

ALL NEW!
60¢
U.K. 20p

MORE PAGES!
NO. 343
JAN.

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

"A DAGGER'S DEADLY..."

INTRODUCING...
A STARTLING NEW
VILLAIN PRESENTED BY
GERRY CONWAY,
GENE COLAN &
KLAUS JANSON!

GENE COLAN &
DICK GIORDANO

EXTRA!
ROBIN
The Teen Wonder
IN
"MADHOUSE"

MORE
NEW
PAGES
FROM THE
NEW



TRUCKING ADVENTURE

WITH TYCO'S



ELECTRIC TRUCKING

WE JUST GOT A RUSH CALL FROM THE U.S. 1 CONSTRUCTION SITE. THEY NEED OUR TRUCKS UP THERE - AND QUICK!

LOAD UP THAT TRUCK WITH LOGS!

BACK UP! NOW LOAD THE GRAVEL

GRAVEL SUPPLY CO.

AND THEY NEED SOME PIPES TOO. HAUL 'EM UP AND MOVE OUT!

HEY! WATCH OUT FOR LOW FLYING AIRPLANES.

SLOW DOWN! DON'T PASS THE EXIT - WE'LL MISS OUR DELIVERY!

WOW! MADE IT JUST IN TIME.

NOW YOU CONTROL ALL THAT TRUCKING ACTION WITH TYCO'S...



ELECTRIC TRUCKING



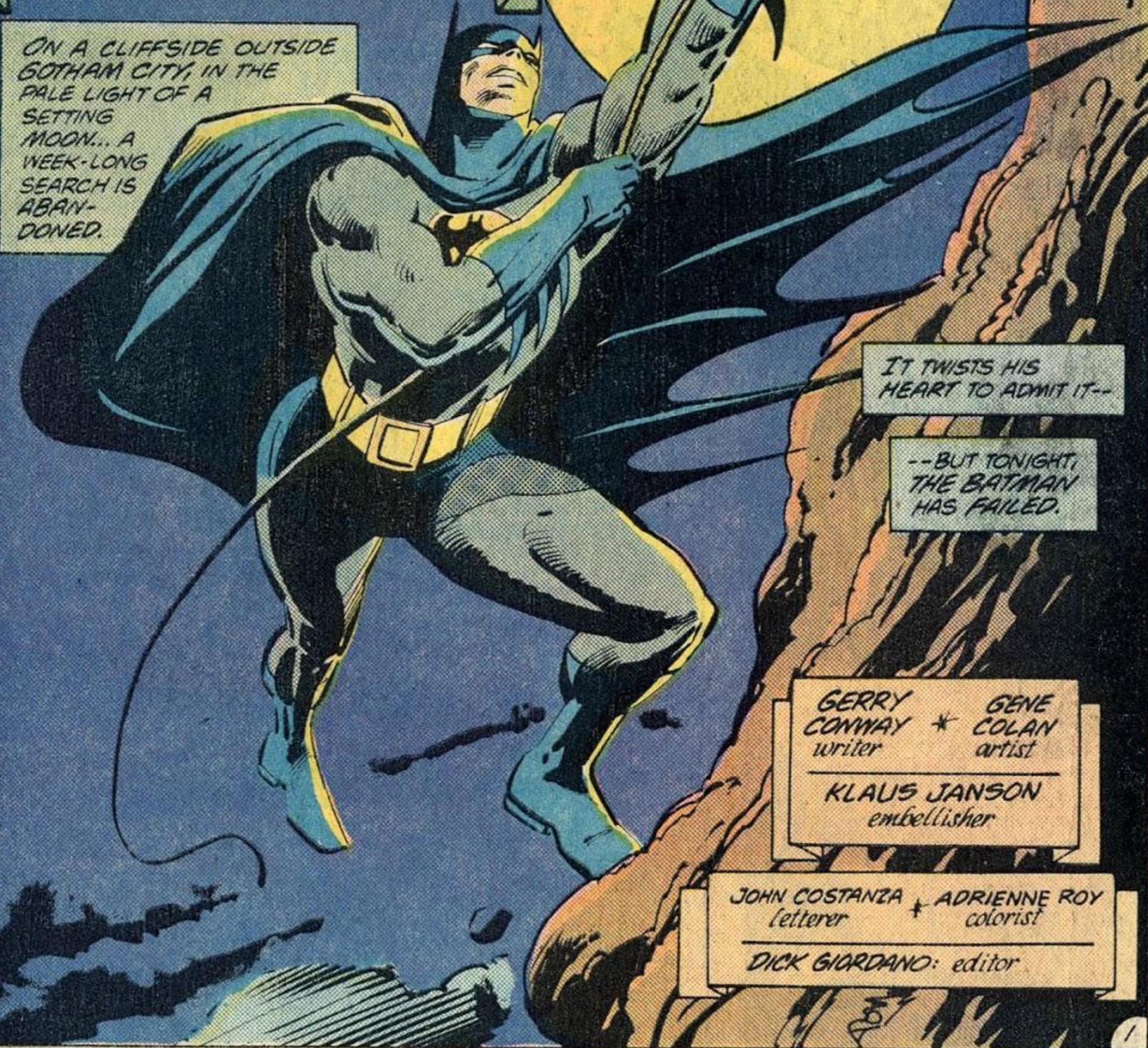
ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

BATMAN

CREATED BY BOB KANE

"A DAGGER SO DEADLY..."

ON A CLIFFSIDE OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, IN THE PALE LIGHT OF A SETTING MOON... A WEEK-LONG SEARCH IS ABANDONED.



IT TWISTS HIS HEART TO ADMIT IT--

--BUT TONIGHT, THE BATMAN HAS FAILED.

GERRY CONWAY * GENE COLAN
writer artist

KLAUS JANSON
embellisher

JOHN COSTANZA + ADRIENNE ROY
letterer colorist

DICK GIORDANO: editor

BATMAN, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 43, No. 343, January, 1982. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 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.

This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.

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

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024. Annual subscription rate \$7.20. Outside U.S.A. \$8.20.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to DC COMICS INC., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024.

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Joe Orlando, Vice President, Editorial Director
Dick Giordano, Editor
Dave Manak, Associate Editor
Karen Berger, Editorial Coordinator
Jack Adler, Vice President-Production Director
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Paul Levitz, Manager of Business Affairs
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer



A Warner Communications Company

I MUST HAVE EXPLORED EVERY LAST LITTLE CAVE IN THESE HILLS!

I FOUND NOTHING-- NO SIGN THAT HE EVEN EXISTS, OR EVER EXISTED!

MAN-BAT HAS DISAPPEARED-- AND SO HAS HIS TORMENTED ALTER-EGO, KIRK LANGSTROM!



NO, IT HAPPENED, ALL RIGHT.



I'VE GOT THE BRUISES TO PROVE IT.

PERHAPS--IF I HADN'T GONE TO EGYPT *--

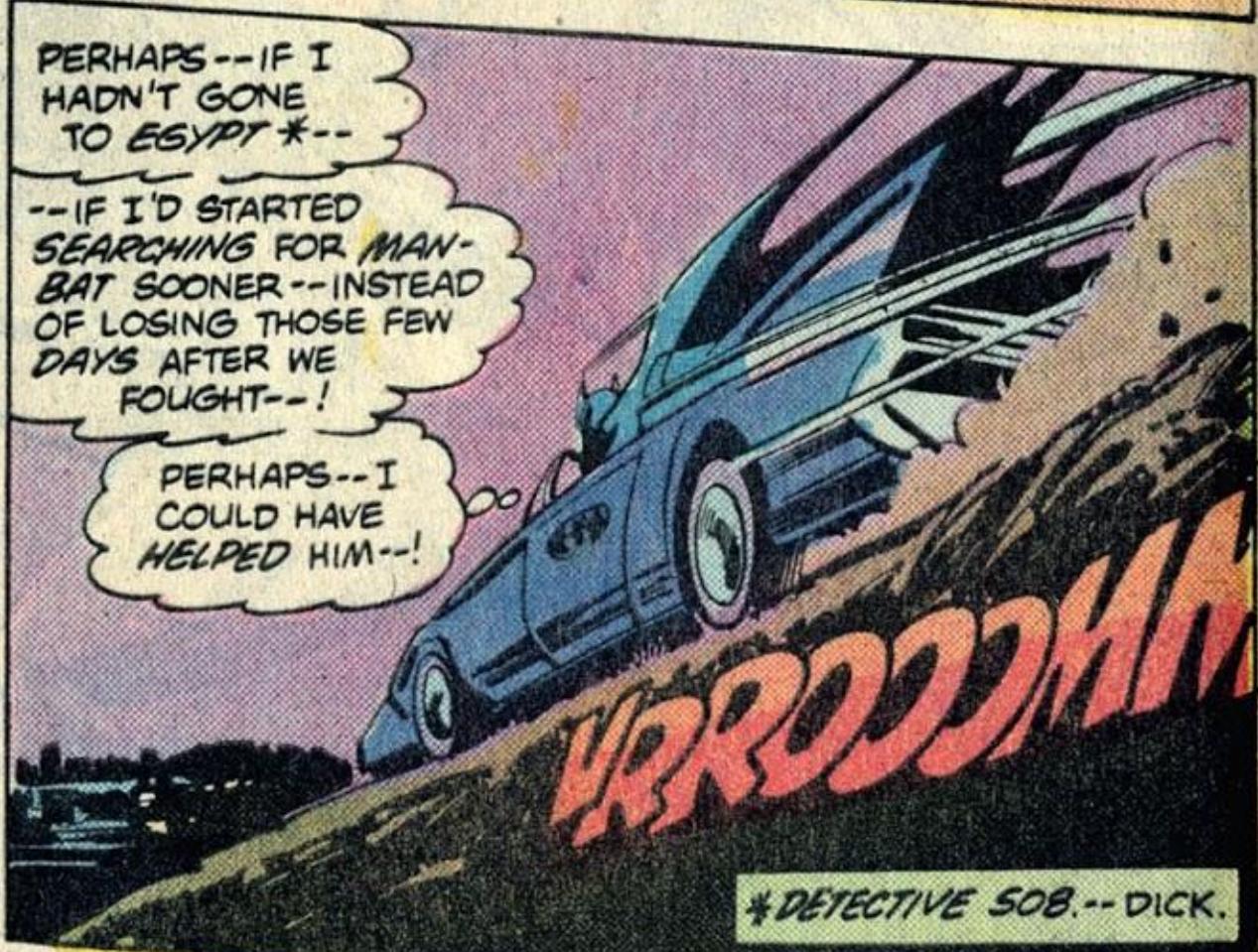
--IF I'D STARTED SEARCHING FOR MAN-BAT SOONER --INSTEAD OF LOSING THOSE FEW DAYS AFTER WE FOUGHT--!

PERHAPS--I COULD HAVE HELPED HIM--!

AH WELL, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PLAYING THE "MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN" GAME.

I'D BETTER CHECK IN WITH ALFRED-- IT'S ALMOST DAWN--!

* AS TOLD LAST ISSUE.-- DICK.

