



REVEALED
AT LAST!

THE SECRET OF
RA'S AL GHUL!

50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 335
MAY

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY

BATMAN®



C-563



Flying
Helicopter
Goes Up To
50-Ft High!
Only \$2.95

Flying authentic replica of helicopter used by armed forces. Giant 16" wingspread. High impact plastic.
 2065. Flying Helicopter \$2.95

SLOT Machine BANK

Las Vegas Replica. Take a chance. Insert coin, pull "one arm bandit" and watch dials spin. Big payoff if you hit! Collect money for your bank. Smooth action. 6" high. Not for gambling.
 4082. Slot Bank \$8.95



Secret Book Safe

Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money, etc. hidden away. 4 x 6 x 1 1/2".
 4012. Book Safe \$2.95

Vibrating Shocker

Small hand-held instrument that simulates electric shock. Shake hands or touch somebody and it gives off spine-tingling "shock!"
 2955. Joy Buzzer \$1.15

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Pleasant surprise and bargain. Includes new samples, factory surplus, special novelties, etc. Most worth much more.
 2997. Surprise Bargain \$1.00

9518. Deluxe Surprise Bargain \$2.95



POLICE STYLE

HANDCUFFS

9043. Handcuffs with Keys \$6.95

9048. Handcuff Case \$2.49

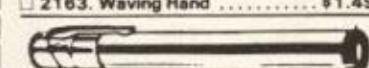
Crazy-Action Billiard Balls

Great way to break up a serious game of pool. Looks like regular ball until your unsuspecting victim hits it. Wanders erratically all over table with strangest "English" you've ever seen. Regulation size.
 2961. Crazy Cue Ball \$4.95
 2967. Crazy 8 Ball \$4.95

\$1.49

RAINBOW WAVING HAND

Bright, colorful, full size plastic hand mounts with flexible suction cup on any smooth surface. For cars, vans, trucks, doors, windows, etc. As hand "waves," large silver prism dots on fingers change colors to provide a constant glittering rainbow effect.
 2163. Waving Hand \$1.49



Pocket Spy Telescope

Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.
 6724. Spy Scope \$2.25

AIR CAR HOVERCRAFT RIDES ON AIR!

New HOVERCRAFT glides like magic over floors, sidewalks. EVEN WATER! Sleek car of the future uses principle of air suspension to ride on cushion of air above most any surface. Colorful plastic. 8"x9"x2" high. 4" propeller. 48" control line from push button remote control unit. Simply press switch and this beauty rises and floats in any direction you wish. Illustrates frictionless motion principles of full size experimental vehicles already in use. Not a kit. Ready-to-run except for 2 "D" batteries (not included).
 7608. Hover Craft \$7.95



X-RAY VISION Specs

Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical illusion.
 3762. XRAY Specs Only \$1.85

MIDGET CAMERA

\$1.95

K4906. Midget Camera \$1.95
 K4907. Black/white 127 film, roll \$1.65
 K4903. Kodak Color Film, roll \$2.55

Hand Timer

Fun timer for non-professional events such as model races, sports, etc. Full pocket-watch size with chain link. Spring operated. Start and stop button. Sweep hand. Calibrated dial. 2020. Hand Timer \$1.69



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Get FREE articles, novelties, books, stamps, coins, show tickets, games, films, products, maps, toys, food-drug samples, science materials, records, jewelry, hobbies, travel info., etc. Mammoth directory of over 1000 free offers with names and addresses. 64 pages.
 1018. "Things Free" Directory \$1.25



Red Flasher Light

\$3.75 Police Style Warning Light. Big dome flashes on & off in bright red light visible far away. With suction cup base. Sticks tightly to any smooth surface like top of car. Runs on flashlight batteries. About 4".
 7855. Flasher \$3.75

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Learn Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Boxing, Wrestling, Muscle Building, Self Defense Tricks. Well illustrated, easy to understand paper covered books. Up to 95 pages long.
 1285. 50 Tricks of Self Defense \$1.49
 1056. How to Build Mighty Muscles \$1.49
 1271. How to Box \$1.00
 1286. Combat Judo \$1.49

SNAKE NUT CAN \$2.95

Offer to friends or leave on table or counter, stand back & watch the fun. Somebody is sure to want to help themselves sooner or later. Looks like real can of mixed nuts but is loaded with cloth-covered 30" spring "snake" that shoots out. Works on even most suspicious victims.
 2927. Snake Nut Can \$2.95

Hercules Wrist Band

\$1.65 Gives rugged, masculine appearance. Double strap for "he-man" look. Adjustable. Get two - one for each arm. Genuine leather.
 2112. Each \$1.65
Set of 2, \$2.95

1001 Insults, Putdowns, For All Occasions

A putdown, barb, wisecrack or snappy comeback for every occasion. Find one to fit every situation, every type person.
 1171. Insult Encyclopedia \$1.35

SQUIRT LIGHTER

\$3.95 Funniest "Bic Flick" ever! Real disposable Bic butane lighter is gimmicked so that unsuspecting victim gets face full of water. Easy to reload. Use over & over.
 2023. Squirt Lighter \$3.95

Super Insult Cards

Silent revenge for those who like to "Get Even," not mad. 50 little cards printed with barbs & putdowns for most every occasion. Tells 'em off without wasting your time & breath.
 2500. Insult Cards \$99

GIANT BALLOONS

\$5.95 8-Ft. High BALLOONS Weather balloon made of neoprene rubber. Do entertaining stunts, advertising effects, science fun, etc. 24 ft. around. Can be seen for miles.
 3010. 8 Ft. Balloon \$5.95

VENTRILLOQUIST DUMMY

\$3.49 Exclusive Import Bargain Make Him Move, Act Life-Like, Seem to Talk, Sing, Laugh.
 7052. Pen Radio \$3.75

Guaranteed To Take Pictures! Black & White or Color! Uses standard 127 film. Takes 16 wallet size or 3 1/2 x 5" shots per roll. Get developed anywhere or develop yourself. Camera is approx. size of cigarette pack. 3 1/2 x 3 x 2". Weighs less than 2 oz. For surprise, regular or candid pictures. Heavy-duty plastic construction. With eye-level viewfinder. Single action shutter with lens.
 6156. Archie The Dummy \$3.49
 6075. Dumbo The Clown \$3.49

\$1.95
\$1.65
\$2.55

K4906. Midget Camera \$1.95
K4907. Black/white 127 film, roll \$1.65
K4903. Kodak Color Film, roll \$2.55

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JOHNSON SMITH COMPANY

Dept. 332, 35075 Automation, Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043

Things You Never Knew Existed

Since 1914

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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ELECTRONIC LIE & LOVE DETECTOR

USEFUL & FUN GREAT GIFT!

Registers emotions, feelings, reactions.

Test lovers, friends, relatives for lies, compatibility. Great for party fun, scientific, psychological experiments. Works similar to expensive polygraph lie detector, but now available in low-priced transistorized pocket model. Easy to use. Hand-held electrodes. Easy-read dial. Complete instructions. About 4" x 3". Operates on standard battery (not incl.). In attractive gift box.
 9108. Lie/Love Tester \$5.95

\$1.95

Joke Gum

Pucker Gum, Putrid.

2738. Pkg. of 5 69¢

Red Hot Gum, Blazing.

2724. Pkg. of 5 69¢

Garlic Gum, Awful.

2735. Pkg. of 5 69¢

\$1.95

BLEEDING SKULL CANDLE

Most chilling horror effect we've seen in years. When lit, brilliant red "blood" oozes over the forehead & down the face. Great for haunted houses, parties, room decoration. About 4 1/2" tall.
 3072. Skull Candle \$2.49

\$1.95

Giant Puppet Eagle

Looks mean. Big 12" wingspan.

Realistic flying look as he dangles from his heavy elastic string. Made of soft, pliable rubber. Excellent detail.
 3119. Puppet Eagle \$1.95

\$1.95

Foam Lighter

Looks harmless enough ... until they try to use it to light up. What happens next is unbelievable!

Special gimmicked lighter erupts like a volcano, shooting & gushing foam several feet into the air. Creates shower of fun & laughs.

Complete with "ammo" for about 20 "blasts." Water soluble. Won't stain. Additional refills available.
 2059. Volcano Lighter \$5.95

2060. Refill \$2.95

\$1.95

1000 TINY MAGNETS

For car, bike, room, most anywhere. Each brightly colored foam rubber die is 2 1/4" high.

Pair is connected with 6" string.
 2004. Foam Dice 99¢

\$1.95

Giant Foam Dice

For car, bike, room, most anywhere. Each brightly colored foam rubber die is 2 1/4" high.

Pair is connected with 6" string.
 3118. Finger Smoke 99¢

\$1.95

Squirrel Call

Brings them right to you. Hand operated.
 4290. Only \$1.95

\$1.95

Magnet Lifts 100 Pounds!

Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLID STEEL! Tested & proven on steel block. GO TREASURE HUNTING. Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Pocket size.
 4005. Lifts 50 lbs. \$4.25
 4055. Lifts 100 lbs. \$6.25

\$1.95

Motorized Submarine

Sturdy 7 1/2" plastic submarine cuts through water powered by battery operated heavy-duty underwater motor. Runs on pen-cell battery. 5" motor is waterproof sealed, with adjustable rubber & built-in switch.
 2992. Submarine \$2.95

\$1.95

Motorized Flying Jet

Authentic replica of Phantom Jet Fighter really flies. Amazing speed. Hangs from ceiling by means of included self-stick mount & several feet of near invisible line. Ready-to-fly except for standard batteries (not incl.). On-off switch. 7 1/2" long.
 2083. Jet Fighter \$3.95

\$1.95

Prismatic Decals

Brilliant colors. Stick anywhere. With light

diffracting prismatic background. Firebird is 7" wide. Snake is 3 1/2" wide.
 7908. Firebird \$2.95
 7909. American Snake \$1.35

\$1.95

Big Bang Fun Snaps

Real Bang-Up Fun Squeeze 'em! Toss 'em! Step on 'em! Gives BIG BANG!

Amazingly loud, yet you can pop them between your fingers without harm. Box of 50. 2 for \$2.75.
 2051. Fun Snaps \$1.49

\$1.95

Free 1981 Catalog 1600 Novelties

World Famous catalog of novelties, pranks, jokes, cloth patches, hobbies, scientific supplies, fun-makers, planes & boats, gadgets, time-savers, photo & optical goods, jewelry, disguises, music items, stamps, coins, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, bikes & accessories, telescopes, banks, office & artist supplies, engines, motors, sports, books, models, magic, much more.

Yes - Send Me Your Catalog. I have enclosed 10¢ postage (Canadian 50¢).

JOHNSON SMITH COMPANY

Dept

FROM THE DIARY OF AL TALMUN, 17TH CENTURY HISTORIAN:

"HE HAD SO MUCH TO OFFER, BUT HIS OFFERINGS WERE EVIL. HE HELD THE SECRETS OF LIFE, BUT PREFERRED TO DEAL IN DEATH. HE WAS A TYRANT AND A BUTCHER BECAUSE HE CARED FOR NEITHER THE LIVING NOR THE DEAD. HE WAS AN IMMORTAL WHO TO BECOME IMMORTAL HAD GIVEN HIS SOUL IN EXCHANGE. HIS NAME WAS RA'S AL GHUL AND HE WAS BORN IN THE FIERY PITS OF HELL. MAY HE RETURN FROM WHENCE HE CAME."

HEED MY WORDS,
BATMAN, AND THINK
CAREFULLY BEFORE
YOU SPEAK.

OBEY ME AND
I OFFER YOU
IMMORTALITY!

REFUSE ME, AND
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS
WILL DIE!

NOW, BATMAN, CHOOSE
AND CHOOSE WISELY!

the LAZARUS AFFAIR

CONCLUDING A FOUR-PART NOVEL FEATURING

THE

BAT-MAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

CHAPTER FOUR

ASHES TO ASHES!

MARY WOLFMAN
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IRV NOVICK &
FRANK McLAUGHLIN
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BEN ODA
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
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BATMAN® (USPS 045-340), Vol. 42, No. 335, May, 1981. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1981 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
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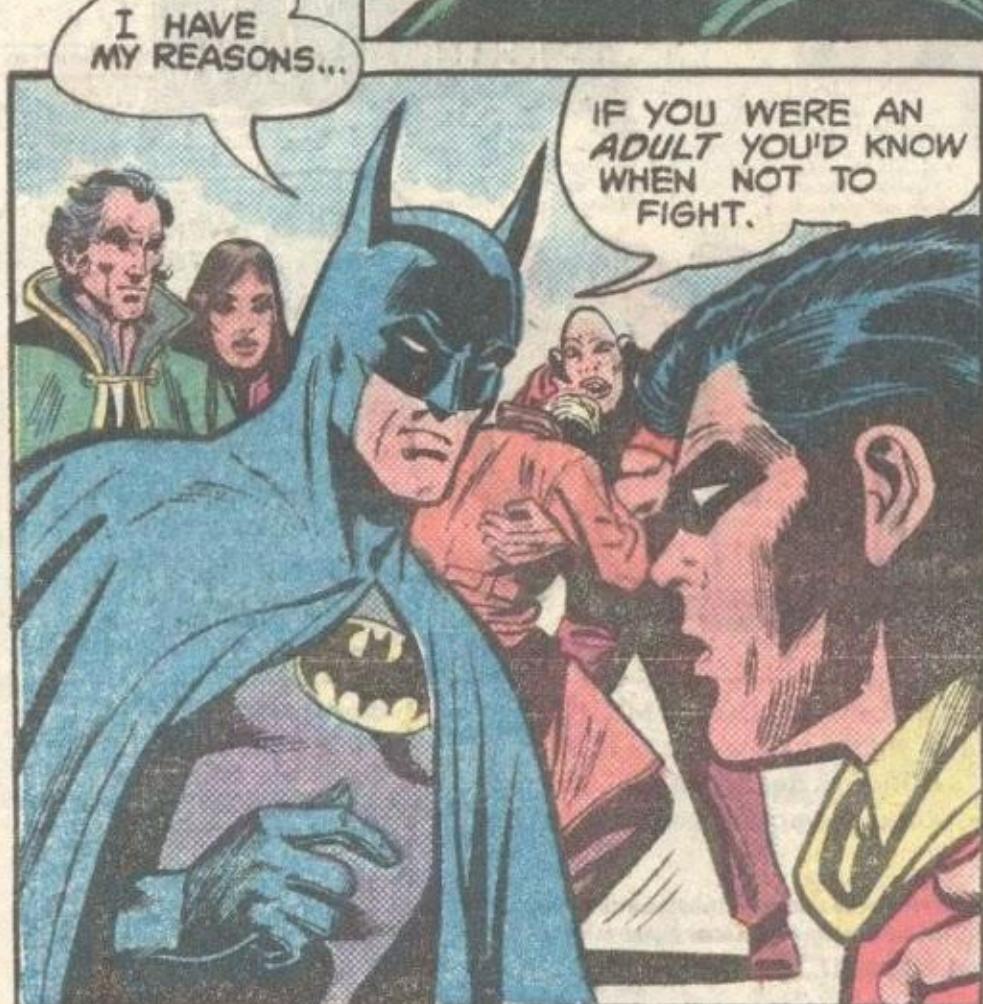
SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandeventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$6.00. Outside U.S.A. \$7.00.

Sol Harrison, President
Arthur Gutowitz, Treasurer

THE BATMAN'S GRIM EYES NARROW AS HE STUDIES HIS CAPTOR'S GAUNT FACE...



HIS WORDS COME WITH DELIBERATE HESITATION, AND WHAT HE SAYS IS SAID WITH NO TRACE OF EMOTION...



WHAT SHALL I DO FOR THAT ACT OF TREASON?

GIVE HER TO ME. SHE'S TO BE MINE!

AN EXCELLENT DECISION, MANHUNTER. I WOULD NOT HAVE ENJOYED INFlicting PAIN ON HER.

TALIA, TAKE OUR NEW FRIEND ON A TOUR OF INFINITY ISLAND.

I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY.

AS FOR THESE OTHERS, RETURN THEM TO THE MINES!

I SHALL DEAL WITH THEM ONCE I'VE DECIDED ON SOMETHING... SUITABLE!

YOU GAVE HIM HIS FREEDOM? BUT YOU KNOW HE IS LYING!

OF COURSE HE IS, SALTZER. THE BATMAN COULD NO MORE JOIN ME THAN I COULD HIM!

BUT I HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED THE BATMAN.

RESPECTED--? BUT HE IS A FOOL!

HE IS MANY THINGS, SALTZER, BUT A FOOL IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

I RESPECT HIM AS I DO THE POISONOUS COBRA.

HE PLAYS HIS GAMES, LURES YOU TO HIM, FEIGNS WEAKNESS, AND IS DEADLY WHEN HE MUST BE.

BUT, YOU OBSERVE HIS MOVES, YOU LEARN HOW HE THINKS...

AND, WHEN HE IS READY TO STRIKE--

--YOU STRIKE AND SLAY FIRST!

YOUR DAUGHTER IS ABOUT TO SHOW HIM THE LAZARUS PIT, SIR.

EXCELLENT! THE PIT OF LIFE. WHERE BETTER TO HAVE HIM MEET HIS DEATH!

