



IS THIS THE **END** OF THE...

BATMAN®



GOTHAM BY NIGHT: FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, THERE ARE PEOPLE DOING THINGS...

THERE ARE ACTIONS AND EVENTS, GATHERING FORCE.

THE HOSPITAL:



THE MAYOR'S MANSION:



THE CITY PRISON:

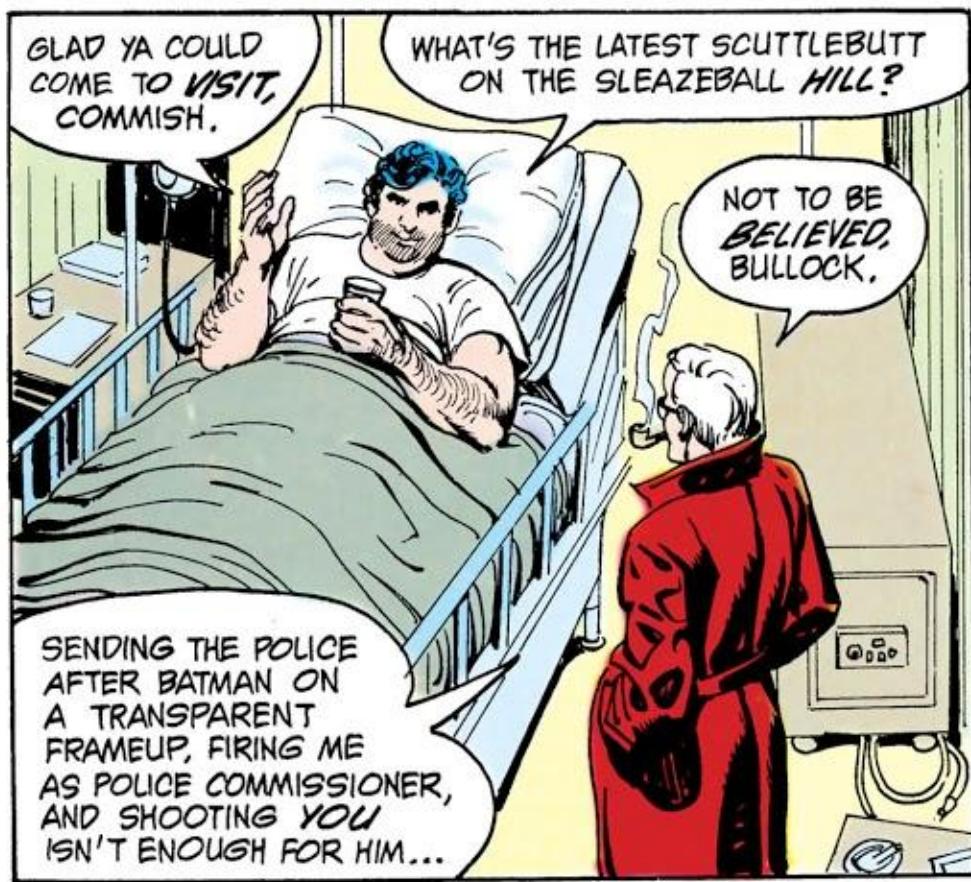


TELL HIM THE TERMS OF OUR CONTRACT MUST BE REVERSED.

YOU TELL HIM THAT THREE HITMEN HAVE ALREADY FAILED AND DR. FANG IS VERY TIRED OF WATCHING THE RUST BUILD IN THIS VILE CELL.

MY RELEASE FIRST, AND THEN BULLOCK'S EXECUTION --

-- SINCE IT SEEMS I'M THE ONLY MAN IN GOTHAM WHO CAN DO THE JOB.



AND IN A DEAD-END:

BAT MAN

...TOWERS OVER
A HOLE BORED
INTO FILTH.

CREATED BY
ROB LIEFELD

SINCE THE TRAIL OF
NIGHT-SLAYER'S BLOOD
ENDS RIGHT HERE, THIS
MANHOLE IS THE ONLY
WAY TO EXPLAIN HIS
"DISAPPEARANCE INTO
THIN AIR."

AND SO... IT'S
TIME FOR MY
DESCENT.

END OF THE BAT

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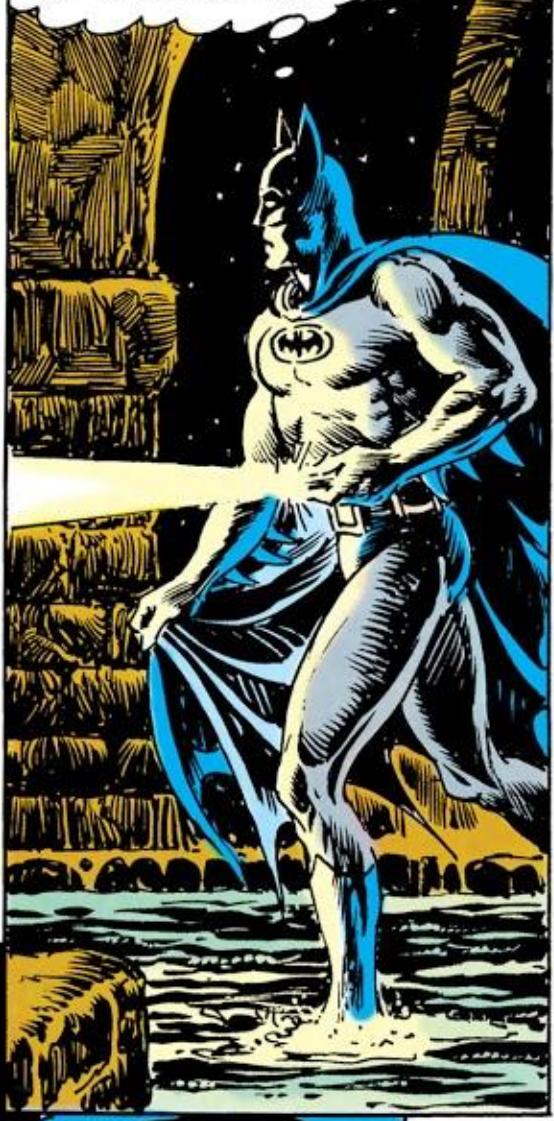
THE FIRST TIME I CAME DOWN HERE TO EXPLORE, I FOUND NOTHING BUT A MAZE OF SEWER TUNNELS LEADING NOWHERE, BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT AN IDEA.



IF ANTON KNIGHT WAS AS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AS THE AMOUNT OF LOST BLOOD INDICATED, HE WAS LUCKY TO WALK AS FAR AS HE DID UNDER HIS OWN POWER.

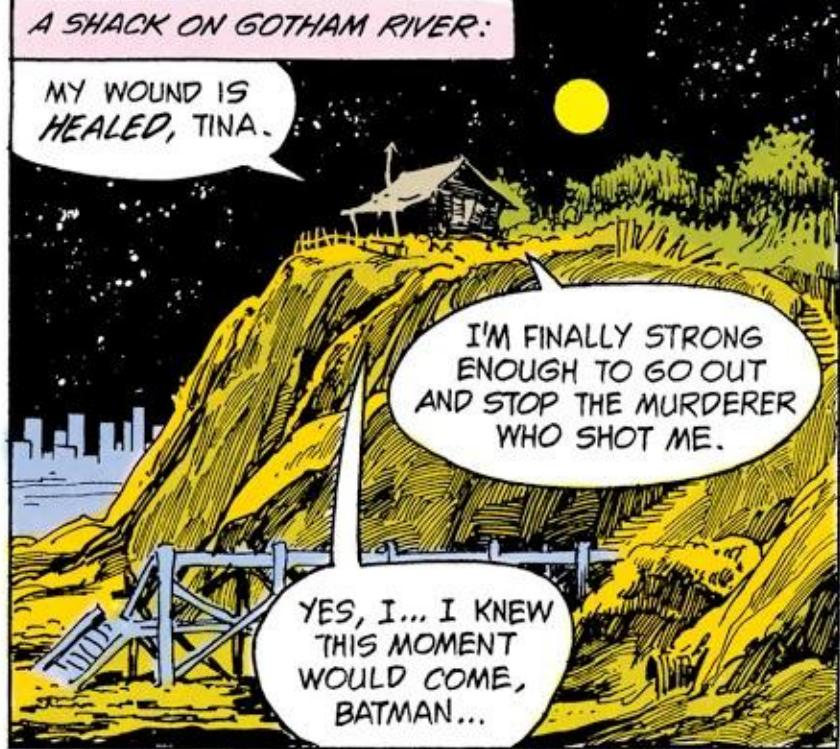


ERGO, HE WAS WASHED AWAY BY THE FLOW OF WATER FROM THAT HARD RAINSTORM -- AND SINCE GRAVITY DICTATES THE DIRECTION OF WATER FLOW...



