



by DOUG MOENCH

and PAUL GULACY

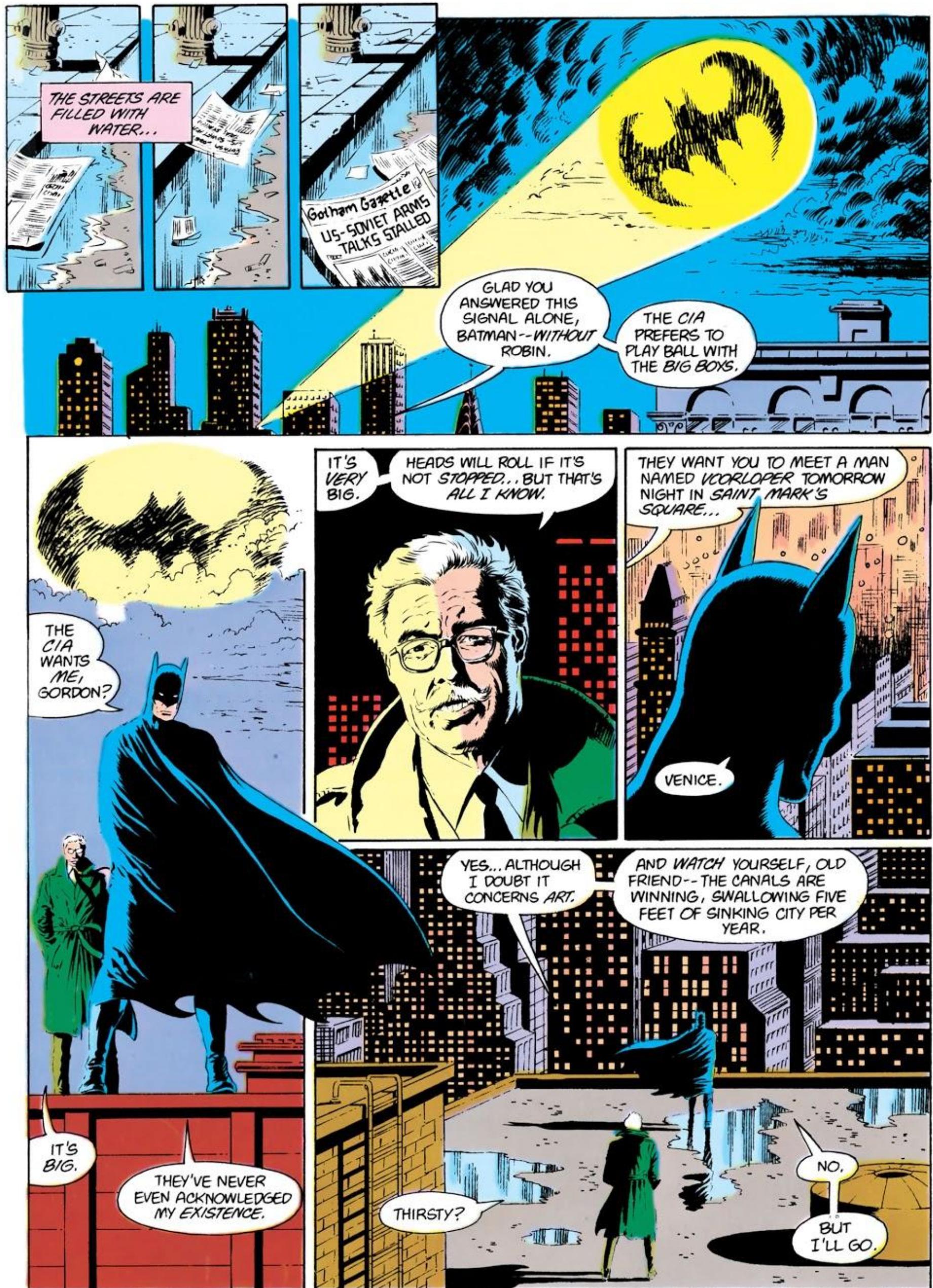
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BY THE
COMICS
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BATMAN



