



ANNUAL



# BATMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AA  
AUTHORITY

TM



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

IT HAPPENS NOW, THE  
LONGEST SINGLE ADVENTURE  
EVER OF THE DREAD

# BAT-MAN

BY MIKE W. BARR  
writer  
and  
TREVOR VON EEDEN  
artist

JOHN COSTANZA  
letterer  
LYNN VARLEY  
colorist  
DICK GIORDANO  
editor

BATMAN ANNUAL, Vol. 5, No. 8, 1982. Published by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1982 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 391-1400.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher  
Joe Orlando, Vice President-Editorial Director  
Dick Giordano, Editor  
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator  
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager  
Paul Levitz, Vice President-Operations  
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

  
A Warner Communications Company

JULY 14, 1982:  
5:35 A.M. SIXTY  
SECONDS BEFORE  
DAWN, AND MOST  
OF THE WORLD IS  
STILL BLISSFULLY  
ASLEEP...



...BUT THE  
RESIDENTS OF  
SHINN CORNERS,  
A FARMING  
HAMLET SOME  
TWO HUNDRED  
MILES NORTH OF  
GOTHAM CITY,  
ARE USED TO  
RISING EARLY...

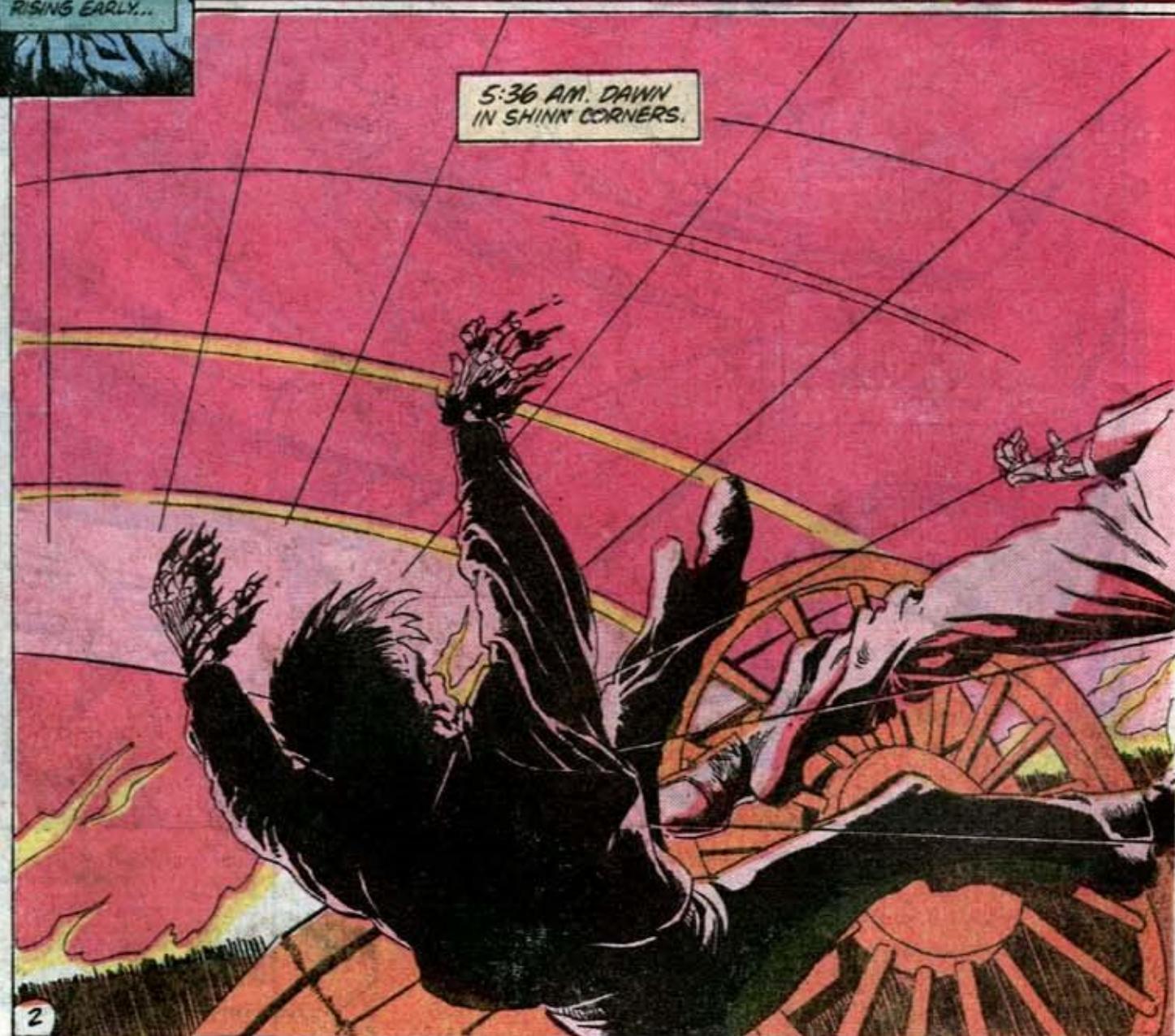


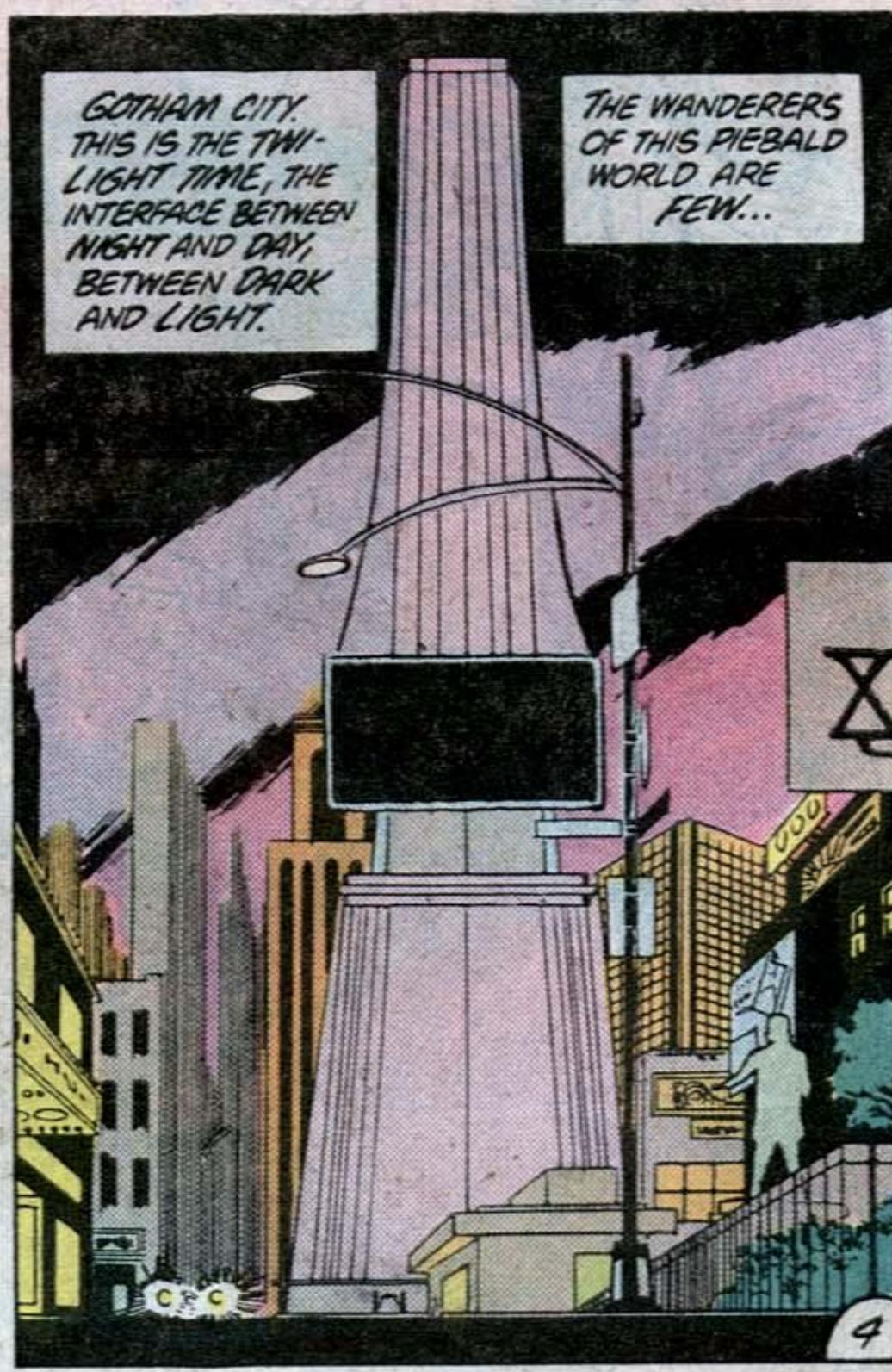
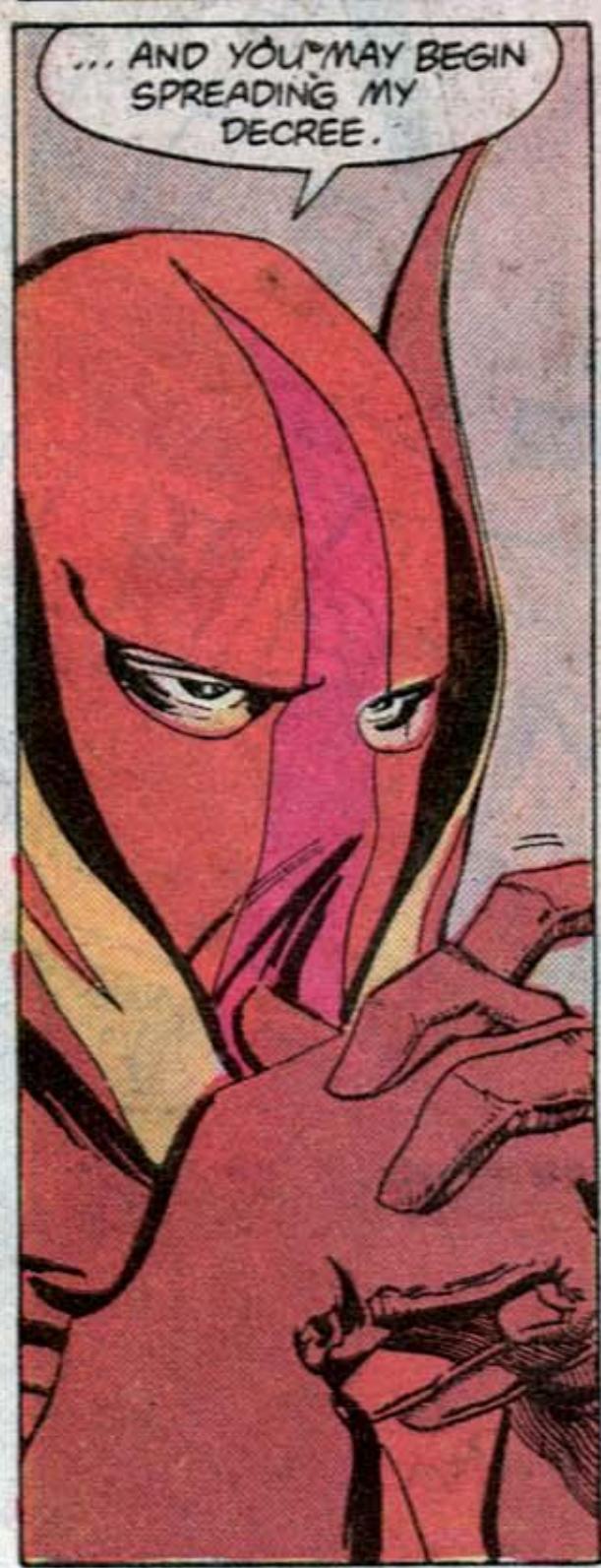
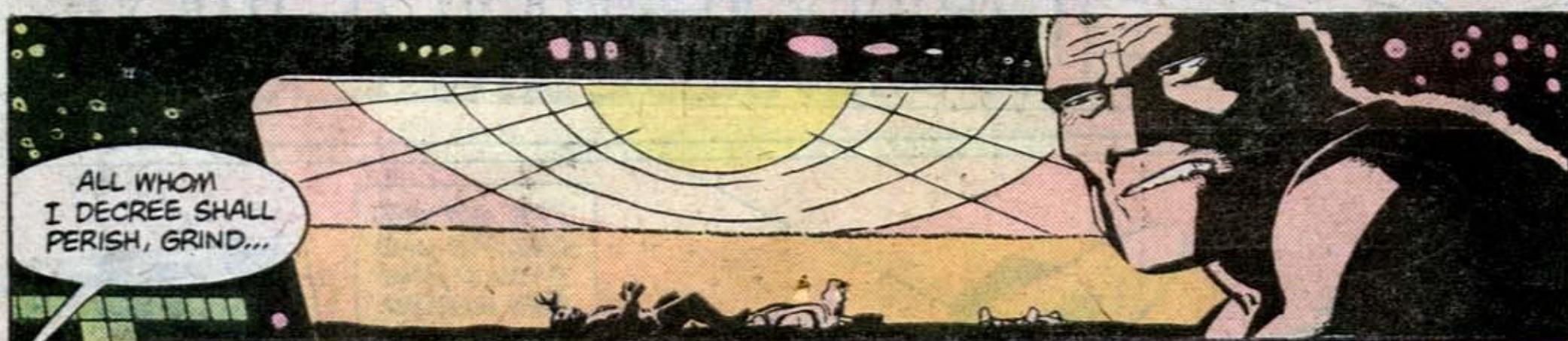
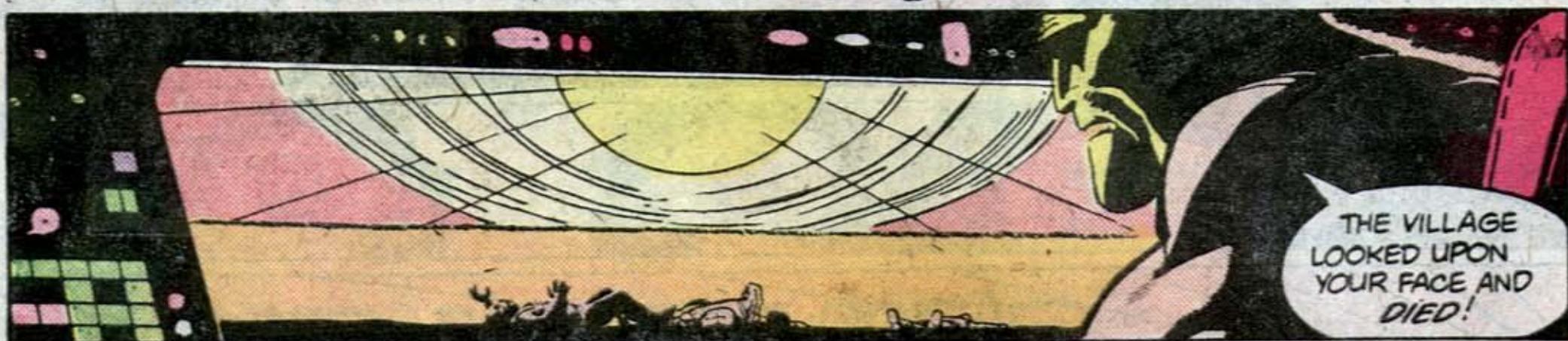
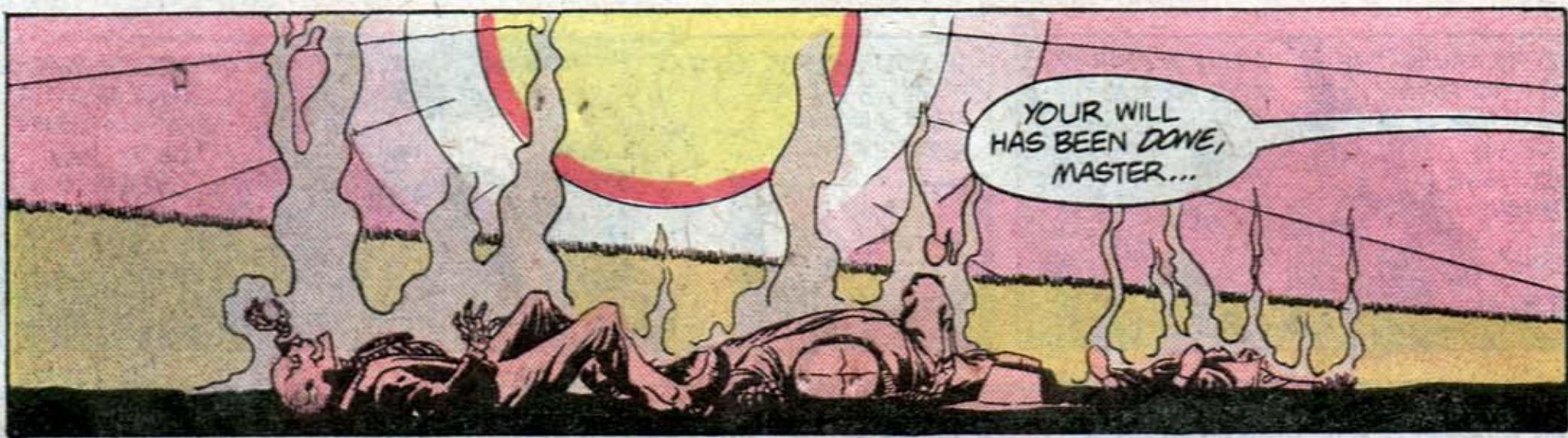
## THE MESSIAH

