DC BATMAN

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER

15¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 232
JUNE
30050

WHEN I DECIDE ROBIN *MUST* DIE--

--HE DIES!

A TALE TO *HAUNT* YOU FOREVER--

"DAUGHTER of the DEMON!"

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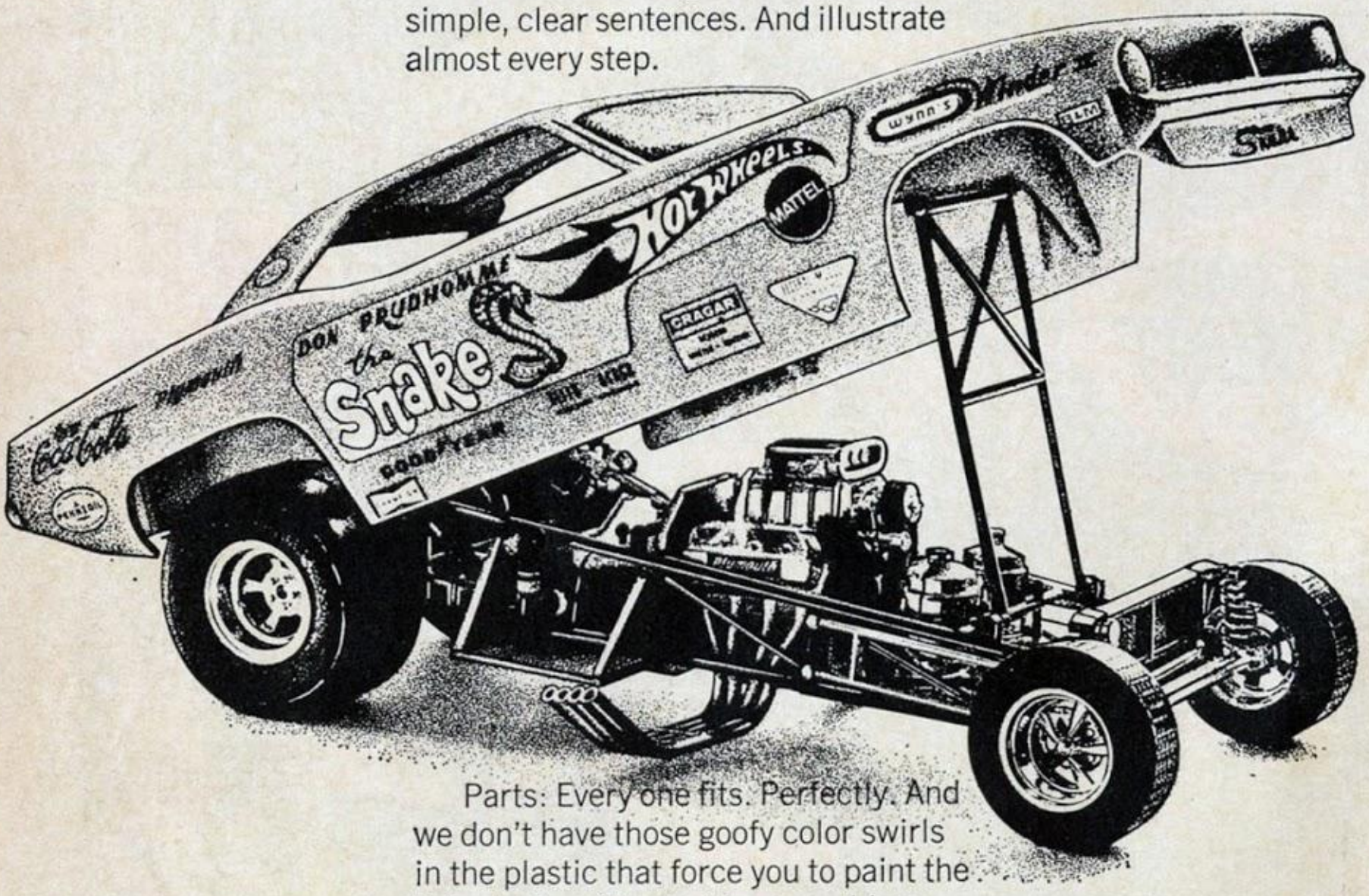

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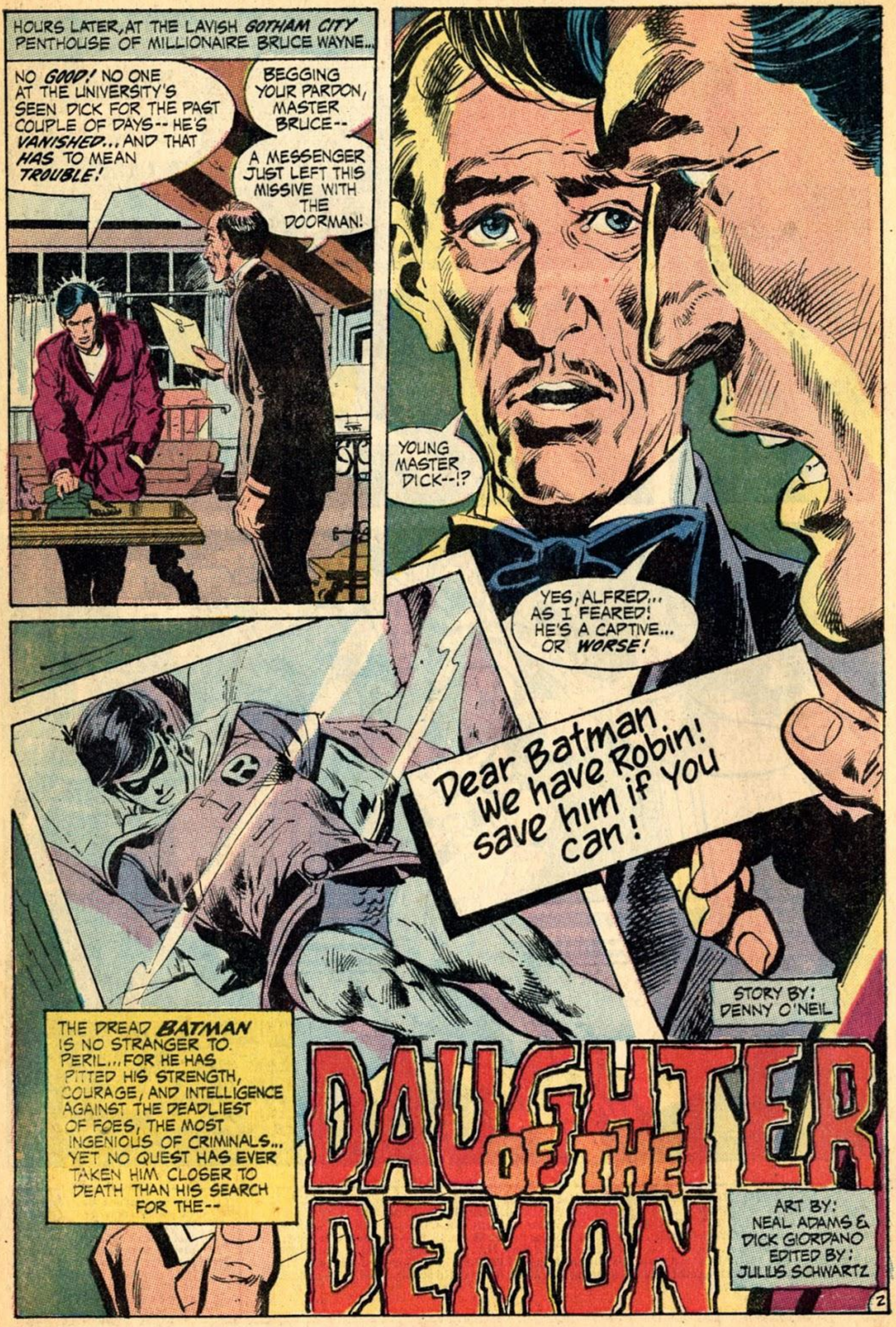
HOURS LATER, AT THE LAVISH GOTHAM CITY PENTHOUSE OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE...
NO GOOD! NO ONE AT THE UNIVERSITY'S SEEN DICK FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS -- HE'S VANISHED... AND THAT HAS TO MEAN TROUBLE!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MASTER BRUCE--
A MESSENGER JUST LEFT THIS MISSIVE WITH THE DOORMAN!
YOUNG MASTER DICK--!?
YES, ALFRED... AS I FEARED! HE'S A CAPTIVE... OR WORSE!
Dear Batman We have Robin! save him if You can!
STORY BY: DENNY O'NEIL
THE DREAD BATMAN IS NO STRANGER TO PERIL... FOR HE HAS PITTED HIS STRENGTH, COURAGE, AND INTELLIGENCE AGAINST THE DEADLIEST OF FOES, THE MOST INGENIOUS OF CRIMINALS... YET NO QUEST HAS EVER TAKEN HIM CLOSER TO DEATH THAN HIS SEARCH FOR THE--
DAUGHTER OF THE DEMON
ART BY: NEAL ADAMS & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
2

CANCEL ALL MY APPOINTMENTS, ALFRED!

I'M *UN-AVAILABLE* TO *EVERY-ONE!*

BRUCE WAYNE WILL HAVE TO *VACATION* IF *THE BATMAN* IS TO FIND HIS WARD!

MAY I ASK, SIR, WHERE YOU ARE BOUND *FIRST?*

I WANT TO RUN A *FULL ANALYSIS* ON THE NOTE AND PHOTO! FOR THAT, I'LL NEED THE GEAR IN THE *BATCAVE!*

A HASTY TRIP TO AN ESTATE IN THE SUBURBS...AND THEN...

SEEING MY ANCESTRAL HOME SO *DARK*...AS CLOSED AS A *VAULT*-- GIVES ME A NASTY CHILL!

PERHAPS DICK AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE *LEFT* THE OLD PLACE--

BUT TIMES CHANGE AND PEOPLE MUST CHANGE WITH THEM!

THE ORIGINAL CONCEALED ENTRANCE TO THE CAVE STILL WORKS *PERFECTLY!* I BUILT IT TO *LAST*...

...AS I BUILT *EVERYTHING*... BEGINNING WITH THE BEST PARTS AVAILABLE AND ENDING WITH PLENTY OF *SWEAT!*

WELCOME *HOME, BRUCE WAYNE*--OR SHALL I ADDRESS YOU AS *THE BATMAN?*

AT THE SOUND OF AN ICY, PENETRATING VOICE, THE CAPED MAN WHIRLS, AND--

WHO *ARE* YOU? HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE...?

TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I AM PRESENTLY KNOWN AS *RA'S AL GHUL!* YOU SHALL BE SEEING *MUCH* OF ME!

TO ANSWER YOUR *SECOND* QUERY...IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER OF *DEDUCTION* AND *RESEARCH!* I REASONED THAT *THE BATMAN* HAD TO BE *WEALTHY*...

...AND THAT HE NEEDED CERTAIN KINDS OF EQUIPMENT! THEREFORE, I MERELY HAD MY ORGANIZATION INVESTIGATE...

...AND YOU FOUND THAT *BRUCE WAYNE* ALONE BOUGHT WHAT *THE BATMAN* HAD TO HAVE, RIGHT? OKAY... THAT'S A HOLE I'LL *PLUG!*

I'M SURPRISED SOMEONE DIDN'T THINK OF IT *YEARS* AGO! NOW, I HAVE A *THIRD* QUESTION... THE *BIG* ONE...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT...*NEED*... YOUR *HELP!* MY CHILD HAS BEEN *ABDUCTED!* I RECEIVED THIS PHOTOGRAPH BY *MESSENGER!*

THAT'S *TALIA!*--*SHE'S* YOUR DAUGHTER?*

Dear Rā's Al Ghūl we have your daughter, save her if you can.

