

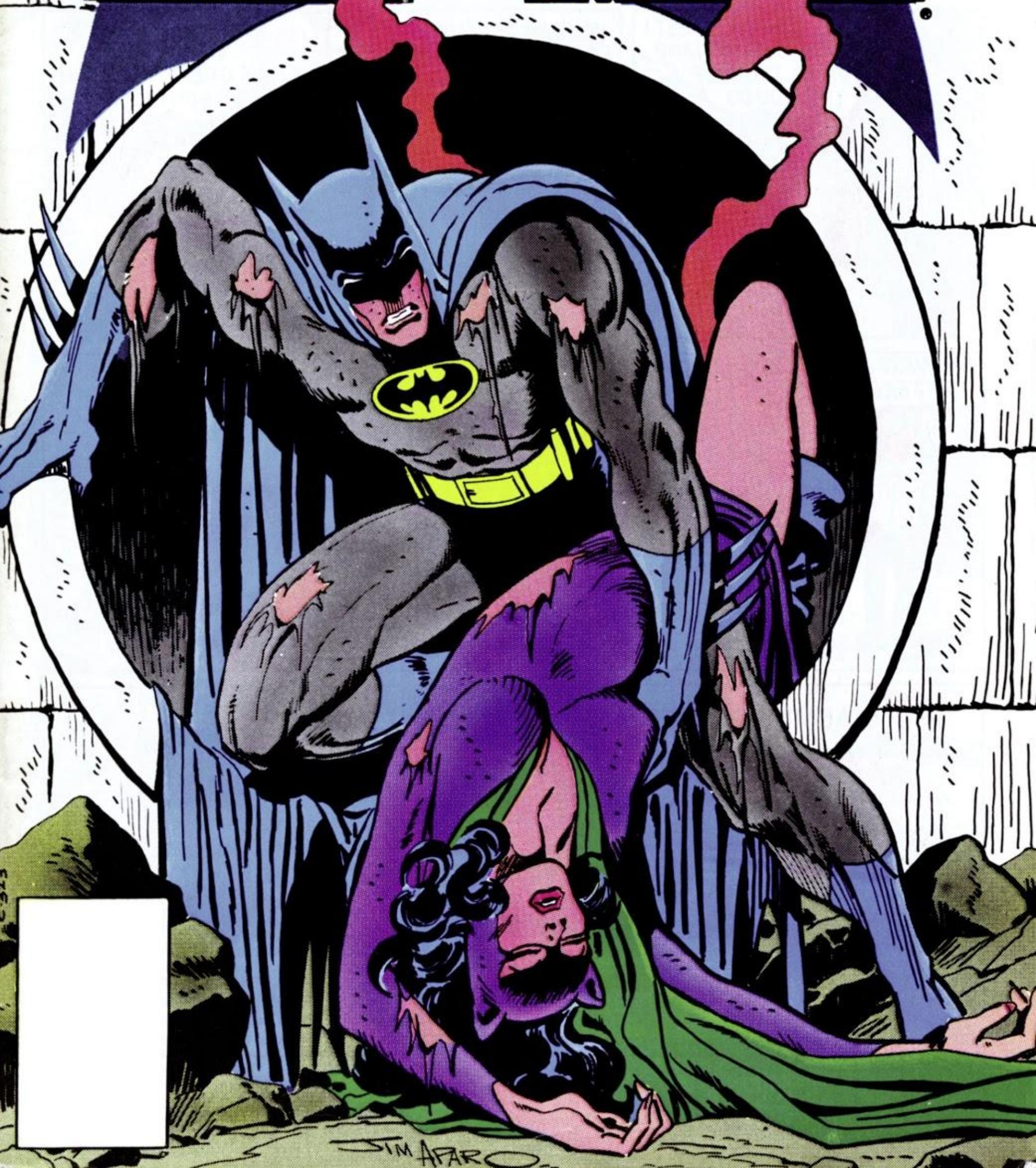


IS THIS THE END OF THE CATWOMAN...?

ALL NEW!
NO. 324
JUNE

BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY



JIM APARO

BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

THE SCENE: A LONG-FORGOTTEN CATAcomb ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY!

THE PLAYERS: THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE... THE SULTRY CATWOMAN... AND THE KILLER WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE CAT-MAN!

THE SITUATION: ALREADY DESPERATE -- AND ABOUT TO GET WORSE!

ONCE I GET FREE OF THESE ADHESIVE CABLES, CAT-MAN-- I'LL KILL YOU!

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, PRETTY LADY--YOU CAN'T THREATEN ME!

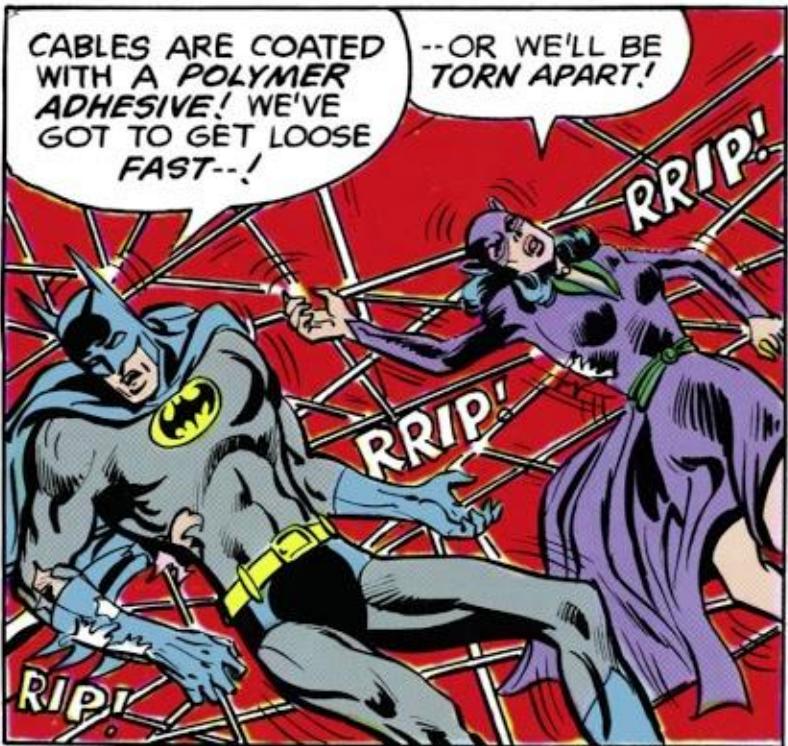
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, I'M-- THE MAN WITH NINE LIVES!

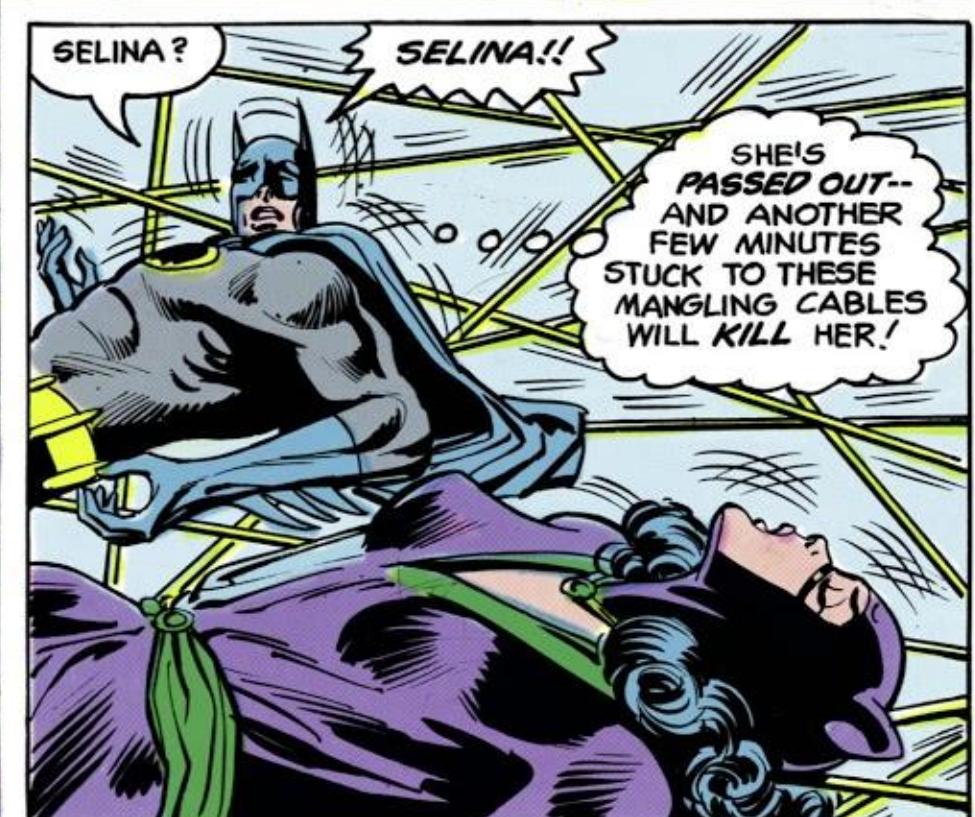
AND FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR STORY, HE IS ALSO...

