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BATMAN

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BATMAN

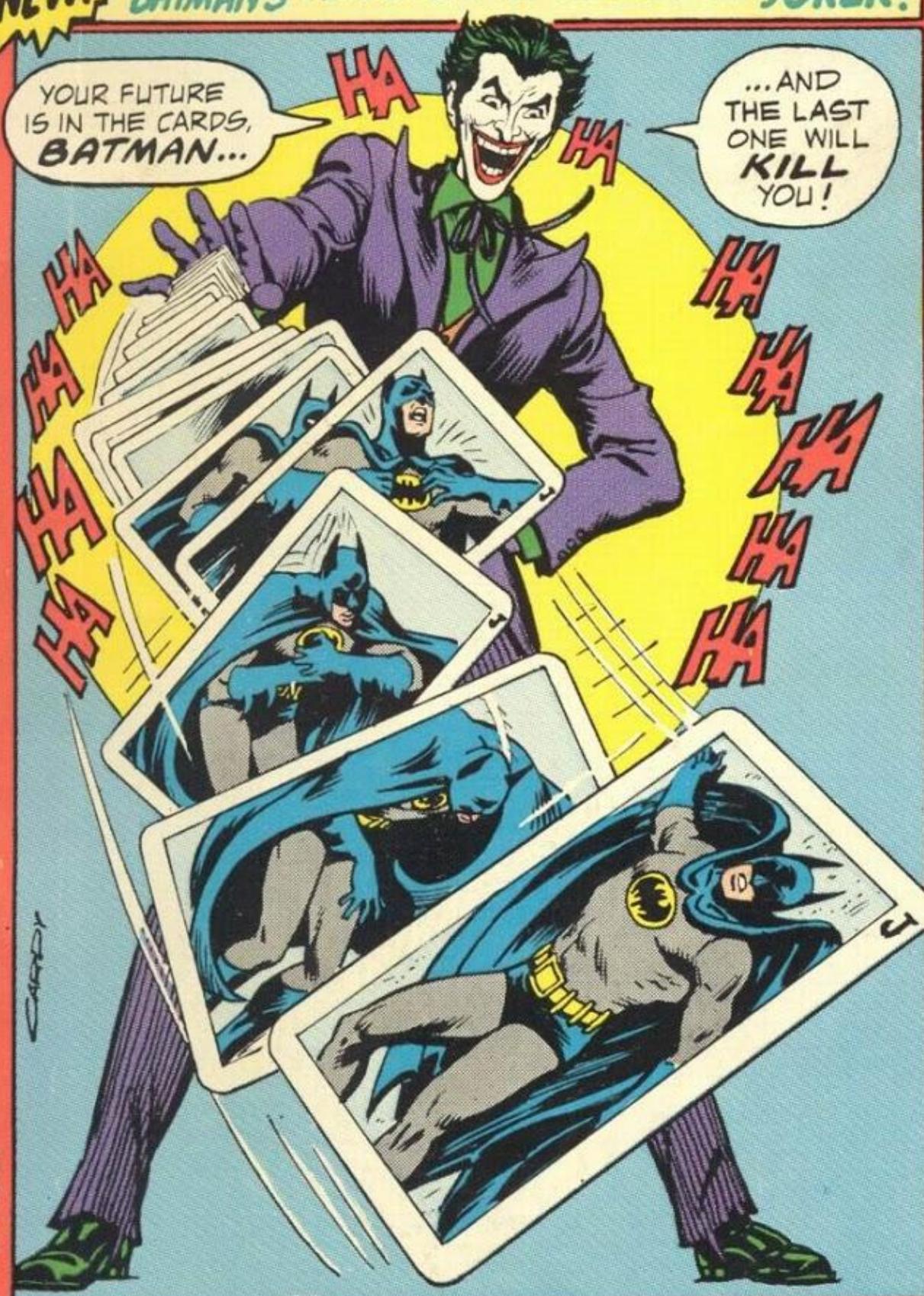
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YOUR FUTURE
IS IN THE CARDS,
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...AND
THE LAST
ONE WILL
KILL
YOU!

"THE RIDDLER'S
PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"



5-1861



ALFRED IN A SOLO
BAFFLER...
"The PEARL of PERIL!"

THIS
IS THE
DETECTIVE
BOOK THAT
CHALLENGES...

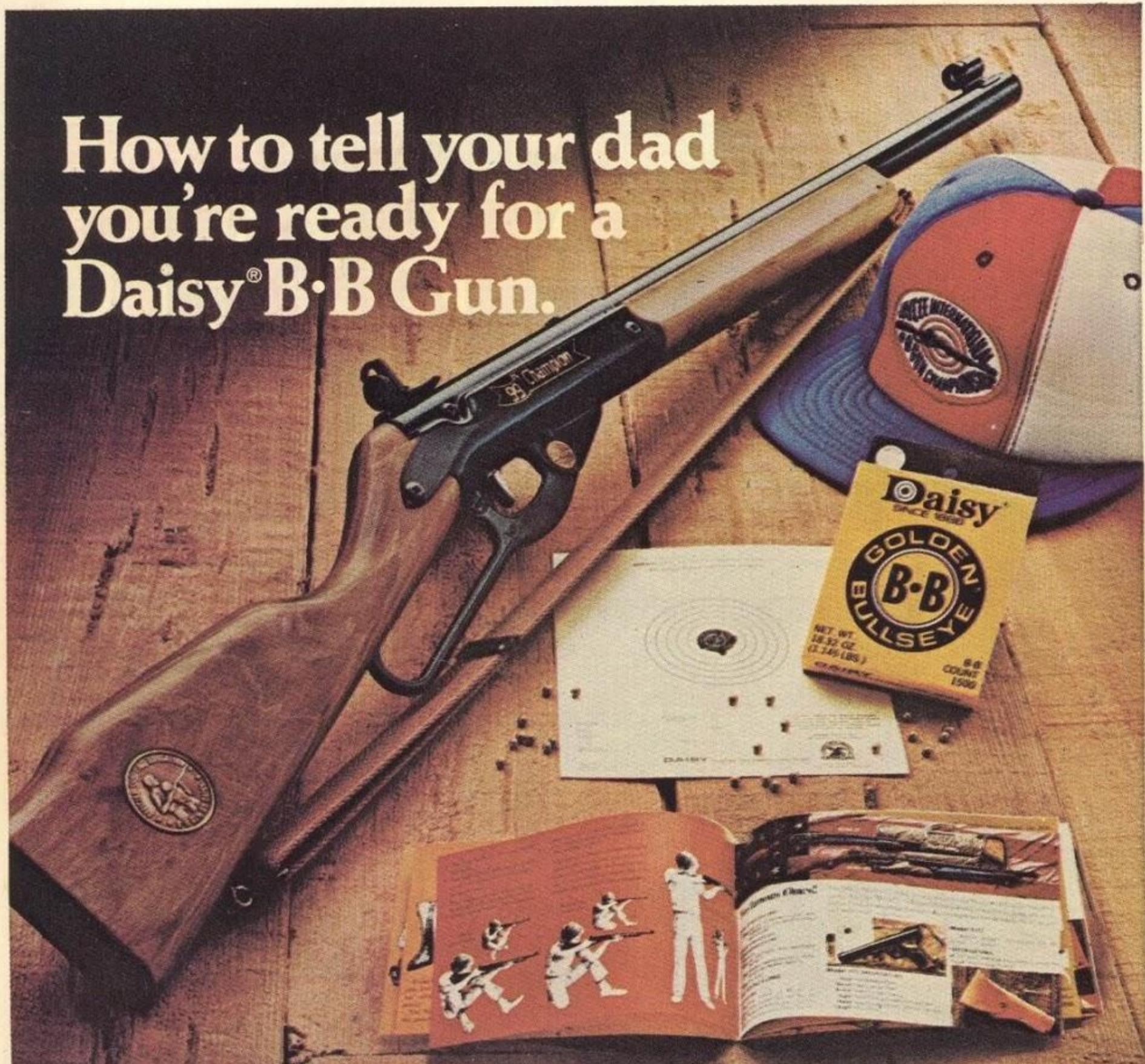
THE
STARS
DO
KILL

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AND THE
MYSTERY
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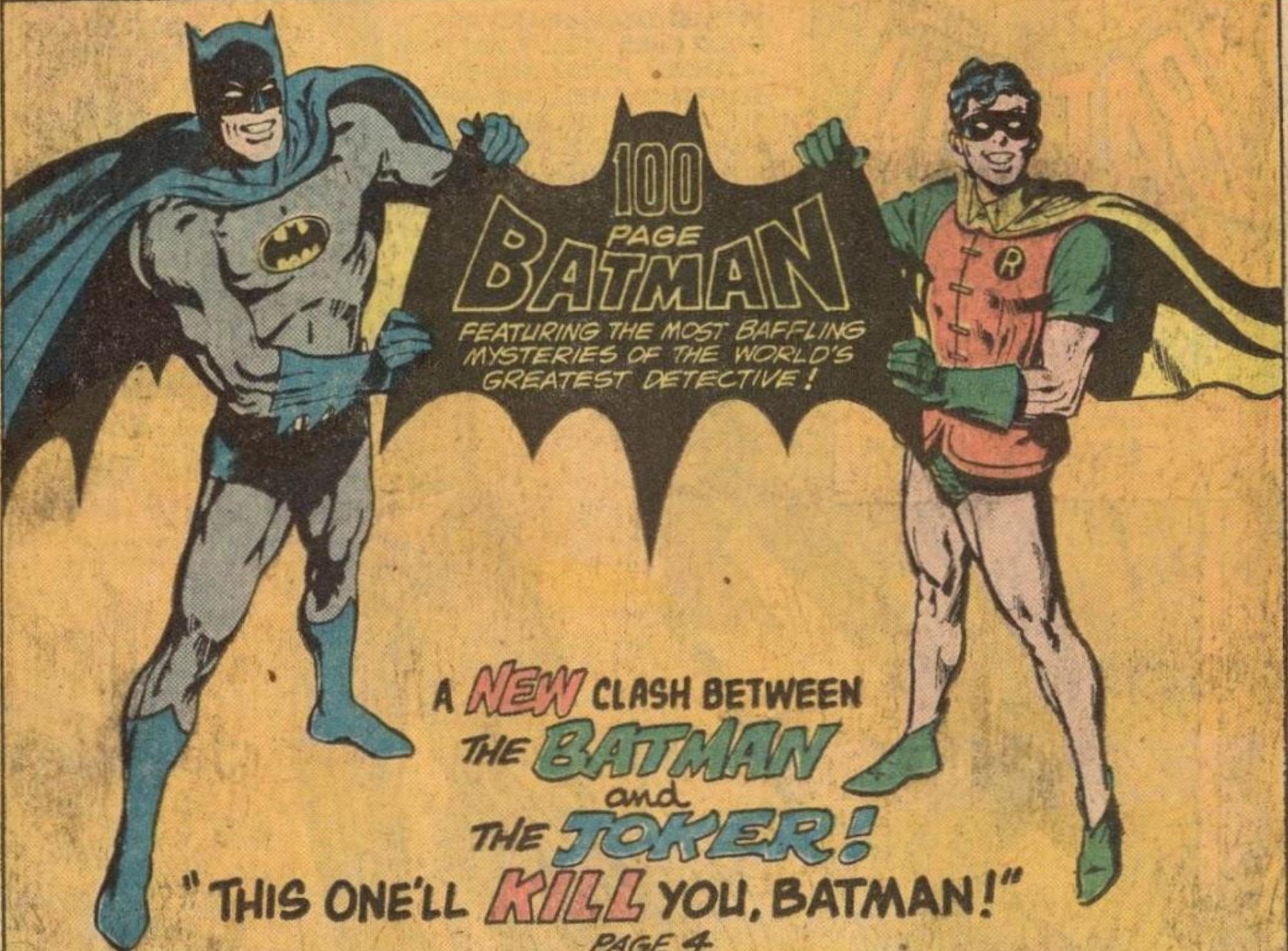
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100 PAGE BATMAN

FEATURING THE MOST BAFFLING MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE!

A NEW CLASH BETWEEN
THE BATMAN
and
THE JOKER!

"THIS ONE'LL KILL YOU, BATMAN!"

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WHAT WAS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MYSTERIOUS THEFTS AND A MILKMAN?

"THE GRADE A CRIMES!"

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THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS SET OUT TO SOLVE

"THE PERFECT CRIME-- SLIGHTLY IMPERFECT!"

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THE BATMAN FAILS! CAN BRUCE WAYNE SOLVE

"THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME!"

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Alfred IN A SOLO PUZZLER... "THE PEARL of PERIL!"

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THE CLUES ARE IMPOSSIBLE in

"THE RIDDLER'S PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"

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PLUS THESE EXTRAS!
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BATMAN

THRILLER

KNOW WHO HIS VICTIM IS?
HANG ON, BATMAN, THIS'LL
GRAB YOU! THE VICTIM IS--
READY, BATMAN?--THE
VICTIM IS Y-O-U!

HEY, BATMAN, HEARD ANY
GOOD ONES LATELY? YOU KNOW
-- JOKES! YOKS! GAGS!
BOFFOLAS! WELL, WE HAVE!
ALL ABOUT THIS JOKER, SEE--
AND HOW HE DOES THIS
HILARIOUS REVENGE BIT.

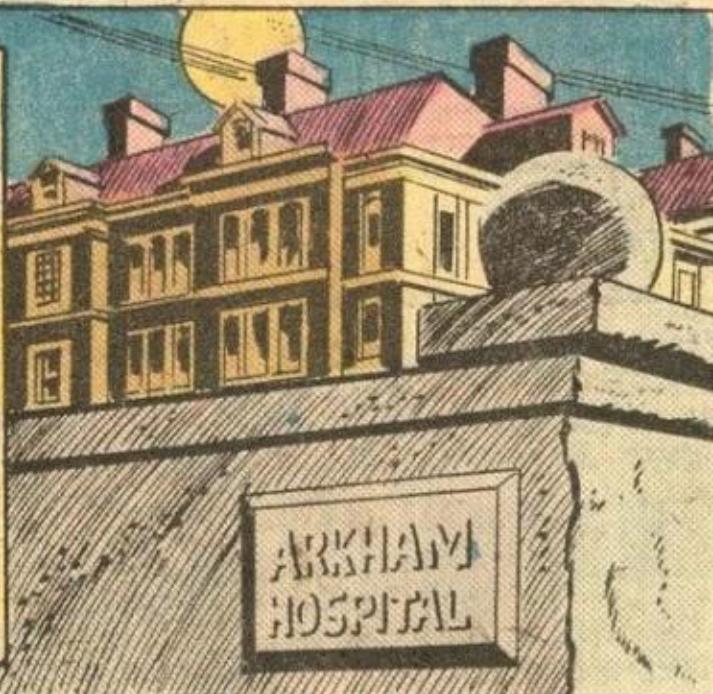
Story: DENNY O'NEIL
Art: IRV NOVICK
& DICK GIORDANO
Editing: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

WAIT--DON'T GO 'WAY--NOT TILL YOU'VE
'HEARD THE PUNCH LINE! NO KIDDING--

"This One'll KILL You, BATMAN!"

CHAPTER 1: "AND IF I LAUGH..."

AT THE EDGE OF ARKHAM, NEW ENGLAND, STANDS A FOREBODING STRUCTURE-- HOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN ALIVE-- THE ASYLUM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE--



INSIDE, ALL IS ROUTINE! NO ONE CAN GUESS THAT CHAOS IS ABOUT TO ERUPT...



...WAR-THREATS... ENERGY CRISIS... GUYS GETTIN' BRIBED! IT'S...



...IT'S THE FUNNIEST... HEE HEE HEE... FUNNIEST DARN STUFF...



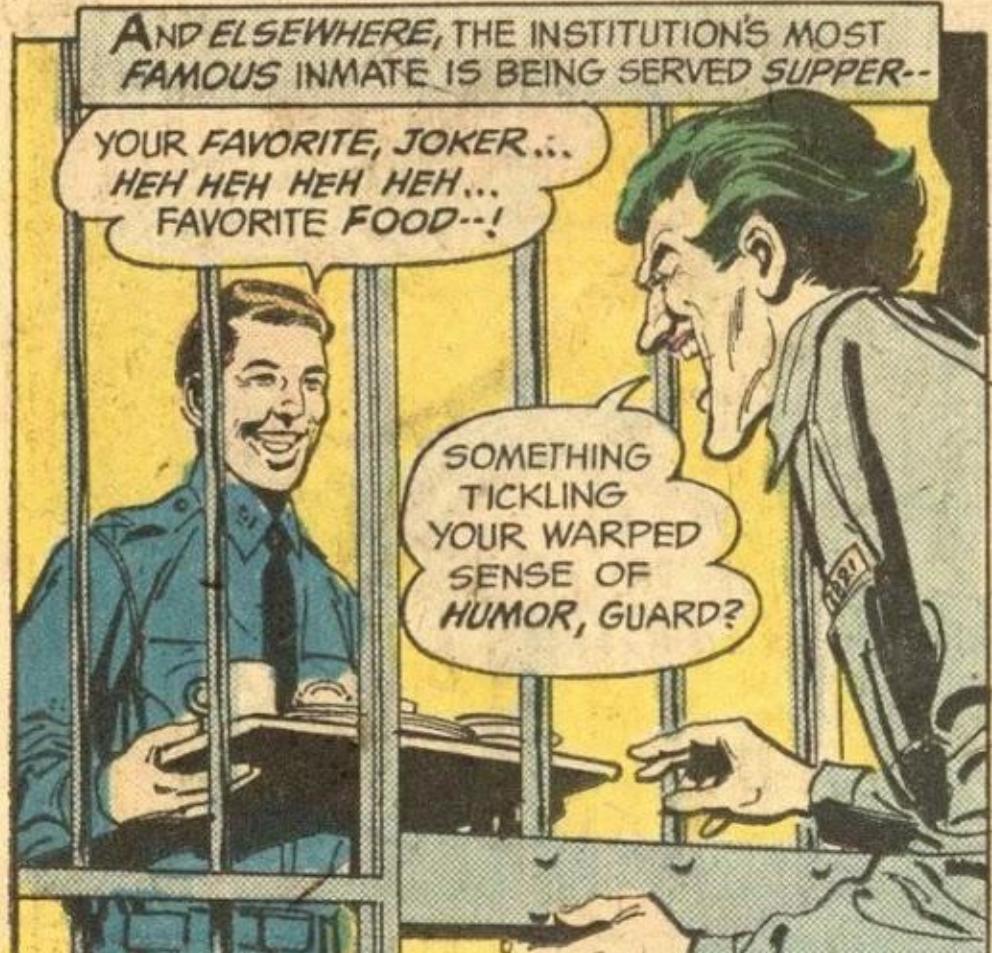
HA-HA-HA
HA-HA!



AND ELSEWHERE, THE INSTITUTION'S MOST FAMOUS INMATE IS BEING SERVED SUPPER--

YOUR FAVORITE, JOKER... HEH HEH HEH HEH... FAVORITE FOOD--!

SOMETHING TICKLING YOUR warped SENSE OF HUMOR, GUARD?



C-C-CAN'T S-STOP L-LAUGHING... HAHAHAHA...

YOU'RE HAVING SUCH A GOOD TIME...

...YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR KEYS!

HERE-- I'LL HOLD THEM FOR YOU!





THE FIRST TWO STOP AS THOUGH HIT WITH A WALL!



A MASTER OF UNARMED COMBAT IS THE BATMAN... KUNG FU--



--AND JUDO...



... AND AIKIDO...



...AND PLAIN OLD FISTICUFFS--!

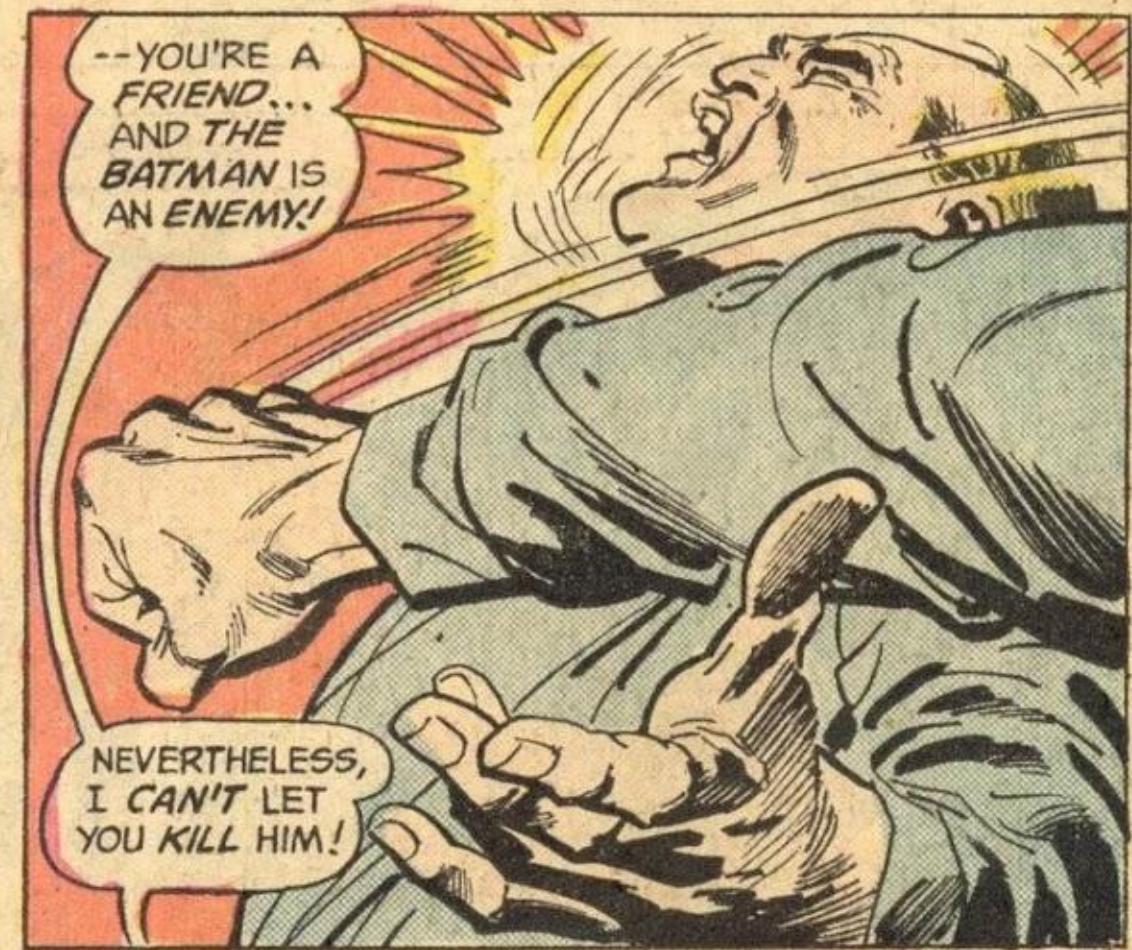
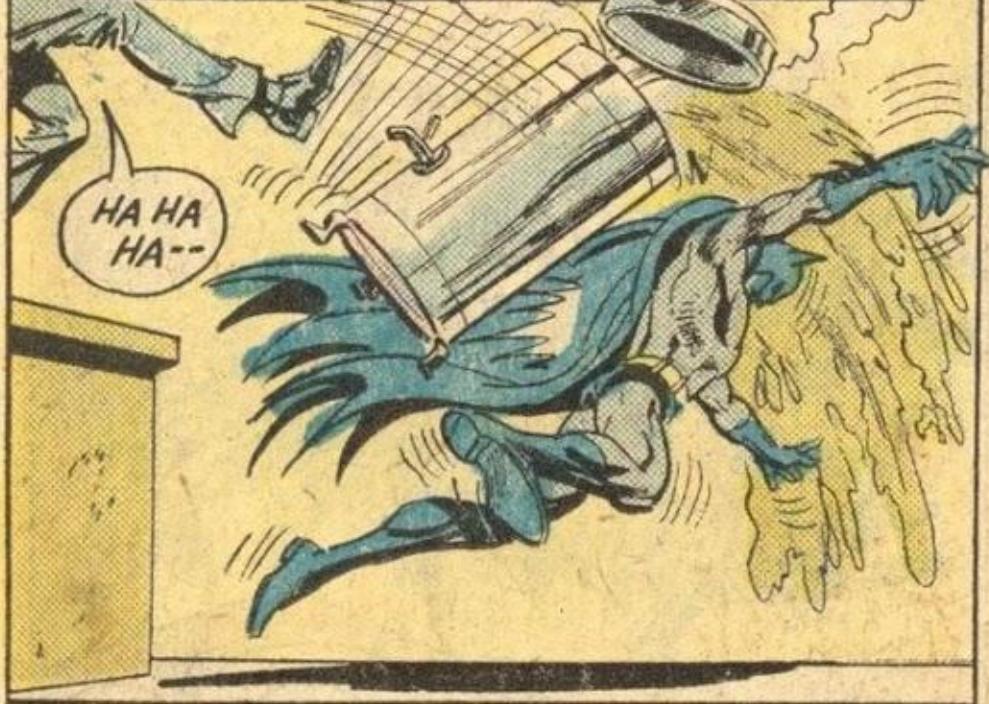


BUT THE ODDS
ARE A
DOZEN TO
ONE... AND
HIS FOES
FIGHT WITH
THE
DESPERATE
STRENGTH
OF MADNESS!

STILL,
HE
MIGHT
WIN--



--EXCEPT FOR A TREACHEROUS ATTACK FROM BEHIND! THE HEAVY COFFEE URN STRIKES... AND AS THE BATMAN FALLS, HE IS SPLASHED WITH SCALDING LIQUID--



THEN IT WAS
YOU WHO TIPPED
ME THE JOKER
WAS PLANNING
AN ESCAPE!

YES... I OVERHEARD
HIM SCHEMING TO LOAD THE
GUARD'S COFFEE WITH
HIS LAUGHING DRUG!

I TOSSSED
THE COIN AND...

...AND AGAIN
THE GOOD SIDE
WON!

EXACTLY! MAYBE
I OUGHT TO GET A
NEW COIN!

THIS ONE
HAS A
NASTY HABIT
OF BRINGING
OUT THE
BEST
IN ME!

LATER, IN THE PENTHOUSE ATOP THE WAYNE
FOUNDATION BUILDING IN THE HEART OF
GOTHAM CITY...

I STILL
CAN'T SEEM
TO CLEAR
MY HEAD,
ALFRED!

I DON'T WONDER,
MASTER BRUCE!
YOU'VE A
WRETCHED
BUMP!

IT'S
NOT
THAT--

--I'D NEED A
COMPUTER
TO COUNT THE
SKULL KNOCKS
I'VE TAKEN...
AND I'VE
NEVER
EXPERIENCED
SYMPTOMS
LIKE THESE!

I MUST HAVE
SWALLOWED A LOT
OF THE DRUGGED
COFFEE... HA HA...

...AND I'M AFRAID
IT MAY HAVE... HA HA...
AFFECTED ME
SOMEHOW!

FUNNY, DON'T
YOU THINK?--

--BEING BEATEN
BY A COUPLE OF
GALLONS OF
COFFEE?

ANYWAY, HOLD
THE FORT, ALFRED!
HA-HA-HA--

I'M PLAYING SAFE
AND SEEING
DR. HAMISH! HE'S
AN EXPERT IN
BIZARRE
CHEMICALS!



THEN, AT A NEARBY LABORATORY...

GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR!

WHO... THE BATMAN--!

YOU STARTLED ME!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I GOT A MASSIVE DOSE OF THE JOKER'S DRUG AND, FRANKLY, IT HAS ME WORRIED!

IT SHOULD! I'VE STUDIED THE PREPARATION... NASTY STUFF!

ONLY TWO MEN IN THE WORLD ARE QUALIFIED TO PREPARE AN ANTIDOTE--

--DOCTOR ROCKWELL IN LONDON IS ONE...

...AND, FORTUNATELY, I AM THE OTHER!

R-RINNGG!

EXCUSE ME, SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

FLOWERS FOR DR. HAMISH!

BUT I DIDN'T ORDER ANY--

THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, DOC!

MMM... THEY ARE LOVELY... FRAGRANT...

DOCTOR... I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS!

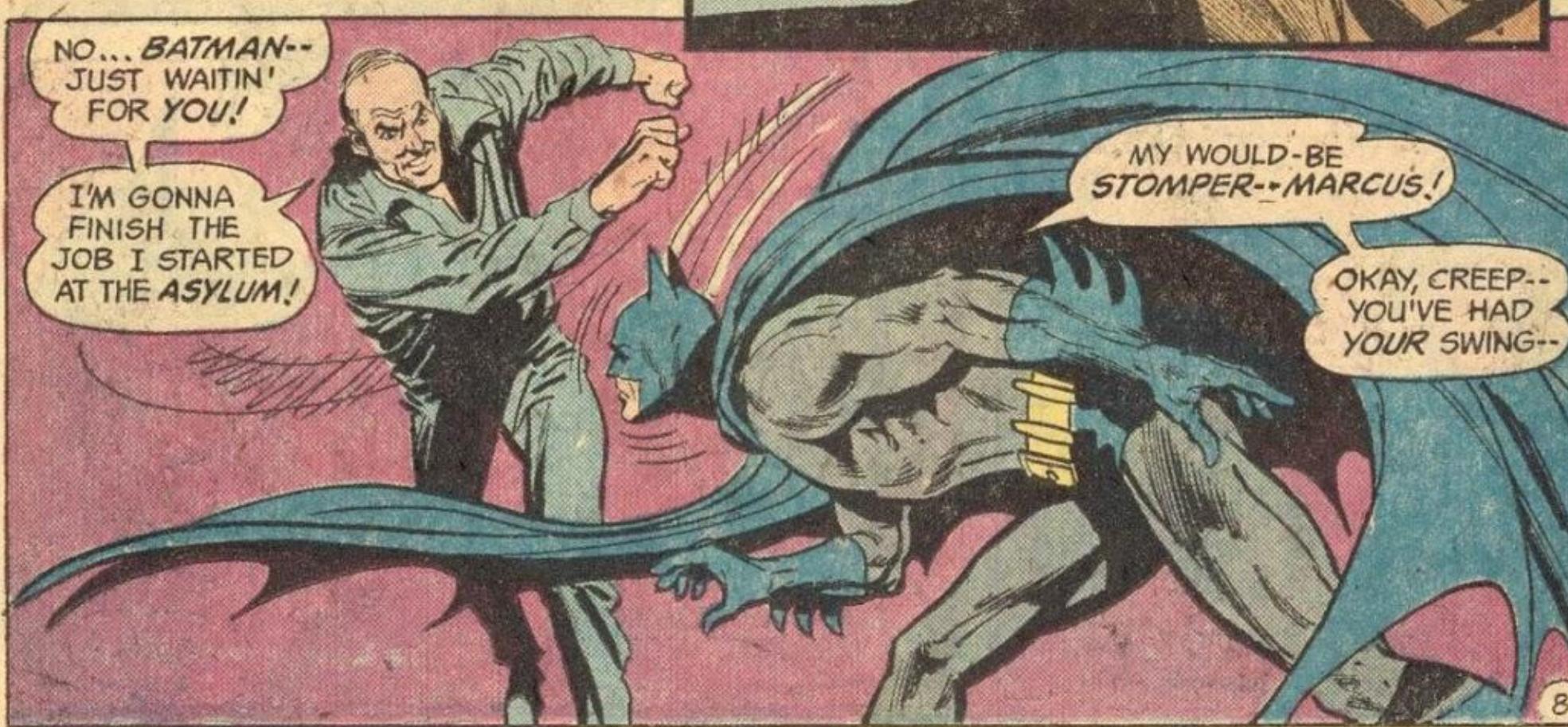
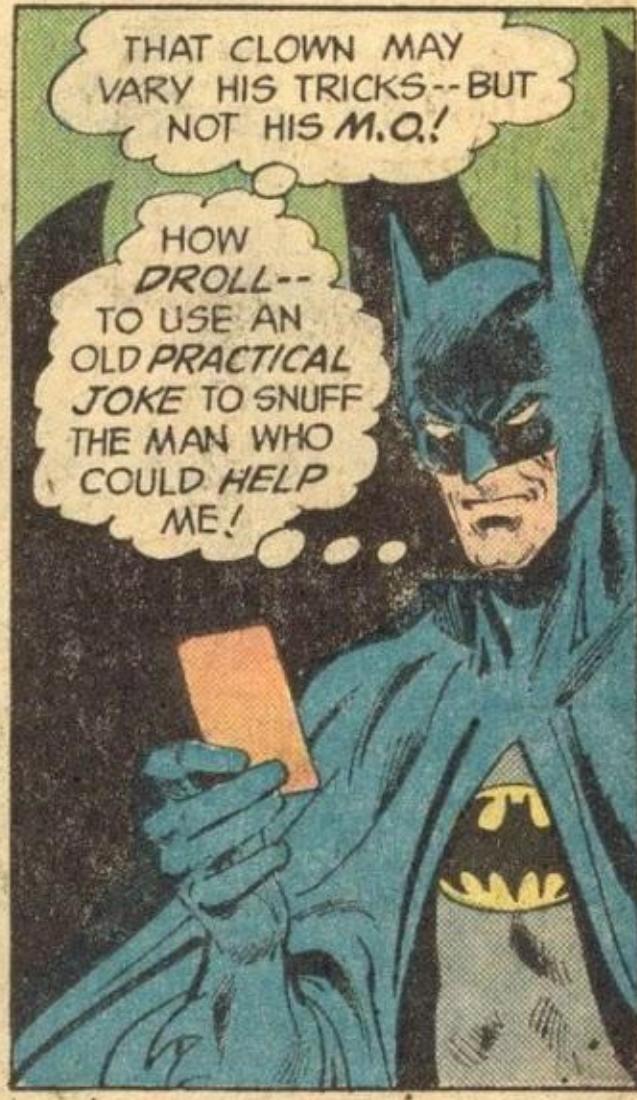
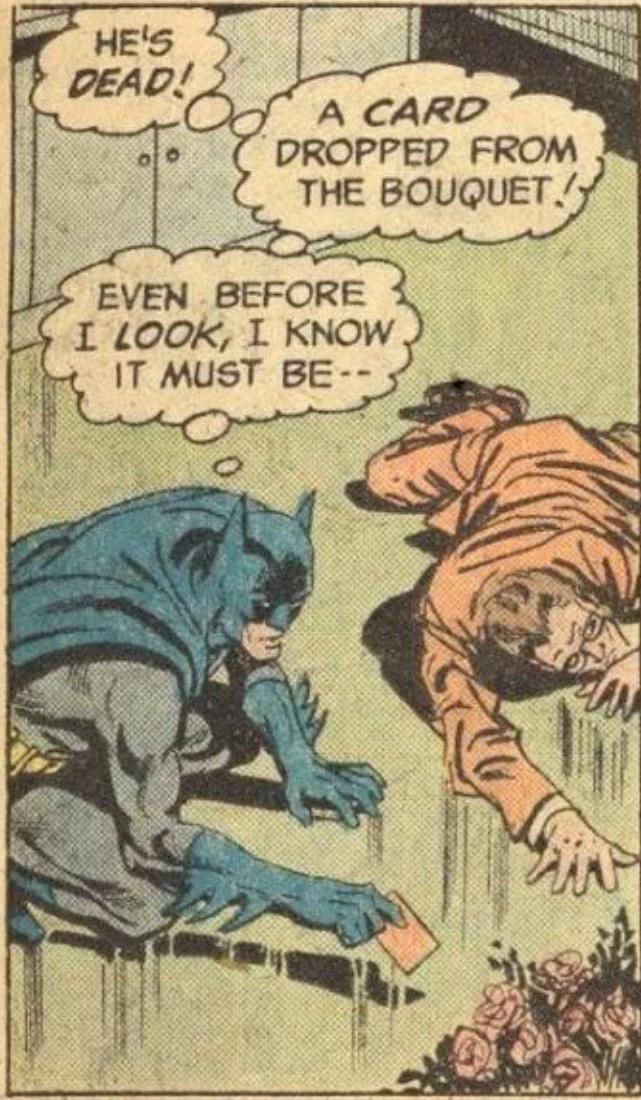
GET RID OF 'EM-- QUICK!

