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BATMAN

NO. 255 APR.  
30430

# BATMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
  
AUTHORITY

MEET THE BATMAN FAMILY!

A NEW ~~SCREAM~~  
"MOON OF THE WOLF!"



BATMAN'S FATHER!



ALFRED THE DETECTIVE!



ROCKY BIG SUMMER!



MONK WITH COOL HAND!



**GOTHAM AFTER DARK-**  
THE CITY  
CLOSES  
MOST OF  
ITS MULTI-  
MILLION EYES  
AND SETTLES  
INTO  
**SLEEP...**

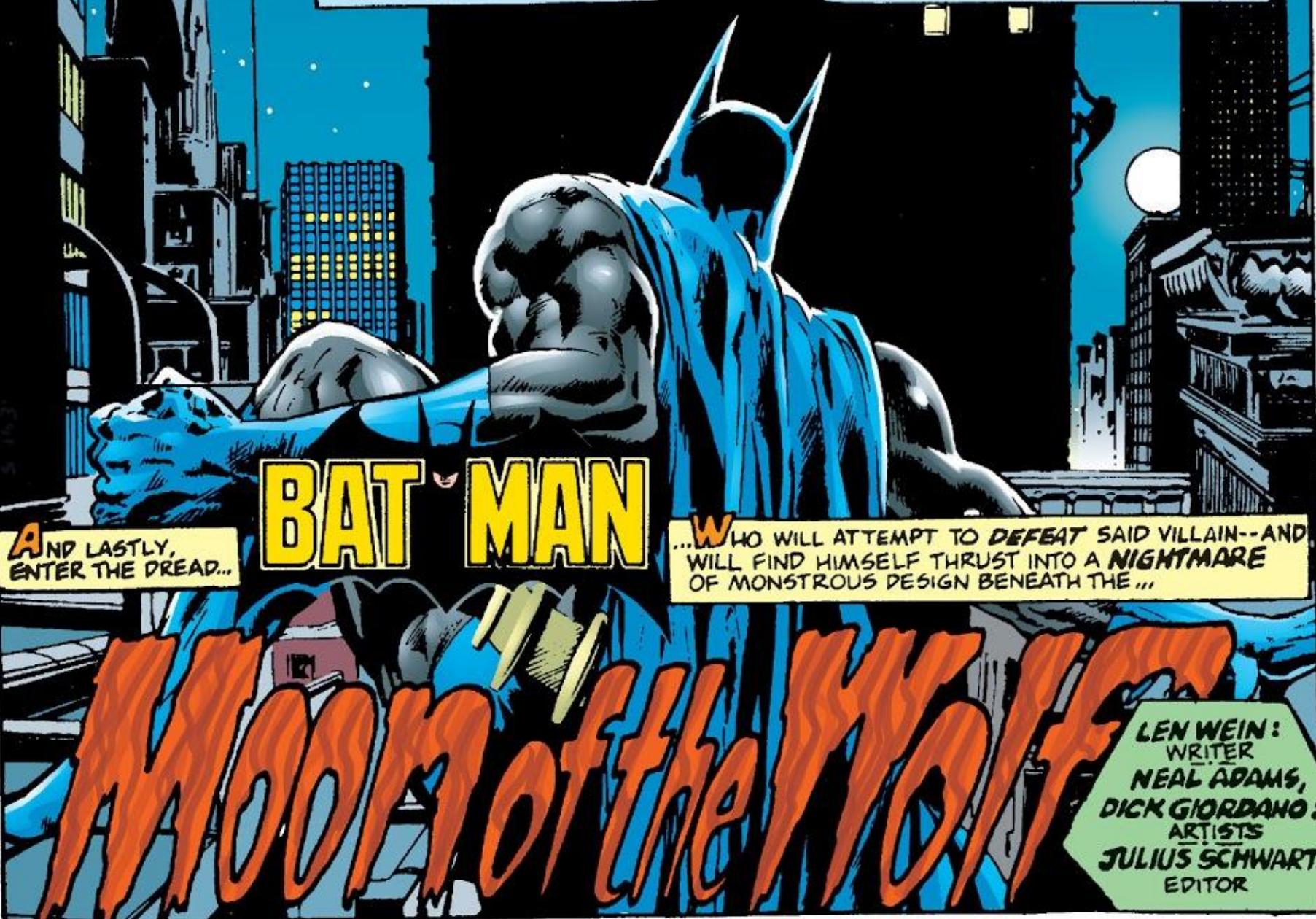
**I**N COUNTLESS CLUTTERED  
APARTMENTS ACROSS THE  
SPRAWLING METROPOLIS,  
THIS ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR  
SCENE IS BEING **ECHOED...**



**E**NTER JANET BONNER,  
TWENTY-THREE, SECRETARY,  
SINGLE, PREPARING TO  
**REST** AFTER A BUSY  
WORKING DAY...

**B**UT THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE  
WORKING DAY IS ONLY **BEGINNING...**  
THOSE WHO NEED THE **DARKNESS**  
TO PERFORM THEIR CHOSEN TASKS...

**E**NTER A **VILLAIN**: AGE  
UNKNOWN, OCCUPATION OBVIOUS,  
PREPARING TO **DESERVE** HIS  
SINISTER DESIGNATION...



**A**ND LASTLY,  
ENTER THE DREAD...

**W**HOMO WILL ATTEMPT TO **DEFEAT** SAID VILLAIN--AND  
WILL FIND HIMSELF THRUST INTO A **NIGHTMARE**  
OF MONSTROUS DESIGN BENEATH THE ...

IF SO, JANET BONNER POSSESSES ALL OF THESE QUALITIES... AND MORE!

'TIS SAID THAT IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF TALENT TO SURVIVE IN YOUR MODERN CITY... A MIXTURE OF SHEER NERVE, ANIMAL CUNNING, AND A CASUAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE OTHERWISE UNBELIEVABLE...

NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! A BURGLAR IN A HALLOWEEN SUIT!

SIC 'IM,  
RALPH...  
SIC 'IM!

THE GUARD DOG IS TRAINED TO RESPOND TO COMMAND... TO PROTECT ITS MASTER AT ALL COSTS...

AND THOUGH THE DOG IS GOOD AT ITS JOB...

...VERY, VERY GOOD AT ITS JOB ...

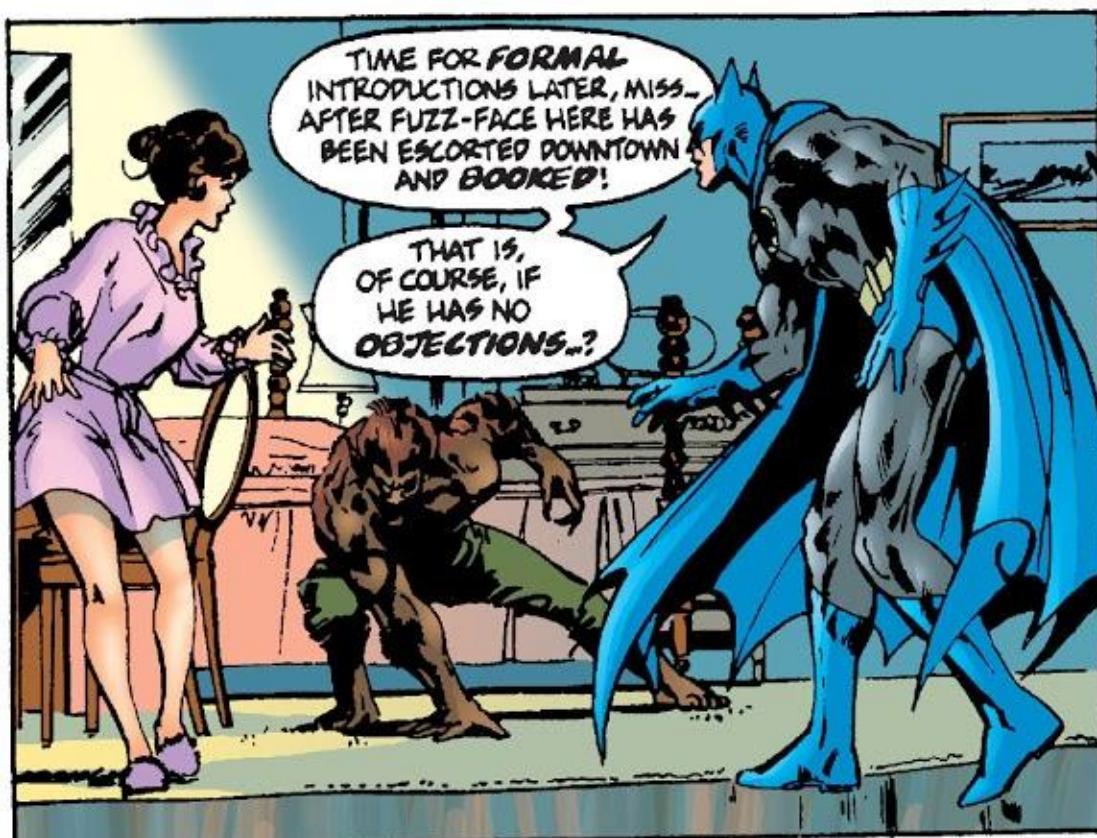
IT IS STILL NO MATCH FOR THE SHAGGY HORROR WHO SNAPS ITS SPINE... THEN DISCARDS THE BROKEN BODY IN FAVOR OF LIVING THINGS...

KRAA

NO... NO!  
STAY BACK...  
KEEP AWAY  
FROM ME!

YOU HEARD  
THE LADY, CRUD...  
SHE WANTS YOU  
TO KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE!

THE...  
BATMAN...?



“UUNNGG... BATARANG SLOWED US DOWN ENOUGH TO SAVE US...

...BUT MY ARM FEELS DISLOCATED!

BOOT-SHOED FEET TOUCH SOLID GROUND... AND INSTANTS LATER...

SHE'S ALL RIGHT... JUST FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK!

AND, BY NOW, HER FURRY ATTACKER HAS CERTAINLY FLED...

...ALL OF WHICH LEAVES ME WHERE?

