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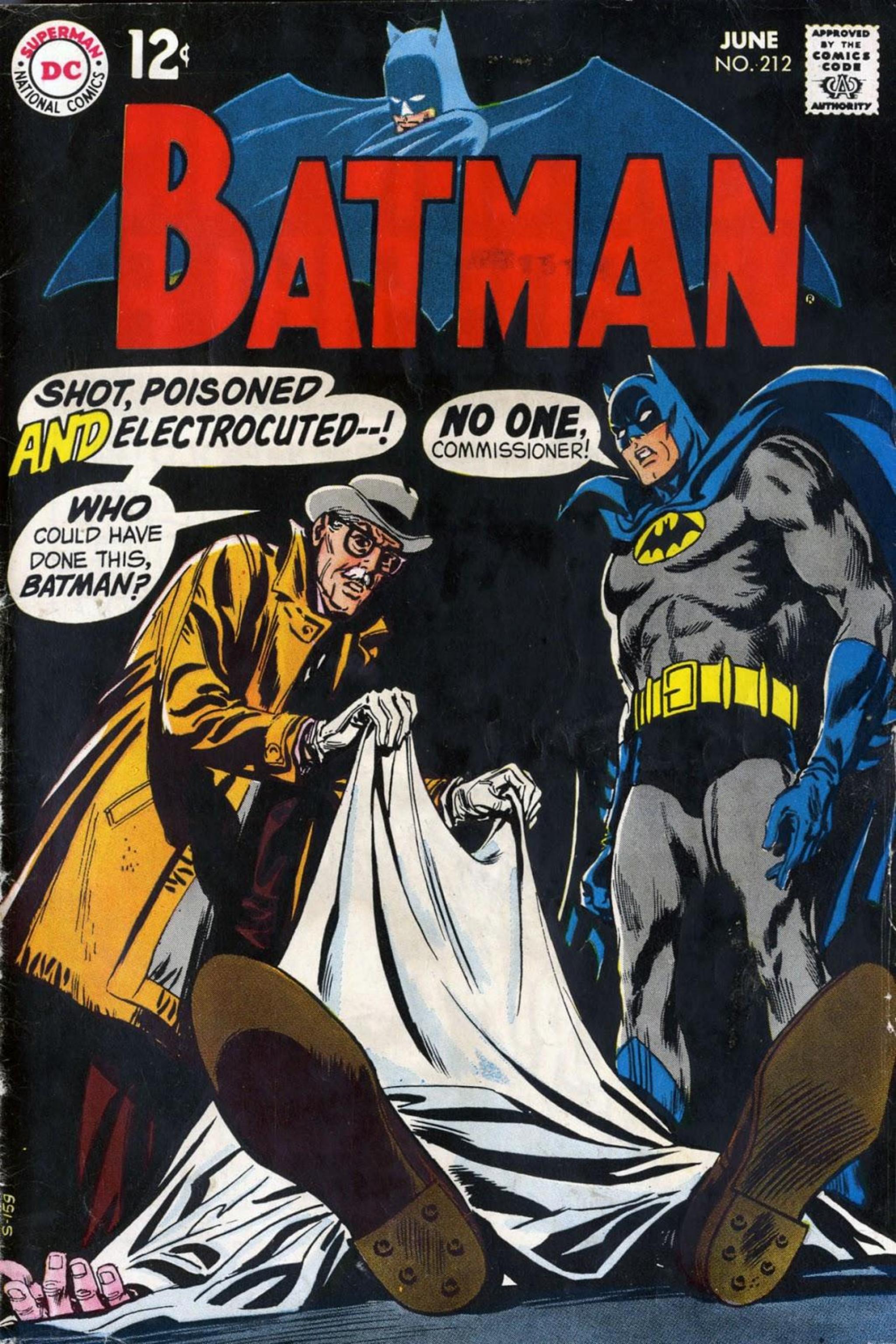
JUNE  
NO. 212

# BATMAN®

SHOT, POISONED  
**AND** ELECTROCUTED--!

**NO ONE,**  
COMMISSIONER!

WHO  
COULD HAVE  
DONE THIS,  
**BATMAN?**

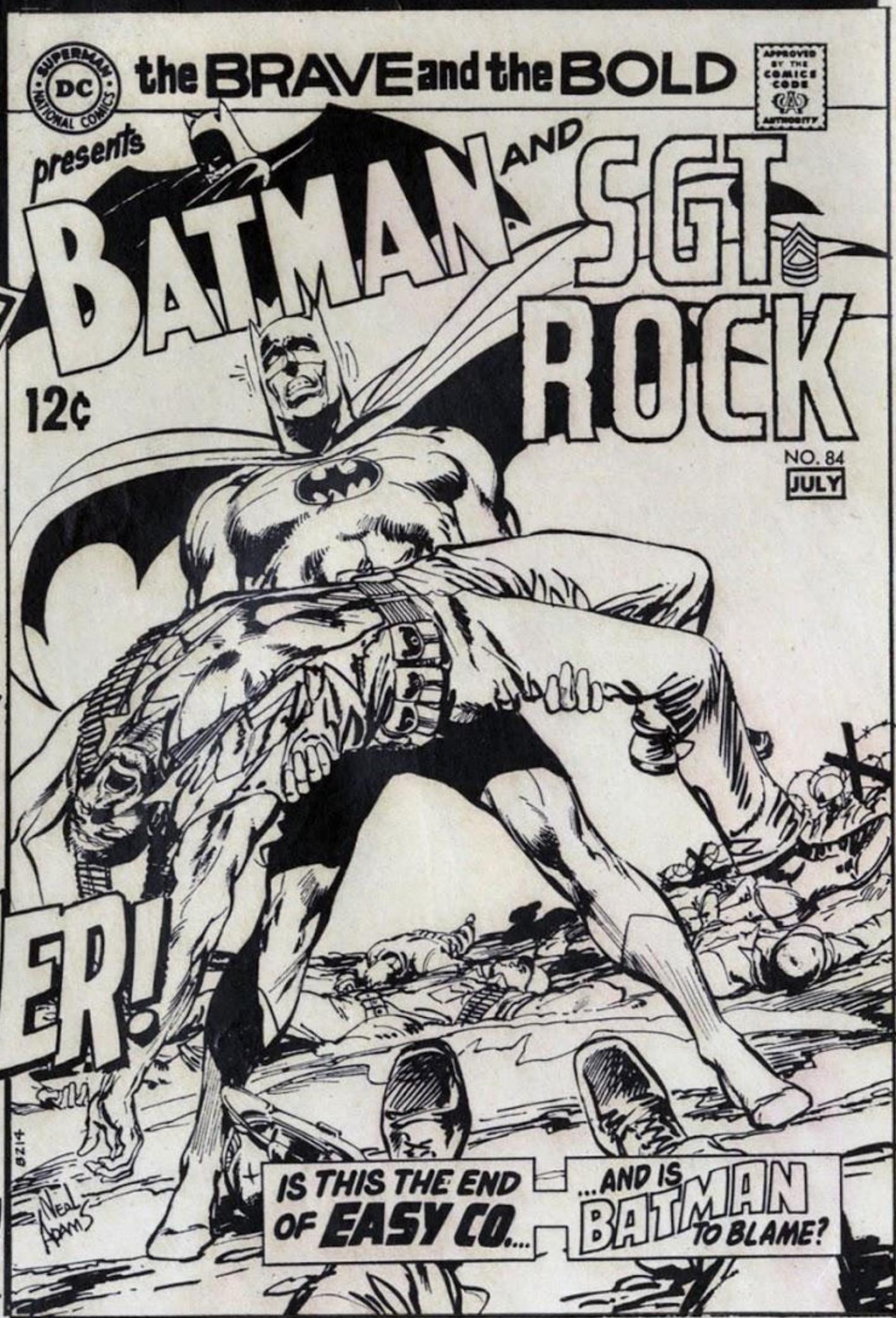


S-159

# HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE?

BAM! POW!  
AND  
**SGT. ROCK**  
**TOGETHER!**

FIND OUT IN THE  
**JULY** EXCITING  
ISSUE OF BRAVE & BOLD!  
ON SALE APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>



# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS  
ART BY: IRV NOVICK &  
JOE GIELLA

OBVIOUSLY, BATMAN--  
AN OPEN-AND-SHUT CASE  
OF MURDER! THE QUESTION  
IS HOW DID THE VICTIM DIE?  
BY BULLET--POISON DART--  
OR ELECTROCUTION? OR  
WAS IT ALL THREE?

NEITHER,  
COMMISSIONER GORDON!  
HE OBVIOUSLY DIED  
OF NATURAL  
CAUSES!

BY BULLET...?

MASHED SLUG

...POISON DART?...

POISON  
DART

...OR BY ELECTROCUTION?

S-110

1

AN AMAZING CONCLUSION--CONSIDERING THE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY!  
HAS BATMAN LOST CONTACT WITH REALITY--OR HAS HIS BRILLIANT MIND FERRETED OUT CLUES  
THAT ELUDE EVEN THE BEST CRIMINOLOGISTS IN GOTHAM CITY? WE CHALLENGE YOU TO PIT  
YOUR DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES AGAINST THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE IN THE ASTOUNDING  
CASE OF THE--

## "BAFFLING DEATHS OF THE CRIME-CZAR!"

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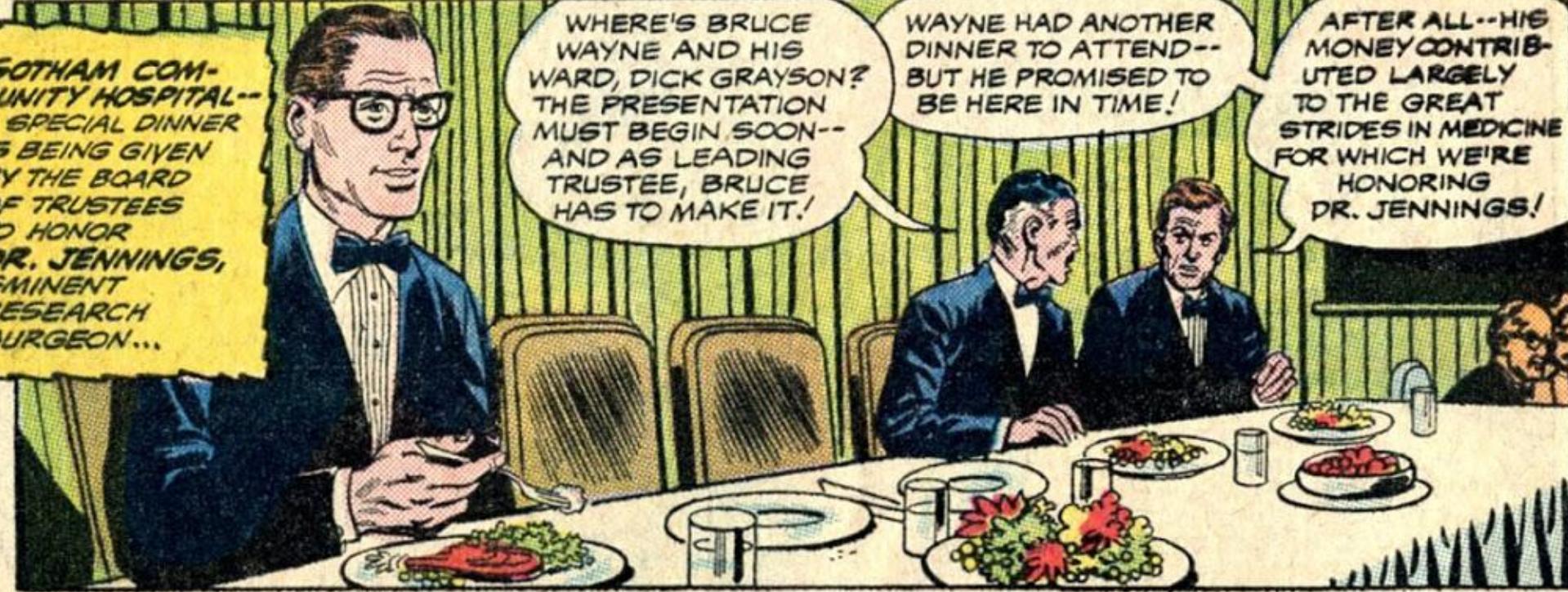
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GOTHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL--A SPECIAL DINNER IS BEING GIVEN BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO HONOR DR. JENNINGS, EMINENT RESEARCH SURGEON...

WHERE'S BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON? THE PRESENTATION MUST BEGIN SOON--AND AS LEADING TRUSTEE, BRUCE HAS TO MAKE IT!

WAYNE HAD ANOTHER DINNER TO ATTEND--BUT HE PROMISED TO BE HERE IN TIME!

AFTER ALL--HIS MONEY CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE GREAT STRIDES IN MEDICINE FOR WHICH WE'RE HONORING DR. JENNINGS!



AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM CITY A "WELCOME HOME" DINNER IS BEING GIVEN TO MR. BIG OF THE UNDERWORLD--LIL' STUDS...

"WELCOME HOME"--THAT'S A LAFF! IF HE'D HAVE KICKED OFF IN THE HOSPITAL, I'D BE BOSS NOW!

OKAY, QUIRK, SO THE DOC PUT A NEW PART IN HIM--OR SOMETHIN'! SO HE'S OLD! HE CAN'T LIVE FOREVER!



BUT I COULD DIE OF OLD AGE FIRST--WHILE HE LOOKS BETTER THAN BEFORE THE OPERATION!

HE'S GOT TO GO--TONIGHT! AND I'VE GOT IT ALL ARRANGED!

