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THE FOUR FACES OF

# BATMAN

CREATED BY  
BOB KANE

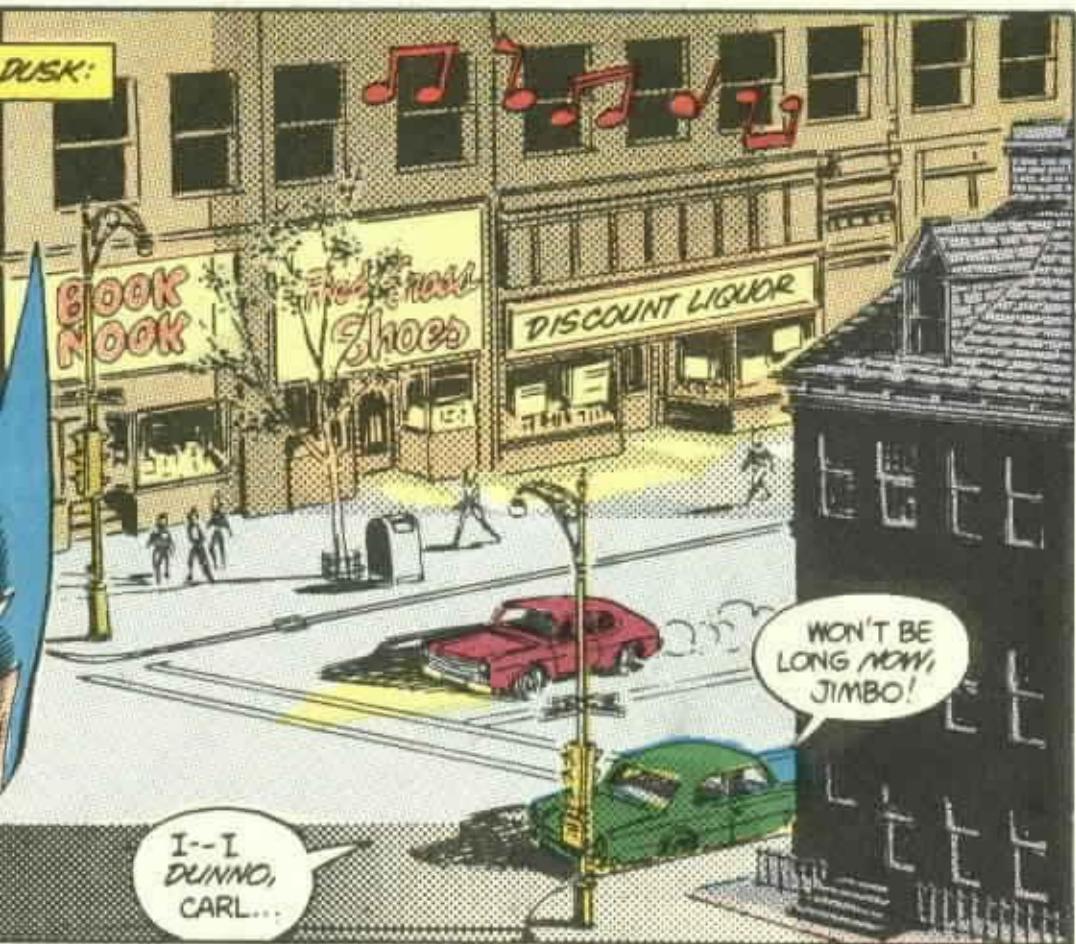
WRITTEN BY MIKE W. BARR  
LETTERED BY JOHN COSTANZA  
COLORED BY ADRIENNE ROY  
EDITED BY LEN WEIN

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# BAT MAN

FIRST FACE:  
**THE CHILD**  
"CHILDHOOD'S  
END"

ILLUSTRATED BY  
JERRY  
ORDWAY



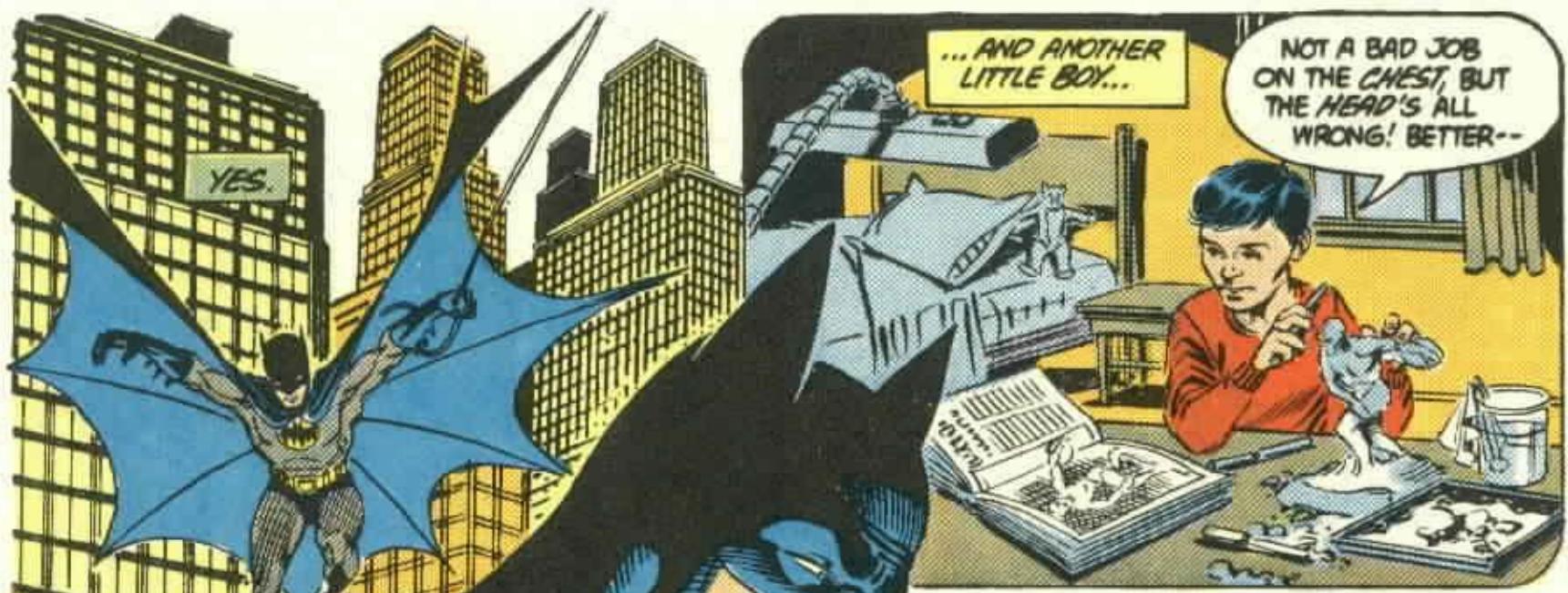




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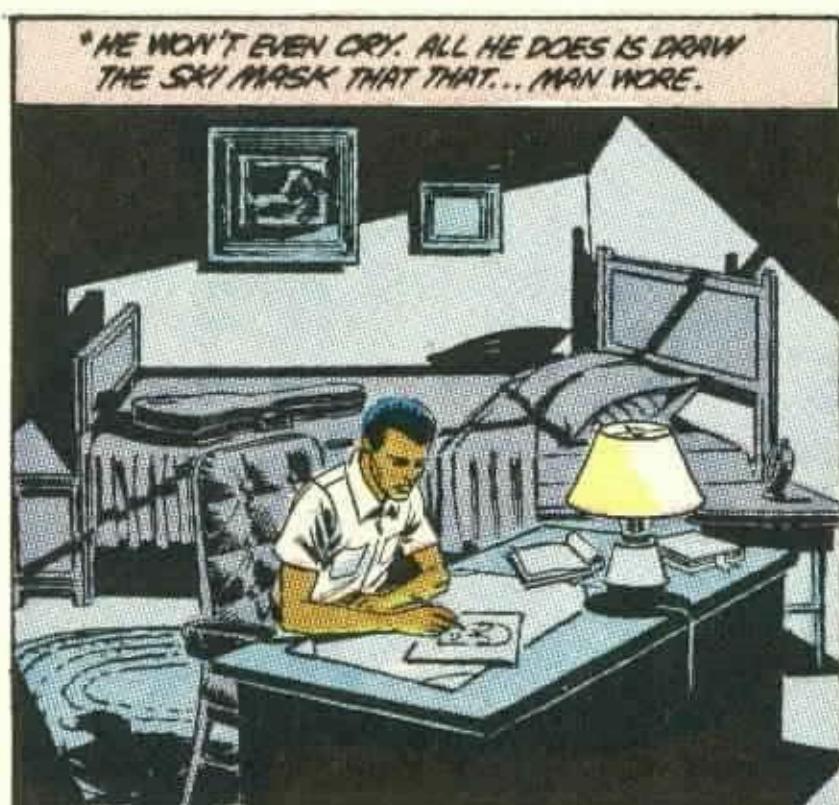


