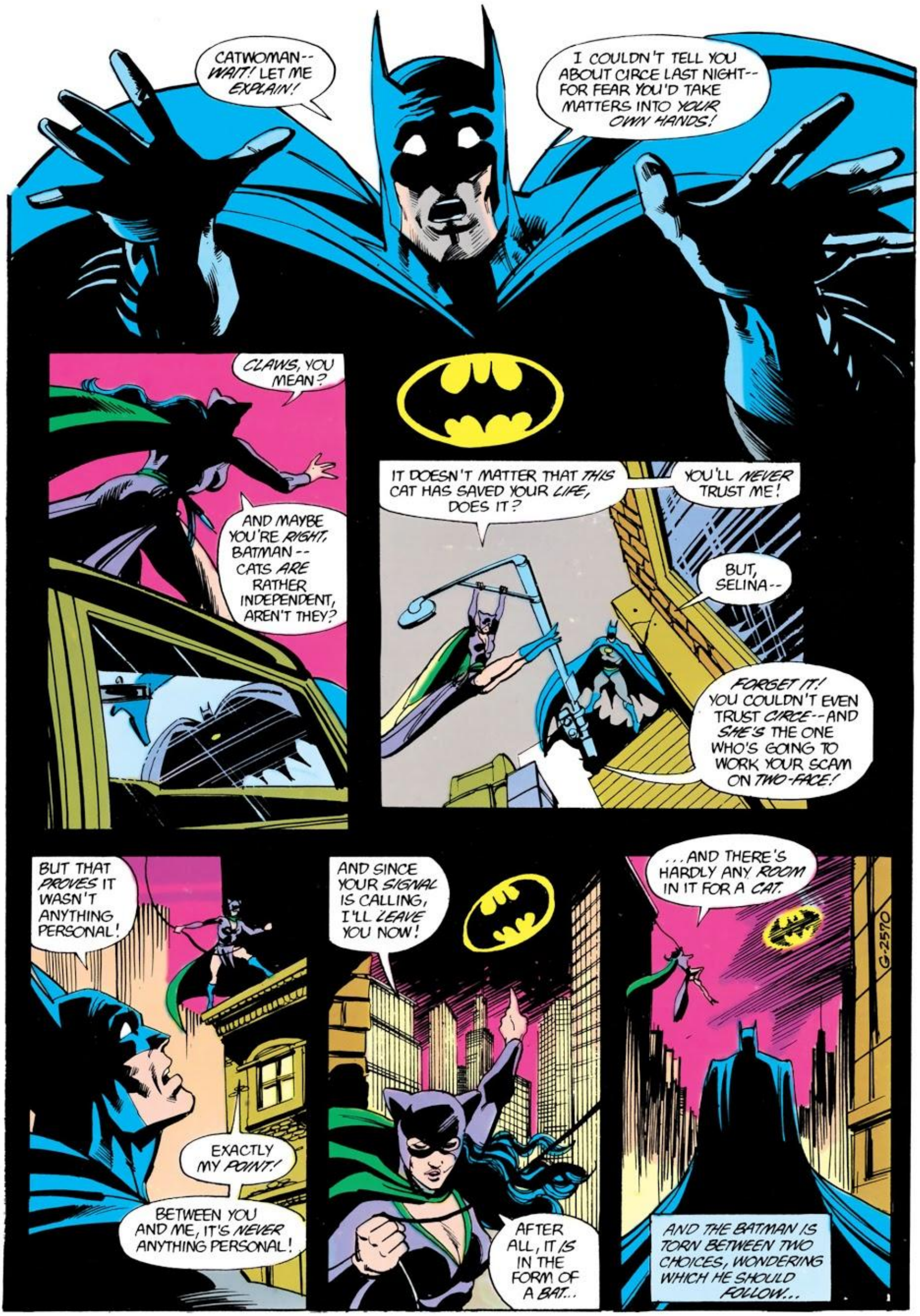
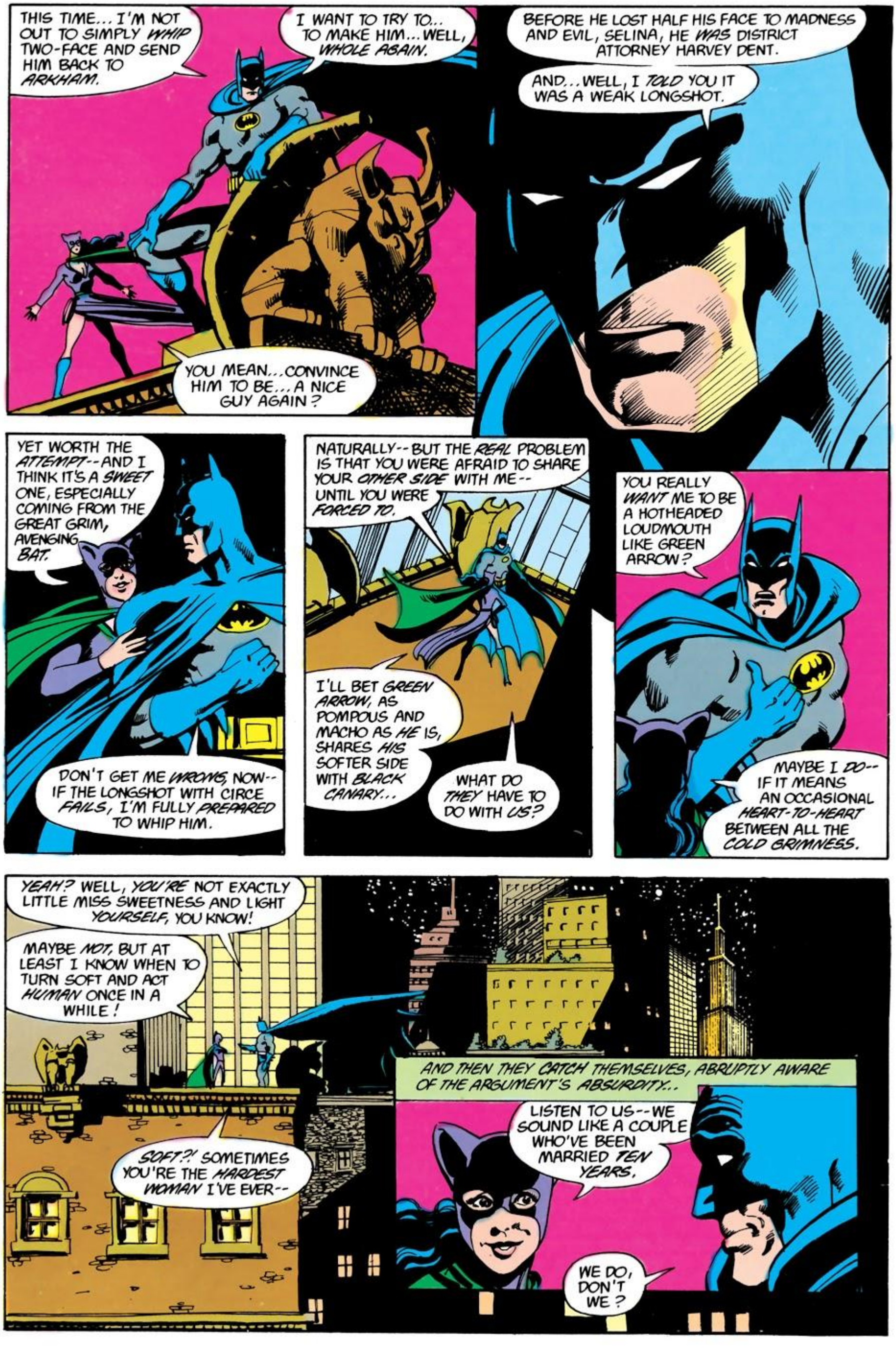
by DOUG MOENCH and TOM MANDRAKE
BAT MAN
398
AUG. 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
HELP ME, CATWOMAN-- BEFORE TWO-FACE BURIES ME ALIVE!!
SORRY, SPORT...
...THIS TIME YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!!
MANDRAKE