WHERE IS MY COBRA NOW, SALTZER?

CONTINUE TO OBSERVE THE SCREENS, SALTZER. YOU MAY YET LEARN HOW TO MANAGE THE UNMANAGEABLE!

Now the Number Yum™ taste is even Yummier.



Get the famous taste of new Bubble Yum.
It's yummier than ever with
fantastic taste and a smoother chew.
And the flavor lasts a long,
long, looong time.



FOR A WORLD OF FUN...GROW AMAZING LIVE SER-MONKEYS®

CREATE THESE REAL LIVE PETS WITH BIO-CRYSTALS!

JUST ADD WATER and before YOUR VERY EYES, you'll see adorable baby Sea-Monkeys being BORN ALIVE! Created with NEW, patented Bio-Crystals, Sea-Monkeys are ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED to GROW! Millions of boys and girls have already tried it at OUR RISK, and gasped in amazement as IT WORKED! Now YOU TOO can own DOZENS and DOZENS of these CRAZY loveable FUN-PETS!™

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Your pet Sea-Monkeys® will arrive safely in "time capsule" eggs that work like something out of SCIENCE-FICTION! They travel through time, hatching ONLY when soaked in a patented "INSTANT LIFE"® formula! A unique species of brine shrimp, Sea-Monkeys are the ONLY ones that are LABORATORY HYBRIDIZED! They not only LIVE up to 40 TIMES LONGER, they can GROW up to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long.

Right In YOUR Home—A LIVE "SEA-CIRCUS" SHOW!

EVERYONE WILL BE AMAZED when your whole tumbling, happy troupe of pet Sea-Monkeys ACTUALLY appear TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDS! The 16-page Sea-Monkey manual that comes with your order SHOWS you how to "hypnotize" them, make them appear to "dance" to music, follow a beam of light, "loop-the-loop", ride on each others backs like cowboys at a rodeo, and MUCH more! BEST OF ALL, you get BOTH males AND females so when grown, you can BREED ALL THE SEA-MONKEYS YOU WILL EVER WANT—to keep, or even SELL!

A LIFETIME GUARANTEE!

NOTE: Sea-Monkeys® are so EASY to keep alive, you even get a REAL Sea-Monkey Life-Insurance Policy that GUARANTEES a NEW supply of Sea-Monkeys FREE (except for postage and handling) if their life-cycle is EVER broken—regardless of cause!

FREE!

With each Sea-Monkey kit containing LIVE Eggs, Hatching Crystals and Water Purifier, we will ALSO send these valuables ABSOLUTELY FREE: Sea-Monkey GROWTH FOOD, ACCU-MEASURE Feeding Spoon, a Magnitron, Fully-Illustrated Book of Care, Feeding, Training, Breeding and Life-History of Pet Sea-Monkeys, Plus—NEW Sea-Diamonds—sparkling play-jewels for Sea-Monkeys!

Sea-Monkey Aquarium Dept. 41-E-1
200 Fifth Avenue New York, N.Y. 10010

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

I can hardly wait to get my pet Sea-Monkeys! Please send ____ Kit(s) PLUS the FREE supplies and MONEY BACK GUARANTEE. I enclose \$1.25 plus 75¢ for postage and handling for each kit. I must be 100% delighted or upon return you will immediately refund my purchase price IN FULL!

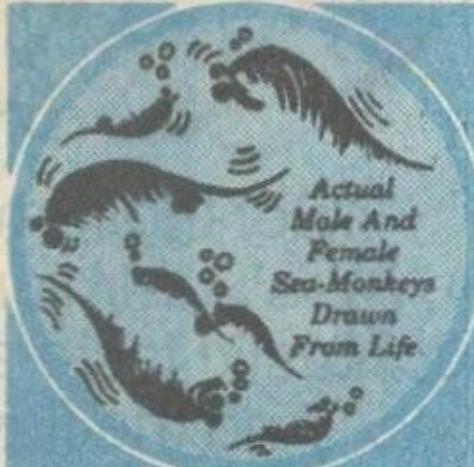
Send ____ Kit(s) I enclose Cash Check Money Order Total amount enclosed \$ _____
(No C.O.D. orders please)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RUSH THIS ORDER (add 50¢ for RUSH service) Foreign Orders (except Canada)—\$4.00 each, U.S. Currency



MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

AHH, I SEE YOU ARE BEING SHOWN THE LAZARUS PIT. IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT I JOIN YOU HERE.

YOU SEE, THIS PIT IS THE REASON WE TWO HAVE SO OFTEN COME TO GRIPS.

YOU MAY GO NOW, TALIA. I WILL CONTINUE THIS TOUR.

AFTER TALIA LEAVES...

I HAVE LIVED FOR MANY CENTURIES, AND THE LAZARUS PIT IS MY SECRET.

FOR EACH TIME MY BODY DIES, IT GRANTS ME LIFE ANEW!

AND YOU USE IT TO KEEP TALIA YOUNG?

BUT, WHEN I RETURNED HERE LAST, I LEARNED THE ISLAND HAD BEEN PURCHASED. IT WAS OWNED BY ONE BRUCE WAYNE OF GOTHAM CITY.

I OWN INFINITY ISLAND? I WASN'T AWARE OF IT.

I MUST HAVE ACQUIRED IT ALONG WITH MY OTHER ASIAN PROPERTIES.

WHATEVER. I INVESTIGATED THIS BRUCE WAYNE AND LEARNED MUCH... INCLUDING THE FACT THAT HE WAS YOU!

THE PIT'S LIFE-ESSENCE WORKS ONLY ON ME. IT WOULD DESTROY ANY OTHER.

NO, I HAVE OTHER METHODS, BUT WE WILL COME TO THEM LATER.

CENTURIES AGO I DISCOVERED THIS PIT. I LEARNED THEN HOW TO HARNESS ITS POWER.

AND HOW TO TAKE ITS LIFE-GIVING LIQUIDS WITH ME WHEN I TRAVELED.

YOU SEE, DETECTIVE, I
WAS NEVER AFTER
THE BATMAN.

MY GOAL WAS
ALWAYS BRUCE WAYNE!

BRUCE
WAYNE'S
MILLIONS;
BRUCE
WAYNE'S
EMPIRE!

YOUR OIL WEALTH
WOULD ADD TO MY
POWER.

YOUR SHIPPING LINES
WOULD EXPAND MY OWN.

YOUR CONNECTIONS IN
STEEL AND CHEMICALS
WOULD SERVE ALL
MY NEEDS.

I EMPLOYED GREGORIAN FALSTAFF
IN THE HOPES OF BANKRUPTING
YOU, TO MAKE MY TAKEOVER OF YOUR
EMPIRE THAT MUCH SIMPLER.

THE FOOL
FAILED, OF
COURSE, BUT
AS ALWAYS,
I GET WHAT
I WANT.

I
WANTED
YOU,
DETECTIVE.

NOW, TAKE
MY HAND, LET
MY IMMORTALITY
BE YOURS.

TAKE IT, MANHUNTER...
TAKE IT NOW!

CAPTURE THE
BATMAN, MY MINDLESS
MUTATES!

HE MUST NOT
ESCAPE HERE
ALIVE!

NEVER!

I WONDERED
HOW FAR YOU
WOULD GO,
DETECTIVE.
NOW I KNOW.

THERE ARE SIX OF THEM, EACH BIGGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN HE. HE KNOWS HE CAN TAKE ONE. HE HOPES FOR TWO. MORE THAN THAT EVEN HE CONSIDERS IMPOSSIBLE.



STILL, HE IS THE BATMAN, AND IN THE PAST HE HAS BEATEN ALL THE HEAVILY-STACKED ODDS. AND NO MATTER HOW MANY DEFEATS HE SUFFERS, HE WILL NEVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT.



THE FIRST BLOW SENDS HIM SPRAWLING. THE SECOND SNAPS A RIB. THE THIRD PUNCTURES A LUNG, AND THE FOURTH BRINGS HIM TO HIS KNEES. YET HE STRUGGLES UNTIL HE CAN STRUGGLE NO MORE...

YOU ASKED, SALTZER,
HOW I COULD RESPECT
A FOE. CAN YOU SEE
WHY NOW?

SUMMON A
PHYSICIAN
AND HAVE HIM
APPLY MY
SPECIAL
MEDICINES.

I WANT THE BATMAN
HEALTHY BEFORE THE
FINAL CONVERSION
BEGINS.

THEY FEEL THE
EXHAUSTING HEAT
LONG BEFORE
THEY REACH THE
MINES...

ALWAYS KNEW THAT MASKED
CREEP WAS NUTS, BUT I
NEVER FIGURED HIM FOR
A TRAITOR.

THE HEAT FROM
THE TUNNELS
DUG DEEP INTO
THE EARTH...

