



# BATMAN

381  
MAR. 85  
APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
C.C.  
AUTHORITY

THIS TOWN  
ISN'T BIG  
ENOUGH FOR  
**TWO**  
BATMEN!

END GAME!

HOBBERG &  
GIORDANO

POLICE OFFICER RAYMOND GAWRONSKI HAS ELECTED TO MAKE THAT FATEFUL MOVE CALLED "BENDING ONE'S HUMOR INTO A DEFENSE MECHANISM."



# BAT-MAN

DURING THE PAST THREE NIGHTS, NINE THEFTS--NETTING CLOSE TO \$400,000 IN CASH, JEWELRY, AND RARE COINS--HAVE BEEN FLAWLESSLY COMMITTED.

...IS NOT  
THE BATMAN...

IN EVERY INSTANCE IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE THIEF IS THE BATMAN--UNLESS ONE WERE TO LOOK CLOSELY ENOUGH TO SEE THE FACE OF ANTON KNIGHT UNDER THE COWL.

BUT OF THOSE FEW WITNESSES EXISTING THIS FAR, ALL HAVE BEEN SO TERRIFIED BY THE MERE SPECTER OF THE BAT THAT THEY HAVE FAILED TO DO SO.

## DARKLY MOVED THE PAWNS

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...BUT I FIGURED IT WAS JUST ONE OF MAYOR HILL'S POLITICAL TRICKS. DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF THAT THE MAN WHO BURIED THIS LOOT BEHIND YOUR SHACK IS ACTUALLY THE BATMAN?

STOLEN  
GOODS, ALL  
RIGHT...



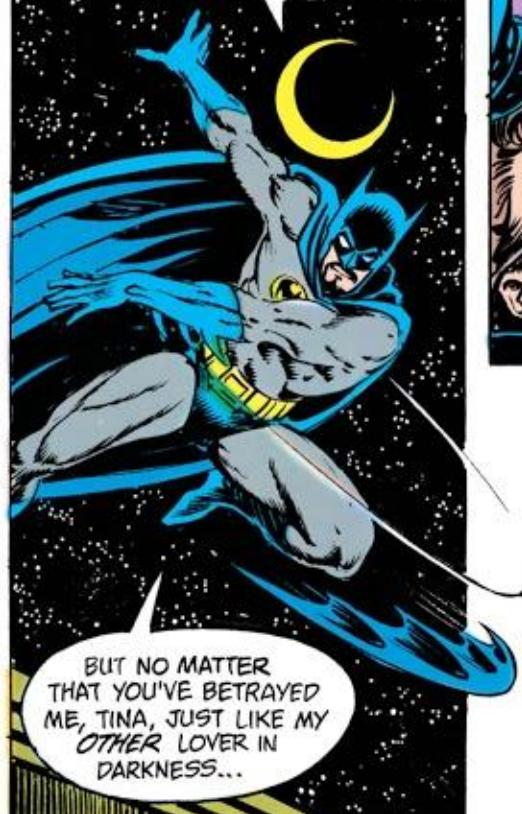
JUST THE FACT THAT HE'D BEEN SHOT... THAT HE GOES OUT AT NIGHT... AND HIS WORD.

YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH, TINA.



HOLY...!

AND YOU, COP, ARE BLIND!



BUT NO MATTER THAT YOU'VE BETRAYED ME, TINA, JUST LIKE MY OTHER LOVER IN DARKNESS...



...BECAUSE I'M ALREADY DEAD, TINA...



AT LEAST YOU WON'T MURDER ME, AS SHE DID...



...DEAD AND GONE FOREVER.

AND TINA'S BLIND FANTASIES ARE SHATTERED BY A SHRIEKING TRUTH: HER SHINING PRINCE IS A DARK AND DANGEROUS VILLAIN.

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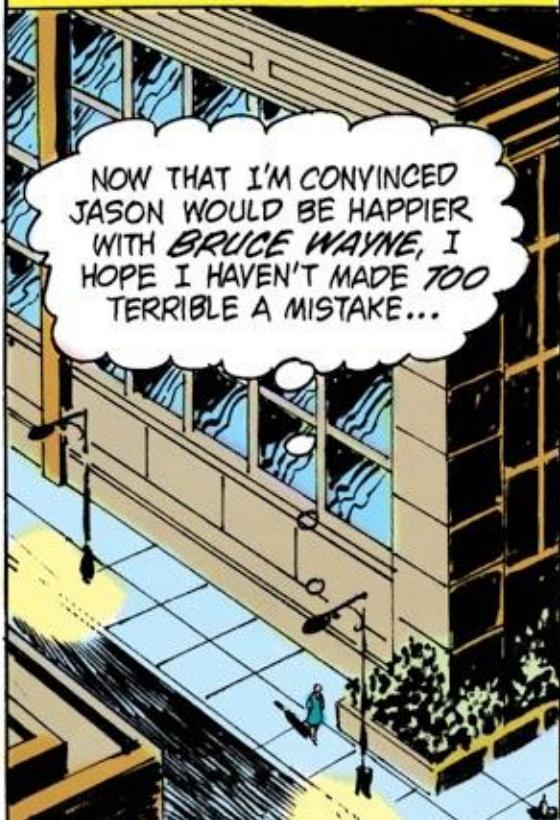
Monday, October 11, 1979

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## BATMAN: THIEF



HAVING WORKED LATE, A SOMEWHAT NERVOUS AMANDA GROSCZ LEAVES THE CHILD WELFARE BUREAU TO WALK DARK STREETS, HEADING FOR THE RITZ-CARLTON TO SEE HOW JASON TODD IS FARING WITH NATALIA KNIGHT.



OH, NATALIA KNIGHT'S A GOOD ENOUGH WOMAN AND EVENTUALLY SHE'LL MAKE A FINE MOTHER, I'M SURE, BUT...

