

**DC**  
BATMAN

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE!

NO. 247 FEB.  
30430

20c

# BATMAN

AT THE  
STROKE OF  
MIDNIGHT...  
EVERYBODY  
IN GOTHAM  
GETS STRUCK  
DEAD!

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
  
AUTHORITY



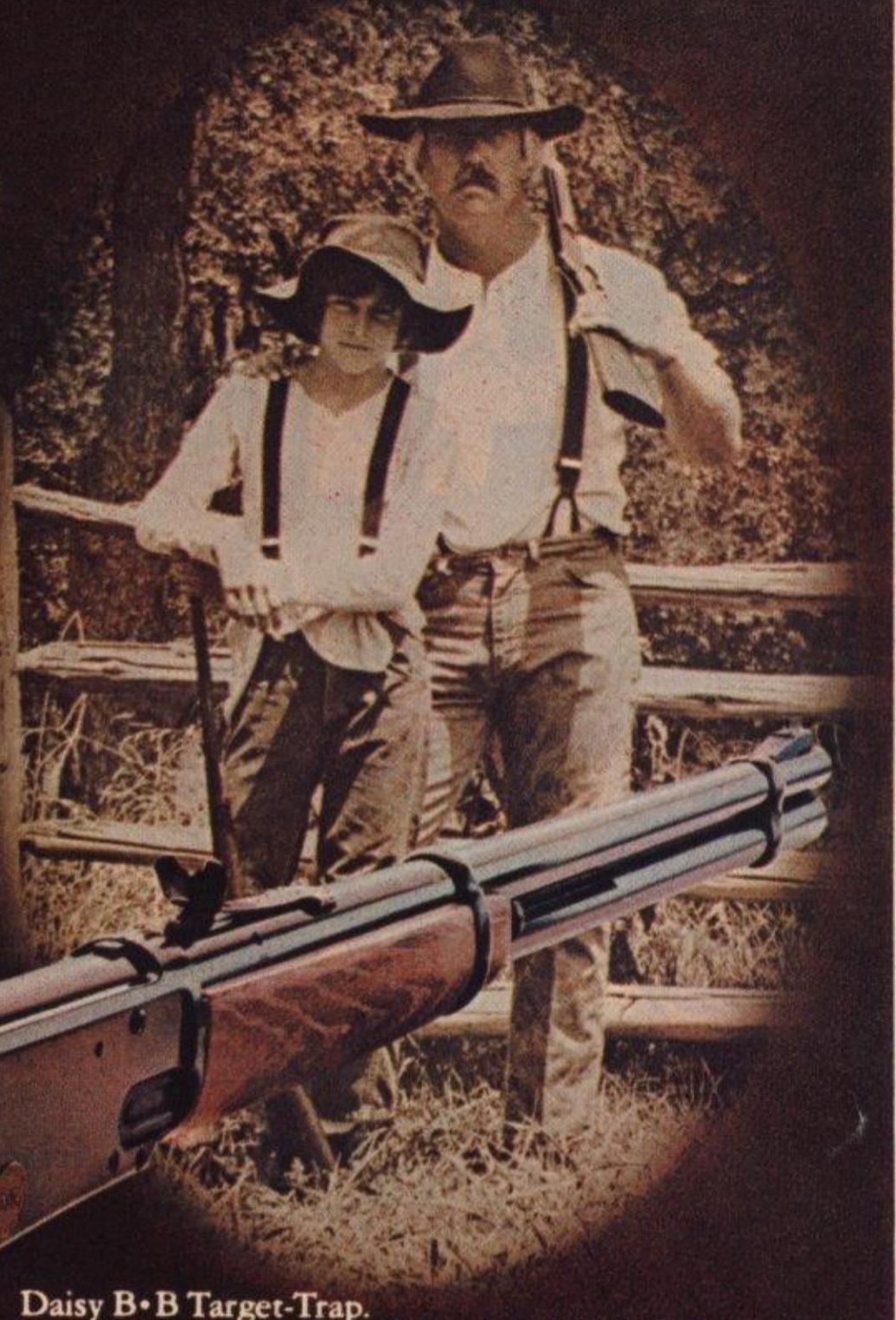
# In 1894, a boy had to learn to act like a man. **Daisy's 1894 B-B Gun teaches the same lessons.**

Back then, a kid had to grow up fast. He was expected to learn marksmanship and gun safety at an early age.

Today, you can learn the same lessons with the Daisy 1894 B-B Gun, a "Spittin' Image"™ of the frontiersman's carbine.

It has the same side-loading port, lever action, sights, and thumb-back hammer safety. It's not a toy. It's a B-B gun.

And now you can learn marksmanship with the exciting



## Daisy B-B Target-Trap.

It's a \$4 value, now yours for only \$1.99 when you buy any Daisy B-B Gun. Take the coupon below to your store when you buy.

For even more fun, pick-up our booklet, "The Air Rifle Marksman," where you buy your Daisy. It's only 50¢. Learn the lessons of the old West with the Daisy 1894! Or choose from over 30 other models of Daisy B-B spring-air, CO<sub>2</sub>, and pellet guns.

*Since the 1800's, American boys have learned marksmanship with a Daisy. Now it's your turn.*

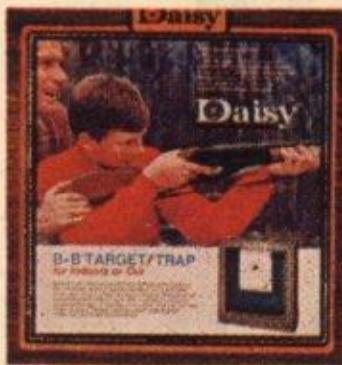
## Daisy B-B Target-Trap. \$1.99

with purchase of any Daisy B-B Gun.  
A \$4 value.

The kit includes: Trap frame to catch B-Bs / Targetex rubber backstop / Daisy Air Rifle Manual / Full set of NRA 15-foot, match targets / Full set of "Pop-Out Bullseye Targets" / (See the Bullseye "Pop-Out" when you hit it!) **TAKE THIS COUPON WHEN YOU BUY.**  
Good at all participating stores.

**Daisy®**  
- SINCE 1886

Rogers, Arkansas 72756, Div. Victor Comptometer Corp.  
In Canada: Daisy/Heddon, Ltd., Preston, Ontario.



SOMEWHERE, THIS  
BLEAK CHRISTMAS  
EVE, PEOPLE ARE  
CELEBRATING...  
SINGING AND  
LAUGHING AND  
FILLING THEIR  
NOSTRILS WITH  
SWEET SCENTS OF  
PINE AND PUNCH...

BUT HERE, ON A  
LONELY HILLSIDE,  
THERE IS NO  
MERRIMENT...! NO,  
HERE THERE IS  
ONLY WIND AS  
SHARP AS A BLADE  
AND ENDLESS SWIRLS  
OF CRUEL SNOW AND  
THE STRUGGLE OF  
THREE DESPERATE  
INDIVIDUALS TO REACH  
DISTANT LIGHTS...

5-1564

...AND, A MILE AWAY, ON THE FAR SIDE  
OF THE RISE, A FOURTH FIGURE BREASTS  
THE STORM, HIS GARMENTS STARK  
AGAINST THE WHITENESS, THE FACE  
BENEATH HIS MASK GRIM--

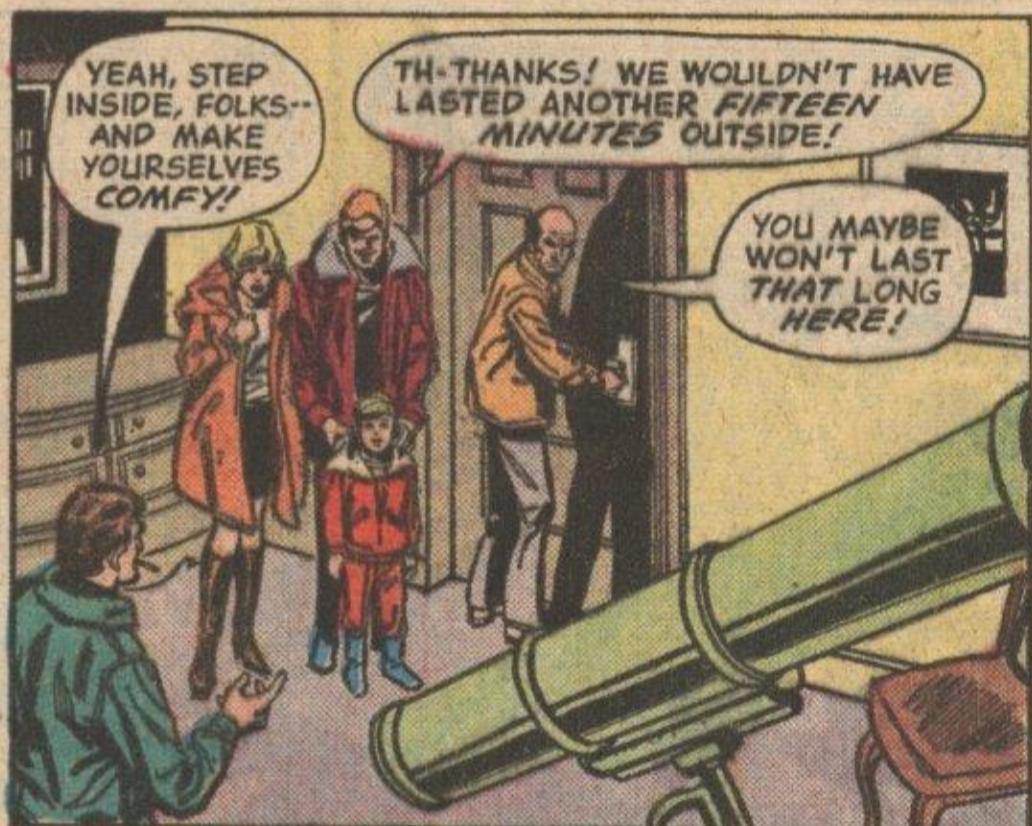
STORY BY:  
DENNY O'NEIL  
ART BY: IRV NOVICK &  
DICK GIORDANO  
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