AND THE HEAT
FROM TWISTED,
MALFORMED
BODIES
SWEATING
BENEATH IN
THE PITS.

DON'T EVER SAY
THAT AGAIN, FARADAY...
DON'T EVEN THINK
THAT!

ROBIN, THIS
ISN'T THE
TIME FOR
FIGHTING.

SORRY, KITTEN, BUT
IT'S TOO LATE!

THAT KID'S BEEN
BEGGING FOR A FIGHT.

AND THIS IS
AS GOOD A
TIME AS ANY!

C'MON,
KID, LET'S
SCRAMBLE
'EM!

GREEN ARROW™

IN "AN ARROW IN TIME"



IT'S A GOOD THING THESE MUTATES ARE AS DUMB AS THEY LOOK!

YOU KNOW IT, KID. NOT ONE OF 'EM PICKED UP ON YOUR HAND SIGNALS!

BTAM!

KUNK!

I FIGURED SOMETHING WAS UP WHEN THE BATMAN SIGNALLED YOU, BUT I COULDN'T TELL WHAT.

HE WAS STALLING FOR TIME... TO PICK UP INFORMATION, AND HE WANTED US OUT OF THE WAY.

NORMALLY I'D GO ALONG WITH HIM, BUT SOMETHING HERE FEELS WRONG!

IT'S A GUT INSTINCT, BUT I THINK WE'RE NEEDED!

KRAK

SPLAM!

IT SEEMS OUR GUESTS HAVE RETURNED.

PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO GIVE THEM A SURPRISE!

I AM FORCED TO AGREE WITH MY FRIENDS, SALTZER. THINGS HERE ARE WRONG!

BUT, UNLIKE YOU, I WANT THEM CORRECTED!

THAT TRANQUILIZER BULLET SHOULD KEEP YOU ASLEEP LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DIRECT THOSE THREE.

THERE ISN'T TIME FOR THEM TO WANDER LOST...

DON'T DO IT, FOOL!

NOT IF THEY WISH TO SAVE THE BATMAN'S LIFE!

FACE IT, KID --
WE'RE LOST.

NO, I'M SURE IT'S
DOWN THIS WAY...
EH?

ROBIN, HEAD
FOR ROOM C.
HURRY!

CAN THAT
WITCH BE
TRUSTED?

EVEN IF SHE CAN'T
BE, WHAT CHOICE
DO WE HAVE?

HUH?
THAT'S TALIA'S
VOICE!

SHE
CARES FOR
BATMAN...
HE MUST
BE HERE.

YOU WERE RIGHT,
CAT. THERE HE IS,
IN THAT OVERSIZED
SHIPPING CRATE!

GOD! THAT'S ONE OF
THE CYLINDERS USED TO
CREATE MUTATES!
I'VE SEEN THEM
BEFORE.*

*BATMAN PAGE--PAUL

THEN WE HAVEN'T GOT
ANY TIME! WE'VE GOT
TO FREE HIM!

YOU THREE HAVE COME
FAR, BUT YOU SHALL
PROGRESS NO
FURTHER!

MUTATES, SLAY
THEM - DO IT
NOW!!

MEANWHILE...

TRAPPED... BLAST. THE
LID'S TOO HEAVY TO BUDGE...

...AND IF I DON'T
MISS MY GUESS, THAT
SMELL I'M PICKING
UP IS GAS!

AL GHŪL'S
TRYING TO TURN
ME INTO ONE
OF HIS MINDLESS
ZOMBIES!!



WHAT SHE WANTS WON'T ENTER INTO THIS,
AL GHÜL. THE GOOD OL' U.S. WANTS YOU
ON ABOUT A THOUSAND CHARGES...

MAYBE EVEN MORE
SINCE I STARTED
HUNTING FOR
YOU!

YOU ARE A GOOD
AGENT, KING FARADAY,
BUT SOON TO BE A
DEAD ONE!

I'VE GOT THEM ALL
COVERED, SIR.
AND I'LL SHOOT IF
EVEN ONE DARES
MOVE.

SALTZER?

I SHOULDN'T HAVE
JUST USED A
TRANQUILIZER
ON YOU.

DON'T MOVE,
TALIA, I WILL EVEN
SHOOT YOU IF I
MUST.

I SAID DON'T
MOVE, YOU
LITTLE WITCH!

DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME?
DIDN'T YOU?

TALIA!

SALTZER, YOU SNIVELLING
SYCOPANT! WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?

DESPITE ALL
SHE HAS DONE,
TALIA WAS MY
DAUGHTER!

HIS NECK IS
BROKEN. YOU
KILLED HIM!

HE DESERVED
TO DIE!

BUT, HOW IS
TALIA? TELL
ME QUICKLY,
DETECTIVE!

SHE'S
BREATHING,
BUT JUST
BARELY!

SWAK!

BY THE GODS! THERE
CAN BE ONLY ONE HOPE--
THE LAZARUS PIT!!

NO MATTER
WHAT, MY
DAUGHTER
MUST NOT
DIE!

THE LAZARUS PIT STANDS BEFORE AL GHŪL LIKE
A HUNGRY TIGER. WITH THE PRESS OF A CONSOLE
BUTTON, A PLATFORM LOWERS FROM THE CEILING...

YOU SAID
ONLY YOU
COULD SURVIVE
THE PIT.

TRUE! I CAN ONLY BATHE IN
ITS CHEMICALS FOR A MINUTE
OR MORE.

BUT I WILL EXPOSE
HER TO ITS HEALING
PROPERTIES FOR ONLY
A MOMENT. I DARE
NOT RISK MORE.

IT IS TIME.
WE MUST
PRAY!

TALIA'S CHALK-WHITE BODY QUICKLY DISAPPEARS
INTO THE ROILING EMERALD CHEMICALS. THEN ...

ENOUGH!
SHE MUST BE
RAISED!

SHE'S NOT
MOVING. IS
SHE DEAD?

SHE CANNOT BE,
SHE MUST NOT
BE!

THEY STARE FOR LONG AGONIZING MINUTES AS
RĀS AL GHŪL'S GRIEF VIRTUALLY OVERWELMS HIM.
BUT THEN ...

B...BATMAN...

SHE'S
ALIVE!



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SOLD ON MONEY BACK GUARANTEE.

AND HER FIRST WORDS WERE OF YOU, MANHUNTER.

YOU STOLE MY DAUGHTER FROM ME.

THAT IS AN INSULT I WILL NOT BROOK!

FOR THAT YOU MUST DIE!

I DIDN'T STEAL HER, SHE REJECTED YOUR WAYS...

SHE REJECTED YOUR warped VALUES!

SHE REJECTED YOU!



ALL OF YOU, GO! GET OFF THE ISLAND, TAKE ALL THE OTHERS AND LEAVE!

THIS FIGHT IS BETWEEN RĀŚ AL GHŪL AND ME!

AND WHEN I AM DONE HERE, THIS HELL HE'S CREATED WILL BE LITTLE MORE THAN A RESTING PLACE FOR FISH!



HOLD ON, BATMAN. YOU JUST CAN'T ORDER US LIKE THAT.

THIS IS OUR FIGHT, TOO.

CATWOMAN...?

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO ARGUE WITH HIM, ROBIN. THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THESE TWO HAS TO COME TO AN END NOW.

DO AS HE SAYS..WE'LL ROUND UP THE OTHERS AND GET OUT OF HERE.

FOR ONCE, THE CAT-LADY AND I AGREE!

ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN THIS TIME, BATMAN!

BUT, WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TALK!

AND TALK LIKE WE'VE NEVER DONE BEFORE!

IT'S NOW DOWN TO THE TWO OF US, AL GHÜL.

AS IT WAS DESTINED!

SILENTLY, THEY EDGE APART,
EYES RIVETING ON EACH OTHER,
AND NEVER ONCE AVERTING
THEIR STEELY GAZE ...

HIS LONG FINGERS CURL
INWARD BECKONING THE
BATMAN TO APPROACH.

THE WALL IS BEHIND HIM NOW,
AND RĀ'S AL GHŪL APPEARS
LOST WITH NOWHERE ELSE
TO GO...

"HE PLAYS HIS GAME, LURES
YOU TO HIM." THE BATMAN
STEPS FORWARD, AND RĀ'S
AL GHŪL FEELS ELATION.



RĀ'S AL GHŪL REMEMBERS THE WORDS
HE SPOKE TO THAT FOOL, SALTZER.



"HE FEIGNS WEAKNESS."

"BUT IS DEADLY WHEN HE MUST."

IT IS OVER, DETECTIVE--
ALMOST BEFORE IT HAS
BEGUN!



"YOU OBSERVE
HIS MOVES,
YOU LEARN HOW
HE THINKS, AND,
WHEN HE IS
READY TO
STRIKE--

KLANG!

