



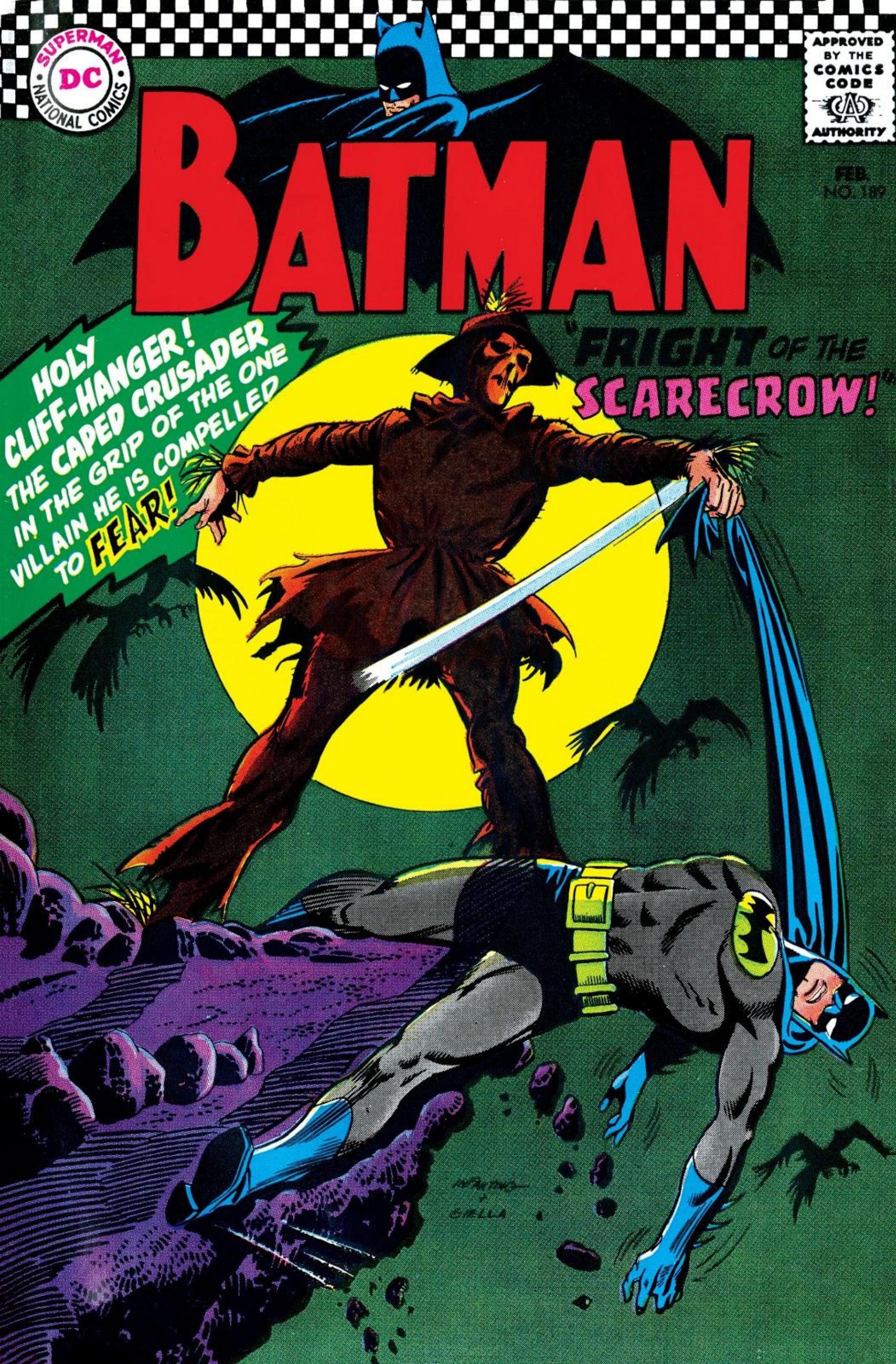
BATMAN

HOLY CLIFF-HANGER!
THE CAPED CRUSADER
IN THE GRIP OF THE ONE
VILLAIN HE IS COMPELLED
TO FEAR!

"FRIGHT OF THE
SCARECROW!"

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CAGE
AUTHORITY

FEB.
NO. 189



OUT OF THE DIM AND MISTY DAYS OF THE PAST-- LIKE SOME SINISTER SHADOW FROM A NIGHTMARE-- STEPS THE SHAGGY, STRAWLIKE FIGURE OF THE SCARECROW!

ONCE AGAIN THE PRINCE OF PANIC CLUES IN BATMAN AND ROBIN TO HIS FEAR-FILLED CRIMES! ONCE AGAIN THE DYNAMIC DUO IS INTIMIDATED AND TERROR-STRICKEN BY THE --

BATMAN®

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

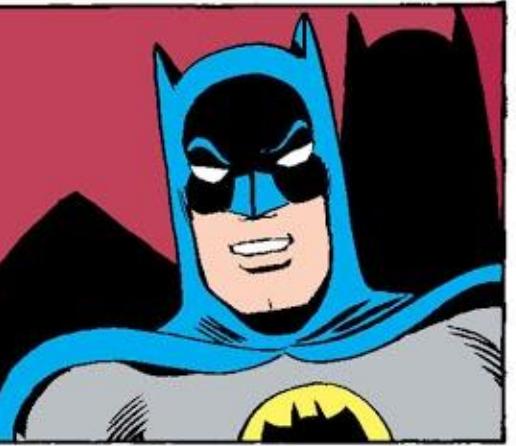
FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW!

NOW THAT I HAVE MADE BATMAN AND ROBIN BLIND--AND FEARFUL OF THE "DARK"-- MY PERILOUS PETS WILL FINISH THEM OFF!



PROLOGUE

THE ORIGIN OF THE SCARECROW--
ADAPTED FROM "THE RIDDLE
OF THE HUMAN SCARECROW"--
PUBLISHED IN WORLD'S
FINEST COMICS # 3,
FALL ISSUE, 1941.



VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURS IN CHILDHOOD SUGGESTS THE SORT OF PERSON THAT CHILD WILL BE WHEN HE HAS GROWN UP. SUCH WAS THE CASE WITH JONATHAN CRANE, WHO AS A SMALL BOY LIKED TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS ...



WHEN JONATHAN CRANE GREW UP, HE BECAME A TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN A UNIVERSITY -- AND THIS IS WHERE WE FIND HIM TODAY ...

GENTLEMEN, THIS TERM WE STUDY THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FEAR! FEAR-- THAT AWFUL DREAD WHICH GRIPS A PERSON WHEN THOUGHTS OF TERROR RUN THROUGH HIS MIND !



NOTICE THIS GUN ! SHOULD I POINT IT AT YOU, YOU WOULD BE AFRAID. BUT-- YOU WOULD BE **MORE** AFRAID --



-- IF I DID THIS !

BLAM!

CRASH!



NOW YOU SEE WHAT THE GUN CAN DO !)
IT CAN DESTROY ! BEFORE-- YOU ONLY
GUessed WHAT IT COULD DO. NOW THAT
YOU HAVE SEEN ITS DESTRUCTIVE POWER--
YOU ARE EVEN MORE AFRAID ! SIMPLE
PSYCHOLOGY, GENTLEMEN--

AFTER CLASS IS OVER, JONATHAN CRANE PASSES BY
SOME OTHER PROFESSORS...

YOU'RE COMING TO THE
PARTY I'M GIVING
TONIGHT. EVERY-
BODY'LL BE THERE--
SO DON'T FORGET !

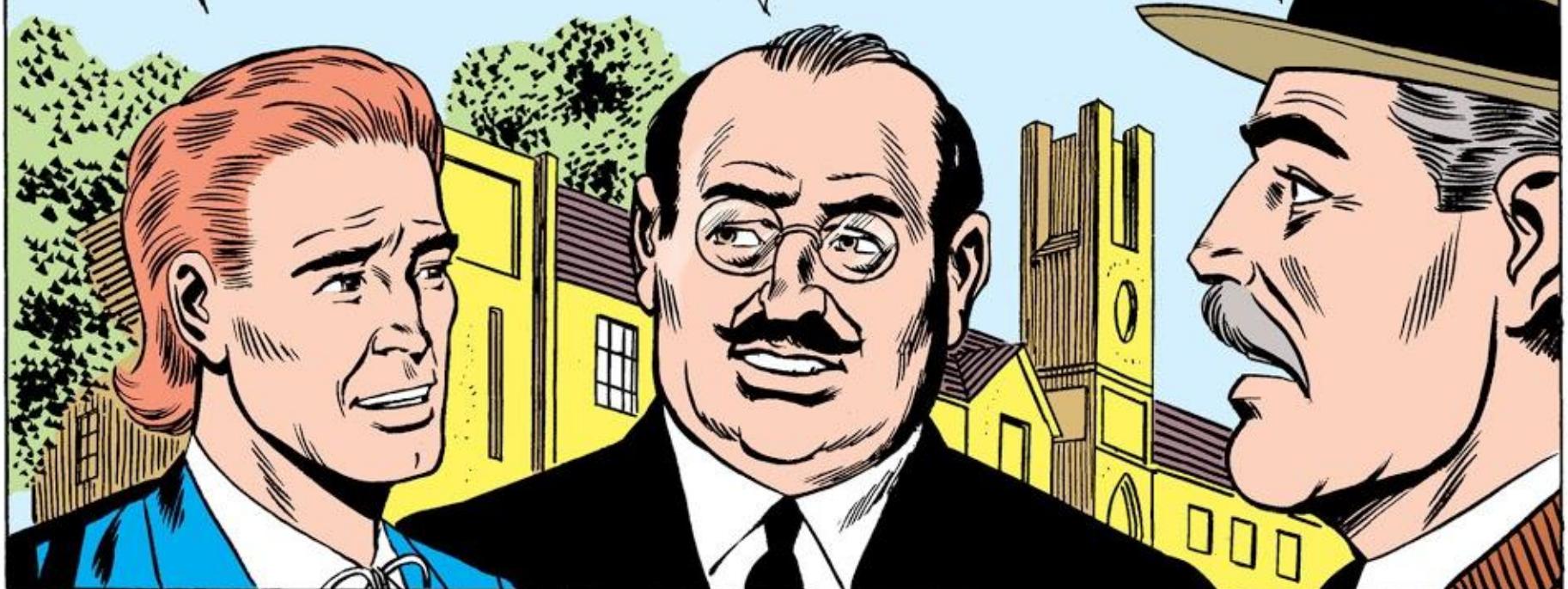
EVERYBODY--
BUT ONE, eh ? CRANE
LOOKS SO SHABBY IN
THOSE OLD CLOTHES--
POSITIVELY
WEIRD !



