



# BATMAN

by STARLIN,  
APARO &  
DeCARLO

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Book One  
of Four

## a Death in the Family

Robin begins a quest  
for his identity.

His mother awaits him  
somewhere in  
the middle east.

But sudden  
and violent death  
is also waiting for him.

And the most tragic  
secret of all.

Will The Batman  
be in time?

M. Pignola



# A DEATH in the FAMILY

## Chapter 1



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IT TOOK ME THREE WEEKS TO TRACK DOWN THE KIDDIE-PORN RING'S MAIN WAREHOUSE.

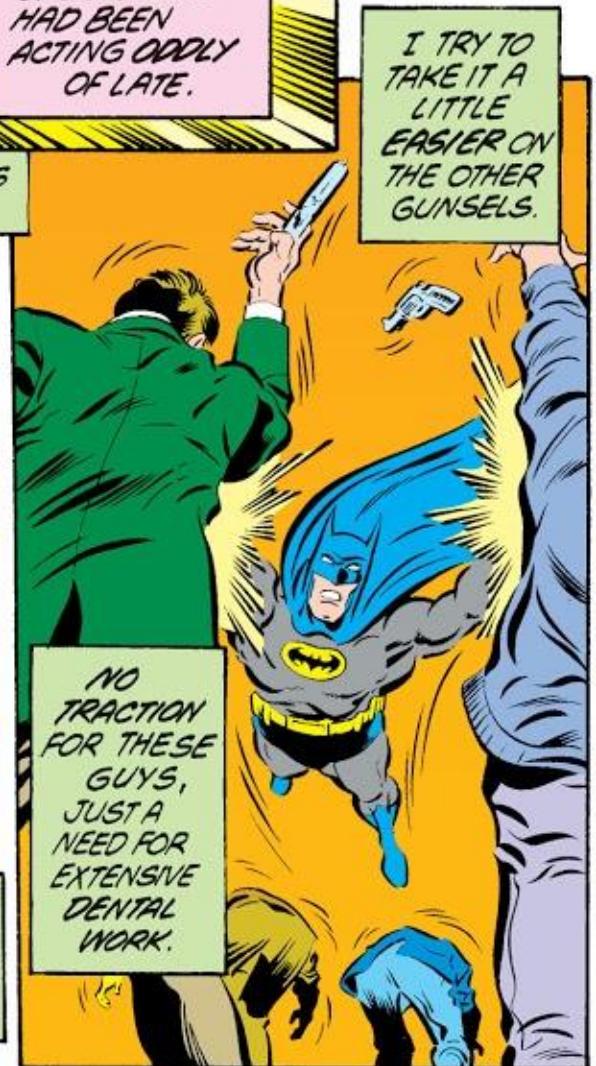
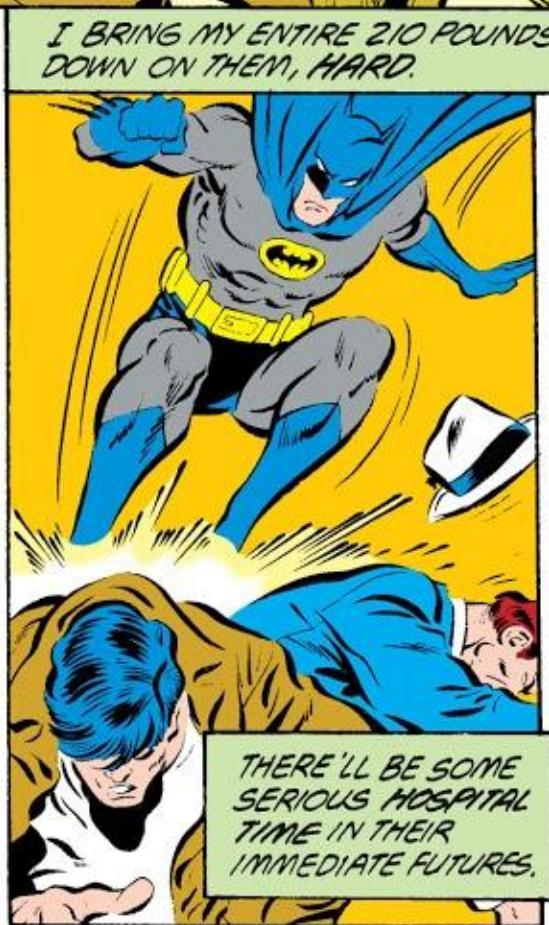
THE BUST WAS ALL SET TO GO. ROBIN AND I WERE IN HIDING, WAITING FOR OUR POLICE BACKUP.

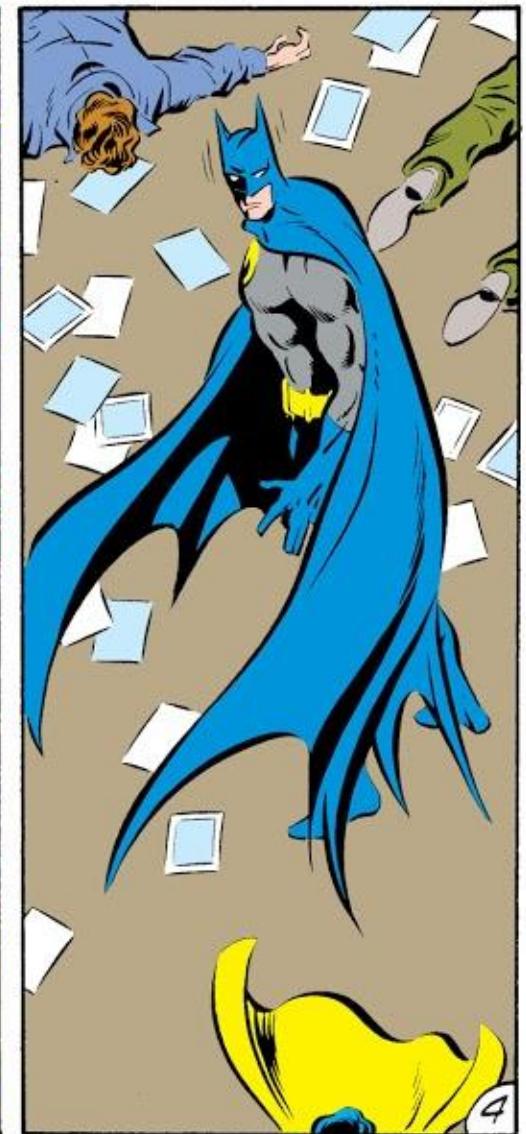
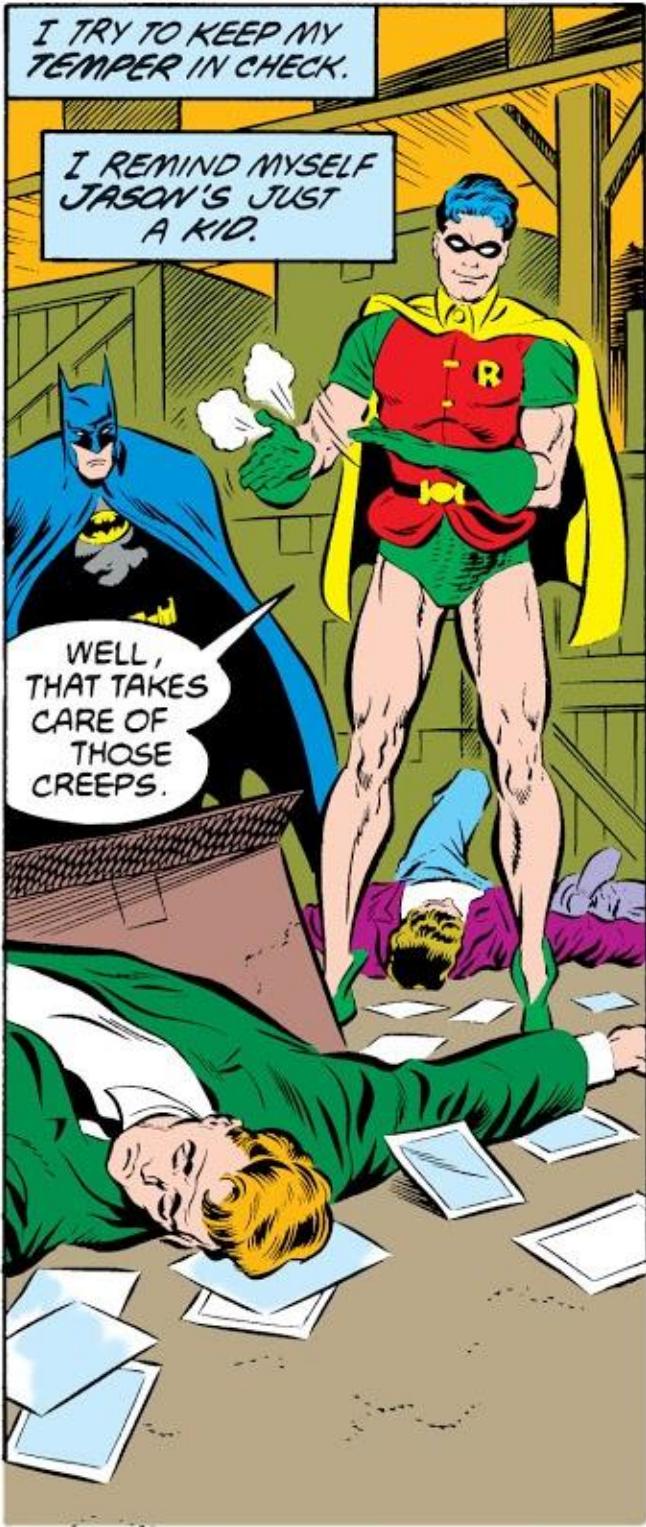
SUDDENLY MY PARTNER RUNS OUT OF PATIENCE. THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES SOMETIMES WITH THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN.

ROBIN!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

WHAT I WAS TRAINED TO DO!

GONNA KICK SOME TAIL!!





WHEN I GET HOME TO WAYNE MANOR A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, I FIND ROBIN'S NOT YET RETURNED.

IN A WAY I'M RELIEVED. IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO TALK WITH MY OLDEST FRIEND.

I THINK I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, ALFRED.

THE KID'S LOSING IT.

HE DIVED INTO THOSE THUGS LIKE SOMEONE LOOKING TO DIE.

THE LAD AVOIDS TALKING ABOUT HIS PARENTS LATELY.

I'VE COME UPON HIM, SEVERAL TIMES, LOOKING AT THAT BATTERED OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS MOTHER AND FATHER, CRYING.

WHEN HE'S SEEN ME, HE'S HIDDEN THE PICTURE AND LEFT THE ROOM, REFUSING TO TALK.

I'VE BEEN NOTICING SOME DISQUIETING THINGS ABOUT MASTER JASON, MYSELF.

