



538 | JAN 97

MOENCH
JONES
BEATTY

BATMAN

**TOO LATE TO SAVE MAN-BAT...
TOO LATE TO SAVE ANYTHING...**

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



THOU
SHALT NOT
KILL.

DM · KJ · JB · 20

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BATMAN
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DARKEST NIGHT of the MAN-BAT

PART THREE: PREDEMPTION

ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP
OF THE WORLD -- THE
NORTH POLE ITSELF --
MINUTES TOO LATE.

I CAME TO SAVE KIRK LANGSTROM
FROM THE MAN-BAT'S FERAL FEVER
-- FROM HIMSELF -- ONLY TO WATCH
HIM DIE A BEAST, NEVER KNOWING
HUMANITY AGAIN.

ENERGY SHOOTING UP
FROM PROJECT
HAARP'S PULSE
INJECTOR -- INTO THE
AURORA BOREALIS --
REACTING WITH THE
ATMOSPHERE'S
ELECTROMAGNETIC
CHARGE ...

AND MAN-BAT IS CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO--

--A BIZARRE SPECIMEN PINNED IN MIDAIR.

IT'S WORKING-- DISRUPTING THE ENERGY HARMONICS-- CREATING A FEEDBACK INTO THE INJECTOR MODULE!

SKEEK

WAIT--THE ENERGY HAS FULLY DISCHARGED...

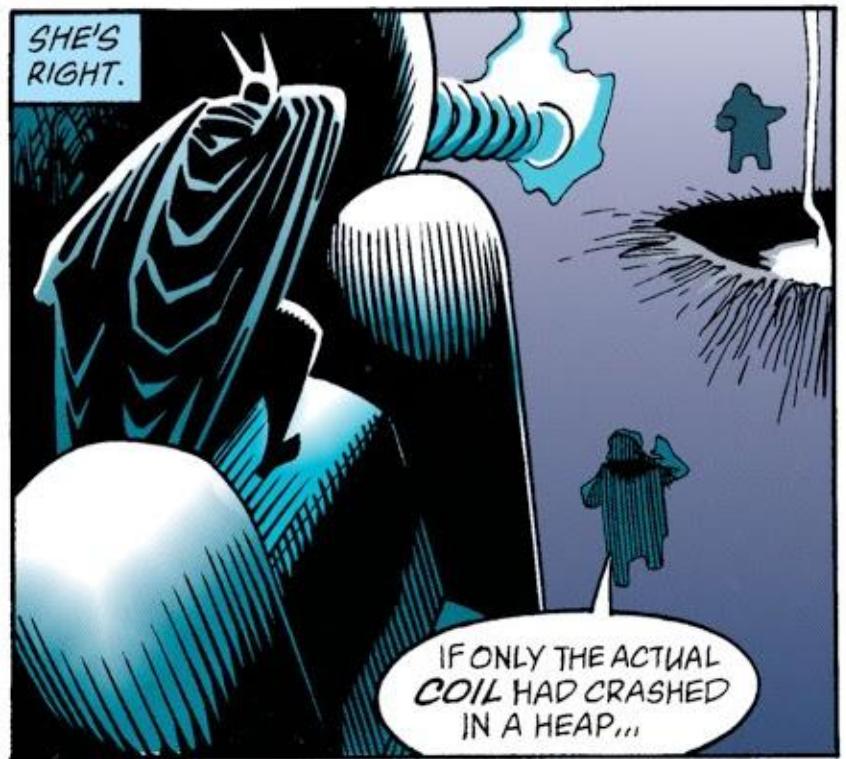
...AND HE'S FLYING AWAY FROM IT!

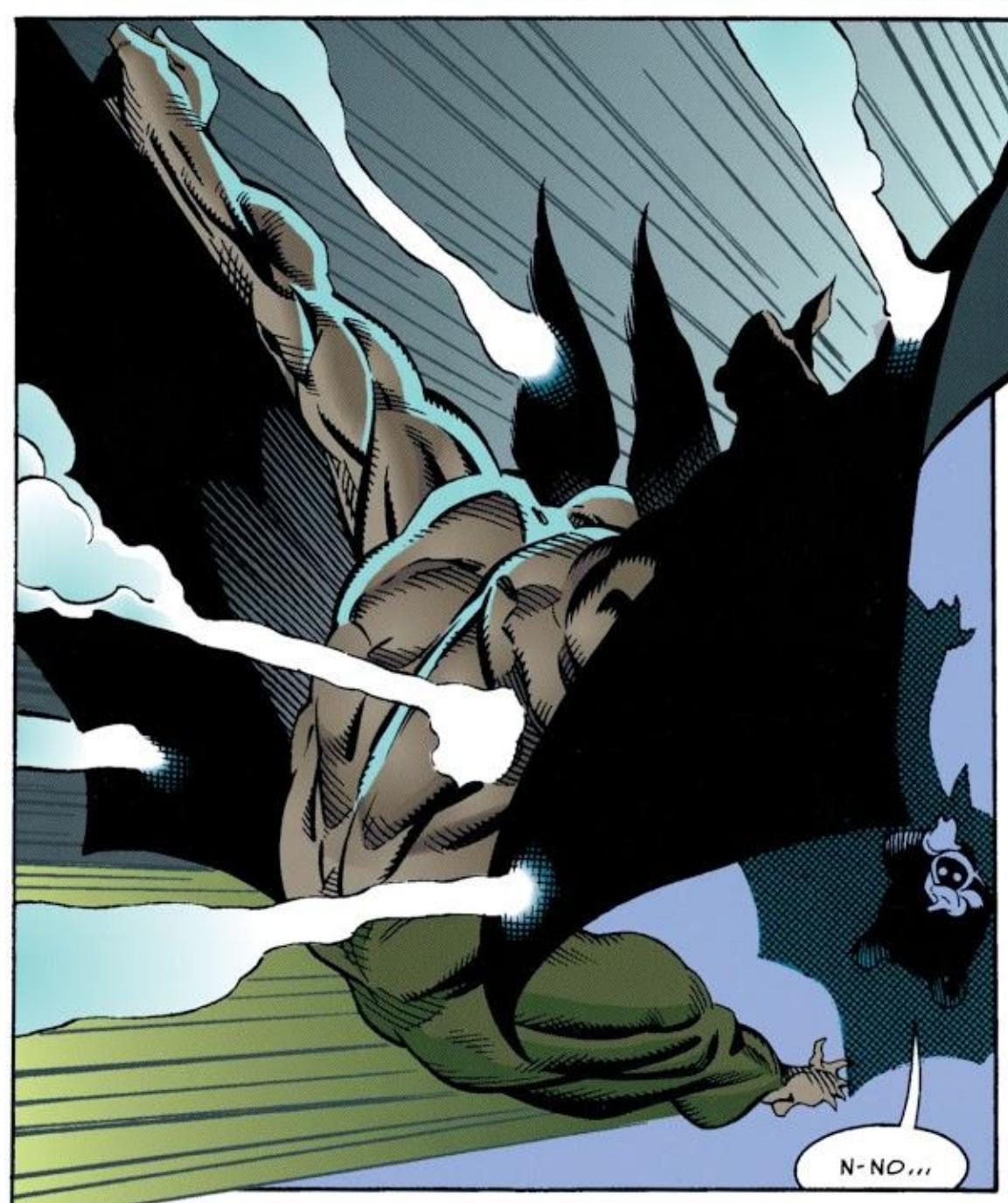
BUT HOW--?

