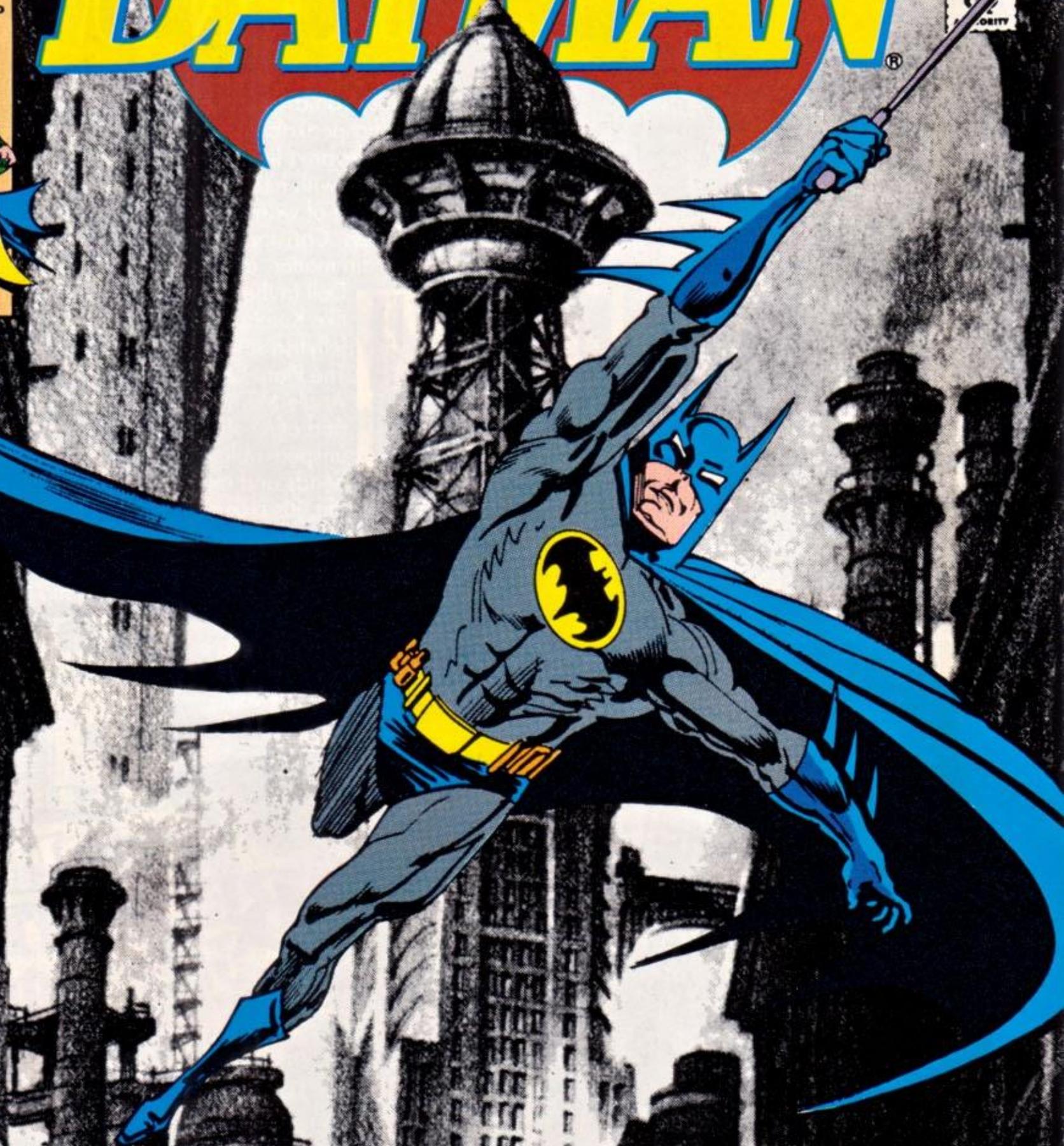




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BATMAN®

APPROVED
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COMIC
BOOK
COUNCIL
OF
EXCELLENCE



DESTROYER



THE DESTROYER PART ONE: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

ALAN
GRANT
SCRIPT

NORM BREYFogle ART ADAM ROY: COLORS

TODD
KLEIN:
LETTERS

100

**BARB'S
VOLSTIC
GOODS**

KELLEY
PLACKETT:
ASST. ED.

DENNIS
O'NEIL:
EDITOR

DR
BOB KANE:
BATMAN
CREATOR

"A wonderful fact to reflect on, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other."

