



KNIGHTQUEST™

THE CRUSADE



BATMAN  
503  
JAN 94

\$1.50 US  
\$1.95 CAN  
70p UK

DOUG  
MOENCH  
MIKE  
MANLEY

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
COP  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN



# Night Becomes Woman

MUGGERS, DRUNKS,  
DOERS AND PIMPS--  
AN UNEVENTFUL NIGHT,  
UNTIL NOW...

RIGHT  
EYE--  
MAGNIFY.

...UNTIL SHE  
ENTERS IT.

CATWOMAN--A LIVING  
SHADE OF RAW, SLEEK  
DARKNESS...

...BRAZENLY  
FURTIVE...

...VIVIDLY  
TANTALIZING.

DOUG MOENCH-MIKE MANLEY-ADRIENNE ROY-KEN BRUZENAK-JORDAN B. GORANKEL-DENNY O'NEIL  
writer artist colorist letterer assistant editor editor

Batman  
created by  
BOB KANE

SHE MOVES IN  
GRACE THROUGH  
MYSTERY.



AND THEN  
SHE'S GONE...

CLOSE ENOUGH TO  
GLIMPSE, TOO DISTANT  
TO REACH.

...LEAVING ME  
FASCINATED...

...BUT SOMEHOW  
DOUBTING THE  
MAGNIFIED  
EVIDENCE OF  
MY OWN EYE.

VISION--  
NORMAL.

KLK

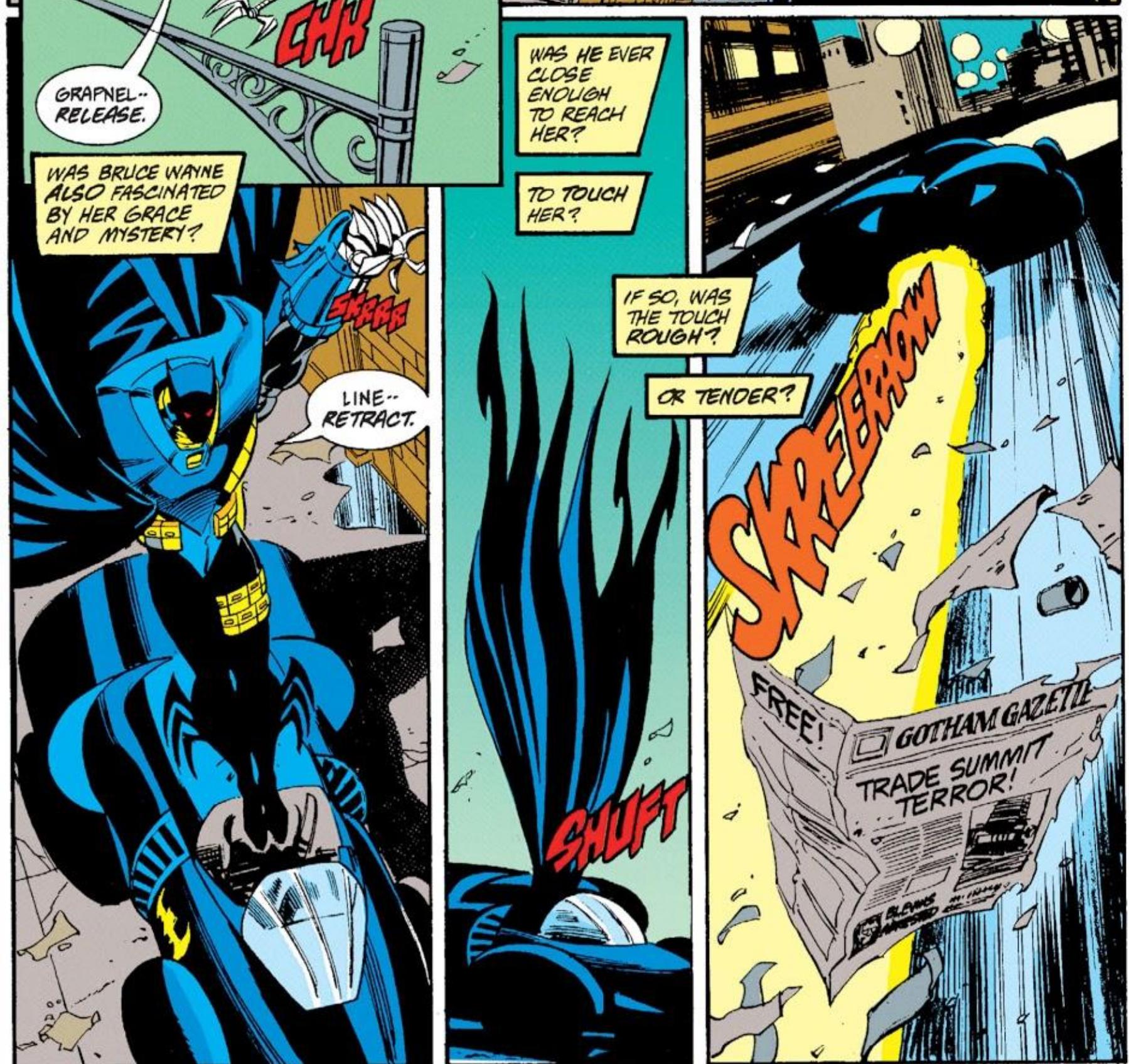
WAS SHE EVER  
REALLY THERE?

AND IF SO,  
WHY WAS  
SHE THERE?

CHFF



WHY WAS  
SHE RUNNING  
FREE?