CATWOMAN-- WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN!
I COULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT CIRCE LAST NIGHT-- FOR FEAR YOU'D TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS!
CLAWS, YOU MEAN?
AND MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN -- CATS ARE RATHER INDEPENDENT, AREN'T THEY?
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT THIS CAT HAS SAVED YOUR LIFE, DOES IT?
YOU'LL NEVER TRUST ME!
BUT, SELINA--
FORGET IT! YOU COULDN'T EVEN TRUST CIRCE--AND SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO WORK YOUR SCAM ON TWO-FACE!
BUT THAT PROVES IT WASN'T ANYTHING PERSONAL!
EXACTLY MY POINT!
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, IT'S NEVER ANYTHING PERSONAL!
AND SINCE YOUR SIGNAL IS CALLING, I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW!
AFTER ALL, IT IS IN THE FORM OF A BAT...
...AND THERE'S HARDLY ANY ROOM IN IT FOR A CAT.
AND THE BATMAN IS TORN BETWEEN TWO CHOICES, WONDERING WHICH HE SHOULD FOLLOW...
G-2570

DOUG MOENCH . TOM MANDRAKE . JOHN COSTANZA . ADRIENNE ROY . LEN WEIN

WRITER ARTIST letterer colorist EDITOR

MAYBE HE'S SIMPLY INCAPABLE OF IT...
...TOO MUCH OF A LONER.
AND IF WE CAN'T EVEN CUT IT AS PARTNERS...
...THEN WHAT CHANCE DO WE HAVE AS...AS LOVERS?
SELINA...
WHAT--?
YOU FOLLOWED ME... INSTEAD OF YOUR SIGNAL?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU--MY WORK IS MY WORK AND WHAT I FEEL FOR YOU IS SOMETHING SEPARATE...
...BUT WHEN NECESSARY, IT TAKES PRECEDENCE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU LOVE ME, FRIEND?
WELL... YES.
BUT NOT ENOUGH TO SHARE YOUR WORK WITH ME...?
WE SHARE IT ALL THE TIME, SELINA.
ONLY SUPERFICIALLY... MEANING WE PUNCH FACES AND KICK BUTTS TOGETHER--BUT YOU NEVER REALLY SHARE WHATEVER DRIVES YOU, WHATEVER YOUR TRUE EMOTIONS AND PLANS ARE...
IN THIS CASE... MAYBE BECAUSE I'M ASHAMED OF THEM.
NO, NOT ASHAMED, BUT... EMBARRASSED.
WHY?
BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A... SAPPY LONGSHOT.


THIS TIME... I'M NOT OUT TO SIMPLY WHIP TWO-FACE AND SEND HIM BACK TO ARKHAM.
I WANT TO TRY TO... TO MAKE HIM... WELL, WHOLE AGAIN.
YOU MEAN... CONVINCE HIM TO BE... A NICE GUY AGAIN?
BEFORE HE LOST HALF HIS FACE TO MADNESS AND EVIL, SELINA, HE WAS DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY DENT.
AND... WELL, I TOLD YOU IT WAS A WEAK LONGSHOT.
YET WORTH THE ATTEMPT--AND I THINK IT'S A SWEET ONE, ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE GREAT GRIM, AVENGING BAT.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, NOW-- IF THE LONGSHOT WITH CIRCE FAILS, I'M FULLY PREPARED TO WHIP HIM.
NATURALLY--BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT YOU WERE AFRAID TO SHARE YOUR OTHER SIDE WITH ME-- UNTIL YOU WERE FORCED TO.
I'LL BET GREEN ARROW, AS POMPOUS AND MACHO AS HE IS, SHARES HIS SOFTER SIDE WITH BLACK CANARY...
WHAT DO THEY HAVE TO DO WITH US?
YOU REALLY WANT ME TO BE A HOTHEADED LOUDMOUTH LIKE GREEN ARROW?
MAYBE I DO-- IF IT MEANS AN OCCASIONAL HEART-TO-HEART BETWEEN ALL THE COLD GRIMNESS.
YEAH? WELL, YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY LITTLE MISS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT YOURSELF, YOU KNOW!
MAYBE NOT, BUT AT LEAST I KNOW WHEN TO TURN SOFT AND ACT HUMAN ONCE IN A WHILE!
SOFT?! SOMETIMES YOU'RE THE HARDEST WOMAN I'VE EVER--
AND THEN THEY CATCH THEMSELVES, ABRUPTLY AWARE OF THE ARGUMENT'S ABSURDITY...
LISTEN TO US--WE SOUND LIKE A COUPLE WHO'VE BEEN MARRIED TEN YEARS.
WE DO, DON'T WE?

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS... YOU HAVE A "SON"... BUT I DON'T.
IN FACT, I'M DRIVING YOUR SON AWAY FROM YOU...

