



NO. 318 **40¢**
DEC. ALL NEW!

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COMICS
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BATMAN

INTRODUCING
THE FIREBUG...
THE MAN
WHO IS BURNING
GOTHAM CITY
DOWN!!



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...

BAT MAN

CREATED BY BOB KANE

TEN SECONDS: TIME ENOUGH TO STRIKE A MATCH AND CONDEMN A BUILDING TO FIERY DEATH!

TEN SECONDS: TIME ENOUGH FOR A TINY, TERRIFIED CRY TO BE HEARD -- AND FOR A BAT-CLOAKED SENTINEL TO COME SWINGING TO THE RESCUE!

TEN SECONDS: BARELY A BLINK OF TIME'S ALL-SEEING EYE, BUT MARK THESE BRIEF MOMENTS WELL --

-- FOR THEY MAY BE THE LAST TEN SECONDS OF THE CAPED CRUSADER'S LIFE!

MY CITY BURNS AT BOTH ENDS... IT WILL NOT LAST THE NIGHT!

LEN WEIN * IRV NOVICK * FRANK McLAUGHLIN * GLYNIS WEIN * BEN ODA * PAUL LEVITZ
WRITER * PENCILLER * INKER COLORIST LETTERER * EDITOR

ON THE CROWDED STREET BELOW, POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES W. GORDON MOUTHS A SILENT PRAYER--

--AND A VERY VOCAL PROTEST...

CAN'T YOUR MEN MOVE ANY FASTER, CHIEF?

WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN, COMMISSIONER.

THAT CHERRY-PICKER SHOULD REACH BATMAN AND THE GIRL IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET YOU, BATMAN -- BUT NOT LIKE THIS.

JUST HANG ON UNTIL WE GET A LITTLE CLOSER, AND THEN--







THE WINGS OF MAN GLINT SILVER IN THE MOONLIGHT AS A SLEEK 747 LAZILY CIRCLES GOTHAM AIRPORT--



--PROVIDING A MOST SPECTACULAR SETTING FOR THE CITY'S ELITE TO GET DOWN AND BOOGIE!

TRUMAN REALLY DOES THINGS IN A BIG WAY, SELINA.

THIS PARTY IS A SMASH!

