



KNIGHTQUEST

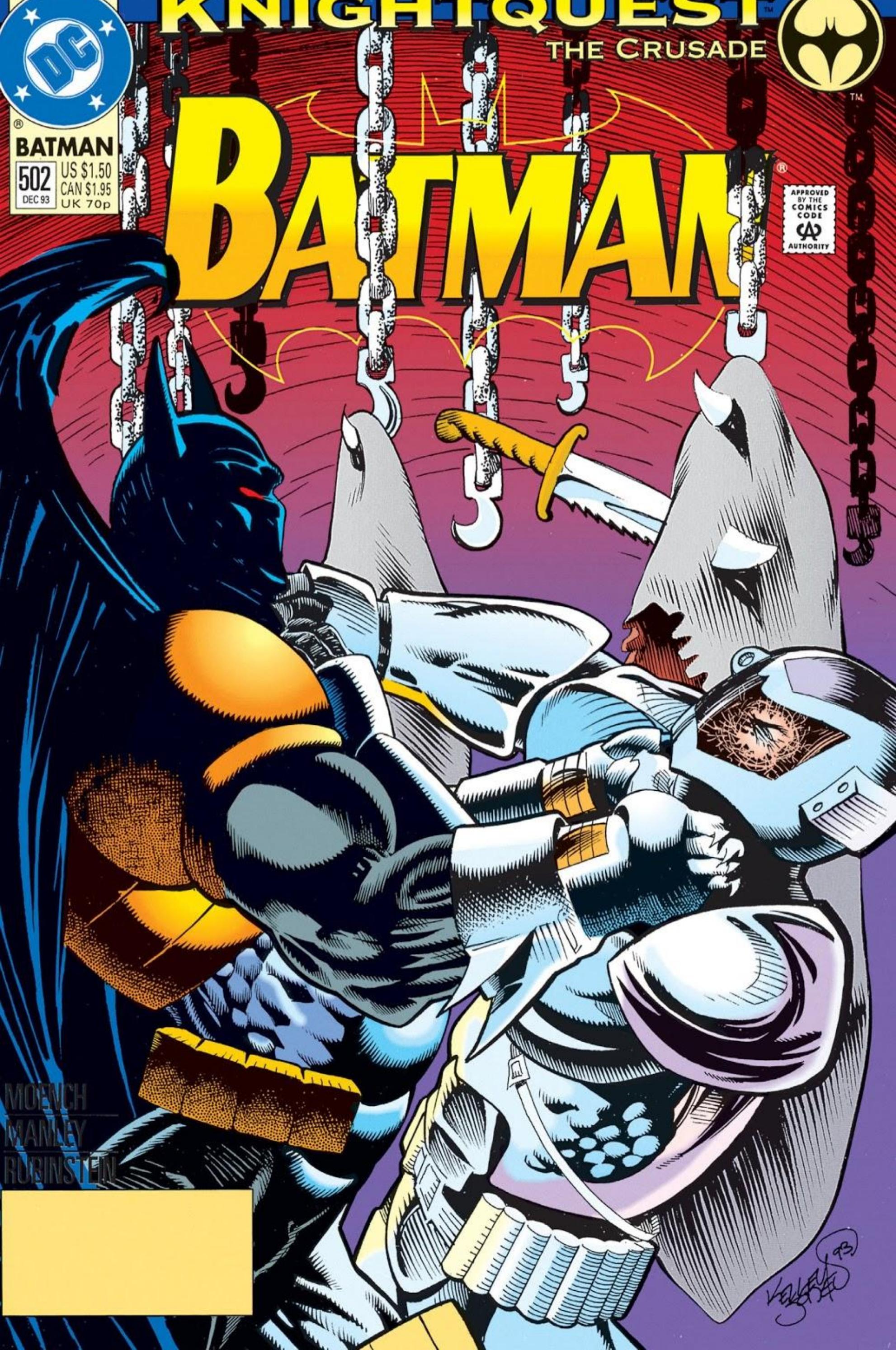
THE CRUSADE



BATMAN

BATMAN
502 US \$1.50
CAN \$1.95
UK 70p
DEC 93

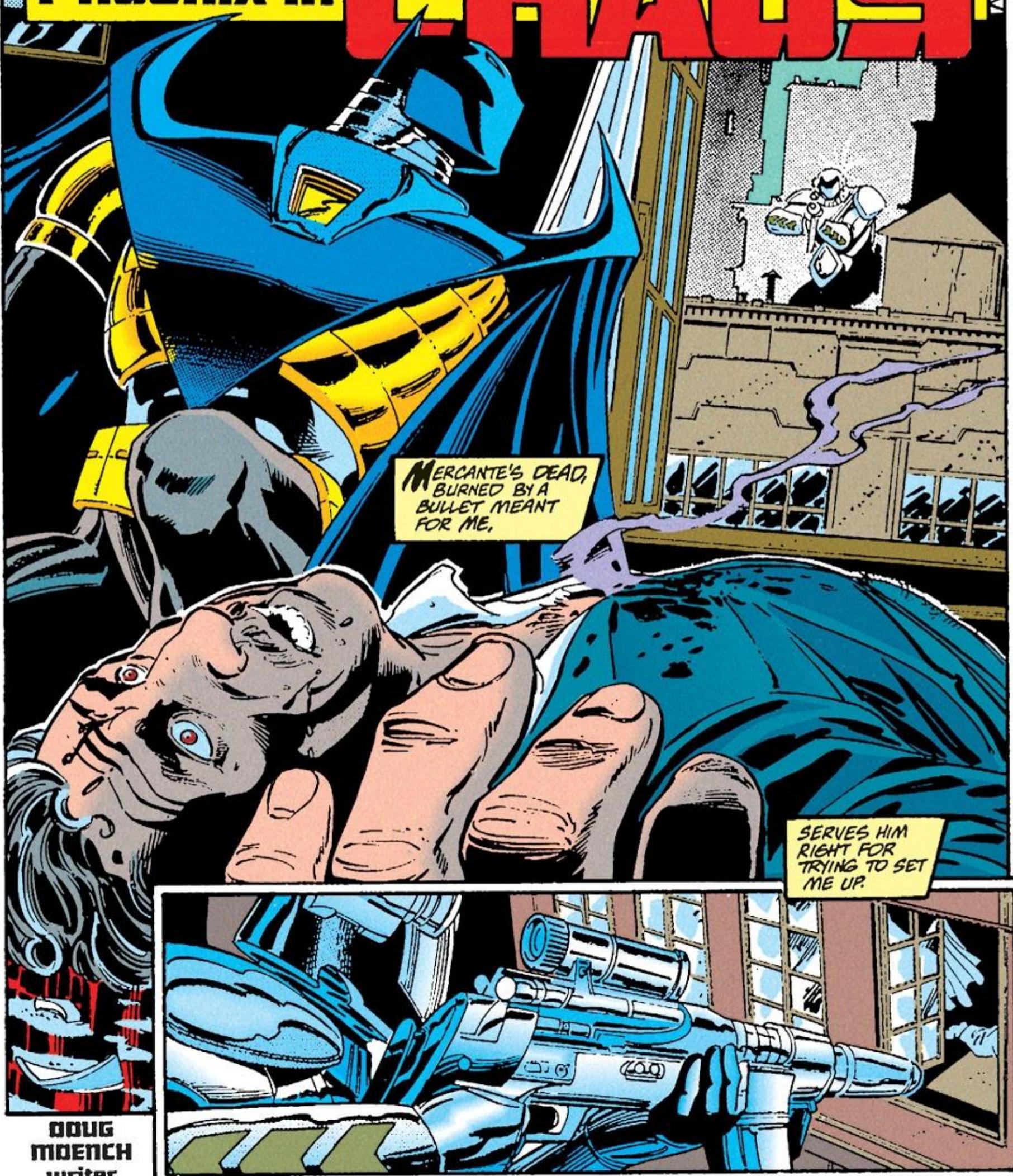
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C&P
AUTHORITY



