

Extra!

"THE BOYHOOD OF BRUCE WAYNE, JR.!"

12¢

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

NOV.
NO. 159

BATMAN

A SENSATIONAL TWO-PART THRILLER...

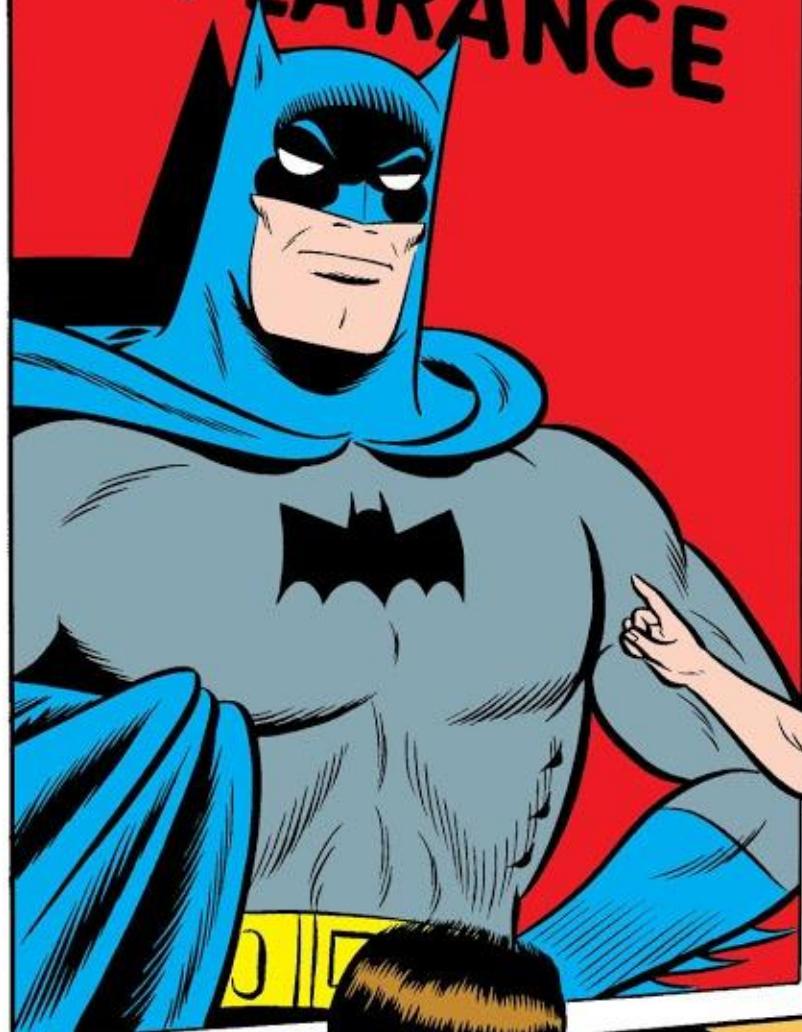
**"The GREAT
CLAYFACE-JOKER FEUD!"**



BAT-MAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

GUEST
APPEARANCE



HERE IT IS--ANOTHER PROVOCATIVE TALE OF THE **BATMAN** FAMILY AS TOLD BY ALFRED! ONCE AGAIN ALFRED TAKES US INTO THE FUTURE WORLD OF **BATMAN** AND HIS WIFE, **BATWOMAN**--AND THIS TIME PRESENTS THE PROBLEMS FACING THEM AS BOTH CRIME-FIGHTERS--AND PARENTS! FOR THIS IS THE HEARTWARMING STORY OF...

The **BOYHOOD** **of BRUCE** **WAYNE JR.**

BOB
KANE

THAT'S HIM!
THAT'S MY
FATHER!

BATMAN!??



EXIT

IN THE WAYNE HOME, ALFRED IS ONCE AGAIN TYPING ANOTHER TALE OF THE FUTURE . . .

"IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT ONE DAY BRUCE WAYNE WOULD PROPOSE MARRIAGE TO KATHY KANE..."



"THEIR MARRIAGE WAS THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR..."



"BUT THE ASSEMBLED GUESTS DID NOT REALIZE THEY WERE ALSO WITNESSING THE WEDDING OF TWO WORLD-FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS -- BATMAN AND BATWOMAN . . . "



"A YEAR PASSED, AND THEN ONE NIGHT BRUCE WAITED IMPATIENTLY IN A HOSPITAL CORRIDOR WITH HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON . . . "



"BUT OUTSIDE, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE HOSPITAL . . . "

LOOK! MASKED BANDITS--ABOUT TO ESCAPE ACROSS THE ROOF OF THAT GIANT TV AD!



OH, NO! THAT MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER THEM! OF ALL THE TIMES FOR THIS TO HAPPEN . . . !

"SHEDDING THEIR GARB IN A DARK ALLEY, THEY MOVED SWIFTLY TO INTERCEPT THE BANDITS, BUT . . . "

THEY'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TO THE OTHER ROOF!

WE CAN'T WASTE TIME TRYING TO RUN THEM DOWN! QUICK, ROBIN-- THE TV ANTENNA!



"FLEXING THEIR LIMBER MUSCLES, THE DYNAMIC DUO LAUNCHED THEMSELVES UP AT THE MOCK TV ANTENNA..."

THE ANTENNA WILL BEND FOR A MOMENT UNDER OUR COMBINED WEIGHT, AND THEN...



"THEN, IT WHIPPED UP AGAIN, AND SENT TWO HUMAN ARROWS IN ARCHING FLIGHT!"

YOW!
BATMAN
AND ROBIN!



"AS THEY LANDED, BATMAN HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT IN MIND..."

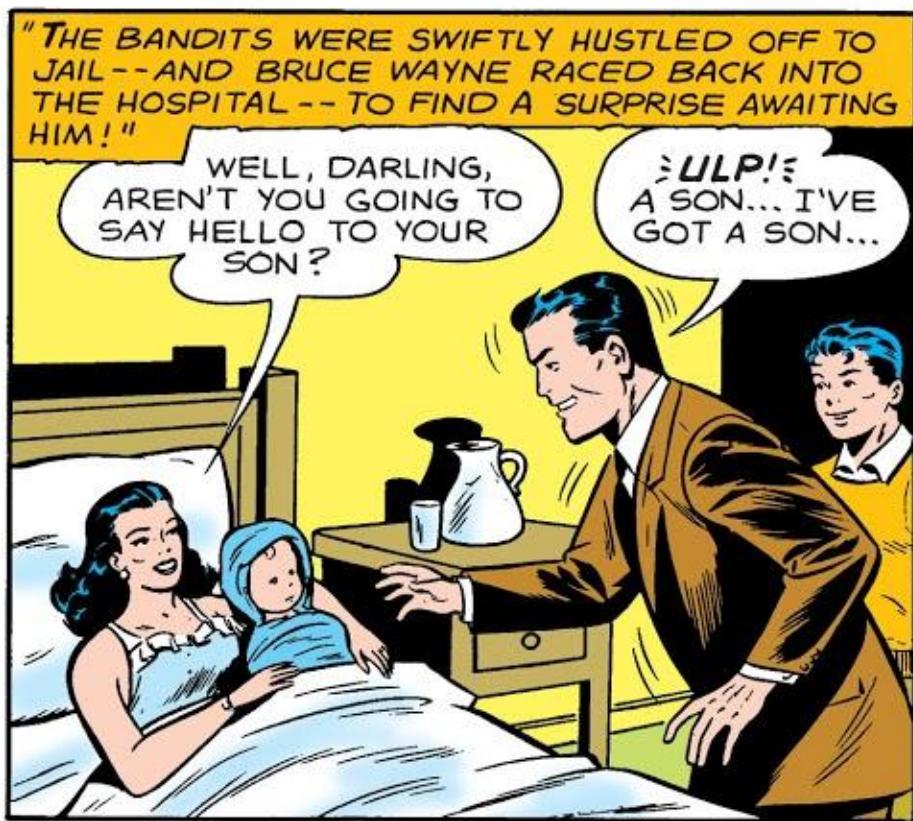
GOT TO WRAP THIS UP FAST-- SO I CAN GET BACK TO THE HOSPITAL IN TIME!



"THE BANDITS WERE SWIFTLY HUSTLED OFF TO JAIL-- AND BRUCE WAYNE RACED BACK INTO THE HOSPITAL-- TO FIND A SURPRISE AWAITING HIM!"

WELL, DARLING,
AREN'T YOU GOING TO
SAY HELLO TO YOUR
SON?

ULP!
A SON... I'VE
GOT A SON...



"SHORTLY AFTER, AT HOME, BRUCE REACTED LIKE A TYPICAL PROUD FATHER..."

HERE, ALRED--HAVE A CIGAR--
HAVE TWO CIGARS--HAVE
THREE! YIPEEE!



"NATURALLY, FOR AWHILE, MRS. WAYNE COULD NOT RESUME HER **BATWOMAN** ROLE--BUT THERE SOON CAME A TIME WHEN I DOUBLED AS BOTH BUTLER AND **BABY-SITTER!**"

NOW DON'T FORGET TO GIVE HIM HIS TEN O'CLOCK BOTTLE!

MRS. WAYNE, YOU MAY GO ABOUT YOUR CRIME-FIGHTING BUSINESS WITHOUT WORRY! BRUCE JR. IS IN GOOD HANDS!



"AS BRUCE JR. GREW, HE CAME TO LOOK UPON HIS UNCLE, DICK GRAYSON, ALMOST AS AN OLDER BROTHER, TO BE IMITATED AND ADMIRED...."

GOSH! WOULD YOU TEACH ME TO DO STUNTS LIKE THAT?

SURE! IT'S TIME I STARTED TRAINING YOU! I'VE A FEELING YOU'LL BE NEEDING IT SOME YEARS FROM NOW!



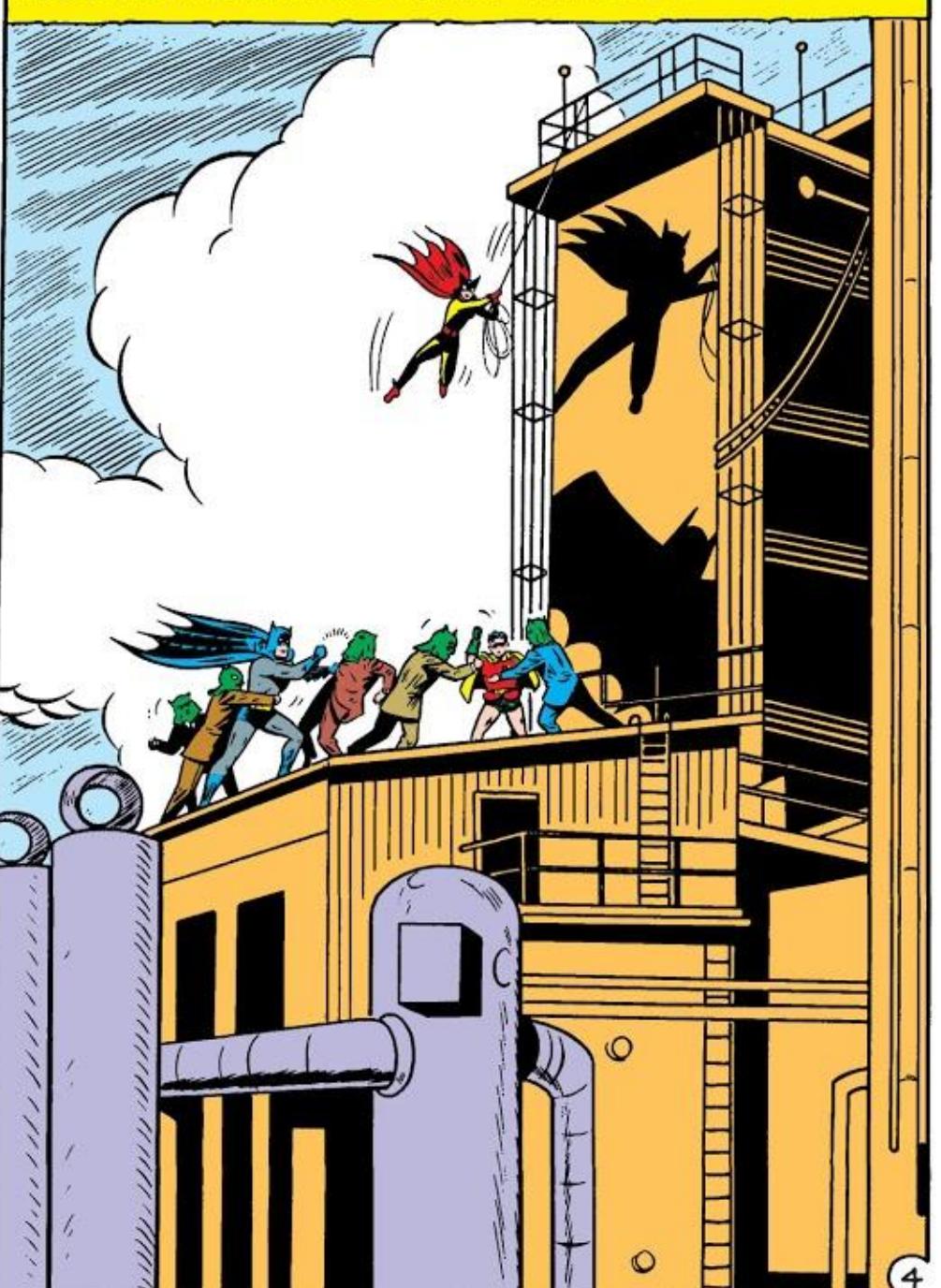
"AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, UNDER DICK'S TUTELAGE, YOUNG BRUCE PROVED TO BE A NATURAL ATHLETE..."

HOW'M I DOING, UNCLE DICK?

A FEW YEARS FROM NOW HE'LL BE JUST AS GOOD AS **ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER**, EVER WAS!



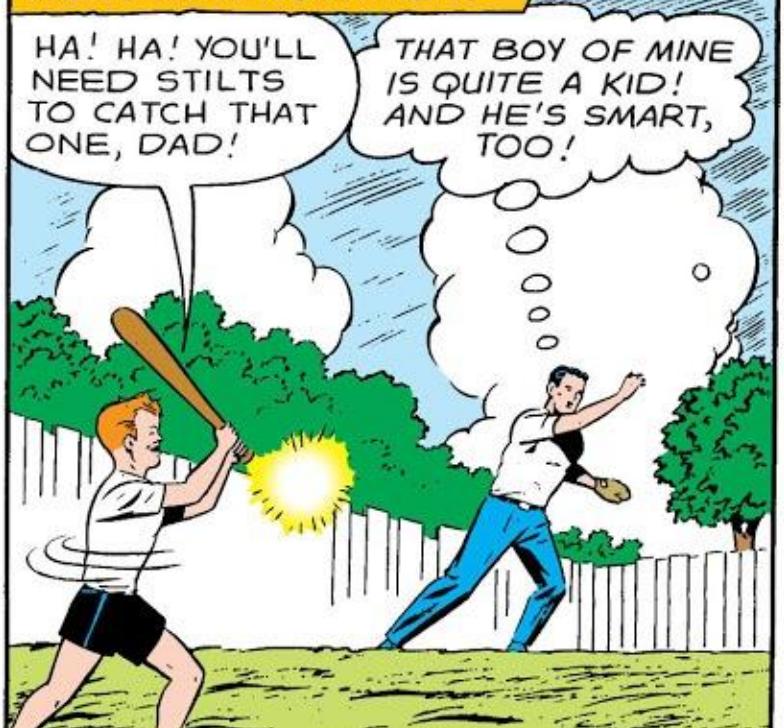
"YES, BRUCE JR. WAS INDEED INTELLIGENT! FOR EXAMPLE, TAKE THE TIME THE CRIME-FIGHTING FAMILY CHANCED UPON THE **GREEN OWL GANG** ROBBING A CHEMICAL PLANT PAYROLL..."



"BUT FOR BRUCE JR. THE BEST TIMES WERE WITH HIS FATHER!"

HA! HA! YOU'LL NEED STILTS TO CATCH THAT ONE, DAD!

THAT BOY OF MINE IS QUITE A KID! AND HE'S SMART, TOO!



"UNEXPECTEDLY, ONE OF THE GANG THROWN A SMOKE BOMB IN THEIR MIDST..."

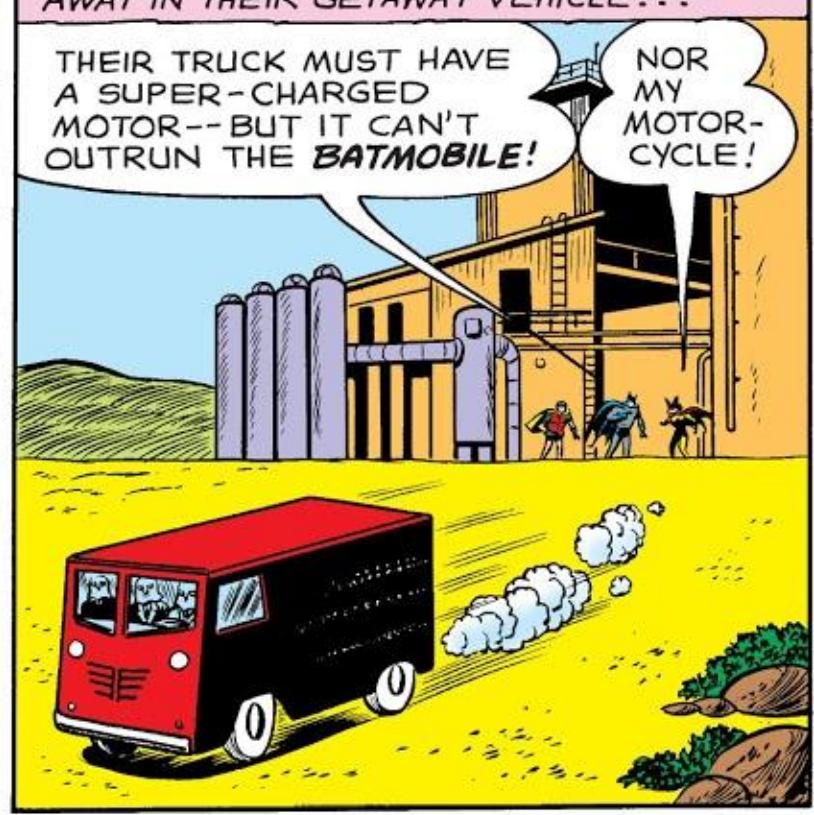
LET'S GET OUTA HERE!



