

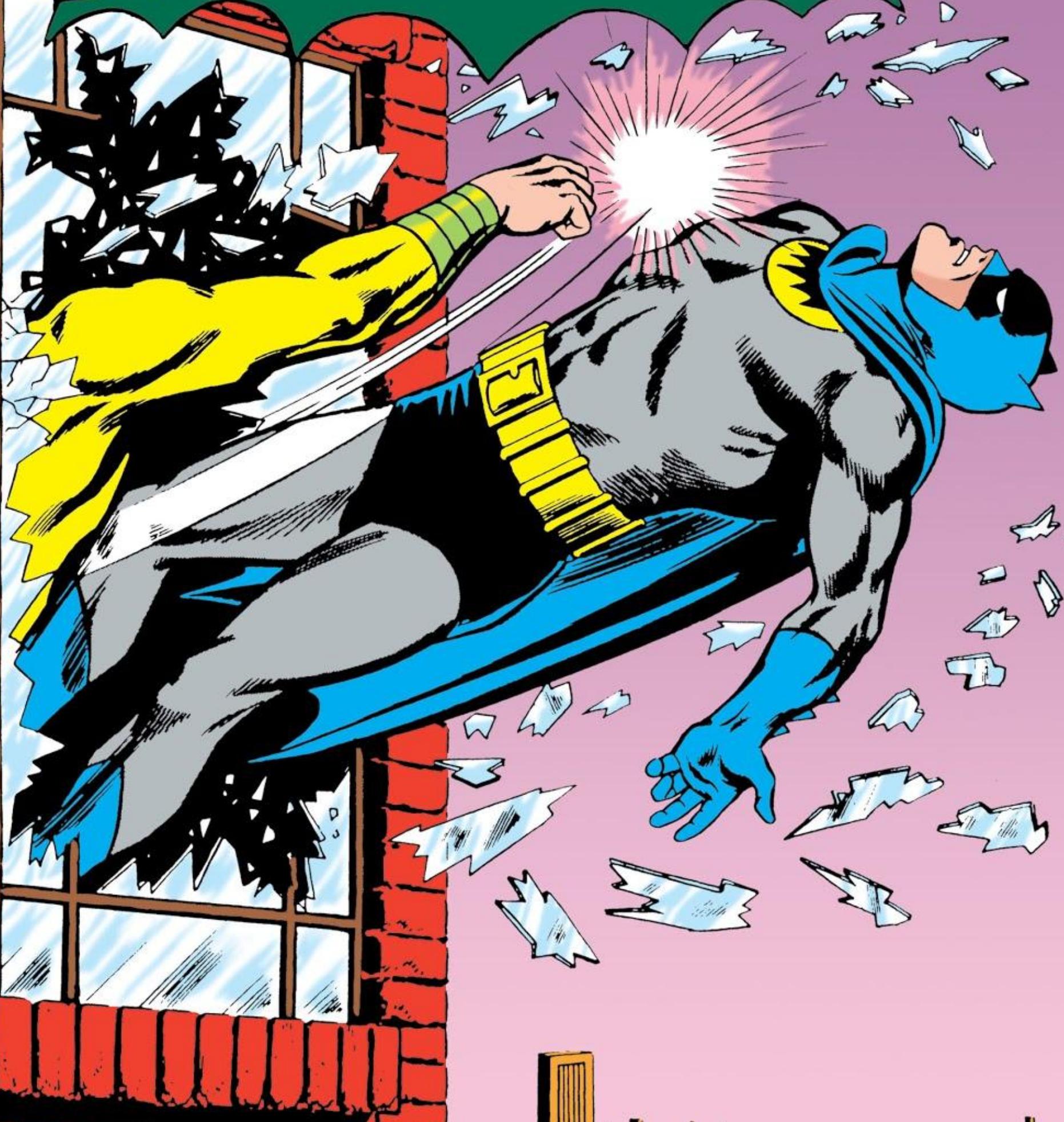


DEC.
NO. 168

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

BATMAN



BATMAN vs. MR. MAMMOTH
IN THE GREATEST SLUGFEST OF ALL TIME...

**"The FIGHT THAT
JOLTED GOTHAM CITY!"**

BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

COME ONE -- COME ALL!
SEE GOTHAM CITY'S FIGHT
OF THE CENTURY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY
TICKETS -- IT'S FREE! --
AND ALL OF GOTHAM CITY
IS THE ARENA!
IT'S A REAL SLUGFEST,
FEATURING MR. MAMMOTH,
CIRCUS STRONG MAN, AND
NONE OTHER THAN BATMAN
HIMSELF! AND BEHIND THE
FIGHT LURKS AN INTRIGUING
MYSTERY -- SO, TO SEE IT
ALL, GET THERE EARLY FOR...

*The FIGHT that
JOLTED
GOTHAM CITY!*

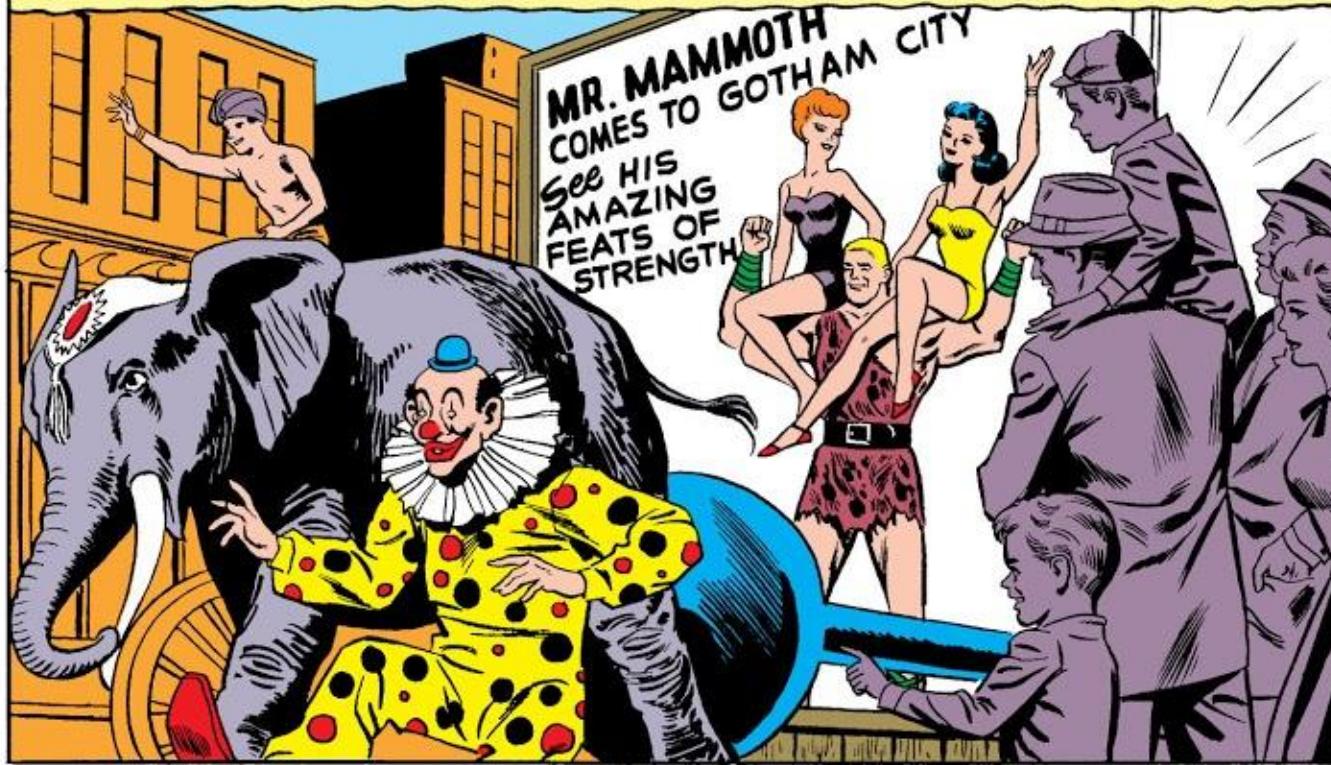
BATMAN'S
TAKING A
BEATING, ROBIN!
YOU SURE WE
SHOULDN'T STEP
IN AND HELP?

NO! BATMAN
WANTS TO
HANDLE
MR.
MAMMOTH
ALONE -- NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS!

