



BATMAN

by STARLIN,
APARO &
DeCARLO

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY



Book Three
of Four

a Death in the Family

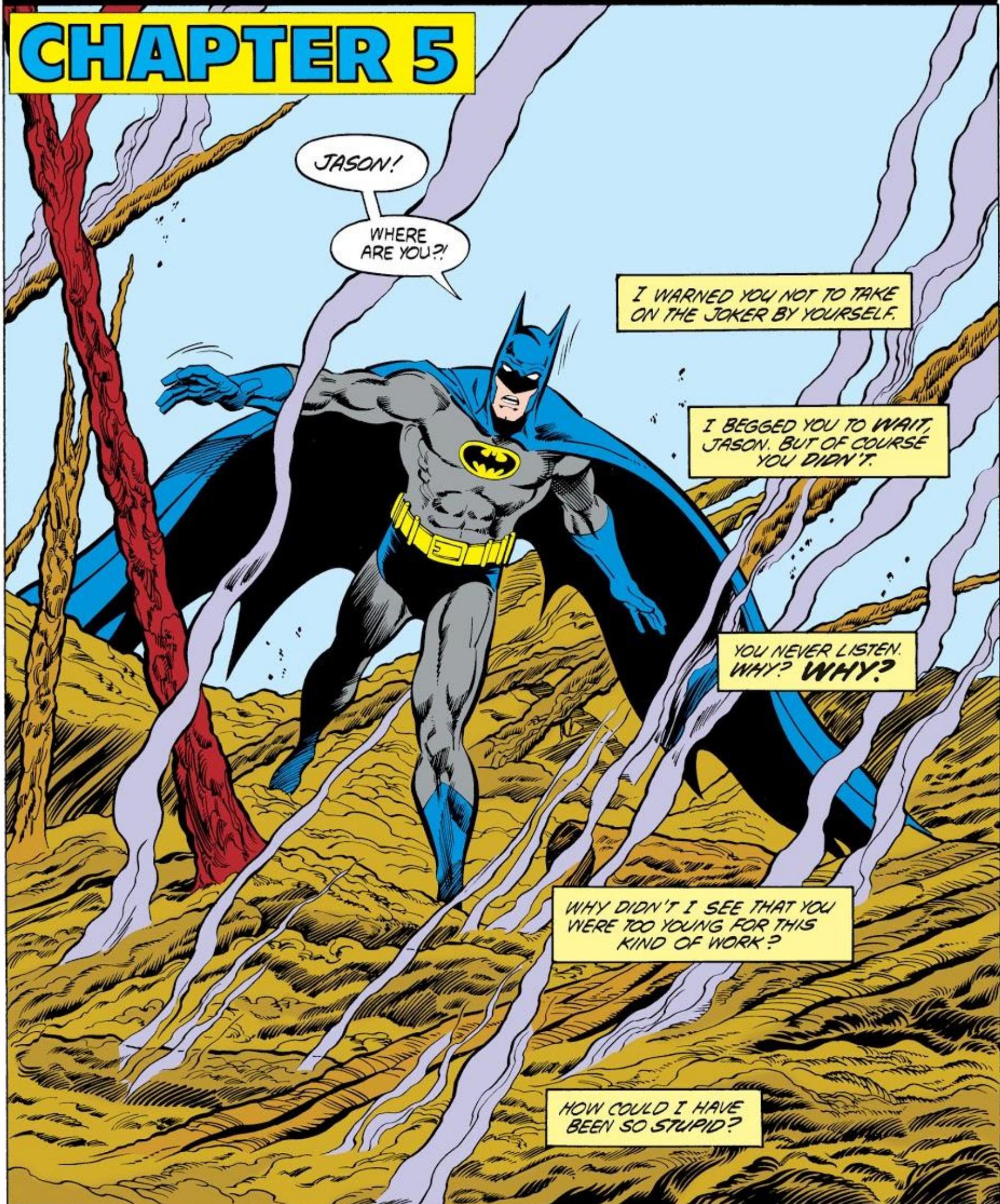
The Batman
was too late.

And now Robin
lies in rubble,
still,
silent,
shattered.

Can he possibly
be alive?

A DEATH in the FAMILY

CHAPTER 5



JIM
STARLIN • writer

JIM
APARO • penciller

MIKE
DECARLO • inker

JOHN
COSTANZA • letterer
CREATED BY BOB KANE

ADRIENNE
ROY • colorist

DAN
RASPLER • asst. editor

DENNY
O'NEIL • editor



JASON TOOK TO THE TRAINING LIKE A FISH TO WATER.

HE WAS QUICK AND INTELLIGENT. IT WAS LIKE TRAINING DICK AGAIN.

BUT THIS KID HAD A REBELLIOUS STREAK IN HIM. I TOLD MYSELF HE'D WORK IT OUT OF HIS SYSTEM IN TIME.

YES, I BLINDED MYSELF TO SO MUCH.

THE DYNAMIC DUO HAD BEEN REUNITED.

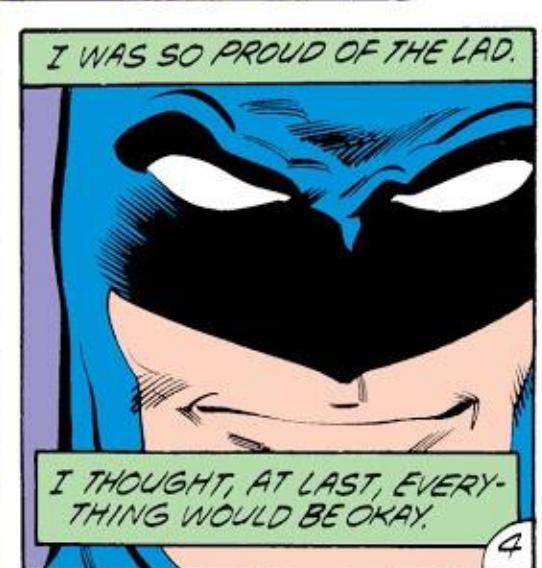
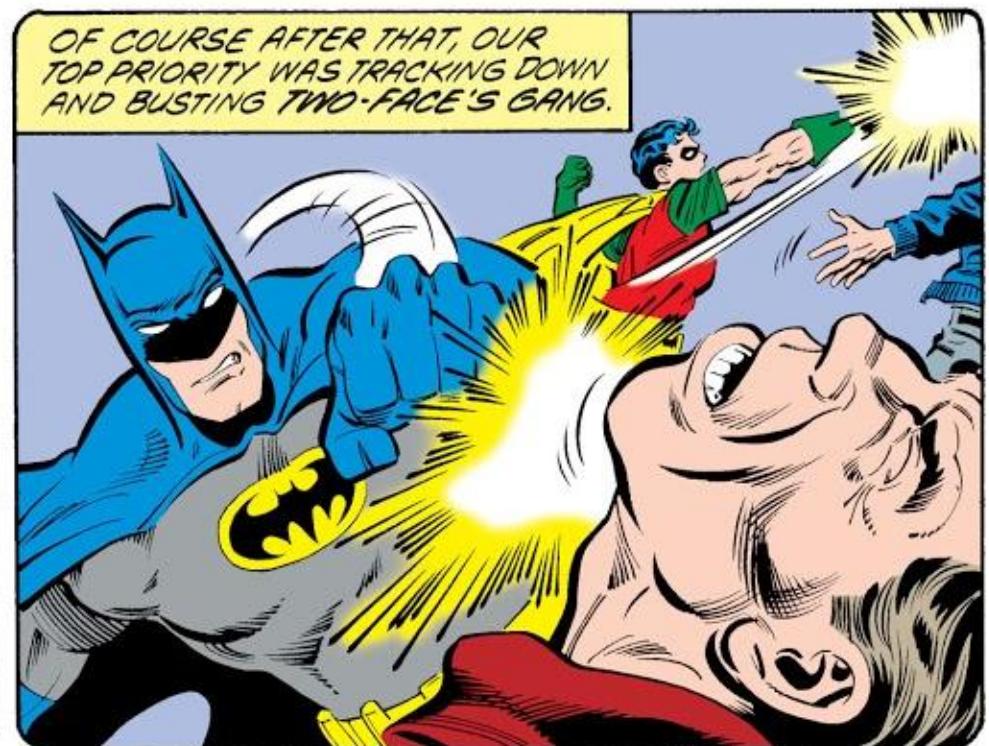
WE WERE GOING TO SET CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY ON ITS EAR.

