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BATMAN

NO. 259

DEC.

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COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

BATMAN

STARTLING!

YOU CAN SEE THE SHADOW--
BUT CAN YOU FIND BRUCE
(BATMAN)
WAYNE
IN
THIS
PICTURE?
?

MYSTIFYING!

"TWO BATMEN
TOO MANY!"

AMAZING!

"THE STRANGE
COSTUMES OF
BATMAN!"

WHO IS THIS BATMAN?
READ "THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE!"

SEE THE NEW COSTUMES
FOR ROBIN DESIGNED BY
YOU... THE READERS!

MEET BATMAN'S WILDEST IMPERSONATOR IN
"HEROES BY PROXY!"

EXTRA! "THE FAILURE OF
BRUCE WAYNE!"



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DON'T DELAY! JOIN NOW! MAIL POSTCARD TODAY!**

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100 PAGE

NO. 259
NOV.-DEC.
COVER: NICK CARDY

BAT-MAN

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WAIT...YOU HAVE NOT OPENED THE WRONG MAGAZINE!
THIS IS INDEED AN ALL-NEW TALE OF THE DREAD...

BATMAN

...AND, IN FACT, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS
IN THIS SCENE! BUT YOU MAY NOT RECOGNIZE
HIM... BECAUSE THE EVENT YOU ARE WITNESS-
ING OCCURRED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO!



COME NOW, INTO THE
PAST AND FOLLOW A
TORTURED TRAIL OF
GREED AND LONG-
SMOLDERING HATRED!
IT BEGINS WITH THIS
PROLOGUE TO--

the NIGHT of the *Shadow!*

FROM THE COMBINED FILES
OF THE BATMAN AND THE SHADOW
AS RECORDED BY--
DENNY O'NEIL - Writer
IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO - Artists
JULIUS SCHWARTZ - Editor

DUSK...AND THIS DOWNTOWN SHOPPING CENTER IS ALMOST DESERTED...

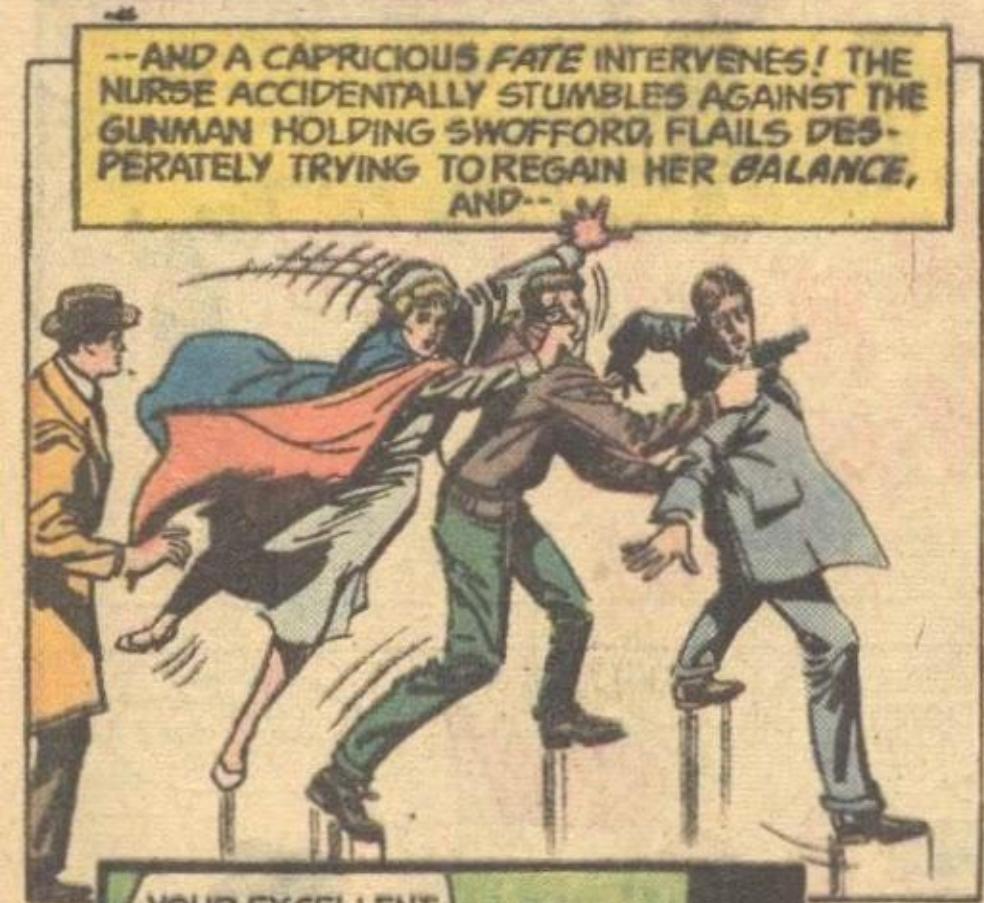


BUT WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE SWOFFORD JEWELRY STORE THERE IS EVIL...





--AT THE SAME INSTANT THAT DR. THOMAS WAYNE, HIS SON BRUCE, AND NURSE MILDRED MILLER ARE STEPPING FROM AN ELEVATOR--





AND THE BOY IS BUFFETED BY
SOUNDS --

--HORRIBLE SOUNDS OF
GUNFIRE HE CAN'T SHUT
OUT--

--SOUNDS THAT SEEM TO
GO ON FOREVER...

BLAM-
BLAM-
BLAM!

--HORRIBLE SOUNDS OF
GUNFIRE HE CAN'T SHUT
OUT--

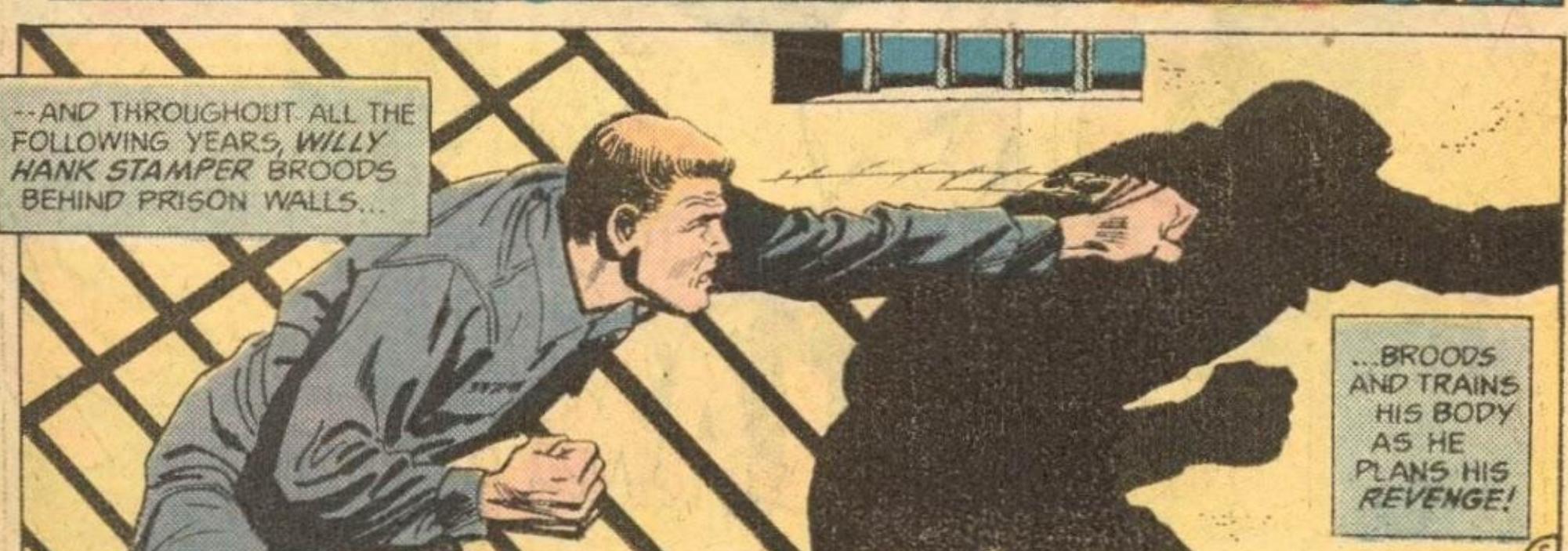
BLAM!

A dynamic comic book panel. In the foreground, a character's face is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The character has dark hair and is wearing a light-colored shirt. Their hand is raised, palm facing forward, as if they have just punched or are in motion. The background is a solid green color. Large, bold, orange letters spelling "BLAM" are scattered across the background. At the top of the panel, there is a yellow speech bubble containing the text "--SOUNDS THAT SEEM TO GO ON FOREVER...".

THEN... ECHOING STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY
BY WILLY HANK STAMPER'S HOARSE WORDS...



THE YOUNGSTER FEELS A GENTLE TOUCH AND
HEARS AN ICY VOICE TINGED WITH KINDNESS--



YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE,
THE LAD WHO COWERED
THAT EVENING LONG AGO,
TREMBLING IN FEAR,
NOW FEARS NOTHING--

--FOR HE HAS BECOME
THE BATMAN,
THE MOST DEDICATED FOE
OF CRIME THE WORLD HAS
EVER KNOWN... OR, PERHAPS,
THE **SECOND MOST DEDICATED!**

AT THIS MOMENT, HIS LITHE, AWESOME
FORM CLEAVES THE NIGHT SKY IN
ANSWER TO A **SUMMONS** FLASHED
ON THE CLOUDS, BOUND FOR **POLICE**
HEADQUARTERS--

...UNAWARE THAT HE IS SOON TO BATTLE AN ENEMY HE
IS NOT EVEN AWARE OF... AN ENEMY DEDICATED TO
THE BATMAN'S DEATH!

WHY THE ARTILLERY,
COMMISSIONER GORDON?

AFRAID OF
MUGGERS?

THE POLICE
ASSOCIATION
GAVE ME THE
REVOLVER,
BATMAN--

--IN HONOR OF
MY THIRTIETH
ANNIVERSARY
AS A LAWMAN!

BEEN SO LONG SINCE
I FIRED ONE, I PROBABLY
COULDNT HIT A STAMPEDE
OF HIPPOS!

Y'KNOW, I'VE OFTEN
WONDERED WHY YOU
DON'T CARRY A
FIREARM?

I... JUST
DON'T
LIKE 'EM,
COMMI-
SSIONER!

BUT YOU DIDN'T
SIGNAL ME TO DISCUSS
MY PREFERENCES
IN HARDWARE--

NO... WE GOT AN ANONYMOUS
PHONE-TIP YOU MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN!

OUR INFORMANT
SAYS SOMEONE'S
GOING TO STEAL
THE STARLIGHT
TIARA!

IT'LL BE ON DISPLAY TOMORROW
AT THE GOTHAM GALLERY...
A BAUBLE MADE OF PLATINUM--

--AND STUDDED
WITH DIAMONDS!



I'M
FAMILIAR
WITH IT!

IN FACT, I HAVE AN
IDEA WHO MIGHT
WANT TO SWIPE IT!

I'LL GET
BACK TO YOU,
COMMISSIONER!

AND IN A NEARBY ALLEY--

WHILE I'M IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD, BRUCE
WAYNE MIGHT AS WELL
LOOK IN ON NURSE
MILDRED MILLER!



POOR OLD MILDRED...
SHE NEVER QUITE
RECOVERED FROM
THE SHOCK OF
THAT GUNFIGHT
25 YEARS AGO!

SHE AGED OVERNIGHT
AND HAS LIVED IN THIS
HOME EVER SINCE!

HOME FOR THE AGED

ODD GORDON SHOULD
MENTION THE STARLIGHT
TIARA ON THE VERY NIGHT
I'LL BE SEEING MILDRED...

HELP!!

THAT'S
HER
VOICE!

SOMETHING'S
TERRIFYING
HER!

BY THE TIME BRUCE
WAYNE COULD CLIMB
THE STAIRS TO
THE ROOF, IT
COULD BE
TOO LATE--

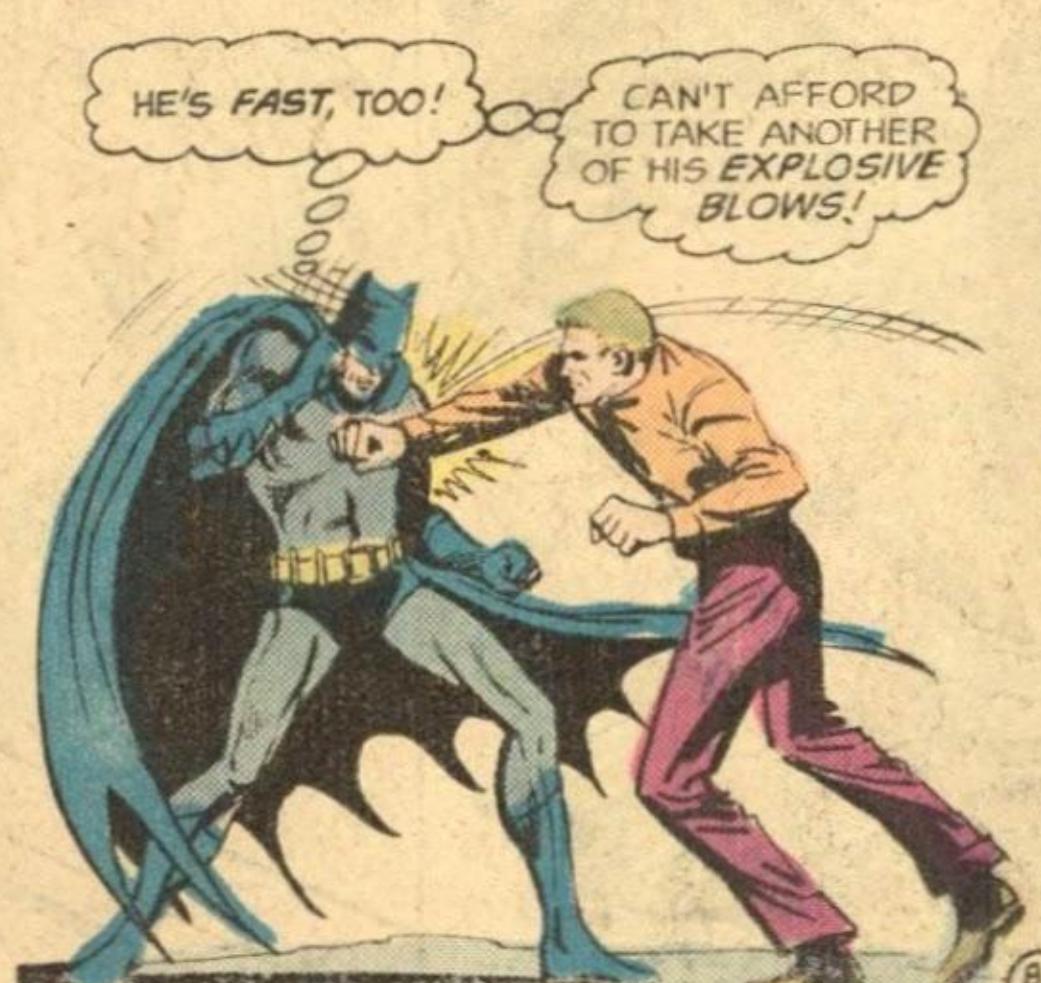


--BATMAN
CAN GET THERE
FASTER BY
ROPE!

WITHIN SECONDS...

WHY ARE YOU MENACING
US--IS IT MY JEWEL
BOX? YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!

I SEEK
REVENGE,
NOT YOUR
PALTRY
GOODS!



THEY DIDN'T
TEACH JUDO
IN JAIL, DID
THEY--?

EEE--
YAH!

MAYBE
YOU CAN
START
A COURSE
IN IT...

...WHEN YOU
RETURN--

--WHICH
YOU
WILL!

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY REACH
THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRE-ESCAPE
YOU'RE RUNNING FOR BEFORE I--

AGGG--
MY HEART!

BATMAN--
MR. SWOFFORD'S
ILL!

HELP HIM!
HURRY!

SWOFFORD...
THE JEWELER?!

I DIDN'T
KNOW HE
WAS LIVING
HERE!

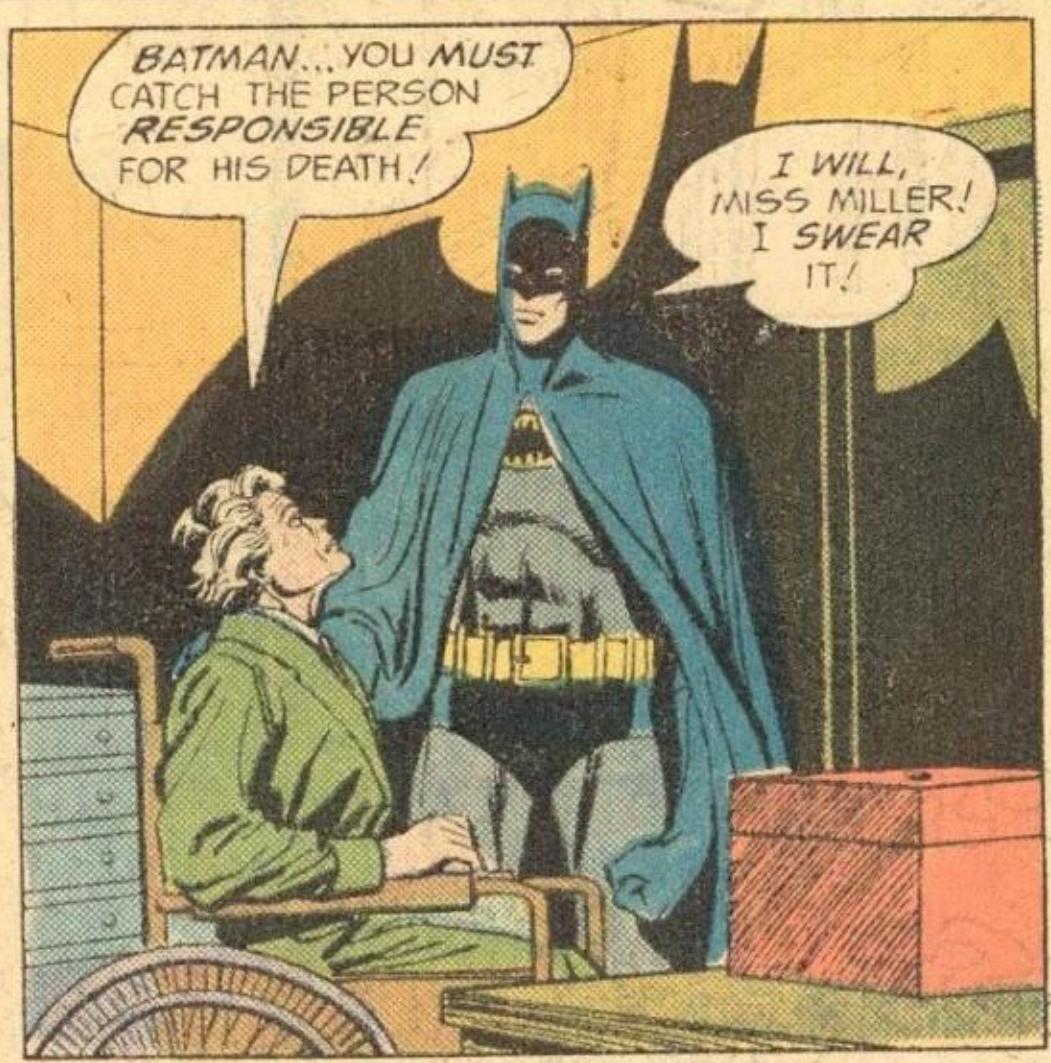
POOR OLD MAN... THE EXCITE-
MENT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM!

CAN'T LET HIM DIE... EVEN
IF IT MEANS LETTING MY
FOE ESCAPE!

WHAT WENT
UP FAST...

...WILL GO
DOWN EVEN
FASTER!

DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN
RACES TO SAVE A LIFE--



-- BUT HOW DID HE
STEAL SWOFFORD'S
BOX-- AND WHY?

--THAT IS,
ASSUMING STAMPER
DID IT!



MAYBE A
GOOD NIGHT'S
SLEEP WILL
HELP ME
UNSCRAMBLE
THIS PUZZLE!

EH--? THE ELEVATOR
STOPPED SHORT JUST
BELOW MY
PENTHOUSE!



I HEAR
A...
HISsing--

--A TORCH!
--SOMEONE'S
CUTTING THE
CABLE! I'LL
FALL TWENTY
FLOORS...

THE CAR'S
ALREADY
SWAYING!

ONE
CHANCE--

--I'VE GOT TO
GET THROUGH
THIS EMERGENCY-
HATCH!



THE LAST STRAND OF
THE CABLE'S PARTED!

THE CAR IS
DROPPING--

--DROPPING DOWN, DOWN
...AND THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE SKYSCRAPER
SHAKES AS...

'WHWEE! I OWE THE
ARCHITECT WHO PLACED
AN ACCESS LADDER IN
THIS PARTICULAR SPOT
A CHRISTMAS PRESENT
--A BIG ONE!

KRAASSAT!

LATE THE
FOLLOWING
EVENING,
BRUCE WAYNE
JOINS THE
CITY'S SOCIETY
LIGHTS AT
THE GOTHAM
GALLERY...

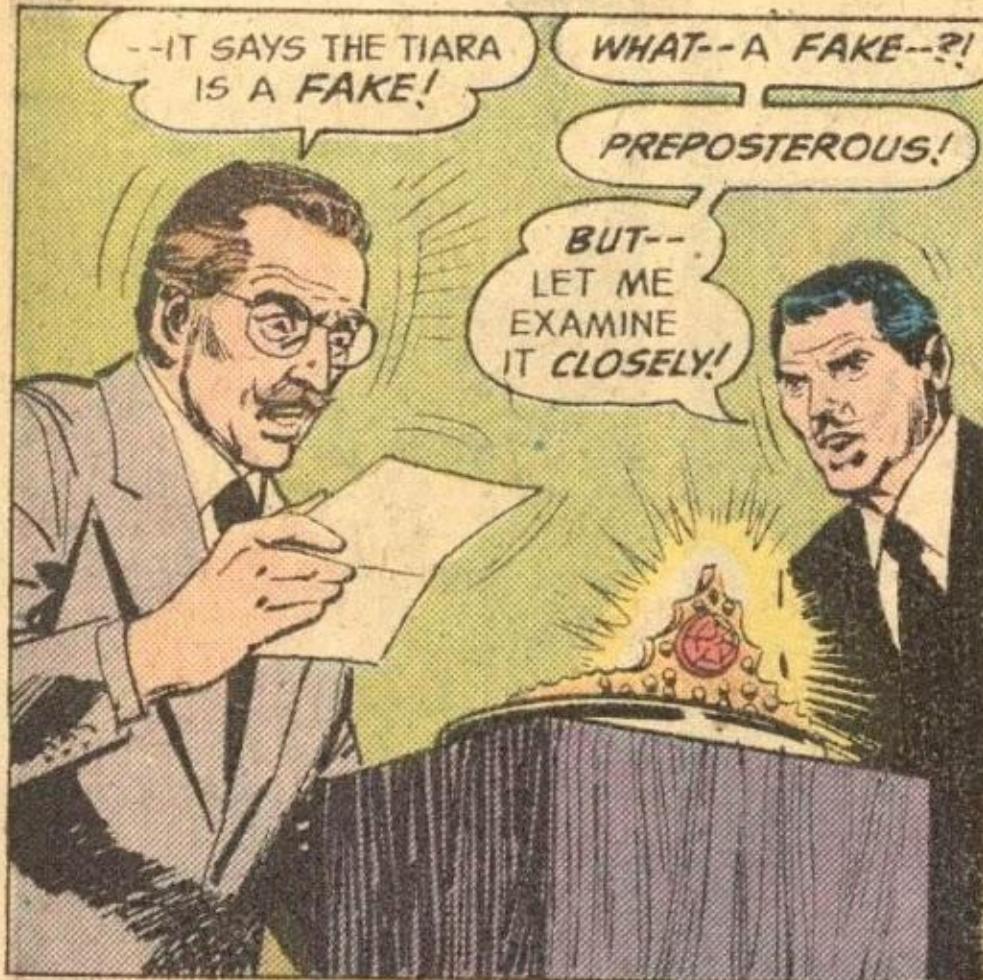
ACCORDING TO COMMISSIONER
GORDON'S TIP, A THIEF SHOULD STRIKE
HERE THIS EVENING--

RARE
GEM
EXHIBIT

--AND I HAVE A HUNCH
THAT RIP-OFF ARTIST WILL
BE MY WOULD-BE KILLER
--WILLY HANK!

AND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
I PRESENT THE
INCOMPARABLE STARLIGHT
TIARA...

EH--?
WHAT'S THIS...?
A NOTE--



YES... ME--AND WILLY HANK STAMPER! THE INCIDENT WILL BE IN ALL THE NEWSCASTS...

