



JUNE  
NO. 164

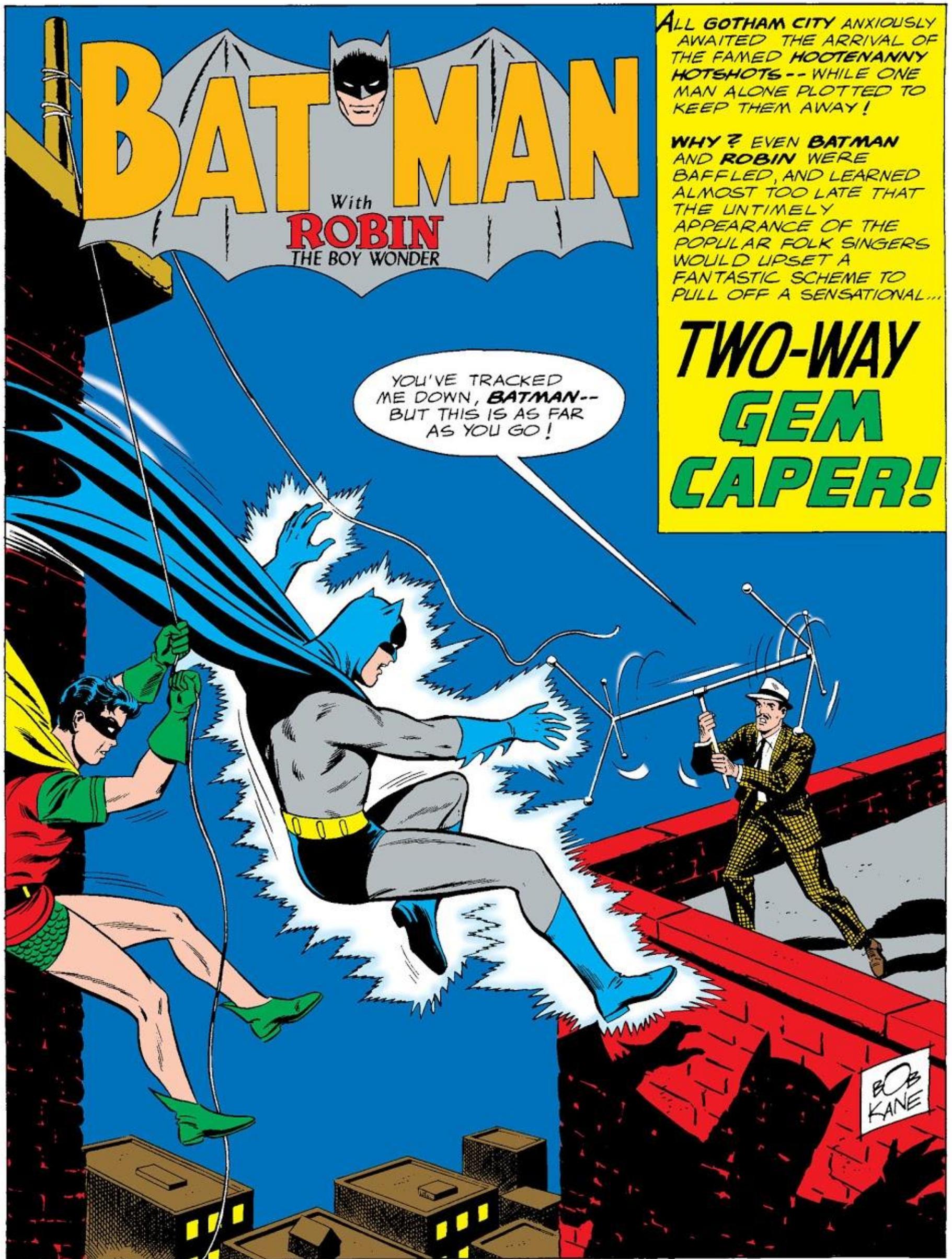
APPROVED  
BY THE  
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AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

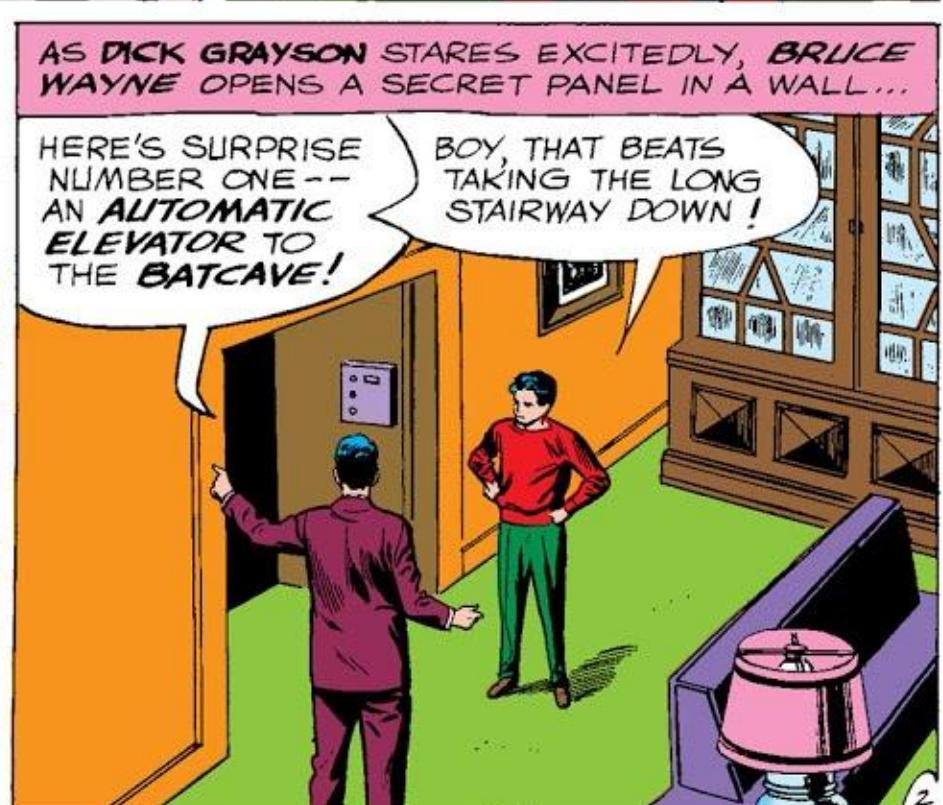
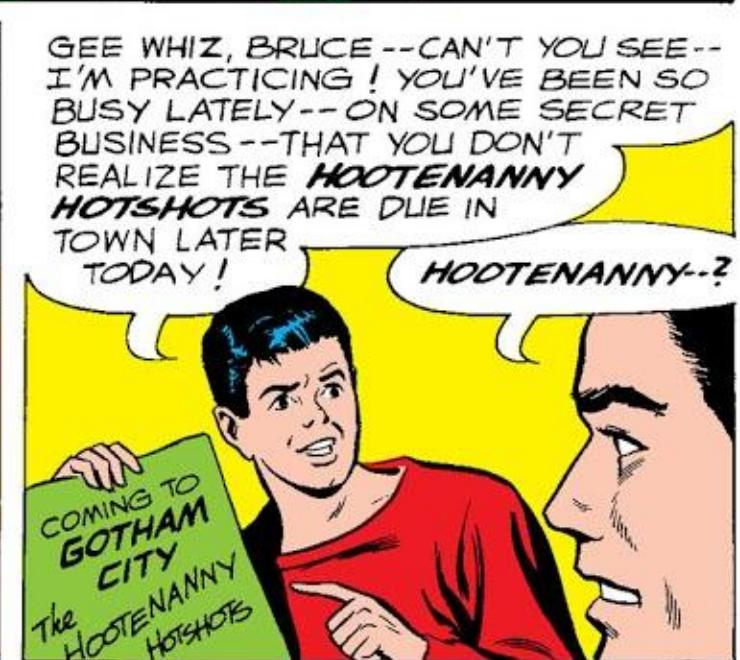


A DOUBLE-ACTION  
**BATMAN**  
and **ROBIN**  
THRILLER...  
**"TWO-WAY  
GEM  
CAPER!"**

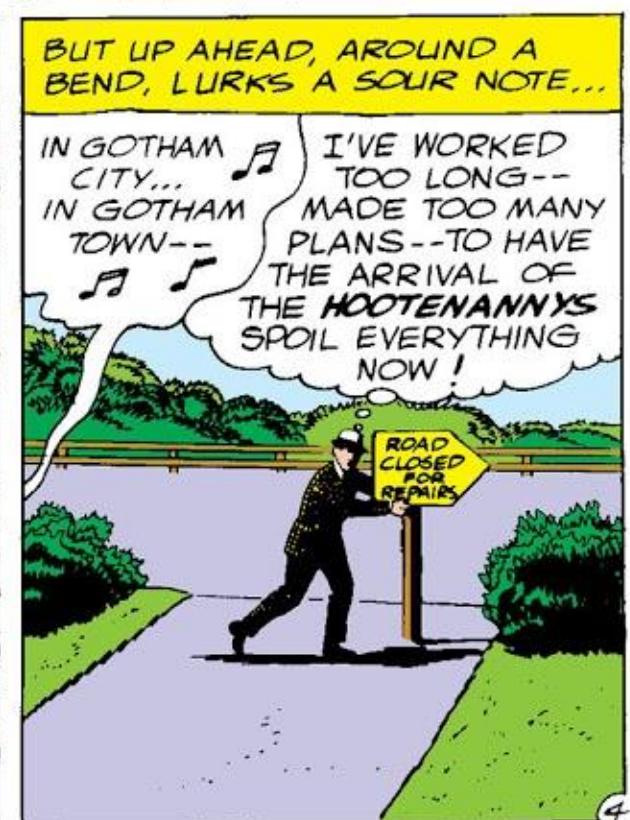
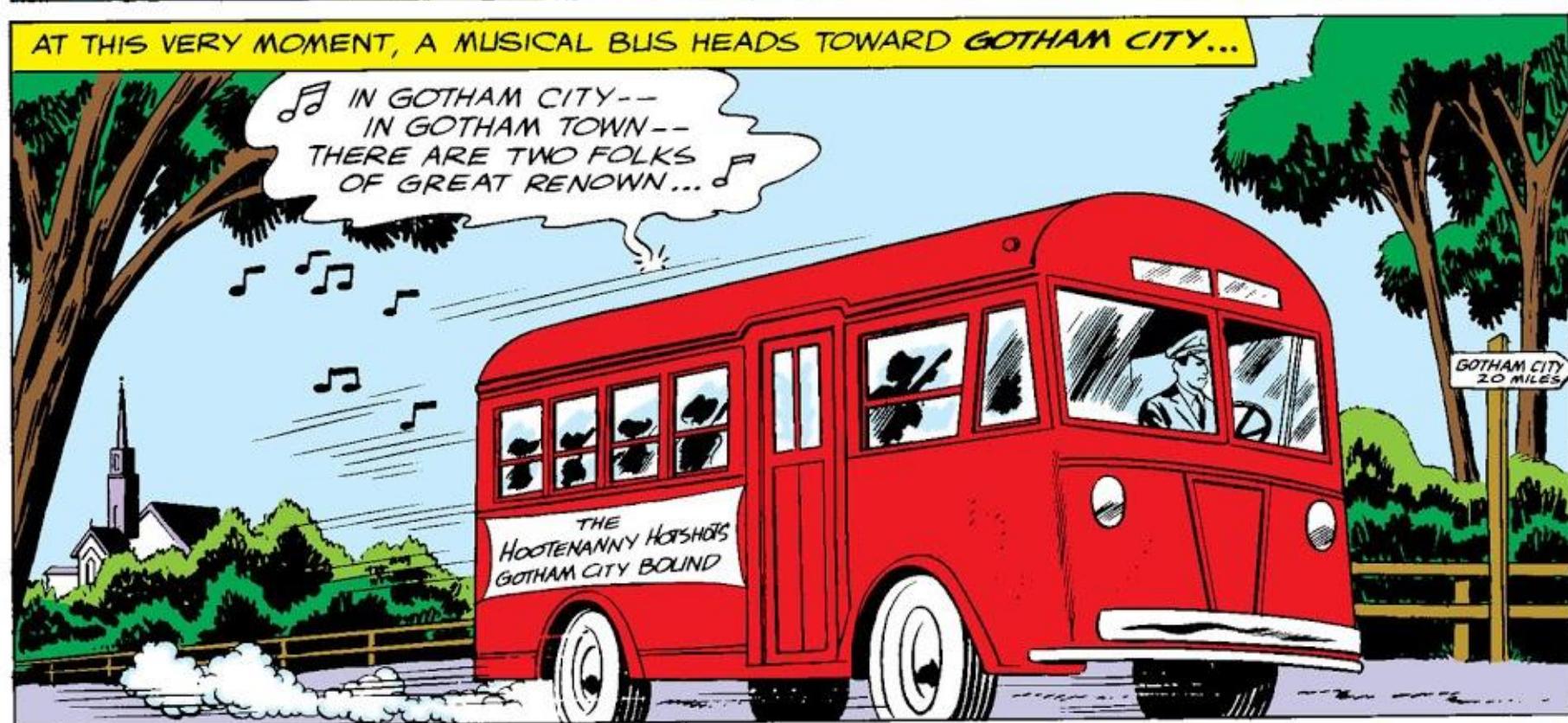
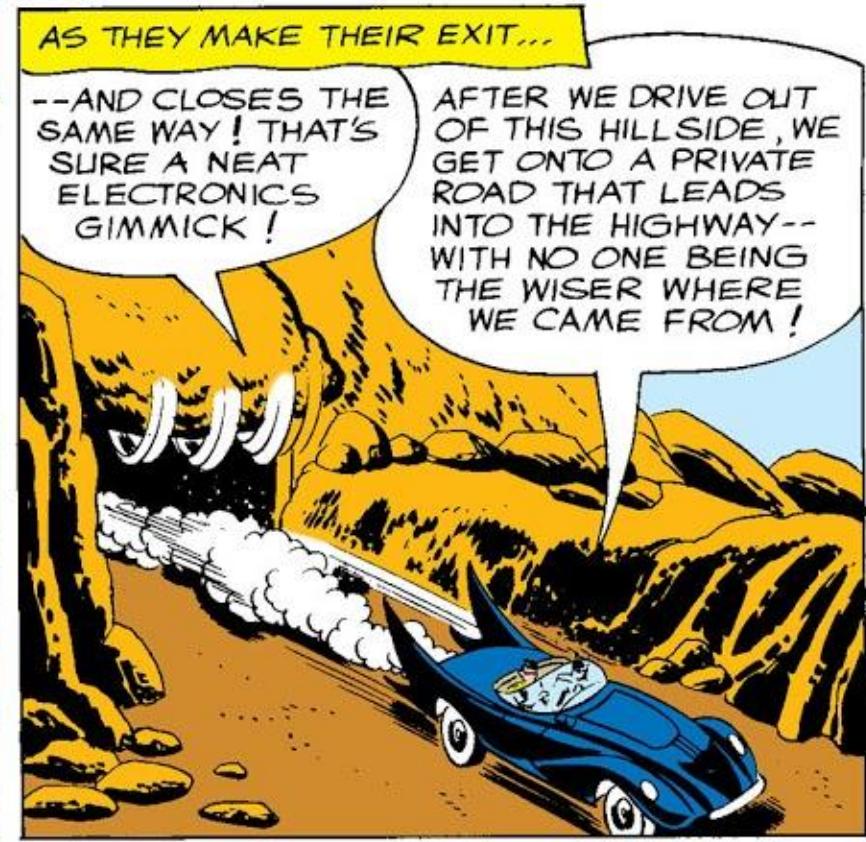
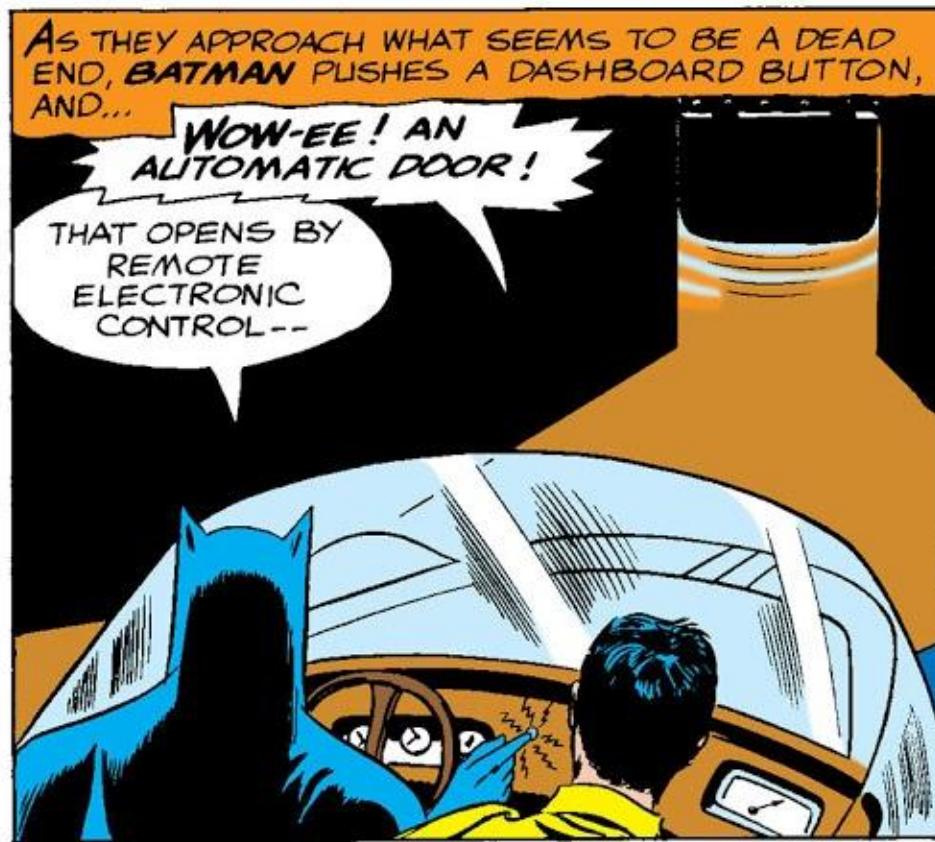
guest-starring  
**The HOOTENANNY HOTSHOTS!**



