

DC BATMAN

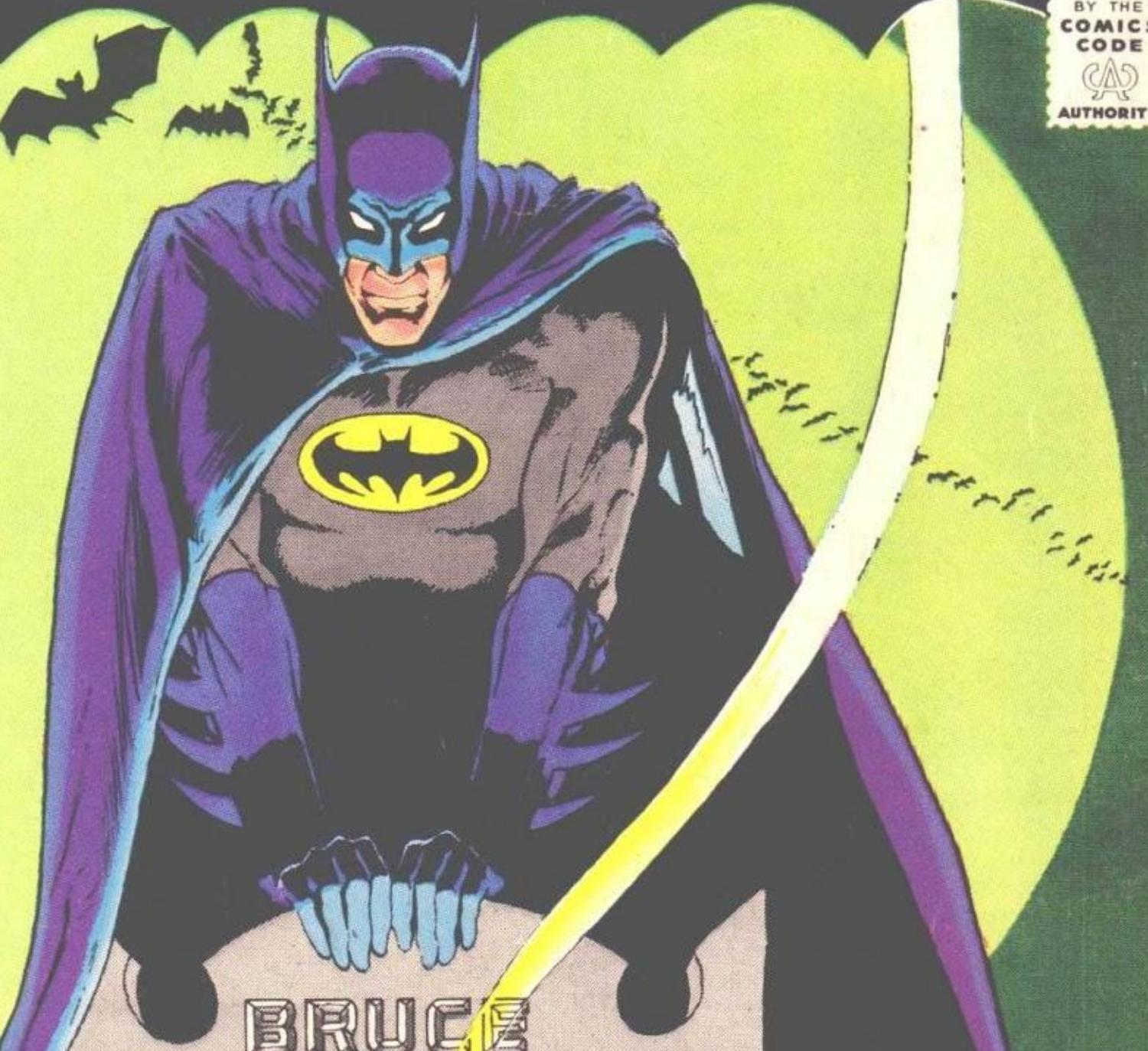
NO. 242
JUNE
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52
BIG pages
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BATMAN

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AUTHORITY



EXTRA!

A
ROBIN
SOLO-STORY,
"DEATH-
POINT!"

COLLECTOR'S
ITEM SPECIAL!

"THE
PEOPLE
VS
The BATMAN

BEGINNING THE MOST SENSATIONAL...
THE MOST DANGEROUS...AND CERTAINLY
THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVENTURE
IN THE ILLUSTRIOS CAREER OF THE...

BATMAN

BRUCE WAYNE-- REST IN PEACE!

STORY: DENNY O'NEIL ~ ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO ~ EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

AT THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE...



HE WAS ONE MILLIONAIRE WHO USED HIS WEALTH-- INSTEAD OF LETTING IT USE HIM!

I WONDER WHY HE DARED FLY A SMALL PLANE OVER THAT JUNGLE-- ALONE?



WAYNE ALWAYS WAS A BIT HEADSTRONG!

Editor's Note: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS PARTICULAR STORY-- ONE OF A SERIES TO APPEAR IN FORTHCOMING ISSUES-- ACTUALLY OCCUR AFTER THE BATMAN/ BRUCE WAYNE STORIES CURRENTLY RUNNING IN DETECTIVE COMICS, JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, ETC.

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HOW WELL DID YOU KNOW BRUCE WAYNE?

SLIGHTLY! I'LL MISS HIM... I GUESS!

I'M AFRAID NOT, COMMISSIONER! I'VE GOT BUSINESS OUT OF TOWN... OUT OF THE COUNTRY, IN FACT!

I ONLY WISH YOU COULD, SIR! BUT NO... THIS IS MY TASK-- MINE ALONE!

THEN YOU'LL ATTEND HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE AT GOTHAM CHAPEL?

I MAY BE GONE SEVERAL MONTHS!

ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?

I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I RETURN--

I HATED TO LIE! IT WAS NECESSARY, THOUGH! -- NECESSARY FOR BRUCE WAYNE TO DISAPPEAR--

-- BECAUSE THE WAR I'M WAGING IS AGAINST SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WAYNE IS THE BATMAN!

--IF I RETURN.

AND I CAN'T CHANCE HIS STRIKING AT ME THROUGH MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY!

WHAT'S MORE, I'VE COME TO REALIZE I'LL NEVER BEAT HIM ALONE... THE MOST GALLING ADMISSION I'VE EVER HAD TO MAKE!

GOT TO SWALLOW MY PRIDE... AND RECRUIT HELP!

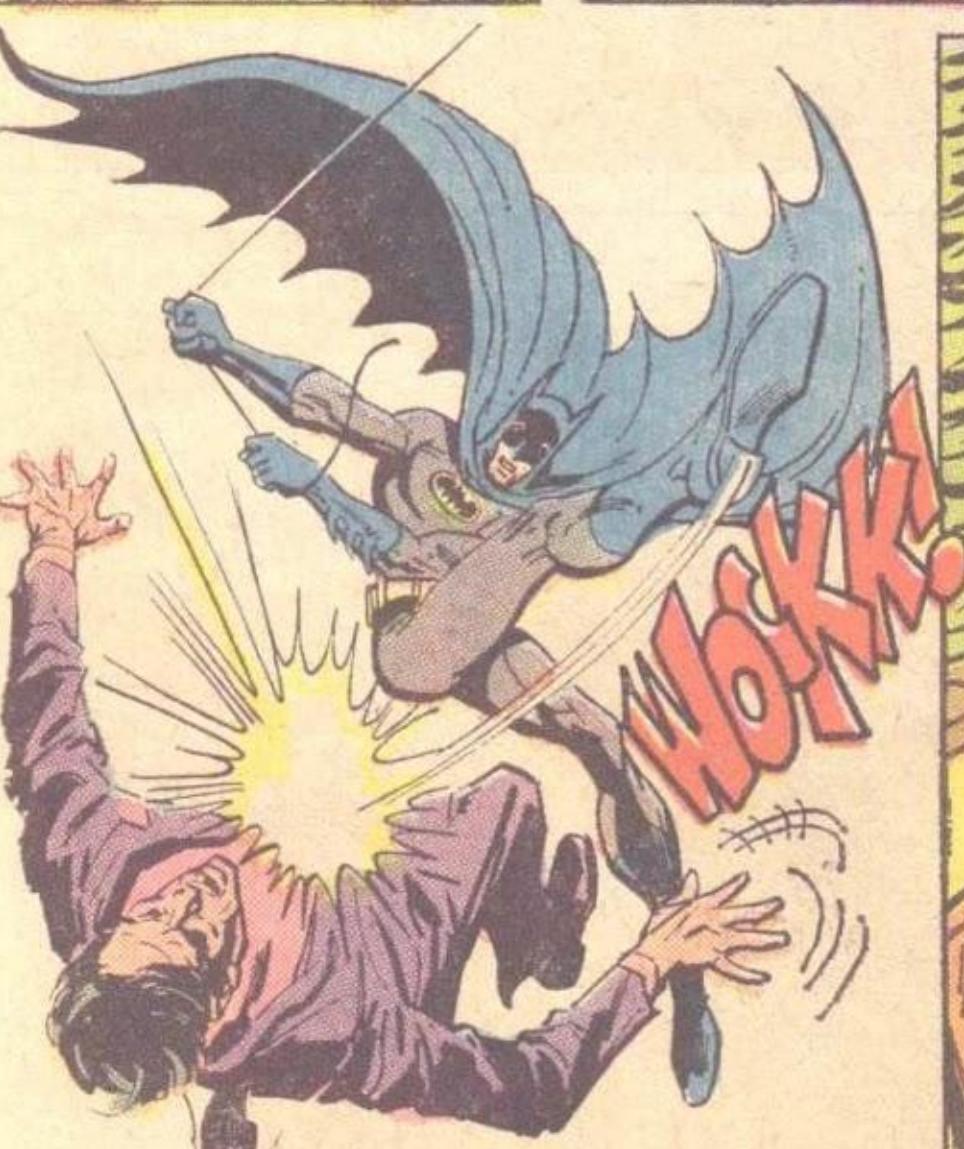
MY FIRST RECRUIT IS HAVING A LATE DINNER AT HIS FAVORITE CAFE--!

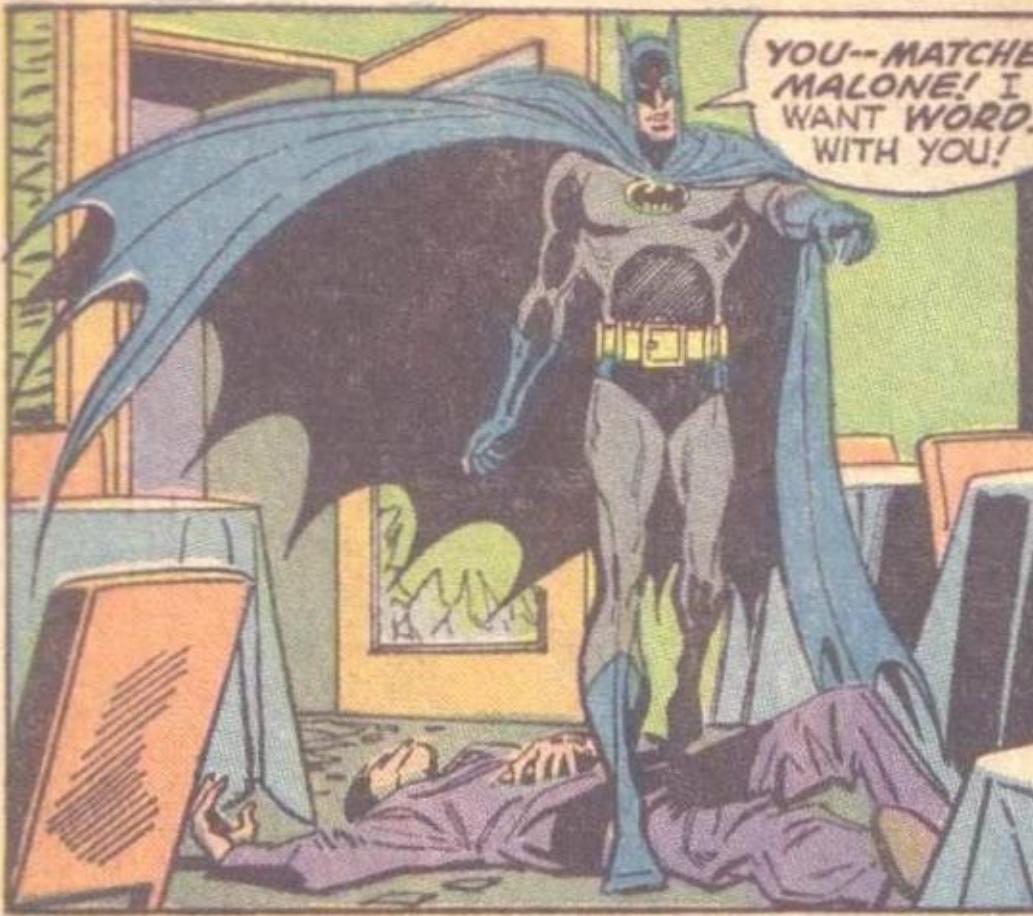
I CAN TELL... ONE OF HIS GOONS IS KEEPING WATCH AT THE DOOR!

I SUSPECT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF VIOLENCE IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS--

--I MAY AS WELL BEGIN IT NOW!

THE BATMAN--?!







EARLY THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON, AT A LARGE, MIDTOWN HOTEL--



--A SINISTER FIGURE SCANS A CROWD...