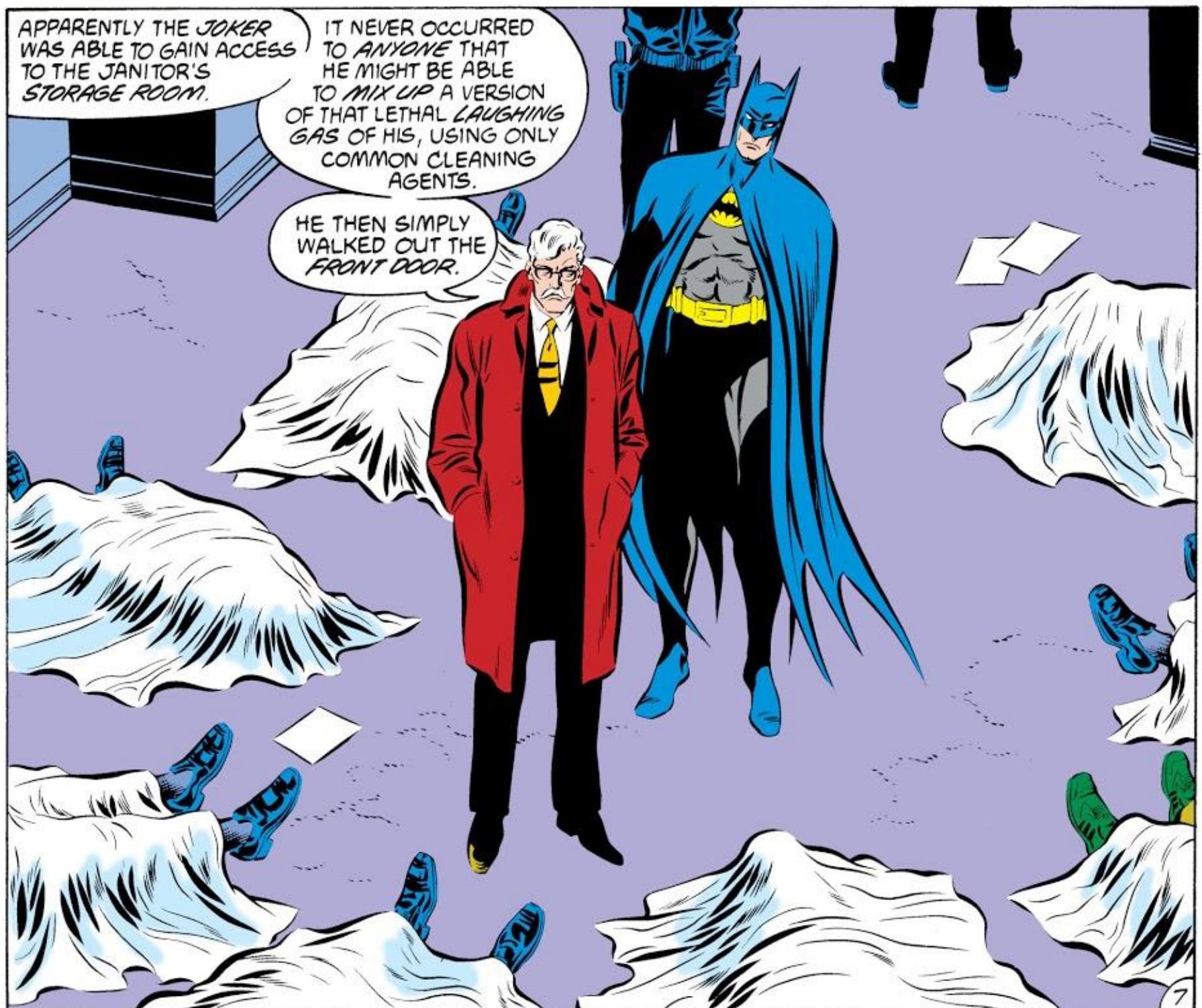
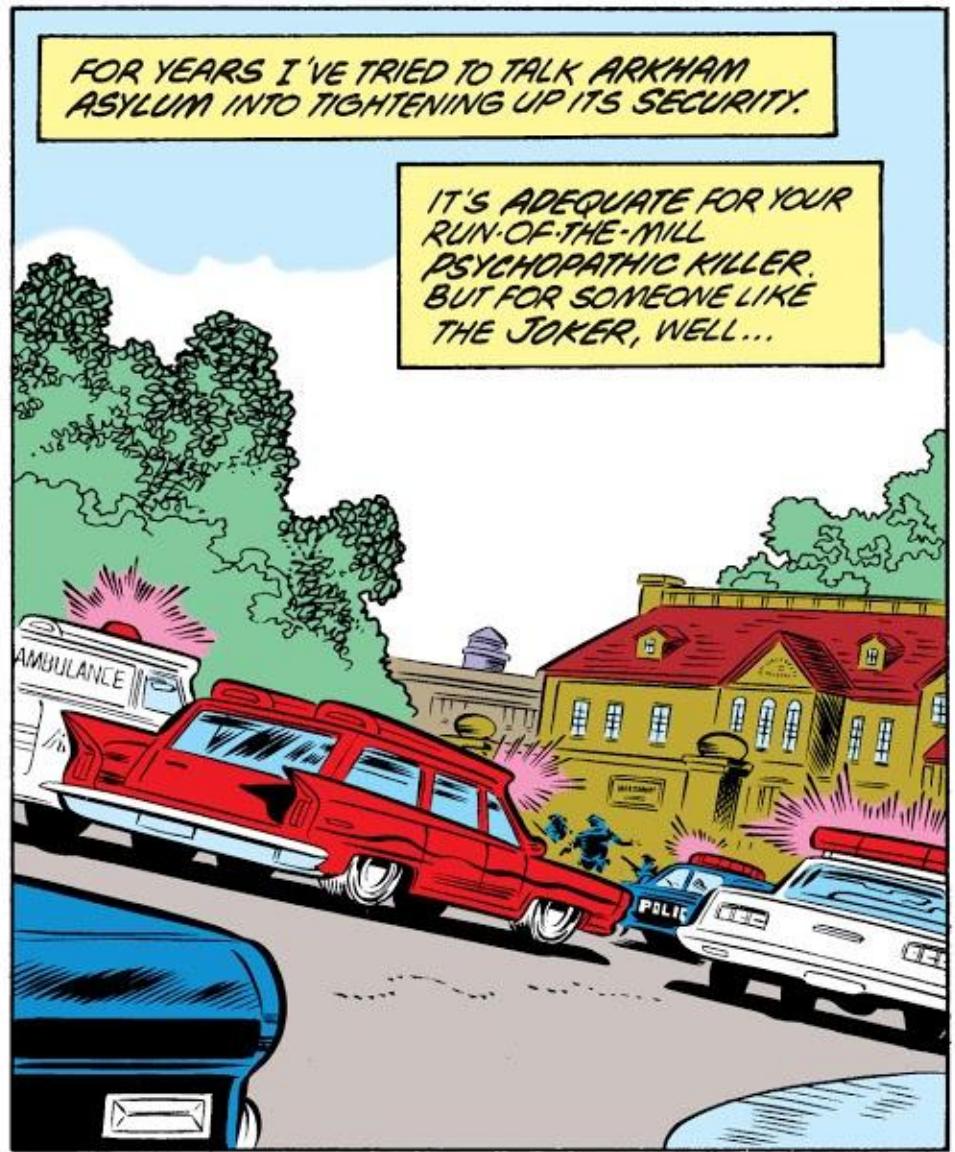
IN OTHER WORDS, I MAY HAVE STARTED JASON AS ROBIN BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HIS PARENTS' DEATHS.

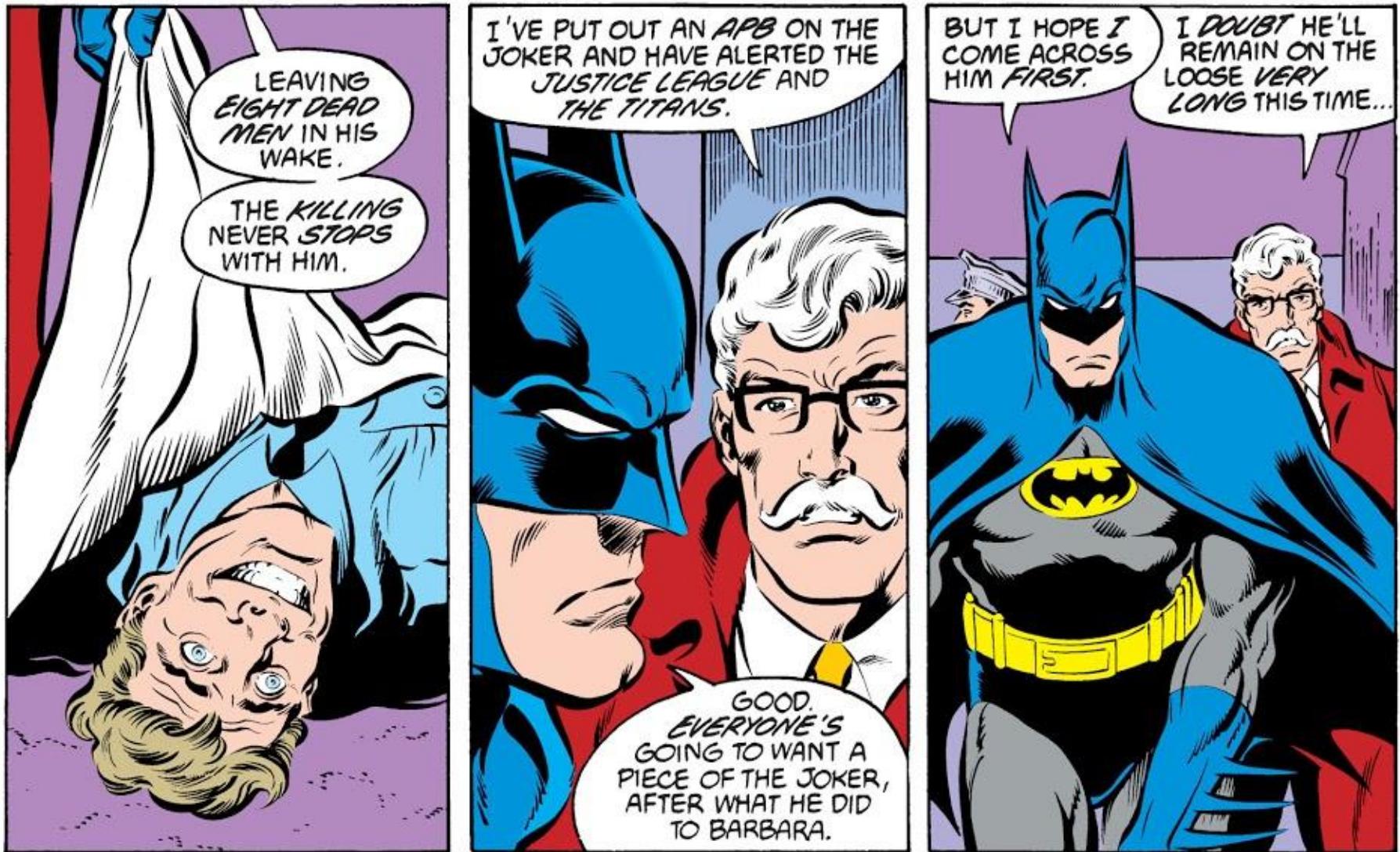
BEING YOUR PARTNER IS NOT EXACTLY THE BEST SITUATION FOR A TEENAGER ADJUSTING TO SUCH A LOSS.

THEN I MUST TRY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

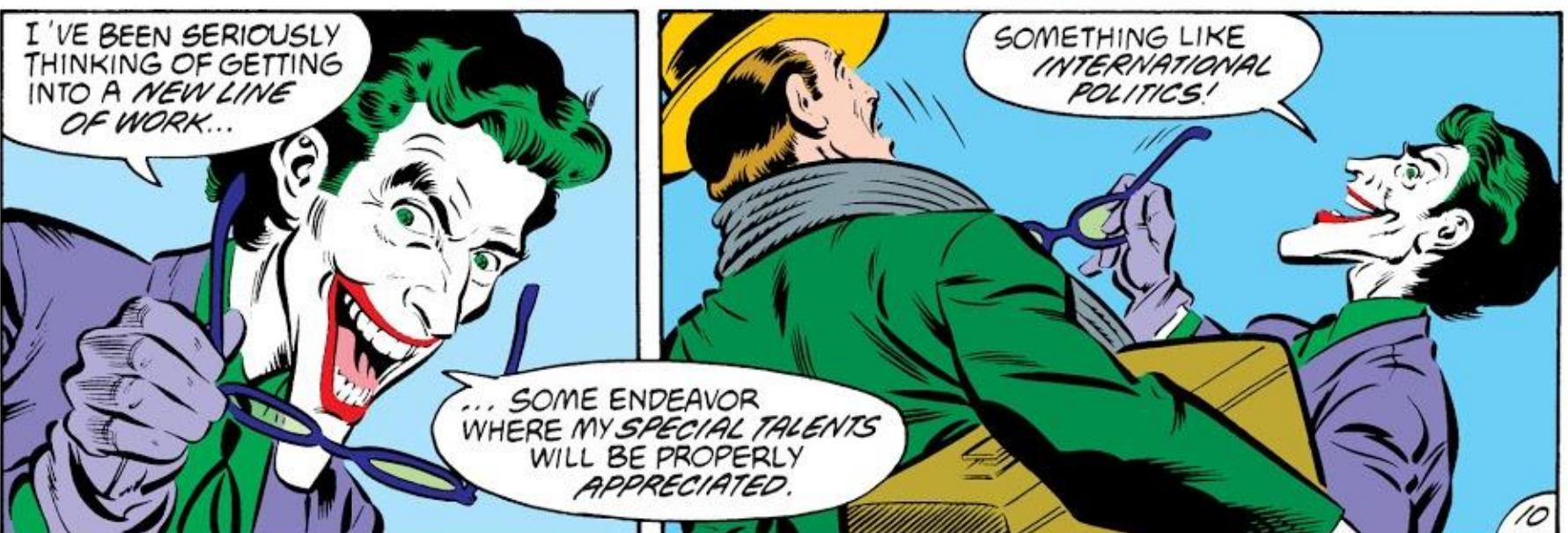
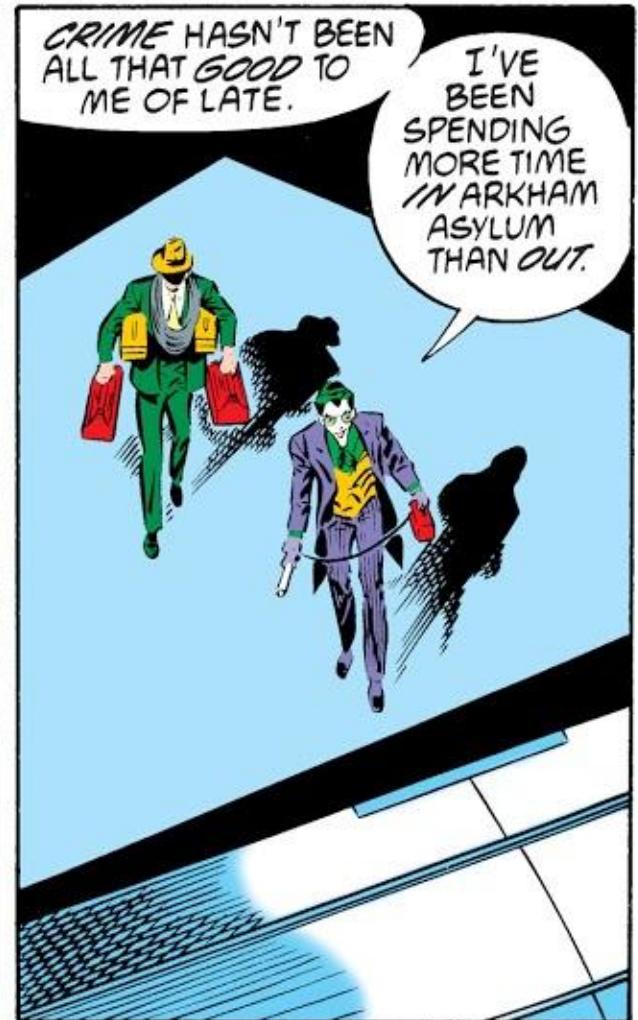
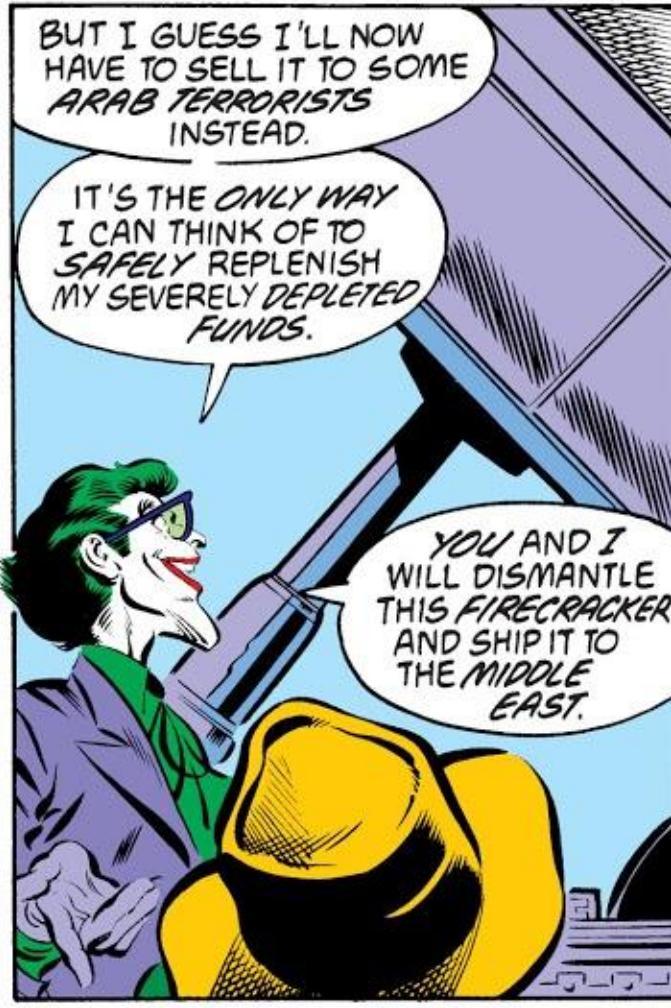
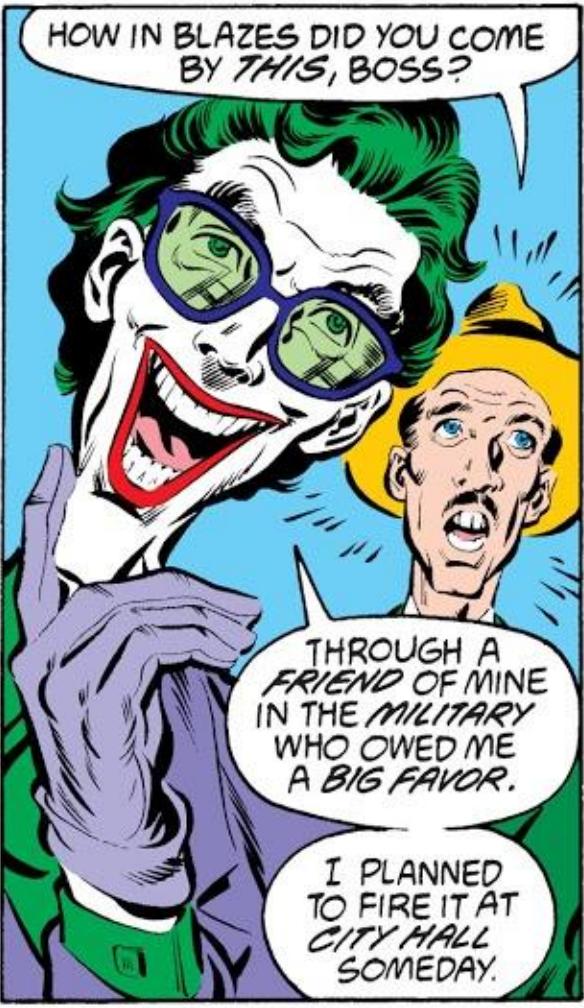
JASON'S GOING OFF ACTIVE DUTY IMMEDIATELY.