BOB
KANE

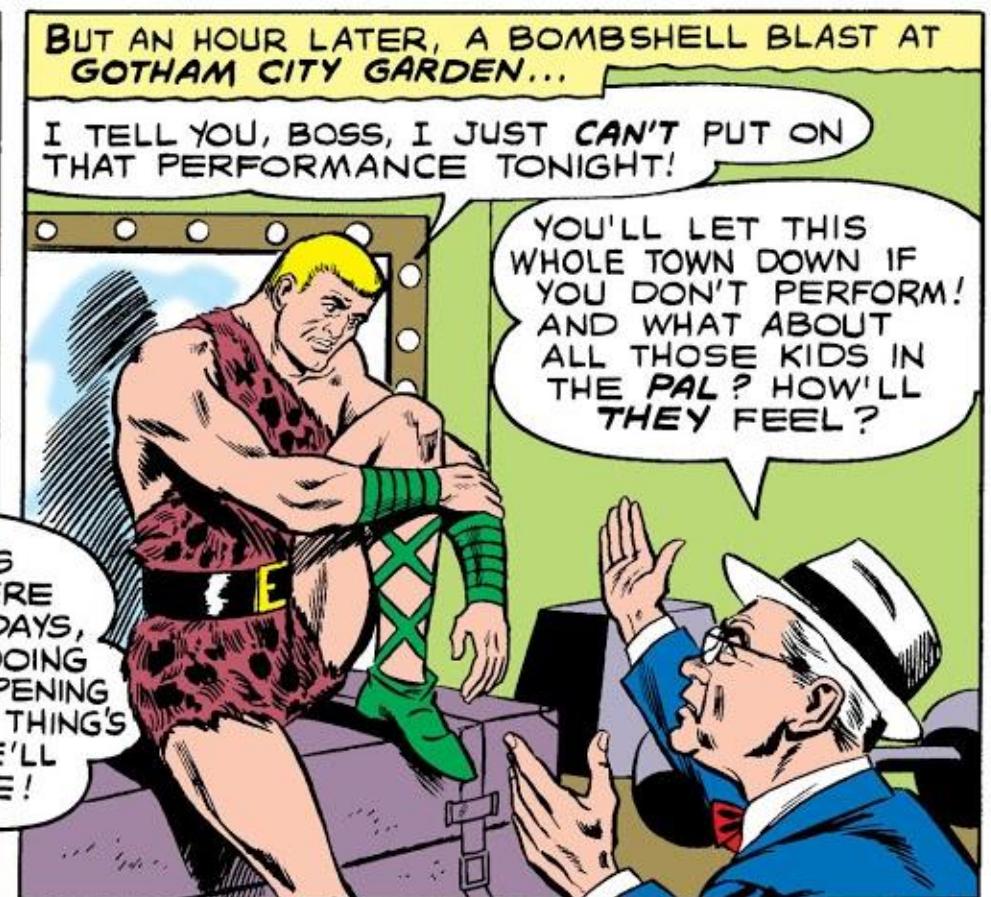


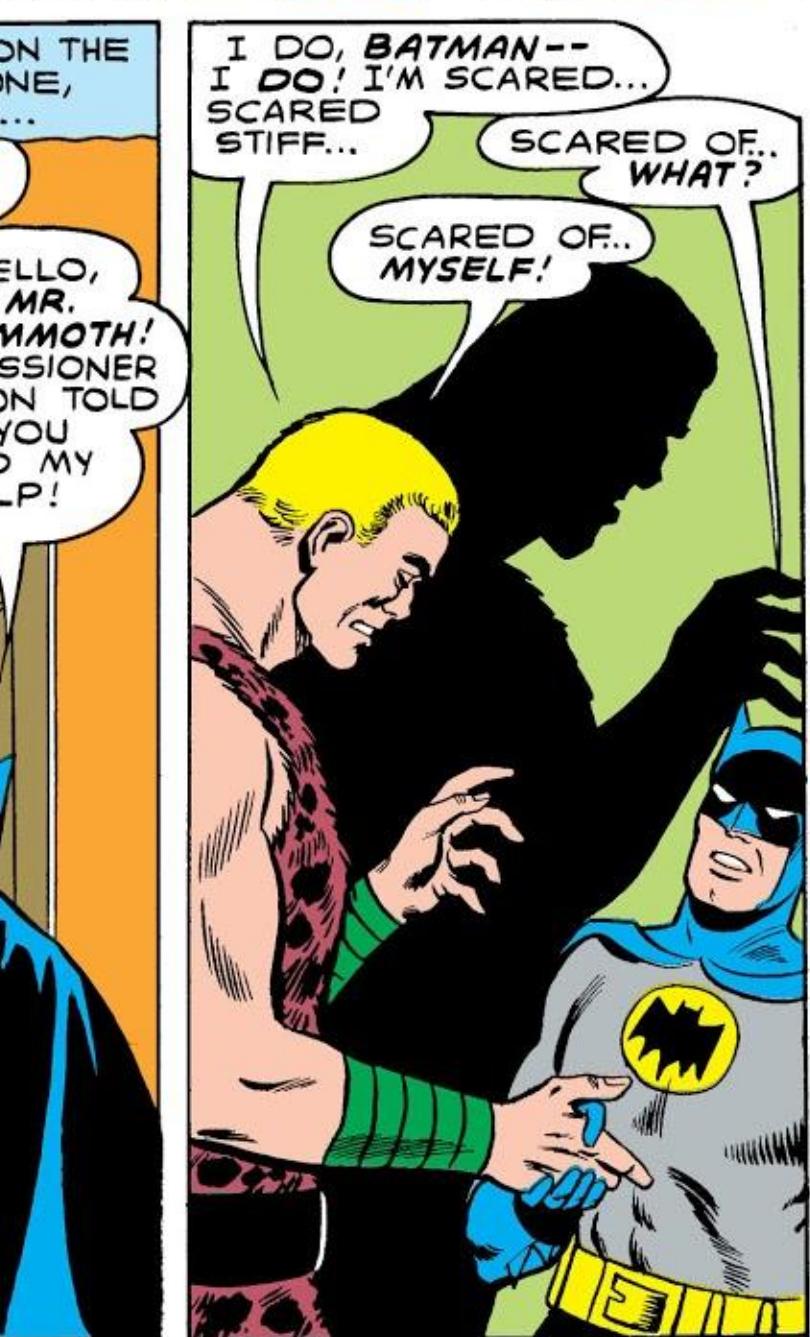
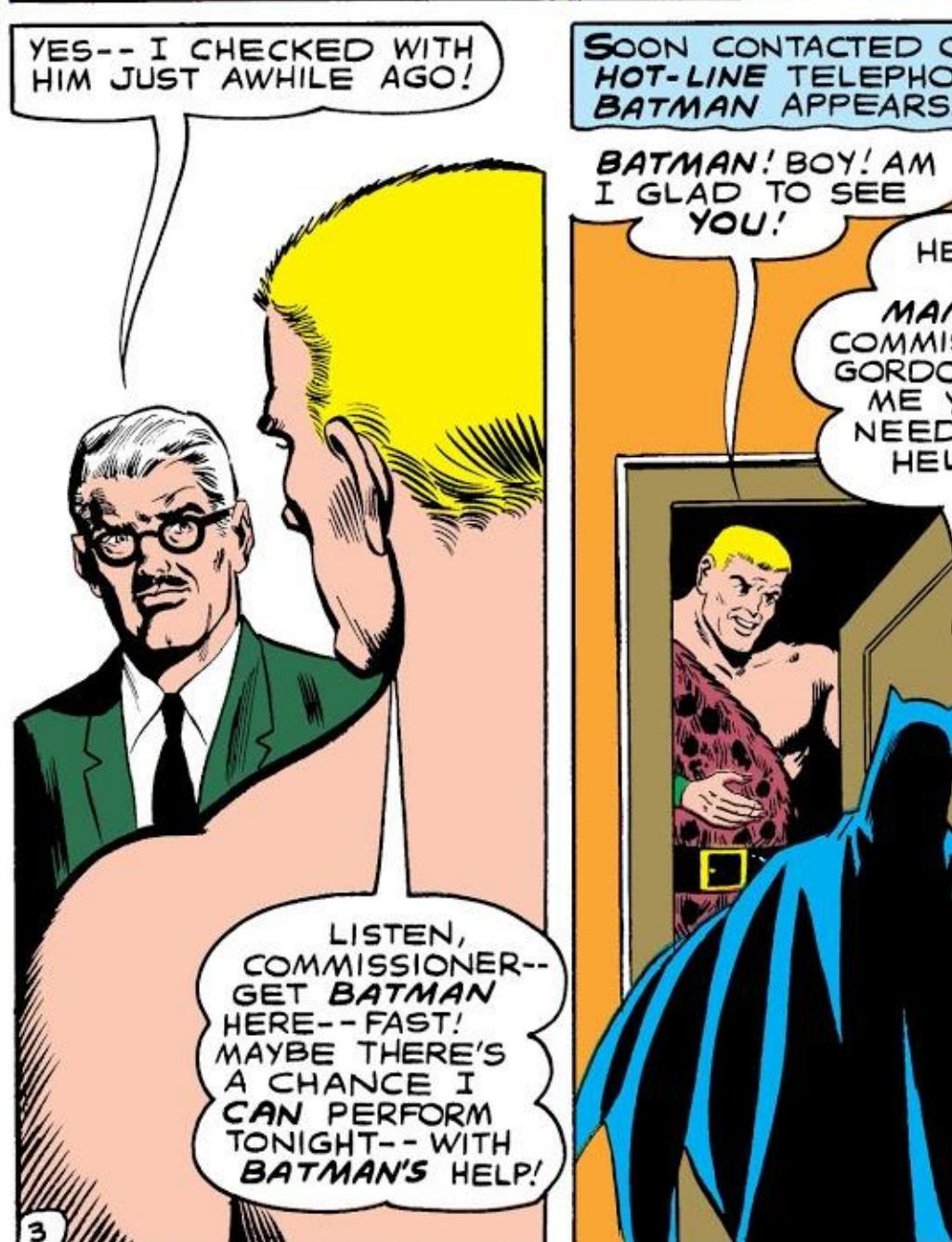
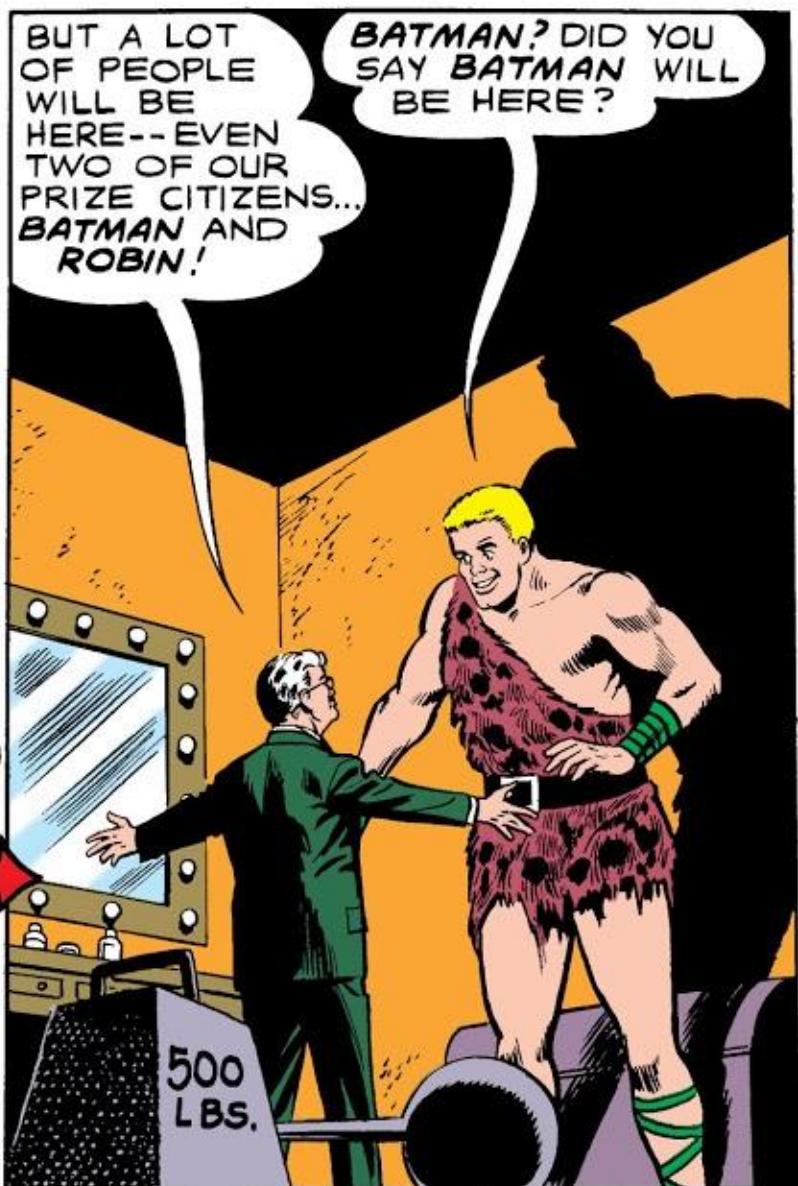
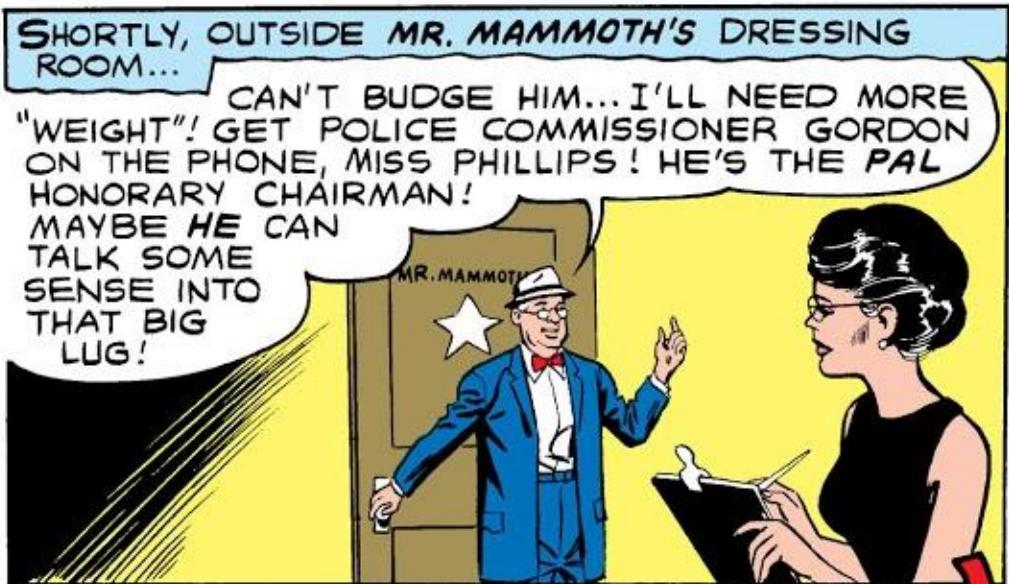
ALL OF GOTHAM CITY TURNS OUT FOR AN EARLY-MORNING CIRCUS PARADE -- FEATURING THE FABULOUS STRONG MAN MR. MAMMOTH!...

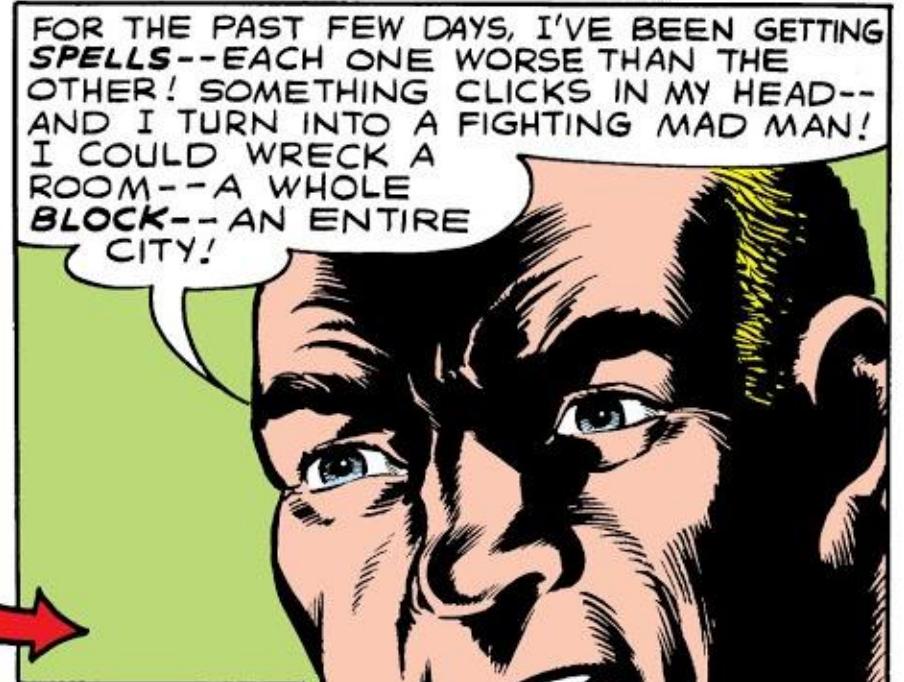
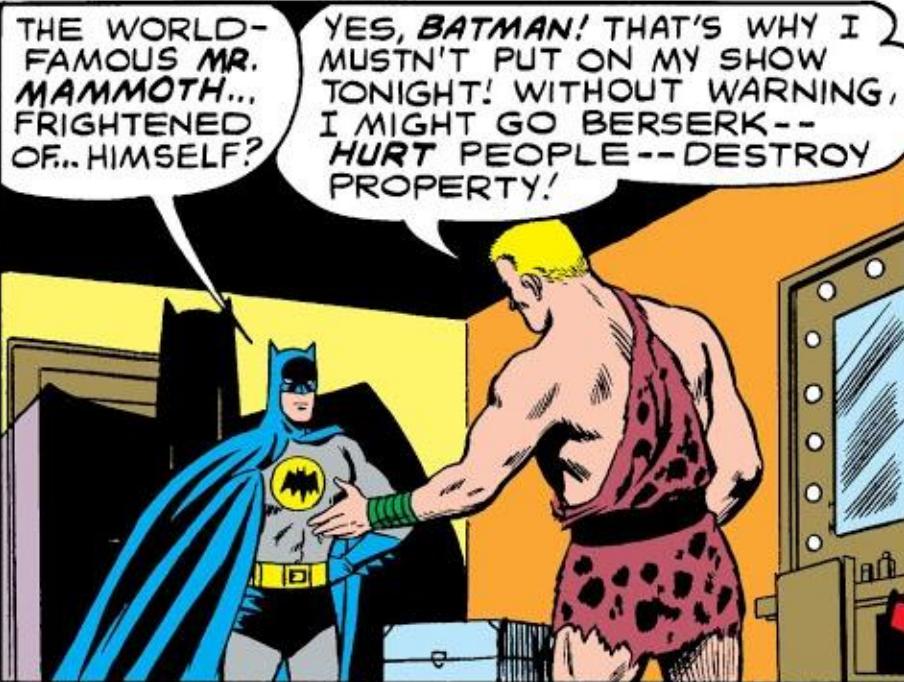