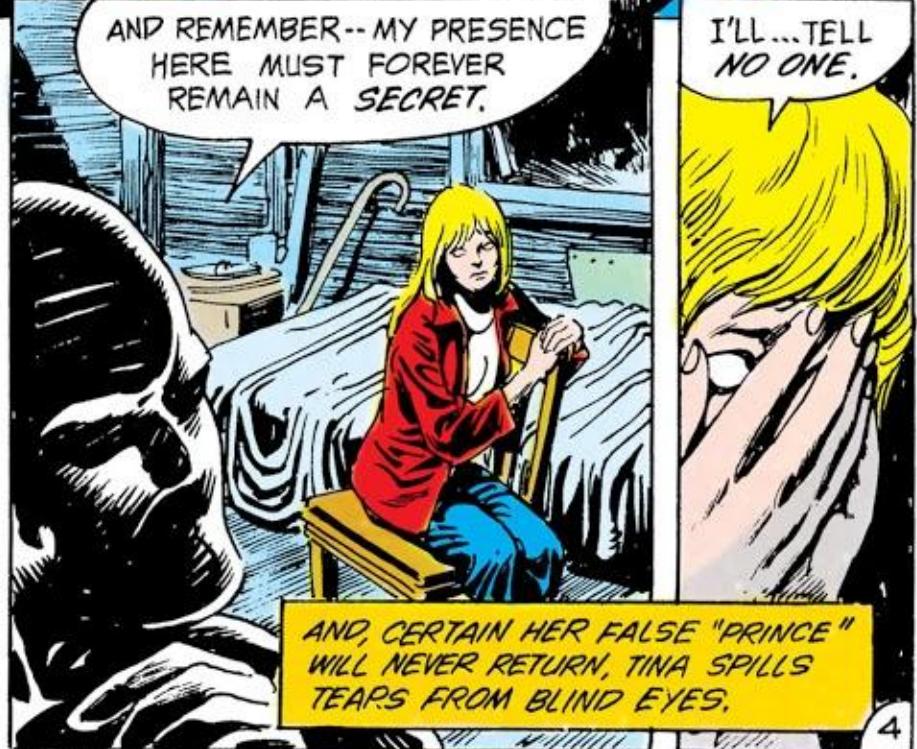
A SHACK ON GOTHAM RIVER:

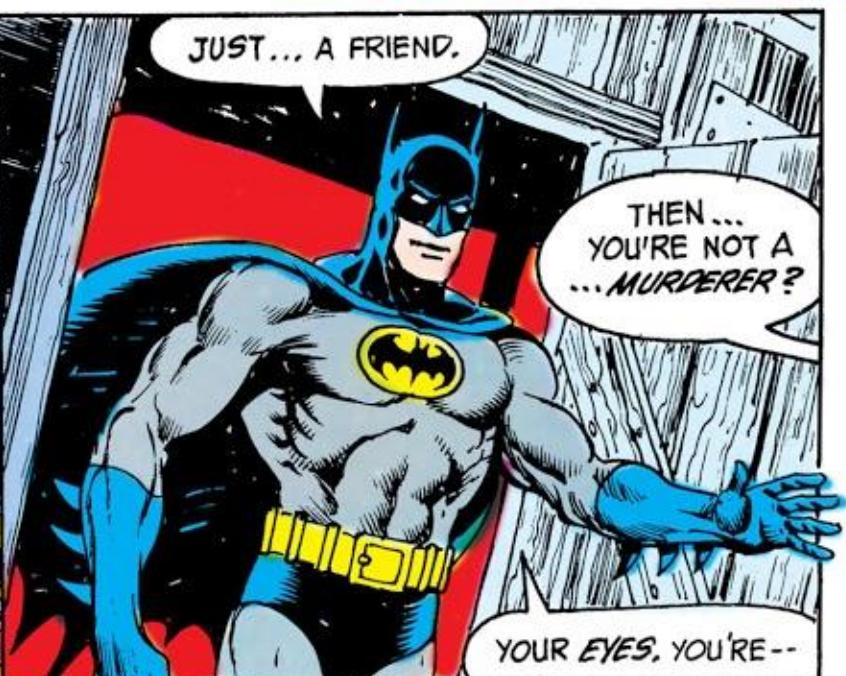
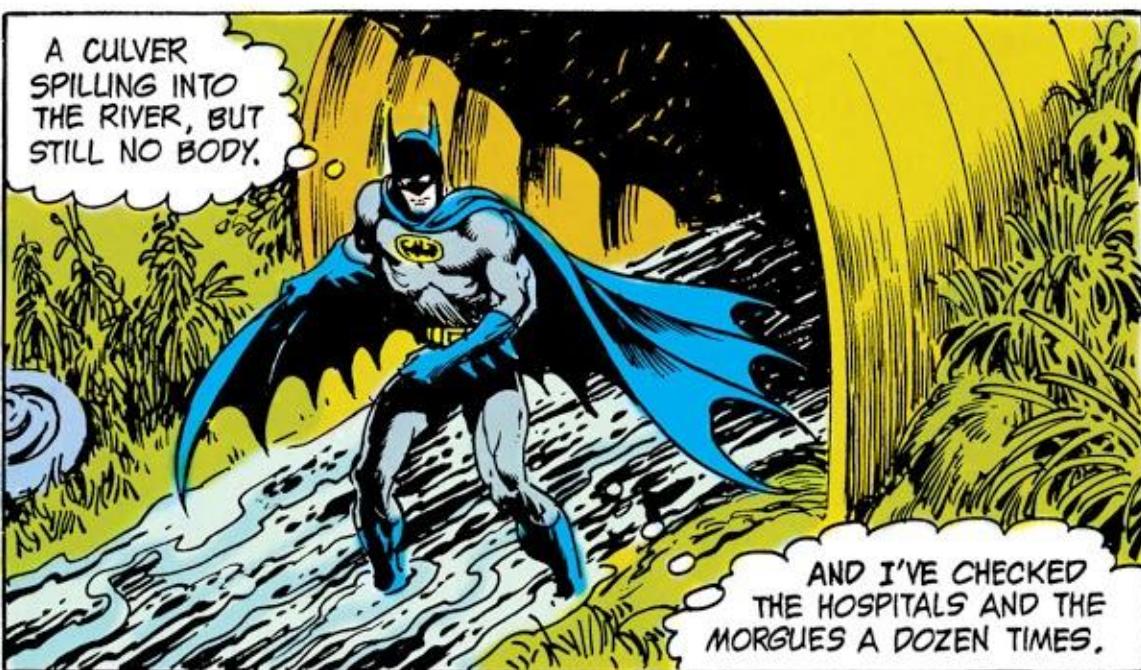
MY WOUND IS HEALED, TINA.

