



BATMAN

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DEC. 86
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COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

THERE'S
NOTHING SO
SAVAGE--

--AS A MAN
DESTROYING
HIMSELF!



HE PROWLS THE ROOFTOPS, CLINGS TO THE DARK, LOVING THE NIGHT, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE. NOT JUST ANY TROUBLE. THE RANDOM VIOLENCE OF A GOTHAM STREET IS NOT HIS MISSION.

LIKE A HEAT-SEEKING MISSILE, THIS



HAS A SPECIFIC TARGET.

A HUMAN TARGET.

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I'LL CHECK THE SLIMEBUCKET FOR JEWELRY AND STUFF, ROACH. YOU HANDLE THE BABE--

WHAT - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



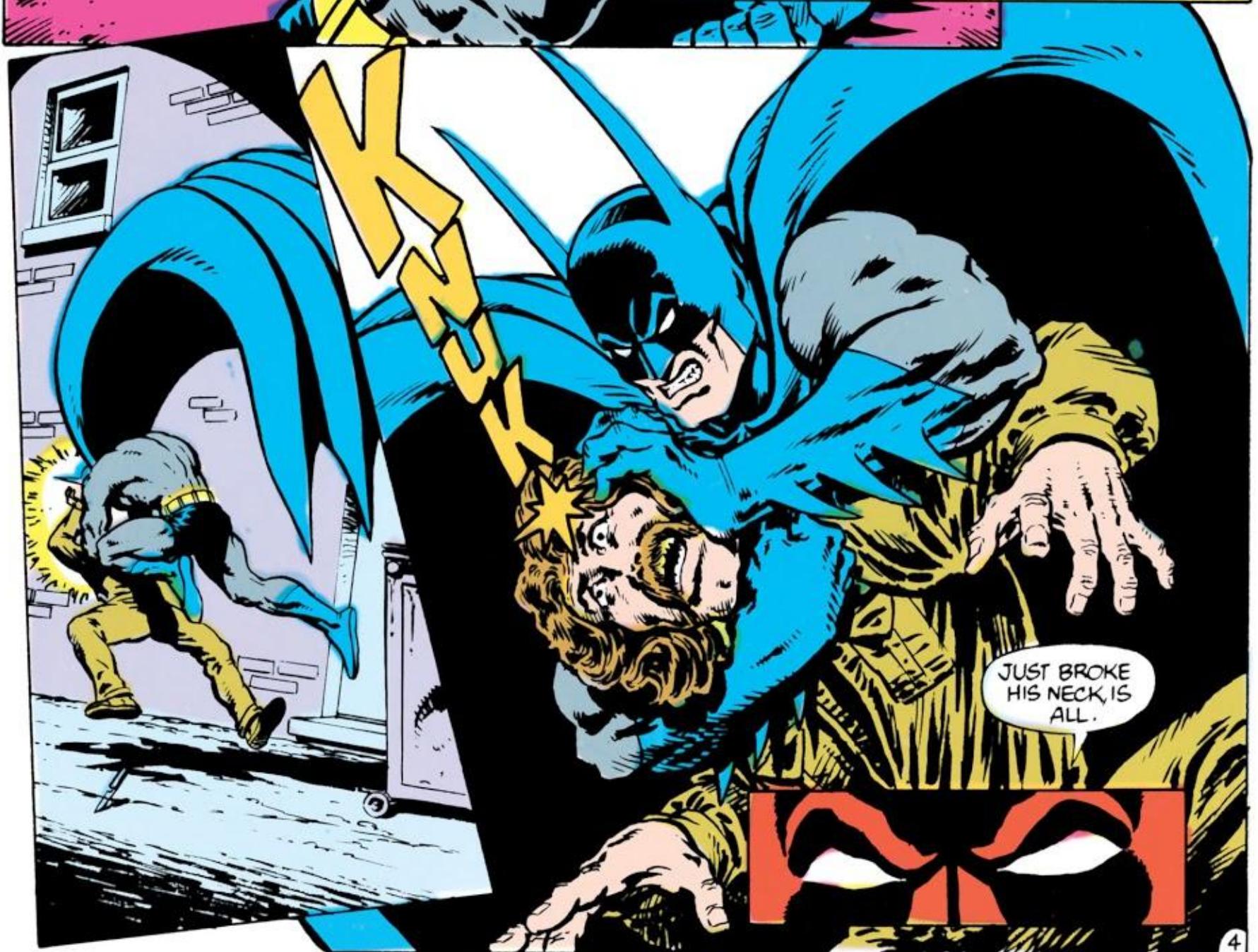
I LOVE IT WHEN THEY ASK THAT--

BATMAN! WHAT THE HELL D'YOU DO TO SPIDER?

HUH?

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THE NIGHT IS COOL AND CLEAN. HE FEELS PURGED. HE HAD WONDERED HOW IT WOULD FEEL, GOING OVER THE LINE...

IT FELT GOOD.

HE HAD SWORN AN OATH TO SERVE AND PROTECT, BUT KILLING IN PURSUIT OF THAT GOAL WAS MEANT TO BE IN SELF-DEFENSE, ONLY--

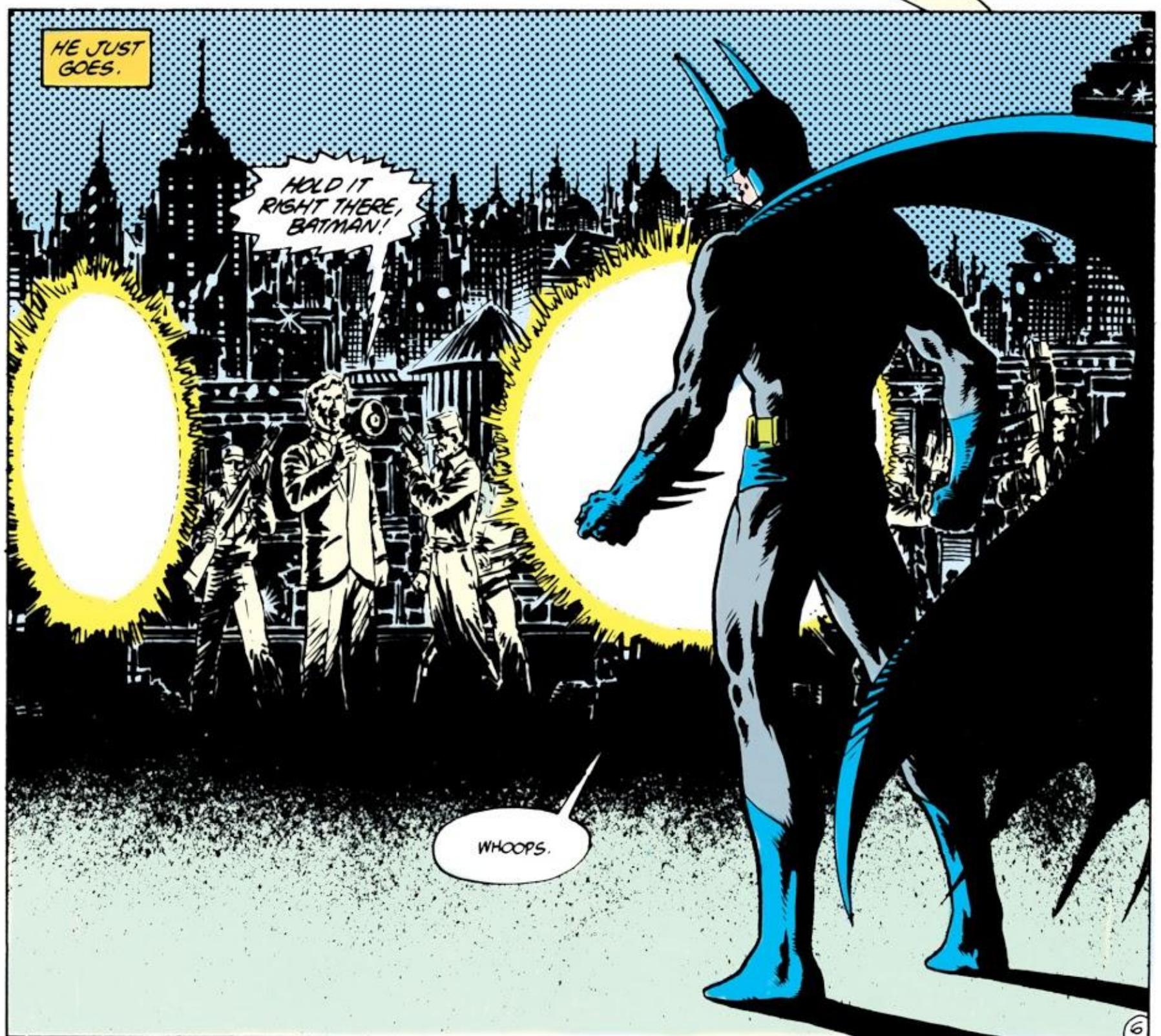
BUT HE HAD GROWN TIRED OF PLAYING SURGEON TO THE CITY'S DISEASES...