...WILLY HANK WILL HEAR--AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE IMPLIED CHALLENGE!



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, WE'LL MEET AGAIN--THE THREE OF US!

FUNNY... I CAN ALMOST FEEL HIS PRESENCE ALREADY!

DARKNESS... AND A RETURN TO THE PAST! THE YEARS HAVE NOT DEALT KINDLY WITH THIS ONCE ELEGANT NEIGHBORHOOD...

WHAT WAS ONCE THE LUXURIOUS SWOFFORD JEWELRY SALON IS NOW A DINGY STOREROOM FOR DRESS DUMMIES...

MANNEQUINS

--HUMANOID FORMS THAT CLUSTER LIKE MUTE SENTRY'S, SILENTLY GREETING THE BATMAN...

QUIET... REAL QUIET IN HERE! AM I TOO EARLY--

--OR IS WILLY HANK WAITING FOR ME?

MEMORY'S PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!

I IMAGINE I CAN SMELL THE SMOKE FROM WILLY HANK'S PISTOL...

BEHIND THE BATMAN, PUSHED BY UNSEEN HANDS, A DUMMY TOPPLES--

--BUT HIS SUPERB INSTINCT, HONED BY UNENDING TRAINING, FLASHERS A WARNING TO HIS BRAIN-- AND HE MOVES!



THIS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AN ACCIDENT-- NO WAY!

WILLY HANK... SHOW YOURSELF!

LEAVE, BATMAN! I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU!

--ENOUGH TO WARN THE BATMAN--WHO SPRINGS SIDEWAYS, LEAVING THE BULLETS TO FIND OTHER TARGETS...

BLAM! BLAM!

BLAM!



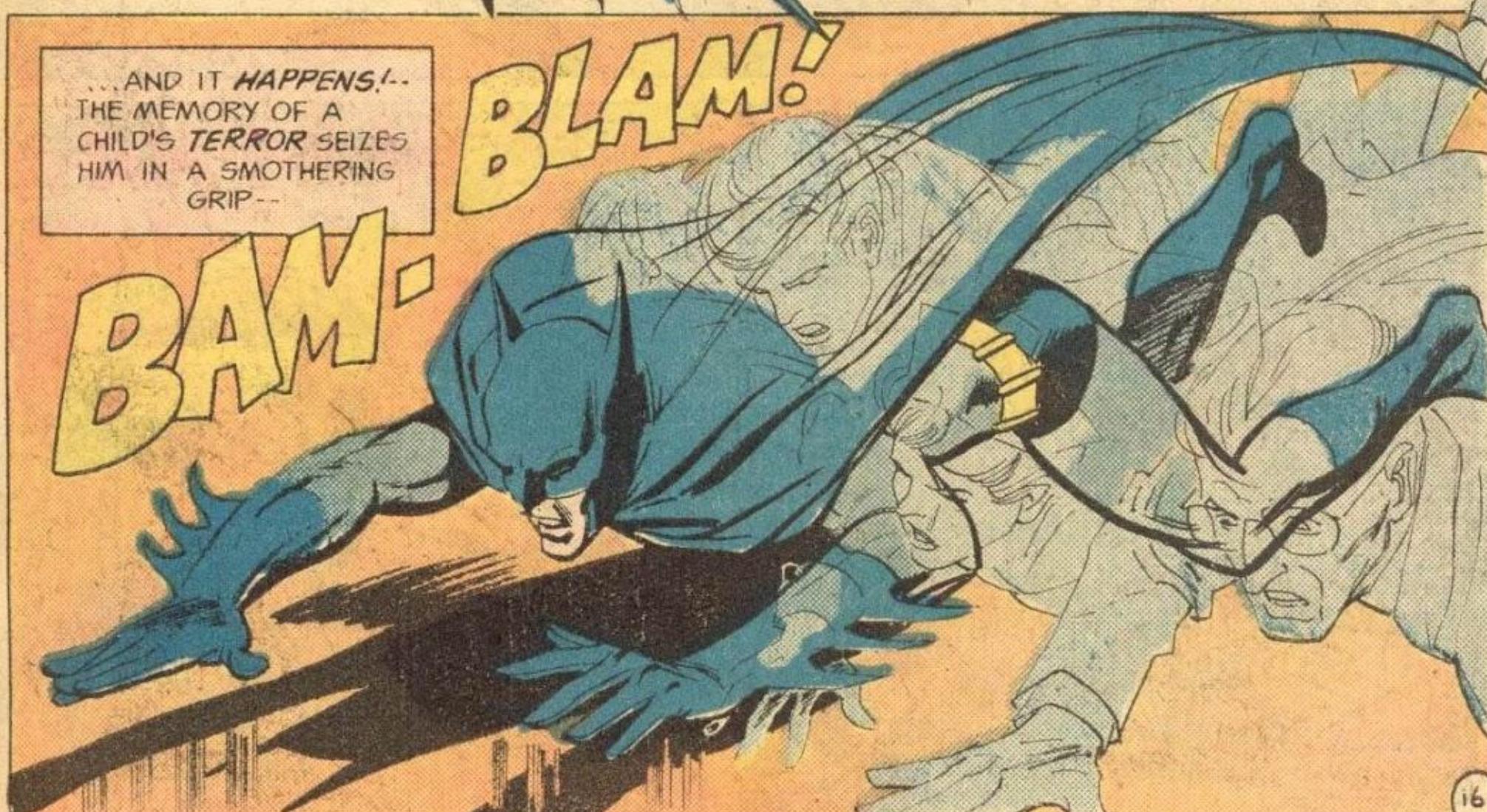
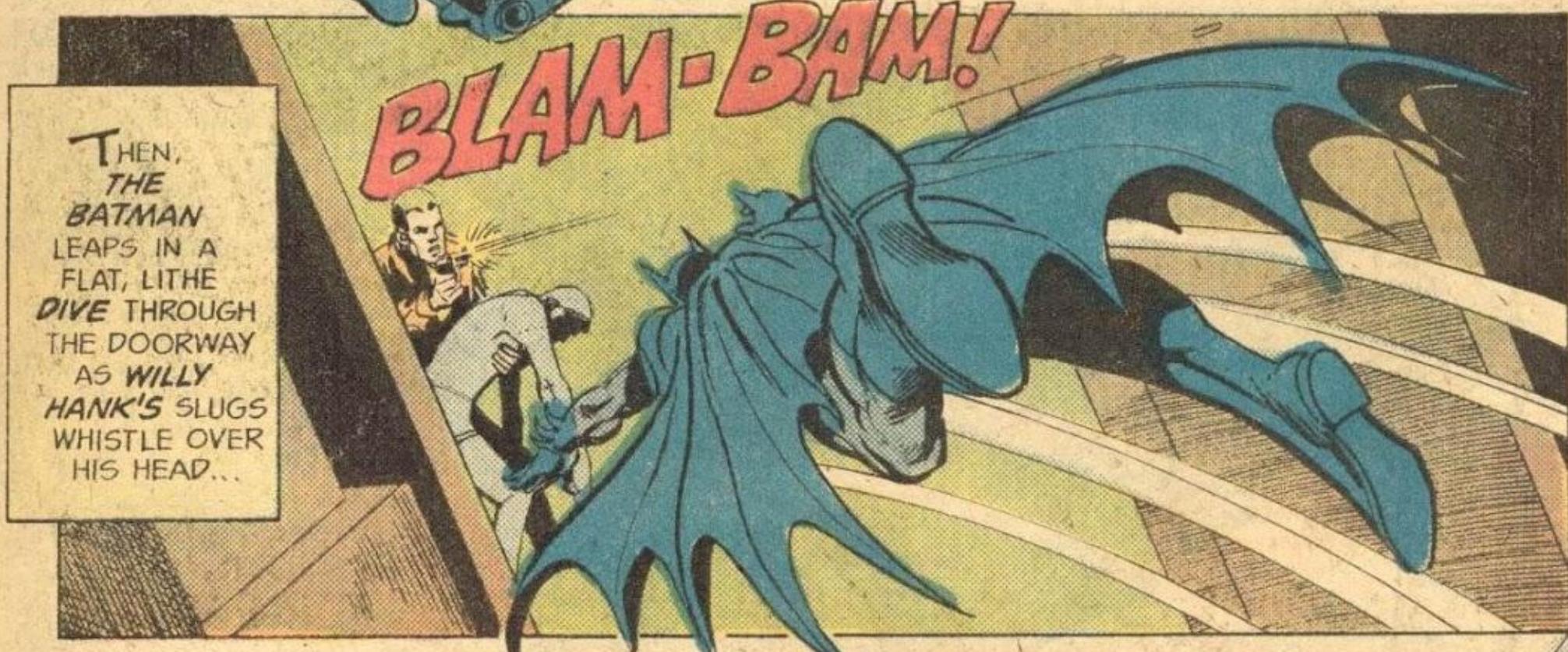
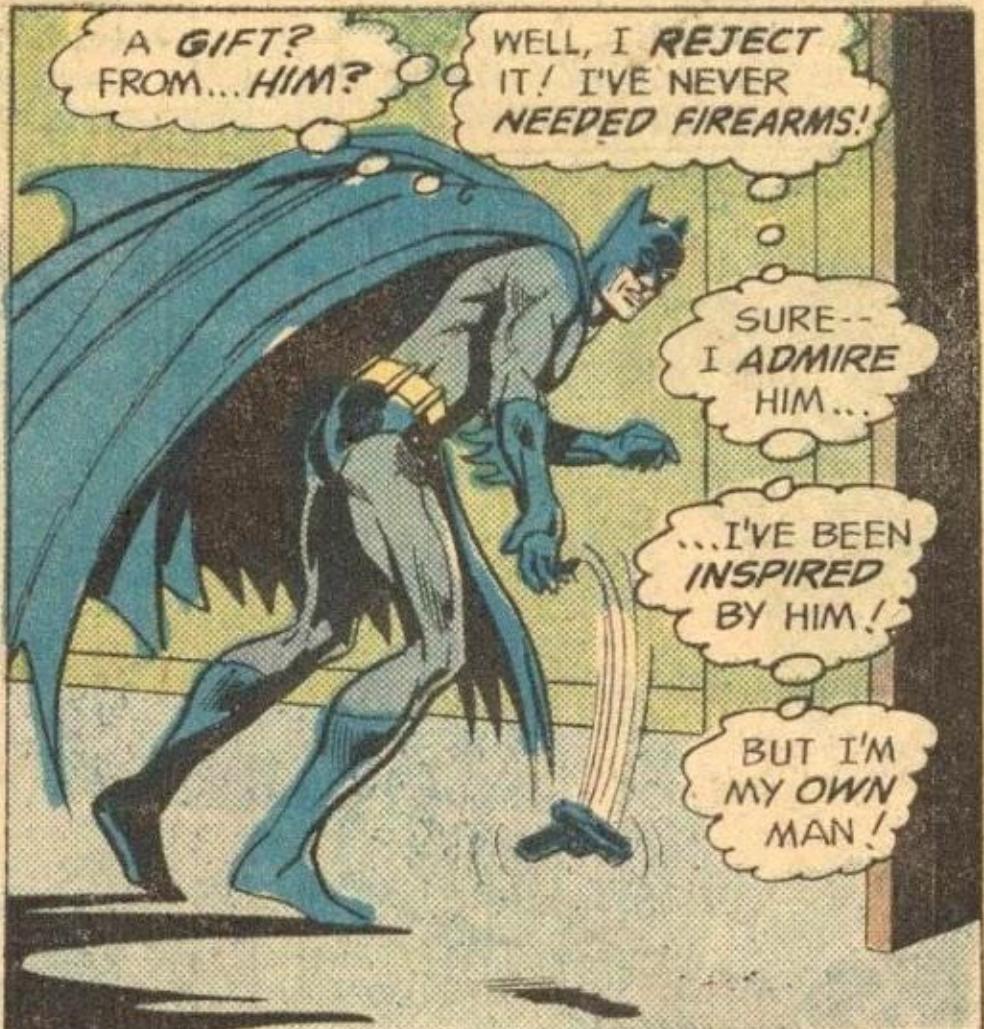
WILLY HANK... YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WRONG YOU ARE!

THE TINIEST OF NOISES... A REVOLVER BEING COCKED--

YOU CAN'T SHOOT ME! I HAVE A SHIELD...

YOU'RE HALLUCINATING, WILLY HANK! I DON'T USE WEAPONS--





...AND ONCE AGAIN HE
IS YOUNG *BRUCE WAYNE*
BUFFETED BY SOUNDS--

--HORRIBLE SOUNDS HE
CAN'T SHUT OUT--

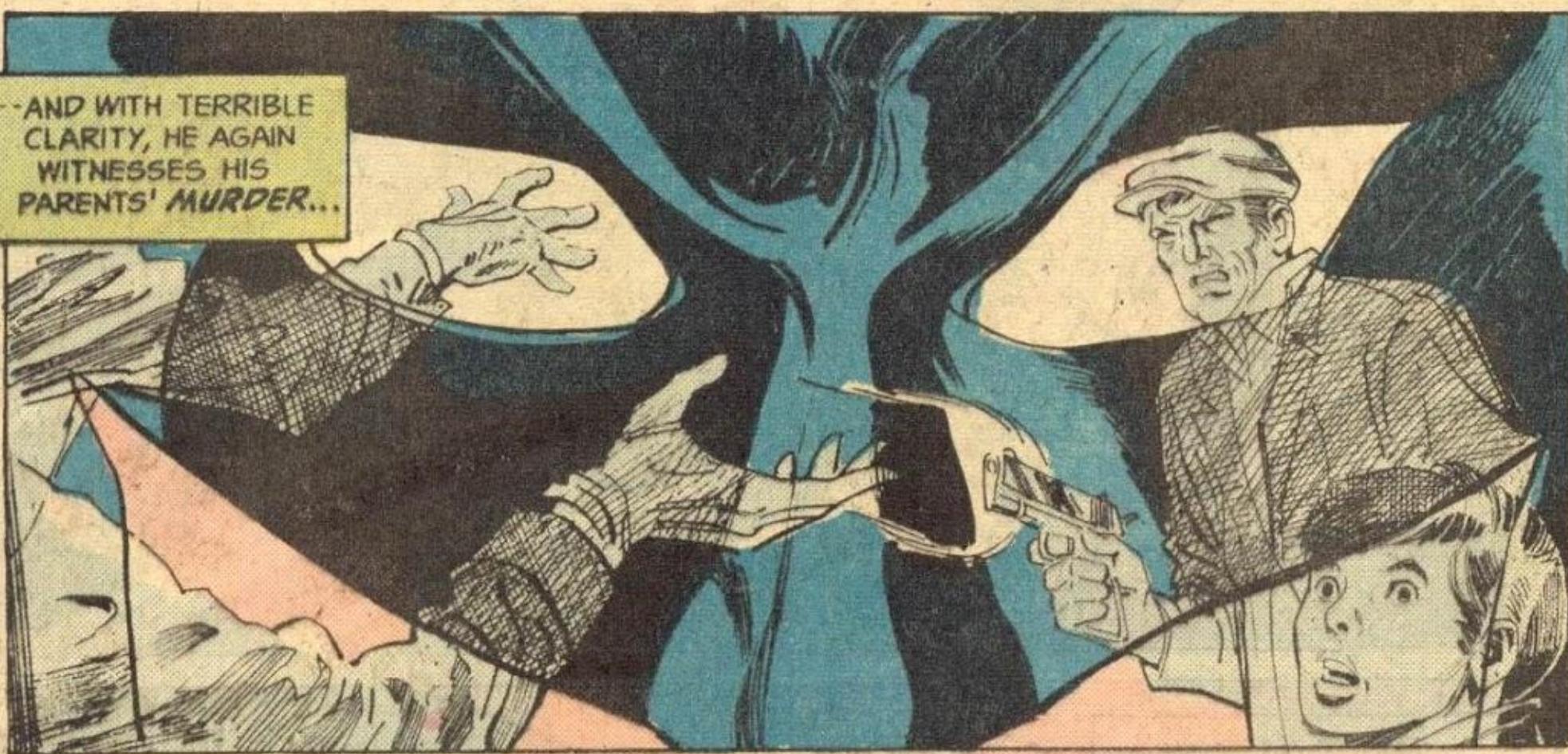
--SOUNDS THAT SEEM TO
GO ON FOREVER...REACHING
INTO THE FUTURE--

BAM-

BLAM!

BLAMI!

-AND WITH TERRIBLE
CLARITY, HE AGAIN
WITNESSES HIS
PARENTS' MURDER...

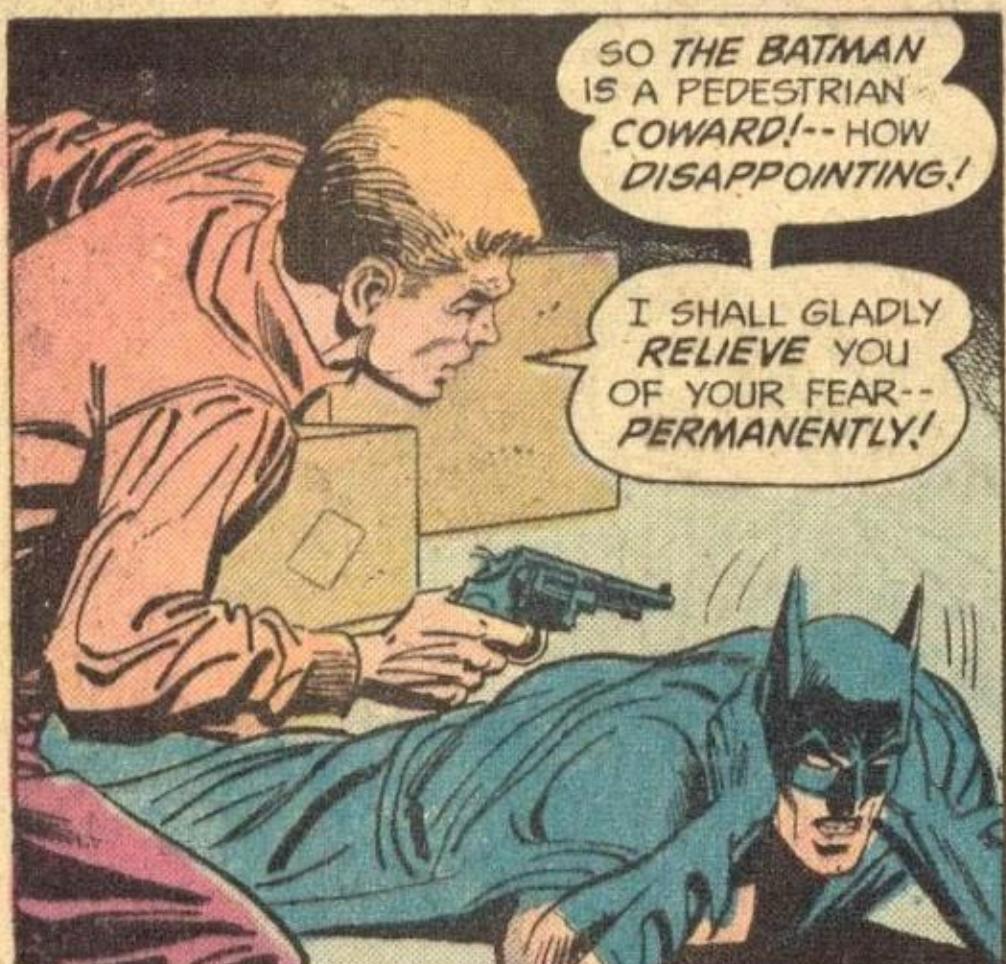


**SO THE BATMAN
IS A PEDESTRIAN
COWARD!-- HOW
DISAPPOINTING!**

I SHALL GLADLY
RELIEVE YOU
OF YOUR FEAR--
PERMANENTLY!

A comic book panel showing a man with a shocked expression, looking upwards. A large, stylized speech bubble contains the text "THAT... LAUGH-?!?". The background is green with a halftone pattern.

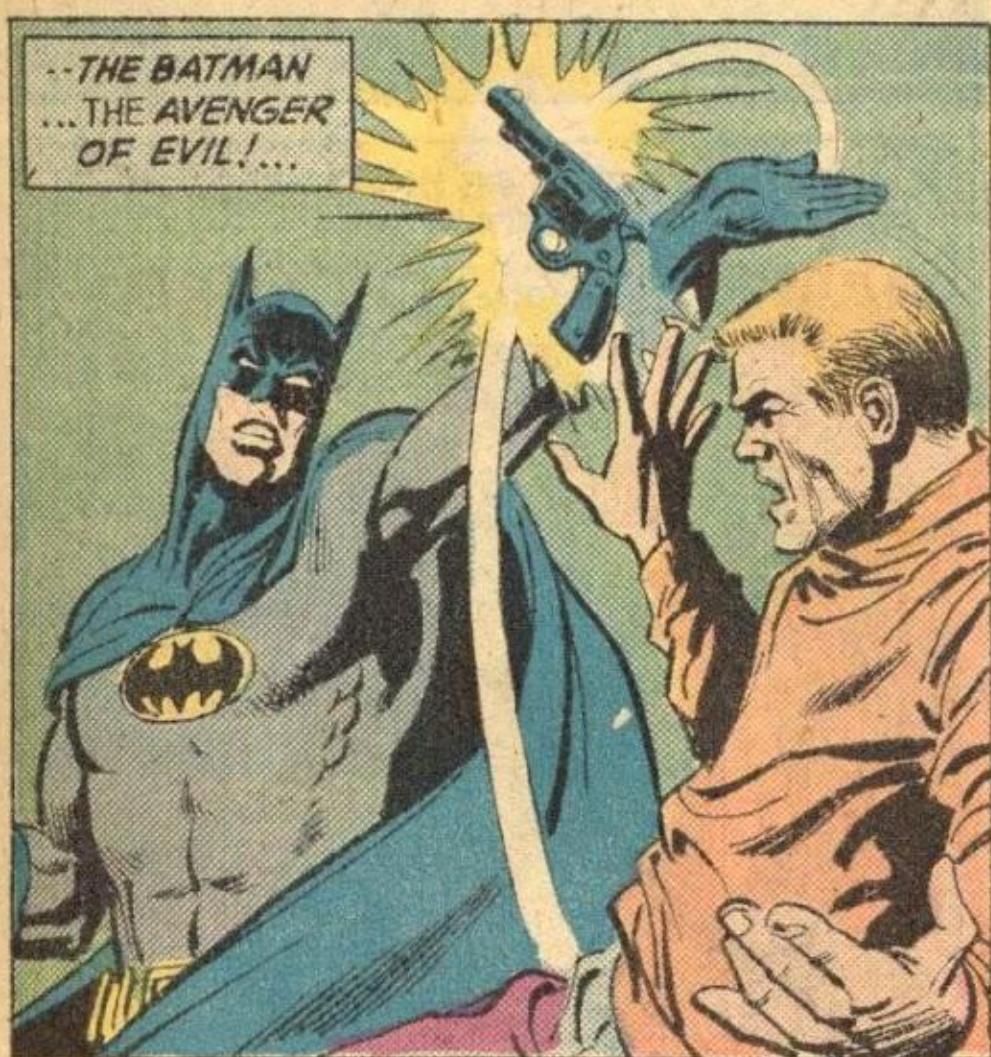
THAT...
LAUGH--?!?



AND BRUCE WAYNE NO LONGER IS A FRIGHTENED BOY! HE IS--



--THE BATMAN
...THE AVENGER
OF EVIL!...



AS I SAID
EARLIER...
YOU HIT
HARD!

YOU MUST'VE DONE A
LOT OF EXERCISING
BEHIND BARS!



UHNN - YOU
WERE PRETENDING!
YOU WERE NEVER
REALLY AFRAID!

