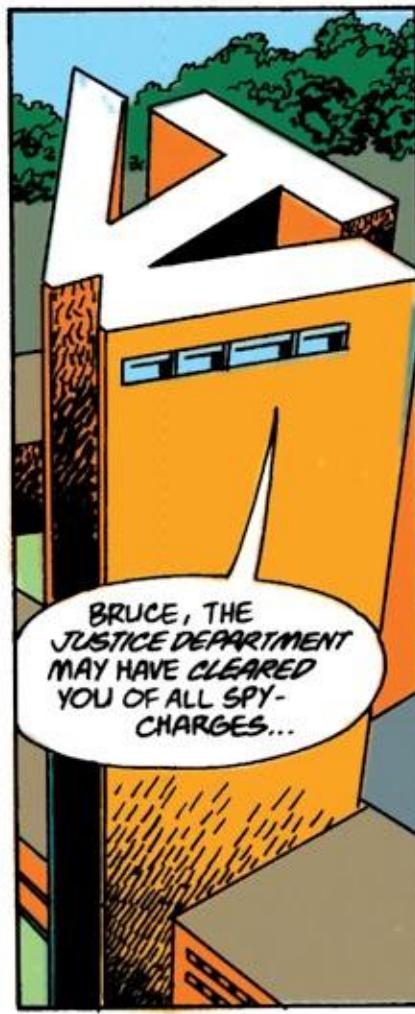
HIS FLESH AND BLOOD ARE STILL WARM TO THE TOUCH, THE STINK OF SULPHUR THICK AND SUFFOCATING.

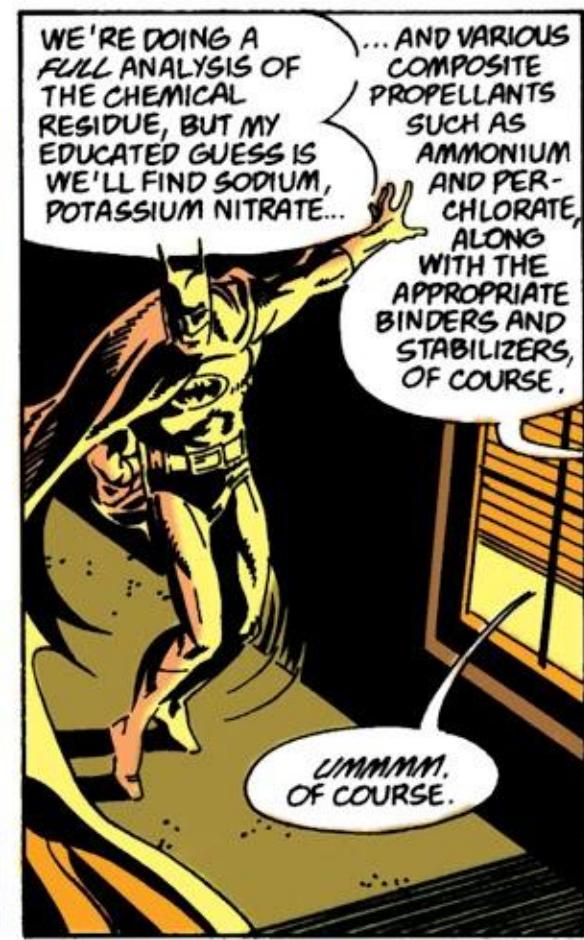
MOST OF WHAT WAS MONTGOMERY MARR, THIRD-RATE THIEF, IS SIMPLY RED-STAINED ASH CRUMBLING TO THE GROUND, OR SCATTERING TO THE WIND.