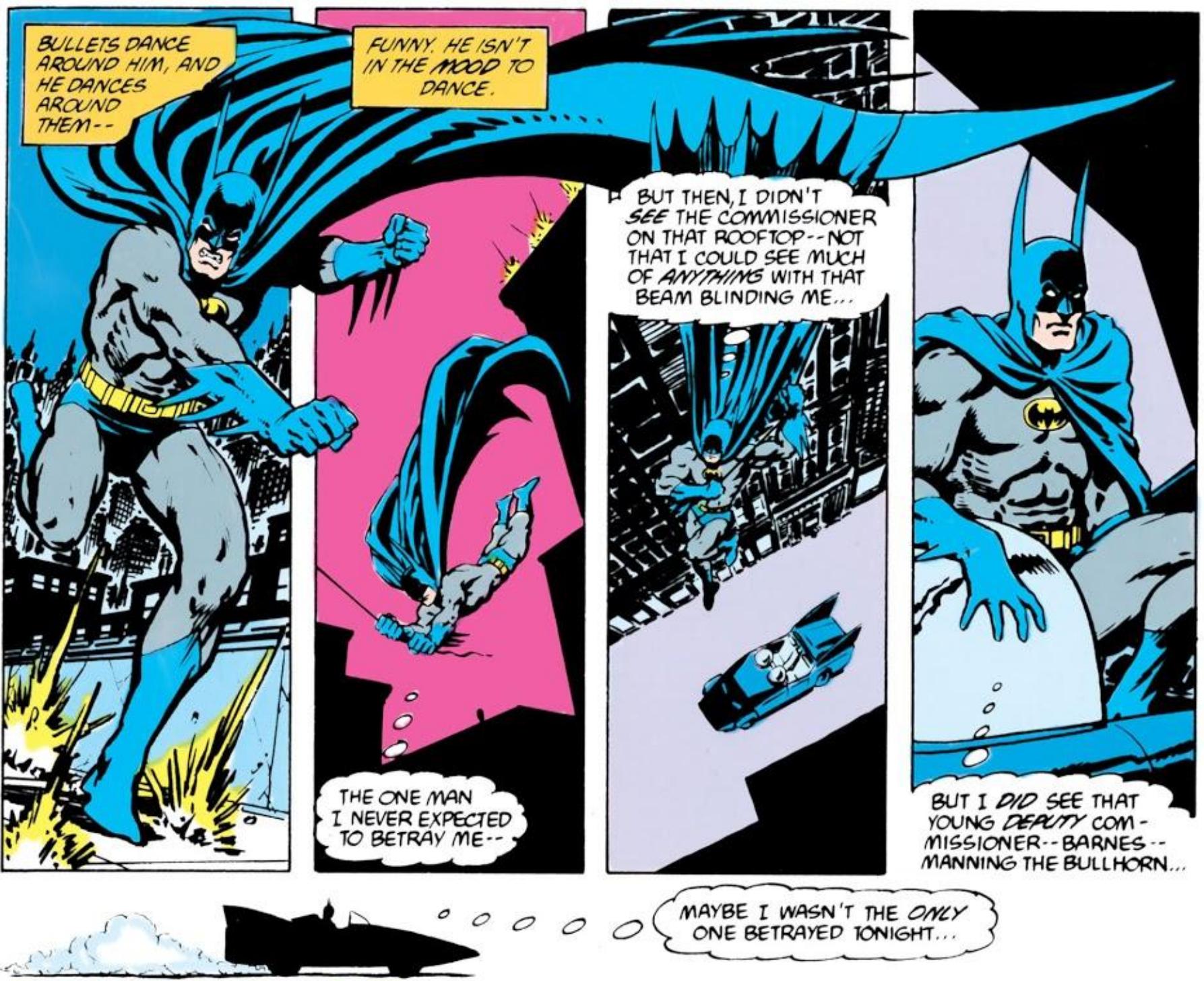
IT WAS TIME FOR SOME PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

HE WAS BATMAN. HE HAD A JOB TO DO.

TOMORROW NIGHT, HE WOULD STRIKE AGAIN--INTO THE HEART OF DARKNESS, WHERE HE FELT AT HOME--



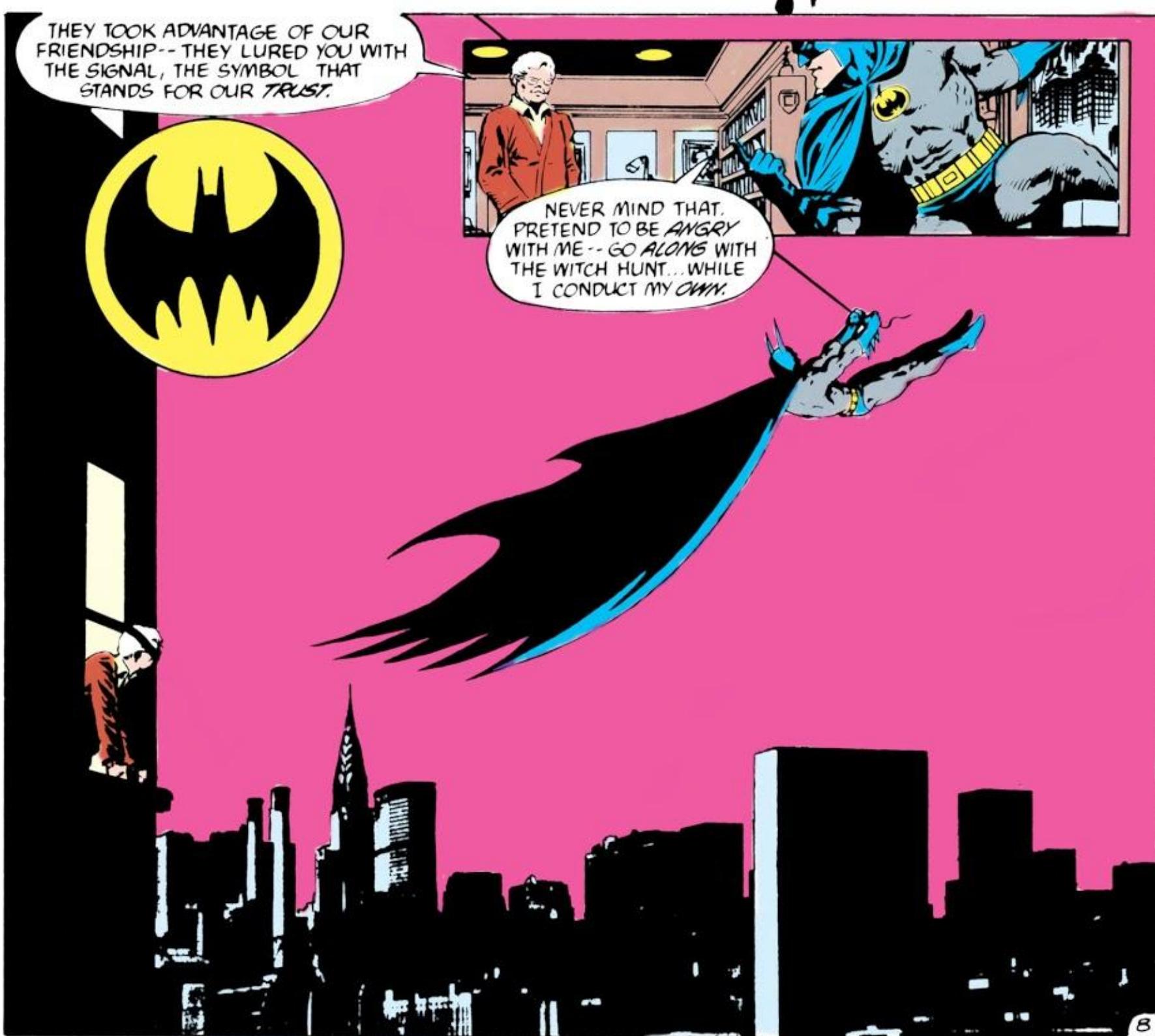




I NEVER REALIZED THAT MUGGINGS WERE "SIMPLE."