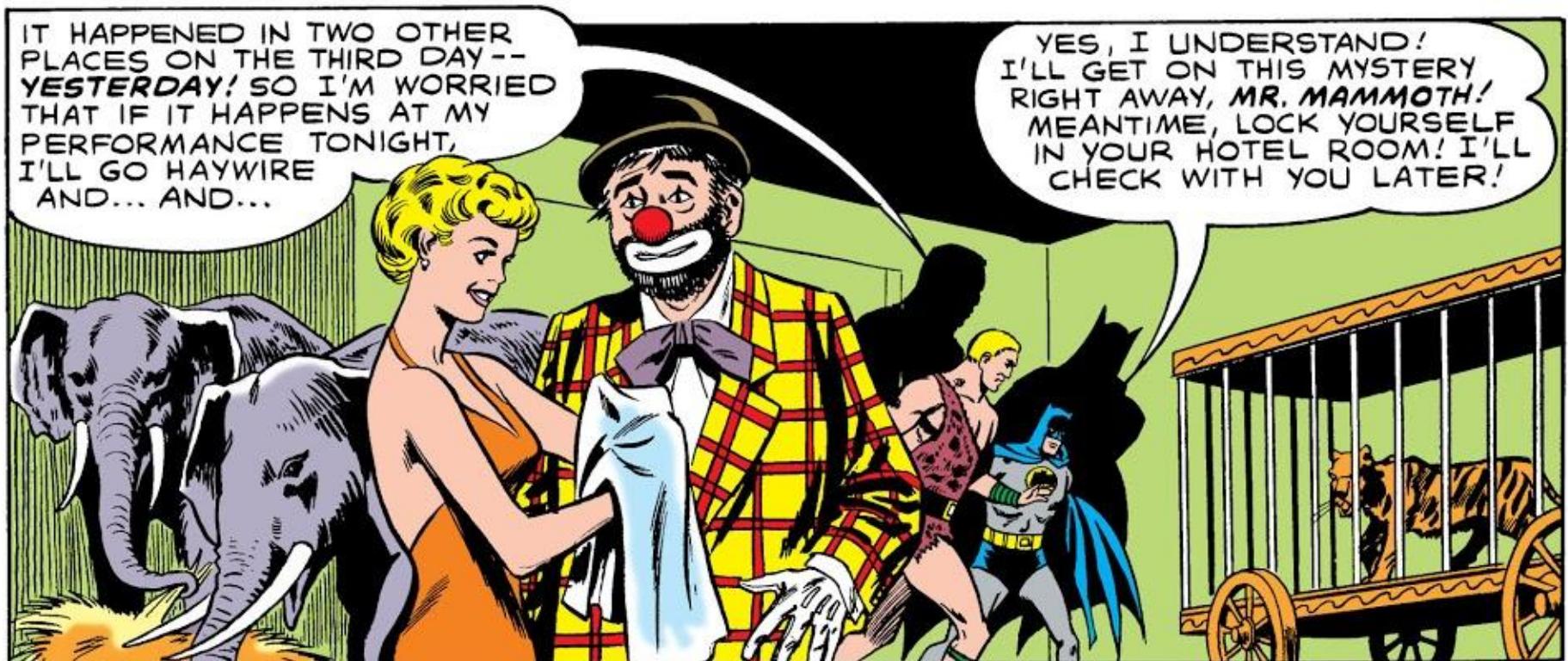
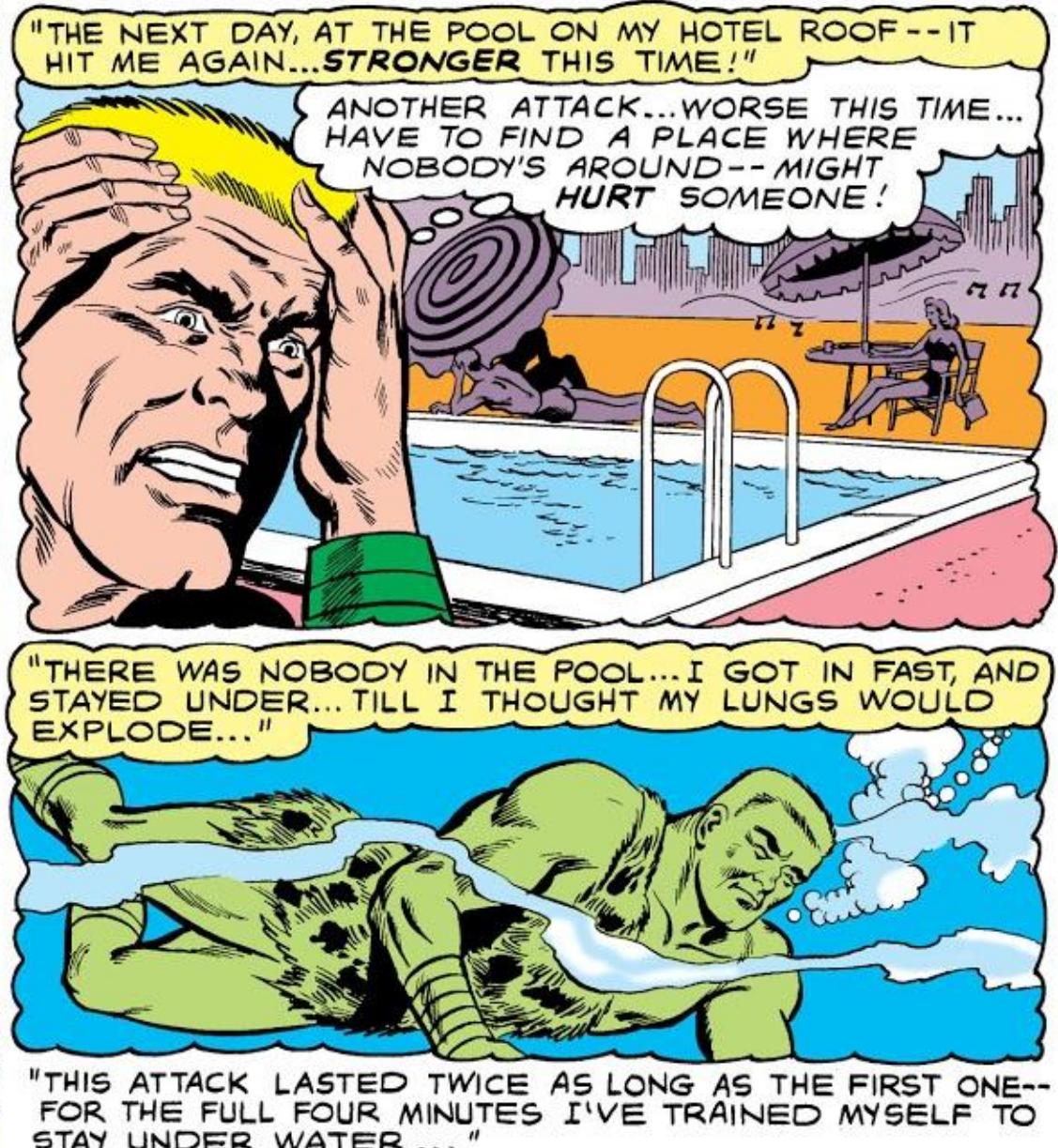
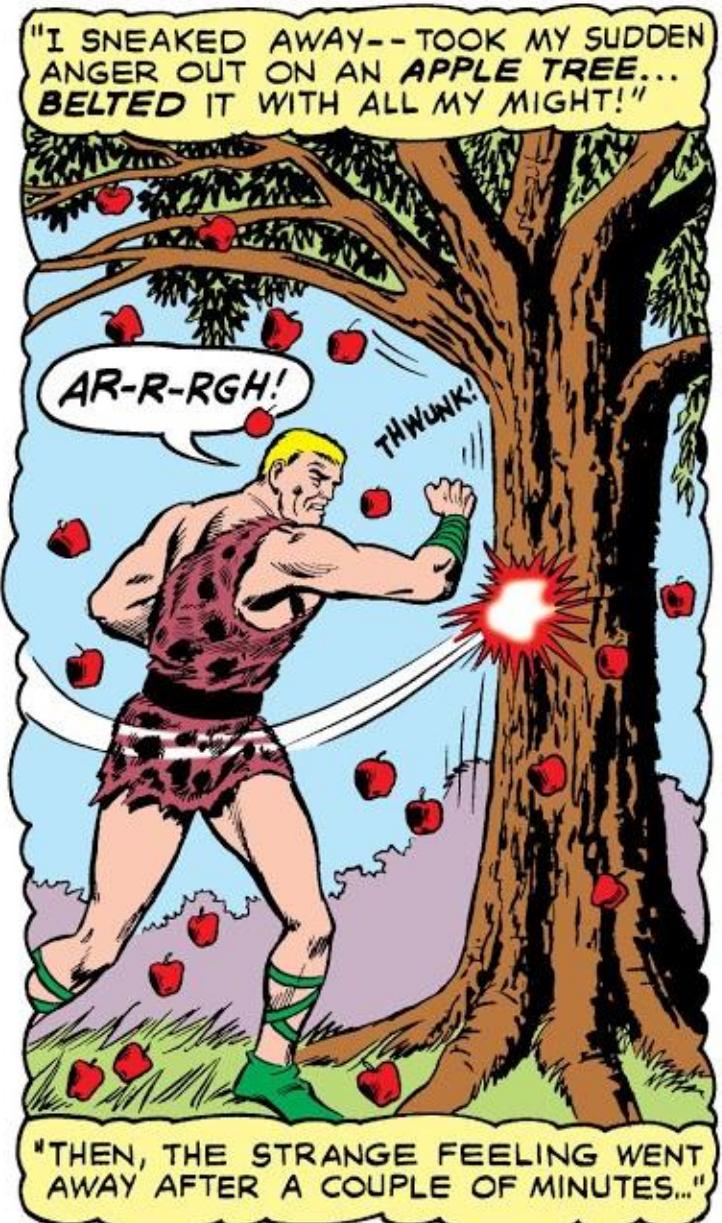
AMONG THE EXCITED ONLOOKERS -- BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON...

GOLLY, BRUCE! I HOPE THE CROWD'S AS BIG AT GOTHAM CITY GARDEN TONIGHT WHEN MR. MAMMOTH PUTS ON HIS BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR THE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE!









AFTER SCOUTING THE AREA...

HERE'S THE APPLE TREE HE SWATTED--BUT NO CLUES--AT LEAST, NOTHING OBVIOUS! LET'S TRY THE HOTEL ROOF!



SHORTLY...

NOTHING SPECIAL HERE, EITHER...

YET, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING THAT'LL GIVE US A CLUE!



THERE HAS TO BE A COMMON DENOMINATOR...SOMETHING THAT WAS PRESENT IN THE PLACES WHERE MAMMOTH WENT BERSERK... AND I THINK I'M TUMBLING TO IT!



THINK, ROBIN! WHAT ONE OBJECT WOULD BE PRESENT AT ALL THE SPOTS WHERE MR. MAMMOTH HAD HIS ATTACKS?

GOLLY, BATMAN-- I'LL HAVE TO START NARROWING DOWN A LOT OF THINGS! LET'S VISIT THE OTHER PLACES WHERE HIS ATTACKS HAPPENED-- AND MAYBE I'LL FIGURE IT OUT!

LATER, IN THE BATMOBILE...

I'VE GOT IT! YES, ONE OBJECT WAS PRESENT IN ALL THOSE PLACES!

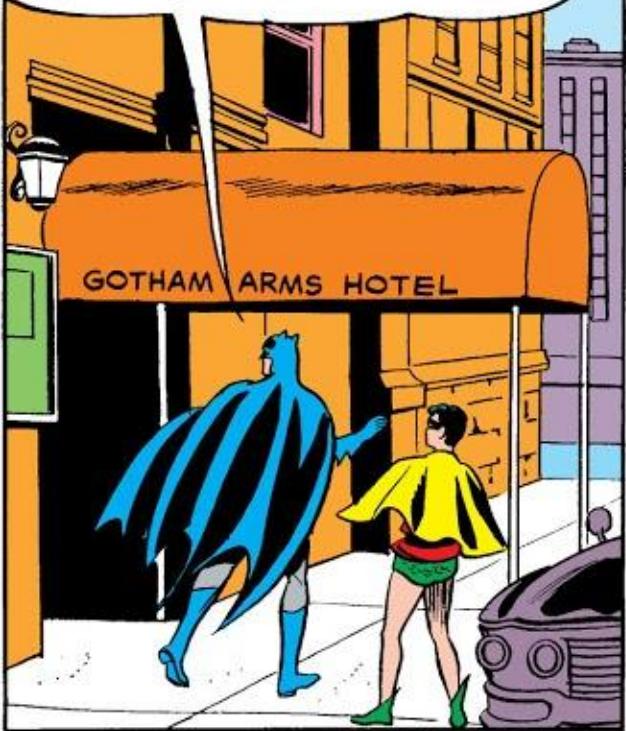
I FIGURED YOU'D GET ON TO IT! AND, SOMEHOW, THAT ONE OBJECT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO MR. MAMMOTH!

I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO HIS HOTEL--FAST--BEFORE ANOTHER ATTACK COMES! THEN WE CAN CLEAR UP THIS MYSTERY--FOR GOOD, I HOPE!



SHORTLY, IN FRONT OF THE GOTHAM ARMS HOTEL...

WAIT HERE, ROBIN! IF I'M TOO LATE, THERE MIGHT BE--ER-- TROUBLE! IF SO, ASK THE POLICE TO **STAY OUT OF IT!** I'LL COPE WITH MR. MAMMOTH--ALONE!



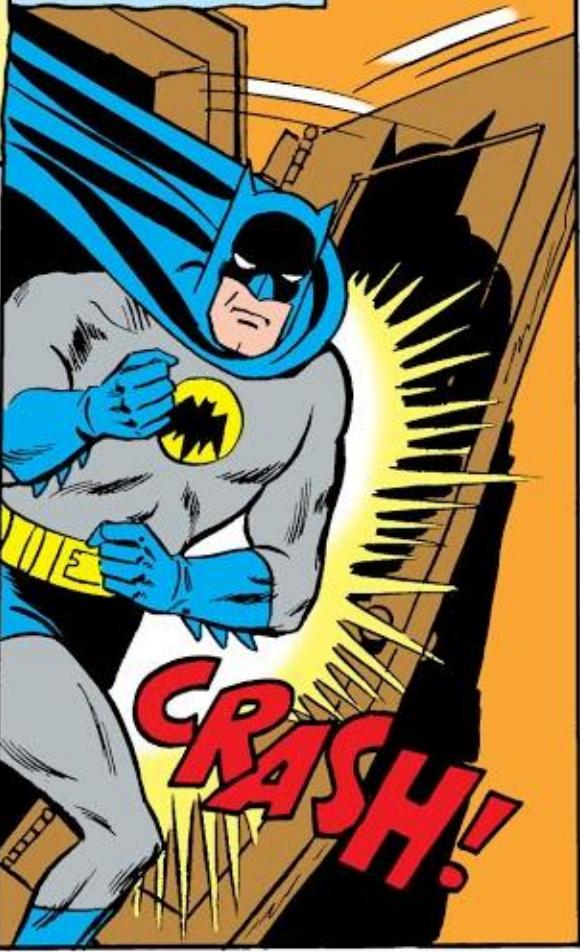
NOT WAITING FOR THE ELEVATOR, THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER RACES UP SEVERAL FLIGHTS OF STAIRS-- THEN DASHES ALONG THE CORRIDOR TOWARD MR. MAMMOTH'S ROOM...

THIS IS STATION WGC...
BONG! BONG! BONG!

THAT RADIO-- COMING FROM MAMMOTH'S ROOM! AM I TOO LATE?



HE DOESN'T BOTHER KNOCKING...



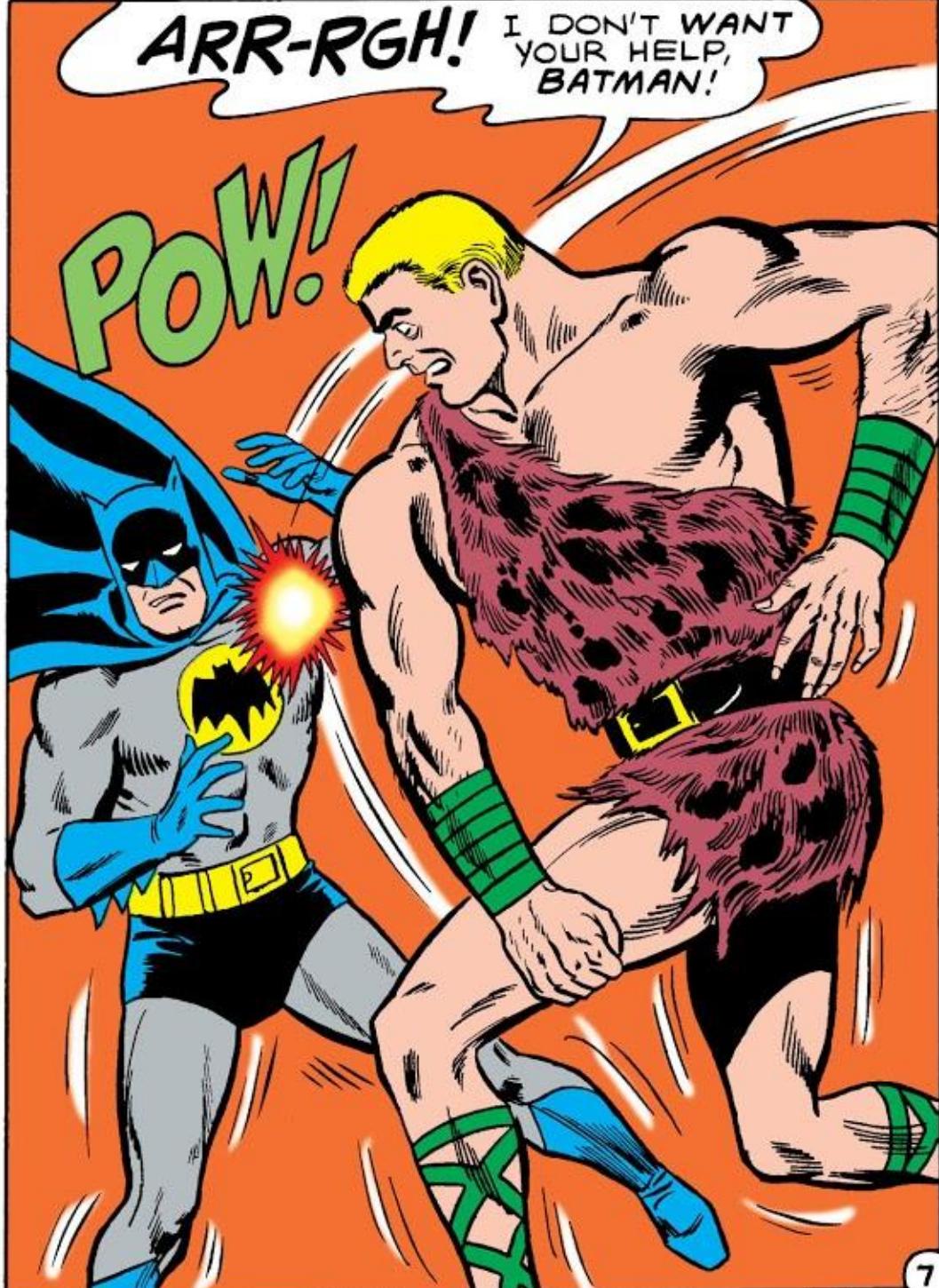
MR. MAMMOTH!
I'VE SOLVED
THE MYSTERY
OF WHAT
HAPPENS
TO YOU!
I CAN
HELP
YOU!

