



NO. 326 15p
AUG. ALL NEW!



BATMAN

THIS MAN IS
TRYING TO
KILL BATMAN--



--AND THIS MAN IS
CONTROLLING THE
WHOLE PLAN FROM
THE UNLIKELIEST HQ
OF ALL!



"CRIMES BY
REMOTE
CONTROL!"



BATMAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

SOMEONE ONCE WISELY SAID, "TROUBLE IS PART OF YOUR LIFE, AND IF YOU DON'T SHARE IT, YOU DON'T GIVE THE PERSON WHO LOVES YOU A CHANCE TO LOVE YOU ENOUGH."

IT IS A LESSON BRUCE WAYNE HAS LEARNED THE HARD WAY--BUT SADLY HE HAS LEARNED IT TOO LATE!

SELINA PLEASE--
CONSIDER
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING!

I HAVE
CONSIDERED IT,
BRUCE--AND I'VE
MADE UP MY
MIND!

I'M LEAVING
GOTHAM CITY--
AND YOU!

THIS WAY LIES MADNESS!

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ISN'T THERE
ANYTHING I
CAN DO TO
TALK YOU
OUT OF
IT?

NOT A **THING**. I
HAD A LOT OF TIME
TO **THINK** WHILE
I WAS LYING THERE
IN THE HOSPITAL--

EVERYTHING I TRIED TO ACCOMPLISH
AS **SELINA KYLE**, INSTEAD OF AS
THE **CATWOMAN**, WAS RUINED.
BY THE **CAT-MAN** WHEN HE
FRAMED ME FOR HIS **CRIMES!**

THERE ARE PEOPLE
HERE IN GOTHAM
WHO **CARE** FOR
YOU... WHO
LOVE YOU...

BUT ARE THERE
PEOPLE HERE
WHO **TRUST** ME?

--AND I KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING IS **RIGHT**!

DID YOU TRUST ME, BRUCE--
WHEN I TOLD YOU I WAS
INNOCENT?

BUT YOU'VE BUILT A **NEW**
LIFE HERE--YOU CAN'T JUST
WALK AWAY FROM IT!

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
SELINA?

SOME PLACE
WHERE I CAN
THINK FOR A
WHILE--AND
RE-EVALUATE
THINGS!

WHEN I'VE FIGURED
OUT WHO I **AM**
AND WHAT I
WANT OUT OF
LIFE, MAYBE I'LL
COME BACK!

I HOPE
SO, SELINA.

GOOD-BYE,
SELINA.

SO DO I,
BRUCE...

... SO
DO I!

GOOD-BYE... MY
LOVE.

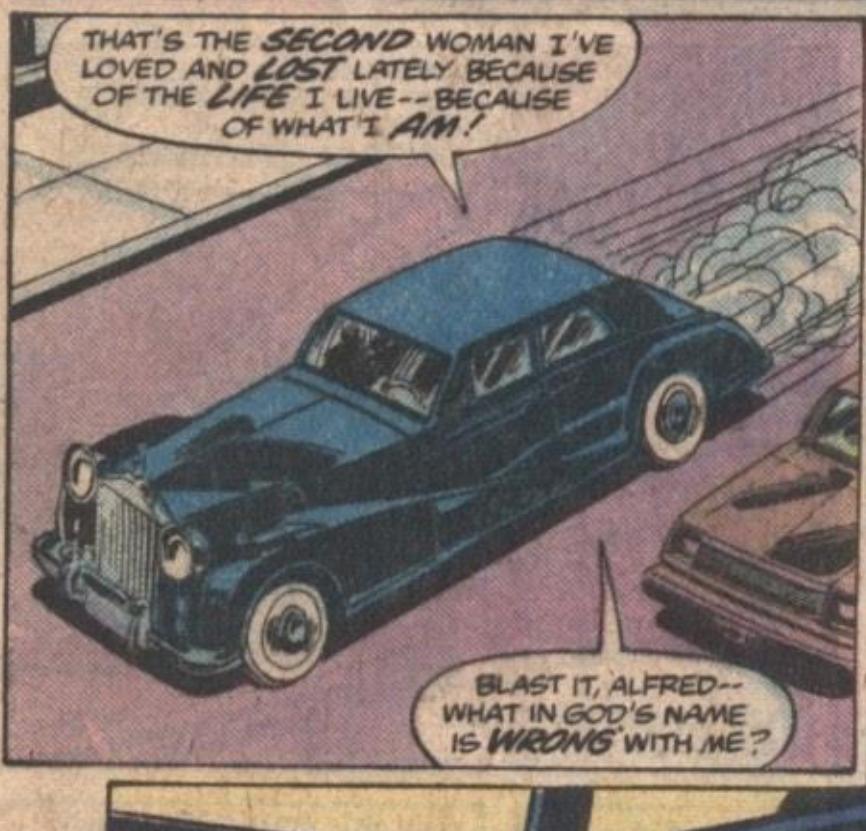
FOR WHAT SEEKS LIKE CENTURIES, BRUCE WAYNE STANDS AT THE CURBSIDE, HIS HANDS CLENCHING AND UNCLENCHING IN HELPLESS FRUSTRATION--