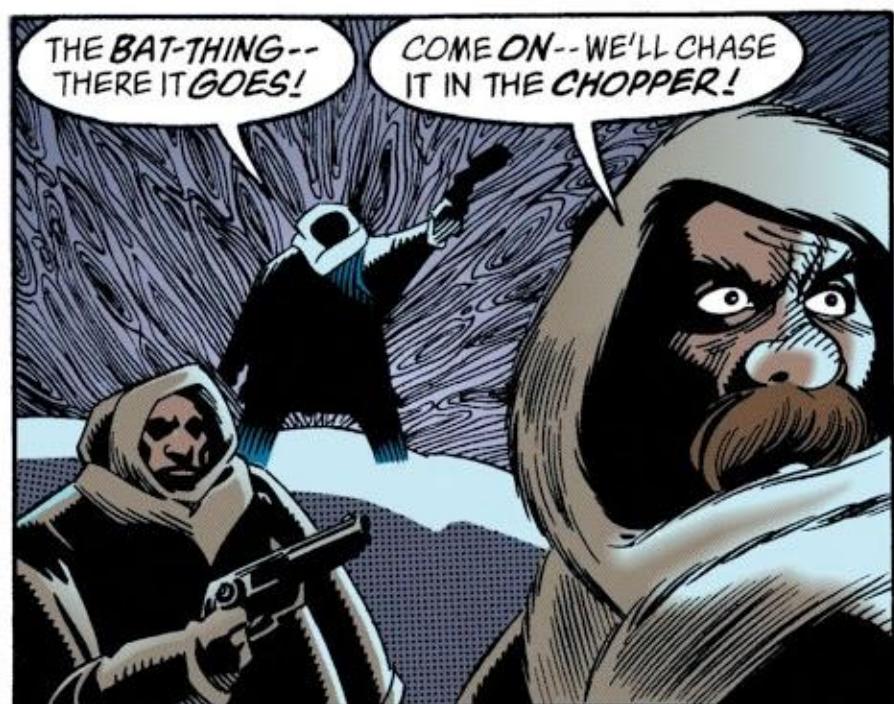
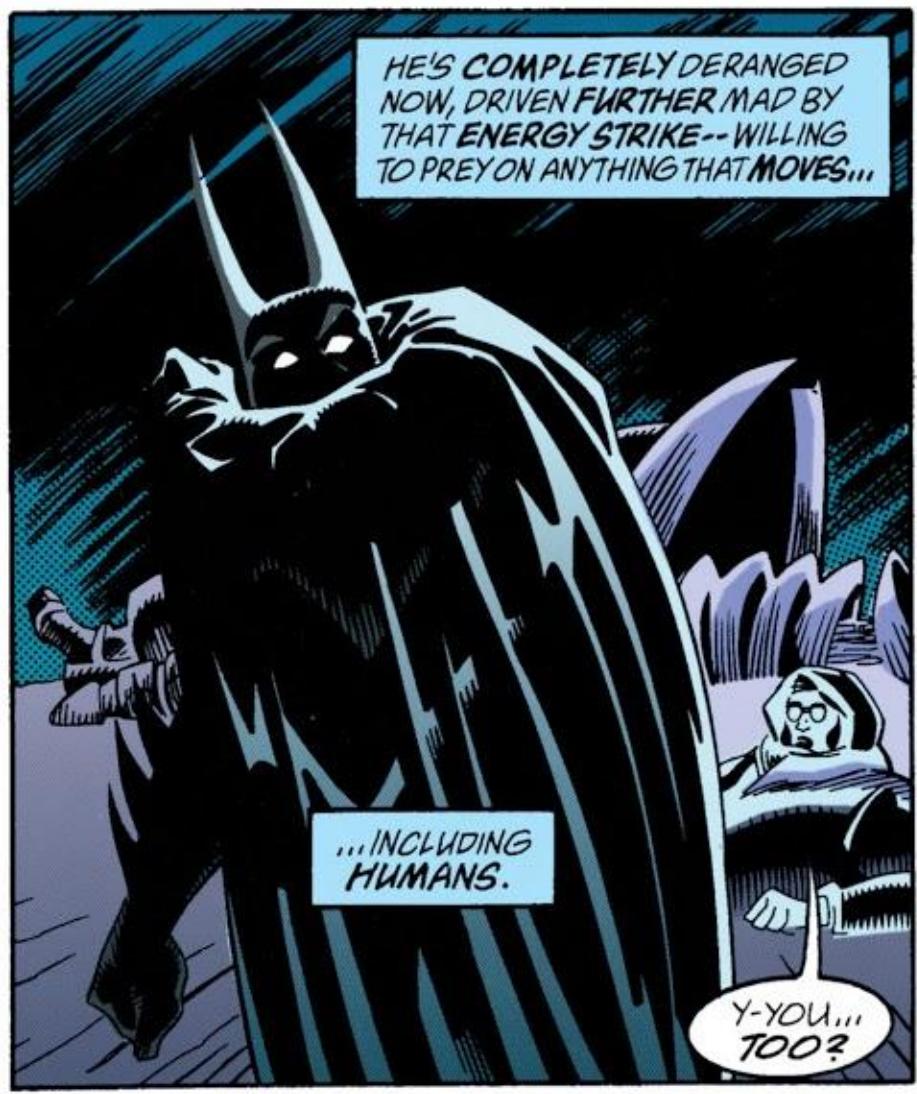
DID YOU SEE THAT, TRASK?! THE STRIKE DIDN'T KILL THE BAT-THING-- JUST IONIZED A SHEATH OF AIR AROUND IT--BUT NEVERTHELESS CONDUCTED ENOUGH ENERGY THROUGH HIM TO DAMAGE THE INJECTOR MODULE!