--YOU STRIKE
AND SLAY
FIRST!"



VERY GOOD,
DETECTIVE. YOU ARE
AN ADMIRABLE
OPPONENT.

ADMIRABLE,
BUT MERELY
MORTAL.



WHILE I AM MORE THAN MORTAL.
I HAVE BECOME IMMORTAL!

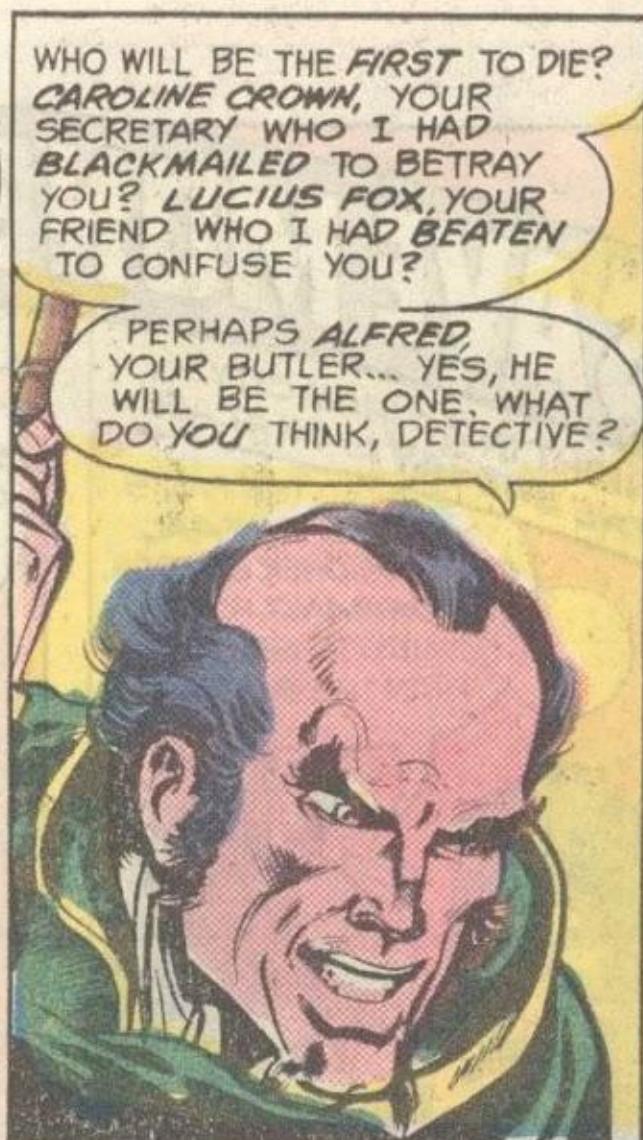
AND AS SUCH, I
CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

SPLAMM!

AND NOW, TIME
GROWS SHORT. EVEN
AS YOU DIE HERE, MY
SOLDIERS INVADE
WAYNE ENTERPRISES
WITH ORDERS TO
DESTROY ANYONE
WHO GETS
IN THEIR
WAY.

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO DIE?
CAROLINE CROWN, YOUR
SECRETARY WHO I HAD
BLACKMAILED TO BETRAY
YOU? LUCIUS FOX, YOUR
FRIEND WHO I HAD BEATEN
TO CONFUSE YOU?

PERHAPS ALFRED,
YOUR BUTLER... YES, HE
WILL BE THE ONE. WHAT
DO YOU THINK, DETECTIVE?



THE BATMAN SAYS NOTHING, BUT HE REACTS LIKE A COILED SPRING, HIS POWERFUL LEGS SHOOTING OUTWARD!



THEN SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, THE MASKED MANHUNTER RISES TO HIS FEET...

YOU GRINNING GHOUl!
YOU AND I CAN FIGHT,
BUT WHEN YOU
ATTACK MY FRIENDS--

.. THAT'S WHEN
I STOP PLAYING GAMES!



THIS THEN IS THE END. WHOSOEVER FALLS INTO THE PIT OF LIFE SHALL DIE A MOST HORRIBLE DEATH.

FOR NO HUMAN CAN SURVIVE ITS CAUSTIC CHEMICALS FOR VERY LONG.



AND NOW,
BATMAN, IT
IS YOUR TURN
TO DIE!

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THE BATMAN IS ON A CASE...

THE FACTS
ARE CLEAR,
COMMISSIONER GORDON.
THE DEMAND FOR DC
COMICS IS GREATER
THAN THE SUPPLY.



I HOPE YOU CAN FIND A
SOLUTION, BATMAN. THE KIDS
ARE COUNTING ON YOU!

TO GET THE REAL STORY,
I'LL GO TO THE SOURCE!
CAROL FEIN AT DC IS
THE PERSON TO SEE.



THE NEXT MORNING...

SO, YOU SEE, OUR NEW
SUBSCRIPTION PLAN WAS
CREATED TO TAKE THE RISK
OUT OF FINDING YOUR
FAVORITE COMICS EACH
MONTH!



HMM... NOW
THEY COME RIGHT TO
YOUR DOOR! LOOKS LIKE
THE CASE IS SOLVED,
CAROL!

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OFFER GIVES YOU
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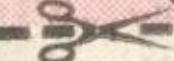
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THE BATMAN FALLS,
CLUTCHING THE
PIT'S EDGE FOR DEAR
LIFE, BUT...

ANOTHER VALIANT EFFORT
IN SELF-PRESERVATION...
VALIANT BUT WASTED.

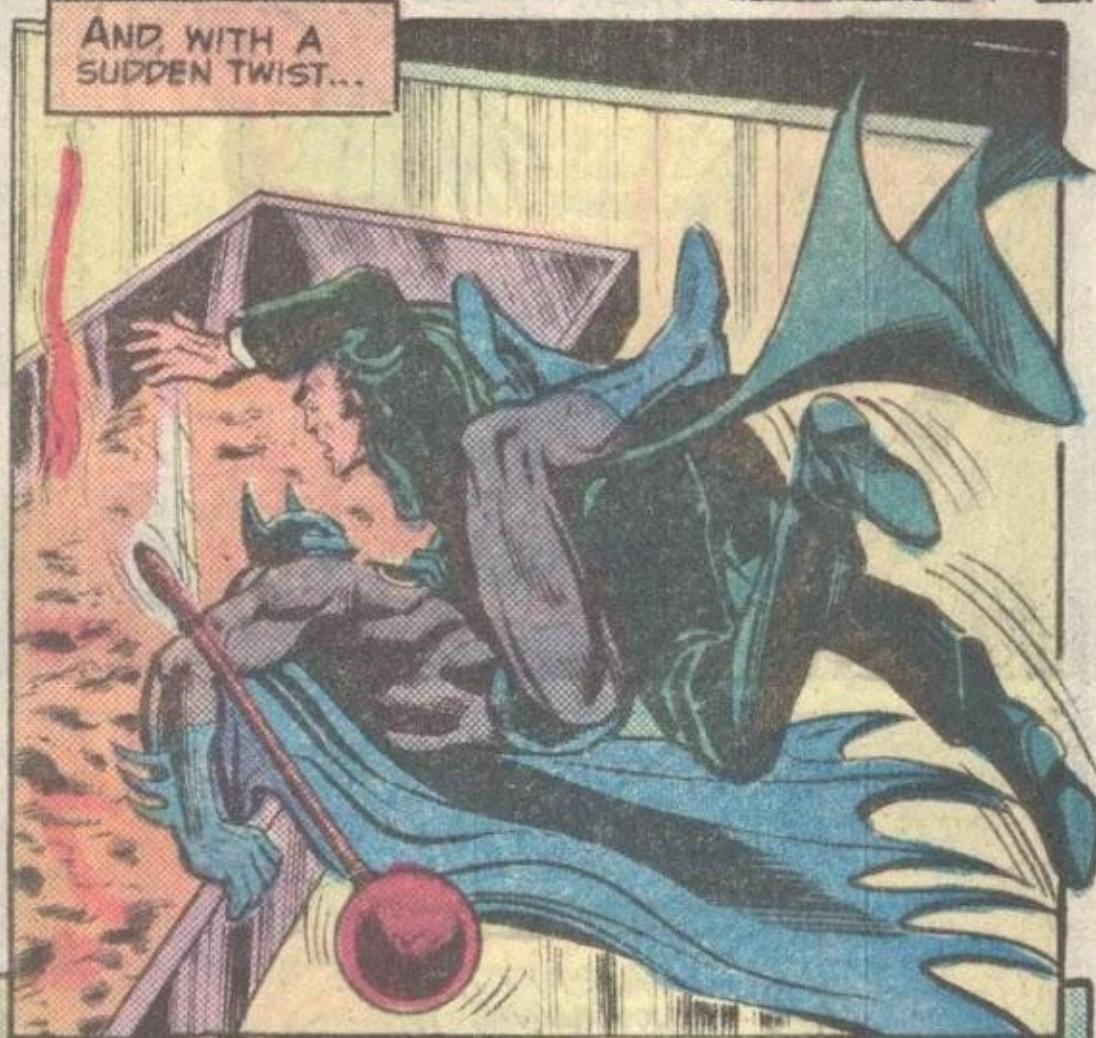
AGAIN I
ADMIRE YOU,
DETECTIVE.
YOU GO TO
YOUR DOOM
WITHOUT
PLEADING
FOR LIFE.