Charles
Dickens

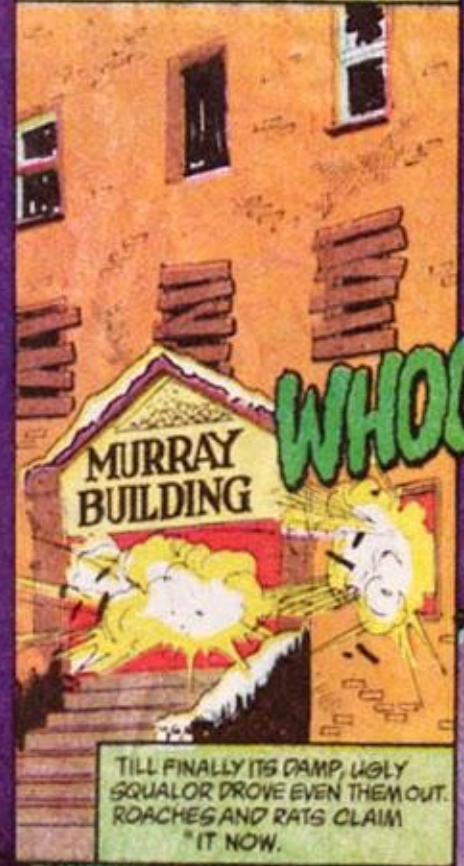
A dynamic comic book panel. At the top, a character in a purple suit and mask is shown in mid-air, looking down at a city below. The city is depicted with buildings, smoke, and debris. Overlaid on the upper right portion of the scene is the word "ROARRR" in large, bold, red letters with a jagged, clawed texture. A blue speech bubble is partially visible on the right edge. The overall style is characteristic of mid-20th-century comic book art.

A dynamic comic book panel featuring a large, stylized wave composed of blue and yellow segments. The wave is crashing over a dark, textured surface. Along the left edge of the wave, the word "DANGER" is written vertically in red, with each letter partially obscured by the wave's spray. The background is filled with various textures and colors, suggesting a stormy sea or sky.

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IT TOOK 180 MEN THREE MONTHS TO PUT UP THE MURRAY BUILDING. SEVEN OF THEM DIED DURING CONSTRUCTION.