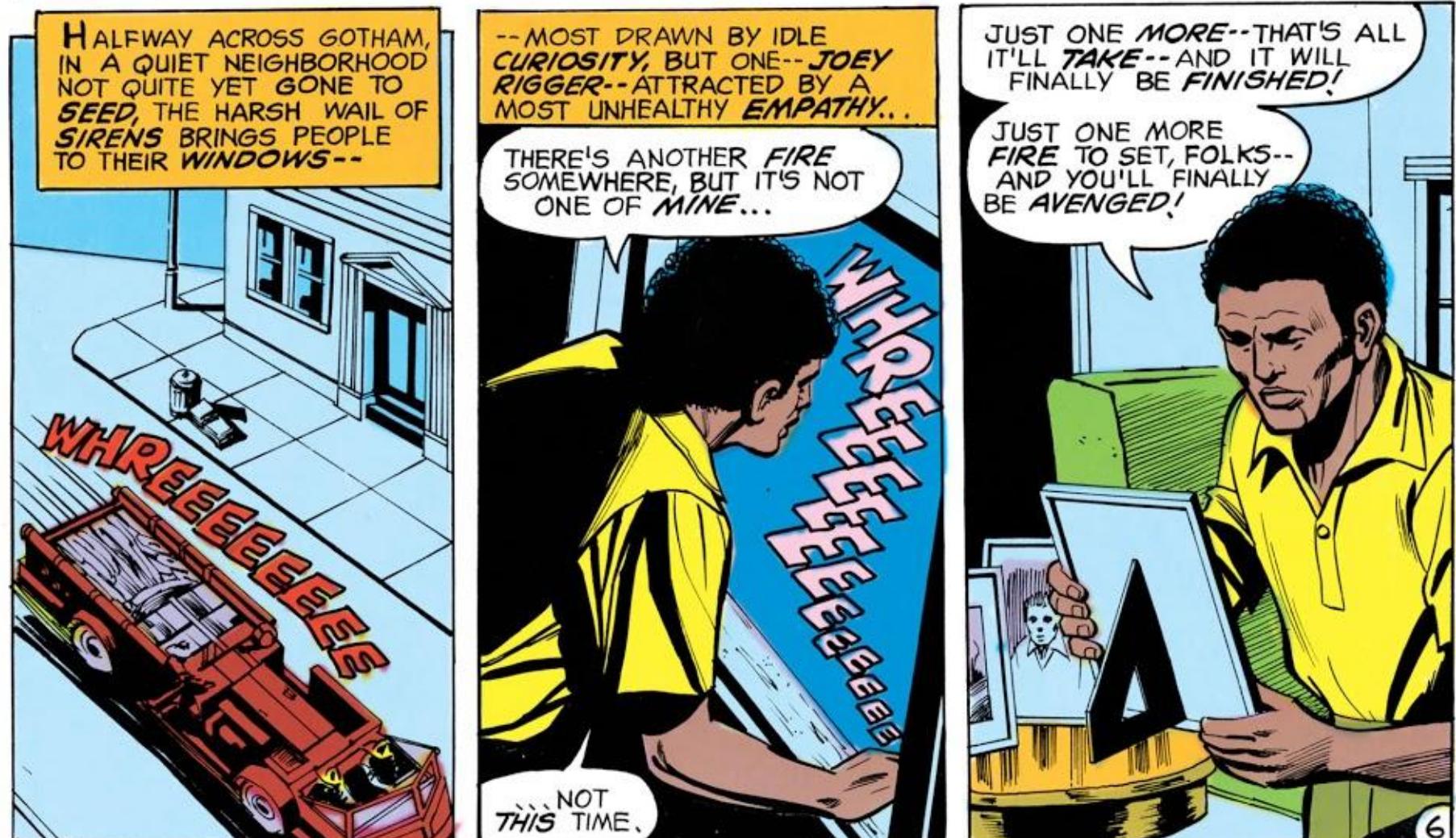


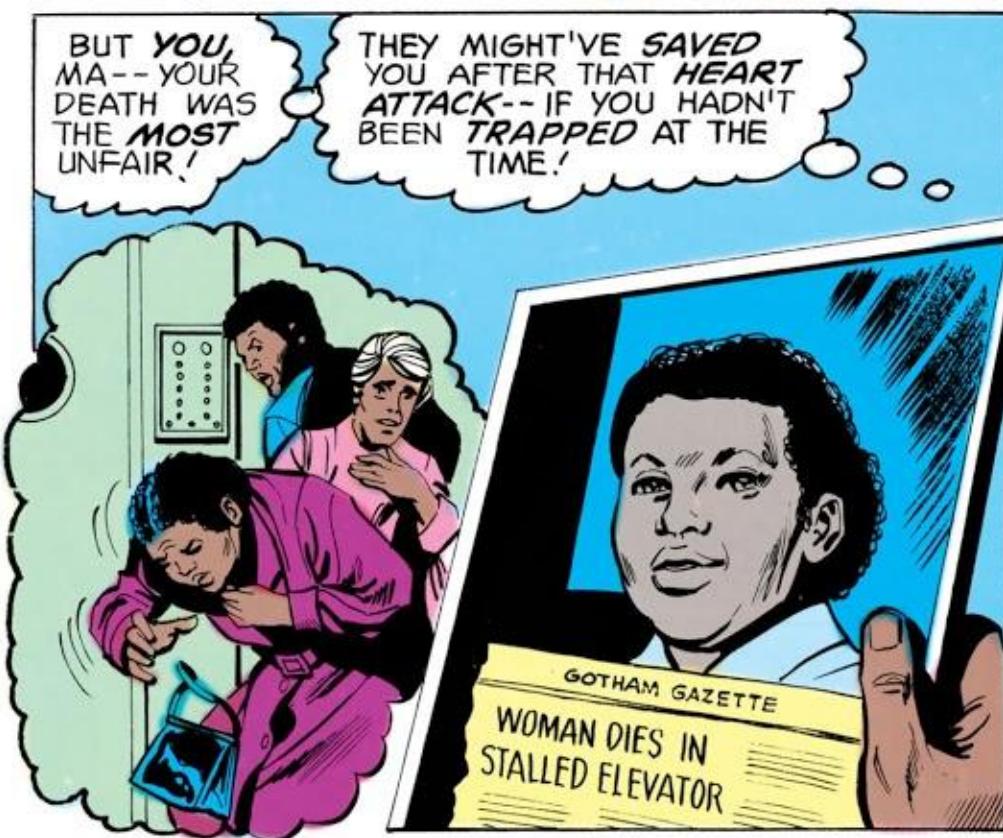
THUS, BRUCE WAYNE AND SELINA KYLE BARELY NOTICE WHEN THE CHARTERED AIRPLANE TAXIS ACROSS THE TARMAC A SHORT WHILE LATER--



FOLKS, THIS IS YOUR PILOT SPEAKING. I'M AFRAID THERE'LL BE A SLIGHT DELAY BEFORE YOU CAN DEPLANE!