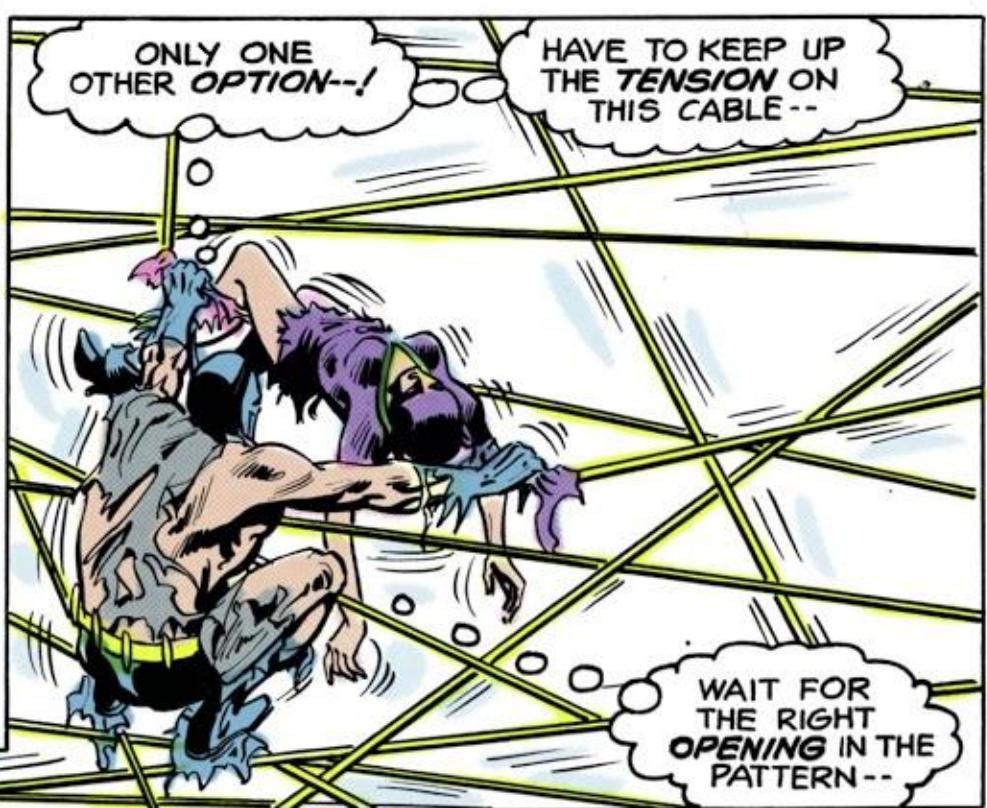
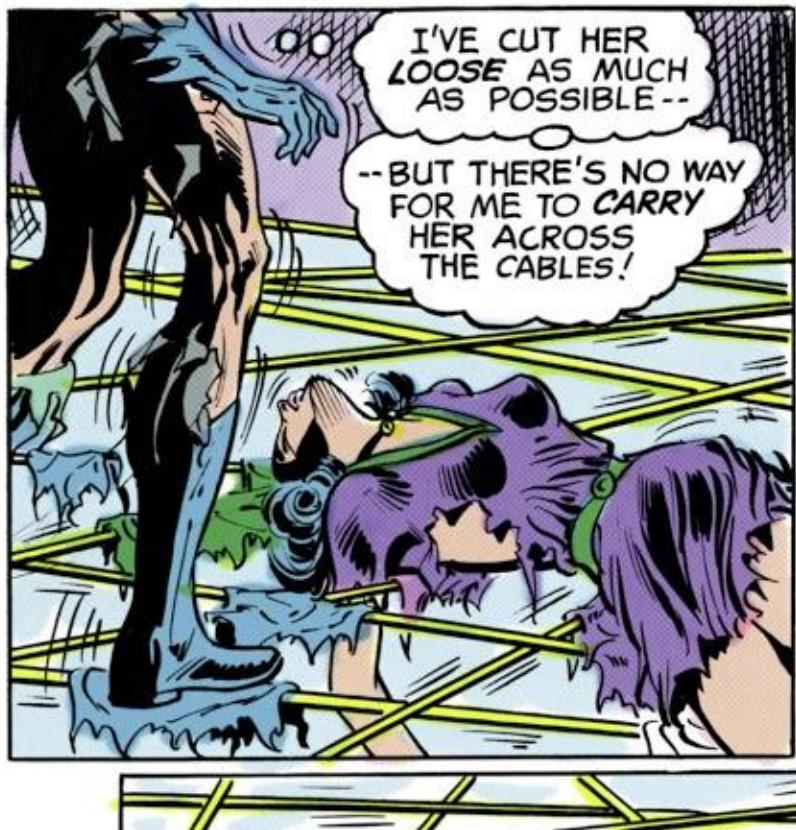
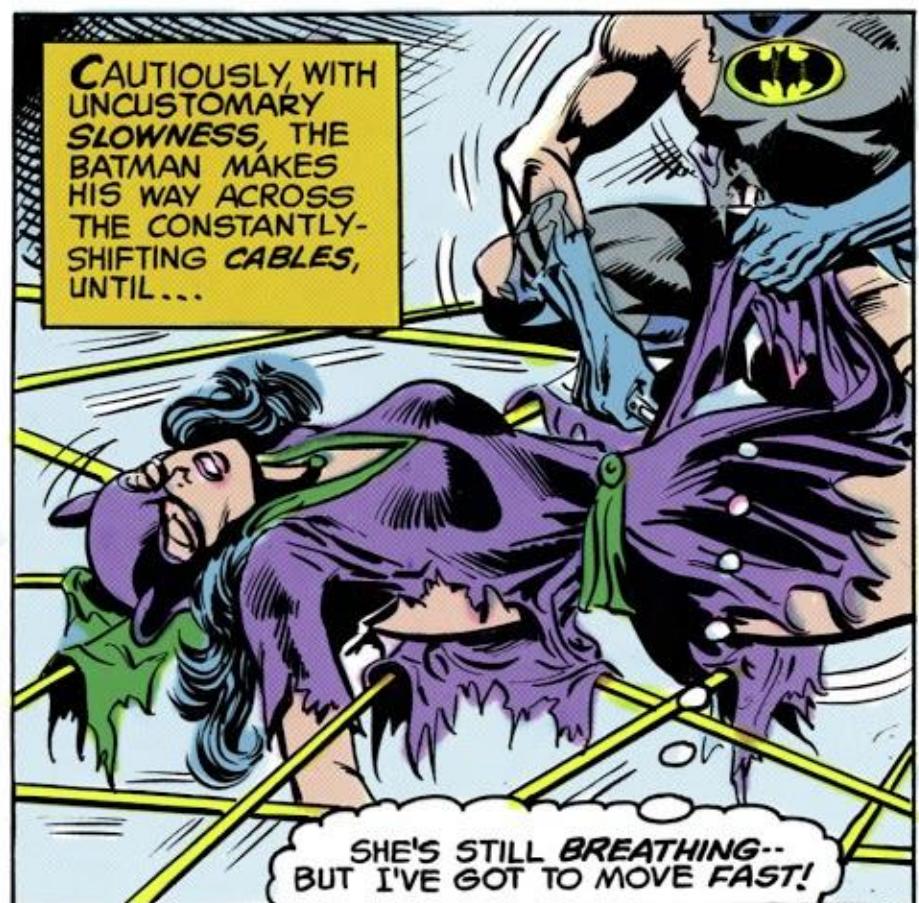
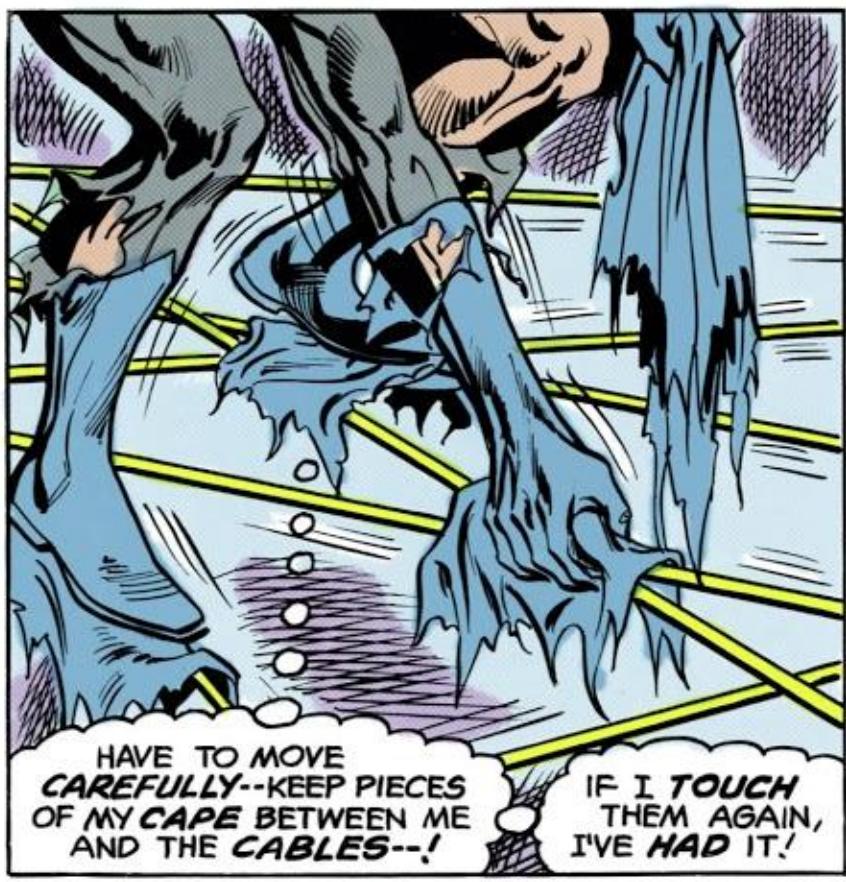
The CAT WHO WOULD BE KING!