--AND THEN, AT LAST, HE TURNS AND STALKS BACK TO HIS WAITING CAR...



I KNOW HOW MUCH SHE MEANT TO YOU, SIR--I'M TRULY SORRY!

SO AM I, OLD FRIEND-- MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER KNOW!



AND AS NIGHT FINALLY FALLS, AND THE BATMAN IS FREE TO PROWL THE STREETS OF HIS CITY ONCE MORE...

IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T TRY!!

I JUST DIDN'T TRY HARD ENOUGH!

...BUT THAT'S JUST NOT THE BATMAN'S WAY!

LORD KNOWS THAT I TRIED!

I SHOULD HAVE HELPED SELINA WHEN SHE FIRST CAME TO ME-- PROTECTED HER...

IT'S AS IF THERE'S SOME SORT OF INNER DEMON THAT DRIVES ME-- WHISPERING IN MY EAR!

"HOW COULD SELINA KYLE POSSIBLY BE TELLING THE TRUTH?" IT ASKS ME.

"AFTER ALL, SHE WAS ONCE THE CATWOMAN, WASN'T SHE-- A HARDENED CRIMINAL?"

AND THAT'S THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE-- WAS THE CATWOMAN!

THE DEMON JUST WOULDN'T LET ME BELIEVE SHE COULD REFORM!

WHITE IS WHITE... BLACK IS BLACK... AND THERE ARE NO SHADES OF GRAY!

SO NOW I'M ALONE AGAIN-- LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE ELSE TO PLACE THE BLAME...

...LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO PUNCH!

WHY CAN YOU NEVER FIND A DECENT CRIME IN THIS TOWN WHEN YOU NEED--

--EH?

...THANK YOU.

THUS, SECONDS
LATER...

THERE--

-- THAT PUNK IN THE
DOORWAY OF THAT RARE
COIN SHOP--!

COLLECT
STATUE

LOOKS LIKE HE HAD TOO MUCH
NERVE-- OR TOO LITTLE SENSE
TO RUN WHEN HE SET OFF THE ALARM!

WELL, HE'LL HAVE THE
NEXT FIVE-TO-TEN
YEARS TO THINK
ABOUT-- EH?!

VHAT--?
VHAT DO YOU
VANT FROM A
POOR OLD
MERCHANT?

I'M SORRY,
SIR-- BUT I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE TRYING
TO BREAK
IN!

INTO MEIN OWN
STORE? VHAT
ARE YOU--
SOME KINDA CRAZY
PERSON?

I VAS BUSY TESTINK THE
BOIGLAR ALARM--
THE SAME VAY I DO
EVERY NIGHT!

HERE--I'LL
SHOW
YOU--!

LEAVE ME
ALONE-- OR I
SWEAR I'LL YELL
FOR THE
POLICE!

THAT'S OKAY,
SIR! THERE'S NO
NEED TO--

BRRINNG!

NOW THAT THIS
ALARM IS SHUT
OFF, I CAN HEAR
ANOTHER ONE
SEVERAL BLOCKS
AWAY!

EH--?!?