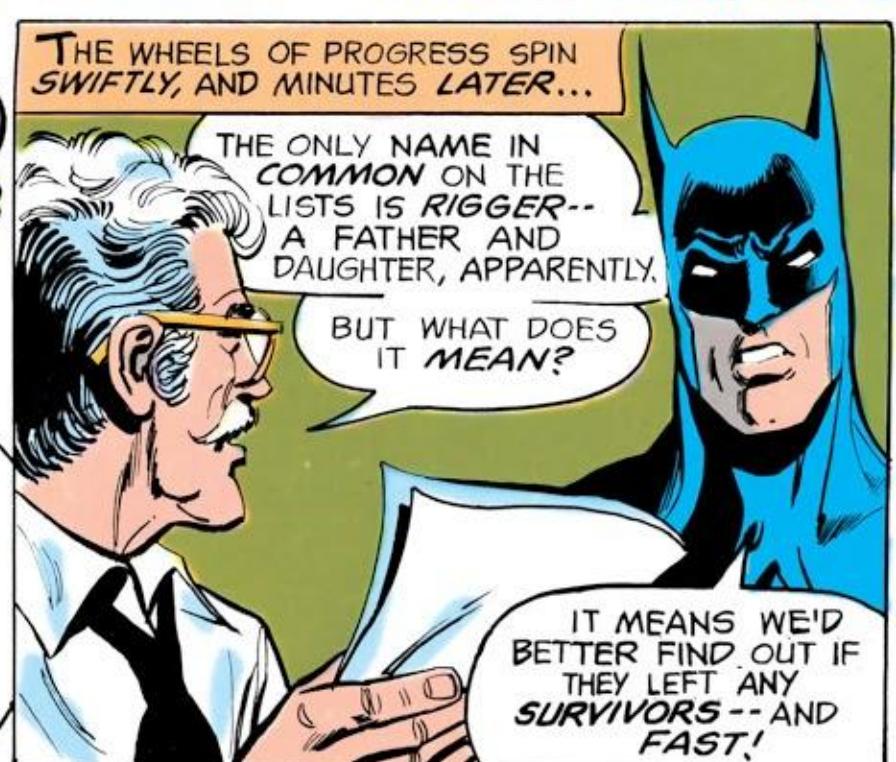
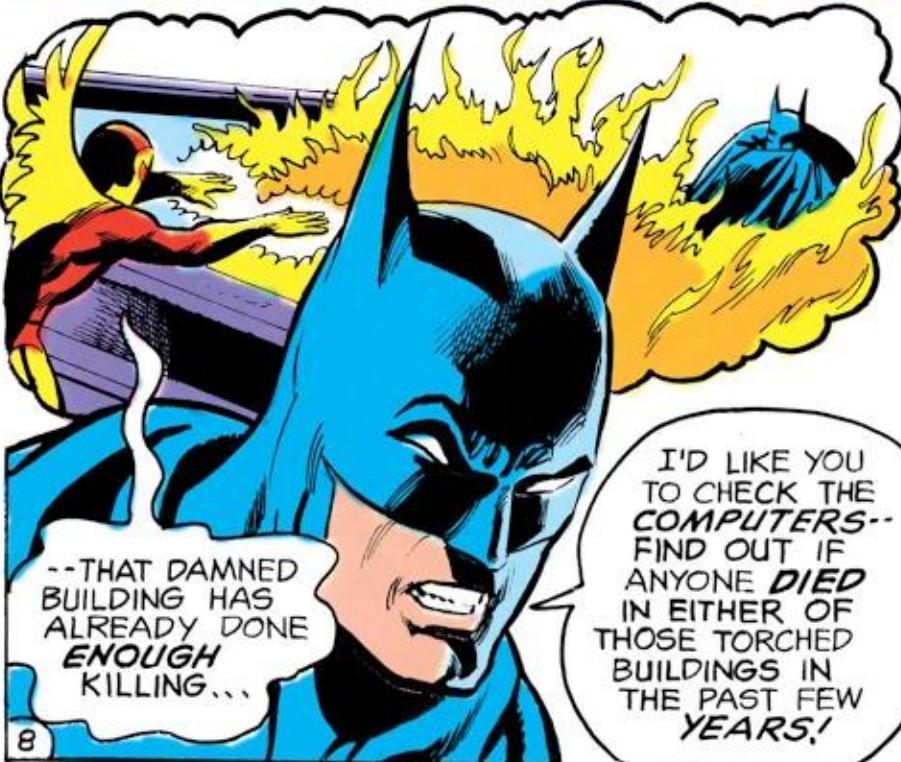