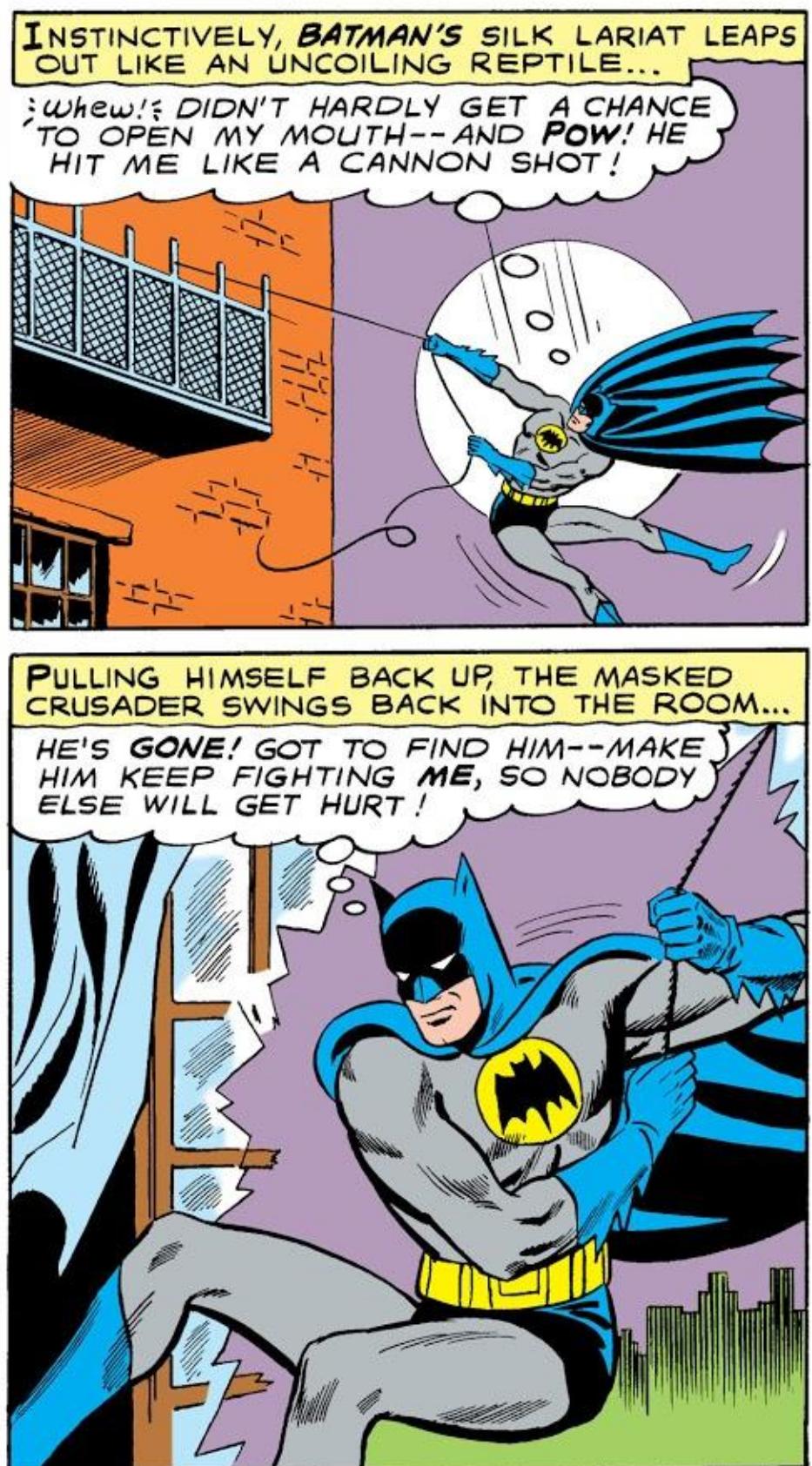
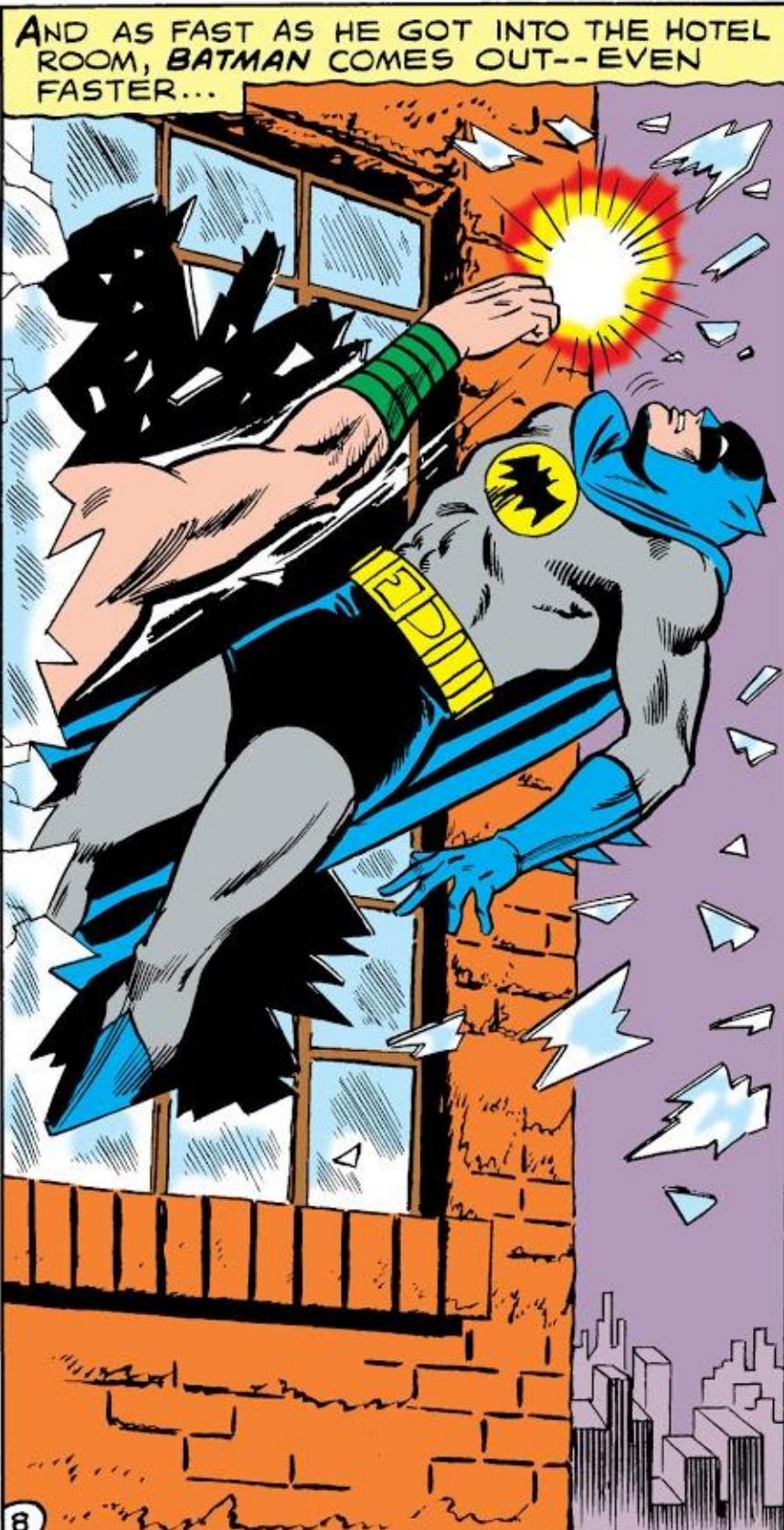
IS THAT
SO--?



ARR-RGH! I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP, BATMAN!

POW!





THE FIGHT THAT JOLTED GOTHAM CITY!

PART 2

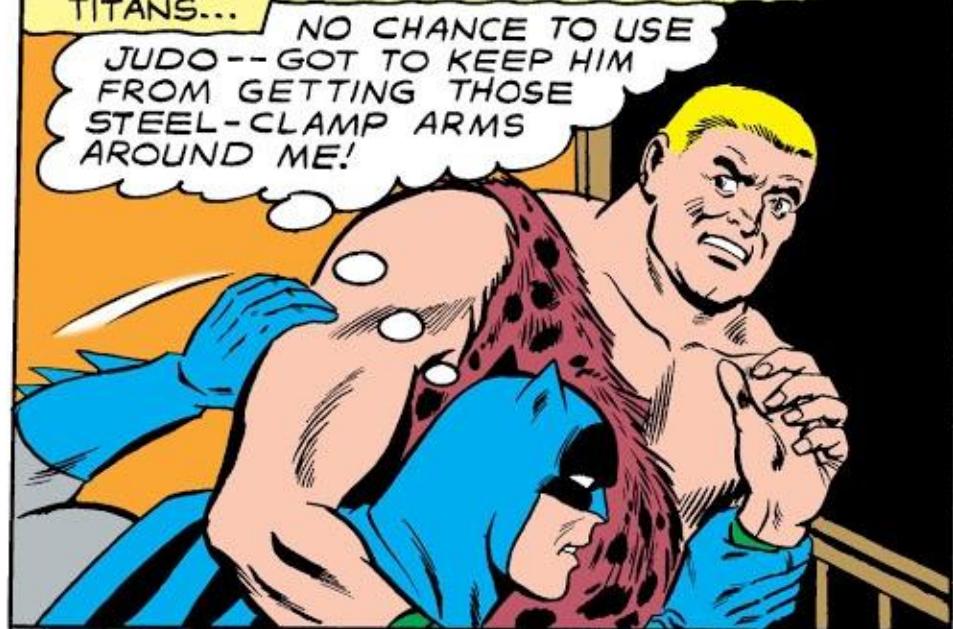
IN THE HALLWAY, WHERE THE CURIOUS PEEK OUT TO SEE THE CAUSE OF THE RUCKUS, BATMAN SPOTS HIS GIANT ADVERSARY...



LIKE A BATTERING RAM, THE CRIME-FIGHTER PLOWS INTO THE MIGHTY MAMMOTH, BUT...



THEN THEY COME TO GRIPS--LIKE TWO TITANS...



SEEING ONLY ONE WAY "OUT," BATMAN TRIPS HIS FOE...





NEWS OF THE SENSATIONAL BATTLE HAS SPREAD QUICKLY, AND ALREADY TV CAMERAS HAVE JOINED THE EXCITED THrong...



SEEMINGLY DOWN AND OUT, BATMAN SPRINGS UP AS MR. MAMMOTH CHARGES AFTER HIM...

LOOK! BATMAN WAS PLAYING POSSUM!

TWISTING AROUND IN MID-AIR, HE LANDS ON THE CHARGING STRONG MAN'S BACK...

NOT EVEN THESE JUDO BLOWS CAN STOP HIM!

USING THE RAGING GIANT'S MOMENTUM, BATMAN SLIPS FROM HIS BACK, SWINGING HIM BY THE ARM...

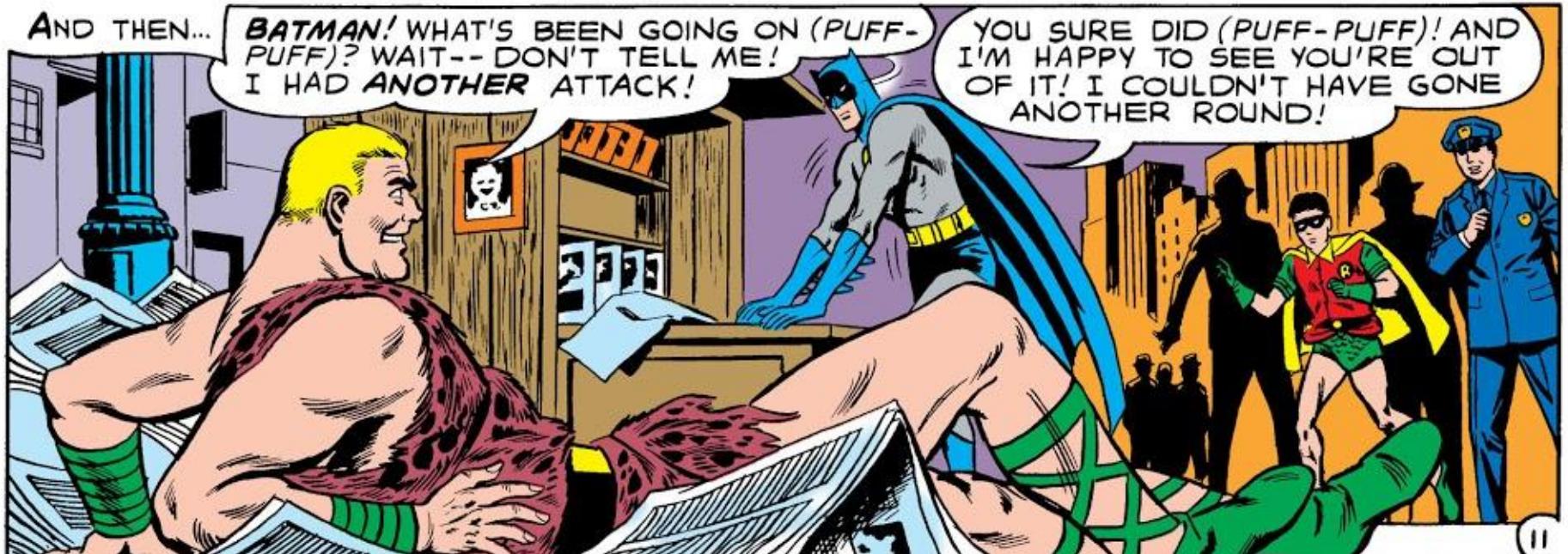
ONE LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH... FOR A FINAL JUDO STUNT! OVER YOU GO!



AND THEN...

BATMAN! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON (PUFF-PUFF)? WAIT-- DON'T TELL ME! I HAD ANOTHER ATTACK!

YOU SURE DID (PUFF-PUFF)! AND I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE OUT OF IT! I COULDN'T HAVE GONE ANOTHER ROUND!



THEN, THE SOLUTION TO THE MYSTERY...

THERE WAS ONE THING PRESENT EACH TIME YOUR ATTACKS CAME ... A **RADIO!** SOMETHING IN YOUR BRAIN* RESPONDED EMOTIONALLY-- OR INSTINCTIVELY-- TO THE RADIO STATION'S **MUSICAL CALL LETTERS!**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN PSYCHOLOGIST PAGANO, THE "BASAL GANGLIA" OF THE BRAIN ARE THE CENTERS OF EMOTIONS AND INSTINCTS-- FEAR, CURIOSITY, ANGER, PUGNACITY, ETC.

THESE VIBRATIONS DISTURBED A DEEP-SEATED FIGHTING EMOTION-- OR INSTINCT-- THAT WAS DORMANT IN YOU, BUT WAS AWAKENED BY THE CHIMES OF THE CALL LETTERS!

THE STATION HAS AGREED TO CHANGE THE MUSICAL KEY OF THE CALL LETTERS, SO YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY OKAY FOR TONIGHT'S SHOW! AFTER THAT, MEDICAL SCIENCE CAN TAKE OVER AND CURE THE AFFLICTION FOR GOOD!

THANKS, **BATMAN!** YOU'VE SURE MADE ME A HAPPY GUY! I'LL PUT ON A SHOW FOR THOSE KIDS LIKE NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!

THAT NIGHT, AFTER **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RECEIVE LUSTY APPLAUSE IN THE CIRCUS ARENA...

HERE COMES **MR. MAMMOTH**, AND FOR HIS OPENING ACT HE'S CARRYING THE ENTIRE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM OF THE **PAL** SOFTBALL LEAGUE!

I'D SAY **MR. MAMMOTH**'S QUITE A CHAMPION HIMSELF!

The End.

**ANOTHER
"MYSTERY ANALYSTS
of GOTHAM CITY"
THRILLER!**

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

TO APPREHEND A CRIMINAL, THERE MUST BE A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY--BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU KNOW THE CRIMINAL, BUT CAN'T FIND THE CLUE TO PIN THE GUILT ON HIM? THAT IS THE TURNABOUT SITUATION CONFRONTING BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY SET OUT TO DEMONSTRATE ...

A HELICOPTER DESCENDS ON THE GROUNDS OF A RAMBLING ESTATE...



HOW TO SOLVE A PERFECT CRIME-- in REVERSE!

AND FROM IT STEPS BATMAN, HERALDED THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...



...FOLLOWED BY MYSTERY NOVELIST KAYE DAYE, WHOSE FICTION STRIKINGLY PARALLELS ACTUAL CASES--AND SOLVES THEM!



SERIOUS-THINKING PROF. RALPH VERN, OF STATE UNIVERSITY, WHOSE HOBBY IS TINKERING IN A LAB--TO CATCH CROOKS!