CRANE EARNS THE SAME SALARY
WE DO ! WHY DOESN'T HE BUY
SOME DECENT CLOTHES ?

HE SPENDS EVERY
CENT HE EARNS
TO BUY NEW
BOOKS !

POOR CRANE ! HE CERTAINLY IS AN
ODD FELLOW. HE LOOKS LIKE A
SCARECROW IN THAT GET-UP OF
HIS !

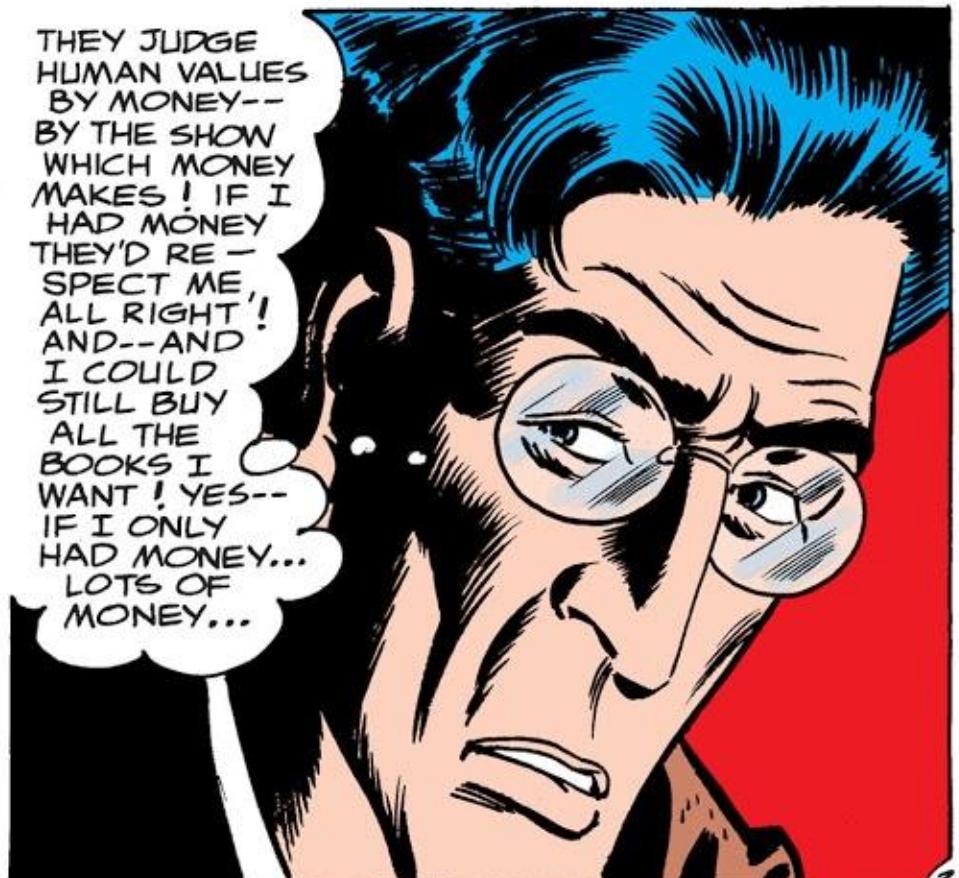


LATER IN HIS HOME, PROFESSOR CRANE
PONDERS...

THE FOOLS ! DO THEY THINK
I'D GIVE UP MY PRECIOUS BOOKS
JUST TO BUY CLOTHES ?... **BAH !**
THEY THINK I'M ODD, DO THEY ?
THAT I LOOK LIKE A SCARECROW..
A SCARECROW !



THEY JUDGE
HUMAN VALUES
BY MONEY--
BY THE SHOW
WHICH MONEY
MAKES ! IF I
HAD MONEY
THEY'D RE-
SPECT ME,
ALL RIGHT !
AND--AND
I COULD
STILL BUY
ALL THE
BOOKS I
WANT ! YES--
IF I ONLY
HAD MONEY...
LOTS OF
MONEY...



NEXT DAY IN CLASS...

TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF THE "PROTECTION RACKET," AS WORKED BY THE GANGSTER. HE WANTS MONEY--SO HE MAKES PEOPLE PAY HIM. AND HOW DOES HE DO THIS?



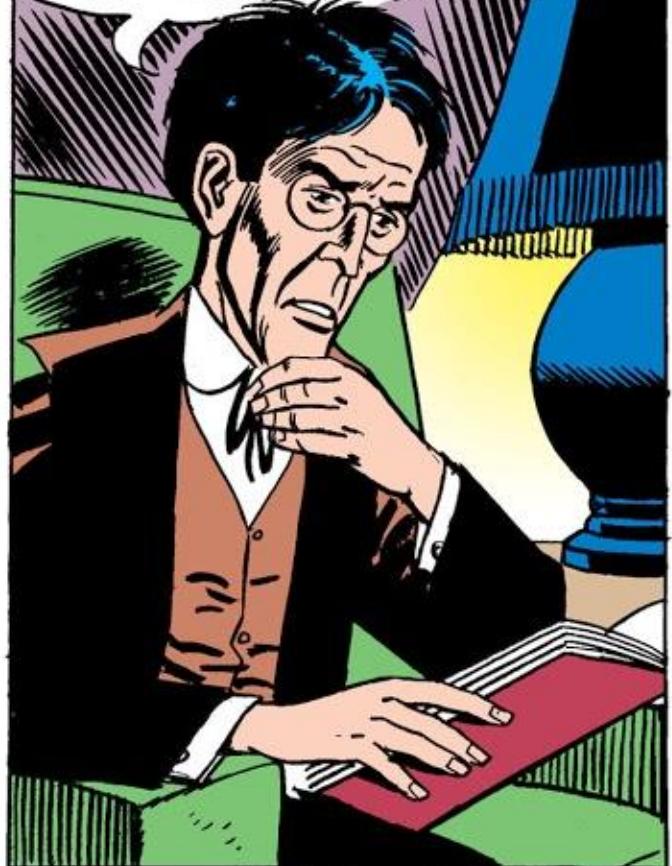
HE MAKES PEOPLE AFRAID--SO TERRIBLY AFRAID THEY PAY HIM WHAT HE ASKS! YES--HE PUTS REAL **FEAR** INTO THEIR HEARTS--AND HE GETS **MONEY!** LOTS OF **MONEY**--ALL BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE **AFRAID** OF HIM!



IN HIS HOME THAT NIGHT, THE DISTORTED BRAIN OF PROFESSOR CRANE BEGINS THINKING ALONG FANTASTIC LINES--ALONG **CRIMINAL** LINES...

ODD, AM I? AND--A **SCARECROW!** **FEAR** MAKES **MONEY** FOR THE GANGSTER SO WHY NOT FOR--ME?

HMM...



IF I LOOK LIKE A **SCARECROW**--THEN THAT WILL BE MY SYMBOL! A SYMBOL OF POVERTY AND FEAR COMBINED! THE PERFECT SYMBOL TO REPRESENT JONATHAN CRANE--THE **SCARECROW**!



AND SO IS BORN AN EVIL FIGURE OF THE NIGHT! ACROSS BATMAN'S HORIZON STALKS THIS NEW AND FRIGHTENING FORM--A SCARY SHAPE OF STRAW AND SHAGGY BURLAP, WITH A BRAIN BOTH CUNNING AND DISTORTED!

WHO IS THIS FIGURE WHOSE VERY LUDICROUS APPEARANCE INSPIRES **FEAR**--SYMBOLIZES **FEAR**--**FEAR INCARNATE**--**FEAR WALKING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY**?

IT IS THAT MOST TERRIBLE--MOST BIZARRE OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE CRIMINAL ALL WILL LEARN TO FEAR--AND CALL...

THE SCARECROW!

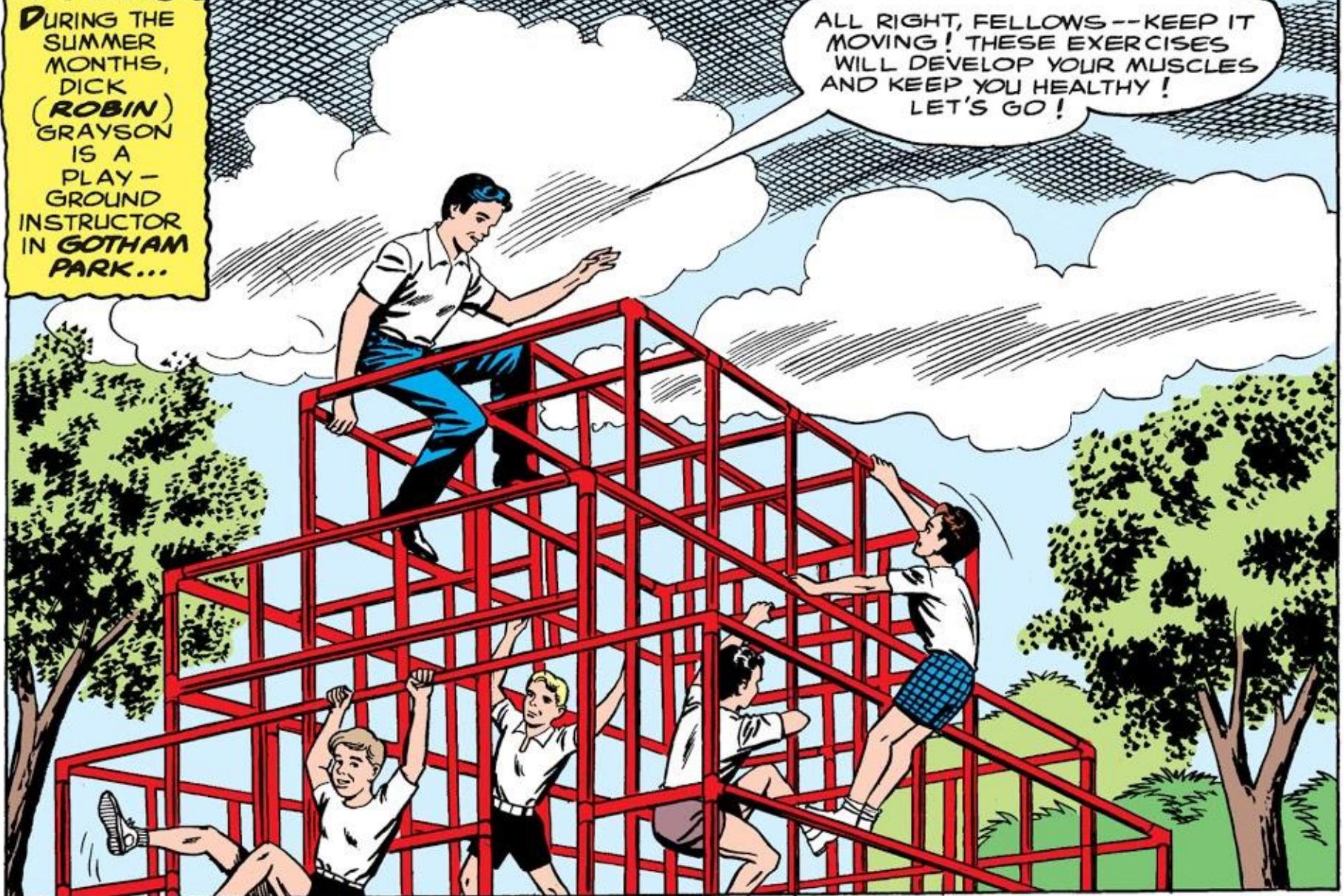


FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW

PART ONE

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS A PLAY-GROUND INSTRUCTOR IN GOTHAM PARK...