WHILE, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WHERE THE MIDNIGHT OIL STILL BURNS IN THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON...



ONCE MORE, THE POLICE COMPUTERS WHIRR TO LIFE, AND WITHIN MOMENTS...

LOOKS LIKE RIGGER HAD A SON-- A SERGEANT JOSEPH RIGGER, STATIONED OVERSEAS UNTIL RECENTLY.

WE EVEN HAVE A LISTING ON HIS CURRENT GOTHAM ADDRESS!



THEN I SUGGEST YOU SEND SOMEONE TO TALK TO THIS JOSEPH RIGGER--

--BEFORE THE FIREBUG STRIKES AGAIN!

WHILE, ACROSS TOWN, IN THE PENTHOUSE OF THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, OVERLOOKING GOTHAM PARK...



YOU'RE NOT A MAN TO STAND... PERIOD!

PLEASE, KARLYLE-- GET THE GOOD MR. LUCIUS FOX A COMFORTABLE CHAIR!

GREGORIAN FALSTAFF IS NOT A MAN TO STAND ON CEREMONY!

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT-- BUT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WON'T TAKE THAT LONG.

THEN I CAN ASSUME YOU'VE CONSIDERED MY LITTLE BUSINESS PROPOSITION?

I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF MUCH ELSE.

AND YOUR FINAL DECISION?

