



430
FEB 89



BATMAN

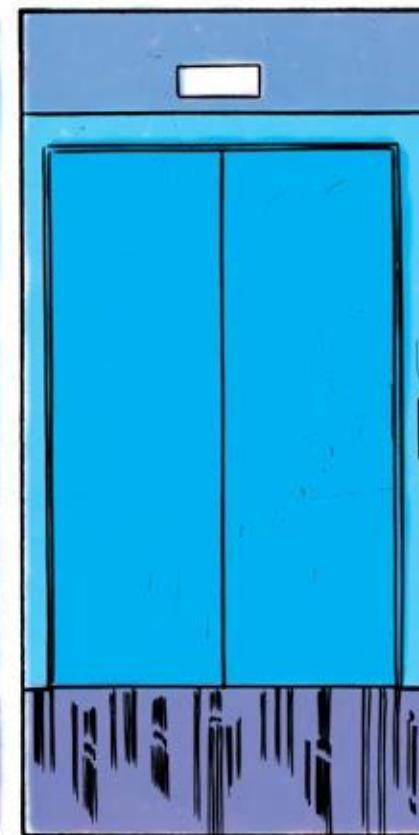
by STARLIN, APARO & DeCARLO



Somewhere
below,
there lurks
a madman
with a rifle
... and a secret
The Batman
dare not face.
Somewhere
below is the...

"FATAL WISH"

Frederick Baker







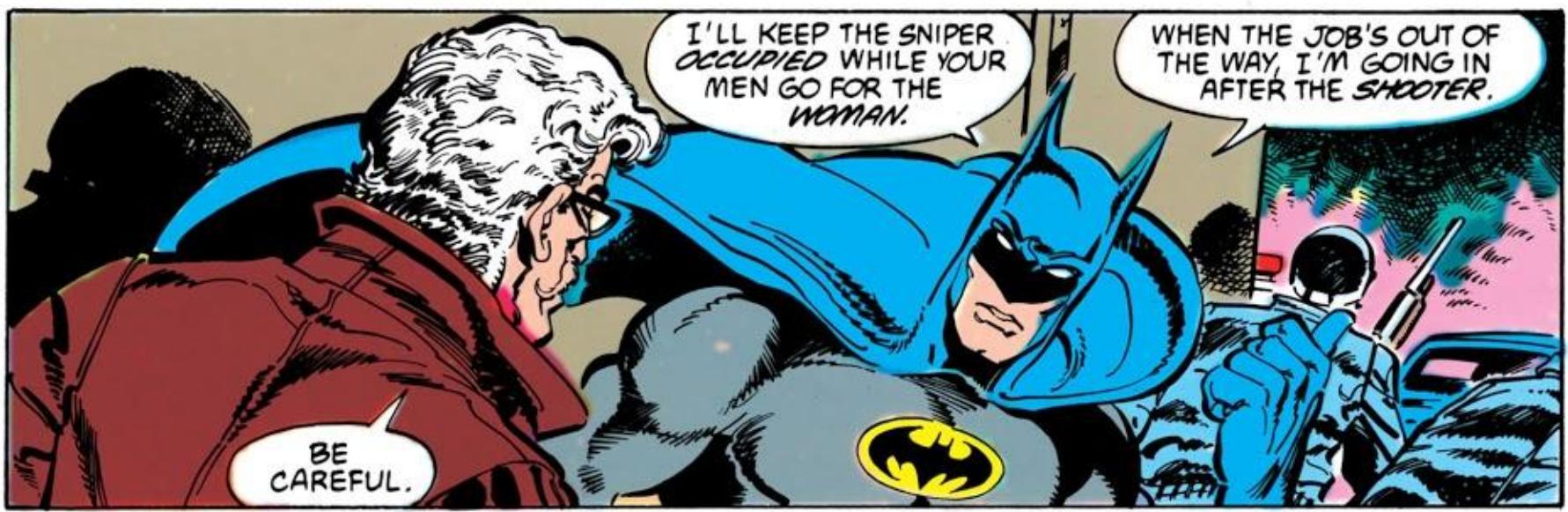
FORTY MINUTES LATER.