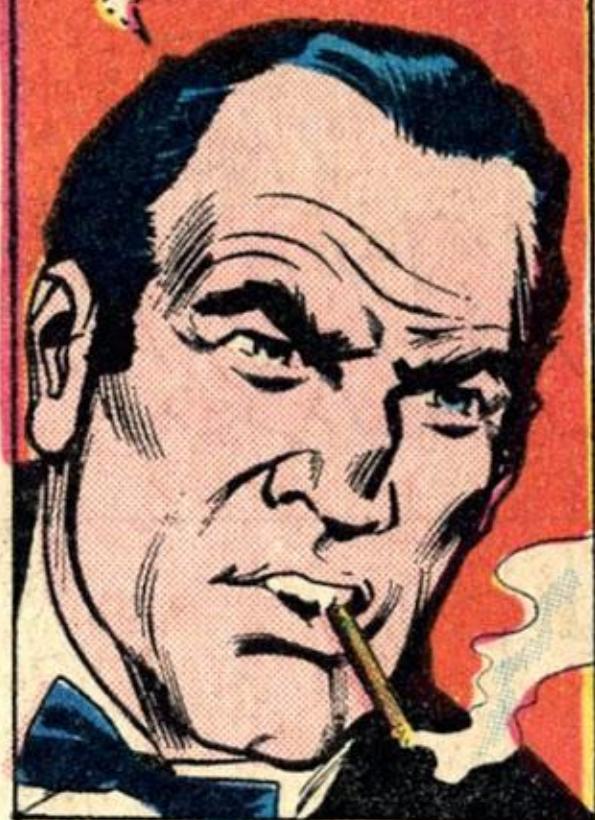
BUT THIS IS THE OTHER DINNER BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON HAD TO ATTEND! BUT NOT AS HONORED GUESTS...

I HATE TO THINK, I SERVED UP AS BRUCE, WHAT WE'D BE IN FOR IF THAT MOB OUT THERE SUSPECTED WHO WE ARE...

GUESS WE'D BE THE MAIN COURSE, DICK! BUT WE'VE GOT TO COVER THIS GANGLAND SHINDIG!

ANY NUMBER OF "WELL-WISHERS" HERE TONIGHT WOULD'VE PREFERRED THAT LIL' STUDS HAD DIED IN THE HOSPITAL! BUT NOW THAT HE'S BACK BETTER THAN NEW...

...SOMEONE'S BOUND TO GET IMPATIENT!



IF HE'S KNOCKED OFF,  
THE BIGGEST AND  
BLOODIEST STRUGGLE  
FOR POWER GOTHAM'S  
EVER SEEN COULD  
ERUPT!

WITH A LOT OF INNOCENT  
CITIZENS GETTING  
CAUGHT IN THE  
CROSS-FIRE! SO WE'RE  
SELF-ELECTED... BODY-  
GUARDS FOR THE  
CZAR OF THE  
UNDERWORLD!

KEEP YOUR EYES--AND EARS--  
OPEN, DICK! I DON'T THINK  
ANY OF LIL' STUDS' ENEMIES  
WOULD MAKE A MOVE  
THEMSELVES...

BUT THEY COULD'VE  
HIRED AN OUT-OF-  
TOWN-KILLER!



AT THAT MOMENT OUTSIDE THE GOTHAM HOTEL...

REAL SWEET  
OF QUIRK  
SENDING A  
CAR TO MEET  
US AT THE  
AIRPORT!

AND EVEN  
SWEETER  
WHAT HE'S  
PROMISED  
US FOR THE  
HIT ON  
LIL'  
STUDS!

HOW CAN WE  
MISS? THREE OF  
THE TOUGHEST  
TORPEDOES IN  
THE BUSINESS...  
ALL COMBINING  
OUR TALENTS  
FOR ONE KILL!

GOTHAM HOTEL

AND PULLING UP TO THE SERVICE ENTRANCE...

TAKE THE BACK STAIRS UP TO  
THE BALLROOM! THE BOSS  
DOESN'T WANT YOU SHOULD  
BE SEEN!

RELAX, BABY! WE'RE  
NEVER SEEN... OR  
HEARD!

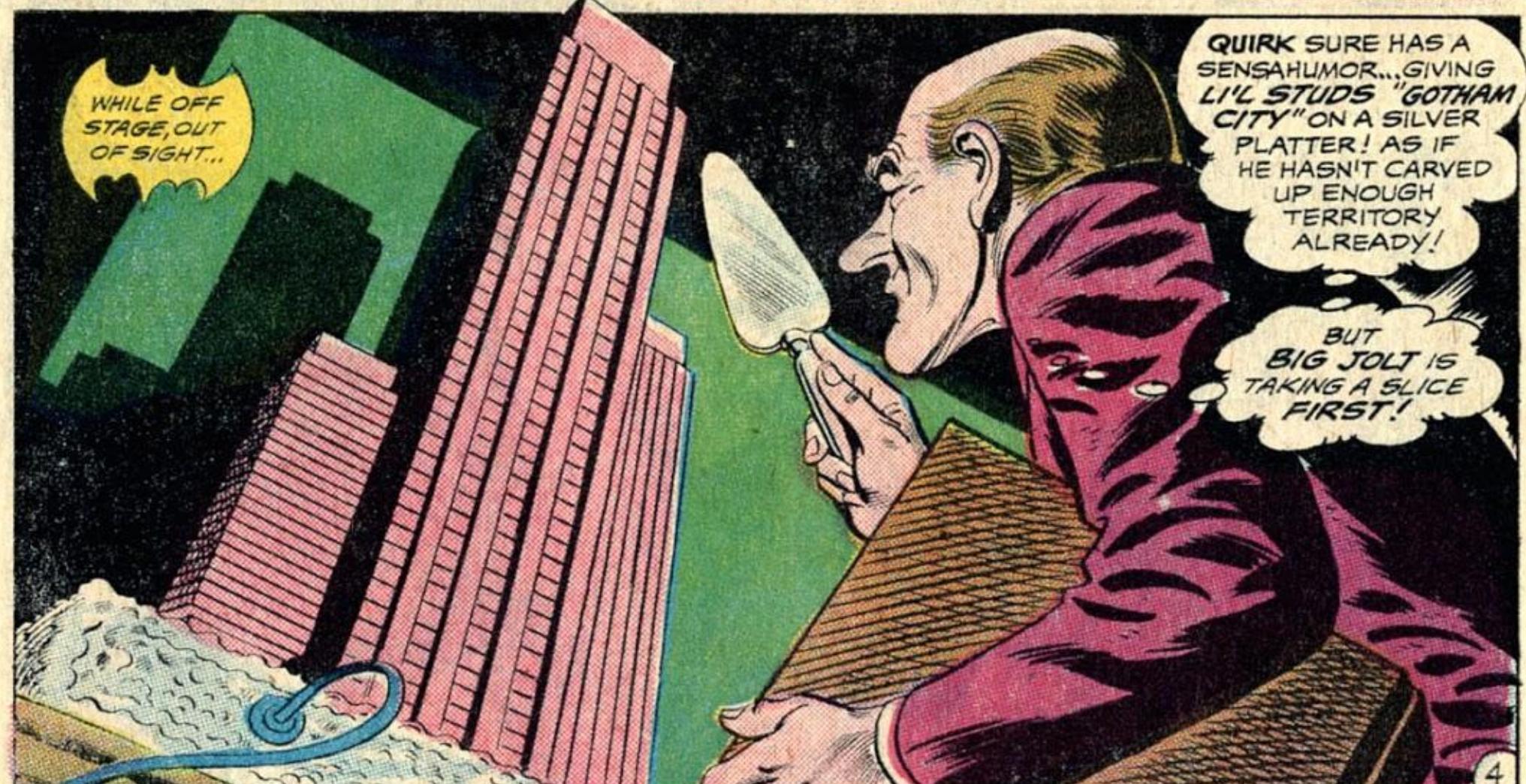
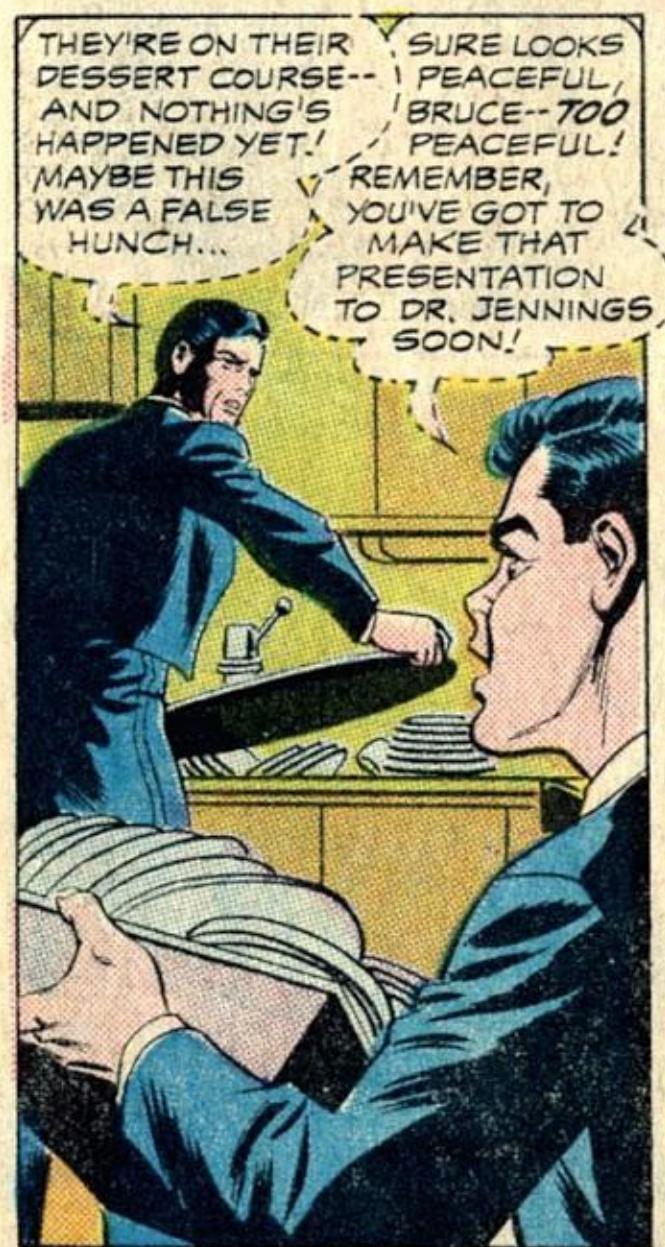


THEY DON'T CALL ME  
THE SILENCER FOR  
NOTHIN'!

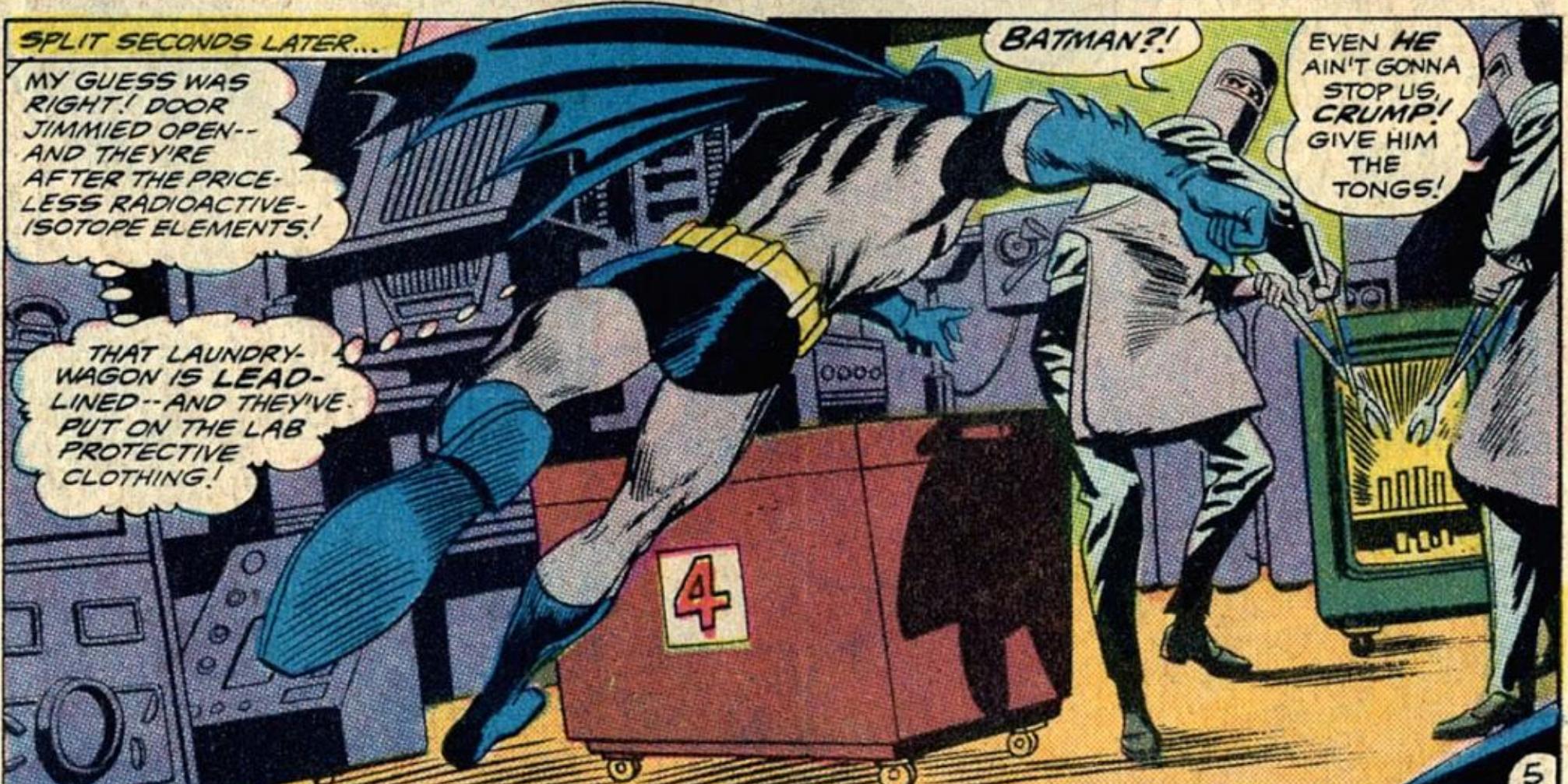
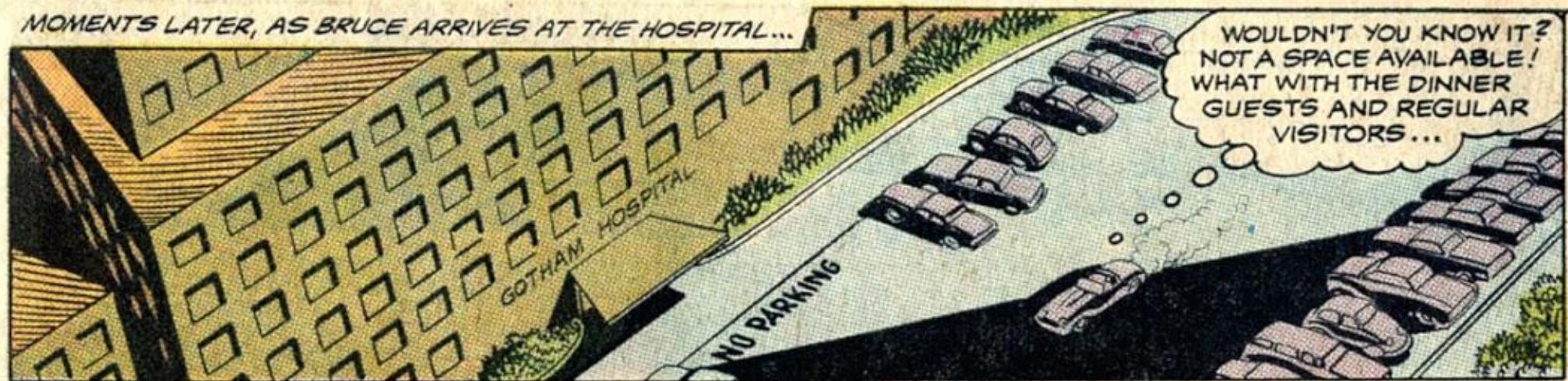
THE DART AIN'T  
EXACTLY A BLOW-HARD,  
BUT--THESE POISON DARTS  
DON'T EVEN WHISPER!

