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C.C.
AUTHORITY

BAT MAN

ON YOUR KNEES, BATMAN!
BOW TO THE MAN
YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT--
THE SHEIKH!



BATMAN

GUEST-STARRING
ROBIN
THE TEEN WONDER



ACTION AND INTRIGUE
IN THE CLASSIC
BATMAN
TRADITION BY:
DENNY O'NEIL—Writer
IRV NOVICK—Penciller
TEX BLAISDELL—Inker
JULIUS SCHWARTZ—Editor



DID THE SHEIKH BLOW
INTO GOTHAM FROM THE
DESERT--OR FROM
SOMEWHERE MORE
SINISTER?

WHY DOES THIS BIZARRE KILLER
SUDDENLY UNLEASH ON THE CITY
A REIGN OF DEATH?

MOST PUZZLING OF ALL, THERE APPARENTLY
IS NO REASON FOR THE BRUTAL CRIMES--
YET THE BATMAN MUST UNCOVER A
MOTIVE BEFORE HE CAN CONFRONT
THE ASSASSIN IN A FINAL--AND MOST
UNUSUAL BATTLE!

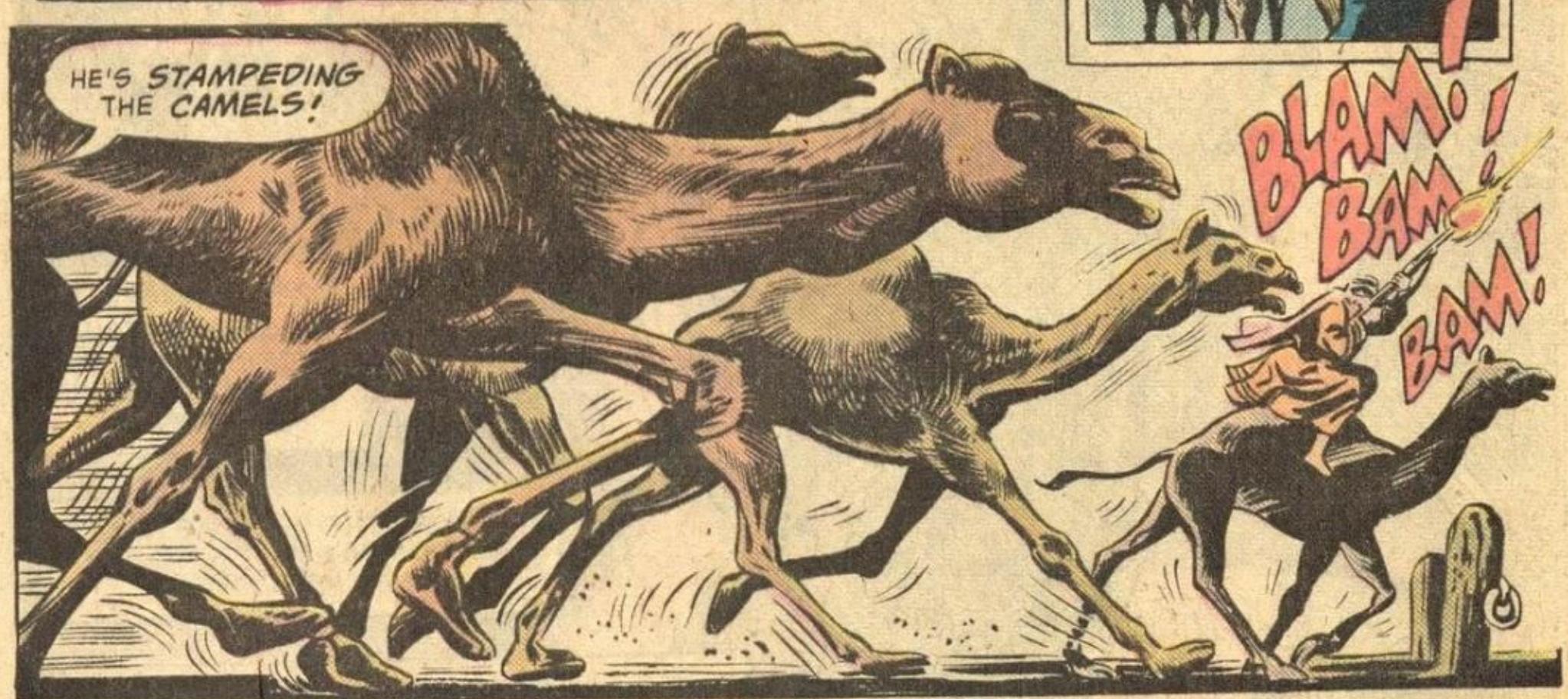
MURDER MASQUERADE!

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TWILIGHT AT GOTHAM PIER... MILLIONAIRE SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT ALFRED ARE WATCHING...



BLAM!
BAM!
BAM!

HOWEVER, ALFRED'S EMPLOYER IS ALREADY GONE --

--AND IN HIS PLACE... THE BATMAN!





ALFRED... DID YOU SEE WHERE THE MAN WHO CAUSED THE STAMPEDE WENT?

I'M AFRAID NOT, MASTER BRU... ER-- BATMAN!

THE EXCITEMENT INTERFERED WITH MY POWERS OF OBSERVATION!

GOFORTH'S DEATH MAKES THAT DESERT-TYPE A MURDERER! AND WE HAVEN'T A CLUE TO HIS IDENTITY!

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO EXCEPT WAIT!

WAIT, SIR?

YES! EVERY INSTINCT I HAVE TELLS ME HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN!

A HASTY CHANGE OF CLOTHING, A SHORT TAXI RIDE, AND...

ODD, SIR, WE SHOULD BE MEETING MASTER DICK AT THE GOTHAM SPORTS ARENA!

THE HUDSON UNIVERSITY HOCKEY TEAM IS PLAYING HERE TONIGHT--

--AND DICK IS COVERING THE GAME FOR THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER!

OH, ALFRED... KEEP MUM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PIER! DICK WOULD WANT TO GET INVOLVED!

...AND HIS CLASSES ARE MORE IMPORTANT, EH, WHAT?

SHORTLY...

YOU'RE LOOKING FINE, DICK!

YOU AREN'T EXACTLY A CANDIDATE FOR THE OLD FOLKS' HOME YOURSELF, BRUCE! AND NEITHER IS ALFRED!

THE FACE-OFF... AND THE GAME BEGINS... TO THE ROAR OF 30,000 FANS--

I TRY TO MAINTAIN MY TRIM, MASTER DICK!

--WHILE ON A CATWALK
HIGH OVER THE ICE...



SUDDENLY--

BLAM!

THAT CHAP
HAS BEEN
SHOT!

SEE TO
HIM, DICK!
GIVE HIM
FIRST AID--



--I'M GOING
AFTER THE
GUNMAN!