*THE BATMAN SAVED TALIA'S LIFE IN "INTO THE DEN OF THE DEATH-DEALERS" (DETECTIVE COMICS #411; MAY 1971) AND SHE RETURNED THE COMPLIMENT BY SLAYING THE MURDEROUS DR. DARRK!... EDITOR

APPARENTLY THE GIRL WAS TAKEN BY THE SAME PERSON WHO HAS MY *WARD!* WE HAVE A *MUTUAL* PROBLEM--

TALIA SPOKE *HIGHLY* OF YOUR ABILITIES AS A *DETECTIVE!* I TRUST HER JUDGMENT WITHOUT *RESERVATION*--

IF *ANYONE* CAN SEEK HER OUT... IT IS *THE BATMAN!*

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE *BOTH* CORRECT! FOR OPENERS, I'LL EXAMINE THE PICTURES UNDER A MICROSCOPIC SPECTOGRAPH!

THERE MAY BE TRACES OF *DUST* THAT CAN GIVE US A CLUE!

FOR THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR THE *WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE* BENDS TO HIS TASK! THEN--

YOU *SMILE, BATMAN!* YOU HAVE MADE A *DISCOVERY?*

I THINK SO...

YES... UNMISTAKABLE BITS OF A CERTAIN *HERB*... ONE USED IN CEREMONIES OF A FAR EASTERN CULT OF *KILLERS!*

THEY'RE CALLED THE *BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON!* AND I RECALL THAT THEY'RE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN *CALCUTTA!*

WE SHALL PROCEED TO *INDIA IMMEDIATELY!*

I HAVE AN AIRCRAFT WAITING NEARBY--

INFIDEL! MY LORD *AL GHUL* LEAVES THE CHAMBER *FIRST!*

UNN...OKAY, FRIEND! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!

PRAY FORGIVE MY GUARD *UBU!* HE IS TRAINED TO MY *COMPLETE* SERVICE... AND A TRIFLE *OVERZEALOUS!*

HE'S THAT, ALL RIGHT... AND STRONG, TOO!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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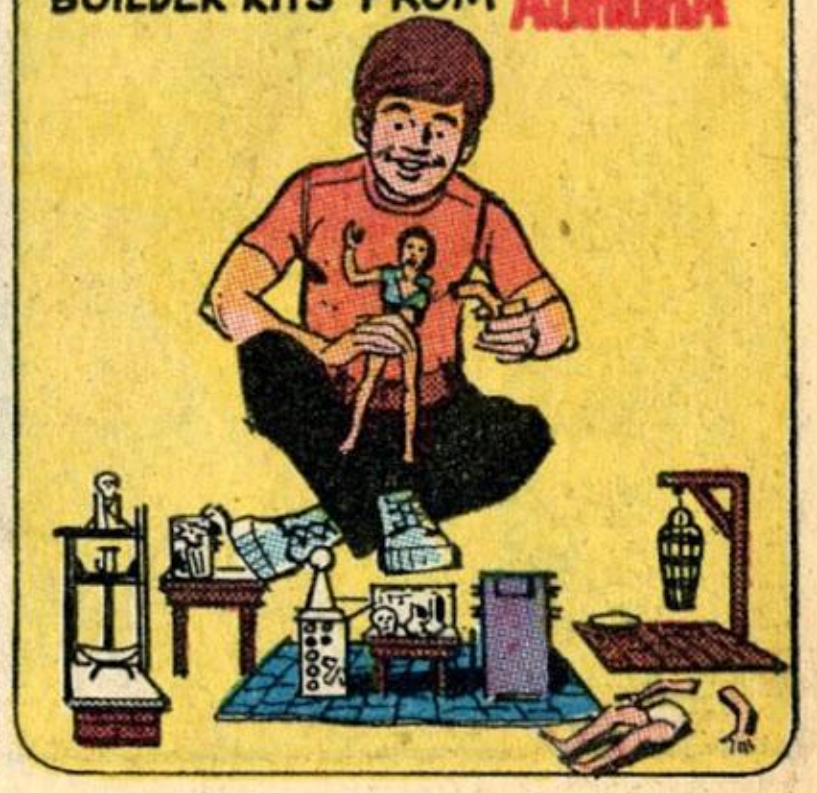


"IN A SINGLE, SEARING MOMENT, MY CHILDHOOD WAS GONE, BLASTED BY A CHEAP THUG'S BULLETS, AND I WAS LEFT ALONE IN A WORLD GROWN COLD..."

"I KNEW I WOULD NEVER AGAIN KNOW PEACE! STANDING OVER THE BODIES OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, I MADE A SILENT VOW..."

"I WOULD AVENGE THEIR MURDERS--I WOULD DEDICATE MY LIFE TO A RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME..."

"AND SO I DID! HAD I REALIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK I'D SET MYSELF, I MIGHT HAVE WAVERED. THERE WERE BRUTALLY LONG HOURS IN THE LABORATORY..."

"AND EQUALLY LONG, EQUALLY BRUTAL HOURS IN THE GYM... TRAINING, DEVELOPING EVERY CONCEIVABLE SORT OF SKILL..."

"I WAS NOT YET OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE...A TOTALLY DEVOTED, ALMOST FANATICAL YOUNG MAN..."

"...CONSUMED WITH A NEED, BUT UNABLE TO FOCUS IT! THEN, ONE NIGHT A *BAT* CHANCED IN MY WINDOW--AND MY FUTURE WAS CLEAR..."

IT'S AN *OMEN!* I SHALL BECOME A *BAT!*

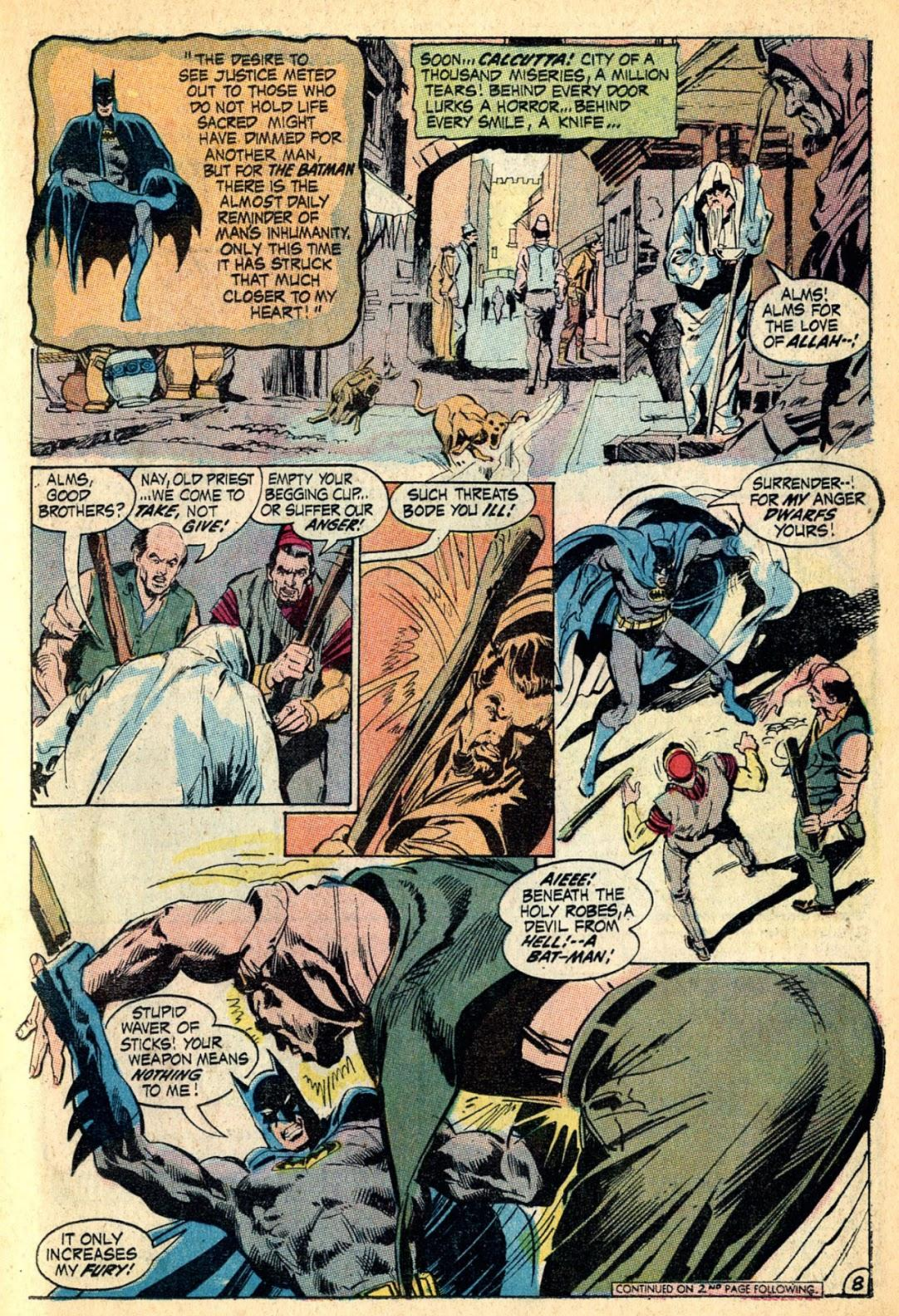
"I FELT CRIMINALS TO BE A COWARDLY, SUPERSTITIOUS LOT..."

"...AND I REASONED THAT MY DISGUISE WOULD STRIKE TERROR IN THEIR HEARTS..."

"SOON, I BECAME FEARED AND HATED... EXACTLY AS I'D HOPED! THEN, AT A PERFORMANCE OF THE CIRCUS, I SAW MY OWN TRAGEDY HORRIBLY REENACTED AS A PAIR OF AERIALISTS PLUNGED TO THEIR DEATHS..."

"...LEAVING A SMALL, FRIGHTENED BOY TO MOURN. I CHILLED WITH THE REALIZATION THAT MINE WAS NOT AN ISOLATED AGONY... NOR EVEN UNIQUE!"

"I LOOKED AT THE WEEPING LAD...AND SAW MYSELF! I PUT A HAND ON HIS SHOULDER, AND IN THAT SECOND, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS FORGED BETWEEN US... AND A COMMON PURPOSE!"


"THE DESIRE TO SEE JUSTICE METED OUT TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HOLD LIFE SACRED MIGHT HAVE DIMMED FOR ANOTHER MAN, BUT FOR THE BATMAN THERE IS THE ALMOST DAILY REMINDER OF MAN'S INHUMANITY. ONLY THIS TIME IT HAS STRUCK THAT MUCH CLOSER TO MY HEART!"
SOON... CALCUTTA! CITY OF A THOUSAND MISERIES, A MILLION TEARS! BEHIND EVERY DOOR LURKS A HORROR... BEHIND EVERY SMILE, A KNIFE...
ALMS! ALMS FOR THE LOVE OF ALLAH--!
ALMS, GOOD BROTHERS?
NAY, OLD PRIEST ...WE COME TO TAKE, NOT GIVE!
EMPTY YOUR BEGGING CUP... OR SUFFER OUR ANGER!
SUCH THREATS BODE YOU ILL!
SURRENDER--! FOR MY ANGER DWARFS YOURS!
AIEEE! BENEATH THE HOLY ROBES, A DEVIL FROM HELL!--A BAT-MAN!
STUPID WAVER OF STICKS! YOUR WEAPON MEANS NOTHING TO ME!
IT ONLY INCREASES MY FURY!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
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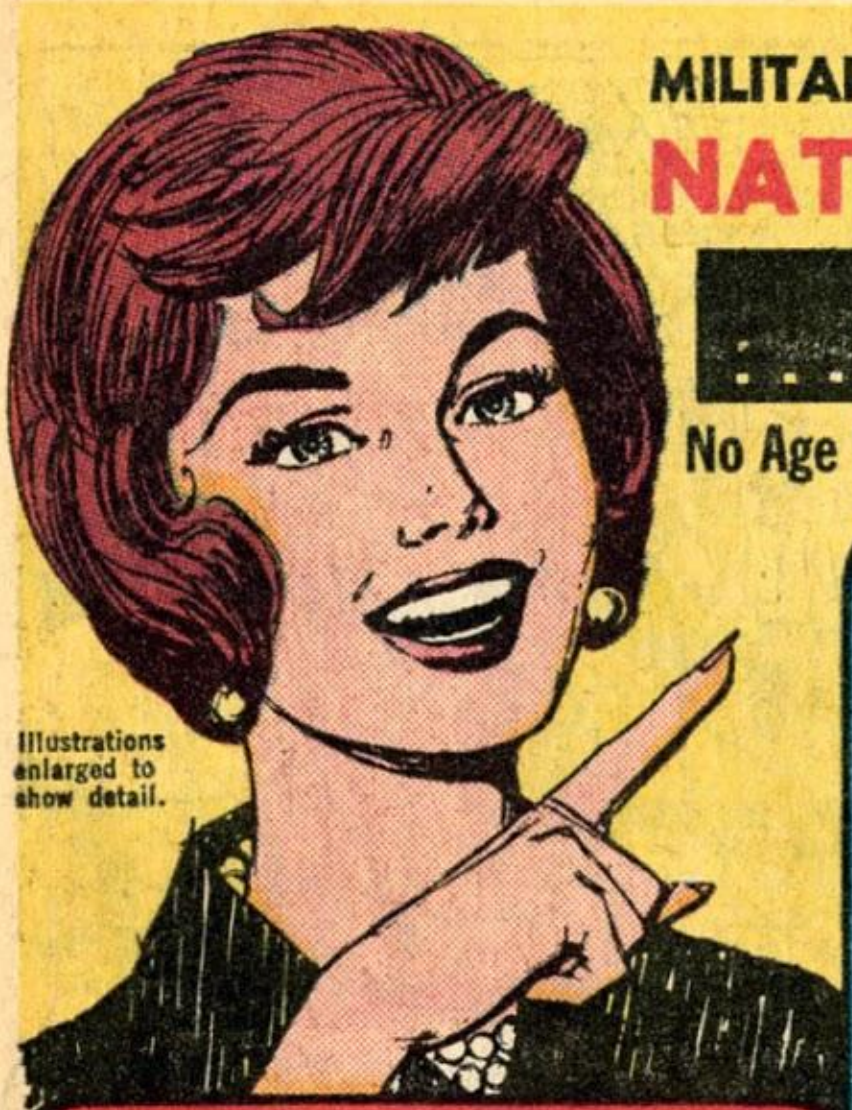