ALL RIGHT, FELLOWS -- KEEP IT MOVING! THESE EXERCISES WILL DEVELOP YOUR MUSCLES AND KEEP YOU HEALTHY! LET'S GO!



BUT OCCASIONALLY THERE IS ONE YOUNGSTER--SHY, SCHOLARLY, WITH MORE INTEREST IN PHYSICS THAN IN PHYSICAL EXERCISE-- WHO KNOWS THE BITE OF FEAR...

I'M SCARED, DICK ! ; GASP ! I-I JUST CAN'T LET GO !

SURE YOU CAN, ANDY ! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID !

WE OVERCOME FEAR BY FIGHTING IT, BY DOING THE VERY THING WE FEAR TO DO ! NOW GIVE IT A TRY...

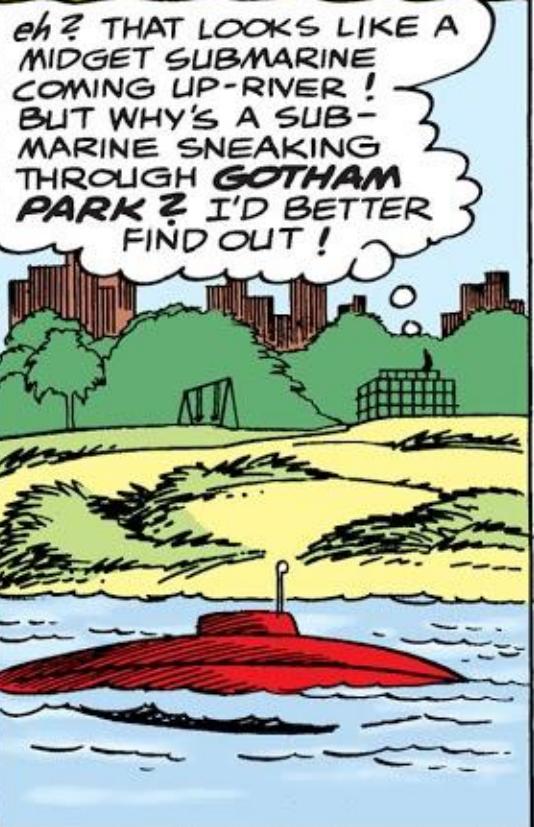
IF... IF YOU SAY SO, DICK ! I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO DO WELL !

UNDER THE CAJOLING WORDS AND READY SMILE OF HIS YOUTHFUL INSTRUCTOR, ANDY MAKES HIS SWING ...

LOOK ! LOOK ! I'M DOING IT ! YOU SEE ? YOU KNOW IT ISN'T SO BAD NOW ! ONCE YOU OVERCOME A FEAR BY CONFRONTING IT--IT WILL NEVER BOTHER YOU AGAIN !



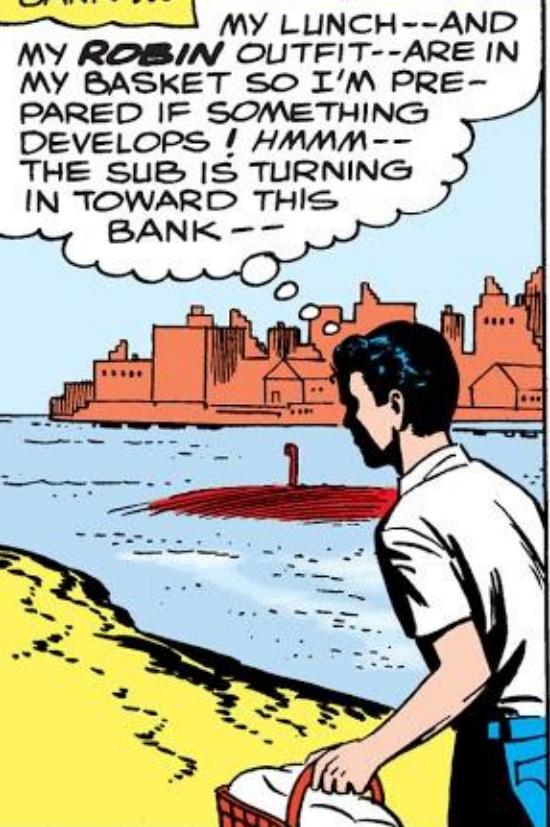
FROM HIS ELEVATED PERCH,
DICK CAN LOOK OUT
ACROSS TO THE **GOTHAM**
PARK RIVER WHERE...



OKAY, FELLOWS--TIME OUT
FOR EATS! GRAB YOUR
LUNCH BOXES AND MAKE
FOR THE PICNIC AREA!



MOMENTS AFTERWARD, KEEN
EYES FOLLOWING THE
UNDERSEA CRAFT, DICK
MOVES ALONG THE RIVER-
BANK...



MOMENTS LATER...

HOLY SHOCKEROO! IT'S--THE--
SCARECROW!! ON THE LOOSE
AGAIN! WH--WHAT KIND OF
CROOKED BUSINESS CAN
HE PULL OFF HERE IN THE
PARK?



SHORTLY, A CHEERY VOICE HAILS THE
YOUTHFUL SLEUTH...

HI, THERE, DICK! ALFRED
AND I CAME OVER TO
SURPRISE YOUR YOUNG
CHARGES WITH SOME
ICE CREAM TREATS!

MASTER DICK
LOOKS AS IF
HE'S SEEN
A GHOST!

BRUCE!
ALFRED!
AM I EVER
GLAD YOU'RE
HERE! WAIT'LL
I TELL YOU
WHO JUST
SHOWED UP!



MOMENTS LATER, AFTER DONNING THEIR **BAT-MAN** AND **ROBIN** LIGHTWEIGHT SUMMER
COSTUMES INSIDE THE ICE CREAM WAGON...

THE **SCARECROW**, eh?
I WONDERED WHAT-
EVER BECAME OF THAT
OLD FEAR-FOE OF
OURS!

HE'S UP
TO HIS
OLD
TRICKS,
I'LL BET!

WHILE YOU
GO OUT TO
APPREHEND
HIM--I'LL
MIND THE
"STORE"!



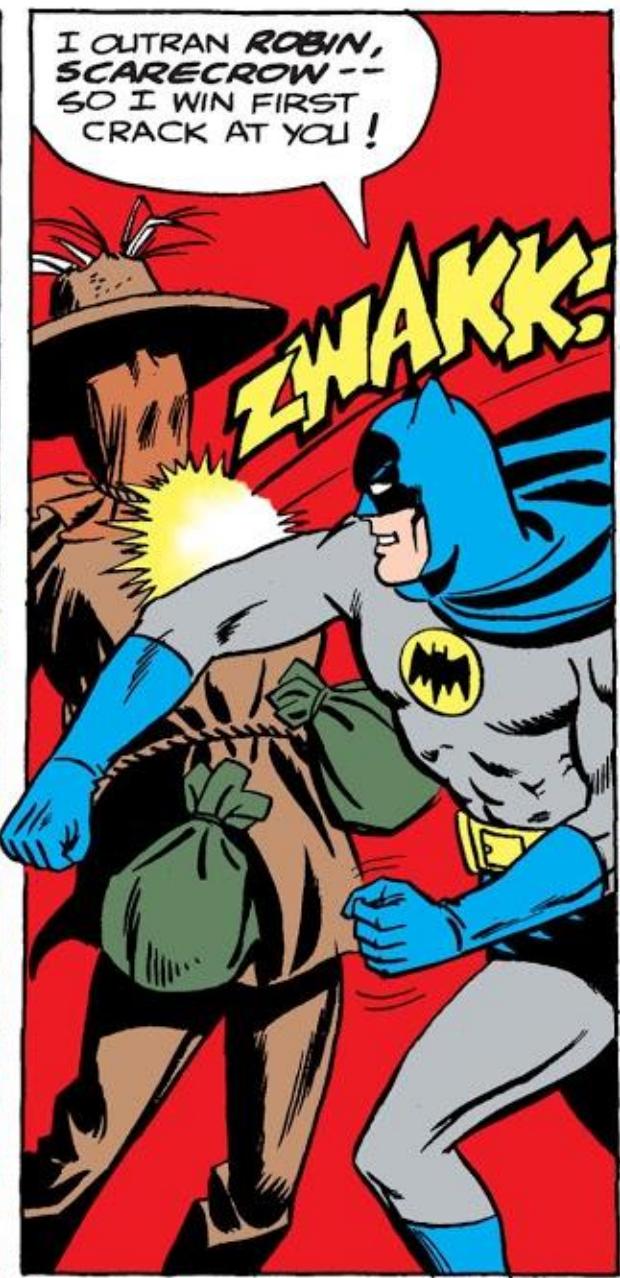
AHEAD OF THEM, THE **STRAW-MAN SCOUNDREL** IS URGING ON HIS COHORTS ...

HURRY IT UP! WE'RE IN A REMOTE CORNER OF THE PARK-- AND ONLY KIDS COME TO THE PARK AT THIS HOUR OF THE MORNING--SO DIG, DIG, DIG!

