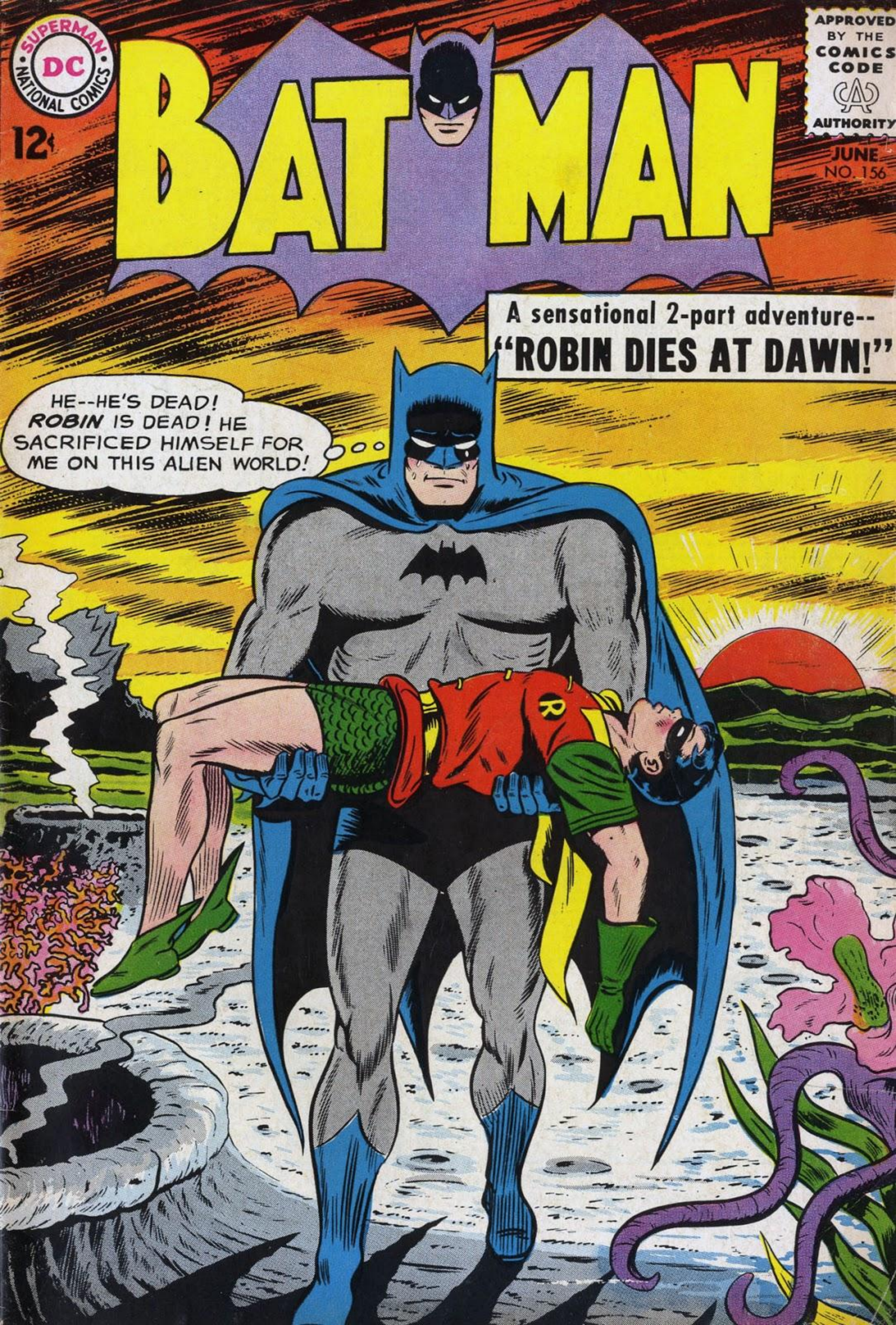
SUPERMAN
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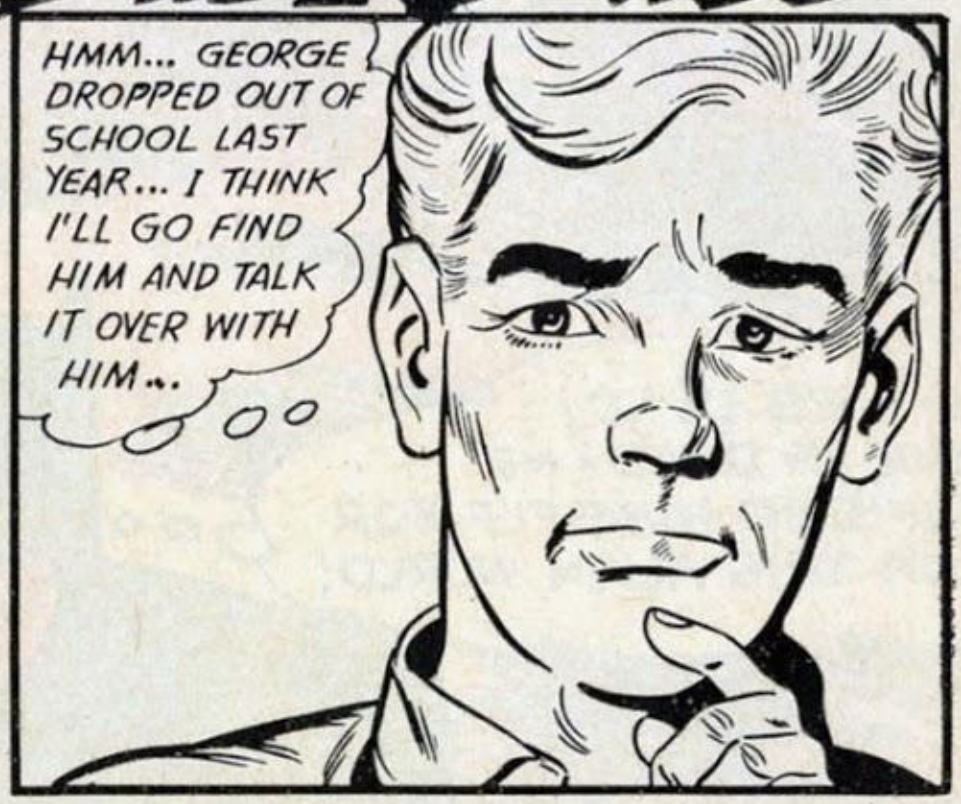
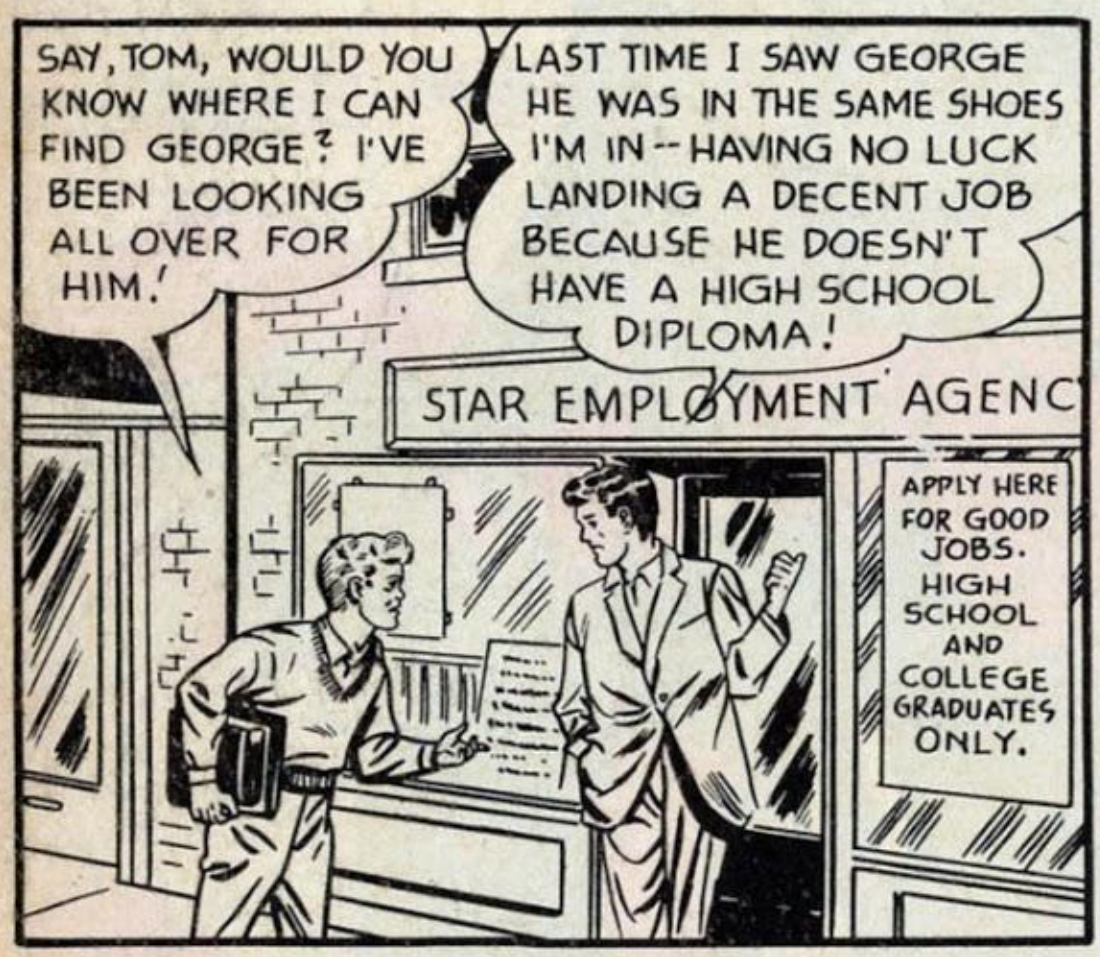
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JUNE
NO. 156
A sensational 2-part adventure--
"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"
HE--HE'S DEAD! ROBIN IS DEAD! HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME ON THIS ALIEN WORLD!
R

NOT WANTED: HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS!





PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.
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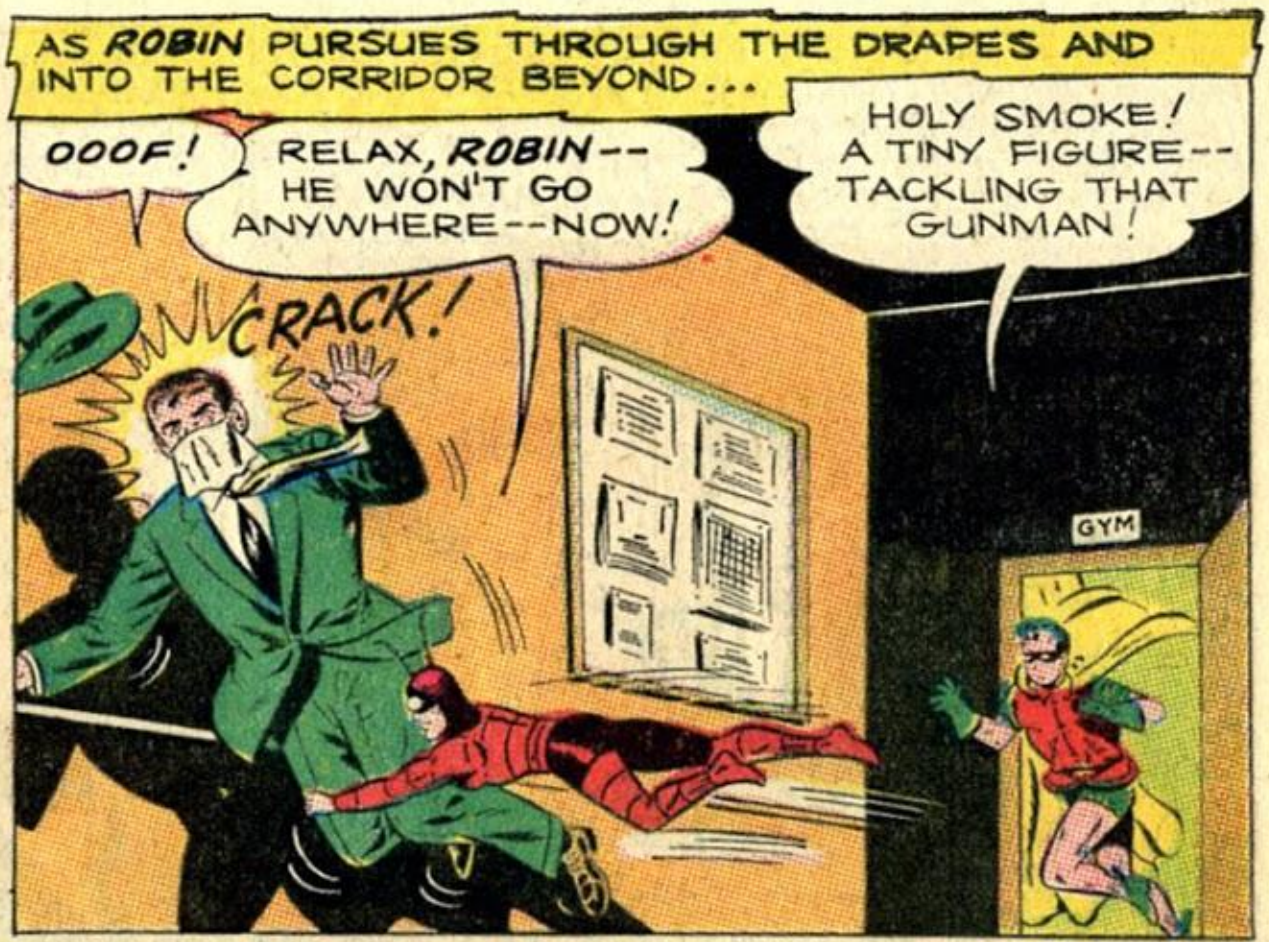
BATMAN, No. 156, June, 1963. Published monthly, with the exception of Jan., April, July, and Oct., by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N. Y. Editor: Jack Schiff. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U. S., 95c including postage. Foreign, $1.90 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feiden & Co., 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y. ©1963 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U.S.A.

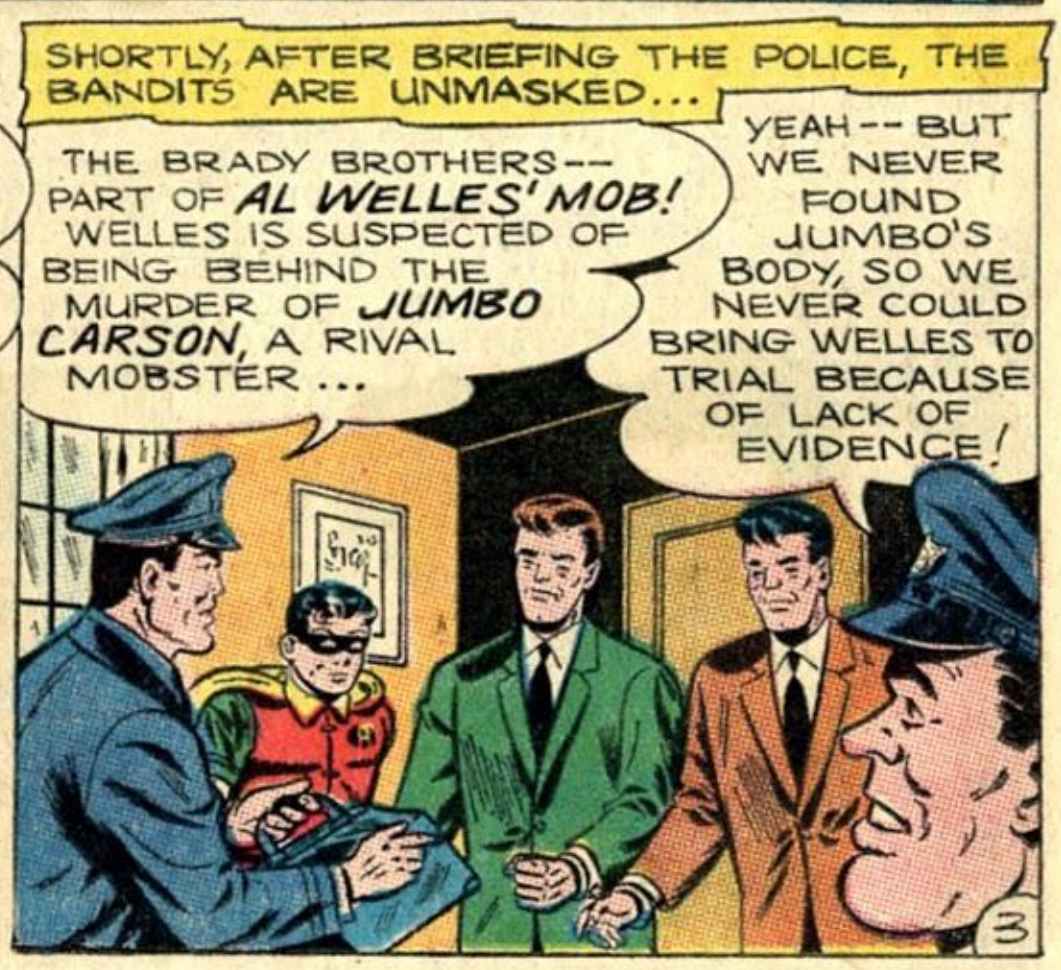
ONE MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKS SECRETLY TO HIS YOUNG WARD IN THE BAT-CAVE...
DICK, AS YOU KNOW, I'M GOING AWAY ON A TOP SECRET MISSION FOR A WHILE! WHILE I'M GONE, BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IF YOU GET INVOLVED IN A CRIME CASE...
BATMAN'S BEEN VERY SECRETIVE ABOUT THIS MISSION...
LATER, THE SECRET BOY WONDER PUTS ASIDE CRIMINAL LAW FOR SCHOOL LORE...
DICK, REMEMBER YOU'RE TAKING ME TO THE SCHOOL DANCE TONIGHT!
HOW COULD I FORGET?
THAT NIGHT, AS HAPPY YOUNG PEOPLE CROWD THE GYM FLOOR...
OH, DICK, I LEFT MY SCARF ON THE TERRACE WHEN WE WERE TALKING OUT THERE BEFORE...
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU, EDIE, AFTER THIS DANCE...
SHORTLY, AS DICK HEADS FOR THE TERRACE...
QUIET, PLEASE! NOW I HAVE THE HONOR TO INTRODUCE AN EX-ALUMNUS--OUR GOOD BENEFACTOR, H.H. HOBBS! AS YOU PROBABLY HAVE HEARD, MR. HOBBS IS DRAMATIZING OUR DRIVE FOR NEW GYM EQUIPMENT WITH A $20,000 CASH DONATION...
THE ROBBERY IS A SURPRISE--BUT SOON COMES ANOTHER SURPRISE!
WITHOUT WARNING, TWO MASKED GUNMEN SUDDENLY STEP FROM BEHIND THE BACKDROP...
DON'T NONE O' YOU KIDS MOVE!
HAND OVER THAT SATCHEL OF DOUGH, HOBBS!
LOOK! IT'S ROBIN! ISN'T HE JUST TOO, TOO WONDERFUL?
BEING OUTSIDE MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO MAKE A QUICK CHANGE WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

IF ROBIN'S HERE, I WANTA BE THERE!

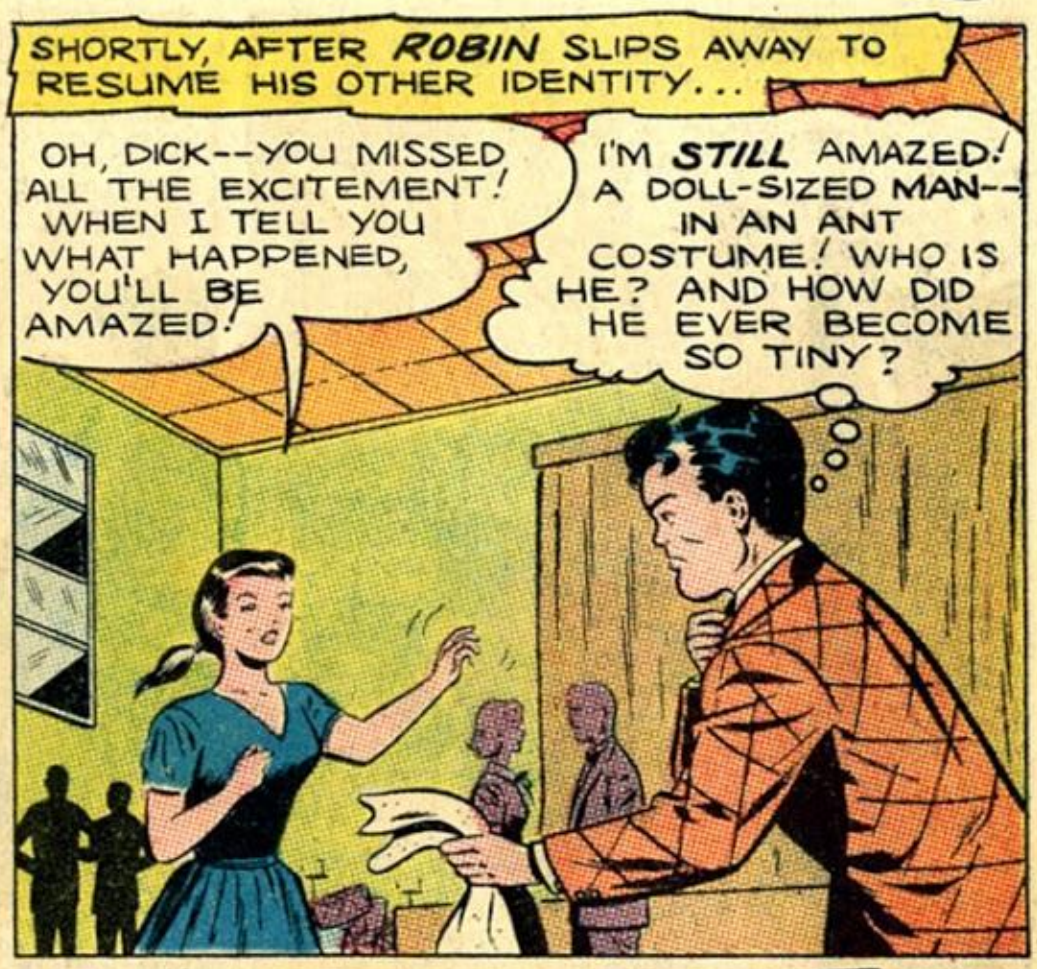

AS ROBIN PURSUES THROUGH THE DRAPES AND INTO THE CORRIDOR BEYOND...
OOOF!
RELAX, ROBIN-- HE WON'T GO ANYWHERE--NOW!
CRACK!
HOLY SMOKE! A TINY FIGURE-- TACKLING THAT GUNMAN!
GYM

A-ARE YOU REAL? WHO...?
YOU MAY CALL ME-- THE ANT MAN! THE NAME IS APT--FOR, LIKE THE ANT, I POSSESS PHYSICAL PROWESS MANY TIMES MY SMALL SIZE!