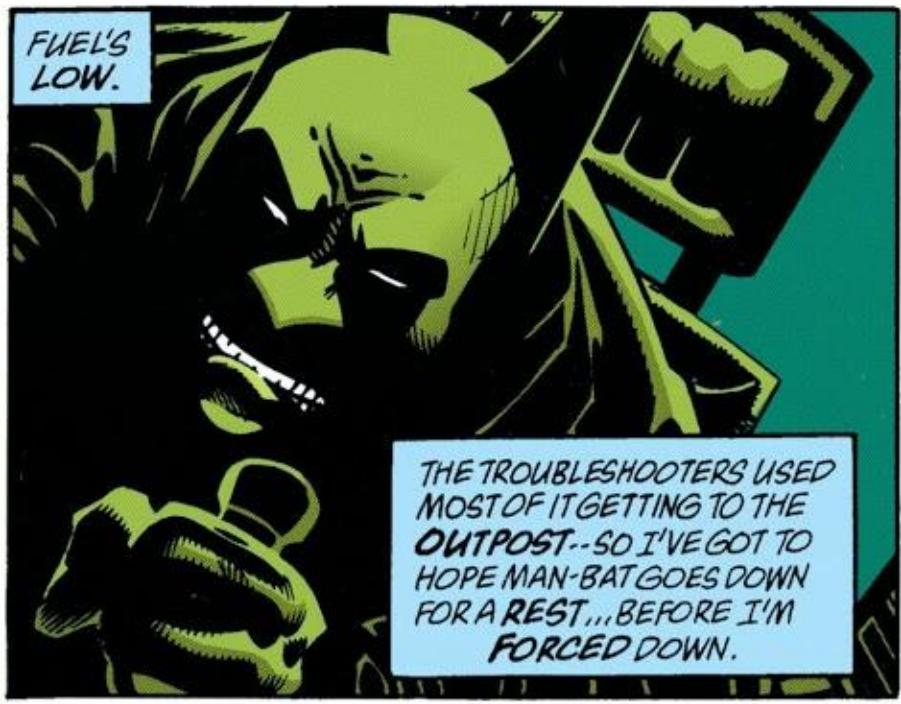
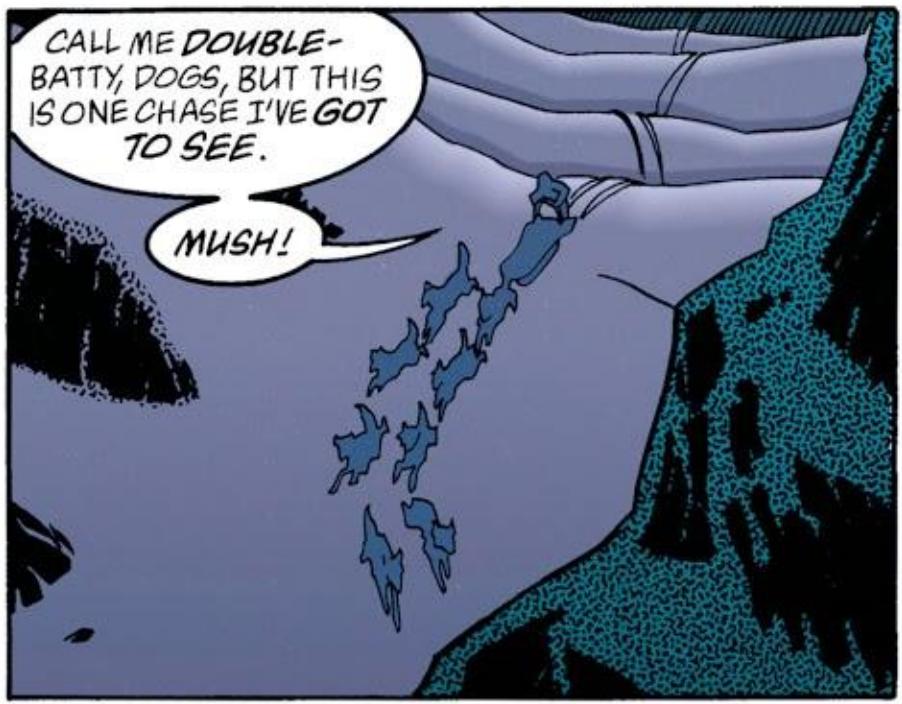
IT'S INCREDIBLE!