SEC
1



THE VICTIM IS
OLIVER HOPKINS...
A DEDICATED
HOCKEY BUFF--



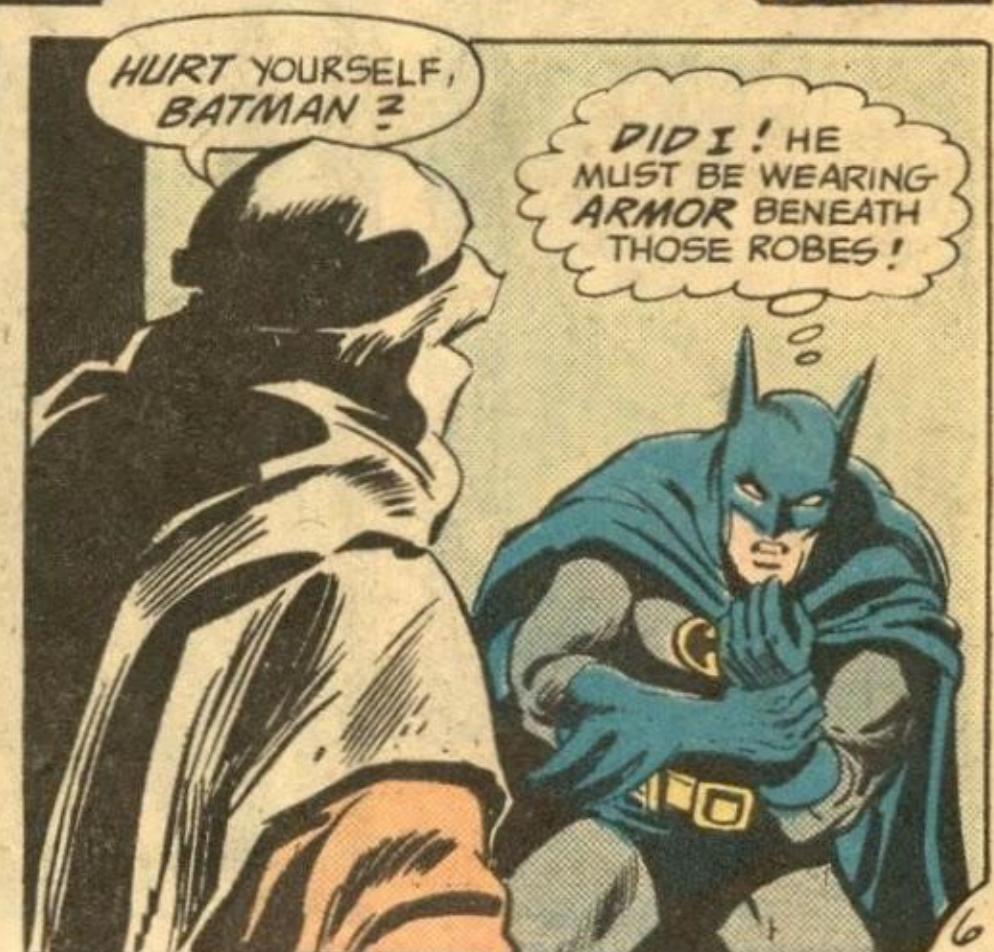
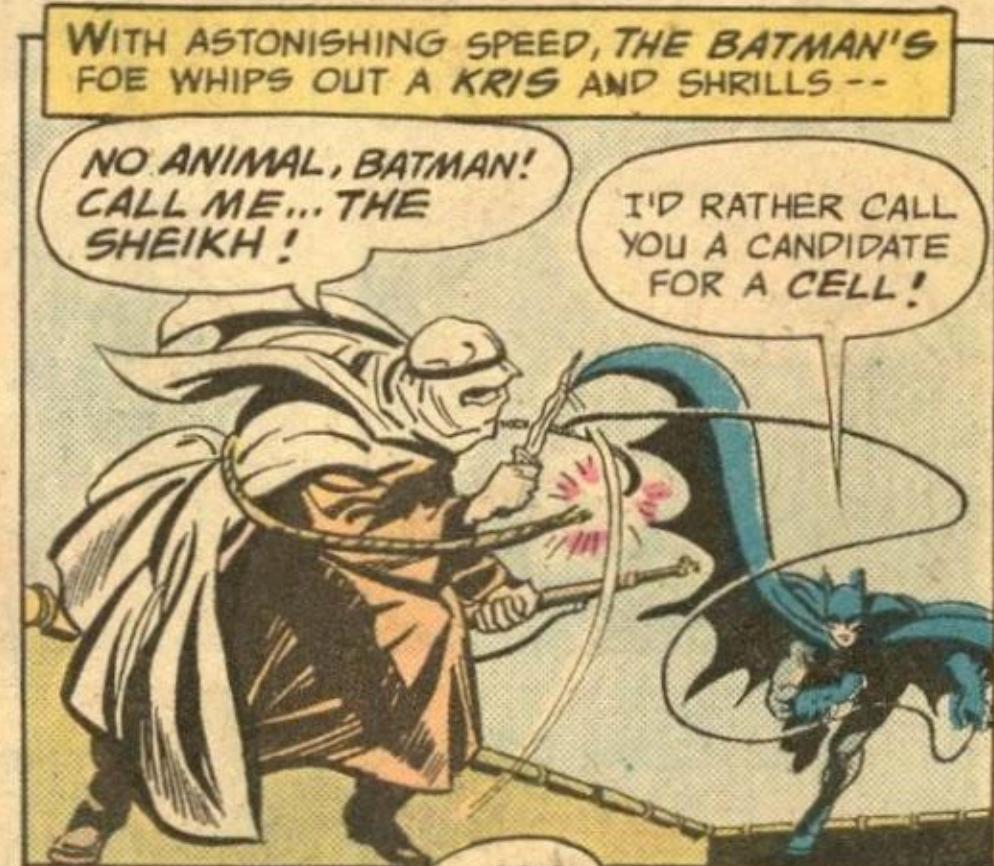
IF THAT'S A
COINCIDENCE,
I'M HENRY
KISSINGER!



THE BULLET
CAME FROM
THIS CATWALK--

--THERE'S MY
QUARRY...
HEADING FOR
THE ROOF!





I'LL HAVE TO
TAKE HIM WITH
BRUTE STRENGTH!

I HAVE A
FURTHER
SURPRISE--

--THIS!

BUTTING
ME--?

OWW!

HE MUST ALSO
HAVE A HELMET
CONCEALED BY HIS
HEADRESS!

I'M GROGGY...
HAVING DOUBLE-
VISION...

THE FRENCH
HAVE AN
EXPRESSION...
COUP DE
GRÂCE!