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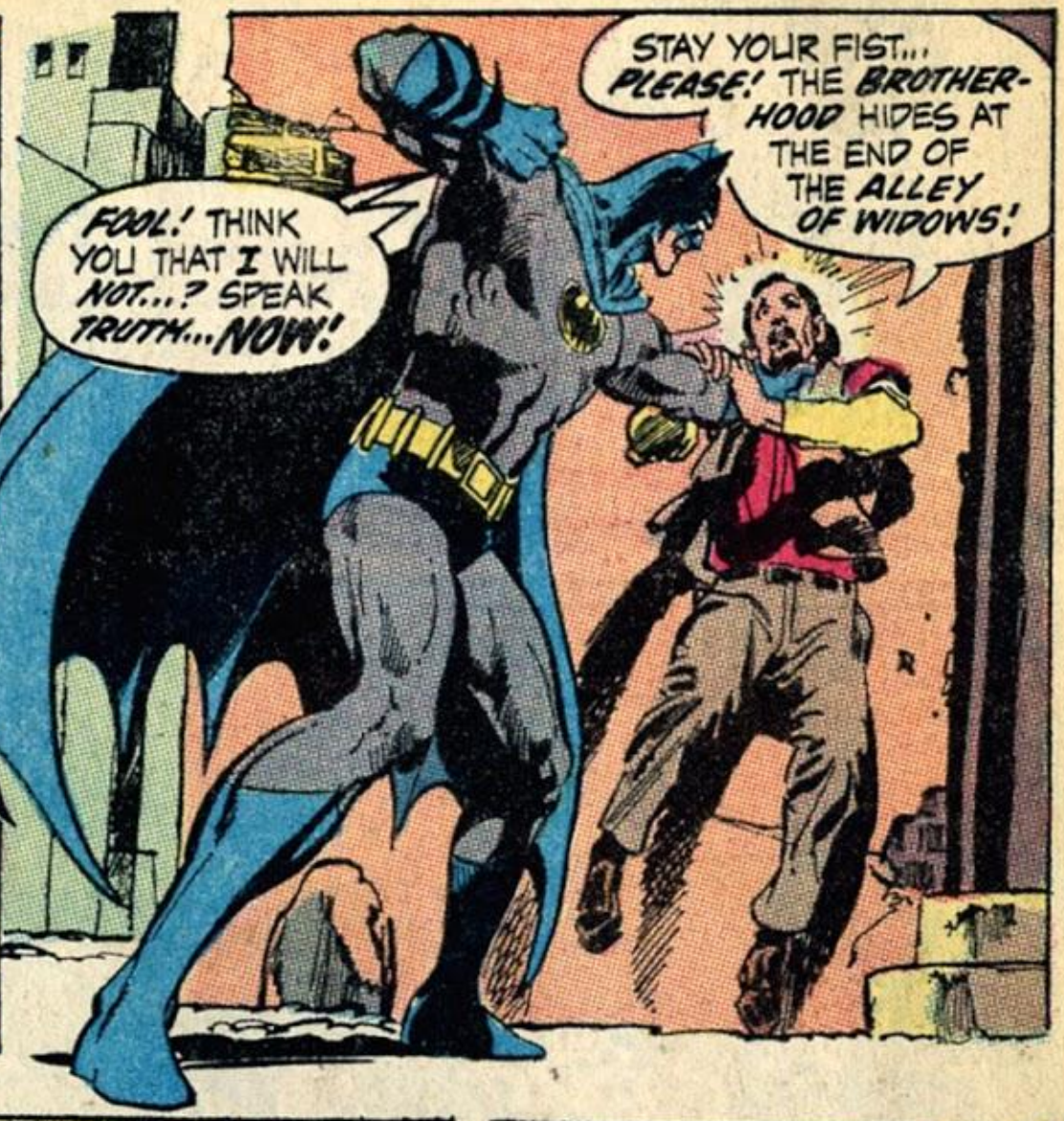
I WOULD HAVE INFORMATION OF YOU! WHERE LURKS THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE DEMON?
I DARE NOT ANSWER! THE BROTHERHOOD WOULD HAVE MY LIFE!

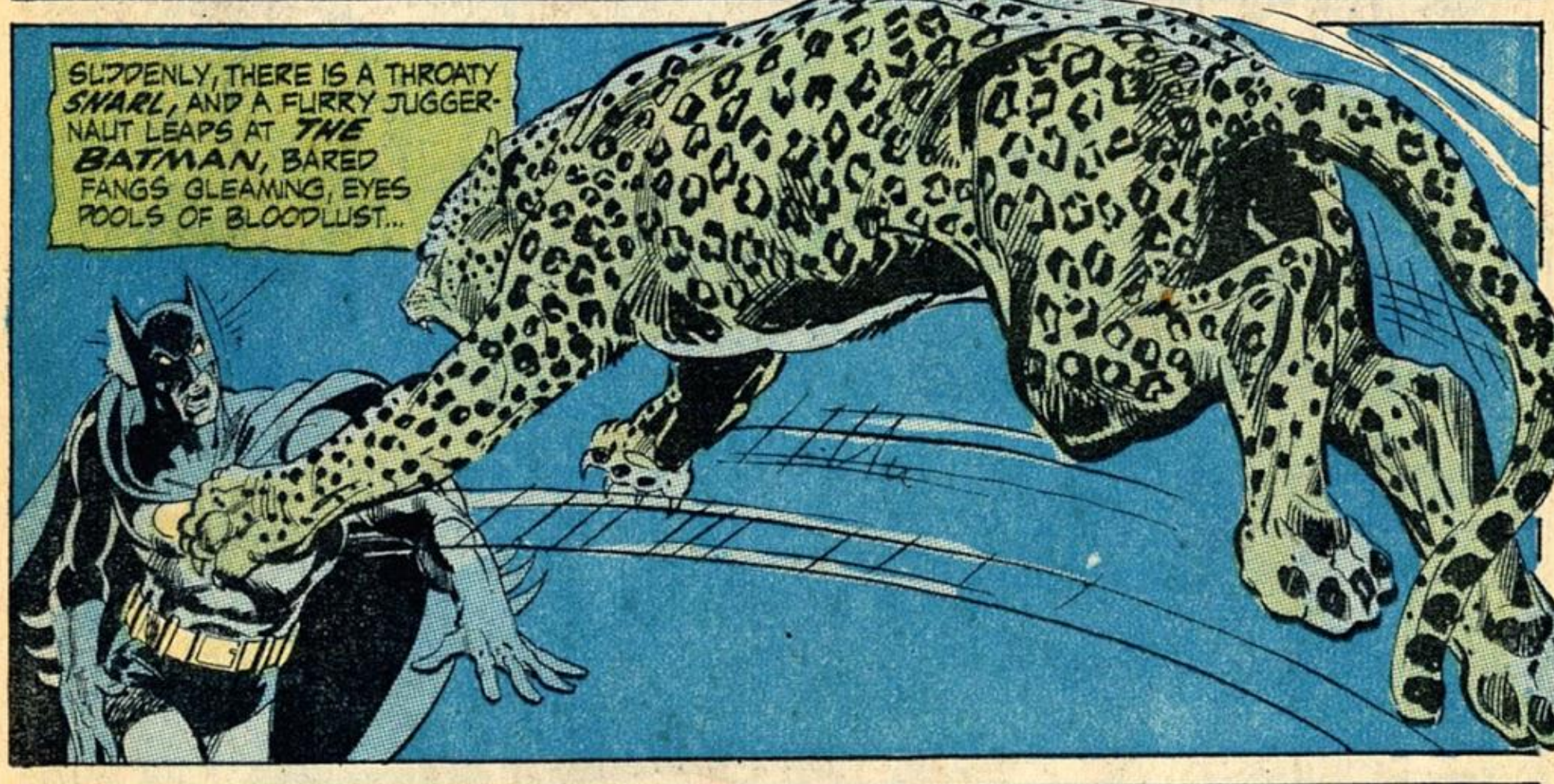

FOOL! THINK YOU THAT I WILL NOT...? SPEAK TRUTH...NOW!
STAY YOUR FIST... PLEASE! THE BROTHERHOOD HIDES AT THE END OF THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS!

WELL DONE, DETECTIVE!
IT WAS A LONG SHOT... THAT I'D ATTRACT SOMEONE WHO HAD THE INFORMATION! FORTUNATELY IT PAID OFF!
THE ALLEY OF WIDOWS IS ON THIS VERY AVENUE!

