

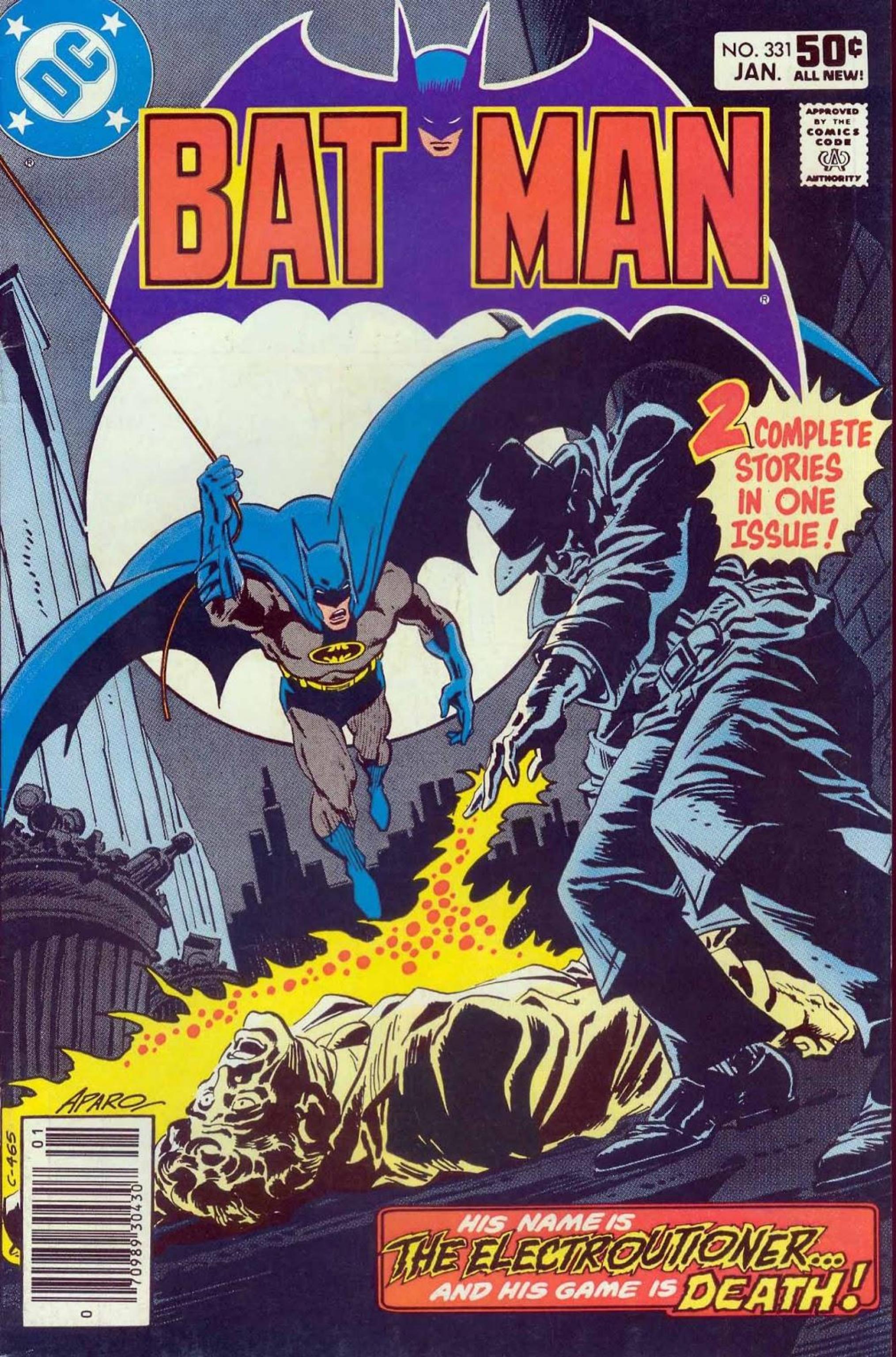


NO. 331 50¢
JAN. ALL NEW!

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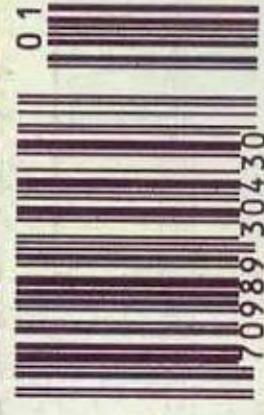
BATMAN

2 COMPLETE
STORIES
IN ONE
ISSUE!



APARO

C-465



HIS NAME IS
THE ELECTROTIONER...
AND HIS GAME IS **DEATH!**

THE SAGA OF JOHNNY WEST

JOHNNY WEST, WEARING HIS ACME BOOTS
KEEPS AN EYE OUT FOR KIDS IN TROUBLE.

ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL...

SCRAM KID,
I'M BORROWIN'
YOUR HORSE!

GEE, JOHNNY WEST!
I WISH I COULD STAND
UP TO TROUBLE
LIKE YOU DO.

YOU CAN, BY STANDIN'
PROUD IN ACME BOOTS!

YOU BET. ACME'S
MAKING THE
GREAT WESTERN
BOOTS.

THE NEXT DAY, IT'S A
DIFFERENT STORY...

WOW... HOW DID YOU
SCARE THAT BIG
CREEP OFF?

THANKS,
JOHNNY WEST...

ACME WINS AGAIN.

acme

Acme's making the great Western boots.

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, **Bruce Wayne** HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

BAT-MAN

CREATED BY

Bob
Kane

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DIFFERENT, BATMAN! DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS! BUT NOW I SEE THE TRUTH! YOU'RE AS EVIL AS ALL THE REST OF THEM!

SO FEEL MY POWER, BATMAN! FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF THE ELECTROCUTIONER--

--AND DIE!!

THE HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC CURRENT FROM HIS HAND... PARALYZING ME... SAPPING MY STRENGTH! GOT TO FIGHT BACK!

BECAUSE ONCE HE CLAMPS HIS OTHER HAND OVER MY FACE, ONCE HE COMPLETES THE DEADLY CIRCUIT-- I'M DOOMED!

J-6866

CLOSED CIRCUIT!

Plot by: / Dialogue by: / Art by: / Lettered by: / Colored by: / Edited by:
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BATMAN®, (USPS 045-340), Vol. 42, No. 331, January, 1981. Published monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Copyright © 1980 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 14 Vandeventer Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050. Annual subscription rate \$7.95. Outside U.S.A. \$8.95.

Jenette Kahn, Publisher
Joe Orlando, Managing Editor
Paul Levitz, Editor
Jack Adler, Vice-Pres. Production

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THE GROWERY DISTRICT
IN LOWER GOTHAM. IT IS
A PLACE OF WINDS AND
CRUMBLING TENEMENTS,
OF POVERTY--

--AND OF
FEAR--!

PLEASE!
SOMEBODY!
YA GOTTA LET
ME IN! : SOB:
YA GOTTA!

AND SO HE TURNS
AWAY FROM THE
SHABBY PEELING,
FOX-LOCKED DOOR,
AND KEEPS ON
RUNNING--

GOTTA
GET AWAY!
:GASPE:
GOTTA!

THE ANGUISHED
CRYES BRING A FEW
TENEMENT DWELLERS
PUSHING TO THEIR
WINDOWS, YET NOT
ONE AMONG THEM
MOVES TO LET THE
MAN INSIDE...

--UNTIL FINALLY THERE
IS NO PLACE LEFT TO
RUN--

:GASP!

NO PLACE LEFT TO RUN--

--AT
ALL--!

PLEASE!
Y- YOU'RE
MAKIN' A
BIG MISTAKE!
YOU'RE--

YAAAAAA

THE AGONIZED SHRIEKING ENDS
ABRUPTLY NOW, REPLACED BY
THE HIDEOUS CRACKLE OF
ELECTRICITY AND THE ACRID
AROMA OF BURNING FLESH...

ZAP!

AND A SHORT WHILE LATER...

FOR WHATEVER IT'S
WORTH, I CAN I.D.
THE BODY FOR YOU,
COMMISSIONER!

WELL, MAYBE THE STATE
DIDN'T GET TO ELECTROCUTE
RAFFERTY, BATMAN! BUT
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE DID!

THAT'S MAFIA
HIT MAN SPIKE
RAFFERTY, A LONGTIME
RESIDENT OF DEATH ROW
UNTIL HE WAS SUDDENLY
SET FREE BY THE
APPEALS COURT LAST
WEEK ON A TECHNICALITY!

SEVERAL DAYS PASS UNEVENTFULLY, AND THEN LATE ONE EVENING, IN THE SPRAWLING SUBTERRANEAN SANCTUM KNOWN AS THE BATCAVE...

YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE THE STORY THEY'RE CARRYING IN THE LATE PAPER TONIGHT, BATMAN!

I'VE ALREADY SEEN IT, ROBIN!

AND YOU'RE RIGHT! I DON'T LIKE IT! IT TOOK ME SIX MONTHS OF HARD SLEUTHING TO NAIL MIKE CAINE--

--AND BY THE TIME I'D CAUGHT UP WITH HIM, HE'D ALREADY BRUTALLY MURDERED FIVE MEN ON A PERSONAL HIT LIST THAT INCLUDED A DOZEN OF GOTHAM'S MOST PROMINENT CITIZENS!

IN MY ENTIRE CAREER, I NEVER MET A CRIMINAL WHO DESERVED TO PAY THE SUPREME PENALTY MORE THAN MIKE CAINE DID!

UNNGHHH!

...TO BE ELECTROCUTED IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR AT GOTHAM STATE PENITENTIARY, AND MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL!

WELL, YOU AIN'T GONNA LIVE TO SEE THE SPARKS FLY, JUDGE BABY! MIKE CAINE'LL SEE TO THAT!

MIKE CAINE IS A REMORSELESS, COLD-BLOODED KILLER! YET NOW A HIGHER COURT'S BEEN COMPELLED TO RELEASE HIM ON A TECHNICALITY!

WHICH MEANS I'M BACK AT SQUARE ONE! I'VE GOT TO STOP CAINE BEFORE HE KILLS AGAIN!

BATMAN! WAIT! WE STILL HAVE PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN TO IRON OUT!

NOT NOW, ROBIN! OUR WORK COMES BEFORE OUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS, YOU KNOW THAT!

WHEN MIKE CAINE IS BACK BEHIND BARS, WE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK ALL YOU WANT TO!

UNTIL THEN, I'M SORRY, BUT IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT!

A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN AN OPULENT MANSION SHELTERED BEHIND HIGH STONE WALLS IN GOTHAM'S WEALTHY RIVERDALE SECTION ...

YEAH, YEAH, I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM! THAT NUT THAT'S GOIN' AROUND FRYIN' ALL THESE GUYS THAT'VE MANAGED TO BEAT THEIR RAPS BY FINDIN' LOOPHOLES IN THE LAW! BUT SO WHAT?

I MEAN, LIKE EVEN A STRAY LADYBUG AIN'T GONNA PENETRATE THE SECURITY I GOT AROUND THIS PLACE, FREDDY BOY!

I MEAN LIKE I GOT BODYGUARDS--

-- I GOT--

HUH--!?
FREDDY?

HEY! WE BEEN CUT--

YOU--!!

JUSTICE MAY BE BLIND,
CAINE--

-- BUT I'M NOT!

YOU MAY HAVE SLIPPED THROUGH THE CRACKS OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM THIS TIME, BUT I'LL BE WATCHING YOU, CAINE! AND SO HELP ME--

YOU AIN'T GOT NO RIGHT TO--

SO TAKE A FREE TIP, CAINE! GO CONFESS ONE OF YOUR OLD MURDERS AND TURN YOURSELF IN! YOU'LL GET A BETTER 'SHAKE FROM THE LAW THAN YOU'LL EVER GET FROM HIM!

