

YOUR TIME
HAS COME, GOTHAM--
**DR. PHOSPHORUS
IS BACK!**

WITH SPECIAL
GUEST-STAR:
BATGIRL!

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

THE BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE COWLED SHADOW OF THE BATMAN PROWLS THROUGH THE NIGHT, PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITE LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAS ADOPTED!

AND NOW, IN THE SHANK OF A LONG AND LONELY NIGHT, THE BATMAN'S BLANK EYE-SLITS SNAP WIDE AT THE EVIDENCE OF A RETURNING PARASITE....!

GLOWING FOOTPRINTS--LEADING OUT OF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR INDICATING...

DR. PHOSPHORUS IS BACK!

COME WITH US, FOR THE EXPLANATION...FOR THE DARLING OF DARKNESS, BATGIRL ...AND MORE!

...COURTESY OF
STEVE ENGLEHART
GUEST WRITER
IRV NOVICK &
FRANK McLAUGHLIN
ARTISTS
BEN ODA - LETTERER
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST
PAUL LEVITZ - EDITOR

THE DARK KNIGHT FOLLOWS THE FOOTPRINTS INTO THE DARK--

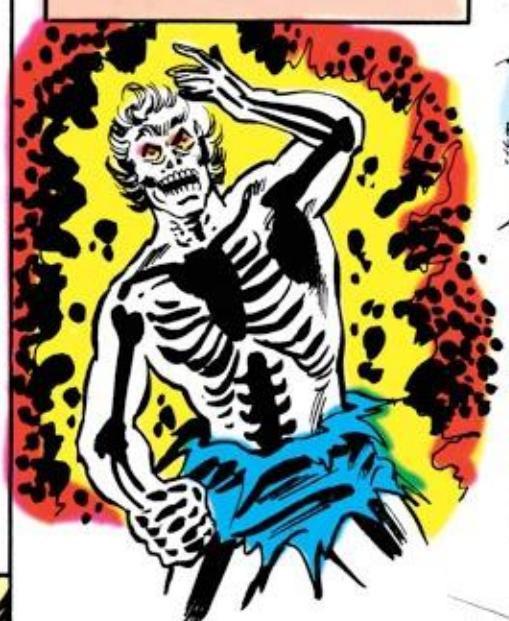


DR. PHOSPHORUS WAS DR. SARTORIUS, A HEAVY INVESTOR IN THE UNSAFE GOTHAM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT--



--A PLANT SO UNSAFE IT BLEW UP DURING CONSTRUCTION--

--TURNING THE MAN INTO A MONSTER ETERNALLY AFLAME WITH RADIOACTIVITY!



HIS CRAZED MIND BLAMED GOTHAM CITY, RATHER THAN HIS OWN SHODDY CONSTRUCTION, AND HE SOUGHT VENGEANCE BY POISONING GOTHAM'S WATER WITH HIS OWN DEADLY BODY--

-- AND IN HIS FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE BATMAN, HE FELL TO WHAT SEEMED CERTAIN DOOM IN THE REBUILT REACTOR CORE! *

