

GIANT G61

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The ORIGIN of
ALFRED

A 30TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL featuring

5
CLASSIC
TALES

THE ORIGIN OF
ROBIN

The ORIGIN
of CLAY FACE

THE
GAME
OF
DEATH

THE
MAN
BEHIND
THE
Red Hood

BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY



GIANT BATMAN

30th
ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE ORIGIN OF ROBIN.....

Here's the story you demanded...the complete origin of the Boy Wonder! Many past issues of BATMAN and DETECTIVE were searched to bring together ALL the facts for the first time...with new, exciting illustrations!

HERE COMES ALFRED.....

How did Bruce Wayne's butler enter the lives of the Dynamic Duo? How did he learn their secret identities? You'll find out in the original origin of Alfred, from BATMAN No. 16 (April-May, 1943).

THE GAME OF DEATH

From the pages of STAR SPANGLED COMICS No. 127 (April, 1952) comes an exciting saga of Robin! In this one, the Teen Thunderbolt must decide how his partner, Batman, is to die!

THE MAN BEHIND THE RED HOOD

One of Batman's earliest cases is investigated again, to discover the secrets behind a baffling criminal whom the Caped Crime-fighter never unmasked! We defy you to guess the identity of the mystery marauder called the Red Hood, in this tale from DETECTIVE No. 186 (February, 1951).

THE CHALLENGE OF CLAY FACE

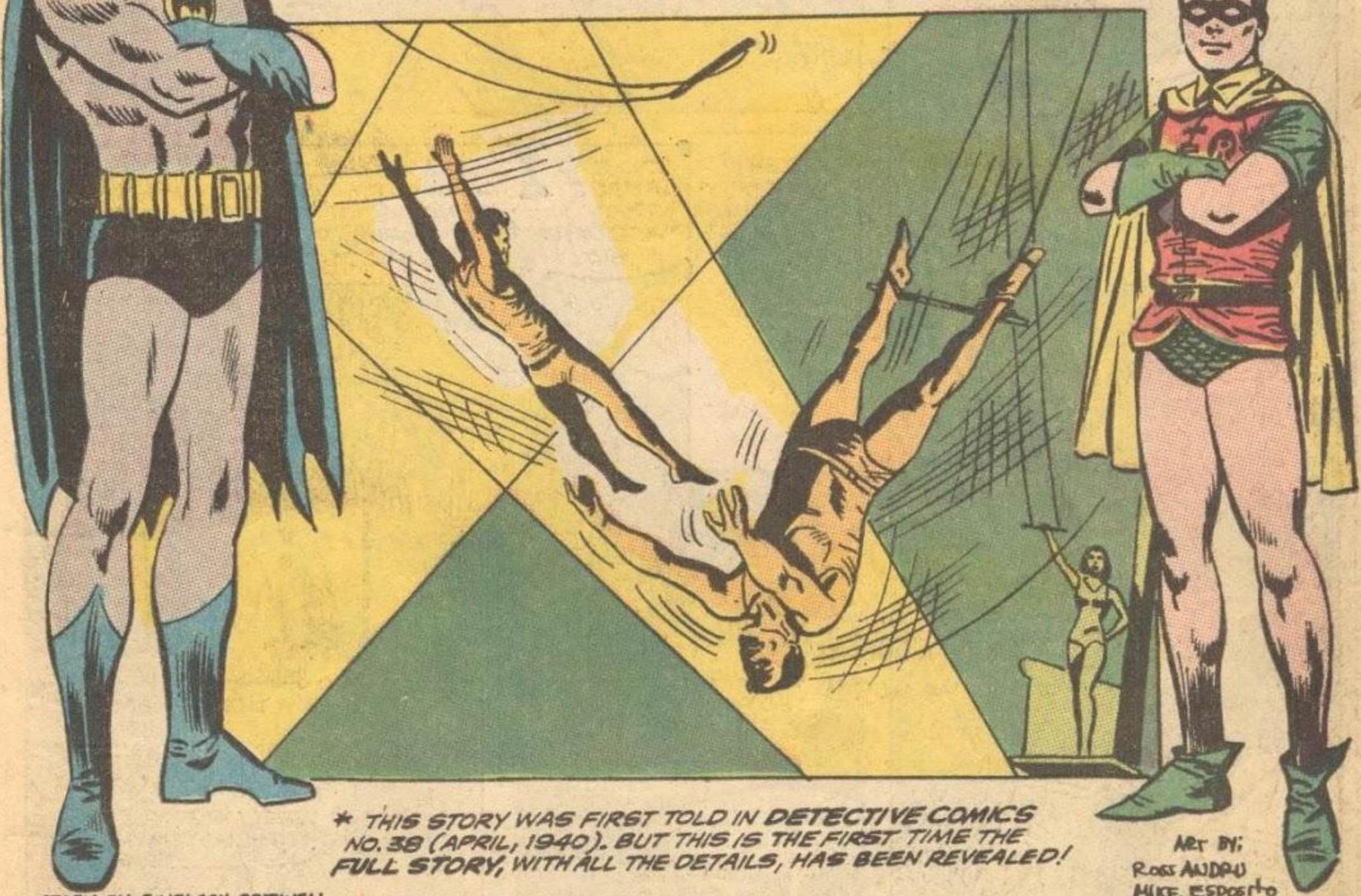
Our last giant told of the first Clay-Face...an actor in a weird disguise. But far stranger is the second villain of that name...the unstoppable being who can alter his shape at will! From DETECTIVE No. 298 (December, 1961).

BATMAN

ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE TIME: SEVERAL YEARS AGO! THE PLACE: NEWTON, A RISING YOUNG COMMUNITY NEAR GOTHAM CITY! THE SCENE: THE FLYING GRAYSONS, JOHN, MARY AND THEIR YOUNG SON, DICK, ARE THRILLING A CAPACITY CROWD IN THE BIG TOP OF THE HALY CIRCUS... SWINGING HIGH ABOVE THE CENTER RING... DOING THEIR DARING TRAPEZE ACT WITHOUT A NET! YES, THE LAD IS DICK GRAYSON, BEFORE HE MET THE BATMAN AND BECAME ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! THIS IS THE STORY OF... *

"THE ORIGIN OF ROBIN!"

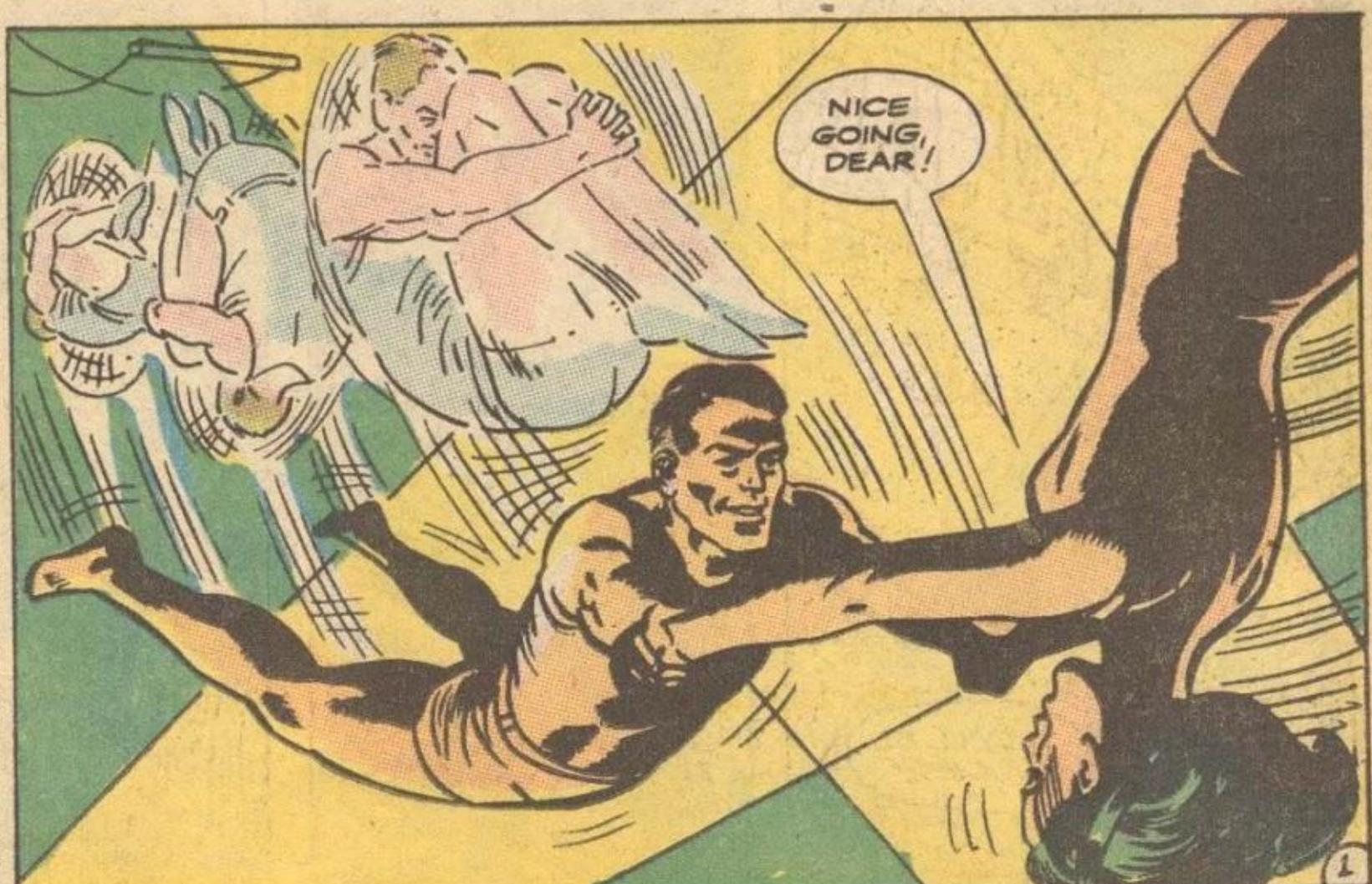


* THIS STORY WAS FIRST TOLD IN DETECTIVE COMICS NO. 38 (APRIL, 1940). BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE FULL STORY, WITH ALL THE DETAILS, HAS BEEN REVEALED!

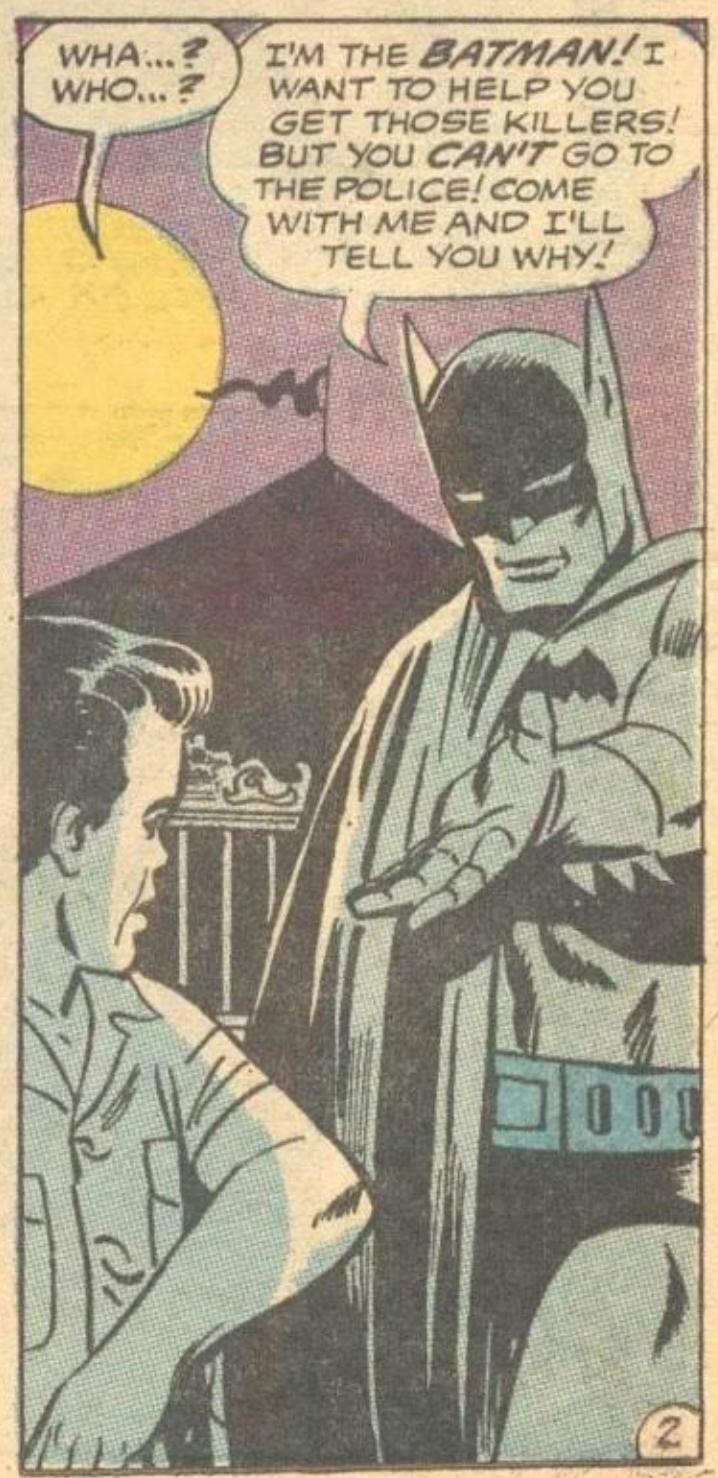
ART BY:
ROSS ANDRU
MIKE ESPORTO

STORY BY: E. NELSON BRIDWELL

HIS PART OF THE ACT OVER, DICK DESCENDS TO THE TANBARK AND WATCHES PROUDLY AS THE RINGMASTER ANNOUNCES HIS FATHER'S SPECIALTY, THE TRIPLE SPIN! THERE IS A TENSE SILENCE, SAVE FOR THE DRUM ROLL, AS JOHN GRAYSON FLIES OUT... SOMERSAULTS THRIC... AND STRAIGHTENS OUT...



BUT SUDDENLY, AS GRAYSON'S
WEIGHT IS ADDED TO THAT OF HIS
WIFE, THE ROPES OF THE TRAPEZE
HOLDING THEM PART, AND...



SOON,
IN THE
BAT-
MOBILE...*

THOSE WERE TWO OF "BOSS"
ZUCCO'S BOYS! HE PRACTICALLY
RUNS THE TOWN! IF YOU TALKED,
YOU'D BE DEAD
IN AN HOUR!

I'M TAKING YOU
TO SAFETY... TILL
I CAN GET
EVIDENCE ON
ZUCCO
HIMSELF!

*THIS ORIGINAL BATMOBILE WAS MERELY A POWERFUL SEDAN, WITHOUT DECORATIONS OR SPECIAL ACCESSORIES!

I HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST
IN YOU... BECAUSE MY PARENTS,
TOO, WERE KILLED BY A
CRIMINAL! THAT'S WHY I
DEDICATED MY LIFE TO
FIGHTING CRIME!

I'D LIKE TO DO
THE SAME! GIVE
ME A CHANCE TO
AVENGE MY
PARENTS!

THOUGH THE CAPED CRIME-
FIGHTER IS AT FIRST RELUCTANT,
DICK KEEPS PLEADING,
AND, AS THEY REACH THE
SECRET BATCAVE...

OKAY, DICK!
I'LL GIVE YOU
A CHANCE!
COME WITH
ME!

GRIMLY, BATMAN ADMINISTERS
A SOLEMN OATH...

SWEAR THAT YOU WILL FIGHT
AGAINST CRIME AND
CORRUPTION... AND
NEVER SWERVE FROM
THE PATH OF RIGHT!

I
SWEAR
IT!

NOW I'M GOING TO TRUST YOU WITH
A SECRET I'VE NEVER REVEALED
TO ANYONE ELSE... MY REAL
IDENTITY! I'M SOCIALITE
BRUCE WAYNE!

G-GOLLY!

NEXT DAY, AT A COURT IN GOTHAM CITY...

I CAN'T LET YOU ADOPT
THE BOY, MR. WAYNE,
BECAUSE YOU'RE A
BACHELOR!

BUT SINCE YOU'VE
OBTAINED THE
CONSENT OF HIS
NEAREST RELATIVES,
I HEREBY APPOINT
YOU HIS LEGAL
GUARDIAN!

SOON
AFTER,
DICK'S
TRAINING
PERIOD
BEGINS...

THIS IS A
CINCH!
I'VE BEEN
DOING IT
SINCE
I WAS
FOUR!

SNAP YOUR PUNCH AND
PUT YOUR SHOULDER
BEHIND IT... AND YOU CAN
HIT AS HARD AS A
FEATHERWEIGHT
CHAMP!

YOU COULD
PROBABLY
TEACH ME
A TRICK OR
TWO ON THE
TRAPEZE!

NICE
GOING! YOU
SEE HOW
JIU JITSU
TURNS
YOUR
OPPONENT'S
STRENGTH
AGAINST
HIM!

FINALLY, ONE DAY...

READY, DICK! BUT TO OPERATE
WITH BATMAN, YOU'LL NEED
ANOTHER IDENTITY... A COSTUME...
AND A NEW NAME!

SINCE
YOU'RE
BATMAN,
MAYBE I
COULD
TAKE THE
NAME OF A
DIFFERENT
FLYING
CREATURE!

I WAS THINKING THE
SAME THING! HOW DO
YOU LIKE THE NAME...
ROBIN?

SWELL! ROBIN
HOOD WAS
ALWAYS ONE
OF MY
FAVORITE
HEROES!



*AS TOLD IN "WHEN BATMAN WAS ROBIN"-DETECTIVE NO. 266 (DEC. 1955); REPRINTED IN GIANT BATMAN ANNUAL NO. 2 (1961).

YET IT IS NOT IN THE COLORFUL COSTUME OF THE BOY WONDER THAT DICK BEGINS HIS CAREER, BUT THE GUISE OF A DIRTY-FACED NEWSBOY...IN NEWTOWN!

HERE YA ARE!
GET YOUR
PAPERS!
PAPERS!

THE FIRST DAY BRINGS NO ACTION...BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

EVERY KID WHO SELLS PAPERS COUGHS UP A THIRD OF HIS TAKE EVERY WEEK!

AND YOU AIN'T NO EXCEPTION! HOLD OUT A DIME, AND WE'LL BEAT YOU UP AND TAKE YOUR PAPERS!

I'LL PAY...
I'LL PAY...

THE HOODLUMS ARE UNAWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR LATEST VICTIM IS TAILING THEM AS THEY HEAD BACK TO THEIR BOSS...

THE BATMAN FIGURES I MIGHT BE ABLE TO OVERHEAR SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP US GET THE GOODS ON ZUCCO! HOPE HE'S RIGHT!



INSIDE...

WELL, BOSS,
THERE IT IS... THIS
WEEK'S TAKE!

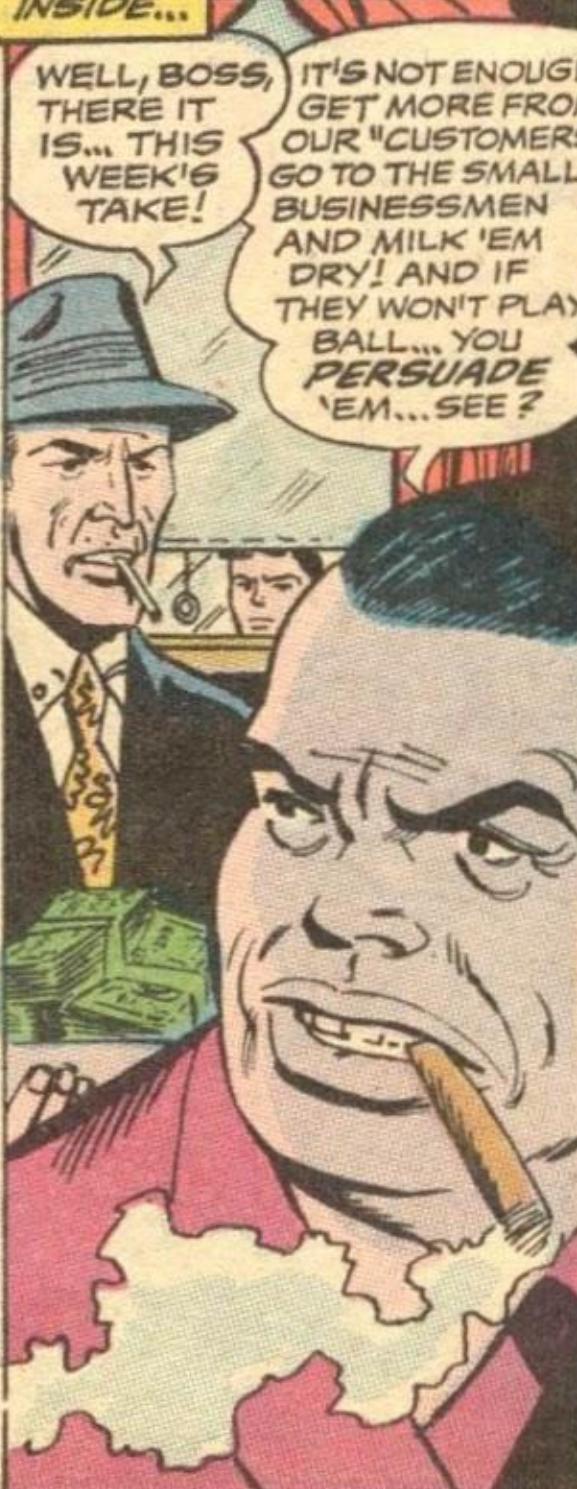
IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
GET MORE FROM
OUR "CUSTOMERS"!
GO TO THE SMALL
BUSINESSMEN
AND MILK 'EM
DRY! AND IF
THEY WON'T PLAY
BALL... YOU
PERSUADE
'EM... SEE?

THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN A
TAILOR'S SHOP...

BUT I CAN'T
PAY YOU ANY
MORE! I
HAVEN'T
GOT IT!

GET
IT!

AND
IF YOU
DON'T...



SUDDENLY, THE HOODS ARE SEIZED FROM BEHIND, AND...

WHAT AN ECHO!
HOLLOW... JUST AS I THOUGHT!

DICK SURE GOT ZUCCO'S PLANS... TO THE LAST DETAIL!

KLOK

WHEN YOU SEE BOSS ZUCCO, TELL HIM THE BATMAN WAS HERE! AND MIND YOUR MANNERS... OR I'LL BE BACK!

LATER, AT A GAMBLING CASINO OWNED BY ZUCCO...

IT'S THE BATMAN!

CRASH

IT'S ABOUT TIME THIS TOWN'S ANTI-GAMBLING LAWS WERE ENFORCED!

GET HIM... UUHH!

SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, EH? HERE'S A TABLE TO PLAY WITH!

LOOK! HE'S SCATTERING MONEY ON THE FLOOR!

IN AN INSTANT, THE PATRONS OF THE CASINO ARE SCRAMBLING FOR THE SCATTERED BILLS...

A C-NOTE! HERE'S MY CHANCE TO RECOUP MY LOSSES!

THEY'RE TAKIN' ALL THE DOUGH!

AND THEY'RE WRECKIN' THE JOINT! ZUCCO AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS!

ADIEU, GENTLEMEN! TELL BOSS ZUCCO I CALLED!

AN HOUR LATER, AT ZUCCO'S PLACE...

THE BATMAN'S BEEN BEATIN' UP OUR STRONG-ARM BOYS... WRECKIN' OUR CASINO AND SLOT MACHINES...

THE BATMAN! SHUT UP! WE'RE GONNA GET THAT CREEP...

BOSS, THIS PACKAGE JUST CAME FOR YA!

AS BLADE OPENS THE PARCEL...

SKREEEE

WELL, I'LL BE... IT'S A BAT!

THAT'S THE BATMAN'S TRADEMARK!

A NOTE WAS INSIDE!

GET OUT OF TOWN, ZUCCO! I KNOW YOU ARE TRYING TO GET PROTECTION MONEY FROM THE COMPANY THAT IS PUTTING UP THE CANIN BUILDING. STAY AWAY! THAT BUILDING IS UNDER MY PERSONAL PROTECTION.

I'M STILL BOSS OF THIS TOWN! NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO! C'MON, BOYS! WE'RE GOING TO THE CANIN BUILDING!

BUT AS THE CAR LEAVES, A COLORFUL FIGURE CLINGS TO THE REAR BUMPER...

IT WORKED! BATMAN GOT ZUCCO SO MAD HE'S GOING TO DO THE JOB PERSONALLY! WE'LL CATCH HIM IN THE ACT!

AT THE CANIN BUILDING...

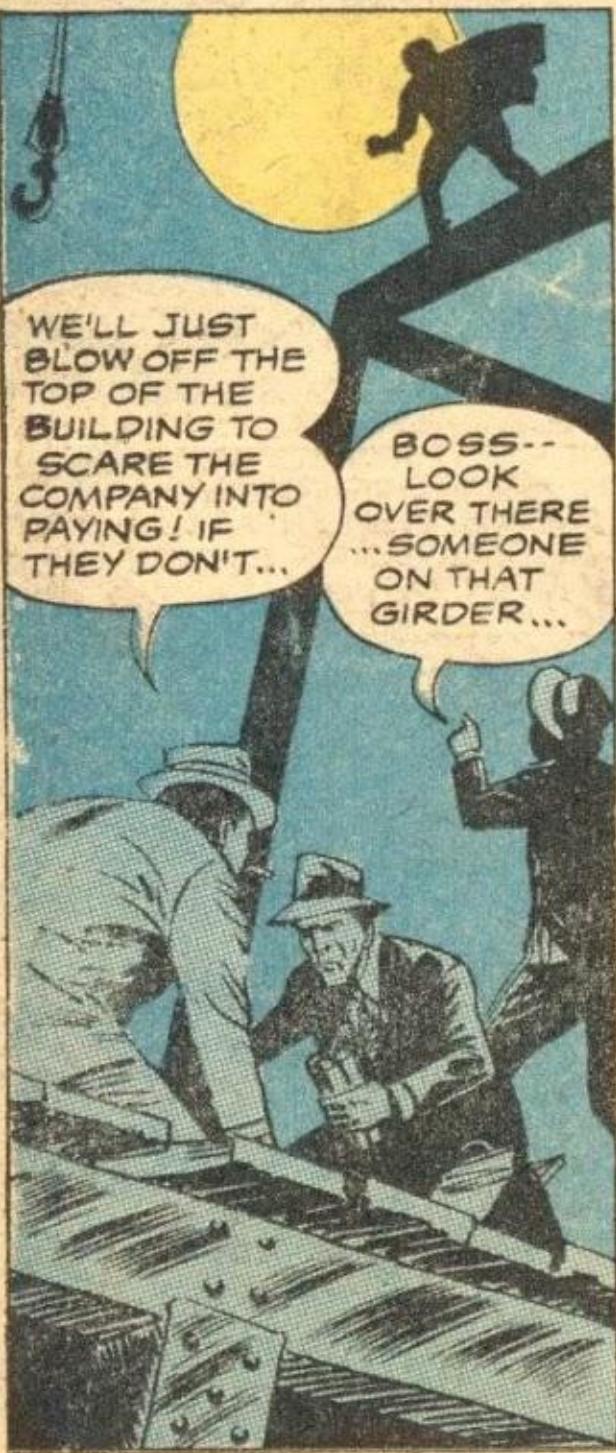
OKAY! I TIED UP THE NIGHT WATCHMAN!
GOOD! YOU STAY DOWN HERE AS GUARD! I'M ABOUT TO SHOW THE CONTRACTOR WHAT HAPPENS TO GUYS WHO DON'T PAY OFF! GOT THE DYNAMITE, BLADE?