OF THE

## CRIMSON SUN

5:36 AM. DAWN  
IN SHINN CORNERS.





...BUT SINGULARLY RESOURCEFUL.

GOTTA HAND  
IT T'MYSELF...

...SMUGGLIN'  
THIS DOPE THROUGH  
CUSTOMS IN TV SETS  
WAS A STROKE A'  
GENIUS. I'M SET  
UP FOR--



I'M NOT  
GOIN' BACK!  
I'M NOT!



HURTLING LEAD FILLS THE AIR,  
DOOMING VIRTUALLY ANY IN  
ITS PATH.

BUT, AS HAS BEEN  
WRITTEN...

...THE WANDERERS OF THIS WORLD ARE SINGULARLY RESOURCEFUL.

KRISSSH

I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH, DON'T YOU, WILLY?

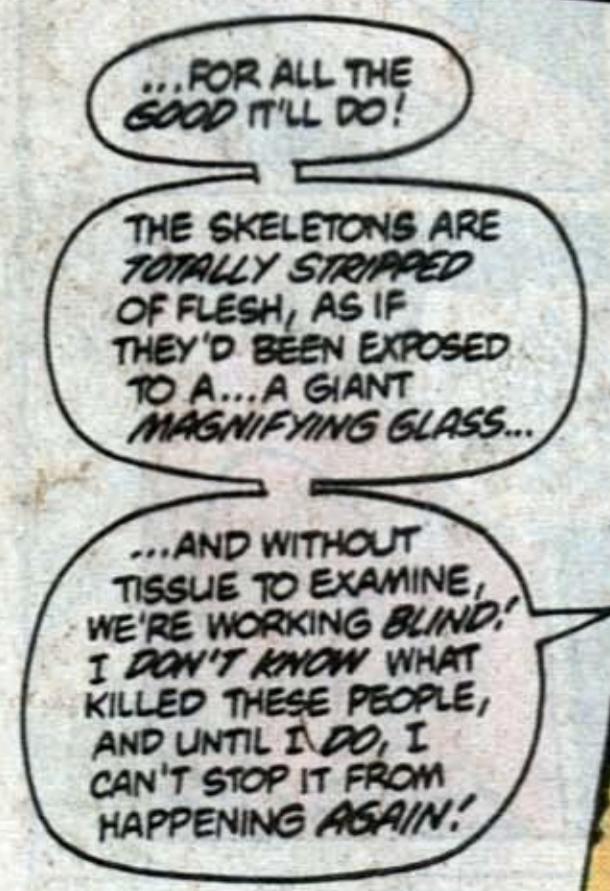
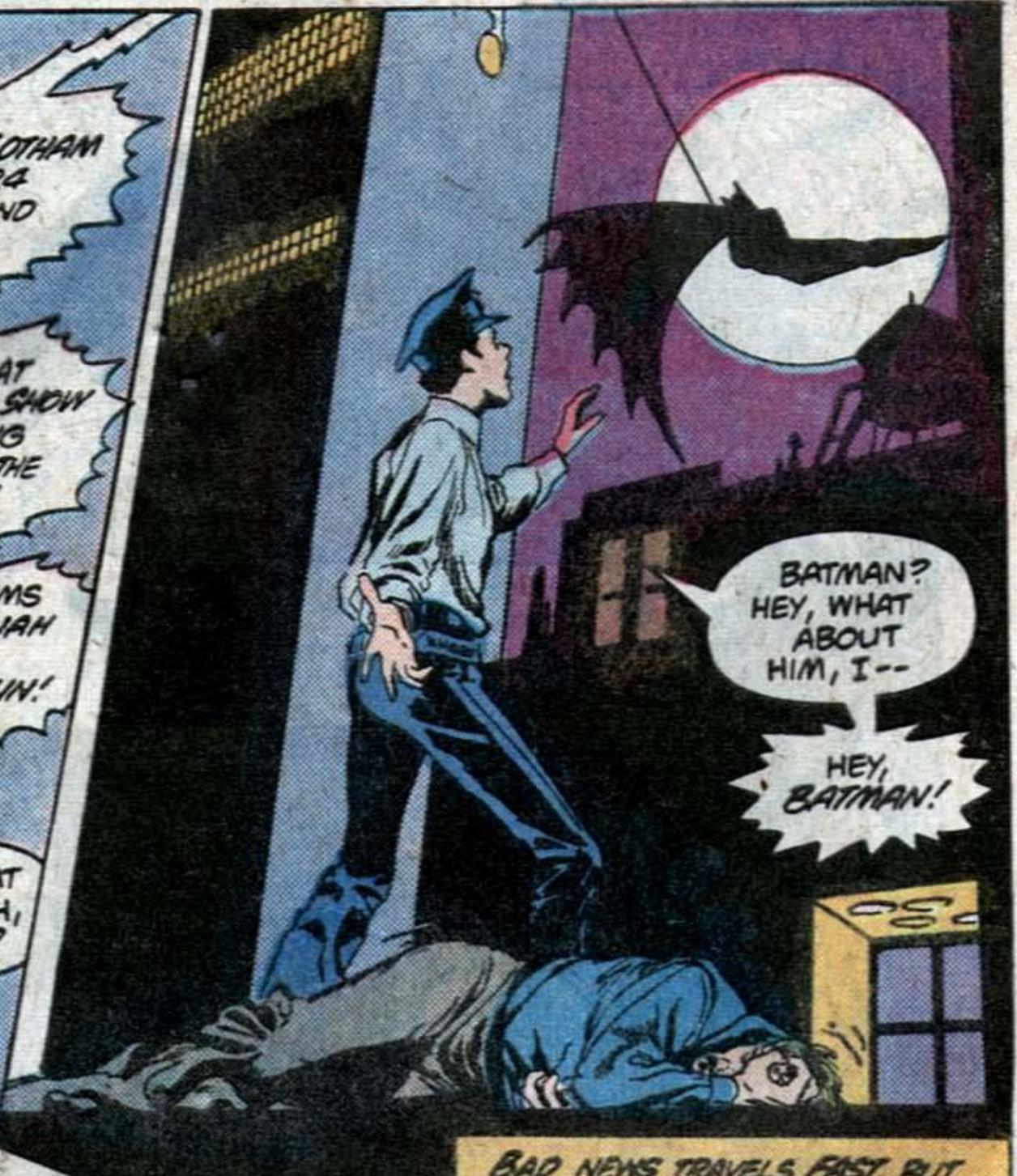
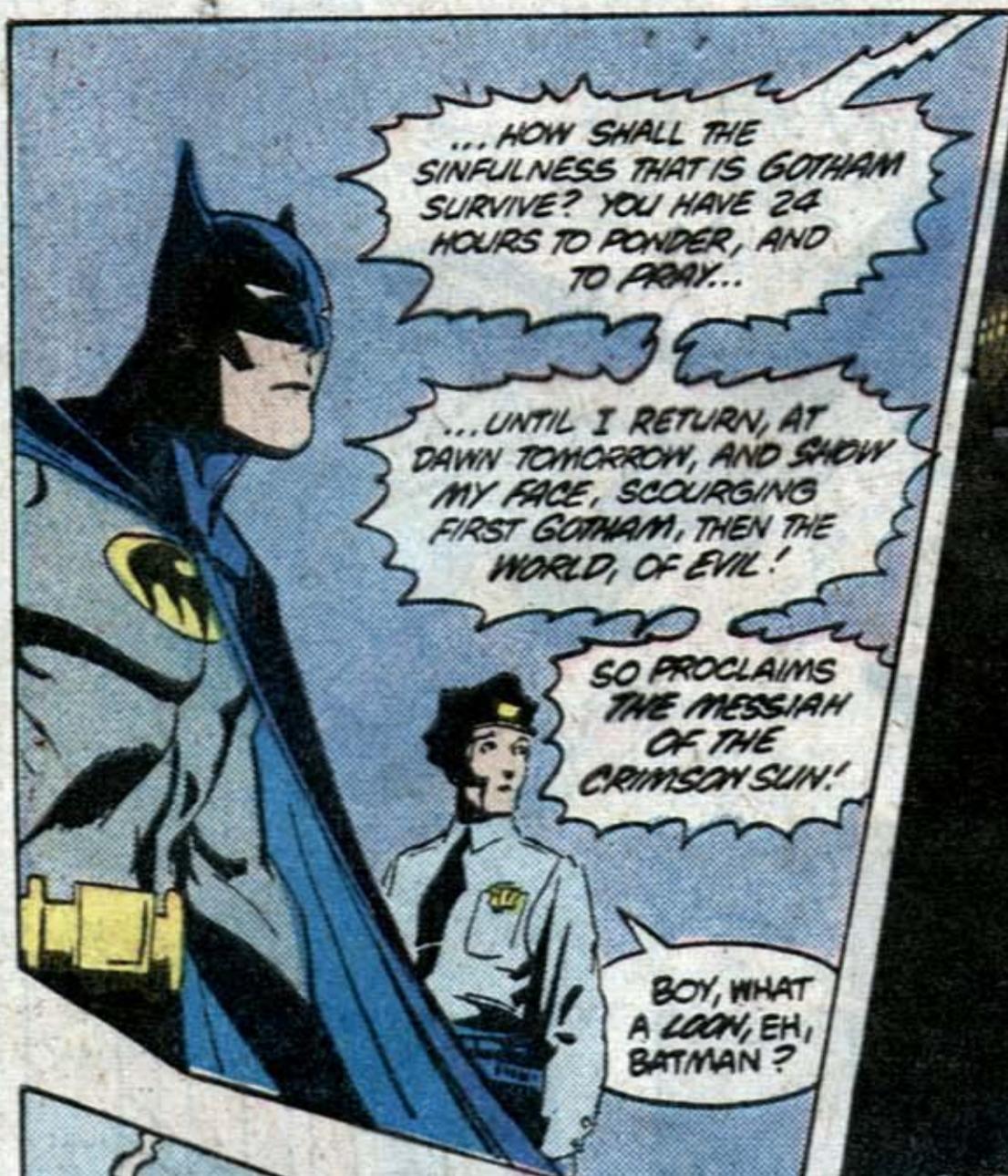
NO MORE, BATMAN! I GIVE UP!