BIG JOLT HAS A  
SURPRISE PACKAGE  
THAT'S REALLY A--  
SHOCKER!

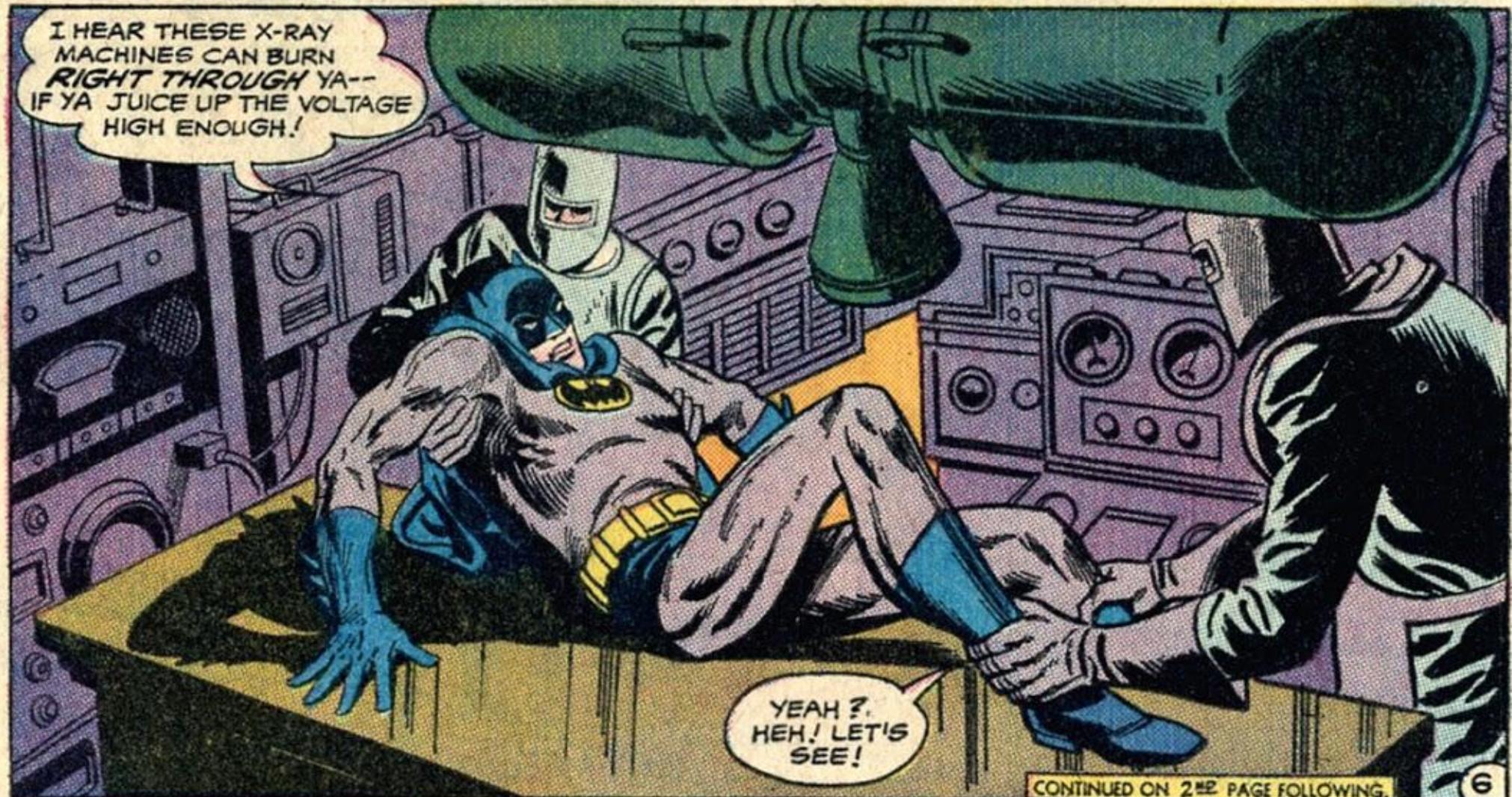
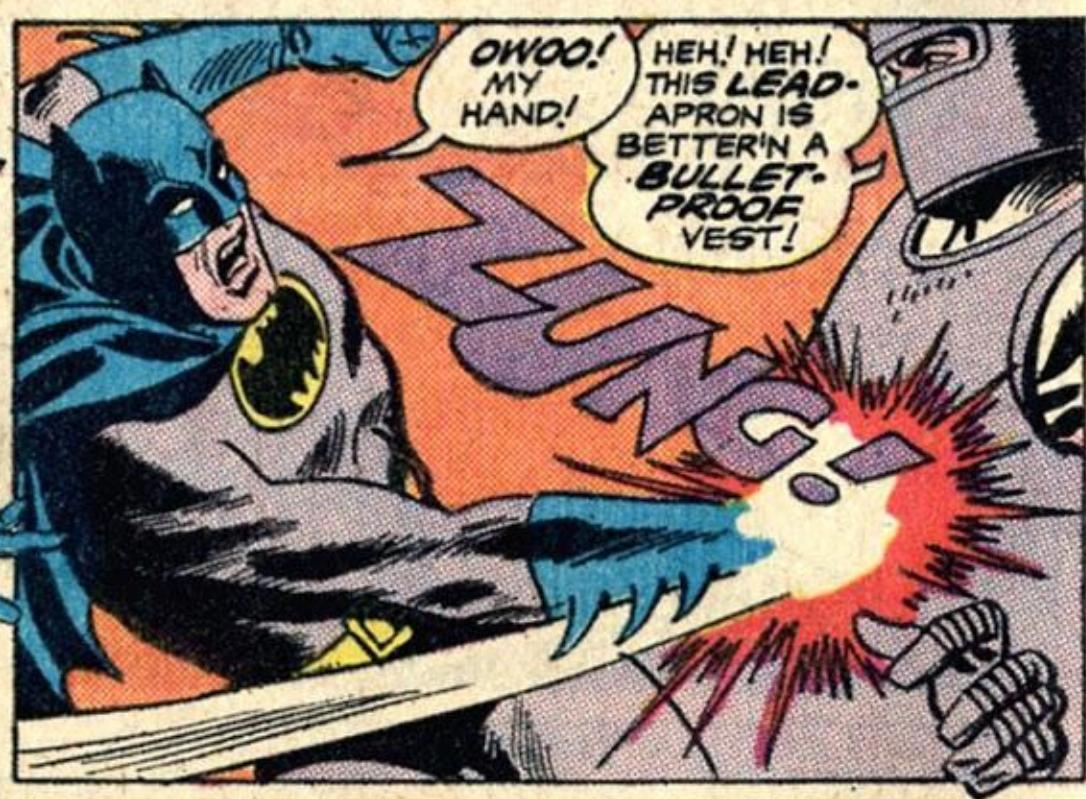
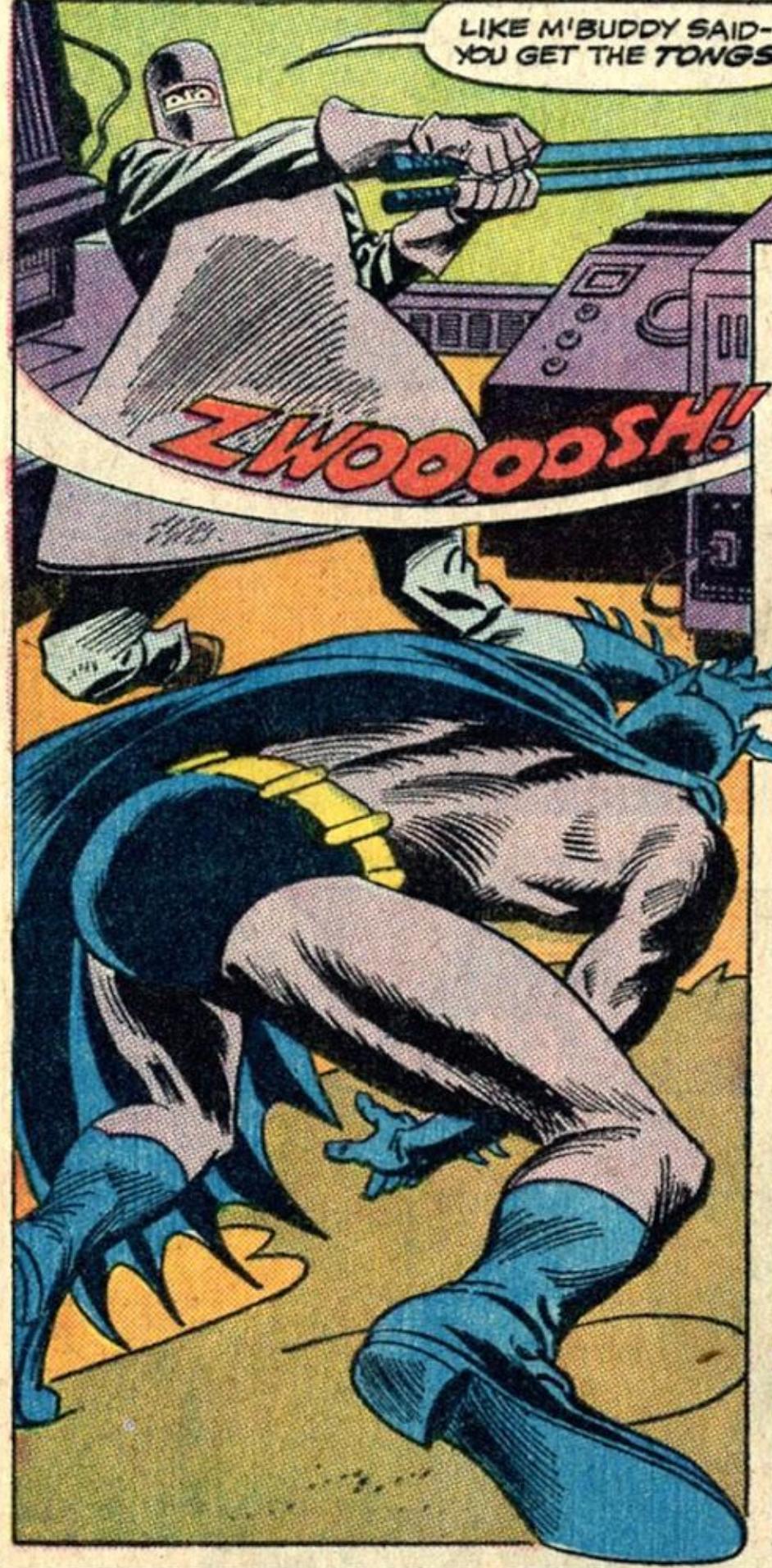




MOMENTS LATER, AS BRUCE ARRIVES AT THE HOSPITAL...



LIKE M'BUDDY SAID--  
YOU GET THE TONGS!