MOENCH
MANLEY
RUBINSTEIN

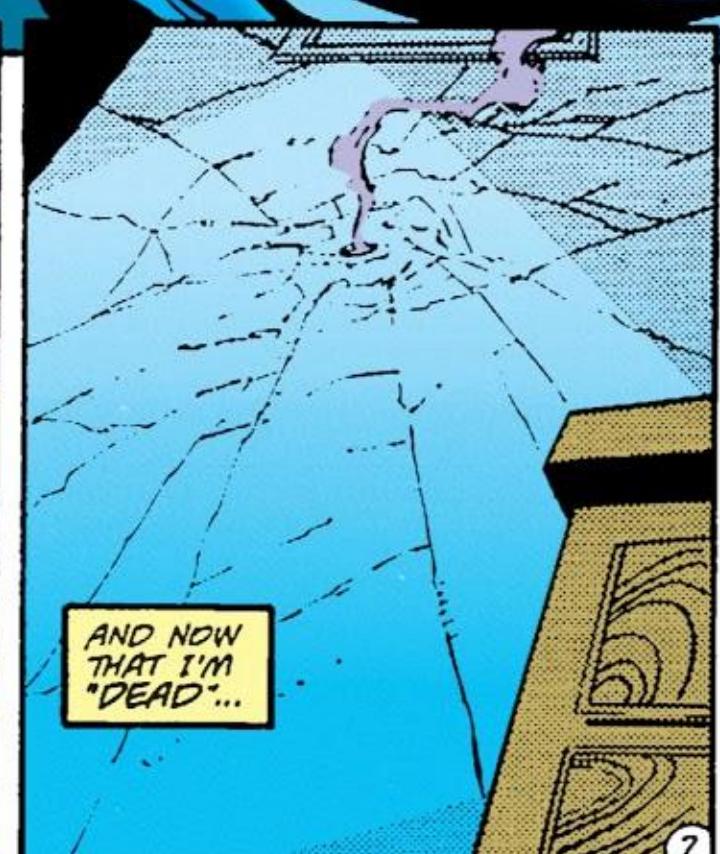
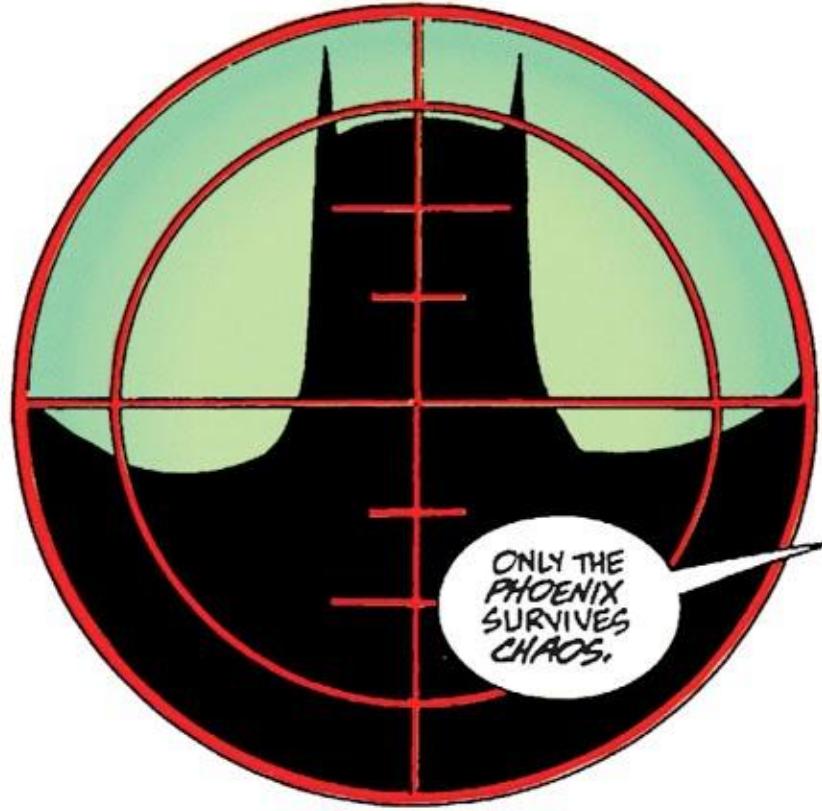
KELLOGG '93