--AND YOU--

OH MOTHER OF MARY.... NO!

STOW IT, CAINE! AND TAKE SOME FREE ADVICE FROM ME WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE TO HEAR IT!

YOU MAY NOT LIKE ME, CAINE! BUT THERE'S SOMEBODY ELSE OUT THERE LOOKING FOR YOU WHO MAKES ME LOOK LIKE REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM!

HA! YOU CAN GO FLY A KITE! THAT ELECTRICITY FREAK DON'T SCARE ME--

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INHSI

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IT'S A WACKY WORLD



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BUS STOPS



PROFESSOR RUTABAGA



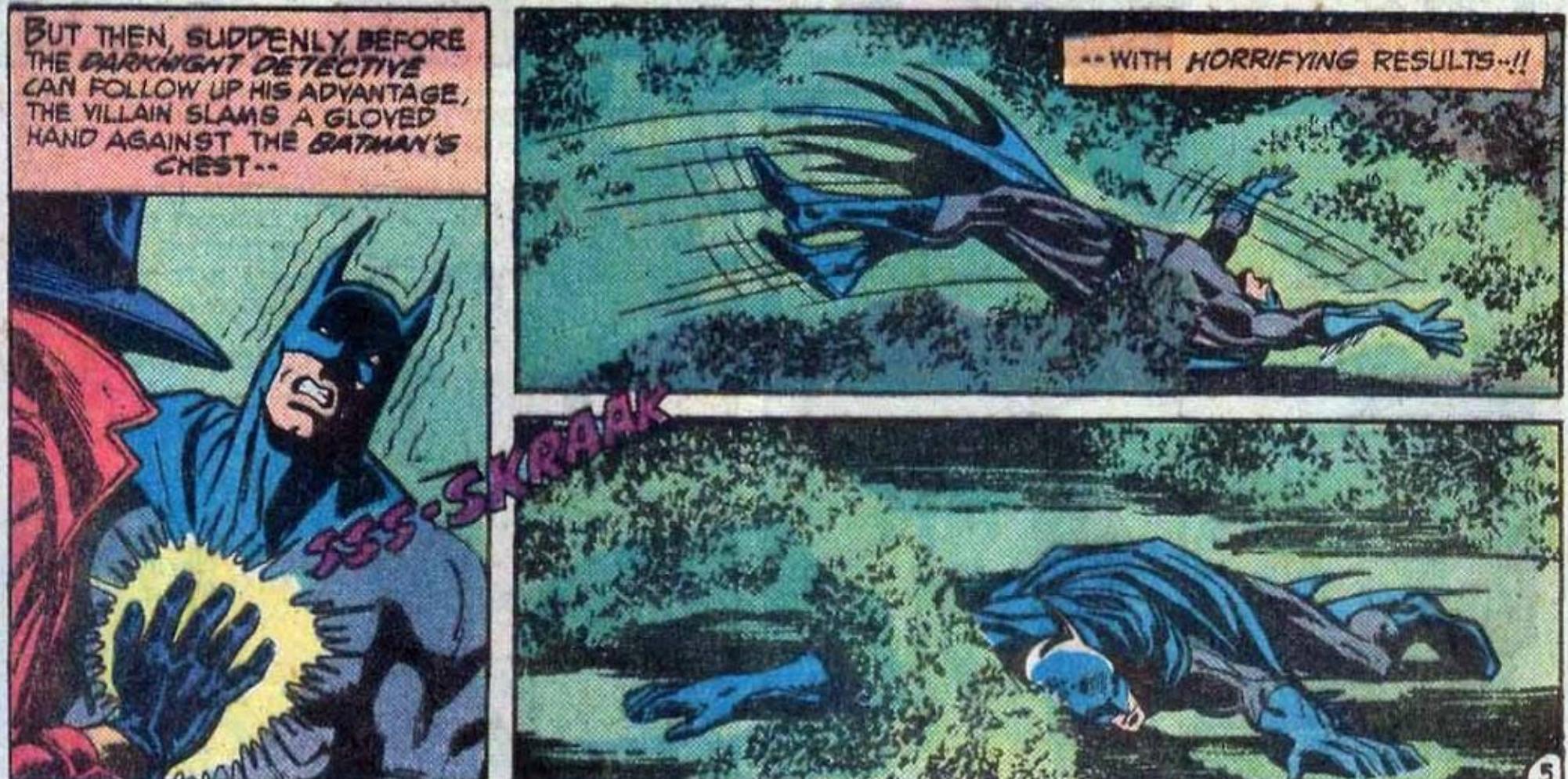
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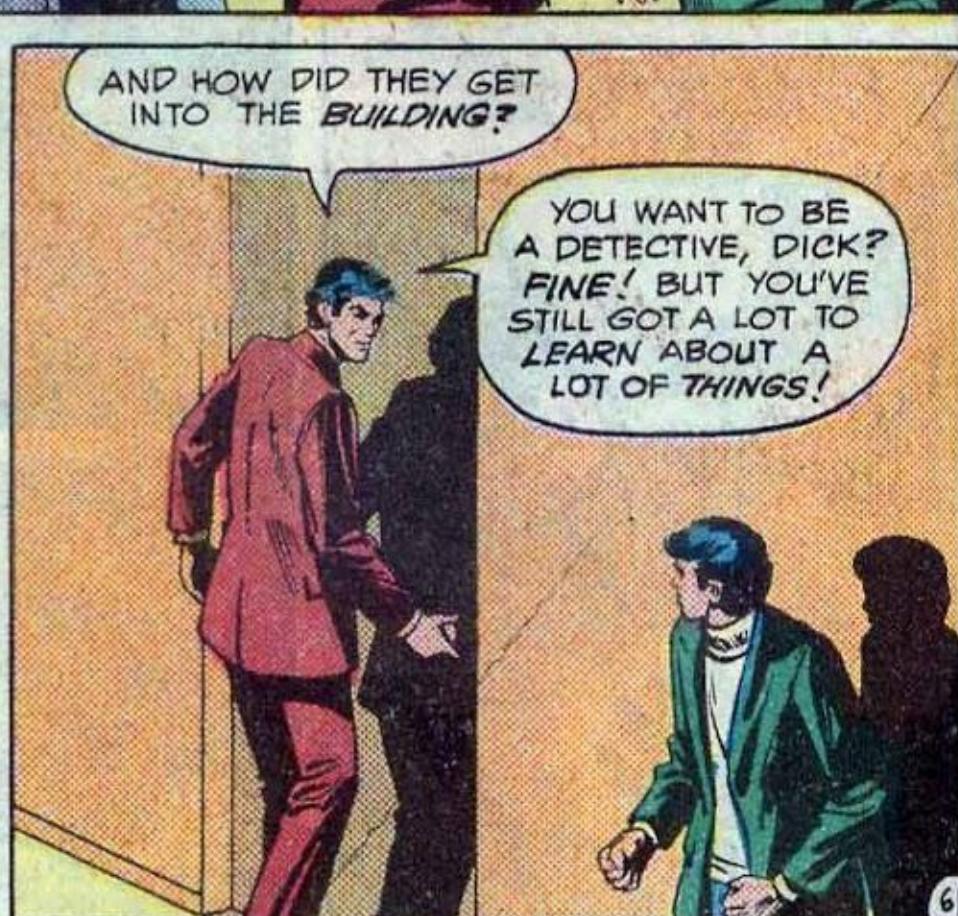
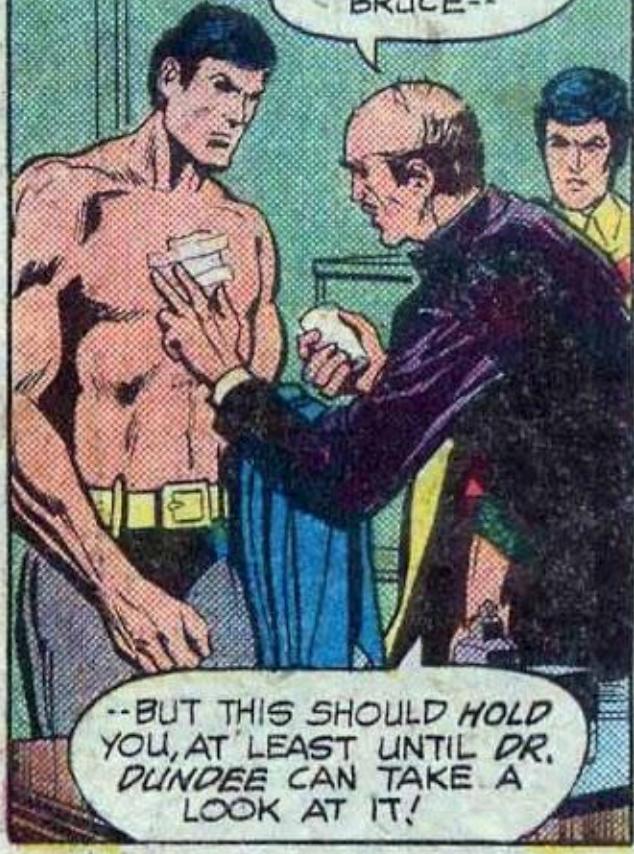


TURKEY OF THE WEEK

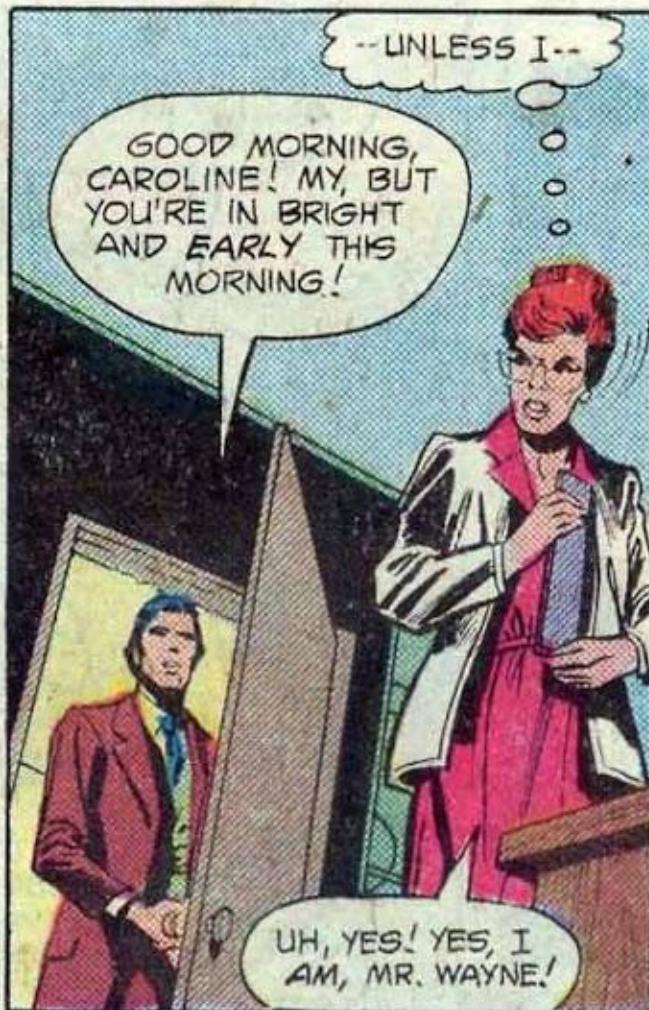


HOURS LATER, IN THE LAVISH PENTHOUSE SUITE ATOP THE TOWERING WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...