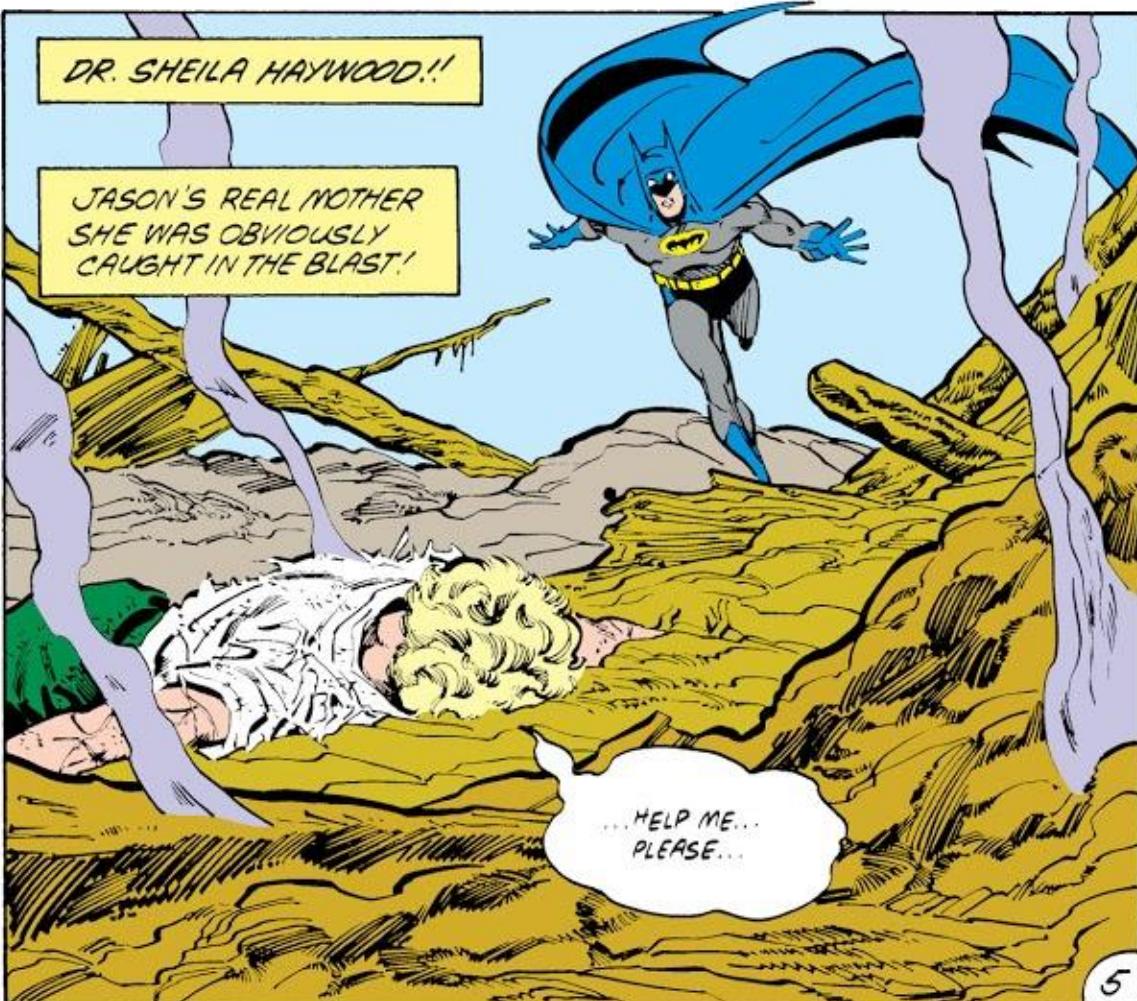
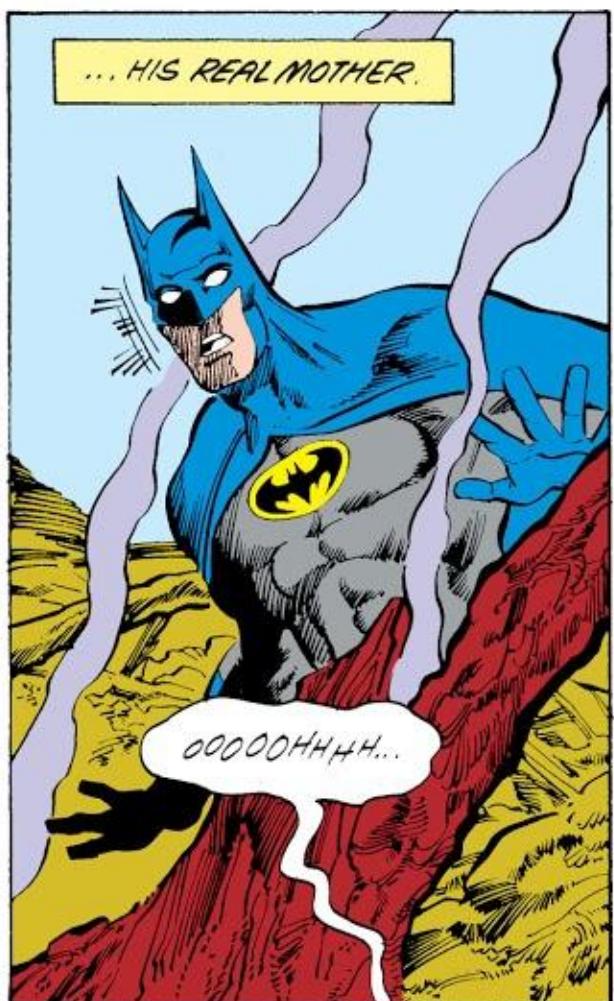
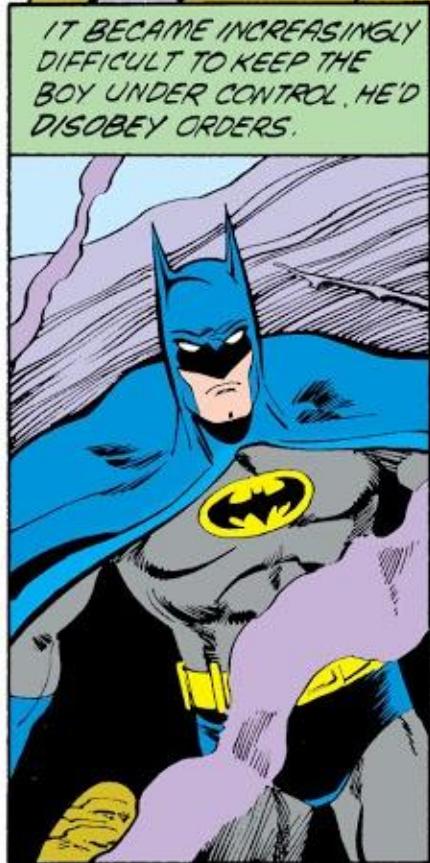
JASON AND I WERE GOING TO BE A GREAT TEAM. THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.

THIS NEW ROBIN CAME WITH AN OVERLOAD OF EMOTIONAL LUGGAGE.

MY INVESTIGATIONS SOON UNCOVERED THE FACT THAT JASON'S FATHER HAD WORKED FOR THE GANGSTER TWO-FACE.

WORSE YET, IT APPEARED THAT TWO-FACE HAD KILLED HIM FOR FAILING IN SOME ASSIGNMENT.







THE JOKER PLANNED TO HIJACK A SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TO REPLENISH HIS OPERATING FUNDS.

HE PLANNED TO SUBSTITUTE A LOAD OF HIS LETHAL LAUGHING GAS IN PLACE OF THESE SUPPLIES.



I HAD TO GO AFTER THE SHIPMENT WHICH WAS HEADED FOR A REFUGEE CAMP. HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED IF I HADN'T.

JASON WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR MY RETURN, BEFORE GOING AFTER HIS MOTHER AND THE JOKER.



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULDN'T WAIT...

SHEILA...

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

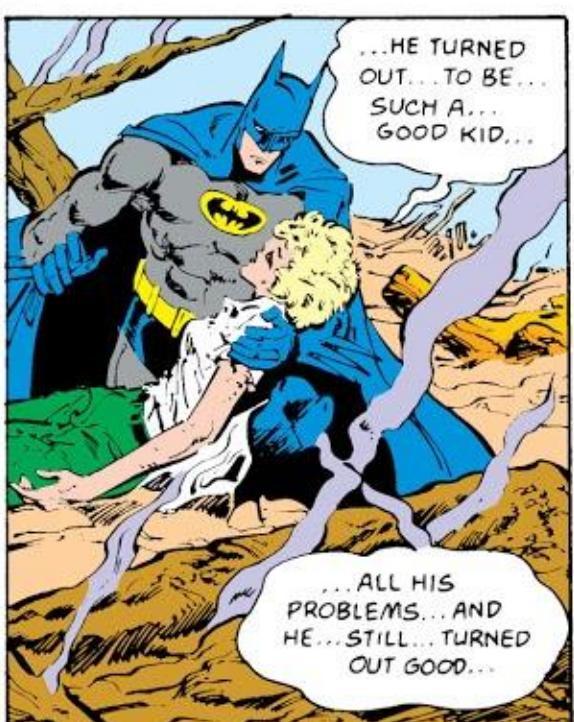
JOKER...