RA'S AL GHUL'S POWERFUL
ARMS PUSH HARDER, PRESSING
THE BATMAN'S HEAD EVER
DEEPER INTO THE SWIRLING PIT...

I FEAR I WILL
NOT FIND AN
ADVERSARY OF
YOUR CALIBRE
FOR MANY
DECades TO
COME.

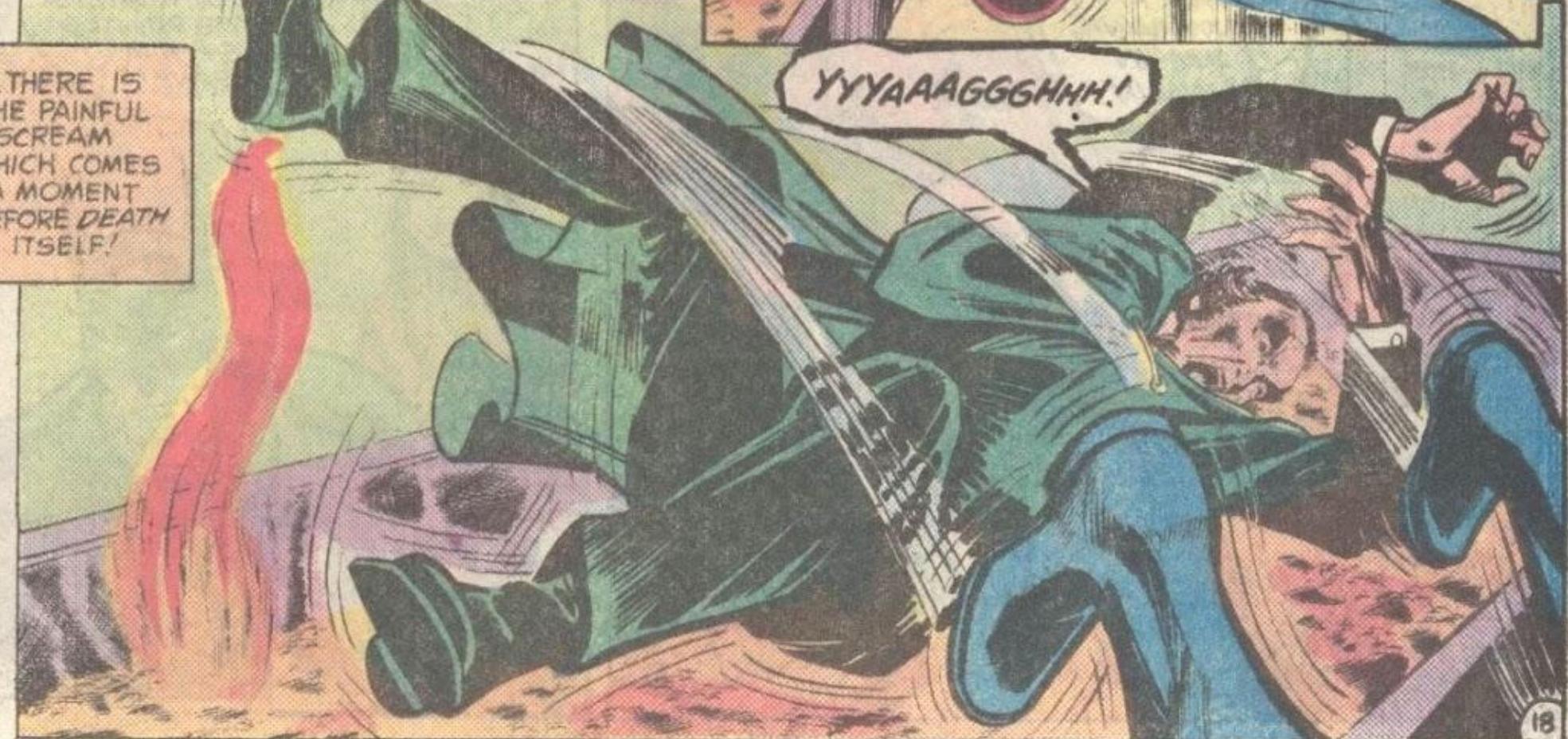
BUT, THE BATMAN HAS TRAINED LONG AND
HARD FOR MANY YEARS. HIS MUSCLES BUNCH,
TIGHTEN AND LOCK ABOUT THE MADMAN'S
WAIST...

AND, WITH A
SUDDEN TWIST...



...THERE IS
THE PAINFUL
SCREAM
WHICH COMES
A MOMENT
BEFORE DEATH
ITSELF!

YAAAGGGHHH!



THE BATMAN FALLS WEAKLY TO THE GROUND, SICK AT THE STENCH OF BURNING FLESH. HE HAS WON, BUT AT THIS MOMENT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO JOY...

IT... MAY HAVE BEEN FOR THE BEST.

TALIA? YOU SAW?

ONLY THE END. HE WAS A PROUD MAN. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED DYING IN BATTLE.

STILL, NO ONE SHOULD HAVE DIED LIKE... THAT.

HIS ENEMY'S DAUGHTER WRAPS HER ARMS AROUND HIM, HELPING HIM RISE ONCE MORE TO HIS FEET. THE BATTLE IS DONE, AND NOW IS THE TIME TO LEAVE...

BUT...

NNNOOOO!

HE RISES LIKE SOME DAMNED DEMON FROM HELL, BURNING, EVIL, LEERING AND TOTALLY MAD. HIS FLESH IS SEARED AND CHARRED AND HIS BITTER ACRID STENCH THICKENS THE AIR ABOUT HIM...

AGGGHH! BATMANN, MY BODY STILL BURNNNSS BUT I STILL LIVE... I STILL LIVE!!!

I HURTTTT, BATMANN, I AM IN PAINNNN...

AND I WANTTT TO KILLLLL!!

MY GOD!

TALIA, LOOK AT HIS EYES! WHATEVER IS IN THE PIT-- IT'S DRIVEN HIM INSANE!!

EVERYTHING HE
TOUCHES BURNS...
HAVE TO KEEP
HIM AT A
DISTANCE.

AGGGHHH!! I AM IN
PAINNN, BATMANN.
IT BURNNS ME
FROM INSIDE!!

YOU MUST FEEL
AS I FEEL, BATMANN.
YOU MUST SUFFER
AS I SUFFER!!

NOTHING SURVIVES ME NOWWW!!
WHATEVER I TOUCH-- BURNNS!!

YOU ARE A VALIANTTT FOE... LETTT
ME EMBRACE YOU... LETTT ME
SHOW YOU THE SPOILSSS
OF VICTORY!!

COME
TO ME,
BATMANN!!

QUARTERSTAFF
BURNING... ISN'T
THERE ANY
WAY TO
STOP HIM?

TALIA, GET OUT OF HERE, NOW-- HE'S
INSANE... HE CAN GO AFTER YOU NEXT!

BUT I CAN
NOT LEAVE
YOU HERE.

I SAID GO!
UNTIL YOU
LEAVE, I
CAN'T
FIGHT!

FOR A LONG MOMENT SHE HESITATES, REMEMBERING
THE LOVE SHE ONCE FELT FOR THIS THING THAT HAD
BEEN HER FATHER. BUT THEN SHE TURNS AND RUNS...

ONLY ONE CHANCE...
MY HEELS ARE INSULATED
IF THEY CAN GET
THROUGH HIS
BURNING SKIN--
KNOCK HIM OUT...

ANOTHER WORTHY ATTEMPT, DETECTIVE!
BUT I FELT NOTHING!!

SLAMM!

AGGH! MY SOLES...
BURNING MY FEET!!!