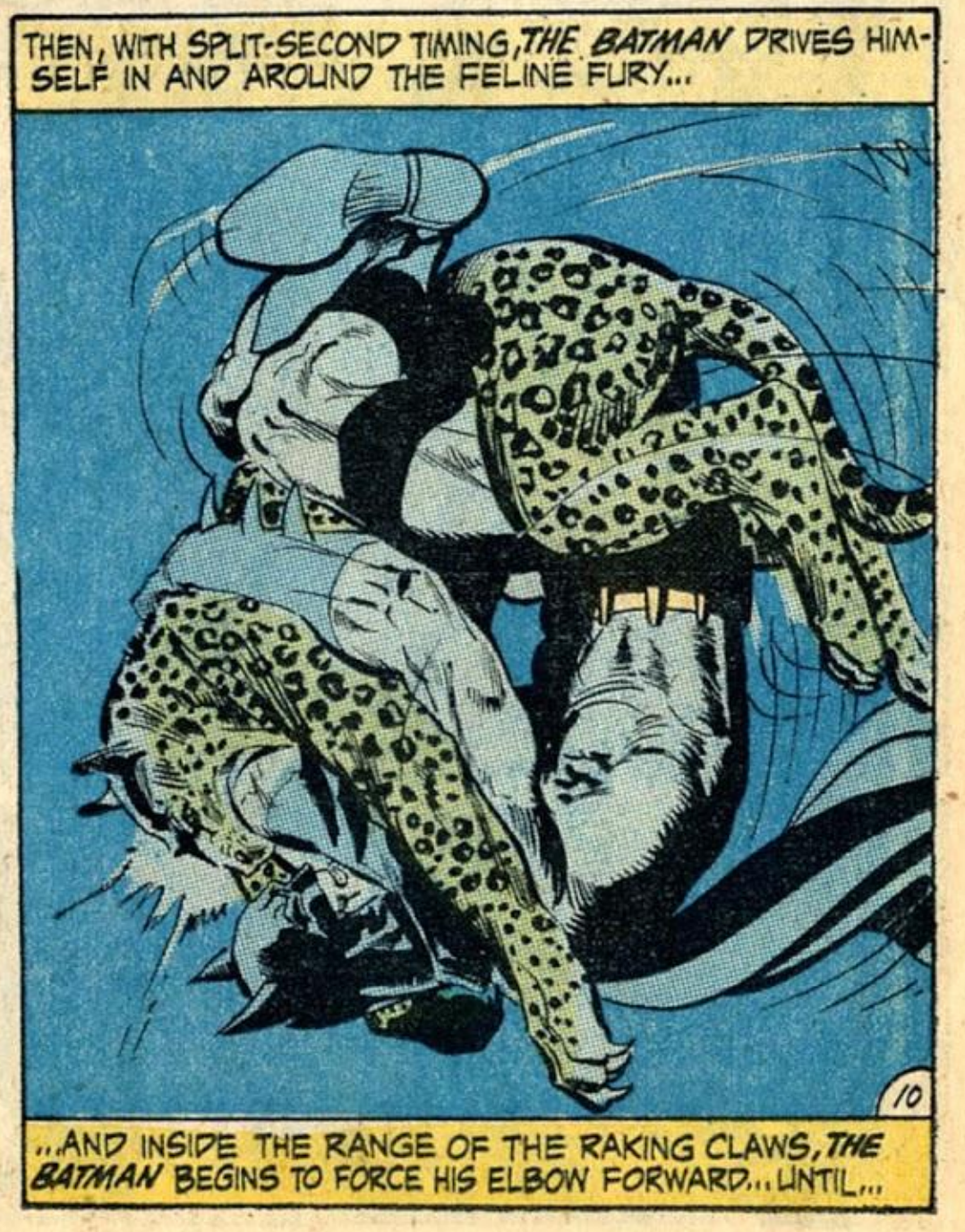
ONCE MORE I WARN YOU, INFIDEL! THE MASTER GOES FIRST!
EASY, BIG FELLA! I'M NOT TRYING TO BE PUSHY!
KINDLY FORGIVE UBU'S DEVOTION!

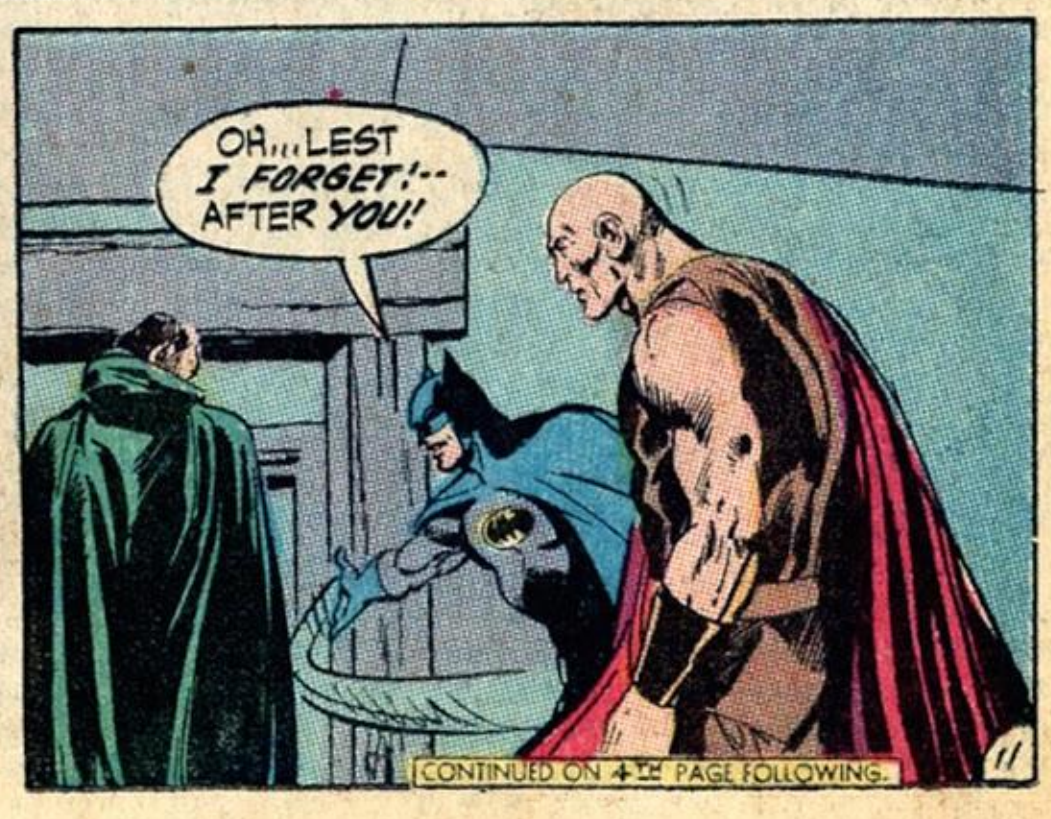
THAT MUST BE IT! AS NAPOLEON ONCE REMARKED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION...WAITING IS THE MEDICINE OF THE WEAK!

QUIET, ISN'T IT? MAYBE *TOO* QUIET...


SUDDENLY, THERE IS A THROATY *SNARL*, AND A FURRY JUGGERNAUT LEAPS AT *THE BATMAN*, BARED FANGS GLEAMING, EYES POOLS OF BLOODLUST...

ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING, *THE BATMAN* SMASHES HIS ELBOW DEEP INTO THE MOUTH OF THE ENRAGED LEOPARD... LOCKING ITS JAWS OPEN...
AS HE FALLS, *BATMAN* SIDESTEPS... AVOIDING THE RAKING HIND CLAWS WHICH SEARCH THE AIR, FAILING TO DISEMBOWEL...


THEN, WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING, *THE BATMAN* DRIVES HIMSELF IN AND AROUND THE FELINE FURY...
...AND INSIDE THE RANGE OF THE RAKING CLAWS, *THE BATMAN* BEGINS TO FORCE HIS ELBOW FORWARD... UNTIL...



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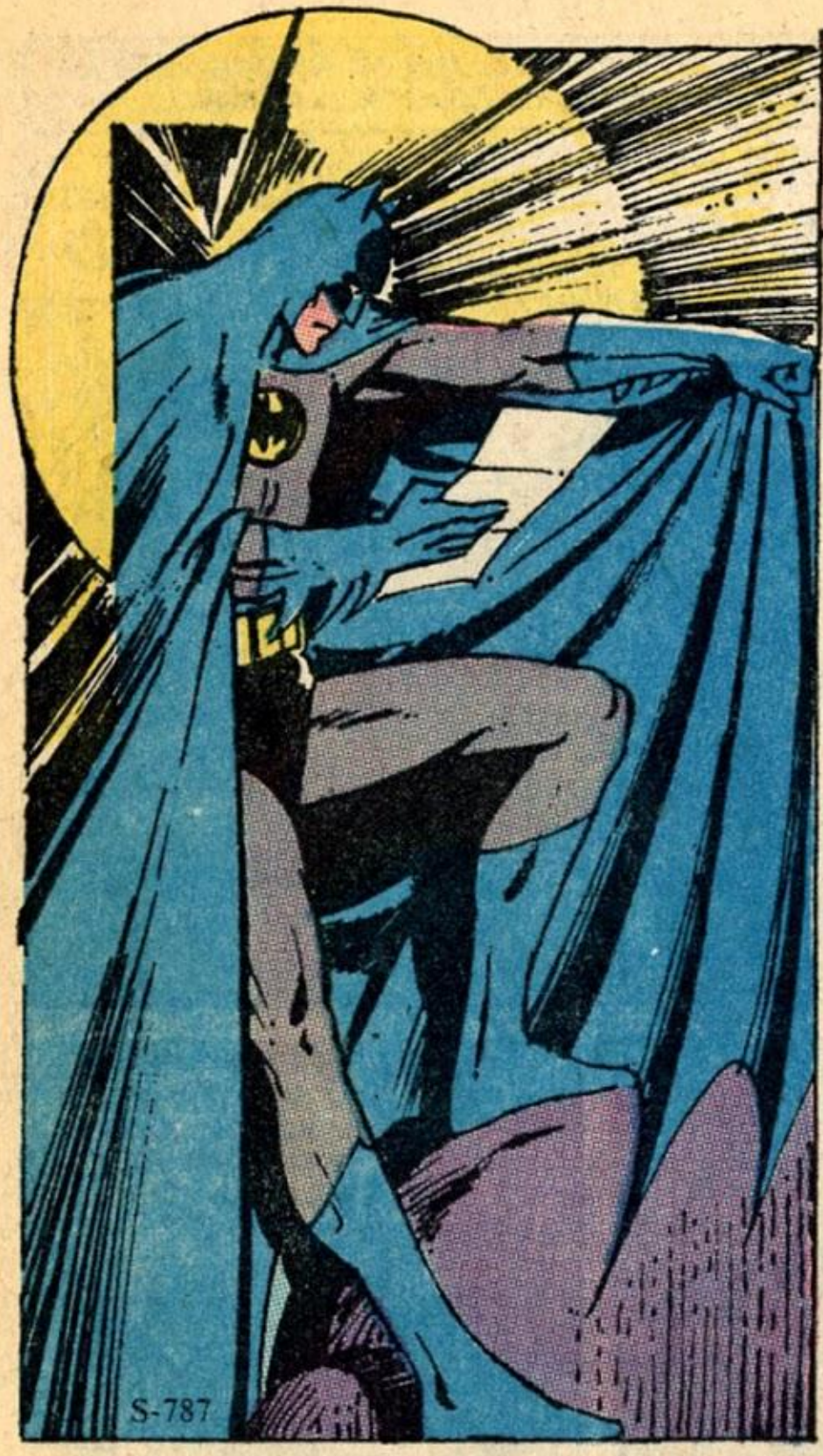

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

Aside from a terrible cover, the inside of *Batman* #229 was good stuff. Or, if I were a cook, I might say that the shell was unattractive, but the filling was delectable.

I was rather leery about "Asylum of the Futurians" because Robert Kanigher's recent *Flash* forays have not pleased me, but this was a very good adventure-mystery story.

Note, please, that I said adventure-mystery. This was *not* a detective story. With a few minor changes, the story could have been rewritten to feature *Flash Gordon, The Saint, Rip Kirby,* or any one of several heroes. Detection was not part of this story, but fascinating plot, convincing dialogue (the best Kanigher has ever written), and flawless execution helped to make this one of the best *Batman* stories I have ever read.

The death-trap was convincing, both in situation and escape, and the explanation of the "telepathic call" was best left unexplained until the end of the story. Any other method of this revelation would have been anti-climactic. Stephen Grey would not be a bad character to bring back if the *Bat*-like battler ever gets into another "occult" mystery. For that matter, the *Futurians* are much better *Bat*-foes than a man whose fingers do the seeing, a league of assassins, or a fugitive from a *Dracula* re-run.

You must have caught me in a good mood today because I can't complain about anything! *Robin's* "Temperature Boiling . . . and Rising" was high-quality all the way through. There was a time when all the *plot* of a two-part story would be in the first installment, and the second part would be a mere action-filled "wrap-up" with little plot. Happily, those days seem to be behind us.

Getting down to specifics, the light-sources clue was absolutely *brilliant.* Classic detection stuff all the way around. Completely fair to the reader, but still as baffling as all get-out.

A returning cast of characters is finally being established on the *Hudson U* campus with Hank Osher and the like, and that certainly makes the stories more enjoyable. Hopefully, you will introduce a semi-right-wing-type to offset semi-leftish Osher. It's not that I particularly disagree with him, but I feel both sides should be represented. And I, as a fan of *all* super-hero comic companies, enjoyed the not-so-subtle dig on page 7, panel 2. Little jibes like these tend, in my opinion, to draw all comicdom together, without regard to brand, characters or place of national origin (no pun *or* plug intended).