**ADD THESE GREAT**

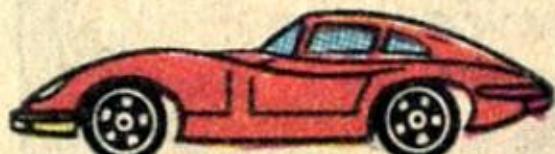
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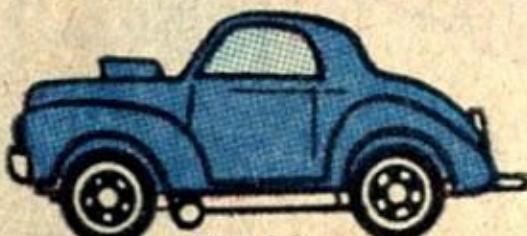
XKE Jaguar



Mustang Convertible



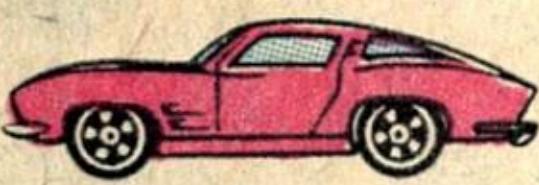
Ferrari Berlinetta



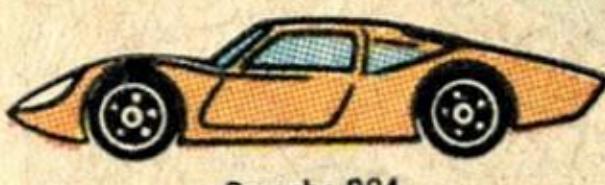
Willys Gasser



Mangusta



Stingray



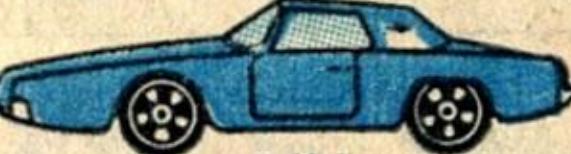
Porsche 904



Formula I Lotus Ford



Lola GT



T-Bird



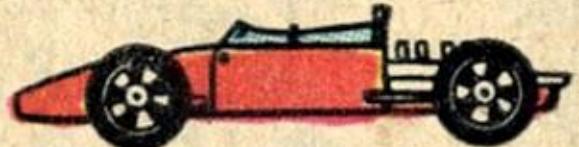
Formula I BRM



AC Cobra



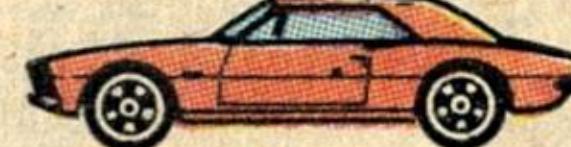
Ford GT



Formula I Honda



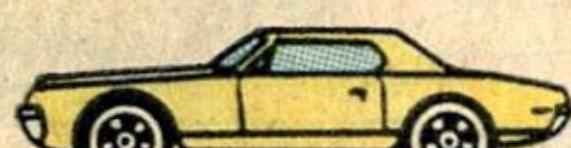
Cobra GT



Camaro



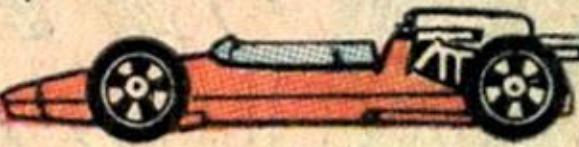
Formula I Lola Ford



Cougar



Ford J



Formula I Cooper Maserati



Dino Ferrari



Mustang Hardtop



Formula I Ferrari



Firebird



Ford XL500



Volkswagen



Riviera



Mako Shark

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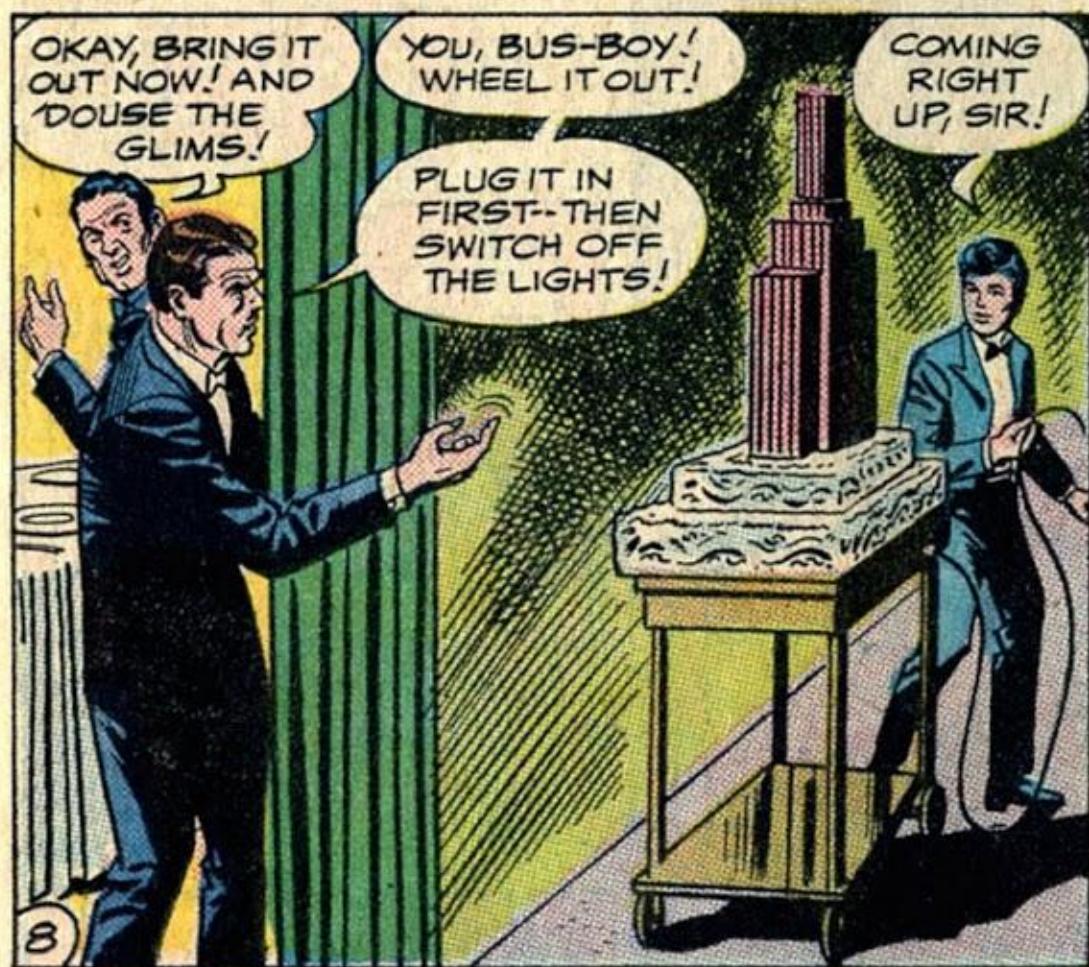
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WHILE BACK AT THE "WELCOME HOME" BANQUET...  
HATE TO TAKE  
THE FIRST SLICE OUTA LIL' STUDS' MOUTH, BUT-- I'M  
ONLY BORROWING IT!





## MEXICAN BUG



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SUPERMAN



JULY  
NO. 217

HERE'S A FANTASTIC  
COLLECTION OF  
FAMOUS FIRSTS...

...FEATURING  
TWO  
BEAUTIES!

HOW  
SUPERMAN  
MET  
LORI THE  
MERMAID!

...AND  
THREE  
BADDIES!

The  
FIRST  
SUPergirl!

SUPERMAN'S FIRST  
DUEL WITH  
BRAINJACK!

The ORIGIN of  
METALLO!

MALA--  
SUPERMAN'S FIRST  
KRYPTONIAN FOE!

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FIRST  
CLASSICS!**

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**The  
GREAT  
SUPERMAN  
FAMILY**

**IN THE  
FIVE MOST  
REQUESTED  
STORIES OF  
THE 1950's!**

**ON SALE APRIL 8<sup>th</sup>**

AW-W, BOYS--YA  
SHOULDN'T OUGHTA  
DONE IT! I MAY  
BE THE BEST BOSS  
YA EVER HAD--  
BUT I DON'T  
RATE IT!  
I'M  
SOB:  
TOUCHED!

AN' YOU, QUIRK...  
THE BESTEST--  
TRUEST RIGHT-  
HAND MAN A  
GUY EVER HAD!  
FOR YOU--THE  
FIRST PIECE!

AND AS THE KNIFE  
HANGS POISED OVER  
THE FATAL FROSTING...

WHILE ABOVE THE  
HESITANT CAKE-  
CUTTER...

GOTTA TIME IT  
PERFECT! ALL  
THREE OF US HAVE  
TO GET THE SAME  
SPLIT OF THE  
PAY-PIE!

C'MON, BABY  
--CUT THE  
CAKE!

BUT NOW,  
THE UNKINDEST  
CUT OF ALL--AS  
WE CUT TO  
BATMAN...

SOON AS I FINISH  
STRAPPING HIS ANKLES,  
YOU CAN TURN UP THE  
JUICE, CRUMP!

HAW! AND  
THEN HE'LL BE  
WEARING ONE  
OF THOSE NEW  
SEE-  
THROUGH  
COSTUMES!

BUT GROGGILY COMING  
OUT OF HIS STUPOR  
JUST IN TIME...

LUCKY I'M  
STILL FOOT  
LOOSE-- AND  
FANCY!

KAPOW!

UGH-H!

A TOPPLING-DOMINO CHAIN-REACTION ENSUES--

...AND THE ROOM  
BLACKS OUT!

KLUK!

AT THAT  
PRECISE INSTANT,  
LIL' STUDS QUIVERS  
CONVULSIVELY-- HIS  
CAKE-KNIFE PLUNGING  
INTO THE LETHAL  
SHORT-CIRCUIT!  
INSTANTANEOUSLY,  
FATAL MISSILES  
CONVERGE  
ON HIM!

KUCHUFF

ZZIZZT  
KRA-AK

ZZIZZT

THE GANGLAND EXECUTION IS OVER IN A SPLIT SECOND--  
BEFORE A HORRIFIED DICK CAN REACT!

G-GOOD GRIEF!  
I GOOFED... IN  
SPADES!  
FORGOT THAT  
BIG JOLT'S  
SPECIALTY WAS--  
ELECTROCUTION!

HE WAS SHOT! I  
SAW A GUN-FLASH  
FROM THAT BOX!

UH-UH,  
QUIRK! HE  
GOT IT FROM  
A DART-- AT  
THE BASE OF  
THE BRAIN!

I'M SURE HE WAS  
ELECTROCUITED--  
WE ALL SAW IT!  
GOT TO NAB  
BIG JOLT  
BEFORE HE  
GETS AWAY!

LISTEN, ALL OF YOU! I'M  
IN COMMAND NOW! I  
HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT  
WE BETTER CALL IN THE  
POLICE!

AFTER ALL--  
OUR HANDS  
ARE CLEAN!



AND AS THE CAPE CRUSADER FINDS THE MASTER-SWITCH...

JUST 10:00  
O'CLOCK! WON'T BE LATE  
FOR THE PRESENTATION  
AFTER ALL...

WAIT! THE CURRENT  
WAS OFF FOR SEVERAL  
MINUTES AT LEAST--  
THAT'S THE TIME  
IT STOPPED!

**CLICK!**

AS HE RACES OUT, OTHERS DRAWN BY THE NOISE OF  
FIGHTING ARRIVE...

THREE MINUTES  
PAST TEN! I AM  
LATE!

BATMAN!  
WHAT'S UP?

TWO THIEVES  
IN RADIOLOGY--  
TRIED TO STEAL RADIA-  
ACTIVE ISOTOPES!  
TAKE CARE OF THEM!  
I'M IN A HURRY!

MOMENTS  
LATER...

JUST MANAGED TO CHANGE  
BACK WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING!

SORRY TO BE  
LATE, DUSTIN!  
BIT OF A RUCKUS  
DOWNSTAIRS...

GLAD YOU'RE  
HERE, BRUCE!  
STALLED THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
AS LONG AS  
I COULD...

I COULDN'T  
HELP OVER-  
HEARING,  
MR. WAYNE!  
WHAT SORT  
OF RUCKUS...?

A BRIEF POWER-  
BLACKOUT IN  
RADIOLOGY-AND-  
RESEARCH,  
DR. JENNINGS,  
WHEN TWO  
BURGLARS...

A... WHAT?  
HOW BRIEF,  
MAN?

TWO-THREE  
MINUTES,  
DOCTOR! BUT  
POWER'S BEEN  
RESTORED...

THAT SHORT TIME-  
LAPSE COULD BE  
**DISASTROUS!**  
ALL THE WORK OF  
YEARS-- DOWN  
THE DRAIN IN  
MINUTES!

WHY DIDN'T THE  
AUTOMATIC  
**STAND-BY**  
POWER-PLANT  
CUT IN.

POSSIBLY  
BECAUSE THE  
CURRENT WAS  
**SWITCHED OFF**,  
RATHER THAN  
**ACCIDENTAL**  
FAILURE!  
BUT WHY  
**DISASTROUS?**

AS THEY ENTER THE DOWNSTAIRS LAB...

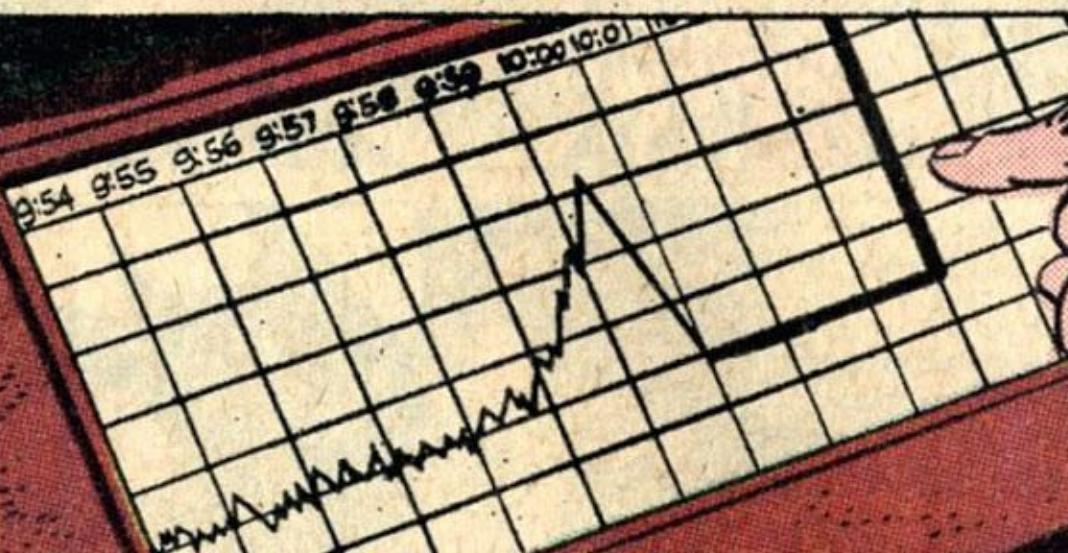
UNFORTUNATELY, MR. WAYNE... YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE MOST ACUTE! THAT WALL-CLOCK INDICATES A TIME-LAG OF ABOUT THREE MINUTES...

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! ALL EQUIPMENT IS NOW FUNCTIONING--YET YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A LIFE-OR-DEATH PROPOSITION!



RADIOLOGY AND DIAGNOSTICS

IT IS--OR WAS! I'M AFRAID THE OBJECT OF MY... ER "NOBLE EXPERIMENT"-- IS DEAD!



LATER AT POLICE H.Q., FOLLOWING AN URGENT CALL BY COMMISSIONER GORDON...

AS YOU CAN SEE, BATMAN-- THE CAUSE--OR CAUSES-- OF DEATH ARE FAIRLY OBVIOUS! PREMEDITATED MURDER-- BY AT LEAST THREE KILLERS!