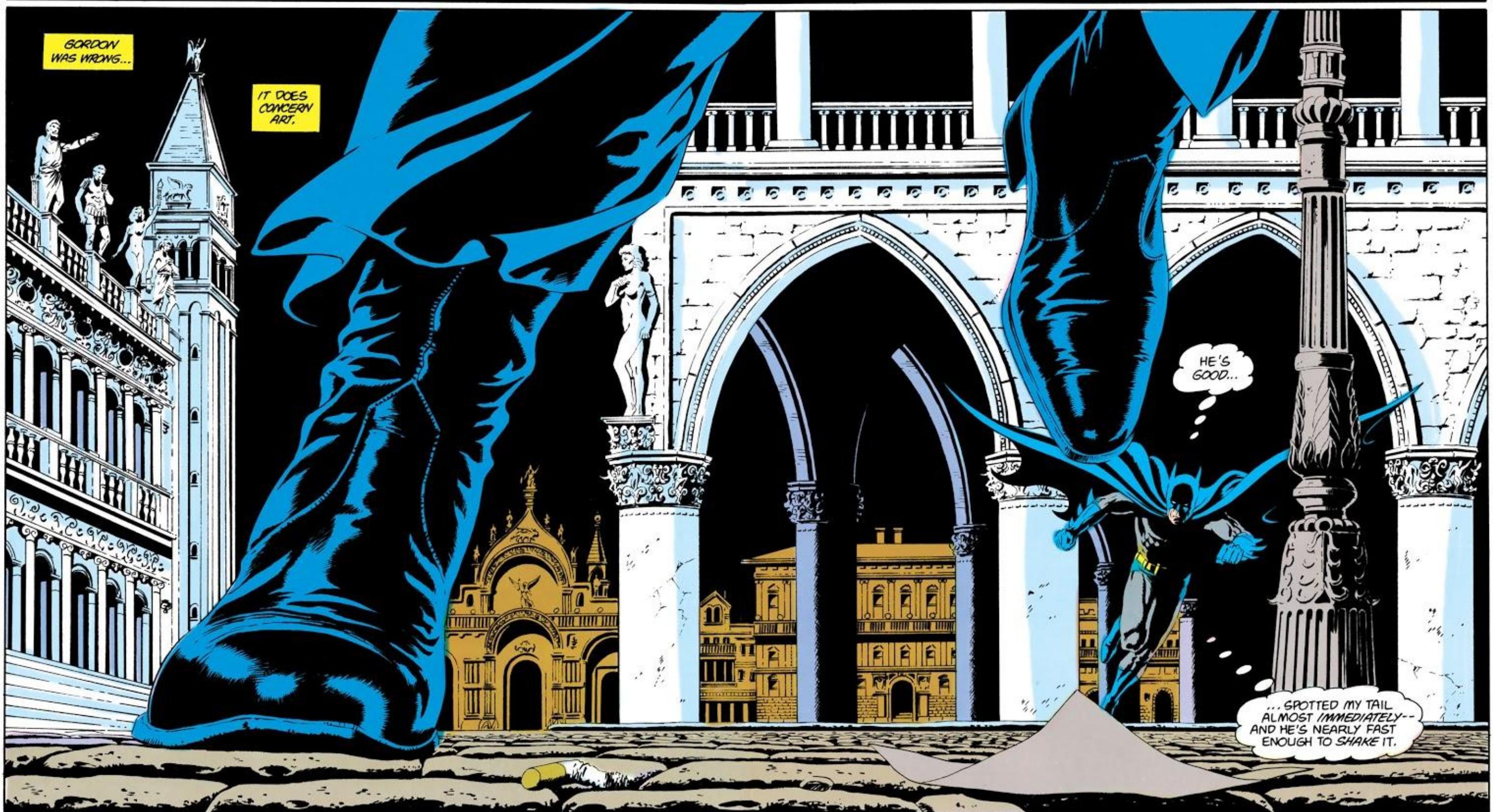
Gulacy

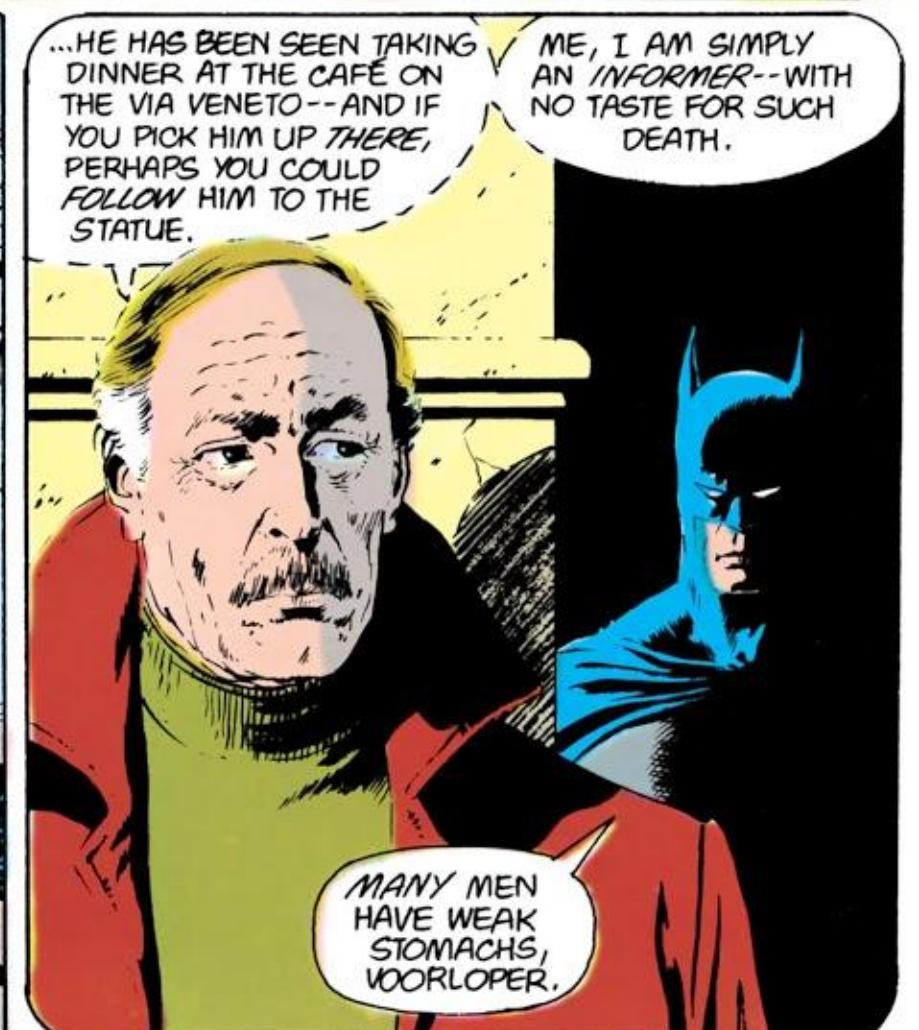


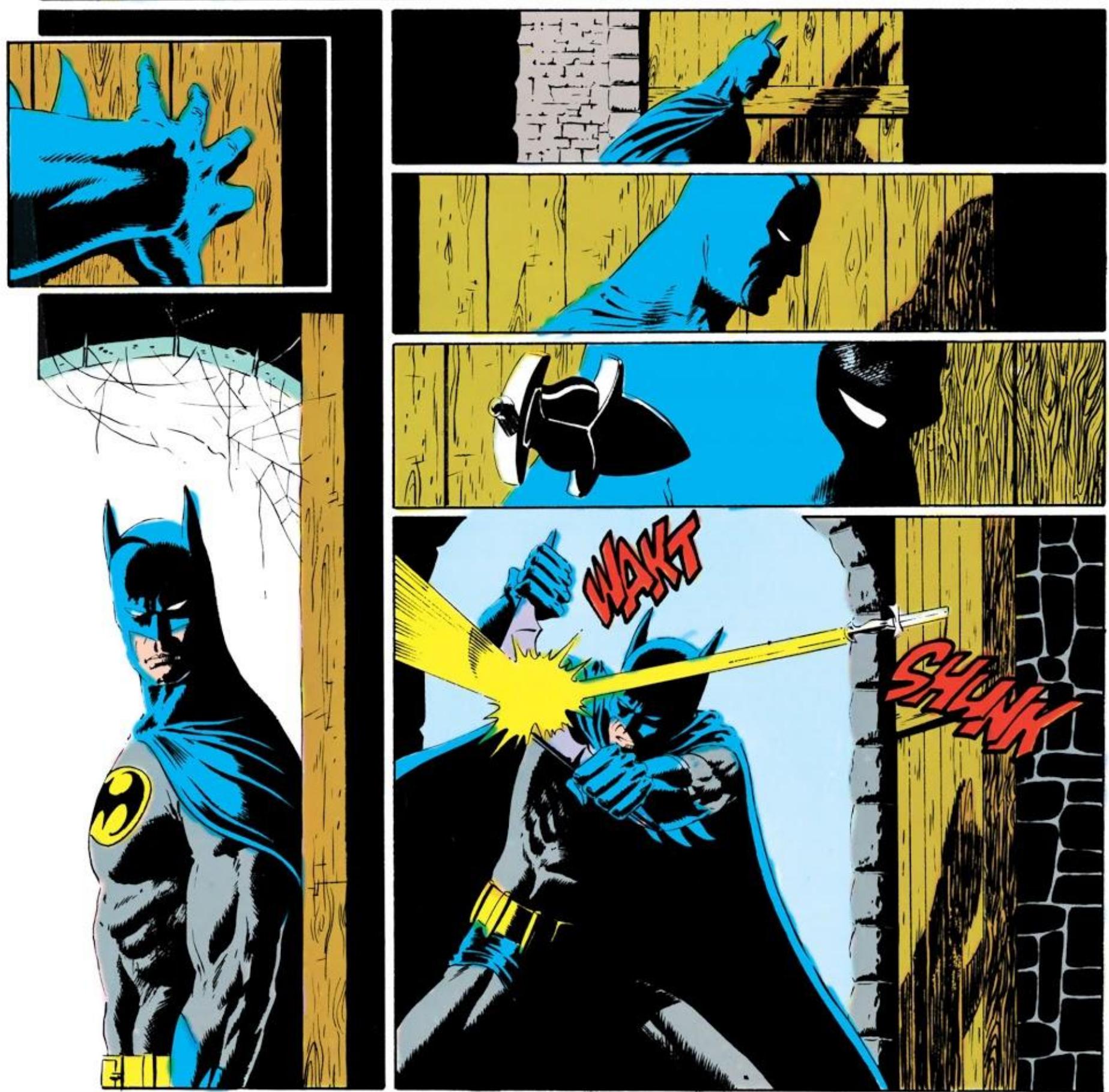


BAT-MAN THE DARK RIDER

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WRITER GUEST ARTIST
John Costanza · Adrienne Roy · Len Wein
LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR











A VERY CUTE AND
VERY MERRY
CHASE... LED BY
SOMEONE WHO
DOES HAVE A TASTE
FOR SUCH DEATH...
AND RUSSIAN BAYONETS.

BONN, WEST GERMANY: THREE DAYS LATER...

TONIGHT?
YOU'RE SURE,
GORDON?

SO I'M TOLD BY THE
BIG BOYS FROM LANGLEY,
VIRGINIA--TO BE STAGED
IN AN ABANDONED COAL
MINE SEVEN KILOMETERS
SOUTH OF THE CITY,
BETWEEN--

I'LL
FIND
IT.



SOLD FOR
TWENTY
THOUSAND.

NOW, BEFORE WE COME
TO THE WORKS BY
FABRÉGÉ--

--THE NEXT ITEM FOR
AUCTION IS ONE OF THE
CORNERSTONES OF THIS
COLLECTION OF PRE-
REVOLUTIONARY
RUSSIAN ART.

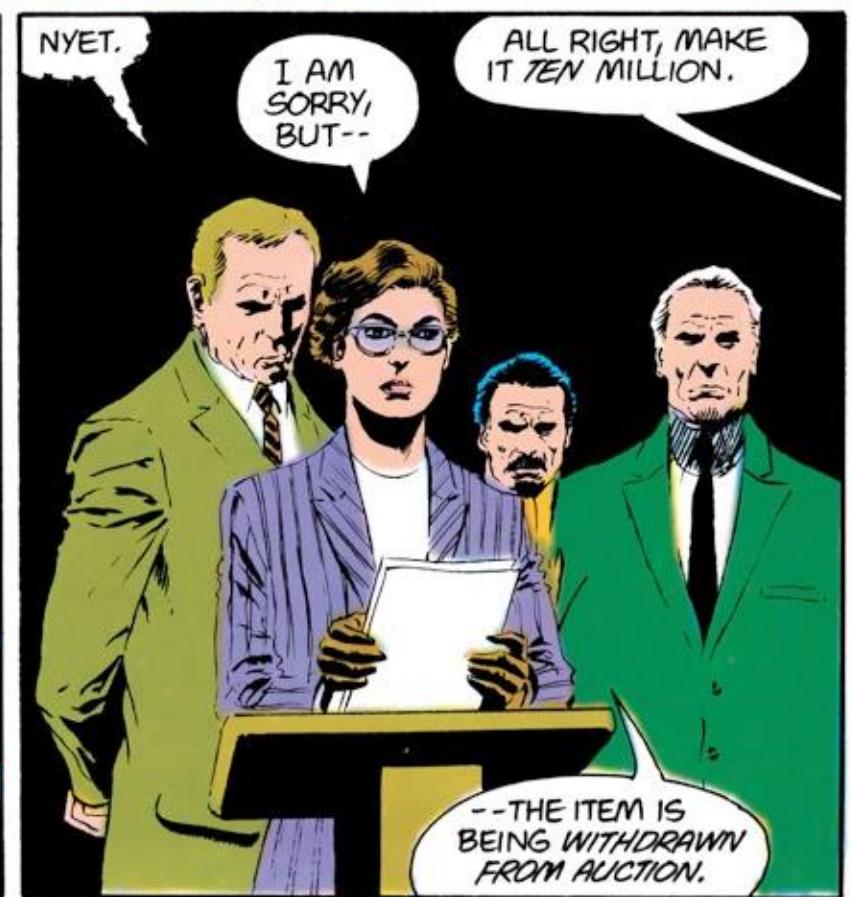
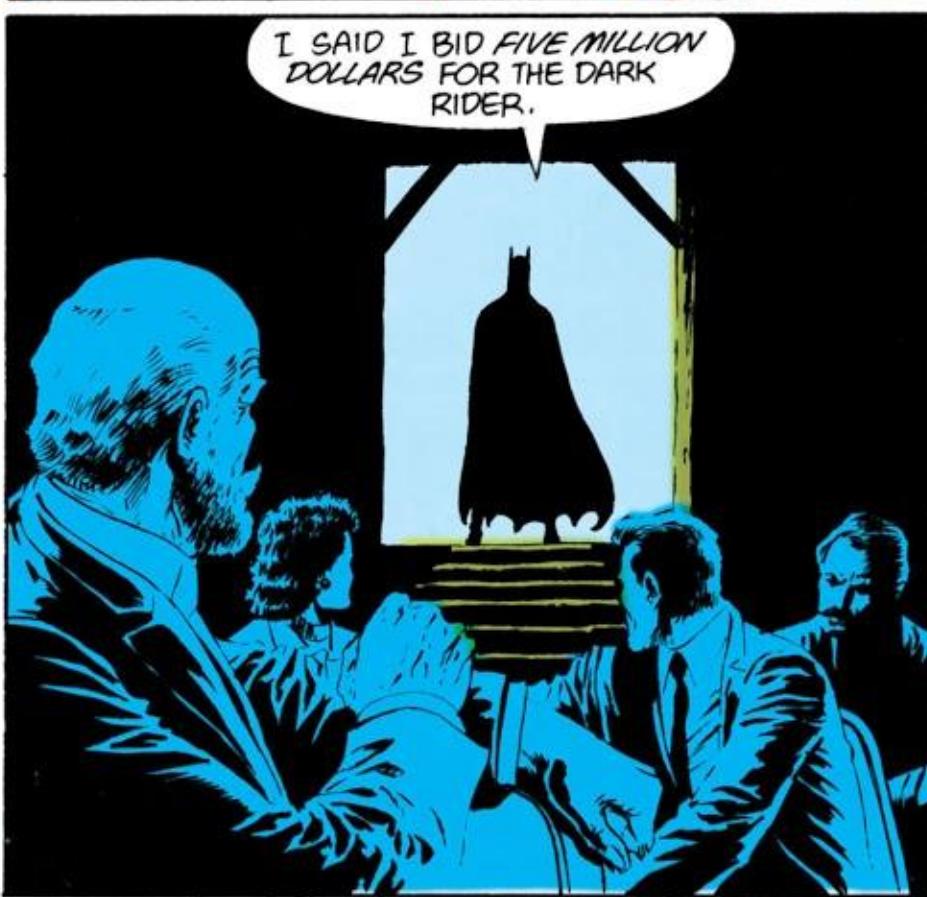
ALTHOUGH THE SCULPTOR
IS UNKNOWN--

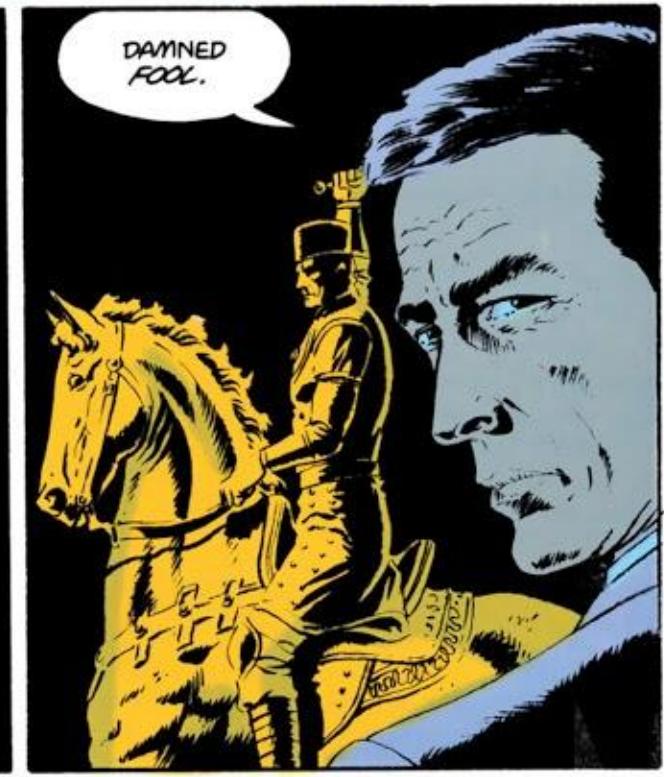
IT SEEMS ENGLISH
TRULY IS THE
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE...