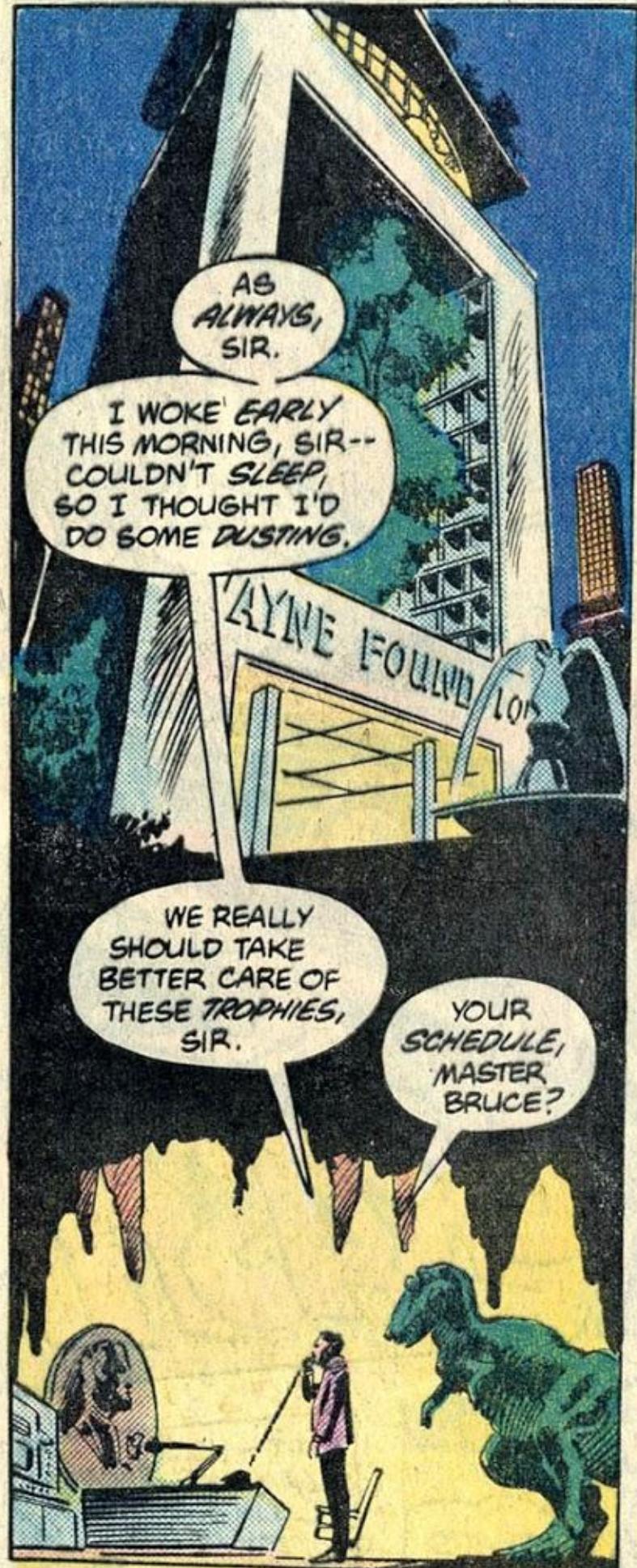


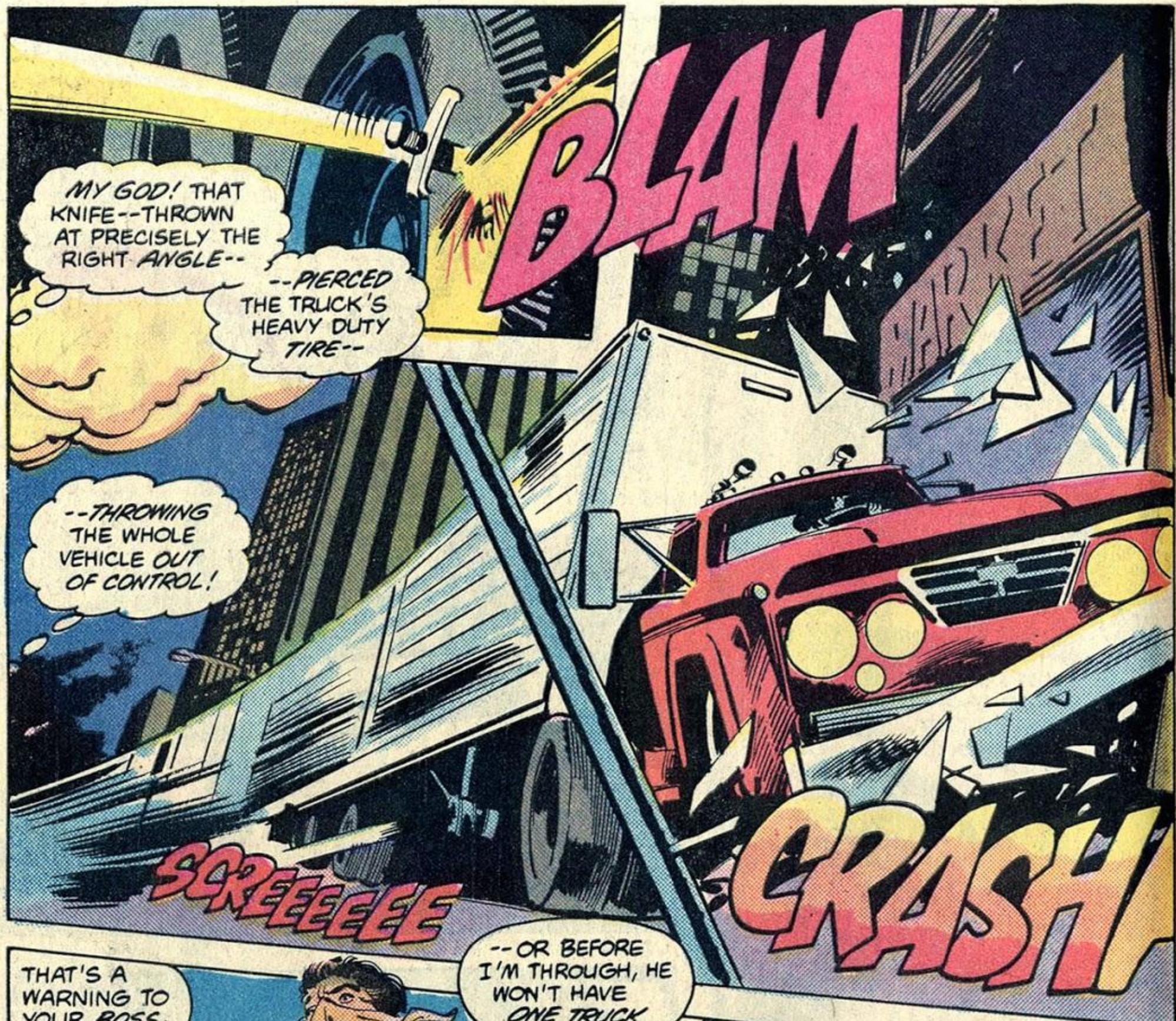
* DETECTIVE SOB.-- DICK.



ACTIVATE SCRAM-BLER-PHONE.

BATMAN TO BATCAVE. ALFRED, ARE YOU THERE?





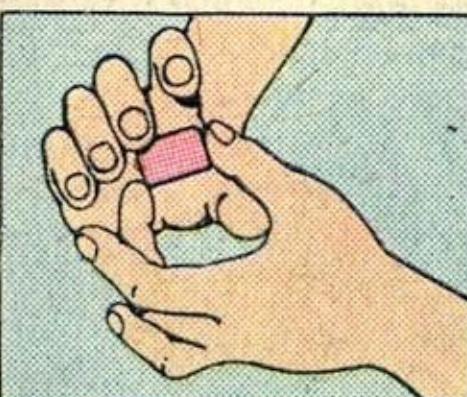
The magic in gum is Bubble Yum®.



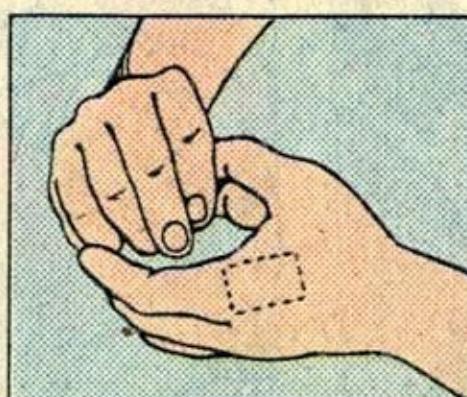
Try this magic trick with your next piece.



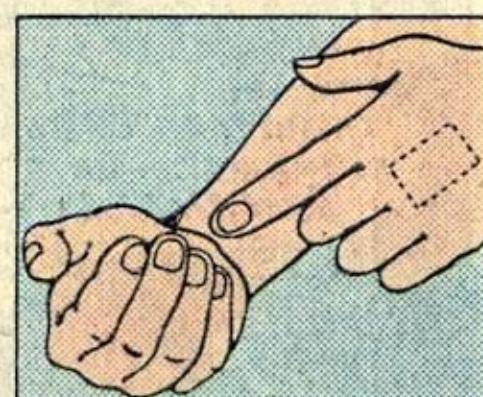
Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.



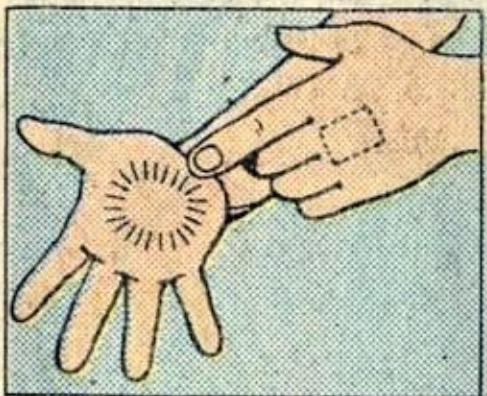
Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.



Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.



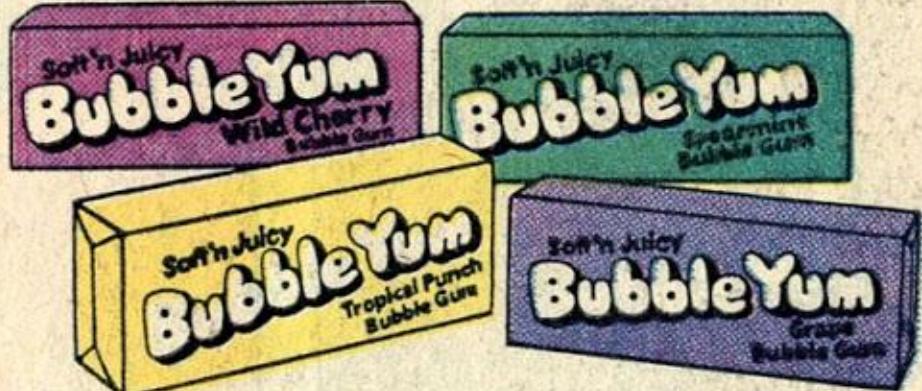
Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.