MAYBE THIS NIGHT WON'T BE A
TOTAL LOSS AFTER ALL!

HEY, WAIT--
WHERE YOU
GOINK?

MISHUGENAH.

AND MOMENTS LATER,
SEVERAL BLOCKS DISTANT...

RRINNNG!

JEWELRY EXCHANGE

ALARM'S
COMING FROM THAT
JEWELRY STORE--!

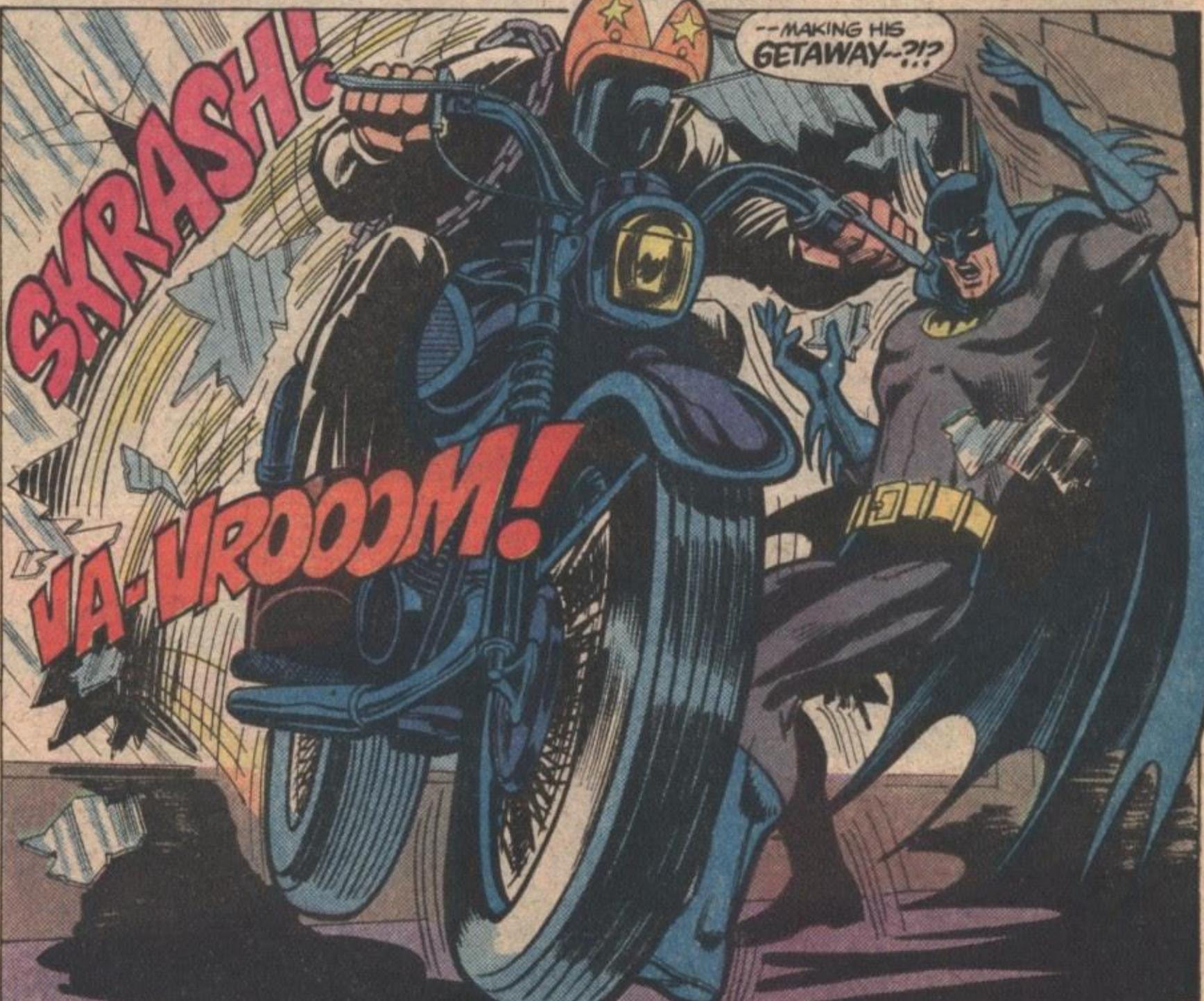
AND THIS
TIME I'D
BETTER LOOK
BEFORE I
LEAP!