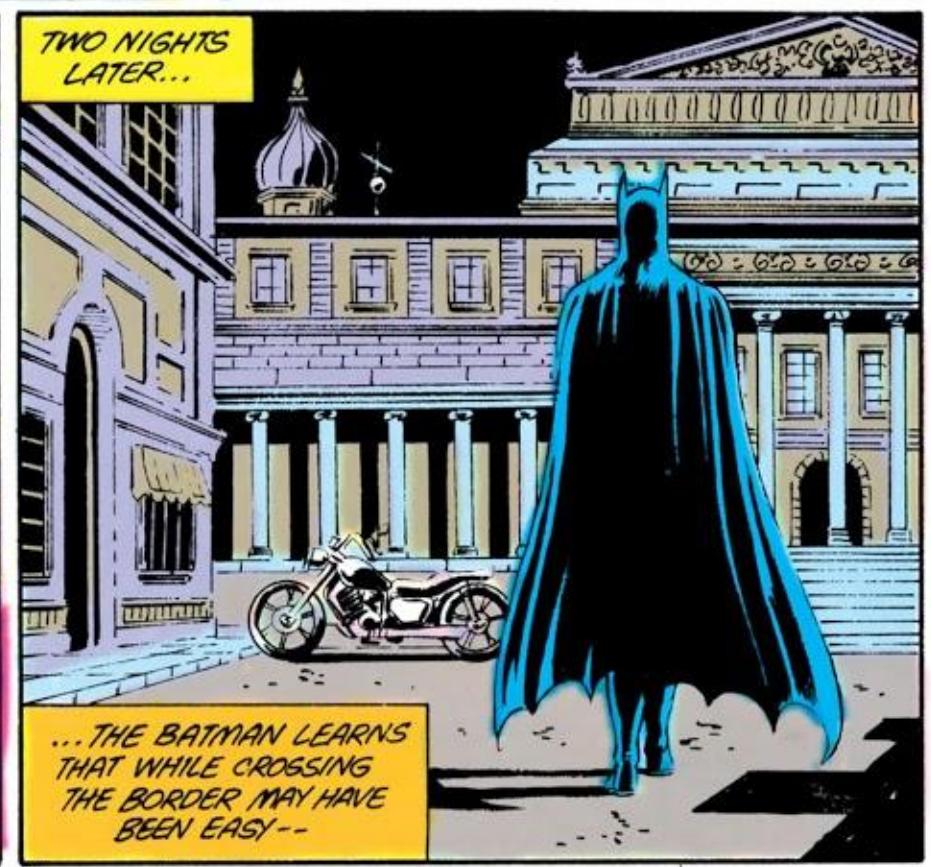
--IT IS A
MAGNIFICENT
STATUE IN
BRONZE--

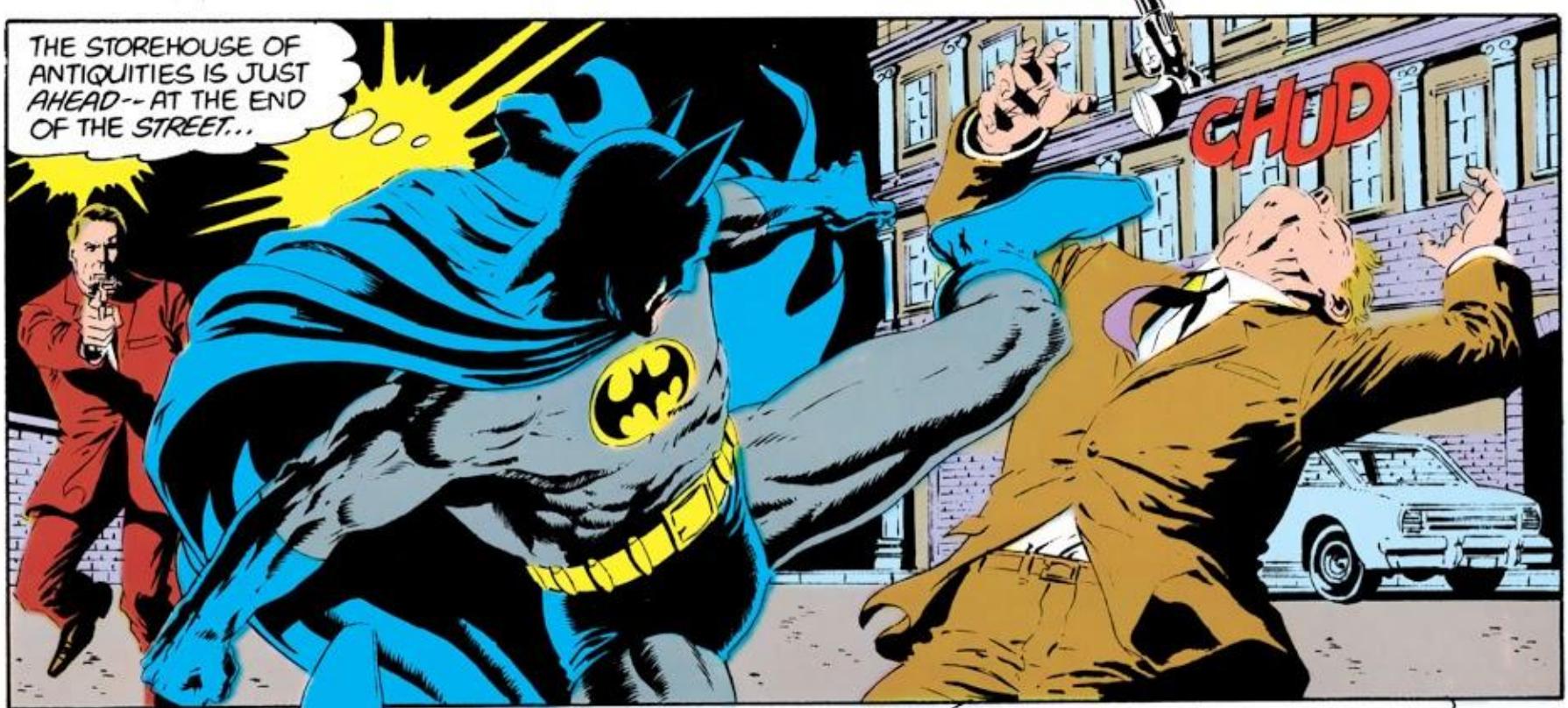
--A COSSACK
HORSEMAN
ENTITLED
"THE DARK
RIDER."

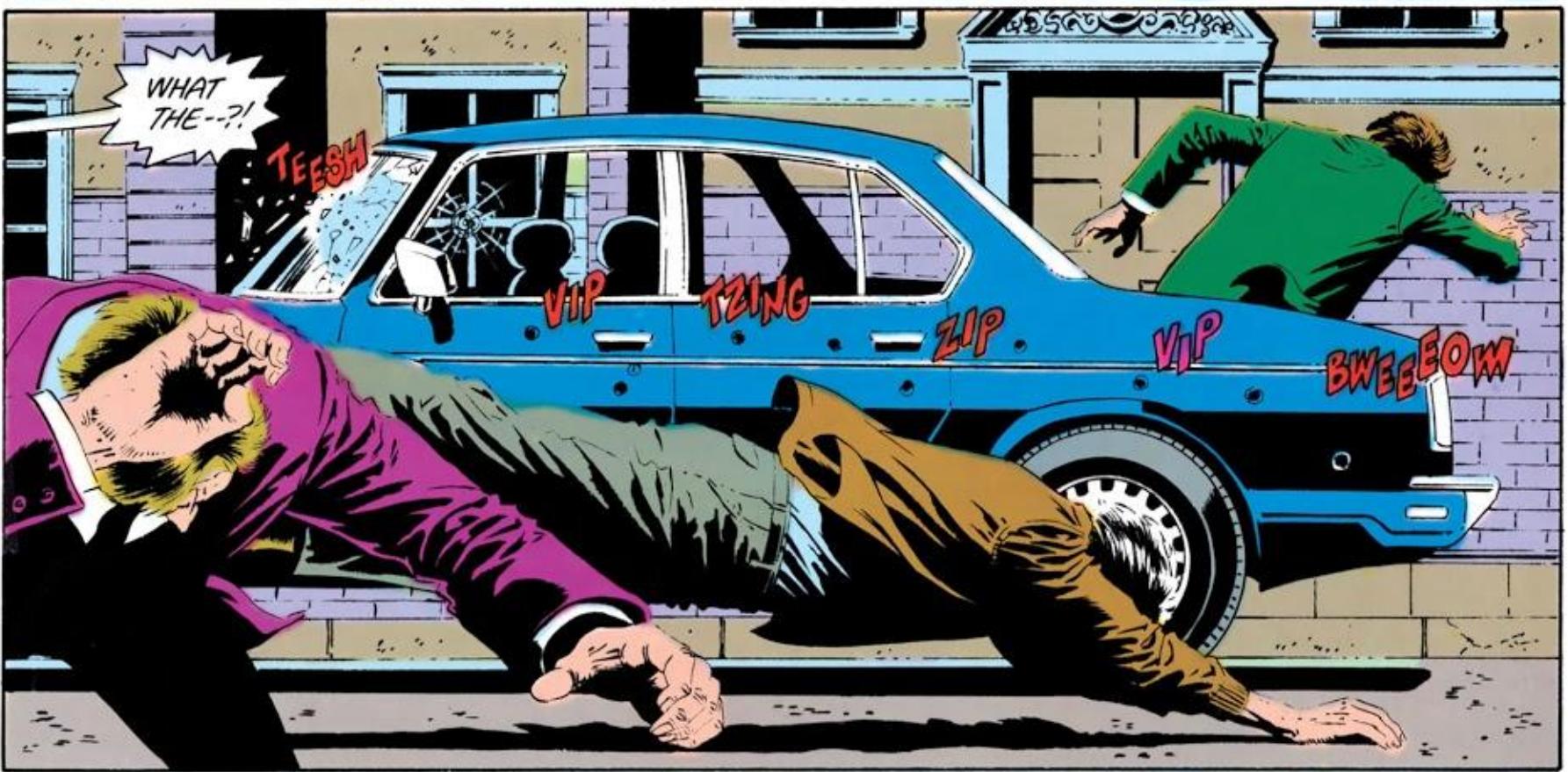
TO START,
WE HAVE A
PRELIMINARY
SEALED BID OF
FIVE HUNDRED
THOUSAND.