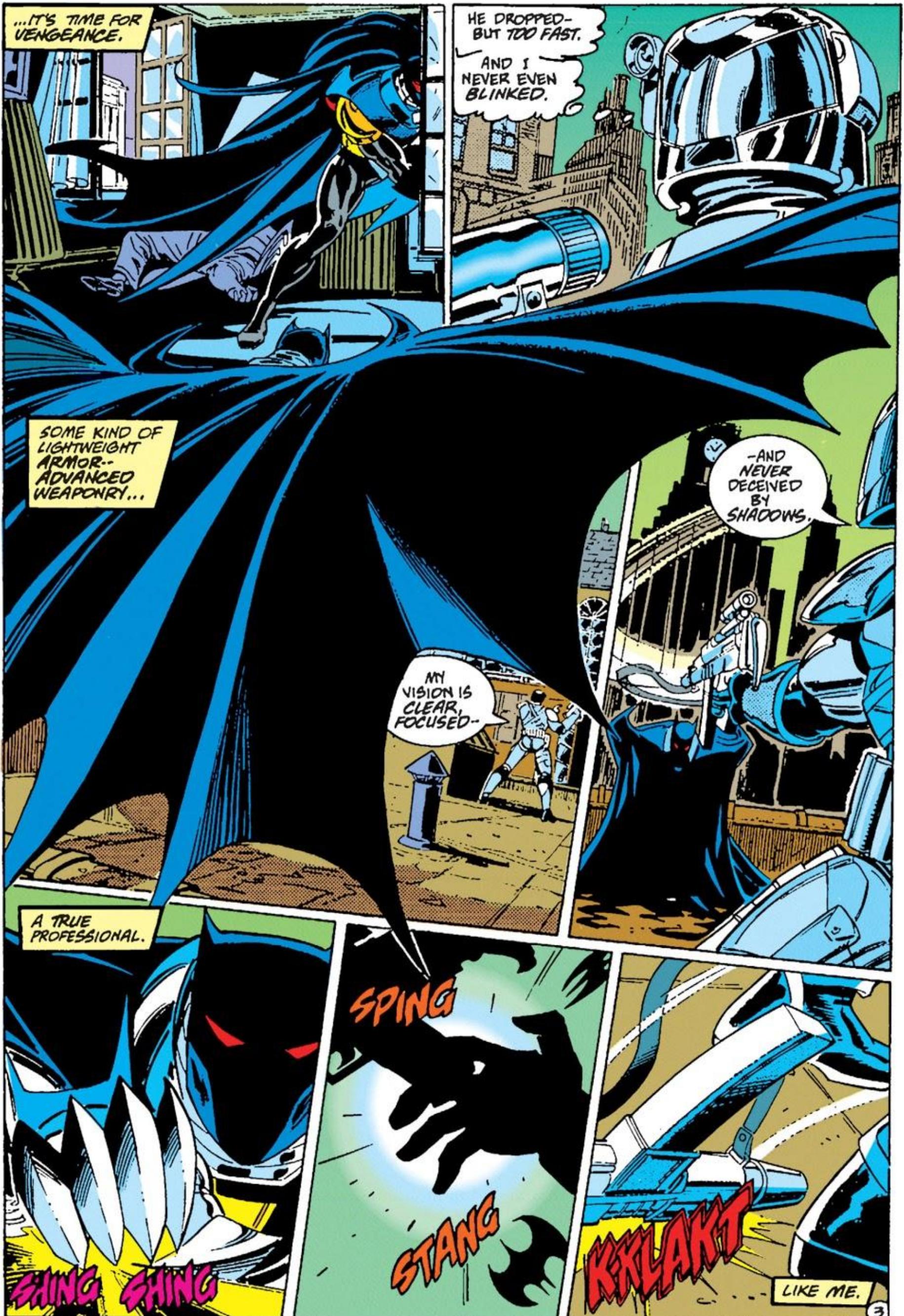
Phoenix in CHAOS

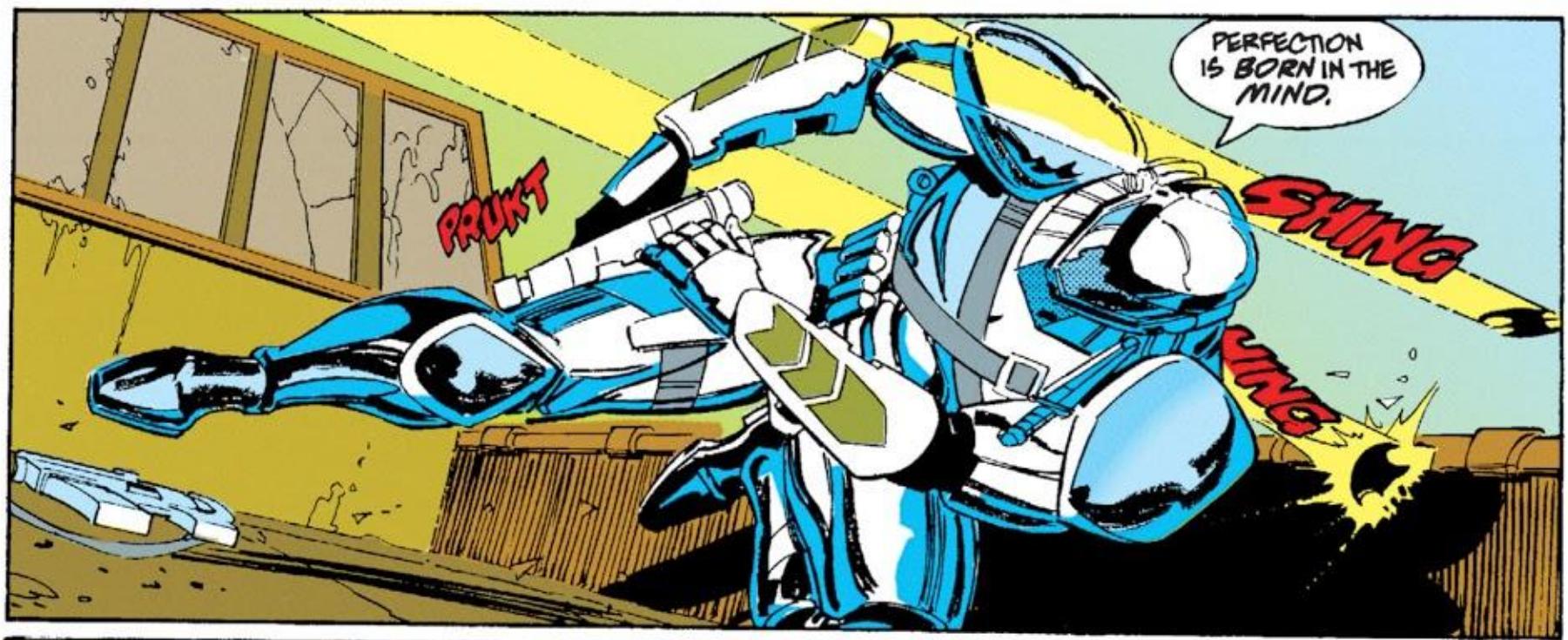