IN AN INTERESTING
SIDEBAR, THE TWO
ALLEGED MUGGERS
WHO WERE SLAIN
TONIGHT WERE
ONCE ARRESTED
FOR MURDER THEM-
SELVES. THEY WERE
RELEASED JUST A
LITTLE OVER A YEAR
AGO, ON A LEGAL
TECHNICALITY.





I'M NOT A MURDERER, SON. MURDER IS THE LINE WE *MUST* NOT CROSS--

IN SELF-DEFENSE. JASON, YOU'RE WELL AWARE THAT WE PLAY A DANGEROUS GAME... A GAME I PERHAPS SHOULD NOT HAVE INVOLVED YOU IN.

SURE, YOU SHOULD!

YOU'VE KILLED BEFORE--

LISTEN, SON, IF WE'RE NO BETTER THAN THE *CICE* WHO SNUFF OUT HUMAN LIFE LIKE IT'S WORTH NOTHING AT ALL, THEN, WELL--

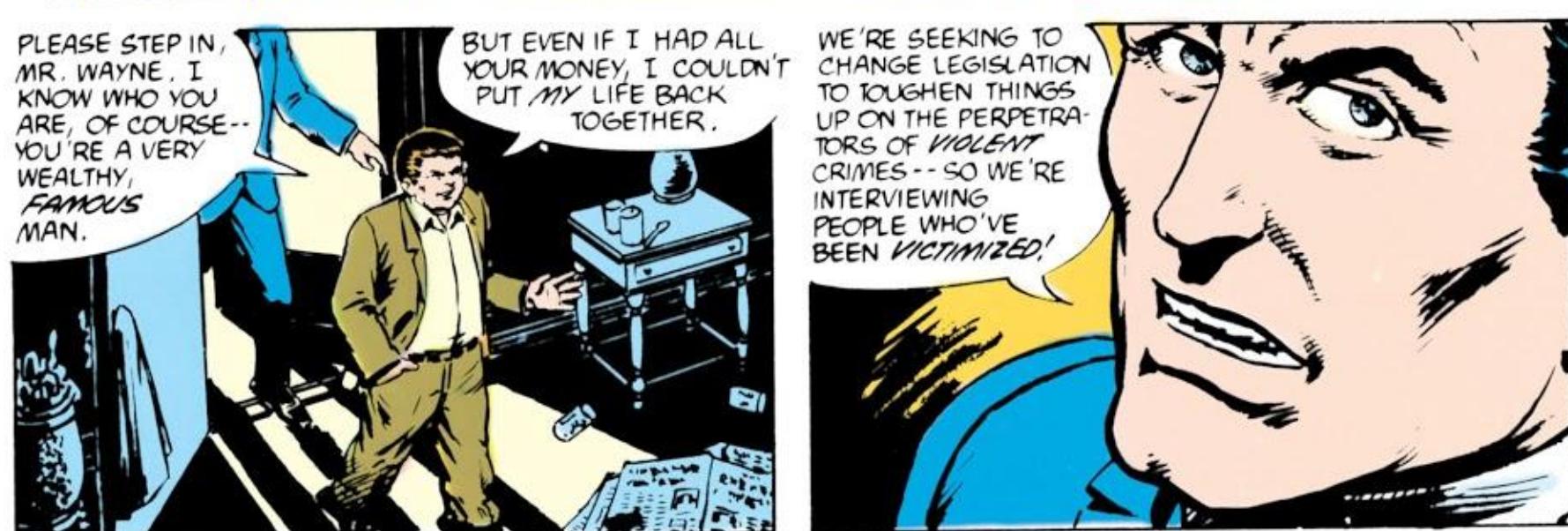
--THEN IT'S TIME I HUNG UP MY COWL.

I GUESS. BUT I'M STILL GLAD THOSE GUYS ARE DEAD.

ME, TOO, JASON-- BUT I'M NOT PROUD OF IT.

SIR, I'M AFRAID WE'VE STRUCK A DEAD END. I FOUND SEVEN COMPANIES IN THE GOTHAM WITH BATMAN COSTUMES FOR RENTAL-- BUT NONE WERE AVAILABLE.

"THEY'VE EVERYONE BEEN STOLEN!"





OWNER WAS MILDLY IRRITATED THAT BATMAN CHOSE, FOR GOOD MEASURE APPARENTLY, TO TOSS THE WOULD-BE THIEF THROUGH THE PLATE-GLASS WINDOW.

ONE INTERESTING ITEM, THOUGH--I HAPPEN TO RECOGNIZE THIS PARTICULAR PERP--

WHO IS HE?

THE CORRECT QUESTION IS WHO *WAS* HE--HE WAS AN ARMED ROBBER WHO WALKED AWAY FROM THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A CONVENIENCE STORE MANAGER LAST YEAR.

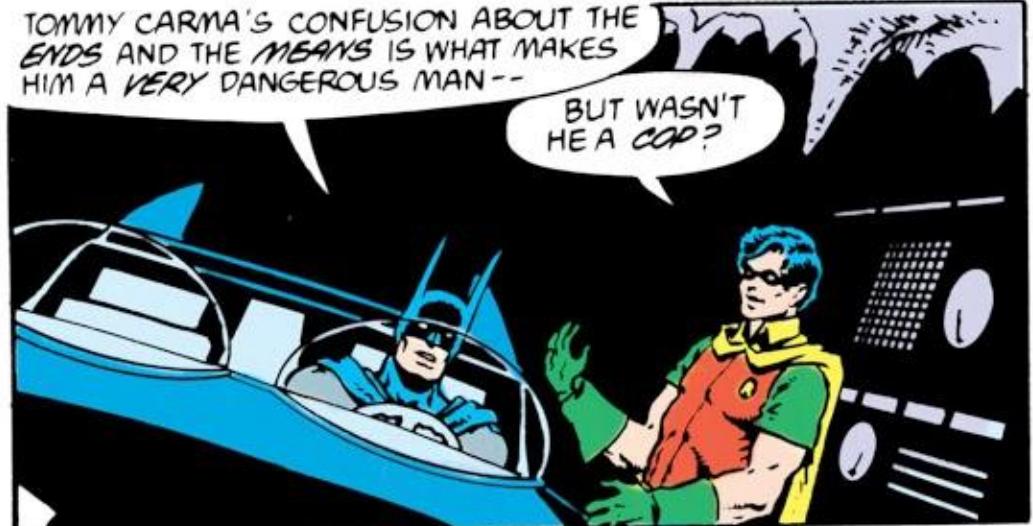
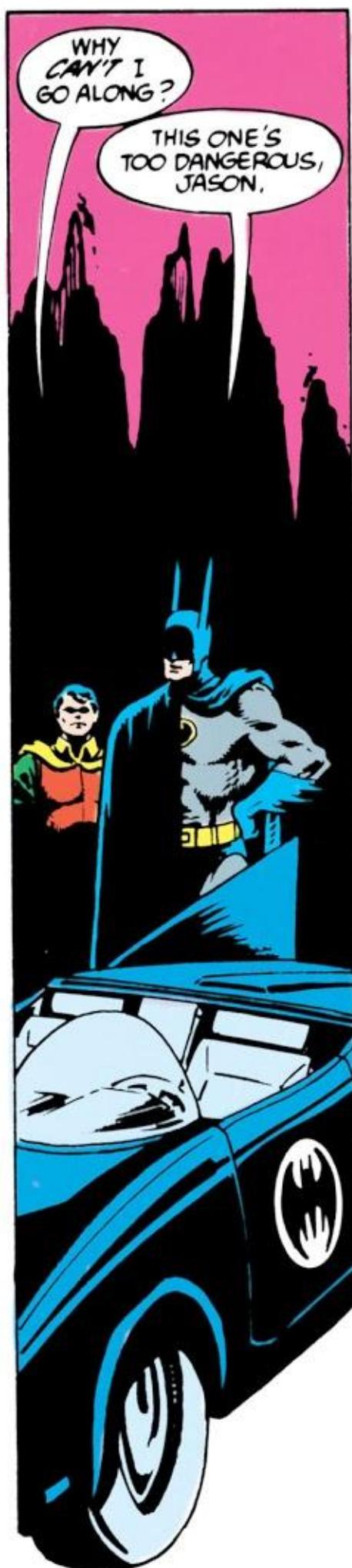
DON'T TELL ME. HE GOT OFF ON A TECHNICALITY.
YES. REMEMBER TOMMY CARMA?