CORRECTION, COMMISSIONER-- THE VICTIM OBVIOUSLY DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES!

WH-WHAT...? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS...

Y-YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, BATMAN! AFRAID I WAS THERE-- I MUST CORROBORATE STUDS ELECTROCUTED!

I'M AFRAID I MUST CORROBORATE STUDS ELECTROCUTED!

BATMAN'S DIAGNOSIS, GENTLEMEN!

AUTO-ROOM

DR. JENNINGS! HE MAY HAVE BEEN YOUR PATIENT BEFORE THE KILLING, BUT...

WHICH IS WHY I CAN DEFINITELY ATTEST TO THE IRREFUTABLE FACT THAT...

...MY PATIENT DIED FIVE SECONDS BEFORE THE LETHAL MURDER INSTRUMENTS FOUND THEIR TARGET!

AUTO-ROOM

YES, GENTLEMEN--  
LIL STUDS DIED  
OF A MASSIVE  
CARDIAC ARREST!

OR, IN  
LAYMAN'S  
TERMINOLOGY--  
A HEART  
ATTACK!

BUT--YOUR  
OPERATION?  
AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS--  
UNTIL THE AUTOMATIC ULTRA-  
HIGH-FREQUENCY PACER-  
TRANSMITTER FAILED!

PACER-  
TRANS-  
MITTER...?

YES, ROBIN-- MY  
CONTRIBUTION TO THE  
SCIENCE OF CARDIO-  
LOGY! I HAD IMPLANTED  
A TINY HEART-PACER  
RECEIVER IN MY  
PATIENT...

AND HIS HEART-BEAT  
WAS REGULATED  
FROM OUR CENTRAL  
RADIO-SENDING  
STATION!

CONTINUED ON 3<sup>rd</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

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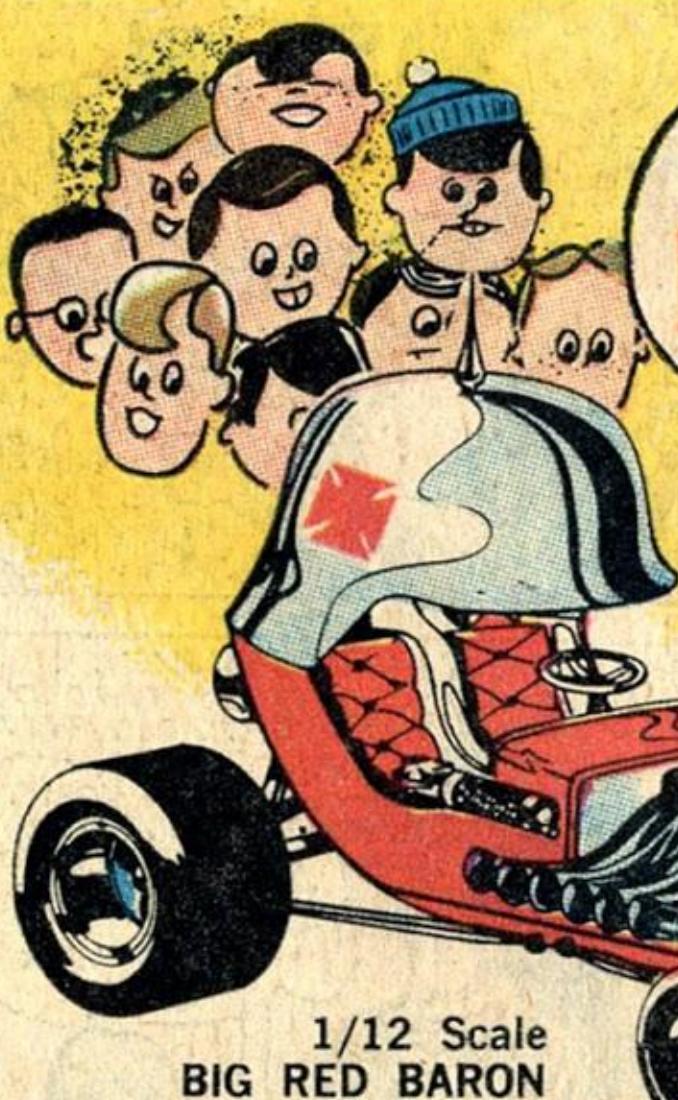
Oh Boy! It's the

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Better, Wackier Than Ever!

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your favorite  
store



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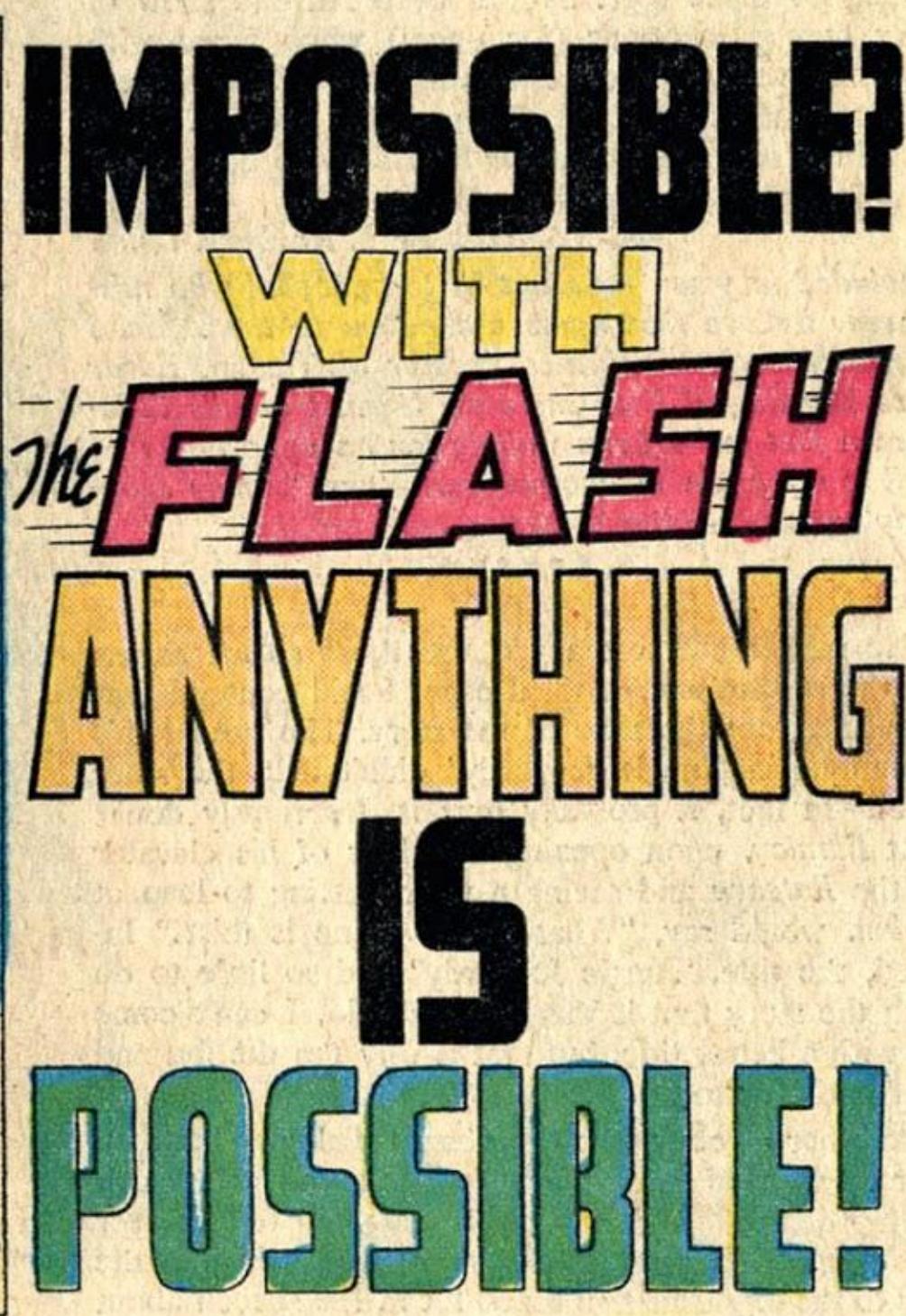
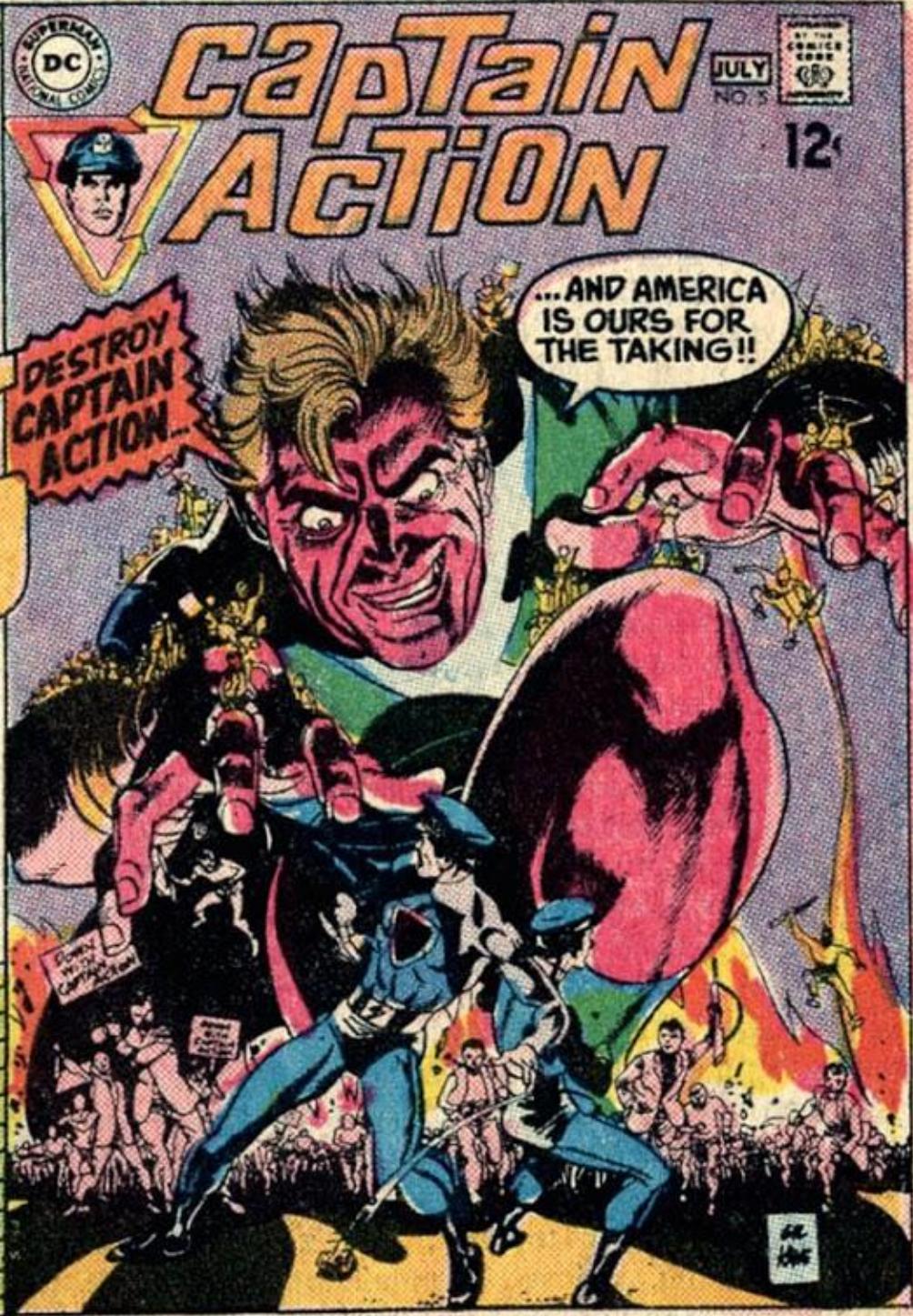
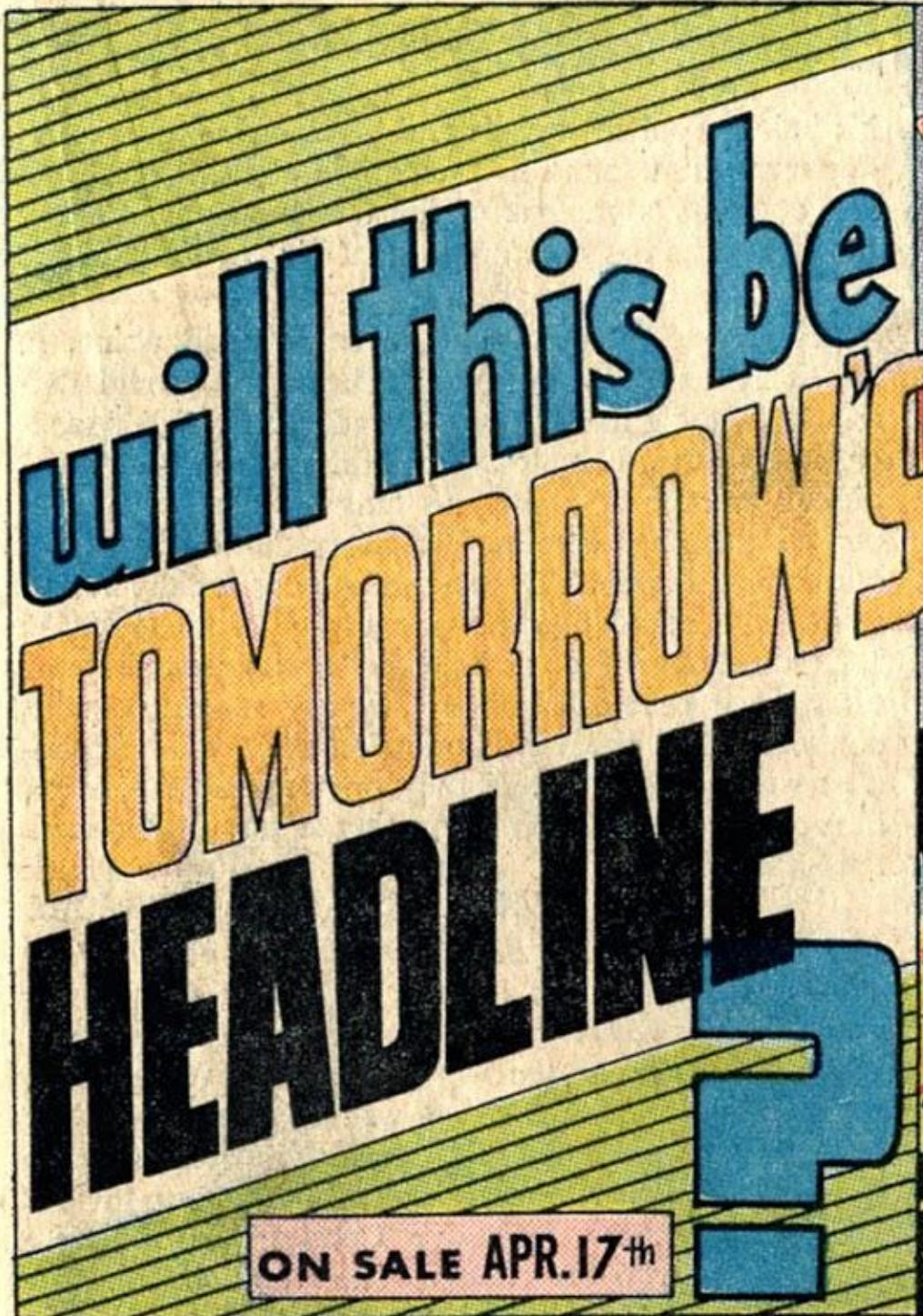


RED BARON



1/24 Scale

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same features — same complete  
detailing — except smaller size.  
\$2.00



# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-162

Dear Editor:

Tell me, O Puissant One! Am I going insane? Or was "Jungle Jeopardy" in *Batman* #209 really written by Frank Robbins? Why do I ask? Because it was a perfect story, the best *Bat-tale* ever written (except, perhaps, for those in the *Outsider* series) and certainly the finest piece of scripting that Mr. Robbins has ever done.