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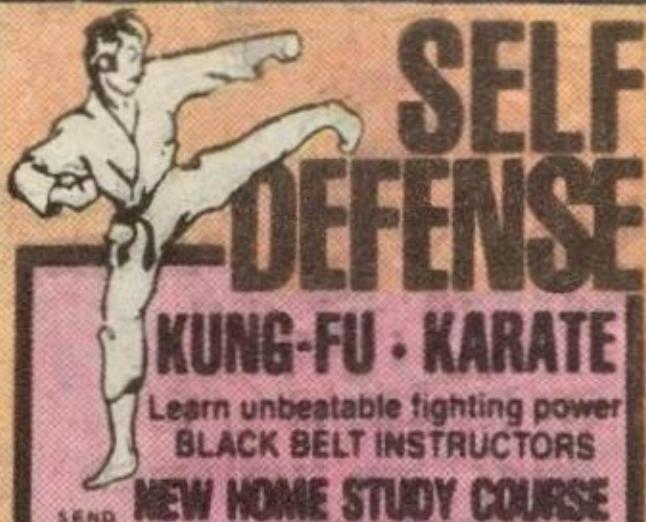
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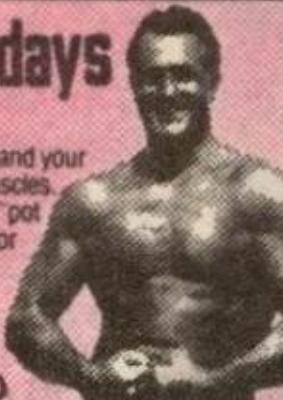
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March of Dimes
SOMETHING DEFECTS FOUNDATION

YAAGGGHHHH!!

RĀ'S AL GHŪL IGNITED
THE PIT... EVERYTHING
IS GOING UP!

BATMAN, I
KEPT WAITING...
PRAYING.

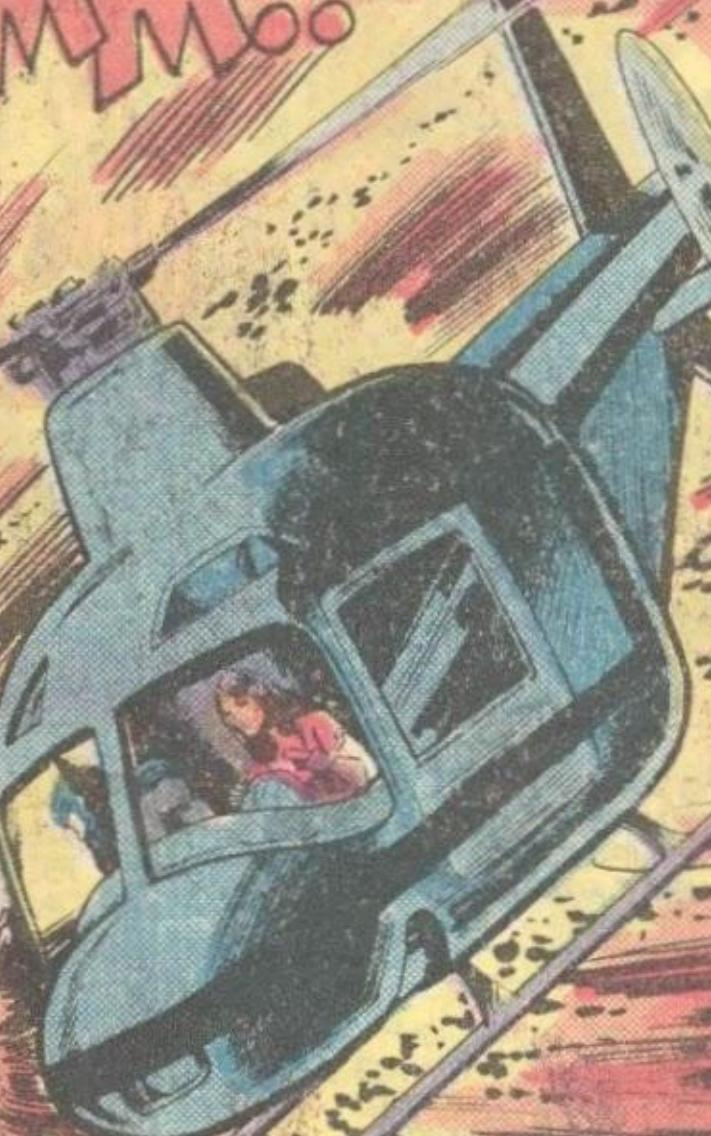
MOVE IT! GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE!

THEY RISE HIGHER
AND FASTER WITH
EVERY AGONIZING
BEAT OF THE HEART.

BELOW THEM
COMES A LOW
OMINOUS
RUMBLING
THAT GROWS
LOUDER AND
MORE
THREATENING
WITH EVERY
PASSING
SECOND

SUDDENLY THE
RUMBLING STOPS.
FOR A MOMENT
THERE IS A
TOTAL SILENCE,
TOTAL STILLNESS.
THEN...

BOOOOM!!
BRAAIIK



IT IS OVER,
MY LOVE...

UNTOLD
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS... OVER
AT LONG
LAST.

AND NOW...

UNHHHHHHH...

BATMAN...
BATMAN?

HIS PAIN OVERWHELMS HIM AT LAST, AND AS THE CHOPPER CLEARS WHAT REMAINS OF INFINITY ISLAND, THE BATMAN SLIPS INTO MERCIFUL UNCONSCIOUSNESS...

"HIS NAME WAS RA'S AL GHÜL AND HE WAS BORN IN THE PITS OF HELL.
MAY HE RETURN FROM WHENCE HE CAME."

--AI Talmün, 17th Century Historian.

IT IS SEVERAL DAYS LATER BEFORE CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO THE HEAVILY-SCARRED BATMAN, AND SEVERAL DAYS MORE BEFORE A WORRIED ALFRED PERMITS HIM TO HAVE VISITORS...

YOU SEEM TO BE RECOVERING.

JUST BARELY, DICK. MY PAINS HAVE PAINS.

DR. DUNDEE DOESN'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT. IF YOUR BURNS WERE AN INCH CLOSER TO YOUR HEART... HE JUST WISHES THE BATMAN WOULD RETIRE.

I HAVE TO ASK BECAUSE DETAILS WERE A BIT FUZZY NEAR THE END. BUT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT I GATHER SOMETHING ON INFINITY ISLAND REACTIVATED ITS TWIN VOLCANOES... THEY BLEW!

AND JUST AS YOU AND TALIA TOOK OFF, THE ISLAND EXPLODED... AND THEN SUNK.

WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE? AND RA'S AL GHUL'S MUTATES?

CATWOMAN, KING FARADAY, AND I GOT MOST OF THEM OFF THE ISLAND IN TIME.

FARADAY ACCOMPANIED THEM TO A GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION CAMP.

BY THE WAY, HE SENT US A WIRE--COLLECT, THANKING YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
HELP? YOU DID EVERYTHING!

THAT'S OKAY. FOR FARADAY A THANK YOU IS DOWNRIGHT GUSHING WITH PRAISE.

AND WHERE'S CATWOMAN?
IS SHE ALL RIGHT?

SHE WENT OFF, BRUCE... ASKED ME NOT TO TELL YOU WHERE. SHE'S AFRAID YOU'LL GO AFTER HER.

BRUCE,
SHE CARES FOR YOU.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN SELINA KYLE AND BRUCE WAYNE, SOMETHING BETWEEN BATMAN AND CATWOMAN SHE WON'T SPEAK ABOUT.

SOMETHING THAT'S OBVIOUSLY KEEPING YOU TWO APART.

IT IS TIME FOR ME TO PART AS WELL.

YOU? BUT WHY? WITHOUT YOUR FATHER, WHAT WILL YOU DO? WHERE WILL YOU GO?

I HAVE MONEY... MORE THAN ENOUGH.

BUT WITHOUT MY FATHER KEEPING ME YOUNG, I WILL FINALLY GROW OLD...

I WISH TO KNOW WHAT THAT IS LIKE.



AND FOR NOW, I PREFER LEARNING HOW THAT FEELS ... ALONE.

TALIA, PLEASE-- ANYTIME YOU WANT, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE.

I THANK YOU, MY LOVE. PERHAPS WE WILL MEET AGAIN SOON.

AND THAT LEAVES YOU, DICK. YOU GOING, TOO? AFTER ALL, BEFORE THIS CAPER BEGAN, YOU MOVED OUT.

NO, I THINK I'LL STAY, FOR A WHILE AT LEAST.

TO TALK TO ME? TO ARGUE ABOUT YOUR LEAVING COLLEGE?



NO, WE CAN TALK ANOTHER TIME. WE STILL HAVE YEARS AHEAD OF US.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY. SO WHY DON'T TWO OLD FRIENDS GO OUT AND ENJOY IT... LIKE THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE?

MR. GRAYSON, I THINK THAT'S AN EXCELLENT IDEA. EXCEPT...

EXCEPT WHAT?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I DON'T THINK I'M READY FOR JOGGING!

