



'HALF A HERO'

ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 346
APRIL

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

BAT MAN

YOU'RE
MAD,
TWO-FACE!

THIS IS CARRYING
YOUR SPLIT-PERSONALITY
TOO FAR!

BUCKLER
GIORDANO

C-848

BAT-MAN "HALF A HERO..."

OF ALL THE INMATES
IN ARKHAM ASYLUM
HE IS PERHAPS THE
STRANGEST-- AND
MOST INCORRIGIBLE.

CREATED BY
BOB
KANE

IN THE HALF-LIGHT
OF HIS CELL, HE
SITS MOODILY
FLIPPING A COIN...
OVER AND OVER...
AS HE HAS FOR
MONTHS, AS HE
HAS FOR YEARS.

TWO-FACE...
I HEAR THE
PAROLE BOARD
TURNED DOWN
YOUR REQUEST FOR
TRANSFER TO A
HALFWAY HOUSE!

GUESS YOU'LL BE
VISITING WITH US
A WHILE LONGER--

--SAY, ANOTHER
THIRTY YEARS!
HAHAHA!

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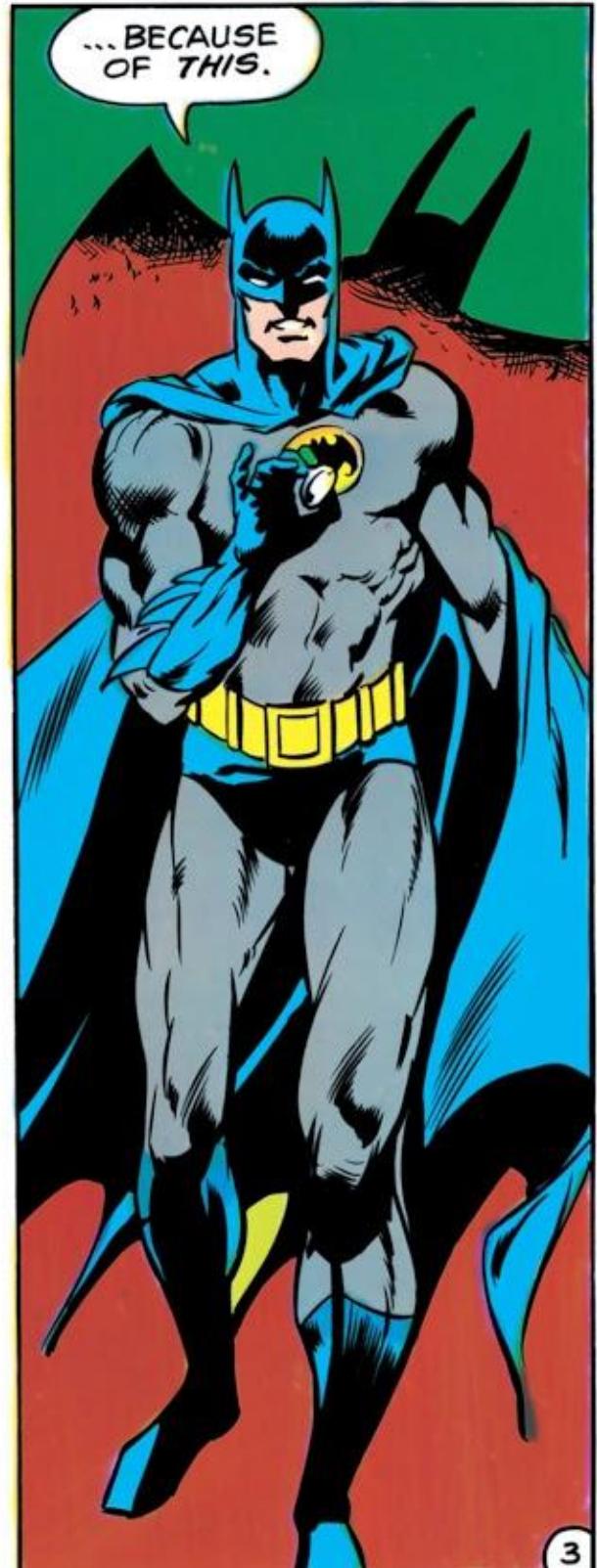
VOICES HARSH WITH RAPID BREATHING, FACES CONGESTED AND RED, KNEES WEAK FROM RUNNING OVER ROCKY GROUND, THE GUARDS OF ARKHAM ASYLUM CONVERSE ON A NARROW CLEARING...