AS ZUCCO AND HIS MEN ASCEND IN THE ELEVATOR, A PINT-SIZED POWERHOUSE STREAKS FROM THE SHADOWS, AND...

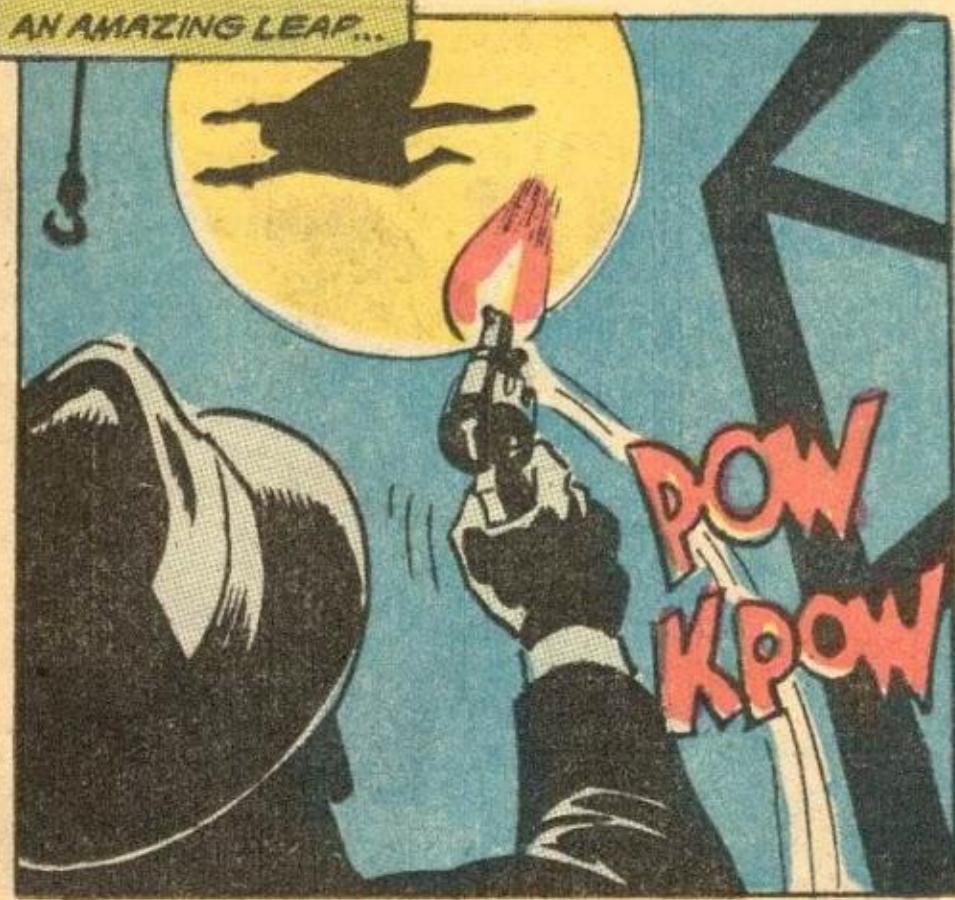
HEY... UUUUHH!



SOON, HIGH ABOVE...



AN AMAZING LEAP...



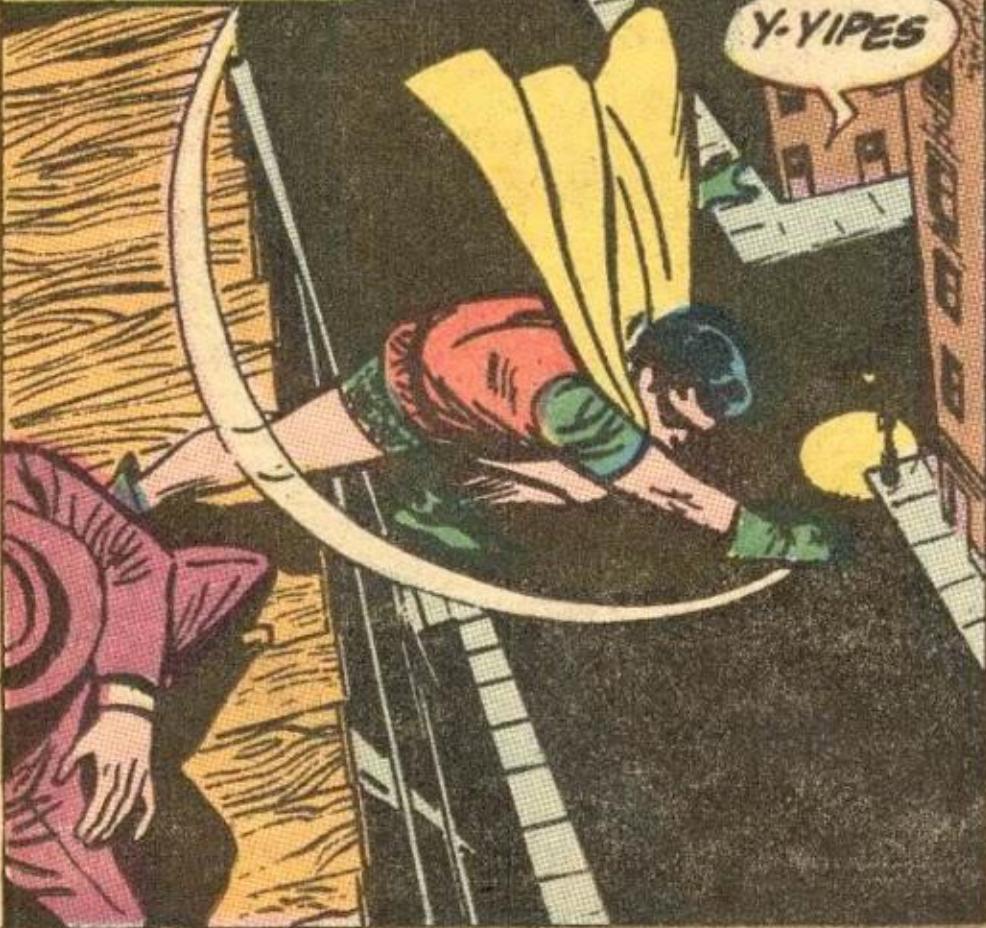
...A SWEEPING SWING...



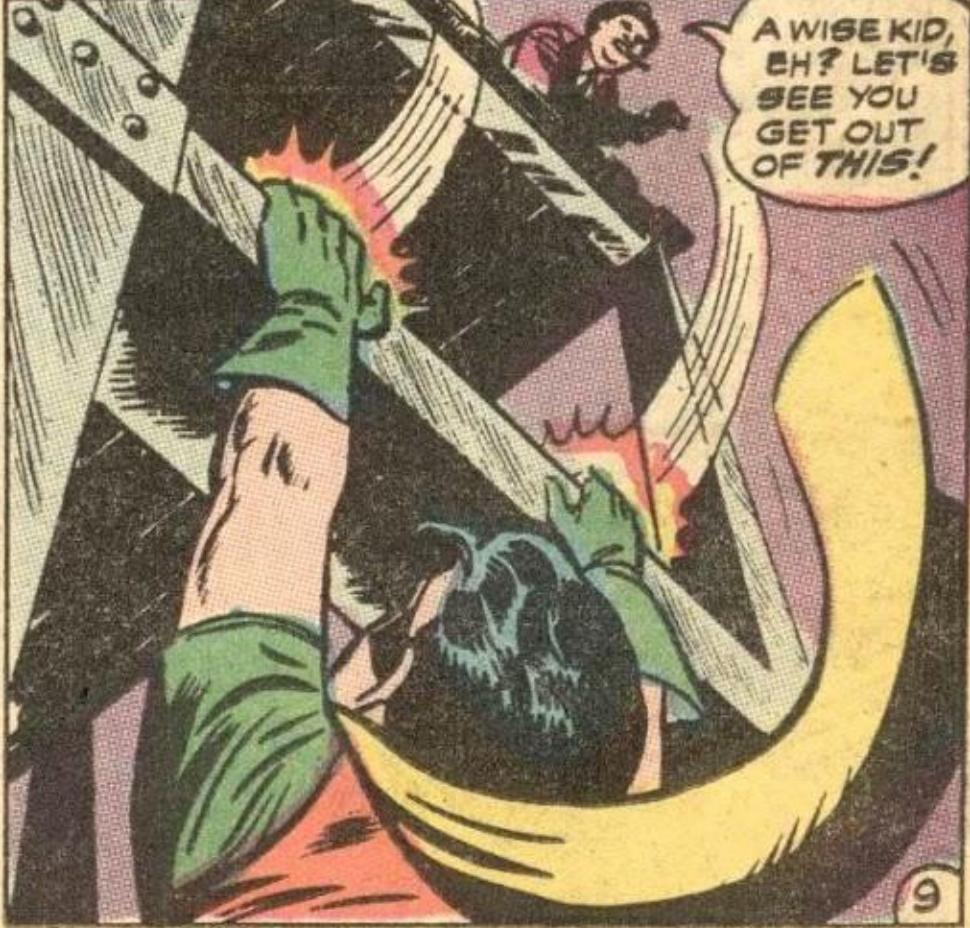
...AND THE YOUNG DAREDEVIL BARRELS RIGHT INTO THE MURDEROUS GUNMEN...



BUT AS HE BATTLES THE SURPRISED KILLERS,
ROBIN SLIPS...



THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT CATCHES ONTO
A GIRDER AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, BUT...



BUT, SWINGING ONTO THE SCENE COMES THE BATMAN!

MIND IF I DROP IN ON
THE PARTY, ZUCCO?
SORRY I DON'T HAVE
AN INVITATION...

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
WHAT A PLEASURE
THIS GIVES ME!



PANICKED BY THE BATMAN'S ARRIVAL, BLADE FLEES...



SUDDENLY, A ROPE LOOPS ABOUT BLADE AND JERKS HIM OFF THE GIRDER...



AS THE GANGSTER DANGLES HELPLESSLY WITH ONLY EMPTY SPACE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE GROUND, THE BATMAN PRODUCES A SMALL VIAL...



THE TERRIFIED HOOD DICTATES AND SIGNS A FULL CONFESSION...

THERE IT IS...

THE WHOLE THING... HOW ZUCCO PUT ME UP TO IT... I'LL SWEAR TO IT IN COURT!

YOU DIRTY SQUEALER!

WITH A SWIFT MOTION, THE CORPULANT CRIME-CHIEF HURLS HIS HUGE BULK AT THE GOTHAM GOLIATH...

OUT OF MY WAY, BAT-RAT!

OOOFF!

AND BEFORE BATMAN CAN RECOVER...

STOOLIE! NOBODY RATS ON ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!

QUICK THINKING, ROBIN! WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE NOW!

WHAT EVIDENCE? BLADE CAN'T BACK UP HIS CONFESSTION IF HE'S DEAD!



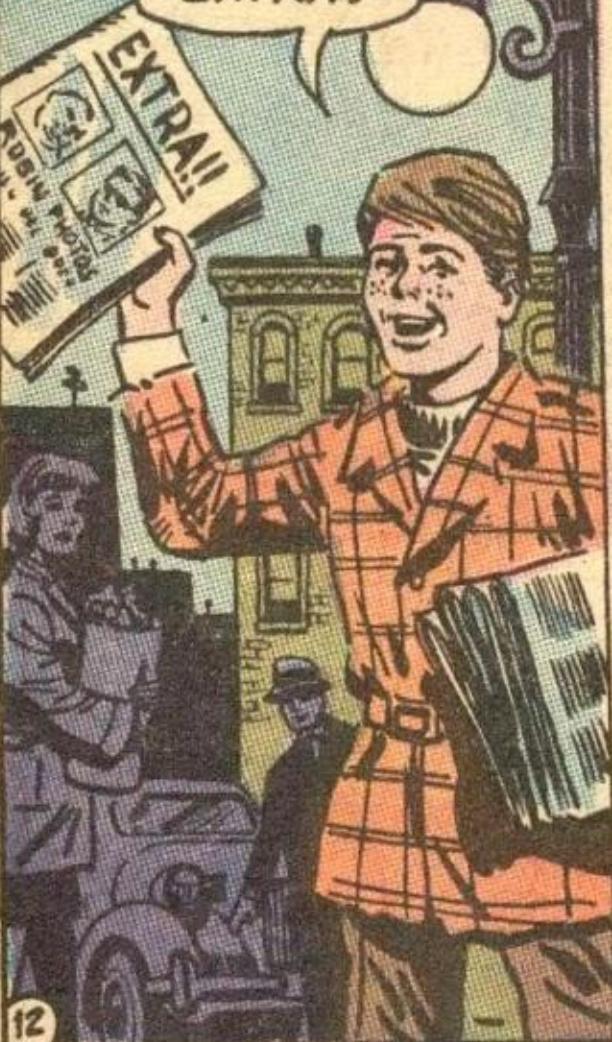
I COULDN'T RESCUE BLADE... BUT I USED THE MINIATURE INFRA-RED CAMERA FROM MY UTILITY BELT TO SNAP YOU PUSHING HIM! THIS BABY TAKES PERFECT SHOTS... EVEN AT NIGHT!

YOU'RE THROUGH, ZUCCO! YOUR NEW "BOSS" WILL BE... THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!



AND SO, THANKS TO THE WORK OF FAKE NEWSBOY DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON, OTHER NEWSBOYS IN NEWTOWN SOON HAVE AN EXCITING HEADLINE...

EXTRA! ZUCCO FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, SENTENCED TO CHAIR! NEW ADMINISTRATION TO CLEAN UP CITY POLITICS!
EXTRA!

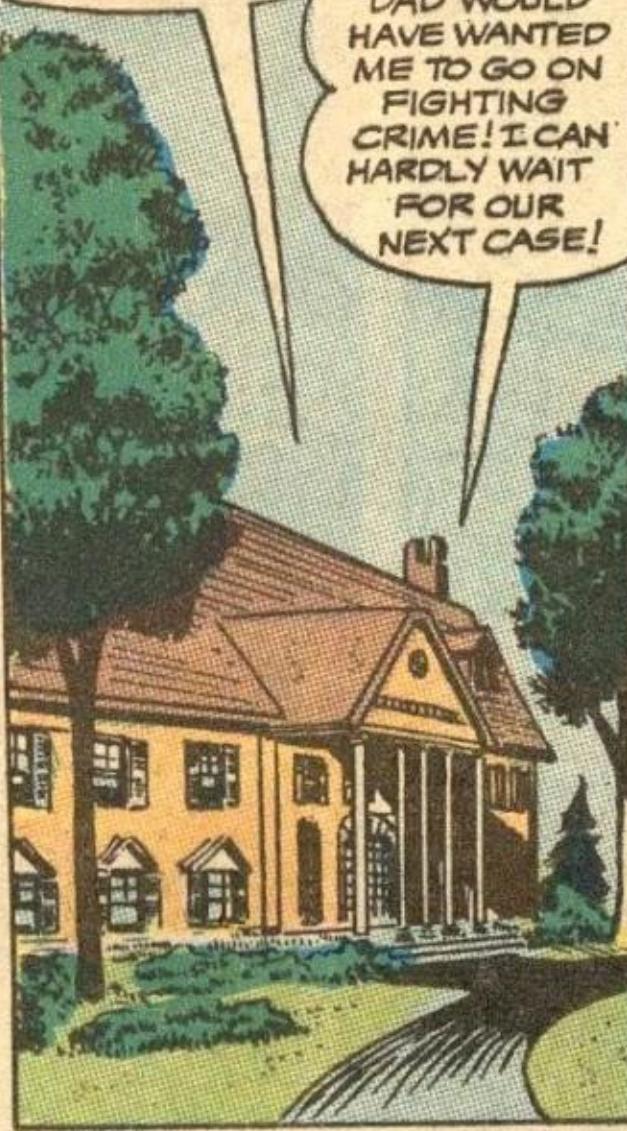


12

AND AT WAYNE MANOR...

WELL, DICK, NOW THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE AVENGED, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK TO CIRCUS LIFE?

NO! I THINK MOM AND DAD WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO GO ON FIGHTING CRIME! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR OUR NEXT CASE!



I HADN'T INTENDED FOR YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR ROBIN CAREER! YOU TACKLED THOSE CROOKS... EVEN BEFORE I GOT THERE... BECAUSE YOU WERE MAD CLEAN THROUGH! STILL, I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STUDY HARD!

I CAN DO IT! I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME, BRUCE!



DICK DID MAKE THE GRADE, AND WON THE RIGHT TO BE BATMAN'S PERMANENT PARTNER! *The End.*



TAKE A

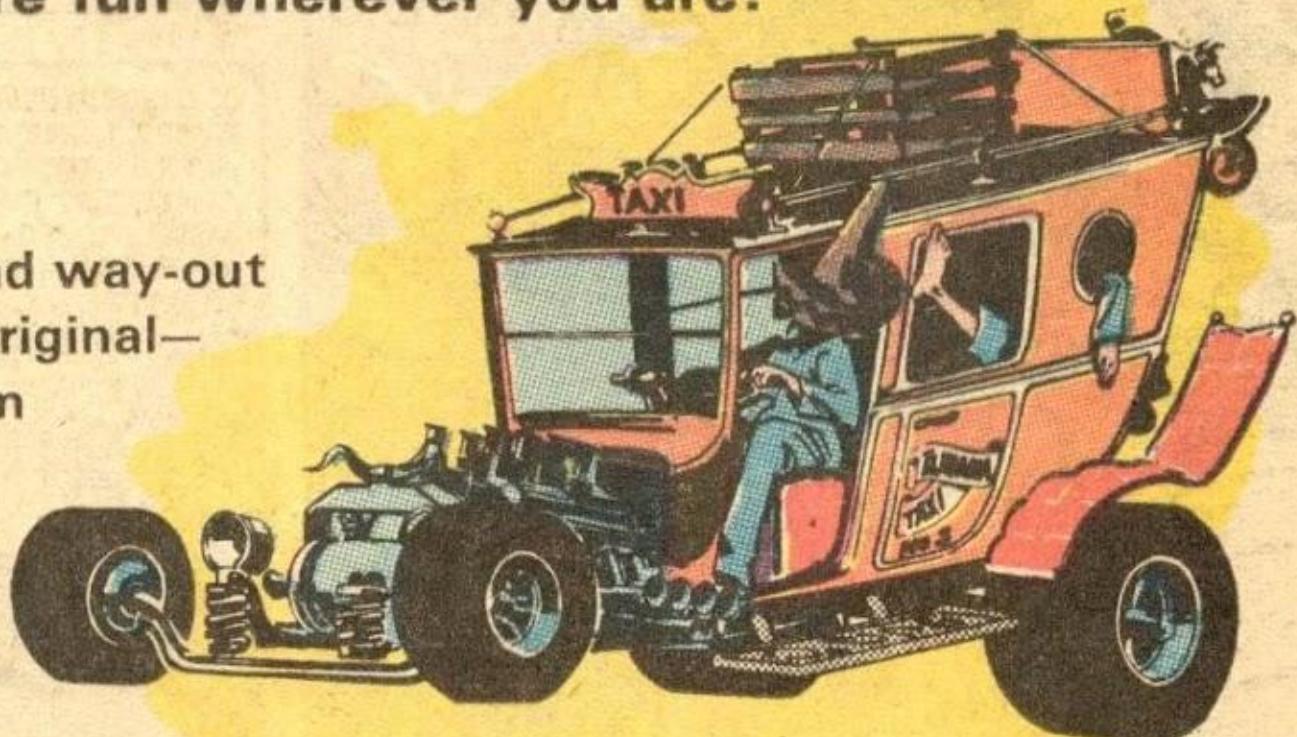
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TALES
THAT
HOLD
YOU IN**

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DC Special

13 SHOCK-ENDING STORIES 13

LET THE SECRET TRIAL BEGIN!

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**10
12
TALES
THAT
HOLD
YOU IN**

**UNBELIEVABLE SUSPENSE
UNTIL THE
SHOCKING CLIMAX!**

THE DARING DIFFERENT

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LET THE SECRET TRIAL BEGIN!

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**SEPT.
NO. 4**

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE

The image shows a large, stylized title '10 12 TALES THAT HOLD YOU IN' on the left side of the page. Below this, there is a large, bold text block containing 'UNBELIEVABLE SUSPENSE UNTIL THE SHOCKING CLIMAX!' in red and green. To the right of this text block is a comic book cover for 'DC Special' issue #4. The cover has a green background. At the top, it says 'THE DARING DIFFERENT' and 'DC Special'. In the center, there is a large 'DC' logo. Below the logo, it says '13 SHOCK-ENDING STORIES 13'. On the left side of the cover, there is a speech bubble that says 'LET THE SECRET TRIAL BEGIN!'. At the bottom right of the cover, it says 'ON SALE MAY 22ND'. The cover also features a small 'APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE' stamp.



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

TWO'S A PERFECT FIGHTING TEAM, AND THREE'S A CROWD IN THE CASE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND WHAT A CROWD, WHEN THE THIRD IS THE SINGULAR GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET! LANDING IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE AFTER A VIOLENT CROSSING OF MANY OCEANS, NONCHALANTLY ATTRACTING VIOLENCE WHEREVER HE MOVES, THIS AMAZING FELLOW GIVES AMERICA'S ACE CRIME-SMASHERS THE MOST VIOLENT SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES -- AND MAKES THEM LIKE HIM FOR IT! YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT YOU'LL BE EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN!

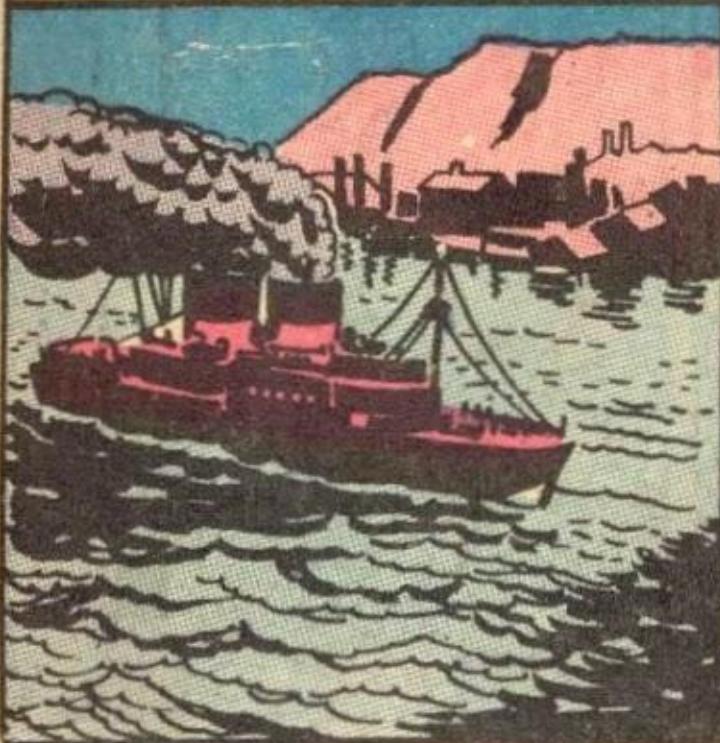
AND NOW BIT TIGHT, FOR -

"HERE COMES ALFRED!"



GIANT BATMAN

NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WAR-TIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...



TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE 'WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALLTHAT BALLY TOSH!



YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EM? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

"HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE IN TEN EASY LESSONS..."
SO YOU'RE A SLEUTH?

AND RAWTER GOOD AT IT, IF I DO SAY SO!

HMM... I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THERE WAS SOMETHIN' MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT GENTLEMAN!



TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT!
... NEXT!



AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...

ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAPPY BODIES!

I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!



AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!

SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?



THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHENEVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!

PRESENTLY...

I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

STEAMSHIP

PIER 2

IT IS HE!
REGARD THE VALISE!

HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!



GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

EH--WHAT?...OH-H-A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...





