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JULY 85

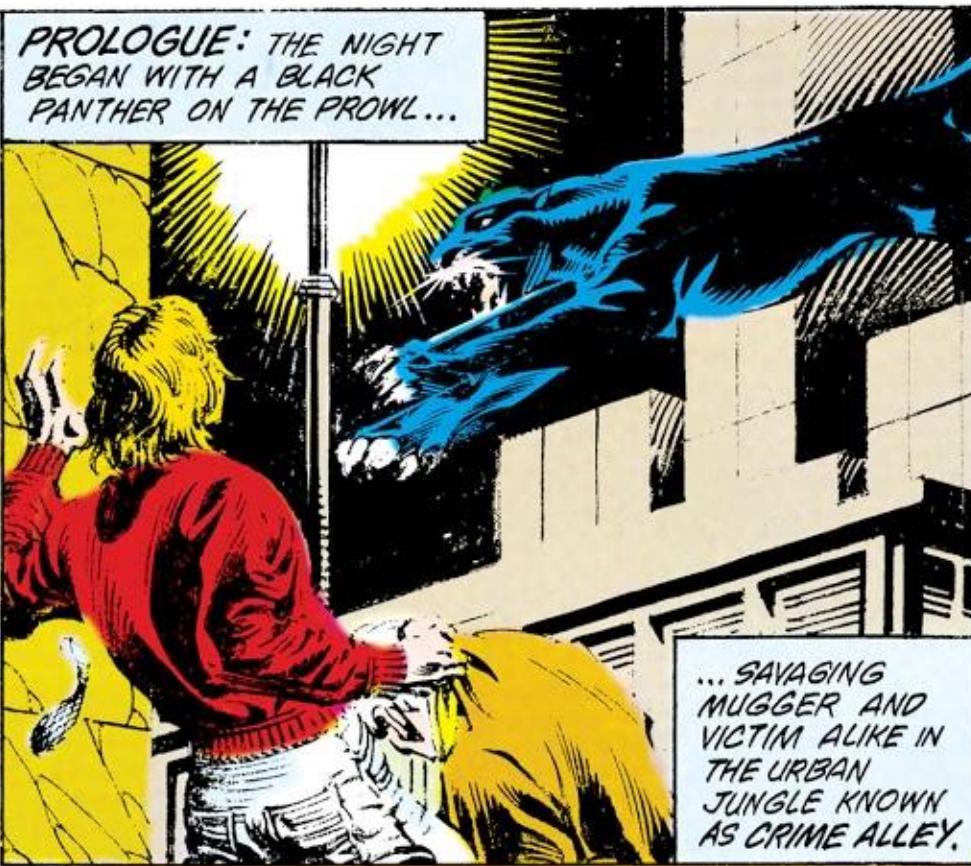
APPROVED  
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# BATMAN®

in search of...  
**CATWOMAN!**™



**PROLOGUE: THE NIGHT  
BEGAN WITH A BLACK  
PANTHER ON THE PROWL...**



**EN ROUTE TO THE SCENE, BATMAN AND  
ROBIN WERE DETOURED BY THE PORTABLE  
BAT-SIGNAL --**



-- AND FOUND THEMSELVES AT ARCH  
AND WELLMAN, SITE OF GOTHAM'S  
**EGYPTIAN EMBASSY**, WHERE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER GORDON EXPLAINED:

THERE'S A SYRIAN TERRORIST  
HOLDING SIX HOSTAGES  
UP THERE.

CALLS HIMSELF **DARKWOLF**  
-- AND HE DEMANDS THE  
RELEASE OF SYRIAN  
PRISONERS FROM  
EGYPTIAN PRISONS.

THE COMBINED RESCUE AND CAPTURE MISSION WAS LAUNCHED  
WITH COOL COURAGE AND BOLD HOPE.



BUT WHILE ROBIN SUCCEEDED  
IN RESCUING THE HOSTAGES --

-- THE BATMAN FAILED TO CAPTURE  
DARKWOLF.



EGYPT FLATLY  
REFUSES -- DUMPING  
IT IN OUR LAP.



GROGGY, AND  
IN BITTER  
FRUSTRATION,  
THE MASKED  
MANHUNTER  
COULD ONLY  
WATCH--

--AS HIS BEAST-  
LIKE QUARRY MADE  
A SPECTACULAR  
ESCAPE.

AT THE SAME MOMENT, REPORTER  
JULIA REMARQUE AND PHOTOGRAPHER  
VICKI VALE TRACKED DARK TERROR  
THROUGH ONE OF CRIME ALLEY'S  
CRUMBLING TENEMENTS ...

THINK  
PULITZER,  
JULIA...

COME ON, ROBIN -- NOW WE'VE GOT  
TWO BEASTS TO HUNT...

THE PANTHER IN  
CRIME ALLEY -- AND  
DARKWOLF, GOD  
KNOWS WHERE.

THEN THE PRIZE WAS FOUND...

DO THEY AWARD IT  
POSTHUMOUSLY?

URRRR

...AND NOW, AS THEY HOPE TO  
SURVIVE THEIR SUCCESS--

SH-TRAK

WHAT THE--? A  
CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS!

DON'T YOU DARE  
HARM THAT CAT!

**BATMAN**

**THE  
VENGEANCE  
SPIRAL**

IT... IT'S...

**CATHOMAN!**

AND I MIGHT HAVE  
KNOWN IT WOULD BE  
YOU, VICKI VALE.

AFTER OUR LAST  
ENCOUNTER, YOU KNOW  
WHAT I CAN DO -- SO I  
ADVISE YOU TO LISTEN TO  
MY NEXT WORDS VERY  
CAREFULLY...