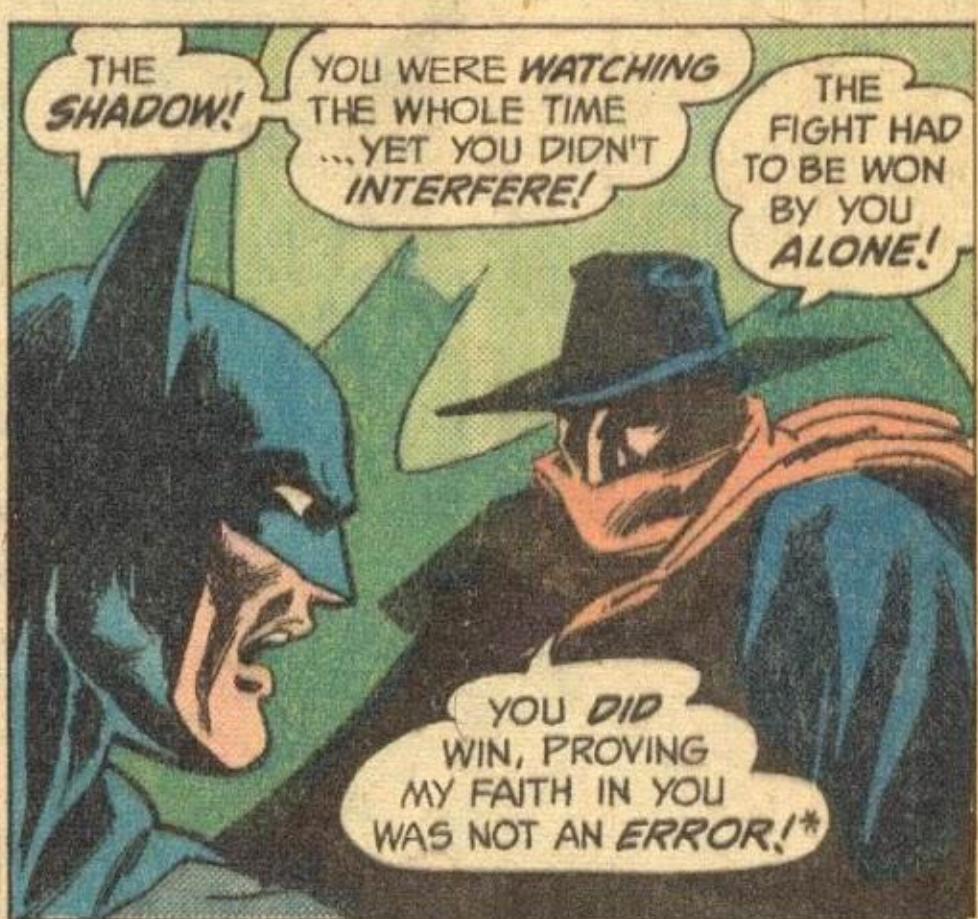
NOT ME!--AN
INNOCENT CHILD
WAS!



YEAH, HE'S GONE!

HE AND HIS TERROR
ARE FINALLY LAID
TO REST--





*NOTE: THEY MET IN BATMAN #253, IN
"WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL--?"



OLD SWOFFORD'S BOX?!

YOU REMOVED IT FROM THE HOSPITAL ROOM!

WITHIN THE BOX IS A SECRET COMPARTMENT--

AND WITHIN THE COMPARTMENT... THE BAUBLE! THORNTON SWOFFORD PREPARED THE FAKE DUPLICATE DECADES AGO!

HE KEPT THE GENUINE TIARA HIDDEN ALL THAT TIME!

YOU'RE PLAIN INCREDIBLE! HOW THE DEUCE COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN--?

I HAVE MY METHODS-- AS YOU HAVE YOURS!

ONE LAST QUESTION... YOU KNOW MY REAL IDENTITY--?

OF COURSE!

HOW I CAME BY THE INFORMATION IS NOT IMPORTANT!

REST ASSURED... YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME!

NOW-- I BID YOU...

NO USE! HE'S MELTED INTO NOTHINGNESS!

HE'S NEVER BEEN THE TYPE TO HANG AROUND GETTING THANKED!

I WISH I COULD THANK HIM!--I OWE HIM MUCH!

ANNEQUINS

HE'S FREED ME FROM A DREAD I DIDN'T REALIZE I HAD!

DESPITE HIS COLDNESS, HE'S A GOOD MAN... A WISE MAN... MAYBE THE BEST OF MEN!

THE BATMAN DOES NOT FAIL... AND NEITHER DOES THE SHADOW!

WE DEDICATE THIS STORY TO THE MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND BILL FINGER

THE END.

SO, ROBIN, YOU CAN SEE FROM MY LATEST CASE THAT I WAS INSPIRED BY THE SHADOW WHEN I BEGAN MY CAREER AS A CRIME-FIGHTER!

ONLY YOU PREFERRED TO DO THINGS YOUR OWN WAY INSTEAD OF COPYING HIM! I CAN THINK OF SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO COPIED YOU, THOUGH... FROM YOUR BOOTS RIGHT UP TO YOUR POINTY EARS! AND THAT INCLUDES FOUR CROOKS...IN THIS STORY...

BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THIS IS THE STORY OF ONE OF THE MOST BRAZEN OF ALL RACKETS--FOR, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIEVES DECIDE TO USE THE FAMED BATMAN CAREER FOR INFAMY WHEN THEY CHOOSE A MILLIONAIRE FOR THEIR VICTIM! THUS, THEY CREATE THAT BIZARRE, BOGUS BAND KNOWN AS THE BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN IN THE STARTLING CASE CALLED--

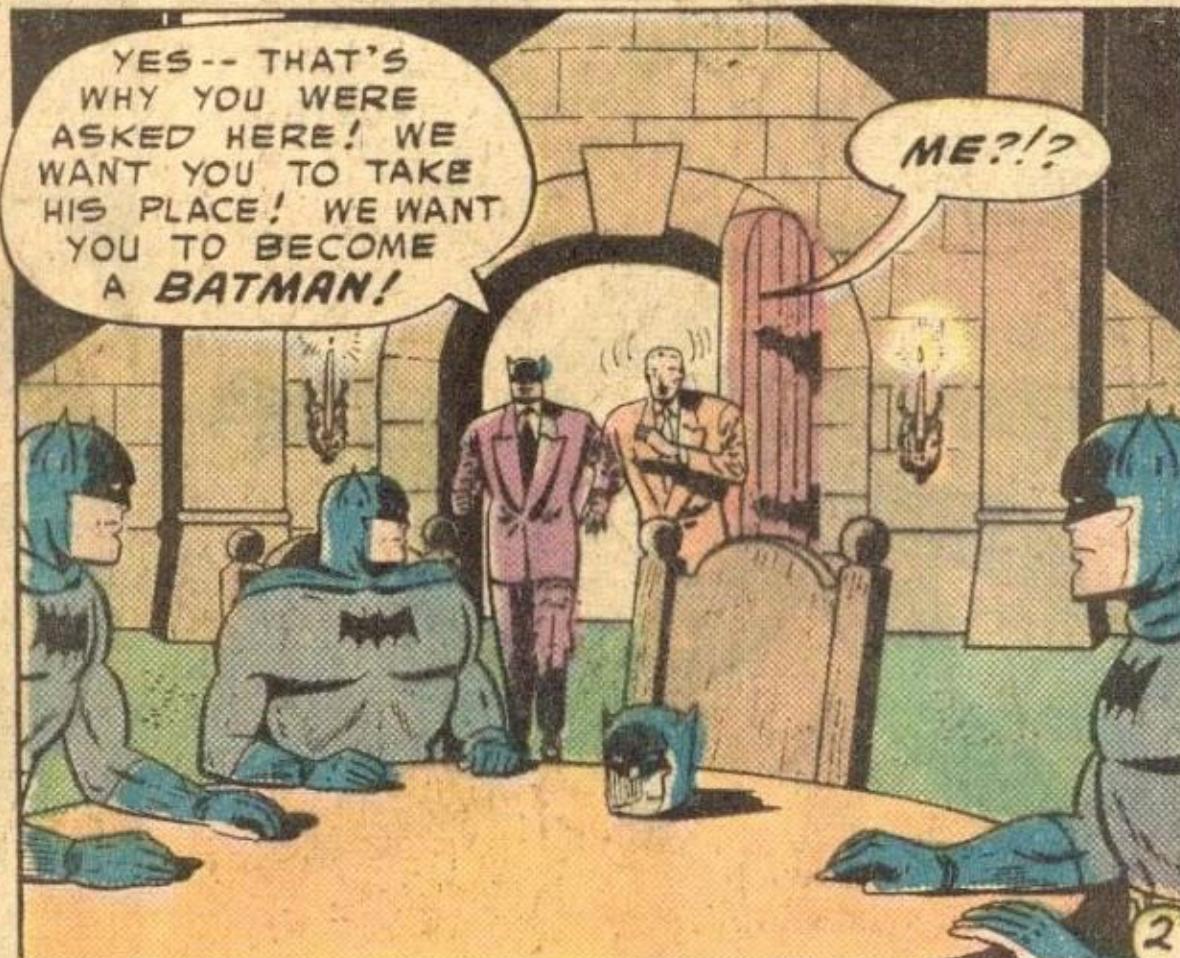
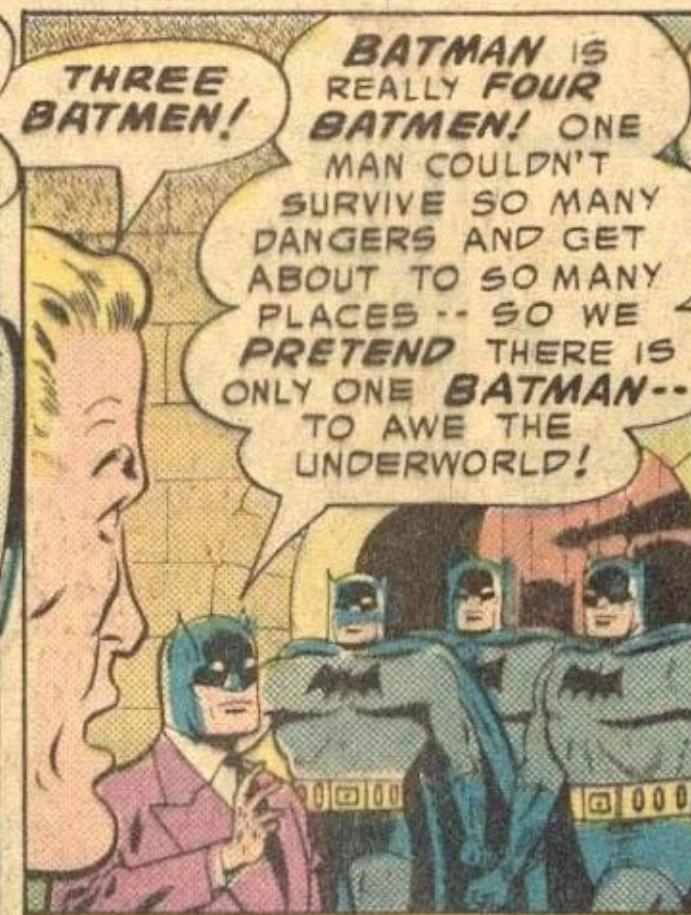
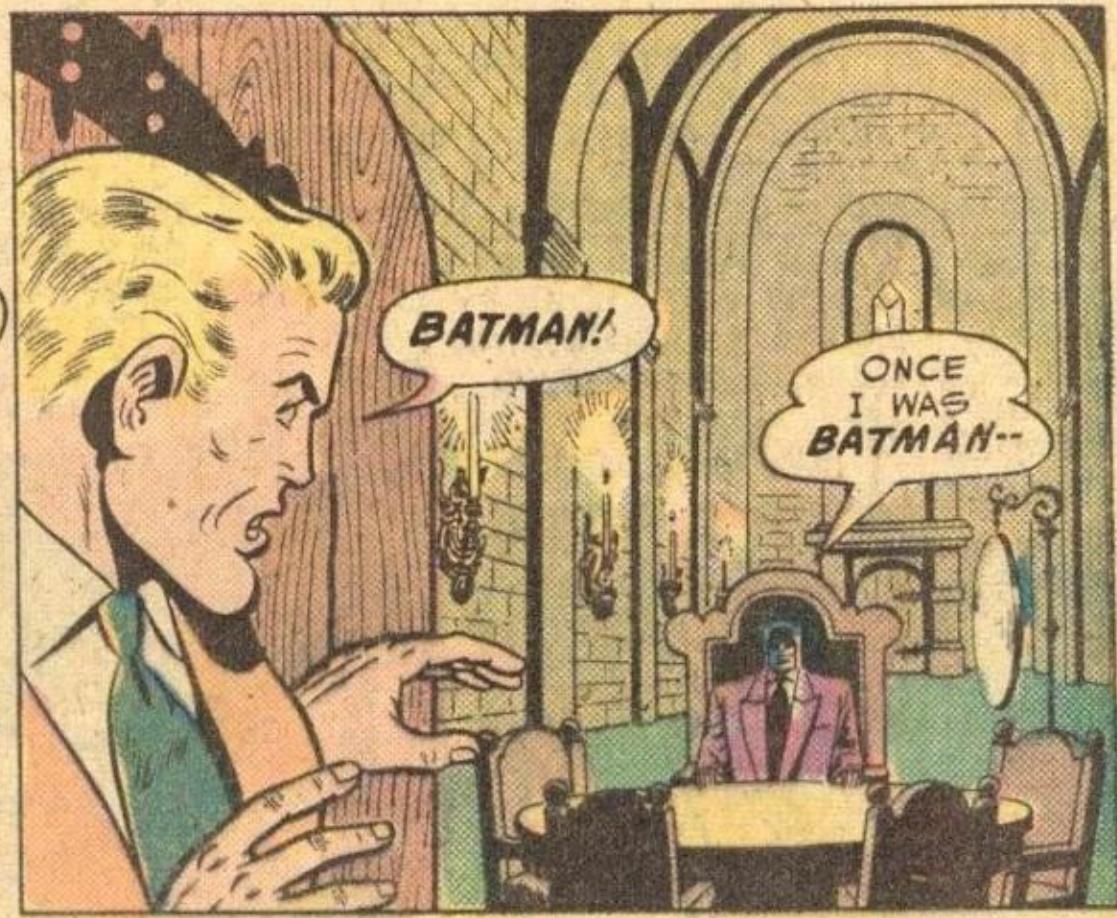
THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE!

YOU WILL,
ONCE WE CLEAN
UP THIS
BROTHERHOOD OF
BATMEN!

BATMAN!
BUT... BUT
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...??

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, NED JUDSON, WEALTHY YACHTSMAN, STANDS BEFORE A CRUMBLING CASTLE ONCE BUILT BY AN ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



AWED BY THIS GREAT HONOR, JUDSON TAKES HIS PLACE AT THE ROUND TABLE AND RECITES THE OATH OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF BATMEN!

...AND I SWEAR TO UP-HOLD LAW AND ORDER FOREVER!

NED JUDSON, YOU NOW TAKE YOUR PLACE AS BATMAN NUMBER FOUR OF THE BROTHERHOOD!

I HAVE A QUESTION, SIR! ARE THERE FOUR ROBINS ALSO?

ER...NO! THERE IS ONLY **ONE ROBIN**-- AND HE WORKS ONLY WITH **BATMAN NUMBER ONE**! AND ONLY **BATMAN NUMBER ONE** ANSWERS THE **BAT-SIGNAL** FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

I UNDERSTAND! HE'S EARNED THAT PRIVILEGE BECAUSE OF HIS SKILL! THAT'S WHY HE'S **BATMAN NUMBER ONE**!

EXACTLY! PERHAPS SOME DAY YOU MAY RISE TO HIS STATUS! MEANWHILE, YOU WILL BE SUMMONED TO ASSIGNMENTS BY THIS SPECIAL WALKIE-TALKIE BOX! TOMORROW NIGHT, YOU WILL REPORT HERE FOR TRAINING!



WHEN JUDSON LEAVES, HE IS UNAWARE OF THE MOCKING, CRIMINAL FACES UNDER THE FAKE "BATMEN" COWLS!

BOSS, IT WORKED! THE CHUMP REALLY FELL FOR THIS PHONEY SETUP!

NATURALLY! JUDSON'S A REAL **BATMAN** FAN! THAT'S WHY I PICKED HIM! THE POOR FISH HAS TAKEN THE BAIT-- AND WE'RE READY TO PULL HIM IN!



NEXT NIGHT, THE UNSUSPECTING JUDSON REPORTS FOR HIS "TRAINING" PROGRAM...



NICE GOING, JUDSON! YOU'VE GOT THAT JUDO TOSS DOWN PAT!

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A NATURAL ATHLETE, SO THIS IS EASY FOR ME!



THIS STUDY OF BALLISTICS IS FASCINATING!

YEP--I PLANNED THIS SWINDLE WELL! I EVEN GOT AN EX-ATHLETIC INSTRUCTOR AND AN EX-SCIENCE WORKER IN MY MOB!



THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

THEN, ONE WEEK LATER, AS JUDSON WAITS IMPATIENTLY AT HIS PALATIAL HOME...

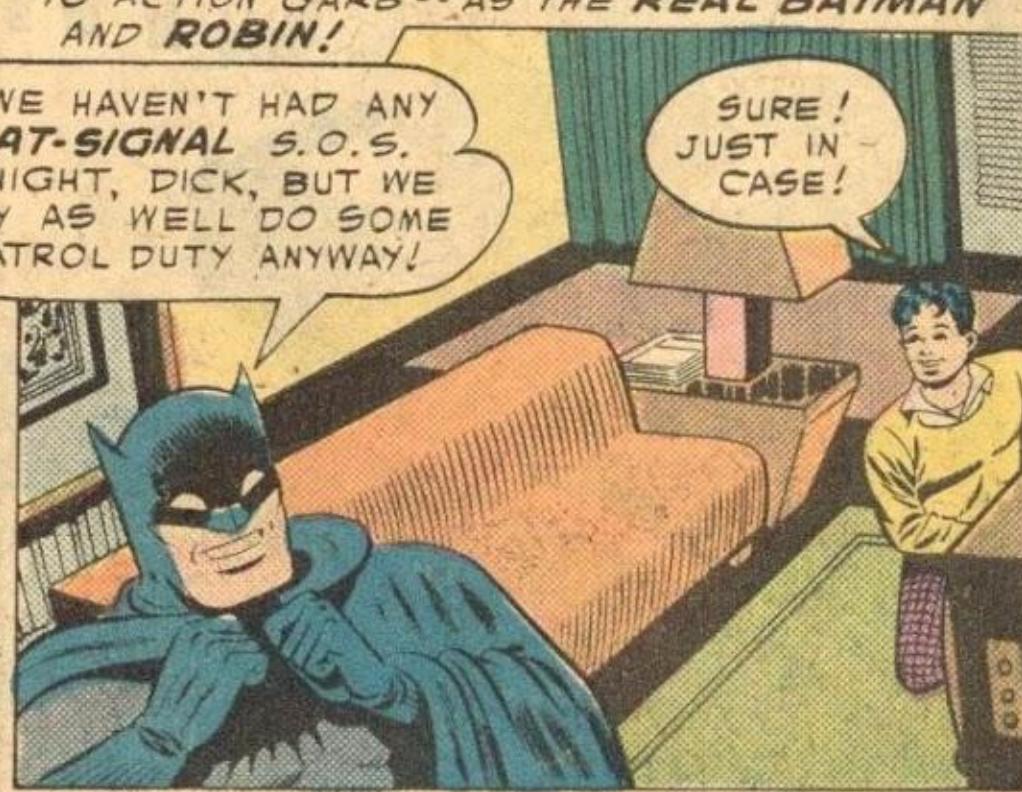
CALLING BATMAN FOUR! SUSPICIOUS PERSON SEEN ATOP SATURN RING BUILDING ROOF! INVESTIGATE!

AT LAST! A BAT-CALL-- TIME TO SWITCH TO MY ACTION GARB!

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY BAT-SIGNAL S.O.S. TONIGHT, DICK, BUT WE MAY AS WELL DO SOME PATROL DUTY ANYWAY!

ELSEWHERE, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE ALSO ABOUT TO SWITCH TO ACTION GARB-- AS THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN!

SURE! JUST IN CASE!



LATER, ATOP THE SATURN BUILDING, JUDSON NERVOUSLY, YET COURAGEOUSLY, GETS SET TO TACKLE HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT!

A MASKED BANDIT! TRYING TO GET THE DIAMOND WEDDING RINGS STORED INSIDE THE GLOBE'S VAULT! MY FIRST CASE--I MUSTN'T MUDD IT! HERE GOES --

SATURN RINGS
CIRCLE A WORLD

BATMAN!

AT THAT INSTANT, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ON AN ADJOINING ROOFTOP...

LOOK! IT'S SOMEONE IN A BATMAN COSTUME!

SATURN RINGS
CIRCLE A WORLD

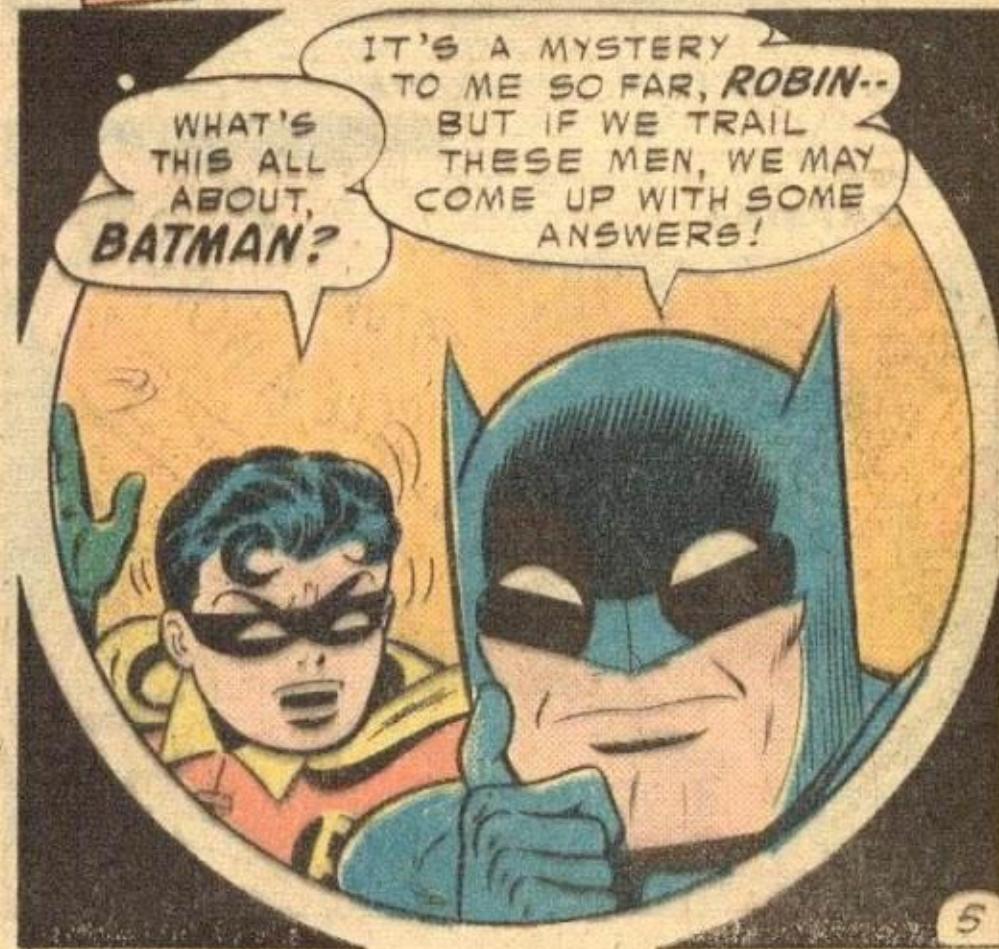
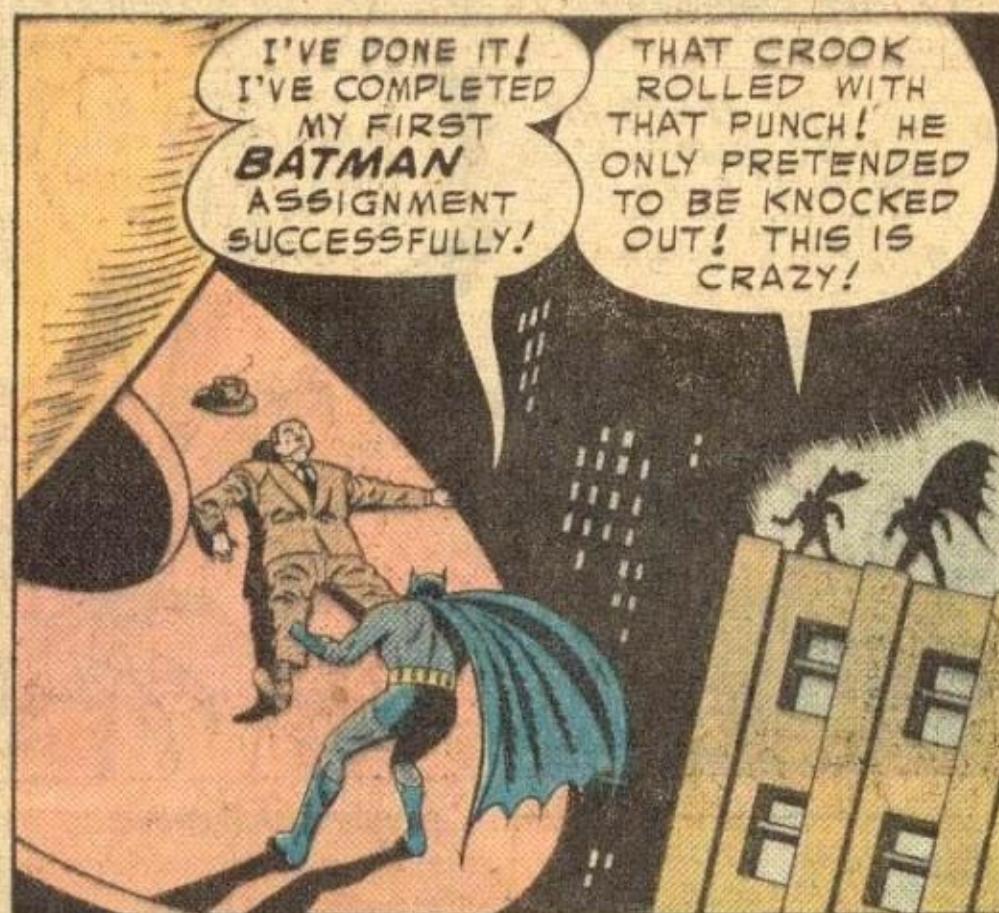
GREAT SCOTT!