BUT BEFORE THE SCIENTIST CAN OBEY--

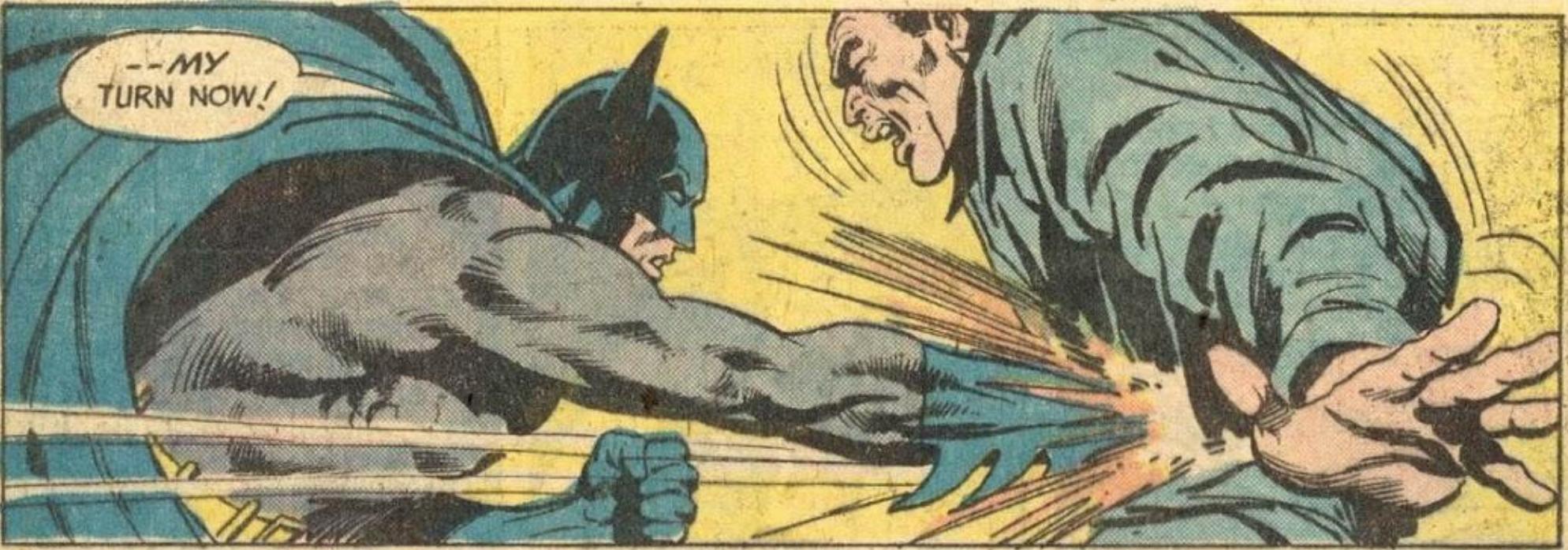
G-- GAS...
CHOKE!

DOCTOR!

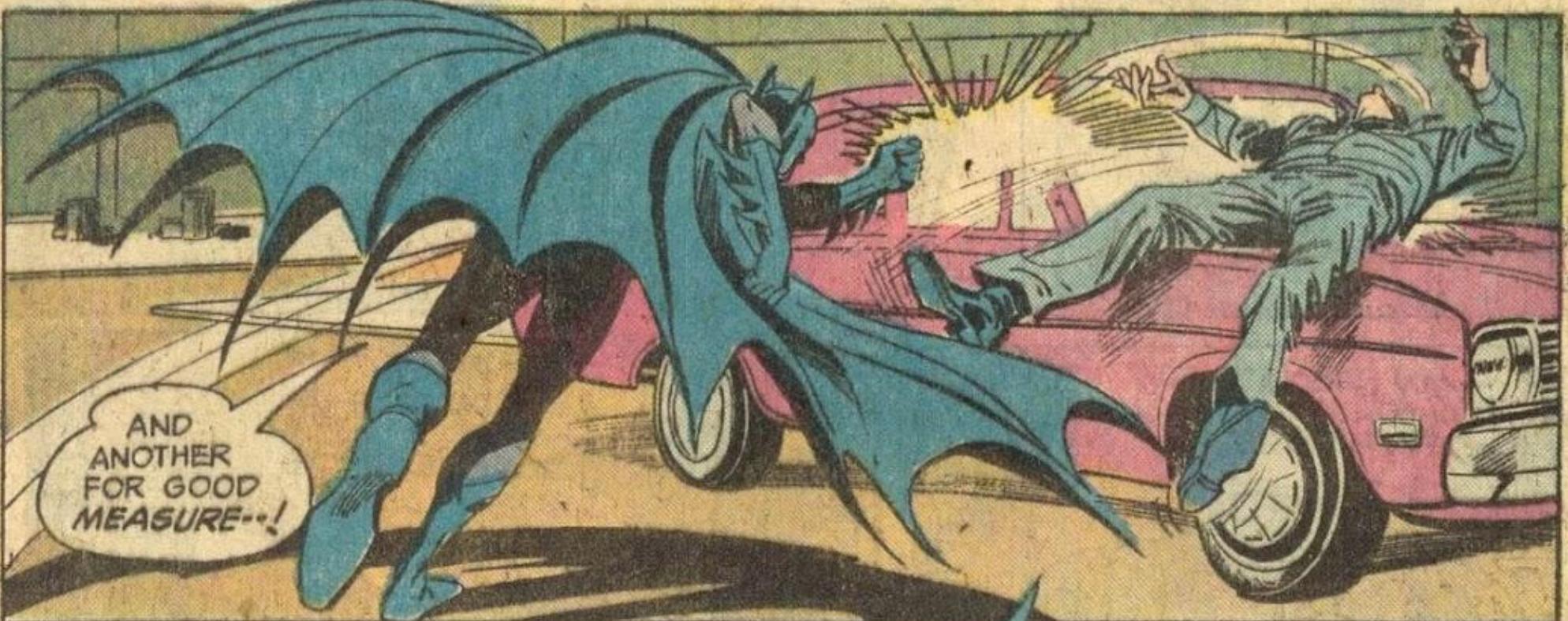
AGHH!



--MY TURN NOW!



AND ANOTHER FOR GOOD MEASURE--!



HA! THAT'S A LAUGH-- REACHING FOR A GUN!

GO AHEAD-- IT'D BE MY PLEASURE TO WRECK YOU!

NO GUN! THE BOSS SAID THAT IF YOU CAUGHT ME I WAS TO GIVE YOU THIS--



A POCKET-SIZED TAPE-RECORDER!

YEAH... WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE JOKER!

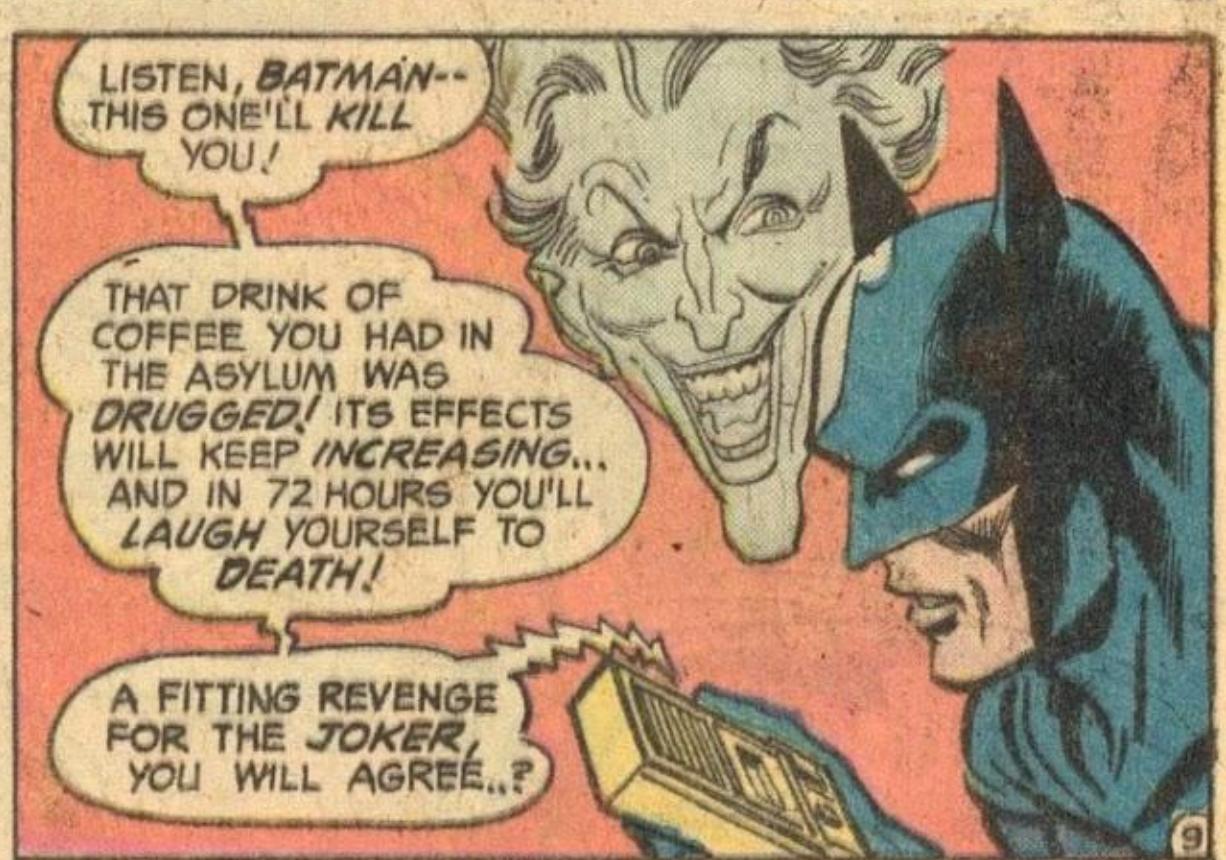
CLICK!



LISTEN, BATMAN-- THIS ONE'LL KILL YOU!

THAT DRINK OF COFFEE YOU HAD IN THE ASYLUM WAS DRUGGED! ITS EFFECTS WILL KEEP INCREASING... AND IN 72 HOURS YOU'LL LAUGH YOURSELF TO DEATH!

A FITTING REVENGE FOR THE JOKER, YOU WILL AGREE..?



RE-**DICULOUS!** HE EXPECTS ME TO BELIEVE HIS CRAZY STORY?

IF DR. HAMISH'S MURDER WEREN'T SO TRAGIC--

--I WOULD LAUGH--



--IN FACT,
I WILL!

--AND END IN A HORRIFIED GASP! THE BATMAN WHISPERS HARSHLY...

IT'S TRUE!

IT MUST BE... ALL TRUE!



LAUGHTER... GALES OF HOWLING MIRTH SHUDDER THROUGH THE NIGHT--



THE JOKER SAID I HAVE THREE DAYS!

BUT BEFORE I LEAVE, I MUST PAY MY LAST RESPECTS!

PLENTY OF TIME TO BATJET TO LONDON...

...AND TO CONSULT WITH THE DR. ROCKWELL THAT HAMISH MENTIONED!

LAST RESPECTS?
HOW AMUSING!

A CHUCKLE RISES IN HIM... A GUFFAW... AND HIS BODY TREMBLES WITH THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT OF KEEPING THE TERRIBLE SOUND LOCKED WITHIN--!



CHAPTER 2: "...TIS THAT I MAY NOT WEEP!"

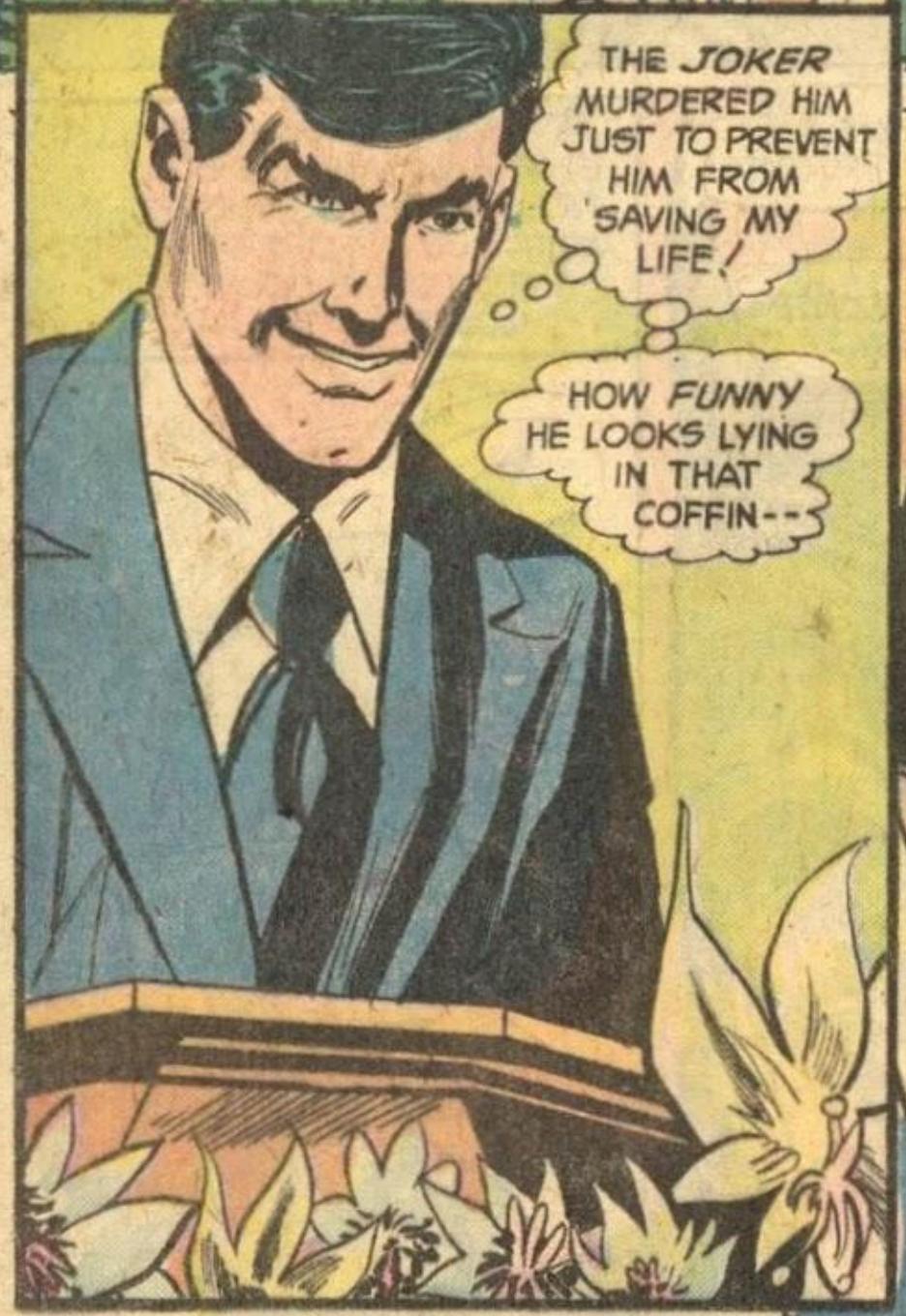
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE BATMAN, IN HIS BRUCE WAYNE IDENTITY, VISITS A FUNERAL HOME...

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR DR. HAMISH'S DEATH--

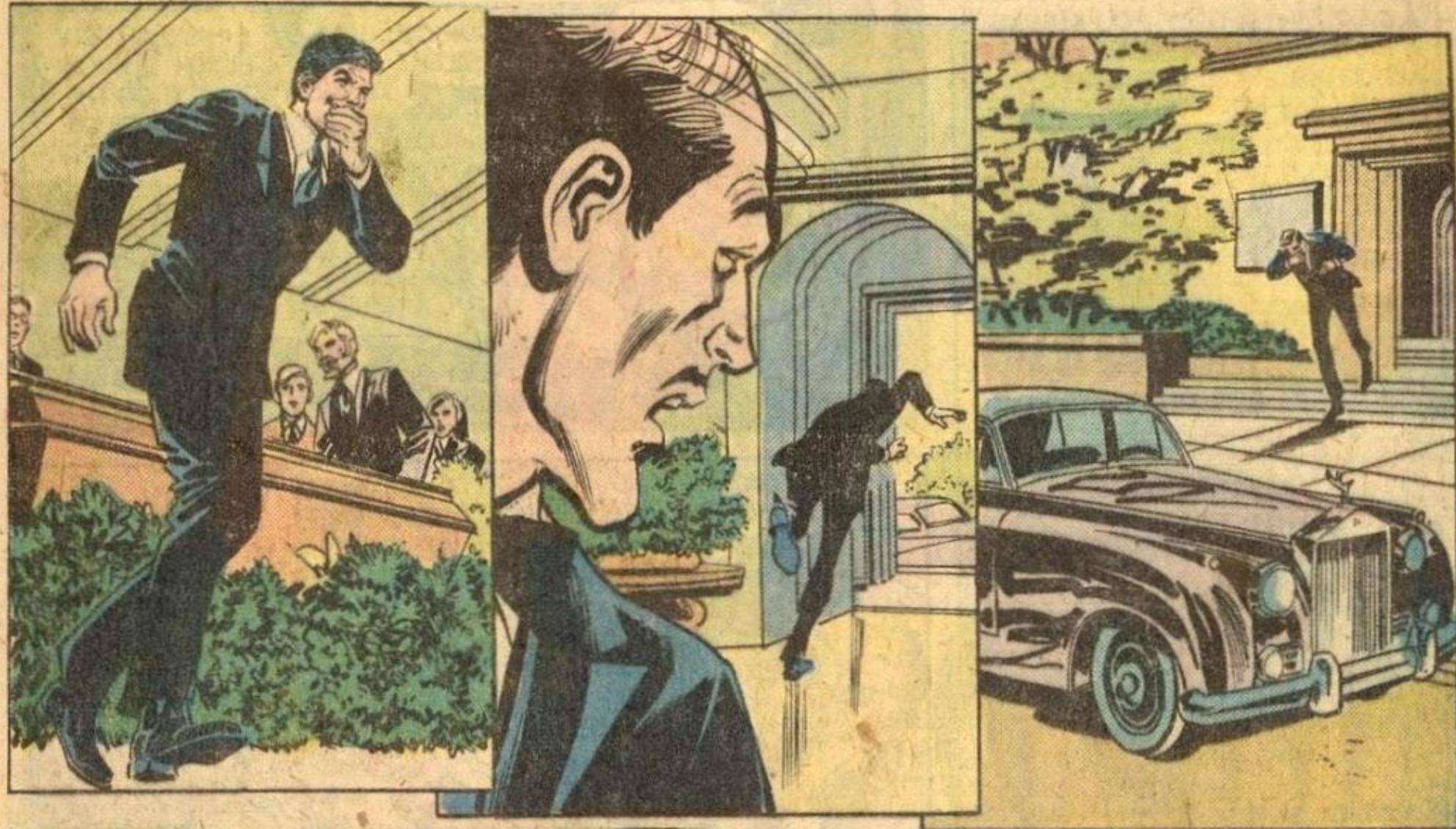


THE JOKER MURDERED HIM JUST TO PREVENT HIM FROM 'SAVING MY LIFE!'

HOW FUNNY HE LOOKS LYING IN THAT COFFIN--



--VERY FUNNY...!



LONDON--A THICK FOG MASKS A CAPED FORM STEALING SILENTLY ALONG AN EXCLUSIVE STREET TOWARD THE ROCKWELL RESIDENCE...

IT'S SO SILENT... I'M HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A METROPOLIS!

HELP!

UH-OH...NOT SILENT ANY LONGER! I HAVE AN UGLY HUNCH I KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT WINDOW-



LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU,
BUDDY! HO-HAH-HAA!

HOO-BOY...THE WORSE
THE JOKES GET, THE
HARDER I
LAUGH!

A KARATE-CHOP
IN THE LIVER
FOR YOU,
BATMAN!

HEY--
THAT
GIVES
ME--

THAT'S
USING YOUR
HEAD!

--CHOPPED
LIVER!

HAHAHA...
JOKER--YOU'RE
TOO MUCH!

HA HA-
HA-HA-HA-

DOUBLED UP FROM
LAUGHTER... CAN'T
CONTROL MYSELF...

I COULD FINISH
YOU NOW--BUT YOU
STILL HAVE SOME
TIME REMAINING
BEFORE THE
FUN-FILLED
FINALE!

WHACK!

MEANWHILE,
HERE'S SOMETHING
TO KEEP YOU AMUSED...

-- IT'S AN IDEA
IN THE COMEDY MANNER!

I CHALLENGE YOU
TO FIGURE OUT WHERE
THE DOCTOR AND I
WILL BE AT MIDNIGHT,
WHEN I SLAY HIM!

THEN... TRY TO
STOP ME...
IF YOU CAN!

HA HAHA... CAN
HARDLY WAIT... TO
DO... JUST THAT!

AGONIZING MOMENTS LATER...



GOT IT--JOKER HID HIS CLUE IN A FUN!

COMEDY MANNER EQUALS COMEDY MANOR--

--A THEATRE, ONCE A RENOWNED LONDON MUSIC HALL WHERE THE GREATS CONVULSED AUDIENCES
... ENTERTAINERS LIKE CHAPLIN, FIELDS, THE MARX BROTHERS...

...NOW DARK AND SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE SCURRYING OF RATS AND THE GROAN OF ANCIENT TIMBERS...

...STANDING LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLY OLD DOWAGER REMEMBERING YOUTH, BEAUTY, GAIETY...

...HOSTESS THIS SHROUDED NIGHT TO THE BATMAN...

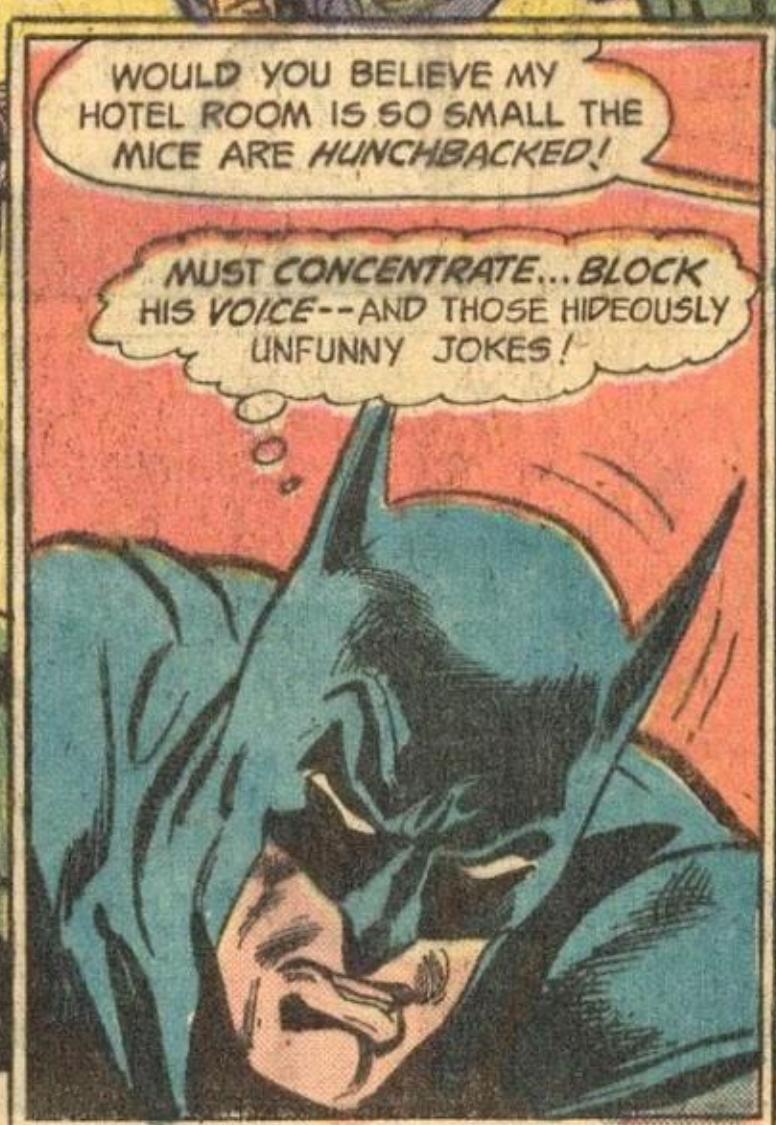
MY TRANSLATION OF THE JOKER'S CLUE WAS RIGHT! THE DUST HAS BEEN RECENTLY DISTURBED!

HE PROBABLY EXPECTS ME TO SNEAK IN BY WINDOW OR ROOF--

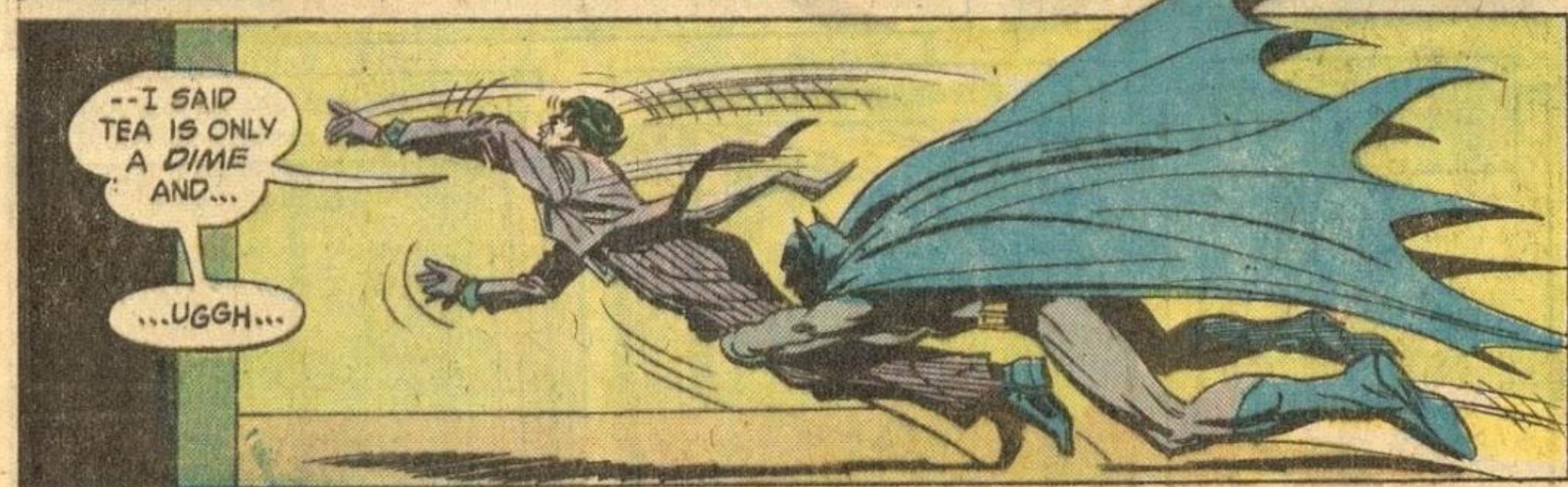
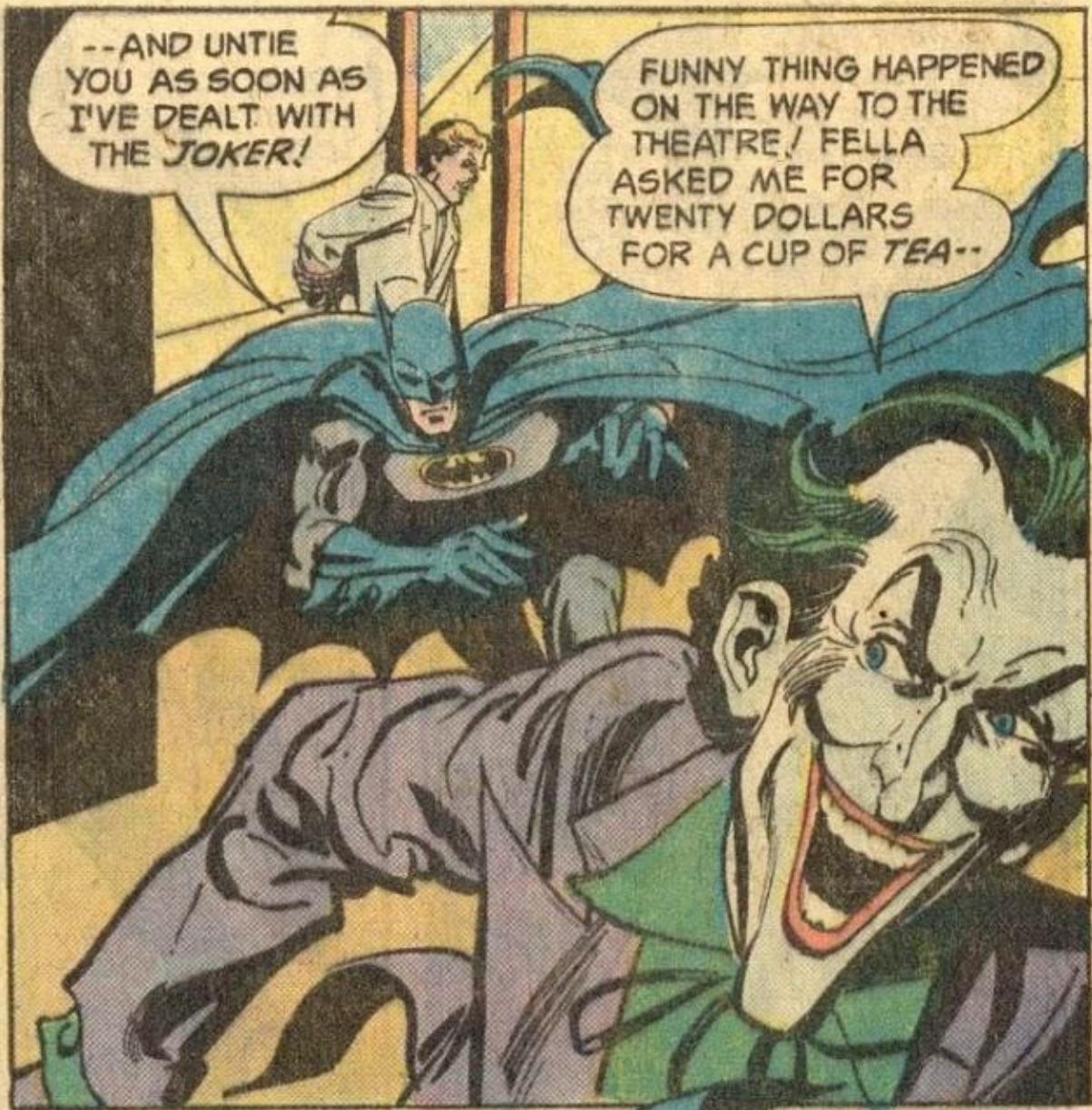
--SO I'LL SURPRISE HIM BY BOLDLY WALKING IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE!

AHH... I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T DISAPPOINT ME, BATMAN--!









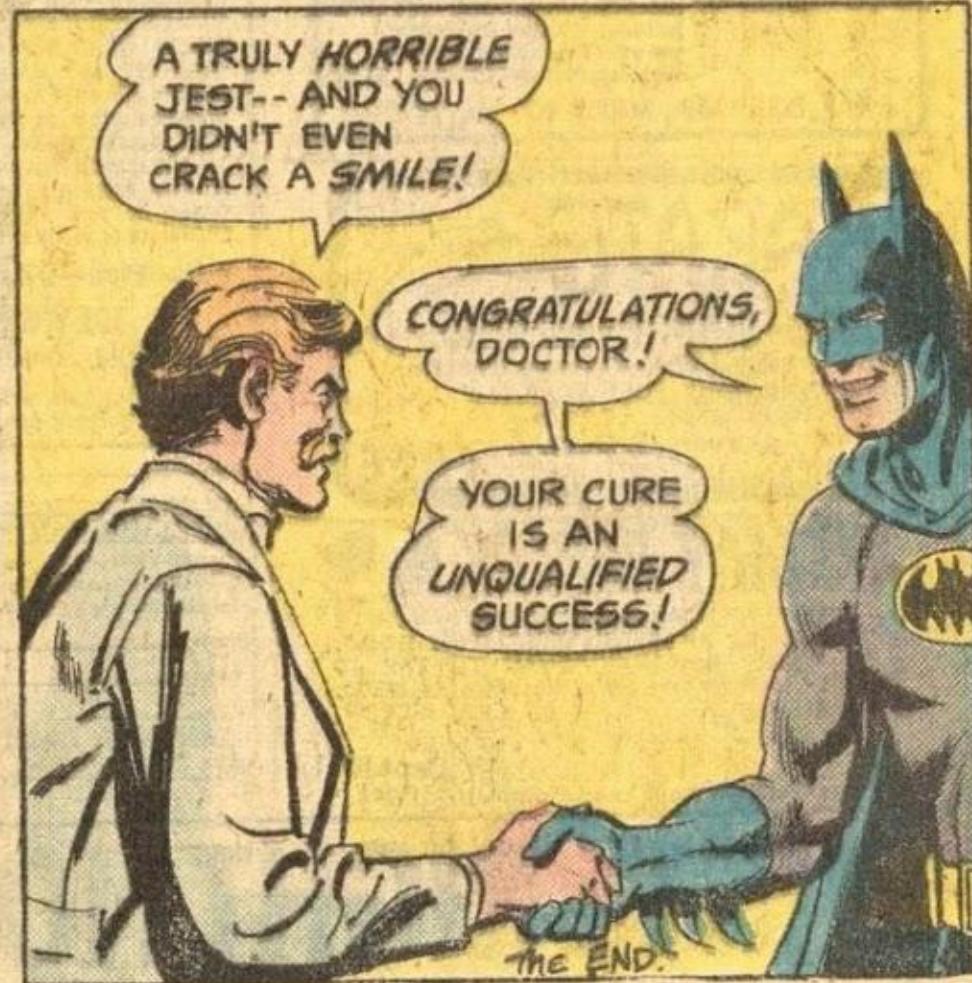
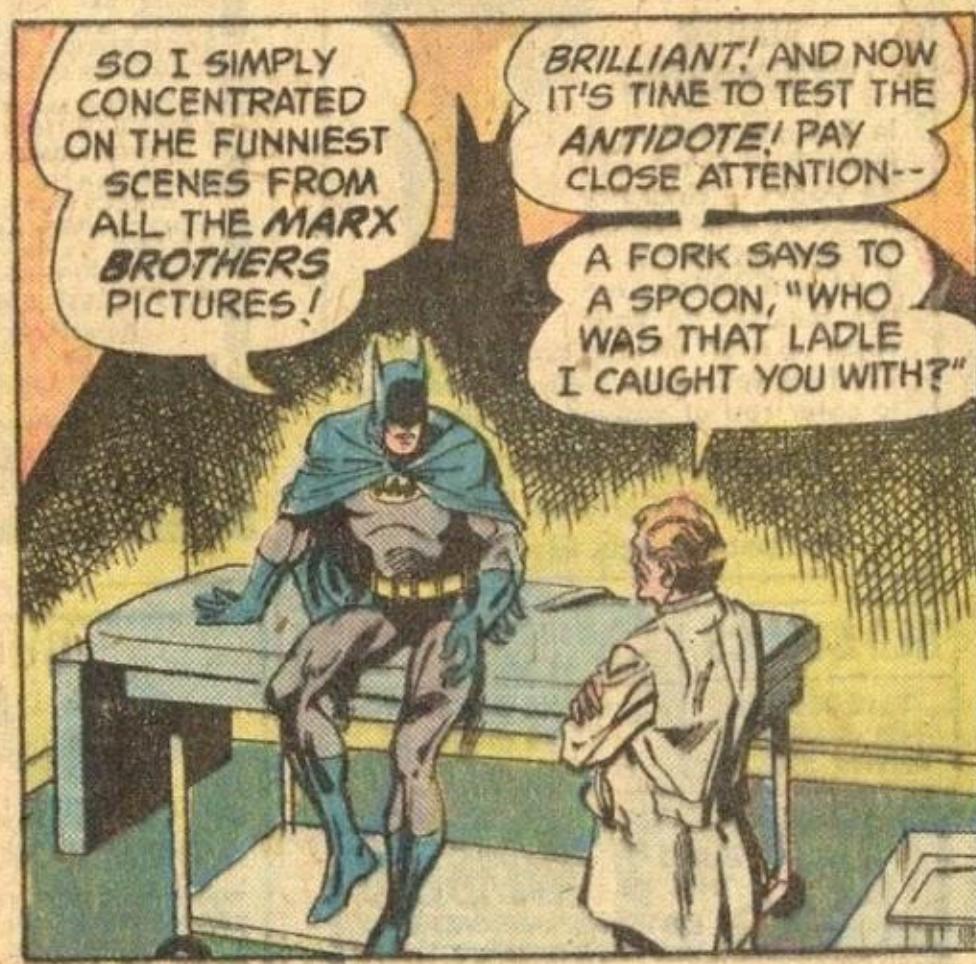
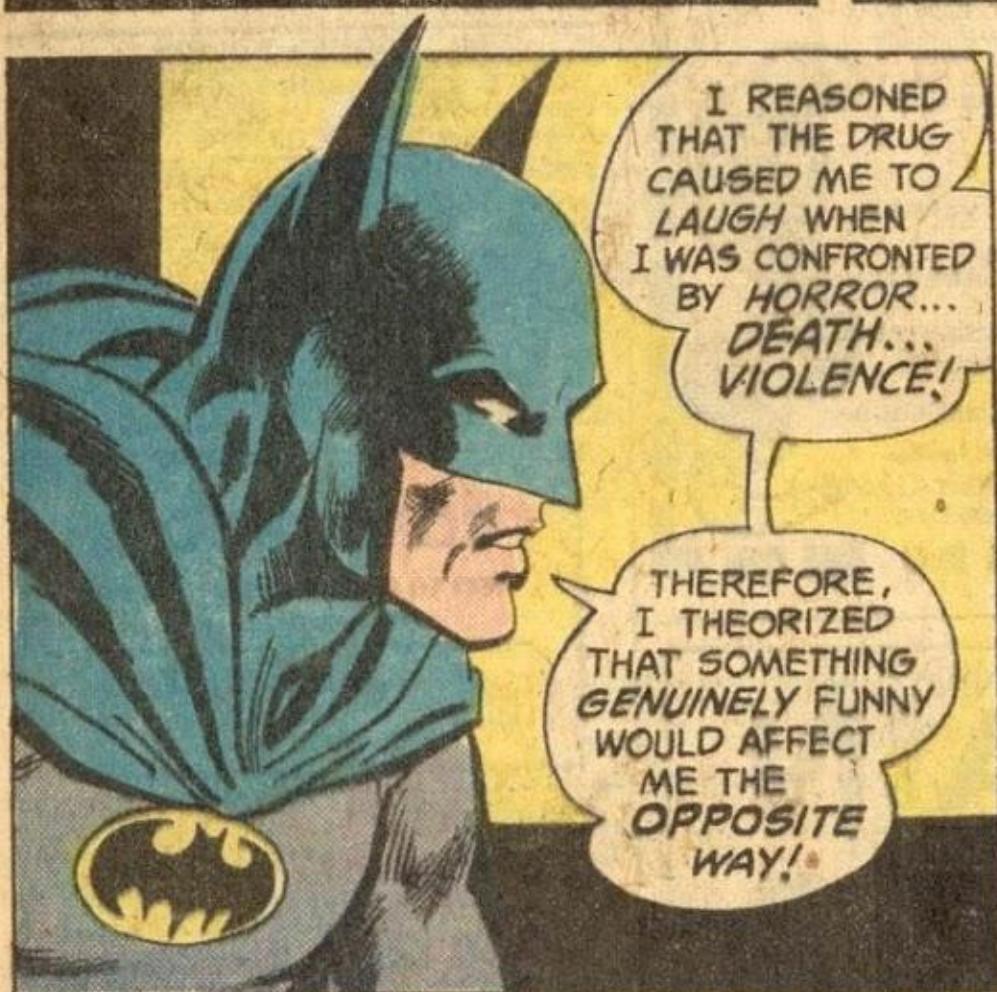
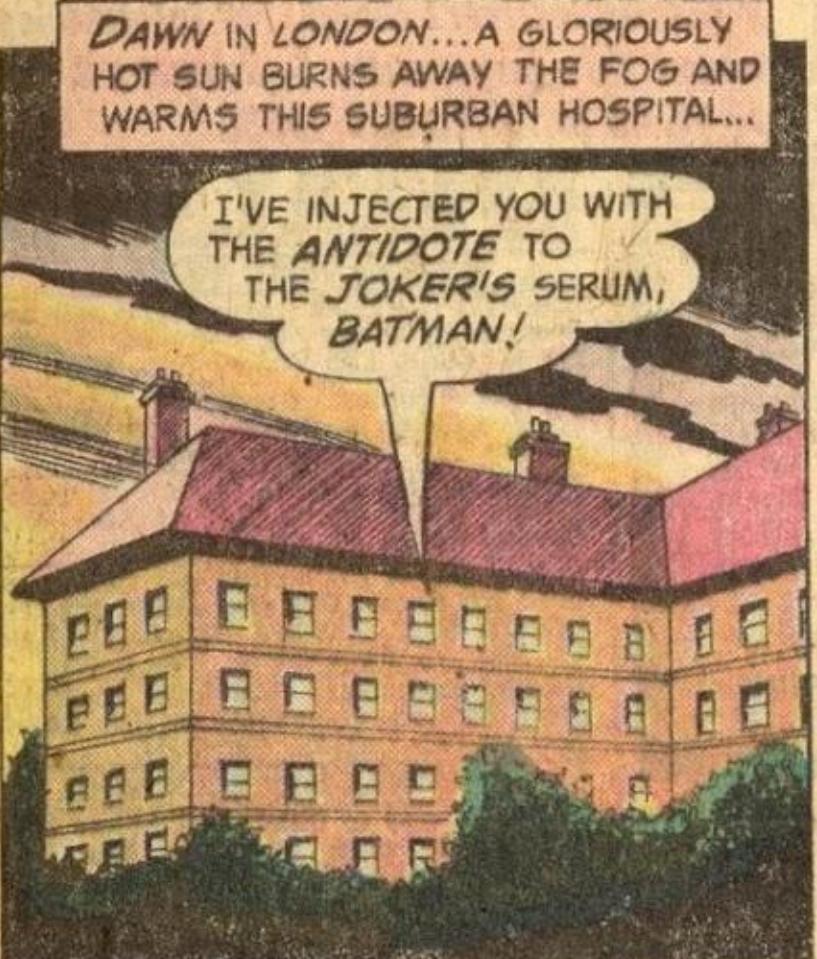
DAWN IN LONDON...A GLORIOUSLY HOT SUN BURNS AWAY THE FOG AND WARMS THIS SUBURBAN HOSPITAL...