DIG WHO'S COMIN', **SCARE-CROW!**

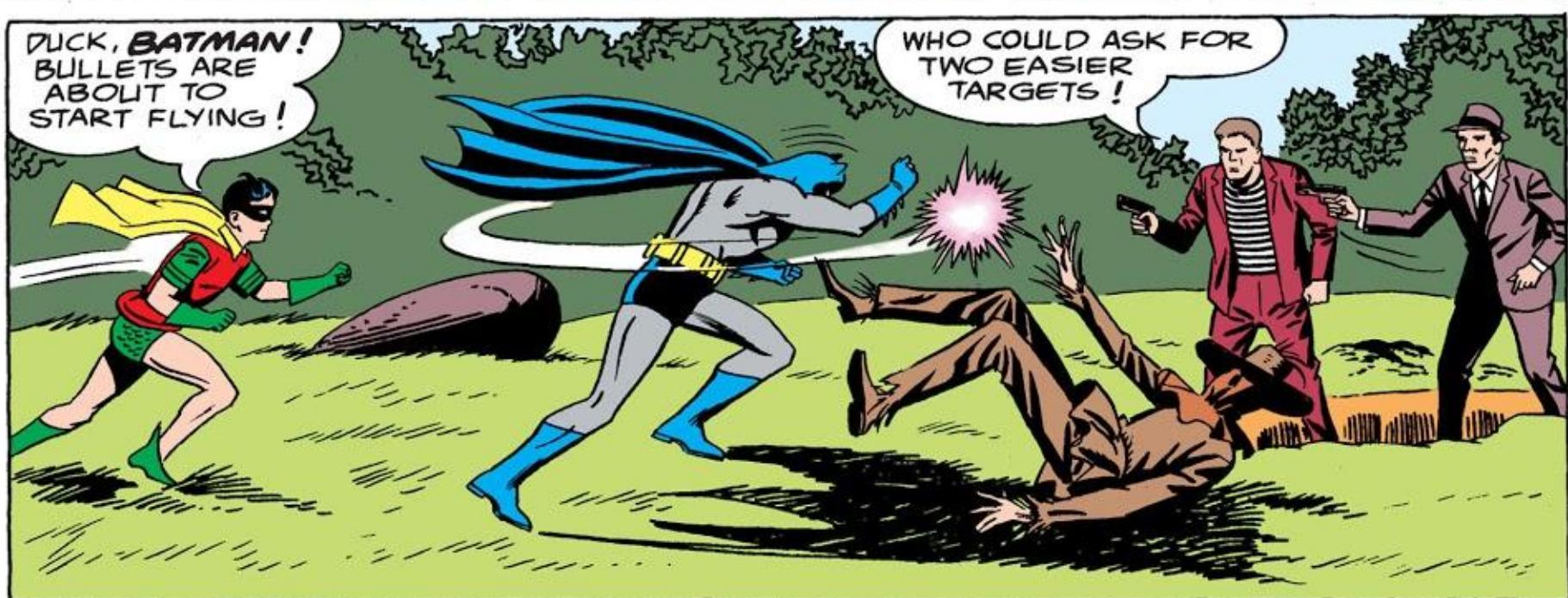
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
TRUST THEM TO SHOW UP JUST WHEN I'VE RECOVERED THE LOOT OF MY PAST ROBBERIES!

I OUTRAN **ROBIN**,
SCARECROW-- SO I WIN FIRST CRACK AT YOU!



DUCK, **BATMAN!**
BULLETS ARE ABOUT TO START FLYING!

WHO COULD ASK FOR TWO EASIER TARGETS!

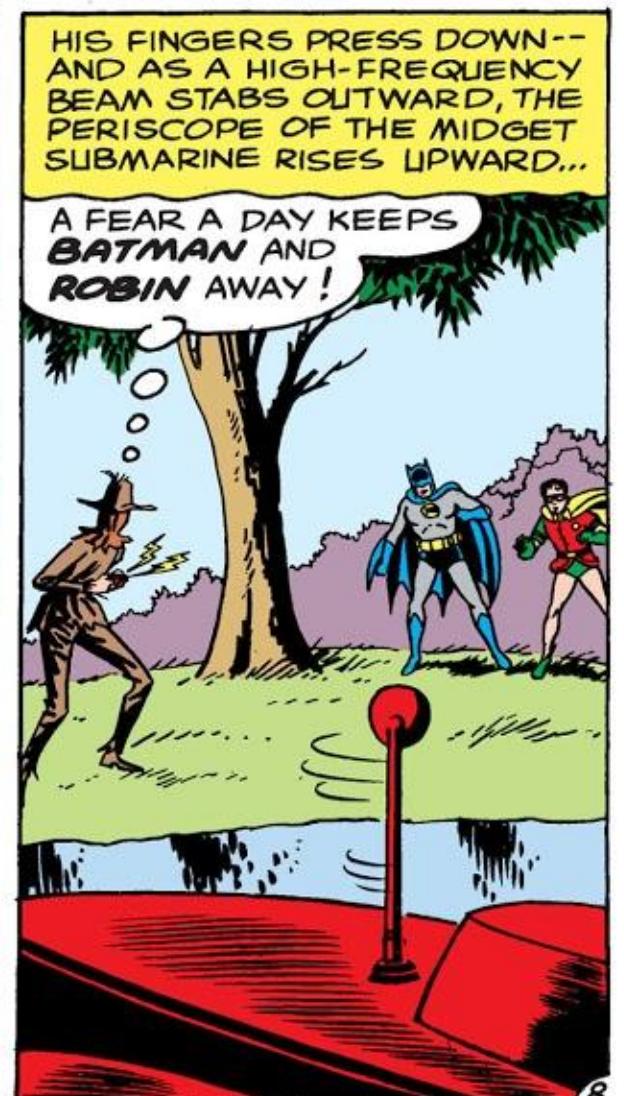


HA! THE BULLETS ARE FLYING PAST US!

BLAM!

CRAK!





FROM THE PERISCOPE ARCHES A CHEMICAL SPRAY--A SPECIAL CONCOCTION OF THE TYRANT OF TERROR...

YULP!
I'M FALLING...

LOSING MY BALANCE--
GOING TO TOPPLE
OVER--FALL INTO
A BOTTOMLESS
PIT...

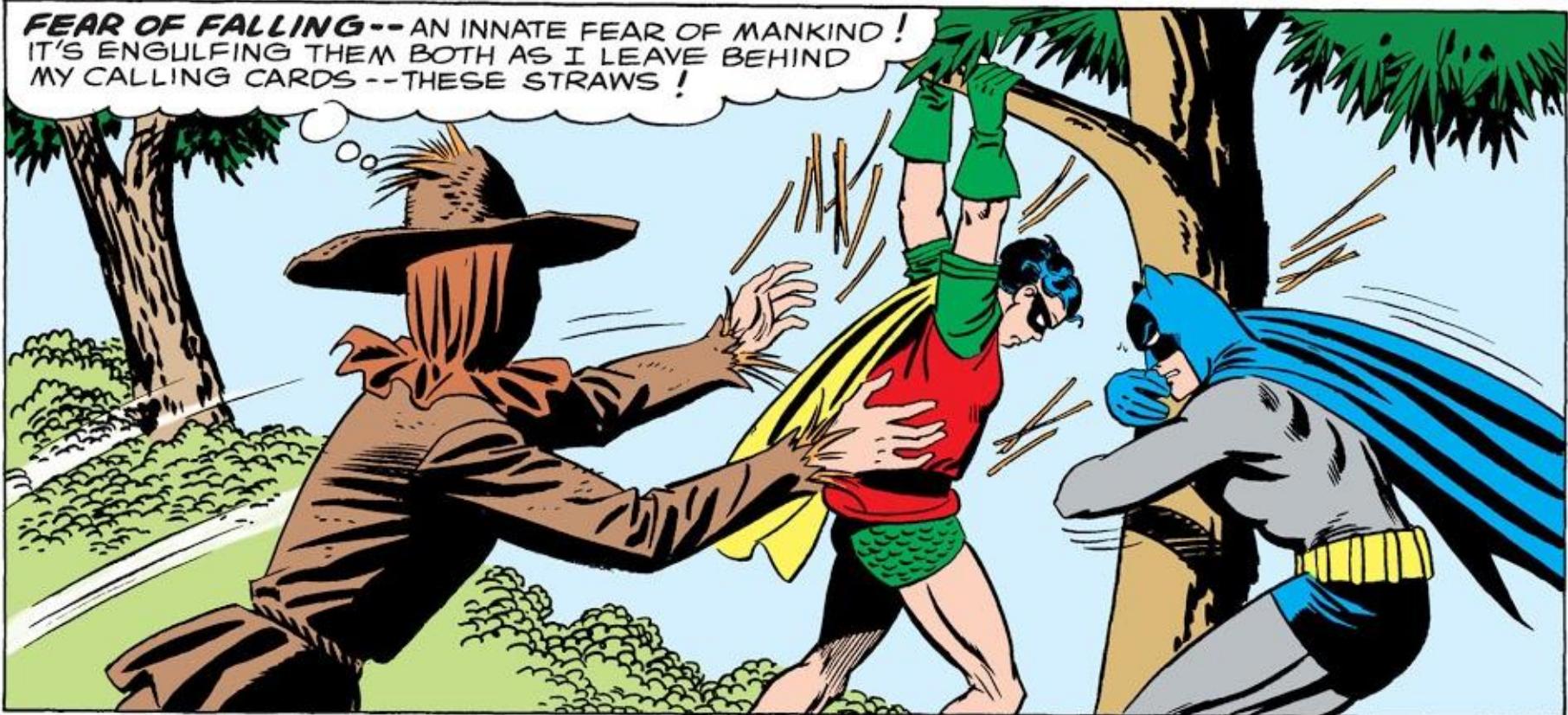
YES, YOU
TWO ARE
FALLING..
INTO MY
TRAP OF
FEAR!

GOT TO HOLD TIGHT!
C-CAN'T LET GO--OR
I'LL DROP DOWN
THROUGH THE
GROUND!

DON'T HOG THE WHOLE
TREE, ROBIN--GIVE
ME GRABBING ROOM
TOO!



FEAR OF FALLING--AN INNATE FEAR OF MANKIND!
IT'S ENGULFING THEM BOTH AS I LEAVE BEHIND
MY CALLING CARDS--THESE STRAWS!



LOOK WELL AT THOSE STRAWS, DYNAMIC DUO!
KNOW THEM FOR A SYMBOL OF THE MIGHTY
POWER I WIELD AS THE--SCARECROW!
FAREWELL, MY FEARFUL FELON-CHASERS--
FOR NOW!