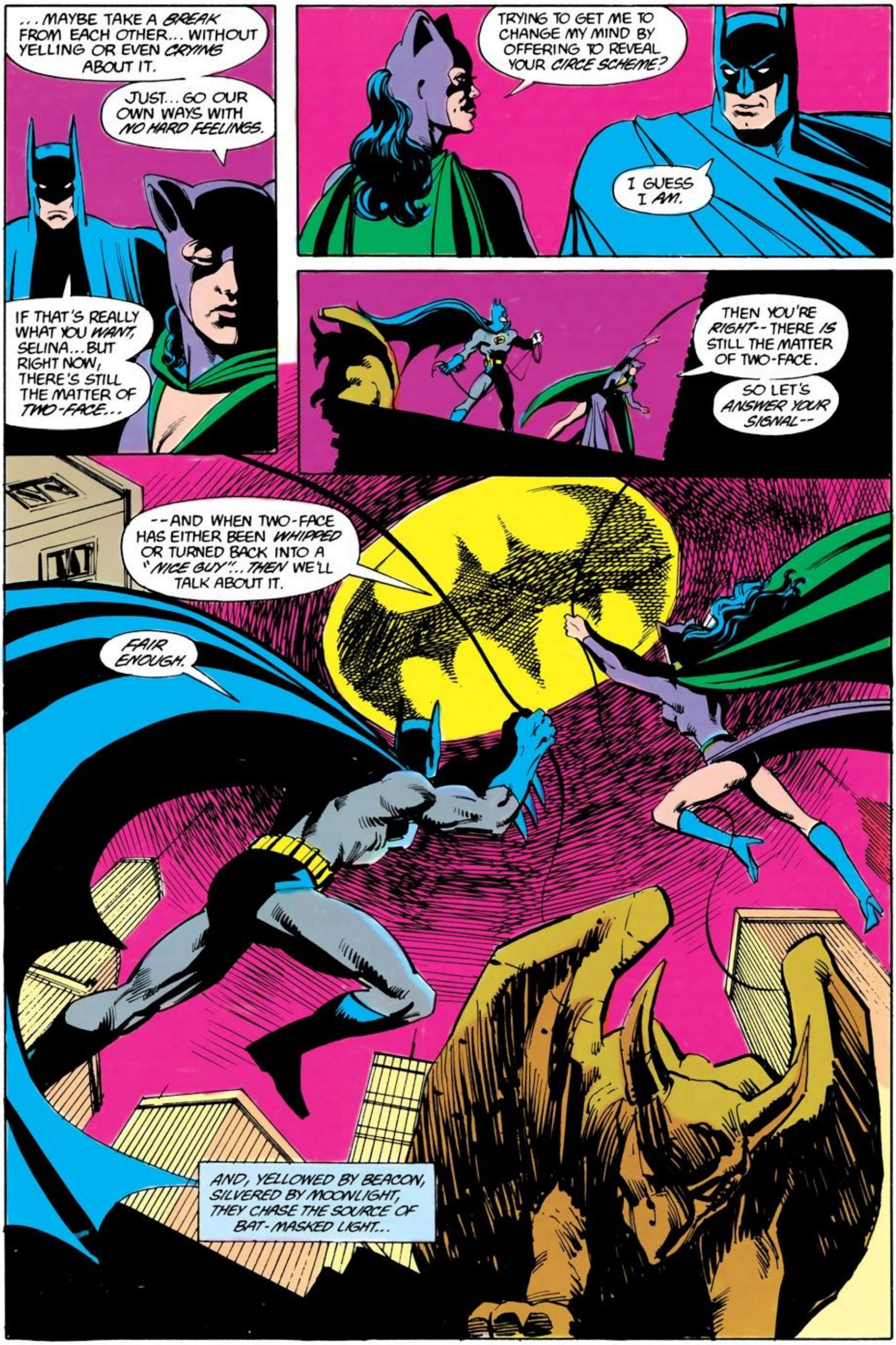
ACROSS TOWN:
LOUSY SIGNAL-- MAKING ME FEEL GUILTY AGAIN... LIKE I SHOULD BE IN MY ROBIN COSTUME AT BATMAN'S SIDE...

BUT WHAT THE HEY? I DID MY PART-- BROUGHT IN THE "CANDYMAN" DOPE DEALER WHO WAS SUPPLYING SHANE AND THE OTHER KIDS AT SCHOOL...
NOW BATMAN CAN TACKLE TWO-FACE HIS OWN WAY.

BESIDES, HE DOESN'T NEED ME...
...NOT WITH THE CAT-LADY STICKING TO HIM LIKE SUGARED GLUE.

SOMETHING WRONG, JASON?
OH...UH, NO--IT'S NOTHING, RENA.
IF YOU'RE READY FOR OUR DATE, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHERE WE SHOULD GO FOR A SODA AFTER THE MOVIE.

ROBIN WILL COME AROUND TO YOU, CATWOMAN.
BESIDES, PART OF THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS THAT HE HAS NETHER THE TIME NOR THE INCLINATION TO GO OUT CHASING CRIME.
HE'S IN LOVE.
I KNOW THE FEELING.
NEVERTHELESS, MAYBE YOU AND I SHOULD...WELL, YOU KNOW...

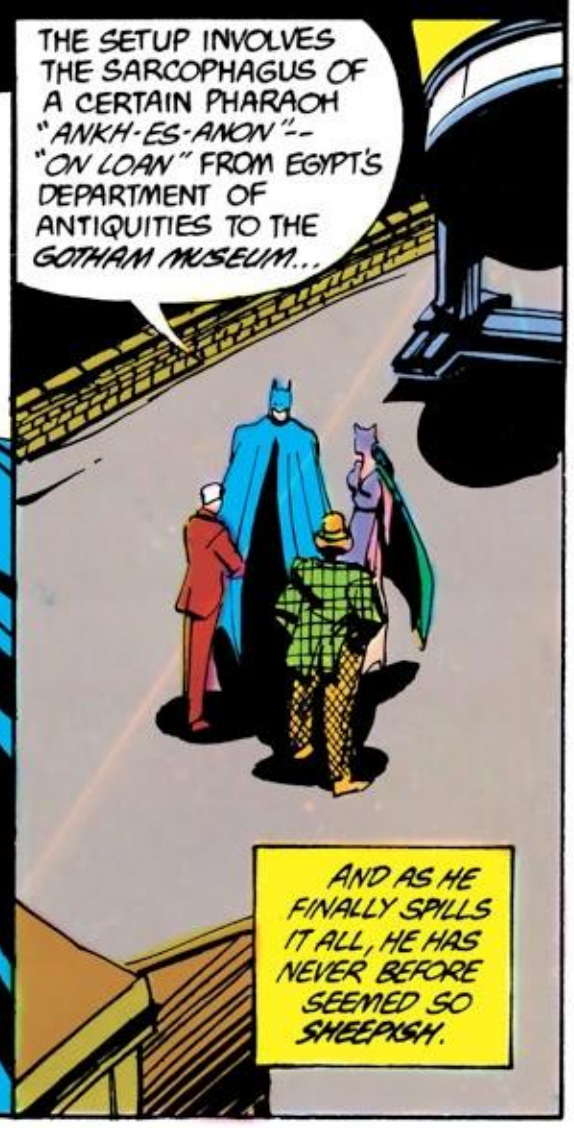

...MAYBE TAKE A BREAK FROM EACH OTHER... WITHOUT YELLING OR EVEN CRYING ABOUT IT.
JUST... GO OUR OWN WAYS WITH NO HARD FEELINGS.
IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU WANT, SELINA... BUT RIGHT NOW, THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF TWO-FACE...
TRYING TO GET ME TO CHANGE MY MIND BY OFFERING TO REVEAL YOUR CIRCE SCHEME?
I GUESS I AM.
THEN YOU'RE RIGHT-- THERE IS STILL THE MATTER OF TWO-FACE.
SO LET'S ANSWER YOUR SIGNAL--
--AND WHEN TWO-FACE HAS EITHER BEEN WHIPPED OR TURNED BACK INTO A "NICE GUY"... THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
AND, YELLOWED BY BEACON, SILVERED BY MOONLIGHT, THEY CHASE THE SOURCE OF BAT-MASKED LIGHT...