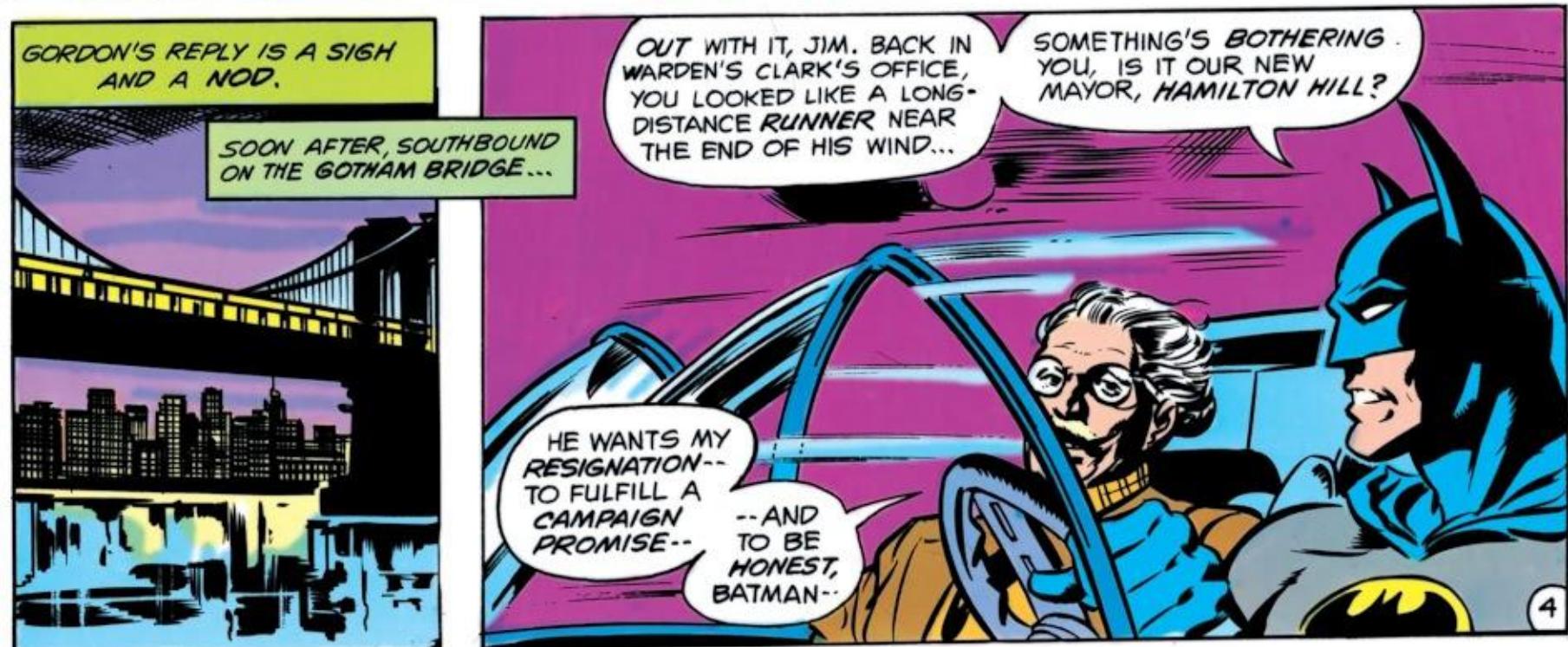
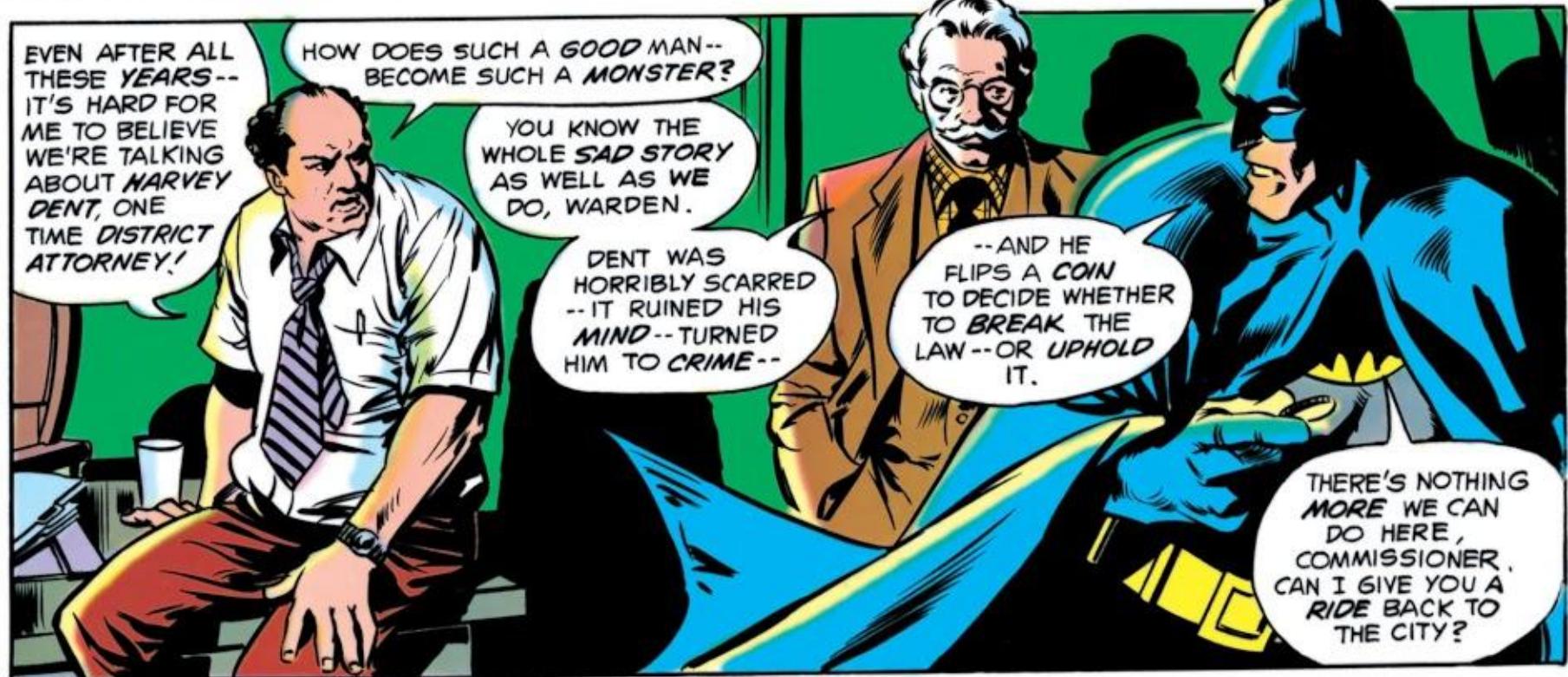