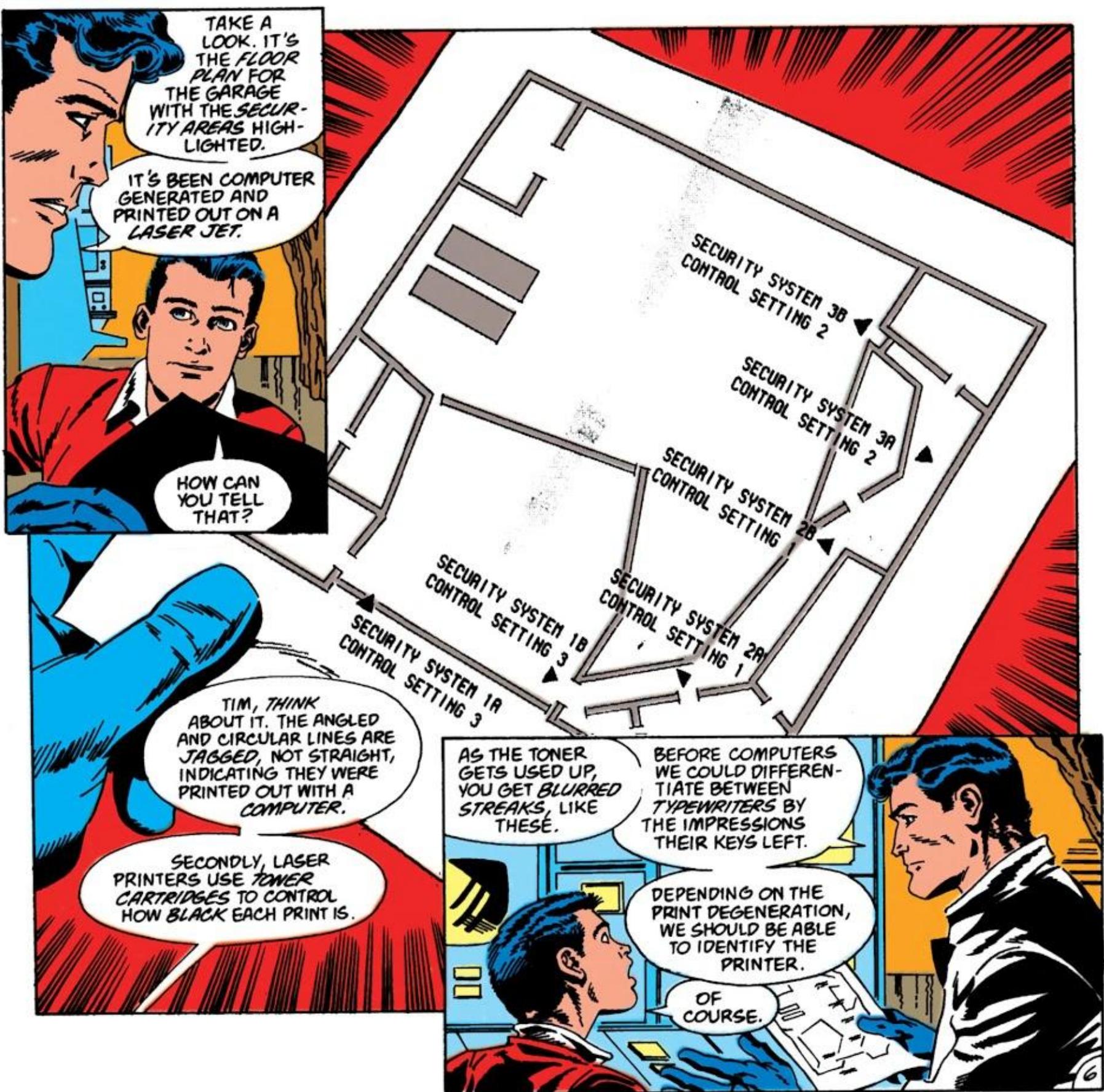
MARV WOLFMAN · JIM APARO · MIKE DECARLO · JOHN COSTANZA · ADRIENNE ROY · DAN RASPLER · DENNY O'NEIL · BOB KANE
writer · penciller · inker · letterer · colorist · assoc. editor · editor · CREATOR













WHAT WE DO DEMANDS DISCIPLINE, UNHUUH, IN BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL ARENAS.

EACH MUST DEVELOP TOGETHER. WE CAN'T FAVOR ONE OVER THE OTHER.

TIM...

...HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO YOUR PARENTS ABOUT YOUR BEING HERE?

MY PARENTS?

ACTUALLY... I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE NOW.

DAD'S A CORPORATE EXEC AND THEY GO ALL OVER THE WORLD. THEY HAVEN'T CALLED IN A WHILE.