ALMOST DAWN.

SCREEETCH

MAYBE I'LL DREAM ABOUT HER...

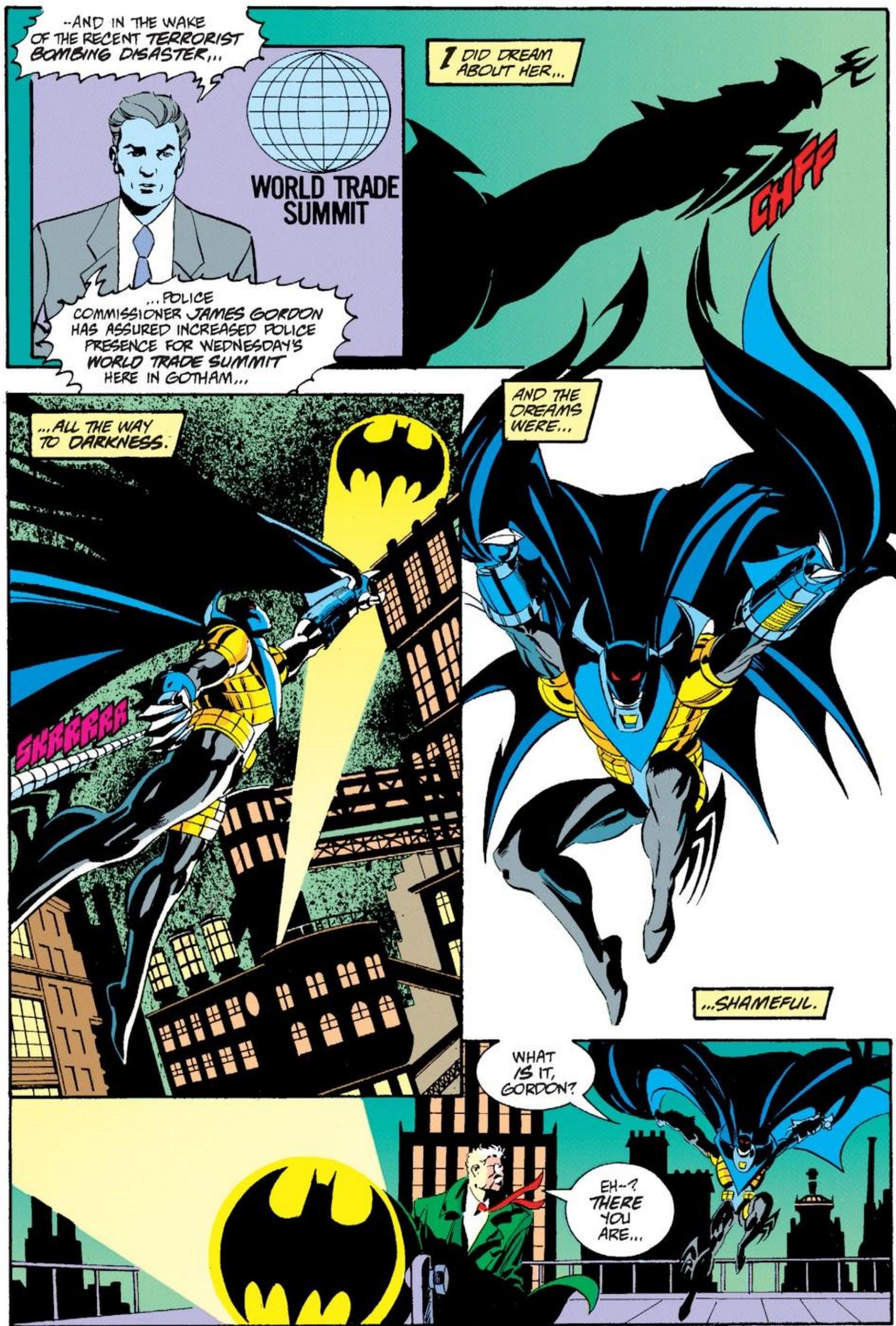
A CAT-BURGLAR SLIPPING AND GLIDING THROUGH THE NIGHT, HER BODY CUTTING THE DARKNESS IN WHISPERS.