The great artwork of Novick-Giella helped, of course (in a comic the art makes the strongest initial impression), but it was the plot, well-executed, plausible, and interesting, that made the issue. Oddly enough, I don't know what I liked best about it. Perhaps it was the fact that there were no schizophrenic villains in it. The mob's attack on *Batman* and *Robin* was not unique—mind-gimmicks have been tried before—but it was carried off very realistically. No great blooping super-machine spraying the *Dynamic Duo* with mento-rays and the like, but a subtly diabolical *sublim* device was employed; furthermore, the crooks were everywhere at once setting up the maneuver. This created a *Mission: Impossible* effect that was most gratifying. On top of that, the final mistake Mr. Esper's gang made, the error of "showing" a tiger in an "African jungle," was the sort of mistake nine out of ten people might make. This increased the humanity of the villains quite a bit.

There were smaller touches, too, none the less worth mentioning. I loved Commissioner Gordon's "public face"—the apple-pie-sweetness-and-light manner he adopted when he spoke with a member of the voting populace (pgs. 5-6); I loved Alfred's show of very human emotions (for once!) when faced with his employer's apparent antipathy; I loved the settled, sensible tone of *Robin's* dialogue. But most of all, I loved the lack of poor *Aunt Harriet*, who doesn't belong in *Batman* and never will.

—RAND B. LEE., Roxbury, Conn.

(Included in your "nine out of ten people" who mistakenly believe that tigers are native to the African jungle, was the celebrated creator of Tarzan, Edgar Rice Burroughs! Ever since we learned of this little-known fact we've been waiting for an opportunity to pull it off again in another yarn—and "Jungle Jeopardy" was it!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

No matter how often you use those splash panels on the second and/or third page, I still contend that they interrupt the flow of the story. The use of this technique in "Jungle Jeopardy" didn't help the story at all—in fact, it probably hurt it. I seriously doubt that *Batman*, upon opening the door of his elevator in the *Batcave* and seeing a tiger starting to leap at *Robin*, would say, "What insane scene is this?!" Indeed, the title, "Jungle Jeopardy" had so little to do with the story that it was criminal. No, I can't come up with a better title, but that is why I'm the fan and you're the editor.

Another atrocity was the absurd dialogue between Comm. Gordon and *Brainwash*. The moment he came in, Gordon jumped up from his desk and fell all over the criminal. Doubtless he would have given him the key to the city if he had asked for it. His speech about

his being a public servant and his door being open all day made him sound like an office clerk, not the police commissioner. One of the few good points about the story was the nice artwork of Irv Novick and Joe Giella.

Peter Sanderson brought up some good points in this issue's EXTRA lettercol. The *Joker* should definitely be brought back as a murderer and blackmailer, not clown. I can't see anything wrong with depicting murder in a story as long as it is done without all the gory details. His laugh should be blood-curdling and eerie. The same thing goes for the *Scarecrow*, who could become one of *BM*'s greatest foes if handled right. I don't believe *Batman* should swear off normal criminals, since they are so much more abundant than the weird ones, and figure to be tangled with more often. If they are ingenious enough, they can prove to be as interesting as any of *Batman's* time-honored foes.

—BILL SHERMAN, Bloomfield, N.J.

(On the assumption, Bill, that having spotted your name attached to this letter, you read it first of all, may we now direct your attention to the first critic and his reaction to the way Comm. Gordon greeted a "protesting citizen"! Won't you at least reconsider the police commissioner's "realistic" reception in the light of the story? Finally, you'll find an up-to-date Joker in the June Detective Comics; we welcome comparisons with the vintage villain version.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter as an apology. An apology because when I saw the cover of *Batman* #209, I was all set to hate "Jungle Jeopardy"! Then I bought the mag and read it—and all I can say is WOW! With the February issue you have started another great year for the *Caped Crusader*.

Now, on to the second point (Surely you didn't expect me to do nothing but rave?): I think Orin Kilkenny's letter contains some great ideas. Bruce Wayne should marry. And, as suggested, his wife should be killed by some evil baddie. He needs to be spurred on again. His original purpose is as stale as...well, you get the picture. One last point—please, at the end of each issue, give the reader an idea what's in store for him in the next issue; the way you forecast Catwoman's return in the current issue is the sort of thing I mean.

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(All too often, when we close one issue we don't know what will open the follow-up one. In this instance, we are happy to blurb next issue's "Batman's Marriage Trap"—in which a new kind of revolt hits Gotham City—and rocks it to its very foundations! An all-out campaign by the fair (?) sex to remove Gotham's most eligible male from circulation! We hope this grabs you enough to grab onto the August *Batman*! Oh, yes—for a more detailed discussion of the provocative Kilkenny letter, be sure to read this issue's LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

LATER,  
AT THE  
RESIDENCE  
OF THE  
NEW KING-  
PIN OF  
CRIME...

MR. QUIRK, SIR...  
THREE--ER--  
GENTLEMEN TO  
SEE YOU!

A BREEZE, BOSS--  
AS YOU SAW IN  
PERSON! WE TOOK  
CARE OF OUR  
"CLIENT"...

...SO NOW  
YOU TAKE  
CARE OF  
US!

IT WAS A  
PERFECT HIT!  
NO NOISE--NO  
MESS--NO...

TONIGHT, OCCASIONED BY THE ASTUTE  
DETECTION OF THAT MASTER DETECTIVE,  
BATMAN--COMMISSIONER GORDON  
ANNOUNCED THAT LI'L STUDS DIED  
OF--NATURAL CAUSES!

...AND NO PAY! I DON'T  
SHELL OUT FOR A JOKER  
WHO WAS DEAD BEFORE  
YOU HIT HIM!



W-WHA...?

DEAD  
BEFORE...?

WE WUZ...  
DOUBLE-  
CROSSED!

NOBODY  
NEEDS YOU  
TO KILL A  
CORPSE!  
GET LOST!

AND AS A GRIM TRIO LEAVES...

DOUBLE-CROSSED  
BY BATMAN! WE  
GONNA TAKE IT  
LYING DOWN?

NAW... WE GIVE  
EACH OTHER  
A CONTRACT  
TO HIT BATMAN  
-- FOR FREE!

CHECK!  
WHEN  
THREE  
SPECIAL-  
ISTS IN  
KILL GET  
TOGETHER,  
HOW CAN  
WE FAIL?

OKAY, NOW HOW DO WE  
FIND BATMAN?

WE DON'T! WE LET  
HIM FIND US!

YOU CRAZY?  
HOW DO WE  
GET THE JUMP  
ON HIM THAT  
WAY?

SIMPLE! WHO'S THE FIRST SUSPECT **BATMAN'S** GONNA CHECK INTO?

QUIRK! SO, ALL WE DO IS STAKE-OUT AROUND HIS HOUSE-- AND JUST WAIT!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT? IF WE KNOCK OFF BIG CRIME-FIGHTER, **BATMAN**, MAYBE WE COLLECT FROM QUIRK AFTER ALL!

WHILE AT POLICE H.Q....

DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE VICTIM DIED NATURALLY, COMMISSIONER... THE CASE IS STILL OPEN! "ATTEMPTED MURDER"-- BY THREE UNKNOWN PARTIES!

ACTUALLY TWO, SINCE ROBIN'S GIVEN YOU A LEAD TO ONE-- BIG JOLT!

CHECK! AND THE ODDS ARE THEY WERE HIRED BY ONE INTERESTED PARTY!

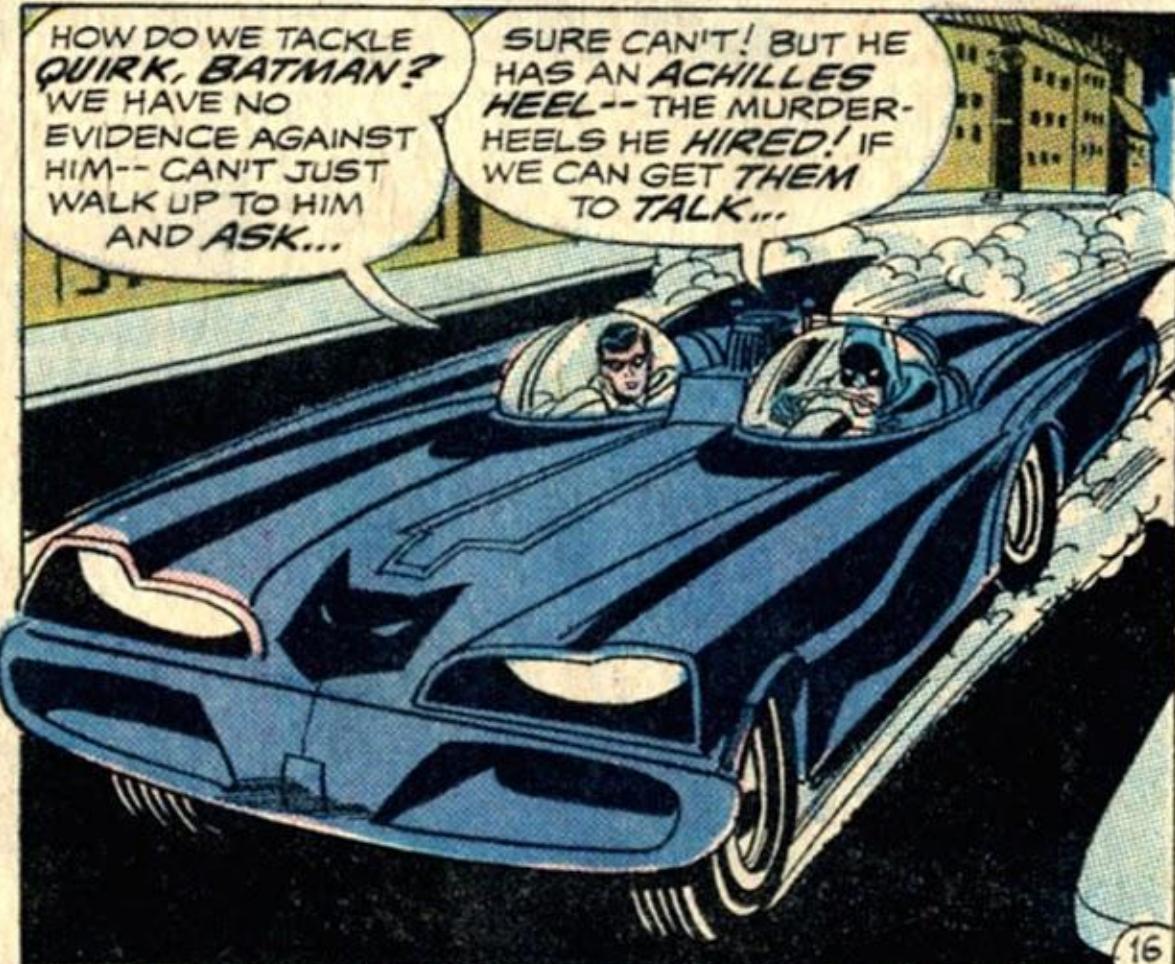
ONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT MOST BY LIL' STUDS' DEATH! AND THAT MUST BE...

THE NEW CHIEF OF GANGDOM-- QUIRK!

LET'S GO, ROBIN!

HOW DO WE TACKLE QUIRK, **BATMAN**? WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM-- CAN'T JUST WALK UP TO HIM AND ASK...

SURE CAN'T! BUT HE HAS AN **ACHILLES HEEL**-- THE MURDER-HEELS HE HIRED! IF WE CAN GET THEM TO TALK...



GET THEM?  
WE DON'T EVEN  
KNOW WHERE  
TO BEGIN  
LOOKING!

YOU FORGET--  
THEY DIDN'T PULL  
THIS JOB FOR  
NOTHING!