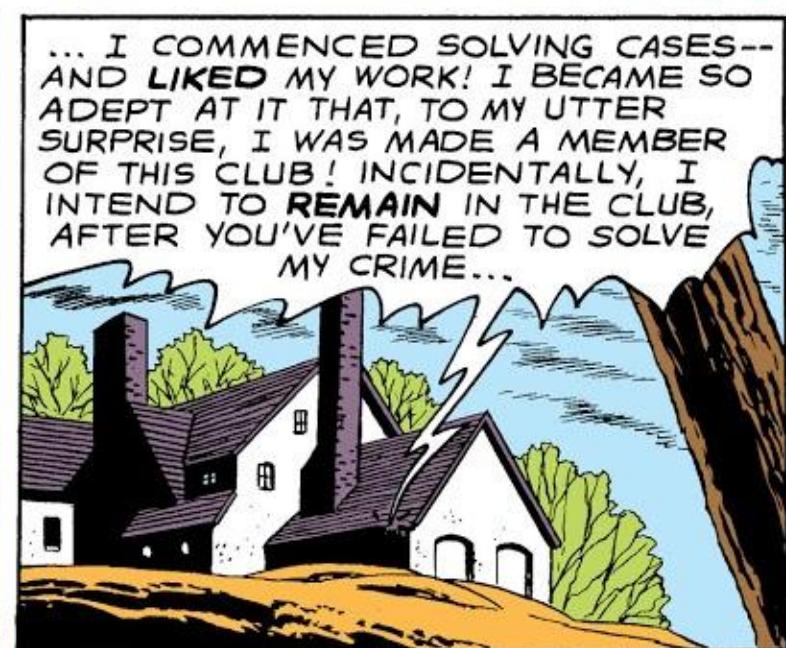


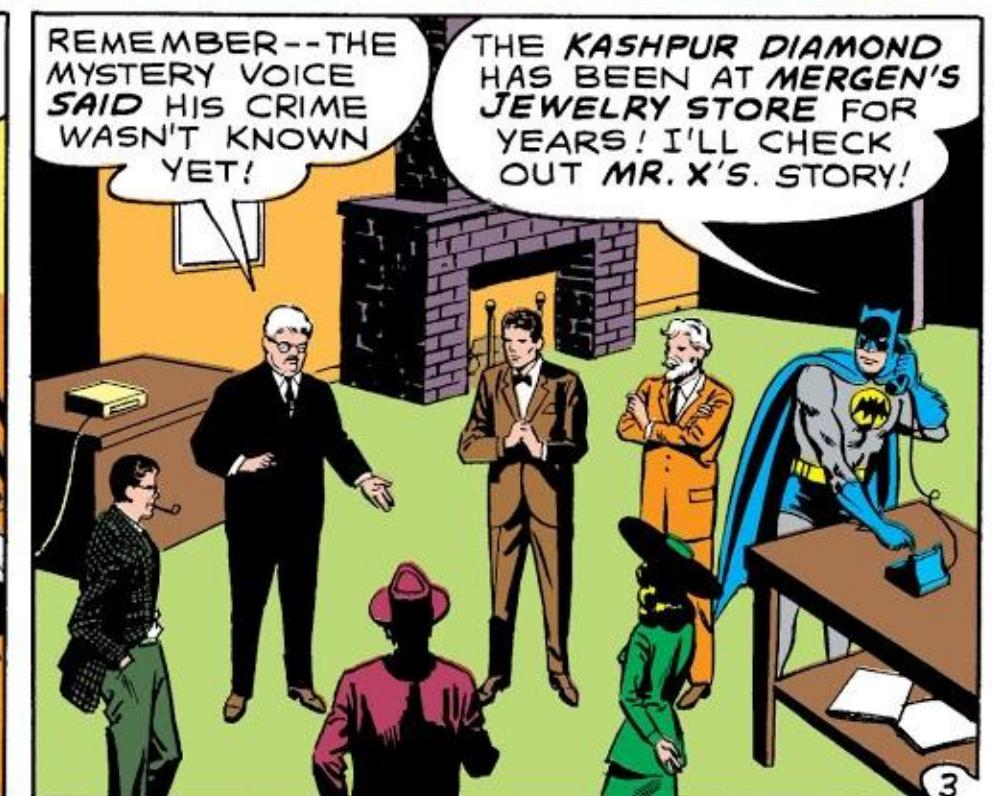
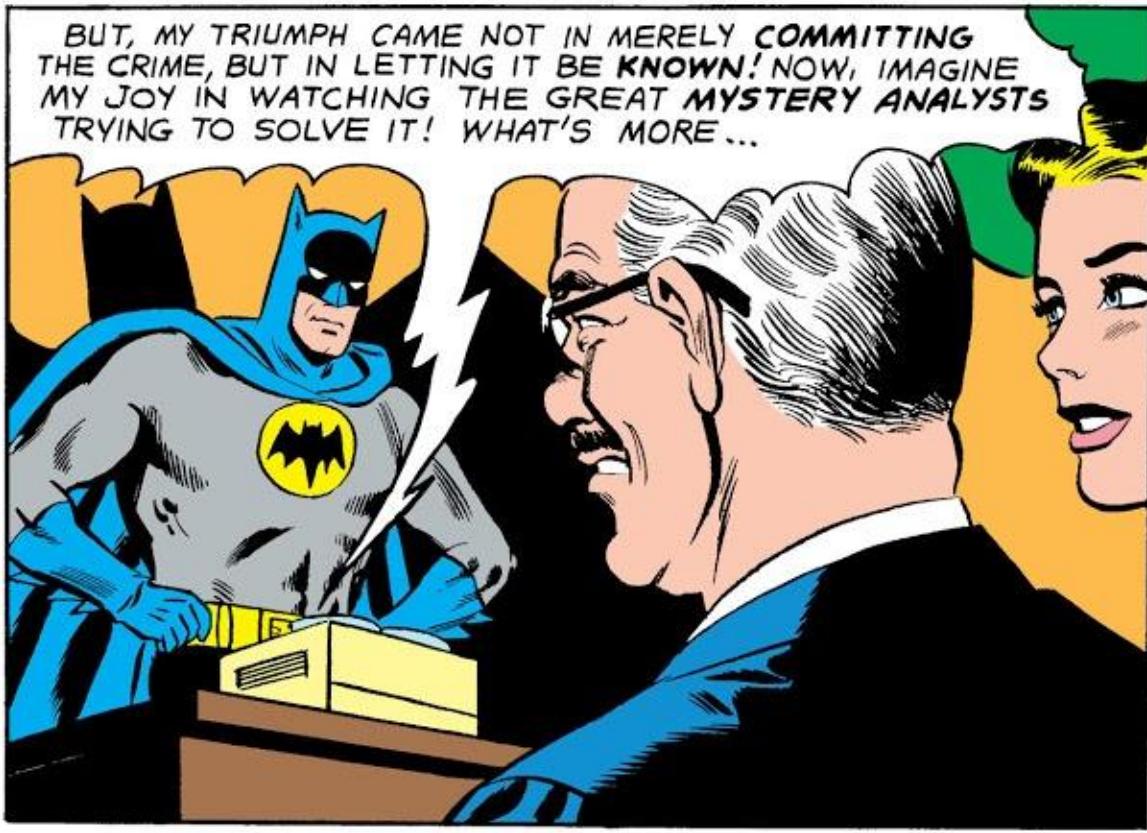
AND POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...



THESE, AND OTHERS WITH THEM, ARE MEMBERS OF GOTHAM CITY'S FAMOUS MYSTERY ANALYSTS CLUB, OUT FOR A "BUSINESS" WEEK-END AT THEIR SPRAWLING ESTATE. NOW, AS THEY ENTER THE LIVING ROOM...





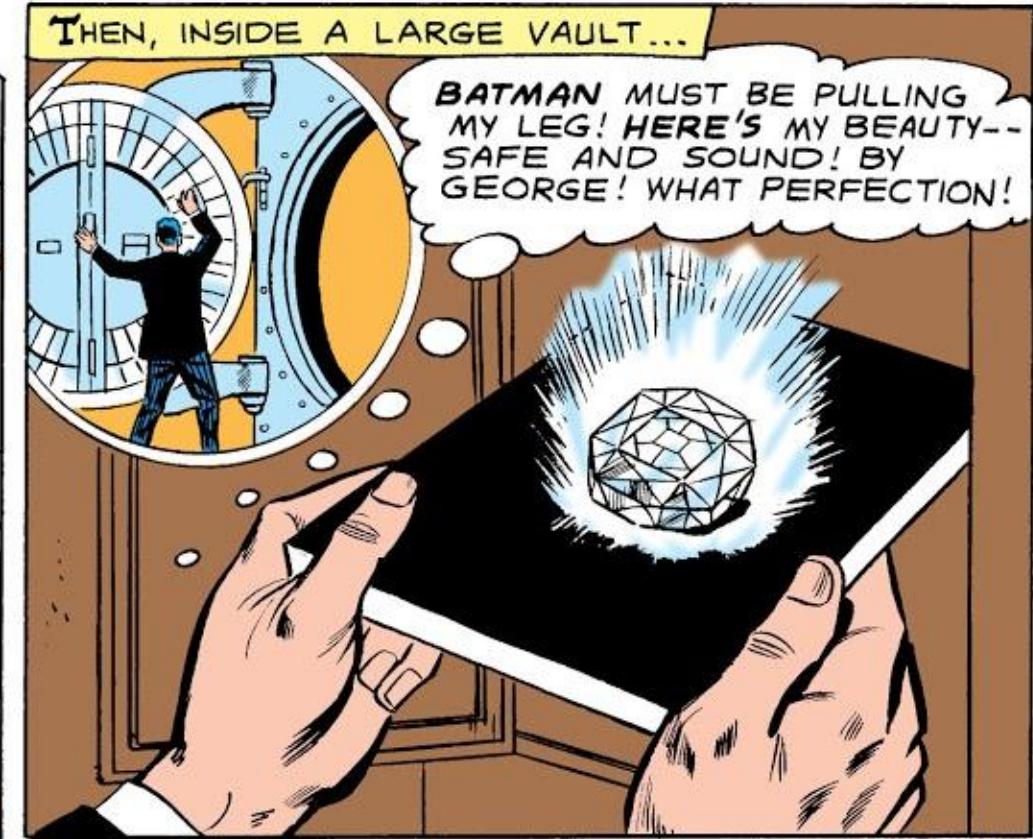


AT THE FAMOUS JEWELER'S...

YES, BATMAN--THIS IS MR. MERGEN! WHAT'S THAT?! YOU MUST BE JESTING! VERY WELL--I'LL GET THE KASHPUR NOW, JUST TO SATISFY YOU... HANG ON...

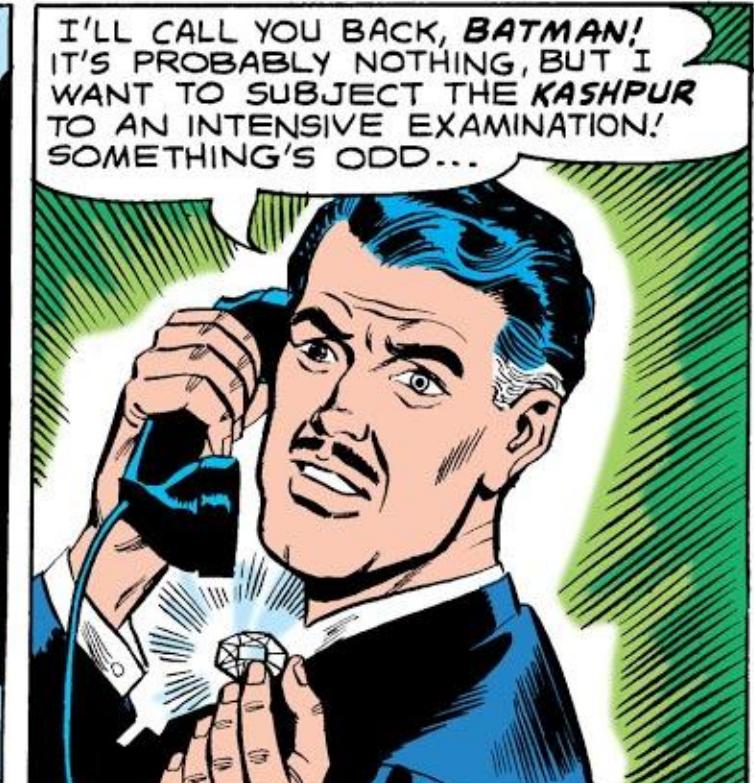
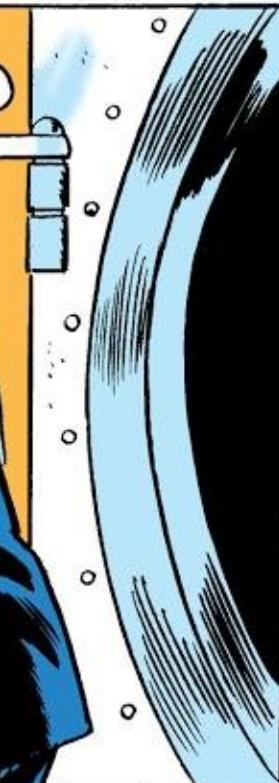
THEN, INSIDE A LARGE VAULT...

BATMAN MUST BE PULLING MY LEG! HERE'S MY BEAUTY--SAFE AND SOUND! BY GEORGE! WHAT PERFECTION!



SUDDENLY, A STARTLED PAUSE...

STRANGE -- I THOUGHT I DETECTED A FLAW! IMPOSSIBLE, OF COURSE ...



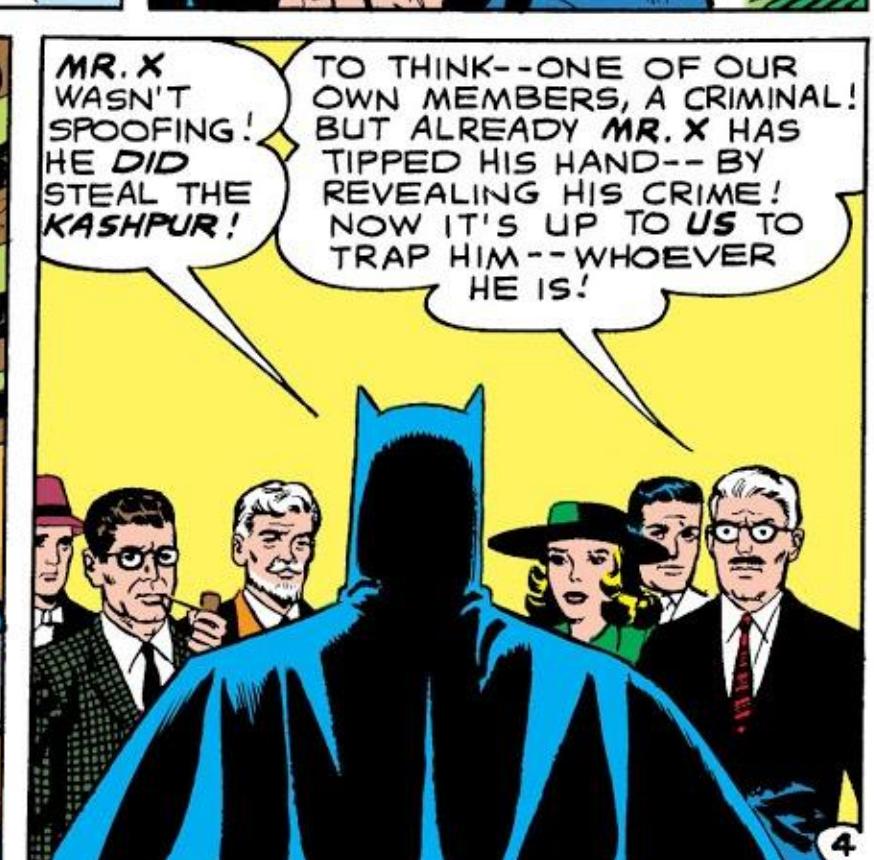
LATER...

BATMAN! IT'S INCREDIBLE, BUT THE KASHPUR IS GONE! IT'S BEEN REPLACED BY AN IMITATION!

THEN WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US!

MR. X WASN'T SPOOFING! HE DID STEAL THE KASHPUR!

TO THINK--ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS, A CRIMINAL! BUT ALREADY MR. X HAS TIPPED HIS HAND--BY REVEALING HIS CRIME! NOW IT'S UP TO US TO TRAP HIM--WHOEVER HE IS!