THAT HAIRY CHARACTER MAY HAVE ESCAPED ME THIS TIME... BUT I LAY ODDS WE'LL MEET AGAIN!

THERE'S MORE TO THAT MANIAC THAN MEETS THE EYE!

FORTY-SIX MINUTES LATER,  
HALF-WAY ACROSS GOTHAM,  
THE HARSH GLARE OF  
COMMISSIONER GORDON'S  
DESK LAMP ILLUMINATES  
A FAMILIAR DARK-CLAD  
FORM...

BATMAN! GOOD  
LORD, MAN, WHAT  
HAPPENED TO YOU?  
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE  
BEEN PUT THROUGH  
A CEMENT-MIXER!

NOTHING SO GRAPHIC,  
COMMISSIONER! JUST HAD A--  
FALLING OUT WITH SOME  
LUNATIC SECOND-STORY  
MAN ACROSS TOWN!

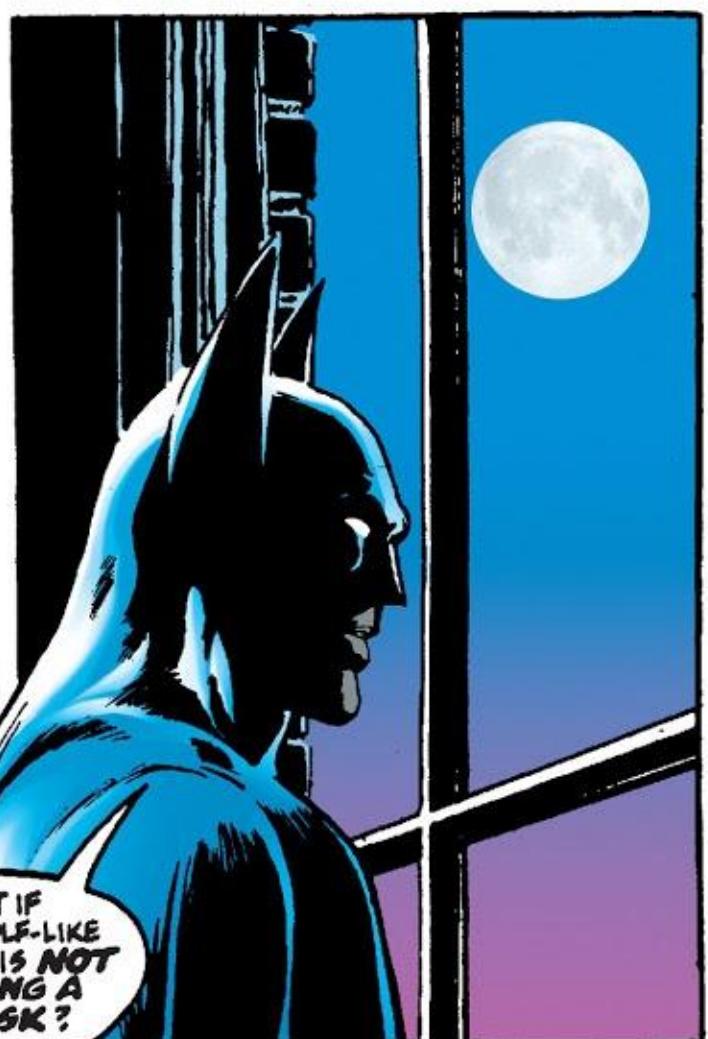
AMAZING!  
AN EVERYDAY  
BURGLAR GIVING  
YOU PROBLEMS?



MAYBE I'M GETTING OLD... BUT  
MY COP'S INSTINCTS TELL ME THAT, IN  
SOME STRANGE FASHION, OUR TWO  
CASES ARE RELATED!

I AGREE, SIR...  
BUT A MORE FRIGHTENING  
THOUGHT HAS JUST OCCURRED  
TO ME ...

WHAT IF  
OUR WOLF-LIKE  
PROWLER IS NOT  
WEARING A  
MASK?



GOTHAM'S GRIMY LOWER-EAST SIDE ... WHERE LANDMARKS OF THE FUTURE RISE FROM THE RUBBLE OF THE PAST ...

IN THE FRAGILE MOMENTS BEFORE THE REBIRTH OF DAWN, A SOLITARY FIGURE LOPES THROUGH THE TWISTING SHADOWS ...

... THEN PAUSES BEFORE THE DIRT-STREAKED WINDOW OF A DIMLY-LIT PHARMACY AND ...

AH, MY FRIEND, YOU'VE RETURNED...

... AND JUST UNDER THE WIRE!

RREEEEEK

COME ON... DON'T BE SO MELODRAMATIC!

IN PRECISELY SEVEN SECONDS, THE MOON WILL BE DOWN...

RRRRAAAARRRGHHHH

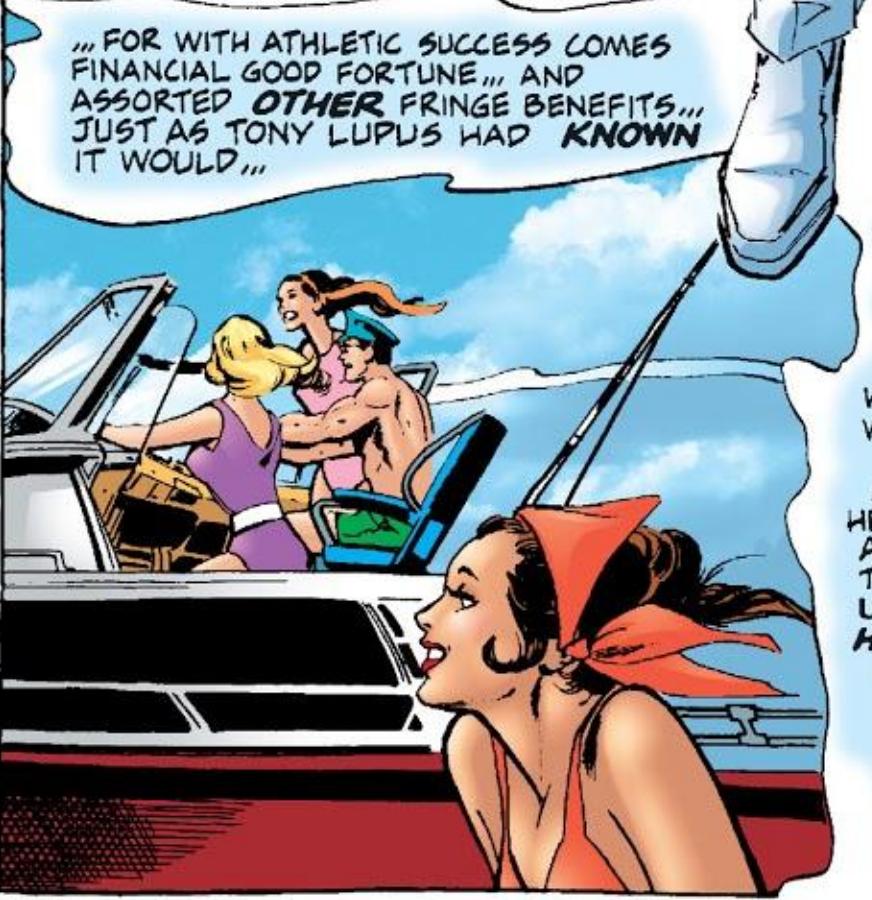
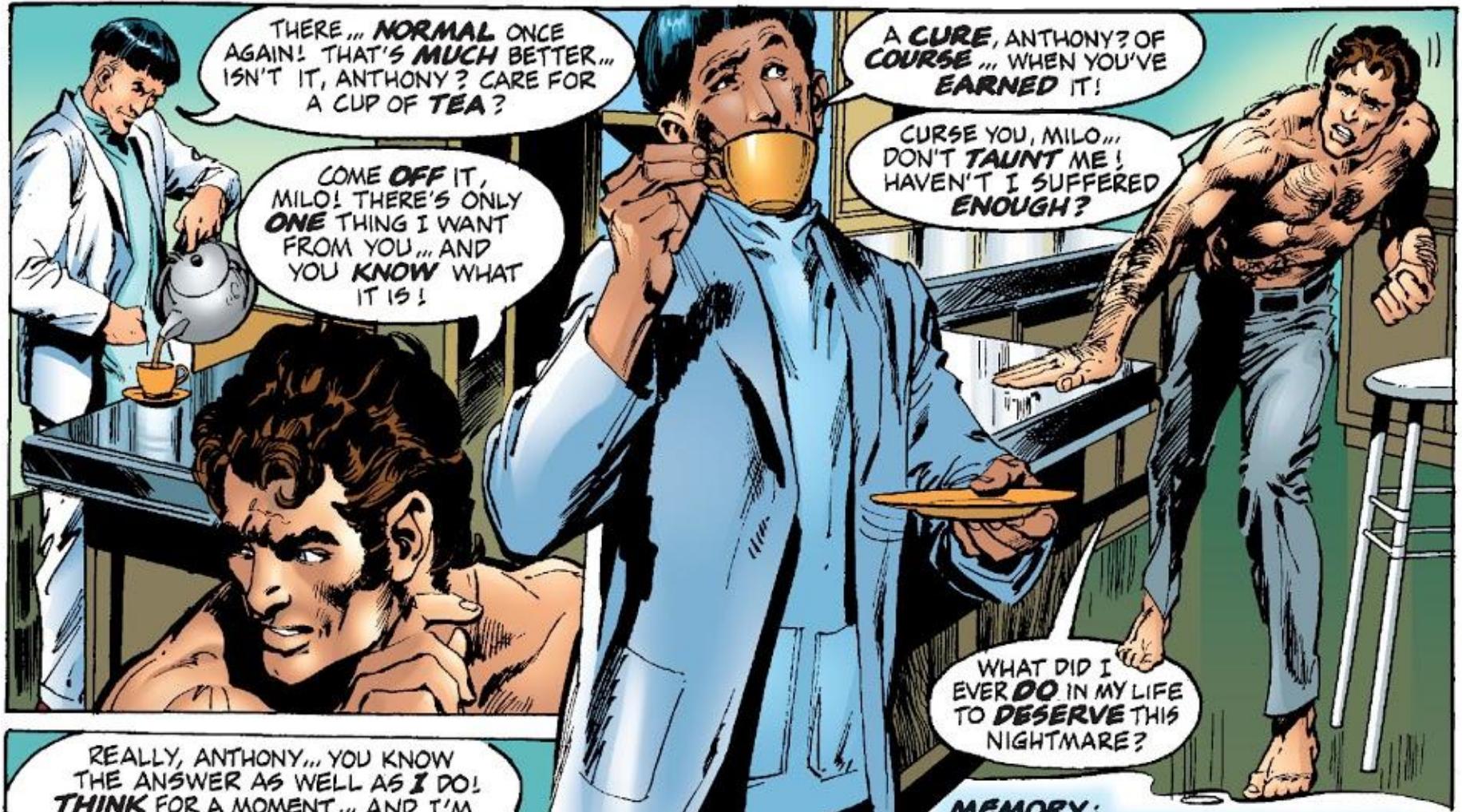
... AND ALL ...

