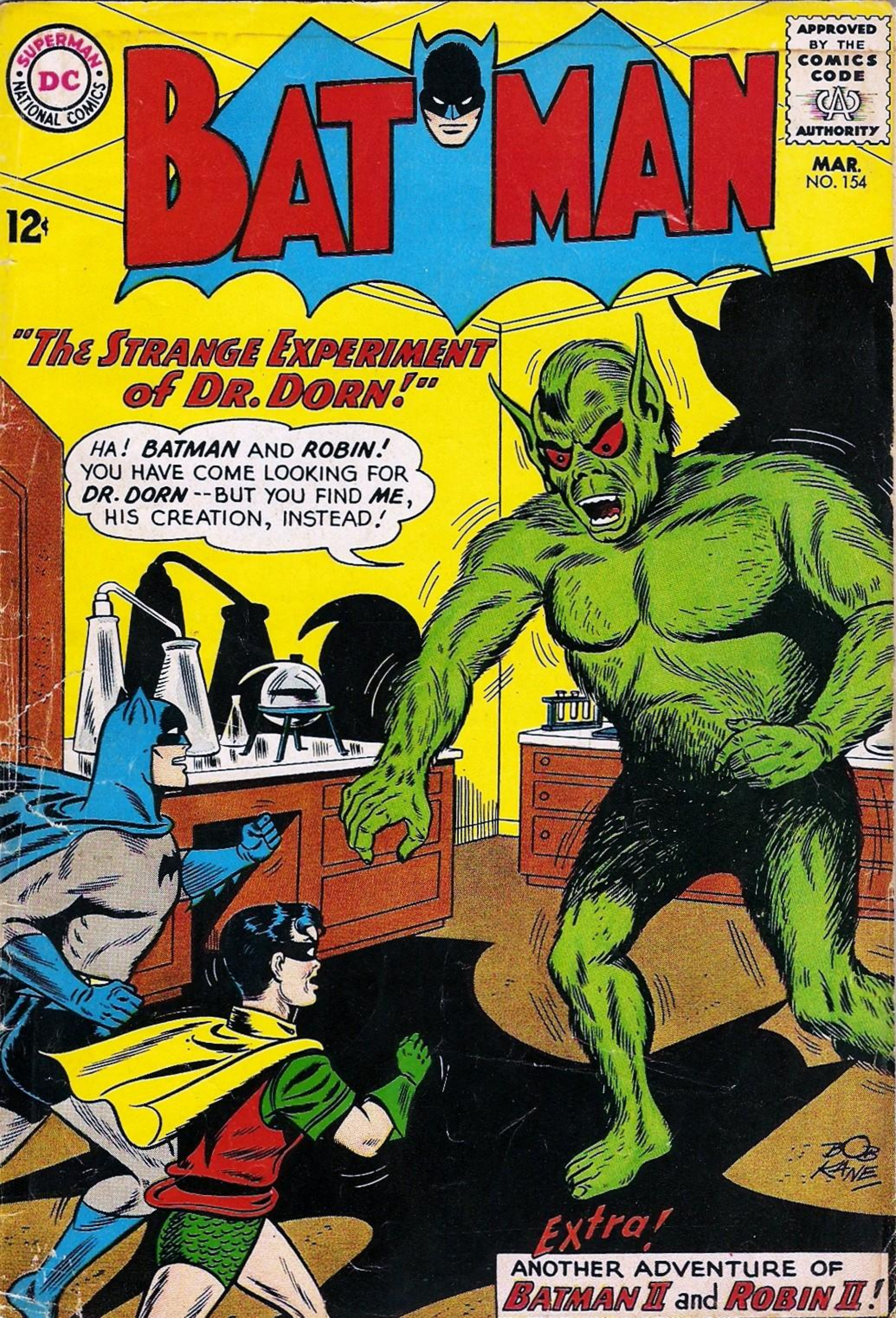
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BATMAN
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NO. 154
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"The Strange Experiment of Dr. Dorn!"
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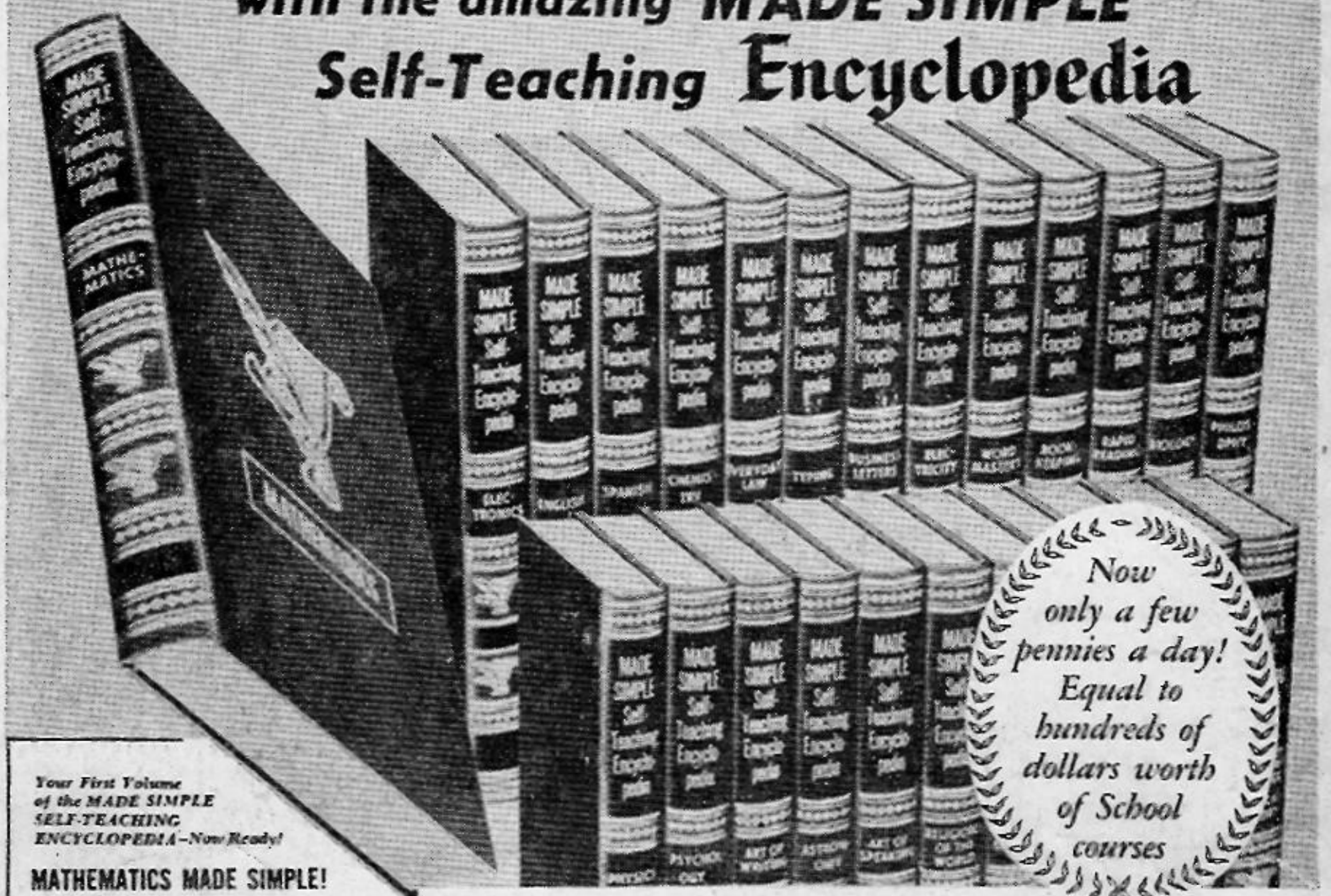

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BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

ROBIN!

SOMEHOW... SOMEWAY... I'VE GOT TO STOP MAGOG FROM REACHING GOTHAM CITY AND CAUSING TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION!

ZOOM

A CLOCK TICKING THROUGH TIME -- A CLOCK TICKING IN THE IMAGINARY FUTURE, AND THE REAL PRESENT! A CLOCK TOLLING DOOM AND DARK MYSTERY FOR TWO TEAMS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS -- BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND BATMAN II AND ROBIN II! AND ODDLY ENOUGH, IT IS FROM THE IMAGINARY TEAM OF THE FUTURE, THAT THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN OF TODAY GET THEIR CUE AND CLUE TO WARD OFF DEATH WHEN...

DANGER STRIKES FOUR

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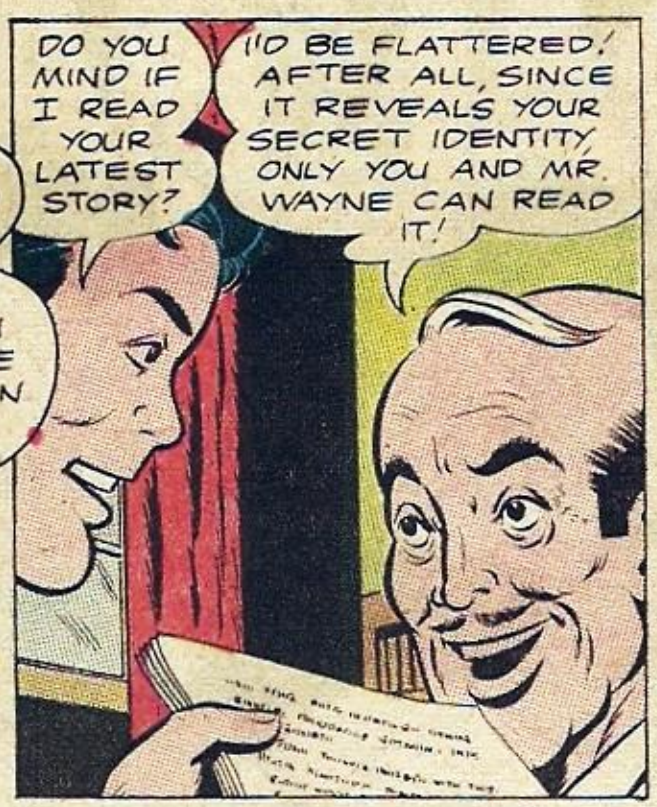
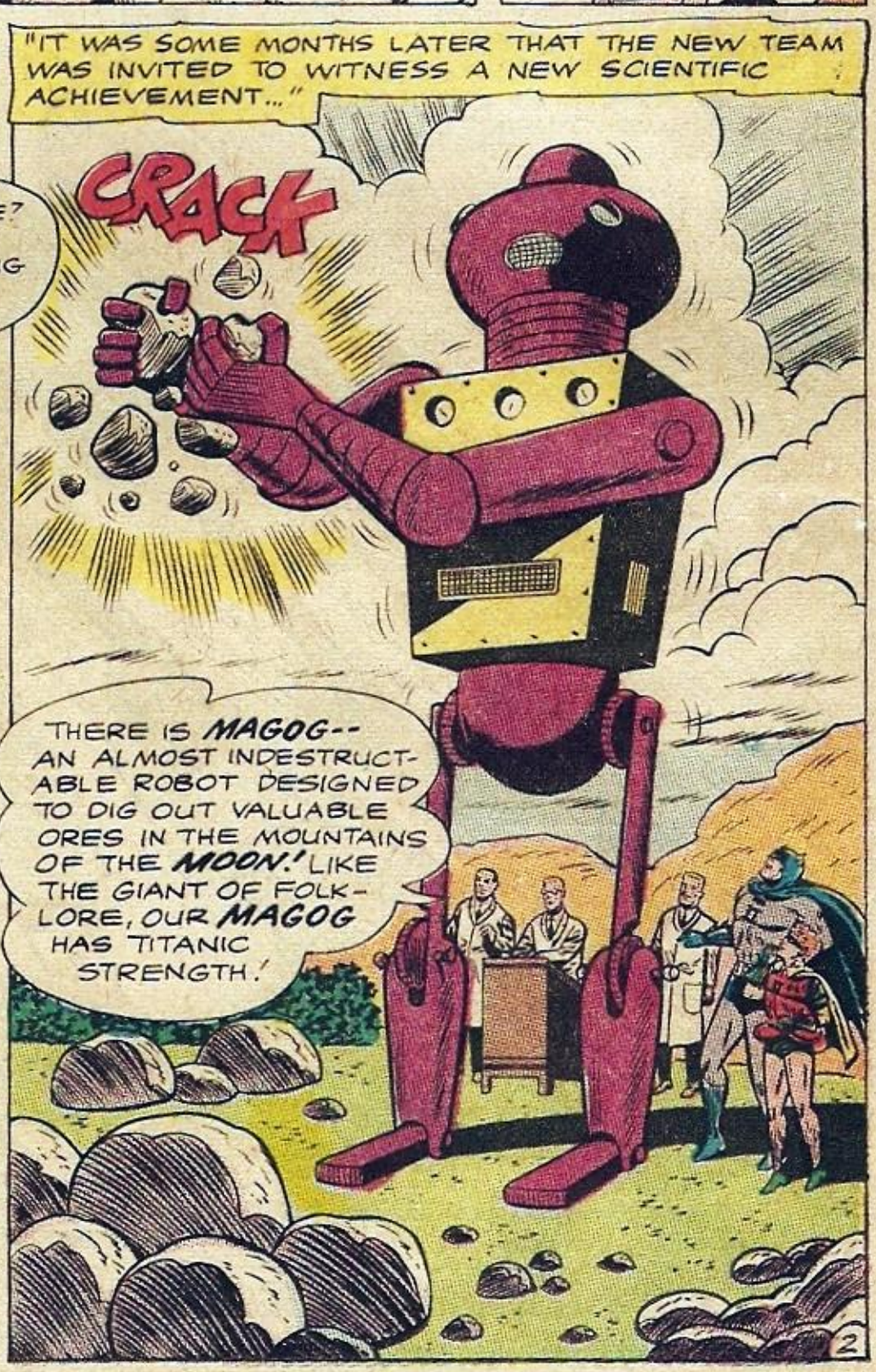
IN THE WAYNE HOUSEHOLD, ALFRED IS HARD AT WORK--BUT NOT AT HIS USUAL BUTLER CHORES...
HI, ALFRED! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE WRITING ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR IMAGINARY ADVENTURES?
OH, YES, MASTER DICK--ANOTHER ADVENTURE IN WHICH I IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN YOU ARE A GROWN MAN AND BECOME BATMAN II!
CLACK-TAP-TAP-CLACK