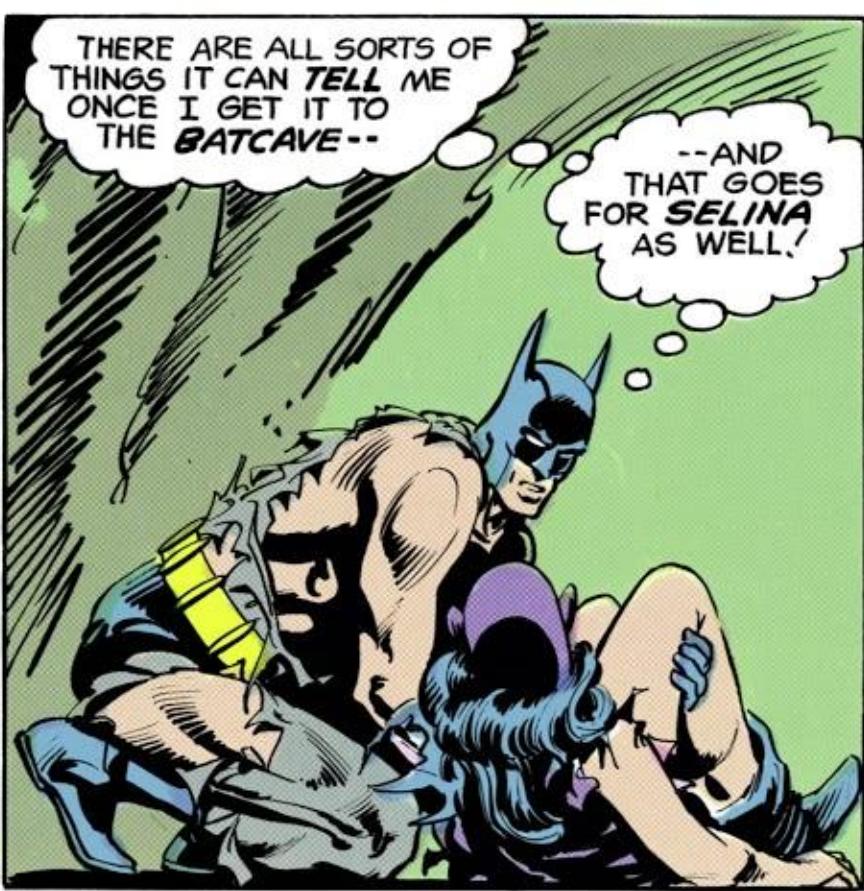
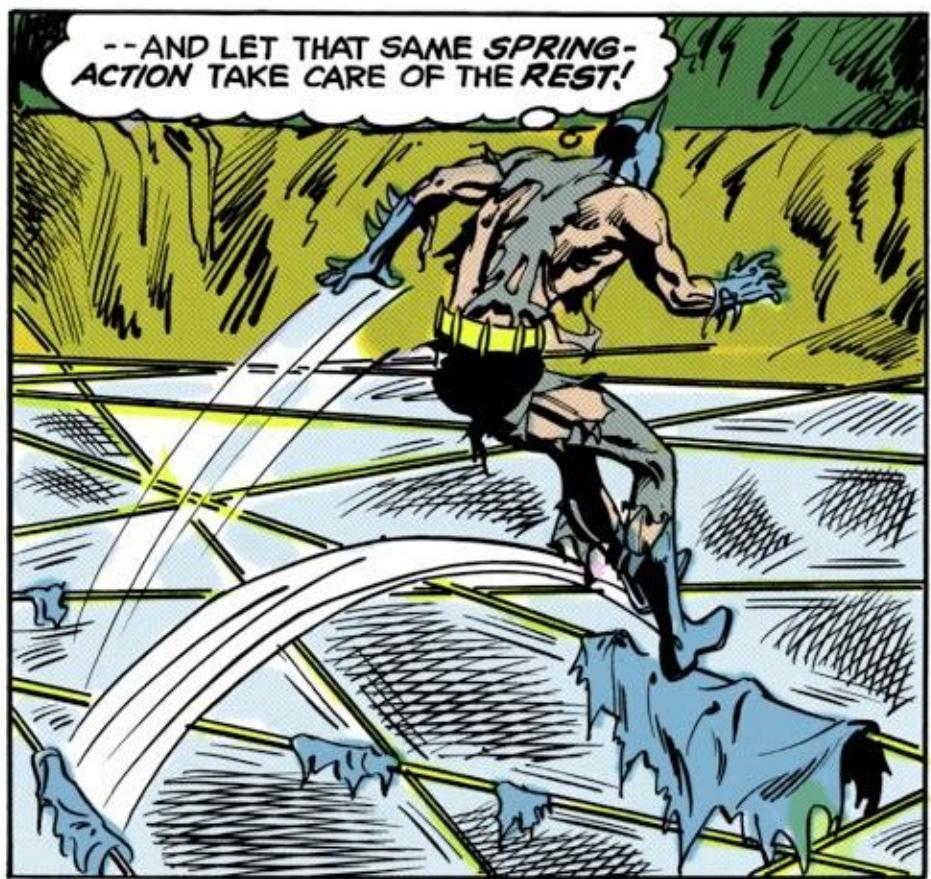
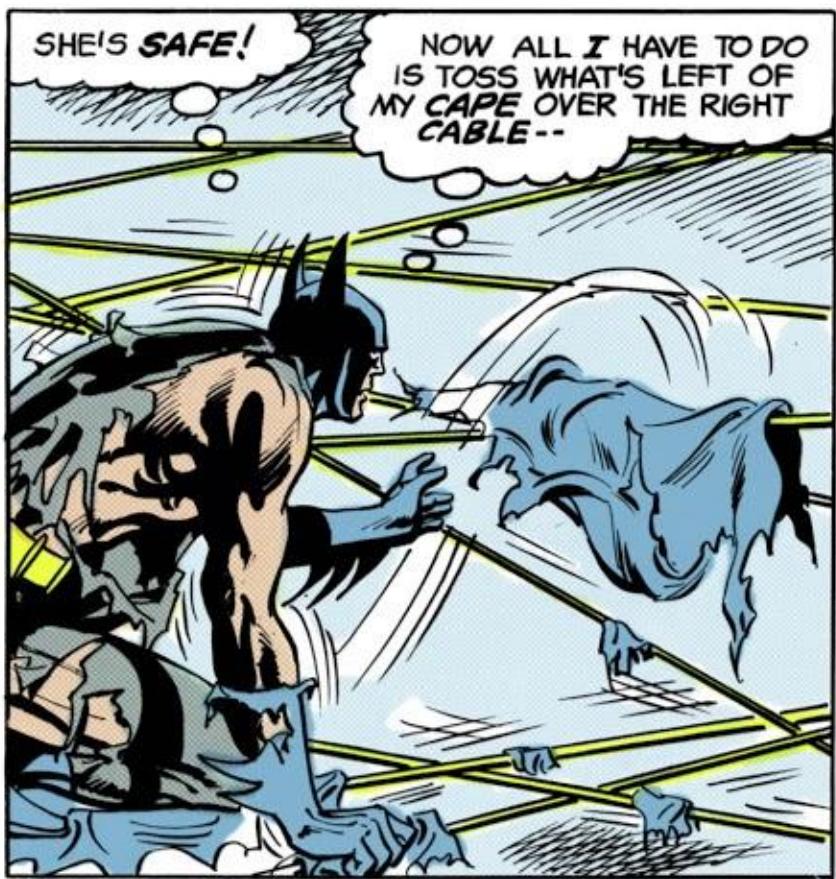
LEN WEIN / IRV NOVICK & BOB SMITH / GLYNIS WEIN / BEN ODA / PAUL LEVITZ
WRITER ARTISTS COLORIST LETTERER EDITOR