—*MIKE W. BARR, Akron, Ohio*

(Because of this issue's full-length Batman-Robin *adventure, there's no solo* Robin *story—an omission which we will remedy with next issue's "Vengeance for a Cop," the starter of an unprecedented three-parter, in which the* Teen Wonder *gets involved with* commune-*activities.* —JS*)*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I have been reading *Batman* for five years (does that classify me as a newcomer or veteran?). I have never really been compelled to write a letter, complimentary or otherwise. In fact, although I buy *Batman* regularly, I rarely enjoy it. *Batman* was just one of the fifteen magazines I bought. When I purchased "Asylum of the Futurians" I thought the cover was rotten. But I can sum up the story in one word—WOW!

Batman is getting better and better. When I look at issues that came out 3 or 4 years ago, I wonder why I bought them. In those days, a plastic *Batman* and his wise-cracking sidekick blundered their way along the pages. Now *Batman* is HUMAN. The art on the story was great; Irv Novick and Frank Giacoia were always my favorites. The script was good, too. *Batman's* aura of mystery, of being a loner, is great (something you couldn't do when *Robin* was around). After I read that story, I went out and bought three more issues.

When I got back I read the *Robin* story. This time I couldn't care if it was an A-plus or D-minus story, I was so intrigued by the *Batman* yarn. Again you surprised me! Again great art. Another great script. Wow! Being a girl, I really dig Dick Grayson's (and *Robin's)* hair and clothes. One request for *Robin*, though. Why don't you get him a new costume? The old one was great when he was in those *campy* stories, but the new *Robin* needs a better-looking uniform. (Notice when I used *costume* and *uniform*!) To get Dick more human, let's see him going on dates more often.

About girl friends, I suggest you also get Bruce Wayne one. Over the years, Bruce's (and *Batman's)* romances have been limited to one issue. No good! After all, Bruce is a handsome playboy. Let him marry somebody with *brown* hair. Blondes and raven-haired are over-played in your magazines. 70% of the female population in the U.S. are brunettes, and 50% of those have brown hair.

One thing (which is really trivial) I didn't like about "Asylum of the Futurians" was that the villainess' name was *Michelle!* I'm flattered you used my first name, but couldn't she have been a nicer person? Besides myself, four of my girl friends have this same name and I assure

you none of us is villainess-minded!

—*MICHELLE MONDRO, Detroit, Mich.*

(Back in the 1930's a group of rabid science-fiction fans banded together in an Ivory Tower and called themselves The Futurians. *When we further tell you that their leader was named (John B.)* Michel, *you'll understand the circumstances which inspired us to recall this fandom episode of yesteryear.*—JS)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Well, I never really thought the time would come when I'd be gladder to see the *Robin* story than the featured *Batman* strip. But, as they say . . . there is always a first time. *Batman* 229 was exactly that. The whole cover looked like a reject from *Jerry Lewis* or something. That pathetical, scary man in the background, mouthing clichés, *Batman* cowering away from the rather anemic hands in the front . . . I didn't even like the *Batman* symbol in the upper left corner. I think the only part of the cover I *did* like was the portrait of *Robin* proclaiming another solo adventure. Gee whiz, how come I don't know any boys who look like that?

On the inside, I continued to be bored. My only real surprise was that instead of being another *Batman*-trapped with a bunch of maniacs and a little supernatural mixed in story, it was in actuality another *Batman* trapped with a bunch of hostile mutants who want to take over the world and a few supernatural intimations at the end story.

The art was incredibly poor . . . miserable, in fact. I wonder why so much comics art is looking like so much other comics art, and thus degenerating rapidly? Even the dialogue . . . "You *waves of the future* have different names! From Attila the Hun to Hitler! But you all end the same way . . . paying for your crimes!" Or *Batman's* final shot . . . "Perhaps . . . there are questions haunting us today . . . which will be answered . . . tomorrow!" Oh, brother! The oldest way in the world to get out of committing yourselves to spiritualism, to the supernatural, to anything which can't be proven! The times are coming when such a comment will be greeted with hisses and fury by readers.

As for the *Robin* story . . . enough of an improvement over "Asylum of the Futurians" . . . it wasn't a pretentious story . . . none of the *Robin* or *Batgirl* ones are. You don't exactly hit the so-called nitty-gritty, but "Temperature Boiling . . . and Rising" was pleasant escape-literature after its lead story.

Two last things. One, I like the new logo on the letters page. Now that's what *The Batman* looks like to me. Two, how about a new costume for *Robin?* He's really gotten too old running around in green jockey shorts and a tunic. Oh, and one more. We just want you to know we caught that line about *Peter Parker*, and you have been duly reported to *Marvel*, who is sending over *Captain America* and the *X-Men* to make you see the errors of your ways. *Pax.*

—*MADELEINE ROBINS, Sheffield, Mass.*

(The pressure *is rising . . . and* boiling over . . . *to have us up-date* Robin's *costume (uniform?). One of these issues we'll do just that . . .* if *we can get certain clearances.*—JS)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

I am what you might call a book worm. Give me a good book; if it holds my interest I'll read it to the bitter end no matter how big it is. And for some reason I like to read DC comics most of all. Even when I was in the Navy, if I had the chance or money I'd buy a couple of issues, mostly *Batman* or *Superman*. Or if on occasion a cover catches my eye, like *Adam Strange*, I'd buy it. Your comics seem to have a certain amount of *quantity* about it. Once in a while someone comes up with a good idea, and bang! You have a fabulous story.

And I'll say this for you—you sure have made some changes since I first started buying your comics. Heaven knows, you had a heck of a hard time to live down that *Batman* television series and that movie they made, with the *Joker, Catwoman*, etc.

I agree with you and so many of your readers: *The Batman* should be a creature of the night, mysterious, constantly lurking in the shadows, watching, waiting to pounce upon criminals. And since *Robin* has split the scene, the *Batman* stories are even better. No, I'm not knocking *Robin*—it just seems *The Batman* operates better without him; and the same goes for *Robin*—his stories *read* better without *The Batman*.

Like *Batman* #229. *Robin* is fabulous as a solo operator. And if he has to have a teammate, then the one-shot adventure with *Superman* in *World's Finest* #200 was great!

But getting back to *Batman*. The stories lately are a lot more enjoyable to read. You know, there's something I've always wondered—why you give *The Batman* an enemy like the *Joker*, or *Riddler*, or any of those other cookie villains. Look around—what do you see? Dope, war, racial problems, poverty; you name it, friend, it's there. Give us more *mystery* yarns—like *Batman* #225's "Wanted for Murder One!" Denny O'Neil came up with a thriller—an honest-to-gosh mystery. And *Batman* #229 even topped that—from that mysterious beginning on page one to the cryptic ending on page 22.

Hey, if you keep this up *Batman* may some day ride right up there with the greatest fictitious detectives of the century—that if he hasn't already made it as "The World's Greatest Detective"!

—*FRED LASITTER, Naples, Fla.*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

What's happening to *The Batman?* For the last few issues, every other *Batman* story has dealt with magic, sorcery, or the super-natural. Now, once in a while is all right, but don't get ridiculous. And these aren't stories with just subtle hints of the unreal; they are out-and-out ghost stories, and most of them feature a *Batman* who is nothing more than a human pawn in a deadly supernatural game.

I thought *Batman* was going after the real game—organized crime, dope rings, crooked politicians, evil gangs like the *League of Assassins* (there's a good idea!) and the most exciting and menacing super-villains. Or are those speeches that Bruce Wayne said when he moved his operations into the heart of *Gotham City—just speeches?*

Come on, you've shown you can do it. Exciting stories of suspense, mystery, DETECTION (note the caps), and action are much more fitting for *Batman*. You may put him into a gloomy or mysterious atmosphere if you wish; so much the better. But try to tone down the fantasy a bit.

—*DENNIS PALUMBO, Pittsburgh, Pa.*

(To repeat a quote we've used on other occasions: "The supernatural *is merely the* natural *that science cannot as yet explain!" Won't you at least concede that it* may *be the greatest of all mysteries that still baffles* The Batman?—JS)

* * * * *

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Peter, Paul and Mary ☐ Frank Sinatra ☐ Mason Williams ☐ The Association ☐ Joni Mitchell ☐ The Vogues ☐ Petula Clark ☐ The First Edition ☐ Dion ☐ Ella Fitzgerald ☐ Randy Newman ☐ The Everly Brothers ☐ Harpers Bizarre ☐ Rod McKuen ☐ Theo Bikel ☐ Glenn Yarbrough ☐ Gordon Lightfoot ☐ Vince Guaraldi ☐ Doug Kershaw ☐ Arlo Guthrie ☐ Miriam Makeba ☐ The San Sebastian Strings.

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Over 30 Top Stars Bring You The Album Buy of the Year!

This All-New Three-Album Set, For Only $3! [Hate to use all those exclamation points, but sometimes your mind wanders, Fats.]

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Over 36 Selections Starring—James Taylor, Grateful Dead, Little Richard, Kinks, Van Morrison, Beach Boys, Frank Zappa, Mothers of Invention, John Sebastian, Ry Cooder, Arlo Guthrie, Youngbloods, Lovecraft, Gordon Lightfoot, Fleetwood Mac, Jimi Hendrix, Sweetwater. And *Many* More Top Artists.

This brand-new album is brought you at rock-bottom, no profits cost by all these worried Warner Reprise Records artists. They're worried because, in the glut on our airwaves, maybe you haven't heard their latest albums.

Now—because they (and we) have given up all profits to bring you this album at cost—you can tune into the music all these artists think you should be into, and do it pretty cheaply.

Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies is three high-quality, stereo albums. Packed in a box, with a booklet that tells all about it. Hopefully, *Looney* will induce you to run out and buy these artists' full albums at regular prices; that's your business, though.

You can't get this album in stores; only by mail, cutting out the middle man.

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DC1

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Dear Loons:
I believe you, I *believe* you! Here's my $3!

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Small print department: Make checks payable to Warner Bros. Records. Allow about six weeks for the clowns in our mailroom and the U.S. Postal People to get back to you. This offer good only in U.S. and Canada, because Customs is such a pain.

MOUNT NANDA DEVI, ONE OF THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS... RISING FROM THE WASTELANDS BETWEEN INDIA AND TIBET 25,645 FEET INTO THIN, BRUTALLY COLD AIR! TREACHEROUS, SAVAGE TERRAIN THAT ALLOWS ANY WHO DARES IT ONLY ONE MISTAKE...
TO THIS NIGHTMARE OF BLISTERING WIND AND BLINDING SNOW TREK THE BATMAN AND HIS TWO STRANGE COMPANIONS...
IT HASN'T SNOWED FOR SEVERAL DAYS! THE TRAIL IS STILL CLEAR!
YES! THE ABDUCTORS OBVIOUSLY BROUGHT YOUR WARD AND MY DAUGHTER UP THIS WAY!

YOU TOO TIRED TO GO ON? WE CAN MAKE CAMP HERE!
NO, DETECTIVE! ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT *ALL* YOUR SKILLS, I AM YOUR EQUAL IN *STAMINA!*
BUT GIVE ME A MOMENT TO GAZE!

IT IS A BEAUTY TO WHICH MY SOUL RESPONDS... SO STARK, SO PURE...AS UNTAINTED AS MY DESERT HOME!
I AM CURSED WITH A LOVE FOR EMPTINESS... DESOLATION!

TELL ME YOUR LIFE-STORY *LATER*... WHEN THE KIDS ARE *SAFE!*
THESE FOOT-AND-HAND-HOLDS HAVE BEEN HACKED FROM THE ICE *RECENTLY!*

OUR PATH LEADS *UP*... *FAR* UP! WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE *FAST*...REACH THE RIDGE-TOP BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
I'VE HAD SOME *EXPERIENCE* SCALING CLIFFS! I'LL LEAD--UNLESS *UBU* OBJECTS!
I DEFER TO YOUR PROWESS, DETECTIVE--GLADLY!