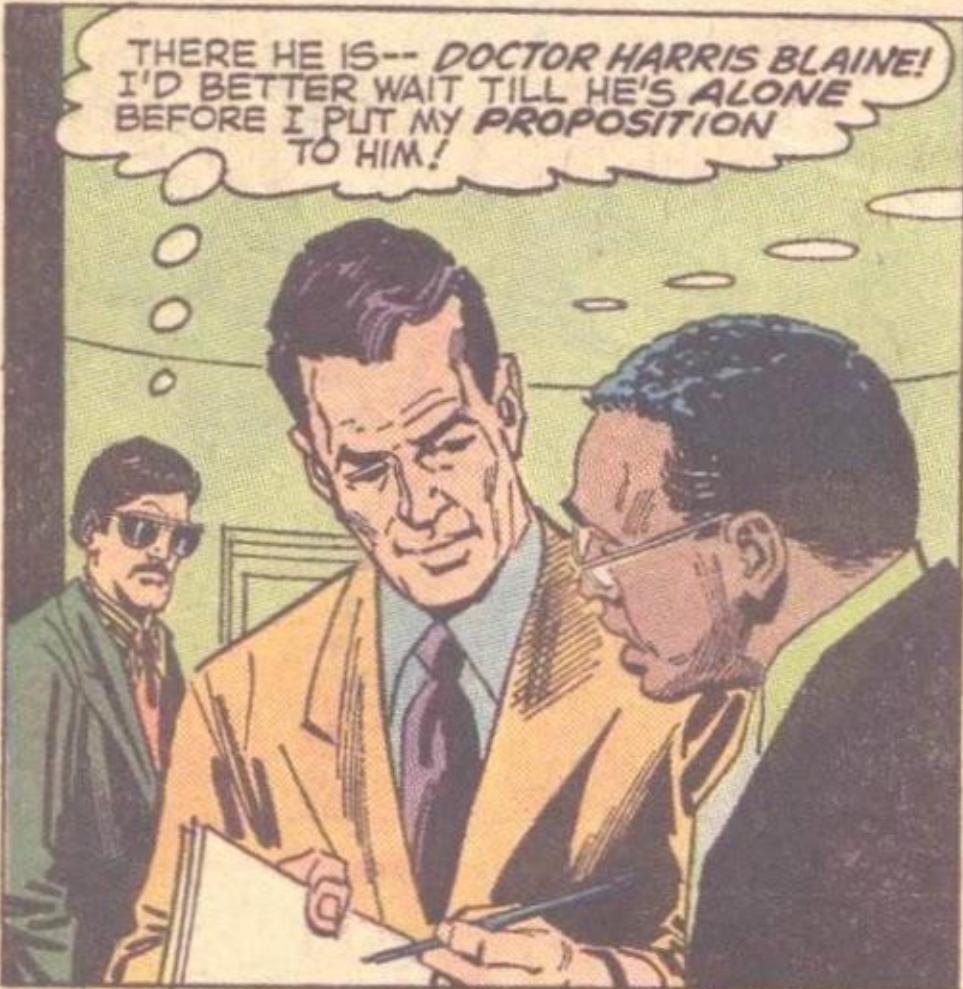
MY PIGEON SHOULD BE PASSING THIS WAY! HE'S THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE BIOPHYSICS CONVENTION--

-- AND THOSE GUYS ARE THE CONVENTIONEERS!

SNAP



THERE HE IS-- DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE! I'D BETTER WAIT TILL HE'S ALONE BEFORE I PUT MY PROPOSITION TO HIM!



HE'S HEADING FOR THE ELEVATOR... PROBABLY GOING TO HIS ROOM! AND SOMEBODY'S STICKING TO HIM LIKE GLUE--

-- MAYBE SOMEBODY WITH THE SAME IDEA I HAVE!



I'LL JUST DRIFT IN WITH THEM...



A FEW MOMENTS LATER, ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH FLOOR...

PARDON ME, DOCTOR BLAINE! MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU?

WHAT IS IT?



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.



RISE AN' SHINE, CHUM!
DRINK THE WATER--
AN' TALK TO ME!

W-WHERE
AM I?--
WHO ARE
YOU?

YOU'RE IN
A PRIVATE
SUITE--

--AN' YOU'RE
JAWIN' WITH
MATCHES
MALONE--
EX-HONCHO
OF THE
WATERFRONT
MOB!

SOME BOZO TRIED
TO PUT THE **SNATCH**
ON YOU! I COOLED
'IM... 'COUNT OF MY
LEADER WANTS
CONVERSATION
WITH YOU!

YOUR...
LEADER?

GREETINGS,
DOCTOR HARRIS
BLAINE!

YEAH... NAME OF
THE **BATMAN**!

YOU'RE
DOUBTLESS
WONDERING THE
REASON I HAD YOU
BROUGHT TO ME!

THIS IS THAT REASON...
A MASTER OF **EVIL**
CALLED **RĀŚ AL GHŪL**!
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS
I'VE CLASHED WITH HIM
AND HIS DAUGHTER,
TALIA...

...EACH
TIME WE
CAME TO A
STALEMATE!
I ACKNOWLEDGE
I CANNOT
DEFEAT HIM
BY **MYSELF**!

--AND I'VE CONCLUDED
HE **MUST** BE DEFEATED!
HE'S MAD FOR
POWER... **WORLD-**
WIDE POWER--

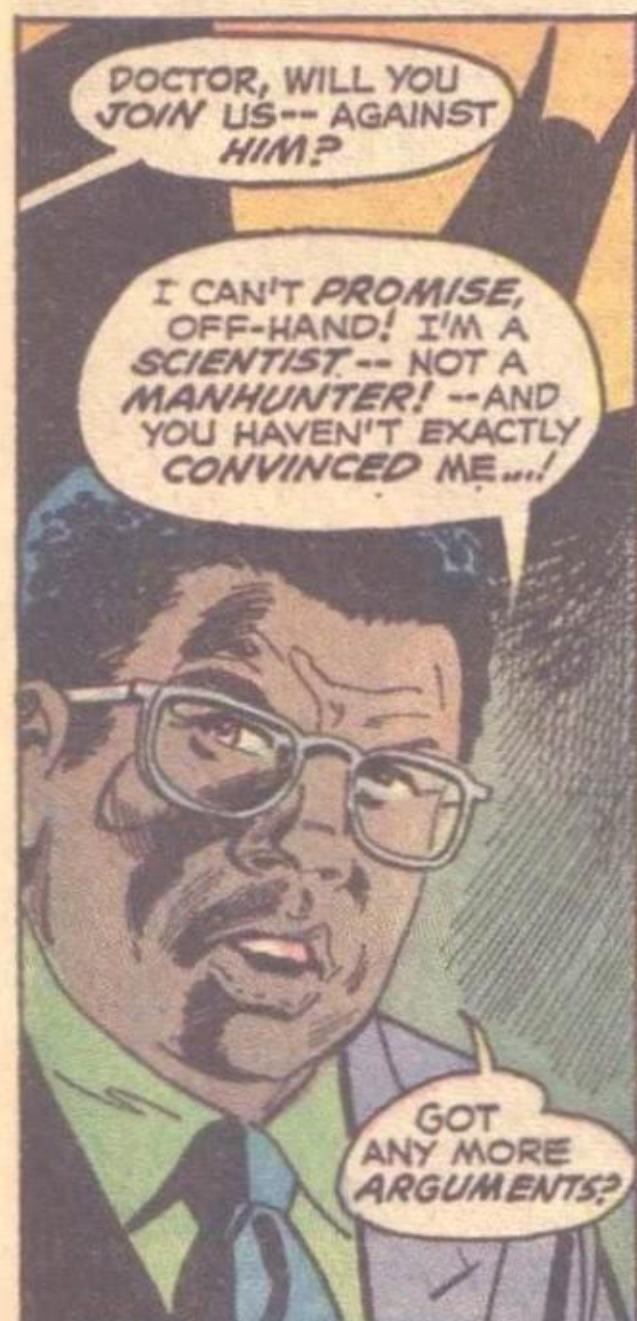
--AND HE HAS
BOTH THE **GENIUS**
AND THE
ORGANIZATION
TO **ATTAIN**
HIS GOAL!



RĀ'S WILL STOP AT
NOTHING SHORT OF A
CRIMINAL DICTATORSHIP!
I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY
HE ATTEMPTED TO
KIDNAP YOU!



COULD BE... I'VE
BEEN WORKING ON
SOMETHING THAT
WOULD BE USEFUL
TO A HITLER-TYPE!



DOCTOR, WILL YOU
JOIN US-- AGAINST
HIM?

I CAN'T PROMISE,
OFF-HAND! I'M A
SCIENTIST -- NOT A
MANHUNTER! -- AND
YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY
CONVINCED ME!!!

GOT
ANY MORE
ARGUMENTS?



ONLY THIS ONE!--
IF YOU REFUSE, YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE A MINUTE'S
PEACE AGAIN!

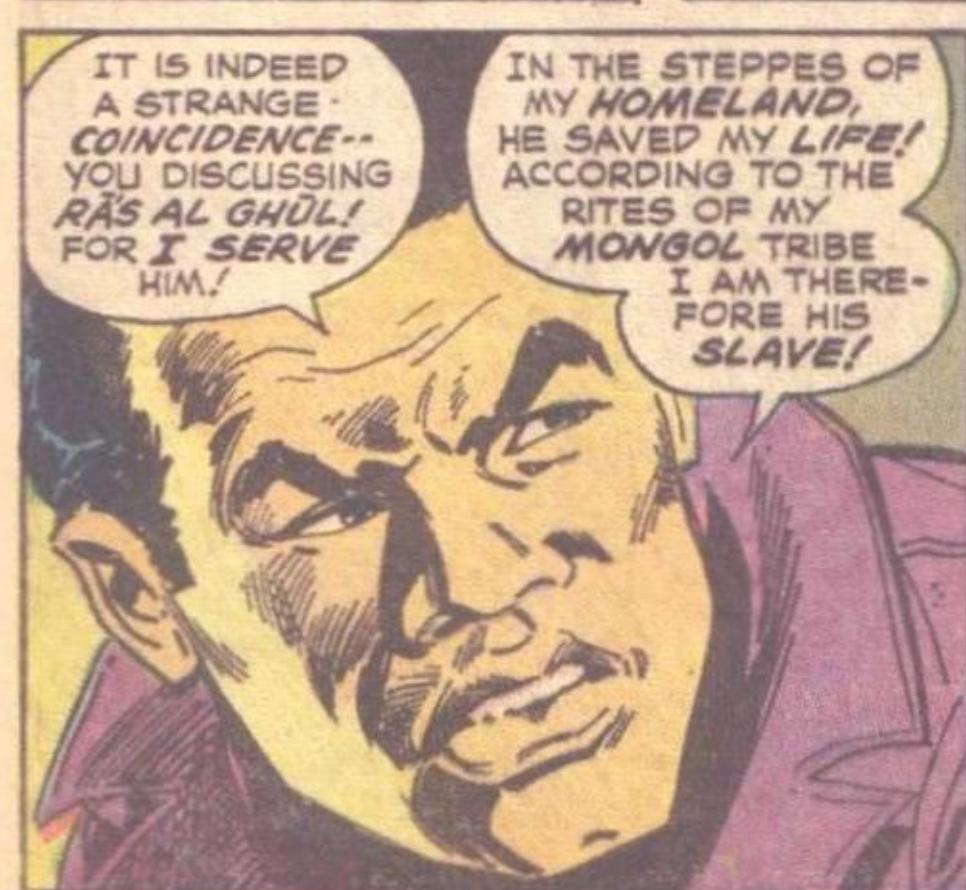
A TRULY IMPRESSIVE
THREAT, BATMAN--

YOU'LL BE
HOUNDED-- BY
EITHER RĀ'S... OR
ME!-- I SWEAR IT!

-- WHICH YOU WILL NOT
LIVE TO IMPLEMENT!

YOU ARE SURPRISED
TO SEE ME? BE ADVISED...
MORE THAN A FIST IN THE
FACE IS REQUIRED TO
VANQUISH LO LING!

I WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY
STUNNED TO PREVENT MY
FOLLOWING YOU!



IT IS INDEED
A STRANGE
COINCIDENCE--
YOU DISCUSSING
RĀ'S AL GHŪL!
FOR I SERVE
HIM!

IN THE STEPPES OF
MY HOMELAND,
HE SAVED MY LIFE!
ACCORDING TO THE
RITES OF MY
MONGOL TRIBE
I AM THEREFORE
HIS SLAVE!



SWELL! YOU THINK
WE'RE INTERESTED
IN YOUR LIFE STORY,
OR SOMETHIN'?



IT IS MERELY
COURTEOUS TO
EXPLAIN WHY
I FIND IT
NECESSARY TO
ACT AS I AM
ABOUT TO!

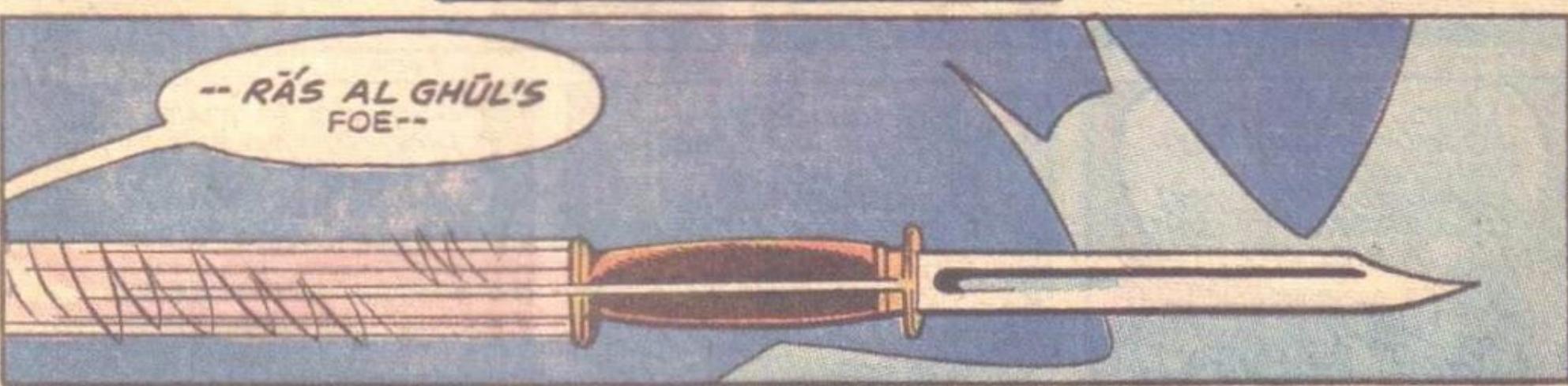
MASTER RĀ'S AL GHŪL
CHARGED ME TO CAPTURE
DOCTOR BLAINE--
UNLESS I HAPPENED
TO MEET THE
BATMAN!