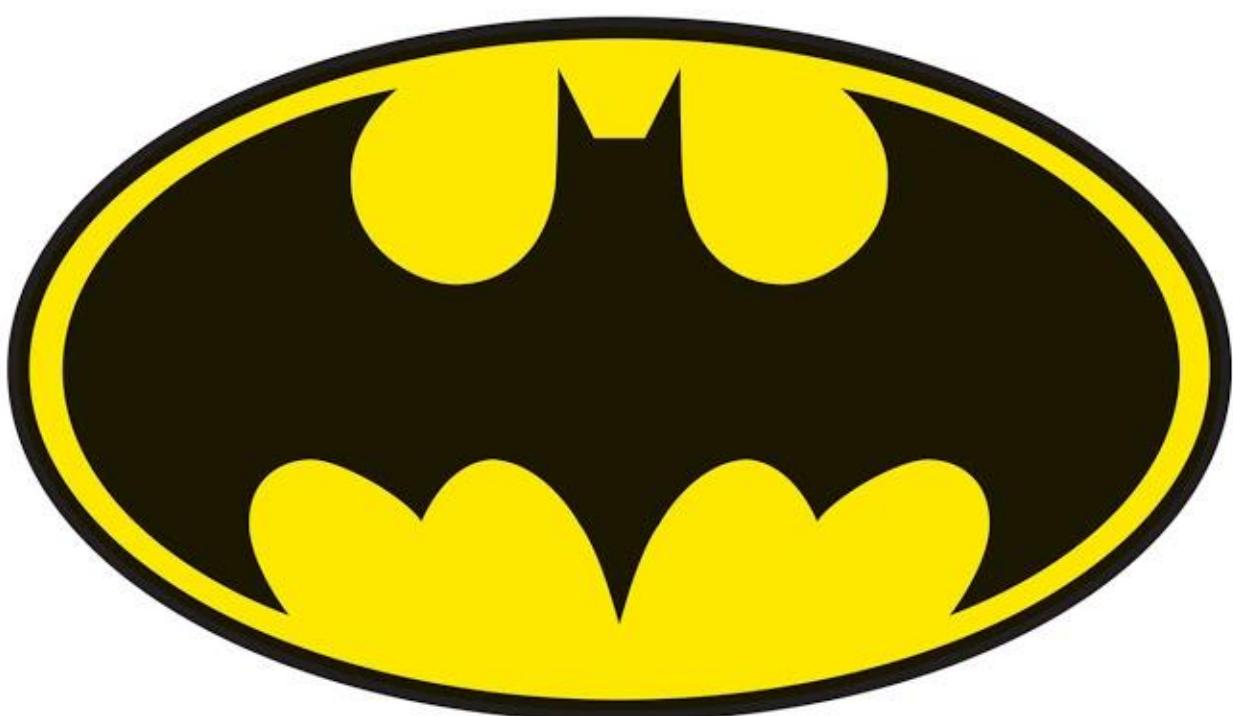
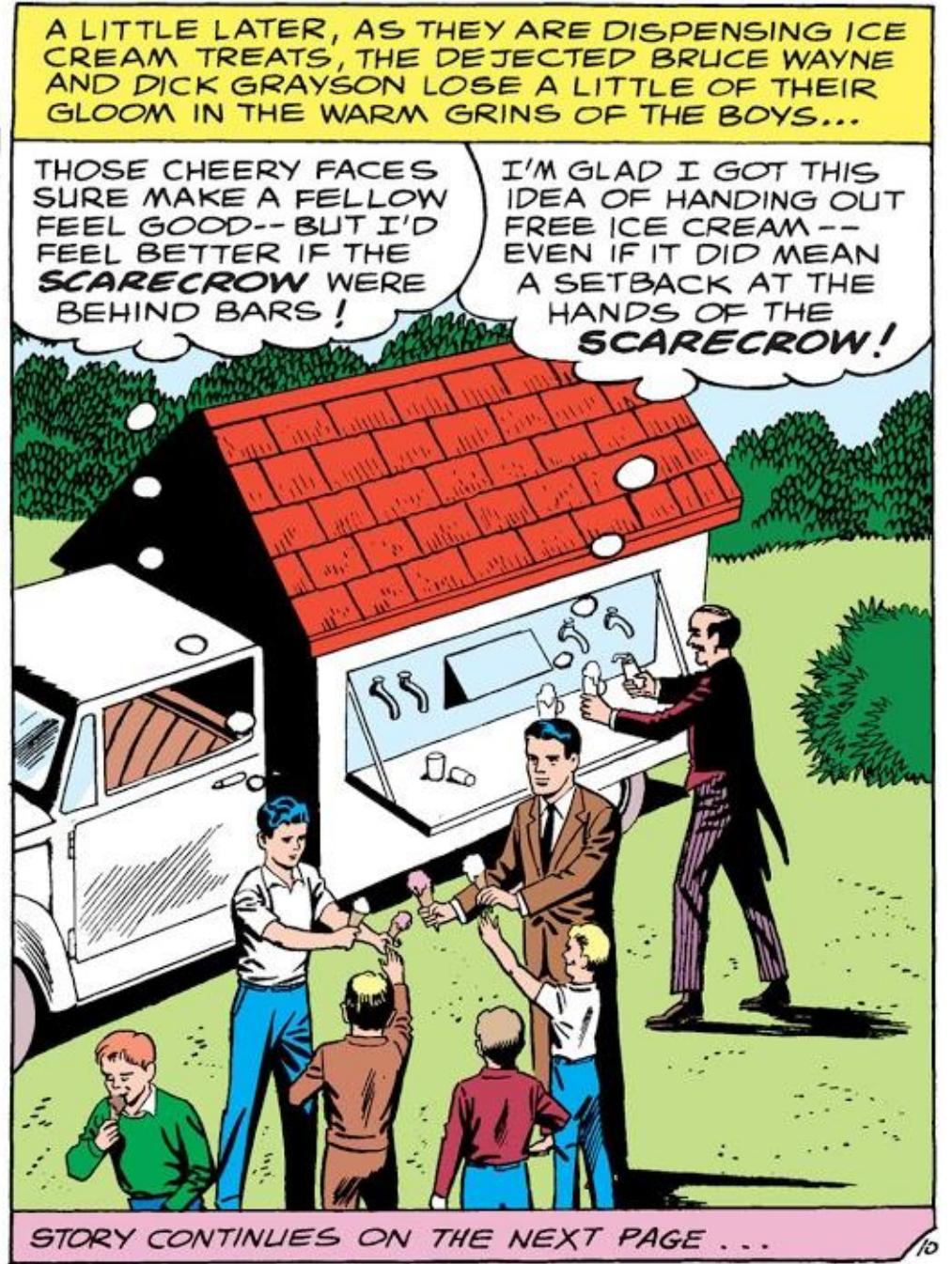


SLOWLY THE MINUTES PASS. GRADUALLY
THE MUSCLE-BULGING ARMS OF THE
CAPED CRUSADER AND BOY WONDER
RELAX THEIR CLUTCH...

IT'S PASSING...I KNOW
THE GROUND WON'T
SWALLOW ME UP NOW...
YES, THE EFFECT
OF THE CHEMICAL--
PROBABLY A
HALUCINOGEN*
DERIVATIVE--IS
WEARING OFF!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: A FAMILY OF CHEMICALS
WITH UNUSUAL HALLUCINATORY AND EMOTIONAL
EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN BRAIN AND BODY.

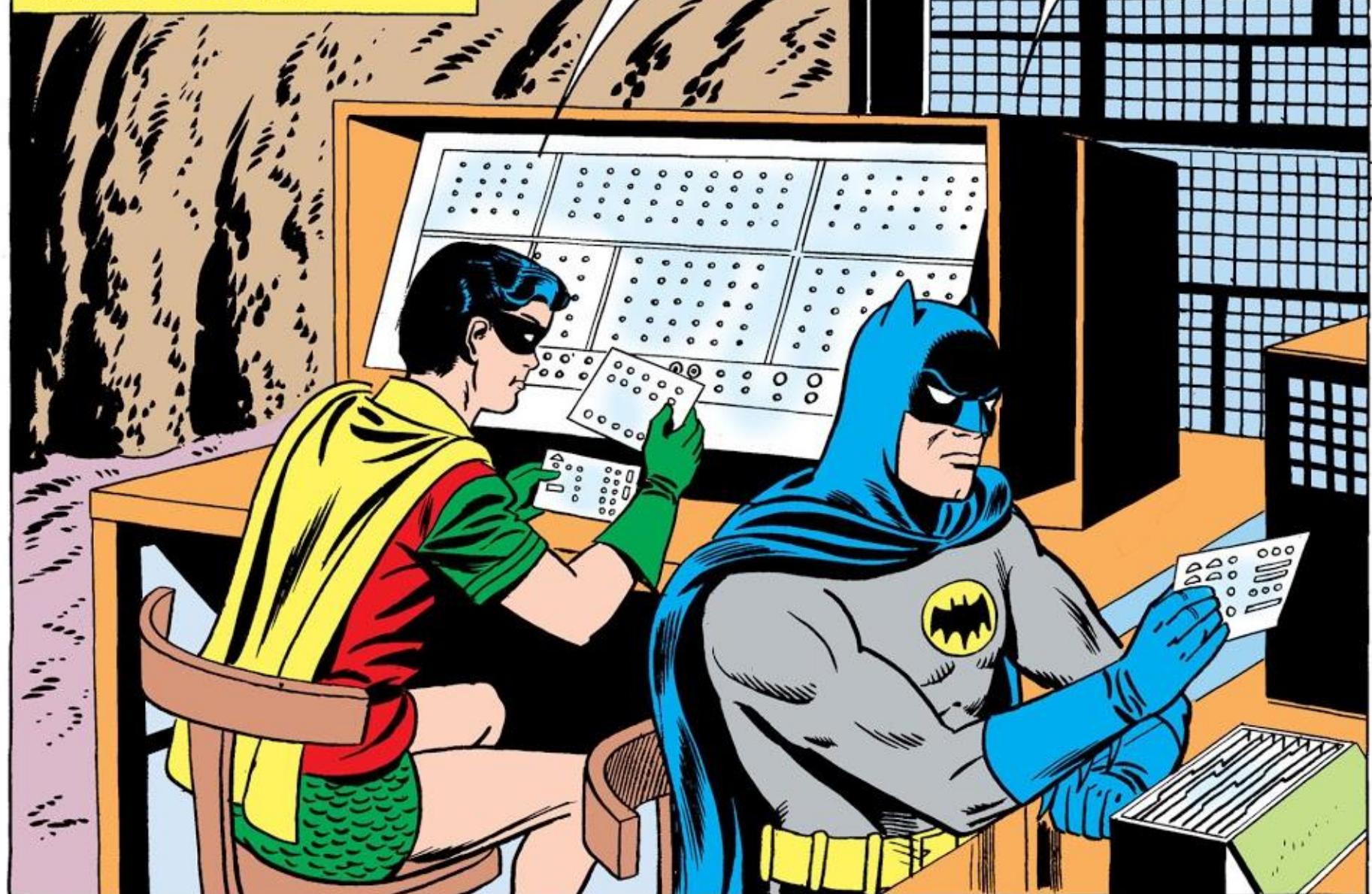


FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART 2

THEIR ICE CREAM PICNIC AT AN END, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE HARD AT WORK IN THE **BATCAVE**, IN THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**. BUT DESPITE THE MAGNIFICENT SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT THEY POSSESS AS MASTER CRIME-FIGHTERS TIME RACES BY WITHOUT RESULT...