WHICH
MEANS--

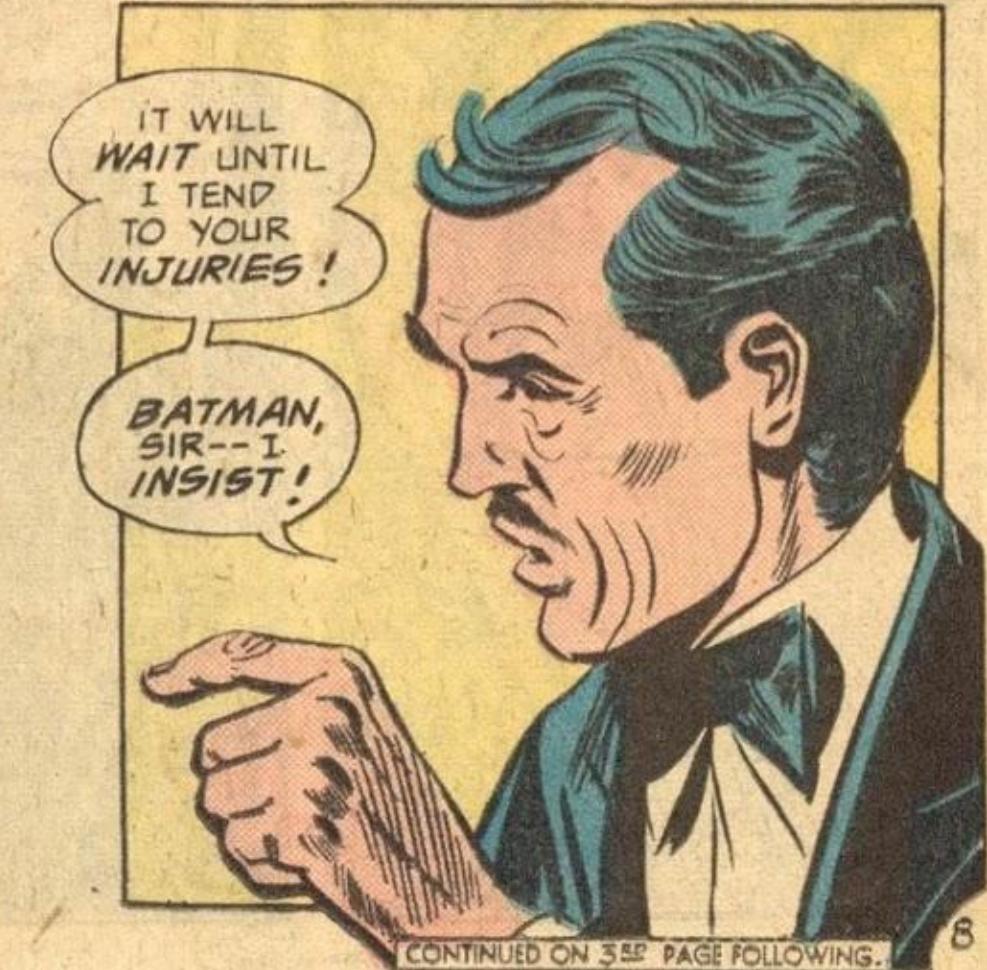
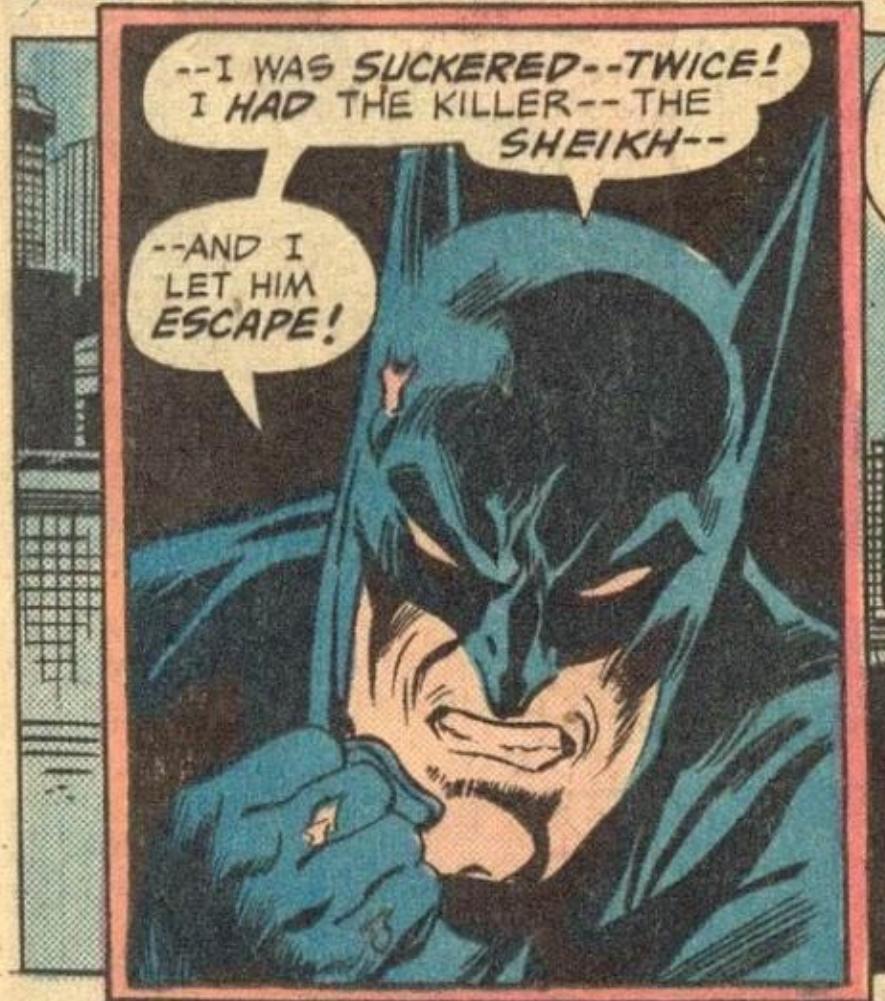
--THE
DEATHBLOW!

STILL HE FALLS, AND--

--INSTINCT! STEEL-STRONG
FINGERS GRASP DESPERATELY
AT THE ARENA'S SIGN--

INSTINCT, HONED BY YEARS
OF TRAINING! THE BATMAN
ABSORBS PART OF THE BLOW'S
FORCE ON HIS FOREARMS!

--DOWN... DOWN-- AND THE
AIR IS FILLED WITH BREAKING
GLASS AND THE CRACKLE OF
ELECTRICITY--!



CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING.

SOON, IN THE WAYNE PENTHOUSE--

NASTY CUTS, SIR!

THEY DO SMART, ALFRED! IF YOU'VE GOT TO BANDAGE THEM STIFFLY, WRAP THEM IN FIST FORM!

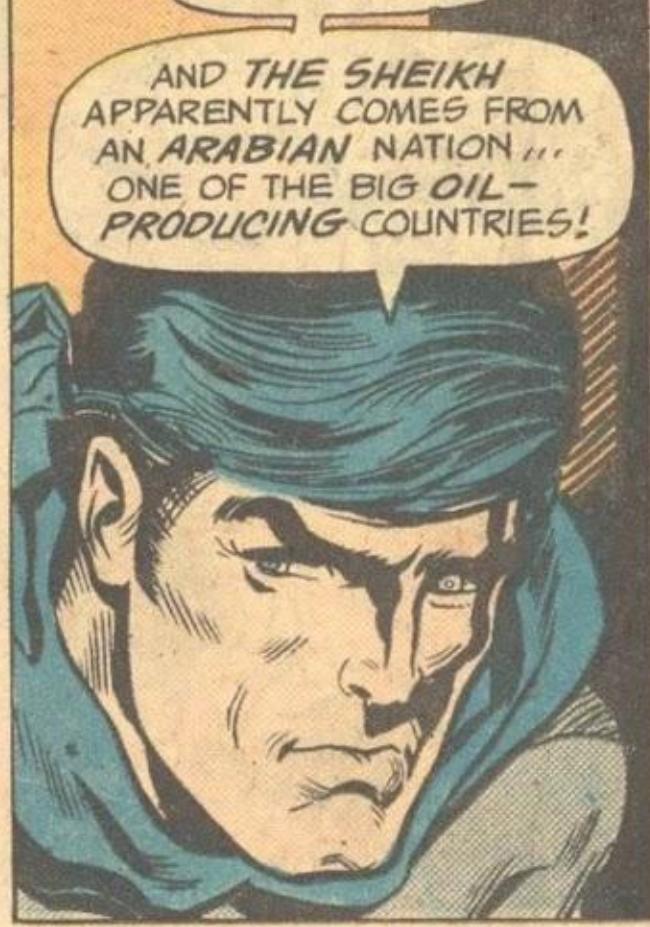
I HAVE A HUNCH I'M NOT DONE PUNCHING TONIGHT!