GOOD. THEN LET'S--

SINNERS OF GOTHAM, LIST! AS SODOM AND GOMORRAH WERE JUDGED, SO HAVE I JUDGED THE TOWN OF SHINN CORNERS...

...AND IT COULD NOT LOOK ON MY FACE AND LIVE.

- AND IF A RUSTIC FARMING COMMUNITY PERISHED 'NEATH MY WRATH...



NO, NOT  
HELL, OH YE  
OF LITTLE  
FAITH...

...BUT HEAVEN, FOR  
IT IS THERE HE DWELLS,  
HE WHO SAVED ME  
FROM THE HOLOCAUST...

...FAITH IN HIM  
SAVED ME, WHEN  
ALL ABOUT ME  
PERISHED IN  
FIRE AND BRIM-  
STONE!

GUARDS!  
GET THAT MAN  
OVER HERE!

PULSE,  
BLOOD PRESSURE,  
RESPIRATION...  
ALL NORMAL!

CAN'T BE! IF  
HE LIVED THROUGH  
WHATEVER HIT THAT  
TOWN, THERE'S GOT  
TO BE A REASON!

MY NAME  
AND MY  
FAITH ARE  
MY REASONS,  
SCOFFERS...

...FOR I AM  
CALLED SETH, AS  
WAS THE FIRST  
SETH, THE THIRD  
SON OF ADAM...

...AND IT IS MY  
FAITH IN HIS PEOPLE,  
THE CHILDREN OF  
ADAM, THAT SPARED  
ME, AND ME ALONE!

SORRY TO  
BURST YOUR  
BUBBLE, SETH--

--BUT ONE OTHER  
PERSON SURVIVED, TOO!  
YOU'LL FIND HIM IN  
THE TOWN  
HOSPITAL!

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT MAN'S VOICE, GENERAL CARTER! IS HE ONE OF YOURS?

NO! BRING THAT JEEP OVER HERE, SERGEANT! I WANT THAT MAN'S NAME... AND HIS HEAD!

SIR, IT'S THE BATMAN!

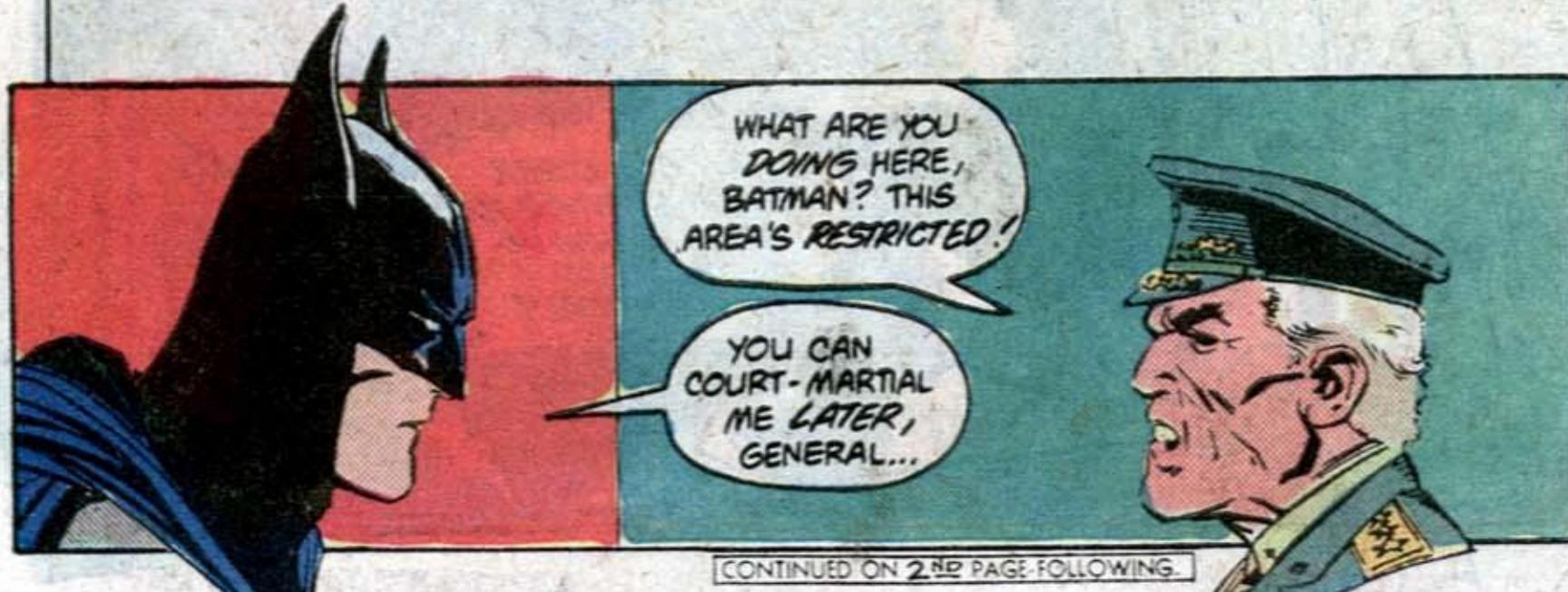
I CAN SEE THAT, SERGEANT! BUT WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?



NO DOUBT, BUT HERE ARE TWO LESSONS, SON--

ONE: A WEAPON IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MAN BEHIND IT.

TWO: YOUR WEAPONS ARE NO GOOD AT ALL.



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

BUT I THINK YOU'LL  
WANT TO SEE WHAT  
I'VE DISCOVERED,  
FIRST.

COMING?

AND THEY DO,  
FOLLOWING THE  
MAN IN BLACK  
THROUGH ROOM  
AFTER SEMI-  
PRIVATE ROOM  
ILLED WITH  
DEATH, UNTIL...

HE'S HERE,  
GENTLEMEN, IN THIS  
ROOM AT THE END  
OF THE HALL...

...A KIDNEY PATIENT,  
I THINK, HOOKED TO  
A DIALYSIS MACHINE!

RAWLINS, GET  
IN HERE! FIND OUT  
WHY THIS MAN'S  
STILL ALIVE!

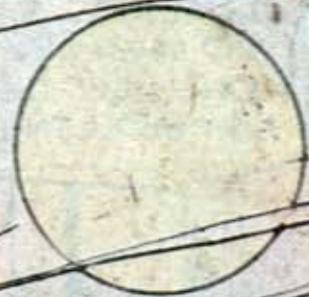
THANK YOU, BATMAN, WE'LL  
TAKE OVER NOW. THE PRESIDENT  
IS KEEPING ON TOP OF THIS,  
AND HE'S CONVENING A  
SPECIAL SESSION OF  
CONGRESS!

WELL, YOU SEEM TO HAVE  
THE SITUATION IN  
HAND, GENERAL...

...SO I'LL  
BE OFF!

HMM...

8:15 A.M.: OUTSIDE SHINN CORNERS, A CONCEALING SKIN IS DRAWN FROM A CRAFT OF THE AIR...



...AND AFTER A HUNGRY LEAP AT THE SKY...

BATMAN TO BATCAVE. ARE YOU THERE, ALFRED?

I AM INDEED, SIR. HAS YOUR MISSION GONE WELL?

BETTER THAN I EXPECTED -- TWO PEOPLE SURVIVED, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY. BUT THEY'RE BEING FOOLS, ALFRED.