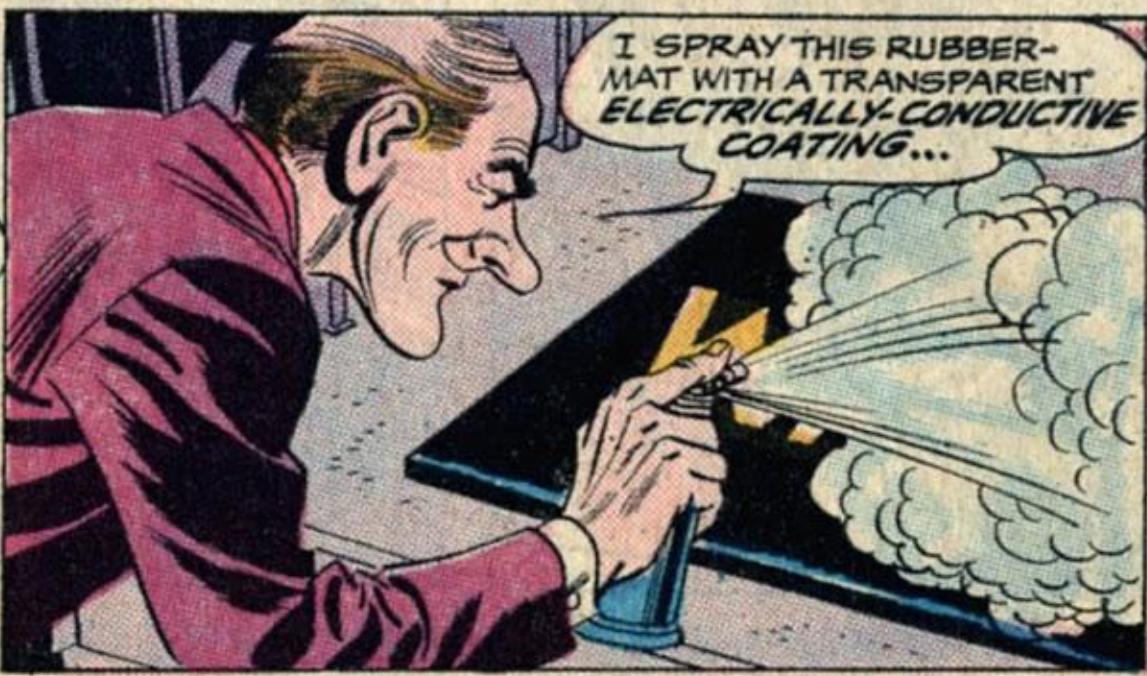
AND WHERE  
WOULD THEY  
GO TO COLLECT  
THEIR BLOOD-  
MONEY? QUIRK'S  
PLACE! IF THEY  
HAVEN'T LEFT  
YET...

BUT LEAVING IS THE LAST THING ON THE  
KILL-TRIO'S AGENDA!

OKAY, HOW DO  
WE SET IT UP  
FOR BATMAN?

FIRST  
THING WE DO--  
IS PREPARE A  
WELCOME  
MAT!

WHATCHA  
MEAN,  
**BIG JOLT?**



...HOOK 'EM INTO THE MAIN STREET LINE--WITH  
A BUILT-IN SWITCH! WHEN OUR "HIT" STEPS  
ON THAT MAT--I THROW THE SWITCH!

THEN--WITH A  
HOT 220 VOLTS  
RUNNING THROUGH  
HIM--YOU TWO  
GET A CLEAR  
FINISHING  
SHOT!



NOW TAKE COVER--  
AND WAIT!

NOT FOR LONG, I  
HOPE! MY TRIGGER-  
FINGER'S ITCHING!



THE DEADLY ESCAPE-PROOF MANTRAP LAID, THE LETHAL TRIO TAKES UP HIDDEN VANTAGE POSITIONS...



# CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY **I** Patrol



YOU BRAVE BOYS!  
YOU SAVED LIL'  
SUZY!

TODAY WE'RE A RESCUE CREW;  
TOMORROW, WHO KNOWS WHERE  
OUR TRUSTY, SPEEDY IVERSONS  
WILL TAKE US.

GLEAMING CHROME!

CHOPPER  
HANDLEBARS!

SPOON SEAT!

ZINGY KID  
COLORS!

HEY, KIDS. THE BEST BIKE STORE IN  
YOUR TOWN HAS BARRIS-DESIGNED  
IVERSON BICYCLES. SEE THEM  
THERE. IN THE MEANTIME,  
YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE  
YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH  
THE GEORGE BARRIS  
KUSTOMIZING KIT.  
SEND THIS COUPON  
AND \$1.00.

**DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS**  
Rescue or race, Iverson bikes are fun  
all the way. Designed by George  
Barris, King of the Kustomizers, with  
way-out features for traveling a la  
mod. Yup, the man who put the show  
in show cars has zeroed in on bicy-  
cles to make cycling the grooviest  
way to go. Style shown above is the Drag  
Stripper; there are four others including one  
especially for girls. Note to parents: they're  
built for safety as well as style. Natch! They're  
Iversons!

**iverson**

Iverson Division of  
Stelber Industries  
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of eleven colorful automotive  
decals plus George Barris'  
own booklet "Hints on Cus-  
tomizing Your Bike."

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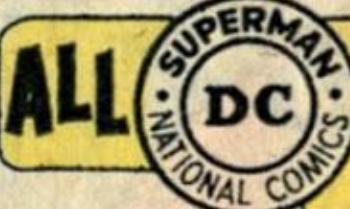
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GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



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

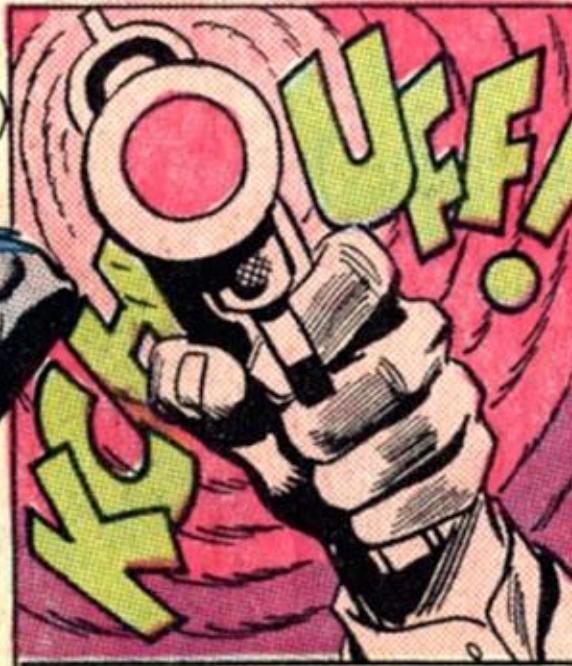


Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE CAROUSEL

AS THE CURRENT RUSHES INTO THE CONDUCTIVE MAT....!

BATMAN...?  
BATMAN...?  
BATMAN...?

D-DON'T... T-TOUCH...  
M-ME! I-I'M... H-HOT!

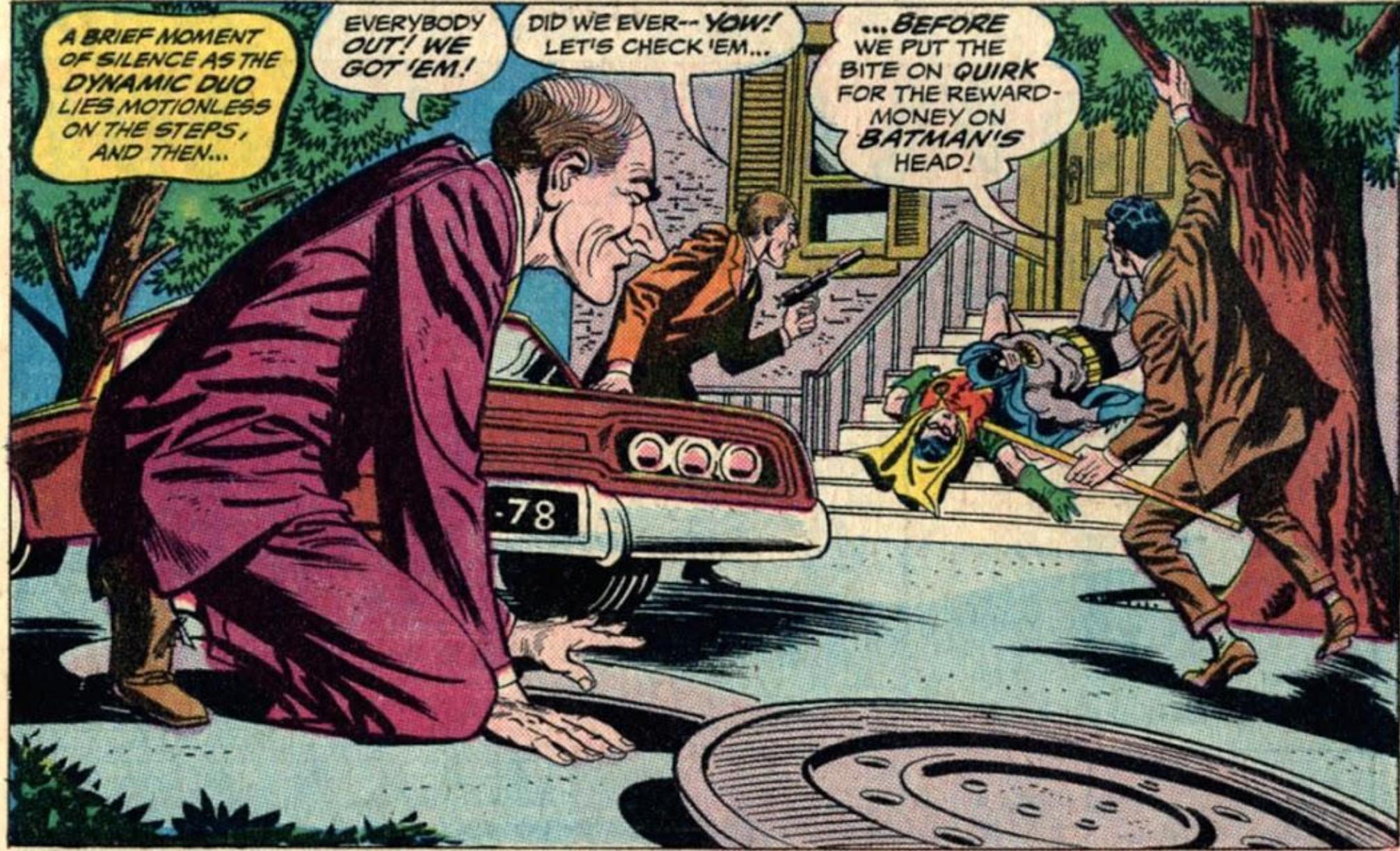


A BRIEF MOMENT OF SILENCE AS THE DYNAMIC DUO LIES MOTIONLESS ON THE STEPS, AND THEN...

EVERYBODY OUT! WE GOT 'EM!

DID WE EVER-- YOW! LET'S CHECK 'EM...

...BEFORE WE PUT THE BITE ON QUIRK FOR THE REWARD-MONEY ON BATMAN'S HEAD!



AS TRAINED HUNTERS THEY WARILY CIRCLE THEIR FALLEN PREY...

YE-AH, ONLY THIS TIME TIN-HORN QUIRK PAYS OFF FOR A JOB WE DID RIGHT!

HE CAN'T SAY THEY DIED OF-- NATURAL CAUSES!

IF THEY'RE REALLY DEAD! YOU JERKS-- LOOKA THE DOOR! YOUR DART-AND SLUG--



BUT BIG JOLT'S SUDDEN REALIZATION COMES TOO LATE, AS...

I'VE HEARD ABOUT ALL I WANTED TO HEAR! YOU TOO, ROBIN?

KCHONG

KROCK!



YEP, BATMAN-- IT'LL STAND UP IN COURT!

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YOU'LL FIND  
LOTS OF LAUGHS  
and FUN GALORE  
with this WONDERFUL ASSORTMENT  
of  
**BARGAINS**

MAGIC



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JOKES

GAMES

FUN GALORE

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Also known as the Wonder Voice Device. Makes you speak.  
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**75¢**  
POSTPAID

**"POSITIVELY ASTONISHING"**

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- DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF
- THE KNOT THAT UNTIES ITSELF
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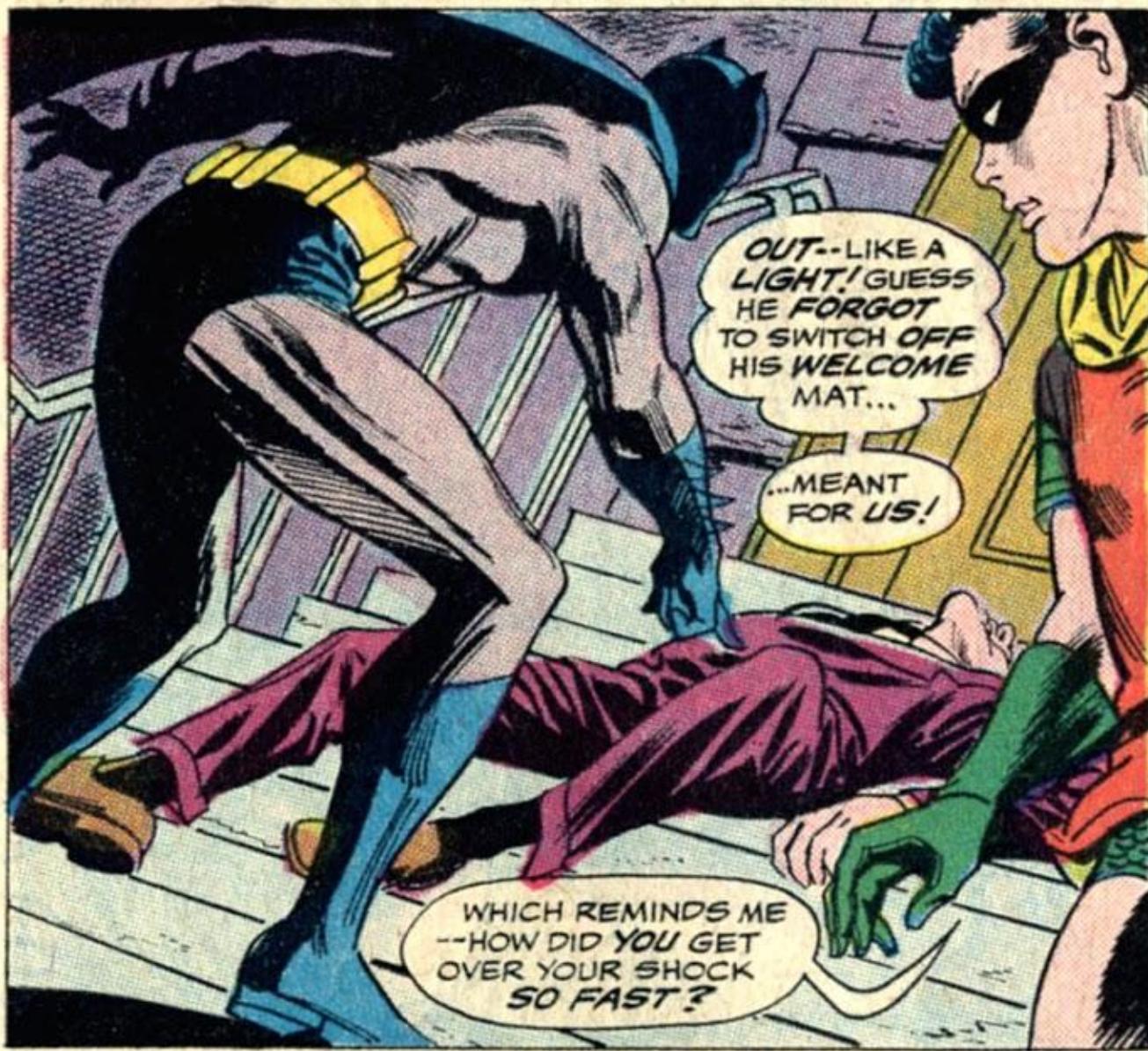


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It's as authentic as can be. With doors that really open, true-guide steering and independent suspension. And that beautiful metallic gold paint job is sure to make everybody sit up and take notice. Keep your collection up to the minute. New models are out all the time. And to be a real "MATCHBOX" expert write for the free catalogue.