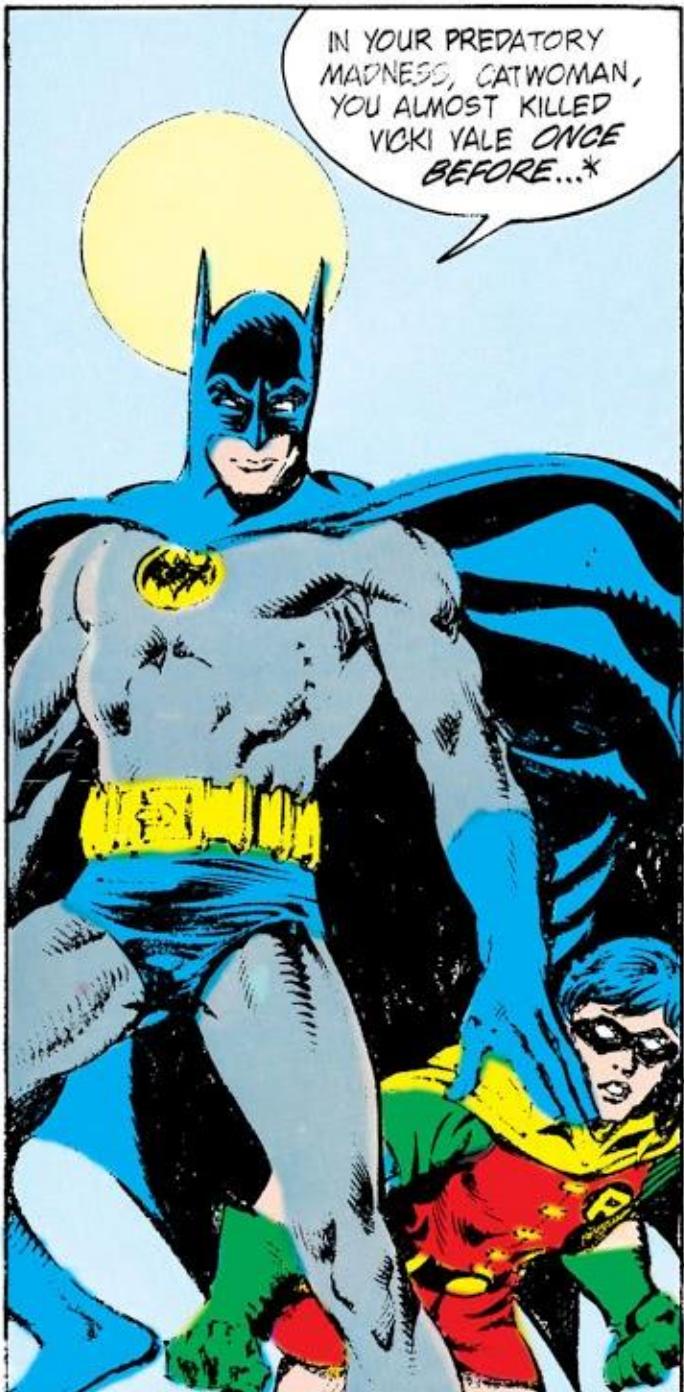
AND THE WORDS  
HANG IN THE AIR  
LIKE A HISS.

DOUG MOENCH  
WRITER

RICK HOBERG & RUDY NEBRES  
ARTISTS

BEN ODA LETTERER  
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST  
LEN WEIN EDITOR





DARKWOLF--? ROBIN AND I JUST TANGLED WITH HIM AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY.

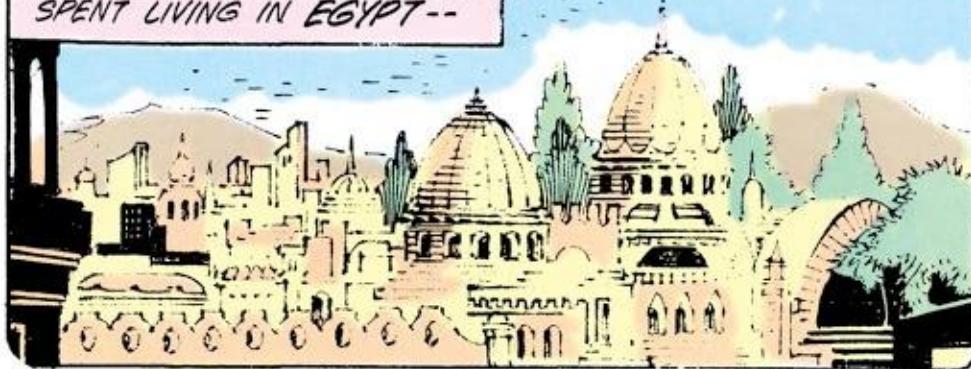
I THINK YOU'D BETTER EXPLAIN, CATWOMAN.

SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY INVOLVED -- AND SINCE EVADING YOU WOULD ONLY WASTE MORE TIME...

...LISTEN WELL.

TAKE THIS DOWN IN YOUR NOTEBOOK, JULIA-- EVERY WORD OF IT.

"IT GOES BACK TO THE TIME I SPENT LIVING IN EGYPT--



--A TIME WHICH COINCIDES WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE OVERTURES TO ISRAEL...



"A FRIEND I'D MADE -- AN OFFICIAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES -- WAS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE REPRISALS FROM LESS TOLERANT ARAB Factions...

--MASTERMINDED AND TO BE EXECUTED BY A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE KNOWN ONLY AS DARKWOLF.

"SYRIAN TERRORISTS HAD ALREADY STAGED SEVERAL STRIKES ON EGYPT--



"I DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...



"AND LARGELY BECAUSE DIABLO MAULED HIS FACE --



--AND INTELLIGENCE HAD LEARNED OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK ON THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES ITSELF--

...AS CATWOMAN.

"--DARKWOLF WAS APPREHENDED AND PUT AWAY FOR WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A VERY LONG TIME."



BUT SINCE HIS WOUNDS RUN FAR DEEPER THAN THE SKIN, THERE ARE NOW THREE THINGS HE HATES EVEN MORE THAN JEWS...



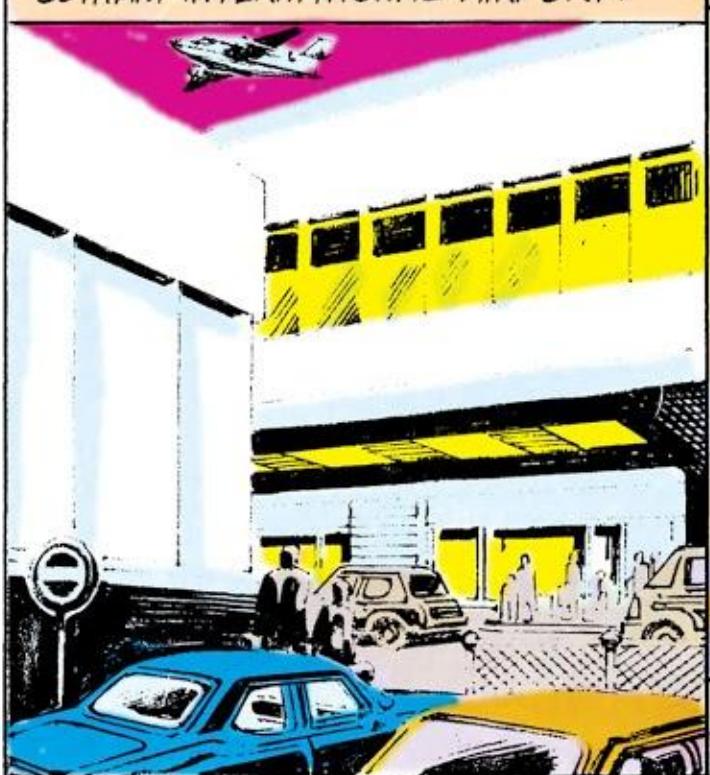
"BUT TO A MAN LIKE HIM, ESCAPE IS ALMOST AN INSTINCT--