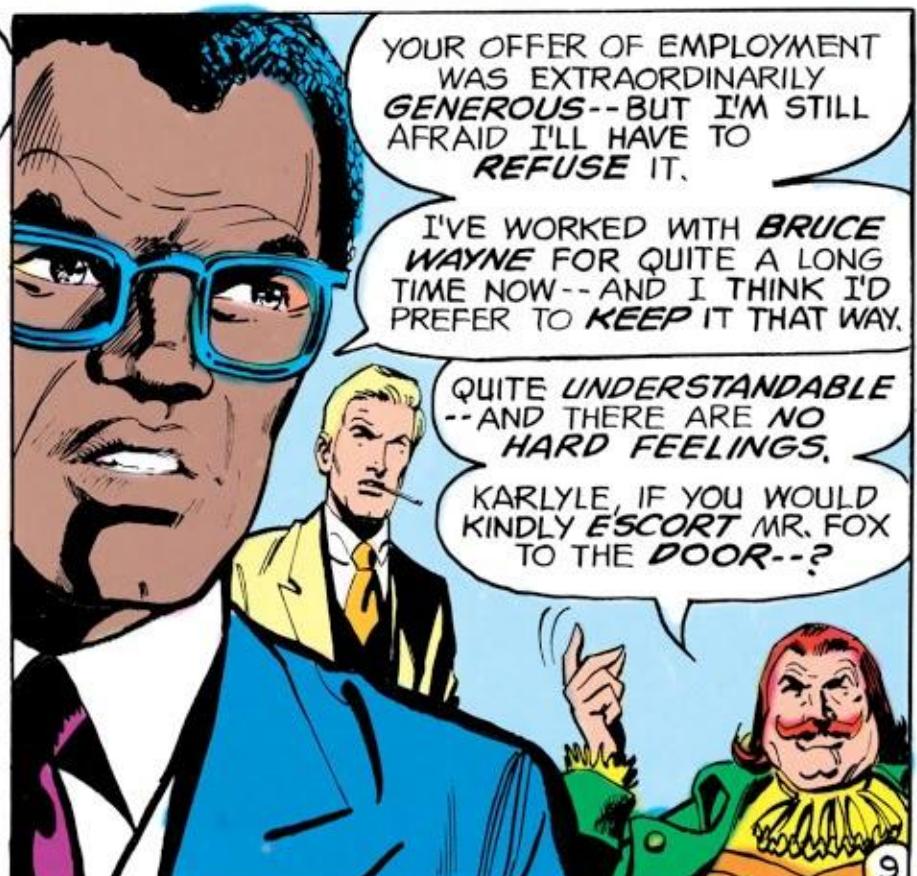


YOUR OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT WAS EXTRAORDINARILY GENEROUS-- BUT I'M STILL AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE IT.

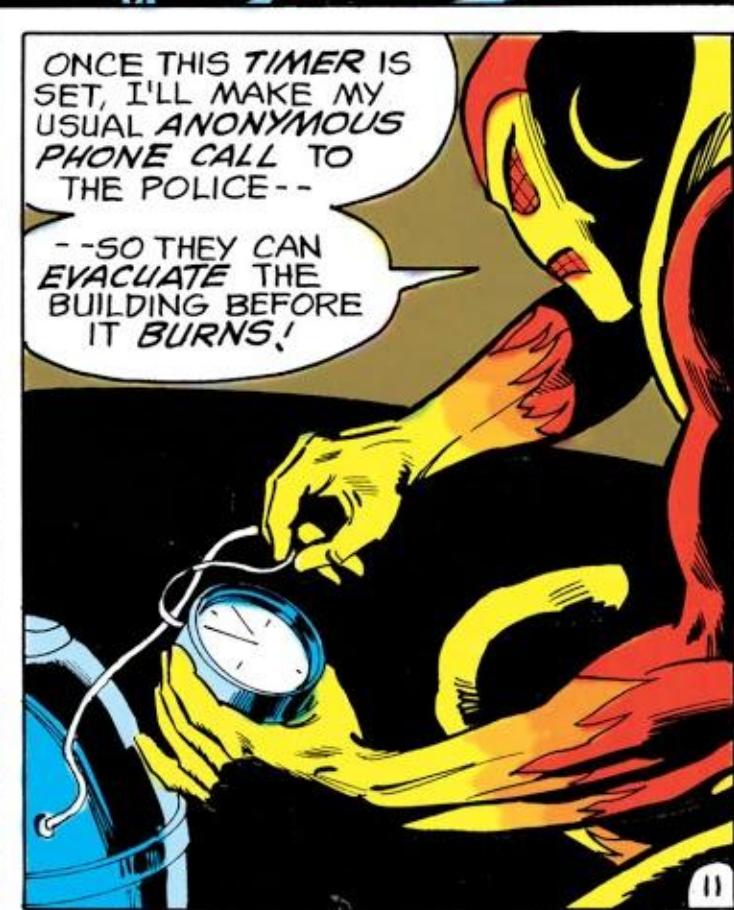
I'VE WORKED WITH BRUCE WAYNE FOR QUITE A LONG TIME NOW-- AND I THINK I'D PREFER TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