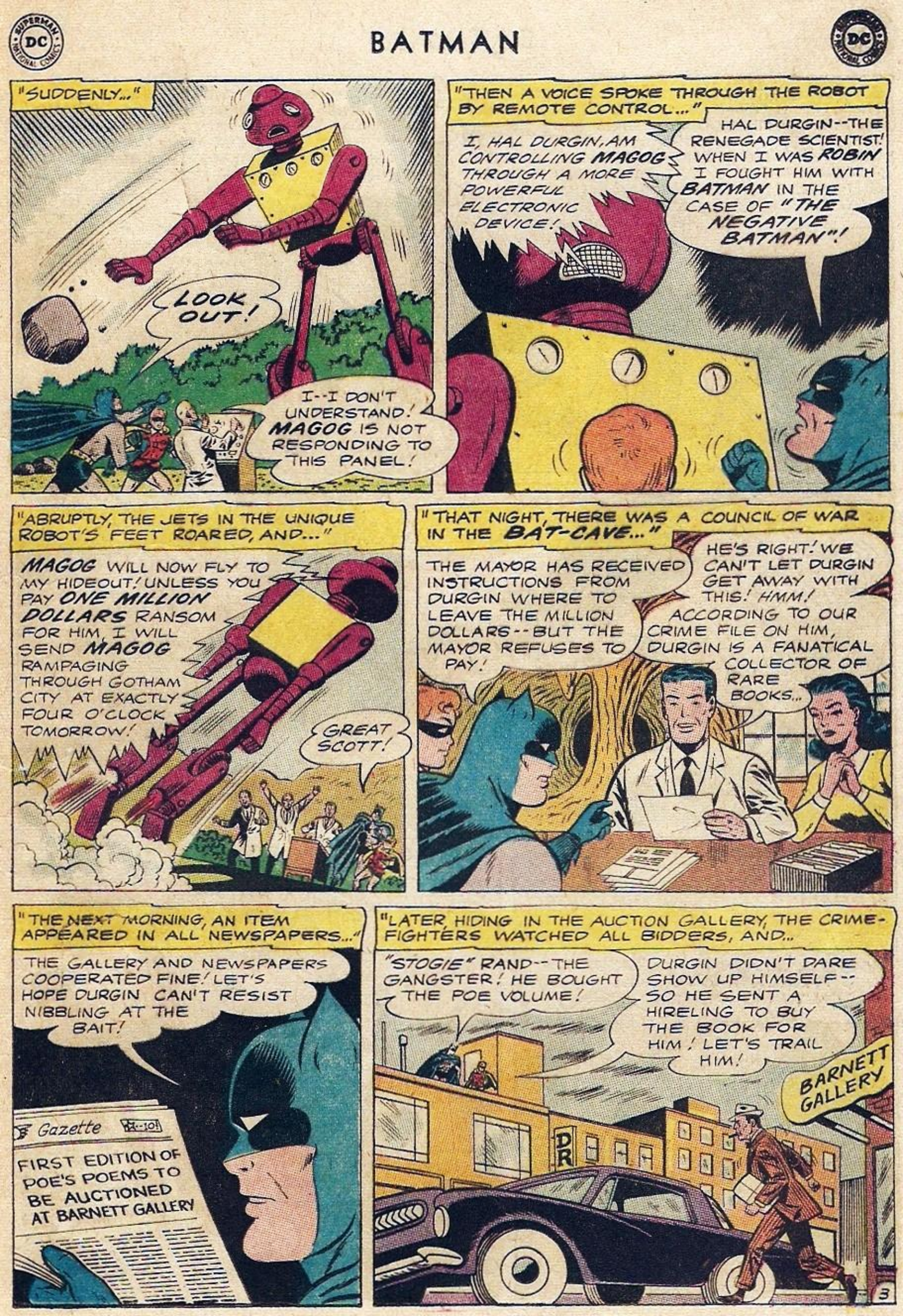

DO YOU MIND IF I READ YOUR LATEST STORY?
I'D BE FLATTERED! AFTER ALL, SINCE IT REVEALS YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, ONLY YOU AND MR. WAYNE CAN READ IT!

"IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS NOW SINCE BRUCE WAYNE RETIRED AS BATMAN... AND MARRIED KATHY KANE WHO HAD ONCE BEEN BATWOMAN..."

"THEIR MARRIAGE WAS BLESSED WITH A FINE, HUSKY SON, BRUCE JR., WHO WAS A CREDIT TO HIS PARENTS..."
DAD, NOW THAT UNCLE DICK IS BATMAN II, HE'LL NEED A PARTNER! LET ME BE ROBIN II! PLEASE...
WELL, KATHY--WE CAN'T REFUSE, CAN WE? IT LOOKS LIKE CRIME-FIGHTING RUNS IN THE FAMILY!

"AND SO, A NEW CRIME-FIGHTING COMBINATION WAS BORN--THE NEW TEAM OF BATMAN II AND ROBIN II!"


"IT WAS SOME MONTHS LATER THAT THE NEW TEAM WAS INVITED TO WITNESS A NEW SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT..."
CRACK
THERE IS MAGOG--AN ALMOST INDESTRUCTABLE ROBOT DESIGNED TO DIG OUT VALUABLE ORES IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE MOON! LIKE THE GIANT OF FOLK-LORE, OUR MAGOG HAS TITANIC STRENGTH!


"SUDDENLY..."
LOOK OUT!
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND! MAGOG IS NOT RESPONDING TO THIS PANEL!
"THEN A VOICE SPOKE THROUGH THE ROBOT BY REMOTE CONTROL..."
I, HAL DURGIN, AM CONTROLLING MAGOG THROUGH A MORE POWERFUL ELECTRONIC DEVICE!
HAL DURGIN--THE RENEGADE SCIENTIST! WHEN I WAS ROBIN I FOUGHT HIM WITH BATMAN IN THE CASE OF "THE NEGATIVE BATMAN"!
"ABRUPTLY, THE JETS IN THE UNIQUE ROBOT'S FEET ROARED, AND..."
MAGOG WILL NOW FLY TO MY HIDEOUT! UNLESS YOU PAY ONE MILLION DOLLARS RANSOM FOR HIM, I WILL SEND MAGOG RAMPAGING THROUGH GOTHAM CITY AT EXACTLY FOUR O'CLOCK TOMORROW!
GREAT SCOTT!
"THAT NIGHT, THERE WAS A COUNCIL OF WAR IN THE BAT-CAVE..."
THE MAYOR HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM DURGIN WHERE TO LEAVE THE MILLION DOLLARS--BUT THE MAYOR REFUSES TO PAY!
HE'S RIGHT! WE CAN'T LET DURGIN GET AWAY WITH THIS! HMM! ACCORDING TO OUR CRIME FILE ON HIM, DURGIN IS A FANATICAL COLLECTOR OF RARE BOOKS...
"THE NEXT MORNING, AN ITEM APPEARED IN ALL NEWSPAPERS..."
THE GALLERY AND NEWSPAPERS COOPERATED FINE! LET'S HOPE DURGIN CAN'T RESIST NIBBLING AT THE BAIT!
Gazette
FIRST EDITION OF POE'S POEMS TO BE AUCTIONED AT BARNETT GALLERY
"LATER, HIDING IN THE AUCTION GALLERY, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS WATCHED ALL BIDDERS, AND..."
"STOGIE" RAND--THE GANGSTER! HE BOUGHT THE POE VOLUME!
DURGIN DIDN'T DARE SHOW UP HIMSELF--SO HE SENT A HIRELING TO BUY THE BOOK FOR HIM! LET'S TRAIL HIM!
BARNETT GALLERY
DR

SOON, ALOFT IN THEIR SWIFT WHIRLY-BATS, THE TEAM TRAILED THE HIRELING'S CAR TO A MOUNTAINOUS AREA...
LOOK! MAGOG-- GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THAT CAVERN!
DURGIN'S HIDEOUT! WE'VE GOT TO GET IN THERE AND TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE BEFORE HE CAN DO ANYTHING! BUT HOW CAN WE GET PAST MAGOG?
"SHORTLY, FLAME TOUCHED TO A PILE OF TWIGS AND DAMP LEAVES, SOLVED THEIR DILEMMA!"
MAGOG CAN'T SPOT US IN THE THICK SMOKE SCREEN WE SET UP! NOW--FOR DURGIN!
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
"THOUGH THE CRIME-FIGHTERS HAD STRUCK SWIFTLY, IT WAS THEIR BAD LUCK THAT DURGIN WAS ALREADY SEATED AT THE CONTROL PANEL, AND SO..."
YOU'RE SECONDS TOO LATE! I'VE JUST ACTIVATED MAGOG! EVEN IF YOU DESTROY THIS PANEL, MAGOG WILL FLY ON TO HIS MISSION!
INSIDE MAGOG'S STEEL BODY IS A PRE-SET ELECTRONIC DEVICE THAT HAS A FIXED COMPASS DIRECTION! NOTHING CAN STOP MAGOG FROM FLYING TO GOTHAM CITY NOW!
NOOOMMM

WOW! THIS IS AN EXCITING STORY SO FAR! BUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? HOW DOES THE NEW TEAM STOP MAGOG?
I HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT OUT YET! I'M STILL WORKING ON IT!
BRUCE, THIS IMAGINARY ADVENTURE OF ALFRED'S IS REAL TRICKY...
LET'S GO, DICK! I'M AFRAID WE'VE GOT A REAL CRIME CASE TO WORK ON! WE'RE WANTED AT STATE PENITENTIARY RIGHT AWAY!
LATER, GARBED AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THEY JOIN THE WARDEN BEFORE IMPRISONED, ONE-TIME GANG BOSS, AL FINNEY...
LISTEN HARD! EVEN THOUGH I'M IN JAIL, MY BOYS STILL THINK OF ME AS THE BOSS! I'M STILL BIG AL--AND THEY WANT ME OUT!
MY GANG HAS RIGGED UP A KINDA BUZZ BOMB-- AND THEY'RE GONNA LAUNCH IT AT GOTHAM CITY UNLESS I'M LET OUTA HERE! YOUR DEADLINE IS FOUR O'CLOCK!
GOLLY! IT'S ONE O'CLOCK NOW! THAT GIVES US ONLY THREE HOURS!
LATER...
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY FIND THAT BUZZ BOMB IN TIME?
BY USING DEDUCTION! BIG AL'S MEN WILL HAVE FLED FROM GOTHAM CITY TO A SAFE HIDEOUT! WE'LL SEARCH THEIR ROOMS! ONE OF THE GANG MAY HAVE BEEN CARELESS, AND LEFT SOME KIND OF CLUE BEHIND!
TIME SPEEDS BY AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS SEARCH, AND THEN IN THE APARTMENT OF ONE HOODLUM...
A RECEIPT -- FOR THE HIRE OF A SPEEDBOAT FROM THE ACME BOAT RENTAL COMPANY! THIS COULD BE IT! LET'S GO SEE THE PEOPLE AT ACME!

