



NO. 291 SEPT.

30430

BATMAN

AND TO THINK--**I KILLED HIM!**

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

BATMAN
DIED
1977
MAY HE
REST
IN
PEACE
~~BURN IN HELL!~~

WHO IS REALLY GUILTY?
THE RIDDLER? LEX LUTHOR?
THE CATWOMAN? THE JOKER?



ORPHANED AS A CHILD
WHEN A GUNMAN
MURDERED HIS PARENTS,
BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED
HIMSELF TO WAGE
RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST
CRIME. MASQUERADE BY
DAY AS A MILLIONAIRE-MAN-
ABOUT-TOWN, HE PROWLS
THE NIGHT TO PREY ON
THE VERMIN OF THE
UNDERWORLD
AS THE DREAD...

CREATED
BY:
BOB KANE

BAT MAN

THIS IS THE NIGHT
BATMAN DIES!

LET ME DO IT!
HA HA HA!

WITHOUT QUESTION,
I DESERVE THE
HONOR!

I'LL HANDLE
IT--IN STYLE!

IT COULD
NEVER HAPPEN--
BUT IT DID!--AND
THE CAPTAINS OF CRIME
AND THEIR UNDERWORLD LEGIONS
GATHERED TO ASK--AND TO ANSWER--
THE QUESTION NO ONE HAD EVER EXPECTED--

"WHERE WERE YOU
ON THE NIGHT
BATMAN WAS KILLED?"

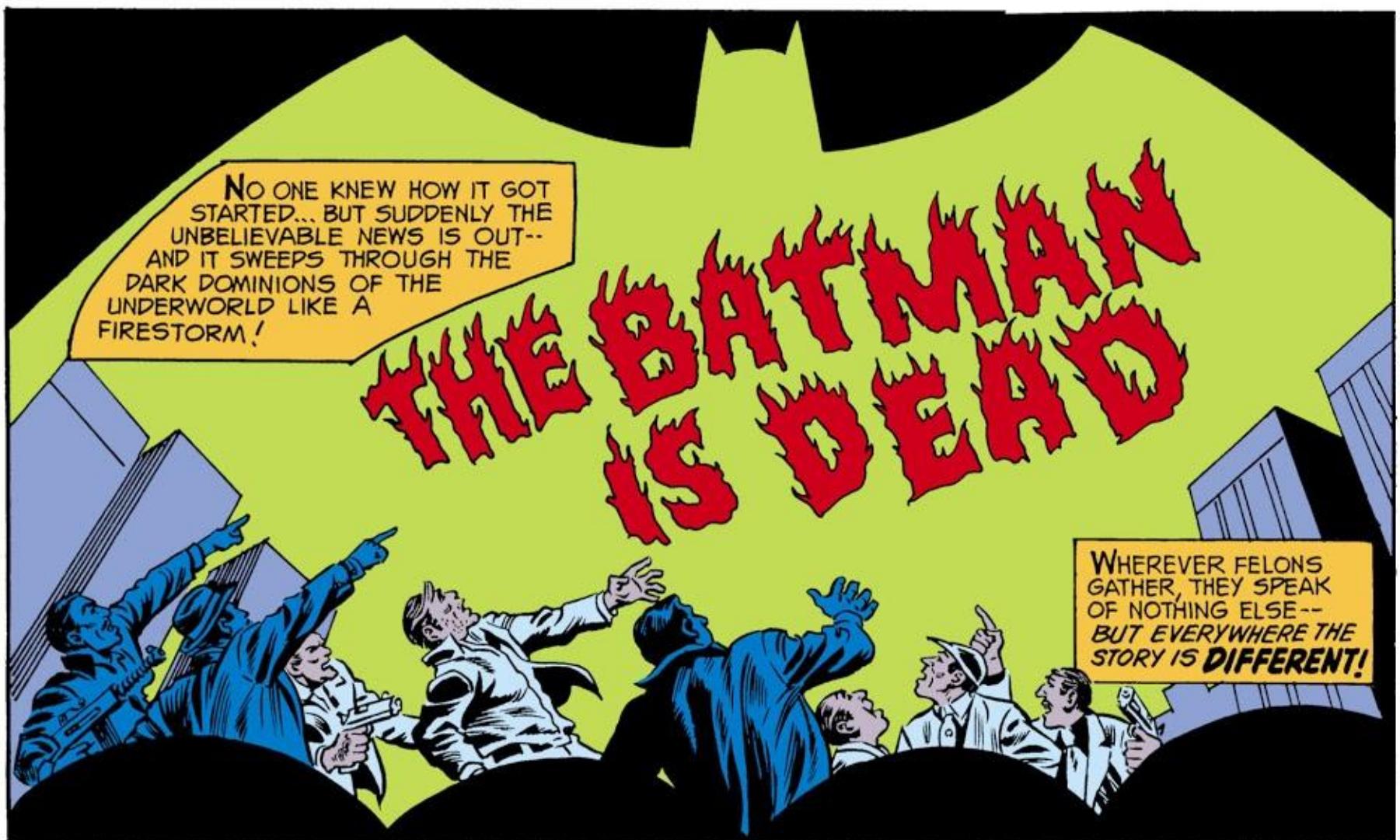
The Testimony of
THE CATWOMAN!