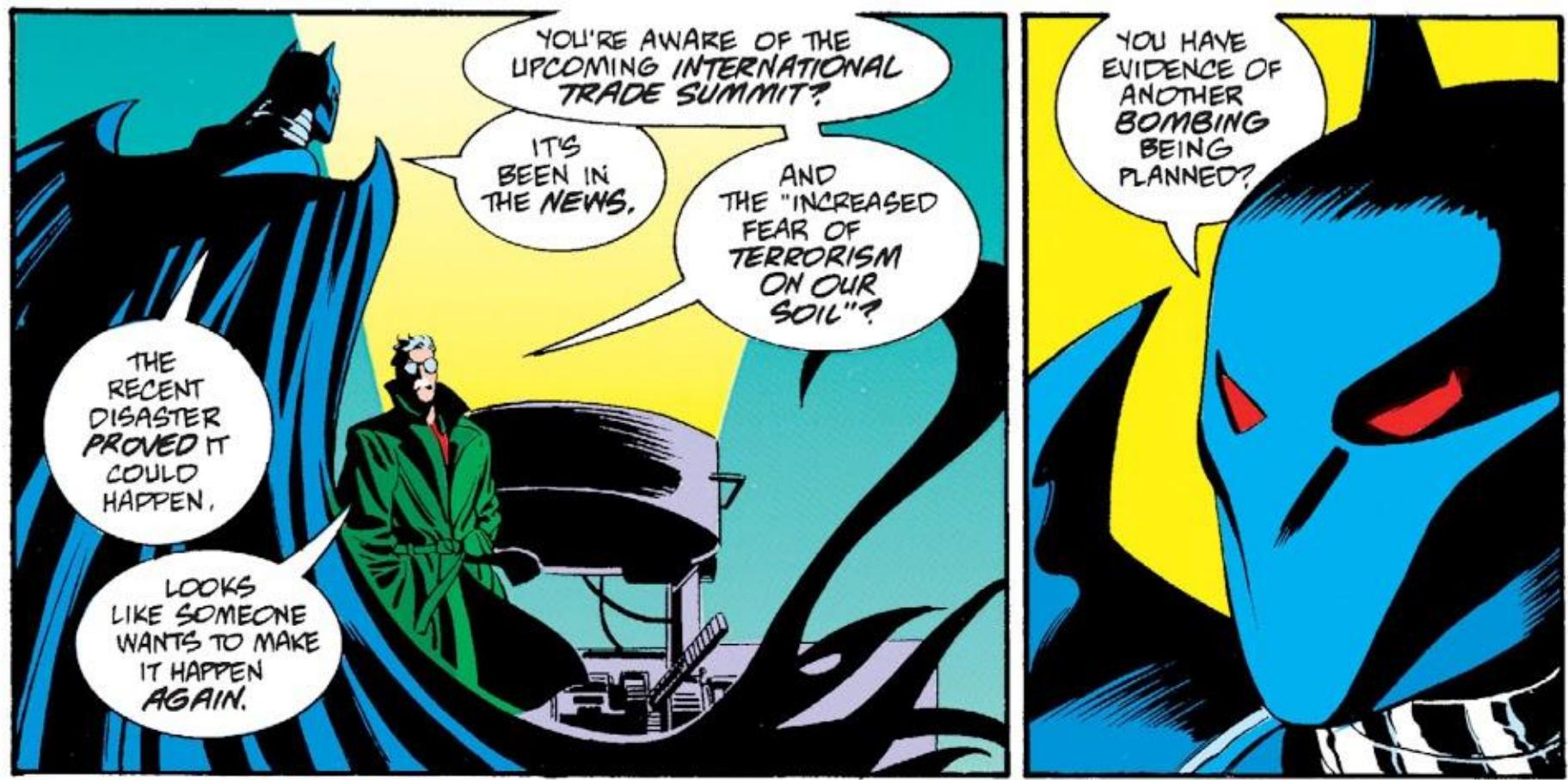
A THIEF WHO TAKES MORE THAN THE BRIGHT GLITTER OF DIAMONDS AND PEARLS.

A WOMAN, A SHADOW, WHO CAN STEAL A MAN'S EYE AND HIS IMAGINATION...

MAYBE EVEN HIS HEART.

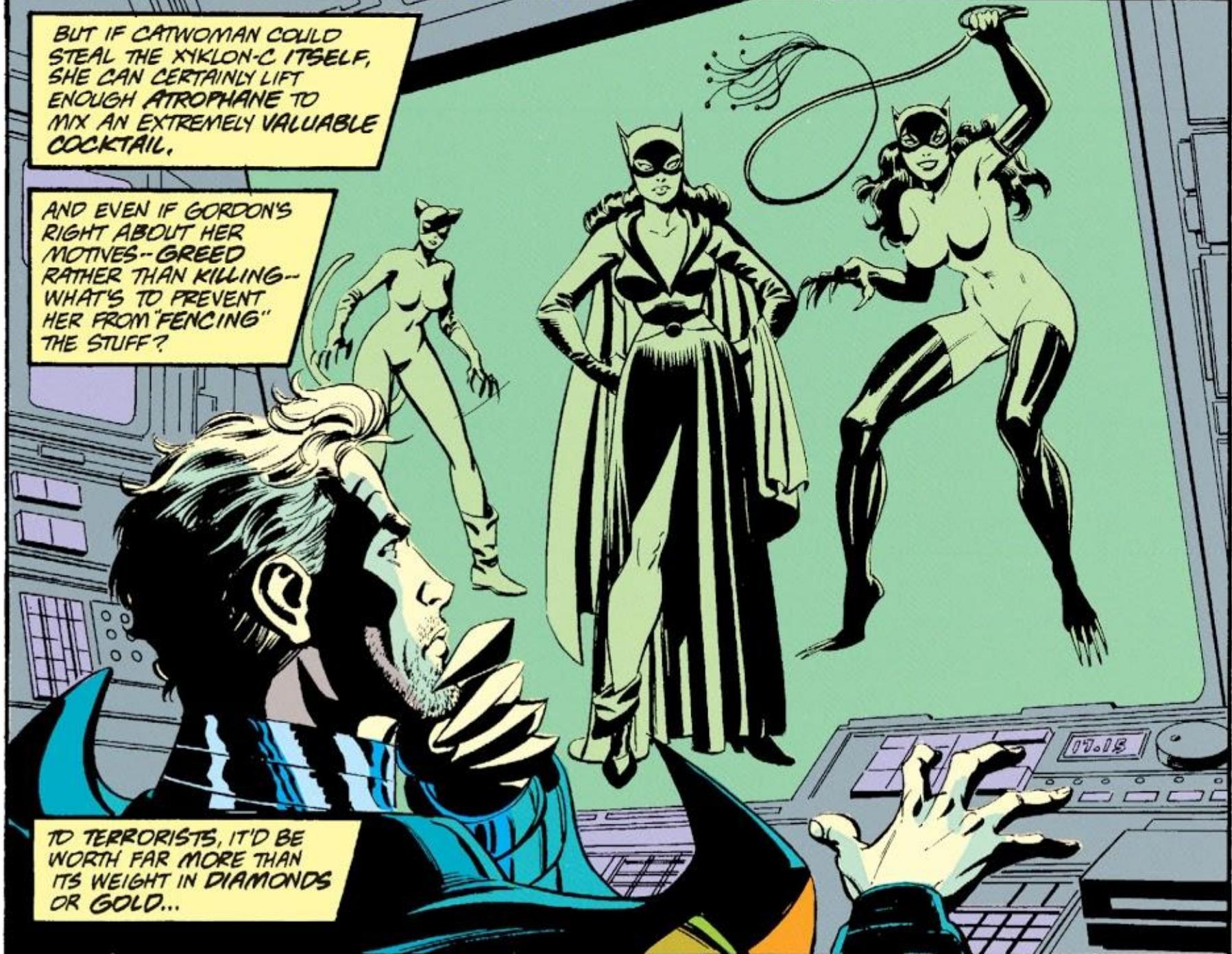
IF IT'S DARK ENOUGH.











HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN  
FASCINATED BY SUCH A  
WOMAN? HOW COULD I  
DREAM ABOUT HER?



DO CERTAIN FORMS OF  
EVIL HOLD SOME DARK  
BEAUTY TO WHICH NO  
MAN IS IMMUNE?

IS THAT WHY SHE'S FREE--  
THE FORMER BATMAN  
HASN'T TAKEN HER DOWN?

WAS BRUCE WAYNE  
EQUALLY FASCINATED  
BY HER MYSTERIOUS  
ALLURE?

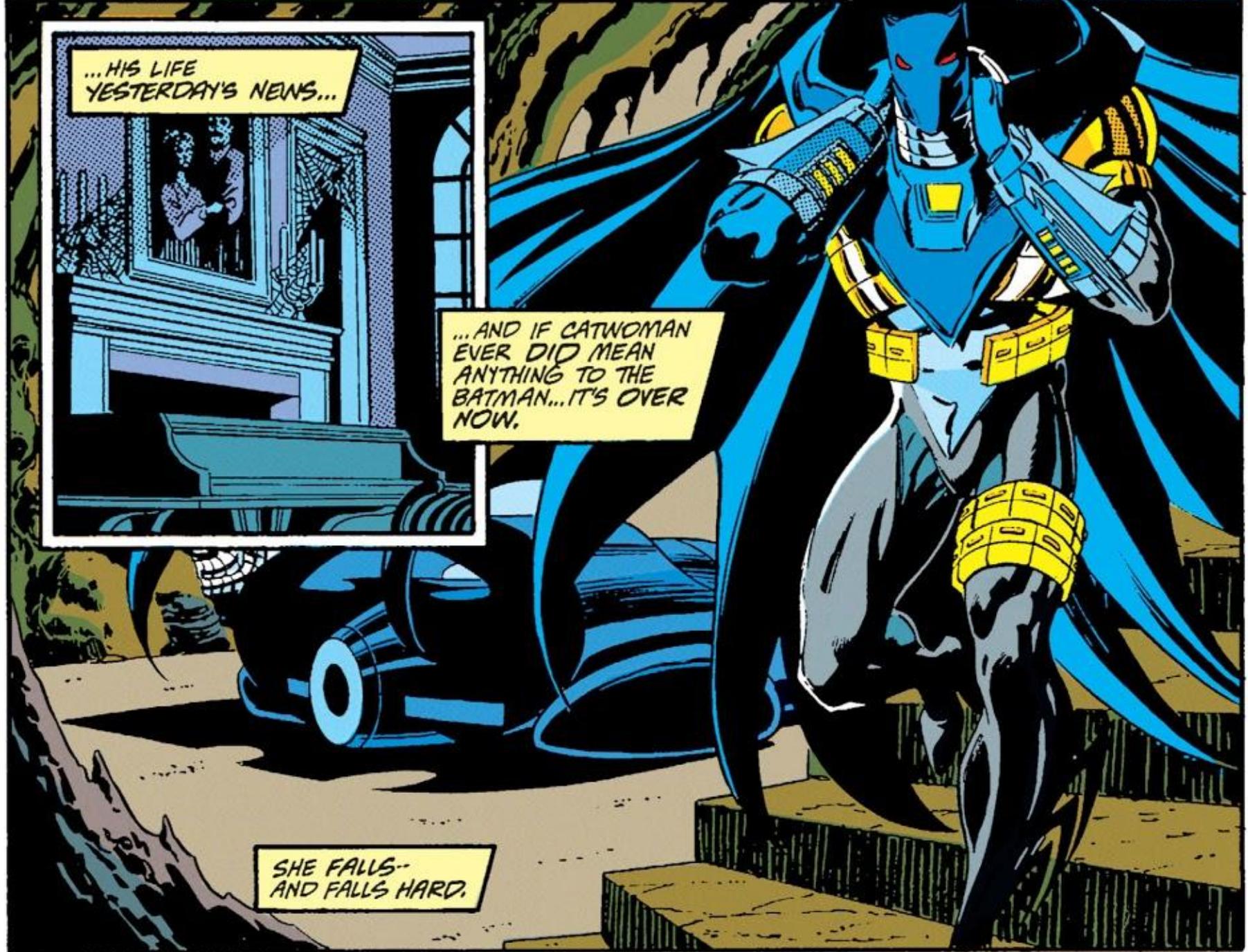


IT DOESN'T  
MATTER.