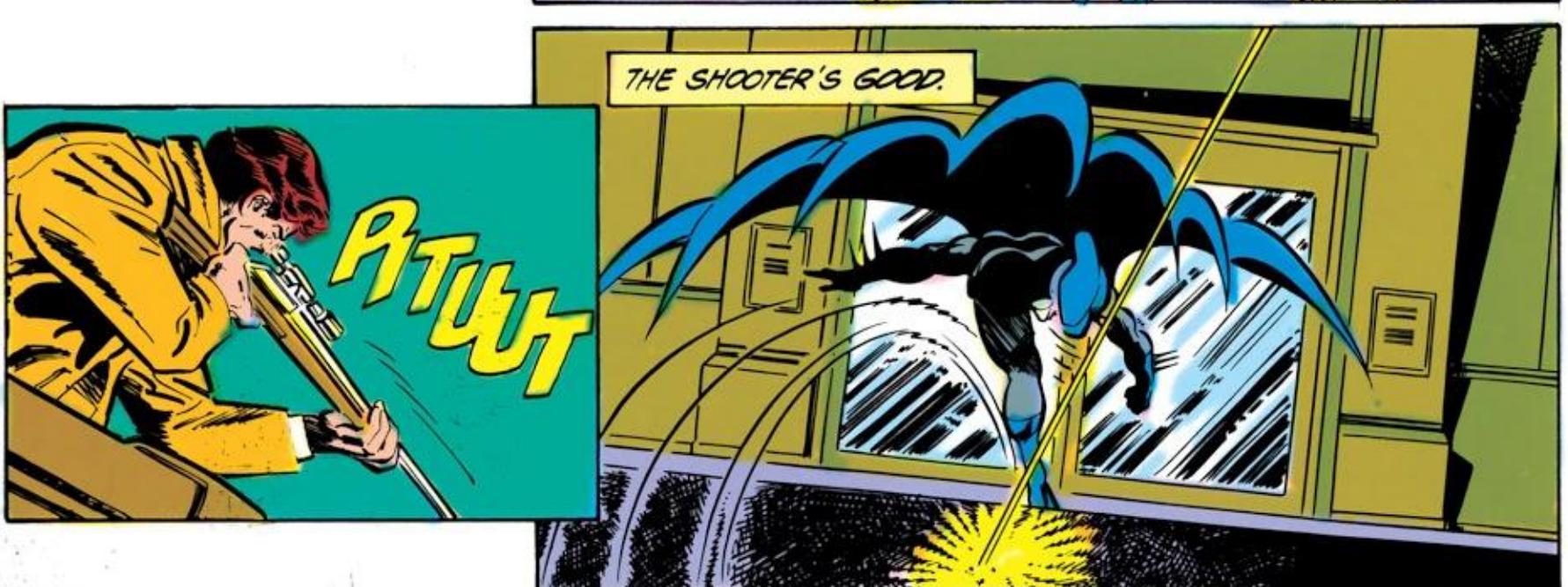
WE'VE GOT 5 DEAD,
3 WOUNDED, ONE A WOMAN
WE CAN'T REACH; TRAPPED
OUT ON THE STREET.

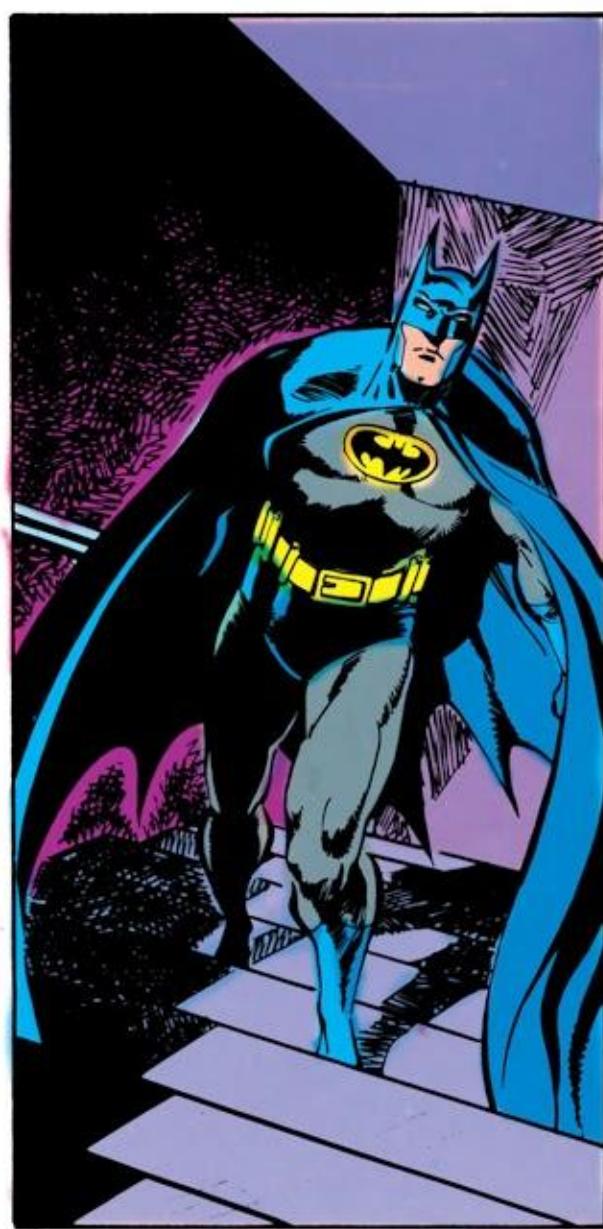
THE SHOOTER'S NAME IS
TIM CONRAD. JUST GOT
FIRED FROM A BANKING FIRM
INSIDE THAT OFFICE BUILDING.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S
DECIDED TO TAKE HIS
FRUSTRATIONS OUT
ON THE WORLD.