I'VE INJECTED YOU WITH THE ANTIDOTE TO THE JOKER'S SERUM, BATMAN!

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS IN A MINUTE!

WHILE WE WAIT...MAY I ASK HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE SERUM LAST NIGHT --AND SAVE MY LIFE?

SIMPLE, DOCTOR--



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Clue*

Scrambled Words

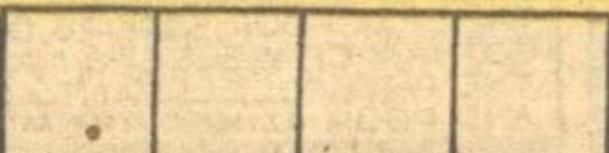
WORD 1.
ROPEW

WORD 2.
LEJWE

WORD 3.
LUBID

WORD 4.
BTDOU

Final Goal



N-1197

Directions:

FIRST UNSCRAMBLE THE 4 SETS OF SCRABLED LETTERS, MAKING A FIVE-LETTER WORD OF EACH SCRAMBLE. THEN PRINT EACH WORD, A LETTER IN EACH CIRCLE AROUND EACH OF THE 4 NUMBERS, CLOCKWISE THE INITIAL LETTER FOR WORD NUMBER ONE STARTS YOU OFF. THE 3 DOTS INDICATE WHERE THE OTHER THREE WORDS BEGIN. THIS COMPLETED, YOUR FINAL GOAL (USING THE FOUR LETTERS YOU HAVE PRINTED ON THE 4 STARRED CIRCLES) IS TO SPELL THE FOUR-LETTER WORD SUGGESTED BY THE CARTOON CLUE! CAN YOU DO IT?

*The
ANSWER*

(DUEL) (DUET) (BOD
BITE)

1-POWER 2-JEWEL 3-BUILD 4-DOUBT

MORTY
HAYDEL

THE JOKER GAVE ME QUITE A PROBLEM
TO SOLVE IN THAT NEWEST ADVENTURE!
BUT I'VE HAD PLENTY OF OTHER TOUGH ONES...

...LIKE THE CASE OF THE VANISHING
JEWEL THIEVES! THE ANSWER WAS
IN PLAIN SIGHT... YET IT TOOK SOME
TIME TO SPOT IT!

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BATMAN

WITH

ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE
RUN RAMPANT AS A
NEW, BAFFLING CRIME
WAVE SWEEPS OVER
GOTHAM CITY - AN EVIL
BREW CONCOCTED IN THE
FERTILE BRAIN OF AN IN-
GENIOUS CRIMINAL! UN-
SUSPECTED, UNKNOWN...
HE WALKS AMONG HIS
VICTIMS - WHILE HIS HIRE-
LINGS OBEY HIS COMMANDS
AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE
VERY EYES OF THE PUZ-
ZLED POLICE! EVEN THE
AGILE WITS OF
BATMAN AND **ROBIN**,
THE BOY WONDER, ARE
PUT TO A SEVERE TEST
WHEN THEY TRY TO
SOLVE THE MYSTERY
OF ---

"**The GRADE-A
CRIMES!**"



ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -



GRADE
A

ART BY:
DICK SPRANG &
JACK BURNLEY

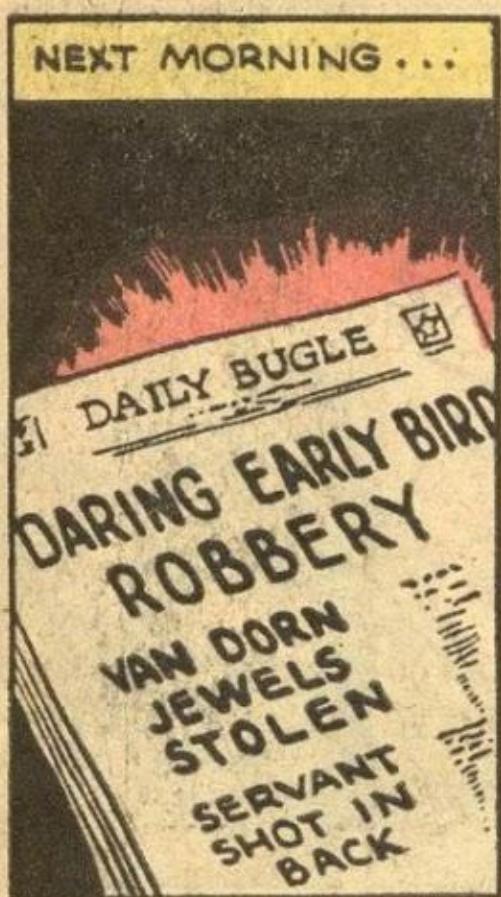
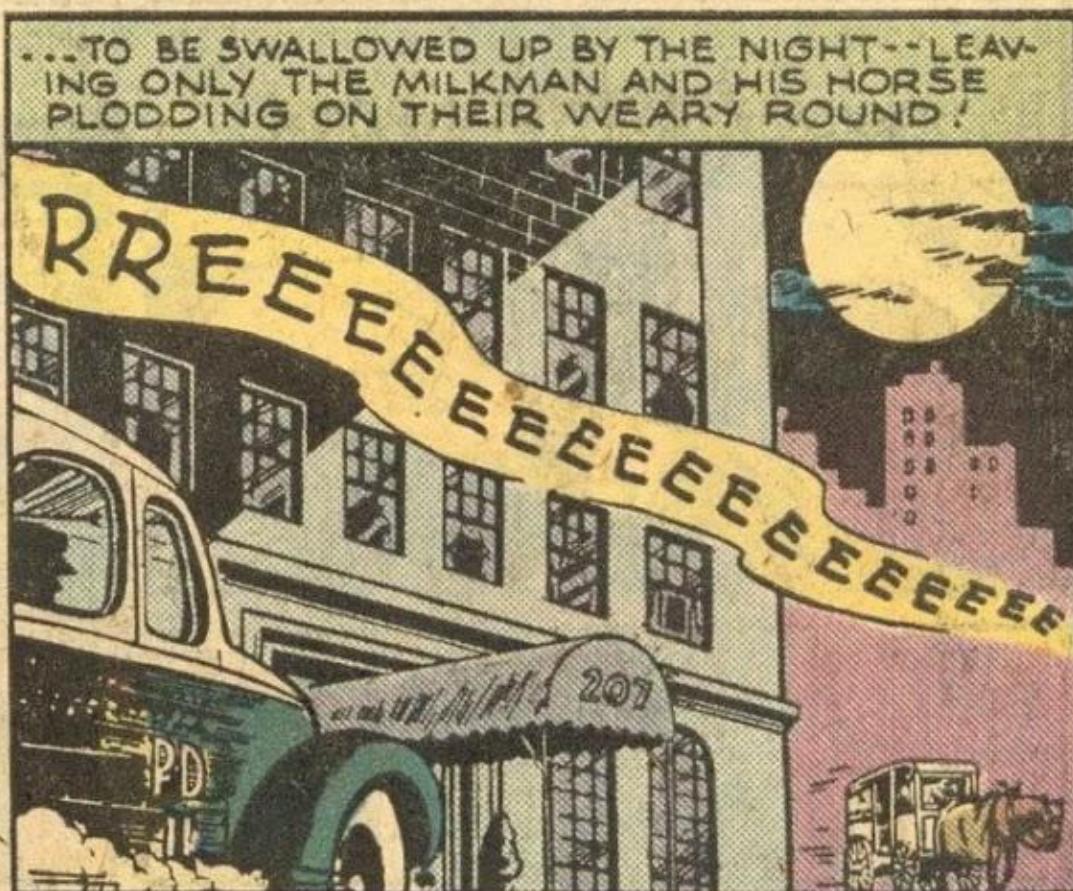


THE DARK HOUR BEFORE DAWN...
GOTHAM CITY SLEEPS! ALL BUT
THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF RICH
AND POOR ALIKE... THE MILKMEN!





THE GRADE A CRIMES





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



WHILE SOMEWHERE NEAR THE CRIME-SWEPT CITY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL GLOATS!

AH! ANOTHER FLAWLESS BEAUTY! I'LL NEVER SELL THIS ONE!

AND, AS ONE NIGHT HE LEAVES THE LAVISH MORGON MANSION, WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON.

THE MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVE CONTINUES! CLUES? NONE! BUT THERE IS A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE IT — AND THERE IS ONE WHO CAN! BATMAN, THAT NEMESIS OF CRIME WHO CLOAKS HIS IDENTITY BEHIND THE GUISE OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE!

AN ODD TRICK OF LIGHT THROWS THE SHADOW OF BATMAN ON A WALL... A WARNING OMEN TO GANGDOM!

THAT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE BUSINESS.. NO CLUES, NO CROOKS - AND NO JEWELS!

WHAT PUZZLES ME, IS HOW THOSE THUGS GET IN SO EASILY! ALMOST LIKE GHOSTS!

SUDDENLY... A SHOT! A PIERCING CRY... AND THE SHARP STACCATO OF RUNNING FEET!

CRACK!
YAAAAAAA!

YES, BUT GHOSTS DON'T SHOOT!

- AND THAT MEANS WORK FOR US!

INSTANTLY—A STARTLING CHANGE COMES OVER THE PAIR! A FEW QUICK MOVEMENTS, AND THEY RACE DOWN THE STREET AS BATMAN AND ROBIN!

ANOTHER EARLY BIRD CRIME! THAT SHOT CAME FROM THE MORGON MANSION

LOOK! SOMEONE'S GETTING AWAY!

YEOW!
BATMAN!

NOT SO FAST, PAL!

THE GRADE A CRIMES

BUT AS BATMAN STRUGGLES WITH THE CLOAKED CRIMINAL, ANOTHER FIGURE LEAPS SUDDENLY FROM THE SHADOWS!



AND THE SCALES ARE TIPPED AGAINST THE GALLANT DUO... WITH YOUNG ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE BALANCE!



A VICIOUS BLOW CRASHES AGAINST BATMAN'S SKULL!

HERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS BRAT!



BRIEF MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM SNEAK UP ON ME!

WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET A SWELLED HEAD! CHIN UP, KID... I SHOULD HAVE GUessed THERE'D BE TWO! LET'S GO AFTER 'EM... THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A HEAD-START!



DOWN THE STREET CLATTERS A MILKWAGON, TOWED BY A WEARY OLD HORSE...



...YES, A ROBBERY AND SHOOTING! YOU'RE CERTAIN YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYONE?

NOPE! NOT EVEN A CAT! ME AND OLD DAISY HERE SURE WOULD HAVE SPOTTED 'EM!



A BEWILDERED DUO TURNS BACK TOWARD THE SILENT MORGON MANSION...

WELL, AT LEAST WE CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THAT SHOT!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



MOVING WARILY THROUGH THE DARK HALLS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS REACH A HALF-OPENED DOOR—AND FIND...

BATMAN,
LOOK! THAT'S
THE ROOM
WHERE THE
GIFTS WERE
DISPLAYED!

SOMEONE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR!

IT'S THE GUARD!

POOR CHAP... HE
DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE,
SHOT IN THE BACK
BY THOSE YELLOW
MURDERERS!

HMM! THEY TOOK ONLY THE JEWELS AGAIN... LEFT ALL THIS VALUABLE SILVER!
HEY!
WHAT'S THIS?

A WHITE BUTTON!
TORN FROM A WHITE COAT... AND THOSE CROOKS WERE WEARING BLACK MANTLES... VERY ODD!

TWO WEARY ADVENTURERS FINALLY REACH HOME--- AND BED!

I'VE GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT! ALWAYS THE SAME PATTERN... MYSTERIOUS ENTRY AT 3 OR 4 A.M.,-- ONLY VALUABLE GEMS STOLEN... THE GUARD ALWAYS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AND SHOT IN THE BACK! AND A PARTY ALWAYS PRECEDING THE LOOTING!.. WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?

HO! HUM!
DON'T FORGET
THAT WHITE
BUTTON!

NEXT MORNING... BRUCE AND DICK ARE STILL TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY...

I KNOW THE ANSWER'S RIGHT HERE! IF I CAN JUST FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER... THIS WHITE BUTTON... THE WHOLE CRIME PATTERN...

MMM!
THIS MILK TASTES GOOD!

MILK! THAT'S IT! WOW!
WHAT A SET-UP! SO SIMPLE... SO COMPLETELY SAFE! WHAT A FOOL I AM! LET THEM SLIP RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS!

OOPS!
... LET ME IN ON THIS!

-- ALL THIS ADDS UP AT LAST! 4 A.M. IN THE MORNING - A WHITE BUTTON - MYSTERIOUS GETAWAY... THE MILKMAN.

JEPPERS!
YOU MEAN THAT MILK DRIVER WAS ONE OF THE CROOKS?

THE GRADE A CRIMES

RIGHT! THE OTHER THUG WAS PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BACK OF THE MILK WAGON! NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW THEY GOT IN SO EASILY... DICK, WE'RE GOING TO A PARTY TONIGHT!

OKAY - BUT THIS NIGHT LIFE IS WEARING ME DOWN!

DAILY BUGLE
MOROON HOME ROBBED OF WEDDING GIFTS
GUARD SHOT IN BACK
POLICE STILL RAFFLED
GARCON ALIVE
ACROSS CITY
WITH PLANE
BOY LOST
WALKS GOLF
MILKMAN
NOT TO BE
INTERFERED

IN BRUCE WAYNE'S LABORATORY . . .

IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW! THOSE CRIMES ALWAYS OCCUR AFTER A PARTY! THAT MEANS SOMEONE AT EACH PARTY IS THE INSIDE MAN - GETS THE LAYOUT, MAYBE STEALS THE KEYS...

YOU MEAN THE CROOKS WILL PROBABLY STRIKE AT WINTHROP'S SHINDIG, TONIGHT?

SURE! THE DORLAI DIAMOND'S THE BEST BAIT YET! HERE, ROBIN - PREPARE THIS FORMULA WHILE I DO SOME CHECKING UP ON THOSE OTHER PARTIES!

RIGHT!

AS THE MIDNIGHT HOUR CHIMES, AN AWESOME SHAPE WINGS SILENTLY ACROSS THE SKY... THE BATPLANE!



AND, LIKE A GREAT, SILENT BIRD, IT COMES TO REST ON THE ROOF OF A PALATIAL MANSION!



OUR FISHING SHOULD BE DOUBLY GOOD TONIGHT! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THESE CRIMES MUST BE A BIG SHOT IN THE MILK INDUSTRY - OR THOSE MILKMAN CROOKS COULD NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

A PRECARIOUS CLIMB DOWN A VINE-TRELLISED WALL . . .

AND THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF DAIRY AND MILK COMPANY MEN AT TONIGHT'S PARTY!

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

... AND TWO MORE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOIN THE PARTY... UNSEEN!

S-S-SH!
HERE COME SOME PEOPLE. LOOK! IT'S WINTHROP HIMSELF WITH ANOTHER GUEST.

A RARE GEM, BILL.
ALMOST PRICELESS! I'M KEEPING IT MIGHTY WELL GUARDED!

WELL, WINTHROP,
WHAT DO YOU THINK
OF THE DORLAI DIAMOND? AS A JEWEL
COLLECTOR YOU
SHOULD KNOW ITS WORTH!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



(BETTER THAN YOU THINK, WINTHROP!)
YOU SEE, ROBIN, WINTHROP IS TREASURER OF THE PURITY MILK CO.—
BIGGEST IN TOWN!

I GET IT!
THAT MEANS
PLENTY OF HIS
BUSINESS FRIENDS
WILL BE HERE—
INCLUDING THE
"INSIDE MAN" WHO'S
THE CHIEF CROOK!

EXACTLY! ONLY TROUBLE IS,
WINTHROP AND AT LEAST THREE
OTHERS IN THERE WERE PRESENT
AT THE OTHER PARTIES...
I CHECKED UP THIS AFTERNOON!

GOSH.
WE'RE
STYMIED
THEN!

THEY'RE
LEAVING—
AND
WE'VE
FOUND
OUT
NOTHING!

I'M NOT SO SURE!
SOMEONE IS STILL
HERE... OFFERING
THE GUARDS,
A NIGHT-CAP!

FINALLY... THE LAST LIGHT
GOES OUT, AND A MANTLE
OF SILENCE ENVELOPS
THE WINTHROP HOME.

IF THE CROOKS STRIKE HERE TO-NIGHT, THEY'LL FIND UNPLEASANT COMPANY! ROBIN, YOU HAVE THE CHEMICAL—GO DOWN AND WATCH FOR THE MILKMAN!

OKAY! I'LL
JUST
HANG ON
TO THIS
CLINGING
VINE!

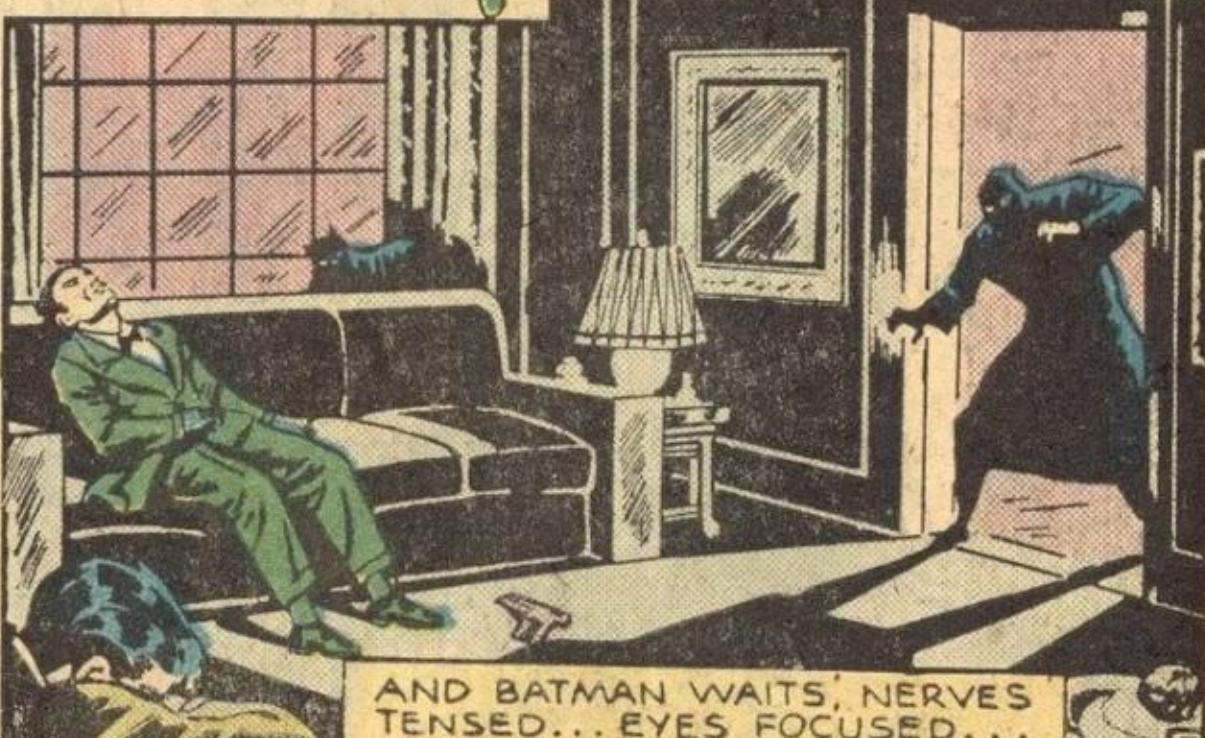
A SHADOW-LIKE FIGURE GLIDES
INTO THE GUARDED ROOM...
AND FINDS...

A FINE PAIR OF
WATCH-DOGS
YOU ARE!

HA! I THOUGHT SO... IT
WASN'T THE HOUR THAT PUT YOU
TO SLEEP! SO YOU GAVE YOURSELF AWAY, MR. CHIEF CROOK!
OHO! TIME FOR THE MILKMAN...
AND TIME FOR ME TO RETIRE!

SUDDENLY — A STEALTHY
FOOTSTEP... A HAND
TURNING A DOOR-KNOB...

CLIPPETT
CLOP



AND BATMAN WAITS, NERVES
TENSED... EYES FOCUSED...

THE GRADE A CRIMES

LIKE AN EVIL GNOME OF NIGHT, THE CLOAKED MARAUDER STEALS UP ON THE HELPLESS GUARDS!

JUST SO'S YOU WON'T LOOK DRUGGED, I'LL PUMP SOME LEAD INTO YA!

CAN'T LET THEM SHOOT THE GUARDS! HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLANS SOMEWHAT!

AN AGILE, CAT-LIKE LEAP...AND A LEAN FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!

I HOPE I'M INTRUDING!

YES! YOU'RE SEEING STARS!

WITHOUT WARNING, A GLARING BEAM OF LIGHT STABS OUT FROM NOWHERE---BLINDING BATMAN!

AND YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH FOR YOUR OWN HEALTH!

WHAT..!

A BULLET WHINES THROUGH THE AIR...

GOT HIM.

CRACK

CRUMPLED FIGURE LIES UPON THE FLOOR! CAN IT BE? HAS THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST EVIL?

IT'S BATMAN AGAIN! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY THIS TIME!

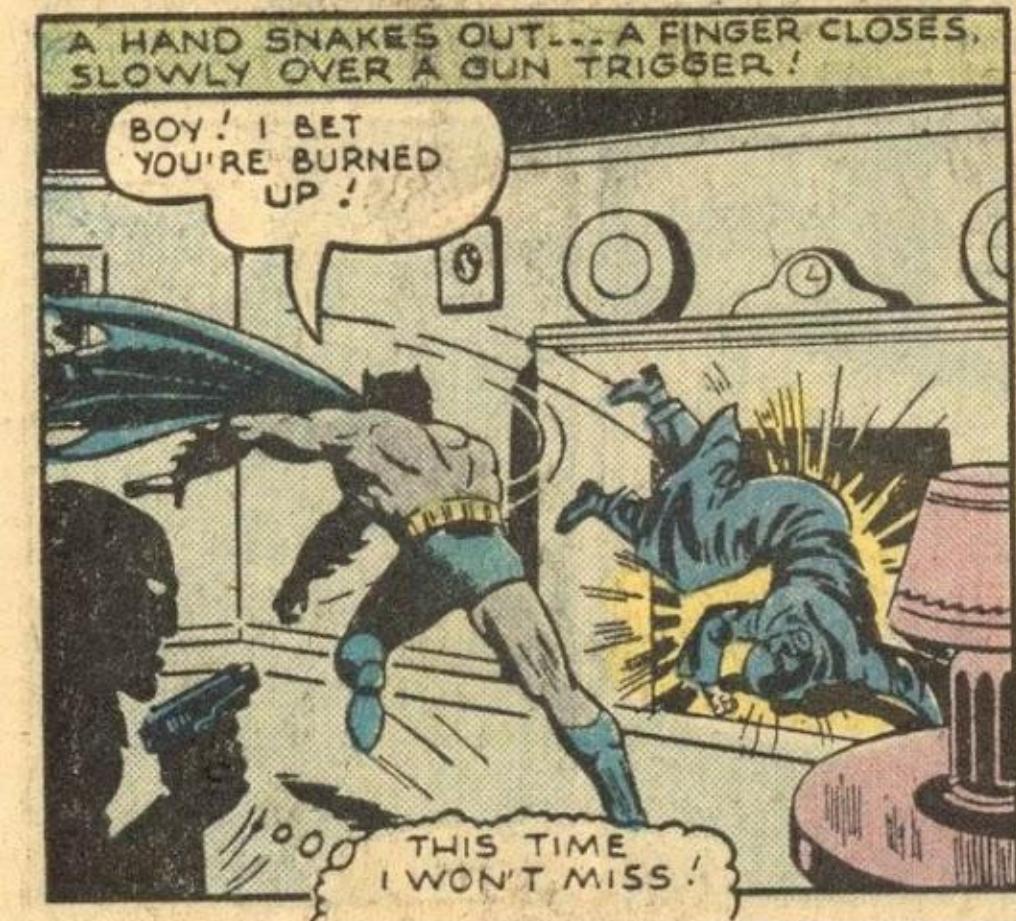
HE DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'LL EVER GO ANYPLACE AGAIN. BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE!

BUT BATMAN IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!

I'M GOING PLACES RIGHT NOW!

HELP! HE AIN'T DEAD!

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



If you've ever said...

"There must be a better way to earn a living..."

one of our free Career Guidance Booklets may provide the opportunity you've been looking for.

It happens to all of us, sooner or later. No matter what kind of job we have.

One day, it suddenly strikes home that—like it or not—we're going to have to work for a living, the rest of our lives. And most of us are horrified at the thought of forever being locked into the jobs we now hold.

"Surely," we tell ourselves, "there must be a way to earn enough extra dollars each month to balance the family budget. Surely, there must be a way to get the kind of position where you don't have to worry about job security. Surely, there must be a way to get a job that offers greater opportunity for advancement, and more job satisfaction."

"Surely," in other words, "there must be a better way to earn a living!"

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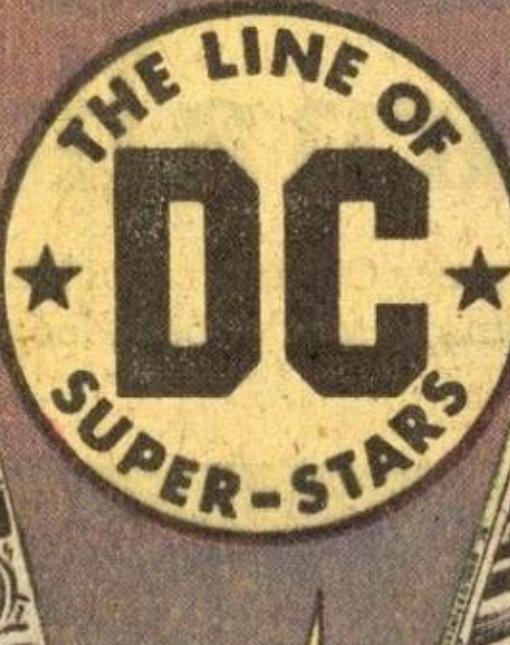
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MOST PAGES
FOR YOUR
MONEY...
BIGGEST
BARGAIN
IN
COMICS!

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YOU'RE GOING TO FACE THE
UNEXPECTED



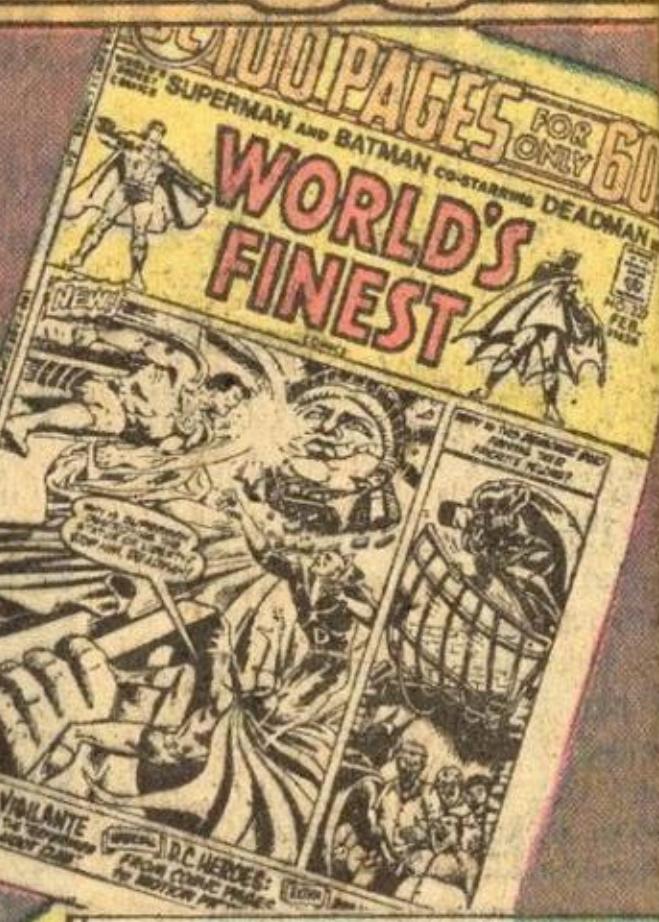
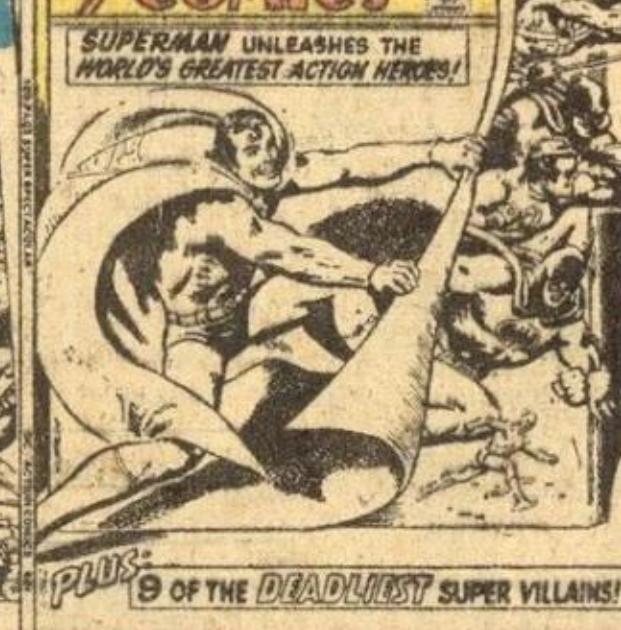
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BAT MAN



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YOUNG ROMANCE



THE GRADE A CRIMES

A DARK SKY —
AND A WEIRD
SIGHT BELOW!
A SLEEK,
WINGED BLACK
PLANE FLYING
CLOSE ABOVE
A COUNTRY
ROAD!

THESE LENSES WILL FILTER
OUT THE INFRA-RED PAINT I
USED ON DAISY'S HOOFs.
LOOK! THERE'S THE FARM!

PRESENTLY, TWO SHAPES BLEND WITH THE
SHADOWS AS THEY STREAK THROUGH THE FARM GROUNDS.

THAT
HAYSTACK WILL
CONCEAL THE
BATPLANE...
LET'S TRY
THE BARNs
FIRST!

GOOD!
NOW TO
GET DOWN TO
EARTH—
AND
BUSINESS!

A MODEL FARM — GLEAMING
AND SPOTLESS... EQUIPPED
WITH EVERY MODERN ELEC-
TRICAL CONVENIENCE!

NOTHING OUT
OF ORDER HERE!
HOLY COW! WHAT
A NEAT IDEA FOR
A PERFECT
HIDE-OUT!

STILL SEEKING THE LAST CLUE
TO THE ROBBERIES... THE CRIME-
CRUSHERS SLIP SILENTLY
INTO THE MILKING BARN...

HERE'S
ONE OF
THOSE ELEC-
TRICAL MILK-
ING PUMPS.
—WORK BY
SUCTION!

QUICK!
INTO THE
STALL!
SOMEONE'S
COMING!

SWIFTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO DIS-
APPEARS... AS TWO WHITE-
COATED FIGURES ENTER THE BARN!

I TELL
YA, BOSS—
HE FOUGHT
LIKE TEN
MEN! WE
DIDN'T
STAND A
CHANCE!

YOU FOOLS!
I THOUGHT YOU
COULD AIM
STRAIGHT! HE
LET YOU GO FOR
A PURPOSE! PROB-
ABLY ON OUR TRAIL
RIGHT NOW... BUT
HE'LL NEVER
FIND THESE!



A FABULOUS, GLITTERING STREAM FLOWS
OUT OF THE MILKING PUMP... INTO A
MILK CAN!

WOW! I WISH
ALL COWS GAVE MILK
LIKE THIS!

TIME
FOR US TO
CLEAR OUT
OF HERE!
I'LL PAY
YOU BOYS
OFF AND
WE'LL
SCRAM!

THAT CACHE LOOKS
LIKE A REAL MILK-
ING PUMP... YOU'RE
SURE SMART, BOSS!
WHO'D LOOK FOR
JOOLS IN A
DAIRY?!

AS THOUGH FROM NOWHERE, TWIN THUNDERBOLTS
FLASH ACROSS THE BARN!

WE
WOULD! YOU'VE
DONE ENOUGH
"MILKING!"

GET
THE GANG,
SPARKS!
UGH!

YEOW!
BATMAN!
AGAIN!

AND
DON'T
FORGET
ME!