... YOUR FEARSOME ...

... GROWLING WON'T ...

... MEAN A ...

... DAMNED THING!



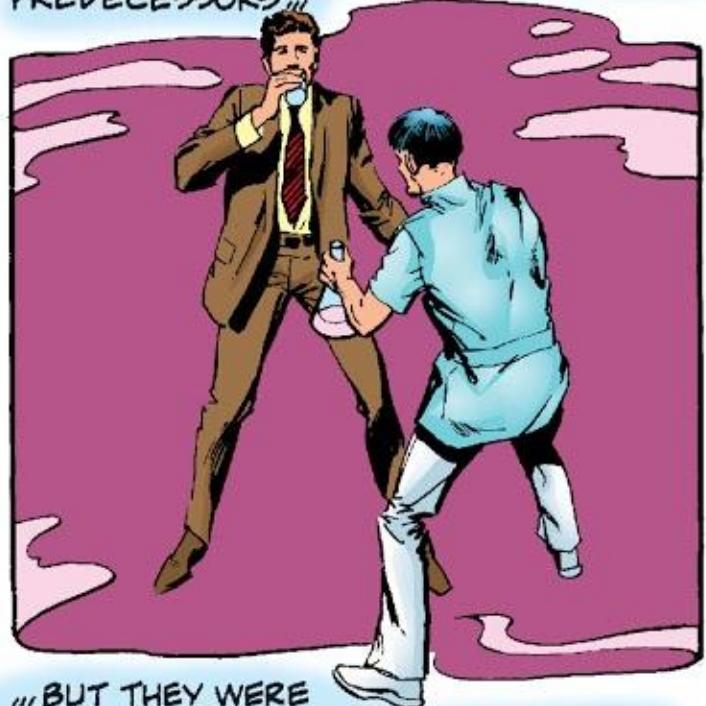
"THERE IS NO PHYSIOLOGICAL CAUSE FOR THESE HEADACHES," SAID ONE DOCTOR AFTER ANOTHER...

...BUT ANTHONY LUPUS WAS AN OBSTINATE MAN... AND THERE WERE MANY OTHER DOCTORS IN GOTHAM...

"AND WHEN, INEVITABLY, THERE WERE NO LONGER OTHER DOCTORS, THERE WERE, INSTEAD, THE HEALERS... THE MIRACLE MEN... THE QUACKS..."

FINALLY, THERE WAS... MILO!

MILO'S POTIONS AND BREWS TASTED NO LESS FOUL THAN THOSE OF HIS PREDECESSORS...



"FOR MILO'S MINISTRATIONS SOMEHOW RELIEVED ANTHONY LUPUS' CONSTANT AGONY, CLEARED HIS PAIN-RACKED MIND..."

"...UNTIL, AT MONTH'S END, WHEN THE MOON ROSE FULL ONCE MORE..."

"AND, IN HORROR, TONY LUPUS LEARNED THAT MILO'S ELIXIRS HAD MERELY EXCHANGED ONE KIND OF TORMENT FOR ANOTHER, FAR MORE HIDEOUS..."

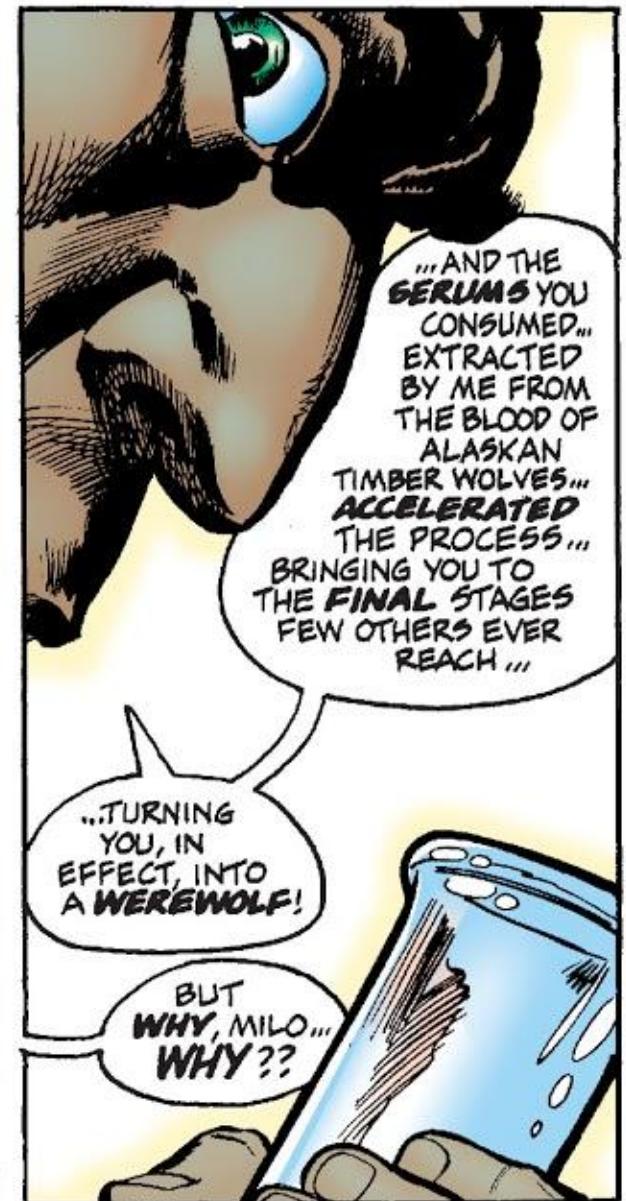
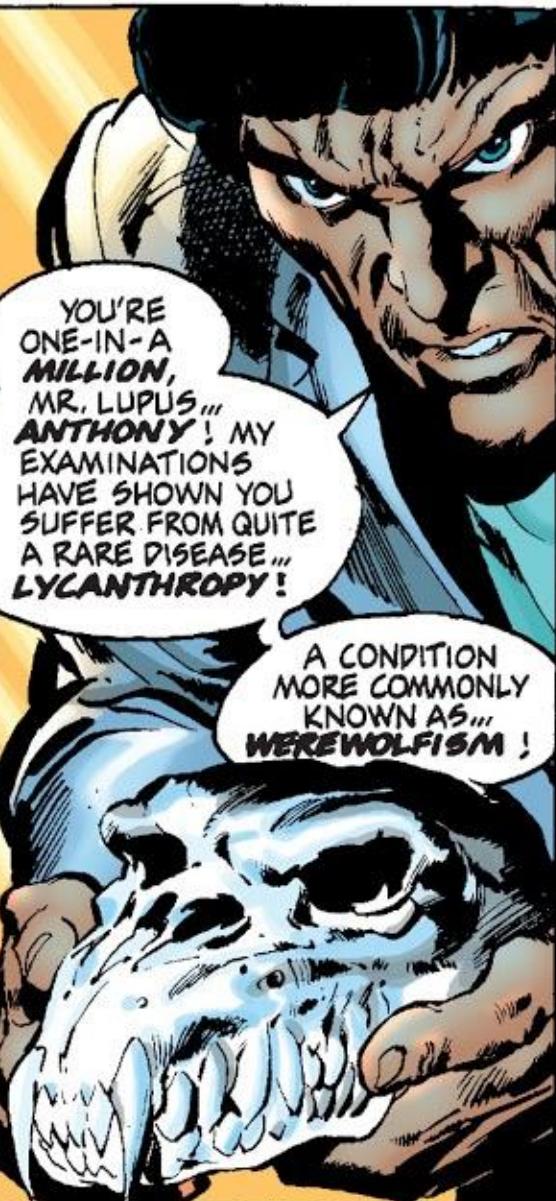


WHEN THE SUN ROSE AND THE TRANSFORMATION FADED INTO DREAM, THERE WERE ANSWERS TO BE FOUND...

MILo... YOUR SERUMS... THE MOON... TH-THEY CHANGED ME SOMEHOW... THEY...