DO THEY DO THAT OFTEN? NOT CALL?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL. THEY'RE SO BUSY. I GUESS THEY FORGET.

BESIDES, THEY'VE GOT PROBLEMS, TOO.

PROBLEMS?

THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING. OR THEY WERE.

THEY WERE HOPING THIS TRIP WOULD MAKE THINGS WORK.

...OTHERWISE...

I'M SORRY, TIM.

IF I CAN HELP IN ANY WAY...

...I'LL--

I THINK THAT'S THE COMPUTER.

BING BING BING



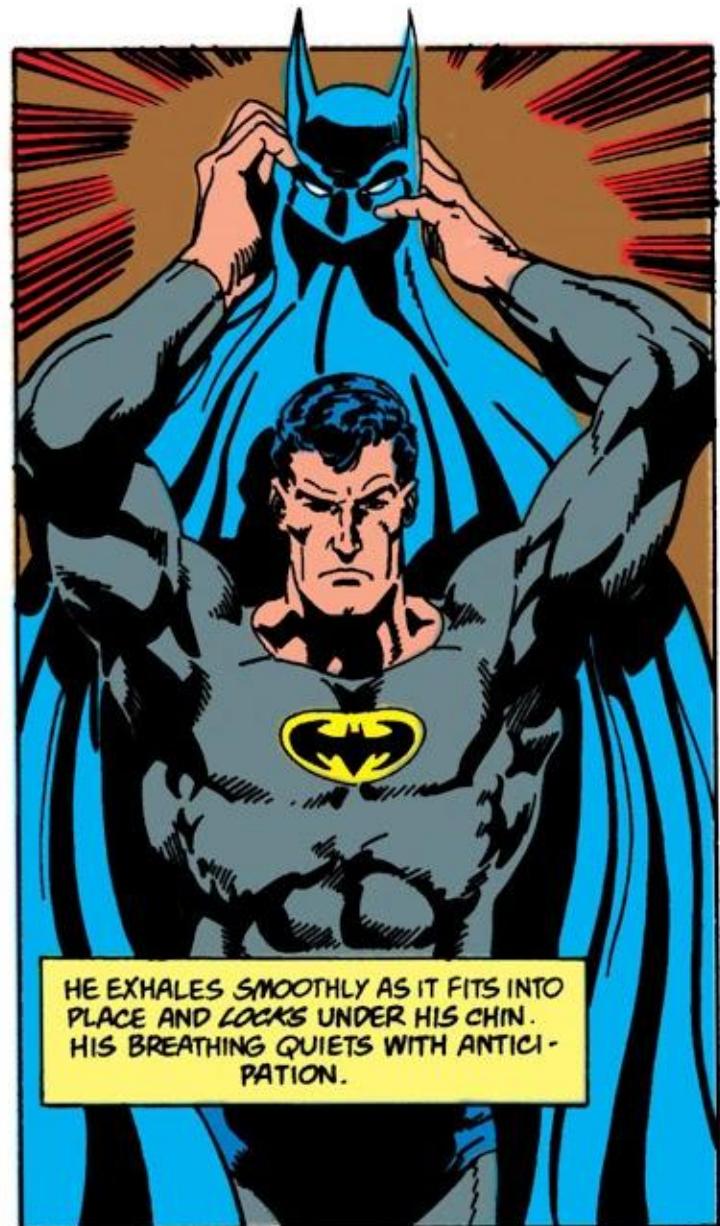
THE SHIRT IS REINFORCED WITH AN ARMOR PLATE SEWN BENEATH THE GOLDEN SHIELD. HE SLIPS IT ON AND FEELS AT HOME NOW.



THE COWL IS BOTH SOFT AND SOLID TO HIS TOUCH, ITS CROWN AND BACK REINFORCED, ITS FACE FORM-FITTING AND TIGHT.