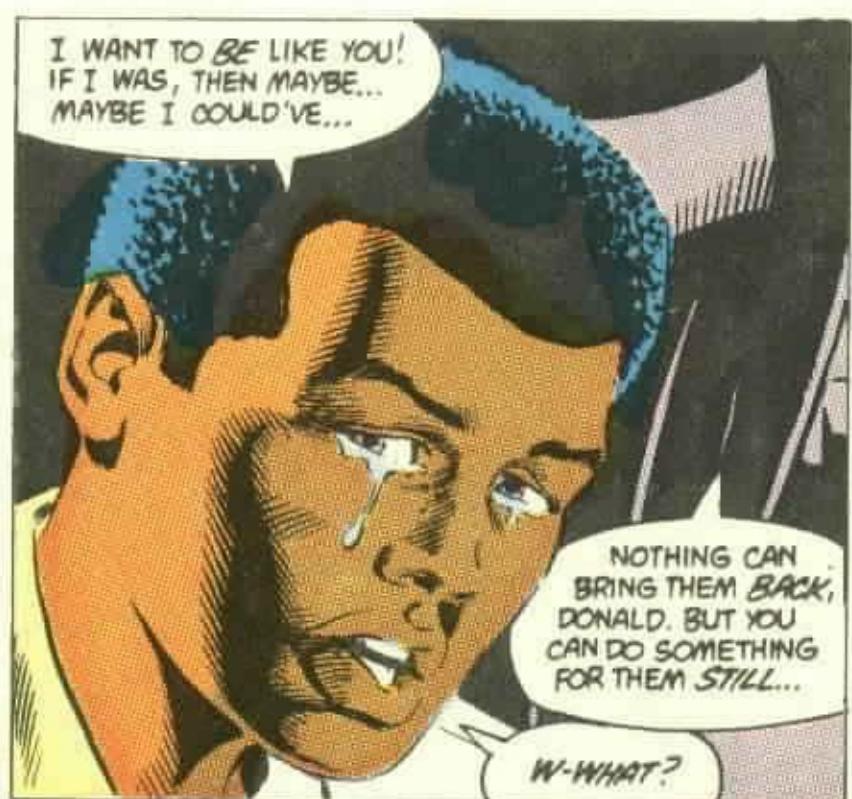
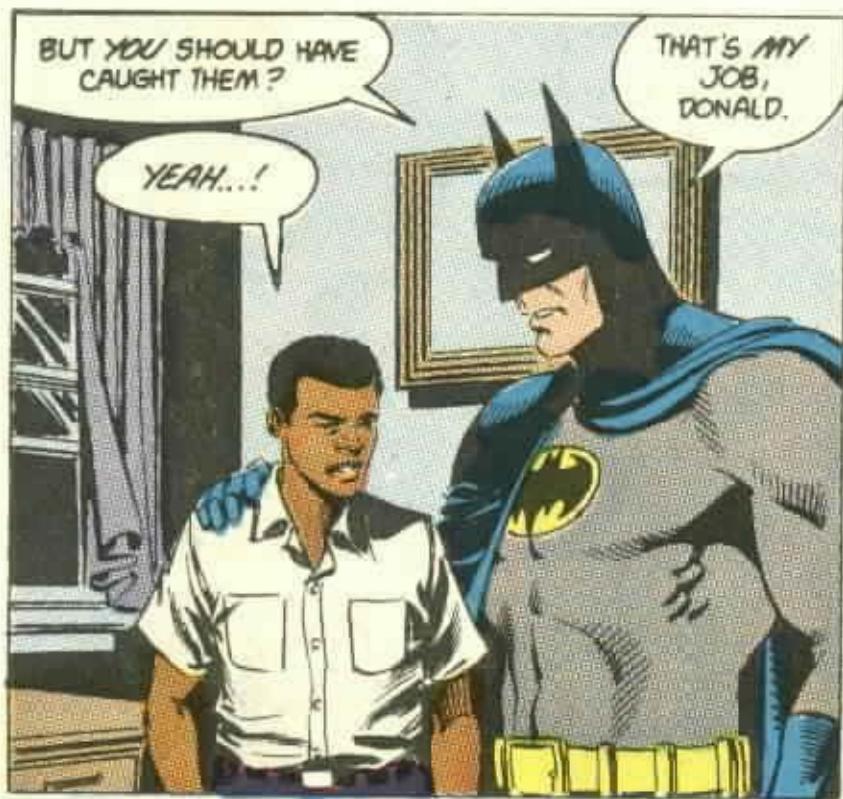


AND AS THE MOIST CLAY  
DRIED, CRUMBLED, BRUCE  
WAYNE GREW UP...









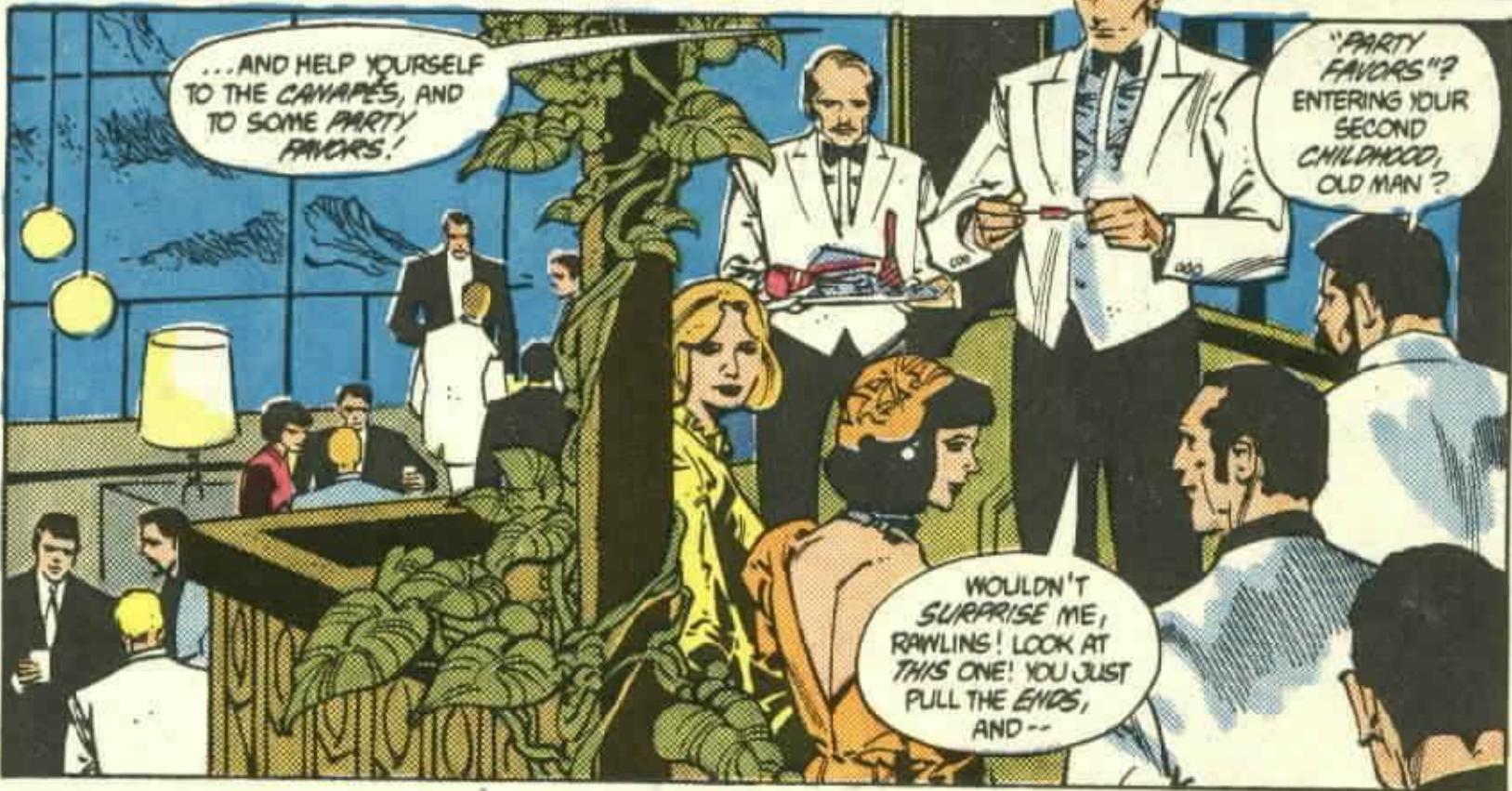
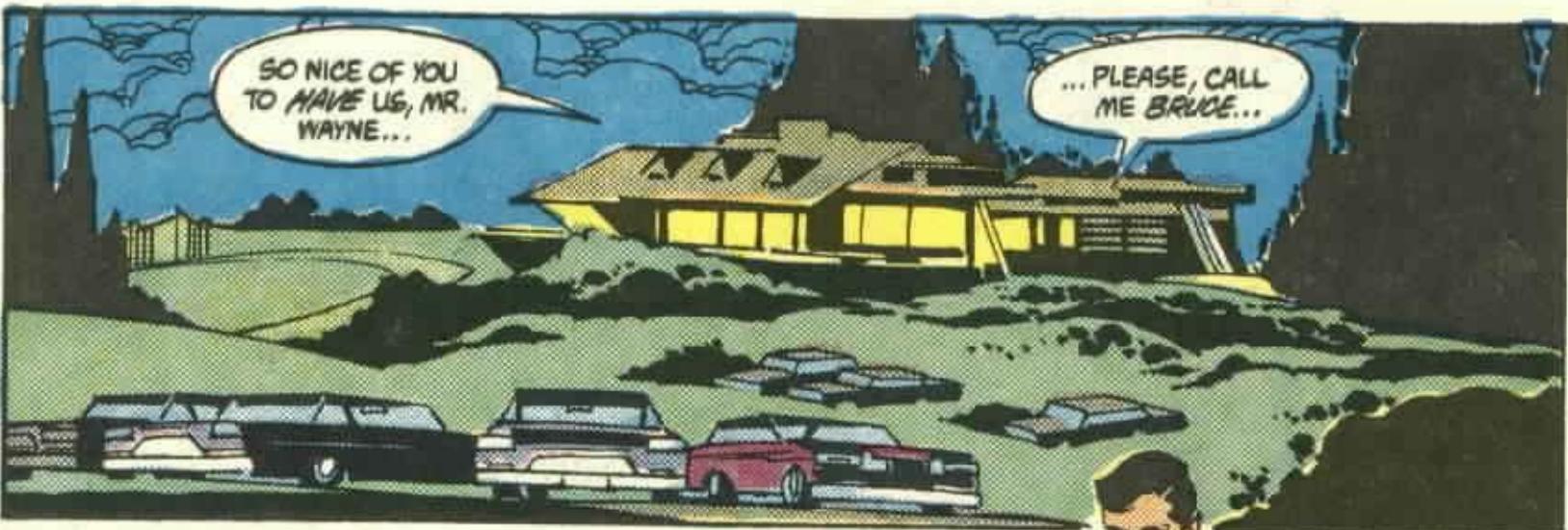