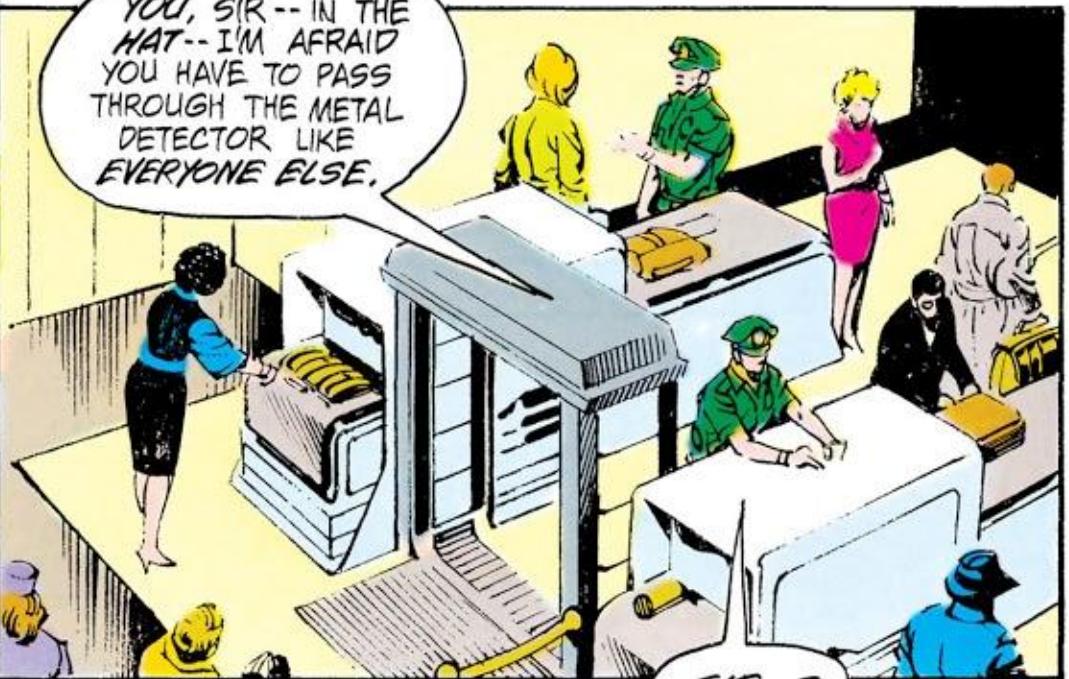
EGYPT... ME...

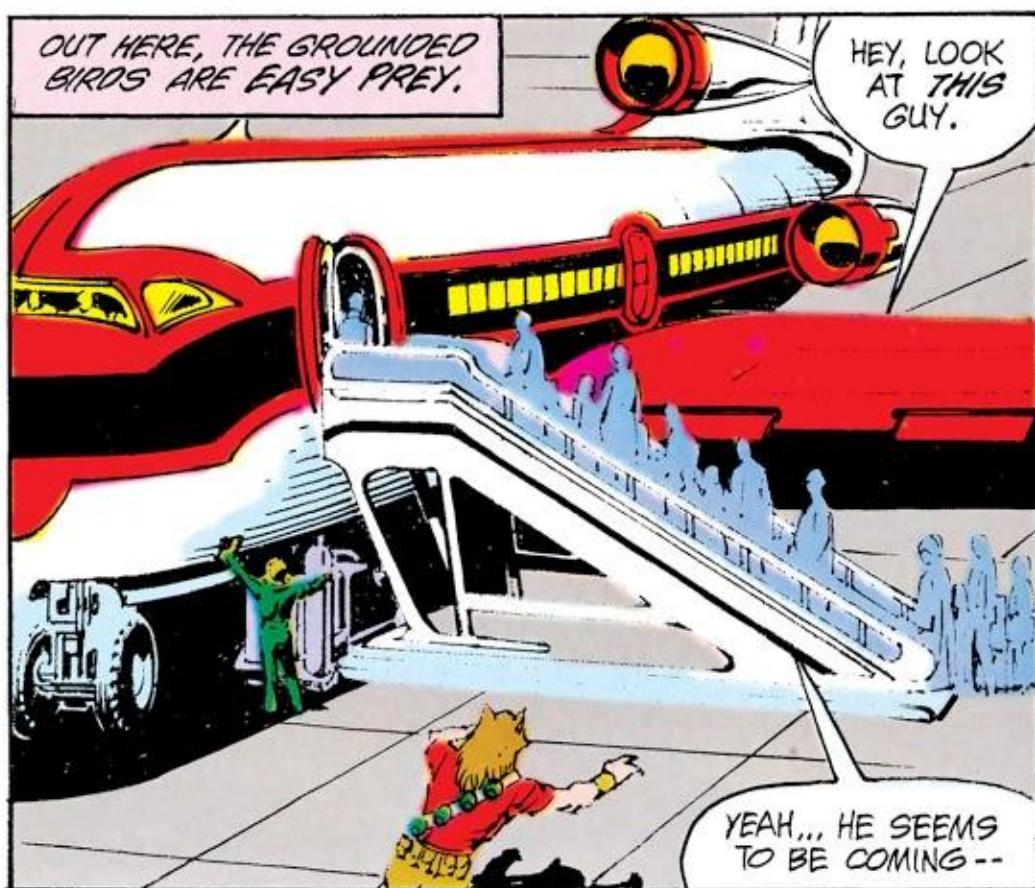


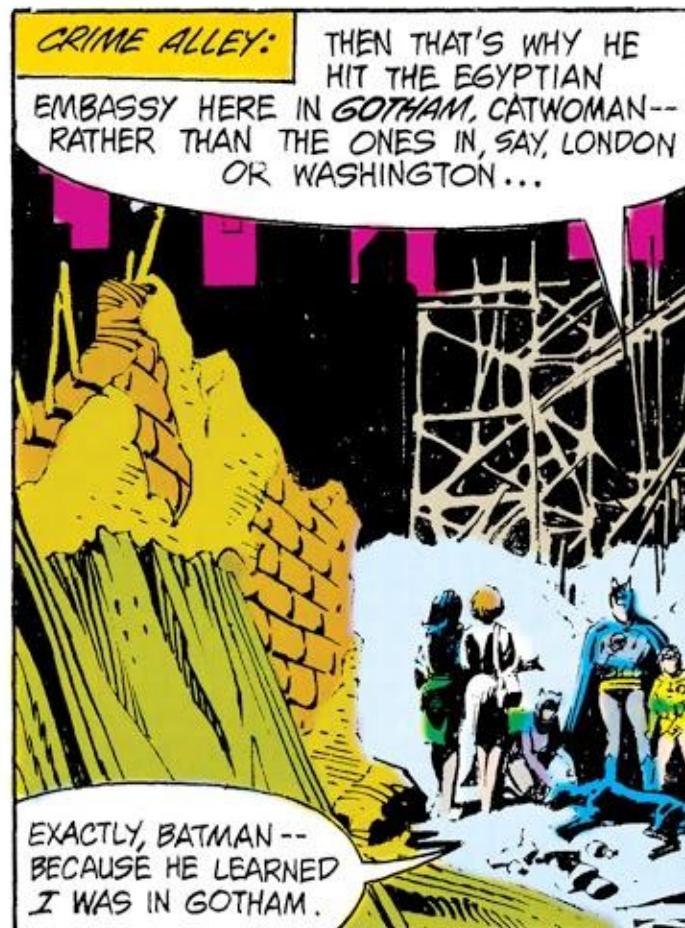
GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:



YOU, SIR -- IN THE HAT-- I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE TO PASS THROUGH THE METAL DETECTOR LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.