YOU'VE SUSTAINED A NASTY ELECTRICAL WOUND, MASTER BRUCE--



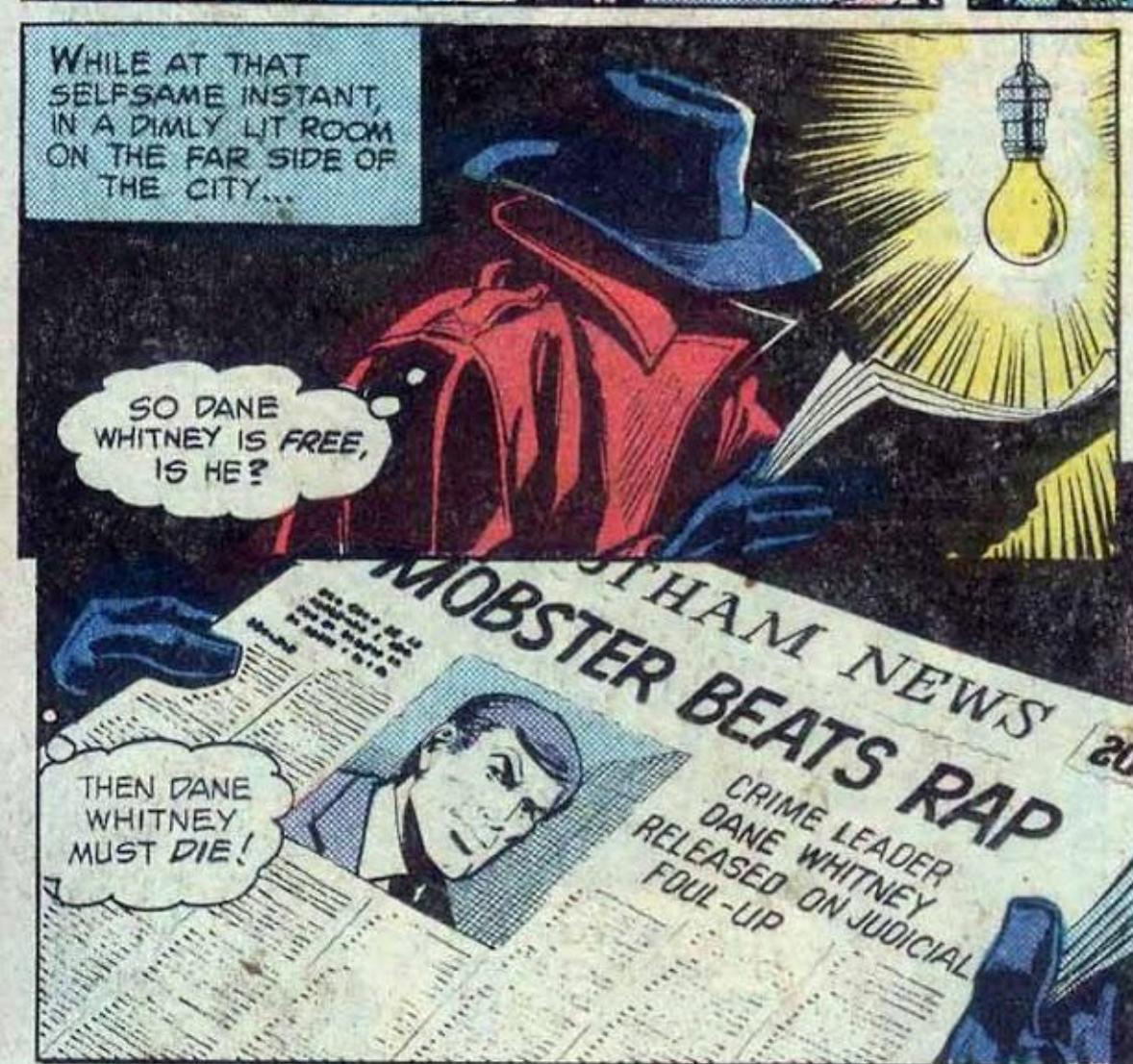
AND YOU'D LEARN ABOUT THEM A WHOLE LOT FASTER IF YOU'D STAY IN SCHOOL!



AND IN THE OUTER OFFICE...



WHILE AT THAT SELFSAME INSTANT, IN A DIMLY LIT ROOM ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CITY...



AND SO, A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN
A PRIVATE ROOM AT GOTHAM
GENERAL HOSPITAL ...

IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO COME SEE
ME, BRUCE! I UNDERSTAND YOU
PRESSED CHARGES AGAINST
TIMMY FOR THAT BREAK-
IN AT THE FOUNDATION!

I HAD TO, LUCIUS!
THERE WAS A WHOLE
GANG OF KIDS INVOLVED!

BRUCE, BEFORE I FORGET!
HOW IS THAT BANK MERGER
GOING? BY NOW YOU
MUST'VE FINISHED GOING
OVER THOSE FACT
SHEETS I LEFT
FOR YOU!

NOW THAT YOU
MENTION IT,
I DON'T
RECALL SEEING
THOSE PAPERS
CROSS MY
DESK AT ALL!

BRUCE, WHAT ON EARTH
HAVE I DONE TO MAKE TIMMY
BEHAVE THIS WAY! HOW HAVE I--

I DON'T KNOW, LUCIUS!
BUT I WOULDN'T TORTURE
MYSELF OVER IT! SOMETIMES
... SOMETIMES KIDS JUST DON'T
SEEM TO KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR THEM!

MOMENTS LATER, AS A SLEEK TURBO-
POWERED VEHICLE FLASHES LIKE A METEOR
THROUGH GOTHAM'S NIGHT-ENSHROUDED
STREETS ...

HMM! THAT MERGER LUCIUS MENTIONED
IS A HIGH-PRIORITY TRANSACTION! IF
HE REALLY DID LEAVE ME THOSE
PAPERS, I'D BETTER MAKE SURE I
FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THEM!

WHILE AT THAT SAME MOMENT,
SEVERAL MILES AWAY...

THERE GOES RON, THE
LEADER OF THAT TEEN-AGE
GANG THAT LUCIUS'S SON
TIMMY HAS GOTTEN HIMSELF
MIXED UP WITH!

IT'LL BE INTERESTING
TO SEE IF OLD RON IS
RUNNING THAT TEEN
GANG ON HIS OWN--

AQUAMAN

AND THE

SPACE CAPSULE

SUFFERING
SHARKS, WHAT'S
THAT LIGHT?PERHAPS A
METEOR FROM
ANOTHER
PLANET?WHATEVER IT
IS, AQUAMAN,
IT'S GOING TO
CRASH NEAR
HERE!A U.S.
SPACE
CAPSULE!BUT IT'S
SINKING
INSTEAD OF
FLOATING!TELETHOUGHT WAVES
WILL GET THE PORPOISES
TO BRING THE CAPSULE
TO OUR UNDERSEA CITY.WHERE
ARE WE?I DON'T
KNOW BUT
I DON'T
LIKE THE
LOOK OF
THESE
UNDERSEA
ALIENS.ALIENS
???????WE LIVE BENEATH
THE SEAS OF YOUR
OWN PLANET--EARTH.WE CAN
PROVE IT
-- LOOK!HOSTESS®
FRUIT PIES!
REAL FRUIT
FILLING.
APPLE AND
CHERRY-- MY
FAVORITE.OUTER SPACE
HAD A LOT OF
INTERESTING
THINGS TO
SEE...BUT ONLY
EARTH HAS
HOSTESS
FRUIT PIES
TO EAT.AND THE
LIGHT, TENDER
CRUST I LIKE
SO MUCH.

YOU GET A BIG
DELIGHT
IN EVERY BITE
OF
HOSTESS®
FRUIT PIES

--OR WHETHER HE'S BEEN
TAKING ORDERS FROM
SOMEONE HIGHER--

WHA--!? GOOD GRIEF!
THOSE INITIALS OVER
THE ARCHWAY! I KNOW
THIS BUILDING! IT'S--

OH WOW! JUST
WAIT'LL BATMAN
HEARS ABOUT
THIS!

SOMETIME LATER, IN A PLUSH PRIVATE SCREENING
ROOM IN DOWNTOWN GOTHAM...

YOU CHICKS'RE GONNA
JUST GO WILD OVER THIS
NEW FILM I'M GONNA
SHOW YOU! JUST--

THE ONLY ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR BURBLING LADY
FRIENDS ARE GOING TO
WITNESS HERE TONIGHT,
DANE WHITNEY--

HUH--!?

--IS THE GRISLY SPECTACLE
OF YOUR PAINFUL
TRANSFORMATION INTO
A SCORCHED AND
SMOULDERING
CORPSE!

:CHOKE:

HELP!

YOU RANG, WHITNEY?

KA-WHAP

GNGHHH!

EEEEEK! HIS
HANDS! THEY'RE
CRACKLING
WITH
ELECTRICITY!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE
HALF OF IT, LADY!

WHICH IS WHY I
INTEND TO PUT THIS
CREEP AWAY FOR
KEEPES--

OOOFF!

KRAK

-- BEFORE HE GETS
THE CHANCE TO CLAMP
THOSE ELECTRIFIED
MITTS ON ME!

BUT IN THE NEXT BREATH-STOPPING INSTANT...

WHO--?

WHO AM I, BATMAN?
I AM THE
ELECTROCUTIONER!

AS FOR MY TRENCH COAT, YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO KEEP IT!

IT CAN SERVE AS A SHROUD FOR YOU AFTER I'VE DESTROYED YOU!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, ELECTROCUTIONER? YOU TALK TOO MUCH!

I DIDN'T WANT IT TO COME TO THIS, BATMAN! AFTER ALL, WE'RE ON THE SAME--

KRAK

UNNGHH!

HE'S TOUGH!
TOUGHER THAN I EVER EXPECTED!
I'M NOT READY FOR AN ALL-OUT FIGHT WITH HIM!

AT LEAST NOT YET!

GONE--!!

-YOU'RE SAFE FOR NOW, WHITNEY!
BUT YOU WON'T BE SAFE FOR
LONG, BELIEVE ME! WHOEVER
THAT MANIAC WAS, HE'LL BE
BACK! YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!

PLEASE, BATS!
Y-YOU GOTTA
HELP ME!

YOU GOTTA AT
LEAST HIDE ME,
PROTECT ME--

STOP SNIVELING, WHITNEY!
I'LL NAIL THE ELECTROCUTIONER
BEFORE HE ZAPS YOU!
JUST DON'T GET THE IDEA
THAT I'M DOING IT
FOR YOU!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...



IT JUST DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE!
FALSTAFF'S OUTFIT
WILL TAKE A BATH
UNDERCUTTING
US ON THESE BIDS!
WHY ON EARTH
WOULD HE--

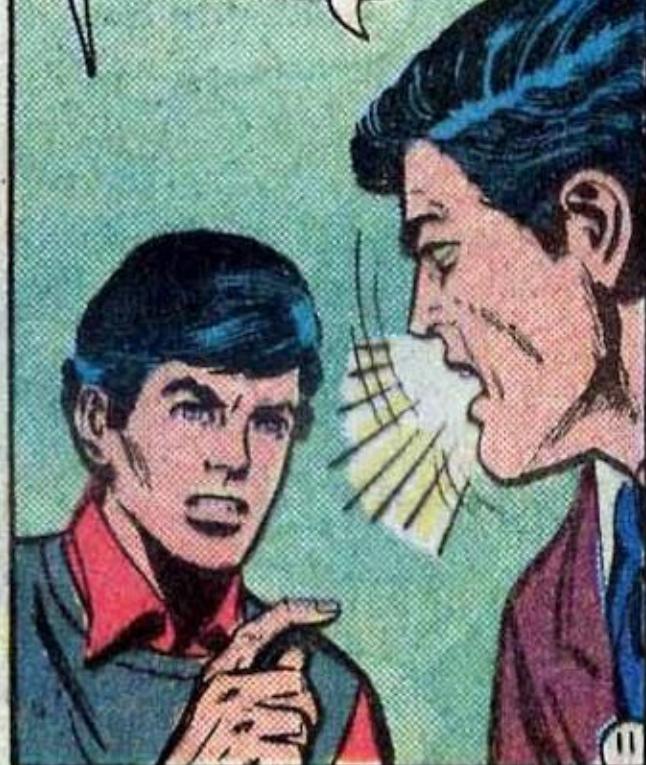
SPEAKING OF
FALSTAFF,
BRUCE,
LISTEN TO
THIS!