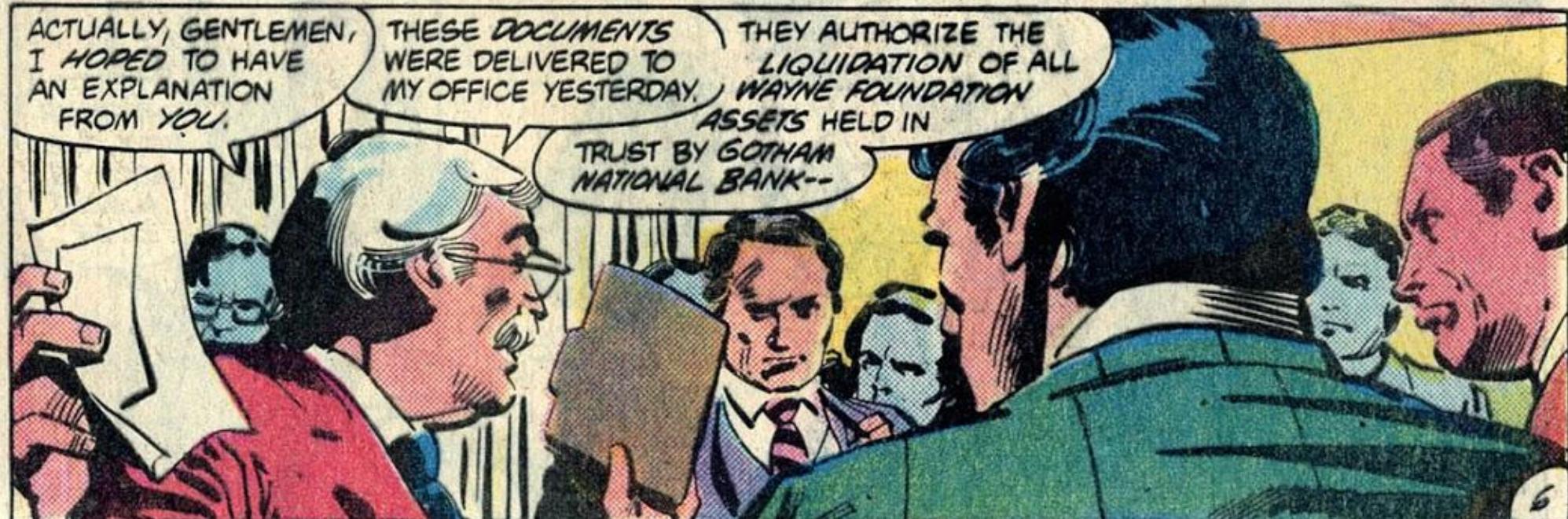
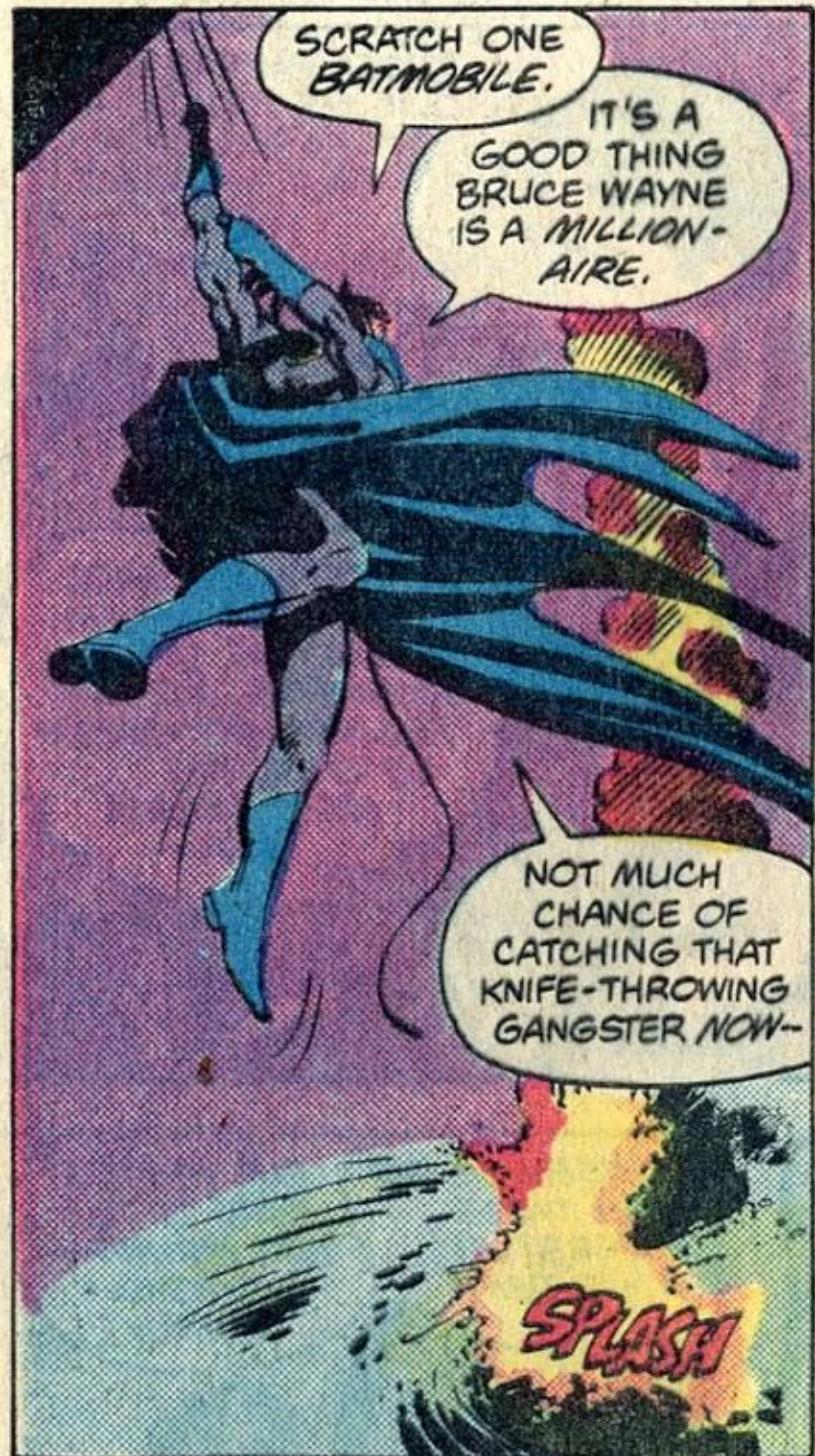
Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.



Then you can make the Bubble Yum disappear the easy way—and try the number one taste.

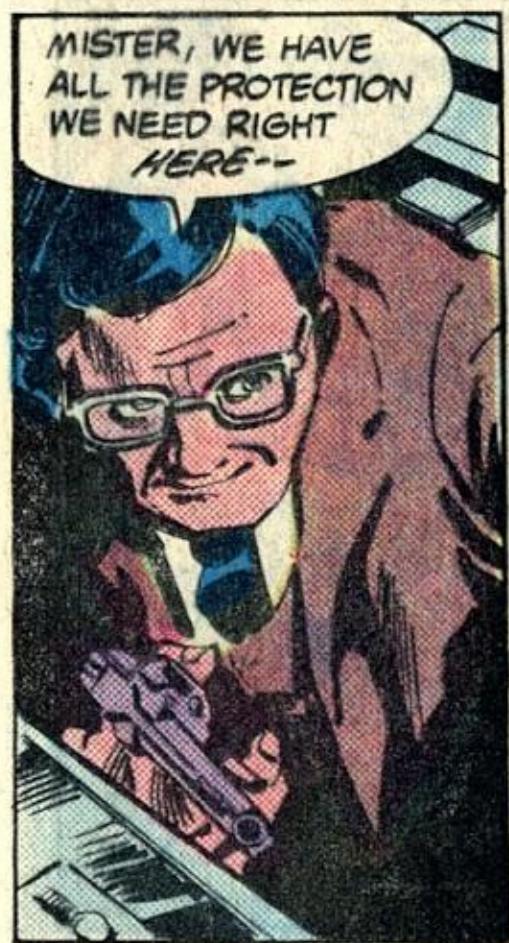








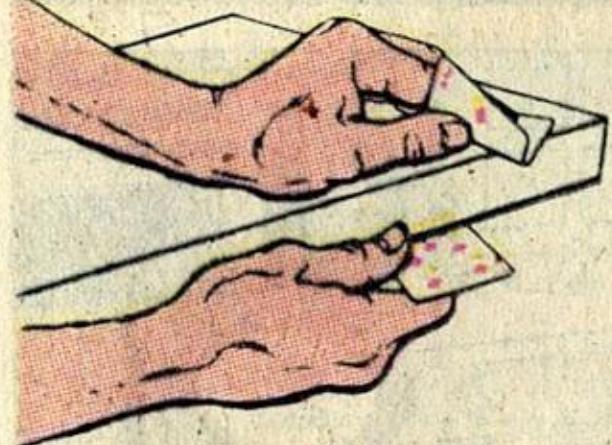




America's favorite candy maker says:

"Amaze your friends with my Willy Wonka Magic Card Trick Kit!"

Make cards
appear to pass
back and forth
through a table!



"Have your friends watch you put a 3 of clubs in an envelope and hold a 7 of diamonds under a table. The envelope, when opened, holds the 7 and you bring the 3 out from under the table. What a switch and you can do it!"

Product names are trademarks of Sunmark Inc.
© 1981 Sunmark Inc.



Your Magic Card Trick Kit will also perform 3 other fantastic tricks. Now, here is how you can get the kit practically FREE!

Look for Willy Wonka Brands. Send just 35¢ for postage and handling plus two empty packages from any of my candies: Everlasting Gobstopper, Bottle Caps, Wacky Wafers, Tart N Tinys, Skrunch, Oompas, Dinasour Eggs, Daredevils, Volcano Rocks, Sneaks, Mix Ups and Just Juice. Soon, you'll be putting on your own magic show!

If coupon is missing, write your name and address plainly and send with 35¢ and two empty Willy Wonka packages to Willy Wonka Card Trick Offer, P.O. Box 123, Bethalto, IL 62010.

To receive
Willy Wonka's
Magic Card Trick Kit,
send this coupon plus
two empty packages
from Willy Wonka
candies and 35¢ to:

Willy Wonka Card Trick Offer,
P.O. Box 123, Bethalto, IL 62010.

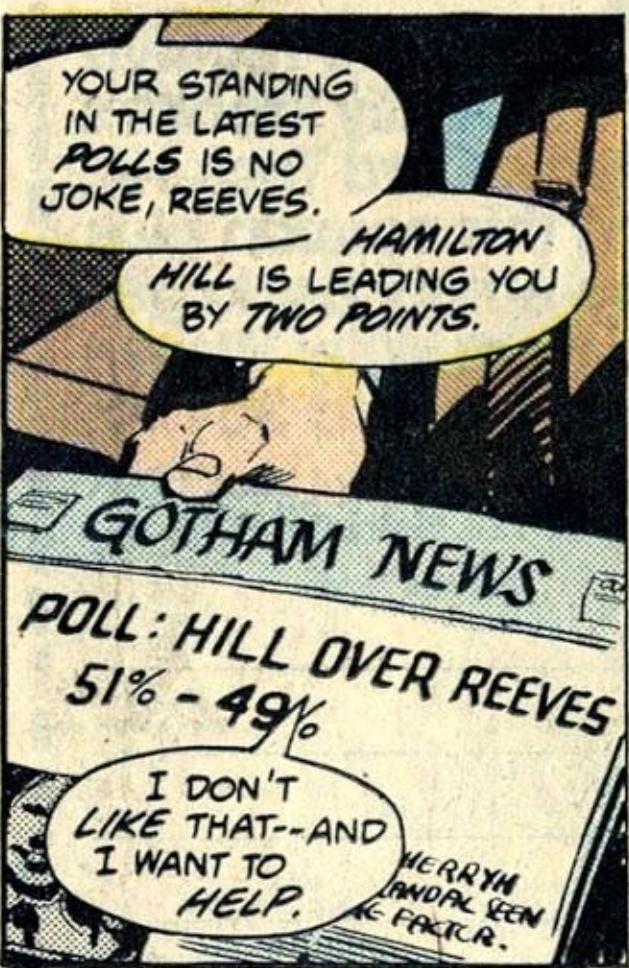
(PLEASE PRINT)