1-6588









WHILE HALFWAY ACROSS GOTHAM CITY, WHERE A FLOCK OF POLICE CARS NOW CLUSTER BEFORE THE MIDTOWN JEWELRY EXCHANGE--



--AND AN IRRITATED POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON CONFRONTS ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES...

THIS HAD BETTER BE MORE THAN A SIMPLE ROBBERY FOR YOU TO CALL ME OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, LIEUTENANT!

BELIEVE ME, SIR--IT IS!



IT WAS A THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL JOB, COMMISSIONER-- THE THIEF BYPASSED ALL THE SECURITY ALARMS WITH EASE!

HE COULD'VE GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN-- AND YET HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO STRANGLE THAT POOR WATCHMAN BEFORE HE LEFT!



AND IT GETS EVEN ODDER, SIR -- TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

NO--IT CAN'T BE--!

PLEASE STOP
ME-- BEFORE
I HURT
ANYONE
ELSE!



WHAT IS IT, COMMISSIONER -- WHAT'S WRONG?

THAT MURDER... THIS INSCRIPTION...! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE-- BUT THIS IS THE M.O.* OF "KID GLOVES" McCONNELL!

PLEASE STOP
ME-- BEFORE
I HURT
ANYONE
ELSE!



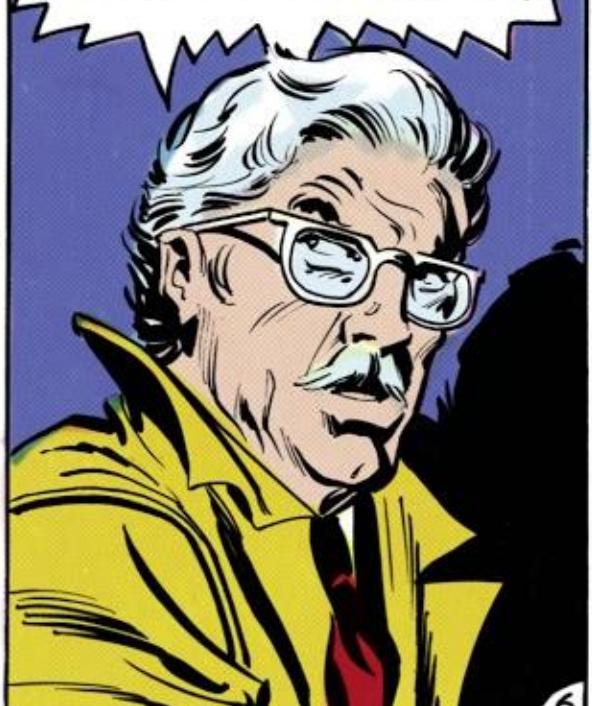
THEN WE'D BETTER GET OUT AN ALL-POINTS BULLETIN ON THIS McCONNELL BEFORE--

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, SON -- I ALREADY KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND HIM!



YOU SEE, LIEUTENANT-- I'M THE MAN WHO PUT McCONNELL AWAY!

THE MAN IS CURRENTLY AN INMATE-- AT THE ARKHAM ASYLUM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE!



* MODUS OPERANDI, MEANING METHOD OF OPERATION-- PAUL

EVEN IN THE SOFT, SUPPLE HOURS BEFORE DAWN, THE MAJESTIC WAYNE FOUNDATION LOOMS AS ONE OF GOTHAM'S MORE IMPRESSIVE BUILDINGS --

-- MADE ALL THE MORE IMPRESSIVE BY THE LEGENDARY BATCAVE HIDDEN FAR BELOW IT...

MMHHHHHH

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU INTENDED TO SLEEP FOREVER!

WELCOME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.

SO THIS IS THE BATCAVE, EH? IT'S EVERYTHING I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE--

--AND THEN SOME!

HERE-- YOU'D BETTER PUT THIS ON!

YOU'RE LUCKY I KEPT ONE OF YOUR OLD COSTUMES IN MY TROPHY ROOM!

SOMETHING TELLS I'VE BEEN LUCKY IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

I OBVIOUSLY OWE YOU MY LIFE-- OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!

THANK YOU.

OH?

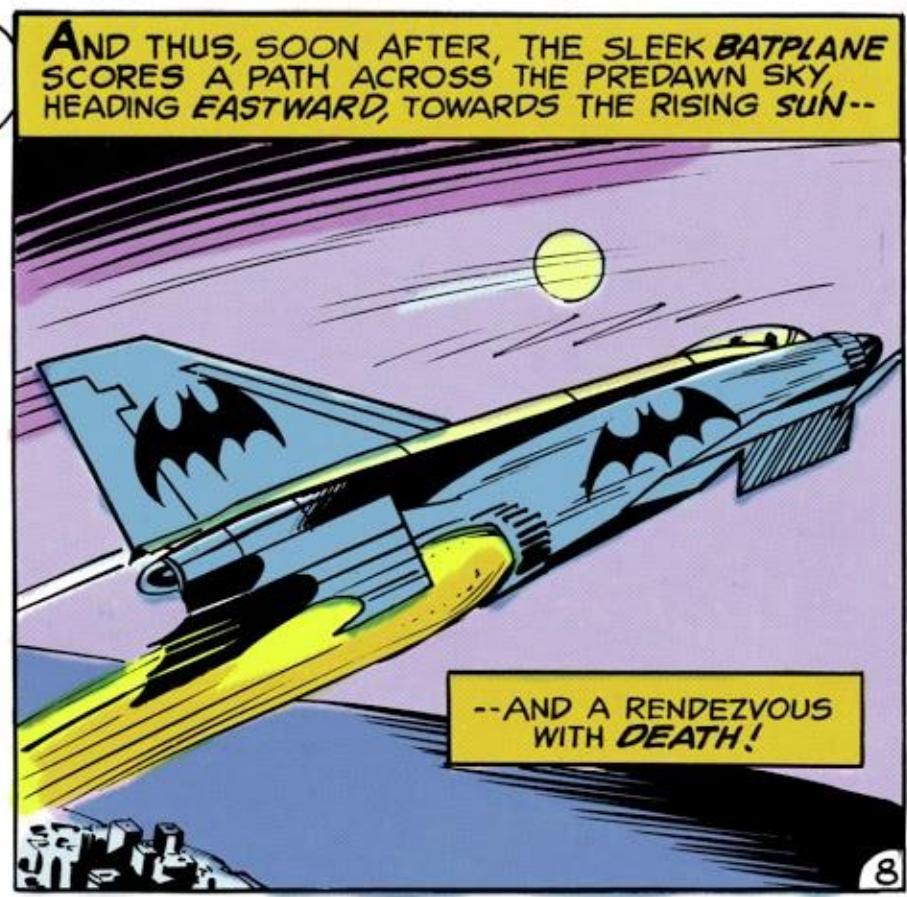
DON'T PLAY CUTE, SELINA. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE SUFFERING FROM A RARE DISEASE THAT COULD KILL YOU AT ANY MOMENT?

DON'T MENTION IT.

AND BY THE WAY, I'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOUR DOCTOR DUNDEE.

I TRIED TO ONCE, REMEMBER?

STILL CHECKING OUT THAT SLIVER OF CAT-MAN'S BOOT-HEEL?



PÁTRAI,
ON THE
NORTHERN
COAST OF
GREECE,
SEVERAL
HOURS
LATER...