THEY'LL FORM COMMITTEES AND FUND STUDIES WHILE GOTHAM BURNS...



...AND I WON'T PERMIT THAT. IS ROBIN AROUND?

NO, BUT DON'T LET HIM LEAVE WHEN HE GETS UP, I'LL NEED HIM. SEE YOU SOON.



MASTER DICK IS STILL IN BED, SIR, SLEEPING OFF LAST NIGHT'S BACCHANAL. SHALL I WAKE HIM?



GOOD FORTUNE, SIR.

10:00 A.M....

GENERAL,  
THERE COULD  
BE THOUSANDS OF REASONS  
THESE MEN SURVIVED, AND  
WE CAN'T CHECK THEM ALL  
BY OURSELVES! DID YOU--

YES, I ORDERED THE  
COMPUTERS, RAWLINS,  
AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE,  
YOU'LL GET THEM!  
NOW SHOULDN'T YOU--

OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH!  
CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT ALL  
YOUR SCIENCE IS HELPLESS  
TO SAVE YOU?  
REPENT, I  
SAY...

REPENT,  
AND BECOME  
A CHILD OF  
ADAM...

..,OR YE  
SHALL SURELY  
DIE!

EXCUSE ME, GENERAL,  
I'M HERE FOR THE HOURLY  
BLOOD AND TISSUE  
SAMPLES FROM MR.--  
UH-- SETH?

ALL RIGHT,  
YOUNG LADY, BUT  
MAKE IT  
SNAPPY, EH?

OF  
COURSE,  
GENERAL!

THE NURSE GOES ABOUT  
HER BUSINESS, AS  
GENERAL CARTER CONTEM-  
PLATES THE BONE-WHITE  
GRIN OF AN OLD FOE...

...UNTIL...

EXCUSE ME,  
GENERAL...

...I'M HERE  
FOR THE HOURLY  
BLOOD AND  
TISSUE SAMPLES  
FROM MR.--  
UH-- SETH?

YOU  
WHAT!?

THE SLEEK BATPLANE IS OUT OF PLACE HERE, UNDER THE SUN'S BRIGHT BEAMS, THOUGH ITS SPEED IS UN-DIMINISHED...

YET IT SLOWS NOW, OVER THE BOSKY REACHES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...

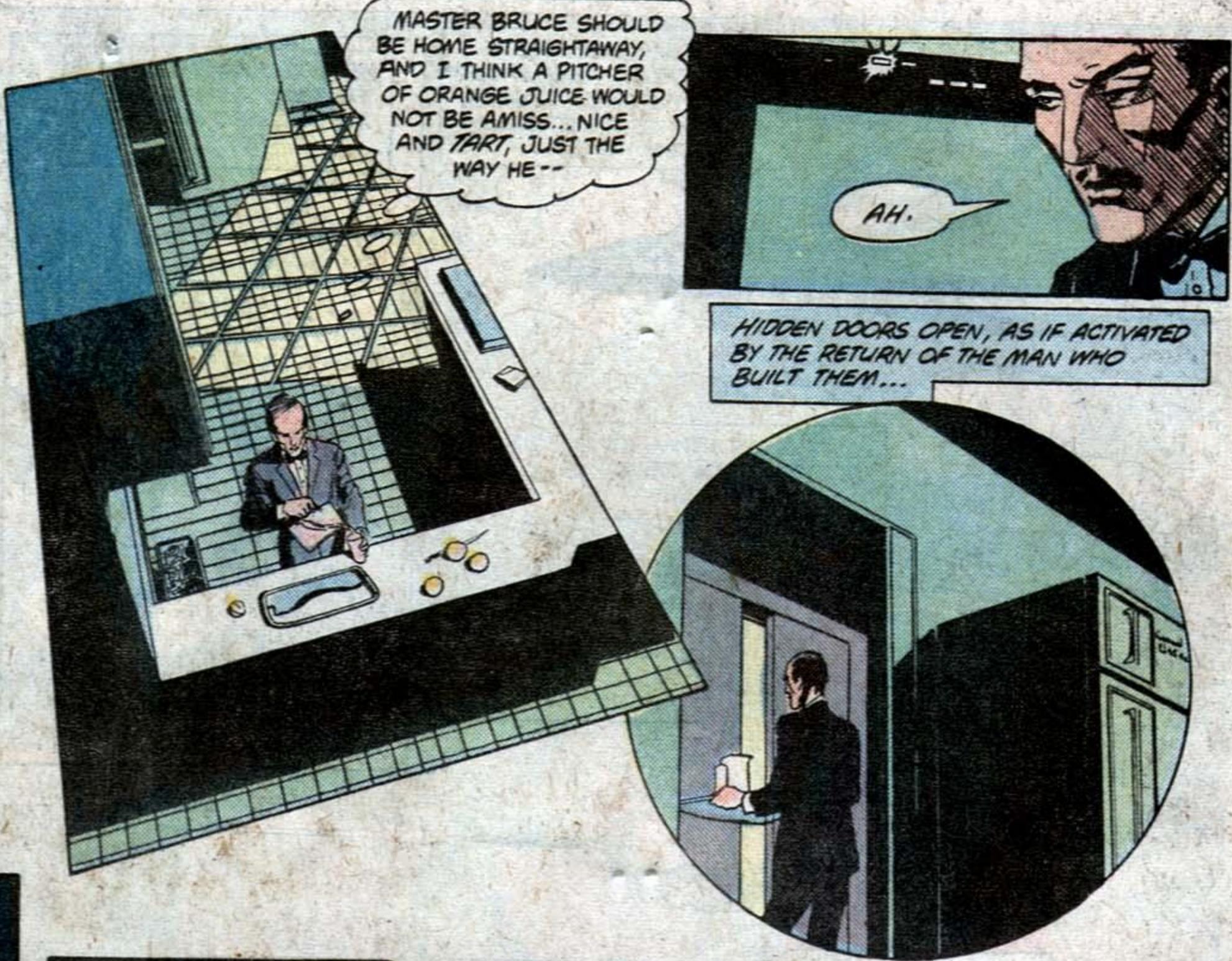
...AS IS THE IRON-HARD DETERMINATION OF ITS PILOT.

...SLOWS AND DIVES, LIKE A PROUD EAGLE COMING HOME TO REST.

...WE MAY CALL IT THE BATCAVE...

BUT THIS EAGLE'S NEST IS COMPOSED NOT OF STICKS AND STRAW, BUT RATHER OF THE FINEST TECHNOLOGY WROUGHT FROM THE MINDS OF MEN...

...TO THE BATMAN, IT IS HOME.



...AND SEND DICK DOWN AS  
SOON AS HE'S UP-- I'LL BE IN THE  
DARKROOM FOR A WHILE, IF YOU  
NEED ME.

OH, AND  
ALFRED...?

SIR...?

GREAT  
ORANGE  
JUICE.

THANK  
YOU, SIR!

11:00 A.M....

G'MORNING, ALFRED;  
WHERE IS HE?

MASTER  
BRUCE IS NOW AT  
THE MAKE-UP  
TABLE, SIR.

THANKS.

HELLO, DICK-  
YOU'VE HEARD THE  
NEWS?

YOU BET.  
I IMAGINE  
YOU'VE GOT  
A PLAN...

...SO WHERE DO  
I FIT IN?

YOU, OLD  
CHUM, GET TO  
TAKE CENTER  
STAGE IN THIS  
PRODUCTION...

...YOU SEE, THE REAL  
SETH IS UNAVAILABLE  
TO PERFORM...

...AND YOU'RE  
HIS UNDERSTUDY!

THAT IS, IF YOU WANT TO BE!  
THIS MASK IS MODELED FROM  
PHOTOS I TOOK OF SETH AT  
SHINN CORNERS.  
...AND  
I'VE  
GOT TAPES  
OF HIS VOICE  
FOR YOU TO STUDY.  
BUT IT'LL BE  
DANGEROUS...

1:25 P.M., CAMP  
TRUMAN, NOT FAR  
FROM GOTHAM CITY...

GUESS THAT'S IT,  
SON! MEDICAL SAYS  
YOU'RE CLEAN, AND  
WE CAN'T HOLD YOU  
ANY LONGER!

RESTRICTED  
ARMY BASE  
NO UNARMED ALONE  
RESCUE ALLOWED

BLESS YOU,  
GENERAL...

LORD KNOWS I'VE  
NEVER DISOBeyed  
ORDERS IN MY  
LIFE...

...BUT I HOPE THE  
PENTAGON'S NOT  
MAKIN' A MISTAKE  
IN GOIN' ALONG  
WITH THE  
BATMAN!

DUNNO HOW  
HE CONVINCED  
'EM TO GIVE HIM A  
FREE HAND IN THIS...  
THOUGHT ONLY  
MILLIONAIRES  
HAD THAT KIND  
OF PULL!

COME ON, BRUCE--  
CREEPS LIKE THIS ARE THE  
REASON WE DO WHAT  
WE DO, AREN'T THEY?

AND YOU  
ALWAYS KNEW  
I WOULD!

I'LL  
DO IT...

...AND MAY  
YOU KNOW THE  
WAY OF ADAM  
SOON!

GOOD  
LUCK, ROBIN.

UH...  
YOU, TOO,  
SON!

HE'S  
GONE, BATMAN!  
DIDN'T SEE ANYONE  
FOLLOWING HIM, THOUGH!

I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL,  
GENERAL. SETH IS ONLY A  
PAWN, BUT AN IMPORTANT  
ONE...

BUT  
BATMAN... HOW DO  
YOU KNOW THAT THIS  
"CHILDREN OF ADAM"  
CULT IS INVOLVED IN  
ALL THIS?

BUT ISN'T  
IT OBVIOUS?

AND OUR SELF-  
STYLED "MESSIAH"  
IS TOO GOOD A PLAYER  
NOT TO WATCH ALL  
HIS PIECES!

HEY, THAT CAR'S SLOWING DOWN, IT MIGHT BE MY CONTACT!

GOTTA WATCH THE VOICE, THOUGH--ONE PART CHARLTON HESTON, ONE PART SELF-RIGHTEOUS DORK! WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!

BROTHER SETH, THEY FREED YOU!

THEY DID, SISTER! PERHAPS ADAM HIMSELF SAW FIT TO INTERCEDE FOR ME!

632-CSB



PRAISE HIM... PRAISE HIM!