"IN MOMENTS, THE BANDITS WERE SPEEDING AWAY IN THEIR GETAWAY VEHICLE..."

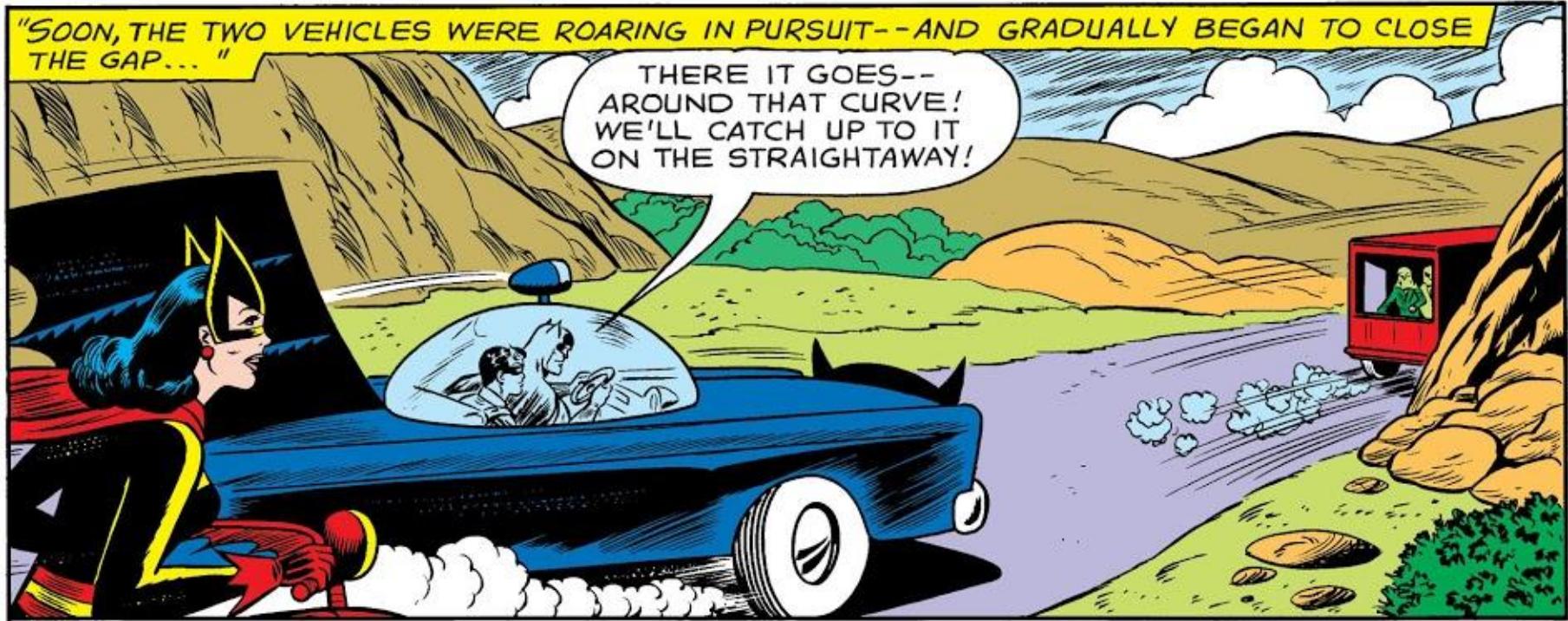
THEIR TRUCK MUST HAVE A SUPER-CHARGED MOTOR-- BUT IT CAN'T OUTRUN THE BATMOBILE!

NOR MY MOTOR-CYCLE!



"SOON, THE TWO VEHICLES WERE ROARING IN PURSUIT-- AND GRADUALLY BEGAN TO CLOSE THE GAP..."

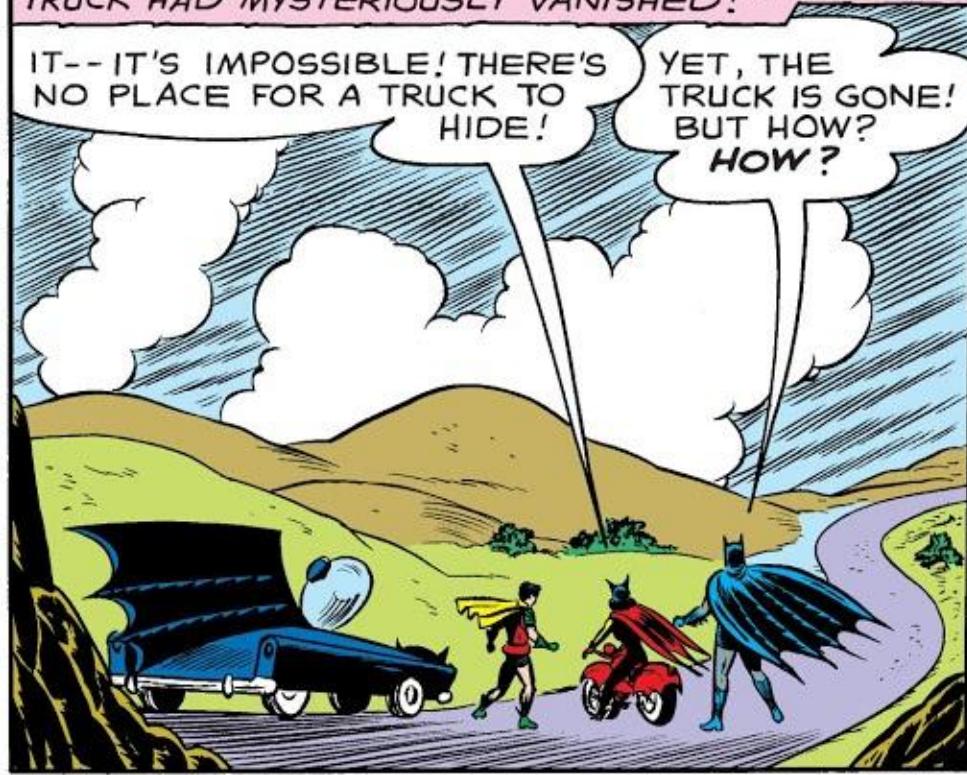
THERE IT GOES-- AROUND THAT CURVE! WE'LL CATCH UP TO IT ON THE STRAIGHTAWAY!



"AROUND THE CURVE STRETCHED THE HIGHWAY AND BARREN FIELDS-- BUT THAT WAS ALL! THE BANDIT TRUCK HAD MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED!"

IT-- IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE'S NO PLACE FOR A TRUCK TO HIDE!

YET, THE TRUCK IS GONE! BUT HOW? HOW?



"HOW? THAT WAS THE VITAL QUESTION ASKED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND ON TV NEWCASTS..."

HOW COULD A TRUCK SUDDENLY VANISH INTO THIN AIR! NOT EVEN BATMAN, ROBIN AND BATWOMAN KNOW THE ANSWER!

I'LL BET I KNOW...



I'LL BETCHA THE GREEN OWL GANG IS A BUNCH O' **MAGICIANS!** MAGICIANS CAN MAKE **ANYTHING** DISAPPEAR! I READ HOW THEY DO IT WITH PUFFS O' SMOKE--AN' MIRRORS--AN' ALL KINDS O' THINGS!



"THERE WAS ONLY STUNNED SILENCE AFTER THE YOUNGSTER LEFT TO GO UP TO HIS ROOM . . . "

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES . . . !

YES! THE SIMPLE, UNCOMPLICATED MIND OF A CHILD HAS CUT RIGHT TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM! THANKS TO MY LITTLE SON, WE MAY SURPRISE THE GREEN OWL GANG THE NEXT TIME!



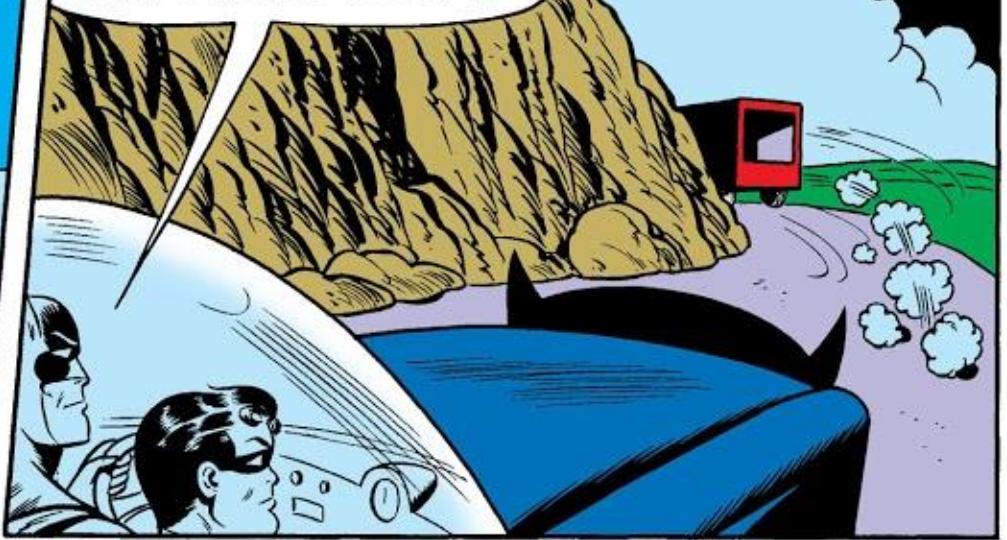
"THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, A POLICE ALARM SENT THEM TO THE SCENE OF THE GREEN OWL GANG'S NEXT ROBBERY . . . "

THERE'S THE BANK-- AND THERE GOES THEIR TRUCK AGAIN!



"ONCE AGAIN THE SWIFT PURSUIT ALONG THE DESERTED HIGHWAY . . . "

ANOTHER CURVE--AND I'LL BET THAT WHEN WE TURN IT, THAT TRUCK WILL HAVE DISAPPEARED AGAIN!

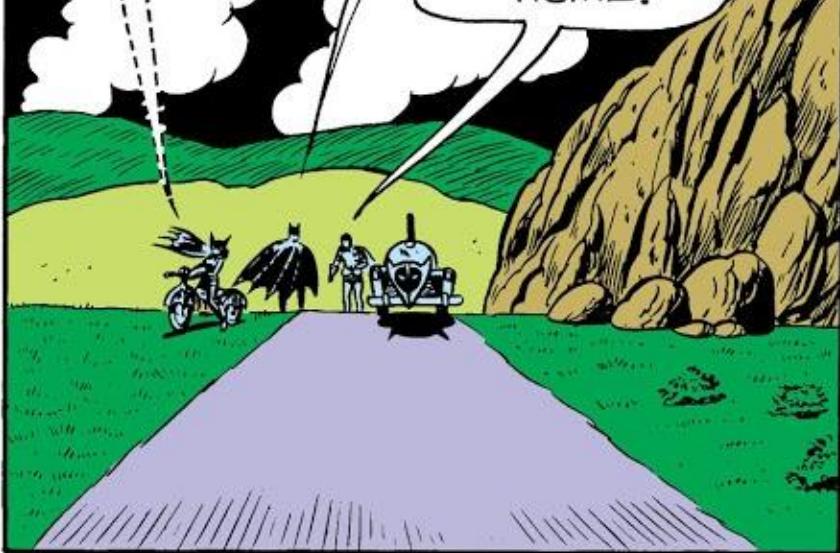


"BATMAN'S PROPHECY WAS INDEED CORRECT . . . "

OKAY--NOW LET'S GO INTO OUR LITTLE ACT!

SOMEHOW THE GREEN OWL GANG HAS OUTSMARTED US AGAIN!

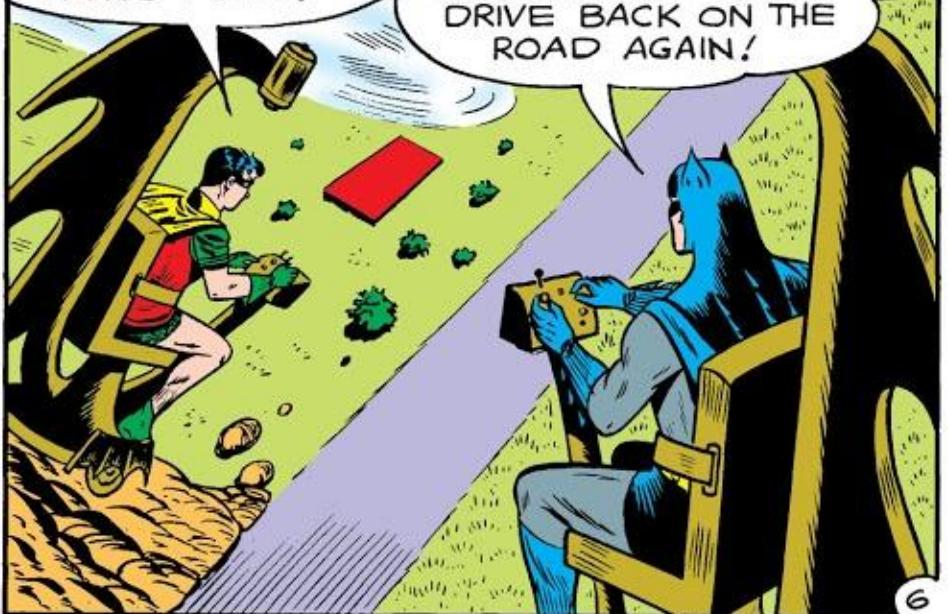
YEAH! WE MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME!



"SO THE CRIME-FIGHTERS LEFT--BUT SHORTLY AFTER, BATMAN AND ROBIN SECRETLY RETURNED--ALOFT IN THEIR WHIRLY-BATS!"

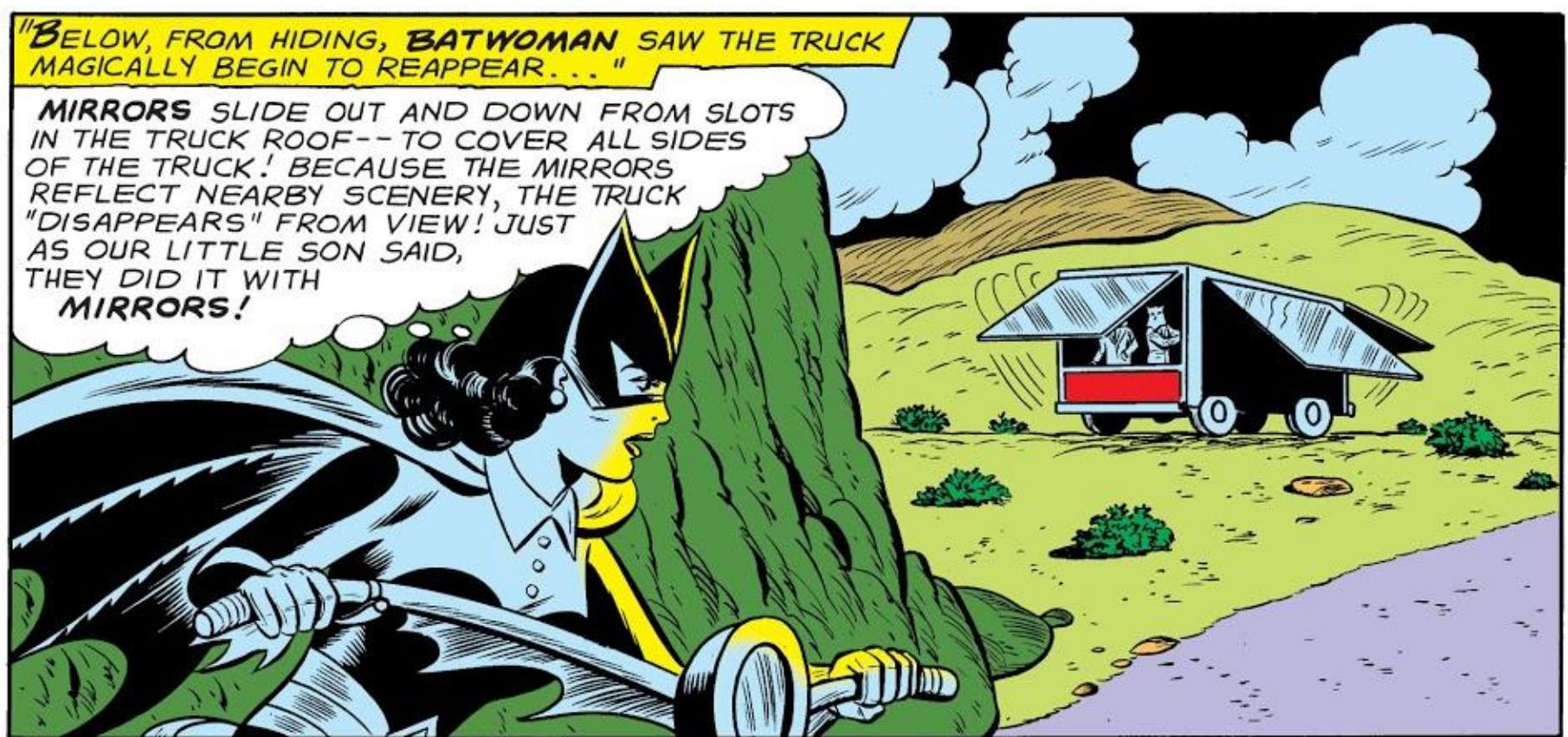
THERE! I CAN SEE THE ROOF OF THE TRUCK! IT'S IN THAT SHRUB FIELD!