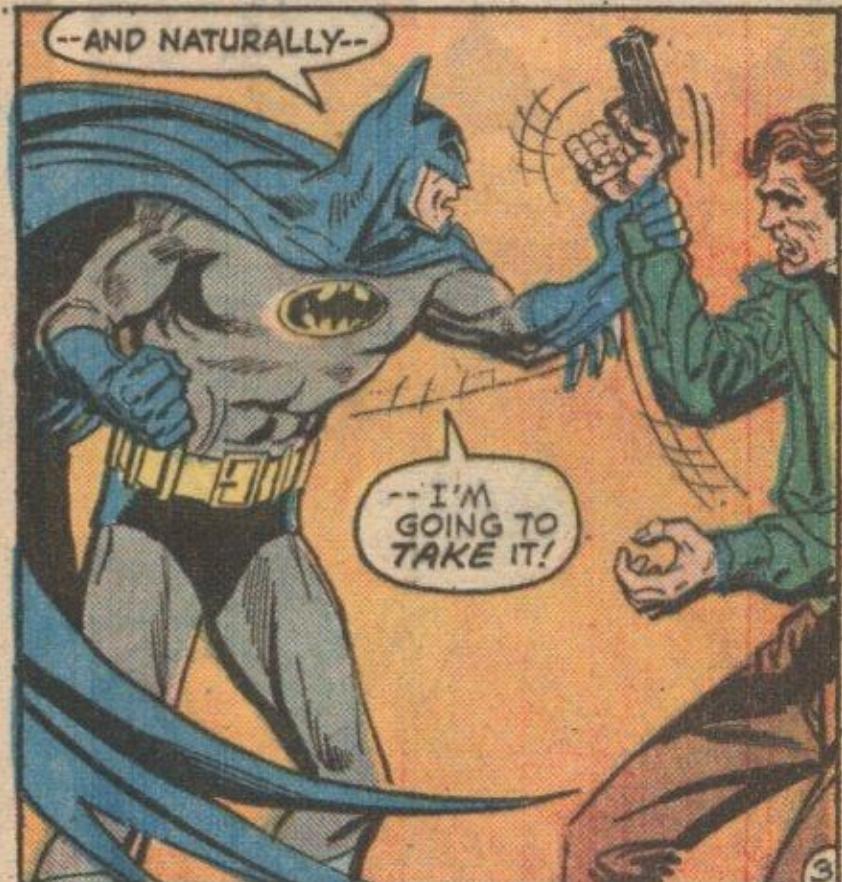
# The BATMAN in "Merry Christmas"

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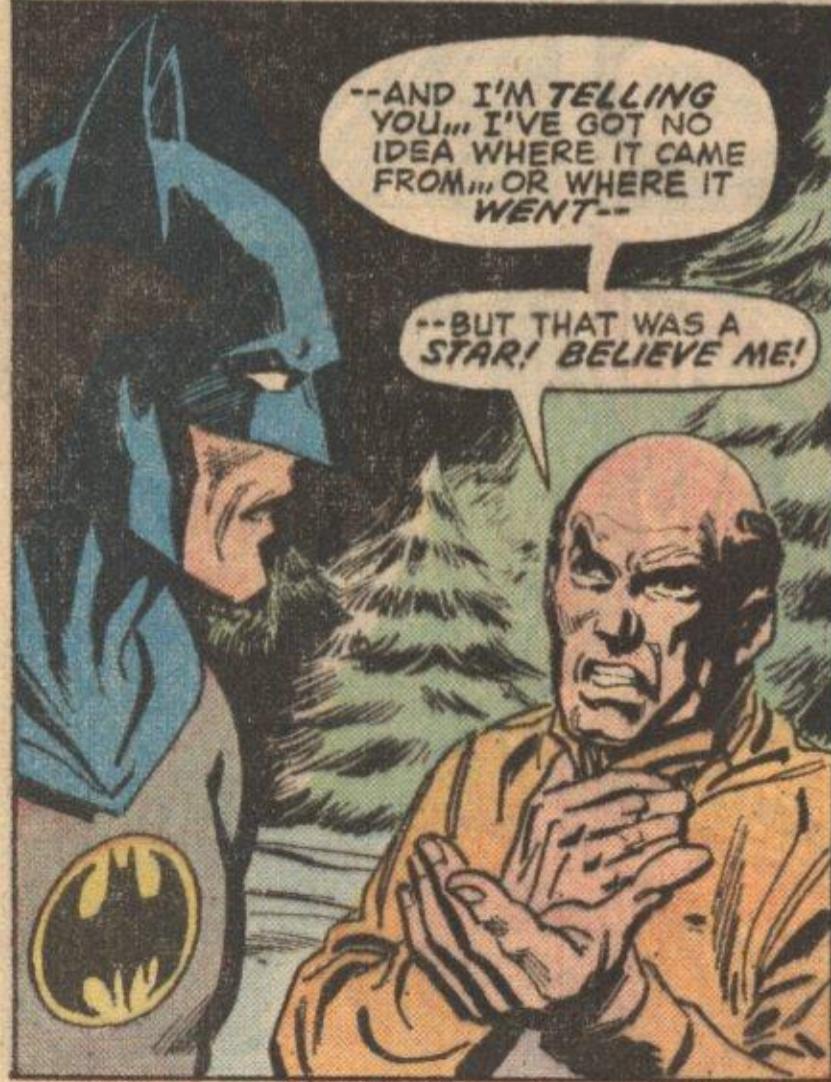
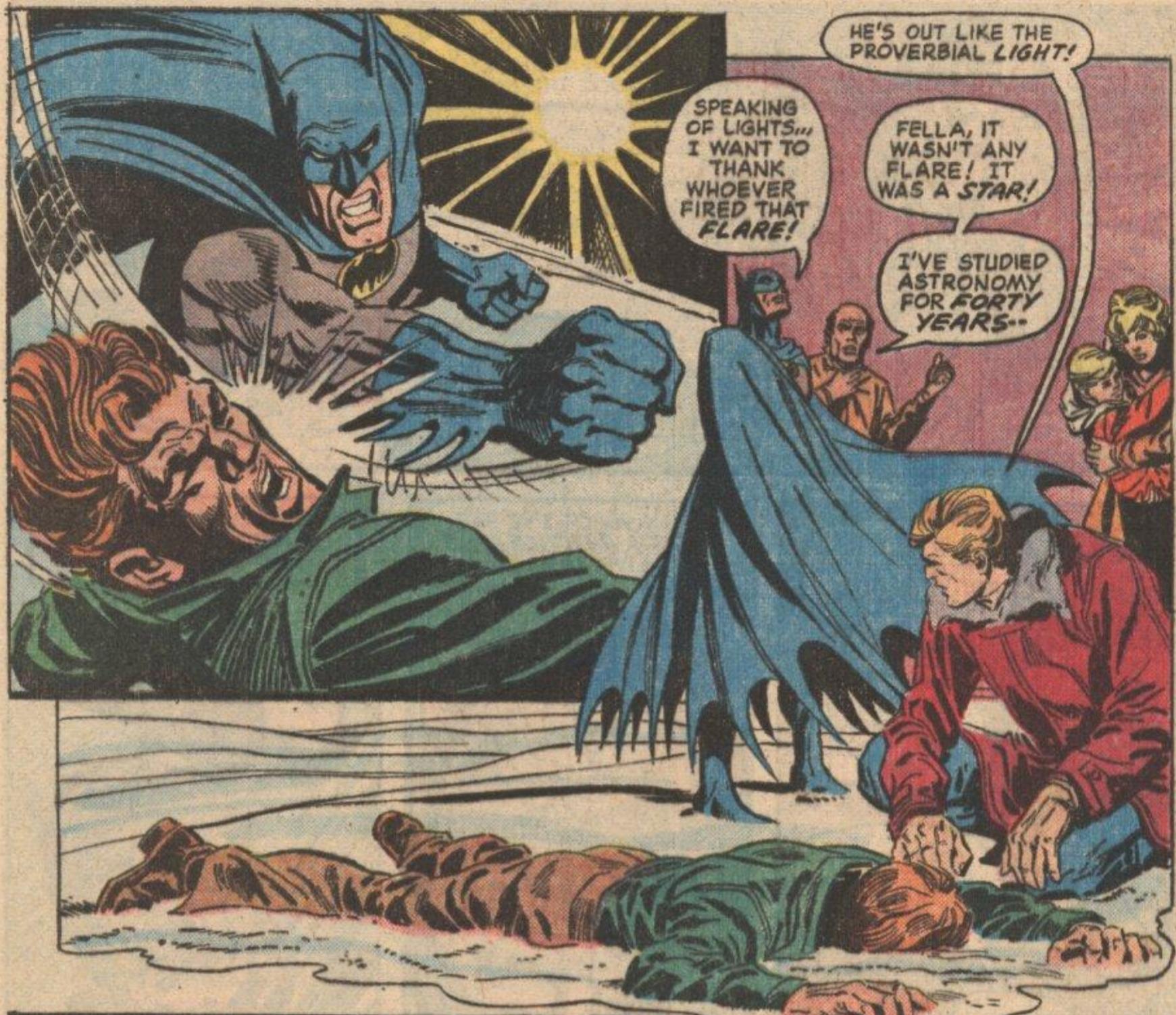
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THE HOLIDAY EXCITEMENT IS ONLY BEGINNING!  
FOR THE THRILLING STORY OF THE BATMAN'S  
NEW YEAR'S EVE... TURN TO THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