"I ASSUME HE MUST HAVE HOPED THE POISON WOULD EITHER KILL DIABLO OR DRIVE HIM MAD ENOUGH TO ATTACK ME WHEN I RETURNED -- PROBABLY BOTH."



-- HE UNDERESTIMATED THE POISON'S EFFECT.



"DIABLO WAS DRIVEN BERSERK ENOUGH TO SNAP HIS CHAIN-- AND PROWL THE NIGHT IN A CONFUSION OF TERROR AND PAIN."



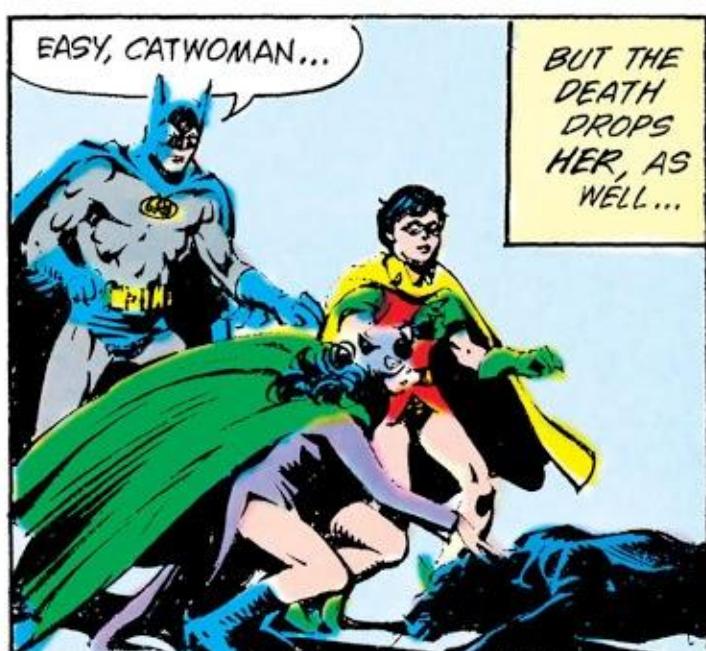
WHEREUPON HE MAULED THAT MUGGER AND HIS VICTIM.

MADDENED BY POISON OR NOT, CATWOMAN--

-- THAT'S SOMETHING THE CAT WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR...

I THINK NOT, BATMAN.

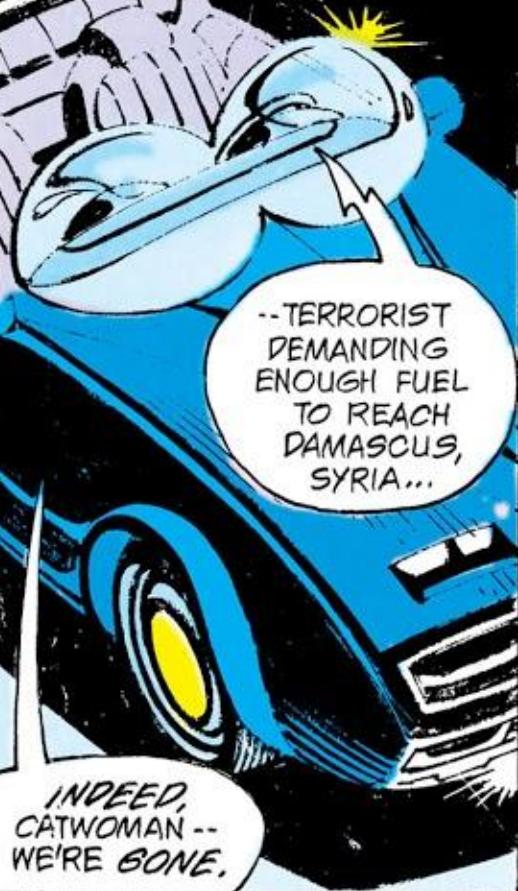
WH-WHAT--?





-- YOU NEED AT LEAST ONE MORE FLIGHT ATTENDANT TO PREVENT PANIC AMONG THE HOSTAGES.

IF ANYTHING WERE TO GO WRONG IN-FLIGHT --



SELINA KYLE IS MANY THINGS -- AMONG THEM, BOTH CRIMINAL AND CRIMEFIGHTER...

ABOVE ALL ELSE, HOWEVER, AND IN ANY GUISE, SHE IS DEFINITELY A WOMAN.



OUTSIDE: ONE OF THE GROUND CREW SHRUGS OFF HIS COVERALLS TO STEAL DEEPER UNDER THE BELLY OF THE PLANE.



INSIDE: EVEN THOUGH SHE FULLY EXPECTED THE FRISK, SHE CAN BARELY ENDURE HIS TOUCH, AND BARELY RESTRAIN HERSELF FROM RETURNING IT--



I TELL YOU I DON'T LIKE BEING LEFT BEHIND, GORDON.

EASY, LAD -- BATMAN AND CATWOMAN ARE HARDLY FORMING A NEW TEAM...

...AND IN THIS SITUATION, WE CAN BOTH HELP BATMAN BEST BY DOING NOTHING.



NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE CALL.

THIS IS THE CONTROL TOWER -- WE'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO DARKWOLF.