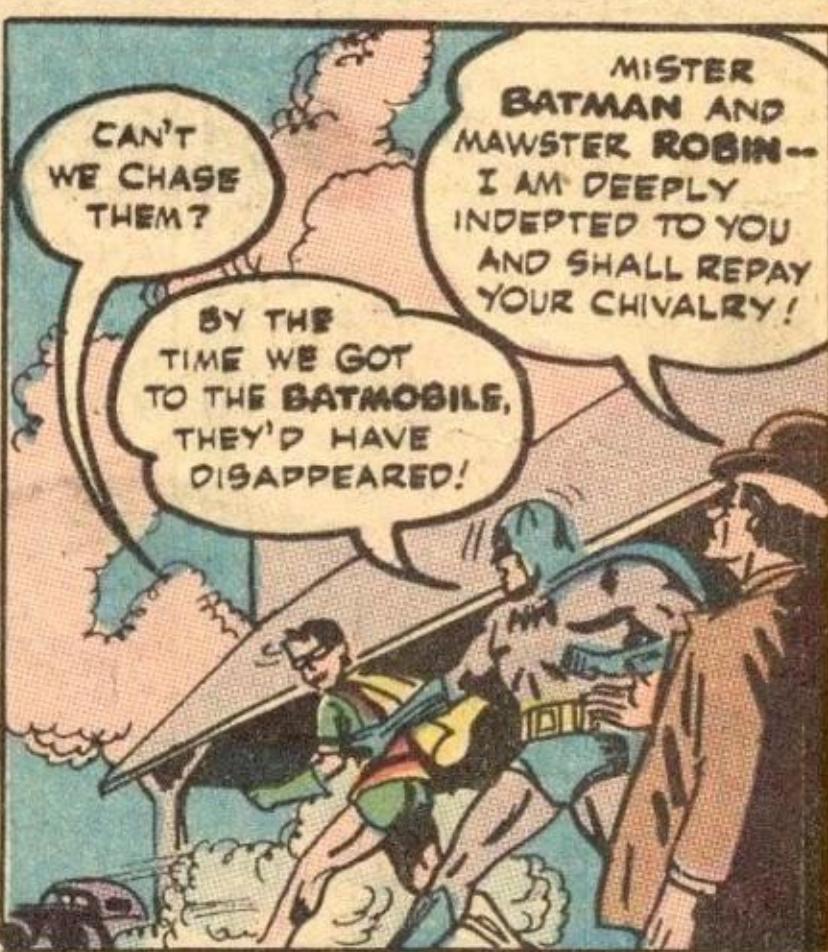
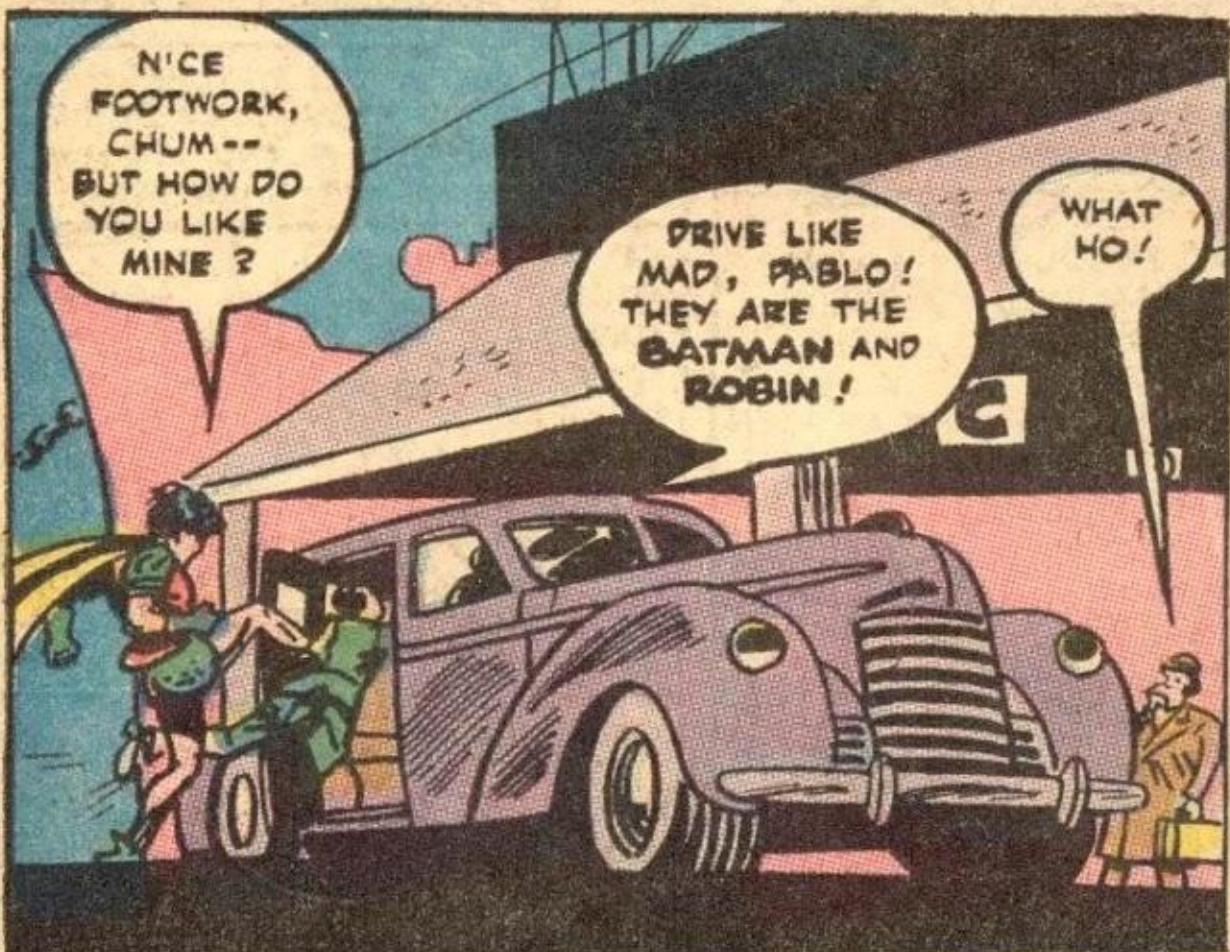
GIANT BATMAN



I'M AFRAID YOU BLIGHTERS
WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL
I'VE FINISHED MY BOOK!

TWIN TORNADOES OF JUSTICE
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN,
DASH TO THE RESCUE OF THE
SCARED BUT NONE-TOO-MEEK
VICTIM!

-- BUT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET
A CHANCE TO PUT MY MARK ON
A FAT RAT LIKE MANUEL STILETTI!



GIANT BATMAN

LATER, AS THE ADVENTURERS PREPARE TO GO TO BED...

THAT WAS A GOOD ONE, BRUCE-- TELLING HIM TO CALL ON US, WHEN NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE, OR WHERE THEY LIVE!

OH WELL--MAYBE HE FANCIES HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FIND US!

IMAGINE A DIMWIT LIKE HIM FINDING US WHEN SOME OF THE SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED AND FAILED!... OH, OH--SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!

I'LL ANSWER IT!

WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?

PROBABLY SOME OF YOUR NIGHT-OWL SOCIETY FRIENDS!

THE NEXT INSTANT...

GOOD EVENIN', GENTLEMEN! I TRUST I HAVEN'T DISTURBED YOUR REST!

HUH?

I'LL JUST SET MY LUGGAGE DOWN, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME-- AND THEN WE'LL DISCUSS MY DUTIES!

WHAT A TIME I HAD GETTIN' HERE, MR. WAYNE! IT WAS NECESSARY TO WAIT A YEAR FOR A SHIP IN ENGLAND--AND THE ONE I FINALLY GOT, STARTED BY WAY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN!

BUT-- BUT -- BUT--

TWO SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED UNDER ME AND I SPENT A FORTNIGHTADRIFT ON A LIFE RAFT! BUT MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED WITHIN THE HOUR, WHEN THUGS ATTACKED ME AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DROVE THEM OFF!

WHY, THEN--YOU DIDN'T KNOW--

QUIET, DICK!

I'VE ALWAYS ADMIREDTHE BATMAN AS A BROTHER CRIMINOLOGIST, Y'KNOW-- BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, WHEN HE ASKED ME TO CALL, I QUITE FORGOT TO ASK HIS ADDRESS!

WELL!

GIANT BATMAN

QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MR -- ER--ER ?

YOU MAY CALL ME "ALFRED" WITHOUT THE "MISTER" -- AND IT'S I WHO WILL DO FOR YOU! YOU SEE, I'M YOUR NEW BUTLER !

BUTLER! BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS! I DIDN'T SEND FOR ONE, AND I'M AFRAID I DON'T WANT ONE !

WE'VE FOUND WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER WITHOUT SERVANTS OF ANY KIND!

IT MAY BE A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, SIR-- BUT I DARE SAY YOU'LL GET USED TO ME !

YOU MAY REMEMBER MY FATHER, JARVIS, WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS ! THE POOR OLD GENTLEMAN WAS HEARTBROKEN WHEN I FORSOOK THE FAMILY CALLING TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE MUSIC HALLS !

SO YOU'RE THE SON OF GOOD OLD JARVIS ! HOW IS HE ?



GONE, SIR... AND ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO MEND MY WAYS AND COME TO YOUR HOUSE IN AMERICA! SO YOU SEE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, THERE ISN'T ANY HELP FOR IT !



BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU STANDING HERE IN YOUR BAWTHROBES ... I'LL TURN DOWN THE BEDS AND MAKE THINGS READY FOR THE NIGHT !



BUT WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DOING HIS AMATEUR SLEUTHING HERE ! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUR SECRET LABORATORY AND THE TUNNEL TO THE BAT-PLANE HANGAR, HE'D REALLY KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN !

YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO SEND HIM PACKING TONIGHT ! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING IN THE MORNING !



BUT BEFORE DAWN A FURTIVE TRIO APPROACHES THE WAYNE HOME...

THIS IS UNTHINKABLE... THAT WE SHOULD FAIL ! IF WE DO NOT GET THE VALISE TONIGHT, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS !

RATHER WOULD I ROT IN PRISON THAN HAVE THAT HAPPEN !

AND A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT AWAKENS BRUCE !

WHA--? MY SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM ! SOMEONE HAS FORCED OPEN ONE OF THE EAST WINDOWS !



GIANT BATMAN

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE... MY BURGLAR ALARM IS ON, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW-- BUT I SEE YOU DO!

GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM, IN CASE WE HAVE TO GO OUT-- AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN APPEARING HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!

AND NOW LET US JOIN THE REMARKABLE ALFRED AS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS NEW JOB CARRIES HIM FAR INTO THE NIGHT...

MR WAYNE IS A NICE PERSON BUT A TYPICAL BACHELOR! LOOK AT THESE NEWSPAPERS, WEEKS OLD AND NOT YET TAKEN OUT!... HMM-- THIS PICTURE...

IT IS HE, GASTON LE DUC! NO WONDER I SENSED SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM! I MUST LOOK HIM UP AND LET HIM KNOW I PIERCED HIS INCOGNITO!

A MOMENT LATER...

SO-- YOU THOUGHT TO ESCAPE! YOU DID NOT THINK WE WOULD FOLLOW YOU, EH?

BLAWST IT! IF I RESIST IT WILL DISTURB THE MAESTERS --AND A GOOD BUTLER NEVER LETS THAT HAPPEN!

THERE IS NO BATMAN TO SAVE YOU NOW, ENGLISH DOLT! LEAD US TO THE VALISE BEFORE MY TRIGGER FINGER BECOMES IMPATIENT!

IT'S IN THIS ROOM!... YOU CAN HAVE IT --BUT PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!

AH! AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS OURS!

BLESS ME-- I KNEW THAT VALISE WAS OLD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS A VALUABLE ANTIQUE!

I SAY-- IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL, BUT IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRIMINAL TO DESTROY A THING WHILE THERE'S STILL USE IN IT!

PABLO, HE ANNOYS ME! KILL HIM!

WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!



GIANT BATMAN

SUDDENLY...

YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS! DIDN'T THINK I COULD FOLLOW YOU, DID YOU?

I SAY, OLD CHAP, YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME!

YOU AGAIN!

YOU ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD, BATMAN! MANUEL NEVER MISSES!

I'LL BET YOU GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!

YIPE!

WELL, HARDLY EVER!

WHAT -- ?... I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THIS, BRAT!

HAW! DEUCED CLEVER!

JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR FULL QUOTA OF BAD LUCK!

I AM ASSASSINATED!

THOSE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ARE STILL ABLE, EXIT WITH INELEGANT HASTE...

WAIT, TOMAS! YOUR LEADER SHOULD GO FIRST!

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! COME ON, ROBIN!

THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR! I'LL GET THE BATMOBILE!

BETTER TIE THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE COMES TO!

YES, SIR! AND ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS--

STRANGE... HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME ASKING WHERE HE LIVES!... OH, WELL -- I'LL SEE WHETHER MR. WAYNE AND MAWSTER DICK HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE NOISE AND TIE UP THIS BLIGHTER LATER!

GIANT BATMAN

PRESENTLY...

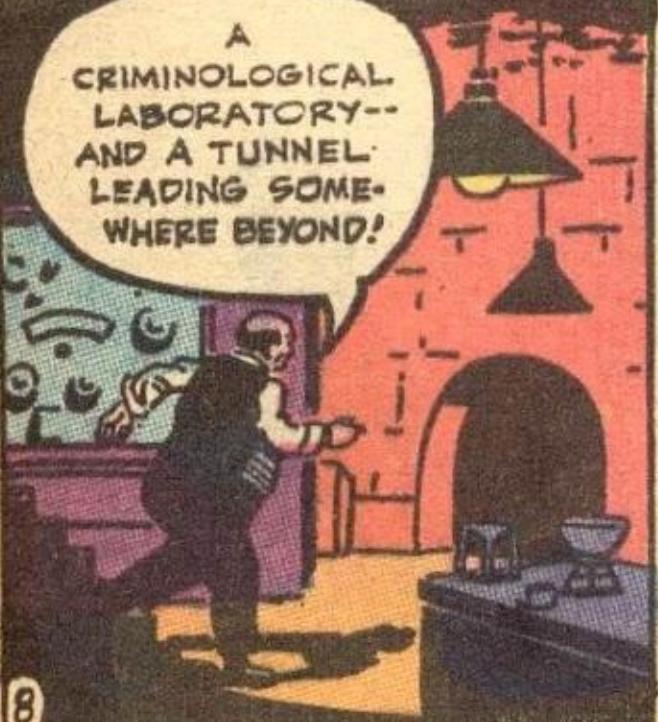
MAWSTER DICK IS NOT IN HIS ROOM... AND MR. BRUCE HAS VANISHED ALSO! HERE IS A MYSTERY WORTHY OF MY GREATEST TALENTS!

I SHALL CONSULT MY DETECTIVE BOOK AND -- EH, WHAT? 'PON MY SOUL, THE BLIGHTER HAS REVIVED AND IS COMIN' AWFTER ME!

SO---THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU HAS BEEN DELAYED, BUT NOT LOST!



CURIOSITY LEADS THE EXTRA-ORDINARY BUTLER TO INVESTIGATE...



IN AN UNDERGROUND HANGAR... A LIGHT IS SWITCHED ON....



THERE CAWNT BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT -- MR. BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN, AND THE YOUNG MAWSTER IS ROBIN! HOW CLEVER OF ME TO HAVE DISCOVERED IT-- AND HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE TO HAVE A MAN OF MY ABILITIES IN THEIR EMPLOY!



GIANT BATMAN

MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING MANUEL...

THERE THEY ARE--
TURNING THAT CORNER
AHEAD!
STEP ON IT!
IF WE DON'T CATCH THEM NOW,
WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!

MOMENTS
LATER...

THERE'S
THEIR CAR--
BUT
WHERE ARE
THEY?

I CAN'T THINK
OF ANY BETTER
HIDEOUT THAN
AN ABANDONED
THEATER!

STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A
LOCKED DOOR, AND THE
DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES
INTO COBWEB-DRAPE
DARKNESS...

SPooky PLACE, ISN'T IT?
I'LL BET NOBODY'S BEEN
HERE FOR YEARS!

YOU'D LOSE YOUR
MONEY! EVEN ALFRED
WOULD KNOW BETTER
SEEING THESE FOOT-
PRINTS IN THE DUST!

BRRR-R-R! I CAN
HEAR THE GHOSTS
OF DEAD PLAYS
MOANING!

THERE'S A
STRANGE WHIRRING
SOUND COMING
FROM
SOMEWHERE!

NOW,
TOMAS!

LOOK
OUT! -
ROBIN!

A STRANGE SOUND IN-
DEED--AND AN OMINOUS
ONE--FOR IT IS MADE BY
WHIRRING ENDS OF
WEIGHTED ROPES
SWUNG BY AN EXPERT
HAND IN THE SHADOWS
OF A BOX...

TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT,
HISsing COILS WHIP AROUND
THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE
STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...

WHA--?
A
SOLA!

I CAN'T
MOVE MY
ARMS OR FEET!
I'M
FALLING!

AS FINE A CAST
AS WAS EVER
MADE! NOW
TO FINISH
THEM!

NOT YET! LET US
DO ALL OUR KILLING
AT ONCE, AND DIS-
POSE OF THE BODIES
TOGETHER! THESE
STUPID ONES WILL BE SAFE
IF WE TIE THEM TIGHTER
AND HOIST THEM INTO
THE AIR!

GIANT BATMAN

BOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...

AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!

SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS -- BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

LEFT ALONE, THE FLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...

WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!

OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...

WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!

WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A CODE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!



WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...

PIGHEDDED INDEED! I LET THE BLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!



HIGH OVERHEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAMMA...

"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...

PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW DID IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE 'N'OTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?'



OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM... HMM -- QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!



GIANT BATMAN



BACK AND FORTH,
IN EVER-WIDEN-
ING SWEEPS, THE
BATMAN SWINGS
HIS BODY--UNTIL
AT LAST HIS BOUND
FEET CATCH ON A
LOOSE ROPE...

HERE'S
HOPING
IT
WORKS!

WRETCHING LIKE A SERPENT,
THE ROPE WHIPS ACROSS
THE STAGE...

OH-H-H-H!
IT'S REALLY
HAPPENIN'!

WONDER
WHAT
HE'S UP
TO?

H'AWAY, H'AWAY,
YE BLOOMIN'
SPECTER!
KEEP YER GHOSTLY
FINGERS H'OFF
ME!



WELL!
FOR A MOMENT
I THOUGHT--
EH? ... WHY,
THERE ARE THE
BATMAN AND
ROBIN IN
DISTRESS!

AND AT THIS
VERY MOMENT,
MANUEL AND
HIS THUGS ARE
ENTERING AN
APARTMENT IN
AN EXCLUSIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD...

AND
THAT MIGHT
BRING
THE
POLICE!

AND ALFRED'S MYSTERIOUS
FRIEND OF THE SHIP HAS A
RUDE AWAKENING...

NOT A SOUND, DUKE,
BAH--
OR YOU ARE A
DEAD MAN!

WHAT DO
WE CARE
FOR YOUR
GOVERN-
MENT?
SILENCE
HIM,
PABLO!

SOFTLY!
IF WE AWAKEN
THE OTHERS, WE
SHALL HAVE TO
USE OUR GUNS!

NO, YOU MUST
NOT TAKE THE
CROWN JEWELS!
I BROUGHT THEM
HERE TO ESTABLISH
CREDITS FOR MY
GOVERNMENT-IN-
EXILE!

TO THINK HE BROUGHT
THOSE JEWELS SECRETLY
HALF AROUND THE
WORLD, ONLY TO LOSE
THEM AT THE END
OF THE JOURNEY! IT
SHOWS WHAT SHARP
EYES AND EARS THE
UNDERWORLD HAS!

AND IT SHOWS
HOW PROMPTLY
WE HAVE ACTED!
ANOTHER TWO
HOURS AND THE
JEWELS WOULD HAVE
BEEN IN A SAFE-
DEPOSIT VAULT!

BACK IN
THE
THEATER...

AH,
BATMAN--
I SEE YOU
HAVE
WAITED!

AS A REWARD,
YOU SHALL HAVE
DISTINGUISHED
COMPANY WHEN THE
FIRE STARTS--A
NOBLEMAN WHOSE
FRIENDS WILL NEVER
KNOW WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
TO HIM!

NOR
WILL THE
POLICE WHICH
IS MORE
IMPORTANT!



GIANT BATMAN

BUT WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS,
HOODED FIGURES PLUMMET
FROM THE SHADOWS OVERHEAD!

YOU'RE ABOUT
TO HAVE SOME
DISTINGUISHED
COMPANY YOUR-
SELF -- AND
WE'RE IT!

THIS
CANNOT BE!
IT IS A
JOKE!

WHA--!

QUICKLY,
TOMAS -- KILL
THEM OR ALL
IS LOST!

TIME TO
RING DOWN
THE CURTAIN
ON THIS ACT!

LOOK OUT,
TOMAS!

IT IS
THE
BATMAN
WHO HAD
BETTER LOOK
OUT!

BEFORE DEADLY STEEL
AND LEAD CAN
STRIKE, ALFRED
LOOSENS A ROPE IN
THE WINGS... AND THE
CURTAIN, WITH IT'S
HEAVY WOODEN
FRAMEWORK, HURT-
LEGS DOWNWARD!

THAT'S RIGHT--
TAKE A BOW!
AH! GOOD WORK,
OL' BEAN!

OOO-O-O...

A FITTING
FINALE FOR A
BAD ACTOR!
EH, WOT?

HERE'S
AN
ALL-STAR
ACT
TO FINISH
THE
BILL!



SO THESE
ARE WHAT THEY
WERE AFTER! BUT
WHERE DID THEY
COME FROM AND
WHO DO THEY
REALLY BELONG
TO?

IF YOU
WILL PER-
MIT ME,
SIR, I CAN
ELUCIDATE
THE MYSTERY!

WH-
WHERE
AM
I?

THEY ARE THE CROWN JEWELS OF
THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THIS MAN--
THE DUKE OF DORIAN -- IS THE
PREMIER! HE BROUGHT THEM
HERE SECRETLY FOR HIS GOVERN-
MENT, BUT SOME-
HOW THESE
CRIMINALS
GOT WIND
OF IT!

MY FRIEND!
YOU HAVE SAVED
MY LIFE AND MY
COUNTRY'S TREAS-
URES--AND TO THINK
I LAUGHED WHEN YOU
SAID YOU WERE AN
AMATEUR
DETECTIVE!

AND HE
WASN'T THE ONLY
ONE WHO LAUGHED!

GIANT BATMAN

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!

FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!

BEG PARDON, SIRS... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!

WHAT'S THIS?

HUH?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!

THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN-- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!



WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION!
YOUR CLOAK, SIR...

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!

ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...

AND AS THE DARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!

THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!

ALFRED LOST WEIGHT AND GREW HIS MUSTACHE IN DETECTIVE NO. 83 (JAN., 1944).

SPEEDLINE^{T.M.}

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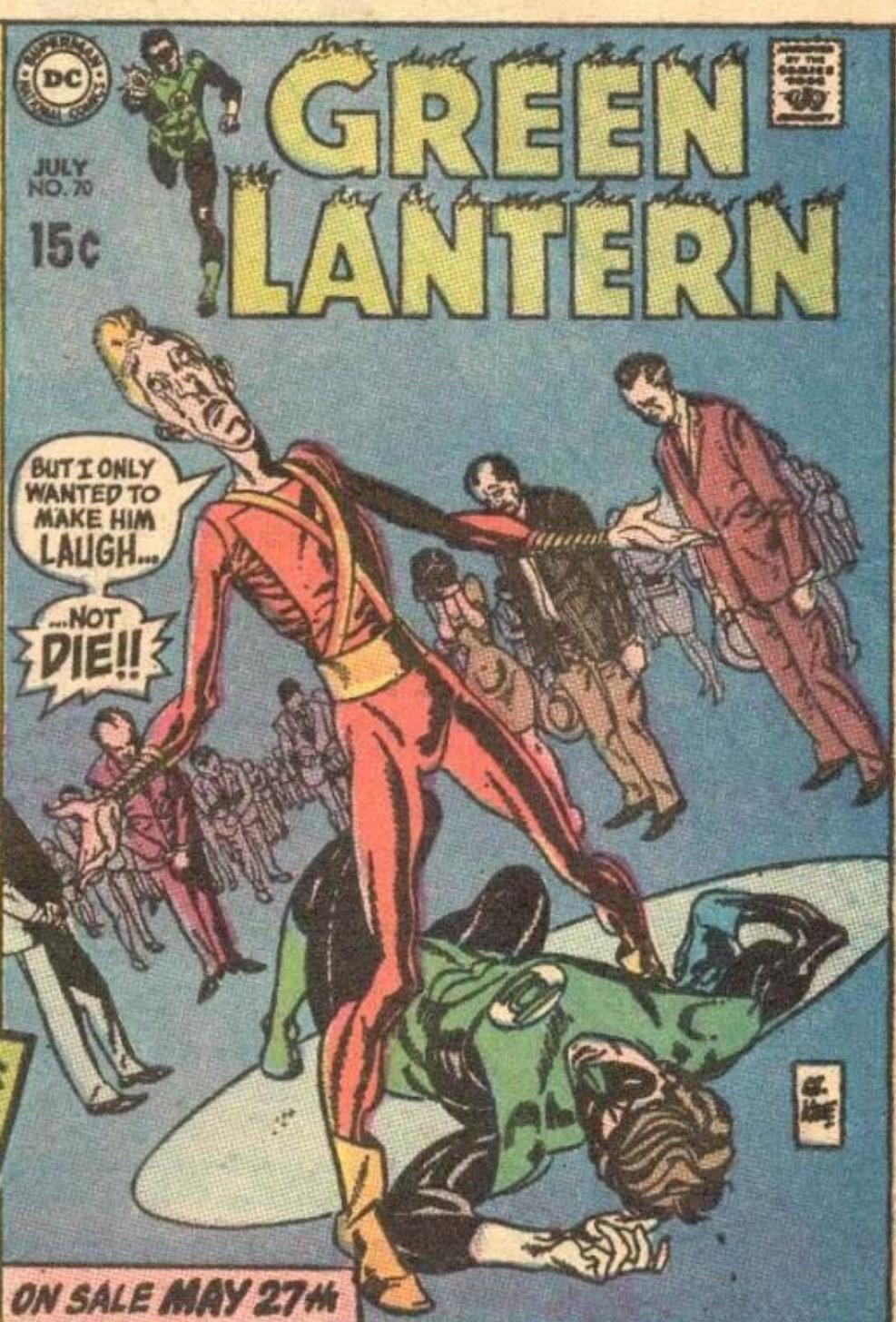
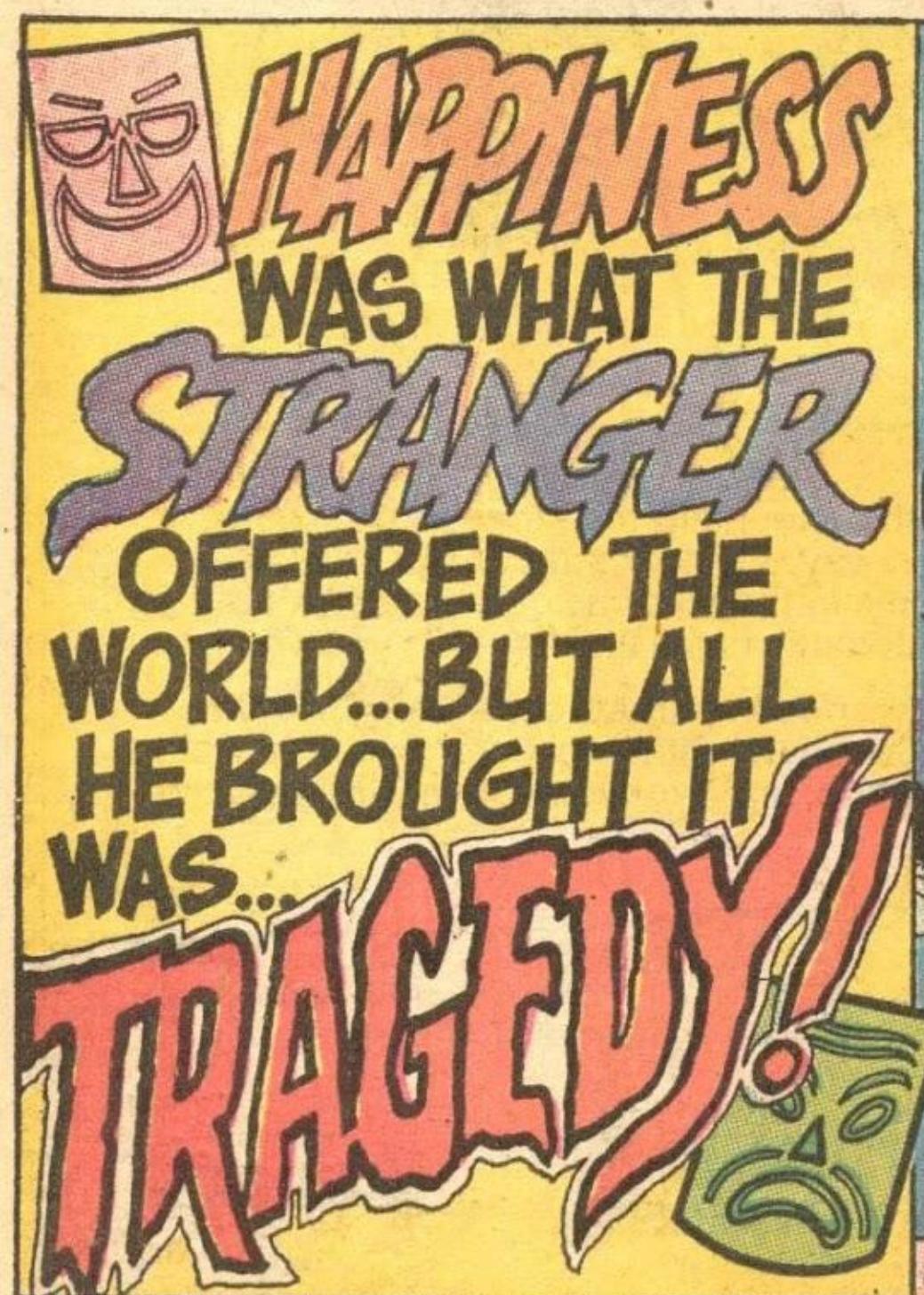
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AURORA

**THE
BATTLE
IS ON...
AND
ANTHRO
IS THE
PRIZE!**



GIANT BATMAN



ROBIN THE BOY WONDER-

BOB KANE

ROBIN, THEY'RE
MAKING ME WALK THE
LAST MILE! WHY DON'T
YOU SAVE ME? WHY...?