HAVE YOU REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS REGARDING TODAY'S VIOLENCE?

NOT REALLY! A COUPLE OF THINGS ARE OBVIOUS THOUGH!

GOFORTH AND HOPKINS ARE PARTNERS... IN THE OIL-IMPORTING BUSINESS!

AND THE SHEIKH APPARENTLY COMES FROM AN ARABIAN NATION... ONE OF THE BIG OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES!



THEREFORE, THE REASON FOR THE MURDERS PROBABLY LIES IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS!

THEY HAVE A THIRD PARTNER... LEO LUNT-- WHO'S ABOUT TO RECEIVE A VISIT... FROM THE BATMAN!

MEANWHILE... AT THE MORGUE--

RUN IT BY ME AGAIN! YOU SAY NEITHER GOFORTH NOR HOPKINS ARRIVED HERE?

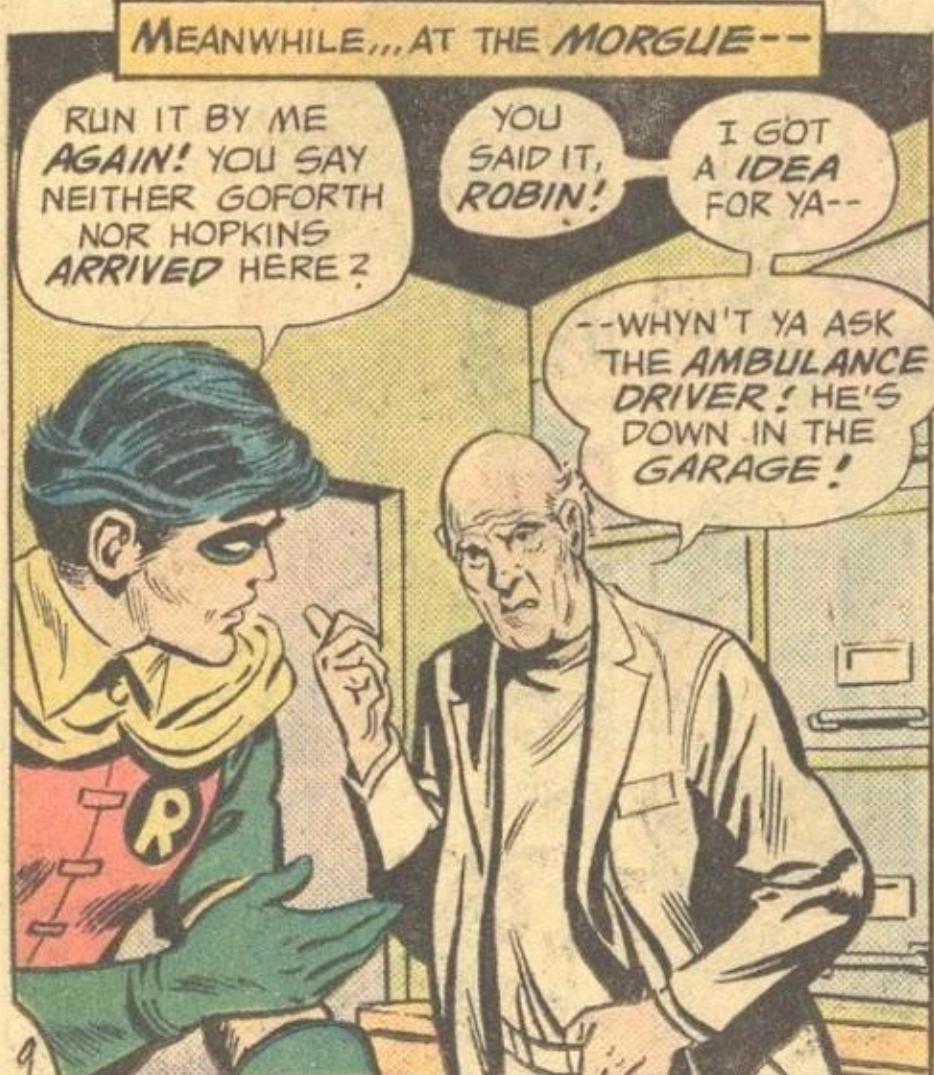
YOU SAID IT, ROBIN!

I GOT A IDEA FOR YA--

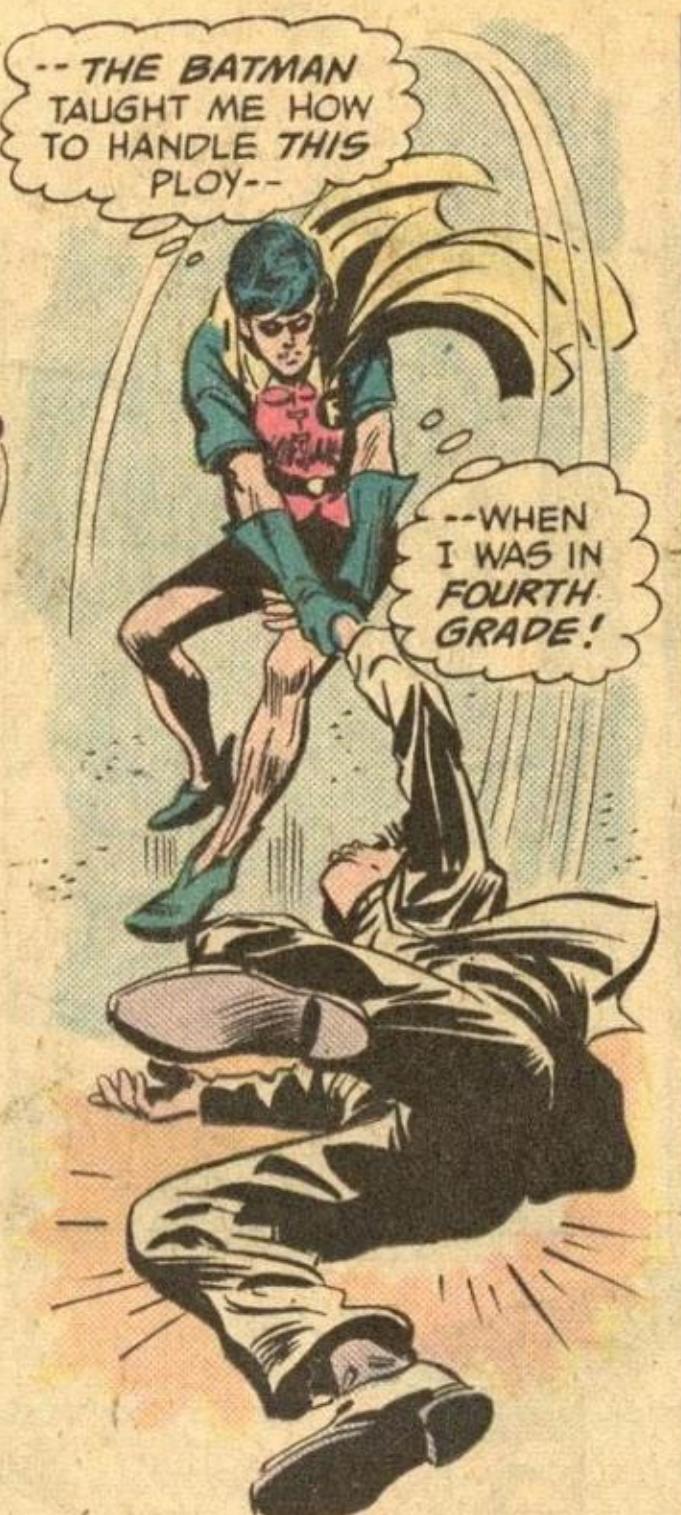
--WHYN'T YA ASK THE AMBULANCE DRIVER! HE'S DOWN IN THE GARAGE!