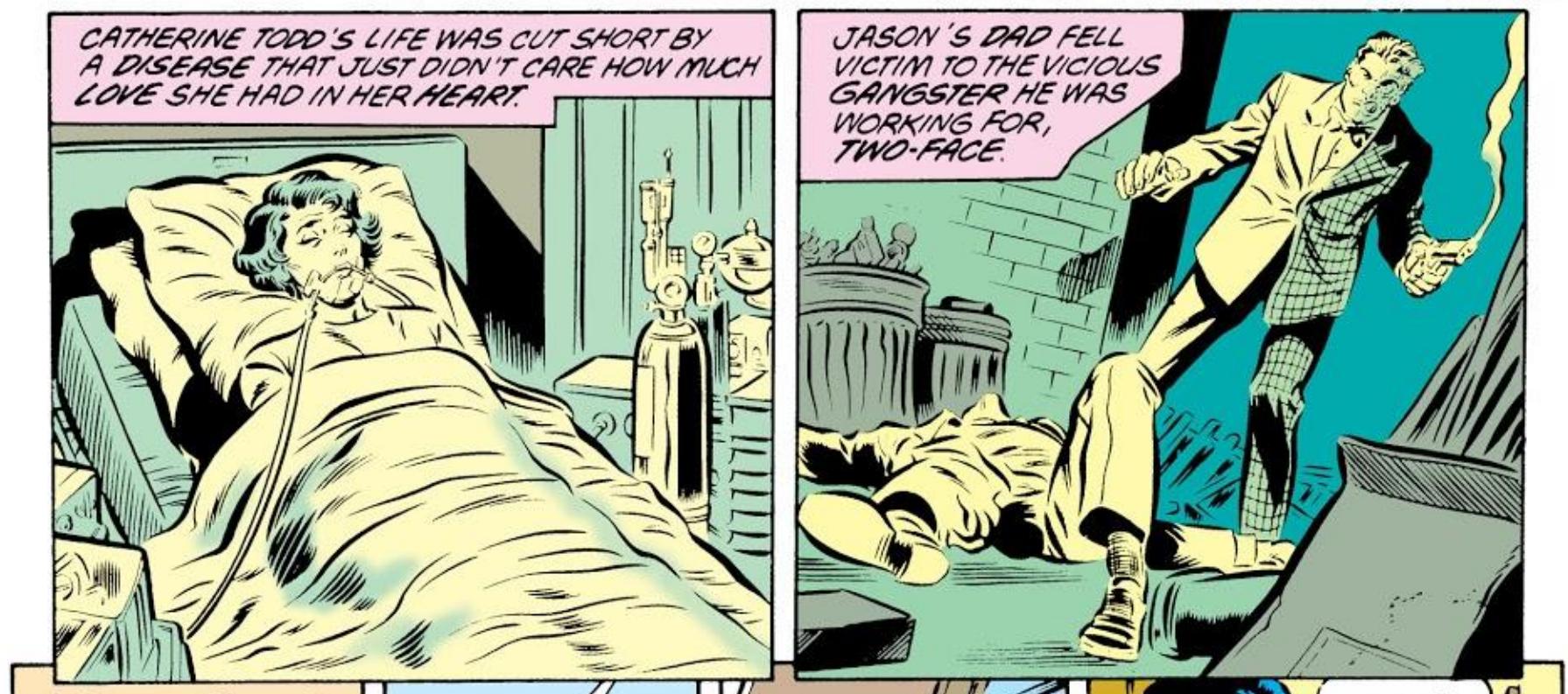
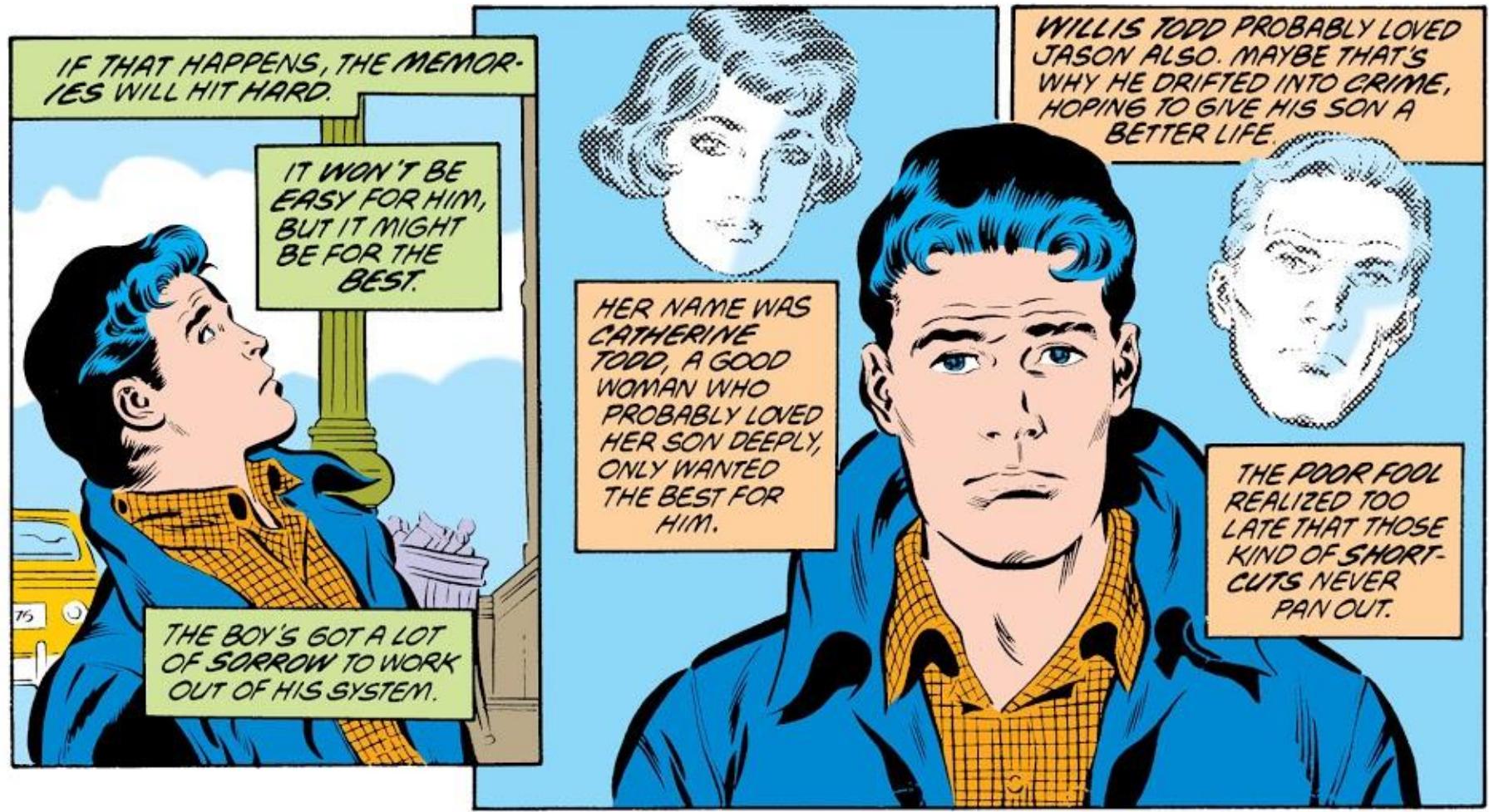














GASPAR TAYLOR IS A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF THE JOKER'S.

"WE'RE IN THE MONEY..." "WE GOT A LOT OF WHAT IT TAKES TO GET ALONG..."

LOOKS LIKE I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME.

THE ADDRESS I HAVE ON FILE FOR HIM IS A TRANSIENTS' HOTEL ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE.

ALMOST FORGOT WHAT FAST REFLEXES GASPAR HAS.

GOING SOMEWHERE, GASPAR?

GUESS I'M LETTING MY WORRIES ABOUT JASON GET IN THE WAY OF MY PERFORMANCE ON THE JOB.

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO GET SLOPPY IN THIS LINE OF WORK. MIGHT END UP DEAD.

THAT REALIZATION CAUSES ME TO OVERCOMPENSATE.

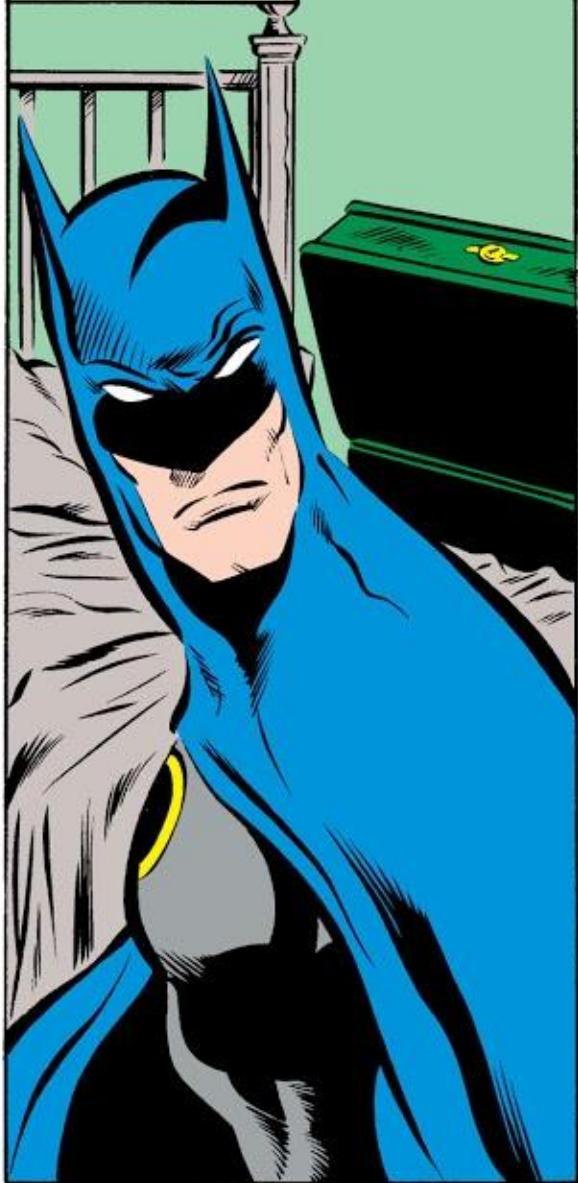
I TAKE GASPAR DOWN TOO HARD.