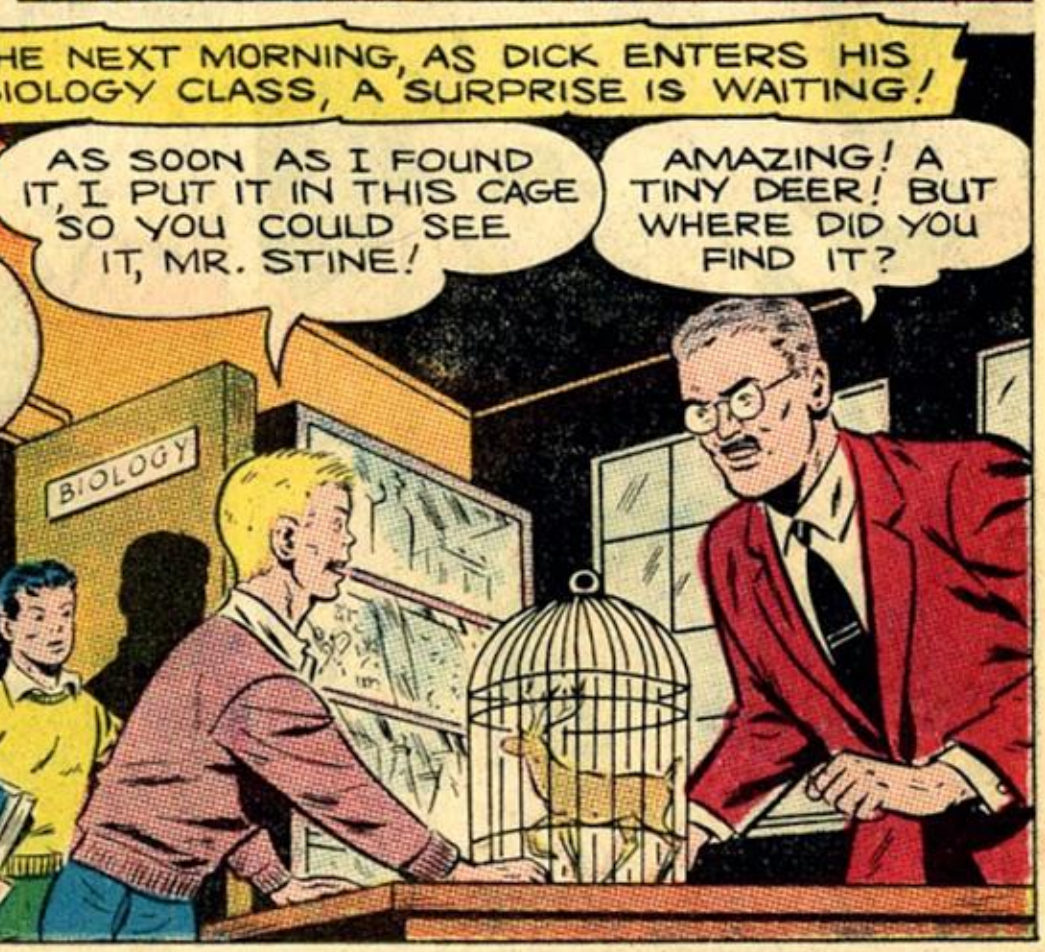
THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
AND MY TINY SIZE IS CONVENIENT WHEN I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO SUDDENLY GET CURIOUS ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY!
GOOD HEAVENS! A TINY MAN-- ESCAPING THROUGH THE VENTILATOR DUCT!


SHORTLY, AFTER BRIEFING THE POLICE, THE BANDITS ARE UNMASKED...
THE BRADY BROTHERS-- PART OF AL WELLES' MOB! WELLES IS SUSPECTED OF BEING BEHIND THE MURDER OF JUMBO CARSON, A RIVAL MOBSTER...
YEAH-- BUT WE NEVER FOUND JUMBO'S BODY, SO WE NEVER COULD BRING WELLES TO TRIAL BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE!

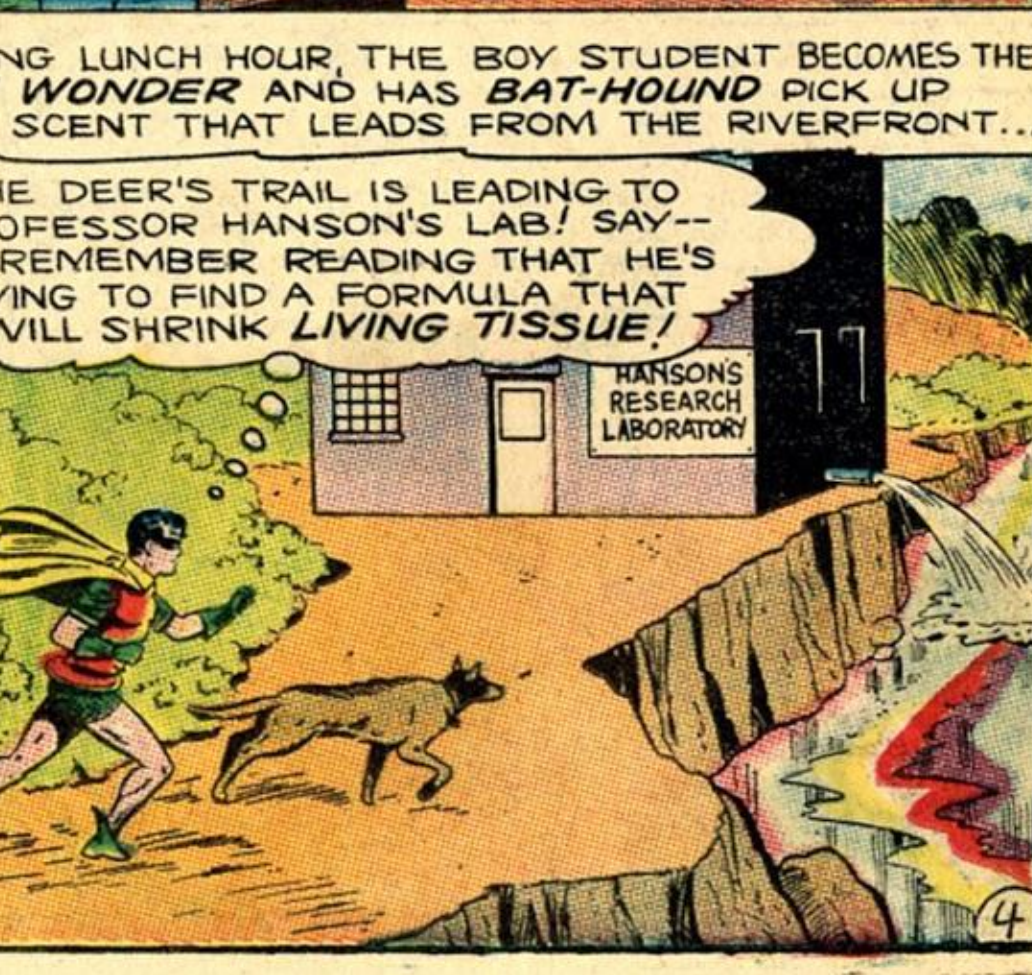
AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE THAT WILL JAIL THE BRADY BROTHERS FOR ARMED ROBBERY!
THANKS TO ROBIN--AND A NEW CRIME-FIGHTER CALLED THE ANT MAN!


SHORTLY, AFTER ROBIN SLIPS AWAY TO RESUME HIS OTHER IDENTITY...
OH, DICK--YOU MISSED ALL THE EXCITEMENT! WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, YOU'LL BE AMAZED!
I'M STILL AMAZED! A DOLL-SIZED MAN--IN AN ANT COSTUME! WHO IS HE? AND HOW DID HE EVER BECOME SO TINY?

THAT NIGHT, NEWSPAPER HEADLINES ABOUT THE ANT-MAN EVOKES ANGER FROM GANG-BOSS AL WELLES...
RELAX, BOSS--THE BRADY BROTHERS WON'T TALK!
THEY BETTER NOT! BAH! BATMAN, ROBIN... ANT-MAN! THEY DON'T SCARE ME--AND I'LL PROVE IT BY PERSONALLY TAKING CHARGE OF THE BIG JOB I GOT PLANNED FOR TOMORROW NIGHT! NOW LISTEN...
Gotham News

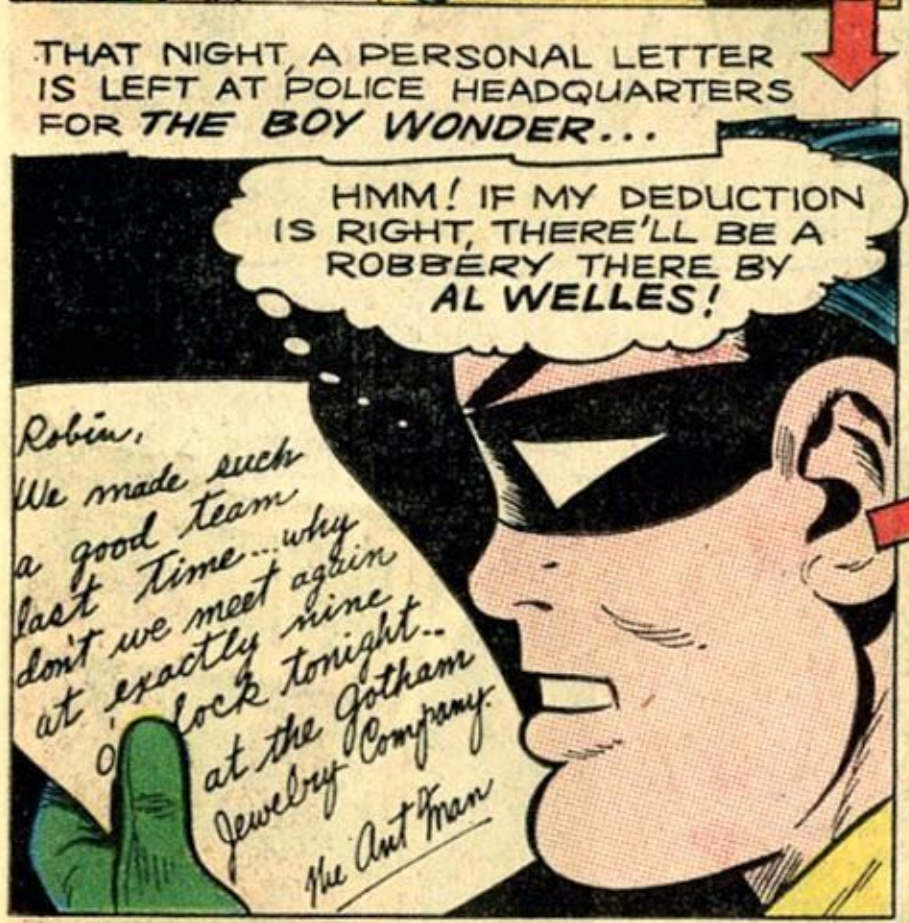

THE NEXT MORNING, AS DICK ENTERS HIS BIOLOGY CLASS, A SURPRISE IS WAITING!
AS SOON AS I FOUND IT, I PUT IT IN THIS CAGE SO YOU COULD SEE IT, MR. STINE!
AMAZING! A TINY DEER! BUT WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
BIOLOGY

JUST OUTSIDE THE WOODS AT THE RIVER--NEAR PERKINS COVE!
FIRST THE ANT-MAN--THEN THIS TINY DEER! THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION! DURING LUNCH HOUR, I'LL SLIP HOME AND GET ACE TO DO SOME TRAILING AS BAT-HOUND!


DURING LUNCH HOUR, THE BOY STUDENT BECOMES THE BOY WONDER AND HAS BAT-HOUND PICK UP THE SCENT THAT LEADS FROM THE RIVERFRONT...
THE DEER'S TRAIL IS LEADING TO PROFESSOR HANSON'S LAB! SAY--I REMEMBER READING THAT HE'S TRYING TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL SHRINK LIVING TISSUE!
HANSON'S RESEARCH LABORATORY

SUCH SECRECY!-- WHY? STRANGE-- BATMAN GOES AWAY, AND SUDDENLY A TINY, BATMAN-LIKE CRIME-FIGHTER APPEARS! HMMM...!
NO VISITORS ALLOWED KEEP OUT!

LATER, AS TWO BANDITS CRACK THE COMPANY'S BASEMENT STORAGE VAULT...
HAW! WE'RE PULLING THIS JOB RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF "BATMAN"!
JEWELERS CONVENTION
JUNE 8 - JUNE 15
HONORED GUEST SPEAKER BATMAN
L-LOOK! IT'S ROBIN!


THAT NIGHT, A PERSONAL LETTER IS LEFT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BOY WONDER...
HMM! IF MY DEDUCTION IS RIGHT, THERE'LL BE A ROBBERY THERE BY AL WELLES!
Robin, We made such a good team last time...why don't we meet again at exactly nine o'clock tonight.. at the Gotham Jewelry Company. The Ant-Man

THEN, ANOTHER FIGURE SCOOTS FORWARD TO TEAM UP WITH ROBIN...
OKAY, KID-- YOU HANDLE THAT CHARACTER WHILE I TAKE CARE OF WELLES!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH, BA... I MEAN... ANT-MAN!

ANT-MAN, I'LL MAKE A GUESS THAT YOU USED YOUR TINY SIZE TO SNEAK INTO WELLES' HEADQUARTERS TO EAVESDROP ON HIS PLANS! THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE ROBBERIES IN ADVANCE!
RIGHT! AND WELLES HOLDS THE EVIDENCE IN HIS HAND THAT WILL CONVICT HIM!

WITHOUT WARNING, THE *ANT-MAN* SUDDENLY SNATCHES UP THE VALUSE OF DIAMONDS, AND...

SINCE YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT WELLES-- YOU WON'T NEED THE SATCHEL OF JEWELS, TOO!

UHHH...?

BY THE TIME THE MYSTIFIED BOY GAINS HIS FEET, *ANT-MAN* IS GONE-- WITH A FORTUNE IN GEMS!

I THOUGHT *BATMAN* WAS *ANT-MAN*--THAT *BATMAN* HAD GOTTEN PROFESSOR HANSON TO REDUCE HIS SIZE TEMPORARILY SO HE COULD GET EVIDENCE AGAINST THE WELLES GANG FOR THE JUMBO CARSON MURDER--BUT IF *BATMAN* IS *ANT-MAN*, WHY WOULD HE STEAL THOSE GEMS?

THAT NIGHT, THE LATE EDITIONS BLAZON HEADLINE NEWS...

Gotham Gazette

PROFESSOR HANSON FINDS FORMULA TO SHRINK HUMAN BEINGS!

SCIENTIST ALSO CLAIMS HE HAS ANTIDOTE FOR RESTORING TO NORMAL SIZE!

MUCH LATER THAT NIGHT, A DIMINUTIVE INTRUDER STEALS INTO PROFESSOR HANSON'S LABORATORY...

ANT-MAN!

IT'S BECAUSE OF *YOU* THAT I'M THIS SIZE! NOW, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, YOU'LL GIVE ME A LARGE BOTTLE OF THE ANTIDOTE--*AND* A BOTTLE OF THE *SHRINK CHEMICALS!*

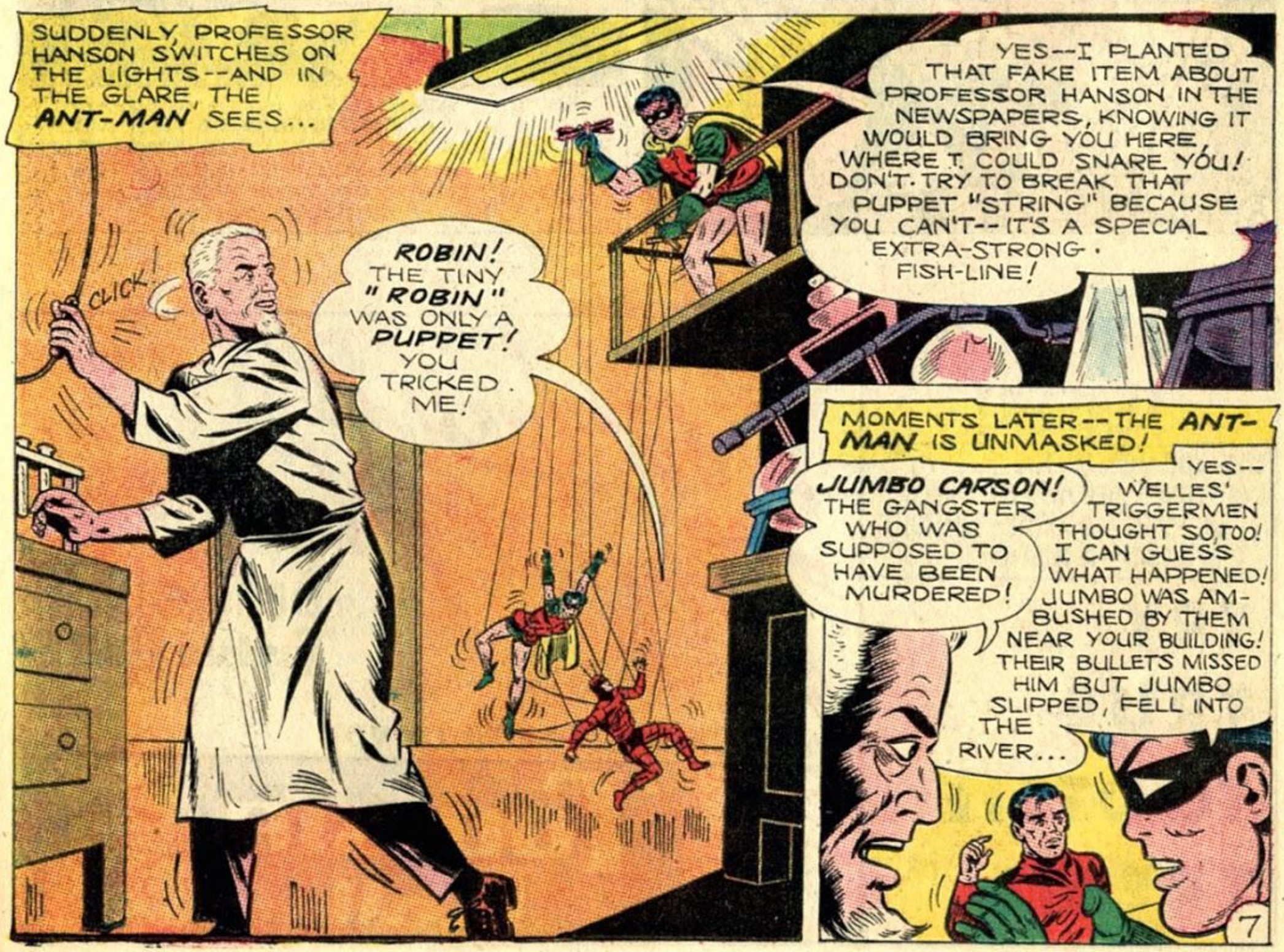
I'VE GOT PLANS, HANSON! I'LL DRINK A LITTLE *SHRINK* FORMULA, BECOME *ANT-MAN*, AND PULL CRIMES! THEN I'LL DRINK THE *ANTIDOTE*, BECOME NORMAL SIZE AND NO COP WILL SUSPECT I'M THE *ANT-MAN!* I'LL DO THAT UNTIL I RETIRE WITH A FORTUNE! NEAT, EH?

NO, *ANT-MAN*--BECAUSE *ROBIN* ANTICIPATED YOUR PLANS--AND TO STOP THEM, *ROBIN* MADE ME SHRINK HIS SIZE TOO, SO YOU COULDN'T SLIP AWAY FROM HIM!

SO--NOW WE'RE ON EQUAL TERMS, EH? THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! YOU'VE ONLY GOT A BOY'S STRENGTH...

... BUT I'VE THE STRENGTH OF A MAN! HAW! YOU FOLDED EASILY...

SUDDENLY...
ROBIN--MOVING AROUND ME! BUT EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T TOUCHING ME, MY ARMS AND LEGS ARE CAUGHT BY SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE!


SUDDENLY, PROFESSOR HANSON SWITCHES ON THE LIGHTS--AND IN THE GLARE, THE ANT-MAN SEES...
CLICK!
ROBIN! THE TINY "ROBIN" WAS ONLY A PUPPET! YOU TRICKED ME!
YES--I PLANTED THAT FAKE ITEM ABOUT PROFESSOR HANSON IN THE NEWSPAPERS, KNOWING IT WOULD BRING YOU HERE, WHERE I COULD SNARE YOU! DON'T TRY TO BREAK THAT PUPPET "STRING" BECAUSE YOU CAN'T--IT'S A SPECIAL EXTRA-STRONG FISH-LINE!
MOMENTS LATER--THE ANT-MAN IS UNMASKED!
JUMBO CARSON! THE GANGSTER WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED!
YES--WELLES' TRIGGERMEN THOUGHT SO, TOO! I CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENED! JUMBO WAS AMBUSHED BY THEM NEAR YOUR BUILDING! THEIR BULLETS MISSED HIM BUT JUMBO SLIPPED, FELL INTO THE RIVER...

"BUT HE FELL IN RIGHT UNDER THE PIPE THAT CARRIED **WASTE CHEMICALS** FROM YOUR EXPERIMENTS INTO THE WATER-- AND THE FREAK CHEMICAL MIXTURE ACCIDENTALLY MADE THE **SHRINK FORMULA...**"

HE WENT DOWN FOR GOOD! OUR SLUGS GOT HIM! LET'S GO!

I'VE BECOME SO TINY, THEY DIDN'T SEE ME COME UP BEHIND THESE ROCKS!

"LATER, HAVING READ ABOUT PROFESSOR HANSON'S EXPERIMENTS, JUMBO REALIZED THE TRUTH..."

THOUGH I'VE BECOME SMALL, MY WEIGHT AND DENSITY IS THE SAME! LIKE AN ANT, I'VE GOT PROWESS MANY TIMES MY TINY SIZE! HMM! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA ON HOW TO GET EVEN WITH THE WELLES GANG...

OKAY--SKIP THE REST! JAIL ME FOR STEALING THAT SATCHEL OF GEMS--BUT FIRST GIVE ME THE ANTIDOTE SO I CAN BE MY NORMAL SIZE AGAIN!

PROFESSOR HANSON HASN'T PERFECTED IT YET! IT MAY TAKE TIME BEFORE HE FINDS AN **ANTIDOTE FOR AN ANT-MAN!**

SO, THE CASE ENDS--BUT **ROBIN** DOES NOT YET HAVE THE ANSWERS TO **ANOTHER** MYSTERY...