THE BANDITS MUST THINK WE'RE FAR AWAY BY NOW! THEY'RE PROBABLY GETTING READY TO DRIVE BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN!



"**B**ELOW, FROM HIDING, **BATWOMAN** SAW THE TRUCK MAGICALLY BEGIN TO REAPPEAR..."

MIRRORS SLIDE OUT AND DOWN FROM SLOTS IN THE TRUCK ROOF-- TO COVER ALL SIDES OF THE TRUCK! BECAUSE THE MIRRORS REFLECT NEARBY SCENERY, THE TRUCK "DISAPPEARS" FROM VIEW! JUST AS OUR LITTLE SON SAID, THEY DID IT WITH **MIRRORS!**



"**T**HEN, ALMOST AS MAGICALLY, A TRIO OF CRIME-FIGHTERS CLOSED IN ON THE SURPRISED BANDITS!"

OKAY, **ROBIN**--LET'S SET THE STABILIZER-CONTROLS ON THE **WHIRLY-BATS**-- AND GO DOWN!



HUH? HOW'D YOU GUESS?

OH, LET'S SAY THE IDEA CAME TO ME OUT OF THE **HEIR!**

BATMAN MUST ENJOY THAT PUN MORE THAN ANY OTHER HE'S EVER MADE!



"**T**HE NEXT DAY, THE HEIR RECEIVED A SURPRISE GIFT..."

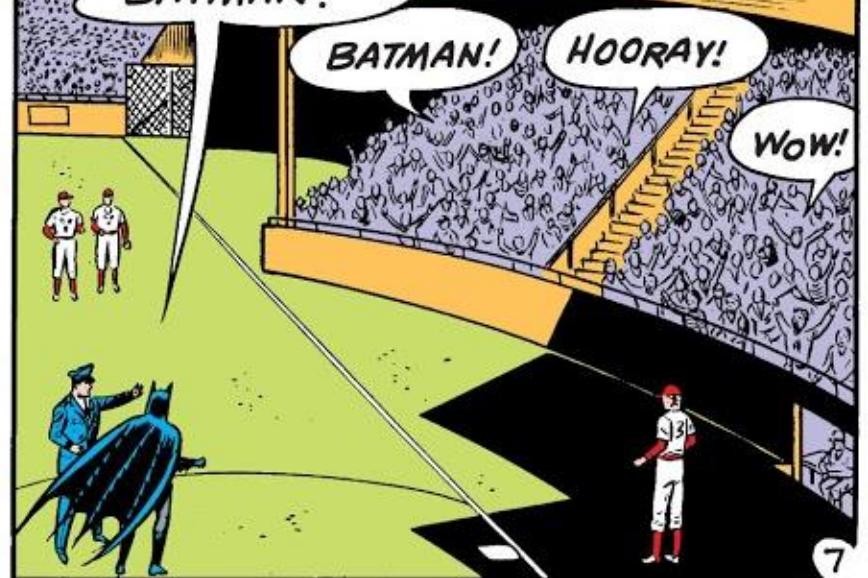
GOLLY! A MAGIC SET! MAYBE NOW I CAN LEARN HOW TO PULL A RABBIT OUT OF A HAT!

IN A WAY, SON-- YOU ALREADY HAVE!



"**B**UT BRUCE JR. ONCE PULLED SOMETHING ELSE OUT OF A HAT DURING HIS EARLY SCHOOL YEARS-- SOMETHING THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS..."

...AND NOW, OUR HONORED GUEST OF THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE-- **BATMAN**!



"AFTER THE SHOW, BRUCE JUNIOR AND SOME FRIENDS WAITED AT THE EXIT, HOPING TO GLIMPSE THEIR HERO EMERGING . . . "

GOSH! I SURE WISH **BATMAN** WAS MY FATHER!

MY FATHER'S FAMOUS, TOO! HE'S HANK DAWSON -- FIRST BASEMAN ON THE **GOTHAM STARS**!

HEY, BRUCIE, WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER DO?

WE-ELL, HE'S DIRECTOR OF SOME CORPORATIONS-- AND WORKS ON CHARITIES--AND THINGS LIKE THAT!



HA! YOUR FATHER IS **NOTHING** COMPARED TO MY FATHER!

THAT'S A LIE! M-MY FATHER IS A SWELL GUY--A GREAT GUY! YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW GREAT HE IS!

"ANXIOUS TO DEFEND HIS FAMILY PRIDE, BRUCE JR. DESPERATELY GRODED FOR AN IDEA, AND THEN BLURTED OUT..."

OKAY, I--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU! M-MY FATHER IS REALLY--**BATMAN**!



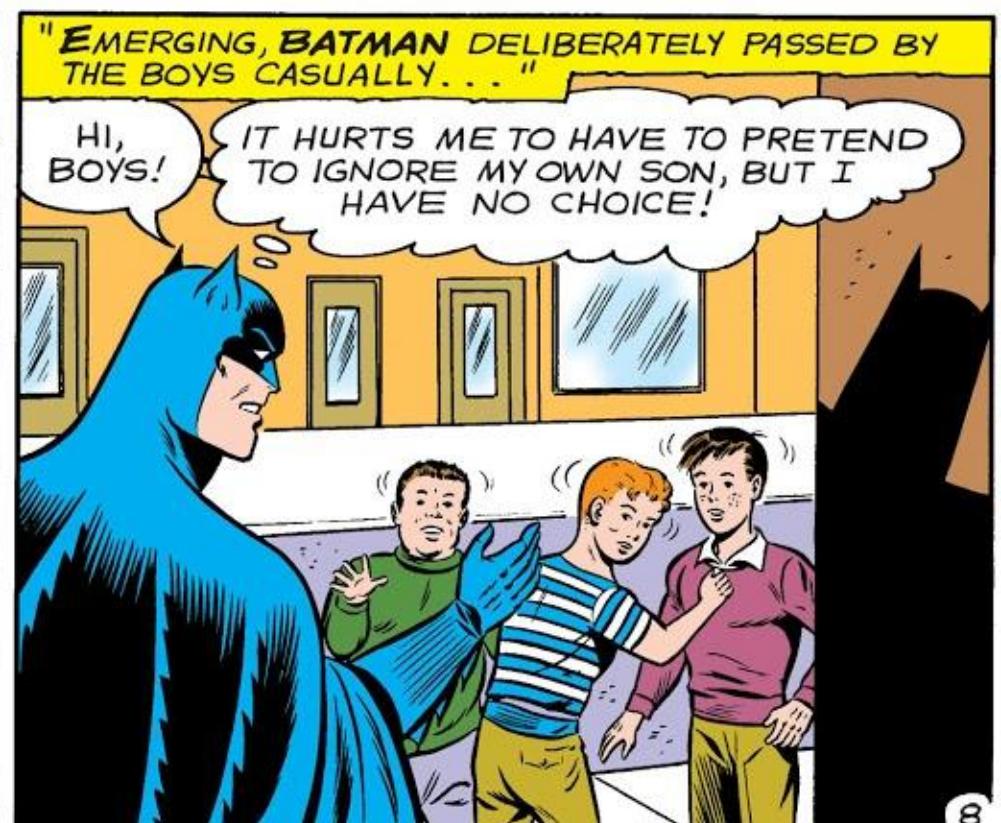
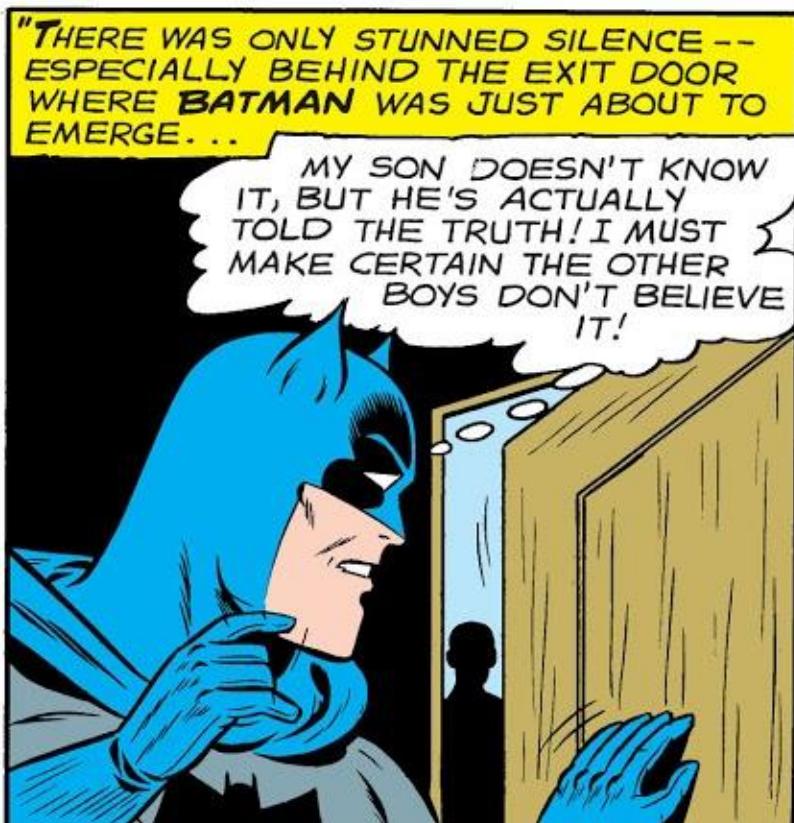
"THERE WAS ONLY STUNNED SILENCE -- ESPECIALLY BEHIND THE EXIT DOOR WHERE **BATMAN** WAS JUST ABOUT TO EMERGE . . .

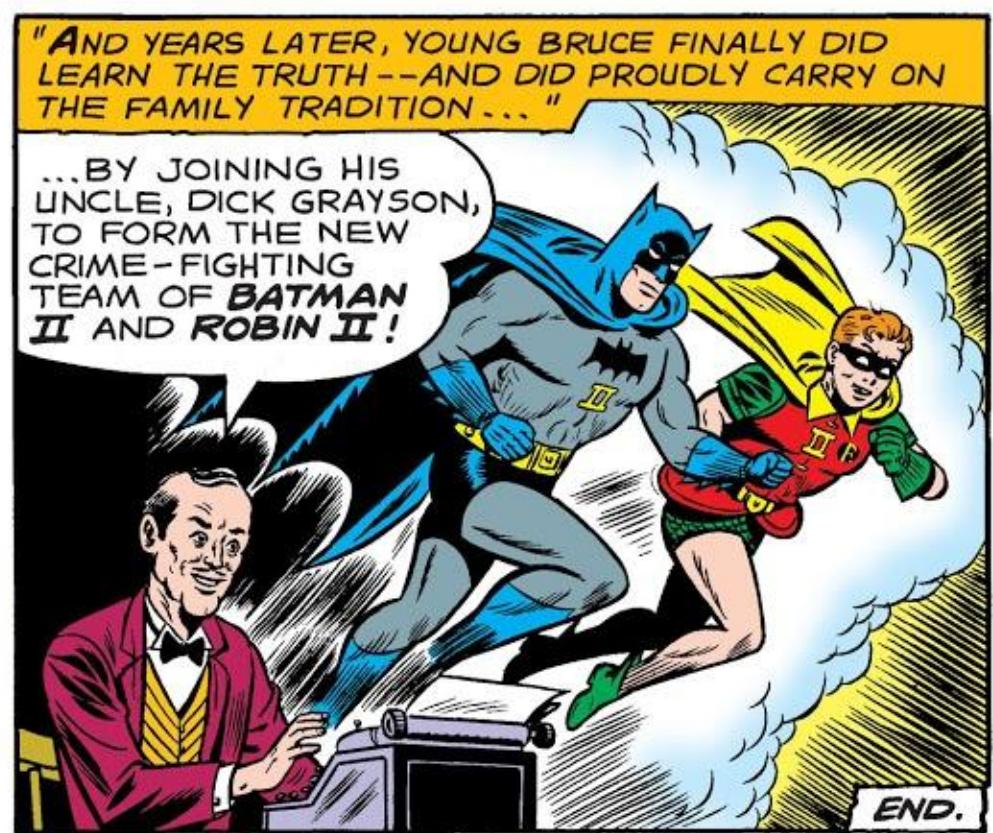
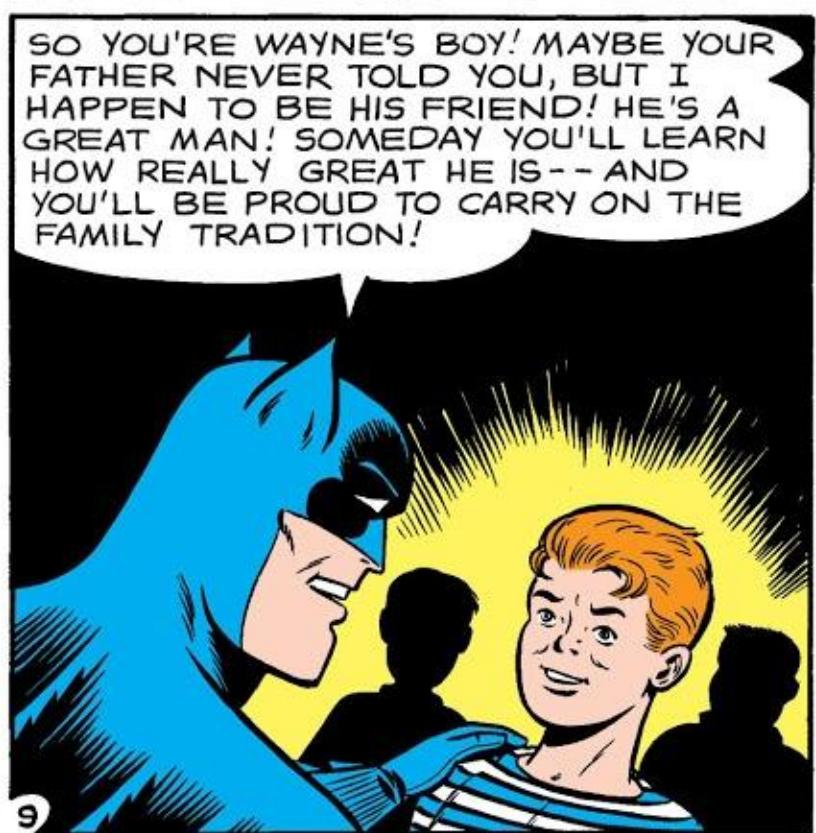
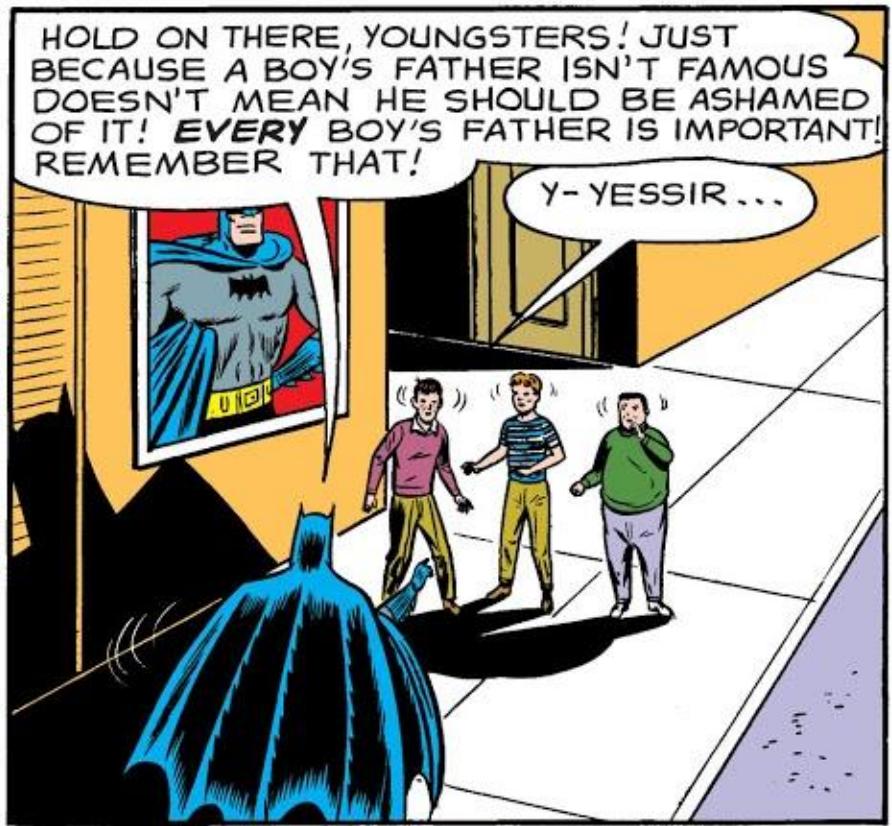
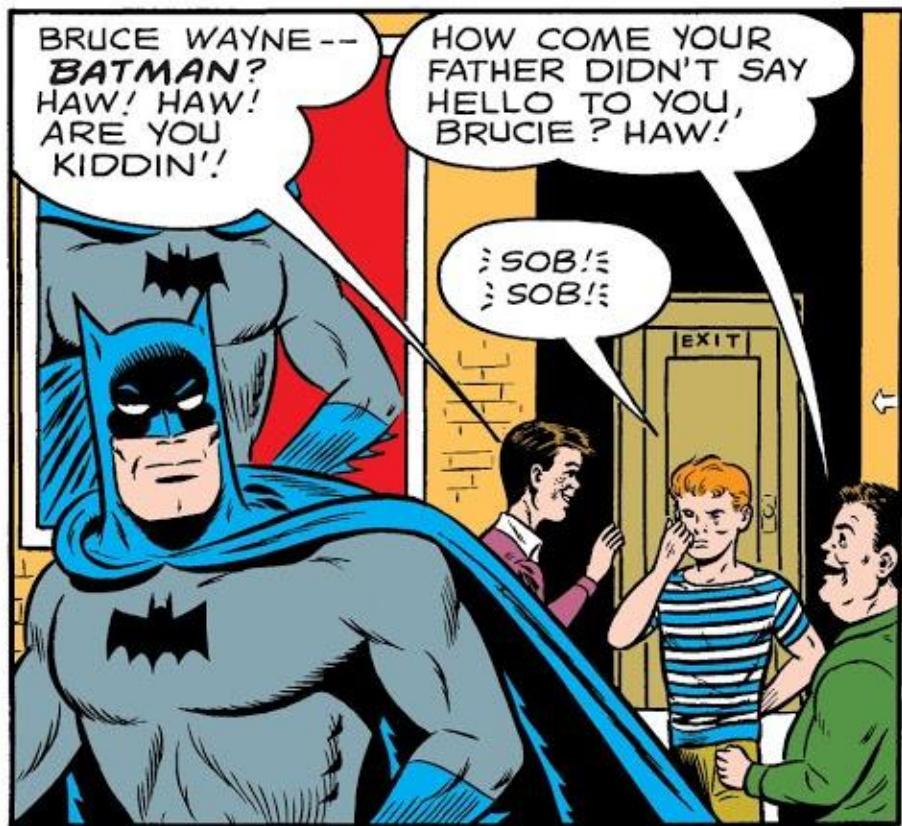
MY SON DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY TOLD THE TRUTH! I MUST MAKE CERTAIN THE OTHER BOYS DON'T BELIEVE IT!