HE'LL BE OUT FOR HOURS.

I CAME HERE FOR INFORMATION.

I'LL NOT BE GETTING ANY FROM GASPAR.

BUT MAYBE GASPAR'S  
LUGGAGE WILL TELL ME A  
TALE OR TWO.



A PASSPORT AND A  
VISA FOR LEBANON.

INTERESTING.



I SPENT THE NEXT FEW HOURS  
TRYING TO TRACK DOWN MORE  
OF THE JOKER'S FORMER  
HENCHMEN.



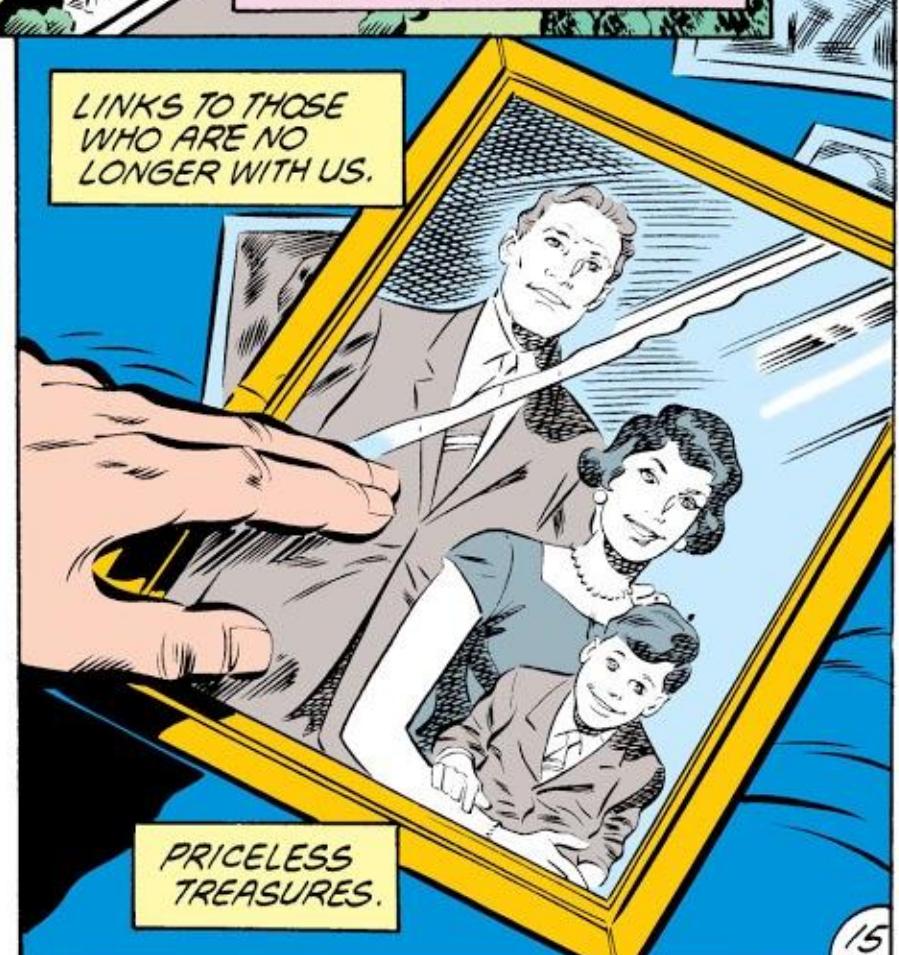
WHEN I PHONE HOME AT  
NIGHTFALL, I LEARN  
THAT JASON HAS FINALLY  
RETURNED.

ALFRED INFORMS ME THAT  
HE WENT DIRECTLY TO HIS  
ROOM, REQUESTING HE  
NOT BE DISTURBED.

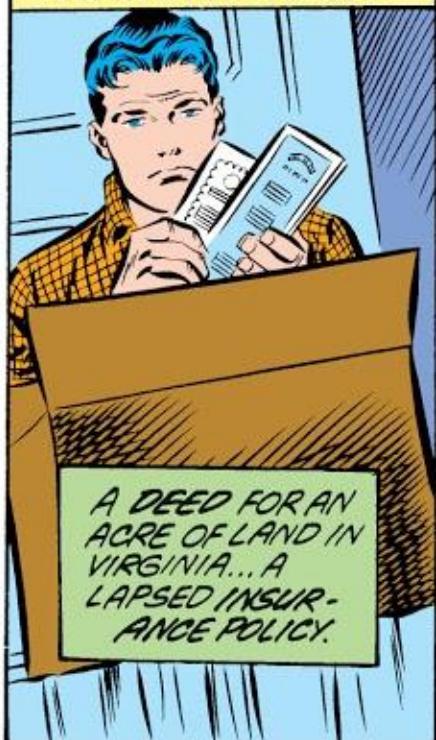


LINKS TO THOSE  
WHO ARE NO  
LONGER WITH US.

PRICELESS TREASURES.



THE BOX ALSO CONTAINS  
SOME OF HIS PARENTS'  
PERSONAL PAPERS.



SOME OF THE PAPERS  
ARE HIS OWN.



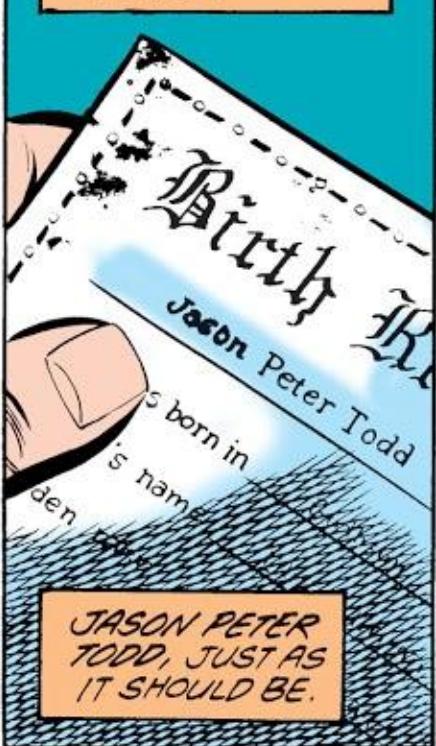
HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE,  
WHICH CONTAINS...



...A GUT-WRENCHING  
SURPRISE!



THERE'S HIS OWN  
NAME ON IT.



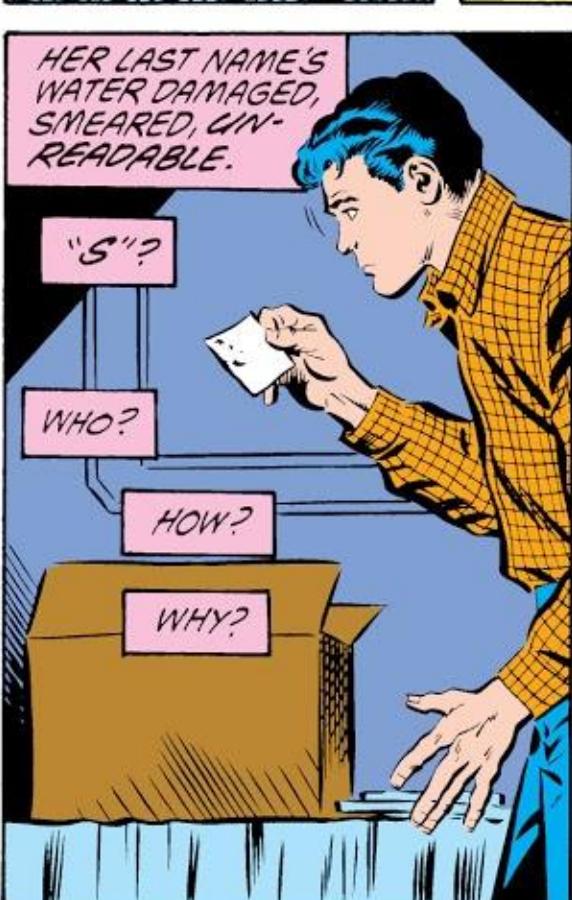
THERE'S HIS FATHER'S  
NAME, ALL CORRECT  
AND PROPER.



THE TROUBLE LIES  
WITH HIS MOTHER'S  
NAME.

JASON'S MOTHER'S  
NAME WAS CATHERINE,  
NOT "S" SOMETHING!

HER LAST NAME'S  
WATER DAMAGED,  
SMEARED, UN-  
READABLE.



IT MUST TAKE HIM SOME TIME  
BEFORE HE ACCEPTS THE TRUTH.

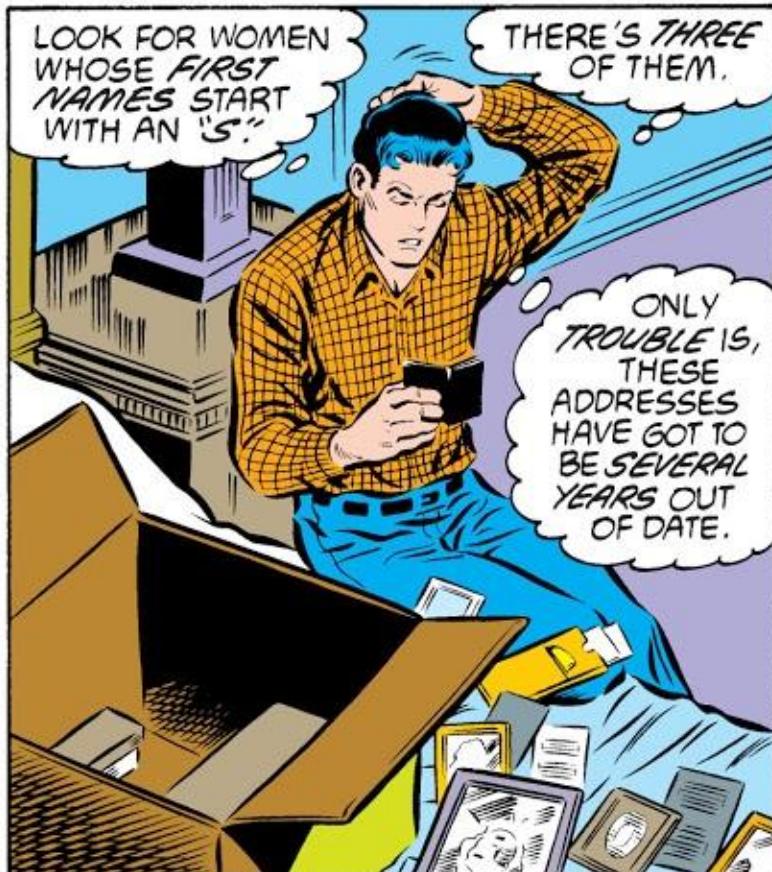


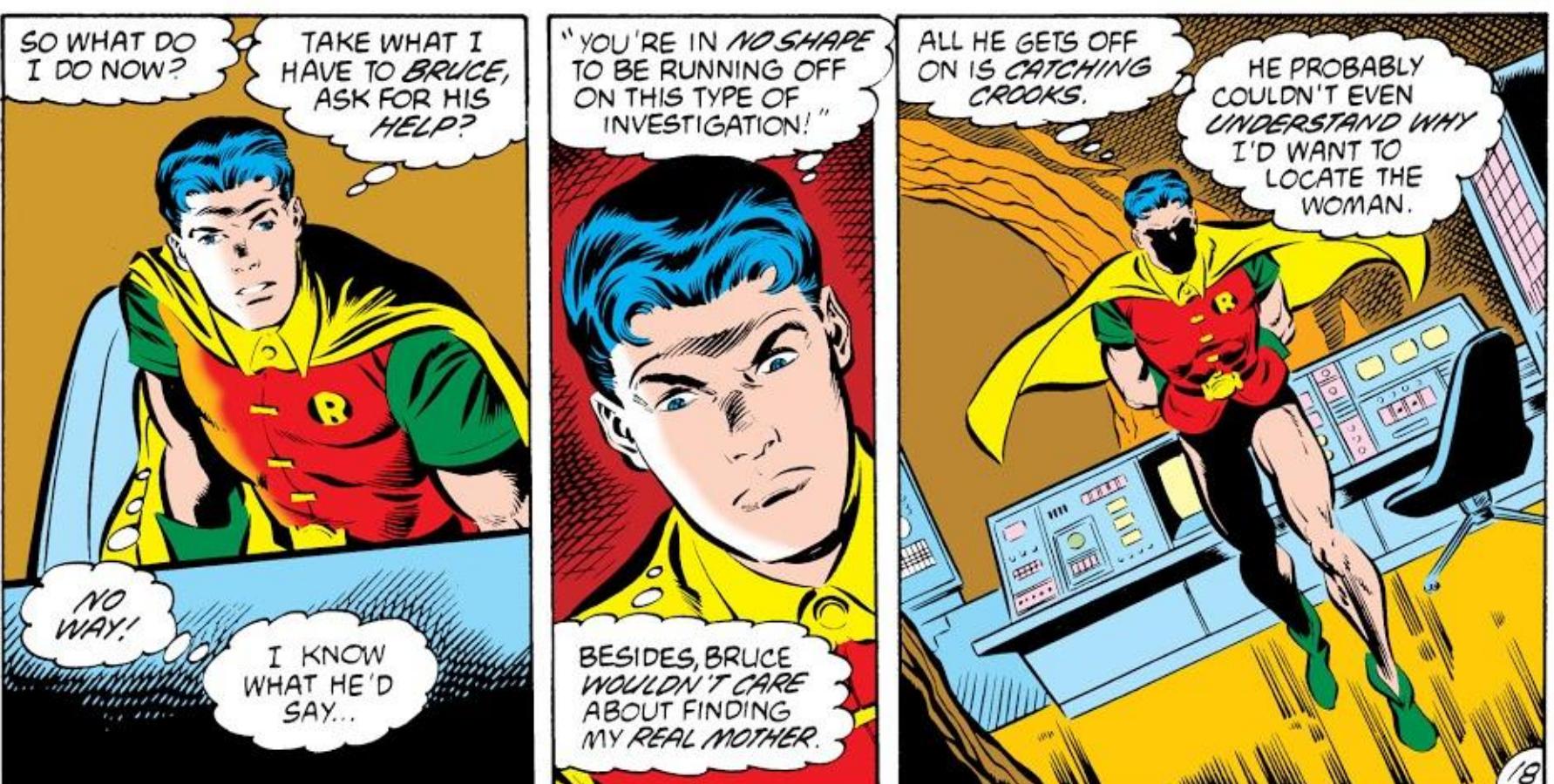
...CATHERINE TODD WASN'T  
HIS REAL MOTHER!