THEN...

HELLO-- ANYBODY HOME?



A FAINT SCRAPE OF A SHOE-SOLE ALERTS THE TEEN WONDER...



SURE, SURE... A GUY IN FUNNY ROBES
BRIBED YOU TO DELIVER GOFORTH
AND HOPKINS TO THE
PETROLEUM BUILDING!

NO--NOT THERE...
THE CORNER OF
33RD AND
PERU AVENUE!

A WORD
OF ADVICE!

SINCE YOU CAN'T
RECOGNIZE A BLUFF,
DON'T PLAY POKER
IN THE JAIL YOU'RE
BOUND FOR!

HMM...
"BOUND FOR!"
GUESS I AM
IN A PUNNING
MOOD!

AS ROBIN
HASTENS
TO PHONE
COMMISSIONER
GORDON,
HIS MENTOR
IS AT THE
LUNT
MANSION
ON THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF
GOTHAM...



ANYTHING YOU
CAN RECALL MAY
BE USEFUL,
MR. LUNT!

BUT, MY DEAR
BATMAN... NO
ARAB HAS ANY
REASON TO
HARM ME
OR MY LATE
PARTNERS!

AHHH... EXCELLENT
BRANDY! CARE FOR A
SNIFTER, BATMAN?

I DON'T
DRINK!
PLEASE...
STICK
TO THE
POINT--



--YOU WERE
SPEAKING
OF YOUR
BUSINESS
DEALINGS!

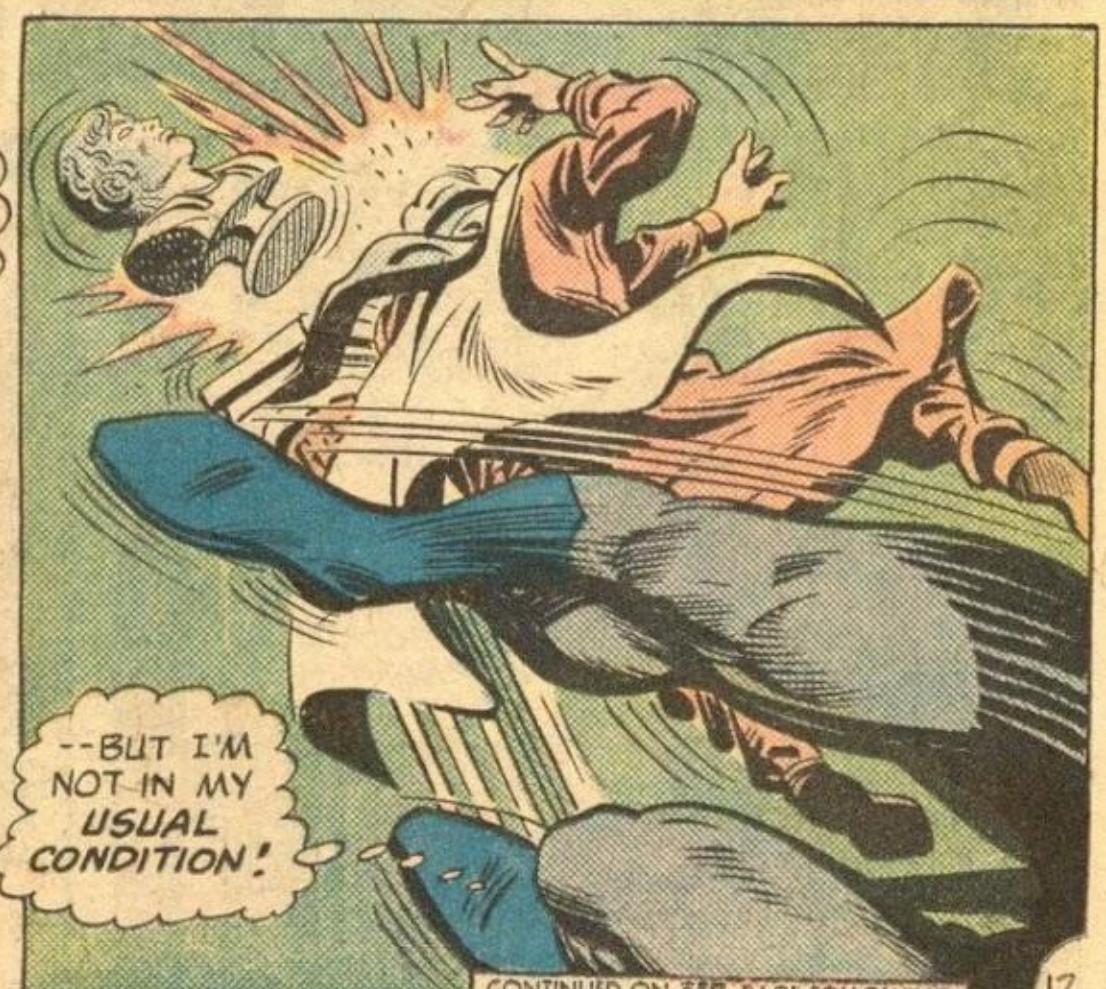
INDEED! IN RECENT
MONTHS, WE'VE HAD
DISAGREEMENTS
CONCERNING OUR
REAL ESTATE
TRANSACTIONS!