SALLY VISITS THE  
**EASY-BAKE<sup>®</sup>**  
**OVEN**  
TOY FACTORY



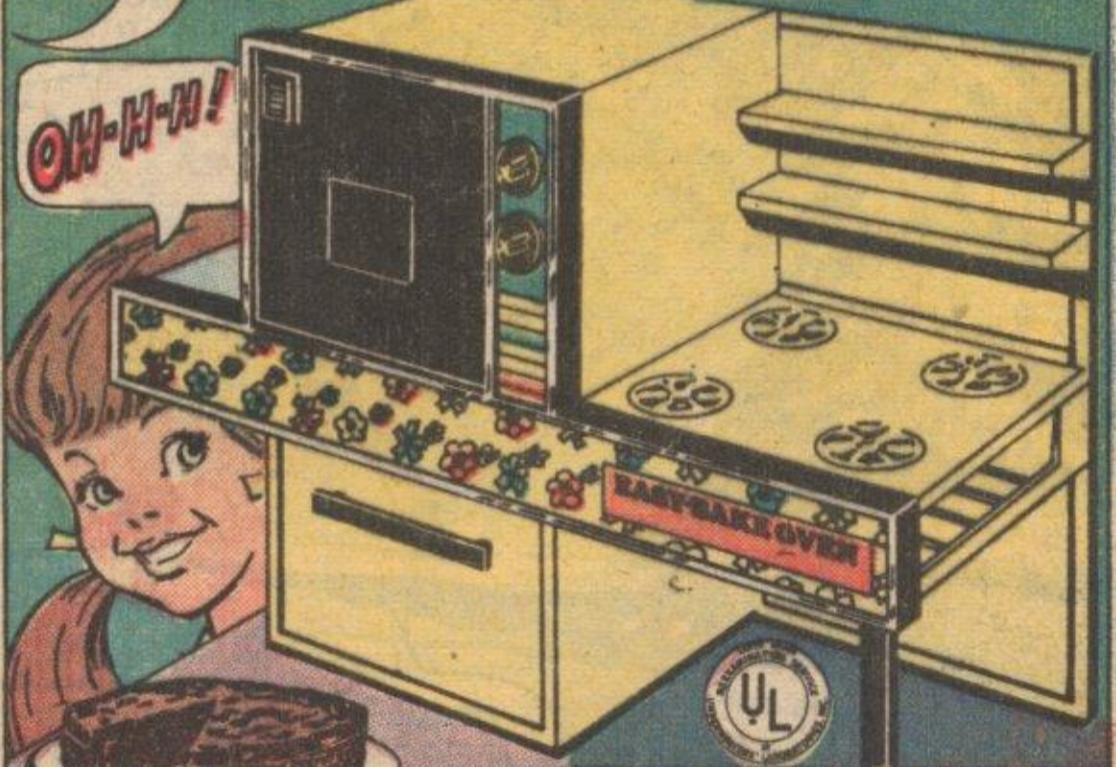
...AND THIS IS WHERE KENNER MAKES  
THE GREATEST GIRL'S TOY  
SINCE DOLLS!



MORE THAN 5 MILLION  
LITTLE GIRLS LIKE YOU  
BAKED THEIR FIRST CAKE  
IN AN EASY-BAKE OVEN!



LOOK AT THE NEWEST MODEL!



CONTEMPORARY  
STYLING

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WATCH-IT-BAKE  
WINDOW APPEARS  
WHEN OVEN IS ON...



ALL KINDS OF  
REALISTIC FEATURES

COMES WITH "JUST-ADD-WATER" MIXES TO MAKE CHOCOLATE CAKE... WHITE CAKE... CHOCOLATE FLAVOR FROSTING.

...AND YOU CAN GET ADDITIONAL MIXES TO MAKE ALL KINDS OF GOODIES!



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OVEN BAKES WITH  
TWO ORDINARY LIGHT  
BULBS (NOT INCLUDED).  
SET INCLUDES - OVEN,  
MIXES, BAKERY PANS  
AND COOK BOOK!"

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**6-MIX  
ASSORTMENT**

SEND NAME, ADDRESS, ZIP, 75¢ TO

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OFFER EXPIRES MARCH 1, 1973



# BATMAN in "and a DEADLY New Year!"

story by  
DENNY O'NEIL  
art by  
DICK GIORDANO

YOU MIGHT  
AS WELL STOP  
**RESISTING,**  
MANNERS!  
YOU'RE  
**CAUGHT-**  
**GOOD!**

I'VE ALERTED  
COMMISSIONER GORDON  
BY 'PHONE... HE'LL BE  
WAITING FOR US AT THE  
GOTHAM CITY LIMITS--  
WITH A SQUAD OF  
POLICE!

YOU'LL BE SPENDING  
1973 BEHIND **BARS**...  
AND A WHOLE LOT OF  
THE FOLLOWING YEARS!

-IF WE  
REACH  
GOTHAM,  
BATMAN!

OH, COME ON--!  
YOU SURELY  
CAN'T EXPECT  
TO ESCAPE!

WE'LL  
JUST SEE,  
TOUGH GUY!

**CHRISTMAS DAWNING...**  
AND THROUGHOUT THIS  
LOVELY, SPRAWLING AMERICA,  
CHILDREN ARE SQUEALING  
WITH DELIGHT AS THEY UNWRAP  
PRESENTS...AND TURKEYS ARE  
BEING POPPED INTO OVENS...  
AND PEOPLE ARE BEING  
HUGGED!...

...FOR THE BATMAN,  
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO JOY--

--THERE  
IS, INSTEAD,  
DANGER!

DRIVING A TRUCK LIKE  
A SPORTS CAR ON AN  
ICY HIGHWAY!

HE MUST'VE GOTTEN HIS  
DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM A  
GUM MACHINE!

THINK  
SO?

WITH A FRIGHTFUL HISS OF TIRES  
AND BRAKES, THE TRUCK FISH-  
TAILS, SLAMMING THE  
BATMAN'S FRAIL  
VEHICLE INTO A  
SNOW-CUSHIONED  
EMBANKMENT!...

THIS WAS NO  
ACCIDENT! THE TRUCKER  
DELIBERATELY  
CLOBBERED ME!

SOMETHING'S WRONG--!  
NO REASON FOR ANYBODY  
TO BE HAULING CHRISTMAS  
TREES TODAY!

THEN...  
WHY--?

IN AN INSTANT, THE  
BATMAN'S QUESTION  
IS ANSWERED--

# Never finished high school?

## Now you can get a diploma without going back

You already know why it's important to have a high school education. You've probably learned the hard way that it can be pretty difficult to get the kind of job you want without one. No matter how hard you're willing to work.

What can you do about it?

Maybe you've thought of trying again to get a diploma. But you've suffered enough classroom "battle fatigue" to last you a lifetime. So you'd hate to travel that route again even if you could.

But what if we told you that there was now a much better way to get a high school education? An adult way, which gives you regular high school subjects and your choice of practical vocational subjects which help you get started in one of a number of profitable fields.

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**Wayne School**  
wants to help you finish  
high school at home

school before. Wayne's specially prepared lessons make even difficult subjects much easier to take. And Wayne grades your assignments in private, by mail. You're free from competitive classroom pressures. You stay relaxed, and your progress is much smoother.

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AMBUSH! THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!--FRIENDS OF MANNERS, NO DOUBT!

ORDINARILY, I'D HAVE A CHANCE! THESE GUYS SEEM LIKE GARDEN-VARIETY THUGS--

--BUT I HAVE ONLY ONE FIGHTING HAND... AND MANNERS IS DRAGGING ON ME LIKE AN ANCHOR!

GRAB HIM!

HOLD HIS ARM WHILE I PAY HIM BACK!