LATER, THE BATPLANE DROPS FROM THE CLOUDS, SOARING OVER AN ISLAND IN THE BAY...
THE OWNER OF ACME TOLD US TOUGH-LOOKING MEN HAVE BEEN RENTING BOATS-- AND HE SPOTTED THEM RIDING TOWARD THIS ISLAND THAT WAS ONCE USED AS AN AUTO DUMP!
THREE ARMED HOODLUMS ARE GUARDING THAT SHED, WHERE THE BUZZ-BOMB MUST BE HIDDEN! WE'VE GOT TO GET DOWN LOW AND OUT OF SIGHT!
SOON, SETTING THE BATPLANE STABILIZERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN SILENTLY SWIM TO SHORE, WHERE...
IF WE RUSH THOSE GUARDS, THE FIGHT WILL ALERT MEN INSIDE! WE'VE GOT TO GET PAST THEM AND TAKE THE OTHERS BY SURPRISE!
HMM... ALFRED'S STORY-- THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT-- HAD A PARALLEL SITUATION! A VARIATION OF ALFRED'S TRICK MIGHT WORK!
SHORTLY, FLAME TOUCHES AN OLD AUTO CUSHION FILLED WITH RUBBERIZED HAIR, AND...
¡COUGH! THAT BLASTED SEAT CUSHION CAUGHT FIRE! ¡COUGH!
¡COUGH! THAT SMOKE-- SO THICK! I CAN'T SEE!
SO, THANKS TO A TRICK USED BY THE IMAGINARY BATMAN II AND ROBIN II, THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN PULL A SURPRISE ATTACK!
A FEW QUICK PUNCHES TOOK CARE OF YOUR GUARDS VERY QUIETLY! NOW WE'LL ATTEND TO YOU!
STAY AWAY--OR-- OR I'LL LAUNCH THE BUZZ-BOMB!
6

SWIFT AS THOUGHT, BATMAN'S HAND WHIPS OUT THE BATARANG AND...
WHAT...?
GREAT SCOTT! THE JARRED GUN HAS SENT A STRAY BULLET INTO THE CONTROL SWITCH!
BAM!
INSTANTLY, AN ELECTRIC CURRENT ACTIVATES THE BUZZ-BOMB AND...
IT'S ZOOMING UP THE LAUNCHING PLATFORM! IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP IT?
N-NO! IT'S ON A FIXED COMPASS POINT THAT'LL TAKE IT RIGHT TO GOTHAM CITY!
ANOTHER PROBLEM LIKE THE ONE IN ALFRED'S STORY-- BUT ALFRED HADN'T FIGURED OUT THE ANSWER!
BATMAN, I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MIGHT WORK... LET'S GO!
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE JET-POWERED BAT-PLANE CLOSES IN ON THE SLOWER-MOVING BUZZ-BOMB, ROBIN CLIMBS UP ON THE WING...
I SHOULD BE GOING OUT THERE-- NOT YOU!
NO! THIS IS MY IDEA! BESIDES, YOU'RE BETTER AT MANEUVERING THE BATPLANE!
THEN--A DARING LEAP THROUGH SPACE!

THERE'S THE INSET COMPASS I SPOTTED BEFORE THE BUZZ-BOMB TOOK OFF! NOW, I'LL HOLD THIS TINY BUT POWERFUL MAGNET FROM MY UTILITY-BELT NEAR THE COMPASS NEEDLE-- AND GRADUALLY CHANGE ITS DIRECTION!
SLOWLY, IRRESISTIBLY, THE COMPASS NEEDLE MOVES ALTERING THE MECHANISM OF THE BOMB'S GYROSCOPE, UNTIL...
EVERY-THING'S OKAY NOW! THE BUZZ-BOMB IS HEADED OUT TO SEA!
AND MINUTES LATER...
BOOM
GOTHAM CITY IS SAFE-- AND BIG AL WILL STAY SAFE IN JAIL--THANKS TO YOU, ROBIN! AND HIS HENCHMEN WILL SOON KEEP HIM COMPANY!
SOMETIME LATER, WHEN THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RETURN HOME...
WELL, ALFRED--STILL AT IT? HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED YOUR STORY YET?
I'M AFRAID NOT ;SIGH; I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW MAGOG CAN BE STOPPED FROM EVER REACHING GOTHAM CITY!
WHY NOT ASK ROBIN! HE'S GOT THE ANSWER ALL WRAPPED UP FOR YOU!
OKAY, ALFRED-- START TYPING WHILE I DICTATE...

"UNDAUNTED, THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM SOON OVERTOOK MAGOG IN THEIR WHIRLY-BATS AND..."

THIS SMALL BUT POWERFUL MAGNET FROM MY UTILITY-BELT WILL GRADUALLY ALTER THE COMPASS DIRECTION!

"AND SO, SOMETIME LATER, MAGOG PLUNGED INTO A WATERY GRAVE!"

SPLASH

EXCELLENT! MY STORY IS ENDED AT LAST!

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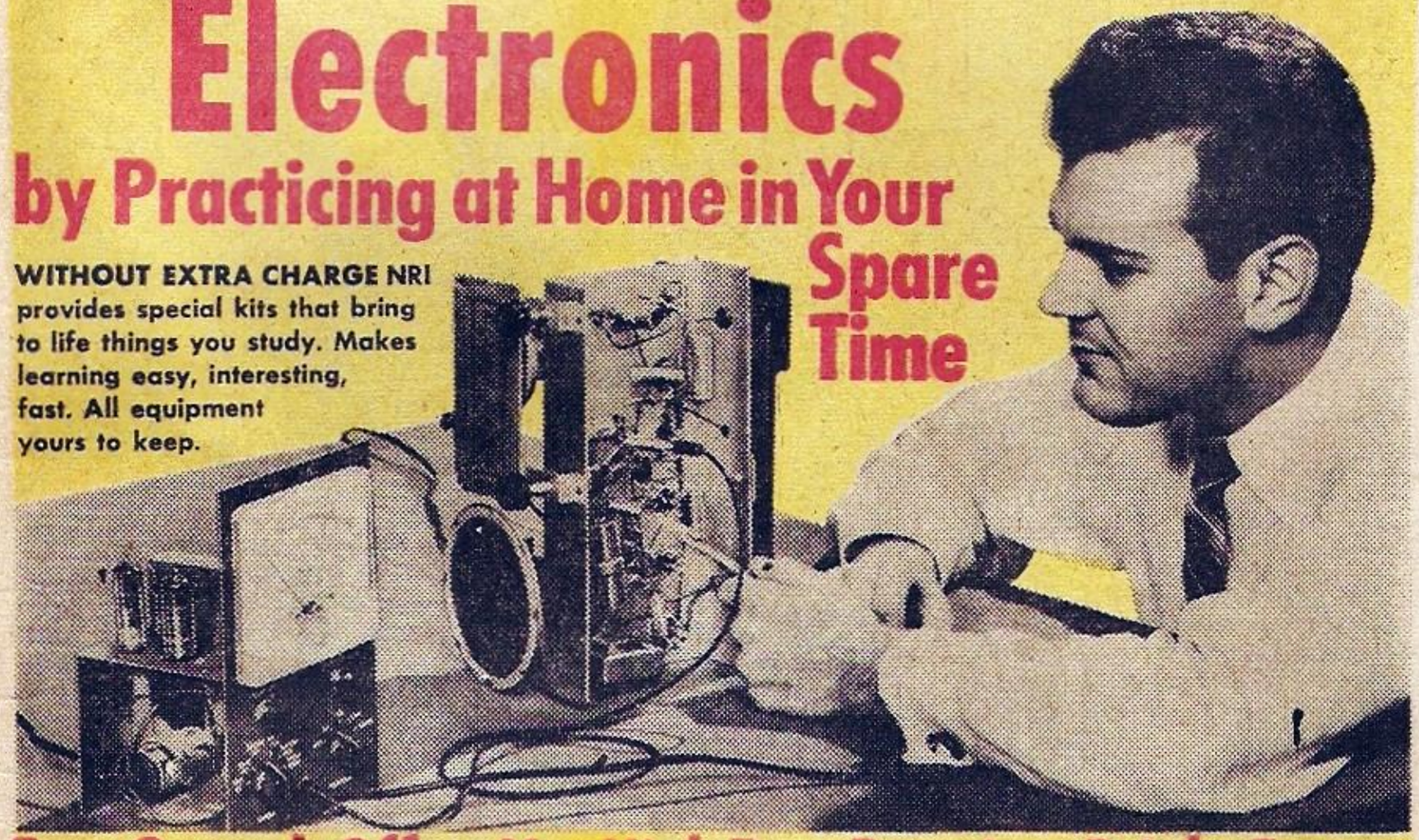

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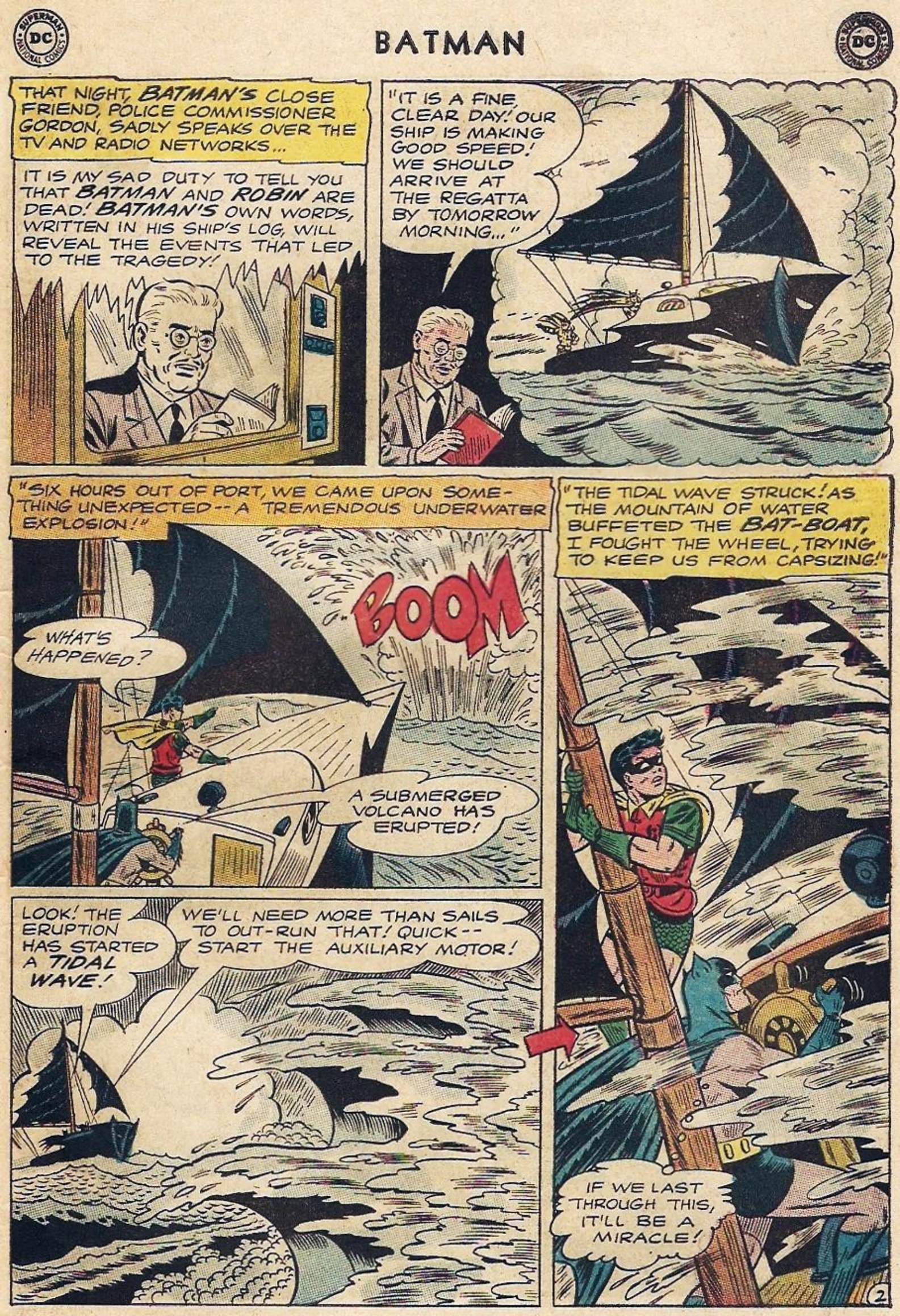
THE BLIND POET, HOMER, SHOULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS STORY--HOMER, WHO WROTE THE WONDERFUL ODYSSEY OF ULYSSES! FOR THIS IS ABOUT ANOTHER JOURNEY--THE JOURNEY OF THE BAT-BOAT, CARRYING BATMAN AND ROBIN INTO THE DANGERS OF THE UNKNOWN--A WANDERING ADVENTURE QUITE FITTINGLY CALLED...