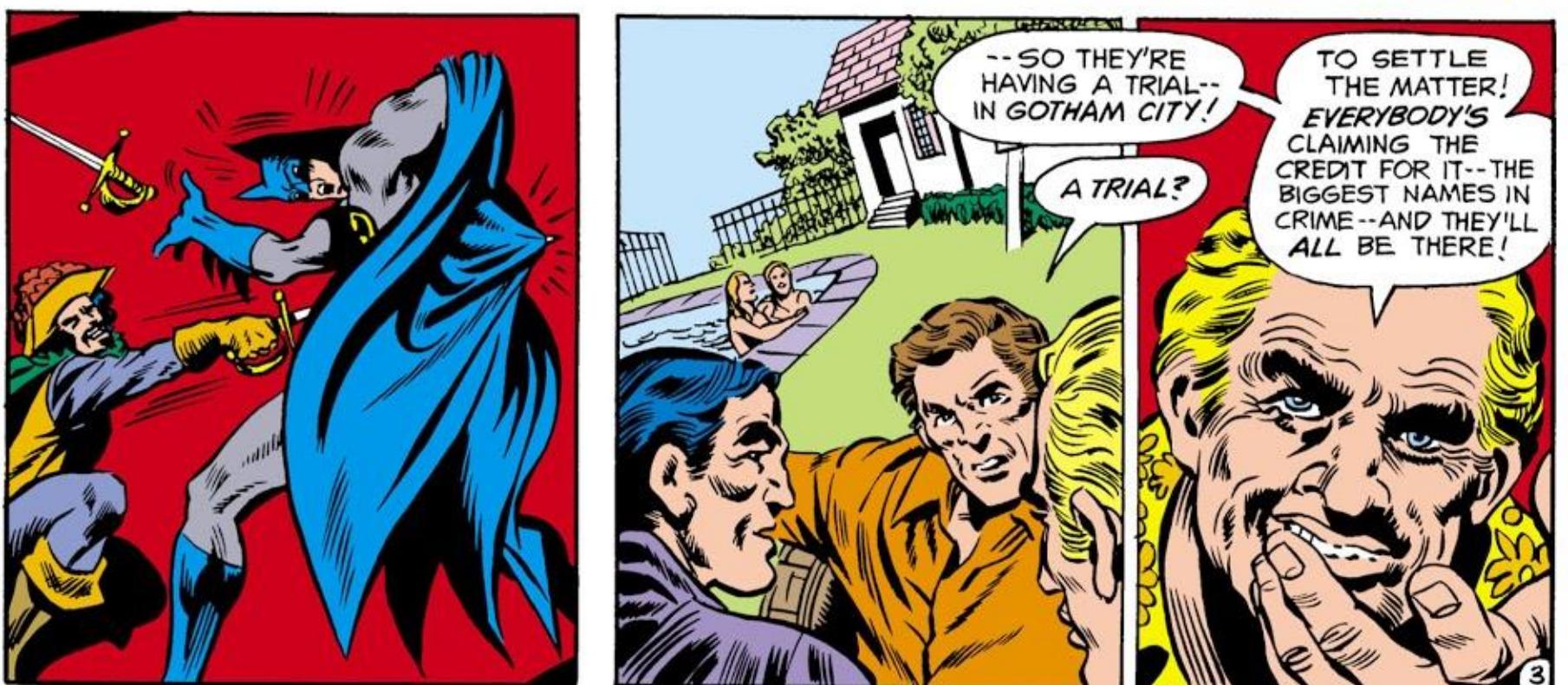
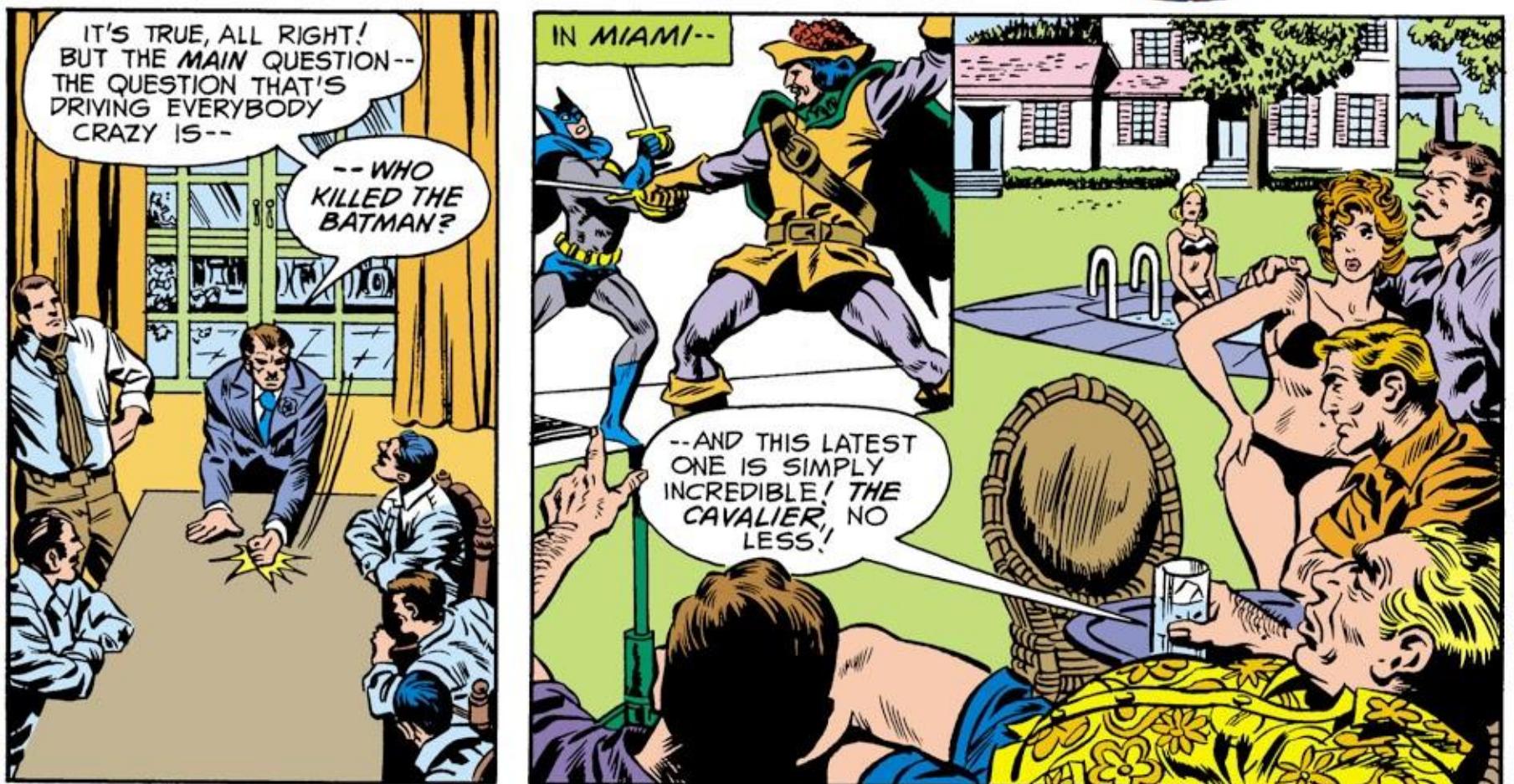


STORY: DAVID V. REED

ART: JOHN CALNAN & TEX BLAISDELL

COLORING: JERRY SERPE





WHATEVER THE CONFLICTING REPORTS AND WILD RUMORS THAT HAVE THE CRIMINAL WORLD IN AN UPROAR, THIS MUCH IS TRUE-- A TRIAL HAS BEEN SET...



...AT THE SECLUDED ESTATE OF COL. JAKE "THE CLAW" VAN CLEEEVE...



IN THESE GUARDED PRECINCTS, ADMISSION ITSELF IS A MARK OF RANK, AND--EXCEPT FOR THOSE STILL DETAINED IN THE SLAMMER--THE AUDIENCE CONSTITUTES THE WHO'S WHO OF OUTLAWRY!

THE JURORS--ILLUSTRIOUS CUT-THROATS ALL--THE MAD HATTER, THE SPOOK, POISON IVY, THE SCARECROW, SIGNALMAN AND MR. FREEZE...



AND THE JUDGE-- THAT INFAMOUS MASTER OF LEGAL INTRICACIES-- RĀS AL GHŪL...