**LISTEN!** AN UNFAMILIAR SOUND IN THE WAYNE MANSION ... A SOUND THAT RINGS GRATINGLY ON THE EARS OF **BRUCE WAYNE** ...







IN EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED,  
MY EVERY MOVE WAS MADE  
WITH "PLAN A" BACKED UP BY  
AN ALTERNATE "PLAN B"--  
BUT EVEN I DIDN'T FIGURE ON  
A LAST-MINUTE APPEARANCE  
OF THE HOOTENANNYS IN  
GOTHAM SQUARE!



THEY'RE SCHEDULED TO BE  
THERE AT 8:30--THE EXACT  
TIME MY BIG JOB MUST BE  
PULLED! THERE'LL BE A  
CROWD--NO TRAFFIC--  
AND MY CAPER WILL BE  
STOPPED COLD--UNLESS  
I DO SOMETHING ABOUT  
IT!



MOMENTS LATER...

HOLD IT! YOU CAN'T  
GET THROUGH HERE!

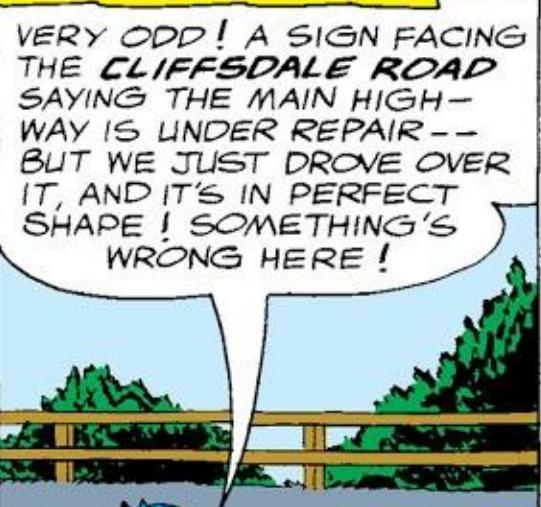
I'VE GOT TO! MY PASSENGERS ARE DUE  
IN GOTHAM CITY AT 8:30! AND A  
DETOUR WILL MAKE US LATE!



THAT'S WHY I'M HERE! I'M  
ON GOTHAM CITY'S  
HOOTENANNY GREETING  
COMMITTEE! MY JOB IS TO  
GUIDE YOU INTO TOWN OVER  
ANOTHER ROAD--SO YOU  
WON'T BE LATE FOR THE  
CELEBRATION! LET'S ROLL!

LATER, WHEN THE BATMOBILE  
BRAKES TO A HALT...

VERY ODD! A SIGN FACING  
THE CLIFFSDALE ROAD  
SAYING THE MAIN HIGH-  
WAY IS UNDER REPAIR--  
BUT WE JUST DROVE OVER  
IT, AND IT'S IN PERFECT  
SHAPE! SOMETHING'S  
WRONG HERE!

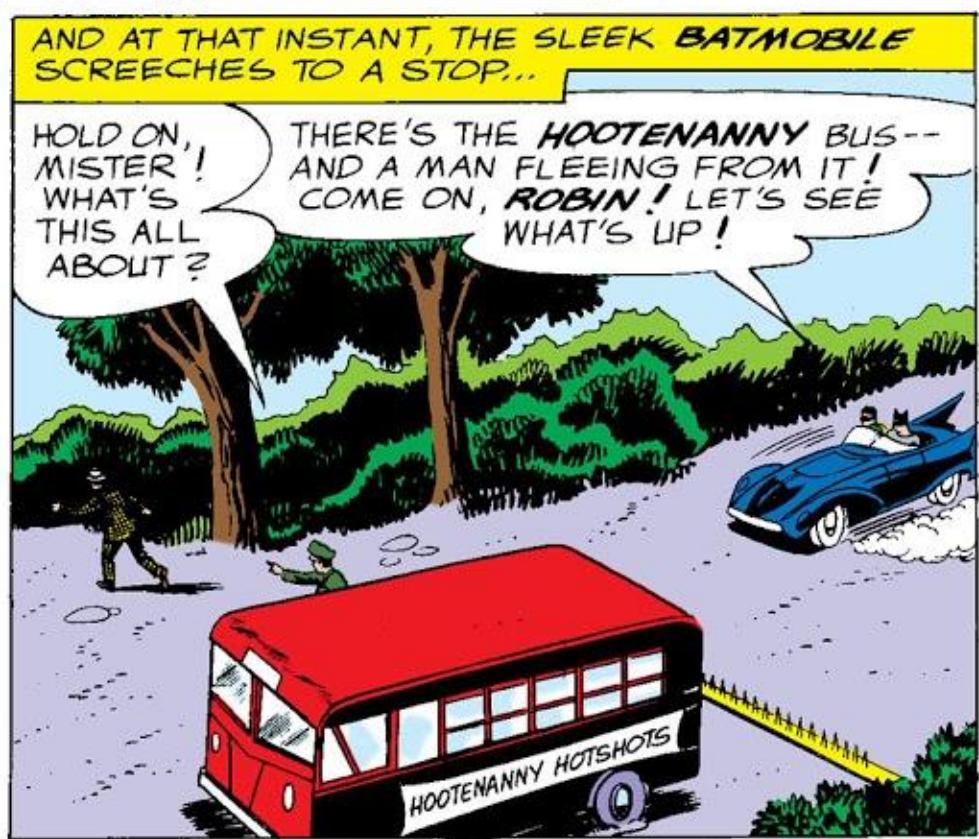
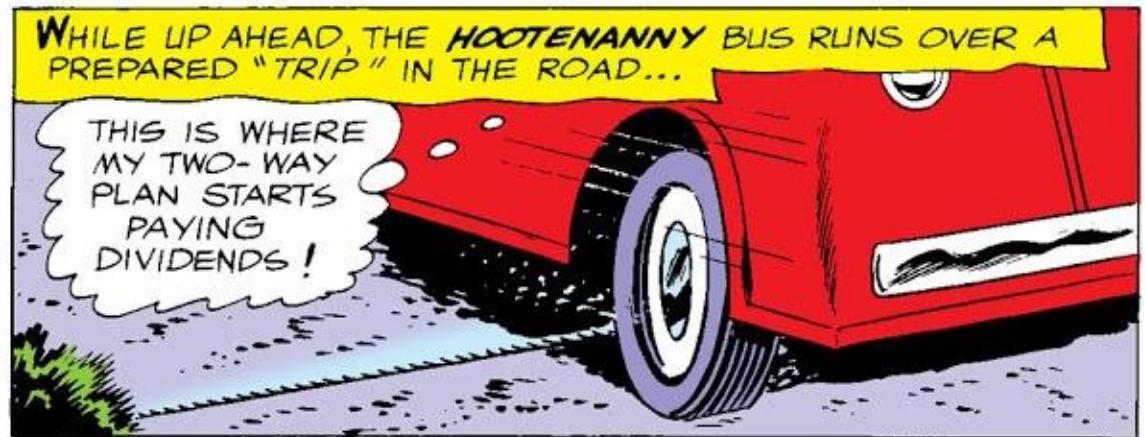
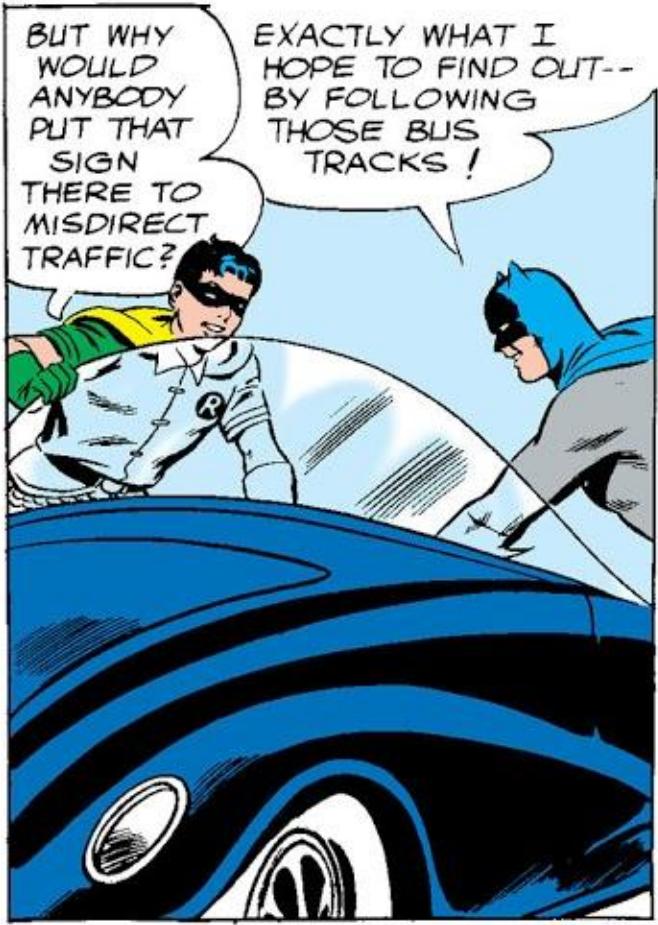