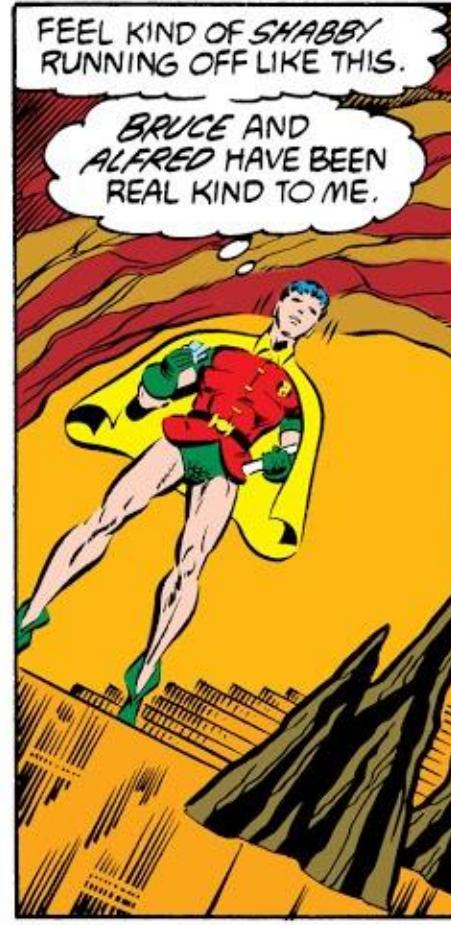


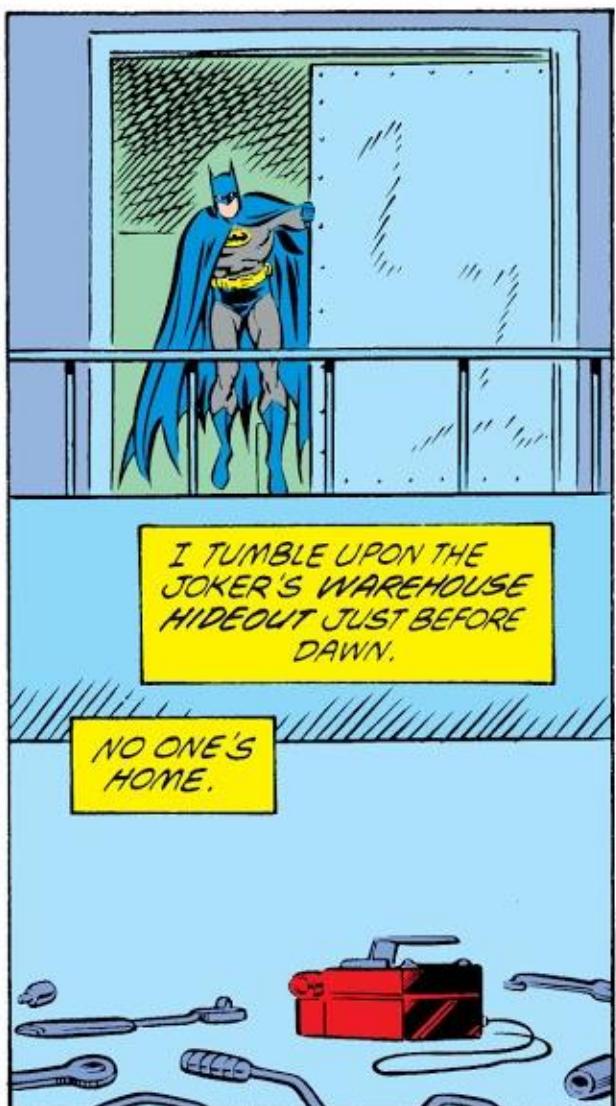
AS IMPOSSIBLE  
AS IT SEEMS, HE  
FINALLY GRASPS  
THE REALIZATION  
THAT...

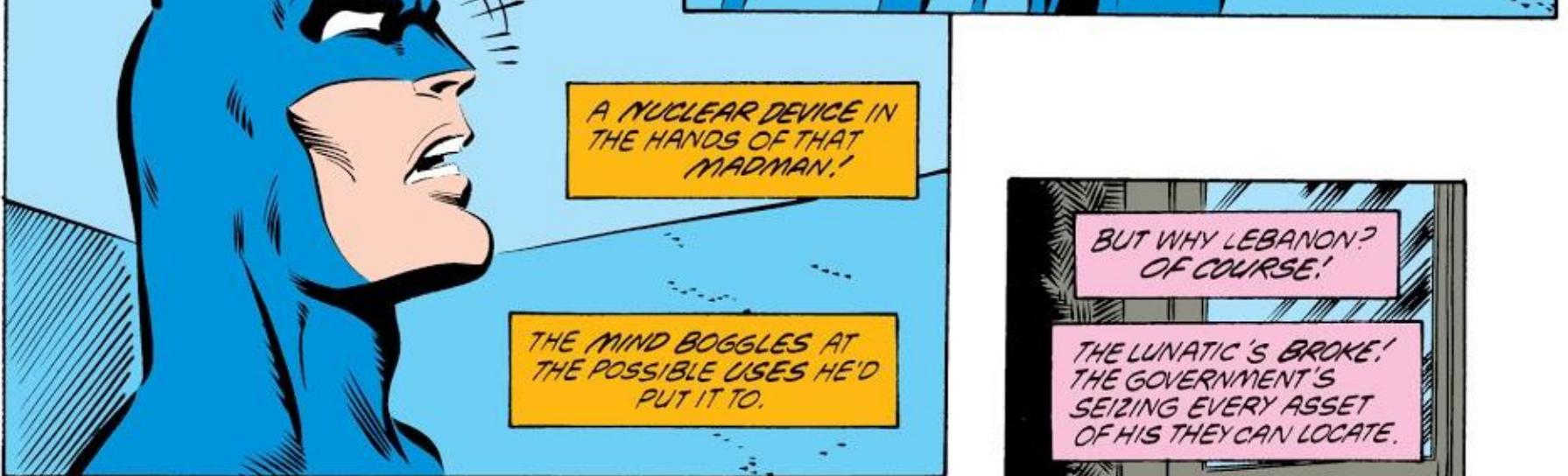
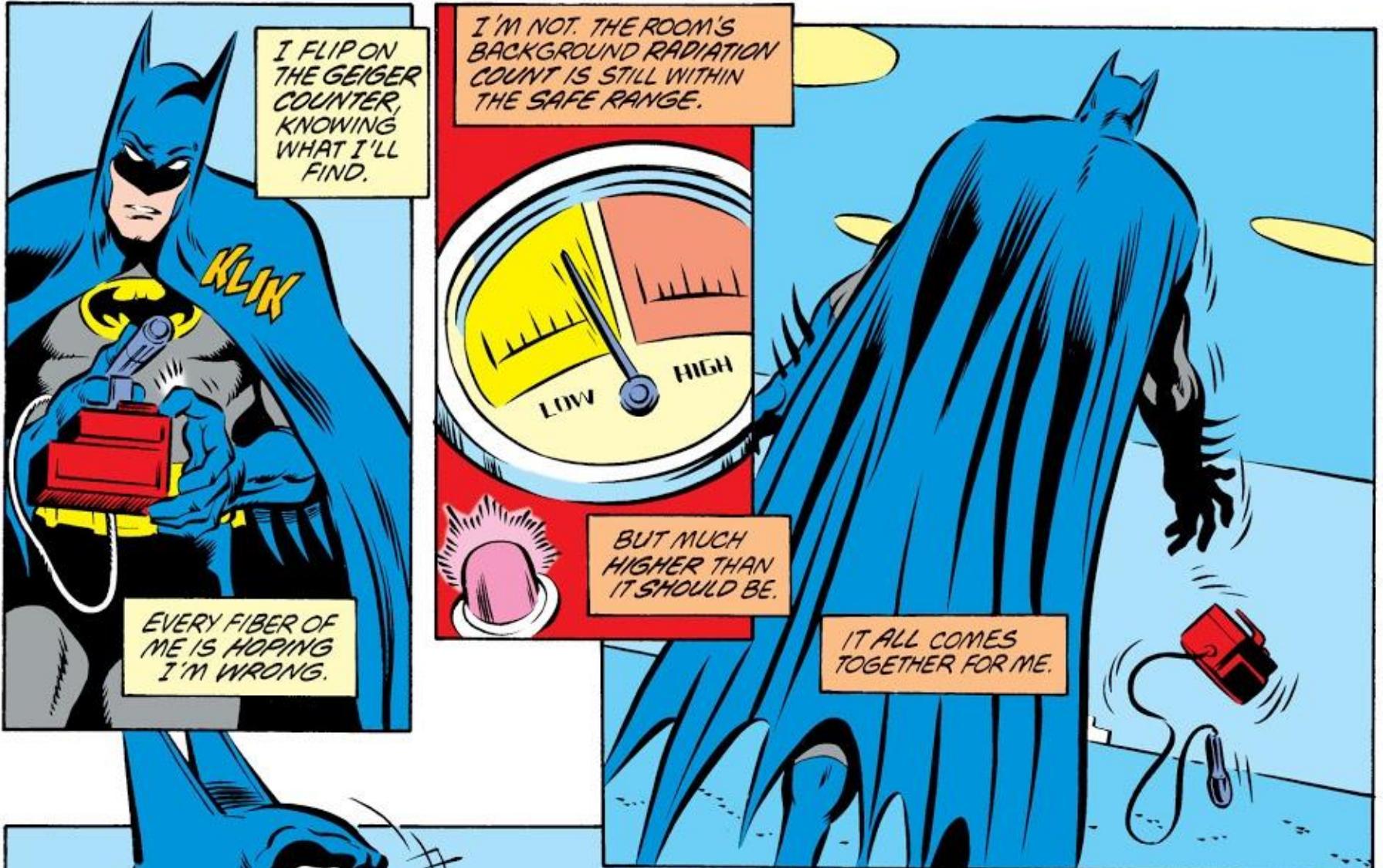
BUT THEN WHO WAS?

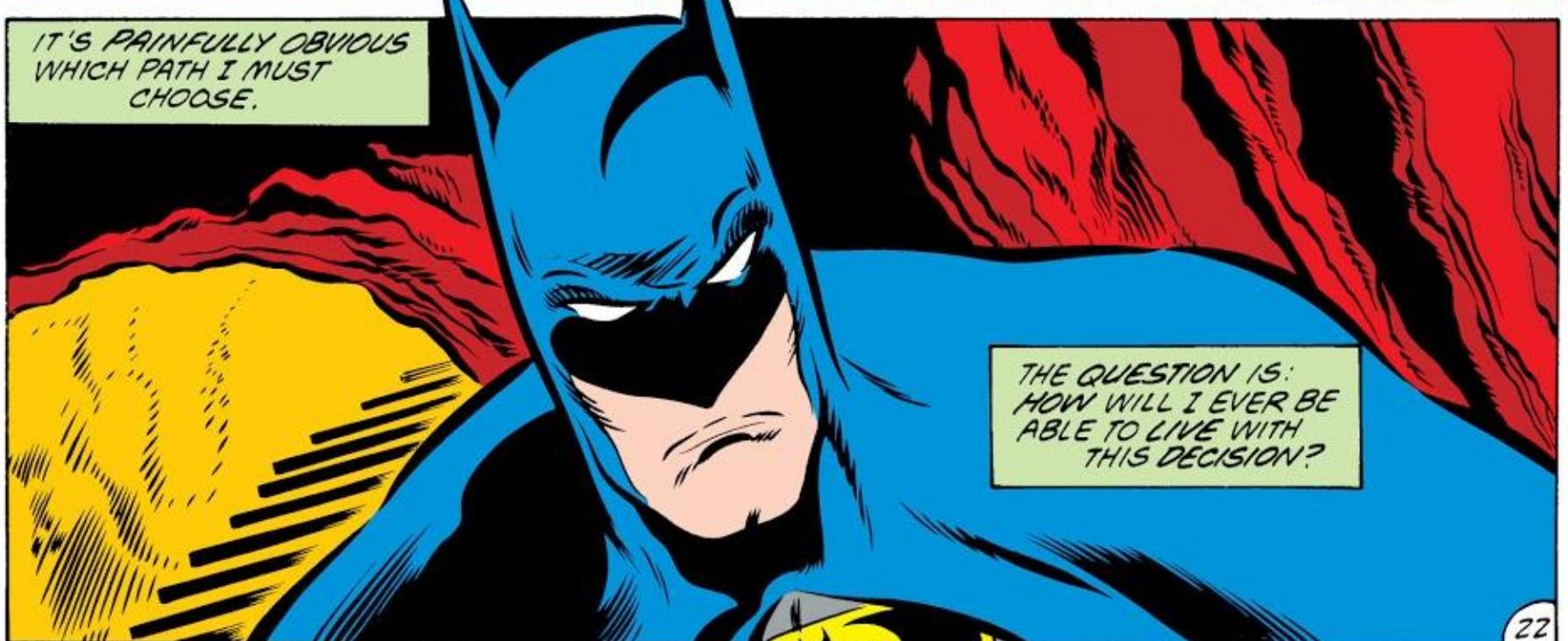












## Chapter 2

THE NORTH WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF LEBANON.