"EMERGING, **BATMAN** DELIBERATELY PASSED BY THE BOYS CASUALLY . . ."

HI, BOYS!

IT HURTS ME TO HAVE TO PRETEND TO IGNORE MY OWN SON, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE!





WHO IS THE MASTER CRIMINAL OF GOTHAM CITY? SOME MEMBERS OF THE UNDERWORLD SAY IT IS CLAYFACE! OTHERS SAY IT IS THE JOKER! AND WHEN A WAR TO SETTLE THE ARGUMENT BEGINS BETWEEN THESE TWO INFAMOUS VILLAINS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, JOINED BY BATWOMAN AND BAT-GIRL, FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN A CROSS-FIRE OF CRIMES! GET SET FOR SOME SPINE-TINGLING ACTION--AND A STARTLING CONCLUSION TO...

BAT-MAN

With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

the GREAT CLAYFACE- JOKER FEUD

CHAPTER 1

BY CHANGING FROM MY CLAYFACE FORM TO THAT OF A GORILLA, I NOW HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CARRY MY HOSTAGES--BATMAN AND THE JOKER--TO MY HIDEOUT!

BOB KALE

Artists: Jim Mooney and Sheldon Moldoff / Colorist: Helen Vesik

ONE DAY, AS THE BATMOBILE CHANCES TO CRUISE NEAR THE HOME OF KATHY (BATWOMAN) KANE...

HI, YOU TWO! WELL, ROBIN-- AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE THAT MY PRETTY NIECE IS VISITING ME AGAIN?

GOSH! I SURE AM! H-HELLO, BETTY!

ROBIN, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET INTO MY BAT-GIRL COSTUME AGAIN! WON'T IT BE TERRIFIC IF WE COULD GO ON A CRIME CASE TOGETHER LIKE THE LAST TIME? ;SIGH;

IT SURE WOULD, BETTY! ;SIGH;



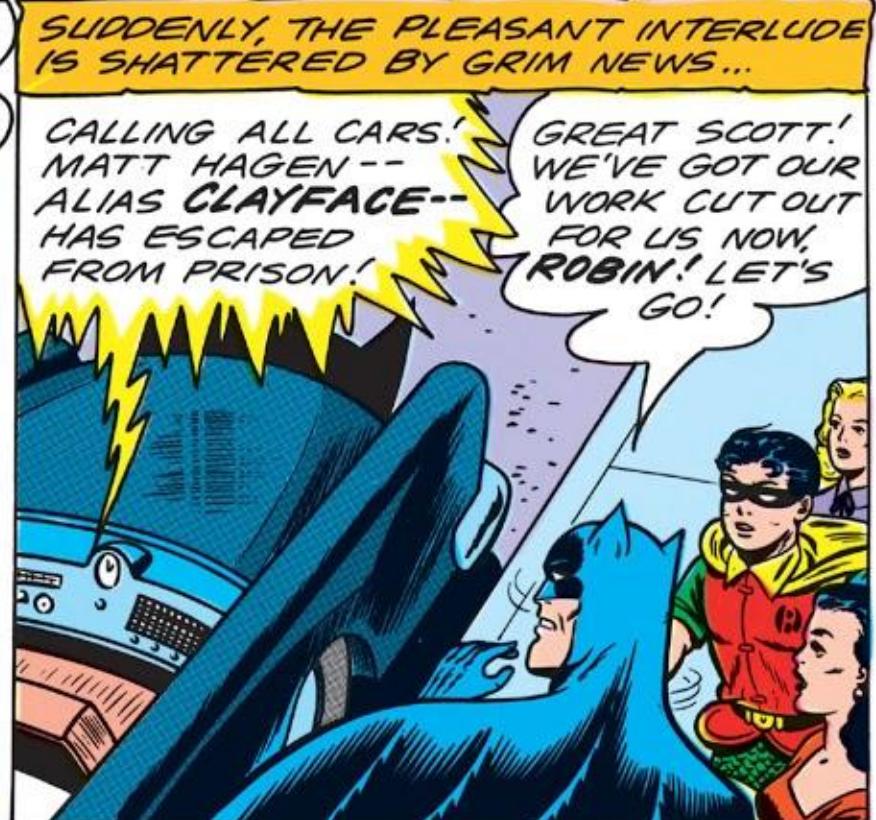
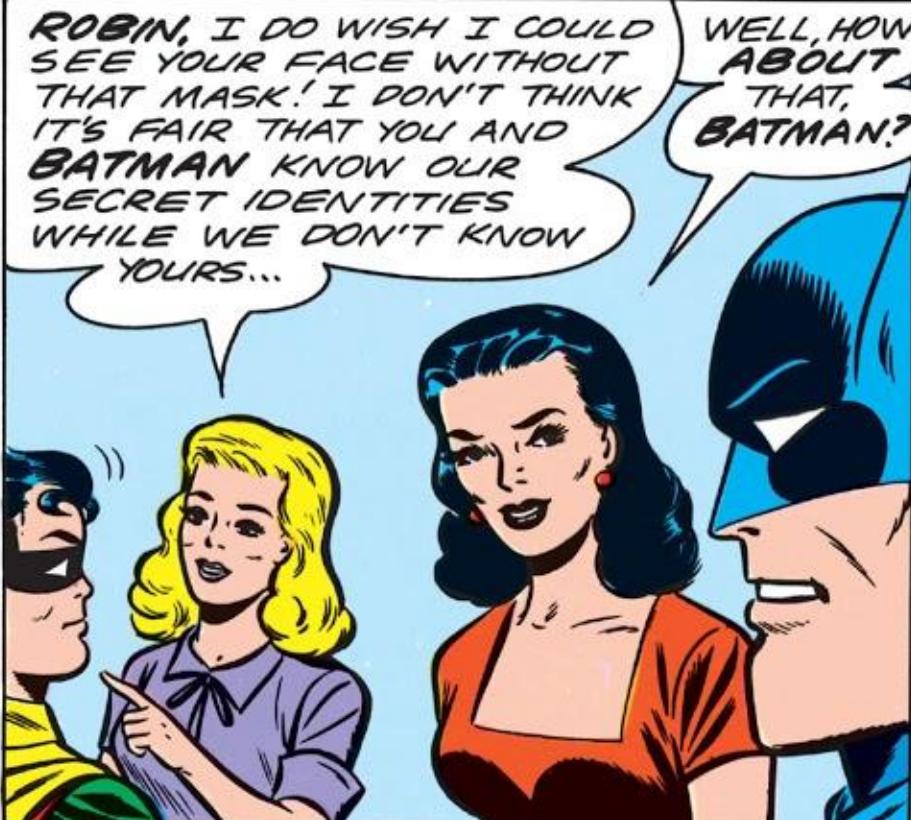
ROBIN, I DO WISH I COULD SEE YOUR FACE WITHOUT THAT MASK! I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR THAT YOU AND BATMAN KNOW OUR SECRET IDENTITIES WHILE WE DON'T KNOW YOURS...

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT, BATMAN?

SUDDENLY, THE PLEASANT INTERLUDE IS SHATTERED BY GRIM NEWS...

CALLING ALL CARS! MATT HAGEN -- ALIAS CLAYFACE -- HAS ESCAPED FROM PRISON!

GREAT SCOTT! WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US NOW, ROBIN! LET'S GO!

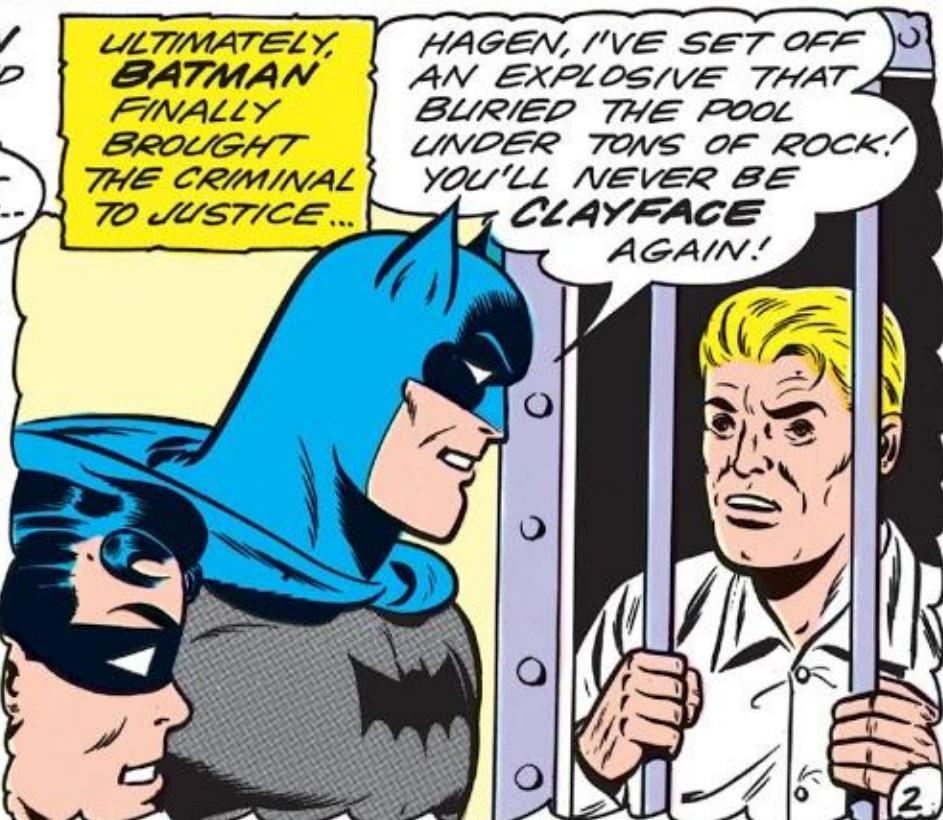
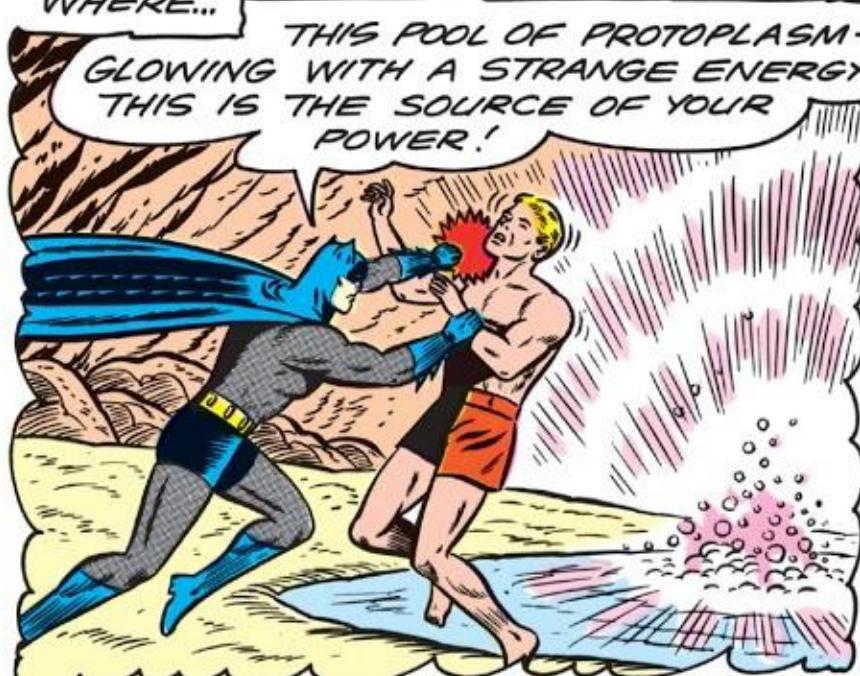


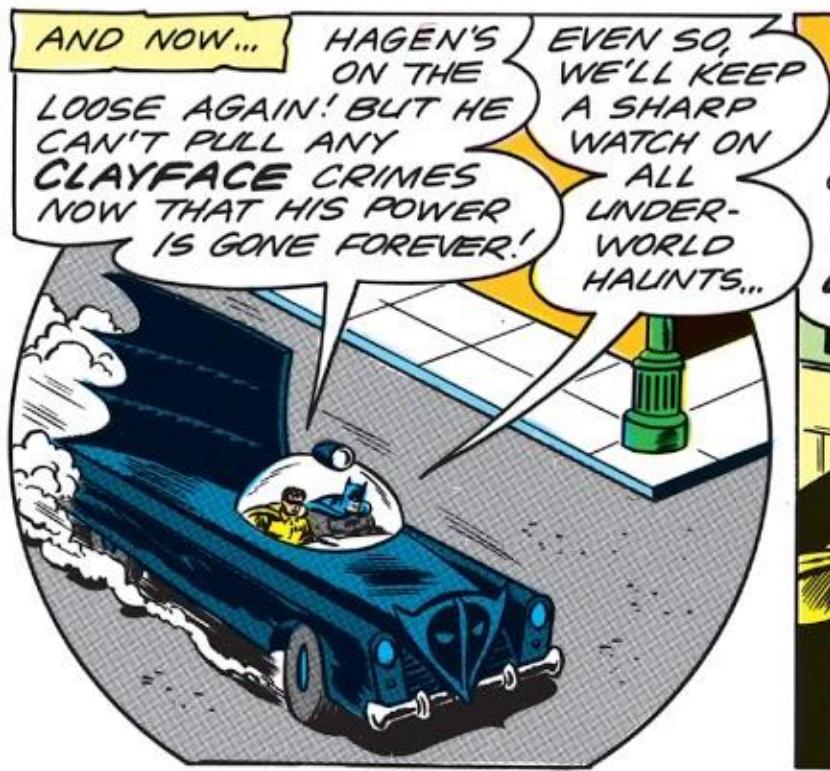
CLAYFACE! ONLY TOO WELL BATMAN REMEMBERS HOW HE FINALLY TRAILLED THE CRIMINAL TO A SECRET GROTTO, WHERE...

THIS POOL OF PROTOPLASM-- GLOWING WITH A STRANGE ENERGY-- THIS IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR POWER!