UH-OH! YOUR IMITATOR COULD USE SOME INSTRUCTION! HE TOOK THAT SLIDE TOO FAST!

NOTICE--THE CROOK HAS HIS CHANCE TO GET AWAY, BUT HE ISN'T! IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS TO BE CAPTURED!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

AND SO IT IS THAT BATMAN TRAILS A BATMAN...

SOON AFTER, WITH CATLIKE AGILITY,
BATMAN AND ROBIN SCALE THE
CASTLE WALLS...



JUDSON, YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF WORTHY OF THE COSTUME YOU WEAR! YOU ARE NOW READY TO ASSUME FULL-TIME DUTIES!

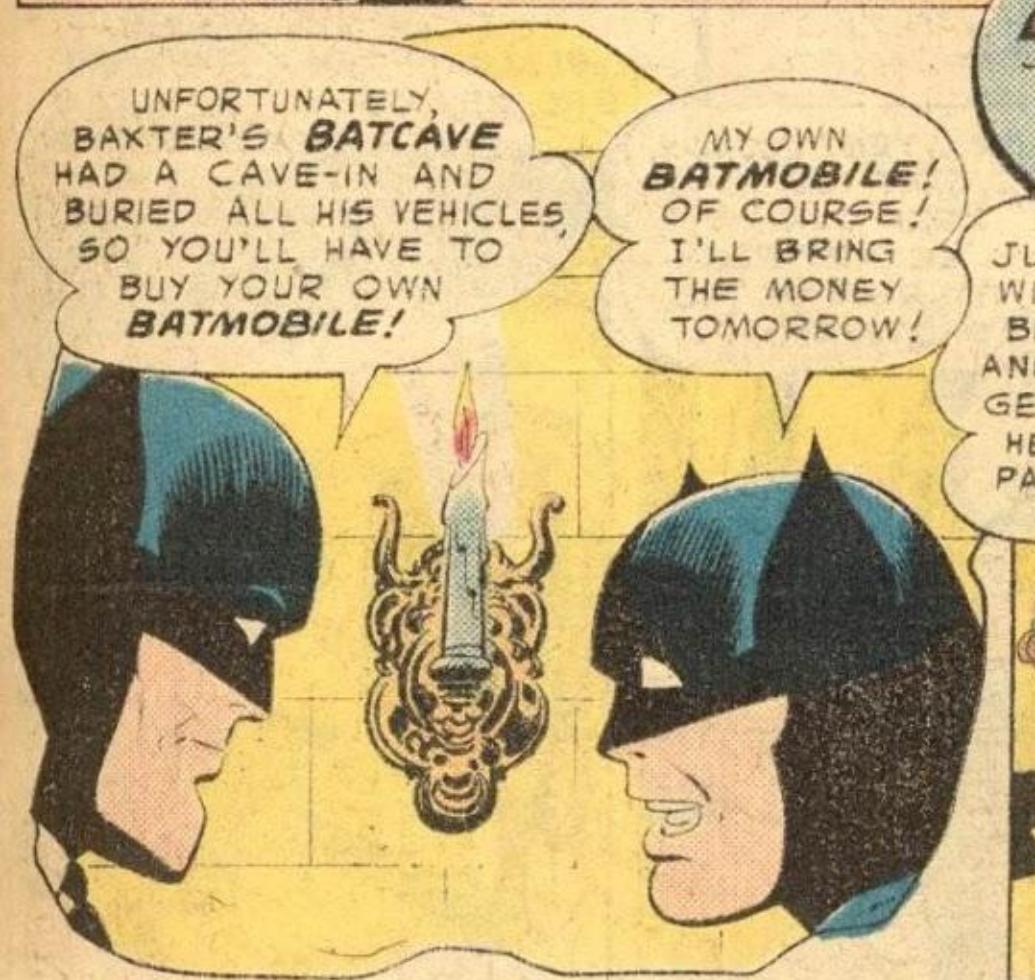
THEREFORE, YOU WILL RETURN TOMORROW WITH \$20,000 IN CASH! IT'S TO COVER THE EXPENSE OF MAKING THE MOST COMPLICATED OF ALL CARS -- THE BATMOBILE!



AFTER JUDSON LEAVES...

HA! HA!
JUDSON'S ALWAYS
WISHED HE COULD
BE A BATMAN --
AND HE'S GOING TO
GET HIS WISH! BUT
HE'LL PAY FOR IT --
PAY -- AND PAY --
AND PAY!

GEE, BOSS --
ONLY YOU COULD
THINK UP THE
TRICKIEST
RACKET OF
THEM ALL --
THE GREAT
BATMAN
SWINDLE!

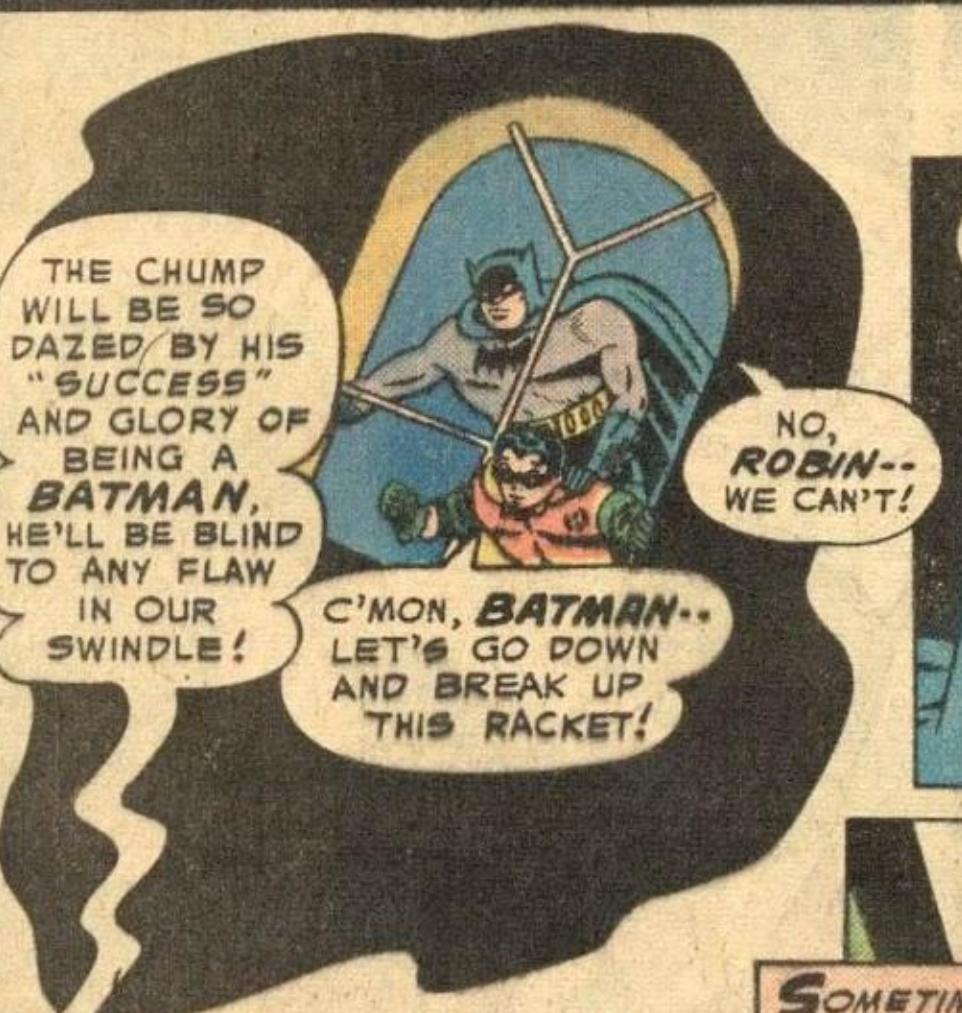


BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

FIRST, \$20,000 FOR A "BATMOBILE"--NEXT, \$100,000 FOR A "BATPLANE" THEN, \$200,000 FOR A "BATMARINE"--AND MORE THOUSANDS FOR A "BATCAVE"!

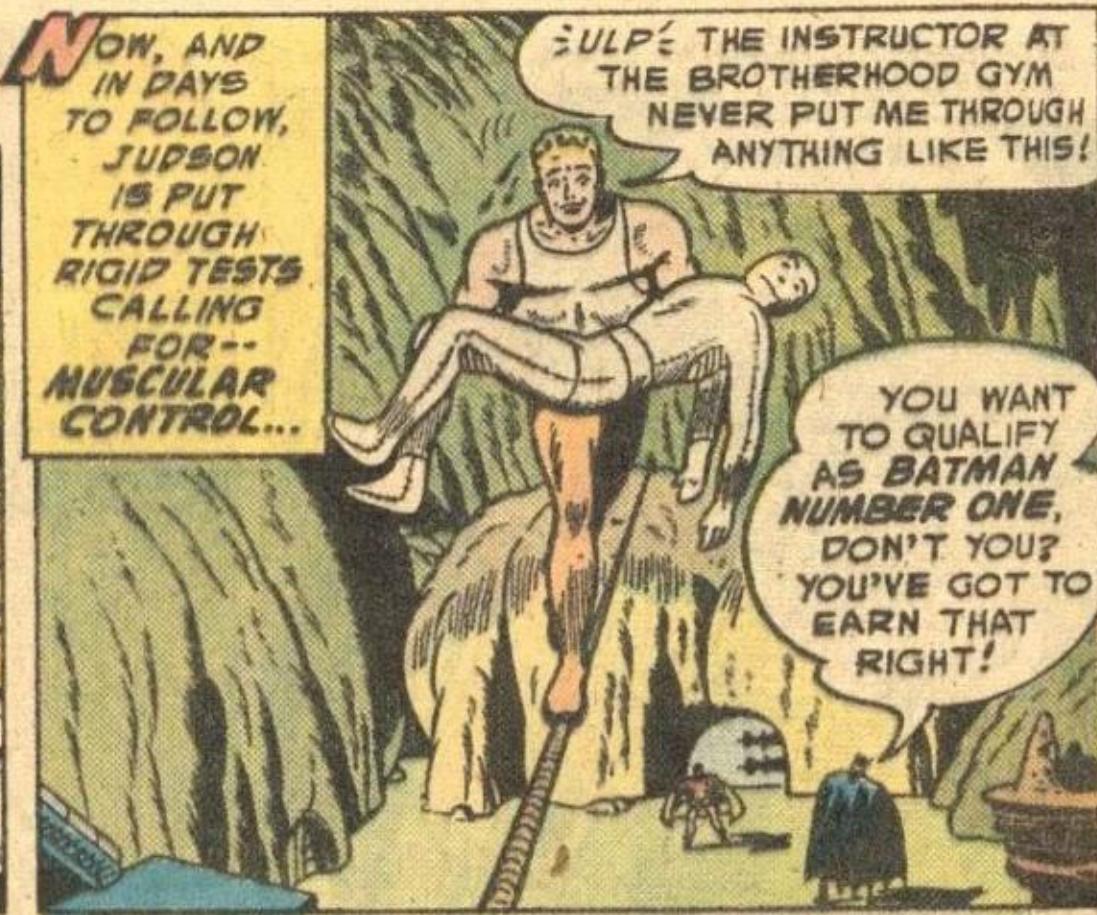
YEAH--AN' ALL HE'LL GET FOR HIS DOUGH IS PROMISES! WE'LL STALL HIM BY SAYING IT TAKES TIME AN' CARE TO MAKE SUCH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT!

MEANWHILE, WE'LL KEEP JUDSON BUSY WITH "TRAINING" AND MOVE HIM UP GRADUALLY FROM BATMAN NUMBER FOUR TO NUMBER TWO!



THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

AND SOON, BLINDFOLDED JUDSON IS TAKEN TO THE WORLD-FAMED UNDERGROUND SANCTUM FOR HIS TRAINING...



CRIME LAB STUDY--



THEN ONE NIGHT SOON AFTER, AS JUDSON RIDES IN THE SLEEK BATMOBILE...



MOMENTS LATER, FROM HIDING, THE REAL BATMAN WATCHES HIS PUPIL AT WORK...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



SUDDENLY, JUDSON DOES A FORWARD SOMERSAULT...

BATMAN!
IS HE CRAZY?
WHAT'S HE
THINK HE'S
GONNA DO?

REACHING THE KEYBOARD,
JUDSON SLAMS DOWN ON
A FOOT PEDAL--AND AIR
BLASTS UP POWERFULLY
FROM THE PIPES...

WHOOSH!

NOW--
WITH MY
SILKEN
ROPE, I
CAN SWING
UP THERE
AND MAKE
THIS A
SHORT
FIGHT!

YOW!
CAUGHT ME
OFF-GUARD--
BLEW THE
GUN RIGHT
OUT OF MY
HANDS!

AND NOW TO
TURN HIM OVER
TO THE POLICE!

I HAVE TO GIVE
JUDSON CREDIT!
HE FACED A
TOUGH PROBLEM
AND SOLVED IT
CLEVERLY!

LATER, AT A MEETING OF THE BROTHERHOOD
OF BATMEN...

I MUST MAKE MY
REPORT, SIR! IT WAS
I WHO CAPTURED
THE BANDIT AT THE
GOTHAM PLAY-
HOUSE TONIGHT!

YOU? IMPOSSIBLE!
I DIDN'T SEND YOU
ANY BAT-CALL ON
YOUR WALKIE-
TALKIE!

I TOOK THIS CASE ON MY
OWN! AND HERE'S THE EMPTY
SATCHEL TO PROVE IT! I
TOOK IT LATER, TO PUT
IN THE TROPHY ROOM I
INTEND TO BUILD!

EH?

THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

LATER, WHEN JUDSON LEAVES...

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?
THE CHUMP ACTUALLY
BAGGED SOME CROOK
ALL BY HIMSELF! MUST
HAVE BEEN DUMB
LUCK!

I'M GLAD IT
HAPPENED!
I HOPE HE
MAKES
MORE
ARRESTS!

THE MORE HE PLAYS BATMAN,
THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR
US TO GET MONEY OUT OF
HIM FOR "FIGHTING
EQUIPMENT"!

BOSS, YOU
THINK OF
EVERYTHING!
HAW! HAW!



NEXT NIGHT, AS JUDSON MEETS BATMAN
AND ROBIN AT A PREARRANGED SPOT...

BATMAN ONE,
YOU'RE SOME ACTOR!
THE WAY YOU PRE-
TENDED TO BE
SURPRISED AT THE
MEETING, WHEN I
SAID I CAPTURED
THE BANDIT...

EH?
OH...YES...
ER... SURE...
SURE... NOW,
LET'S GET
STARTED
AGAIN!

THEN, AS THE STREAMLINED BATMOBILE
PATROLS THE STREETS...

LOOK! THE
CANDY FACTORY'S
WATCHMAN!
HE'S UN-
CONSCIOUS!

THAT
MEANS HE
WAS SLUGGED
BY BANDITS! WE
CAN TAKE THEM
BY SURPRISE!

ALL RIGHT, JUDSON!
YOU'LL TAKE MY PLACE
AND WORK WITH ROBIN
ON THIS CASE! THIS
WILL BE FINAL PROOF
OF YOUR ABILITY!

MY BIG
TEST! ALL
RIGHT, ROBIN...
LET'S GET
THEM!

FOR ONCE, ROBIN WORKS WITH A NEW PARTNER
AS THEY CHALLENGE THE BANDITS...

BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!

TAFFY
FOUR AGAINST
TWO! THINK WE
CAN TAKE THEM,
ROBIN?

WE
CAN
TRY!

FUDGE



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



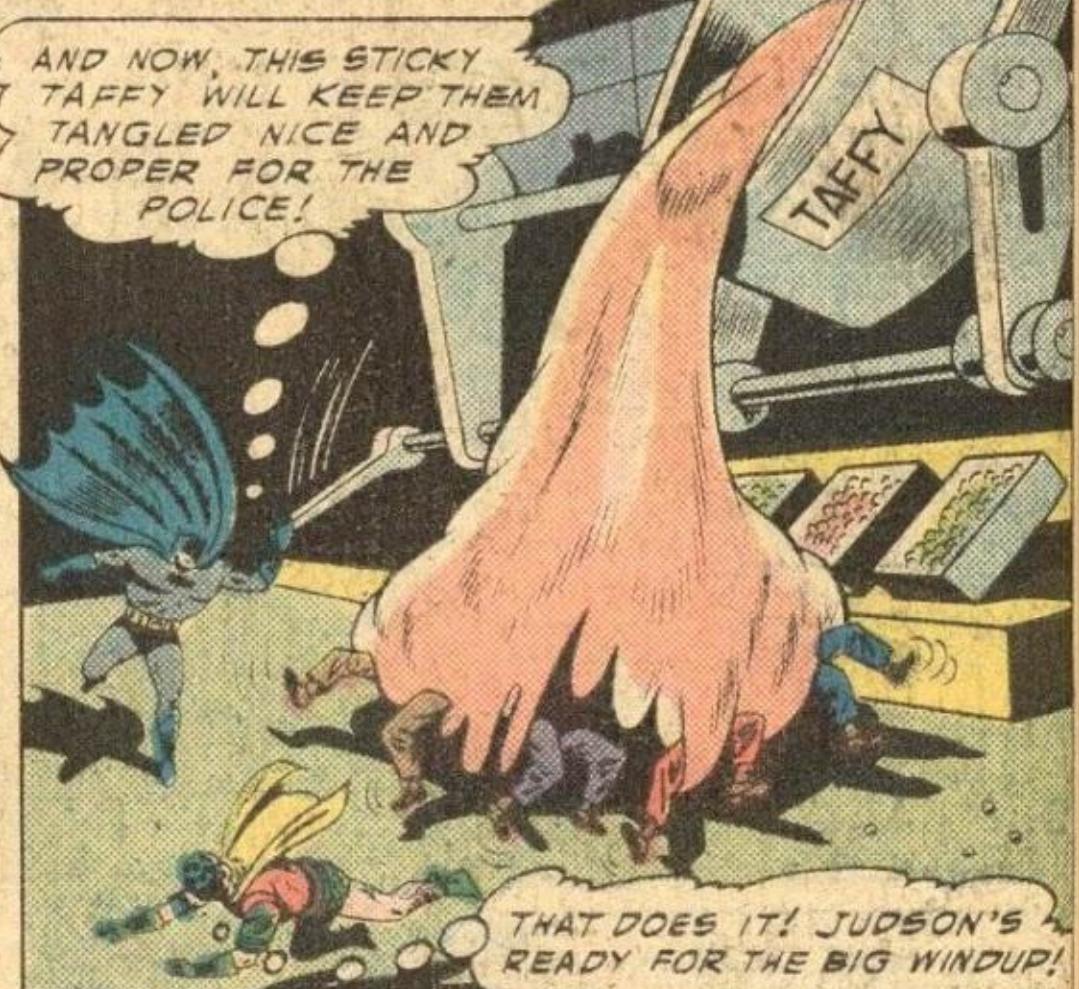
THEN-- THE UNFORESEEN HAPPENS! ROBIN SLIPS ON SOME FALLEN CANDY SOURBALLS...



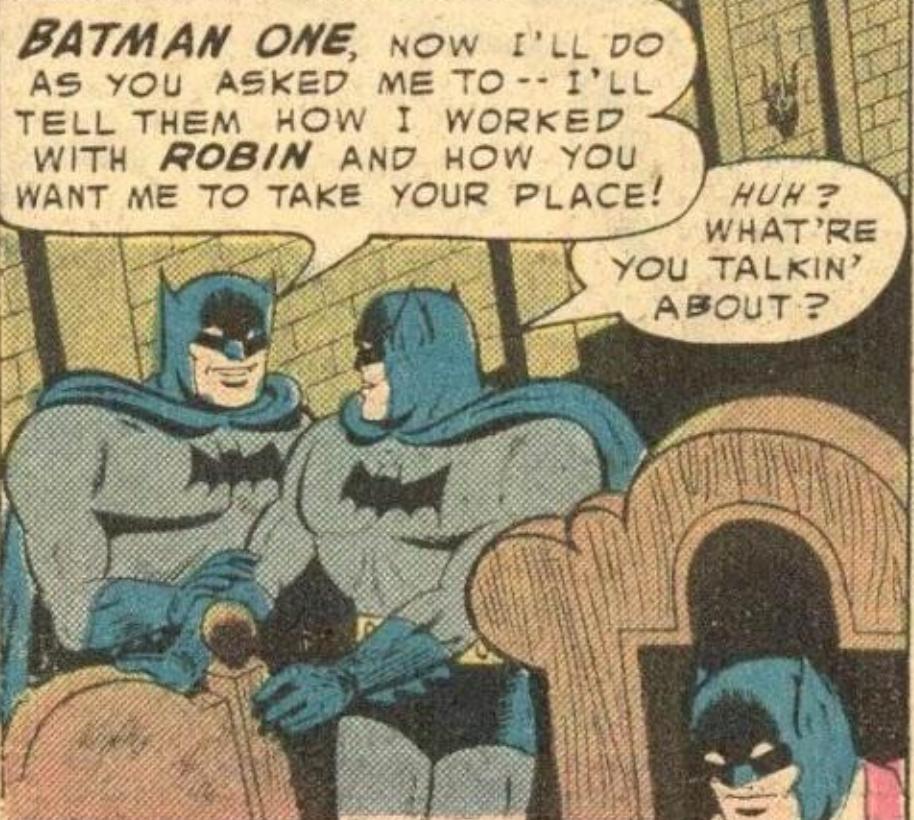
MEANWHILE, UNOBSERVED, THE REAL BATMAN WATCHES THE SCENE, ANXIOUSLY, BUT CONFIDENT...



BUT, BATMAN'S TRAINING OF JUDSON HAS BEEN SO THOROUGH THAT JUDSON REACTS NOW WITH ASTONISHING INSTINCT...



THAT NIGHT, AT THE MEETING OF THE BATMAN BROTHERHOOD...



THE GREAT BATMAN SWINDLE

SUDDENLY, ANOTHER
BATMAN CRASHES
THE MEETING!

BATMAN
HIMSELF!

AND
DON'T
FORGET
L'L OL'
ME!

BATMAN--
I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND--??

THEY'RE FAKES, JUDSON--
AND THEY TRIED TO
SWINDLE YOU! NOW
THAT YOU KNOW,
WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT?

DO? I'M GOING TO
GIVE THIS PHONEY THE
BOXING LESSON HIS
TRAINING DIDN'T
GIVE ME!

GOOD IDEA, JUDSON!
AND NOW IT'S GOOD
NIGHT TO THESE
BAD KNIGHTS OF
THE ROUND TABLE!

BATMAN NUMBER
ONE--TWO--THREE--
YOU'RE OUT!

LATER, WHEN THE BOGUS BATMAN GANG

IS TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...