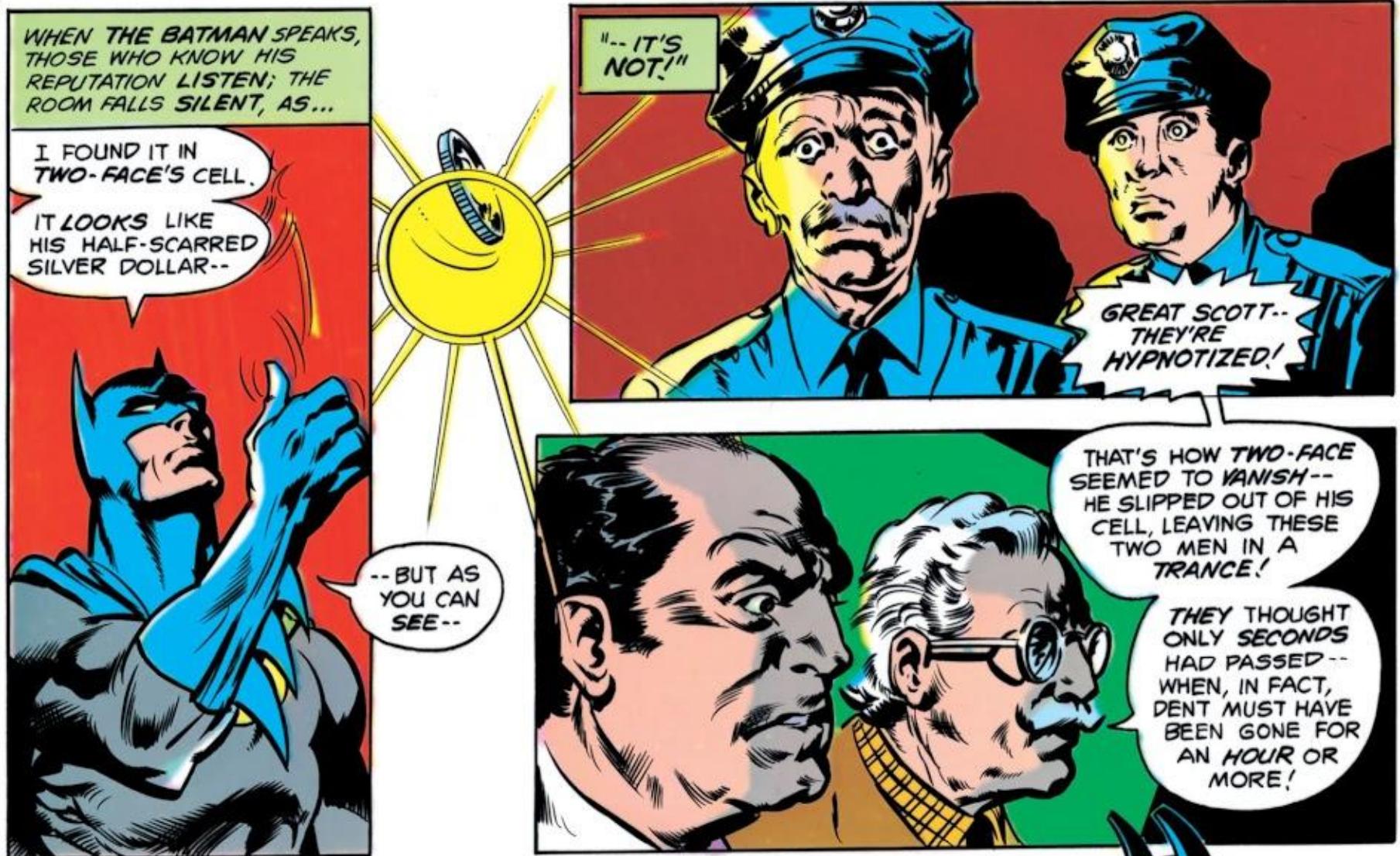
...FLASHLIGHTS CUTTING YELLOW BANDS ACROSS THE MUDDY GROUND, REVEALING...