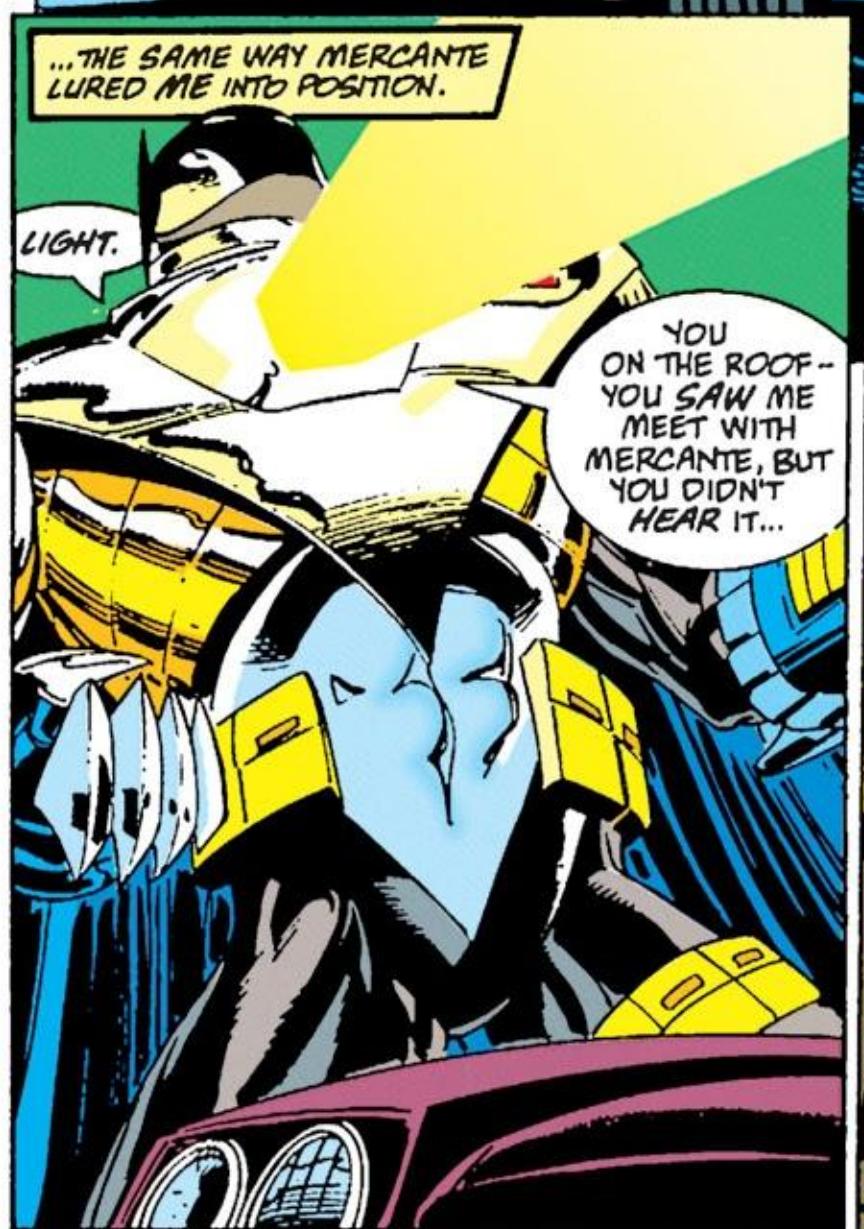
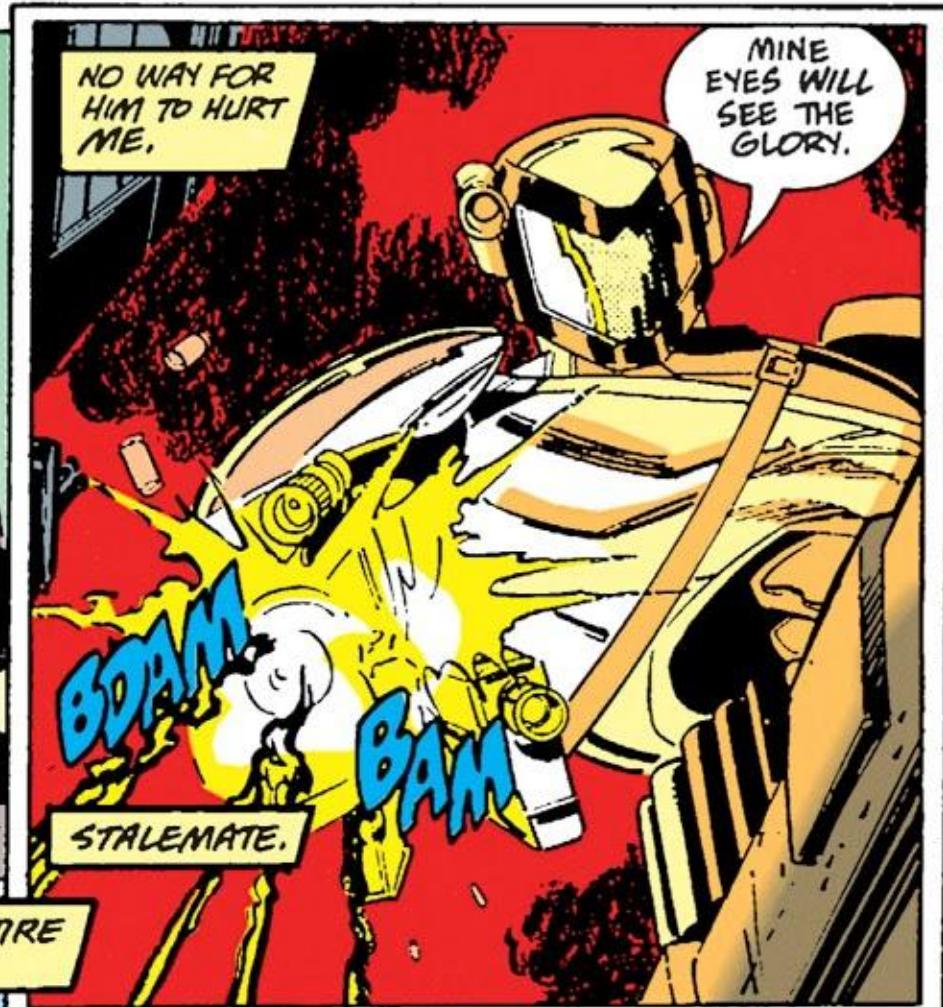
DOUG
MOENCH
writer