**BAT MAN**  
SECOND FACE:  
THE AVENGER

**INNOCENT  
BLOOD!**

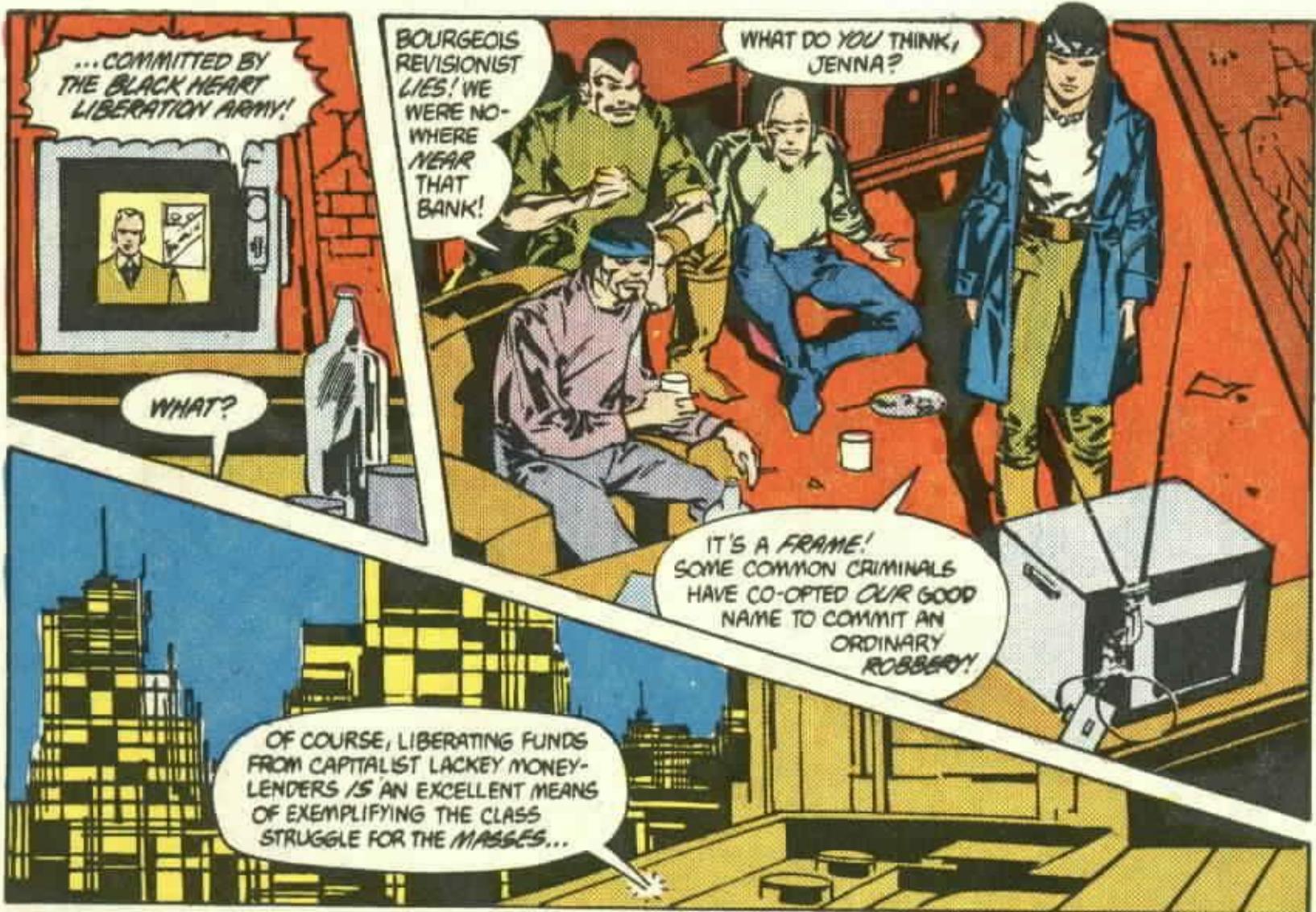
ILLUSTRATED BY  
ALEX NIHO

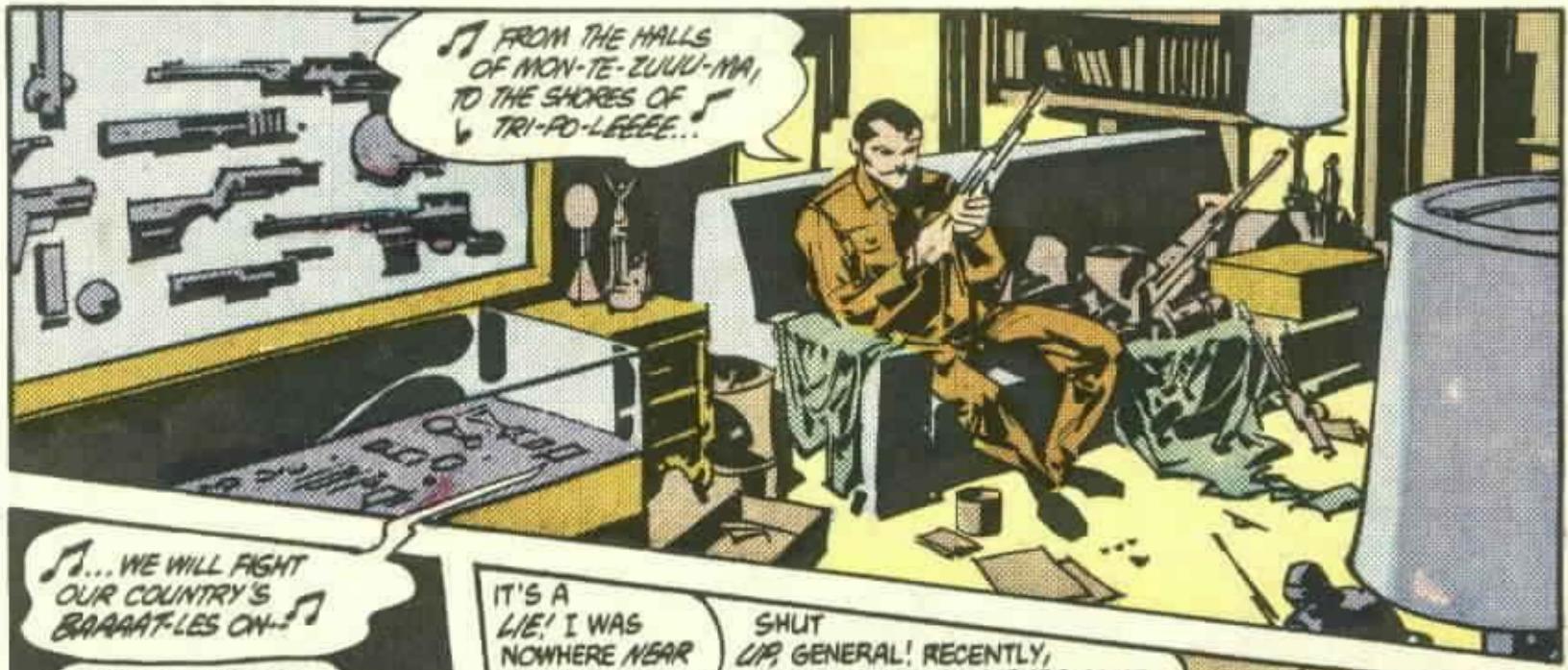














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HAN! SHOW  
HIM, JENNA...





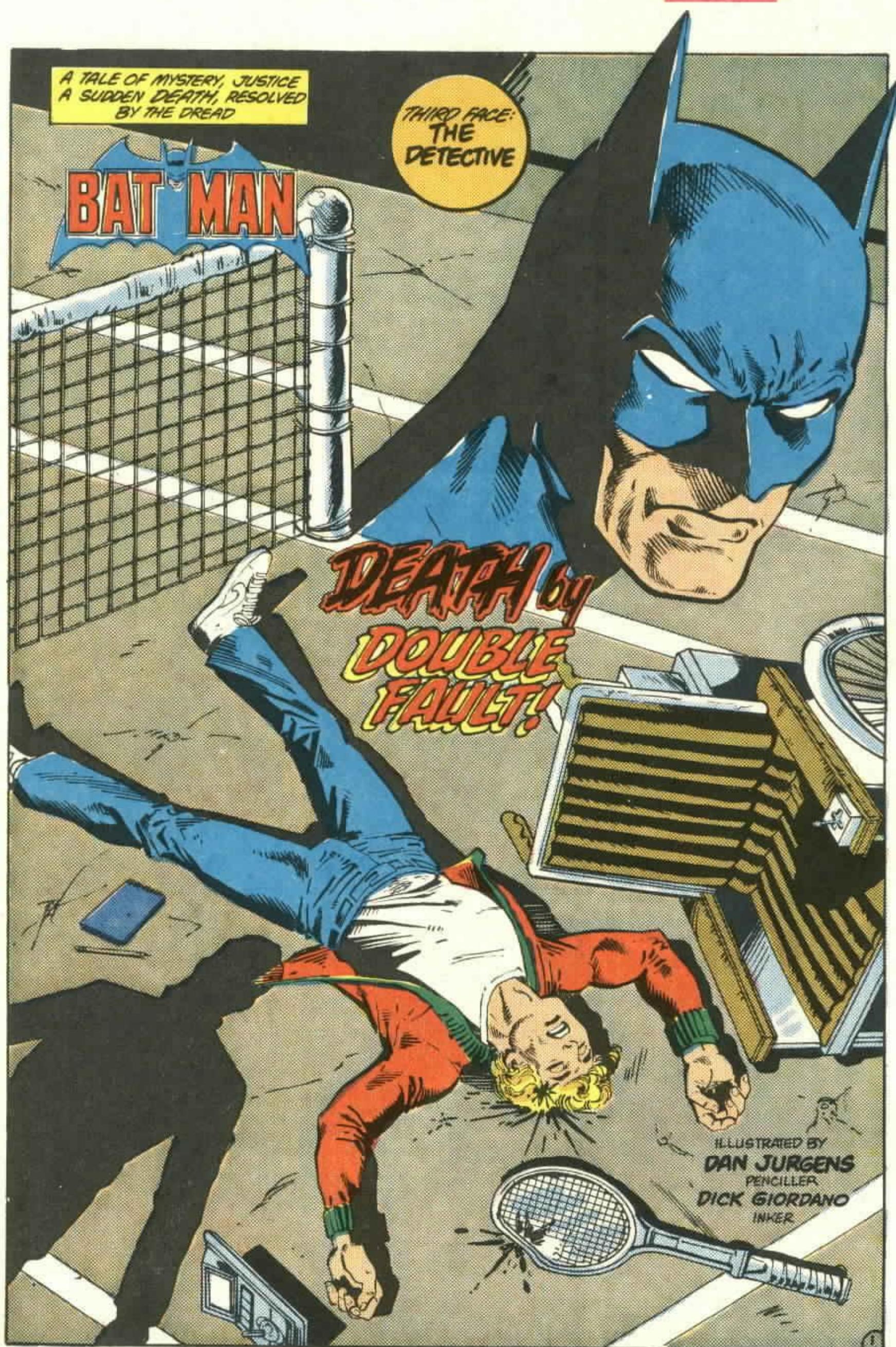
A TALE OF MYSTERY, JUSTICE  
A SUDDEN DEATH, RESOLVED  
BY THE DREAD