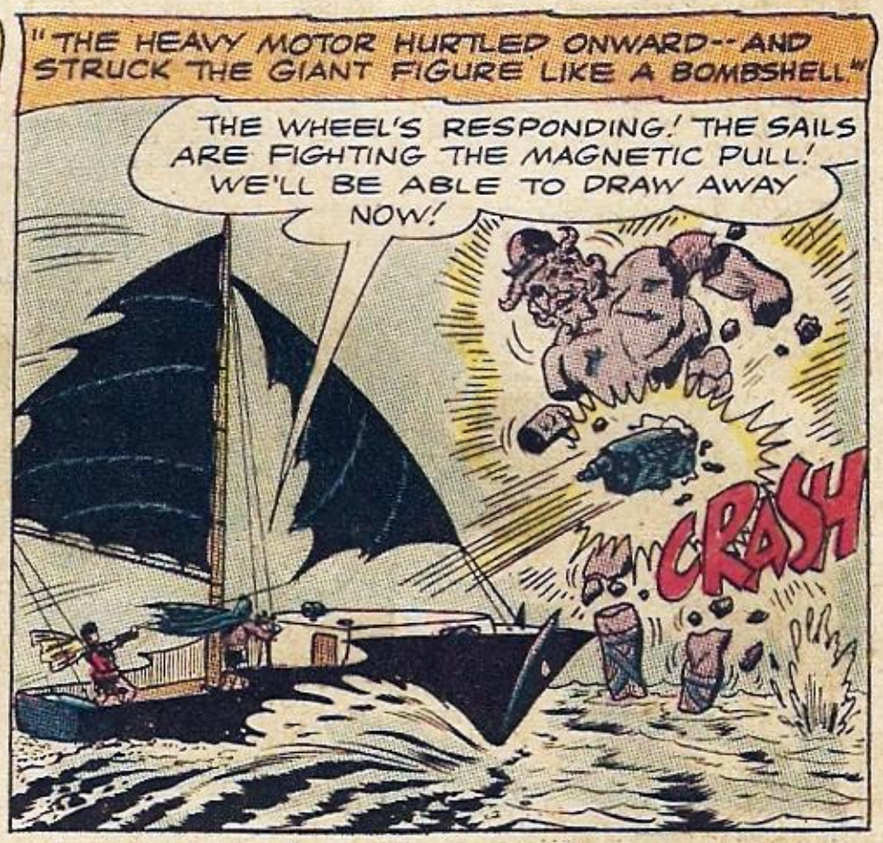
The AMAZING ODYSSEY of BATMAN and ROBIN

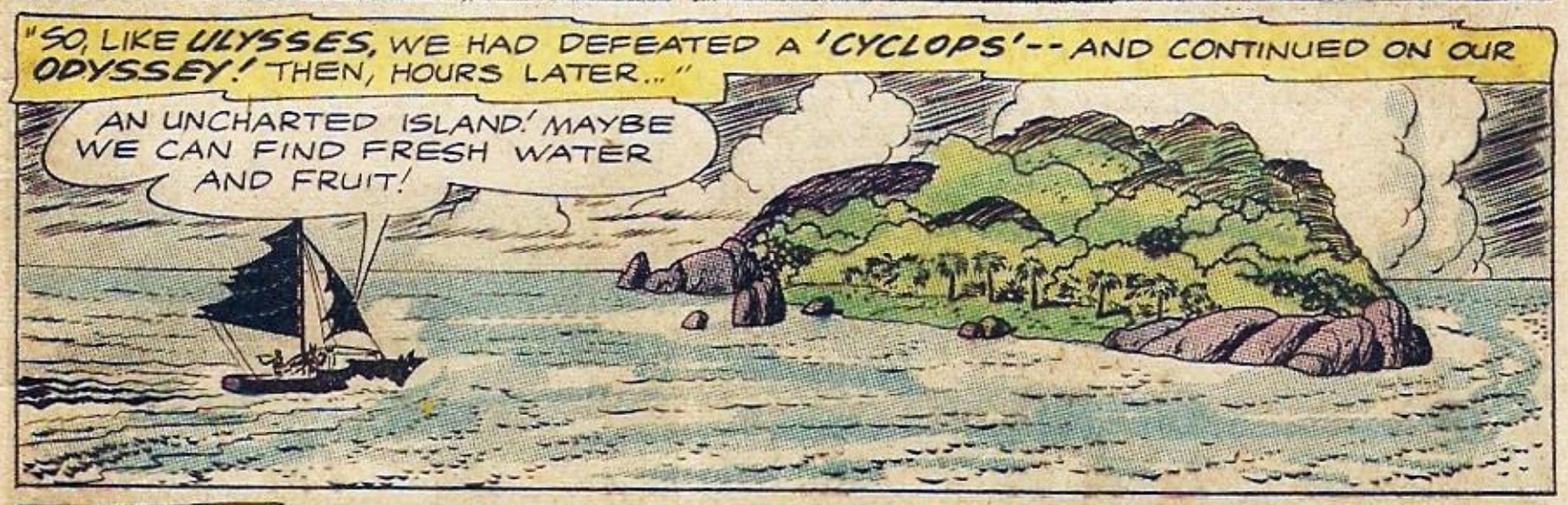
THE GIANT SQUID IS CRUSHING THE BAT-BOAT! THIS IS THE END OF OUR ODYSSEY AND OUR LIVES!


THAT NIGHT, BATMAN'S CLOSE FRIEND, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, SADLY SPEAKS OVER THE TV AND RADIO NETWORKS...
IT IS MY SAD DUTY TO TELL YOU THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE DEAD! BATMAN'S OWN WORDS, WRITTEN IN HIS SHIP'S LOG, WILL REVEAL THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE TRAGEDY!
"IT IS A FINE, CLEAR DAY! OUR SHIP IS MAKING GOOD SPEED! WE SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE REGATTA BY TOMORROW MORNING..."
"SIX HOURS OUT OF PORT, WE CAME UPON SOMETHING UNEXPECTED -- A TREMENDOUS UNDERWATER EXPLOSION!"
BOOM
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
A SUBMERGED VOLCANO HAS ERUPTED!
LOOK! THE ERUPTION HAS STARTED A TIDAL WAVE!
WE'LL NEED MORE THAN SAILS TO OUT-RUN THAT! QUICK -- START THE AUXILIARY MOTOR!
"THE TIDAL WAVE STRUCK! AS THE MOUNTAIN OF WATER BUFFETED THE BAT-BOAT, I FOUGHT THE WHEEL, TRYING TO KEEP US FROM CAPSIZING!"
IF WE LAST THROUGH THIS, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE!

"BUT, SOMEHOW WE DID SURVIVE! AND HOURS LATER, WHEN THE TIDAL WAVE HAD RUN ITSELF OUT, WE SURVEYED THE DAMAGE..."
THE MOTOR'S FINISHED-- AND THE RADIO IS SMASHED!
HMM! THE TIDAL WAVE SWEPT US INTO UNCHARTED WATERS, FAR FROM THE REGULAR SEA LANES! WE'LL HAVE TO PATCH UP THE SAILS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!
"LATER, AS WE SET SAIL AGAIN, I THOUGHT OF ULYSSES AND HIS STRANGE ODYSSEY -- AND I COULD NOT HELP FEELING THAT OUR OWN ODYSSEY HAD BEGUN! THEN..."
SOMETHING'S RISING OUT OF THE WATER! IT'S A STATUE OF A MAN!
THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION HAS RAISED SOME SUNKEN LAND-- AND THAT STATUE IS ON IT!
"UP, UP ROSE A TOWERING, TIME-WORN FIGURE -- ITS FACE PARTLY ERODED, GIVING IT THE APPEARANCE OF A CYCLOPS!"
WOW! IT'S GIGANTIC!
THERE ARE SPEAR HEADS... ANCIENT SWORDS... AND HELMETS STUCK FAST TO ITS METALLIC BODY! BUT HOW...?
"SUDDENLY, I KNEW THE FANTASTIC ANSWER..."
LOOK! THE ANCHOR HAS BEEN PULLED OFF THE DECK!
GREAT SCOTT! THAT GIANT STATUE MUST BE MADE ENTIRELY OF LODESTONE -- AND ITS MAGNETIC PULL IS DRAWING THE BAT-BOAT RIGHT TO IT!
SOME ANCIENT PEOPLE MADE THAT STATUE OF LODESTONE SO THAT IT WOULD PULL IRON WEAPONS FROM ANY INVADER SHIPS ATTACKING THEIR LAND! THE BAT-BOAT IS BEING DRAWN TOWARD IT BECAUSE OF THE METAL ON BOARD! ROBIN -- MAN THE WHEEL!
"AS THE AXE CHOPPED THE ROPE, THE RELEASED ANCHOR FLEW LIKE AN ARROW AT THAT COLOSSAL MAGNET..."
THE WHEEL WON'T RESPOND! I CAN'T TURN THE BOAT! THE MAGNETIC PULL IS TOO STRONG!
WE'LL CRASH INTO THE STATUE UNLESS...! WAIT -- THAT ANCHOR GAVE ME AN IDEA!

"QUICKLY, WE REMOVED THE USELESS MOTOR FROM ITS HOUSING--AND THEN MAGNETIC ATTRACTION PLUCKED IT FROM THE DECK!"
OUR ONE HOPE IS THAT IT DEMOLISHES ENOUGH OF THAT LODESTONE TO LESSEN THE PULL!

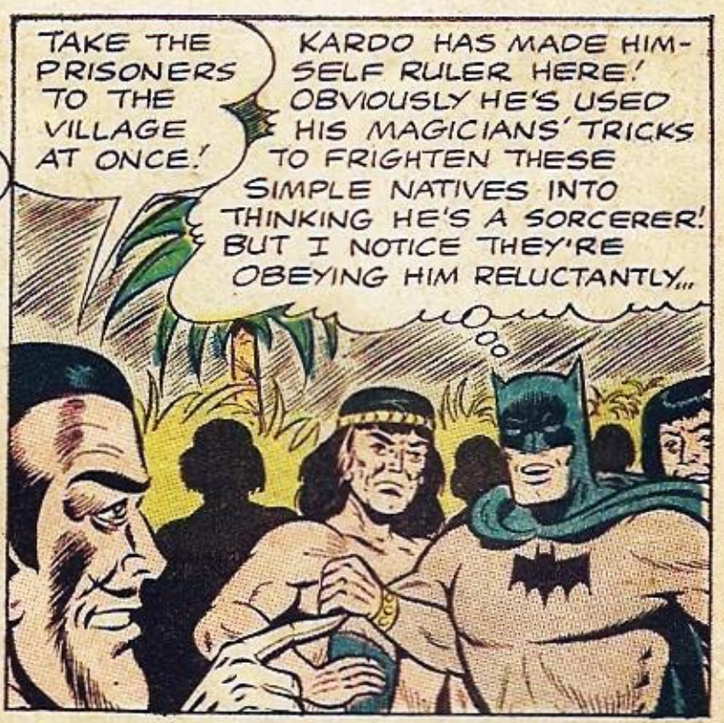

"THE HEAVY MOTOR HURTLED ONWARD--AND STRUCK THE GIANT FIGURE LIKE A BOMBSHELL."
THE WHEEL'S RESPONDING! THE SAILS ARE FIGHTING THE MAGNETIC PULL! WE'LL BE ABLE TO DRAW AWAY NOW!
CRASH

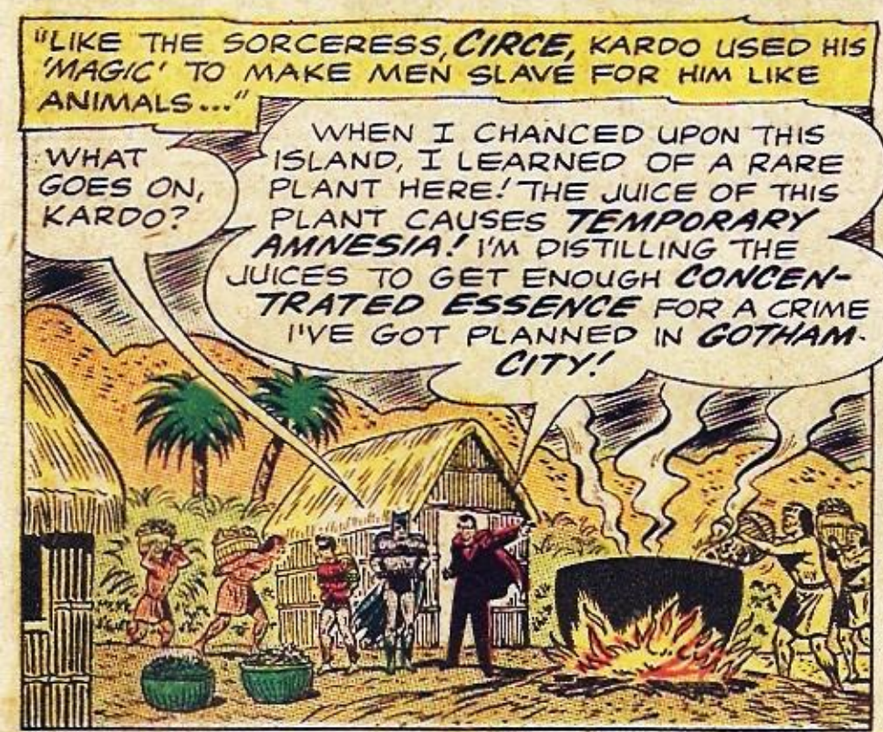

"SO, LIKE ULYSSES, WE HAD DEFEATED A 'CYCLOPS'--AND CONTINUED ON OUR ODYSSEY! THEN, HOURS LATER..."
AN UNCHARTED ISLAND! MAYBE WE CAN FIND FRESH WATER AND FRUIT!

"MOORING THE BAT-BOAT, WE WADED ASHORE HOPEFULLY, WHEN..."
NATIVES--ATTACKING US!