THAT NIGHT, AS THE OTHER CRIME-SOLVING EXPERTS DIG INTO THE BAFFLING DIAMOND PUZZLER, BATMAN IS ELSEWHERE, WITH ROBIN!...

EASY DOES IT, ROBIN! WE DON'T WANT THE GOLD SMUGGLERS TO SPOT US!



BUT AS THEY STEAL ON DECK...

AHOY! BATMAN AND ROBIN! ABOARD SHIP!

THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG!



RUSH 'EM!

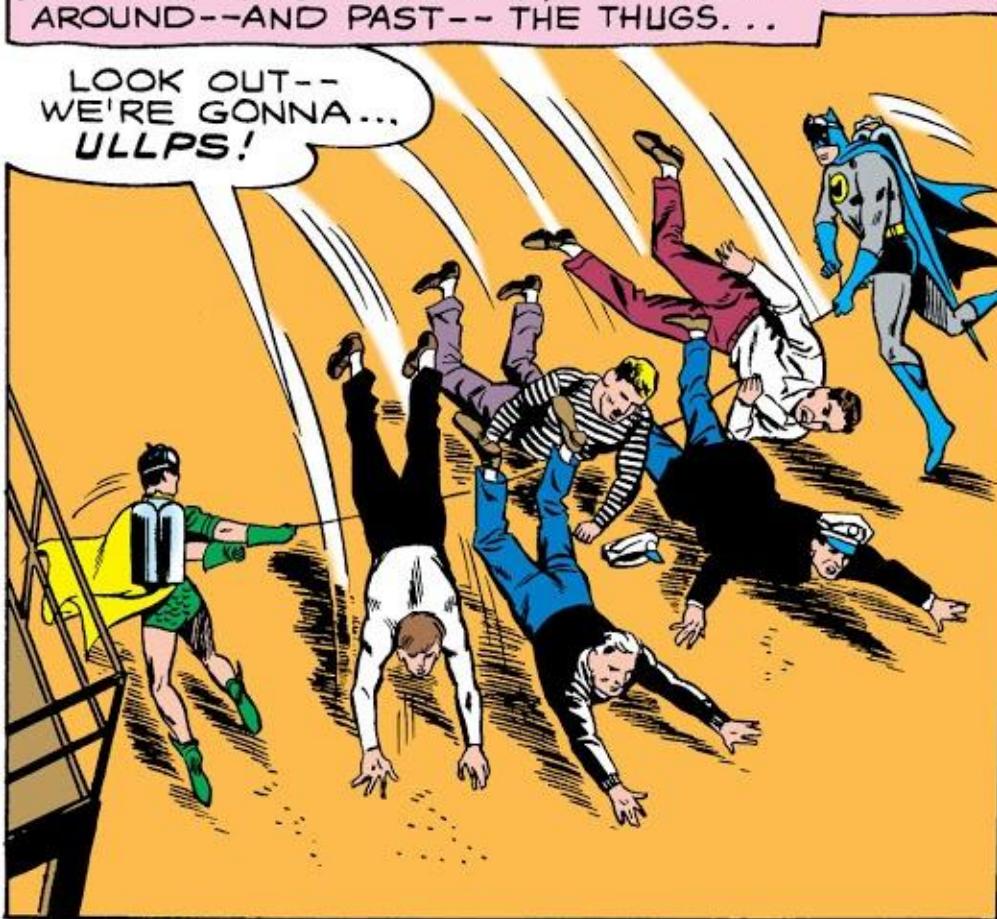
SMASH 'EM!

THIS CALLS FOR A CHANGE OF PLAN! CATCH, ROBIN!



IN A FLANKING MOVEMENT, THE CRUSADERS RACE AROUND--AND PAST-- THE THUGS...

LOOK OUT-- WE'RE GONNA... ULLPS!

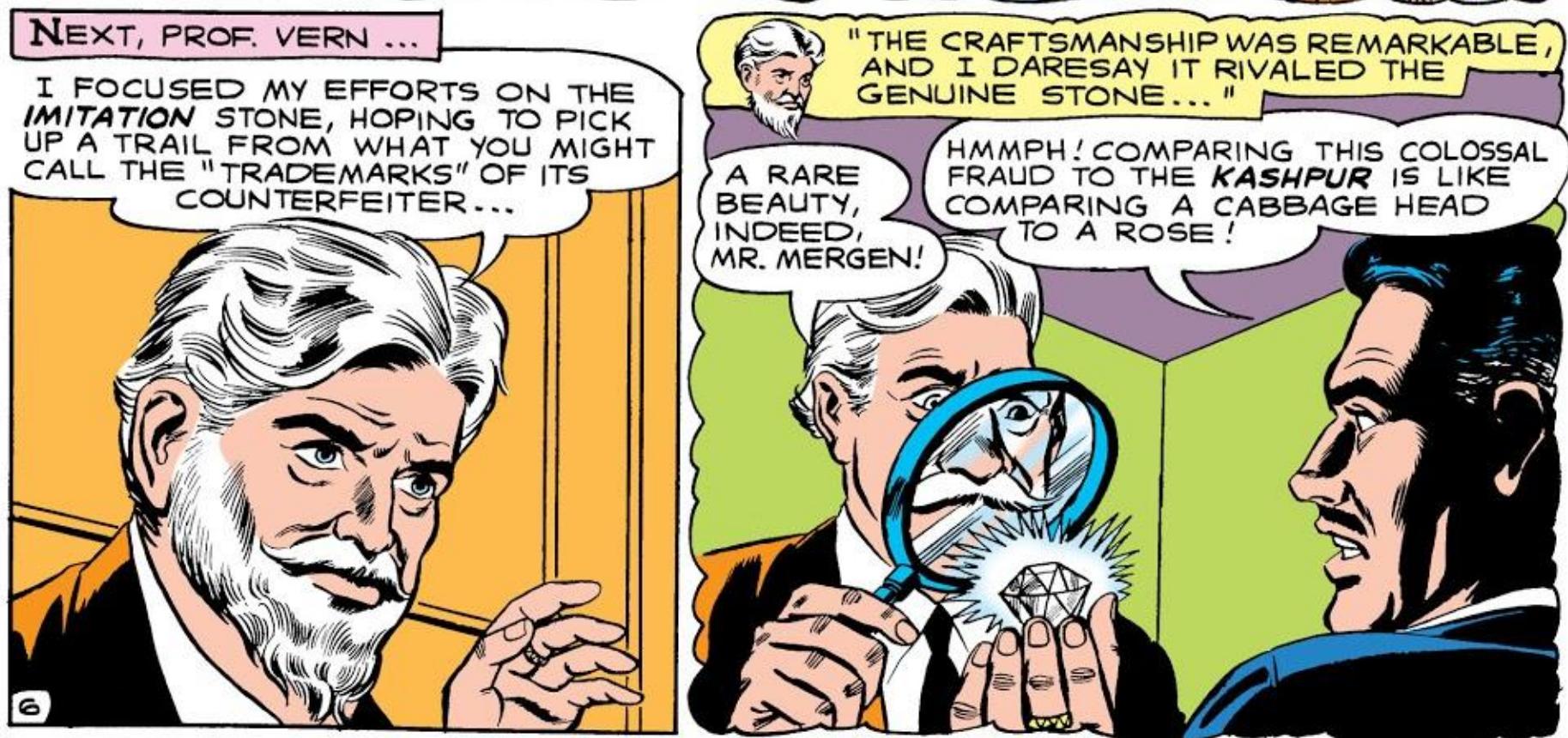
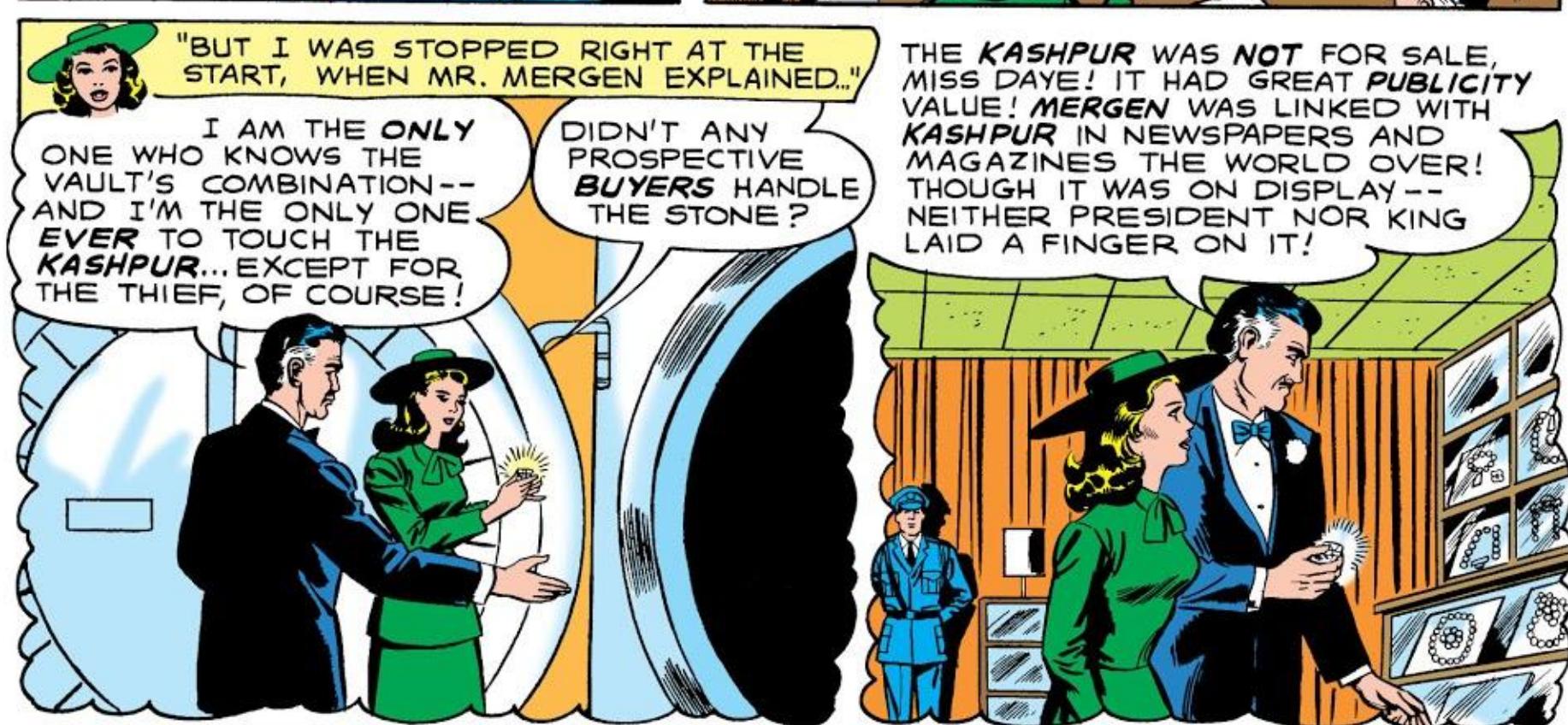


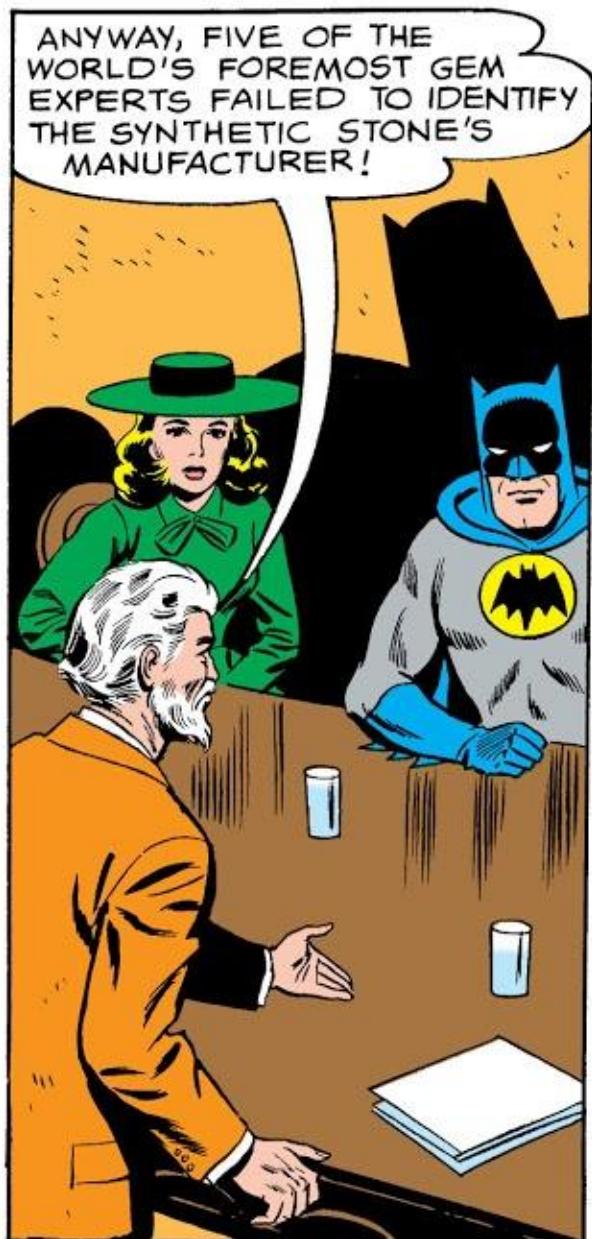
AND WHEN A COAST GUARD CUTTER PULLS ALONGSIDE...

GOLLY, BATMAN! NOW THAT WE'VE SCUTTLED THOSE SMUGGLERS, WE CAN HOP RIGHT ON THE KASHPUR DIAMOND CASE!

UH-- NO, NOT YET!







DEEP IN THE **BATCAVE**, WHERE BRUCE AND DICK SWITCH TO THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING ROLES...

THAT'S NEAT! A TINY TRANSISTOR TAPE RECORDER!

HIDDEN IN MY UTILITY BELT AT THE MEETING-- TO RECORD THE **VERBAL** REPORTS FROM ALL THE MEMBERS!

I FIGURED **MR. X** WOULD BE AS THOROUGH ABOUT HIS VERBAL REPORT AS HE WAS WITH THE REST OF HIS CRIME!-- THAT HE'D KNOW IN ADVANCE EVERYTHING HE WOULD SAY-- TO AVOID ANY SLIP-UPS!

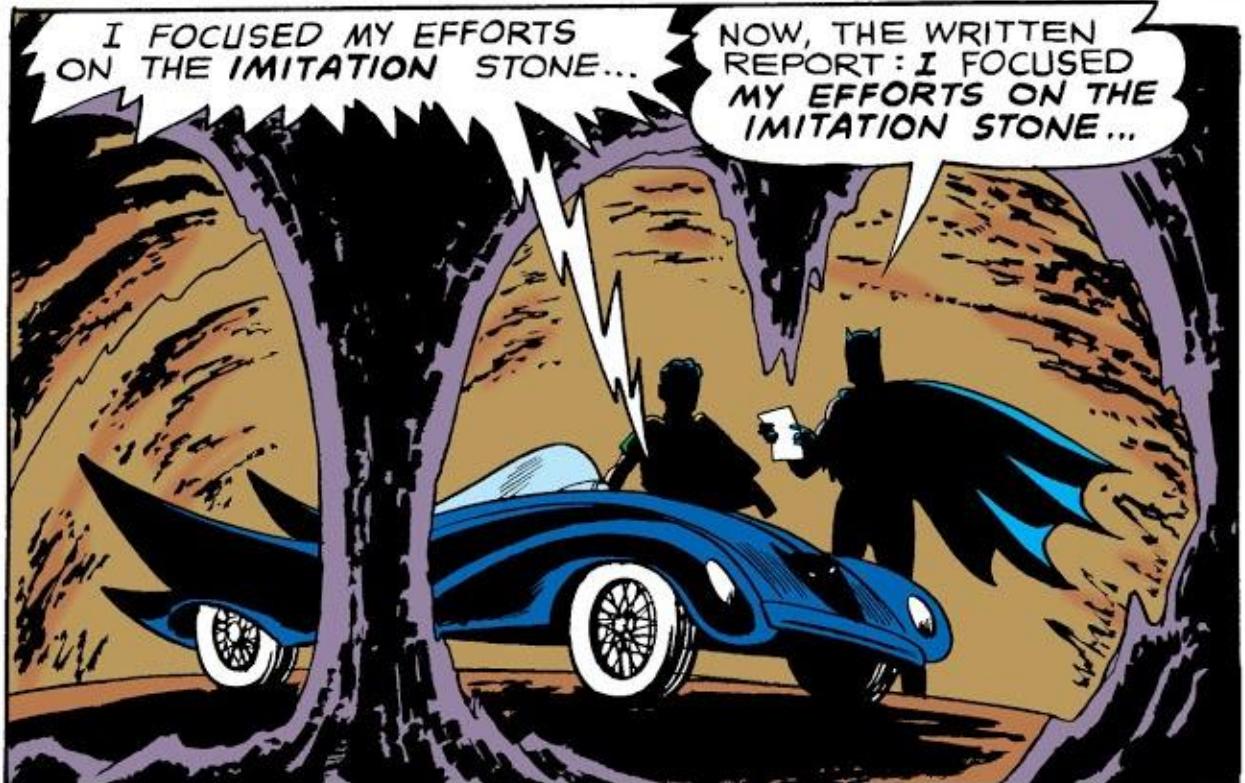


I WORKED ON THE BASIS THAT **NOBODY** WRITES A **WORD-FOR-WORD** REPORT EXACTLY AS HE EARLIER REPORTED IT, VERBALLY! NOW LISTEN, **ROBIN...**



I FOCUSED MY EFFORTS ON THE **IMITATION STONE**...