...TO THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS:
SO WHAT HAVE YOU GOT, GORDON?
WE'VE SECURED COOPERATION FROM THE MUSEUM, BATMAN...

FULL COOPERATION?
YES--THEY FEEL AS BULLOCK AND I DO, THAT THIS CIRCE GAMBIT OF YOURS HAS ONLY A REMOTE CHANCE OF SUCCESS, AND MAY INDEED BE HOPELESS...
...BUT THEY'VE NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO PLAY ALONG, ACCOMMODATING YOUR EVERY REQUEST.
THEN GORDON AND BULLOCK ALREADY KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS THAN I DO...

GOOD--LIMITING THE ONLY RISK TO CIRCE HERSELF.
SHE HINTED THAT HER INVOLVEMENT IN MY SCHEME MIGHT BE MOTIVATED BY SELF-INTEREST--DOUBLE-CROSSING ME TO USE TWO-FACE IN TAKING REVENGE ON BLACK MASK.

BUT IT'S A RISK I'M PREPARED TO TAKE--ONE I'VE GOT TO TAKE--OR I FORFEIT ALL CHANCE TO REDEEM CIRCE AS WELL AS TO "REHABILITATE" TWO-FACE.
AND ARE YOU EVER GOING TO TELL ME JUST WHAT THAT CHANCE IS, BATMAN?
OH...UH, YES, OF COURSE, CATWOMAN...


THE SETUP INVOLVES THE SARCOPHAGUS OF A CERTAIN PHARAOH "ANKH-ES-ANON"--"ON LOAN" FROM EGYPT'S DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES TO THE GOTHAM MUSEUM...
AND AS HE FINALLY SPILLS IT ALL, HE HAS NEVER BEFORE SEEMED SO SHEEPISH.

I MUST BE CRAZY TO TRUST A DAME CLAIMING TO BE A "RED WITCH"...
...BUT I FLIPPED MY DOUBLE-HEADED COIN, CIRCE, AND YOUR SIDE CAME UP...

THE SCARRED SIDE, NO DOUBT.
BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SORCERY...OR IN MY "MAGIC" EITHER--
--THE THEFT OF A PRICELESS TWO-FACED PHARAOH'S SARCOPHAGUS IS STILL A PERFECT CRIME FOR YOU...

...IS IT NOT?
WHY DO YOU THINK I EVEN BOTHERED TO FLIP THE COIN, CIRCE?
NOW LET'S GET ON WITH IT--WE'RE HERE.

REMEMBER, TWO-FACE--WE GO IN BY THE REAR ENTRANCE...

...WHERE I USE THIS MAGNETIC CARD-KEY ON THE LOCK-SENSOR--TO CIRCUMVENT THE ALARMS.
I STILL WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU GOT HOLD OF THAT THING.
MAGIC.

I'M A WITCH, REMEMBER?

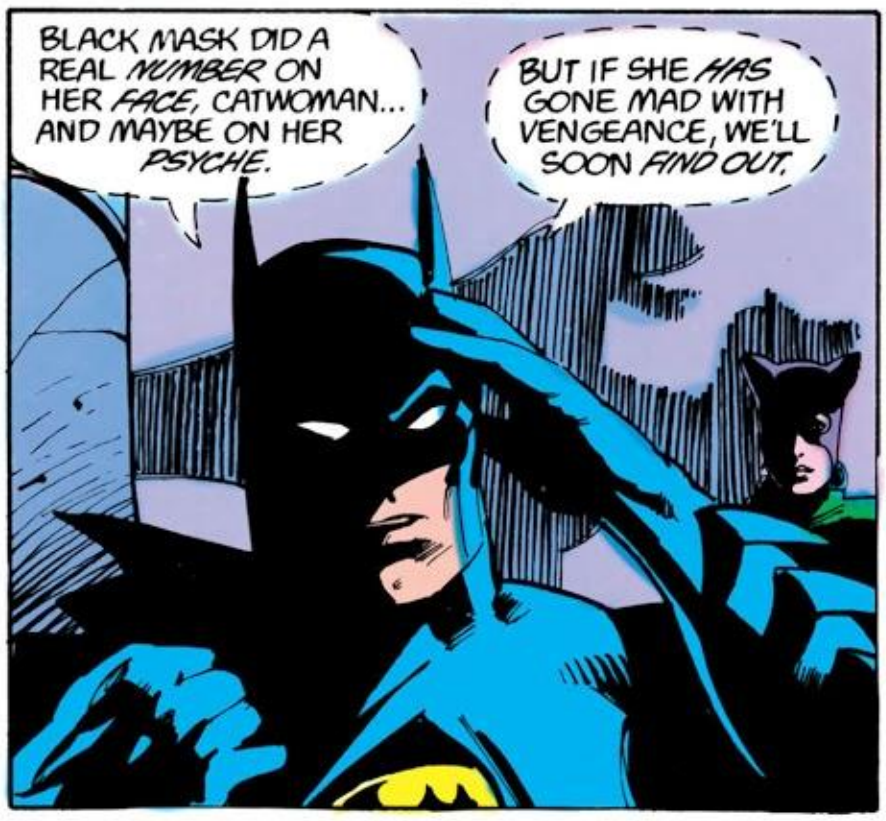
"ALL RIGHT-- QUIET, TWO-FACE.
"HERE COMES THE NIGHT-GUARD..."
...AND SINCE I SENSE YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME--
--WOULD IT HELP IF I TOOK CARE OF HIM WITH THIS MAGIC SCEPTER?
COULDN'T HURT.
"THEN STAND BACK, TWO-FACE...
"...AND WATCH."
WUMP
SATISFIED?
SO FAR, CIRCE-- BUT WHERE'S THIS ANKH-ES-ANON'S SARCOPHAGUS?
PATIENCE-- IT'S RIGHT DOWN THIS CORRIDOR...

AND WHEN CIRCE AND TWO-FACE HAVE PASSED FROM VIEW...
KRE-E-E-E-K

HEY!
YOU ALL RIGHT?

HIT ME HARDER...THAN SHE DID IN REHEARSAL...
...BUT YES, I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...