SURE--THE YOUNGEST DETECTIVE IN THE CITY, PROMOTED FROM UNIFORM WHEN HE SINGLE-HANDEDLY RESCUED A YOUNG WOMAN FROM A STREET GANG--

BUT HE WAS TOO EAGER. HE BROKE TOO MANY RULES--AND A FEW TOO MANY ARMS. IT MADE HIM A SLOPPY COP--PERPS WALKED 'CAUSE OF HIS "POLICE BRUTALITY" CHARGES--

I REMEMBER THE REST OF THE STORY...

THOUGHT YOU WOULD. AND I THOUGHT YOU'D MAKE THE CARMA CONNECTION OF THESE KILLINGS--WHICH I'LL MENTION TO BARNES...TOMORROW. TAKE CARE, OLD FRIEND.



MONIGHT. THE BATMAN
USUALLY FEELS AT HOME
ABOUT NOW-- BUT IT
CHILLS HIM, SOMEHOW,
TO THINK OF HIS TWISTED
DOUBLE PROWLING THE
DARK STREETS WITH HIM--



AS MUCH AS I WANT TO NAIL THIS IMPOSTER, I PRAY
IT ISN'T CARMA -- I'D RATHER THIS BE SOME DEVIOUS
UNDERWORLD ATTEMPT TO BLACKEN MY NAME --



I'D HAVE TO STOP HIM-- EVEN
THOUGH, AS JASON INSTINCTIVELY
SEEMS TO KNOW, OUR MISSIONS
DIFFER ONLY SLIGHTLY...



TOMMY CARMA REQUESTED
A CHANGE TO DAYS, LAST WEEK--
I'M WORKIN' HIS SHIFT, NOW.
WANT HIS ADDRESS?

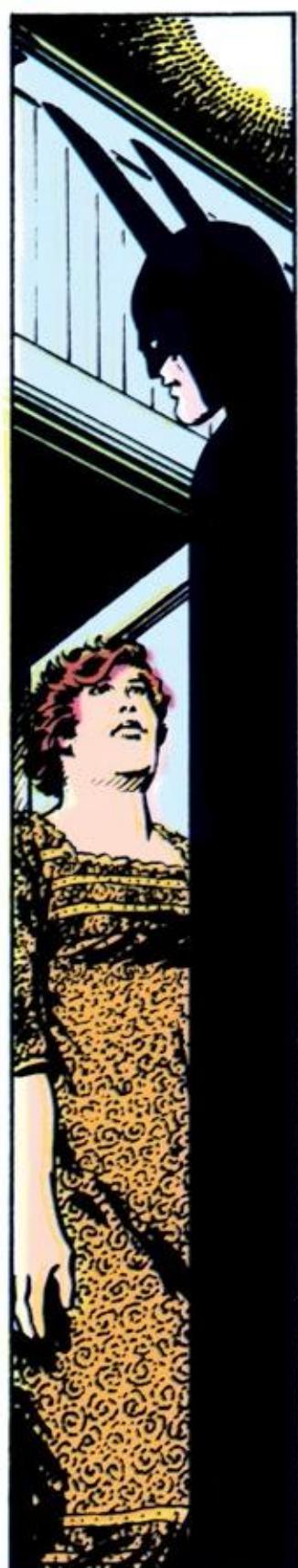
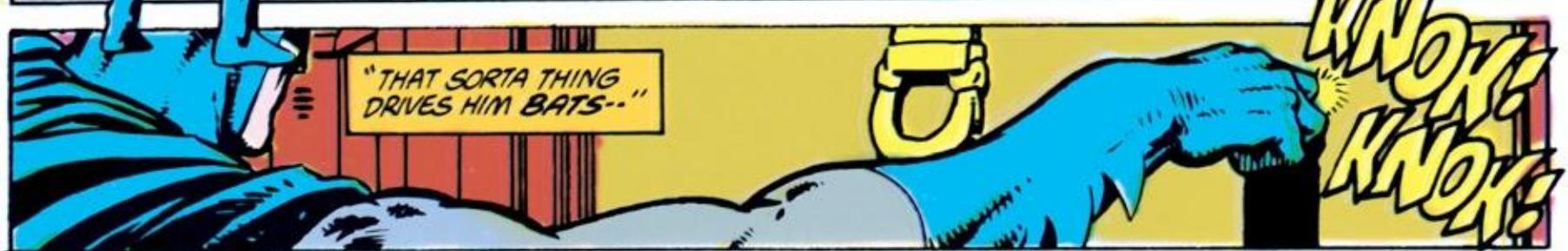
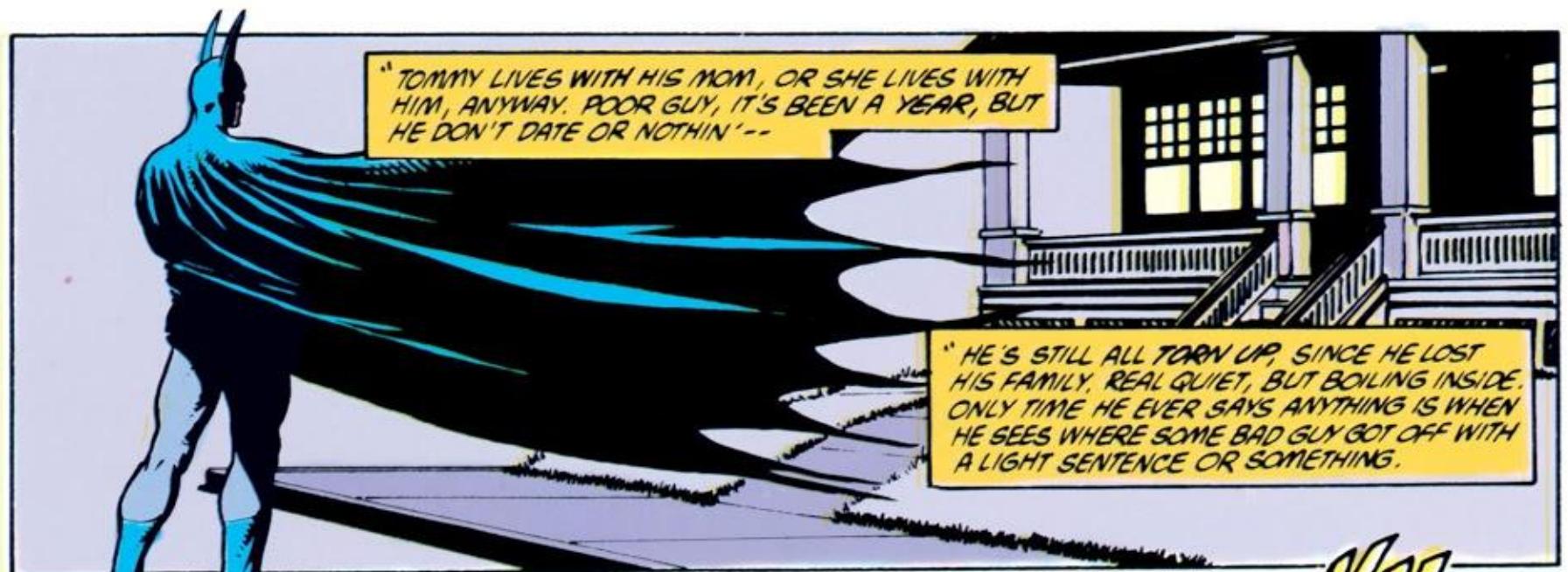