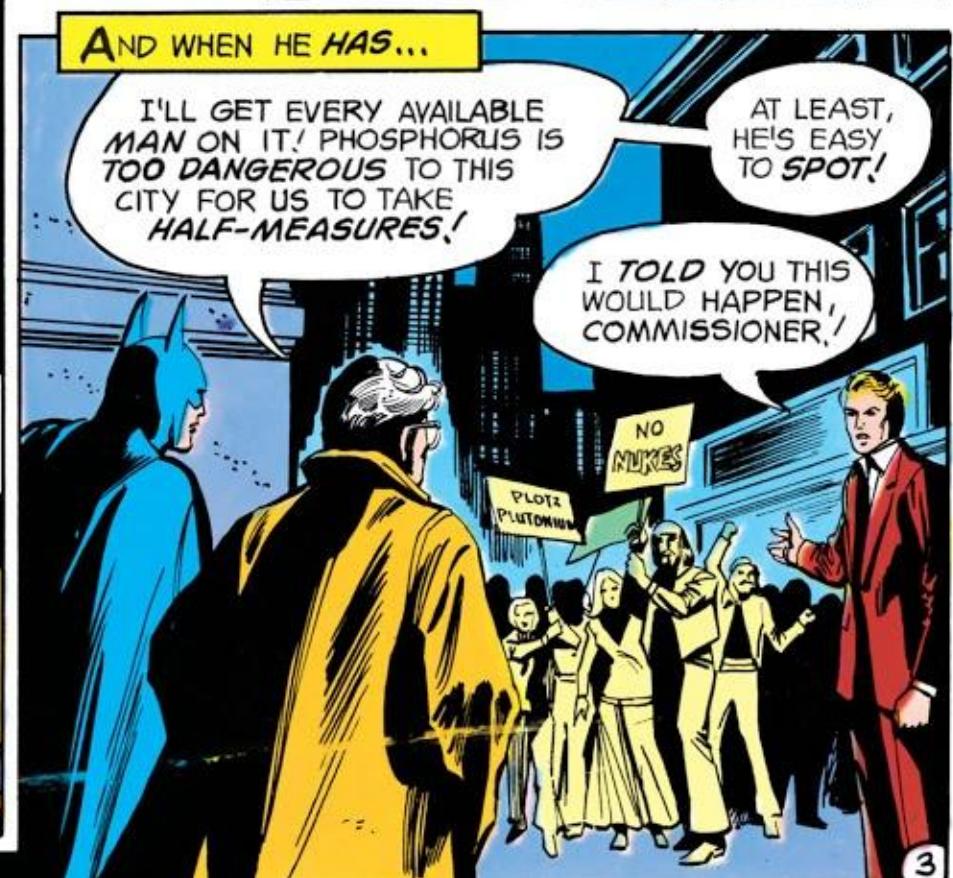
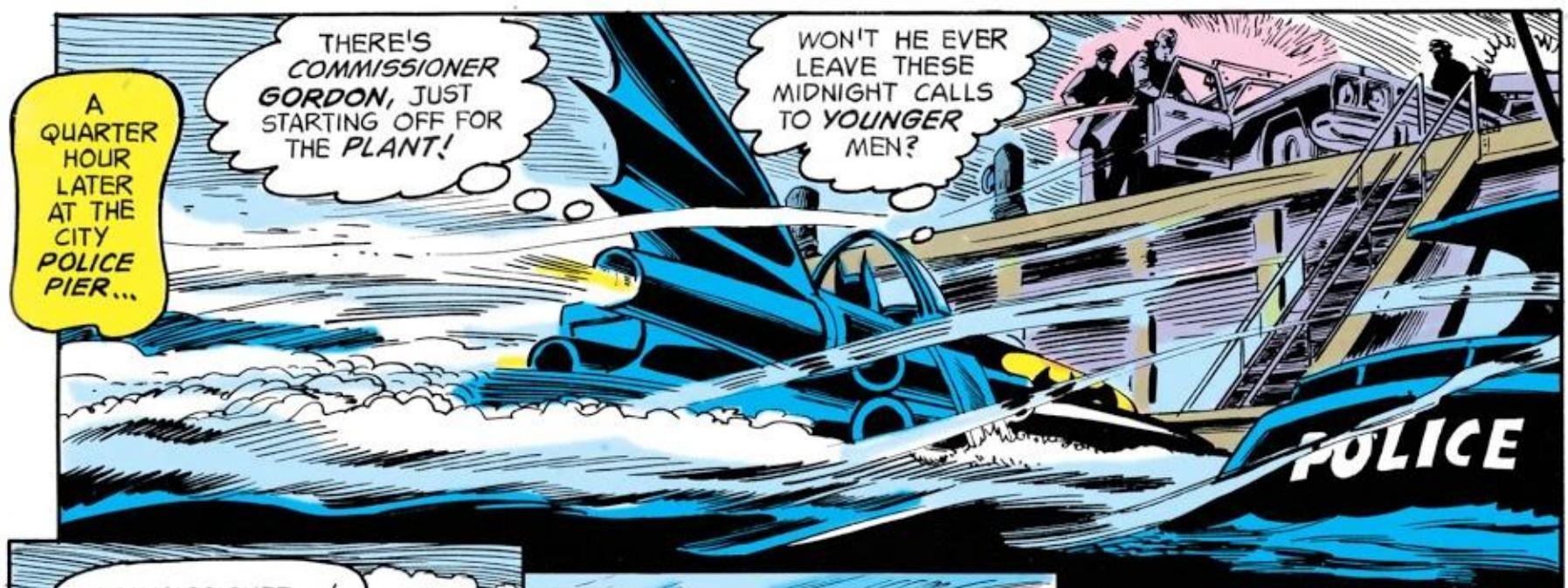
*ALL THIS IN DETECTIVE #469-470. --PAUL