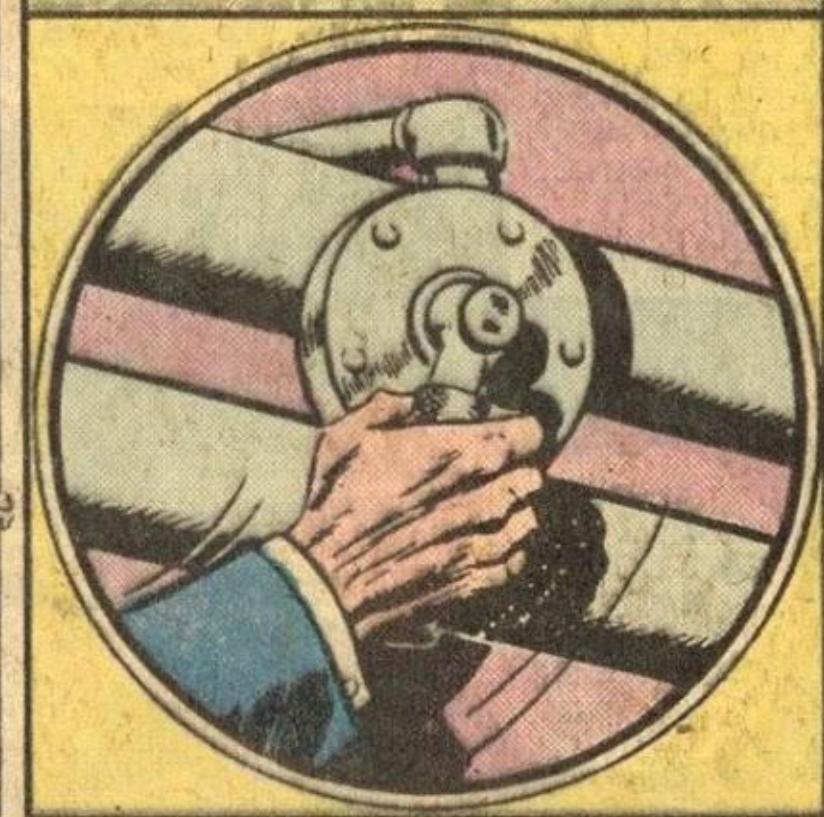
BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?

TAKE A
STALL FOR,
YOURSELF!



A FURTIVE HAND STEALS
OUT—A LEVER FALLS!



... AND A
SUDDEN BLAST
OF WATER
PLUNGES
DOWNWARD!

THE
WASHING
SYSTEM!

WHAT
NEXT?
WATERFALLS
IN A
DAIRY!



HAMPERED BY THE CLINGING FOLDS OF HIS CAPE, BATMAN FIGHTS ON... BUT THE DYNAMIC DUO IS SOON OUTNUMBERED...

A DOUBLE-HEADER!
LOOK OUT, ROBIN!

... AND FINALLY OVERPOWERED!

WELL, WELL! NOBLE FIGHTING
DESERVES A NOBLE END!
TRIGGER, TAKE
THEM TO THE PAS-
TEURIZING PLANT!

YOU CAN
DROP THAT
MASK, WIN-
THROP! I CAN
SEE RIGHT
THROUGH YOU!

BUT... BUT...
IT CAN'T BE!

WINTHROP! WEALTHY
TREASURER OF THE
PURITY MILK CO.,
HOST OF BARON KLIN-
GLE! CAN HE BE THE
ARCH-CROOK?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
KNOWN! EVEN
MY MEN DON'T
KNOW WHO
I AM!

I ADMIRE YOUR
CLEVER SLEUTHING,
BATMAN! WHAT
ELSE DID YOU
FIGURE
OUT?

IT WAS EASY, WINTHROP!
THE JOBS WERE HELPED
FROM THE INSIDE! YOU
WERE PRESENT AT EACH
PARTY! YOU GOT THE
SKELETON KEY... YOU
DRUGGED THE GUARDS! AND
YOU ARE THE JEWEL COL-
LECTOR! ONLY AN EXPERT
WOULD HAVE SELECTED
THE JEWELS YOU TOOK!



THE GRADE A CRIMES

WHEN ONE OF YOUR THUGS LEFT A WHITE BUTTON BEHIND... THE REST WAS EASY! NO ONE SUSPECTED A MILKMAN, BUT A MILKMAN WAS ALWAYS AROUND!

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REPORT YOUR FINDINGS! WHEN THIS THERMOMETER READS 145 DEGREES, YOU AND THE KID ARE GOING INTO THE VAT! GRADE A PASTEURIZED CORPSES!

WHILE THE CROOKS FLEE IN CONFUSION, THE CRIMEFIGHTERS WORK SWIFTLY TO FREE THEMSELVES!

RUN! HE'LL STEAM US LIKE CLAMS!

THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, ROBIN! BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SCALDED TO DEATH.

GEE! BATMAN... I'M TRYING! THERE - GOT IT!

BURSTING OUT OF THEIR BONDS - THE FIGHTING FURIES RACE AFTER THE FLEEING CROOKS!

PHEW! IT WAS GETTING STUFFY IN THERE!

THERE THEY GO - TOWARD THE BARN!

LIKE A GIANT, WINGED BIRD OF NIGHT, THE ACROBATMAN CRASHES THROUGH THE BARN WINDOW!

...WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE!

HELP! THERE ARE BATS IN HERE!

BUT BATMAN HOLDS A DANGEROUS ACE! THE LIVE-STEAM HOSE FOR CLEANING THE VATS!

NOT SO FAST, WINTHROP! DON'T MOVE, ANYONE! ONE STEP AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE STUFFED SHIRTS IN A STEAM LAUNDRY!

YEOW! IF HE TURNS THAT KNOB, WE'RE GONERS!

BOYS! LET ME OUTA HERE.

I'LL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE SILO AND KEEP MY EYES PEELED.

THE DOOR'S LOCKED TIGHT! OHO! BETTER HURRY! THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN THAT HAY... MUST BE A TRAP DOOR!

TWO HEELS GET THE BOOT!

OUCH!

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AS THE MIGHTY BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MANY...

HEAVE HO!
AWAY!
WE GO!

UGH!
GLUG!

AS DAYLIGHT GROWS STRONGER, THE UN-EVEN FIGHT IS FINISHED!

LEAVE THOSE CHAPS ON ICE TILL THE POLICE GET HERE! WINTHROP AND THE GEMS COME ALONG WITH US AS A PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSIONER!

(PUFF)
(PUFF)
THESE CROOKS
MUST CARRY
LEAD
WEIGHTS
ON 'EM!

A YOUNG DYNAMO MAKES A SURPRISE ENTRANCE!

WHEE! THIS IS BETTER THAN THE CHUTE-THE-CHUTE!

LATER... IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

IMAGINE A MAN LIKE WINTHROP IN A CRIME RACKET! WHO'D SUSPECT HIM—OR THE MILKMEN?

THAT'S WHY IT WAS SUCH A NEAT SET-UP! WINTHROP PROBABLY BOUGHT THE SMALL DAIRY UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AND IF ANYONE FOUND OUT IT WAS HIS—WHY, HE COULD SAY IT WAS A HOBBY!

I JUST CHECKED OVER WINTHROP'S BOOKS FOR THE MILK COMPANY. THERE'S A LARGE FUND SHORTAGE HERE!

THAT EXPLAINS A LOT! HE MUST HAVE GAMBLED WITH THE COMPANY'S MONEY—AND HAD TO MAKE GOOD! HE SPENT EVERY CENT HE HAD ON COLLECTING JEWELS!

BACK IN THE WAYNE MANSION...

I SEE BY THE PAPERS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUGHT THOSE "EARLY BIRD" CROOKS!

IT'S SORT OF IRONICAL, BRUCE! I BET DRINKING THIS STUFF IS WHAT MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT THOSE MILKMEN ROBBERS! MMM.. SURE IS GOOD!

THE END

FORMULA I

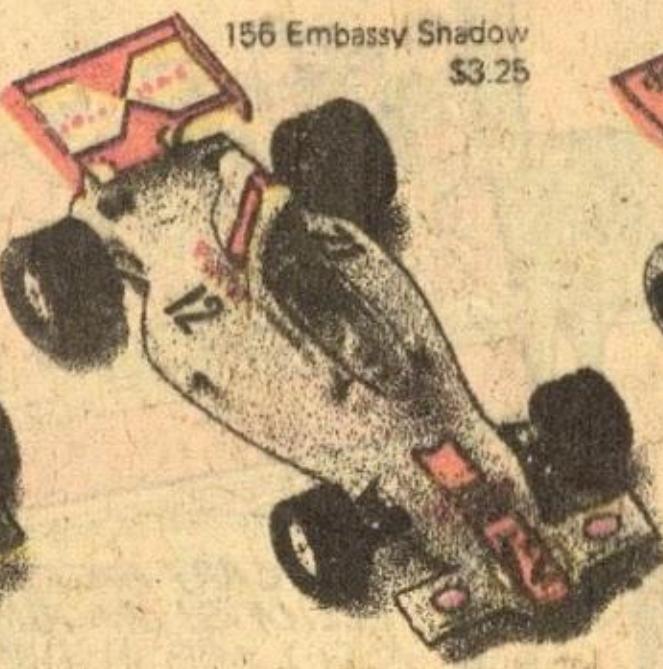
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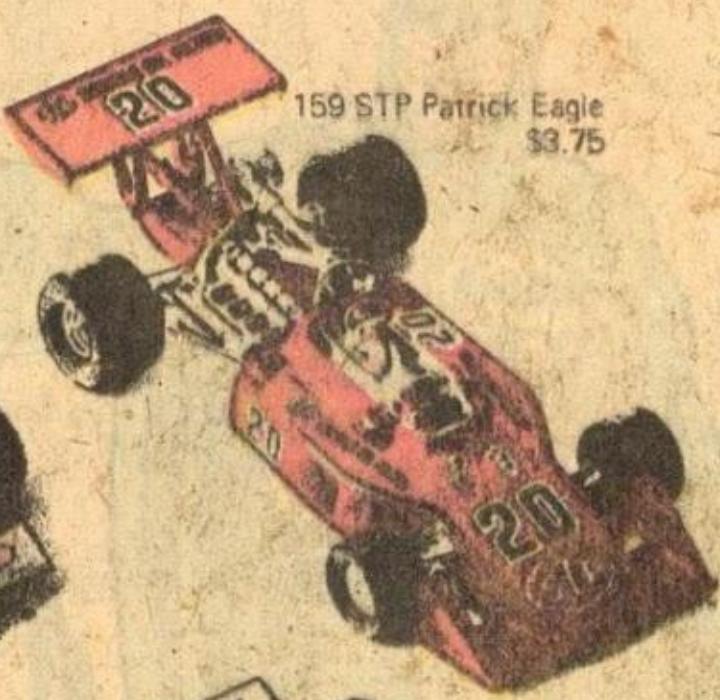
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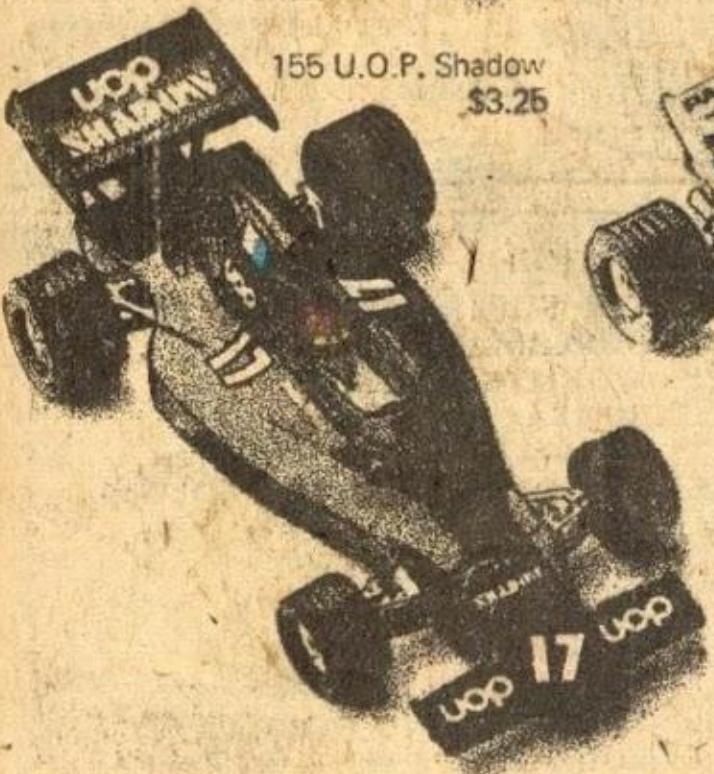
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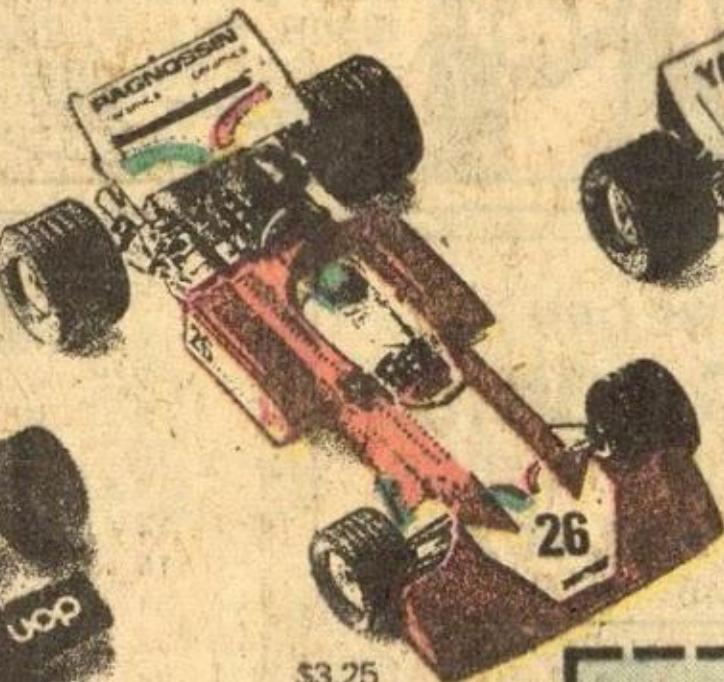
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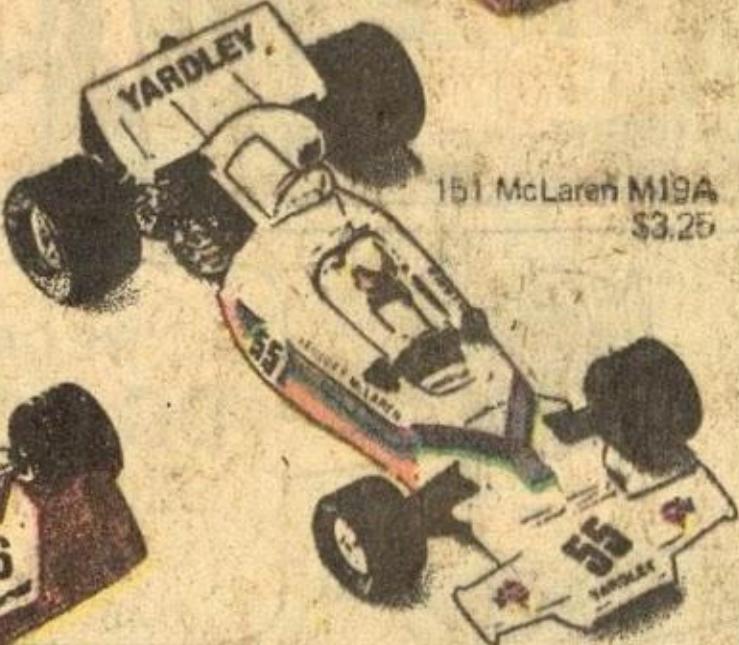
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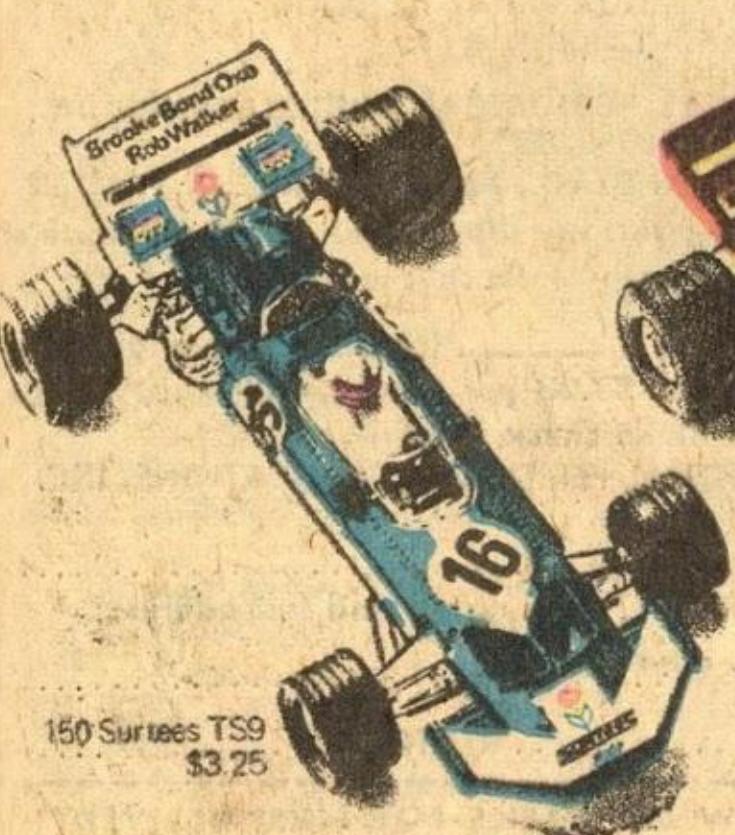
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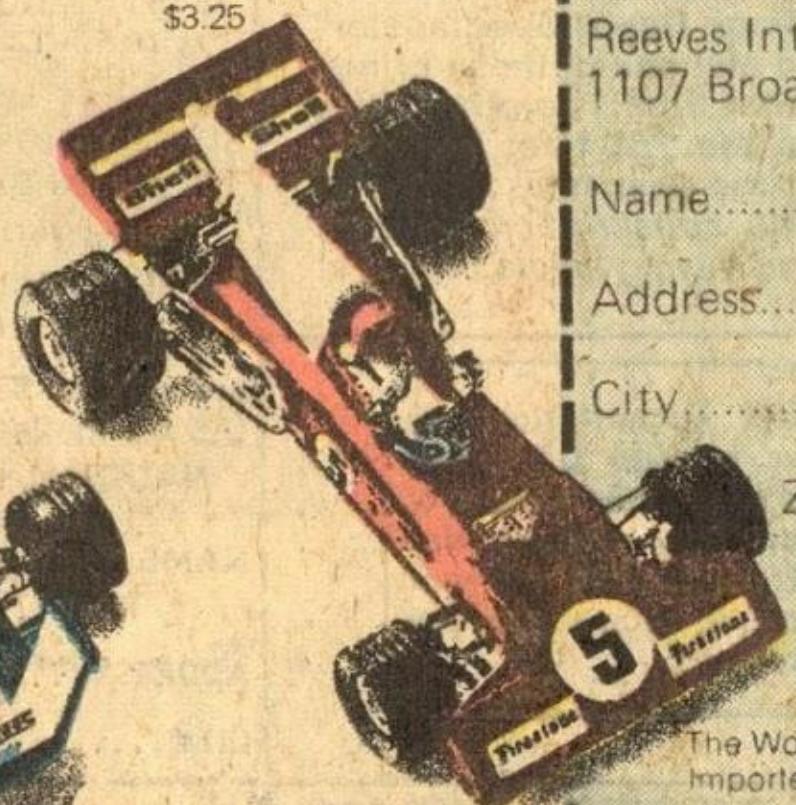
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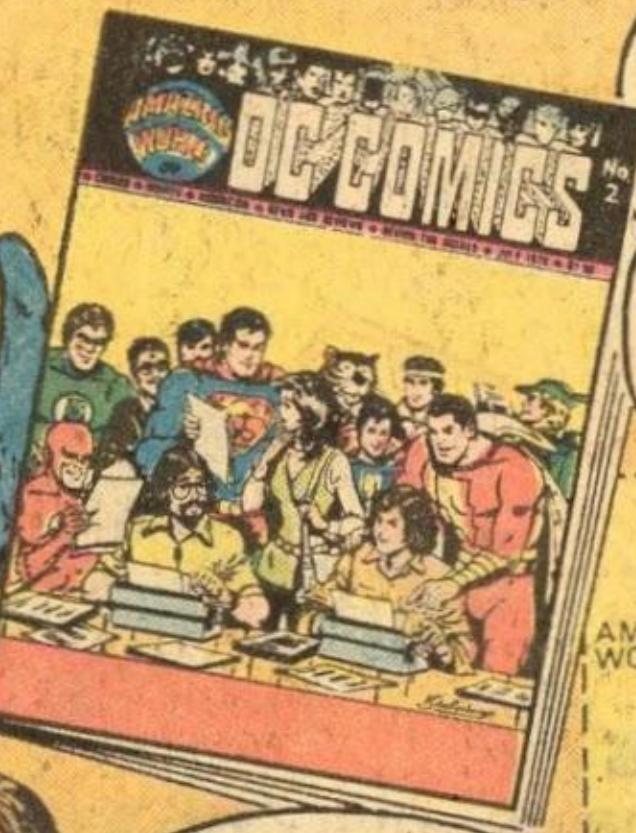
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ELLIOT S. MAGGIN
AND I ARE IN THIS
ISSUE. IT'LL BE READY
FOR MAILING
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WRIGHTSON,
ED WHELAN AND
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ALLOW 10 WEEKS FOR FIRST DELIVERY!

THIS IS KAYE DAYE, DETECTIVE NOVELIST
AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE MYSTERY
ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY! TAKE
IT, KAYE!

THANKS, BATMAN! THIS CASE IN-
VOLVED AN ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE!
BUT YOU DID A FINE JOB OF
POSTPONING MY FUNERAL!

ANOTHER
"MYSTERY ANALYSTS
of GOTHAM CITY"
THRILLER!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE FINEST DETECTIVE BRAINS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY BELONG TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY! YET EVEN THE MINDS OF THESE MYSTERY-SOLUTION MARVELS ARE STUMPED WHEN THE STRANGE EVENTS OF A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING BEGIN TO UNFOLD! FOR THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN MARKED AS DUPES IN THE AMAZING CASE WHICH GOES INTO THEIR RECORDS AS...

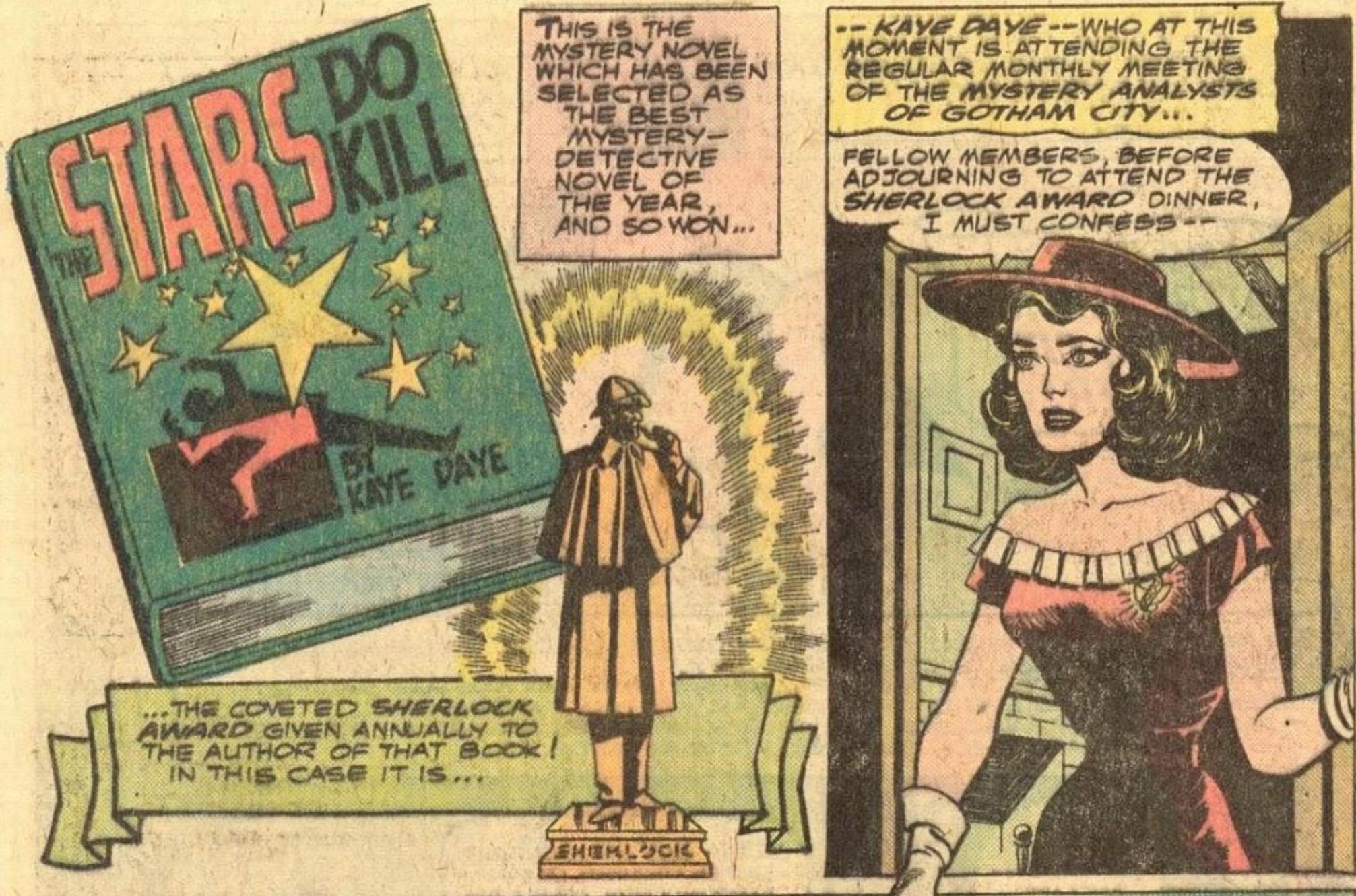
WE
MISSED
BATMAN--
AND HE
GOT
JOE!

YEAH--BUT WE KNOCKED
THOSE DRAPES DOWN
AROUND HIM! WE CAN
PLUG HIM NOW
WITHOUT ANY
DANGER!

ART: BOB KANE &
SID GREENE
STORY: GARDNER FOX

4-1139

"THE
PERFECT CRIME--
SLIGHTLY
IMPERFECT!



LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS
IN EUROPE ON A
VACATION ...

... SOMEBODY SUBMITTED
A MANUSCRIPT TO MY
PUBLISHER--UNDER MY
NAME ! IT READ EXACTLY
LIKE MY STYLE--HE HAD
NO REASON TO DOUBT
I'D WRITTEN IT--AND SO
HE PUBLISHED IT ! WHEN
I SAW IT IN PRINT, I
ALMOST COLLAPSED--!



SINCE THE BOOK WAS IN THE STORES AND SELLING
WELL, I DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE ON MY OWN--
FIND OUT WHO PULLED SUCH A HOAX--AND WHY!
I GOT NOWHERE ! NOW, INASMUCH AS THE BOOK
WON THE SHERLOCK AWARD, I'VE DECIDED TO
TELL THE TRUTH AND REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD !

SUDDENLY AN EERIE VOICE
ERUPTS FROM THE PIN ON
HER DRESS ...



THE MASKED MANHUNTER IS THE FIRST TO REACH THE STUNNED NOVELIST...

YOU ALL RIGHT, KAYE ? DON'T
WORRY--WE WON'T LET ANY-
THING HAPPEN TO YOU !

I SHOULD SAY.
NOT ! WHY, THE
FINEST DETECTIVE
BRAINS OF THE
COUNTRY ARE
ASSEMBLED IN THIS
ROOM ! WE CAN
TRACK DOWN THE
ONE WHO MADE
THIS THREAT--
BEFORE HE CAN
HARM YOU !



CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

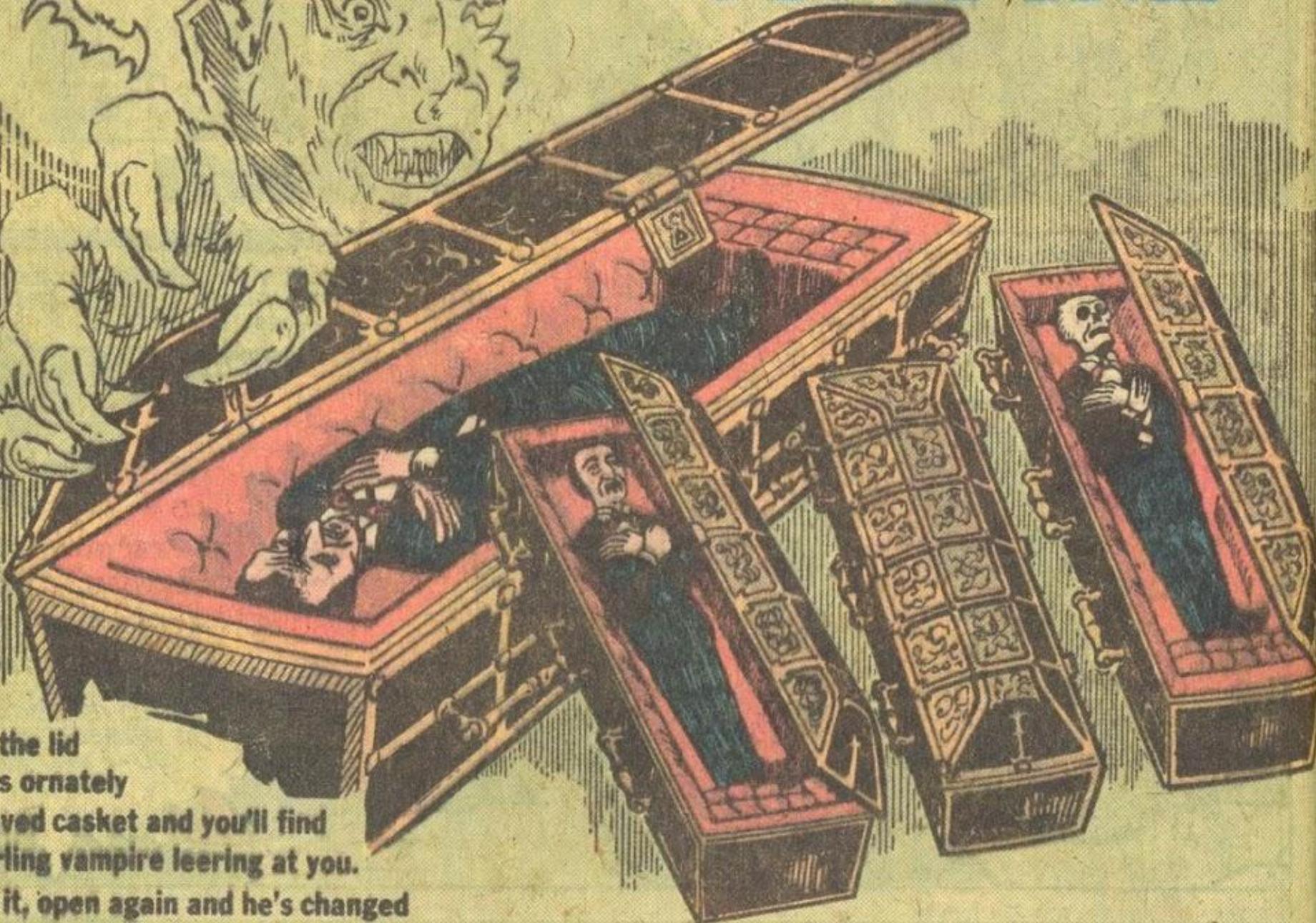
See the Mystery of the

Super detailed assembly kits

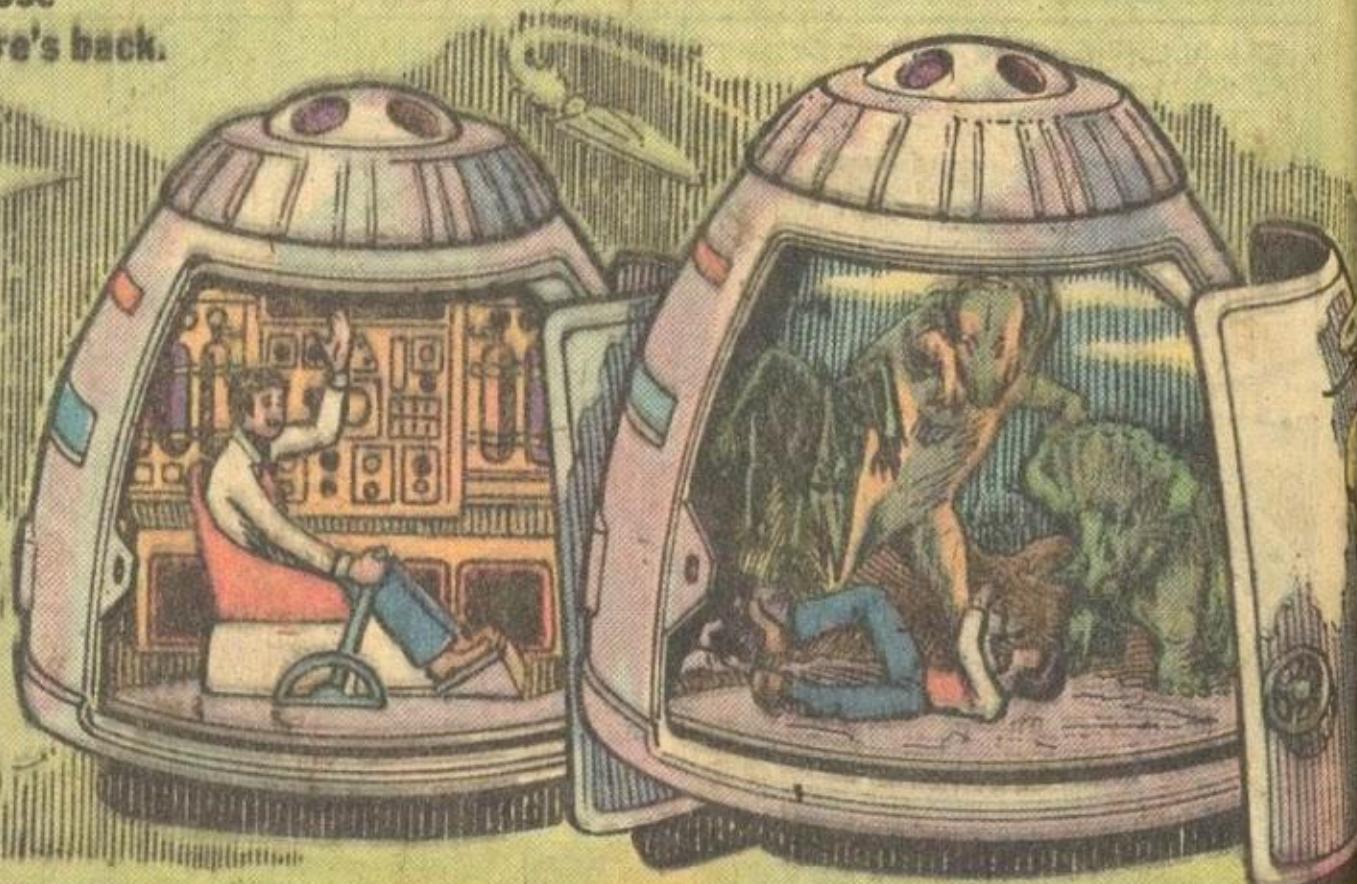
strange change

IT'S WEIRD, WEIRD, WEIRD

The Strange Changing
VAMPIRE



Open the lid
on this ornately
engraved casket and you'll find
a snarling vampire leering at you.
Close it, open again and he's changed
into a harmless bag of bones. Close
and open it again and the vampire's back.
That's the Strange Change.



with mysteriously changing contents...Easy to build, wild fun to show.

The Strange Changing **MUMMY**



Open the finely sculptured mummy case and you'll find ol' Pharaoh resting peacefully. Close it, open again and now he's doing everything but coming out of the case. Quick! Close it! Open it again and everything's cool.

The Strange Changing **TIME MACHINE**

Open the door and there's the Time Traveler ready to do his thing. Close the door and open it again. Something went wrong...he's caught in the midst of prehistoric beasts! Close the door, open it again and he's back safe and sound.

The Strange Change Series from MPC.
Look for them at your local hobby or department store now!



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FRIENDLY VOICES BRING A SMILE OF RELIEF TO THE TREMBLING WRITER...

THEN YOU WANT ME TO GO
TO THE AWARD DINNER--
ACCEPT THE
SHERLOCK...

OF COURSE! WE'LL ACT
OUT THIS DRAMA TO A
SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION!

YOU'LL BE SAFE
AND YOUR WOULD-BE
KILLER BEHIND
BARS!

WE DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME--
LESS THAN TWO
HOURS! LET'S
GET STARTED!



WHILE YOU OTHERS GUARD KAYE,
I'LL GO OUT AND INVESTIGATE
THE DEATH THREAT! DON'T LET
HER OUT OF YOUR
SIGHT--AND AT
THE FIRST SIGN
OF TROUBLE--
ALL OF YOU
GO INTO
ACTION!

SWIFTLY, FOR HE IS WORKING AGAINST TIME ITSELF, THE
COWLED CRUSADER RACES FROM THE CLUBHOUSE AND...

MY INVESTIGATION STARTS WITH
THE ODD COINCIDENCE OF KAYE
HAPPENING TO WEAR THAT BROOCH
TONIGHT! IF SHE HADN'T WORN
IT, THAT PREPARED
THREAT WOULDN'T
HAVE MATERIALIZED...