IN SUCH AN
INSTANCE, MY GREATEST
PRIORITY IS TO
ELIMINATE THE
BATMAN-- A COMMAND
THE MASTER'S
DAUGHTER DISAGREES
WITH, BY THE WAY!

HOWEVER, I AM
NOT TALIA'S
CREATURE-- BUT
HER FATHER'S!
THUS--



-- RĀ'S AL GHŪL'S
FOE--



-- DIES!



AS THOUGH JERKED UPRIGHT BY A GIANT
HAND, MALONE STANDS, AND SHOUTS--

YA DIRTY...
MURDERIN' SWINE!
I'LL PUT YA ON
A SLAB
PERSONALLY!



AT THAT SAME INSTANT, THE SLIDE PROJECTOR'S BEAM HITS DOCTOR BLAINE'S EYES--

CAN'T SEE!



AND WHEN HIS VISION CLEARS...

GONE?!--THE BATMAN'S CORPSE AND THE ORIENTAL--VANISHED!

YEAH... I WAS BLINDED, SAME AS YOU!

YOU BEAT FEET TO THE LOBBY, DOC... MAYBE YOU CAN SPOT LING!

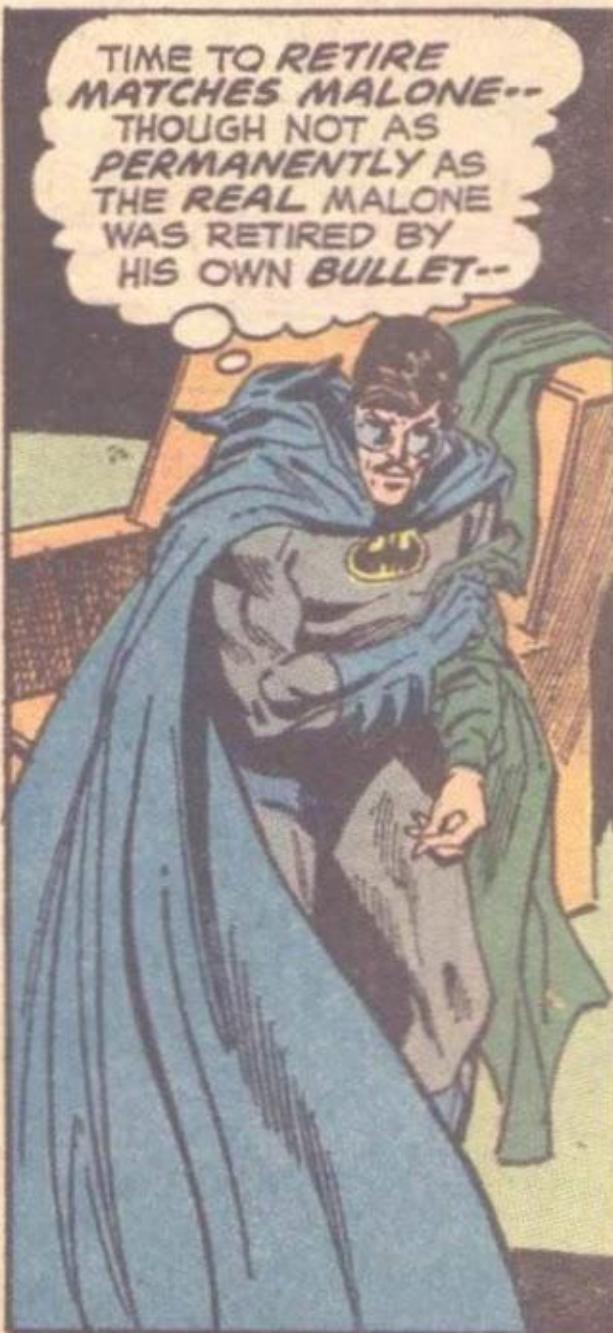
I... I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED!



LOOK... YOU'RE THE BIG HUMANITARIAN! YOU WANT TO HELP MANKIND? WELL, YOU CAN START BY CHASIN' A KILLER!

TIME TO RETIRE MATCHES MALONE-- THOUGH NOT AS PERMANENTLY AS THE REAL MALONE WAS RETIRED BY HIS OWN BULLET--

--THE SLUG THAT RICOCHETED IN THE CAFE AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE HEART!



I BLINDED BLAINE DELIBERATELY--
SO HE WOULDN'T SEE LO LING
GOING AWAY FROM THE
ELEVATORS AND TOWARD
THE ROOF!

...TOO ROUGH FOR A
MAN WHOSE HEAVIEST
WORK IS HOISTING
TEST TUBES!

THE MONGOL
IS MEAN...
TOUGH...

THEN IN

LING--!

UH--?
IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE!
I FLUNG A
BLADE INTO
YOUR HEART!

ALTHOUGH I AM A
MIGHTY WARRIOR... A
GREAT BANDIT... I AM
NO MATCH FOR A GHOST!

CAREFUL...
YOU'LL
FALL!

BUT THE BATMAN'S WARNING REACHES THE BANDIT CHIEF'S
EARS TOO LATE! HIS FOOT SLIPS ON THE SLICK TILES... HE
SLIDES...

DESPERATE FINGERS
GROPE... FIND A
GRIP ON AN
ANCIENT, RUSTING
RAINGUTTER--

WITH A SMALL, DULL CREAK, THE GUTTER PULLS LOOSE FROM ITS MOORINGS...

I GO TO MY ANCESTORS... THAT, OR THE GODS INTERVENE!

ABRUPTLY, THE BATMAN TURNS AND STRIDES QUICKLY AWAY--!

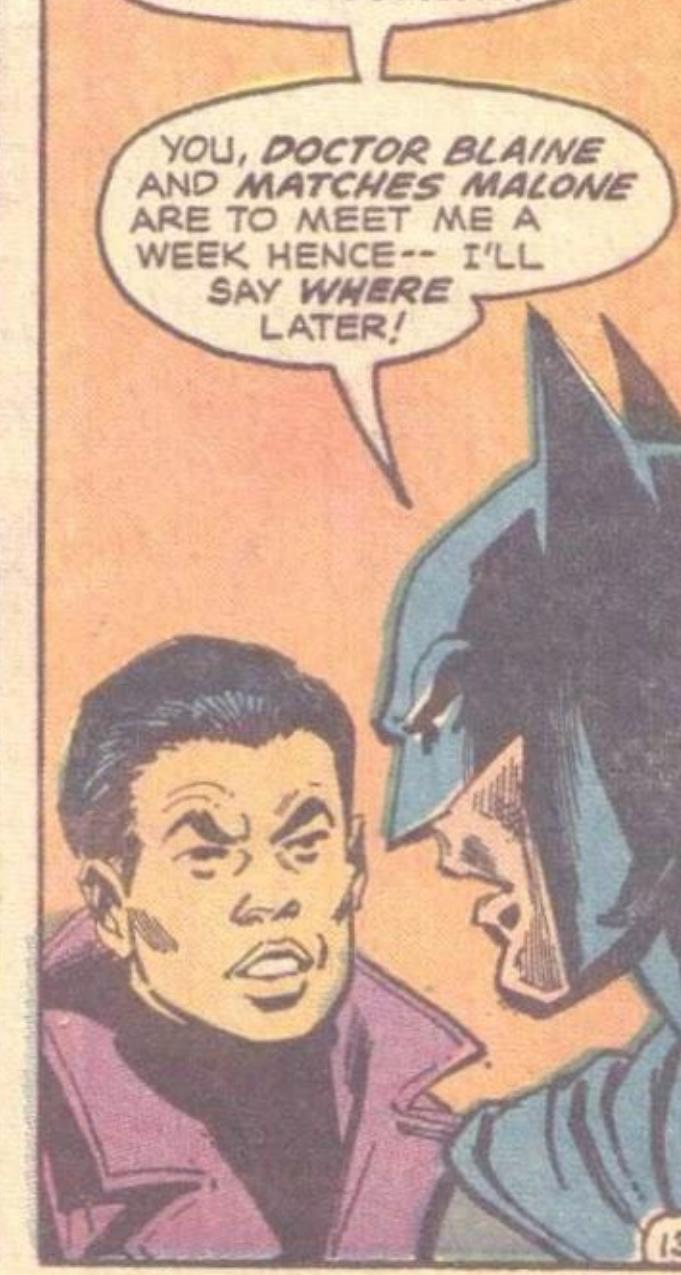
A MOMENT... TWO... AND THE METAL TEARS COMPLETELY FREE... LEAVING THE MONGOL FLAILING HELPLESSLY IN EMPTY AIR... SIX HUNDRED FEET FROM THE PAVEMENT BELOW!



HE PLUMMETS-- INTO A PAIR OF CABLE-STRONG ARMS REACHING FROM A WINDOW DIRECTLY BENEATH!

SORRY FOR THE SCARE, LING! I SAW I COULDN'T REACH YOU FROM THE ROOF... THOUGHT I MIGHT MANAGE IT FROM HERE!

I'M CALLING THAT OBLIGATION, LO LING! I'M CHARGING YOU WITH THE TASK OF HELPING SMASH RĀ'S AND HIS DEMONS!



ALONE, THE BATMAN
ENTERS THE SUITE, HIS
MIND CHURNING...

I'VE BEGUN IT--THE WAR
WITH RĀ'S AL GHŪL!--
THE WAR ONLY ONE
OF US CAN SURVIVE!

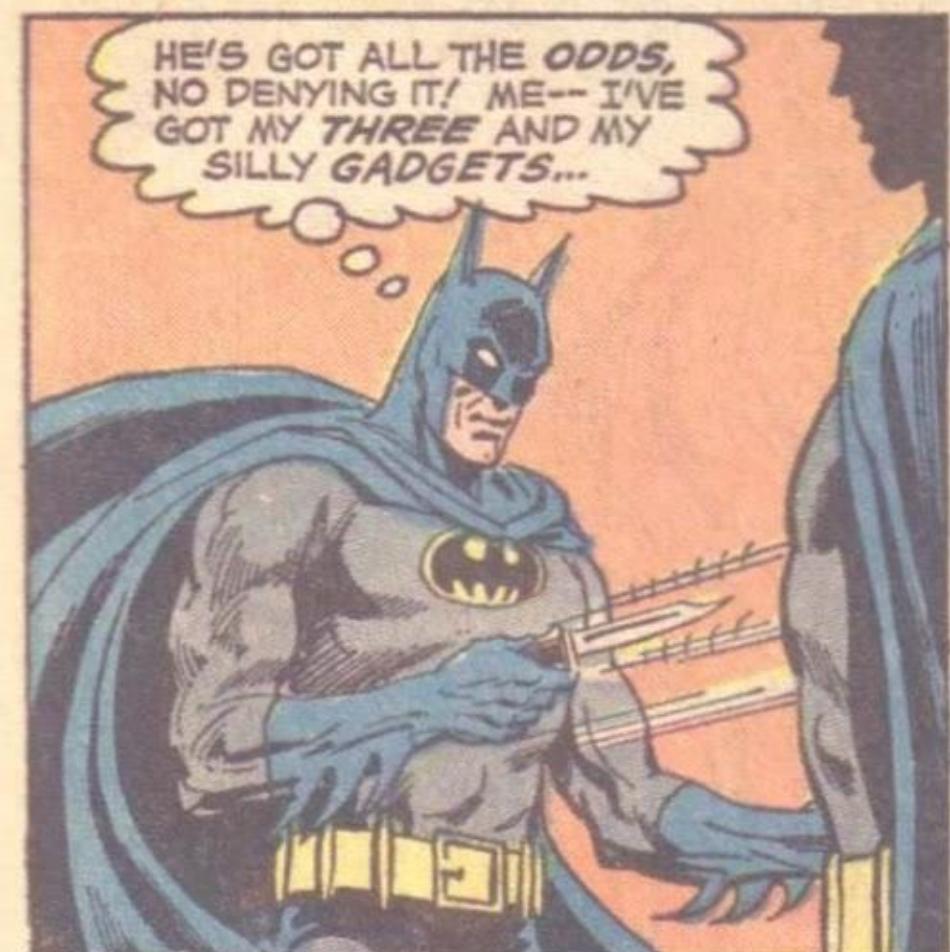
ON HIS SIDE, DOZENS
OF TRAINED SOLDIERS--
ASSASSINS--

--AND ON MINE, A
RELUCTANT SCIENTIST,
A SUPERSTITIOUS
BANDIT, AND A DEAD
GANGSTER!

THOSE...AND THIS
DUMMY I RIGGED TO
DROP INTO A TRAP-
DOOR--A STAND-IN
BATMAN!

--A MANNEQUIN WITH A
RADIO RECEIVER IN ITS HEAD
TUNED TO RECEIVE SUB-
VOCALIZATIONS I TRANSMIT
FROM A TINY THROAT-MIKE!