AND THEY MOVE ON, SEARCHING, VOICES FADING IN THE DISTANCE...



OUTSIDE THE WARDEN'S OFFICE, TWO HOURS LATER, THE SEARCH-LIGHTS STILL SLASH ACROSS THE NIGHT, REFLECTING ON THE FACES OF THE MEN GATHERED IN THIS ROOM...

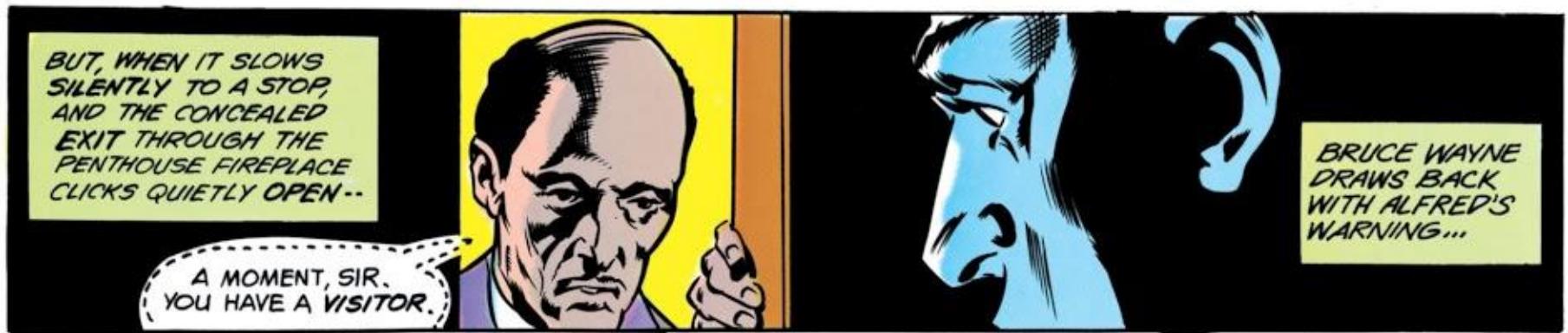


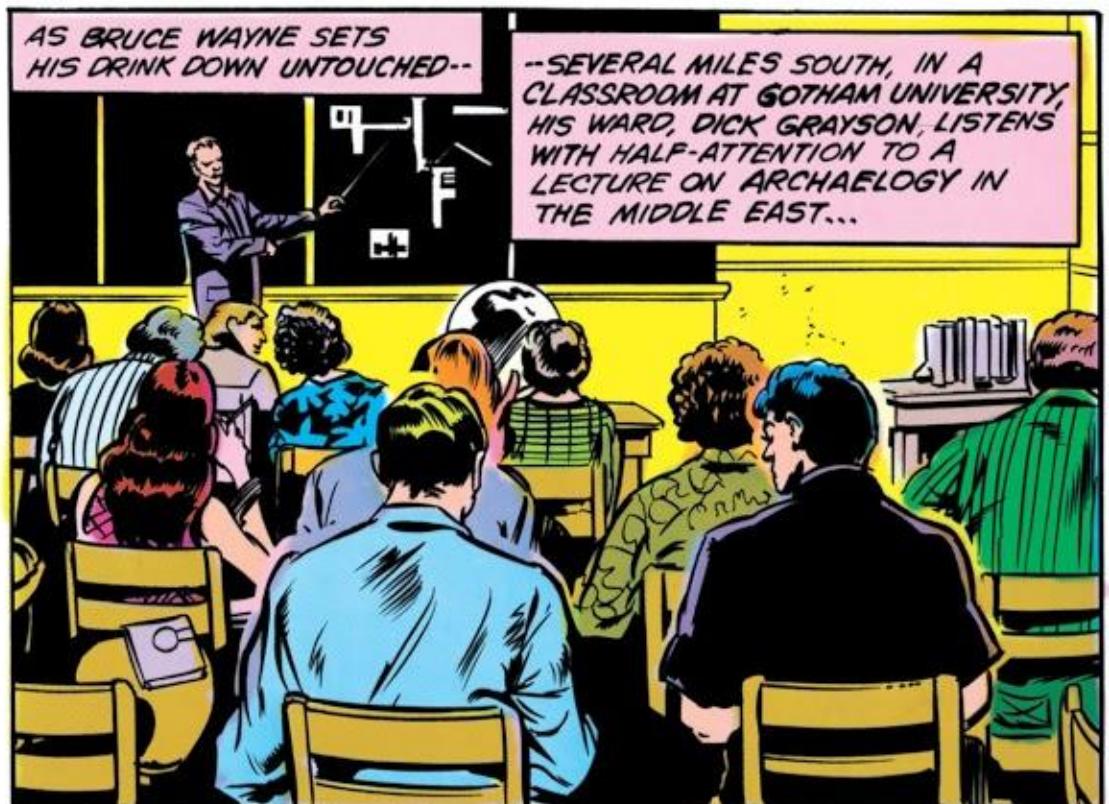




THEY SAY LITTLE MORE TO EACH OTHER DURING THE REST OF THE DRIVE TO GORDON'S WEST-SIDE APARTMENT.