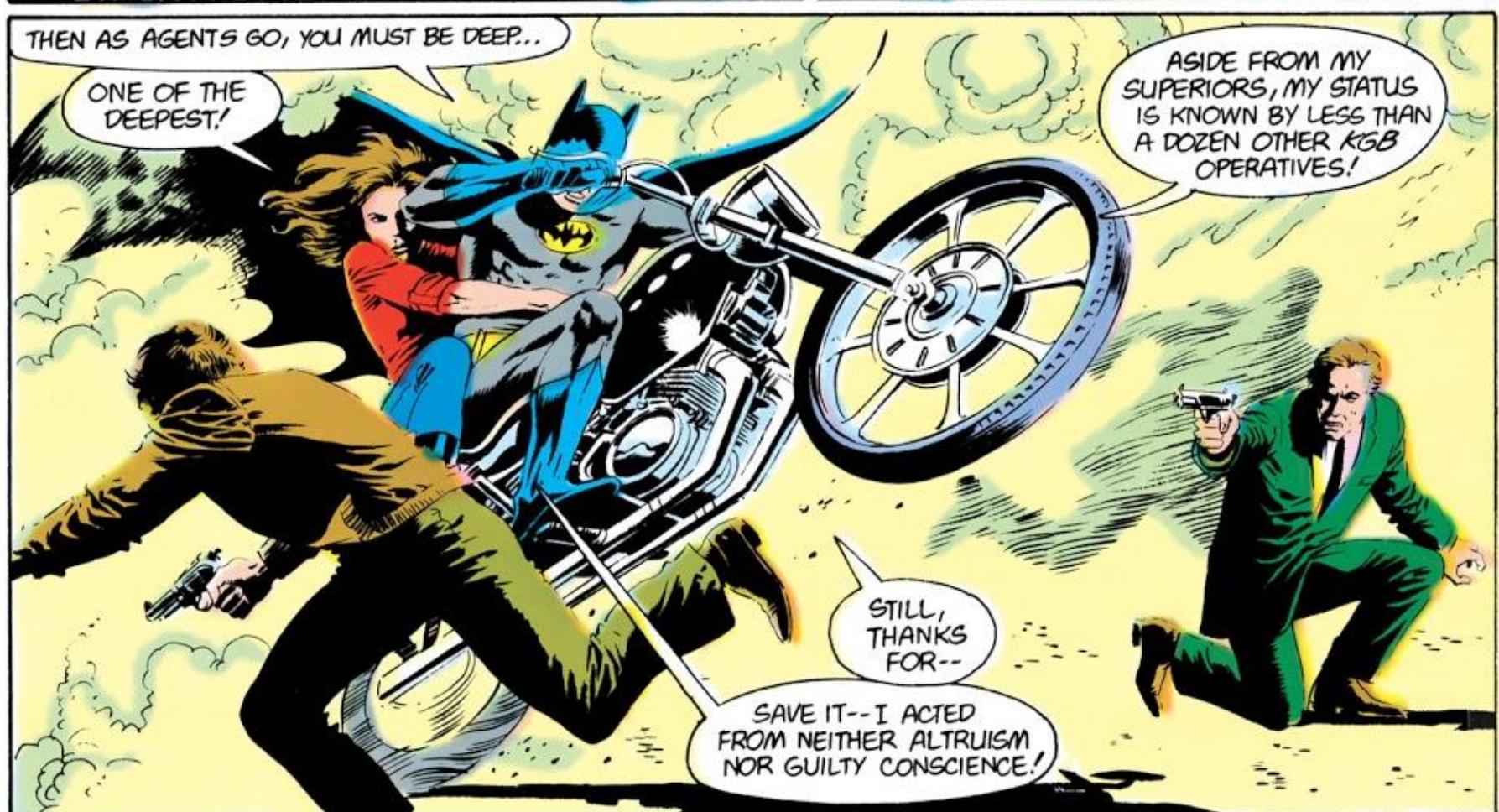
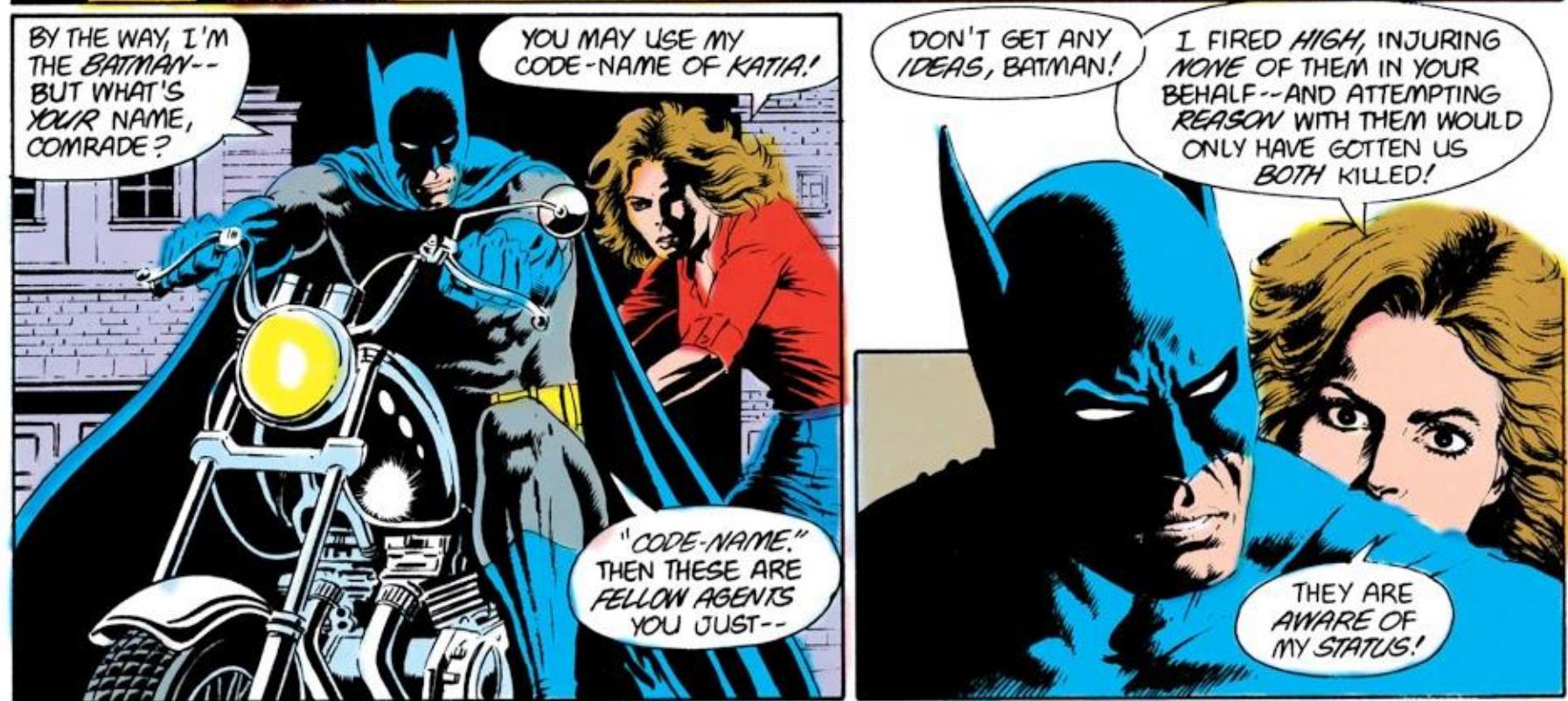