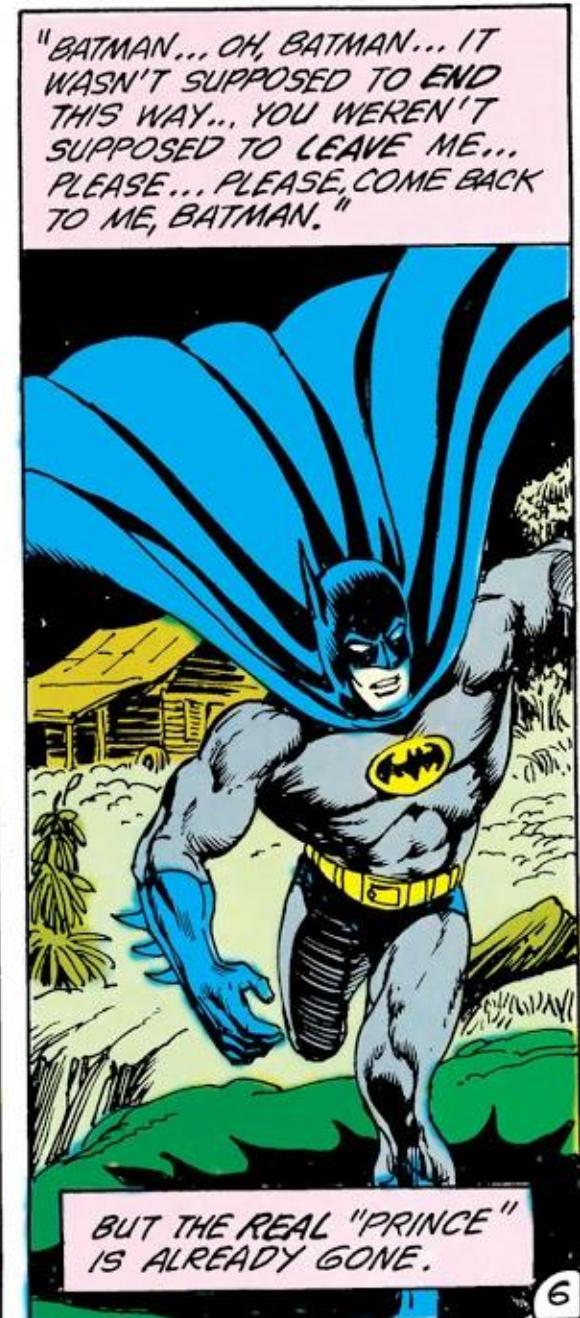
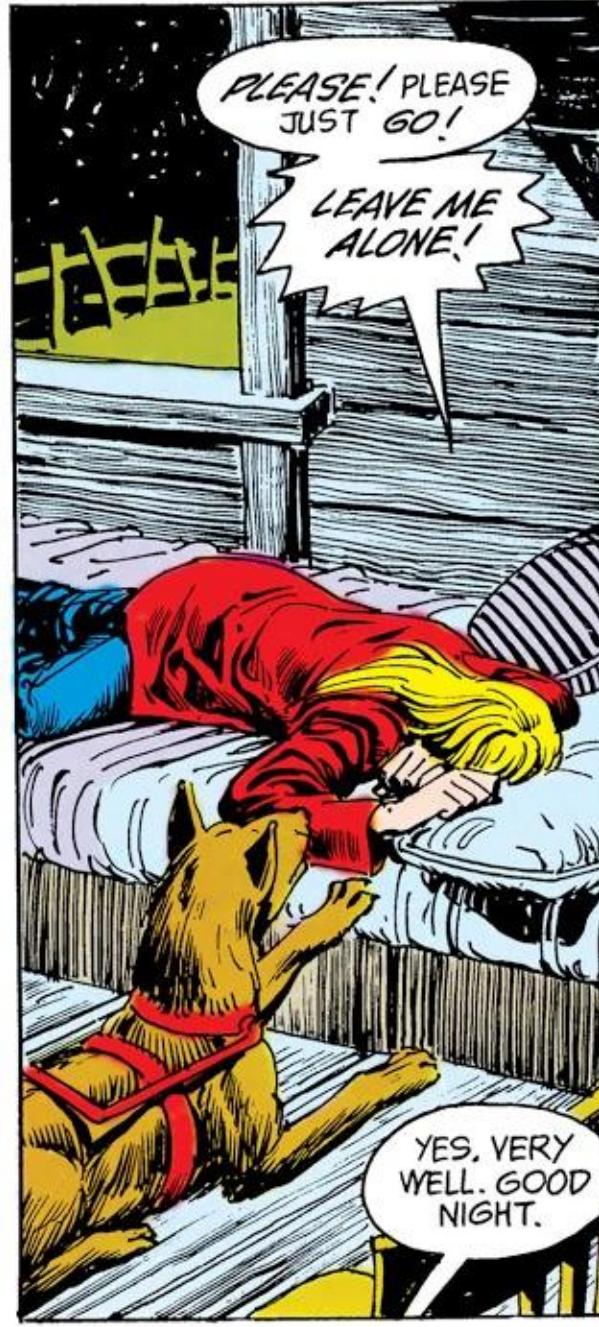