NOW, THE WRITTEN REPORT: I FOCUSED MY EFFORTS ON THE **IMITATION STONE**...



LATER...

GOLLY! EVERY WORD IN THE **VERBAL** REPORT WAS **EXACTLY** LIKE THE **WRITTEN** REPORT!

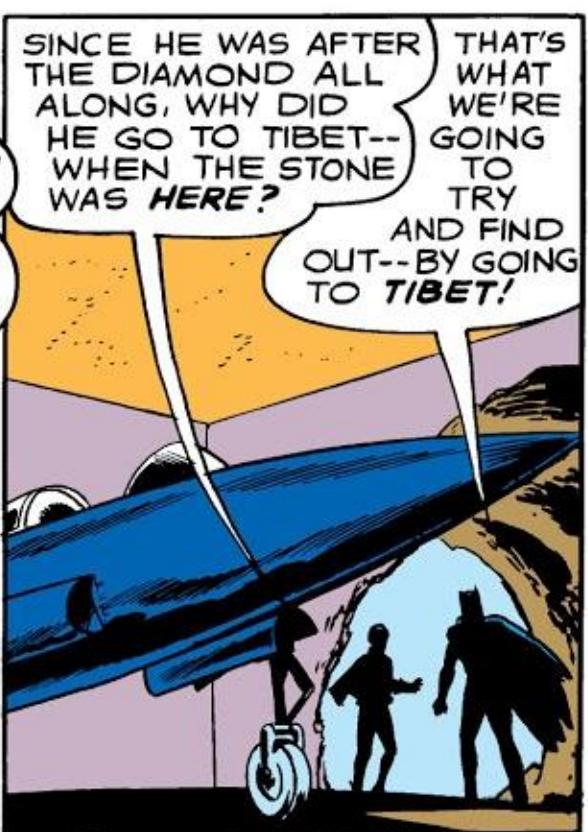
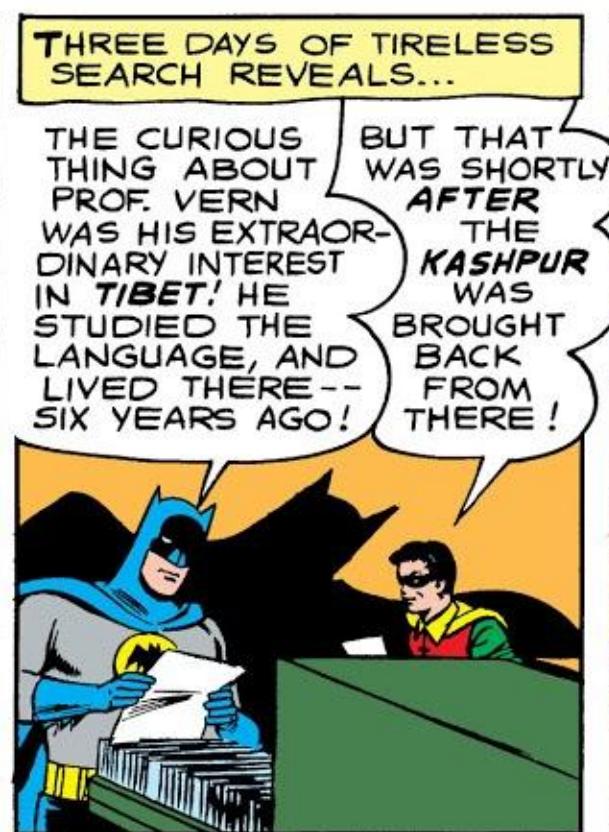
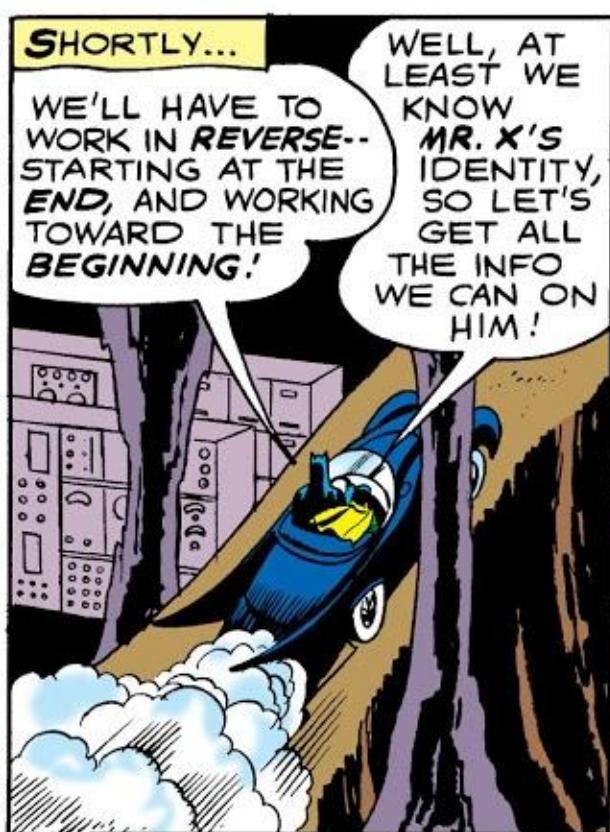
YES-- SO WELL MEMORIZED THAT **MR. X** KNEW IN ADVANCE EVERY WORD HE WOULD UTTER!

CLICK!

HE KNEW WHAT HE WOULD REPORT BEFORE HE WENT OUT ON THE CASE! HE WAS AS PRECISE ABOUT THAT AS HE WAS IN STEALING THE DIAMOND!

PROF. RALPH VERN! HE'S **MR. X**!





THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...



SHAKEN BY THE SURGING SEA OF THRASHING FIGURES, A GREAT STATUE TOPPLES...



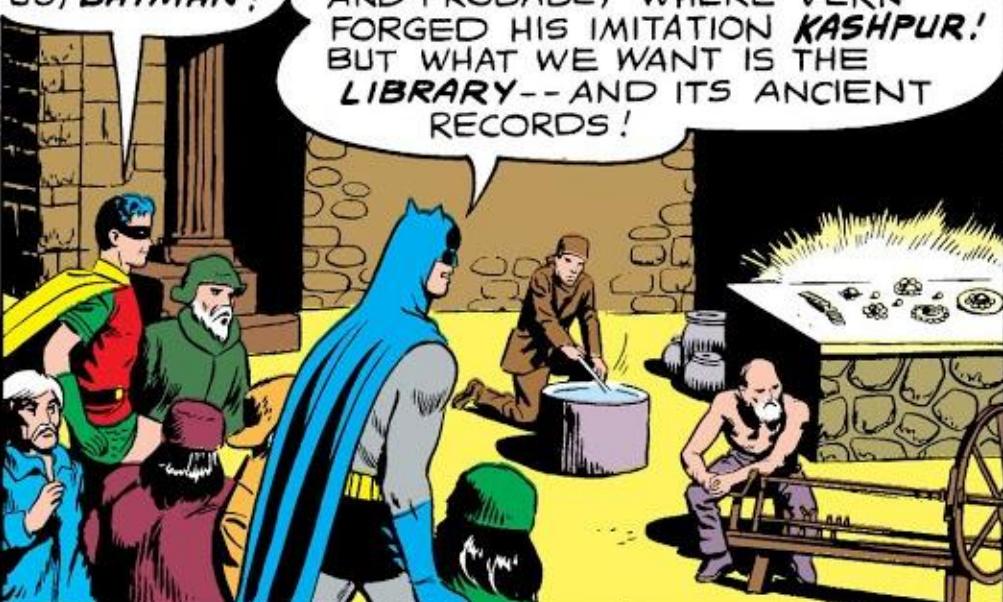
TEARING FREE FROM CLAWING HANDS, BATMAN LEAPS TO THE RESCUE...



THEN, AS THE HEROES ARE CARRIED ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE HILLSMEN...

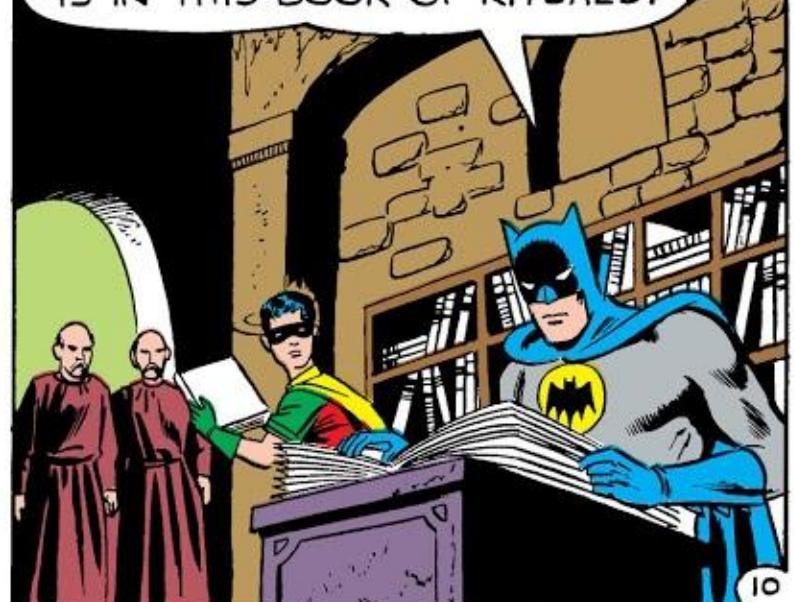
WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US, BATMAN?

LOOKS LIKE A CHAMBER WHERE THE LAMAS FASHIONED JEWELRY-- AND PROBABLY WHERE VERN FORGED HIS IMITATION KASHPUR! BUT WHAT WE WANT IS THE LIBRARY-- AND ITS ANCIENT RECORDS!



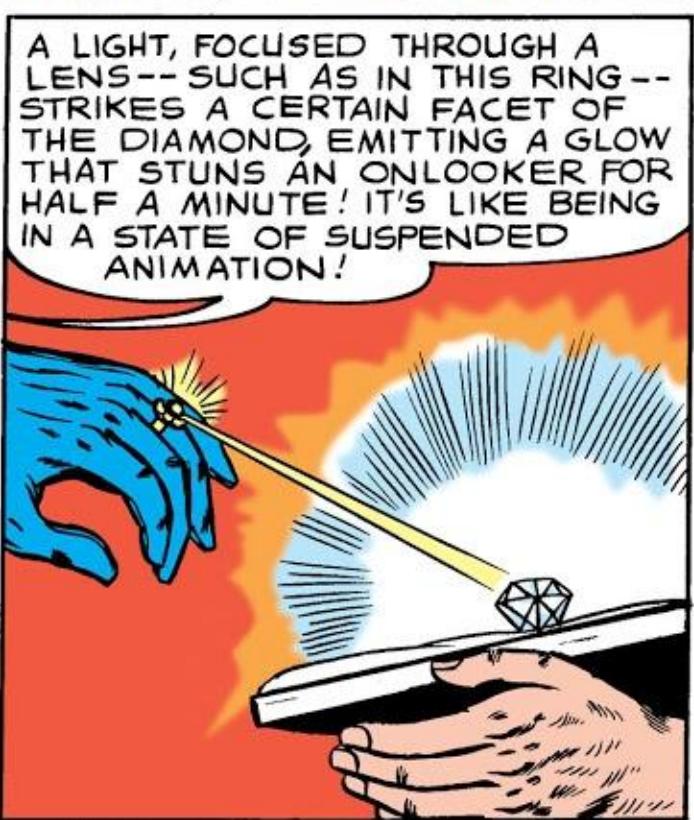
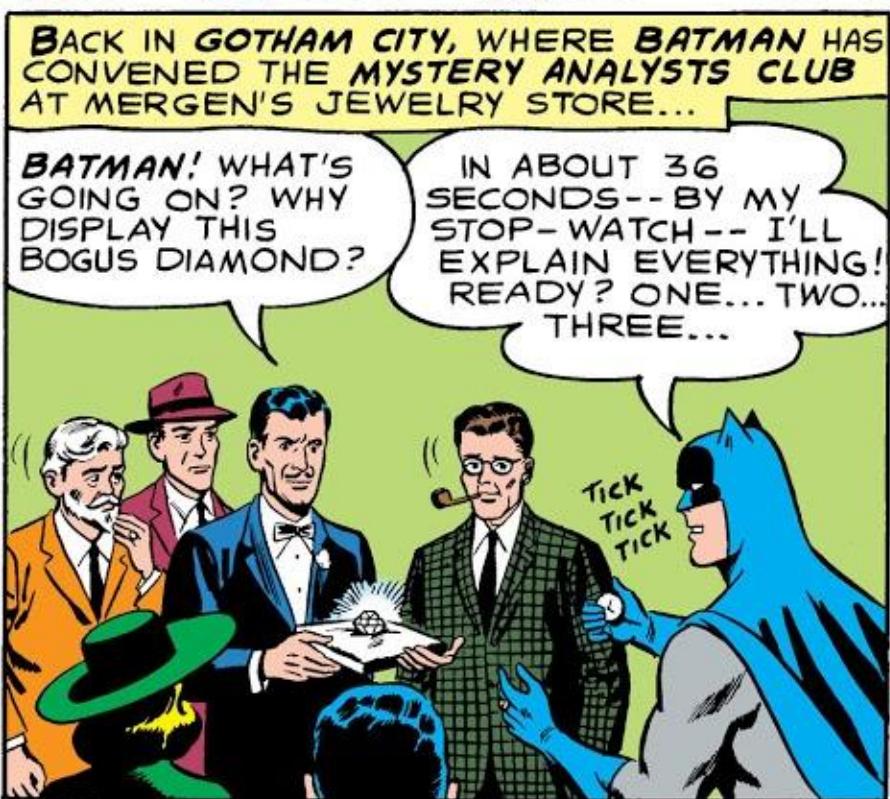
AFTER RESEARCHING THROUGH THE LIBRARY...