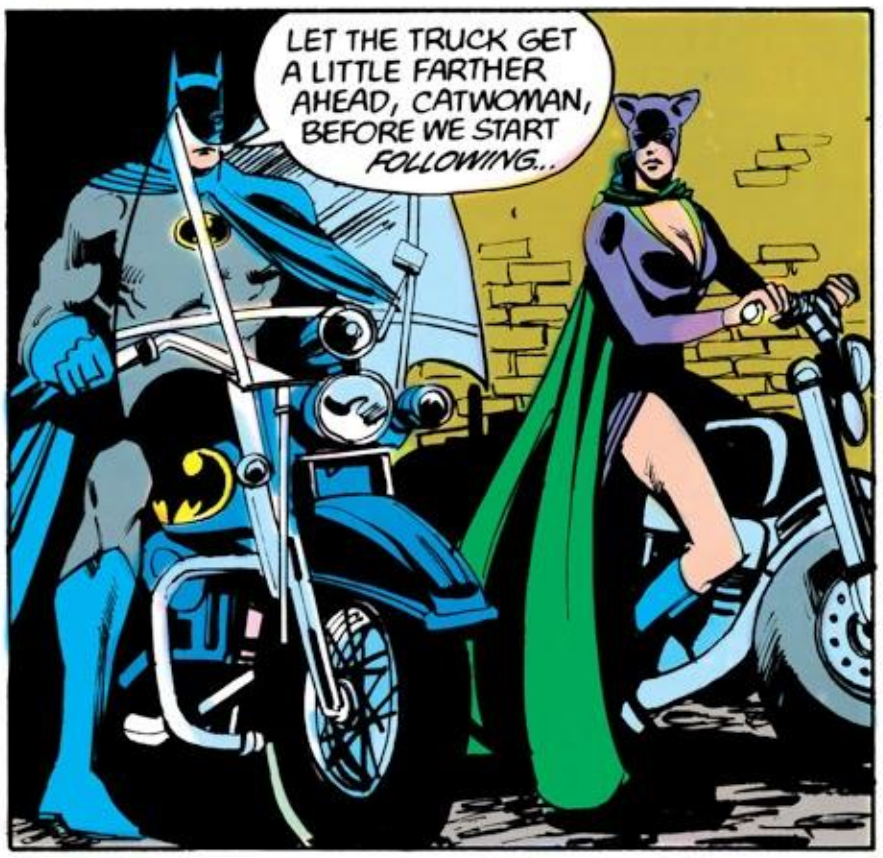
LET'S JUST HOPE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, CATWOMAN... AND NOT AN ABOUT-FACE ON CIRCE'S PART.


BLACK MASK DID A REAL NUMBER ON HER FACE, CATWOMAN... AND MAYBE ON HER PSYCHE.
BUT IF SHE HAS GONE MAD WITH VENGEANCE, WE'LL SOON FIND OUT.

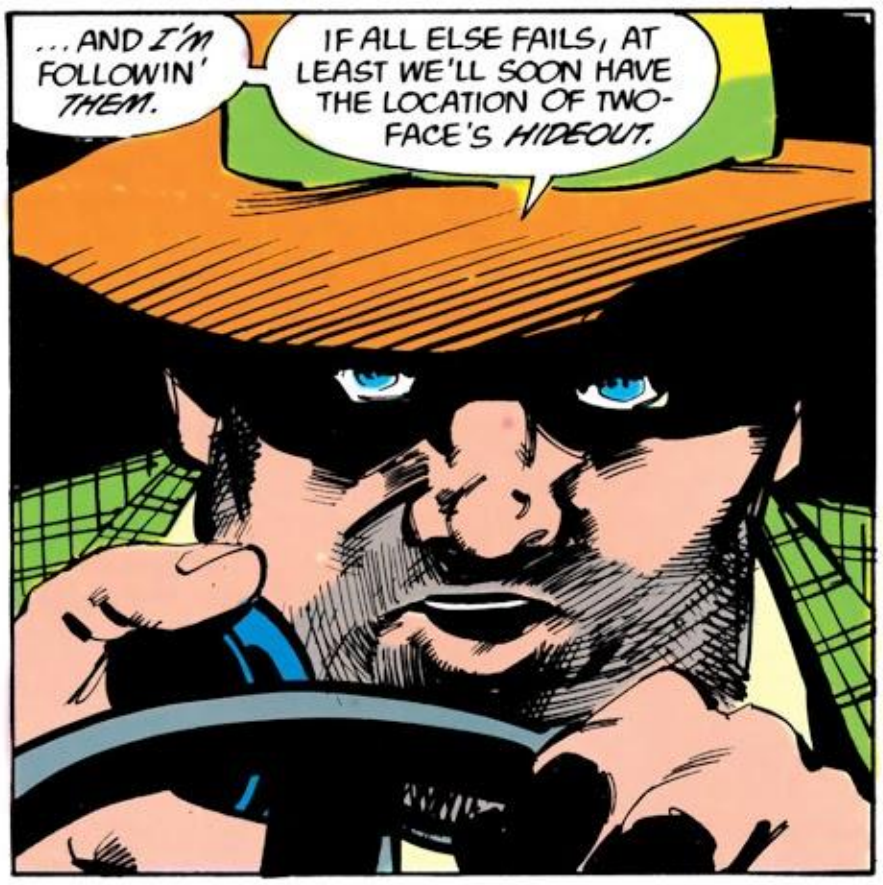
THIS IS IT, HUH? THE GREAT ANKH-ES-ANON...
IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK PRICELESS-- JUST OLD.

YOU'RE FORGETTING THE CASKET'S SECOND, INNER FACE -- THE PHARAOH'S GOLD DEATH-MASK, ENCRUSTED WITH PRECIOUS STONES... AND SAID TO BE EMBUED WITH MAGIC.
NOW COME ON -- LET'S GET IT OUT OF HERE AND INTO THE TRUCK.

SO FAR, SO GOOD...

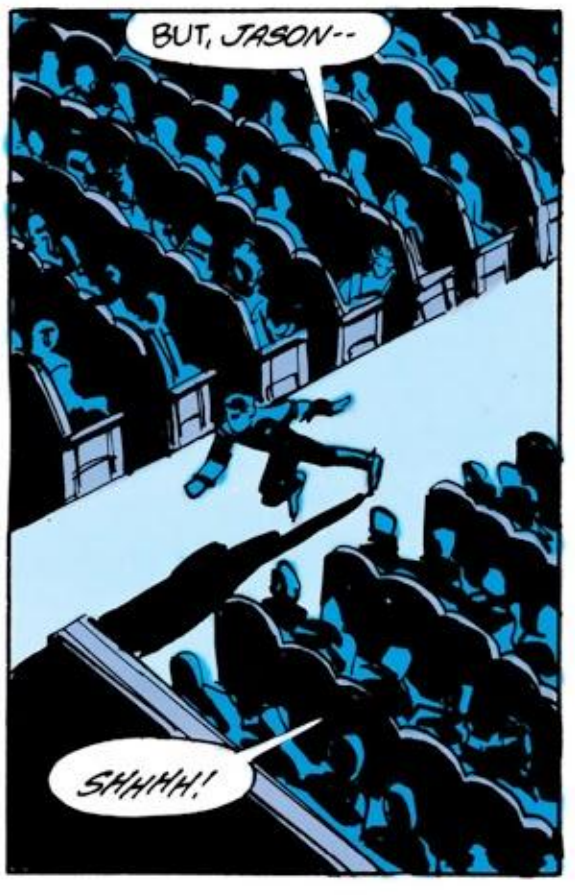

LET THE TRUCK GET A LITTLE FARTHER AHEAD, CATWOMAN, BEFORE WE START FOLLOWING...

THIS IS IT, COMMISH.
TWO-FACE AN' CIRCE JUST TOOK OFF FROM THE MUSEUM WITH BATMAN AN' CATWOMAN TAILIN' EM...