--HIS FOOTPRINTS! AND HIS WAKE! THAT MEANS THERE'S NO RADIATION STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM!

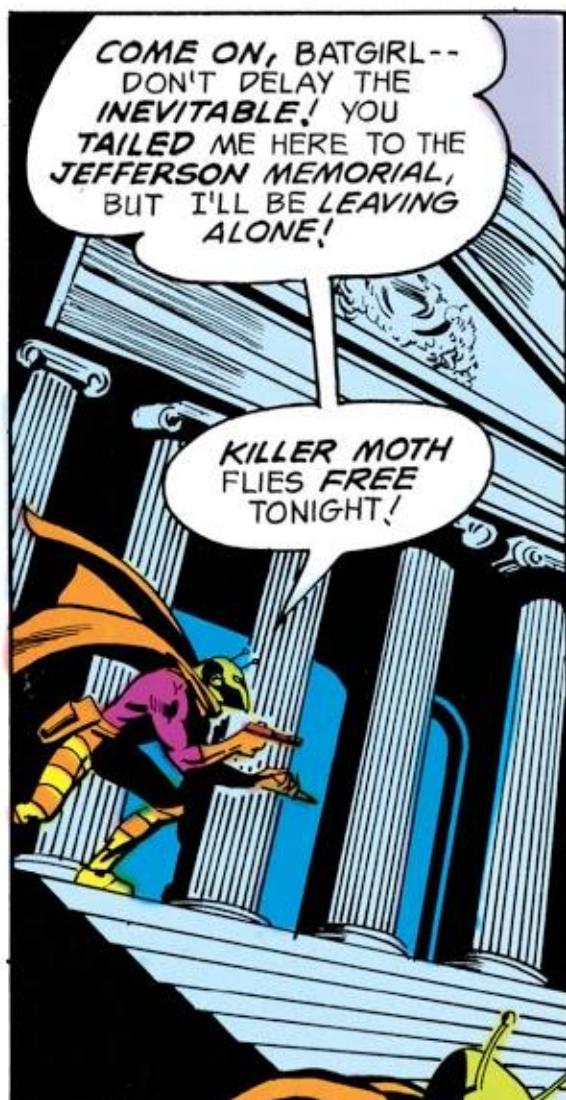
AND THAT MEANS--TROUBLE!

BUT TONIGHT, THE TWICE-REBUILT REACTOR WENT CRITICAL FOR TEN TERRIFYING MINUTES--

--AND WHEN THE EVER-ALERT BATMAN CAME TO CHECK THE SITUATION, SUSPICIONS ALREADY FORMING, HE FOUND --













NO NORMAL MAN CAN OUTRUN THE DARK KNIGHT!
HE HAS TRAINED SINCE CHILDHOOD TO BE CERTAIN
OF THAT!

AND YET...

CAN'T GAIN ANY
GROUND ON HIM!
HIS MUSCLES CAN'T
BE THAT STRONG!

IT MUST BE HIS WEIGHT!
AS A MASS OF FLAME, HE'S
GOT THAT EXTRA LIFT
GOING FOR HIM!