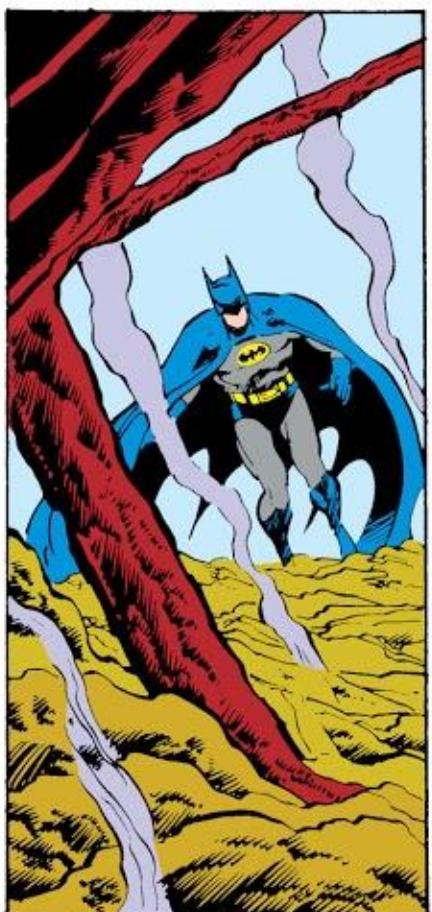
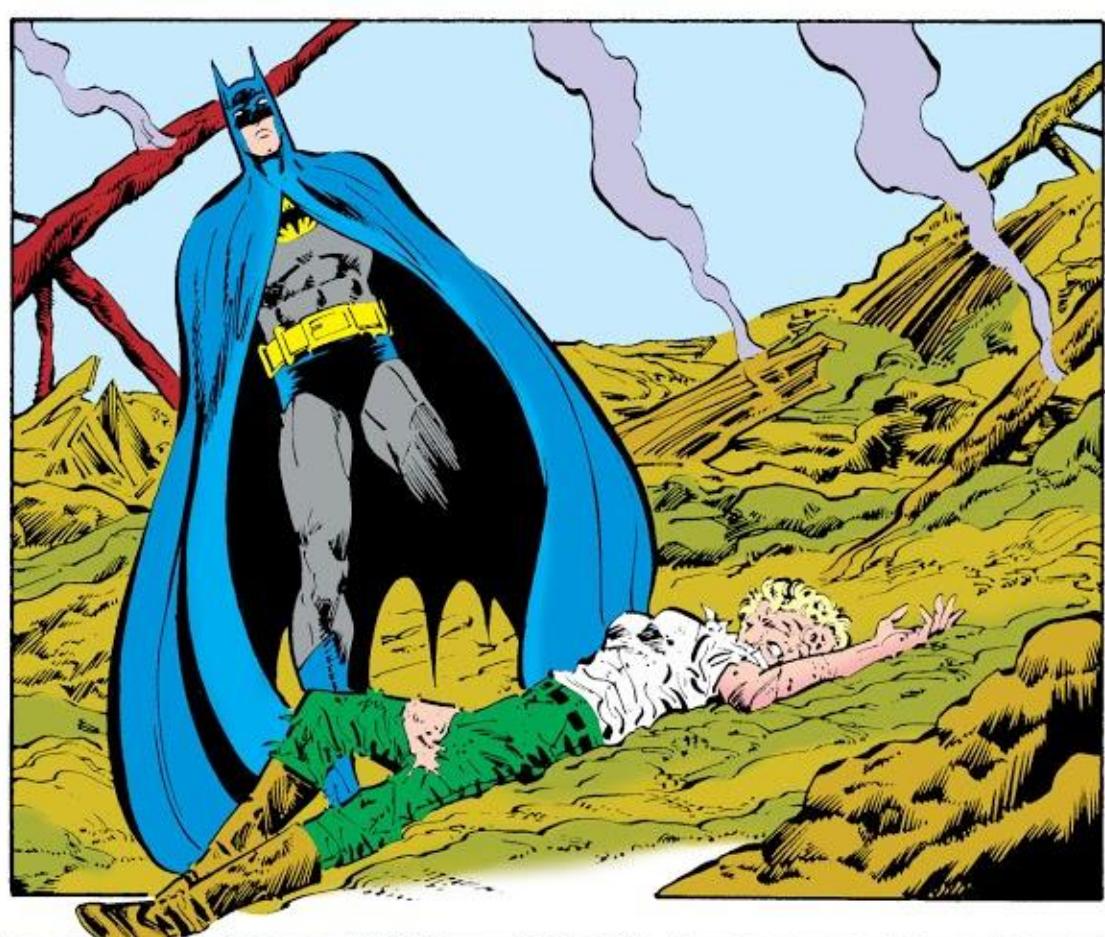
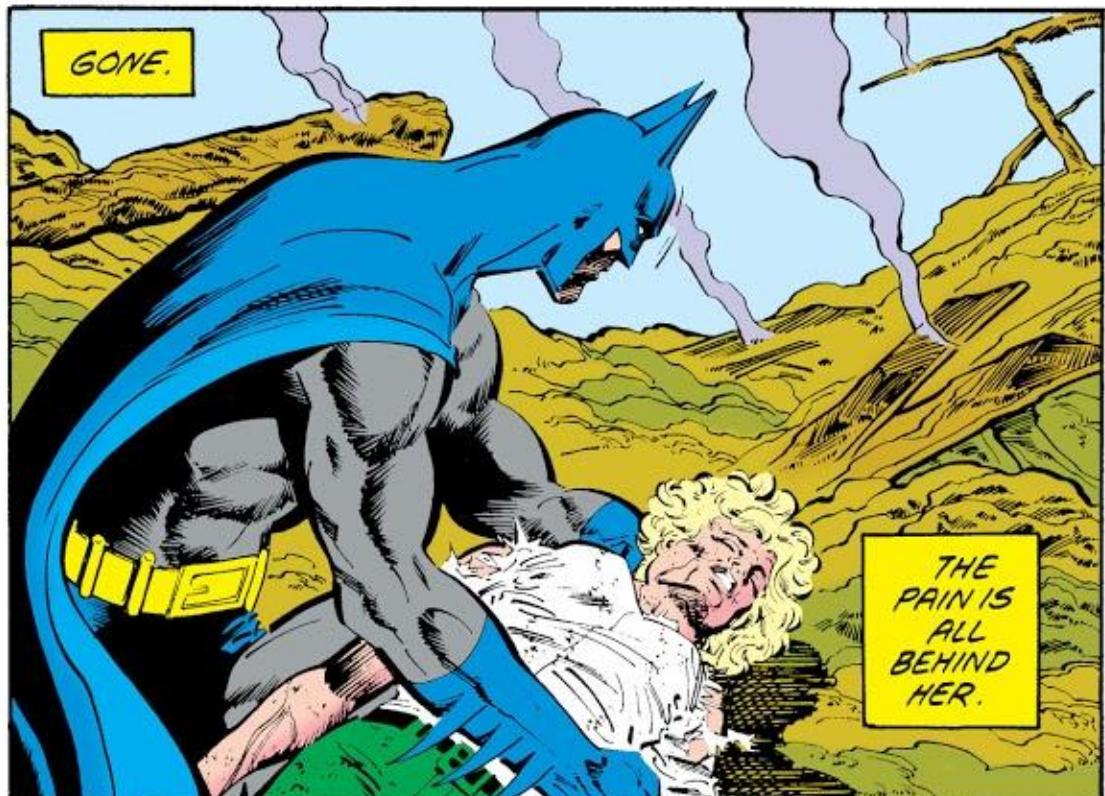