MIKE JOE KEN ADRIENNE JORDAN B. DENNIS Batman
MANLEY - RUBINSTEIN - BRUZENAK - ROY - GORFINKEL - O'NEIL - created by
artist inker ps 1-11 letterer colorist assistant editor editor BOB KANE

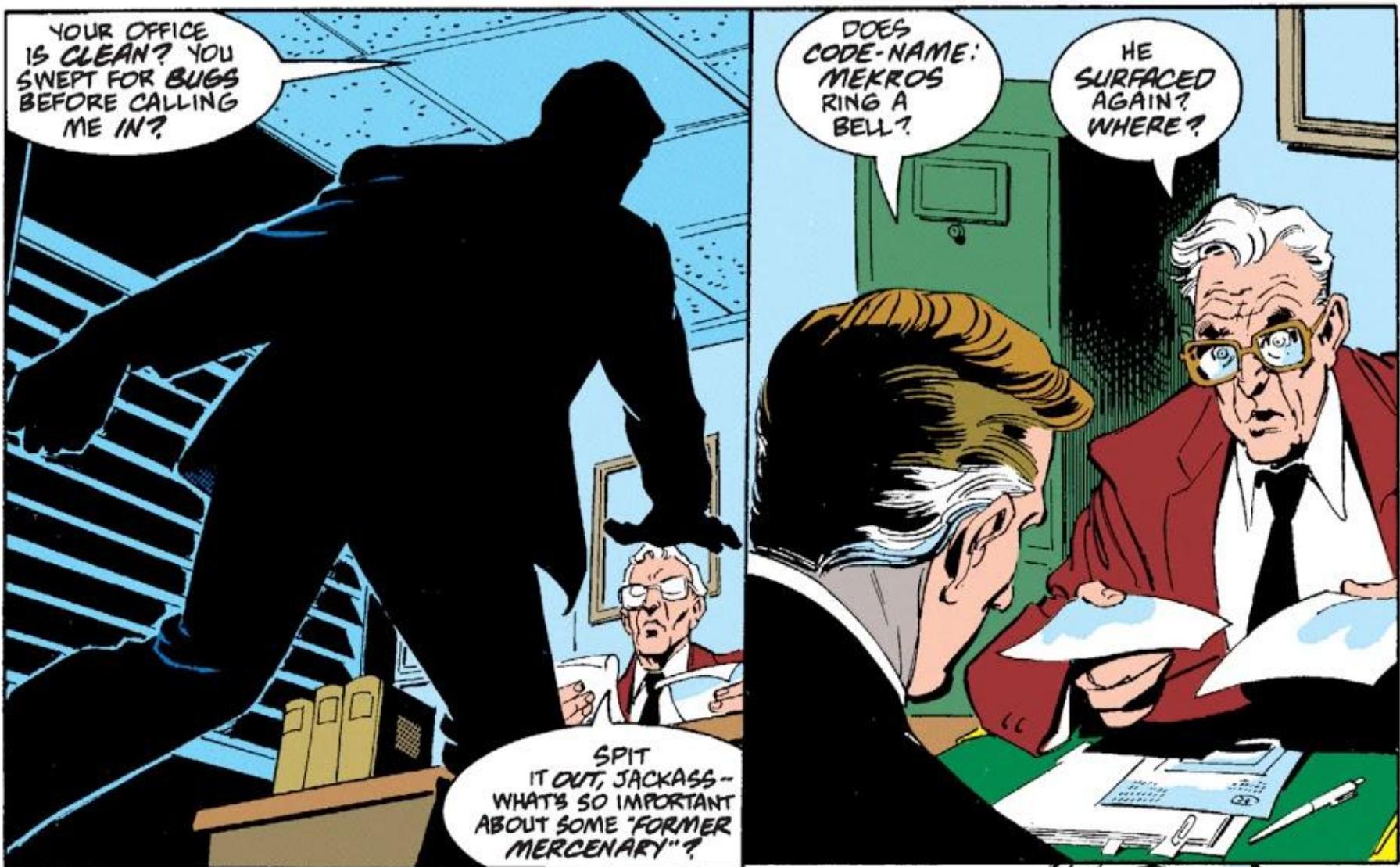




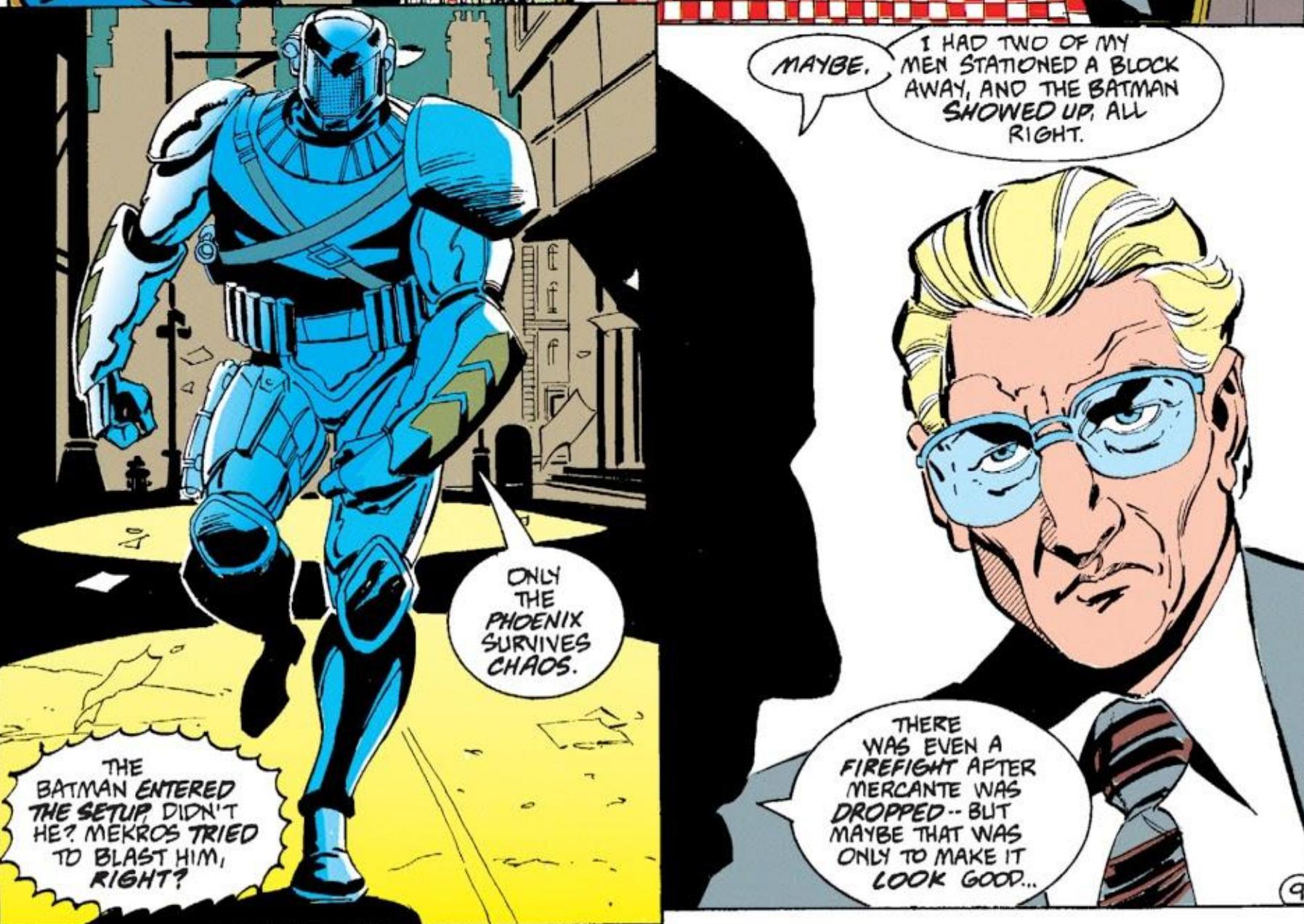
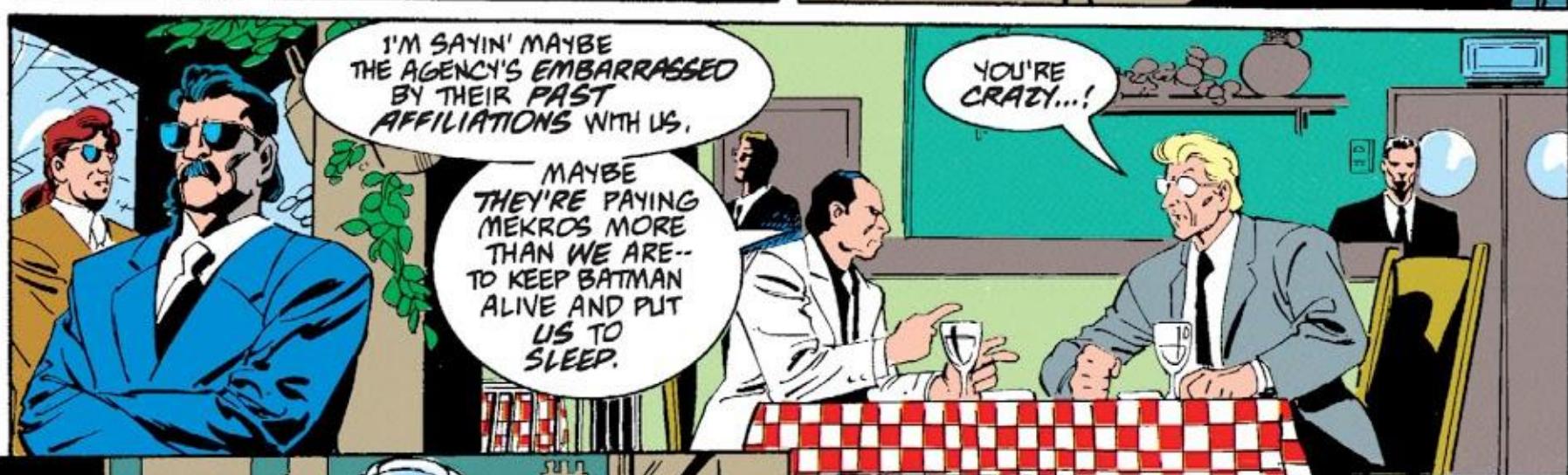












MEKROS--THE SEEDS TOOK.

...BECAUSE THE FACT REMAINS, WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, MEKROS AND BATMAN BOTH WALKED AWAY...

LET HIM DO THE DIRTY WORK--THEN SNOOP DOWN FOR THE HARVEST.

SERVE THE PRINCE, NO QUESTIONS, NO HESITATION, SO LONG AS THE PRINCE PAYS.