NO SENSE IN
TRYING TO CATCH
UP WITH HIM NOW--

LIKE THE
WILL O' THE WISP,
MY LIGHT SHALL BE
SEEN AGAIN
SOON, BATMAN--

--AND THEN
I BURN!

YOU STOPPED ME ONCE,
BUT YOU CANNOT STOP ME
NOW! I HAVE SLEPT IN THE
DEPTHES WITH THE DAZZLING
DEATH, AND IT HAS GIVEN
ME MORE LIFE!

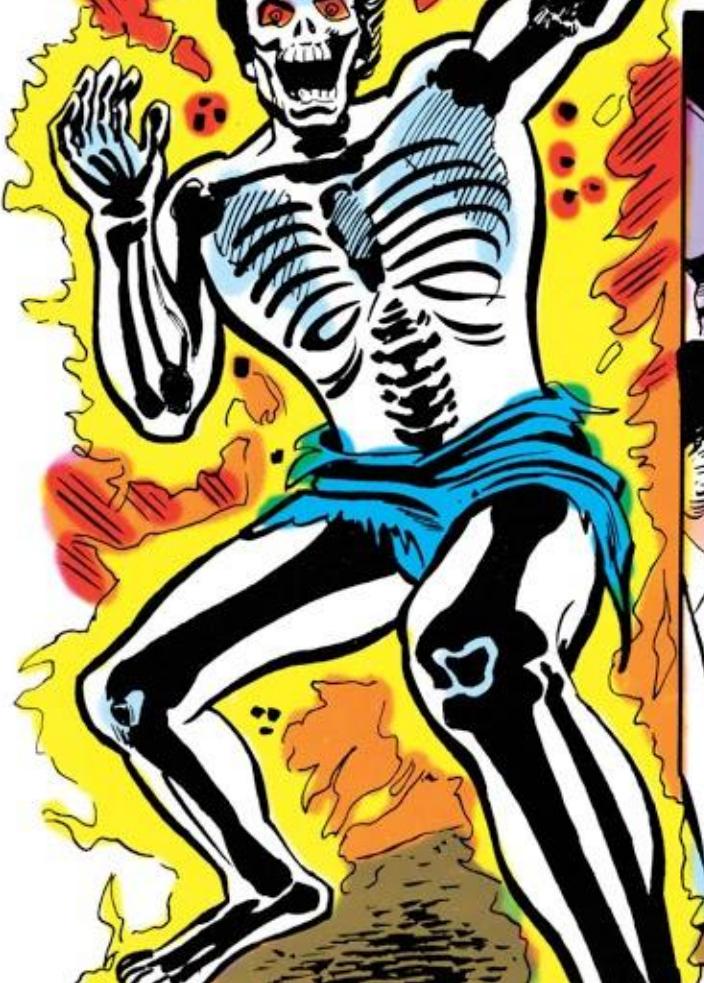
ABANDONING THE
FRUITLESS CHASE,
THE CAPE
CRUSADER RETURNS
TO THE ASYLUM...

BATMAN,
MR. THORNE HAS
BEEN MUMBLING
SOMETHING ABOUT
A RALLY--!

PHOSPHORUS BURNS WHEN
EXPOSED TO AIR! GOTHAM
CITY WILL BURN WHEN
EXPOSED TO ME--
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO
WANT TO CLOSE OFF MY
PLANT FROM ME!

DR. PHOSPHORUS SHALL
REIGN OVER ALL!

I KNOW!