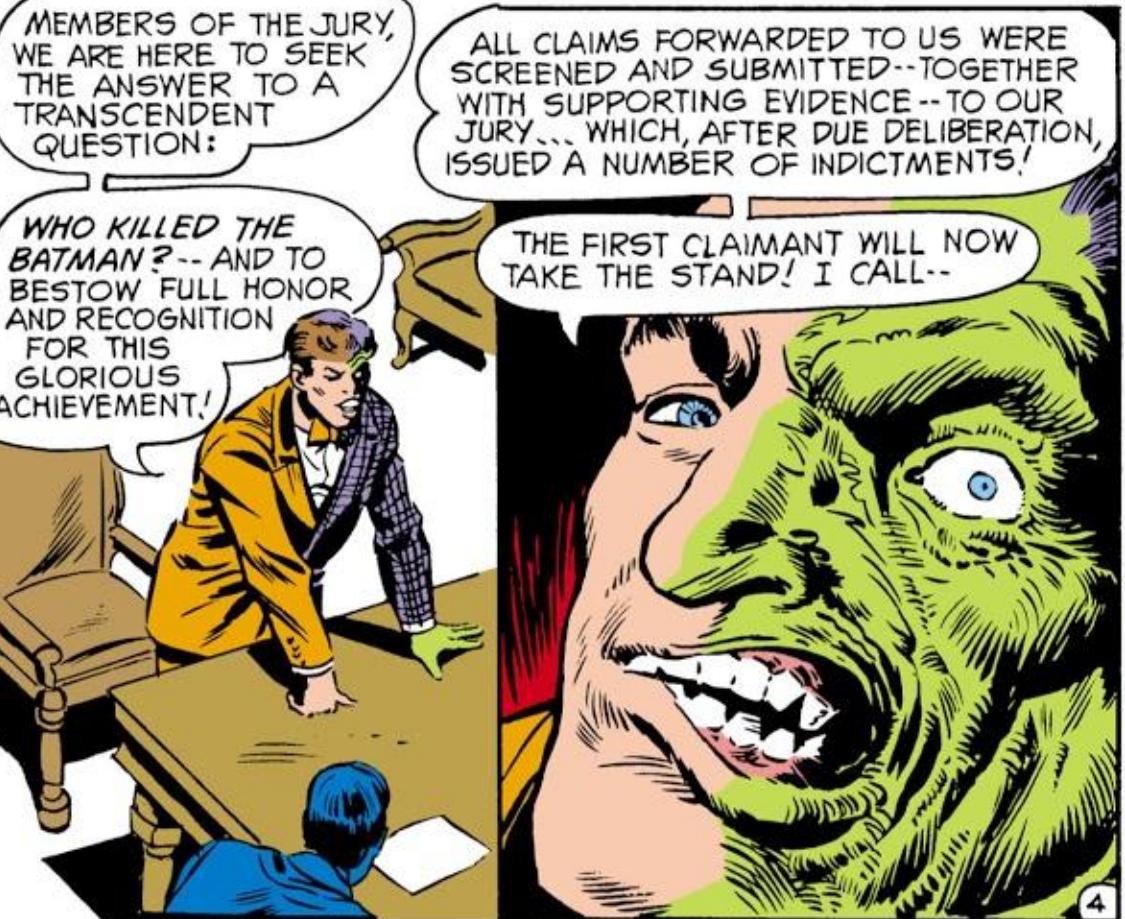
THE TRIAL TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLING OF THE BATMAN WILL NOW BEGIN!

A MURMUR OF APPROVAL RUSTLES THROUGH THE CHAMBER AS THE PROSECUTOR'S IDENTITY NOW BECOMES KNOWN--



MEMBERS OF THE JURY, WE ARE HERE TO SEEK THE ANSWER TO A TRANSCENDENT QUESTION:

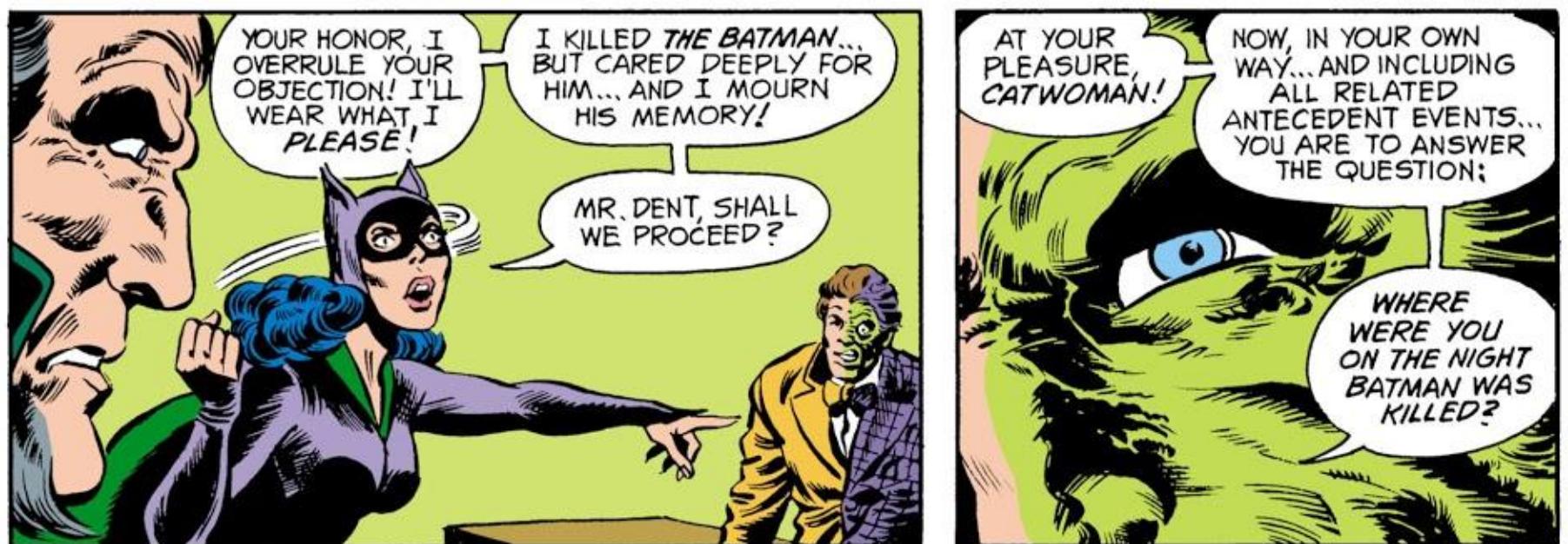
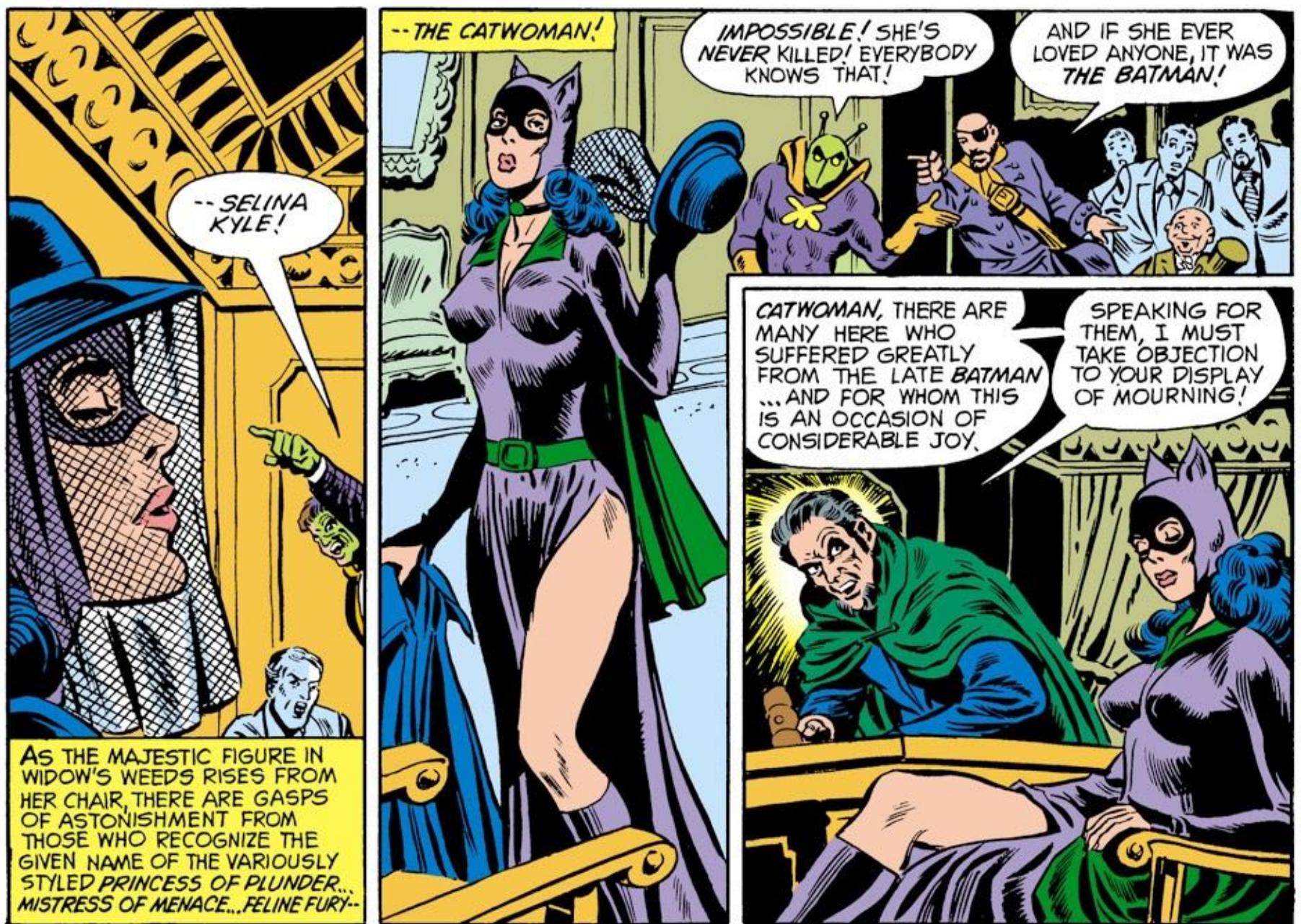
WHO KILLED THE BATMAN?--AND TO BESTOW FULL HONOR AND RECOGNITION FOR THIS GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT!