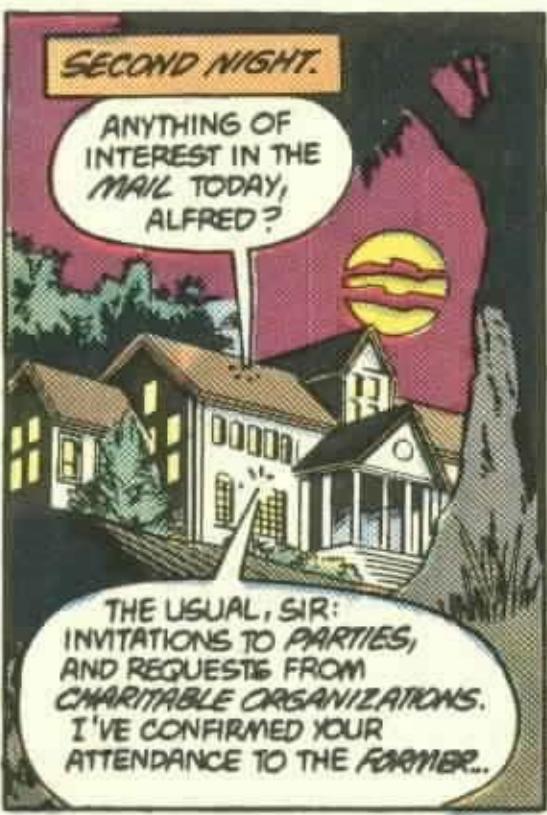
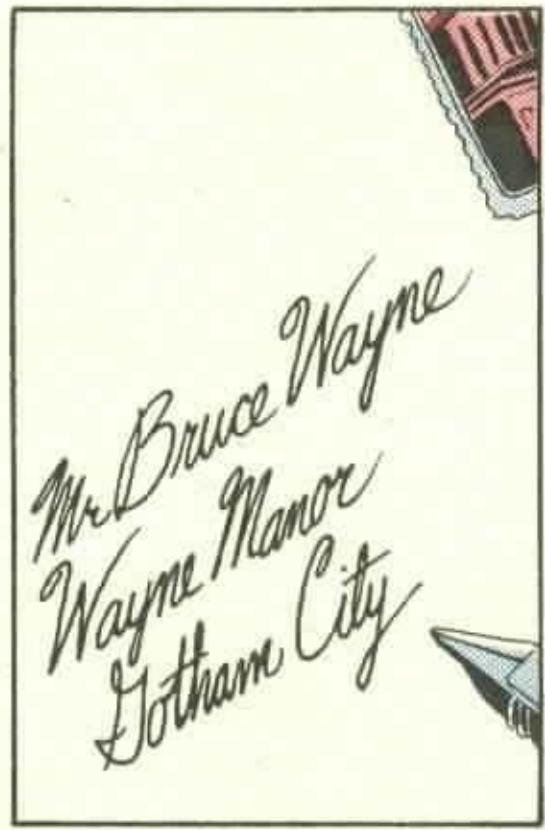
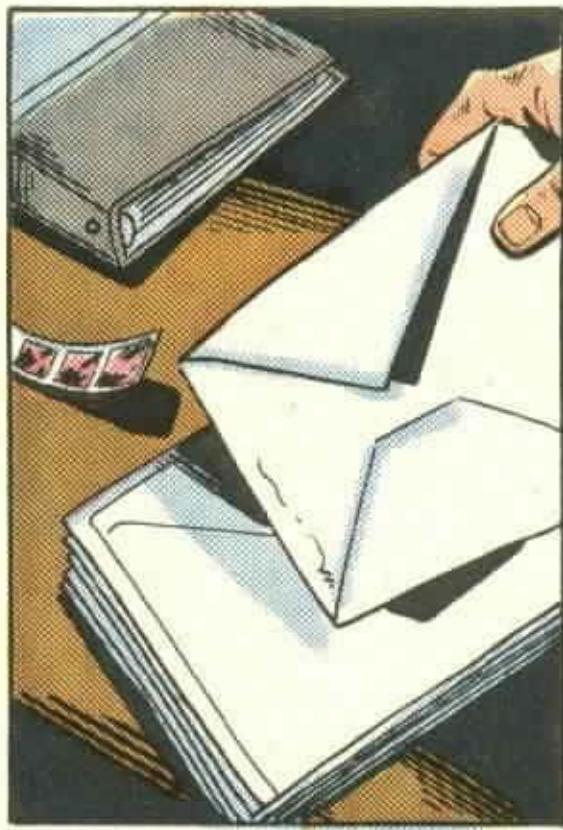
THIRD FACE:  
THE  
DETECTIVE

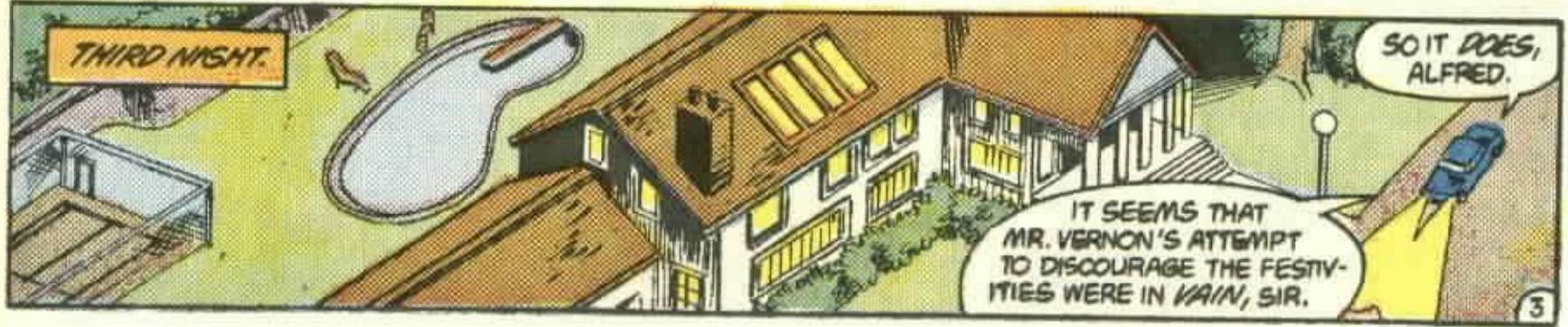
# BAT MAN

DEATH by  
**DOUBLE  
FAULT!**

ILLUSTRATED BY  
**DAN JURGENS**  
PENCILLER  
**DICK GIORDANO**  
INKER











...BY GETTING YOURSELF CAUGHT WITH OTHER MEN WHEN I WAS OUT ON THE CIRCUIT! THE TWO OF US COULD HAVE BEEN VERY HAPPY...

PHILIP,  
PLEASE...

"PLEASE" WHAT, FATHER? FORGET HER BETRAYAL? FORGET HOW HARD I TRIED TO WIN YOUR LOVE, FIRST BY CONSTANT TRAINING, THEN BY ALL THOSE COCKS?

WAIT  
HERE.

WRRRRRRR

PHIL, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO THESE PEOPLE?

YES, THEY DESERVE IT! AT LEAST THEY CAN STILL WALK! ALL I CAN DO IS SIT HERE ON THIS USELESS TENNIS COURT, WITH MY MEMORIES...

THEY DESERVE IT, BRUCE! EVEN LARRY WOULD BE NOTHING WITHOUT THE CONTRACTS I'VE GIVEN HIM... AND I'VE MADE SURE HE KNOWS IT!

...JUST LIKE I PRETEND TO KNOW WHICH ONE CRIPPLED ME!

WHAT?

QUIET! I TRUST YOU, BRUCE. I KNOW YOU DIDN'T CRIPPLE ME...

I APPRECIATE THAT, PHIL--

DON'T; I HAD A PRIVATE DETECTIVE CHECK YOUR WHEREABOUTS THAT NIGHT!