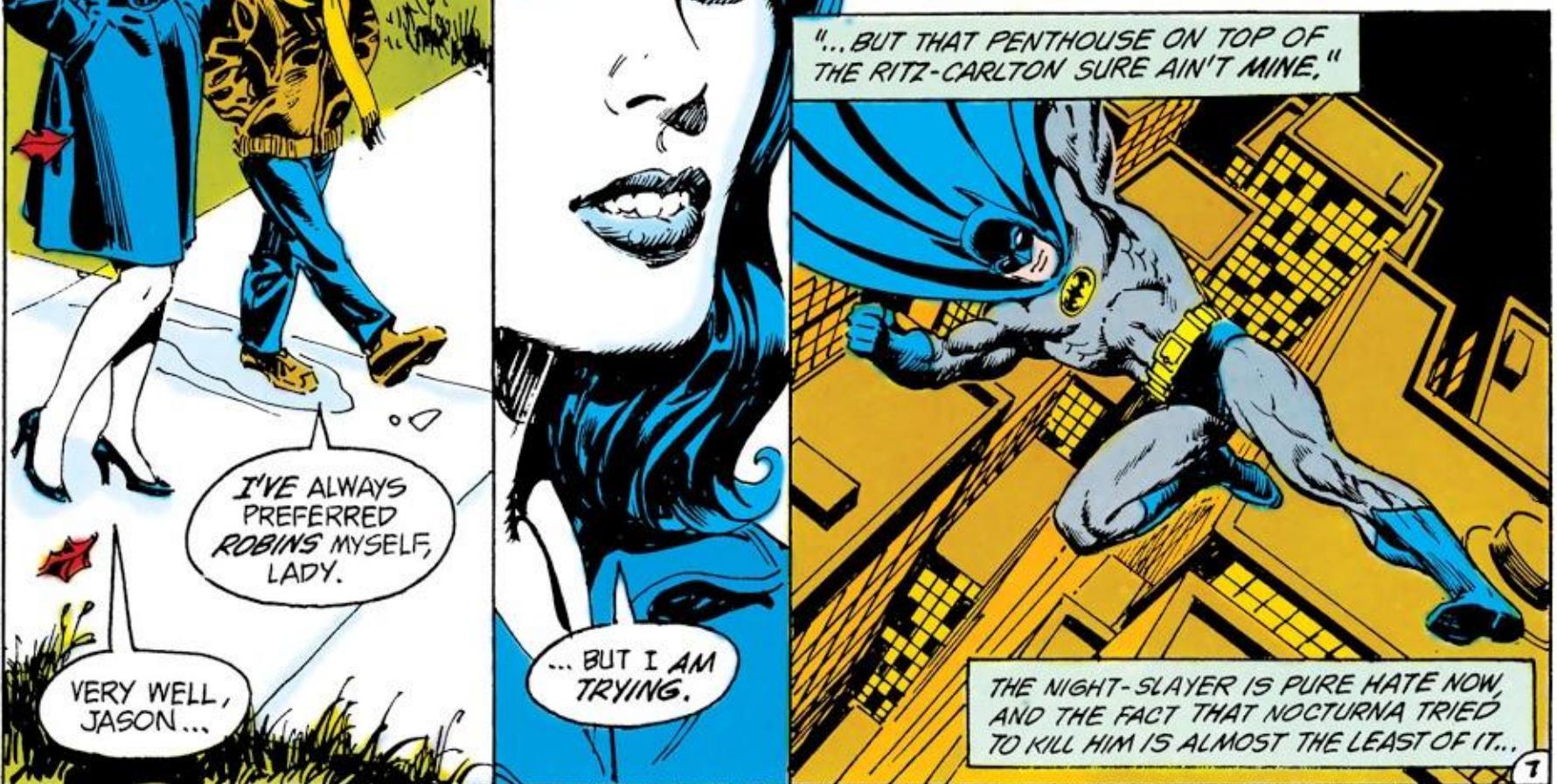
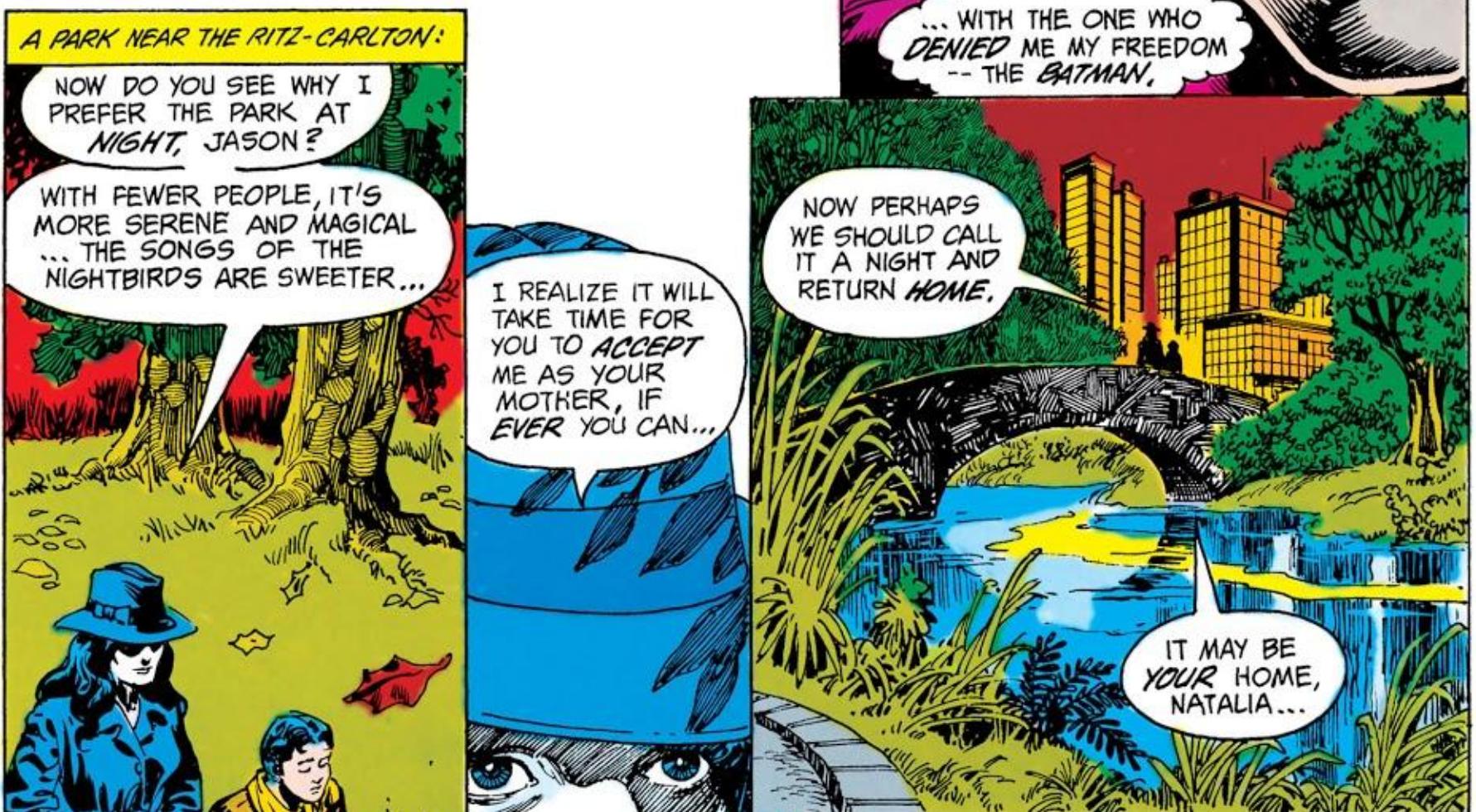
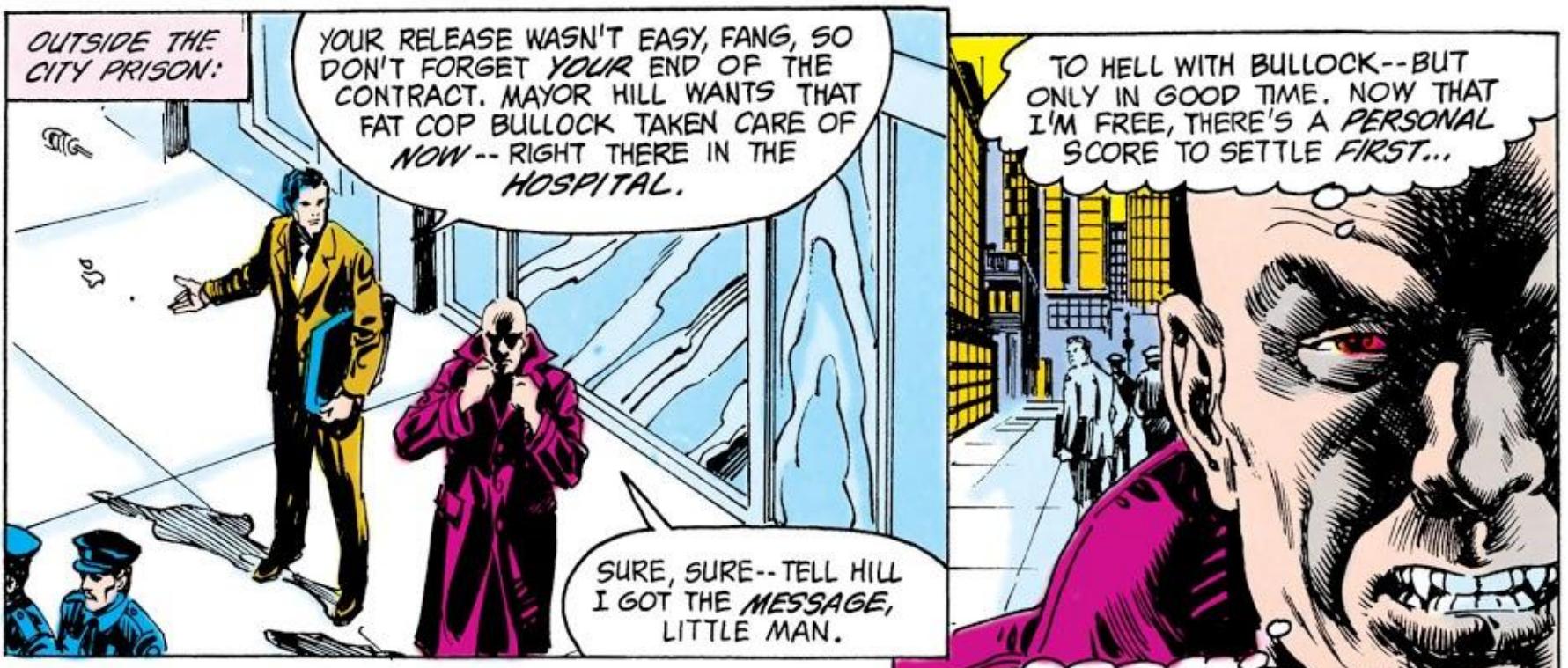
AND REMEMBER-- MY PRESENCE HERE MUST FOREVER REMAIN A SECRET.

I'LL... TELL NO ONE.









FOR IN TRUTH, AND DESPITE
THE HATE, HE STILL LOVES HER.

BUT--
SHE PERVERTED
OUR MUTUAL LOVE OF
NIGHT AND ITS
ELEGANCE--



BUT WITHIN THE PENTHOUSE, THERE
IS NO RELEASE FOR THE HATE.

A SHADOW
SLIPPING
THROUGH
LIQUID
MIDNIGHT,
HE SNEERS
AND STEALS
FOR HER
BEDROOM...



THERE IS ONLY
GLOOM.