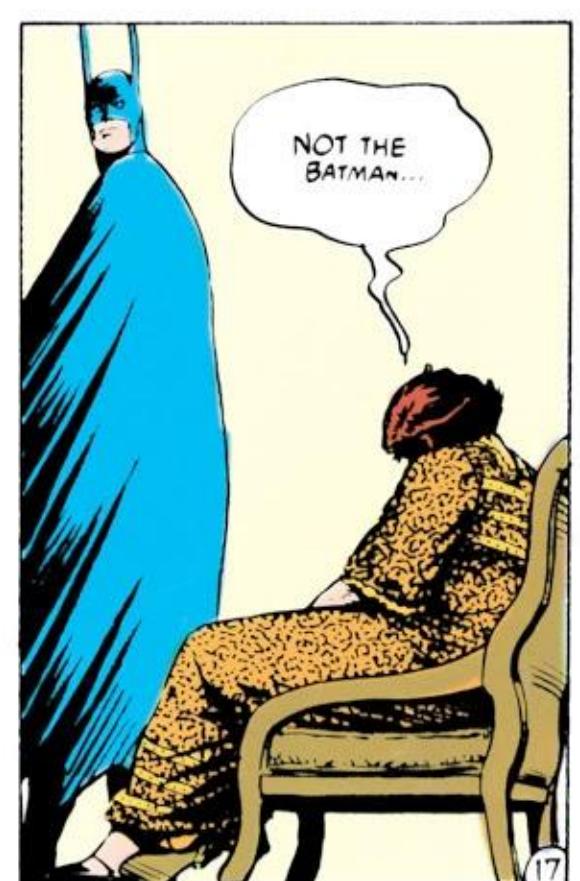
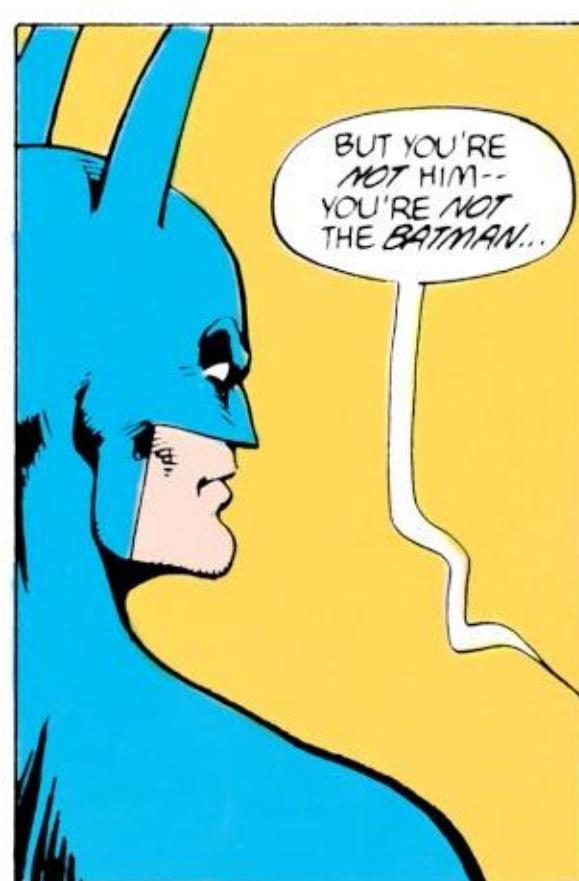
HE'D GET A BANG
OUTTA MEETING YOU
-- YOU'RE SORT OF
A HERO TO HIM--!

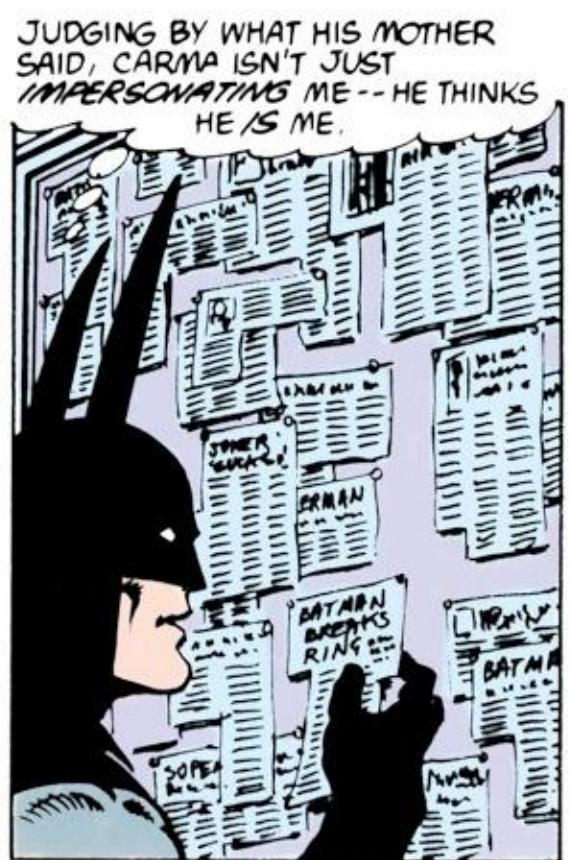
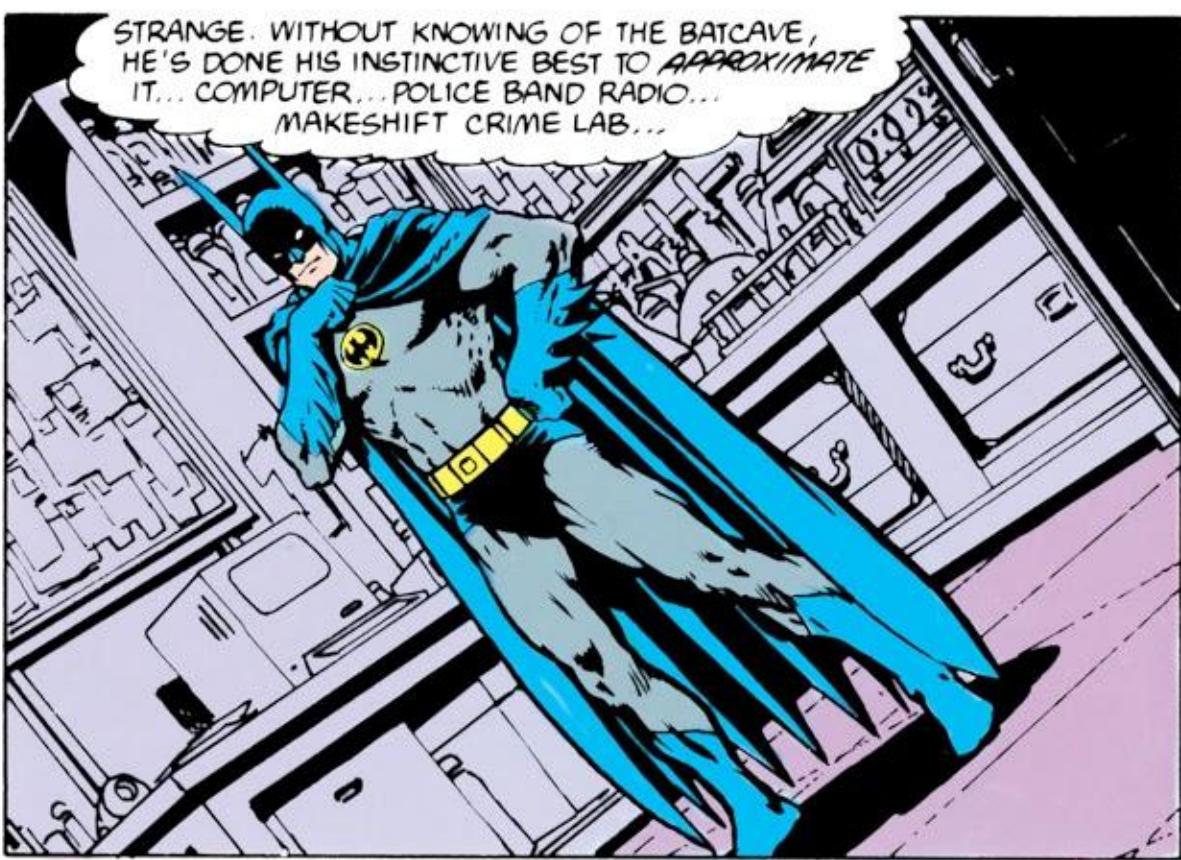