OH, BUT THEN, WHY--

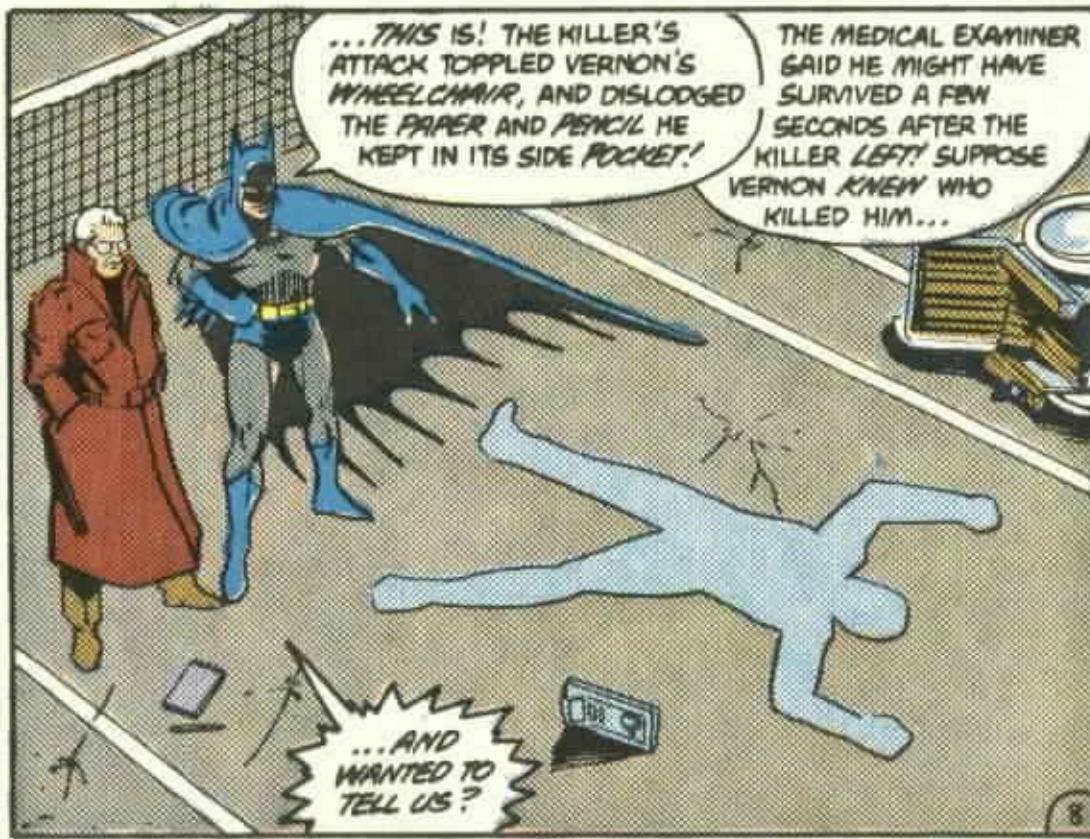
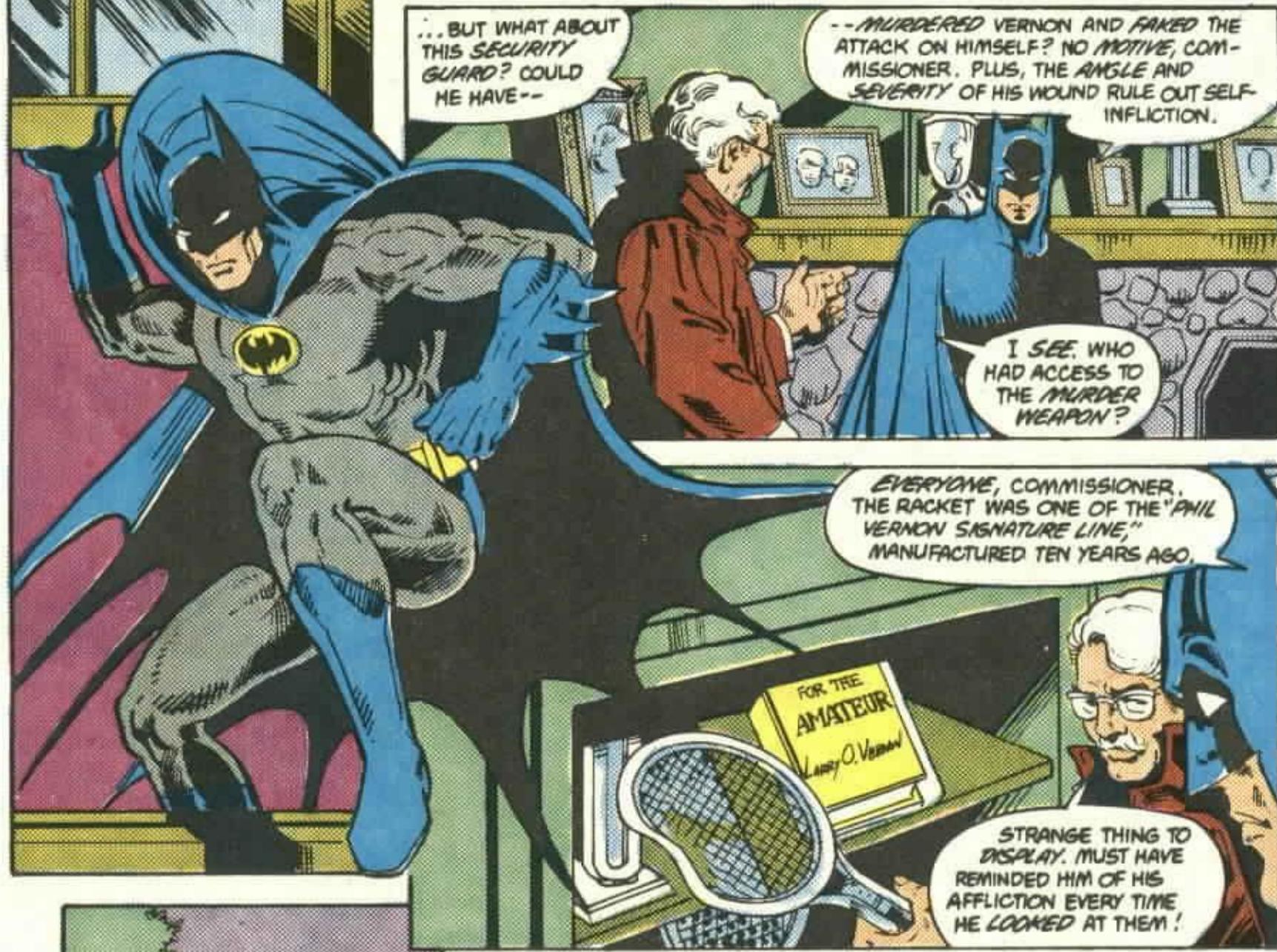
...AND I'VE GOT THAT SECURITY GUARD HIDING OVER THERE, JUST IN CASE I NEED HELP!

OH, YOU NEED HELP ALL RIGHT, PHIL...

BECAUSE I HAVE TO KNOW WHO DID IT! I EXPECT THE REAL CRIPPLER WILL CONFRONT ME SOMETIME TONIGHT...

...BUT NOT THE KIND A SECURITY GUARD CAN GIVE!





HE COULDN'T USE THE PAPER AND PENCIL... THEY WERE BEYOND HIS REACH... WHAT ELSE IS THERE, BATMAN?

40  
40  
40  
GAME POINT SCORED

THIS, COMMISSIONER! TRACES OF BLOOD ON THIS VIDEO GAME INDICATE HE TOUCHED IT AFTER HE WAS ATTACKED...

...AND FOR WHAT OTHER REASON THAN TO LEAVE A DYING MESSAGE TO IDENTIFY HIS KILLER?

ALL THE SUSPECTS HAVE A 40 "CONNECTION," COMMISSIONER...

HMM...  
40...

LARRY VERNON!  
YOU SAID HE'S 40 YEARS OLD!

JANE CLAREBORN WORKS FOR CHANNEL 40...

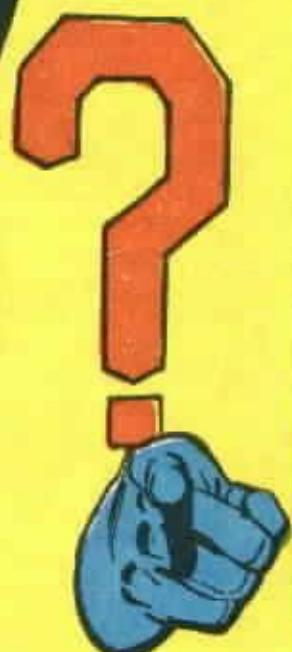
...AND PHILIP VERNON, SENIOR, RECEIVES HIS MAIL AT GOTHAM GENERAL DELIVERY... POST OFFICE BOX 40!

THEN VERNON WOULD HAVE CHOSEN THE SCORE "40-40," SIR--"FORTY ALL," NOT "40-0"--A LOVE GAME! EACH SUSPECT HAS A 40 CONNECTION...

...BUT ONLY ONE HAS A 40-0 CONNECTION-- AND THAT'S THE KILLER!

YOU'VE SEEN EVERYTHING THE CAPED CRIMINOLOGIST HAS SEEN, READER! HE KNOWS WHO KILLED PHILIP VERNON...

THEN THE 40 CLUE APPLIES TO ALL OF THEM!  
THEY ALL KILLED HIM!



DO YOU?