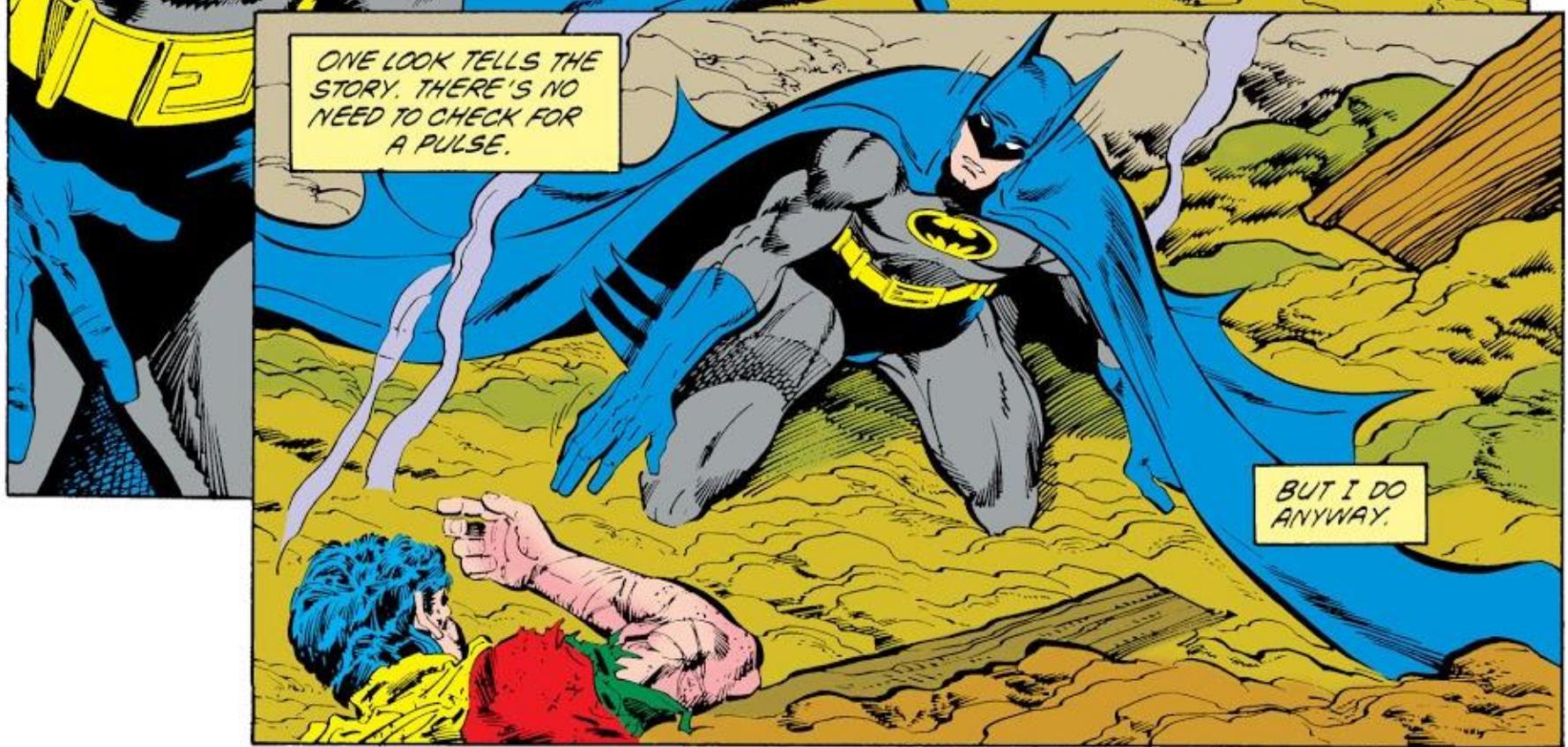
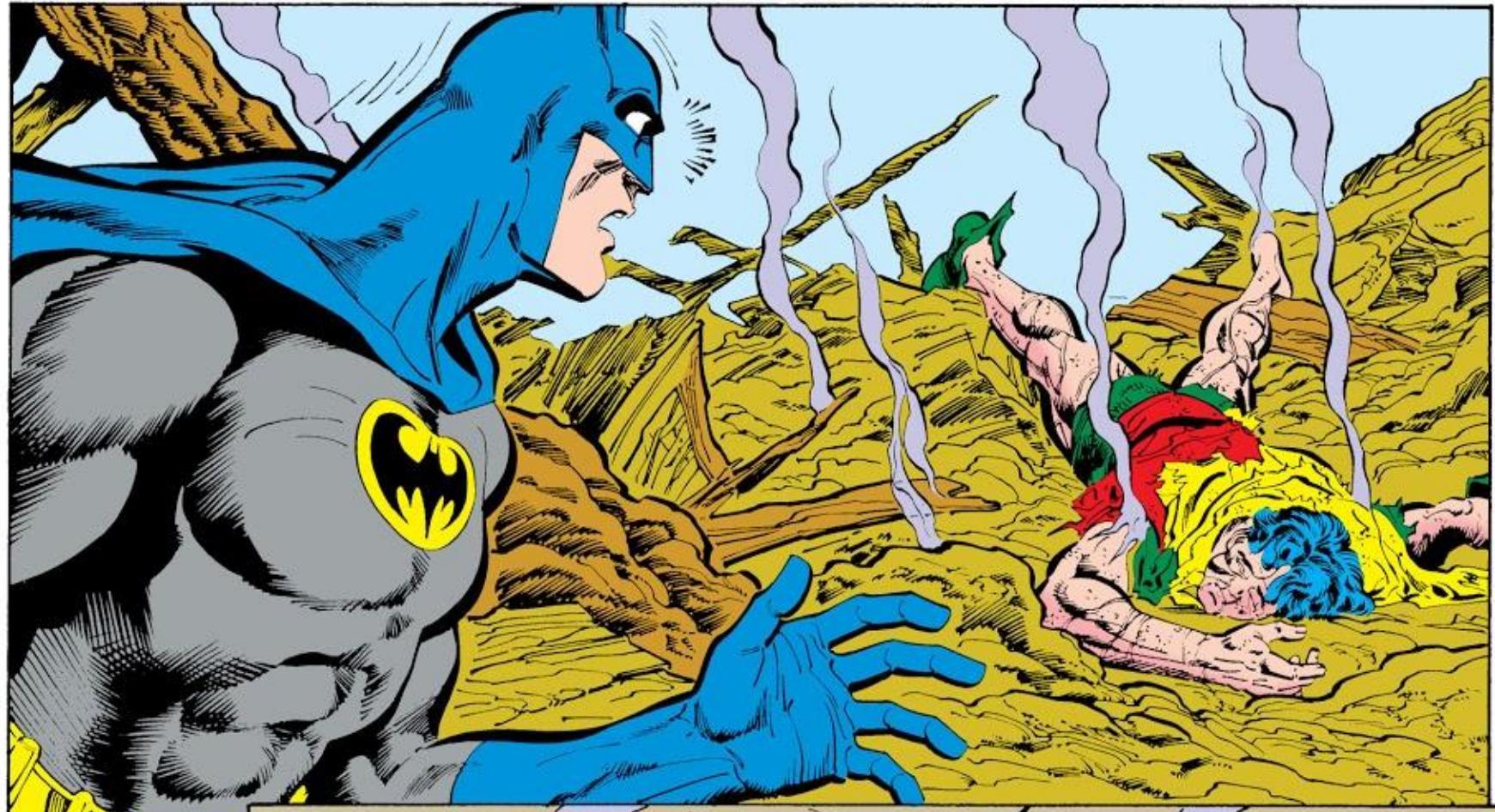
...HE TURNED OUT... TO BE... SUCH A... GOOD KID...

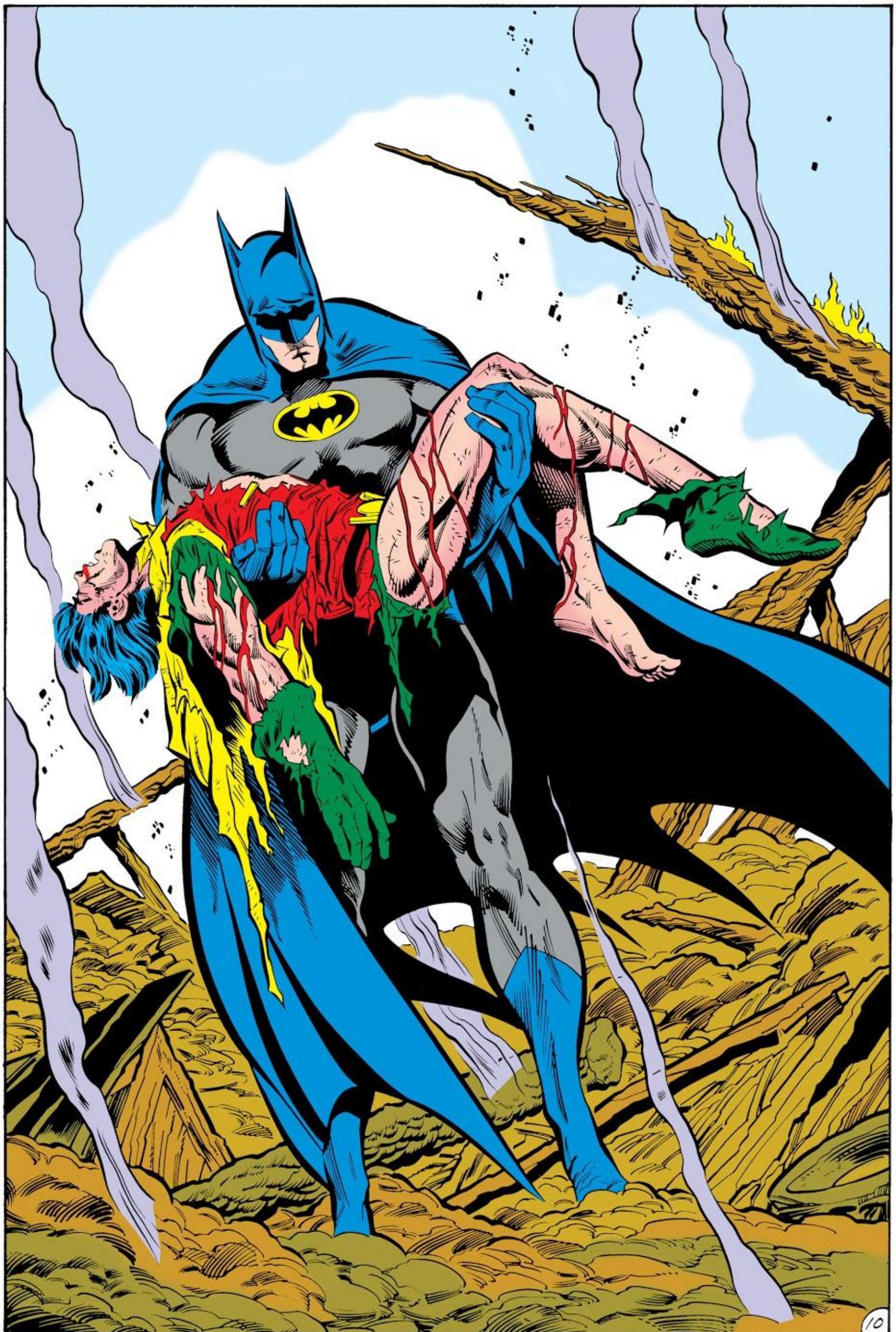
...HE'S... MUCH BETTER... THAN I DESERVE...