JUST BECAUSE MY OWN
LIFE IS A SHAMBLES IS NO
REASON FOR ME TO SUDDENLY
START TERRORIZING
INNOCENT SHOPKEEPERS!

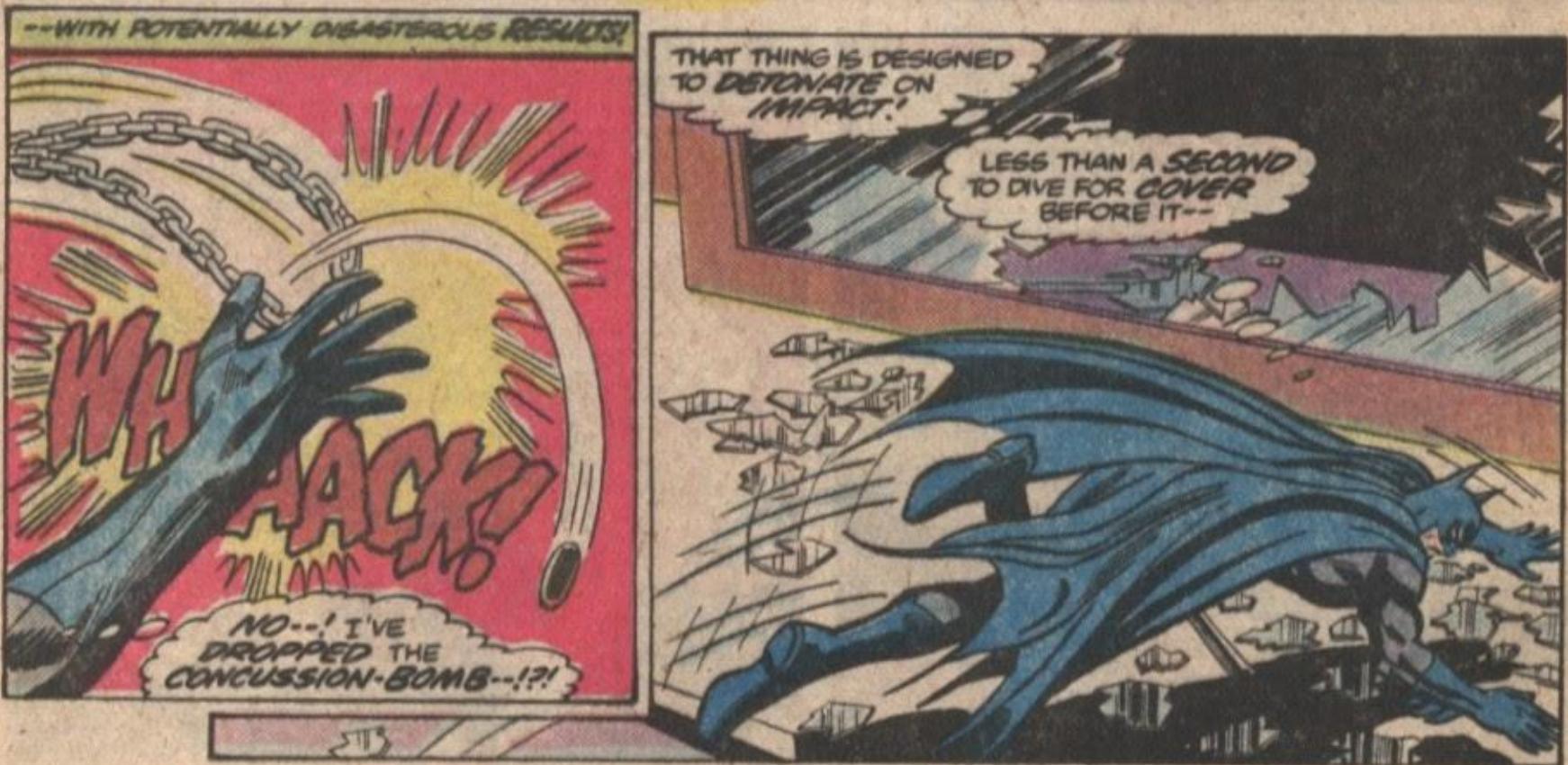
YEP, THERE'S
DEFINITELY SOMEBODY
SKULKING AROUND
IN THERE AMONG THE
SHADOWS--!