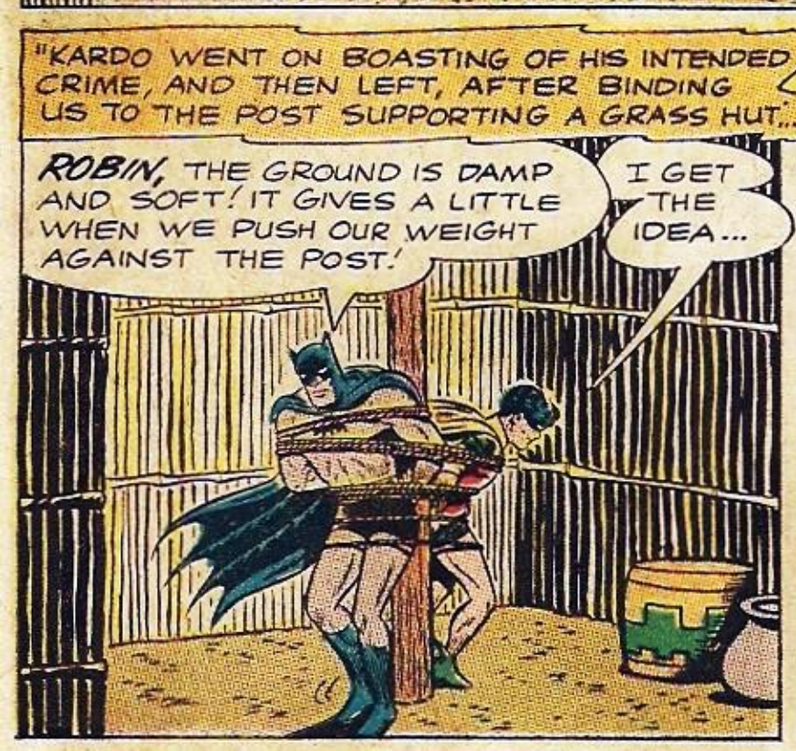
THEY'RE ALL AROUND US!
THEY'RE MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE!

"SUDDENLY THERE WAS A PUFF OF SMOKE--AND A MAN STEPPED FROM IT!"
THE GREAT KARDO!
THE ONE-TIME CIRCUS MAGICIAN WHO TURNED CRIMINAL! HE'S WANTED IN A DOZEN STATES!


TAKE THE PRISONERS TO THE VILLAGE AT ONCE!
KARDO HAS MADE HIMSELF RULER HERE! OBVIOUSLY HE'S USED HIS MAGICIANS' TRICKS TO FRIGHTEN THESE SIMPLE NATIVES INTO THINKING HE'S A SORCERER! BUT I NOTICE THEY'RE OBEYING HIM RELUCTANTLY...


"LIKE THE SORCERESS, CIRCE, KARDO USED HIS 'MAGIC' TO MAKE MEN SLAVE FOR HIM LIKE ANIMALS..."
WHAT GOES ON, KARDO?
WHEN I CHANCED UPON THIS ISLAND, I LEARNED OF A RARE PLANT HERE! THE JUICE OF THIS PLANT CAUSES TEMPORARY AMNESIA! I'M DISTILLING THE JUICES TO GET ENOUGH CONCENTRATED ESSENCE FOR A CRIME I'VE GOT PLANNED IN GOTHAM CITY!

I'VE ENOUGH ESSENCE NOW TO FILL THIS SPRAY GUN I RIGGED UP! WHEN I SPRAY ESSENCE AROUND, POLICE WILL BREATHE IN THE VAPOR--AND WHILE THEY'RE WANDERING AROUND AIMLESSLY, I'LL SIMPLY PICK UP MY VALUABLE FLASH--$100,000 WORTH--AND WALK AWAY WITH IT!

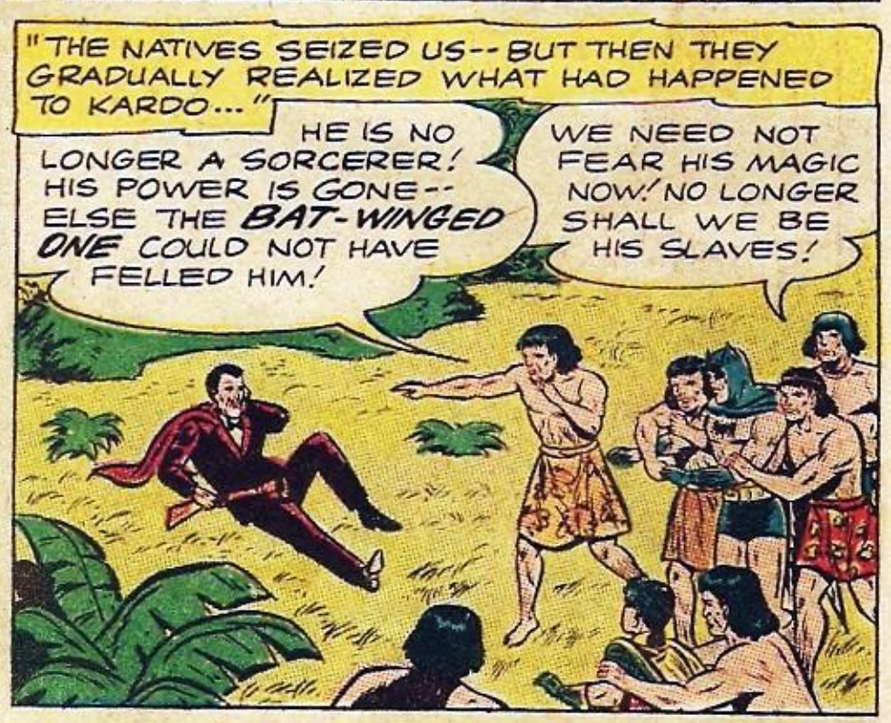

"KARDO WENT ON BOASTING OF HIS INTENDED CRIME, AND THEN LEFT, AFTER BINDING US TO THE POST SUPPORTING A GRASS HUT..."
ROBIN, THE GROUND IS DAMP AND SOFT! IT GIVES A LITTLE WHEN WE PUSH OUR WEIGHT AGAINST THE POST!
I GET THE IDEA...

"SHIFTING OUR WEIGHT BACK AND FORTH, WE SOON BEGAN TO LOOSEN THE IMBEDDED POST..."
OKAY! THE POST IS JUST ABOUT READY TO COME OUT NOW!
GOOD! NOW, ONE, TWO--THREE!

"GRIPPING THE POST WITH OUR HANDS, WE HEAVED HARD--AND AS IT CAME FREE, IT BEGAN TO TILT OVER..."
NOW--WE'LL SLIDE THESE ROPES OFF THE POST FAST AND GET OUT OF HERE!

"WE BURST OUT JUST AS THE GRASS HUT COLLAPSED BEHIND US!"
WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE--TO SHOW THAT MY FIST IS MORE POWERFUL THAN KARDO'S "SORCERY"!

STOP THEM!


"THE NATIVES SEIZED US--BUT THEN THEY GRADUALLY REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO KARDO..."
HE IS NO LONGER A SORCERER! HIS POWER IS GONE--ELSE THE BAT-WINGED ONE COULD NOT HAVE FELLED HIM!
WE NEED NOT FEAR HIS MAGIC NOW! NO LONGER SHALL WE BE HIS SLAVES!

"MY TRICK HAD WORKED--BUT I COULD NOT FORESEE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT!"
LUCKILY, I FILLED THE GUN WITH AMNESIA SPRAY MINUTES AGO! NOW--I'LL HOLD MY BREATH SO I DON'T BREATH IN THE STUFF!

"THEIR MEMORIES GONE, THE NATIVES MILLED ABOUT LIKE CONFUSED CHILDREN, BLOCKING US OFF, GIVING KARDO THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS HE NEEDED..."
WE'RE TOO LATE! KARDO HAD A SMALL SEAPLANE HIDDEN IN A COVE!

"LATER, TAKING LEAVE OF THE ISLAND, WE CONTINUED ON OUR STRANGE JOURNEY-- BUT ONE THOUGHT PLAGUED ME..."
WHEN KARDO BOASTED OF THE CRIME HE PLANNED, HE USED AN ODD EXPRESSION! I'M SURE IT'S A CLUE TO HIS CRIME SITE! MAYBE I'LL FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE WE REACH PORT...

"HOURS LATER, AS I WAS WRITING IN MY CABIN, I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT ON DECK, ROBIN HAD SIGHTED A TERRIBLE MENACE..."
GOLLY!

"ROBIN BURST INTO MY CABIN--BUT THE SITUATION WAS ALREADY HOPELESS..."
BATMAN! A GIANT SQUID HAS ATTACKED OUR BOAT!
ITS TENTACLES ARE CRACKING THE WOODEN HULL! WE MAY NEVER GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE!

THAT WAS THE LAST ENTRY IN THE LOG! ULYSSES DEFEATED THE SEA MONSTER, SCYLLA--BUT I'M AFRAID THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN'S ODYSSEY, UNLIKE THAT OF ULYSSES, CAME TO A SAD END!

WE SHALL NEVER SEE BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN!
HA! I DIDN'T DARE PULL MY CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID BATMAN WOULD FIGURE OUT THE CLUE AND ALERT THE POLICE! BUT NOW I CAN GO AHEAD WITH MY PLANS!

LATER THAT NIGHT, AS KARDO MOVES TOWARD HIS GOAL -- $100,000 PRIZE MONEY TO BE GIVEN A TV CONTEST WINNER...

BATMAN AND ROBIN -- ALIVE!

RIGHT, KARDO! I ACTUALLY DESTROYED THE SQUID WITH AN EXPLOSIVE CAPSULE FROM MY UTILITY BELT...

BUT WITH THE HELP OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, I DECIDED TO CAPITALIZE ON OUR FIGHT WITH THE SQUID TO LURE YOU INTO THE OPEN!

THAT'S BECAUSE BATMAN FIGURED OUT YOUR CRYPTIC CLUE AND KNEW WHERE YOU'D STRIKE -- IF YOU THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD!

I REMEMBERED THAT "FLASH" IS A CARNIVAL EXPRESSION FOR CHEAP PRIZES, BUT WHEN YOU BOASTED OF STEALING "VALUABLE FLASH -- $100,000 WORTH --" I KNEW YOU WERE AFTER THE TV PRIZE MONEY!

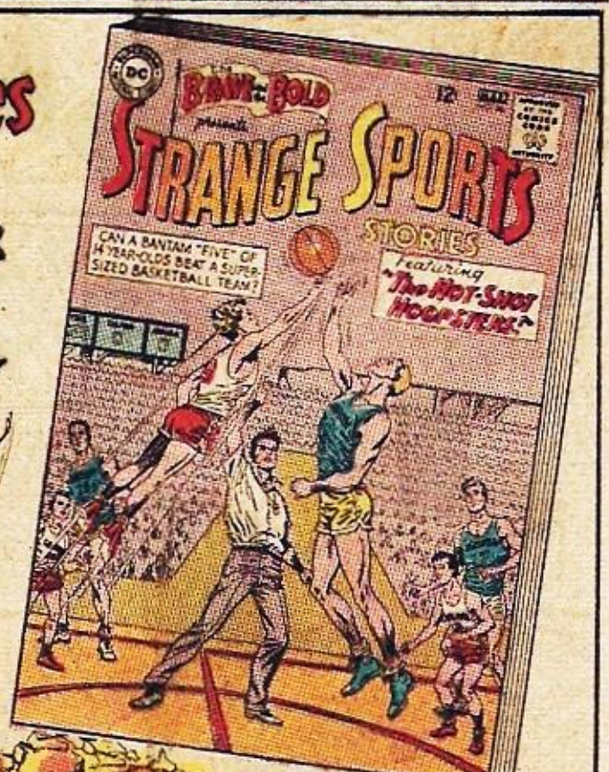
LATER...

WELL, THAT'S THAT! NOW, LET'S GO HOME, EH, "ULYSSES"?

THE End

STRANGE SPORTS Stories IS THE Most EXCITING SPECTACULAR ASTONISHING MAGAZINE EVER PUBLISHED!

Featuring... THE STRANGEST SPORTS SCENES EVER SEEN...



ON SALE EVERYWHERE!

SAFETY FIRST--ALL YEAR!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

Because of the unusually large volume of mail recently, we decided to have two pages of letters and comment this issue. Whenever our schedule permits, we will try to do the same in future issues.—Ed.

Dear Editor: I liked immensely issue No. 150 of BATMAN. The story, "Robin the Super Boy Wonder," really shows a new change—Robin turning against Batman. Of your three Giant BATMAN ANNUALS, I have picked the stories which I enjoyed the most. In the first, it was "Batman's Electronic Crime-File." In the second, it was "Batman, Superman of Planet X," and in the third, "The Mental Giant of Gotham City."

I would like very much to compliment you on your great improvement of art in the last few months. As for people who are always complaining about a mistake, even some of the largest selling magazines in the U.S. make mistakes.

William Reed, Newark, Ohio

* * *

Dear Editor: My brother told me that when he was little he read BATMAN. He said that one of Batman's greatest foes was the Penguin. Will you ever feature him again in a story?

I think your newest BATMAN ANNUAL is the best. I would like to know how old BATMAN COMICS is.