A FEW GIMMICKS
AND THREE
MEN AGAINST
THE ARMY...
THE GENIUS...
OF RĀ'S!



YOUR MIND DRAGS WITH THE
SLOWNESS OF A CLOGGED DRAIN--

YOU'VE BEEN BLUDGEONED, AND THE WAVES OF
NAUSEA AND PAIN UNDULATE WITH
BRACING SENSATION-- BUT
YOU MUST WAKE UP!



WAKE UP... **ROBIN**

SCRIPT:
MIKE
FRIEDRICH

ART:
RICH
BUCKLER

INKS:
DICK
GIORDANO

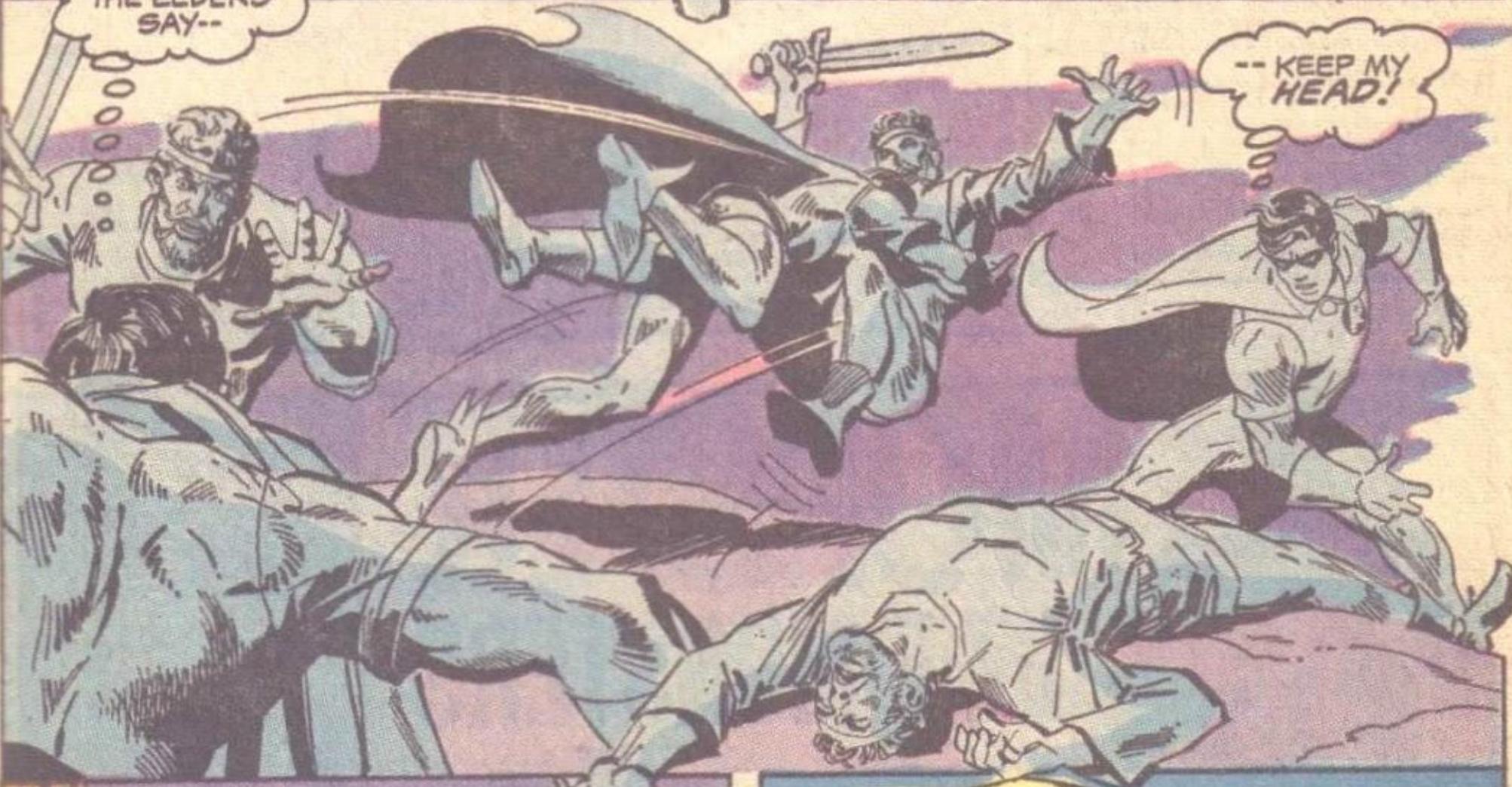
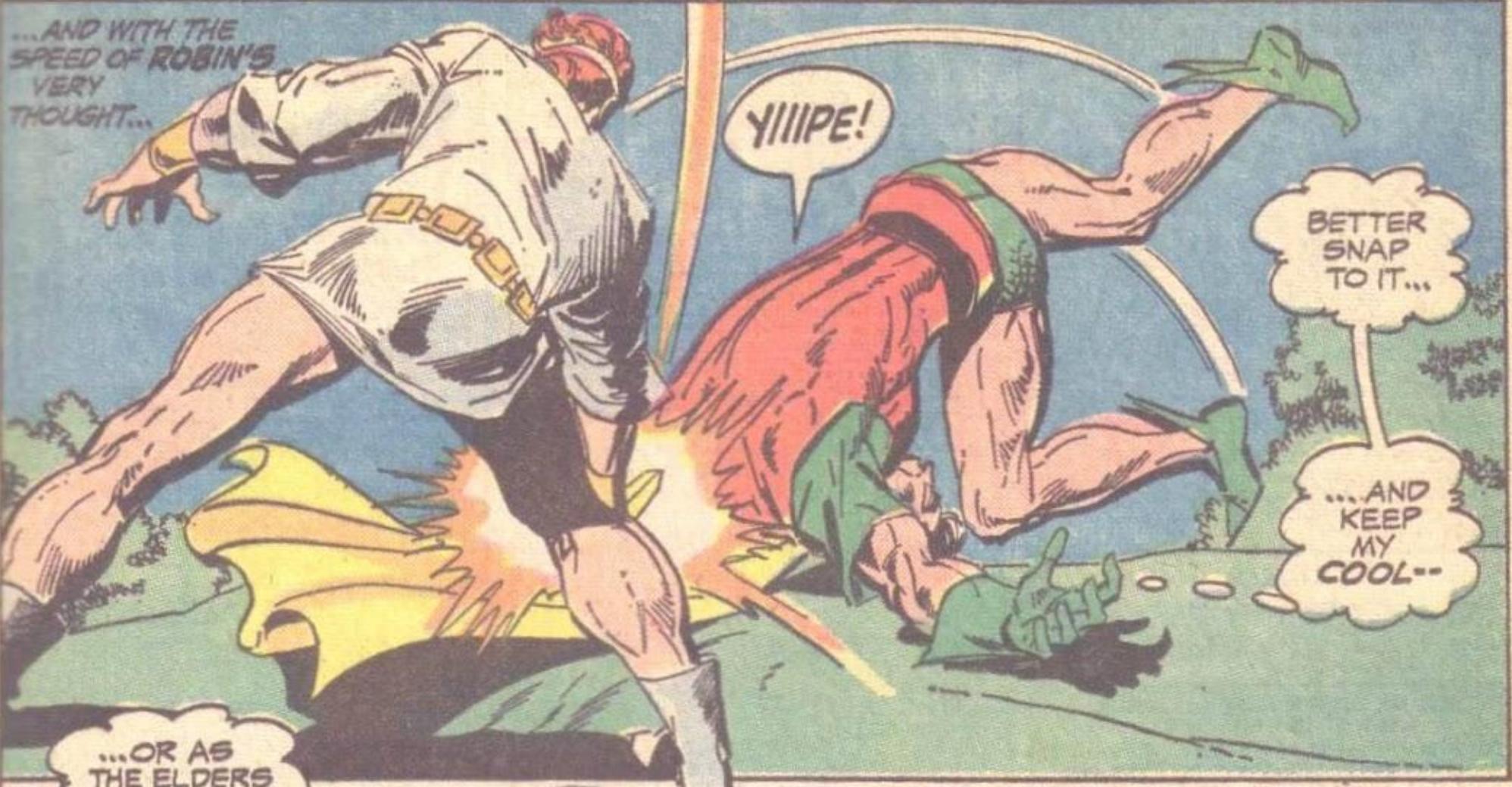
-- DANGER IS S-L-I-C-I-N-G
THE AIR!

-- AND YOU ARE REACHING
YOUR...



5-1743

DEATH-POINT!



THE CTHULHU CULTISTS HAVE REVIVED! THEY'RE ON THE ATTACK AGAIN!

AFTER US-- OUR VERY LIVES!

WE MUST REINFORCE OUR COMBINED MENTAL POWERS-- ROUT THE DEMON!

BUT TO GET TO TERRI AND LILITH, THE FANATICS MUST GET THROUGH ROBIN!...

THE CJLT'S EARLIER DEFEAT HAS WEAKENED THEM...



...YET THERE IS SOMETHING EERIE, MYSTERIOUS, STILL LINGERING!



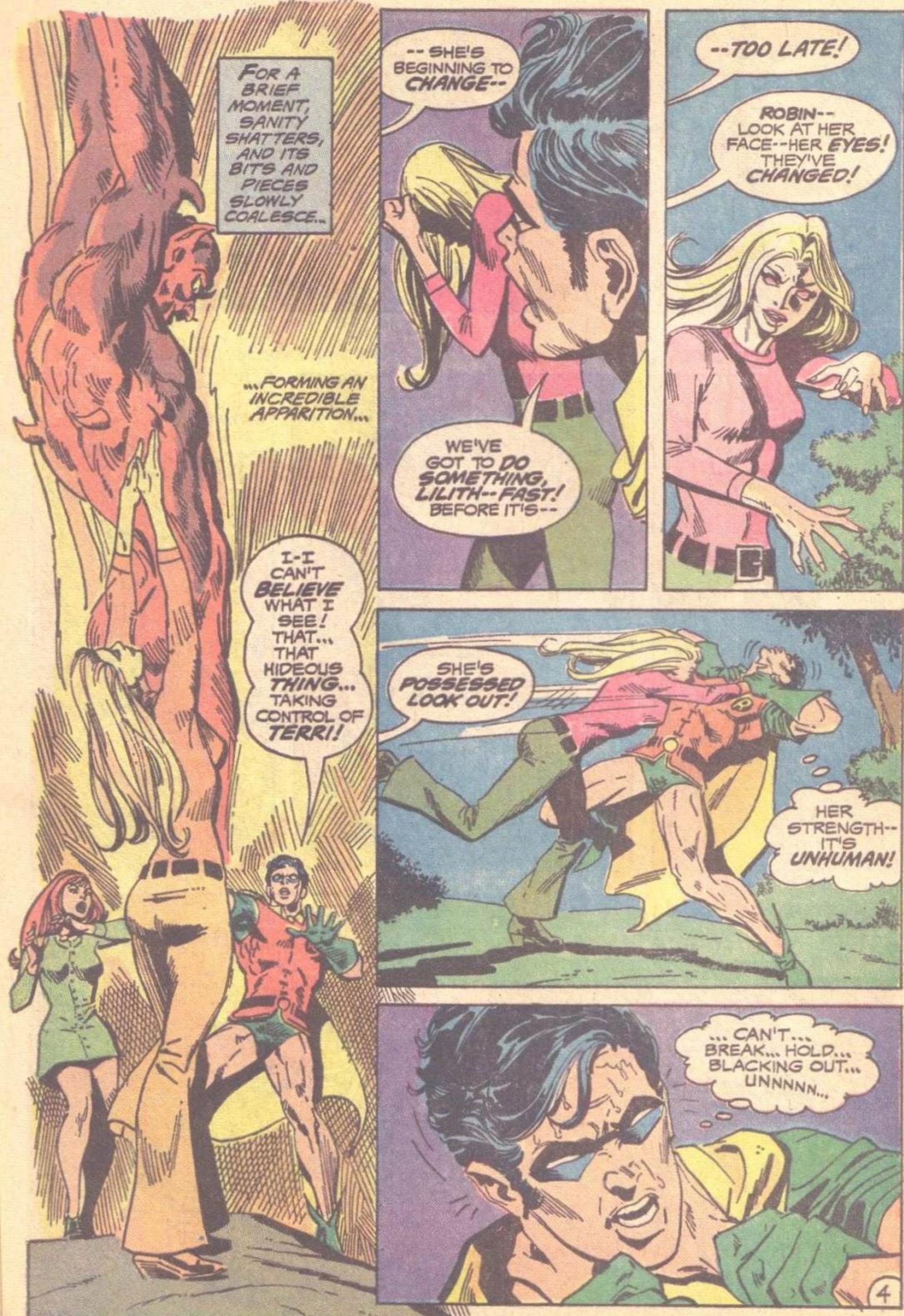
ALMOST AS IF TO FULFILL ROBIN'S PORTENT OF EVIL, A CHILLING SHRIEK GUSHES FROM THE FONT OF A WOUNDED SOUL--

AAEEE!
THERE'S A DEMON ON THE LOOSE!

I CAN FEEL IT--
LIKE ICY FINGERS CLUTCHING AT MY THROAT!

TERRI!!





THE WANING FIGURE OF ROBIN SLUMPS, DRAINED OF ENERGY AND WILL! THEN, EVIL-INSPIRED TERRI TURNS ON HER COUSIN...

THEY MIRROR A VOLCANO OF PSYCHIC ENERGY-- TAPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME!

MY ESP... NO DEFENSE AGAINST-- OHHHH!

THOSE DEMON EYES...

...DIRECTED AT ME WITH A SPECIAL VENGEANCE!