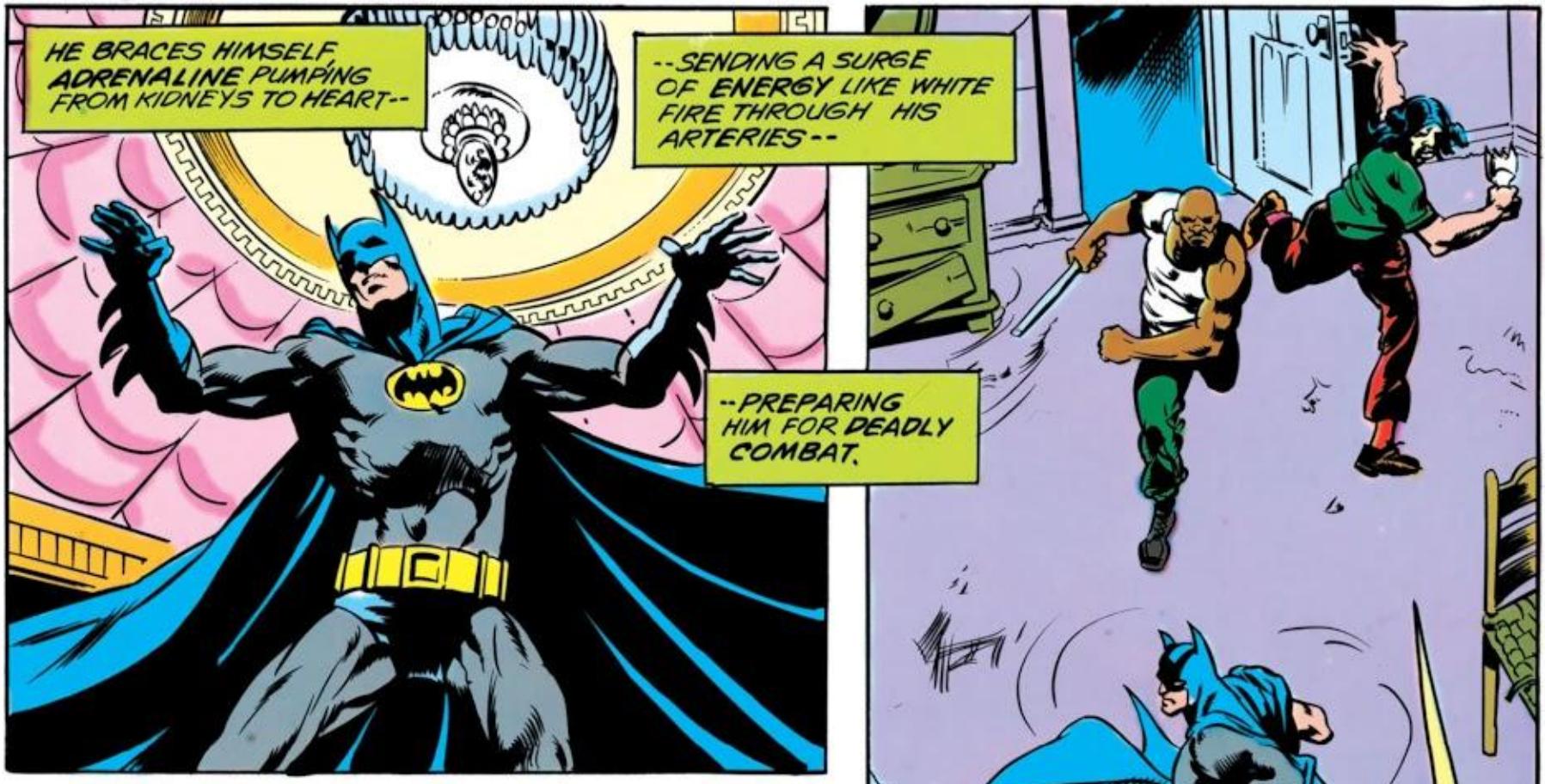












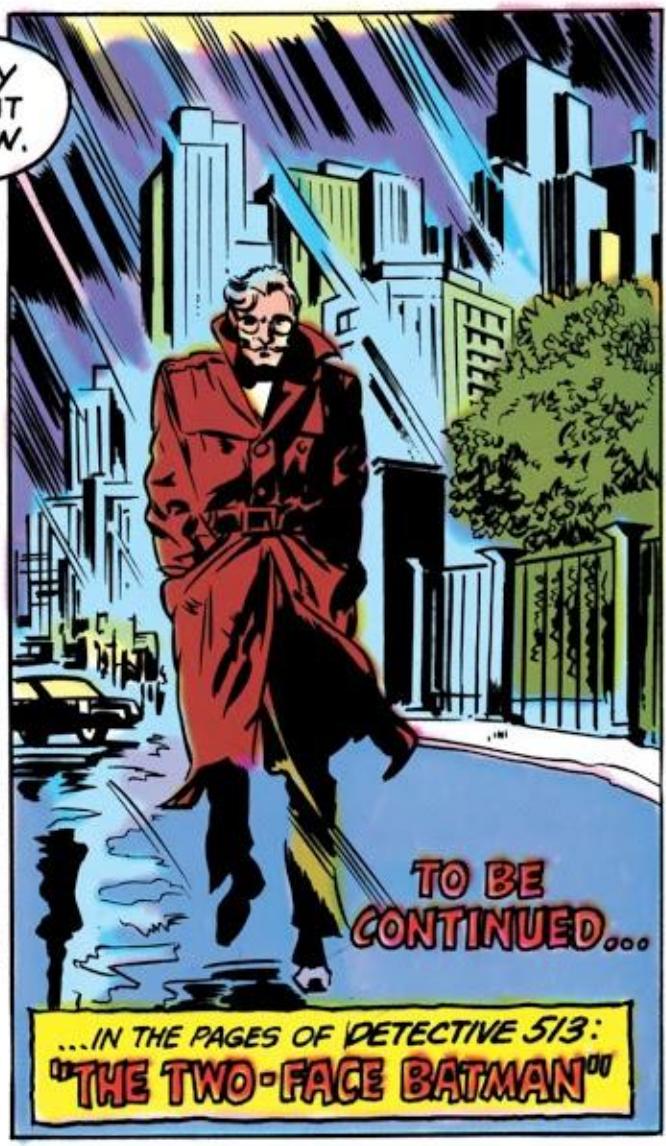












THE TRAINS WERE DISAPPEARING ONE BY ONE, FIRST THE AMTRAK 417, THEN THE 418; ENGINE, CARS, CABOOSE, THE ENTIRE TRAIN, JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR SOMEWHERE BETWEEN GOTHAM AND CHICAGO. THE POLICE WERE STYMIED. THE FBI WAS IN A TAILSPIN. THE PUBLIC WAS PANICKED, EVEN THOUGH BOTH TRAINS AND PASSENGERS HAD EVENTUALLY SHOWN UP AT THEIR CHICAGO DESTINATION INTACT, UNHARMED. NOTHING HAD BEEN STOLEN, NOTHING HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE WINDY CITY.

BUT PASSENGERS HAD CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN "GHOSTS" ABOARD BOTH TRAINS, AND MANY HAD COMPLAINED OF LOSS OF MEMORY. WHAT WAS HAPPENING? WAS THE RAILWAY REALLY "HAUNTED"? CATWOMAN DIDN'T THINK SO. SHE HAD VOLUNTEERED TO RIDE THE 419 AND HELP GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. BUT SHE GOT TO THE BOTTOM OF SOMETHING FAR DEEPER...

In the Land of the **DEAD!**

THE CATWOMAN







"HE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO THE PET STORE. THERE HE FOUND A SIGN POSTED ON THE DOOR --