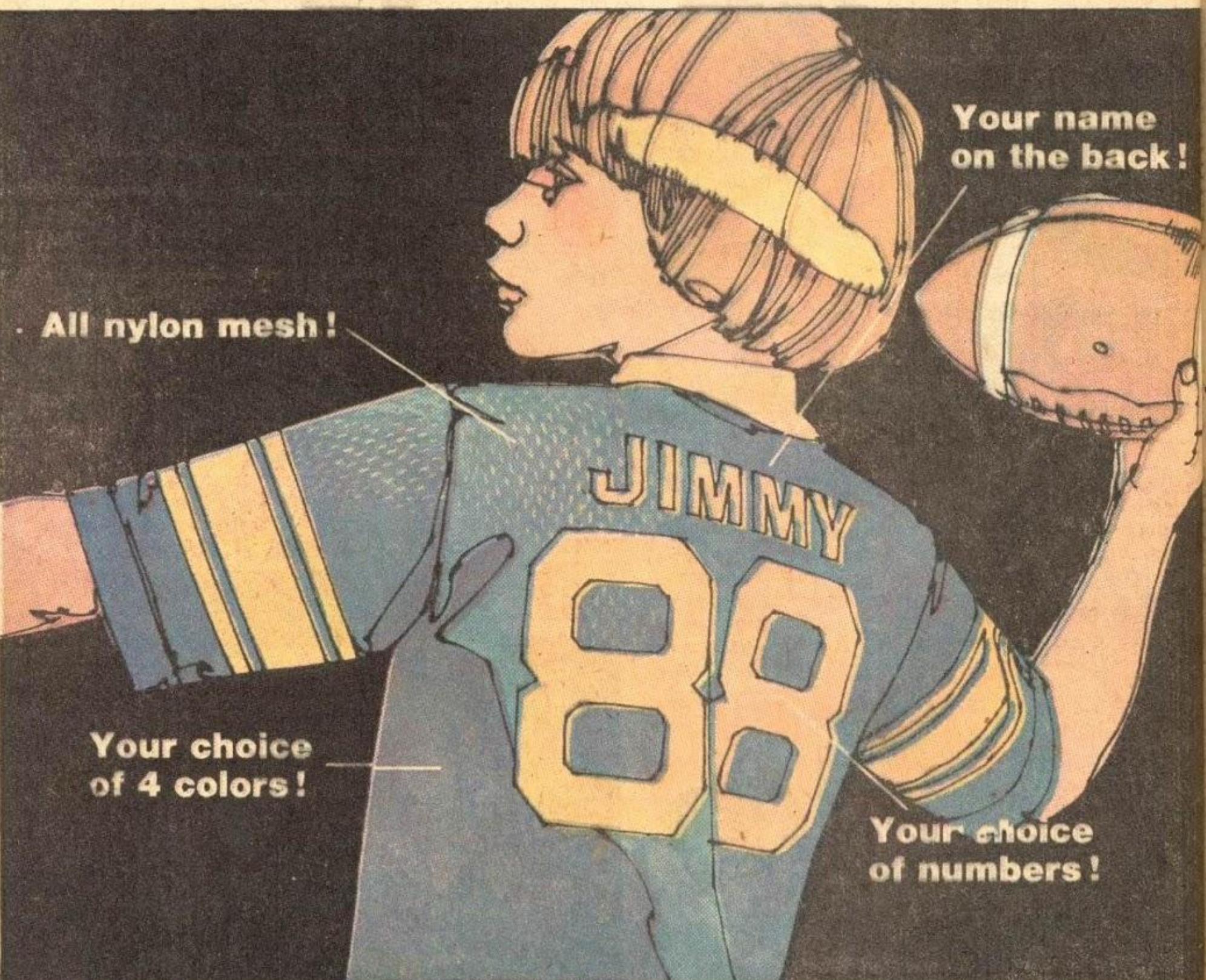
NOW I GUESS EVERY-
ONE WILL LAUGH AT
ME WHEN THE NEWS
GETS OUT! NO
THEY
WON'T!
YOU'LL GET
CREDIT FOR
BREAKING UP
THAT RACKET!

AND
REMEMBER,
YOU'VE
PROVED
YOURSELF
A RELIABLE
STAND-IN
FOR BATMAN!

AND REMEMBER THIS--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
WEAR A COSTUME TO
FIGHT FOR LAW AND
ORDER! YOU CAN
DO IT BY BEING
A GOOD
CITIZEN!

I WON'T FORGET-- AND I
WON'T FORGET THAT AT
LEAST MY GREATEST WISH
CAME TRUE-- FOR AWHILE,
I WAS A BATMAN!

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Quantity of Jersey	Color	Size	Number on Jersey	Name on Jersey	Price & Curtiss names

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Address _____

City _____

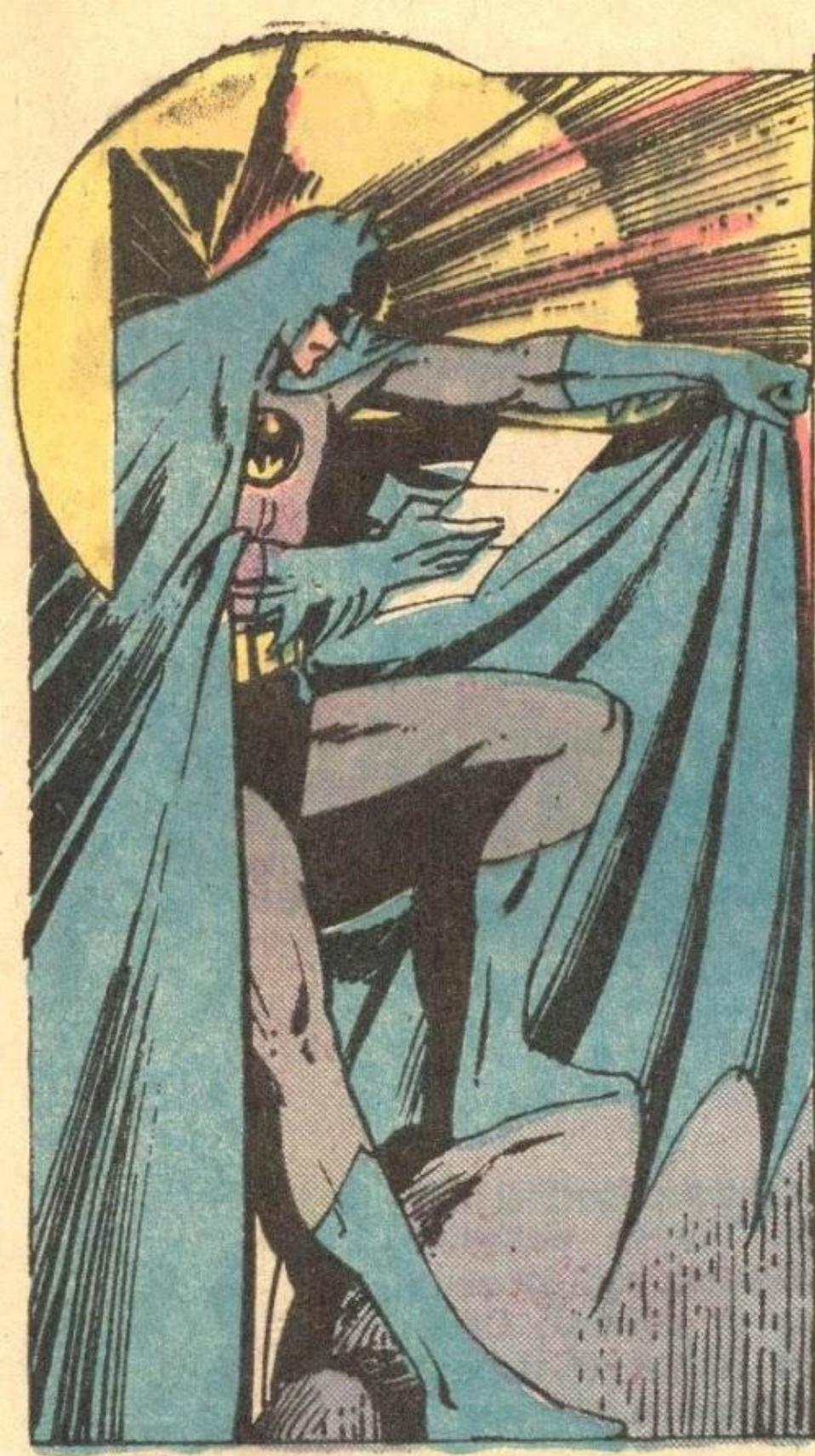
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LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

S-1826

And now a constructive solution to many of your plot-problems: get rid of Talia! Seems as if every time O'Neil wants her in a story he has to cook up some totally outlandish situation to bring this totally outlandish character into contact with **The Batman**. Could my favorite writer really be trying to tell us that our hero is enamored of a slightly depraved centerfold girl? A woman who once pointed a machine gun at a human being and said "I'll watch you die!"? Sure, the **Batman's** conflict of "Do I dare love 'her?'" was interesting at first, but he should have since decided that any female who routinely gets her jollies from robbery, murder, and intrigue wasn't worth his trouble. Kindly marry Ms. Ghul off to James Bond and give old Cape-and-Cowl a True Love who's beautiful, brilliant, intrepid ... and worthy of his respect.

Say! Suppose Oliver Queen has a stunning sister who ... but I'll leave that to you.

EMILY FLUM, Fayetteville, Ark.

(We HOPE he does, for **BATMAN'S** sake, since the CAPED CRUSADER shoots Talia DEAD in the January, 1975 DETECTIVE COMICS #444, the beginning of a new Bat-serial by comic-dom's awards-winning writer, Len Wein! —GHLIII)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

As of late, when a super-villain is brought back from limbo, he (or she) is made into a person who is believable (assuming you can believe in a guy with green hair or the like). This little tradition has been carried to the **Penguin** now and I must say that, next to the aforementioned green-haired gentleman, he is the best villain to appear in this magazine lately.

To make him more human, he has been given a batch of idiosyncrasies. He is fanatically fond of his pet namesake. He alliterates frantically. He enjoys detective stories—something I can sympathize with. To top it all off, he was drawn realistically—yes, I realize his nose is almost as long as his umbrella, but it looked like it fit him.

"Hail Emperor Penguin" was hailed as "old-fashioned **Batman** action made modern", and it sure was! Besides the return of the **Penguin**, we were given the child ruler of a country nobody's ever heard of, the **Dynamic Duo** climbing up a sheer wall with Bat-ropes and the usual bad pun. But it was all done in an enjoyable way...the Den-ny O'Neil way.

BILL NUTT, Dover, N.J.

(This pair of plaudits for "Hail Emperor Penguin" has us FLYING HIGH! But we should have known that our next critic would show up ... and DASCH us to earth!—GHLIII)

Dear Editor:

Mr. O'Neil! Not I open **Batman** #257 and what do I see? A story containing:

A: kill-crazy birds (sound familiar?).

B: a spoiled brat-king named "Peeble IV", for heaven's sake, from a microscopic island, country.

C: a cartoon villain foiled—naturally!—by a well-placed bite from the kid ruler.

D: a penguin with a curare-tipped beak (!!!), and

E: a deathtrap!

How do our heroes get out of this one, folks? Tune in tomorrow—same Bat-time, same Bat-channel!

"Hail Emperor Penguin," besides camp-and-cliches aplenty, had its endearing traits as well. Like the characterization of **Robin**, the "dignified, mature" **Teen Wonder**, and the caricaturization of the special guest villain. **Perfidious Penguin** Perpetually Pitches Prodigious Purple Prose. What fun! (Even if you don't take his oh-so-unoriginal plot to take over Swawak seriously for one second.) But the thing that really made this story was the perfectly luscious artwork, in which every line seemed to flow naturally and even the colors seemed more-than-usually vivid. With this issue, the Novick-Giordano team surpassed my all-time favorite Adams-Giordano art. Bravissimo!

Dear Editor:

Marshmallows belong at a campfire site, not as the lead story in a **Batman!** Denny O'Neil's "Hail Emperor Penguin" was a piece of hollow fluff, featuring mainly the Penguin's boasting and the reader's boredom (since everyone knew the lass to be Talia as soon as she appeared). We had a couple of fist-fights, a recapitulation of Robin's pun routine, and a spoiled royal brat. Yawn! The scene with the eagle was interesting, but its quality only served to accentuate the stilted plot. I got the impression that the characters had all seen Denny's script and were doing their best to make it credible: being crime-fighters and crooks and not actors, however, they failed.

DAVID DASCH, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

I tell you, you know you're aging when the yarns that appeared "just a few issues ago" are suddenly "golden oldies"! What happened?

Glad to see Talia back. She's the one girl I can really tolerate with Bats—apparently the only one with brains to match the figure. However, I do have one thing to pick with you: "King Peeble IV," indeed! Where's Magilla Gorilla? Child kings went out with the Guru Maharaj Ji, and for "Beach Blanket Bikinis"—all I can say is heaven help Swawak, if it's that far behind!

I've purposely let the Penguin cool a while (no pun intended). It's obvious that the costumed crook is going to have to be handled very carefully. The problem with Pengy is that he's not funny any more, not even cutesy or camp. He needs a little atmosphere, a little more than a grand megalomania and a penguin pet paranoia. Does anyone seriously have a shape and vocabulary like that? Penguin is now Superman's sort of foe: flashy, vaguely logical, not the relevant/horror type that Batman battles these days. We—and Batman—have outgrown the Penguin!

BRENDA WANG, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Editor:

Almost a year ago the Joker returned to the pages of **Batman**. Denny O'Neil's script was witty and first rate, elevated to a thing of beauty by Neal Adams' excellent artwork. A few months later, we met the Catwoman once again. O'Neil's story was routine and the feline felon was reduced to a bit player with class. The artwork was adequate, not exceptional. Then we were told to expect the return of my personal favorite—the pudgy Penguin.

The Penguin in my eyes has it all over that green-haired clown and the willowy meower. The Penguin has style and class and a very droll wit. It is fun to watch him become upset, because this ruffian's dignity usually doesn't allow for ruffled feathers, at least not till the end of the story, and ultimate capture.

Yesterday I purchased the latest issue of **Batman**, and in the words of the poet, gentlemen, "I was robbed!"

Never has the Penguin uttered an uncouth word like "Brat." O'Neil has reduced the gentleman of crime to a mere caricatured cartoon. The story could fit an ordinary rogue, and Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot should be saved for something really big, not ... routine.

JOHN EWANIUK, Richlandtown, Pa.

(So some readers DIG the old-fashioned BAT-style a la O'Neil, and others would rather dig a HOLE for it! Which makes us wonder how the LOW gags of the JOKER will fare NEXT issue, when Schwartz, O'Neil & Co. present "This One Will Kill You, Batman!"—GHLIII)

Dear Editor:

I confidently predict that, of all your recent **Batman** stories, "Hail Emperor Penguin" will evoke the most divided reaction. Although your recent revivals of other classic villains have been overwhelmingly and deservedly praised, practically all—the Scarecrow, Two-Face, the Joker, even the Catwoman—have been depicted as mysterious, enigmatic foes, as much creatures of the night as **Batman** himself.

The Penguin, on the other hand, stems from another of the **Batman's** traditions—a mood just as classic but one which, especially after its video overworking, many fans would perhaps prefer forgotten. This is the farcical, yet deadly enemy—whose bizarre mannerisms and tactics are entertaining and amusing, but who impresses the reader all the more with the realization that whatever his eccentricities, here is an ingenious and ruthless man to be reckoned with.

Such characters, however ludicrous some literal-minded readers may consider them, are an integral part of the **Batman** tradition, and to deny them their occasional spotlight is to deny a part of that tradition itself. I had my doubts about the ability of Denny O'Neil, with his sometimes overly-bitter characterization of **Batman**, to write such a story—but "Hail Emperor Penguin" was truly "old-fashioned **Batman** action." I very much enjoyed this story.

RICH MORRISSEY, Framingham, Ma.

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: "The Great Batman Swindle" appeared in **Detective Comics** #222, August, '55; "Heroes by Proxy" was featured in **Batman** #29, back in June-July, 1945; "The Strange Costumes of Batman" was an offering of **Detective Comics** #165, November, '50; "Two Batman Too Many" came out in **Batman** #177, December, '65; "The Failure of Bruce Wayne" was out in the December, 1958 issue of **Batman**, #120.

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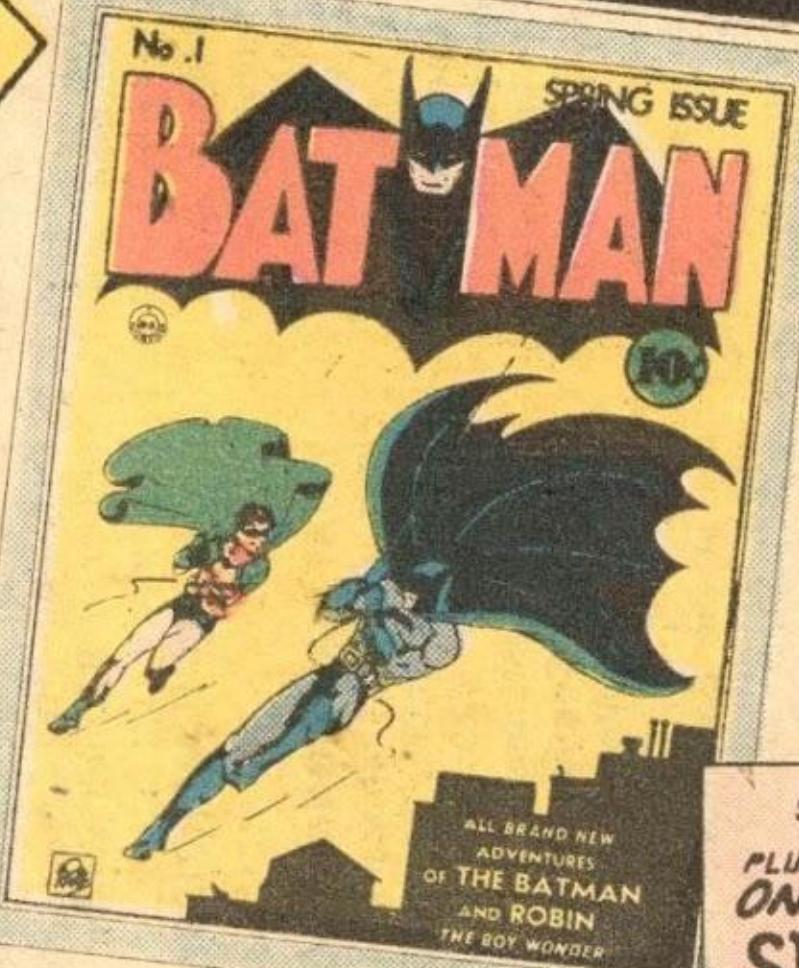
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YET THE STRANGEST WAS ONE
I NEVER WORE!

BAT-MAN

AND
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

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WHAT IS IT THAT TERRORIZES CROOKS? WHAT DO THEY DREAD MOST? YES, IT IS THE FLASHING FIGURE OF BATMAN, CLAD IN THE SHADOWY COLORS OF BLUE AND GRAY. AND ON OCCASION, THE FAMED FIGHTER HAS DONNED OTHER UNIFORMS FOR SPECIFIC JOBS. BUT NOW--FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREERS--THE DARING DUO OF BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST REVEAL A TOP-SECRET COSTUME, NEVER BEFORE SEEN AS THEY BATTLE A NEW ENEMY WHO FORCES THEM TO USE ALMOST ALL OF--

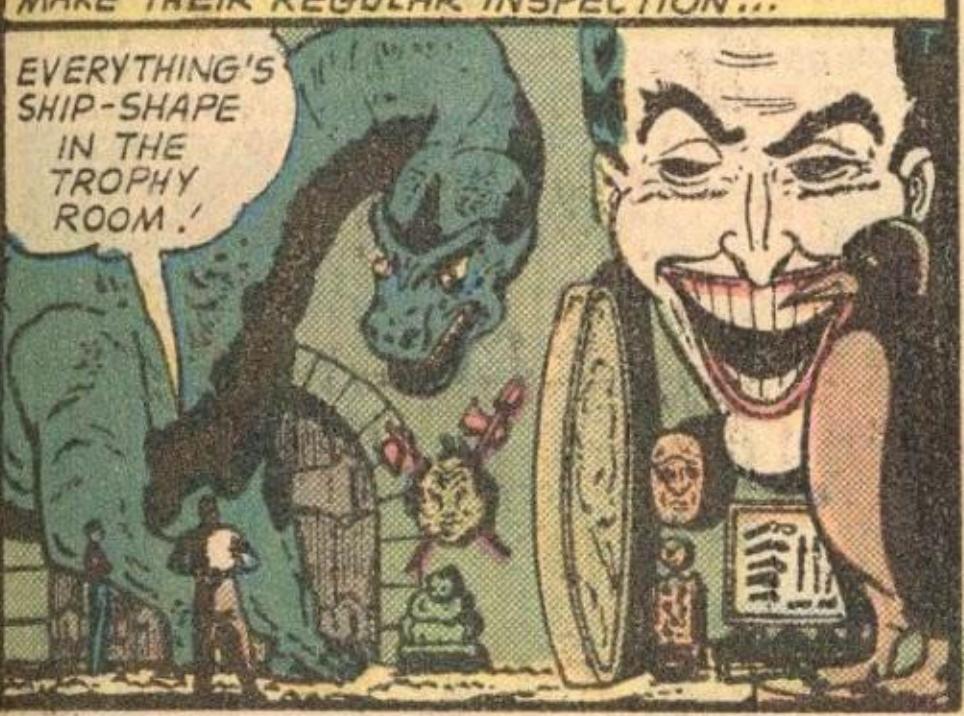
**The STRANGE COSTUMES
of BATMAN!**



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

IN THE EERIE BAT-CAVE UNDER THE WAYNE MANSION IN GOTHAM CITY, BATMAN AND ROBIN MAKE THEIR REGULAR INSPECTION...

EVERYTHING'S SHIP-SHAPE IN THE TROPHY ROOM!



IN THE CRIME-LABORATORY...

ALL CHEMICALS ARE IN AMPLE SUPPLY!

THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE CHECKS OKAY! NOW LET'S INSPECT THE HANGAR!



FINALLY, THE DUO INSPECTS THE COSTUME ROOM...

WE'LL MAKE THE USUAL CHECK OF EACH COSTUME FOR RIPS AND WEAK PLACES!

REMEMBER THIS WHITE UNIFORM AND GOLD BATMAN COSTUME?



WE USED WHITE COSTUMES IN THE 'CASE OF THE NORTH POLE CRIMES', FOR CAMOUFLAGE!"



"AND THE GOLD-CLOTH COSTUME YOU USED IN THE 'CASE OF THE MIDAS TOUCH'!"





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE INSPECTION AWAKENS MORE MEMORIES OF THE PAST--THE PAST OF THE TWO GREATEST CRIME-FIGHTERS WHO EVER LIVED!

THIS SUPER-THIN CELLOPHANE COSTUME I KEPT CRUMPLED UP AND HIDDEN IN MY BOOT HEEL WHEN I ONCE ENTERED PRISON AS BRUCE WAYNE--SO I COULD BECOME BATMAN IN PRISON!

AND COULD BE DESTROYED WITH A MATCH SO IT WOULDN'T BE FOUND ON YOU AND GIVE AWAY YOUR IDENTITY!



THIS LUMINOUS BAT-COSTUME WHICH GLOWS IN THE DARK SCARED A SUPERSTITIOUS CROOK INTO SUBMISSION!

AND REMEMBER THIS BAT-SPACE SUIT I WORE WHEN WE WERE PROJECTED INTO THE FUTURE?



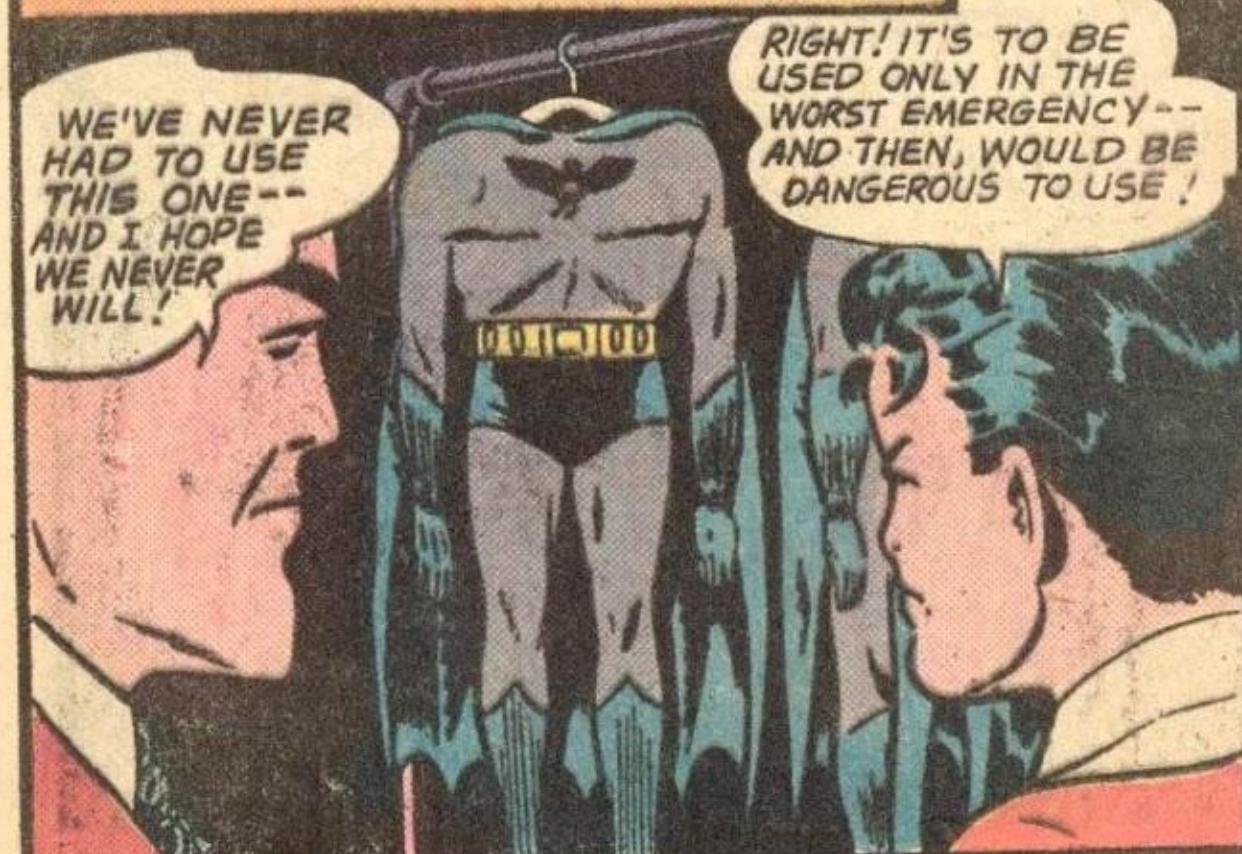
"IT SAVED MY LIFE WHEN THOSE SPACE-PIRATES DESTROYED A SHIP AND I WAS CAST ADRIFT!"