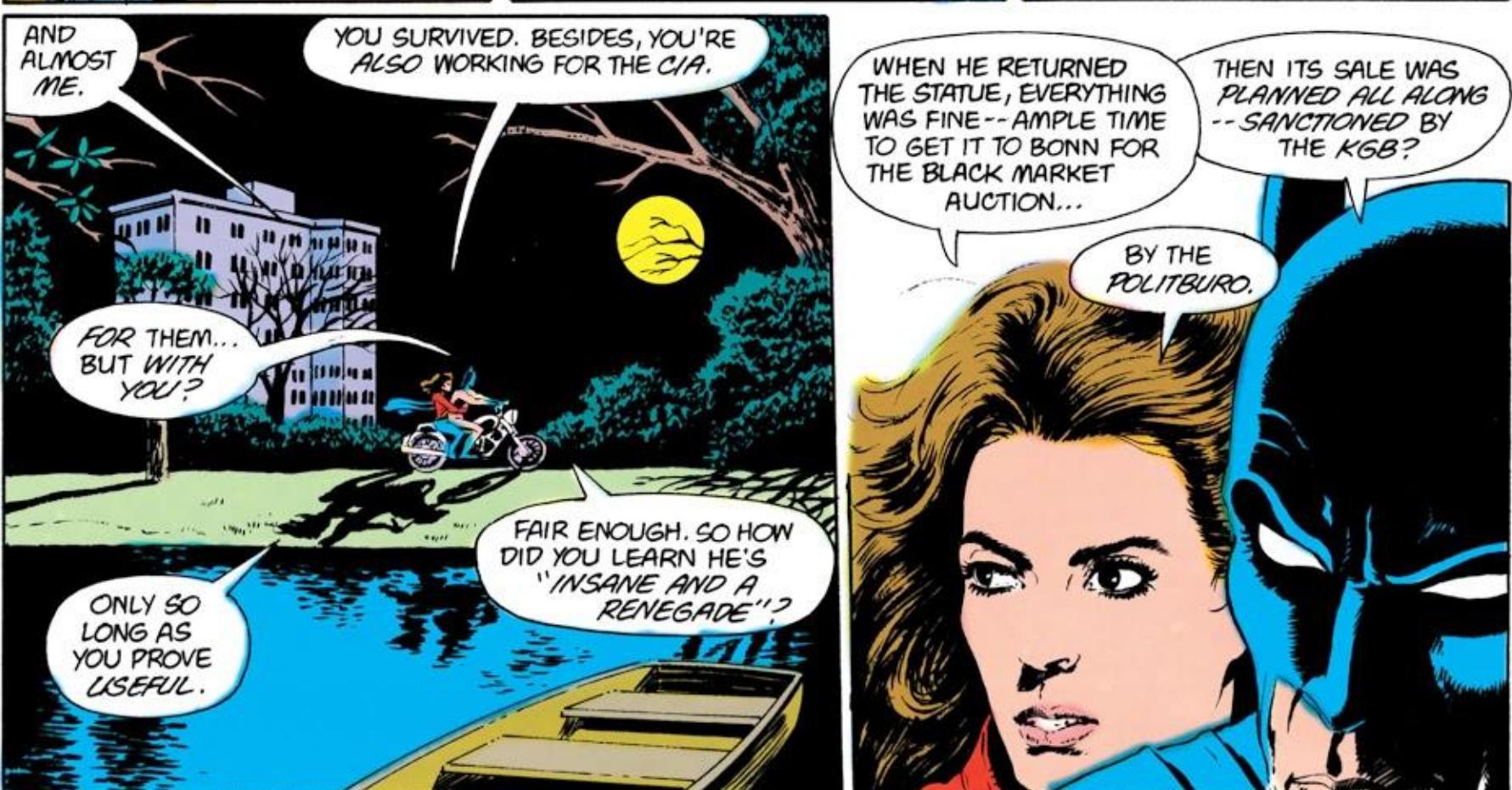
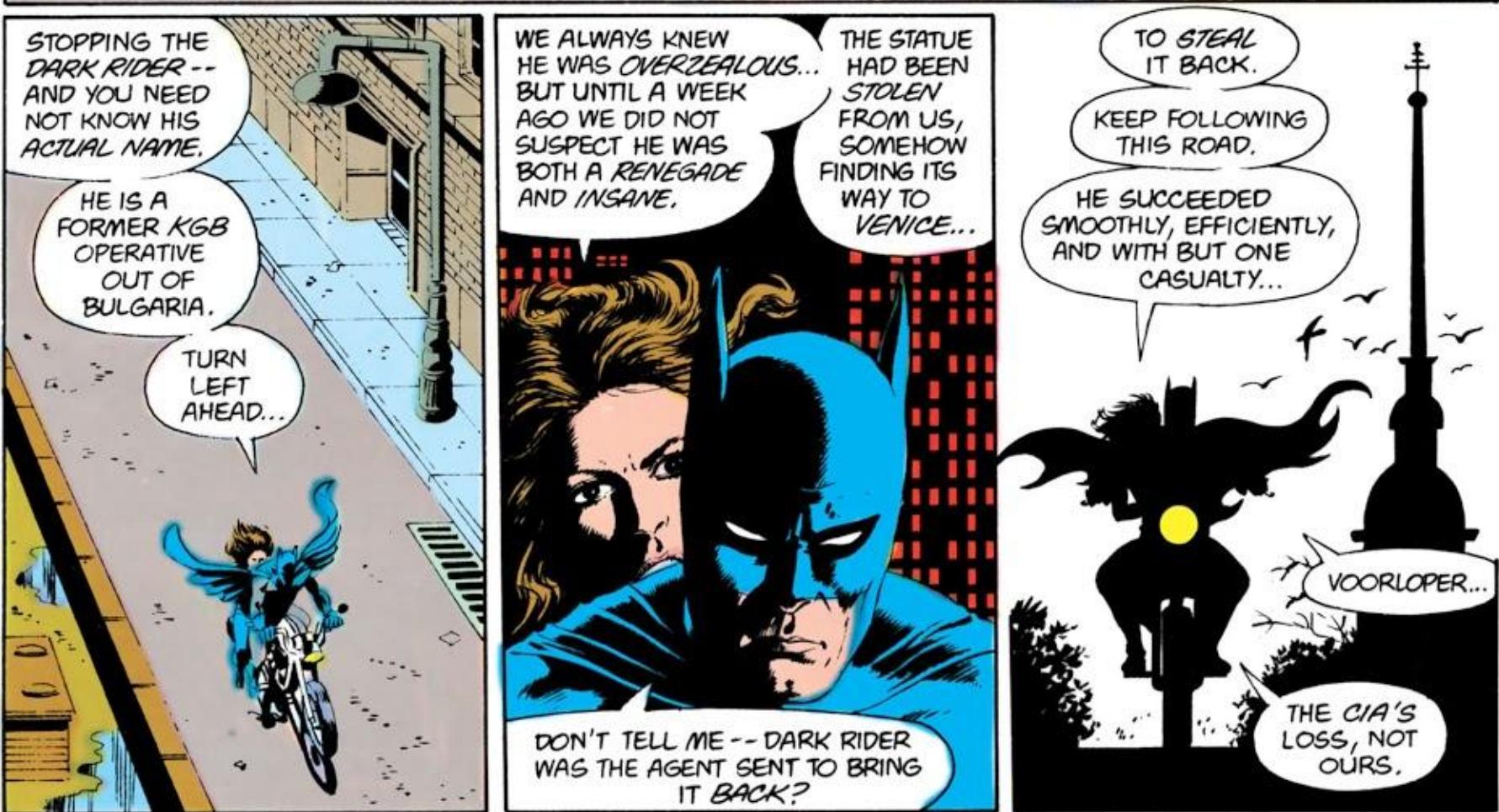
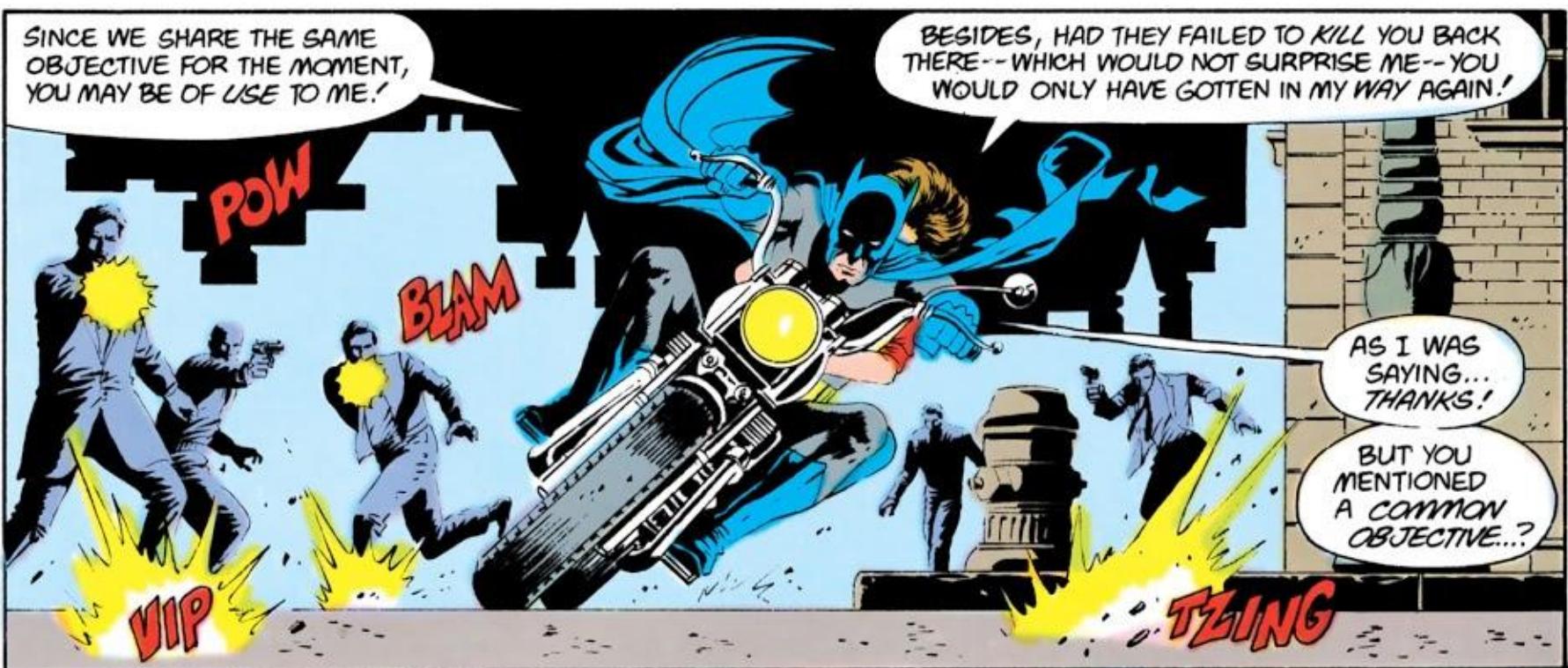