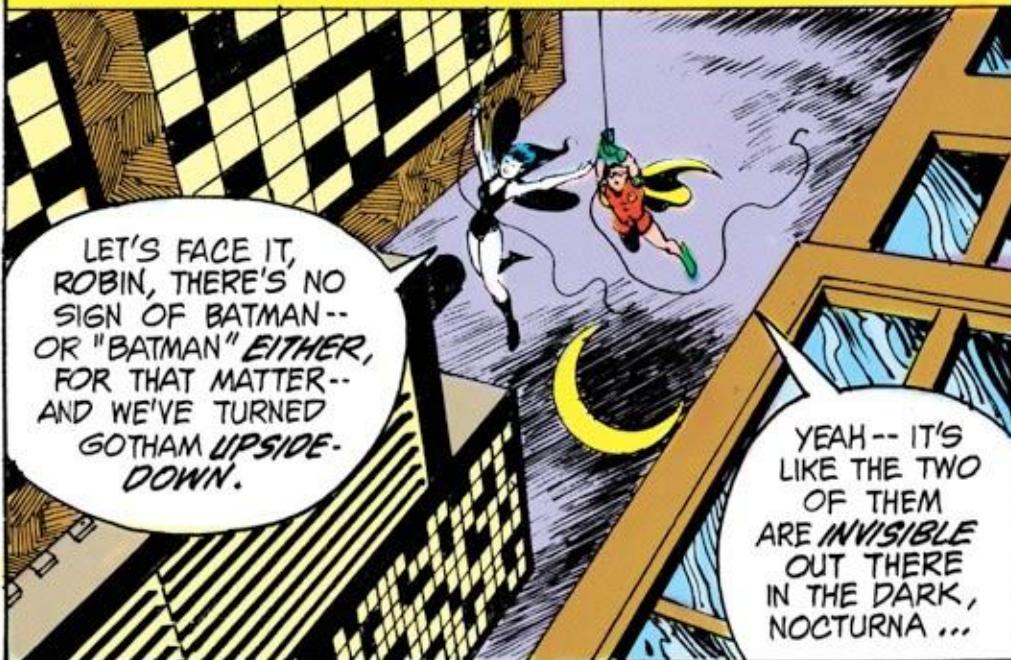
WELL, AT LEAST I DON'T BELIEVE SHE'S THIS CRIMINAL NOCTURNA, IN CAHOOTS WITH NIGHT-THEIF OR NIGHT-SLAYER OR WHATEVER HE IS.



NOW THAT I'M CONVINCED JASON WOULD BE HAPPIER WITH BRUCE WAYNE, I HOPE I HAVEN'T MADE TOO TERRIBLE A MISTAKE...



THEIR SPIRITS LOW, THEIR BODIES DRAINED, THEY RETURN TO THE RITZ-CARLTON...



LET'S FACE IT, ROBIN, THERE'S NO SIGN OF BATMAN-- OR "BATMAN" EITHER, FOR THAT MATTER-- AND WE'VE TURNED GOTHAM UPSIDE-DOWN.

YEAH-- IT'S LIKE THE TWO OF THEM ARE INVISIBLE OUT THERE IN THE DARK, NOCTURNA...

...AND I'M JUST STARTING TO REALIZE HOW BIG THIS CITY IS.