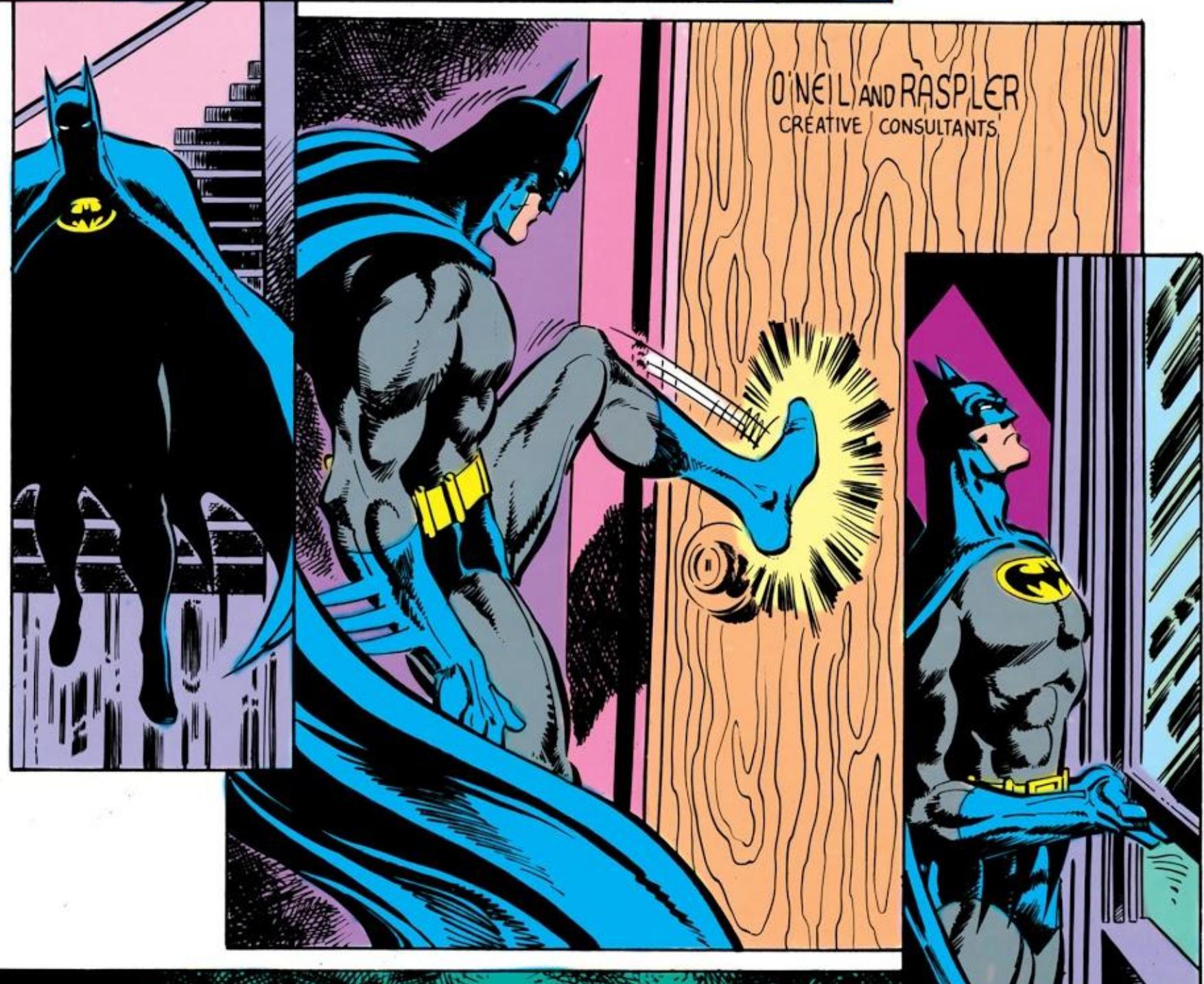
HE'S GOT THE
HIGH GROUND. IF WE
TRY TO RUSH HIM,
THERE'S GOING TO BE
A BLOOD BATH.