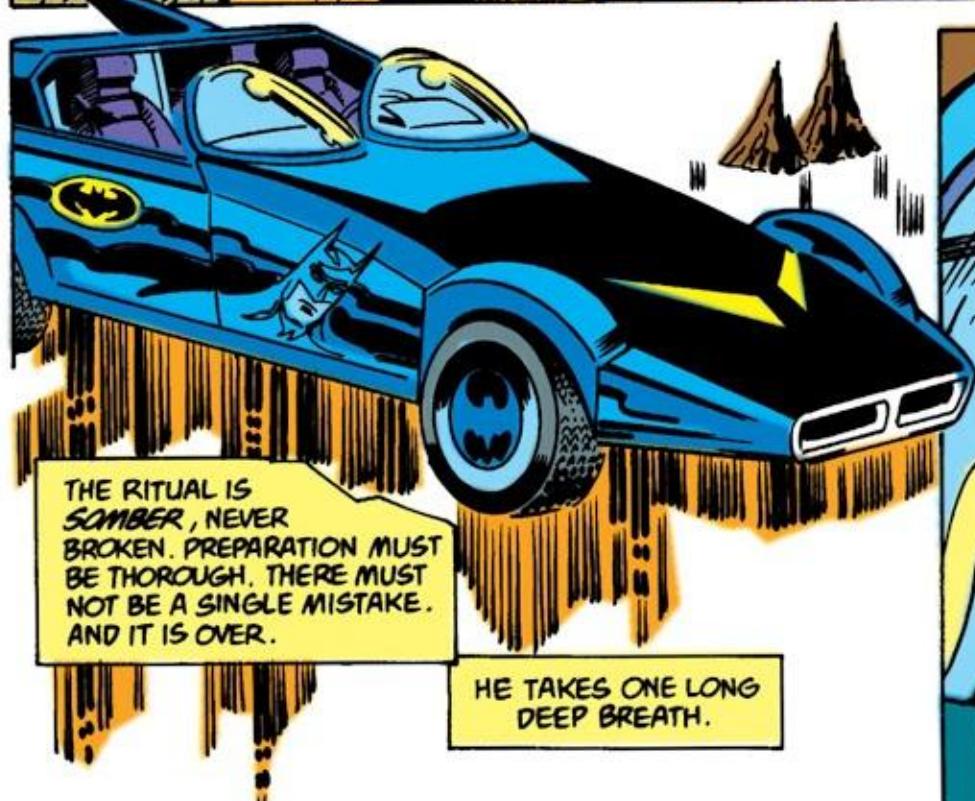
HE EXHALES SMOOTHLY AS IT FITS INTO PLACE AND LOCKS UNDER HIS CHIN. HIS BREATHING QUIETS WITH ANTICIPATION.



THE UTILITY BELT HAS ITS ROPE, MEDICAL KIT AND RADIO ALREADY IN PLACE. HE STUDIES THE SHELVES TO DETERMINE WHAT ELSE HE MIGHT NEED.