I WONDER WHERE **BATMAN** WENT--AND WHY HE WAS SO SECRETIVE ABOUT HIS MISSION? WHERE IS HE? **WHERE?**

YES, ONE ADVENTURE HAS ENDED--ONE THAT IS BUT A **PROLOGUE** TO THE MOST PERPLEXING, MOST DANGEROUS ADVENTURE YET TO COME, AS YOU WILL SEE IN THE 2-PART THRILLER THAT FOLLOWS-- **"ROBIN DIES AT DAWN!"**

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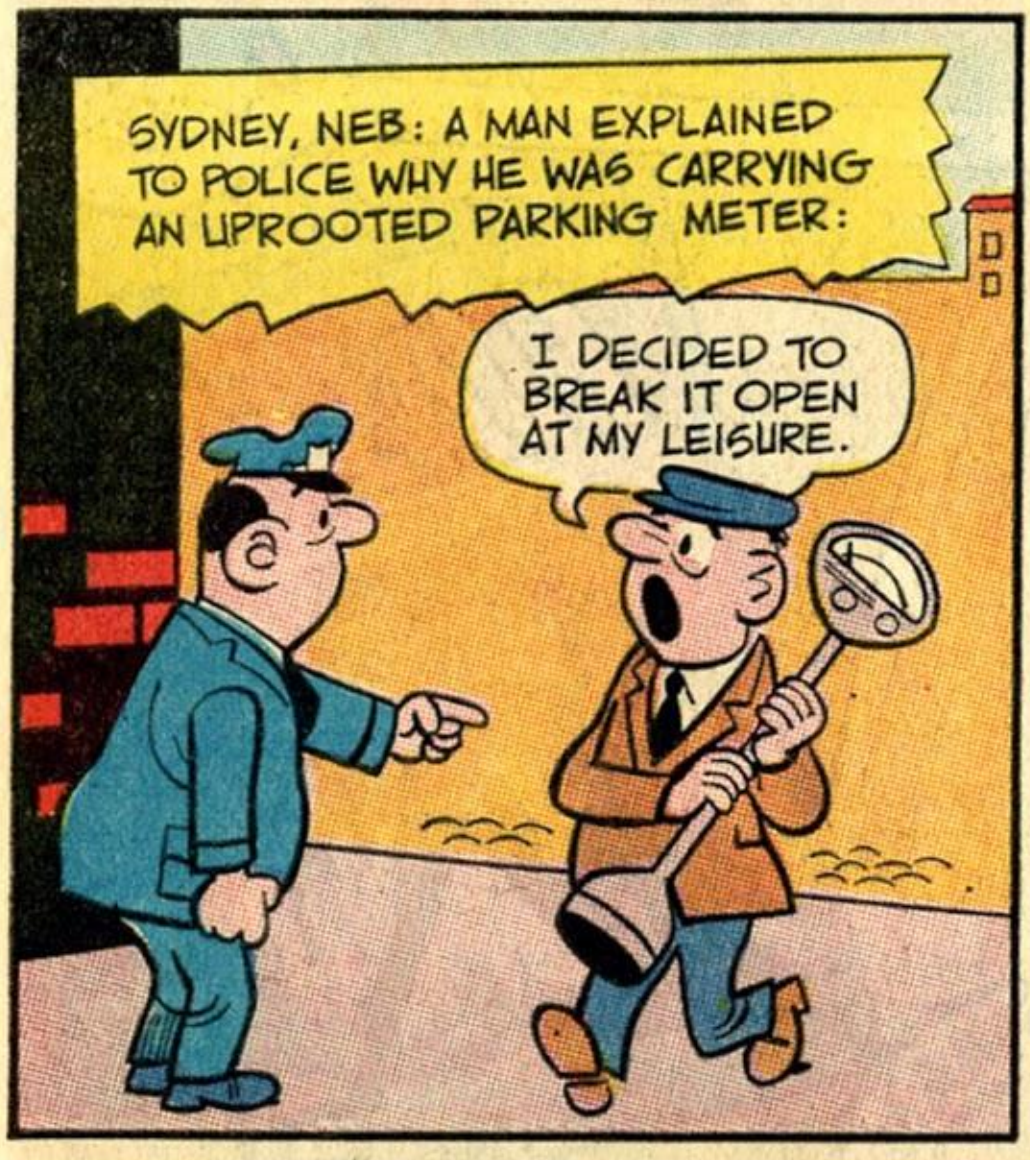
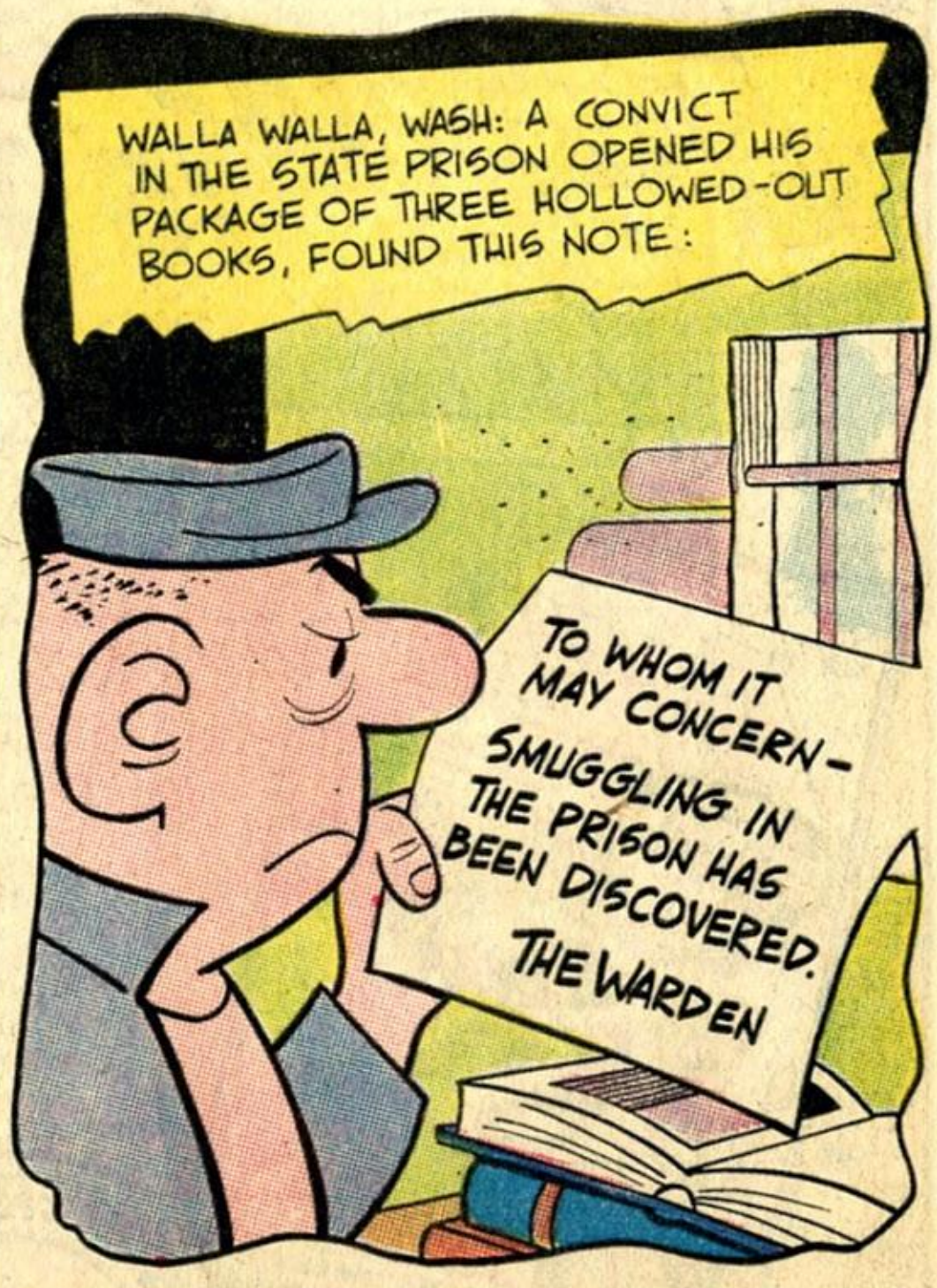
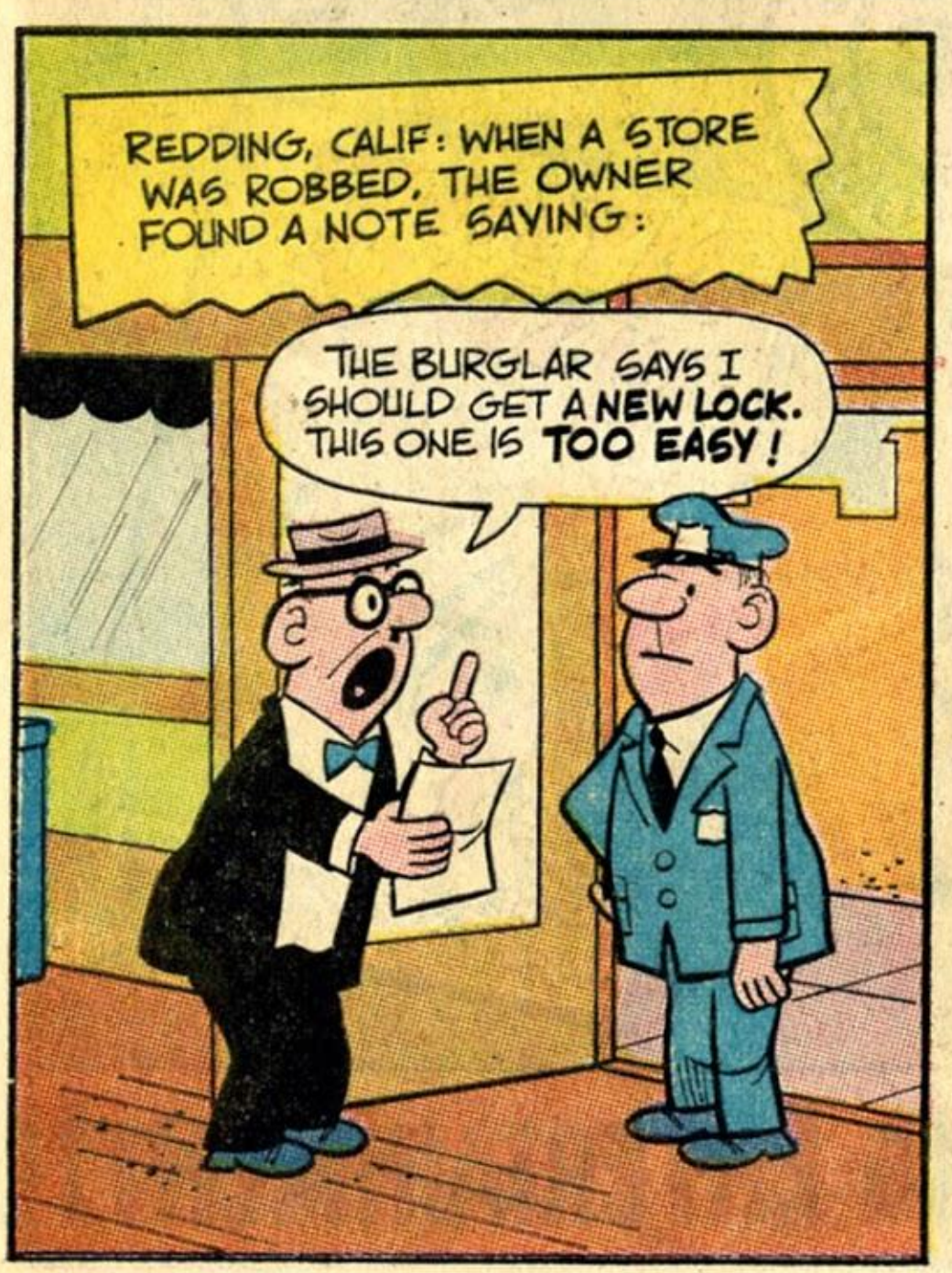
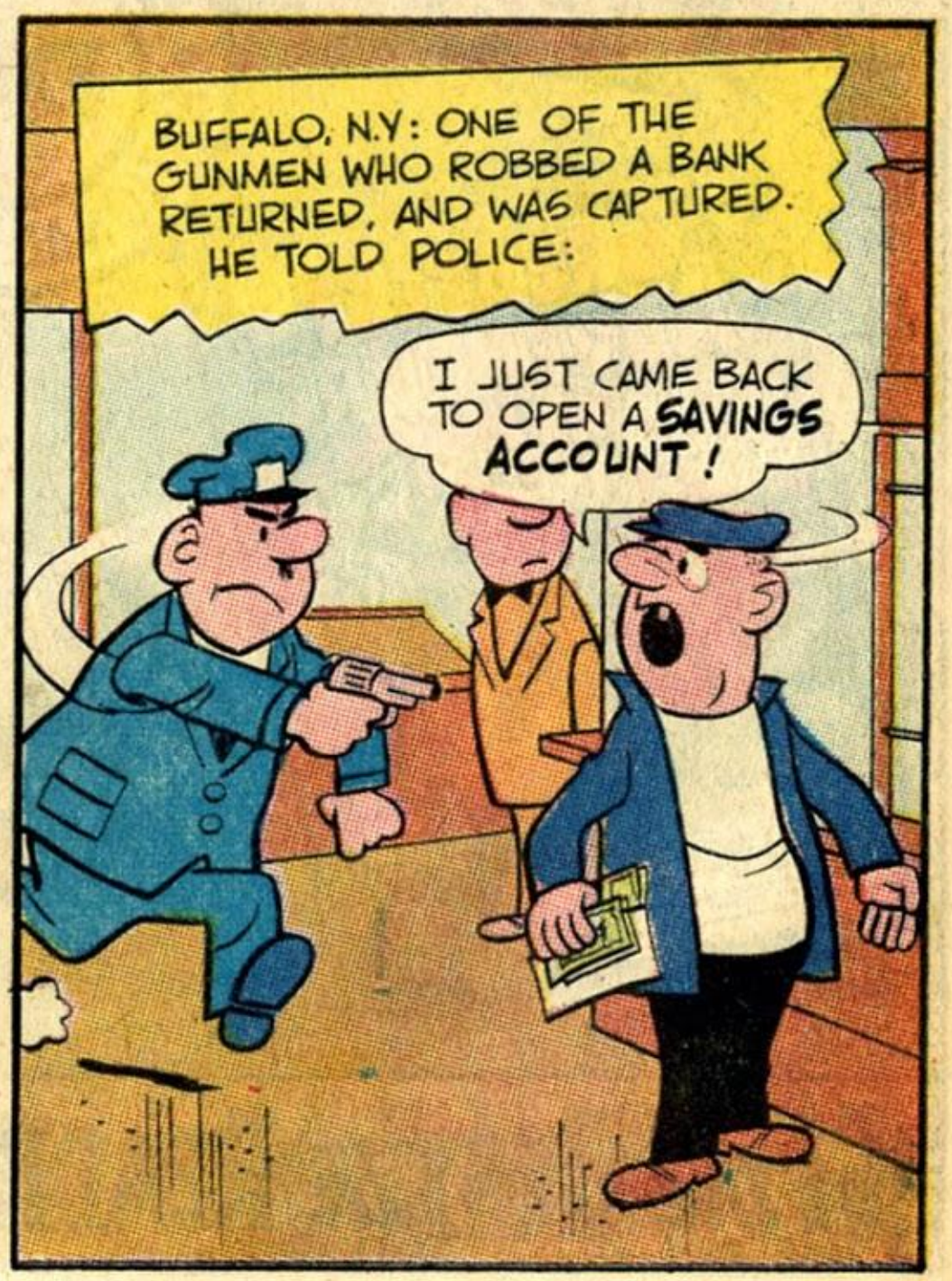
TRUE CRIME LAFFS



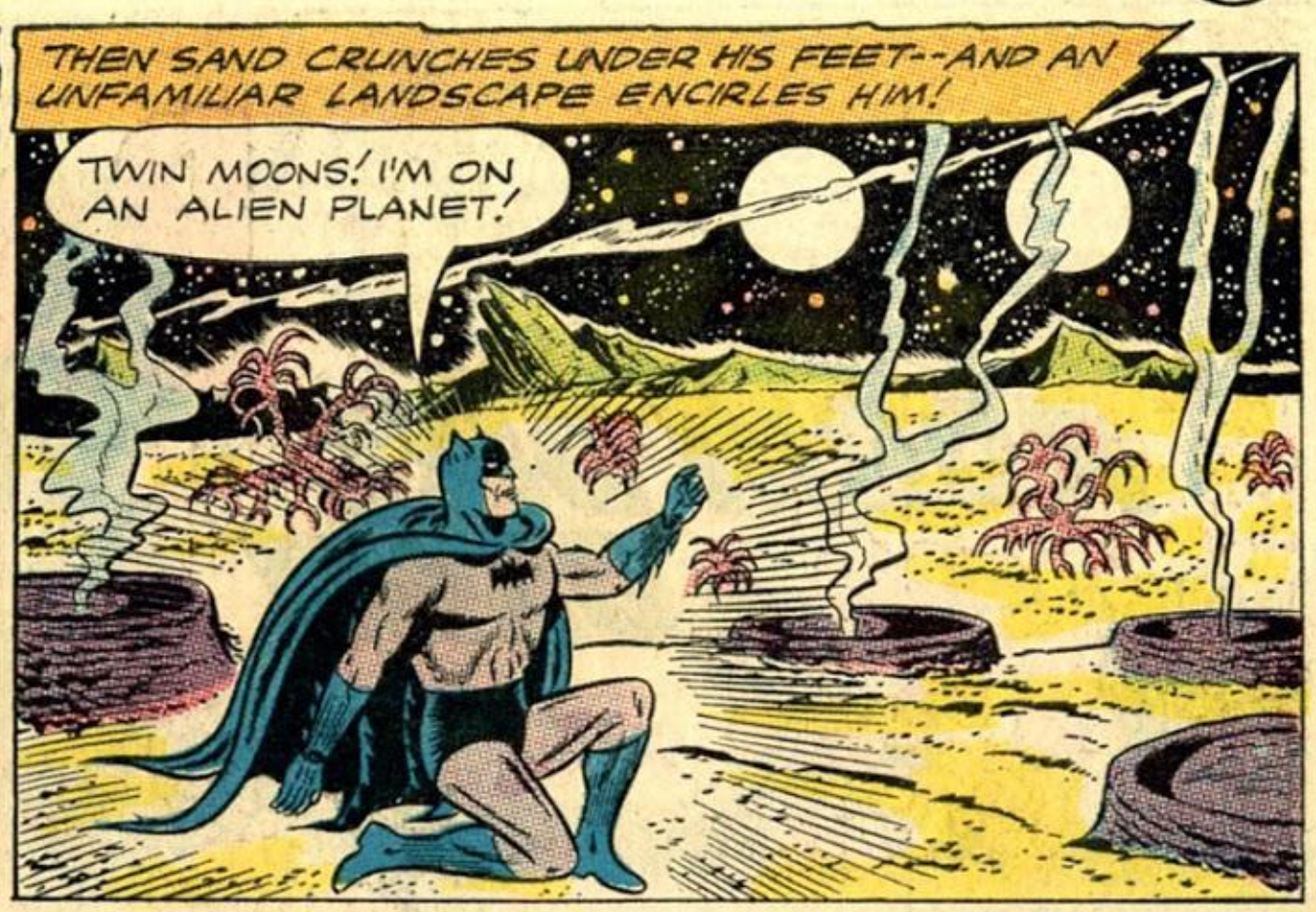


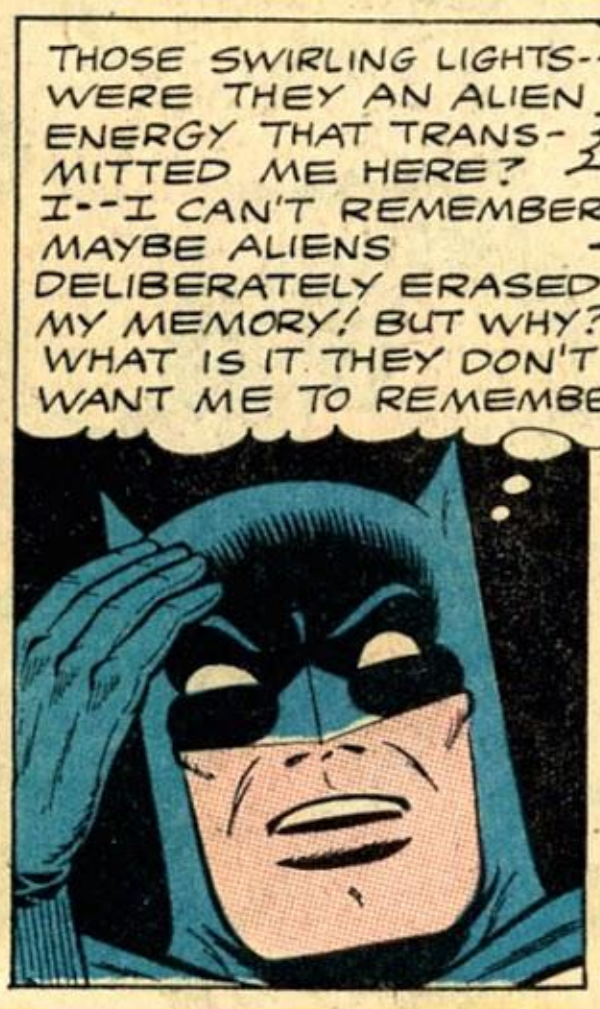




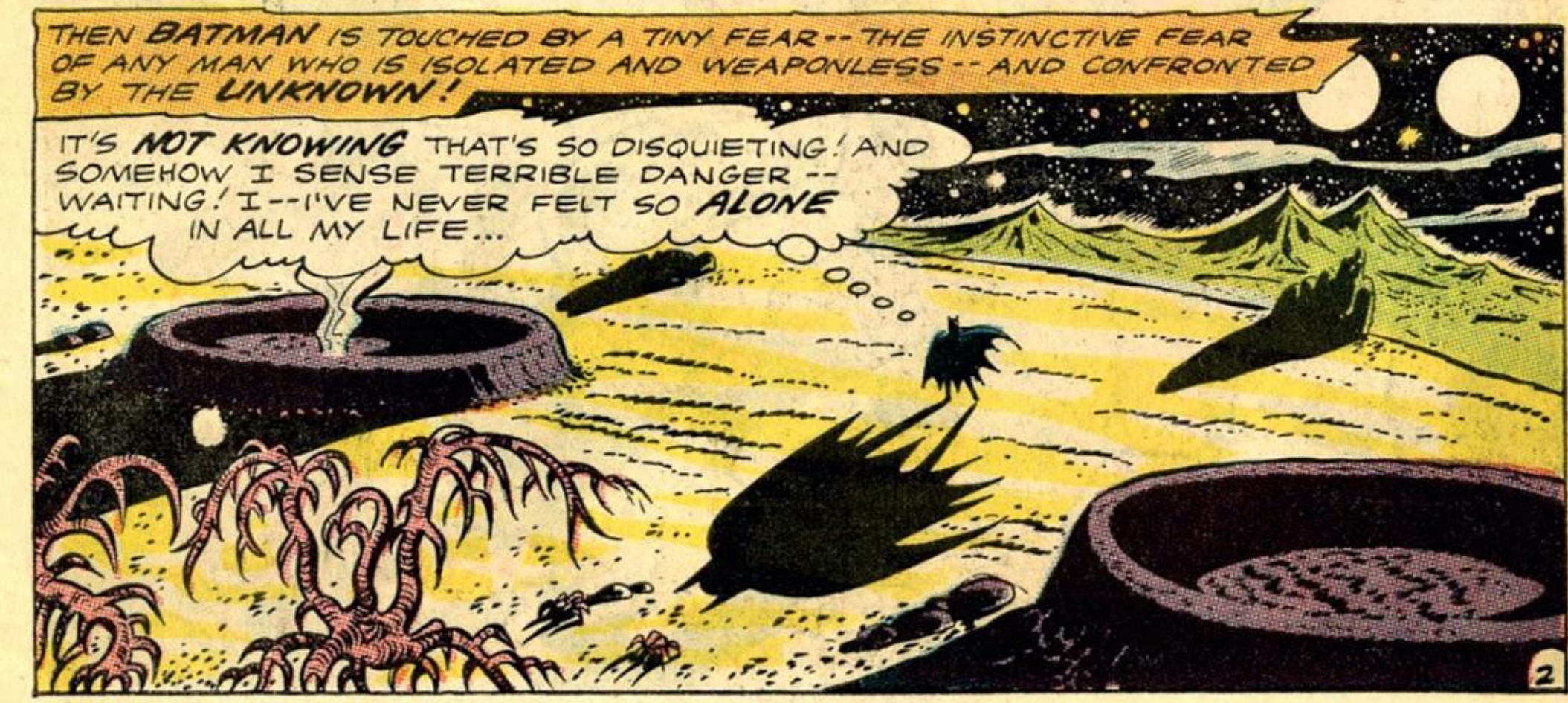
THE FRIENDSHIP OF BATMAN AND ROBIN IS ONE THAT HAS STOOD STEADFAST AS A ROCK! TO BATMAN, ROBIN IS LIKE HIS OWN SON -- AND ROBIN WOULD BRAVE ANY DANGER TO KEEP BATMAN FROM HARM! NOW THIS FRIENDSHIP BECOMES THE PIVOTAL POINT OF A STRANGE ADVENTURE IN A FANTASTIC WORLD -- A WORLD WHERE DOOM WAITS, AND WHERE BATMAN IS CONFRONTED BY THE TERRIBLE TRUTH THAT...
ROBIN DIES AT DAWN
BATMAN With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
CHAPTER 1
IT'S COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN-- RUN!
THE STONE IDOL IS ALIVE!
BOB KANE

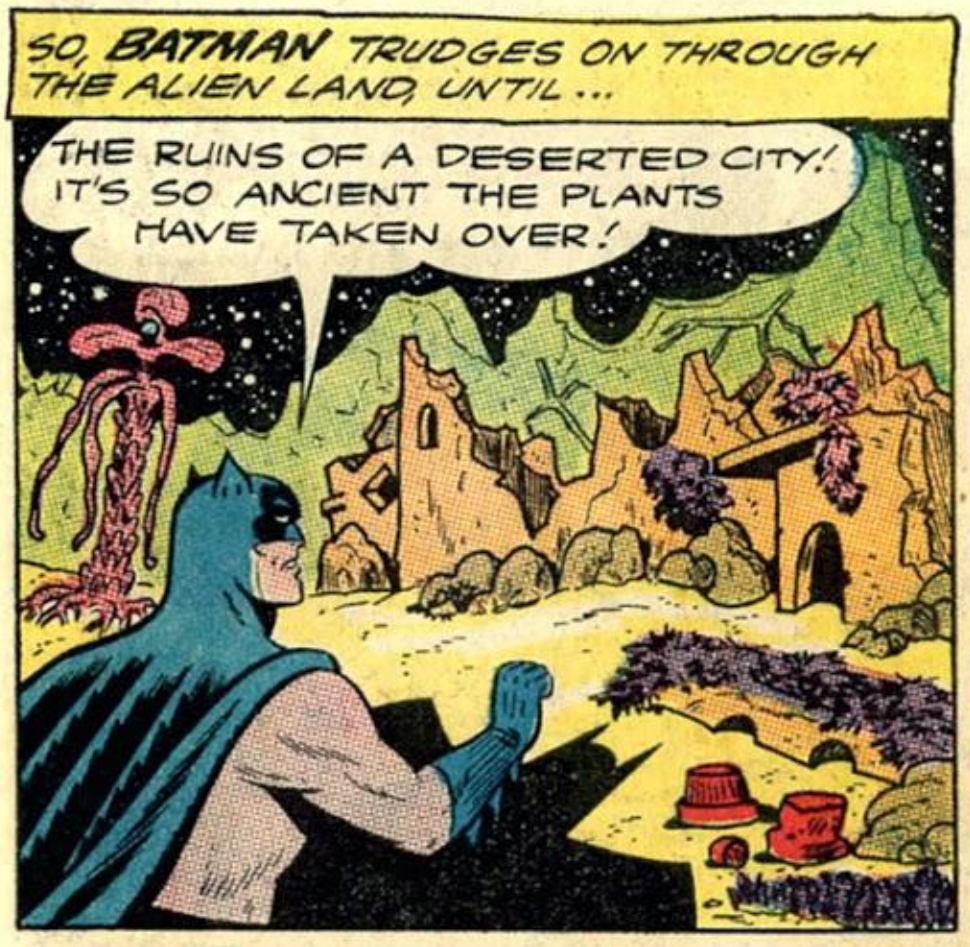
"WHERE IS BATMAN?" ROBIN WONDERS! AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER SOON WONDERS, TOO-- FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS IS A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF!
ALL BATMAN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS BEING SWEPT ALONG BY SWIRLING LIGHTS THROUGH VAST REACHES OF SPACE...