INCH BY DANGEROUS INCH, THEY ASCEND... ONLY A THIN ROPE BETWEEN THEM AND A QUICK PLUNGE TO DEATH! FINGERS AND FACES GROW NUMB, AND THE BREATH RATTLES HARSHLY IN THEIR THROATS--

STILL, THEY FORCE THEMSELVES FARTHER! THE BATMAN FINDS HIS PATH SURELY, SWIFTLY...UNAWARE THAT HE IS FRAMED IN A GUNSIGHT!

WITHOUT WARNING, THE BOOM OF A HEAVY CALIBER RIFLE ECHOES THROUGH THE CREVASSES...
KPOW POW
AGGH!

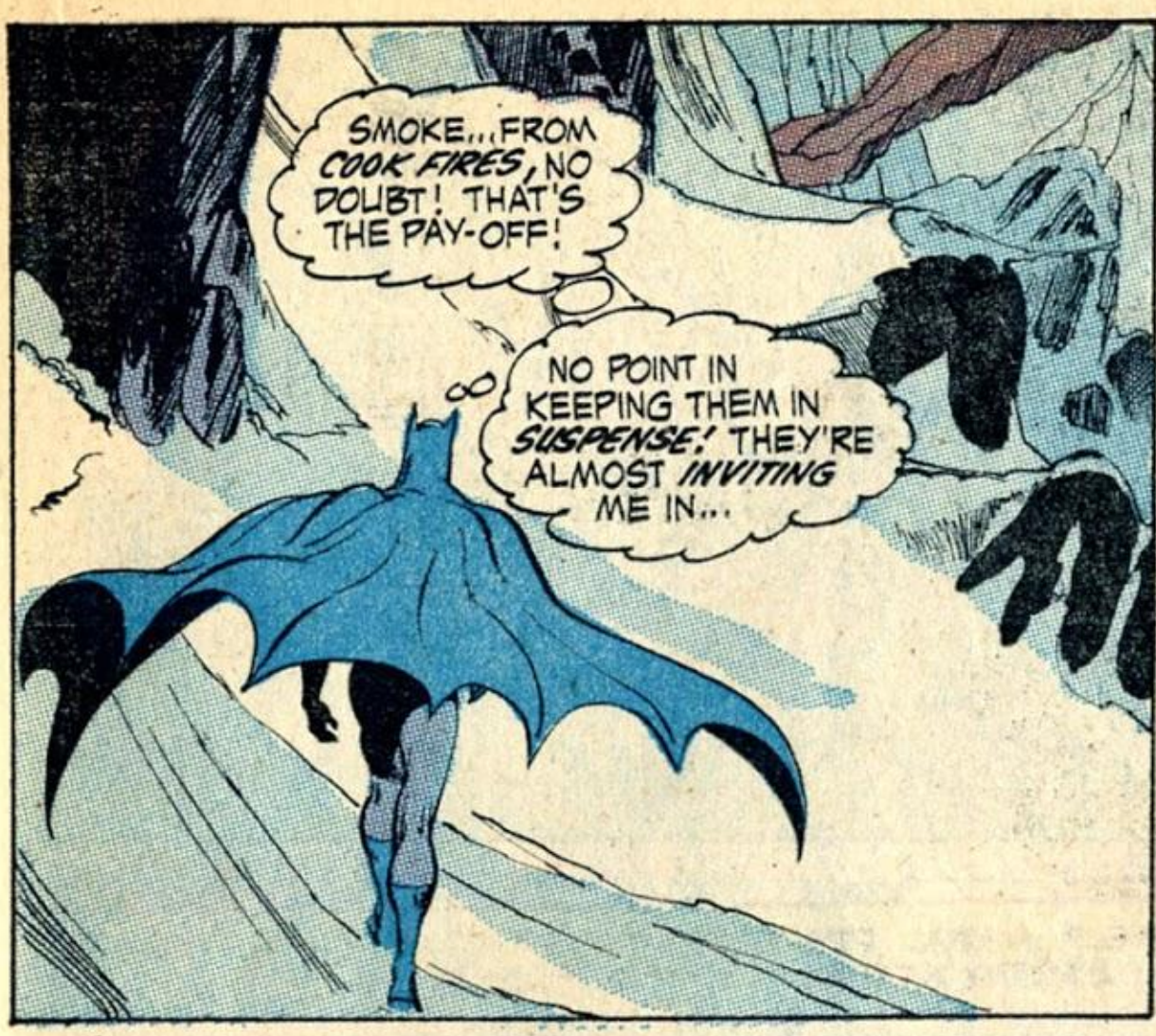
AL GHŪL'S OUT OF IT! AND I'M A PERFECT TARGET--! NO COVER, NO CHANCE TO RUN...
SOON THAT SNIPER WILL FIND THE RANGE-- ZERO IN! BULLETS ARE ALREADY COMING CLOSER!
SPANG

UBU'S GOTTEN HIMSELF AND AL GHŪL TO THE LEDGE!
THEY'RE SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING!
ZING
THAT LEAVES ME FREE TO TAKE MY INSANE CHANCE...THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE!
GOT TO GET OUT OF THESE ROPES!

NEXT, I'LL DITCH MY HEAVY PARKA! IT MAY IMPEDE FAST MOVEMENT...

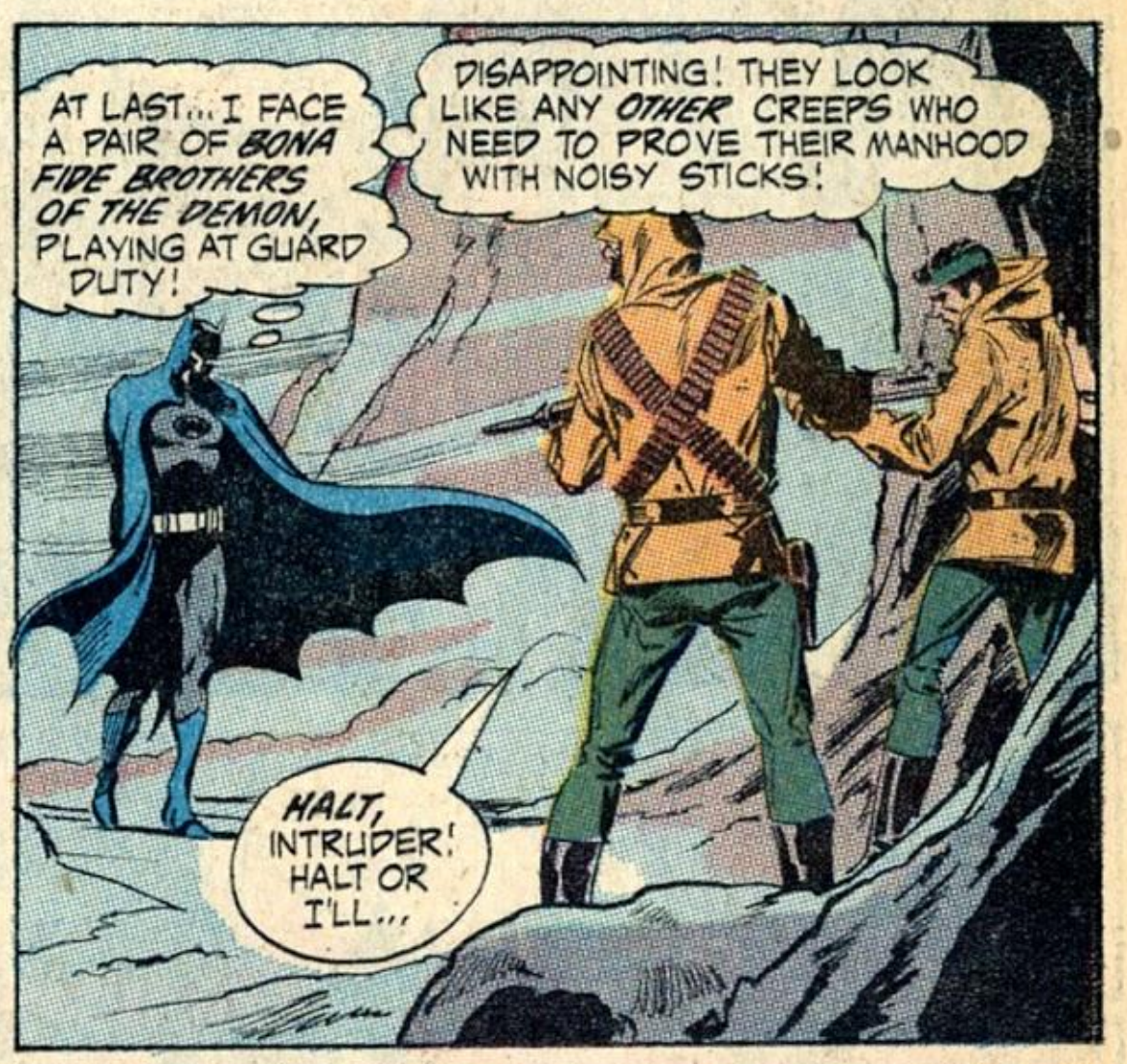
...AND AS IT FALLS, IT MAY DISTRACT THE KILLER FOR THE SINGLE MOMENT I NEED--
--TO BRACE MY FEET... AND LEAP!
KPOW

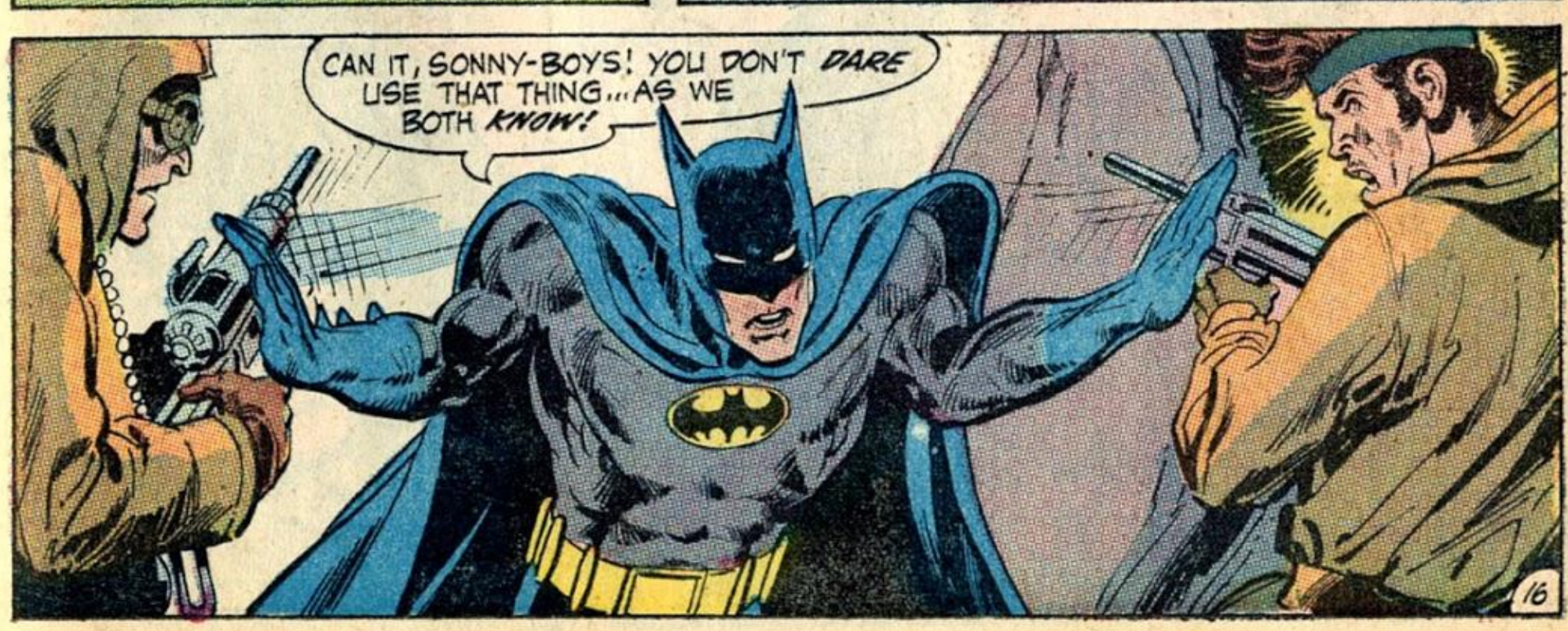
ACROSS THE CHILL CHASM HE FLINGS HIMSELF--A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO REACH THE STEEP SLOPE FIFTEEN FEET AWAY...A MURDERER IN FRONT, AND YAWNING DOOM BELOW...!
15


SMOKE...FROM COOK FIRES, NO DOUBT! THAT'S THE PAY-OFF!
NO POINT IN KEEPING THEM IN SUSPENSE! THEY'RE ALMOST INVITING ME IN...