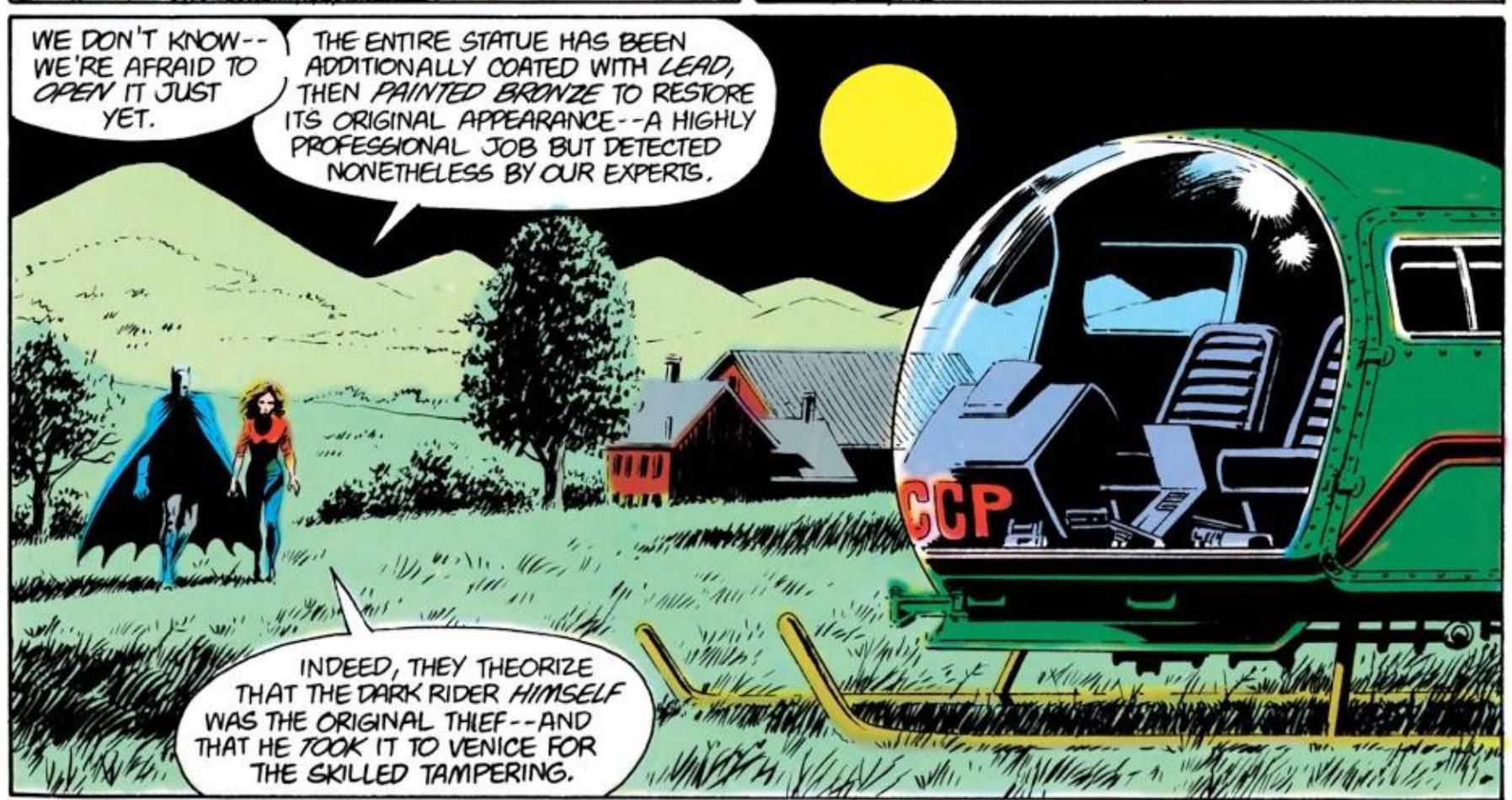
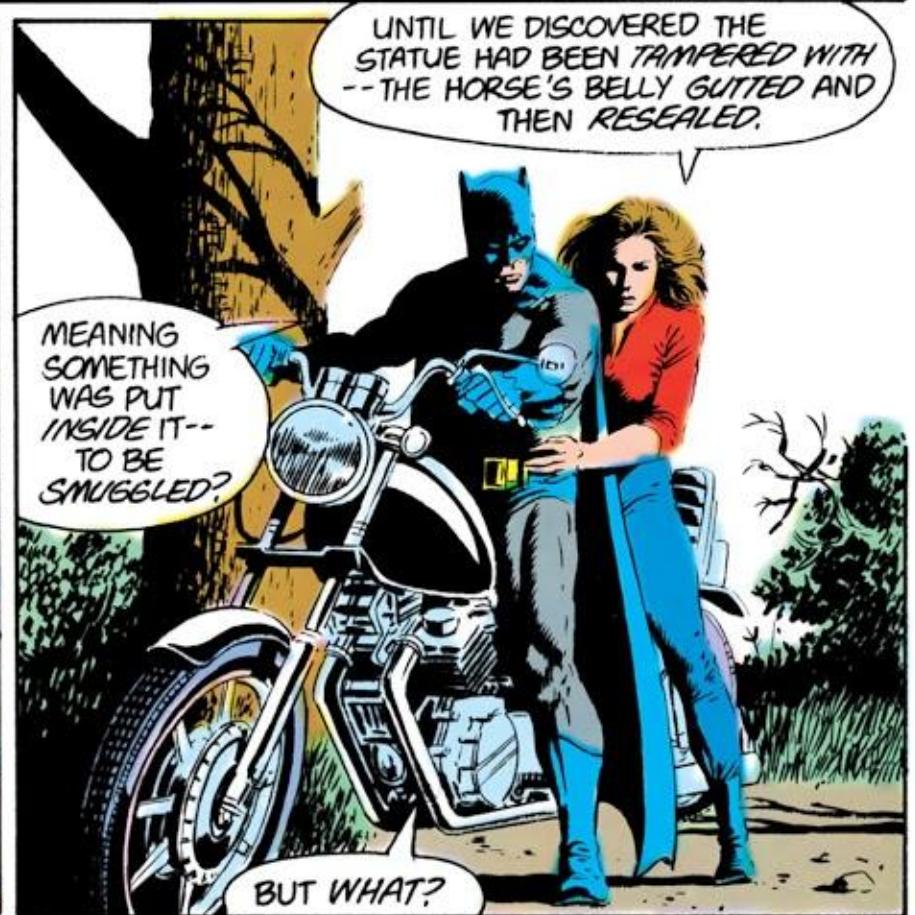














I CARE NOTHING FOR LEBANON OR SYRIA OR ISRAEL-- NOT WHEN THE REAL ENEMY IS AMERICA!

WHOM DO YOU THINK FUNDS THE CHAOS IN THE MIDDLE EAST? AMERICA-- A NATION WITH BUT A FRACTION OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION CONTROLLING TWO-THIRDS OF THE SAME WORLD'S WEALTH!

A NATION OF CORRUPT CAPITALISM, RAMPANT MATERIALISM, AND NO SPIRITUALISM--

--BUT WHICH DARES TO BRAND THE SOVIET UNION "GODLESS"!

A NATION CLAIMING IT WANTS PEACE WHILE ESCALATING THE ARMS RACE-- EVEN INTO SPACE!

NOTHING IS TOO BIG FOR ME!

I AM THE DARK RIDER, DO YOU HEAR?-- BRINGING APOCALYPSE TO A HELPLESS GIANT!

ONE SUCCESS-- ONE CITY-- WILL BE PROOF THAT IT CAN BE DONE AGAIN AND AGAIN-- AND IT WILL BRING AMERICA TO HER KNEES, HALTING HER RUSH TOWARD WORLD WAR III!

YES, BATMAN-- CONTRARY TO YOUR SUSPICIONS, THE SOVIET UNION WISHES TO AVOID THE APOCALYPSE OF WORLD WAR III JUST AS MUCH AS SOME AMERICANS DO, AND UNTIL YOU INTERFERED--

--THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON THE STATUE WOULD HAVE BEEN DARK RIDER'S CONFEDERATE, WHOSE HOME ADDRESS WOULD HAVE GIVEN US THE TARGET.

THEN YOU THINK THE AUCTION WAS BEING USED AS A COVER FOR SMUGGLING WHATEVER'S INSIDE THE STATUE?