ABRUPTLY, THERE IS AN EERIE STILLNESS...

...FOLLOWED BY THE HUSHED SOBS THAT ECHO IN THE FOOTFALLS OF A FLEEING GIRL FEARING HER DEMON-CONTROLLED FUTURE...

...YET EVEN MORE FEARFUL OF HER DESTRUCTIVE PAST!

LATER...

OWWWH! THAT LUMP TERRI GAVE ME WILL DO LITTLE TO IMPROVE MY LOOKS!

HUNN! I FEEL LIKE ALL MY STRENGTH HAS LEFT ME--MAYBE IT HAS!

HEY, WHERE'D THEY ALL GO?

THE CULTISTS-- THEY'RE GONE! PROBABLY RAN OFF!

THEY WEREN'T REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS ANYWAY--AND BESIDES, THEY LEFT BEHIND THEIR LEADER FOR US TO GATHER UP!

TIME: THE FOLLOWING MORNING.
CHARACTERS: DICK (ROBIN)
GRAYSON AND LILITH...

I ARRIVED JUST
AFTER TERRI
CONTACTED ME
MENTALLY--THEN
THE ACTION
STARTED! WHAT
HAPPENED
BEFORE?

TERRI
WAS
SEEKING
YOU OUT
FOR SOME
TIME...

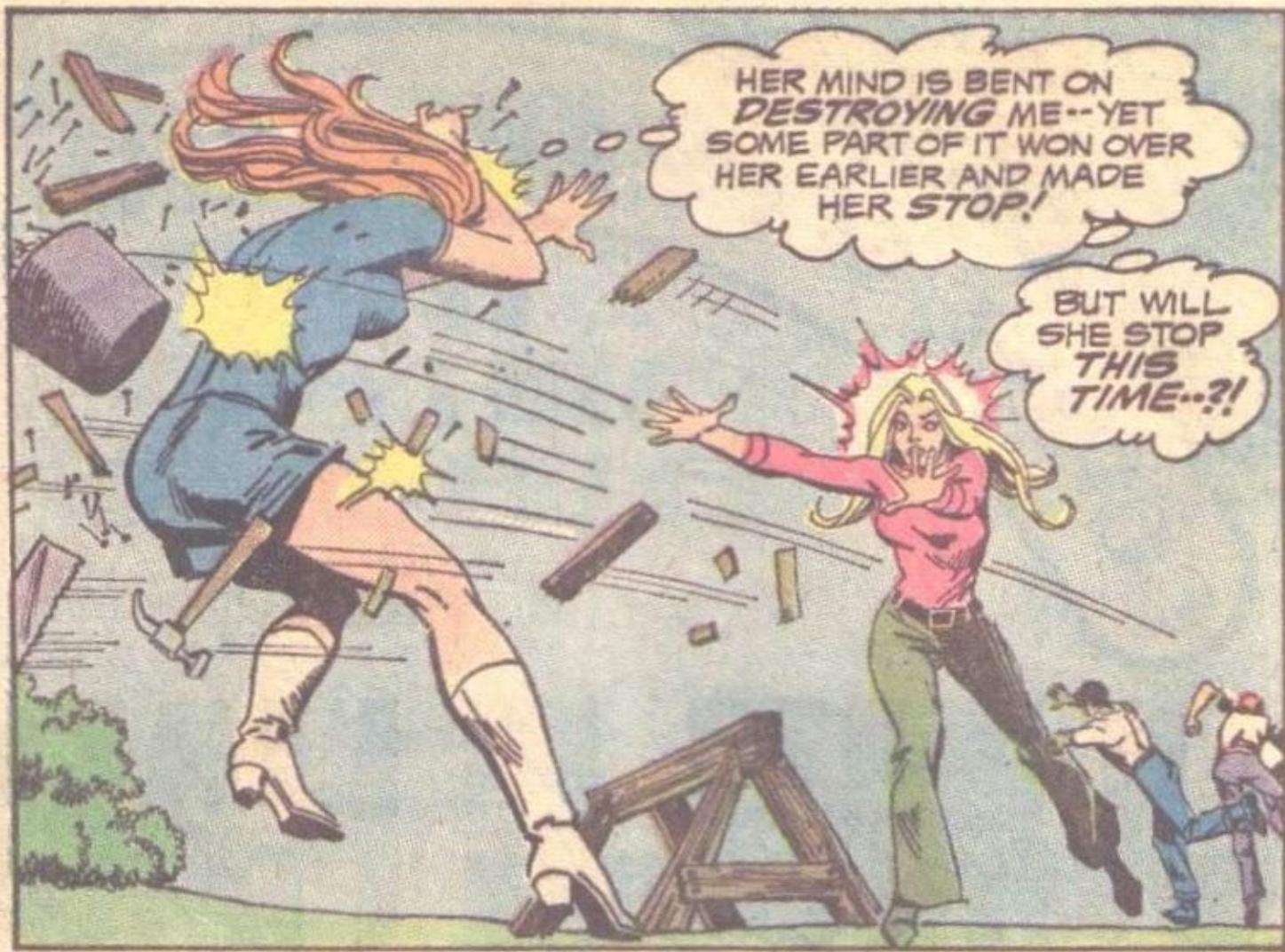
... IT WAS
HERE THAT
SHE CLAIMED
THE "COSMIC
VIBRATIONS"
WERE RIGHT--

--AND
USED ME AS
A MENTAL
LINK TO
REACH
YOU!

THE CULT
HAD BEEN USING
THE NEARBY PUBLIC
LAND BEFORE--AND
BECAME FANATICAL
ABOUT ITS NEW
ACTIVITIES!

STUDENTS OF
HUDSON U
ARE HELPING
TO REMODEL THE
RUNDOWN PARK
TO GAIN SOME
PRACTICAL
EDUCATION!





--DOES NOT REALLY EXIST! WHEN TERRI AND YOU HELPED DEFEAT THE CULTISTS, YOUR PSYCHIC ENERGY MUST HAVE CREATED A MENTAL FEEDBACK!

DEEP DOWN, SHE BLAMES US--SPECIFICALLY YOU--FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!

FOR AN INSTANT, LILITH HESITATES AS SHE EXPERIENCES EVERY FEAR AND TERROR THAT TERRI NOW FEELS...

IT'S UP TO YOU, LILITH! REACH THAT "DEEP-DOWN"-- NOW--

SINCE TERRI WAS DRAWING MOST OF HER POWERS FROM YOU, SHE ABSORBED THE IMPACT--IN THE FORM OF THAT DEMON-THING WE SAW!

-- BEFORE SHE DOES US IN WITH HER NEW-FOUND POWERS!

...UNTIL SHE REACHES THE DEEP-WITHIN OF TERRI'S MIND AND CONFRONTS THE DEMON IN ITS NAKEDNESS...

IT WORKED! HER DEMON IS EXORCISED!! APPARENTLY THERE IS A MAGNIFICATION OF TERRI'S PSYCHIC POWERS WHEN YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER!

THAT LINK MAY BE ENOUGH TO BRING IT BACK!

HER MIND HAS BLOCKED OUT EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED--

BUT YOU HAD BETTER GO BEFORE--

WE COUSINS MET... YET WE MUST NOW LEAVE EACH OTHER--AVOID EACH OTHER!

...LEST WE LET LOOSE THAT DEMON AGAIN!

GOOD-BYE, TERRI-- PERHAPS SOMEDAY...

SOME DAY...

OH... WHAT HAPPENED?

YES-- I KNOW!



END



S-1228

LETTERS to the BATMAN

tale, and I'm very anxious to read the rest of it. Oh, by the way—I've been wondering . . . is Berni in the *Robin* tale supposed to be Denny O'Neil's chum, Berni Wrightson, who helped with the idea for "Night of the Reaper"?

—GUY SHARWOOD, Fresno, Ca.

(That Bernie is right, son.—JS)



Dear Editor:

Ah, nostalgia! Nostalgia such as I haven't seen the like of in *Batman* for quite some time! I guess I bought the February issue mainly because of the Christmas cover. The "Batman in a beard" looked like something one of the artists from the '40's would have done.

And the story . . . well, how can I put it? First of all, O'Neil's basic plots have a way of being consistently shaky, while the stories themselves are very good. I guess I still kinda get a lump in my throat with endings such as this. I liked the touch in panel 4 of page 6 where *Batman* talks about fighting while the sign reads, "Peace on Earth"!

But to me, the meat of the issue was the classic reprint. I don't now, and never will have any use for a teen-age *Robin*, a yellow glob around the *Bat*-emblem, and various other "New Look" innovations, so these trips to the past are very enjoyable to me. Even though "The Loneliest Men in Town" was published before I was born, this is *THE BATMAN* I grew up with in the '50's and '60's and to me the only *REAL Batman*. The art style was great. Not meant to be realistic, but mysterious. The square-chinned *Batman*, the wide-eyed *Robin*.

Story number three, now . . . Hmmm. A teen-age *Robin* that is older than this 22 year-old. Nice to see Rich Buckler art. I used to correspond with Rich before he went pro. Congrats to him; he did a fine job. Friedrich, it would seem, knows a bit about the campus scene. The picture presented of the Jesus Freaks was almost accurate. I really can't see them fighting, though. At least not the ones we have where I go to school at the University of Texas. I think the author may have carried his characterizations a bit far there. However, the rebuttals of the non-Christians were very stock and typical. I've seen many Christians at UT get the same treatment as on pages 4 and 5. Anyway, the solo *Robin* stories fail to really turn me on, I guess, because they are so contemporary—in fact, too contemporary. I still see *Batman* and *Robin* as being in the '40's, and I'm stuck with that image.

All in all, a very good issue. Even with all my criticism, one of the best in a long while!

—LYNN WOOLLEY, Austin, Texas

(So far, LOCs of peace and good will. Now an "appalling" note.—JS)



Dear Editor:

As a constant fan of *Batman*, I was deeply appalled by the story "Silent Night, Deadly Night" contained in issue #239. I might add here that *Batman*'s deviation from law and common sense in this issue was a shocking example of a new permissiveness that I hope will never reappear in your pages.

Let us consider "Uncle Tim", the apparent guardian of the otherwise homeless Betsy. Our dear friend Tim is guilty of assaulting street corner Santas in order to steal money intended for charities, assaulting and attempting to kill with a broken string of Christmas bulbs a duly appointed law-enforcer *Batman*, breaking and entering into the home of Rich-

Dear Editor:

Absolutely fantastic! *Batman* #239 just has to be something special—a real Christmas present. I enjoyed the cover-logo's red-green coloring. Neal Adams' cover, artistically beautiful as usual.

The lead story, "Silent Night, Deadly Night," was very good. Denny O'Neil has done it again with the magic touch of humanity he injects into most of his work. The splendid way Denny writes, I wish we had Christmas every month!

Moving right along, we get into this issue's *Batman* reprint. And it turns out to be an extravaganza in itself! A Christmas special, as well as a Golden Age. I see that "The Loneliest Men in the World" also contained a great deal of delightful humanity. Nothing less than a masterpiece.

Now on to my favorite segment of this issue, the *Robin* solo-story. I figured somebody at DC, after attacking drugs, overpopulation, *et al.*, would get into the Jesus movement, and you did quite a beautiful job, too. I agree with Gerry to some degree, and a little bit with *Robin*, too. As for Rick Asher, whom the *Teen Wonder* plans to help next issue, I just couldn't help but identify with him, somewhat. I, too, feel bound and gagged when confronted by a Jesus freak, or a Bible pusher, and I get very confused. I believe that the movement is fine for the people who believe in it, but trying to hook people who would rather not be bothered with it is going somewhat overboard. Maybe it's that these Jesus people have nothing else to turn to. Maybe it's a safer route than drugs. I don't know . . . I just don't know. Personally, I could not see myself getting into either. These are hard times, and every individual is in search of answers. But I don't think I could discover satisfaction in either of these.

Well, so much for my life story. You have launched what I know will be an excellent two-part

ard Lee Evans, causing the old man's near fatal heart attack, though Tim relented at the last minute upon killing him, and lastly, our hero-villain or villain-hero is guilty of contributing to the delinquency of a minor Betsy who under Tim's direction refused to untie *Batman* in order to allow him to carry out his legal responsibilities, thereby obstructing justice.

In retaliation, *Batman* hands over to the criminal a wad of bills and suggests they discuss Tim's "difficulties with the law" the following week, as dear Tim has had a change of heart and has decided to become merciful.

O.K., Tim had a change of heart, but let us illustrate the *Batman's* error with an example from the real-life news. In 1970, a young Chicago gentleman was arrested for stabbing a young lady with a butcher knife. Now it was obvious to the judge that this individual had not really meant to commit the crime and that the entire incident occurred only because he either lived in a ghetto, was beaten in infancy by a cruel mother, or because Mayor Daley did not love him quite enough. Consequently, the judge paroled the man society had transgressed upon. November, 1971, our indigent was arrested for the murder of a 15 year-old girl found stabbed 25 times.

In essence, *Batman* has placed innocent Betsy in the grips of a man with a penchant toward murder, already illustrated by his attempt to strangle *Batman*. Who knows when our friend may next go "outta his head" and again attempt to destroy whatever individual he considers responsible for his own financial degradation? Already Betsy considered it a "sin" to disobey her uncle whether or not he is operating on moral principles. Is the girl safe living with a potential murderer? And is society safe when such a man so obviously in need of psychiatric care is allowed to walk the streets?

—C.W. CHARLES, N. Manchester, Ind.

(Compare this reader's outrage with the next one's compassion... and maybe that's what humanity is all about.—JS)



Dear Editor:

The *Batman* magazine seems to be cruising into some fine weather. First, last issue's excellent Halloween story, and now, "Silent Night, Deadly Night." These two holiday issues have been some of the best adventures *Batman* has had in quite awhile.