Alan Floth, Lincoln, Nebraska

(BATMAN COMICS was first published in 1940, but Batman appeared the year before in DETECTIVE COMICS. As for the Penguin, see the answer to the next letter.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I have just finished reading the third BATMAN ANNUAL and it was sensational. Every story was very interesting and full of action. The only thing missing was one of Batman's truly fantastic foes—the Penguin. I would like to see him teamed up with the Joker in a Batman story real soon. Together, these two infamous villains would give our boy, Batman, a hard time and us readers a terrific story.

Martin Maloney, Scranton, Pa.

(In response to many letters asking for the Penguin, we're featuring him in the May issue of BATMAN COMICS, "The Return of the Penguin," one of two big stories in this issue. The other is "Batman's Psychic Twin," a real suspense thriller with plenty of surprise twists.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I read the latest BATMAN ANNUAL, and I think it's great. I also liked the Sept. edition of BATMAN. In the story of "The Girl Who Stole Batman's Heart," you almost had me fooled for a minute. Also, your recent issues of DETECTIVE COMICS have been great.

Dennis Anderson, Sun Valley, Calif.

* * *

Dear Editor: BRAVO! It's about time a 2 or 3-part novel appeared in BATMAN! This might have been the best story of the year except for the ending. You always seem to use this whenever the ending cannot be worked out! Instead, think of a solution. Quit relying on poor Alfred! Now I'll look for this ending all the time.

A reader requested 2 stories in each issue. This means that they would be 12 or 13 page stories, but we get these in DETECTIVE COMICS. BATMAN should be reserved for 3 stories. In DETECTIVE COMICS, "The Flame Master" is one of the best stories in a long time, but my favorite is J'onn J'onzz. When are you going to give the Manhunter a tryout in SHOWCASE or BRAVE AND BOLD?

Fred Bronson, Culver City, Calif.

(The ending of "Batman's New Secret Identity" was purposely planned for this particular story—it followed a near-revelation of Batman's identity by the Joker in a previous issue, and it enabled us to eat our cake and have it. We haven't used Alfred in this manner except for the Second Batman and Robin stories, in which you know in advance that it's an imaginary adventure. We thought it was a cute solution—and the deluge of mail we've received seems to confirm our judgment. As for J'onn J'onzz, see comment after the next letter.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Why doesn't J'onn J'onzz have his own book? Aquaman has his, so why not J'onn J'onzz? So, come on—be kind to J'onn J'onzz!

Russell W. Ball, Los Angeles, Calif.

(There are various publishing and editorial problems, too complex to elaborate on, that determine

what magazines should be published and what characters should appear in them. This applies, also, to the composition of the existing magazines —which features, what lengths, etc. Remember, we have a large number of magazines, and we don't want them all to be the same—we try to have variety. We're not saying no to the idea of J'onn J'onzz appearing in SHOWCASE or his own book, but we're not yet saying yes. Time will tell. Meanwhile, be kind to the editor!

Incidentally, to get a plug in, the Mar. issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, which features Batman and Robin in a perilous life-or-death adventure, "The Mystery of the $1,000,000 Treasure Hunt," has a terrific Manhunter story—"The Wizard Who Conquered J'onn J'onzz." Also, watch for the April issue, in which the Manhunter's cute little pet, Zook, will appear again, as well as a good old-fashioned Batman murder mystery, "Murder in Movieland"—the solution, we think, will baffle you and your friends!—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Congratulations! I just got my copy of BATMAN No. 151, and all I can say is magnificent. The ending, superb—I just couldn't figure it out. In the middle of it all, I actually looked back to the beginning to see if I had missed a place where it might have said "Imaginary Story." Thanks for the masterpiece.

Greg Feldman, Chicago, Ill.

* * *

Dear Editor: Congratulations on the latest 3 issues of BATMAN. I liked the stories, "Invaders from the Past," and "Robin, the Super Boy Wonder," but the best one is "Batman's New Secret Identity."

Steven Martys, Passaic, N. J.

* * *

Dear Editor: BATMAN No. 151 was the best comic ever published by anyone in the world! WONDERFUL! Keep up the good work! "Batman's New Secret Identity" was the best story you ever published, and the other story, "The Mystery Gadget from the Stars," was a smash-hit, also!

David Laurence, Athens, Ohio

* * *

Dear Editor: I have just finished your BATMAN No. 151. "Batman's New Secret Identity" had me so filled up with curiosity that I was about to burst with anxiety. I think this tops all DC issues I have ever read. Please have more of this kind of issue.

Charles Braun, Pittsburgh, Pa.

* * *

Dear Editor: BATMAN No. 151 was very good. Both stories were good, especially "Batman's New Secret Identity." But my letter is more or less devoted to the villains I think should return to harass Batman. The one who is most deserving, in my opinion, is the Duplicate Man. He was your best villain, matching wits with Batman, Robin and Superman in WORLD'S FINEST. Others worthy of returning are Clayface, the Kite-Man, the Wheel and the Blue Bowman. It might not be a bad idea to bring back the Elemental Man and the Zebra Man, either.

Dave Bibby, Verona, N. J.

* * *

Dear Editor: I bought the latest issue of Batman, No. 151. Congratulations on this fine issue—it was terrific. It had the element of suspense down to the last expertly drawn panel. Please continue your idea of two, and possibly three-part stories.

In response to your comment on Richard Diekmann's letter, I will list my favorite Batman villains: Catman, Penguin, Two-Face, the Match.

Phil Leibfred, Bronxville, N. Y.

(We're naturally delighted with all this praise, but we personally think the response to the 3-part novel in the Feb. issue of BATMAN, No. 153, will be even greater and more enthusiastic. We'll let you know.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Being an old reader of BATMAN, I would like to know what happened to Vicki Vale, the newspaper photographer who was always getting into trouble and trying to discover the secret identity of Batman. . . . Three of my favorite characters are Bat-Girl, Batman and Robin No. 2, and the adventures with Prof. Nichols. Will we see any more of these?

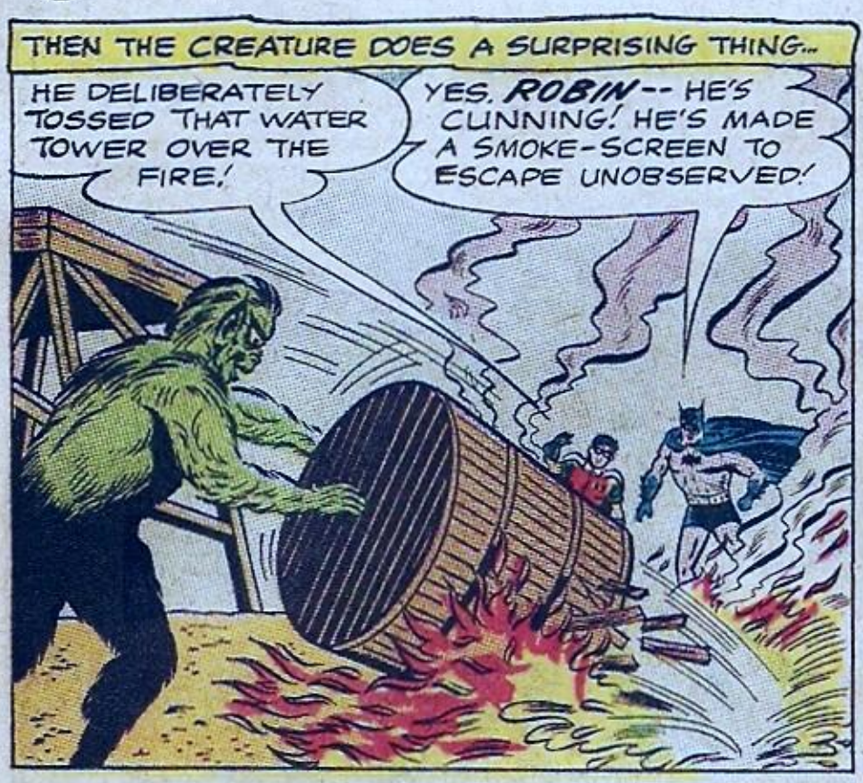
Jerry Pritchett, Danville, Va.

(Vicki Vale returned in a recent issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, will appear in the April issue, and will continue to be involved in adventures with Batman . . . and, we plan, in rivalry with Batwoman. Bat-Girl was in the last issue of BATMAN; Batman and Robin No. 2 are in this issue, of course, and we hope to have them back in future stories. As for Prof. Nichols, you can read the current story in the March issue of WORLD'S FINEST, featuring Superman and the dynamic duo in "Batman and Robin, Medieval Bandits."—Ed.)

Please address all mail to: Letters to the Bat-Cave, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York 22, N. Y. Because of the large volume of mail received, we cannot always answer all letters personally. For this page, we try to select letters that are both interesting and typical of the many that are sent to us. In that way, the opinions of a broad cross-section are read by all, and answers can be given to questions that are often asked.—Ed.

BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
IT STALKED ONWARD, A SAVAGE, UNCONQUERABLE CREATURE CAUSING SENSELESS DESTRUCTION -- VENTING ITS TERRIBLE WRATH AGAINST MANKIND! AND WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN TRIED TO DEFY ITS TERRIBLE POWER, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES HELPLESS UNTIL THEY UNCOVERED THE FANTASTIC SECRET OF..
the STRANGE EXPERIMENT of DOCTOR DORN
JUMP!
WOW! THE CREATURE IS BATTING THE BATMOBILE RIGHT OFF THE BRIDGE!
BOB KANE

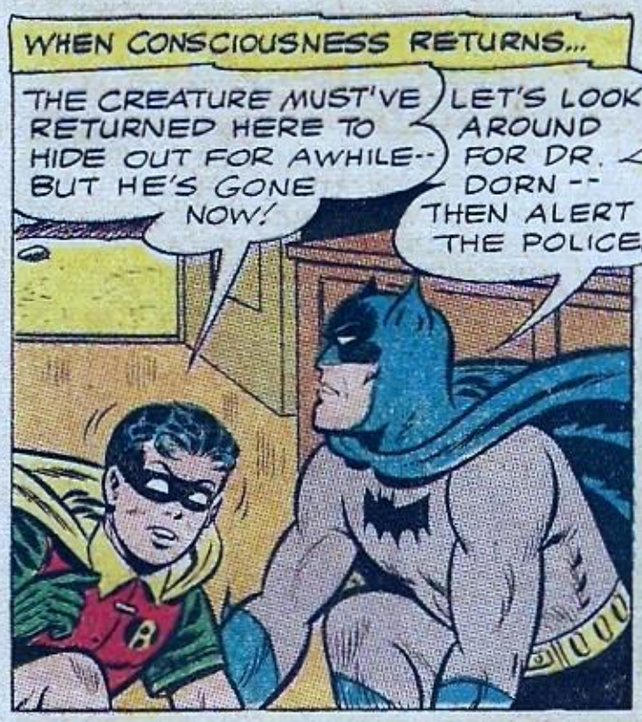
IN GOTHAM CITY, PANIC ERUPTS AS A MASSIVE FIGURE LUMBERS ONWARD...
THE PHONE BOOTH! GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!
HURRY! THAT -- THING -- IS GAINING!
SHORTLY, IN RESPONSE TO THE POLICE ALARM, THE FAMED TROUBLE-SHOOTERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, ARRIVE TO VIEW A STAGGERING SIGHT...
WOW! W-WHAT IS THAT THING?
ITS STRENGTH IS FANTASTIC! LUCKILY, THAT FREIGHT CAR HAS NO PEOPLE IN IT!
AS THE POLICE FIRE, THE CREATURE'S BODY SUDDENLY GLOWS WITH AN EERIE ENERGY...
THE BULLETS ARE SLAMMING RIGHT INTO THAT CREATURE-- BUT WITH NO EFFECT!
BAM
BAM
BAM
THAT AURA IS RESPONSIBLE! WILD AS IT MAY SEEM, I THINK THAT CREATURE IS ACTUALLY DIGESTING THE BULLETS!
SWIFTLY, BATMAN SWINGS INTO A PLAN OF ACTION...
OKAY, ROBIN-- TOSS IT!
A TOSSED TORCH--AND INSTANTLY SPILLED OIL FLARES INTO A BARRIER OF FLAME!
FOOLS! YOU CANNOT STOP ME! BUT I CHOOSE TO LEAVE NOW INSTEAD!
GREAT SCOTT! THE CREATURE IS INTELLIGENT! HE'S "TALKING" TO US BY PROJECTING HIS THOUGHT!