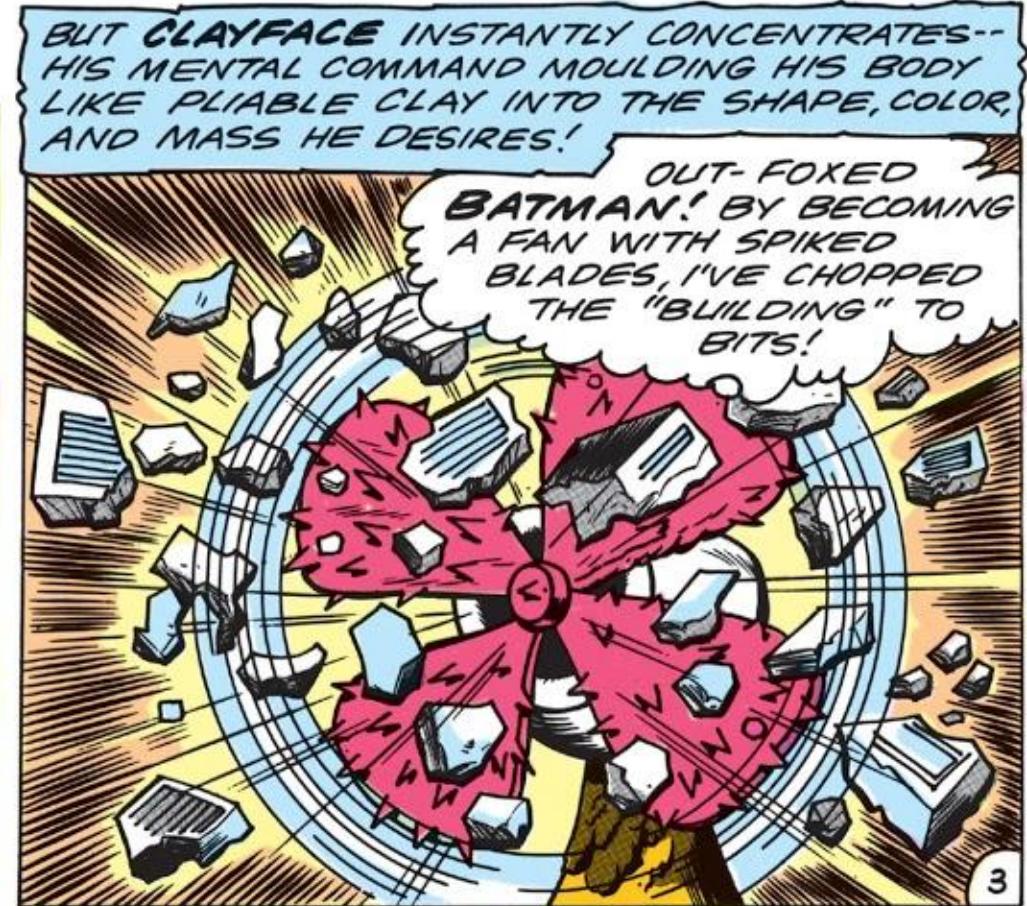
ULTIMATELY, BATMAN FINALLY BROUGHT THE CRIMINAL TO JUSTICE...

HAGEN, I'VE SET OFF AN EXPLOSIVE THAT BURIED THE POOL UNDER TONS OF ROCK! YOU'LL NEVER BE CLAYFACE AGAIN!





SHORTLY, ON THE FLOOR HOUSING A MODEL FUTURISTIC CITY THAT IS PART OF THE ARCHITECTS EXPOSITION...



ONCE AGAIN, CLAYFACE COMMANDS HIS BODY TO ALTER-- AND BECOMES A RAGING MAMMOTH TRAMPLING THE MOCK CITY UNDERFOOT!

THEN--THE UNEXPECTED!

BATMAN! WE CAN'T FIGHT THAT!

WH-AAT? I THOUGHT I HAD PLENTY OF TIME! IT'S ONLY BEEN FIVE HOURS SINCE I BECAME CLAYFACE-- YET MY POWERS ARE EBBING!

ONLY FIVE HOURS? BUT THE TIME-LIMIT WAS ALWAYS FORTY-EIGHT...



INSTANTLY, CLAYFACE CONCENTRATES FIERCELY-- SUMMONING UP HIS WANING POWER, AND...

I CAN ONLY KEEP THIS FORM FOR SECONDS--BUT THAT WILL BE LONG ENOUGH!

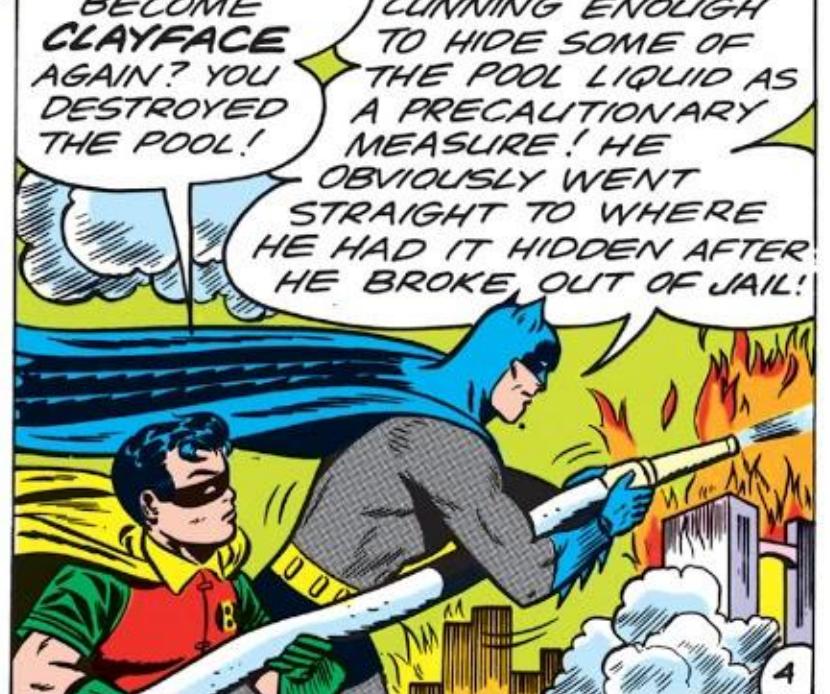
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S BECOME A FIERY METEOR, SETTING THE MOCK CITY AFLAME!



SECONDS LATER, HIS CLAYFACE POWERS GONE, MATT HAGEN MAKES HIS ESCAPE!

HOW? HOW COULD HAGEN BECOME CLAYFACE AGAIN? YOU DESTROYED THE POOL!

TRUE! BUT HAGEN MUST'VE BEEN CUNNING ENOUGH TO HIDE SOME OF THE POOL LIQUID AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE! HE OBVIOUSLY WENT STRAIGHT TO WHERE HE HAD IT HIDDEN AFTER HE BROKE OUT OF JAIL!



BATMAN'S DEDUCTION IS CORRECT--FOR HAGEN HAD DONE EXACTLY THAT UPON ESCAPING FROM PRISON...

GOOD THING I HAD THE FORESIGHT TO HIDE THIS BOTTLE OF POOL LIQUID IN THE REAR SECTION OF THE GROTTO'S CAVERN! LUCKILY, THIS SECTION WASN'T BURIED BY THE EXPLOSIVE BATMAN SET OFF!

WITH SOME OF THIS LIQUID--AND WHAT I'VE LEARNED OF CHEMISTRY--I'LL MAKE ENOUGH SYNTHETIC LIQUID TO ENABLE ME TO BECOME CLAYFACE AGAIN!



THUS, CLAYFACE WAS REBORN! AND NOW, IN THE BAT-CAVE...

WHAT SURPRISED ME IS THAT CLAYFACE MUST RENEW HIS POWER EVERY FIVE HOURS NOW!

IT SURPRISED CLAYFACE, TOO! I'LL WAGER HE'S SOMEHOW MADE SYNTHETIC LIQUID--BUT HE DIDN'T EXPECT THAT THE SYNTHETIC HAS A SHORTER TIME-LIMIT THAN THE ORIGINAL LIQUID!

MEANWHILE, THE HEADLINE NEWS OF CLAYFACE'S RETURN IS DISCUSSED IN AN UNDERWORLD HANGOUT...

CLAYFACE DID IT AGAIN! NOT EVEN BATMAN CAN STOP CLAYFACE!

YEAH! CLAYFACE IS THE TOP CRIMINAL IN THE COUNTRY!



AREN'T YOU FORGETTING ME?

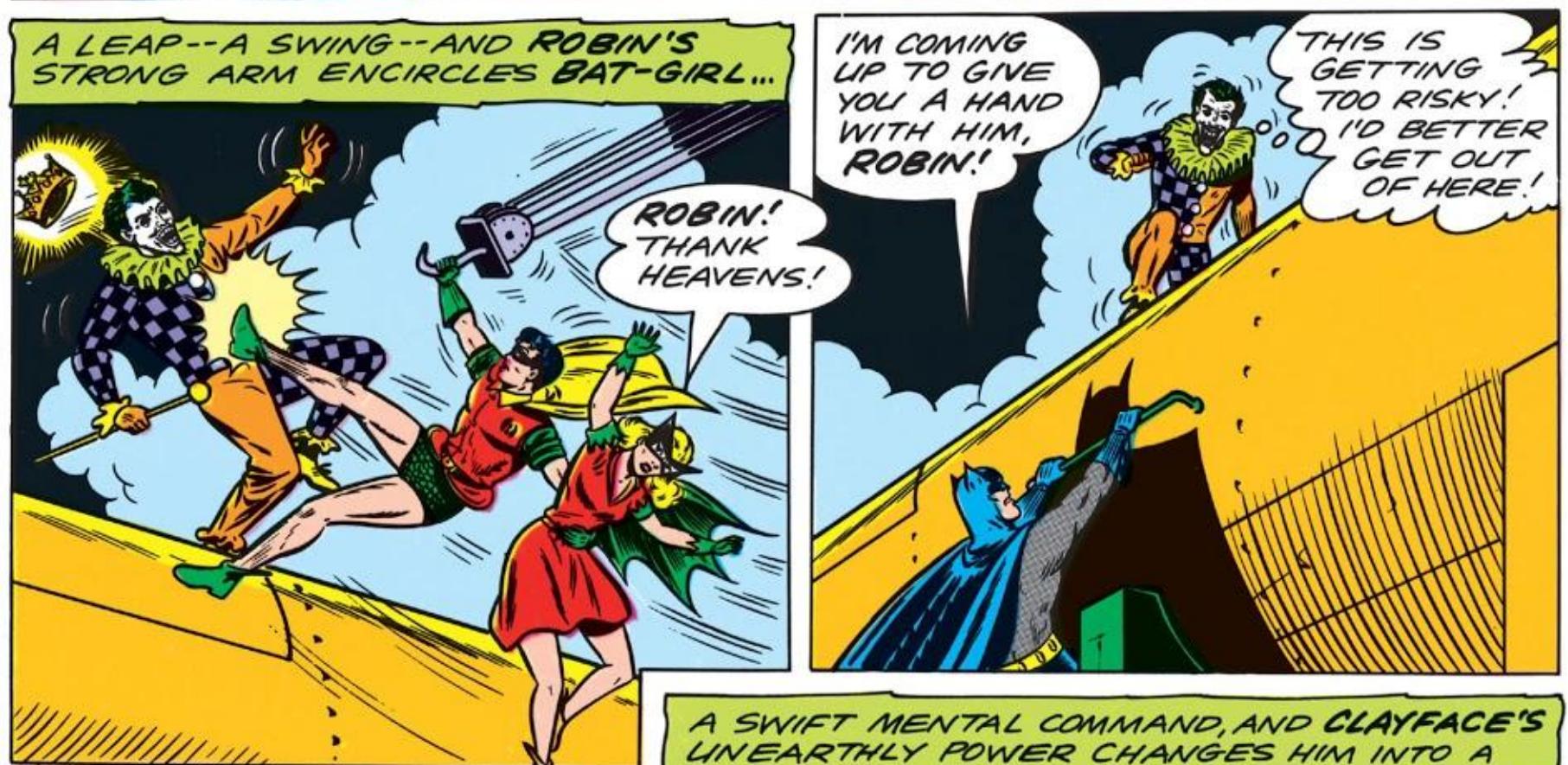
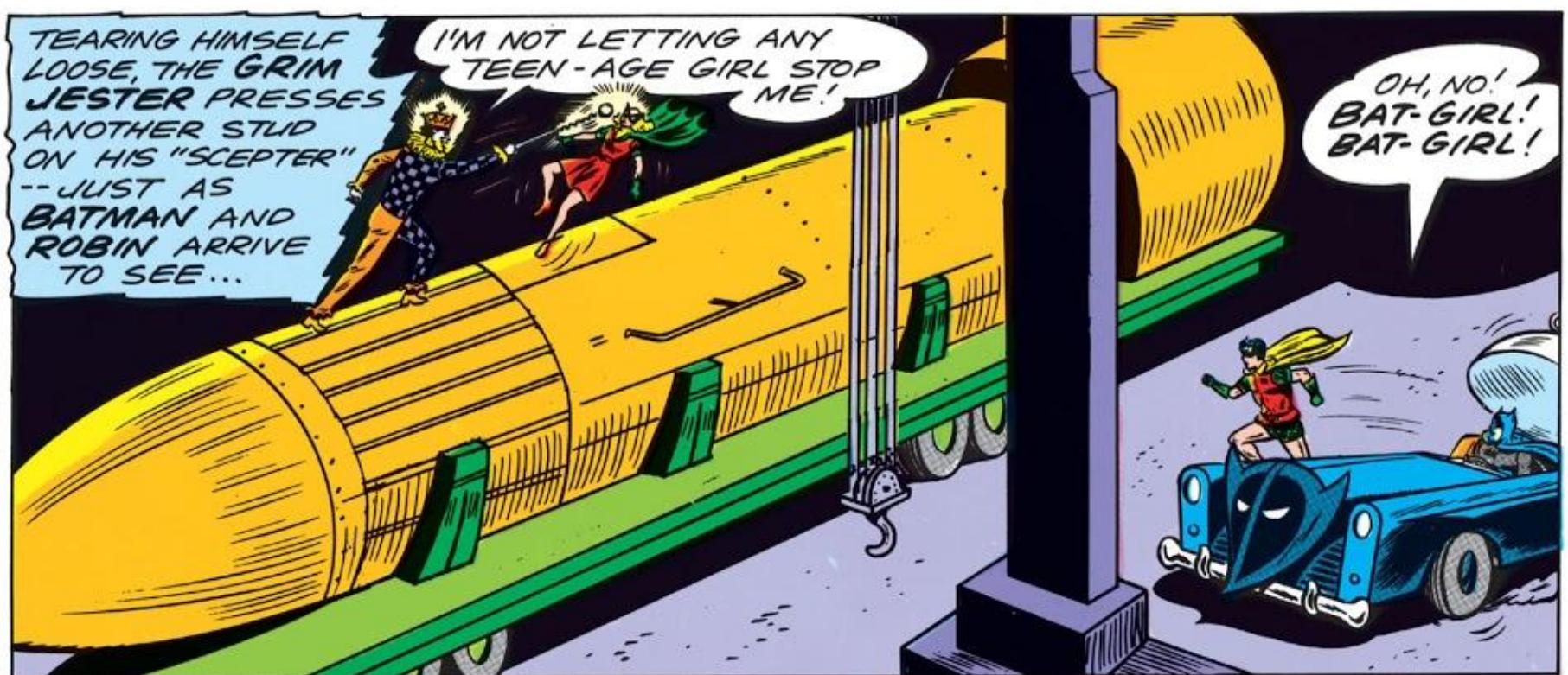
THE JOKER!



MY CUNNING HAS MADE ME BATMAN'S GREATEST FOE! WITHOUT HIS FREAK POWERS, CLAYFACE IS A BLUNDERING THIRD-RATER--INCAPABLE OF MATCHING CRIMES OF MY CALIBRE! AND I CAN PROVE IT ANYTIME!









CHAPTER
2

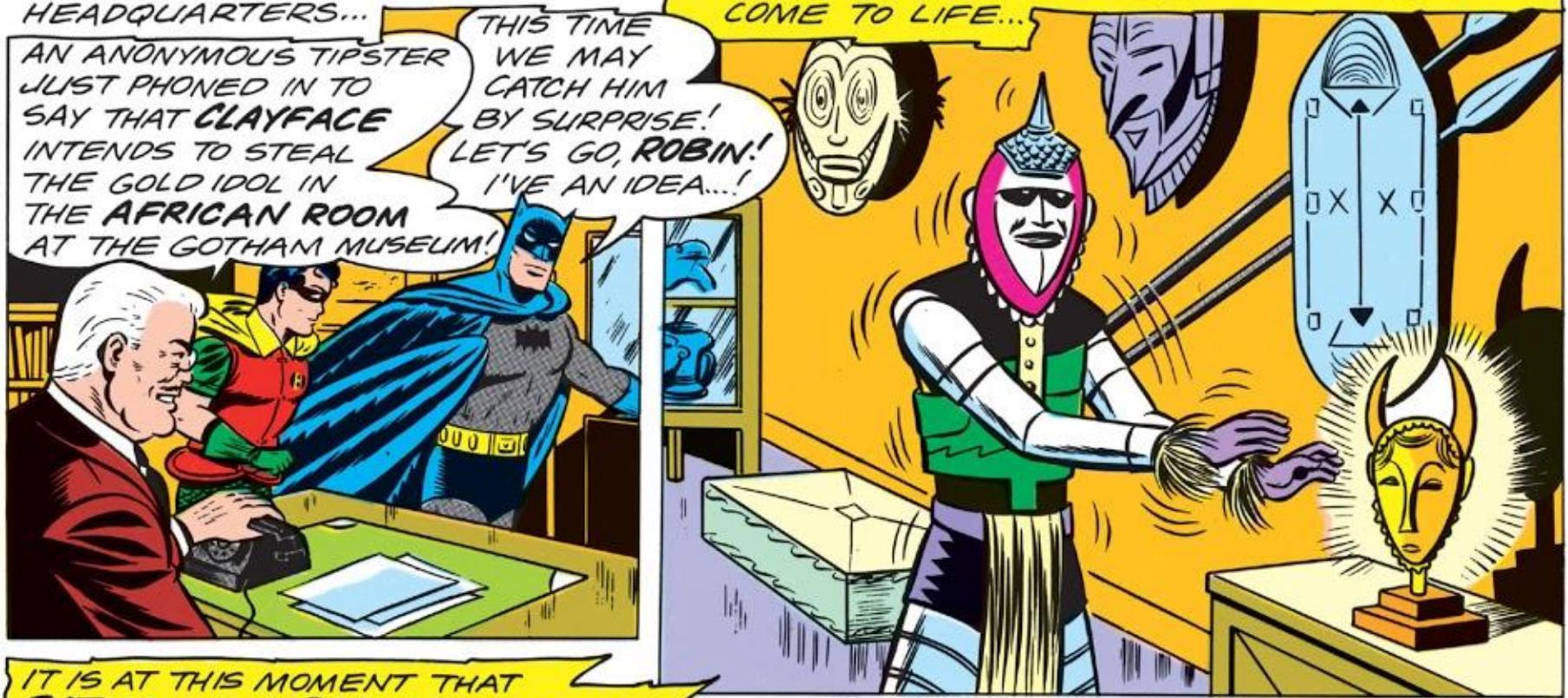
THE GREAT CLAYFACE-JOKER FEUD

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN DROP IN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

AN ANONYMOUS TIPSTER JUST PHONED IN TO SAY THAT CLAYFACE INTENDS TO STEAL THE GOLD IDOL IN THE AFRICAN ROOM AT THE GOTHAM MUSEUM!