AND SO THEY EXAMINE THE VARIOUS BAT-COSTUMES, WHICH ARE ALIKE IN MANY RESPECTS BUT WHICH HAVE DIFFERENT CAPABILITIES...



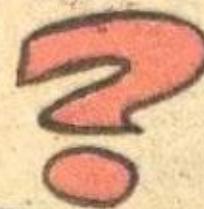
THEN THE LAST AND STRANGEST OF ALL!



RIGHT! IT'S TO BE USED ONLY IN THE WORST EMERGENCY--AND THEN, WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO USE!

WE'VE NEVER HAD TO USE THIS ONE--AND I HOPE WE NEVER WILL!

WHAT IS THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THIS STRANGEST OF ALL COSTUMES? WHY CAN IT ONLY BE USED IN DIREST NEED? LOOK CLOSELY--IT MAY RESEMBLE BATMAN'S OTHER BATTLE RAIMENT, BUT THE CLUE TO ITS FANTASTIC SECRET IS IN PLAIN SIGHT!



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

FOR, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, A SINISTER NEW CORPORATION OF CRIME IS BEING FORMED, HEADED BY DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY!

WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY SCIENTIFIC GENIUS IN A CHEAP LABORATORY JOB, WHEN IT CAN REAP MILLIONS FOR US?

YOU CAN STYMIE THE POLICE, DOC, BUT NOT BATMAN!

THAT HOODED DETECTIVE! HE'LL BE HELPLESS AGAINST MY SCIENTIFIC SKILL!

YEAH?



AND SHORTLY AFTER, THE GANG'S FIRST CRIME STRIKES GOTHAM CITY WITH THE FEROCITY OF A THUNDER-BOLT!



THAT FIRE--IT'S ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE MONARCH STATE BUILDING!

SWIFTLY, BRUCE WAYNE SLIPS INTO ONE OF THE COSTUMES THAT TRANSFORMS HIM INTO THE FAMED BATMAN!

THAT FIRE MUST BE THE REASON FOR THE POLICE SUMMONING US!

AND WE'LL FIND COMMISSIONER GORDON AT THAT FIRE! LET'S GO!



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMOBILE RACES TO THE BURNING MENACE...



BATMAN, WE THINK THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY PACKAGES DELIVERED TO THE 50TH FLOOR, THEN BURST INTO FLAMES! SOME PEOPLE ARE TRAPPED IN THE TOWER ABOVE THE FIRE!

WHY DON'T THE FIREMEN RESCUE THEM?

THEY TRIED, BUT THE DOORS ON THE 50TH FLOOR ARE ALL JAMMED--APPARENTLY BY HEAT!

WE'LL TRY IT--FROM THE OUTSIDE!



SHAZAM! IT'S SOCKO SATURDAY ON CBS



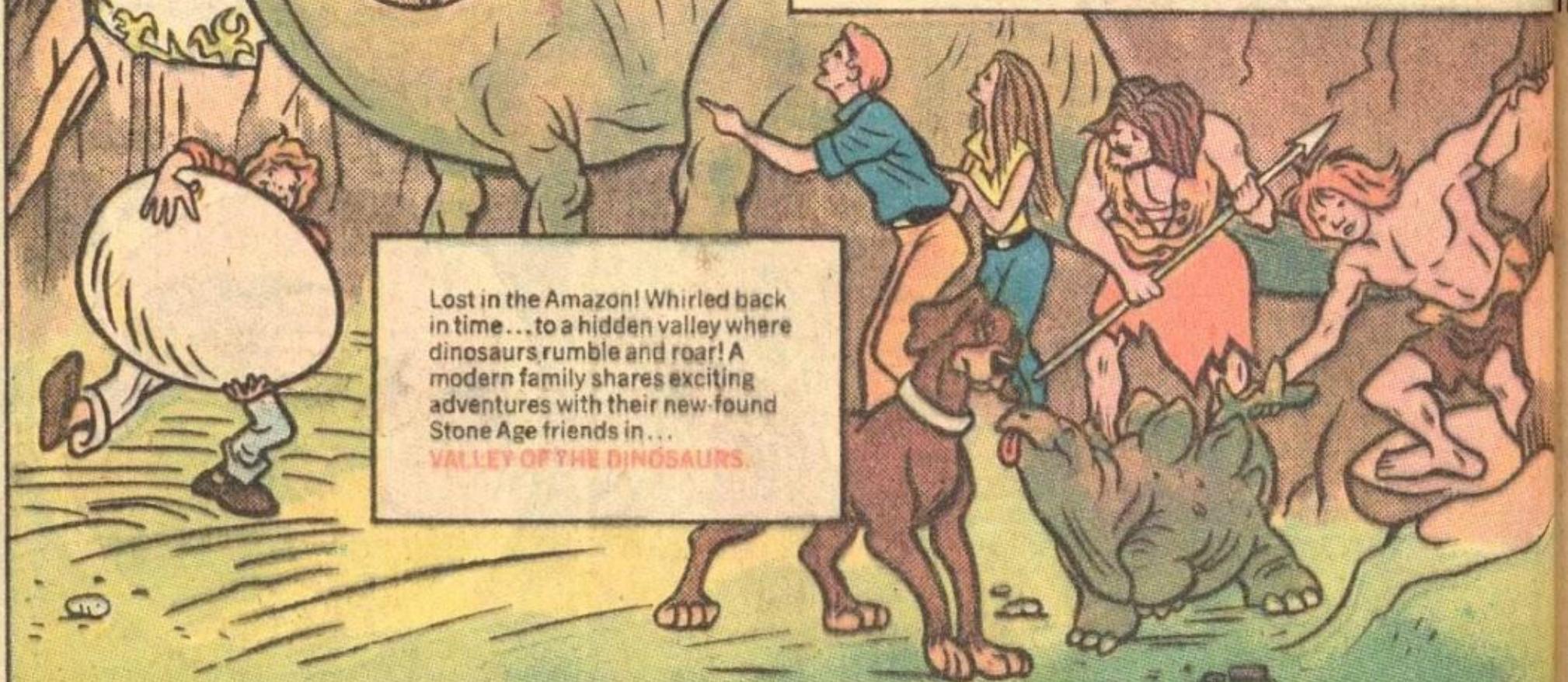
LIVE
IN PERSON

The incredible Billy Batson... guided by 7 wise men in his quest for universal justice and understanding... who, in times of need, utters the secret word... **SHAZAM!**... and ZAP! becomes the world's mightiest mortal, endowed with super powers! For gripping action and exciting adventures, don't miss **SHAZAM!**... every Saturday!

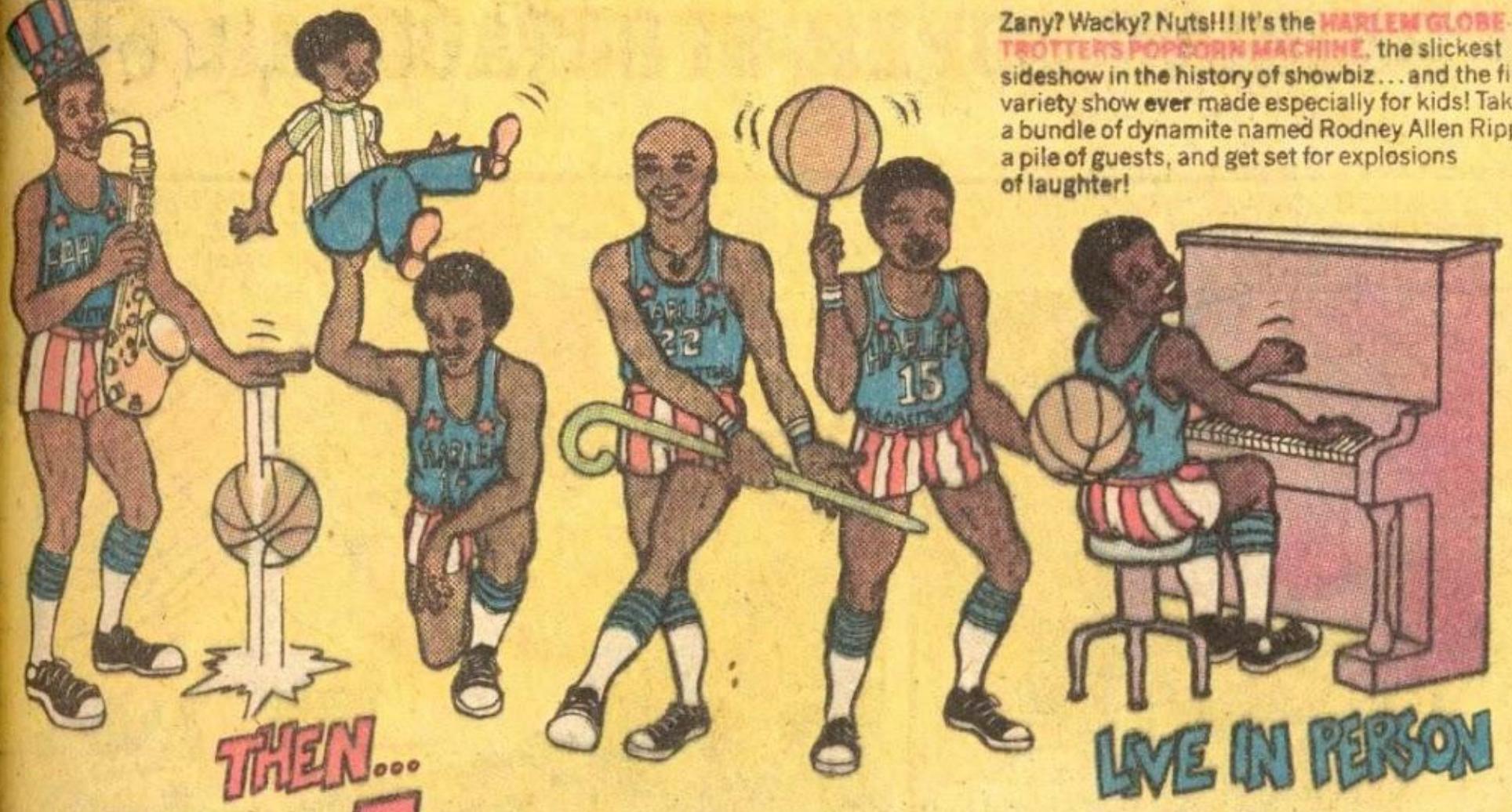
Zing into the future with the **PARTIDGE FAMILY** in the year 2200... rockin' and rollin' from Mars to Venus, with outer-space friends and outta sight songs!



Lost in the Amazon! Whirled back in time... to a hidden valley where dinosaurs rumble and roar! A modern family shares exciting adventures with their new-found Stone Age friends in...
VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS.



Zany? Wacky? Nuts!!! It's the HARLEM GLOBE-TROTTER'S POPCORN MACHINE, the slickest sideshow in the history of showbiz... and the first variety show ever made especially for kids! Take a bundle of dynamite named Rodney Allen Rippy, a pile of guests, and get set for explosions of laughter!



Dig this gig! The HUDDSON BROTHERS RAZZLE DAZZLE COMEDY SHOW. With the kooky Cookie Bear... the ridiculous Emu Bird... and the funniest real-life brothers you ever saw. Songs, music and hilarious comedy! The Hudson Brothers and the Globetrotters make Saturday on CBS the biggest giggle-day of the week!

THRILLS 'n CHILLS 'n GIGGLES 'n LAUGHS!
ALL RIGHT HERE ON CBS®

SCHEDULE

SATURDAY MORNING

- 8:00 Speed Buggy
- 8:26 In The News*
- 8:30 Scooby Doo, Where Are You?
- 9:00 Jeannie
- 9:30 Partridge Family: 2200 AD
- 10:00 Valley Of The Dinosaurs
- 10:30 Shazam!
- 11:00 Harlem Globetrotters
- Popcorn Machine
- Hudson Brothers
- Razzle Dazzle Comedy Show
- U.S. of Archie
- 12:00 Fat Albert
- 1:00 CBS Children's Film Festival
- 1:30 CBS Children's Film Festival

SUNDAY MORNING

- 9:00 My Favorite Martians
- 9:30 Bailey's Comet

Hey, it's us, Archie and the Gang, in a whole new scene... tripping through America's past! Watch how kids like us made history... in the good old U.S. of ARCHIE. Brand new!



*In The News follows every show on both Saturday and Sunday with the exception of the Children's Film Festival. Program times may vary on your channel. Please check local TV listings.

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

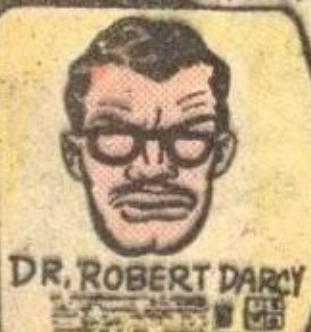
TENSE SILENCE GRIPS THE CROWD AS TWO DARING FIGURES START A PERILOUS CLIMB !



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

BACK IN THEIR CRIME-LAB, BATMAN SCRUTINIZES THE FILE OF MICROFILM...

THAT'S OUR MAN! I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE THROUGH THE VISION-PLATE HE WORE!



"DOCTOR ROBERT DARCY, EXPERT CHEMIST AND TECHNICIAN-- BATMAN, I HAVE A HUNCH HE'LL BE HARD TO FIND!"

HARD TO FIND, INDEED! THE RENEGADE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED UNTIL, COMPLETELY BY ACCIDENT...

"--AND SO MILLIONAIRE REGGIE LAYTON AND HIS GUESTS START ON A UNIQUE PARTY IN THE SKY!"

LOOK-- THOSE MEN BY THE HELICOPTER IN THE BACKGROUND!

ONE OF THEM IS DARCY! LET'S GET THERE FAST!

A QUICK CHANGE--AND SOON THE BATPLANE PICKS UP THE HOT TRAIL...

LAYTON'S GUESTS WERE LOADED WITH JEWELS-- "I'M CERTAIN THAT FACT ATTRACTED DARCY!"

TURN THE DUST-BLOWERS TOWARD THE BLIMP! THEY'LL MAKE IT HELPLESS BY STOPPING ITS MOTORS!

I DON'T SEE HOW DUST CAN DO THAT!

IT'S EMERY DUST BEING BLOWN INTO THE BLIMP'S MOTORS! NOW GET READY TO BOARD IT AND WE'LL HEIST A FORTUNE IN JEWELS!

THE MOTORS STOPPED-- WE'RE DRIFTING!

BATMAN, BE CAREFUL!

I'LL DROP ON TOP OF THE BLIMP AND WORK DOWN TO THE GONDOLA, ROBIN!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



A QUICK DROP, AND THEN ...



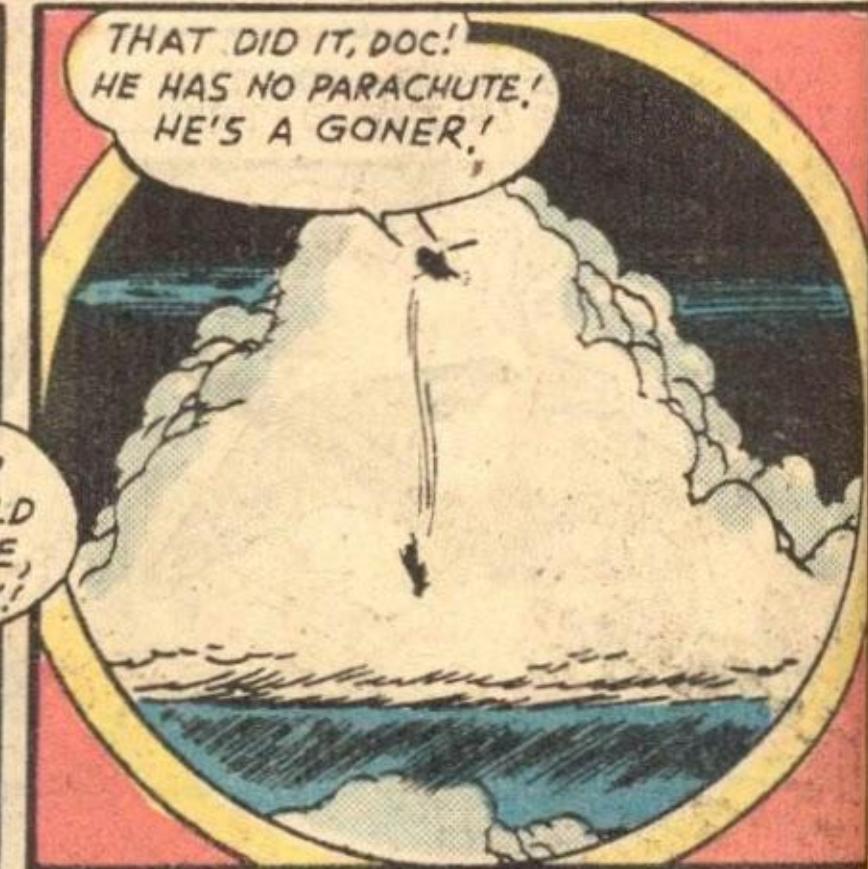
CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE FROM ME! I CAN JUMP INTO THE COCKPIT OF THAT HELICOPTER!



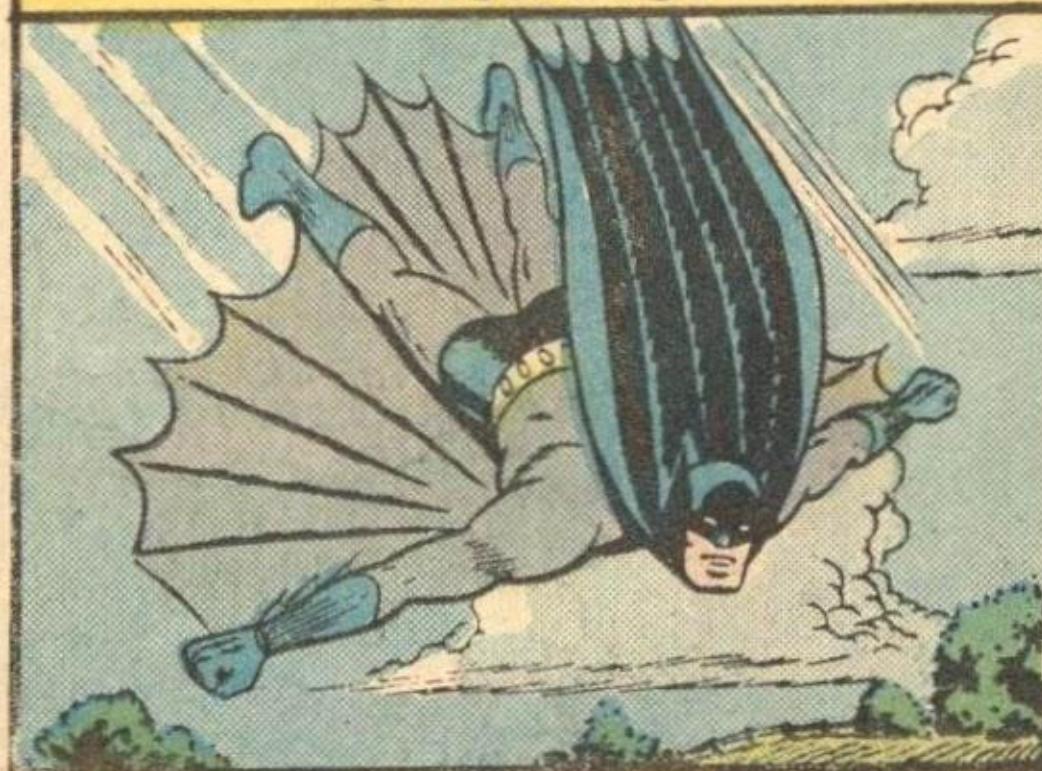
BUT A GUST OF WIND STRIKES THE BLIMP AS HE LEAPS, AND...



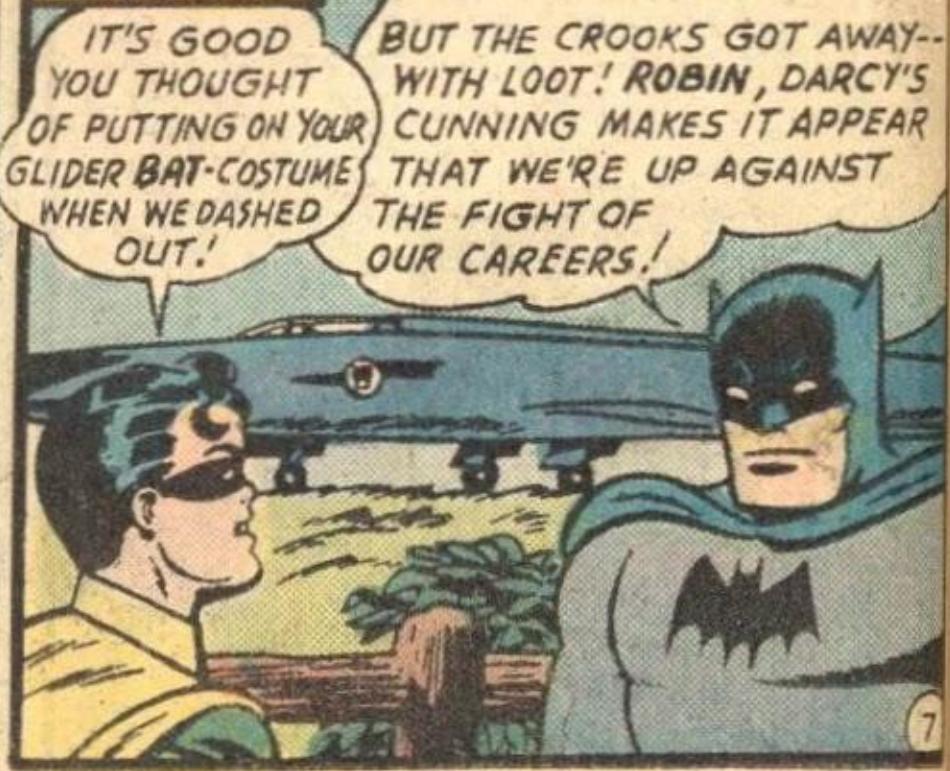
THAT DID IT, DOC! HE HAS NO PARACHUTE! HE'S A GONER!



BUT PLUNGING EARTHWARD, BATMAN SWIFTLY UNFOLDS GLIDER-WINGS FROM HIS COSTUME!



LATER, AFTER TOWING THE DISABLED BLIMP TO SAFETY, ROBIN LANDS THE BATPLANE AND...



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN

NEXT DAY, WHEN THE LINER SARONIA NEARS FOG-BOUND GOTHAM CITY, DARCY'S WILE IS PROVEN AGAIN...

ARE WE ON OUR COURSE, HELMSMAN?

AYE, SIR! THESE RADAR DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS FROM THE PORT AUTHORITY WHICH GUIDE US EVEN IF WE CAN'T SEE, ARE EXCELLENT!

BUT SUDDENLY, A GRINDING, TERRIBLE SHOCK...

THE RADAR SIGNALS WERE WRONG--WE'RE ON THE ROCKS!

AND THERE'S A LAUNCH COMING ALONGSIDE!

THUS FEAR GRIPS GOTHAM CITY--FEAR OF RUTHLESS CRIMINALS WHO CAUSE DISASTERS TO CONCEAL THEIR ACTS!

EXTRA!
BANDITS
WRECK
AND
ROB
SARONIA!

REPORTERS IN MY OUTER OFFICE ARE WAITING FOR A STATEMENT! IF PEOPLE AREN'T REASSURED, PANIC WILL RESULT! BATMAN, THEY BELIEVE IN YOU! YOU MUST REASSURE THEM!