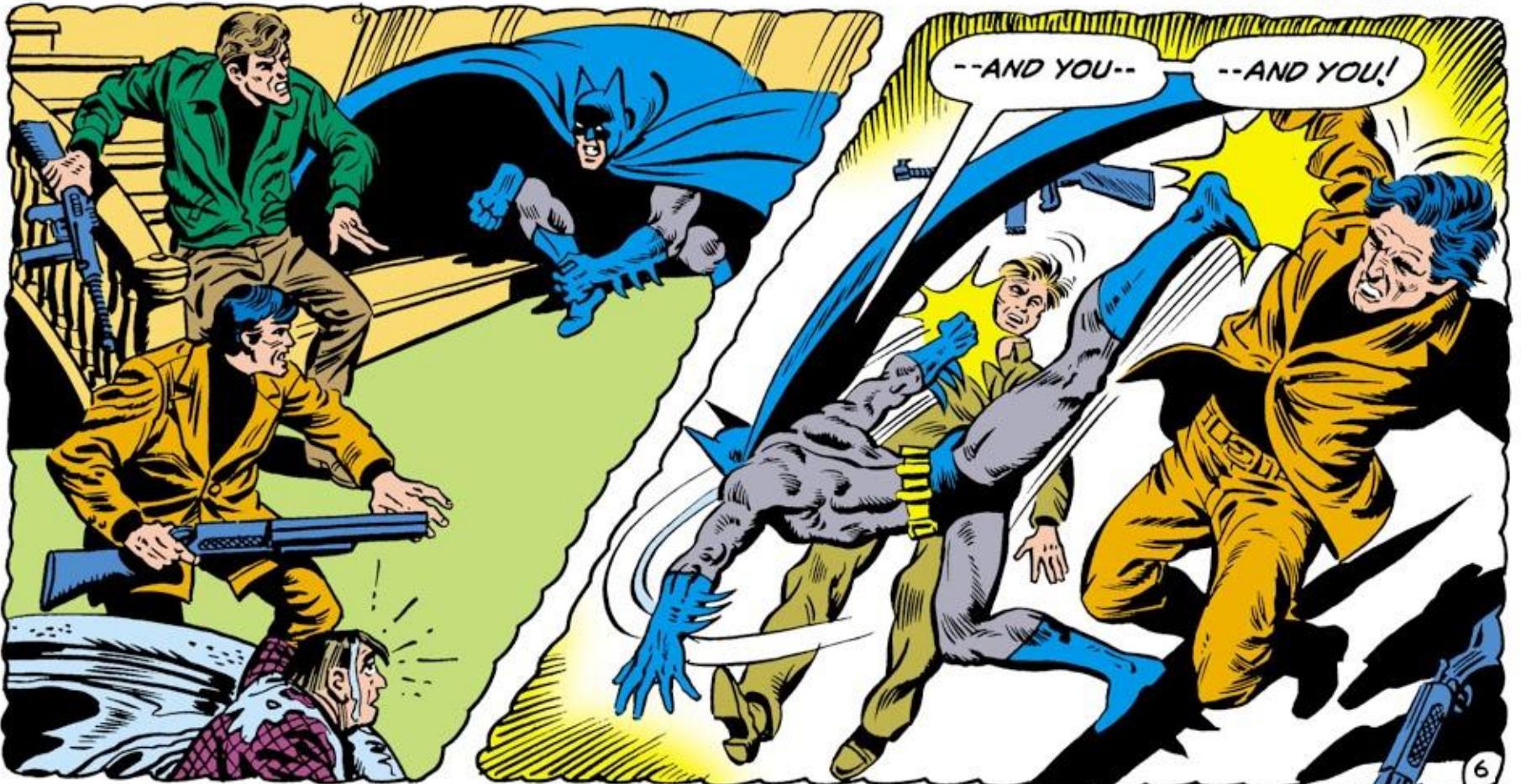
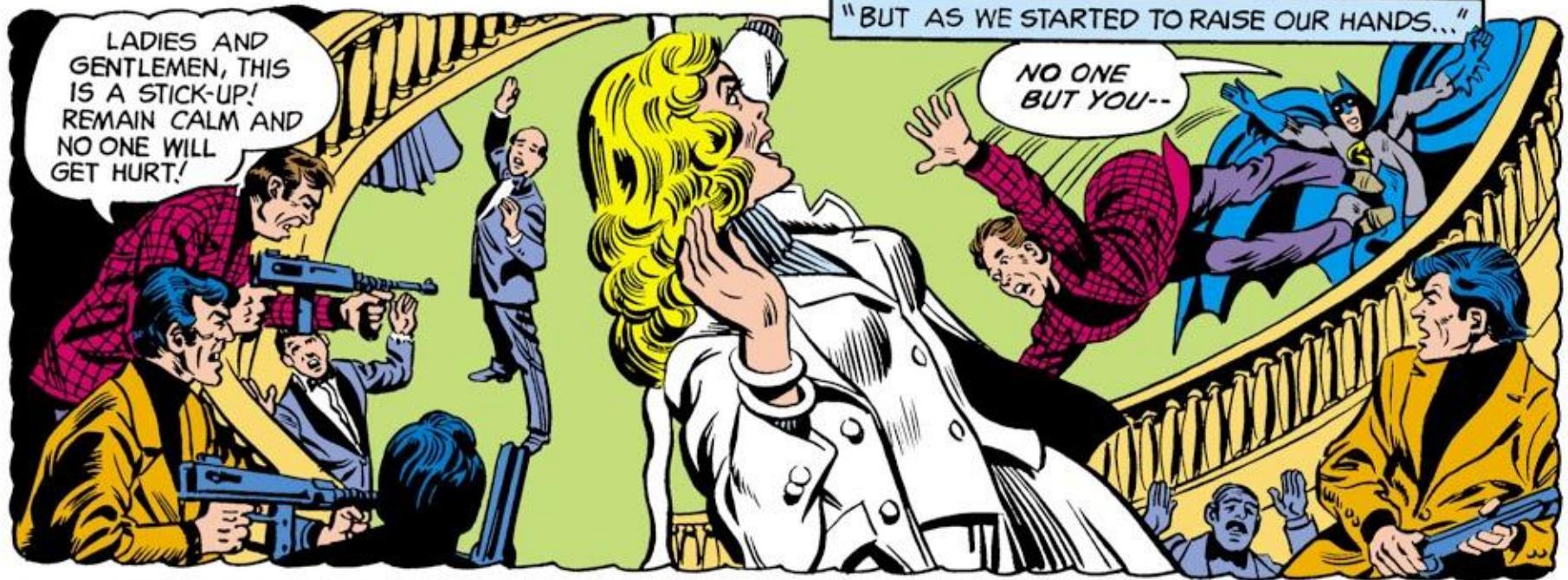
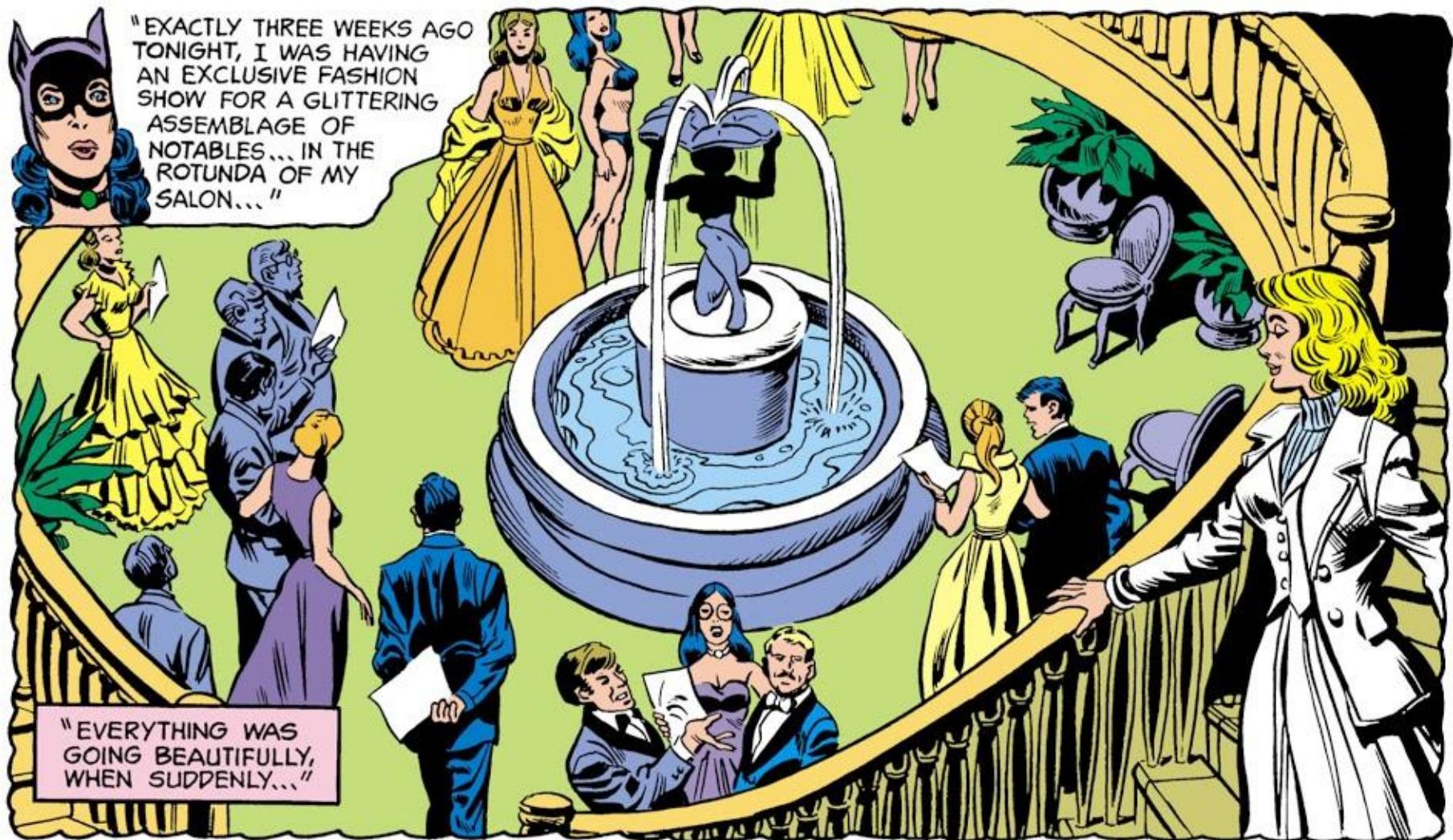