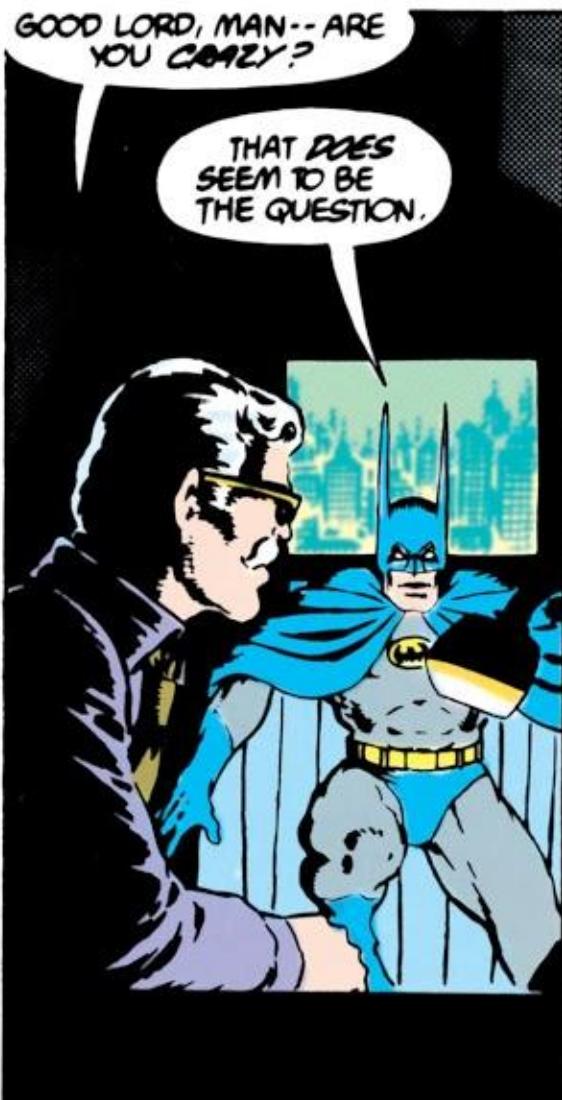
AND DON'T SWEAT ME PHONIN' THE
COPS ON YA-- I THINK WHAT YOU'RE
DOIN' TO THEM MUGGERS IS
GREAT! SNUFF 'EM ALL,
I SAY!