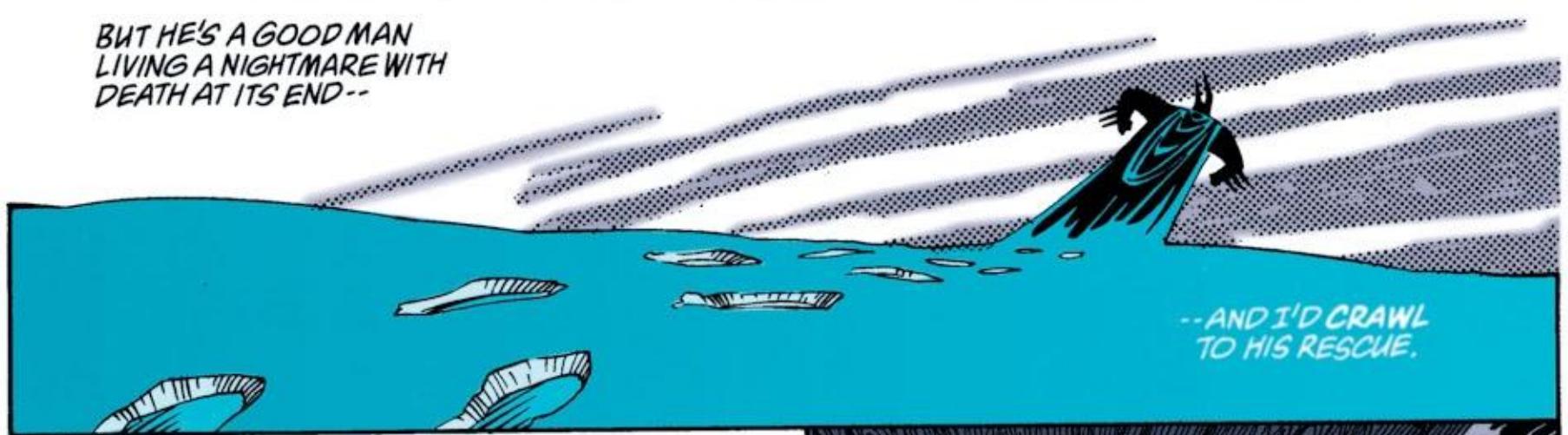
















"BASED ON SOME OF THE THINGS HE SAID, I BECAME SUFFICIENTLY INTRIGUED-- AND CONCERNED-- TO RESEARCH THROUGH THE INTERNET."

"AND YOU DIDN'T LIKE WHAT YOU LEARNED."

"THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE HARMONIC ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROJECT IS TO DISRUPT EARTH'S ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD, BUT I FIGURED THE PLANET POSSESSES THAT FIELD FOR A REASON-- AND ANYTHING MESSING WITH IT IS HARDLY REASONABLE!"

"THEN WHY DO IT?"

"FIRST, IT'S AN UNTAPPED ENERGY SOURCE -- USING THE ENTIRE PLANET AS A GIANT BATTERY OR GENERATOR. THE DOWNSIDE TO THAT-- AS HESSLER PROVED-- IS SOMEONE USING THAT ENERGY TO CREATE AN ELECTROMAGNETIC 'DEATH-RAY' STRIKING FROM THE SKY."

"AND SECOND?"

"WELL, SINCE RADIO AND TV WAVES ARE PART OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM, THERE ARE POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNICATIONS-- OR ANTI-COMMUNICATIONS."

"REMOTE SIGNAL-JAMMING -- WHICH STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME FOR YOU."

"FOR ANYBODY WHO LIKES THEIR NEWS, SPORTS, MUSIC, OR PRIME TIME. BUT THEN I LEARNED THAT ALTERING THE PLANET'S EM FIELD WOULD ALSO ALTER THE JET STREAM PATTERN, LEADING TO POSSIBLE 'WEATHER CONTROL' -- OR WEATHER CHAOS. AND GIVEN HOW WEIRD THE WORLD'S WEATHER HAS GOTTEN IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, I'VE ACTUALLY WONDERED IF SOMEONE IS ALREADY USING THE PULSE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY WE WERE SUPPOSEDLY TESTING."

"PARANOIA, DR. STEINMAN?" "NOPE-- NOT UNTIL I LEARNED ABOUT MAGNETITE." "WHICH IS?"

"A SUBSTANCE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED IN THE BRAIN CELLS OF HOMING PIGEONS, ENABLING THEM TO FIND THEIR WAY HOME FROM LITERALLY ANYWHERE -- GUIDED BY THE EFFECT OF VARYING ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCES ON THE MAGNETITE IN THEIR HEADS. IT'S LIKE FOLLOWING AN INTERNAL BIOLOGICAL COMPASS. BATS MAY HAVE A LOT OF MAGNETITE TOO. DOGS AND CATS DO."

"HUMANS?"

"ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN THE SUCCESS OF 'BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION' EXPERIMENTS, DURING WHICH PEOPLE ARE SUBJECTED TO DIFFERENT DOSES AND FREQUENCIES OF EM RADIATION. ENOUGH OF IT COULD DRIVE A PERSON MAD-- AND IT'S A SHORT STEP FROM 'BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION' TO MIND CONTROL."