AND ONCE INSIDE,
HIS EYES FALL ON--



HER BEDSIDE
TABLE -- WHERE SHE
ALWAYS KEPT IT...



-- GAVE THAT
LOVE TO OUR ENEMY
THE BATMAN--

-- TOOK A SON NOT OF
OUR UNION OR ISSUE...



IN HER ROOM, NATALIA, SIGHES
AT THE COLDNESS OF HER
ADOPTED SON...



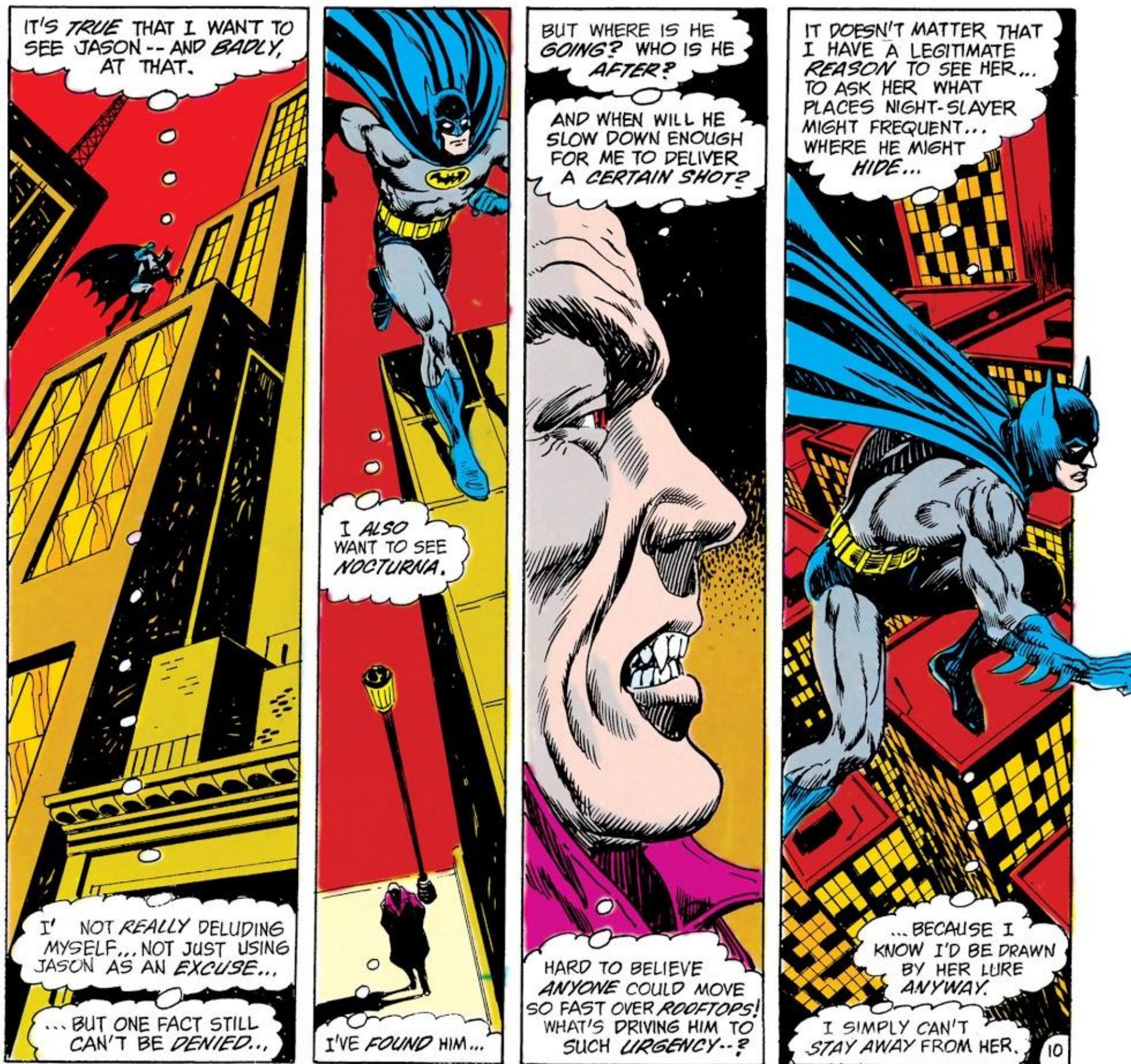
... AND SIGHES, TOO, OVER THE
FACT THAT THE BATMAN MIGHT
NEED JASON...

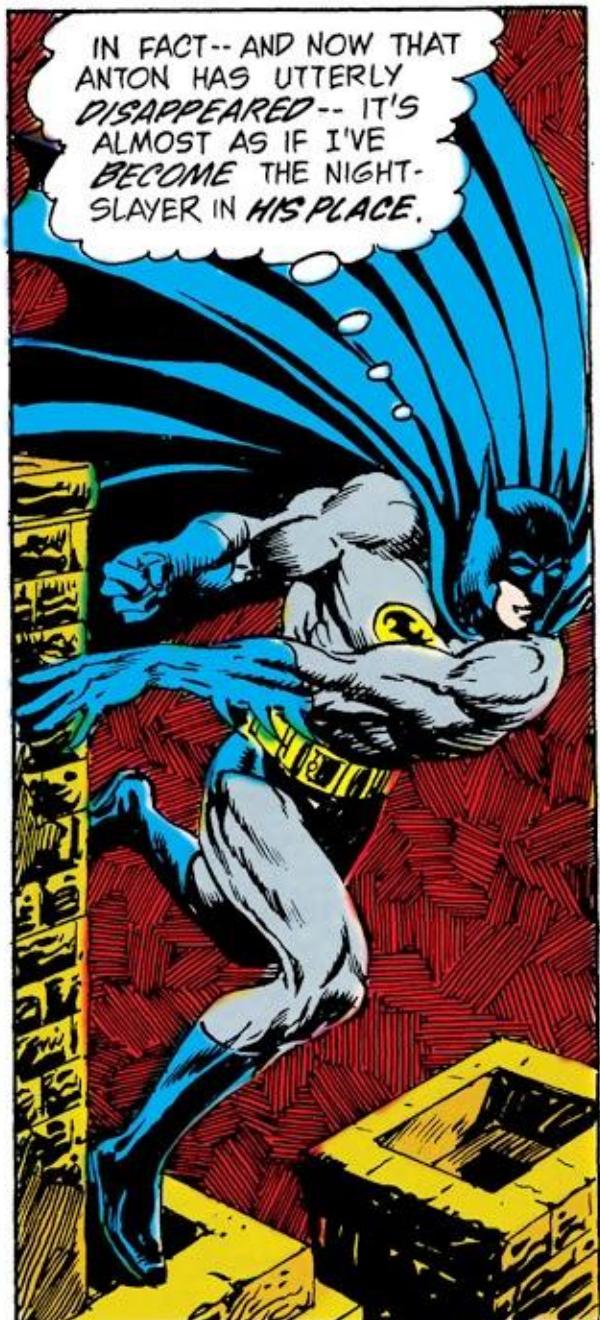
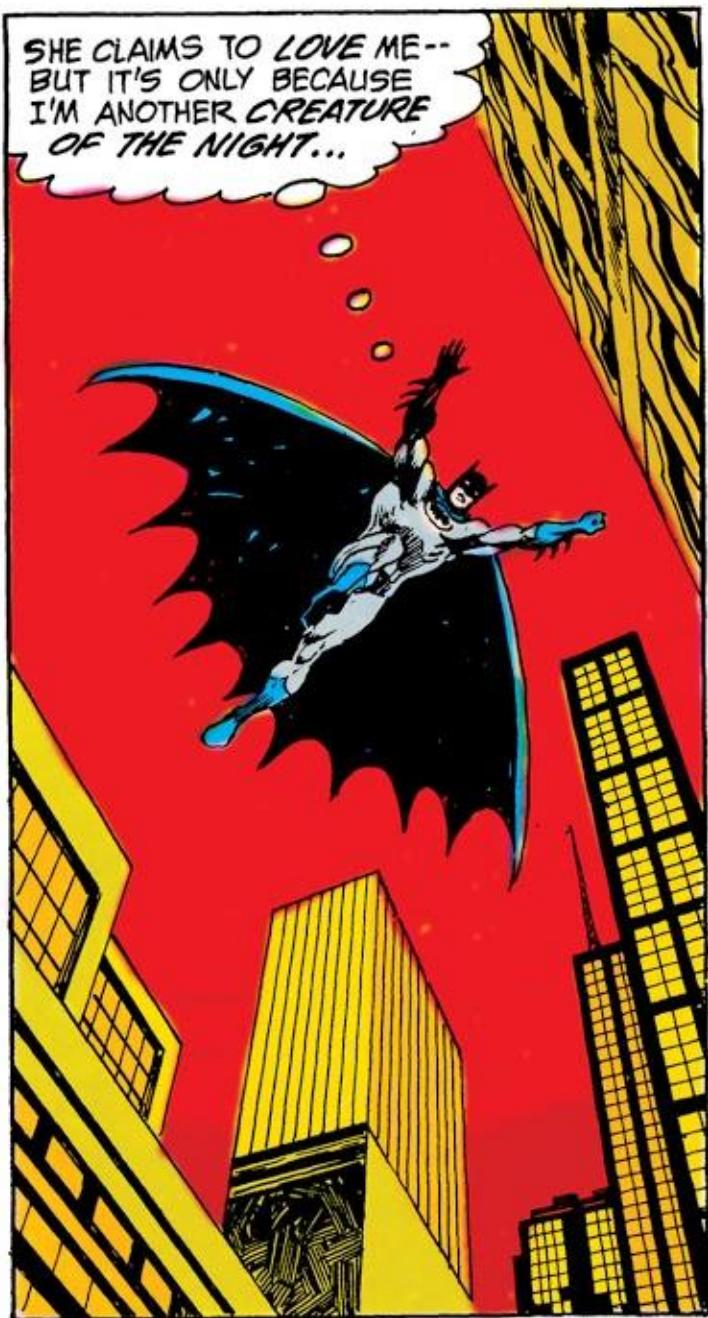