FOR FORTY YEARS ITS STARK HALLS AND TINY ROOMS WERE HOME TO AN EVER-SHIFTING TIDE OF GOTHAM'S POOREST--

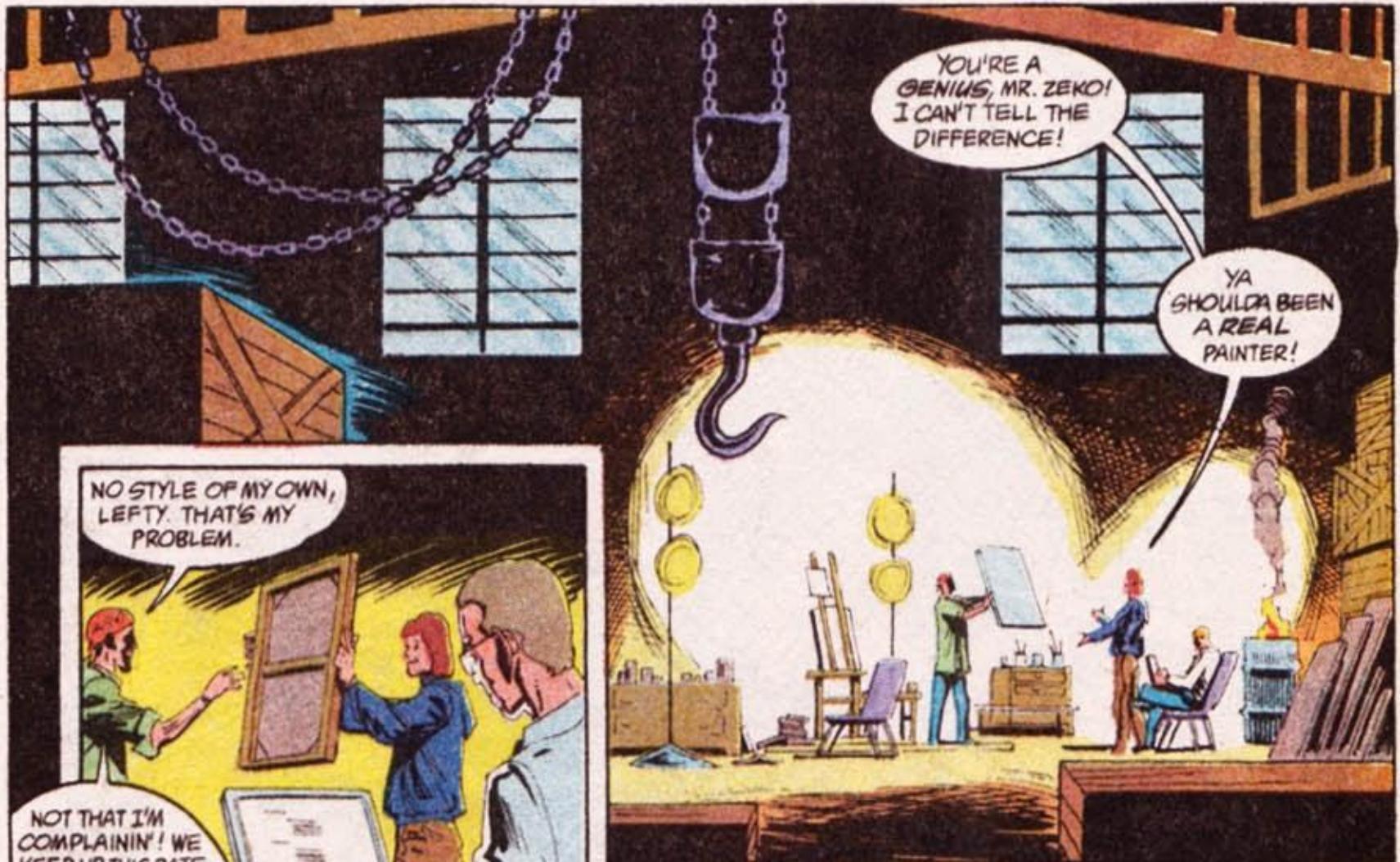


ACROSS THE CITY, THE WINTER