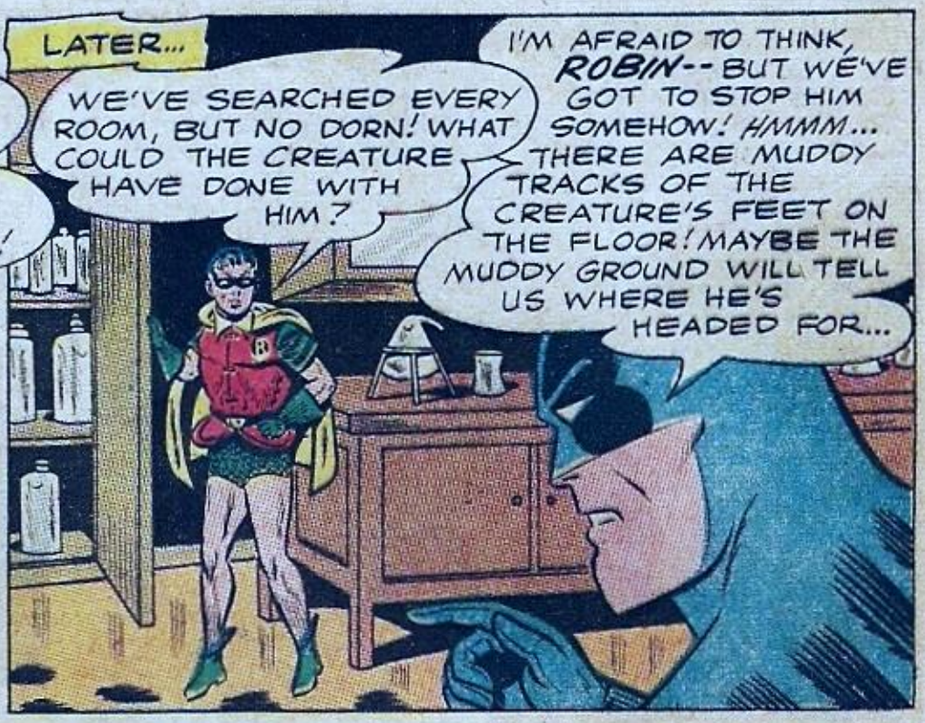

THEN THE CREATURE DOES A SURPRISING THING...
HE DELIBERATELY TOSSED THAT WATER TOWER OVER THE FIRE!
YES, ROBIN -- HE'S CUNNING! HE'S MADE A SMOKE-SCREEN TO ESCAPE UNOBSERVED!

AS THE CREATURE DISAPPEARS SOMEWHERE IN THE THICK WOODS BEYOND, THE LAWMAN'S KEEN EYES SPY A GLITTERING OBJECT...
I SAW THIS DROP FROM THE CREATURE'S HIDE! IT'S A GLASS COVER FOR A MICROSCOPE SLIDE THAT WAS CAUGHT IN THE CREATURE'S HAIRY HIDE! HE MUST HAVE BRUSHED AGAINST A LABORATORY TABLE!

MINUTES LATER, THE BATMOBILE SPEEDS UP A ROAD TO A MOUNTAIN SUMMIT...
THE ONLY LABORATORY IN THIS AREA IS DR. DORN'S! HE'S EXPERIMENTING WITH METHODS TO REACTIVATE DORMANT MICROBES HE FOUND IN A METEORITE!
IT ADDS UP! HE EXPERIMENTS COULD TIE IN WITH THAT ALIEN-LOOKING CREATURE!

SHORTLY, THEY BURST INTO THE LABORATORY -- ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE UNEXPECTED!
YOU HAVE COME LOOKING FOR DR. DORN -- BUT YOU HAVE FOUND ME, HIS CREATION, INSTEAD!
STUPID WEAKLINGS! DO NOT TRY TO STOP ME!
UHHH!


WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS...
THE CREATURE MUST'VE RETURNED HERE TO HIDE OUT FOR AWHILE-- BUT HE'S GONE NOW!
LET'S LOOK AROUND FOR DR. DORN -- THEN ALERT THE POLICE!


LATER...
WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY ROOM, BUT NO DORN! WHAT COULD THE CREATURE HAVE DONE WITH HIM?
I'M AFRAID TO THINK, ROBIN-- BUT WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM SOMEHOW! HMMM... THERE ARE MUDDY TRACKS OF THE CREATURE'S FEET ON THE FLOOR! MAYBE THE MUDDY GROUND WILL TELL US WHERE HE'S HEADED FOR...

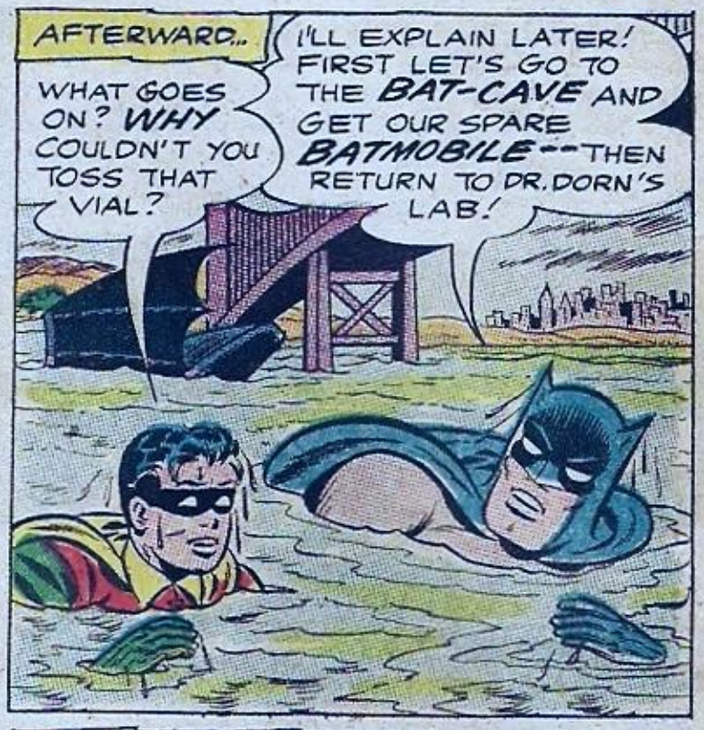
SOON, HEAVY PRINTS IN THE SOFT TURF, LEAD BATMAN AND ROBIN TO A CHEMICAL SUPPLY HOUSE...
HELP! HELP!
BAM BAM!
GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THE NIGHT WATCHMAN! THAT FIRE HOSE...

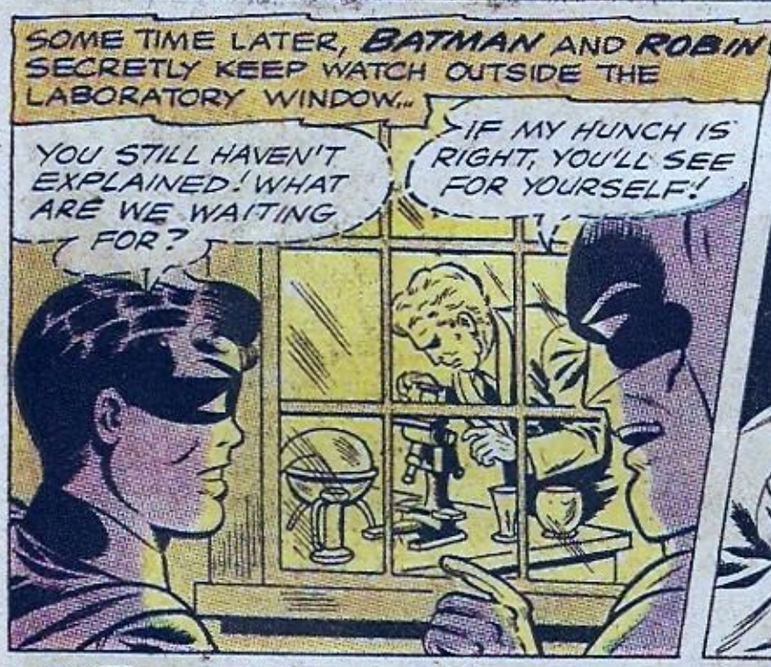
SNATCHING THE FIRE HOSE OFF THE HOOK, BATMAN SWINGS IT ACCURATELY TO HIS TARGET!
THE HEAVY NOZZLE STAGGERED THE CREATURE -- SO HE MUST BE WEAKER THAN WHEN WE FIRST ENCOUNTERED HIM! AND HIS AURA IS WEAKER, TOO!

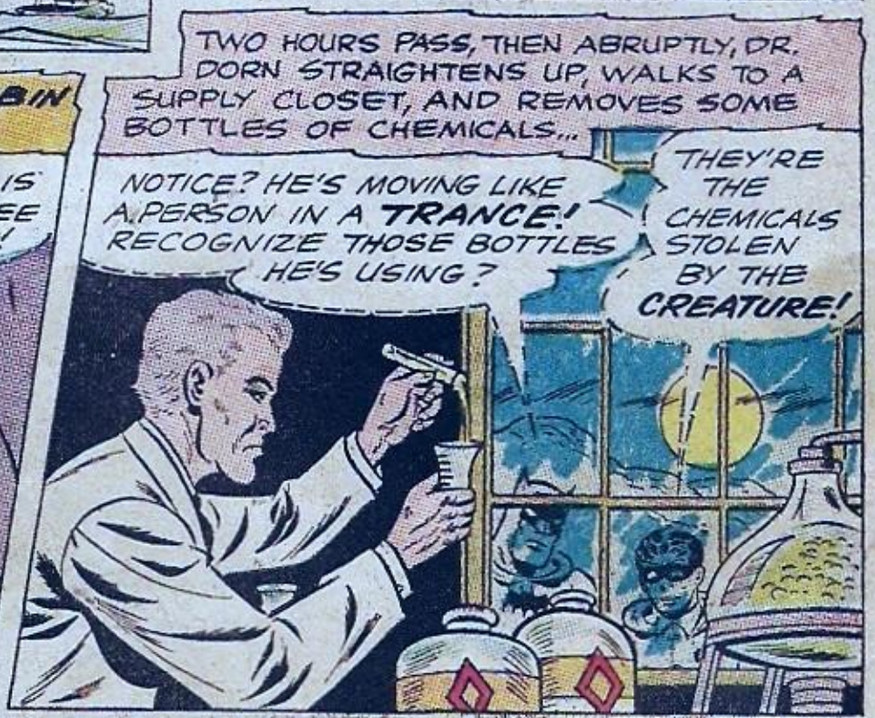
WHIRLING, THE CREATURE SUDDENLY SNATCHES UP TWO BOTTLES OF CHEMICALS AND...
HE'S STOLEN TWO BOTTLES OF RARE CHEMICALS! BUT WHY?
MAYBE HE NEEDS THOSE CHEMICALS TO RESTORE HIS WANING POWER IN SOME WAY! WE'D BETTER RETURN TO DORN'S LAB -- MAYBE HIS NOTEBOOKS WILL GIVE US MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREATURE!

LATER, A SURPRISE AWAITS THEM...
DR. DORN! ALIVE! WHAT HAPPENED?
I--I DON'T KNOW! I WAS CONTINUING WITH MY EXPERIMENTS OF THE METEOR MICROBES, AND AS I USED A CHEMICAL COMPOUND ON THEM, THERE WAS A FLARE OF GASEOUS LIGHT! T-THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER...
THE GAS MUST'VE AFFECTED YOUR SENSES-- AND YOU WANDERED ABOUT THE GROUNDS IN A DAZE UNTIL NOW! YOU'RE LUCKY THE CREATURE DIDN'T SEE YOU!
CREATURE? WHAT CREATURE?
SWIFTLY, BATMAN BRINGS DR. DORN UP TO DATE...
...APPARENTLY YOUR EXPERIMENT CAUSED A FREAK REACTION AND CREATED A NEW, ALIEN LIFE-FORM!
LIKE DR. FRANKENSTEIN, I HAVE CREATED A MONSTER! BUT SINCE I REMEMBER THE FORMULA, I CAN MAKE AN ANTIDOTE-- TO DESTROY MY CREATION!
LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEK THE CREATURE, THEIR SEARCH FINALLY ENDS...
THERE IT IS--RAMPAGING LIKE A CRAZED BEAST! NOW YOU CAN USE THE ANTIDOTE THAT DR. DORN GAVE YOU!
I'LL HAVE MORE ELBOW ROOM FOR AN ACCURATE THROW FROM THE ROOF OF THE BATMOBILE! TAKE OVER THE WHEEL, ROBIN!
SECONDS LATER, THE BATMOBILE ROARS FORWARD AS BATMAN TENSES, POISED FOR THE THROW, WHEN--HE HESITATES!
BATMAN! HE'S SEEN US! TOSS THE VIAL!
NO! I--I CAN'T! I MUST NOT!
IT'S ATTACKING! ROBIN-- JUMP!