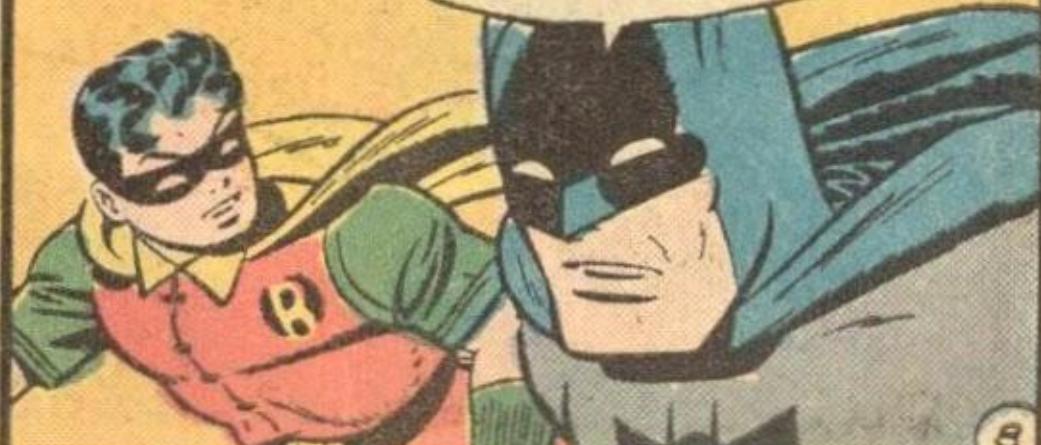
I WILL--
IF YOU
THINK
IT'S
NECESSARY!

THE POLICE ARE DOING THEIR UTMOST, AND I PROMISE TO DO MY BEST TO SMASH THIS GANG BEFORE THEY COMMIT ANOTHER CRIME!

OUR READERS WILL THANK YOU FOR THAT, BATMAN!

BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN AN IDEA WHERE DARCY AND HIS MOB ARE!

MAYBE WE CAN FIND THEM! THAT FAKE RADAR TRANSMITTER THEY USED NEEDS A LOT OF POWER! THE ELECTRIC COMPANY CAN READ ALL METERS IN THAT COAST AREA TO SEE WHICH HOUSE USED ENORMOUS POWER LATELY!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

LATER, WHEN SUSPICION POINTS TO A WATERFRONT ESTATE...

THEIR HIDEOUT MUST BE APPROACHED SECRETLY, OR THEY MAY ESCAPE. AND THIS BAT-UNIFORM WILL HELP ME!

I WISH I COULD DO MORE THAN JUST HANDLE THAT SPEEDBOAT!



SOON...

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL VIA BELT-RADIO!

THEY WON'T EXPECT ME TO COME THIS WAY!



CLAD IN A UNIQUE BAT-COSTUME WHICH INCLUDES A SUPPLY OF OXYGEN, THE DARK FIGURE MOVES SILENTLY UNDERWATER...



UNTIL...

WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE HERE QUICKLY! SOMETHING'S UP! THAT METER-READER WASN'T DUE HERE FOR TWO WEEKS!

HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM! HMM, THEY'RE NOT STORING LOOT IN THE CAR'S TRUNK!



AS THE CROOKS RETURN INSIDE FOR ANOTHER LOAD...

ROBIN, CALLING ROBIN--I'M IN THE TRUNK OF THE BANDITS' CAR! THEY'RE LEAVING SHORTLY! I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN BY BELT-RADIO SO YOU CAN FOLLOW!

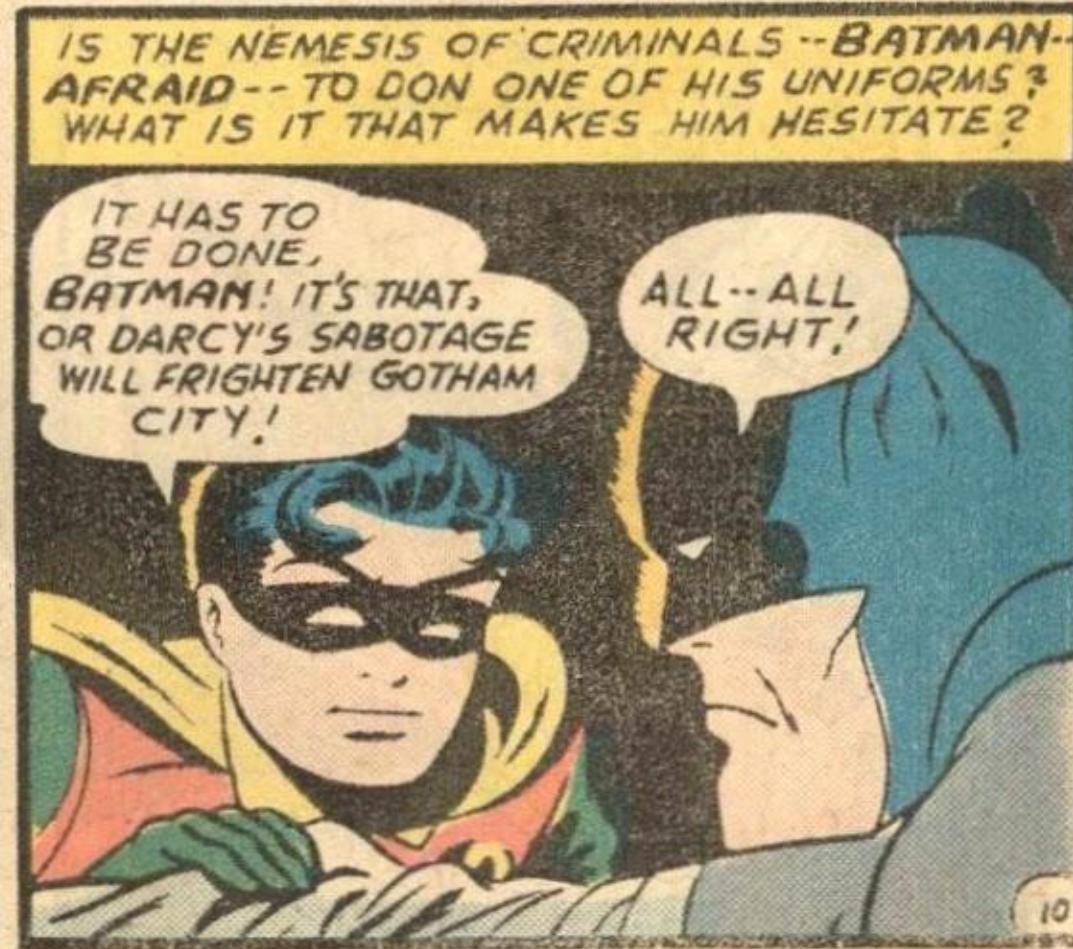


BUT BATMAN HAS LEFT WHAT MAY MEAN A FATAL CLUE, FOR...

FELLERS, SEE THIS WET TRAIL? SOMEONE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND HAS HIDDEN IN THE TRUNK! GUESS WHO IT IS!



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THAT NIGHT, AS FEARS OF FRESH DISORDERS MOUNT...

WITH BATMAN HURT AND MAYBE DEAD BY NOW, THERE'S NO STOPPING 'EM!

THEY MIGHT KILL OUR FAMILIES!

LOOK--
LOOK!



BATMAN!
HE WASN'T SERIOUSLY WOUNDED AFTER ALL!

HE'LL STOP 'EM!



DOC, LOOK--
BATMAN UP THERE!

BATMAN WAS BADLY SHOT-- THAT MUST BE ONLY A DUMMY TO SCARE US OFF! AND A DUMMY CAN'T INTERFERE WITH OUR NEXT JOB! LET'S GO!

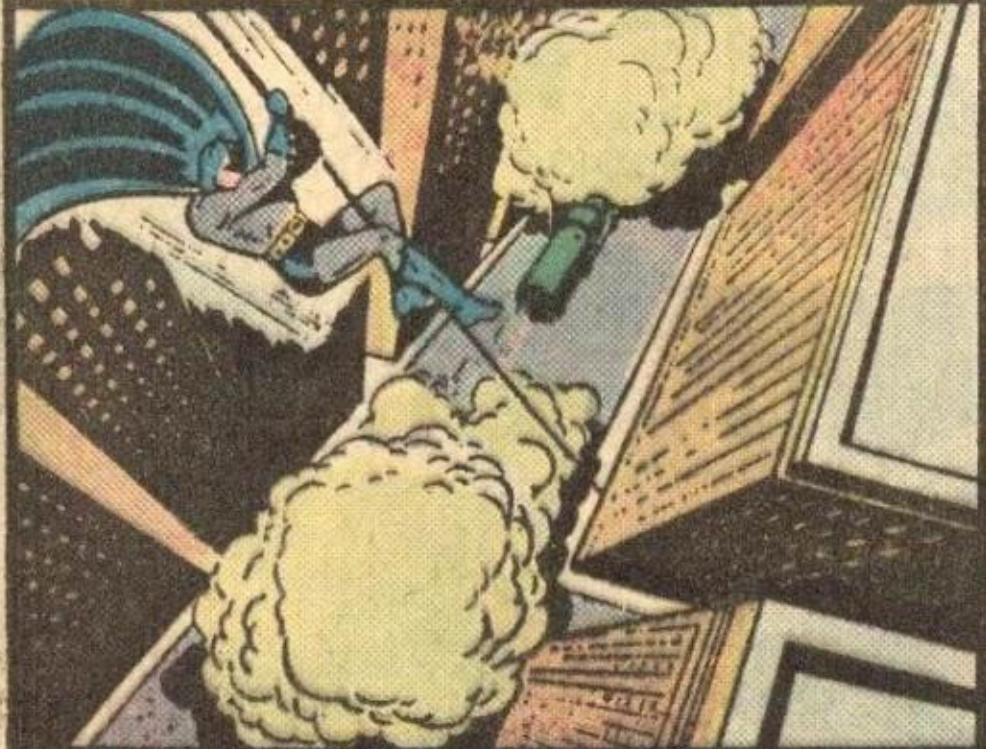


THIS POISON GAS WILL DRIVE EVERYONE-- INCLUDING POLICE-- OUT OF THIS WHOLE AREA!

AND WEARING GAS-MASKS, WE CAN LOOT THE BANKS AND STORES EASILY!



BUT VIGILANT EYES HAVE SEEN THE CLOUD OF DEADLY VAPOR, AND DOWN SWINGS AN EERIE FIGURE.

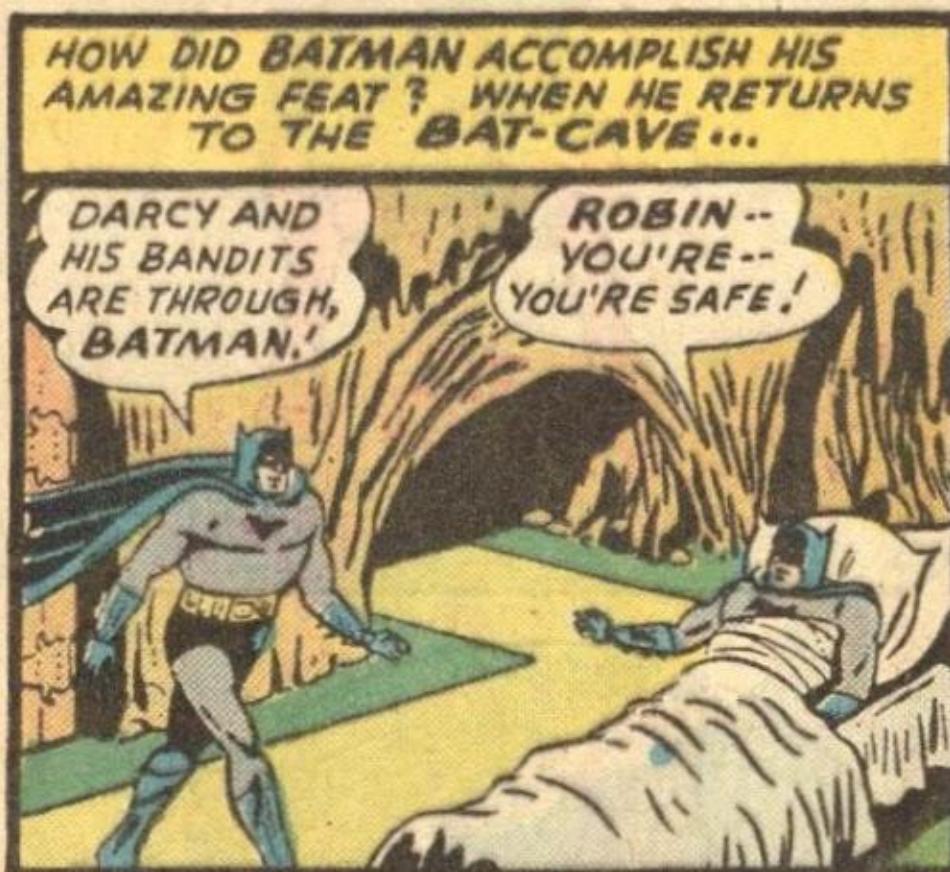
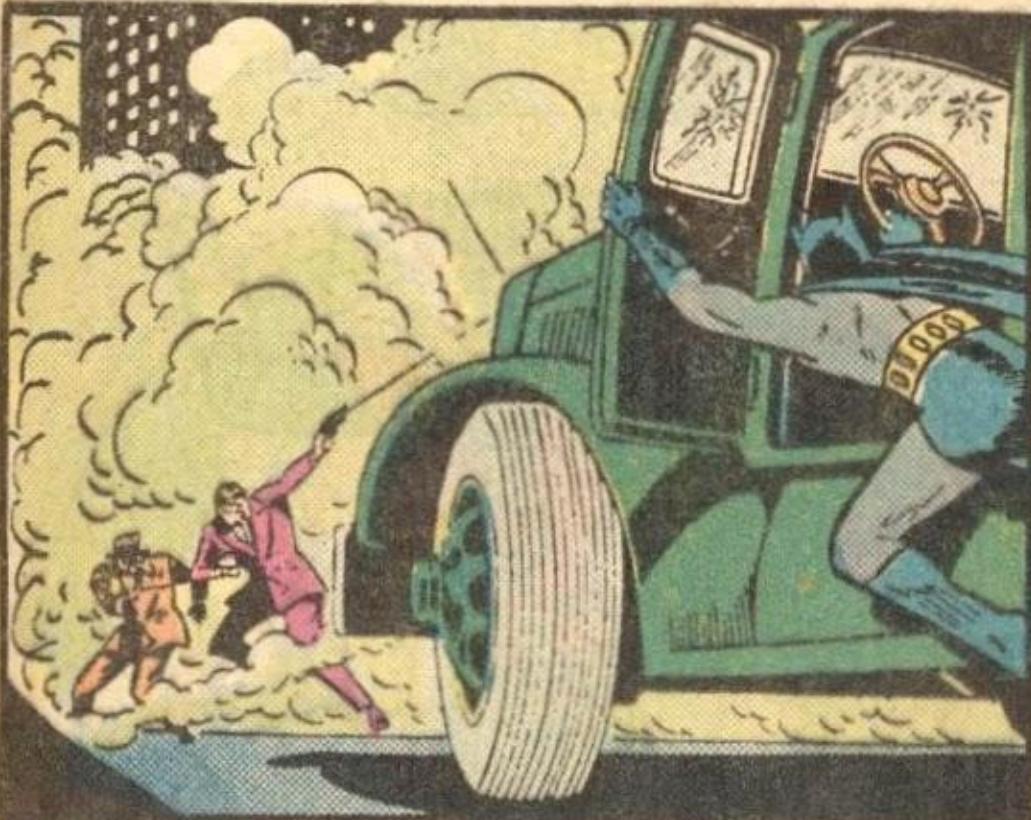


A DUMMY? IT'S BATMAN! BUT HOW DID HE GET WELL SO QUICK? AND HOW CAN HE BREATHE IN THAT GAS WITHOUT BEING KNOCKED OUT?

GET HIM QUICK!



STRANGE COSTUMES OF BATMAN



TWO BATMEN? AND ONE IS CALLED ROBIN?
YES, THAT IS THE HOARDED SECRET OF THE
STRANGEST BAT-COSTUME OF ALL!



AND THAT IS WHY THE MYSTERY COSTUME BEARS A RED-BREASTED BIRD-SYMBOL INSTEAD OF A BAT-SYMBOL--BECAUSE IT IS THE SPECIAL BUILT-UP DUPLICATE WHICH ENABLES ROBIN TO IMPERSONATE BATMAN!





HI, THERE!
FROM TIME TO TIME, READERS
HAVE WRITTEN IN SUGGESTING
MY "BOY WONDER" UNIFORM BE
UPDATED TO GIVE ME A MODERN
"TEEN-AGE" IMAGE!
IN FACT, SOME HAVE DESIGNED
THEIR OWN CONCEPTS FOR
COSTUMES!

HERE
ARE A
FEW
SAMPLES...



by CAROL A. STRICKLAND,
CHAPEL HILL, N.C.



by
BRIAN MADIGAN,
GENEVA, N.Y.



by
ANTHONY KOWALIK,
HARVEY, ILL.



by
STEVEN DIAZ,
MIAMI, FLA.

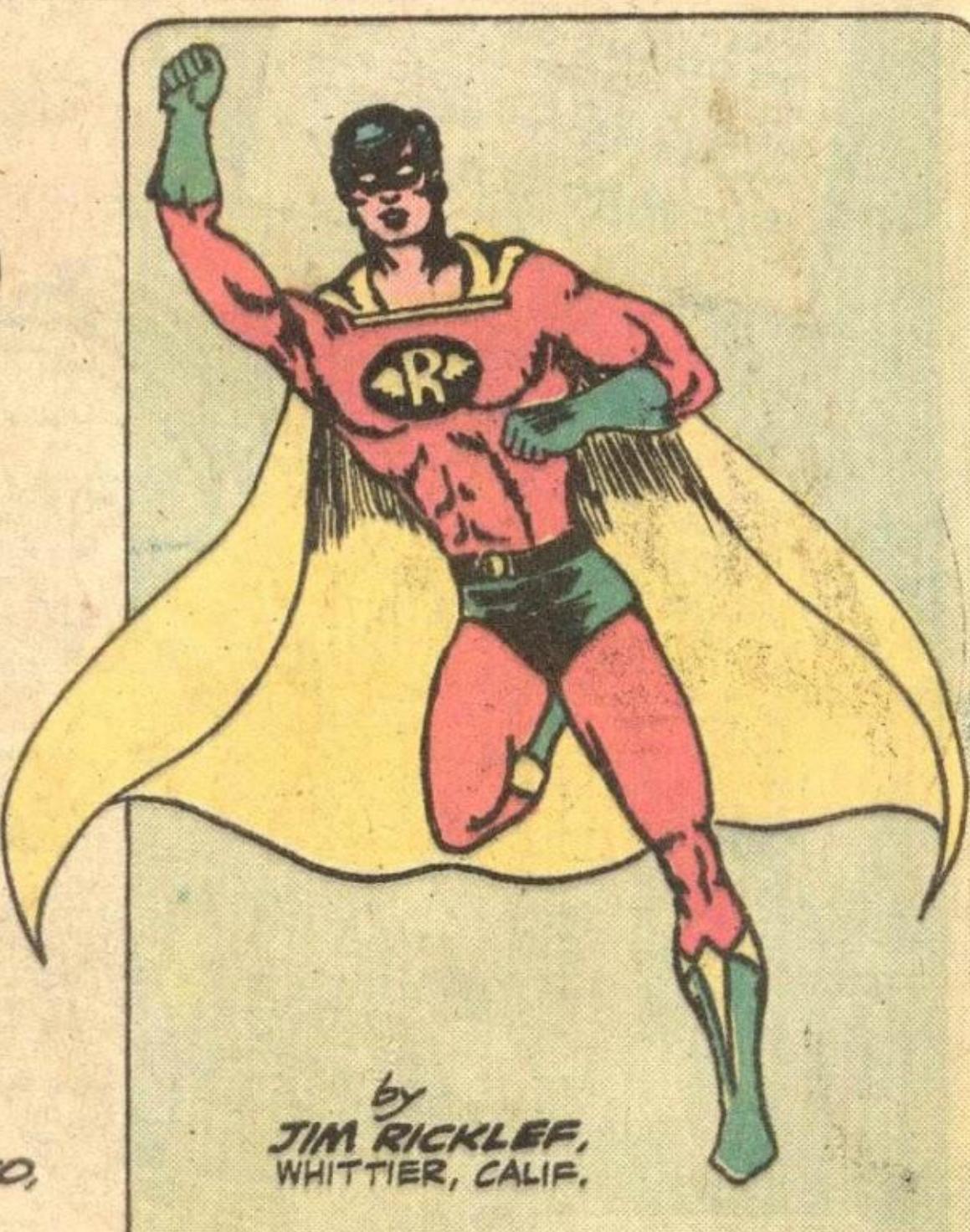
A NEW LOOK for ROBIN



by
CARL PEPPERS,
CLEVELAND, OHIO



by
DAVID TALARICO,
LIVERPOOL, N.Y.



by
JIM RICKLEF,
WHITTIER, CALIF.

REMEMBER THE TWO PRIVATE DETECTIVES... HAWKE AND WRENN... WHO TRIED TO IMITATE US?

HA, HA! I STILL LAUGH WHEN I THINK OF "ROBIN" WITH A BALD SPOT! STILL, THEY WERE GOOD DETECTIVES!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

WHAT'S THIS? DO WE SEE THOSE BOLDEST OF ALL BATTLERS, THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN, IN SHAMEFUL GUNS?... AH, NO — FOR IF YOU LOOK AGAIN, YOU WILL SEE TWO TEAMS OF CAPED FIGURES, ONE SPURIOUS AND ONE GENUINE — AND THEREBY HANGS A TALE WORTH REMEMBERING: ...FOR CLOTHES CAN MAKE A SCARECROW — BUT IT TAKES STEELY NERVE, SUPPLE STRENGTH AND UNFLAGGING COURAGE TO SEND THE DYNAMIC DUO CHARGING TO THE RESCUE OF A WELL-MEANING BUT MISGUIDED PAIR WHO WANTED TO BECOME —

"HEROES by PROXY!"

ROB KANE



ART: DICK SPRANG

HEROES BY PROXY

BEHIND THIS DOOR
LURKS TRAGEDY?

IT'S NO USE, HAWKE...
THE MORE I FIGURE,
THE MORE OBVIOUS
IT BECOMES THAT
WE'RE FLAT
BROKE!

AH, ME—
AND WE
BUILT
SUCH
LOFTY
PLANS!

HOW COULD WE
FAIL, WRENN?
WE HAVE BRAINS,
COURAGE, A
THOROUGH
KNOWLEDGE OF
CRIMINAL
METHODS...

BUT WE LACK
A REPUTATION—
THE FIRST
REQUIREMENT
FOR BUSINESS
SUCCESS!

HAWKE &
WRENN
DETECTIVE
AGENCY
CONFIDENTIAL
INVESTIGATIONS

AS HAWKE AND WRENN
WE'RE MERELY TWO BIRDS
OF ILL OMEINT! BUT IF WE
WERE, SAY, BATMAN AND
ROBIN, RICHES WOULD
RAIN DOWN UPON US!

EUREKA—
I HAVE
IT!

TEAR UP YOUR SILLY
FIGURES! CLEAR THE
SAFE FOR CASH!
FROM NOW ON, WE'RE
GOING TO FLY HIGH!

MY POOR
FRIEND!
DISAPPOINTMENT
HAS
UNBALANCED
YOU!

SNAP!

SAD, ISN'T IT? . . . AND SADDER STILL IS
THIS SHAMEFUL SPECTACLE OF STEALTHY
CRIME BY NIGHT!

HEY! DA
LOCK'S
BUSTED!

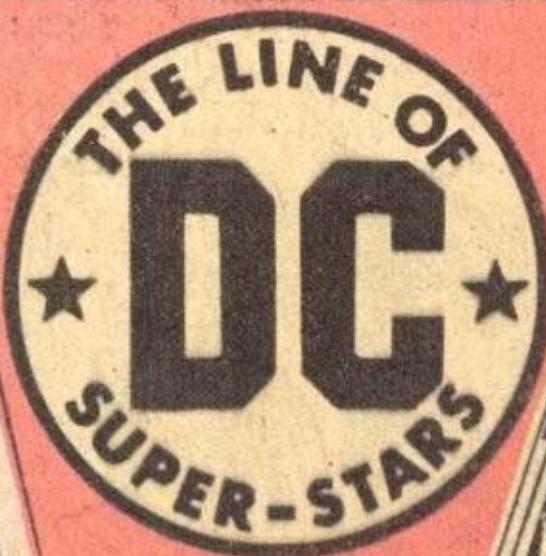
IN YA
GO, DEN
CORKY!