MOON KISSES A SILENT
SHADOW--

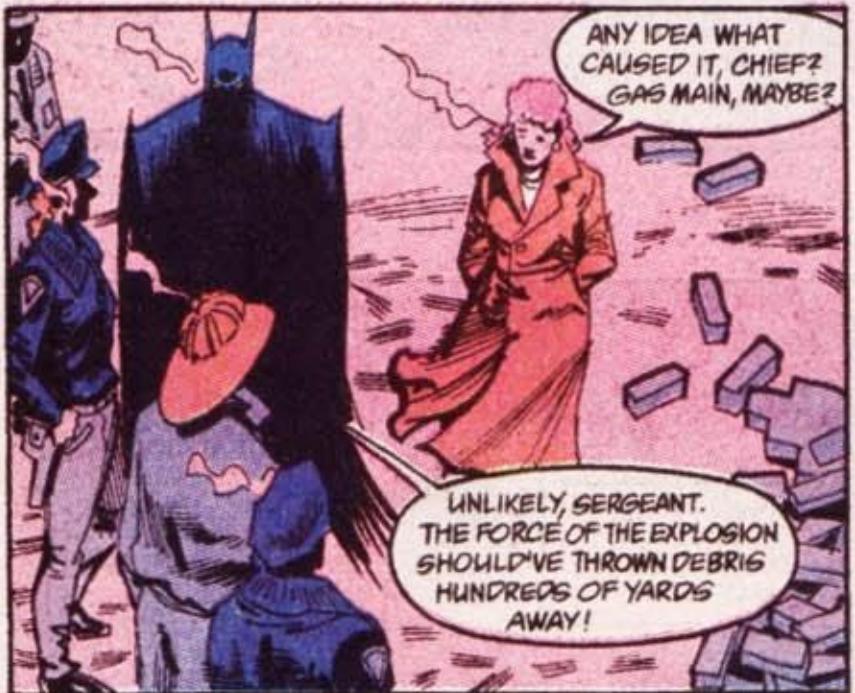


BACK'S ALL
SET. TIME I WENT
IN--

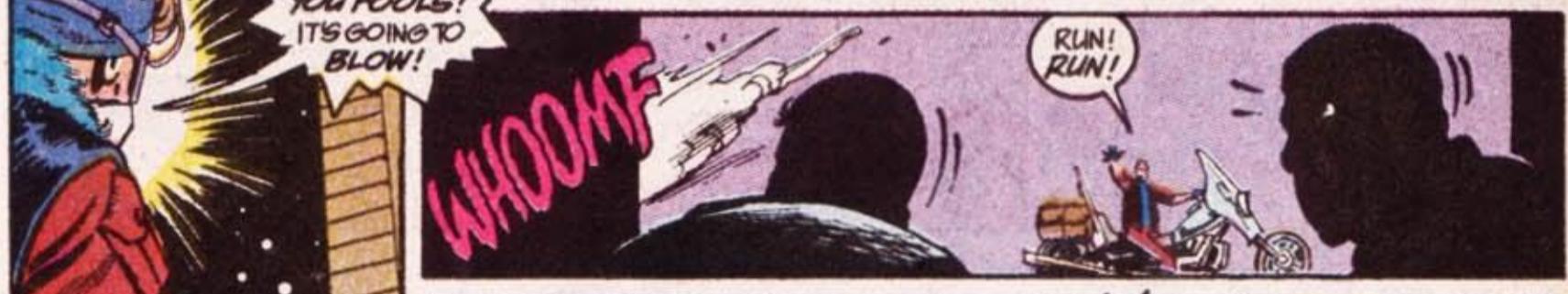
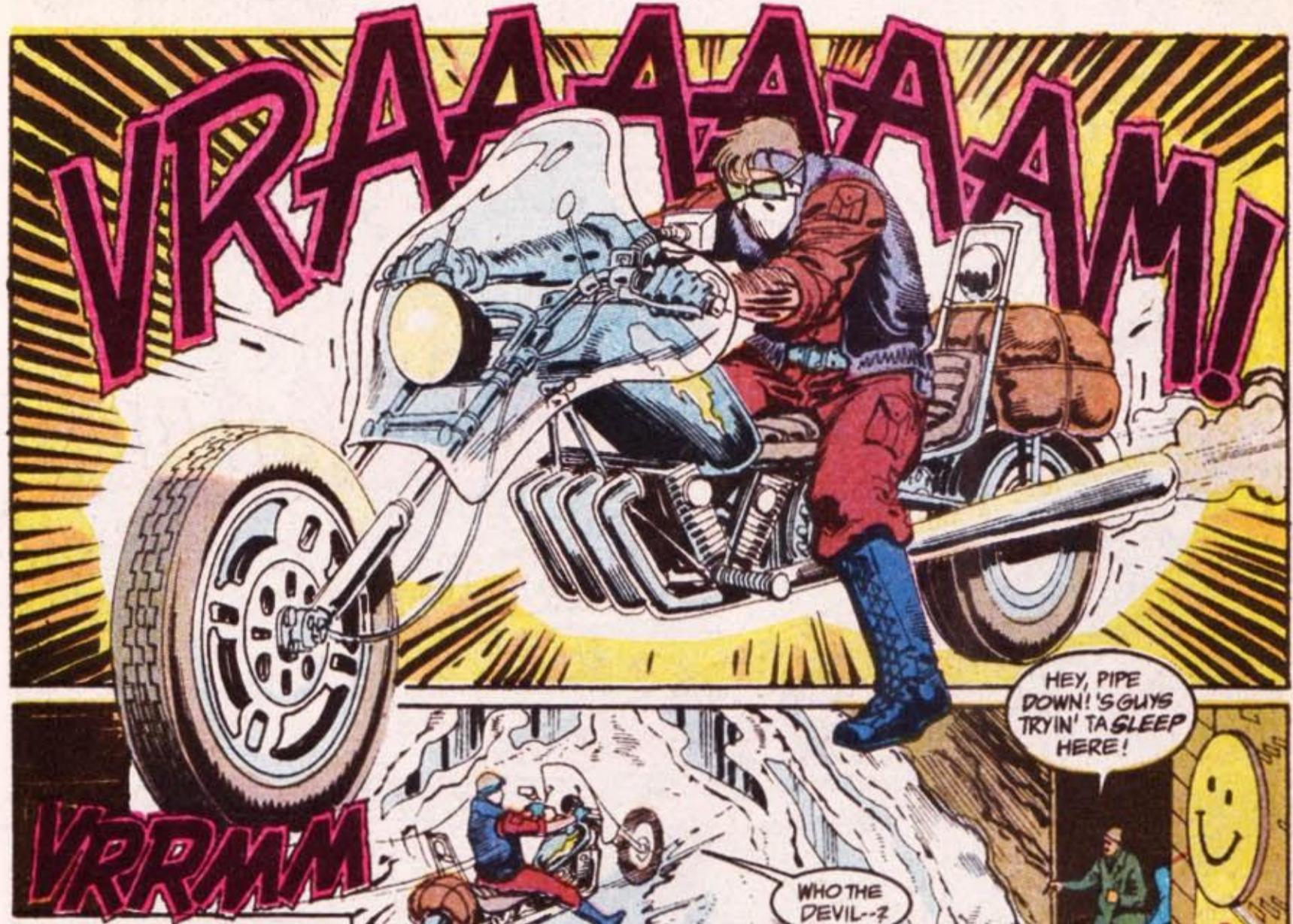