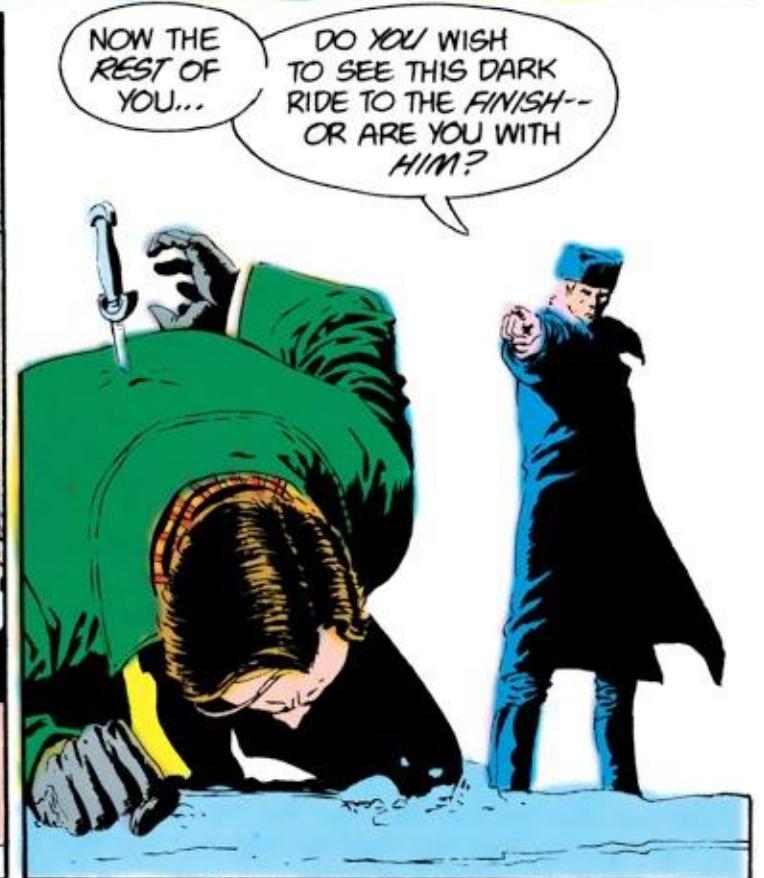
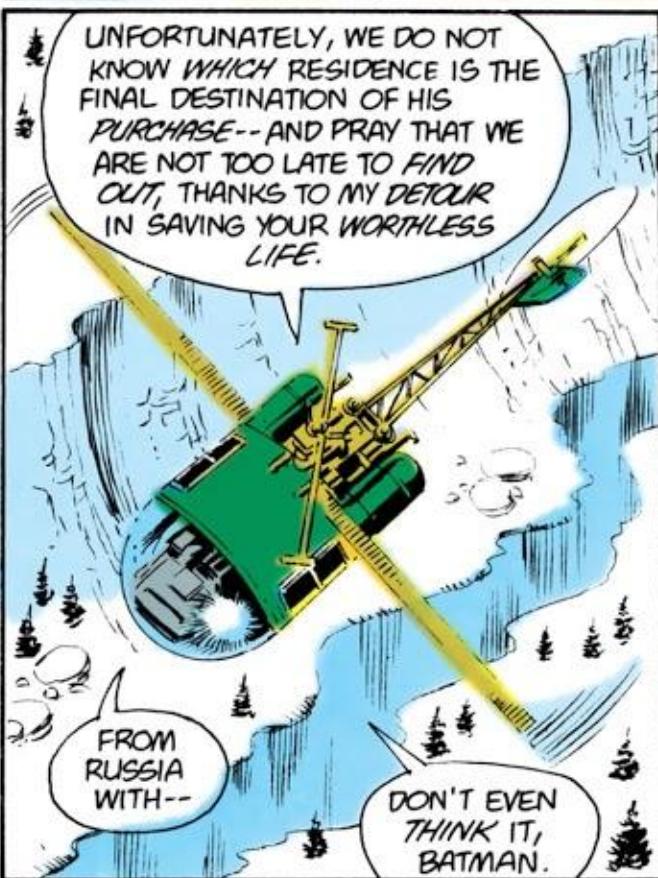
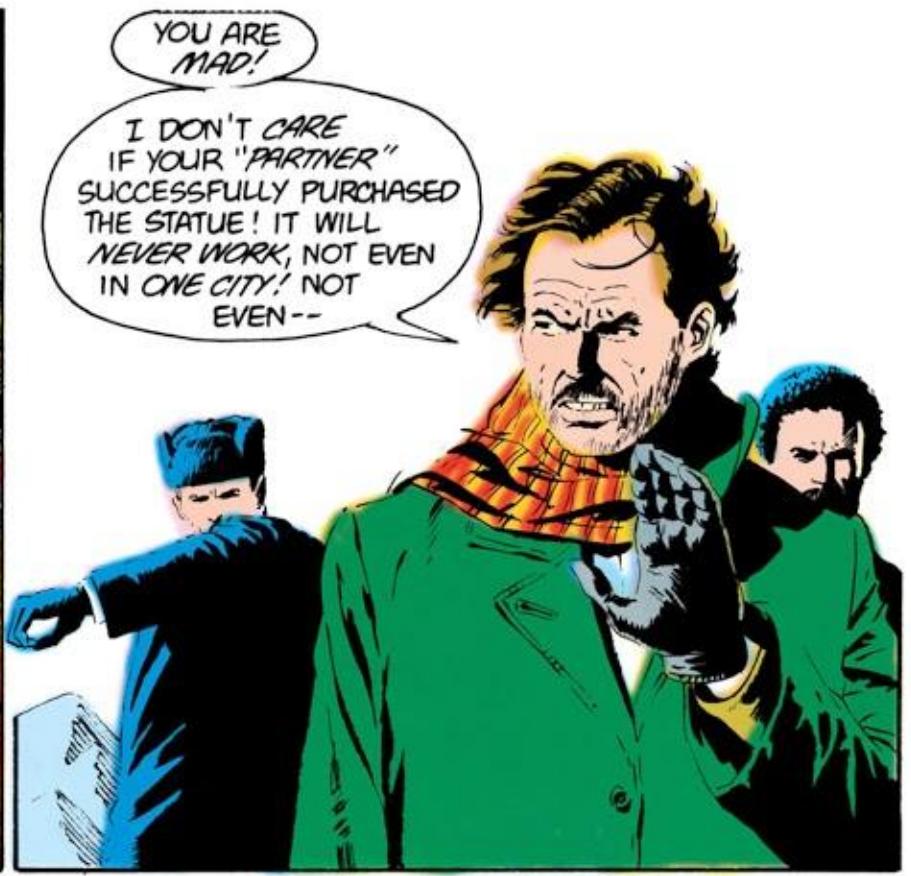
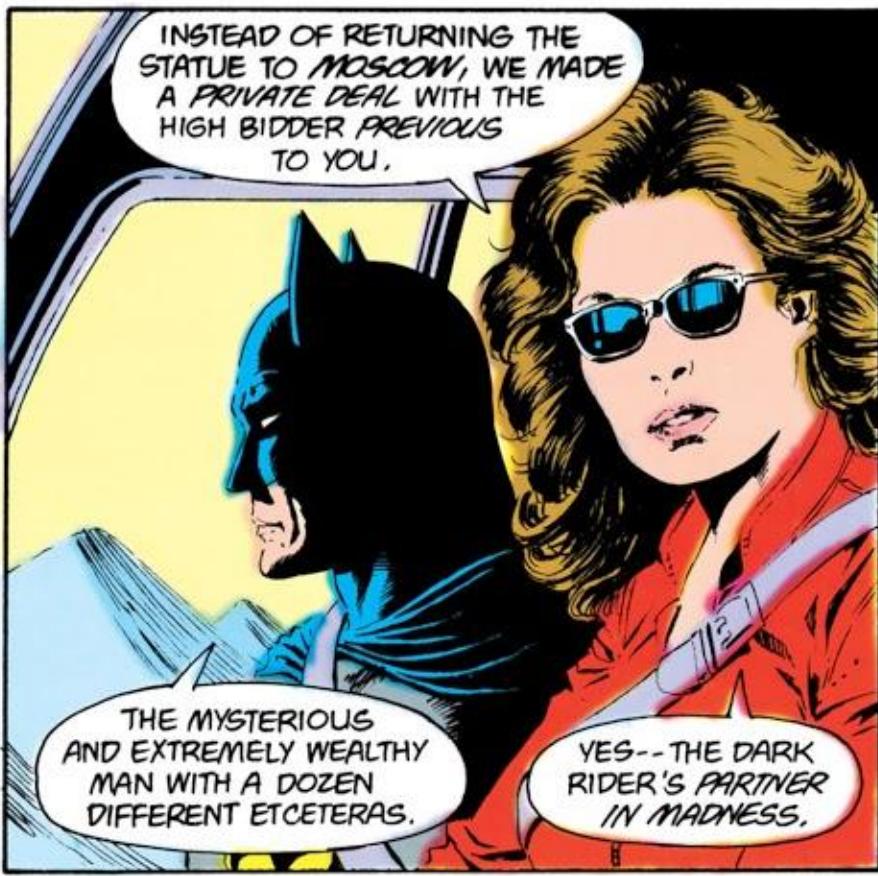
THE HIGH BID, EVEN BEFORE YOURS, WAS TEN TIMES THE STATUE'S WORTH-- PLACED BY A MYSTERIOUS AND EXTREMELY WEALTHY MAN WHO HAS NOW RETURNED TO SWITZERLAND--

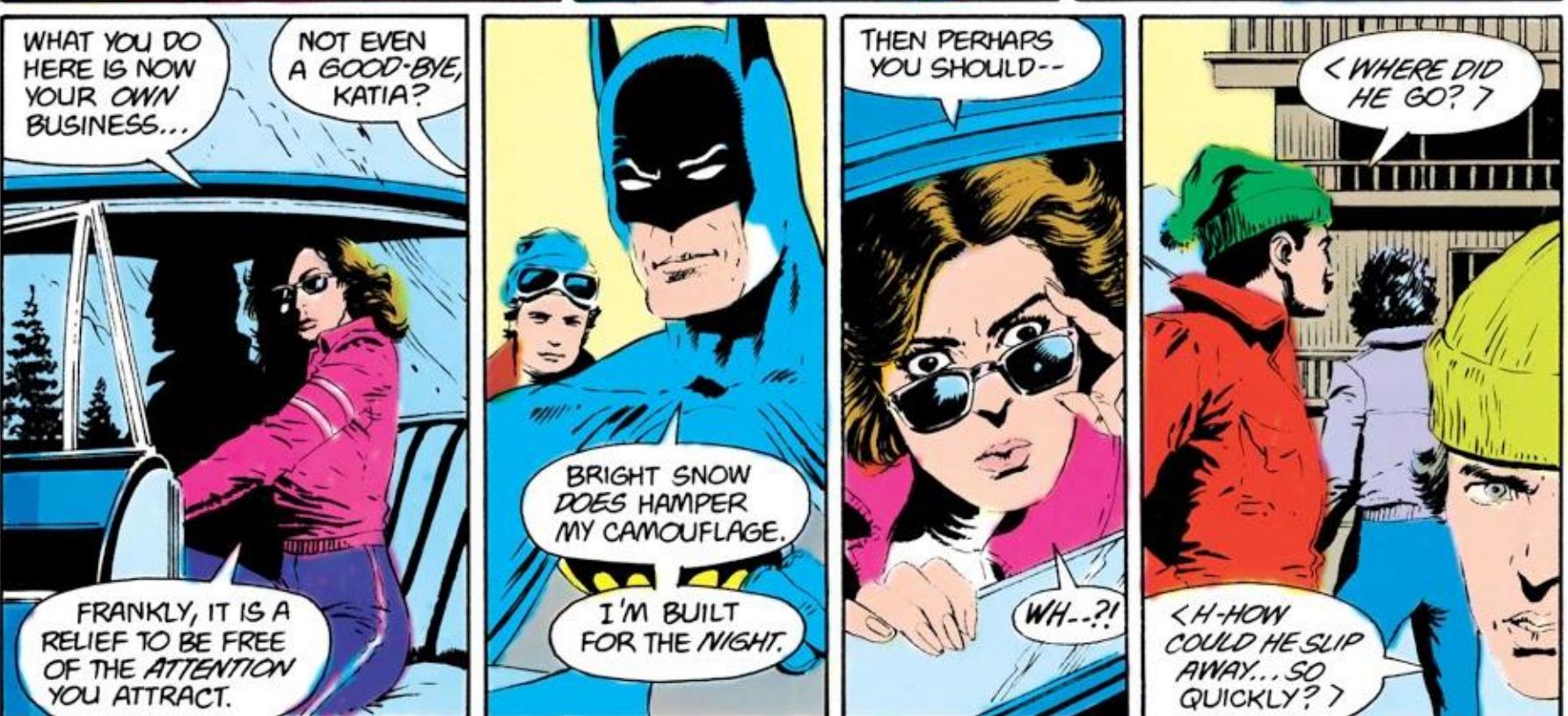
--ONE OF A DOZEN DIFFERENT RESIDENCES HE HAS SCATTERED VIRTUALLY EVERYWHERE AROUND THE GLOBE, EXCEPT IN THE SOVIET UNION.

AND PRESUMABLY ONE OF THOSE RESIDENCES IS NEAR THE TARGET OF DARK RIDER'S INTENDED TERRORISM... BRINGING US TO MY LAST QUESTION: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO SWITZERLAND, OF COURSE.

YOU SEE, I LIED TO YOU IN MY CAR...





THE NIGHT:

A LONG CLIMB...
AND LET'S HOPE
IT'S WORTH IT...

...EVEN
FOR AN
UNINVITED
VISITOR.

YES...

IT'S THE
AUCTION'S HIGH
BIDDER, ALL
RIGHT...

...AND HE'S LEAVING
THE ROOM.

WINDOW
LOCK
DOESN'T
LOOK
DIFFICULT...

DON'T EVEN SIGH,
YOU DAMNED FOOL.

...AND IF I CAN GET
A CLUE FROM THE
PAPERS IN HIS DESK,
OR AT LEAST INSPECT
THE STATUE MORE
CLOSELY...