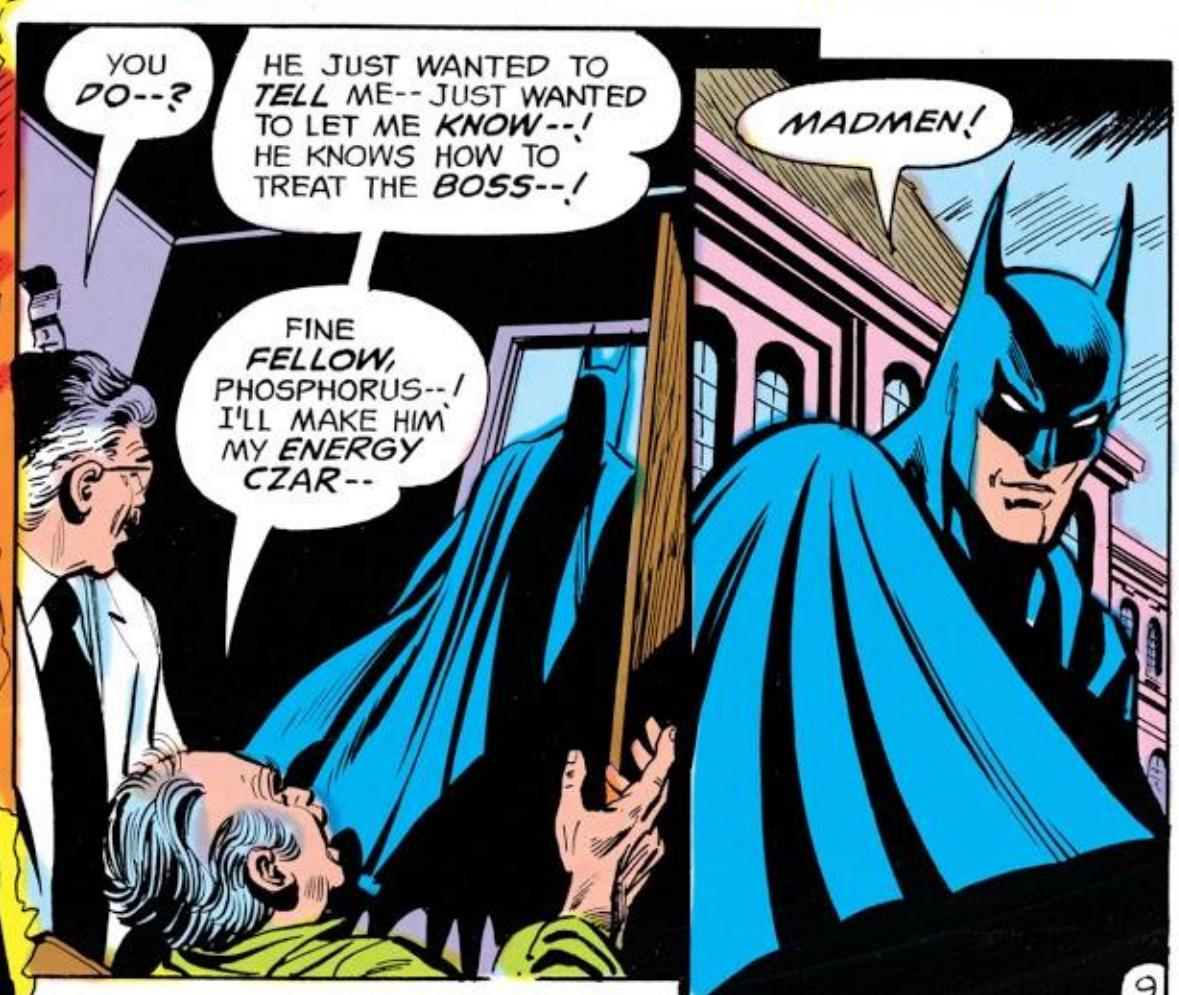


YOU
DO--?

HE JUST WANTED TO
TELL ME-- JUST WANTED
TO LET ME KNOW--!
HE KNOWS HOW TO
TREAT THE BOSS--!

FINE
FELLOW,
PHOSPHORUS--!
I'LL MAKE HIM
MY ENERGY
CZAR--

MADMEN!



BRUCE WAYNE RULES HIS ROOST BY PHONE TODAY, OKAYING CONSTRUCTION IN BRAZIL AND A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR ON THURSDAY! AT FOUR, HE CALLS IN A BUY ORDER ON STOCK!