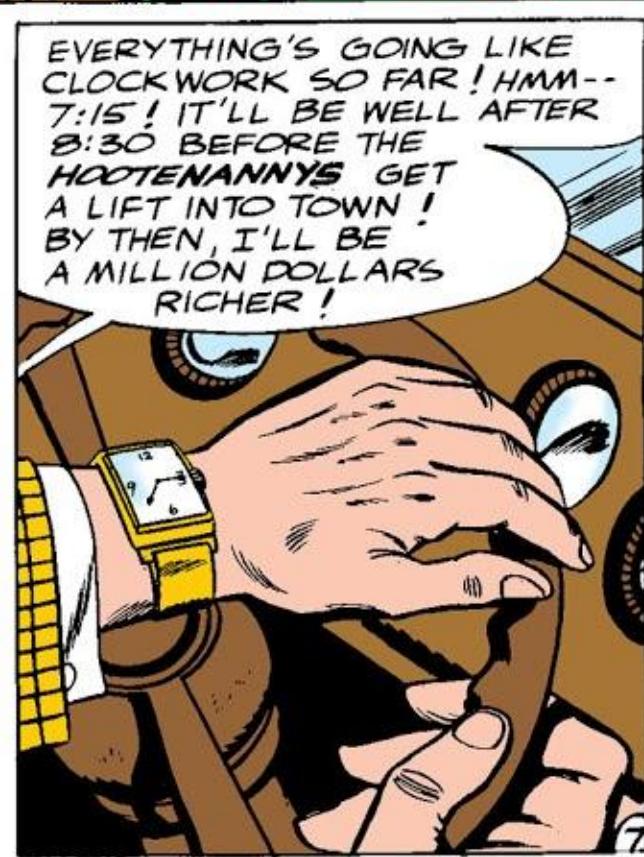
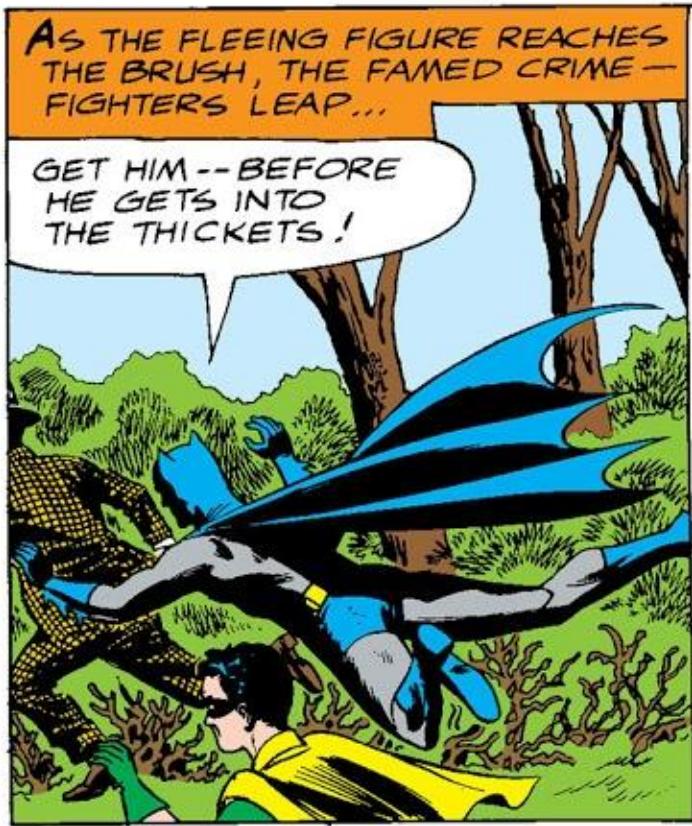
AFTER REMOVING THE  
PUZZLING SIGN...

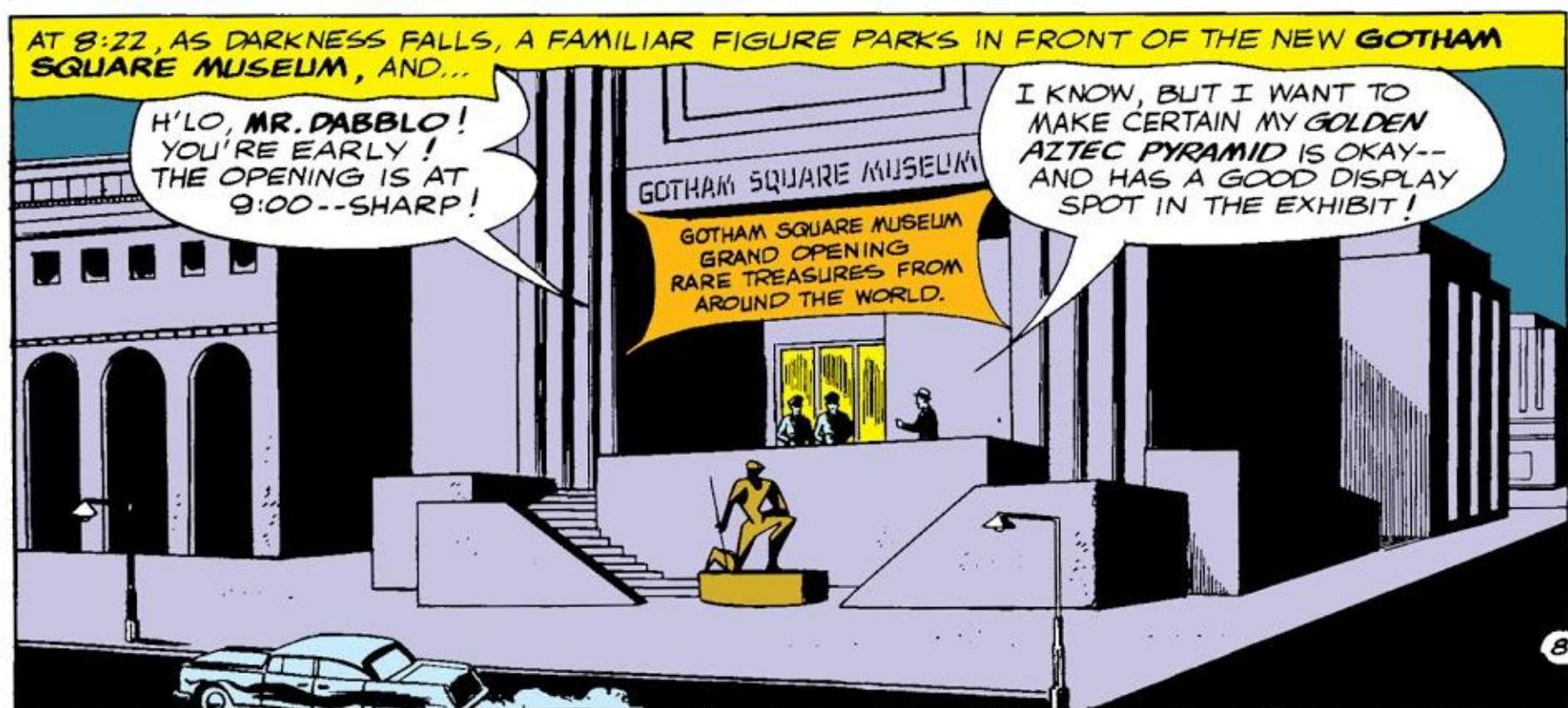
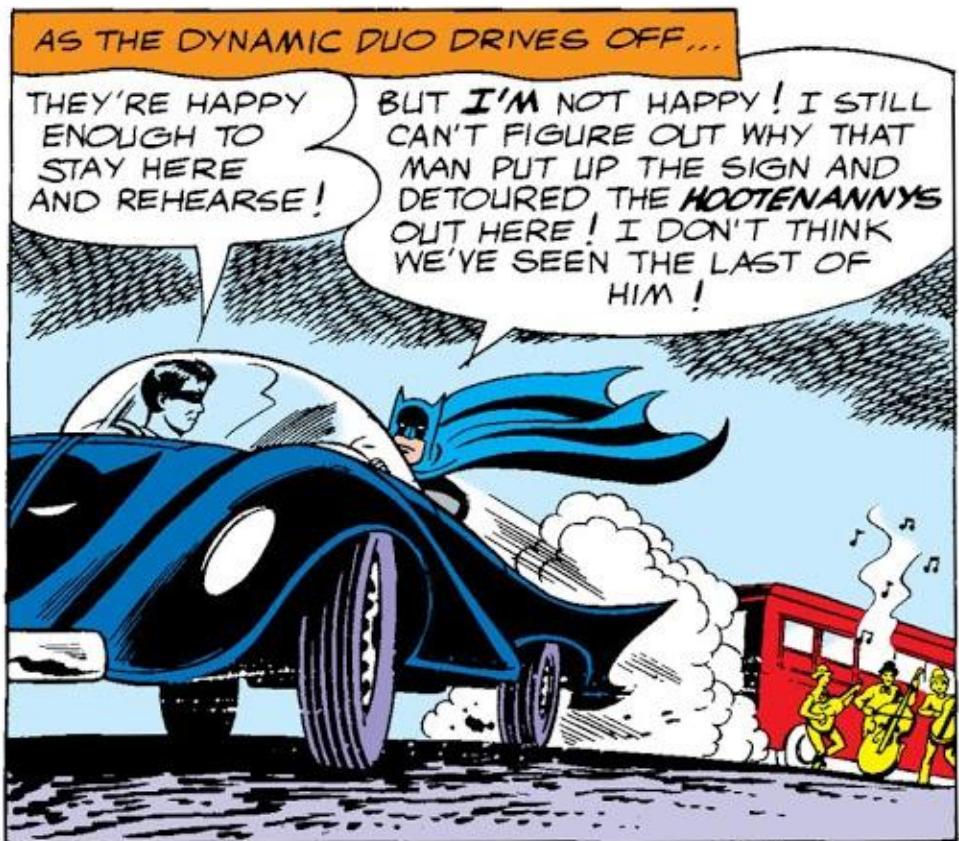
I JUST THOUGHT--  
THE HOOTENANNY  
HOTSHOTS ARE  
TRAVELING THIS  
WAY FROM CLIFFS-  
DALE--WHERE  
THEY JUST PUT  
ON A SHOW!

LOOKS  
LIKE  
THEY'VE  
ALREADY  
PASSED  
HERE,  
ROBIN!  
THE FRESH  
TIRE TRACKS  
ON THIS DIRT  
ROAD SEEM TO  
HAVE BEEN  
MADE BY A  
BUS!







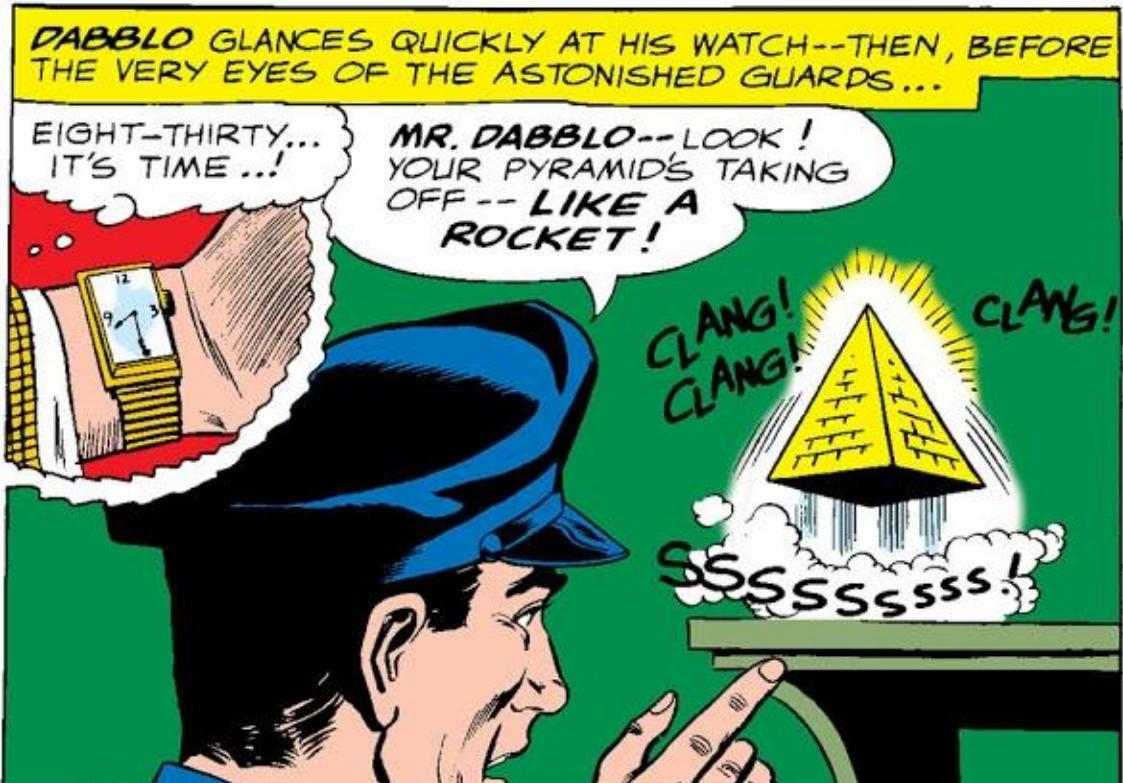
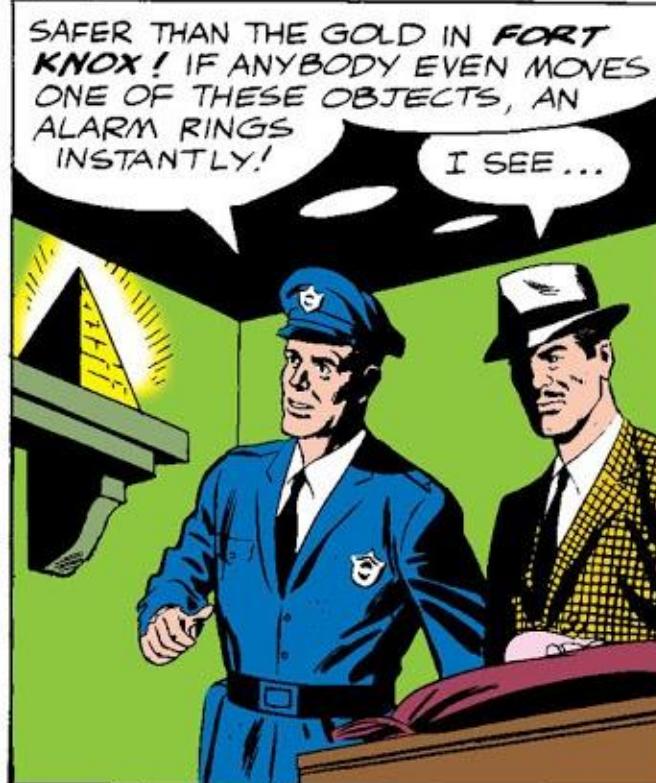