I FOLLOWED RON
LAST NIGHT-- STRAIGHT
TO FALSTAFF'S
HEADQUARTERS! AND
REMEMBER HOW RON
ACCUSED YOU RECENTLY
OF BEING A SLUMLORD?

OF COURSE I REMEMBER!
IT WAS A PREPOSTEROUS
CHARGE! WHAT
OF IT?

NOT SO PREPOSTEROUS, BRUCE!
I'VE JUST FINISHED RUNNING A
COMPUTER CHECK OF ALL WAYNE
HOLDINGS! JUST SIX MONTHS
AGO, YOU ACQUIRED A DOZEN
TENEMENT BUILDINGS IN--

WHAT!?
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
I
DON'T BELIEVE IT!



YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT, BRUCE!
BECAUSE IT'S TRUE! AND THERE'S
MORE! HAVE YOU SEEN TODAY'S
STAR?



N-NO, NOT YET! IS THAT
IT? OKAY, LET'S HAVE
A LOOK!

I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT HOLD
OF IT, BRUCE! BUT THERE IT IS!

* DAILY STAR *

MILLIONAIRE WAYNE OWNS SLUM HOUSING

FOUNDATION GIVES TO POOR... WAYNE TAKES IT BACK

THIS IS
ABSURD!

SLUM LANDL

SO ABSURD THAT I'D DISMISS IT AS A
BAD JOKE IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT
THAT THIS RAG HAPPENS TO BE PUBLISHED
BY FALSTAFF ENTERPRISES!

I CAN SEE I'M
GOING TO HAVE
A HEART-TO-HEART
TALK WITH OUR
FRIEND, MR. FALSTAFF!

RIGHT
NOW?

NO, NOT UNTIL THE BATMAN
HAS PUT THE CUFFS ON THE
ELECTROCUTIONER!



THAT NIGHT...

HMM! ANOTHER
KILLER FREED ON A
TECHNICALITY!

* DAILY STAR *
KILLER FREED
ON TECHNICALITY

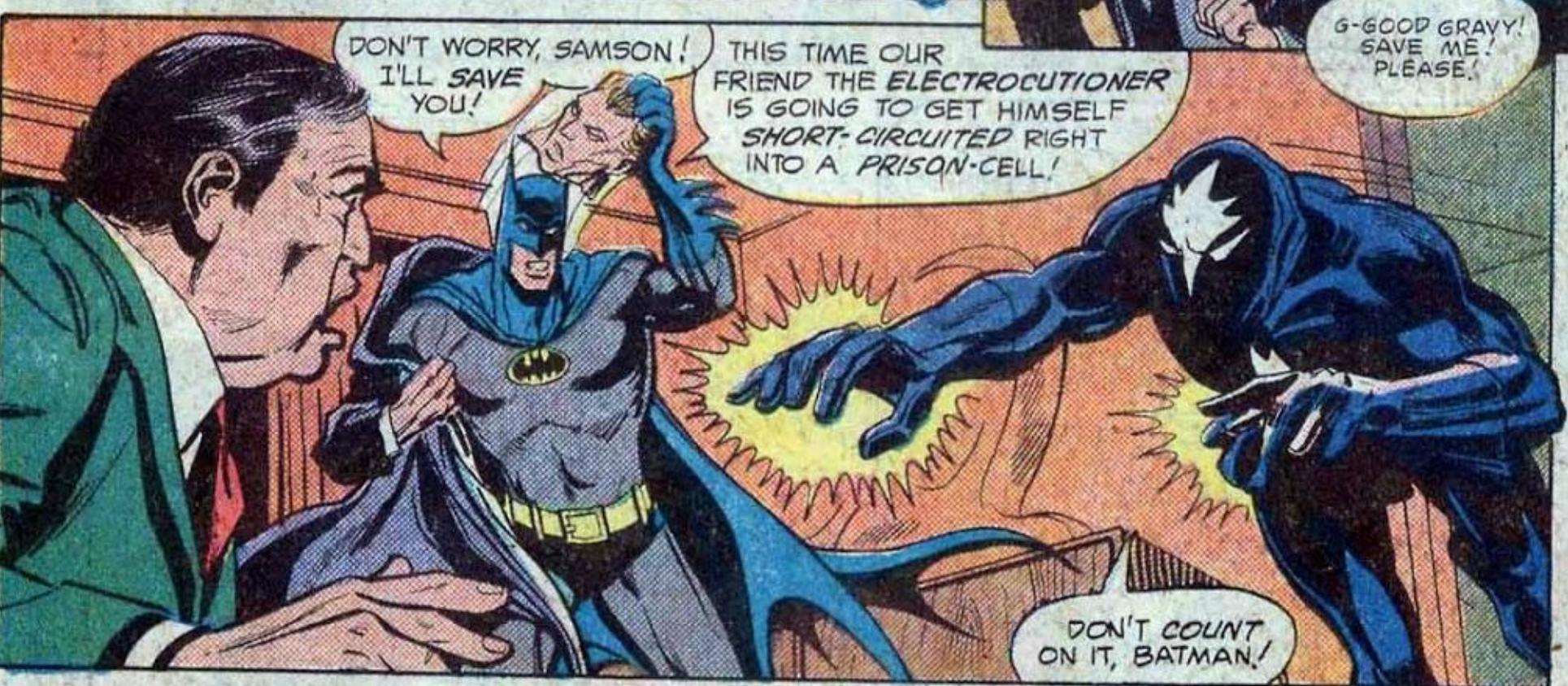
ANOTHER
TASK FOR THE
ELECTROCUTIONER!



INSIDE THE PICTURESQUE
HILLTOP HOME...



--IT AIN'T MY FAULT THE COURT RULED MOST OF THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ME INADMISSIBLE AND TURNED ME LOOSE! ALL IT--



BECAUSE THIS TIME I CAME PREPARED TO HAVE IT OUT WITH YOU, BATMAN! ONCE I GET MY HANDS--

TELL ME, ELECTROCUTIONER, WHAT IS IT WITH GUYS LIKE YOU--

--THAT THEY GO OUT AND BUY THEMSELVES A SNAPPY-LOOKING COSTUME, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY THINK THEY'RE HOT STUFF!

UNNGHH!





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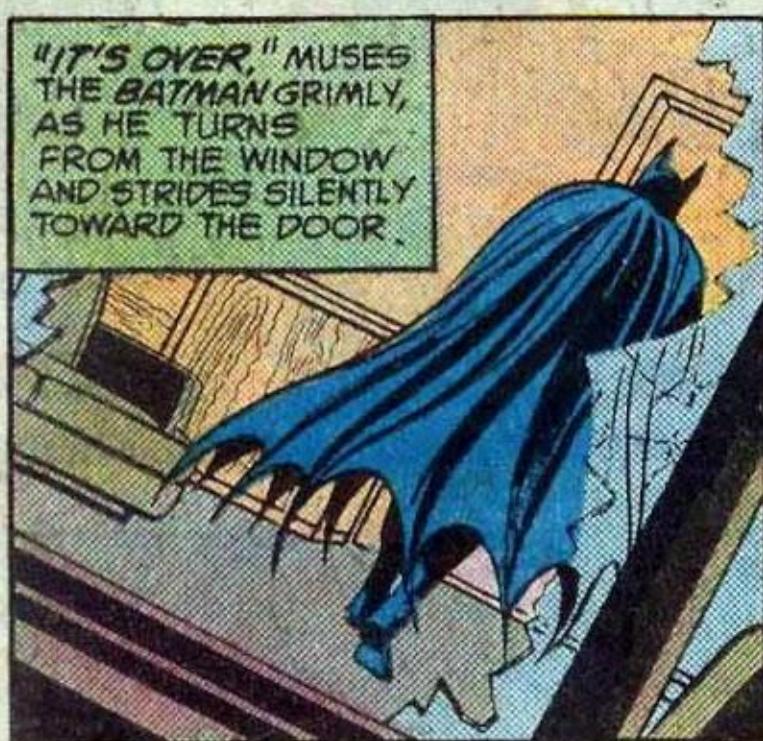
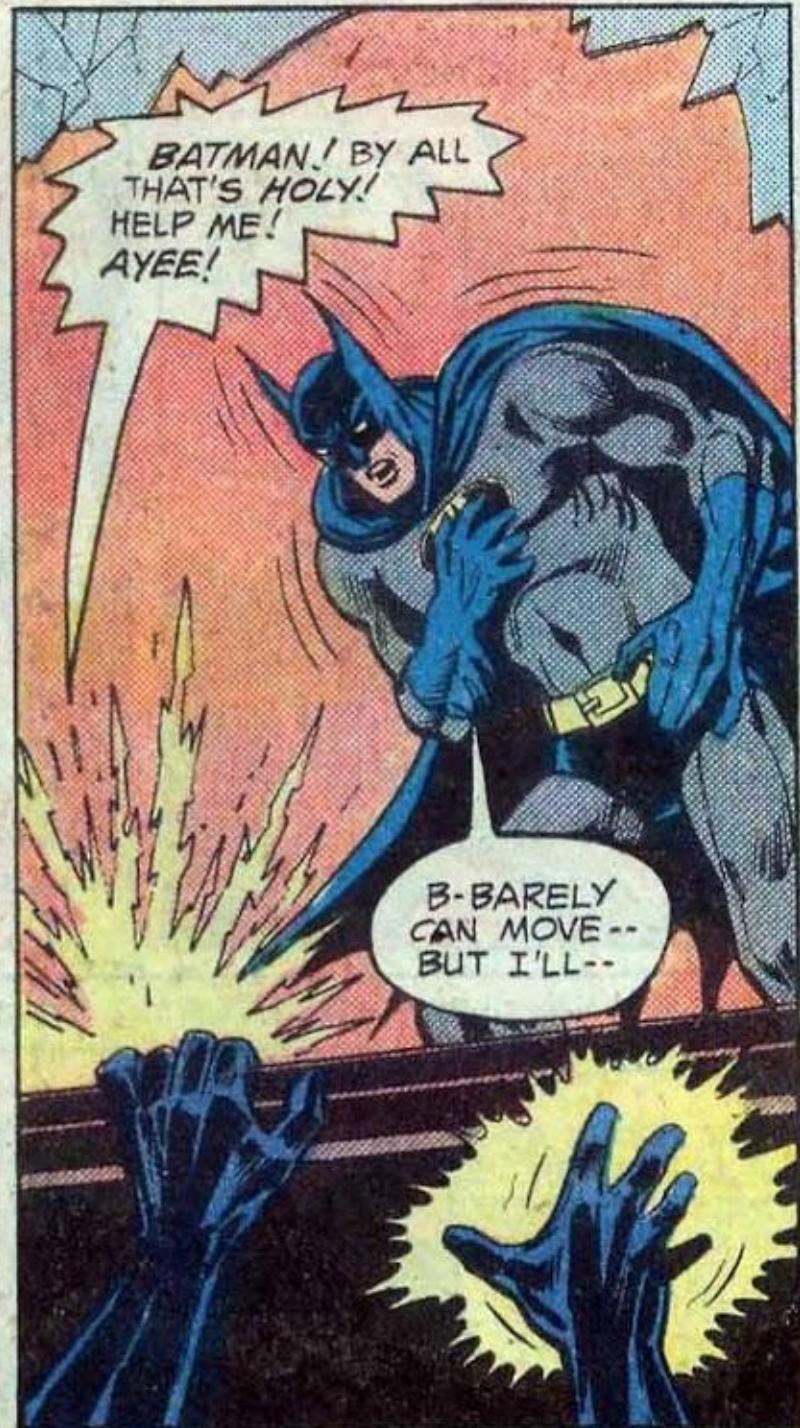
Female

Signature of Parent or Guardian





AND THEN...