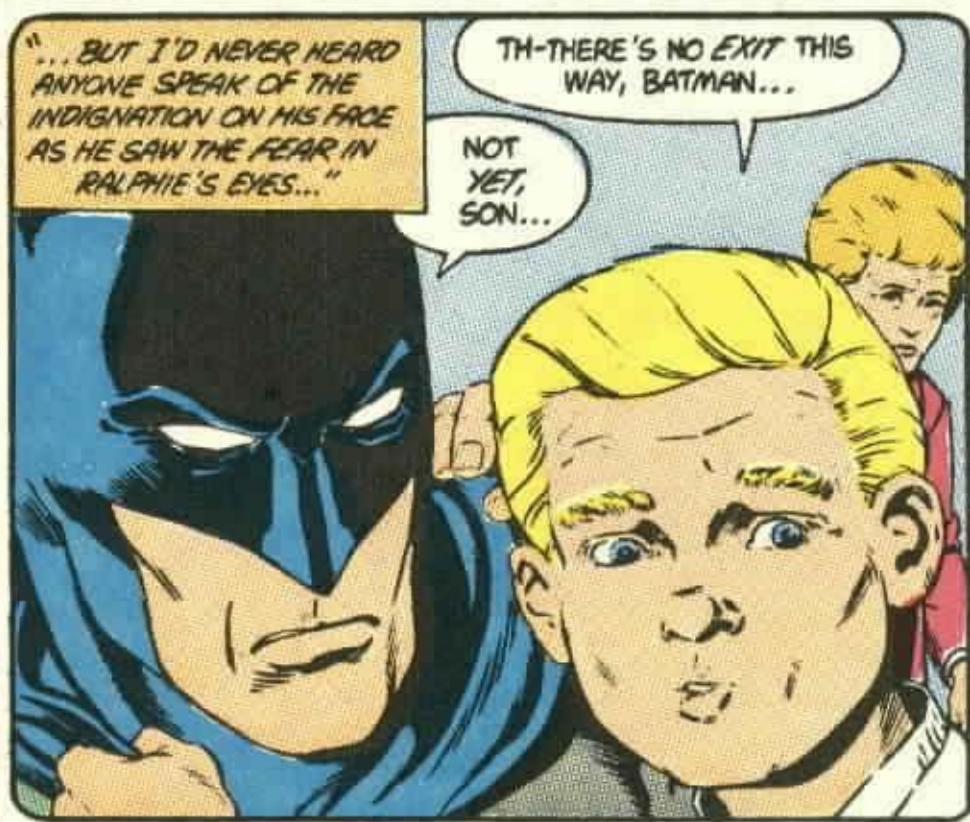


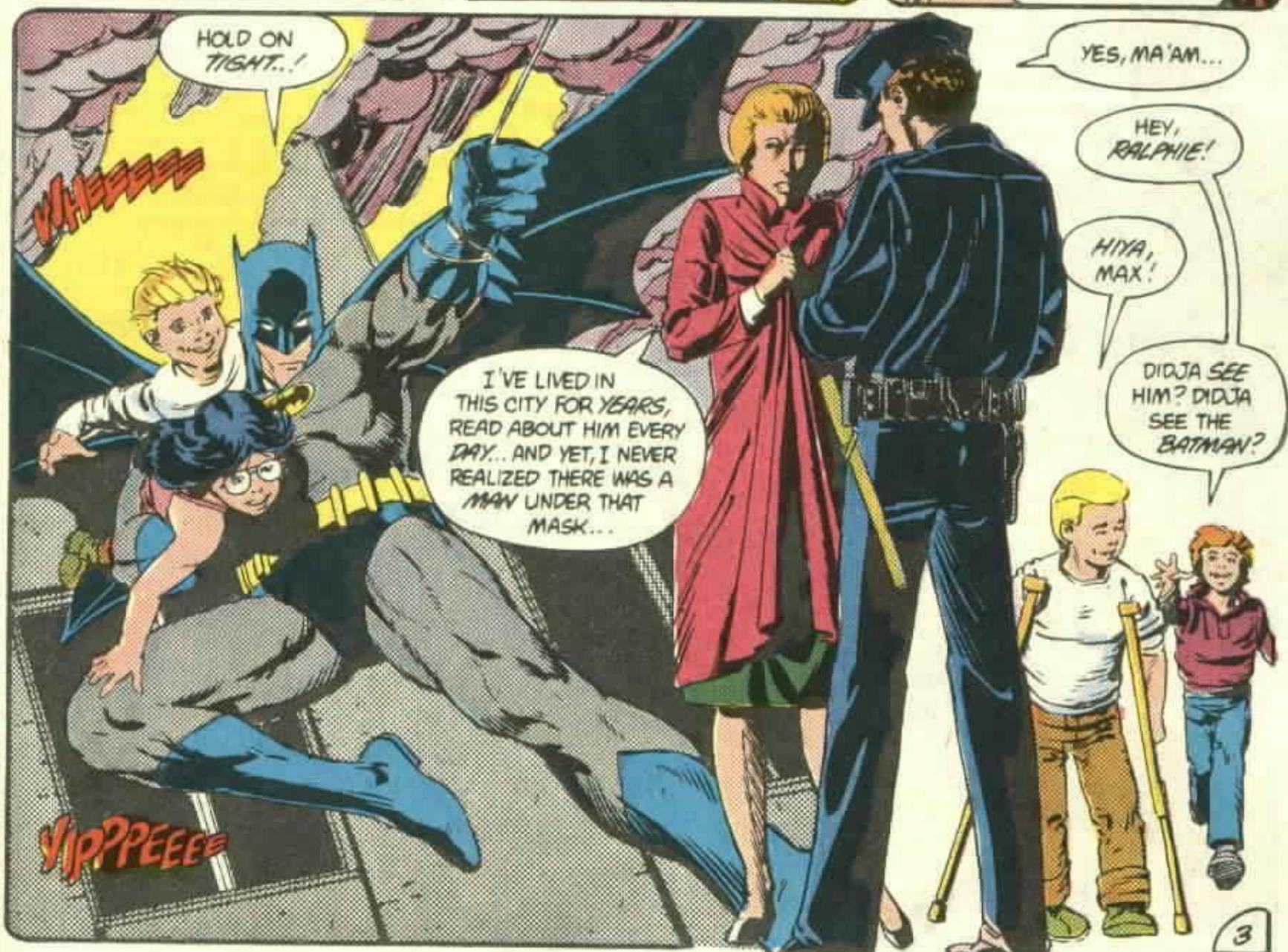
# GAME POINT SCORED

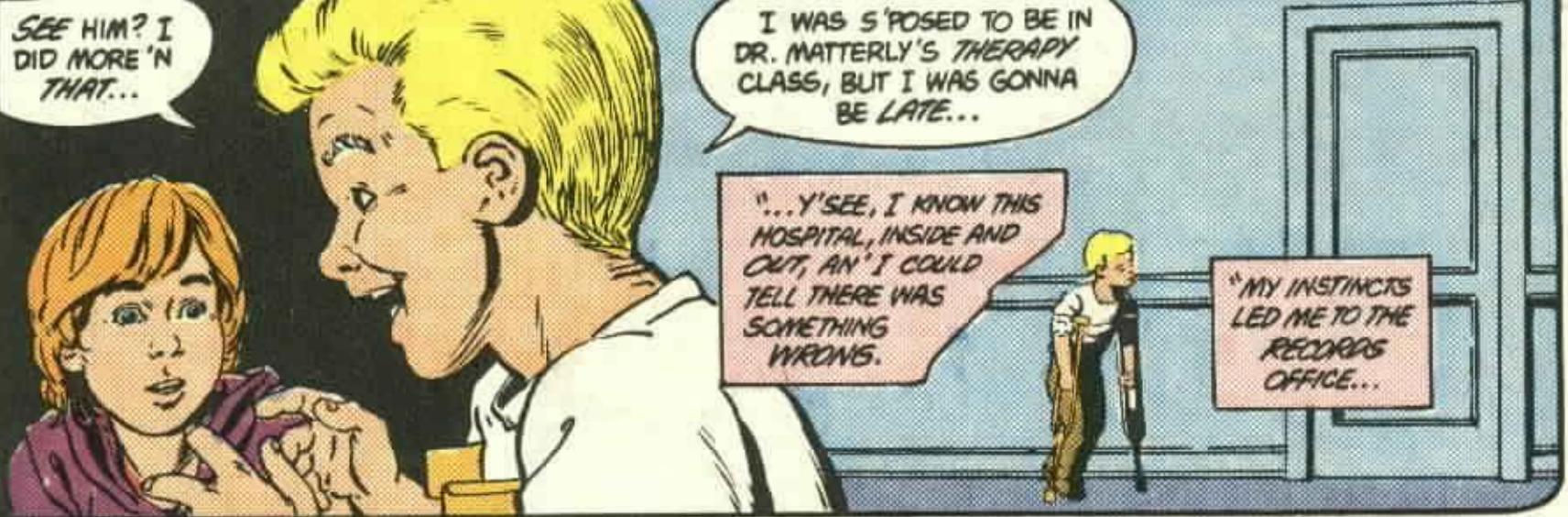
# FOURTH FACE: THE MAN "PERSPECTIVES!"