HERE, IN A DINGY
WATERFRONT **BAR**,
AN EXQUISITE
RAVEN-HAIRED
WOMAN HAS SPENT
THE PAST HALF-
HOUR SUBTLY
PUMPING ONE OF
THE LOCAL WHARF
RATS FOR
INFORMATION--



--AND NOW...

MIKLOS HAS **TOLD**
YOU WHAT YOU
WISHED TO KNOW,
PRETTY LADY--

--AND NOW IT IS
TIME FOR MIKLOS
TO BE **PAID!**

OH, YOU'LL
BE **PAID**
ALL RIGHT,
FATSTUFF--



--IN SPADES!!

WHOK!

UUNNFF!!

WHEN YOUR FRIEND
FINALLY **WAKES UP**,
TELL HIM HE CAN
SEND ME A **BILL**--

--ASSUMING, OF COURSE,
HE CAN **FIND ME**!



AND MOMENTS LATER, IN THE MOON-SHADOWED
DARKNESS **OUTSIDE**...

DID YOU FIND OUT
WHAT WE **NEEDED**?

DID YOU EVER DOUBT
I **WOULD**?

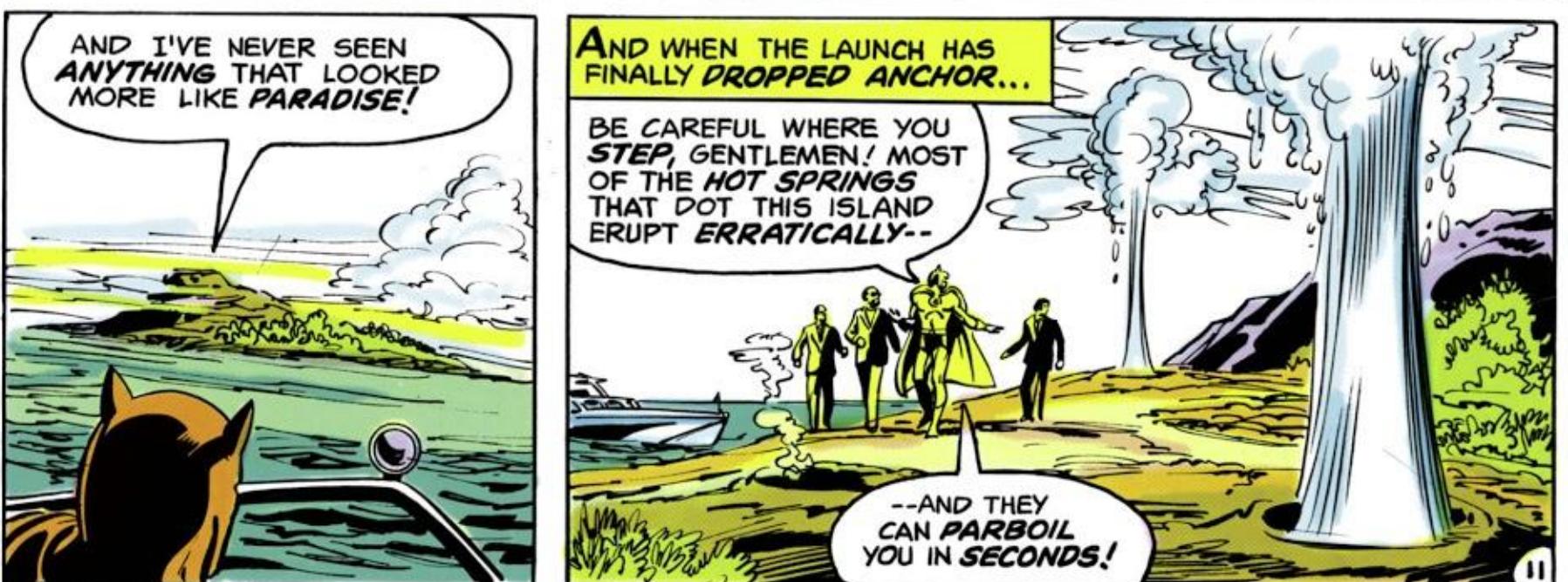
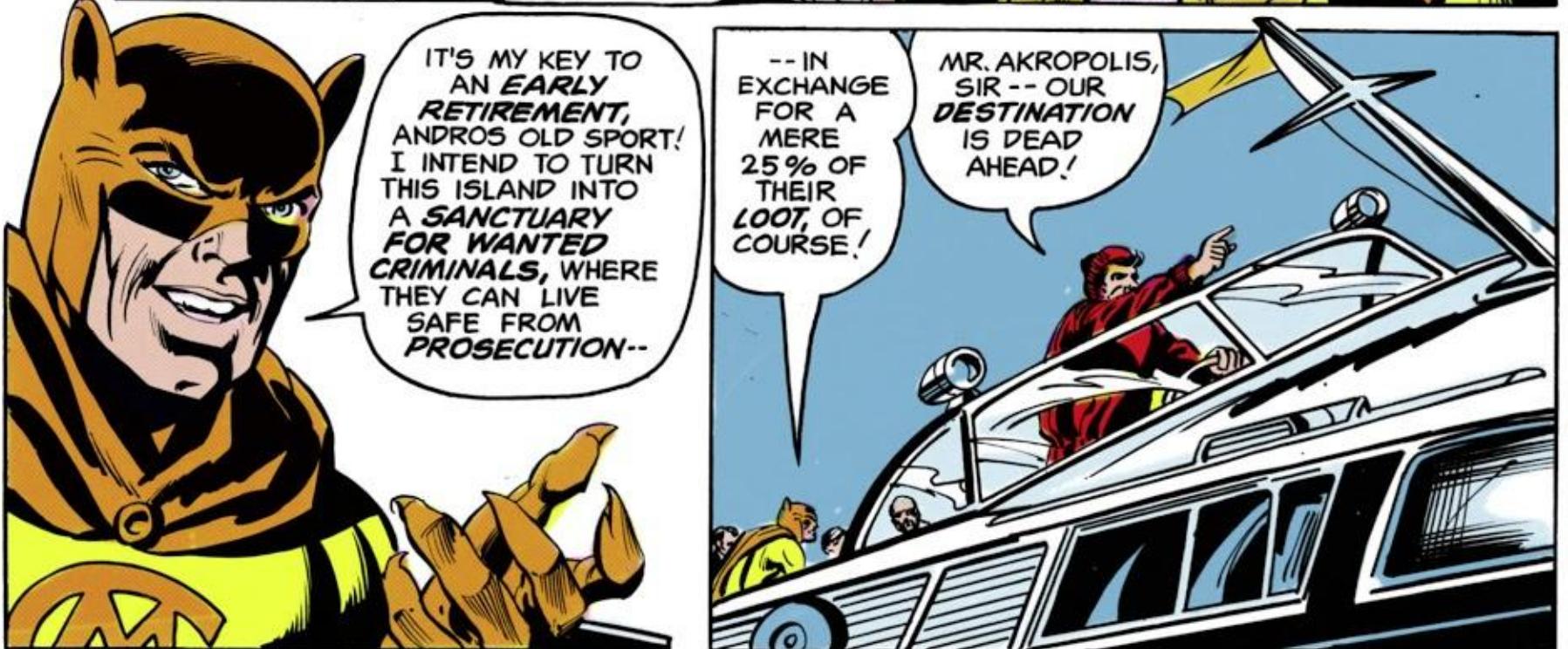
THAT'S WHY I
WENT IN THERE
INSTEAD OF YOU.
REMEMBER?