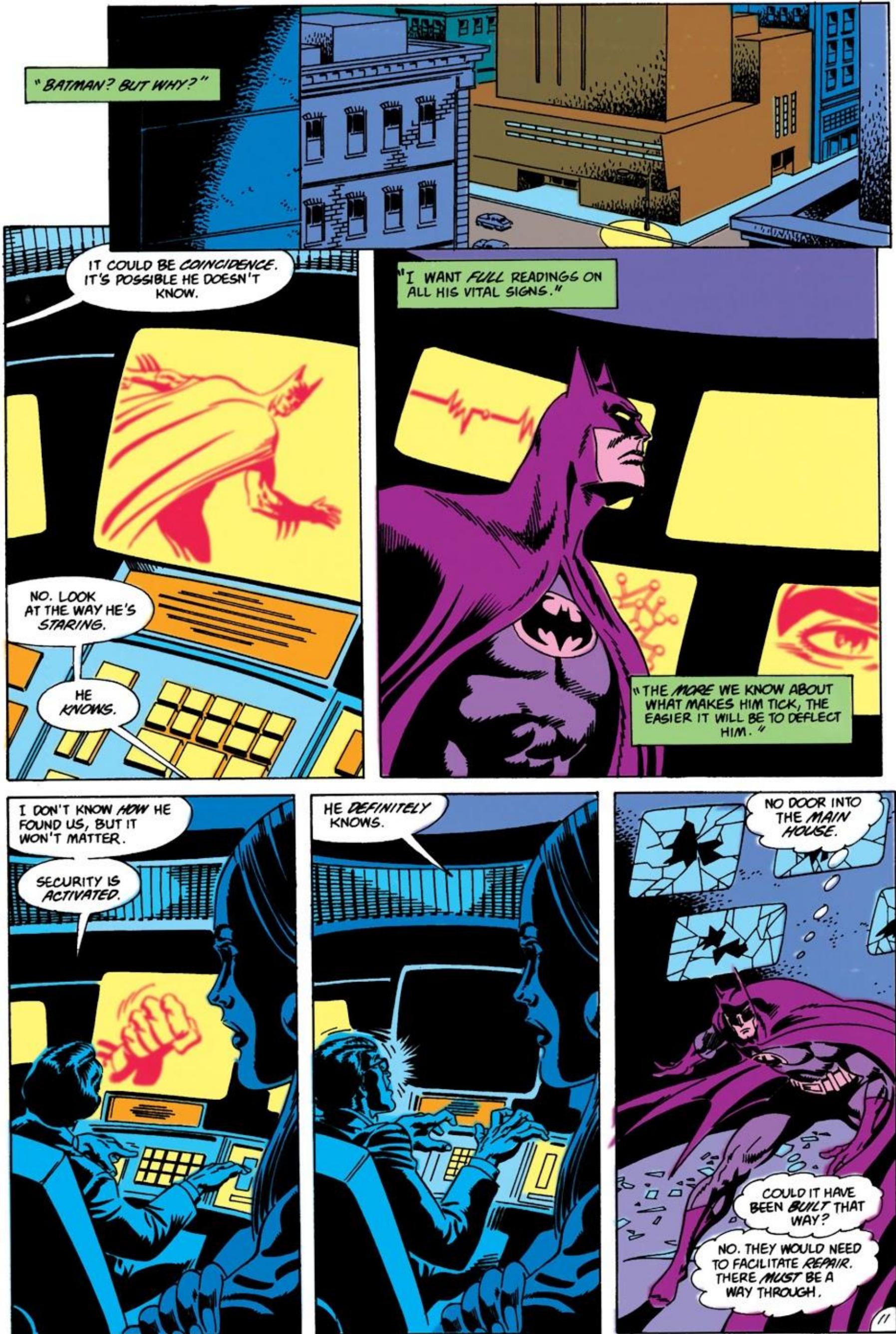
THE RITUAL IS SOMBER, NEVER BROKEN. PREPARATION MUST BE THOROUGH. THERE MUST NOT BE A SINGLE MISTAKE. AND IT IS OVER.



HE TAKES ONE LONG DEEP BREATH.