BUT THE BATMAN RULES GOTHAM IN PERSON-- STRIVING WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON TO BATTEN THE HATCHES ON THE TRAMP STEAMER THEY BOTH SAIL CALLED GOTHAM!

HE IS EVERYWHERE, AND RELENTLESS WITH THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT!

NO ONE, EVEN IN DAYLIGHT, CAN FACE THE COWLED BATMAN WITHOUT SOME SENSE OF AWE--

--AND GOTHAM HOLDS QUITE A GROUP OF AWED PEOPLE BY NIGHTFALL-- WHEN THE RALLY STARTS!

HEY, LOOK, MAN! CHECK THIS OUT!

THE BATMAN, FAR OUT!

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, TEDDY! THAT GUY'S ALWAYS GIVEN ME THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES, EVER SINCE I WAS A KID!

WHADDYA TALKIN' ABOUT, MAN?

HEY LOOK, YOU KNOW HOW INTENSE HE CAN BE! I JUST DON'T LIKE A GUY THAT POWERFUL RUNNING AROUND LOOSE, Y'KNOW?

I MEAN, NOBODY KNOWS WHO HE REALLY IS, RIGHT?

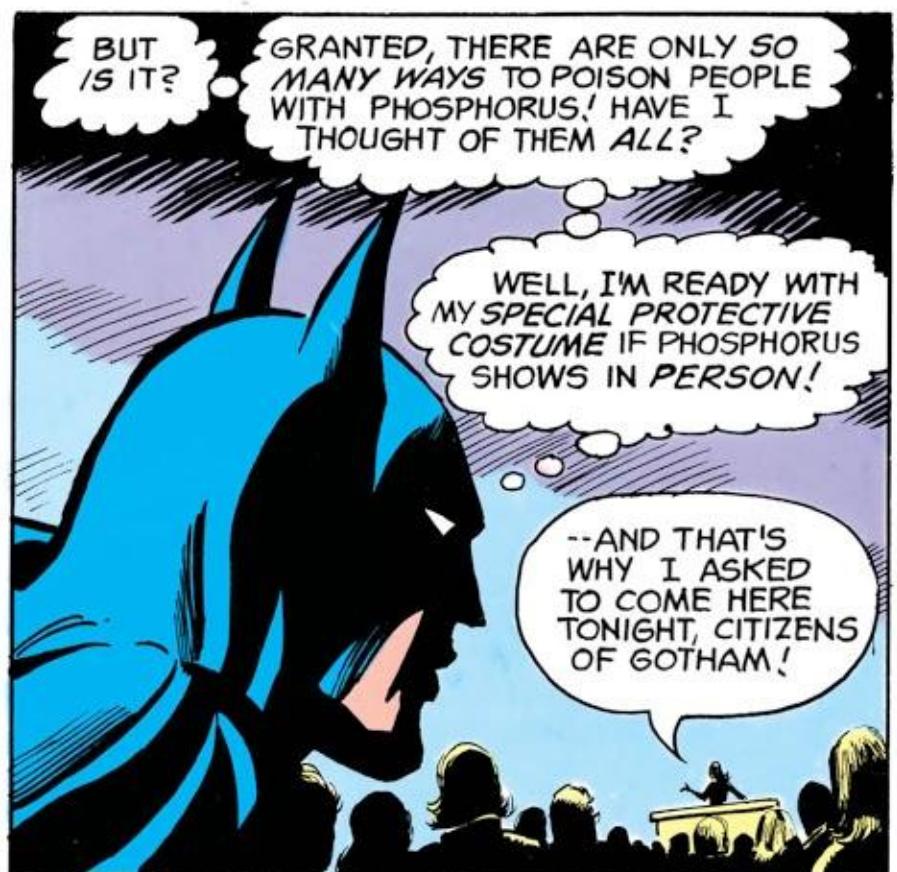
AW HEY, MAN, THE BATMAN'S NEVER DONE ANYBODY WRONG! NEVER! HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A TIME?