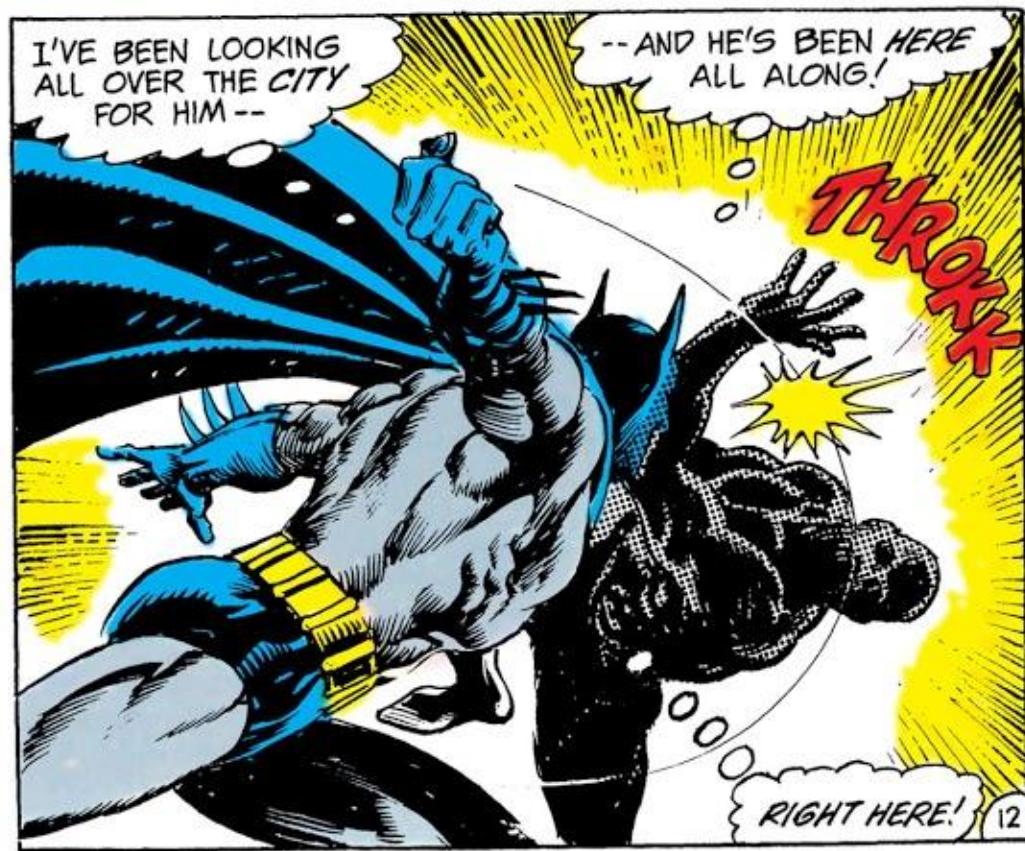
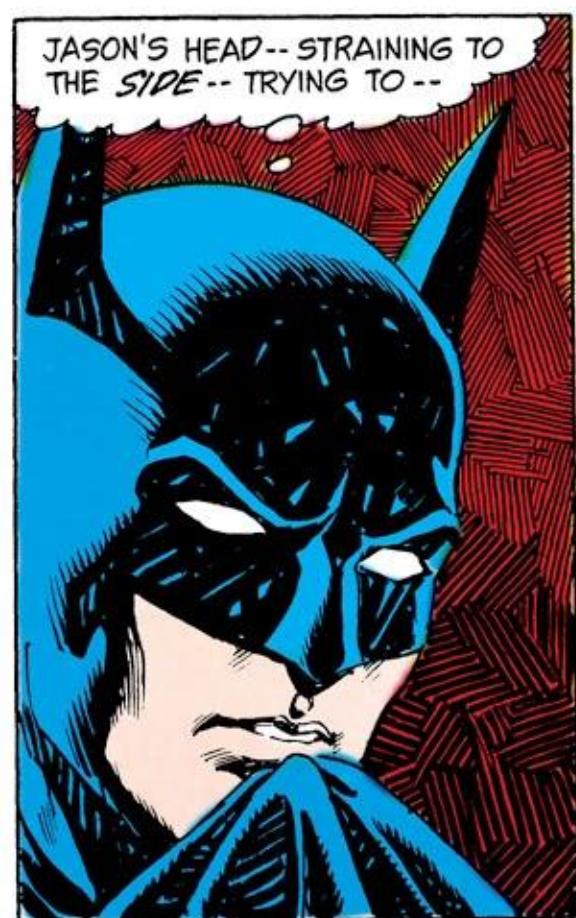
... WHILE HE HAS YET TO
SHOW THAT HE NEEDS HER.