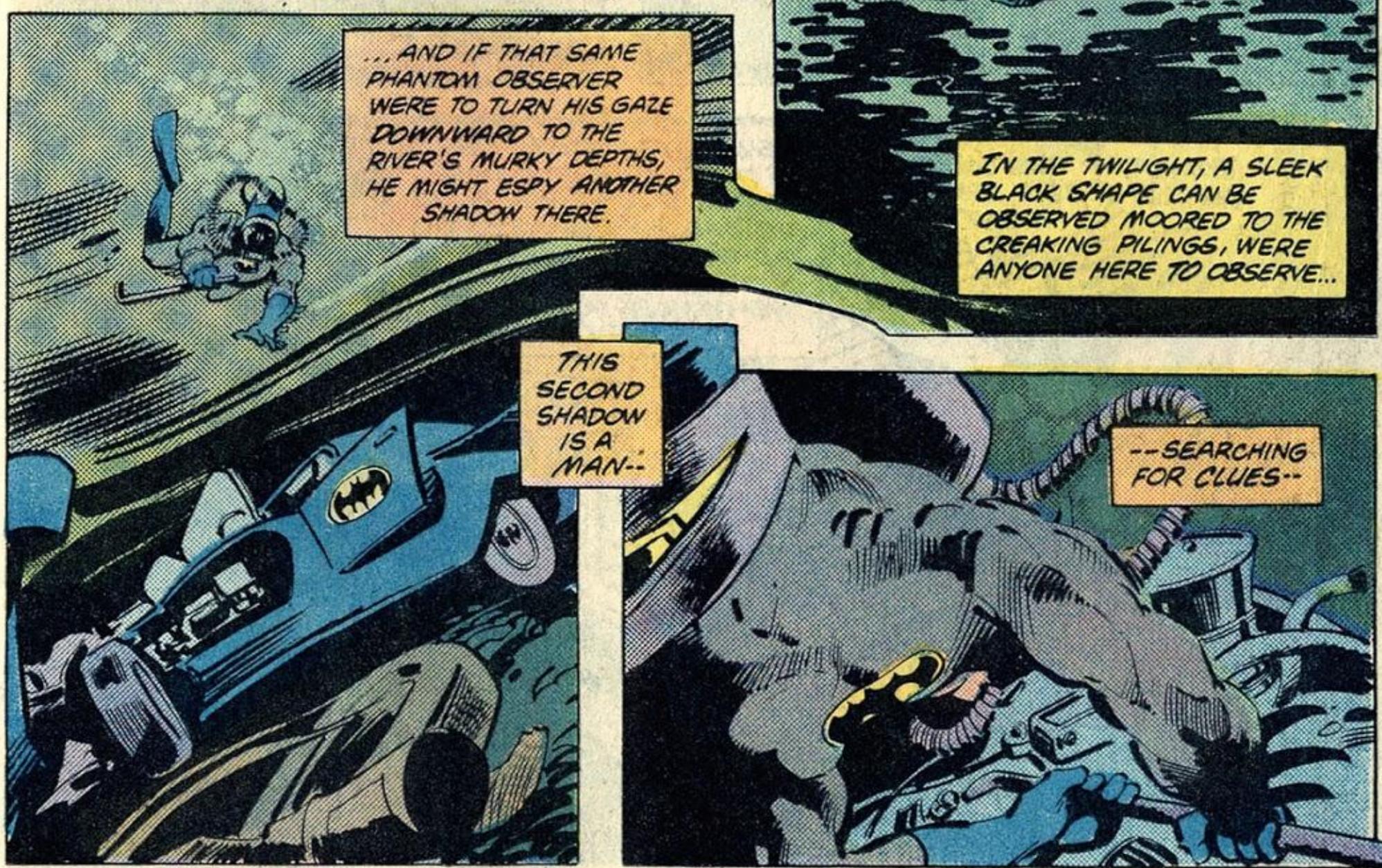
NAME _____

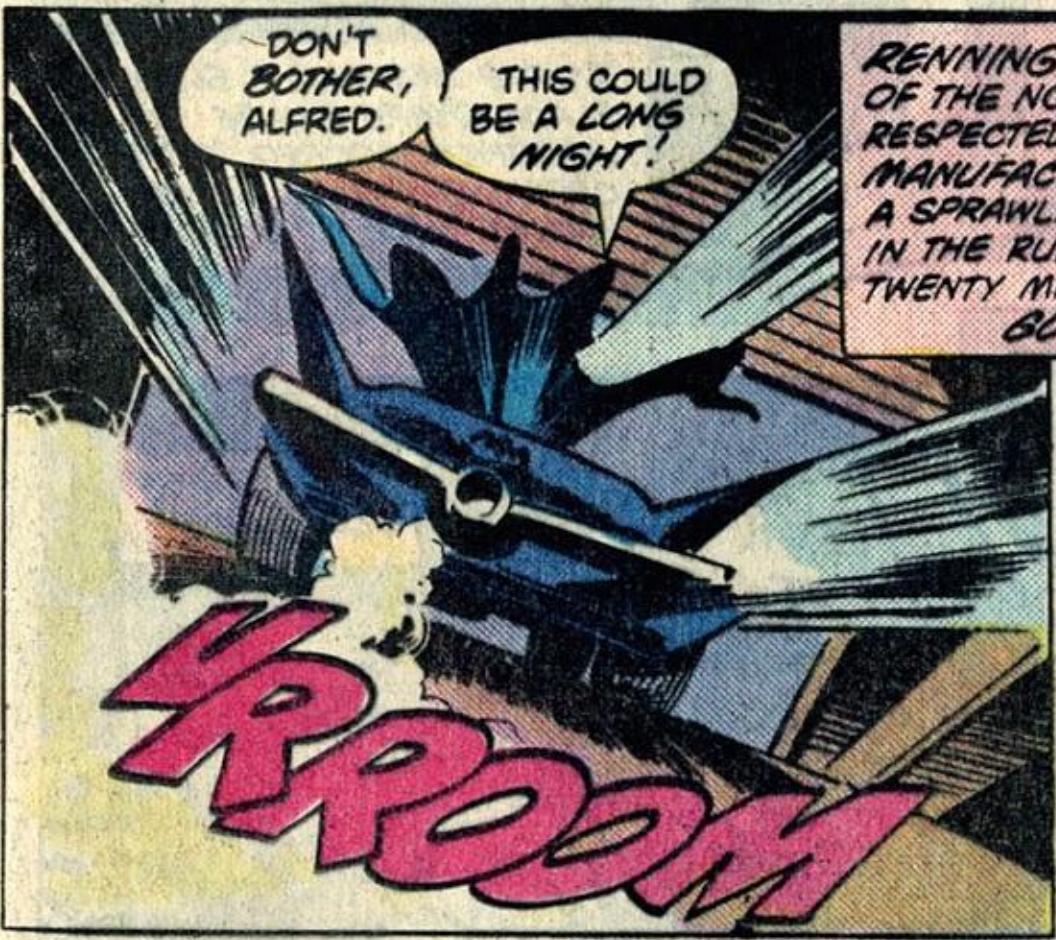
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

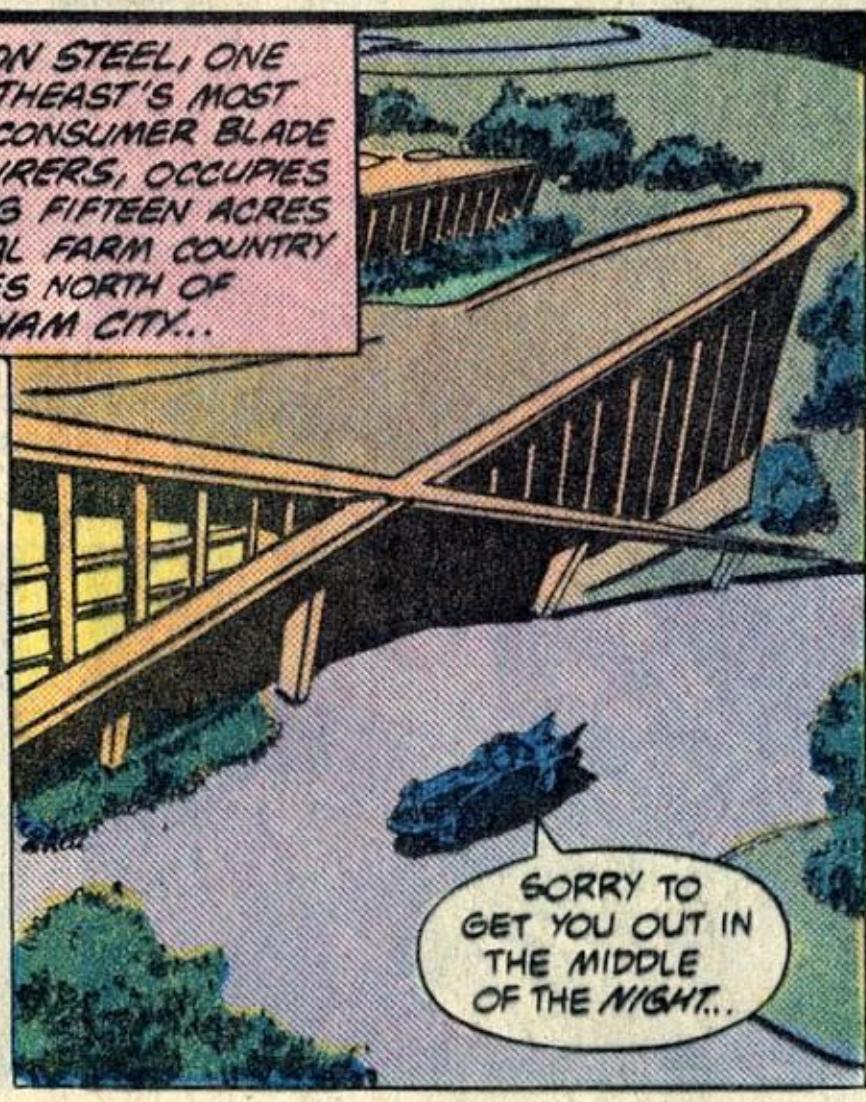
STATE _____ ZIP _____







RENNINGTON STEEL, ONE OF THE NORTHEAST'S MOST RESPECTED CONSUMER BLADE MANUFACTURERS, OCCUPIES A SPRAWLING FIFTEEN ACRES IN THE RURAL FARM COUNTRY TWENTY MILES NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY...







...AND I KNOW
IT'S EVERY NOOK
AND HIDING PLACE
AS WELL AS I
KNOW MY OWN
HAND!

YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM
ME, BATMAN!

I DON'T
INTEND
TO!

BAD
MOVE,
BATMAN!
I SAW
YOU
COMING--
HAD A CHANCE
TO DUCK!

NOW LET'S
COMPLETE
OUR TOUR!

THIS IS
WHERE WE
TRIM OUR
BLADES!

AND TO GET
JUST THE RIGHT
EDGE--

--WE USE
A STAINLESS
STEEL
PRESS!

HACK HACK HACK



I CAN'T LET
HIM REVEAL
THAT DAVID
RENNINGTON
IS ALSO
DAGGER!

IT WOULD
RUIN THE
FAMILY NAME--
DESTROY OUR
REPUTATION!

THAT'S ALL
THAT COUNTS:
THE FAMI--

--LY?



HEARING A CREAK
AND A SNAP OVER-
HEAD, DAGGER
WHIRLS, GROPING
FOR HIS KNIVES...

HE CATCHES ONE
GLIMPSE OF THE
MAN HE TRIED TO
KILL, DESCENDING
FROM THE
DARKNESS
LIKE AN
AVENGING
GHOST.

THEN, THE HUGE
MODEL SWORD
STRIKES HIM
WITH ALL THE
WEIGHT OF DIS-
APPROVING
TRADITION--

-- AND DAGGER
GOES DOWN FOR
THE COUNT!

KRAAHHH!

--TRICKED!

TAKE 5 FOR HOURS OF BIG SCALE FUN!

Now. The largest $1/48^{\text{th}}$
scale Air Force
gives you 5 hot
new ones!



Nobody gives you the big, $1/48$ scale air command we do! 50 fabulous models strong. Masterful, authentic detail, realistic colors and decals. Make it Monogram.

F-14A NAVY TOMCAT. Moveable swing wings. So real you'll almost feel the sonic thrust!

V/STOL HARRIER. Amazing Hawker "hover" strike fighter has it all!

F-4J NAVY PHANTOM II. Intricate as its real life combat twin!

F-111 SWING WING. Moveable swing wings to sleek cockpit—a perfect replica!

B-25J MITCHELL. Famous glassnose twin-tail bomber bristles with detail!

Each sold separately. ©1981 Monogram Models, Inc. All rights reserved.