GET IT OVER WITH! WE AIN'T GOT ALL DAY!

HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A FIST, TOUGHY?

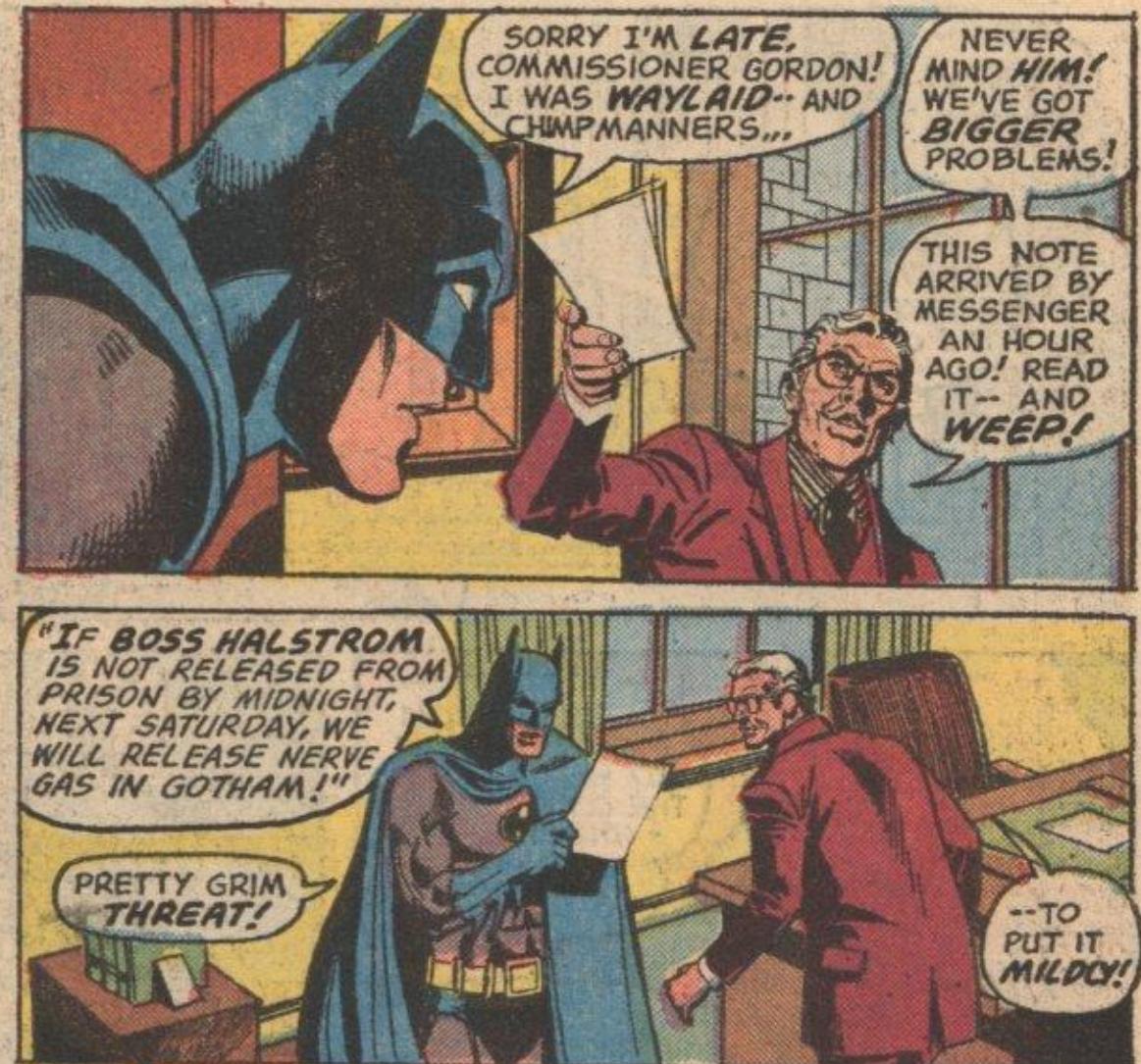
FIST? I THOUGHT A GNAT LANDED ON ME--!

YOU GOT A WISE MOUTH... WHICH I'M GONNA SHUT!

NOT A BAD PUNCH... FOR A GIRL SCOUT!

MANNERS! THIS AIN'T THE CARSON SHOW! SAVE THE SNAPPY PATTER AND FINISH IT!





I SUGGEST WE OBEY! LET HALSTROM GO AND PUT A TAIL ON HIM!

WE CAN'T! HALSTROM HAD A HEART ATTACK LAST NIGHT!



A COUPLE...

WE KNOW  
SOMEONE IN  
GORDON'S  
OFFICE IS  
WORKING WITH  
THE CRIMINALS--

OH? AND  
MAY I INQUIRE  
HOW WE KNOW  
THIS, SIR?

BECAUSE THESE  
BADDIES KNEW  
WHEN AND BY  
WHICH ROAD  
BATMAN WAS  
RETURNING  
WITH  
MANNERS  
AND THE  
GAS--  
RIGHT,  
BRUCE?

CHECK! SO YOU,  
DICK, ARE GOING  
TO WORK FOR  
THE COMMISSIONER  
-- DISGUISED  
AS A POLICE  
CADET!

SNOOP AROUND  
AND SEE IF YOU  
CAN DISCOVER  
THE LEAK!

ALFRED,  
YOUR JOB  
IS TO FIND  
ANY POSSIBLE  
LINKS BETWEEN  
THE LATE BOSS  
HALSTROM AND  
THE PEOPLE  
INVITED TO THE  
NEW YEAR'S  
PARTY!

I'LL GET ON MANNERS' TRAIL...  
AFTER I PAY A CALL ON A CERTAIN  
DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE--

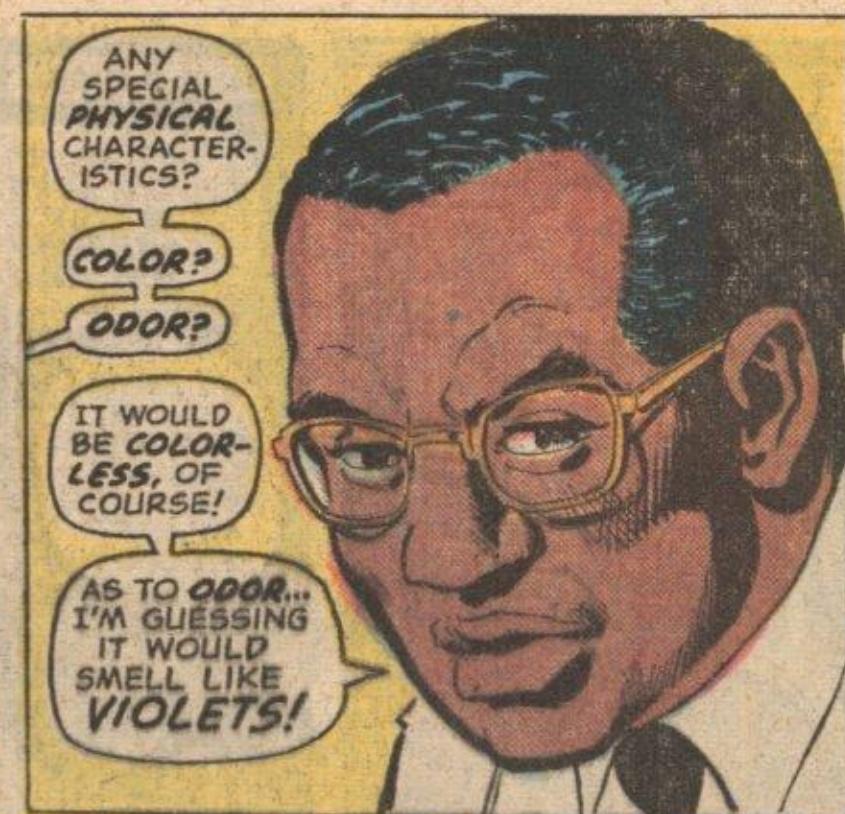
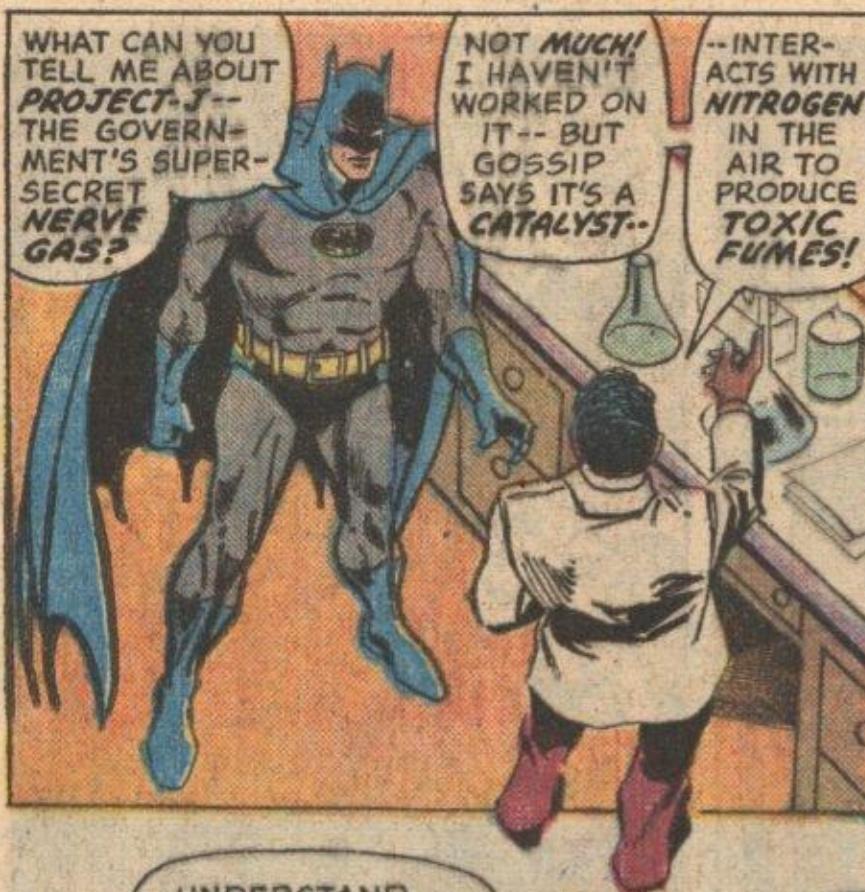
--AS  
THE  
BAT-  
MAN!