"THOSE ARE THE ONLY POSSIBLE JUSTIFICATIONS FOR HAARP?"

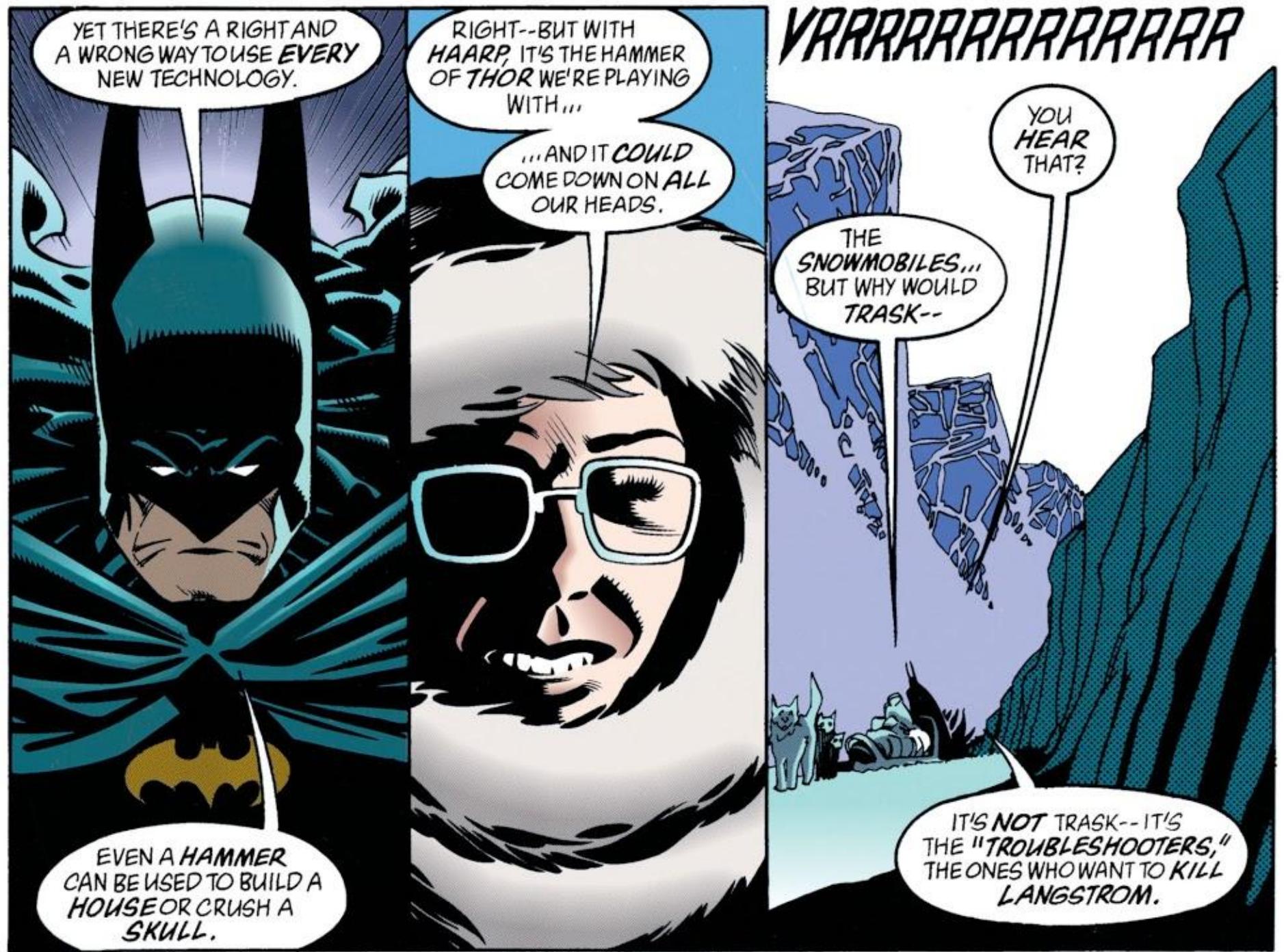
"THE ONLY ONES I COULD FIND. ENERGY SOURCE OR DEATH-RAY. ENHANCED RADIO TRANSMISSION OR COMMUNICATIONS BREAKDOWN. CLIMATE CONTROL OR WEATHER DISRUPTION. BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION OR BRAINWASHING. EVERY POSSIBLE APPLICATION HAD A SINISTER SIDE WHICH GAVE ME PAUSE... TO THE POINT WHERE I BEGAN DEBATING HESSLER'S GUNG-HO STANCE. HE EVENTUALLY REPORTED ME TO WASHINGTON, CLAIMING I WAS 'ANTI-SCIENCE' AND 'UNPATRIOTIC'-- EVEN THOUGH I WAS MERELY CALLING FOR A LITTLE CAUTION."

AND
NOW...