ALL CLAIMS FORWARDED TO US WERE SCREENED AND SUBMITTED--TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING EVIDENCE--TO OUR JURY... WHICH, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, ISSUED A NUMBER OF INDICTMENTS!

THE FIRST CLAIMANT WILL NOW TAKE THE STAND! I CALL--

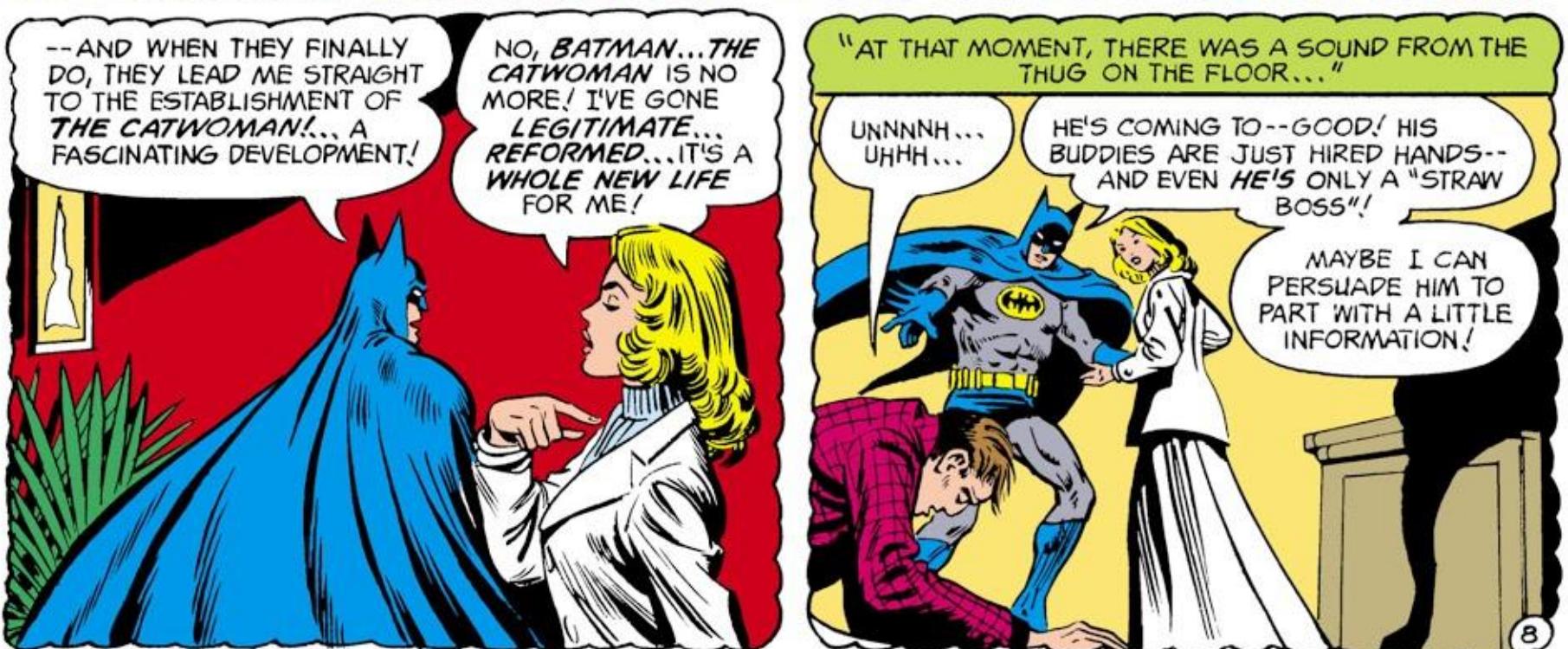
--HARVEY DENT--EX-D.A. AND CURRENT UNDERWORLD GRANDEE-- THE DREADED TWO-FACE--LONG IN EXPERIENCE WITH THE DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL!