SOON-

WORKING LATE, DOCTOR?  
AND ON A HOLIDAY, TOO!

YOU AGAIN!  
YOU CAN'T  
LET ME  
ALONE.  
CAN  
YOU?

I NEED A  
SCIENTIFIC  
GENIUS-- AND  
YOU QUALIFY!



UNDERSTAND, I'M ONLY CONJECTURING...

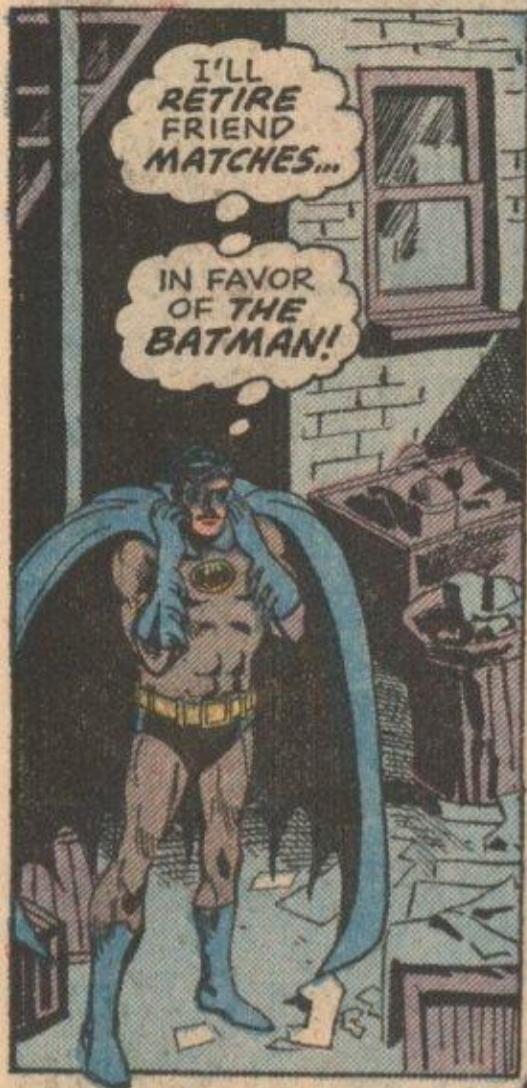
...HE'S GONE!

THAT'S THE WAY OF THE BATMAN!

MONDAY NIGHT...IN A PART OF THE CITY NICE FOLK AVOID--! A NOT-SO-GENTLE MAN KNOWN AS "MATCHES" MALONE GAZES THOUGHTFULLY AT AN ESTABLISHMENT FAMED FOR BAD DRINK AND WORSE FOOD...

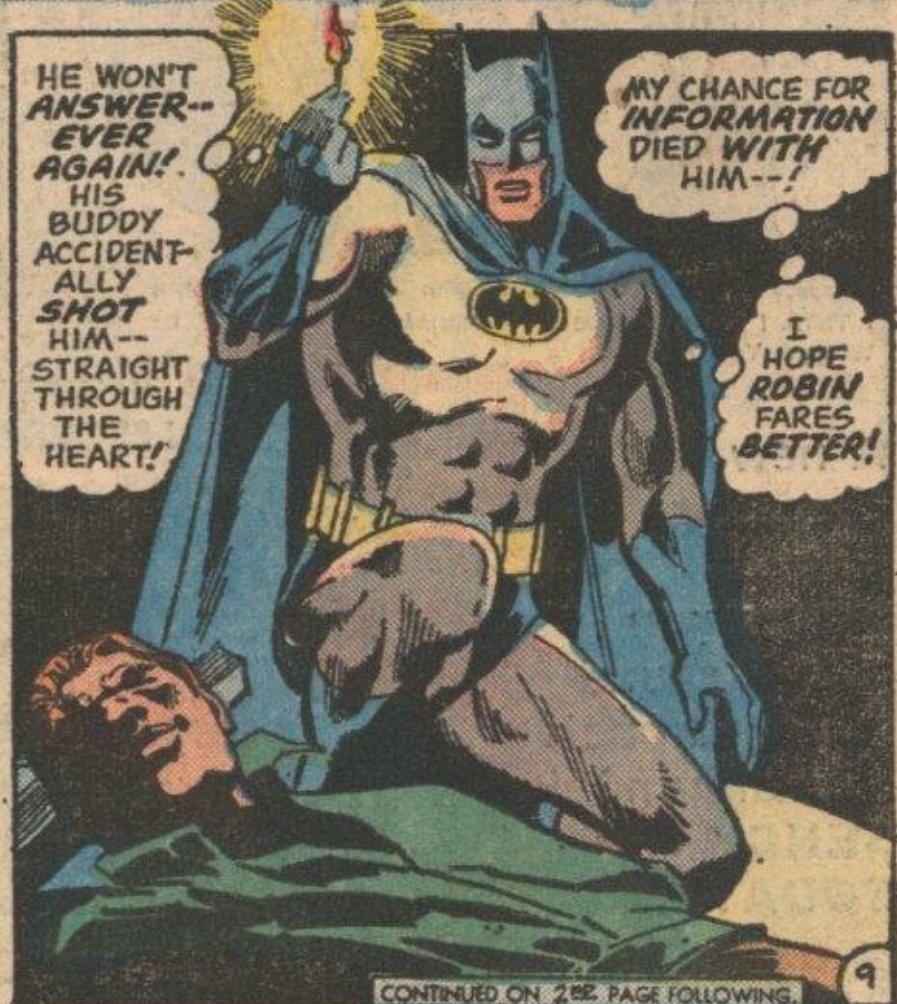


THEN, IN AN ALLEYWAY  
BEHIND THE BUILDING...



AND, INSIDE...





# \$2 each. Buy 2 get one FREE!

33 1/3 r.p.m., LP Stereo Albums play  
over 30 minutes of great music each.



The King and Queen of country music  
sing their greatest hits in their own inimitable style.



Knock Three Times,  
Go Away Little Girl, The Nickel Song, Sweet and Innocent,  
I Think I Love You, Doesn't Somebody Want To Be  
Wanted, Yo-Yo.

The Lion Sleeps Tonight, It's Too Late,  
One Monkey Don't Stop No Show, Without You, Love the One  
You're With, Sweet City Woman, An Old Fashioned Love Song,  
Absolutely Right.

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964 Third Avenue  
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I enclose \$2.00 for each album checked.  
If I buy 2, I get ONE FREE!

.....Superstar .....Cash .....'71 Rock .....Bubble Gum

Name .....

Address.....

City..... State..... Zip.....

A new,  
space age  
process  
brings you  
stereo sound  
in a compact  
size album.  
**SEND  
TODAY!!**

TUESDAY  
AFTER-  
NOON,  
AT POLICE  
HEAD-  
QUARTERS...

HELLO,  
COM-  
MISSIONER  
GORDON!

HELLO,  
SON!

WHO ARE  
THESE BRATS  
TRAIPSING  
UNDERFOOT,  
GORDON?

AS  
COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC  
WORKS, I  
HAVE A...

"YOU HAVE A  
RIGHT TO KNOW,  
REEVES!"

WELL, THESE...BRATS,  
AS YOU CALL THEM,  
ARE POLICE CADETS!

IT'S A NEW TRAINING  
PROGRAM WE'VE INSTITUTED  
FOR YOUTHS INTERESTED  
IN LAW ENFORCEMENT!

WASTE OF  
MONEY, IN  
MY OPINION!

ACCORDING  
TO THE LOG  
BOOK,  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON WAS  
ALONE IN HIS  
OFFICE WHEN  
THE BATMAN  
CALLED HIM  
CHRISTMAS  
DAY!