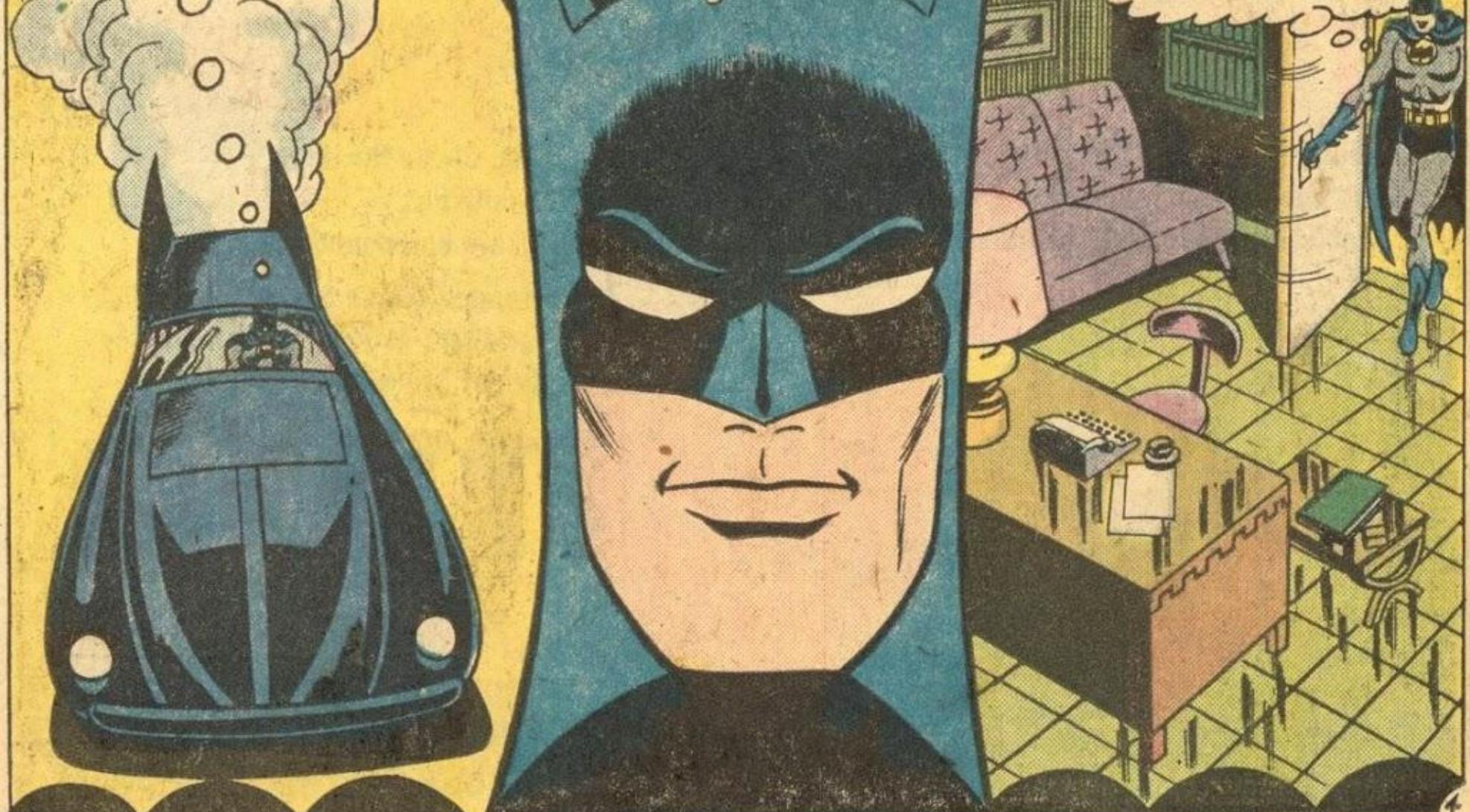


UNLESS--KAYE
KNEW THAT THREAT
WAS TO BE MADE!
FOR HOW ELSE WOULD
HER WOULD-BE
MURDERER KNOW SHE
WAS GOING TO WEAR
THAT PARTICULAR PIN
THAT WAS GIMMICKED
UP TO SPEAK?

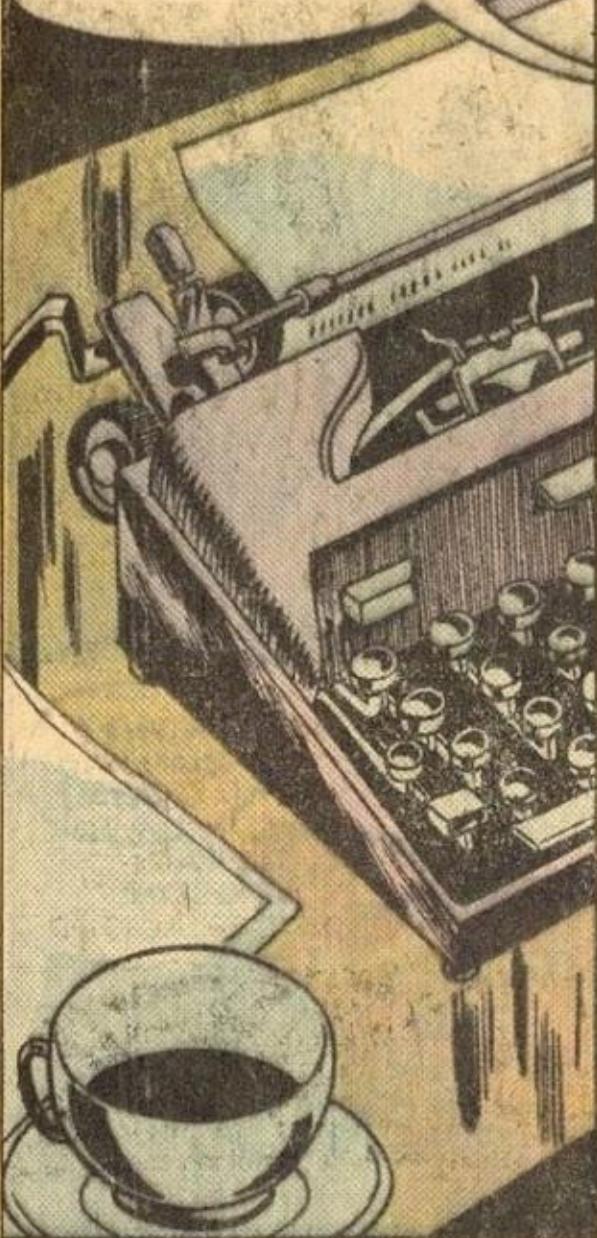
ALL OF WHICH PUTS A DIFFERENT
LIGHT ON THINGS! THE KAYE
DAYE AT THE MEETING MIGHT
NOT HAVE BEEN THE REAL
KAYE DAYE! ASSUMING I'M ON
THE RIGHT TRACK, I'LL GO TO
HER APARTMENT AND SEARCH
FOR A CLUE TO WHAT
HAPPENED TO HER...

AT THE PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT OF
THE FAMED
MYSTERY STORY
WRITER, MINUTES
LATER...

THE DOOR'S
UNLOCKED!
CURIOUS! AND
HOW ABOUT THE
SET-UP HERE...?



KAYE WAS INTERRUPTED IN THE VERY MIDDLE OF A WORD WHILE SHE WAS TYPING ! THE COFFEE IS COLD, ONLY HALF-FINISHED. I'LL TRY AND RECONSTRUCT WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED...



IN HIS MIND'S EYE THE DEDUCTIVE DETECTIVE VISUALIZES KAYE DAYE TYPING ON HER NEW BOOK, A CUP OF STEAMING COFFEE AT HER SIDE AS...



"SOMEONE CAME IN THROUGH THE DOOR, TAKING HER BY SURPRISE... SAY, WITH GUN IN HAND..."

HOLD IT, MISS DAYE ! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME !



"OBVIOUSLY SHE COULD NOT LEAVE A CLUE IN PLAIN SIGHT, RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF HER VISITOR ! BUT KAYE'S A VERY RESOURCEFUL GIRL. COULD SHE HAVE FOUND A WAY TO LEAVE SUCH A CLUE, UNSEEN ? ..."



"THE ONLY PART OF KAYE DAYE THE INTRUDER WOULD NOT SEE WOULD BE HER FEET AND HIGH-HEELED SHOES !"

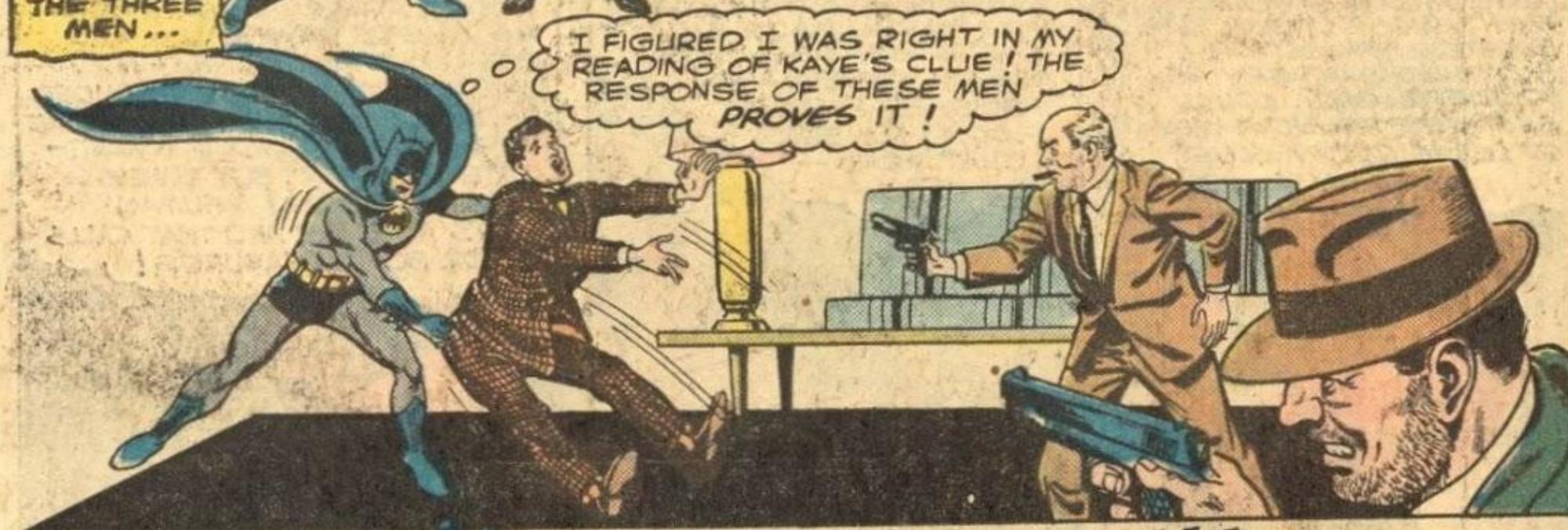
SURE ENOUGH ! HERE BENEATH HER TYPING DESK ARE MARKS MADE BY KAYE'S HIGH HEEL IN THE HIGHLY WAXED AND POLISHED PARQUET FLOOR ! NUMBERS THAT READ--

117 !



THERE ARE ONLY TWO PENT-HOUSE APARTMENTS HERE-- 116 WHERE KAYE LIVES, AND THE NEXT-DOOR ONE-- 117 ! SHE RECOGNIZED THE INTRUDER-- AND GUessed WHERE HE'D TAKE HER ! ORDINARILY I'D INVESTIGATE FURTHER, BUT TIME'S RUNNING SHORT ! A HUMAN LIFE'S AT STAKE AND THAT CALLS FOR BOLD MEASURES !





MISSED!

CHUCK
MAKES
HIS
MOVE--
BUT
SO
DOES
A
BATMAN-
BOLT
OF
ANGRY
LIGHT-
NING...

I'LL GIVE HIM
SOMETHING TO
"CHAIR" HIM UP!



AS BATMAN
HURLS THE
CHAIR AT HIS
ADVERSARY
HE IS KNOCKED
OFF BALANCE
BY ANOTHER...

BLAMM!

WITH RAZOR-SHARP REFLEX ACTION, THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER BOUNCES BACK, SENDING HIS QUARRY FLYING THROUGH SHATTERING FRENCH DOORS--EVEN AS A STRAY BULLET HITS A DRAPE CORD, DROPPING A HEAVY DRAPE OVER HIS BODY!



BATMAN
WHIRLS--
AND
WITH
REFLEXES
AS
QUICK
AND
SURE
AS ANY
TIGER...



BUT I CAN SEE
THEM -- IN THAT
MIRROR !

AIMING BY REFLECTION AND A HIGH DEGREE OF INSTINCT,
THE COWLED CRUSADER CATAULPTS FORWARD...

HEY--
WHAT--!

A COLOSSUS OF
CRUSHING POWER,
HE WHIRLS AND...

HE DOES NOT PAUSE ! HIS
MIGHTY BODY EXPLODES WITH
RAW POWER AS HE PLUNGES
RECKLESSLY THROUGH FALL-
ING GLASS AND SPLINTERING
WOOD...

HE DROPS LIKE A HUNTING
FELINE ! ONE HAND CHOPS
AT A GUN ARM ! THE OTHER...

SOCK

HE
DOESN'T
HOLD
STILL
LONG
ENOUGH
TO--
G-GET A
B-BEAD ON
HIM !

OKAY--
NOW TO
FIND
KAYE-- !

POW!

POW!

THUD

AWARE THAT THEY ARE BATTING FOR FREEDOM AND AGAINST A LONG JAIL TERM, THE TWO OTHER GANGSTERS BURST TOWARD THE SHATTERED DOORS...

HERE'S WHERE WE TAKE HIM!

HE AIN'T GOT EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD!



BUT EVEN AS FINGERS TIGHTEN ON TRIGGERS...

THE LIVING ROOM LIGHTS ARE ON--BEHIND THOSE GUYS! THIS IS LIKE HAVING A BOMB-SIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

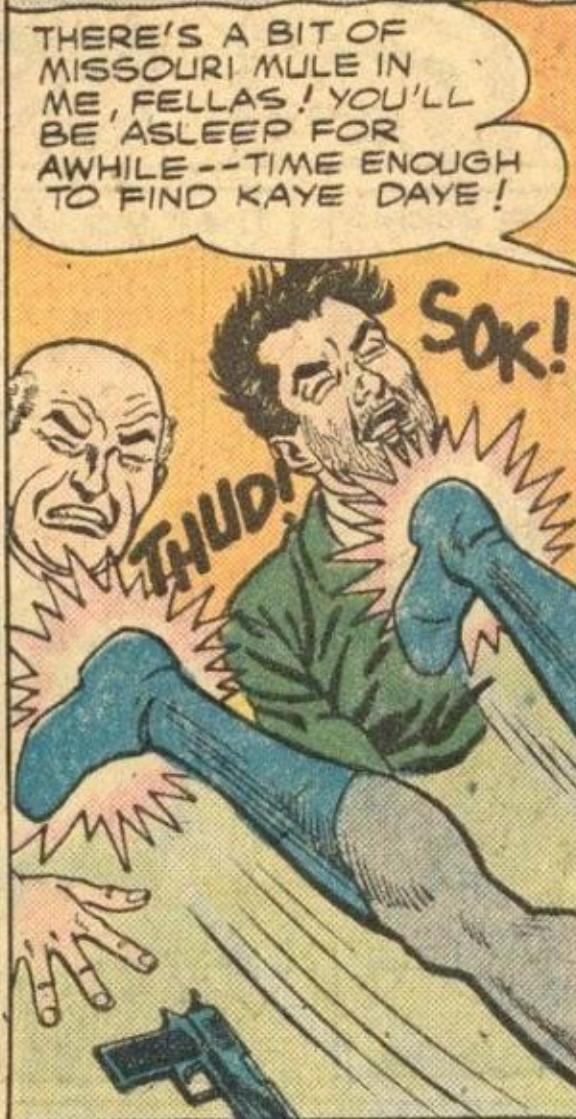
HIS HEAVILY THEWED LEGS DRIVE UP AND BACKWARD...

THERE'S A BIT OF MISSOURI MULE IN ME, FELLAS! YOU'LL BE ASLEEP FOR AWHILE--TIME ENOUGH TO FIND KAYE DAYE!

SECONDS AFTERWARD, IN A WALK-IN CLOSET...

I WAS COUNTING THE MINUTES TILL MY 10 O'CLOCK DEAD-LINE-- BUT SOMEHOW I KNEW YOU'D SAVE ME, BATMAN...

THANKS TO YOUR CLUE, KAYE!



MOMENTS BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK, "KAYE DAYE" RISES AT THE SHERLOCK AWARD DINNER TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE APPLAUSE GIVEN HER AS THE YEAR'S OUTSTANDING MYSTERY NOVELIST...

THE POLICE ARE EVERYWHERE! IF ANYBODY CAN EVADE THEM, HE'LL HAVE TO BE INVISIBLE!

AND ALL THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS ARE SCATTERED ABOUT AT GOOD VANTAGE POINTS!



THE PRESENTATION SPEECH IS MADE! THE SECONDS TICK AWAY. "KAYE DAYE" IS STILL ALIVE...

THIS IS IT!

THAT GAL HAS IRON NERVES!

IT'S PAST TEN! THE DANGER'S OVER!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE...

AND THEN IN RINGING TONES, A VOICE BOOMS OUT...

HOLD IT! I'LL GIVE OUT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENTS HERE --

BATMAN! YOU MUST'VE NABBED KAYE'S WOULD-BE KILLER! WHO WAS IT?

THAT WOMAN WHO IS MASQUERADE AS KAYE DAYE! ARREST HER, COMMISSIONER!

TO THE STUNNED AMAZE-MENT OF THE ASSEMBLAGE, THE COWLED CRUSADER LEADS FORWARD THE REAL AUTHOR OF "THE STARS DO KILL"...

THEY'RE LOOK-ALIKES!

OUTWARDLY, YES--BUT ONCE THE OTHER'S DISGUISE IS REMOVED, SHE'LL BE SHOWN UP FOR THE PHONY SHE IS!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE IMPERSONATOR IS CONFRONTED BY HER FELLOW CONSPIRATORS...

THEY HAVE ALREADY CONFESSED THAT YOU HIRED THEM TO KILL KAYE DAYE AT TEN O'CLOCK TONIGHT!

THAT'S THEIR STORY! I KNOW FROM NOTHING! ALL YOU HAVE ON ME IS THE CHARGE OF IMPERSONATING SOMEONE ELSE!



BUT HOW COULD FERN HUNTER HAVE HOPED TO GET AWAY WITH IT? SURELY SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN WE'D BE SUSPICIOUS OF HER PART IN KAYE'S MURDER, SINCE SHE WOULD INHERIT THE MONEY!

I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION, GENTLEMEN! FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE CLAIMED SHE HAD BEEN ON THE STAGE OF THE GOTHAM THEATER LAST NIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT ALIBI!



...AND IF I FOOLED EVERYONE PLAYING HER ROLE LAST NIGHT, SHE COULD LEAVE AND I WOULD TAKE HER PLACE! NO ONE WOULD EVER HAVE KNOWN IT WAS NOT THE REAL FERN HUNTER ON THAT STAGE! WITH A BRUNETTE WIG, I WAS MADE UP TO LOOK LIKE HER!

UNLESS NANCY TALKED! THAT MEANS FERN HUNTER HAD HER MARKED FOR DEATH, ALSO!



BUT NEXT DAY, WHEN BATMAN RETURNS TO SPEAK WITH THE PRISONER...

I'VE BEEN DOING SOME CHECKING UP! I'VE LEARNED YOU'RE AN ACTRESS NAMED FERN HUNTER--KAYE DAYE'S COUSIN--AND THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT HIS TWO MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE TO KAYE UPON HIS DEATH! IF SHE DIED BEFORE YOU, YOU WERE TO GET IT!



MY NAME IS NANCY OWENS! I'M AN ASPIRING ACTRESS FERN HUNTER TOOK UNDER HER WING. SHE COACHED ME, SHE TAUGHT ME, UNTIL I COULD PLAY HER PART ON THE STAGE JUST AS SHE DID! FERN TOLD ME SHE WANTED TO QUIT THE SHOW...



SOME EVENINGS LATER, AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS...

WE'VE ALL BEEN DOING SOME INVESTIGATION ON YOUR CASE, KAYE! HUGH, START IT OFF...

I LEARNED THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR FAME AS A MYSTERY WRITER, KAYE--AND DECIDED TO LEAVE HIS MONEY TO YOU! THIS EMBITTERED FERN-- WHO WAS GOING TO "SHOW HIM" HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE --



ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELL-MAN TAKES UP THE TALE...

NOT ONLY WAS FERN GOING TO HAVE YOU KILLED TO INHERIT TWO MILLION DOLLARS, BUT SHE WAS GOING TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT WOULD PROVE SHE COULD "PLAN" A PERFECT CRIME TOO--DRESSED UP WITH MISLEADING CLUES! HERS WOULD BE A *REAL-LIFE* MURDER, NOT A FICTIONAL ONE!



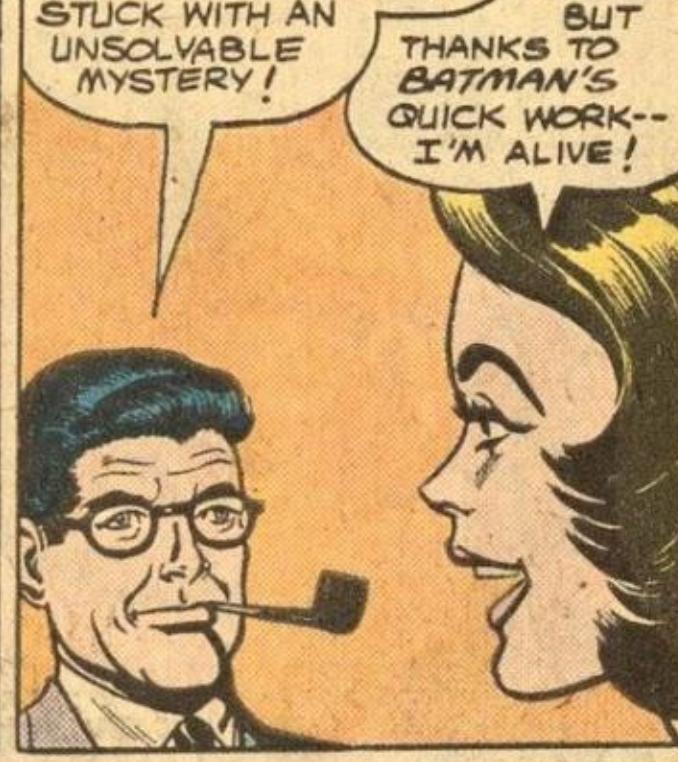
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON ADDS HIS INFORMATION...

AFTER FERN'S CONFEDERATES KILLED YOU AT TEN, THEY WERE TO RETURN YOUR BODY TO YOUR OWN APARTMENT, WITH PLANTED EVIDENCE PROVING THE TIME OF YOUR DEATH!



CRIME REPORTER ART SADDOWS SMILES GRIMLY...

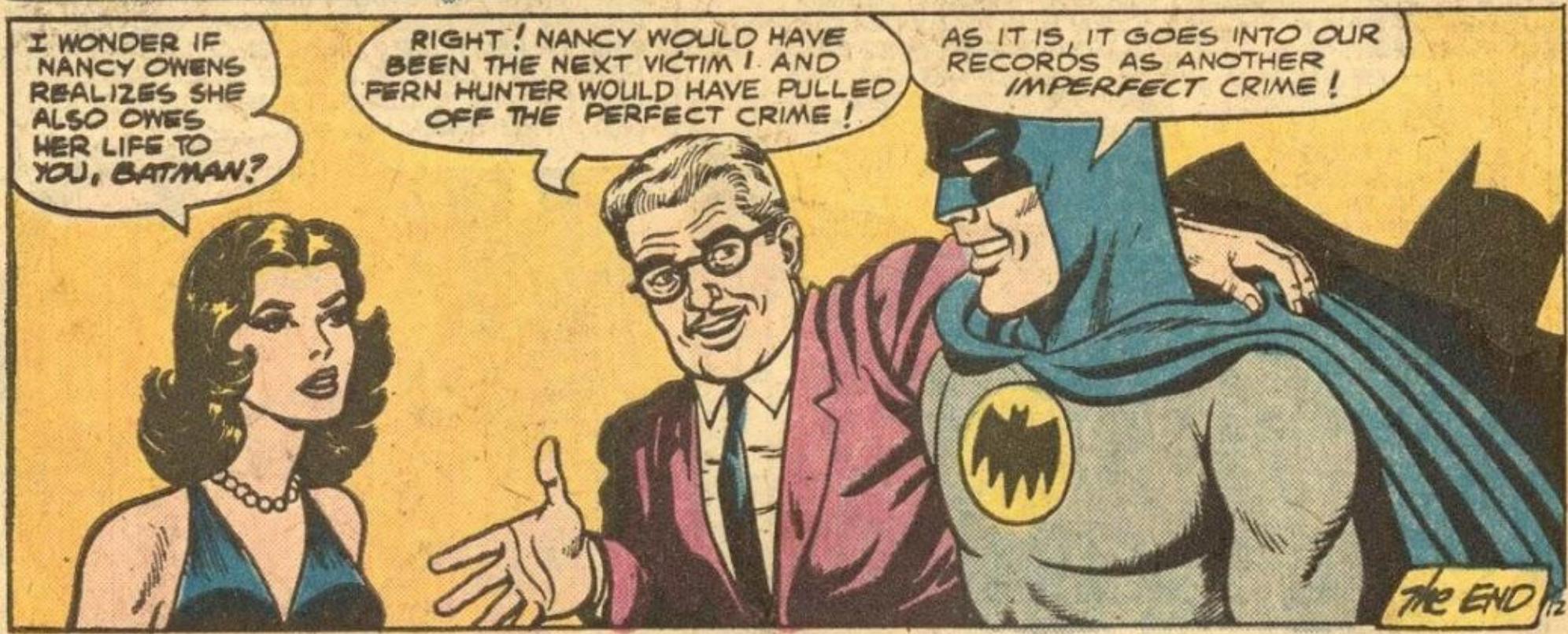
IF THE FINGER OF SUSPICION POINTED TO FERN HUNTER--SHE'D HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI! IF IT POINTED AT THE PHONY KAYE DAYE--SHE'D HAVE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS WOULD HAVE BEEN STUCK WITH AN UNSOLVABLE MYSTERY!



I WONDER IF NANCY OWENS REALIZES SHE ALSO OWES HER LIFE TO YOU, BATMAN?

RIGHT! NANCY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NEXT VICTIM! AND FERN HUNTER WOULD HAVE PULLED OFF THE PERFECT CRIME!

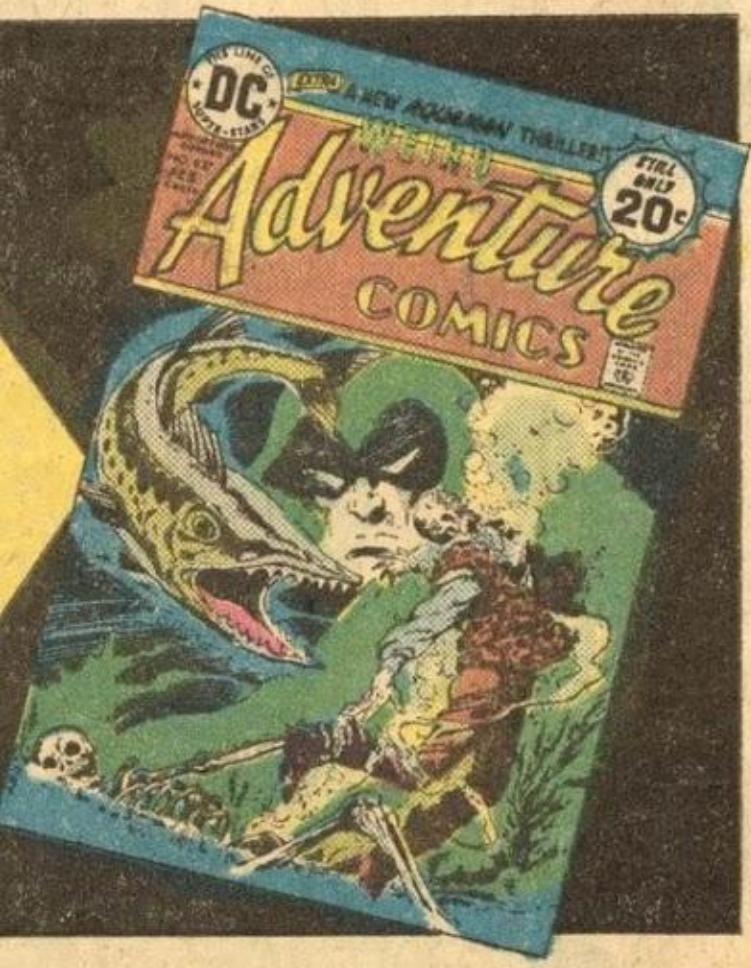
AS IT IS, IT GOES INTO OUR RECORDS AS ANOTHER IMPERFECT CRIME!



DOUBLE DANGER!

THE SPECTRE!
AND
AQUAMAN

ON SALE OCT. 31ST



BAT-MAN

TRIVIA QUIZ

1 YEARS AGO, THE PARENTS OF YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE WERE GUNNED DOWN BY A HOLDUP MAN. WHAT WAS THE KILLER'S NAME?

A LEX LUTHOR.

B JOE CHILL

C TED GRANT



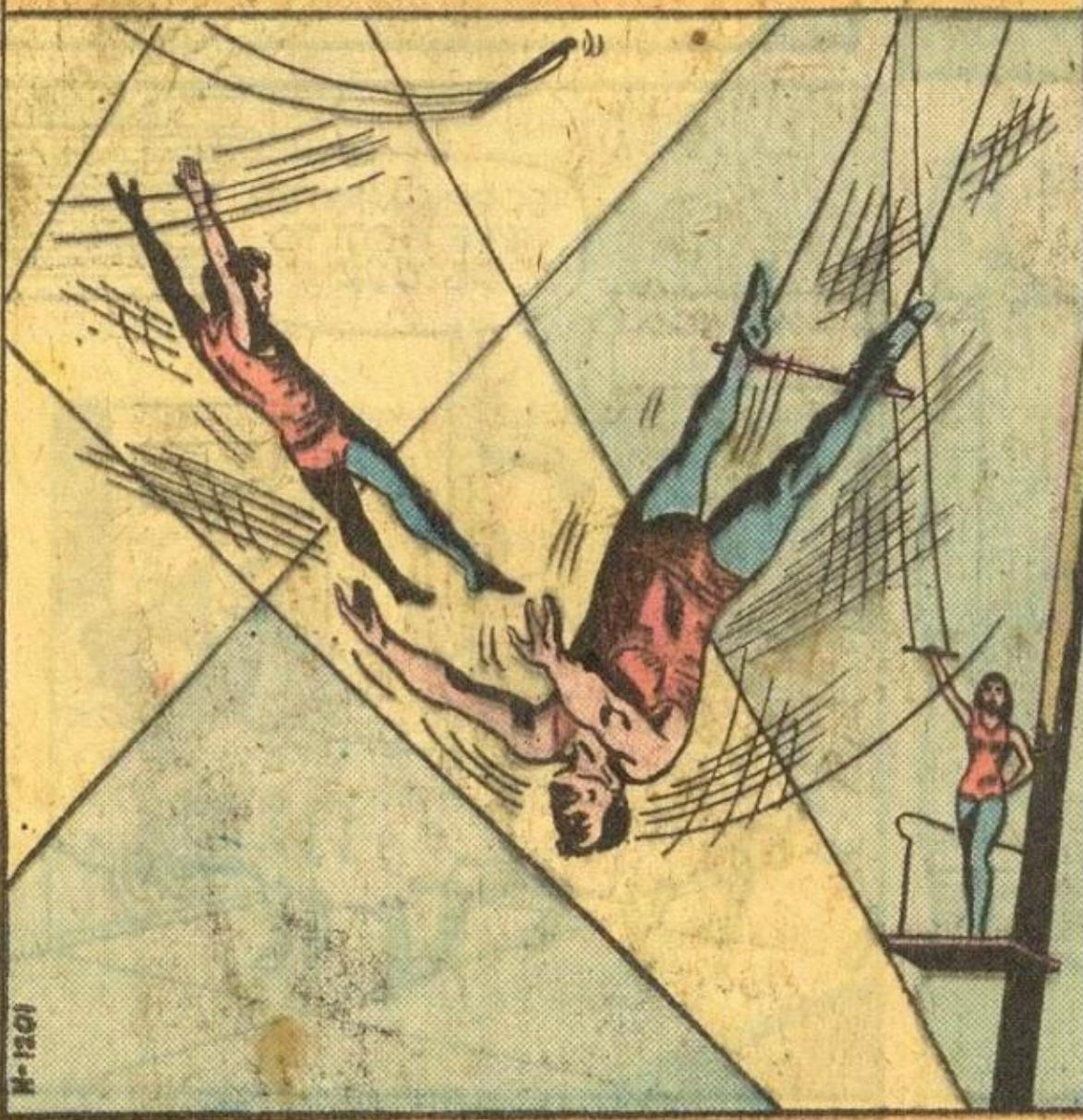
2 WHAT WERE THE WAYNES' FIRST NAMES?

A JONATHAN AND MARTHA. B THOMAS AND MARTHA C GEORGE AND MARTHA

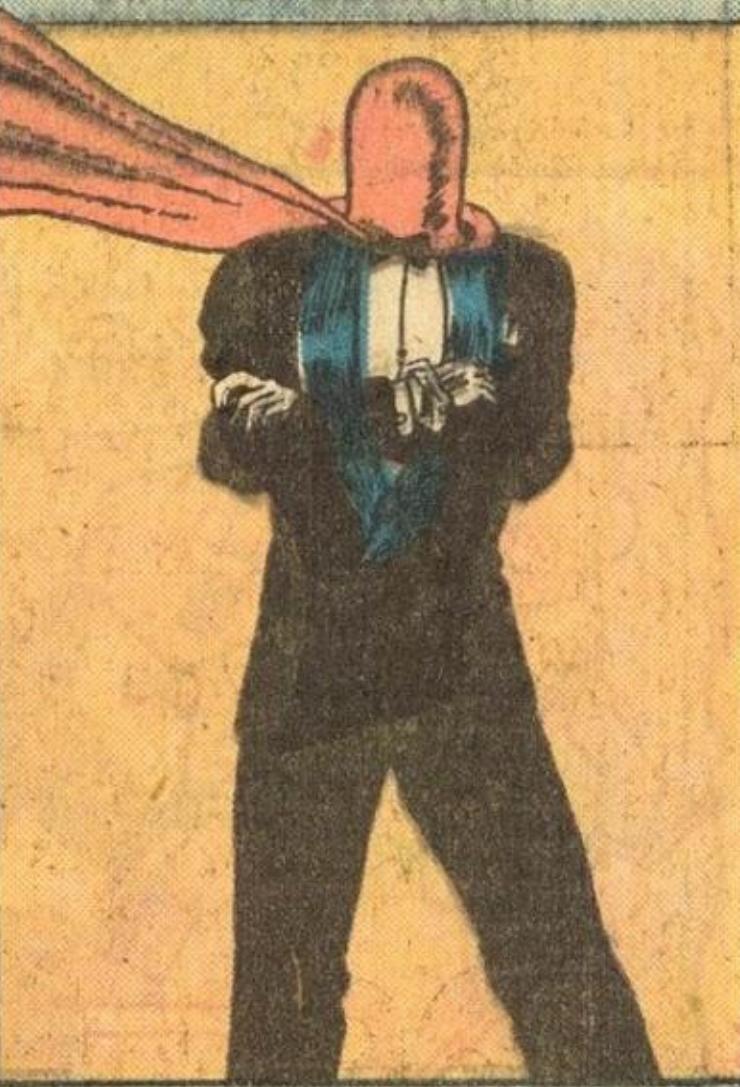
3 DICK GRAYSON PERFORMED WITH HIS PARENTS, WHO WERE TRAPEZE ARTISTS IN A CIRCUS.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THEIR ACT?

A THE GREAT GRAYSONS B THE FLYING GRAYSONS C THE AMAZING GRAYSONS



5 THIS IS THE RED HOOD, A FOE OF BATMAN WHO LATER TOOK ON A NEW IDENTITY.



WHICH OF THESE CROOKS WAS ONCE THE RED HOOD?