AND A SHORT WHILE LATER, BACK AT THE PENTHOUSE...

I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK, BRUCE! BECAUSE SOMEONE'S GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS!



A-ABOUT WHAT, DICK?

TALIA--!! RECENTLY, BATMAN, YOU PROMISED THAT IF EVER I NEEDED A FAVOR, YOU WOULD HELP ME! NOW THAT TIME HAS COME!

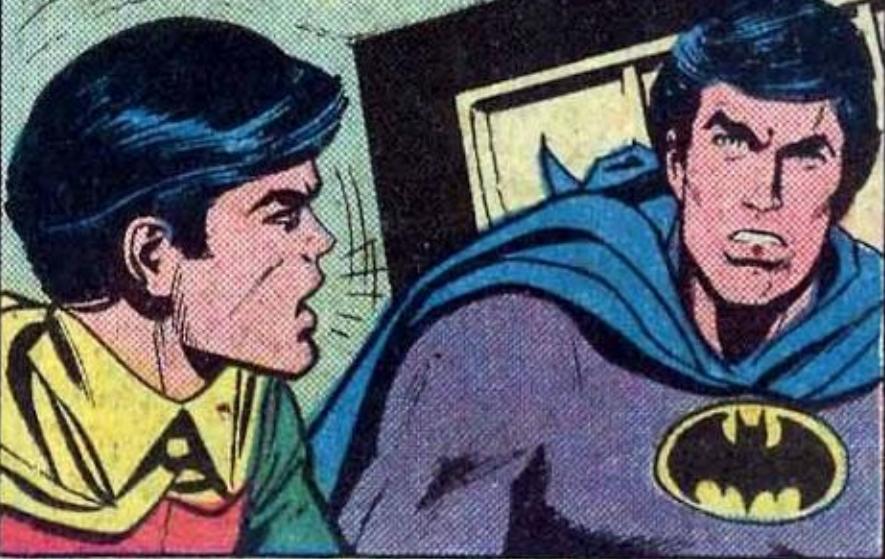
EVER SINCE YOU SLEW MY FATHER, I HAVE BEEN WITHOUT A RESIDENCE! WITH YOUR PERMISSION, BATMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO STAY HERE!

TELL HER NO, BRUCE! TELL HER SHE CAN'T STAY!

LOOK HERE, SON! THIS IS--

OH WOW! FORGET IT! I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR FACE ALREADY! YOU'RE GOING TO SAY YES TO HER, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO LET HER STAY HERE!

WELL, THEN I'LL SAY GOODBYE NOW, BRUCE! BECAUSE IF YOUR CROOKED GIRLFRIEND STAYS, THEN I'M LEAVING!

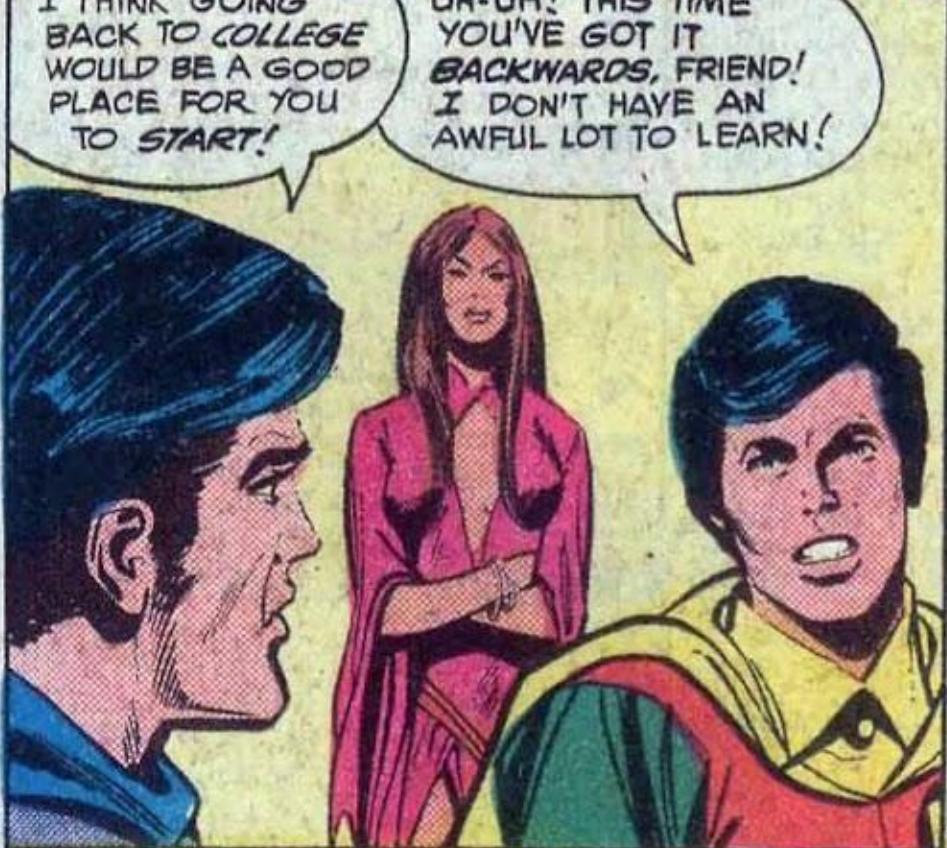


I THINK GOING BACK TO COLLEGE WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE FOR YOU TO START!

UH-UH! THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARDS, FRIEND! I DON'T HAVE AN AWFUL LOT TO LEARN!



YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT LIFE, YOUNGSTER! A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT PEOPLE, AND ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS!



NEXT ISSUE: BEGINNING--

THE

LAZARUS AFFAIR!

ON SALE NOVEMBER 13!