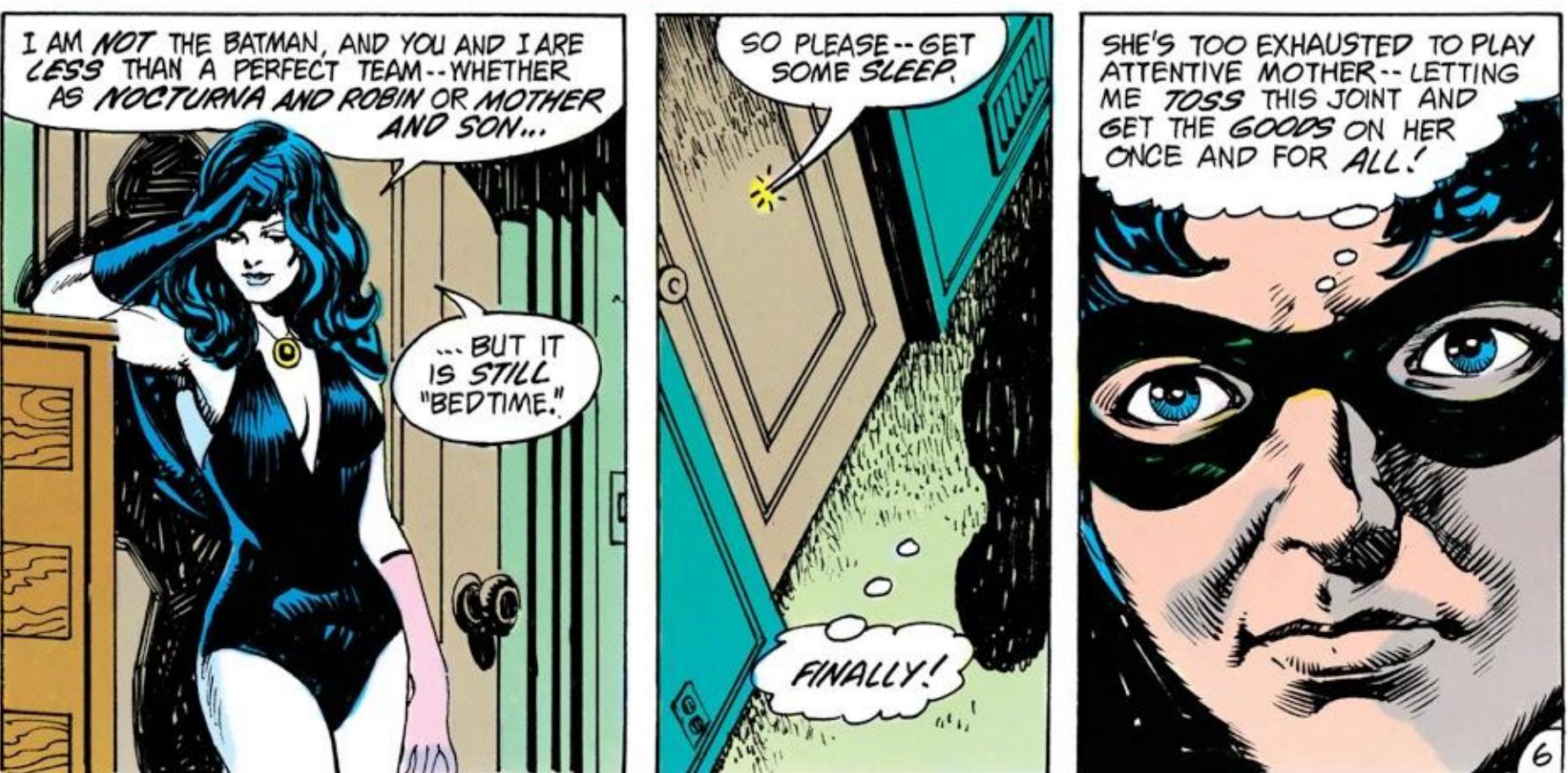
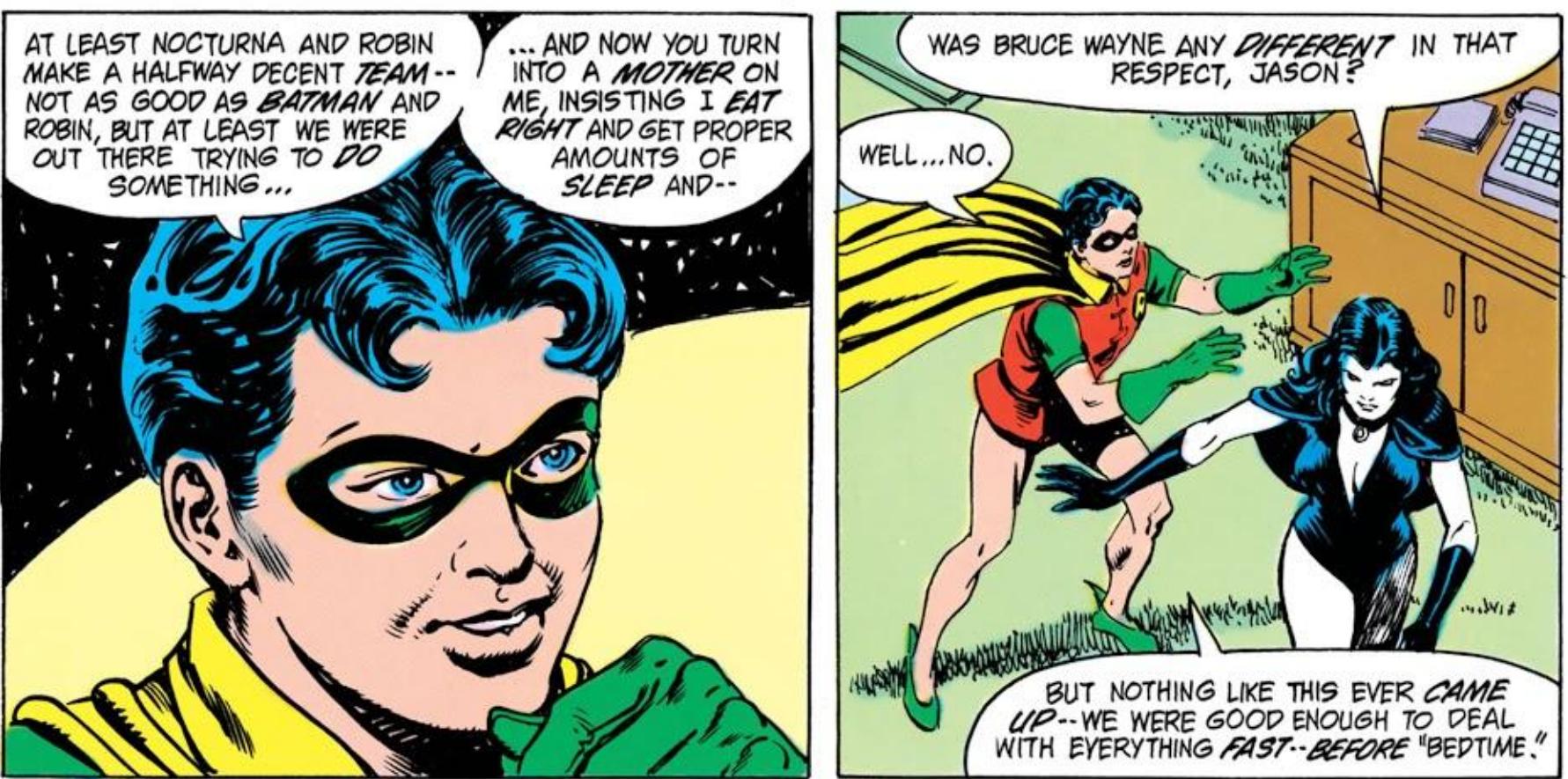


BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HOW ANTON KNIGHT AND BRUCE WAYNE HAVE "CHANGED PLACES"-- ANTON BECOMING "BATMAN" AND BRUCE BECOMING "NIGHT-SLAYER."



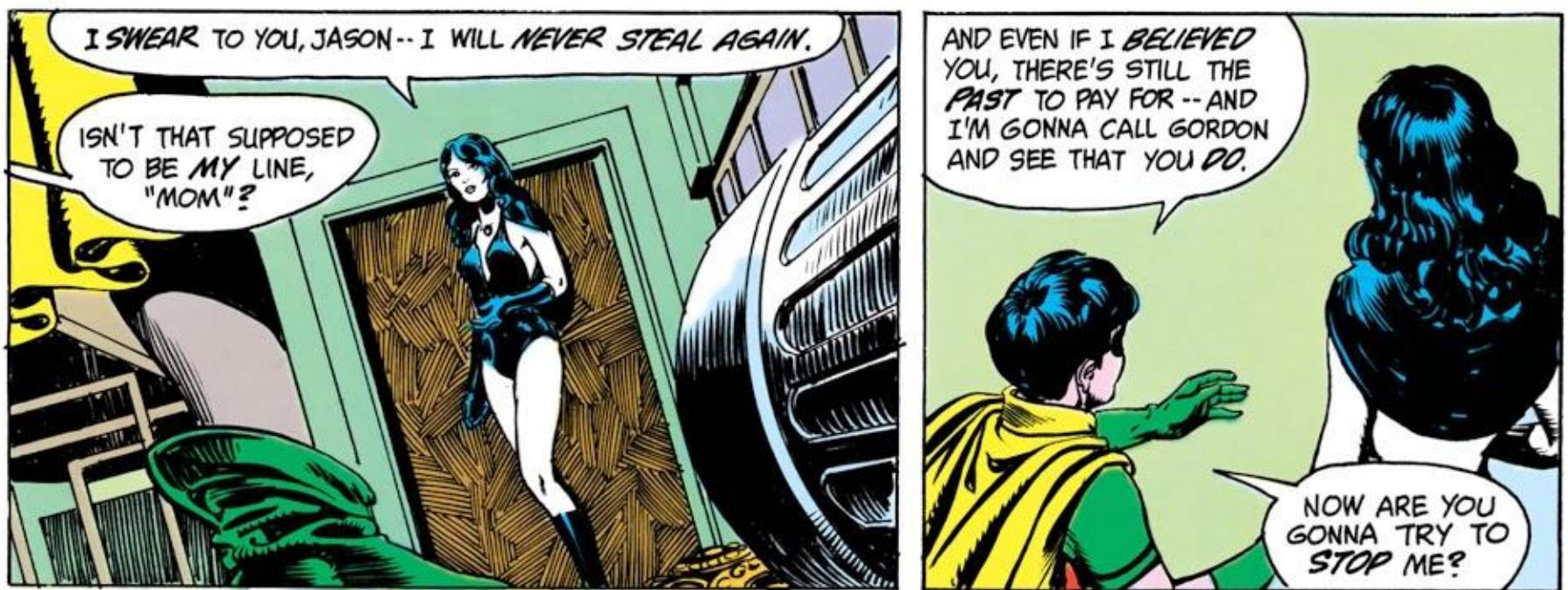
IT'S ... INSANE.