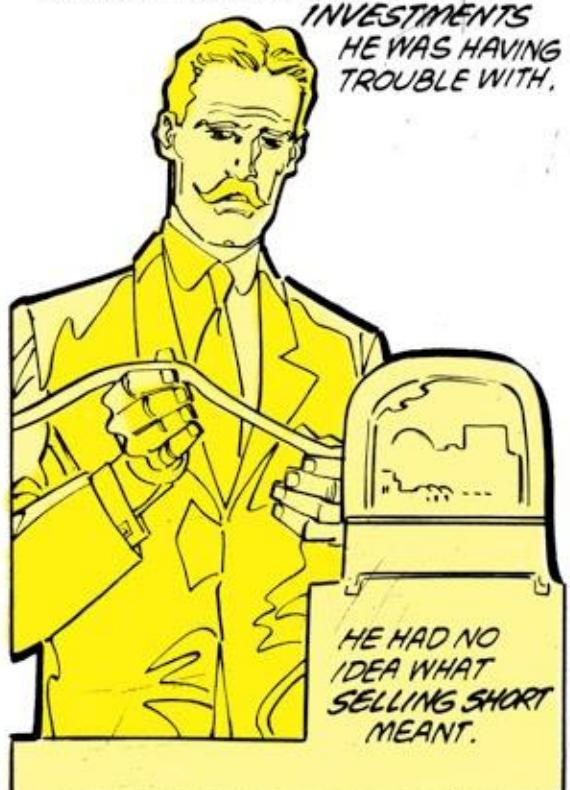
BUT WHEN YOU'RE
THAT YOUNG, YOU
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
TOMORROW.



YOU LIVE IN THE MOMENT.
THAT'S AN INTRINSIC
PART OF BEING A KID.

THAT'S WHY THE BOY DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND WHY HIS FATHER
WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT SOME
INVESTMENTS
HE WAS HAVING
TROUBLE WITH.

NOR COULD HE UNDERSTAND WHY
DAD WOULD WANT TO SIT ALONE
IN HIS STUDY, DRINKING THAT
FOUL SMELLING SCOTCH, BROODING.



NO! I'LL
PLAY BALL
WITH YOU
WHEN I'M
THROUGH
HERE!

NOT NOW,
SON. I'M
BUSY.

YOUR
FATHER'S
GOT WORK
TO DO.





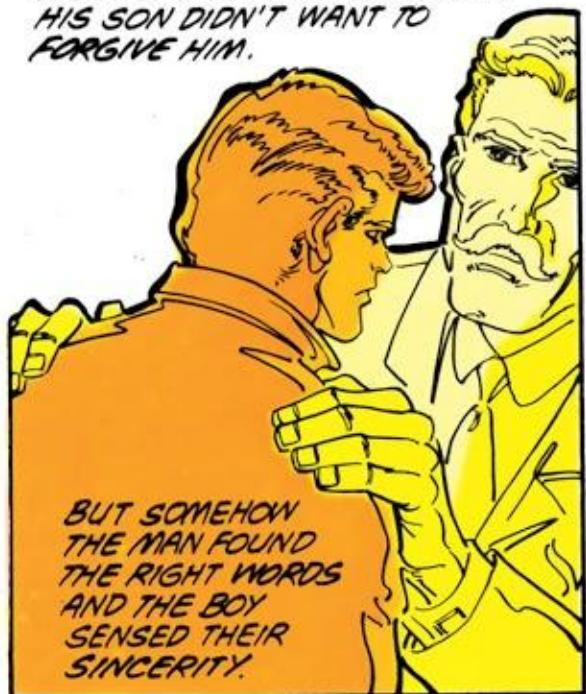




BUT THE END OF THE DAY BROUGHT A CONCLUSION TO THE FATHER'S FINANCIAL EMERGENCY AND A TIME FOR RECONCILIATION.



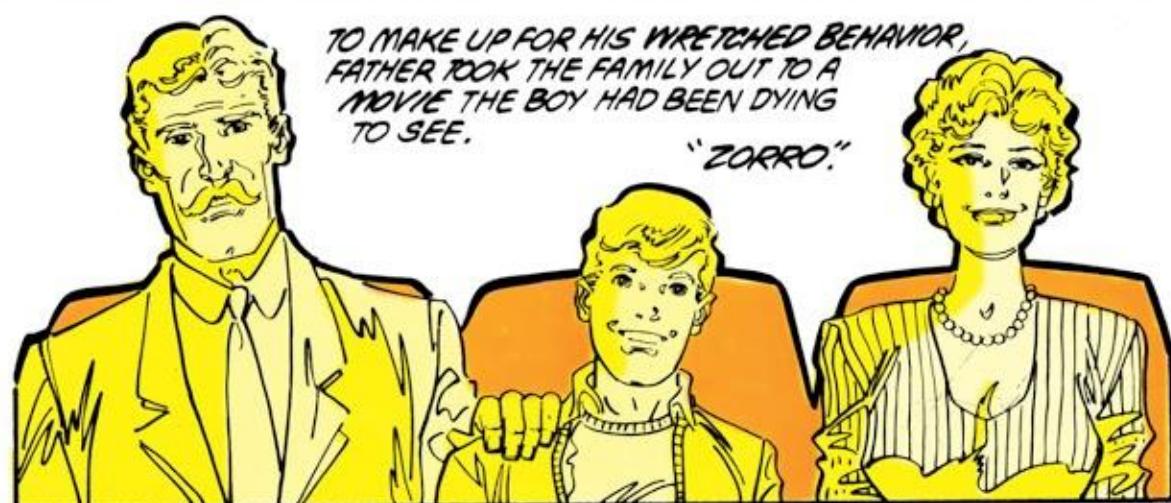
IT WASN'T EASY FOR THE MAN. HIS SON DIDN'T WANT TO FORGIVE HIM.