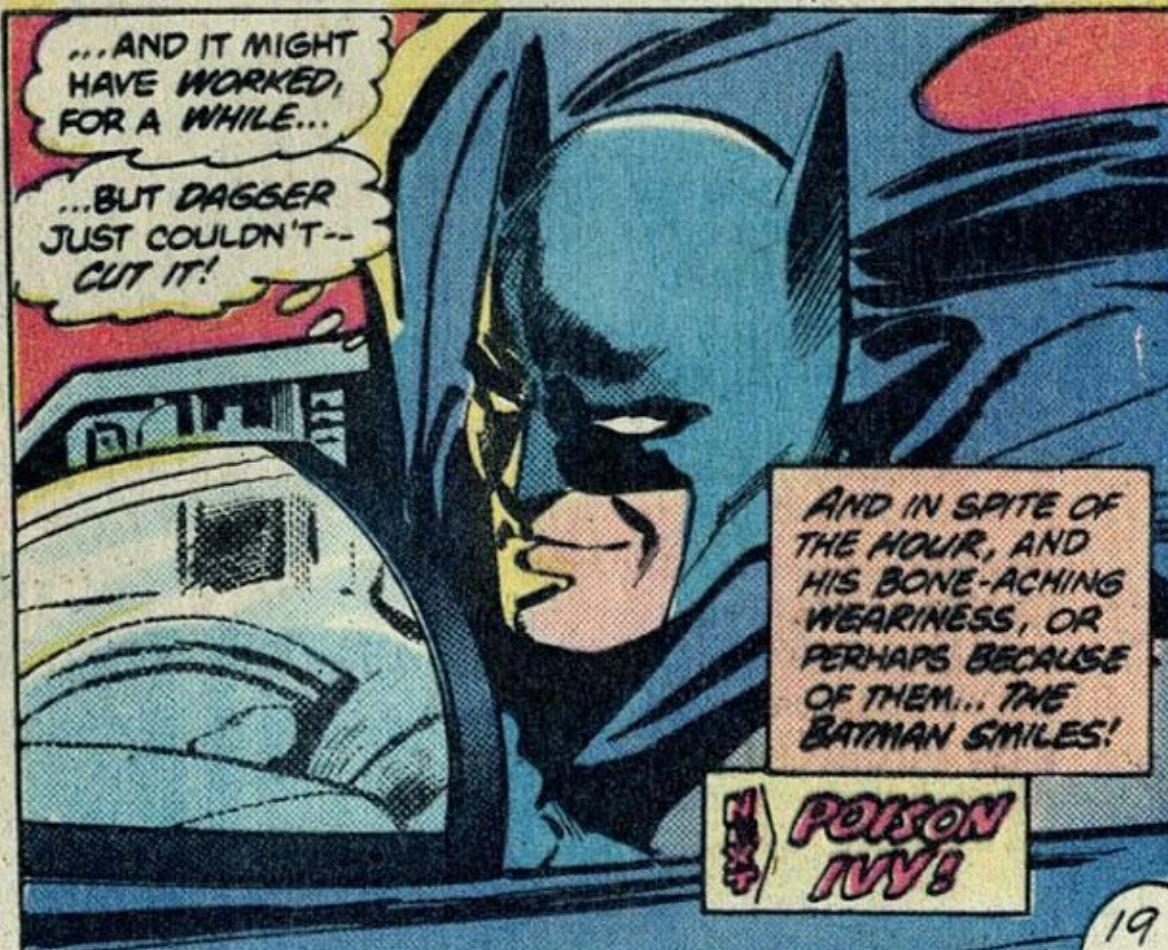
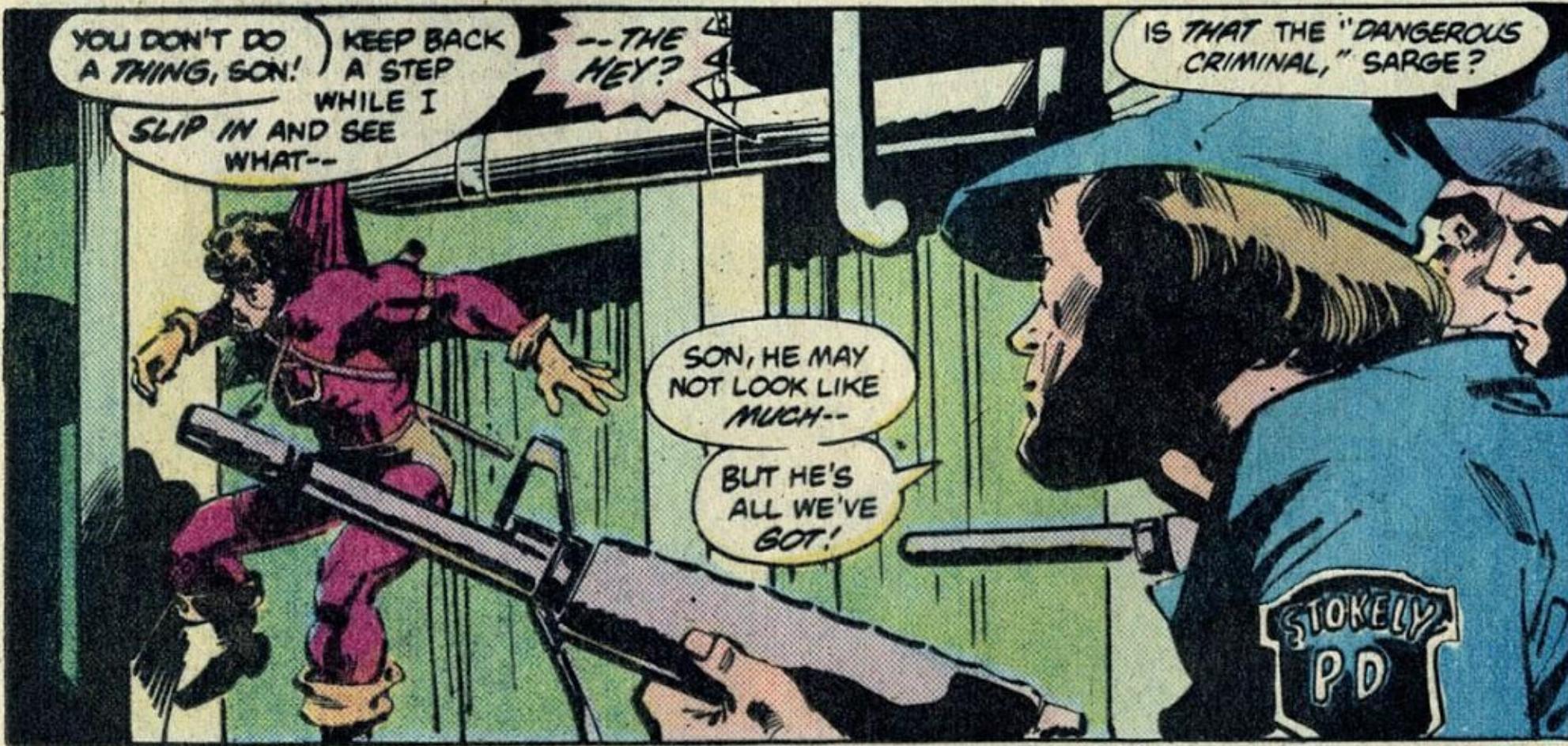


F-14A Navy Tomcat



MONOGRAM MODELS, INC.
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053
Right Down to the last detail.

EPILOGUE



I'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE I LEFT GOTHAM CITY SIX MONTHS AGO... AND MOST OF THAT DISTANCE WAS TRAVELED INSIDE MY HEAD. FOR A WHILE, I'D RESENTED BEING TREATED AS A CHILD BY MY GUARDIAN, BRUCE WAYNE... AND I'D HATED BEING KNOWN AS THE BATMAN'S "SIDEKICK" THE "TEEN WONDER"...

ALL THAT'S CHANGED. I'M COMFORTABLE WITH MYSELF... I'VE LEARNED TO ACCEPT WHO AND WHAT I AM.

CALL ME

ROBIN

THE TEEN WONDER

IT'S A NAME TO BE PROUD OF.

WESTFORK,
VIRGINIA:

HER NAME WAS DEANNA -- SHE'D BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A "COVEN" OF WOULD-BE WITCHES FOR USE IN A WEIRD RITUAL -- AND SHE HADN'T SAID MORE THAN ONE WORD SINCE I'D RESCUED HER.

THAT ONE WORD
WAS HER NAME.

I'VE GOT TO GO, DEANNA.

TAKE CARE OF HER, DOCTOR.

SHE'S HAD SOME KIND OF SHOCK ... AND IT'S HURTING HER INSIDE.

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, SON.

I TURNED TO LEAVE, BUT LIGHT FROM OUTSIDE THE CLINIC REFLECTED OFF A PIECE OF METAL ON THE DOCTOR'S POCKET, CATCHING MY EYE.

COME ALONG, MISS.

DON'T YOU WORRY, MISS...

...EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

NO DOCTOR WOULD EVER WEAR A CADUCEUS UP SIDE-DOWN!

WHAT HAD I GOT TEN DEANNA INTO?

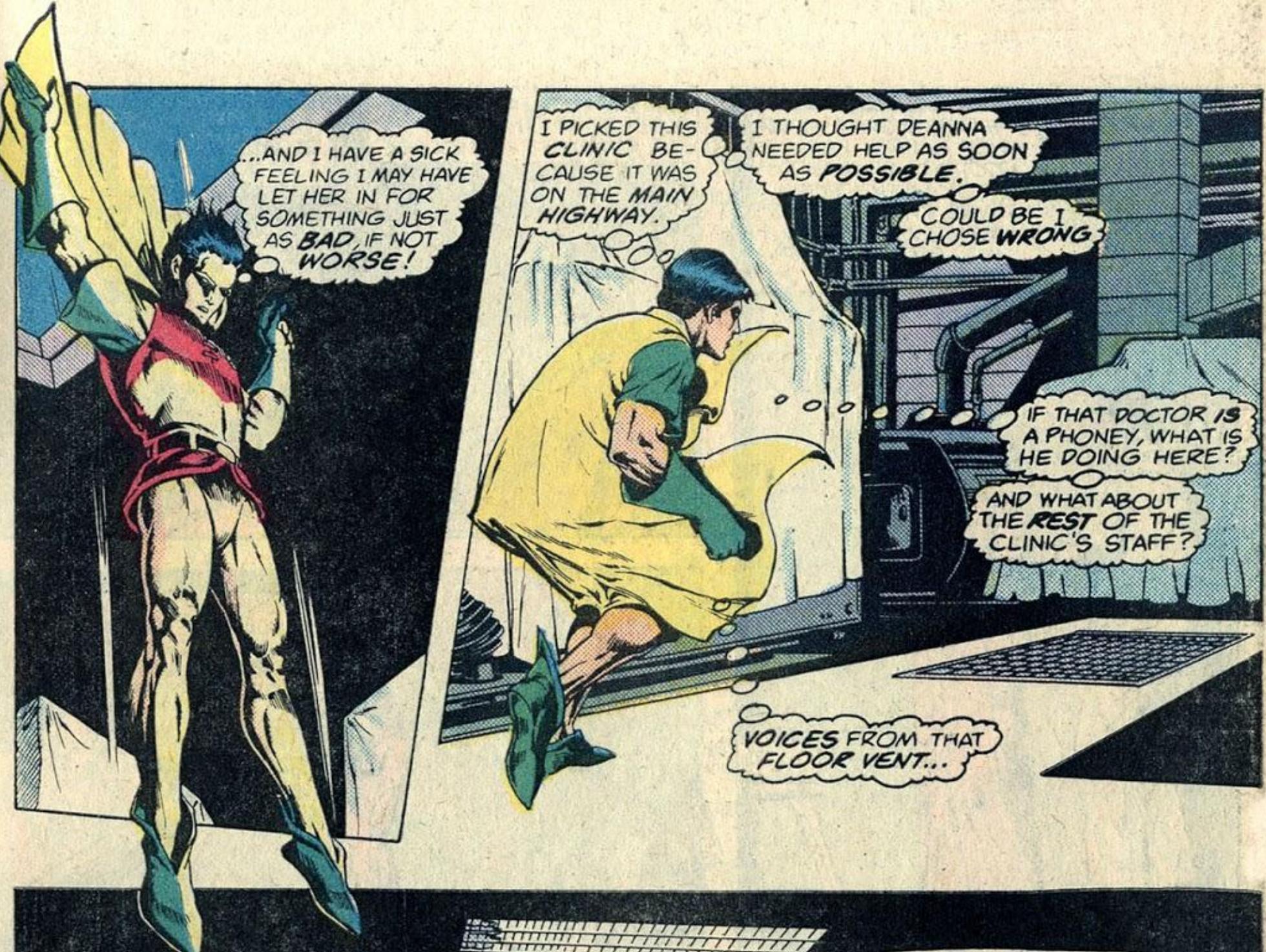
EVERYTHING WAS ALL WRONG.