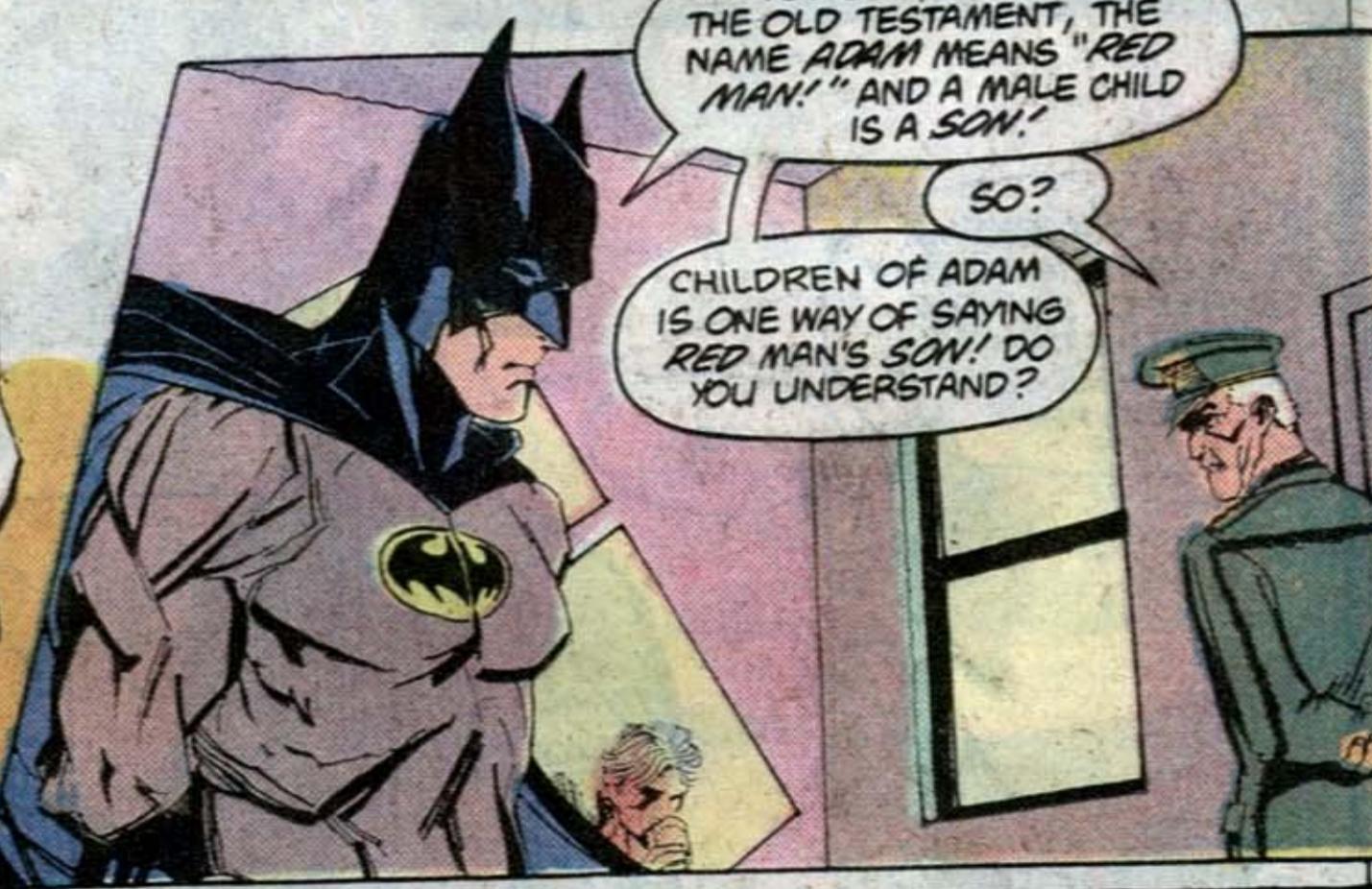
YOU CAN GROVEL LATER, SISTER! SETH, THE MESSIAH WANTS TO SEE YOU! COME ON!

SO?

CHILDREN OF ADAM IS ONE WAY OF SAYING RED MAN'S SON! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

RED SON--CRIMSON SUN. THE CONNECTION'S READILY APPARENT!

BY GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT!





MAY--MAY I HAVE  
SOME MORE WATER,  
PLEASE?



WHAT ARE YOU, A  
CAMEL? YOU'VE BEEN  
DRINKING THAT STUFF  
LIKE IT'S GOIN' OUT  
OF STYLE!

JUST A  
MINUTE,  
GENERAL...  
PERHAPS  
IT IS!



THIS HAS TO BE THE  
LINK BETWEEN THE TWO  
SURVIVORS OF THE SHINN  
CORNERS HOLOCAUST  
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING  
FOR!

SETH OBVIOUSLY HASN'T  
HAD ANY WATER IN OVER  
A DAY... AND THE KIDNEY  
PATIENT WOULDN'T HAVE  
BEEN ALLOWED ANY  
EITHER! HIS KIDNEYS HAD  
SHUT DOWN, SO HIS BODY  
COULDN'T PROCESS IT!

THERE MUST HAVE  
BEEN SOMETHING IN THE  
WATER AT SHINN CORNERS  
THAT REACTED WITH THE  
RED SUN RAYS TO KILL  
THOSE PEOPLE...

...SOMETHING  
THAT HAS  
YET TO BE PUT  
IN GOTHAM'S  
WATER SUPPLY!



GENERAL, ORDER TROOPS AROUND  
EVERY WATER PURIFICATION STATION  
IN GOTHAM CITY, IMMEDIATELY! THE  
CHEMICAL WILL HAVE TO BE INTRO-  
DUCED IN THE SYSTEM THROUGH  
ONE OF THOSE!

RIGHT.

NO, YOU BLASPHEME.  
THE MESSIAH TAKES ONLY  
THE LIVES OF SINNERS,  
THROUGH HIS DIVINE  
MIGHT! HE IS JUST, HE  
IS GOOD, HE--

...HE...



2:00 P.M....ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS OF  
GOTHAM CITY...

BACK AWAY, ALL OF YOU!  
LET THE VEHICLE ENTER!  
INSIDE IT IS ONE WHO  
WILL SURVIVE THE  
HOLOCAUST...

...AS YOU  
WILL NOT!

2:10 P.M., INSIDE  
THE TEMPLE...

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH,  
SETH. WAIT THERE...

...UNTIL THE  
MASTER IS READY  
FOR YOU!

I OBEY,  
FELLOW  
SERVANT OF MY  
MASTER.

BACK, NON-BELIEVERS!  
NONE MAY APPROACH THE  
TEMPLE OF THE CHILDREN  
OF ADAM!

LET ME IN,  
PLEASE, I DON'T  
WANT TO DIE! I  
CAN PAY--

I CAN  
PAY MORE!  
LET ME  
IN, ME!

THE BIG CHEESE  
HIMSELF! MAYBE  
I CAN WRAP THIS  
CASE UP BY MY  
LONESOME!

2:15 P.M....

SETH, KNOW  
THAT YOU HAVE  
PLEASED ME,  
MY SON...

THANK  
YOU,  
MASTER,  
I--

DO NOT  
INTERRUPT!  
FOR YOUR MOST  
EXCELLENT SERVICE,  
YOU SHALL AGAIN  
LOOK UPON MY  
FACE...

...MY  
TRUE  
FACE!



2:10 P.M....

SGT. WILSON TO GENERAL CARTER:  
PLANT #1 SECURED, SIR. NO  
INTERFERENCE. AWAITING ORDERS,  
SIR.



...PLANT #3  
SECURED, SIR. ALL  
CALM, NO TRACES  
OF FOREIGN MATTER  
IN WATER. OVER.



GOTHAM CITY WATER  
PURIFICATION PLANT NO.3

ALL CITY WATER  
SYSTEMS SECURE,  
BATMAN. WATER HAS  
BEEN TESTED AND  
FOUND PURE.  
SHOULD WE--

BATMAN?



CARTER'S MEN ARE FINE  
FOR SEALING OFF THE  
OBVIOUS, BUT THIS "MESSIAH  
OF THE CRIMSON SUN" IS  
TOO CLEVER TO GO THAT  
ROUTE...

...THE STUFF ISN'T IN THE  
WATER YET, BECAUSE SETH'S  
BEEN GULPING IT DOWN BY  
THE BARREL, BUT  
WHERE...?

OF COURSE!  
I'VE OVERLOOKED  
THE PERFECT  
PLACE--BUT I'LL  
BET THE MESSIAH  
HASN'T!

2:16 P.M....

YOU?!





Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

ON THE MONEY. A BUNCH OF NO-GOODS ABOUT TO RELEASE A DRUM FULL OF NASTINESS INTO GOTHAM'S WATER.

I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO DISCOURAGE THEM.

HURRY! OPEN VALVE, AND OUR WORK IS DONE!

YES, I--

THE BATMAN!?

SLAY HIM!

HE IS TOO QUICK, GROUP LEADER, HE--

YOU'RE FIRING WIDE, BOYS! I'M OVER HERE!

THERE! IN THE DOORWAY!

YAAAGH!

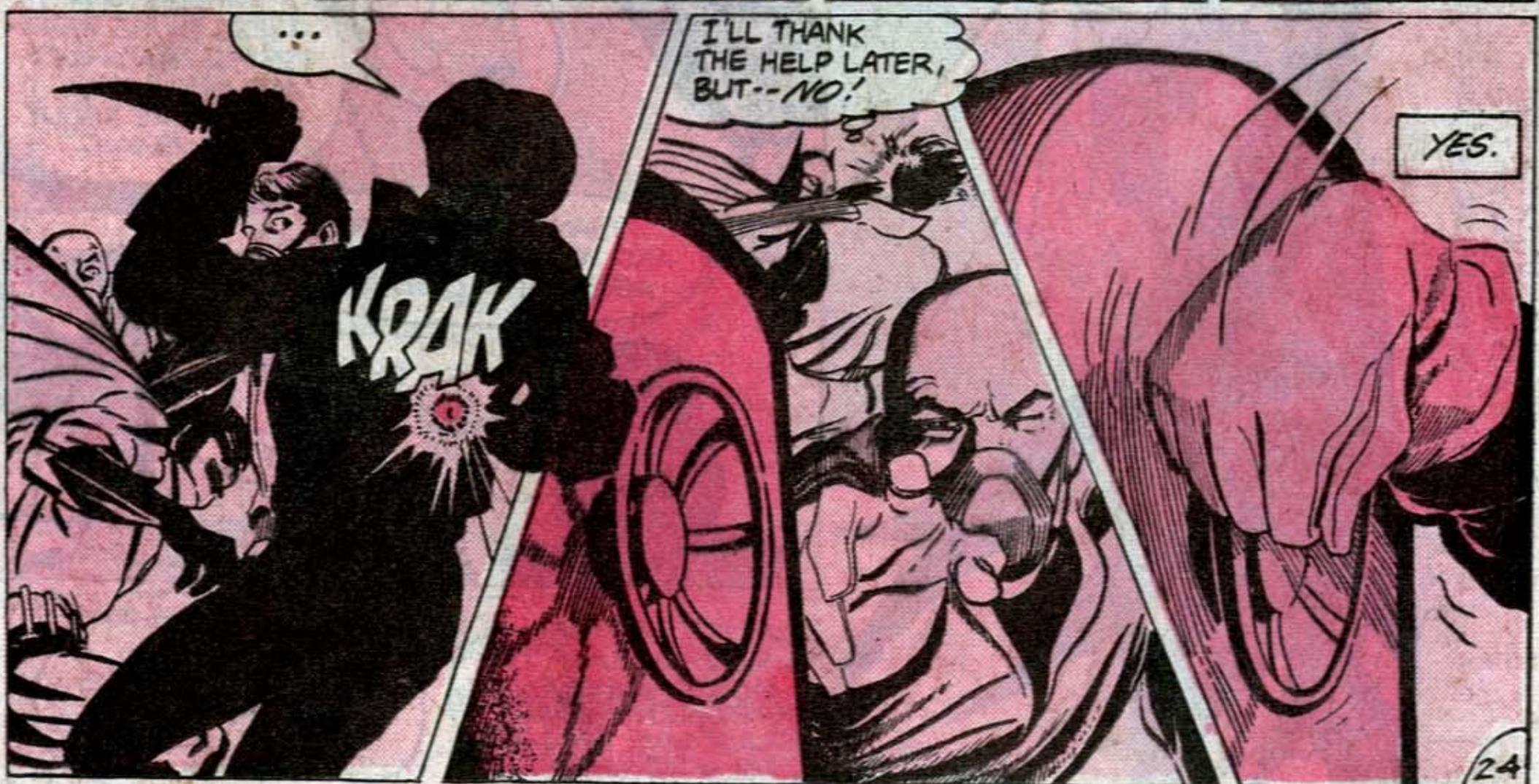
HE CANNOT POSSIBLY...