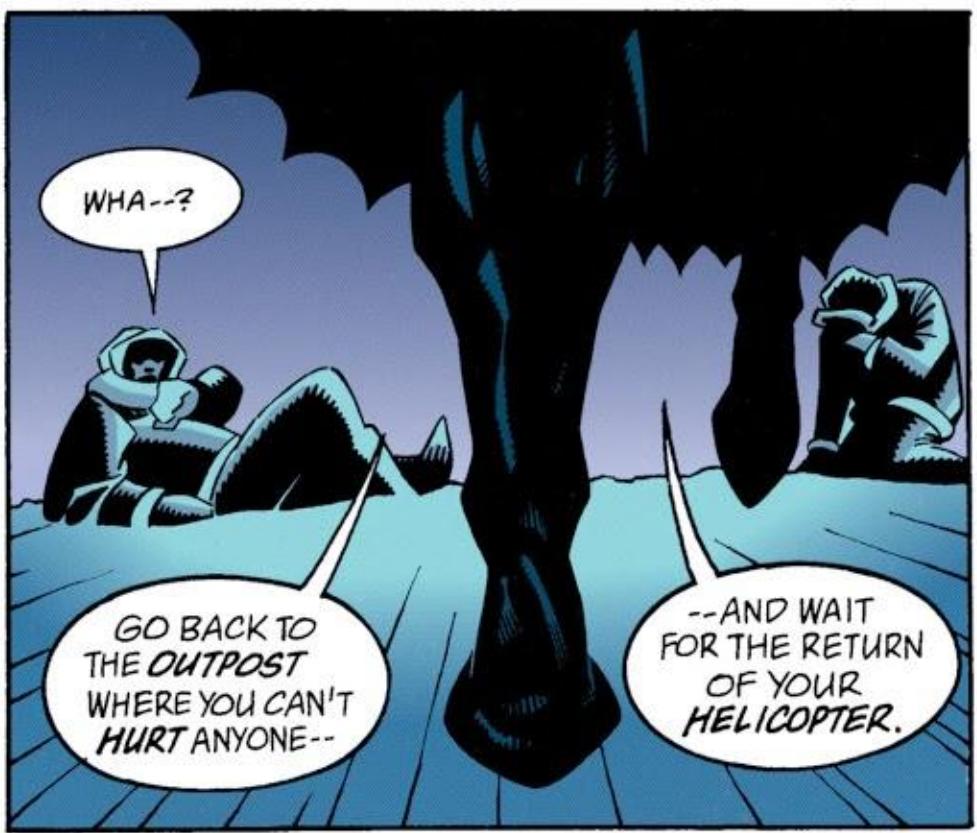
AND NOW, I
WAS RIGHT--

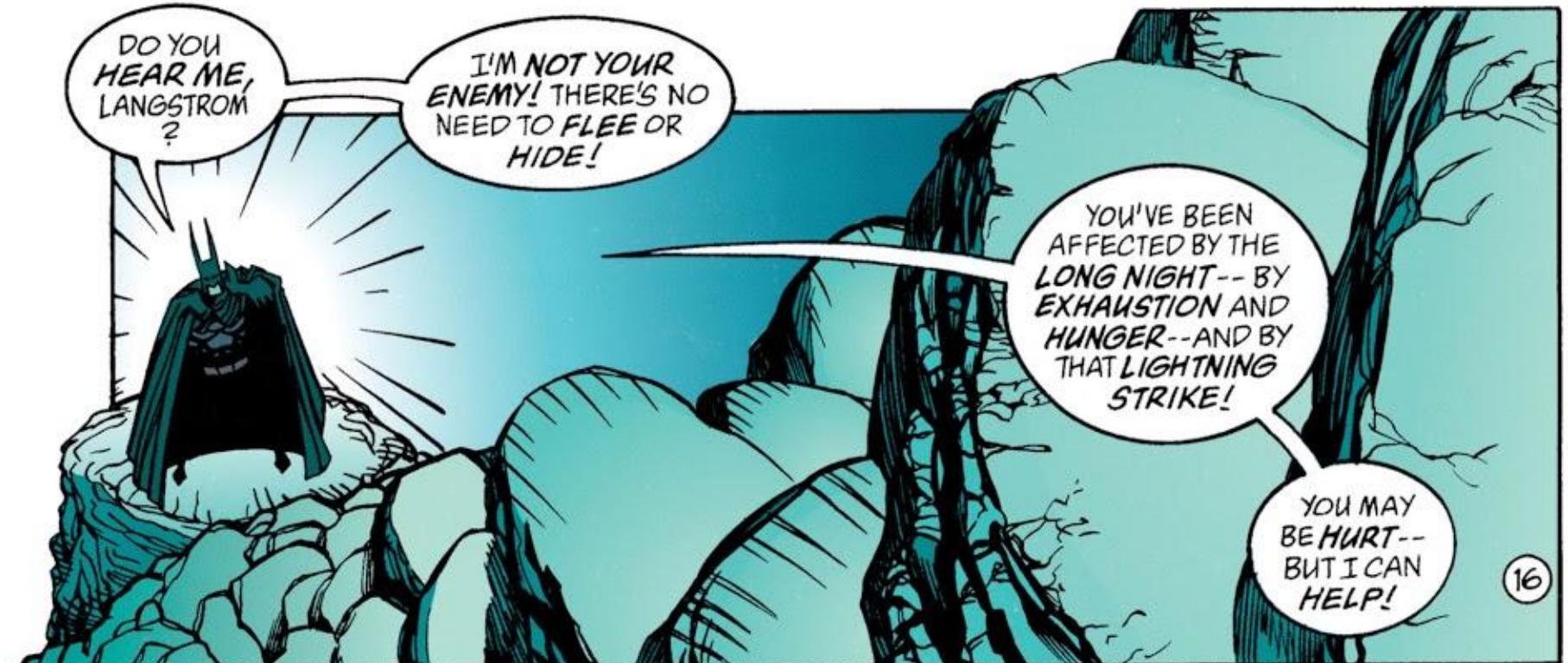