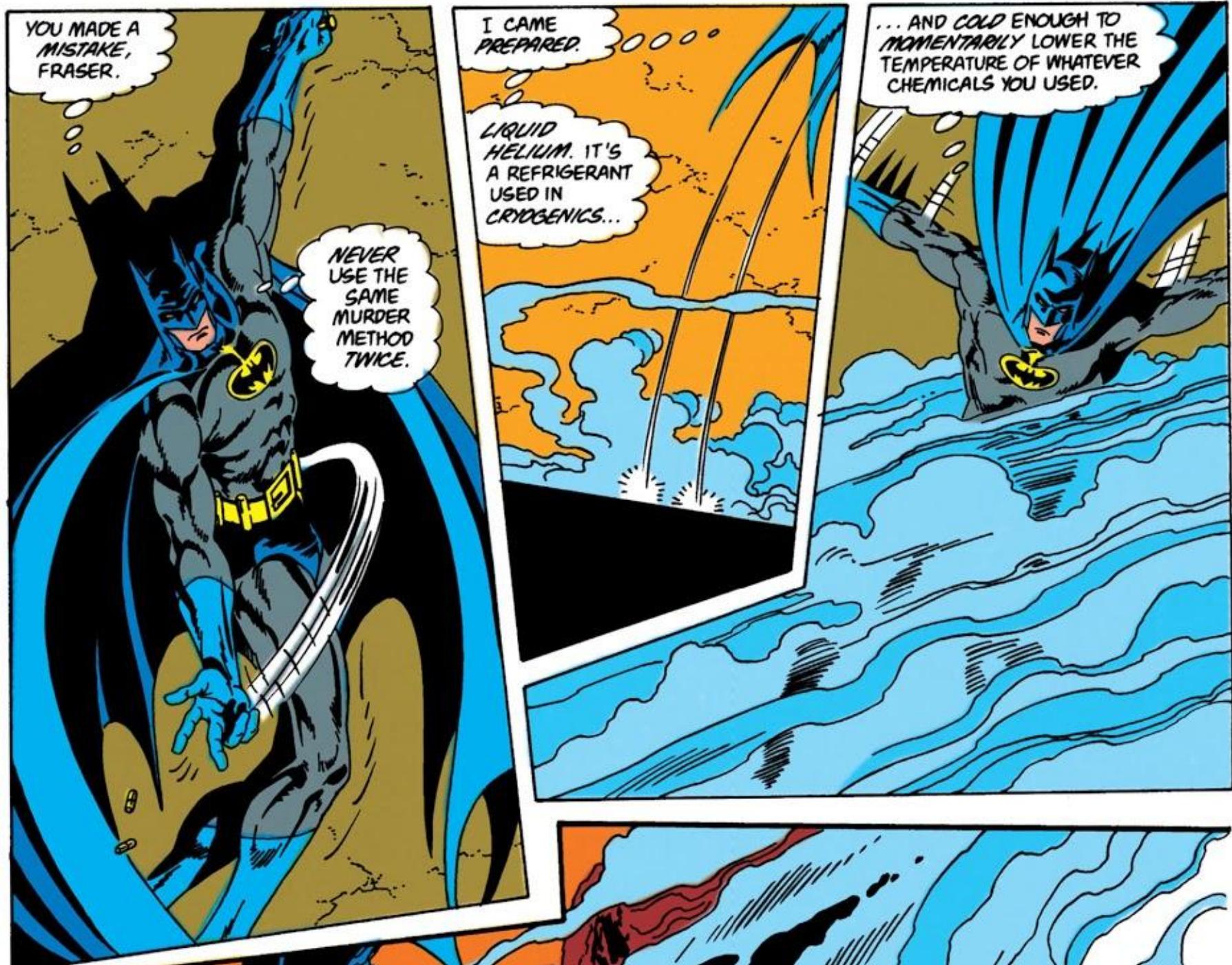
HE'S READY.