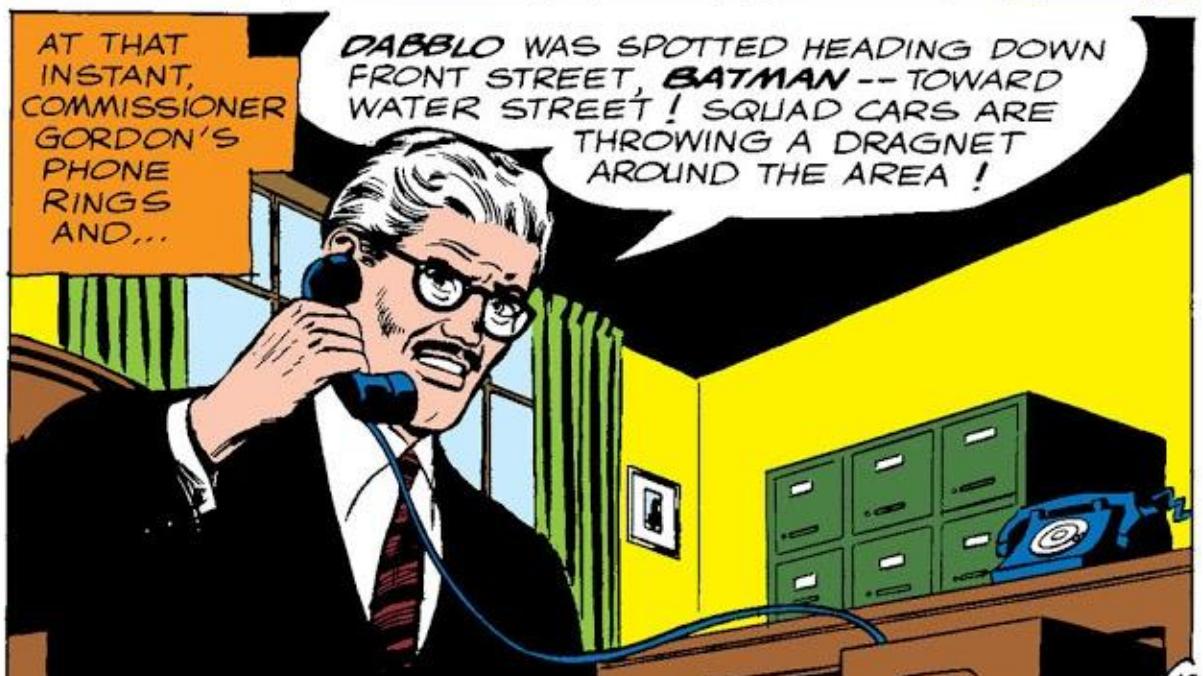
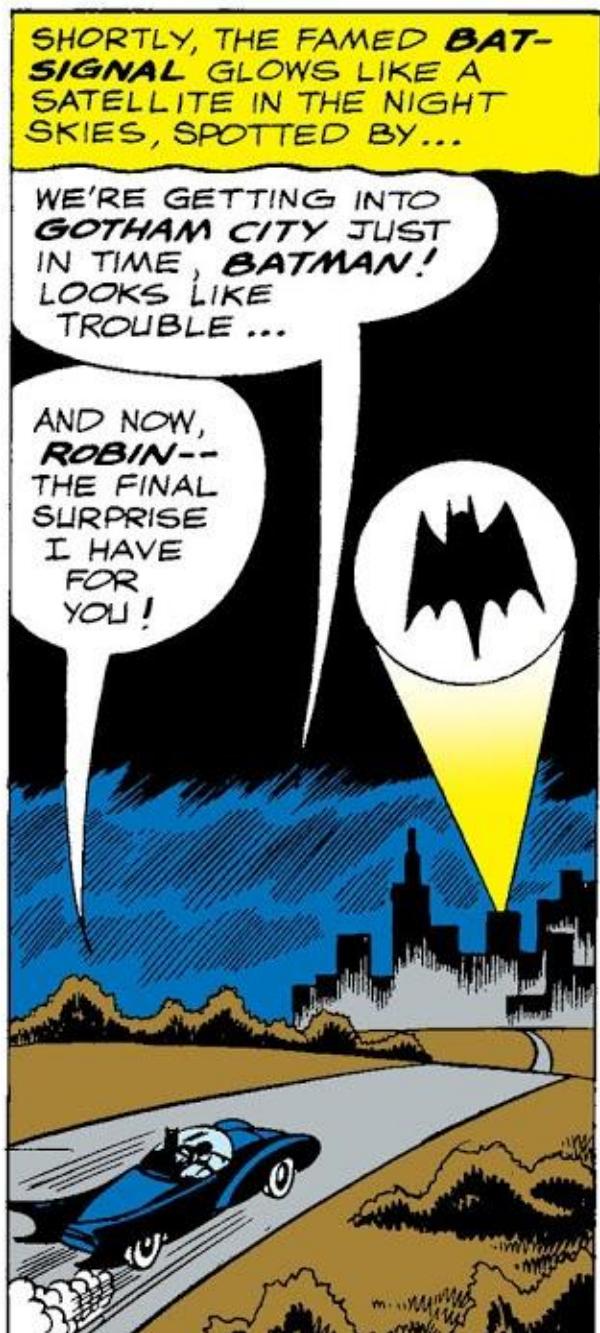
## THE TWO-WAY GEM CAPER -- PART 2

IT IS 8:27 WHEN A MUSEUM GUARD ESCORTS MR. DABBLO INTO THE MAIN EXHIBIT ROOM--AGLITTER WITH ITS MANY PRIZES...

YOUR GOLDEN AZTEC PYRAMID IS PLACED RIGHT NEAR THE FABULOUS PEARL OF THE ORIENT, WORTH ABOUT A MILLION DOLLARS!

MY AZTEC PYRAMID HAS HISTORICAL VALUE-- AND I WANT TO BE SURE IT'S AS SAFE HERE AS THAT PEARL!





FILLED IN WITH DETAILS AND DESCRIPTIONS,  
**BATMAN** MANEUVERS THE SLEEK CAR INTO  
THE WATER STREET AREA, WHERE ...

I NOTICED EVERY STREET  
BLOCKED -- A PROWL CAR  
HAD TO MOVE TO LET US  
BY ! YOU MUST HAVE  
**DABBLO** CORNERED  
IN HERE !

HIS CAR IS  
BACK THERE--  
BUT THE MAN  
IS **GONE**--  
VANISHED !

ALL THESE WAREHOUSE DOORS ARE FIRMLY  
LOCKED ! **DABBLO** COULDN'T HAVE ENTERED  
ANY OF THE BUILDINGS !  
AND THE FIRE ESCAPE  
LADDER IS TOO HIGH  
FOR A MAN TO REACH !

SO IT  
SEEMS..



BUT AS THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER EXAMINES  
THE GROUND BENEATH THE FIRE ESCAPE ...

FRESHLY CHIPPED PAINT--  
FROM THE FIRE ESCAPE !  
SOMEBODY HAS USED  
IT-- **VERY**  
RECENTLY !

LASSOING THE LADDER WITH HIS SILK  
ROPE, **BATMAN** HAULS IT DOWN, THEN...

**DABBLO** COULD HAVE PULLED  
IT DOWN THE SAME WAY--  
THEN PULLED IT UP  
AFTER HIM ! WE'RE  
GOING TO HAVE A  
LOOK ABOVE !



SHORTLY, ON THE ROOF...

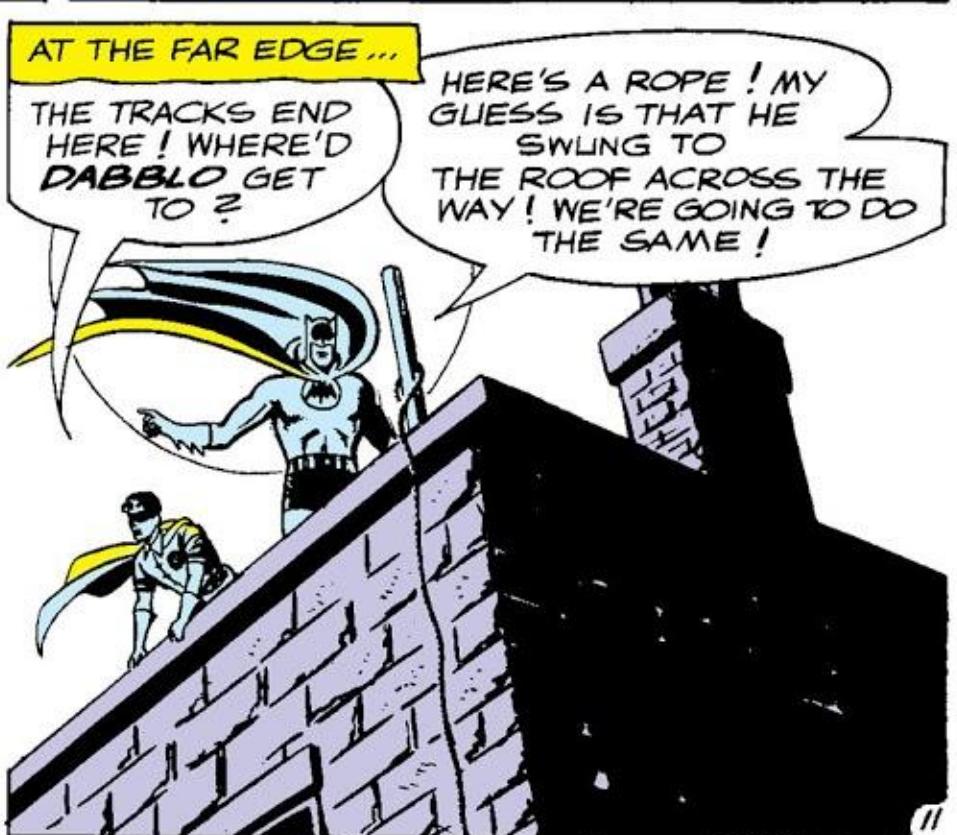
LOOK, ROBIN... TRACKS  
IN THE TAR ! THE STUFF  
IS STILL SOFT FROM  
TODAY'S HEAT !

THEY LEAD TO  
THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE  
BUILDING !

AT THE FAR EDGE ...

THE TRACKS END  
HERE ! WHERE'D  
**DABBLO** GET  
TO ?

HERE'S A ROPE ! MY  
GUESS IS THAT HE  
SWUNG TO  
THE ROOF ACROSS THE  
WAY ! WE'RE GOING TO DO  
THE SAME !



AS THE CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM PREPARES TO SWING OVER ...

I COULD'VE LEFT A TOUGHER TRAIL -- BUT WHAT FOR? BATMAN AND ROBIN KNOW EVERY INCH OF GOTHAM CITY AND WERE BOUND TO PICK UP ANY TRAIL I LEFT! ANYWAY, THIS IS TRAIL'S END FOR THEM!



WAITING TILL HIS PURSUITERS ARE IN MID-AIR, DABBLO AIDS A TELEVISION ANTENNA-LIKE DEVICE FIRST AT BATMAN...



TWISTING HIMSELF LIKE A CAT, BATMAN DRAWS THE BATARANG -- HURLS IT...



INSTANTLY, THE BOY WONDER SLIDES DOWN THE LENGTH OF ROPE TRAILING BENEATH HIM, AND...



CLIMBING BACK ONTO THE ROOF FROM WHICH THEY STARTED, BATMAN RETRIEVES HIS ROPE, AND AGAIN THEY SWING TO THE FAR ROOF, WHERE ...