...AND SINCE I'VE COME HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, I'LL JUST ACCEPT THAT INVITATION!
THERE ARE PROBABLY A DOZEN GUNS TRAINED ON ME, BUT NOBODY'S GOING TO SHOOT!
THEY'LL WANT TO WATCH MY REACTION!

A HELICOPTER... NATURALLY! IT FIGURES THERE'D BE A CHOPPER IN THE AREA!
AND I CAN GUESS WHO THE PASSENGERS ARE!*
WUP WUP WUP WUP WUP
*THE BATMAN ACTS AS THOUGH HE HAS THE CASE HACKED! HMMM...


AT LAST...I FACE A PAIR OF BONA FIDE BROTHERS OF THE DEMON, PLAYING AT GUARD DUTY!
DISAPPOINTING! THEY LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER CREEPS WHO NEED TO PROVE THEIR MANHOOD WITH NOISY STICKS!
HALT, INTRUDER! HALT OR I'LL...


CAN IT, SONNY-BOYS! YOU DON'T DARE USE THAT THING...AS WE BOTH KNOW!

BOLDLY, THE BATMAN STRIDES INTO A CHAMBER HEWN FROM ROCK, AND...

BATMAN! GOOD TO SEE YOU, FRIEND!

SAME HERE, ROBIN!

STOP! YOU CAN'T...

SURE I CAN! WATCH ME!

HOW'VE THEY BEEN TREATING YOU, KID?

NOT BAD! CHOW'S LOUSY... NICE ATMOSPHERE, THOUGH! HAVE ANY HASSLES GETTING HERE?

NONE TO COMPLAIN OF! BUT DO ME A FAVOR... NEXT HOODS THAT SNARE YOU, ASK THEM TO STAY IN THE UNITED STATES! I HATE LONG TRIPS!

ON YOUR KNEES, INTRUDER! THE SUPREME BROTHER ENTERS!

I'LL GIVE THE KNEELING A MISS, IF YOU DON'T MIND--AND EVEN IF YOU DO!

IN THE LAST THREE DAYS, I'VE MIXED WITH CUT-THROATS AND A KILLER-LEOPARD...

...I'VE BRUISED MY KNUCKLES ON VARIOUS CHINS, I'VE CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN, AND I'VE DODGED BULLETS...

...SO I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT FOR PHONY RITUALS!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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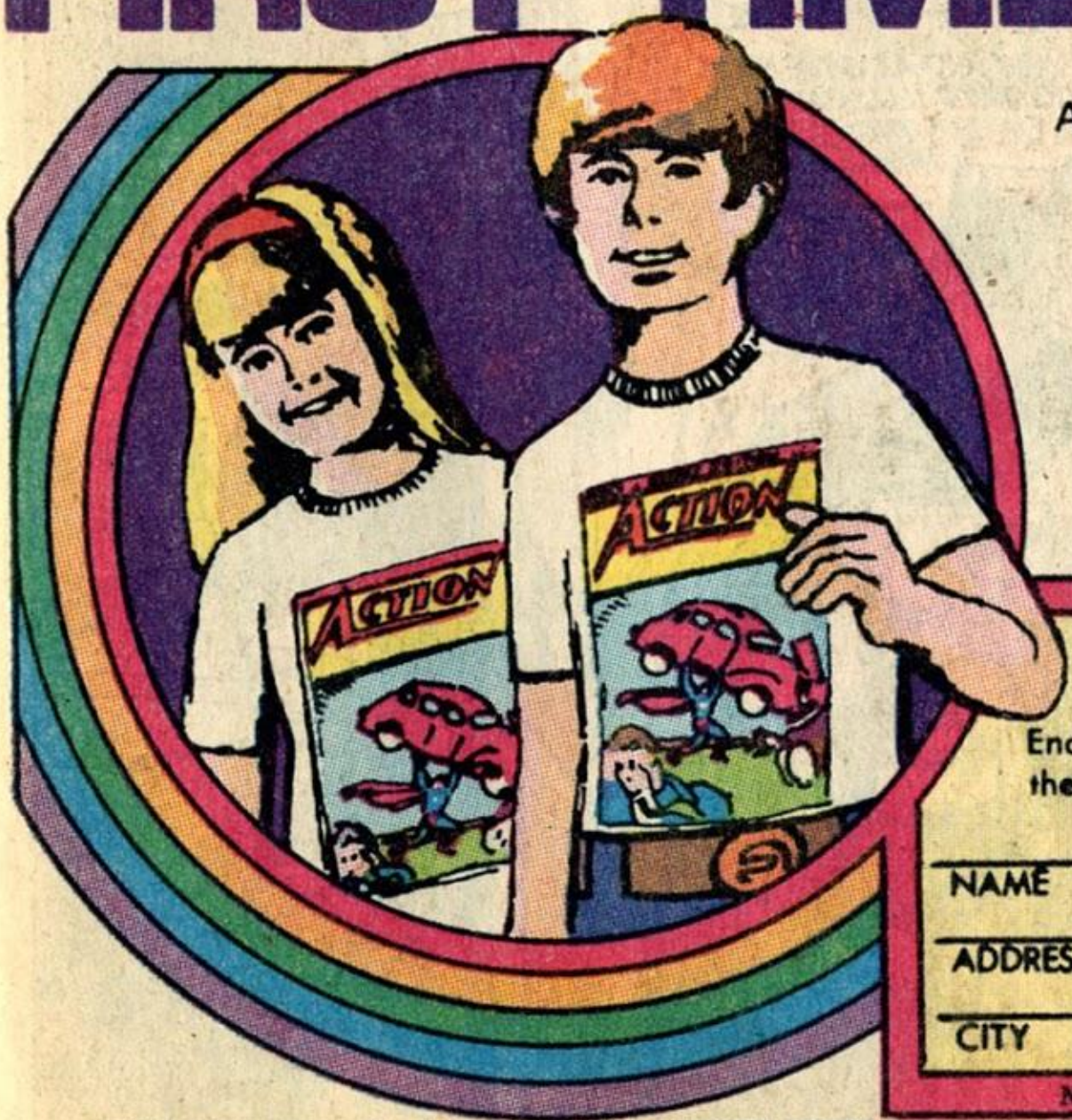

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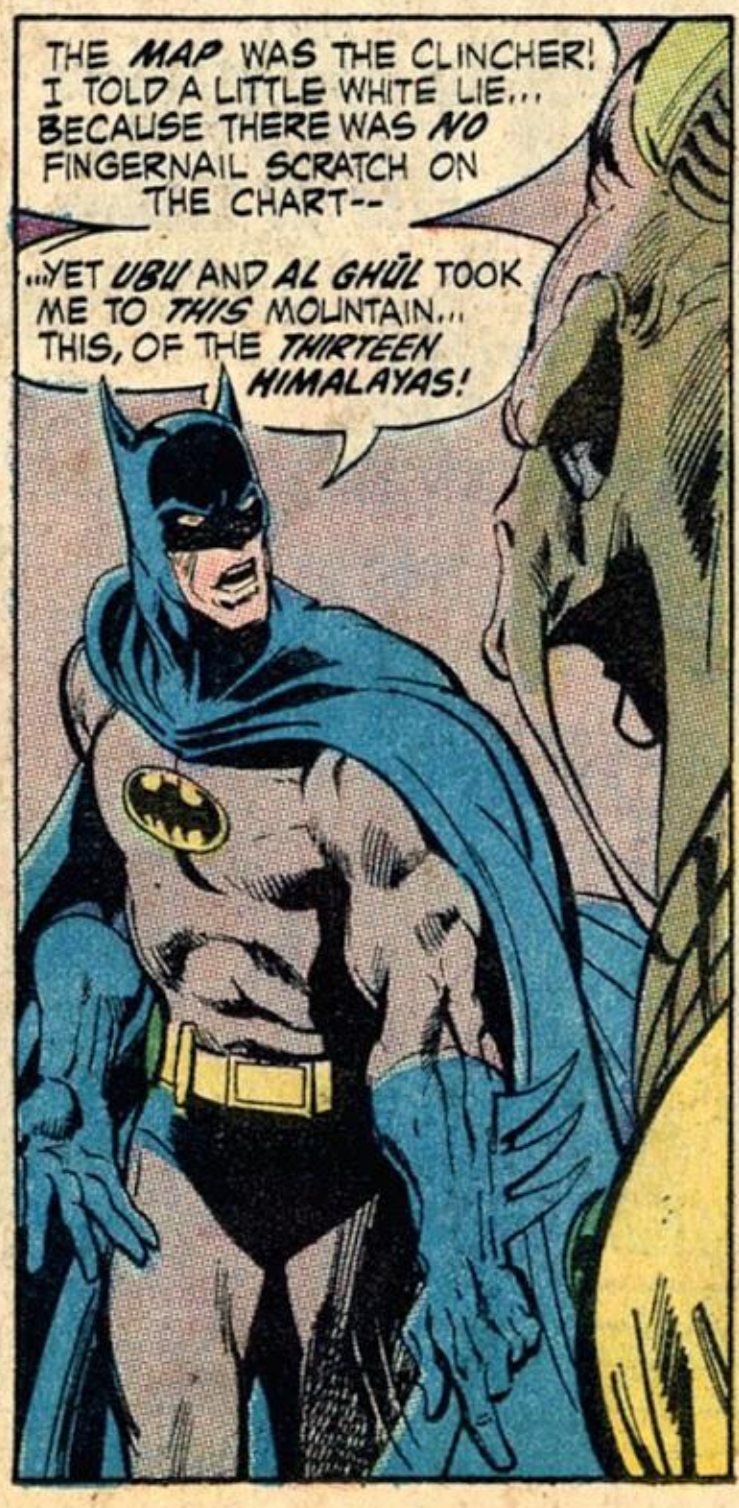
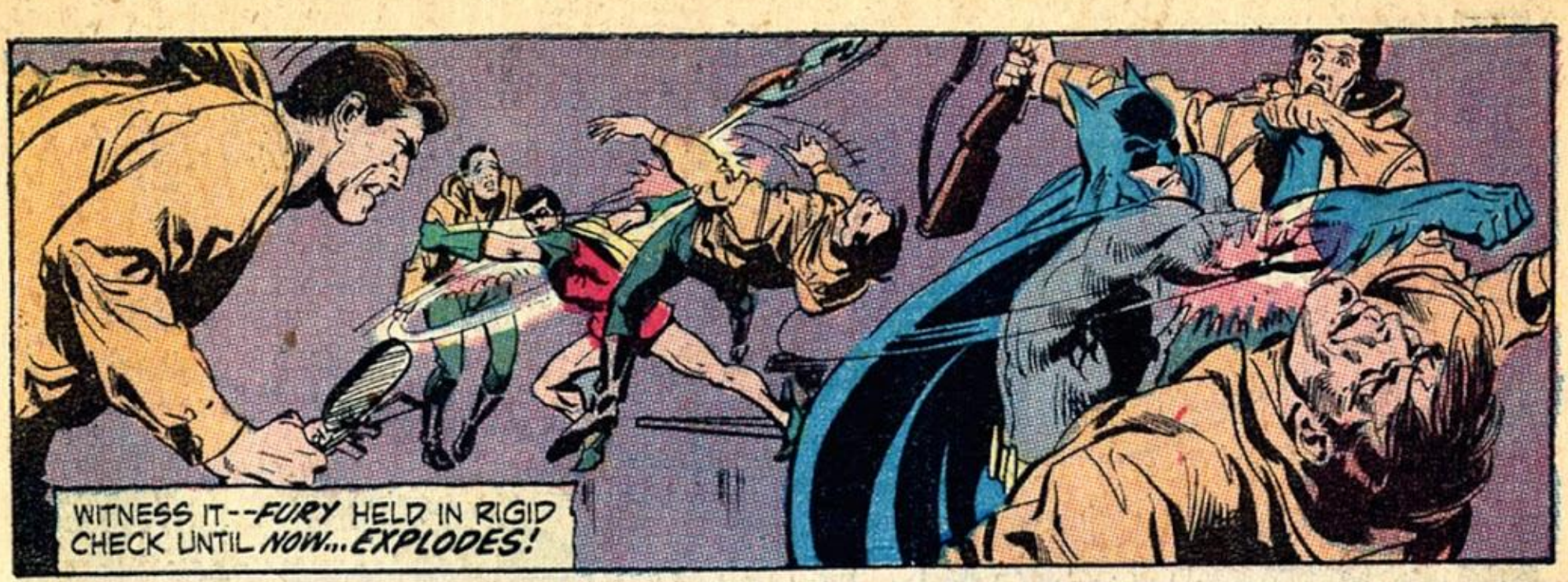
IN FACT, I DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENCE LEFT PERIOD! YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING ME THROUGH PACES AND YOU THINK I'M TOO DUMB TO UNDERSTAND IT!
YOU THINK A MAN WITH MY TRAINING COULDN'T SEE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I SAW THE WHOLE DEAL WAS A CHARADE!