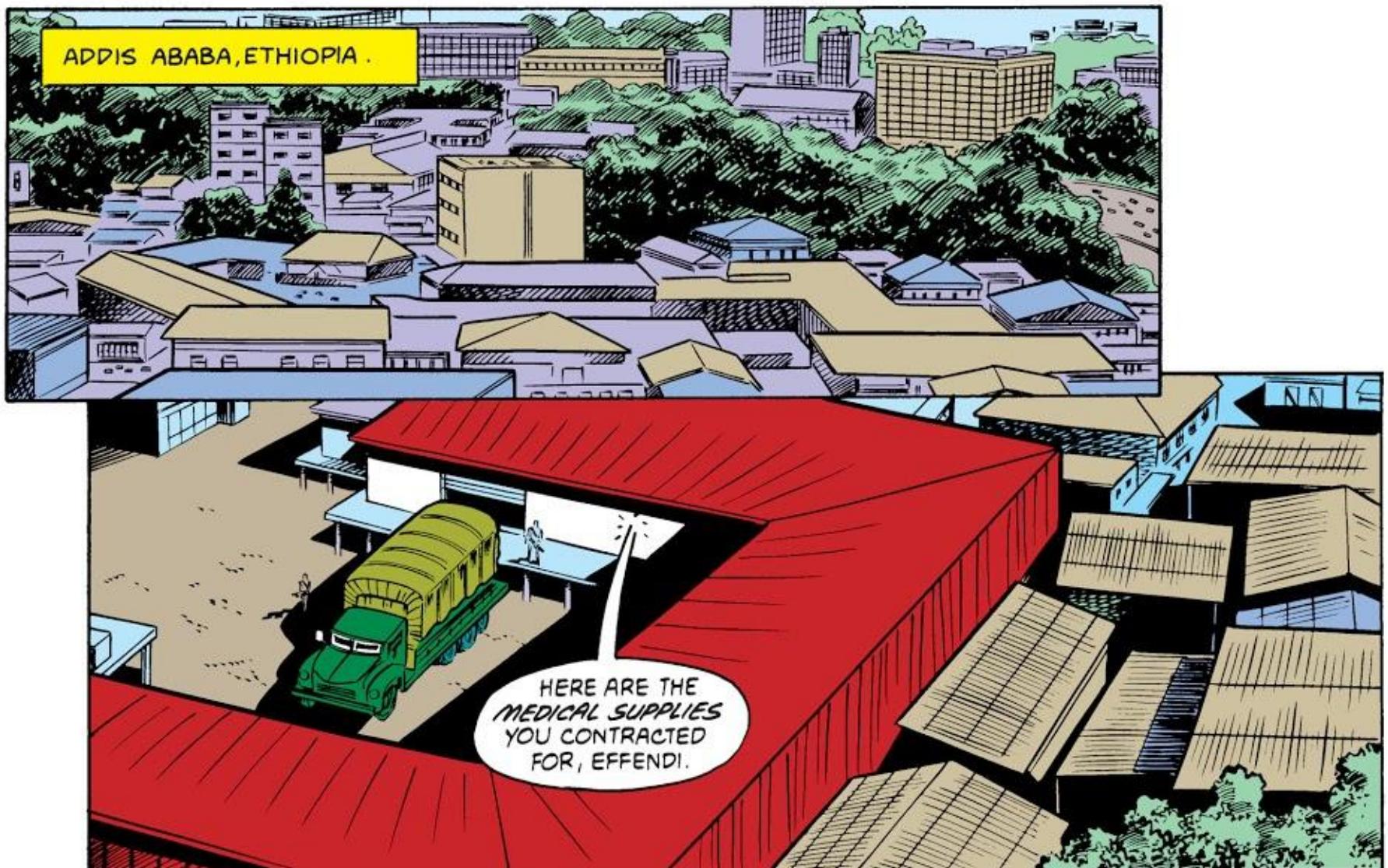
...HE THREW... HIMSELF... IN FRONT... OF ME... IN FRONT OF ME...



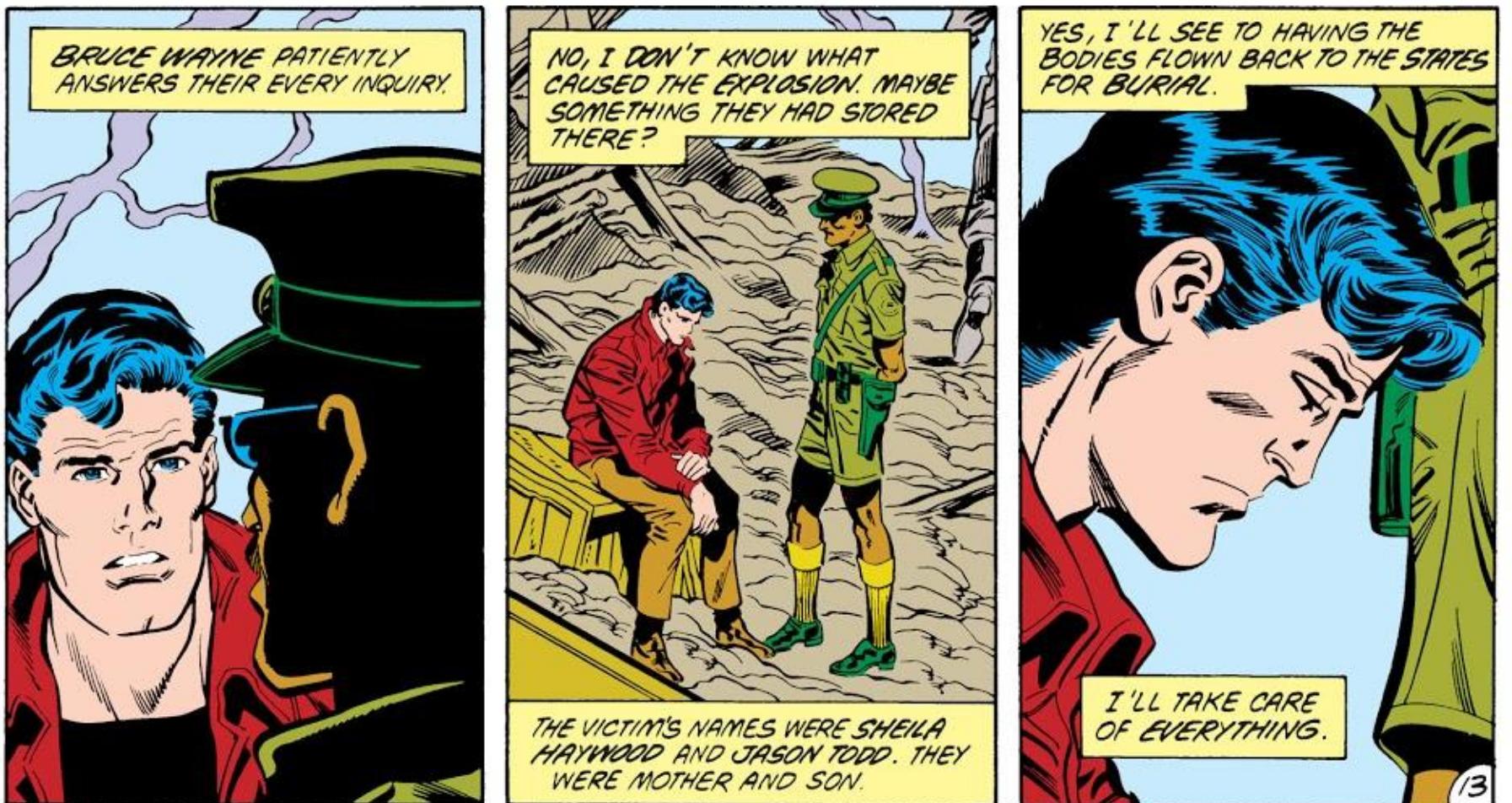
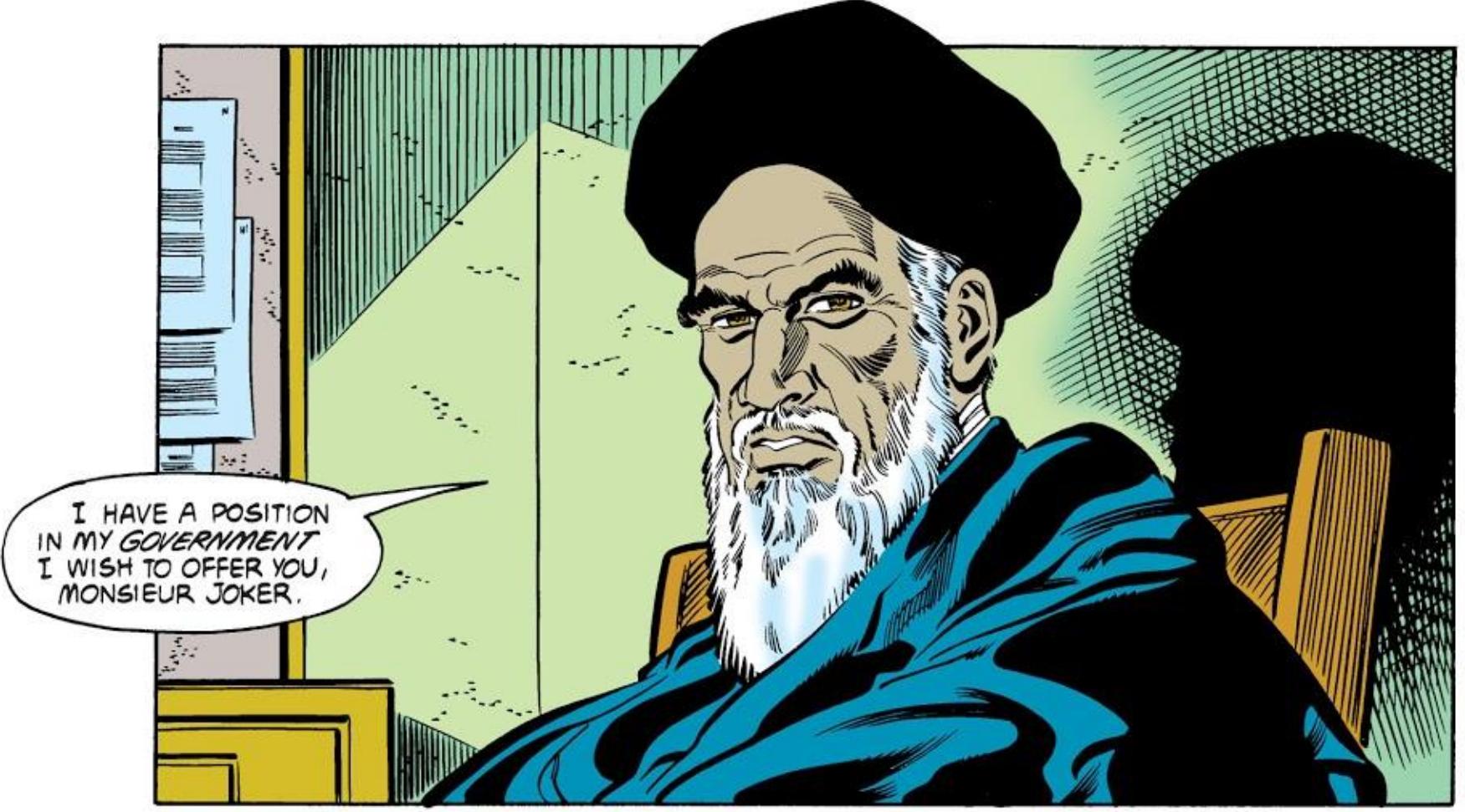












THE COPS CONTINUE THEIR SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF THIS TRAGEDY, EVIDENCE I'VE ALREADY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE.