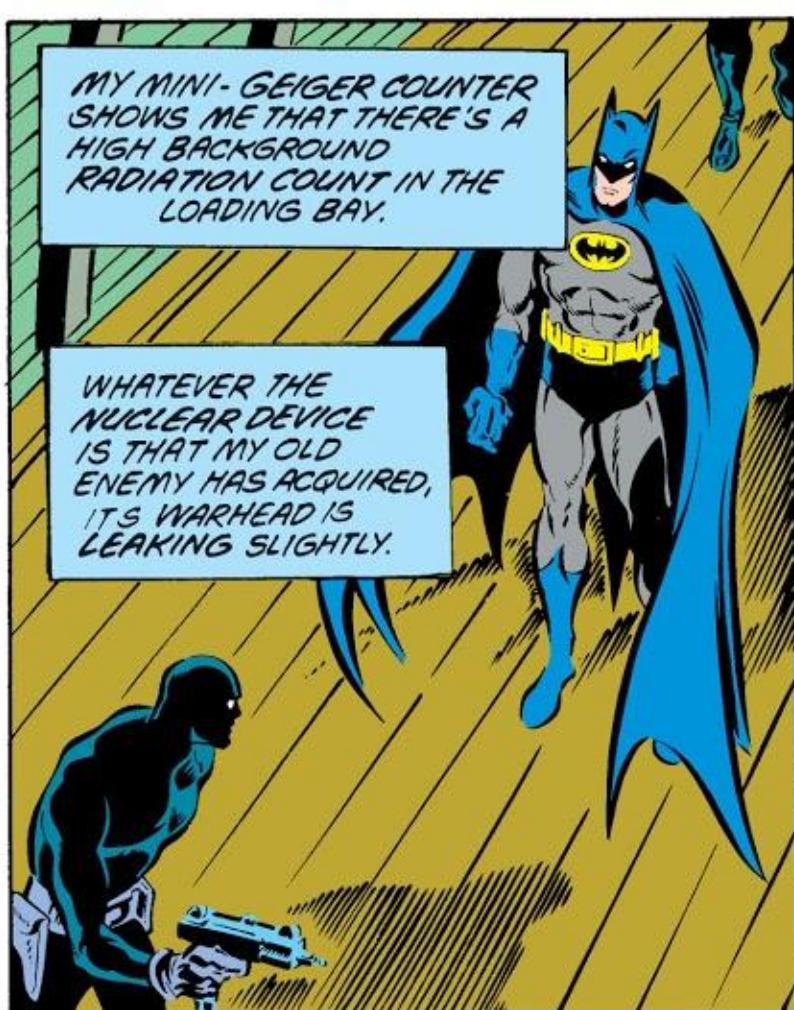
BEFORE COMING HERE, I CHECKED IN WITH RALPH BUNDY, A FRIEND OF MINE AT THE C.I.A.

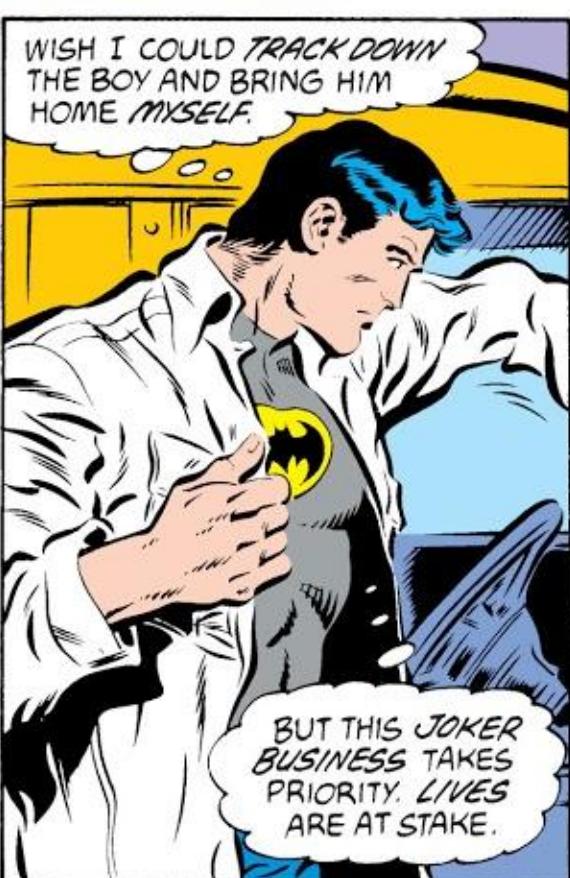
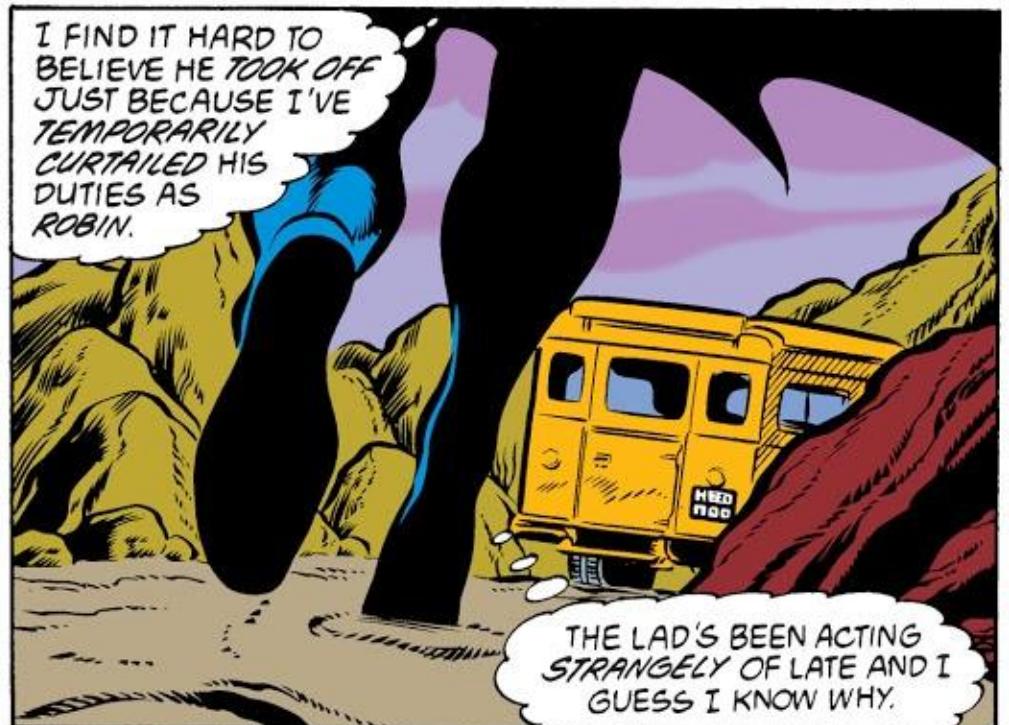
THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE HIJACKED C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE.

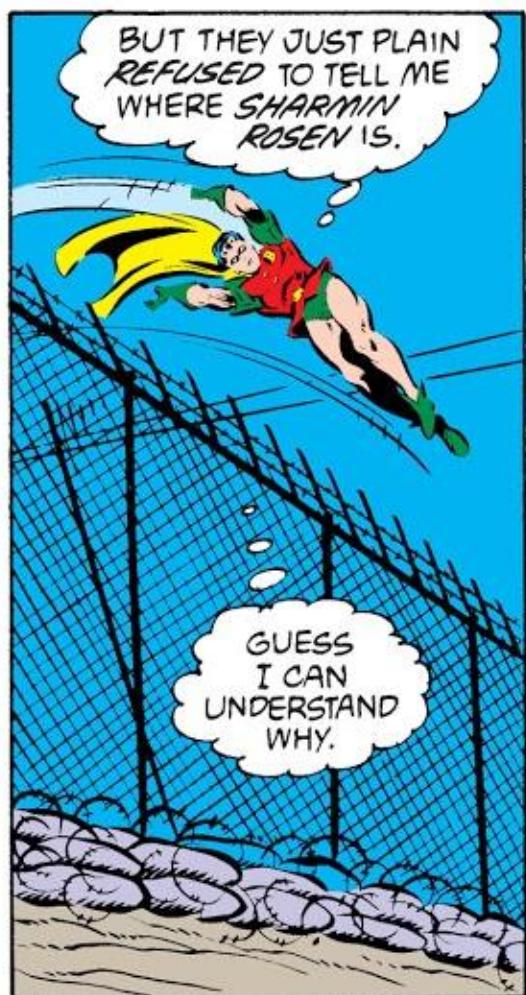
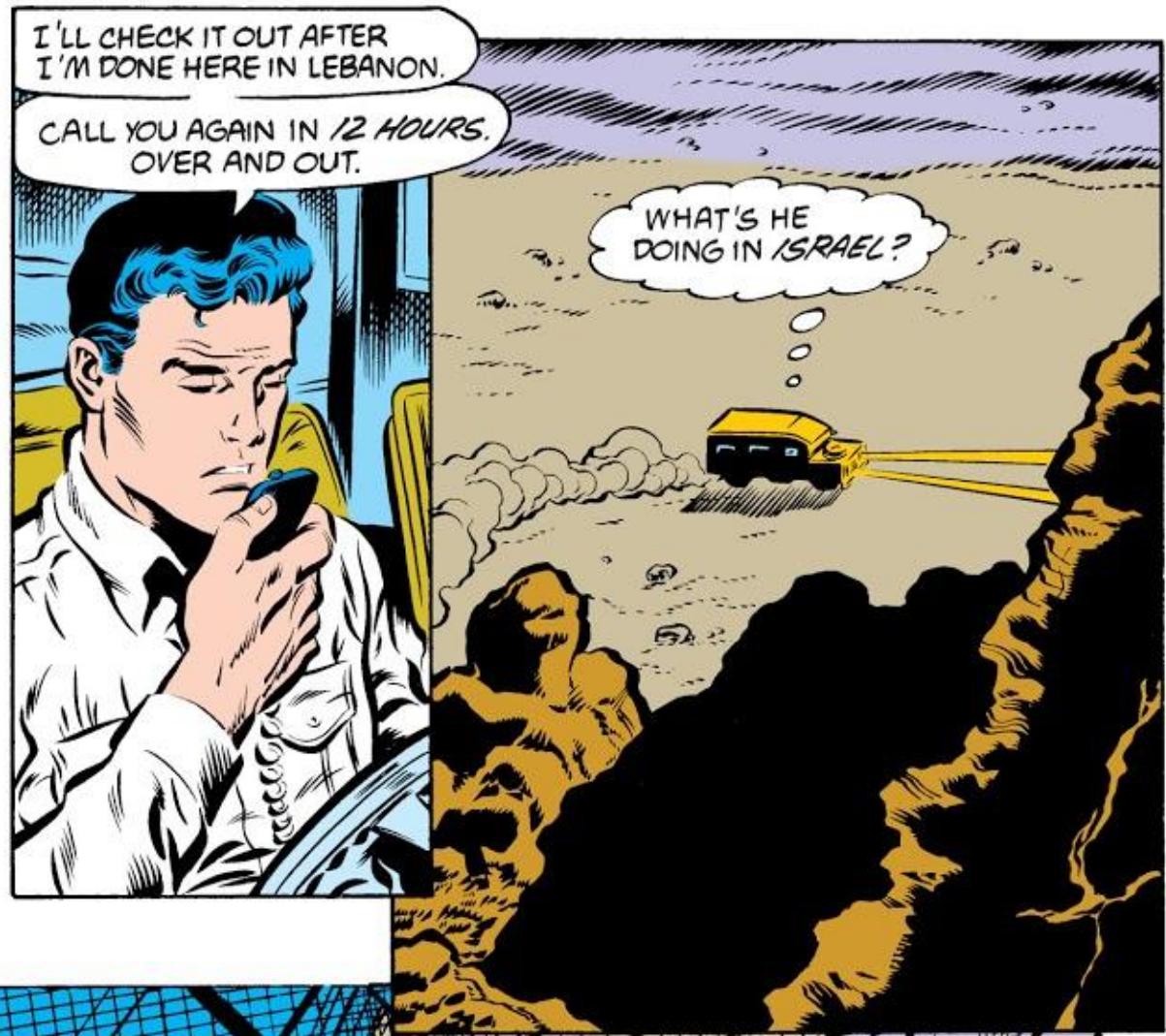
THE PLANE HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF A SHIITE EXTREMIST GROUP, WHO REFUSES TO GIVE IT BACK TO UNCLE SAM.