SURELY HE  
DIDN'T PLAN  
THE AMBUSH--

--WHICH LEAVES  
ONE POSSIBILITY...  
A WIRE-TAP!

THE MASTER-PLANS  
FOR THE BUILDING  
SHOW PHONE WIRES  
RUN ALONG HERE!

AH! EXACTLY WHAT  
I WAS LOOKING FOR--!  
A TAP!  
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS  
ONCE CONNECTED TO  
A TAPE-RECODER!

NO REASON TO CONTINUE  
MY MASQUERADE! THE WIG  
AND GLASSES WERE DRIVING  
ME NUTS!

EXIT ONE  
CADET... AND  
ENTER  
ROBIN!

SHORTLY--

OUR RECORDS  
INDICATE A  
**SUBSTITUTE  
ENGINEER**  
WAS ON DUTY  
**CHRISTMAS!**--  
THE REGULAR  
MAN WAS  
**SICK!**

NO DOUBT, THE  
**SUBSTITUTE**  
"ENGINEERED"  
THIS LITTLE  
**EAVESDROPPING**  
OPERATION!

ANOTHER  
**DEAD END!**  
THE BATMAN  
AND I  
BOTH  
STRUCK  
OUT!

SO IT'S  
UP TO  
**ALFRED!**

WEDNESDAY  
EVENING...  
IN A **VERY**  
PRIVATE  
GYM...

MASTER  
BRUCE! I'VE  
COMPLETED  
MY INVESTI-  
GATION!

JUDGING FROM  
THE **EXCITEMENT**  
IN YOUR VOICE,  
YOU WERE  
**SUCCESSFUL!**

GIVE US THE  
**SCOOP, ALFRED!**

ACTUALLY, I'VE  
UNCOVERED **THREE**  
SUSPECTS!--**THREE**  
MILLIONAIRES  
INVITED TO THE  
**NEW YEAR'S**  
FESTIVITIES  
WHOSE  
FORTUNES  
WERE IN  
**DANGER...**

--UNTIL A **MONTH**  
AGO, THAT IS! AT  
THAT TIME, EACH  
APPARENTLY  
RECEIVED A  
LARGE SUM  
OF CASH!

ANY  
**EXPLANATION?**

ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE,  
THE CHAPS ARE SAYING  
THESE GENTLEMEN WITH-  
DREW FUNDS FROM SECRET  
**SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS**  
TO MEET PRESENT NEEDS!

I FEAR IT WOULD  
REQUIRE MONTHS  
TO VERIFY THE  
RUMOR!

--WE HAVE  
LESS THAN  
FOUR DAYS!  
YOU LEARN  
THE NAMES  
OF THESE  
THREE DUDES,  
ALFRED?

NATURALLY,  
MASTER  
RICHARD!  
I AM NOT  
AN INCOM-  
PETENT!

ENNETH...  
GROGAN...  
AND VAN  
DYNE!

--AT LEAST ONE  
WAS PAID BY BOSS  
HALSTROM TO  
SECURE HIS  
**RELEASE!**

--AT LEAST ONE IS  
HOLDING A CANNISTER  
THAT COULD DESTROY  
HALF OF GOTHAM!

BUT...  
WHICH?

THURSDAY NIGHT... A LUXURIOUS  
HOUSE ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...

SIR, YOU'VE  
SEEN THE  
**NEWSPAPER?**

YOU  
REFER TO  
THE REPORT  
OF HALSTROM'S  
**...HEART  
ATTACK?**

A RUSE...  
A TRAN-  
SPARENT  
LIE!

HALSTROM IS **ALIVE**--  
AND HE SHALL BE **FREE**!  
I'VE GIVEN MY WORD--  
AND HE HAS GIVEN ME  
A GREAT DEAL OF  
MONEY!

THIS SMALL CONTAINER IS THE KEY...  
TO UNLOCK HALSTROM'S CELL!



# The Adventures of CORGI Boy

It was midnight. I was going about 250 mph in my CORGI Adams 4 Engined Dragster, hot in pursuit of my old arch enemy Dr. Fang in his Ford GT 70. Fang, who had just escaped from the Glacier Caves prison where I had put him only three weeks ago, had committed another heinous crime.

But by the time I regained my composure and speed, Dr. Fang had had time to reach his hideout and change cars. This time he would be even harder to catch in his Porsche 917. However, from a previous encounter with Fang along this very road, I recalled a risky but negotiable shortcut and was able to intercept Fang and immobilize him and his car with one blast from my dash-controlled freeze ray.

- He sabotaged the Orbit-XI Pluto shot just as I was about to overtake him. It's an oil slick and skidded out of control tumbling over and over landing in a ditch. Fortunately, I was uninjured and my CORGI was undamaged - it's practically indestructible.

Ford GT 70

4 Engined Dragster

CORGI

JUNIORS

CORGI

I'm off to the Caves of Frozen Steel.  
Hurry! Dr. Fang's safety's in danger again.  
I can't let my attention to combating his  
equally vicious comrades in crime.  
Only, I'll have to be later. I've got no go now.

CORGI

If you're smart you won't trust your adventures to any  
other cars because CORGI's authentic details and lightning fast  
"Whizzbeats" are unbeatable.

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#164 \$2.50

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Reeves International, Inc.  
14 Industrial Road  
Pequannock, New Jersey 07440

Gentlemen:  
Please send your FREE CORGI Boy Adventure cars Catalog. I'll supply  
my own imagination.

Address:

City:

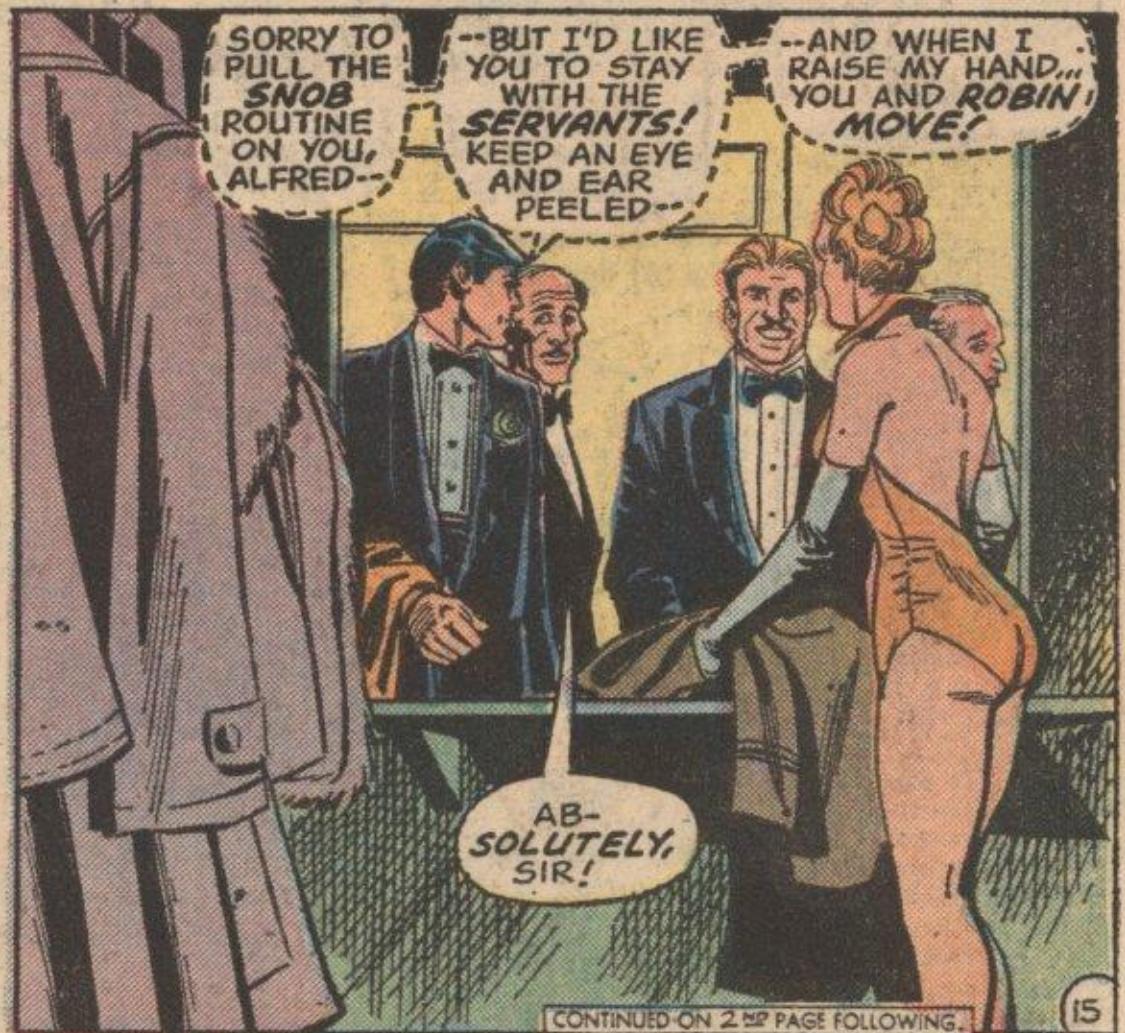
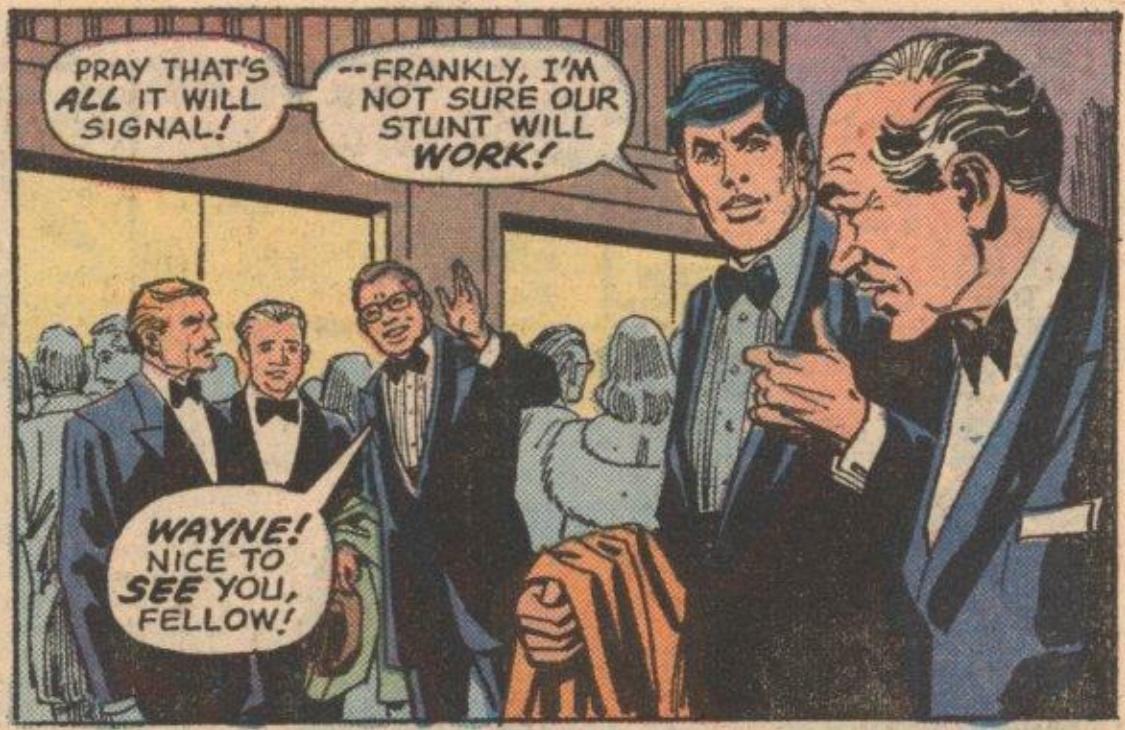
VW Hot Rod  
#60 \$6.99