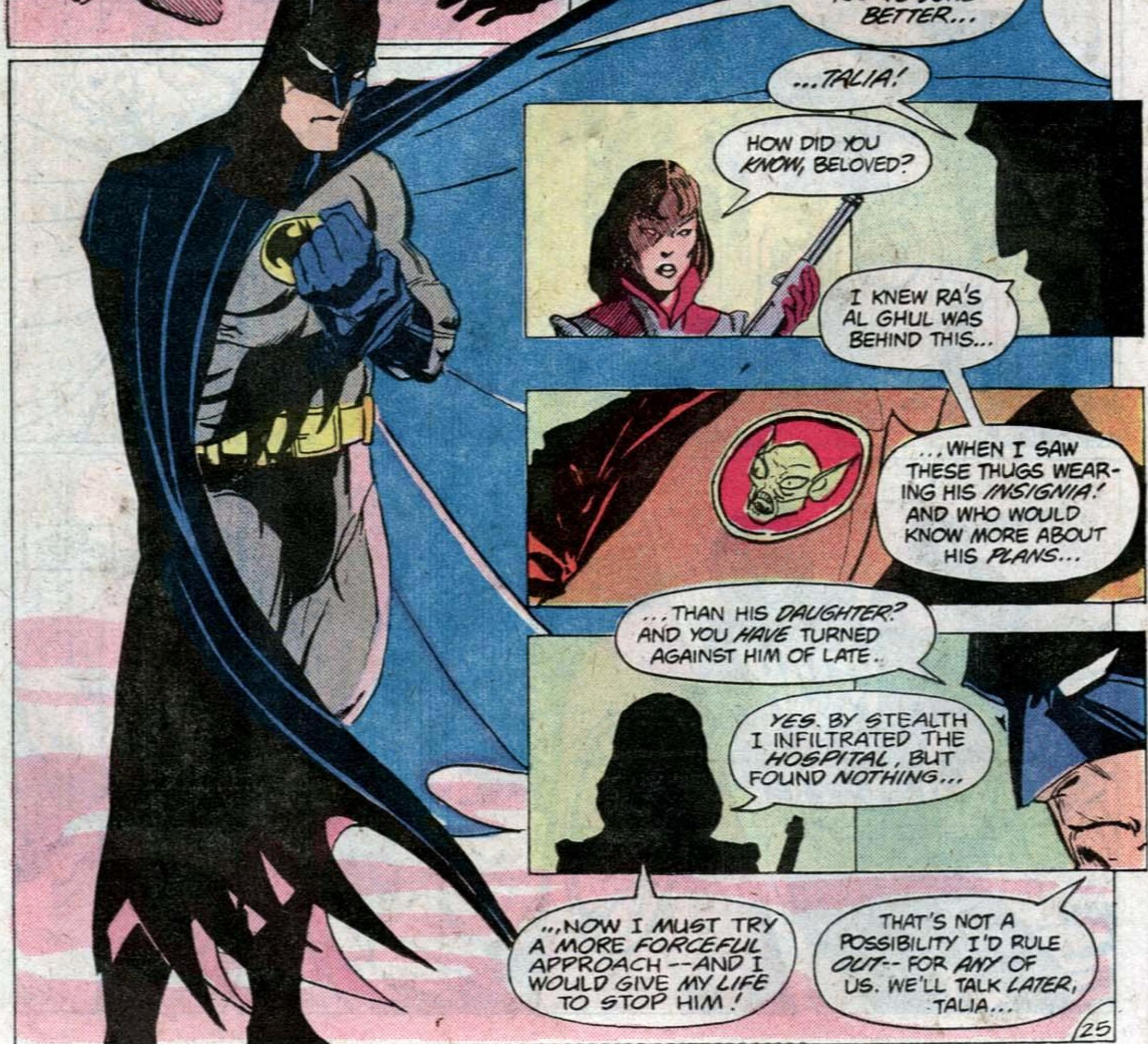
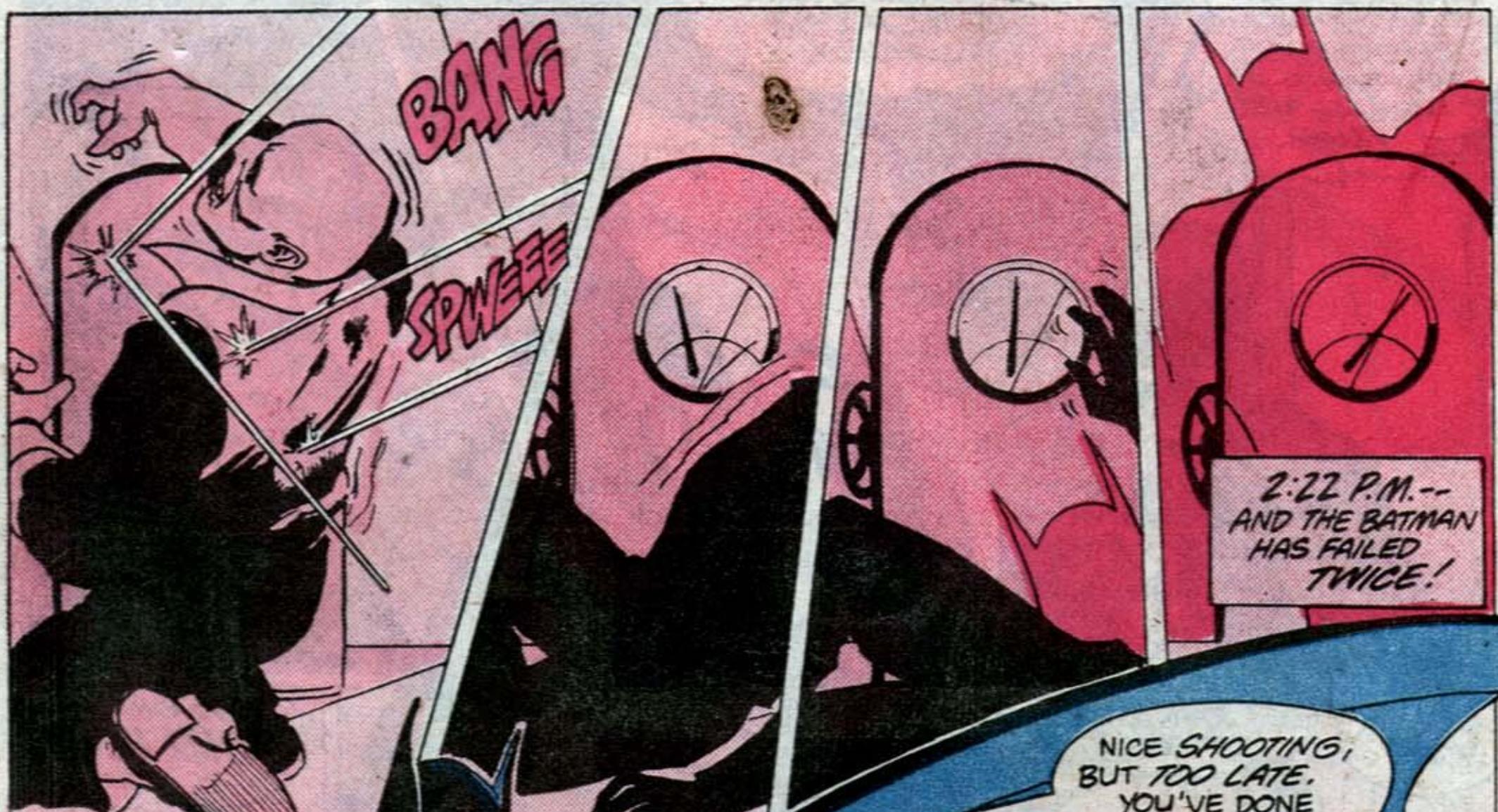
...D-DODGE?  
MOB

UHHHHH--:::

GOT TO KEEP  
THEM ON THE  
OFFENSIVE, SO  
THEY DON'T  
RELEASE THAT  
FLUID...

...AND A LITTLE TEAR  
GAS WILL FILL THAT  
BILL NICELY!





...RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO SWALLOW SOME PRIDE!

GENERAL CARTER, I'VE FAILED. GOTHAM CITY'S WATER SUPPLY HAS BEEN TAINTED! SUGGEST YOU PROCEED WITH PLAN B, BUT BE CAREFUL...

...OUR SELF-STYLED "MESSIAH" IS REALLY RA'S AL GHUL.

RA'S AL--?  
BUT I THOUGHT  
HE WAS DEAD.

HE WAS.  
BATMAN OUT.

A FLARE STAINS THE AFTERNOON AIR...

...AND THE TEMPLE OF THE CHILDREN OF ADAM IS RUDELY VIOLATED BY KHAKI NON-BELIEVERS!

THEY COME, MASTER...

THEY WILL LEARN THAT SOON ENOUGH, GRIND. I THINK INSTEAD WE SHALL DEPART...

...WILL YOU TEACH THEM THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS?

...WHEN NEXT I SET FOOT ON THIS PLANET, IT WILL BE RE-CREATED IN MY IMAGE!

AND WHAT OF THE BOY, MASTER?  
HE MADE A FOOL OF ME! MAY  
I KILL HIM?

HAVE CALMNESS, GRIND..  
AS NAPOLEON ONCE  
REMARKED TO ME...

...THE BEST  
TRAPS ARE LAID  
WITH LIVE BAIT.

2:30 P.M. -- AND THE BATMAN  
HAS FAILED THRICE!

HE GOT AWAY,  
BATMAN-- PROCEED  
WITH PLAN C?

YES, GENERAL... BUT  
PREPARE ACCOMMODATIONS  
FOR TWO.

I'M  
BRINGING  
ALONG SOME  
HELP.

JULY 15, 1982:  
1:00 A.M. CAPE  
CANAVERAL, FLORIDA.

WE HAVE DALLIED HERE FOR  
HOURS, BELOVED. WHAT  
IS THE DELAY?

PATIENCE,  
TALIA...

...EMERGENCY PRIMING  
OF A CRAFT LIKE THIS,  
TAKES TIME--AND THEY HAD  
TO FIND OUT FOR THEMSELVES  
THAT RA'S BASE IS HIDDEN  
FROM RADAR!

DID THEY THINK MY FATHER  
WOULD LEAVE HIMSELF OPEN  
TO ATTACK?

NEVER MIND ABOUT THEM.  
WE'LL HAVE OUR HANDS FULL  
FINDING HIS BASE FROM  
COMPUTED PROBABILITIES, LET  
ALONE TAKING DOWN HIS  
DEFENSES.

IS THAT OUR  
ONLY TASK,  
BELOVED?

10 THAT'S YOURS--  
I HAVE TO FIND  
ROBIN.

9

8

YOU'RE CLEARED FOR  
FLIGHT, BATMAN-- GOOD  
LUCK AND GOD BLESS.

7

6

5

3

4

2

1

LIFTOFF

THIS MAY BE A SUICIDE MISSION,  
TALIA--DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT  
STRONGLY ABOUT RA'S PLAN?

PERHAPS, BELOVED...  
BUT SHOULD YOU PERISH  
WHILE DEFYING MY  
FATHER...

2:30 A.M....

"THERE, BELOVED--ON THE  
RADAR SCREEN. WE HAVE  
PENETRATED HIS CLOAKING  
AURA."

... I WOULD  
HAVE NO DESIRE  
TO CONTINUE!

"CANAVERAL'S ALREADY BEEN  
RADIOED THE INFORMATION, TALIA.  
FASTEN YOUR BELT, THEY'LL FIRE  
AS SOON AS WE'RE IN RANGE."

"WAIT, BELOVED...  
A THOUGHT  
OCCURS..."

UNAUTHORIZED  
CRAFT ON SCREEN.  
WEAPONRY LOCK ON,  
FIRE AT MY  
COMMAND.

ACKNOWLEDGED,  
CAPTAIN REEMS.