"AS HE LEFT THE SHOP, HE SAW THE PROPRIETOR HEADING TOWARD THE TRAIN STATION, AN ANIMAL CAGE BE-NEATH HIS ARM!..."



"MY FATHER FOLLOWED HIM TO THE STATION, BOARDED, WAITED UNTIL THE MAN WAS NAPPING, THEN STOLE THE CAT. THE MAN AWOKE AND GAVE CHASE. MY FATHER ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE BETWEEN THE MOVING CARS..."



"A SHORT FIGHT ENSUED ATOP ONE OF THE CARS, DURING WHICH MY FATHER WAS KNOCKED OVER THE EDGE TO HIS DEATH!"



"THE MAN WHO KILLED HIM, SELINA KYLE, WAS YOUR FATHER!"



"NOTHING WAS FOUND ON MY FATHER'S BODY, NO ID, NO MONEY, NO DIAMOND! THE NEXT WEEK GERMANY FELL TO THE ALLIES. MY FATHER HAD DIED IN DISGRACE IN THE EYES OF HIS COUNTRY-MEN! I MIGRATED TO AMERICA AS A BOY. MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO AVENGING MY FATHER!"



I BEGAN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER THE DIAMOND, KNOWING MY FATHER'S PROPENSITY FOR HIDING THE INSCRIBED JEWEL DURING DANGER AND COMING BACK LATER TO RECOVER IT.



FIRST I TOOK A JOB ON THE RAILROAD, THINKING I COULD SEARCH THE TRAIN HE'D TRAVELED ON...