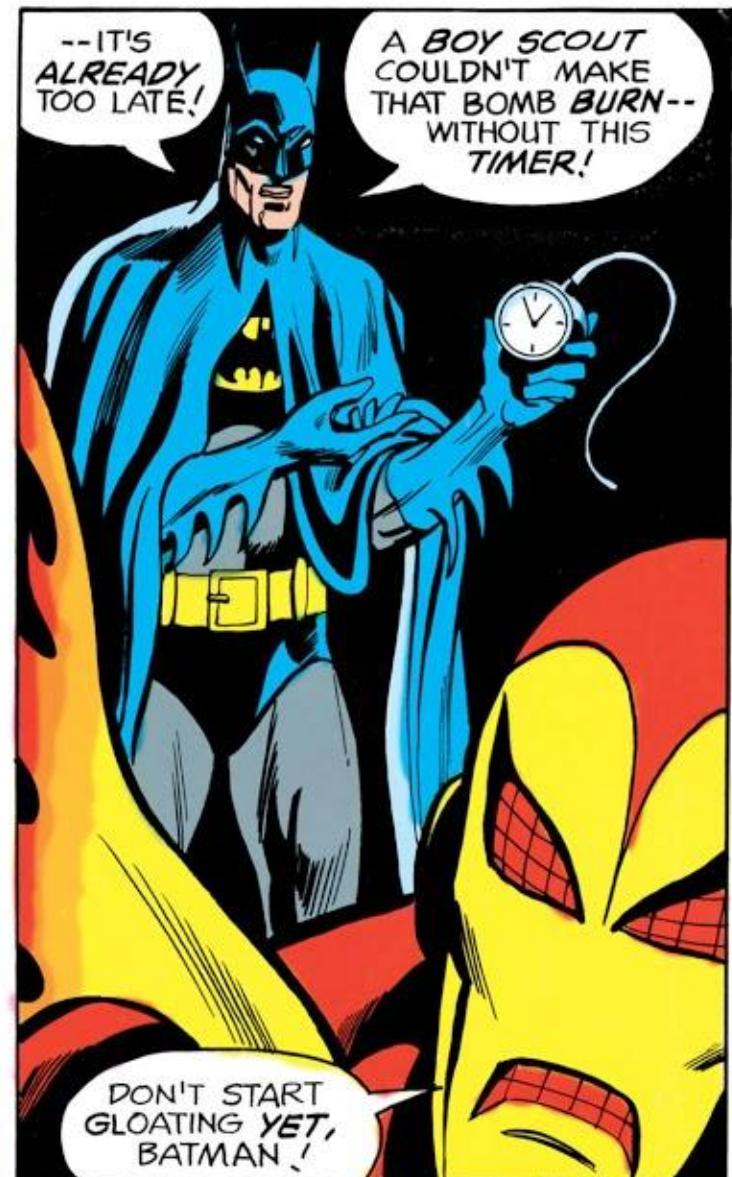
QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE -- AND THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS.

KARLYLE, IF YOU WOULD KINDLY ESCORT MR. FOX TO THE DOOR--?