THEY ENTER THE PENTHOUSE SUITE...









BUT IN THE END, JASON CANNOT  
BRING HIMSELF TO DELIVER IT...

AW, NUTS.

NO SENSE  
IN DISTURBING  
GORDON AT THIS  
TIME OF NIGHT...

THE LOOT'LL KEEP...  
AND SO WILL  
NOCTURNA.

I CAN HIDE IT IN MY ROOM --  
MAYBE EVEN UP ON THE ROOF--  
AND BRING NATALIA TO JUSTICE  
WHEN THIS WHOLE MESS WITH  
THE BATMAN IS OUT OF  
THE WAY...

BESIDES, UNTIL  
BRUCE IS FOUND,  
I MAY NEED HER  
HELP...



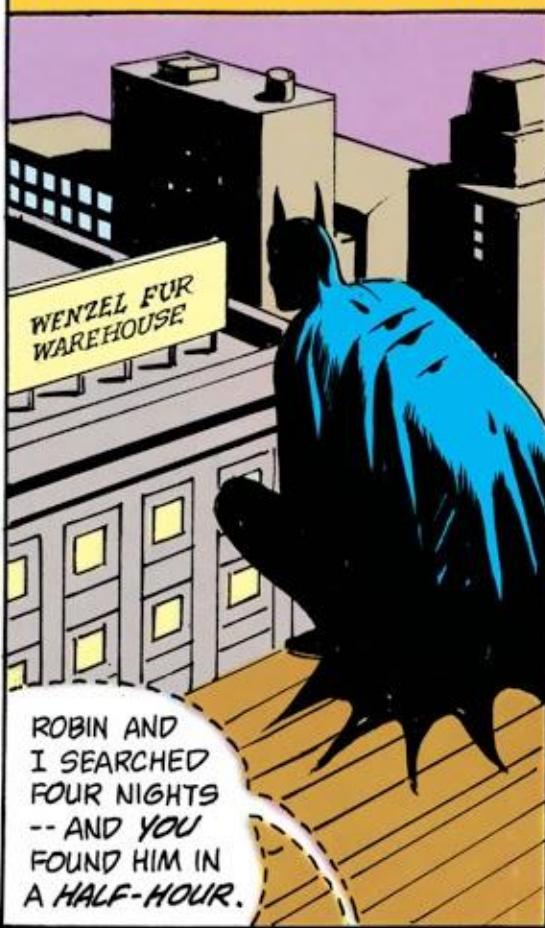
AND, FIVE MINUTES LATER --



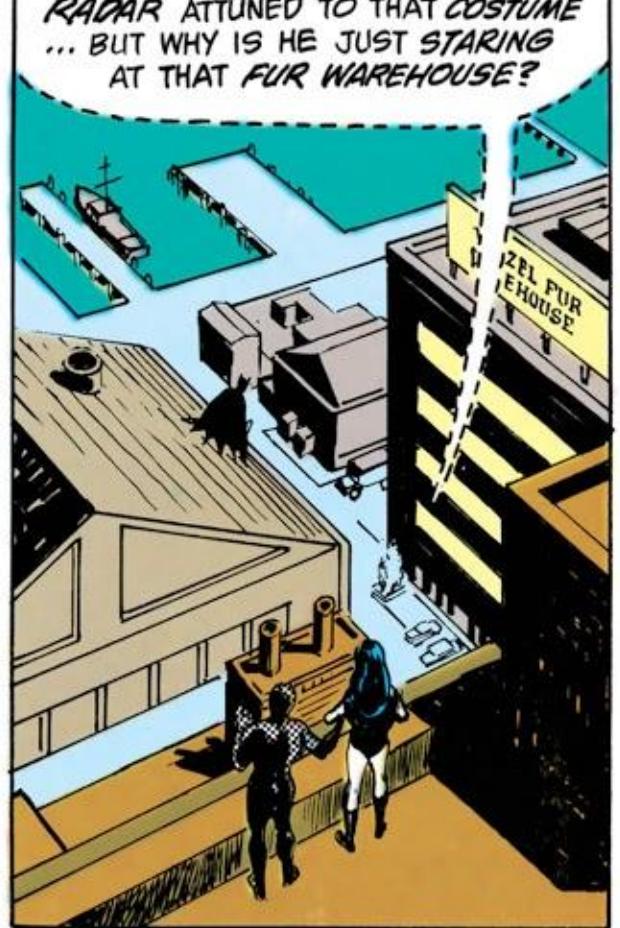
-- AMANDA GROSCZ FINALLY REACHES THE RITZ - CARLTON.



LESS THAN AN HOUR LATER...



YOU MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF RADAR ATTUNED TO THAT COSTUME ... BUT WHY IS HE JUST STARING AT THAT FUR WAREHOUSE?



WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR? IT'S AN EASY JOB -- JUST PRY THE HASP ON THE SIDE DOOR'S PADLOCK, AND--

IT'S THURSDAY.

THURSDAY?

THE REGULAR DELIVERY TRUCK ARRIVES FROM CANADA SOMETIME BETWEEN SEVEN AND MIDNIGHT-- EVERY THURSDAY.

THEN WHY DON'T WE TAKE HIM NOW-- BEFORE THE FUR SHIPMENT ARRIVES?