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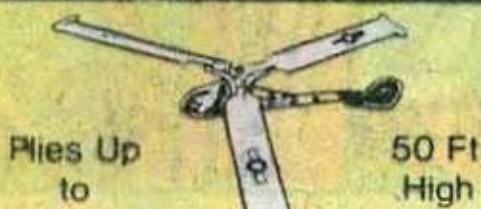
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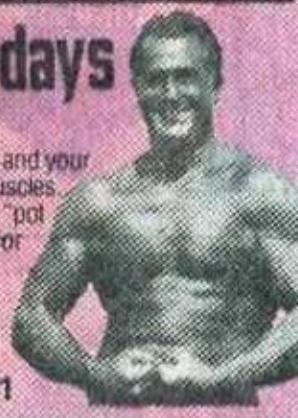
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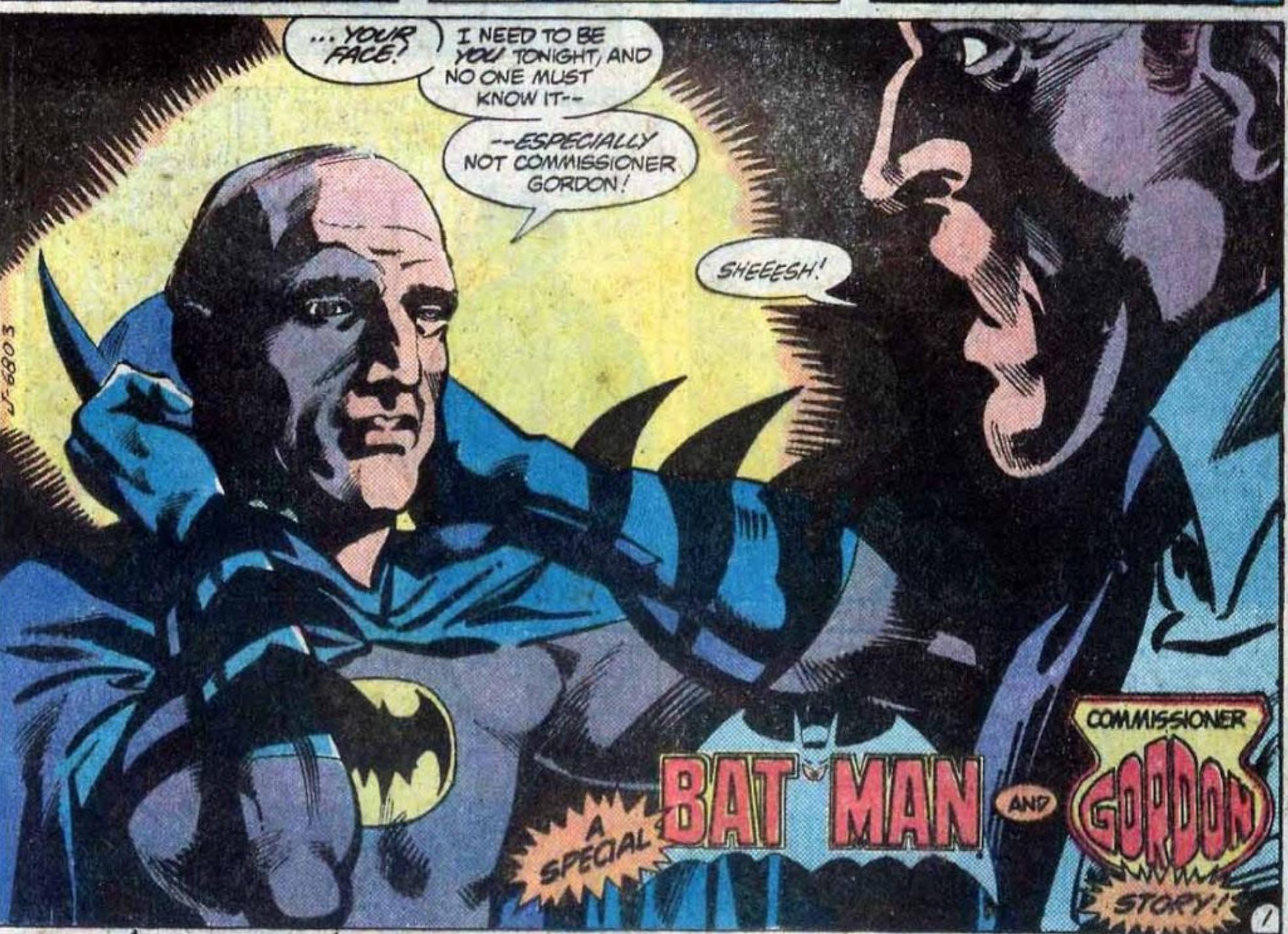
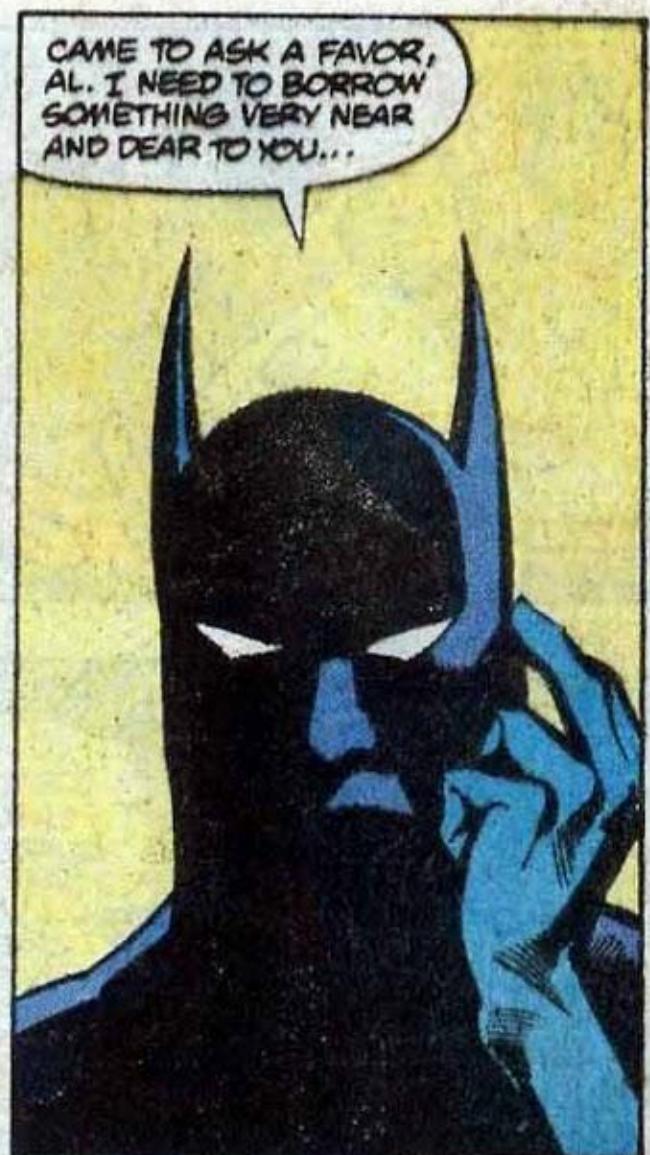
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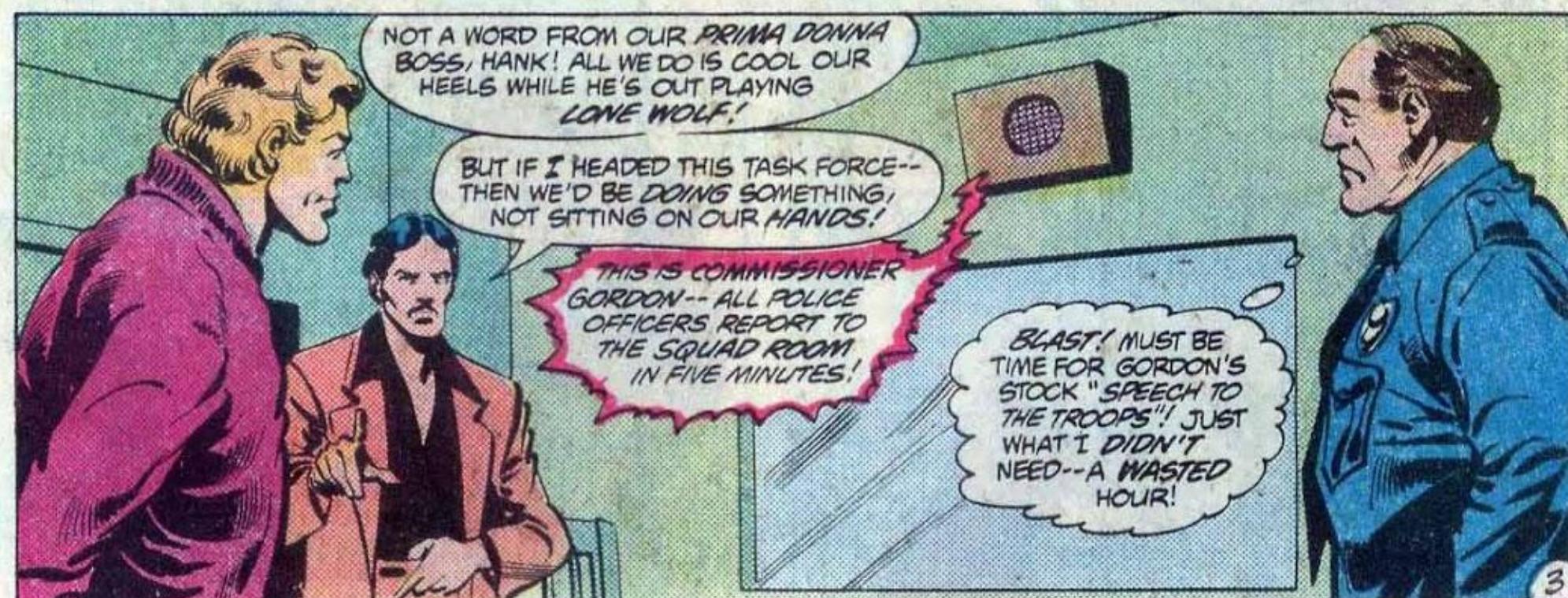
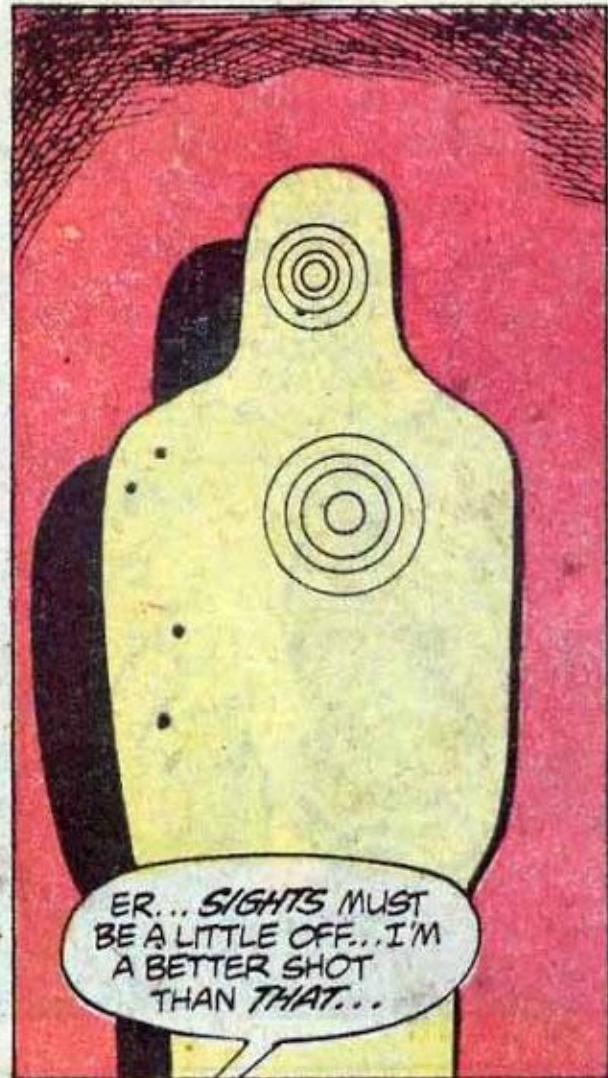
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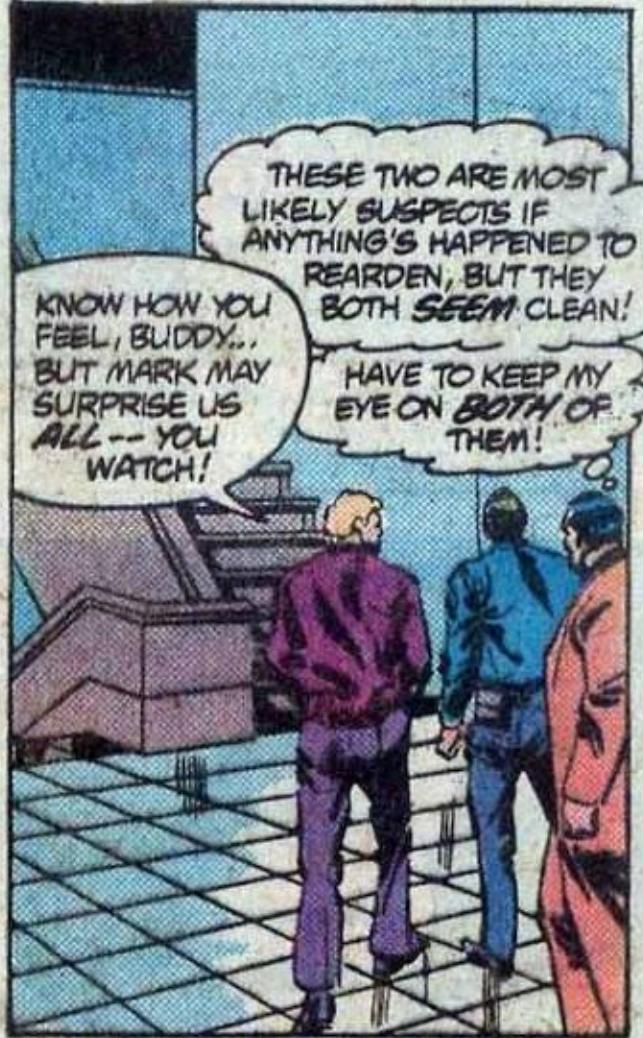
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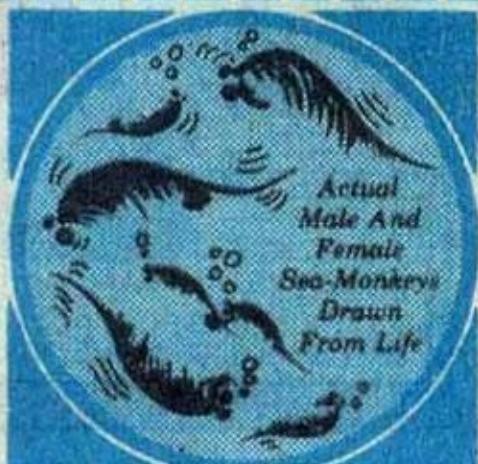
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...AND BATMAN! IT
MUST BE HIM! BUT WHY
WOULD BATMAN SHOW
UP DISGUISED AS
NELSON AND NOT
CLUE ME IN?

HE WAS WITH SAMUELS
AND TRASK--MUST BE
THE TASK FORCE HE'S
INTERESTED IN!

GORDON

I'D BETTER GIVE THE
DUPLICATE FILES IN MY OFFICE
ANOTHER GOING OVER--SEE IF I
CAN SPOT BATMAN'S REASON FOR
BEING HERE!

MAYBE I CAN BE OF SOME HELP TO
BATMAN--WHETHER HE WANTS
HELP OR NOT!

AND JUST DOWN THE HALL...

CUSTODIAN

NELSON MAY NOT KNOW
ABOUT GORDON'S LODGE
...AND BY THAT GLEAM
IN HIS EYE, I THINK HE
SAW THROUGH ME--

MARK REARDEN'S
FILES ARE MY
NEXT STOP, SO
I'LL COMBINE
THE TWO GOALS:
GET OUT OF AL
NELSON'S LIFE--

--AND BECOME THE
MAN NO ONE WILL
QUESTION--THE
JANITOR!

A LITTLE MORE
WHITE IN THE HAIR,
LOTS OF WRINKLES...

REARDEN'S OFFICE...
THE REAL JANITOR TOOK
HIS KEY WITH HIM...