DICK GRAYSON HAD NO WAY TO FIND OUT...

...BUT ROBIN WOULD
HAVE ONE MORE
MYSTERY TO SOLVE
BEFORE HE REACHED...

"ODYSSEY'S END"





LIKE THE MAN
SAID, DEANNA
WAS IN
DREAMLAND.

SHE DIDN'T SAY A WORD
WHEN HARRIS, HER
"DOCTOR", BROUGHT
HER UP A FLIGHT OF
STAIRS TO A DARKENED
WING WHOSE ROOMS
SMELLED DUSTY AND
DISUSED...

SHE DIDN'T EVEN SEEM TO
NOTICE WHEN HE LEFT
HER STANDING IN THE DARK.

SHE WAS LIKE A
ZOMBIE... A
LIFESIZE DOLL.



DEANNA WAS IN
A WAKING
NIGHTMARE.

TERROR CRAWLED IN HER
SKULL LIKE A MAGGOT.
ALL SHE COULD SEE WAS
STARKEY, THE WOULD-BE
WITCH, WHO'D TRIED TO
KILL HER FOR A RITUAL
SACRIFICE.

CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING

WHAT HAS SMURFS &
SPACE STARS &
SPIDER-MAN & A
SUPER POWER
HOUR?

NBC
SUPER STAR
SATURDAY
POW!

THERE'S EXCITING NEW FUN IN '81!
New!

SMURFS

© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC. SEPS. A. 1981.

Who are the "biggest" little creatures on TV? The Smurfs! Those famous, fun-loving adventurers, striving to uphold their "true-blue" spirit of love & happiness! Will Papa Smurf & the gang outsmart the evil wizard Gargamel? Smurf-tainly!!

© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC., 1981.

THE FLINTSTONE COMEDY SHOW

Stone-age shenanigans with those Bedrock buddies, Fred & Barney, and all their pals!

Where can teenagers fly? At Hero High! They're "super" heroes in training" facing missions impossible on- and off-campus!

© FILMATION ASSOCIATES, 1981. © D.C. COMICS / FILMATION, 1981.

THE KID SUPER POWER HOUR WITH SHAZAM

And who's the mightiest mortal? Captain Marvel!

© MARVEL COMICS GROUP, A DIVISION OF CAUETZ INDUSTRIES CORP., 1981.

SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS

Villains beware... Spider-Man is here! The world's most popular hero spins a web of excitement with brave Iceman, beautiful Fire- Star and more!

© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC., 1981.

SPACE STARS

Crazy cosmic travelers zoom into far-out action! Space Ghost! The Herculoids! Teen Force! Astro and the Space Mutts.

© WEAVER BROS., INC., 1981.

THE DAFFY SPEEDY SHOW

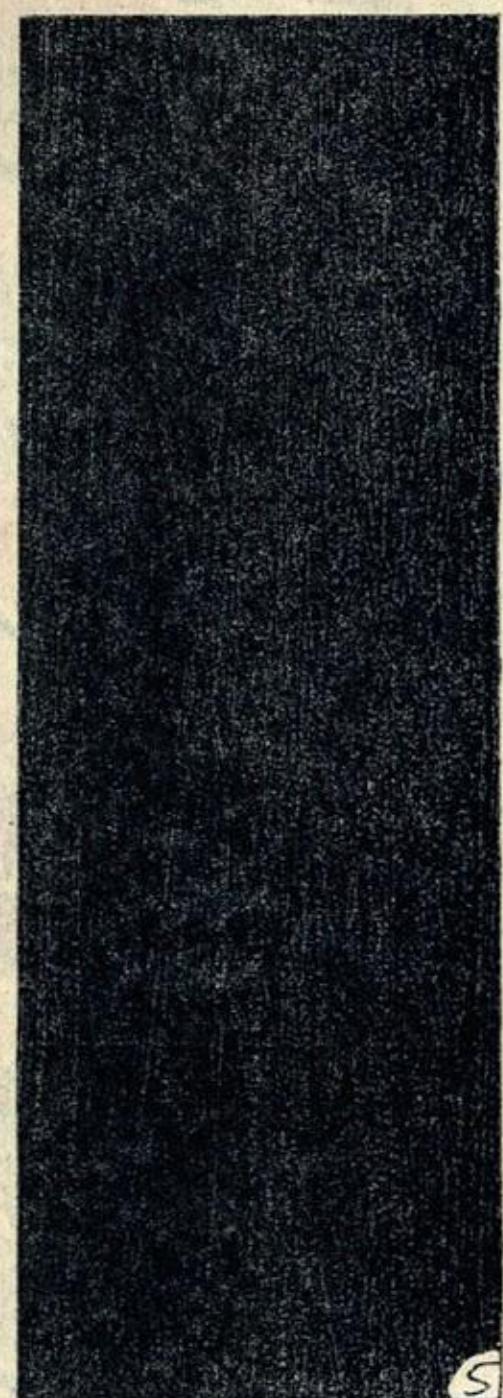
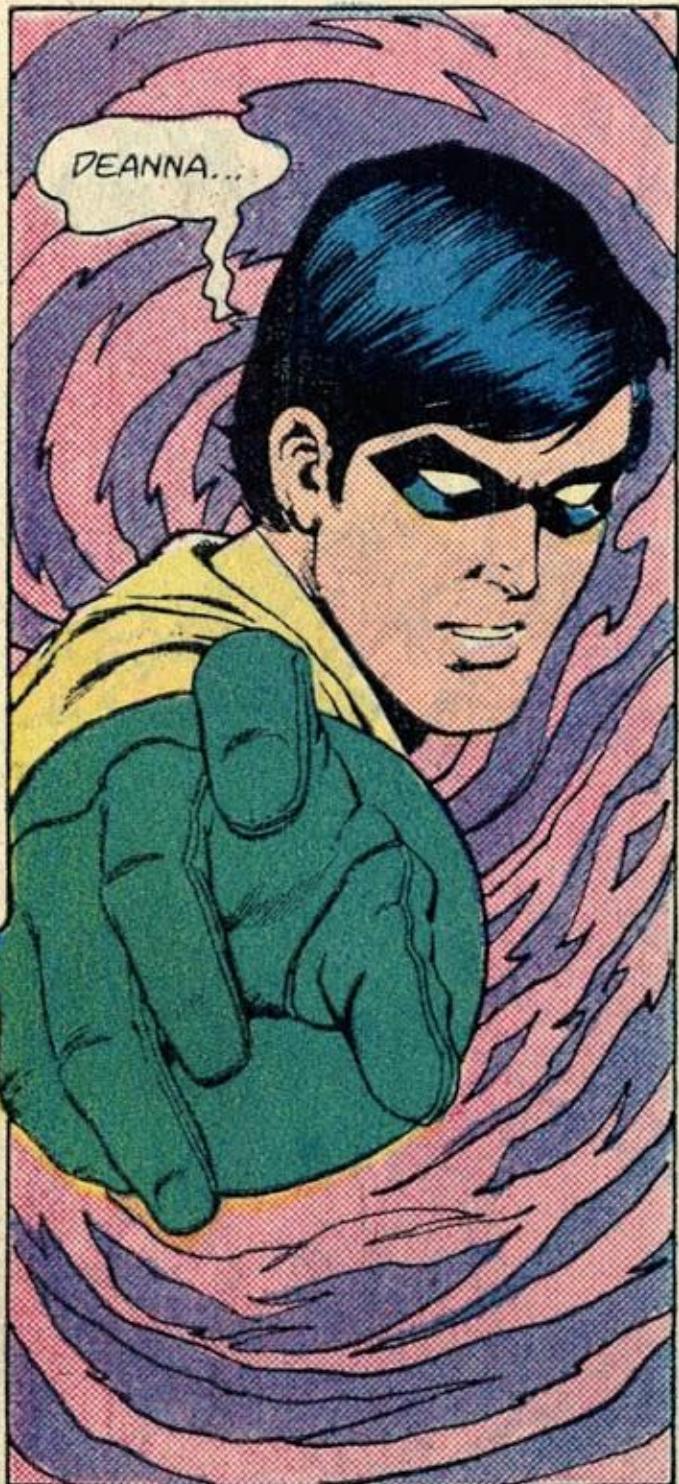
Thrills are quacky & wacky with Daffy, Speedy and their friends!