BUT SOMEHOW THE MAN FOUND THE RIGHT WORDS AND THE BOY SENSED THEIR SINCERITY.



ONCE AGAIN, ALL WAS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.



TO MAKE UP FOR HIS WRETCHED BEHAVIOR, FATHER TOOK THE FAMILY OUT TO A MOVIE THE BOY HAD BEEN DYING TO SEE.

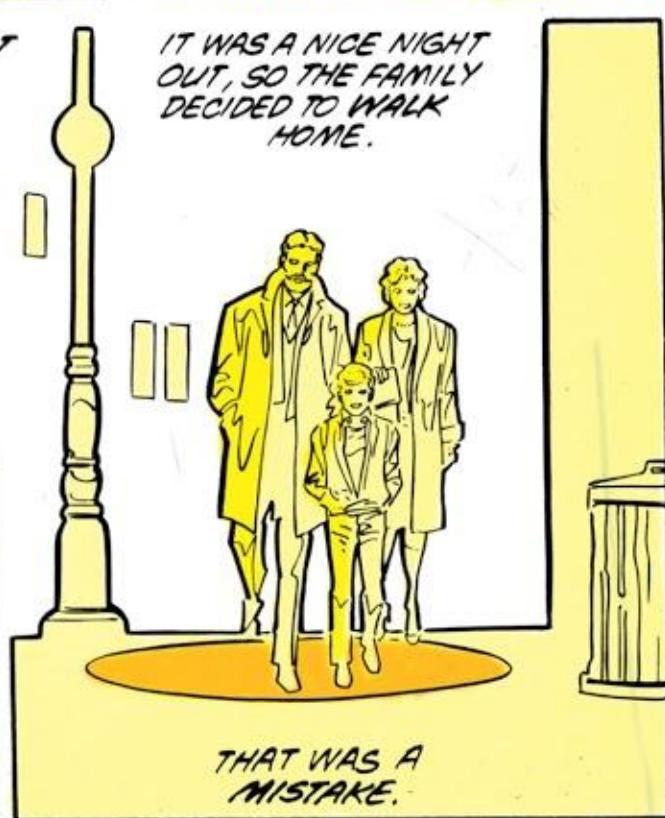
"ZORRO."



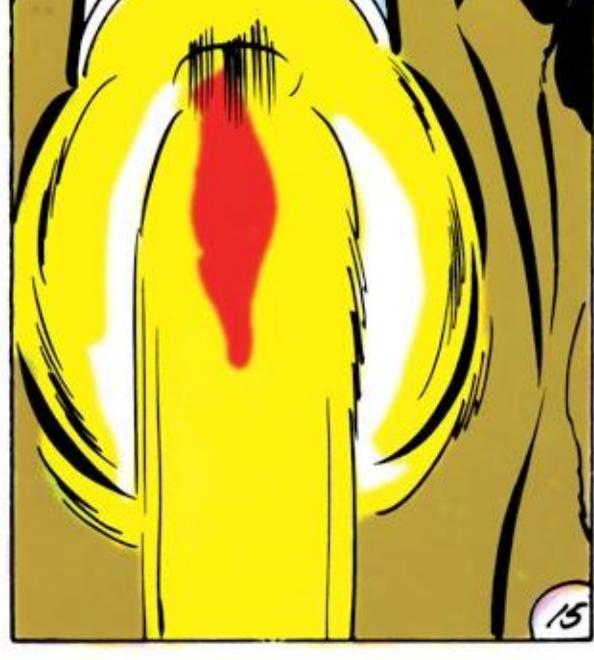
IT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST MOVIE THE BOY EVER SAW.