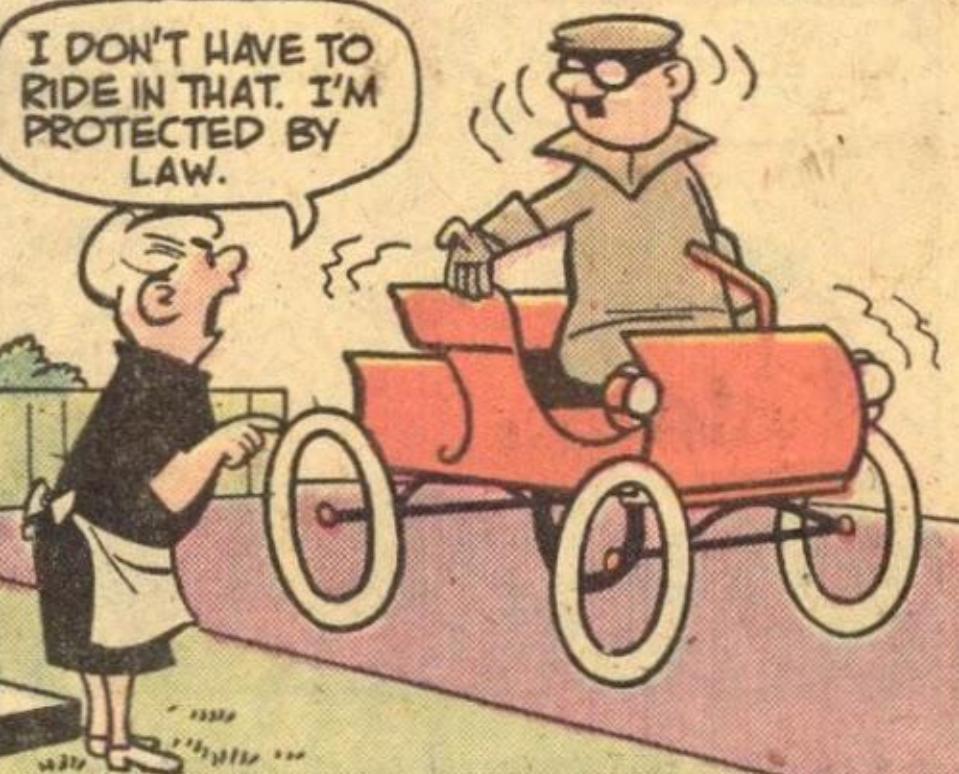
4 WHAT WERE THE GRAYSONS' FIRST NAMES?

A RICHARD AND HARRIET
B RICHARD AND MARY
C JOHN AND MARY

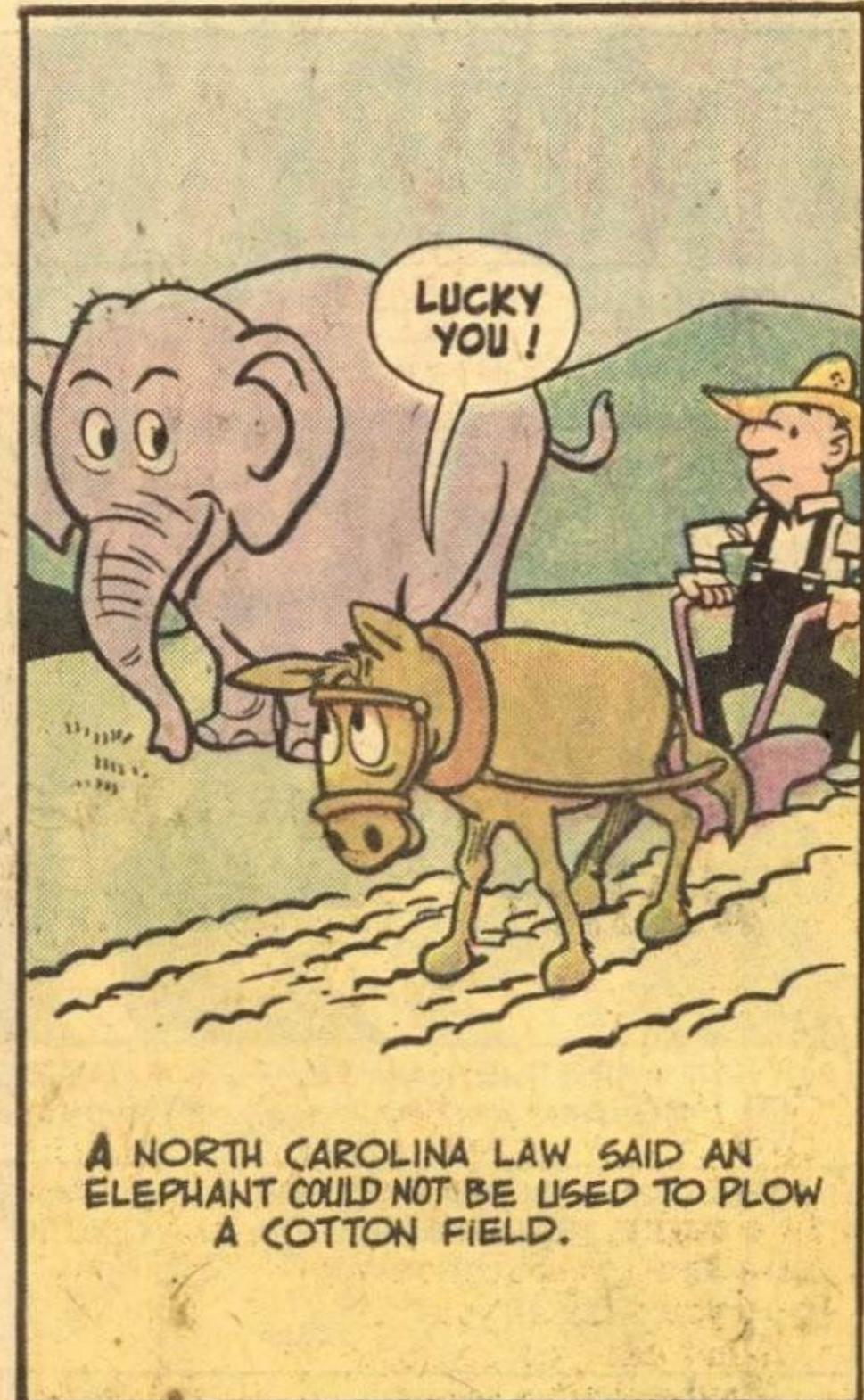
THE JOKER THE RIDDLER TWO-FACE

STRANGE OLD LAWS

I DON'T HAVE TO RIDE IN THAT. I'M PROTECTED BY LAW.



CORNING, IOWA, FORBADE A MAN ASKING HIS WIFE TO RIDE IN ANY MOTOR VEHICLE.



A NORTH CAROLINA LAW SAID AN ELEPHANT COULD NOT BE USED TO PLOW A COTTON FIELD.

I'LL MAKE HOLES, AND YOU FILL THEM.



N-1196

ILLINOIS AUTHORIZED TOWNS TO REQUIRE EVERY CITIZEN, BETWEEN 21 AND 50 YEARS OF AGE, TO LABOR IN THE STREETS FOR TWO DAYS EACH YEAR.

SORRY, MISTER.
I'VE GOT TO DETOUR!



IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, DROVES OF MORE THAN 2,000 SHEEP COULD NOT BE DRIVEN DOWN HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD

Never finished high school?

Now you can get a diploma without going back

You already know why it's important to have a high school education. You've probably learned the hard way that it can be a mighty big handicap when you don't have enough education — no matter how hard you work at your job.

What can you do about it?

Maybe you've thought of trying again to get a diploma. But you've suffered enough classroom "battle fatigue" to last you a lifetime. So you'd hate to travel that route again even if you could.

But what if we told you that there was now a much better way to get a high school education? An adult way, which gives you regular high school subjects and your choice of practical business and vocational subjects which give you background for one of a number of career fields.

That's the unique Wayne School way. You do your reading and assignments in your spare time, in the relaxed atmosphere of your own home, and "turn in" your completed assignments by mail. You don't have to give up your present job. You don't have to study or travel to class at inconvenient times.

Wayne School
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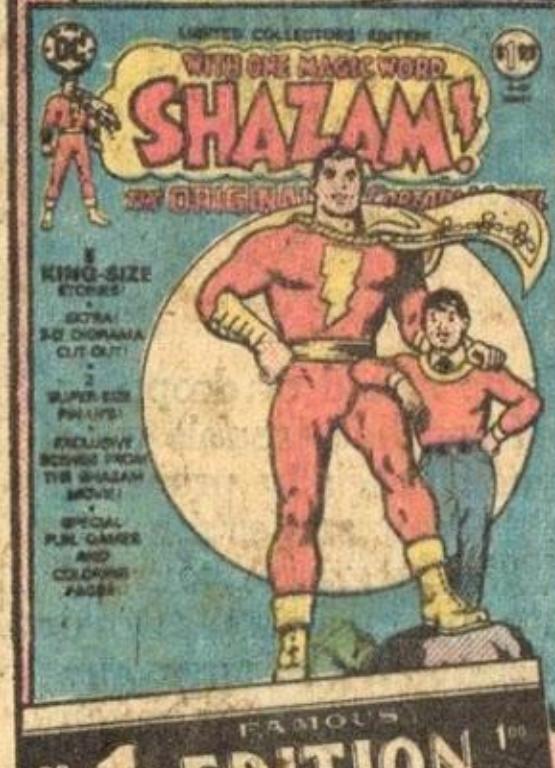
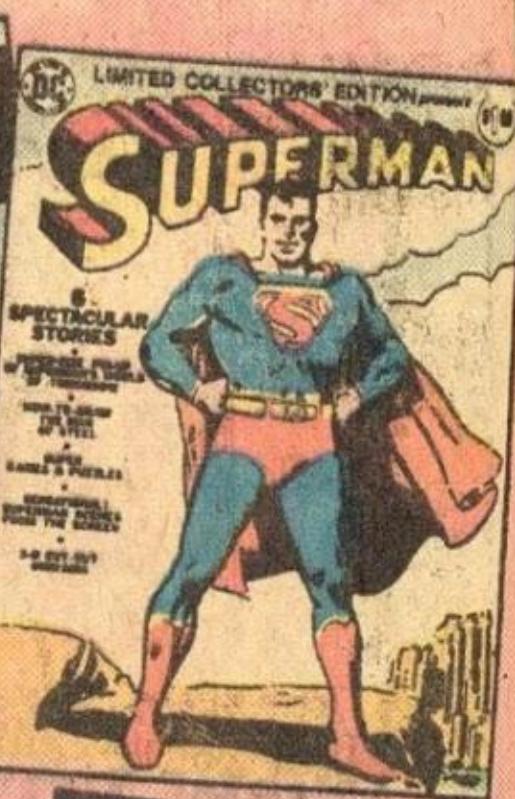
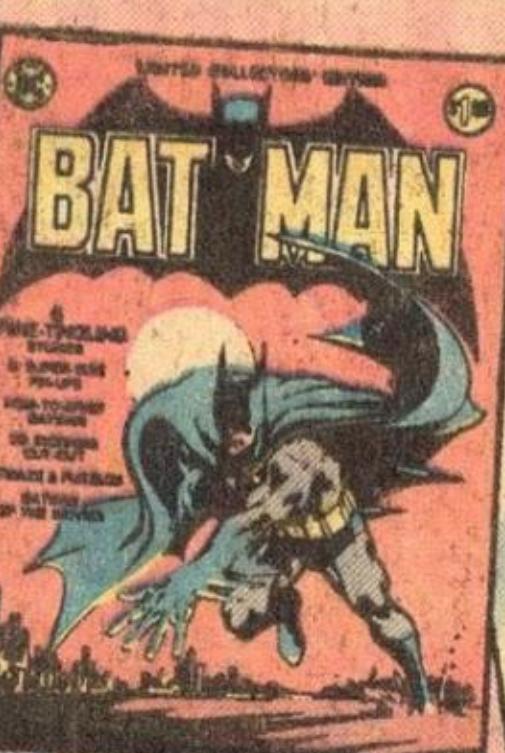
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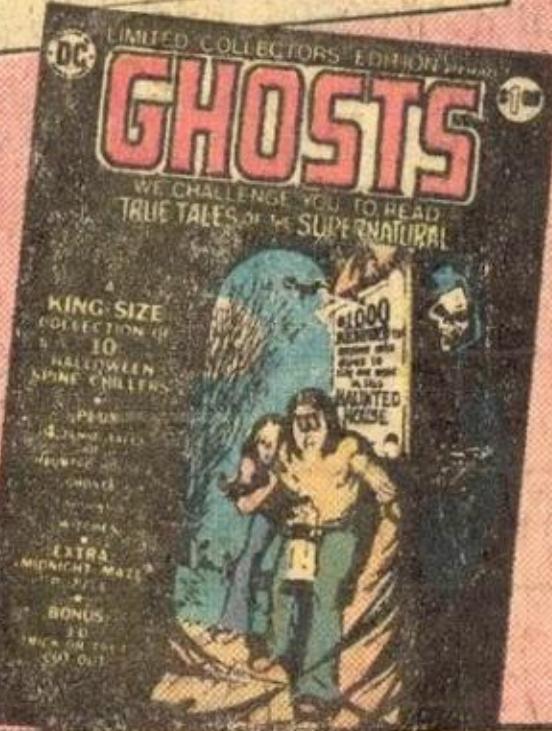


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HERE'S A MYSTERY THE BATMAN
DIDN'T SOLVE! IT INVOLVED STOLEN
MONEY THAT WASN'T STOLEN!

SEE IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW THE
CASH DISAPPEARED... AND SOLVE THE
PUZZLE THAT STUMPED BATMAN... BUT
NOT BRUCE WAYNE!



HERE IS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CASES THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED! YET, STRANGELY ENOUGH, THIS ACTION-PACKED EPISODE CONTAINS NO FISTS — NO BULLETS — NO CROOKS — NO VILLAINS — NOT EVEN A CRIME!! BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE ISN'T A HEAVY CALL ON THE BRAINS AND BRAWN OF THE DYNAMIC DUO BEFORE THEY REACH THE ABSOLUTELY UNEXPECTED SOLUTION OF...

ART: WIN MORTIMER

"The CASE Without A CRIME!"

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

ANOTHER CRIME SOLVED... AND BATMAN AND ROBIN ADD A NEW ITEM TO THEIR TROPHY COLLECTION...

ONLY A TOMMY GUN! A ROUTINE SOUVENIR COMPARED TO SOME OF OUR OTHERS.

YES, THIS UMBRELLA OF THE PENGUIN'S, FOR EXAMPLE.

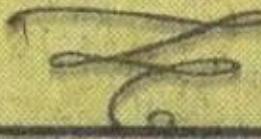
OR THIS MASK OF THE CATWOMAN'S.

AND THIS—THE JOKER'S FAMOUS CALLING CARD!

AND REMEMBER THIS? THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME?

I'LL SAY I DO! AN ORDINARY \$1 BILL!

A MOST UNUSUAL TROPHY INDEED! BUT PAPA BRUGEL'S COSTUME SHOP WAS AN UNUSUAL PLACE. TO CORINNE, THE SEAMSTRESS, EDDIE THE FITTER, AND AUGUST, THE BOOKKEEPER, IT WAS A LITTLE ISLAND OF HAPPINESS, WHERE LOVE, HARMONY AND TRUST REIGNED SUPREME!!!



THESE FOUR HAD NO SECRETS FROM EACH OTHER, FOR SEVERAL YEARS THEY HAD WORKED SIDE BY SIDE, TAKING THEIR LUNCHES TOGETHER IN THE LARGE BACK ROOM. THEY WERE KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS PAPA BRUGEL'S "FAMILY."



OUR STORY BEGINS ON A SATURDAY MORNING WITH THE ENTRANCE OF THE DAY'S FIRST CUSTOMER, WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE ...

HERE ARE YOUR CHARITY MASQUERADE COSTUMES, MR. WAYNE! I HOPE THEY TAKE THE \$100 PRIZE.

THANKS, HOW'S PAPA BRUGEL?

CORINNE—WHERE ARE YOU?

OH! COMING, PAPA BRUGEL! HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, MR. WAYNE.

THANKS! BETTER RUN, CORINNE. SOUNDS AS IF HE'S IN A HURRY.



THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME

SOME HOURS AFTER BRUCE'S DEPARTURE...

ACCORDING TO THE TAPE, THERE SHOULD BE \$2,175 IN THE REGISTER. I'VE CHECKED TWICE, BUT \$99 IS STILL MISSING. SOMEBODY MAYBE BORROWED?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT COULDN'T GO "FOOF" JUST LIKE THAT! WE MUSTN'T TELL PAPA BRUGEL. MAYBE IT WILL TURN UP BY MONDAY...



BUT BY CHANCE, PAPA BRUGEL OVERHEARD...

\$99 MISSING? SURELY MY LITTLE FAMILY DOES NOT HARBOR A THIEF!



AT LUNCH... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WHO AMONGS THEM COULD BE GUILTY?

EDDIE KEEPS LOOKING AT ME IN SUCH A FUNNY WAY. CAN HE REALLY BE GUILTY?

THAT EXPENSIVE WATCH SHE BOUGHT FOR MY BIRTHDAY. DID SHE REALLY SAVE THE MONEY?



THAT NIGHT, WEARING THEIR COSTUMES, BRUCE AND DICK APPEAR AT THE CHARITY MASQUERADE...

PLENTY OF JEWELRY AROUND, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, YOUNGSTER.



LOOK! DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

THE CATWOMAN! BUT IT MIGHT JUST BE ANOTHER COSTUME!



IT SEEMS TOO DARING EVEN FOR HER. BUT LET'S STICK CLOSE JUST IN CASE!

SAY - IS SHE REACHING FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH?





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



SUDDEN DARKNESS SUPPLIES THE ANSWER TO BRUCE'S QUESTION!! BUT WHILE STARTLED CRIES PIERCE THE GLOOM, TWO PIRATES DISCREETLY VANISH...



-AND THE RESTORED LIGHT REVEALS BATMAN AND ROBIN!!

THERE SHE GOES!

AND SHE'S GOT SOMEONE'S NECKLACE IN HER HAND!



BATMAN! I NEVER EXPECTED YOU HERE! BUT SO MUCH THE BETTER!

YOU MEAN, SO MUCH THE WORSE-FOR YOU!



THAT'S FUNNY! THESE PEARLS ARE PASTE!

HA-HA! IT WORKED OUT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, THANKS TO YOU TWO!

SAY— ARE YOU CRAZY?



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.



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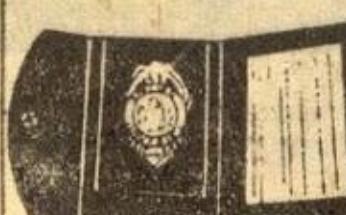
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VAMPIRE BLOOD. Looks like you're really bleeding! Put a few drops on your skin, or the corner of your mouth and watch the faces of everyone who sees you—fright, horror, sympathy for your apparent suffering or injury. Looks like real blood but it's harmless.
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WHOOPIE CUSHION. Simply place it on someone's chair or couch. When your favorite victim sits down—watch the fun and whoopee begin! Strange sound effects, better imagined than described, will fill the air much to their embarrassment.
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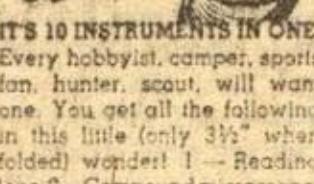
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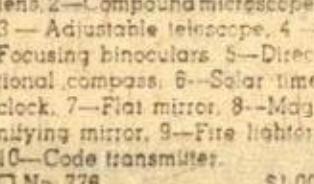
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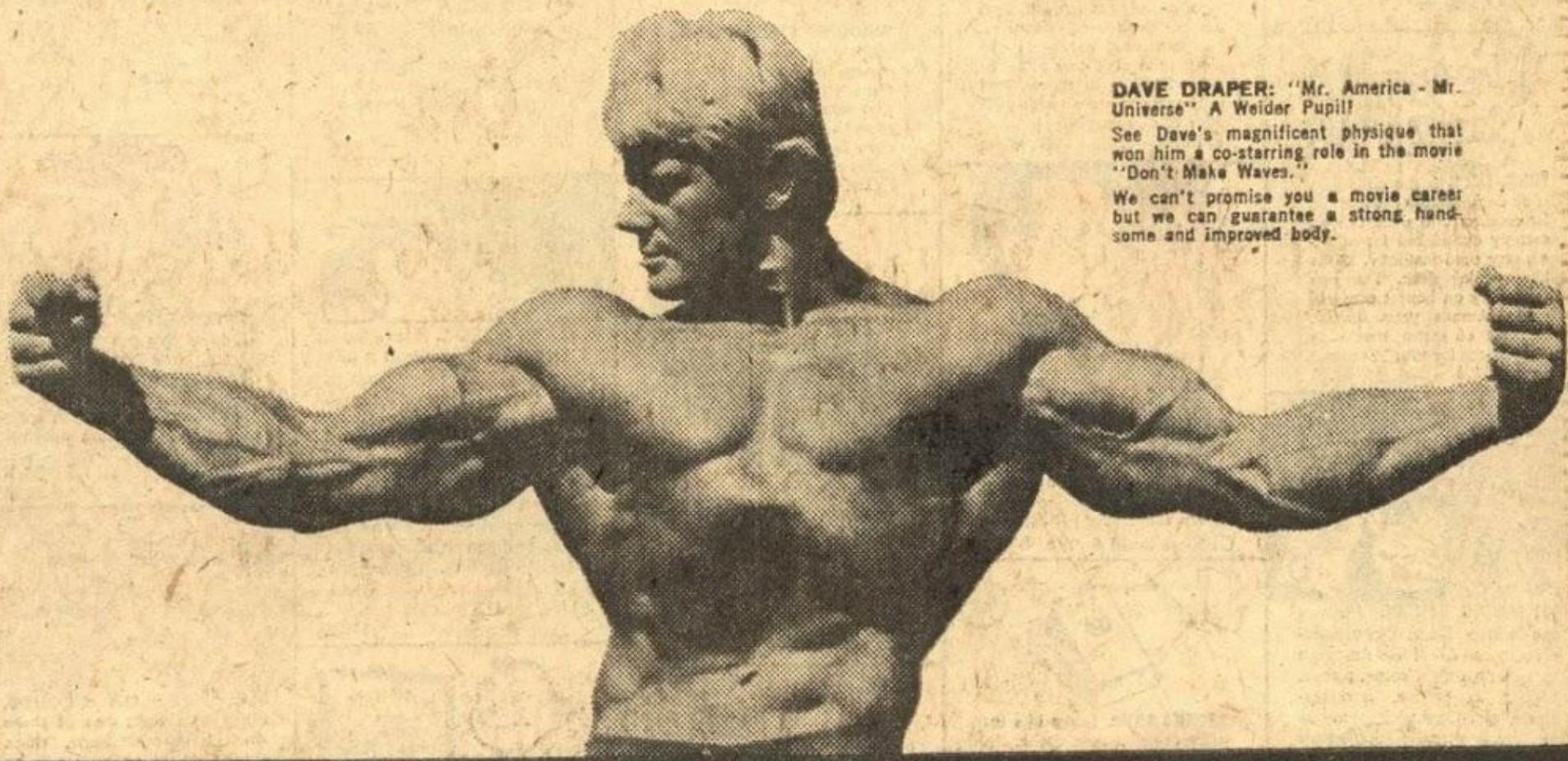
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I don't care if, today you own the skinniest, flabbiest or most laughed at body—whether you're tall or short, young or not-so-young. If you send for my FREE 32-page booklet of muscle building information, I guarantee that you will experience a muscle building miracle; before your eyes, you will see handsome muscles start bursting out all over you. They will ripple with power, burst with energy—and for the first time in your life men will envy your body, women admire it, because at last you own a body that brings you fame instead of shame. Let me help you as I did other champions—who were also weaklings—to put

an end to your weakness and shame. Write now for free information—you'll be so happy you did! After all, you have nothing to lose but your weakness!

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over!

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THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

SO CORINNE TELLS BATMAN AND ROBIN OF THE \$99 MISSING FROM THE CASH REGISTER...

AND EDDIE HAS AVOIDED ME ALL AFTERNOON! AFTER I PASSED HIS ROOMING HOUSE TONIGHT AND SAW HIS LIGHT ON, I PHONED, BUT HIS LANDLADY SAID HE WASN'T IN. HE MUST HAVE TOLD HER TO SAY THAT!

I'M SO WORRIED... BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK I SUSPECT HIM OF THE THEFT.

YOU STOP WORRYING, AND STOP TAKING CHANCES. I'LL SEE EDDIE MYSELF, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

AN AWFUL FUSS OVER \$99. THAT LITTLE SHOP TAKES IN SEVERAL THOUSANDS A WEEK. COULDN'T THERE HAVE BEEN AN ERROR?

IT ISN'T JUST THE \$99, ROBIN...

• FOUR PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED. IF THE TRUTH ISN'T DISCOVERED, SUSPICION OF EACH OTHER CAN DESTROY EVERYTHING THEY'VE BUILT UP. YOU CAN'T MEASURE THE HAPPINESS OF FOUR PEOPLE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO SUNDAY NOON, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN APPROACH EDDIE'S HOUSE...

LOOK - THAT'S EDDIE COMING OUT NOW!

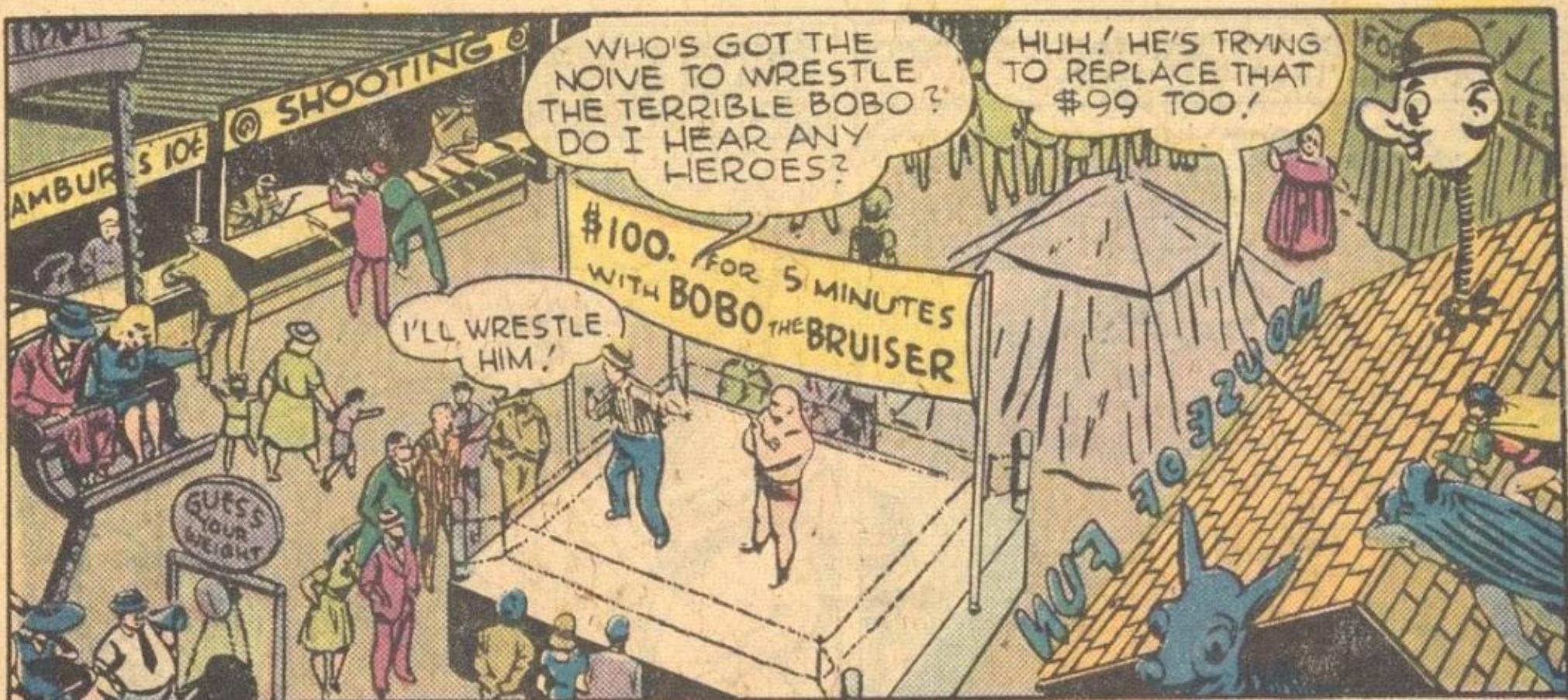
GET BACK! WE'LL SHADOW HIM FOR A WHILE. MAYBE WE'LL LEARN MORE THAT WAY!

WHY - HE'S ONLY GOING TO THE CARNIVAL! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME.

THINK SO? WHO GOES TO A CARNIVAL WITH SUCH A LONG FACE? AND IT'S SUNDAY! WHERE'S HIS GIRL? WE'RE STICKING AROUND.

CARNIVAL
ADMISSION FREE

THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

SECONDS LATER, THE BATMAN, DISGUISED AS EDDIE, ENTERS THE RING...

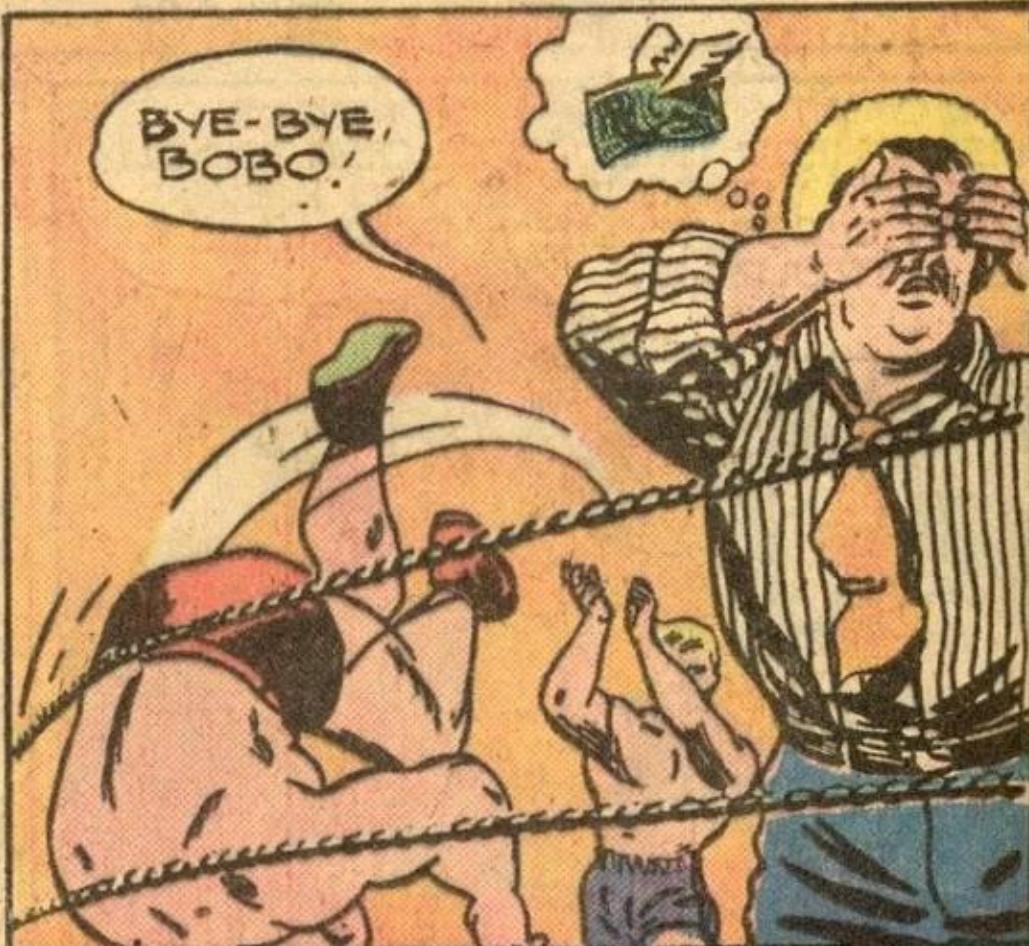
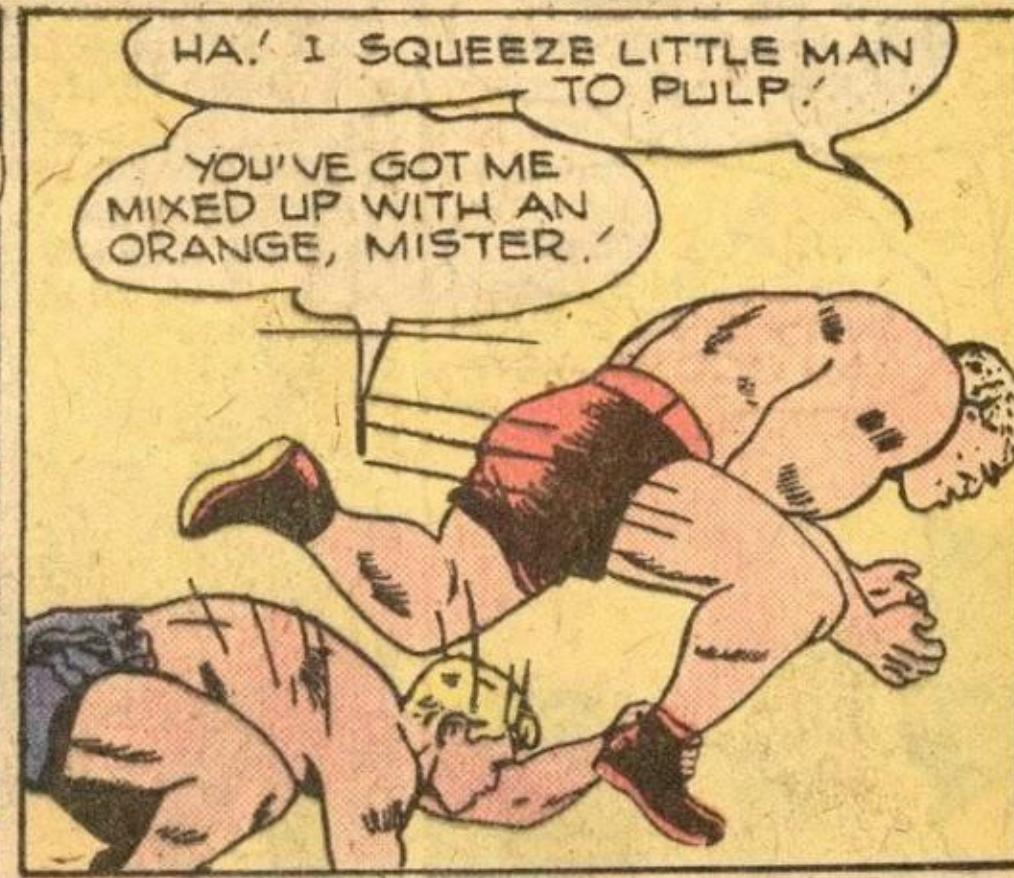
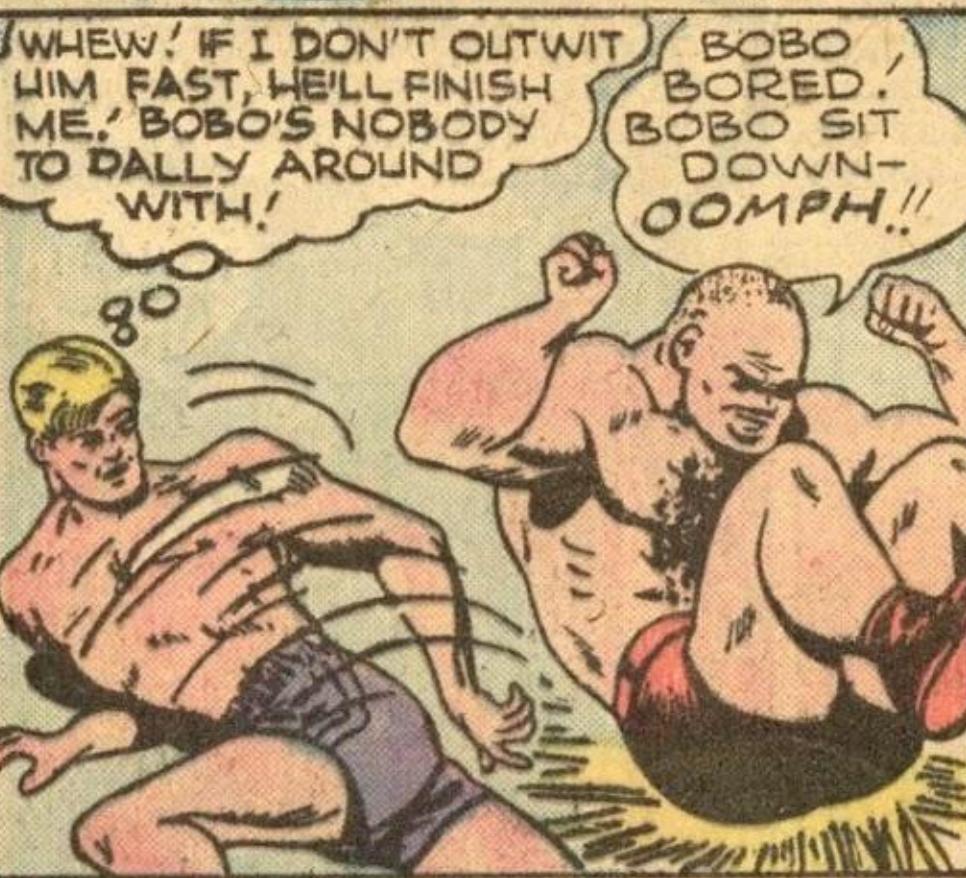
GOOD-LUCK, BUD. YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT.

HALF A MINUTE, DAT'S ALL I GIVE HIM!