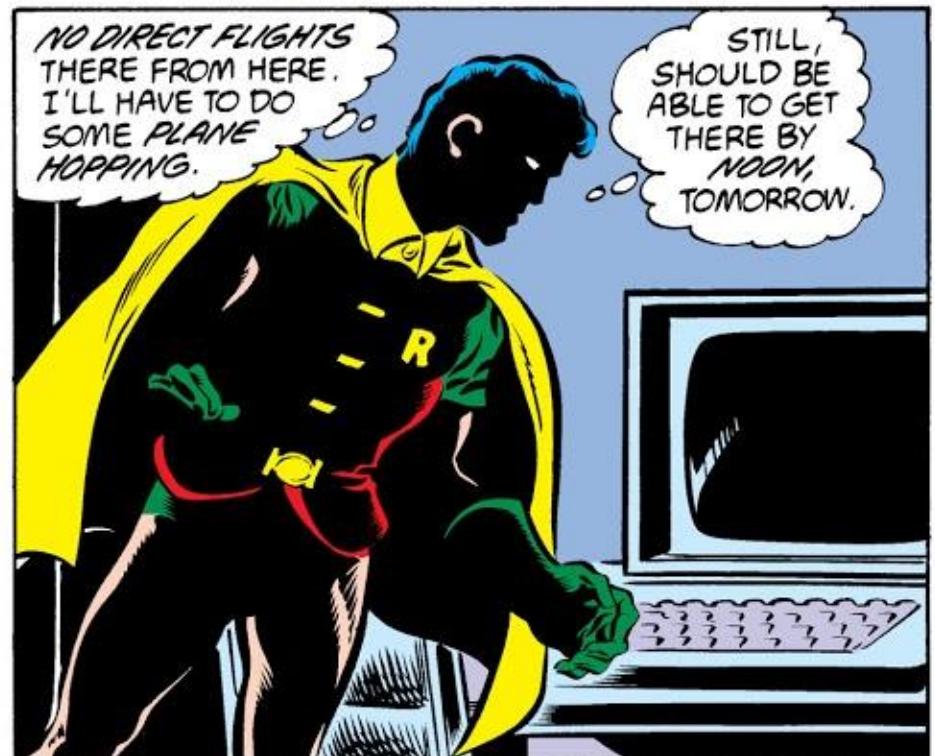
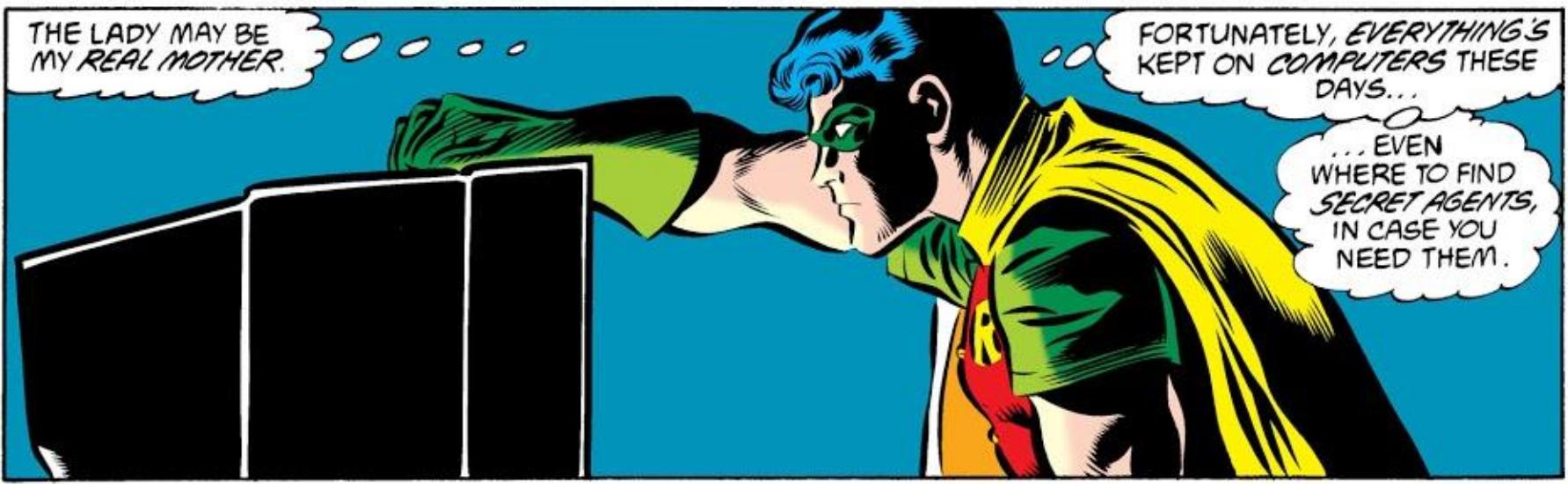
SO I MADE A DEAL WITH BUNDY.

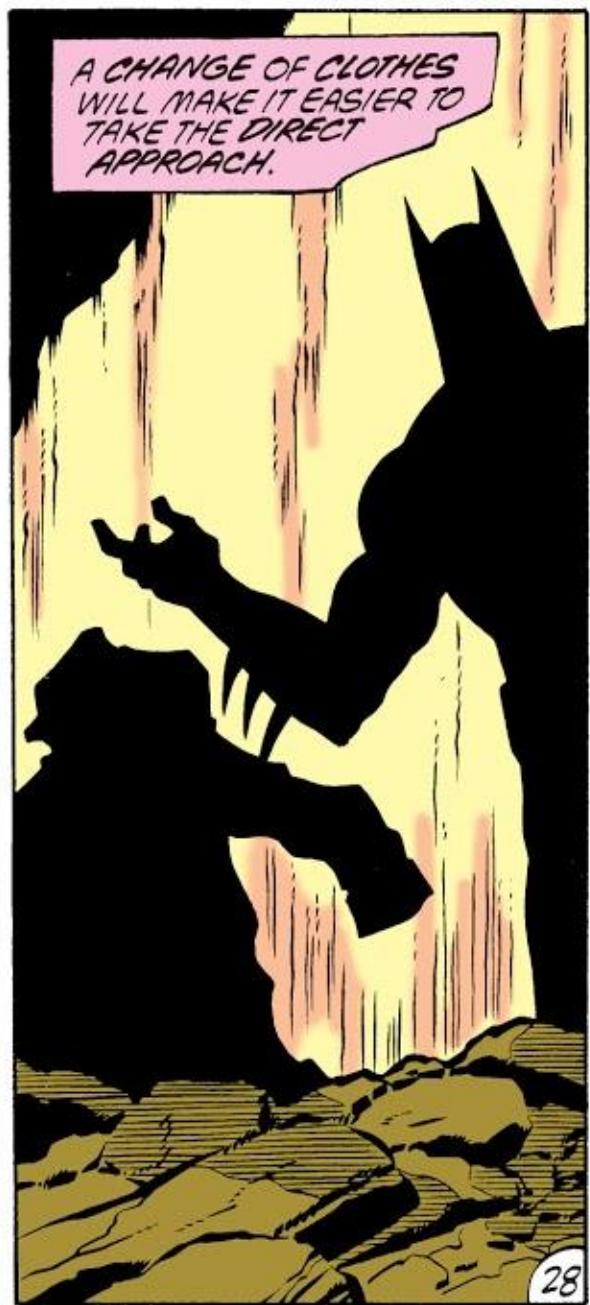
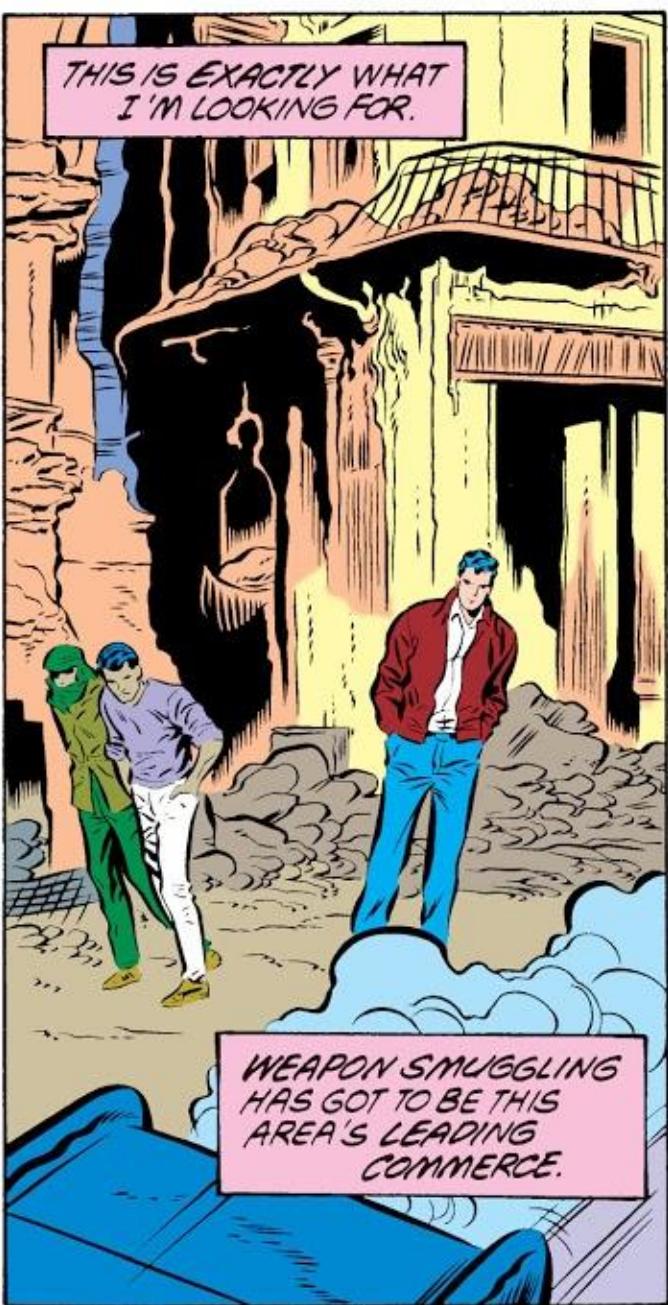
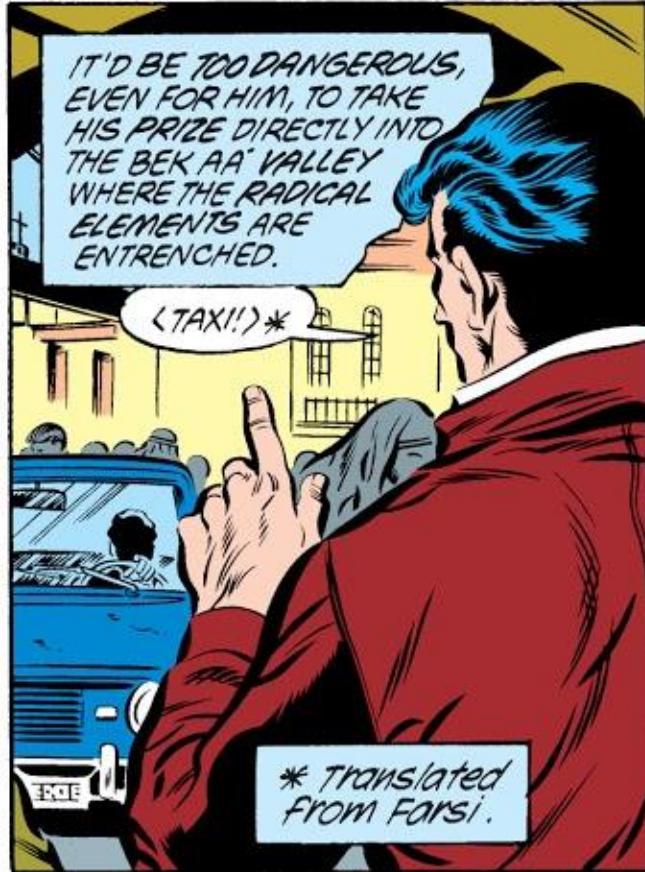
I'D FIX IT SO HIS NAVAL COMMANDOS COULD FLY IT OUT OF HERE...











SELLING BLACK MARKET MEDICAL SUPPLIES. JUST THE KIND OF GUY I'M LOOKING FOR.

I CAN TELL BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.

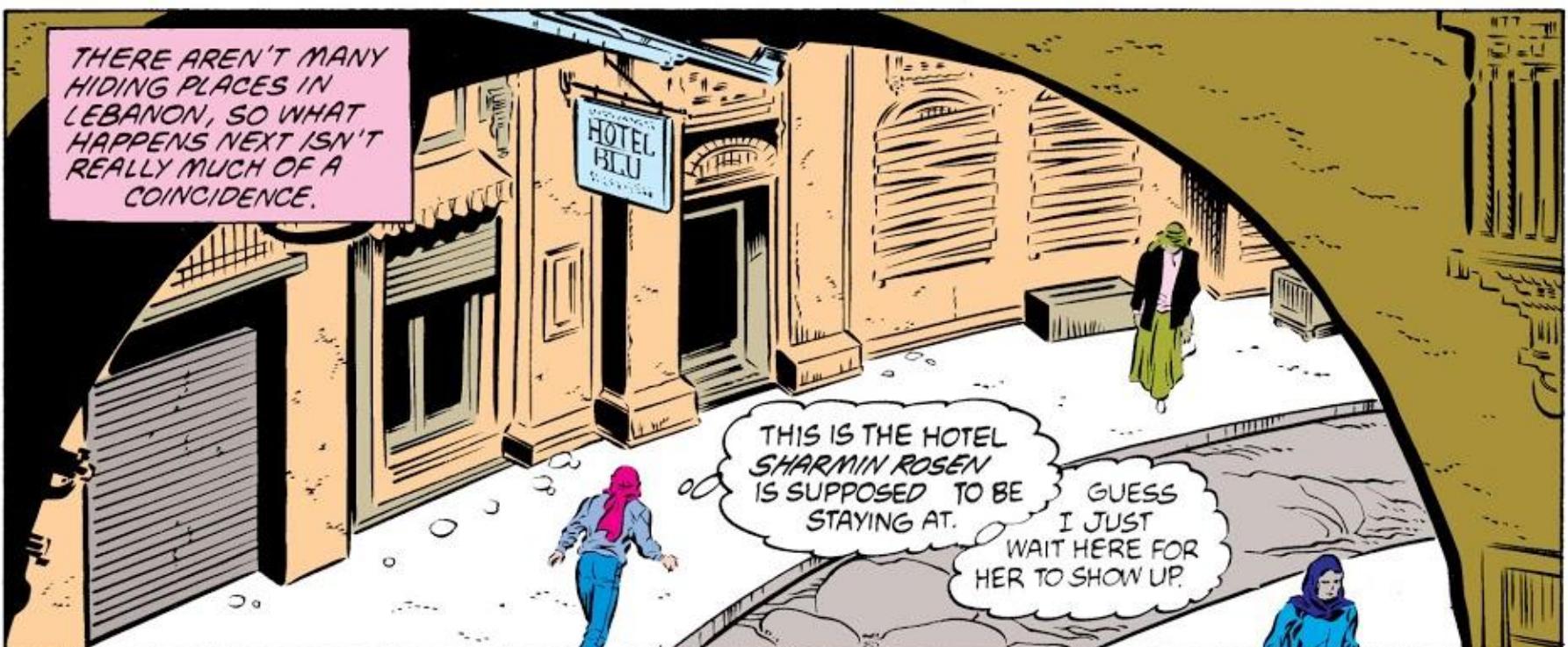
UNLIKE GOTHAM'S HOODS, THESE GUNSEL DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE BATMAN.