LET THEM WRITE IT OFF AS AN ACCIDENT. THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO BE INVOLVED.

THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER.

IT'S SOMETHING THE JOKER AND I SHOULD HAVE SETTLED BETWEEN US A LONG TIME AGO.

I DON'T LOCATE THE WAREHOUSE THE JOKER USED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

THE JOKER MAY HAVE LEFT A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS, ALONG WITH THE BODIES OF HIS DISCARDED HENCHMEN.

I KNOW HE'LL BE LONG GONE FROM HERE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE CHECKED OUT ANYWAY.

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE RIGORED SMILES OF THE JOKER'S VICTIMS.

I HIT THE JACKPOT, BUT NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DEDUCTIVE REASONING ON MY PART.

B,
at
for
you
1st and
H,

I TAKE THE JOKER AT HIS WORD AND HEAD HOME.

SHEILA AND JASON ACCOMPANY ME IN THE PLANE'S CARGO BAY.

THERE'S NOT A BIG TURNOUT FOR THE FUNERAL.

HAD NO IDEA HOW TO CONTACT ANY OF SHEILA'S OLD FRIENDS.

AND JASON'S LIFE WAS TOO SHORT FOR HIS PASSING TO CAUSE MANY RIPPLES.



YEAH, I KNOW THAT'S COLD BUT THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

IT'S A MEAN, CRUEL WORLD OUT THERE.

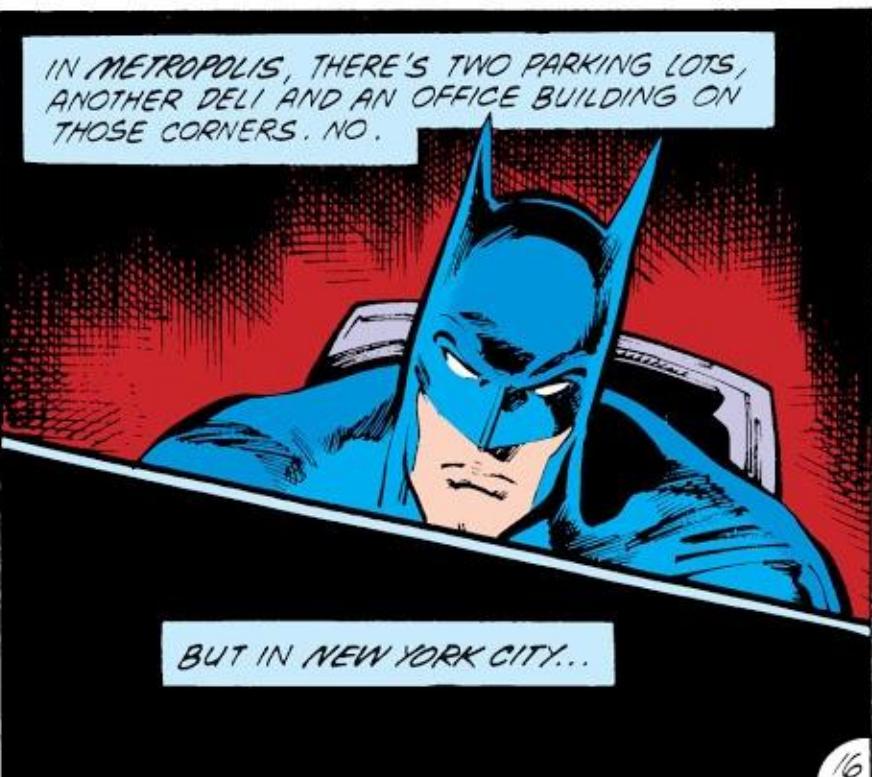
SHOULD I GET IN TOUCH WITH MASTER DICK, MASTER BRUCE?

HUH?

NO... NO, ALFRED. I'LL HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF.

NO HELP FROM NOW ON...

...THAT'S THE WAY I WANT IT.