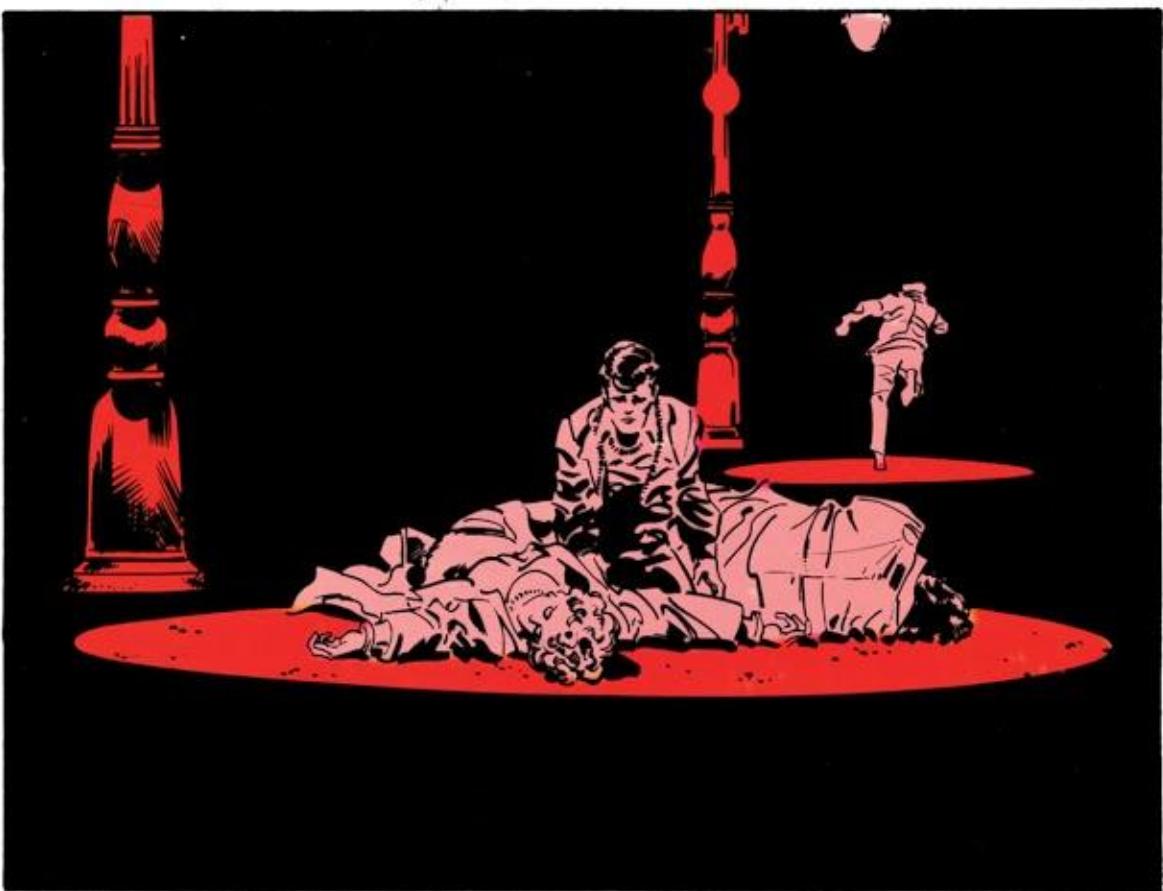


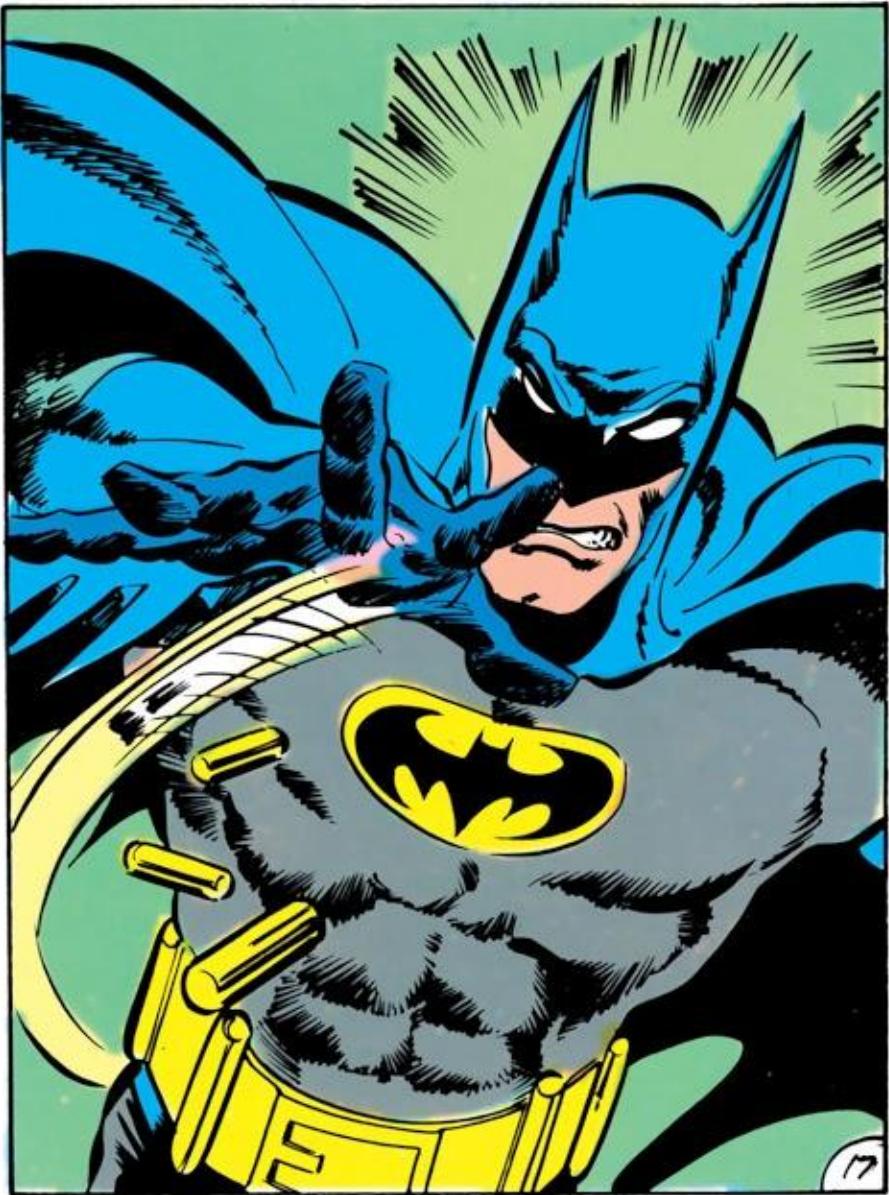
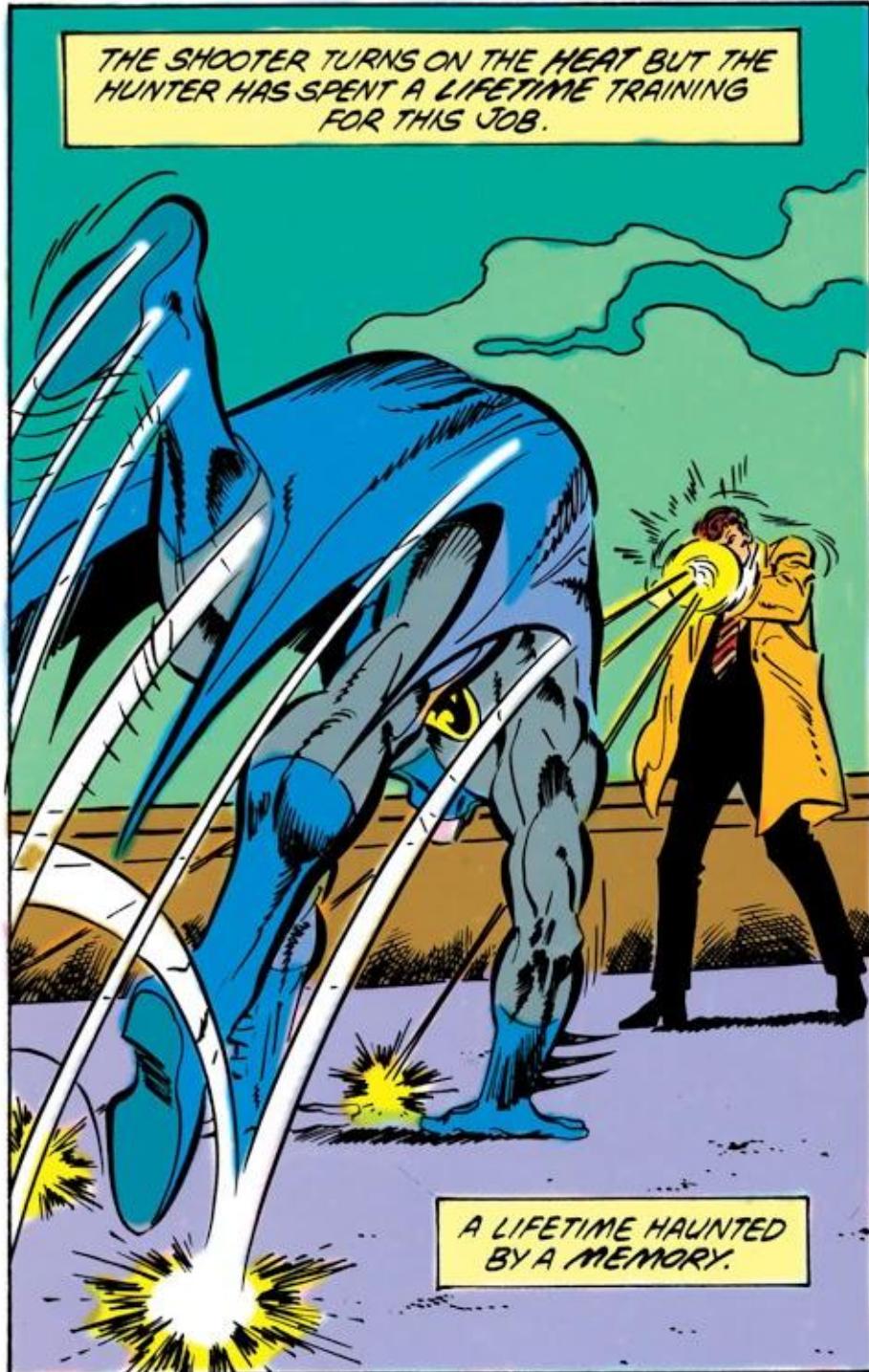
IT WAS A NICE NIGHT OUT, SO THE FAMILY DECIDED TO WALK HOME.



THAT WAS A MISTAKE.







THE SMOKE PELLETS WILL PROVIDE ALL THE COVER HE NEEDS.