LT. REARDEN

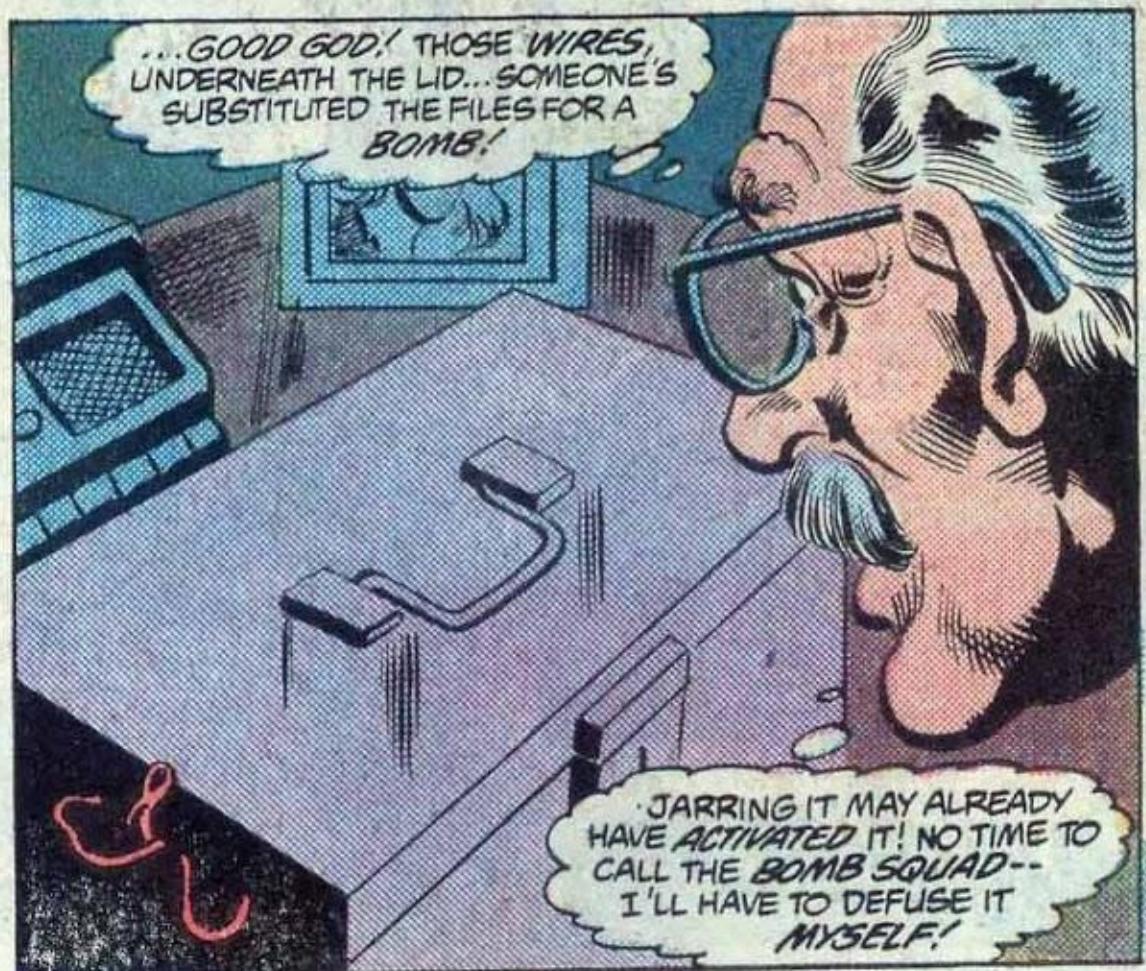
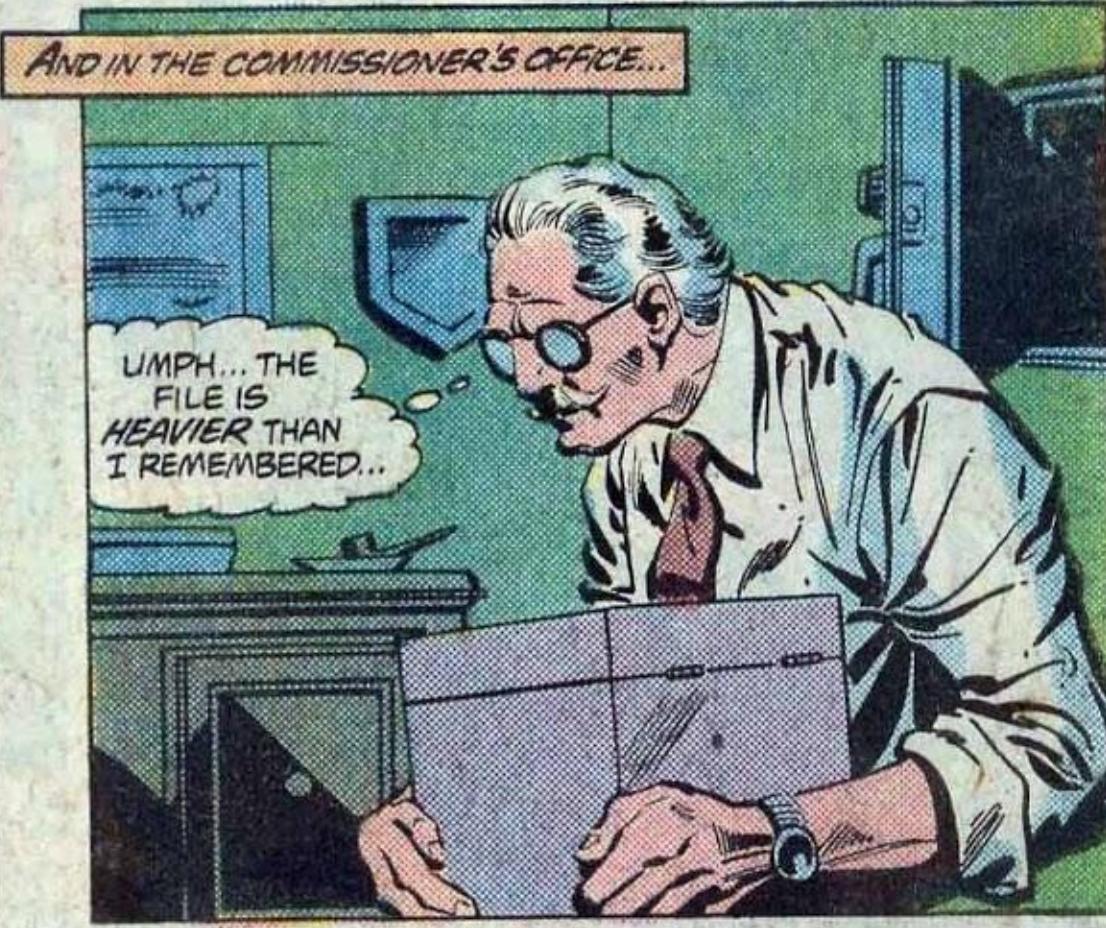
...AND I'M ALL SET
TO CLEAN UP...AS
ROBIN WOULD SAY!

...BUT THESE
LOCKS ARE SO
OLD THAT...

...I COULD
PICK THEM WITH
MY TEETH!

AND THE LOCKS
OF THOSE FILES
LOOK LIKE EVEN
LESS TROUBLE!

THE TASK FORCE }
FILES ARE GONE }
TOO!
ANYONE-- REARDEN,
TRASK OR SAMUELS--
COULD HAVE
STOLEN THEM,
AND THERE'S
NO CLUE...



YOU DID PICK UP
ON MY SLIP,
COMMISSIONER--
I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT!

YOUR DISGUISE TALENTS
ARE THE LAST THING
ON MY MIND NOW,
BATMAN--

--YOUR MECHANICAL
ABILITIES ARE WHAT
I NEED!

JUST KEEP THAT
LIGHT STEADY, COMMISS-
IONER...THAT'S FINE!

WHEN I SAY "GO," YOU TURN
THE SCREW CLOCKWISE--
I'LL CUT THE WIRE!

READY,
BATMAN!

NOW I'LL SNIP THE DETONATOR SPRINGS!
IF THE BOMB MAKES A CLICK, WE'RE
HOME FREE--IT'S DEFUSED! IF IT
MAKES ANY OTHER SOUND...

WE'LL NEVER KNOW IT!
GO AHEAD, BATMAN!

CLICK SNIP!

I'LL GIVE YOU ODDS THAT
BOMB HAS REARDEN'S PRINTS
ALL OVER IT--IT LOOKS AS
THOUGH HE STOLE YOUR DUPLI-
CATE FILES AND PLANTED
THE BOMB!

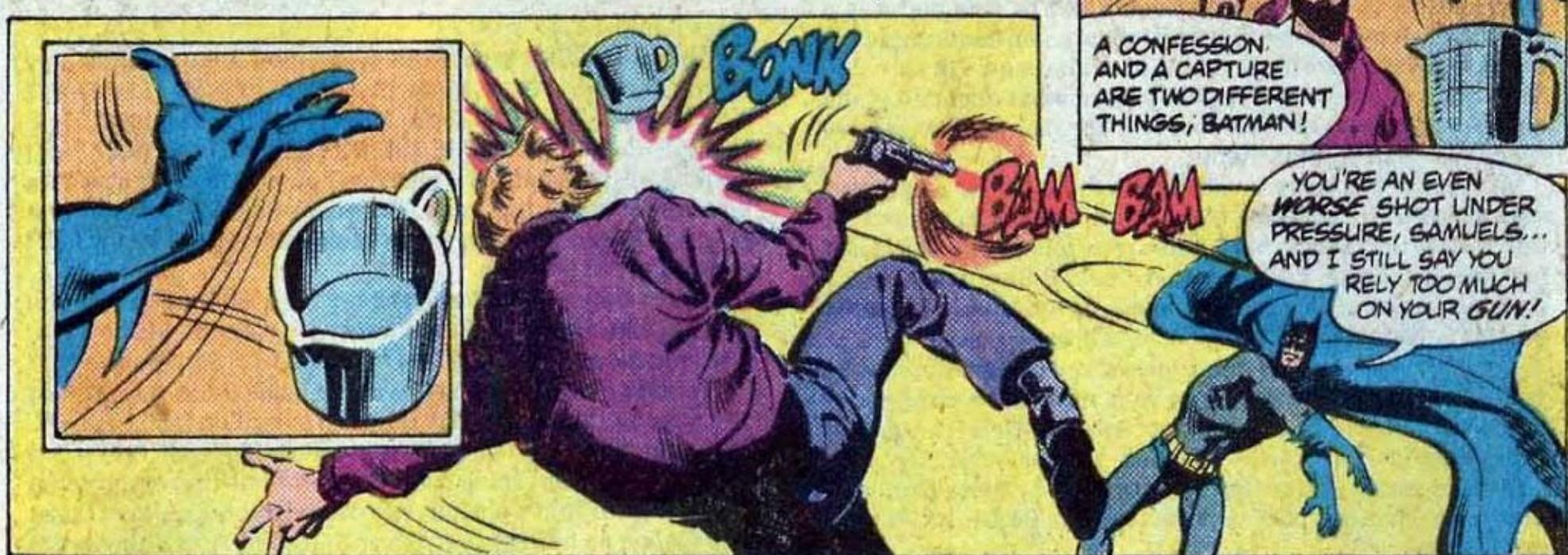
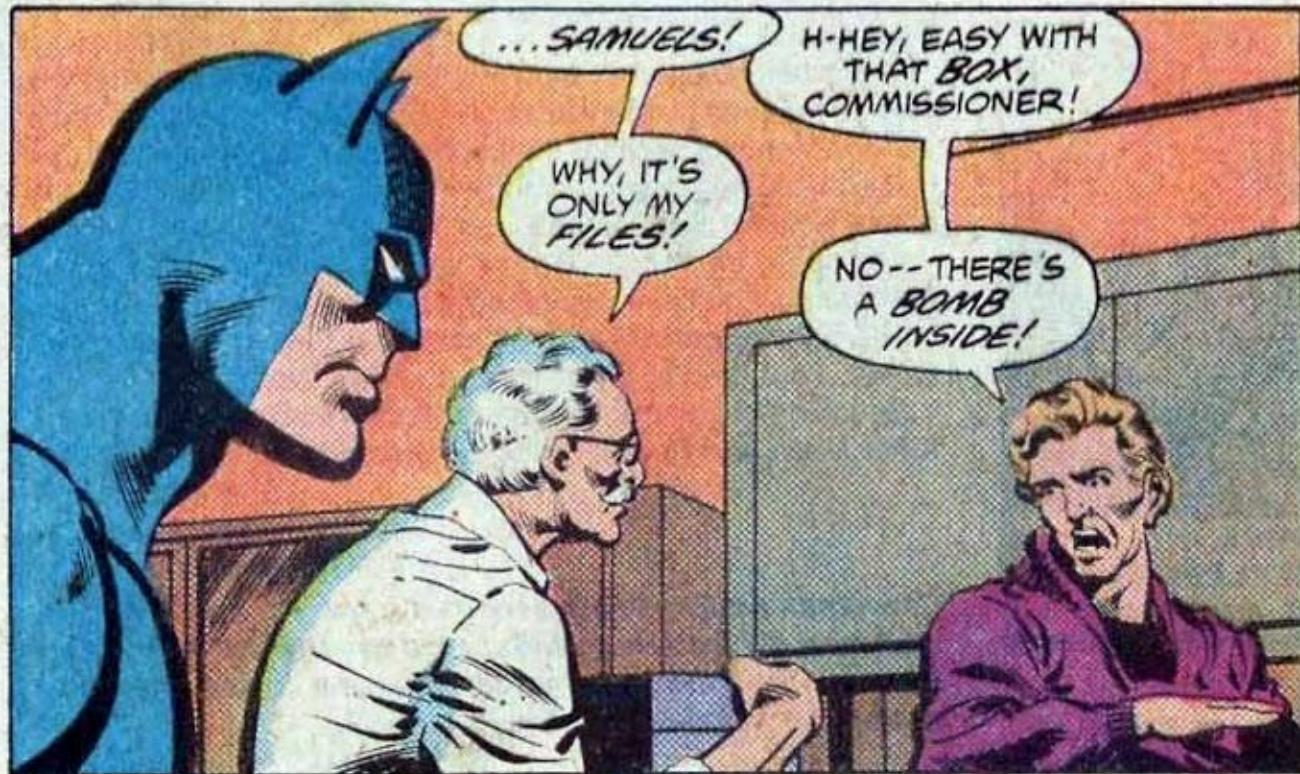
BLAST IT, BATMAN,
I WANT THE MAN
WHO DID THIS! IF
ANYTHING'S HAP-
PENED TO
REARDEN...