IN HEAVEN'S NAME, MAN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

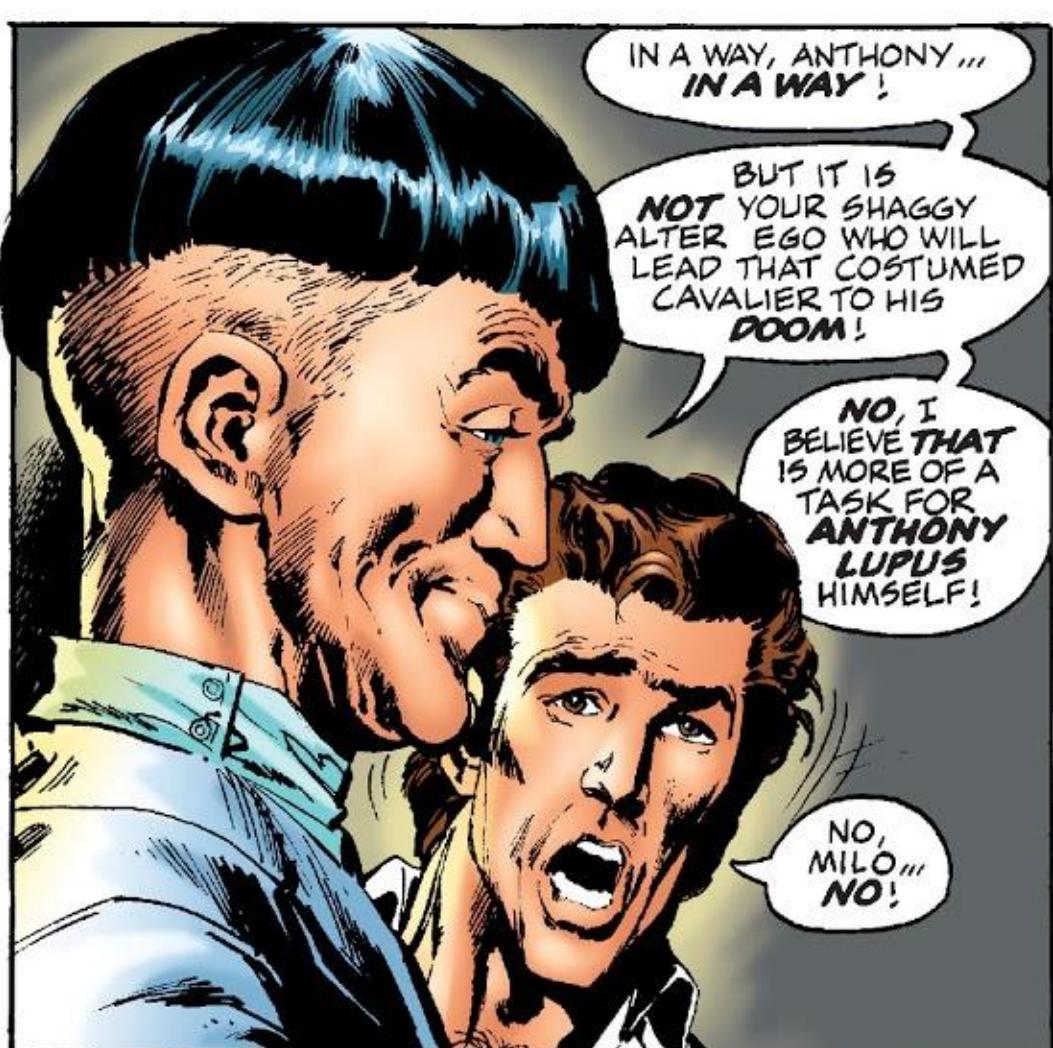
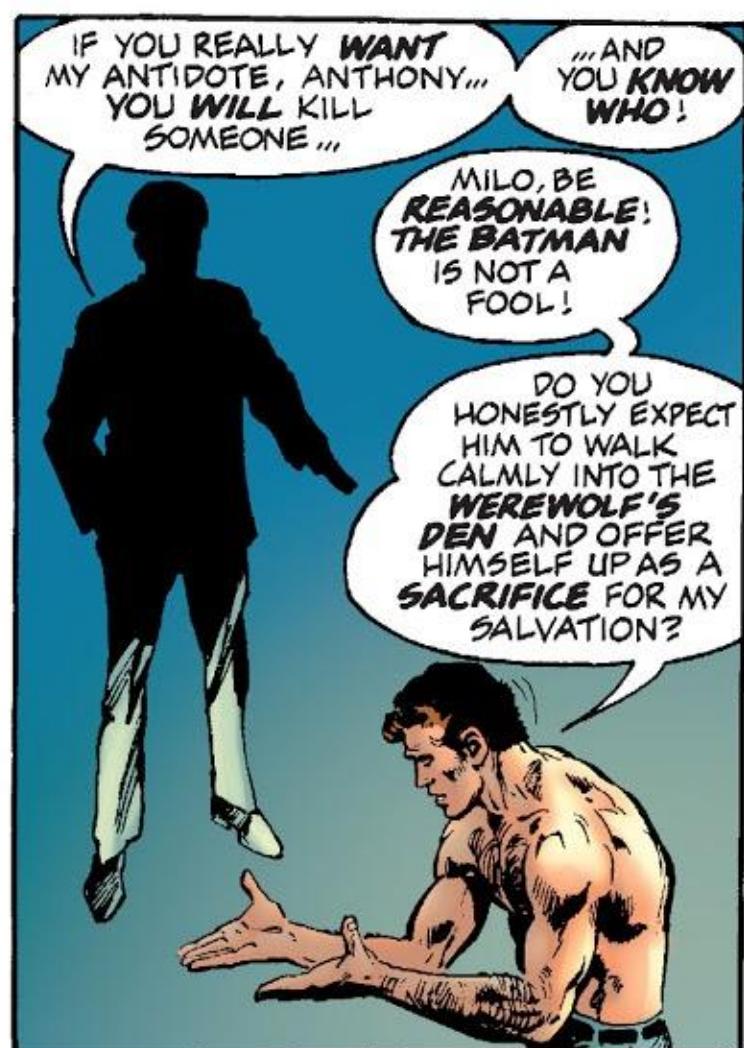
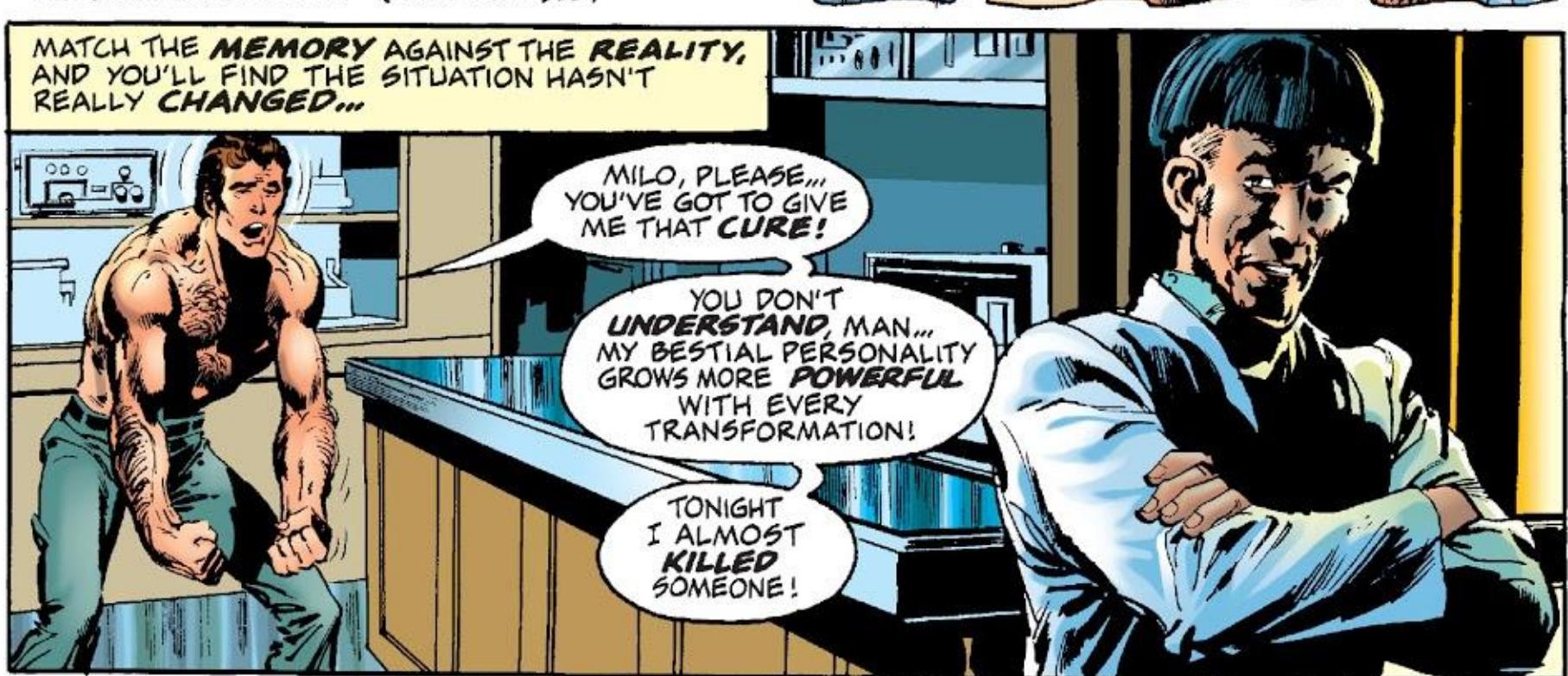
REALLY, MR. LUPUS... NO NEED TO BE UPSET! IN FACT, YOU SHOULD BE PROUD!