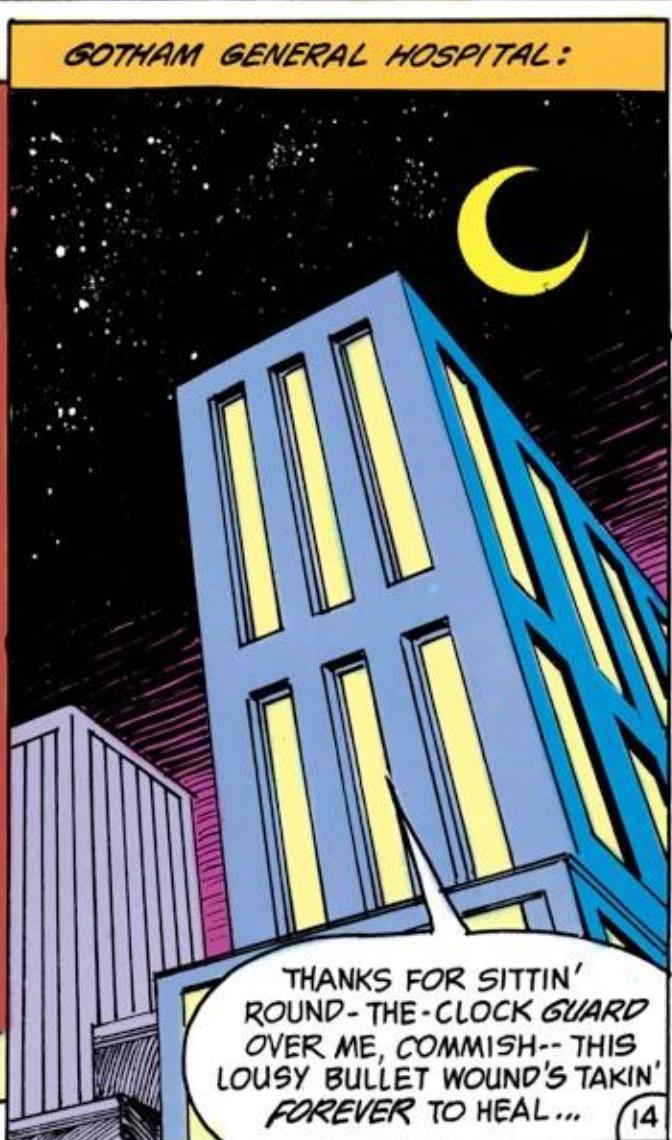
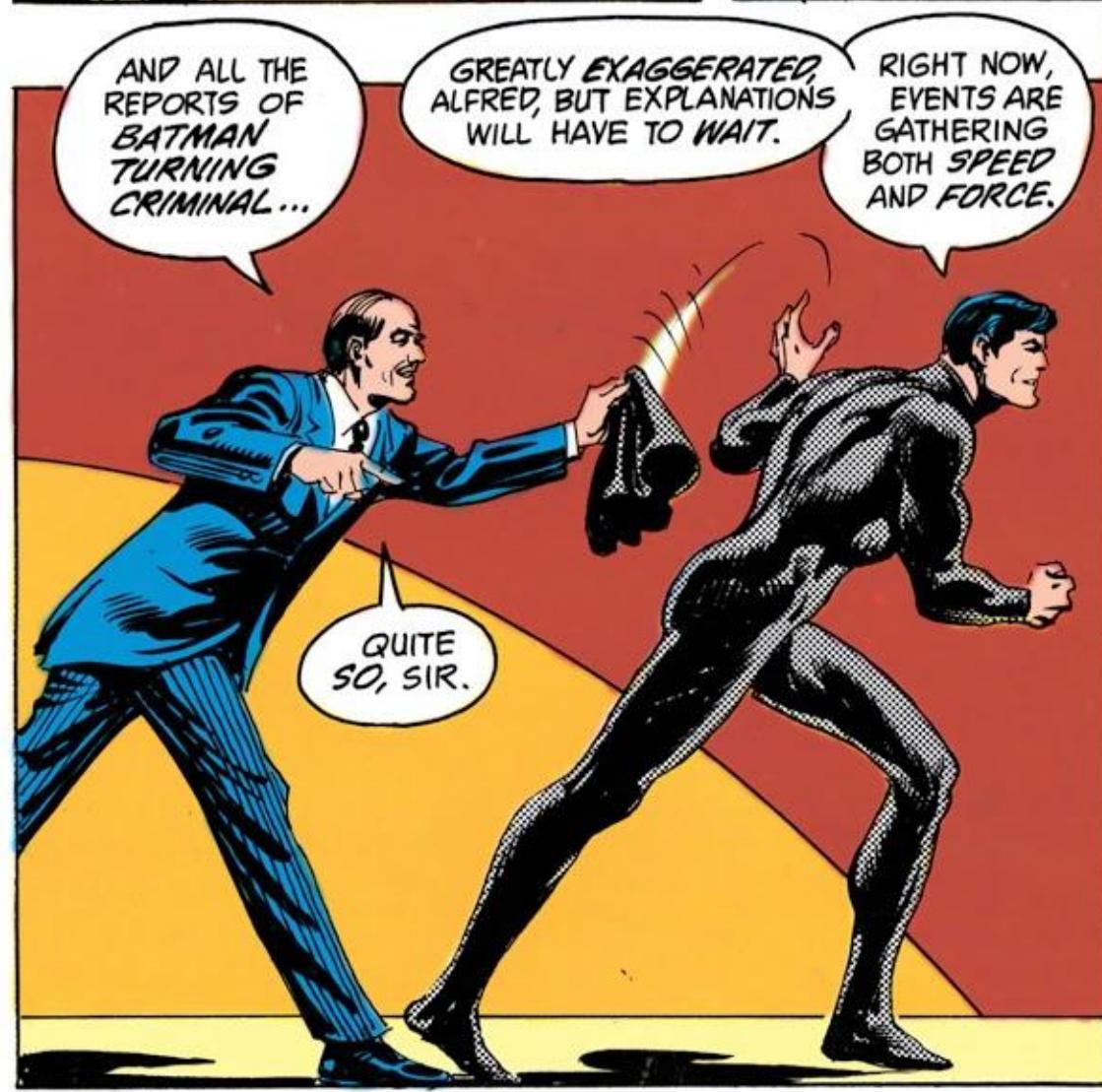
BECAUSE THERE MAY BE TIME FOR SOMETHING BETTER, SOMETHING I'VE PONDERED FOR DAYS... AND NIGHTS.

COME -- I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.









"AND NOW THAT HILL'S KICKED US OFF THE FORCE, I CAN'T EVEN TRUST THOSE BLUES OUTSIDE THE DOOR..."