BRUCE WAYNE  
IS GONE...

...AND IF CATWOMAN  
EVER DID MEAN  
ANYTHING TO THE  
BATMAN... IT'S OVER  
NOW.

SHE FALLS--  
AND FALLS HARD.



AS YOU KNOW, DR. CARRUTHERS,  
THE ATTENDING NATIONS HAVE REFUSED  
TO CANCEL THE PENDING SUMMIT OR TO  
"BOW TO TERRORIST THREATS IN ANY  
WAY OR FASHION..."

...AN UNWISE  
ATTITUDE, IN MY  
OPINION, AT THIS  
JUNCTURE.

Prrrrr

SO, EVEN THOUGH  
THERE WILL BE  
EXTRAORDINARY  
SECURITY MEASURES  
TAKEN AT THE  
CONFERENCE -

Prrrrr

THERE IS NO SECURITY AGAINST  
A MASSIVE DISPERSAL OF THESE  
NEUROTOXINS, EITHER AIRBORNE  
OR RELEASED IN THE CITY'S WATER  
SUPPLY - OR EVEN SIMPLY DUMPED  
IN GOTHAM HARBOR.

MIOWW  
MIOW

MEEEYAOOW

WHICH  
IS PRECISELY WHY I'VE  
GOT TO STEAL TWENTY  
KILOS OF  
BENZOTRILENE.

MRRRAOWWW

THREE POSSIBLE SITES  
FOR WHAT SHE'S AFTER.

GOT TO MONITOR  
ALL THREE.

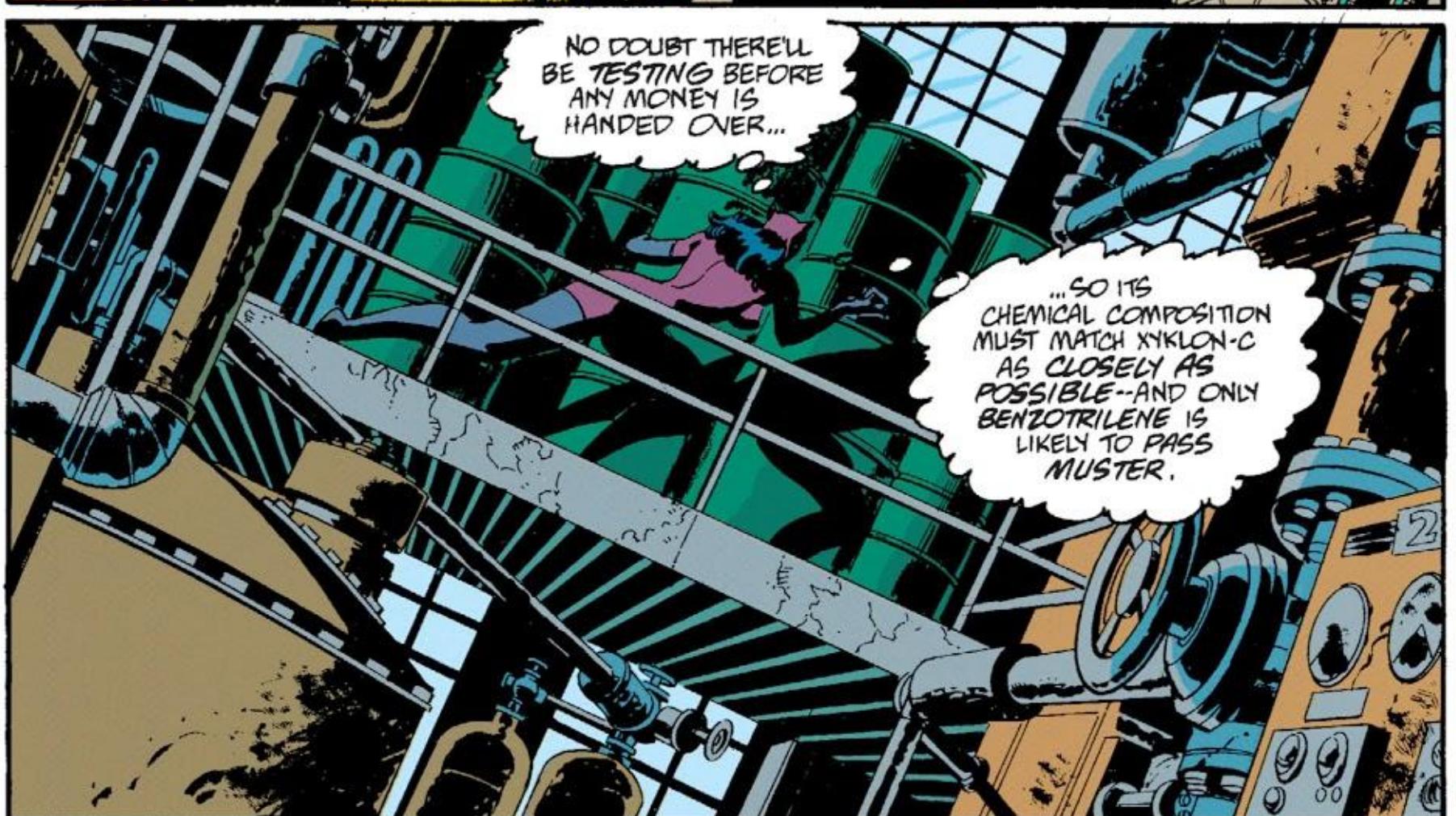
...AND THERE'S NO WAY  
SHE'LL SUSPECT MOTION  
DETECTORS AT  
CHEMICAL SUPPLY  
WAREHOUSES.