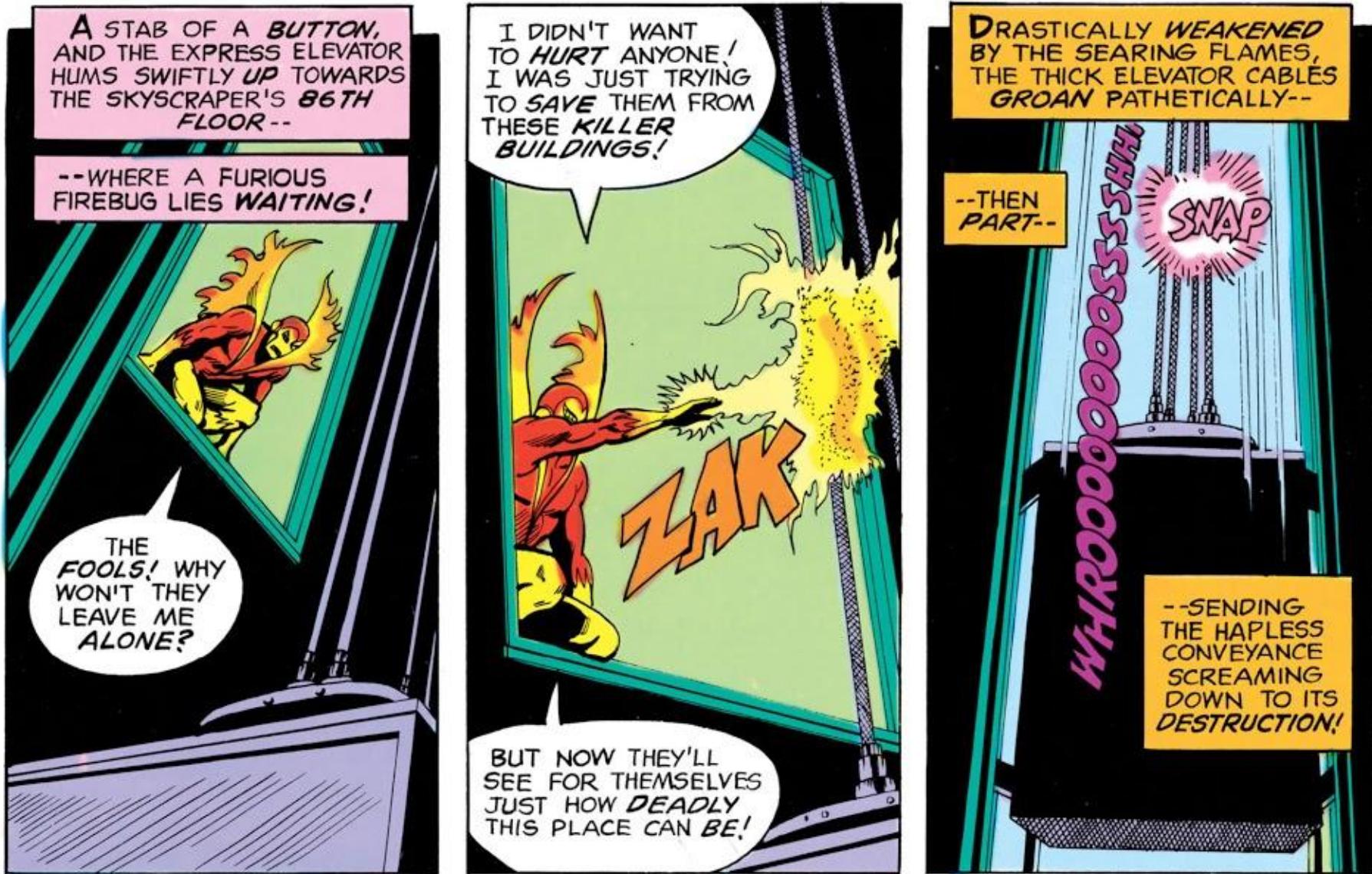




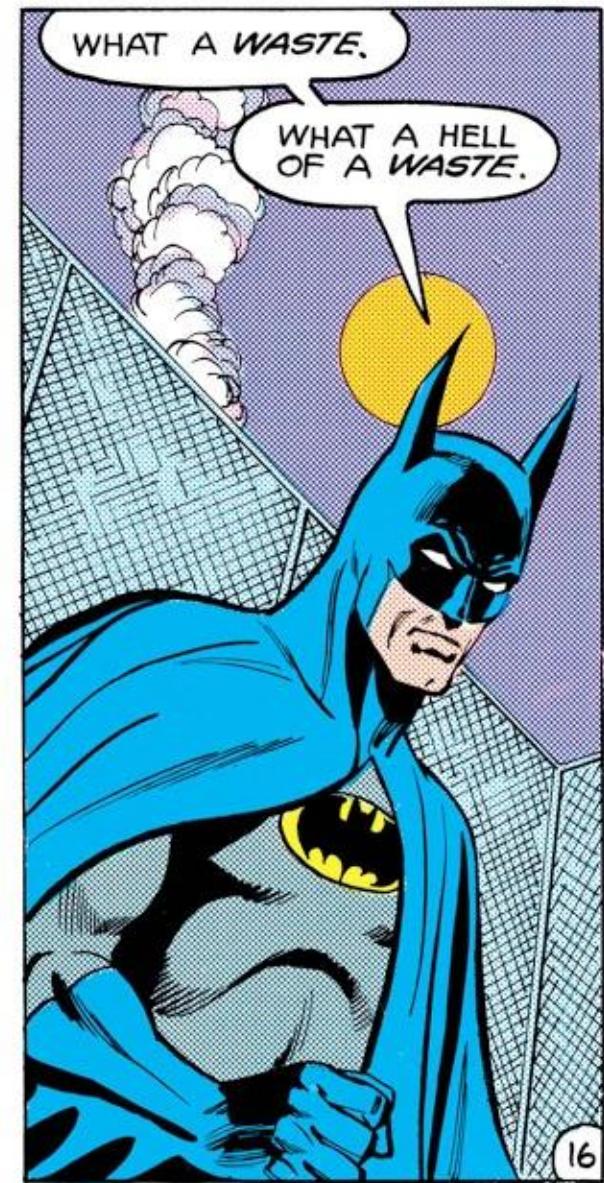












MEANWHILE, AT GOTHAM CITY'S ETERNAL GATE CEMETERY, WHERE THE PALE FULL MOON CASTS TWISTING SHADOWS AMONGST THE TOMBSTONES...



NEXT ISSUE:

JOIN US FOR HALLOWEEN WONDERMENT NEITHER GOTHAM CITY NOR THE BATMAN WILL SOON FORGET! BE HERE FOR...

"NEVER GIVE UP THE GHOST!"



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