FZTE -- WENZEL  
FUR WAREHOUSE --  
FZTE -- DOCK 32 --  
FZTE

INDEED, UNLESS HILL CAN PULL OFF SOME KIND OF MAGIC TRICK, I THINK WE CAN INCREASINGLY COUNT ON THE LOYALTY OF --

COMMISSIONER?

AT THIS POINT, BULLOCK,  
I SUSPECT THAT'S AN EXAGGERATION.

PUBLIC OPINION IS TURNING AGAINST HILL -- AND I'M NOT SO SURE MANY COPS EVER BELIEVED HIS TRANSPARENT CHARGES AGAINST THE BATMAN AND ME ...

I ... I KNOW WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS POLICE BUSINESS WITH YOU, BUT... WELL, I THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW...

IT SOUNDS LIKE MAYOR HILL'S GOT SOMETHING BIG COOKED UP ON THE DOCKS, AND... WELL, IF YOU WANT... I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU A RIDE.

WELL, BULLOCK...?

GO ON, COMMISH.

YOU WERE RIGHT -- THE OTHER MAN OUT THERE'LL KEEP A GOOD WATCH OVER ME.

AND BESIDES,  
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

NOW GET WELL, BULLOCK -- AND STAY THAT WAY.

YOU'RE A B-BRICK,  
COMMISH -- AND THANKS, HUH?

THE WENZEL FUR WAREHOUSE  
NEAR THE DOCKS, 11:17 PM:

THANKS, EDDIE --  
HAVE A GOOD HAUL  
BACK TO THE GREAT  
WHITE NORTH.

RIGHT-- SEE  
YA NEXT  
THURSDAY.

FINALLY-- ALL THE FURS  
ARE INSIDE AND THE  
DRIVER'S LEAVING...

...AND SINCE THE NIGHT  
WATCHMAN HAS LOCKED  
THE LOADING BAY DOOR  
TIGHTER THAN A DRUM...

...I'LL SIMPLY GO  
TO THE SIDE DOOR  
AND--

SKRAK

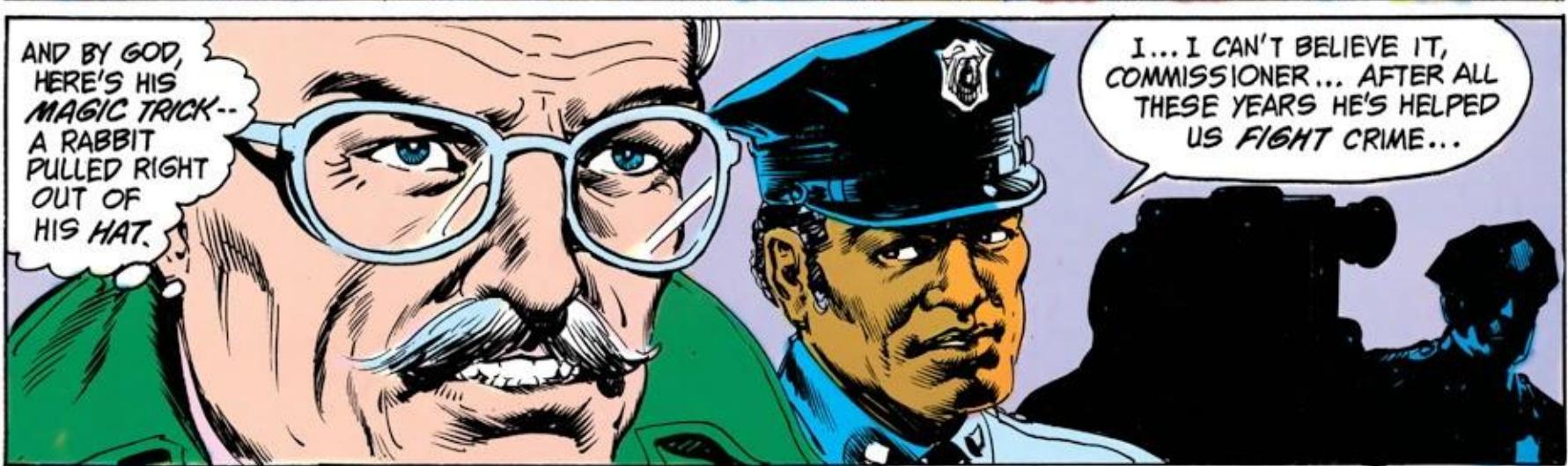
THIS IS IT.

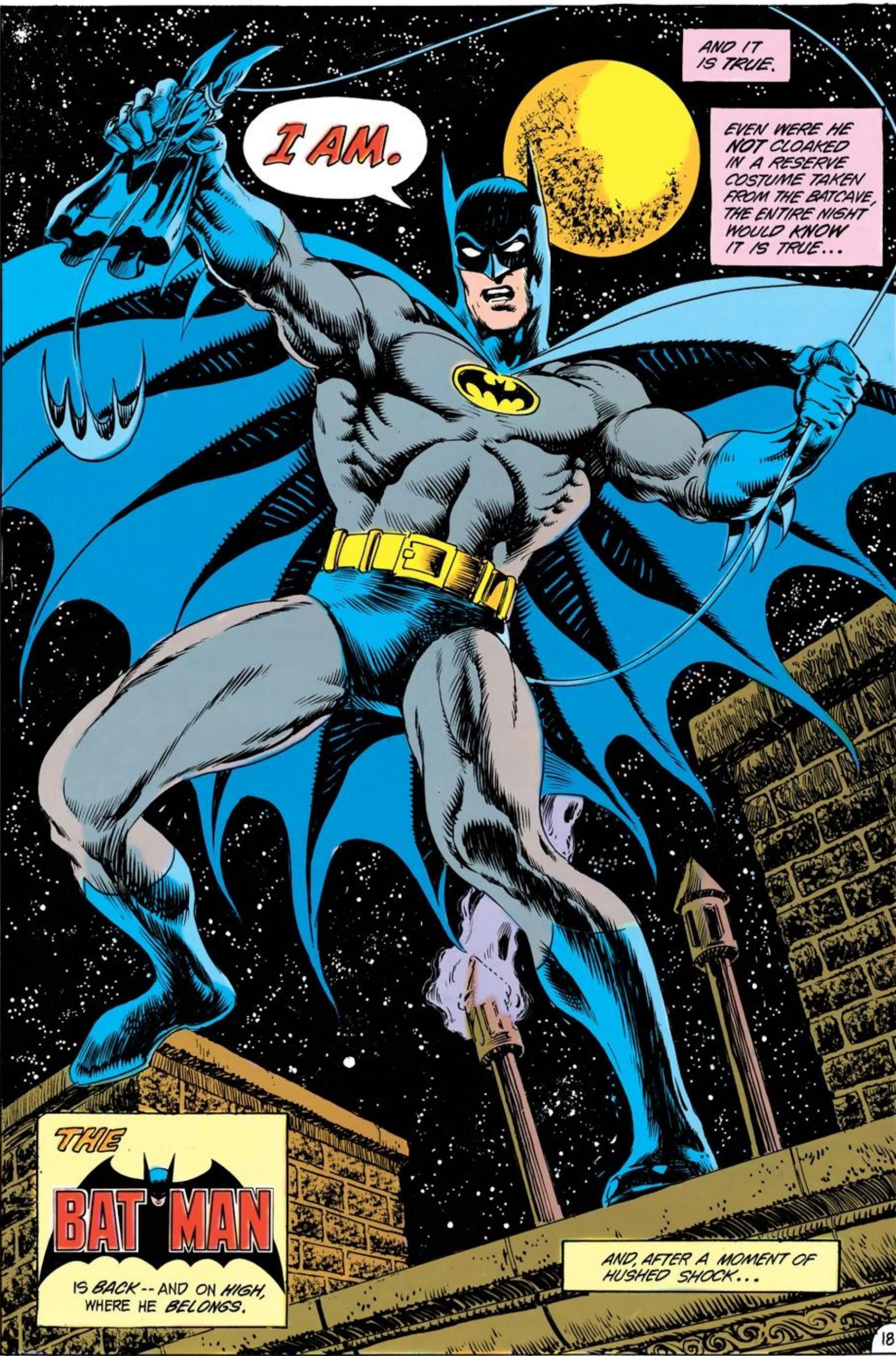
TELL THE  
CARS TO MAKE  
THEIR MOVES  
AND SEAL  
THE STREET.