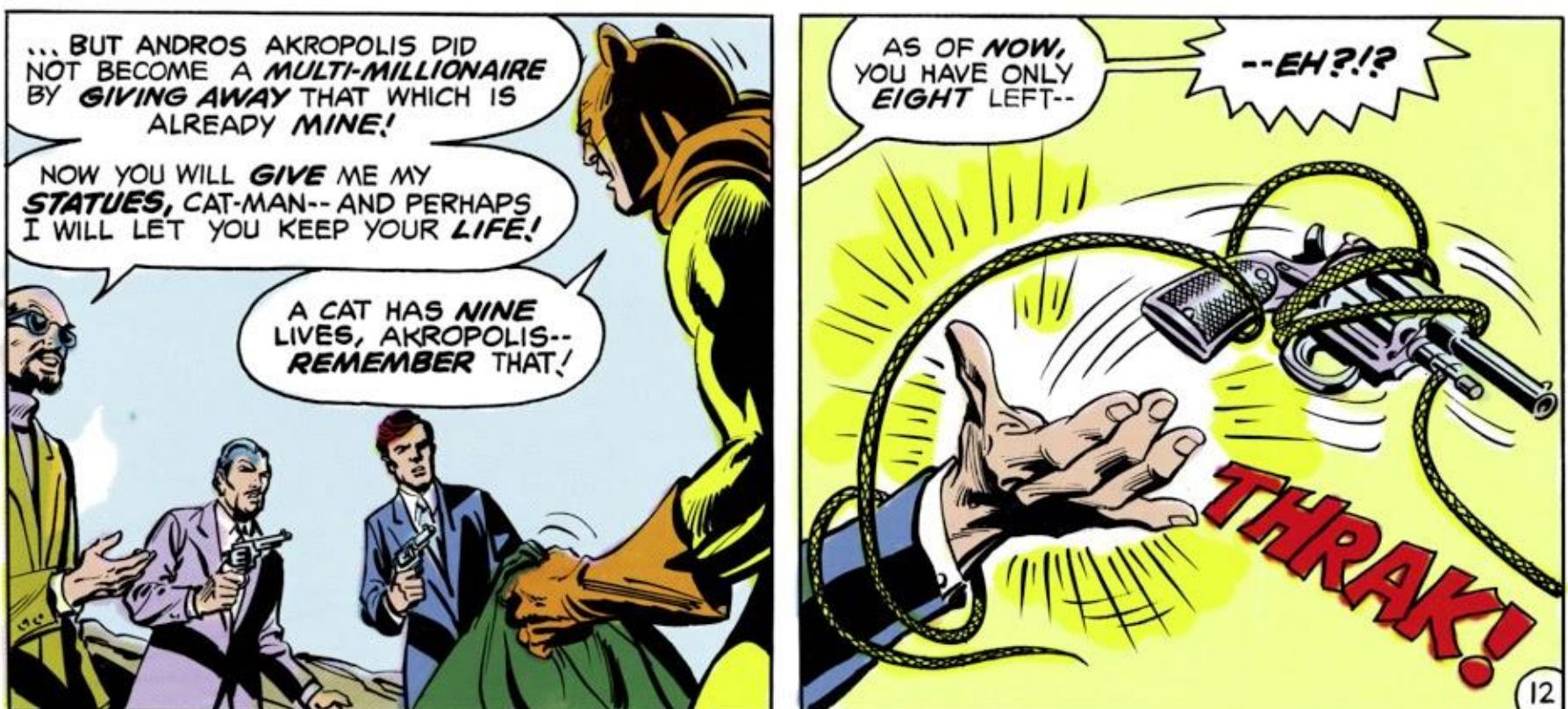
I KNOW WAYS OF
MAKING MEN TALK
THAT EVEN THE
ALMIGHTY **BATMAN**
CAN'T MATCH!

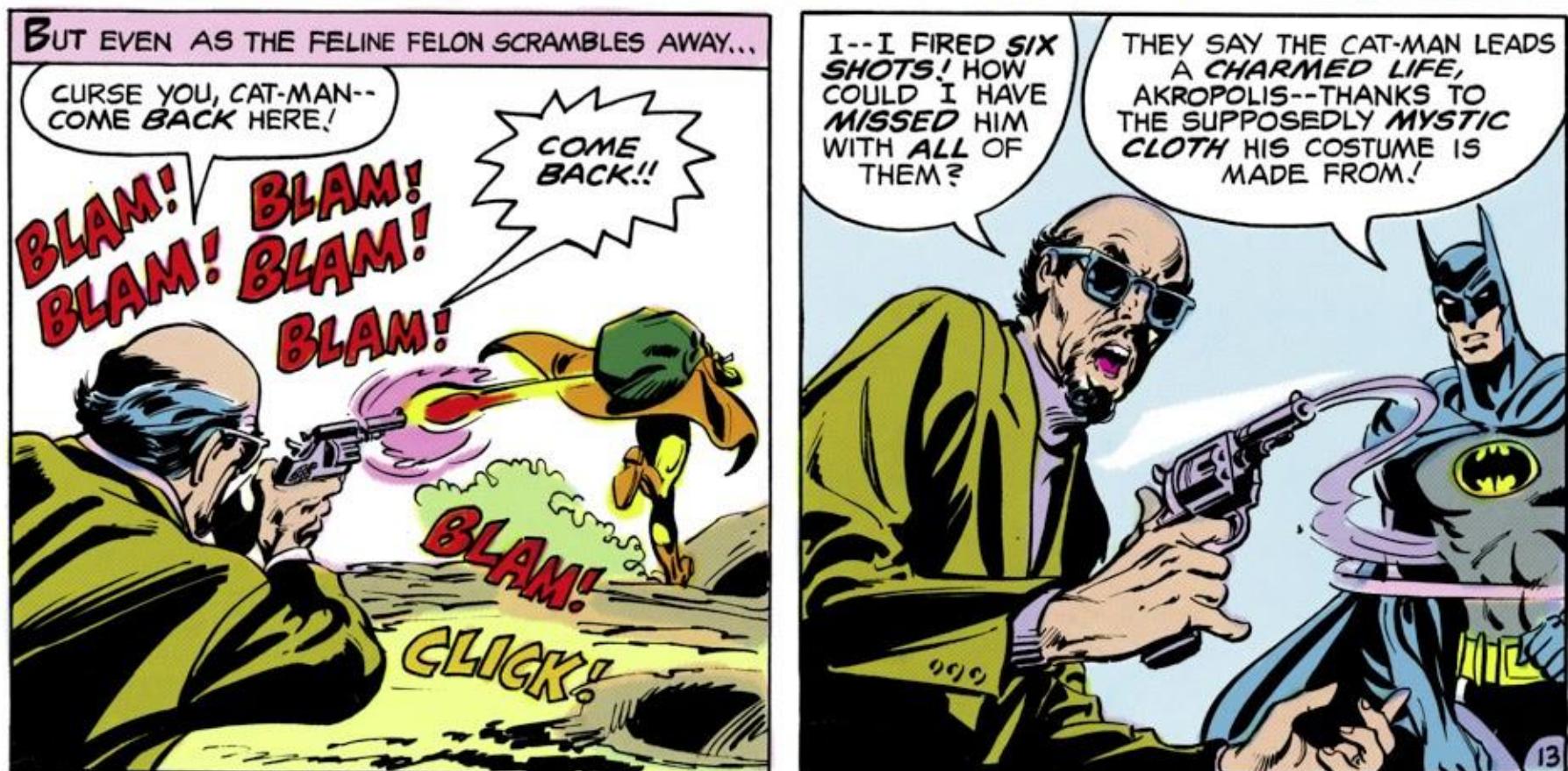
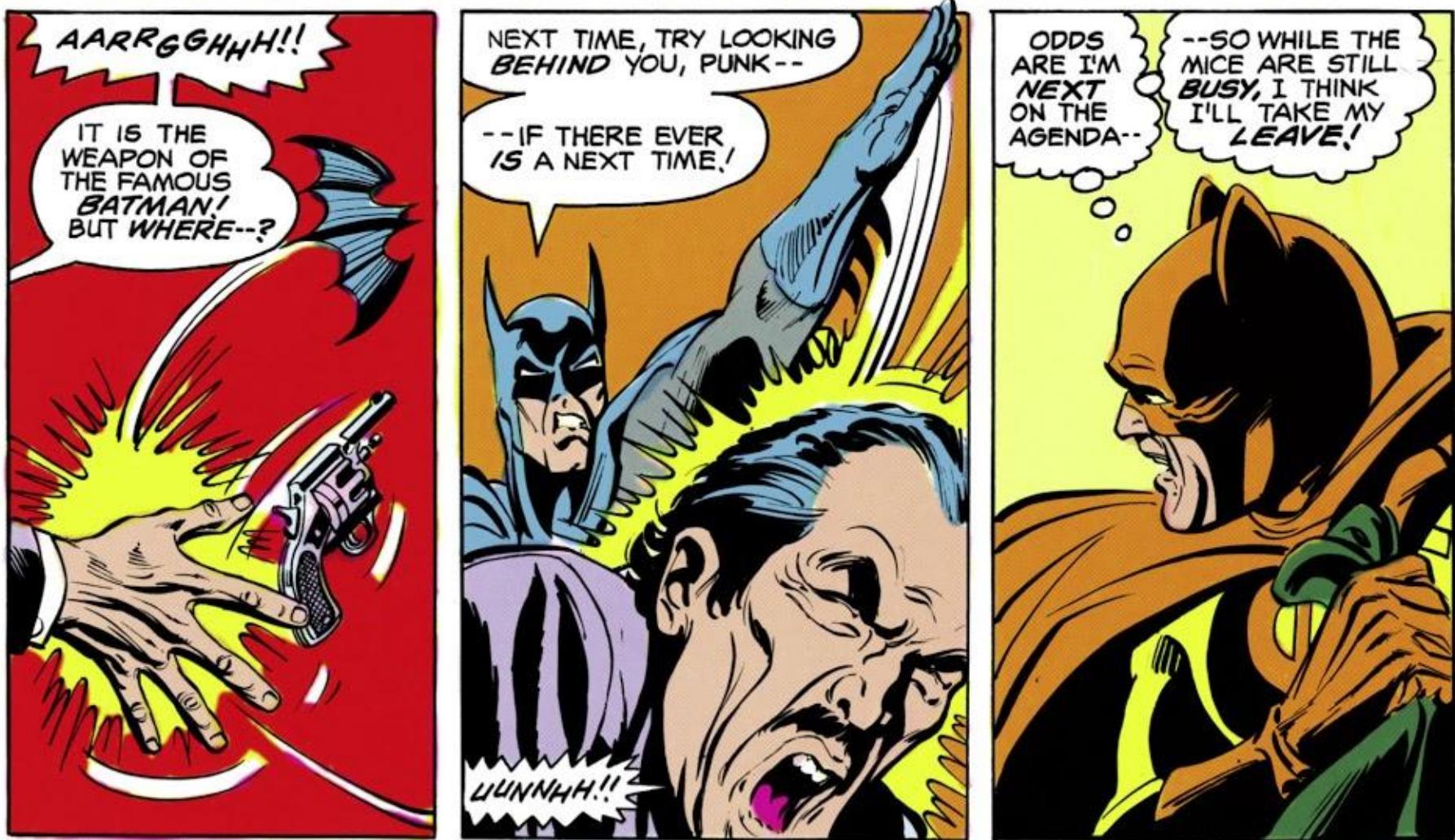