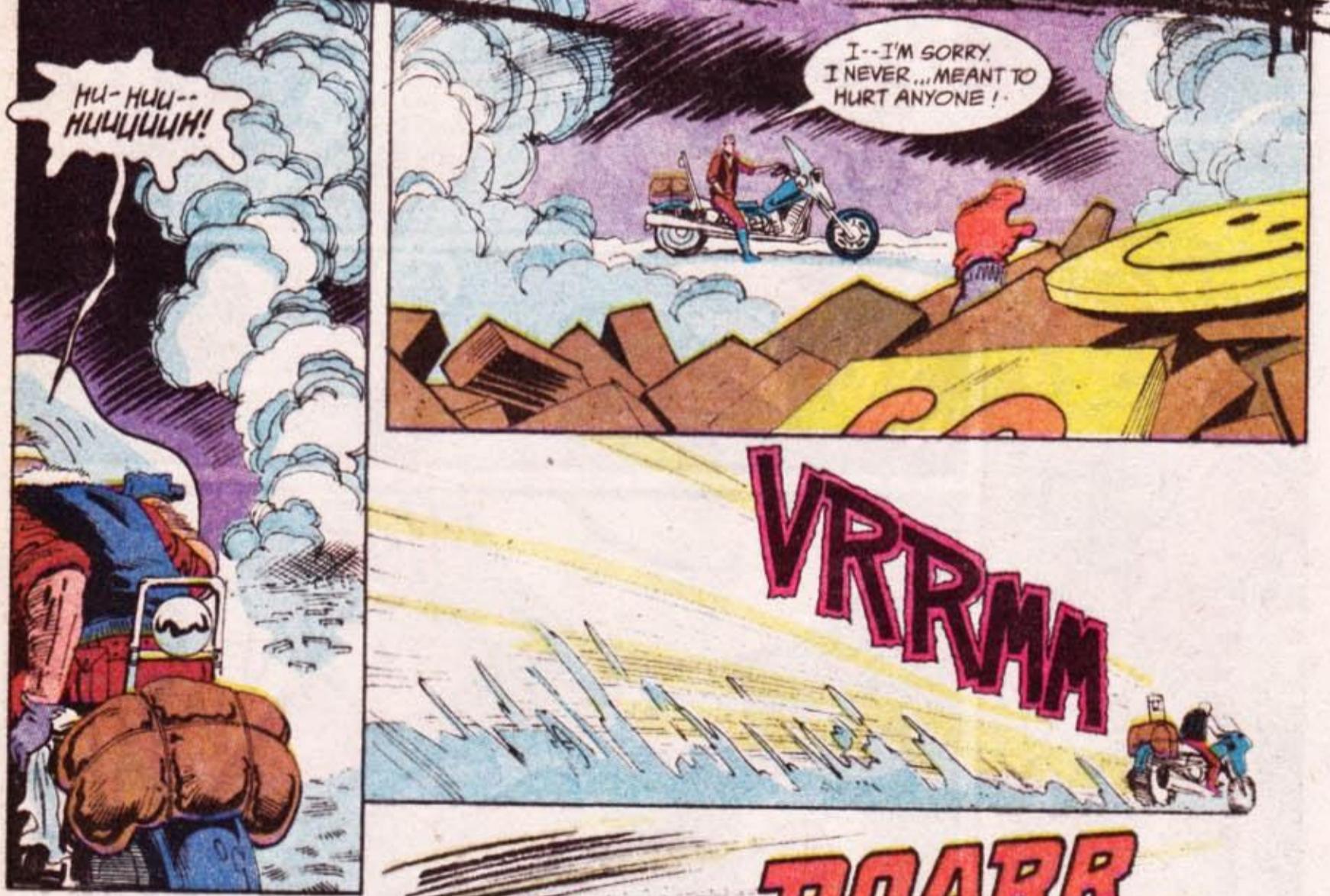












ROARR

--ALL UNITS
VICINITY THE OLD
SMILEY SUPER STORE!
REPORTS OF ANOTHER
EXPLOSION--



SAME AS THE MURRAY
BUILDING--A TOTAL
PRO JOB--

SMILEY SUPER STORE

EXCEPT FOR
THESE POOR WRETCHES!

I TOLD ESSEN
TERRORISTS... BUT THAT
DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF
SENSE. THERE WOULD'VE
BEEN DEMANDS.

MORE I THINK
ABOUT IT, THE MORE
IT REEKS OF
INSURANCE
SCAM!

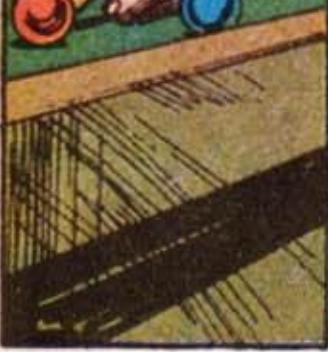
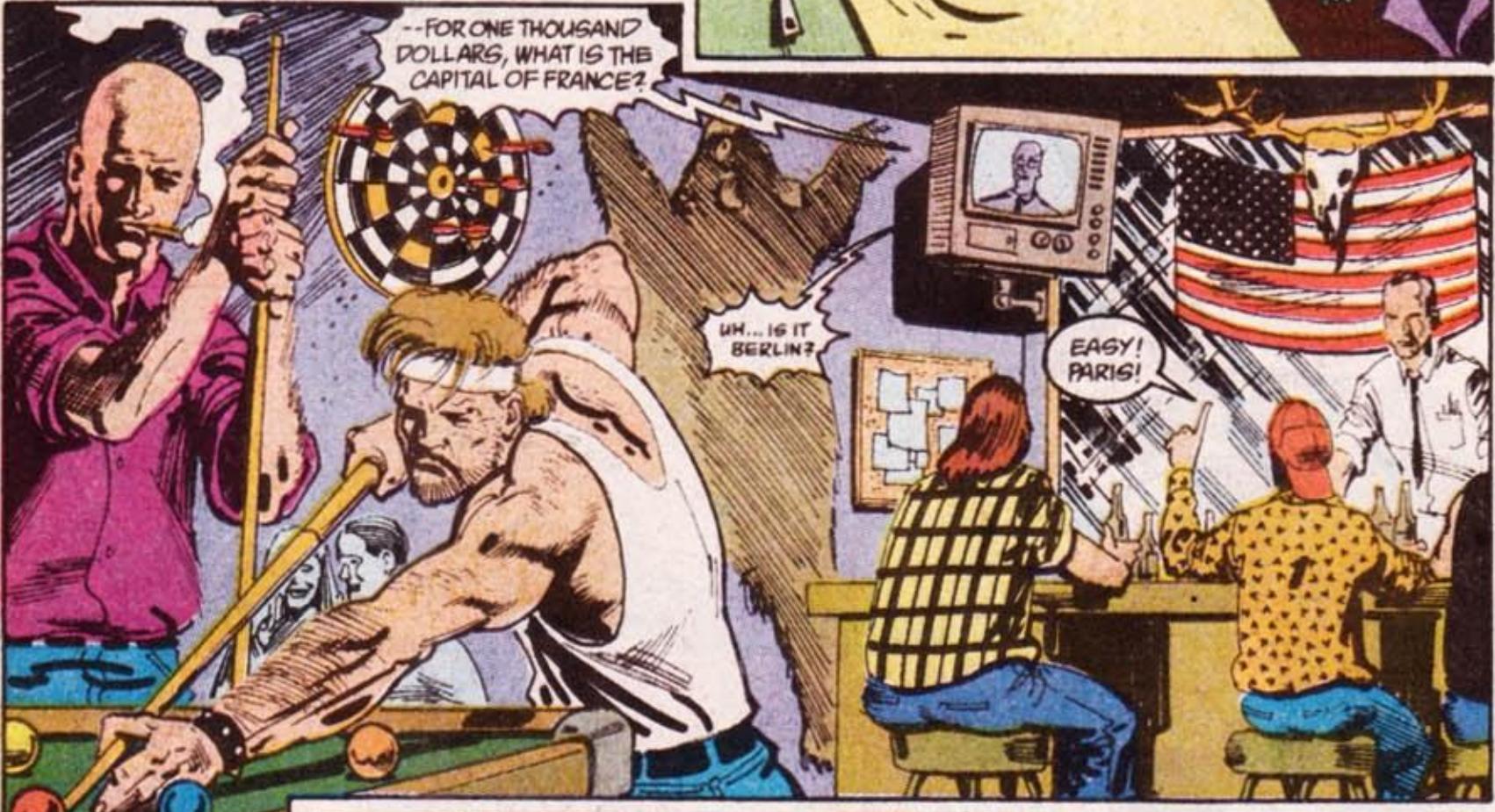
BOTH BUILDINGS OWNED
BY ONE STEWART GREAN
--ALSO OWNS A DIVE
OVER ON MADISON--