RĀ'S AL GHŪL AND HIS OX OF A SERVANT SHOWING RIGHT AFTER ROBIN DISAPPEARED... THAT WAS A JOKE!
TOO QUICK...TOO BIG A COINCIDENCE! AL GHŪL'S STORY OF HIS DAUGHTER'S IDENTICAL DISAPPEARANCE WOULDN'T HAVE FOOLED A MORON!
THEN IN CALCUTTA... UBU ALWAYS MADE A BIG ROUTINE OF LETTING HIS BOSS GO AHEAD OF ME...

...EXCEPT WHEN THERE WAS DANGER! CONCLUSION ...UBU KNEW THE LEOPARD WAS WAITING!


THE MAP WAS THE CLINCHER! I TOLD A LITTLE WHITE LIE... BECAUSE THERE WAS NO FINGERNAIL SCRATCH ON THE CHART--
...YET UBU AND AL GHŪL TOOK ME TO THIS MOUNTAIN... THIS, OF THE THIRTEEN HIMALAYAS!

I'M TIRED OF TALKING! YOU READY, ROBIN?
CHECK, BATMAN! SHALL WE BEGIN?



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Gentlemen:
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Name

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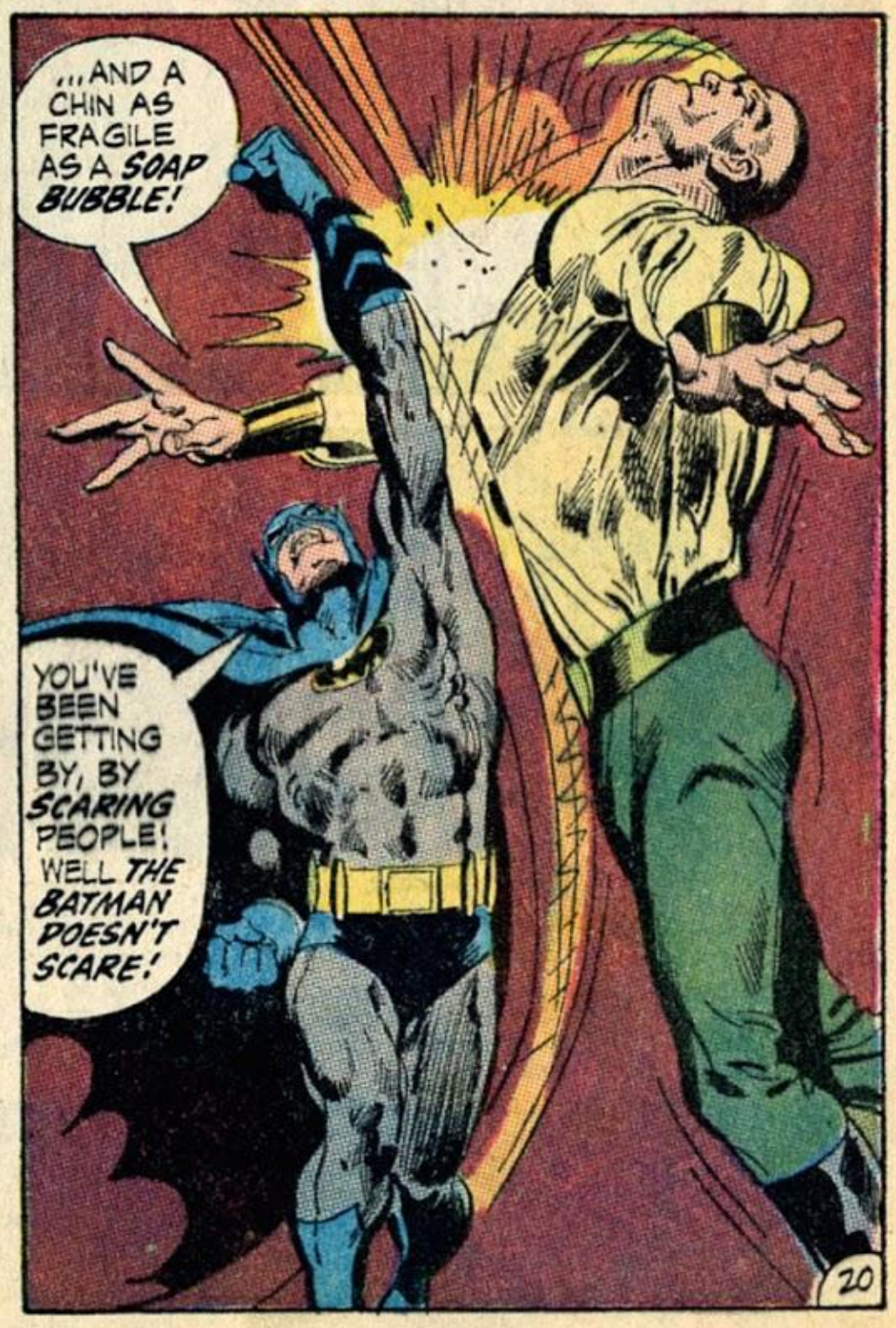
ADMIT IT, UBU! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING MY MEASURE... YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHETHER YOU CAN HANDLE ME! YOU WANT TO PROVE YOURSELF AGAINST THE BATMAN!
AMERICAN... FILTHY AMERICAN...

I SHALL DANCE ON YOUR CORPSE!
NOT LIKELY! OH, SURE --YOU'RE LARGE... POWERFUL...

...BUT SIZE AND STRENGTH DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH! SKILL IS THE ITEM! AGILITY HELPS, TOO!
AND THOSE THINGS YOU LACK! YOU'RE CLUMSY...

...CLUMSY AND SOFT! A GUT LIKE A PILLOW...
OHHHH!


...AND A CHIN AS FRAGILE AS A SOAP BUBBLE!
YOU'VE BEEN GETTING BY, BY SCARING PEOPLE! WELL THE BATMAN DOESN'T SCARE!

AFTER YOU, UBU!

YOU WOULD HAVE *LET* ME BE *KILLED* IF I HADN'T SAVED MYSELF! YOU WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR A *GAME!*

NO GAME, DETECTIVE! YOUR ADMIRABLE MIND HAS REASONED ALL SAVE THE *OBVIOUS...*

...THAT MY DARLING *TALIA* *LOVES YOU!*

MY ORGANIZATION IS *VAST...!* I CONSIDER *RETIRING* FROM MY ACTIVITIES--!

I HAD TO *SATISFY* MYSELF THAT *YOU* ARE A *WORTHY SUCCESSOR* TO ME!... A WORTHY *SON-IN-LAW!*

WHO *KNOWS* EXACTLY WHAT *RĀ'S AL GHŪL* AND HIS LOVELY *TALIA* ARE PLANNING NEXT?--CERTAINLY NOT *THE BATMAN!* *MORE TO COME SOON!*

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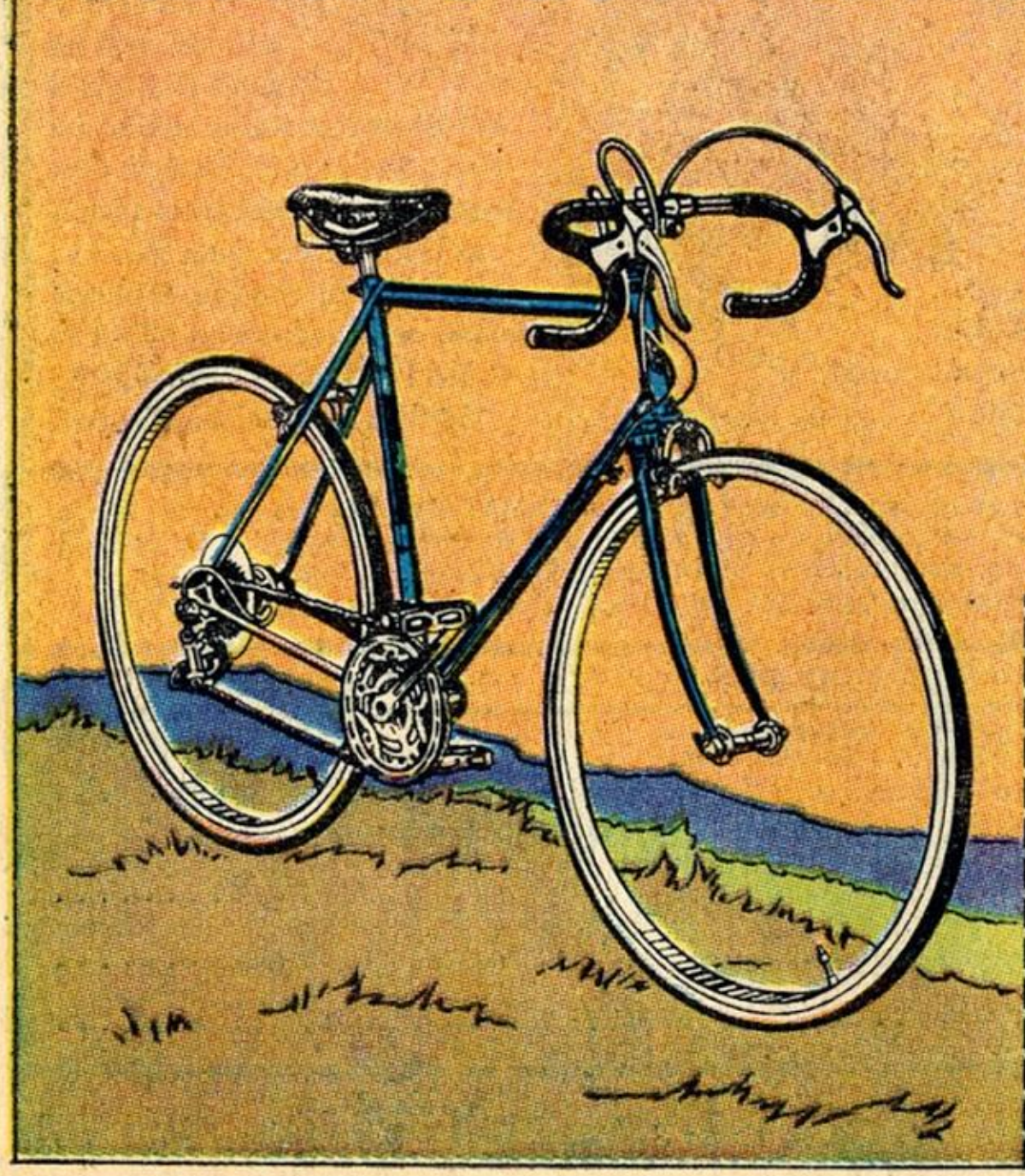
RALEIGH

RALEIGH'S GOT IT EITHER WAY YOU GO

RALEIGH'S GOT IT EITHER WAY YOU GO



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Six power wide field magnifier is great for watching sporting events, nature study, girl watching and counter spying. Also contains a 30 power microscope. Not a toy but a real optical instrument.
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