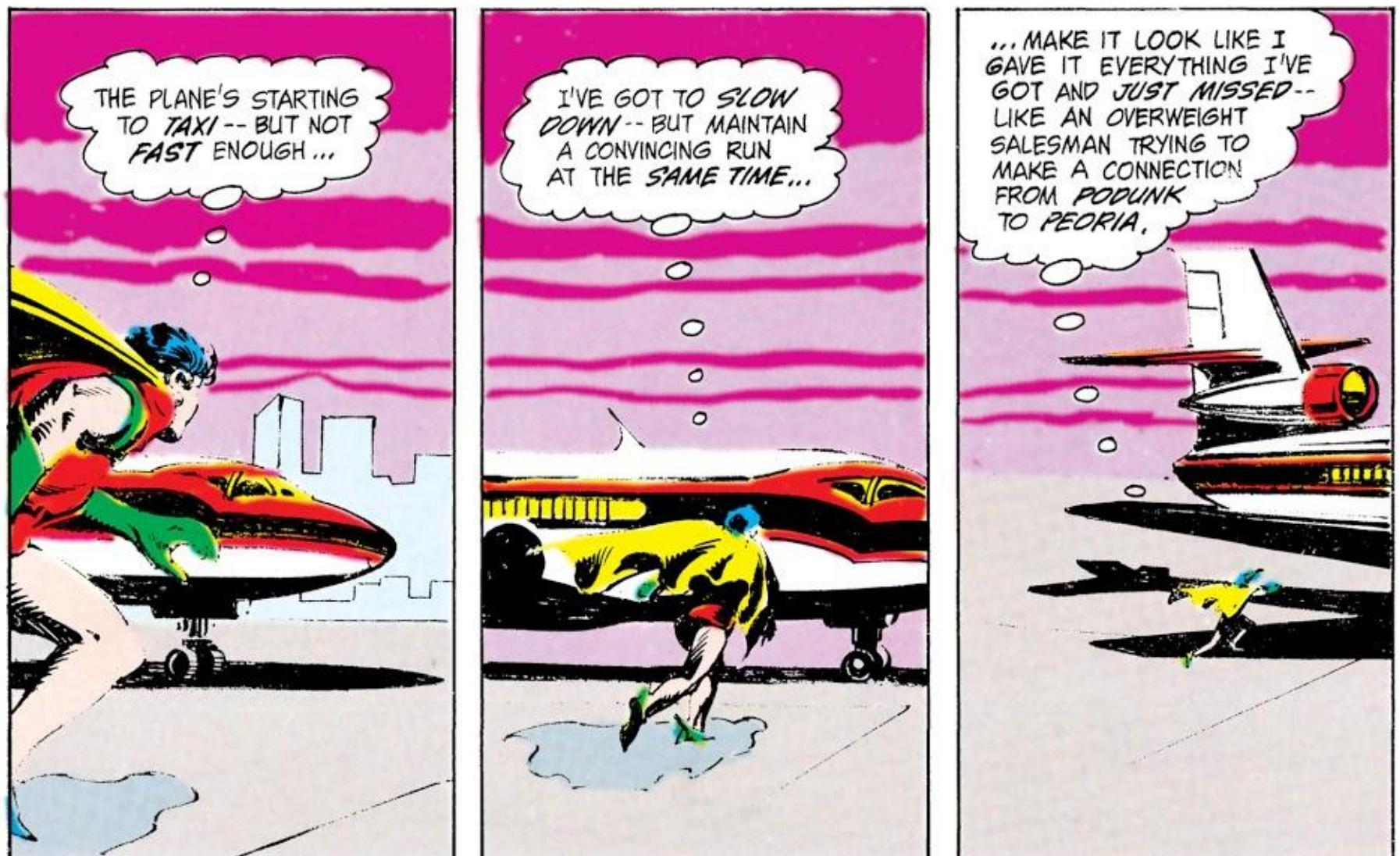


NEGATIVE -- HE'S IN THE MAIN CABIN GREETING THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

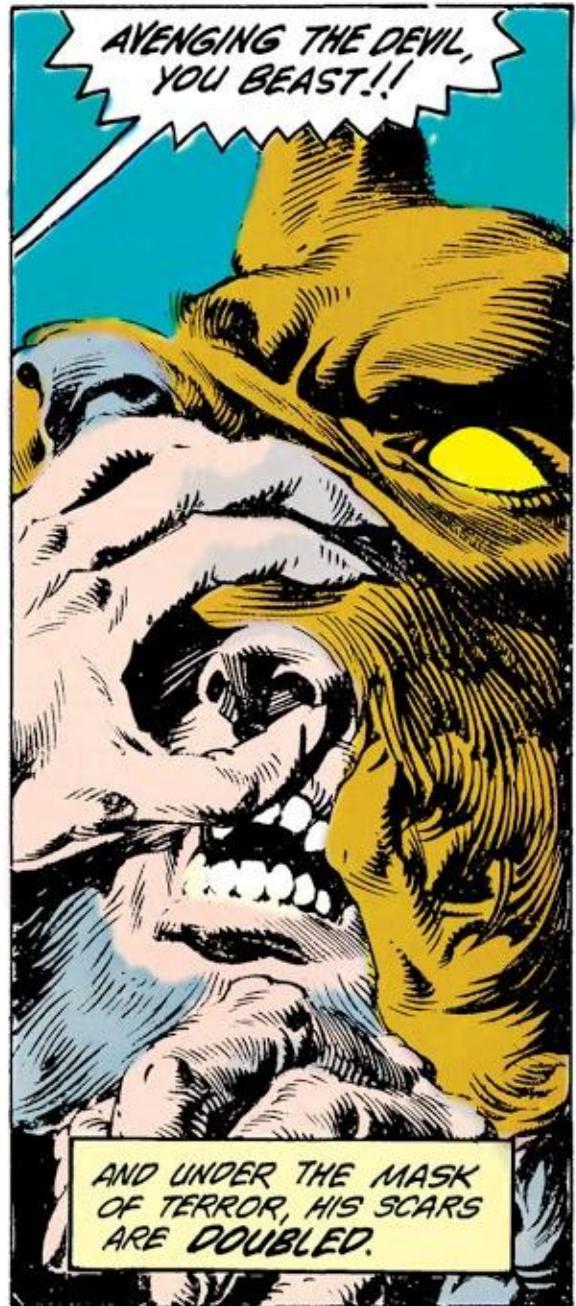


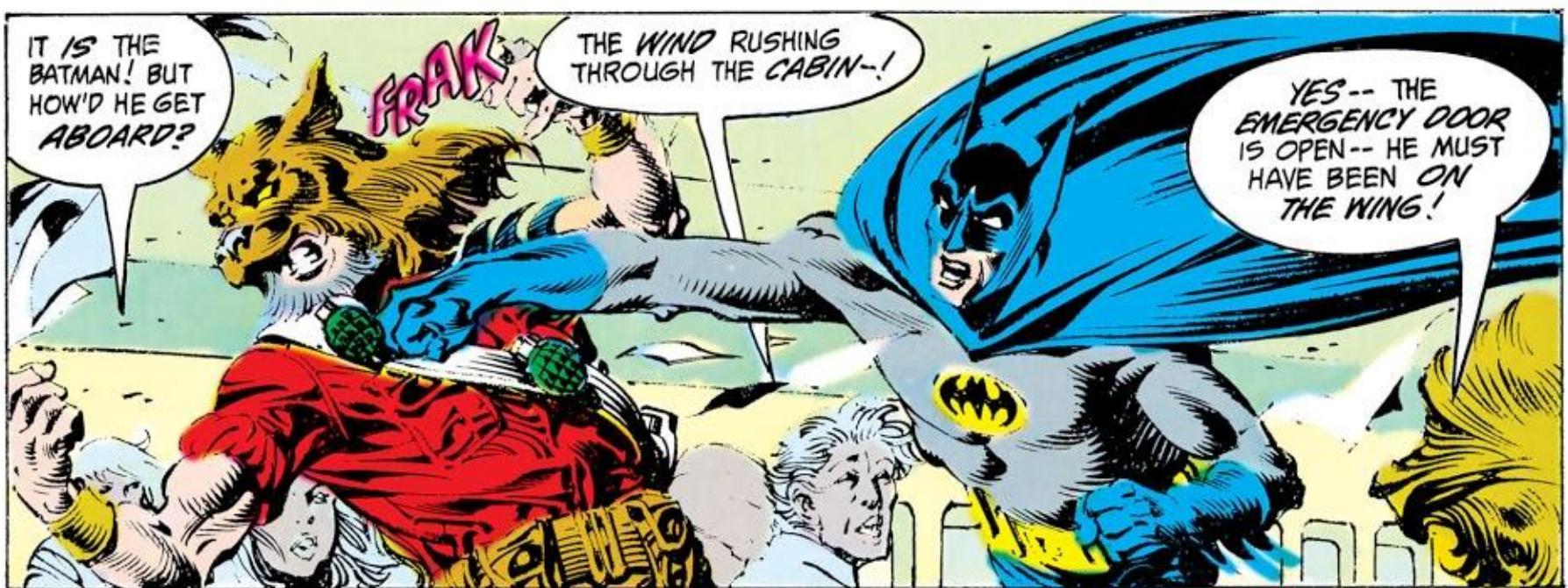
GOOD -- AND LISTEN CAREFULLY NOW, BECAUSE THIS WILL BE SAID ONLY ONCE.