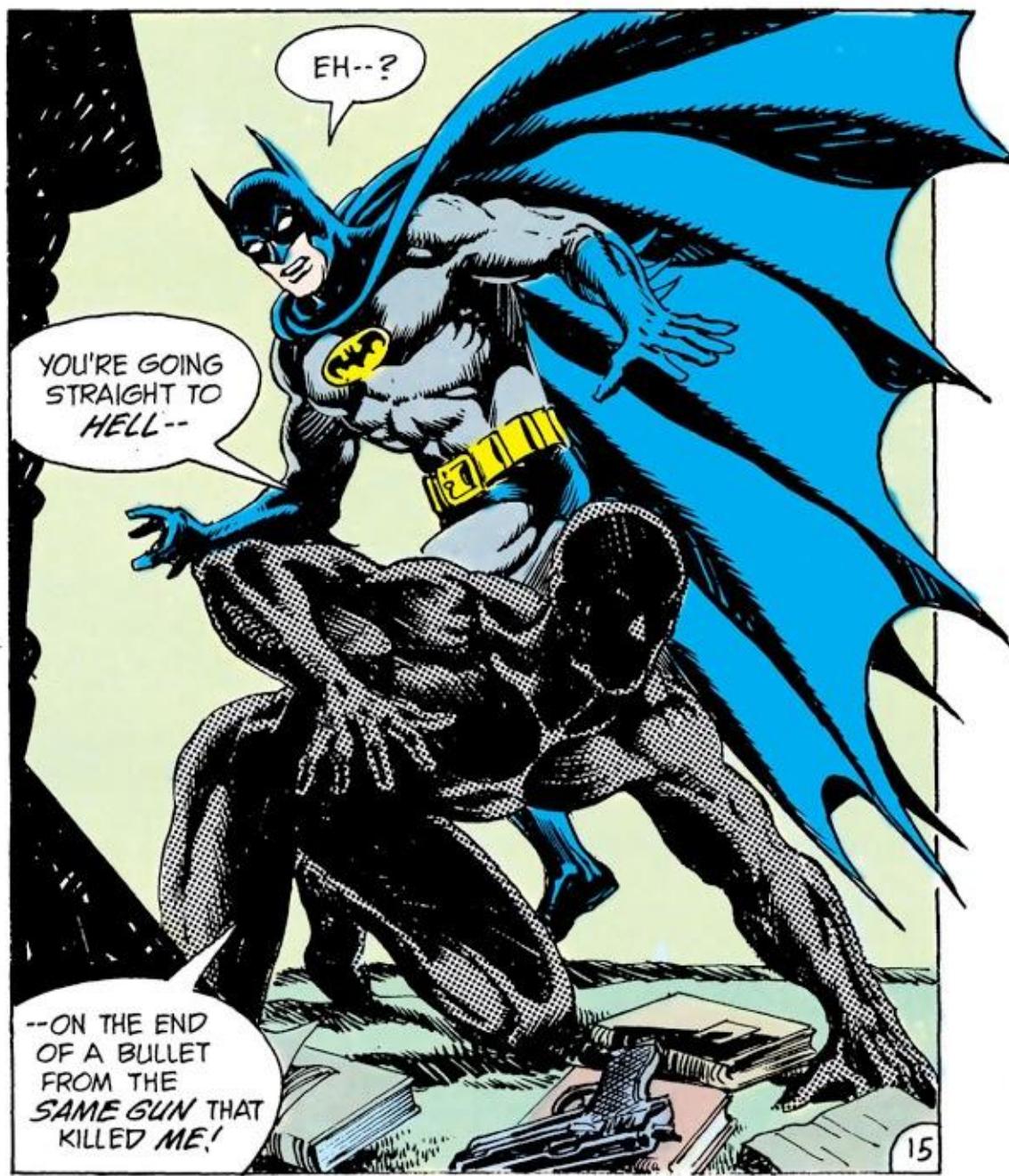
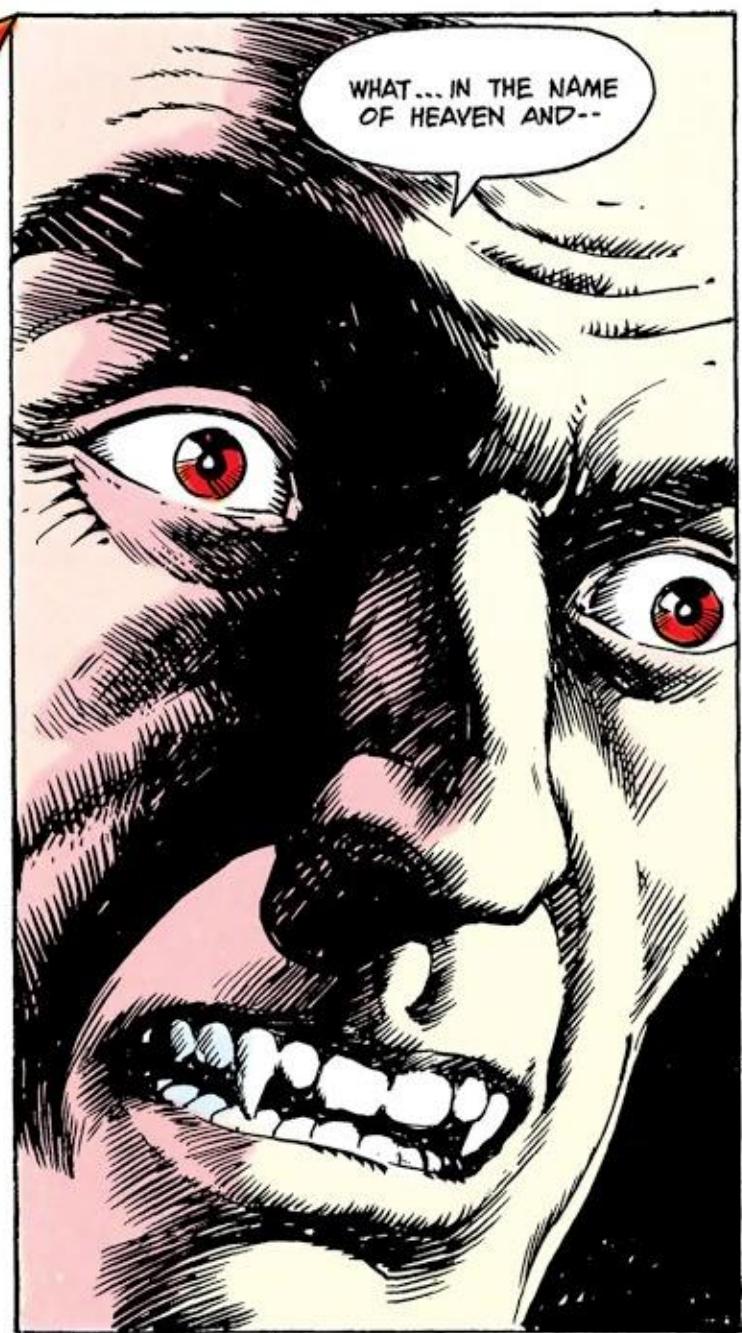












HE LEAPS FASTER THAN THE LAWS OF PHYSICAL
RESPONSE WOULD SEEM TO ALLOW--

EVEN SO, HIS COWL AND SCALP ARE RENT, HIS SKULL
SEARED AND CREASED...

--FAST ENOUGH
TO ARREST THE
GUN'S SWIFT
WHIP TOWARDS
HIS HEART...

...BUT ULTIMATELY--

AGH-H!

--IT IS DR. FANG, HESITATING TOO LONG, WHO RIDES
THE HOT BULLET STRAIGHT TO HELL.

FOR A SPLIT-
SECOND OF
BURSTING
LIGHTS AND
BLEEDING
COLORS--

BUT THE BATMAN, ALREADY SAGGING TO
HIS KNEES, DOES NOT HEAR.

--HIS BRAIN
SHORT-CIRCUITS.

FOR A SPLIT-SECOND OF INFINITY,
HE QUILTS THIS ROOM OF MUNDANE
CONFUSION, VENTURING TO THAT
DEEPER PLACE OF FINAL DARKNESS...