THERE'S WHERE DABBLO WAS STANDING -- BUT HIS TRACKS DON'T LEAD OFF ANYWHERE! WHERE COULD HE HAVE DISAPPEARED TO?

SOME-  
THING  
BOthering  
me about  
THIS DEVICE...

OF ALL THE METHODS DABBLO COULD HAVE USED TO GET RID OF US, WHY THIS THING? WONDER IF IT SERVES MORE THAN ONE PURPOSE...

IT MIGHT BE SOME KIND OF AN ELECTRONICS GIMMICK.

"ELECTRONICS GIMMICK"! YOU'VE HIT IT, ROBIN! IT MIGHT WORK SOMETHING LIKE OUR DASH-BOARD BUTTON FOR OPENING THE CONCEALED BATCAVE TUNNEL DOOR-- BY REMOTE CONTROL --

SURE ENOUGH-- A SECRET DOOR IS SLIDING OPEN!

AND STARING DOWN, THEY SEE ...

I SACRIFICED MY GOLDEN PYRAMID FOR THIS PEARL BEAUTY-- SO GET ME A TOP PRICE FOR IT ON THE UNDERWORLD MARKET ... HEY-- THE SLIDING ROOFTOP--

THE NEXT MOMENT ...

BATMAN...  
ROBIN!

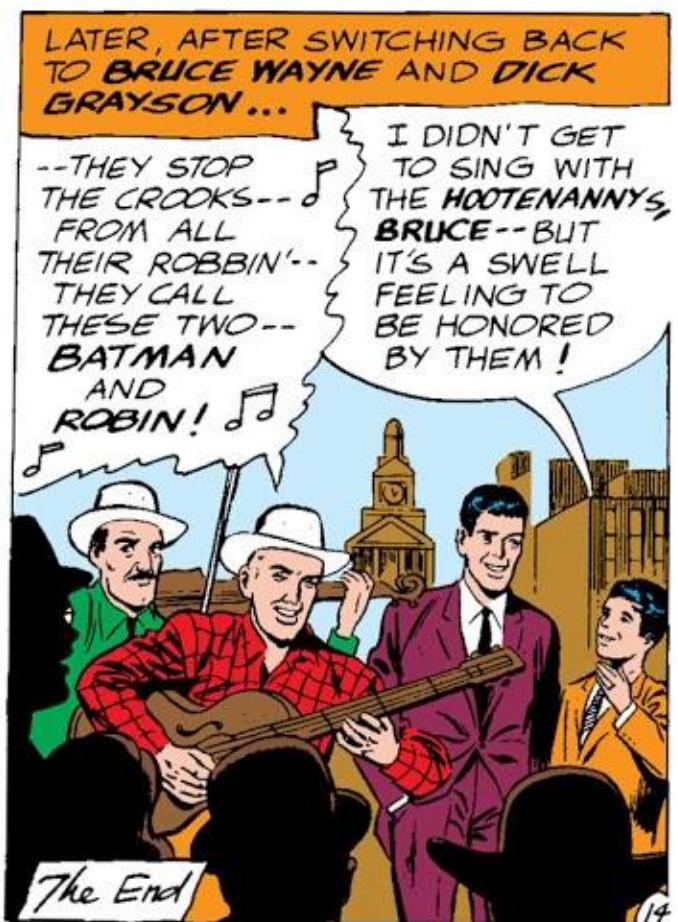
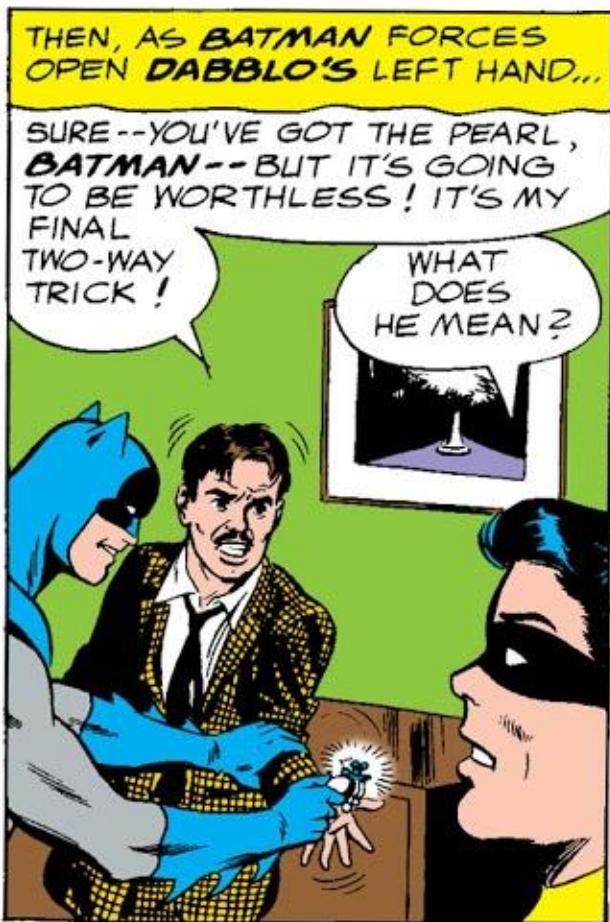


AS BATMAN AND ROBIN EACH TANGLE WITH A CROOK...

HERE BATMAN-- YOU CAN PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THIS ONE!

FAIR EXCHANGE,  
ROBIN -- YOU HANDLE THIS ONE!







## BATMAN



# ANCIENT CRIME-DETECTION METHODS!

IN CHINA, CENTURIES AGO, A CRIME-SUSPECT WAS OBLIGED TO SWALLOW A HANDFUL OF RICE TO DETERMINE HIS GUILT OR INNOCENCE.



IF THE SUSPECT FAILED TO SWALLOW THE RICE, HE WAS JUDGED **GUilty**. THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS BEHIND THIS PROCEDURE WAS THAT THE EMOTIONS OF A GUILTY PERSON CAUSE HIS SALIVARY GLANDS TO DRY UP, MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO SWALLOW ANYTHING...



ANOTHER ANCIENT METHOD FOR TESTING THE GUILT OR INNOCENCE OF A PERSON WAS TO SEND HIM INTO A DARK ROOM WITH A "MAGIC" DONKEY--AND THERE PULL ITS TAIL. HE WAS TOLD THAT IF THE DONKEY BRAYED WHEN ITS TAIL WAS PULLED IT WAS BECAUSE HE WAS GUILTY...



OBVIOUSLY, A GUILTY PERSON WOULD REFRAIN FROM PULLING THE DONKEY'S TAIL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE TAIL WAS SECRETLY COATED WITH SOOT, A GUILTY PARTY WOULD BETRAY HIMSELF BY NOT HAVING ANY SOOT ON HIS HAND!...



INTRODUCING A NEW SERIES--  
The MYSTERY ANALYSTS  
OF GOTHAM CITY !

# BAT-MAN

WITH  
**ROBIN**  
-THE BOY WONDER-

CARE TO COMPETE WITH THOSE WHO YEARN  
TO JOIN THE EXCLUSIVE MYSTERY ANALYSTS  
CLUB ? ONE REQUIREMENT IS TO SOLVE A  
BAFFLING MYSTERY -- SO HERE'S YOUR  
CHANCE TO SEE IF **YOU** QUALIFY !  
STRING ALONG WITH A CANDIDATE WHO  
THINKS HE'S UNRAVELED ONE OF THE  
KNOTTIEST PUZZLES OF OUR TIME --  
BUT BE CAREFUL, IT'S A TRICKY  
BUSINESS TRYING TO COME UP WITH AN  
ANSWER TO ...

## BATMAN'S GREAT FACE- SAVING FEAT!

BETTER HIDE  
YOUR EYES, !  
**BATMAN**!  
THAT FLARE SHOT  
OFF BY THE CROOKS  
COULD TEMPORARILY  
**BLIND** YOU !

TH-THANKS,  
RANKIN !

RANKIN'S VERY  
HELPFUL -- BUT IS HE  
HELPING ME OR THOSE  
CROOKS ?

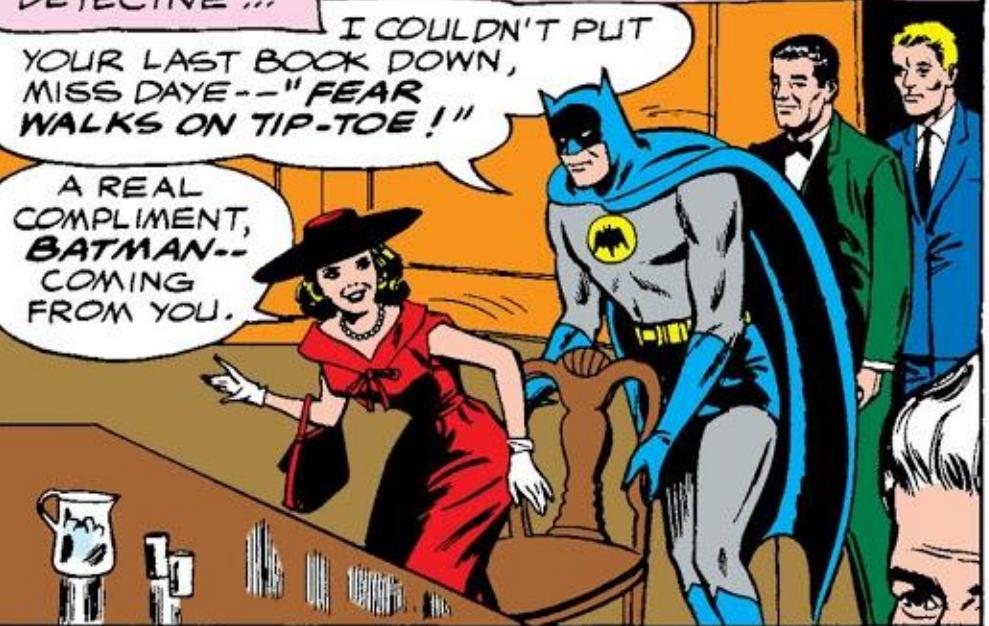




AS YOU WAIT FOR OTHER MEMBERS TO ARRIVE, OBSERVE THE TWO MEN SEATED NEAR THE END OF THE TABLE... PROF. RALPH VERN... WHOSE LABORATORY SLEUTHING LED TO THE CONVICTION OF A SCORE OF CRIMINALS--AND REPORTER ART SADDOWS, WINNER OF THE "FRONT PAGE AWARD" FOR HIS SUCCESSES IN CRACKING UNSOLVED CRIME CASES...



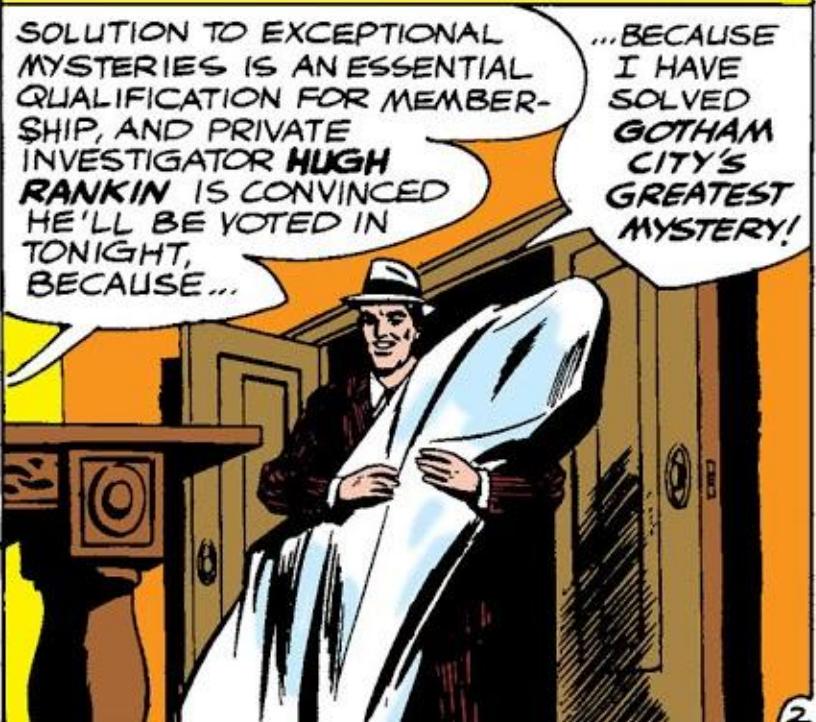
ENTERING NOW ARE MYSTERY NOVELIST KAYE DAYE, WHOSE FICTIONAL VERSION OF JUDGE BLADER'S STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE LED TO THE SOLUTION OF THAT REAL-LIFE MYSTERY... AND **BATMAN**, DUBBED THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...



THERE IS NO TIME TO INTRODUCE THE REST OF THE MEMBERS, FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER...