SURE, I KNOW HE'S INTENSE, BUT I ALSO KNOW I TRUST HIM! I KNOW HE'S GONNA DO HIS BEST--FOR US!

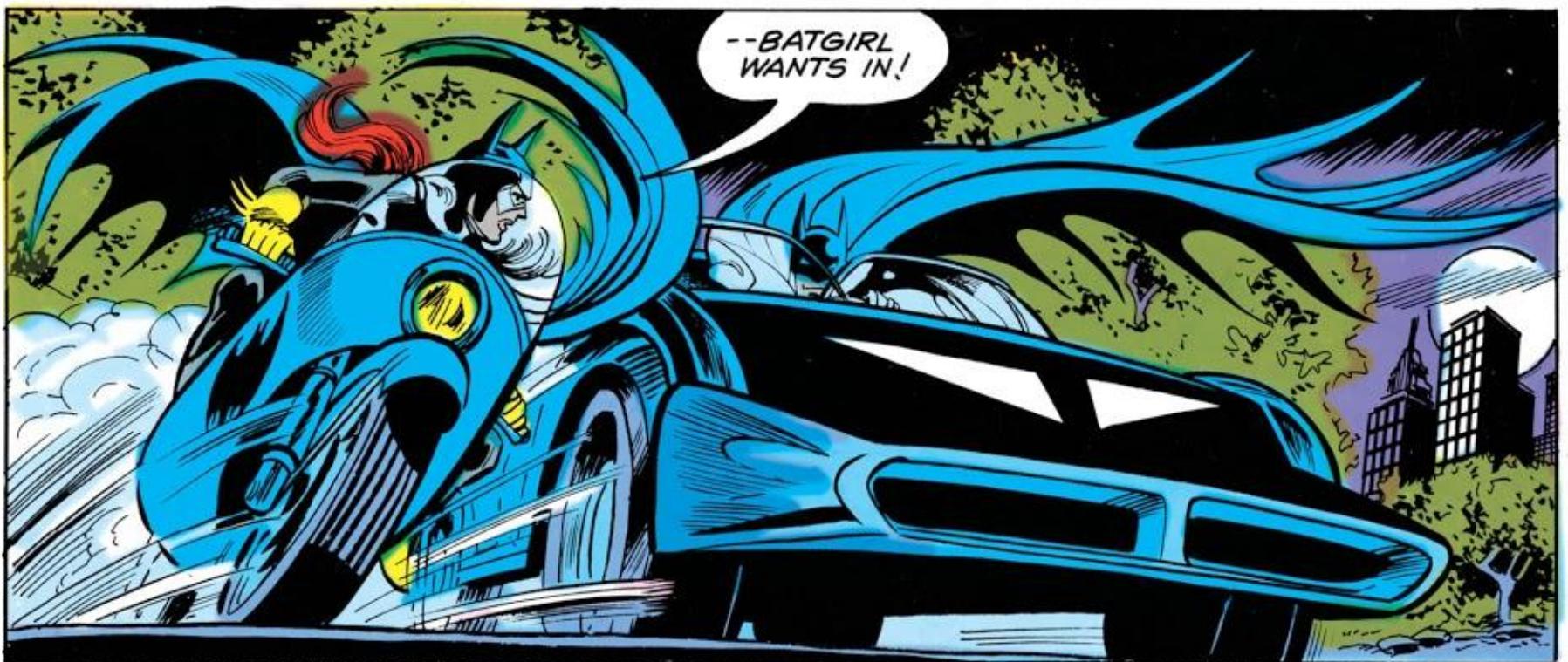
FOR US--OR FOR THE LAW? THE DAY'S COMING WHEN WE'LL HOLD OUR RALLIES ON THE PLANT RIG AND GET ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING!

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO THEN?

SORRY, JAMEY --I JUST DON'T SEE THE BATMAN SHOVING PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS INTO PADDY WAGONS!