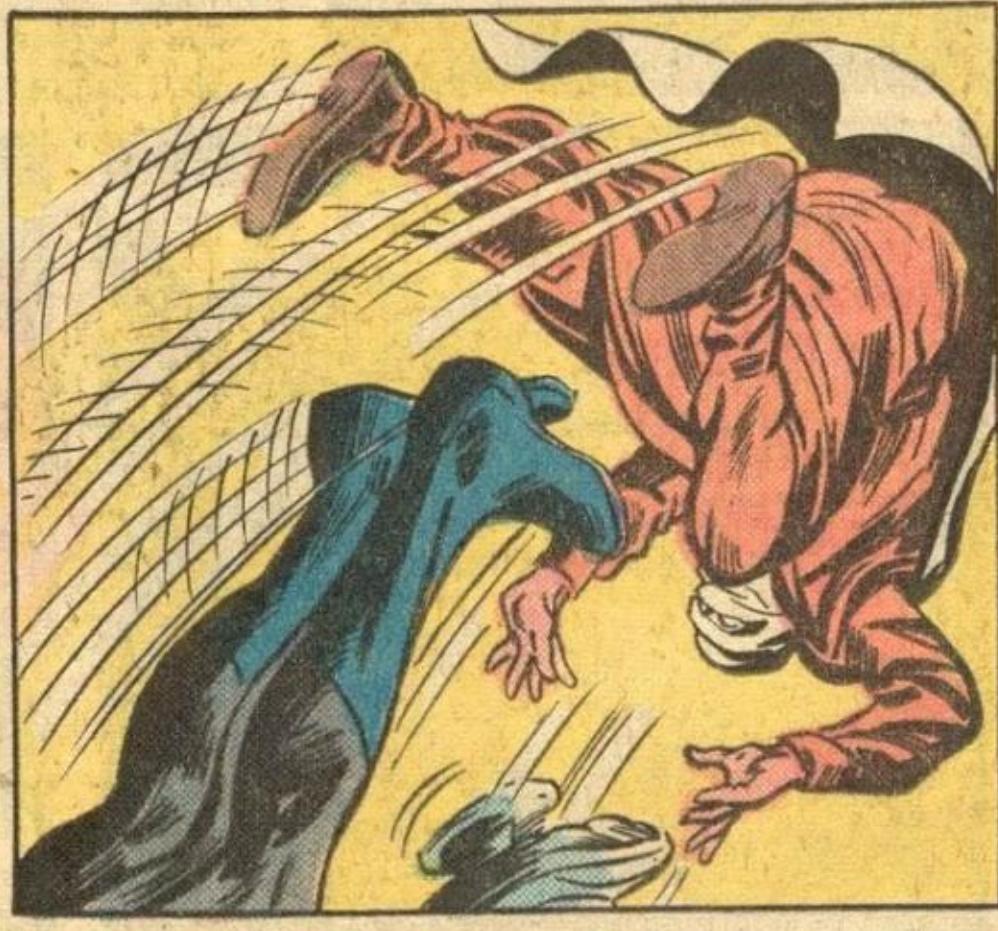
BUT THE OIL
IMPORTS--NO!
OUR ARABIAN
ASSOCIATES
CHERISH US!

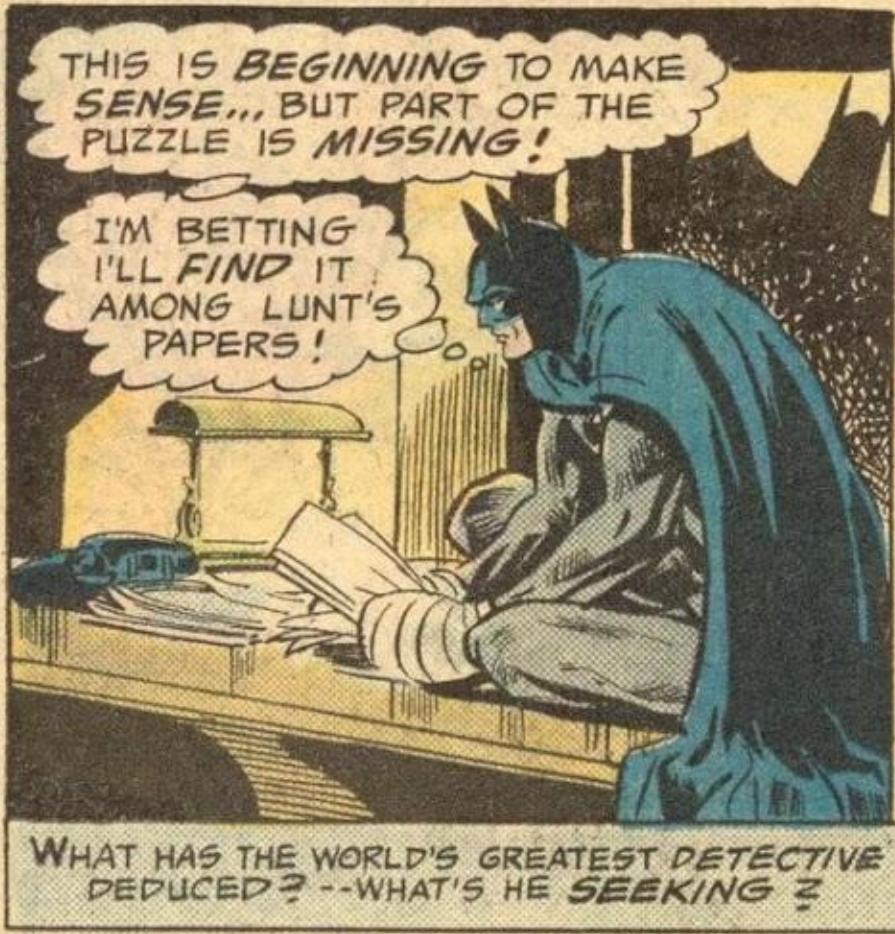
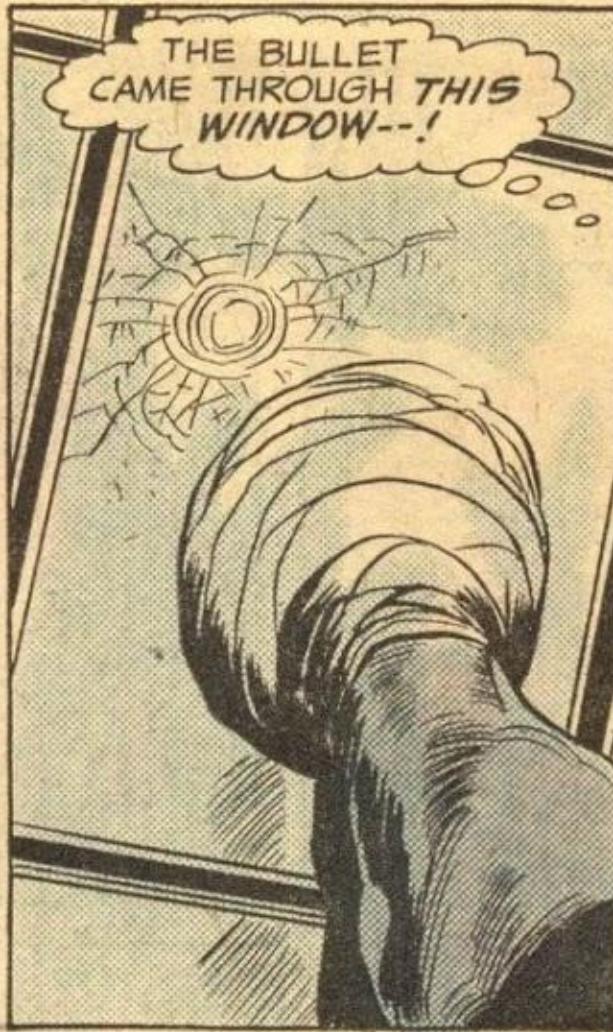
WE PAY
TOP DOLLAR
AND... MMMF!