Mini-Copper S  
Hot Pursuit  
Dragster #67 \$1.69

CORGI

As fast and furious as you can imagine.





CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

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Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the man made monster. Giant 7 foot tall, his eyes glow eerily. In authentic color on durable polyethylene, as scary as your wildest nightmare.  
No. 865 \$1.00

**MONSTER-SIZE SKELETON**  
No. F200 \$1.00

**MAGIC CARDS**  
Deck is marked and striped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.  
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**SEE BEHIND GLASSES**  
A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.  
No. 30 75¢

**KARATE**  
JUDO, BOXING  
SAVATE  
ISOMETRIC  
STUNTS  
\$1.00

**FREE NERVE CENTER CHART**  
Here's what you get!  
• 20 Best KARATE blows and chops  
• SAVATE French foot fighting  
• Nerve center anatomy chart  
• JUDO throws, JIU JITSU Holds  
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• Endurance exercise and LOTS MORE  
No. 73 \$1.00

**ONLY 39¢**  
**Weighted Wristlets**

"Power Packed" Arm Builders  
To give you mighty striking power  
"Power Packed" wristlets build the powerful arms you want without special equipment or exercises. Just wear these jolted lead weighted wristlets during your ordinary activities at work or play  
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This rubber mask is so grotesque that it is sure to shake up the whole neighborhood. Be the "Werewolf" that prowls again!  
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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Yen-triologist."  
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This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can, hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.  
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**THE BEAST**  
From 20,000 FATHOMS  
This full size wall poster is terrifying enough to be beautiful. Your room or den NEEDS this famous movie favorite—complete with steely, glinting eyes, and man-eating teeth. There is also the terrible giant ape "King Kong" who terrified the country—a perfect companion for the "Beast"  
ITEM 639B...THE BEAST.....\$1.00  
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ORDER BOTH for \$1.75 and Save

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18

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The END

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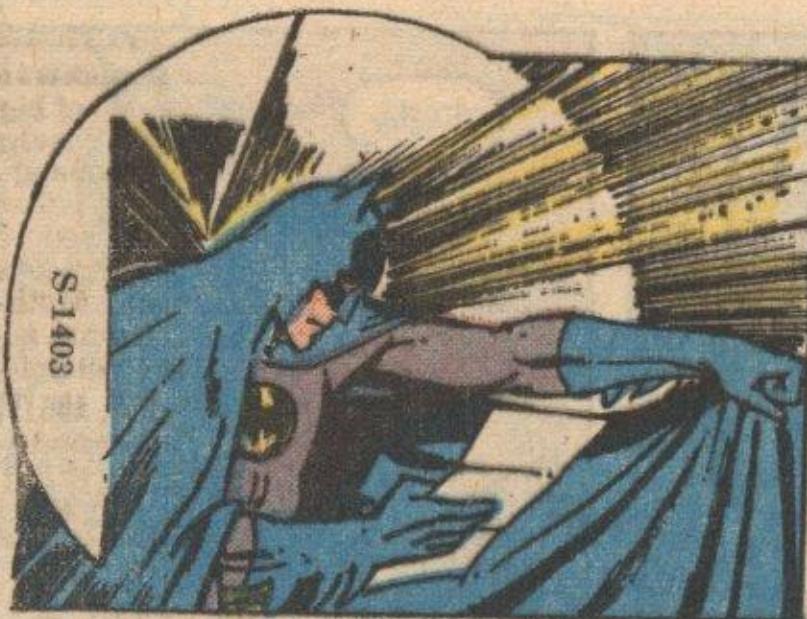


BATMAN



ROBIN

ON  
SALE  
DEC. 26<sup>th</sup>



## LETTERS to the BATMAN

what of the girl? He does what any man would do. Yes, he is a person who stands up for right, but still he should be portrayed as a man! Denny O'Neil did a fine job.

—RON BLAIR, Cumberland, Ky.

(How "fine" is challenged by a certain Guy who is Number III in name as well as appearance in this lettercol!—JS)



Dear Editor:

Batman #244 was perfect (in almost every way)! To start off, Neal Adams' cover was almost perfect; almost because of the unsightly "blurb" in the bottom-right corner—it ruined the mood of the cover.

Upon opening the cover and until closing it, I was overcome by rapturous delights; I was ecstatic.

The Batman was portrayed by O'Neil in "The Demon Lives Again" as no other author has ever done. His strengths and failures were effectively shown. Oh, how cruel is Ra's Al Ghul . . . with pure desperation he must kill The Batman . . . a man who will stand up to the demon, a man who could defeat the demon. And determination carried The Batman on to do so. I hope we hear from Ra's Al Ghul and daughter Talia again soon. And what about Molly, Ling, and the Doctor? What is going to happen to them? I think they should not be just forgotten as usually happens to supporting characters such as they.

Elliot Maggin portrayed Robin as well as ever in "The Teen-Age Trap" and Irv Novick and Dick Giordano pencil-inked their way to bliss and happiness (at least for me). It's amazing what Elliot Maggin did with 8 pages. He created a plot, controversy, two fights, a character study of Robin and Dick Grayson by Robin and Grayson. Elliot has proved again that he is a great in comix-writing. I implore you to keep him on Robin.

—PAUL EDWARDS, N. Bellmore, N.Y.

(Hopefully, the supporting characters you mention will be neither gone nor forgotten from these pages. Indeed, your unnamed Doctor—Doctor Blaine—pops up again in this very issue. Elliot Maggin, fresh out of Brandeis University (and "fresh" may be putting it mildly) will return with another Robin-solo, "Immortals of Usen Castle," in the forthcoming Batman.—JS)



Dear Editor:

Batman #244 was brilliant in every way. The cover was delightful and The Batman could not have looked more real.

"The Demon Lives Again" was full of feelings and emotions. It was played to perfection from beginning to end. There was no waste of words or actions. Every panel was important to the story.

The duel between Ra's al Ghul and The Batman was exciting and for once, no dialogue! Just dread silence in a fight that would mean someone's death. Talia, a girl with mixed emotions, could do naught but watch. Then the scorpion bite and our hero was left to die a death of suffering. No begging though, for The Batman will grovel at no man's feet.