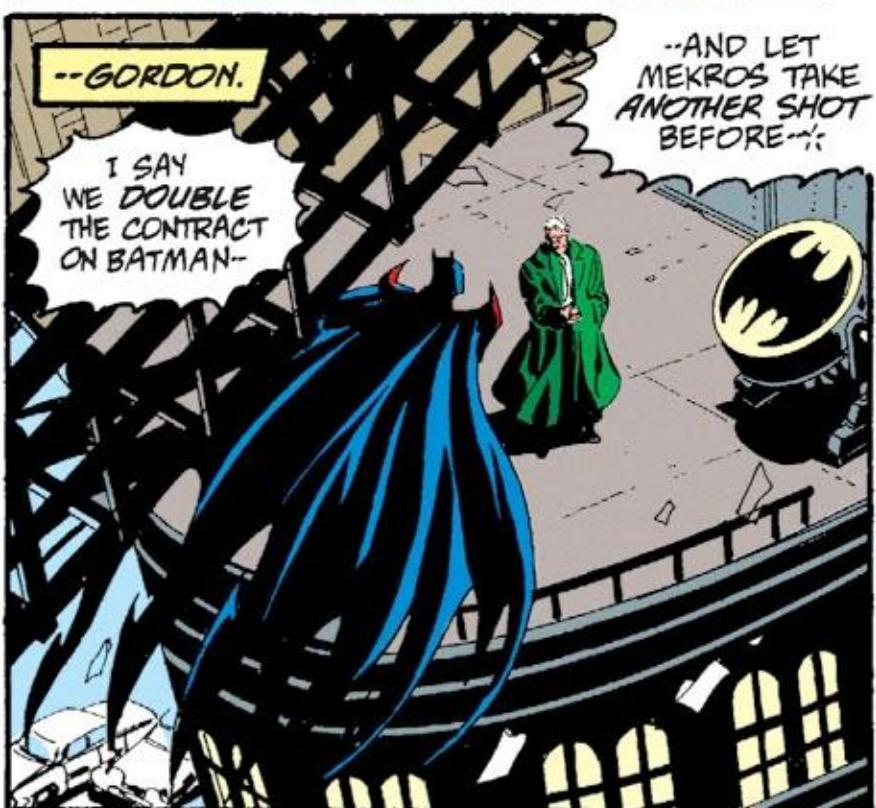
I DON'T BUY IT--IT WAS AN ACCIDENT--HADDA BE.

I SAY WE DOUBLE THE CONTRACT ON BATMAN AND LET MEKROS TAKE ANOTHER SHOT BEFORE-

MY VISION IS CLEAR, FOCUSED--AND MINE EYES WILL SEE THE GLORY!

BLAASH!







"COULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLY HARDENED BY HIS EXPERIENCE WITH BANE, SARAH, BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S THE SAME MAN-- LITERALLY."

HIS SIZE IS THE SAME... AND SO IS THE GRATING VOICE... BUT HIS ATTITUDE... THE VIBES BETWEEN US...

MAYBE IT'S NOT THE SAME MAN-- MAYBE ANY MAN WOULD BURN OUT AFTER A YEAR OF BEING WHAT HE IS...

FOR ALL YOU KNOW, THE BATMAN COULD CHANGE ON A REGULAR BASIS-- AND YOU'VE DEALT WITH FIVE OF THEM.

AND NOW... EVEN THE COSTUME HAS CHANGED.

MAYBE THE ONLY CONSTANT HAS BEEN THE COSTUME.

BRIIIIINGG

HELLO?
YES...

YES,
I'LL TELL
HIM.

MAYOR KROL-- HE
WANTS TO SEE YOU.
NOW.

-DISCUSS THE REBUILDING OF ARKHAM ASYLUM LATER, GORDON, BUT RIGHT NOW I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON TAKING OUT THE HEADS OF THREE MAJOR CRIME FAMILIES-- EXCEPT I CAN'T...

...SINCE IT WAS EVIDENTLY ALL THE BATMAN'S DOING.
SO IT WAS, MR. MAYOR.

NORMALLY, POLITICIANS SHY AWAY FROM THE VIGILANTE ISSUE, GORDON...

HALF THE PUBLIC LOVES A VIGILANTE, WHILE THE OTHER HALF CRIES FASCISM-- AND WITH ODDS LIKE THAT, YOU JUST CAN'T WIN IN THE POLLS.

THE BATMAN, OF COURSE, COULD BE VIEWED AS THE ULTIMATE VIGILANTE--

THERE'S A POINT TO ALL THIS, MR. MAYOR?

--BUT I'M BETTING BATMAN'S THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE.

I'M BETTING A GOOD SIXTY PERCENT OF THE VOTERS ARE GLAD HE'S OUT THERE, EVEN IF THEY BARELY BELIEVE IN HIM, WHILE THE OTHER FORTY PERCENT AGREES THAT CRIME IS OUT OF CONTROL--

--AND THE POLICE FORCE IS INEFFECTUAL.

ERGO, WITH THE BATMAN'S RESULTS INCREASINGLY SPECTACULAR THESE DAYS--AND AS A LAW AND ORDER MAYOR--I'M THINKING OF DISTANCING MYSELF FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT...

...AND PUBLICLY ENDORSING THE BATMAN'S ACTIVITIES.

IF I WERE YOU, GORDON, THIS WOULD WORRY ME.

INDEED, I'D START FINDING WAYS TO GET THE SAME RESULTS BATMAN IS GETTING.

I'M STILL PROVING MYSELF.

BANE WAS A GOOD START--
BUT BANE STOOD AND FOUGHT, WHILE THIS
"MEKROS" IS ELUSIVE.

STILL, THE OLD BATMAN
WOULD HAVE TAKEN
HIM BY NOW.

AND IF THERE'S
ANY FUTURE TO
BE FELT--

-NOW IS THE
TIME TO TRASH
THE PAST.

THE MARK IS
DEAD, THE BATMAN
A MEMORY.

ONLY
THE
PHOENIX
SURVIVES...

DON'T
EVEN TWITCH,
MEKROS!

NEW GUN-
LAB FRESH--
ARMOR.
PIERCING--
EVEN YOUR
ARMOR!