BATMAN, THE CRIME-FIGHTER, WHO HAS SENT SCORES OF MURDEROUS OUTLAWS TO JUSTICE, NOW BEING MADE TO WALK THE LAST MILE HIMSELF! THAT'S THE STRANGE TWIST OF FATE THAT RESULTS WHEN AN UNDERWORLD KILLER SEEKS A BIZARRE REVENGE AGAINST THE FAMED LAWMAN, AND, IRONICALLY, ROBIN THE BOY WONDER IS POWERLESS TO HELP HIS FRIEND IN THE THRILLING DRAMA KNOWN AS...

The GAME of
DEATH!

ONE AFTERNOON, AS DICK GRAYSON RETURNS FROM SCHOOL TO THE HOME OF HIS GUARDIAN, BRUCE WAYNE...

AND MOMENTS LATER THE YOUNG LAD HAS DESCENDED TO THAT AWESOME LAIR OF BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER... THE BAT-CAVE!

HMM... BRUCE WAS TO MEET ME HERE! MAYBE HE'S DOWN IN THE BAT-CAVE!



Robin:
Have Tip.
Gordy Benger
is in town.
Am tracing it
down. Batman



GIANT BATMAN

THEN, AS DICK HASTILY CHANGES INTO HIS ROBIN COSTUME, THOUGHTS OF THE BINGER BROTHERS RACE THROUGH HIS MIND...

I REMEMBER THE BEGINNING...THE DAY THE FOUR BROTHERS ROBBED THAT GOLD-SHIPMENT TRAIN...

"NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF THEM BEFORE...BUT SOON THE WORLD WAS TO KNOW OF THEIR CRIMES!"

YOU HEARD US!
THE GOLD SACKS...
THROW 'EM OUT TO US PRONTO!

"AN ALERT STATION AGENT SPOTTED THE CRIME, FLASHED WORD TO GOTHAM CITY. WE CAUGHT THE TRAIN A FEW MINUTES LATER..."

I'LL NEVER REGRET THE DAY WE TAUGHT ALFRED, OUR BUTLER, TO FLY THE BATPLANE! COME ON, ROBIN... OR SHOULD I SAY... ALL ABOARD!

"A WILD BATTLE FOLLOWED, AS WE CLOSED IN ON OUR QUARRY..."

SO YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE BINGER BROTHERS, EH? WELL, WE'LL KEEP THE FAMILY TOGETHER... PUT YOU ALL IN THE SAME CELL!

"THEN 'SKULL' BINGER, THE BALD ONE, PANICKED. SUDDENLY HE LEAPED FROM THE CAR!"

"SKULL" YOU FOOL! GOOD GRIEF! HE LEAPED RIGHT FOR A WIRE... IT CAUGHT HIM AROUND THE NECK... HE'S DEAD!

YOU DID THAT, BATMAN!
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BROTHER BEING HANGED!
YOU HANGED HIM, BATMAN! AND I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!



GIANT BATMAN

"THE TRAIN SWERVED SUDDENLY, UPSETTING BATMAN AND MYSELF, AND THE BENGERS ESCAPED. BUT A MONTH LATER..."

THERE'S THE THIEF WHO'S BEEN ROBBING THE PAYROLLS HERE AT THE FAIR!

BABE BENDER... YOUNGEST OF THE BENDER BROTHERS!

"JUST WHEN WE HAD HIM CORNERED, BABE MADE A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE BY CRASHING THROUGH THE REAR OF ONE OF THE CARNIVAL ATTRACTIONS..."

HOLD YOUR FIRE! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
=GASP= TOO LATE! HE WALKED RIGHT INTO A HALF-DOZEN BULLETS!



"BABE DIED SOON AFTER. AND THAT NIGHT, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..."

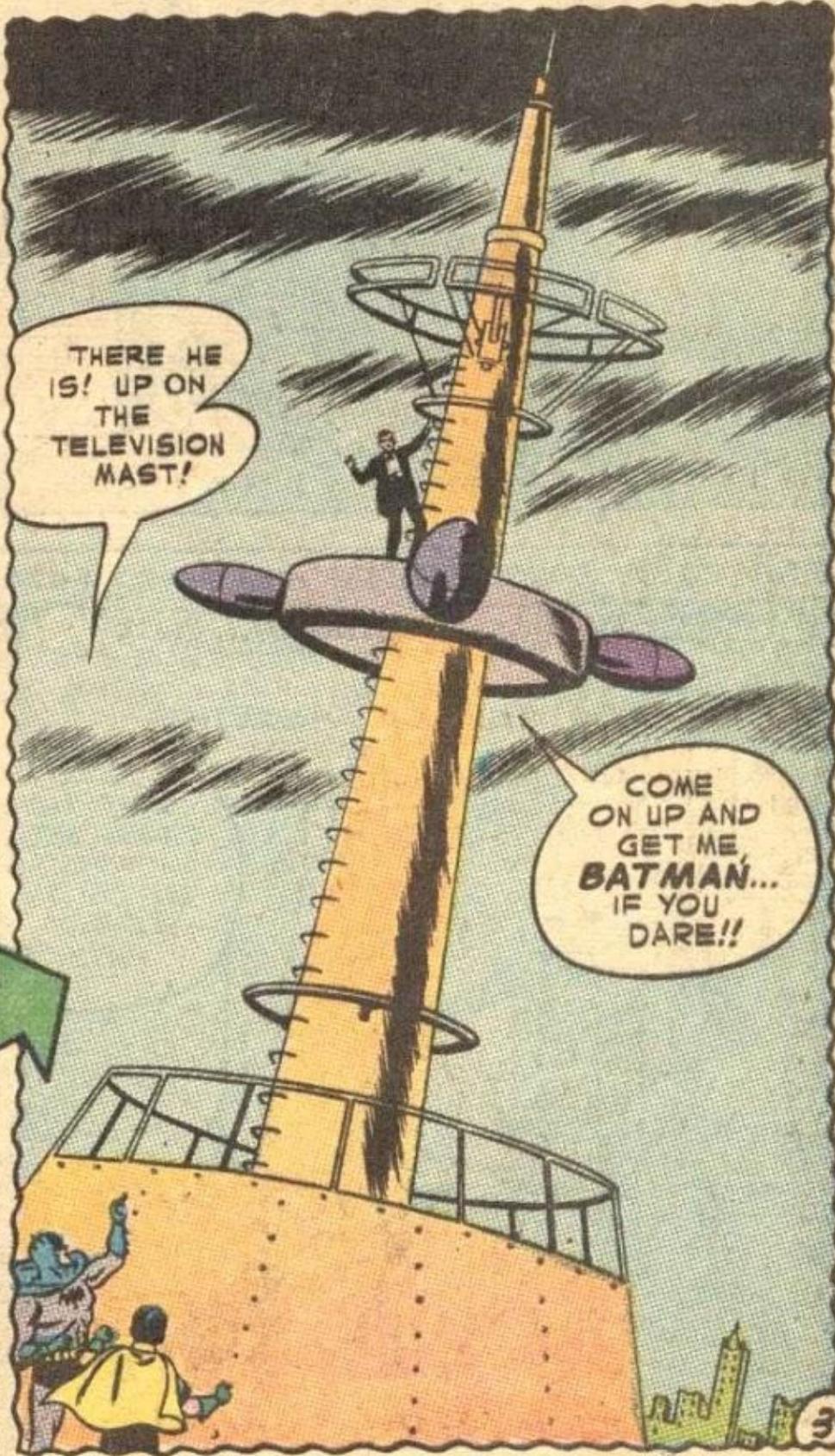
A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT! YET, HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF!

GORDY BENDER DOESN'T THINK SO! HE SAYS YOU SHOT HIS BROTHER, BATMAN! BE WARY OF GORDY, BATMAN!



"BUT FATE HAD NOT YET FINISHED WITH THE BENDER BROTHERS. SCARCELY A WEEK LATER..."

IT'S "GYPSY" BENDER, BATMAN! HE CRACKED THE ACE COMPANY'S SAFE, FLED TO THE TOWER!



"WE ACCEPTED 'GYPSY'S' CHALLENGE. BUT BEFORE WE COULD EVEN GET NEAR HIM..."

LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL! THOSE ARE LIVE WIRES THERE!

TOO LATE, BATMAN! HE'S BEEN KILLED!

YES, THE BENDER BROTHERS... I REMEMBER THEM WELL! AND NOW BATMAN'S CLOSING IN ON GORDY, THE LAST ONE ... THE ONE WHO HATES BATMAN WITH A VENGEANCE!

A QUICK EXCHANGE OF BELT-RADIO MESSAGES, AND BATMAN AND ROBIN EFFECT A RENDEZVOUS...

GORDY WAS SPOTTED AROUND THESE WAREHOUSES, ROBIN. BE CAREFUL... I SENSE A TRAP!

AND A MOMENT LATER, BATMAN REALIZES THAT HIS INSTINCTS WERE ALL TOO TRUE!

AND HOW YOU SENSE A TRAP! THAT WAS THE UNDERRATEMENT OF THE YEAR!

COME ON, BATMAN! GORDY BENDER WANTS TO SEE YOU!

THEN, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO IS LED INTO A STRANGE WAREHOUSE...

GOSH, BATMAN... LOOK AT THAT ELECTRIC CHAIR AND THE GALLOWS! THIS IS SOME SORT OF EXECUTION CHAMBER!

AHH! THE DAY I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR! BATMAN AND ROBIN MY PRISONERS!

THE MAN WHO KILLED MY BROTHERS! SEE WHAT AN EXECUTION CHAMBER I'VE BUILT FOR YOU! IT'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR SIX MONTHS! NOW YOU DIE, BATMAN!



GIANT BATMAN

SEE HOW I'VE PLANNED EVERYTHING... HOW LONG THIS REVENGE HAS BEEN IN THE BACK OF MY MIND! READ MY DIARY! READ IT... IT WILL MAKE YOU SHIVER! IT SHOWS HOW MY HATE GREW, DAY BY DAY!



OBVIOUSLY, I CAN USE ONLY ONE METHOD OF KILLING YOU, BATMAN... BUT WHICH ONE ??? AHAAH, I HAVE IT!! ROBIN SHALL SUPPLY THE ANSWER! COME, ROBIN... HOW DO WE KILL BATMAN ???



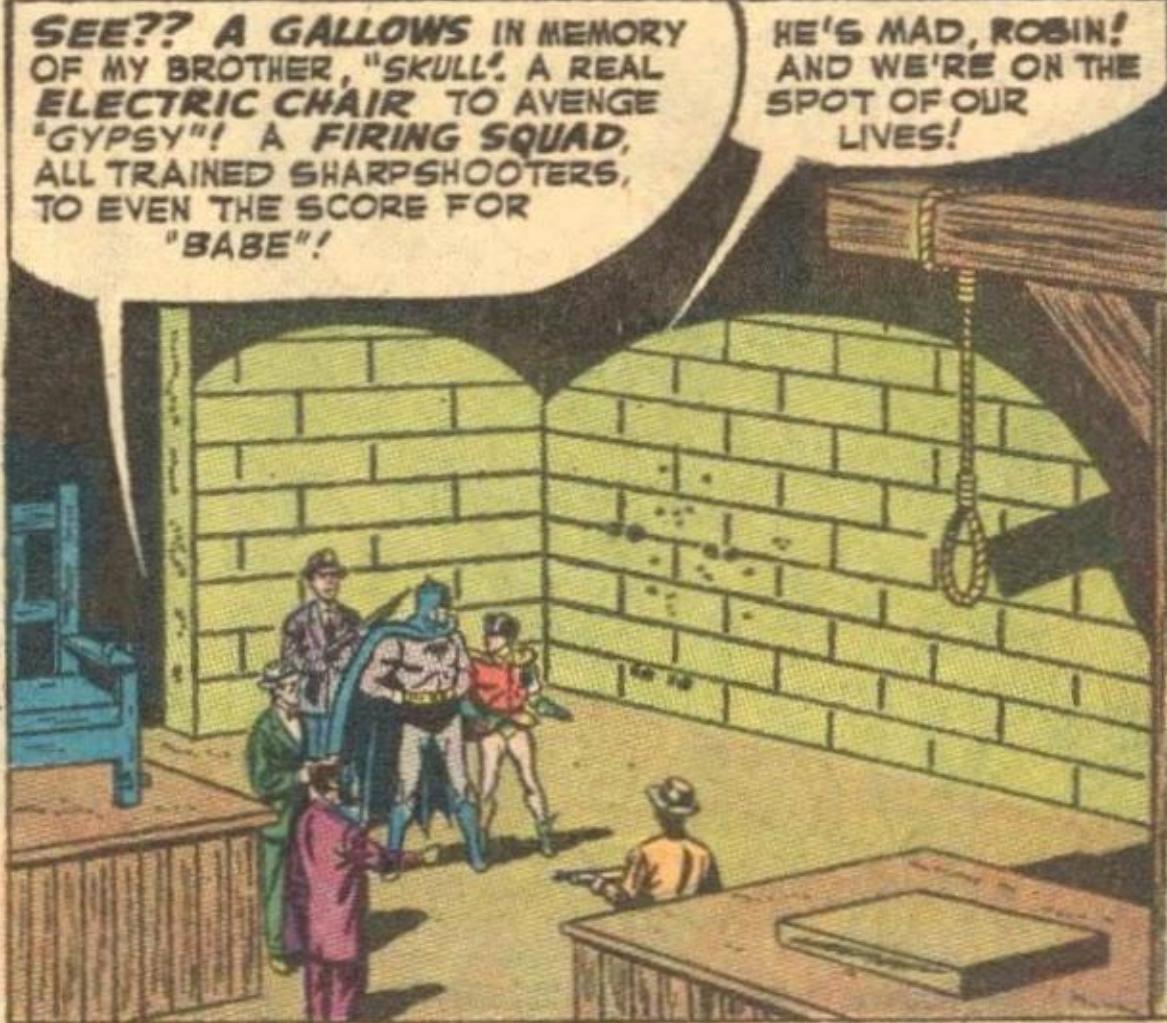
THE FIRING SQUAD! QUICKLY, BATMAN IS LED TO THE WALL, WHILE ROBIN ASKS A LAST FAVOR...

IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO PUT THE BLINDFOLD ON BATMAN... AND SAY MY GOODBYES TO MY FRIEND ...

ALL RIGHT... YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES! BUT, NO TRICKS, ROBIN! OR YOU'LL DIE BEFORE BATMAN!



SEE?? A GALLWS IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHER, "SKULL". A REAL ELECTRIC CHAIR TO AVENGE "GYPSY"! A FIRING SQUAD, ALL TRAINED SHARPSHOOTERS, TO EVEN THE SCORE FOR "BABE"!



COME ROBIN... ENOUGH STALLING! SPEAK UP... BY WHICH METHOD DOES BATMAN DIE? SPEAK UP!!

I... I CHOOSE... THE FIRING SQUAD!

WHAT A PREDICAMENT! AND YET, THE POOR LAD MUST SPEAK UP!! IS ONE MORE MERCIFUL, QUICKER THAN THE OTHERS? IS THERE A WAY OUT? OR MUST ROBIN SEND BATMAN TO HIS DEATH ??

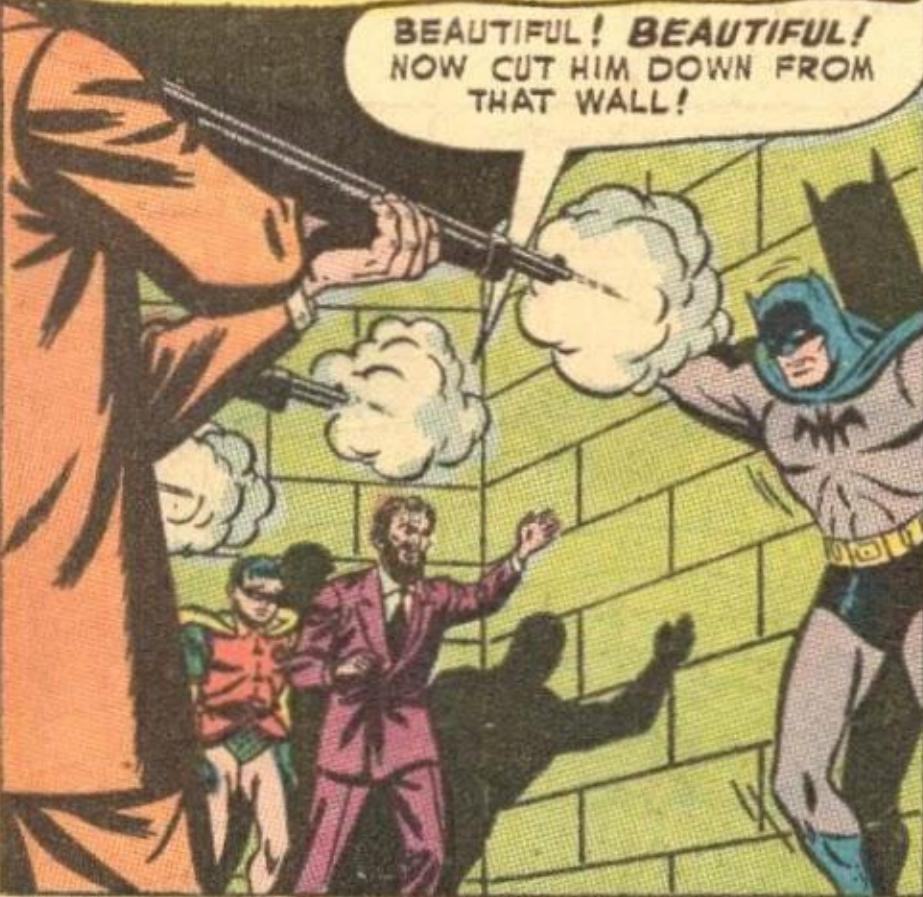
WOULD YOU EVER BELIEVE YOU'D SEE A SIGHT LIKE THIS... BATMAN AND ROBIN SAYING GOODBYE, WITH THE SHADOW OF DEATH IN THE OFFING?

STOP... YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY !! HA, HA! ENOUGH OF THE TEARFUL PARTINGS, ROBIN... STAND BACK, SO THAT THE BULLETS CAN FIND THEIR MARK!



**AN ORDER IS BARKED... RIFLES CRACK... AND
BULLETS HUM! A MOMENT LATER...**

**BEAUTIFUL! BEAUTIFUL!
NOW CUT HIM DOWN FROM
THAT WALL!**



**HENCHMEN REMOVE THE STRAPS FROM BATMAN'S
LIMP BODY! BUT, ALL AT ONCE, THE LIMP BODY COMES
ALIVE WITH A ROUSING LEAP!!**

**NOW, ROBIN... WE'VE CAUGHT
THEM OFF-GUARD! TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE
CONFUSION!**

**WHA... WHAT HAPPENED?
HE'S ... ALIVE!!**

**DON'T
WORRY... I
AM!**



**SWIFT, SURE HANDS REACH INTO UTILITY BELT
POCKETS. IN A MOMENT, PARALYZING GAS
BILLWS ABOUT!**

**A SLIGHT OVERSIGHT ON
THEIR PART... LEAVING US OUR
UTILITY BELTS, WITH THE
GAS PELLETS AND
MASKS WITHIN!**

**RIGHT! AND THEIR
OTHER OVERSIGHT
WAS
UNDERESTIMATING
YOU, ROBIN!
YOUR QUICK THINKING
SAVED THE DAY!**



AND LATER...

**IT WAS THE ONLY
CHANCE WE HAD. I KNEW
BENGER'S FIRING SQUAD
WAS COMPOSED OF CRACK
SHARPSHOOTERS... WHO
BY TRADITION WOULD
AIM AT YOUR HEART,
AND WOULDN'T
MISS!**

**SO YOU SLIPPED ME THAT
DIARY BENGER GAVE YOU,
WHILE YOU WERE
ADJUSTING MY BLIND-
FOLD! AND THEY
NEVER SAW ME SLIDE
IT UNDER MY UNIFORM,
OVER MY HEART! THE
BULLETS HIT THAT...
AND I FEIGNED DEATH!
AND THEN THE REST
WAS EASY!**



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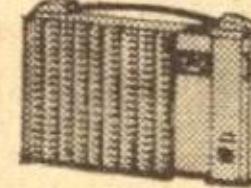
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Send in as many separately mailed entries as you wish. Entries must be postmarked by July 31, 1969 and received by August 5, 1969 to be eligible. Winners will be selected by random drawing conducted by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final. All prize winners will be notified by mail approximately 30 days following the drawing.

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GIANT BATMAIL

N-104

Dear Sirs:

Owing to the August invasion of uninvited, so-called "friends," I do not know if these lines will ever reach you. Nevertheless, I am trying to send them. Why? Because this year, for the first time, I have been lucky enough to gain one issue of BATMAN magazine, No. 198, and so I could get acquainted myself with a favorite comics hero about whose existence I did not know before. And not only I, an adult person (38 years of age) have become a Batman and Robin enthusiast, but many times I had to read all those thrilling adventures to two of my three children. I wish you could see the eagerness in the eyes of my son Vasik (11 years old) and daughter Lidunka (5) when listening to "The Origin of the Batman," "The Jungle Cat-Queen," "The Web of the Spinner," etc. On February 23rd, our third child was born. She is a girl called Evicka, and I can assure you in advance that in time she will become a Batman fan like her brother and sister. Since 1948, when this little country fell under the cruel rule of the recent invaders, among the many things they prohibited had been comics. Therefore, you can hardly imagine the feelings of young people when they meet for the first time the interesting illustrated stories of Batman and Robin. To convince you how deep in the hearts of my children Batman is, I can give you one example from the August days of destiny. When we first saw the tanks of the enemy, Vasik, with a mixture of hatred and fear in his eyes, told me, "Oh, father, if only Batman and Robin could be here with us, they would certainly punish all those enemy troops and force them to leave!" Well, a Latin proverb says "Spero dum spiro" ("I believe while I breathe"). I believe in the Good Lord above and am convinced that such treachery must be punished, because each stick has two ends. One of them hit us in August and the second one must hit our enemy. Dearest Friends, excuse please my boring you with these lines, but I simply had to tell you about our family of devoted Batman fans and thank you for the stories, which we appreciate very much. I wish you all good health, happiness and success.

—(Name withheld), Prague, Czechoslovakia
(Boring us? This was the finest fan letter we have ever received. We hope it will not be long before more of our magazines can go on sale in your country—and that you will be able to see your letter in print.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

As soon as I was through reading GIANT BATMAN No. 208, I had to write and tell you how good it was. The ending really got me; yet it was the beginning that surprised me the most and urged me to read on. But when you got to the end of "The Secret Life of the Catwoman," just as you showed the cat silhouette in the sky, you broke off and switched to another story. What gives?

—John Cowie, North Hollywood, Calif.

(There was a goof at the printing plant, and two new captions were accidentally dropped. "Secret Life" ended two pages earlier; we then followed with two pages from "The Crimes of the Catwoman," telling

how the Feline Felon returned to crime. The missing captions would have explained this.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, Gil Kane and Jack Abel, who did the new art in issue 208, are just not compatible. Kane and Abel—maybe that's why they're not good together. The format of the GIANT was a nice change of pace, but seemed random and, at times, pointless. Another point—there were no references to the original issues from which the excerpts were reprinted.

—Constructive Criticism

(Just another case of an unfortunate omission. We had a contents page all ready, with the original publications spelled out—but somehow it was squeezed out at the last minute. So here's the rundown: "The Secret Life of the Catwoman"—BATMAN No. 62 (Dec., 1960-Jan., 1961); "The Crimes of the Catwoman"—DETECTIVE No. 203 (Jan., 1954); "Vicki Vale's Secret"—BATMAN No. 73 (Oct.-Nov., 1952); "The Batwoman"—DETECTIVE No. 233 (July, 1956); "The Menace of the Firefly"—BATMAN No. 126 (Sept., 1959); "The Problem of the Proxy Paintings"—BATMAN No. 194 (August, 1967); "Gotham Gang Line-Up"—DETECTIVE No. 328 (June, 1964); "The Dilemma of the Detective's Daughter"—BATMAN No. 165 (August, 1964); "Batman Vs. Eclipso"—BRAVE & BOLD No. 64 (Feb.-Mar., 1966); "Beware of Poison Ivy"—BATMAN No. 181 (June, 1966); "A Touch of Poison Ivy"—BATMAN No. 183 (August, 1966); "The Million-Dollar Debut of Batgirl"—DETECTIVE No. 359 (Jan., 1967). Since most of these are brief excerpts in the GIANT, with no titles given, we've arranged them in the proper order so you can match them up.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

In No. 208, at the end, one of the clippings said, "Joe Chill Shot By Own Henchmen! Claim they killed him because he was responsible for Batman's career. Chill dies without revealing crime-fighter's identity." How could Chill be sure who Batman was? And the gang must have known Batman's identity, or they wouldn't have killed Chill. Did Batman get rid of them to protect his secret? Another clipping said, "Max Chill Killed In Accident While Fighting Batman!" Was this the same Max Chill we saw in BRAVE & BOLD No. 79, starring Batman and Deadman?