THEN SAND CRUNCHES UNDER HIS FEET--AND AN UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE ENCIRLES HIM!
TWIN MOONS! I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET!


THOSE SWIRLING LIGHTS-- WERE THEY AN ALIEN ENERGY THAT TRANS-MITTED ME HERE? I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! MAYBE ALIENS DELIBERATELY ERASED MY MEMORY! BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?

MY UTILITY-BELT IS GONE-- WITH MY BAT-ROPE AND BATARANGS! I'VE BEEN MADE DEFENSELESS-- THRUST ON AN ALIEN WORLD-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!

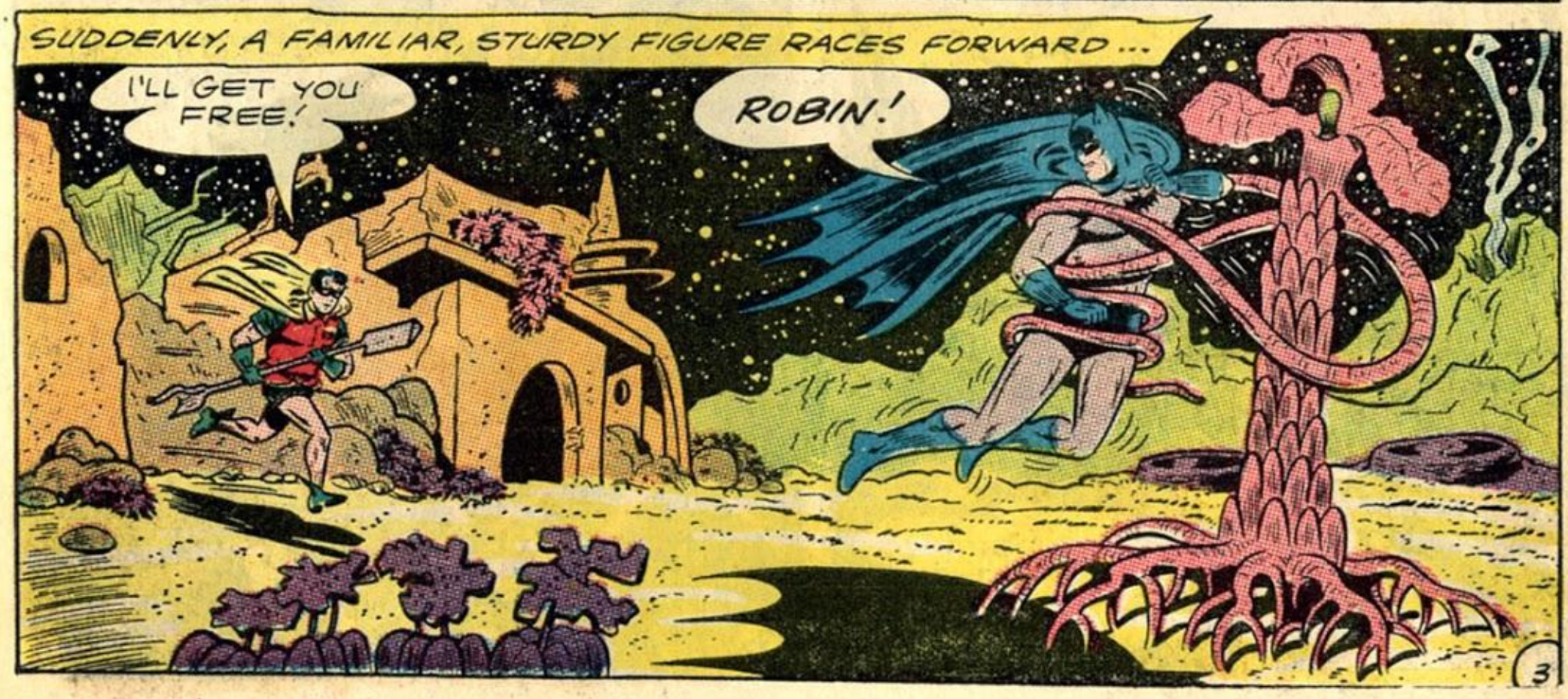

THEN BATMAN IS TOUCHED BY A TINY FEAR-- THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF ANY MAN WHO IS ISOLATED AND WEAPONLESS-- AND CONFRONTED BY THE UNKNOWN!
IT'S NOT KNOWING THAT'S SO DISQUIETING! AND SOMEHOW I SENSE TERRIBLE DANGER-- WAITING! I--I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE...


SO, BATMAN TRUDGES ON THROUGH THE ALIEN LAND, UNTIL ...
THE RUINS OF A DESERTED CITY! IT'S SO ANCIENT THE PLANTS HAVE TAKEN OVER!

WITHOUT WARNING, SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT AT HIM ...
GREAT SCOTT! THAT PLANT'S TENDRIL HAS ELONGATED AND WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND ME! GOT TO YANK MYSELF LOOSE!

BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE ...
UH--CAN'T FREE MY ARM! I'M HELPLESS!

THEN AS THE TERRIBLE PLANT RELENTLESSLY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP...
IF ONLY ROBIN WERE HERE TO HELP ME! ROBIN! WHERE ARE YOU, ROBIN? ROBIN!


SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, STURDY FIGURE RACES FORWARD ...
I'LL GET YOU FREE!
ROBIN!

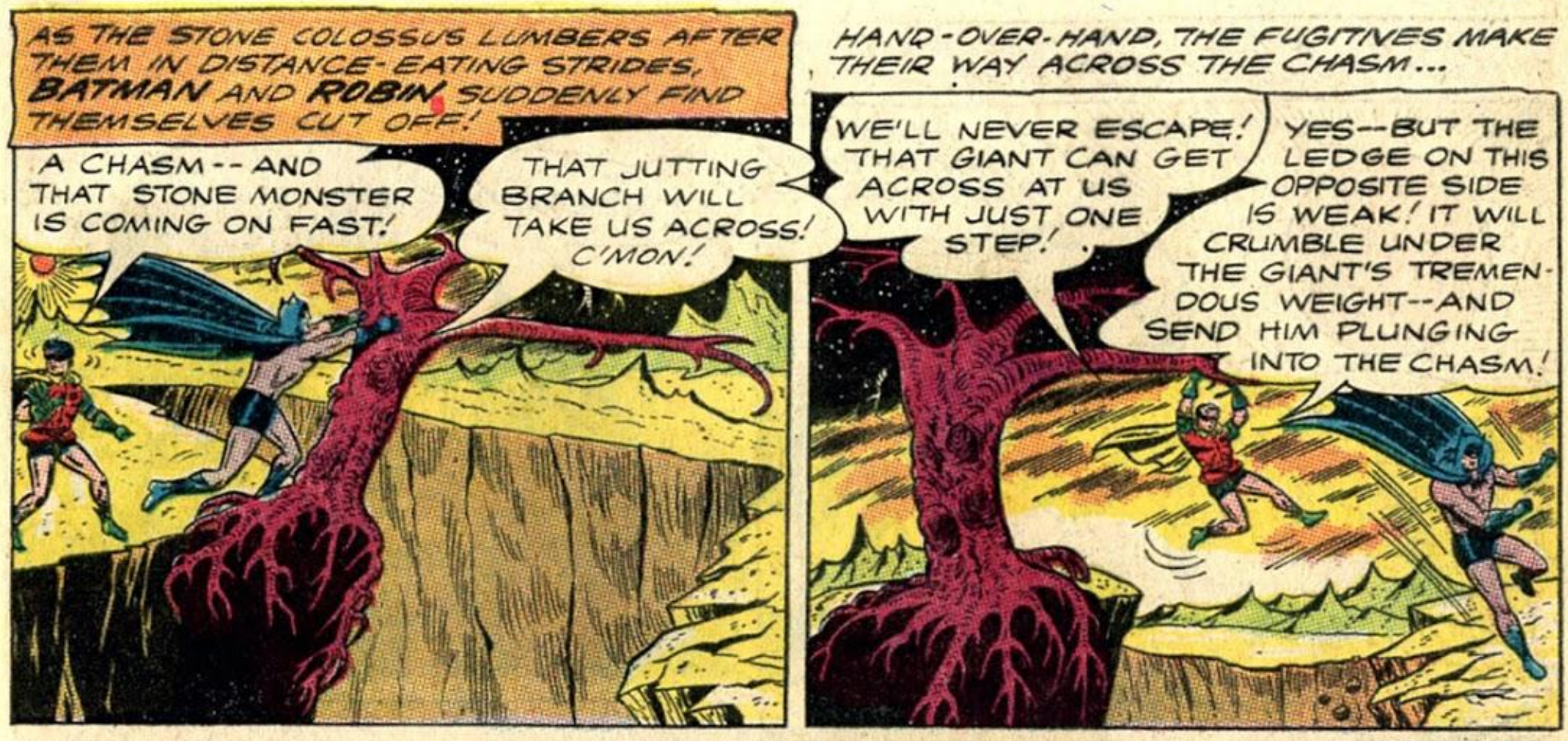
ALL RIGHT NOW?
CRACK
YES-- THE TENDRILS HAVE RELAXED THEIR GRIP!

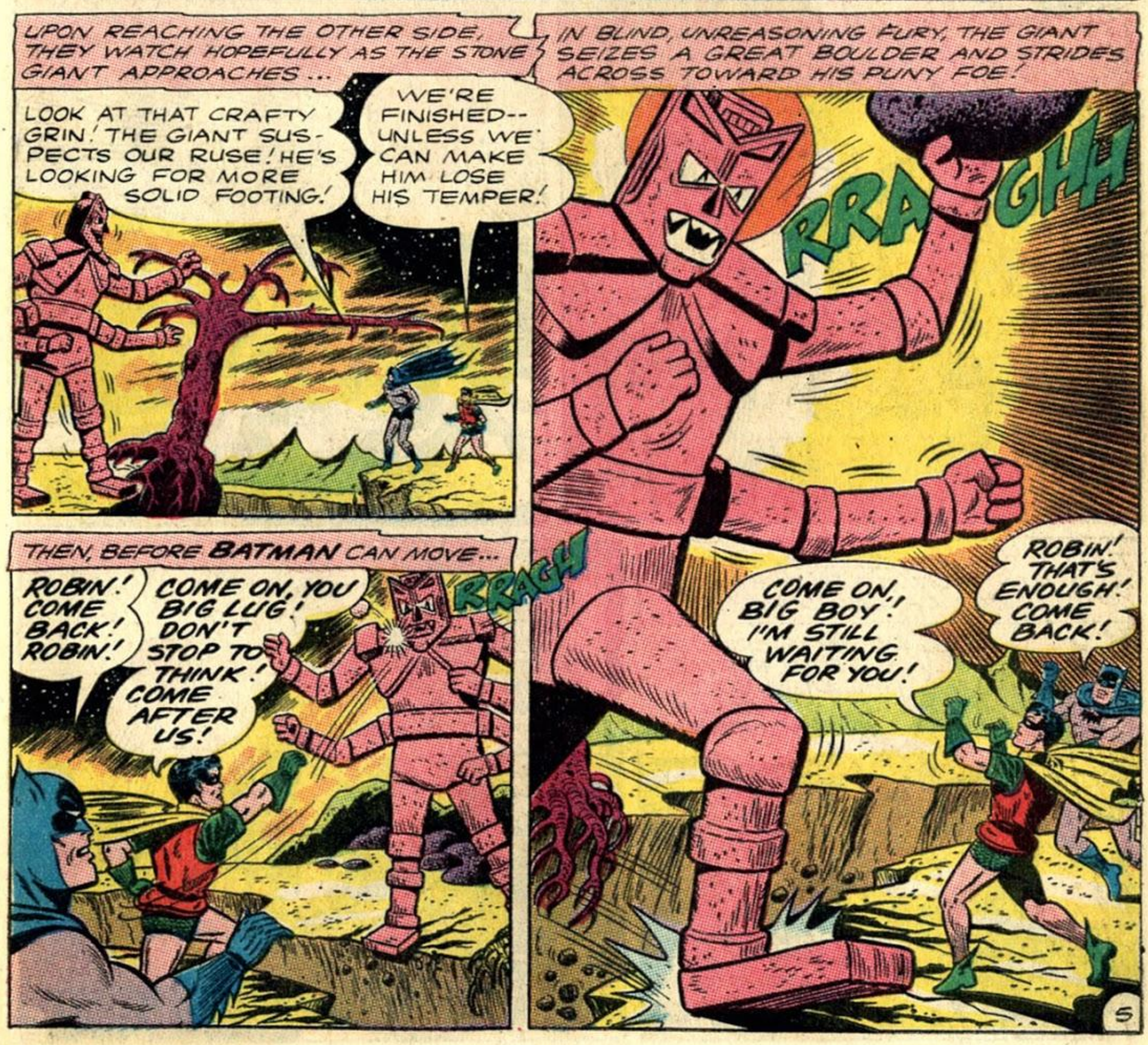
ROBIN--HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
NO TIME TO TALK NOW! MORE PLANTS ARE COMING! THEY CAN WALK! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE--FAST!

LATER...
THE SUN! DAWN'S APPROACHING!
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY? WHY DO I FEEL THAT THERE ARE EYES WATCHING-- EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE!

LOOK! A GIANT STATUE!
IT MUST BE AN IDOL THAT THE ALIENS WORSHIP!

THEN, AMAZINGLY, THE STONE FIGURE SUDDENLY REARS ERECT!
IT'S ALIVE-- AND COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN-- RUN!

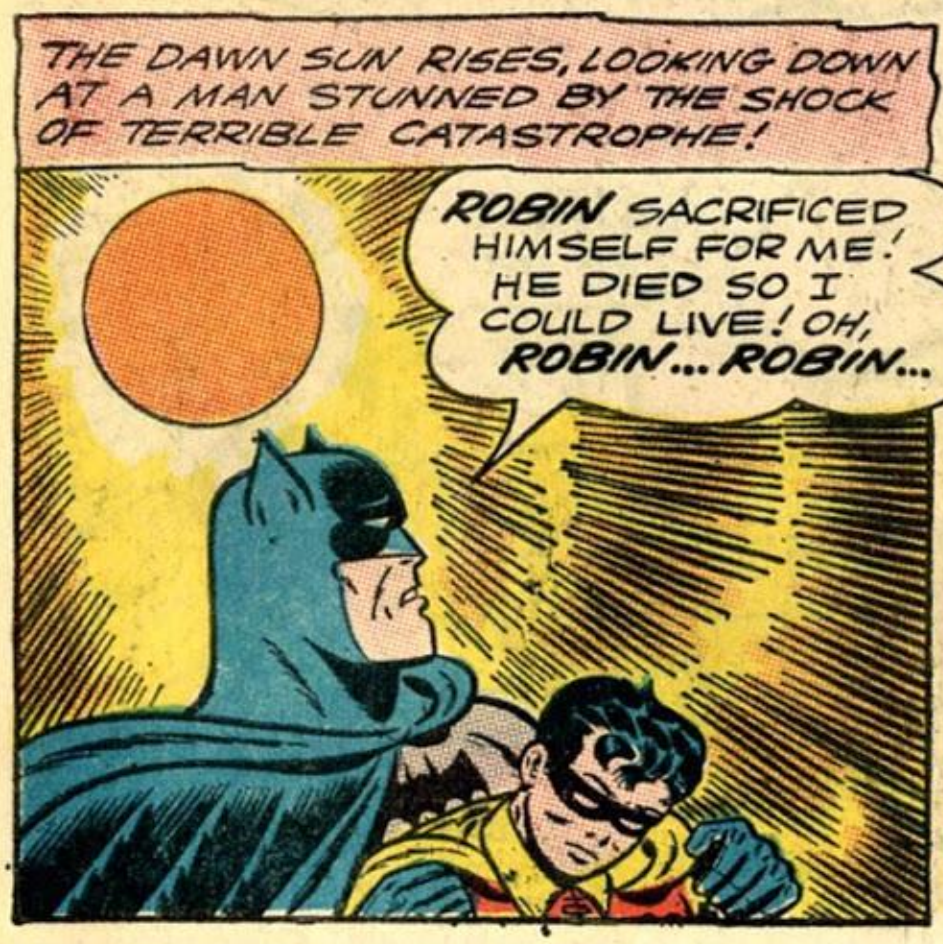

AS THE STONE COLOSSUS LUMBERS AFTER THEM IN DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF!
A CHASM -- AND THAT STONE MONSTER IS COMING ON FAST!
THAT JUTTING BRANCH WILL TAKE US ACROSS! C'MON!
HAND-OVER-HAND, THE FUGITIVES MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE CHASM...
WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE! THAT GIANT CAN GET ACROSS AT US WITH JUST ONE STEP!
YES--BUT THE LEDGE ON THIS OPPOSITE SIDE IS WEAK! IT WILL CRUMBLE UNDER THE GIANT'S TREMENDOUS WEIGHT--AND SEND HIM PLUNGING INTO THE CHASM!

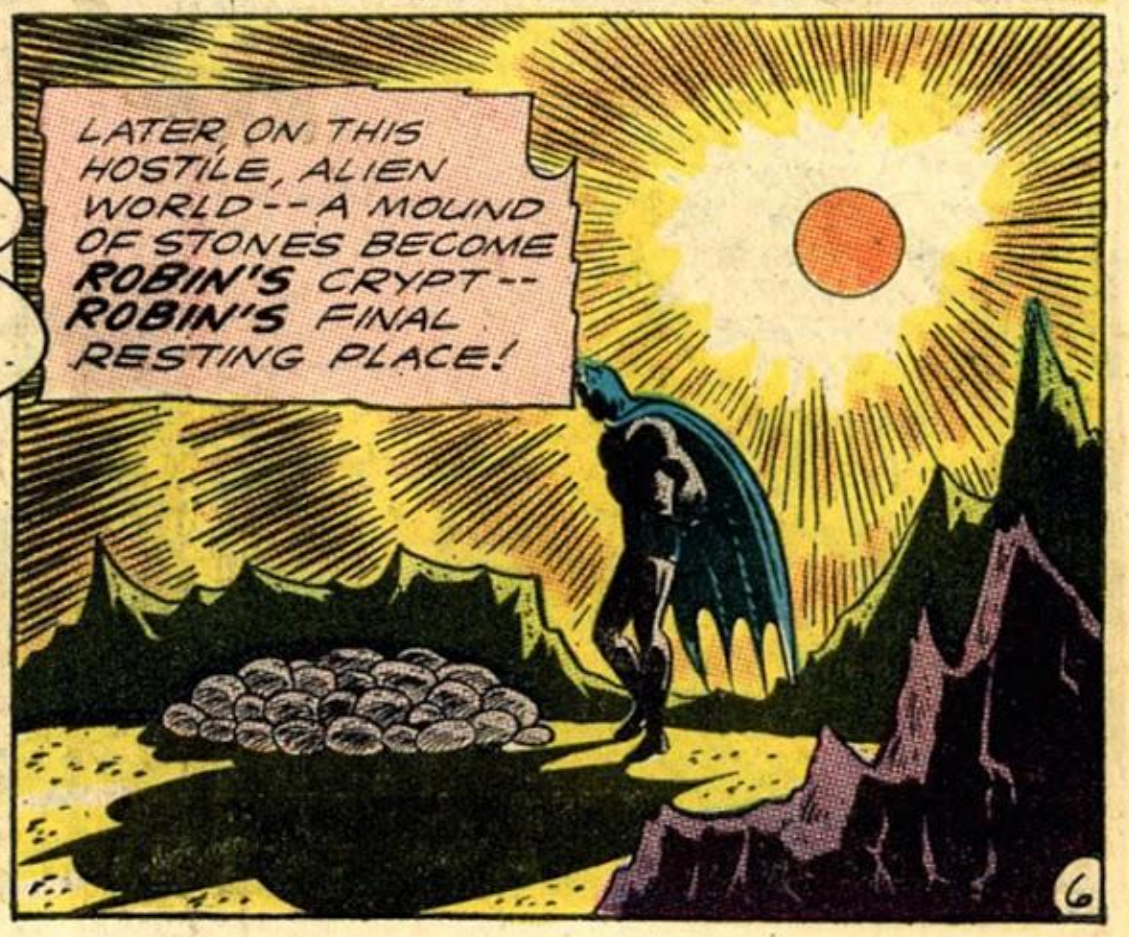

UPON REACHING THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WATCH HOPEFULLY AS THE STONE GIANT APPROACHES...
LOOK AT THAT CRAFTY GRIN! THE GIANT SUSPECTS OUR RUSE! HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE SOLID FOOTING!
WE'RE FINISHED-- UNLESS WE CAN MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!
IN BLIND, UNREASONING FURY, THE GIANT SEIZES A GREAT BOULDER AND STRIDES ACROSS TOWARD HIS PUNY FOE!
RRA
GHH
THEN, BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...
ROBIN! COME BACK! ROBIN!
COME ON, YOU BIG LUG! DON'T STOP TO THINK! COME AFTER US!
RRAGH
COME ON, BIG BOY! I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU!
ROBIN! THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK!

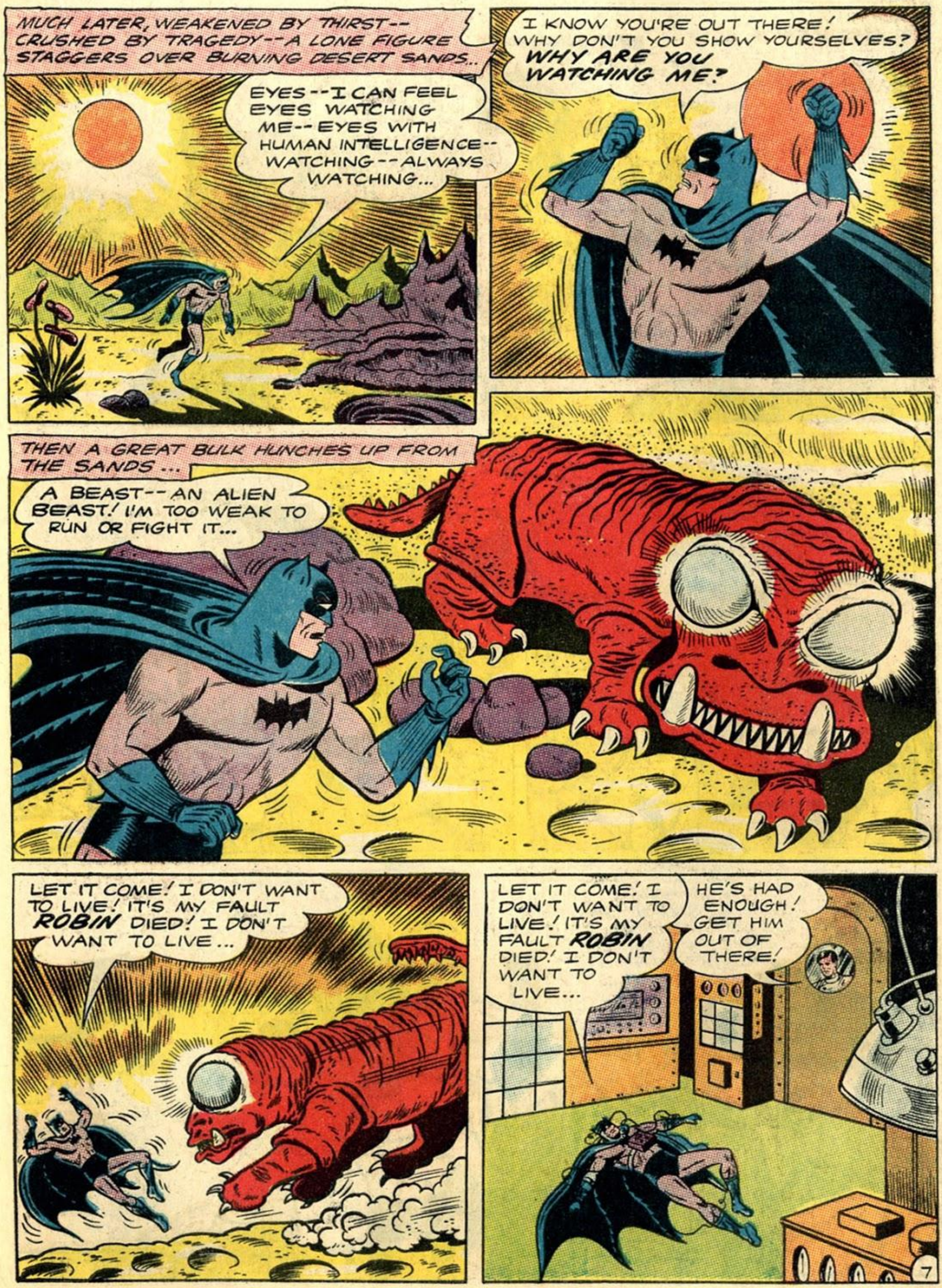
AS THE WEAK LEDGE CRUMBLES UNDER THE GIANT'S COLOSSAL WEIGHT...
ROBIN! WATCH OUT!-- THAT BOULDER!
UHHH!