THIS TIME WE MAY CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE! LET'S GO, ROBIN! I'VE AN IDEA...

IN THE MUSEUM'S ROOM DEVOTED TO PRIMITIVE AFRICAN ART, A WEIRD STATUE SEEMS TO COME TO LIFE...



IT IS AT THIS MOMENT THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN ENTER THE AFRICAN ROOM AND GRASP THE SITUATION...

THERE'S OUR MAN! CLAYFACE CHANGED HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE ONE OF THE AFRICAN SCULPTURES SO NO MUSEUM GUARD WOULD NOTICE HIM -- AND NOW HE'S MAKING HIS MOVE!

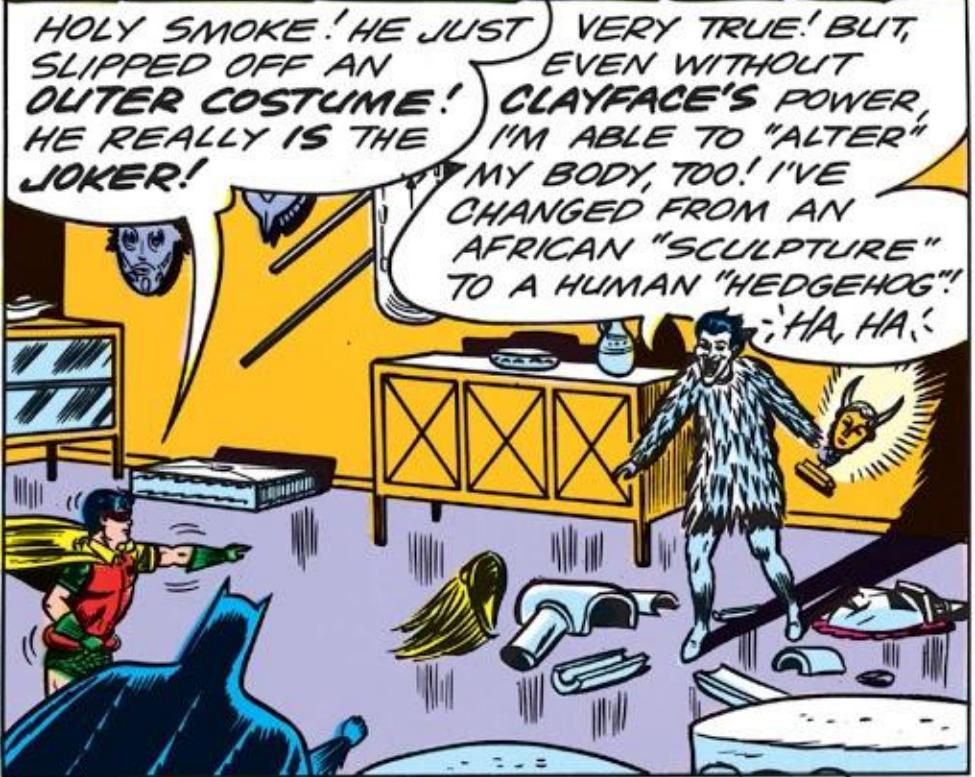
THEN LET'S MAKE OUR MOVE!



BUT THE FIGURE WHIPS AWAY THE AFRICAN MASK TO REVEAL A FAMILIAR, SARDONIC FACE...



SUDDENLY, THE FIGURE "CHANGES" AS...



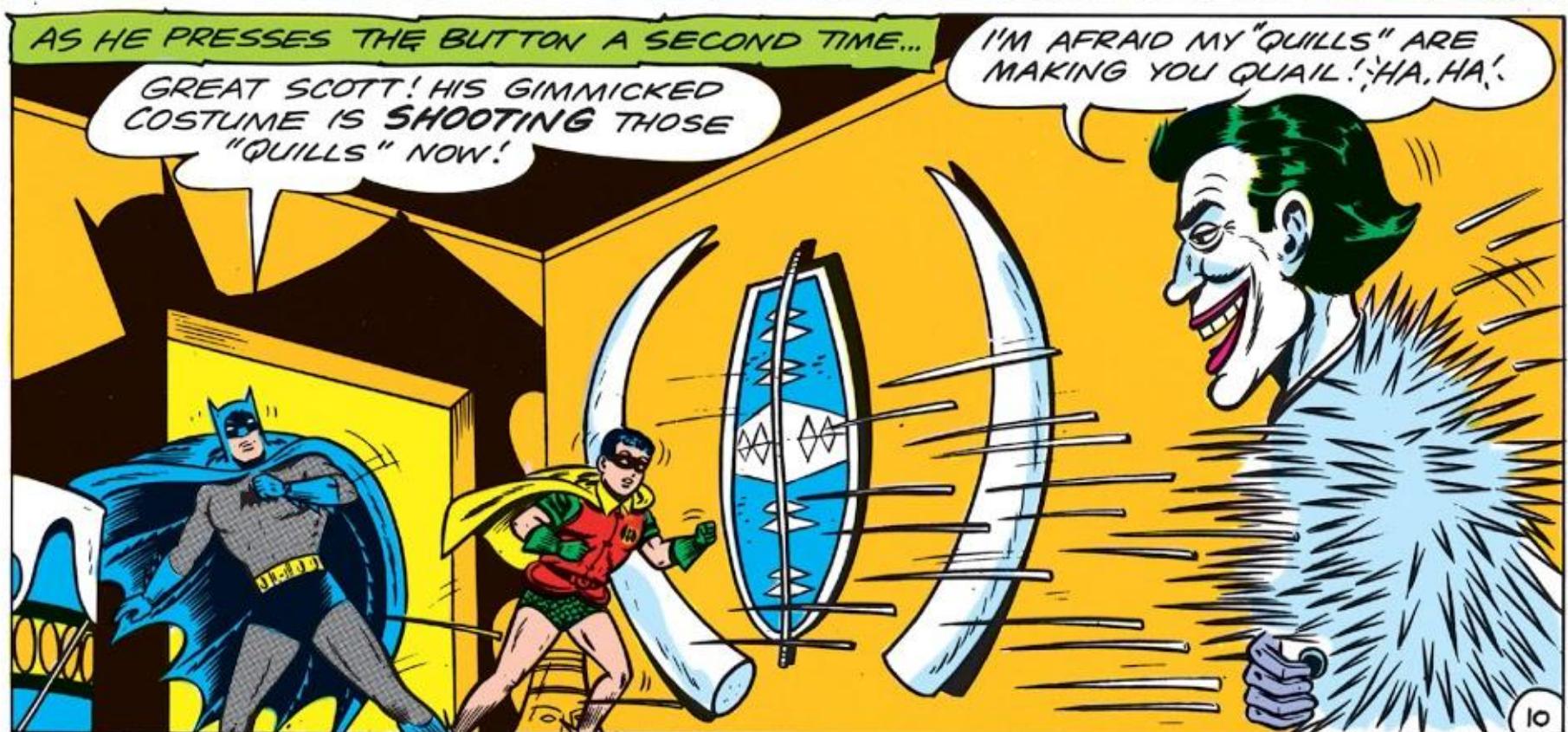
QUICKLY, BATMAN'S HAND WHIPS TO HIS UTILITY BELT, AND...

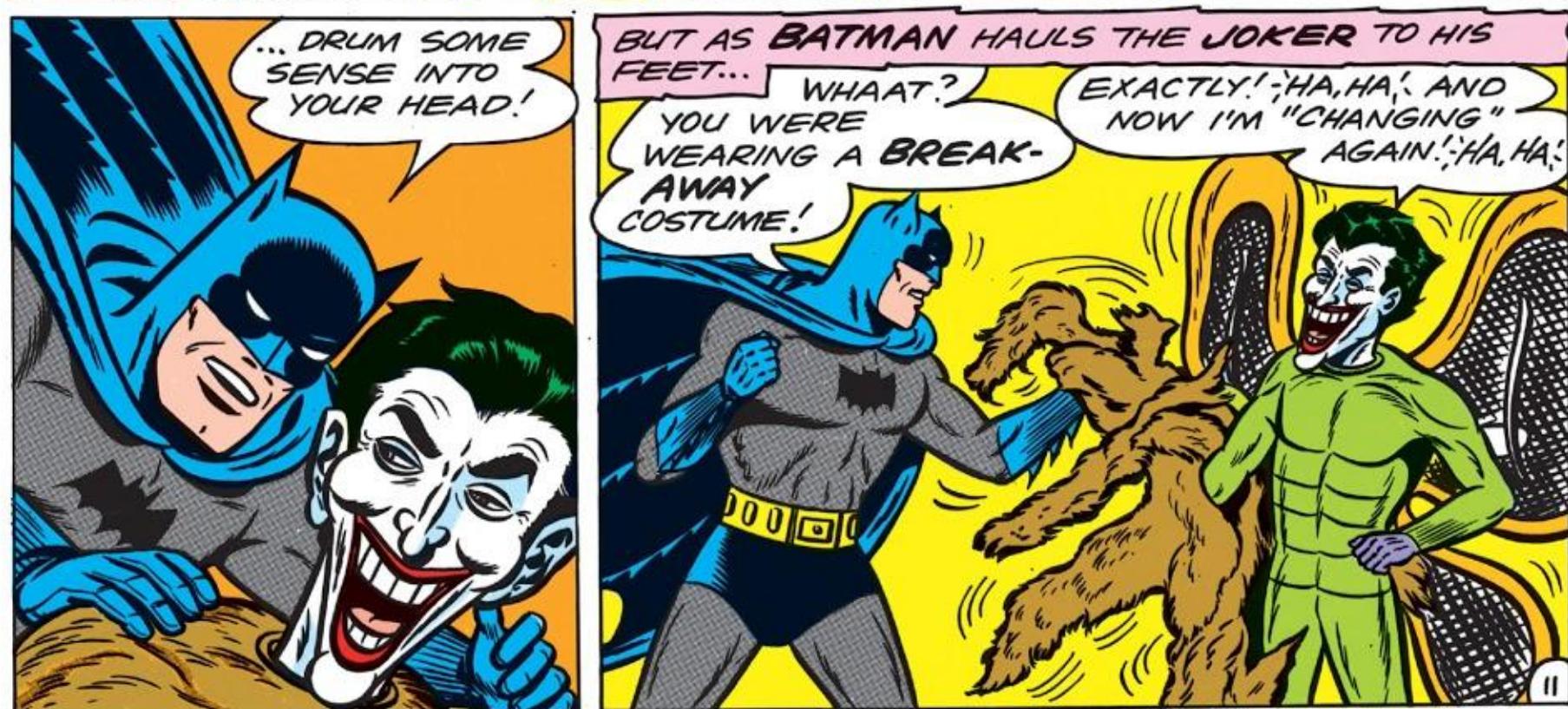
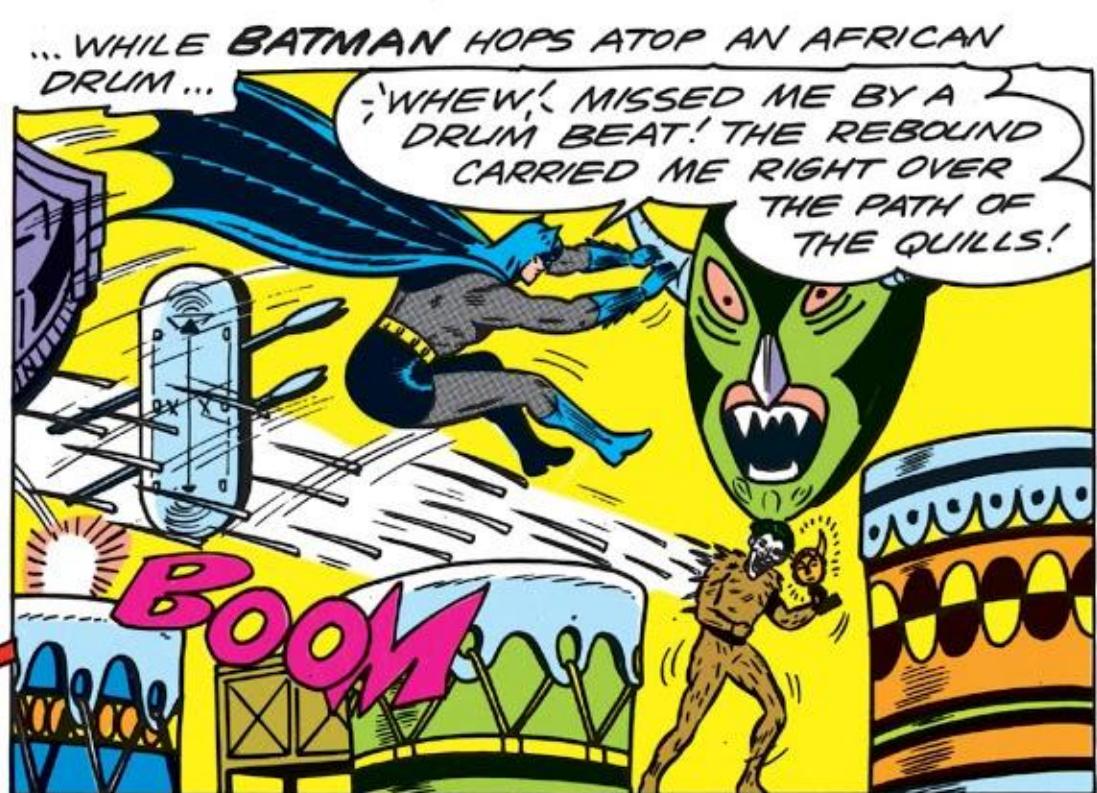