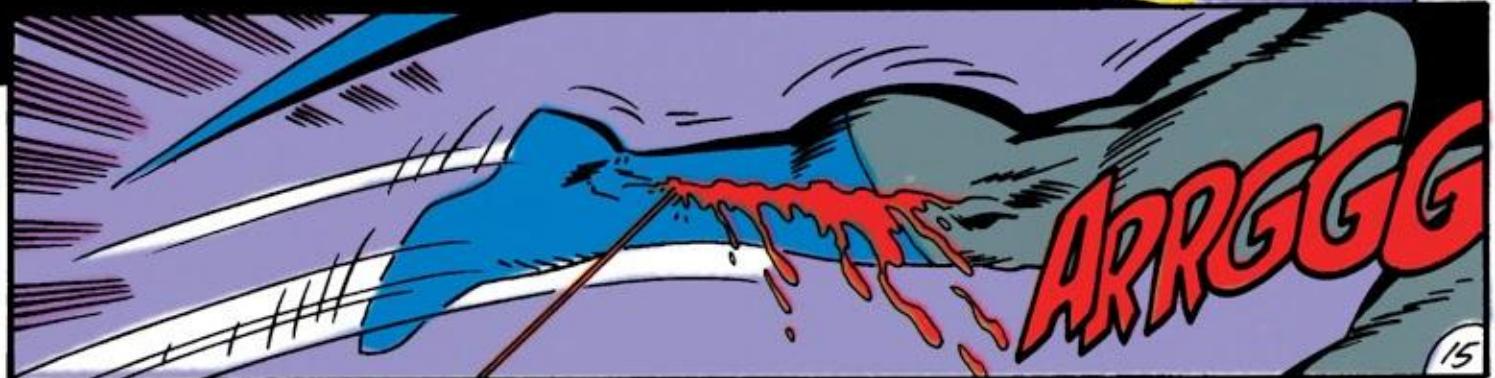




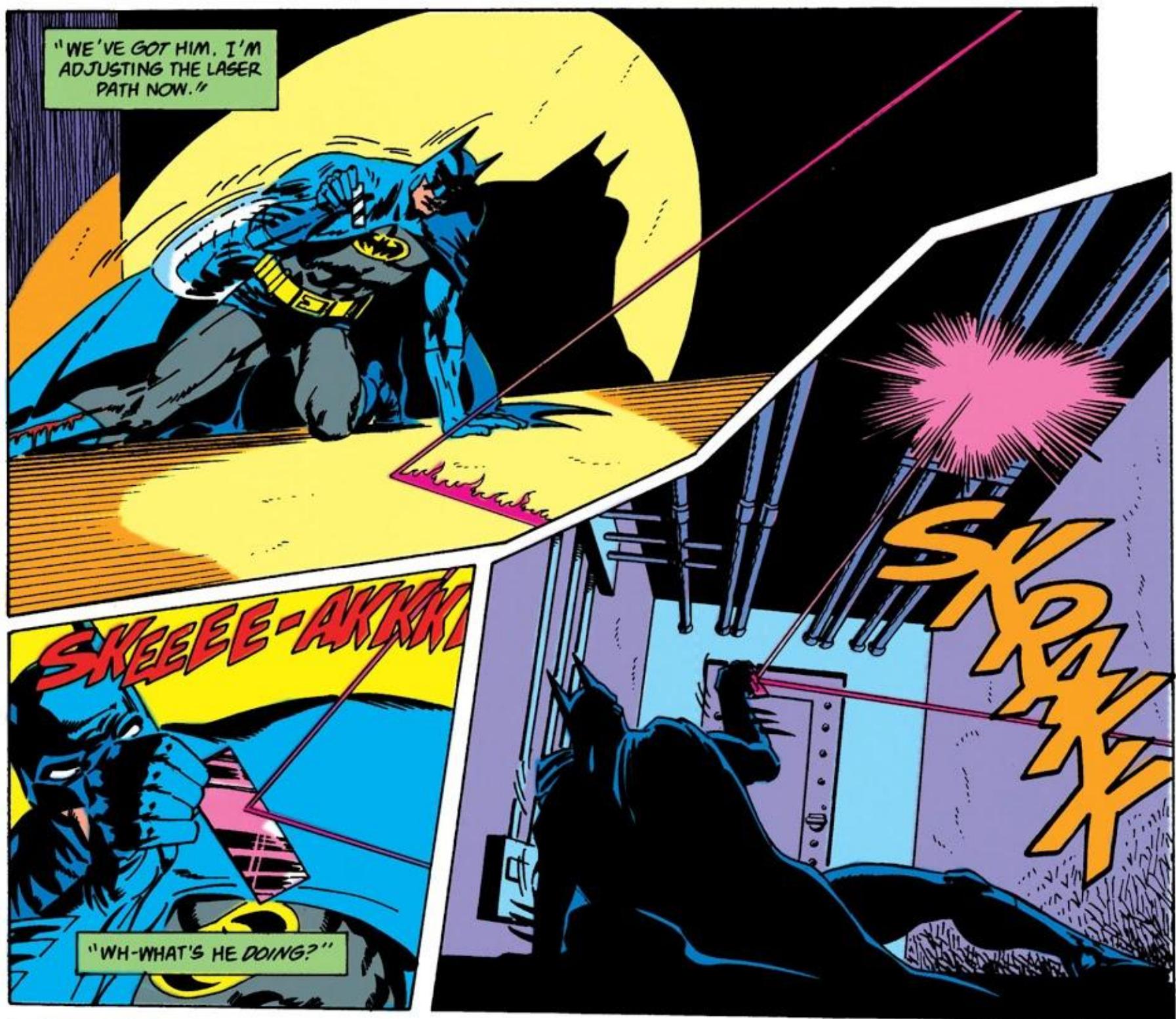








"WE'VE GOT HIM. I'M
ADJUSTING THE LASER
PATH NOW."



I CAN'T SEE HIM. THE LASERS
HEATED UP THE WATER--

--HE'S
STEAMED
UP THE
ROOM.

I CAN'T
AIM THE
BEAMS!