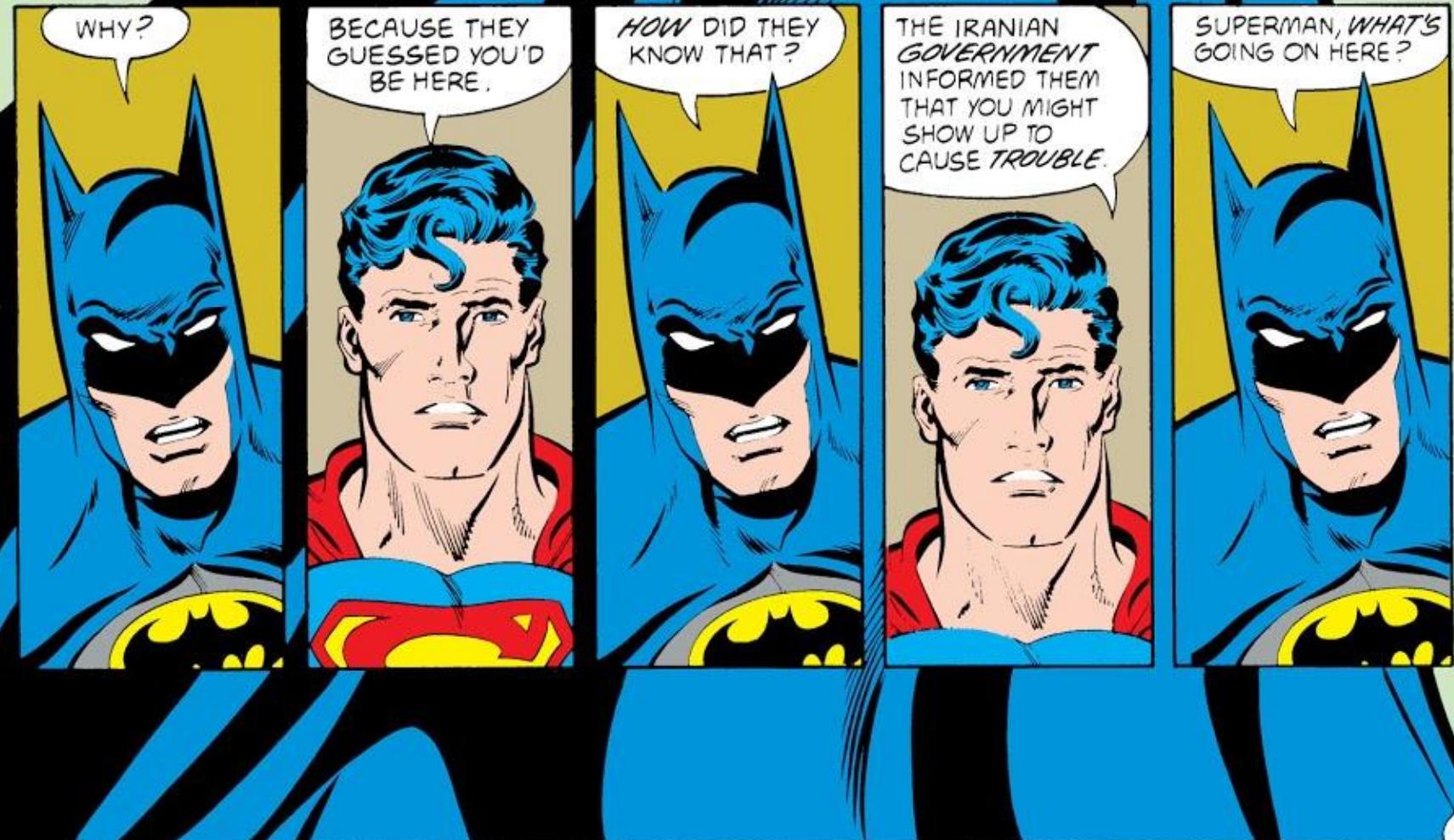


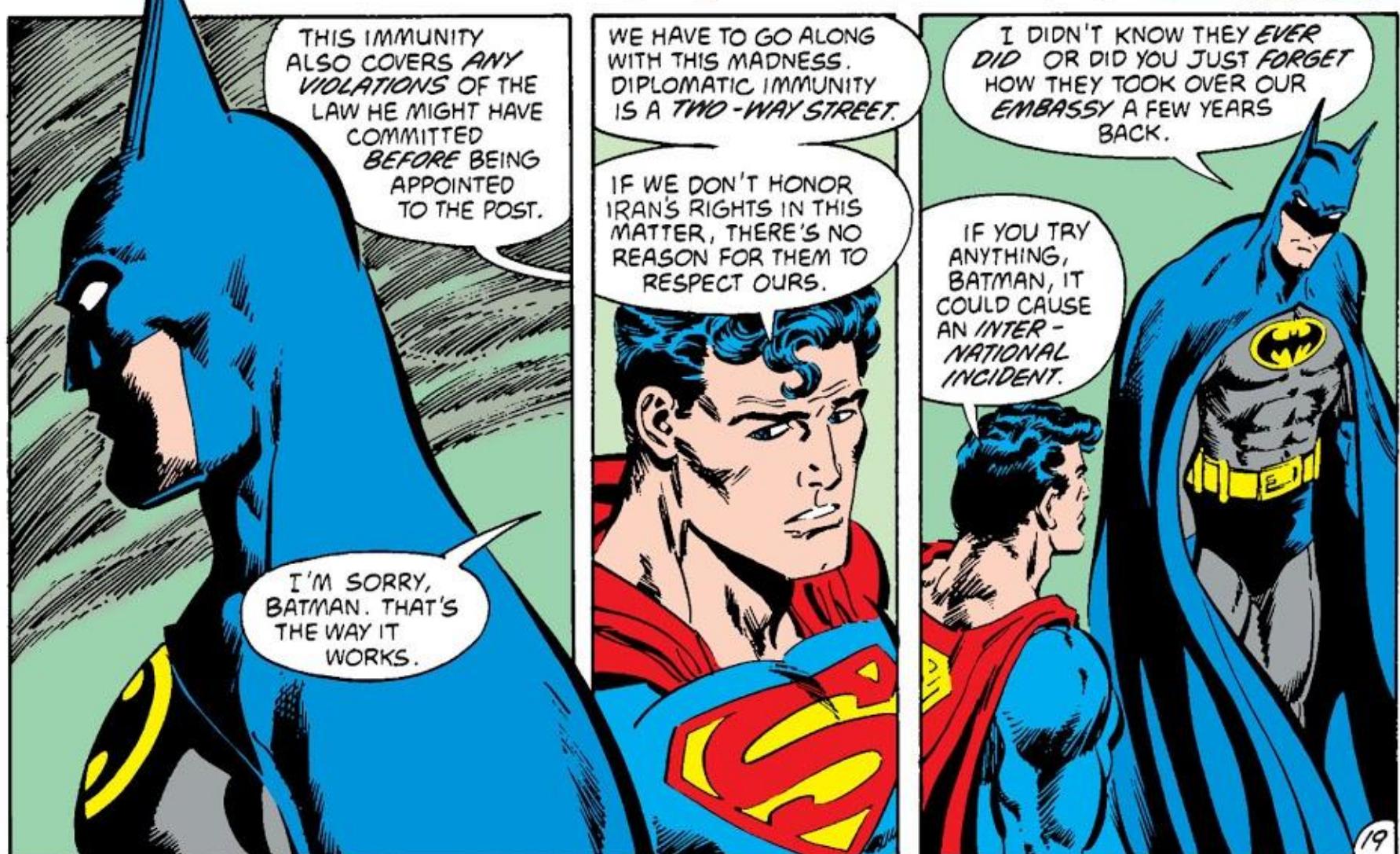
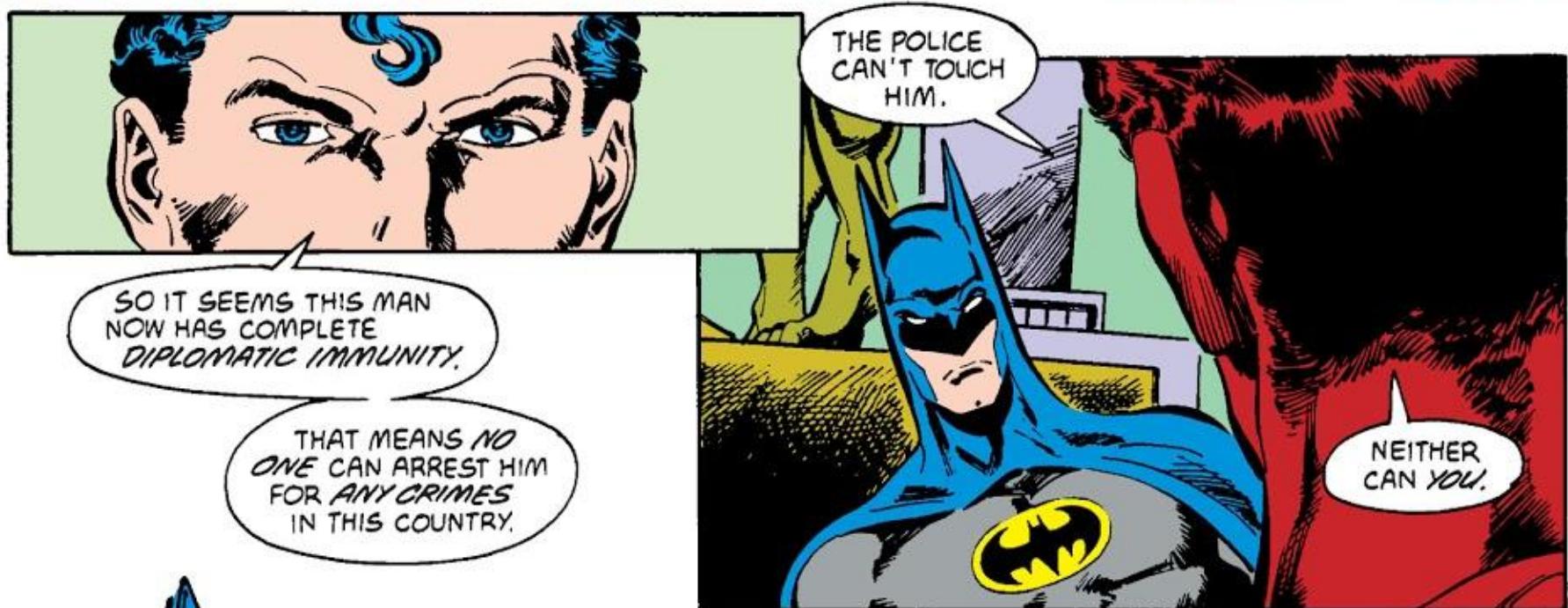
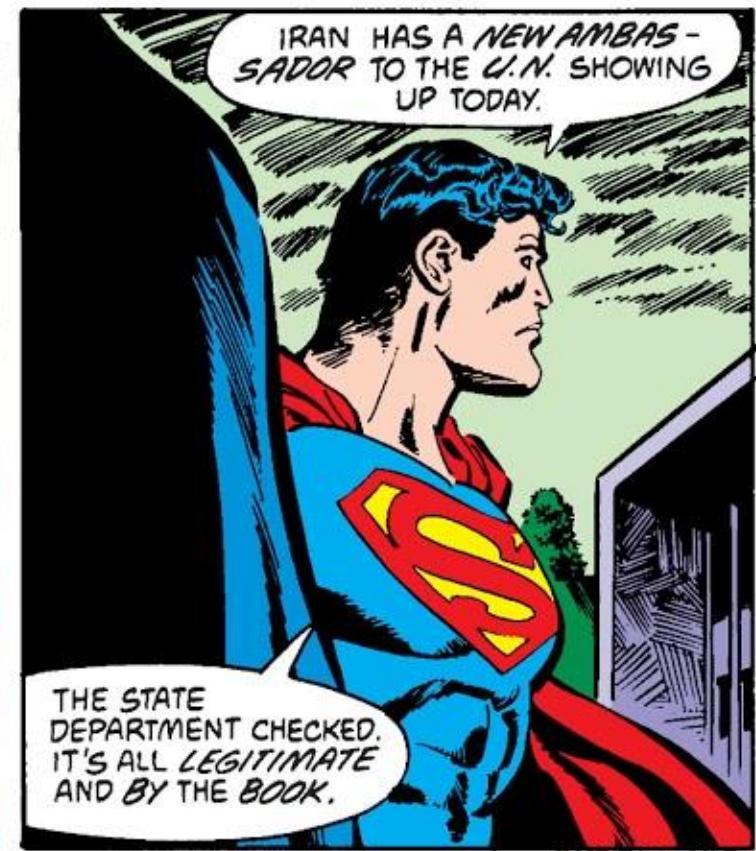


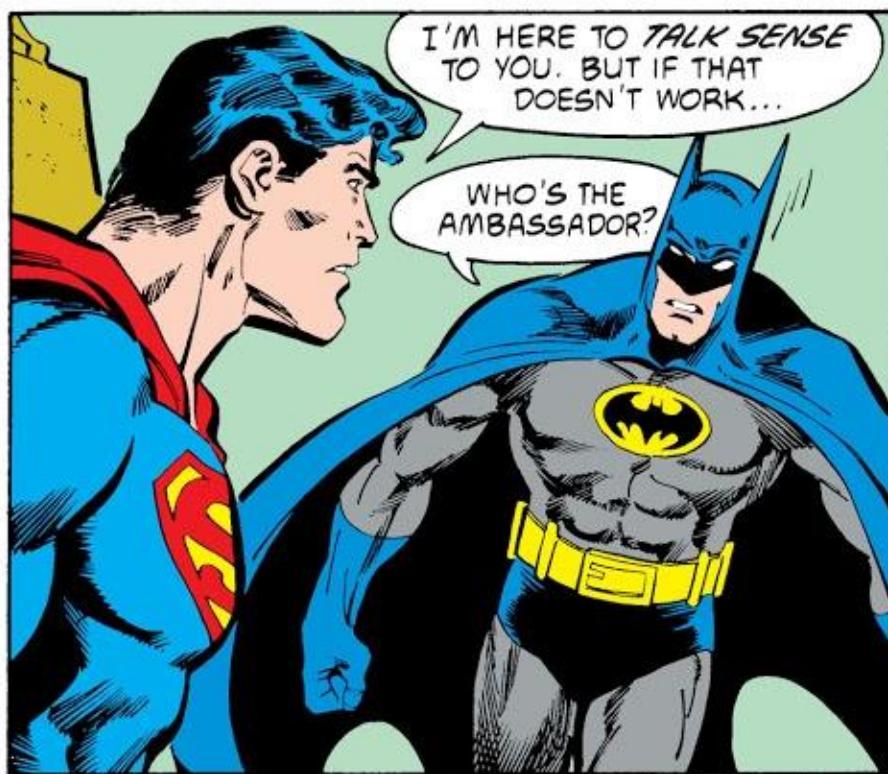
SUPERMAN?!