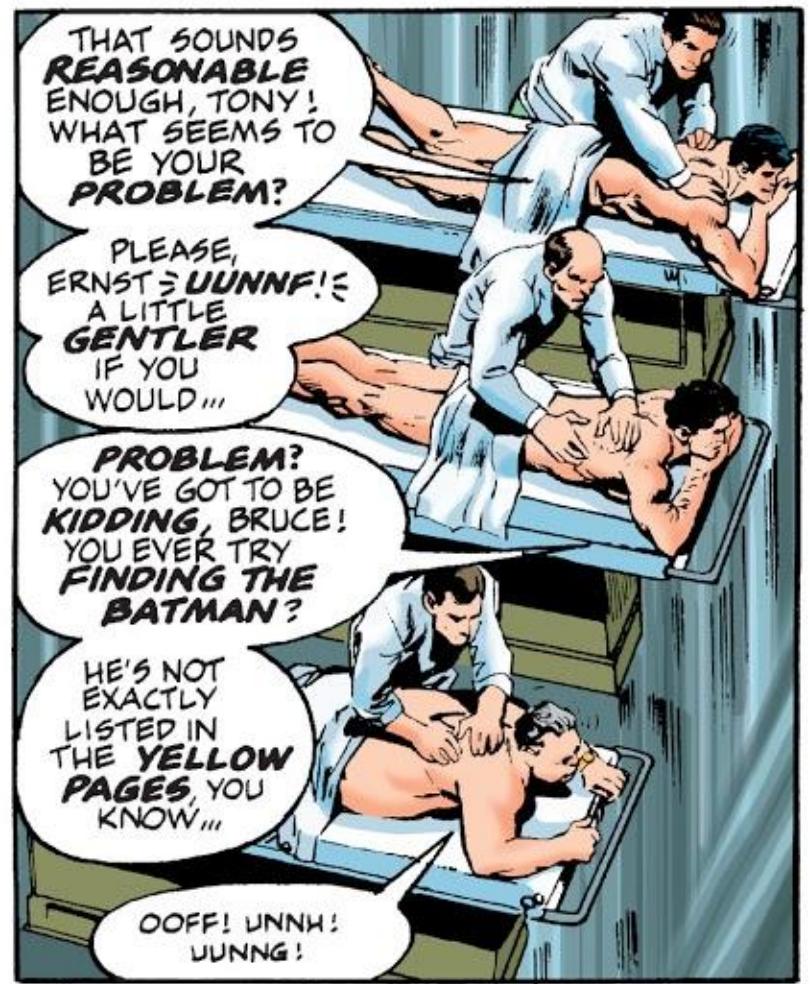
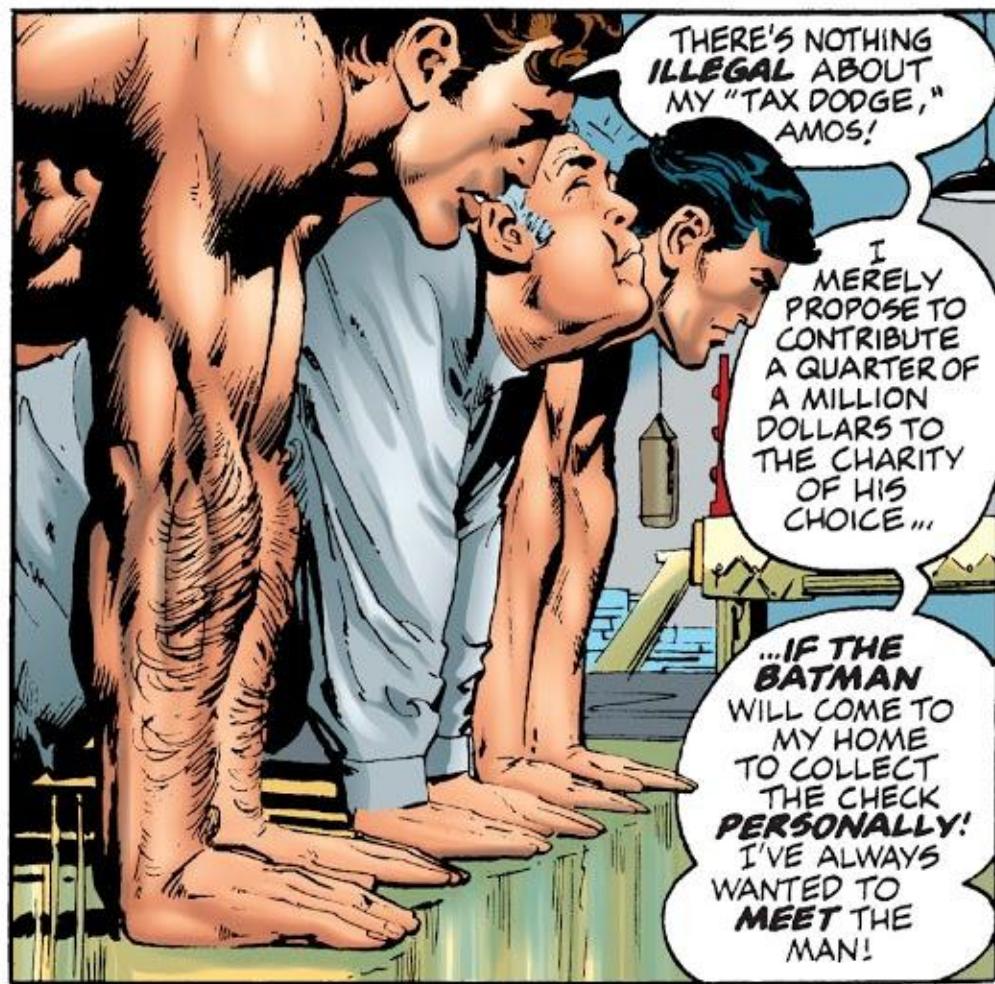
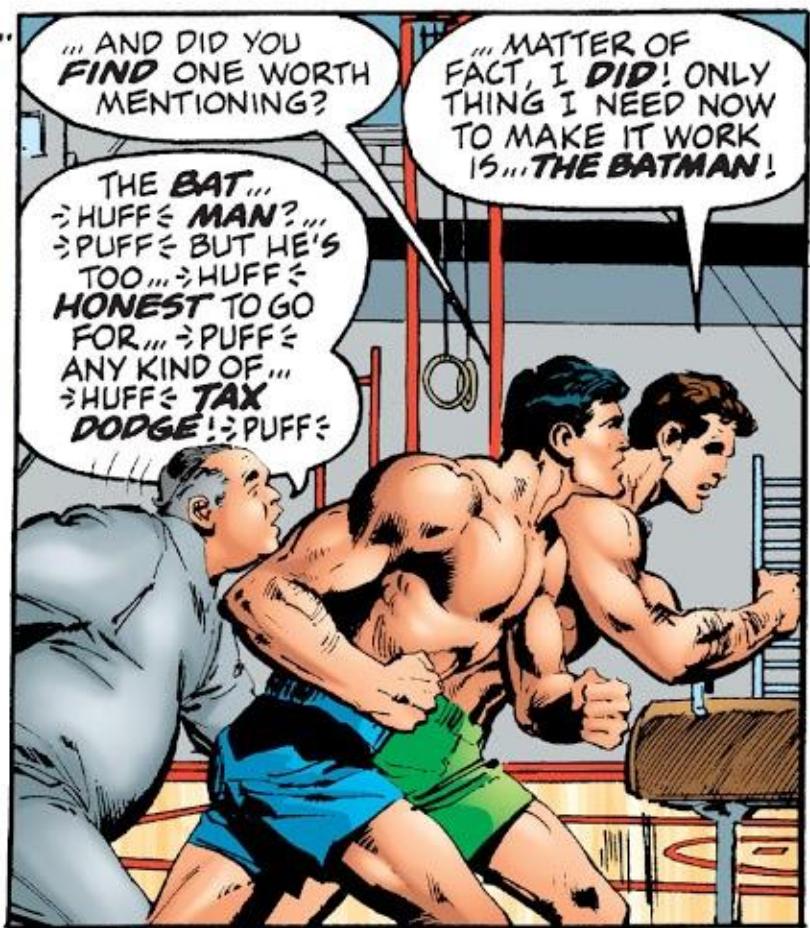
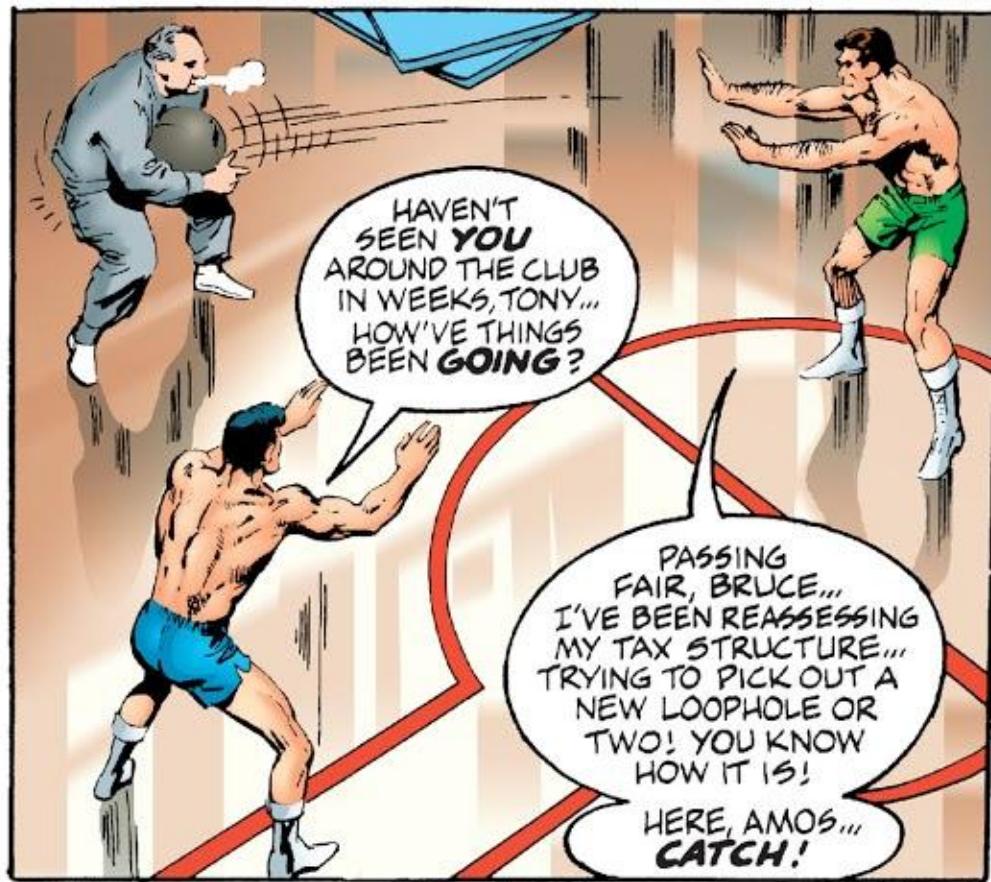


\* AS RELATED IN "THE MAN WHO ENDED BATMAN'S CAREER" (DETECTIVE COMICS #247) & "AM I REALLY BATMAN?" (BATMAN #112)