I must admit that holiday stories have a special attraction for me. I enjoy seeing acknowledgment of the happy spirit in the air. These seasons are only too brief a respite from the rest of the days of the year and they are to be cherished.

Denny O'Neil seems to be the only writer able to credibly bring across a battle-hardened, angry *Batman*. The *Batman* has been through more than his share of hardships, pitting his life against criminal after criminal. He is a toughened policeman who has no time for games.

Enter Tim, also an embittered man. He has been driven to commit criminal acts against his character. His frustration screams to be unleashed, which leads to violence. He is our character to sympathize with. Even *The Batman* has been guilty of the above. Tim, however, has a young dependent. Through her, we condone Tim's actions; not agree with, mind you, but condone.

It is the concept of right and wrong, on the part of *Batman* and Tim both, that gives the story its interest and the concern we feel both for Tim and Betsy and *Batman's* mere intensity that gives the story its movement.

This tale exemplifies the importance of some character-development in comix. The personalities had color and I want to thank all involved in the story's production. It was a job well done.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

Dear Editor:

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" is wonderful Christmas reading but a difficult story to evaluate. After the first reading I sat back and marveled at the high-calibre characterizations and expert use of thoughtlog of that dynamo Denny O'Neil, at the skill of I. Novick and Dick Giordano in giving the story high-grain visual impact, also at the wisdom and good common sense of the editor for not trying to sell the reader schwart zat *Christmas tyme*. After this primary evaluation I had to read the story twice over before I could appraise its true value. I found the character to be outstanding: *Batman* is at his best; the no-nonsense Santa is wonderfully realistic; Uncle Tim is totally believable; Betsy is as precious as she is obedient; Richard L. Evans is as colorful as he is neglected. As for the artwork, I am intreeged by the fight scenes on pages 4 and 5. Other items I admire are the symbolism of the broken doll's head on page 13, and the correlation of the colors in the *Batman* symbol to the story material. My only complaint about the artwork is it tends to be too harshly lighted.

In judging "The Loneliest Men in the World" I feel its strength lies in its nostalgia value and the talents of Bob Kane. In addition, I feel the value of the story has not improved with age.

The *Robin* story, "Soul-Pit," has a strong, well-constructed script. The high points are the author's handling of Gerry and the missionary on page 3 and the way he shows how fanatical people of the cloth can become (page 4, panel 5). The only weakness of the story is the unoriginal approach in the style of the artwork; although each of the characters is well drawn, the story has a low-budget look.

Finally, due to the recent advances in your company's *TOP FIVE* to Ten Titles I have come to the conclusion that we are now in the Platinum Age of Comix (of course, one can still find traces of Iron, Nickel, and Osmium).

—WILLIAM G. LAKS, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.



Dear Editor:

"Silent Night, Deadly Night" affects me strangely. On the one hand, the artwork and story were superb. On the other hand, we've seen too many of these "hand of providence" stories with *Batman* in the last few years. But let's keep this one and mark one of the others as being excessive. I like this one too much. It's this type of work that makes me upset when this same team—mainly, O'Neil, Novick, Giordano, and Schwartz—lets an inferior piece of work go to press because of deadline. *C'est la guerre!*

—BOB ABRAHAMS, Rego Park, N.Y.



Dear Editor:

As did "The Silent Night of The Batman" of two years ago, "Silent Night, Deadly Night" was one good story, likely to receive unanimous approval. I was going to go into a lengthy essay telling why, but perhaps in a story like this one, it would be best to leave it at that. And I can't think of any new adjectives—they've all been said.

—JEFF RISTINE, Ann Arbor, Mich.



Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

DIRECT CURRENTS

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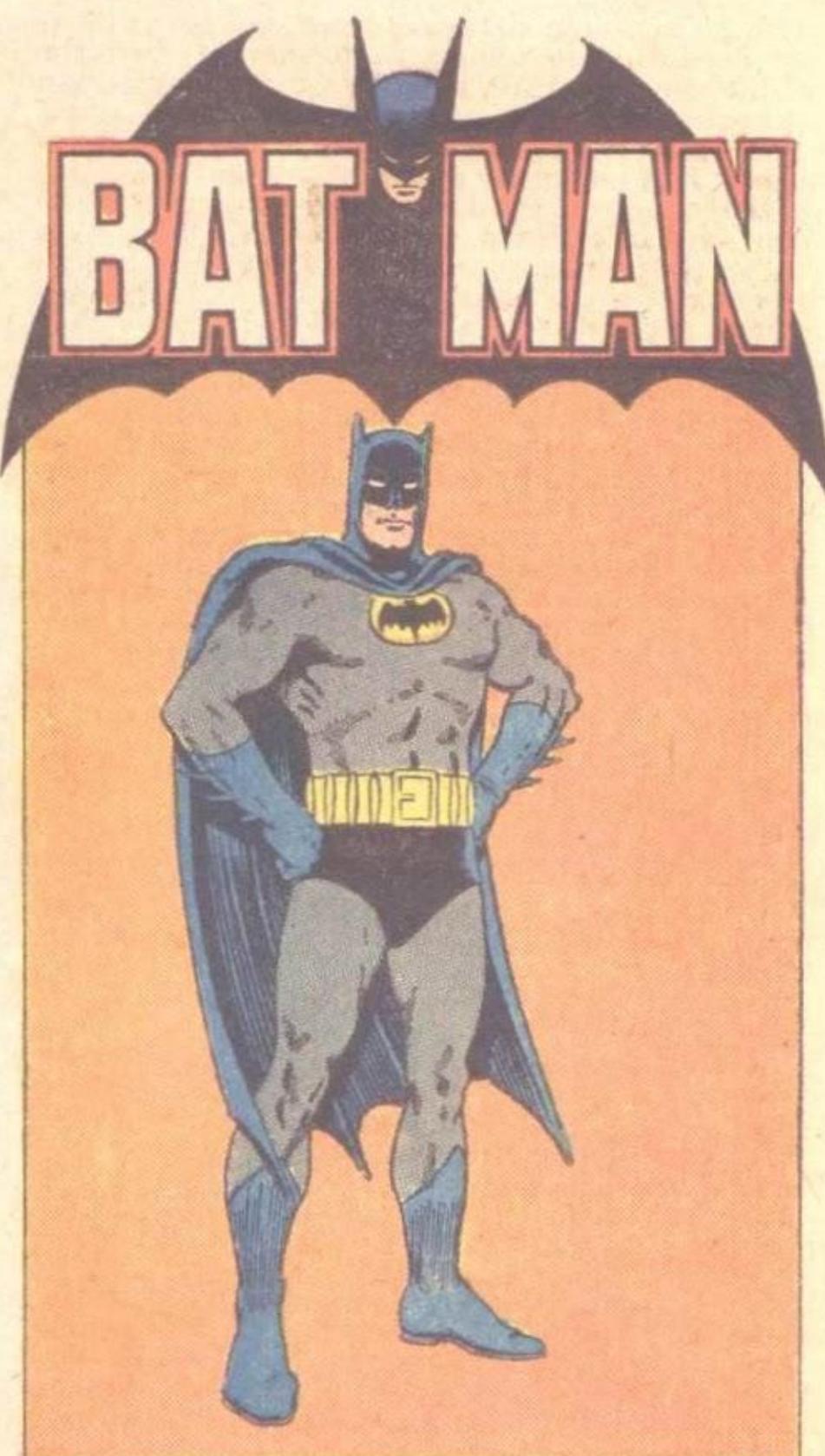
Inside a prison, at the mercy of criminals, **SUPER-BOY** winds up in "An Iron Cage for a Hero!" That's the lead story in the **June** issue (#187)—but it's not all! There's a tale that brings "The Return of Superbaby's Pal"—Gary, the little witch-boy! Is that enough? No? Then how about a **Dial "H" for Hero** adventure of **Robby Reed**? If you don't know about **Robby**, who never knows what hero he'll be next, meet him in "The Monster-Maker of Littleville!" On sale **April 25**.

Here comes the historic moment you've waited for—the meeting between **TARZAN OF THE APES** and lovely **Jane Porter**! It's called "A Mate for the Ape-Man!" In it you'll learn how the Jungle Lord first comes into contact with civilized men—as adapted from Edgar Rice Burroughs' **Tarzan of the Apes** by Editor-Artist Joe Kubert. There's a text story from the early **Tarzan** Sunday pages, illoed by the great Hal Foster! And, of course, **John Carter of Mars!** It's #209 (**June**), on sale **April 27**!



SUPERGIRL

The Batman proves once again why he's called the **World's Greatest DETECTIVE**, in the **June** issue (#424), when he tackles a baffling case of "Double-Cross-Fire!" In the same issue is "Batgirl's Last Case!" What? The Dominoed Dare-Doll singing her swan song? Maybe—maybe not! There's a **Sierra Smith** mystery—"The Case of the Teetering Tower!" Finally, a **Detective Classic**—"The Cop Who Shot 1,000 Crooks"—with a camera, we might add! It's on sale **April 27**.



Can magic destroy the mighty **Man of Steel**? Read the **June ACTION** (#413) and witness "The Voodoo Doom of Superman!" Then, having read that terrific tid-bit, turn to the new **Metamorpho** tale—"The Seven Sins of Simon Stagg!" This new series on the **Element Man** is being acclaimed by all who've seen it! And there's a classic tale of **Eclipso**, the man who is both hero and villain! It's called "The Man Who Destroyed Eclipso!" On sale **April 27**.

Supergirl comes up against a strange group of wizards in a tale of alien evil called "And Death Shall Have No Dominion," in the **June ADVENTURE** (#420). There's also a classic adventure in which the **Maid of Might** tackles a "Monster from Krypton"—not knowing it's really a transformed **Superman**! Then you can join a "Rodeo" with **The Vigilante**; but watch out for a guy with a rifle, determined that the show will not go on! There's a **Zatanna** adventure, too! On sale **April 27**.

DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH... **BATMAN** and **ROBIN**

COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST HAD THE BATMAN RESCUED INNOCENT HUMANS FROM DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT BY UNEARTHING TRUE EVIDENCE THAT TRAPPED THE REAL CRIMINAL. BUT WHO IS THERE TO SAVE THE BATMAN HIMSELF FROM SUCH A PREDICAMENT? FOR NOW, THE BATMAN FACES THE SUPREME TEST OF HIS CAREER! HELPLESS, BOUND IN A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, HE MUST SOMEHOW ENTANGLE THE REAL CRIMINAL IN LINKS OF HIS OWN MAKING! HOW HE DOES SO WITH THE TIMELY AID OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, MAKES AN ABSORBING STORY! WHEN WE READ OF "THE PEOPLE VS. THE BATMAN!"

BOB
KANE



A CLOAKED FIGURE PADS SILENTLY THRU A DARK CORRIDOR. AHEAD, A PATCH OF LIGHT DRAWS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LIKE A FLAME DRAWS A MOTH--

PRESENTING
A MILESTONE
IN THE CAREER
OF THE
CAPED CRIME-
FIGHTER--
ORIGINALLY
PUBLISHED IN
BATMAN #7;
OCT.-NOV., 1941.



A BATMAN CLASSIC



LISTEN,
HORATIO,
ABOUT THAT
POULTRY
RACKET
JOB--

YOU
GOTTA
GET---
HOLD IT,
SOMEONE'S
OUTSIDE!

WITH
STARTLING
SUDDENNESS,
THE MANTLED
INTRUDER
SWEEPS
FORWARD!

I ALWAYS
BELIEVE IN
THE ELEMENT
OF SURPRISE TO
STEAL A
MARCH ON
YOUR
OPPONENT!

NOW...I
THINK WE
OUGHT TO
HAVE A
LITTLE TALK!

SEE
WHAT
I MEAN?



A BATMAN CLASSIC

BUT AS THE BATMAN TALKS, A THUG'S FURTIVE HAND REACHES FOR THE LIGHT SWITCH...



AND THE LIGHTS WINK OUT!

OKAY, NOW'S OUR CHANCE! SLUG HIM!

BANG BANG!
LET'S SCRAM!

POLICE ARE DRAWN BY THE GUNFIRE... BUT FIND ONLY THE DAZED BATMAN MAKING A BID FOR FREEDOM...



THE ACROBATIC BATMAN DROPS TO SAFETY!

THERE HE GOES!

I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING HERE!

BECAUSE OF THIS VISIT, THE ENTIRE PHASE OF THE BATMAN'S LIFE IS TO BE AFFECTED.

AND FROM A NEARBY HALLWAY--

THEY'RE GONE NOW!

YEAH... BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN IS WISE TO YOU!

LATER... THE HOME OF FREDDIE HILL...

I TELL YA, THE BATMAN'S WISE TO THE FACT THAT DELMAR IS REALLY HEAD OF THE RACKETS IN THIS WARD. SUPPOSE HE MAKES DELMAR TALK - THEN WHAT?

WE GOTTA GET RID OF DELMAR BEFORE THAT HAPPENS. I THINK IT'S TIME I RAN THIS MOB MYSELF-- WEASEL, HERE, IS GONNA BUMP OFF DELMAR--

BUT THE COPS WILL PICK ME UP SURE?

NOT THE WAY I FIGURE IT, CAUSE WE'RE SONNA GET SOMEONE TO TAKE THE RAP FOR YA! NOW LISTEN-- YOU GO TO DELMAR'S OFFICE AND WAIT-- WAIT FOR A CLIENT... ANY CLIENT TO SHOW UP... AND THEN YOU...

WHAT'S UP?

I REALLY DISCOVERED SOMETHING BIG... THINK I'LL INVESTIGATE TOMORROW AS BRUCE WAYNE-- HE WOULDN'T AROUSE ANY SUSPICION!