ROOFTOP  
ONE.

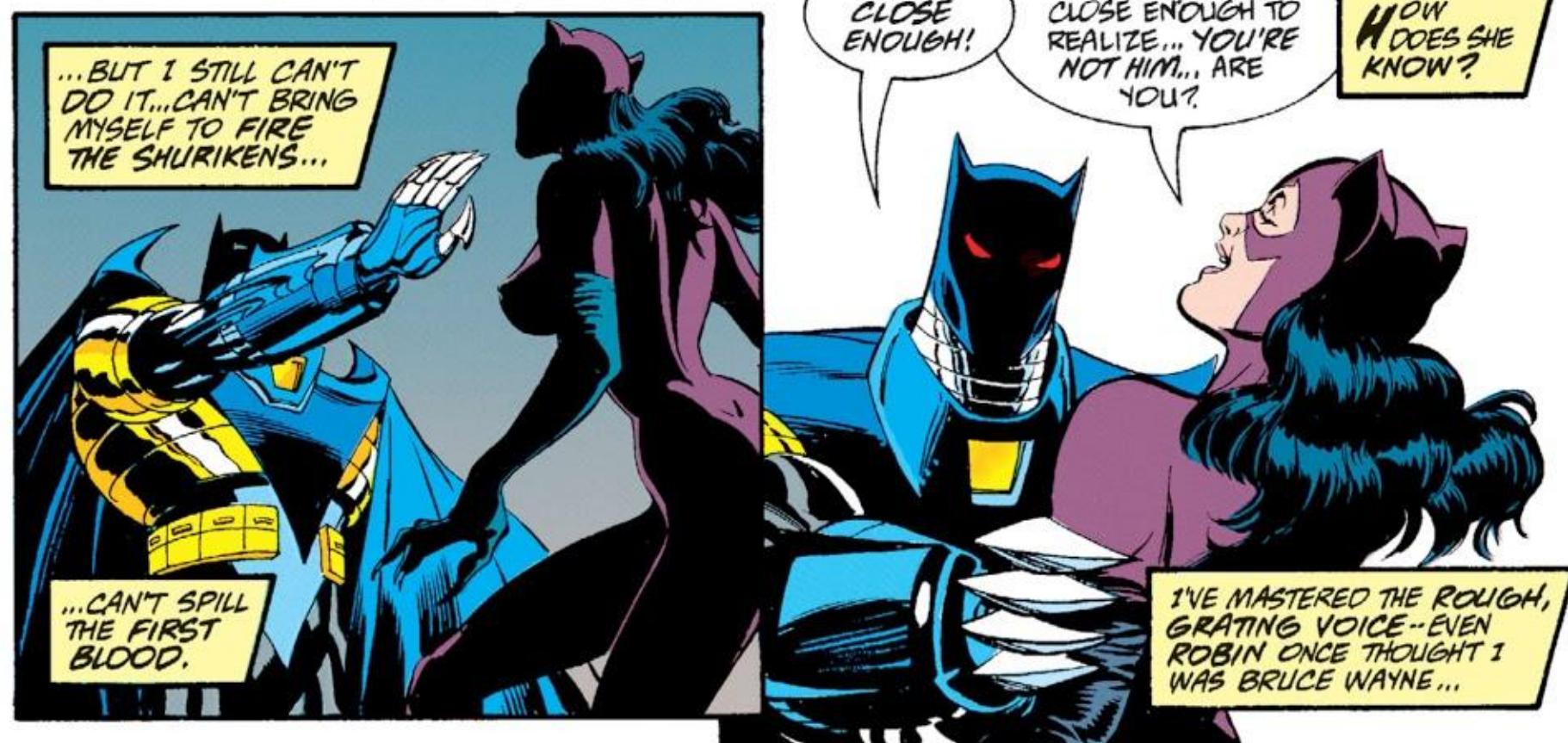
TWO.