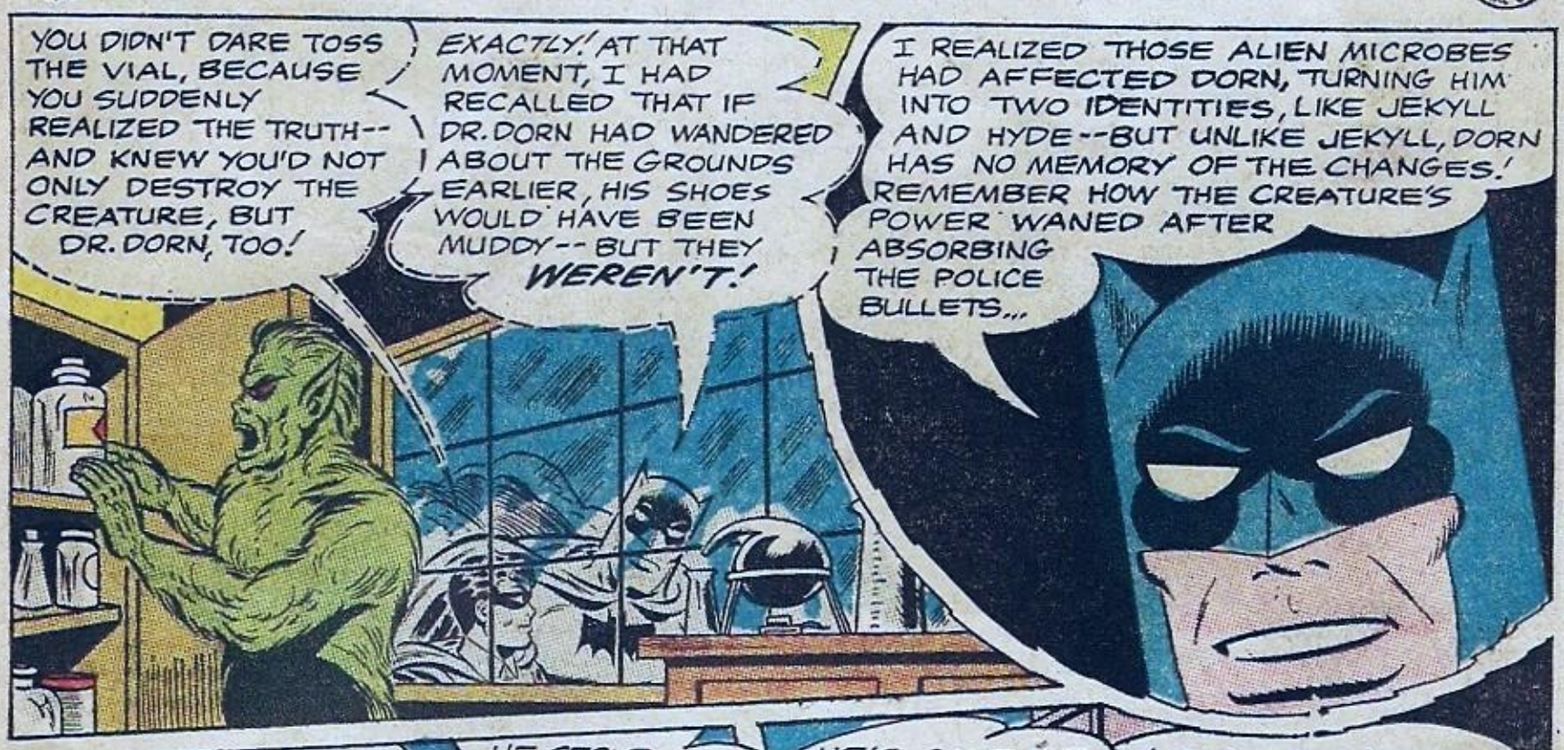
WITH ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE, THE TWO LEAP FOR THEIR LIVES...
CRASH
BRO-THER!


AFTERWARD...
WHAT GOES ON? WHY COULDN'T YOU TOSS THAT VIAL?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER! FIRST LET'S GO TO THE BAT-CAVE AND GET OUR SPARE BATMOBILE--THEN RETURN TO DR. DORN'S LAB!


SOME TIME LATER, BATMAN AND ROBIN SECRETLY KEEP WATCH OUTSIDE THE LABORATORY WINDOW...
YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF!


TWO HOURS PASS, THEN ABRUPTLY, DR. DORN STRAIGHTENS UP, WALKS TO A SUPPLY CLOSET, AND REMOVES SOME BOTTLES OF CHEMICALS...
NOTICE? HE'S MOVING LIKE A PERSON IN A TRANCE! RECOGNIZE THOSE BOTTLES HE'S USING?
THEY'RE THE CHEMICALS STOLEN BY THE CREATURE!

MIXING THE CHEMICALS, DR. DORN INHALES THEIR GAS--AND THE WATCHERS SEE HIM UNDERGO A FANTASTIC TRANSFORMATION!
BATMAN! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO HIM...
HE--HE'S CHANGING...
DR. DORN--HE'S BECOME THE CREATURE!


YOU DIDN'T DARE TOSS THE VIAL, BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY REALIZED THE TRUTH-- AND KNEW YOU'D NOT ONLY DESTROY THE CREATURE, BUT DR. DORN, TOO!
EXACTLY! AT THAT MOMENT, I HAD RECALLED THAT IF DR. DORN HAD WANDERED ABOUT THE GROUNDS EARLIER, HIS SHOES WOULD HAVE BEEN MUDDY-- BUT THEY WEREN'T!
I REALIZED THOSE ALIEN MICROBES HAD AFFECTED DORN, TURNING HIM INTO TWO IDENTITIES, LIKE JEKYLL AND HYDE--BUT UNLIKE JEKYLL, DORN HAS NO MEMORY OF THE CHANGES! REMEMBER HOW THE CREATURE'S POWER WANED AFTER ABSORBING THE POLICE BULLETS...

THE CREATURE RENEWS HIS POWER BY HIBERNATING-- SLEEPING INSIDE DORN'S BODY, ALLOWING THE DORN IDENTITY TO EMERGE!
HE STOLE SPECIAL CHEMICALS TO ACCOMPLISH THE CHANGES! HE MIXES ONE FORMULA TO HIBERNATE--AND A POST-HYPNOTIC COMMAND PREVIOUSLY PUT INTO DORN'S MIND, MAKES DORN UNKNOWINGLY MIX ANOTHER FORMULA FOR THE CREATURE TO EMERGE!
HE'S GONE OUT TO RAMPAGE AGAIN! WHAT NOW?
I'VE AN IDEA! FIRST I'LL CONTACT THE POLICE ON THE BAT-MOBILE RADIO, AND GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS...

SOMETIME LATER, POLICE CLOSE IN ON THE DESTRUCTIVE CREATURE...
CHIEF, WHY DON'T WE BLAST HIM WITH GRENADES? HE JUST ABSORBS THOSE BULLETS!
YOU HEARD BATMAN'S ORDERS! WE'RE TO KEEP ON FIRING AT HIM!
GOTHAM MILK
DRINK GOTHAM MILK
RAT-TA-TAT-TAT

LOOK! THE STRANGE GLOW IS EBBING! THAT MEANS HIS POWER IS WANING! THE CREATURE'S LEAVING AGAIN--TO RENEW HIS POWER! THAT'S WHAT BATMAN WANTED!

SOON, THE CREATURE RETURNS TO THE LAB AND MIXES CHEMICALS--AND THEN THE WAITING BATMAN AND ROBIN ACT!

NOW--AS IT BREATHES THE RISING GAS FROM THE FORMULA IT JUST MADE--IT WILL ALSO BREATHE IN THE GAS FROM THIS VIAL OF ANTIDOTE!

IT'S WORKING! THE COMBINATION IS PRODUCING A SIMULTANEOUS REACTION! THE CREATURE IS BEING DESTROYED WHILE DR. DORN IS EMERGING!

THE CREATURE IS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE! IT'S DYING--DISAPPEARING--AND DR. DORN IS BECOMING WHOLLY HIMSELF AGAIN!

MINUTES LATER...

BATMAN AND ROBIN--YOU'RE BACK! DID THE ANTIDOTE WORK? IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT NOW?

YES, DR. DORN... THE CREATURE IS DEAD! EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW!

THE END

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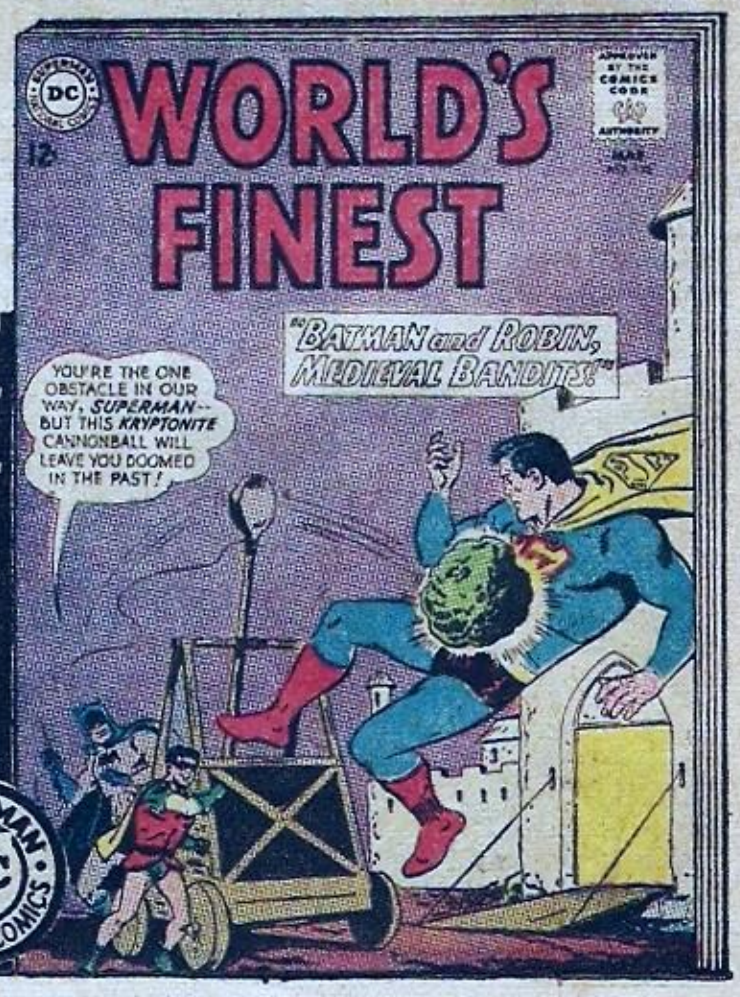

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1923 Stearns	1948 Ford
1924 Chandler	1949 Hudson
1925 Locomobile	1950 Chrysler
1926 Cleveland	1951 Nash
1927 Jordan	1952 Plymouth
1928 Kissel	1953 Mercury
1929 Auburn	1954 Chrysler
1930 Cord	1955 Lincoln
1931 Durant	1956 Dodge
1932 Essex	1957 DeSoto
1933 Dodge	1958 Ford Thunderbird
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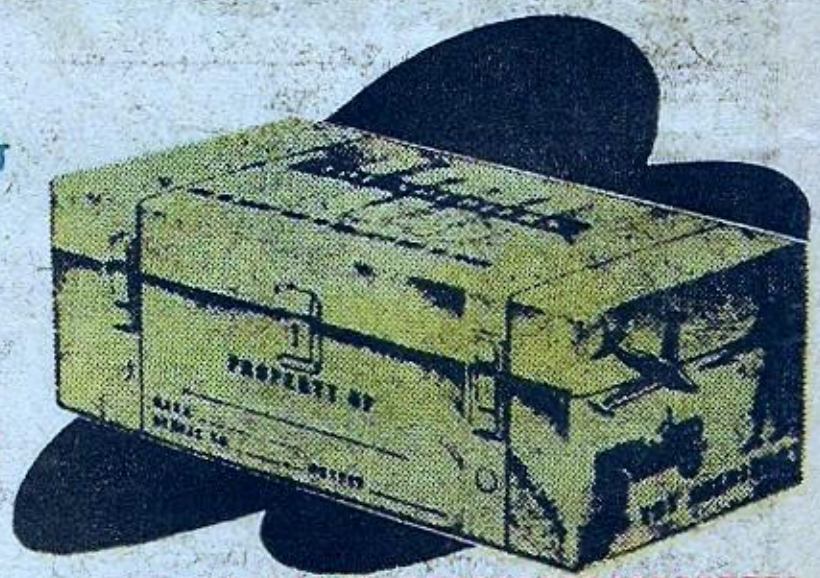

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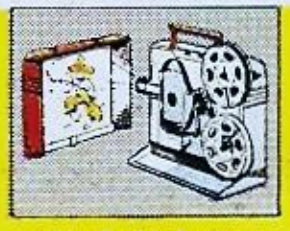
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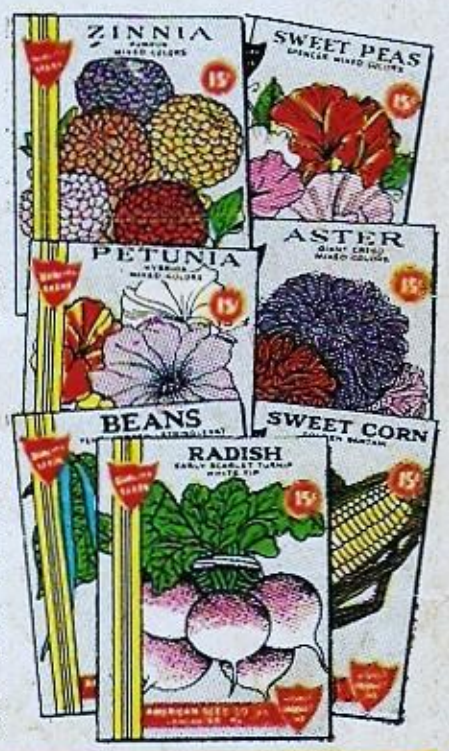

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