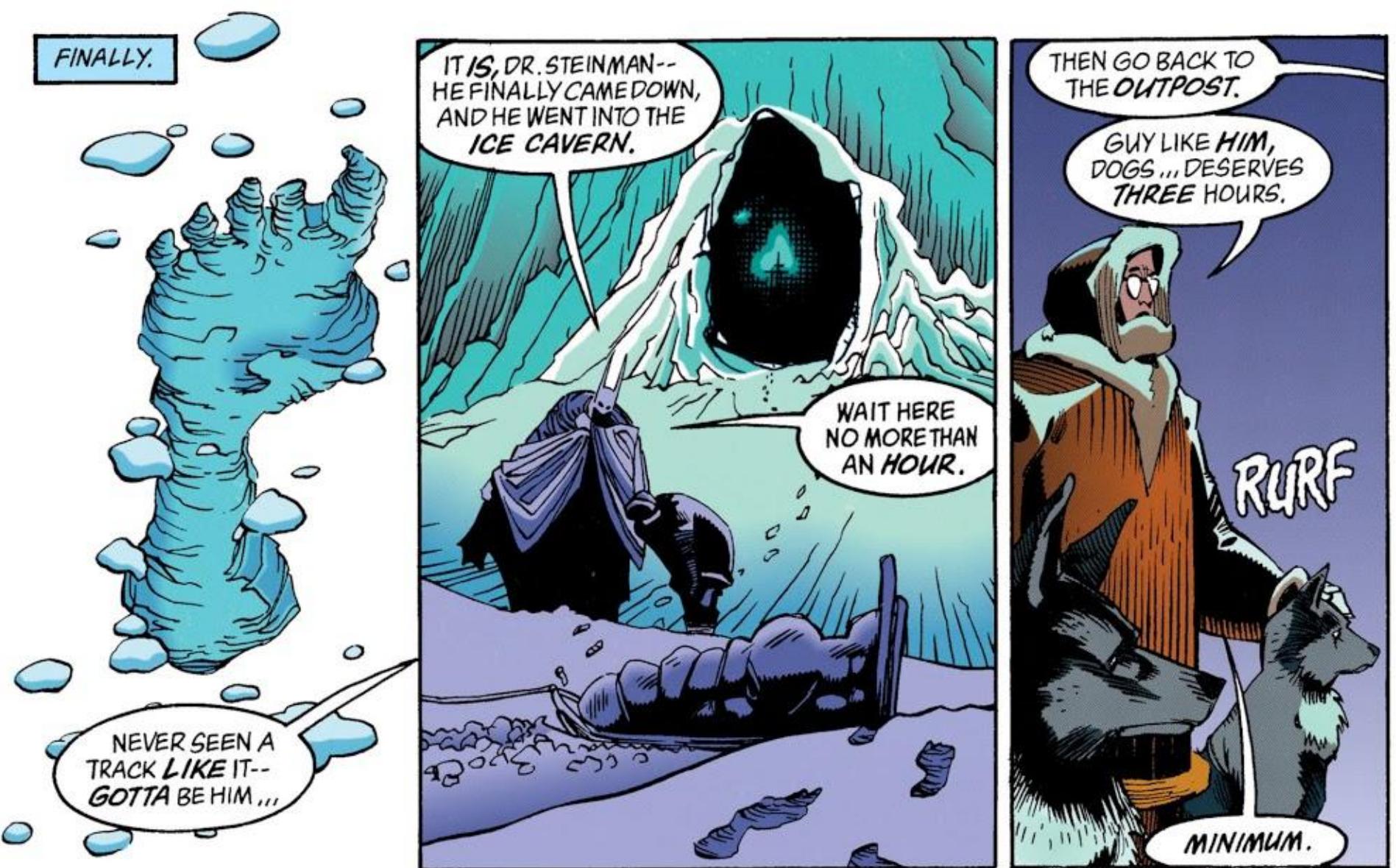
--AND HESSLER'S
VAPORIZED.