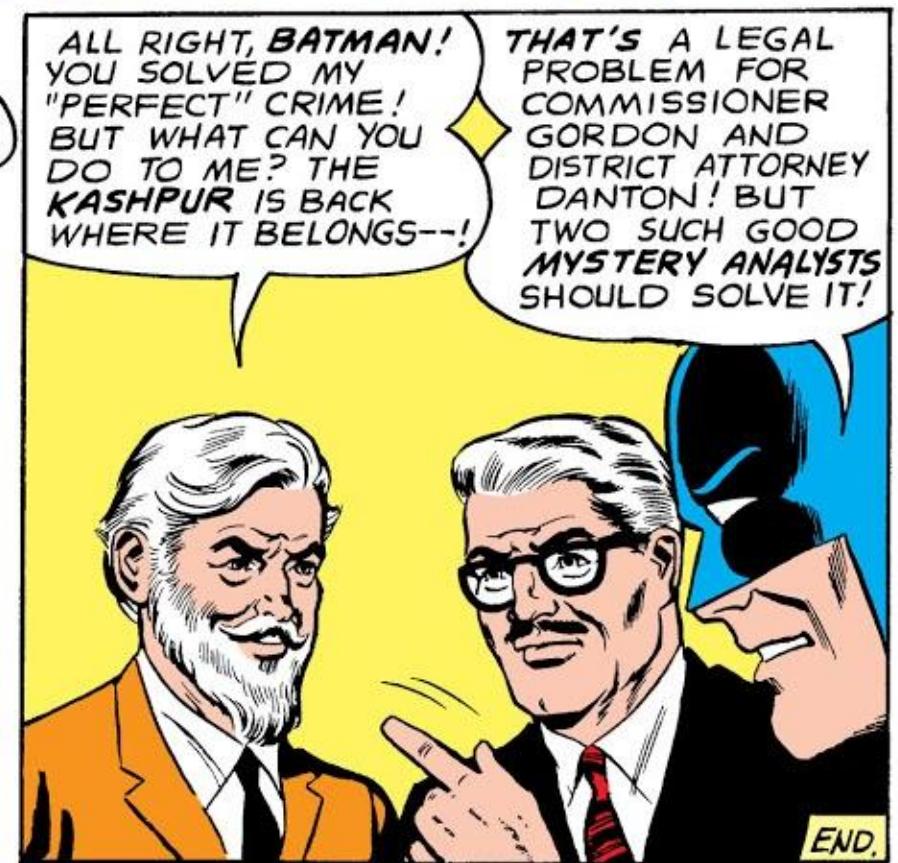
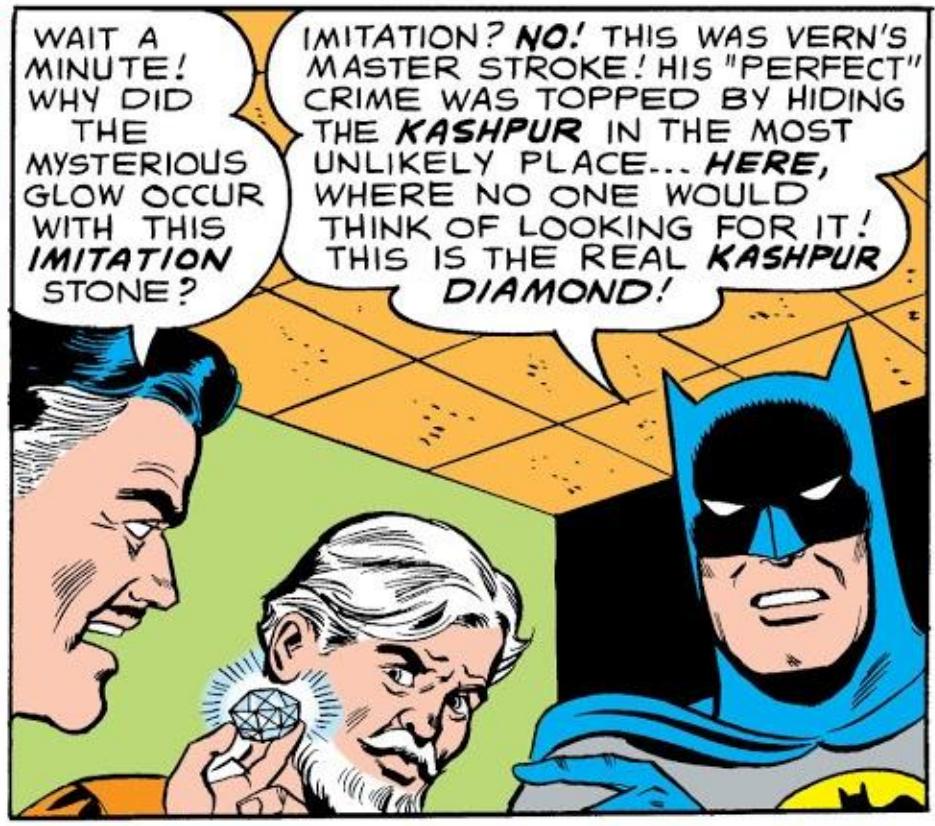
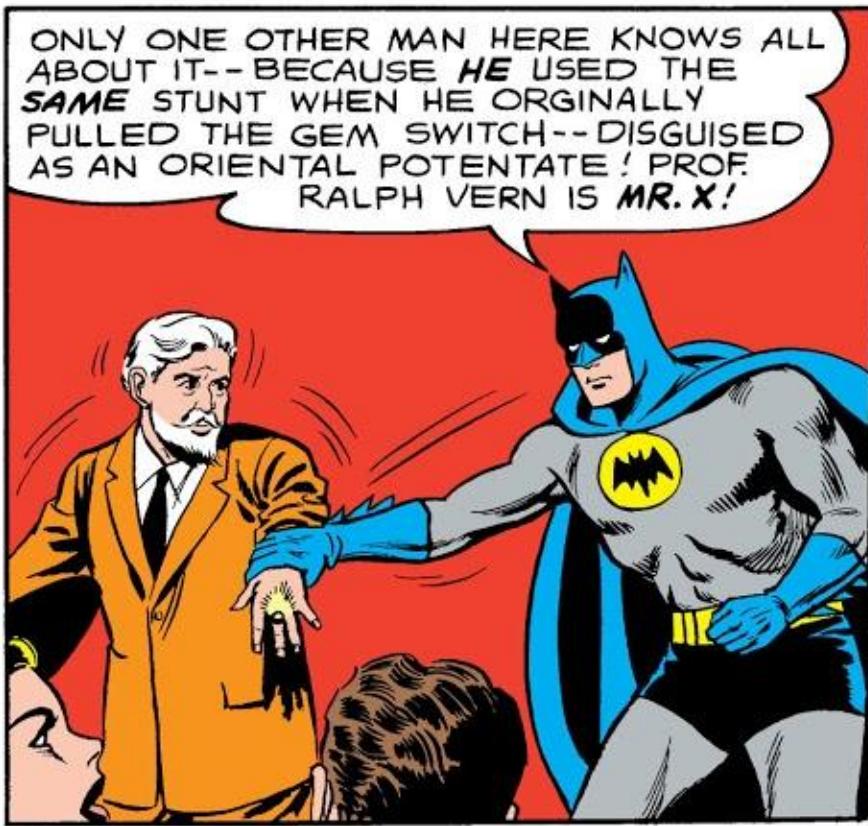
ROBIN! I'VE FOUND THE CLUE WE NEED! THE ENTIRE EXPLANATION TO VERN'S CRIME IS IN THIS BOOK OF RITUALS!





"...AND THE SPIRIT OF THE STRANGE, GLITTERING GEM WAS SO POWERFUL, THAT WHEN THE HIGH-LAMA RAISED HIS HAND NEAR IT, BYSTANDERS WERE RENDERED INTO STATUES..."





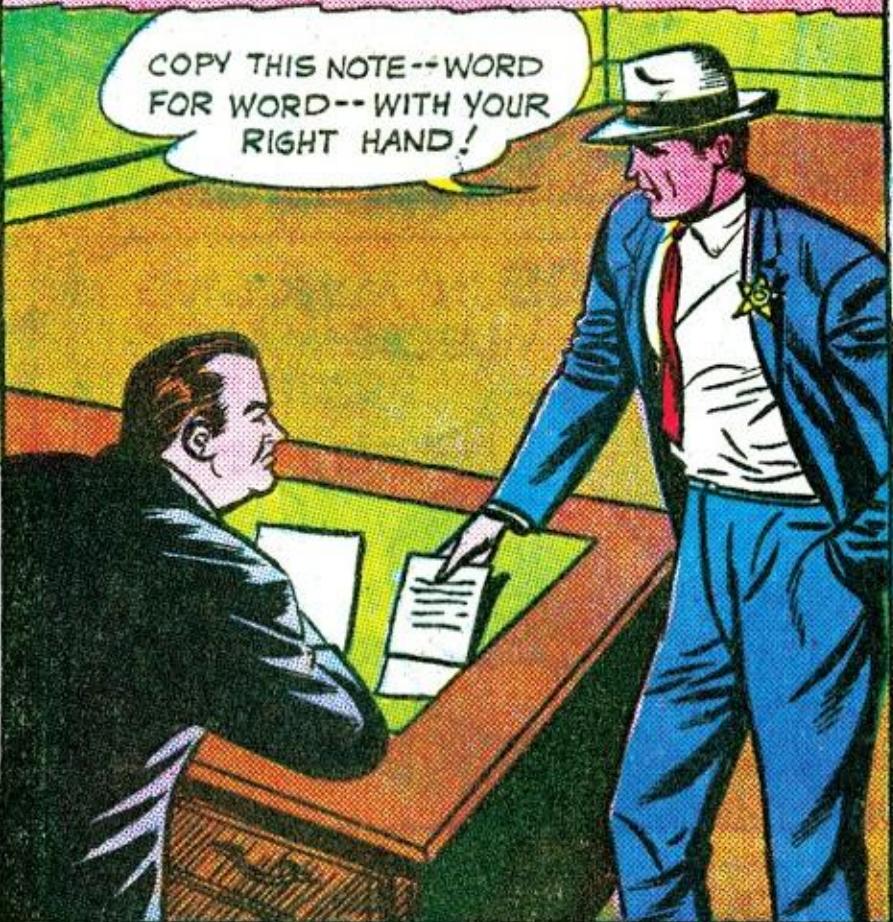
CRIME-WRITING CLUES!

A FORGER WHO MAKES A PERFECT COPY OF A VICTIM'S SIGNATURE CAN EASILY BE APPREHENDED BECAUSE NO ONE EVER SIGNS HIS NAME THE SAME WAY TWICE. (ACTUALLY, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE CHANCES OF A PERSON DUPLICATING HIS OWN SIGNATURE IS ONE IN 931 TRILLION!)

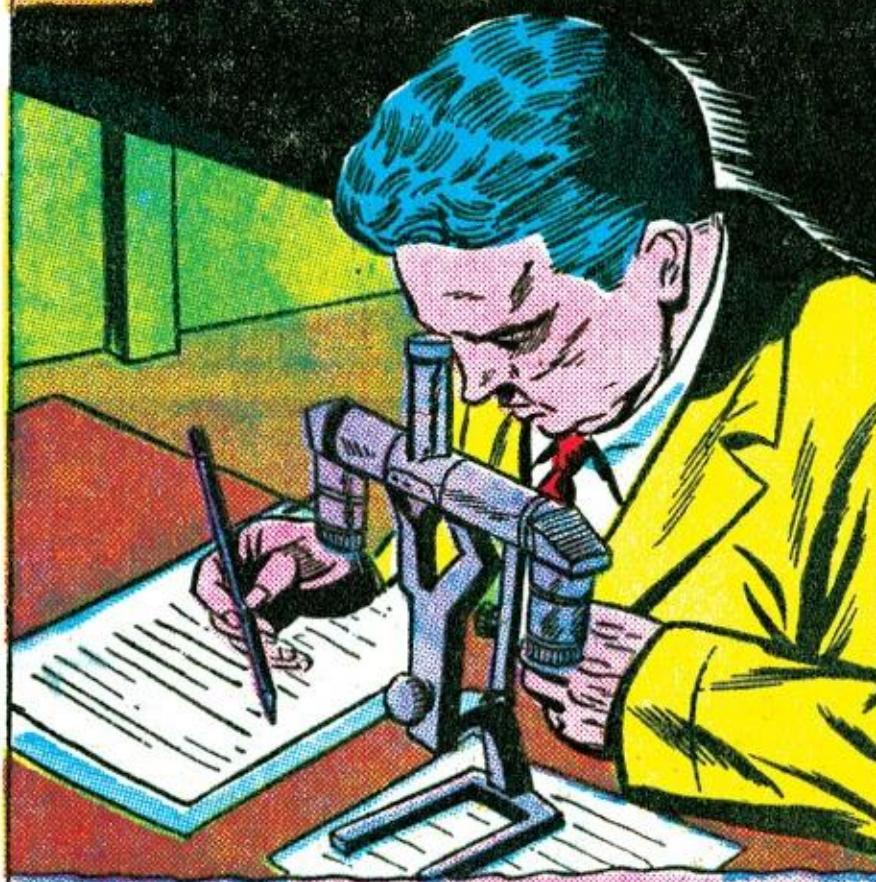
THE SIGNATURES ARE IDENTICAL!
THIS CHECK IS A FORGERY!



ANONYMOUS LETTER-WRITERS USING THE LEFT HAND CAN BE TRAPPED BY COMPARING THE ANGLES, CURVES, LETTER AND WORD SPACING IN AN IDENTICAL NOTE WRITTEN WITH NORMAL RIGHT-HAND WRITING...

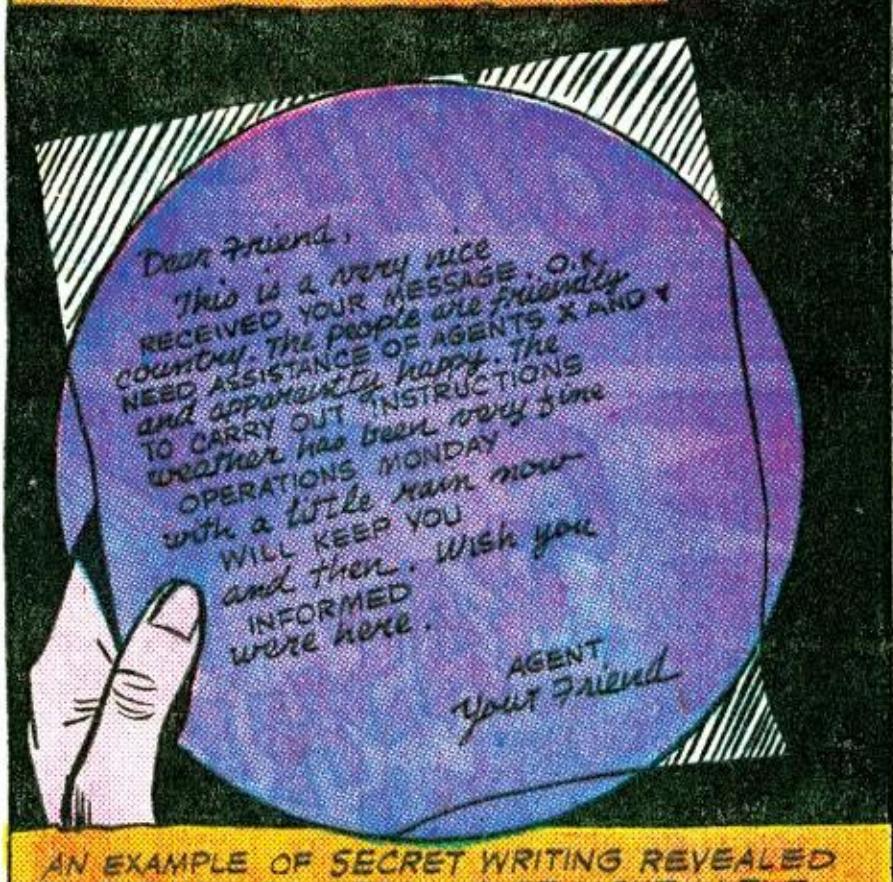


TYPEWRITTEN BLACKMAIL LETTERS CAN EASILY BE TRACED TO A SPECIFIC TYPEWRITER--BECAUSE EACH TYPEWRITER HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE TYPING KEYS...



F.B.I. MAN COMPARES TYPEWRITTEN SPECIMENS TO DETERMINE SOURCE OF AN EXTORTION NOTE...

SHOULD TYPEWRITTEN PORTIONS OF A WILL BE ERASED AND ALTERED WITH THE SAME TYPEWRITER, THE ORIGINAL WILL CAN STILL BE REVEALED BY MEANS OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT...



AN EXAMPLE OF SECRET WRITING REVEALED
BY THE USE OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IN THE
DOCUMENT SECTION OF THE F.B.I.