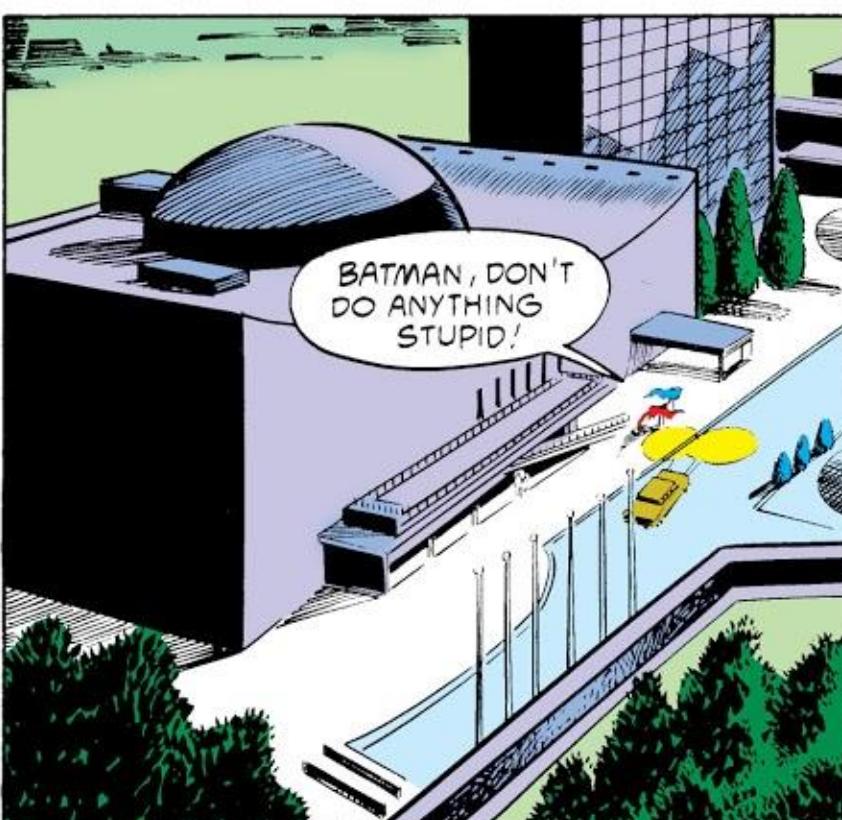
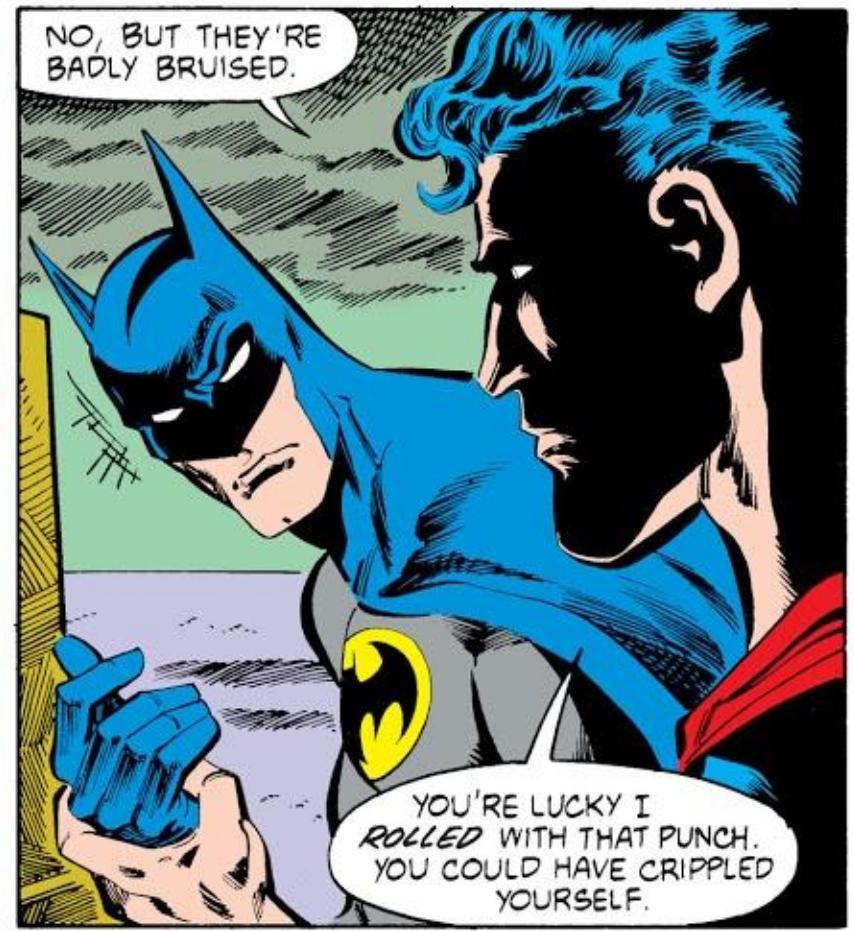
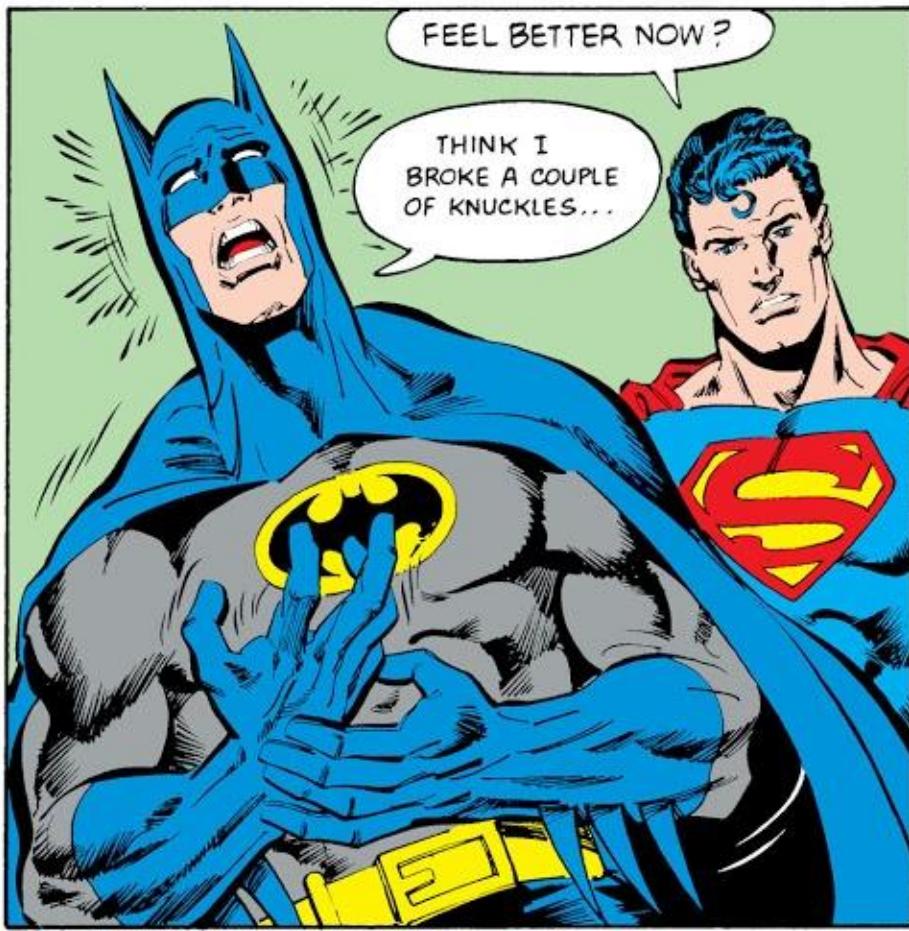
THE STATE
DEPARTMENT
ASKED ME TO
STOP BY.

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?









NOW ISN'T THIS
TOUCHING!

MY OLD PALS,
SUPERHAM AND
BATPEST, HAVE
COME TO CONGRAT-
ULATE ME!

IT'S TRUE, GUYS.
I'M THE NEW
IRANIAN AMBASSADOR
TO THE U.N.!

EAT YOUR
HEARTS OUT.