ILLUSTRATED BY  
PAUL SMITH





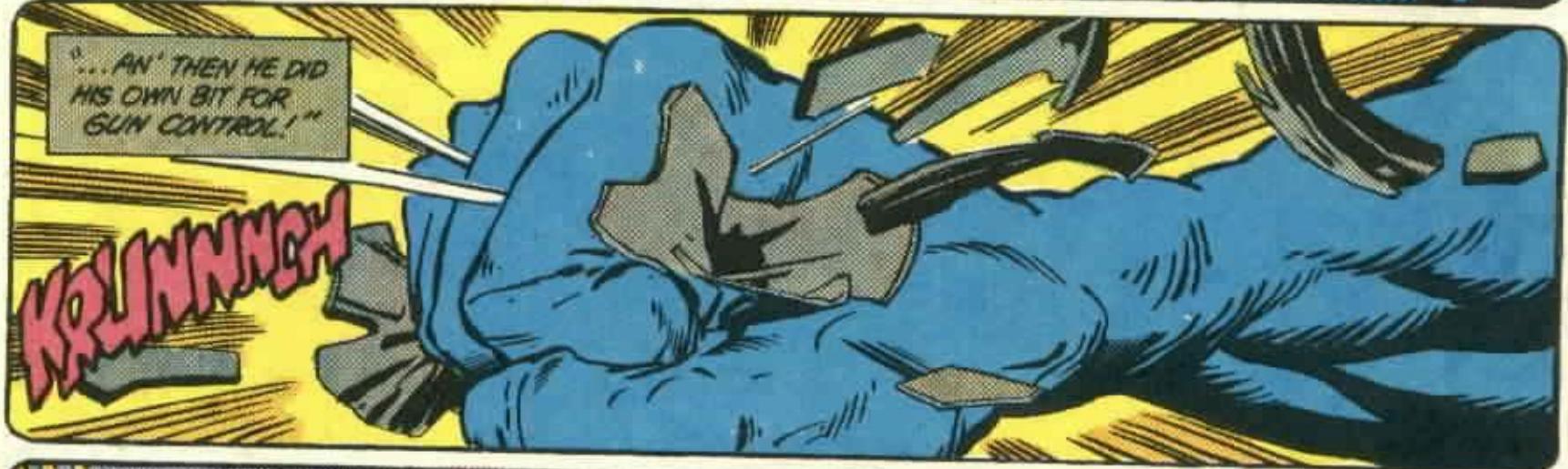




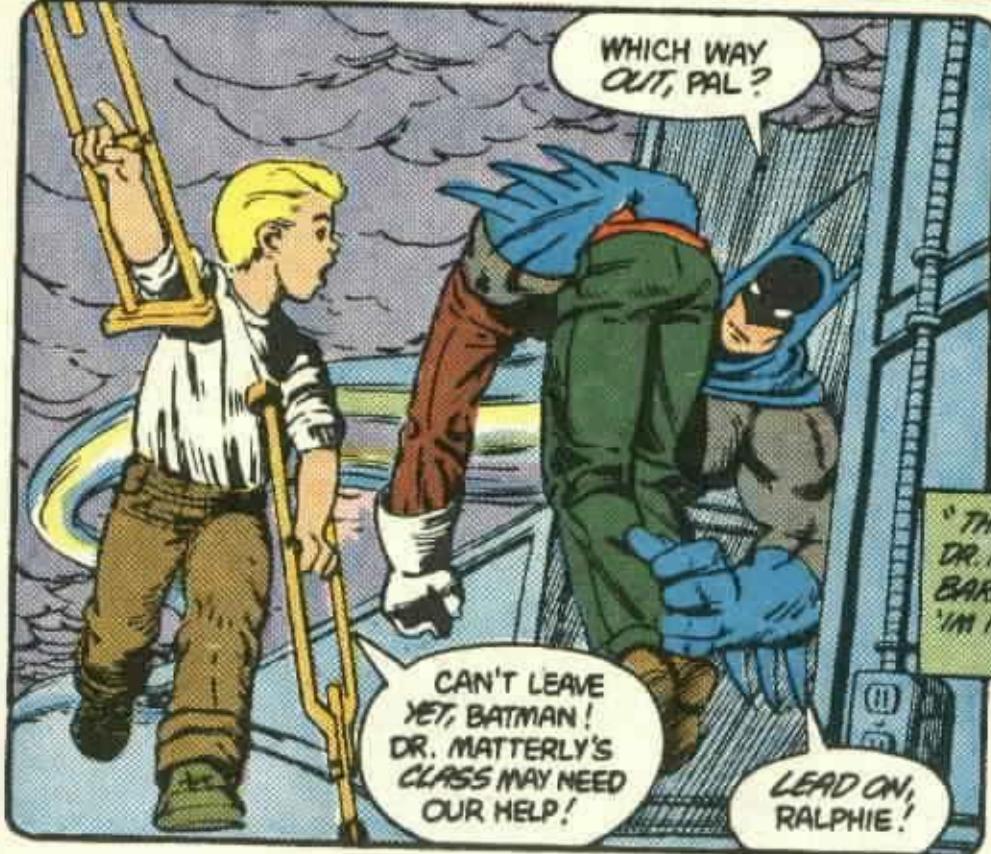
"BATS HIT 'IM WITH A FIST THE SIZE'A  
MOUNT RUSHMORE..."



"...AN' THEN HE DID  
HIS OWN BIT FOR  
GUN CONTROL!"



WHICH WAY  
OUT, PAL?

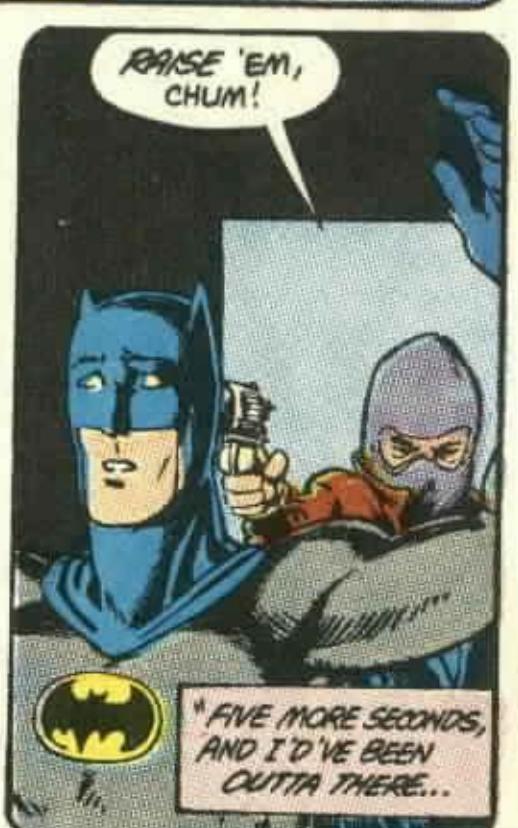


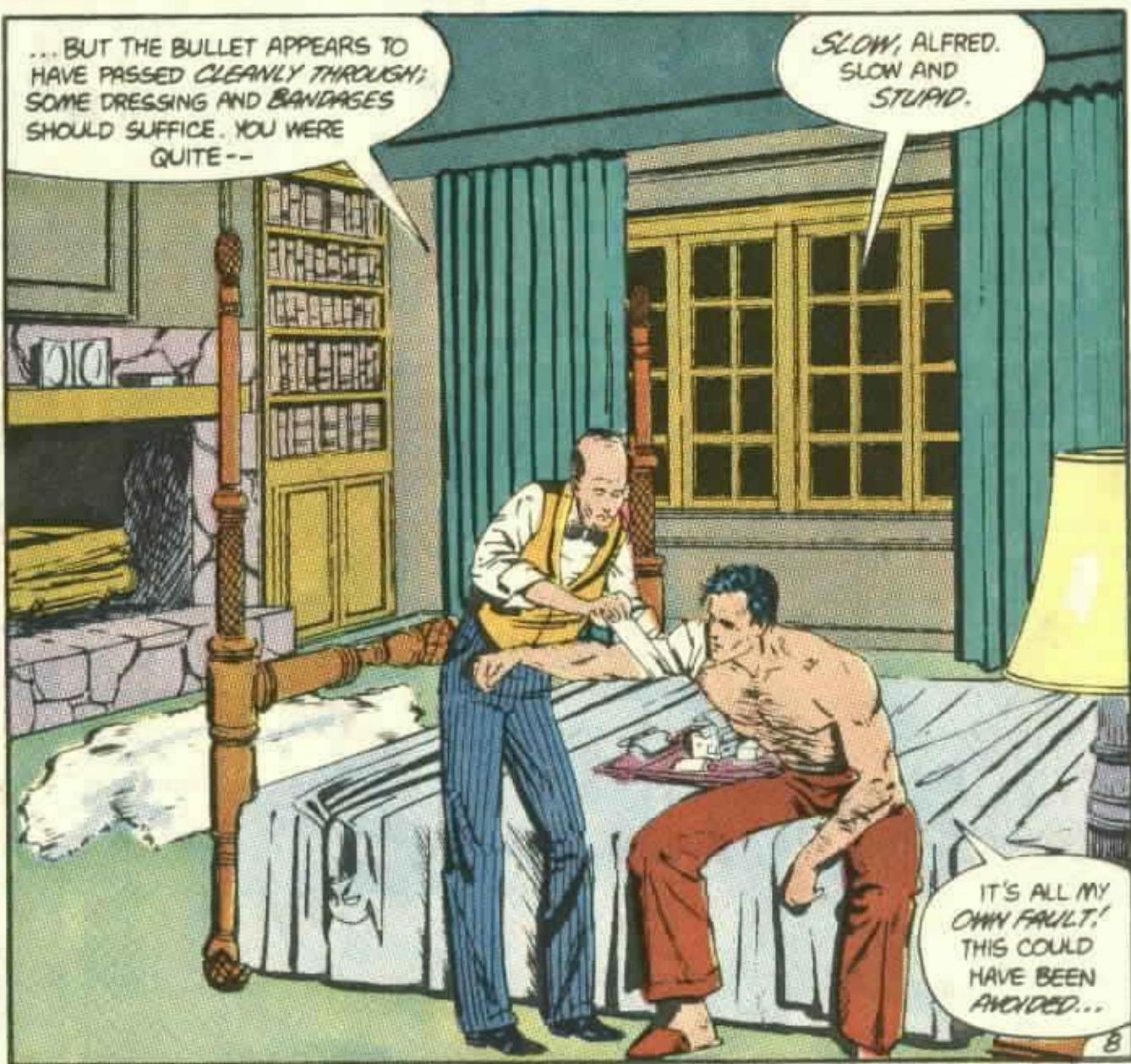
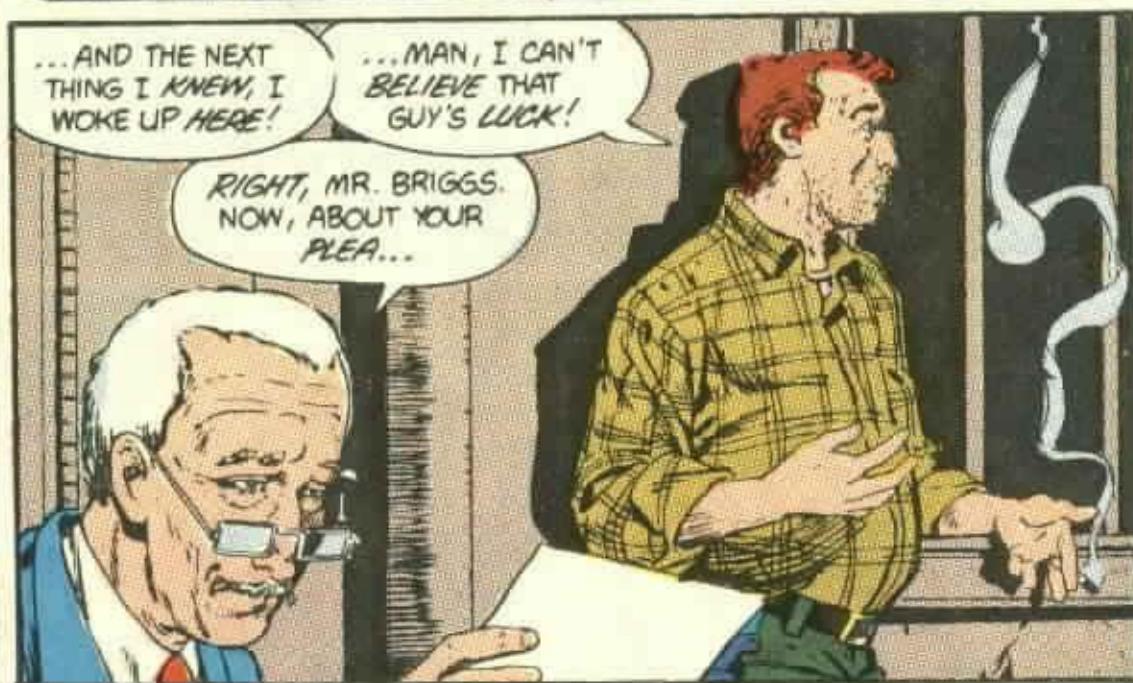
"THEN BATS SAVED  
DR. M. FROM BEIN'  
BARBECUED! I LET  
'IM HANDLE THAT BY  
HIMSELF..."