ROBIN!

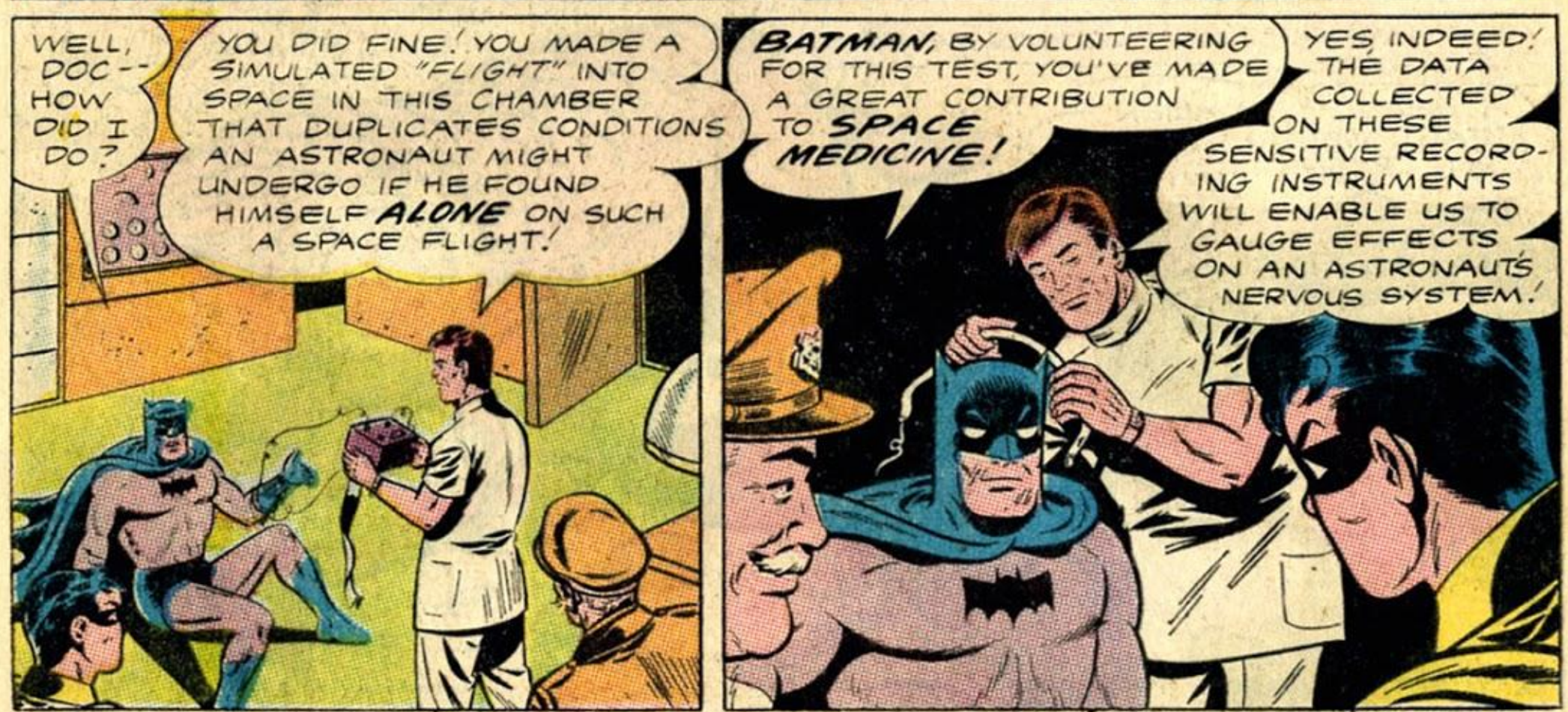
EVEN AS HE FEELS FOR A PULSE BEAT, BATMAN KNOWS IT IS NO USE!
HE--HE'S DEAD! ROBIN'S DEAD!

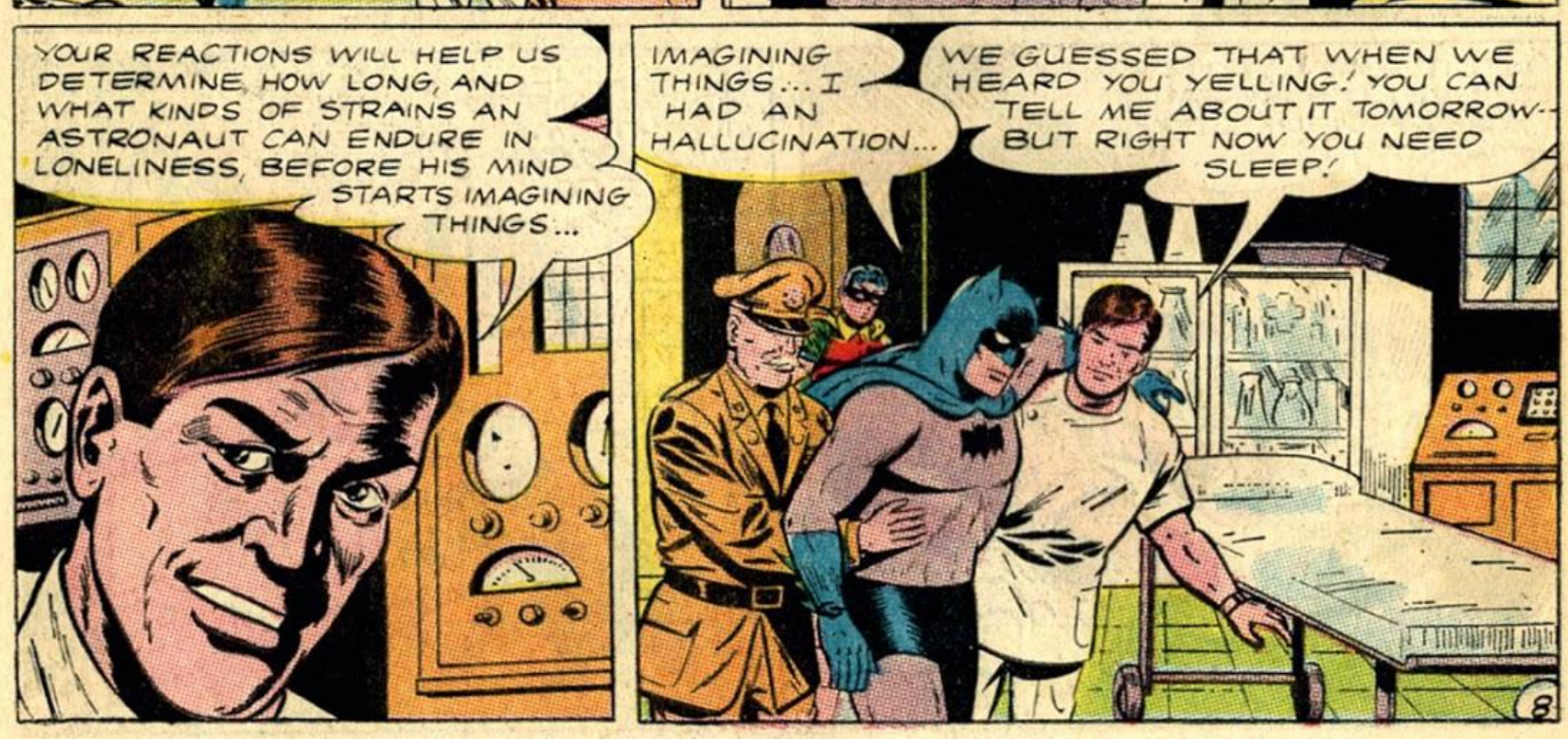

THE DAWN SUN RISES, LOOKING DOWN AT A MAN STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE!
ROBIN SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME! HE DIED SO I COULD LIVE! OH, ROBIN... ROBIN...


LATER, ON THIS HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD -- A MOUND OF STONES BECOME ROBIN'S CRYPT -- ROBIN'S FINAL RESTING PLACE!


MUCH LATER, WEAKENED BY THIRST-- CRUSHED BY TRAGEDY--A LONE FIGURE STAGGERS OVER BURNING DESERT SANDS..
EYES--I CAN FEEL EYES WATCHING ME--EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE-- WATCHING--ALWAYS WATCHING...
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELVES? WHY ARE YOU WATCHING ME?
THEN A GREAT BULK HUNCHES UP FROM THE SANDS ...
A BEAST--AN ALIEN BEAST! I'M TOO WEAK TO RUN OR FIGHT IT...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
HE'S HAD ENOUGH! GET HIM OUT OF THERE!

SWIFTLY, A HATCH OPENS--FIGURES HURRY TO BATMAN'S SIDE...
WHAT...? ROBIN-- ALIVE! I--I...
EASY, BATMAN-- EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL! YOU'RE IN THE TEST CHAMBER-- REMEMBER?
THE TEST--I REMEMBER NOW! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY--I LEFT A LETTER WITH GORDON FOR YOU--TO BE GIVEN TO YOU AFTER TWO DAYS...
YES--I GOT THE NOTE-- AND I'VE BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY SINCE THEN, TO LOOK IN ON YOU!


WELL, DOC-- HOW DID I DO?
YOU DID FINE! YOU MADE A SIMULATED "FLIGHT" INTO SPACE IN THIS CHAMBER THAT DUPLICATES CONDITIONS AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT UNDERGO IF HE FOUND HIMSELF ALONE ON SUCH A SPACE FLIGHT!
BATMAN, BY VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS TEST, YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO SPACE MEDICINE!
YES, INDEED! THE DATA COLLECTED ON THESE SENSITIVE RECORDING INSTRUMENTS WILL ENABLE US TO GAUGE EFFECTS ON AN ASTRONAUT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM!


YOUR REACTIONS WILL HELP US DETERMINE, HOW LONG, AND WHAT KINDS OF STRAINS AN ASTRONAUT CAN ENDURE IN LONELINESS, BEFORE HIS MIND STARTS IMAGINING THINGS...
IMAGINING THINGS... I HAD AN HALLUCINATION...
WE GUESSED THAT WHEN WE HEARD YOU YELLING! YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW-- BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED SLEEP!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AFTER MANY TESTS, **BATMAN** DICTATES HIS HALLUCINATION INTO A TAPE RECORDER...

THOSE EYES I SENSED WATCHING ME-- NOW I REALIZE THEY WERE **YOUR** EYES WATCHING THROUGH THE OBSERVATION WINDOW! STRANGE, HOW AFRAID I WAS OF BEING ALONE...

NOT SO STRANGE!...

ONE OF **MAN'S** MOST PRIMITIVE FEARS IS LONELINESS! WHEN A MAN IS ISOLATED TOO LONG, THE MIND PLAYS STRANGE TRICKS... IN YOUR CASE, YOU IMAGINED THAT YOU WERE INDIRECTLY GUILTY OF **ROBIN'S** DEATH... YOUR CONSTANT CONCERN ABOUT THE BOY'S SAFETY CAME TO THE SURFACE IN YOUR HALLUCINATIONS!

LATER, AS **BATMAN** LEAVES FOR HOME...

DOCTOR, YOU LOOK WORRIED...

I AM! **BATMAN'S** A HARDY SPECIMEN, WITH AN ABOVE-AVERAGE MIND-- BUT EVEN A **BATMAN** CAN SUCCUMB TO STRESS AND SHOCK! I JUST HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY AFTER-EFFECTS...

CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 2

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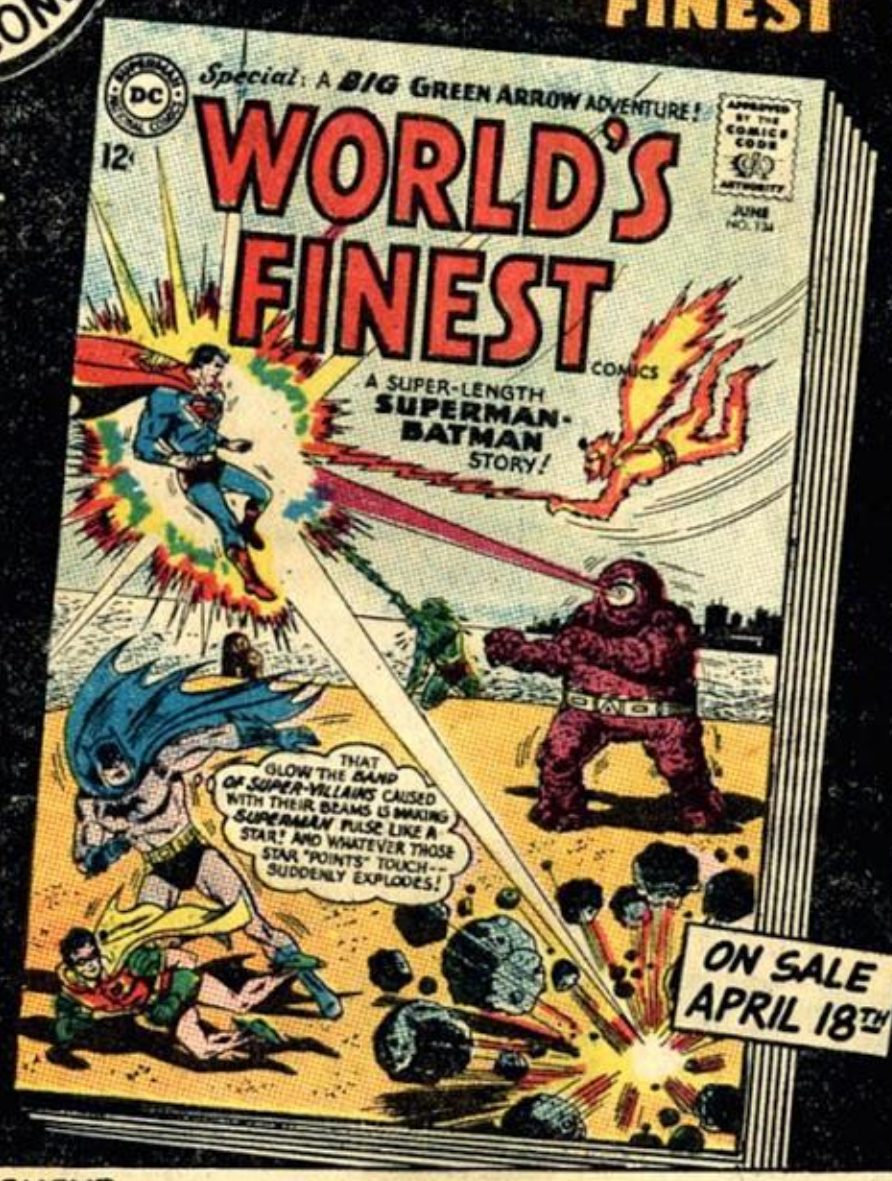

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Dear Editor: I've just finished reading the Feb. issue of BATMAN, "Prisoners of Three Worlds," and I positively flipped! It's a great story and really backs up the cover picture. I'd like to congratulate your author and artist. The way the energy-force twins of Batman and Batwoman defeated the beast was ingenious. I sat and thought how they would get out of that one for ten minutes, then finally turned the page.

Did Batman really mean it when he said he loved Batwoman? Personally, that touching scene lent a lot to the story, I think. And then on top of that, Robin finally realized that he liked Bat-Girl and vice versa! How old are they supposed to be, anyway?

Mary Schmitz, Winfield, Ill.

(Batman must have been sincere about his love for Batwoman, or he wouldn't have been in a dilemma at the end when he had to make up an excuse. As for the ages of our heroes and heroines, they're top secret. Let's just say that Robin and Bat-Girl are teen-agers.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I simply had to write to congratulate you on the Feb. BATMAN. It was more than excellent. I consider this issue a special success for three main reasons. First, you presented "Prisoners of Three Worlds" in a book-length feature. This gave you ample space to give depth to the story. Second, you showed Batman and Batwoman as a team, working together and showing their feelings for each other. Third, you introduced some romance into the lives of Robin and Bat-Girl. It's about time. Let's see a little more of it, and by all means, let Robin and Bat-Girl "hog the spotlight" now and then. I feel that you have added a lot to *Batman* by giving Robin the role he deserves in the magazine. Keep up the wonderful work.

Pete Wilson, Coppell, Texas

* * *

Dear Editor: I have just completed, for the third time, the Feb. issue of BATMAN. This is the best story I have ever read. But why should Batman hide his love for Batwoman? Robin and Bat-Girl seem to hit it off pretty well together.

Melody Clouse, Redondo Beach, Calif.

(Batman fears that if he were to declare his love to Batwoman and marry her, his career as Batman would be hampered and Batwoman's life might be in greater jeopardy. Robin and Bat-Girl are not old enough yet to think of marriage.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I have just read the Feb. BATMAN, and as usual, it was excellent. I have been a Batman fan for a long time, and this is the best comic of my whole collection.

Jan Kodner, Chicago, Ill.

* * *

Dear Editor: I have just read the Feb. BATMAN No. 153—it was excellent, an exciting, thrill-packed issue. I particularly enjoy love stories like "The Marriage of Batman and Batwoman" in the BATMAN ANNUAL No. 4.

Mary Ellen Seitz, Jersey City, N. J.

* * *

Dear Editor: "Prisoners of Three Worlds" was great. Bat-Girl and Robin are great together. Could we see them in action again alone?

Rick Cooper, Russells Point, Ohio

* * *

Dear Editor: Why not have more stories like "Prisoners of Three Worlds"? And why not have a story of Batwoman and Bat-Girl in every issue? Also, one of Batman, Batwoman, Robin, Bat-Girl, Bat-Hound and sometimes Bat-Mite.

How much would it cost to send BATMAN COMICS through the mail?

Michael Kerscher, Manitowoc, Wisc.

(In order to get variety, we can't always have stories dealing with Batwoman and Bat-Girl, but we certainly intend to have them, as well as other members of the "Batman Family," in future adventures.

The price of all DC comics subscriptions is on the first page at the bottom. A regular one-year subscription to BATMAN COMICS now costs $.95. As advertised elsewhere in this issue and in all the other magazines, you can get a special 2-year subscription for any of the magazines at a cost of only 10 cents an issue!—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: During all my years as a Batman fan, I have never read a better novel than your recent 3-part "Prisoners of Three Worlds." I certainly liked the way you brought Bat-Girl back into a story. By the way, why not have a tall tale in which Bat-Girl marries Robin when they grow up?

George Ferris, Brentwood, N. Y.

(We don't know about the marriage angle, but Alfred, the Wayne butler, has secretly informed us that he has a story about a grown-up Bat-Girl and Robin planned for one of his future tales of Batman II and Robin II.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: The issue featuring Batman, Batwoman, Robin and Bat-Girl in "Prisoners of Three Worlds" was the best Batman story ever published. Keep up the good work.

Ricky Reynolds, Mattapoisett, Mass.

* * *

Dear Editor: I've just read BATMAN No. 153 and I liked it very much. The plot was great, and I especially liked the appearance of Bat-Girl. I also liked the way you showed that Batman, Robin, Batwoman and Bat-Girl do have emotions. The artwork and the cover were both terrific, as usual. If you can top this story, you deserve to win a gold cup.

Don Keefer, Sherman Oaks, Calif.

(We hope to top even this great 3-parter, but we'll settle for the loyal, enthusiastic response this adventure produced. As we predicted, the mail was overwhelming, and the above are only some of the thousands of letters received.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: As far as I am concerned, your new BATMAN ANNUAL, No. 4—"Secret Adventures of Batman and Robin," is the best yet. It also answered some questions I have been wondering about for some time. First of all, the origin of Batman, second, the origin of Batwoman, and third, why Batman knew Batwoman's identity when she didn't know his.

Anna May Lewis, Severn, Md.

* * *

Dear Editor: I just got through reading your BATMAN ANNUAL No. 4, which I thought was better than ANNUALS No. 2 and 3. I liked the "Origin of Batwoman" the best. One reason is because you showed Batwoman using things from her shoulder-bag utility case I hadn't seen her use before. In every issue you always seem to top yourself.

Phillip Clayton, Athens, Ohio

(Our next ANNUAL, No. 5, on sale about the middle of June, will be the best one yet, we hope. It'll deal with "The Strange Lives of Batman and Robin," and contain some of the most unusual adventures our heroes have ever been involved in. One reader anticipated our announcement of this theme some time back, with a nomination of the stories he thought would be best, and we would like to give special mention to him in this column. You're on the ball . . . Frederick Romanek of Encino, California.*—Ed.)*

* * *

Dear Editor: I must congratulate you on "Bat-Mite's Super-Circus," in DETECTIVE COMICS No. 310. The cover was sensational and the part where Bat-Mite turned the villains into super-freaks was great. Keep up the good work and you'll make comic history.

Richard Skol, St. Laurent, Canada

* * *

Dear Editor: I was waiting for another Clayface story, and I sure was glad to get hold of the Feb. issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, which had "The Secret of Clayface's Power." It was better even than what I expected. Wow! The battle between Batman and Clayface was real cool! I enjoy these stories about Batman's villain-opponents, and I wish you had more of them.

Gregory Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah

(Coming up are some top-notch villain stories. In June DETECTIVE, you'll find the return of an old foe, Dr. X, in a gripping adventure, "Double Batman vs. Dr. Double X." Then, after a change of pace in the July DETECTIVE, with the thrilling "Secrets of the Flying Bat-Cave," will come the Aug. DETECTIVE, with a return of the Cat-Man—see letter below. In the next BATMAN COMICS, besides an exciting off-trail story, "Villain of the Year," you'll find another old foe of Batman, Mirror-Man, in "The Hunt for Batman's Identity." And finally, in WORLD'S FINEST for June, "The Band of Super-Villains" has a collection of foes that poses quite a problem for Superman, Batman and Robin!—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Would you please send me a diagram of how to make a Batman costume? Does Batman have an invulnerable costume like Superman? If so, did Superman help him make it?

Gary Jarkewicz, Cleveland, Ohio

(Sorry, but we don't have a diagram for a Batman costume, and his costume is not invulnerable.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In the issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 211, "The Challenge of the Cat-Man," what did Batman mean by his remark at the end —"a cat, you know, has nine lives."? Did he mean there would be another adventure with Batman and Robin against the Cat-Man?

James Bergeron, Newport Center, Vt.

(Yes, that's what Batman had in mind, And Cat-Man will be back in an extra-long adventure in the Aug. issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, with Batwoman playing a very prominent role.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: "Batman and Robin, Medieval Bandits," in the March issue of WORLD'S FINEST, had me on edge all through the story. It was terrific, and I'd like to see more adventures about Superman, Batman and Robin in the past.