"IT WAS SHEER CATASTROPHIC
CATASTROPHE FOR THOSE
CROOKS -- THE BATMAN
AT HIS BEST -- DOING
HIS THING!"





"THE BATMAN KNEELED OVER HIM AND STARTED TO SAY SOMETHING--THEN STOPPED ABRUPTLY--AND I HEARD HIM EXCLAIM UNDER HIS BREATH--"

"BUT NOW THE MAN WAS TALKING... OR TRYING TO... HIS VOICE BARELY AUDIBLE..."

VIBRISSA!

CAN YOU MAKE OUT WHAT HE'S SAYING?

YES--THE SAME THING, OVER AND OVER!

"TWO-FACE!"



IMMEDIATELY--A BREAK IN THE TRIAL!

ARE YOU TELLING ME HE USED MY NAME?

I'M TELLING IT THE WAY IT HAPPENED! NO MORE--NO LESS!

I OBJECT!

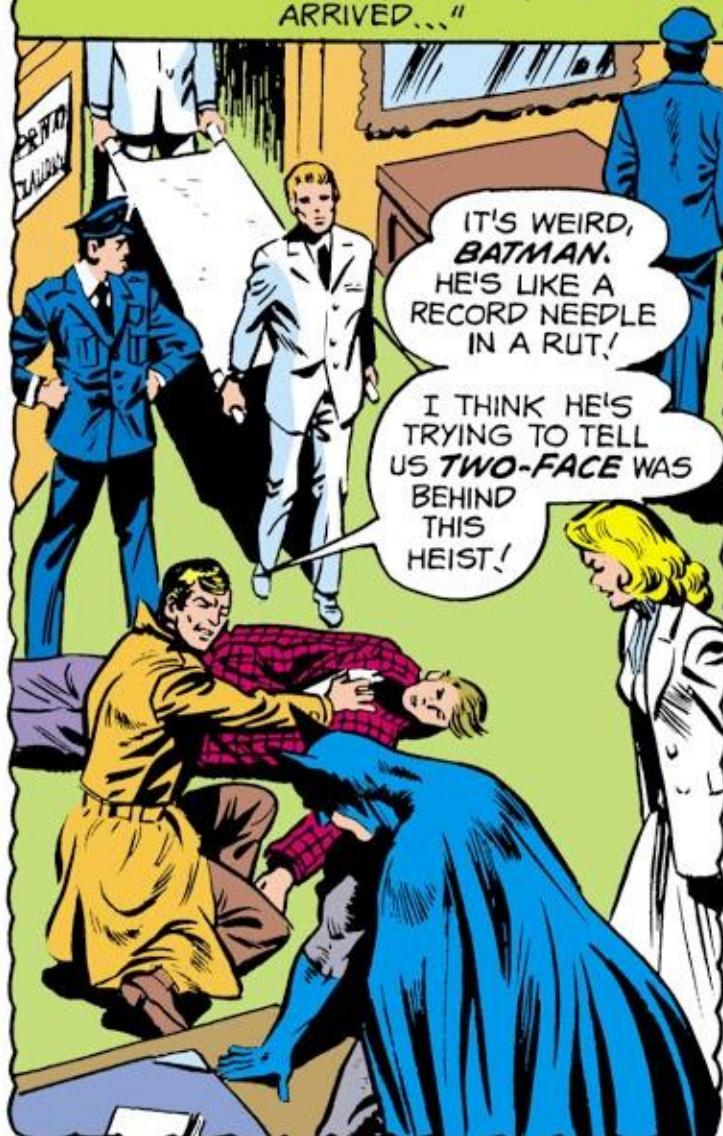
MR. PROSECUTOR, GIVE ME YOUR COIN!



JUDGE GHUL TAKES THE FAMOUS TWO-HEADED SILVER DOLLAR THAT RESOLVES ALL MAJOR DECISIONS FOR ITS OWNER--ONE SIDE WHOLE, THE OTHER SCARRED--AND TOSSES IT!



IT WENT ON LIKE THAT FOR SEVERAL MINUTES... AND THEN, FINALLY, THE POLICE ARRIVED...

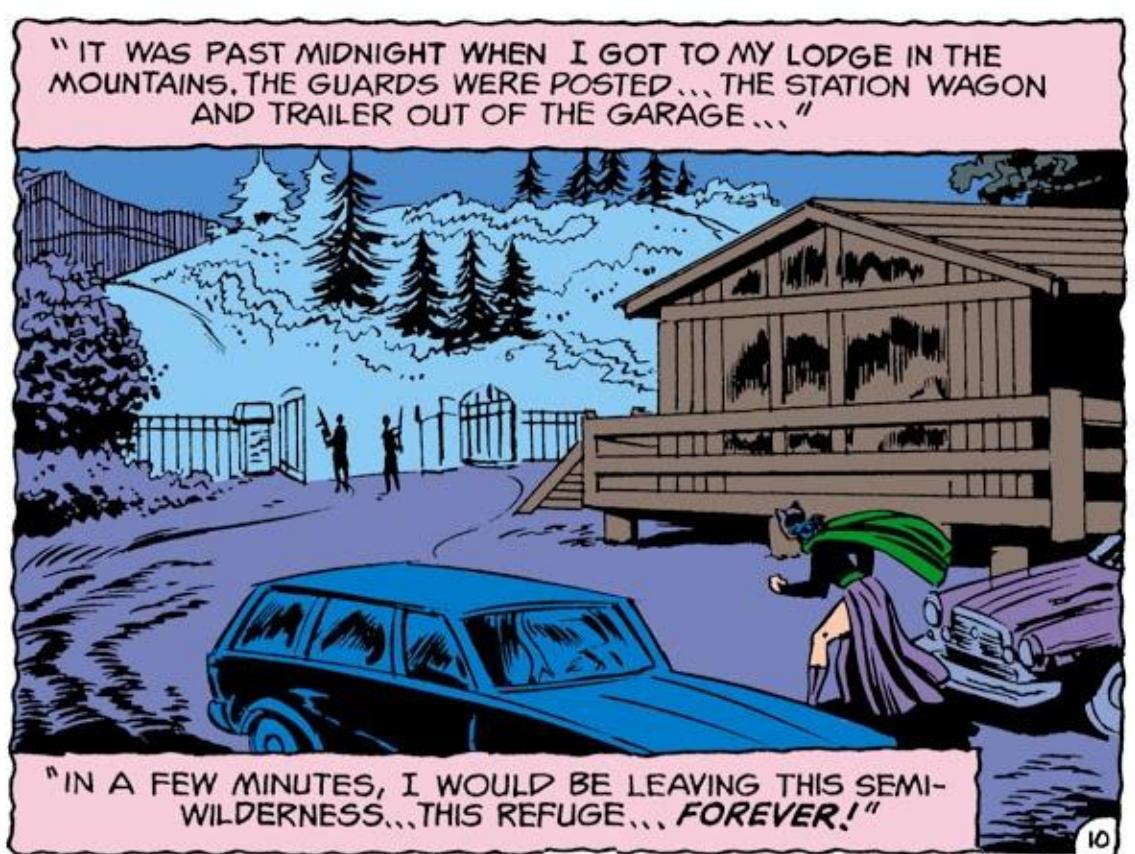
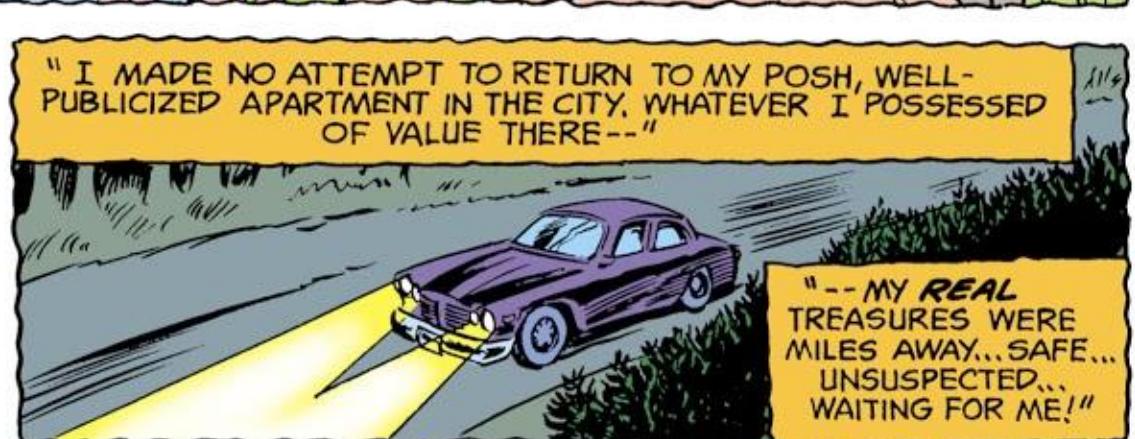