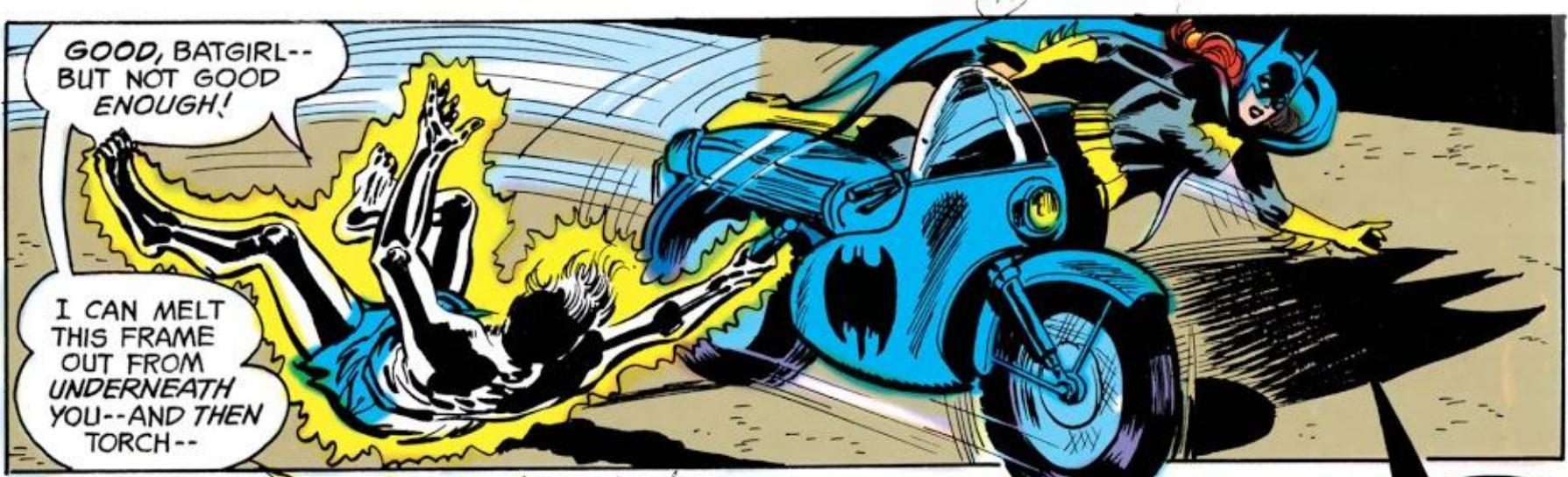




HEEDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES, THE DARK KNIGHT GUNS THE BATMOBILE INTO THE PATH OF THE ONRUSHING PLANE...







BEFORE THE STARTLED GARGOYLE CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, HIS BODY IS ENVELOPED BY THE RADIATION-PROOF SHIELD...

INSTANTLY, THE LURID FLAMES ARE SNUFFED OUT! HE STRUGGLES--

--BUT HIS STRENGTH IS GONE! AND--

THE BATARANG WILL TIE HIM UP GOOD AND TIGHT!

NO! THIS CANNOT BE!

I AM THE SUN!

I WOULD HAVE BROUGHT THE RAINS--THE RAINS OF DEATH! I WOULD HAVE POURED MY POWER OVER EVERYONE!

KNOCK IT OFF, PHOS--

A RAIN OF FIRE-- AND A REIGN OF HELL!

WHOOOMP!

BATMAN! HOW'RE YOU DOING?

EHH! I'LL BE SORE IN THE MORNING, BUT A HEADACHE'S ABOUT THE WORST OF IT! THE BATMOBILE'S A SAFE MACHINE!

SORRY I HAD TO BLOW HER BACK UPRIGHT, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS IN A HURRY!

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND, THOUGH!

WELL, IT WASN'T EASY, I'LL ADMIT!

AND YET... COMPARED TO MY NORMAL LINE OF WORK....

NEXT:
THE CALAMITOUS CRIMES OF
THE CALENDAR MAN...
"A CAPE A DAY KEEPS THE BATMAN AT BAY!"
BE HERE--MARCH 8th!



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