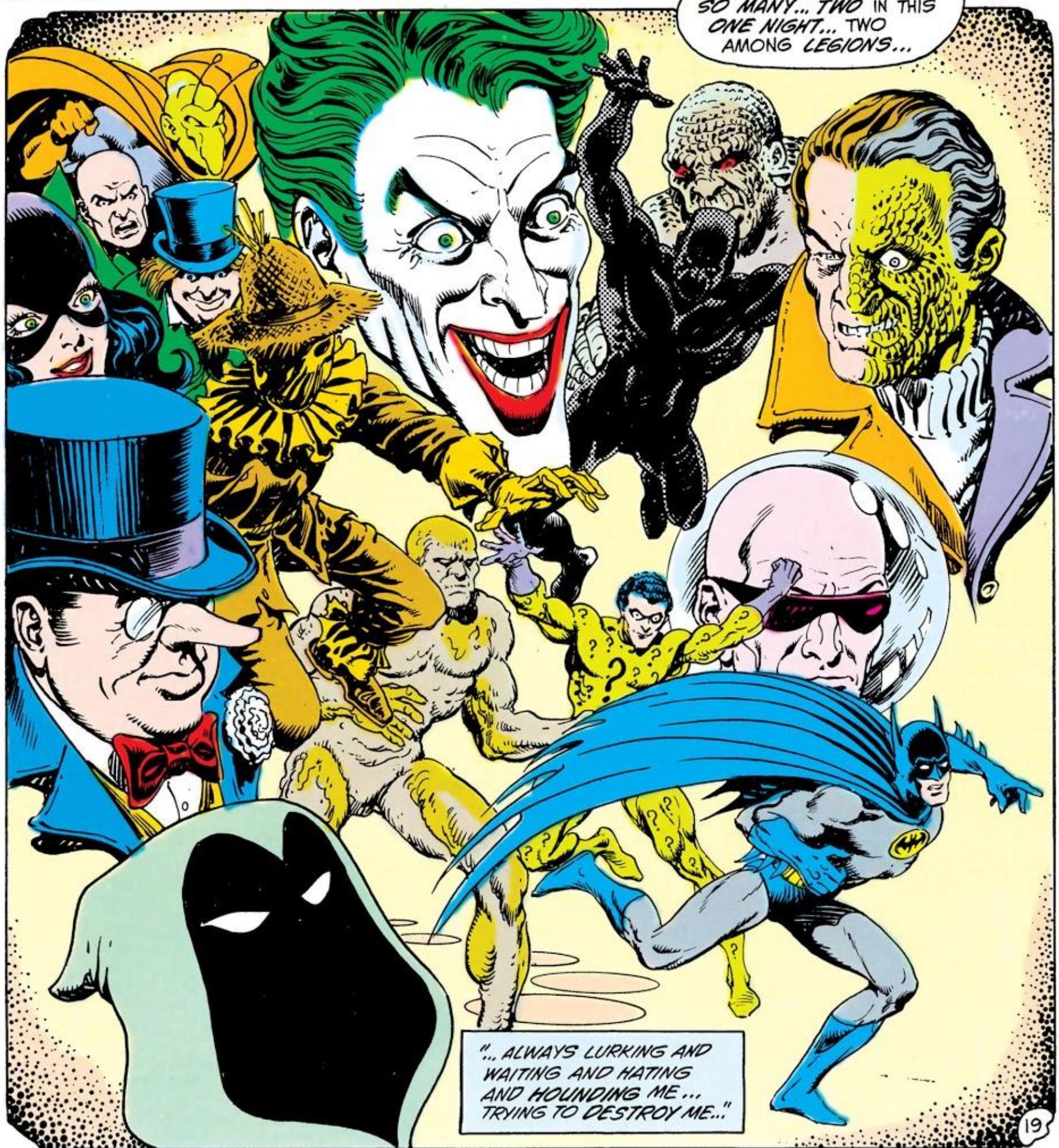
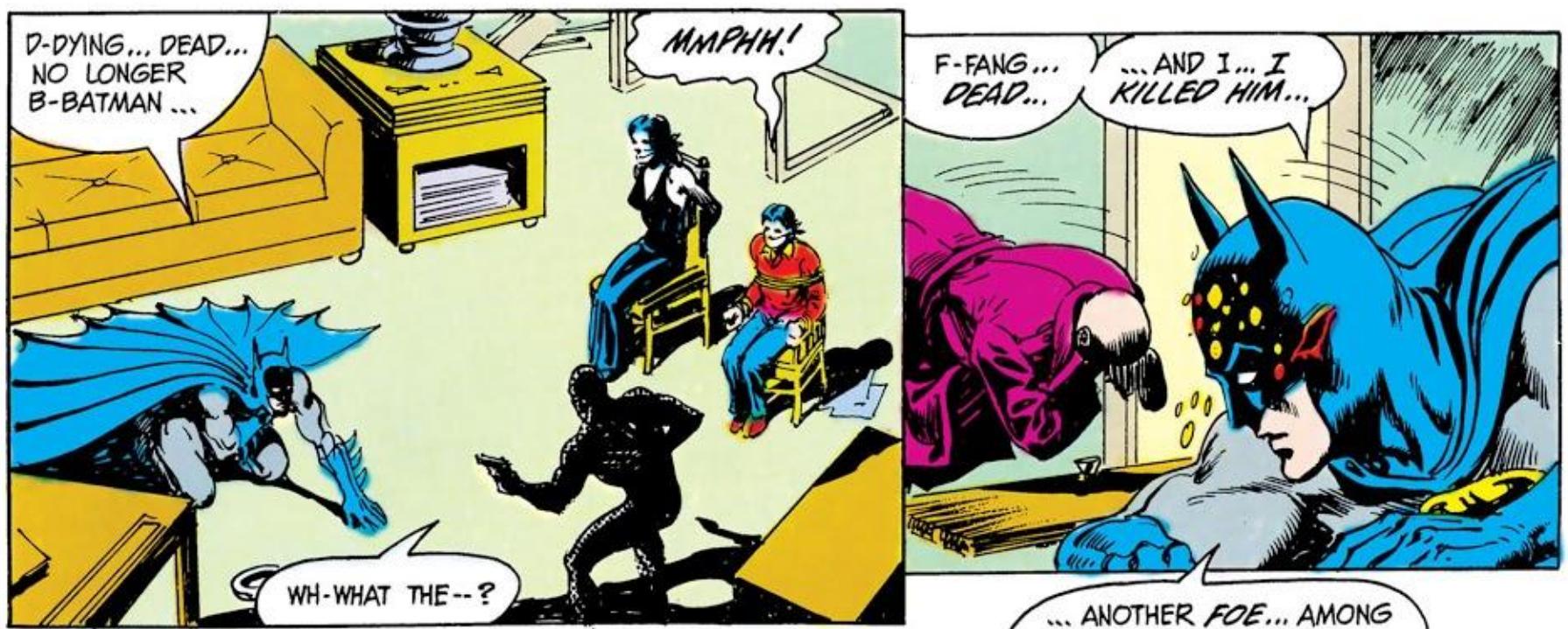
...AND EVERY HIDEOUS AND
HORRENDOUS THING HE HAS
EVER KNOWN AND REJECTED...

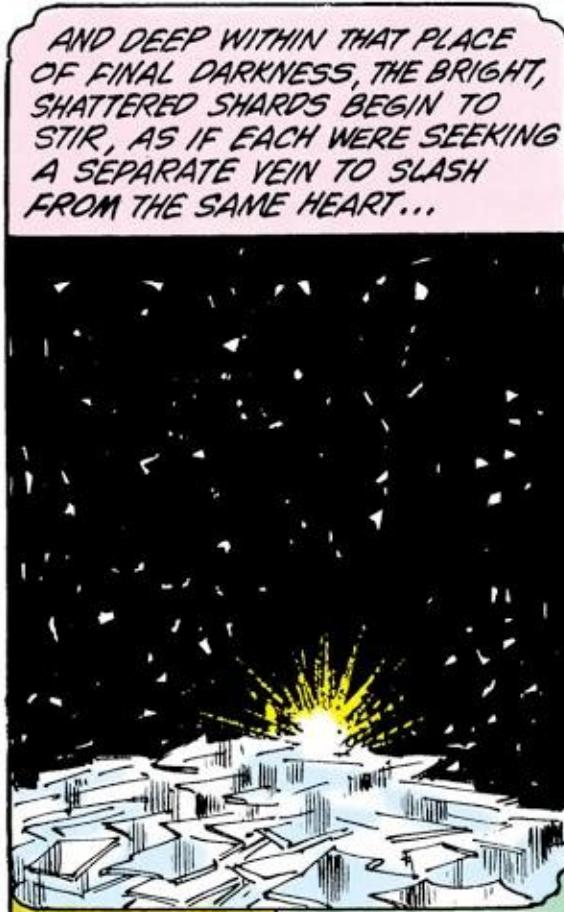
...EVERY HEROIC DEED AND IDEAL HE
HAS EVER EMBRACED AND SERVED...



...IS SHATTERED...

...AND DESTROYED.











IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
DETECTIVE
(ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS):

**THE
KILLER
NAMED
BATMAN!**

AND BE HERE FOR THE
CONCLUSION IN THE NEXT
ISSUE OF

BATMAN
(ON SALE IN THIRTY DAYS):

**DARKLY
MOVED THE
PAWNS!**



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