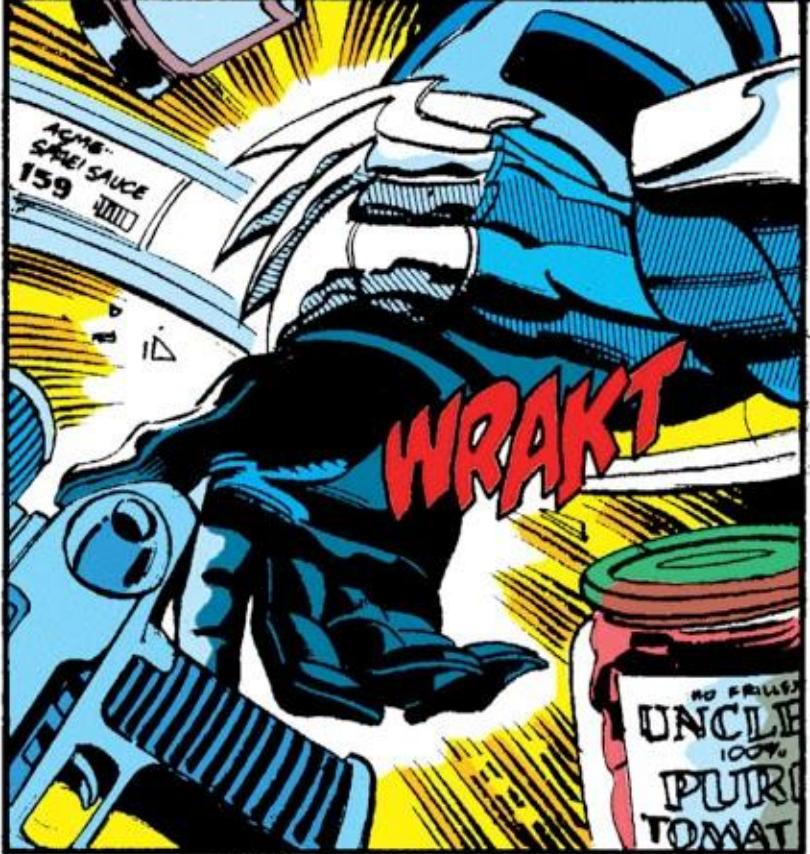
BLAST

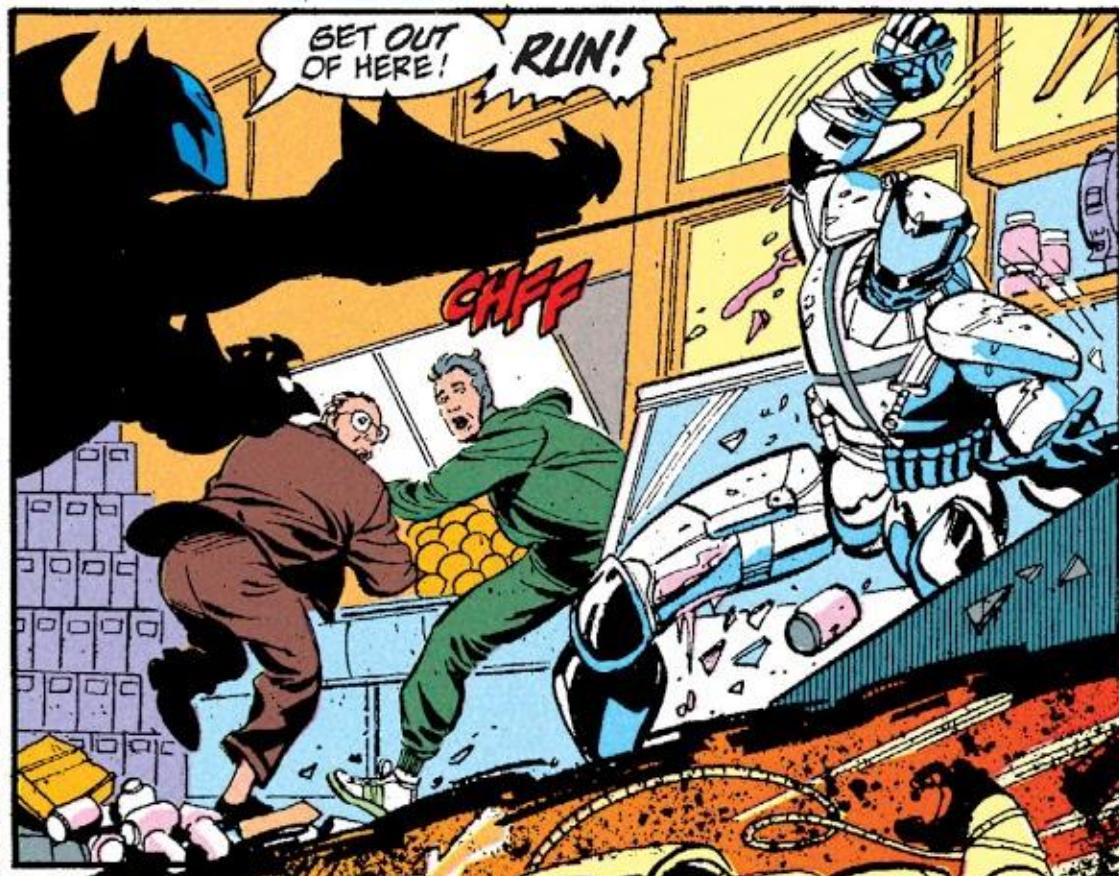
SCREW
THE PAST! I'M
WILLING TO DEAL
NOW-- PROVIDED
MARCELLO ALREADY
GAVE YOU YOUR
MILLION.

THEN WHY DON'T
YOU JUST PIERCE ME,
SKYLER? OR DID YOU
TRACK ME DOWN
TO DISCUSS OLD
TIMES?









OUT THE BACK AGAIN--?

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
CAUTION 32° BELOW

NO.

BHUMPH

HWOOKSH

THIS TIME I'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED.

NO WAY HE COMES IN FROM THE COLD...

THRUNCH

...UNTIL HE'S COLD.

THIRD TIME'S
THE CHARM,
WHEN ONCE
SHOULD HAVE
DONE IT.

THE COSTUME IS
IMPROVED, BUT BARELY
ENOUGH TO PROVE
MYSELF.

EVENTUALLY I'LL
NEED MORE.

FOR NOW, HARDLY
A TIDY AFTER-
MATH...

...BUT I
DID WIN.

AND YOU SHOULD
SEE THE OTHER
GUY.

ONLY...THE
PHOENIX...
S-SURVIVES...
CHAOS...!"

"AS THE MAYOR, I'M TELLING
YOU, GORDON, YOUR PEOPLE
COULD LEARN A LOT FROM THE
BATMAN'S NEW ATTITUDE."

NEXT: TOWN TAMER!