Mike K. Muth, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

(It sure was! As for Joe, you obviously missed GIANT BATMAN No. 198. In one of the stories, Batman finally tracked down Joe Chill and revealed his identity to his parents' killer, telling him how he'd become Batman because of Chill's crime. Chill told his men that Batman was after him for killing his father—that was why he turned crime-fighter. In blind rage against the man who "made Batman," the hoods gunned him down—and realized too late that he could have told them who Batman was.—Ed.)

Now, a reminder that our address is GIANT BATMAIL, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Send your comments on this issue to us—we'll be waiting to hear from you.

WE DARE YOU TO ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE! CAN YOU GUESS THE SECRET IDENTITY OF THE CRIMINAL WHO BAFFLED GOTHAM CITY FOR ONE DECADE? BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE CLUES. SEE IF YOU CAN INTERPRET THEM SKILLFULLY ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY...

BAT-MAN

ROBIN

THE
MAN
BEHIND THE
RED
HOOD?



BOB KANE

GIANT BATMAN

NIGHTTIME IN GOTHAM CITY--AND TWO MANTLED FIGURES PLUMMET TOWARD THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN ANSWER TO THE BAT-SIGNAL!

BATMAN AND ROBIN, I WANT YOU TO MEET DEAN CHALMERS OF STATE UNIVERSITY! HE HAS A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU!

YES, GENTLEMEN... THIS TERM, THE UNIVERSITY IS STARTING A COURSE IN CRIMINOLOGY, AND WE'D BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU, BATMAN AS GUEST INSTRUCTOR!

NEXT MORNING, AS BATMAN'S TALL FIGURE STRIDES ACROSS THE COLLEGE CAMPUS...

BOY, LOOK AT THOSE SHOULDERS ON BATMAN! WHAT A FULLBACK, HE'D MAKE.

(SIGH) GOLLY, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THAT COURSE! (SIGH) ISN'T HE DIVINE?

TO UNDERSTAND HIS CLASS BETTER, BATMAN STARTS BY INTERVIEWING EACH STUDENT PRIVATELY! ...

MY FAMILY LIVES IN HAWAII! SOMEDAY I HOPE TO BE A MEDICAL EXAMINER ON THE HAWAII POLICE DEPARTMENT!

YES, EACH STUDENT HAS HIS REASON, LIKE JIMMY KALE, FOR EXAMPLE...

PAUL WONG, WHY DID YOU PICK THIS COURSE?

MY FATHER WAS CHIPS KALE, THE GANGSTER! I SWORE I'D MAKE IT UP TO SOCIETY BY TAKING THE PLACE OF THE F.B.I. MAN HE ONCE KILLED! IT'S A DEBT I MUST PAY OFF!

THAT AFTERNOON, PROFESSOR BATMAN BEGINS ACTUAL INSTRUCTION...

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CRIME-FIGHTING, CLASS, IS OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION! NOW, IF THIS FOOTPRINT WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME, WHAT WOULD YOU OBSERVE AND DEDUCE?

OBSERVATION: THE HEEL PRINT IS UNCOMMONLY DEEP WHEREAS THE SOLE PRINT IS VERY LIGHT! DEDUCTION: THE CRIMINAL TRIED TO FOOL THE POLICE BY WALKING AWAY BACKWARD!

RIGHT, JIMMY!

GIANT BATMAN

STUDY THIS PHOTOGRAPH! THE MAN, A GANGSTER, WAS FOUND DEAD: WAS HE A SUICIDE OR A MURDER VICTIM? **OBSERVE AND DEDUCE!**

OBSERVATION: THE GUN HOLSTER IS ON THE **RIGHT** SHOULDER, THEREFORE THE GANGSTER MUST BE **LEFT HANDED!** **DEDUCTION:** HE WAS **MURDERED!** HIS KILLER MADE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING THE GUN IN HIS **RIGHT HAND!**

VERY GOOD, PAUL! WHAT ELSE?

DID I MISS ANYTHING?

YES! **OBSERVATION:** ALL THE CIGARETTES HAVE SMOOTH ENDS, EXCEPT **THIS ONE!** ITS END IS CRIMPED! **DEDUCTION:** IT WAS SMOKED BY HIS KILLER-- WHO USED A **CIGARETTE HOLDER!**

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE CLASS LEARNS MORE AND MORE TRICKS ABOUT CRIME FIGHTING...

WRAPPING A HANDKERCHIEF AROUND A MURDER GUN MIGHT SMUDGE FINGERPRINTS! THE **CORRECT** WAY TO LIFT THE GUN IS BY POKING A **PENCIL INTO THE MUZZLE!**

AND ONE MONTH LATER...

NOW, CLASS, YOU'RE READY FOR A **TEST CASE**--AN ACTUAL CRIME THAT EVEN I NEVER SOLVED! IN FACT, THE CRIMINAL WAS NEVER CAUGHT! HE CALLED HIMSELF-- **THE RED HOOD!**

"IT HAPPENED **TEN YEARS AGO**! HIS CRIMES STIRRED GOTHAM CITY, AND ALL HIS VICTIMS TOLD THE SAME STORY..."

HE WORE A HOOD OVER HIS HEAD! IT WAS RED, SHINY AND SMOOTH-- ALL **ONE PIECE!** IT DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CUTOUTS FOR **EYE HOLES!**

BUT THAT'S CRAZY! HOW COULD THE GUY **SEE?**

GIANT BATMAN

"AT FIRST, I DOUBTED THE STORIES! THAT IS, UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN I SPOTTED A FIGURE SNEAKING INTO AN ICE PLANT..."

THE RED HOOD! THEN THE STORIES ARE TRUE--YOUR HOOD IS BLANK FACED!

YES, BATMAN, BUT I CAN SEE JUST THE SAME! WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS I CAN SEE THROUGH METAL BECAUSE I HAVE X-RAY EYES!

YOU SEE, CRIMINALS CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR EARS, THE COLOR OF THEIR EYES, THE SHAPE OF A CHIN! BUT NO ONE WILL EVER IDENTIFY ME--BECAUSE MY HOOD COVERS MY FEATURES COMPLETE!"

SO THAT'S THE REASON FOR IT!

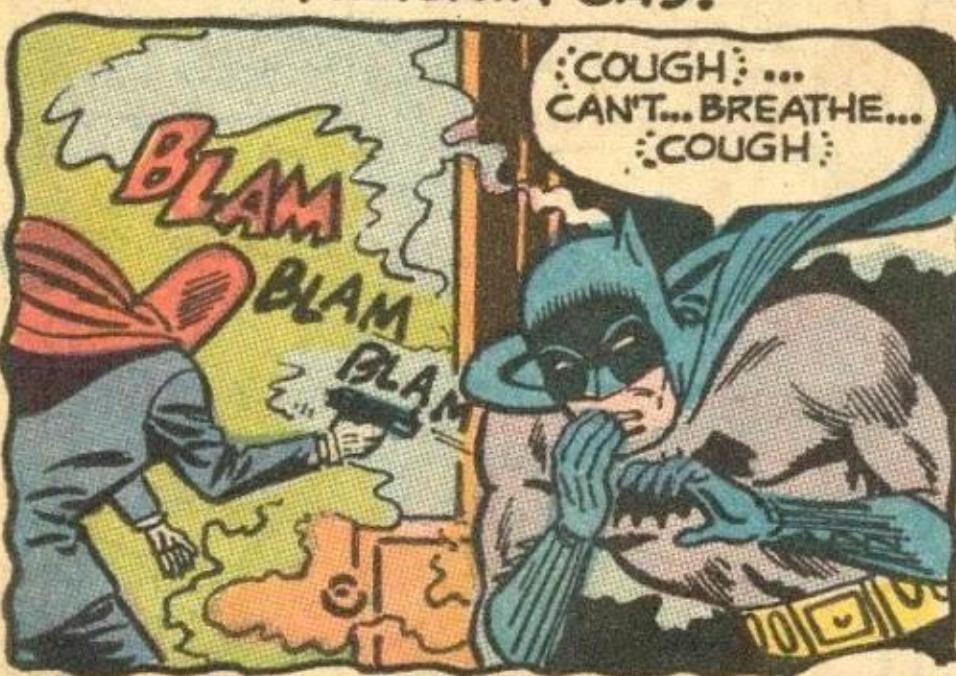


"SUDDENLY, I LEAPED AT HIM--HIS GUN FLAMED--BUT NOT AT ME! INSTEAD, STEEL-JACKETED SLUGS RIPPED INTO THE PIPES OF CHOKING AMMONIA GAS!"

:COUGH: ...
CAN'T...BREATHE...
:COUGH:

"I SWERVED TO THE OPEN WINDOW, SUCKING FRESH AIR INTO MY STRAINING LUNGS--AND WHEN I TURNED BACK..."

THE RED HOOD...HE'S GONE-ESCAPED! BUT HOW COULD HE, SO QUICKLY? HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WEAKENED BY THE GAS, AS I WAS!



"FOR ONE MONTH MORE, THE RED HOOD ROBBED AND ESCAPED--UNTIL ONE NIGHT, WE CORNERED HIM FLEEING FROM ANOTHER CRIME..."

GREAT SCOTT!
HE'S DIVING INTO
THE CATCH BASIN.
FOR ALL THE WASTE
CHEMICALS FROM
YOUR PLANT!

WELL, WE NEVER RECOVERED HIS BODY... AND TO THIS DAY, WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE RED HOOD DIED, OR SUDDENLY DECIDED TO RETIRE! PERHAPS YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS, CLASS!



THE LIQUID
EMPTYES OUT
INTO THE RIVER,
BUT HE'LL
NEVER MAKE
IT! THAT DEADLY
CHEMICAL
MIXTURE WILL
FINISH HIM
FIRST!

AND PERHAPS YOU, TOO, HAVE THE ANSWERS, READER! FOLLOW THE REST OF THE STORY CLOSELY, AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN MAKE OF THE CLUES WHICH TURN UP.

NEXT DAY, BATMAN'S STUDENTS MAKE FRONT PAGE NEWS...

SAY, LISTEN TO THIS--"BATMAN CRIME CLASS REOPENS RED HOOD CASE!"

"STUDENTS PROBE TEN-YEAR MYSTERY!" GEE, WE CERTAINLY HIT THE HEADLINES!

AND THAT NIGHT, TWO BRILLIANT STUDENT SLEUTHS ANALYZE CRIME CLUES...

I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO HOW HE COULD SEE THROUGH HIS METAL HOOD!

I'VE ADDED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE STOLE, AND IT TOTALS \$1,000,000! PAUL, I'VE A HUNCH THE RED HOOD IS STILL ALIVE!



AT THAT MOMENT, NEAR THE COLLEGE CASHIER'S OFFICE, A FANTASTIC FIGURE APPEARS... A FIGURE NOT SEEN IN A DECADE!

THAT MASK--THE ONE BATMAN TALKED ABOUT! YOU'RE THE RED HOOD!

SMART FELLOW... NOW, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, LET ME AT THE SAFE HOLDING THE COLLEGE PAYROLL!

I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, WATCHMAN, BUT NOT YOUR STUPIDITY!



AS THE ALARM BELL RESOUNDS THROUGH THE CAMPUS, BATMAN AND ROBIN RESPOND SWIFTLY...

THERE GOES SOMEBODY, BATMAN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

BUT WHEN ROBIN SWINGS AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...



THE RED HOOD!
AFTER TEN YEARS,
HE'S COME BACK!
ROBIN, HOW'S
YOUR HAND?

I BROKE A FINGER!
FORGET ABOUT ME,
BATMAN... GO
GET THAT CROOK.

SECONDS LATER,
AMONG THE
PHYSICS HALL'S
HUGE SCALE
MODELS OF
MOLECULAR
STRUCTURES...

THIS IS
HOW YOU'LL
SPLIT IF MY
FIST CATCHES
UP WITH YOU!

BUT WHEN IT SEEMS BATMAN HAS TRAPPED
THE RED HOOD IN THE BASEMENT...

WHERE'D HE GO? NOT IN THE SCHOOL
GAS MAIN! HE COULDN'T LIVE
IN THERE TWO MINUTES! HE MUST'VE
GOTTEN OUT ANOTHER WAY--
BUT HOW?

TUT-TUT,
BATMAN--
YOU'RE NO ATOM-
SMASHER! HA,
HA!

LATER, IN THEIR EVERY-
DAY IDENTITIES AS
SOCIALITE BRUCE
WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON.
THE DYNAMIC DUO
RETURNS TO THE
BATCAVE, WHERE...

HERE'S A
PIECE OF HAIR
FROM THAT HAT...
MOVE THE LAMP
OVER, DICK--I NEED
MORE LIGHT! CAN'T
SEE THE HAIR'S
COLOR!

SURE, BRUCE...
OOPS! FORGOT...
SHOULDN'T HAVE
USED MY BAD
HAND! CATCH
IT! IT'S
TIPPING
OVER!

AND BACK IN
THE MOLECULE
EXHIBIT ROOM...

WELL.
ANYHOW, HE ACCI-
DENTALLY LEFT THIS
CLUE BEHIND... A
ROLL-UP HAT OF SOFT
FELT! OBVIOUSLY HE
CAN'T WALK AROUND
WEARING A RED HOOD
AFTER A ROBBERY--SO
HE CARRIES THE HOOD
IN A PAPER BAG.
AND WEARS
A HAT!

TO LATE! THE HOT
LIGHT BULB TOUCHES
THE HAIR, AND...

MY FAULT! GEE, I'M
SORRY, BRUCE... THAT
WAS THE ONLY CLUE
WE HAD!

THE HAIR
IS BURNED...
CHARRED
BLACK!



WAIT, DICK! HOW ABOUT TRYING OUT THAT NEW CHEMICAL FORMULA YOU'VE BEEN DEVELOPING? EXPERIMENTING WITH?

YOU MEAN THE FORMULA THAT RESTORES THE **ORIGINAL COLOR** TO BURNED FIBRES? SURE--THAT SHOULD DO IT!

BUT AFTER THE CHEMICAL IS APPLIED...

HUH? THE HAIR TURNED **GREEN**! GOSH, I MUST'VE MADE A MISTAKE IN THE FORMULA! AND NOW I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!

WELL, DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY, DICK... WE MAY GET ANOTHER BREAK SOON!



LATER, WHEN BRUCE RETURNS TO THE CAMPUS--AS **BATMAN**...

TOO BAD ABOUT **ROBIN'S** HAND, **BATMAN**!

IT'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A MONTH! I--HOLD IT, JIMMY! THERE--IN YOUR ROOM--THE **RED HOOD**!

WHY, IT'S **PAUL WONG**!

BUT AS HE LUNGES AT THE FIGURE...

SURE... HA, HA! HE'S **NOT THE RED HOOD**! HE WAS ONLY WEARING A **REPLICA**! WE FINISHED IT TODAY!



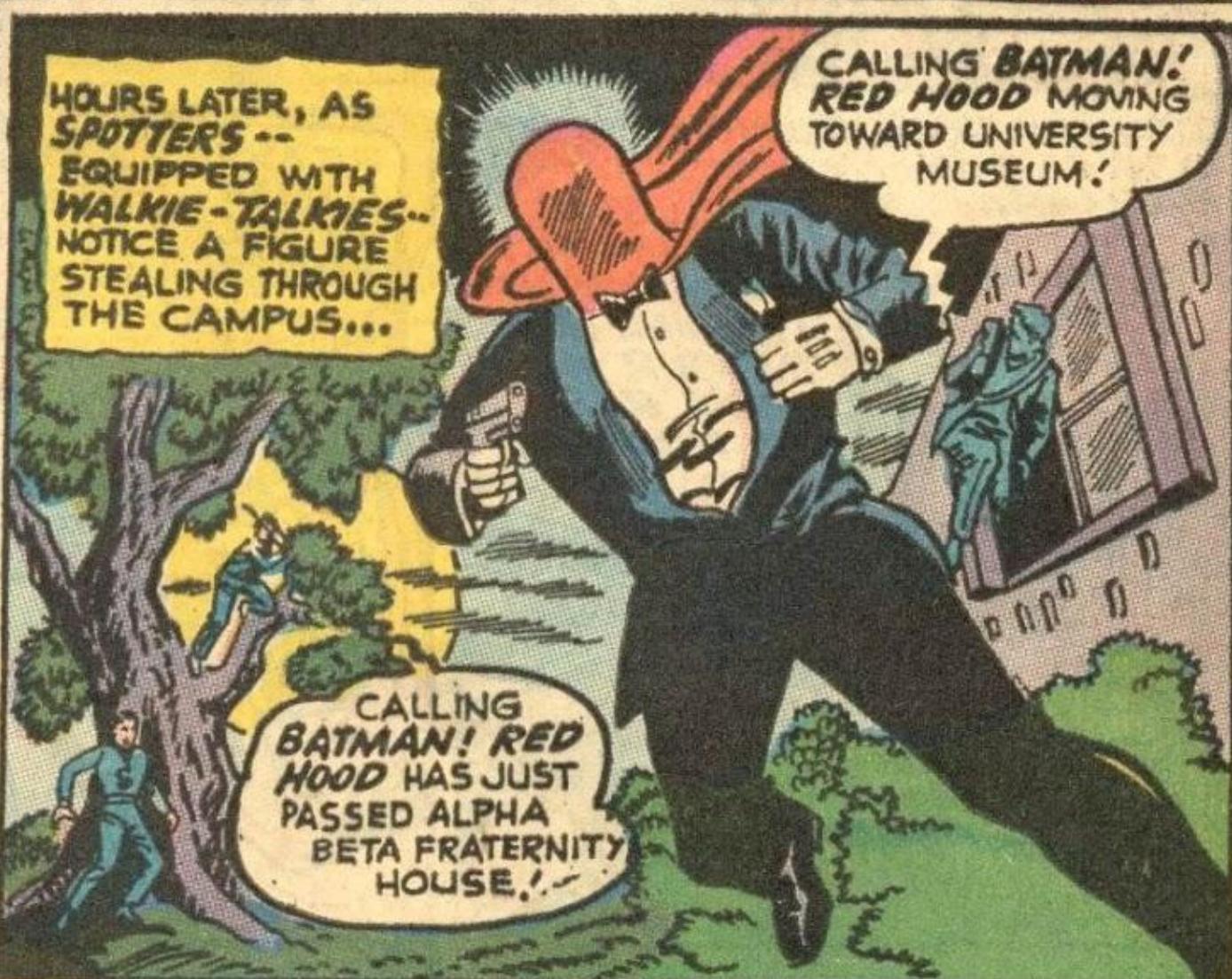
WE'VE JUST FIGURED OUT HOW THE **RED HOOD** IS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH HIS HEADPIECE!

THE ANSWER IS A **TWO-WAY MIRROR**! THE TYPE OF MIRROR THAT **REFLECTS** ON ONE SIDE BUT IS **TRANSPARENT** ON THE **REVERSE SIDE**!

GET IT? HE OBVIOUSLY SET A PAIR OF **RED TWO-WAY MIRRORS** IN THE HOOD, WHERE HIS EYES COULD SEE THROUGH THEM! NATURALLY, THE SHINY MIRRORS BLENDED WITH THE SHINY METAL SO THAT HIS HOOD SEEMED TO BE **ONE BLANK PIECE OF METAL**!



GIANT BATMAN



GIANT BATMAN



BUT...

HA, HA! AIN'T
I THE MEAN ONE,
THOUGH!

AND AS
THE
STUDENTS
BURST IN...



OH-OH! NOT
THROUGH
THERE!

WAIT A MINUTE...
THAT'S THE ROOM
USED TO DISINFECT
NEWLY-ARRIVED EX-
HIBITS... BUT WHY
SHOULD HE BE
AFRAID TO ENTER?

MUST HEAD
HIM OFF OUTSIDE...

SMASH!

MINUTES LATER, AS THE PURSUITERS
SCOUT THE CAMPUS...

I'M ALMOST
POSITIVE I SAW
HIM RUN THROUGH
HERE!

LOOK!
BATMAN'S
GOT HIM!

WHY, HE'S
ONE OF THE
SCHOOL
GARDENERS!

WHAT'S THE IDEA
O' DUMPIN' ME? YOU
GUYS NUTS OR
SOMETHIN'?

HOLD IT... I REMEMBER
THAT FACE! YOU'RE EARL
"FARMERBOY" BENSON, AGE
22 -- EIGHT ARRESTS --
RELEASED FROM JAIL
SIX MONTHS AGO!

YEAH, YEAH,
THAT'S ME...
BUT I'M
GOIN' STRAIGHT
NOW!

MAYBE! HE WOULD'VE HAD TIME TO HIDE HIS **RED HOOD** OUTFIT BEFORE **BATMAN** TACKLED HIM!

BUT BENSON IS ONLY 22 YEARS OLD! TEN YEARS AGO, HE'D HAVE BEEN A KID OF 12! SO HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE **RED HOOD**!

GOSH, THAT'S RIGHT! AND THE **RED HOOD** IS WELL EDUCATED, KNOWS SCIENCE AND PROBABLY HAS PLENTY LEFT FROM THAT MILLION HE STOLE! BENSON'S ALMOST ILLITERATE AND WORKS AT A POOR PAYING JOB!

OKAY, FARMER-BOY, YOU CAN LEAVE! I GUESS YOU COULDN'T BE THE **RED HOOD**!

LATER, **BATMAN** HOLDS A SECRET CONFERENCE WITH DEAN CHALMERS...

CERTAINLY I'LL COOPERATE, **BATMAN**, BUT THE **RED HOOD** IS CUNNING! ARE YOU SURE HE'LL BITE AT SUCH AN **OBVIOUS BAIT**?

IF MY THEORY'S CORRECT, THE MAN WE WANT IS DUMB ENOUGH TO SWALLOW IT!

NEXT DAY, WITH THE DEAN'S PERMISSION, A FALSE STORY APPEARS IN THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER...

STATE U TATLER

VALUABLE TROPHY EXHIBITED IN GYMNASIUM
GOLD FOOTBALL TROPHY ON LOAN FROM BAYVIEW TECH

AND AT 3 A.M., OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GYM...

AH...THE GUARD'S SNORING HIS HEAD OFF! HE WON'T EVEN HEAR ME WORKING THIS GLASS CUTTER!

DEFTLY, THE SHARP INSTRUMENT CARVES AN ENTRANCE FOR THE BURGLAR, BUT...

BATMAN!
A TRAP, EH?
WELL, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' ME SO EASY—NOT BEFORE I SHOOT YOU AN' SOME O' YOUR COP-HAPPY PUPILS!

I'VE PREPARED FOR THAT, TOO!
OKAY, ROBIN... NOW!

GIANT BATMAN



AND AS WHITE LIGHT FLASHES ON, ITS MERCiless GLARE REVEALS THE FACE OF THE BATMAN'S CAPTIVE!



GIANT BATMAN

BUT... BUT...
WAS THE **REAL RED HOOD** EVER
ON THE CAMPUS
AT ALL?

YES--IT WAS THE
REAL RED HOOD
WHO TRIED TO ROB
THE SCHOOL PAYROLL!
HE ESCAPED BY THE
SCHOOL GAS MAIN...
REMEMBER? THAT'S
WHEN BENSON TOOK
OVER!



YEAH--I SPOTTED HIM
LEAVIN' THE GAS MAIN, SO I
SURPRISED HIM AND TIED HIM
UP, FIGURIN' ON A REWARD! BUT
THEN, I REALIZED I COULD
WEAR HIS HELMET, COMMIT
CRIMES AND LET HIM BE
BLAMED FOR 'EM!

BUT,
BATMAN...
THE HOOD
MASKED
BENSON! HOW'D
YOU KNOW
IT WAS HIM?



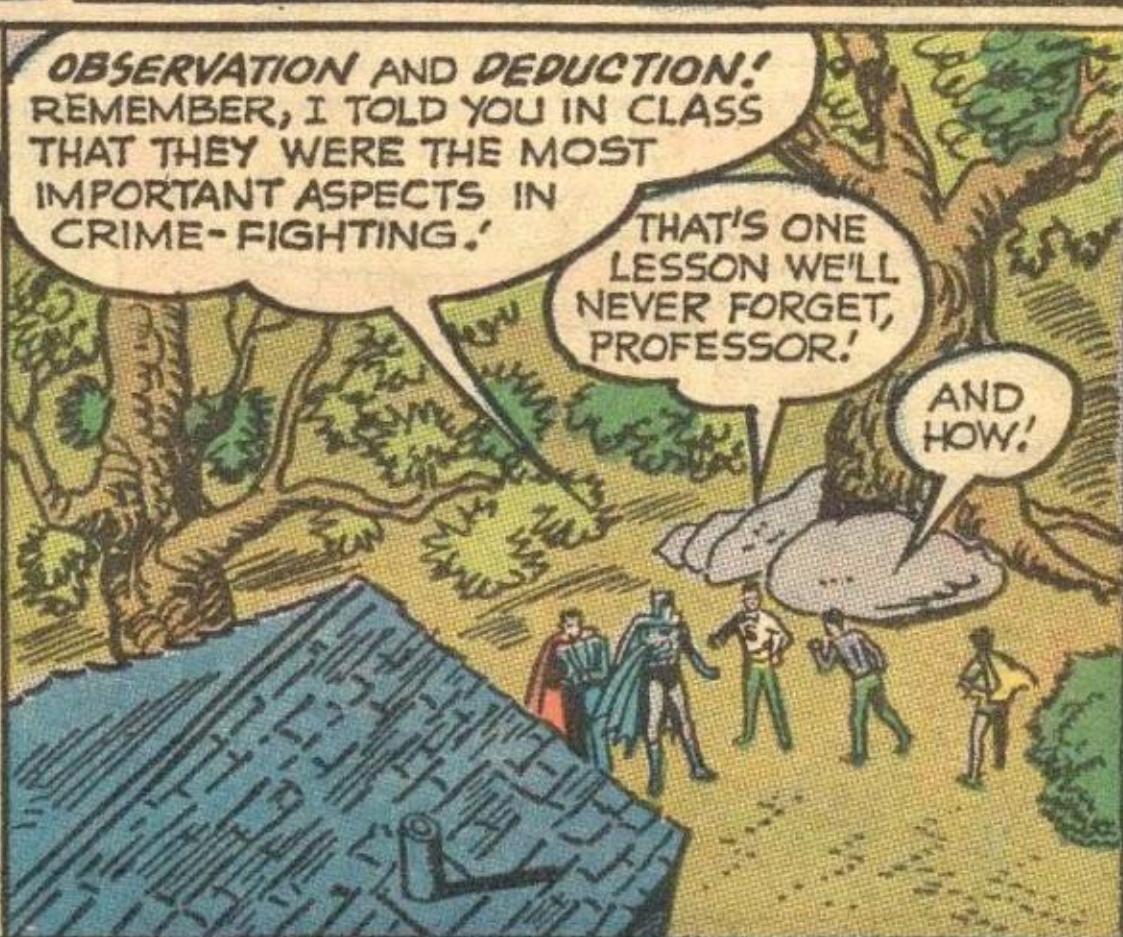
I OBSERVED AND DEDUCED!
REMEMBER HOW HE AVOIDED ENTERING
THE GAS-FILLED CHAMBER IN THE MUSEUM?
FROM THAT OBSERVATION, I COULD DEDUCE
ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER--THAT THE
MAN WEARING THE HOOD, THEN, DIDN'T
KNOW HE WAS ALSO WEARING A GAS
MASK... THEREFORE, HE WAS **NOT**
THE **REAL RED HOOD!**



OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION!
REMEMBER, I TOLD YOU IN CLASS
THAT THEY WERE THE MOST
IMPORTANT ASPECTS IN
CRIME-FIGHTING!