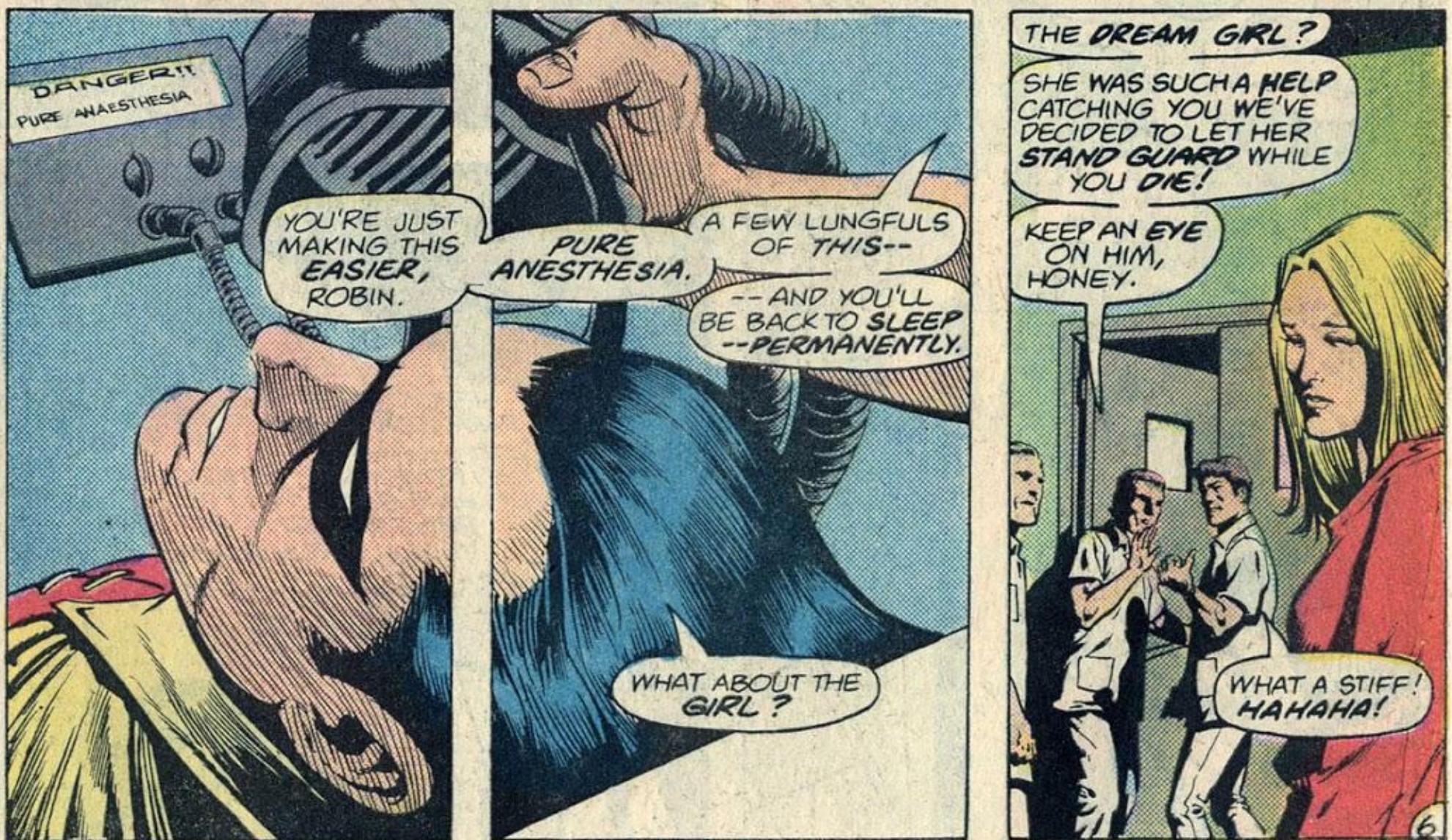
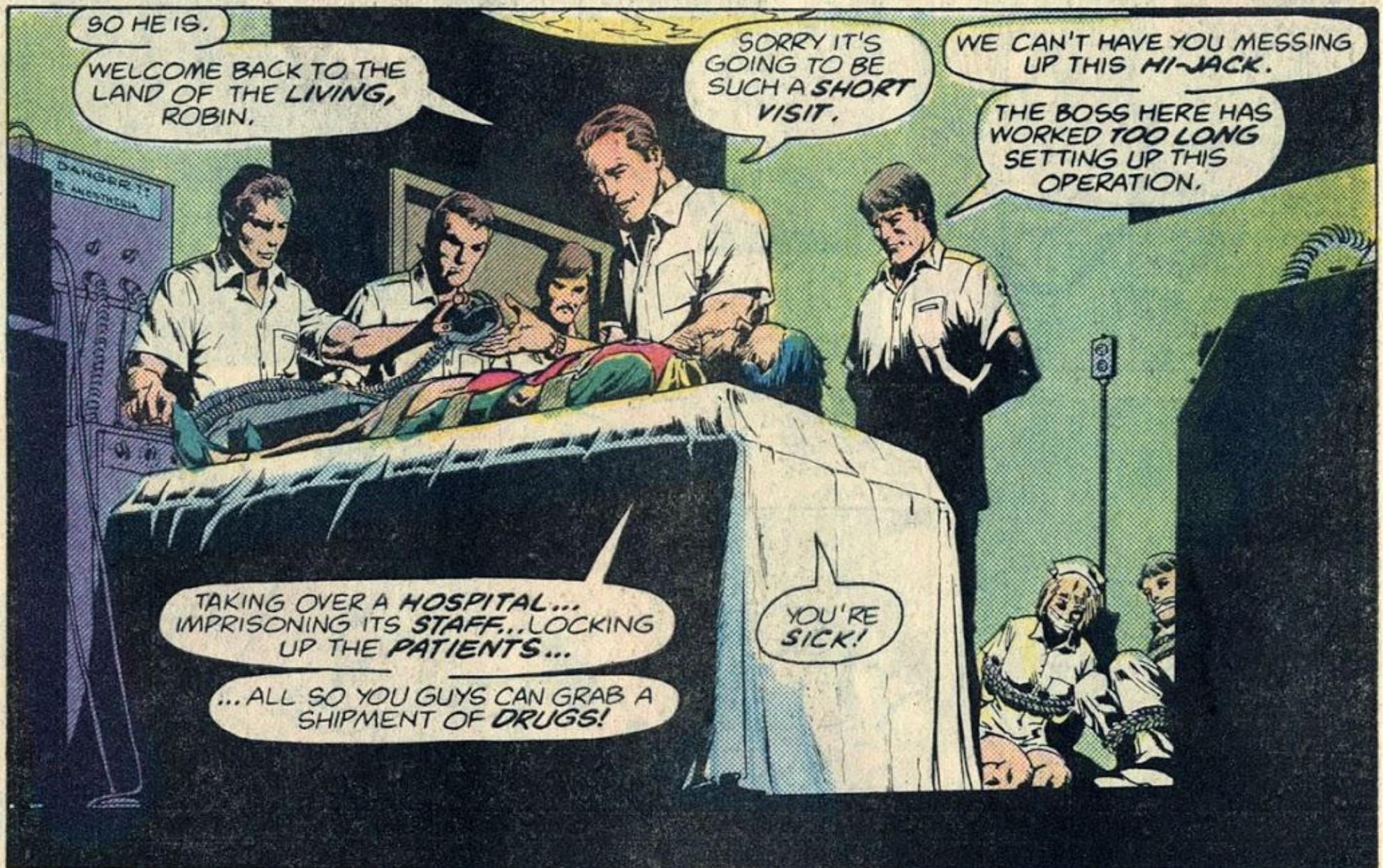
© PAT. INN'D. 1981.

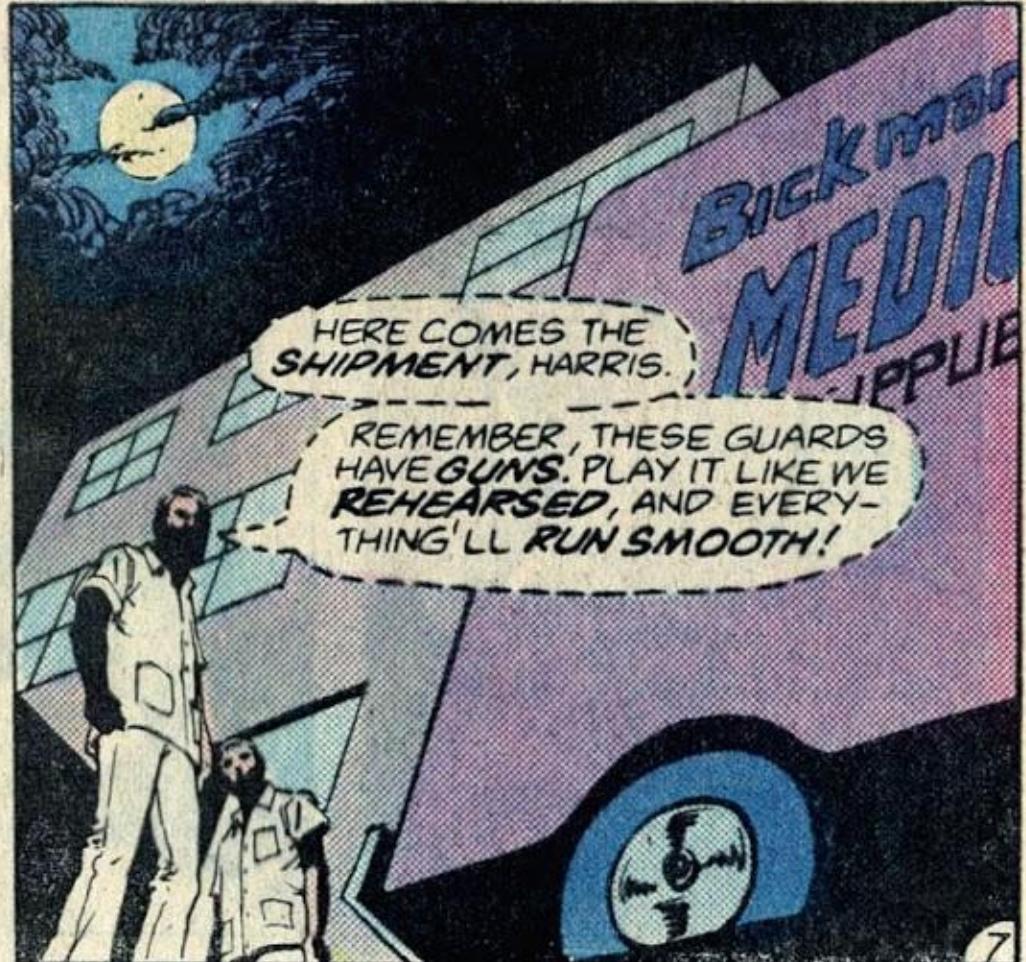
BULLWINKLE

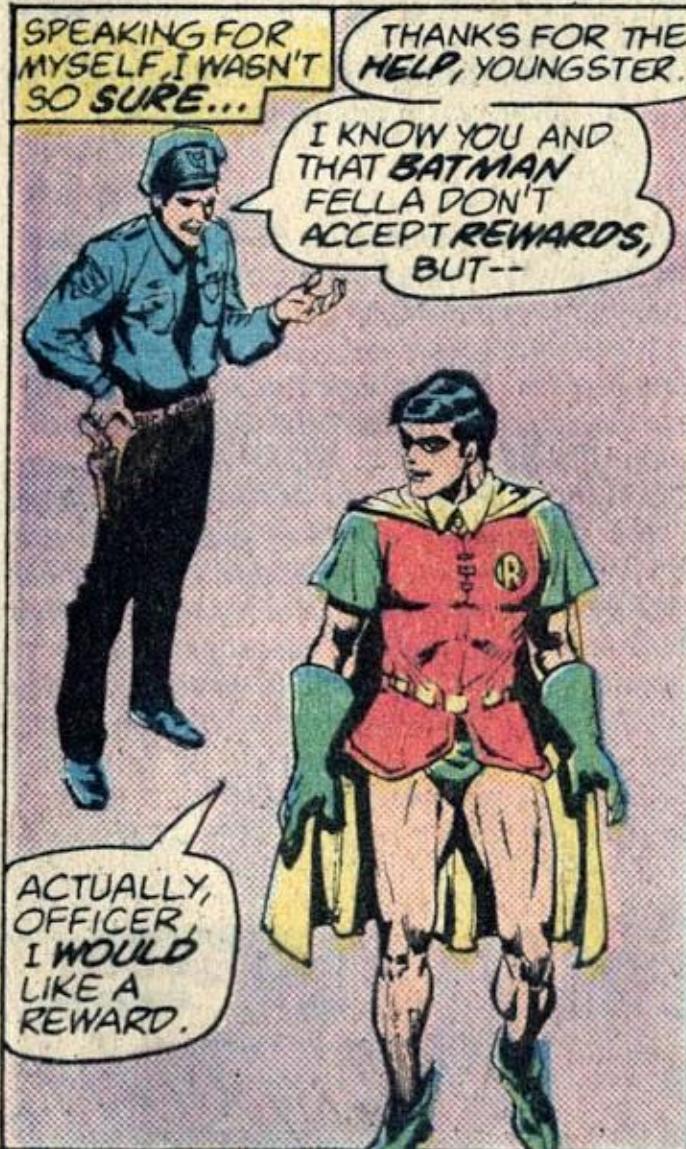
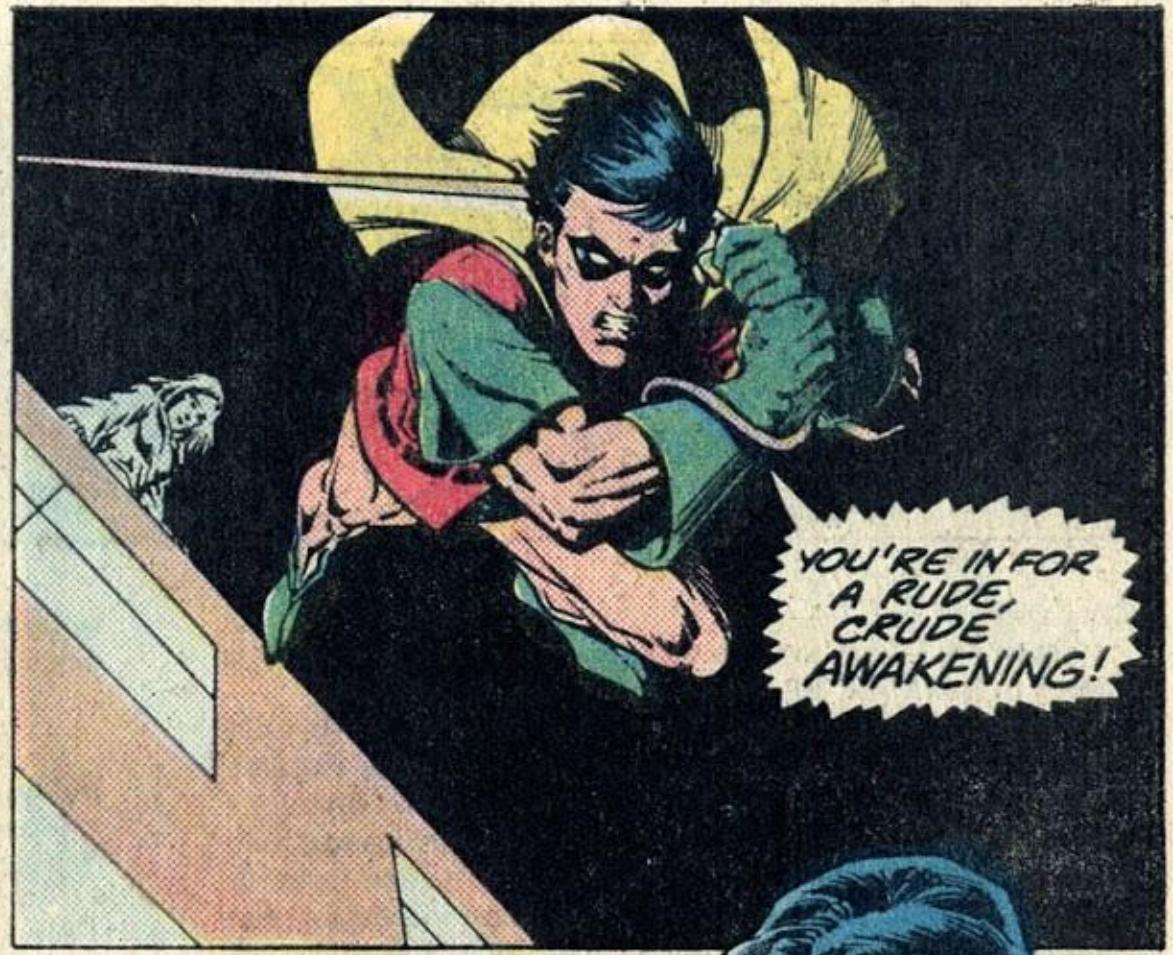
The moose is loose! Hilarious escapades with Rocky and the whole comical crew!