WELL, LIEUTENANT, IF YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE'S A VERY PUZZLING QUESTION TO ANSWER--WHY SHOULD HE BE TELLING US?

ANYWAY, STAY WITH HIM AT THE HOSPITAL. I'LL JOIN YOU THERE SHORTLY.



AFTER WHICH THE CATWOMAN QUIETLY RESUMES ...



"INSIDE, CODY WAS WAITING... ALL WAS IN READINESS..."

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, CODY. I'LL CALL YOU AS SOON AS I'M RELOCATED!

WHAT WENT WRONG?

THE BATMAN! AND HE'LL BE HUNTING ME ONE SECOND AFTER BONGO FINDS HIS TONGUE AGAIN!

SOONER THAN THAT-- MADAME CLAUDINE!

--BUT THE NEXT INSTANT--"

I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW HE GOT THERE-- OR WHERE HE CAME FROM--"

--WE WERE FIGHTING DESPERATELY..."

WISH

WHUMP



"NEVER HAD I SEEN THE BATMAN UNLEASH SUCH FURY... SUCH MIGHT!"

"IT WAS PATHETIC, REALLY--WE WERE NO MATCH AT ALL FOR HIM!"



"AND NEITHER WERE MY OUTSIDE GUARDS--THEIR WEAPONS USELESS WITH CODY AND ME SO DANGEROUSLY CLOSE!"



"IT WAS OVER IN A HURRY..."

PROUD OF YOURSELF?

NOT ESPECIALLY! YOU MADE THINGS
TOO EASY...ONE MISTAKE AFTER ANOTHER!

SUCH AS--?

THAT THUG IN YOUR
OFFICE! HE DUCKED
IN THERE BECAUSE
HE WAS WORKING
FOR YOU!
TONIGHT IT WAS
A BRAZEN
MASS HEIST...

CLICK

...BUT YOU'VE BEEN
RIPPING OFF YOUR
CELEBRITY CLIENTS
ALL ALONG, BASED ON
THE INFORMATION YOU
COULD GET!

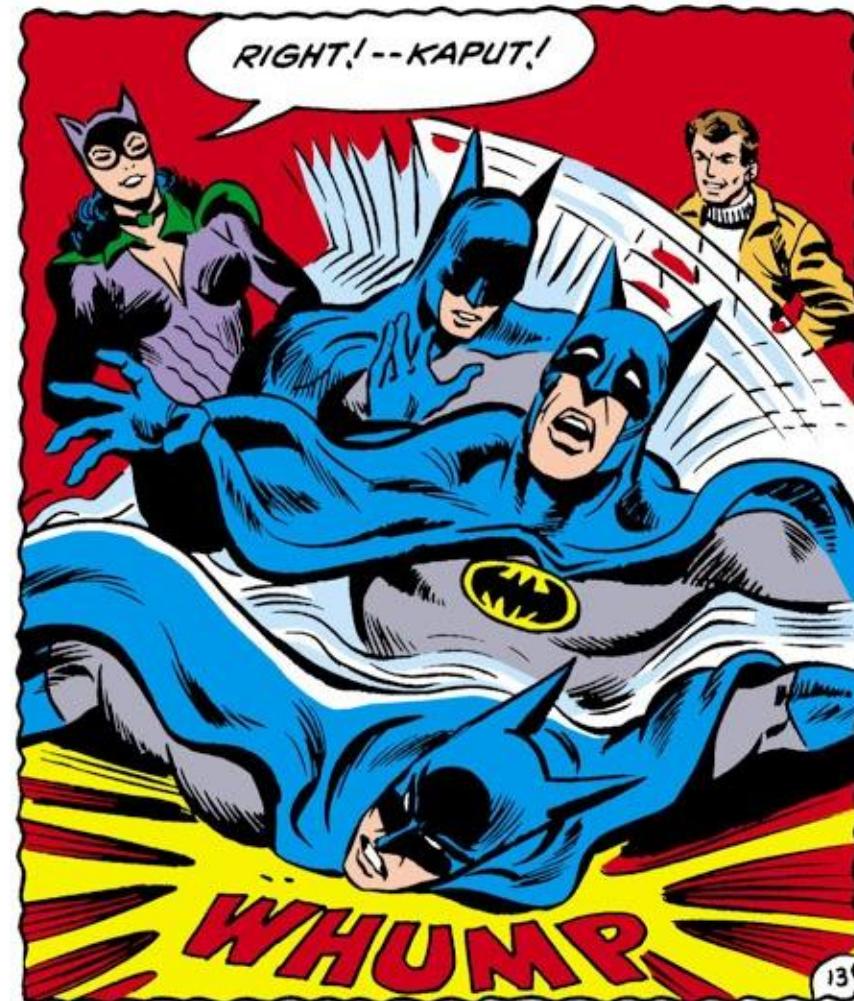
THAT POOR DEVIL
EXPECTED HELP
FROM YOU--NOT
BEING INJECTED
WITH A DRUG...
APPARENTLY
ONE OF YOUR
LATEST
WEAPONS...

...THAT INSTANTLY PRODUCED
CATAPHASIA IN HIM--THE CONSTANT
REPITITION OF THE SAME WORD!
THAT'S WHY HE KEPT ACCUSING YOU--
CALLING YOU TWO-FACED!

AND TO MAKE MATTERS
EVEN MORE CLEAR, I
FOUND THREE LONG
VIBRISSA--

--WHISKER HAIRS--
FROM THAT BABY--
STILL CLINGING TO
HIS CLOTHES FROM
WHO KNOWS WHEN!

AND HOW MANY PEOPLE IN
GOTHAM KEEP A JAGUAR--
EVEN IF THEY HAVE TO HIDE
IT AWAY...TO BE VISITED
OCCASIONALLY...BECAUSE
OTHERWISE THE WHOLE
INCOCNITO--THE SO-CALLED
NEW LIFE--GOES KAPUT!?