AND THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON HIS PREY IS EXTREMELY PREDICTABLE.

FIRST COMES ANGER.

THEN FEAR.

AND FINALLY CARELESSNESS.

YOU THINK THIS LITTLE TRICK IS GOING TO HELP YOU?!

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST! I WILL!

YOU'RE OVER THERE! I HEAR YOU! DIE! DIE! DIE!

HE CLOSES IN TO FINISH HIS PREY OFF AND...

...MISSES!!

IT IS A BAD TIME FOR MEMORIES.

A LUCKY SHOT THAT THE SHOOTER SNAPS OFF AS HE TRIPS.



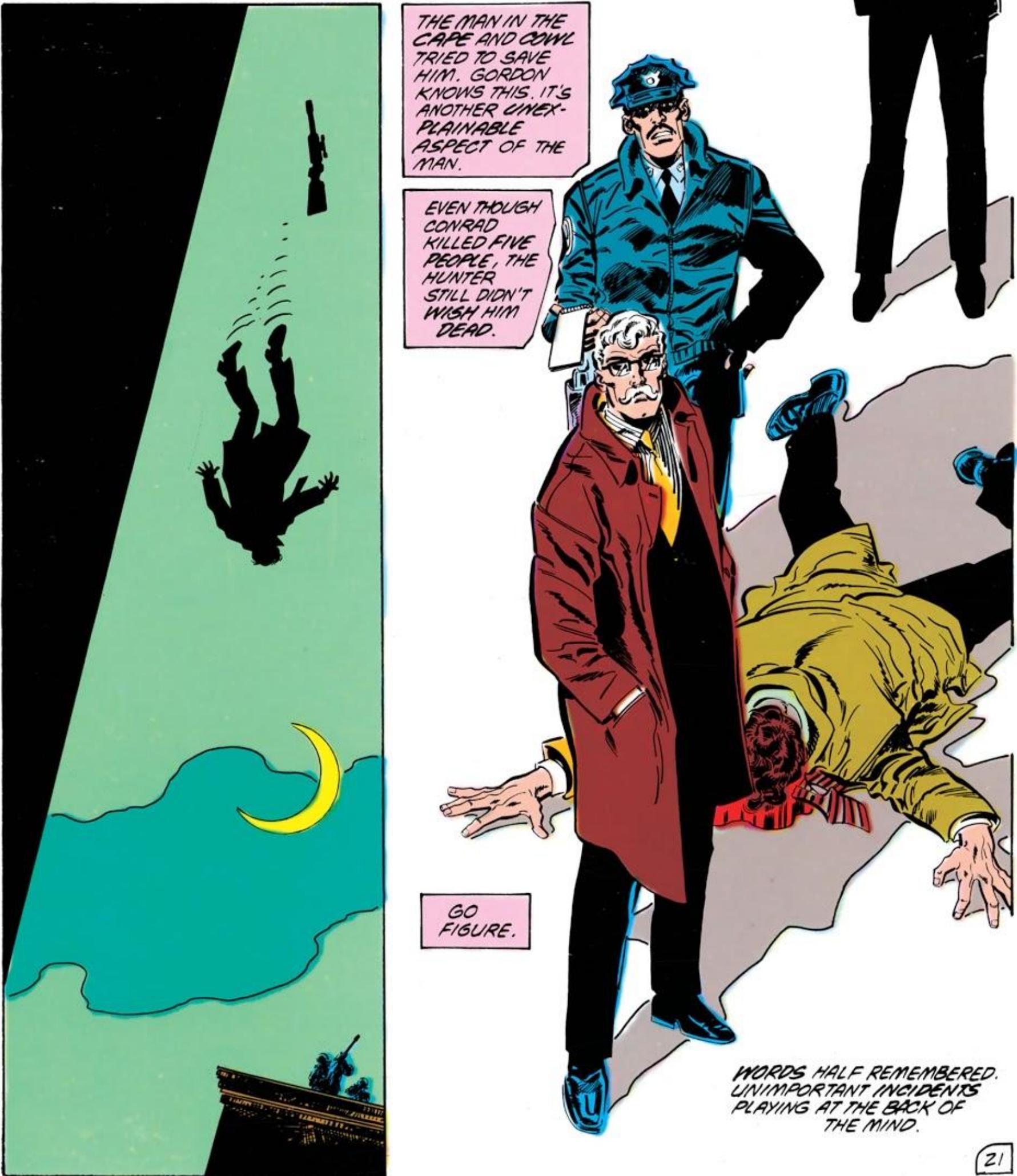
THE BULLET MISSES ITS MARK.

BUT THE MUZZLE FLASH TEMPORARILY BLINDS THE HUNTER.

ON THE DEFENSIVE, SCRAMBLING FOR HIS LIFE.







WISH YOU WERE
ALL DEAD.

DEEP WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF
SUBCONSCIOUS, A LITTLE BOY
CRIES OUT.

"I'M SORRY, DADDY!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT!"

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