CAN'T MAKE HIM
OUT CLEARLY, BUT
HE SEEMS TO BE--

--MAKING HIS
GETAWAY--?!--







NO WAY TO EVADE HIM--MY HEAD'S
STILL SPINNING FROM THE BLAST--!

ONLY ONE
OTHER THING
FOR ME TO
TRY--!

AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AS
THE HEAVY BIKE BEARS DOWN ON
HIM, THE BATMAN TWISTS ASIDE--

KRACK!

--THRUSTING A
BAR OF TWISTED
METAL THROUGH
THE SPOKES
OF THE CYCLE'S
FRONT WHEEL!

IT'S FRONT WHEEL
JAMMED, THE
STRAINING MOTOR-
CYCLE SCREAMS
TO A STOP
INSTANTLY!

BUT IT'S
HORRIFIED RIDER,
ALAS,
DOES
NOT!

THERE IS A SICKENING SNAP
AS THE LEATHER-CLAD FIGURE
SMASHES INTO THE PAVEMENT--

KRACK!

--AND THEN THERE
IS SILENCE!

HE'S NOT MOVING--AND FROM
THE WAY HE'S SPRAWLED, IT
LOOKS LIKE HE BROKE HIS
ARM WHEN HE LANDED!

COULD HE HAVE
BROKEN HIS
NECK AS WELL?

I'D BETTER GET THAT
HELMET OFF AND
EXAMINE HIM
BEFORE--

BUT EVEN AS THE
MASKED MANHUNTER
REACHES FOR HIS
FALLEN FOE...

WHOK!

UUNNHHH!!!



SHORTLY, AT
GOTHAM CITY
POLICE HEAD-
QUARTERS--

--SPECIFICALLY, IN THE OFFICES OF
POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES W.
GORDON...

ANOTHER FEW MINUTES
WITH THESE FILES--
AND I'LL CALL IT A
NIGHT!



THAT'S NOT WHAT
I'D CALL IT,
OLD FRIEND!

BATMAN!?! I REALLY DO WISH
YOU'D STOP POPPING UP
LIKE THAT!

THIS OFFICE DOES
HAVE A DOOR,
YOU KNOW!

SORRY--BUT
THIS COULDN'T
WAIT!

I JUST HAD A
LITTLE RUN-IN
WITH "MAD DOG"
MARKHAM!

THEN WHY HAVEN'T I
RECEIVED A REPORT
OF IT?

HOW SO,
SIR?

MARKHAM? BUT HE'S
DOING LIFE AT ARKHAM
ASYLUM...

...ISN'T
HE?

THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT
AS WELL--

--BUT
APPARENTLY
HE'S
ESCAPED!

A FEW DAYS BACK, I
INVESTIGATED A CASE
THAT HAD ALL THE
EARMARKS OF BEING
A "KID GLOVES"
MCCONNELL
CAPER--

--BUT MCCONNELL IS ALSO
SUPPOSED TO BE SAFELY
LOCKED AWAY AT
ARKHAM!

I'D BETTER CALL THE
DIRECTOR THERE--AND
FIND OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON!

AND WHEN THE URGENT RINGING OF THE
TELEPHONE HAS FINALLY BEEN ANSWERED...

YES, COMMISSIONER
GORDON--GOOD TO
HEAR FROM YOU!

WHAT CAN I DO TO
HELP YOU AT THIS
LATE HOUR?

ARKHAM
HOSPITAL

JUST CALLING TO CHECK ON
ONE OF YOUR--AH--GUESTS,
MR. DIRECTOR.

I'VE RECEIVED A REPORT
THAT "MAD DOG" MARKHAM
WAS SPOTTED IN THE CITY
TONIGHT, AND I WAS WONDERING
IF PERHAPS...