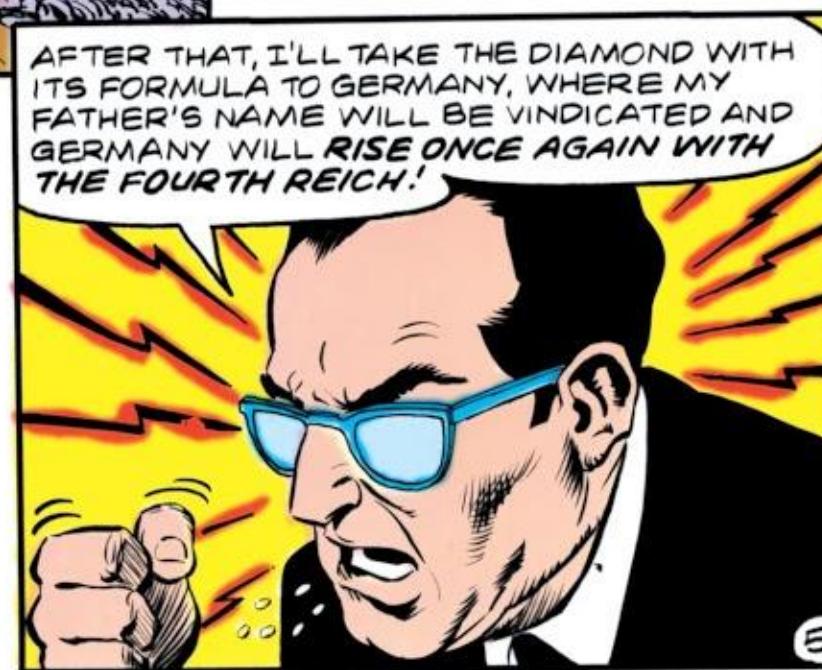
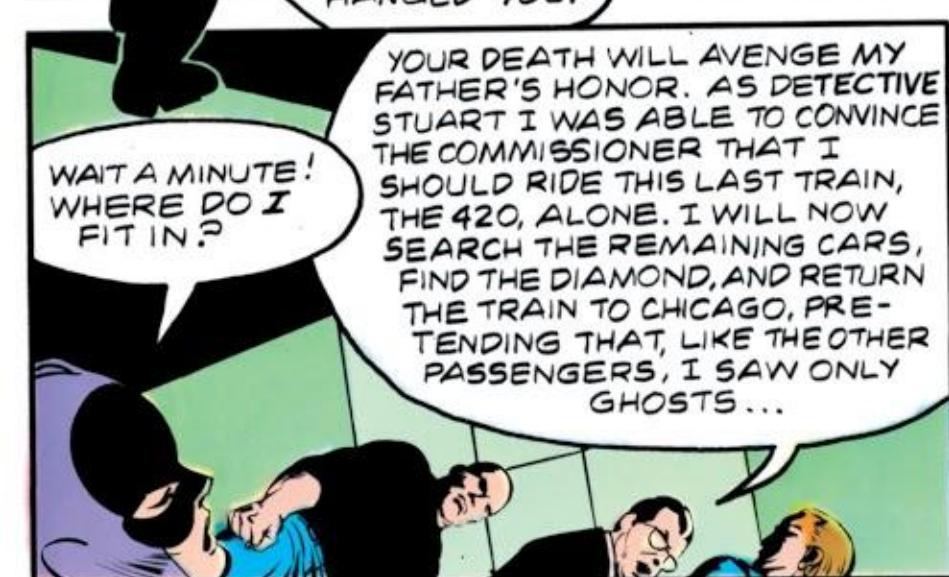
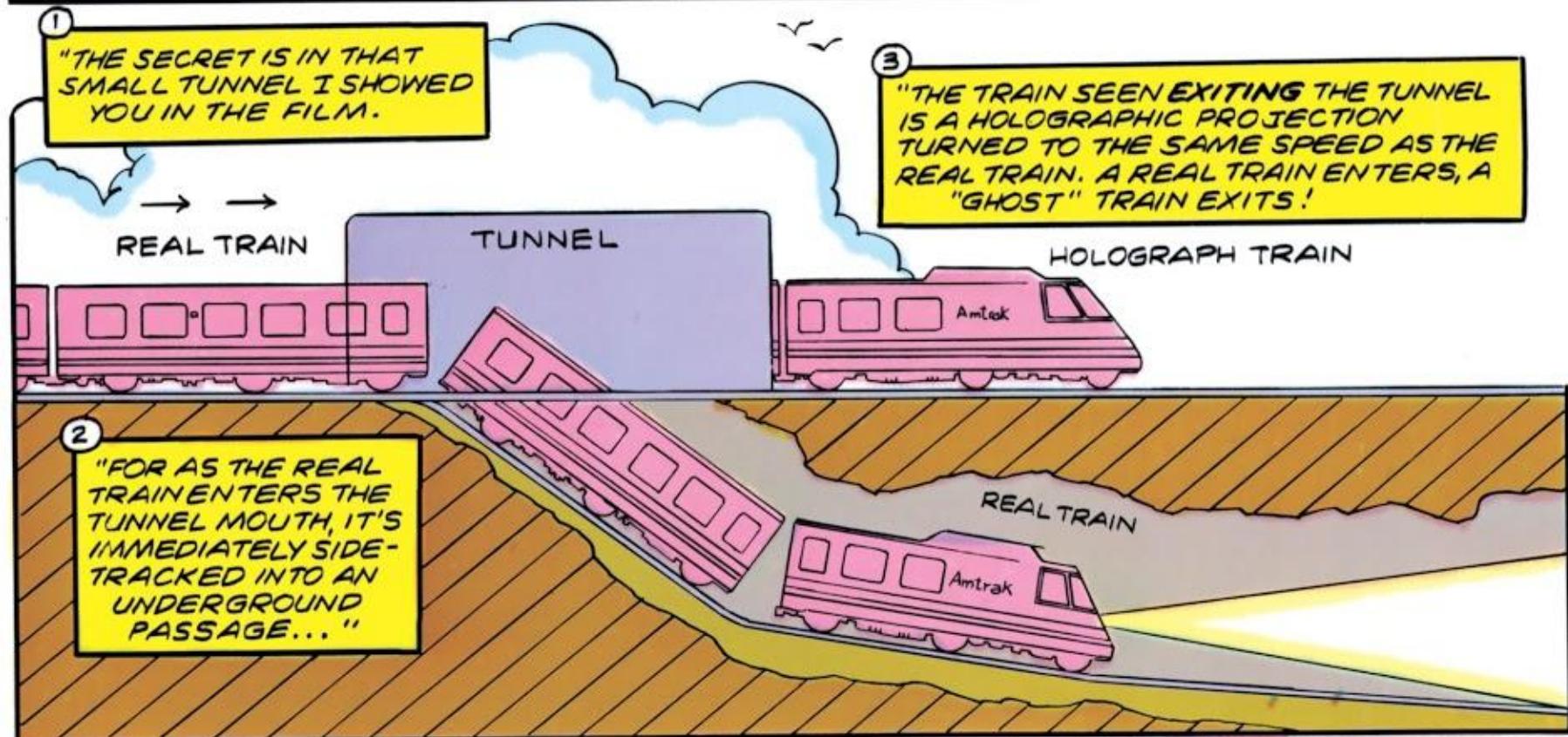
I WOULD THEN CHECK EACH CAR THOROUGHLY AND SEND IT ON ITS WAY, PASSENGERS UNHARMED, NOTHING SEEMINGLY STOLEN!