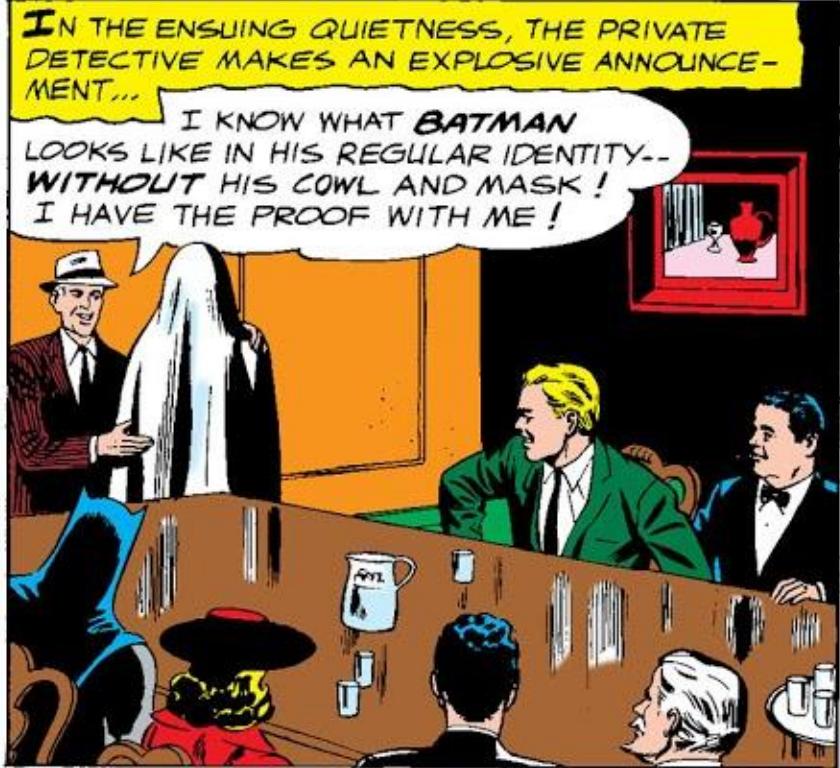


ALL EYES TURN TO THE DOORWAY, AS...



IN THE ENSUING QUIETNESS, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE MAKES AN EXPLOSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT...

I KNOW WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE IN HIS REGULAR IDENTITY-- WITHOUT HIS COWL AND MASK ! I HAVE THE PROOF WITH ME !



AN IMMEDIATE CLAMOR GOES UP...

HOLD ! ASSUMING HE HAS SOLVED BATMAN'S IDENTITY SECRET--I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE REVEALED-- JUST LIKE THAT !

I AGREE ! LET'S NOT GO ANY FARTHER WITH THIS !

RIGHT ! WE CAN'T BE A PARTY TO IT !



ONE FIGURE ALONE VOICES DISAGREEMENT...

MR. RANKIN AND I HAVE RECENTLY WORKED ON THE SAME CASE TOGETHER ! I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DENY HIM HIS CHANCE TO REVEAL WHAT I LOOK LIKE ! HIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEPENDS UPON THIS !

IF YOU SAY SO, BATMAN...

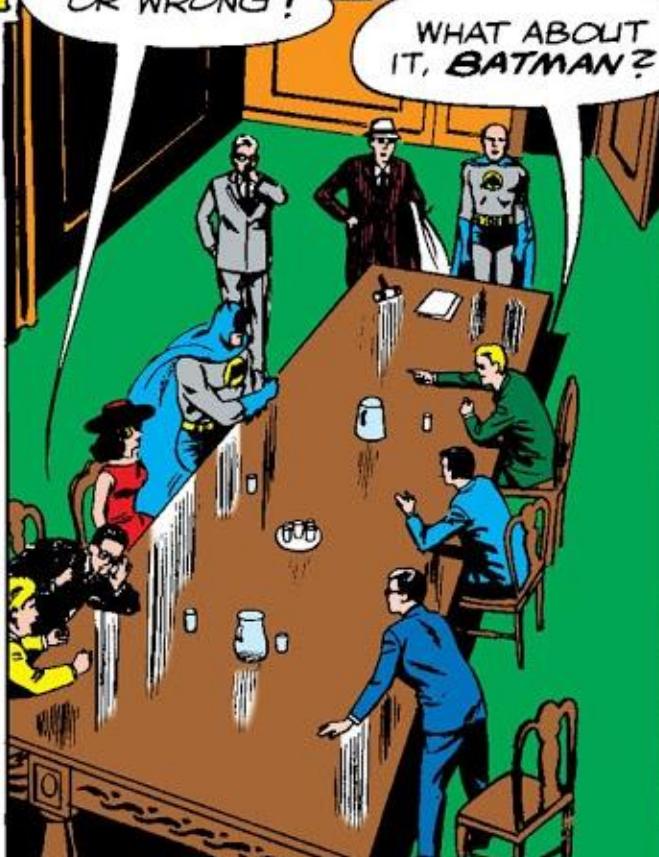


DRAMATICALLY, RANKIN WHIPS AWAY THE DRAPE--REVEALING...

THERE ! WITHOUT HIS MASK ON, THIS IS WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE ! I CALL UPON HIM TO CONFIRM OR DENY MY FINDINGS !



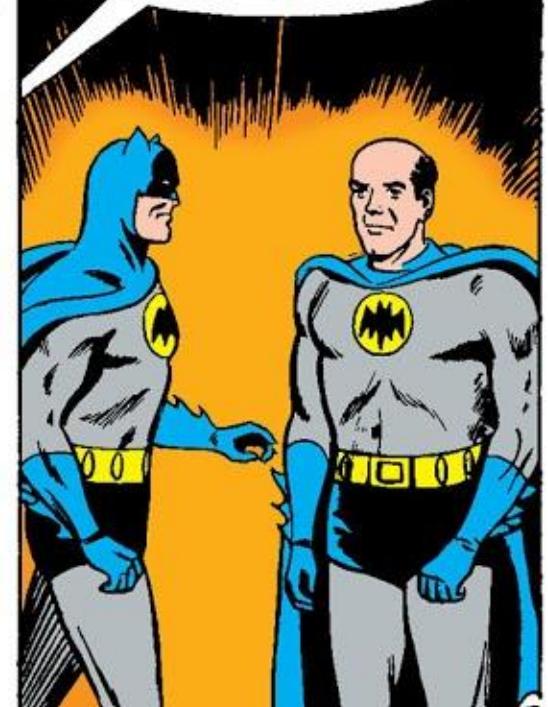
ONLY BATMAN KNOWS IF RANKIN IS RIGHT OR WRONG !

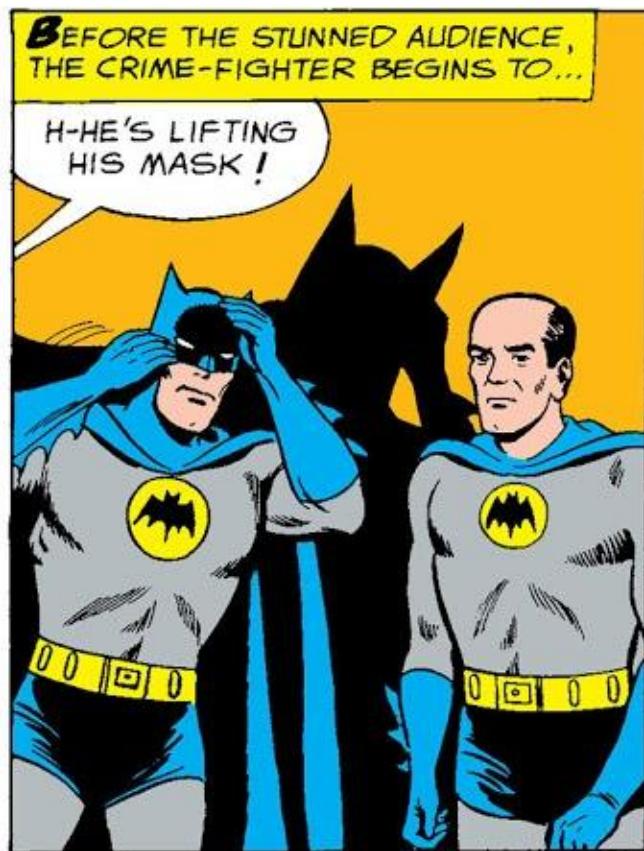


WHAT ABOUT IT, BATMAN ?

WITHOUT REPLY, BATMAN RISES--AND IN THE HUSHED SILENCE, WALKS TO THE DUMMY FIGURE ...

WH--WHAT'S BATMAN GOING TO DO ?





SHOCKED AT FIRST BY THE SEN-  
SATIONAL REVELATION, THE OTHER  
MEMBERS GATHER EXCITEDLY AROUND  
THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE ...

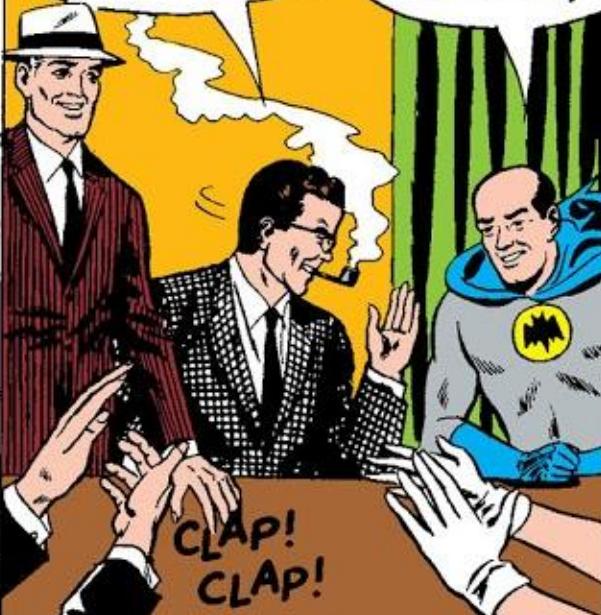
YOU MUST TELL US -- IN **DETAIL** --  
HOW YOU KNEW **BATMAN'S**  
MASKED FEATURES SO THOROUGHLY  
THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT  
A LOOK-ALIKE FIGURE OF HIM!



IN THRILLING DETAIL, RANKIN  
UNFOLDS HIS STARTLING STORY.  
THEN...

TELL US,  
**BATMAN**, WHO  
ARE YOU IN THIS  
OTHER IDENTITY?

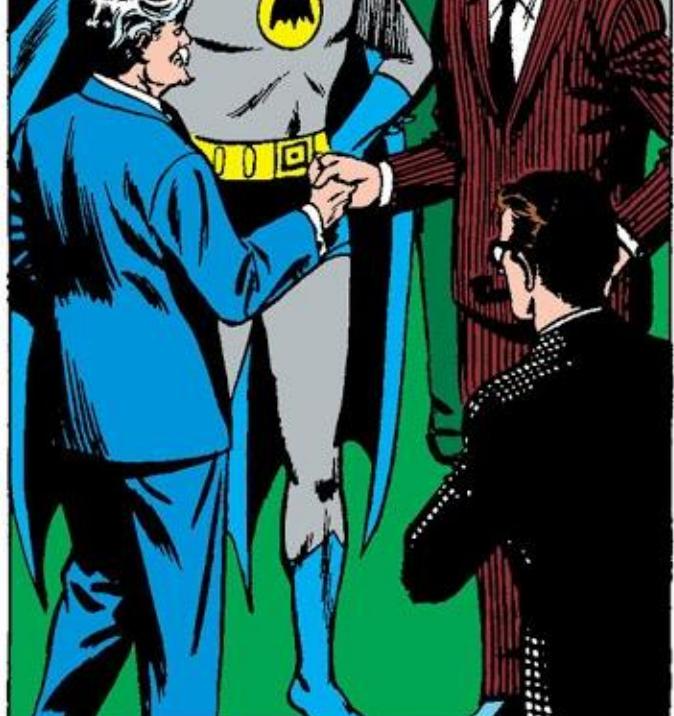
THAT MUCH  
AT LEAST  
WILL  
REMAIN **MY**  
SECRET!



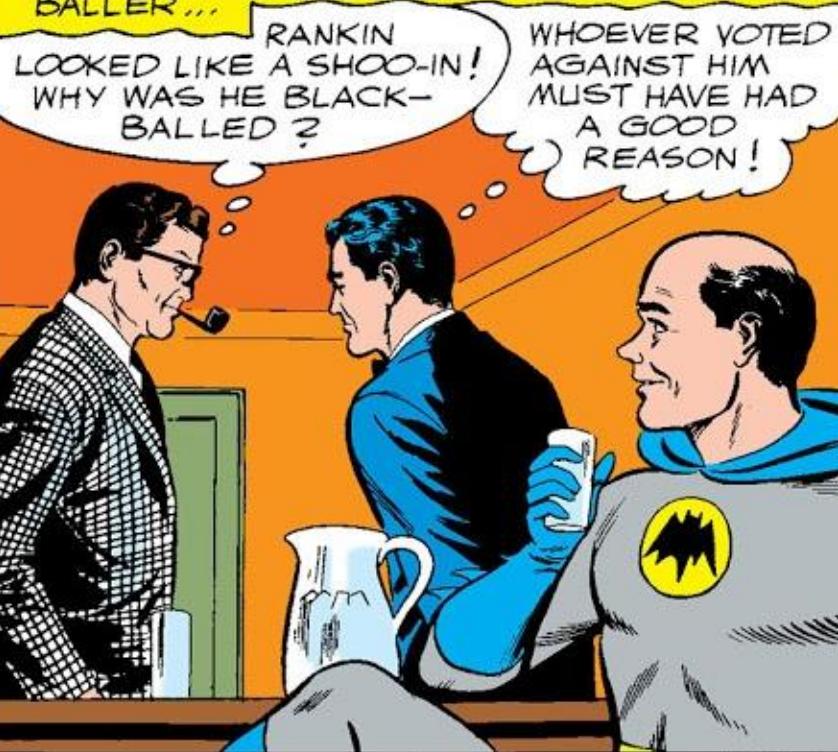
JUST PRIOR TO THE  
SECRET VOTING, A  
CUSTOMARY REMINDER  
IS MADE...