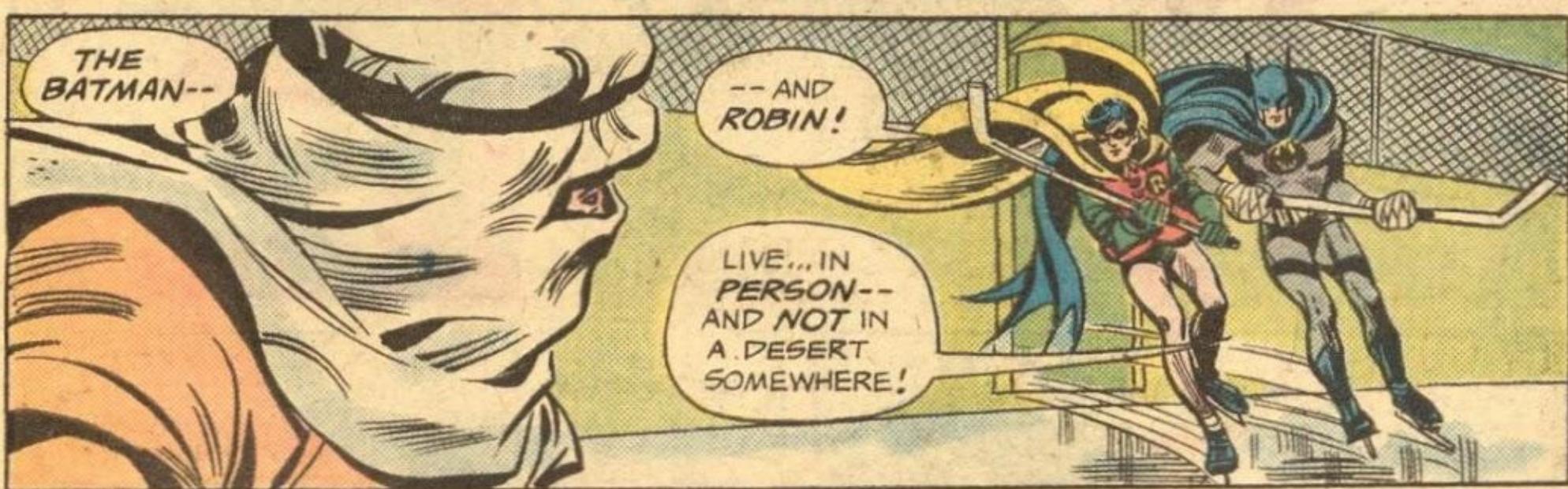
QUIET! I HEARD
A DOOR
OPENING--!

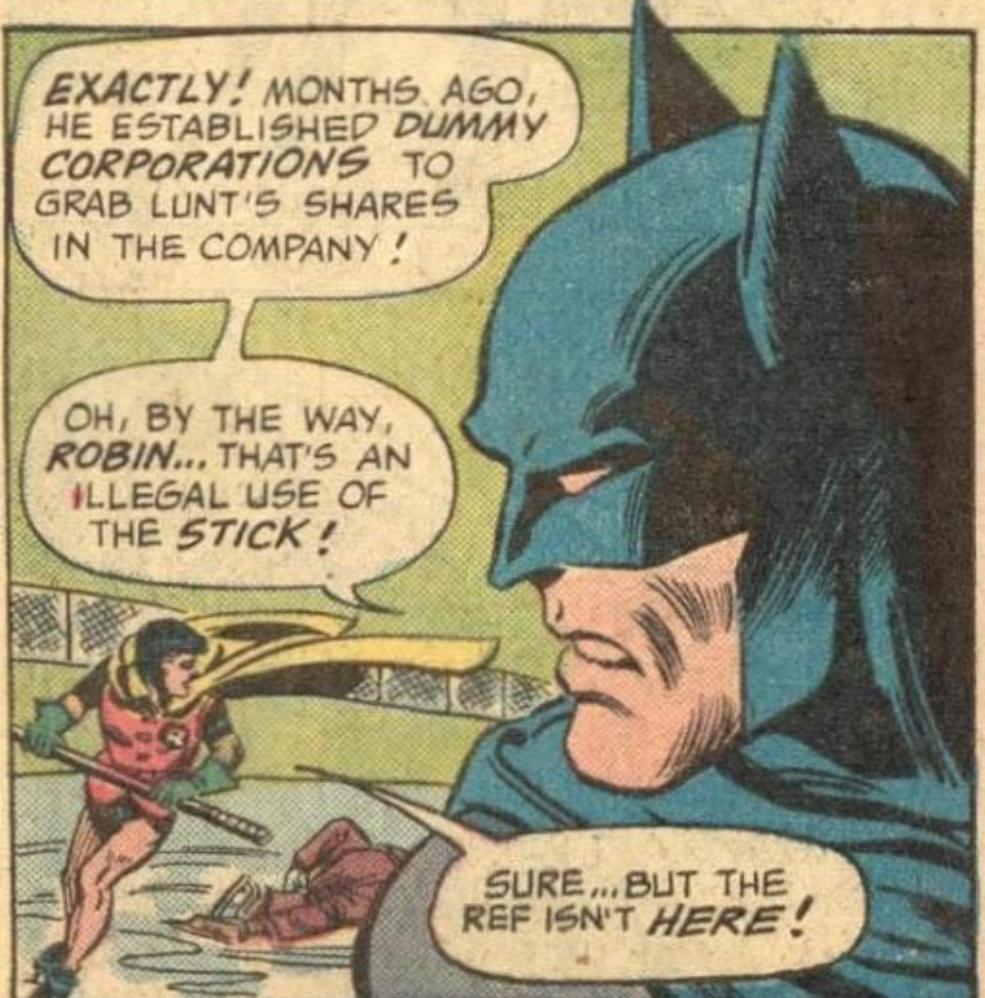












ROBIN-- I'M SURPRISED
AT YOU! THAT'S AN
ILLEGAL CHECK...
ANOTHER FOUL!

I HAVE A
HUNCH THIS GUY
IS PRETTY FOUL
HIMSELF!

NO EXCUSES! INTO THE
PENALTY BOX WITH YOU!

I'LL FINISH
THE GAME
ALONE!

ROBIN IS CURIOUS ABOUT
THE HOPKINS SHOOTING!

HE WAS SHOT, WASN'T
HE, GOFORTH? SHOT...
BUT NOT KILLED!

BODY ARMOR IS
ALSO USEFUL AGAINST
A BULLET!

YOU'VE GUESSED..??

IT WASN'T HARD, HOPKINS!
YOUR "BODY" DISAPPEARED, TOO...
AND ROBIN DISCOVERED IT
WAS DELIVERED TO A CORNER
HALF A BLOCK FROM THIS VERY
ARENA!

THE
CLINCHER
WAS THE LUNT
SLAYING!

I LEFT THE SHEIKH
AT THE FRONT OF
THE MANSION...

HE COULDN'T
POSSIBLY HAVE GOTTEN
TO THE LIBRARY WINDOW
IN TIME TO GUN LUNT--

--UNLESS
THERE WERE
TWO OF
YOU!

WHACK!

THEREFORE,
YOU SCHEMED
TOGETHER.
TO KILL LUNT!
TWO BOGUS
MURDERS...
A DOUBLE
RED
HERRING!

NO!
COUNTING
THE SHEIKH
MASQUERADE,
A TRIPLE
RED
HERRING!

FOR AMATEURS, YOU'VE BEEN
DIABOLICALLY CLEVER!
SELDOM HAVE ANY CRIMINALS
CAUSED ME SUCH GRIEF!