? A TRANS-  
MISSION ON THE  
MOST SECRET  
WAVELENGTH!  
WHO...?



MIRLOCK OPEN



ENTER, BELOVED, HE WILL TROUBLE US NO LONGER.



4:00 A.M.,  
GOTHAM CITY.

MADNESS REIGNS IN  
THIS TOWN OF TOWNS, AS  
IT HAS SINCE DAWN  
YESTERDAY.

VEHICLES PACKED  
TO BURSTING  
GLUT THE STREETS,  
MAKING PROGRESS  
RARE AND EVACU-  
ATION IMPOSSIBLE.

THE DRIVERS HAVE  
PLANNED WELL,  
THOUGH. MOST HAVE  
PACKED SUFFICIENT  
PROVISIONS...

...AND ALL CARRY  
PLENTY OF WATER.

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
GRINDS TO A HALT, OVERRUN BY MOBS  
SEEKING PASSAGE TO ANYWHERE...

...AND SOME GOTHAMITES  
TAKE THE ONLY ALTERNA-  
TIVE; PLEADING TO WHAT-  
EVER GODS THERE BE.

SO HE GIVES PERHAPS  
THE HARDEST ORDER  
OF HIS CAREER...

5:07 A.M. GENERAL AMOS  
CARTER REALIZES HE CAN WAIT  
NO LONGER. HE MUST LAUNCH  
HIS MISSILES IF THEY ARE TO  
STRIKE THE SATELLITE BY  
DAWN.

...AND DOES SOME  
PLEADING OF HIS OWN.

4:30 A.M. THE DARK-NIGHT DETECTIVE HAS NOT YET FOUND HIS PARTNER, BUT HE DOES NOT DESPAIR.

DESPAIR TAKES ENERGY, AND HE NEEDS ALL HE HAS.



...UNTIL...

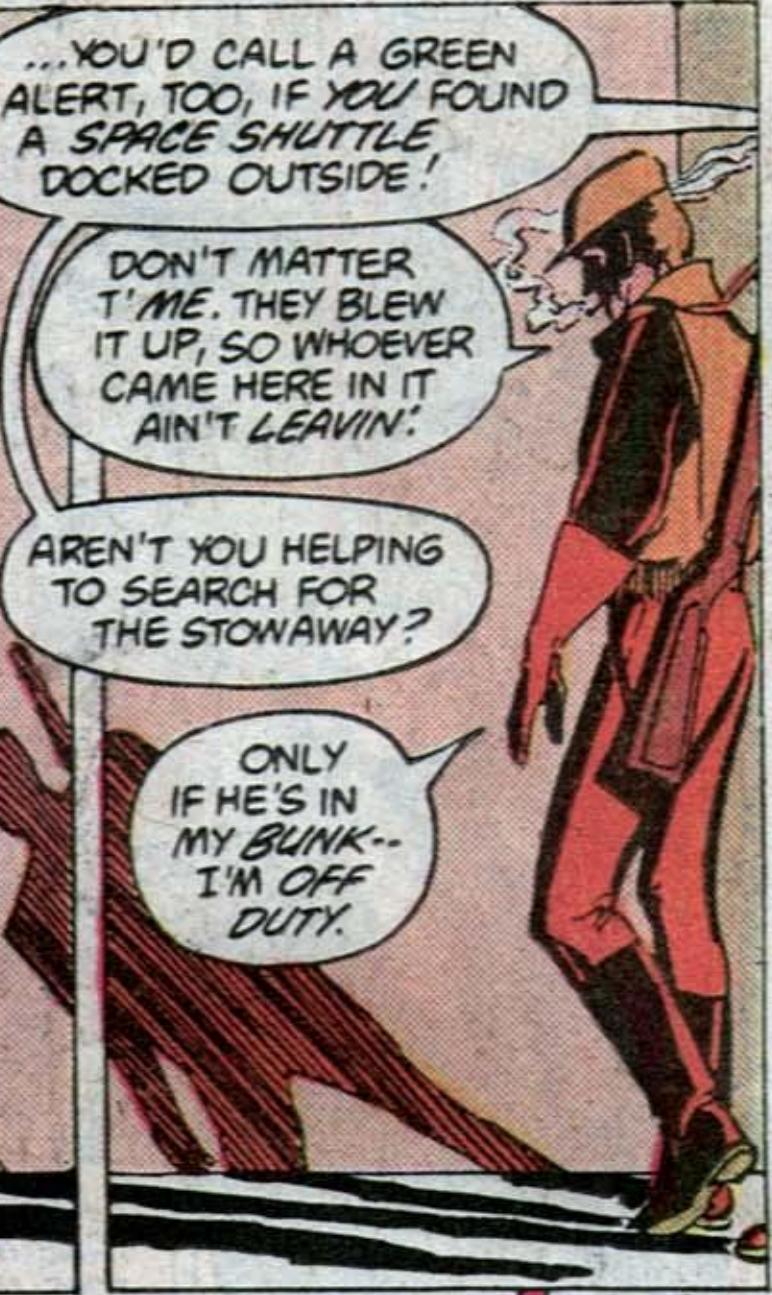


...YOU'D CALL A GREEN ALERT, TOO, IF YOU FOUND A SPACE SHUTTLE DOCKED OUTSIDE!

DON'T MATTER T'ME. THEY BLEW IT UP, SO WHOEVER CAME HERE IN IT AIN'T LEAVIN'.

AREN'T YOU HELPING TO SEARCH FOR THE STOWAWAY?

ONLY IF HE'S IN MY BUNK-- I'M OFF DUTY.



...BUT NOW THAT WE MEET AGAIN, I MUST CONFESS PLEASURE.

I KNEW, OF COURSE, THAT THREATENING GOTHAM WOULD PROVOKE YOUR INTERFERENCE. INDEED, I HOPED THIS...

...FOR WITH YOUR DEATH, NO OTHER MAN ALIVE POSSESSES THE WILL TO STOP ME!

AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE A VISION-- OF AN EARTH AS CLEAN AND PURE AS A SNOW-SWEPT MOUNTAIN... OR THE ELEMENTAL REACHES OF SPACE.

THIS IS WHY I STRIKE FROM SPACE... A CAUTERIZING SUN TO PURGE MANKIND, SO THEY MAY DO MY WILL.

MIND TELLING ME HOW YOU SURVIVED YOUR LAST DIP INTO THE LAZARUS PIT?

"AH, THE PIT. IT SEEMS I MADE IT TOO WELL, DETECTIVE, FOR IT WOULD NOT LET ME DIE. I WAS DISSOLVED, YES, BUT I WAS RECONCEIVED..."

"...BORN AGAIN..."

"...I KNEW MY SECOND COMING WAS A SIGN, AN OMEN, THAT MY VISION WOULD PREVAIL..."

"...AND GAZING INTO THE SKY, I SAW THE TOOL I WOULD WIELD TO ACHIEVE THAT VISION..."

"...THE SUN!"

"...THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE, ALL STRENGTH,  
ALL POWER. I WOULD MASTER ITS RAYS,  
USE THEM..."

"...I WOULD BECOME THE MESSIAH  
OF THE CRIMSON SUN!"

"I QUICKLY GATHERED OTHERS  
TO AID ME, INCLUDING ONE YOU  
HAVE MET BEFORE, DETECTIVE--  
PROFESSOR MARKEWITCH!"

AM  
CHARMED!

IT WAS THE PROFESSOR  
WHO DEVELOPED THE FILTER  
WHICH TURNS LIGHT--ANY  
LIGHT--INTO A RED BEAM  
OF IMMENSE POWER...

...BUT BY  
ITSELF, THE BEAM  
WAS OF LITTLE  
USE--THUS CAME  
MY CONTRIBUTION...

SNAP

...A LIQUID WHICH, WHEN INGESTED, WOULD REACT TO THE BEAM, DESTROYING ALL LIVING TISSUE! ONLY IN CONJUNCTION ARE THEY EFFECTIVE!

IT IS THIS WHICH WAS PLACED IN GOTHAM'S WATER SUPPLY...

IT IS THIS WHICH WE SHALL DRINK-- THEN WE SHALL DUEL!

THE FIRST WHOSE FLESH IS TOUCHED BY THE SPOTLIGHT SHALL DIE, DETECTIVE... FOR WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THE SAME WORLD.

DO YOU NOT AGREE?

I DO.

4:35 A.M.

MAKE HASTE! WE WILL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT MY BELOVED!

YOU BET WE WON'T!

4:40 A.M. IT IS A STRUGGLE THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD SELDOM SEES...

...A CONTEST TO THE DEATH BETWEEN TWO MEN, EACH IN HIS OWN WAY THE FINEST OF HIS KIND...

...EACH IN HIS OWN WAY THE LAST OF HIS BREED.

5:35 A.M.

HEY, THE GANG'S ALL HERE!

UNTIL...

STAND BACK!

FOR NEARLY AN HOUR THE COMBAT CONTINUES...

STOP THIS... NOW!

NO! MY MASTER MUST NOT LOSE!

WANNA BET?

I WILL CRUSH THE AMERICAN, I--

UHHH

I WOULDN'T MIND DOING THIS DAILY, GRIND!

THEY ARE LOCKED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN, THESE TWO, A SPELL NOTHING CAN BREAK...