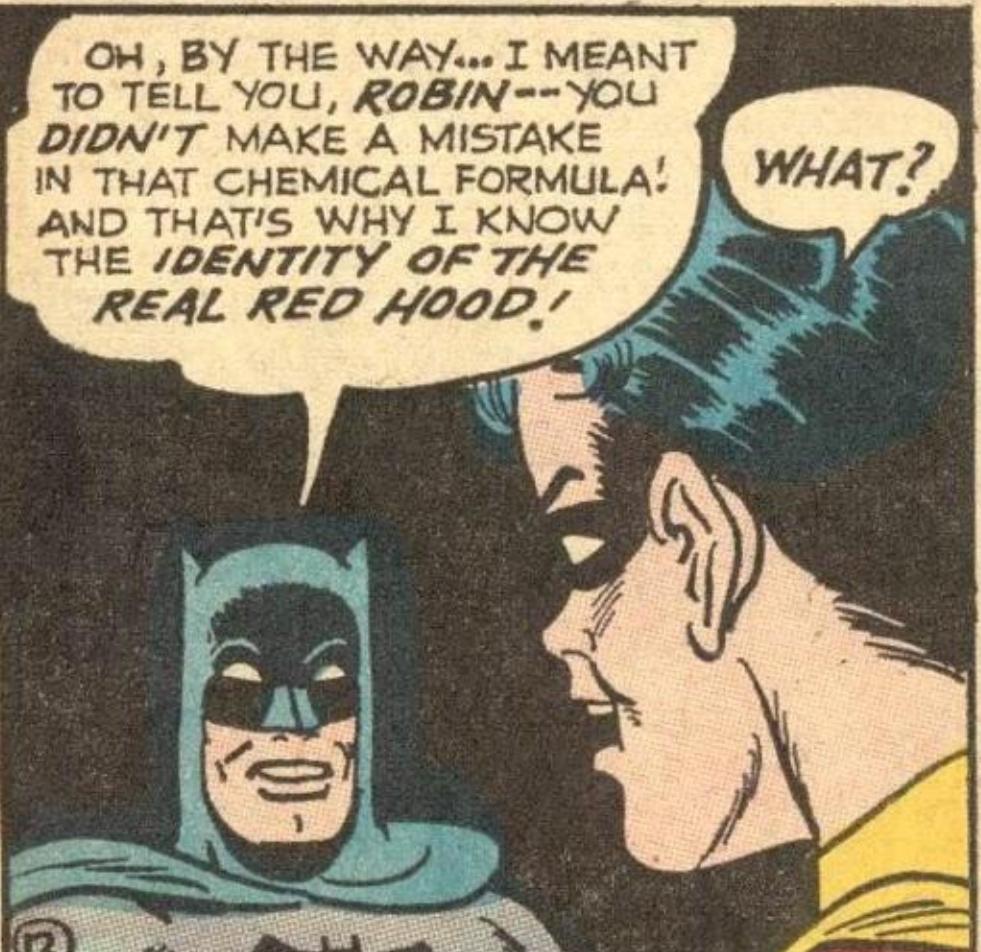
THAT'S ONE
LESSON WE'LL
NEVER FORGET,
PROFESSOR!

AND
HOW!



OH, BY THE WAY... I MEANT
TO TELL YOU, **ROBIN**--YOU
DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE
IN THAT CHEMICAL FORMULA!
AND THAT'S WHY I KNOW
THE IDENTITY OF THE
REAL RED HOOD!

WHAT?



THE SHED'S DARK!
I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE
MAN'S FACE, BUT I CAN
SEE HE'S GAGGED!

IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME--
TEN YEARS!
OKAY, JIMMY--
LET'S HAVE A LOOK
AT THE FACE OF THE
RED HOOD!



GIANT BATMAN

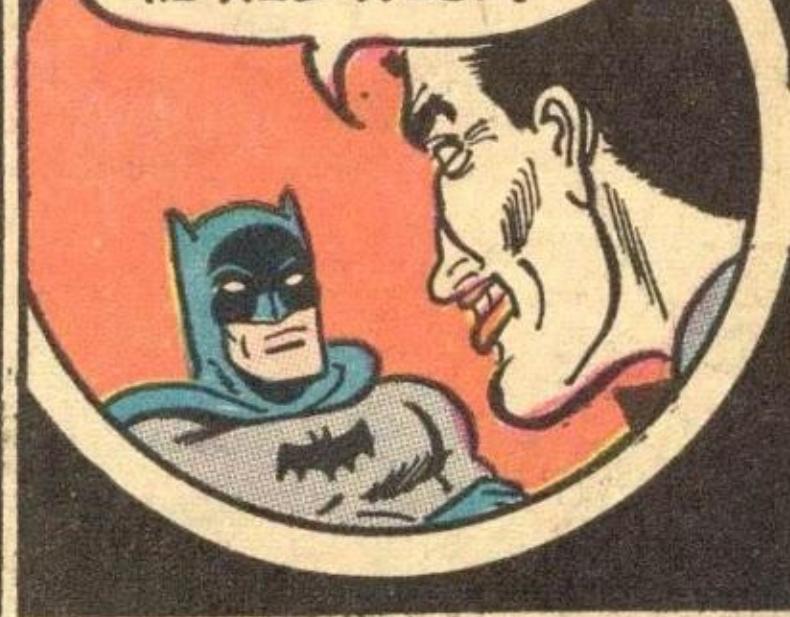
AND AS THEY REMOVE THE **RED HOOD'S GAG**, THE GROUP STARES AWESTRUCK--FOR THERE, UNDER THE LIGHT'S REVEALING RAYS, SITS THE EVIL, GRINNING FACE OF...

THE JOKER!

HA, HA! YES, **BATMAN**, THAT'S THE ONE SECRET I'VE KEPT FROM YOU ALL THESE YEARS! HA, HA, HA!



YES, IT'S TRUE! YOU SEE, YEARS AGO MY SKIN COLORING WAS NORMAL, JUST LIKE YOURS. I WAS A LAB WORKER, UNTIL I DECIDED TO STEAL \$1,000,000 AND RETIRE! SO I BECAME THE **RED HOOD**!



"FINALLY, I REACHED MY GOAL--BY STEALING FROM THE MONARCH PLAYING CARD COMPANY! MY HOOD'S OXYGEN TUBE ENABLED ME TO ESCAPE BY SWIMMING UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE POOL OF **CHEMICAL WASTES**..."



"BUT AT HOME I LOOKED AT MYSELF WITH GROWING HORROR..."

THAT CHEMICAL VAPOR--IT TURNED MY HAIR **GREEN**, MY LIPS **ROUGE-RED**, MY SKIN **CHALK-WHITE**! I LOOK LIKE AN **EVIL CLOWN**. WHAT A JOKE ON ME!



"THEN, I REALIZED MY NEW FACE COULD TERRIFY PEOPLE! AND BECAUSE THE PLAYING CARD COMPANY MADE MY NEW FACE I NAMED MYSELF AFTER THE CARD WITH THE FACE OF A CLOWN--**THE JOKER**!"



AND ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN LAUGHING AT YOU! HA, HA! YOU NEVER EVEN KNEW MY IDENTITY TILL NOW!



YOU'RE **WRONG**, JOKER... I KNEW YOUR IDENTITY BEFORE WE OPENED THE SHACK! ROBIN AND A **GREEN HAIR** CAN VOUCH FOR THAT! SO YOU SEE, THE JOKE'S BEEN ON YOU ALL ALONG!

HA, HA... THAT'S RIGHT, JOKER... NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO LAUGH! HA, HA!

THE END

CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY

M Patrol



FOILED AGAIN! THANKS TO THE MIGHTY PATROL, IT WAS THE BEST PARADE EVER, EVEN THOUGH PARADE-HATER-HORACE TURNED IN A FALSE ALARM TO SPOIL THE PARADE!

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT OUR IVERSONS.

EXTRA LONG SADDLE WITH HEADREST

ZINGY KLO COLORS

5 SPEED STICK

REAR MAG WHEEL

THE BEST BIKE STORES IN YOUR TOWN HAVE BARRIS-DESIGNED IVERSON BICYCLES JUST LIKE THE ONES RIDDEN BY THE MIGHTY PATROL. SEE THEM THERE.

IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS KUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND \$1.00.

Iverson Division of Stelber Industries
91-31 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, N.Y., Dept. SB

I've enclosed \$1.00. Please send me the Kustomizing Kit of eleven colorful automotive decals plus George Barris' own booklet "Hints on Customizing Your Bike."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

iverson

DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS

Escorting a hero, or pedaling to school, Iverson bikes always look as if they're on parade. They've got real style—George Barris style—the only bikes designed by the King of the Kustomizers. And while they're up-to-the-minute in looks, they're pure Iverson traditional in safety. Style shown above is the Yellow Bird; there are four others including one especially for girls.

BATMAN SUPERMAN

INVITE
YOU TO
GET YOUR
FREE
COUPON
HERE



ADMIT ONE (1) TO
PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK

ADMISSION **FREE** PARKING

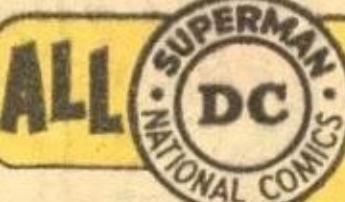
GOOD MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY
AND FRIDAYS

WORTH
\$1.10

(EXCEPT
HOLIDAYS)
UNTIL 7 P.M.

PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



COMICS IN
MAY THROUGH
OCTOBER HAVE
**THE FREE N!
COUPON!**



Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE CAROUSEL



GIANT BATMAN



THERE WAS NO STOPPING THIS BRAZEN ENEMY--FOR BY A MERE WISH, HE COULD ALTER HIS BODY TO ANY SHAPE HE CHOSE! SMALL WONDER THAT HE LAUGHED AT THE LAW--LAUGHED, EVEN, AT BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO SEEMED UNABLE TO MEET...

the CHALLENGE of CLAY-FACE

BAT-MAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

ROBIN, GET BACK!
CLAY-FACE IS CHANG-
ING HIS FORM AGAIN...
GROWING WINGS,
TALONS--BECOMING
A GIANT EAGLE!





GIANT BATMAN



ON THE ESTATE
OF A NOTED
PHILANTHROPIST,
BATMAN AND
ROBIN ACCEPT
A GIFT ON
BEHALF OF
CHARITY...

BATMAN, IN THIS SATCHEL IS \$100,000
IN CASH -- MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE
POLICE BENEFIT FUND!

HOLD THAT POSE! A MILLION
NEWSPAPER READERS WILL
WANT TO SEE
THIS!

JUST THEN...

SAY-- WHO'S THAT
IN THE BRUSH?

SLOWLY, THE INTRUDER LIFTS HIS HEAD--
TO GREET THE ONLOOKERS WITH A
STUNNING SIGHT...

BATMAN!... H-HIS
FACE!

GREAT SCOTT!...
IT LOOKS LIKE A
LUMP OF--OF
CLAY!

AS THE CLAY-FACED INTRUDER SHUCKS
OFF HIS HAT AND COAT...

HIS-HIS WHOLE
BODY LOOKS
LIKE CLAY!

HE'S GOING AFTER THE
MONEY! GOT TO STOP
HIM, WHOEVER--OR
WHATEVER--
HE IS!

BUT WHEN BATMAN GRAPPLES WITH
THE FIGURE...

HIS "FLESH"--SOFT
AND MALLEABLE...
JUST LIKE CLAY!

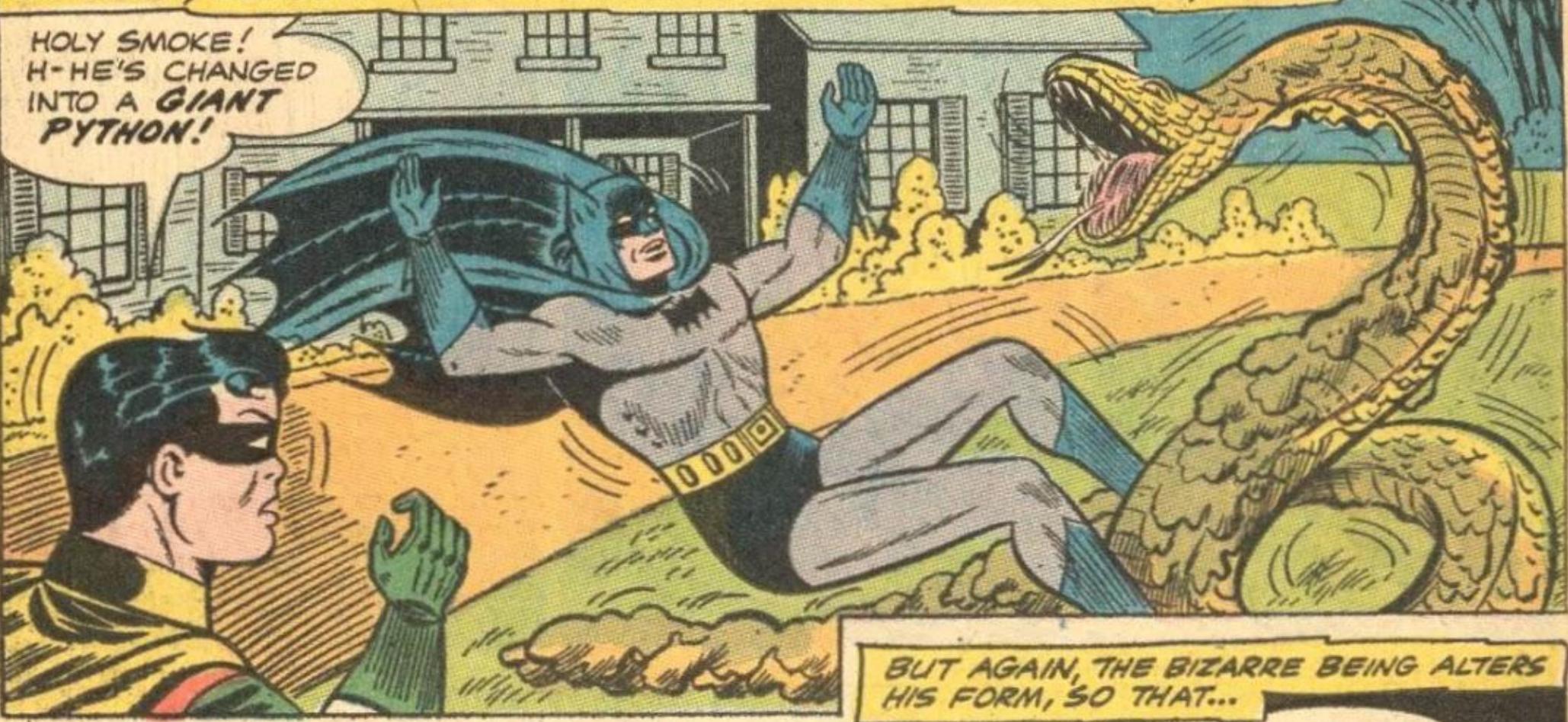
LOOK--THE
THING'S FORM
IS ALTERING--
BECOMING LONGER...

GIANT BATMAN



GRADUALLY, BATMAN FEELS THE FORM GROW HARDER AND HARDER, UNTIL...

HOLY SMOKE!
H-HE'S CHANGED
INTO A GIANT
PYTHON!



BUT AGAIN, THE BIZARRE BEING ALTERS HIS FORM, SO THAT...

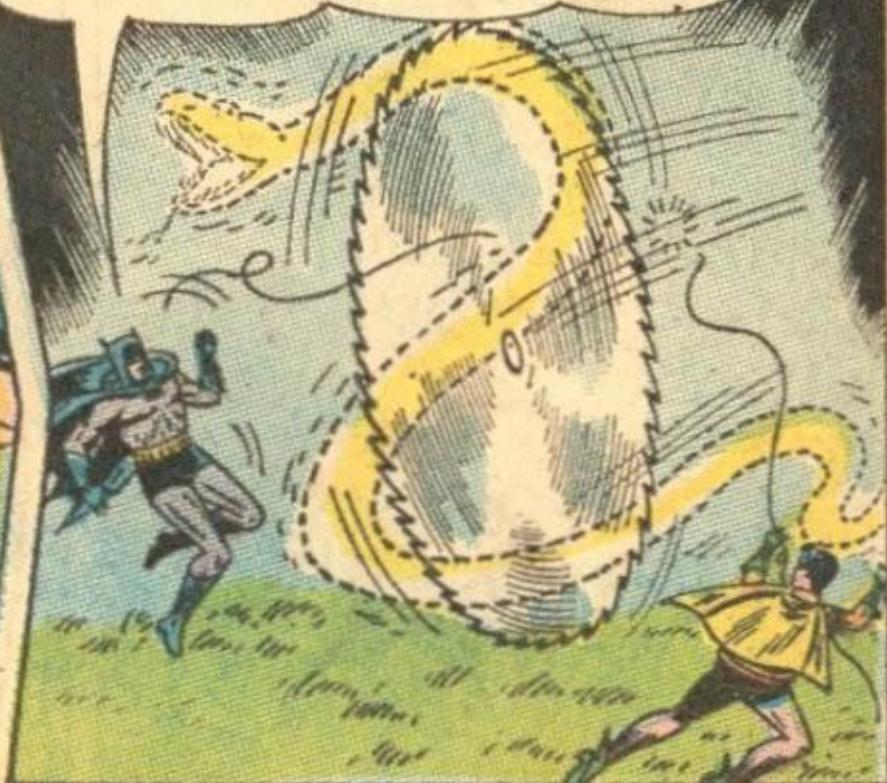
RECOVERING FROM HIS SURPRISE, THE BOY WONDER MOVES INTO ACTION...

THE BAT-ROPE SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOGTIE HIM!

GOOD WORK,
ROBIN! HANG ON--
I'LL HELP YOU HOLD
THE ROPE!



LOOK OUT! HE'S CHANGED INTO A BUZZ-SAW SHAPE!



NOW, HE'S FORMING WINGS -- TALONS...



HE'S CHANGED INTO A HUGE EAGLE-- AND THERE HE GOES, WITH THE SATCHEL OF MONEY!

A BEING THAT CAN CHANGE INTO COUNTLESS SHAPES! IS HE A HUMAN OR--OR SOME SORT OF CREATURE?



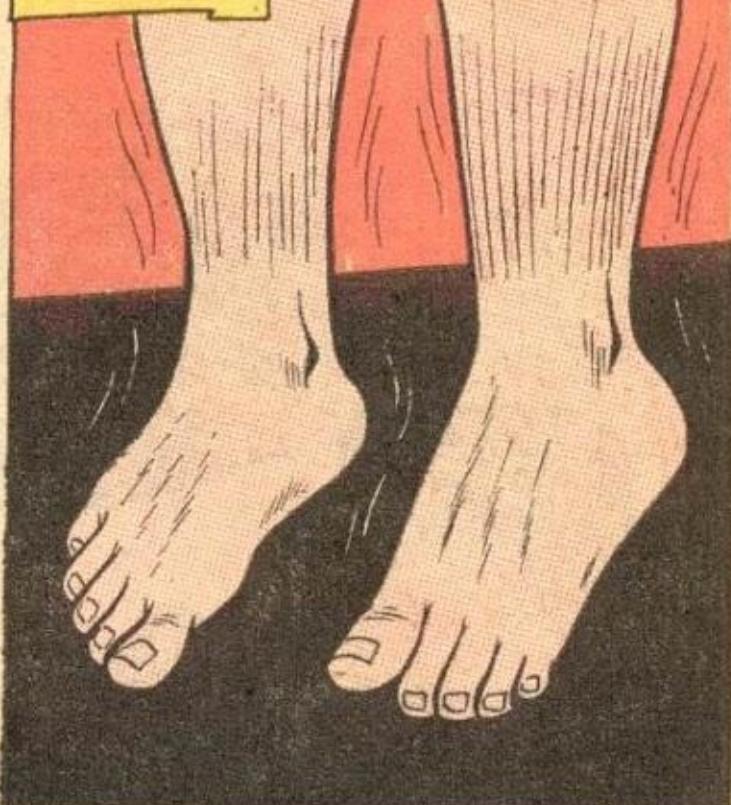
SOON AFTER, THE "EAGLE" ALIGHTS ON A TENEMENT ROOF, AND WALKS ON TALONED FEET...



...FEET THAT CHANGE INTO CLAY-LIKE SHAPES...



...AND, FINALLY, INTO THOSE OF A MAN!



DOWN HE DESCENDS, INTO A SHABBY ATTIC, WHERE...

:HA, HA! \$100,000! MATT HAGEN -- YOU'RE RICH... RICH!

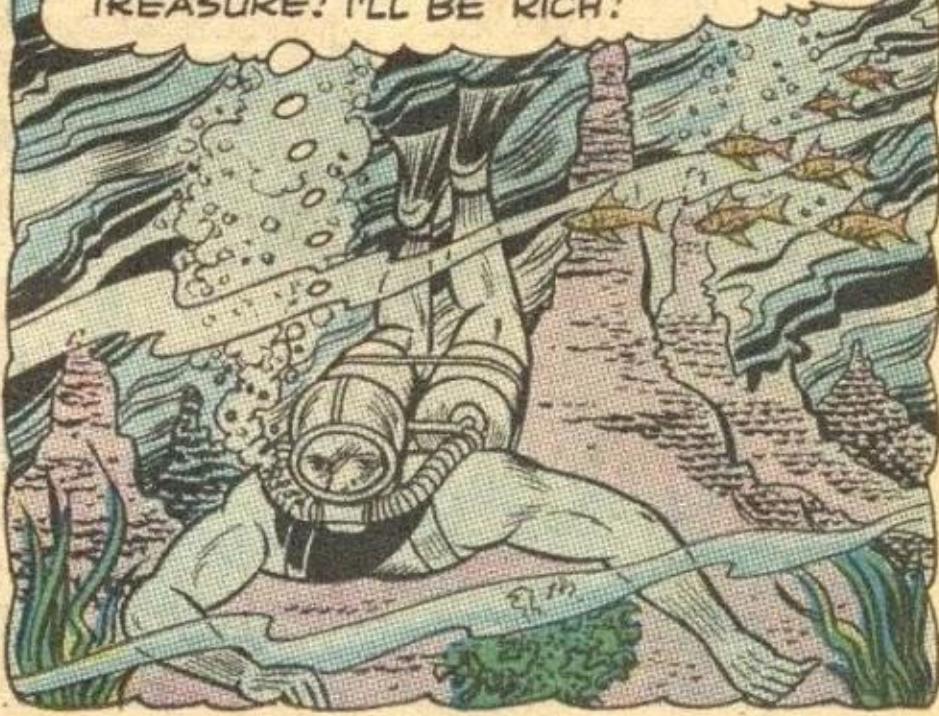


HOW DID THIS MAN ACQUIRE HIS UNIQUE POWERS? TO LEARN THE ANSWER, WE MUST TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO EARLY MORNING...



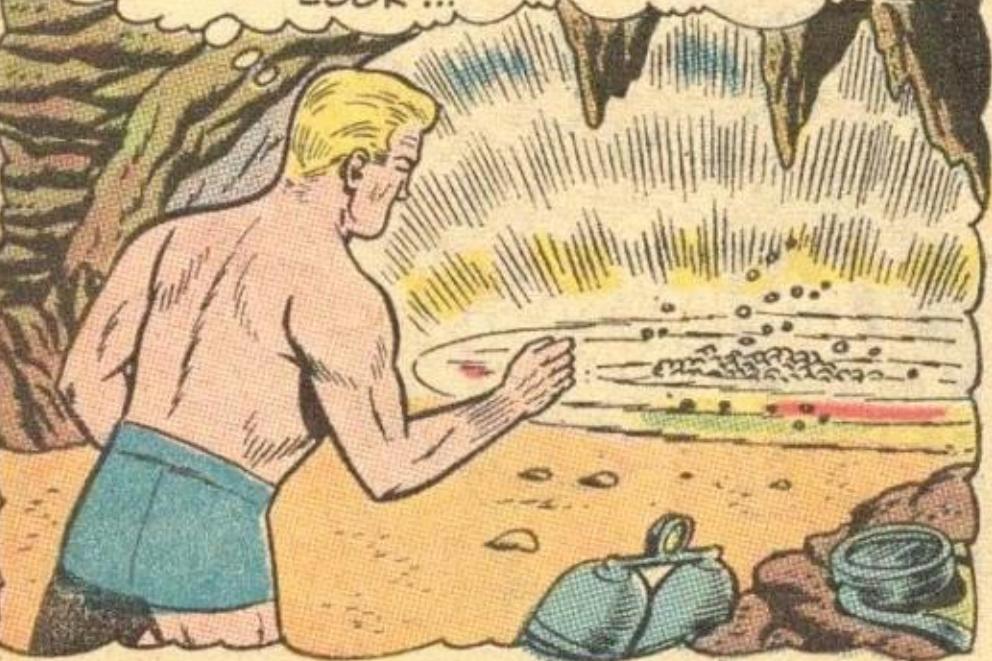
...WHEN MATT HAGEN WENT SKIN-DIVING IN SEARCH OF HIDDEN WEALTH...

ONLY CHUMPS WORK AT JOBS... NOT ME! ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL FIND A SUNKEN FRIGATE LOADED WITH TREASURE! I'LL BE RICH!