"I LEFT HIM THERE! ALL I TOOK WITH ME WERE MY CATS AND THE LARGE CHEST--"

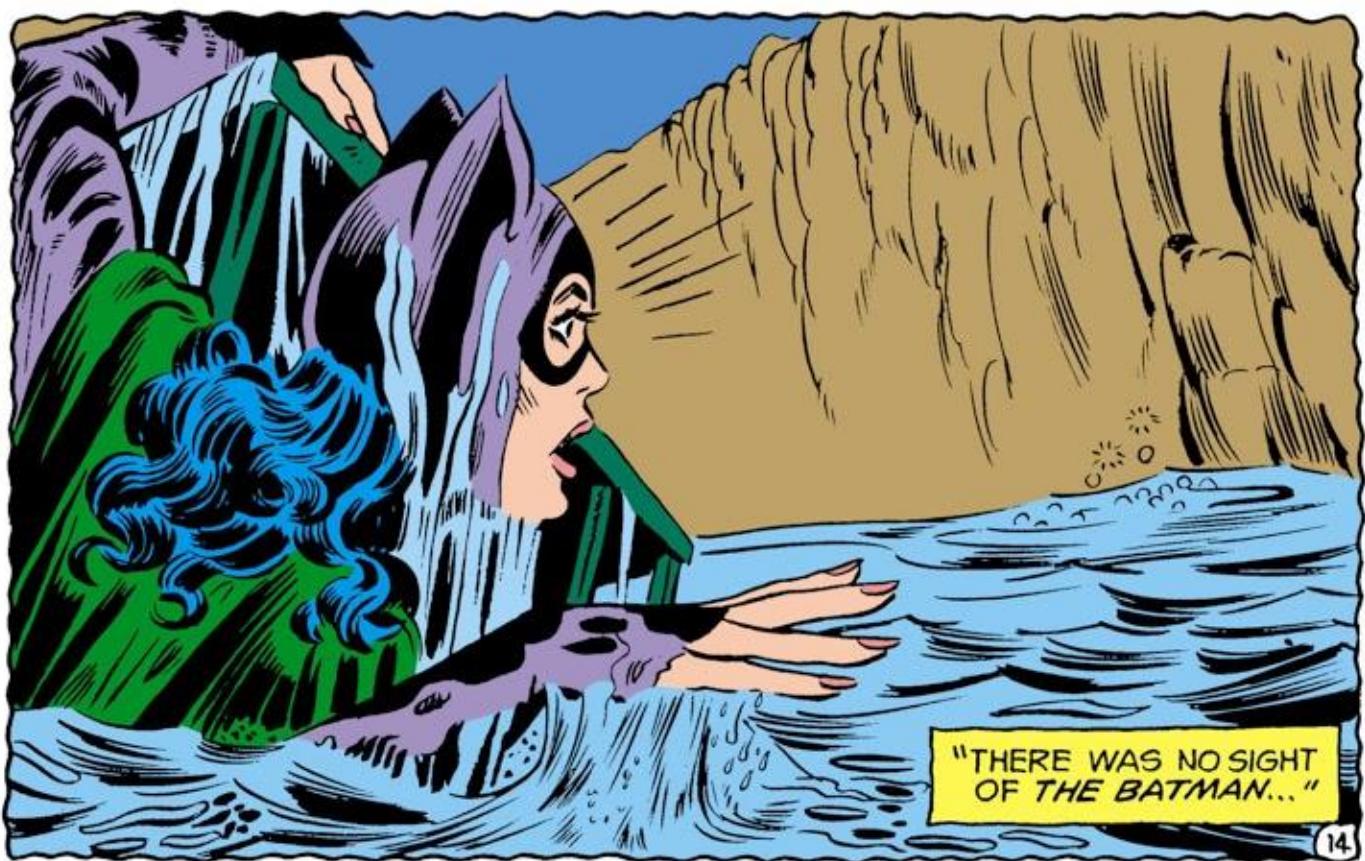
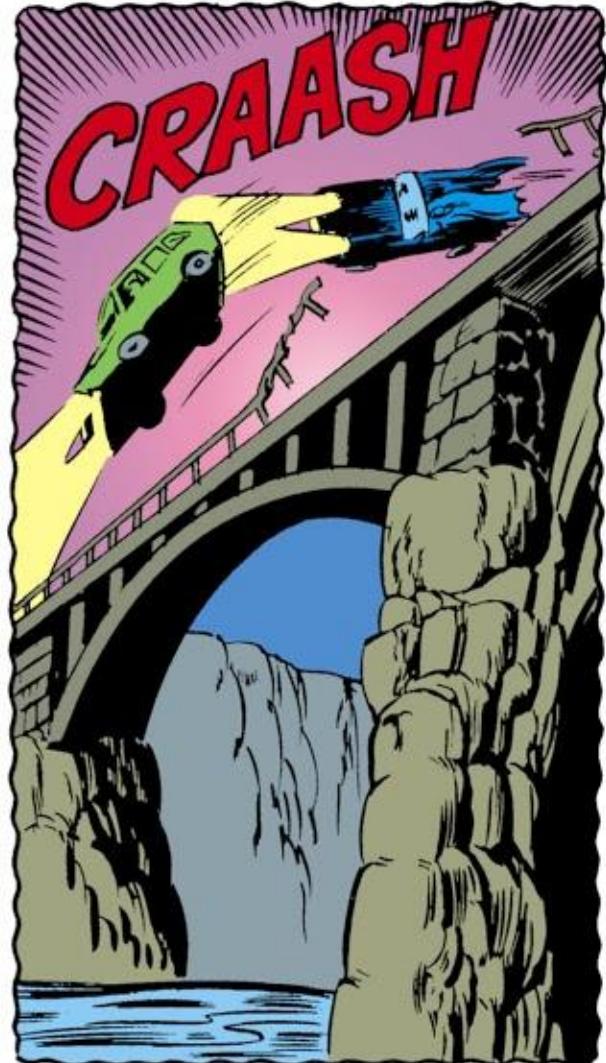
"AND IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE MADE ANY DIFFERENCE--"

"MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MY OWN CAR, WHICH WAS MUCH FASTER... BUT THERE WASN'T ROOM FOR EVERYTHING..."

--BECAUSE--WITHIN MINUTES--THE BATMAN WAS AFTER ME! IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE--BUT THOSE WERE THE HEADLIGHT BEAMS OF THE BATMOBILE!"



"BY THE TIME I REACHED THE GORGE BRIDGE, HE WAS CLOSING FAST--AND I KNEW ESCAPE WAS IMPOSSIBLE--UNLESS I TRIED SOMETHING DESPERATE!"



"THERE WAS NO SIGHT OF THE BATMAN..."

"THE WALLS OF THE GORGE
WERE SHEER CLIFFS... WITH
NO HANDHOLD OF ANY KIND
FOR HALF A MILE--"

"THEN, THE BATMAN CAME
UP... BADLY INJURED...
GRIPPING THE CAGE..."

"THE CAGE COULDN'T SUSTAIN
ALL OF US! TO SAVE THE
BATMAN, I EITHER HAD TO
SACRIFICE THE CHEST--
LOADED WITH TREASURE
IT HAD TAKEN ME A YEAR TO
ACCUMULATE--OR MY BIG CAT--"

--AND THE RIVER, SWOLLEN
WITH SPRING RAINS, WAS LIKE
ICE! NOTHING HUMAN COULD
SURVIVE IN THAT WATER
FOR MORE THAN A FEW
MINUTES..."

"BUT WE WERE BARELY
AFLOAT--AND HIS WEIGHT
WAS PULLING US DOWN!"

"SO I MADE MY CHOICE!"

"HE SANK BENEATH THE
FOAMING WATERS... AND
THAT WAS THE LAST I
... OR ANYONE ELSE...
WILL EVER SEE OF
THE BATMAN!"