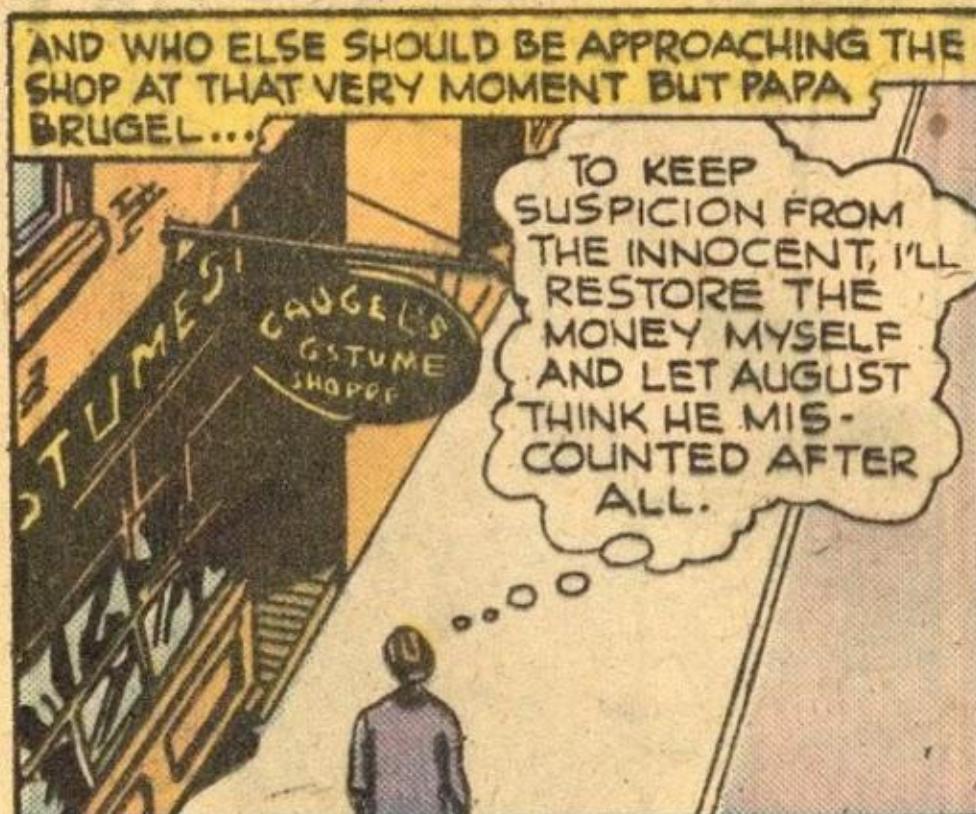
BATMAN VERSUS BOBO THE BRUISER! MIND AGAINST MUSCLE! WIRY COORDINATION VS. PRIMITIVE FORCE!

FLIMSY LITTLE FELLOW-LIKE WRESTLING WITH FEATHER!

UH-UH! MUSTN'T UNDERRATE BOBO! HE'S ALL POWER!

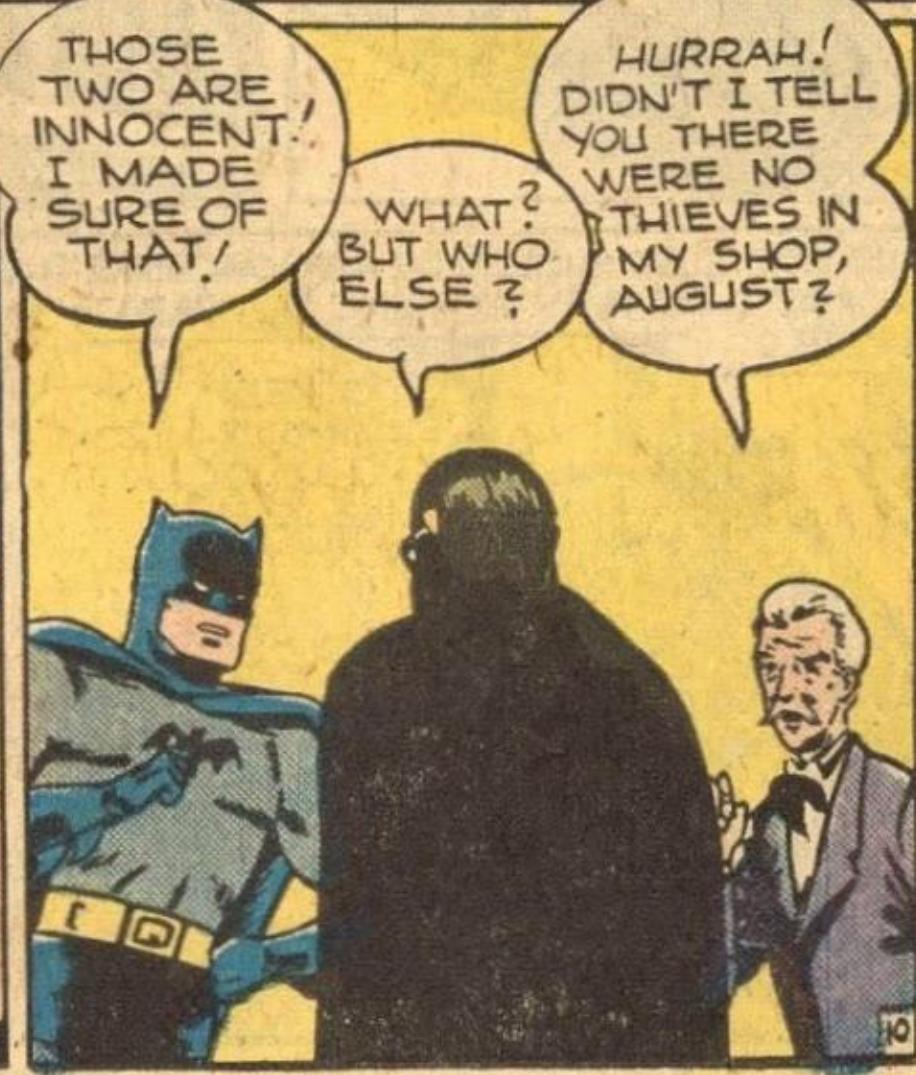
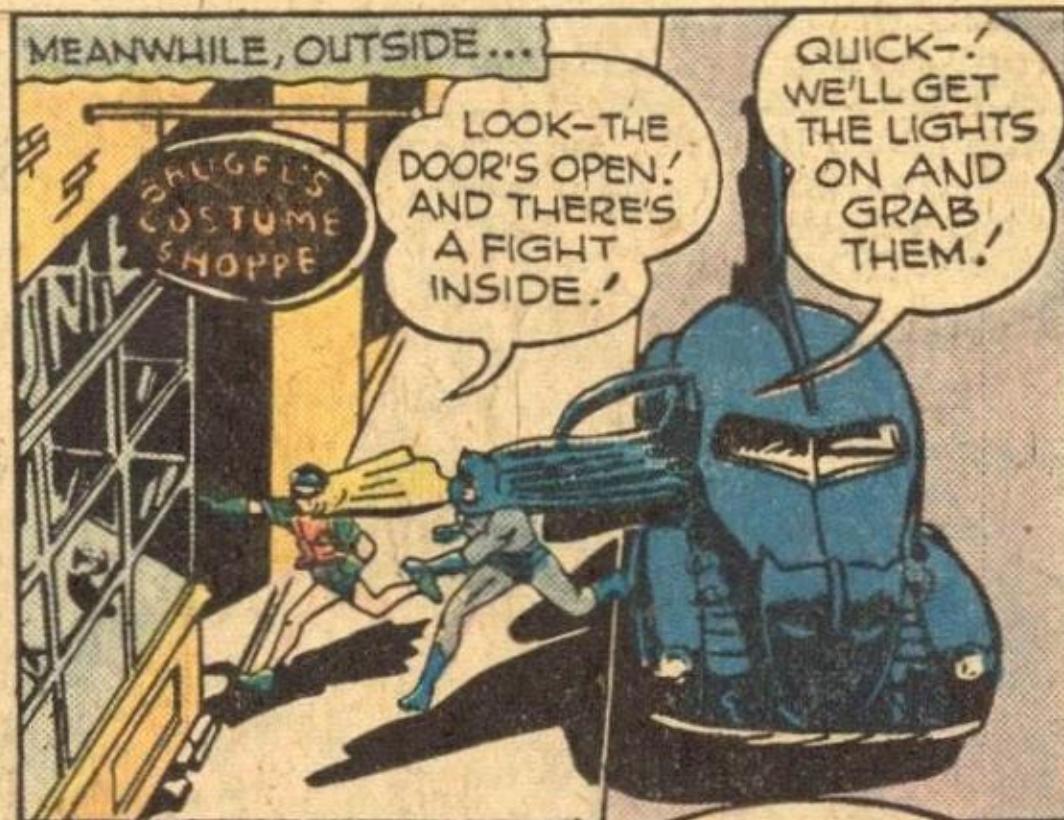


THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AS PAPA BRUGEL SPRINGS, THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE TURNS! A WORDLESS SCUFFLE FOLLOWS...



THE CASE WITHOUT A CRIME

ARE YOU SURE NO ONE ELSE HAD ACCESS TO THE CASH REGISTER?

POSITIVE! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!

SO-ALL RIGHT. DO YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING? FORGET IT!

IT BEATS ME WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THAT \$99.

WELL-THE AMOUNT'S TRIVIAL. AT LEAST WE GOT THOSE FOUR PEOPLE STRAIGHTENED OUT. THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.

NEXT MORNING AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE...

START BREAKFAST, DICK. I'LL BE IN SOON'S I FINISH DRESSING.

ANY BRIGHT IDEAS DURING THE NIGHT ON WHAT BECAME OF THAT \$99?

HOLY SMOKE! I'VE SOLVED IT!

HUH?

YOU MEAN THE \$99? TELL ME!

COME ON-WE'VE GOT TO GET TO PAPA BRUGEL'S SHOP RIGHT AWAY.

SHORTLY AFTER...

GOOD MORNING, MR. WAYNE! WHAT BRINGS YOU IN SO EARLY?

A LITTLE MISTAKE YOU MADE WHEN I PAID FOR THOSE COSTUMES LAST SATURDAY.

LOUIS XIV HOT



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



GOING THROUGH MY WALLET THIS MORNING, I FOUND A \$100 BILL I COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR. YOU MUST'VE GIVEN IT TO ME BY MISTAKE INSTEAD OF \$1 CHANGE.



REMEMBER? PAPA BRUGEL CALLED YOU WHEN YOU WERE MAKING CHANGE. YOU NEVER LOOKED AT THE REGISTER AND I DIDN'T NOTICE EITHER... SAY- WHY DOES EVERYONE LOOK SO FUNNY?

OH- NOTHING...



I—I WAS JUST REMINDED OF A CASE THAT THE BATMAN NEVER SOLVED.'



THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. WAYNE. AND COME AGAIN SOON.

HOLD ON, PAPA BRUGEL! YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING. YOU'VE GOT YOUR HUNDRED BACK, SO-



—YOU STILL OWE ME MY DOLLAR IN CHANGE!

GOODNESS! I'M SO ABSENT-MINDED! FIRST THING YOU KNOW, I'LL SUSPECT MYSELF OF BEING A THIEF!



AND THAT, READER, EXPLAINS HOW A \$1 BILL CAME TO BE IN THE TROPHY ROOM DISPLAY FOR
The
CASE WITHOUT A CRIME

the END!

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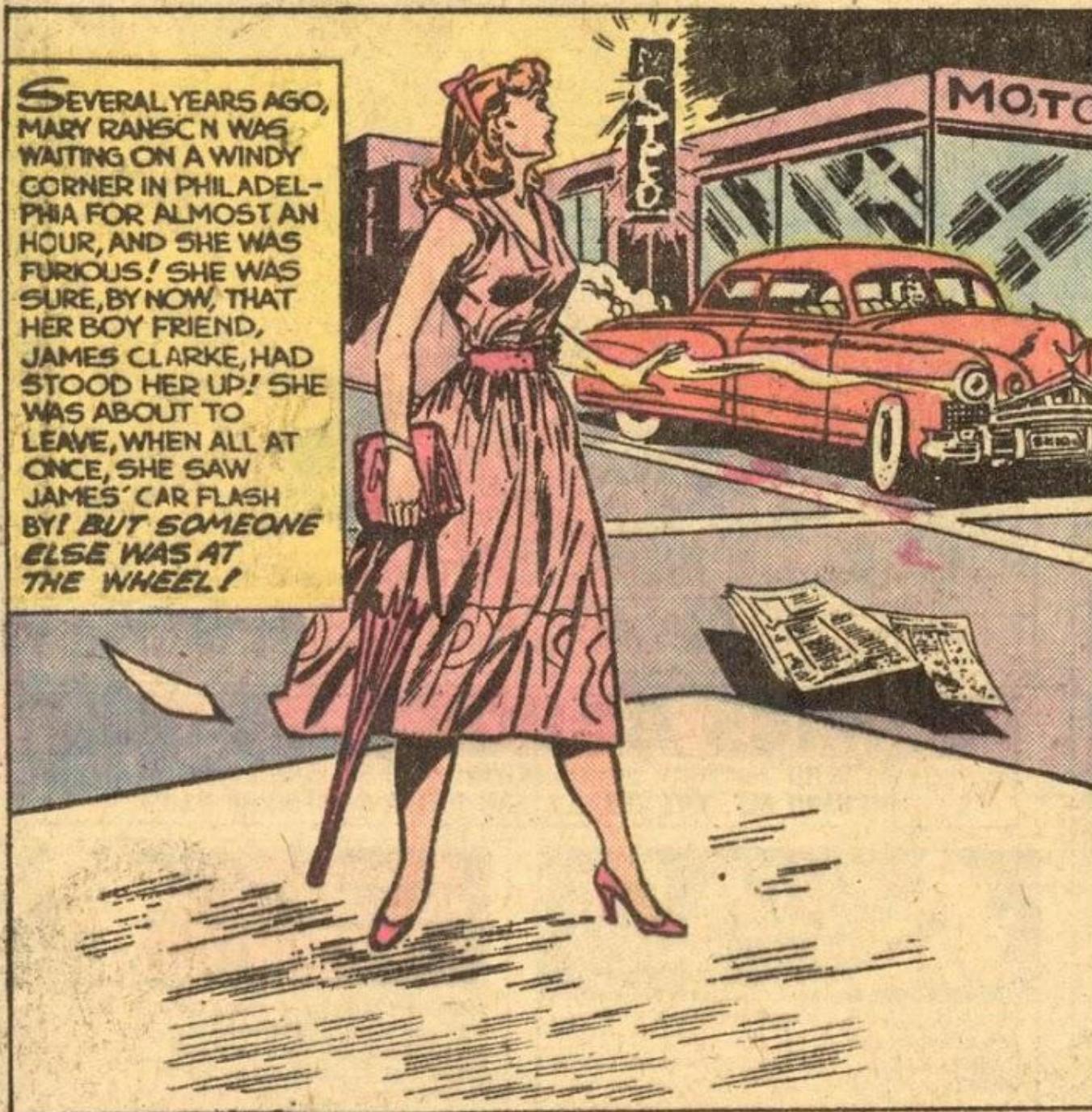
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SPEEDY JUSTICE

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, MARY RANSOM WAS WAITING ON A WINDY CORNER IN PHILADELPHIA FOR ALMOST AN HOUR, AND SHE WAS FURIOUS! SHE WAS SURE, BY NOW, THAT HER BOY FRIEND, JAMES CLARKE, HAD STOOD HER UP! SHE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, WHEN ALL AT ONCE, SHE SAW JAMES' CAR FLASH BY! BUT SOMEONE ELSE WAS AT THE WHEEL!



SENSING IMMEDIATELY THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS, SHE LOST NO TIME IN HAILING A TRAFFIC OFFICER WHO GAVE CHASE AND HALTED THE CAR!



The CULPRIT WAS THEN TRUNDLED OFF TO THE CLINK WITH MARY ALONG TO PREFER THE CHARGE OF THEFT!



Then, STRANGELY ENOUGH, AS THEY ENTERED THE PRECINCT... THERE WAS JAMES CLARKE, HER BOYFRIEND! HE HAD NOT STOOD HER UP AFTER ALL, BUT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REPORTING THE THEFT OF HIS VEHICLE!



Thus, BECAUSE OF THIS UNUSUAL MESMING OF CHANCE, A THEFT WAS COMMITTED, REPORTED, THE CULPRIT ARRESTED, AND THE GOODS RETURNED, ALL IN THE SPACE OF SIXTY MINUTES!

MY TURN NOW, I BELIEVE! AS YOU KNOW, I AM SOMETHING OF A SLEUTH MYSELF!

IN FACT, I SEEM TO RUN INTO CRIMINALS IN ALL SORTS OF PLACES...EVEN IN A RESTAURANT...

The Adventures of ALFRED

"THE WORLD'S MINE OYSTER," SAID WILL SHAKESPEARE, EXPRESSING TO A'T THE SENTIMENTS OF ALFRED, BUTLER EXTRAORDINARY! BUT EVEN AN OYSTER CAN FURNISH SURPRISES, AND ALFRED'S AMAZE-MENT IS EXTREME WHEN AN UNSELFISH SHELLFISH PRESENTS...

"THE PEARL OF PERIL!"

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ART: JERRY ROBINSON

AN UNUSUAL OCCASION IN THE LIFE OF ALFRED!

THE MAWSTERS ARE VISITING FRIENDS AND WON'T RETURN UNTIL LATE, SO THERE'S NO NEED OF MY COOKING! I'LL SEE WHAT RESTAURANT FOOD TASTES LIKE!

HMM, SEEMS THAT ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE EAT HERE! BUT AFTER ALL, THE FOOD'S THE THING... I HOPE IT'S GOOD!

BUT ALFRED'S ATTENTION IS SOON TURNED FROM HIS OWN FOOD TO THAT OF OTHERS! IN THE MIDST OF THE MEAL...

L-LOOK!

WHAT'S THAT, MY GOOD FELLOW?

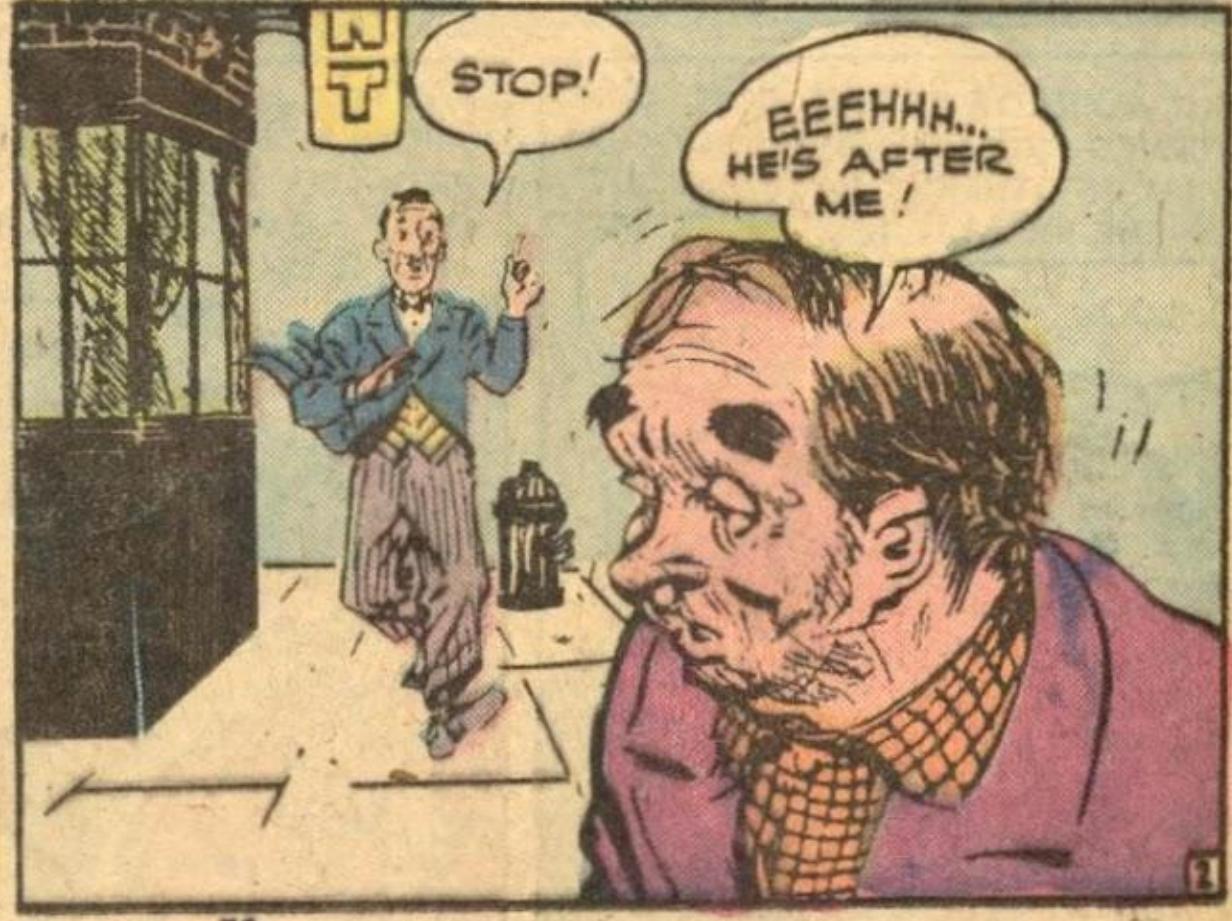
A POIL, RIGHT IN DA MIDDLE OF AN ERSTER! FROM DA SIZE OF IT, IT MUST BE WORTH A GRAND! I'M RICH!

OH, OH, WHY COULDN'T THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME?

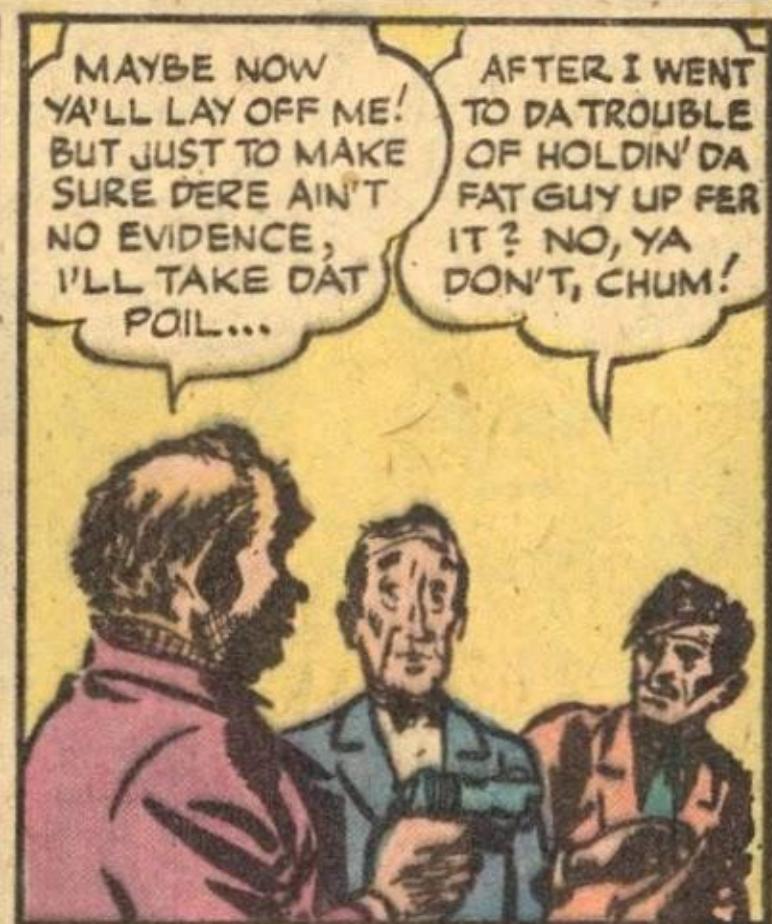
BUT I JUST REMEMBERED! I AIN'T GOT ANY CASH ON ME, AND I CAN'T PAY FER DIS MEAL! WILL SOMEBODY KINDLY LEND ME A SMACKER TILL I KIN SELL DIS?



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE PEARL OF PERIL





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



WE STARTED THIS ISSUE WITH THE JOKER! WE'LL END IT WITH THE RIDDLER! HE HAS A COMPUSSION TO SEND ME RIDDLES GIVING CLUES TO THE CRIMES HE PLANS TO COMMIT...

...BUT THIS TIME HE'D PLANNED A WAY TO ASK RIDDLES I COULDN'T SOLVE...BECAUSE HE FIGURED I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO READ THEM!

BATMAN "The RIDDLER'S PRISON-PUZZLE PROBLEM!"

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

BATMAN, c/o Gotham City Police,
Dear Sir:
The book you ordered, "Science and
Crime Detection" by Neil Norland,
is now available at our main branch
store. Please call at your
convenience.
Gotham Lending Library

AND YOU SAY
YOU NEVER
ORDERED SUCH
A BOOK, BATMAN?

THAT'S RIGHT, ROBIN!
AND SINCE SOMEONE
SEEMS 'SPECIALLY
ANXIOUS FOR ME TO
BORROW THAT BOOK--
I WILL!

THERE'S NO RECORD OF
OUR SENDING YOU THIS
CARD, BATMAN--BUT
WE HAPPEN TO HAVE
THIS SINGLE COPY ON
HAND, JUST RETURNED
BY A CUSTOMER!

I WONDER--WOULD YOU
MIND POSING FOR A
PUBLICITY PHOTO,
BROWSING
THROUGH THE
BOOK?

NOT AT
ALL!

ORDINARILY, I
WOULDN'T TOUCH
THAT BOOK WITH A
"TEN-FOOT POLE"--
BUT SINCE SOMEBODY'S
GONE TO ALL THIS TROUBLE
FOR ME TO LEAF THROUGH
ITS PAGES, I'LL DO JUST
THAT...

WITH
THIS
YARD-
STICK!

JUST AS I
SUSPECTED--
A BOOBY-TRAPPED
BOOK!

SCIENCE AND CRIME DETECTION

SCIENCE AND CRIME DETECTION

STORY BY
GARDNER FOX
ART BY
FRANK SPRINGER
SID GREENE

WHEW! WHAT AN INVOLVED WAY TO TRY AND GET RID OF YOU, BATMAN!

MISS, YOU WERE ABOUT TO TAKE MY PICTURE! DID YOU--?

I-I DON'T KNOW!

THE BLAST CAME SO SUDDENLY, I INSTINCTIVELY TURNED AWAY!

TOO INVOLVED, TO MY WAY OF THINKING, ROBIN!

YOU TURNED AWAY-- BUT PERHAPS YOUR CAMERA DIDN'T!

LET'S SEE IF YOUR RAPID-PRINT CAMERA CAUGHT ANYTHING!

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT...

--SHOWING A MESSAGE-- INSIDE THE BLAST! TAKE A LOOK, ROBIN!

OOOH! I DID GET A PICTURE--

WHY IS A DIAMOND LIKE A STEW?

SO THE RIDDLE WAS BEHIND THIS!

LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS HAS COME UP WITH A NEW METHOD OF SENDING US HIS CRIME-CONUNDRUMS!

A NEW AND VERY DEADLY METHOD, ROBIN!

THE RIDDLE IS UNDER A PSYCHOTIC
COMPULSION TO GIVE ME A RIDDLE
CLUE WHENEVER HE PLANS TO
COMMIT A ROBBERY!

IF HE DOESN'T-- HE
CAN'T GO THROUGH
WITH THE CRIME! *

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT
SALESLADY AND HER CAMERA--
WE'D BE LEAVING THE
BOOKSTORE WITHOUT THE
SLIGHTEST IDEA THAT THE
RIDDLE IS ON THE LOOSE
AGAIN!

BUT NOW-- HE'S DEVISED
A GIMMICKY WAY OF GIVING
ME A RIDDLE -- AND AT
THE SAME TIME
PREVENTING ME
FROM READING IT
AND FOLLOWING
IT UP!

*AS DEMONSTRATED
IN BATMAN #179!

MEANTIME, I'VE
SOLVED -- "WHY IS A
DIAMOND LIKE A
STEW?"

THE ANSWER IS THEY
EACH HAVE CARATS
(CARROTS)!

AND SINCE CARAT IS
A UNIT OF WEIGHT FOR
DIAMONDS --

THE RIDDLE'S
GOING TO ROB THE
CARAT DIAMOND
CENTER!

NOT SO FAST, ROBIN! THE RIDDLE
IS A TRICKY CUSTOMER! REMEMBER--
A KARAT-- WITH
A "K"-- IS ALSO
A MEASURE OF
WEIGHT FOR
GOLD!

SO LET'S
EXAMINE OUR
RIDDLE-CLUE
FOR HIDDEN
MEANINGS!

I NOTICED THERE WERE
22 LETTERS IN THE RIDDLE!
AND 22-KARAT GOLD IS
THE MOST VALUABLE
COMMERCIAL TYPE GOLD
USED!

ANOTHER CLUE--
NORLAND IS
THE AUTHOR
OF THE BOOK
ON THE CARD SENT
TO ME!

SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY AT THIS
MOMENT-- A MAN IS GROWLING IN MINGLED
RAGE AND FRUSTRATION...

... AND A PROMINENT
COLLECTOR OF GOLD
COINS IN GOTHAM CITY
IS A MR. NORLAND!

YOU WON'T
GET AWAY
WITH THIS,
RIDDLE!

SAVE YOUR BREATH,
NORLAND! I'VE PLANNED
THIS CRIME SO
PERFECTLY--
NOT EVEN
BATMAN
CAN STOP
ME!

THAT'S WHERE
THE RIDDLE IS
MAKING HIS
STRIKE!



YES, SIR-- I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO OUTWIT THAT THINK-TANK BATMAN USES FOR A BRAIN!

SINCE I MUST GIVE HIM A RIDDLE-- I DO! BUT THIS TIME-- THREE FACTORS ARE WORKING FOR ME-- AND AGAINST BATMAN!

FIRST, I PREPARED MY RIDDLE SO BATMAN WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY EVEN SEEING IT!

SECOND, EVEN IF HE MANAGES TO SEE IT, THE RESULTING BOOBY-TRAP WILL PREVENT HIM FROM FOLLOWING IT UP!

TOO BAD I COULDN'T HANG AROUND THAT BOOKSTORE TO SEE THAT VOLUME I GIMMICKED BLOW UP IN HIS FACE! WHEN THE RIDDLE APPEARED WITHIN THE BLAST, HE MUST'VE BEEN TOO BLIND TO SEE IT!

THIRD, EVEN IF HE SHOULD OVERCOME THESE BOTTLENECKS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE IN TIME TO STOP MY CRIME!

AH, THIS IS THE 20-FRANC GOLD PIECE WITH WHICH NAPOLEON REPLACED THE FORMER GOLD LOUIS D'OR...

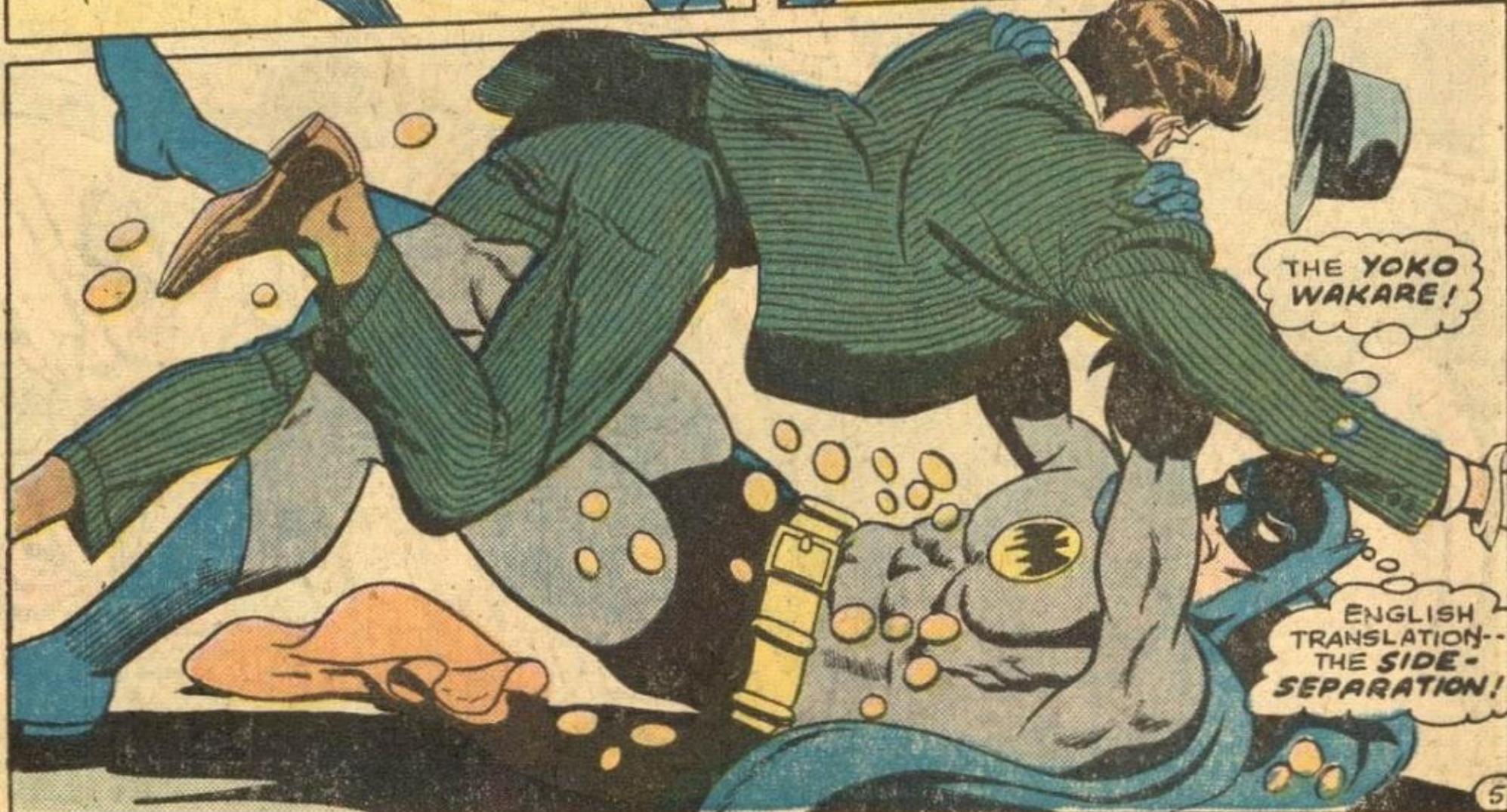
A TAUNTING VOICE ECHOES THE TRIUMPHANT CRY OF THE RIDDLER AS...

NAPOLEON HAD HIS WATERLOO, RIDDLER-- AND SO WILL YOU!

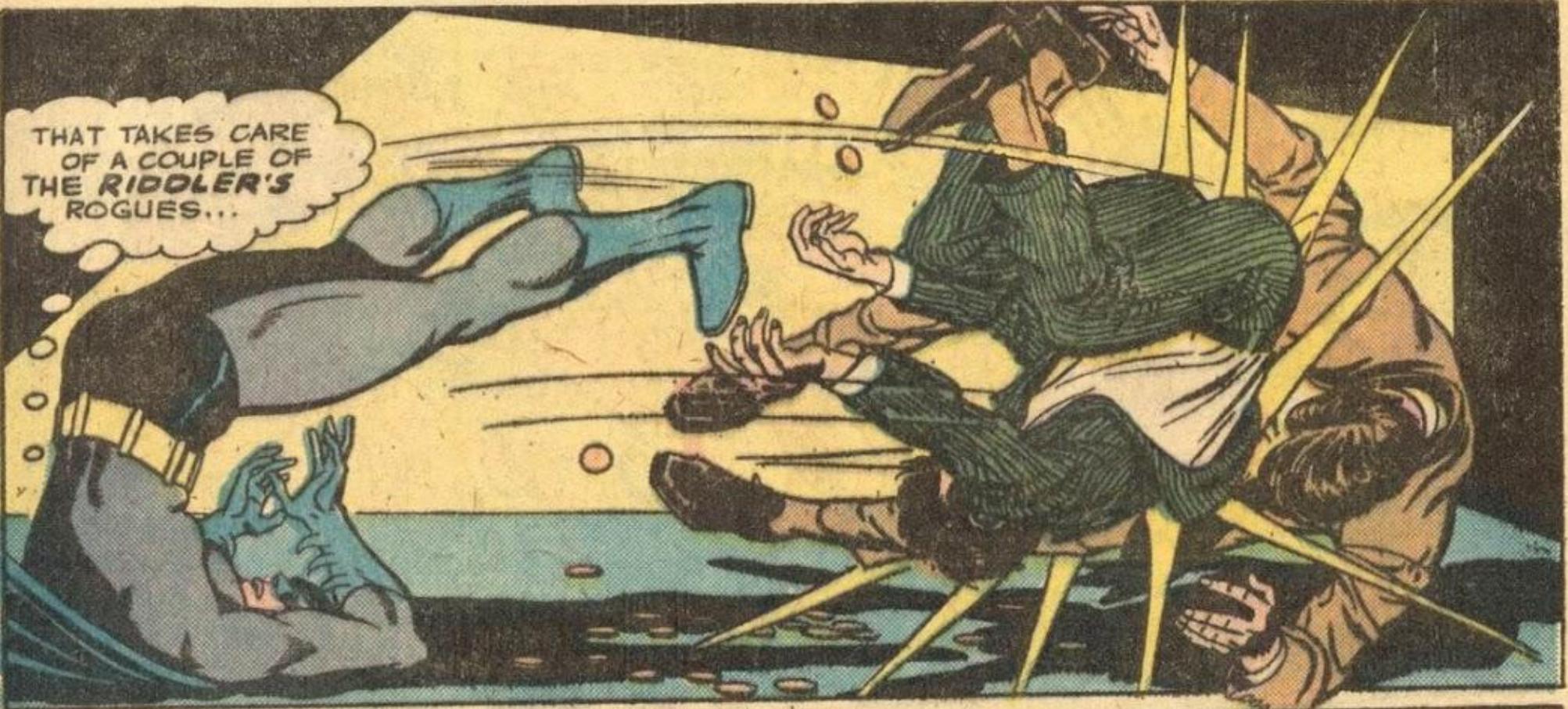
WHA--?!