"TIME TO GO
CLUBBING!"

TK
TK TK
TK
TK

GREAN'S
Club

SKREEEEE



THIS IS PERSONAL BUSINESS. UNTIL I COUNT TO TEN, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING OR RECOGNIZED ANYONE HERE.

ONE.
TWO.

THREE. FOUR. FIVE.

YOU GOT NO
RIGHT SCARIN' OFF
MY CUSTOMERS!
WHAT'S THE BIG
IDEA?

MURDER,
GREAN.

YOU OWN THE
MURRAY BUILDING
AND THE SMILEY
STORE. YOU KNOW
THEY WERE BOTH
BLOWN UP
TONIGHT?

L-LISTEN, I DIDN'T
DEMOLISH 'EM! I BEEN
HERE ALL NIGHT!
RIGHT, BOYS?

I'VE A GOOD
MIND TO TEACH YOU
A LESSON IN TELLING
THE TRUTH!

YOU CALLOUS
PIECE OF FILTH!

YOU'LL
DO NOTHIN',
YA--

EVEN IN HIS ANGER,
A LIFETIME'S TRAINING
IS NOT FORGOTTEN.

INSTINCTS AND REFLEXES
THAT HAVE BEEN YEARS IN
THE HONING SERVE HIM
ONCE AGAIN--

THAP

CHASH

H-HEY--

--QUICKFIRE
GLAZ! WHAT IS
SUMO?

UM, AN
ORANGE?

CHASHAH

SNK

SNK

WRONG! WHO
WROTE "THE COUNT
OF MONTE CRISTO"?

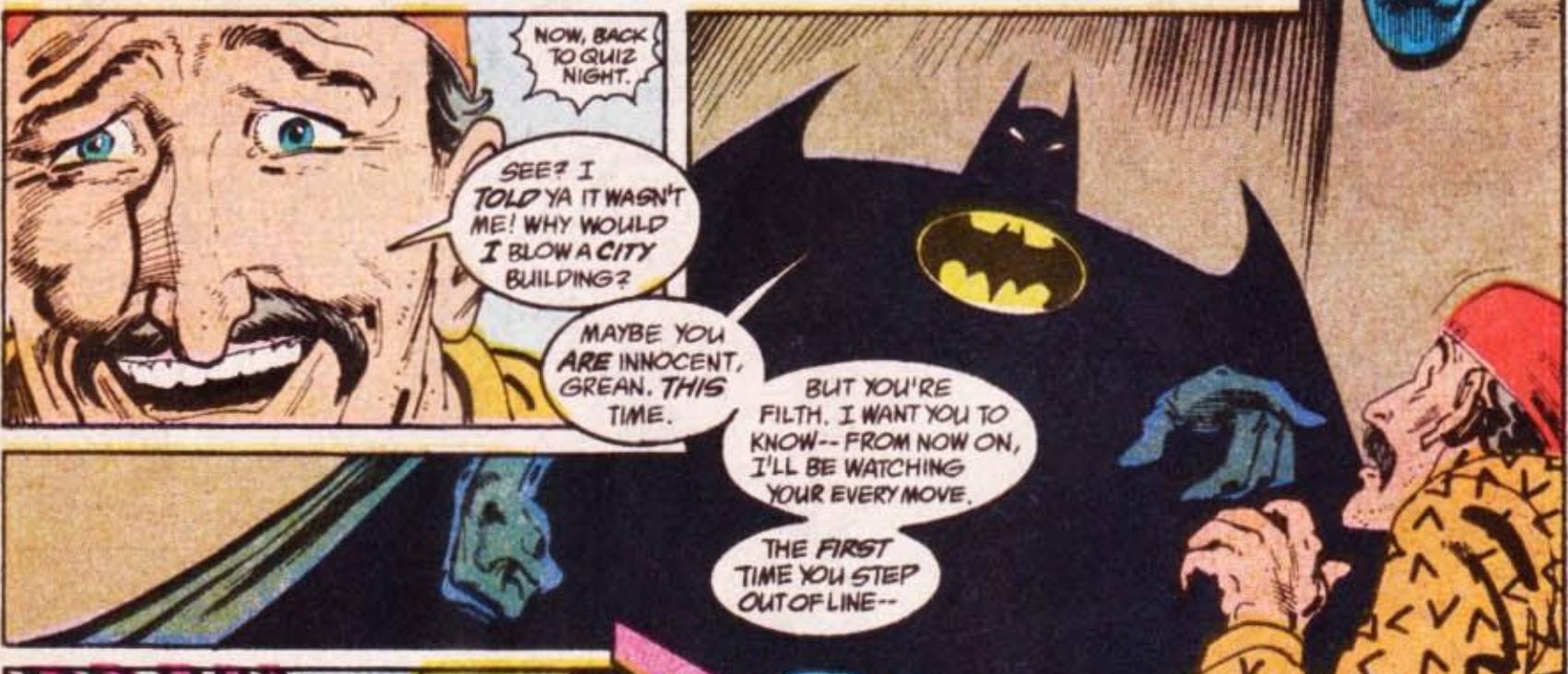
I KNOW
THAT! ROBERT
DONAT.