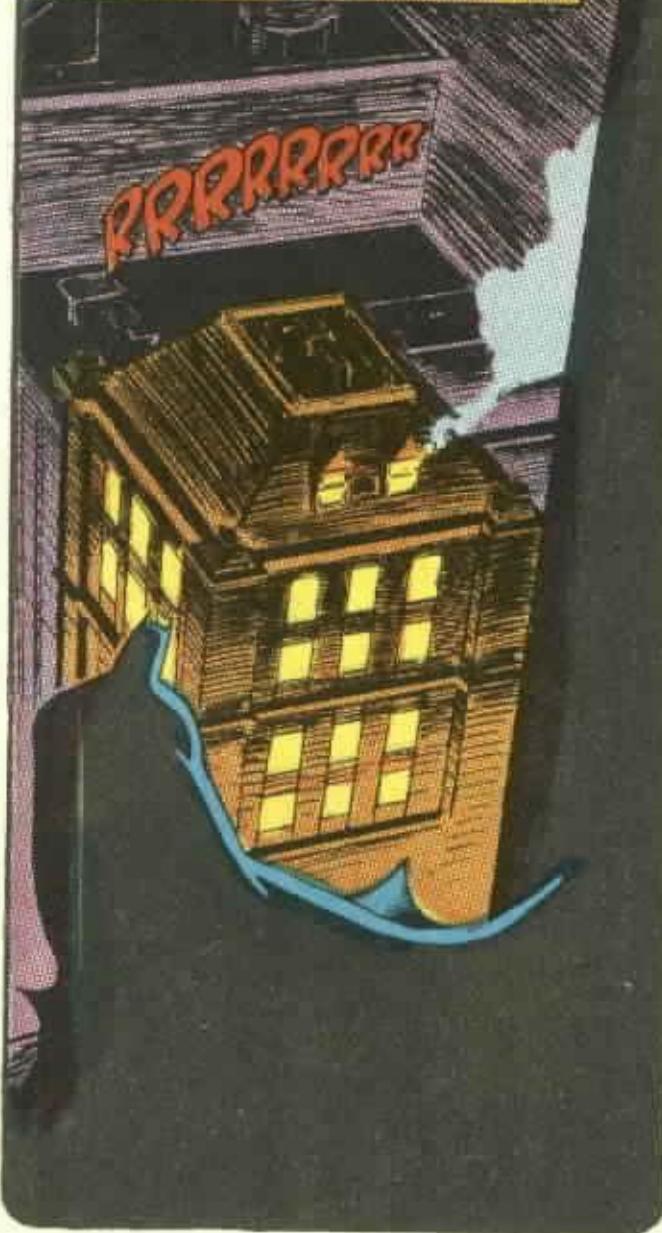


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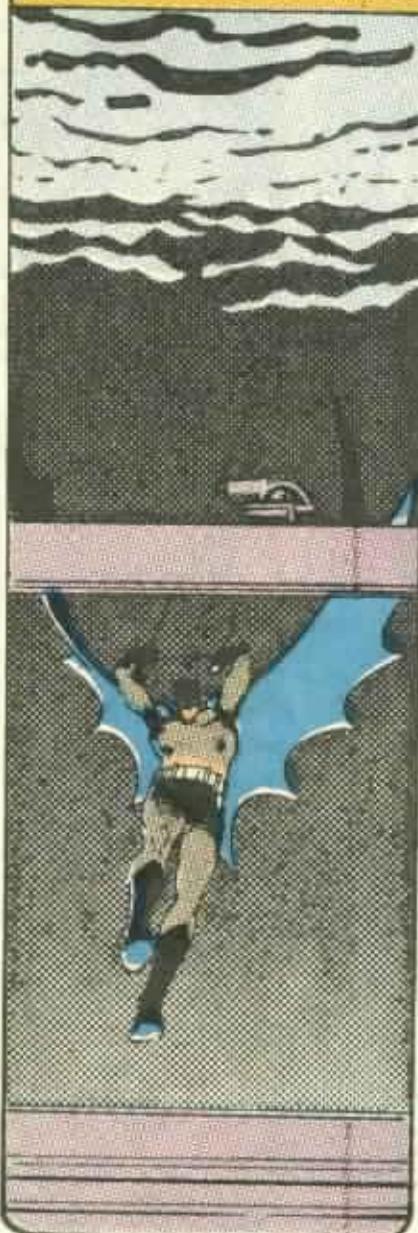




"BUT I LET MY EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF ME. WHEN I HEARD THE ALARM SOUND..."



"...ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS MAKING SURE EVERYONE GOT OUT SAFELY."



"SO WHEN I SAW A SHADOW ON A PEBBLED GLASS DOOR, I ASSUMED IT WAS A HOSPITAL WORKER, OR A PATIENT."



"THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THAT SORT OF CARELESSNESS. I'D BEEN UP ONLY THIRTY-SIX HOURS."

WHO-?

"YOU'VE BEEN WARNED. NOW YOU'LL MAKE YOUR MOVE."



"HE DIDN'T SEE THE CEILING ABOVE HIM ABOUT TO COLLAPSE. FOR A MOMENT, I WAS TEMPTED TO SAVE THE STATE SOME MONEY..."

CROOOOM!

"...BUT I WASN'T ABOUT TO MAKE IT THAT EASY FOR HIM. I WANTED HIM TO GET A FAIR TRIAL, BEFORE HE WAS SHIPPED OFF TO PRISON."



"OF COURSE, HE HAD A GUN, BUT THAT WAS NO OBSTACLE. I ALMOST HAD HIM DOWN..."



"...THEN  
I GOT  
CARELESS."

GET OUT OF  
HERE, SON,  
BEFORE--



"I MOVED,  
TOOK THE  
SLUG IN THE  
SHOULDER  
INSTEAD OF  
THE HEART..."

BANG



"...THEN I GOT  
DOWN TO CASES."

AFTER THAT, ALL  
I HAD TO DO WAS  
MAKE MY WAY OUT.  
I'VE BEEN TOO EASY  
ON MYSELF, ALFRED.

SET THE ALARM  
FOR 5:00 A.M., I'LL  
PUT IN AN EXTRA HOUR  
OF TRAINING  
TOMORROW.

SIR, I  
DON'T--

YES,  
SIR.



G-U-E-S-T

# MEANWHILE...

The year 1984 saw many anniversaries observed in the comics world. Most of these were proclaimed from splashes of color or gold bands on covers. But, at least in my neighborhood, one set of anniversaries, milestones in the world of comics, seem to have passed unnoticed.



It was the thirtieth anniversary of Dr. Frederic Wertham's *Seduction of the Innocent* and the formulation of the Comic Book Code.

For those who may have missed the book, *Seduction of the Innocent*, or *SOTI*, as it is known to fans, was the work of a psychologist, apparently a decent sort of fellow, who held two major ideals:

- a. violence is bad
- b. enhanced communication will diminish violence

During the great "juvenile delinquent" phase of American culture in the fifties, when people were searching for explanations of what was seen as a mass uprising by American teenagers, Dr. Wertham came to the conclusion that television and comic books, especially comic books, all comic books, were the cause of the evil. They violated both his ideals by glorifying violence and telling stories in picture form, rendering young minds incapable of comprehending or communicating complex or abstract ideas.

To read *SOTI* today is to read a textbook in dysphemism and muckraking. Dr. Wertham seems to have decided that comic books were evil and then gathered the facts to prove it. The book relies heavily on Finagle's Ninth Precept: "If you tell people something, nine out of ten will believe it without asking questions. And if you add that your facts are the result of a scientific survey, the percentage goes up." The fact that Dr. Wertham believed everything he wrote gives the writing more fervor. *SOTI* and the doctor's later works are still quoted and cited by the protectors of youth. (Dr. Wertham, in the seventies, also wrote a book on fan magazines. He approved of them, because they represented a means of communication.)



The U.S. Congress investigated comic books in 1954, among other things. (There was also an investigation of paperback book covers under way.) Hoping to avoid any further federal heat, comic book publishers decided to set up a batch of rules for internal regulation. One might assume Dr. Wertham would have been pleased, but one would be assuming incorrectly. Dr. Wertham gave his opinion of previous codes in *SOTI*: they were attempts by the publishers to cover up their own misdeeds. Dr. Wertham condemned not just the primarily violent titles, the

horror and crime titles, but all comic books, from *BUGS BUNNY* to *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* and back again.



No one can be found, in fact, to say a good word for the Code. Or can there? Actually, the Code did its work well, and did it twice. First, it forced comic book writers and artists to throw away the old cliches and old hackneyed plots, now forbidden under the Code, and come up with new ones. (Whether the result was more artistic or more readable can be debated. The era produced its peaks and its Death Valleys, but so did the pre-Code era.) Then, after the passage of a suitable number of years, it allowed for a "rebirth" of comics, as new writers "dared the Code," throwing away the new cliches and new hackneyed plots and returning to the old ones.



Dr. Wertham has gone the way of EC Comics, and the Comic Book Code hasn't been at all well, lately. But the comic book industry continues, as do the people who would like to see it restrained by law. Different muckrakers with different codes will come along, and the comic book industry may fight or it may hide behind more internal regulations, and if anyone looks back at the events of 1954 at all, it will probably be to shrug and say, "Well, that was just another phase we went through."

Which is what commemorating anniversaries is all about.

Dan Crawford  
940 N. Franklin St.  
Manchester, Iowa 52057

**D C**  
ON SALE THE  
**CHECK**  
WEEK OF APRIL 11  
**L I S T**

**Red Tornado 1:** A four-issue mini-series where the android gets his act together!

- Batman 385:** Batman and Robin face dangers on the streets of Gotham!
- The Flash 347:** The trial concludes with the final summations!
- Superman 409:** Superman becomes "The Sleepwalker from Krypton."
- Star Trek® 16:** Kirk and company return from the Mirror Universe only to confront—the Federation!
- Amethyst 7:** The secret of Lord Garnet is revealed!
- Jemm, Son of Saturn 11:** The destruction of Claudius Tull!
- Arak, Son of Thunder 46:** The Son of Thunder meets the Norse god of Thunder!
- Omega Men 28:** Ryand'r meets the creatures of the synoptic net!
- Legion of Super-Heroes 12:** Amidst interstellar battle, three Legionnaires quit!
- Batman Annual 9:** The four faces of Batman presented by Barr, O'Neill, Jurgens, Giordano, Ordway, Nino, and P. Smith!