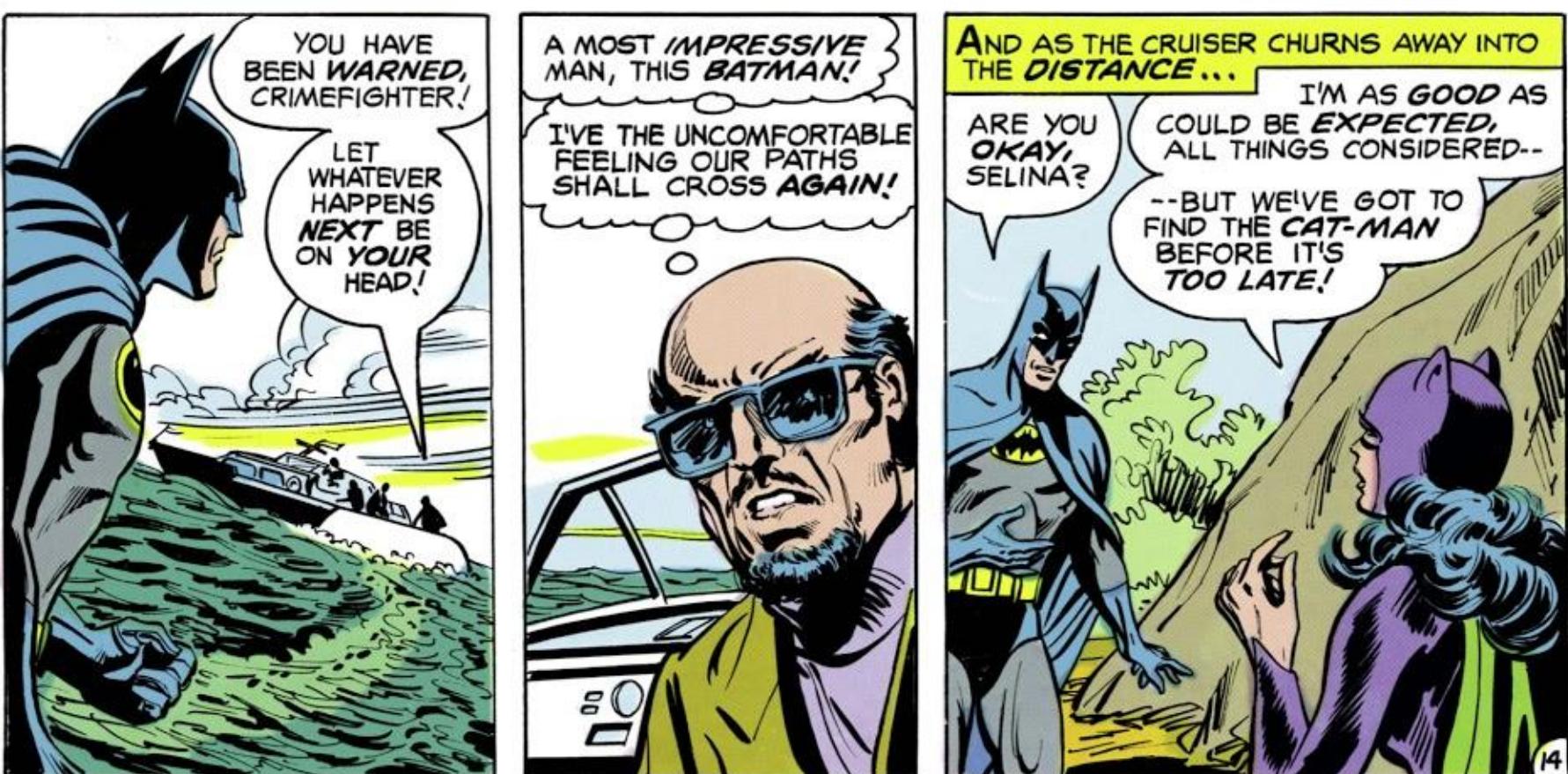
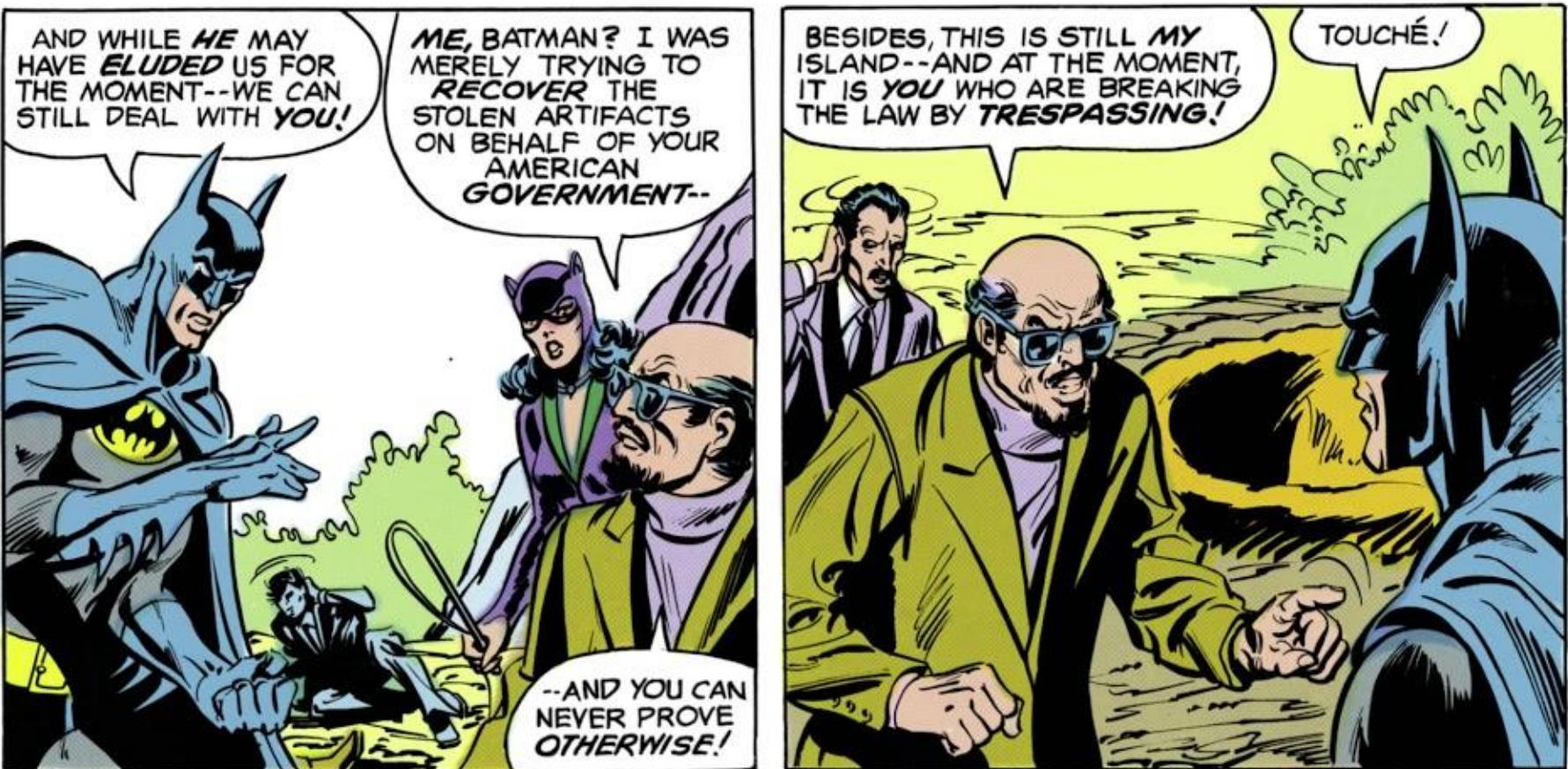
SELINA, THE
INFORMATION...?