ARK! THAT MUST MEAN A BOAT OF SOME KIND-- BUT WE AREN'T GETTING ANY MEANINGFUL ANSWERS FROM THE **BAT-COMPUTER!**

KEEP ON TRYING! I'LL KEEP ON CHECKING THESE FILES!



HERE'S A "PROBABLE"! THE FLOATING PALACE, A GAMBLING SHIP ANCHORED OUT BEYOND THE THREE-MILE LIMIT!

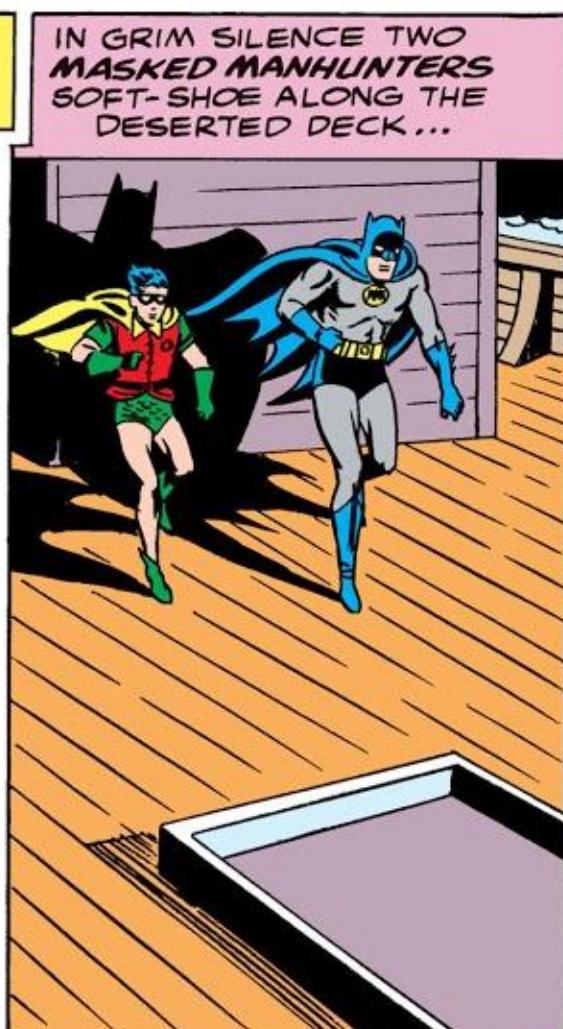
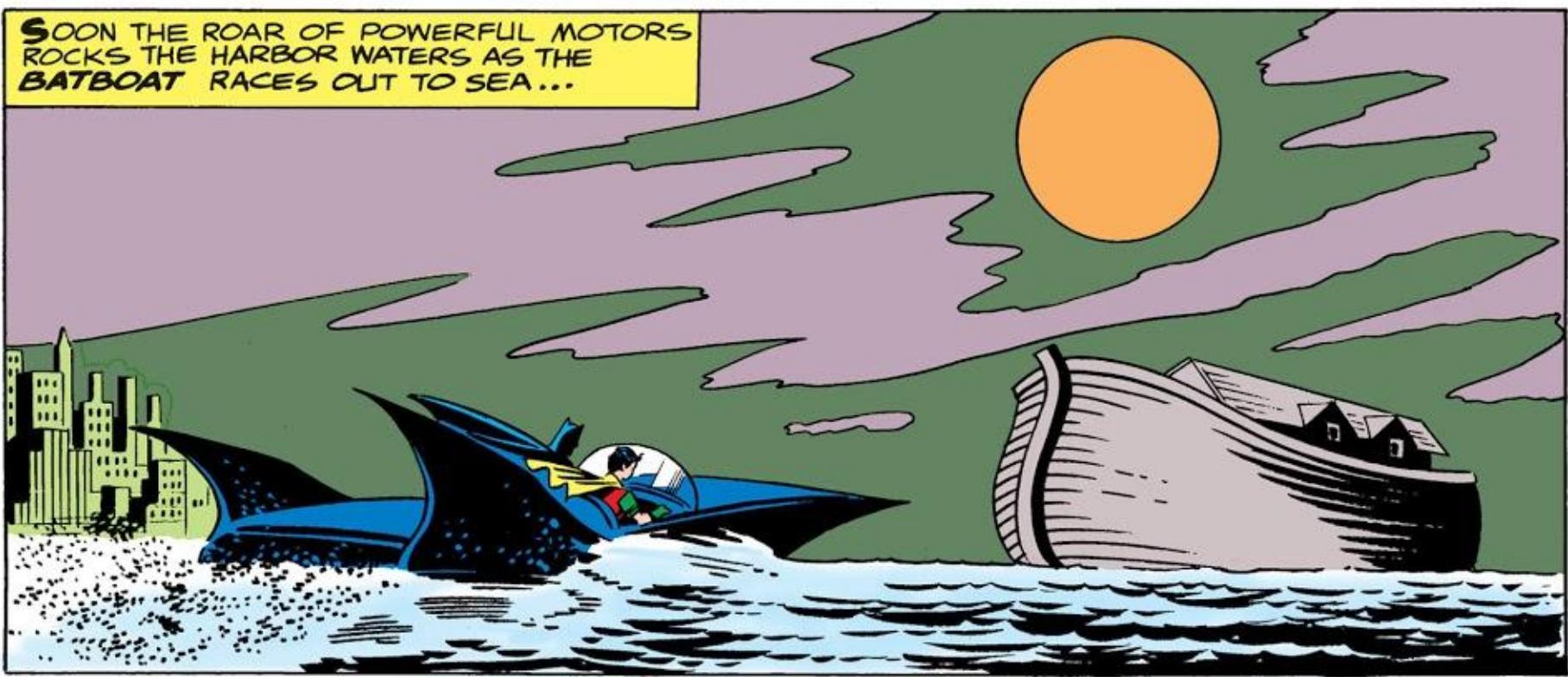
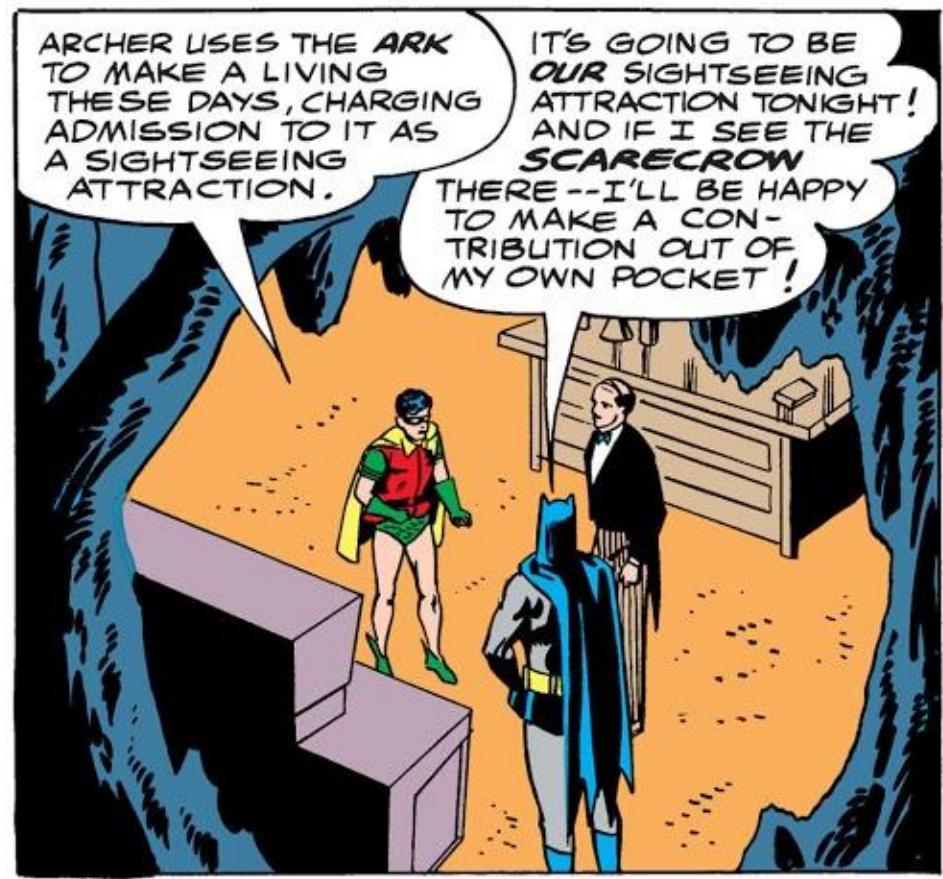
Hmm...BY STRETCHING THE IMAGINATION, IT MIGHT FIT--

WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY-- ALFRED! ARE THOSE NEW INFORMATION CARDS FOR THE **BAT-COMPUTER?**

INDEED THEY ARE, SIR! AUNT HARRIET'S BEEN KEEPING ME SO BUSY MOVING FURNITURE I AM AFRAID I'VE NEGLECTED MY MORE IMPORTANT DUTIES!

EAGERLY THE DEFT FINGERS OF THE **BOY WONDER** GRASP THE CARDS --FEED THEM THROUGH THE INTRICATE RELAY SYSTEMS OF THE INFORMATION MACHINE AND..





FORWARD LEAP THOSE HIGHLY TRAINED BODIES ! WITH EVERY MUSCLE TRAINED FOR COMBAT, WITH EVERY SENSE ALERT FOR DANGER-- THEY ARE LIVING WEAPONS !