YOU'VE
DECEIVED
ME...
HUMILIATED
ME--!

THE TROUBLE IS... I
TEND NOT TO STAY
DECEIVED AND
HUMILIATED!

MEN LIKE YOU
ARE DRIVEN BY
GREED! I HAVE
A STRONGER
MOTIVATION!

I HATE CRIME...
HATE IT WITH
EVERY FIBRE OF
MY BEING!

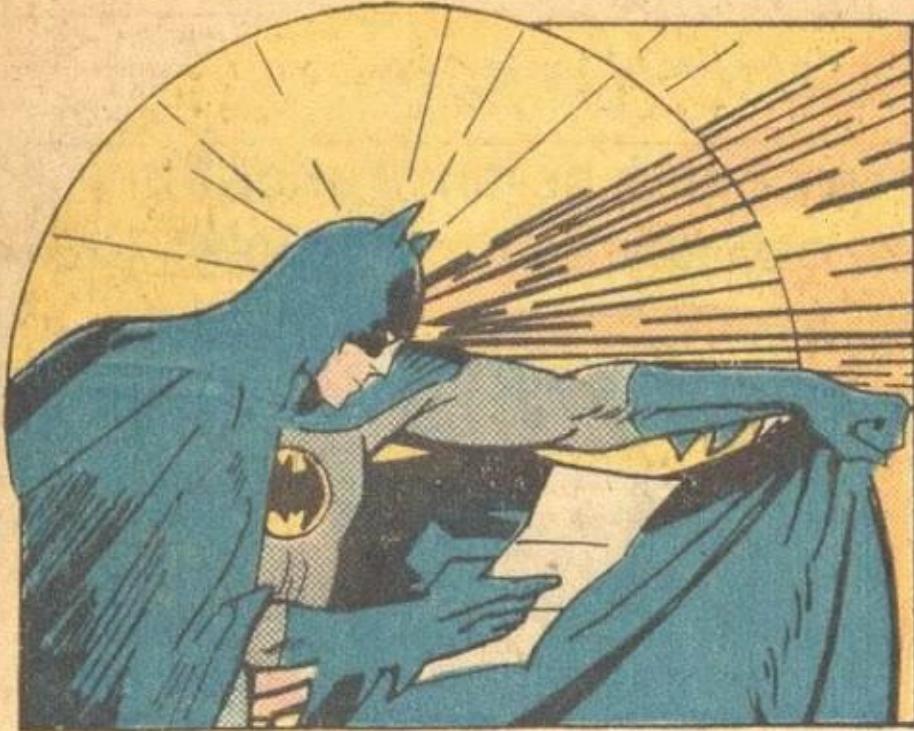
EVEN IN A WORLD AS
CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN
AS OURS, JUSTICE
STILL EXISTS--

--AND WHETHER THROUGH ME
OR THROUGH THE MACHINERY
OF CIVILIZATION... THE LAW--

-- JUSTICE
TRIUMPHS!

GOAL,
BATMAN!

LET'S
GO HOME,
ROBIN!



S-2089

Dear Julie,

Let's see, we have an Evel...er, evil motorcycle daredevil named Devil Dayre who is going to make several million dollars by jumping a river canyon in a jet-cycle! Now where have I heard that before?

But Denny O'Neil turned out a hamburger-like story with "Death of a Daredevil" in **BATMAN #264**. In other words, it was a whopper! Though I didn't expect much after seeing the cover, I was pleasantly surprised.

I couldn't figure out why **Batman** would shed his cowl when we know he isn't dead! I now see that he had an excellent reason. I had the bodyguard pegged in an instant, but not till the end did I realize who the true mastermind was. Denny really showed **The Batman's** true colors as a detective this time.

Ernie Chua's art is much like Irv Novick's but Ernie seems to make everything a little smoother and less detailed. I like it!

SCOTT R. TAYLOR, Portland, Tex.

(You may think "Death of a Daredevil" was like that hamburger, but our next correspondent wishes we would "hold the lettuce", etc.—BR)

Dear Julie

What is going on in the hallowed halls of DC? What are you doing to **The Batman** that all crooks knew and feared as a creature from the deep, dark void? He's turning back into the campy, corny, dull **Batman** of yesteryear!

First we have a carbon of Evel Knievel with the worst kind of campy name ever! "Devil Dayre" sounds like something out of the **Batman** TV show!

And I thought the days when **Batman** was a perfect expert at anything and everything were behind us! But here he's a motorcyclist capable of beating a professional daredevil in a race—a race in which the opponent has a head start! Come on!

Then we have the return of the totally ridiculous whirly-bat. That really got my goat! Before we know it, we'll be back with **The Batman** who has every type of device conceivable to the human mind!

Finally, the worst cut of all was the closing scene of **Batman** ripping down the Devil Dayre poster—a scene of what seemed to be remorse in a stupid story. It didn't fit a single bit!

Denny, you've made **Batman** the best DC hero around, but if you turn out another story like this

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

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one, I'll begin to lose faith!

MICKEY McCONNELL, Richmond, Va.

(From your comments, Mickey, it looks like you've already done so!—BR)

Dear Editor:

Ernie Chua's **BATMAN** covers are great and #264 was no exception! It was thrilling and whetted my appetite for the story.

"Death of a Daredevil" was thrilling, adventurous and very original, as always. Who else but Denny O'Neil could have thought up such a plot? Bravo!

Ernie's interior art should go on a parade float. It is vivid and has a great three-dimensional effect. Ditto for Dick Giordano's inking in bringing out the best.

Someone reading #264 as his first **Batman** comic would think the Caped Crusader a clever, cunning and relentless man. The battle with the thugs, the beer-can scene and the last panel were all great—perfect examples of **The Batman** in action!

One final note: Where is Robin? Isn't his "nest" in the Batcave? Bring him back!

TOM WARD, New York, N.Y.

(Our Teen Wonder has moved his nest to our newest Bat-magazine, **BATMAN FAMILY**, which he shares with Bat-Girl! If you're lucky, you may still find a copy of #1!—BR)

Dear Julie & Company,

BATMAN #264: The art was adequate, considering it was only Ernie Chua's second try and of course Dick Giordano's inks saved what needed saving.

But the story more than made up for it, except for one gripe. In the beer-can scene, **Batman** is portrayed as he should be—agile, difficult to hit, cold and powerful. His reflexes have saved him a thousand times, so how can he be so easily felled by a thug with a pool cue? How can **Batman** stand, hands on hips, while a baddie is right behind him, weapon upraised? Don't explain it away as a plot clue, even though it is because it's a cheap one at best.

I liked seeing Alfred in on the action and I also enjoyed seeing **Batman** using the whirly-bat. The issue overall was great, but then that's because **Batman** is, too!

STEPHEN PERRY, Johnson, Vt.

(Just enough space to let you know what's coming up for you Bat-fans! We've already plugged our new 50¢ Giant **BATMAN FAMILY** above and you've heard about THE JOKER—#4, by the way, features Green Arrow and will be on sale in early August—but do you know about our newest Batman spinoff? Winging your way in September: **MAN-BAT** by Gerry Conway, Steve Ditko and Allen Milgrom. Watch for it!—Bob Rozakis)