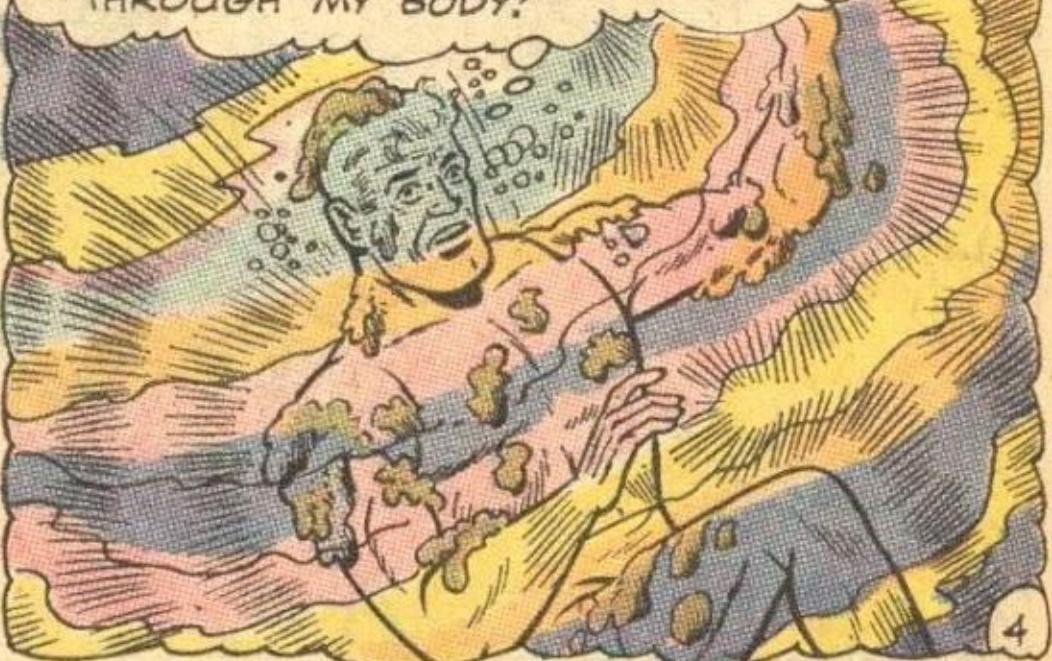
LATER, SURFACING TO REST, HAGEN FOUND HIMSELF IN AN UNDISCOVERED GROTTO...

HMM... A NATURAL POOL! STRANGE-- IT SEEMS TO BUBBLE UP COLORS OF EVERY SHADE! THIS RATES A CLOSER LOOK...



BUT A STONE, SLIDING UNDERFOOT, SENT HIM PLUNGING INTO THE POOL...

THIS ISN'T WATER! IT'S A KIND OF PROTOPLASM-- CLINGING TO ME... SENDING SOME STRANGE ENERGY THROUGH MY BODY!



CLIMBING OUT, HAGEN REELED WITH SHOCK AND TERROR...

AGHH--THAT POOL DID SOMETHING TO MY BODY! IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF CLAY... HARD CLAY!



AND NOW HIS MIND COULD ONLY CONCENTRATE ON ONE SINGLE THOUGHT...

:SOB!: IF ONLY I COULD BE AS I USED TO BE--IF ONLY I COULD LOOK AS I DID BEFORE...



STRANGE--I FELT AS IF MY BRAIN WERE SENDING ENERGY THROUGH MY BODY-- COMMANDING MY BODY... MAKING IT CHANGE!

IT IS CHANGING! MY BODY'S SOFT AND PLIABLE NOW! IT'S AS IF MY MIND IS MOLDING MY BODY LIKE SOFT CLAY...



I'M MYSELF AGAIN! MY BODY IS HARD AGAIN--BECAUSE THE CHANGE IS NOW COMPLETE!

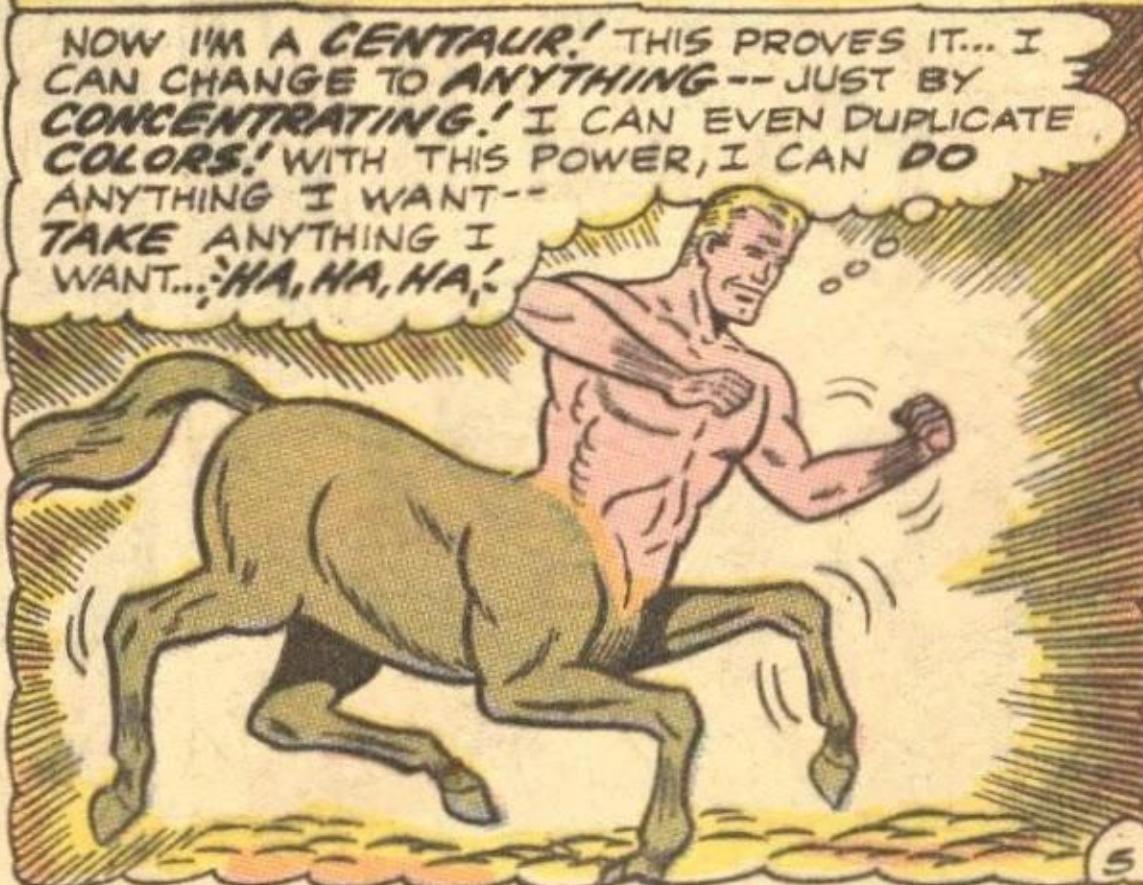


THAT STRANGE PROTOPLASM... A FREAK OF NATURE--OR MAYBE IT DRIFTED HERE FROM OUTER SPACE! I WONDER IF THE POWER IT GAVE ME IS GONE? I'LL TRY ANOTHER MENTAL COMMAND...



ONE TEST FOLLOWED ANOTHER, TILL FINALLY...

NOW I'M A CENTAUR! THIS PROVES IT... I CAN CHANGE TO ANYTHING--JUST BY CONCENTRATING! I CAN EVEN DUPLICATE COLORS! WITH THIS POWER, I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT--TAKE ANYTHING I WANT... HA, HA, HA!





GIANT BATMAN



AND SO, THAT VERY AFTERNOON, BY STEALING THE CHARITY FUNDS, HAGEN MADE HIS POWER PAY OFF--IN CRIME...

NOW THAT I'M RICH, I'LL LIVE LIKE THE RICH DO! I'LL EVEN COLLECT ART LIKE THEY DO... BUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS--I WON'T PAY FOR MY COLLECTION!



MEANWHILE, IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE...

...AND I GOT A SHOT OF THE CLAY-FACED CHARACTER, TOO!



GREAT! NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'LL WE CALL HIM IN OUR HEADLINES? I KNOW--THE OBVIOUS NAME...CLAY-FACE!*

*THE STORY OF THE FIRST CLAY-FACE, WHO CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE WITH MAKEUP, WAS TOLD IN GIANT BATMAN NO. 108.

AND LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...

GOLLY, BATMAN--WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER CLAY-FACE IS A CREATURE OR A HUMAN BEING...

USE YOUR

COMMON SENSE,

ROBIN!

WOULD A

CREATURE

STEAL MONEY?

WOULD IT BE OF ANY

USE TO A

CREATURE?



OF COURSE!...HE MUST

BE HUMAN...A MAN--

AN ORDINARY CROOK

WHOSE REAL IDENTITY

WE DON'T KNOW!

YES, ROBIN--A CROOK WHO HAS A POWER THAT CAN MAKE HIM THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAIN WE'VE EVER FOUGHT!



MANY HOURS LATER, AS PATRONS WANDER ABOUT A NOTED ART GALLERY...

EEK!...
A LION IS
LOOSE!

RUN! RUN
FOR YOUR
LIVES!



AND, WHEN ONLY THE FRIGHTENED OWNER REMAINS...

THE LION'S HEAD...IT'S
CHANGING TO THAT OF--
OR CLAY-FACE!



GIANT BATMAN

NEARBY, BATMAN AND ROBIN HEAR THE SHOUTS OF THE FLEEING ART PATRONS, AND...

ROBIN, WE'VE GOT TO TRY TRAPPING HIM! THAT CLOSET DOOR...



ON SIGNAL, BATMAN CATAPULTS FORWARD-- AS ROBIN WHIPS OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR, AND...

NOW!

OOF!



DID IT! WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED INSIDE!

BUT NEXT INSTANT...

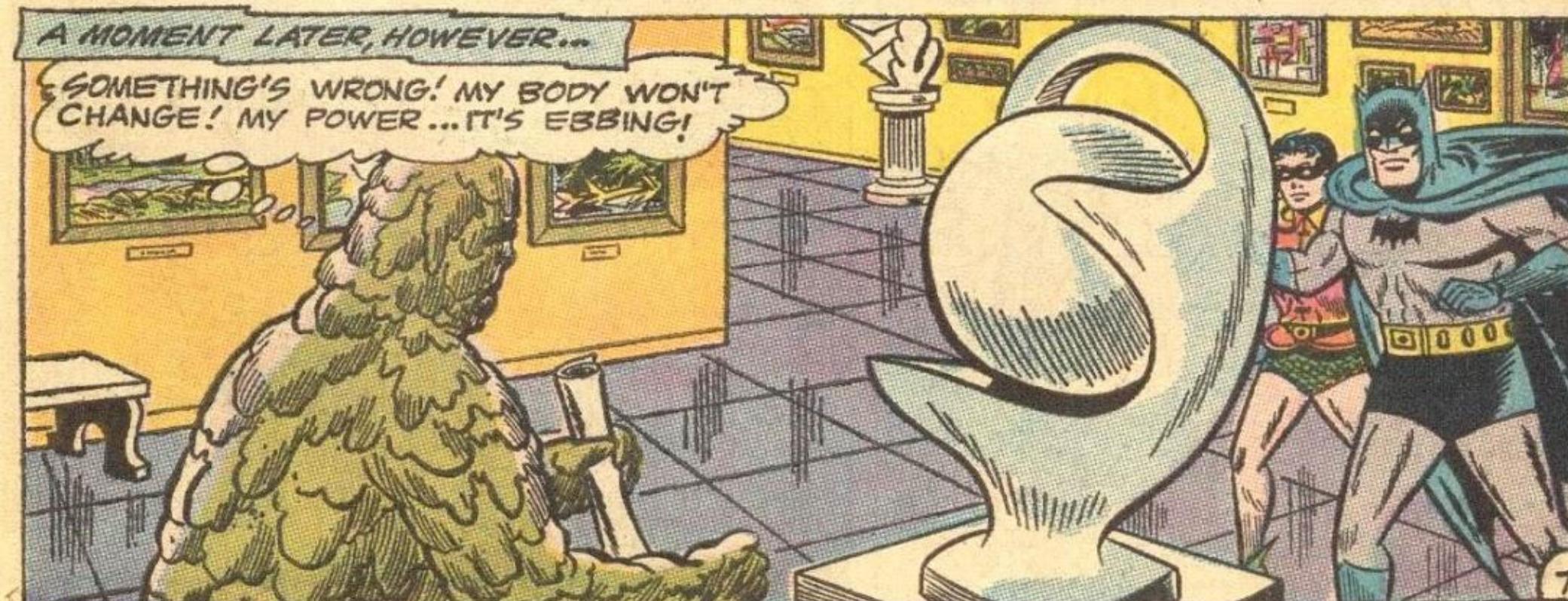
GREAT SCOTT! HE CAN MAKE HIS BODY SMALL ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT THROUGH THE KEYHOLE!

NOW I'LL GRAB THAT ROLLED-UP PAINTING, CHANGE INTO A GIANT BIRD AGAIN-- AND FLY OUT OF HERE WITH MY LOOT!



A MOMENT LATER, HOWEVER...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! MY BODY WON'T CHANGE! MY POWER ... IT'S EBBING!



GIANT BATMAN



QUICKLY, CLAY-FACE CHANGES HIS TACTICS...

OW-W!

THEY FIGURED I'D CHANGE INTO A SHAPE THAT WOULD HELP ME ESCAPE--SO THIS MANEUVER HAS CAUGHT THEM OFF-GUARD!



BY THE TIME THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RECOVER AND RUSH OUTSIDE...

CLAY-FACE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET AWAY, HE DROPPED THE CANVAS! HURRY--HE RAN DOWN THAT ALLEY!

MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH UP TO HIM!



BUT THEIR HUNT IS FRUITLESS--AND UPON RETURNING TO THE MUSEUM, THEY INVESTIGATE A SHOUT THAT COMES FROM A STORE-ROOM...

CLAY-FACE...

HE KNOCKED ME OUT--SHOVED ME IN HERE--TOOK MY CLOTHES!

THEN...IT WASN'T YOU WE TALKED TO MINUTES AGO! IT WAS CLAY-FACE, WHO ALTERED HIS FEATURES TO LOOK LIKE YOURS! HE MIS-DIRECTED US SO HE COULD WALK AWAY WITH THE PAINTING!



LATER...

I WONDER WHY CLAY-FACE DIDN'T TRY TO ESCAPE AS HE DID THE FIRST TIME -- BY SIMPLY CHANGING INTO A WINGED CREATURE AGAIN?

MAYBE HE COULDN'T! MAYBE HIS POWER WAS DWINDLING! MAYBE HE HAD JUST ENOUGH TO CHANGE HIS FACE--AND THEREFORE HAD TO IMPERSONATE THE GALLERY OWNER!



BY LOGICAL DEDUCTION, BATMAN HAS REACHED THE CORRECT ANSWER--FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

MY POWER IS COMPLETELY GONE--SO I'LL HAVE TO RENEW IT! BUT NOW, I'LL KEEP A TIME-CHECK FROM WHEN I GET MY POWER--TO WHEN IT FADES AWAY... THEN I'LL KNOW THE TIME-LIMIT OF THE POWER--AND BE READY TO RENEW IT AGAIN!



AFTERWARD, WITH THE RETURN OF HIS POWER...

I'LL GET SOME HIRELINGS TO RUN INTERFERENCE FOR ME, SHOULD I COME UP AGAINST TROUBLE AGAIN! BUT I'LL KEEP THIS PLACE--AND MY IDENTITY--A SECRET FROM THEM, IN CASE ONE SHOULD BE CAUGHT AND SQUEAL TO THE POLICE!



GIANT BATMAN

SO THAT NIGHT, AT AN APPOINTED SPOT, A DISGUISED CLAY-FACE ADDRESSES HIS NEW RECRUITS...

BY WORKING WITH ME, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT INTERFERENCE FROM BATMAN OR THE POLICE! AS YOU CAN SEE, MY POWER IS UNLIMITED!

CHEE!... IT'S GONNA BE CREEPY WORKING FOR A BOSS WHO KEEPS CHANGING HIS FACE ALL THE TIME!



THE NEXT DAY, IN A CHINATOWN MUSEUM, THE THREE PULL THEIR FIRST JOINT CRIME...

CLAY-FACE!... HE HAS CHANGED INTO A DRAGON WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN!

OKAY, BOSS-- WE GOT THE JADE STATUE!



LATER, WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVE TO INVESTIGATE...

WHAT'S THAT--DIRT ON THE FLOOR? THIS FLOOR WAS SPOTLESS BEFORE THOSE THIEVES CAME HERE!

IT'S NOT DIRT-- IT'S CLAY! IT MUST HAVE DROPPED FROM THE SHOE OF ONE OF THE BANDITS! WOULDN'T IT BE IRONIC IF A PIECE OF CLAY LED TO THE DEFEAT OF CLAY-FACE?



SOON, IN THE BAT-CAVE CRIME LABORATORY...

OUR TESTS SHOW THAT THE CLAY CONTAINS KAOLINITE, MICA, QUARTZ AND TOURMALINE! ROBIN, WE'RE IN LUCK... THIS IS KNOWN AS CHINA-CLAY, FOUND ONLY IN DEEP EXCAVATIONS!

LET'S CHECK WITH THE CITY'S CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT.



AWHILE LATER...

THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT TYPE OF CLAY COMES FROM THIS NEW SUBWAY TUNNEL EXCAVATION!

AND OUR ELECTRONIC CRIME FILE REVEALED THAT A HOODLUM NAMED JOE SHANK LIVES IN THAT ROOMING HOUSE NEARBY! IT ALL ADDS UP... FROM NOW ON, WE'LL BE WATCHING SHANK'S EVERY MOVE!



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...

LOOK!... SHANK MEETING ANOTHER THUG-- AND CLAY-FACE!



THEY'RE PUTTING ON MASKS... THEY OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO STRIKE AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM! LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN TO DISCOURAGE THEM!



GIANT BATMAN



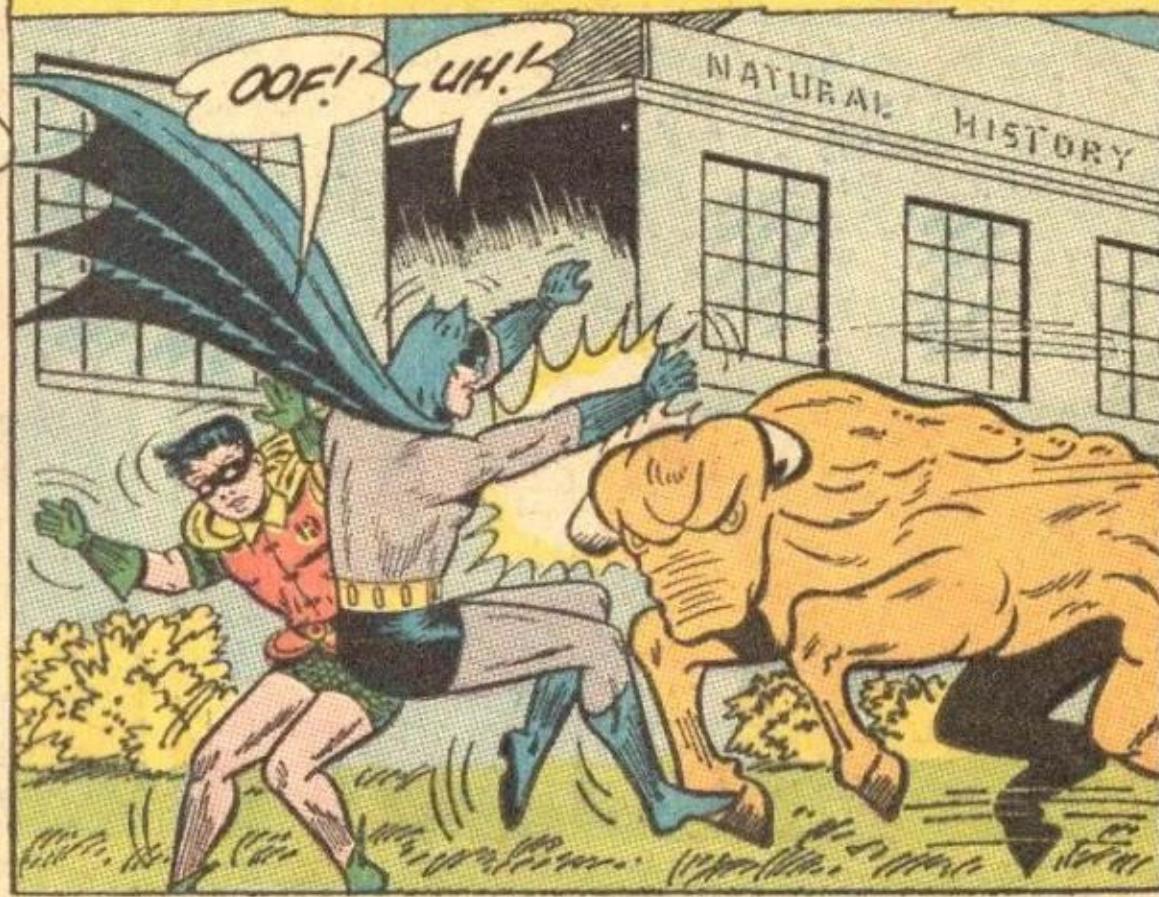
SWIFTLY, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK...

BATMAN AND ROBIN!

THOSE TWO AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM FAST--ALTER MY BODY ENOUGH TO DO THE TRICK...



TURNING INTO A STRANGE BEAST, CLAY-FACE CHARGES FORWARD LIKE A JUGGERNAUT...



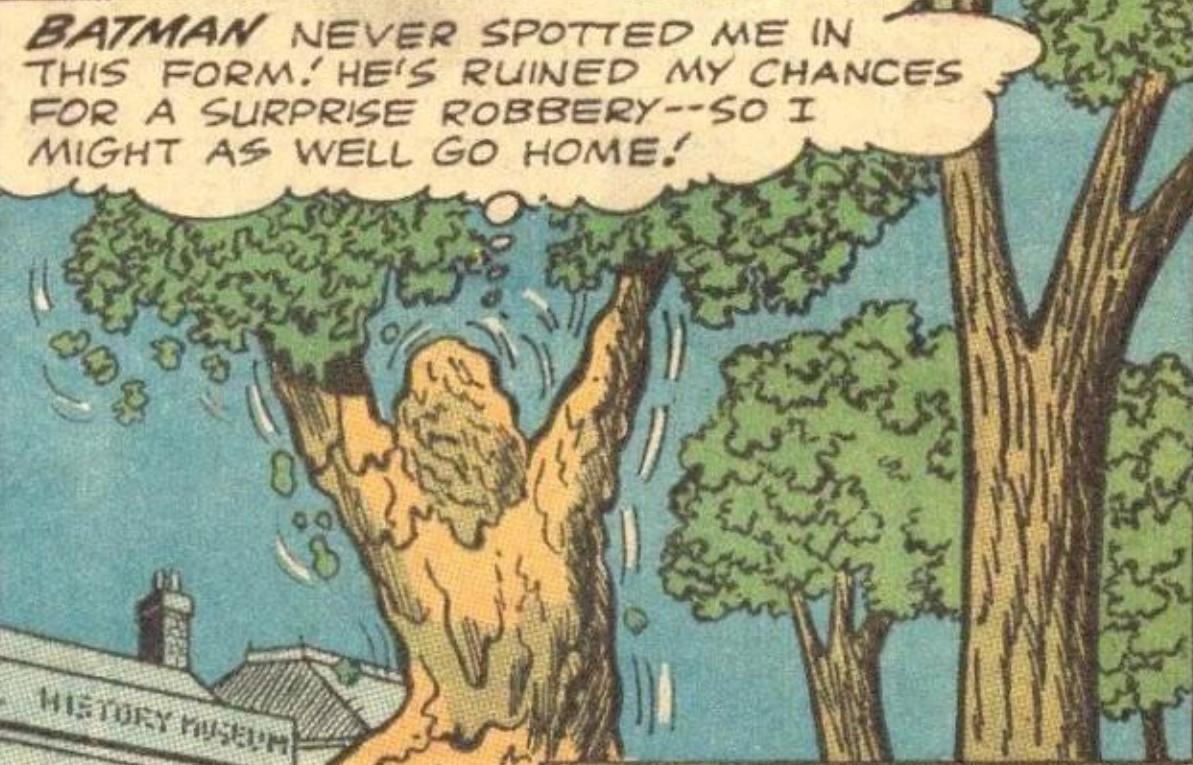
BATMAN IS FIRST TO RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT, AND...

ROBIN'S OKAY--JUST STUNNED! HMM... CLAY-FACE IS GONE--BUT I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH HIS TWO HENCHMEN!



NO SOONER DOES BATMAN DEPART, HOWEVER, THAN A "TREE" BEGINS TO MOVE, AND...

BATMAN NEVER SPOTTED ME IN THIS FORM! HE'S RUINED MY CHANCES FOR A SURPRISE ROBBERY--SO I MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME!



CLAY-FACE THINKS I'M STILL UNCONSCIOUS! WHEN HE LEAVES, I'LL GET A WHIRLY-BAT OUT OF THE BATMOBILE, AND TRAIL HIM FROM THE SKY!



THUS, SOME TIME LATER...

ROBIN TO BATMAN! HAVE TRAILED CLAY-FACE TO A BIG MANSION AT EXIT OF GROVEHILL ROAD!





GIANT BATMAN



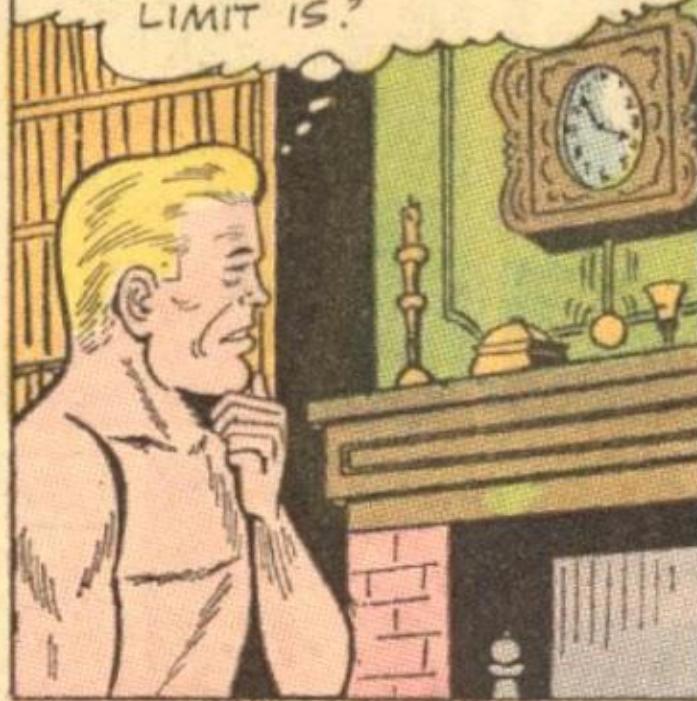
UPON LANDING...

ALL THE WINDOWS ARE SHUTTERED--I CAN'T SEE INTO THE PLACE! BUT I CAN GET INSIDE VIA THAT WIDE CHIMNEY--AND MAYBE SEE CLAY-FACE RESUME HIS REAL IDENTITY!