WRONG!

SLAM









THREE BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. ALL PRO JOBS. THE DEAD HOBOS WERE MERELY...UNFORTUNATE.



IF HE KNEW WHY, HE
WOULD KNOW WHO.

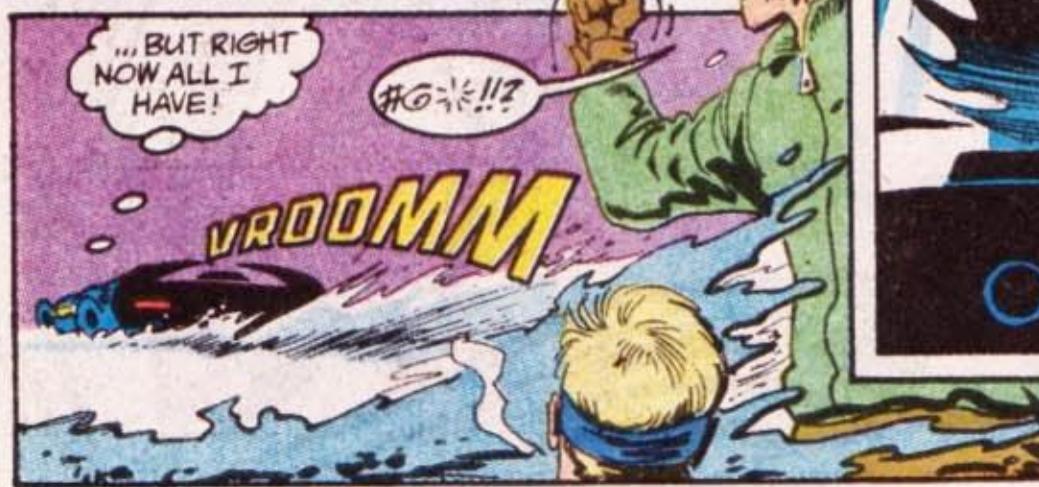
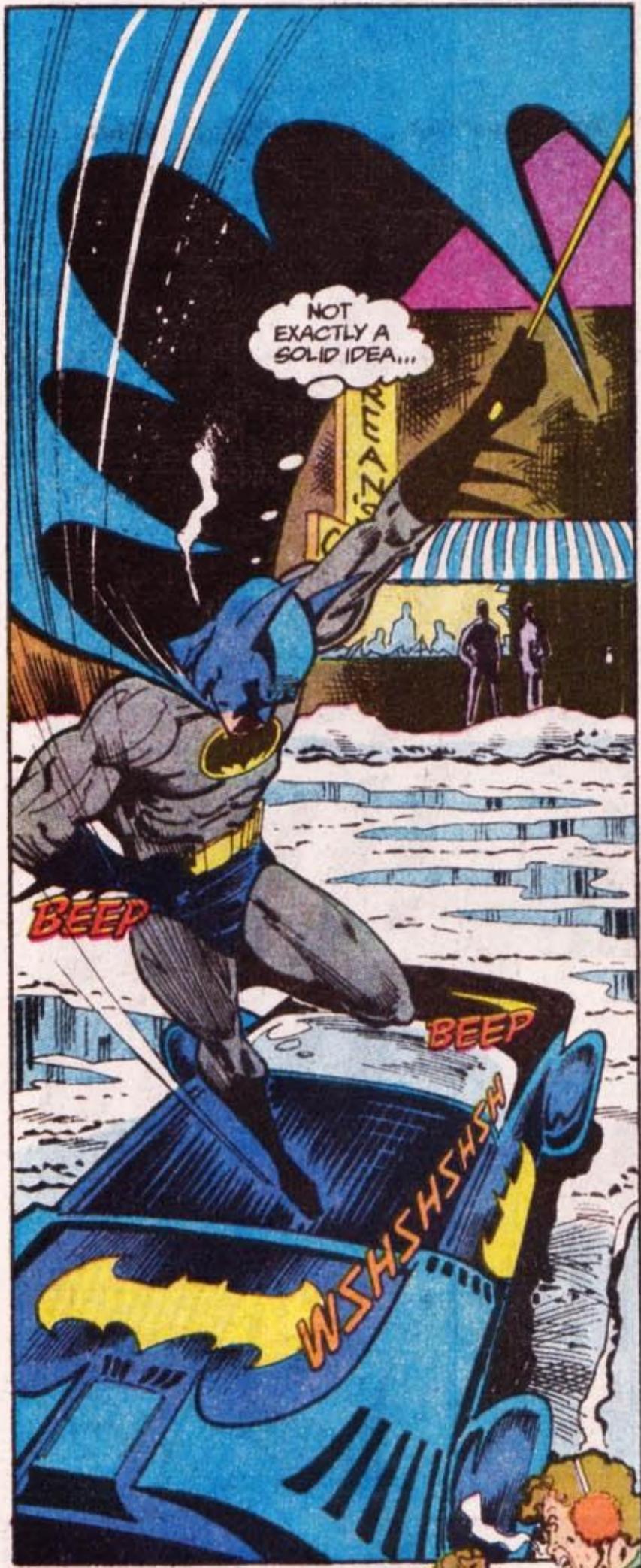
SO... WHY BLOW A
BUILDING THAT'S
SCHEDULED FOR
DEMOLITION ANY-
WAY? WHY DESTROY
SOMETHING THAT
HAS NO USE?