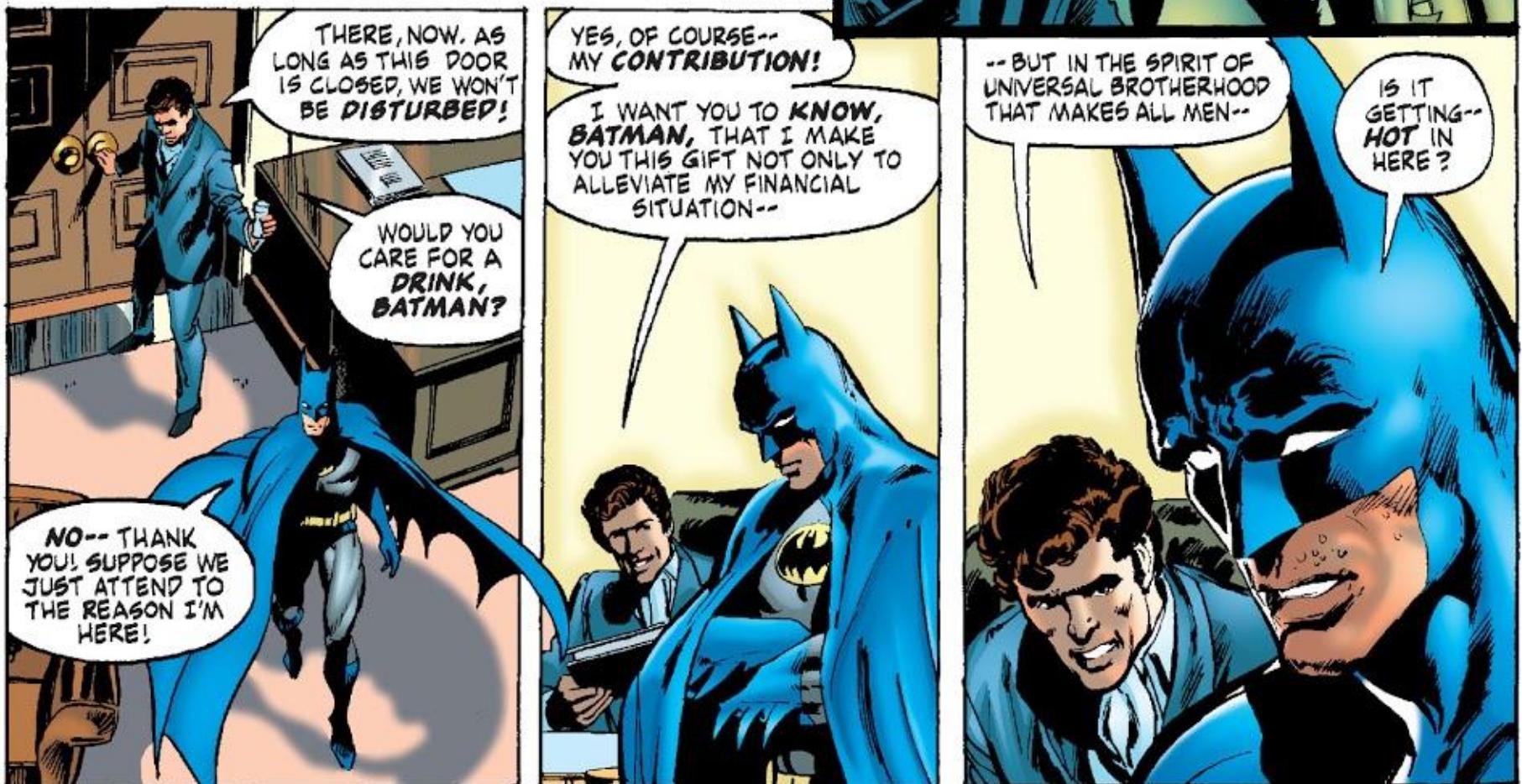
MATCH THE MEMORY AGAINST THE REALITY,  
AND YOU'LL FIND THE SITUATION HASN'T  
REALLY CHANGED...

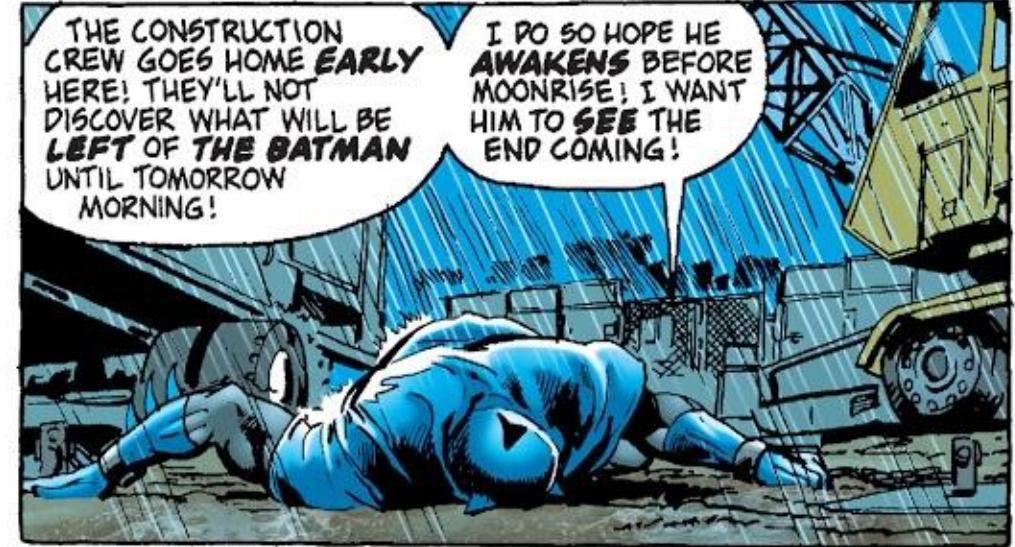


BUT A SHORT WHILE LATER, DESPITE TONY LUPUS' PROTESTS...

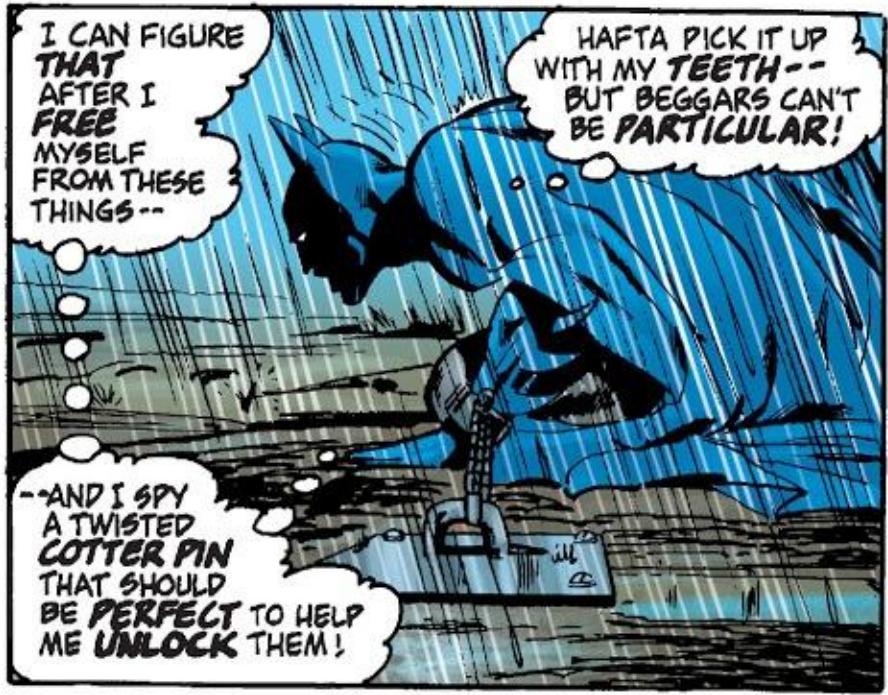


AND NOT TOO MUCH LATER...