SELINA KYLE STARES AT THE WOLF-HEADED MAN WHO HAS KILLED AND KILLED AGAIN...



...BUT HER MIND'S EYE PICTURES ONLY ONE OF THE VICTIMS...



OH, DIABLO...

SHE SPRINGS--



--BRINGING THE MEMORY TO LIFE ONE LAST TIME--

--EVEN AS THE PIN IS PULLED.

THE LEAP CARRIES HER TO THE UP-RAISED GRENADE--



--AND BEYOND.

THE WIND-- PULLING ME!



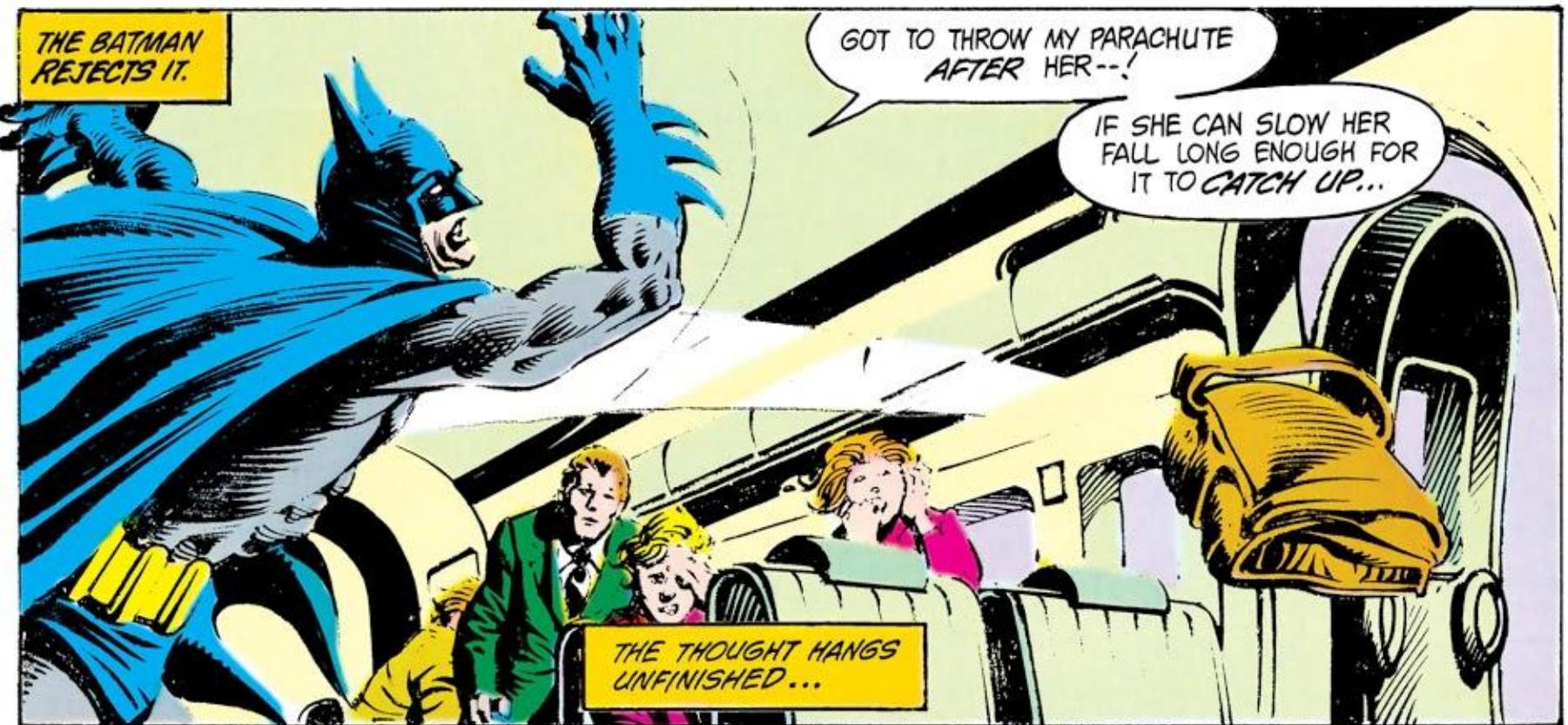
CATWOMAN-- NO!!