ALL RIGHT... BUT
AS I REMARKED TO
A FRIEND RECENTLY,
I REALLY DON'T
LIKE GUNS--

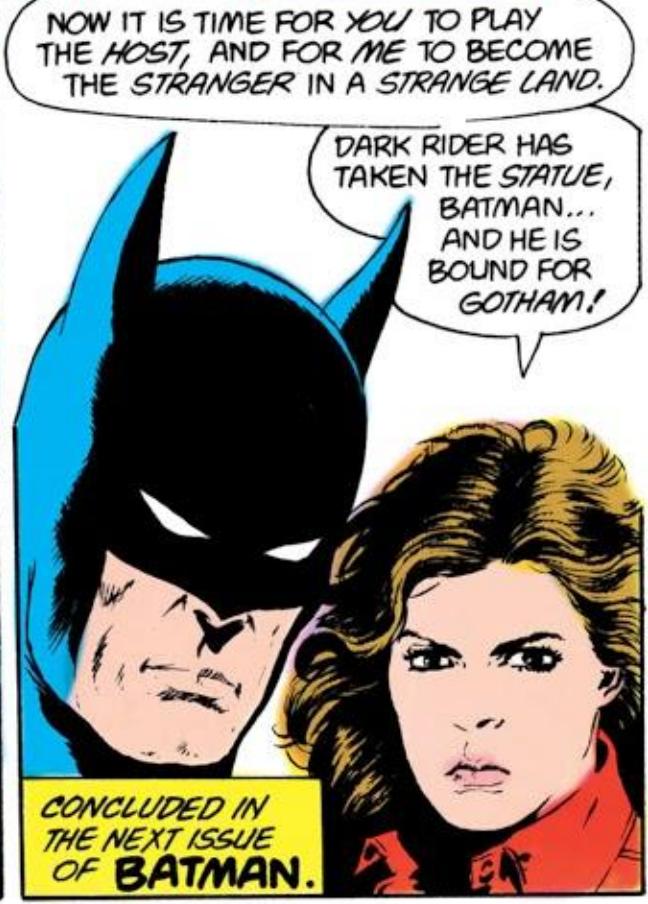
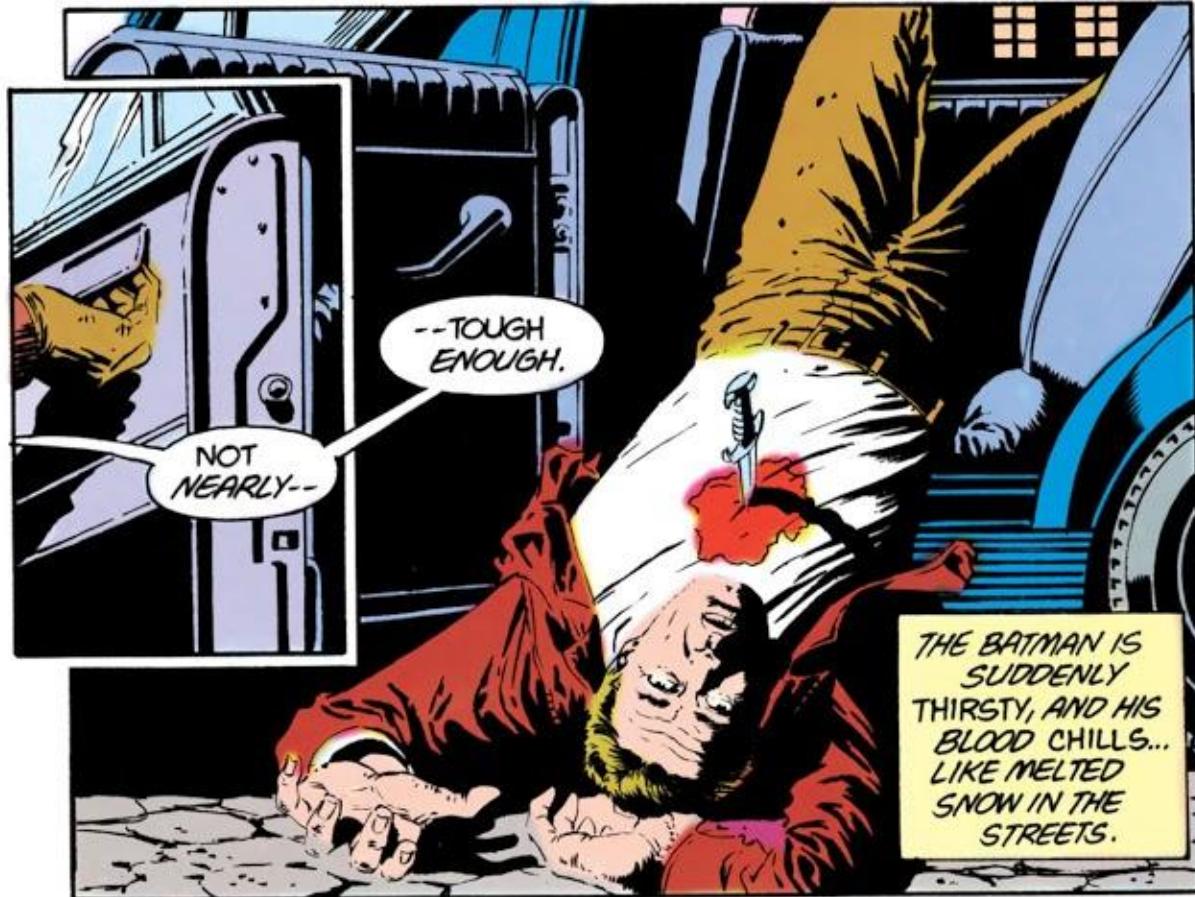
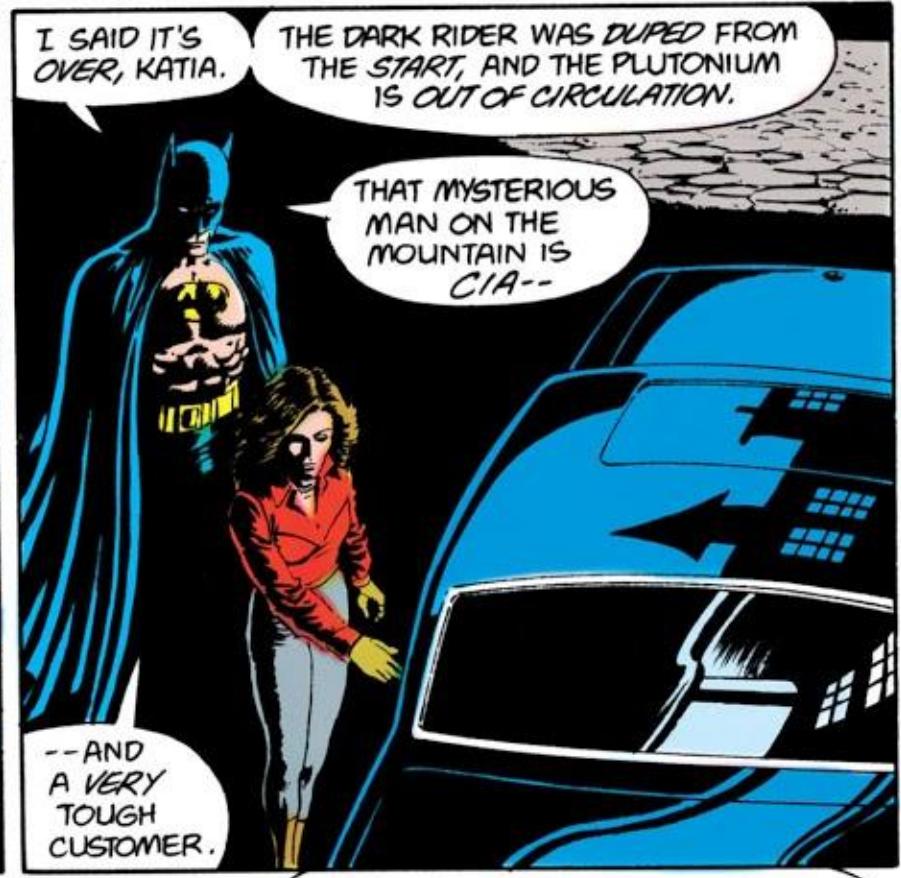
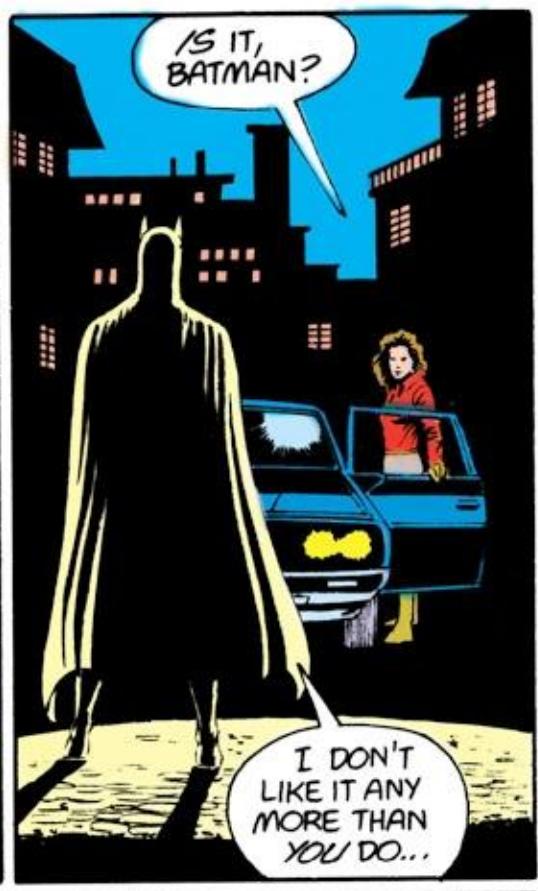
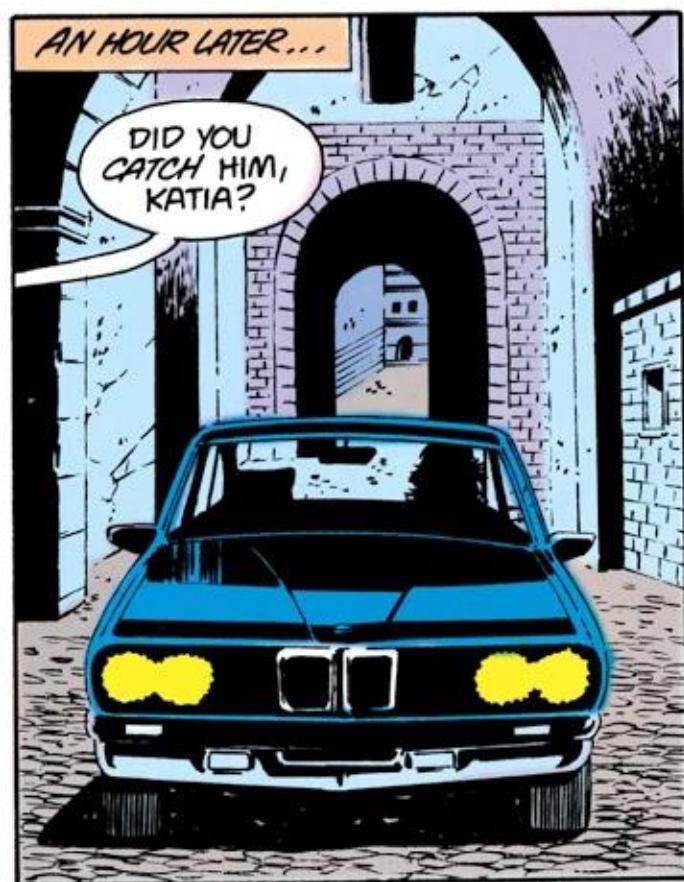
--AND I
DON'T LIKE
ANYONE
USING
THEM!

CH-KLIK

CHUP

CHUP







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