...HE'D ESCAPED? NO,
COMMISSIONER--I'M AFRAID
THAT'S QUITE IMPOSSIBLE!

IN FACT, I'VE JUST
RETURNED FROM MY EVENING
ROUNDS--AND I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT MARKHAM IS STILL
SAFE IN HIS PADDED CELL!

I ASSUMED THAT WAS PROBABLY
THE CASE--BUT I FIGURED
I'D BETTER MAKE CERTAIN!

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIME, MR. DIRECTOR
--AND HAVE A PLEASANT
EVENING!

AND THANK
YOU, MY DEAR
COMMISSIONER--

--FOR BEING
SO OUTRAGEOUSLY
GULLIBLE!

HA HA HA HA

DESPITE THE DIRECTOR'S
REASSURANCES,
BATMAN--I'M NOT
CONVINCED!

DO YOU GET THE FEELING
SOMEONE IS PLAYING
GAMES WITH US?

I'D BET
MY PENSION
ON IT!

BUT WHAT CAN WE
DO ABOUT IT?

THERE REALLY
ISN'T MUCH YOU
CAN DO, SIR--
NOT YET!

BUT I
CAN DO
PLENTY!

THUS, AS DAWN BREAKS GOLD AND CRIMSON OVER THE SOMBER STONE WALLS OF GOTHAM STATE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON...

I'LL KILL YOU,
DO YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL
KILL YOU
ALL!!

THIS IS THE CON WE CALLED YOU GUYS ABOUT! HIS NAME'S SHANK TAYLOR!

HE'S BEEN RAVING LIKE THIS SINCE LATE LAST NIGHT-- AND HE'S BEEN ORDERED TRANSFERRED TO ARKHAM FOR OBSERVATION!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLANNING!

YOU'RE ALL AGAINST ME!

BUT I'M TOO SMART FOR YOU, AND WHEN I GET FREE--

--I'LL
KILL
YOU
ALL!!

SOUNDS LIKE A CLASSIC CASE OF PARANOIAC DELUSION--

BUT WE'VE HANDLED CHARACTERS LIKE THIS ONE BEFORE!

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU'LL TAINT ME WITH YOUR POISONS!!

EASY, TAYLOR--
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!

NOW JUST PUT ON THIS NICE JACKET-- AND WE'LL ALL GO FOR A RIDE!

AND, AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF VIOLENT STRUGGLE...

MAN, HE WAS A STRONG ONE!

THEY ALL ARE-- COMES WITH THE CRAZINESS!

I'LL KILL YOU...
KILL YOU... KILL YOU...

WELL, I'VE MANAGED TO GET MYSELF INTO ARKHAM!

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND A WAY TO GET BACK OUT AGAIN-- ALIVE!

WHILE, IN THE VERY HEART OF THE CITY, IN THE TOP FLOOR OFFICES OF THE PRESTIGEOUS WAYNE FOUNDATION...

EXCUSE ME, MR. FOX--
BUT HAVE YOU SEEN
MR. WAYNE THIS MORNING?

SORRY, MS. CROWN--
AFRAID I'VE BEEN A LITTLE PREOCCUPIED.

HASN'T BRUCE COME IN YET?



--AND HE'S ALMOST ALWAYS IN BY NOW! I'VE CALLED UPSTAIRS, BUT I GOT NO ANSWER--

--NOT EVEN FROM HIS BUTLER!

WELL, BRUCE IS A GROWN BOY, CAROLINE--

--AND SINCE HE'S THE HEAD OF THIS OUTFIT, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING DOCKED IF HE COMES IN LATE FOR A CHANGE!

I'M SURE HE'LL SHOW UP WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT HIM!

BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING'S WRONG, LUCIUS?

WHAT IF HE AND ALFRED HAVE BEEN IN A CAR ACCIDENT, AND THEY'RE IN A HOSPITAL SOMEWHERE?

OR WORSE, WHAT IF... THEY'RE DEAD?

YOU'D BETTER REIN IN THAT IMAGINATION, YOUNG LADY. GIVE BRUCE ANOTHER FEW HOURS...