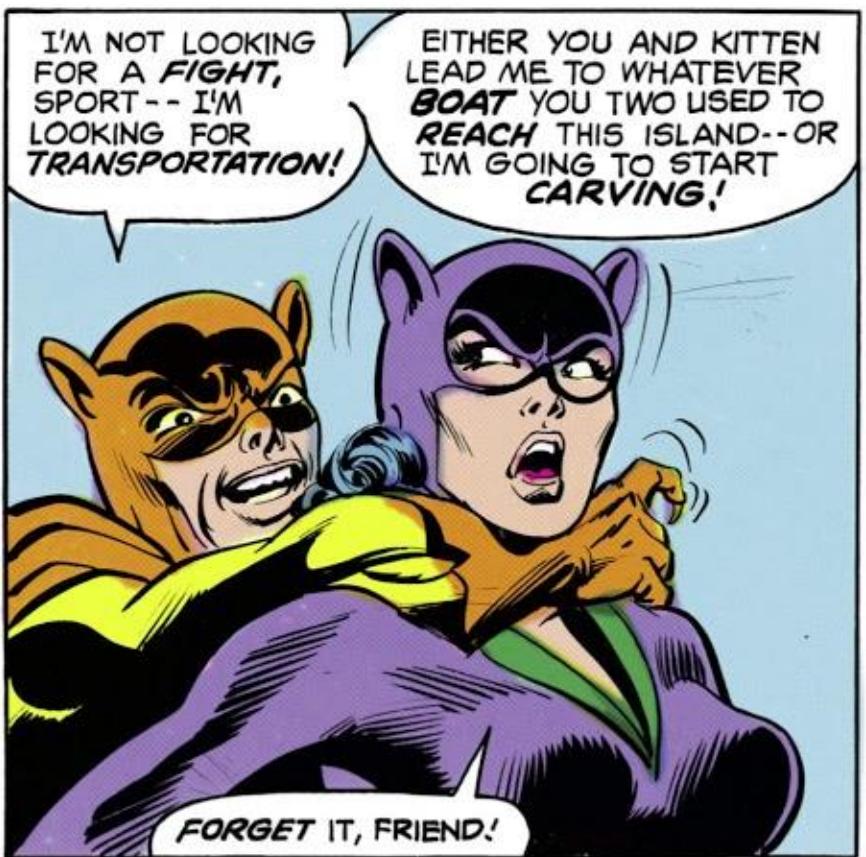


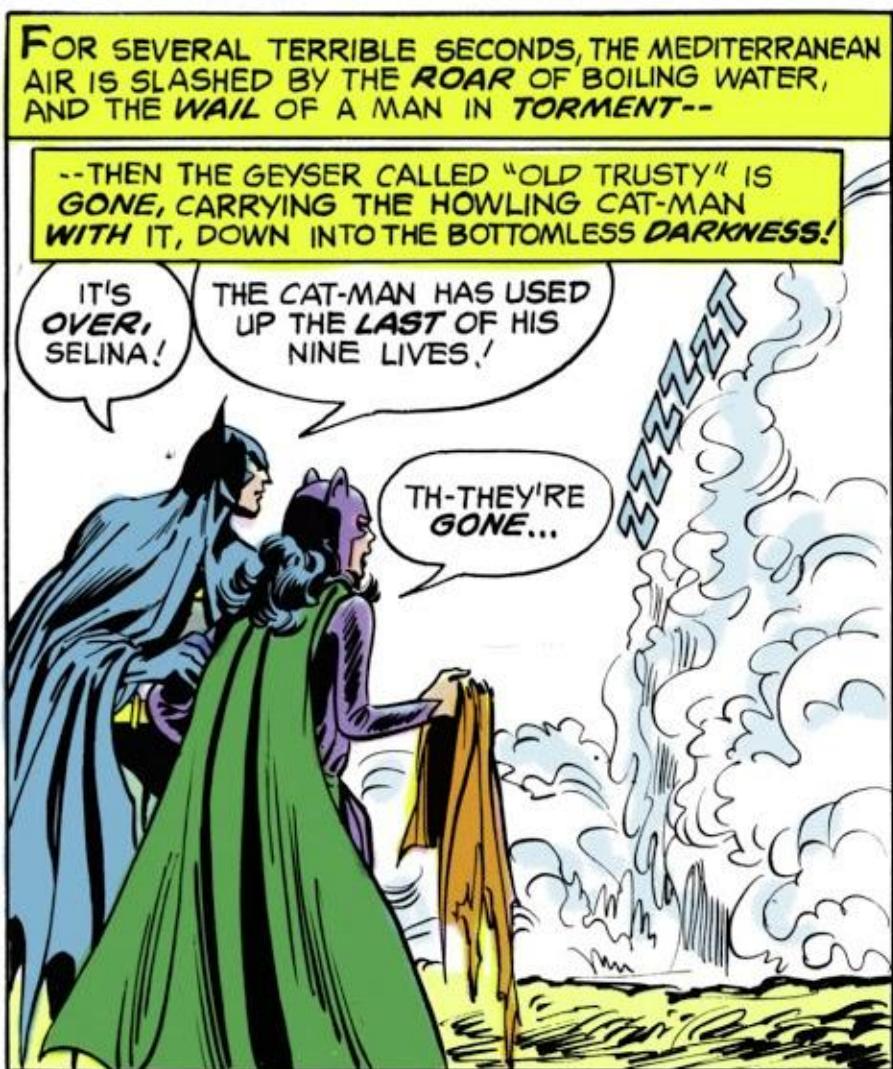












GOTHAM CITY, 76 HOURS LATER-- WHERE AN IMPATIENT BRUCE WAYNE NERVOUSLY PACES THE CORRIDORS OF GOTHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL--



--AWAITING WORD OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES...

HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR DUNDEE?

HOW MUCH LONGER DOES SHE HAVE?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS, BRUCE--



--BUT SELINA SEEMS TO BE GETTING BETTER WITH EVERY MINUTE!

TH-THAT'S WONDERFUL, DOC--

HER DISEASE APPEARS TO BE IN COMPLETE REMISSION!

--BUT IMPOSSIBLE!

YOU SAID HER CONDITION WAS INCURABLE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE ANCIENT HERBS--AND THOSE WERE LOST WITH THE CAT-MAN!

NONETHLESS, BRUCE --SHE'S FINE! WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE FOR YOURSELF?

HELLO, PRETTY LADY-- I HEAR YOU'VE MADE A LIAR OUT OF YOUR DOCTOR!

IT'S A MIRACLE, BRUCE, AND I OWE IT ALL TO THIS-- THE REMAINS OF THE CAT-MAN'S CLOAK!

I HEARD BATMAN EXPLAIN HOW THIS CLOAK GAVE ITS WEARER NINE LIVES-- AND ONE OF THOSE LIVES SAVED MINE!

BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS! THE STORY HE TOLD AKROPOLIS IS ONLY A LEGEND--
--A FAIRY TALE!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO, LOVER--BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY BETTER EXPLANATION FOR WHY I'M STILL ALIVE?

C'MON, SELINA-- THERE HAS TO BE A LOGICAL EXPLANATION! IT COULDN'T BE MAGIC...

...COULD IT?



NEXT: COMMISSIONER GORDON UNDER THE GUN--
"DEATH--20 STORIES HIGH!"