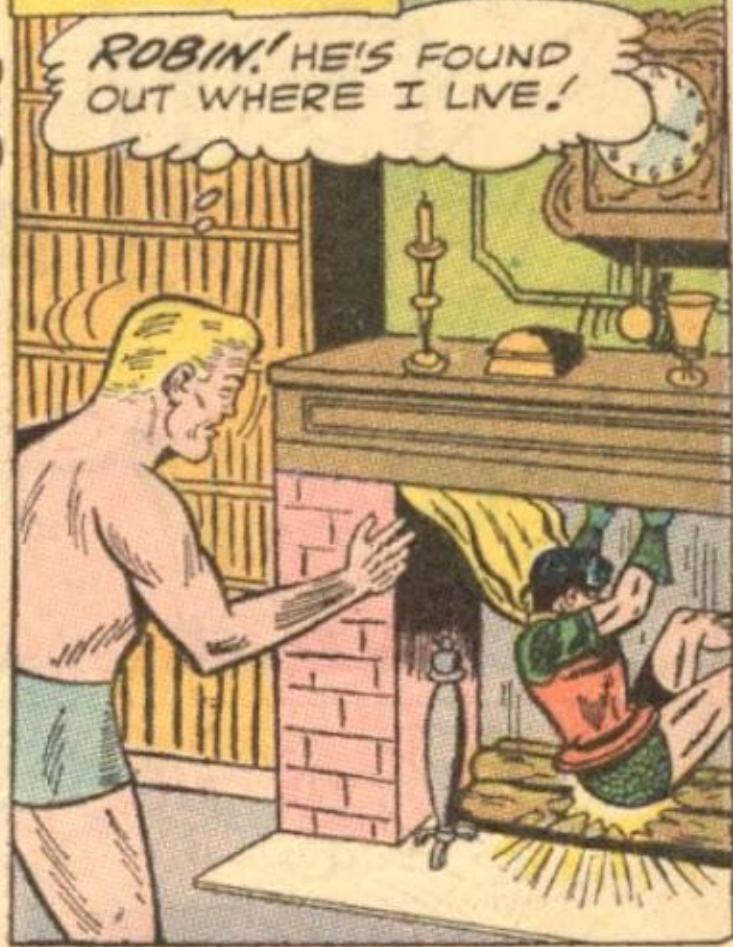
MEANWHILE, UNAWARE THAT ROBIN IS DESCENDING THE CHIMNEY, CLAY-FACE HAS ASSUMED HIS HUMAN FORM...

HMM... SO FAR, I STILL HAVE MY POWER--AND IT'S BEEN NEARLY 48 HOURS SINCE I LAST RENEWED IT! I WONDER WHAT THE TIME-LIMIT IS?



WITHOUT WARNING, A LOOSE RUNG IN THE OLD CHIMNEY GIVES WAY UNDER ROBIN'S WEIGHT, AND...

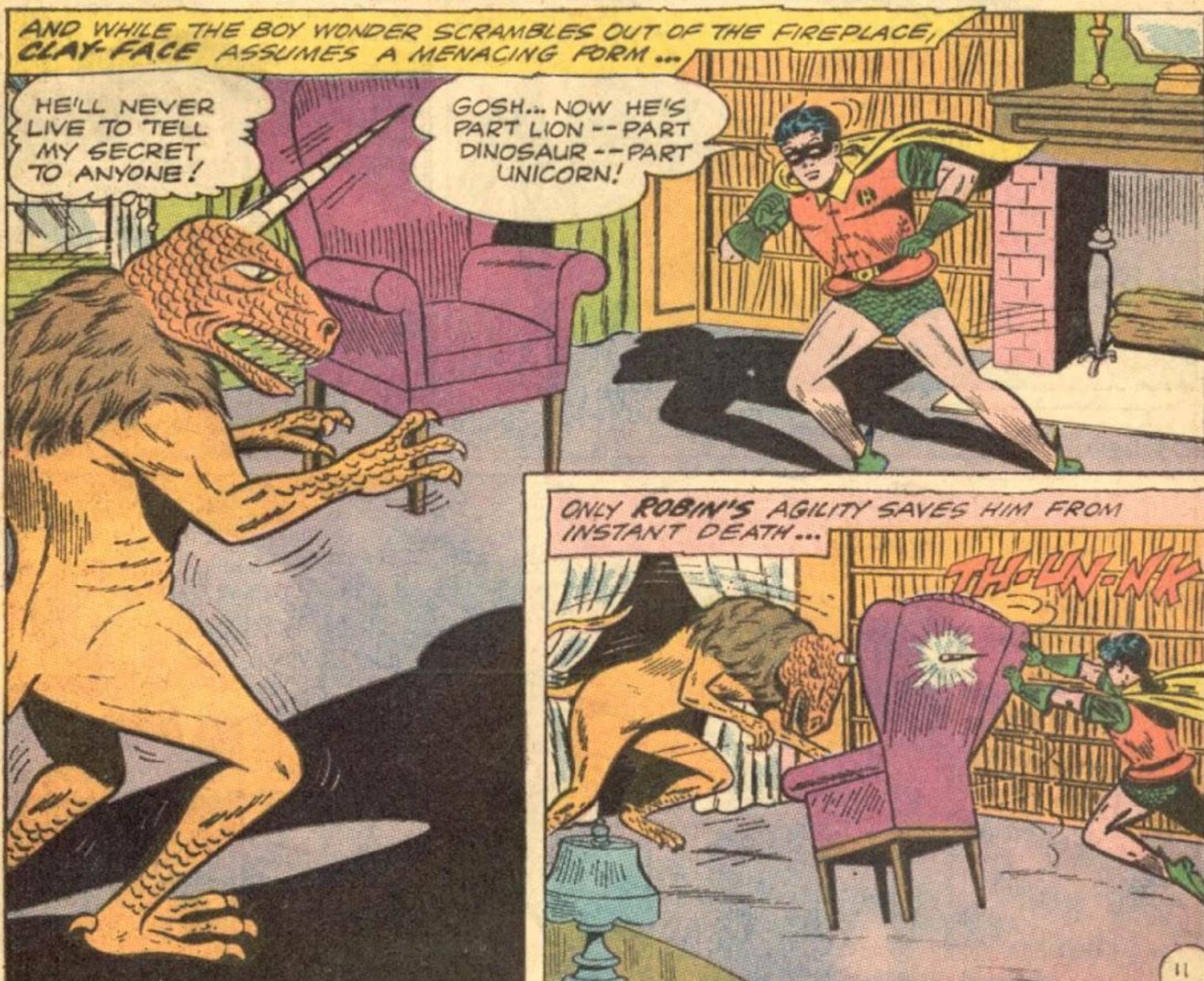
ROBIN! HE'S FOUND OUT WHERE I LIVE!



AND WHILE THE BOY WONDER SCRAMBLES OUT OF THE FIREPLACE, CLAY-FACE ASSUMES A MENACING FORM...

HE'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL MY SECRET TO ANYONE!

GOSH... NOW HE'S PART LION--PART DINOSAUR--PART UNICORN!



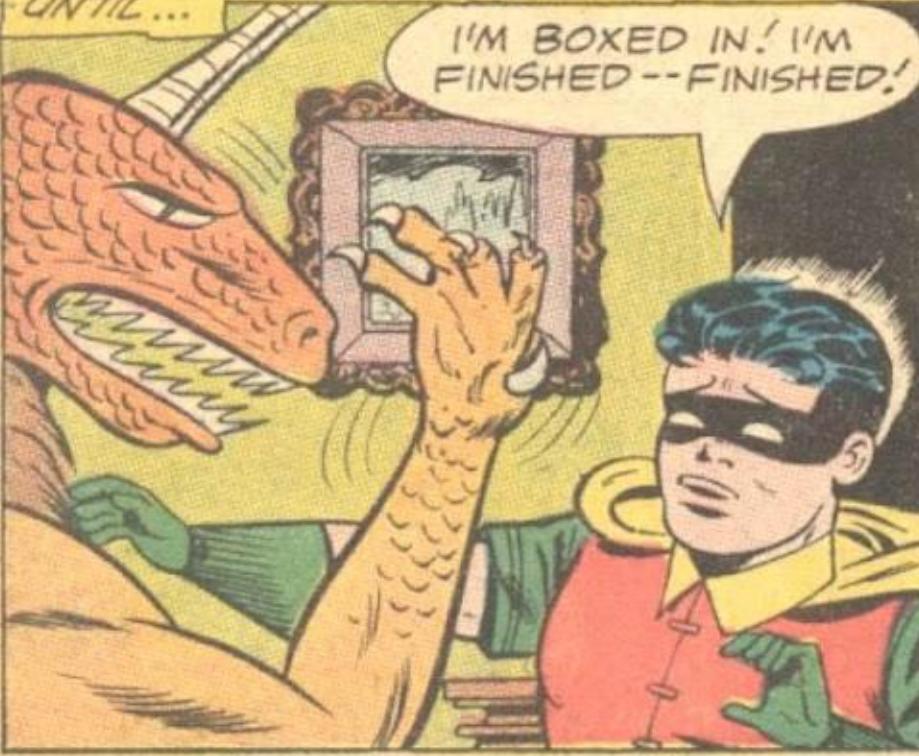
ONLY ROBIN'S AGILITY SAVES HIM FROM INSTANT DEATH...

TH-LN-NK

GIANT BATMAN

AGAIN AND AGAIN, ROBIN DODGES THE DEADLY HORN, THE RAKING TALONS, UNTIL...

I'M BOXED IN! I'M FINISHED -- FINISHED!



BUT ABRUPTLY, A FIGURE HURLES INTO THE ROOM AND GALVINATES INTO ACTION...

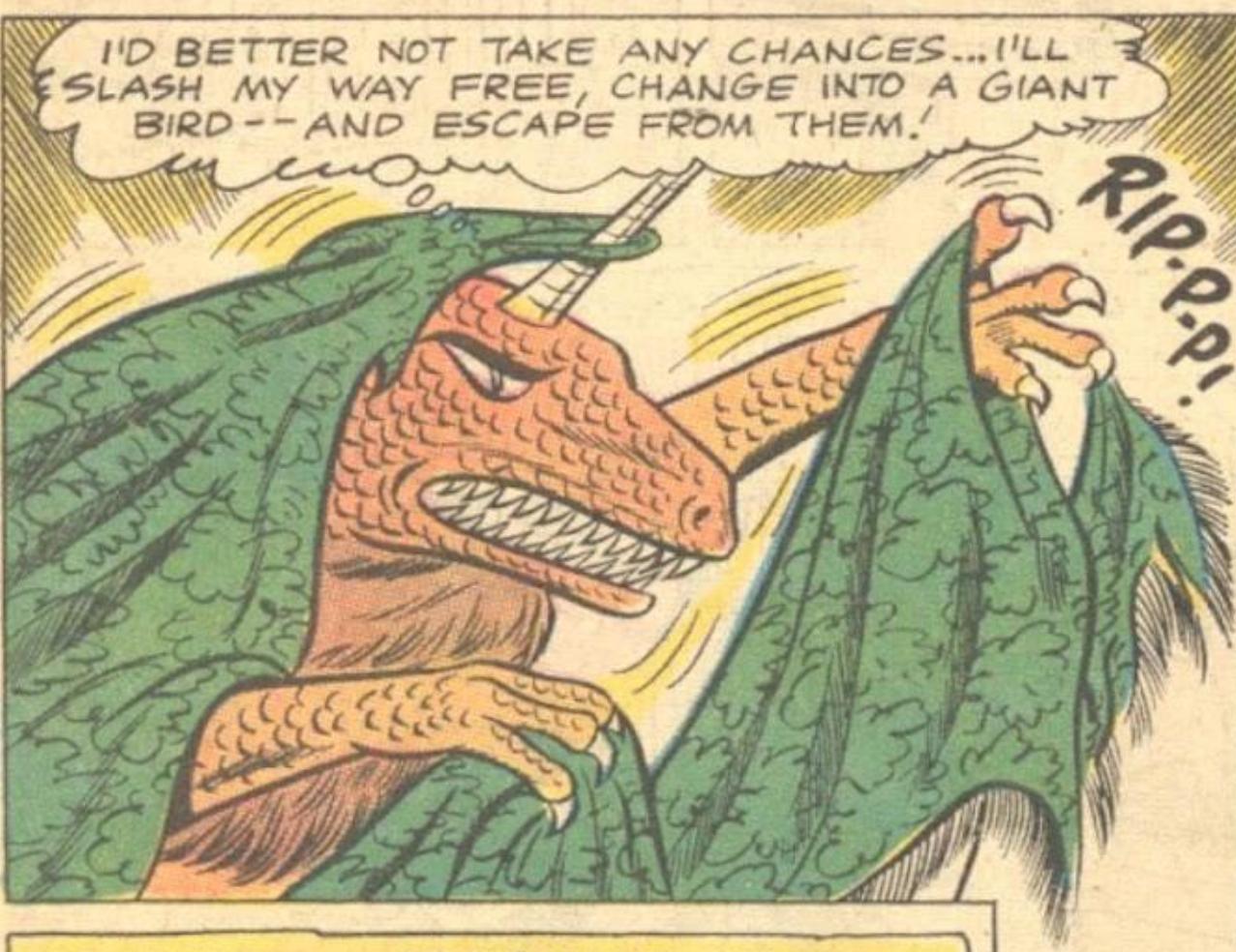
BATMAN!

THIS TAPESTRY WILL KEEP HIM WRAPPED UP FOR A LITTLE WHILE...



I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES... I'LL SLASH MY WAY FREE, CHANGE INTO A GIANT BIRD -- AND ESCAPE FROM THEM!

RIP-P.P!



BUT, WHEN HE TRIES...

I CAN'T CHANGE! JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF... THE TIME-LIMIT IS 48 HOURS, AND MY POWERS ARE EBBING AGAIN! I MUST GET TO THE POOL AND RENEW THEM!



DESPERATELY, CLAY-FACE GRABS A CHAIR, AND...

UH-OH... HE DID THIS KIND OF THING ONCE BEFORE -- WHEN HIS POWER WAS GOING! ROBIN -- SLAM THAT DOOR SHUT... DON'T LET HIM GET OUT!



THEN, BATMAN AND ROBIN STARE IN AWE AT THE STRANGE TRANSFORMATION OF BEAST INTO MAN!



YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL US THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER--BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO USE IT!

I'M NOT TALKING... MY SECRET STAYS WITH ME!

AND SO LATER...

ONE DAY I'LL ESCAPE, RETURN TO THE SECRET POOL -- AND RENEW MY POWER! ONE DAY-- CLAY-FACE WILL RETURN!

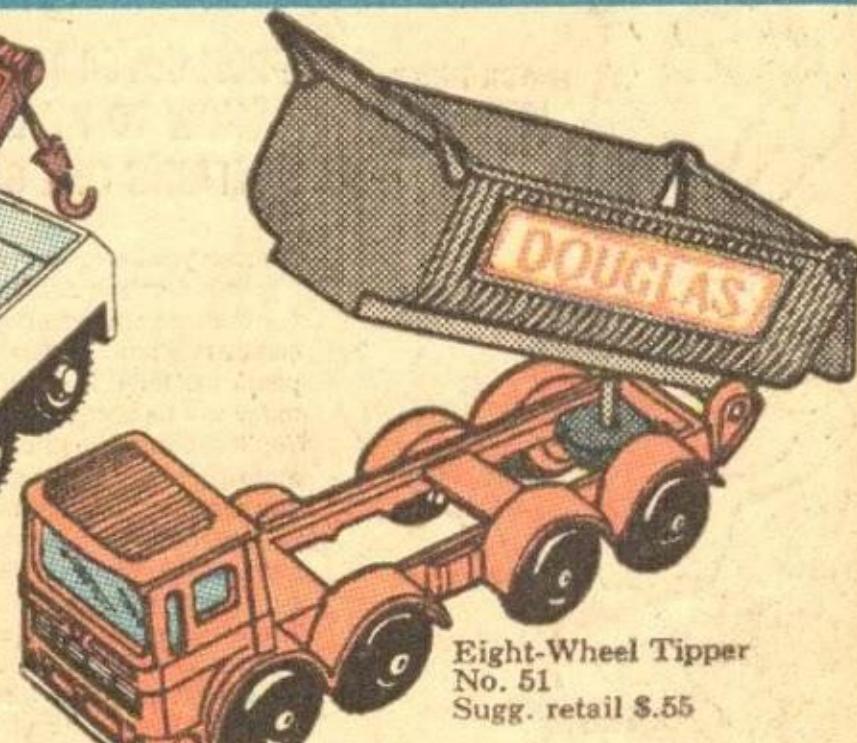
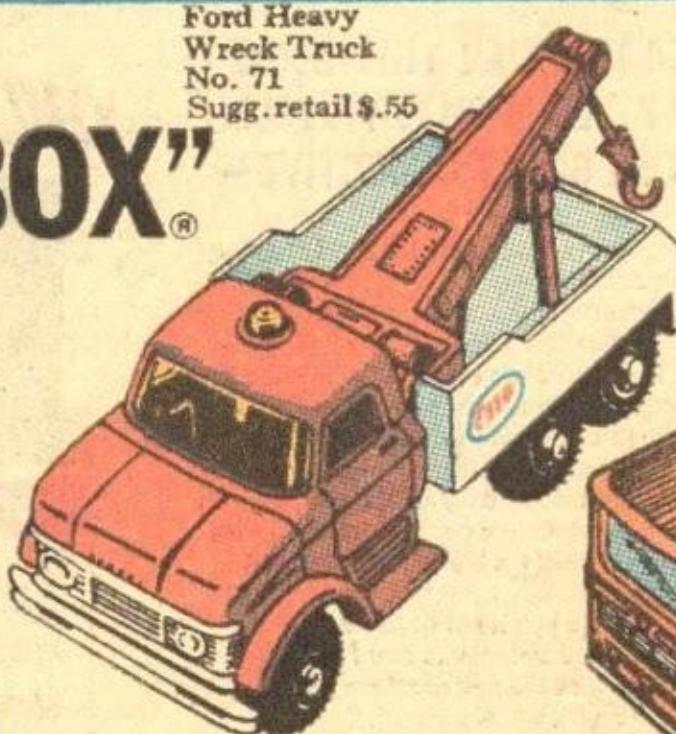


13

the End

NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.

Ford Heavy Wreck Truck
No. 71
Sugg. retail \$.55



Eight-Wheel Tipper
No. 51
Sugg. retail \$.55

These are "MATCHBOX" models for the really heavy jobs.

On your left, the Ford Wrecker with swinging cable and hook, plus a dome light. On your right, the Eight-Wheel Tipper, with ergonomic cab, a tipper that tips, a tailgate that opens. Both have tinted windshields, look realer than real (even to authentic name plates). Their die-cast construction makes them last. Want to see more models? Just write for a "MATCHBOX" catalogue. It's free.

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ALL AUTHENTIC MEDALS & INSIGNIAS



THIS WONDERFUL SET

includes

40 ALL DIFFERENT

- ★ Medals ★ Collar Insignias ★ Q-Bars
- ★ Shoulder Emblems ★ Ratings
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You can wear them... mount them... trade them!
They're exciting... interesting... historical!

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We guarantee this to be the greatest collection of genuine Army, Navy and Marine insignias ever to be offered at this unbelievably low price. These medals and insignias were actually made for, and worn by the members our fighting Armed Forces during World War II!



ONLY \$1.75

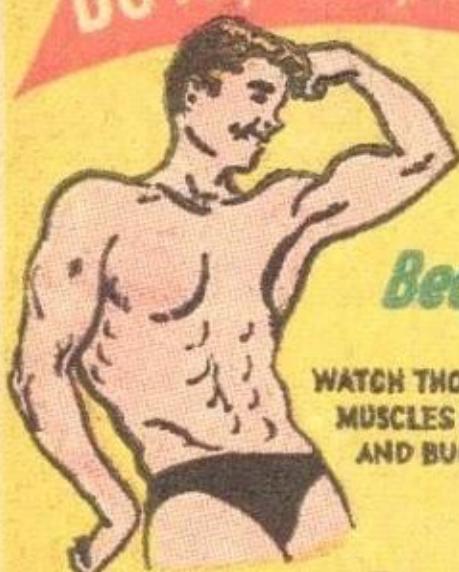
1. POSTPAID

MAIL TODAY!

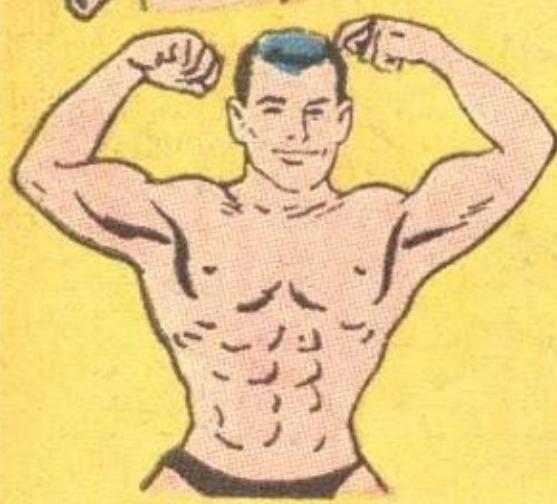
**GET YOUR SET TODAY
NOW WHILE THEY LAST!**

INSIGNIAS I-97
P.O. BOX 397 - ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.
RUSH ME (CHECK THE QUANTITY YOU WISH)
1 set for ONLY 1.75 2 sets for ONLY 3.25
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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. NO C.Q.D.'S
Please print information below:
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CANADIAN & FOREIGN ADD 25¢ PER SET INT'L MONEY ORDER.

BOYS, MEN, BUILD, DEVELOP MIGHTY MUSCLES



WATCH THOSE
MUSCLES GROW
AND BULGE!



WIN THE ADMIRATION
OF YOUR FRIENDS!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!!

*Add Power and Punch to Your Arms
Become the Strongman in the Crowd!*

FROM COVER TO COVER THIS BOOK
"HOW TO BUILD MIGHTY MUSCLES"
CONTAINS ONE GREAT OBJECTIVE—

It shows you how you can experience the thrill of being vigorously strong and healthy.

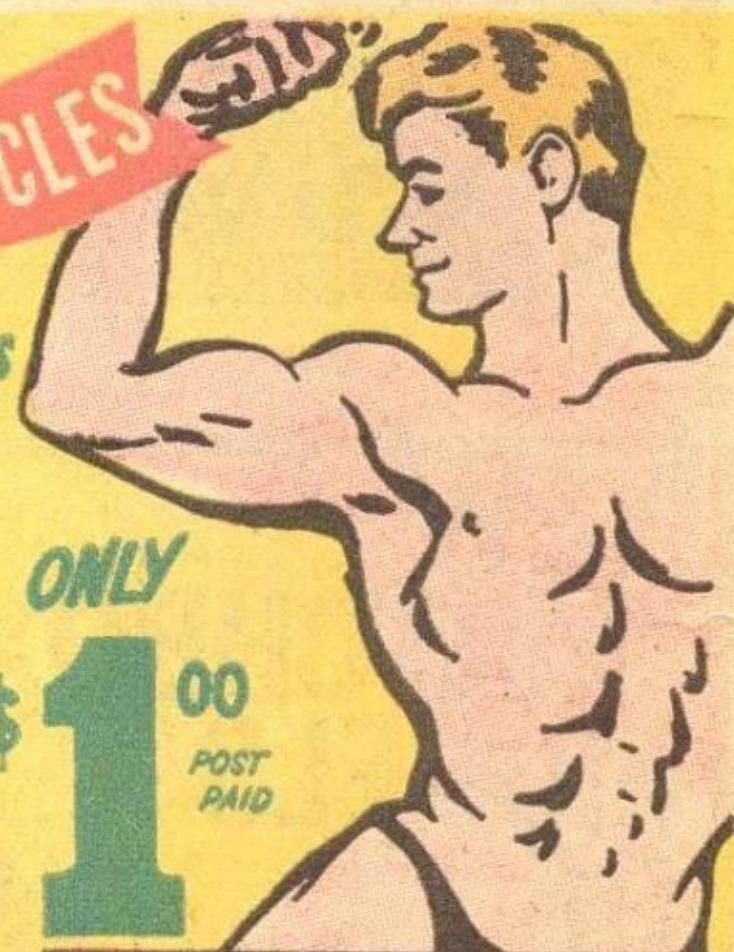
For the first time you become aware that body building can be real fun... so fun-filling you'll hardly notice the passing of time. Things that are especially difficult for you today will be accomplished tomorrow.

You'll be filled with pride as you see husky muscles grow and ripple over your body in paths of power.

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Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.

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Imagine your friends' shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around... as BIG as life... as horrible and sinister as any nightmare... and so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.

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Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.

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SMOKE Light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.

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Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh-toned latex will fit all heads. For the executive that would like to change his appearance.

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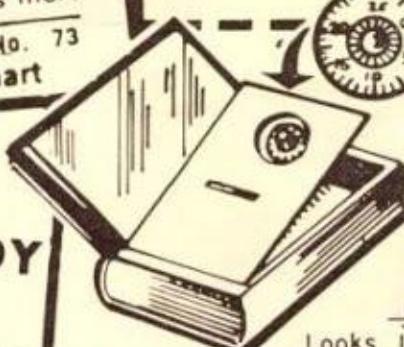


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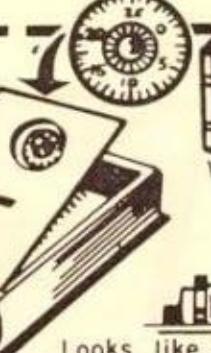
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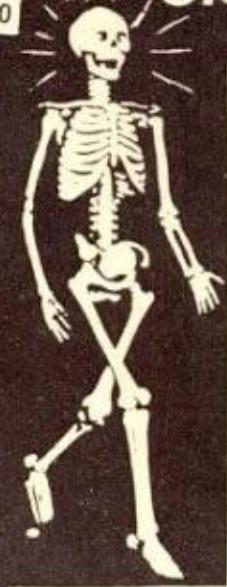
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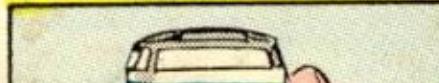
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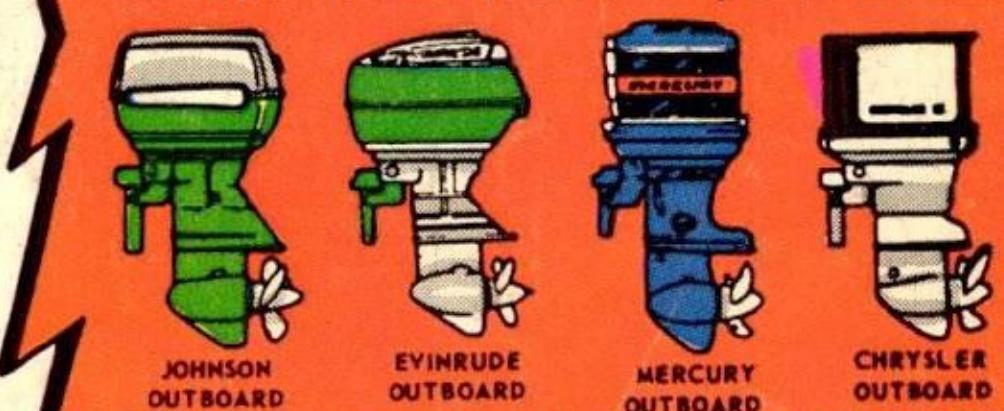
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