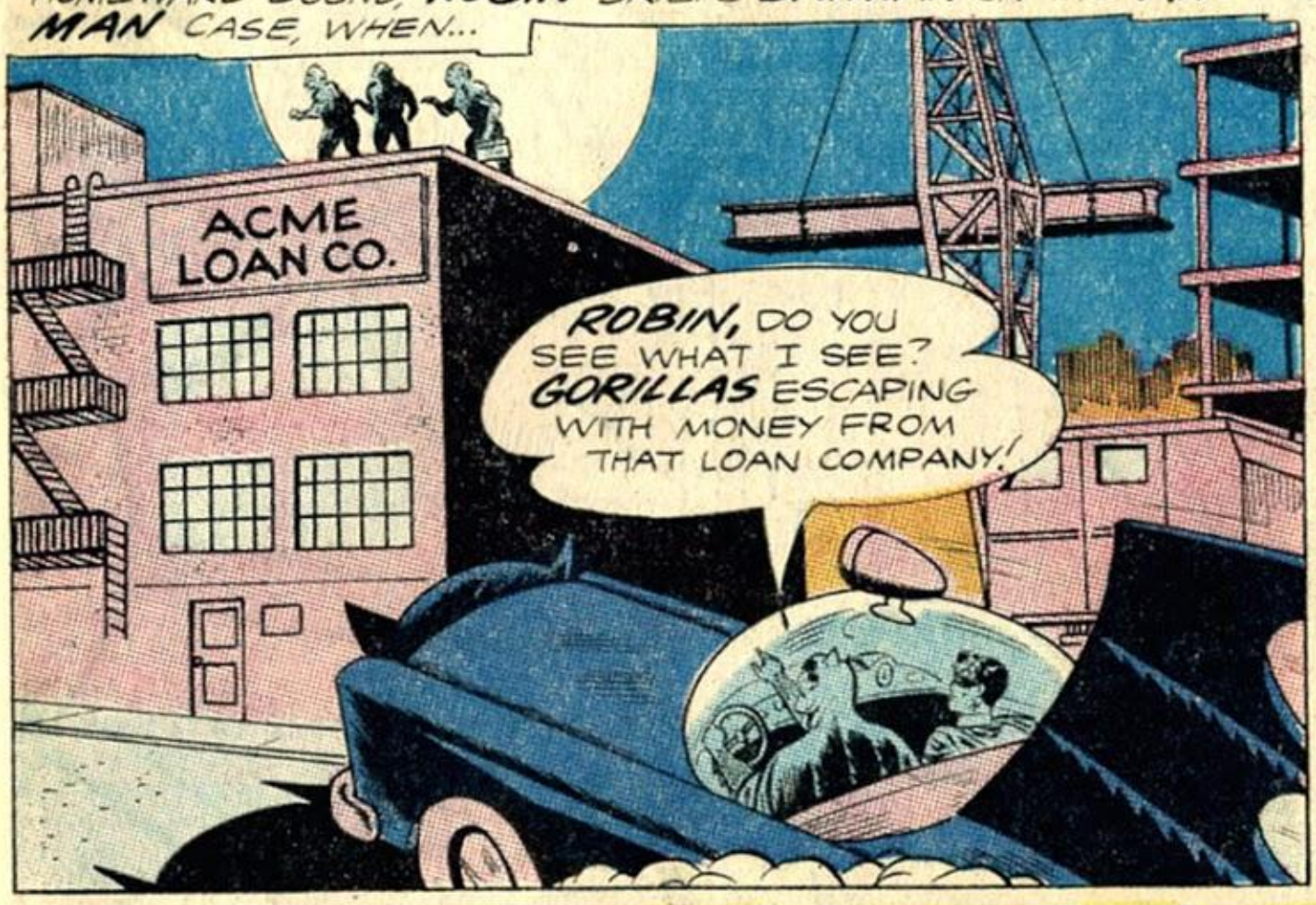
Andy Levine, Miami, Fla.

(You'll get your wish—watch for the Aug. issue of WORLD'S FINEST, which has a super-length story in which Batman and Robin have to go into the past, and Superman into the future, to stop a threat in the present—"The Menace of Future Man."—Ed.)

Please address all mail to: Letters to the Bat-Cave, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York 22, N. Y. Because of the large volume of mail received, we cannot always answer all letters personally; so please understand if your questions do not receive personal replies.

CHAPTER 2 ROBIN DIES AT DAWN

HOMEWARD BOUND, **ROBIN** BRIEFS **BATMAN** ON THE **ANT-MAN** CASE, WHEN...



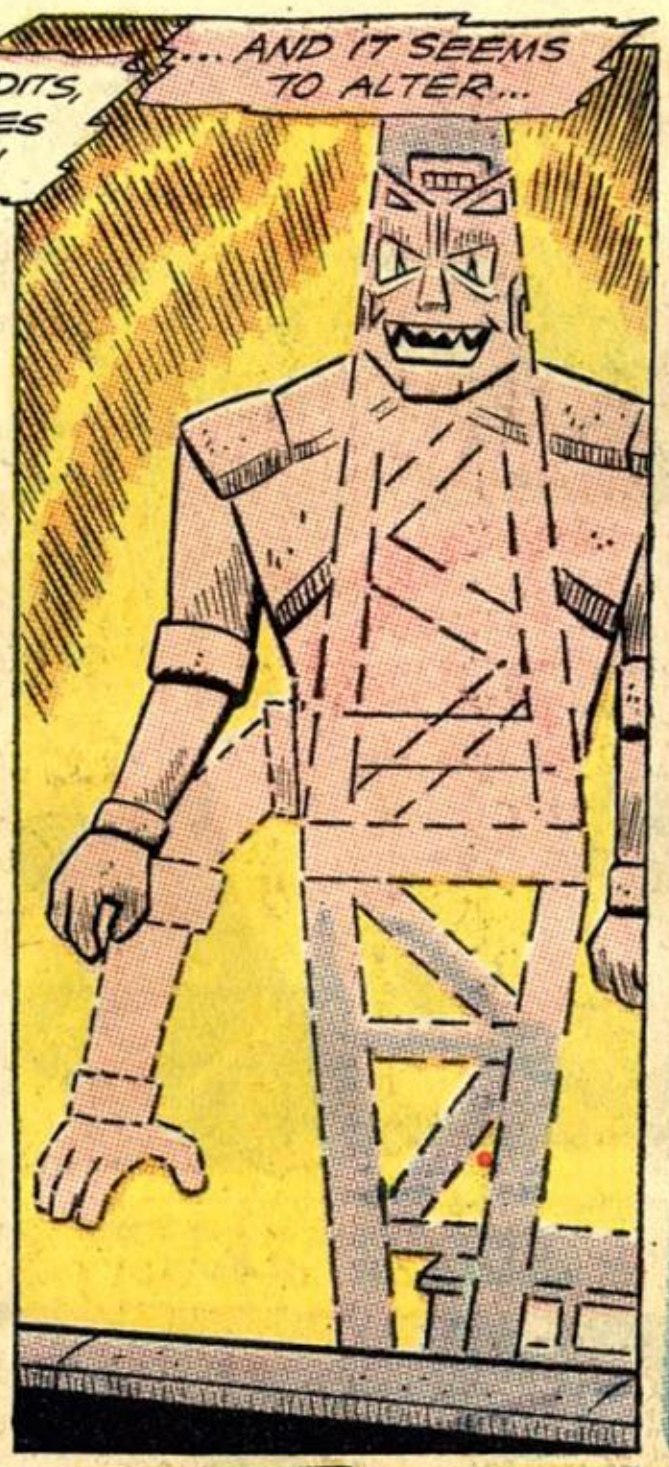
SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DART UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE -- AND CHARGE INTO THE **GORILLA GANG!**

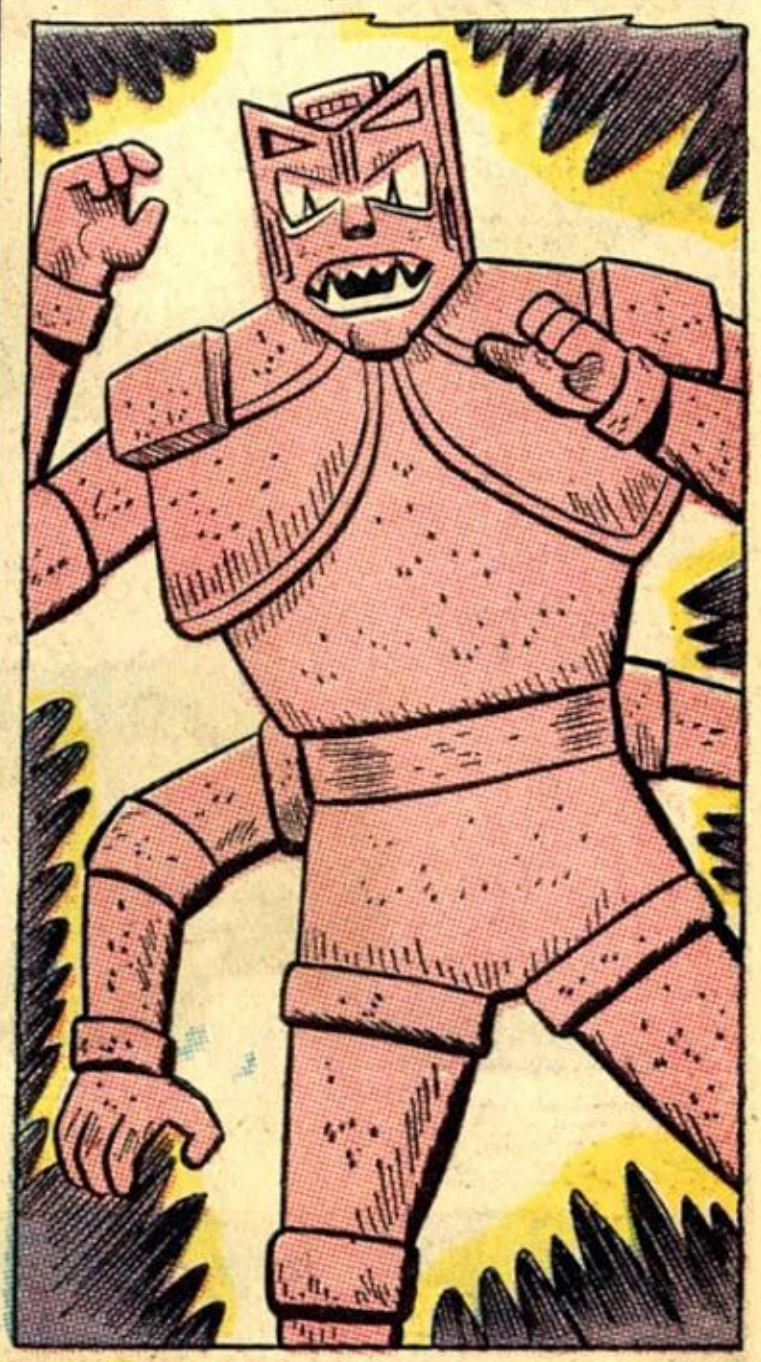
NOW LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE APES!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN!** QUICK -- WE'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE TO THE NEXT BUILDING, OVER THE DANGLING GIRDER!

ACME LOAN

AS ROBIN RACES AHEAD TOWARD THE FLEEING BANDITS, BATMAN SUDDENLY STARES AT THE TALL CONSTRUCTION CRANE...

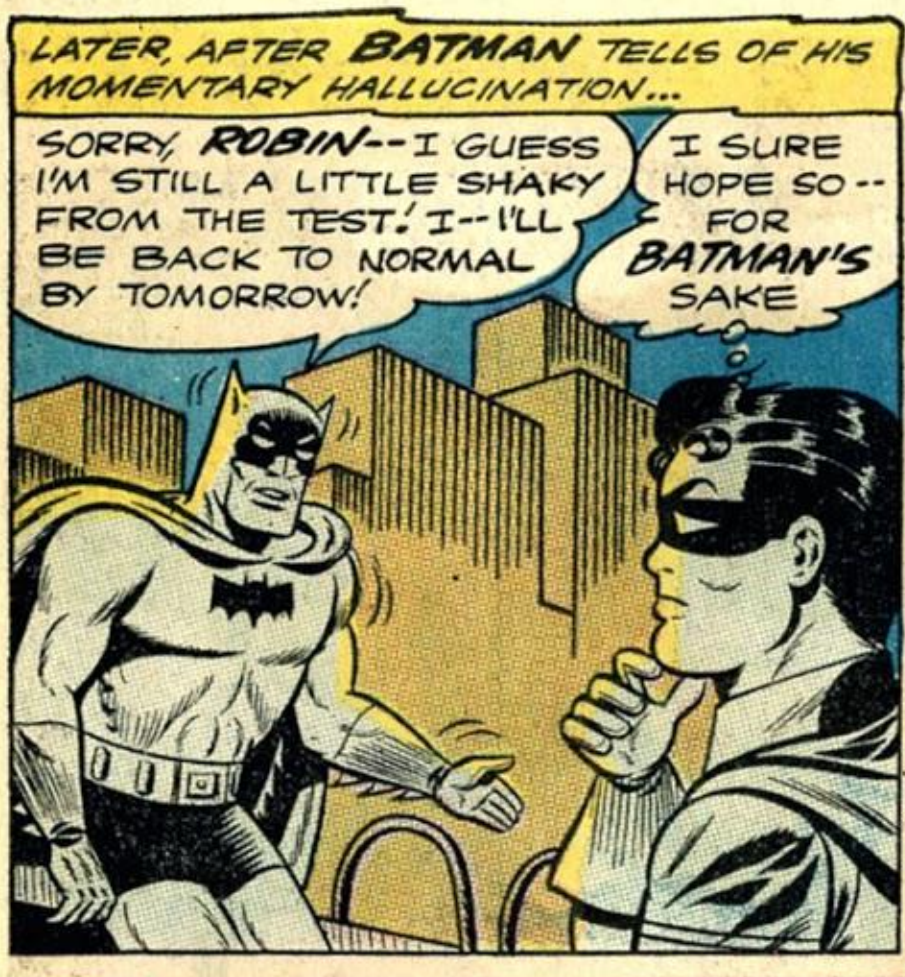

...AND IT SEEMS TO ALTER...


...TO BECOME THE STONE GIANT OF HIS HALLUCINATION!

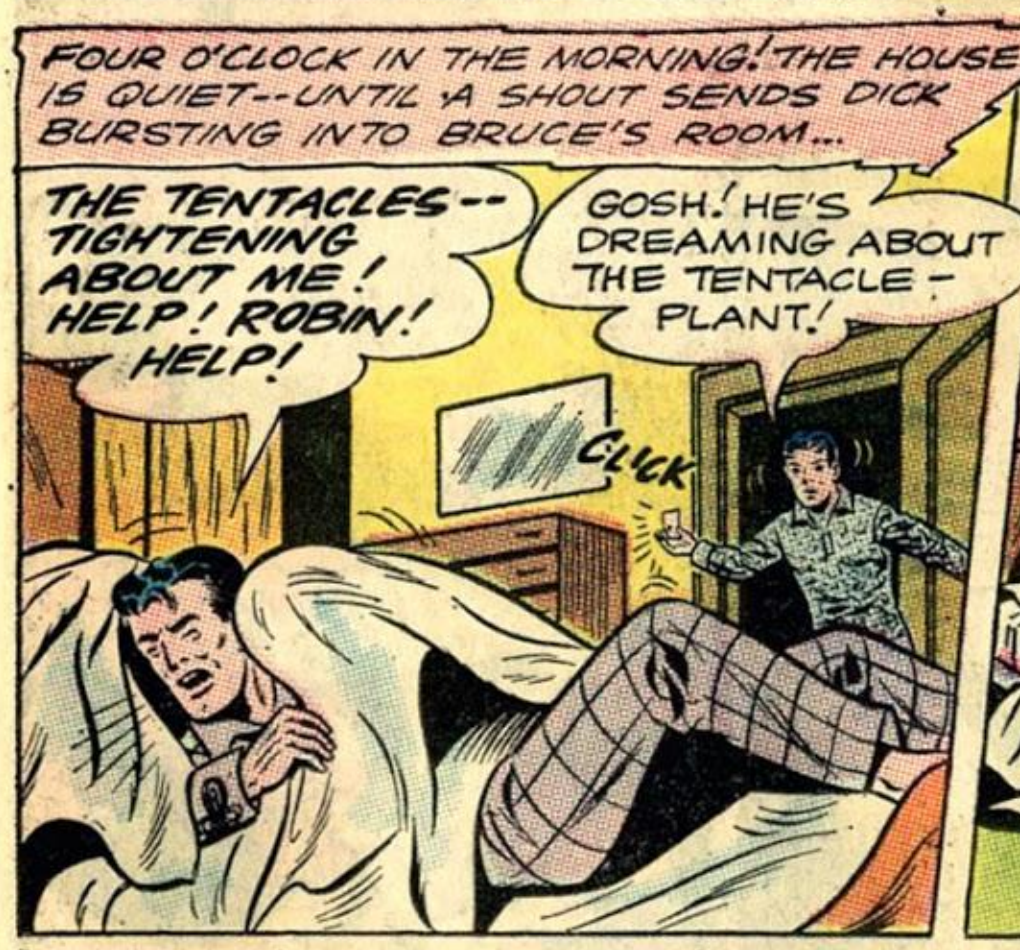
ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN SEEMS TO SEE ROBIN IN PERIL, AND ACTS INSTINCTIVELY!
NO, ROBIN--NO!

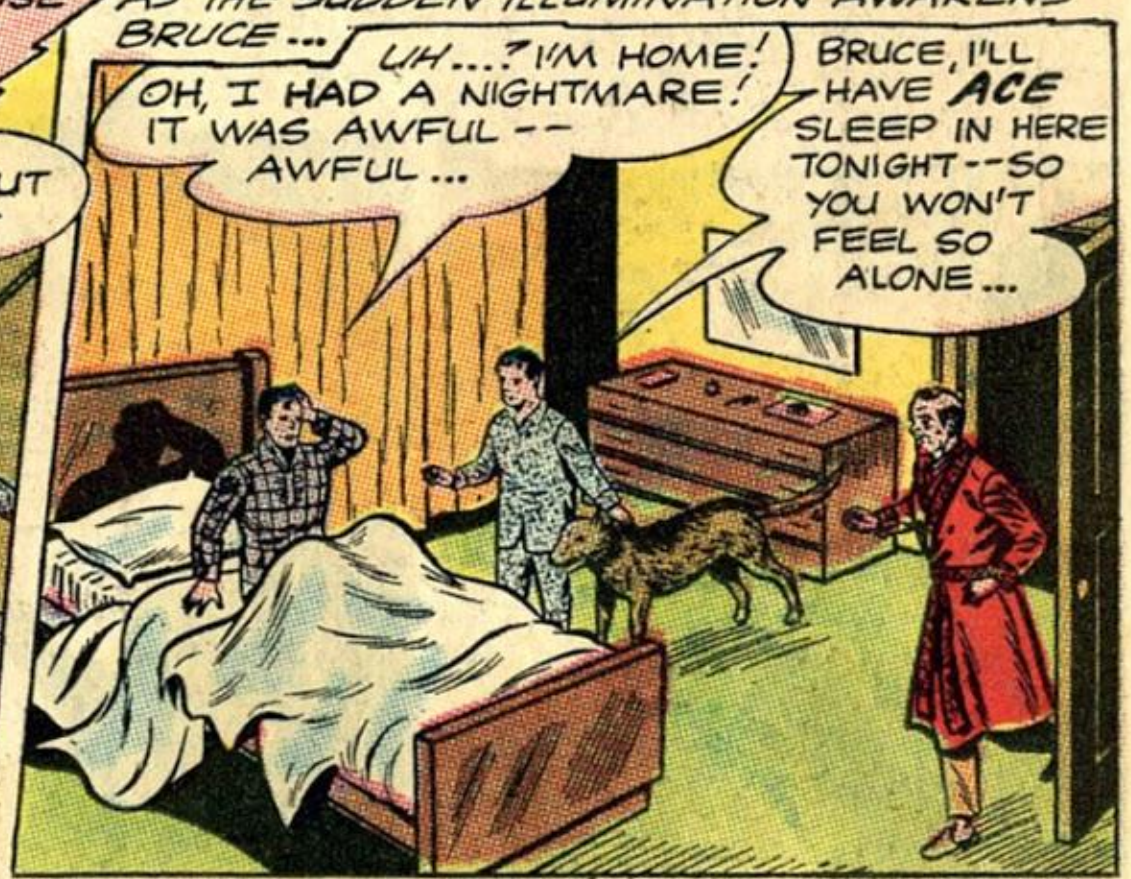
BUT, TO ROBIN'S EYES, THE SCENE IS A VERY DIFFERENT ONE!
BATMAN! YOU'RE TAKING US OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF!

ROBIN'S SUDDEN SHOUT JOLTS BATMAN'S LAPSE OF MEMORY--AND HE INSTANTLY FLINGS OUT A HAND THAT CLINGS WITH AN IRON GRIP!
IT'S OKAY, ROBIN--WE'RE SAFE NOW!
WOW!

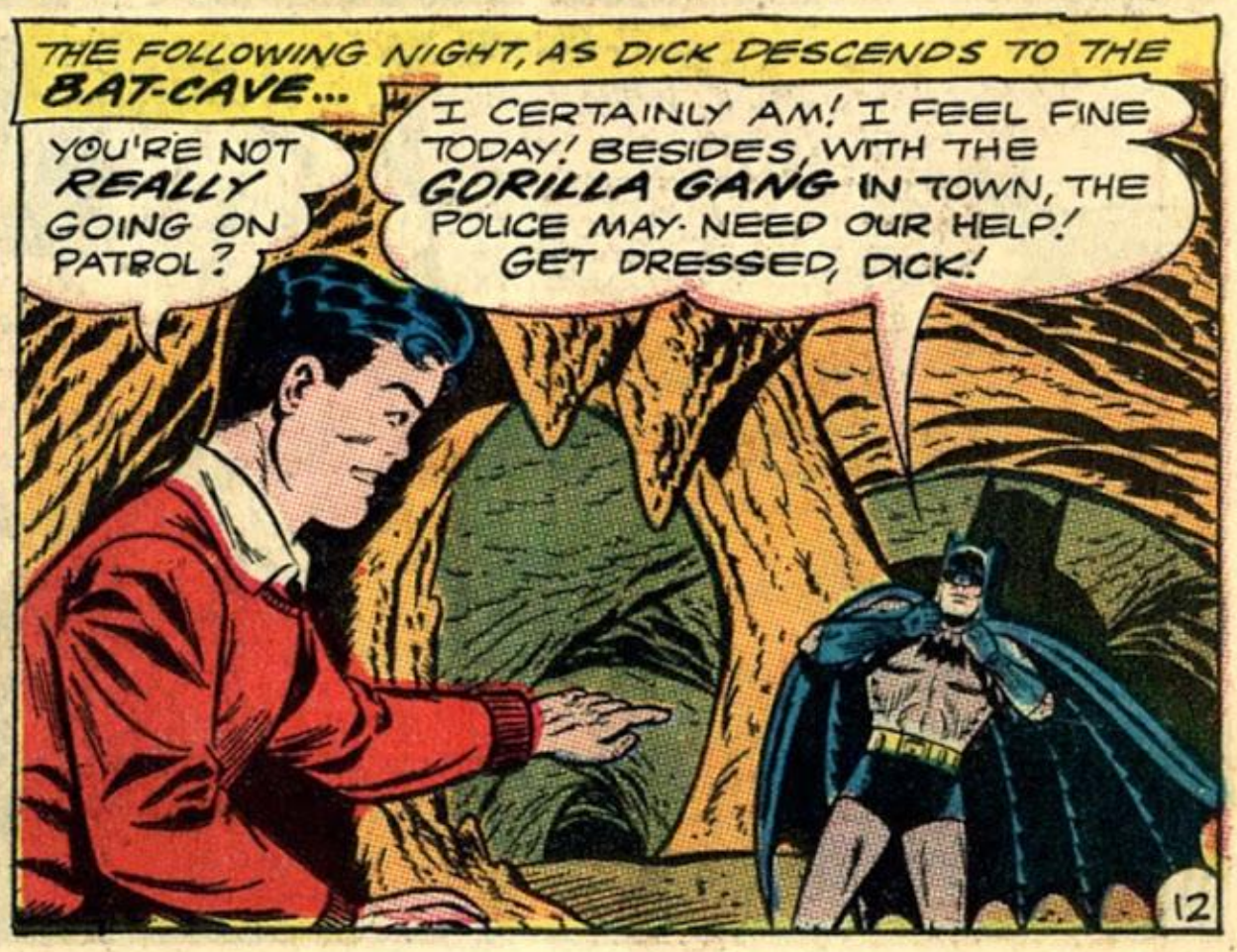

LATER, AFTER BATMAN TELLS OF HIS MOMENTARY HALLUCINATION...
SORRY, ROBIN--I GUESS I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKY FROM THE TEST! I--I'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL BY TOMORROW!
I SURE HOPE SO--FOR BATMAN'S SAKE