IT'S A CASE OF UNFAMILIARITY BREEDING FEAR.

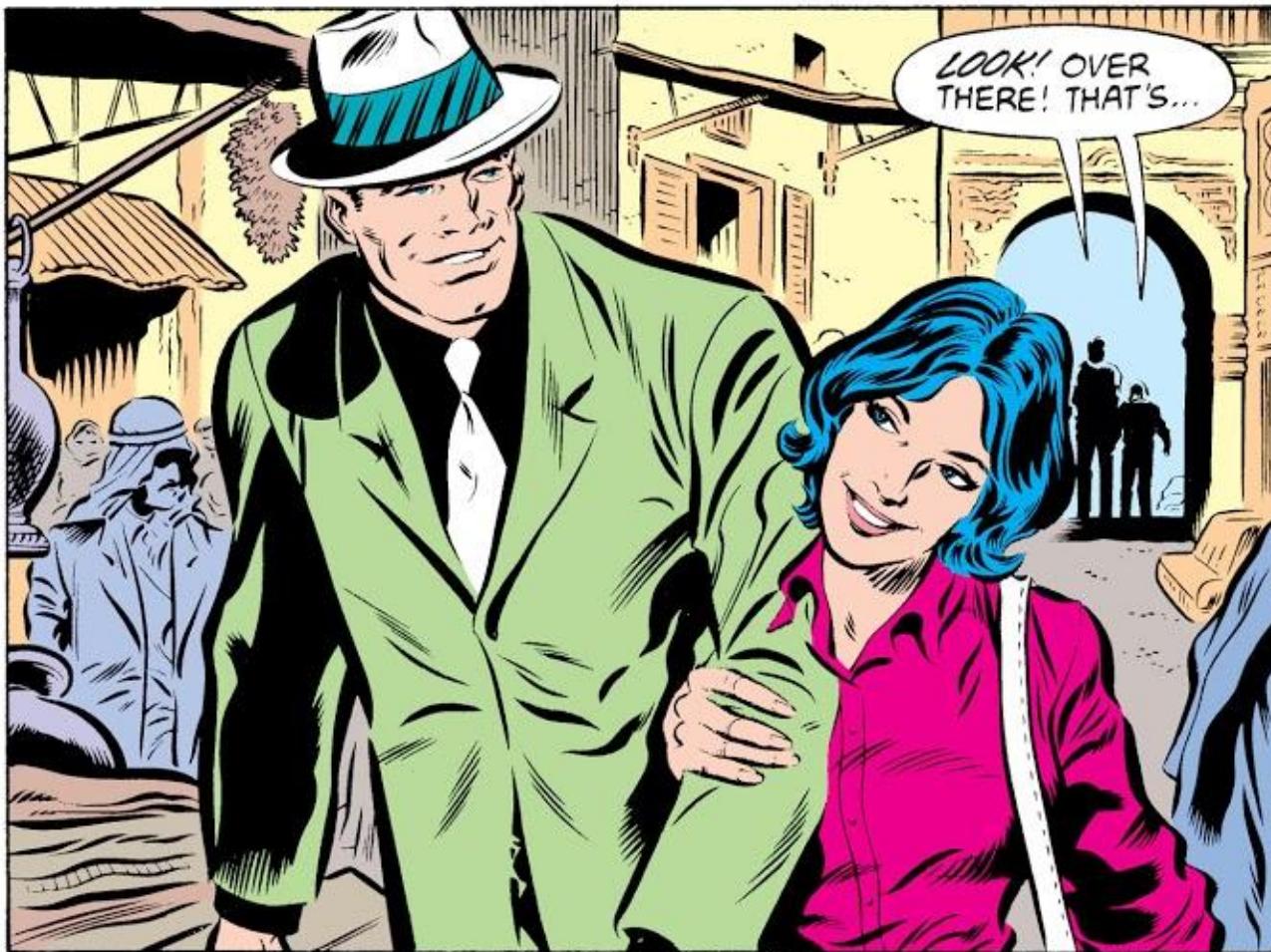
THE GUY CAN'T WAIT TO TELL ME EVERYTHING HE KNOWS.

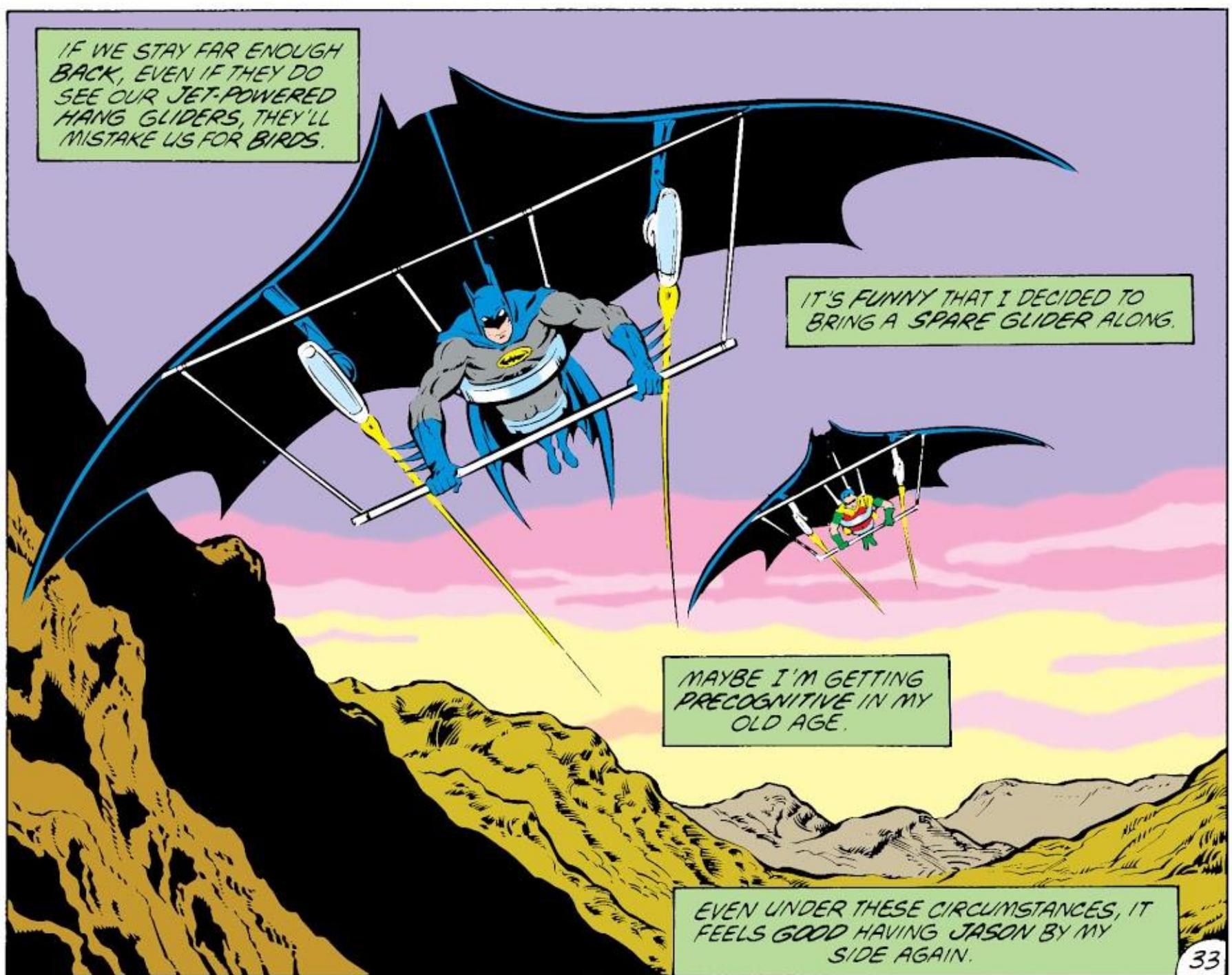
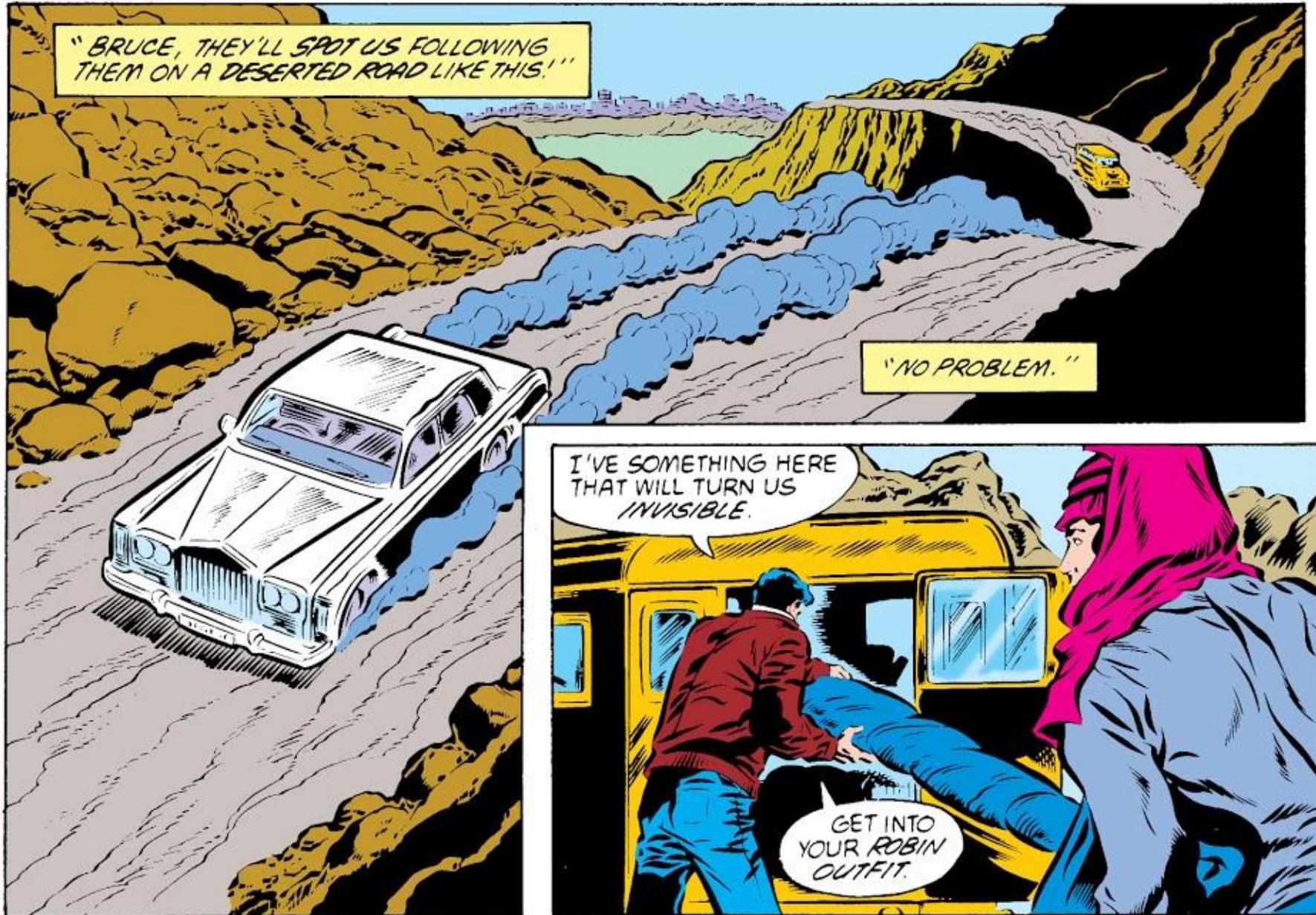
WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, ISN'T MUCH. THE NEXT THREE CHARACTERS I TALK TO AREN'T ANY HELP EITHER.

I FINALLY HIT PAY DIRT WITH NUMBER FIVE.









WE SHADOW THEM INTO THE NIGHT,  
AS THEY CONTINUE HEADING SOUTH.

THEY FINALLY STOP AT A CAMP  
NEAR THE ISRAELI BORDER.

WE'LL SNEAK  
UP TO THE CAMP  
BY FOOT FROM  
HERE.

MANAGEABLE.  
WHO'S THE  
BROAD?

NAME'S  
SHARMIN. SHE'S  
FROM JERSEY.  
SHE'S OKAY.

GUESS IF YOU VOUCH  
FOR HER, IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.

YOU GET THE MONEY  
FROM THESE BANDITS-  
IN-BEDSHEETS' PALS?

RIGHT IN THIS CASE,  
ONE MILLION DOLLARS!

THEN AS MONTY  
SAYS, "IT'S TIME  
FOR US TO MAKE  
A DEAL."