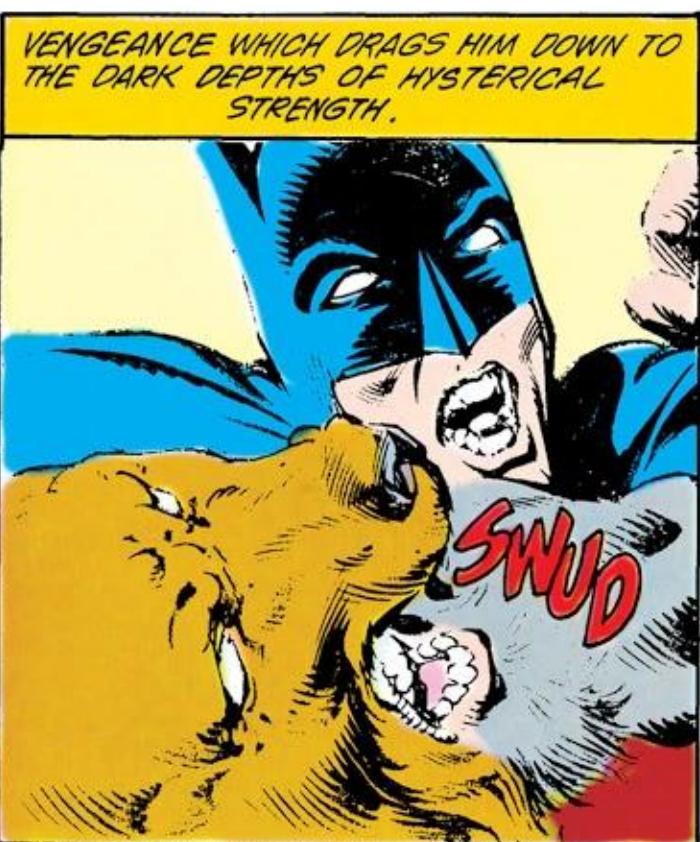


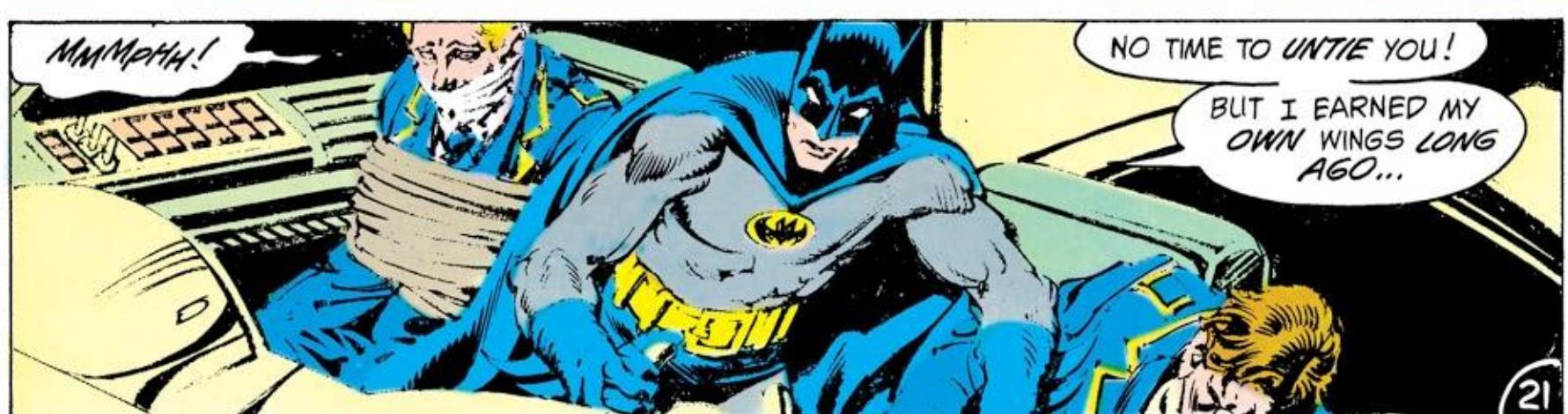
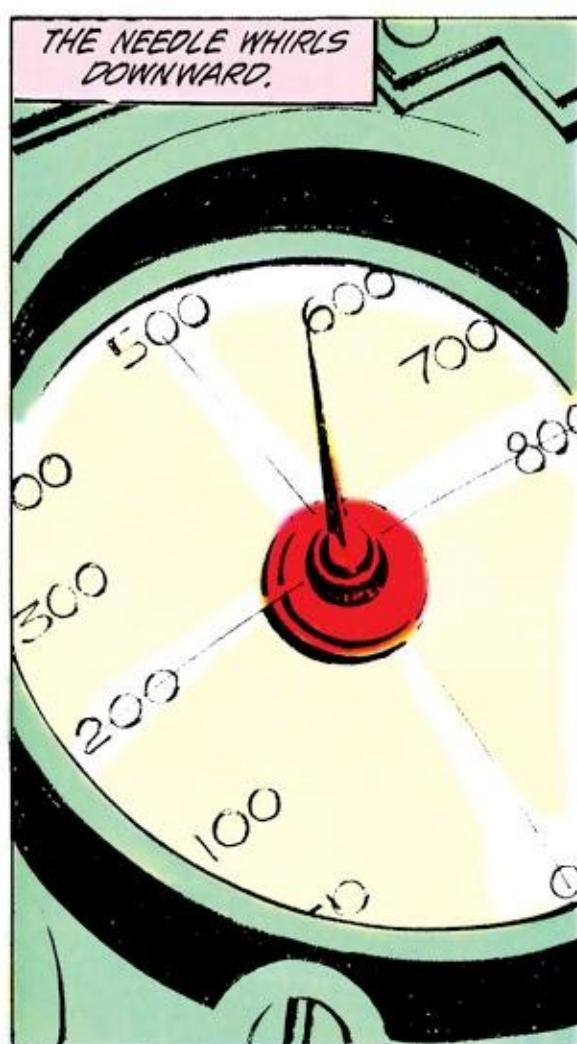
BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE.

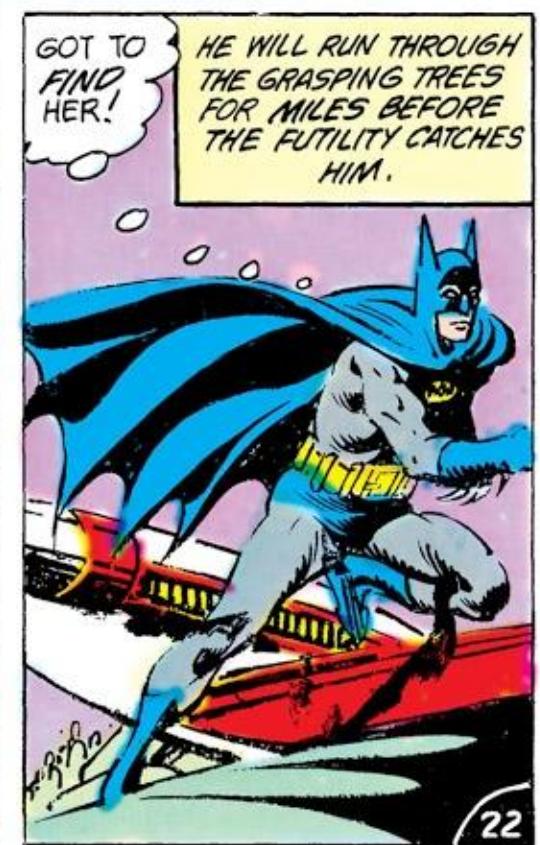
THE LAST LEAP HAS LEFT HER LEGS, AND IT WILL BE A LONG ONE.