# Letters to the BATCAVE

EXTRA



S-163

Dear Editor:

Perhaps I should not feel that I have any right to criticize your publication since I am only an avid reader but have never written or illustrated any fine stories as you continue to do. Lately, on the *Batman* (and *Detective*) covers there have been melodramatic illustrations depicting all sorts of ridiculous scenes such as *Robin* being a law-breaker, *Robin* hating *Batman*, *Batman* becoming a death-row inhabitant, and assorted covers featuring ideas of hate, cruelty, distrust, and law-breaking between the *Dynamic Duo*. I was not at all surprised to see on the cover of *Batman* #209 that *Batman* turned into a tiger that is planning to tear *Robin* apart. Eventually, I fear I may see *Robin* murdering *Batman* and *Batman's* ghost hanging *Robin*—on the cover, of course. All this is very annoying and you all deserve twenty lashes with a wet noodle.

It is clearly understood by me that not every reader daily visits the newsstand of his choice to be sure not to miss an issue (as I do). I realize that you want to attract attention and purchasers with vivid, exciting covers and splash pages. This is no excuse for covers and splashes that glorify hate between *Batman* and *Robin* (or anyone for that matter; but that is a whole different story). Please—*Batman* and *Robin* are close, close friends. There is no good reason to have "Damon and Pythias" turn into bitter foes for the sake of an attention-getting device.

Thank you for taking time to read this. I should have told you first that regardless of the cover I found #209 of *Batman* to be superb in content and entertainment. It also had a story that supported the fact that *Batman* and *Robin* need each other and get along great.

—ALICE IRMA, Richmond Hill, N.Y.

(Strange that you should rip into us for "law-breaking, hate-filled" cover-splashes by "violently" inflicting twenty lashes (albeit with a wet noodle)—which does as much harm to us as we believe those covers/splashes do to the reader.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

In the February EXTRA lettercol, Orin Kilkenny put forth five "inconsistencies" he had discovered in *Batman* over the years, and asked the inevitable question Why? Ye Editor urged all fandom to reply. Well, here I am.

The first "inconsistency" pointed out was the fact that *Batman's* bat-apparel doesn't strike terror into the hearts of criminals any more, as it was supposed to in the beginning, whereas his reputation does. This, I hold, is only natural. Bruce Wayne chose his costume back in the non-intellectual days when kids under twelve months were the only children who read comics. It was very easy then to give such a lame excuse for a costume, because the readers weren't in-

terested in petty details and everybody knew that criminals were a "cowardly, superstitious lot". Nowadays (and I may sound now-generation-smug, but it's true), DC readers are a lot pickier, and a lot more discerning. Today any crook who saw a guy flapping down the street in bat-wings and long johns would laugh himself silly, until he got to know how dangerous that "weirdo" was. DC changes with its public. Mr. Kilkenny, so I doubt if you'll see any more cowardly, superstitious crooks. (Neurotic, yes; cowardly, no.)

The second "inconsistency" was that *Batman*, who's supposed to be human, never makes a mistake. There is a good reason for this. *Batman* doesn't exist, and he never did! He is a fictitious character. (He does have human weaknesses, by the way; see the latest *Batman Giant*.) If DC started having a *Batman* who fell over his own feet every time he turned around, its readership would plummet. Let's face it, most people are mental and physical klutzes; what makes *BM* a super-hero is that he isn't.

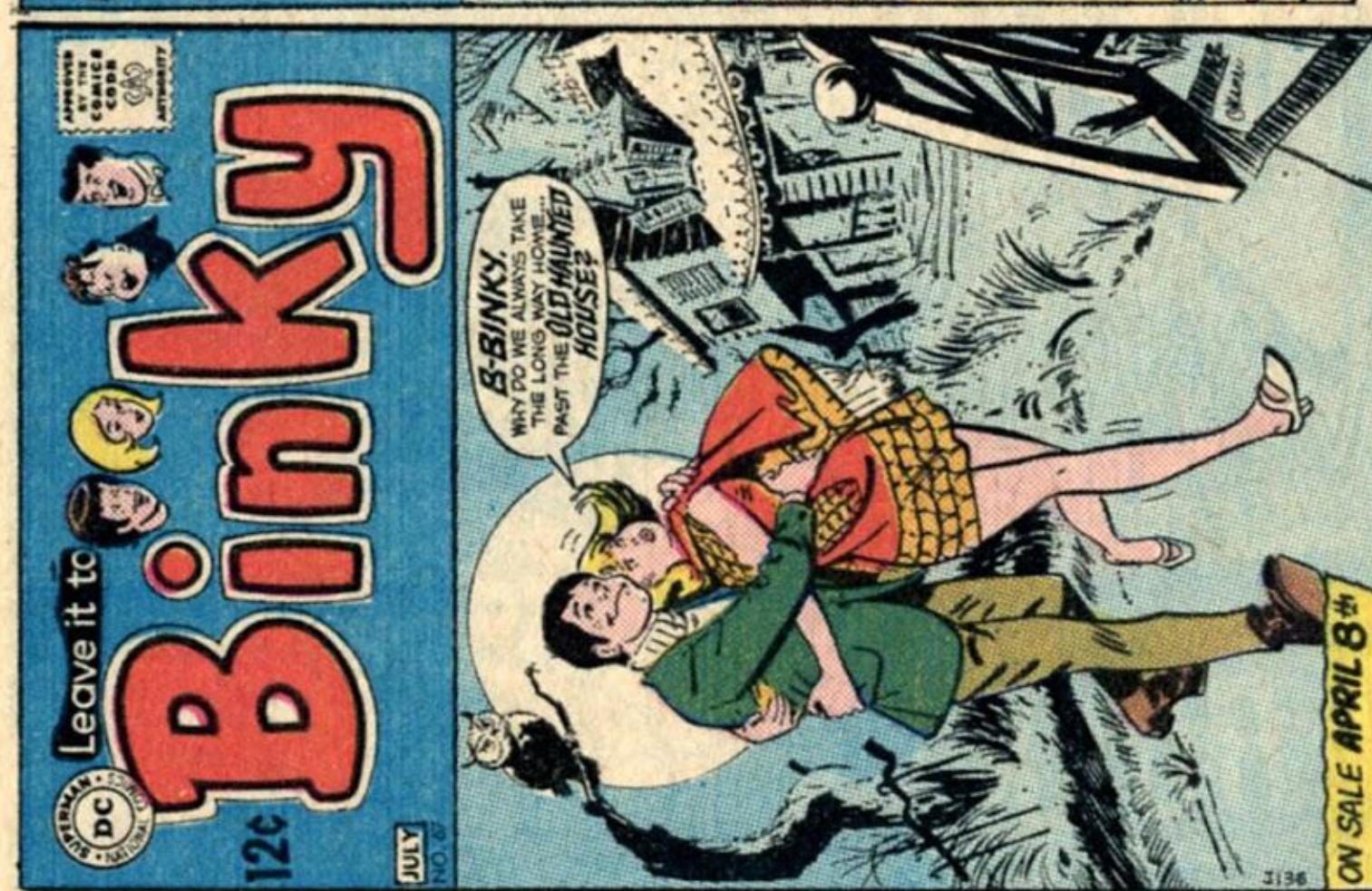
The third "inconsistency" was that the criminals in *Batman* never gain by their crimes, and that there are no murders. There's also a good reason for this, namely, the Comics Code. Crime doesn't pay—at least, that's the saying—and DC has to follow it in every story. That's also why you don't see many DC heroes getting clobbered by the villains, unless the story's a two-parter. As for the second objection, it's a bit erroneous. There have been murders in *Batman*, but not too many—again, I think, because of the CC. (And they aren't really necessary. You want murders, read the *Times*.)

The fourth "inconsistency" was that Bruce Wayne isn't out on the town enough; i.e., his playboy image is suffering. I agree. It is. However, Mr. Wayne "is a confirmed old bachelor and very likely to remain so"; and anyway, we read *Batman* to see *Batman*, not girls.

The last point Mr. Kilkenny made was a very valid one, and I'm surprised that no one has mentioned it before. Bruce's original reason for being *Batman* (the murder of his parents) does seem to have worn thin, seeing that they died thirty years ago. (The same goes for *Robin*.) But we're dealing in comic-magazine time, don't forget, not real time. Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson haven't aged one single year since they donned their fighting garb, and they never will. Oh, there have been a few changes, but to all intents and purposes, they're immortal. Having their memories of their parents' murders slip away from them would be like having *Little Orphan Annie* start going out on dates: it's impossible.

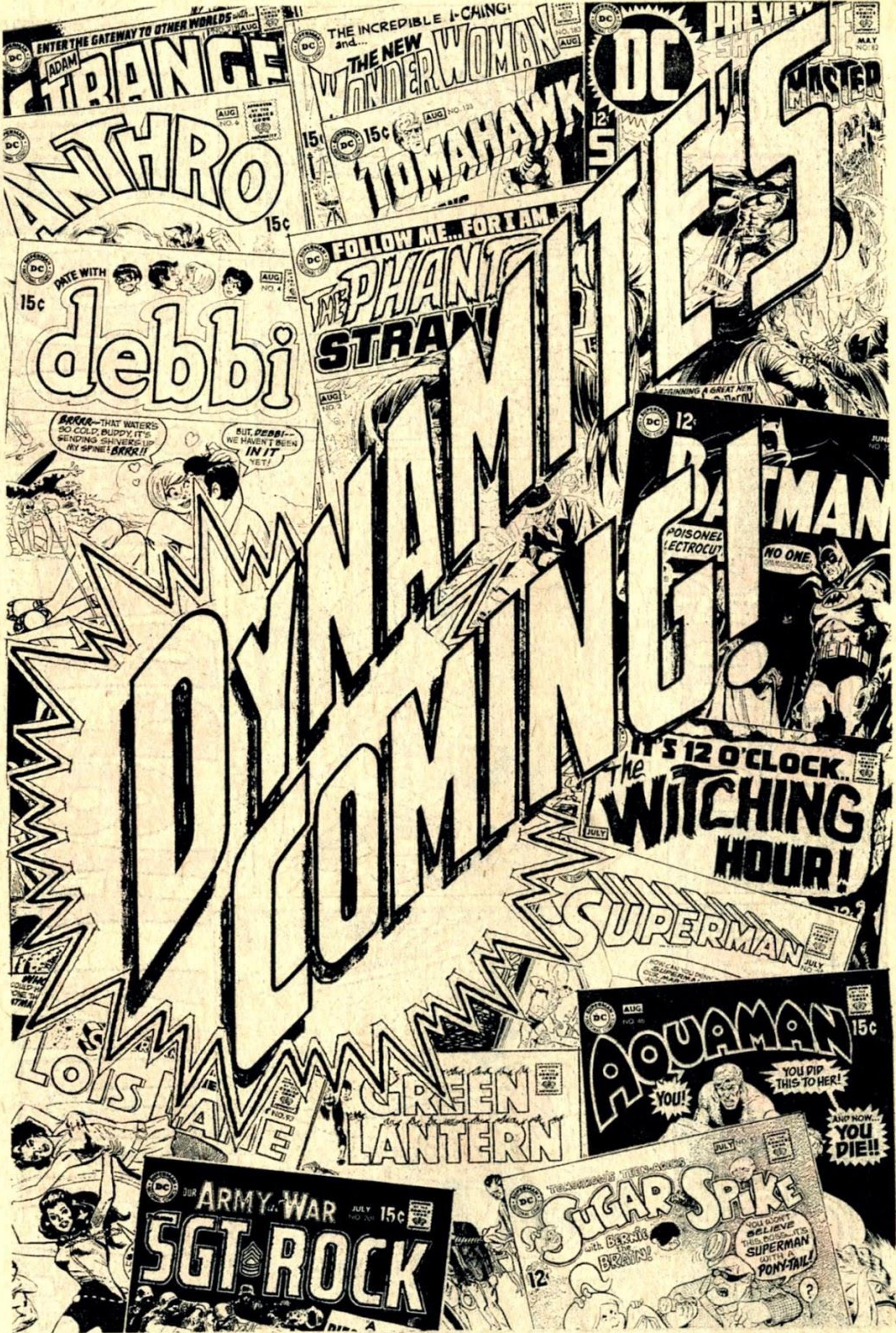
—RAND B. LEE, Roxbury, Conn.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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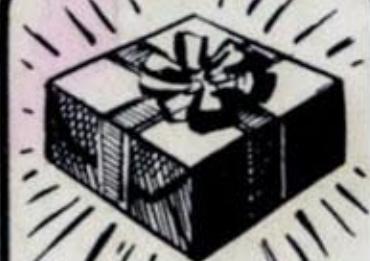
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**2 COMPLETE ARMIES**  
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