AT THAT INSTANT...

A BATMAN CLASSIC

THE NEXT MORNING---

WHAT ARE YOU SO NERVOUS ABOUT, WEASEL? IT--YES, MISS O'DONALD, WHAT IS IT?...

I BETTER GET OUT BY THE BACK DOOR-- WONT LOOK SO GOOD FOR SOMEBODY TA SEE ME -
A MR WAYNE TO SEE YOU, SIR!

MR. DELMAR, I WANT SOME HELP ON MY STOCKS THAT--

OOOH!

WITH A CRY, WEASEL HOLDS THE GUN UP AND FIRES A SHOT THROUGH HIS OWN HAT!

DROP THAT GUN, MR. WAYNE!

WHAT?

THEN THE MURDERER TOSSES THE SMOKING GUN TO BRUCE--

HERE, CATCH!

INSTINCTIVELY, BRUCE CATCHES THE WEAPON, AS ALL PERSONS WILL DO WHEN OBJECTS ARE TOSSED AT THEM!

MR. WAYNE... YOU KILLED HIM?!

YOU MURDERER!

EEK! HELP! POLICE! MURDER!

AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE ON THE RUN--

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THAT MAN MURDERED MR. DELMAR!

HE KILLED HIM!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



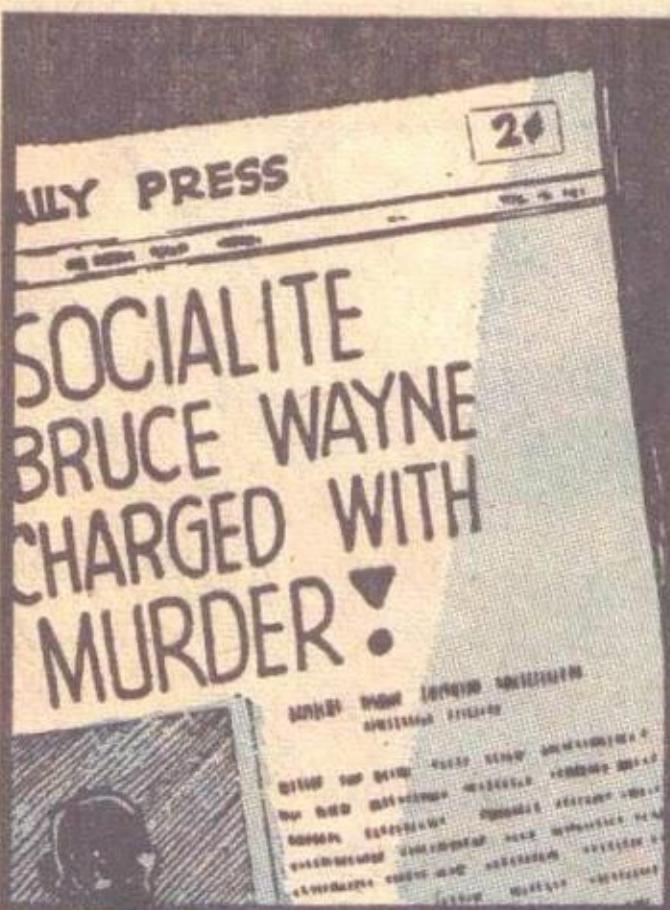
POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON,
A CLOSE FRIEND OF BRUCE
WAYNE'S... ARRIVES....

THIS
MURDER IS
BAD
BUSINESS?
WHY DID
YOU DO
IT?

BUT I DIDN'T!
THIS RAT,
HERE, DID IT,
AND THREW
THE GUN AT
ME? HE
FRAMED
ME!

HE'S LYING?
LOOK--HE EVEN
TOOK A SHOT AT
ME! LOOK AT
THIS HOLE THE
BULLET MADE
IN MY
HAT!

IT'S TRUE!
I HEARD MR.
VENNER SHOUT,
"DROP THAT
GUN, MR. WAYNE!"
AND WHEN I OPENED
THE DOOR, MR.
VENNER WAS HITTING
BRUCE WAYNE, WHO
HELD THE SMOKING
GUN IN HIS HAND--
HE MURDERED MR. DELMAR!



FUNNY, ISN'T
IT...THE MAN
WHO IS REALLY
THE BATMAN...
FRAMED FOR
A MURDER
RAP?

IT'S THIS LITTLE
GUY! I'M GOING
TO MAKE HIM
TELL THE TRUTH!
SOME WAY--SOMEHOW!
DON'T WORRY, I'M
GOING TO GET YOU
OUT OF HERE!

THAT
NIGHT!

WEASEL
VENNER?
HE'S GOING
TO GET A
VISIT FROM
ROBIN, THE
BOY WONDER!



A BATMAN CLASSIC



THE NEWSPAPERS
SAID THIS WAS
VENNER'S
ADDRESS--



INSIDE VENNER'S APARTMENT--

WELL, HILL,
EVERYTHING
WORKED OKAY?
HEY--WHY THE
ARTILLERY?

WE WANTS MAKE SURE,
IN CASE YOUR CONSCIENCE
STARTS TO BOther YOU--
SO.. WE'RE GONNA FIX
IT SO YOU DON'T WORRY
ANY MORE?



C'MON, WEASEL,
WE'RE TAKIN'
YOU FOR A
RIDE? THE
AIR WILL DO
YOU GOOD?

IF THEY
KILL HIM,
HOW AM I
EVER GOING
TO GET THE
TESTIMONY
TO FREE
BRUCE?

THINKING ONLY OF BRUCE'S PERIL, ROBIN
DISREGARDS PERSONAL DANGER AND DIVES
HEADLONG ---



IT'S
ROBIN--
UGH?

HOW'D YA
GUESS
IT?

WAIT
TILL I
TALK
TO--
OH...

OUTA MY
WAY.
THIS MOB
IS AFTER
ME--THIS
IS MY
CHANCE TO
BEAT IT--

WEASEL LEAPS DOWN THE
STEPS AS HILL AND HIS
MOBSTERS RECOVER-

I'M GONNA
PLUG
THIS
BRAT?

FORGET
HIM-- IT'S
WEASEL
WE'RE GONNA
GET?
C'MON!

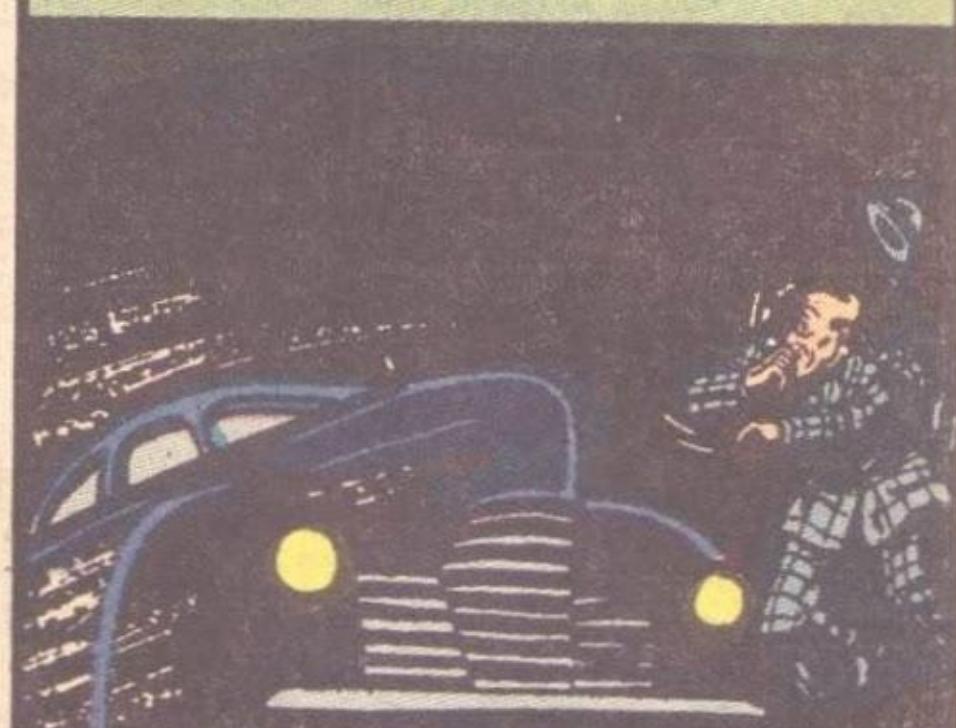


A BATMAN CLASSIC

THERE HE GOES! I'LL--

PUT THAT ROD AWAY! I GOT A BETTER IDEA! GET IN THAT CAR!

AS THE TERRIFIED WEASEL VENNER RACES ACROSS THE GUTTER, HE TURNS A FEAR-STRICKEN FACE UPON A HEAVY CAR THAT BEARS DOWN ON HIM?



....THE CAR LEAPS AWAY IN THE NIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND A SPRAWLED, TWISTED FIGURE!

IT WAS A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER! I SAW IT!

EEE-- THAT MAN'S BEEN KILLED!

BUT WEASEL IS NOT DEAD---AT LEAST NOT QUITE?

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY DAYS HE'LL BE LIKE THIS: HE'S IN A COMA!

I'LL HAVE TO PUT A POLICE GUARD ABOUT THE ROOM? THIS MAN IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS IN A MURDER TRIAL!



THE ACCIDENT MAKES INTERESTING HEADLINES ... ESPECIALLY FOR FREDDIE HILL!

"VICTIM STILL ALIVE IN A COMA: DOCTORS GIVE HIM A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE TO LIVE? IF WEASEL SHOULD COME TO AND START TO TALK---

WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SOUP: WE GOTTA BUMP THAT GUY OFF!

MAYBE THIS ROBIN KID WILL GO TO THE COPPERS AND TELL HOW WE WERE TRYING TO TAKE WEASEL FOR A RIDE!

NOT YET? REMEMBER THAT NIGHT THE COPS SAW THE BATMAN IN DELMAR'S OFFICE? I THINK I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO USE THAT?

THAT NIGHT--

IT WAS A CINCH TO GET THIS OUTFIT! EVER SINCE THE BATMAN STARTED, COSTUME SHOPS GET CALLS FOR 'EM FROM PEOPLE GOIN' TO FANCY MASQUERADE BALLS.

YOU'LL GET BY-- NOW-- TRY TO PLUG WEASEL-- WHEN THE COPS SEE YOU-- THEY'LL BE SURE THE BATMAN IS ON THIS--





A BATMAN CLASSIC



A BATSHAPED FIGURE MOVES UP THE FIRE ESCAPE OUTSIDE A HOSPITAL--



HE SWINGS INTO A LIGHTED ROOM, A HAND CLUTCHING A REVOLVER--WHEN A NURSE ACCIDENTALLY ENTERS--



POLICE STATIONED OUTSIDE POUR INTO THE ROOM--



SOMETIME LATER--

NOT ME-- I'M NOT GOING BACK-- THE PLACE IS ALIVE WITH COPPERS-

TAKE IT EASY! JUST GOT A WORD OVER THE RADIO THAT WEASEL AIN'T GONNA LIVE ANYWAY-- ONE THING THOUGH, WE FIXED IT SO THE BATMAN LOOKS GUILTY OF TRYING TO KILL A WITNESS---



AND HILL IS RIGHT...

HERE Y'ARE READ ALL ABOUT IT!

THE BATMAN TRIED TO KILL THE WAYNE MURDER WITNESS? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THAT CAN'T BE THE REAL BATMAN-- HE'S IN JAIL-- I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO-- AND DO IT TONIGHT!



DICK SPENDS THE REMAINDER OF THE DAY IN THE LIBRARY LOOKING OVER OLD MAPS OF THE CITY--

THAT SHOULD DO IT VERY NICELY---



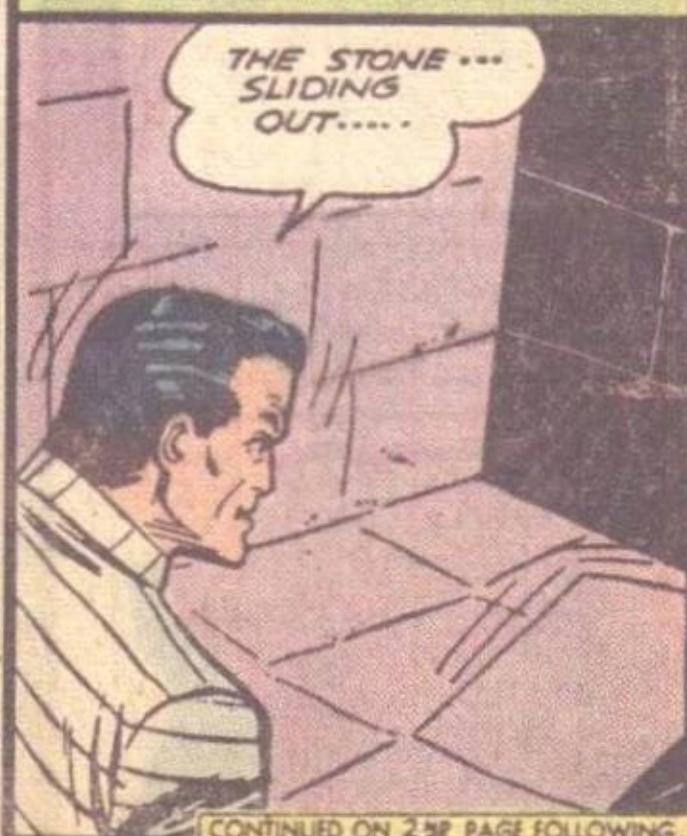
BRUCE WAYNE PACES HIS CELL WITH THE RESTLESSNESS OF A CAGED ANIMAL, WHEN--

I'VE GOT TO PROVE I'M INNOCENT-- WHAT'S THAT NOISE THERE?