Consult local listings.
STARTING SEPTEMBER 12!!









NEXT: A FULL-LENGTH EPIC--AS ROBIN RETURNS TO GOTHAM FOR DYNAMIC DUO REDUX! DON'T MISS IT!



L99

Dear Dick,

First of all, I want to wish you good luck with your editing chores in BATMAN, BRAVE & BOLD, and DETECTIVE!

Now, in regard to Batman #338—SUPERB!!!!!! This issue was excellent in my opinion! The cover was extraordinary, as Aparo's usually are, but this one was unique! I especially liked the bright coloring on it! The story art was also quite good! The expression on Pierre Foote's face (page 6, panel 6) and the actual appearance of Batman's latest foe, the Sportsman, stand out in my mind! I hope we'll be seeing more of this new villain in future Bat family magazines!

Gerry Conway should be heartily congratulated on this story! "This Sporting Death" will always be one of my favorite Batman stories. In my opinion, it should be one of the year's Top 10! The expectations of Mantle's father and his disappointment at his son's lack of athletic ability are quite common in the U.S. and you've explored one of the most terrible (although improbable) results of his emotions!

The Robin "bonus extra" was also quite good! He really is living up to his full potential as ward of the World's Greatest Detective! By the way, I thought Robin was to be a regular back-up in BATMAN like Firestorm is in THE FLASH! Although I would much prefer 25-page Batman tales, I enjoy Robin's solo stories. Taking this into account as well as the fact that Man-Bat has no home now, I vote for a special Batman Family Dollar Comic to be given a trial run of five issues by next summer! I miss the Robin/Batgirl team-ups, which could once again be featured in a revived Batman Family as well as monthly Robin solos, Man-Bat, and Batgirl could move over from DETECTIVE, leaving room for an Elongated Man series. Batman Family could also feature a series which used to appear in Batman called "Unsolved Cases of The Batman," and I'm still hoping Selina Kyle will someday turn up as the New Batwoman! How 'bout it Bat-fans!? Let Dick know how you feel about my suggestions!!!

Devon James
Rt. 2, Box 3-A
Wallingford, KY 41093

Thank you for your well wishes and for your abundant praise.

We expect to do a number of full-length Batman stories as well as some shorter stories with Robin back-up features. Starting with BATMAN 346 or 347 (we have yet to decide) we'll be featuring a shorter Batman story (17 to 19 pages) and a back-up (probably Robin) in almost every issue.

I like the Batman Family concept but the title was discontinued before I arrived here. That indicates that not enough of you readers liked the BATMAN FAMILY dollar comic well enough to support it. I'm not aware of any new

information that would influence our publisher to try again. Of course, if we were deluged with letters . . .

Editor,

I would like to ask you one question. In BATMAN 338, page 10, panel 7, where does Batman keep his costume?

Michael Marsee
Box 22
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

Under his street clothes. If we had colored the panel you mentioned in full color, you would undoubtedly have seen that his suit jacket and his shirt is just coming off his left arm.

Dear Dick:

BATMAN #338 was a terrible disappointment to me. The idea of the Sportsman sounded good (as the Earth-One counterpart of the Sportsmaster), but alas, he fell short, oh so short of my expectations.

Somehow, a villain motivated by bitterness isn't very believable when he goes after people he doesn't even know. It's not their fault he's dying, so why didn't Mantle go after the real culprit—his father? And didn't Mantle Senior realize what could happen if his Memory RNA contained dangerous side effects? Why didn't he try it on a test animal first instead of putting his own son at risk?

Ah, well, there were some good points, like the return of Irv and Frank. And Jim's cover was a beauty as always.

Alicia Wu
Cupertino, CA

The Sportsman WAS conceived as the Earth-One counterpart of the Sportsmaster. As a matter of fact, the first half of the original script referred to him as Sportsmaster. We changed the name as work was in progress because we didn't want to confuse some of our older readers with a new Sportsmaster.

I'm not trying to convince you to like "This Sporting Death" but please consider the following: 1. MOST villains go after people they DON'T know. Particularly DERANGED villains! Could you call the Sportsman anything else? 2. People (villains) OFTEN vent their anger, frustrations, etc. on those who are NOT responsible for providing the reasons for their anger. 3. Mantle, Sr. was ALSO obviously deranged. But we've all heard of supposedly normal individuals or organizations experimenting with humans before potential side-effects could be analyzed.

*I hope we'll do better by you next time, Alicia.
Thank you and good afternoon.*



**FIRST THERE WERE
FAST 111'S™
YOU LIKE
TO RACE....**

**NOW THERE ARE
FAST 111'S™
YOU'LL LIKE
TO BUILD.**



Now you can snap together super realistic models of your favorite FAST 111's. But these FAST 111's aren't made for racing. They're a big 5½ to 6 inches long and have so much color, chrome and extra detail, they're made just for showing off. And just think. When you build the new FAST 111's model kits by MPC, it may be the only time you'll see FAST 111's standing still.

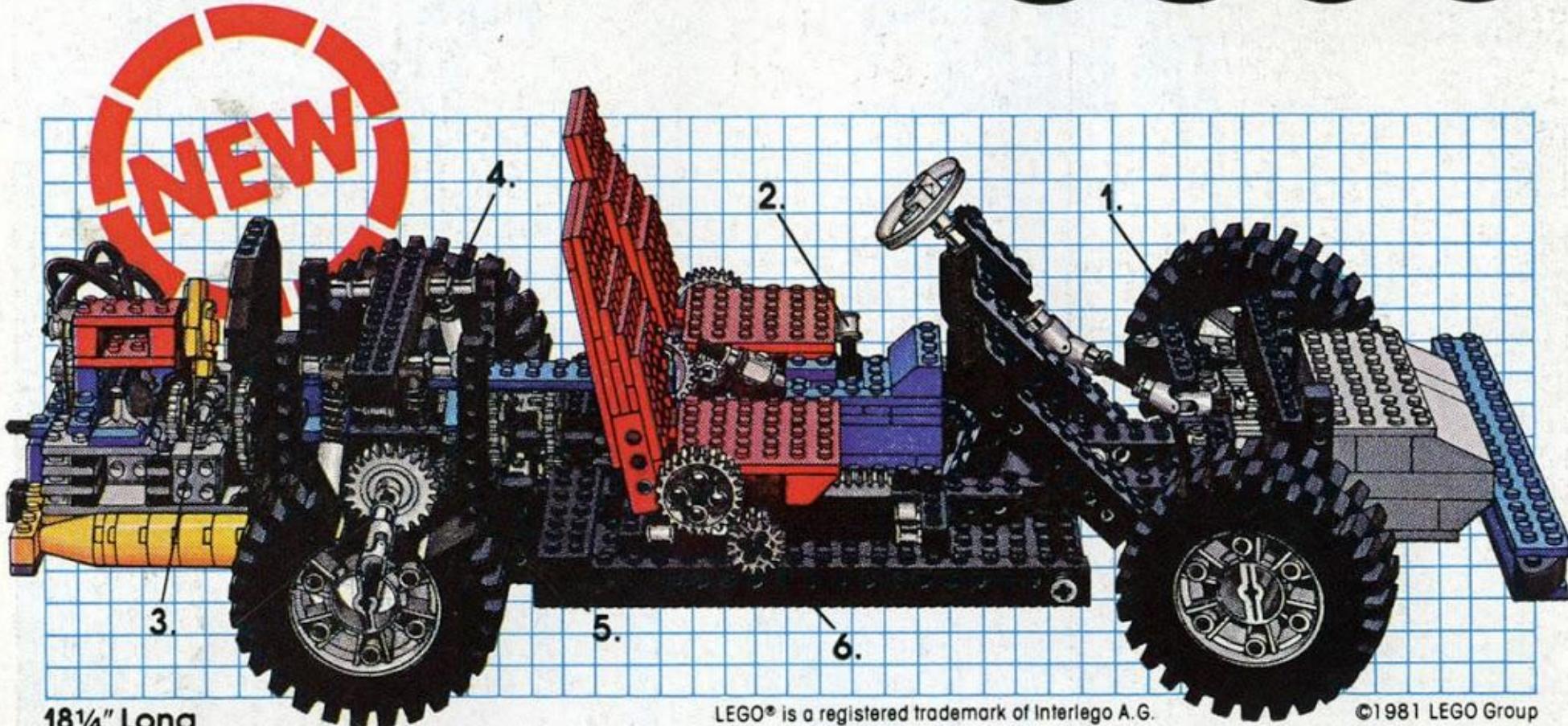
THE BEST MODELS COME FROM THE BEST KITS.

Available wherever model kits are sold.
Paint not included.



EXPERT BUILDER™ SERIES

CHALLENGE #8860



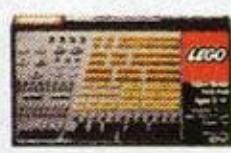
18½" Long

LEGO® is a registered trademark of Interlego A.G.

©1981 LEGO Group

- 1. Rack and pinion steering.
- 2. Two-speed transmission.
- 3. Working crankshaft and pistons.

- 4. Independent rear suspension.
- 5. Differential gears.
- 6. Adjustable reclining seats.



**DEFINITELY NOT
KID'S STUFF.**





FLATTERMANN