"WHAT'S HE DOING?"

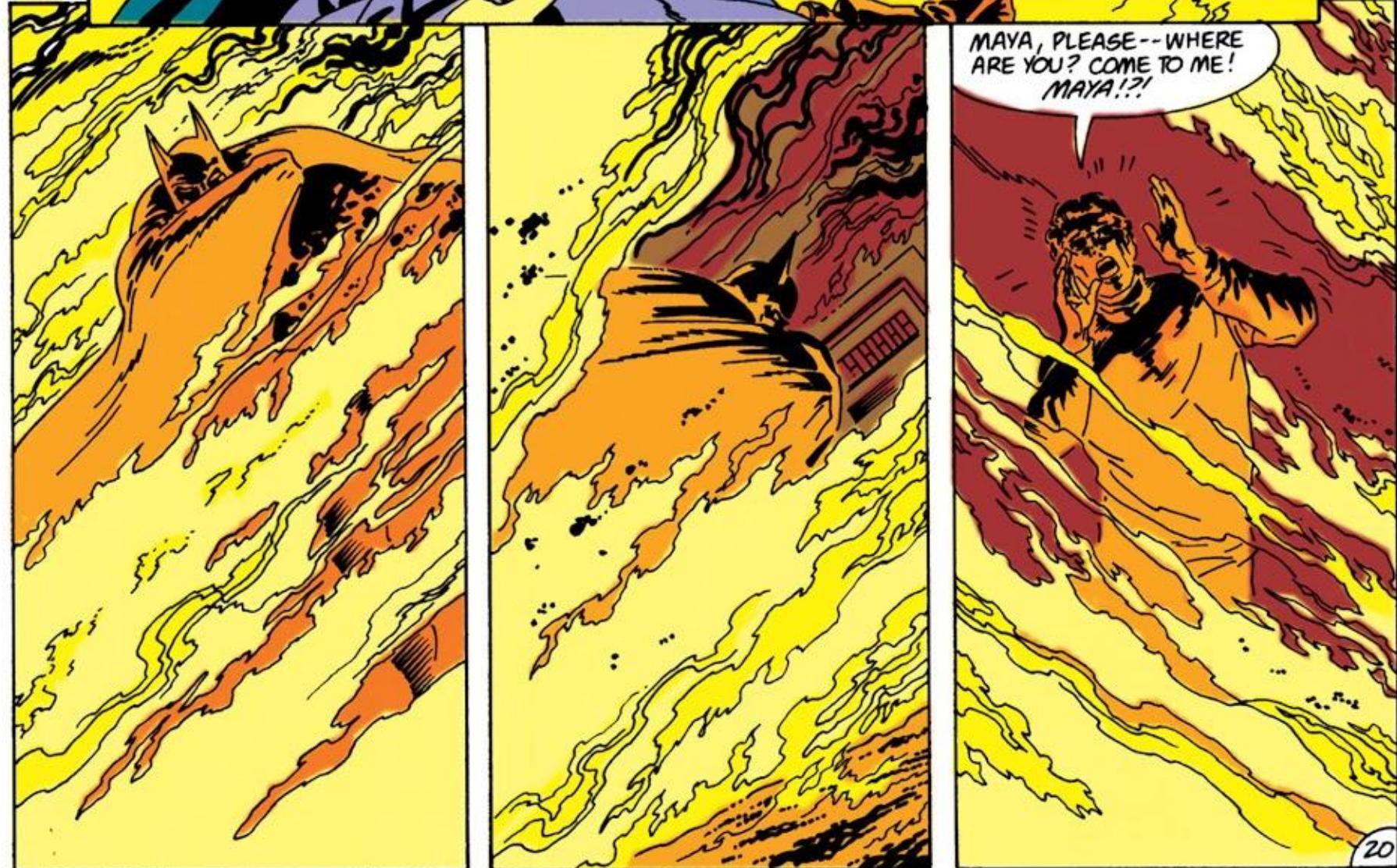
"SIT DOWN, YOU FOOL. DON'T
YOU HEAR THE DOOR ALARM?
HE'S USING THE LASERS
TO BURN THROUGH!"















NEXT: RETURN OF THE BEAST!



novus
Distributions