NOT MONEY,
OBVIOUSLY.
THEN...WHAT?

VIP
CHAK

WHAT WAS IT ZEKO
SAID? "WE AREN'T IN
IT FOR THE MONEY..."

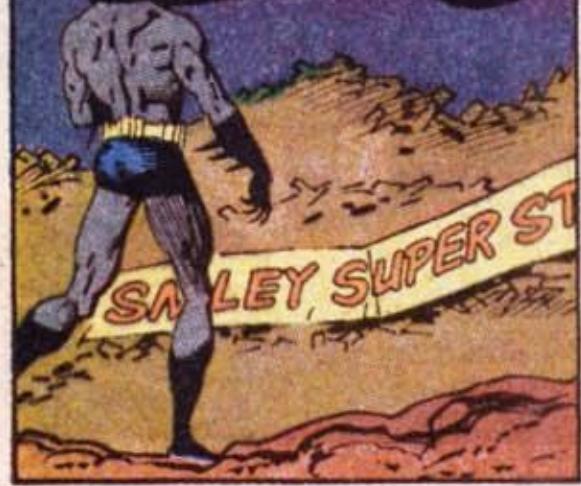
"...WE DO IT FOR
THE ART!"





ANOTHER
GOTHAM.

AN OLDER CITY, OF IMPROBABLE
CURVES AND ANGLES--A CITY
FORGOTTEN, THAT HAD BEEN
OVERSHADOWED AND BURIED,
SUFFOCATED BY THE TOWERS
OF THE 20th CENTURY.



ROARR

IT'S OUTLANDISH--ABSURD, BUT THAT FEELING IN HIS GUT HE'S LONG SINCE LEARNED TO TRUST TELLS HIM HE'S ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

THE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIES HE NEEDS TO CHECK ARE TOO OLD TO BE IN ANY DATA-BANK. BUT THERE'S ONE PLACE THAT HOLDS THE RECORDS GOING BACK TO GOTHAM'S VERY INCEPTION.

VRUMM

WAYNE FOUNDATION
SOUTH REAR ENTRY

OF COURSE, HE COULD MAKE SOME EXCUSE, GO IN QUITE LEGITIMATELY AS BRUCE WAYNE.

BUT IF HE'S RIGHT, THERE'S A MADMAN OUTON THE STREETS WITH A SATCHEL FULL OF SEMTEX. TWO HAVE DIED ALREADY...

AND THAT'S BATMAN TERRITORY.

I'LL HAVE TO SEE ABOUT A CHANGE OF SECURITY, TOO!

CALL THAT SECURITY? HA! I COULD'VE RUN A WHOLE PLATOON IN HERE!



BUILDINGS ARE LIKE PEOPLE. THEY LIVE SOME, AND THEN THEY DIE. LIKE THOSE TRAMPS... JUST A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.



BUT SOME BUILDINGS NEVER GET A CHANCE. THEY'RE DWARFED AND BULLIED AND CRUSHED BY THE VULGARITIES OF GREEDY MEN.

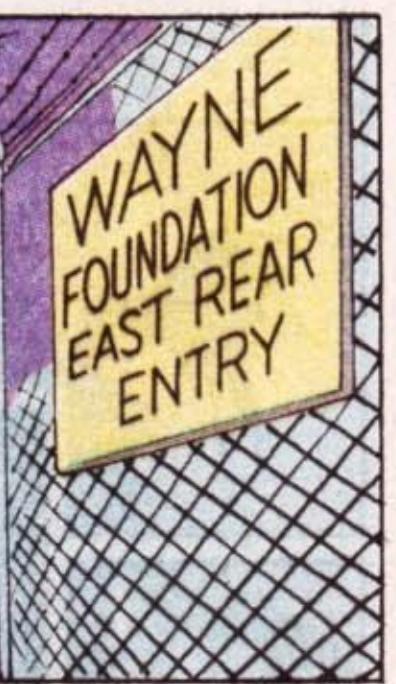
DREAMS MEAN NOTHING WHEN MONEY IS KING.



I'M CHANGING THAT. I'M GOING TO MAKE THIS CITY REPAY ITS DEBT. AND IF PEOPLE HAVE TO SUFFER--



--THAT'S THE PRICE GOTHAM WILL HAVE TO PAY!



WAYNE FOUNDATION EAST REAR ENTRY