NATURALLY, AS DETECTIVE SERGEANT STUART, I MADE SURE I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE OF THE "VANISHING TRAINS"...



BUT THEN I DISCOVERED THAT THAT TRAIN HAD BEEN DISSEMBLED AND THE CARS FROM IT USED ON THE FOUR SEPARATE AMTRAK TRAINS THAT RUN THE CHICAGO ROUTE TODAY. SO I JOINED THE GOTHAM POLICE FORCE. MY PLANS WERE SIMPLY TO "KIDNAP" EACH TRAIN, ONE AT A TIME...



WELL, SELINA, OLD GIRL, YOU DO GET MIXED UP WITH SOME GOOFBALLS! AND IF YOU DON'T GET UNTIED FROM HERE BY THE TIME STUART FINDS THAT DIAMOND, HE'S NOT GOING TO BE THE ONLY ONE WITH A *SPLIT* PERSONALITY!

TWO HOURS LATER...

I FOUND IT!
I FOUND IT!
START THE TRAIN! WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

AND AS THE 420 ROARS DOWN THE TRACK...

FAREWELL, MISS KYLE!
SORRY YOU WERE TOO TIED UP TO JOIN US IN CHICAGO!

(HEH-HEH!) THE WHEELS PASSED RIGHT OVER HER!
GOODBYE, CATWOMAN!
HELLO, GERMANY...

--A BRILLIANT,
NEW, POWERFUL
GERMANY!

LYLE, PETE, I WANT YOU TO--

WHA--??
NO!

I'LL TAKE THE DIAMOND,
STUART, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

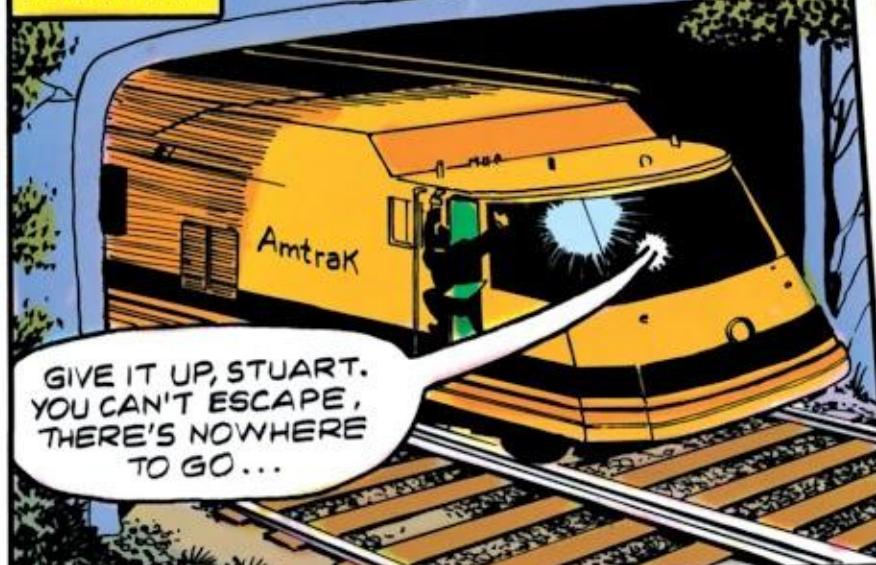
B-BUT THE TRAIN! I-I SAW IT CRUSH YOU!

COME NOW, YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF MAKING A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE, DO YOU? I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO RIG YOUR VIDEO CAMERAS WHILE YOU SEARCHED FOR YOUR PRECIOUS DIAMOND...

NOT AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH TO GET IT!

YOU'LL NOT TAKE IT FROM ME, CATWOMAN!

THE 420 ROARS OUT OF STUART'S SECRET UNDERGROUND PASSAGE INTO THE DAY-LIGHT...



GIVE IT UP, STUART.
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE,
THERE'S NOWHERE
TO GO...

NO! NO! I CAN'T DIE!
NOT NOW!

SUDDENLY...

MY GOD! ANOTHER TRAIN COMING
FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!
WE'LL BE KILLED!



YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE
SHUNTED US ONTO
THE WRONG TRACK!



AS THE 420 FLIES BY
THE SWITCH, CATWOMAN'S
CAT-O-NINE TAILS LASHES
OUT AND--

IF I CAN PUT THAT
OTHER TRAIN ON THE
TRACK NEXT TO US...

THE SWITCH IS MADE... BUT THE
APPROACHING TRAIN FINDS A
NEW TARGET...



MY LEG!
BROKEN IN
THE FALL!
C-CAN'T
MOVE!

NO

FAREWELL,
STUART...

...AND THANKS, DAD, FOR
SAVING THE WORLD THE FIRST
TIME... I'M GLAD I COULD
REPAY THE FAVOR!



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