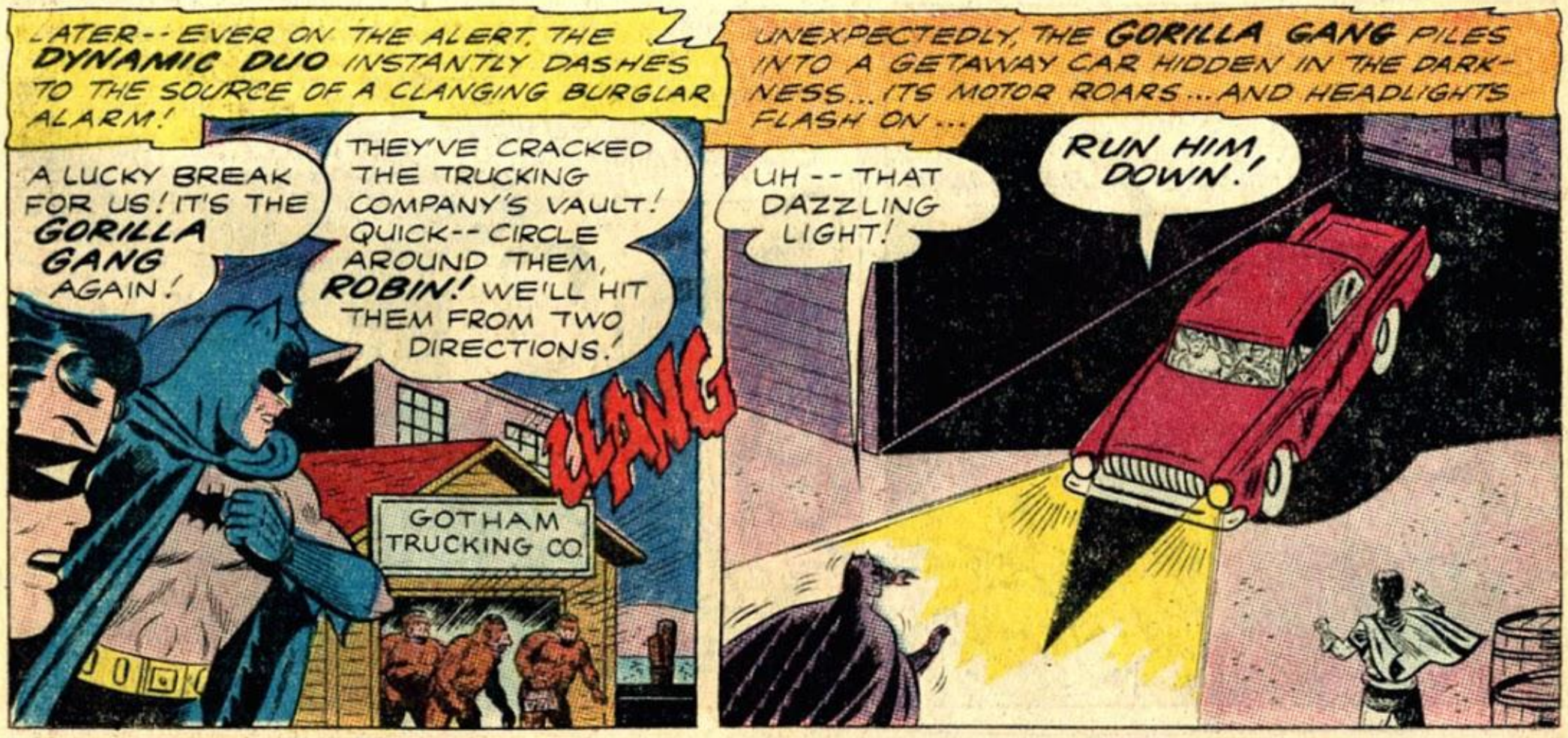
LATER, AT THE WAYNE MANSION, BRUCE'S RETURN IS EAGERLY AWAITED BY TWO LOYAL FRIENDS!
ALFRED! ACE! AH, IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK HOME AGAIN!
WE ALL MISSED YOU, SIR!

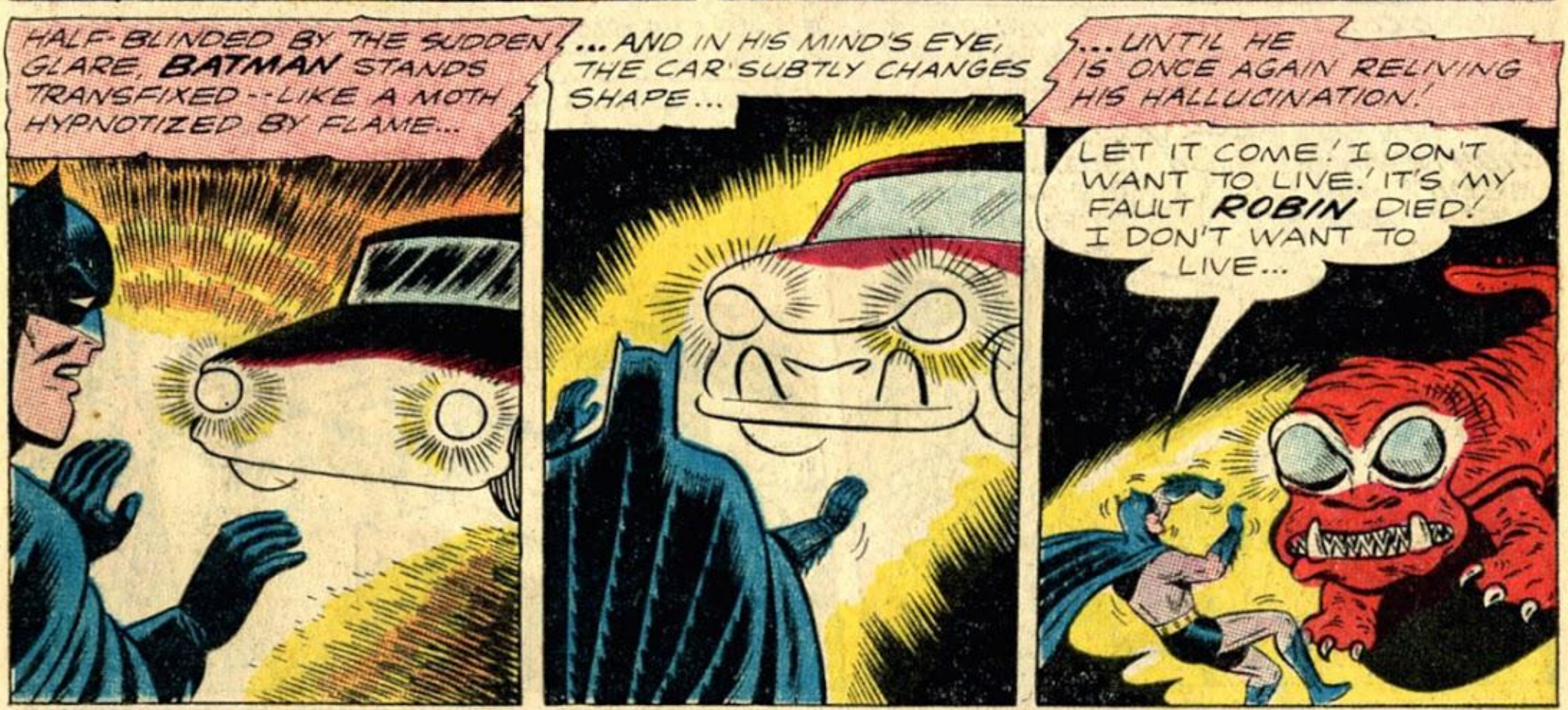

FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING! THE HOUSE IS QUIET--UNTIL A SHOUT SENDS DICK BURSTING INTO BRUCE'S ROOM...
THE TENTACLES--TIGHTENING ABOUT ME! HELP! ROBIN! HELP!
GOSH! HE'S DREAMING ABOUT THE TENTACLE-PLANT!
CLICK

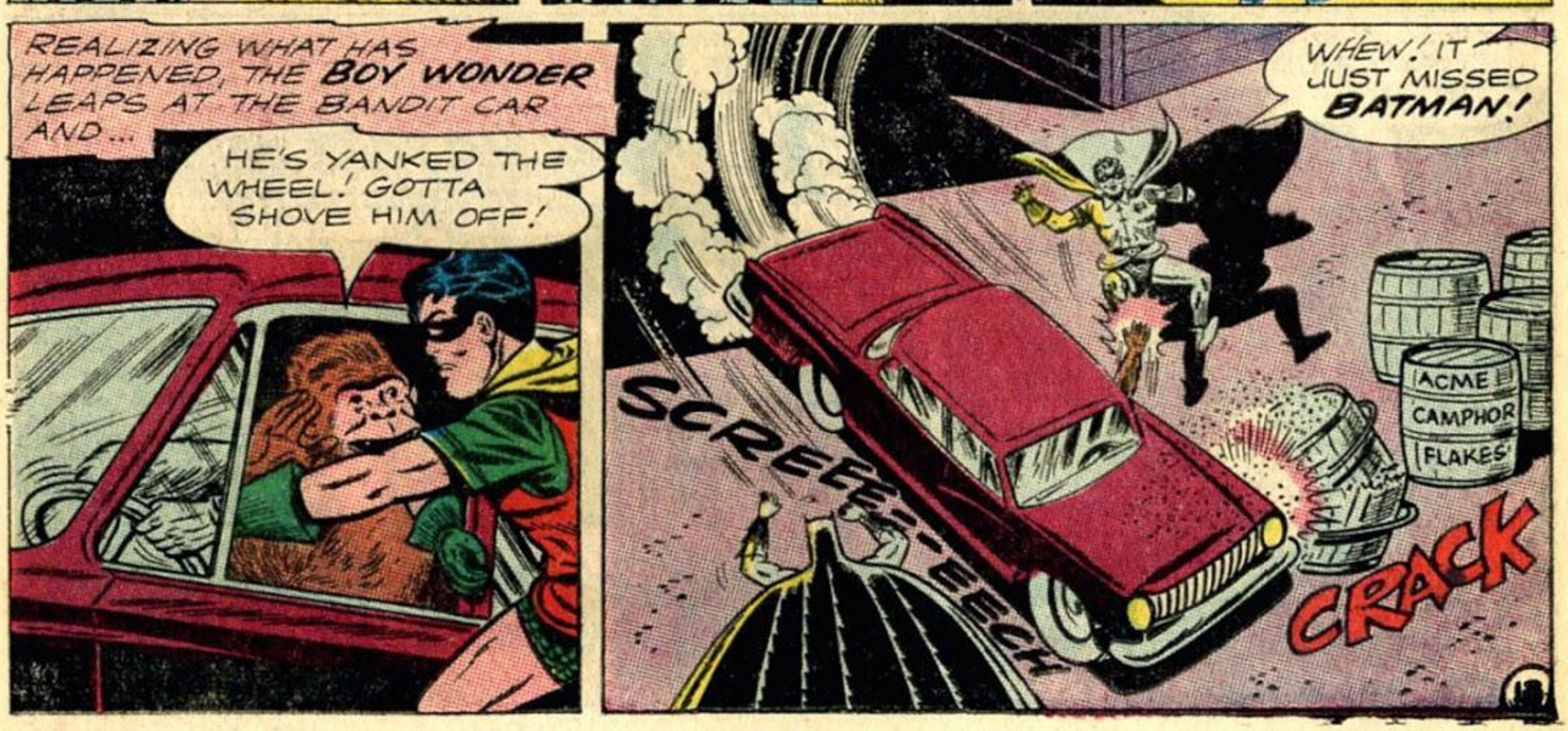

AS THE SUDDEN ILLUMINATION AWAKENS BRUCE...
UH...? I'M HOME! OH, I HAD A NIGHTMARE! IT WAS AWFUL--AWFUL...
BRUCE, I'LL HAVE ACE SLEEP IN HERE TONIGHT--SO YOU WON'T FEEL SO ALONE...

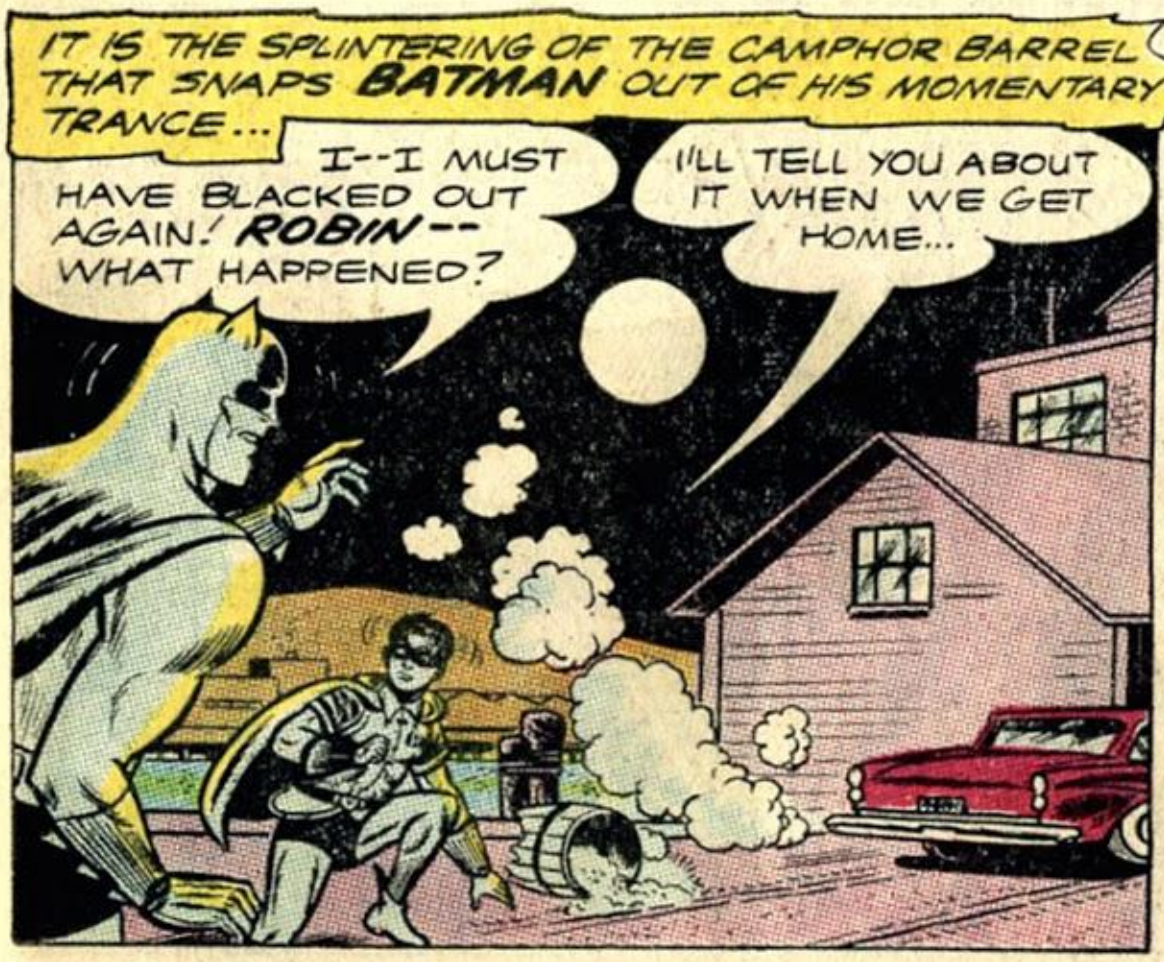
Y-YES... MAYBE THAT WOULD BE BETTER...


THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS DICK DESCENDS TO THE BAT-CAVE...
YOU'RE NOT REALLY GOING ON PATROL?
I CERTAINLY AM! I FEEL FINE TODAY! BESIDES, WITH THE GORILLA GANG IN TOWN, THE POLICE MAY NEED OUR HELP! GET DRESSED, DICK!


LATER -- EVER ON THE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO INSTANTLY DASHES TO THE SOURCE OF A CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM!
A LUCKY BREAK FOR US! IT'S THE GORILLA GANG AGAIN!
THEY'VE CRACKED THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S VAULT! QUICK -- CIRCLE AROUND THEM, ROBIN! WE'LL HIT THEM FROM TWO DIRECTIONS!
CLANG
GOTHAM TRUCKING CO.
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GORILLA GANG PILES INTO A GETAWAY CAR HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS... ITS MOTOR ROARS... AND HEADLIGHTS FLASH ON...
UH -- THAT DAZZLING LIGHT!
RUN HIM DOWN!


HALF-BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE, BATMAN STANDS TRANSFIXED -- LIKE A MOTH HYPNOTIZED BY FLAME...
...AND IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CAR SUBTLY CHANGES SHAPE...
...UNTIL HE IS ONCE AGAIN RELIVING HIS HALLUCINATION!
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...


REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE BOY WONDER LEAPS AT THE BANDIT CAR AND...
HE'S YANKED THE WHEEL! GOTTA SHOVE HIM OFF!
WHEW! IT JUST MISSED BATMAN!
SCREEE-EECH
ACME CAMPHOR FLAKES
CRACK

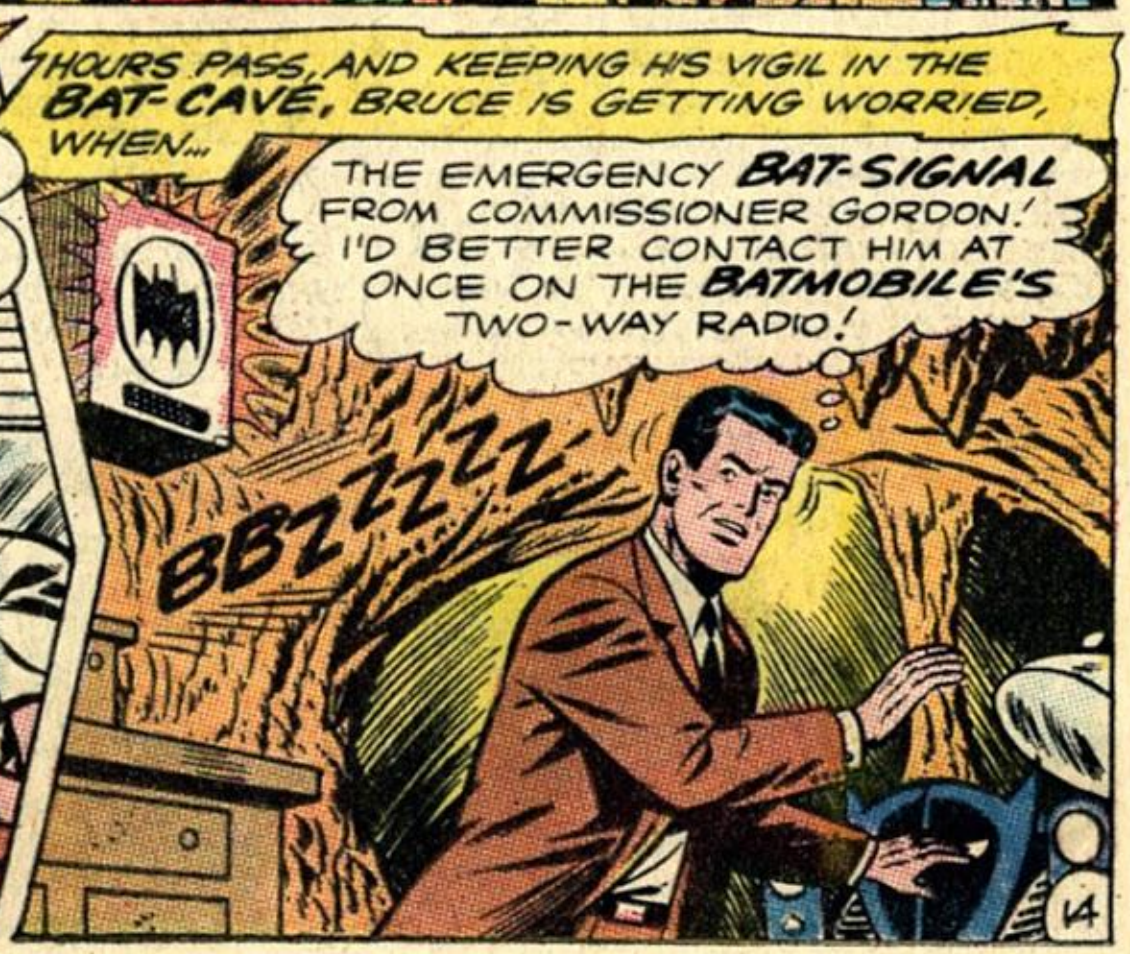

IT IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE CAMPHOR BARREL THAT SNAPS BATMAN OUT OF HIS MOMENTARY TRANCE...
I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT AGAIN! ROBIN -- WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME...

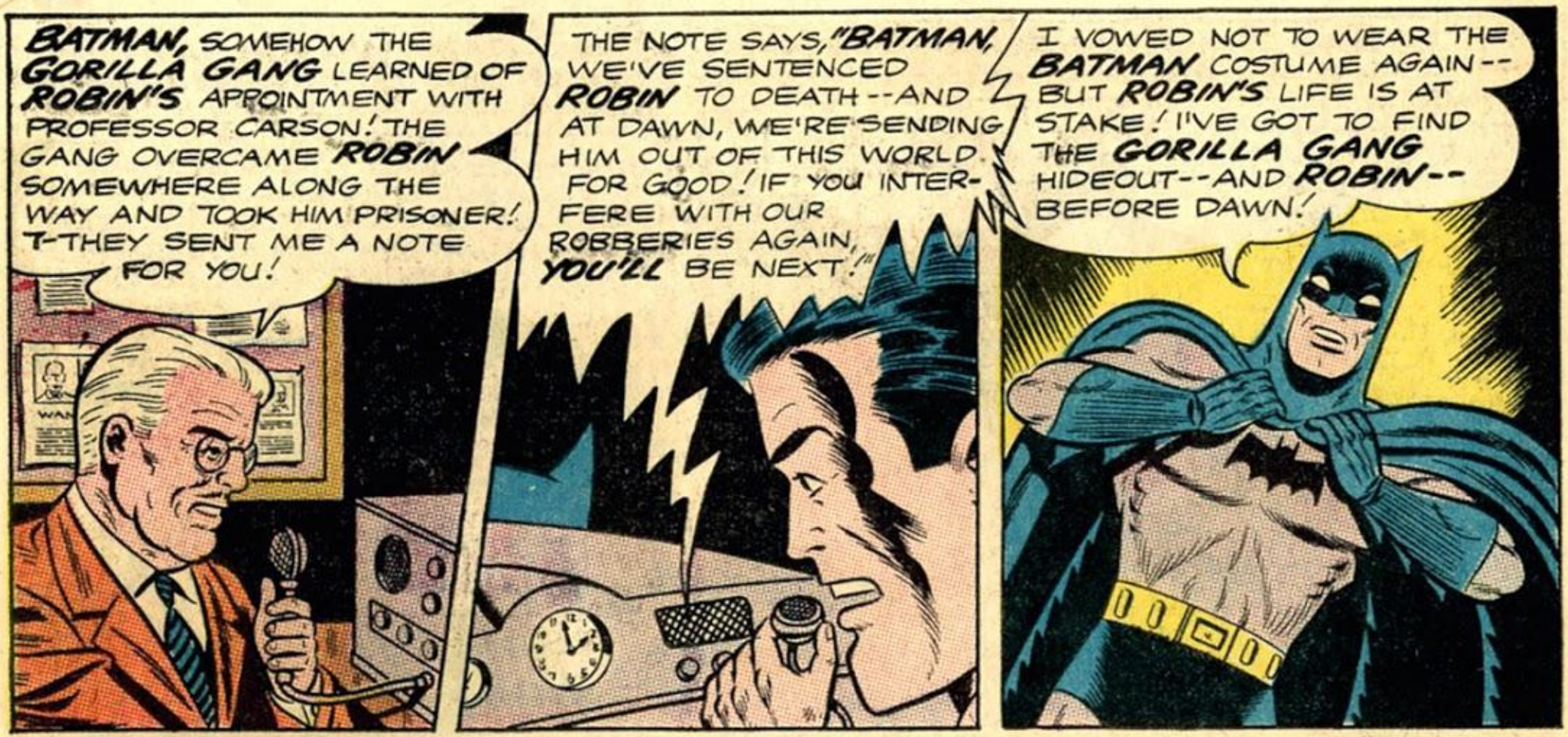
LATER, BATMAN AT LAST REALIZES THERE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG WITH HIM...
LET'S FACE REALITY! WHILE I HAVE THESE MENTAL BLACKOUTS, I ENDANGER YOUR LIFE! I CAN'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...