YOU'RE GOING OFF THE GOLD STANDARD, RIDDLER...

THE COIN
CAME DOWN--
TAILS, RIDDLER...
YOU LOSE!



THAT TAKES CARE
OF A COUPLE OF
THE RIDDLER'S
ROGUES...

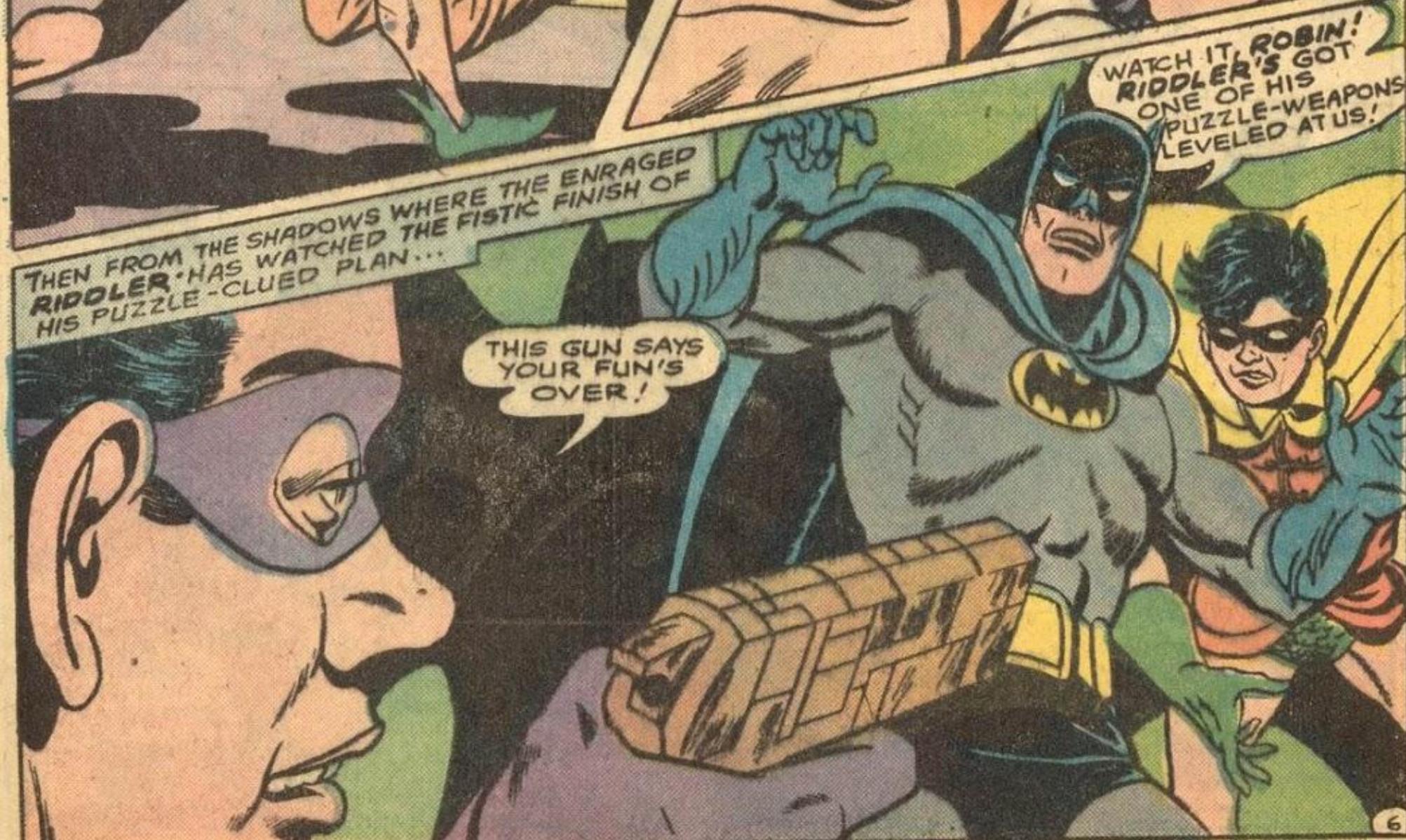


TO ONE SIDE OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER, HIS ABLE
ADOLESCENT ASSISTANT IS CARRYING ON AS USUAL...



THEN FROM THE SHADOWS WHERE THE ENRAGED
RIDDLER HAS WATCHED THE FISTIC FINISH OF
HIS PUZZLE-CLUED PLAN...

ALL I KNOW IS--YOU'RE
GOING DOWN FOR THE
COUNT!



NEXT INSTANT, THE WOODEN PUZZLE-PISTOL ERUPTS IN A TORRENT OF LIGHTNINGS...

A TRICKY ELECTRICAL DISPLAY, RIDDLE--BUT WE HAVE A COUNTER-TRICK OF OUR OWN!

FOUR HANDS DART INTO NEARBY COIN-BAGS--SPRAY THE AIR WITH LIRA PIECES, SPANISH EXCELLENTES, AND GOLDEN DUCATOS...

THE METAL IN THOSE COINS WILL DRAW THE ELECTRICITY TOWARD THEM!

JUST LIKE MINIATURE LIGHTNING RODS!

I'VE STILL GOT AN ACE UP MY SLEEVE!

A LOADED ACE, I'LL BET!

HE CAN USE IT ON ONLY ONE OF US, ROBIN!

WHO'S IT GOING TO BE, RIDDLE?

HE HESITATED JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US TO GET HIM!

I DEMAND MY
RIGHTS! I'M
ENTITLED TO
ONE PHONE
CALL!

WITH MY USUAL
FORESIGHTEDNESS,
I DEPOSITED
A LARGE
AMOUNT OF
CASH WITH A
BONDSMAN --
WHO WILL PUT
IT UP AS
SECURITY
FOR MY
BAIL!

IT WON'T BE LONG
TILL I GET OUT OF
YOUR JAIL CELL--
FREE ONCE AGAIN
TO GO ABOUT MY
BUSINESS!

A LAWYER WON'T
DO YOU ANY
GOOD, RIDDLER!
WE CAUGHT
YOU WITH THE
GOODS!

AS THE PRINCE OF PUZZLERS IS LED OFF TO HIS CELL...

DON'T OVERREACH
YOURSELF, RIDDLER!
IF YOU COMMIT A CRIME
WHILE OUT ON BAIL, YOU'LL
FORFEIT IT AND BE KEPT
IN JAIL UNTIL TRIAL!

SKIP YOUR
UNASKED-
FOR ADVICE,
BATMAN!
I KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
I'M DOING!

BUT YOU'LL
NEVER KNOW--
UNLESS YOU'RE
WILLING TO GO
TO JAIL TOO!

PIPE DOWN, YOU
TEEN-AGED TROUBLE-
MAKER! I'M NOT
CALLING MY LAWYER!
I'M GOING TO
TELEPHONE MY
BONDSMAN!

HAS THE RIDDLER CRACKED UNDER
THE BURDEN OF HIS CONUNDRUM
CRIMES? **BATMAN**-- GO TO JAIL--
INCREDIBLE! OR--IS IT?
STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE
FOLLOWING!

Answers to the **BATMAN TRIVIA QUIZ** on page 57

1. B - JOE CHILL

2. B - THOMAS AND MARTHA

3. B - THE FLYING GRAYSONS

4. C - JOHN AND MARY

5. A - THE JOKER

BY THE TIME THE DYNAMIC DUO
COMPLETES ITS POLICE REPORT...

AH, THERE YOU ARE, BATMAN!
MY BONDSMAN'S BEEN HERE
AND GONE-- SO I'M OUT OF
THAT CELL!
SO I SEE,
RIDDLE! I ALSO SEE
THAT-- IT'S MY TURN TO GO
TO JAIL, AS YOU SAID!

BATMAN!
YOU
CAN'T
BE
SERIOUS?

WHY DO
YOU HAVE
TO GO TO
JAIL?

BECAUSE HE
HAS NO OTHER
CHOICE, ROBIN!

THE HOLLOW CLANG OF
METAL AND THE CLICK OF A
LOCK-- AND...

CLANG



IF BATMAN WANTS
IT THAT WAY, IT MUST
BE THE RIGHT
WAY!

YOU'RE BEHIND BARS
WHERE YOU BELONG,
BATMAN!

AND WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE RIDDLE...

OKAY-- NOW
WHAT'S YOUR
NEXT MOVE,
BATMAN?

TO LOOK
FOR BLACK
SPECKS,
ROBIN!

B- BLACK SPECKS?
WHAT KIND OF
BLACK SPECKS?

EVIDENTLY YOU
DIDN'T NOTICE
THAT ONE OF
RIDDLE'S QUESTION
MARKS ON HIS UNIFORM
WAS MISSING WHEN
HE CAME OUT OF
HIS CELL!

THAT MEANS THE
QUESTION MARK IS STILL
IN HIS CELL -- MOST LIKELY
IN THE FORM OF BLACK
SPECKS!

HERE THEY ARE, JUST UNDER A MIRROR! HMM! THEY HAVE AN UNUSUAL ACRID SMELL-- INDICATING THE RIDDLE'S PREPARED ANOTHER OF HIS "INVISIBLE" CONUNDRUMS FOR ME!

AND WHAT BETTER PLACE THAN ON THIS MIRROR-- INSCRIBED WITH INVISIBLE INK BY WAY OF HIS UNIFORM'S QUESTION MARK!

ROBIN-- GET ME A MATCH! I NEED HEAT TO MAKE THE WRITING VISIBLE...

SHORTLY...

UHHN: KNOCKOUT GAS-- COMING FROM THE WRITING ON THE MIRROR!

GASP!

ROBIN... CARRY ON... CHOKE!

A RIDDLE--APPEARING ON THE MIRROR--

LEAST I CAN DO FOR BATMAN IS HAVE THE ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE BY THE TIME HE COMES TO--

LATER, AS THE GOTHAM GANG-BUSTERS LEAVE THE POLICE STATION--

"WHY IS A ROOM FILLED ONLY WITH MARRIED PEOPLE LIKE AN EMPTY ROOM?"

IT HASN'T A SINGLE PERSON IN IT. THE ANSWER I'VE GOT-- BUT ITS HIDDEN MEANING I CAN'T SEE--

WHY IS A ROOM FILLED ONLY WITH MARRIED PEOPLE LIKE AN EMPTY ROOM?

WE'LL BREAK IT DOWN--BIT BY BIT...

POLICE

TO START OFF--A "SINGLE PERSON"
IS A **BACHELOR**!

IF THAT'S THE **RIDDLE**'S
VICTIM--HOW OF ALL
THE **GOTHAM CITY**
BACHELORS CAN WE
HOPE TO FIND--

UNLESS IT
ISN'T A
HUMAN
BEING--!



RECENTLY I READ SOMETHING
ABOUT A "**BACHELOR**" **DIAMOND**--

SO DID I! A LARGE
DIAMOND THAT A
MAHARAJAH IN INDIA
HAD CUT INTO AN
ENGAGEMENT RING
MANY YEARS AGO--

AND IT'S
ON DISPLAY
AT THE
MUSEUM
OF INDIA!

BUT HE NEVER MARRIED
THE GIRL! EVER SINCE,
IT'S BEEN KNOWN AS
THE **BACHELOR DIAMOND**!



AT GOTHAM CITY'S MUSEUM OF INDIA, SOMEWHAT LATER...

AHHH! THE
BACHELOR
DIAMOND--
ALL MINE!

TO HOLD, BUT
NOT TO KEEP,
RIDDLE!



B-BATMAN! GLUE-
CONTAINERS! HOW CAN
THAT STOP US?

WE CAN'T WAIT
TO FIND OUT,
ROBIN!

HURRY--OVERPOWER THESE
TWO--AND GET TO THE
RIDDLE!



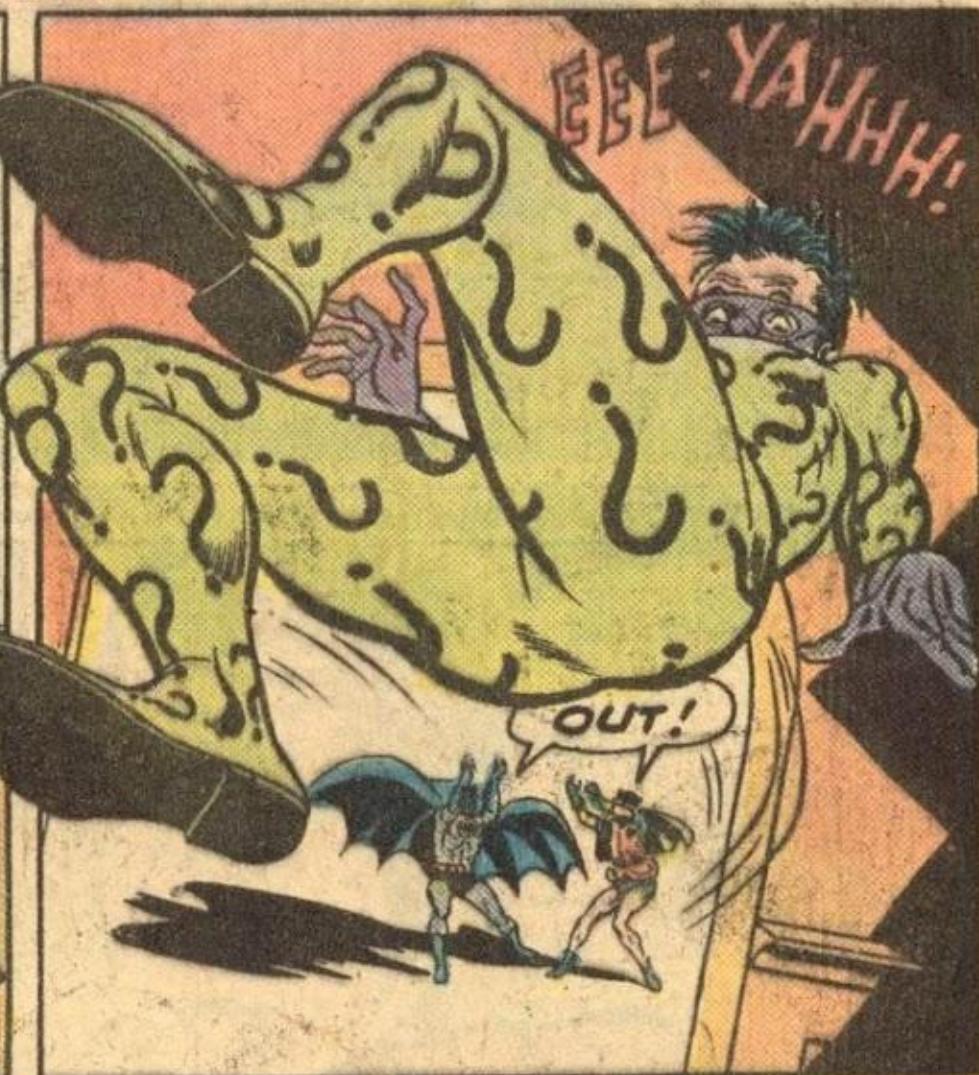
AFTER DEPOSITING THEIR FOE'S KAYOED MUSCLEMEN OUTSIDE THE DIAMOND VAULT...

ALL RIGHT, RIDDLER--
YOU'RE NEXT!!



OVER--

AND--



HA-HA! THAT SHOUT OF MINE ACTIVATED AN ELECTRONIC
CONTROL-- CAUSING AN INTERLOCKED NAILS-PUZZLE
GRATING TO DROP FROM THE ARCHWAY!

YOU'RE TRAPPED
INSIDE THE
VAULT!

SHALL I FINISH
'EM OFF NOW,
RIDDLER?

CLANG!



NO, NO, FOOL! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
FOR ME TO ROB UNLESS I LEAVE
BATMAN AND ROBIN A RIDDLE-
CLUE TO MY CAPERS!

IF THEIR LIVES COME TO AN END,
SO DOES MY CRIME-CAREER!

WITH THEM HELPLESSLY
PENNED INSIDE THE PUZZLE-
PRISON, WE CAN PROCEED
TO MY NEXT PLANNED
ROBBERY!



I'M SETTING UP MY RIDDLE ON THESE LETTER BLOCKS-- WITH THE LETTERS TURNED AWAY SO YOU CAN'T READ THEM!

BY THE WAY, IF YOU EXPECT TO USE THE GADGETS IN YOUR **UTILITY BELT** TO HELP YOU--FORGET IT! THE PLASTIC GLUE ON YOUR COMPARTMENT FLAPS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM OPENING THEM!

SO THAT'S HOW HE PLANNED TO STOP US!

ACTUALLY, IT WON'T BE HARD TO BREAK OUT OF MY TRAP--BUT WHEN YOU DO, IT WILL EXPLODE OUTWARD--SCATTER THE BLOCKS ALL OVER THE PLACE! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PUT THEM BACK IN THE CORRECT ORDER! HA! HA! HA!

THE CAPED CRUSADER TAKES AIM--AND WITH UNERRING ACCURACY...

I GET IT! WE KNOCK THE BLOCKS OVER ONE BY ONE SO THEY'LL FALL DOWN IN ORDER--AND NOT BE MIXED UP WHEN WE ESCAPE!

WITH THAT WARNING, THE **RIDDLER** RACES OFF.

ROBIN, GRAB UP A HANDFUL OF THOSE JEWELS!

HUH? WHAT DO WE WANT WITH JEWELS--AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

WHY MUST
A MAN DISHONEST
STAY INDOORS

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY GOOD AT MARBLES, **BATMAN**!

YEAH--BUT THESE STAKES ARE A LOT HIGHER!

AND WHEN THE LAST BLOCK GOES DOWN...

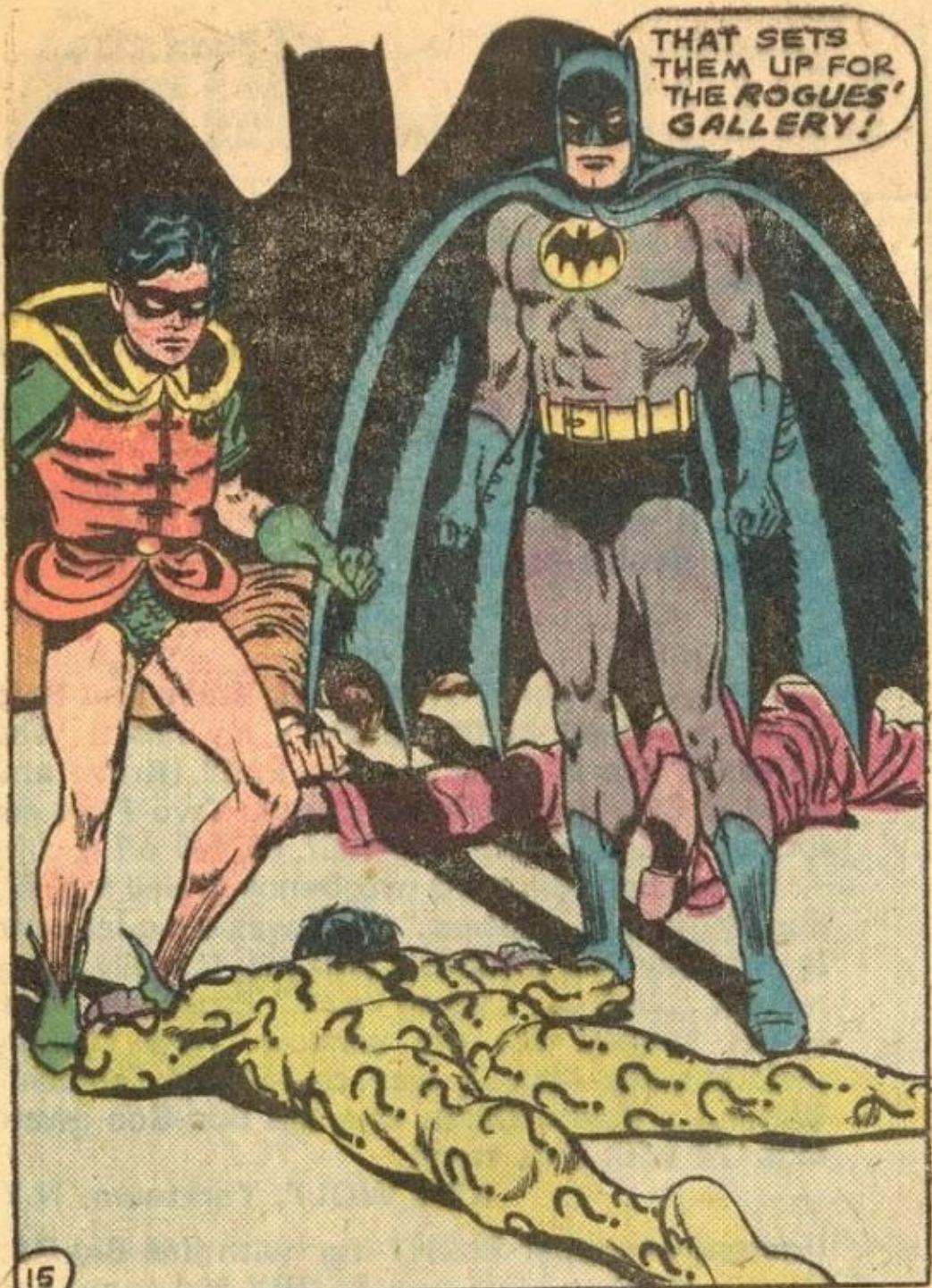
STAY BACK, **ROBIN**! I'M GOING TO DETONATE THAT PUZZLE-PRISON BY THROWING MY **UTILITY BELT** AT IT!



NOW TO UNCOVER ITS SECRET MEANING...

"NO ONE" MIGHT BE READ AS "NUMBER ONE"!





15

NEXT ISSUE

BAT MAN

NO. 261 MAR.-APR.

THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER IN A BAFFLING NEW SHOCKER--
"THE MYSTERY THAT NEVER WAS!"

PLUS THIS SPECTACULAR LINE-UP OF TALES FEATURING
BATMAN and ROBIN'S SECRET WEAPONS!

"THE 1001 INVENTIONS OF BATMAN!"

"CRIME'S MANHUNT!"

"THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST!"

"A CHRISTMAS PERIL!"

"THE BLOCKBUSTER INVASION OF GOTHAM CITY!"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN DECEMBER

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

It was good to see him again and I wish for more in the near future.

JACK "TWO-FACE" HARRIS,
Wilmington, Delaware

(As an observer at both costume events, ye editorial assistant can attest to the fearsome authenticity of Mr. Harris' doubly-demonic portrayal. It was accurate down to the last button on the double-breasted split-suit!—GHLIII)

• • • • •
Dear Editor:

"Two-Face gone? That secret, **Brave and Bold** ones, is locked in the glacier's icy heart! Who knows if this is really . . . **The End**" (**Brave and Bold #106**). Huh? What? How did Two-Face get locked up in Arkham Hospital? He fell off a cliff!

Please pass on word two Denny O'Neil that his "borey" (oops—I meant "story) was a big fat zero. It was way two diabolical four me. It really made me six . . . uh . . . I mean "sick." Especially when Harris jumped out the window. How stupidly melodramatic—but it was certainly a "smash"! Without a doubt, Denny one the Boo-Boo award four '74 with that story!

KEN WOLF, Yorktown, N.Y.

(Instead of cooper-EIGHT-ing with this Big Bad Wolf's number puns, we PERRY his complaint through out next reader!—GHLIII)
• • • • •

Dear Julie:

Batman #258 was, in my opinion, a fine issue, although I'm sure many people will ask, "How did Two-Face come back to life? He fell into a glacier in **Brave and Bold #106**!" Well, I have an answer. Nelson Bridwell has already stated, in **Action's** lettercol, that **B&B #106**'s tale was imaginary regarding Green Arrow's financial situation. I say that every fact was false, including Two-Face's death.

All in all, Denny O'Neil's "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin" was excellent. The "numbers" theme of #258 was also very good. Themes are great in these 100-page issues. With that many pages every bi-monthly issue, Batman needs all the good ideas he can get!

PERRY WILSON, Sonora, Calif.

(If you want to call TWO-FACE's "demise" imaginary . . . or say that it took place on an ALTERNATE EARTH . . . or BEFORE our "Two-Headed Threat" . . . that's fine with us. However, OUR theory is that TWO-FACE merely consulted the great textbook for movie monsters and returning villains of all media, "How to Look Like You're Dying Without Really Trying," before strapping on his BRAVE AND BOLD skis!—GHLIII)
• • • • •

Dear Editor:

"Threat of the Two-Headed Coin" really meant a lot to me. Along with Batman, it had Robin, the



Dear Julie:

He returns! Just like a bad penny he turns up again in the pages of **Batman**! That enigmatic split-personality that determines his actions by the flip of his infamous two-headed coin! **Two-Face**!

What a joy it was to see him pitted against **The Batman** again. Of all of Batman's foes, Two-Face, with the possible exception of the **Joker**, is the most thrilling and dangerous. Not locked in an ordinary jail cell; no, the demented Harvey Dent is confined in Arkham Hospital. **Arkham**! The legendary dwelling of some of the most tormented souls in fiction, made famous by the slime-dipped pen of H.P. Lovecraft!

The new Two-Face tale, "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin," held much joy for me . . . and a few personal surprises. I was especially pleased because I have been Two-Face—not once but, more aptly, twice! At both the 1973 and 1974 Comic Art Conventions in New York I donned the slit-suit and flipped the two-headed coin in front of the crowd at the annual costume event. Most ironically, in my second year as Two-Face, the judges awarded me second place! Maybe it was no accident that the villain's liberator in the story was named "John Harris"!

As for the story itself, it was quite enjoyable. Two-Face was in true demented form, and The Batman was his usual clever self. A few minor points did bother me. I commend you for coloring Two-Face's scarred side green, as it was in the original stories in **Detective Comics** 66, 68 and 80 some 32 years ago; reaching back to original concepts is very good. It worked superbly with The Batman himself. However, if you do back to those original stories please retain the elements that lend more quality to the character. The green color is not one of those factors. The later stories colored his face purple or grey. This is much more frightening and accurate. What should be brought back from those early days are his split-suit and perhaps his tormented fiancee Gilda, who loved him through his scars.

Teen Wonder! To blazes with all the super-serious people who dislike Batman and Robin as a team! Listen, Robin gives the youngsters someone to relate to. He also gives comedy relief to counteract Batman's somber character. He's also one heckuva crimebuster. I just can't picture Batman without Robin at his side in a fight.

I also liked the inclusion of two factors I've long missed. One was the reappearance of the famed Bat-signal. The other was Batman's scientific ingenuity. These two factors both helped build the Batman legend and they need to be seen more often.

STEVE THOMPSON, Urbana, Ohio

(Reader Thompson PSED that he will read this issue of BATMAN from Marine boot camp! Perhaps after the joys of basic training he'll have time to pay TEN-HUT to the points raised by our next correspondent!—GHLIII)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

The graphics were perhaps the best, and therefore the only truly redeeming quality of "Threat of the Two-Headed Coin." Novick and Giordano rate as the best team outside of Adams and Giordano for Batman. Dick's obviously talented inks blend perfectly with the soft-lined style of Irv Novick.

Robin's relation to Batman was delineated in this yarn much better than in previous stories. He is still the relatively inexperienced junior member of the team, but he is not portrayed as a stumble-footed fool any longer. Of course, you can take the copout route, and imply that his inefficiency is due to his unfamiliarity with the "new" Batman character, his "identity crisis," and his long-suppressed inferiority complex re his prowess compared to his mentor's. However, I prefer to call it poor characterization.

The Batman seems at his best alone. The essence of his character is such that he operates on a different level alone as opposed to how he operates teamed with Robin. Alone he is the dread figure of vengeance he was meant to be. His concerns are not of a partner's welfare. He is strictly business.

ERIC M. MAHR, Williamsville, N.Y.

(Your briefing on the basic BAT-character is too right-on to be any MAHR on our record. One gargantuan gaffe missed the gaze of most of our audience, but trust lettercol regular Robert Rodi to leap on our mistakes like an eagle . . . or a ROBIN!—GHLIII)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

Tut-tut, Denny O'Neil: After a long and illustrious career of writing only the most innovative and original tales in comicdom, don't tell me you're finally slipping into formula writing.

Batman . . . and Robin?!? Come now! In this story, Batman was neither the human, concerned crimefighter nor the good-natured super-doer of the '60's. He was merely a cool, cyborg-like figure who went through the story like he was sleep-walking, and the last, dramatic scene was completely spoiled for me because he looked so ridiculous running around with one of his Bat-ears broken off.

Robin was being handled excellently, and actually spouting some realistic dialogue, for the first part of the story. I was really enjoying him. Then, right in the middle of the whole thing, Robin says "Hold it!" and walks right out of the story. I heard no school-bell ringing. Believe me, I've been reading Batman for many years, and Robin would never walk out in the middle of a case, no matter what the academic cost. Please do keep Robin in Batman, but only if you use him right.

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(Uhh . . . perhaps the TEEN WONDER has a pressing midterm in "Birds'-Nest Building II"! Yes? No?—GHLIII)

• • • •

Dear Batmakers:

Batman #258 convinced me that the team of man and teenager that's been together so many years should finally break up. Robin's a man now himself, and he'll never be a hero on his own if he must play second fiddle to the Batman. On page 11, Robin gave in to "overwhelming odds," and I've seen Batman get by easily with more than four guys against him. Cripes, how's the Teen Wonder survived all these years? You might've thought you were giving Robin some action, but are you jivin'? One punch, a kick and some jiu jitsu—the fight's over. Big deal!

No, it's better the separate way.

DONNY HAMPTON, Kansas City, Mo.

• • • •

Dear Editor:

Just exactly what is the color of Two-Face's eyes? In Batman #258, on page 4 last panel, he has a blue eye on the normal side of his face. On page six, last panel, he has a brown one. Which is right?

NICK YANGIS, Astoria, N.Y.

(We took this perturbing question to E. Nelson Bridwell, DC's walking encyclopedia of comic lore. According to him, "I haven't the slightest idea!" We suggest referring to the start of this column, and asking Jack Harris what color HIS eyes are!—GHLIII)

• • • •

And now to the corner of the column we call THE REPRINT RENDEZVOUS!

"The Riddler's Prison-Puzzle Problem" is from DETECTIVE #377, July, 1968. "The Perfect Crime—Slightly Imperfect" originated in BATMAN #181, the June, '66 issue. "The Grade A Crimes" scored in BATMAN #16, April-May, 1943. "The Case Without a Crime" spawned in DETECTIVE #112, June, 1946, and "The Pearl of Peril" emerged in BATMAN #27, February-March, 1945!

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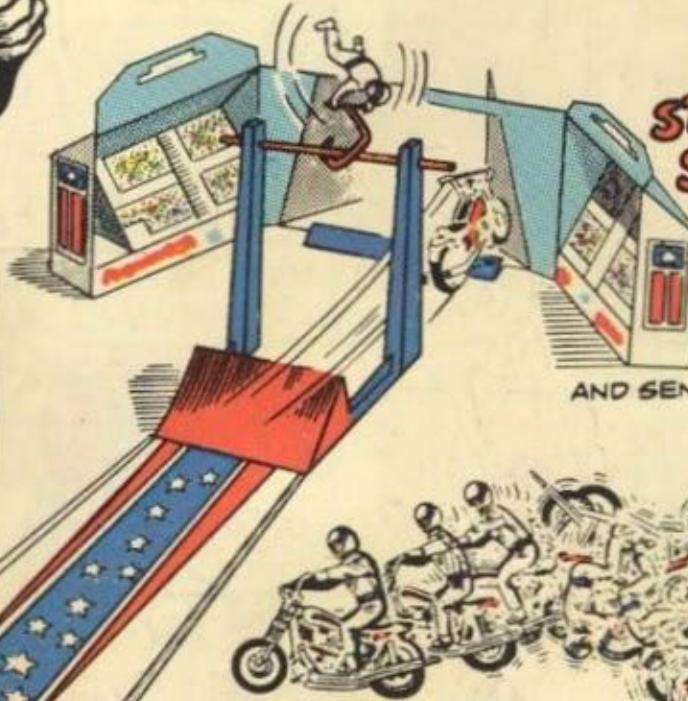
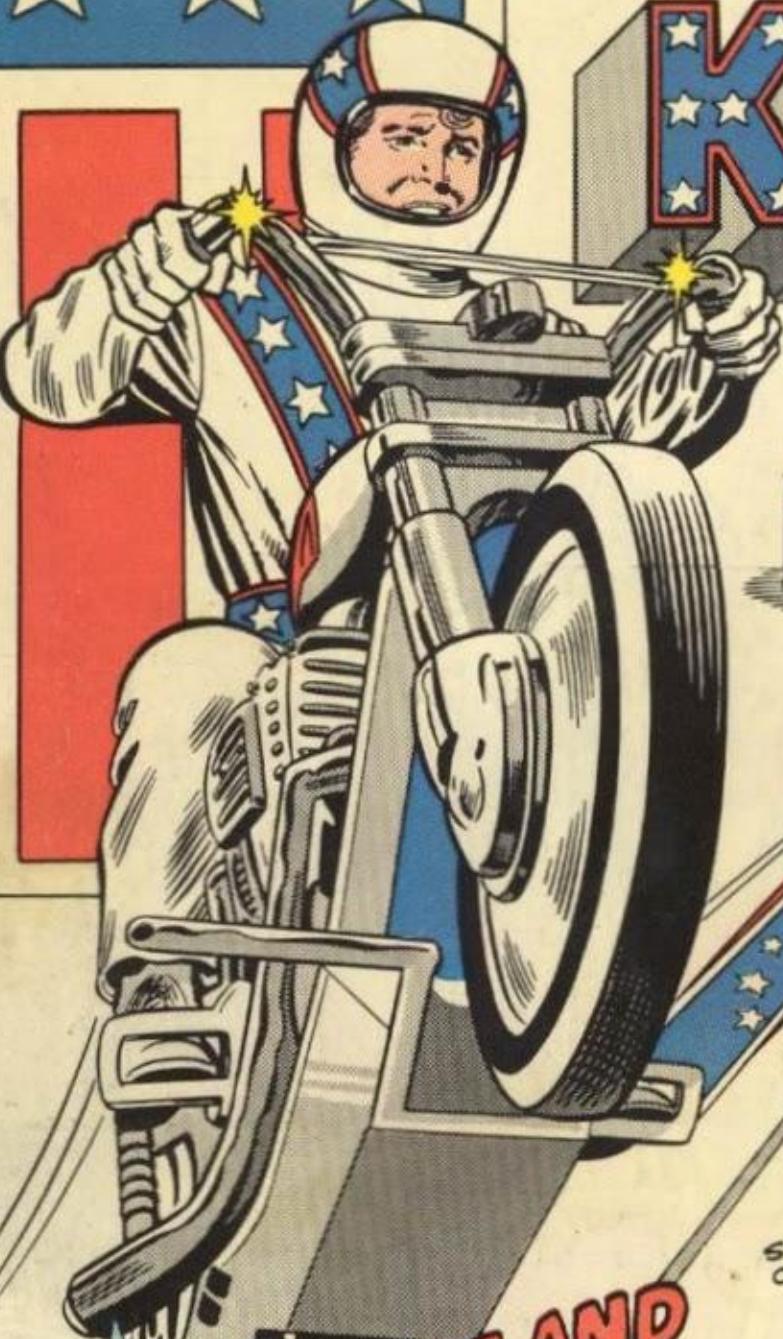


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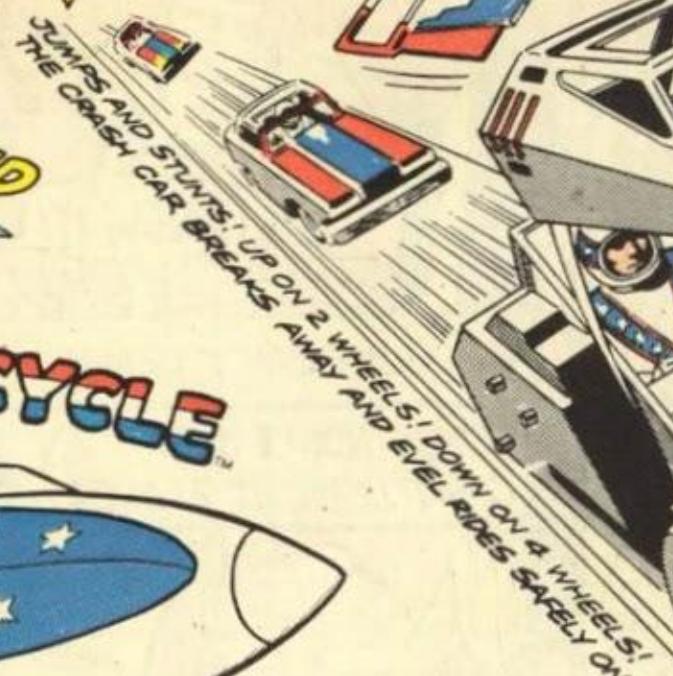
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