SKREEE

NOW-- HIT THE  
SEARCHLIGHTS!

WHAT  
THE--?!





**I AM.**

AND IT  
IS TRUE.

EVEN WERE HE  
NOT CLOAKED  
IN A RESERVE  
COSTUME TAKEN  
FROM THE BATCAVE,  
THE ENTIRE NIGHT  
WOULD KNOW  
IT IS TRUE...

**THE**  
**BAT MAN**

IS BACK--AND ON HIGH,  
WHERE HE BELONGS.

AND, AFTER A MOMENT OF  
HUSHED SHOCK...

... THE REPORTERS GO MORE THAN WILD, ACTUALLY CHEERING AS THEY CRANE THEIR NECKS TO CAPTURE THE HEROIC PERSPECTIVE OF HIS RETURN.

HERE'S A PHONY COWL,  
HILL -- TO GO ALONG WITH  
YOUR COUNTERFEIT  
GAUNTLET.

GORDON  
ALMOST GRINS.

TAKE HIM, BATMAN  
-- TAKE THE SMUG  
MARTINET DOWN!

AND HERE'S  
MY PROOF.

BATMAN IS  
TELLING THE  
TRUTH. MY  
NAME IS  
HERMAN  
BLEVINS.  
I'M A  
TAILOR.

MY NEPHEW  
IS MAYOR  
HILL'S CHIEF  
ASSISTANT.

THE "EVIDENCE"  
PROVIDED BY HILL,  
PRESUMABLY TO PROVE  
THE BATMAN'S "GUILT,"  
WAS A GLOVE I MADE  
WITH MY OWN HANDS  
-- AT MY NEPHEW'S  
REQUEST--AND A GLOVE  
WHICH WAS NEVER  
TOUCHED BY THE  
BATMAN.

HIS HANDS ARE  
CLEAN -- UNLIKE MY  
OWN, GOD  
HELP ME.

UNCLE....!

STOP IT, UNCLE--  
YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING!

SHUT HIM UP,  
BLEVINS! HE'S  
YOUR UNCLE!  
SHUT HIM UP,  
DAMN IT!

STOP IT! NO MORE  
FLASHES! CUT OFF  
YOUR LIGHTS!  
YOU'RE BLINDING  
THE POLICE!

AND IF I WERE YOU, COPS, I'D  
STAY BLIND -- BECAUSE IF YOU  
MAKE ONE MOVE AT ME,  
YOU'LL SEE YOUR MAYOR'S  
NECK SNAPPED!