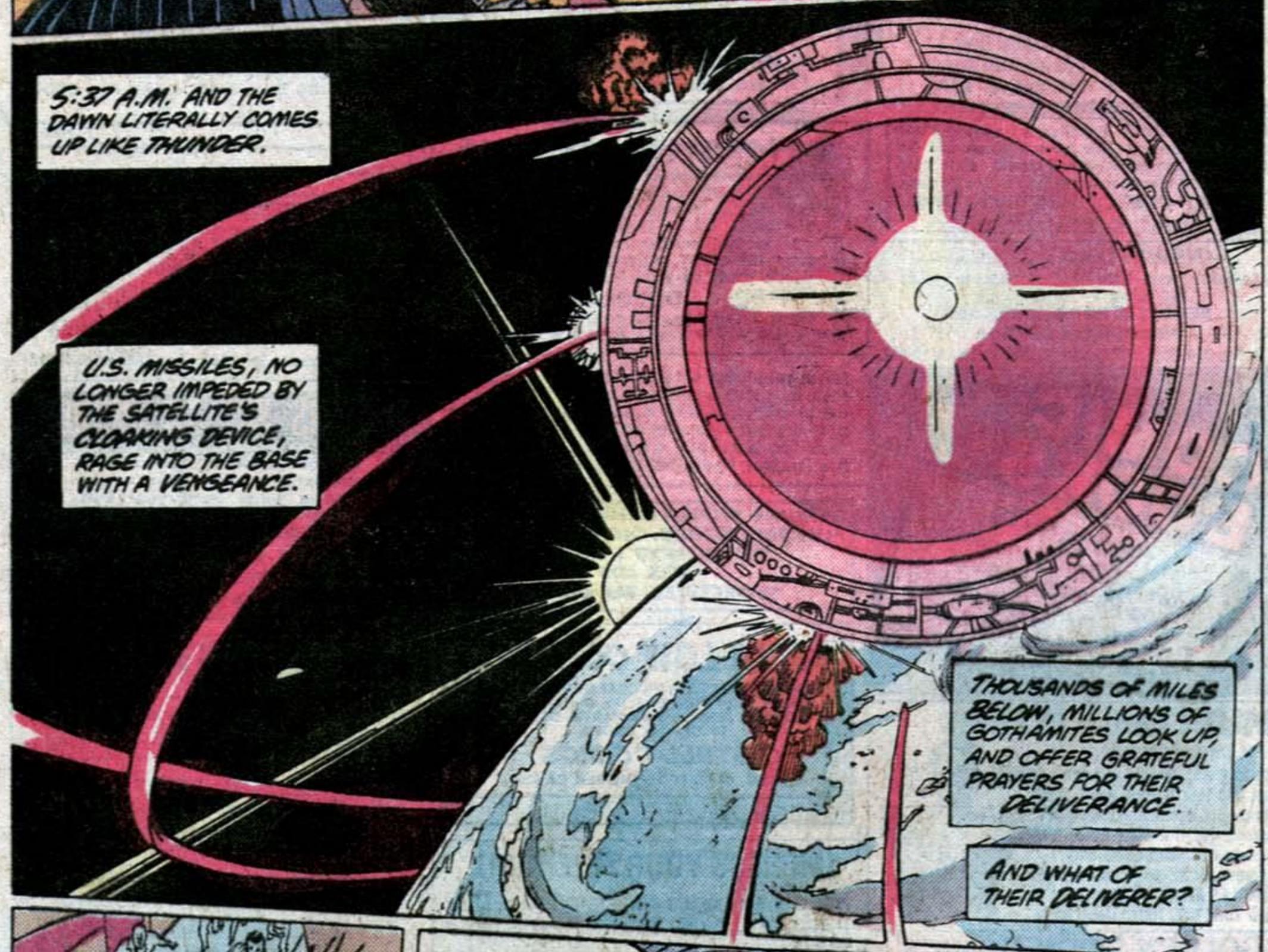
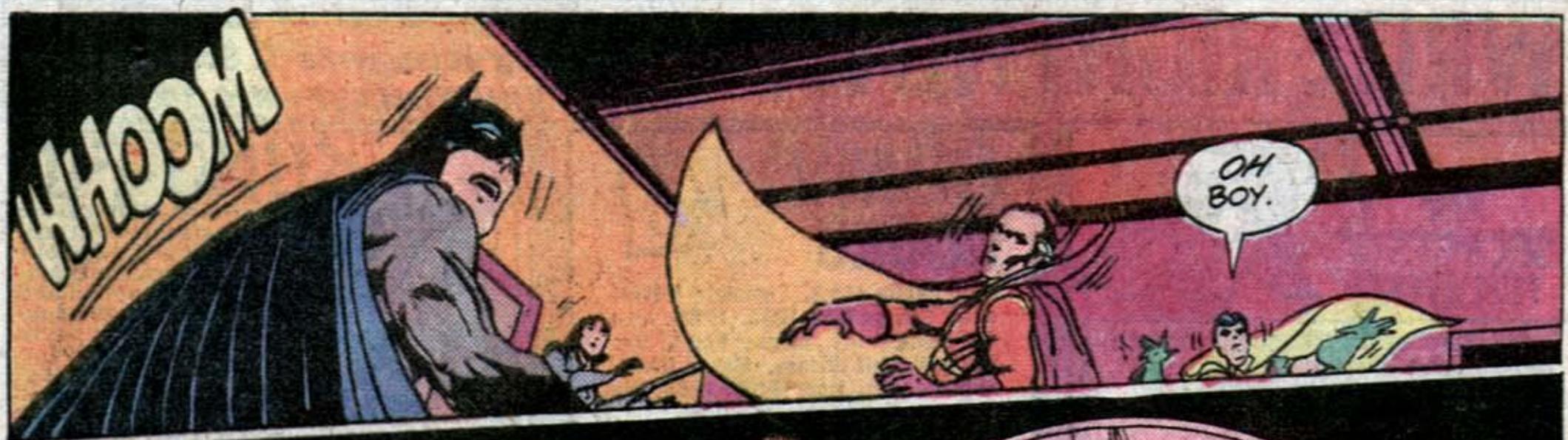
...SAVE A WORD SPOKEN SOFT AS A SIGHING BREEZE...

F-FATHER...?

TALIA! IS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU DO NOT AID ME...

I SEE. THEN MY CHOICE IS CLEAR, I--

...DO YOU NOW CONSPIRE WITH MY ENEMIES?



I THOUGHT IT MIGHT COME TO THIS...

...SO I DID A LITTLE TINKERING ON AN EMERGENCY CRAFT, AND--

HE GROWS SILENT, THEN, AS AN AIRLOCK OPENS ACROSS THE GIANT WHEEL...

...DISGORGING A CRAFT DESIGNED TO BE A SURVIVOR-- LIKE ITS PILOT.

CRAFT, YOU WILL RELINQUISH ALL CONTROLS TO MANUAL COMMAND-- CLEAR?

RA'S AL GHUL VOICE PRINT IDENTIFIED-- MANUAL CONTROL ACTIVATED.

GENTLE FINGERS OF RETRO-FIRE NUDGE THE SHIP OUT...

...THEN DOWN...

...CAREFULLY AVOIDING THE RAGING CRIMSON FIRE A FEW METERS AWAY...

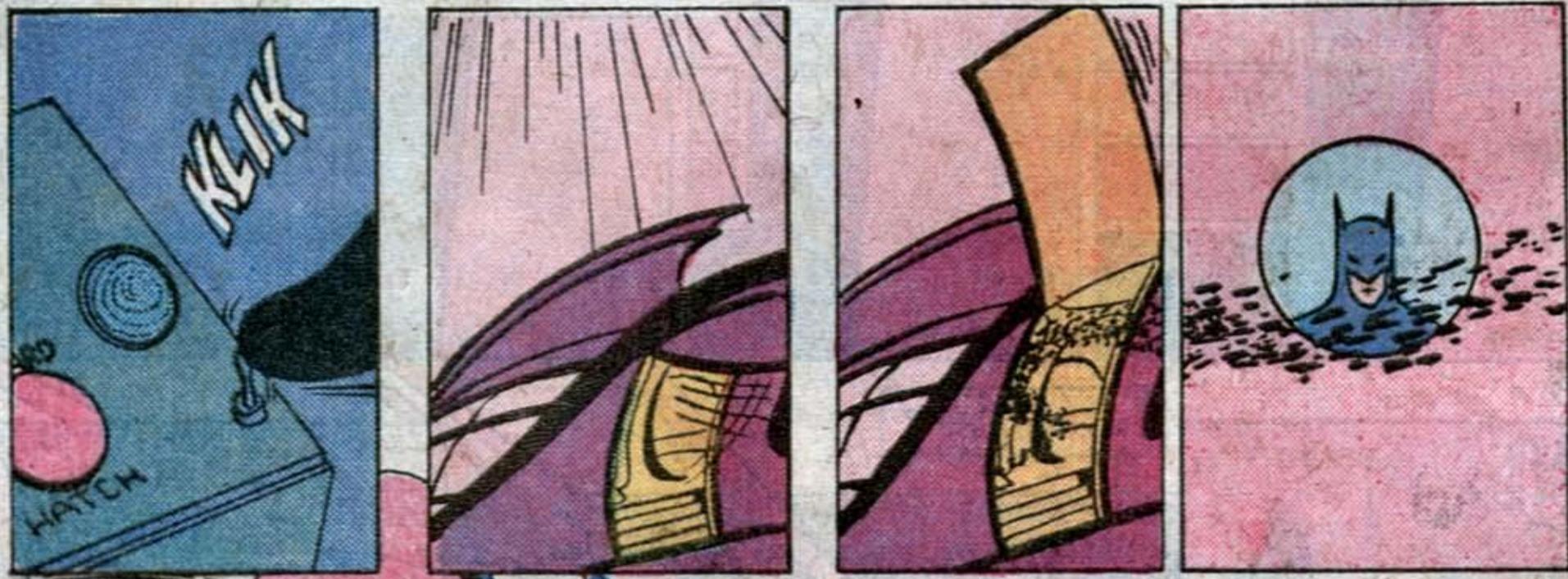
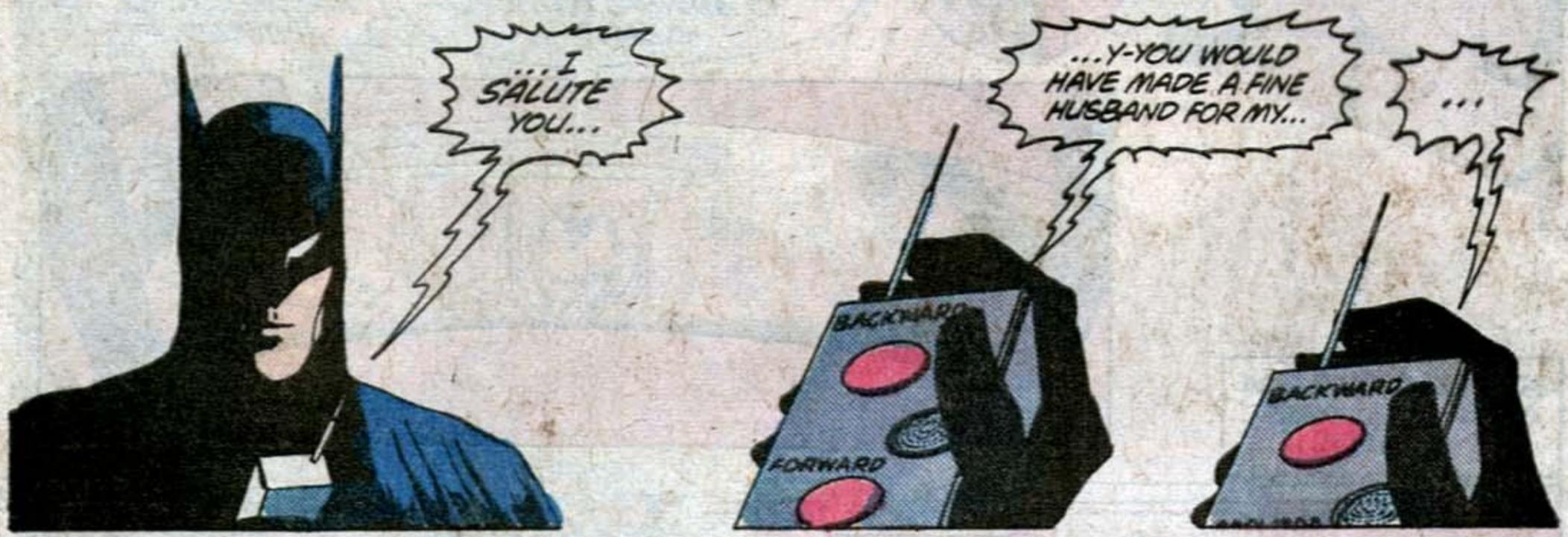
...THEN HE IS FREE...

AN IMPOSSIBILITY! THE SHIP REBELS, IT HEADS BACK TOWARD--

...ISN'T HE?

--THE SUN? NO!

I COMMAND YOU, NO...



IN SILENCE, THE  
EMERGENCY CRAFT  
IS BOARDED...

IN SILENCE, THEY  
LEAVE THE BELEAGUERED  
SATELLITE BASE...

... IN AIRLESS SILENCE  
IS THE FINAL BRAINCHILD  
OF RA'S AL GHUL DESTROYED...

I'LL--UH--WAIT  
FOR YOU OUT  
HERE, BATMAN...

TALIA, I--  
MY FATHER  
WISHED US TO  
BE MARRIED,  
BELOVED...

... BUT NOW, I  
WISH ONLY THAT  
YOU LEAVE.

... PLEASE?

... AND ONCE,  
I, TOO, DESIRED  
THAT...

YES.

... AND IN  
SILENCE THEY  
SAY THEIR  
GOODBYES.

BATMAN?

NOT NOW,  
ROBIN.

YOU MAY  
HAVE LOST HER,  
YEAH...

...BUT YOU  
SAVED  
GOTHAM. THAT'S  
SOMETHING.

NO,  
CHUM...

...THAT'S  
EVERYTHING.

LET'S  
GO.

END

42