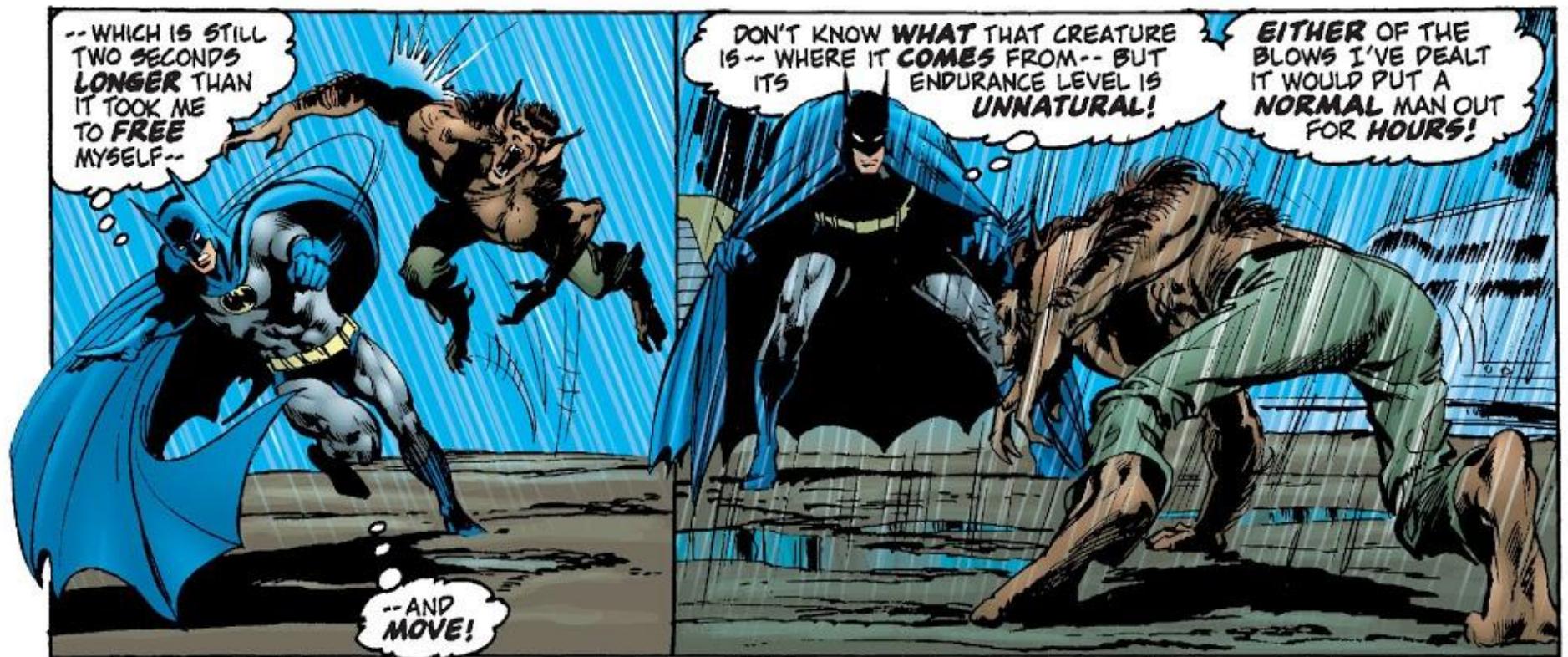


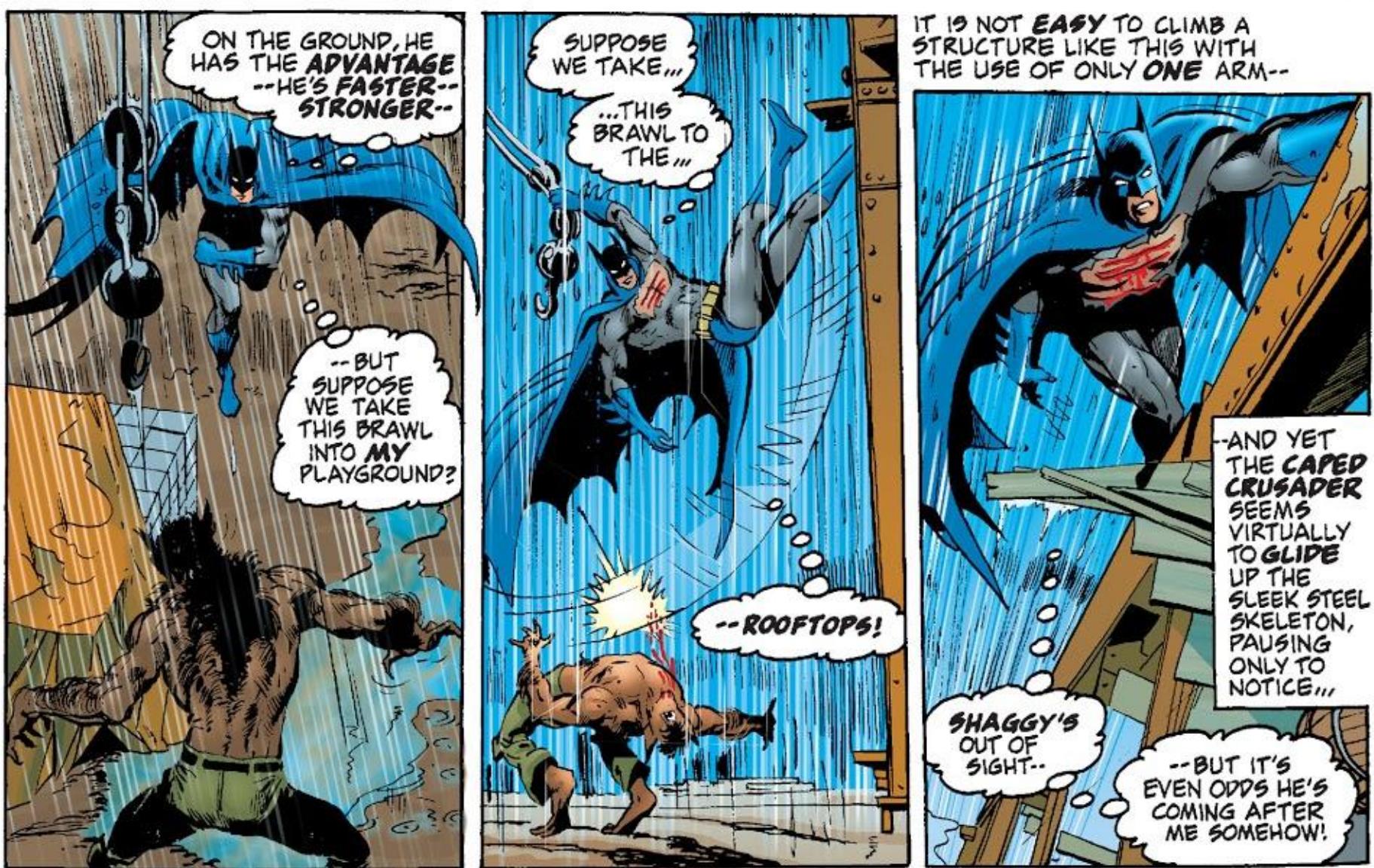


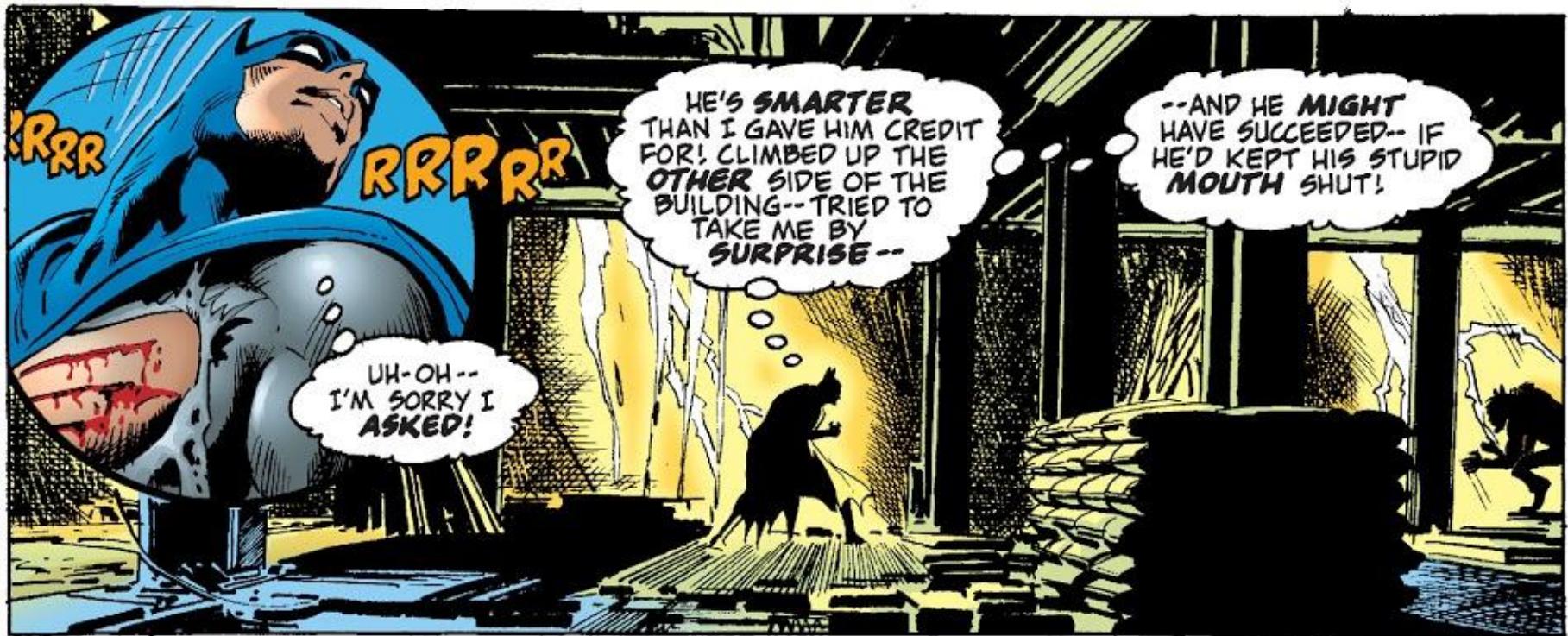


AND HE WORKS VERY FAST INDEED--FOR THE **CAPED CRUSADER** HAS SPENT MANY HOURS FOR MANY YEARS LEARNING HOW TO PICK THE MOST COMPLICATED LOCKS WITH THE MOST OUTLANDISH TOOLS...









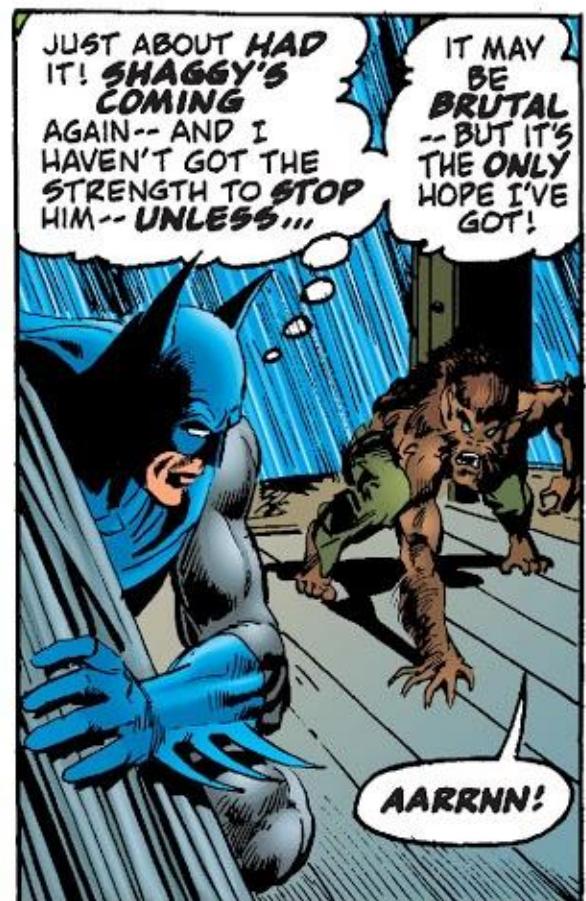
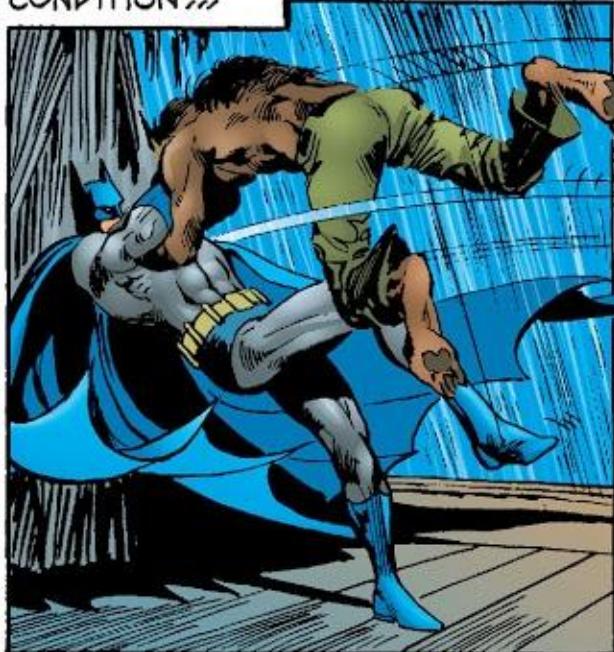
BUT EVEN AS HE WHIRLS TO MEET THE ATTACK, THE BATMAN FALLS BENEATH ITS FULL SAVAGE FURY-- FURY BORN FROM THE BEAST'S SUBCONSCIOUS-- AND THE MANGLED MEMORY THAT THE CAPED ONE IS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTHONY LUPUS' CURRENT CONDITION...

--RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BITTER ANGUISH THE SHAGGY CREATURE FEELS--

--THE ANGUISH -- AND THE PAIN!

JUST ABOUT HAD IT! SHAGGY'S COMING AGAIN-- AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE STRENGTH TO STOP HIM-- UNLESS...

IT MAY BE BRUTAL -- BUT IT'S THE ONLY HOPE I'VE GOT!



ONCE MORE, THE BEAST THAT IS ANTHONY LUPUS HURLS HIMSELF FORWARD-- ONLY TO BE STOPPED SUDDENLY, SICKENINGLY SHORT BY ANOTHER OBJECT HURLED...

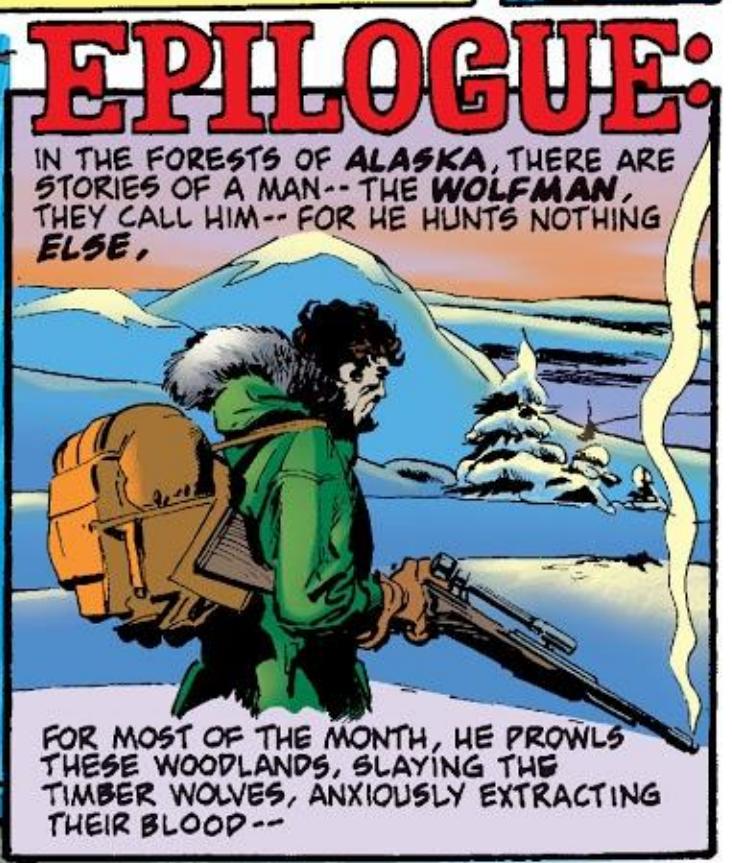
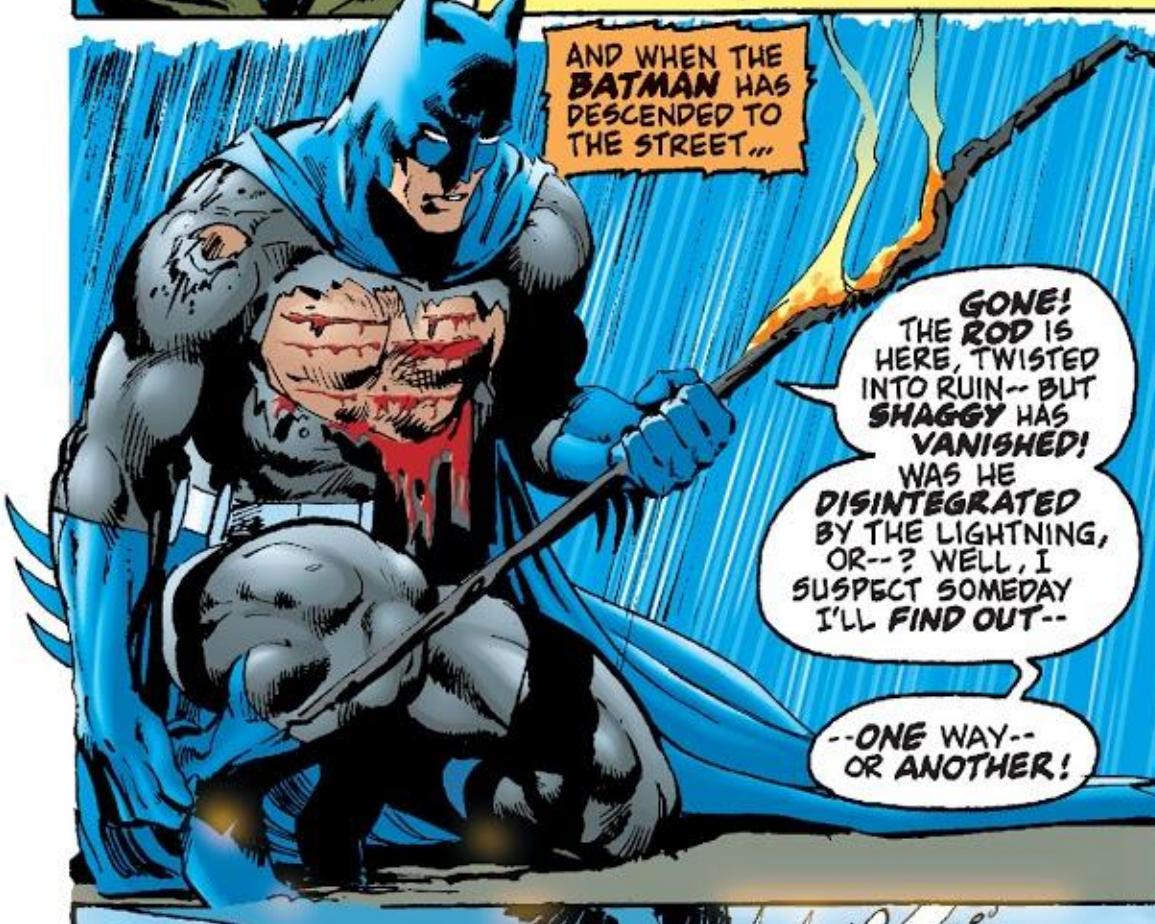
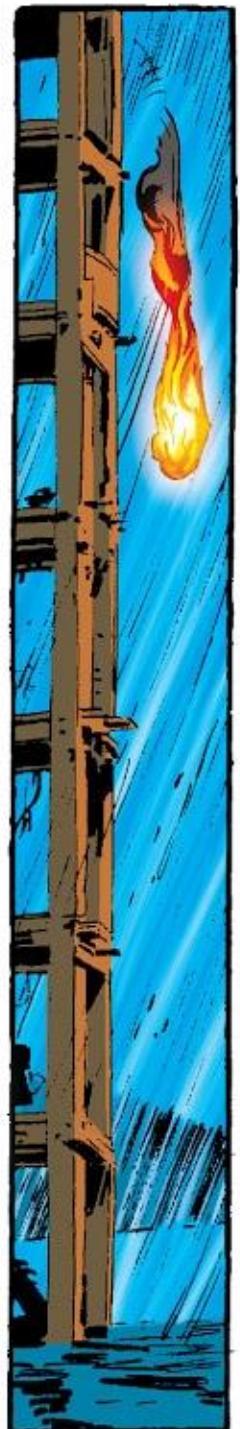


FOR A MOMENT, THE BEAST-MAN STANDS TREMBLING, WAITING FOR DEATH TO CLAIM HIM--

THEN, SLOWLY, HE BEGINS TO REALIZE THAT HE FEELS NO WEAKNESS, NO PAIN-- THAT THE SHARP STEEL ROD WHICH PIERCED HIS FURRY FLESH HAS AFFECTED HIM NOT AT ALL --



-- AND, IF IT IS POSSIBLE  
FOR A BEAST TO GRIN,  
ANTHONY LUPUS DOES  
SO AS HE BEGINS TO  
PULL THE ROD OUT --



FOR MOST OF THE MONTH, HE PROWLS THESE WOODLANDS, SLAYING THE TIMBER WOLVES, ANXIOUSLY EXTRACTING THEIR BLOOD --



-- BUT, ON THE THREE NIGHTS OF THE COLD FULL MOON, IT IS SAID THE WOLF-PACK STILL RUNS THICKER-- BY ONE-- AND THAT ONE HAS THE SHAPE OF-- A MAN!

The End



**novus**  
Distributions