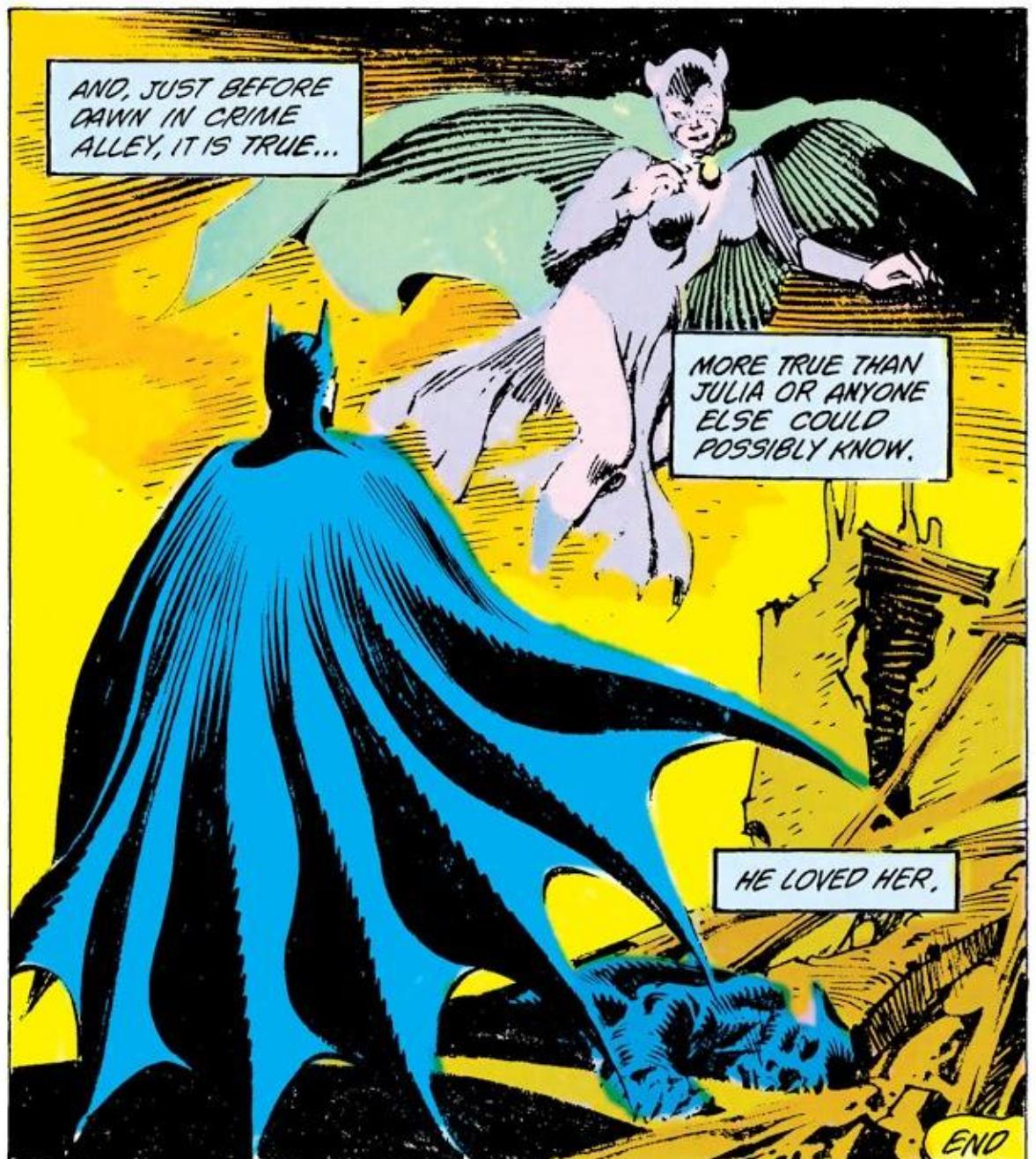
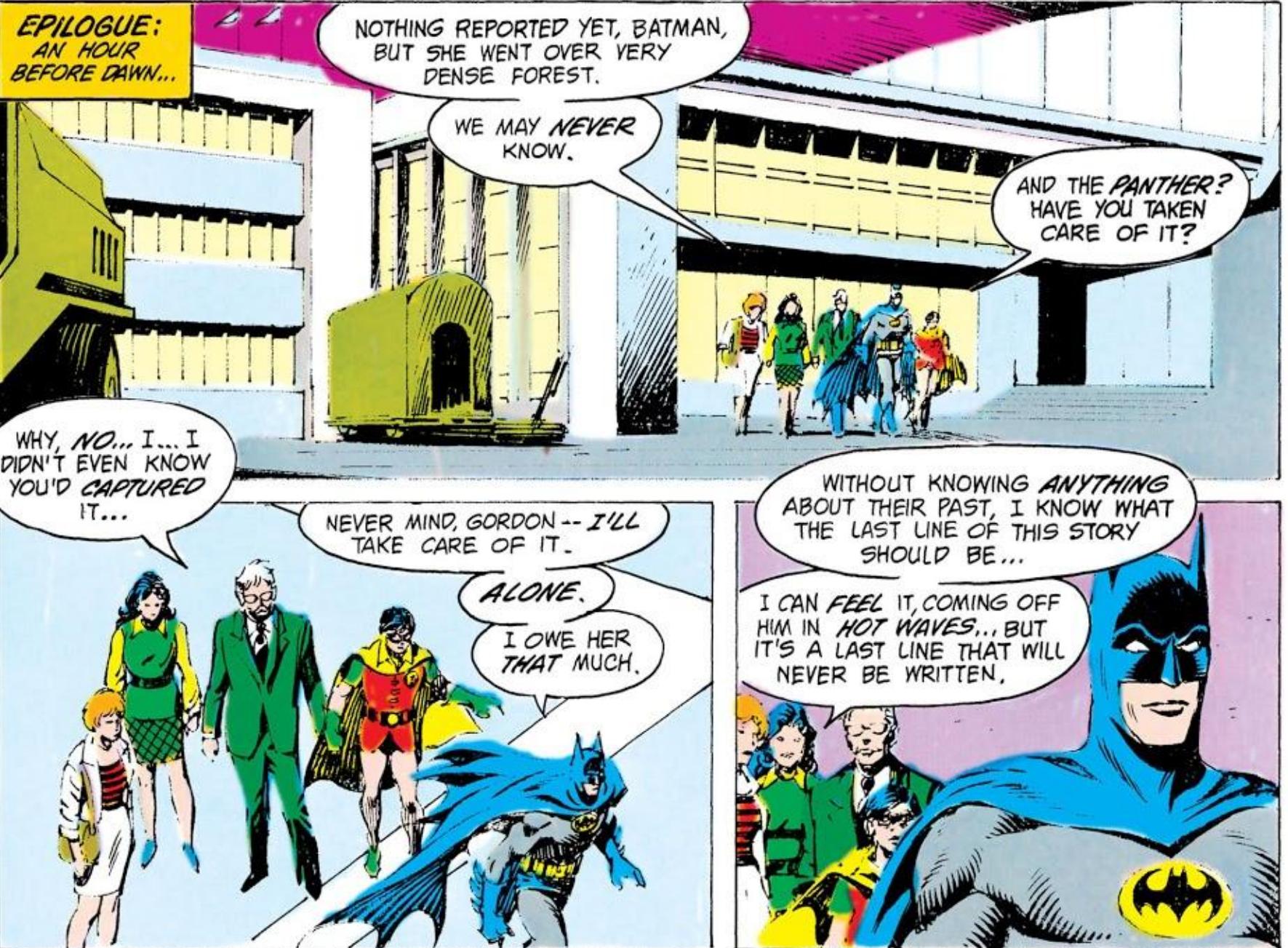














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