REMEMBER,  
A **WHITE** BALL MEANS  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
CANDIDATE --  
WHILE EVEN  
A **SINGLE**  
BLACK BALL  
MEANS RE-  
JECTION!

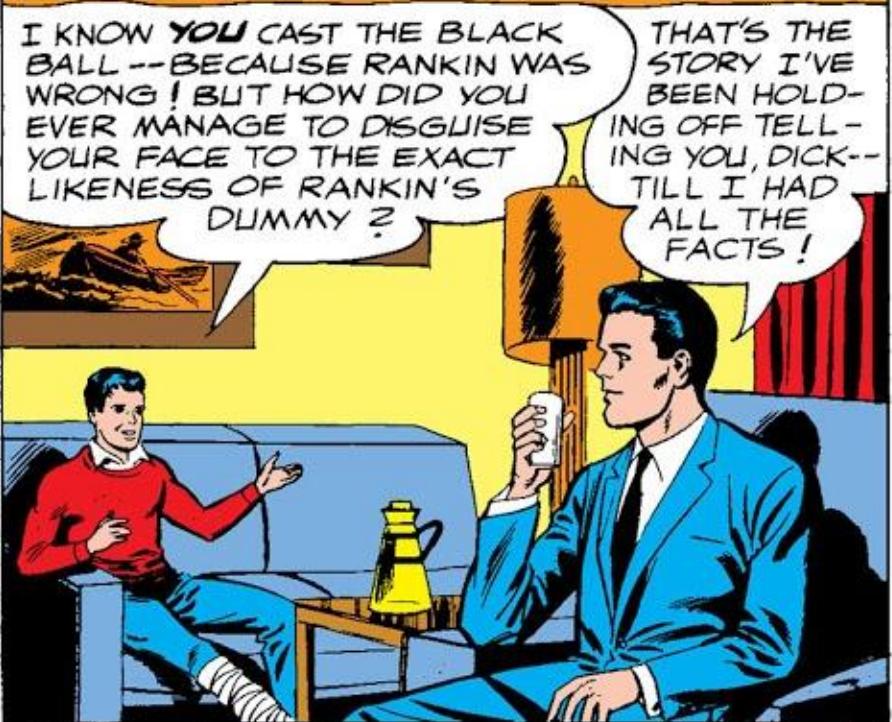
HOW CAN  
RANKIN  
MISS --  
AFTER THE  
DISCOVERY  
HE'S MADE?



PUZZLED MEMBERS SEARCH IN VAIN FOR THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK-BALLER...



LATER, WHEN BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE ARRIVES HOME TO TELL DICK GRAYSON OF THE INTRIGUING EVENT AT THE CLUB...



"IT ALL BEGAN THAT NIGHT WHEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, WE WERE PATROLLING THE ROOFTOPS IN SEARCH OF THE NEW SENSATIONAL GANG, THE TRAPEZE TEN..."



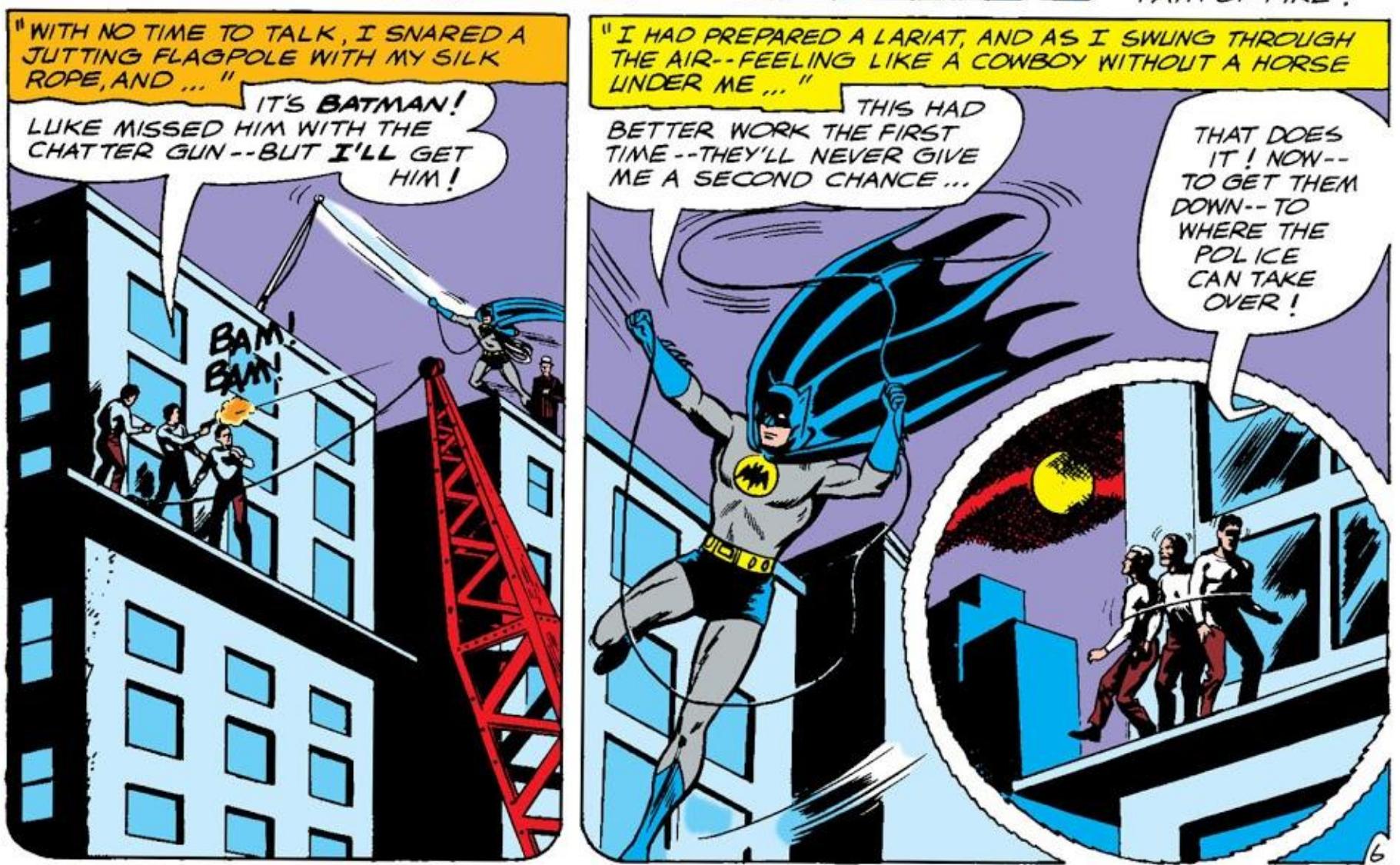
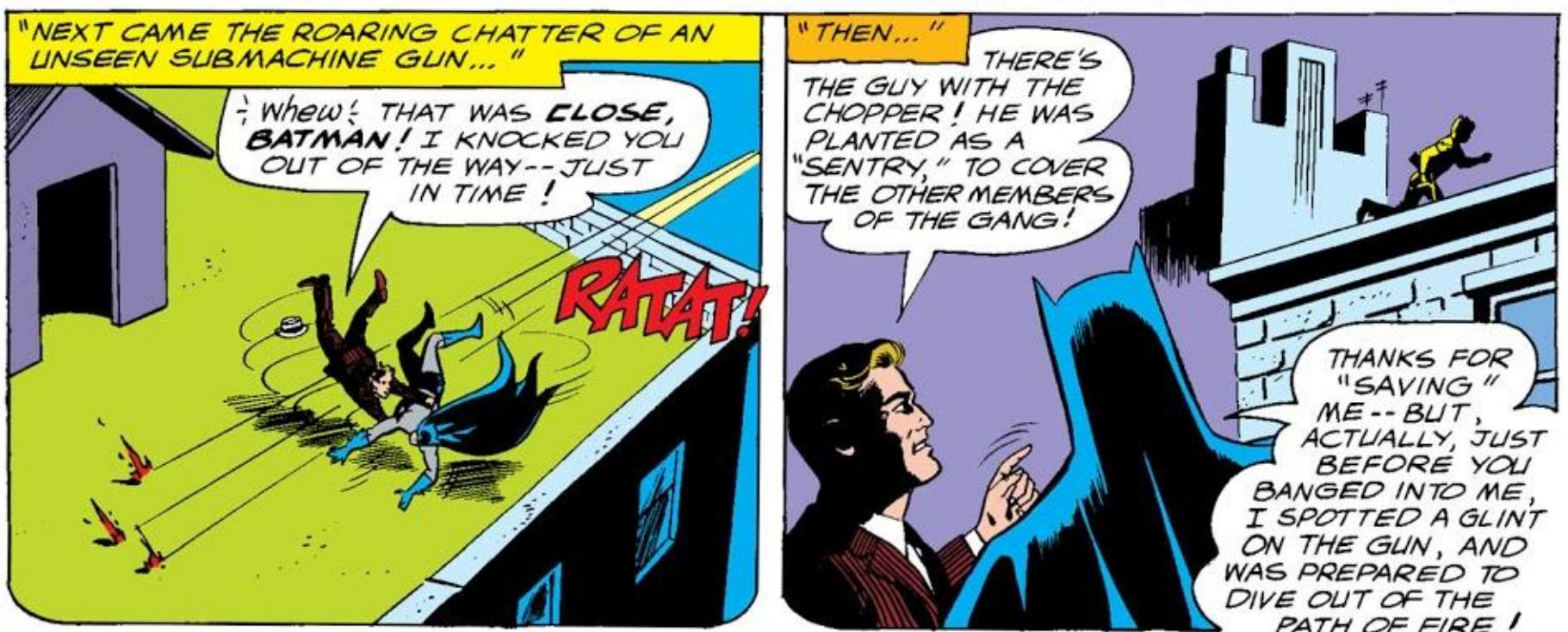
"YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT THE GANG HAD TURNED A DERRICK FROM A CONSTRUCTION SITE TO WHERE IT REARED UP NEAR THE GOTHAM INSURANCE BUILDING NEXT DOOR, AND..."



"WHEN WE REACHED AN ADJACENT ROOF..."

THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S SAFES ARE ON THAT FLOOR, ROBIN -- WHERE THE CROOKS CAUGHT THE LEDGE WITH A GRAPPLING HOOK ! GET TO THE DERRICK -- SO THEY CAN'T ESCAPE DOWN IT ...





"LATER, BELOW, I GOT MY FIRST GOOD LOOK AT THE MAN WHO HAD SLAMMED INTO ME ON THE ROOF..."

AREN'T YOU **HUGH RANKIN**, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR?

RIGHT, **BATMAN!** I, TOO, HAVE BEEN AFTER THE **TRAPEZE TEN!** THEY ROBBED A COUPLE OF MY CLIENTS!

I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HOW THE GANG WORKS. HOW THEY PLANT "SENTRIES" TO COVER THE MAIN OPERATION-- HOW THEY...

WHERE'S **ROBIN?** I JUST REALIZED I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE ALL THIS STARTED!



"AND THAT WAS THE FIRST I LEARNED YOU HAD BEEN HIT, **ROBIN...**"

I'M OKAY! ONE OF THEIR BULLETS GOT MY LEG --

SURE, HE'S OKAY!--BUT I'LL BET WHEN THE AMBULANCE ARRIVES, THE DOC'LL TELL EVEN THE **BOY WONDER** TO STAY OFF HIS FEET FOR AWHILE!



I KNEW **THAT** PART OF THE STORY, BRUCE. BUT HOW DOES IT TIE IN WITH THAT DISGUISE YOU WORKED OUT TO LOOK LIKE RANKIN'S DUMMY? I DON'T GET IT!

YOU WOULDN'T-- SINCE YOU WERE OUT OF THE REST OF THE ADVENTURE... BUT HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

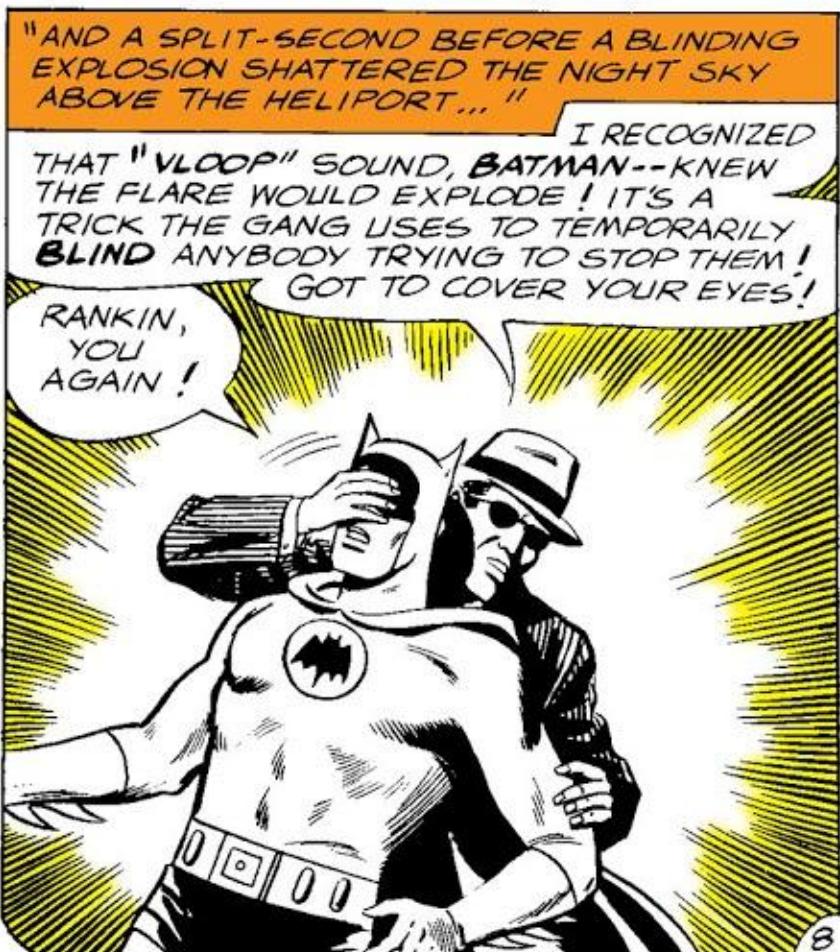
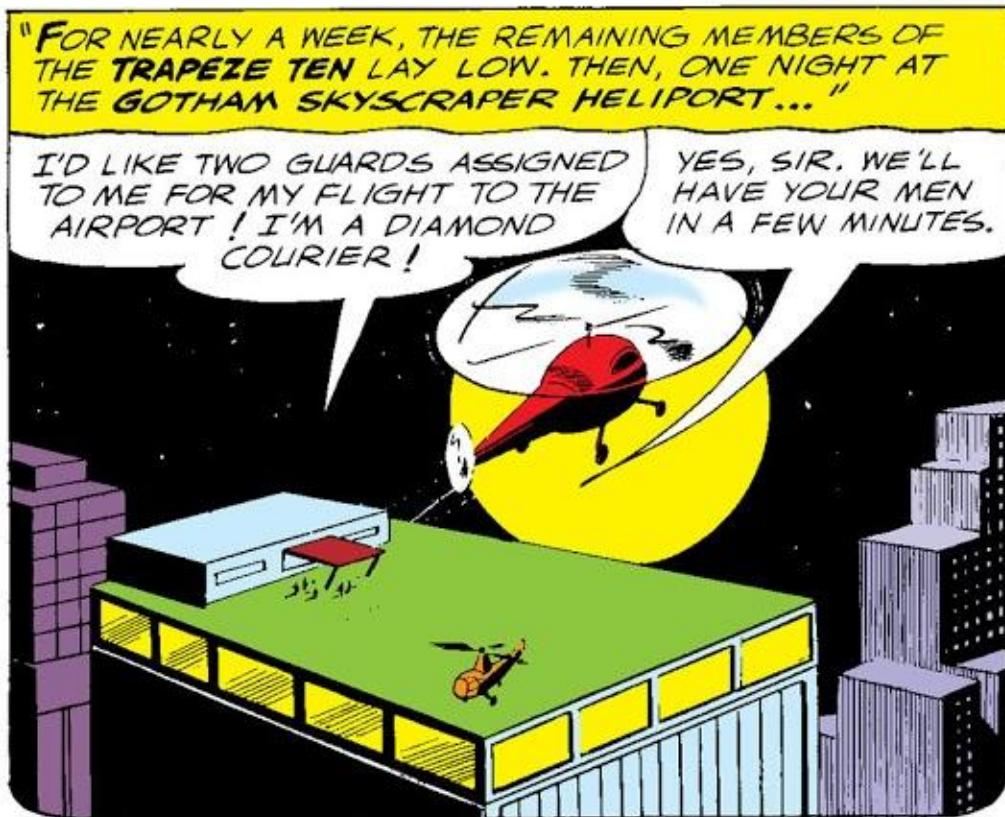


"BEFORE I LEFT RANKIN THAT NIGHT..."

WITH **ROBIN** OUT OF ACTION, IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO CARRY ON ALONE TO NAIL THE REST OF THE **TRAPEZE TEN!**

NOT **ALONE, BATMAN!** REMEMBER, I HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS CASE, TOO!







"SWEPT ALONG BY THE FIERCE CURRENT THAT NOW RACED THROUGH THE TUNNEL, WE COULD SPOT THE GANG MEMBERS AHEAD..."

AS I REMEMBER THIS TUNNEL, WHEN SUBWAY SERVICE WAS STOPPED, AN OPENING WAS MADE THAT LED OUT NEAR THE BAY... IN CASE IT WAS NEEDED AS A DRAINAGE DUCT FOR HEAVY RAINS...



MY GUESS IS THE GANG WILL EXIT THERE--AND HEAD FOR THE BAY! BUT THERE'S ALSO AN EMERGENCY EXIT UP AHEAD--AND IF WE CAN GET OUT THERE--WE CAN TAKE A SHORTCUT! HOPE RANKIN FOLLOWS MY LEAD...



"RANKIN GOT MY HAND SIGNAL, AND OUT WE WENT..."



"MINUTES COUNTED NOW..."

HURRY! WHEN THEY COME OUT, THEY'LL HAVE TO HEAD DOWN AN ALLEY NEAR HERE! IT'S THE SHORTEST WAY TO REACH THE BAY--WHERE THE GANG PROBABLY HAS A SPEED BOAT WAITING!

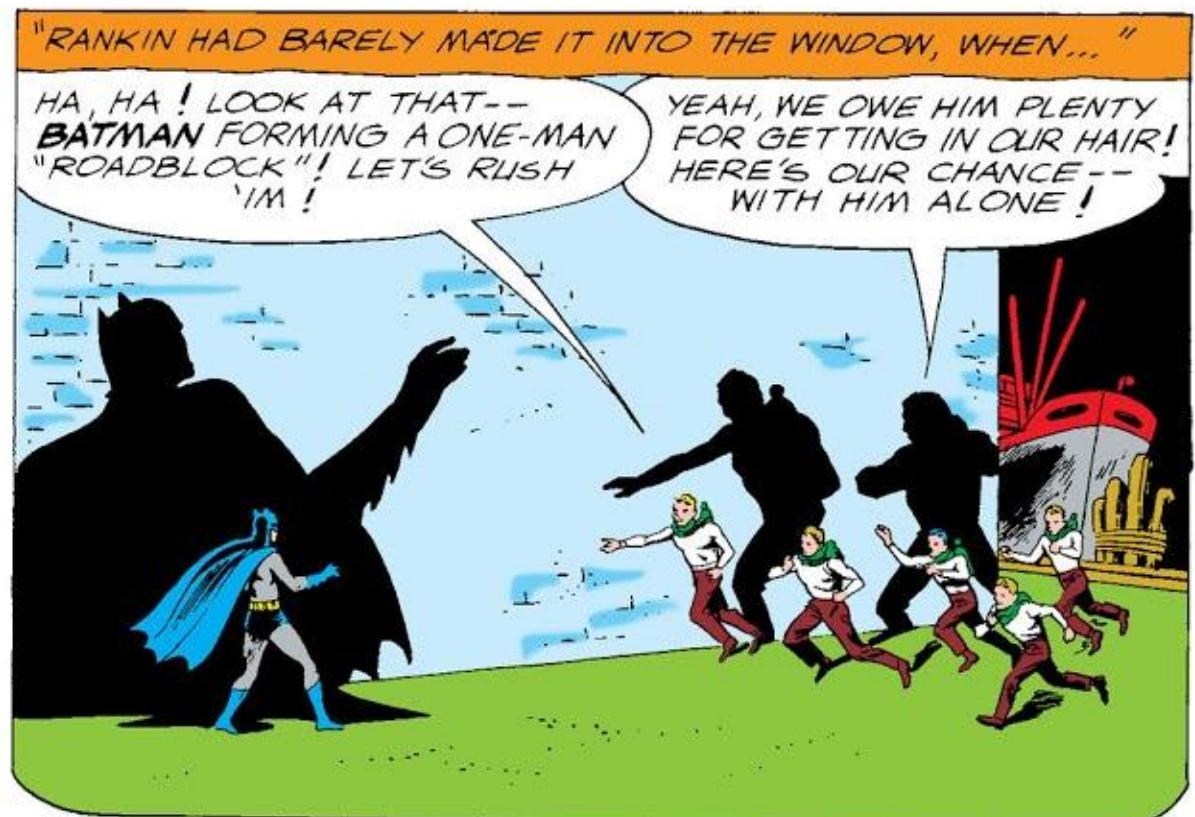
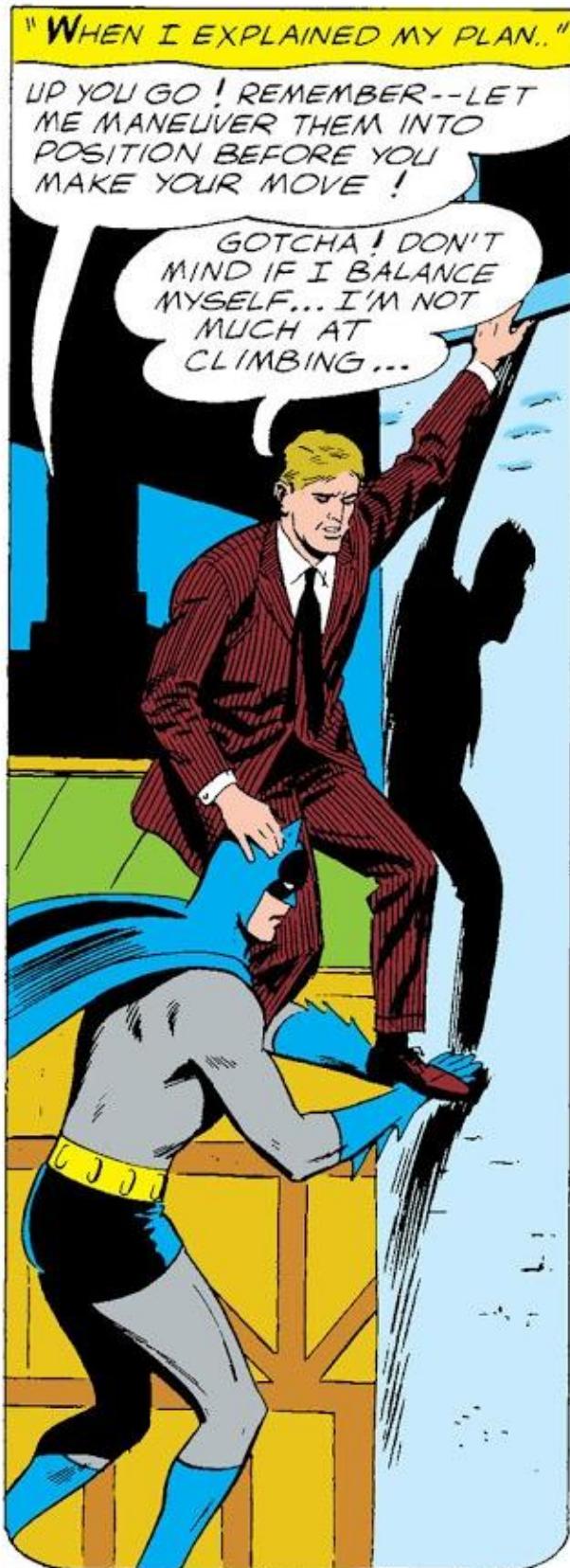


"WE SPED DOWN THE ALLEY, TO..."

THEY'LL COME RUNNING PAST THIS SPOT, RANKIN--SO ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE AND HOLD THEM, WHILE THE OTHER CARRIES OUT A PLAN I HAVE IN MIND! HMM--THAT WINDOW...

NEPTUNE FISHING CO.  
TRUCKER'S ENTRANCE





I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! RANKIN, PLANNING ALL ALONG TO JOIN THE **MYSTERY ANALYSTS**, THOUGHT HE'D KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE -- HELP CATCH THE **TRAPEZE TEN--AND** SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE FACE BEHIND YOUR MASK!

RIGHT--  
SO FAR!

WITH HIS EXPERT SENSE OF TOUCH,\* RANKIN WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE YOUR **WEIGHT** AND **FIGURE** WHEN HE HALF-LIFTED, HALF-SHOVED YOU OUT OF THE WAY OF THE SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE AT THE DERRICK SCENE... AND USED **WAX** TO GET AN **IMPRESSION OF YOUR EYES** WHEN THE **FLARE** WENT OFF...



\*Editor's Note: THE PERCEPTION OF THE FORM, WEIGHT, etc. OF A SOLID BODY BY HANDLING AND LIFTING IT IS TECHNICALLY KNOWN AS **STEREOGNOSIS**.



YOU TUMBLED TO HIS SCHEME WHEN YOU FOUND THE PARTICLE OF WAX--THEN YOU **DELIBERATELY DISGUISED YOURSELF**, AFTER YOU SEPARATED BRIEFLY FROM RANKIN AT THE HELIPORT! WHEN RANKIN GAVE THE BREATHING MASK TO YOU--HE FELT YOUR **NOSE**... TO GET ITS SHAPE...

FINALLY, WHILE YOU WERE HELPING HIM UP TO THE WINDOW, RANKIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF FEELING THE SHAPE OF YOUR "**BALD HEAD**!" THAT'S HOW YOUR GREAT "**FACE-SAVING**" FEAT AT THE **ANALYST** MEETING SAFE GUARDED YOUR IDENTITY!



STILL AND ALL, RANKIN DID SUCH A NEAT PIECE OF WORK, HE'LL MAKE THE **MYSTERY ANALYSTS** ONE OF THESE DAYS!

The End 12