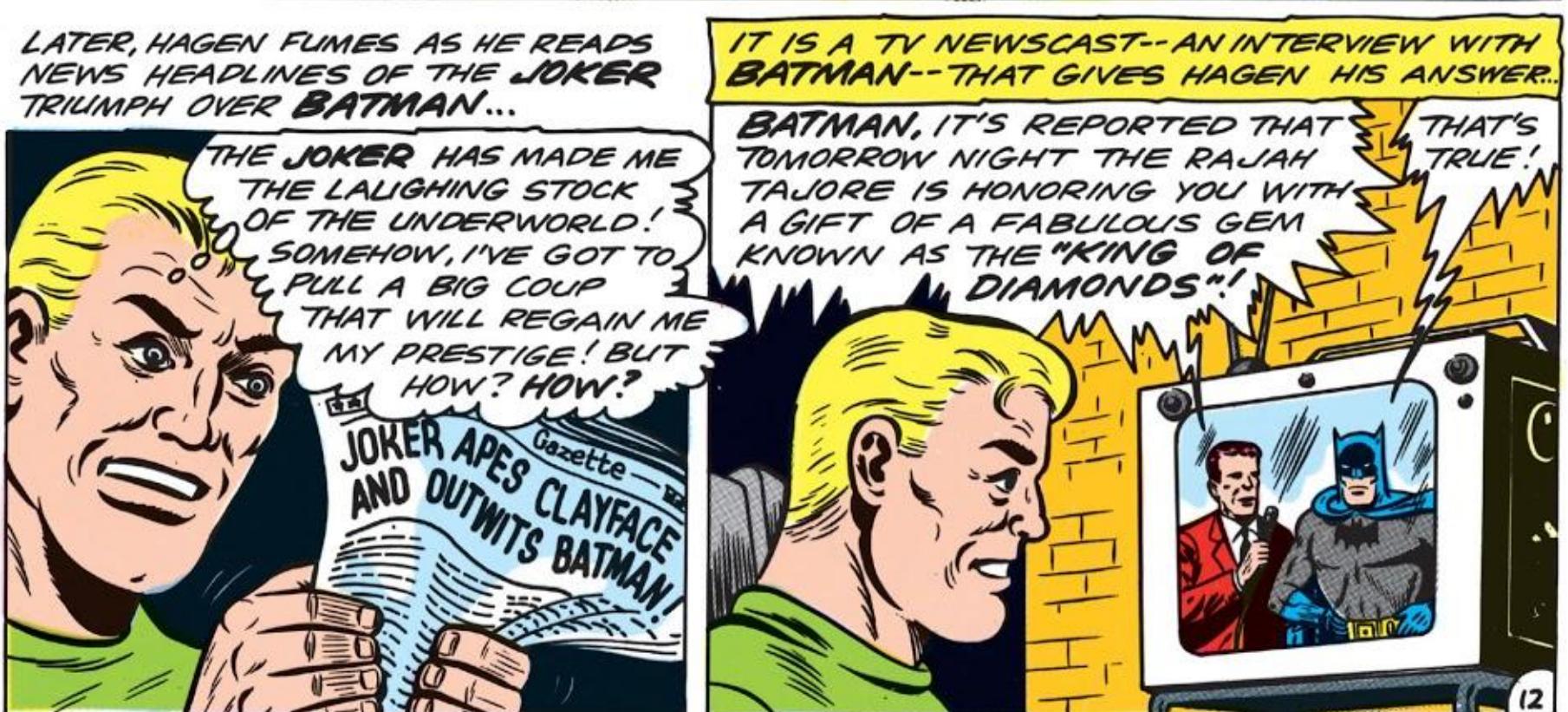
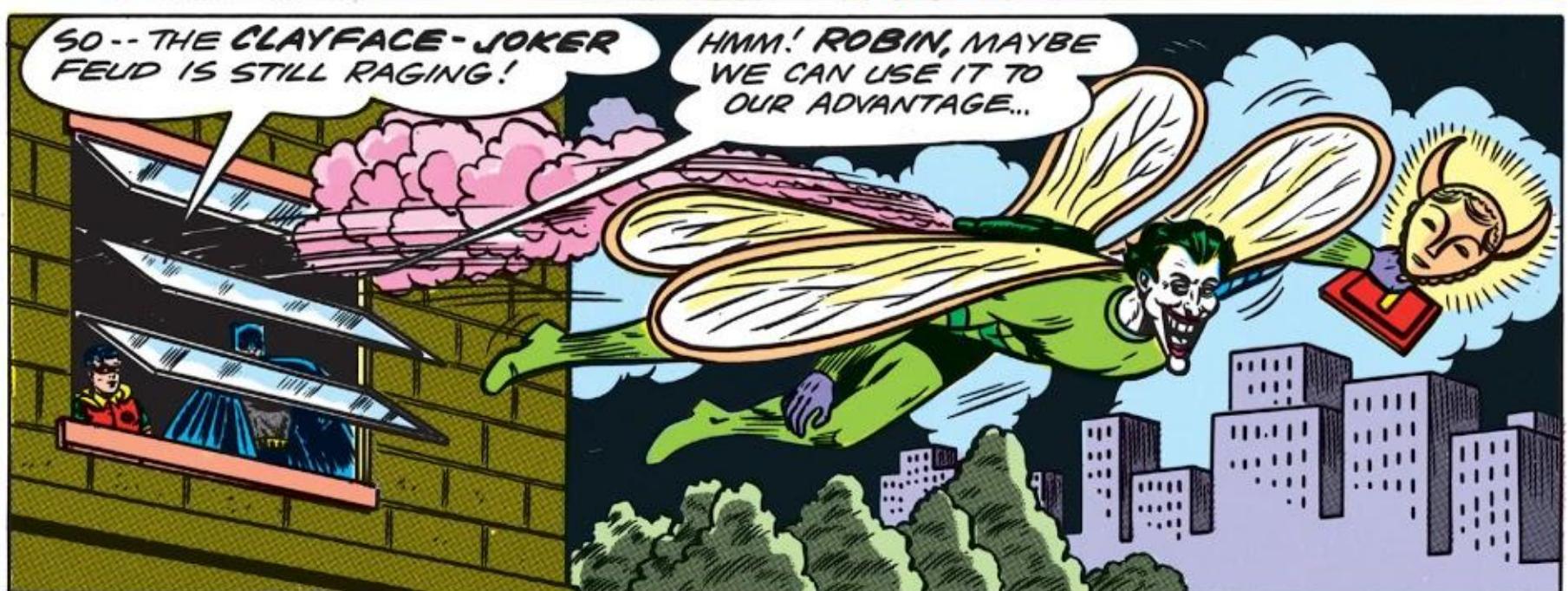
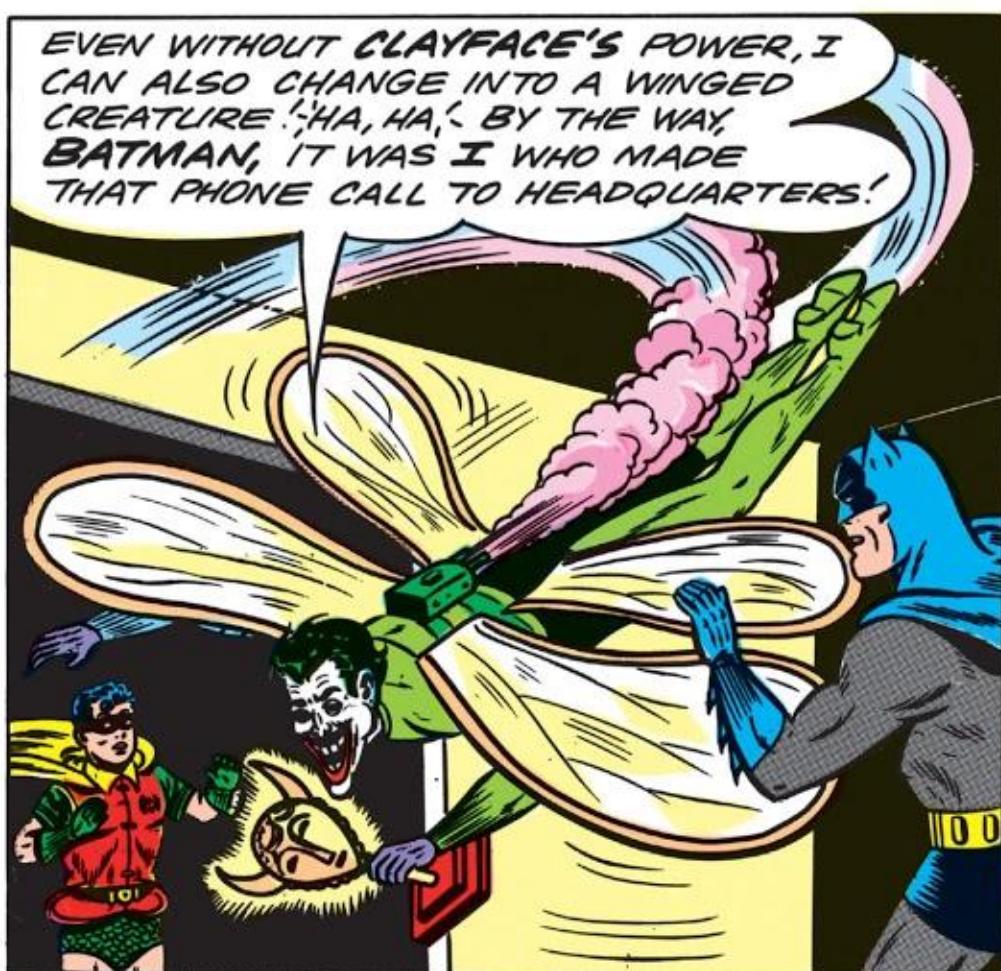
BUT THE JOKER'S HAND PRESSES A CONTROL BUTTON SECRETED ON HIS COSTUME, AND...

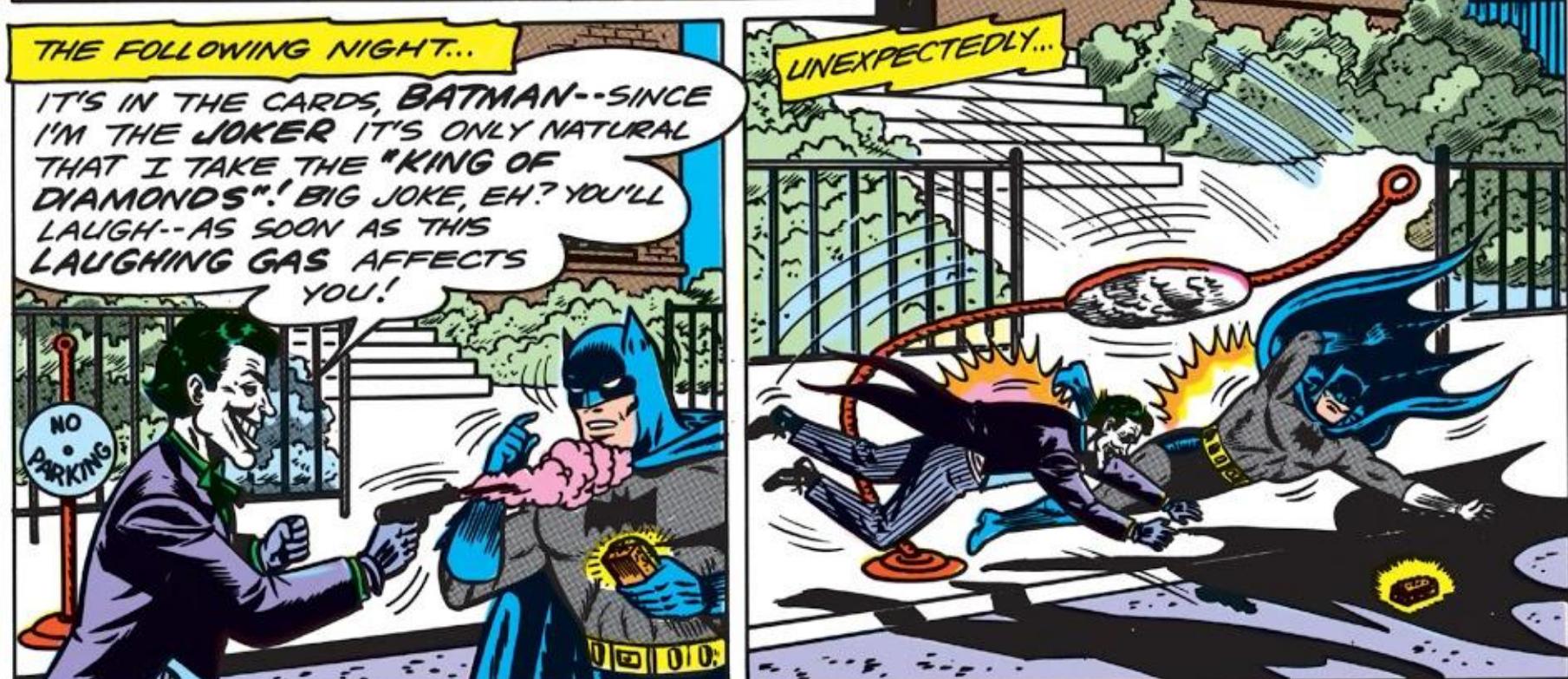
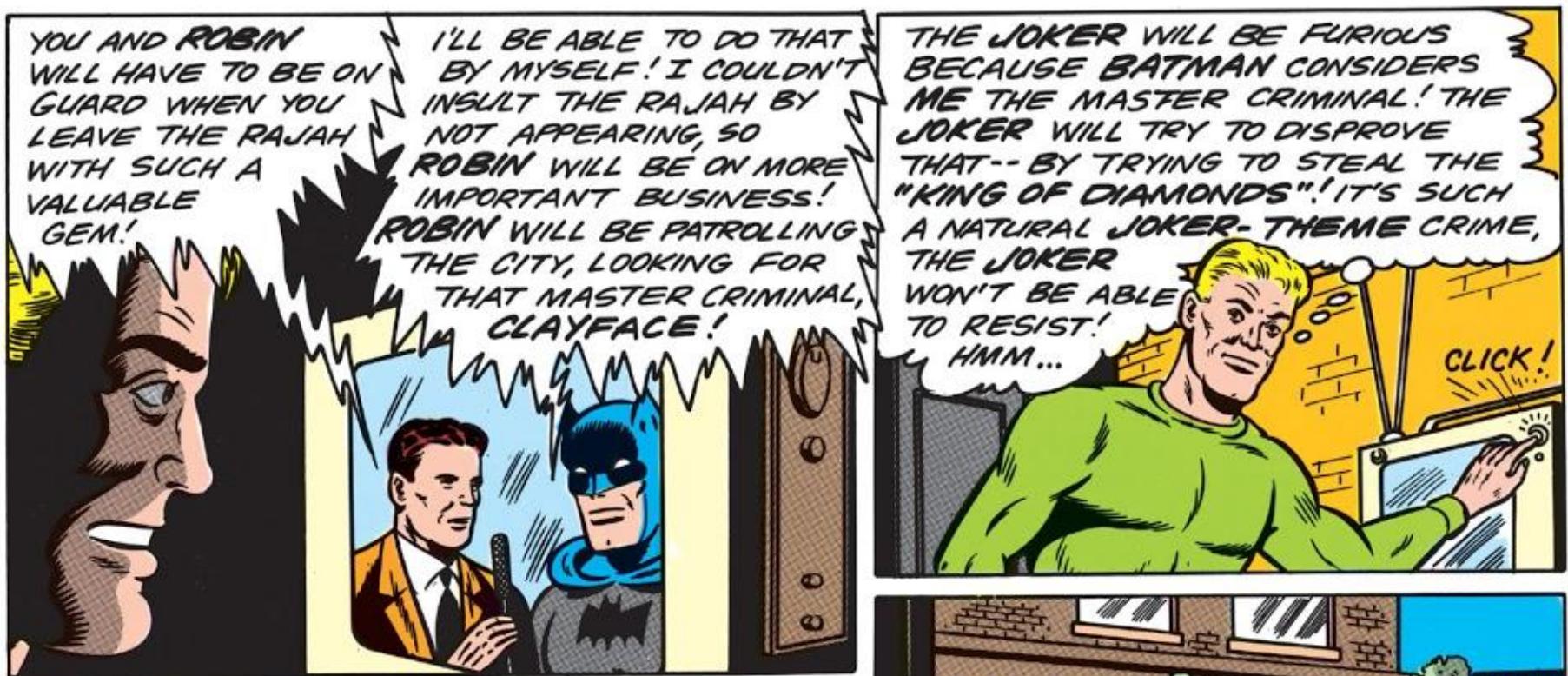


AS HE PRESSES THE BUTTON A SECOND TIME...









SHORTLY, THREE COSTUMED FIGURES CONVERGE ON THE EMPTY BATMOBILE...

HE'S NOT WITH THE RAJAH -- AND NOT IN THE BATMOBILE! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING... HE'S GONE AHEAD WITH HIS PLAN!

I TRIED TO TALK BATMAN OUT OF THIS -- BUT HE REFUSED -- SAID HE HAD TO RISK BEING ALONE! GOSH! I'M SO WORRIED...

PLEASE, ROBIN-- BATMAN KNEW THAT GETTING CLAYFACE WAS MORE IMPORTANT! YOU AGREED TO THAT! BATMAN WILL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, IN CLAYFACE'S HIDEOUT...

I PULLED THE BIGGEST COUP OF ALL TIME! I NOT ONLY OUTSMARTED YOU, JOKER-- BUT CAPTURED BATMAN, TOO! EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO ADMIT I'M THE TOP CRIMINAL NOW!

CLAYFACE, EVEN I MUST ADMIT THAT NOW! YES, AT LAST I'VE MET MY MASTER! TO BE HONEST, I ALWAYS KNEW YOU'D WIN! AFTER ALL, WHO CAN POSSIBLY COMPETE WITH YOU?

WELL-- THANKS! IT TAKES A BIG MAN TO LOSE GRACEFULLY!



CLAYFACE, WHY DON'T WE CALL OFF THIS FOOLISH FEUD! WHY DON'T WE TEAM UP? WHY, WITH MY CUNNING AND YOUR POWER, WE COULD LAUGH AT THE LAW!

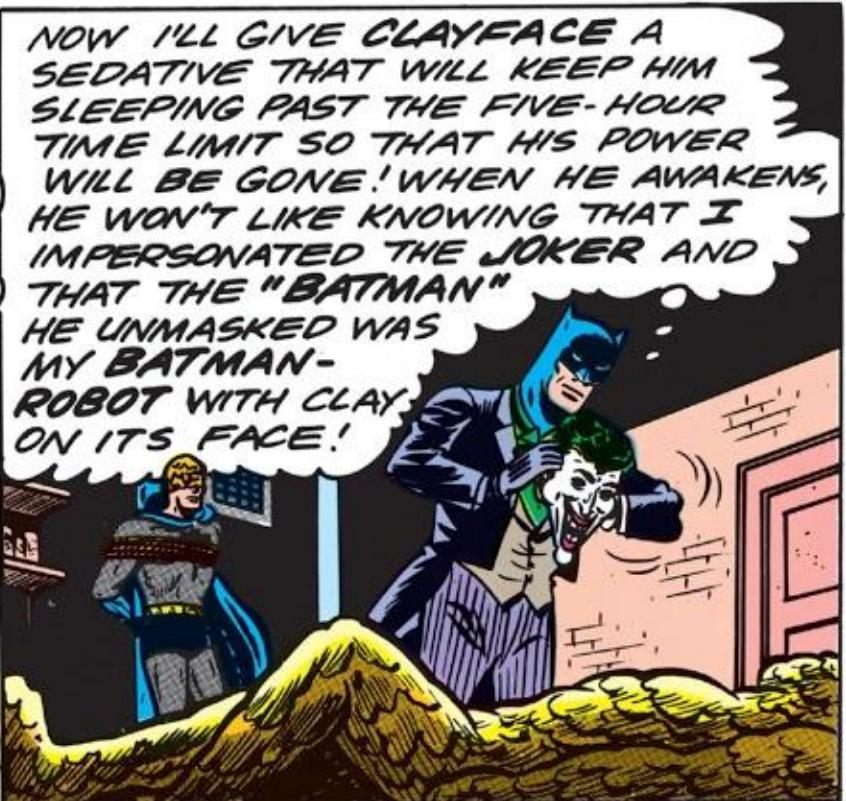
CLAYFACE AND THE JOKER! PARTNERS IN CRIME! HMM! SOUNDS OKAY!

THANKS, PARTNER! AND NOW, TO PROVE MY SINCERITY, I'LL LET YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF UNMASKING BATMAN AND EXPOSING HIS SECRET IDENTITY!