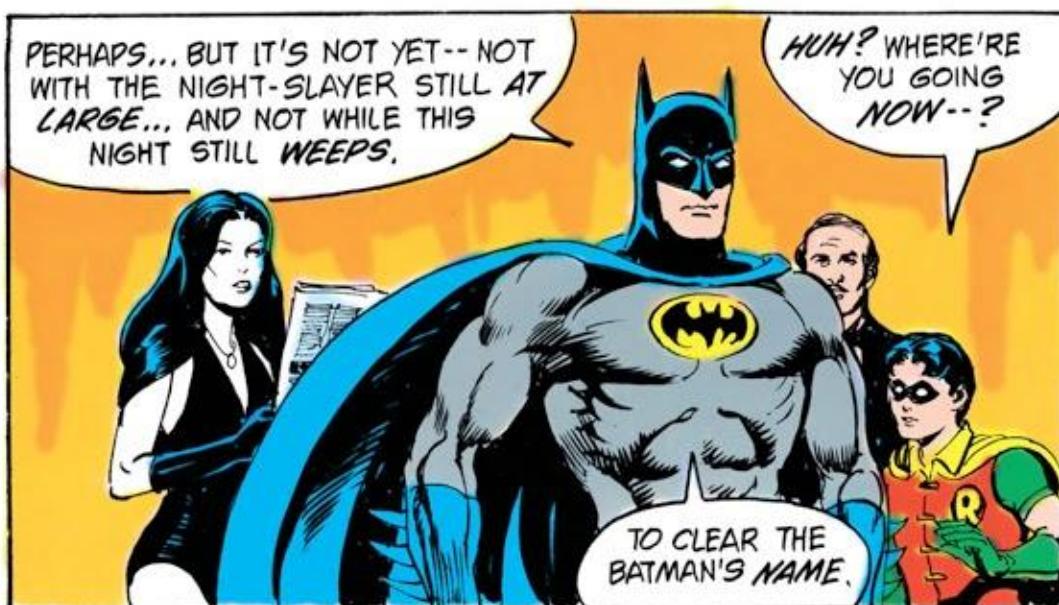
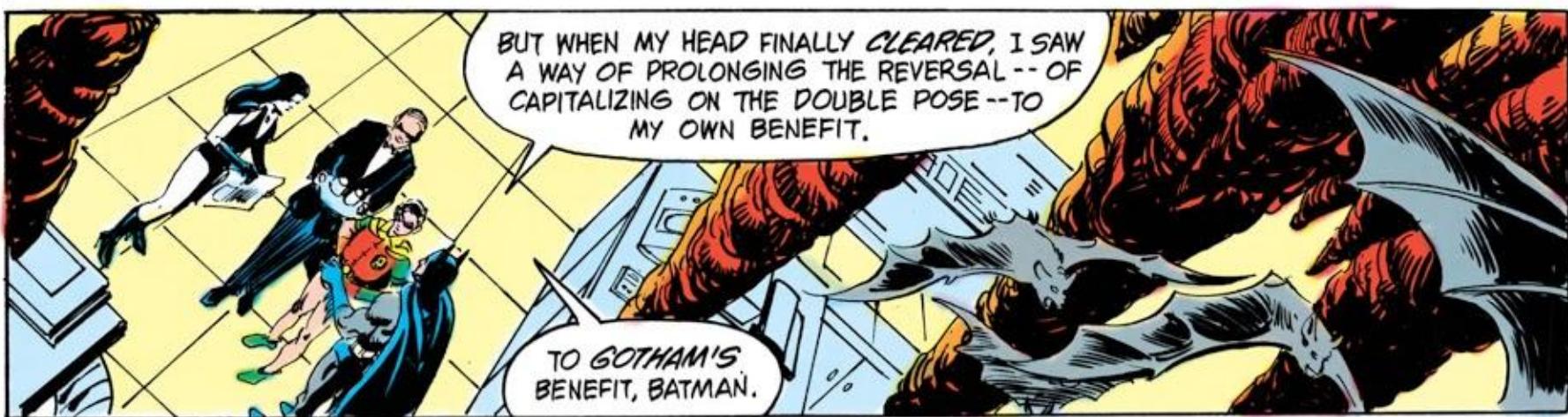
QUICK--TURN  
THE CAMERAS ON  
HILL! GET HIS  
REACTION!

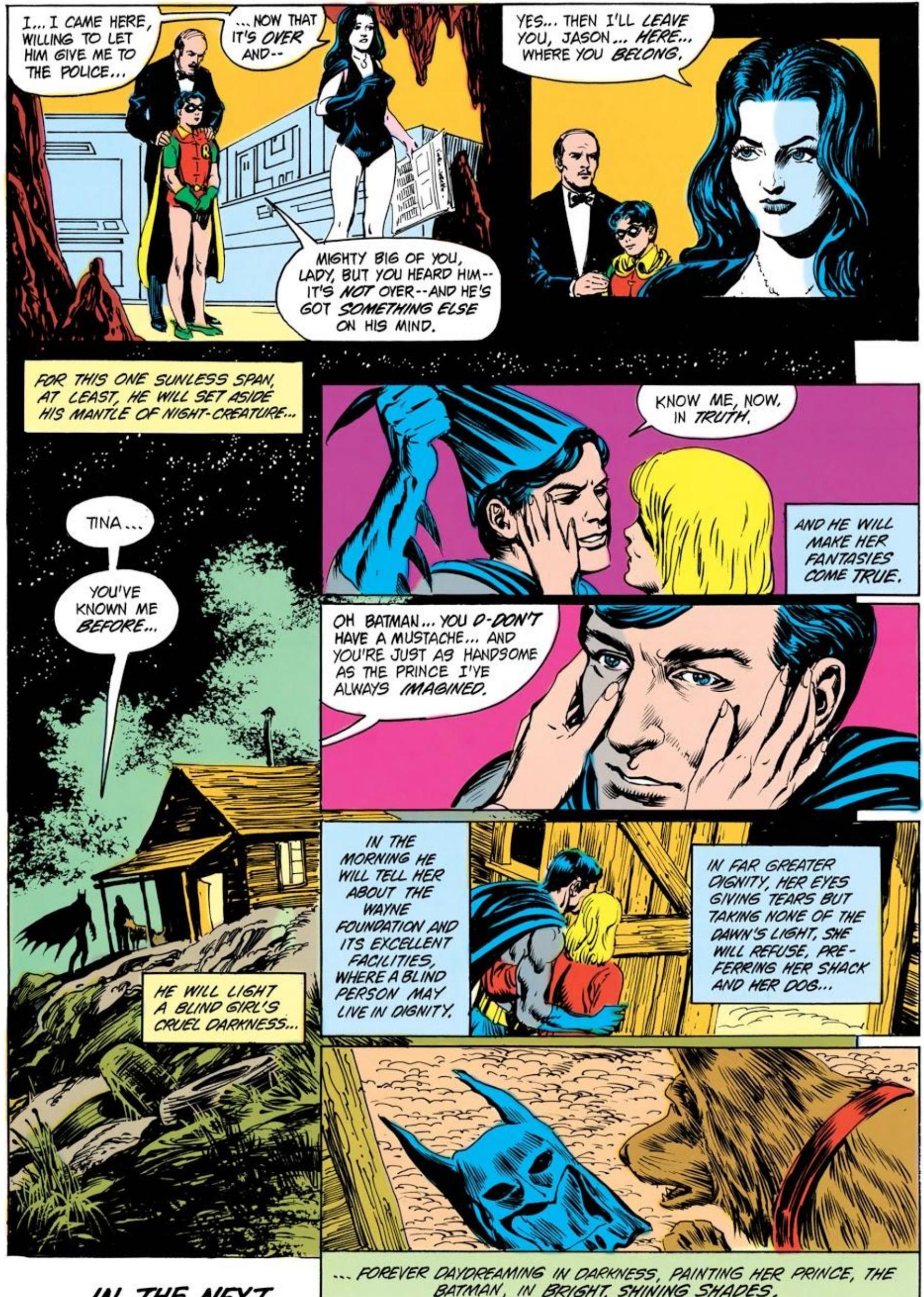




AND IF MY TIMING WAS JUST RIGHT,  
THEN AMANDA GROSCZ SAW ME LEAVE  
THE RITZ-CARLTON DRESSED AS NIGHT-  
SLAYER, WITH NOCTURNA IN TOW...

...MEANING JASON  
WILL BE BACK AS  
WELL.





IN THE NEXT

'TEC AND BATMAN: **THE CATWOMAN!**'



**novus**  
Distributions