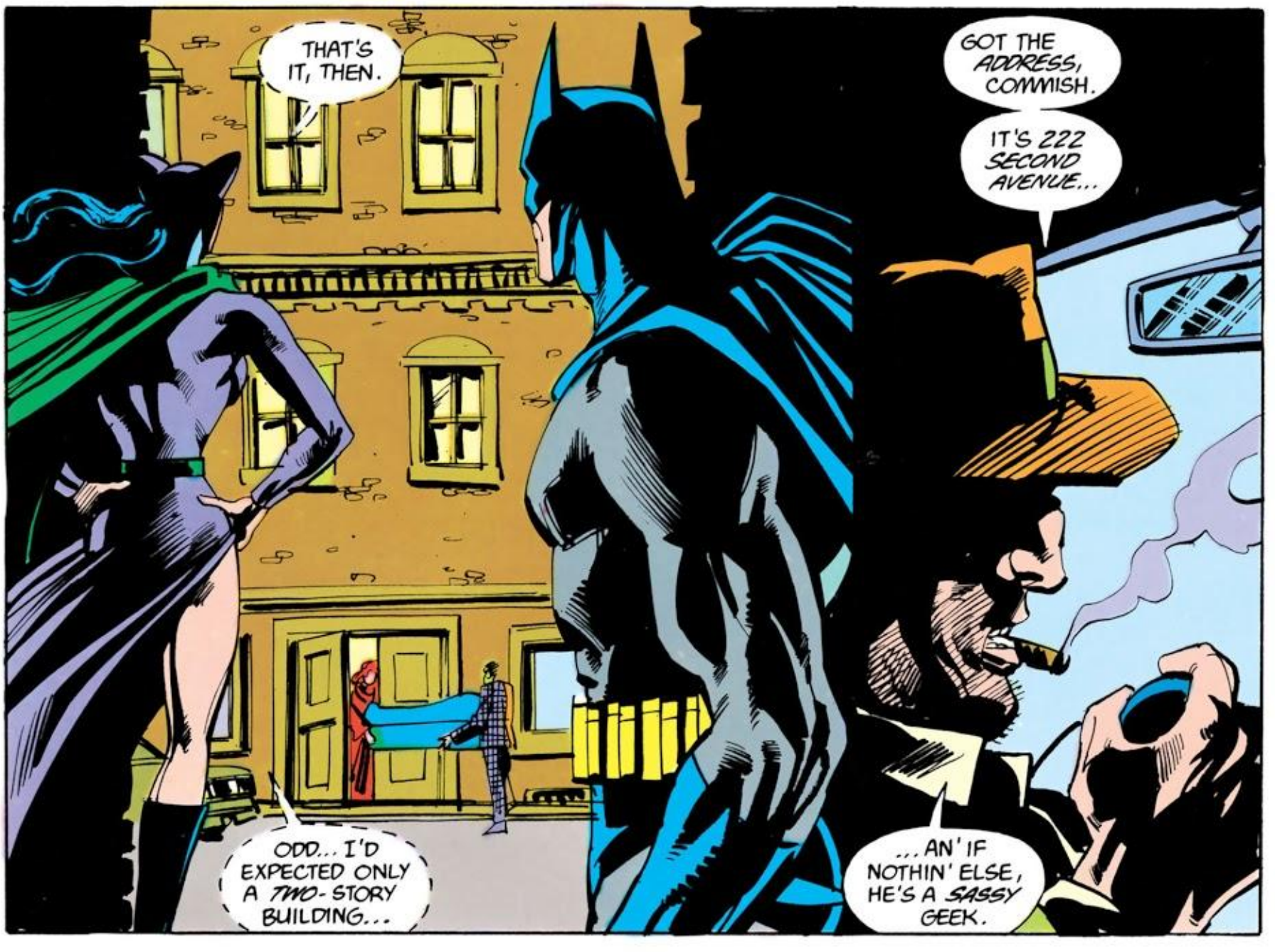

...AND I'M FOLLOWIN' THEM.
IF ALL ELSE FAILS, AT LEAST WE'LL SOON HAVE THE LOCATION OF TWO-FACE'S HIDEOUT.

ACROSS TOWN, JASON TODD FIDGETS IN THE DARK--
--UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE SCREEN'S PLAY OF LIGHT.

LISTEN, RENA, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF.
I'LL TRY TO BE BACK SOON, BUT IF NOT... WELL, I'M SORRY.
HUH?


BUT, JASON--
SHHHH!

THE TWO-BY-TWO TRUCK FINALLY HALTS IN A BIRACIAL NEIGHBORHOOD ON GOTHAM'S SOUTH SIDE...
CAREFUL, TWO-FACE.


THAT'S IT, THEN.
ODD... I'D EXPECTED ONLY A TWO-STORY BUILDING...
GOT THE ADDRESS, COMMISH.
IT'S 222 SECOND AVENUE...
...AN' IF NOTHIN' ELSE, HE'S A SASSY GEEK.

AND, INSIDE THE TOP-FLOOR SPLIT HIDEOUT...
IF THE INNER FACE DOES INDEED HOLD ALL THE NOBILITY AND PURITY OF THE PHARAOH'S HEART, TWO-FACE...THEN ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR YOU TO BELIEVE IT...
SHUT UP, GRIMES, AND LET THE WITCH DO HER THING.
TO HELL WITH NOBILITY AND PURITY--LET'S SEE ALL THE GOLD AND GEMS THE FACE IS S'POSED TO HAVE.
ALL RIGHT, CIRCE--LET'S SEE THIS "MAGIC FACE."
SIGNIFICANTLY, SHE PLACES THE OUTER LID FACEDOWN ON THE CLASSY SIDE OF THE ROOM, THEN REACHES IN TO PRY THE INNER FACE FREE...
WEAR IT, TWO-FACE--
--AND BE BLESSED WITH ALL THE PHARAOH'S GOODNESS.
AND AT LEAST ONE SIDE OF TWO-FACE APPEARS SPELLBOUND...
YES...I WILL WEAR IT, CIRCE...
AW, COME ON, BOSS! YOU AIN'T GONNA FALL FOR--
GET OUT OF THIS ROOM--BOTH OF YOU!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ME NEITHER-- BUT MAYBE THE BOSS KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOIN'...
NOW STEP TO THE MIRROR, TWO-FACE...
...AND BEHOLD THE MAGIC OF A NEW FACE, THREE THOUSAND YEARS OLD...
GAZE AT THE MAGIC, AND BELIEVE WHAT YOUR EYES SEE...
FEEL THE MAGIC... FEEL THE MASK'S POWER OF GOODNESS... FLOWING INTO YOU... AND FEEL THE PURE SOUL OF A MAN LONG DEAD BUT NOW RETURNING TO LIFE IN YOU...
...JUST AS THE DORMANT SOUL OF HARVEY DENT IS RETURNING TO LIFE...
YOU'RE RIGHT-- A HUGE LONGSHOT.
YES, NOW THAT SHE'S TRYING TO DO IT... IT SEEMS MORE ABSURD THAN EVER.
NEVER WOULD'VE EVEN THOUGHT OF IT IF TWO-FACE HADN'T ESCAPED ARKHAM BY USING HIS TRICK COIN TO HYPNOTIZE THE GUARD AND THAT LAWYER...
...AND BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE HARVEY DENT... GOTHAM'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY... A GOOD AND HANDSOME MAN...
BELIEVE, HARVEY DENT... BELIEVE... BELIEVE...
I... I THINK I... FEEL FUNNY...
NEED SOME TIME... TO THINK... ALONE...
AND TWO-FACE LEAVES THE ROOM.
IT ACTUALLY WORKED?
MAYBE... BUT WHERE HARVEY DENT IS CONCERNED... THE JURY'S STILL OUT.