THAT MAKES
TWO OF US,
COMMISSIONER--
AND I KNOW
WHO PLANTED
THE BOMB!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE
HEADQUARTERS CRIME
LAB...

I'D LIKE TO GO
OVER MY FILES ON
THE CASE WITH
YOU...

HUH?



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L-637

Dear Bat-People,

Just got BATMAN #326 in the mail and when I read that Len Wein is going to leave this comic, I was really shocked! Len has given his all to make this comic as good as it is and it is a completely foolish move that he is making. Len has brought me much enjoyment via his scripting of the Batman. I'm sure that Marv Wolfman will do a perfect job, but what about all of the sub-plots Len gave us? Will they ever be resolved? Please have Marv Wolfman resolve them.

Well, as for the issue, it was okay. What I did like was the art and the villain, Professor Milo. What I didn't like was that Selina Kyle left (Maybe Marv could return Silver St. Cloud and get her and Bruce back together again.). She was a really dynamic supporting character. Please, do not have her become an evil Catwoman. Have her become a good one.

I also would like to say that I am in sharp disagreement with your back-up spot appearing in your next issue and in your following issues. We readers see Robin in Detective and in Super-Friends in which he does appear regularly with Batman. I would rather see this spot filled by Black Lightning and have Man-Bat take over his spot in Detective. Please, consider it.

Matt Kurtz

Address Withheld

With DETECTIVE shrinking to standard format, Robin's solo adventures will be moving here on a regular basis starting sometime in the near future—though by a different team than the one handling his run in DETEC'. In the meantime, however, we have several special stories that are "extensions" or other aspects of the main stories in progress. We think you'll find them a real treat.—PL

Dear Editor,

Batman #326 was dull, dull, boring, and tedious! with a capital y for yawn.

The story was slow moving and was obviously just a set-up for the issues to come. Another thing that disturbed me was the return of the dreaded Prof. Milo. I liked him when Lively Len teamed with Neal Adams to produce the story of Anthony Lupos, everybody's favorite wolf man, but I liked the way Len killed him off. I'm beginning to think that Mr. Wein is merely trying to have one last "hoorah" before leaving the fate of the Batman to the tender mercies of Marv Wolfman.

The art was, as usual, CRUDDY, SKETCHY, and SLOPPY!!! Novick is a fair penciller, but he needs an inker like Dick Giordano to change his work from the pits to the ritz so to speak.

Take McLaughlin out in the desert somewhere and chain him to a cactus.

I'm really sorry to hear that Len is leaving, I think that Len's like of The Batman contributed a lot to his stories so that the book wasn't just an assignment, but fun for him as well.

Bye Len.

—John Hebert

The debate about Batman inkers rages on—in our office as well as in letters. Most agree that Giordano is the ideal (but unfortunately unavailable) first choice, but the fans of McLaughlin, Smith and Mitchell are waging war over their favorites. Anyone out there care to add his or her vote?—PL

Dear Editor,

Professor Milo didn't look any the worse for wear after his savage mauling by the werewolf in BATMAN #255 and should provide plenty of peril for the Caped Crusader next issue, if Joe Kubert's chilling cover is an apt indication, but what does the future hold for Catwoman?

Marriage to Bruce Wayne is too pedestrian to prove interesting, and I have no delusions of her becoming Batman's crime-fighting partner, so that leaves her further vilification up to you, Paul, and neo-Bat-scripter, Marv Wolfman.

Speaking of villains, I want to see the returns of Signalman, Killer Moth, the Cavalier, and Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Jeffrey Lowndes

809 Sunset St.

Scranton, Pa. 18509

Catwoman returns in our very next issue—in a solo story as well as in our lead feature. But as to whether her motives are pure or villainous, we wouldn't presume to say (she might change her mind by then!).—PL

Dear Paul:

The cover of Batman #326 was very cluttered with ugly blurbs reading "THIS MAN IS TRYING TO KILL BATMAN (obvious)", "—AND THIS MAN IS CONTROLLING THE WHOLE PLAN FROM THE UNLIKELY HQ OF ALLI" (not particularly relevant. Why was that bozo on the cover at all? He was part of the clutter.), and "Crimes By Remote Control" (the only one I would have in any way sanctioned.) Nice try, Jim. I guess you did your job.

I said it before and I'll say it again: I like Mitchell better than McLaughlin, and I like Smith better than either. Incidentally, have you thought of trying Dan Adkins or Kurt Schaffenberger?

"This Way Lies Madness!" was not a bad issue. It contained no major battle, but this did not seem to hurt. In fact, it helped. The end of the Bruce/Selina relationship was rather inevitable. As far as I could see, they never had that much going to begin with. That's obvious with Bruce too, not quite as upset over Selina as he was over Silver St. Cloud. And where is the lovely Ms. Cloud these days? I'll be interested to see what Marv Wolfman does for Bruce's love life. You don't think Caroline Crown has a thing for Brucie, do ya?

Wherever the asylum plot is going, I like it. Taylor will provide an interesting diversion next issue. Say, I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am that Milo is back! His last appearance was in #255, and I was there! We had all assumed the werewolf killed Milo, but I realize now that this was never actually shown. I wish Len could stay around long enough to resurrect Sterling Silversmith. Ah, me.

As noted, I can't wait to see what's in store for Batman with Marv Wolfman at the helm. Batman is a saga not unlike Dracula in mood or passion. The secret of Marv's Dracula was long-range development of plots and countless minor characters. I hope he is planning the same method here.

Steve Gavronski

330 Friar Tuck Drive

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Long range developments have already begun, Steve, even if they aren't obvious—and a four part epic starts in #332.—PL

NEXT MONTH: "Fallout"...the beginning of The Lazarus Affair, a twisting turning tale that will take our cast across the globe, and explain a series of events that have been unfolding in this magazine for a decade. Be here!—Paul Levitz

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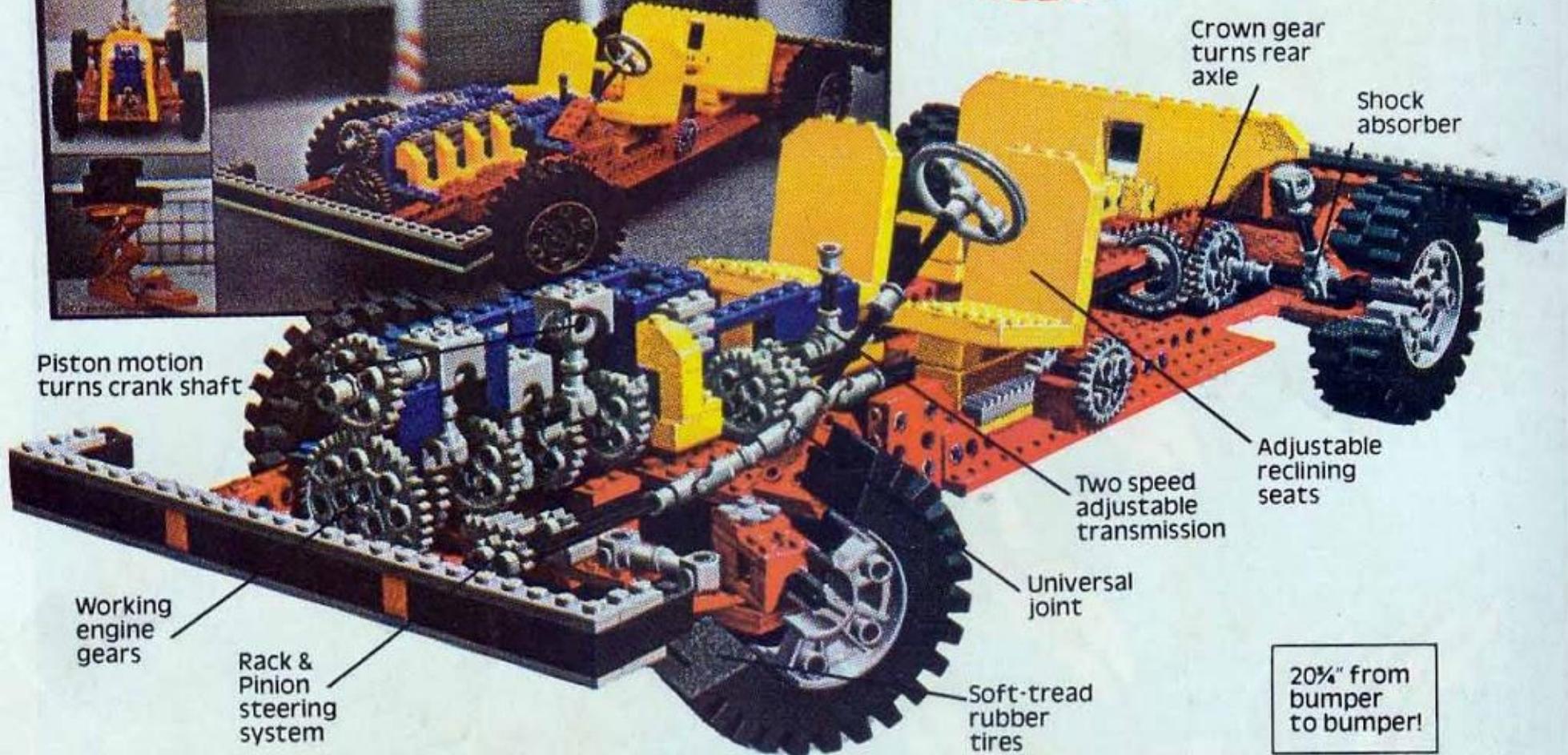
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