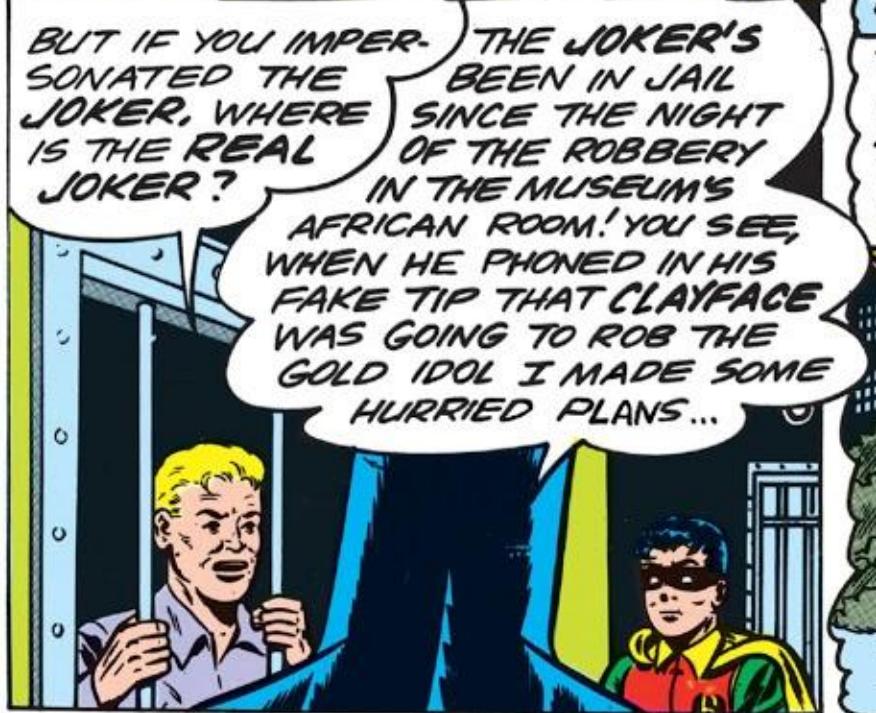




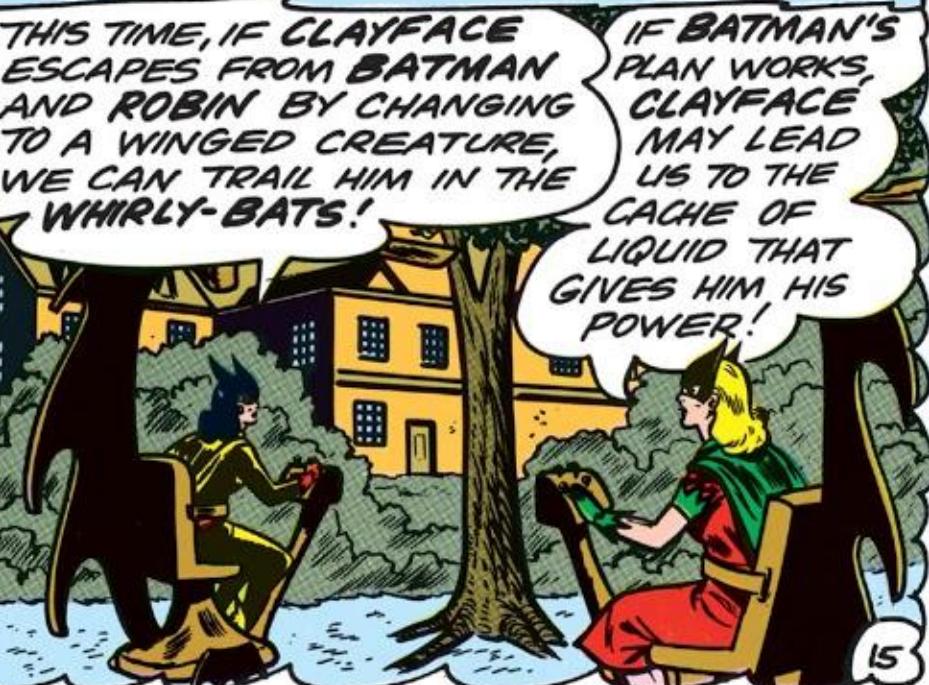
STUNNED BY SURPRISE--CLAYFACE IS THEN STUNNED UNCONSCIOUS BY A SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOW!



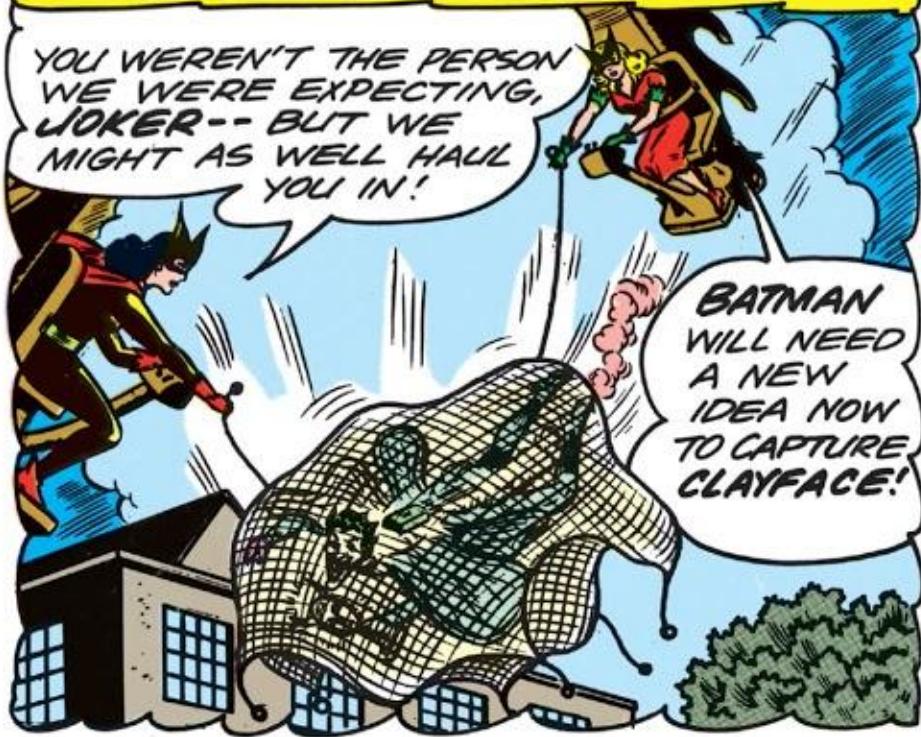
LATER, WHEN HAGEN AWAKENS IN PRISON AND IS TOLD THE TRUTH...



"I SWIFTLY CONTACTED BATWOMAN AND BAT-GIRL, LENT THEM TWO WHIRLY-BATS, HAD THEM HIDE NEAR THE MUSEUM."

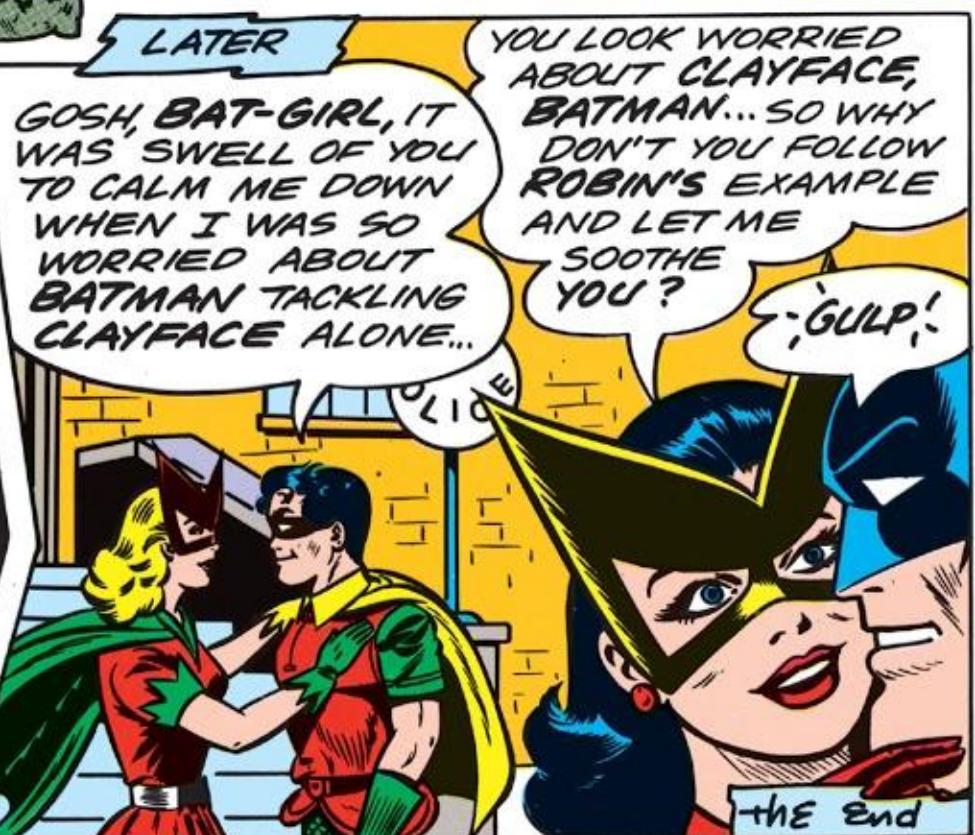


"TO THEIR SURPRISE, THEY RECOGNIZED THE FLYING FIGURE AS THE JOKER, SO THE PLAN HAD TO BE SCRAPPED!"



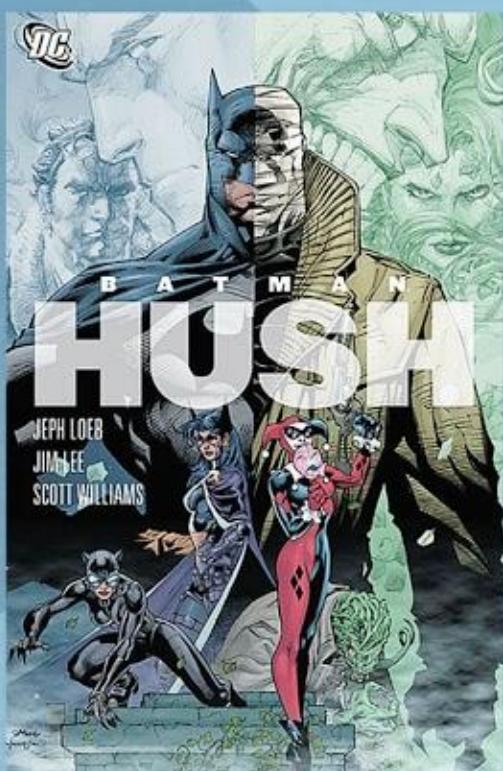
AND I GOT MY IDEA -- FROM YOUR OWN CLAYFACE-JOKER FEUD! WITH THE HELP OF THE POLICE, WE KEPT THE JOKER'S CAPTURE SECRET, AND INSTEAD HAD FAKE NEWS STORIES OF HIS "SUCCESS" PRINTED! THEN THE TV STATION COOPERATED WITH A FAKE INTERVIEW THAT WOULD BAIT YOU INTO "CAPTURING" BATMAN AND THE JOKER!

AND THE TRICK WORKED.. BECAUSE HERE YOU ARE!



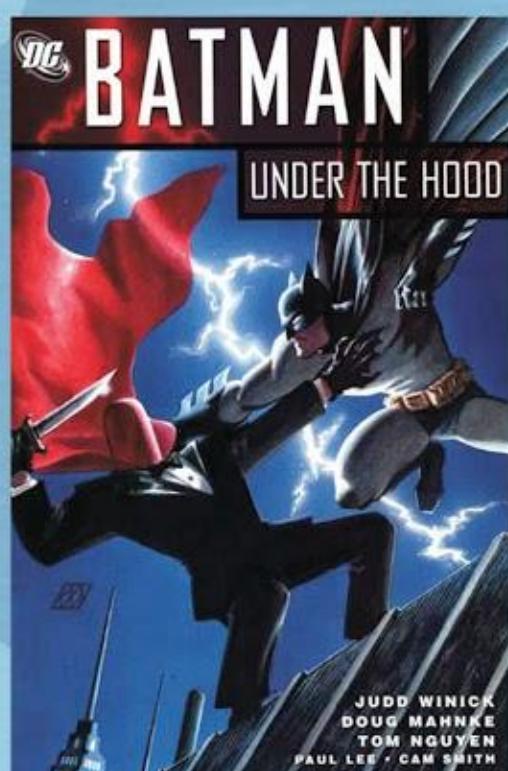
MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



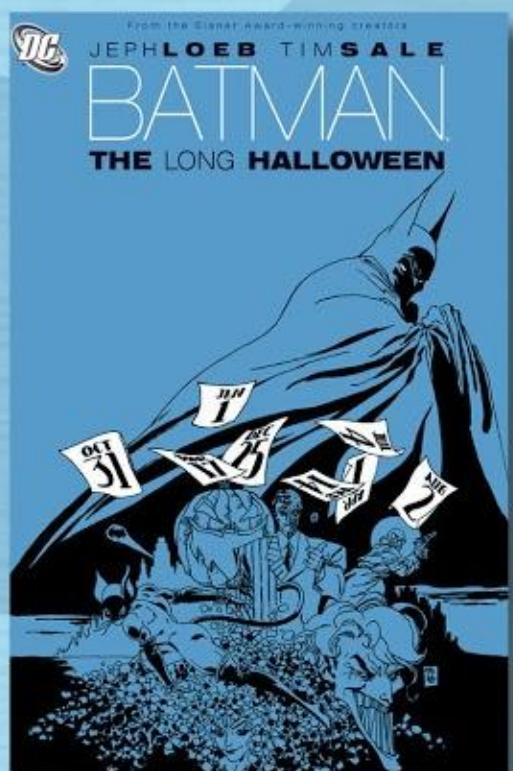
JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



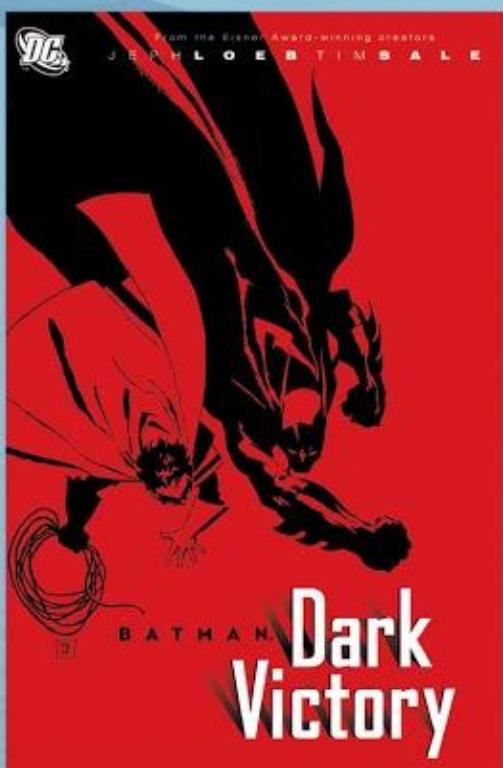
JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



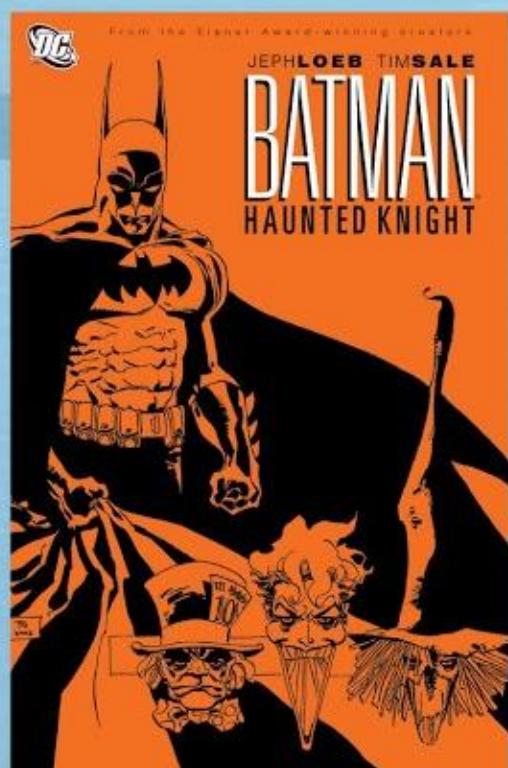
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



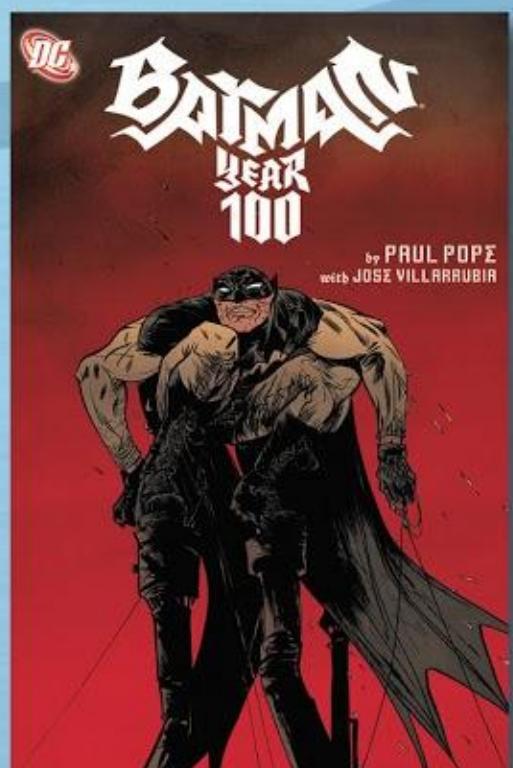
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**