WELCOME, DYNAMIC DUO ! YOU HAVE VENTURED INTO MY TRAP !



AND THEN--WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF AN EYE-BLINK, WITH THE RAPIDITY OF A HEART-BEAT--THE ROOM IS PLUNGED INTO EBON DARKNESS...

WHY-WHAT HAPPENED ? I CAN'T SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY FACE !

MY TRAP HAS CLOSED ! THE PRIMAL FEAR OF DARKNESS KNOWN BY EVERY MAN EVER BORN--IS UPON YOU !

INSTANTLY, THE "LIGHTS" GO ON--BUT NOT FOR THE CAPE CRUSADER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT !...

MY SPECIAL BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS HAVE AFFECTED CERTAIN SENSORY PORTIONS OF YOUR BRAIN ! BELIEVE ME, THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH LIGHT--EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT ! YOU ARE LIKE MEN STRUCK BLIND !

AND NOW THE ABYSMAL TERROR OF UTTER DARKNESS-- INHERITED FROM OUR FIRST ANCESTORS WHEN DARKNESS MADE THEM EASY PREY OF CARNIVOROUS BEASTS --IS EATING AT YOUR VERY SOULS !



NOW I BID YOU A FEARFUL FAREWELL ! FAR WORSE IS TO FOLLOW !!



GUIDED BY THAT HOARSE,
SCRATCHY VOICE, THE
DYNAMIC DUO HURLS
DESPERATE BODIES IN ITS
DIRECTION EVEN AS...

HERE ARE MY CALLING
CARDS--DRY AND RUSTLING
STRAWS! SYMBOLS OF MY
RAGTAG SELF--PROOF
OF MY GENIUS! NOT
RAYMOND ARCHER WAS
MY TARGET--THAT WAS A
COVER-UP NAME FOR
MYSELF--BUT YOU TWO!
AND HERE--YOU SHALL
PERISH!



BLIND--SHAKEN TO THEIR
INNERMOST CORE BY THE
CREEPING NIGHTMARE IN
WHICH THEY FIND THEM-
SELVES UTTERLY ALONE IN
"DARKNESS"--THEY SLAM INTO
A SUDDENLY CLOSED DOOR...



SLOWLY THEY SAG FLOOR-
WARDS--UNAWARE OF THE
LIGHTED ROOM--KNOWING
ONLY THE FEAR THAT SHAKES
THEIR BODIES AND THE
ETERNAL NIGHT THAT HOODS
THEIR EYES...

B-BATMAN--
I'M A-A-ASHAMED
TO S-SAY IT--
B-BUT I'M
P-PETRIFIED
WITH
T-TERROR!

F-FRIGHTENED
MYSELF!
BUT THIS IS
A **PHYSICAL
REACTION!**
SOMETHING
WE CANNOT
CONTROL! OUR
ONLY RE COURSE
IS TO **FIGHT**
IT--AS WE
HAVE FOUGHT
OTHER FOES...



UNTIL THE BLACK-LIGHT VIBRATIONS WEAR OFF--
AS DID THE SPRAY IN THE PARK..! WE'VE
G-GOT TO HANG ON...

I CAN FEEL THE DOOR--
EVEN IF I CAN'T SEE
IT! LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!



BUT AS
THE
DOOR
SWINGS
OPEN...

WHA-WHAT ON ARK--
IS THAT?

BRACE YOURSELF, ROBIN! WE'RE ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED
BY WILD ANIMALS--AND IF I KNOW THE SCARECROW,
THEY'LL BE ANIMALS WHO CAN SEE IN THE SAME
DARKNESS THAT BLINDS OUR EYES!

ROOAR!





THAT ATTACKING CAT CAN SEE--
AND I **CAN'T!** GOT TO
LESSON THE ODDS...

ANGERED BY THE DODGE AND DART
TACTICS OF ITS HUMAN PREY, THE
PANTHER LEAPS, CLAWS OUT AND
SHARP FANGS BARED...

SWISH!

WHERE IS IT?
WHAT'S IT
GOING TO
DO?

GROWRR!

ROBIN, YOU OKAY? REMEMBER THE
SECOND RULE OF SOLDIER COMBAT--
CALL OUT TO ONE ANOTHER!
"MISERY LOVES COMPANY"
IS STILL A GOOD RULE! I--

AAAGGHH!

ALARMED BY HIS FELLOW FIGHTER'S SUDDEN
CRY OF ALARM, **ROBIN** LETS GO OF HIS
HOLD...

BATMAN--
YOU
ALL RIGHT?

NOT AT THE
MOMENT--
BUT I WILL
BE!

GROWRR!



KNOWLEDGE IS ANOTHER THING THAT HELPS US FIGHT FEAR, ROBIN! WE'RE GOING TO THINK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS SITUATION! NOW-- WHAT IS THE ONE THING ALL WILD ANIMALS FEAR...



FIRE! I WAS GOING TO TRY A TEAR-GAS BOMB EVEN IF I WASN'T SURE WHETHER THESE ANIMALS HAVE TEAR DUCTS -- BUT YOURS IS A BETTER WAY! AH! FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR--THE SCARECROW'S CALLING CARDS-- STRAWS!

NOW OUT WITH YOUR LASER-BEAM TORCH!



GOTCHA!

USE THE HEAT OF THE LASER BEAM -- SET THE STRAWS ON FIRE!

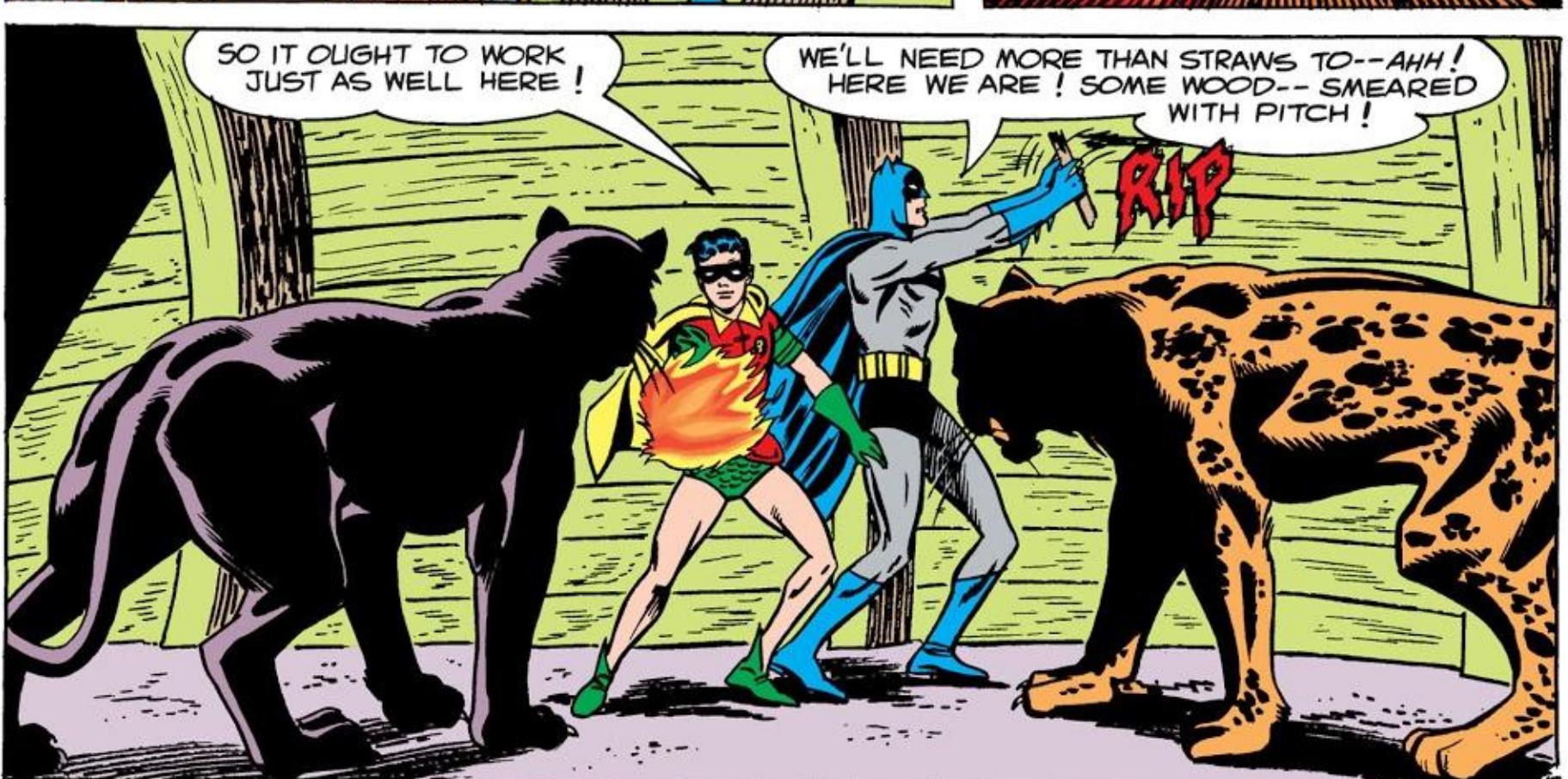


SURE--WHENEVER WE GO HUNTING, WE BUILD CAMPFIRES AT NIGHT TO KEEP THE WILD ANIMALS AWAY FROM US WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING!



SO IT OUGHT TO WORK JUST AS WELL HERE!

WE'LL NEED MORE THAN STRAWS TO--AHH! HERE WE ARE! SOME WOOD-- SMEARED WITH PITCH!



ANGRY SNARLS RISE FROM THE THROATS OF THE FURRY, FRUSTRATED FELINES AS...