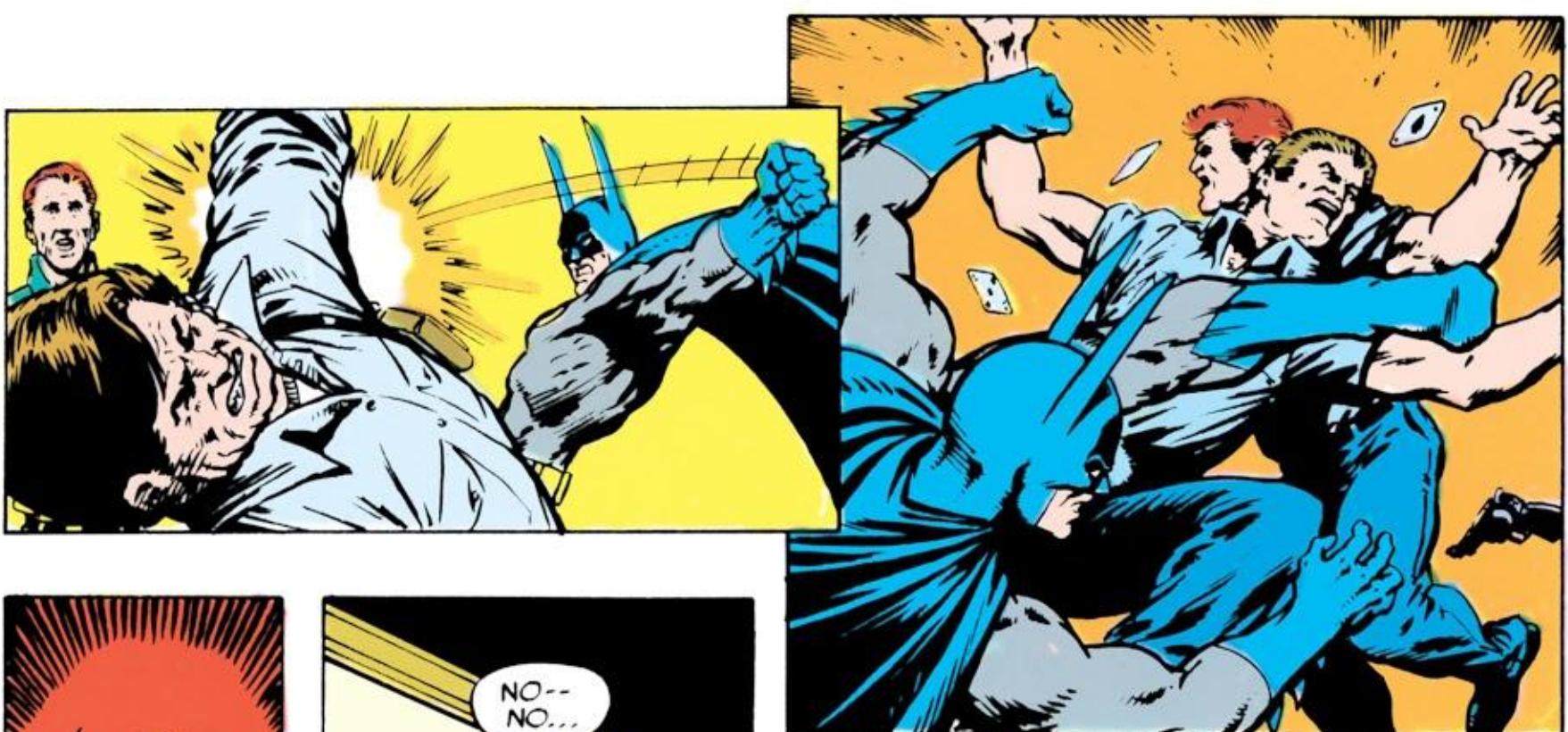


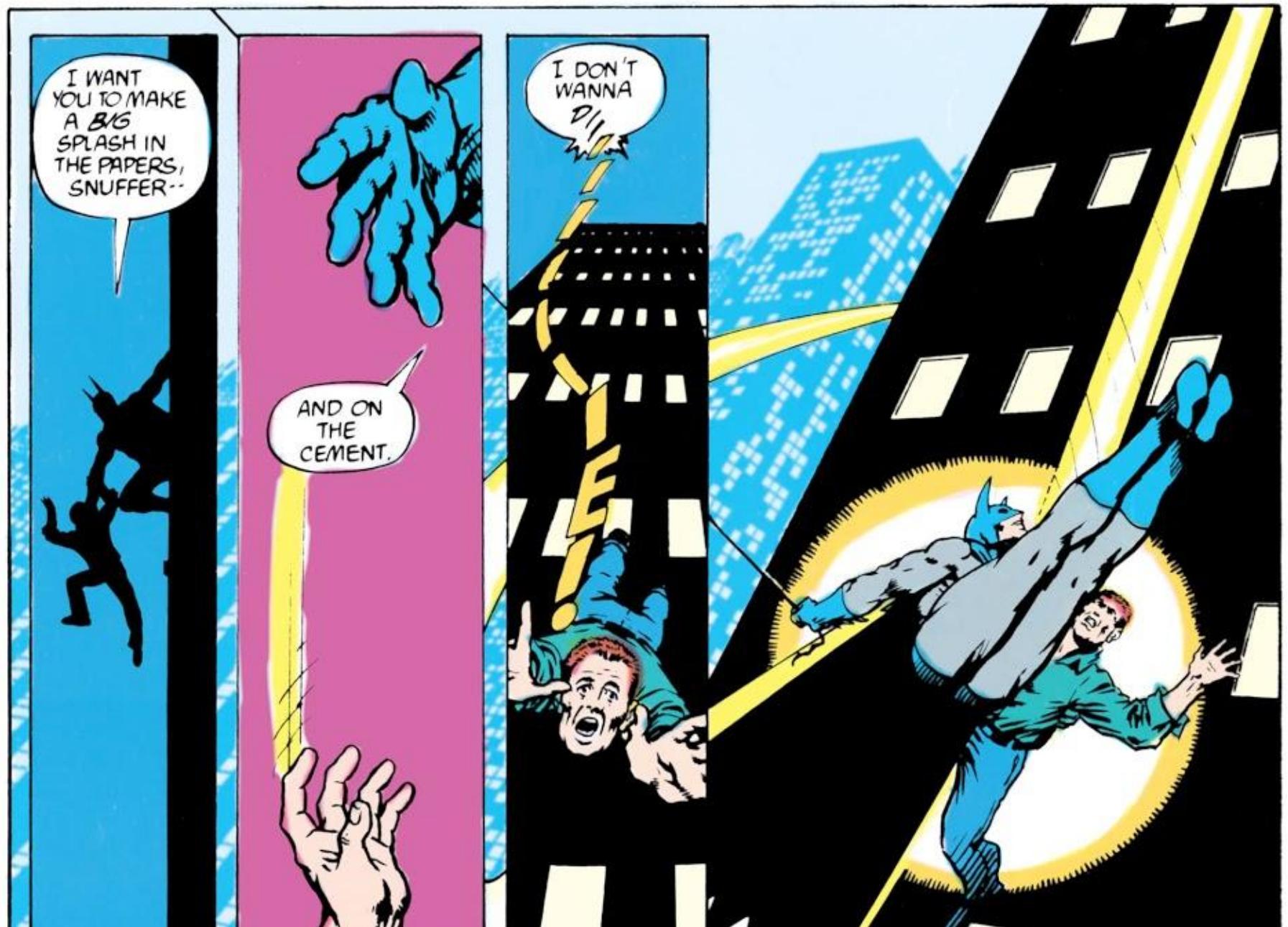


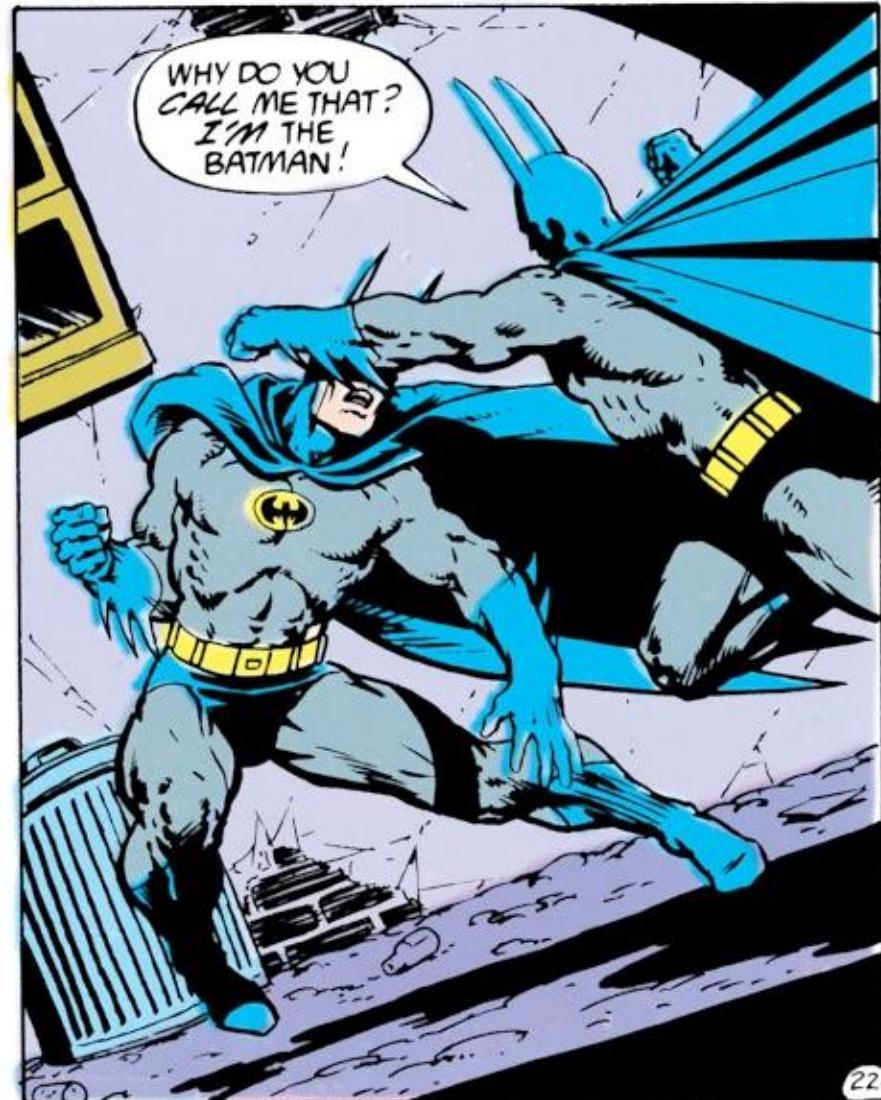
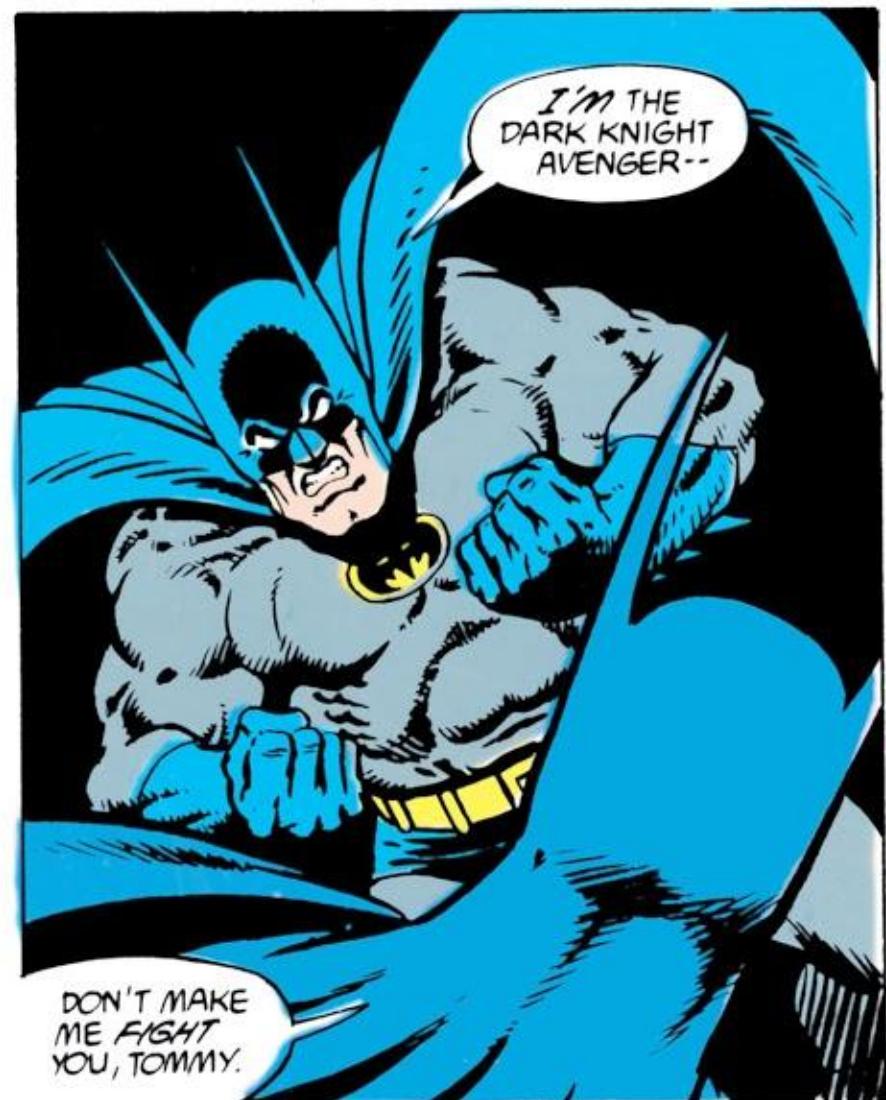