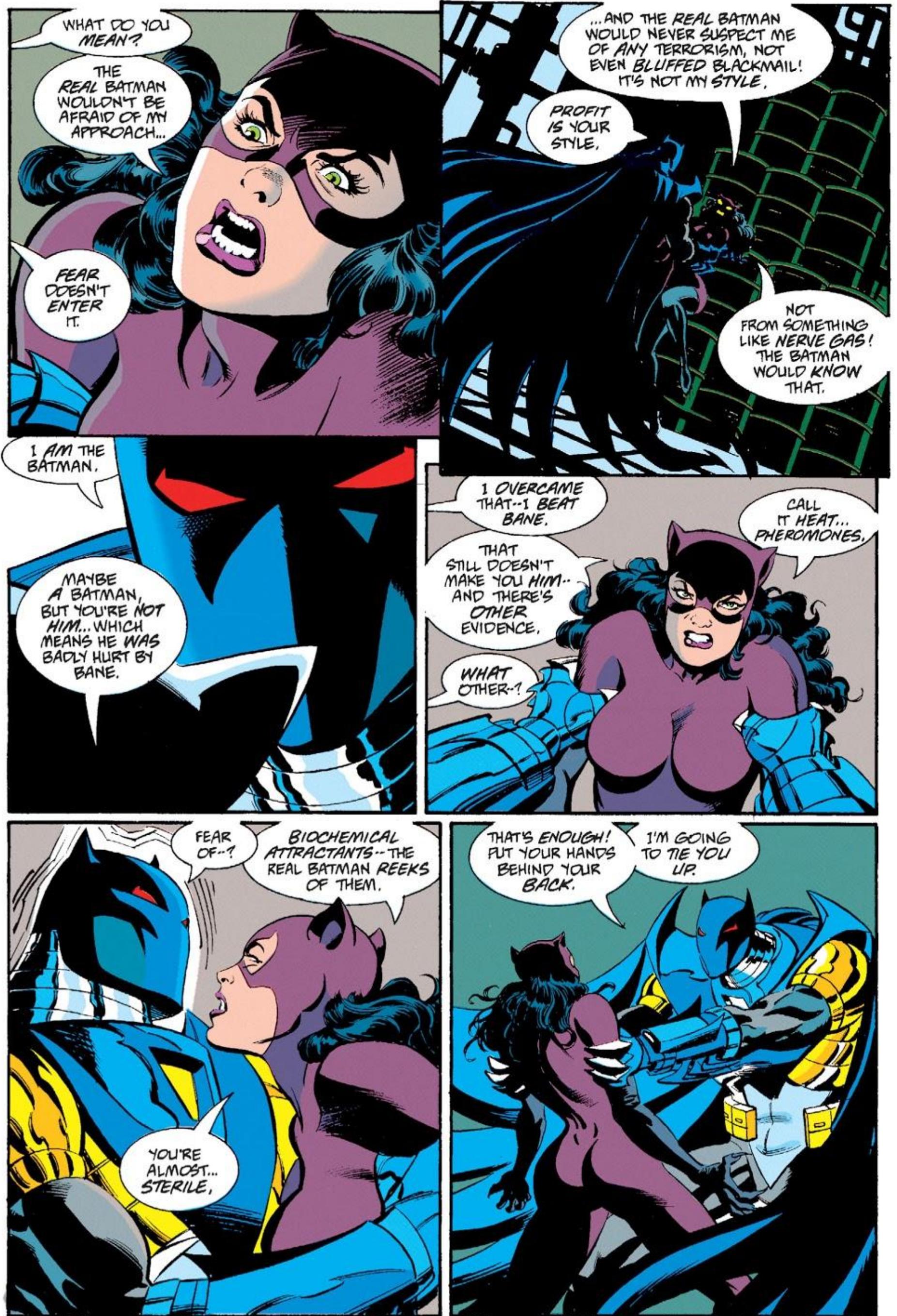
AND  
THREE.

NOW TO WAIT IN THE  
CAR AT SOME PLACE  
WITHIN RANGE OF  
ALL THREE  
DETECTORS.