IN THE BEDROOM:
MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE MY FACE WHOLE AGAIN... BUT WHICH SIDE SHOULD TAKE OVER THE OTHER...?
UGLY OR HANDSOME... GOOD OR EVIL?
NORMAL... OR...
...SCARRED?
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY, AS EVER--
--TO DECIDE.
HMMMMMM...
BEST TWO OUT OF THREE.
--AGAIN--?
BEST THREE OUT OF FIVE, THEN.

AND WHAT ABOUT HER? IS SHE PLAYING IT STRAIGHT--OR HOPING TO USE TWO-FACE AS A PUPPET TO KILL BLACK MASK?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I DON'T LIKE THIS WAITING.
WHAT'S TWO-FACE DOING?
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CRASH IN RIGHT NOW AND--

WAIT, BATMAN--LOOK!

I'VE CHOSEN, CIRCE.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
IT...IT REALLY DID WORK--?!

BUT THE CHOICE I MADE... WAS THE TOUGH ONE.
WH-WHAT...?
COME OFF IT, WITCH! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D FALL FOR ALL THIS "MAGIC PHARAOH" GARBAGE? FOR THAT PHONY BRASS MASK WITH ITS COLORED GLASS BEADS?!

I ADMIT I ALMOST FELL FOR IT--MAYBE EVEN WANTED TO...
...BUT YOU MADE ONE BIG MISTAKE!
WAP
NO SUCH PHARAOH AS ANKH-ES-ANON EVER EXISTED!
HOW STUPID DID YOU AND BATMAN THINK I AM?!

DID YOU THINK I CAN'T READ?
DID YOU THINK I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HYPNOTISM?

DID YOU THINK I CAN'T TOSS MY COIN UNTIL I GET WHATEVER RESULT I WANT?!

AND NOW WE MAKE A FINE PAIR, DEAR CIRCE!
KRUNSCH!
EXCEPT ONLY ONE OF US IS GOING TO LIVE--!

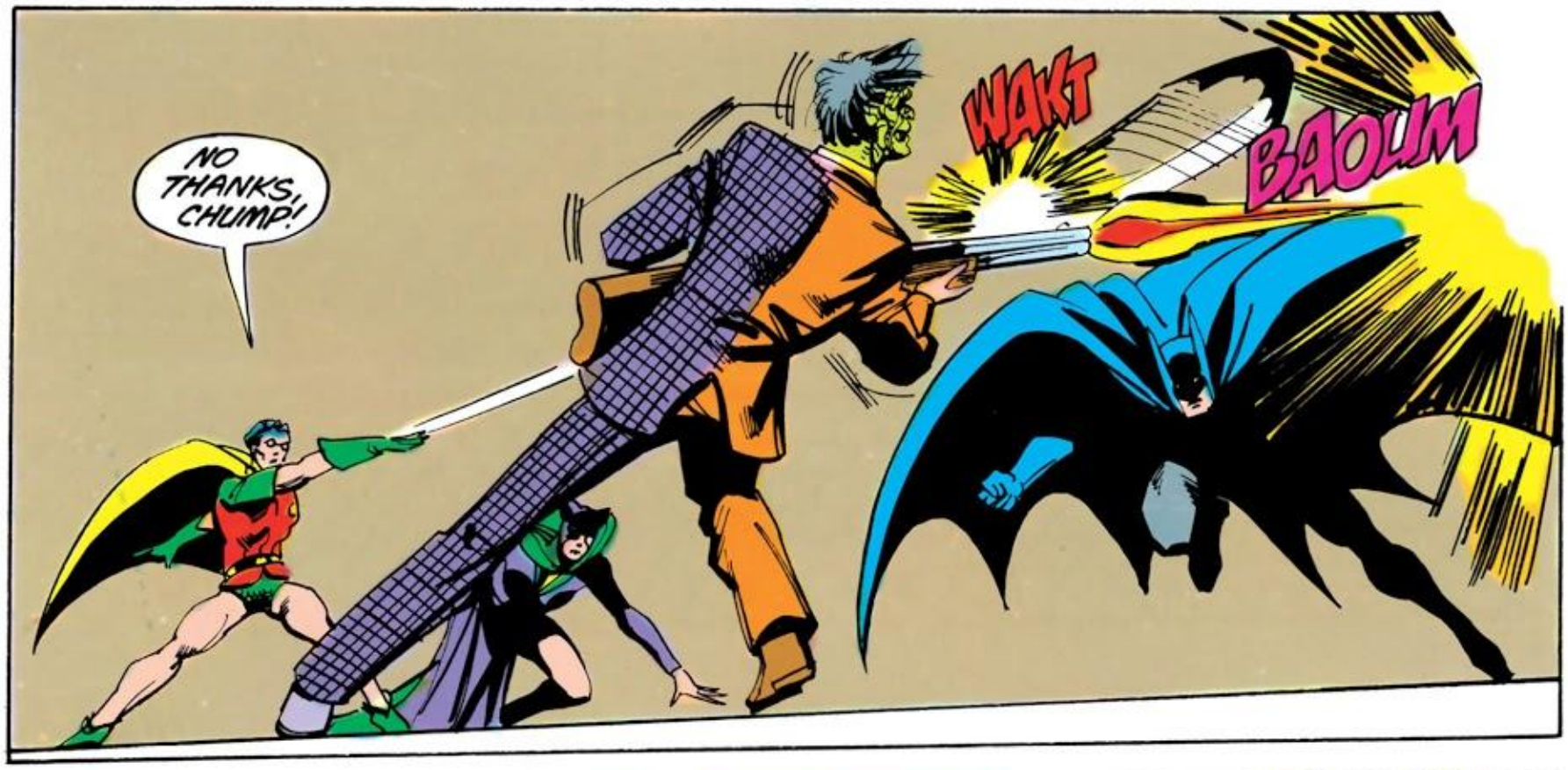
KEESH
BATMAN!
HE'S HERE ALREADY?!

SKUMP
AGH-H!
AND THE RIGHT SIDE'S SECOND LAYER OF MAKEUP IS TORN.

WHAT IS IT, BOSS? ARE YOU--
SWAK
BATMAN!
TAKE THEM, CATWOMAN--I'LL HANDLE TWO-FACE!

AND WHILE THE BATMAN GRAPPLES WITH HIS NOW ONE-FACED NEMESIS--
SH-TRAK
--CATWOMAN'S FIGHT WITH THE TWO HENCHMEN--
SKAKT
--SWIFTLY BECOMES A CLOSED ISSUE.
BUT THEN--
BWAK
UHN--!
--THE DOOR OPENS...