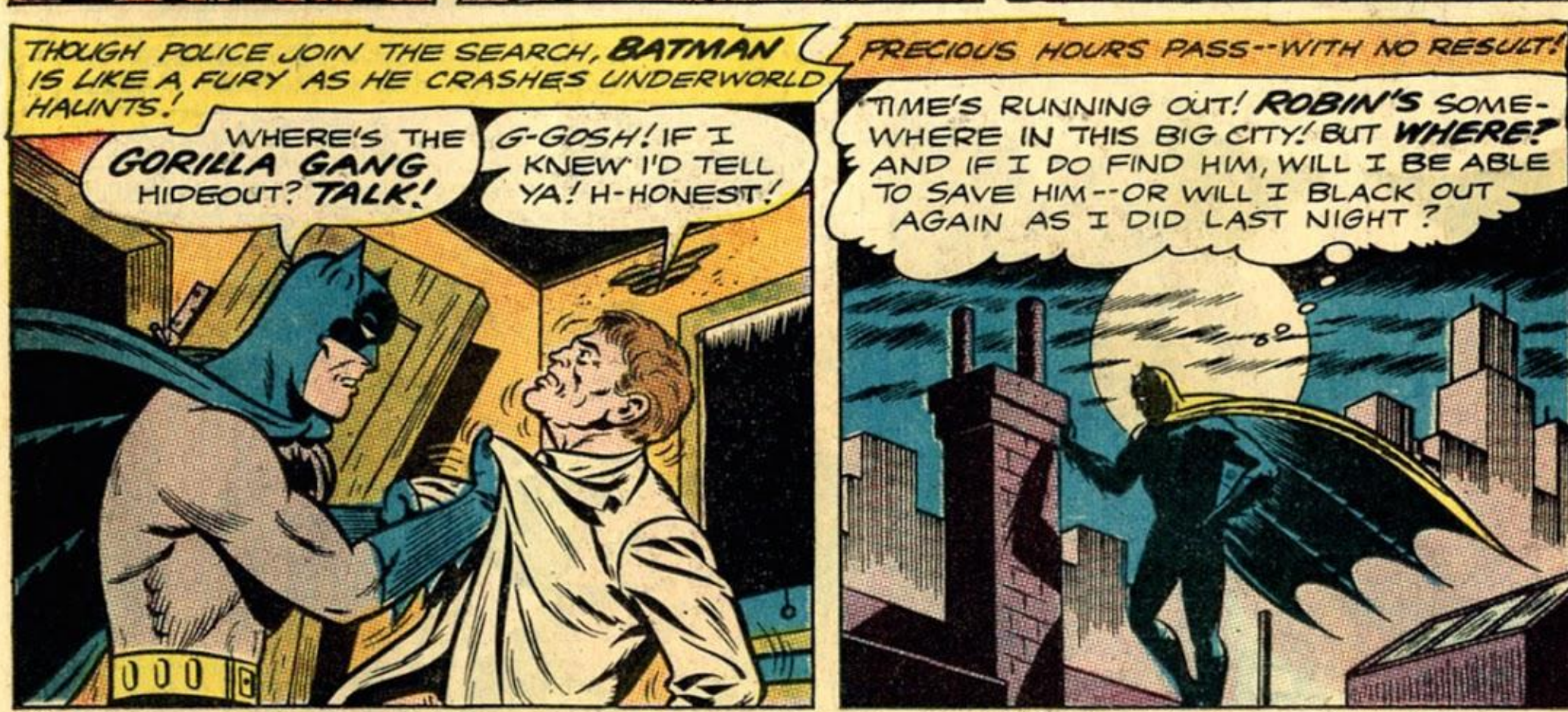
...I MUST PUT AWAY MY BATMAN COSTUME AND RETIRE FROM CRIME-FIGHTING!
OH, BATMAN! -SOB-

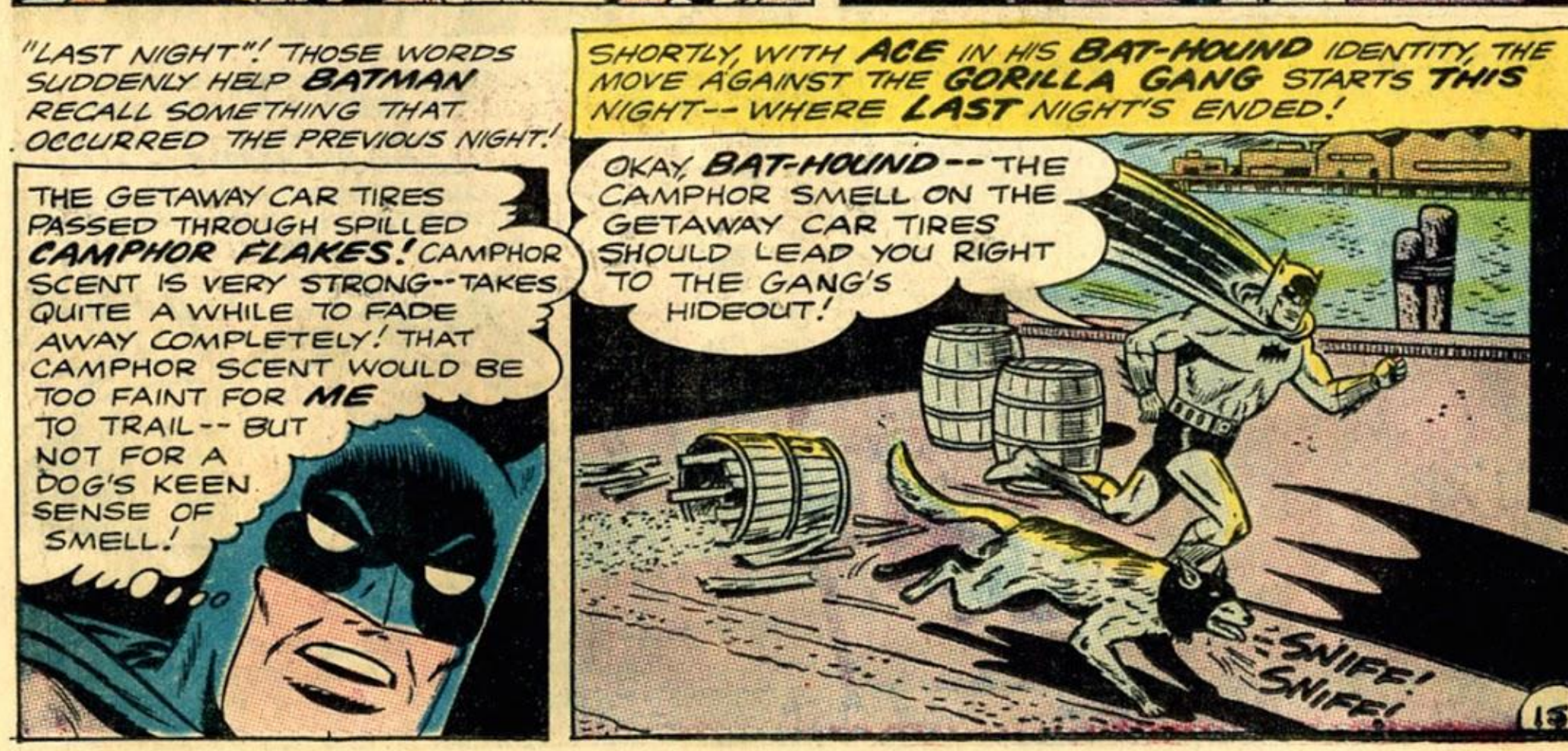
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMED TEAM DONS CRIME-FIGHTING GARB...
I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON--ABOUT THE TESTIMONY WE'LL GIVE AT THE ANT-MAN'S TRIAL! I--I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!
I-IF YOU RUN INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN YOU WOULD BE IF I WERE ALONG!

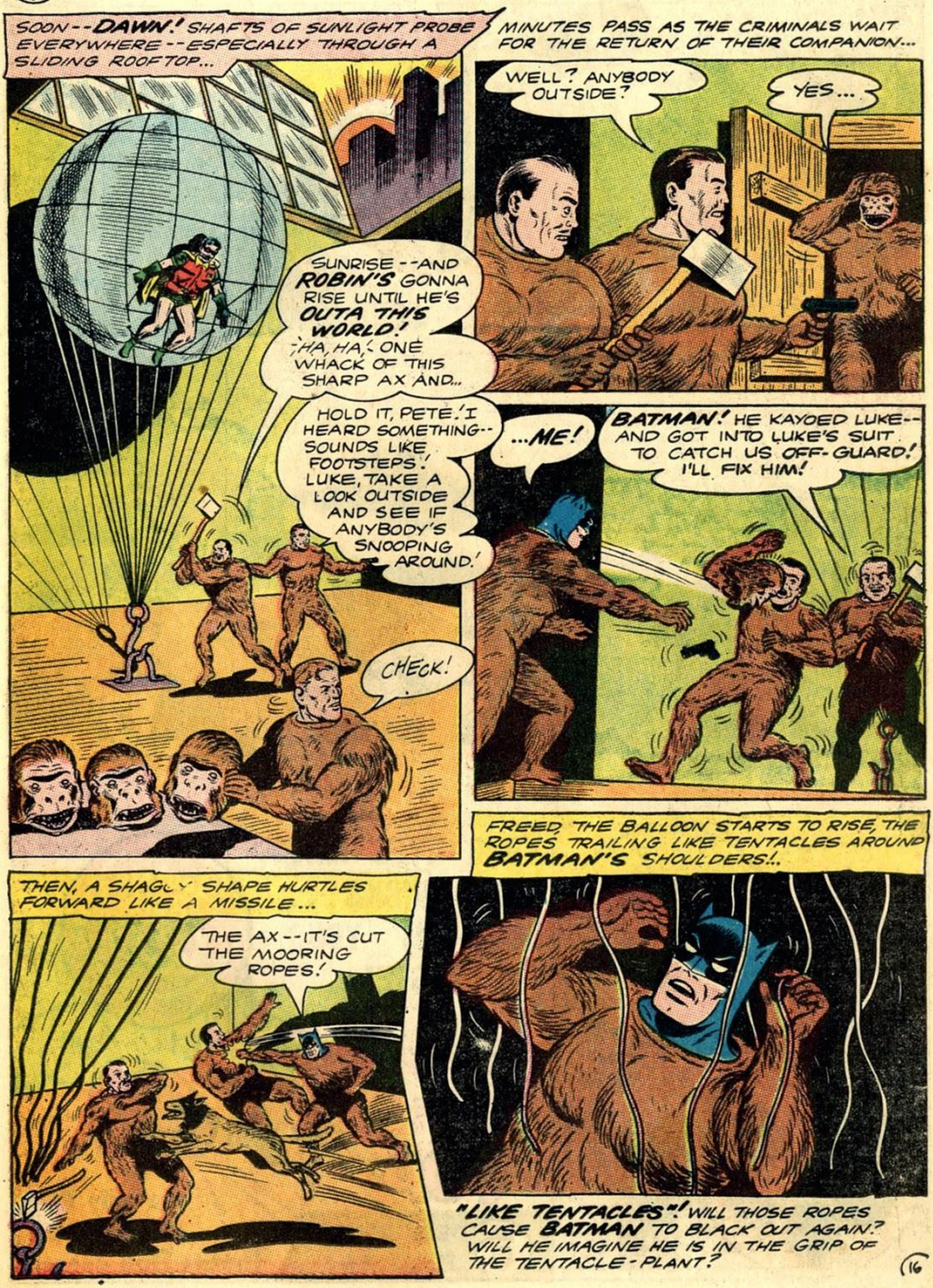
BUT ONE THING ROBIN KEEPS FROM BATMAN IS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH THE ARMY DOCTOR...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! BATMAN WILL NEED TREATMENT! THEN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL BE HIMSELF AGAIN--BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME...

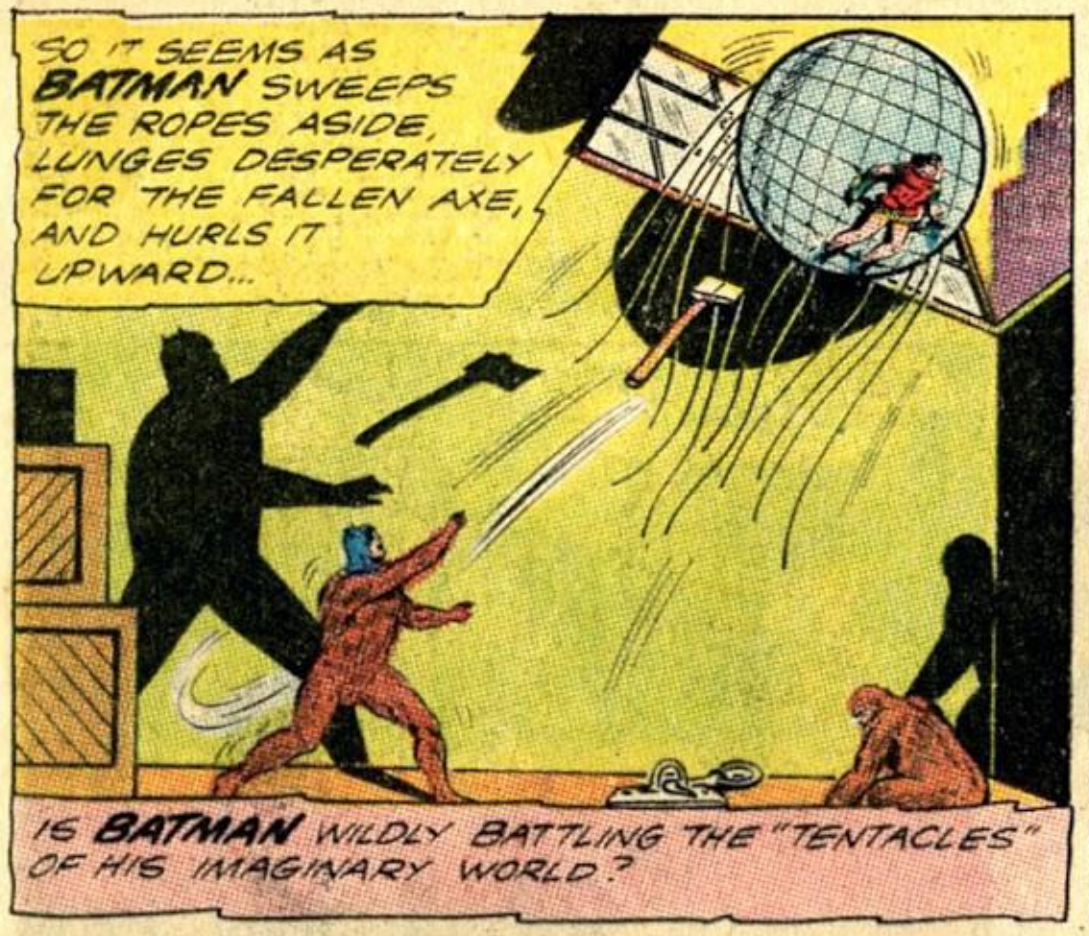

HOURS PASS, AND KEEPING HIS VIGIL IN THE BAT-CAVE, BRUCE IS GETTING WORRIED, WHEN...
THE EMERGENCY BAT-SIGNAL FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON! I'D BETTER CONTACT HIM AT ONCE ON THE BATMOBILE'S TWO-WAY RADIO!
BBZZZZZ

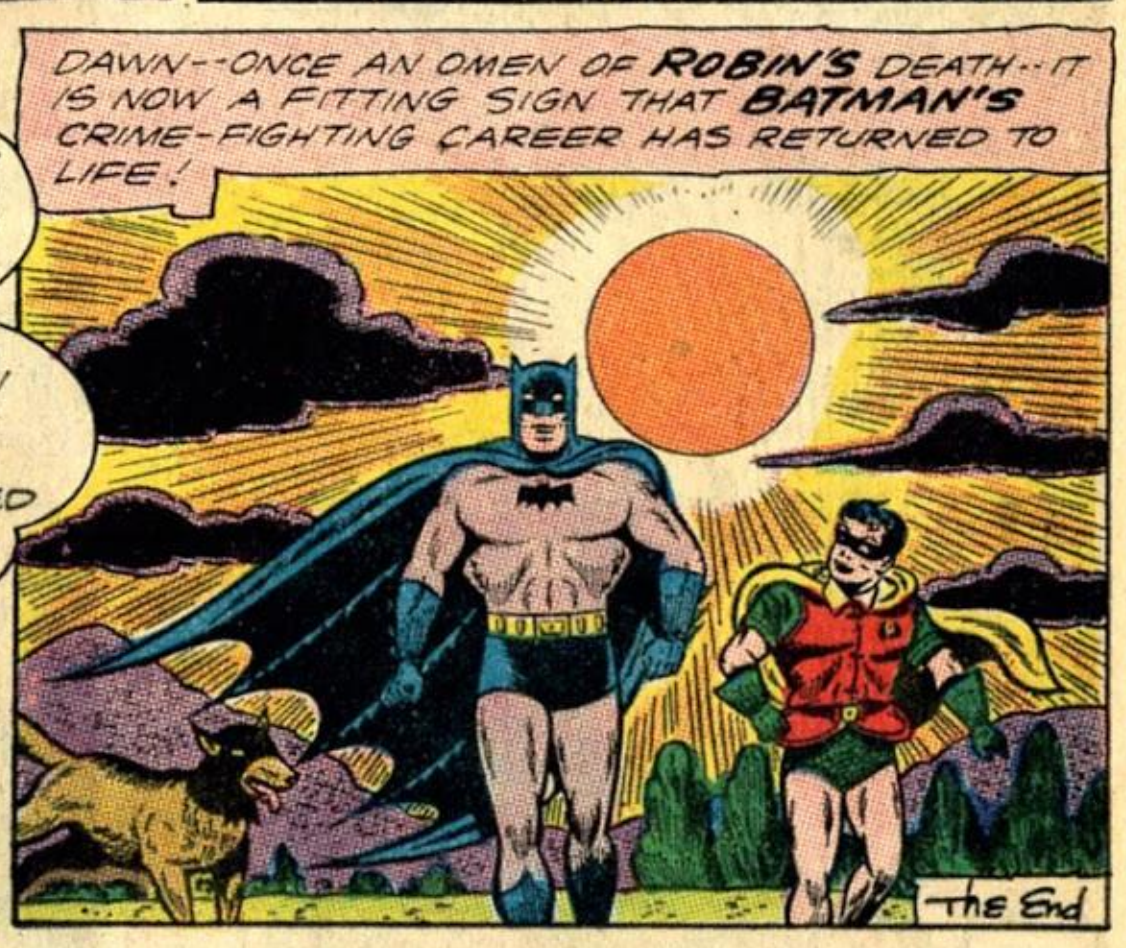

BATMAN, SOMEHOW THE GORILLA GANG LEARNED OF ROBIN'S APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON! THE GANG OVERCAME ROBIN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY AND TOOK HIM PRISONER! T-THEY SENT ME A NOTE FOR YOU!
THE NOTE SAYS, "BATMAN, WE'VE SENTENCED ROBIN TO DEATH--AND AT DAWN, WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT OF THIS WORLD FOR GOOD! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR ROBBERIES AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEXT!"
I VOWED NOT TO WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN--BUT ROBIN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT--AND ROBIN--BEFORE DAWN!


THOUGH POLICE JOIN THE SEARCH, BATMAN IS LIKE A FURY AS HE CRASHES UNDERWORLD HAUNTS!
WHERE'S THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT? TALK!
G-GOSH! IF I KNEW I'D TELL YA! H-HONEST!
PRECIOUS HOURS PASS--WITH NO RESULT!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT! ROBIN'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG CITY! BUT WHERE? AND IF I DO FIND HIM, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM--OR WILL I BLACK OUT AGAIN AS I DID LAST NIGHT?


"LAST NIGHT"! THOSE WORDS SUDDENLY HELP BATMAN RECALL SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!
THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES PASSED THROUGH SPILLED CAMPHOR FLAKES! CAMPHOR SCENT IS VERY STRONG--TAKES QUITE A WHILE TO FADE AWAY COMPLETELY! THAT CAMPHOR SCENT WOULD BE TOO FAINT FOR ME TO TRAIL--BUT NOT FOR A DOG'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL!
SHORTLY, WITH ACE IN HIS BAT-HOUND IDENTITY, THE MOVE AGAINST THE GORILLA GANG STARTS THIS NIGHT--WHERE LAST NIGHT'S ENDED!
OKAY, BAT-HOUND--THE CAMPHOR SMELL ON THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!
SNIFF! SNIFF!


SOON--DAWN! SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT PROBE EVERYWHERE--ESPECIALLY THROUGH A SLIDING ROOFTOP...
SUNRISE--AND ROBIN'S GONNA RISE UNTIL HE'S OUTA THIS WORLD! HA, HA! ONE WHACK OF THIS SHARP AX AND...
HOLD IT, PETE! I HEARD SOMETHING--SOUNDS LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LUKE, TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE IF ANYBODY'S SNOOPING AROUND!
CHECK!
MINUTES PASS AS THE CRIMINALS WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR COMPANION...
WELL? ANYBODY OUTSIDE?
YES...
...ME!
BATMAN! HE KAYOED LUKE--AND GOT INTO LUKE'S SUIT TO CATCH US OFF-GUARD! I'LL FIX HIM!
FREED, THE BALLOON STARTS TO RISE, THE ROPES TRAILING LIKE TENTACLES AROUND BATMAN'S SHOULDERS!..
THEN, A SHAGGY SHAPE HURTLES FORWARD LIKE A MISSILE...
THE AX--IT'S CUT THE MOORING ROPES!
"LIKE TENTACLES"! WILL THOSE ROPES CAUSE BATMAN TO BLACK OUT AGAIN? WILL HE IMAGINE HE IS IN THE GRIP OF THE TENTACLE-PLANT?





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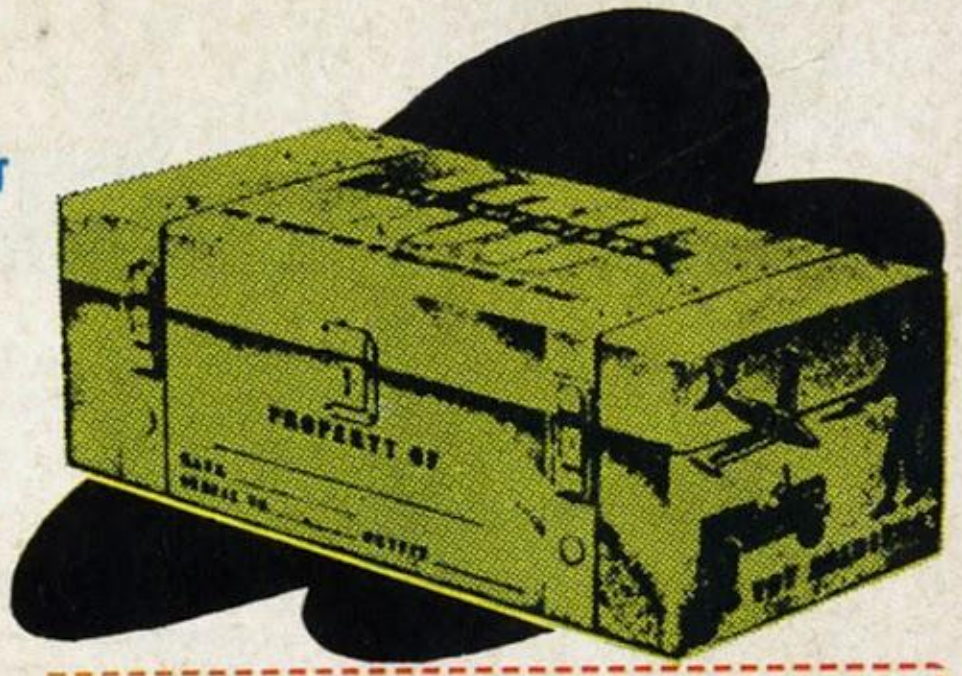

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