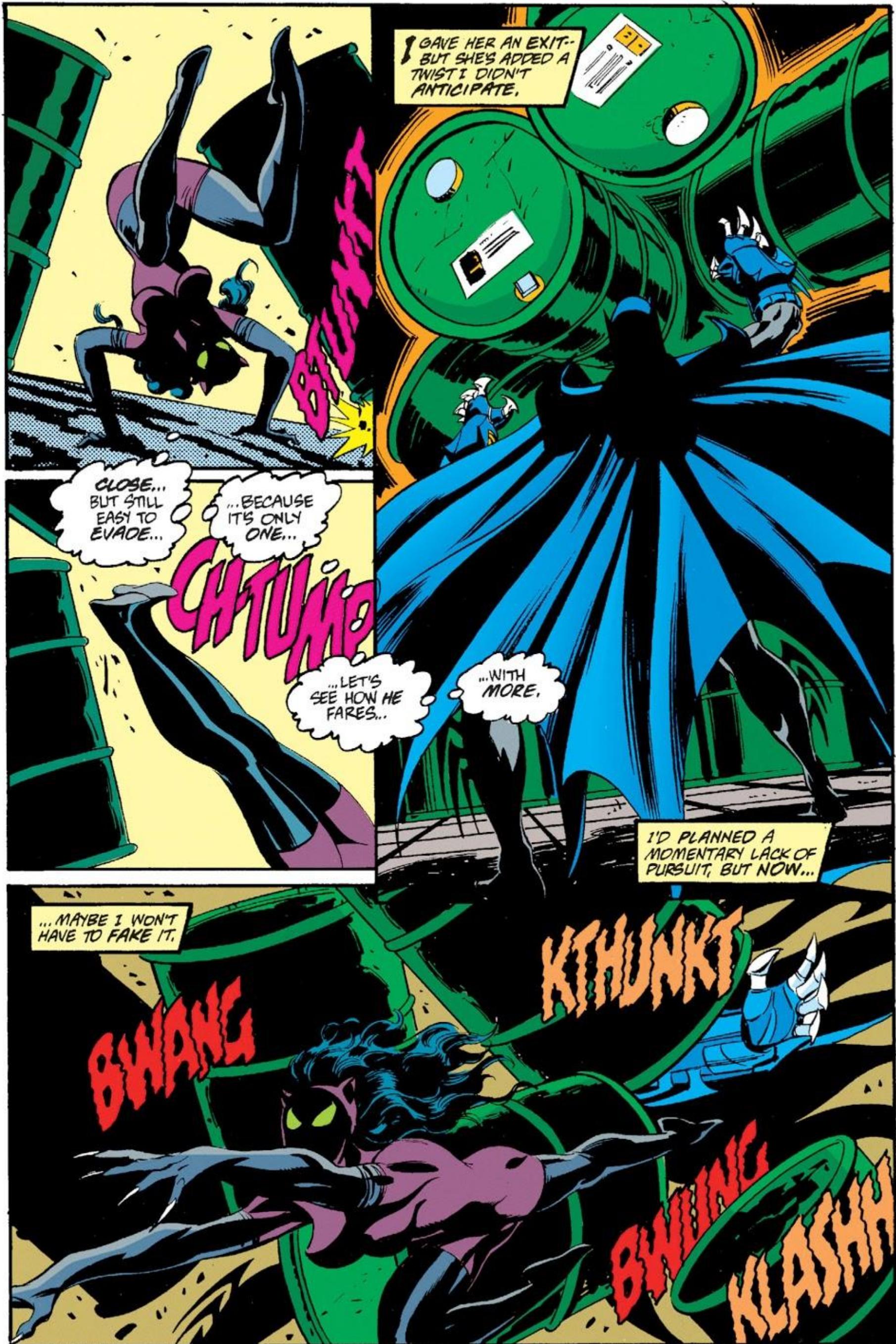


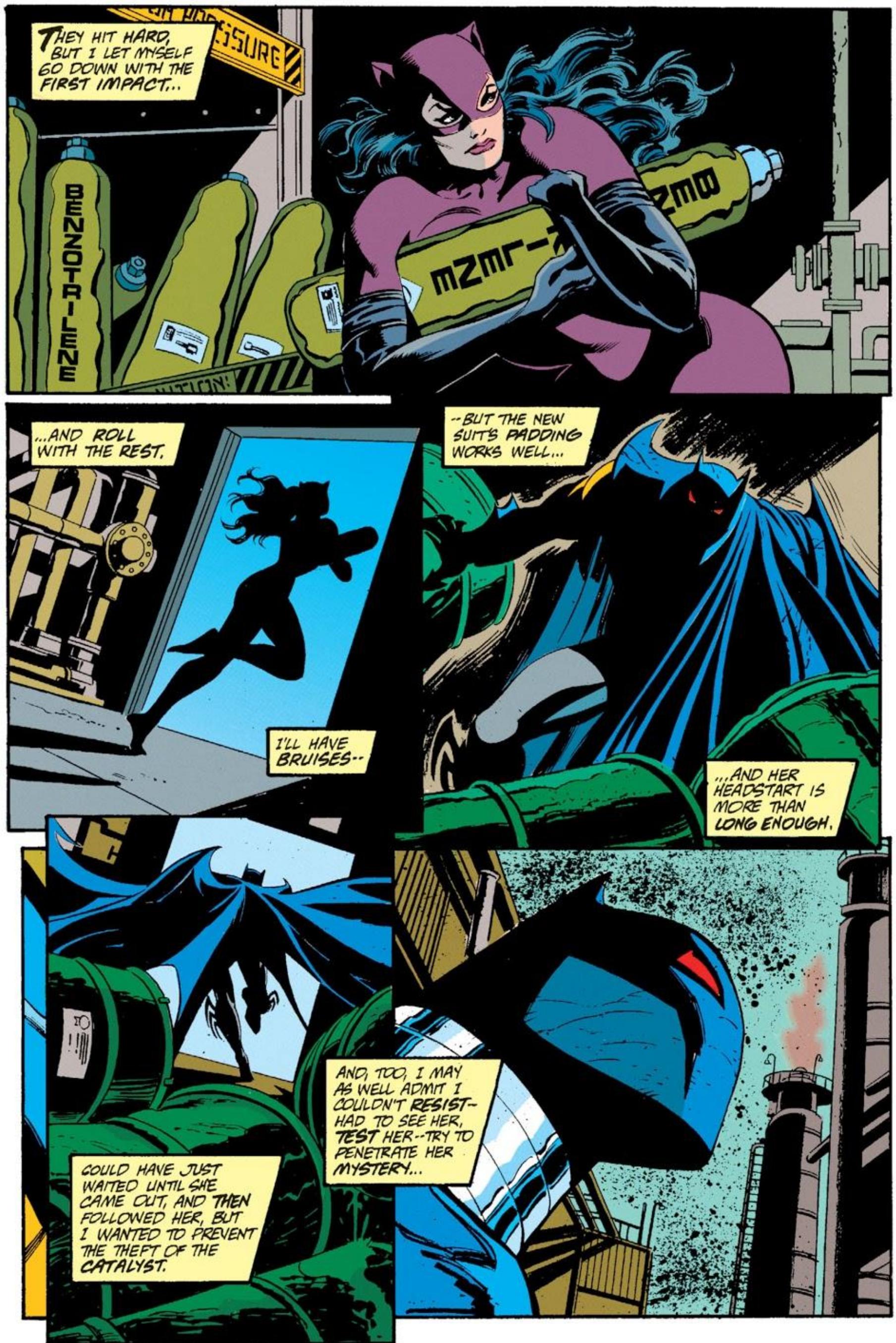












I VOWED SHE WOULD FALL, BUT MAYBE I WAS WRONG--IN DENIAL.

MAYBE I'VE FALLEN, AND FALLEN HARD...

CHFF

SUPERHERO

...BUT SHE STILL GOES DOWN.

I HELD BACK IN THE WAREHOUSE-- SHAMED MYSELF...

...JUST LIKE MY DREAMS.

THIS TIME, I HOLD NOTHING BACK.

THIS TIME... I MAKE THE CAT HOWL.

Continued In  
**BATMAN #504:  
DARK DANCE.**