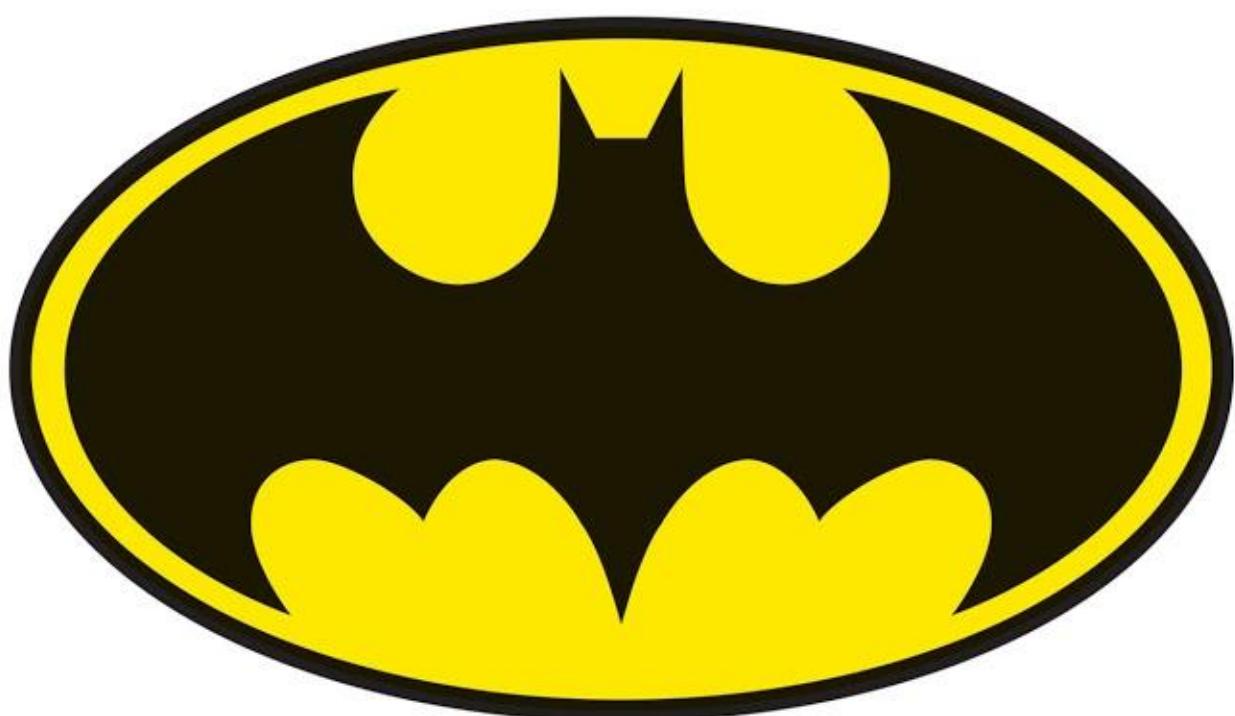
IT'S WORKING !
THEY'RE KEEPING
AT A SAFE
DISTANCE !

NOW WE'VE GOT TO
PUT OURSELVES AT
AN EVEN SAFER
DISTANCE--OUTSIDE
THIS ROOM !

"RUNNING THE GAUNTLET" BETWEEN CLAWS AND FANGS, THE PAIR GROPES FOR THE DOORWAY...

GRAB THAT
DOORKNOB,
ROBIN !

I WILL --SOON AS
I FIND IT !



FRIGHT OF THE SCARECROW PART 3

TIME IS WARPED AS THE BOY WONDER'S NORMALLY DEFT FINGERS SLIDE AND SLIP AS THEY SEEK TO LOCATE THE DOORKNOB WHICH WILL OPEN A PATH TO SAFETY!

THE ANIMALS--HELD AT BAY BY THE FLAMES, SEEING THEIR PREY ABOUT TO ESCAPE--ARE GOING MAD WITH RAGE AND TERROR!

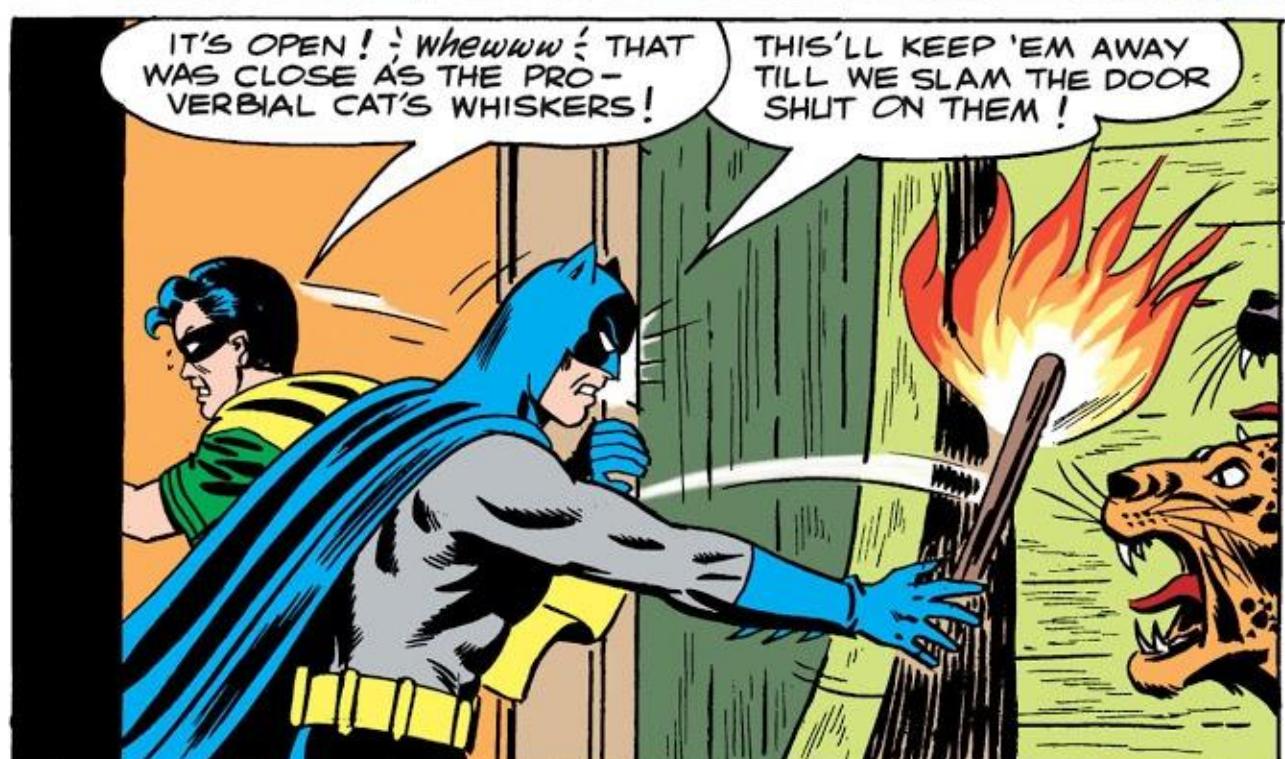
WHERE'S THAT DOOR? SEEMS LIKE HOURS SINCE I'VE BEEN GROPING FOR IT!



FOUND IT, BATMAN! FOLLOW MY VOICE!

IT'S OPEN! WHHEWWW! THAT WAS CLOSE AS THE PROVERBAL CAT'S WHISKERS!

THIS'LL KEEP 'EM AWAY TILL WE SLAM THE DOOR SHUT ON THEM!



BEHIND THE SAFETY OF THE DOOR, THE DYNAMIC DUO SAGS WITH EXHAUSTION...

PANT! PANT! AFTER ALL THAT--WE'RE FARTHER AWAY THAN EVER FROM CATCHING THE SCARECROW!

GASP! CHEER UP, ROBIN! AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE TO TRY!



SIDE BY SIDE THEY MAKE
THEIR WAY TO THE DECK,
WHERE IN A LITTLE WHILE...

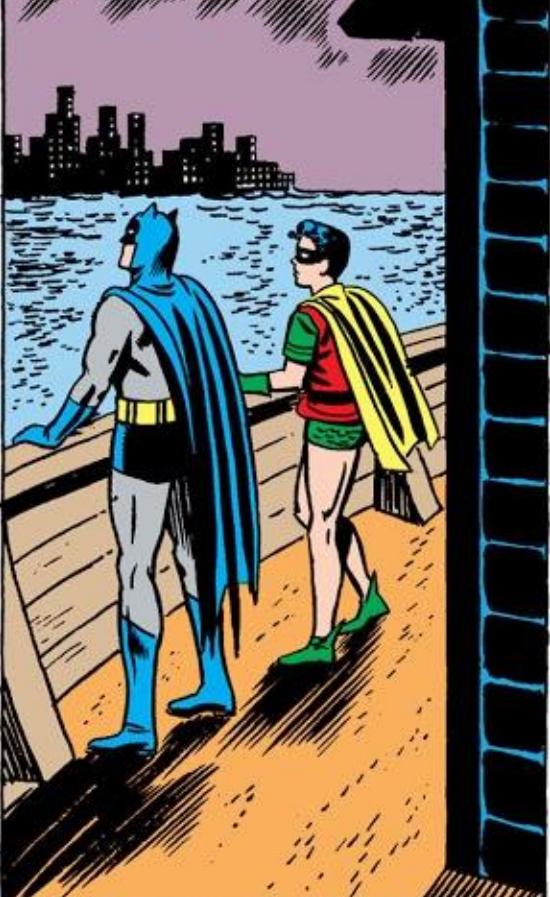
MY EYES
ARE
CLEARING!
I CAN SEE
THE STARS--
AND THE
HARBOR
LIGHTS!

ME TOO!
BOY! THAT
PANIC
PEDDLER
SURE
PLAYED
US FOR
**FALL
GUYS!**

IN THE BATBOAT...

THINK, ROBIN! WE MUST
LEARN WHAT THE SCARE-
CROW MEANT BY HIS
THIRD CLUE-- THE
WORD **MARK**!

HUH! HE MUST MEAN WE'RE
"EASY MARKS," THE WAY
WE'VE BEEN TOPPLING OVER
LIKE DUCKPINS EVERY TIME
HE PUSHES HARD!



EASY MARKS!
GET IT? A
MARK IS A
VICTIM OF A
SHARP PRACTICE
OR A CUNNING
SCHEME!

I KNOW
THAT--
BUT NOT
WHAT
FOLLOWS!

YOU HIT ON THE
ANSWER WHEN
YOU CALLED US
FALL GUYS!
FALL GUYS ARE
EASY MARKS!

EASY MARK?
FALL GUY? I
DON'T-- HEYY!
NOW I GET IT!
THE SCARE-
CROW IS RE-
FERRING TO
**FALL-- JEREMY
T. FALL!** HE'S
THAT RICH FRIEND
OF YOURS-- er--
OF BRUCE
WAYNE'S!

FALL-- THE
MILLIONAIRE
PHILANTHROPIST
WHO LIKES TO KEEP
LARGE SUMS OF
CASH IN HIS HOUSE
SO HE CAN PER-
SONALLY GIVE THEM
TO CHARITY, SUCH
AS THE **UNITED
FUND** DRIVE THAT
STARTS TOMORROW!
THE SCARECROW'S
LAST TRICK IS TO
GRAB THAT MONEY
FOR HIMSELF!