ROWF
ROWF











SHLUFT

UNFF!

...LOCATING HIS PREY.

HE'S GIVEN IN TO THE BEAST.

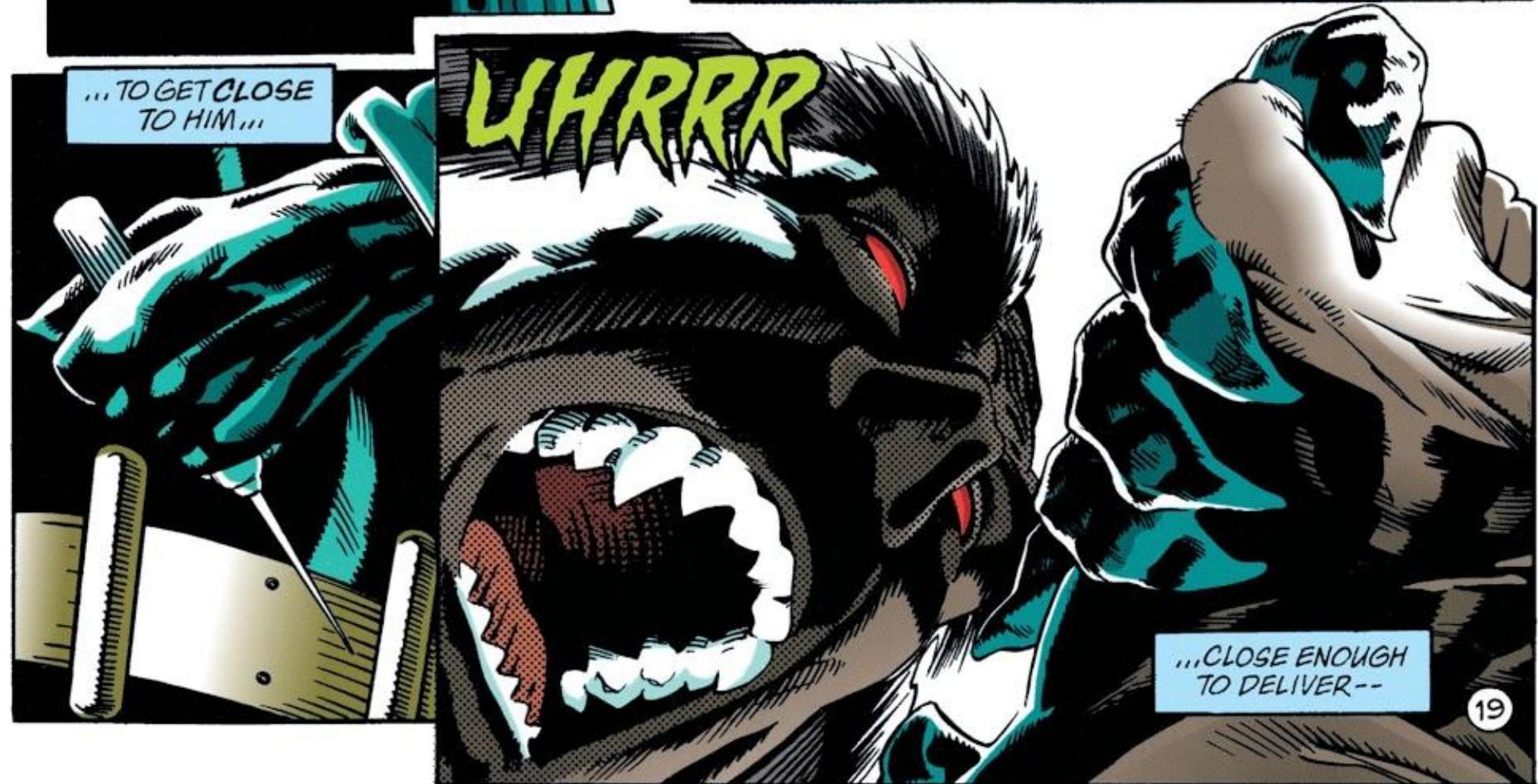
SKUNCHT

KWUMP

I CAN'T DO THE SAME.

ENOUGH, LANGSTROM--!

FWUFFT





DID IT--BUT NOW HE'S
ENRAGED, FLEEING
WITH HIS PREY...

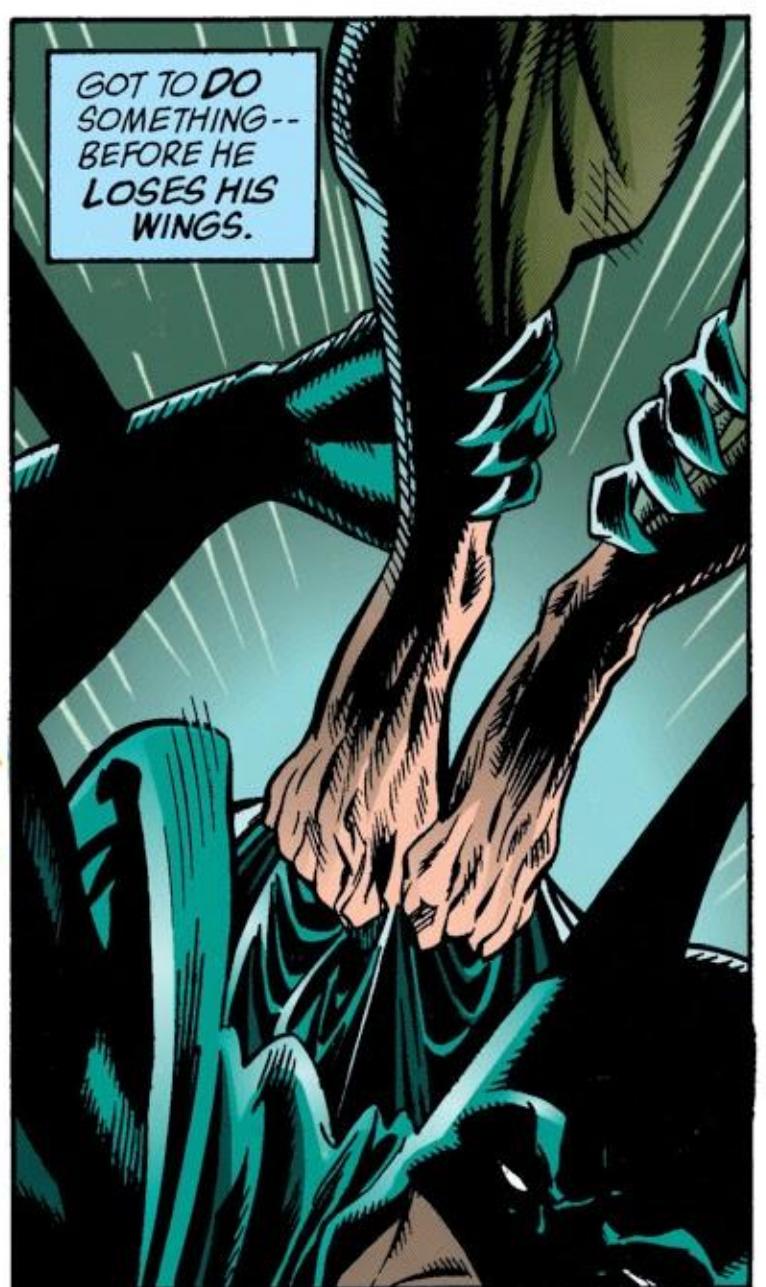
THE ANTIDOTE.



...AND IF THE ANTIDOTE
WORKS, WE'LL BOTH
PLUNGE TO OUR DEATHS.



GET OUT OF
THE AIR, LANGSTROM!
GO DOWN--NOW!





NEXT ISSUE:
CHASING SHADOWS THROUGH MOONLIGHT
MYSTERY, TO THE HAUNTING TUNE OF--

BONEYARD BLUES





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