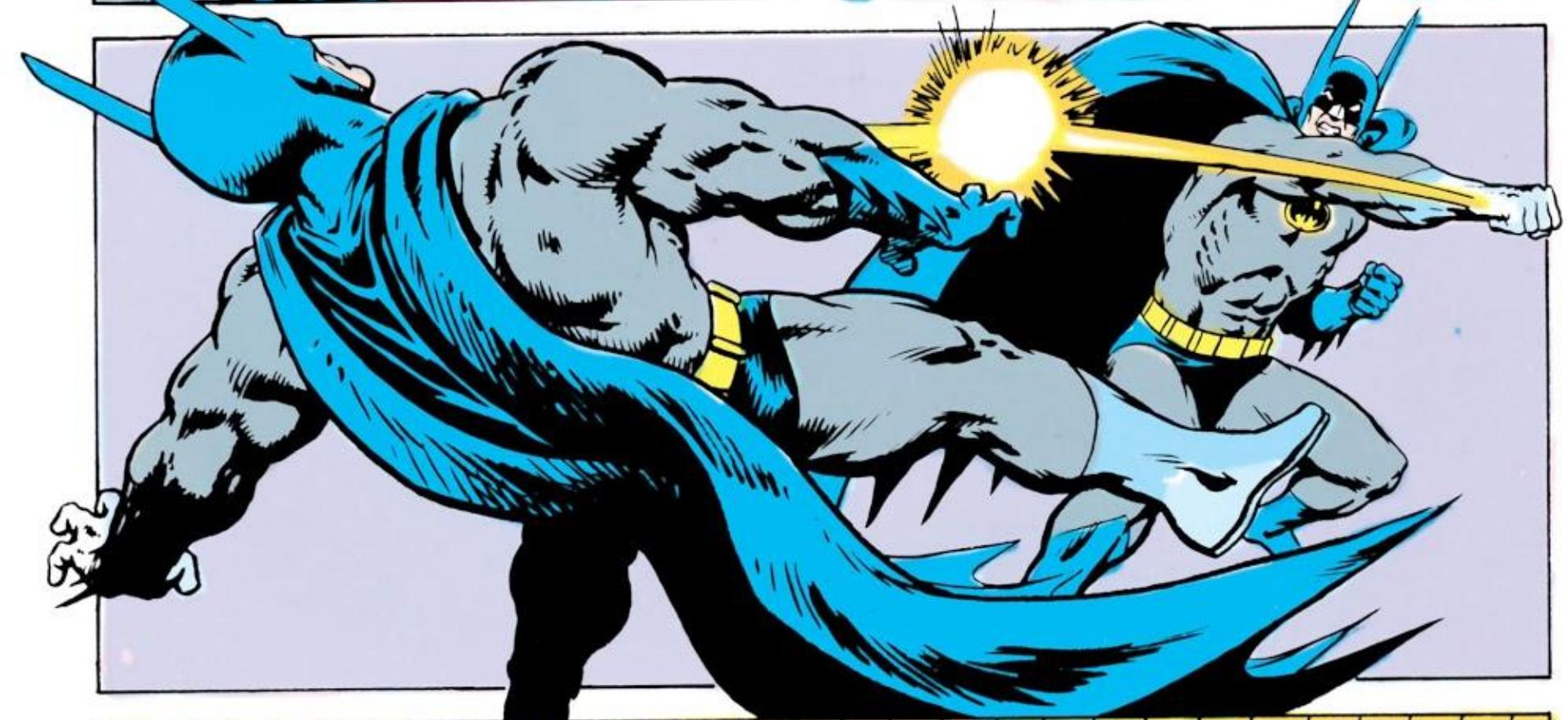
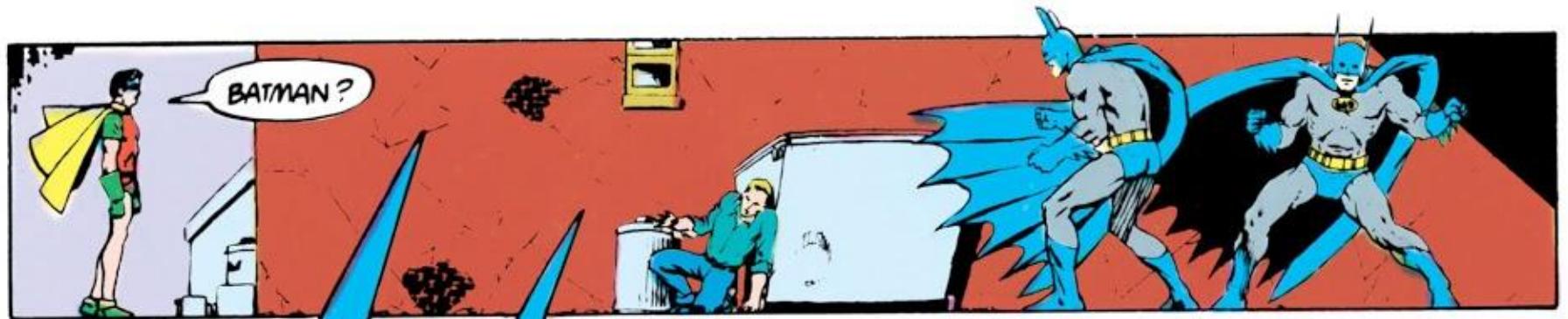




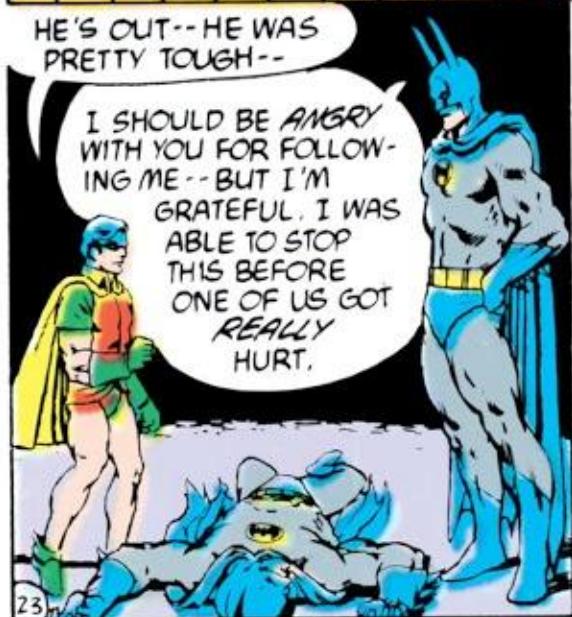








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23

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