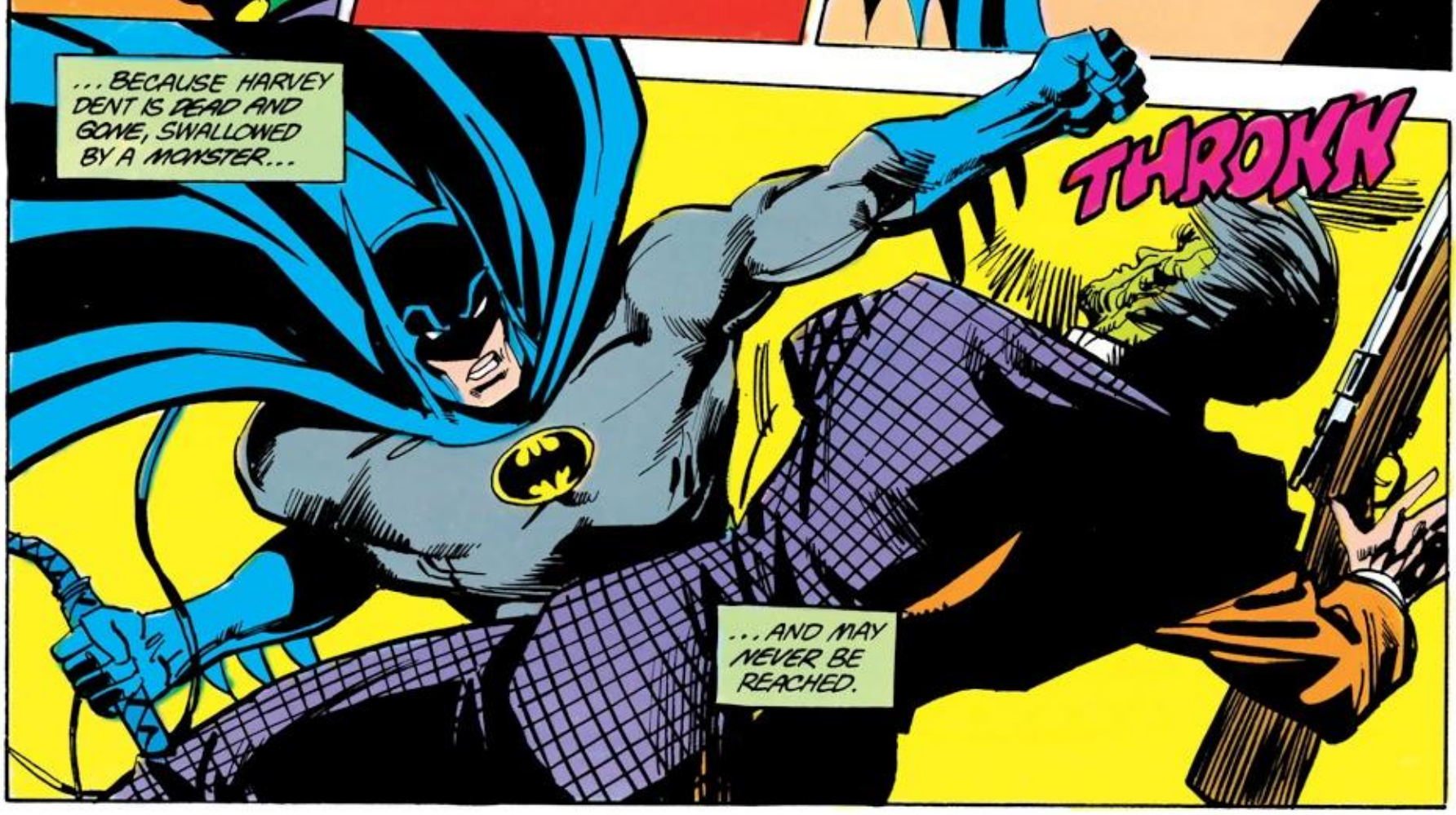
ENTER: ROBIN.
OOPS.
UH, SORRY, CAT-LADY.
GORDON GAVE ME THE ADDRESS... SAID YOU WERE HERE... AND--
SHUT UP!!
LISTEN TO ME, DENT!
YOU'RE MAKING THE WRONG CHOICE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUCCUMB TO EVIL JUST BECAUSE HALF YOUR FACE WAS RUINED!
YOU WERE ONCE A GOOD MAN!
THEN YOU TURNED HALF-GOOD AND HALF-EVIL...
...BUT NOW YOU'RE TURNING ALL EVIL!
DON'T YOU SEE?
THAT PROVES YOU CAN GO THE OTHER WAY TOO! YOU CAN RETURN TO BEING HARVEY DENT AGAIN!
WHAT KIND OF SUCKER DO YOU THINK I AM, BATMAN?
YOU CAN SEE THE CHOICE I MADE-- IT'S ALL OVER MY FACE, OR AT LEAST HALF OF IT...
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE CHOICE ADDS UP TO?
ONE BARREL FOR YOU, BATMAN...
...AND THE OTHER BARREL FOR CATWOMAN AND ROBIN.


NO THANKS, CHUMP!
WAKT
BAOUM

HERE, BATMAN!
CATCH!

SAPT
AND FOR HIM, THERE IS NO CHOICE...

BAOUM
SKRAKT
HE MUST WHIP TWO-FACE...


...BECAUSE HARVEY DENT IS DEAD AND GONE, SWALLOWED BY A MONSTER...
THROKK
...AND MAY NEVER BE REACHED.

STILL, HE REMOVES THE COLLOIDAL GEL, RESTORING WHAT HE CAN...
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WOULD FAIL... AND DEEP DOWN, I DID KNOW.
IT'LL TAKE FAR MORE THAN HYPNOTISM... OR REMOVING MAKEUP... TO BRING BACK HARVEY DENT... ESPECIALLY NOW THAT HIS GOOD SIDE HAS BEEN MARKED BY CIRCE...
SPEAKING OF THE WITCH, BATMAN... SHE'S GONE.
YES... AND LET'S HOPE SHE WASN'T MARKED TOO DEEPLY BY TWO-FACE...
THEN WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER ABOUT HER...
...IF SHE WAS REALLY WITH YOU OR NOT.
NOT FOR NOW, ANYWAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, CATWOMAN? YOU SAID YOU'D GIVE YOUR ANSWER WHEN IT WAS OVER.
I CHANGED MY MIND. I...I REALLY DON'T KNOW YET. I STILL FEEL... REMOTE FROM YOU. SEE ME TOMORROW NIGHT, BATMAN.
IF I'M WEARING A SMILE... YOU'LL KNOW.
BUT DON'T BET ON IT, BECAUSE IF YOU ASK ME...
...ROBIN'S RETURN THROUGH THIS DOOR RANKS VERY HIGH ON THE OMEN SCALE.
IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS: THE LOVE KILLING!

OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
novus
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