THE END



BAT SIGNALS

L-735

Dear Paul:

After reading *Batman* #330, this series had to be placed high on my list of comic-reading priorities again. Without the use of super-villains (the lack thereof was a point of some dissatisfaction in previous letters), you've succeeded in providing *Batman* with an undercurrent of tension. Your supporting characters, from Lucius Fox and Robin to Carolyn Crown and Talia are, giving this continuing drama a wonderful feeling of intrigue, mystery.

Forgive my past criticisms, will you? I've got egg on my face, but at least I'm enjoying the series once more. I'm greatly concerned about the decision of Robin to drop out of Hudson U. Oh, Robin's got a fine mind inside that head of his, and he's totally responsible, so I'm not worried about his intellectual growth. But is this going to drive a wedge between him and Bruce? Please, we don't want that. Two *New Teen Titans* stories (the preview, and issue #1) had references to this "wedge" that I speak of. It seems that Robin believes he's not being treated as a man by Bruce. How can this be? They've always had a perfect relationship.

Talia's reappearance without her father is one event that I always wanted to see. I've always wanted to see some interaction between Batman and Talia without Ra's Al Ghul lurking in the darkness. I'm completely thrown off by references to the death of Ra's, however. His last appearance was in *Brave & Bold* #159, right? He was fine, then. What is the explanation?

Carolyn Crown's betrayal of her boss reminds us of the battles that civilian Bruce Wayne has to fight. Mr. Falstaff must have paid her well for the services she rendered. It's a pity; Carolyn was always a more interesting secretary than Margaret because, unlike her predecessor, she seemed slightly interested in Bruce. Her pretty face may soon grace the unemployment office in Gotham, that is, if Bruce does find out.

For now, the Batman is safe from all of Gotham's hit-men; Archie Skyler never savored revenge. There are matters that have to be cleared up, though. I hope you'll provide the resolutions; Batman and Robin must see eye to eye. I hope that Talia can be accommodated as a regular supporting character here, without being a source of final discord. I'm watching and waiting.

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Apparently you missed Ra's "death" in *DETECTIVE* #490. Mike, and as to the problems of Batman and Robin's relationship, our next correspondent has them well pinned down...—PL

Dear Sir,

Batman and Robin bickering? Is there no team safe from discord at DC anymore? In recent years DC Comics has shown a disenchanted tendency to inject artificial conflicts into series where the situations and the characters do not require it, rather than having the conflict be a logical outgrowth of the characters and situations themselves. However, I find in this case (surprise!) that Batman and Robin's tiff is perfectly in keeping with their characters. After all, Batman has always been protective of his young ward's education. "I wish Robin were here with me, but he had a book report to work on—his school work must come first! A good education is one thing not even the cleverest criminal in the world can steal from you!" (*TEC* #366) Since then, seeing fellow playboy Oliver Queen cheated out of his fortune and narrowly escaping from having his own empire dismantled by Hugo Strange could have only hardened Batman's conviction that a college education is the only truly secure legacy he can leave Dick Grayson. Hence his constant directive to Robin to keep his high school grades up—or no more crook catching! True, Robin isn't a high school kid anymore, but Bruce Wayne is Dick Grayson's father, in fact if not in the eyes of the law, and like any father he tends to see

his ward as the same twelve-year-old he took under his wing. That Bruce himself put finishing his education ahead of starting his crusade, in deference to the wishes of his mentor Harvey Harris, makes it all the more difficult for Bruce to understand why his Robin is not extending the same cooperation toward his mentor.

Yet I can see Robin's side of it. For years he has seen Batman and his partner Superman never hesitate to shove their private lives aside when they interfered with their superhero careers. So hadn't the time come for him to do likewise now that he had reached virtual adulthood? After all, carrying on his own career at New Carthage, taking in Barbara Gordon and Duela Dent as partners and confidantes, and running the Teen Titans—didn't he have to take care of all those matters without any help from Batman? I can also well understand Robin's trepidation at Batman's cozying up to Talia. True, the League of Assassins poses no threat to Batman as long as Talia heads it—but Talia and Batman can't really be certain that Ra's Al Ghul is dead! And has Bats utterly forgotten a certain Selina Kyle, who could very possibly come back and announce: all is forgiven, let's pick up where we left off? If she does, Selina's not going to lower her life insurance premiums. Selina's aversion to murder would prevent her from harming Talia—but the Demon's Daughter is bound by no such inhibitions. The mere appearance that Talia would prefer Miss Kyle out of the way could endanger Selina. The Batman would undoubtedly split from Talia if there were the slightest possibility she ordered the demise of one of his friends—and Talia has zealous underlings who would not be enchanted at the prospect of having their most hated enemy become their boss. Any way you look at it, if Selina comes back now she could well join Kathy Kane as another of Bruce Wayne's old flames to become an innocent victim of the League of Assassins.

Gary Thompson

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With this, we're cut short by our annual bit of business below, so we'll just say see you next issue, for a 25-page guest shot by Garcia Lopez, with script by Batman's new writer, Roy Thomas.—Paul Levitz.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: BATMAN
1A Publication No. 045-340
2 Date of Filing: October 1, 1980
3 Frequency of Issue: Monthly
3A No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
3B Annual Subscription Price: \$7.95
4 Location of Known Office of Publication: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
5 Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
6 Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:
Publisher: DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
Editor: Paul Levitz, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
Managing Editor: Joe Orlando, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
7 Owner: DC Comics Inc., wholly owned by Warner Communications, Inc., a publicly held company, both at 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019
8 Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None
9 For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates: Not Applicable
10 Extent and Nature of Circulation:
10A Total No. Copies Printed (Net Press Run): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 301,102 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 275,086
10B Paid Circulation: 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127,274 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 110,175
2. Mail Subscriptions: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,025
Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 2,349
10C Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 10B and 10D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 129,299 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 112,524
10D Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means, Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 127 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 127
10E Total Distribution (Sum of C and D): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 129,426 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 112,651
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10G Total (Sum of E, F, and 2)—should equal net press run shown in A: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 301,102 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 275,086
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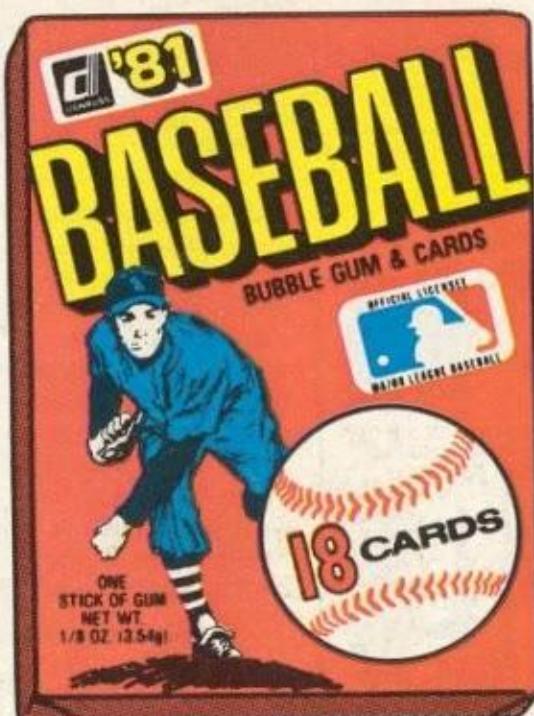
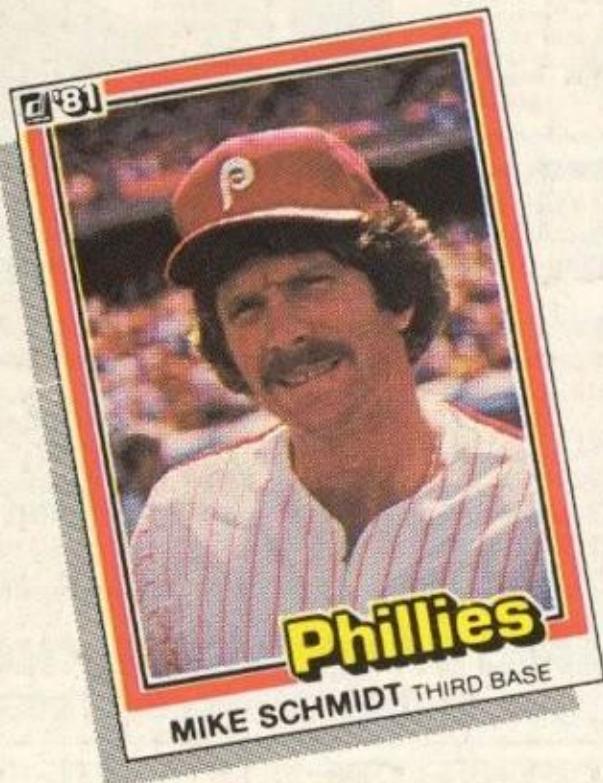
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