Talia ran true to form and at once saved her loved one's life. Now The Batman is wrathful. Vengeance tears his soul to shreds. He now knows who the victor will be. Must always be! Ra's is defeated, but

Dear Editor:

I would have liked the latest battle between Batman and Ra's al Ghul much more, I am sad to say, if it had only been a one-issue novel. The second half of the epic which began in Batman #243 promised, as did the first, to climax Batman's long and fascinating duel with this frightening character—instead, we are left with a rather vapid plot with an ending both *deja vu* and *deus ex machina*. Once again Batman was saved from unlucky fate by the clinging love of Ra's daughter . . . a predictable and therefore painful plot device. The superb supporting characters that were the real stars of the last issue served here mainly to fail, and show the demon's power . . . contrast this to the positive and enjoyable contribution they made last time. No, my high hopes when I saw the magnificent Neal Adams cover fell as I realized that nothing conclusive had come about. So my basic complaint: the story should have ended, really ended, with the death of Ra's al Ghul. A good character—especially a villain—has an ending as well as an origin . . . you should've realized that sometimes it is best to call something off when you're ahead.

—GUY LILLIAN III, Kenner, La.



Dear Editor:

"The Demon Lives Again", unlike its immediate predecessor, was much MORE than just a visual experience. "The Lazarus Pit" was admirably full-length and regrettably short on story, but Denny O'Neil came through like the dependable workhorse he is on his scripting of Ra's al Ghul's final showdown. Ra's began as a mysterious, almost kindly personality, and grew a bit more mad and dangerous with each successive appearance. With this last story, he achieved *Joker*-stature, and that, sir, is high praise indeed. (Speaking of *The Joker*, when . . . no, never mind. I hate to be a pest!)

Incidentally, I was glad to see Neal Adams give our virile Batman hair on his chest. Suddenly Bruce Wayne (remember how he looked in the 1950's?) is emerging as the sexiest comix swashbuckler this side of *Conan* (whozat?!). Meanwhile, we girl-watchers got double our money's worth with goody-goody Molly and baddie-baddie Talia . . . both no slouches in the looks department!

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

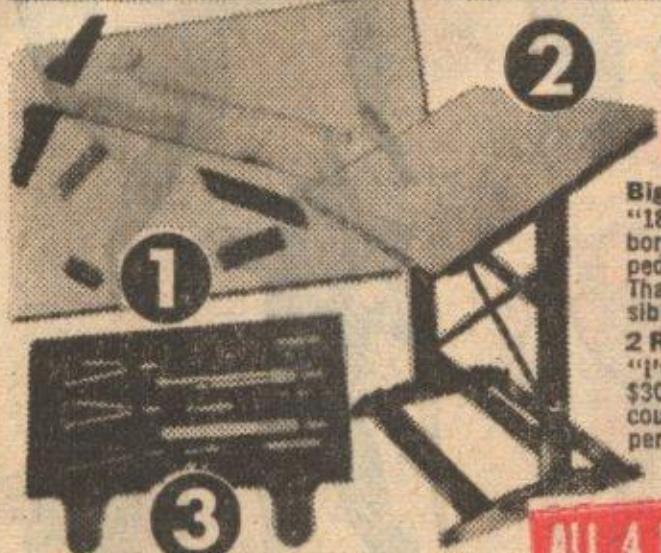
(From an "unimpeachable" source we have learned that Neal Adams has actually completed one page of "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge!" The higher mathematics necessary to compute the completion of the other 22 pages is beyond us!—JS)



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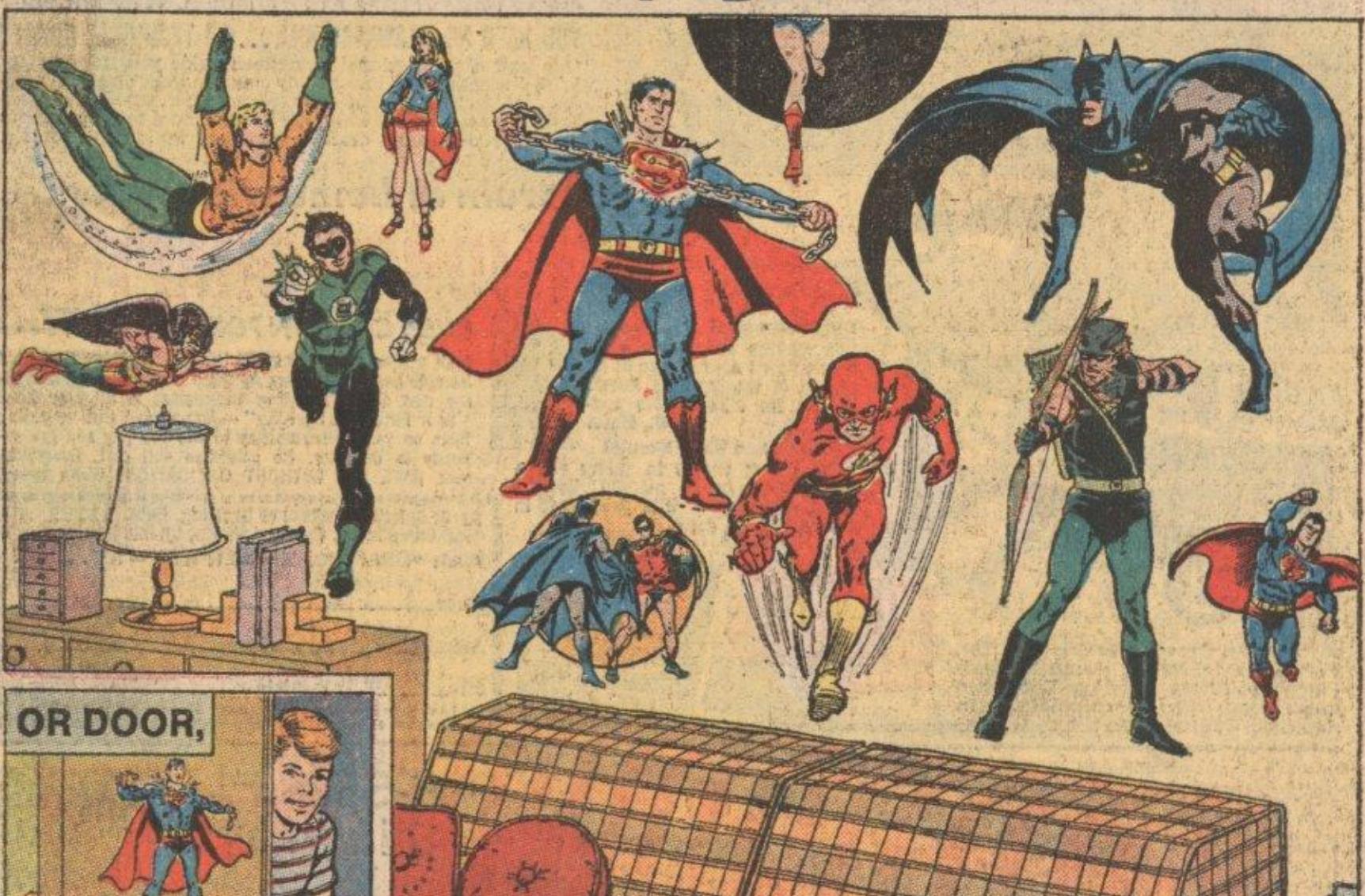


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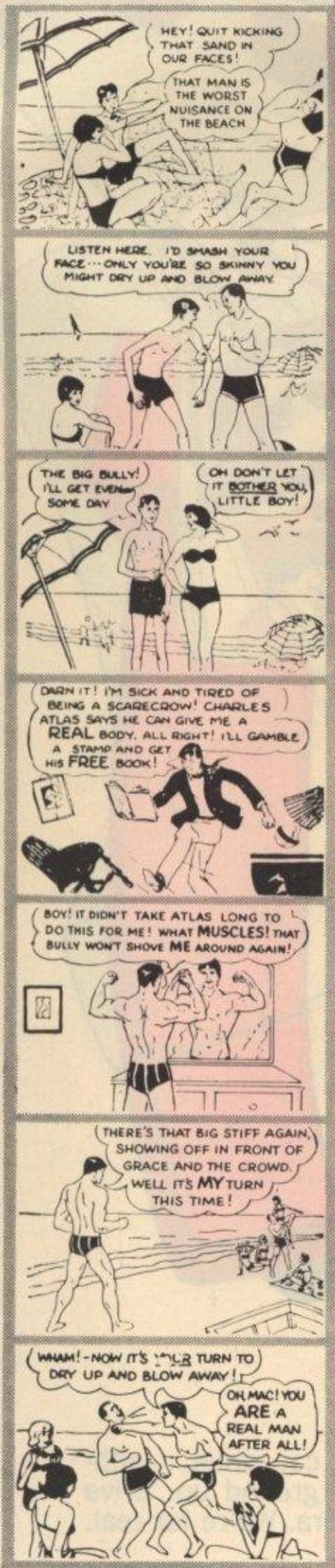
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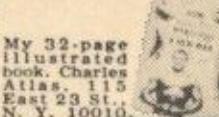
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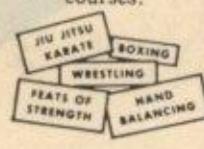
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