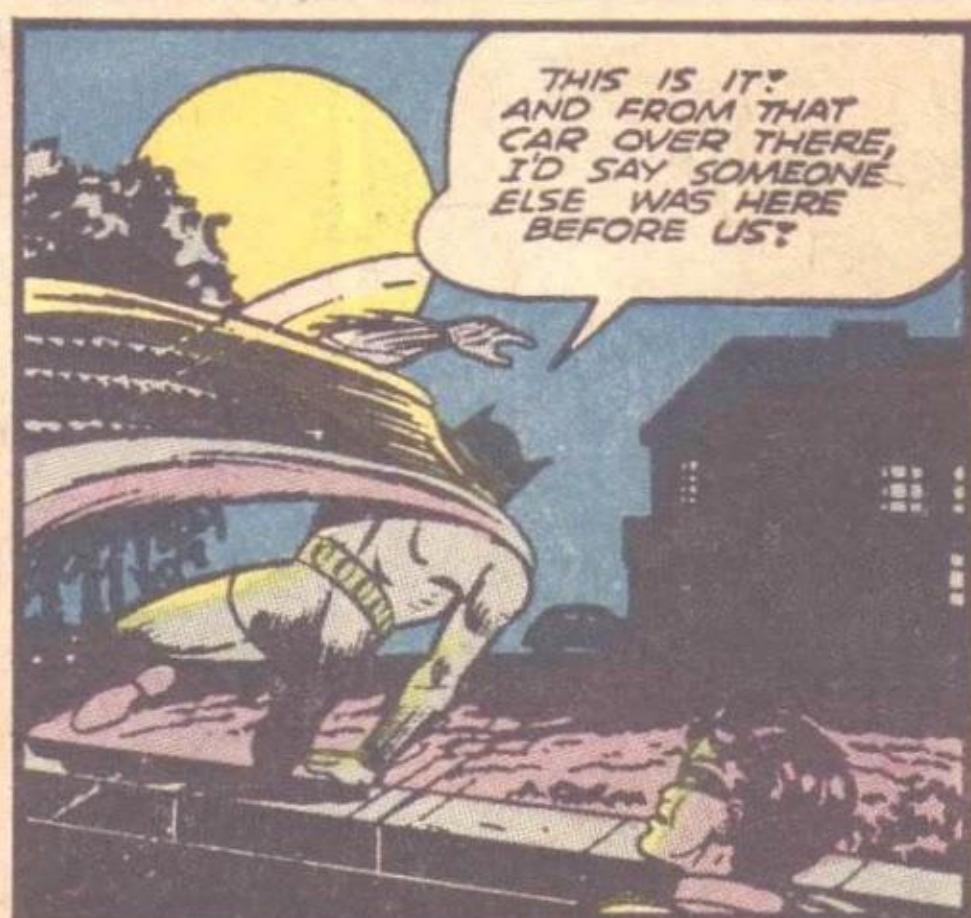
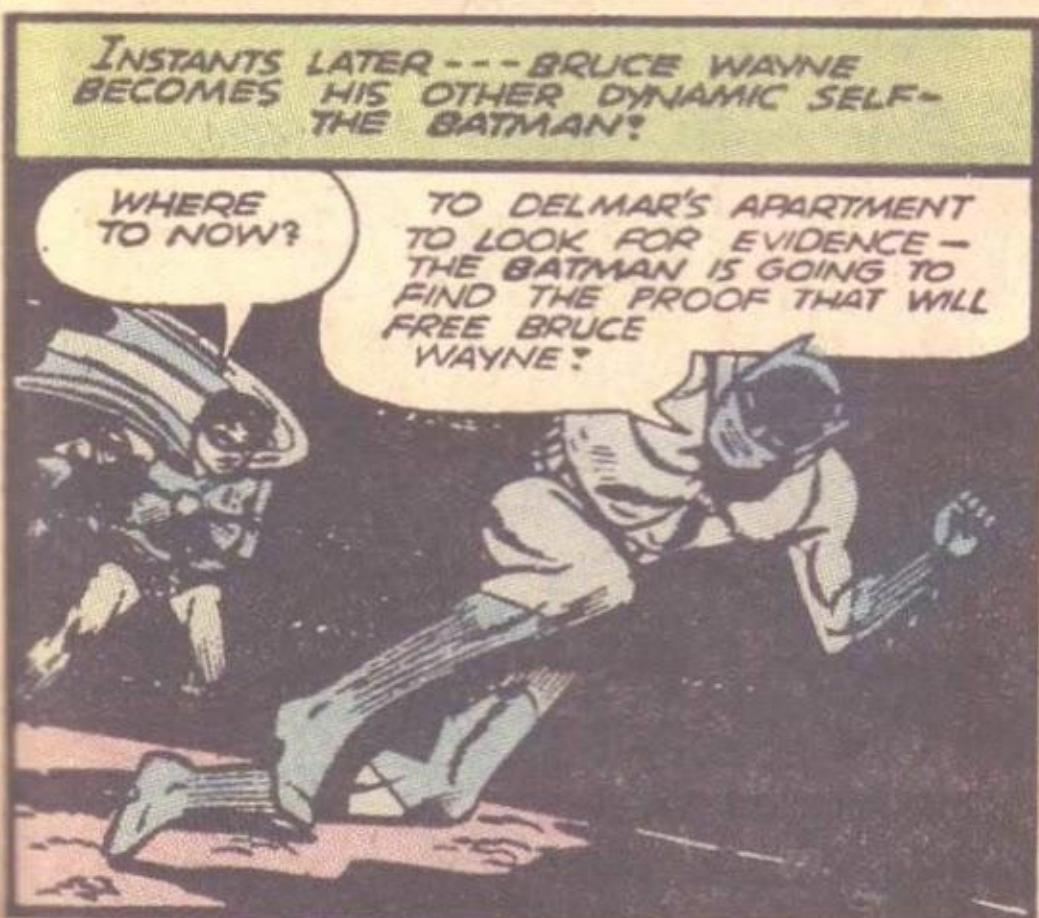
SUDDENLY, A STONE IN THE FLOOR BEGINS TO MOVE--

THE STONE ... SLIDING OUT....





A BATMAN CLASSIC



A BATMAN CLASSIC



THE WINNING TEAM SWEEPS INTO ACTION!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU CAN FIGHT?

HERE'S A LITTLE TREATMENT FOR A HEADACHE?

RIGHT ON THE OLD BUTTON!

THE MISSING RECORDS!

HE HAD THEM HIDDEN IN THE TABLE LEG! LOOKS LIKE YOUR NUMBER'S UP, HILL!

NOT YET, IT ISN'T! ONE MOVE AND I'LL BLOW THIS BRAT'S HEAD OFF!

ACTING SMART, EH BATMAN? JOE--AL--GET UP!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, BATMAN!

SORRY, ROBIN. YOU'RE WORTH MUCH MORE TO ME THAN THOSE RECORDS--OKAY, HILL? YOU WIN!





A BATMAN CLASSIC



LATER--ON A DESERTED PIER-- WITH IRON TIED TO THEIR FEET, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THROWN TOWARD SWIRLING WATERS?



DOWN--DOWN--SINK THE WEIGHTED BODIES, DOWN TO THE RIVER BED--



--WHERE DEATH WAITS TO DRIVE THE BREATH FROM THEIR BURSTING LUNGS?

WEASEL HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE COMA, AS HIS NURSE RACES TO CALL THE DOCTOR?



OH, YEAH--?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT--
I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY--BUT
I'LL SHOW HILL WHAT IT MEANS
TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME--
I GOTTA GET AWAY!

AND WHEN THE NURSE RETURNS, SHE FINDS WEASEL IS--



AND TWO POLICE GUARDS, WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO FETCH BRUCE WAYNE TO TRIAL, RACE BACK TO INFORM THE ASTOUNDED COURT THAT HE, TOO, IS--



"FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"-- TRUE WORDS!. FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?



DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RAKES HIS BONDS, BACK AND FORTH, ON THE ROUGH EDGE----- WILL HE FREE HIMSELF IN TIME?



A BATMAN CLASSIC

--BUT HE MAKES IT? AND NOW HIS BUSY FINGERS CLAW FEVERISHLY AT ROBIN'S BONDS.

HOLD IT JUST A MOMENT MORE!

THAT'S THAT? NO RECORDS-- NO BATMAN, NO ROBIN, TO PUT THE FINGER ON ME?

NOT A FINGER-- BUT THE WHOLE FIST!

NOW LET'S FINISH THEM, ROBIN?

IT'S A PLEASURE!

I SAY THAT BRUCE WAYNE PROVED HIS GUILT BY BREAKING JAIL AND--

BRUCE WAYNE IS NOT GUILTY! HERE'S THE MAN WHO CAN TELL YOU WHO KILLED HORATIO DELMAR-- HIS GANG CHIEF!

BUT THE WILY HILL KNOWS THE RECORDS ARE BURNED AND--

HE'S LYING! HE BEAT ME UP TO TAKE THE RAP FOR BRUCE WAYNE! ASK HIM WHY HE TRIED TO KILL VENNER IN THE HOSPITAL?

YES! THE POLICE SAW YOU THERE WITH A GUN IN YOUR HAND!

IT'S EASY FOR ANYBODY TO PUT ON A BATMAN COSTUME AND THROW SUSPICION ON ME!

YES... AND JUST AS EASY FOR YOU TO SLANDER A DEAD MAN'S NAME, BECAUSE HE CANNOT DEFEND HIMSELF! BATMAN, I ACCUSE YOU OF AIDING AND ABETTING BRUCE WAYNE TO ESCAPE JAIL-- AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER A COURT WITNESS... AND OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE WITH YOUR INFERNAL MEDDLING AND YOUR ABSURD CRIME THEORIES! POLICE, ARREST THIS MAN!

WAIT!

COMMISSIONER GORDON APPEALS TO THE JURY...

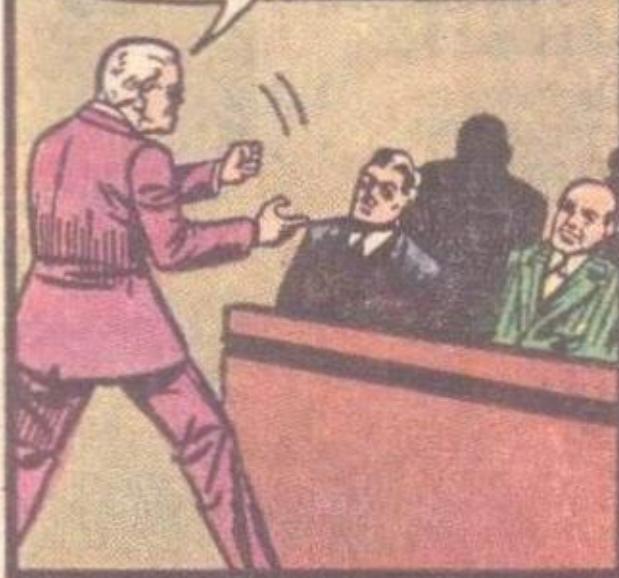
I SPEAK FOR THE BATMAN-- THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE! YES-- HE WORKS "OUTSIDE THE LAW", AS YOU CALL IT, BUT THE LEGAL DEVICES THAT HAMPER US ARE HURLED BY THIS CRIME-FIGHTER SO HE MAY BRING THESE MEN OF EVIL TO JUSTICE... THE EMINENT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CALLS HIM A MEDDLER WITH A THEORY--

A BATMAN CLASSIC

WASHINGTON, THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, LINCOLN, EDISON AND OTHERS. THEY WERE "MEDDLERS" TOO -- WHO PROVED THEIR THEORIES. THEY MADE SACRIFICES SO THAT WE MIGHT ENJOY THE SECURITY AND COMFORT WE DO. THE BATMAN HAS DONE THAT, TOO!

THIS MAN WHO HAS SAVED A NATION'S GOLD RESERVE, FOUGHT FIFTH COLUMNISTS AND SABOTEURS, BEATEN THE JOKER, THE PUPPET MASTER, AND OTHER CRIME GENIUSES...

THIS MAN WHO DAILY RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS-- WHO NEVER CARRIES A GUN-- WHO IS AIDED BY HIS YOUNG FRIEND, ROBIN, FIGHTS CRIME WITH THE COURAGE AND ZEAL BORN OF LOVE FOR HIS FELLOW MAN. THIS IS ---- THE BATMAN!



PERHAPS THIS COMES A LITTLE LATE, BUT I, THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF GOTHAM CITY, APPOINT YOU AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT! FROM NOW ON, YOU WORK HAND IN HAND WITH THE POLICE!

THANK YOU, SIR! I WISH NOW THAT I COULD FIND THE PROOF THAT WILL PROVE BRUCE WAYNE'S INNOCENCE!

THEN A VOICE CUTS IN--

SURE, HE'S INNOCENT! I KILLED DELMAR! UNDER ORDERS FROM HILL!

THUS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BATMAN BECAME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF GOTHAM'S POLICE FORCE!

WHY, YOU SQUEALING RAT.... I'LL KILL YA!

YOU'RE TOO LATE-- HILL.... I'M DYING NOW, BUT AT LEAST I'M EVEN--- YOU----

LATER...

THE BATMAN HELPED ME ESCAPE. HE KEPT ME IN A HIDEOUT UNTIL I WAS CLEARED!

YES, I KNOW. HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT JUST BEFORE HE AND ROBIN LEFT. YOU OWE HIM YOUR LIFE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I GUESS THE LIFE OF BRUCE WAYNE DOES DEPEND QUITE A BIT ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE BATMAN!



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 27th

END