--AND IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM BY THEN, LET ME KNOW.

THANK YOU, MR. FOX-- JUST TALKING TO YOU HAS MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER.

MAYBE YOU FEEL BETTER, CAROLINE-- BUT NOW I'M AS WORRIED AS SIN!

AND, A SHORT WHILE LATER,
DEEP IN THE SUBURBS OF
GOTHAM CITY, AT THE ARKHAM
ASYLUM FOR THE CRIM-
INALLY INSANE...

HOW'S IT
GOING?

COULDN'T
BE BETTER! CALL
AHEAD AND LET 'EM
KNOW WE'RE BRINGING
IN THE TAYLOR
LOONIE!

WELL, HERE YOU
ARE, TAYLOR--
YOUR NEW
HOME!

SURE YOU
WILL, PAL--BUT
COULD YOU WAIT
TILL AFTER
LUNCH?

MAN, THIS GUY'S SCREWIER
THAN MOST OF 'EM! BEATS
ME WHY THE MAN IN CHARGE
ASKED TO SEE HIM WHEN
WE GOT IN!



ALONG STERILE WHITE CORRIDORS, WHERE SCREAMS OF
IMAGINED TORMENT AND PEALS OF UNHOLY LAUGHTER
ECHO AND RE-ECHO, THE MAN WHO APPEARS TO BE
SHANK TAYLOR IS LED, STRUGGLING ALL THE
WAY...

DON'T YOU
WORRY,
TAYLOR!

WE GOT A SUITE JUST
LIKE THIS WAITING
FOR YOU!



WE BROUGHT
TAYLOR JUST
LIKE YOU ASKED
US TO, SIR.

BUT I STILL THINK
YOU'RE MAKING A
MISTAKE, SIR.

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN,
GEORGE--BUT I WILL DO THE
THINKING AROUND HERE, IF
YOU DON'T MIND.



WELCOME, MR. TAYLOR--
IT'S NICE TO HAVE YOU
AMONG US!

YOU WERE SERVING
TWENTY YEARS--TO-
LIFE FOR JEWEL
THEFT, WERE
YOU NOT?

WHAT
DIFFERENCE
DOES IT
MAKE NOW?

JUST LET ME GET MY
HANDS FREE--AND I'M
GOING TO KILL
YOU!!

DO YOU HEAR
ME--I'LL
KILL
YOU!!

SHAME
ON YOU,
MR. TAYLOR!

YOU'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO LEARN WE'RE
ALL FRIENDS
HERE!

AND WHAT A SHAME--
AND WHAT A WASTE OF YOUR
RAW TALENTS-- IT WOULD
BE IF YOU SHOULD BE FOOLISH
ENOUGH TO TRY!

BRUNO, WOULD YOU
KINDLY REASON
WITH MR. TAYLOR
FOR ME?

I HAVE
NO FRIENDS! I
KILLED
THEM ALL--

-- JUST
LIKE I'LL
KILL YOU!

THIS IS NO REASON!
THERE IS ONLY
DEATH!
DEATH!!
DEA--

--UHN.

IT'S OKAY NOW, SIR! I
JUST PUT ENOUGH STUFF
IN HIM TO MAKE HIM
VERY REASONABLE!

UUNNNH...

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

EXCELLENT, BRUNO! NOW BE SO GOOD AS TO TAKE MR. TAYLOR TO HIS ROOM UNTIL HE LEARNS TO CONTROL HIS TEMPER!

N-NO...
DON'T...

WH-WHO ARE
YOU...?

WH-WHY ARE
YOU... DOING
THIS TO ME...?

YOU NEEDN'T BE
CONCERNED,
MR. TAYLOR! THOUGH
YOU MAY NOT
BELIEVE IT NOW--

--WE ARE
DOING THIS
FOR YOUR OWN
GOOD!



**NEXT
ISSUE:**

IT'S THE CAPE
CRUSADER AT THE MERCY
OF HIS MOST METHODICAL
FOE! CAN EVEN THE BATMAN
HOPE TO ESCAPE FROM...

ASYLUM SINISTER!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE