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BATMAN
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ALL-NEW
ANNUAL
1989
FEATURING:
JAMES OWSLEY
MICHAEL BAIR
GRAY MORROW
PLUS: SECRETS OF THE DC UNIVERSE TOLD BY:
KEVIN DOOLEY
MALCOLM JONES
AND NEW WHO'S WHO ENTRIES
GEORGE PRATT

BATMAN

FACE

PROLOGUE.

THE DEAD OF WINTER.

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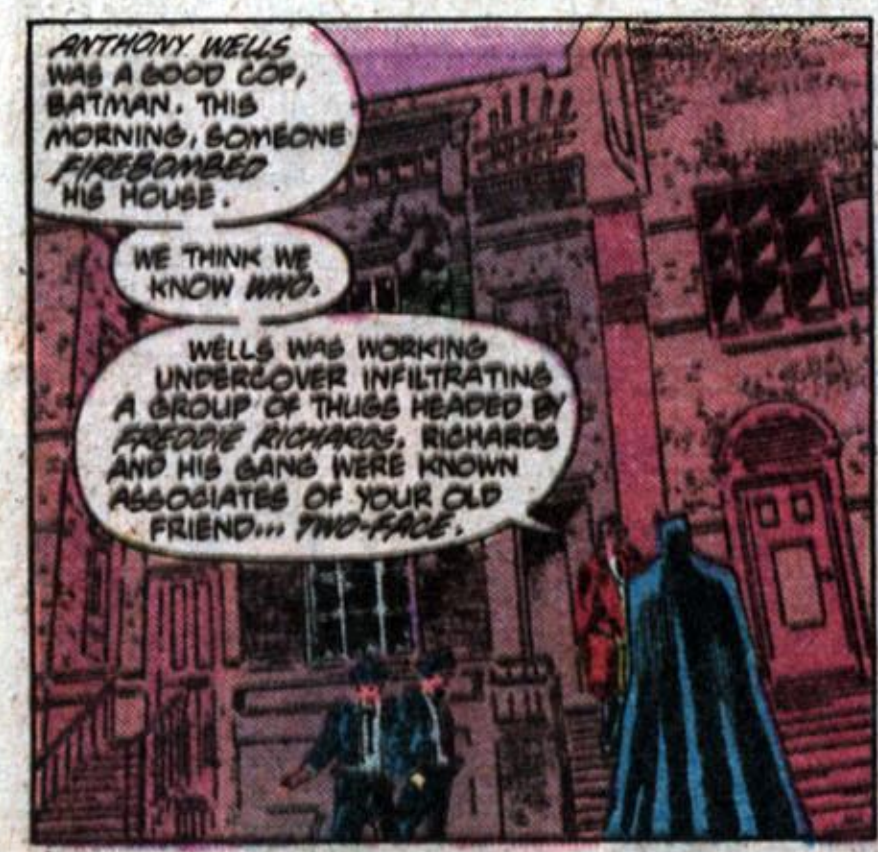

ANTHONY WELLS WAS A GOOD COP, BATMAN. THIS MORNING, SOMEONE FIREBOMBED HIS HOUSE.
WE THINK WE KNOW WHO.
WELLS WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER INFILTRATING A GROUP OF THUGS HEADED BY FREDDIE RICHARDS. RICHARDS AND HIS GANG WERE KNOWN ASSOCIATES OF YOUR OLD FRIEND... TWO-FACE.

TWO-FACE HAS, AS YOU KNOW, RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM HIS PADDED CELL AT ARKHAM ASYLUM. OFFICER WELLS WAS HOPING RICHARDS WOULD LEAD HIM TO TWO-FACE.

LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY BLEW WELLS'S COVER. RICHARDS HAD HIM KILLED... NO DOUBT AT TWO-FACE'S ORDER.

A SHAME. WELLS WAS BUSTING HIS CHOPS ON THIS CASE. HE'D BEEN PASSED OVER FOR PROMOTION SEVERAL TIMES, AND HOPED A SOLID BUST WOULD...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. POOR TONY...

FATHER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?

BARBARA! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO TOWN...?
THE CHINESE ART EXHIBIT... AND MY FAVORITE MAN IN THE WORLD.

I CAME LOOKING FOR YOU AT THE OFFICE, WHEN THEY TOLD ME ABOUT TONY. IT'S... SO SAD...

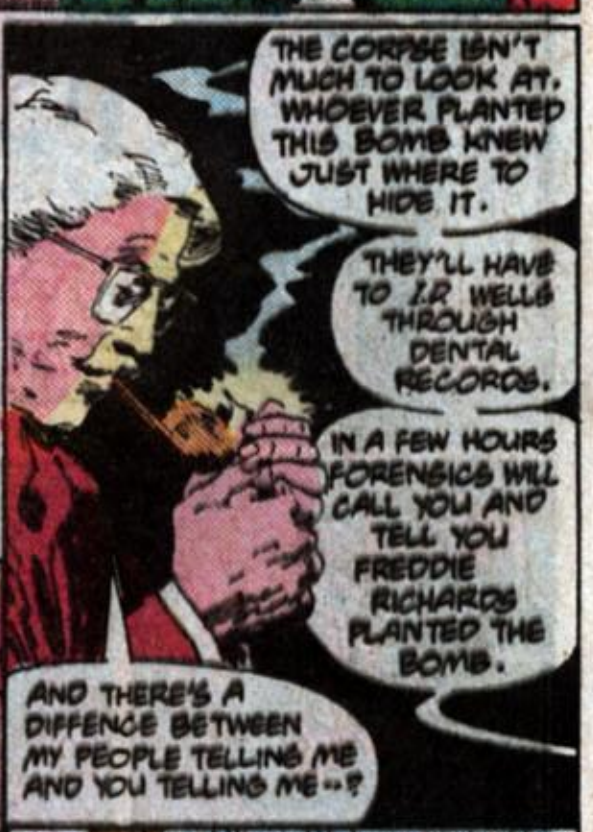
DID I SEE BATMAN?
Y'KNOW, I'VE NEVER QUITE WARMED UP TO HIM.
JOIN THE CLUB.

DINNER TONIGHT?

SURE. ANY LEADS ON WHO BLEW UP TONY'S HOUSE?

ARE YOU JOINING THE INVESTIGATION?
FATHER, YOU KNOW I'VE GIVEN UP ON THE CRIMEFIGHTING STUFF. WHY SHOULD I, WHEN THERE ARE PROFESSIONALS AROUND TO HANDLE THINGS?

SO, ARE THERE ANY LEADS...?
GOOD-BYE, BARBARA. SEE YOU TONIGHT.


THE CORPSE ISN'T MUCH TO LOOK AT. WHOEVER PLANTED THIS BOMB KNEW JUST WHERE TO HIDE IT.
THEY'LL HAVE TO I.D. WELLS THROUGH DENTAL RECORDS.
IN A FEW HOURS FORENSICS WILL CALL YOU AND TELL YOU FREDDIE RICHARDS PLANTED THE BOMB.
AND THERE'S A DIFFENCE BETWEEN MY PEOPLE TELLING ME AND YOU TELLING ME--?

WHAT YOUR PEOPLE TELL YOU IS ADMISSIBLE IN COURT.
I'M GOING TO PICK FREDDIE UP.
BUT, WELLS WAS OUR ONLY CONTACT... WE DON'T KNOW WHERE RICHARDS IS.

YOU DON'T.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?

NIGHT.

HIS NAME IS FREDDIE.

THIS MORNING HE DETONATED A BOMB AND BLEW UP A POLICEMAN'S HOUSE.

HE'S ABOUT TO BE SHOWN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS.

SSS MMM UCK!!

HEY!!

SSSM UCK!!

SSM UCK!!

SM-- SM-- SMUUUCK!!

CRUMMY KIDS---WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON--

HEE HEE HEE HEE

HEE HEEEEEEEEEE

AWRIGHT, KID--YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

JASON--WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

RUNNING!

I INSTRUCTED YOU TO LURE FREDDIE DOWN INTO THE ALLEY. I SAID NOTHING ABOUT SNOWBALLS.

SO? I'M IMPROVISING!

IF FREDDIE SPOTS YOU HE'LL BOLT AND WE'LL LOSE HIM. STICK TO THE PLAN OR GO HOME.

THAT A THREAT?

JUST DO IT.

AAGH! YOU!

TWO-FACE!!

GREETINGS, OLD FOE. ALTHOUGH FROM YOUR SIZE AND YOUR VOICE I SEE YOU ARE *NOT* THE ROBIN I KNOW AND HATE...

...BUT ANOTHER. A SECOND ROBIN.

HOW DELICIOUSLY APPROPRIATE.

TELL ME, ROBIN-TWO... HAVE YOU EVER BEEN *SHOT* WITH A .22 AUTOMATIC...?

ST-- STAY BACK--!

NOT VERY *GOOD* AT THIS GAME, ARE YOU, BOY? PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT *TWICE* BEFORE YOU SIGNED UP TO BE MY ARCH-FOE'S *SECOND*!

GEE2--!!

BATMAN!!

TOO LATE. I COULD KILL YOU WITHOUT A *SECOND* THOUGHT.

WAIT!

DON'T YOU... DON'T YOU *LIVE* BY THE FLIP OF YOUR FAVORITE COIN...?

SHOULDN'T YOU *ASK* THE COIN WHETHER I SHOULD LIVE OR DIE...?

YOUR *DUALITY* IS QUITE TRANSPARENT, BOY. YOU'RE STALLING FOR TIME.

I ADMIRE THAT.

I'VE HAD THIS COIN FOR YEARS. A TWO-HEADED DOLLAR... ONE FACE CLEAN AND HANDSOME... ONE SCARRED.

IF THE CLEAN SIDE COMES UP, YOU LIVE... IF THE SCARRED SIDE WINS...

...NOT ALL THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN CAN SAVE YOU.

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LET'S WHACK THIS TWERP OUT--
HEY--LOOK THERE---
--BATGIRL!
YOU REMEMBERED MY NAME! I'M FLATTERED.
NOW BACK OFF.
CHEEZ!! IT'S JUST A DOPEY BROAD AND A KID--!!
HEADS UP MAN, HE'S HERE, TOO...
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND STAND AWAY FROM THE BOY.

THE HELL WE WILL--!!

THE SOLDIER RUSHES IN WHILE REPRESSING A SMILE.

HE REVELS IN THE CLAMOR OF BATTLE. EACH FALLEN FOE IS A STEP CLOSER TO HIS ULTIMATE GOAL.

MOMENTS LATER, ON THE ROOF...
...I PLANTED THOSE TWIN CHARGES LIKE YOU ASKED, BOSS... BLEW UP THAT COP'S HOUSE...WHAT'S NEXT?
THAT, FREDDIE, IS UP TO THE COIN.
BATMAN'S INVOLVEMENT WAS AN UNFORESEEN COMPLICATION.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO PLAN TWO.
THE PLAN BEGINS WITH YOUR ELIMINATION--!
WHA--? HEY...BOSS... PLEASE--

CLICK
BL-BLAAAAM!!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
IMPRESSIVE, OLD FRIEND. YOU MOVE SO QUICKLY IT'S AS IF YOU'RE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!
HARVEY... LOOK AT US... CHALLENGING EACH OTHER ON A GRIMY ROOFTOP. WE USED TO BE FRIENDS!
AH YES, THE TWO OF US... I A RESPECTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY... YOU THE AVENGER OF THE NIGHT... PARTNERS IN THE WAR AGAINST CRIME!
WE ARE BOTH CASUALTIES OF THAT WAR, OLD FRIEND.
OUR ALLIANCE WAS SCARRED FOREVER... ALONG WITH THE RIGHT SIDE OF MY FACE!
HE'S GONE TOTALLY AROUND THE BEND! HE'S COMPLETELY IRRATIONAL... AND DEADLY!
EITHER I TAKE HIM OUT OR I'M DEAD!
THREW AWAY MY BATARANG TO SAVE FREDDIE... I'VE GOT NOTHING TO THROW AT HIM, AND HE'S GOT ME PINNED--!
KER-CHUNNK!!

I LIVE MY LIFE BY *THE COIN*, BATMAN.

TONIGHT MY *EVIL* NATURE REIGNS. THAT MEANS--

--YOU LOSE!

RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS. MAYBE I CAN EMPTY THIS VIAL OF *MACE* INTO THIS GRIMY SNOW...

...AND THEN BORROW A PAGE FROM JASON'S BOOK--

NNNYGHHAAAHH!!

WHH-WHUMMMMPP!!

HE WAS ONCE A GREAT MAN... A BRILLIANT MAN. OBSESSED WITH FIGHTING CRIME.

WHEN I SEE THE END TO WHICH HIS OBSESSION HAS BROUGHT HIM, IT SLOWS ME DOWN...

...JUST A LITTLE...

SOON...
THANKS FOR THE HELP.
I KNEW YOU AND BATGIRL COULD HANDLE THINGS, ROBIN.
UH-HUH.
BATGIRL... I THOUGHT YOU'D RETIRED...
...OR I'D HOPED AS MUCH. HONESTLY, BARBARA, I THOUGHT YOU'D HUNG UP THE BLASTED CAPE--!
TONY WAS A FRIEND OF MINE, DAD. I COULDN'T JUST SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING.
BESIDES, I NEVER SAID I'D BURN THE OUTFIT...
WE'VE GOT FREDDIE FOR THE HOUSE BOMBING, AND TWO-FACE IN THE BARGAIN. FORENSICS HAVE TURNED UP ENOUGH TRACE EVIDENCE TO PUT FREDDIE AWAY FOR LIFE.
VERY NICE WORK, BATMAN.
NICE WORK WON'T HELP YOUR DEAD COP, JIM.
THE WAR GOES ON.
END PROLOGUE.

...GOOD AFTERNOON, GOTHAM CITY! IT'S 93 DEGREES IN THE SHADE... AGAIN... TENTH DAY IN A ROW. HOPE YOU'VE GOT AIR CONDITIONING 'CAUSE THERE'S NO RELIEF IN SIGHT...
AUG 3
BUZZZZZZ!!
RRIIINGG!!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE, SIR. YOUR DOOM IS SEALED. IT'S TIME TO FACE IT--

...A NEW DAY HAS BEGUN.
ACTUALLY, IT BEGAN SOME SIX AND ONE QUARTER HOURS AGO.
WHAT TIME IS IT, ALFRED?
BUZZZZZ!!
RRIIINGGG!!
2 PM SHARP, SIR. AS YOU REQUESTED.
YOU'VE QUITE AN ITINERARY TODAY.
I'VE YOUR BREAKFAST, YOUR PAPER, A VIDEOTAPE OF LAST NIGHT'S JACK RYDER TELEVISION SPECIAL, AND GARDENING SHEARS WITH WHICH TO TRIM YOUR HAIR.

BRUCE WAYNE.

HAVE YOU SEEN A CALENDAR?
IT'S AUGUST THIRD.

TAKING THE DAY OFF?

NO.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD.

SIX YEARS SINCE SHE DIED, BRUCE. AND I STILL THINK ABOUT HER EVERY DAY.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
YOU'LL BE AT THE BENEFIT TONIGHT?

I'M SURPRISED EITHER OF US WILL BE THERE, TODAY BEING THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY WIFE'S DEATH...
...AND CONSIDERING WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BARBARA... AND JASON...

JIM, YOU'RE GETTING ABSOLUTELY MORBID. CLIMB INTO YOUR BEST MONKEY SUIT AND REPORT ON TIME...
...OR YOU'RE FIRED. CIAO.

WHAT WAS THAT I JUST SAW...

JACK RYDER HAS A SPECIAL ON LAST NIGHT CALLED "INSIDE TWO-FACE'S MOB." I CHALKED IT UP FOR HOLLYWOOD SHLOCK...

...BUT, NO... THERE IT IS...!

...YEAH, MY OLD PAL FREDDIE GOT NAILED FOR THE COP KILLIN' TWO YEARS AGO... HE'S ABOUT TO GO TO THE CHAIR FOR IT...

GOTHAM TIMES

ELECTRIC CHAIR FOR KILLER

...BUT I DID IT! HAH! HOPE YOU FRY, FREDDIE!!

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. FRAGMENTED MEMBERS OF TWO-FACE'S MOB HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN EL MONICA... SANTA PRISCA'S INFAMOUS "WORLD'S DEADLIEST CITY."

WHILE IN GOTHAM CITY, FREDDIE RICHARDS WILL BE EXECUTED IN 72 HOURS. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THE GOTHAM CITY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BUT THEY WILL NOT REOPEN THE CASE WITHOUT FURTHER CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE.

FREDDIE RICHARDS, COP KILLER... OR INNOCENT MAN? THIS IS JACK RYDER. EL MONICA, SANTA PRISCA.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

ALFRED, CANCEL EVERYBODY TODAY. SOMETHING'S COME UP.

I ASSUME YOU'LL BE WEARING GREY TODAY--?

HE IS A MAN AT WAR. AN INTENSE, OBSESSED SOLDIER FULFILLING AN OATH HE'D MADE A LIFETIME AGO.

THIS IS HIS CITY.

THIS IS HIS WIFE'S GRAVE.

BOTH HIS WIFE AND HIS DAUGHTER ARE CASUALTIES OF HIS PERSONAL WAR ON CRIME.

THIS IS AN ANNUAL RITUAL. IT NEVER GETS ANY EASIER.

ARKHAM ASYLUM.

OPEN IT UP.

SURE, DR. CARABALLO. YOU WANT COMPANY?

NAH. I GOT IT.

HELLO, HARVEY.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

OF COURSE, BATMAN.

I KNOW A FALSE FACE WHEN I SEE ONE. AND, I CAN SMELL AN ENEMY AT 50 YARDS.
GOOD, HARVEY.

YOU AND I ARE GOING ON A TRIP.

I NEED YOUR HELP IN FINDING ONE OF YOUR MEN. HE'S HIDING OUT IN SANTA PRISCA.

IN LESS THAN 70 HOURS AN INNOCENT MAN WILL BE EXECUTED FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT.
REALLY TICKS ME OFF, HARVEY.

YOU SEE, I HELPED PUT FREDDIE RICHARDS BEHIND BARS. I INVESTIGATED THE CRIME SCENE.
IF HE DIES IT WILL MAKE ME LOOK BAD.
AND, I JUST CAN'T HAVE THAT.

WE'RE GOING TO SANTA PRISCA... AND YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO THE MAN I'M LOOKING FOR.

THEN YOU'RE COMING BACK HERE.

DON'T DO THAT.

DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD LET THE COIN DECIDE?

GOOD, HARVEY.

THROUGH HERE. FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.
SEE, HARVEY, YOU'RE NOT SUCH A BAD GUY.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO PERFORM A PUBLIC SERVICE. A GOOD DEED.

OUGHT TO KEEP YOU WARM AT NIGHT.

TOO BAD WE HAVE TO GET OLD, HARVEY. TOO BAD WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE...

...TO SIMPLER DAYS...

...BEFORE WE PLUNGED INTO THE DARK ABYSS.

AND, SPEAKING OF WHICH...
THUNNNK!

SORRY ABOUT THAT. THERE'S A REALLY WICKED DIP RIGHT THERE.

GO TOWARDS THE LIGHT, HARVEY. AND STEP ON IT.

I'M LATE FOR DINNER.

NIGHT...

BRUCE WAYNE IS GOTHAM'S MOST CELEBRATED PHILANTHROPIST. HE SPONSORS SEVERAL OF THESE GALA BASHES THROUGHOUT THE FISCAL YEAR, ALLEGEDLY TO MAINTAIN A LITANY OF TAX SHELTERS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THESE OCCASIONS DO PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR WAYNE TO BE SEEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE... TO MAINTAIN HIS CAREFULLY CRAFTED SOCIALITE IMAGE.

HE ALSO MANAGES TO HOUSE A FEW ORPHANS IN THE BARGAIN.

TO SAY I'M TICKED WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT. BLASTED BLOOD PRESSURE'S SHOT UP...

DAMN IT, BRUCE, I'M GETTING TOO *OLD* FOR THIS.

YOU'RE YOUNG AS YOU FEEL, JIM.

MISTER, YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO *KNOW* WHAT I FEEL.

SOMEBODY BUSTED TWO-FACE OUT OF ARKHAM TODAY. I *THINK* IT WAS *BATMAN*. ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW THIS HAPPENED RIGHT ON THE HEELS OF *HIS* HAVING ASKED ME TO RELEASE HIM?

I SUPPOSE.

AND DO YOU SUPPOSE BATMAN WILL KEEP HIM ON A SHORT LEASH, AND PUT HIM *BACK* WHERE HE FOUND HIM...

ISN'T IT STRANGE HOW AN OBSESSION CAN CHANGE YOU?

MAKES YOU IRRATIONAL. MAKES YOU WANT TO ROLL THE DICE.

COME ON, JIM, THE MAN WEARS *TIGHTS*.

HOW RATIONAL COULD HE HAVE BEEN TO *BEGIN* WITH?

OF COURSE.

EXCUSE ME, BUT HAVEN'T WE MET IN ONE OF MY NICER DREAMS...?

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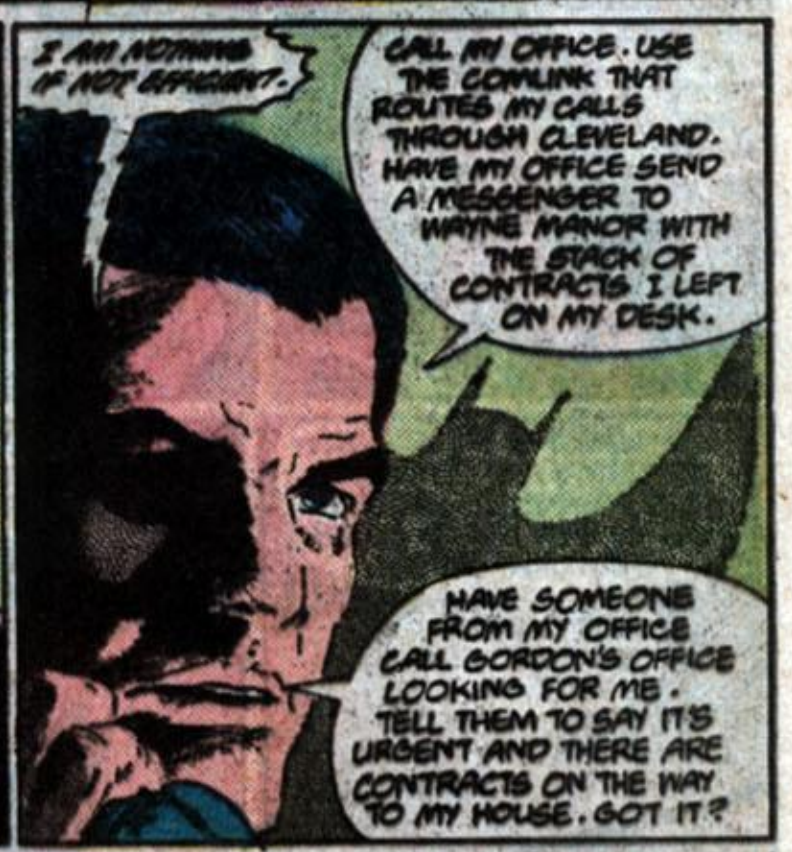
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

PARDON ME. MY BEEPER.
HURRY BACK.

I THOUGHT YOU MAY NEED RESCUING ABOUT NOW, SIR...
...AS USUAL.

HAVE THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS BEEN MADE FOR MY TRIP TO SANTA PRISCA, ALFRED?
REALLY, SIR. NEED YOU EVEN ASK?


I AM NOTHING IF NOT EFFICIENT.
CALL MY OFFICE. USE THE COMLINK THAT ROUTES MY CALLS THROUGH CLEVELAND. HAVE MY OFFICE SEND A MESSENGER TO WAYNE MANOR WITH THE STACK OF CONTRACTS I LEFT ON MY DESK.
HAVE SOMEONE FROM MY OFFICE CALL GORDON'S OFFICE LOOKING FOR ME. TELL THEM TO SAY IT'S URGENT AND THERE ARE CONTRACTS ON THE WAY TO MY HOUSE. GOT IT?

OF COURSE, SIR.

INCIDENTALLY, SIR...

...THANKS FOR THE MASK.

NIGHT IN SANTA PRISCA. THIS IS THE COAST CITY OF EL MONICA... REPUTEDLY THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CITY.

IT IS RUN BY THIEVES AND MURDERERS. THE MAJOR STAPLE CROP IS NARCOTICS. THE MAJOR EXPORT IS WEAPONS AND CRIMINALS.

THIS PLANE IS PART OF A RING OF SMUGGLERS WHO BRING MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE IMPOVERISHED POPULACE. BRUCE WAYNE FINANCES THE OPERATION.

IT AFFORDS HIM A LIVE CONDUIT TO THE GOINGS-ON HERE INSIDE THIS, THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEN OF THIEVES. TONIGHT IT ALSO PROVIDES HIM A CONVENIENT WAY IN.

HE ALSO MANAGES TO PROVIDE MEDICINE FOR A FEW SICK PEOPLE IN THE BARGAIN.

WE'VE ARRIVED. AFTER THE PILOT DUMPS HIS CARGO, WE'RE TAKING A SWIM, HARVEY.

YOU CAN SWIM, CAN'T YOU--?

I'LL SURVIVE.

THERE GO THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES. GET SET, HARVEY.

HOW LOVELY IS THE SEA. HOW SEDUCTIVE. ITS PEACEFUL CALM BELYING THE CERTAIN DEATH THAT AWAITS WITHIN THE MURKY DEPTHS.

HOW I ADMIRE THE SEA'S DUAL ASPECTS...

TIME TO GO, HARVEY.

OKAY, HARVEY. WHICH WAY TO OUR MAN?

EL MONICA IS DUE EAST. WE'D BEST GET MOVING BEFORE DAYLIGHT ARRIVES...

JUST A MOMENT. WE'RE WALKING INTO A WAR ZONE, HARVEY.

I'VE GOT A FEW SPECIAL PREPARATIONS TO MAKE...

22 GEMINI LANE...

THE AUTHORITIES HAVE PLACED OUR OLD FRIEND FREDDIE RICHARDS ON DEATH ROW, CONVICTED OF THE FIREBOMBING DEATH OF A GOTHAM CITY POLICE OFFICER.

FREDDIE WILL DIE FOR THE CRIME IN LESS THAN 48 HOURS.

WHILE IN GOTHAM CITY, FREDDIE RICHARDS WILL BE EXECUTED IN 72 HOURS...

THIS ISN'T THE ONE.

THEN, MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, I SEE THIS--

...YEAH, MY OLD PAL FREDDIE GOT NAILED FOR THE COP KILLIN' TWO YEARS AGO... HE'S ABOUT TO GO TO THE CHAIR FOR IT...

...BUT I DID IT! HAH! HOPE YOU FRY, FREDDIE!!

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, FRAGMENTED MEMBERS OF TWO-FACE'S MOB HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN EL MONICA... SANTA PRISCA'S INFAMOUS "WORLD'S DEADLIEST CITY."

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THIS ISN'T THE MAN I CAME TO FIND, TWO-FACE. LET ME OFFER YOU MY THEORY.

THERE ONCE WAS THIS GOTHAM CITY COP WHO WANTED A PROMOTION. HE WAS DENIED THE PROMOTION BECAUSE HE WASN'T THAT GOOD A COP.

SO, THIS COP SOLD OUT, WENT ON THE TAKE FOR A LOCAL SLEAZEBALL. THEY HAD A VERY LUCRATIVE ASSOCIATION. THIS COP WAS NO DUMMY. HE *KNEW* HE'D EVENTUALLY BE FOUND OUT.

SO, HE MADE A DEAL WITH THE SLEAZEBALL, AND FAKED HIS OWN DEATH. THE MEDICAL EXAMINER WAS PAID TO FALSIFY THE RECORDS.

THEY EVEN FOUND A JOHN DOE CORPSE AND PUT IT IN THE COP'S HOUSE BEFORE THEY BLEW IT UP.

THEY EVEN FRAMED A GUY--ALBEIT A USELESS GUY WHO WOULD'VE BEEN ICED SOONER OR LATER ANYWAY--FOR THE MURDER. PERFECT CRIME. EXCEPT FOR *THIS*--

--IN THE BACK IS *ANTHONY WELLS*. *OFFICER* ANTHONY WELLS.

THE COP WHO WAS ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY THE MAN SITTING ON DEATH ROW.

I DID SOME *CHECKING*, TWO-FACE. WELLS WAS ON THE TAKE. IN FOR *BIG BUCKS*.

HE WAS A DIRTY COP AND YOU WERE THE ONE GREASING HIM.

FREDDIE RICHARDS WAS A LIABILITY, SO YOU SET HIM UP FOR THE *DOUBLE-CROSS*. HOW APPROPRIATE.

NOW FREDDIE'S GOING TO THE CHAIR WHILE THE MAN HE ALLEGEDLY KILLED SUNS HIMSELF ON THE VERANDA!

I WANT WELLS, HARVEY. I WANT HIM *NOW*.

WELLS WAS NEVER PART OF OUR DEAL.

HERE'S A *NEWSFLASH* FOR YOU, HARVEY--

--WE DON'T *HAVE* ANY DEAL. YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT, OR YOU PAY THE *PRICE*.

WHY DON'T WE JUST LET THE COIN DECIDE.
FINE BY ME BATMAN.

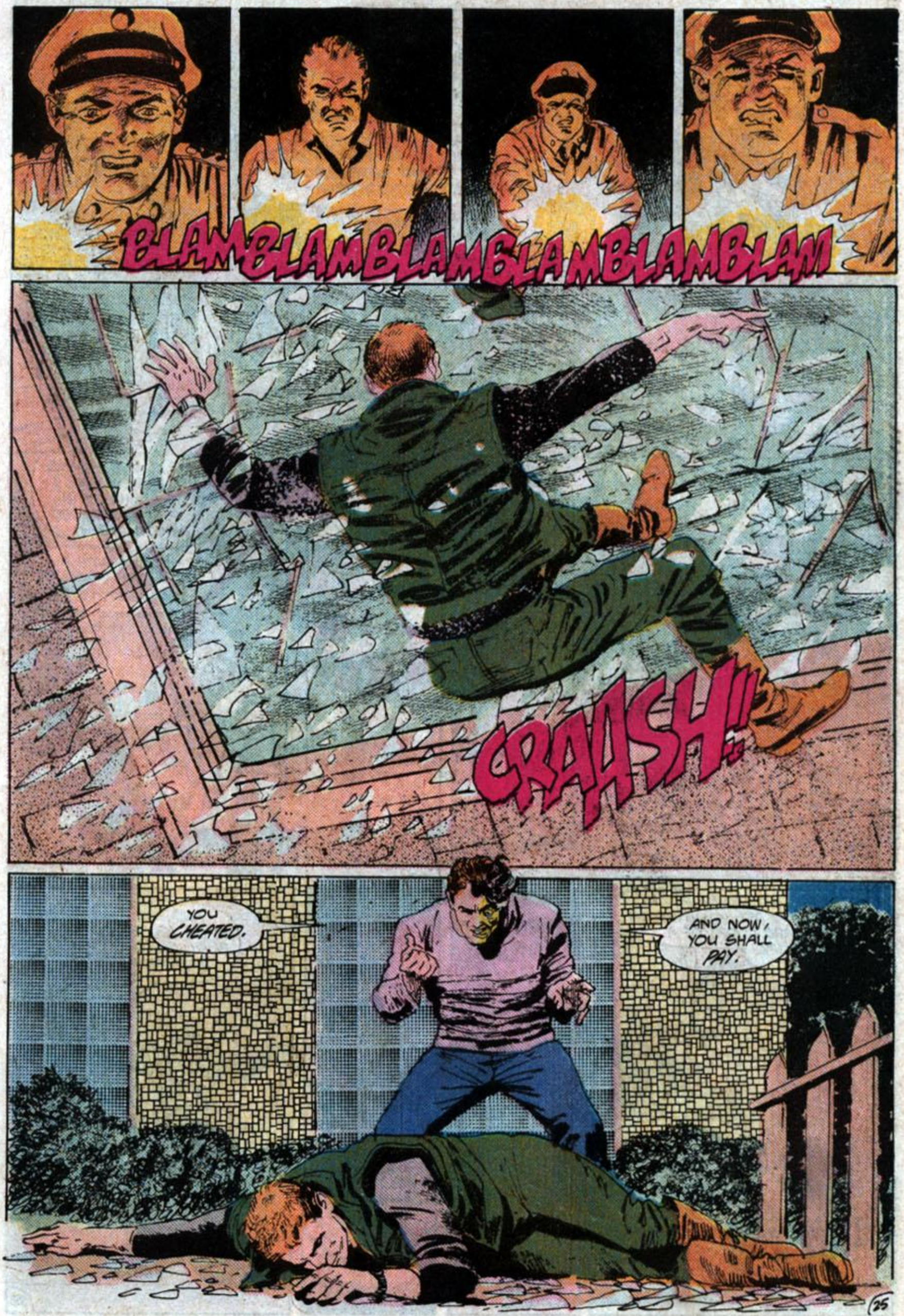
HARRUMPH!!!
ALL RIGHT-- NOBODY MOVE--!!

SORRY, BOSS-- WE DIDN'T KNOW-- VICTOR SET OFF THE ALARM--

MY COIN--YOU IDIOTS MADE ME DROP--
--MY... COIN...? WHAT--?

SOME KIND OF ELECTRONIC GYRO-- UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO MAKE THE COIN COME UP ON THE CLEAN SIDE...

YOU...
...CHEATED...


BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM
CRAASH!!
YOU CHEATED.
AND NOW, YOU SHALL PAY.

NINETY MINUTES LATER...
WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, BATMAN. TO YOUR CREDIT, WHEN YOU FALL YOU FALL HARD.
THOSE HANDCUFFS ARE MADE OF REINFORCED STEEL, MY FRIEND. WE'VE REMOVED YOUR UTILITY BELT--
--AND THAT BODY ARMOR YOU WORE BENEATH YOUR DISGUISE.
YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE.
YOU SEE, I HAVE PLANS FOR YOU THIS EVENING. I MEAN TO LOCK YOU IN THIS VAN, HANDCUFFED AS YOU ARE--
--ALONG WITH A PAIR OF HUNGRY PIT BULL TERRIERS.
THIS VAN HAS NO DRIVER AND NO BRAKES. YOU ARE SITUATED ON THE DOWNWARD SLOPE OF A TWISTY MOUNTAIN ROAD.
IF THE DOGS DON'T GET YOU, THE CRASH CERTAINLY WILL. DOUBLE JEOPARDY, OLD FOE.
AND, WHILE YOU'RE BUSY DYING, BATMAN--

--I'M GOING TO FIND OFFICER ANTHONY WELLS AND KILL HIM. SO YOU SEE, OLD FOE, MY REVENGE IS TWO-FOLD.
YOU'LL NOT ONLY DIE, BATMAN--
--YOU'LL FAIL. THERE'S NO WAY TO SAVE POOR FREDDIE FROM THE ELECTRIC CHAIR.
AND, KNOWING YOU AS WELL AS I DO, I'M SURE FAILING IS THE WORSE FATE.
I USED TO RESPECT YOU. I THOUGHT YOU AS WORTHY A FOE AS YOU ONCE WERE A FRIEND.
CHEATING IS BENEATH YOU, BATMAN. CONTEMPTIBLE. CLEARLY SOMETHING HAS DRASTICALLY CHANGED WITHIN YOU.
I MISS THE MAN YOU ONCE WERE.
WHERE IS ANTHONY WELLS?
I'M SURE HE'S ON THE ISLAND SOMEWHERE. NOW I'VE LOST TWO-FACE, I'LL HAVE TO FIND HIM ON MY OWN.
BEFORE TWO-FACE KILLS HIM.
I FEIGNED UNCONSCIOUSNESS LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO MY LOCK PICKS--
KRAKK!

I'VE HIDDEN THE MINI TOOLS UNDER A LAYER OF FALSE LATEX SKIN. WHEN I PUT THEM THERE, I THOUGHT I WAS JUST BEING OVERCAUTIOUS--
--BUT WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A MANIAC LIKE HARVEY DENT--
KKERRRAAACK
RRRRRRRRRROARRRRRRRRRRRRRR
--BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY. I HAD THE CUFFS OFF BEFORE THEY EVEN LET THE DOGS GO.
THESE POOR BEASTS ARE RAISED AND TRAINED TO BE FEROCIOUS AND VICIOUS.
THEY DON'T DESERVE THIS.
TWO-FACE WILL KILL WELLS WITHIN THE HOUR. I HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO WHERE TO FIND HIM. GOT TO THINK--
--THERE'S GOT TO BE A CLUE. THERE'S ALWAYS A CLUE.
KWAP
SOMETHING I'VE SEEN... SOMETHING SOMEONE HAS SAID...
SSSCRRREEEEE

I'VE COME TOO FAR--CAN'T BLOW IT NOW.

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING--
BOOF!

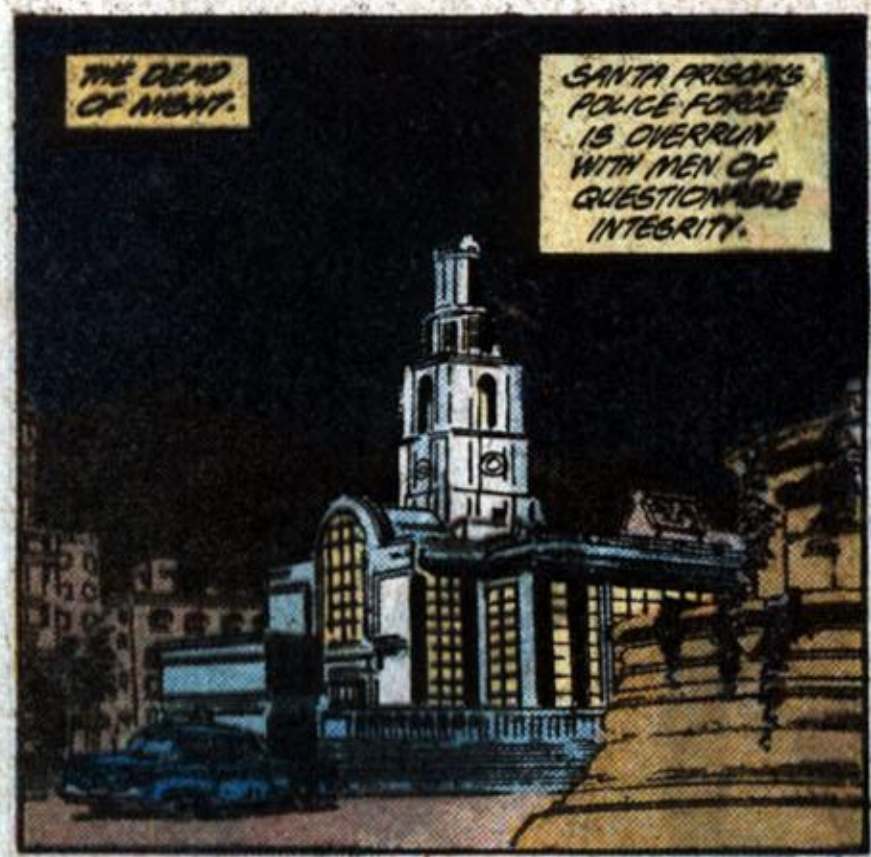
--SOMETHING I'VE MISSED--

--WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT WELLS...

...THINK... THINK...!

SPLAA SHI
THAT'S IT! OF COURSE! IT'S SO OBVIOUS!

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE WELLS WOULD BE!


THE DEAD OF NIGHT.
SANTA PRISCA'S POLICE FORCE IS OVERRUN WITH MEN OF QUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY.

THIS IS ONE OF THEM.
HIS NAME IS ANTHONY WELLS.
HELLO, ANTHONY.

I'M BACK.

T--TWO-FACE--WHAT ARE YOU--I MEAN, I'D HEARD YOU WERE IN TOWN--

SOMETHING HAS COMPLICATED OUR AGREEMENT, OFFICER WELLS.

YOU SEE, I AM AT WAR WITH THE FORCES OF JUSTICE. THIS WAR HAS CLAIMED MANY CASUALTIES.

MUCH AS I MIGHT ADMIRE YOUR SINISTER DUALITY, I'M AFRAID THAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE DESIGNATED YOU BE--

--THE NEXT VICTIM--!!

HE IS A MAN AT WAR.
AN INTENSE, OBSESSED SOLDIER FULFILLING AN OATH HE'D MADE A LIFETIME AGO WHILE STANDING OVER HIS PARENTS' GRAVE.
KERRR-
AAAA SH!
HE'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO WIN THIS WAR.
NOTHING.

BACK IN GOTHAM, YOU'D WANTED A PROMOTION, WELLS. TOO BAD YOU WERE SUCH A LOUSY COP.
SANTA PRISCA ONLY EMPLOYS LOUSY CORS.
KRASSH!!!

WHEN I SPOTTED YOU IN THE VIDEO, YOUR HAIR WAS MATTED--
--THE SAME WAY SANTA PRISCA CORS' HAIR GETS MATTED FROM THE POORLY-MADE HATS THEY WEAR HERE.
WHOMP!

IT WAS A LONG SHOT, WELLS--

BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
LIGHTS OUT, HARVEY.
WHOMP

THIRTY HOURS BEFORE RICHARDS'S EXECUTION.
GOT TO MOVE.

AN AIRSTRIP NEAR THE SHORE--

THE PILOT OF THIS PLANE IS USED TO TAKING RISKS.

AIRLIFTING MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND FOOD TO SANTA PRISCA'S IMPOVERISHED POPULACE IS EXTREMELY RISKY BUSINESS.

JUST SITTING HERE ON THE TARMAC IS SUICIDAL.

BAD PEOPLE RUN THIS ISLAND.

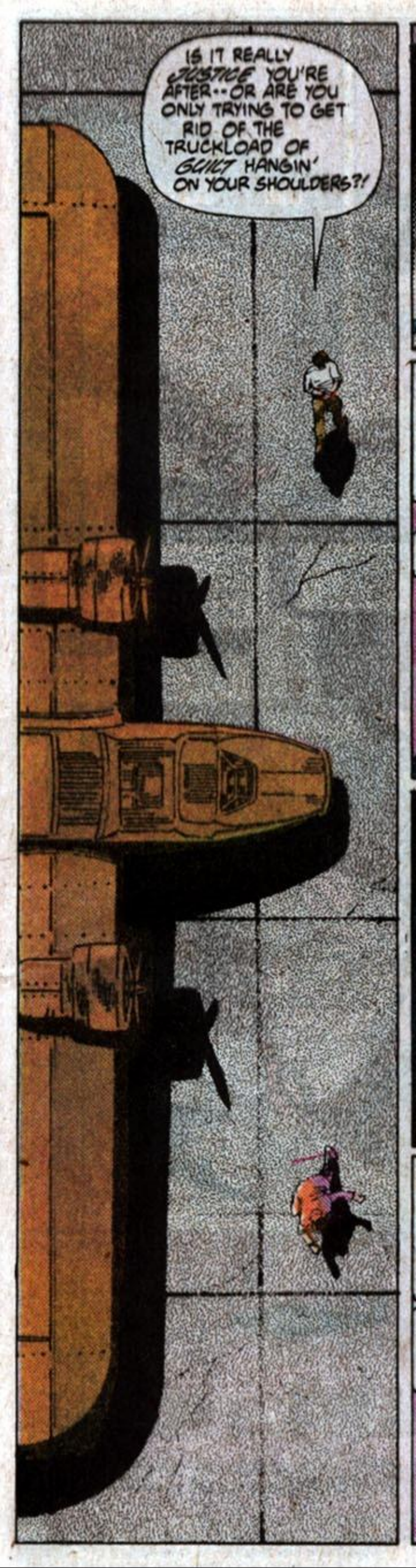
VERY BAD PEOPLE.

IF HE GETS CAUGHT, HE'LL BE KILLED.

HE WISHES BATMAN WOULD--

HOLEE--

SSSSCCCRRREEEE



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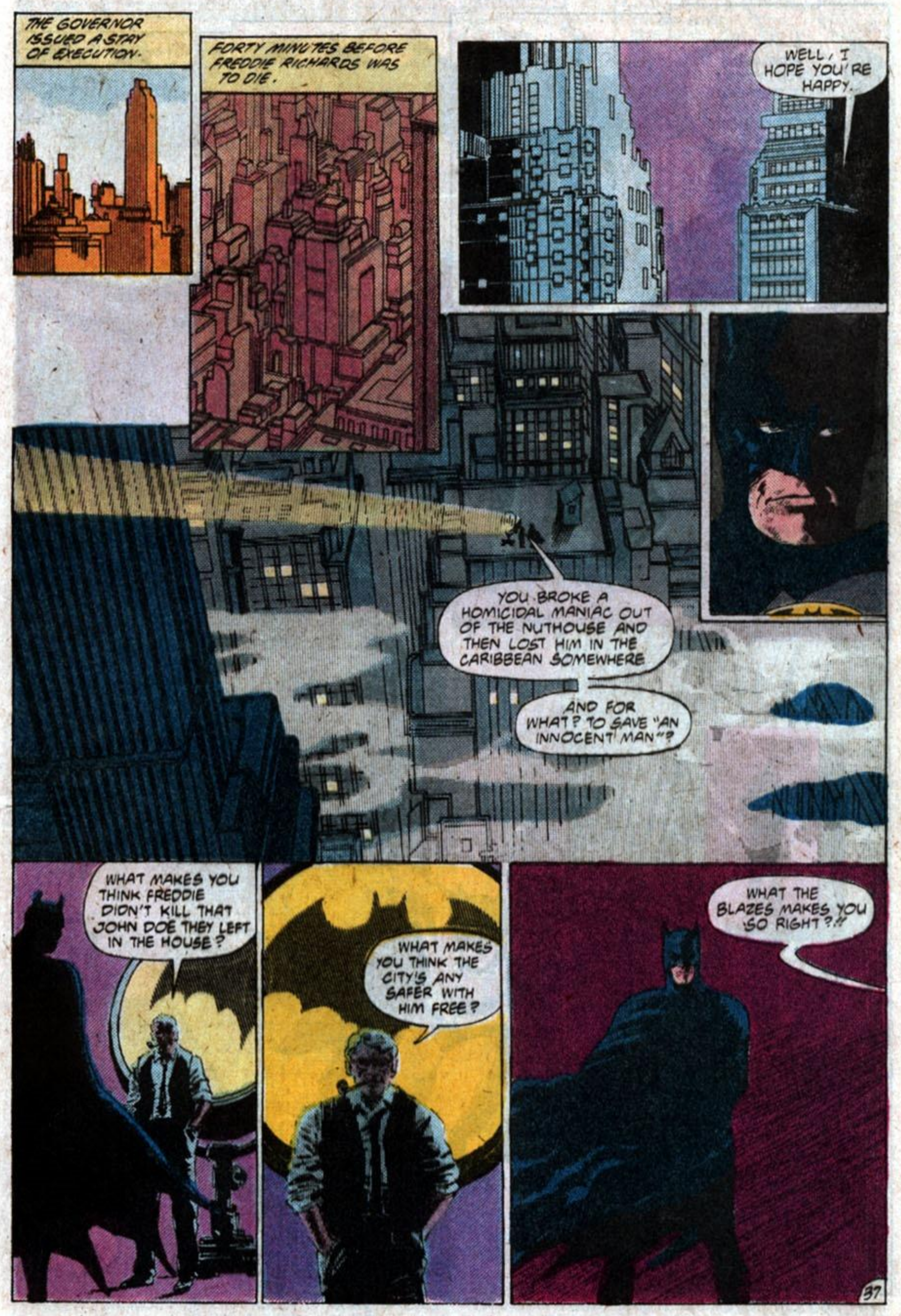

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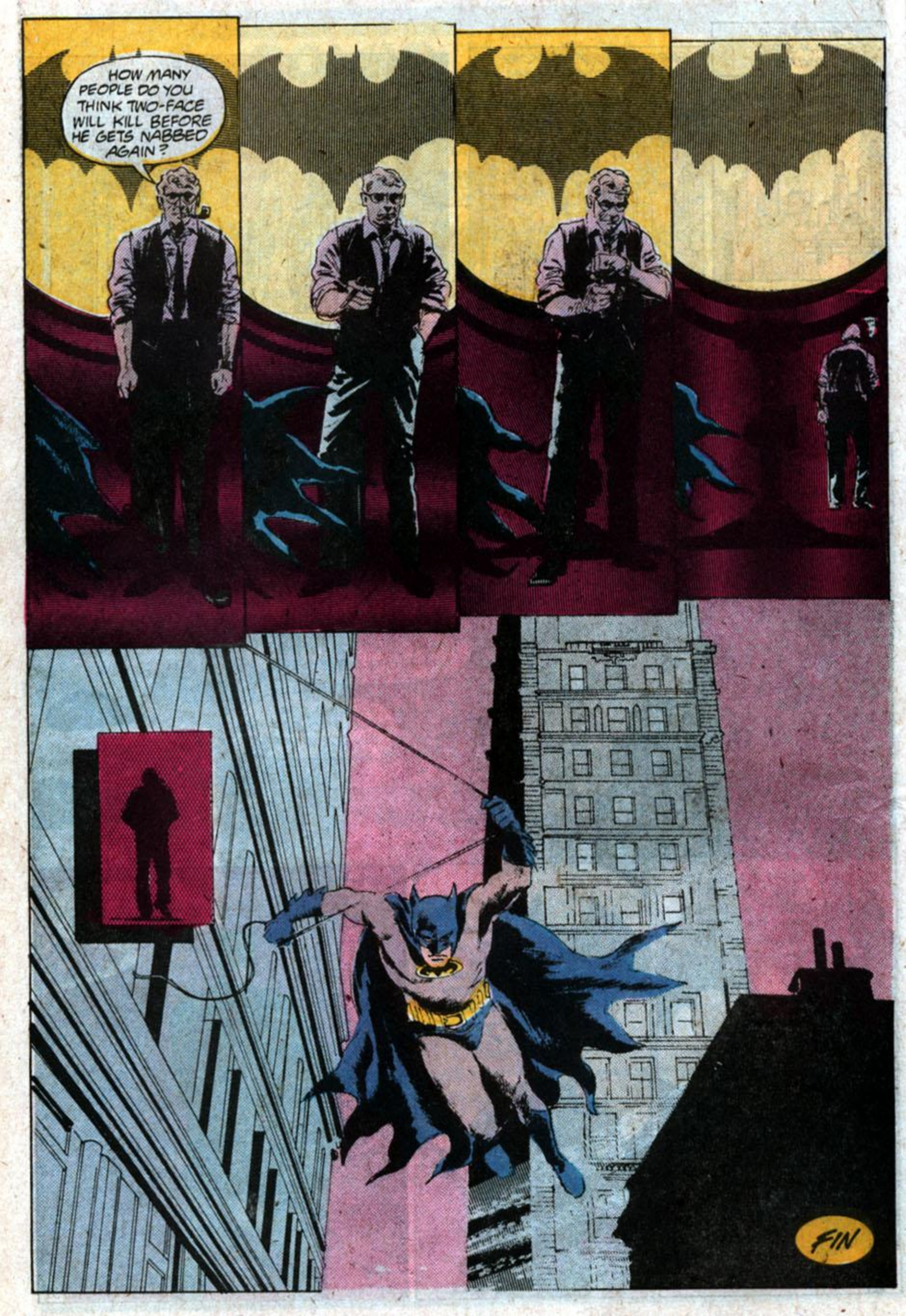
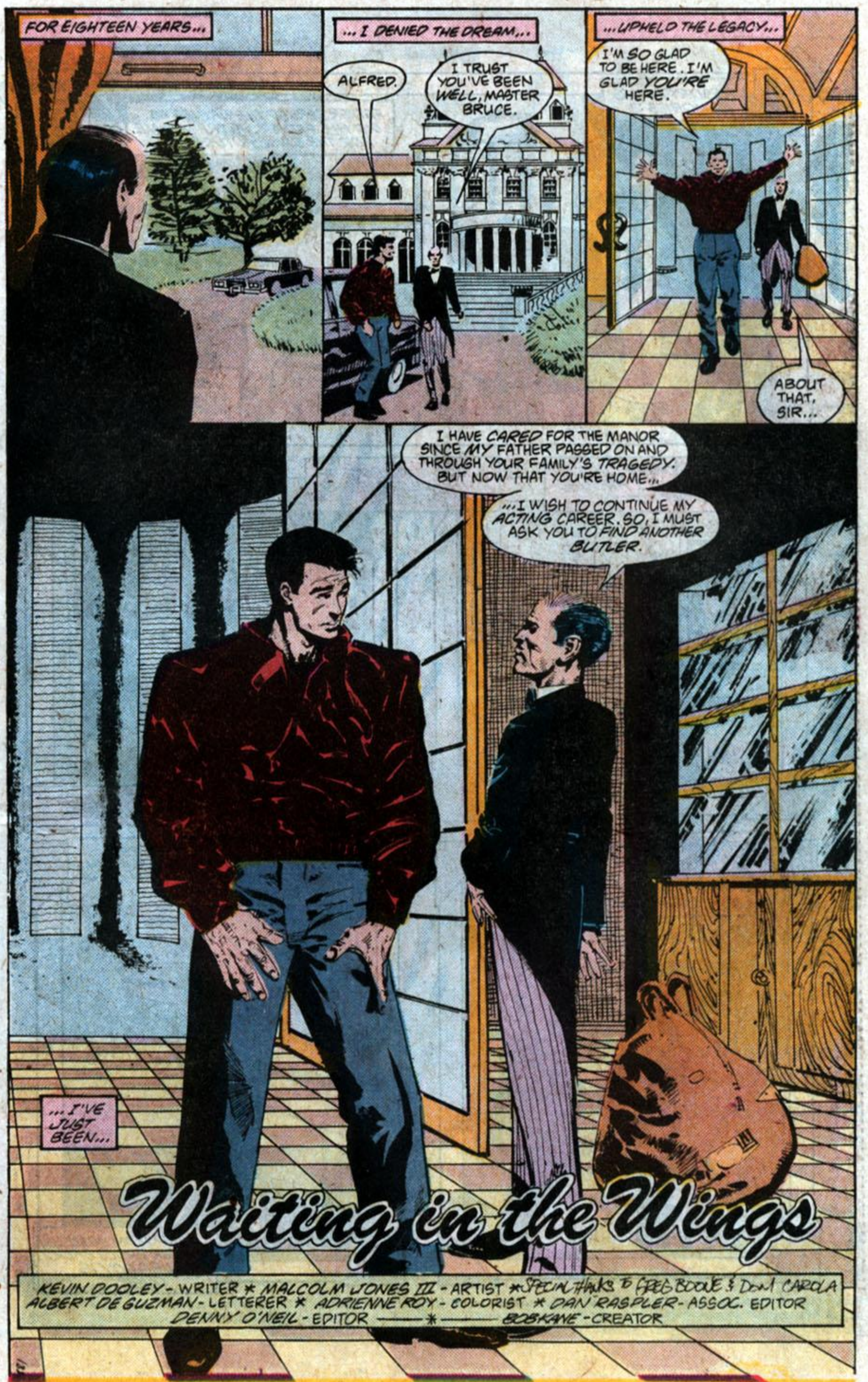
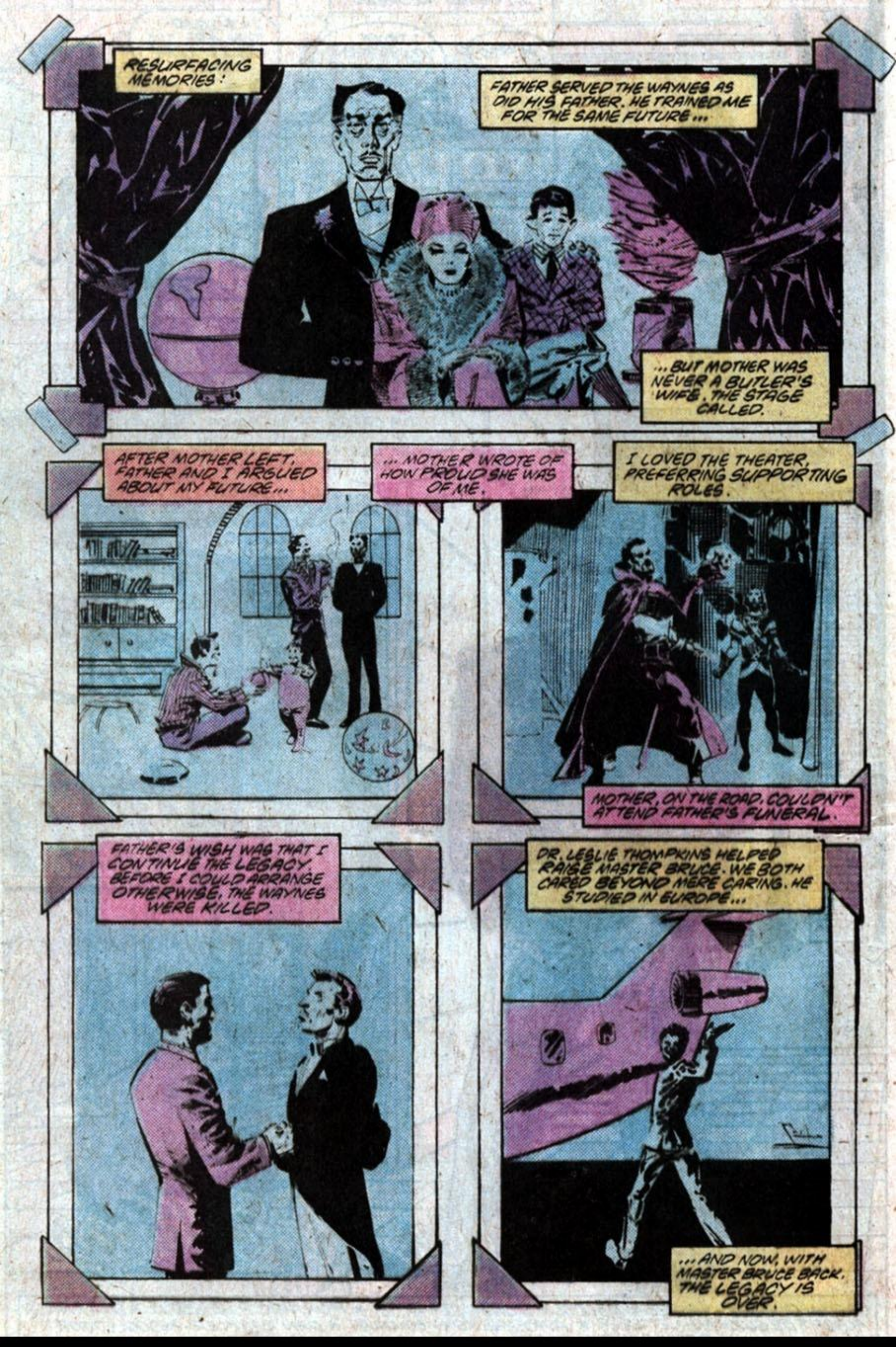

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU THINK TWO-FACE WILL KILL BEFORE HE GETS NABBED AGAIN?
FIN


FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS...
...I DENIED THE DREAM...
ALFRED.
I TRUST YOU'VE BEEN WELL, MASTER BRUCE.
...UPHELD THE LEGACY...
I'M SO GLAD TO BE HERE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
ABOUT THAT, SIR...
I HAVE CARED FOR THE MANOR SINCE MY FATHER PASSED ON AND THROUGH YOUR FAMILY'S TRAGEDY. BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME...
...I WISH TO CONTINUE MY ACTING CAREER. SO, I MUST ASK YOU TO FIND ANOTHER BUTLER.
...I'VE JUST BEEN...
Waiting in the Wings
KEVIN DOOLEY - WRITER * MALCOLM JONES III - ARTIST * SPECIAL THANKS TO GREG BOOLE & DON CAROLA
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER * ADRIENNE ROY - COLORIST * DAN RASPLER - ASSOC. EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL - EDITOR * BOB KANE - CREATOR



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SINCE AGE SIX HIS TRAGEDY HAS BEEN HIS LIFE.
MY LIFE WILL BE MORE THAN: "YES, SIR. VERY GOOD, SIR." I WILL DO SOME GOOD WITH MY LIFE.
I TEACH HIM MAKE-UP-- WHAT IT CAN'T DISGUISE.
THE GOOD ONE MAN CAN DO.
HE IS AS OBSESSED WITH HIS FATHER'S DEATH AS I AM WITH MY FATHER'S LIFE.
HE WENT OUT HIS FIRST NIGHT.
I AWAKE TO HEAR BREAKING GLASS.
A TRAIL OF BLOOD TO THE STUDY. THE BELL TO CALL ME.
TINGA-TINGA-TING... CLUNK
I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE HE'D NEED...
...MY ARMY MEDICAL TRAINING. BY SOME NOD OF FATE, WE HAVE THE SAME BLOOD TYPE.

HE CALLS UPON MY COSTUMING SKILLS--SOMETHING DRAWN FROM HIS MEMORY--PRACTICAL, YET NIGHTMARISH.
OPINION, ALFRED?
POSITIVELY CHILLING, SIR.
SINCE AGE SIX, HE HAS HAD A SINGLE RESOLVE... -
THE GOOD ONE MAN CAN DO.
NOW HE TALKS ABOUT FEAR... THE FEAR OF GOD...
WE TALK... ABOUT THE FEAR OF FAILURE.
SINCE AGE EIGHT, HE HAS BEEN THE BATMAN. I MUST COACH HIM IN THE "ROLE" OF BRUCE WAYNE.
I MUST BE MORE THAN MY FATHER'S ROLE, MORE THAN A BUTLER.
4

SOMETIMES REALITY CONFLICTS WITH THE PLAY.

WHERE IS HE?

MAYBE, HE'S FORGOTTEN--

OUR DATE? CHEEZE, THAT'S NOT LIKE BRUCEY.

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM...

JACKIE MELVILLE - WGTM IN THE EAST END, TONIGHT A SCENE OF GANG VIOLENCE. THREE SURVIVORS ARE HOLED UP IN THE OLD THEATER, NOW A HOMELESS REFUGE...

HEY, PIGS!

NO, PLEASE, NOT THAT THEATER...

WE GOT A BAD RAP HERE. WE WERE PAID TO BRING THAT OTHER GANG DOWN.

... WHERE HE SAW "MARK OF ZORRO"...

NOW, LET US GO OR ...HUH?

... THAT NIGHT, OH MASTER BRUCE...

... HOW YOU MUST BE TORN UP INSIDE.

KUUUHH...

IT'S THAT BAT-PERSON!

QUIET, PATTI!

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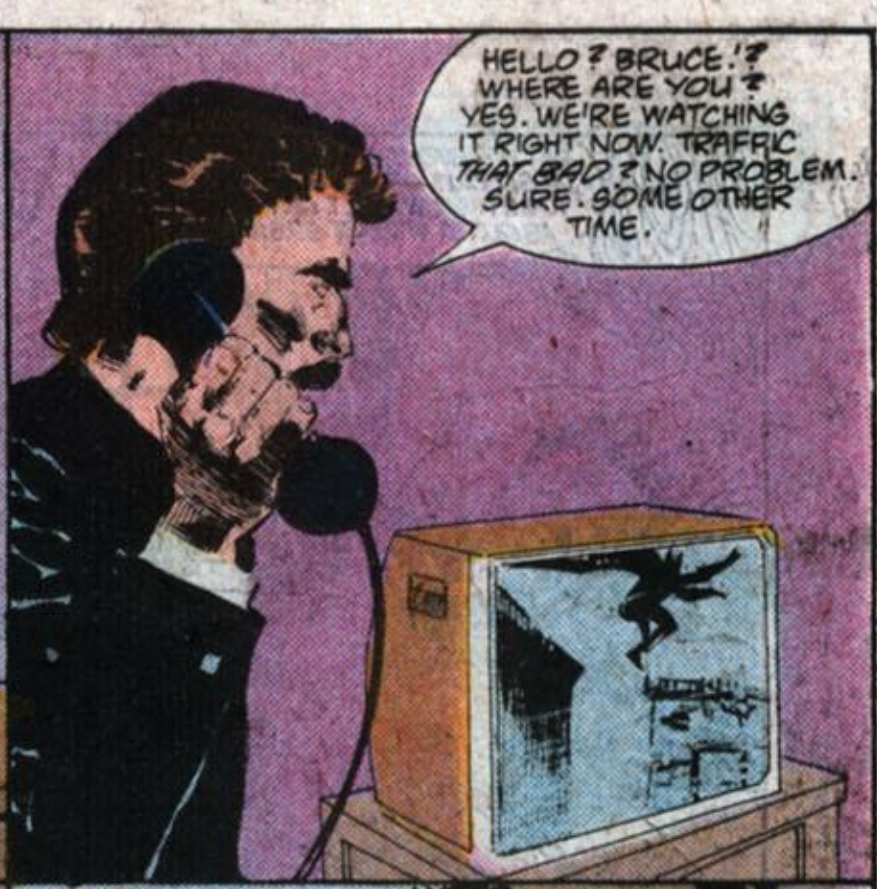
RING-BRRING
ALFRED? WHERE IS HE? ALFRED?
I'LL GET IT.


HELLO? BRUCE!? WHERE ARE YOU? YES. WE'RE WATCHING IT RIGHT NOW. TRAFFIC THAT BAD? NO PROBLEM. SURE. SOME OTHER TIME.

OH, ALFRED. THAT WAS BRUCE ON THE PHONE. HE'S STUCK DOWNTOWN AND WON'T BE HOME FOR A WHILE. SO WE MIGHT AS WELL GO.
YES, SIR.

PLEASE, LET HIM BE ALL RIGHT.

PLEASE, DON'T LET THE GOOD HE'S DONE DESTROY HIM.
SIR...?

UNGH! IS THIS TO BE AN EVERY NIGHT OCCURRENCE, SIR?

PATTI? BRUCE, LISTEN, I'VE GOT TO GO OUT OF TOWN. LET'S GET TOGETHER WHEN I GET BACK? ABOUT A WEEK? GREAT. BYE.

VERY CONVINCING, ALFRED. I WOULD'VE SWORN IT WAS ME. IS THAT HOW YOU GOT RID OF MY GUESTS?

YES SIR.

I SIMPLY USED ONE OF THE KITCHEN LINES TO CALL THE MAIN HOUSE LINE.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU GAVE QUITE A TOUR DE FORCE.

IT WAS QUITE EXHILARATING.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ALFRED?

THAT PERHAPS BEING YOUR BUTLER COULD BE FULFILLING. AN ACTOR CONVINCES THE AUDIENCE OF A REALITY. EVERY DAY I'LL BE CONVINCING PEOPLE YOU ARE LESS THAN YOU ARE.

WE DO, HOWEVER, NEED TO WORK ON THE OTHER VOICE. A HALF-OCTAVE LOWER, I SHOULD THINK.

BUT YOU KNOW, ALFRED, AS YOUR FATHER WAS TO MY FATHER, YOU COULD NEVER BE JUST A BUTLER.

I ALSO REALIZE THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING A BUTLER, TO SERVE SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

...I WILL EVEN ACT AS IF YOUR NOCTURNAL EXCURSIONS DON'T BOTHER ME, THAT MY HEART DOES NOT CRY WITH EACH WOUND.

I'LL KNOW I AM DOING THE GOOD ONE MAN CAN DO...

VERY GOOD, SIR.

...WAITING IN THE WINGS.

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Bruce Wayne
Occupation: Multimillionaire socialite, principal stockholder in Wayne Enterprises and the Wayne Foundation
Marital Status: Single
Known Relatives: Thomas and Martha Wayne (parents, deceased)
Group Affiliation: Justice League, Outsiders
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #27
Height: 6'2" *Weight:* 210 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

Bruce Wayne is the son of Thomas and Martha Wayne, who were two of the wealthiest citizens of Gotham City. The family lived in the enormous mansion called Wayne Manor, along with their butler Alfred Pennyworth (see *Alfred*).

One day when he was six, Bruce fell down a hole on the manor grounds into the vast cave lying beneath the property. In the cave Bruce was frightened by a large, fierce-looking bat.

Sometime later, Bruce went with his parents to see *The Mark of Zorro* at a Gotham City movie theater. Walking home through the area now known as Crime Alley, they were confronted by a mugger, Joe Chill. When Thomas Wayne defied him, Chill shot him and Martha Wayne dead before the eyes of their horrified son. Chill left the traumatized orphan beside his parents' corpses.

Bruce was found there by Leslie Thompkins, a young woman who was a physician and social worker. She was named Bruce's guardian and saw to his upbringing at Wayne Manor.

Young Bruce vowed at his parents' gravesite to avenge them by warring against all criminals. He trained himself over the years to physical and intellectual perfection in order to become a master crimefighter. Wayne also spent some years abroad before beginning his crimefighting career in Gotham City, being trained in various detective and combat skills by a number of teachers.

Returning at last to Gotham City and Wayne Manor, Wayne disguised himself in order to explore Gotham's crime-ridden East End without being recognized. In the East End Wayne became embroiled in a fight with several criminals (including Selina Kyle, the future Catwoman), was seriously injured and captured by the police. Wayne escaped without his true identity being discovered.

He returned to Wayne Manor. As he sat before a bust of his father, Wayne thought he would rather die than go on living without a clear idea of how he could make his opponents fear him so he would have the advantage in battling them. Then, like an omen, a great bat, apparently the same one that had frightened Wayne as a boy, crashed through the window and settled upon the bust of Thomas Wayne. Inspired by the sight, Wayne decided to adopt a bat-like costume to unnerve his adversaries. Thus Bruce Wayne became the Batman. He shared the secret of his dual identity only with Pennyworth, who was still his servant, and with Thompkins.

Crime and political corruption had been rampant in Gotham City since the retirement years before of its previous costumed vigilante, The Reaper. The Batman now began a one-man war both against Gotham's criminals and its corrupt political officials.

The Gotham City police, headed by the corrupt police commissioner Gillian B. Loeb, hunted the Batman for his illegal vigilantism. Among the policemen seeking to arrest the Batman was Lieutenant James W. Gordon (see *Commissioner Gordon*). Honest and dedicated to his work, and disgusted by the brutality and corruption in his own department, Gordon began to change his opinion of the Batman after seeing him

risk his life to save an elderly woman from death.

After Gordon turned in Detective Arnold Flass, one of Loeb's confederates, for his criminal activities, Loeb and the Roman, a Gotham crimelord, had Gordon's newborn son kidnapped in an effort to blackmail Gordon into cooperating with them. The Batman saved the baby's life, and from then on, the Batman and Gordon were allies.

Loeb resigned on being implicated by Flass as a criminal, and Gordon became a captain and then police commissioner himself. Gordon ended the police's pursuit of the Batman.

Another of Batman's early allies was D.A. Harvey Dent, who later became the arch-criminal TWO-FACE.

During the second year of his career, the Batman defeated the Reaper, who had resumed his killings of criminals, and finally confronted Joe Chill, the slayer of his parents.

It was during the third year of the Batman's career that young Dick Grayson became his crimefighting partner, the original Robin the Boy Wonder (see *Robin I*). Grayson had been a member of the Flying Graysons, a family of circus aerialists. Wayne became Grayson's guardian after the boy's parents were murdered by thugs working for crime Boss Anthony Zucco.

Some years later, Grayson's partnership with the Batman ended, and Grayson now operates under the name Nightwing. Wayne took in another orphaned boy, Jason Todd, who succeeded Grayson in the role of Robin. Todd, however, was killed by the Joker, the Batman's leading adversary (see *Robin II*).

Bruce Wayne is principal stockholder in Wayne Enterprises, an extensive empire of various successful businesses, including Wayne Technologies. Wayne is also founder and chief stockholder of the Wayne Foundation, a philanthropic organization.

The Batman joined the original Justice League of America soon after its formation and currently belongs to the America-based branch of Justice League International. He also formed a team of crimefighters called the Outsiders, which has since disbanded.

The Batman has a multitude of notorious criminal adversaries. Among the most infamous of these are the Joker, Ra's al Ghul, the Catwoman, Two-Face, Professor Hugo Strange, the Penguin, the Scarecrow, and the Riddler.

The Batman's principal headquarters is the Batcave, the vast cavern lying beneath Wayne Manor.

POWERS & WEAPONS

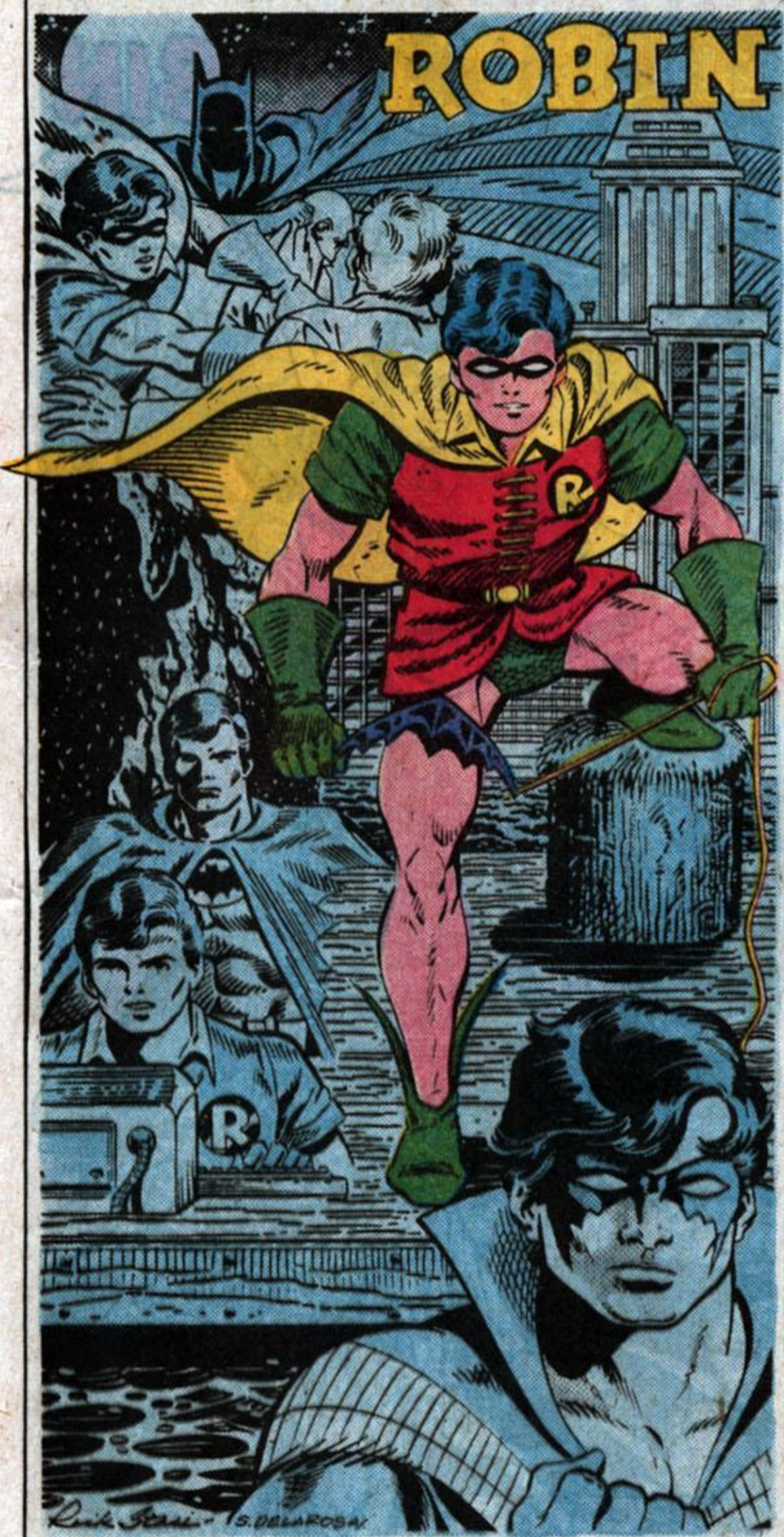
An incomparable athlete, the Batman is also a master of virtually all known forms of physical combat, an unparalleled strategist and tactician, and an expert in the art of disguise. His reasoning and deductive abilities are second to none. He is rivaled only by Mister Miracle as the world's greatest escape artist.

The Batman carries a wide array of weapons in his utility belt. Among his means of transportation are the Batmobile and Batcopter. ■

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Richard (Dick) Grayson
Occupation: Adventurer, former aerialist and student

Marital Status: Single
Known Relatives: John Grayson (father, deceased), Mary Grayson (mother, deceased), Harriet Cooper (aunt)
Group Affiliation: The New Titans
Base of Operations: Gotham City



First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #38
Height: 6'0" *Weight:* 175 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

Young Dick Grayson and his parents John and Mary were the Flying Graysons, aerialists who performed with the Haly Circus. After Haly refused to pay protection money to gangster Boss Anthony Zucco, Zucco had the Graysons' trapeze ropes weakened with acid. When the circus gave its next performance in a town outside Gotham City, a weakened trapeze rope broke during the Flying Graysons' act, and John and Mary Grayson plunged to their deaths before the horrified eyes of their son and the entire audience. Also present in the audience was Bruce Wayne, who was secretly the masked crimefighter known as The Batman (see *Batman*).

Dick Grayson, who overheard Zucco's men warning Haly that if he did not pay them protection money, "accidents" would occur, realized that his parents had been murdered. Batman said that he intended to bring Zucco to justice, and Grayson asked if he could help. Recognizing that both he and Grayson both sought to avenge the murders of their parents, Batman decided to make Grayson his partner. He entrusted Grayson with the secret of his other identity and guided him through an intensive physical training program over the following weeks. Grayson adopted the costumed identity of Robin the Boy Wonder.

Together Batman and Robin battled Zucco and his men and obtained the evidence necessary to convict Zucco of murder.

Batman and Robin continued to fight crime together for years. Dick Grayson lived with Wayne as his ward.

The partnership of Batman and the original Robin came to an end when Grayson came to realize that his goals and attitudes differed sharply from those of the more obsessed Batman. Moreover, after Robin was wounded by their enemy the Joker (see *Joker*) and nearly died, Batman no longer wanted to work with a younger partner in dangerous situations.

Grayson continued to operate as a costumed crimefighter in his new identity of Nightwing. As Robin, he helped establish the original Teen Titans, a team of young crimefighters of which Nightwing is still a member.

POWERS & WEAPONS

The original Robin was a brilliant athlete and acrobat and a master of many forms of physical combat. Under Batman's training, Robin developed superb detective skills.

Robin carried weaponry and crimefighting equipment in a utility belt similar to Batman's. ■

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Jason Todd
Occupation: Student, adventurer
Marital Status; Single
Known Relatives: Willis Todd (father, deceased), Sheila Haywood (mother, deceased), Catherine Todd (stepmother, deceased)
Group Affiliation: The Teen Titans
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: BATMAN #408
Height: 5'0" *Weight:* 110 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

Months after his crimefighting partnership with the original Robin ended, the Batman visited Crime Alley, the street where his parents had been murdered many years before (see *Batman, Robin I*). While he was there, a boy named Jason Todd stole the Batmobile's tires. Batman soon confronted Todd and learned that he lived alone in a tenement, where he had taken care of Catherine Todd, the woman he believed to be his mother, until she had passed away due to illness. Todd assumed his father was in prison.

Batman enrolled Jason in the nearby Ma Gunn's School for Boys, which was also a shelter for runaways. When the Batman learned that "Ma" Fay Gunn actually directed her young charges in committing crimes, Jason Todd aided him in bringing Gunn and her young criminals to justice.

The Batman then decided to ask Todd to become his new crimefighting partner. Todd accepted and became the second Robin after six months of extensive training. Todd now knew that the Batman was Bruce Wayne and lived with him at Wayne Manor. The general public was not aware that the Robin now working with the Batman was not the original one.

Eventually, Todd learned that his father had been killed by his former employer, the criminal Two-Face (see *Two-Face*). With Batman's help, the new Robin defeated and captured him.

The new Robin performed very effectively as the Batman's partner, and also worked occasionally as a member of the Teen Titans.

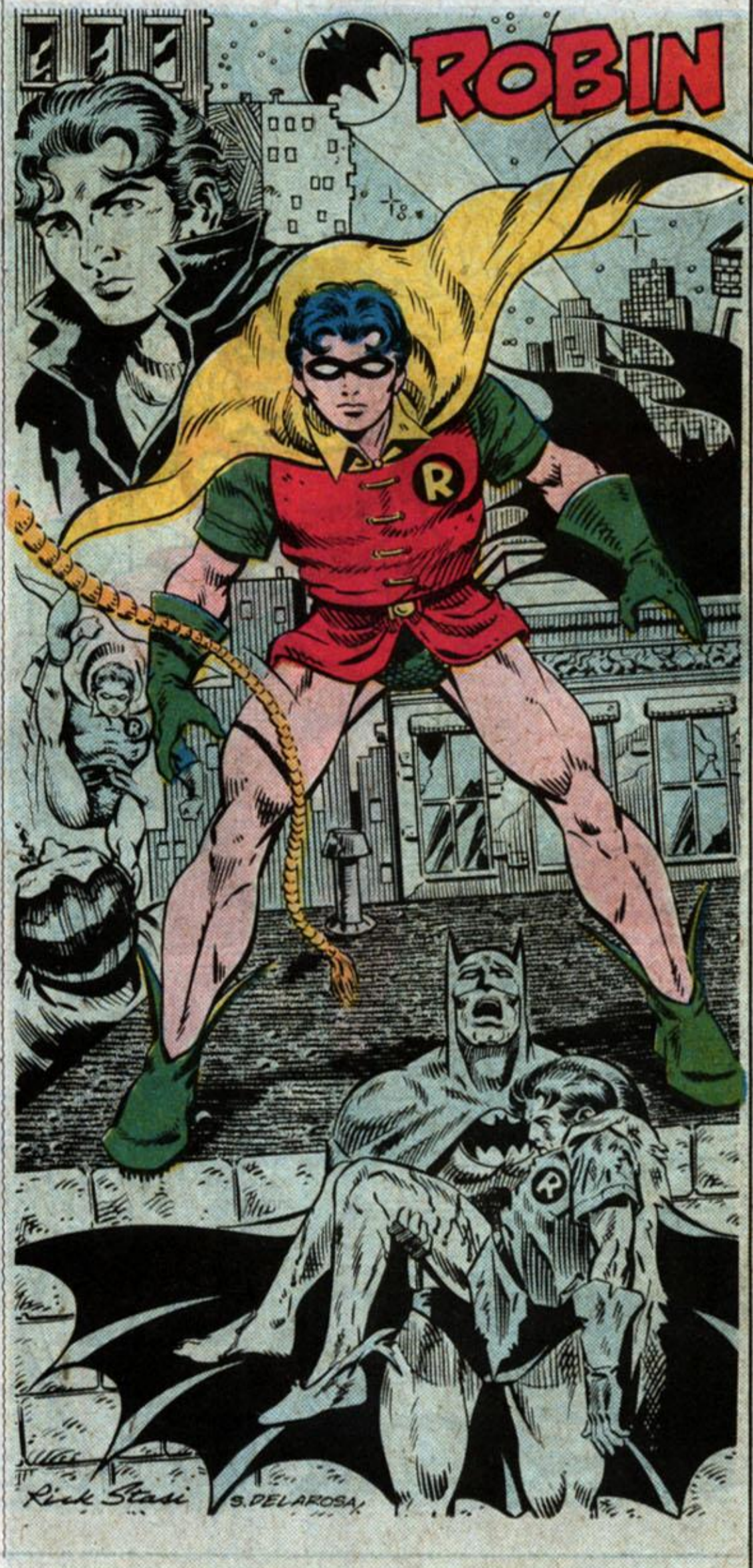
But Jason became increasingly rebellious and began taking unreasonable risks in action. He may even have been responsible for killing Felipe Garzonas, an ambassador's son who had used diplomatic immunity to escape punishment for beating a young woman.

Upon learning that Catherine Todd was actually his stepmother, Jason set out to find his real mother—Dr. Sheila Haywood, whom Wayne and Todd found in Ethiopia. Todd discovered she was being blackmailed by the Joker. Revealing his Robin identity to her, Todd offered to help Haywood, but she turned him over to the Joker, fearing that a police investigation would expose her as an embezzler. The Joker beat Robin severely, tied Haywood up, and left them both locked in a warehouse with a bomb set to explode. Jason heroically threw himself in front of Haywood to try to protect her from the explosion, but it killed them both.

POWERS & WEAPONS

The second Robin was an above average athlete and acrobat. He was a formidable hand-to-hand combatant. Under Batman's tutelage he developed keen detective skills.

Robin wore a utility belt equipped with a Batarang and other crimefighting weapons and equipment ■



ALFRED PENNYWORTH

PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: Alfred Pennyworth
Occupation: Butler
Marital Status: Single
Known Relatives: Wilfred (brother), Daphne (niece)
Base of Operations: Wayne Manor, Gotham City
First Appearance: BATMAN #16
Height: 6' *Weight:* 160 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

A native of England, Alfred Pennyworth spent most of his life in the United States as a servant to the Wayne family of Gotham City. Although some of his relatives, including his brother and mother, have followed the family tradition of becoming actors, Alfred Pennyworth chose to adopt his father's profession, that of a butler.

Alfred worked for Dr. Thomas Wayne of Gotham City and his wife Martha, who lived in Wayne Manor in Gotham City. After his employers were murdered, Afred remained at Wayne Manor, helping the physician Leslie Thompkins care for the Waynes' orphaned son Bruce.

Alfred continued to take care of Wayne Manor during the years Bruce Wayne spent abroad. On his return, Wayne decided to become the costumed crimefighter known as the Batman (see *Batman*). He revealed his double identity to Alfred, who has proved a loyal confidant and behind-the-scenes aide both to the Batman and to the youths who have taken the role of his crimefighting partner, Robin the Boy Wonder (see *Robin I, Robin II*).

Alfred is responsible for keeping in perfect condition the Batman's vast array of weaponry, vehicles, communications devices, computers, and other specialized equipment (most of which is housed in the Batcave beneath Wayne Manor). He has played a key role in many of the Batman's cases, and has saved the crimefighter's life numerous times.

Alfred Pennyworth remains a loyal servant to Bruce Wayne and a staunch ally to the Batman to this day.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Over the years Alfred Pennyworth has developed various skills necessary for assisting the Batman, including the ability to imitate Wayne's voice exactly, a facility for working with computers, mechanical ability necessary for maintaining the Batman's specialized equipment, and even medical skills. Pennyworth has also displayed talent as a detective on various occasions, and has often aided the Batman by performing undercover investigatory work for him. ■

PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: James W. Gordon
Occupation: Commissioner, Gotham City Police Department
Known Relatives: Barbara (ex-wife), James Jr. (son), Barbara (adopted daughter), Roger (brother, deceased), Thelma (sister-in-law, deceased)
Group Affiliation: Gotham City Police Department
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #27 (May, 1939)
Height: 5'9" *Weight:* 168 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* White

HISTORY

Little is known about James W. Gordon's past. When a police officer in Chicago, he was involved in some undisclosed matter that led to his leaving the city. He felt he was a failure and needed to start life anew putting past problems behind him.

With his then-pregnant wife Barbara, Gordon relocated to Gotham City in the East and joined the Police Department as a homicide detective. His honesty and integrity immediately proved an irritant to Commissioner Gillian B. Loeb and other members of the then-corrupt department. Pressures at work complicated his home-life. Having to work the night shift during his wife's pregnancy led the couple to argue extensively. After the caped crime-fighter Batman made his first appearance (see *Batman*), Gordon was placed in charge of the task force put together to bring the vigilante to justice. Working closely beside him was sergeant Sarah Essen, an extremely attractive fellow ex-Chicagoan.

The pressures increased, leading to an affair with Essen, who knew Gordon would never leave his wife. Essen soon transferred to New York City. Finally, Loeb's men took matters into their own hands and attempted to kidnap Barbara and their just-born son, James junior. Gordon saved Barbara while Batman saved James junior.

When the corruption was finally exposed by Gordon and The Batman, a deep friendship between the two men was forged.

Gordon rose to prominence and was promoted to Captain. Gordon and his wife consulted a marriage counselor to save their relationship. While James Junior was still a toddler, Gordon's niece Barbara came to live with the family, after Gordon's alcoholic brother and his wife died. Pressures eventually led Barbara to leave her husband, taking James Junior with her. Gordon settled into life as a single parent, with his niece growing into a scholar with a keen interest in super-heroics. Gordon was ultimately promoted to Commissioner and has led the department for the last six years.

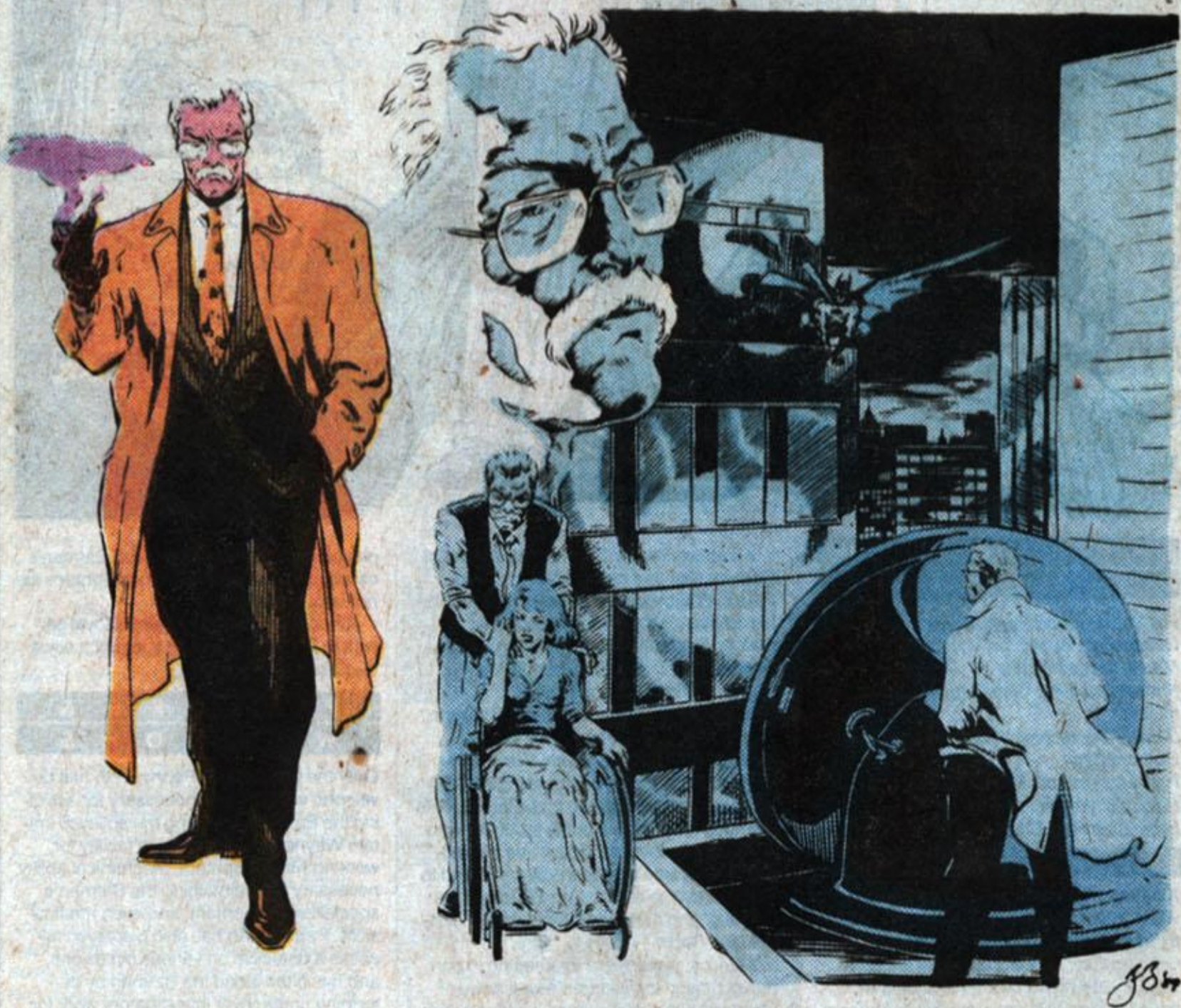
Today, Gordon still relies upon The Batman to deal with the unusual criminals that have populated Gotham's underworld. Lately, though, their relationship has been strained both by his recent victimization by the Joker and also by Batman's grim demeanor following the death of the second Robin.

He currently cares for his now-invalid adopted daughter Barbara and remains intimately involved in police affairs.

POWERS & WEAPONS

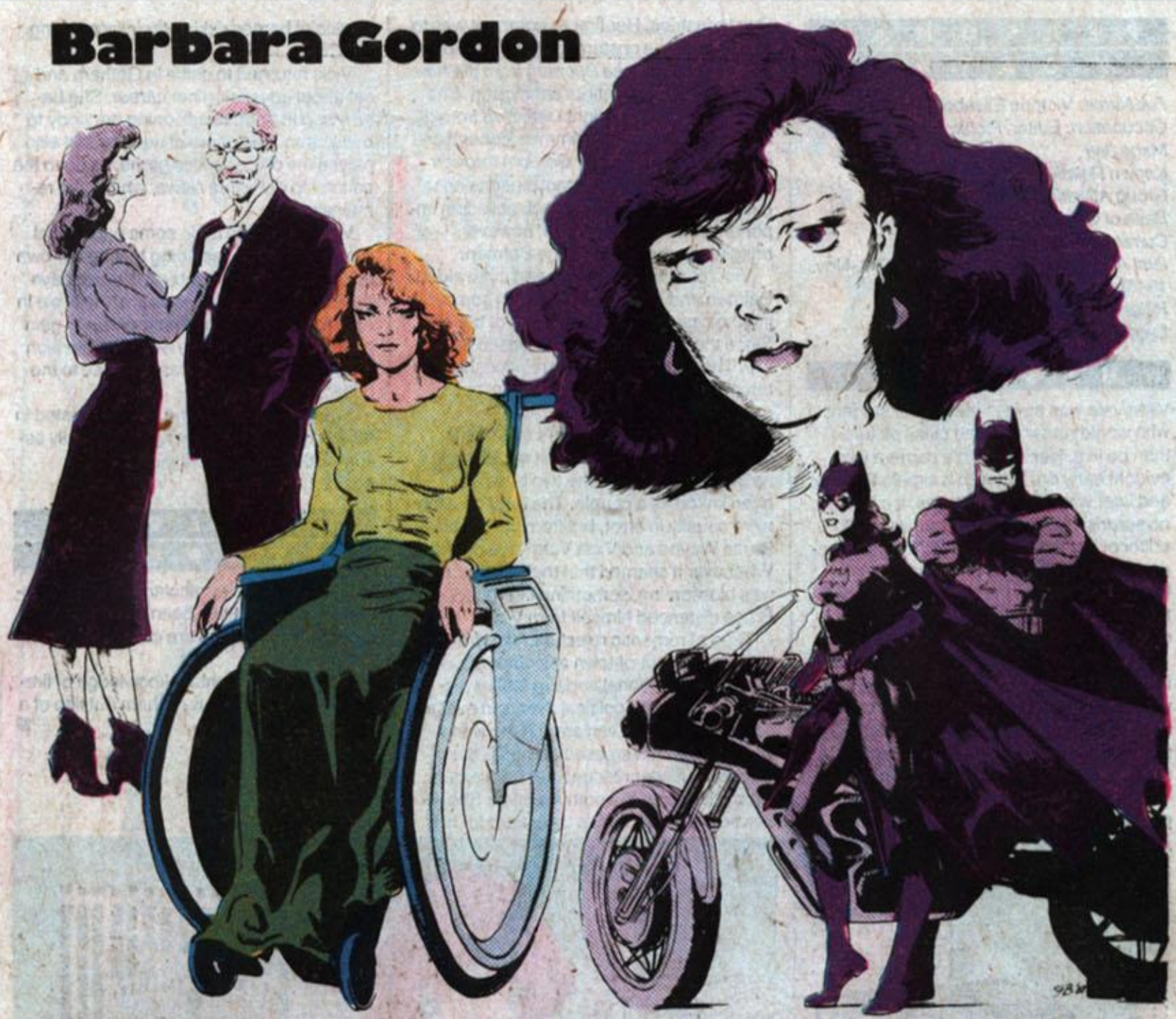
A military veteran, James Gordon is an expertly trained hand-to-hand combatant and conversant with most modern-day weapons. He is also an excellent leader and tactician. ■

Art by Fred Butler



COMMISSIONER GORDON

Barbara Gordon



PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: Barbara Gordon
Occupation: Librarian, currently on disability leave
Known Relatives: Roger C. (father, deceased), Thelma A. (mother, deceased), James W. (adoptive father), Barbara (adoptive mother), James Jr. (adoptive brother)
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #359 (January 1967)
Height: 5'11" *Weight:* 135 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Red

HISTORY

Following a dream to someday be Batman's partner in crime-fighting, Barbara began to train herself at an early age, determined to master any skill that would lead to her goal. She kept her body in shape with a regimen developed from her studies, and trained her unusual memory to be of greatest use by the constant study of maps and facts. She later took up martial arts training with a sensei.

Barbara's mother died in a car accident when Barbara was four years old, which ultimately led to her father's death from alcoholism. At thirteen she moved to Gotham City to live with her aunt and uncle (see *Commissioner Gordon*), who later adopted her. This led to her meeting The Batman, which channeled her fascination with super-heros into a specific interest in The Batman.

Years later, Barbara created the Batgirl persona for a Policemen's Masquerade Ball, but never got to show it off there because she stopped on her way to rescue Bruce Wayne (see *Batman*) from an ambush by Killer Moth. Deciding she could be valuable acting as Batgirl, she kept the incident and costume a secret. James Gordon later learned of her other identity.

After earning her Master's degree in Library and Information Systems from Gotham State University, Barbara began a series of jobs that always took second place to her role as Batgirl. She was a librarian at Gotham Public Library, had a disastrous two-year term as a Congresswoman, and served at Humanities Research and Development.

With the proliferation of super-heroes, Barbara began to reconsider her role as a costumed crimefighter. But first, she had to wrestle with a contract killer named Cormorant, the one person who managed to seriously injure her. Their final confrontation led her to banish the demons from her mind and hang up the Batgirl costume—for good.

Some months later, the Joker broke into the apartment she and Commissioner Gordon share. Gordon was kidnapped while Barbara was shot. Now paralyzed from the waist down, Barbara is not expected to walk again.

During her convalescence, Barbara has increasingly turned to computers, using a modem and her amazing skill to create the computer persona known as Oracle. She has aided both the Suicide Squad and Manhunter to date, without revealing her identity or exacting a price. Her reasons are as yet unknown.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Barbara's photographic memory served her well as Batgirl and equally well now that she is Oracle. Her command of facts and information is rivaled by few in the DC Universe.

Her formerly Olympic-class athletic prowess has enabled her to stay in good condition despite her injury. She continues to work out with a physical therapist to maintain muscle tone and otherwise excellent health.

As Batgirl, she was an excellent hand-to-hand combatant and has been retraining herself to defend herself while confined to a wheelchair. ■

Art by Fred Butler

PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: Victoria Elizabeth Vale
Occupation: Editor, *Picture News Magazine*
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: BATMAN #49 (Oct.-Nov. 1948)
Height: 5'8" *Weight:* 121 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Red

HISTORY

Vicki Vale was always the kind of student who would rather take the class picture than be in it. Her skill with a camera was evident early on, first with a simple Polaroic and later with 35 mm cameras. It came as no surprise when she was named photo editor of her Gotham High School newspaper and later photo editor of the Vassar College Yearbook. In both cases, her photography won awards for excellent composition and unusual use of lighting.

Upon graduating from Vassar, Vicki was immediately hired by the *Gotham Gazette* where she gained a reputation for speed and excellence. Her keen eye always seemed to find news just under the deadline, scooping other papers in town.

Later, she was hired away by the competing Gotham *Picture News*, owned by Sun Industries. Her first assignment was to photograph the costumed vigilante known as The Batman (see *Batman*) from the beginning of a case until its conclusion. She shadowed the Darknight Detective from a rooftop meeting with Commissioner Gordon (see *Commissioner Gordon*) through his "discussions" with stool pigeons near the Gotham docks. Her flash spoiled an important element of the case, however, bringing on the wrath of The Batman.

Vicki corrected her error and even aided Batman and Robin (see *Robin*) in completing the case, earning headlines of her own. Since then, Vicki has often crossed paths with The Batman and their relationship has remained cordial and professional but never really friendly.

Over time, though, Vicki's star status catapulted her into the same social circle as Bruce Wayne and the two have often been linked as a couple. The local gossips were usually in error, but from time to time Bruce Wayne and Vicki Vale have dated. Whenever it seemed that their romance was blossoming, something interfered and Bruce distanced himself from Vicki.

Tired of romantic rejection, Vicki frequently took out-of-town assignments, gaining international acclaim for her pictures of strife and political events in over a dozen countries. Even around the world, she and Batman crossed paths, as the Caped Crusader rescued her from a trap set by the Joker in South America. She received the Press Club's top award for her photos of heroes risking their lives during the Crisis.

Vicki returned to settle in Gotham and set about advancing her career. She began working out, conditioning her body to better stand the rigors of her job, and also played the office politics game, rising to the editorship of *Picture News*, where she remains today.

Vicki continues to do some occasional reporting herself, including having her own editor's column. Her interests these days appear to be super-heroes and their role in America; she was the first reporter to gain photographic access to Belle Reve prison after its secret nature was revealed to the public.

She and Bruce Wayne have not dated in quite some time but everyone naturally assumes that they will be seen together again.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Vicki Vale has no particular skill at hand-to-hand combat but has been "working out" recently. Her reflexes are considered above average.

Vicki has rudimentary knowledge of firearms but has never used them outside of a training course. ■

Art by Bove