YET NOT SO STEALTHY, EITHER:

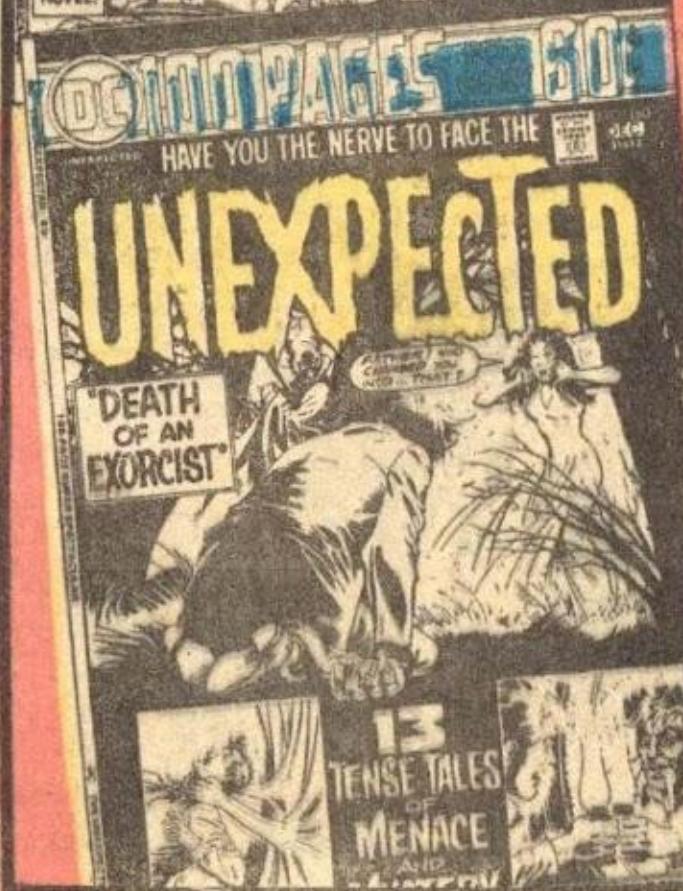
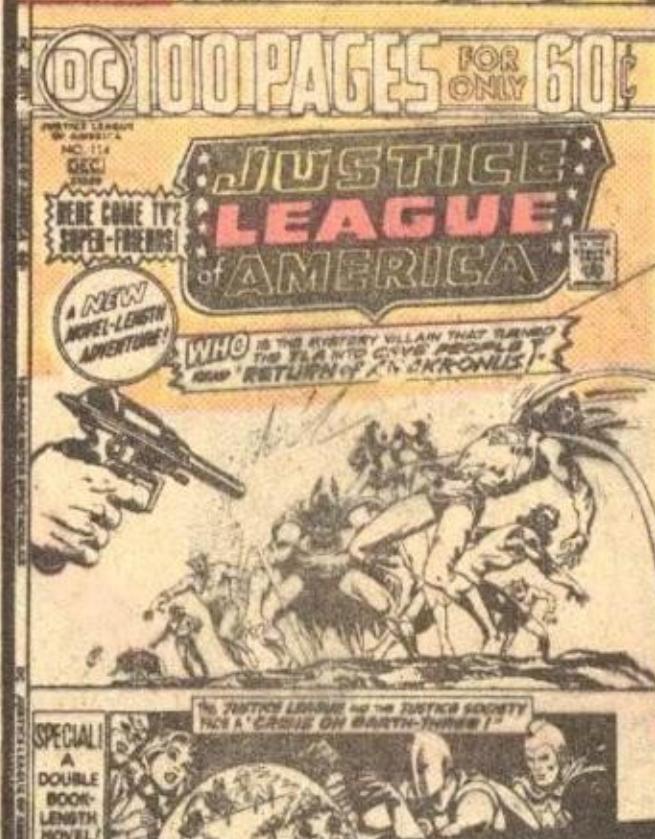
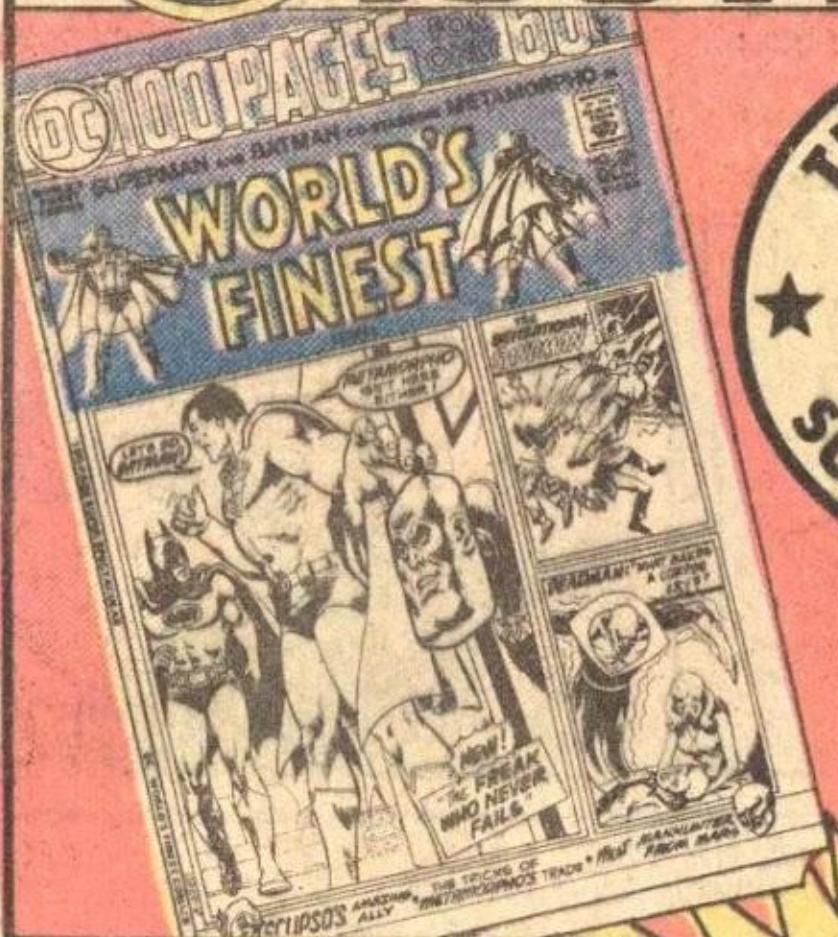
YA CLUMSY
GOOF—IT'S A
GOOD THING
NOBODY'S
HOME!

I LIKE
TA BREAK ME
NECK, AN'
DAT'S ALL DA
SYMPATHY I
GET!

DC 100 PAGES FOR ONLY 60¢

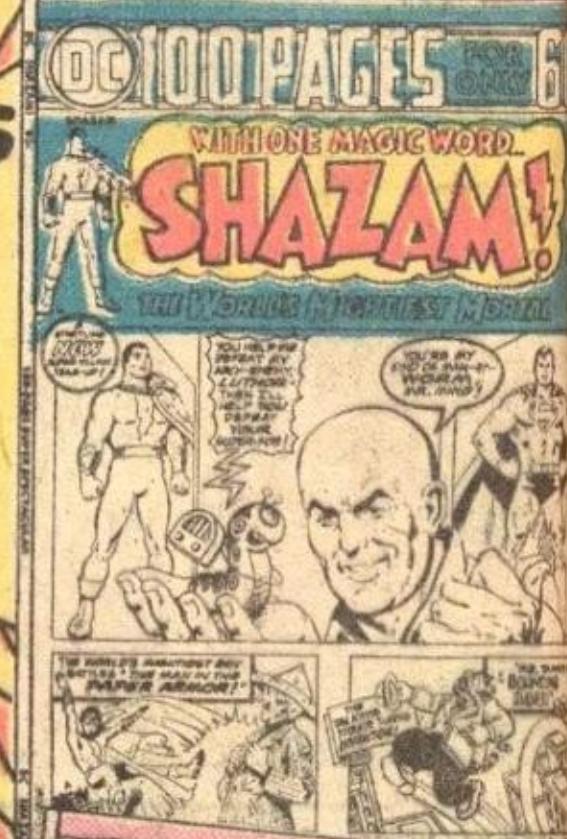
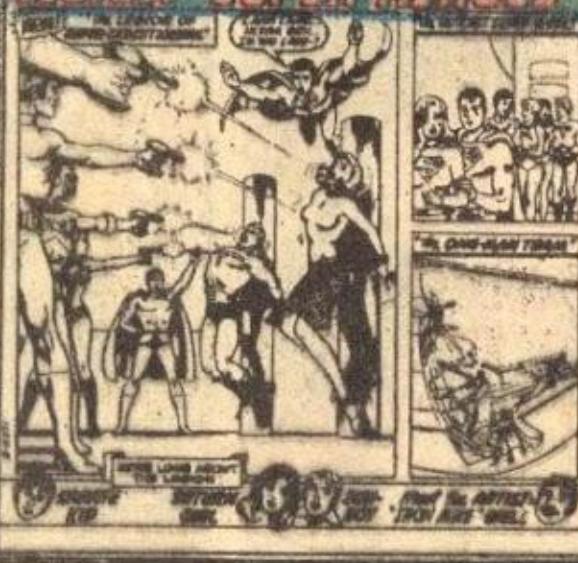


MOST PAGES
FOR YOUR
MONEY...
BIGGEST
BARGAIN
IN
COMICS!



DC 100 PAGES FOR ONLY 60¢

SUPERBOY
AND SUPER-HEROES



Frank Zane...
looked like this
before using Weider's
Bodybuilding Sys-
tem and went on to
become "Mr. Uni-
verse".



Joe Weider

Trainer of "Mr. Amer-
ica", "Mr. Universe",
"Mr. World", and over
3,000,000 successful
pupils throughout the
world.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT... the
Weider Bodybuilding System
BRINGS FANTASTIC RESULTS
FAST! Here's PROOF!



BEFORE



AFTER

Tony Golio, Bronx, N.Y. Loses 30 lbs.
of flab!



BEFORE



AFTER

Danny Wilson, Greer, S.C. puts 6" on
his arms and 7" on his chest.

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Imagine how you will look after gaining 3 Big
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close 25c in full payment. I am under no further
obligation; no salesman will call on me.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____

Age _____

Zip _____

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BUT WAIT! WE KNOW THIS HOUSE - THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!



NEXT DAY, BRUCE AND DICK RETURN FROM A FISHING TRIP WITH ALFRED, MAJOR-DOMO AND CHIEF FACTOTUM OF THE HOUSEHOLD...



HEROES BY PROXY

A BRUPTLY...

BRUCE—
LOOK?

HUH?... NO! IT
CAWN'T BE!

CRASH!

WELL, GENTLE READER—WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?

"ROBIN,"
WHATEVER
ARE YOU
DOING?

BITING MY
TONGUE, MY
DEAR "BATMAN"
TO KEEP FROM
SAYING WHAT
I'M THINKING!

WHA—?

MIGHT I
AWK THE
MEANING
OF THIS
INTRUSION?

MY GOODMAN, EVERYONE
KNOWS THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN
MOVE ABOUT IN
UNUSUAL
WAYS—LIKE
THIS!

LOOK
OUT!

THE
MAWSTER'S
PRICELESS
DAMAWSK
DRAPES?

SHOULD I
GET MAD,
BRUCE—
OR
LAUGH LIKE
I WANT
TO?

LEAVE
THEM
TO
ME!

WE'RE HONORED
TO HAVE SUCH
DISTINGUISHED
CALLERS—BUT
WHAT'S THE
REASON?

SHALL
I TELL
HIM,
"BATMAN?"

NO, "ROBIN"—
WOUNDED
AS I AM,
I'LL DO
THE
TALKING!

YOU, MR. WAYNE,
HAVE BEEN
ROBBED! WE
PROPOSE TO
CATCH THE
THIEVES AND
RESTORE YOUR
PURLOINED
VALUABLES!

GENEROUS
OF YOU,
I'M
SURE!

NOT SO! WE
SHALL
EXPECT A
REWARD IF
WE SUCCEED
IN OUR
ENDEAVOR!

BUT THE
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN
NEVER
ACCEPT
REWARDS!

ARE
YOU
PRE-
SUMING
TO
TELL
US?



THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS

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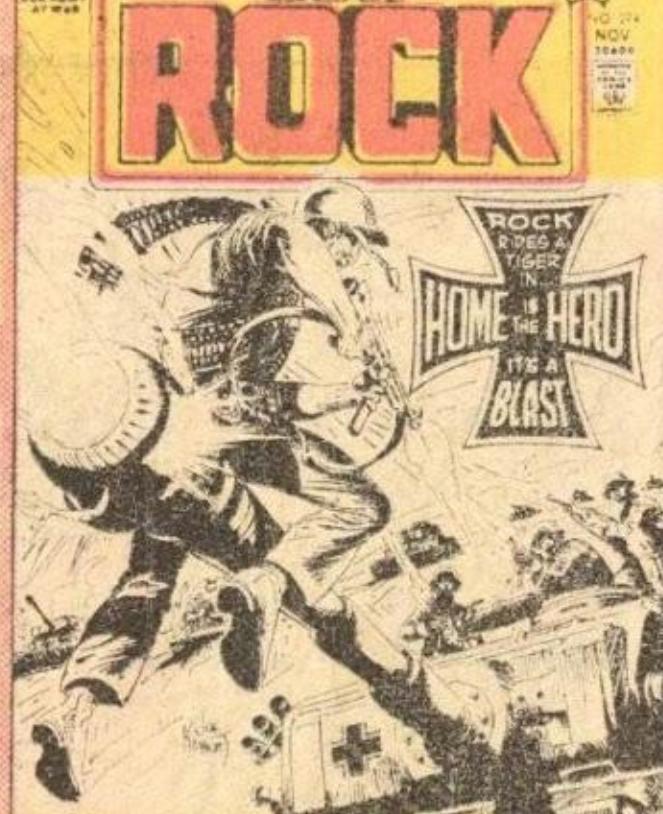
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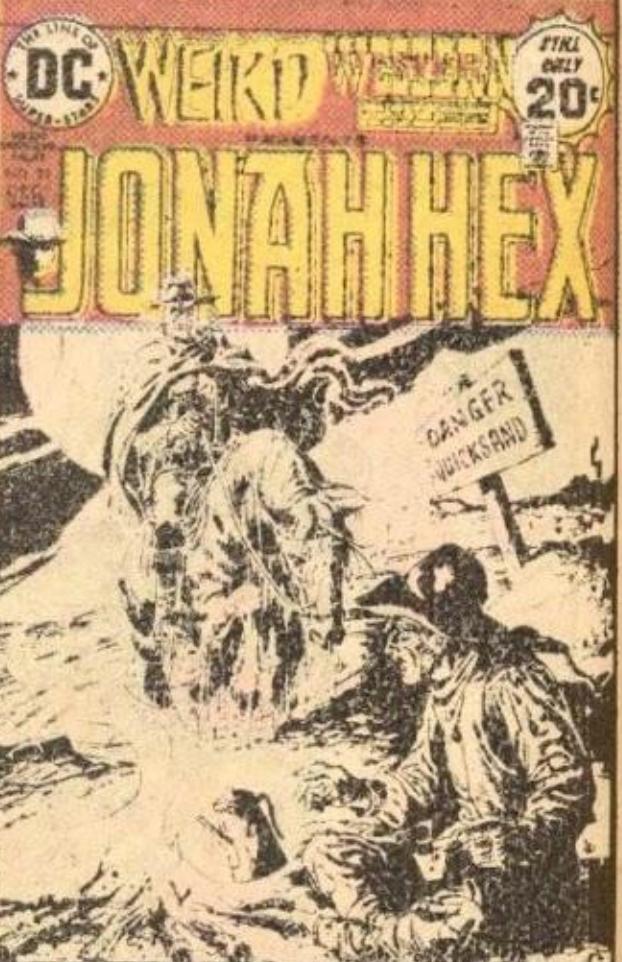
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BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



SILENCE "ROBIN"... THAT WAS TRUE ONCE, I'LL ADMIT — BUT NOW, ALAS, TIMES ARE HARD!

BUT —

QUIET DICK ... "BATMAN," IT'S A BARGAIN!

WHEN THE REMARKABLE PAIR HAS DEPARTED...

HO, HO, HO! THEY SHOULD BE IN THE MOVIES!

DOUBTLESS THE EPISODE HAS ITS DROLL ASPECTS...

IMAGINE "ROBIN" WITH A BALD SPOT!

BUT WHAT OF YOUR REPUTATION? FOR ALL WE KNOW THEY MAY HAVE DONE THE BURGLING THEMSELVES;

I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! I DID...



AND THAT'S WHY THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM!

ANYWAY, HOW COULD THEY APPREHEND THE VILLAINS WITHOUT A SINGLE CLUE?

OH, BOY-ACTION!



MOMENTS LATER, A FAMOUS CRIME-CRUSHING TEAM RACES ACROSS ROOFTOPS!

THERE THEY GO, BATMAN! WONDER WHO THEY REALLY ARE?

ESCAPED LUNATICS FOR ALL I KNOW!



BUT JUST NOW, THE MASQUERADERS ARE DISPLAYING CONSIDERABLE SANITY...

MY FALL WAS MOST FORTUNATE, "BATMAN!" BENEATH THAT CHAIR, IMPRESSED IN THE CARPET, I SAW A CLEAR FOOTPRINT DISTINGUISHED BY ODDSHAPED RUBBER PADS!

EXCELLENT!

I ALSO HAVE A CLUE — THIS GOLD CORKSCREW WATCH-CHARM, ON WHICH I SAT SO PAINFULLY! UNDOUBTEDLY, IT WAS DROPPED BY A BURGLAR WE BOTH KNOW!



HEROES BY PROXY

AND HERE ARE TWO WHO HAVE FOUND PROSPERITY, JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

WEASEL'S A CROOK—
ONLY GIVIN' US FIVE GRAND FOR DA WAYNE SWAG?

OH, WELL—
WE GOT ANOTHER FIVE GRAND CASH OUTA DA JOB!

BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT LOSIN' DAT CORKSCREW, CATSPAWE. EVERYBODY KNOWS I ALWAYS WEAR IT FOR LUCK!

MAYBE YA LOST IT SOMEPLACE ELSE, WHERE IT WON'T MATTER!

FATE BRINGS ABOUT A MEETING...

CORKY—DO YA SEE WHAT I SEE?

DA BATMAN AN' ROBIN? DEY'RE AFTER US! BUT DEY'LL NEVER TAKE ME BACK TA DA BIG HOUSE!

YES "ROBIN", CORKY HUGGINS AND CATSPAWE CARLIN ARE THE MEN WE WANT!

AND WE'LL GET THEM, "BATMAN", IF IT TAKES A LIFETIME!

OH, YEAH? YOUR LIFETIME'S LIABLE TA BE AWFUL SHORT?

OH, MY GOODNESS!

YA T'INK YA'RE TOUGH—
BUT I GOT BULLETS DAT'S TOUGHER!

COME, "ROBIN"—
LET US WITHDRAW
TO CONSIDER
THE SITUATION!

A SPLENDID SUGGESTION,
"BATMAN!"

TAKE DAT:
AN'
DAT:

HERE WE GO,
ROBIN!

HAW,
HAW:
DID YA
SEE,
EM'
RUN?

WON'T DA BOYS
IN PETE'S
POOLROOM
HOWL
WHEN WE
TELL HOW
YELLA DA
BATMAN
AN' ROBIN
IS?

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE NEXT INSTANT...

SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU COYOTES WILL HOWL FIRST!

YI!!!! DEY'RE BACK!

DEY SNUCK UP ON US?

THIS IS MY CORKSCREW PUNCH, CORKY! A TWIST OF THE WRIST— AND YOU CURL UP?

OOOH-H!

I'LL GET YA DIS TIME BATMAN!

NOT ALL OF ME CATSPAWE— JUST MY FIST!

UH-H-H...

NICE TIMING!

A TREACHEROUS SHOT RINGS OUT...

DAT LL LOIN YA?

AAA-AA-AA...

BATMAN! HE GOT YOU!

I'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL...

NO... BE ALL RIGHT— IN A SECOND...

COME ON, CATSPAWE— LET'S ROLL!

JUST STUNNED ME... BUT THE CROOKS ARE GETTING AWAY— AND WE'VE LOST OUR IMPERSONATORS!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, BATMAN, WHAT DOES ANYTHING ELSE MATTER?

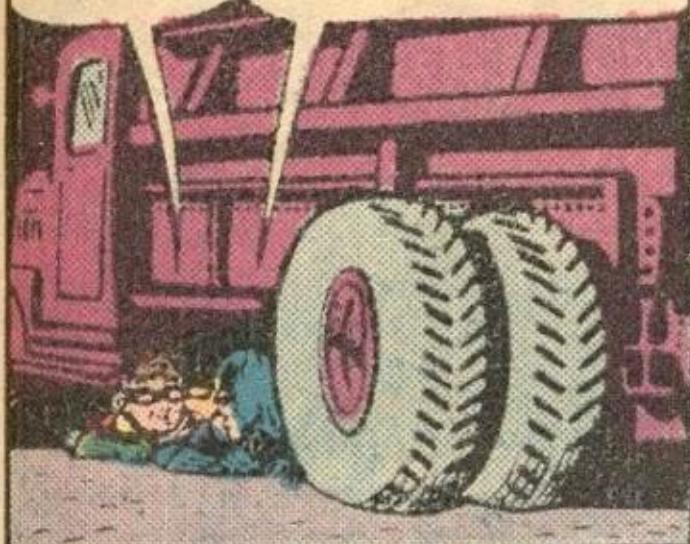
HEROES BY PROXY

MEANWHILE, TWO BLOCKS AWAY...

WE'RE SAFE FROM THOSE BULLETS ANYWAY,
"BATMAN!" "BATMAN" ANY MORE!

BUT WE CAN'T ESCAPE THE STABS OF CONSCIENCE—
AND DON'T CALL ME

"BATMAN!" "BATMAN" ANY MORE!



WE'VE DISGRACED THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN?
TOMORROW THE UNDERWORLD WILL BUZZ WITH THE STORY
OF HOW THEY RAN FROM CRIMINALS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES!

I KNOW...



WE MEANT WELL—
BUT WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN WE COULDN'T DUPLICATE THEIR HERCISM!

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE MUST DO NOW!

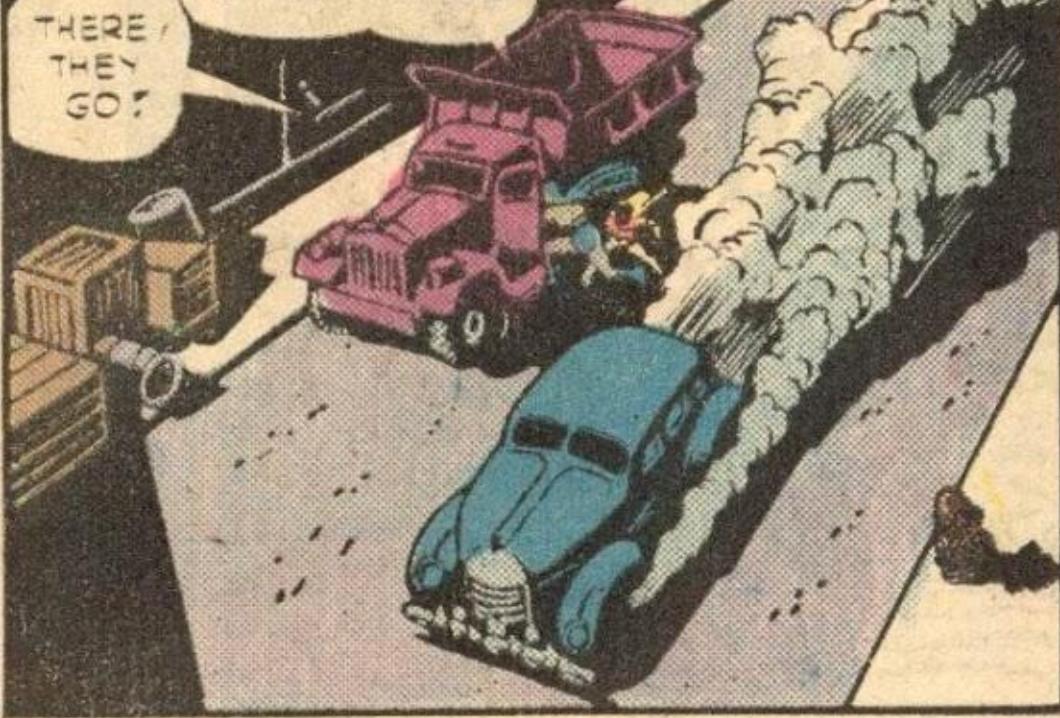


THE ONLY WAY WE CAN REDEEM OURSELVES — AND THEIR REPUTATION — IS TO CAPTURE THOSE CROOKS, NO MATTER WHAT THE RISK!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT — BUT WHERE WILL WE FIND THEM?



AND HERE WE GO— AS FAST AS THIS MOUNTAIN OF STEEL WILL TRAVEL!



THEY FLED DANGER ONCE — BUT NO ONE CAN CALL HAWKE AND WRENN COARDS AS THIS PERILOUS CHASE THUNDERS THROUGH THE NIGHT!

FASTER! WE'RE LOSING THEM!

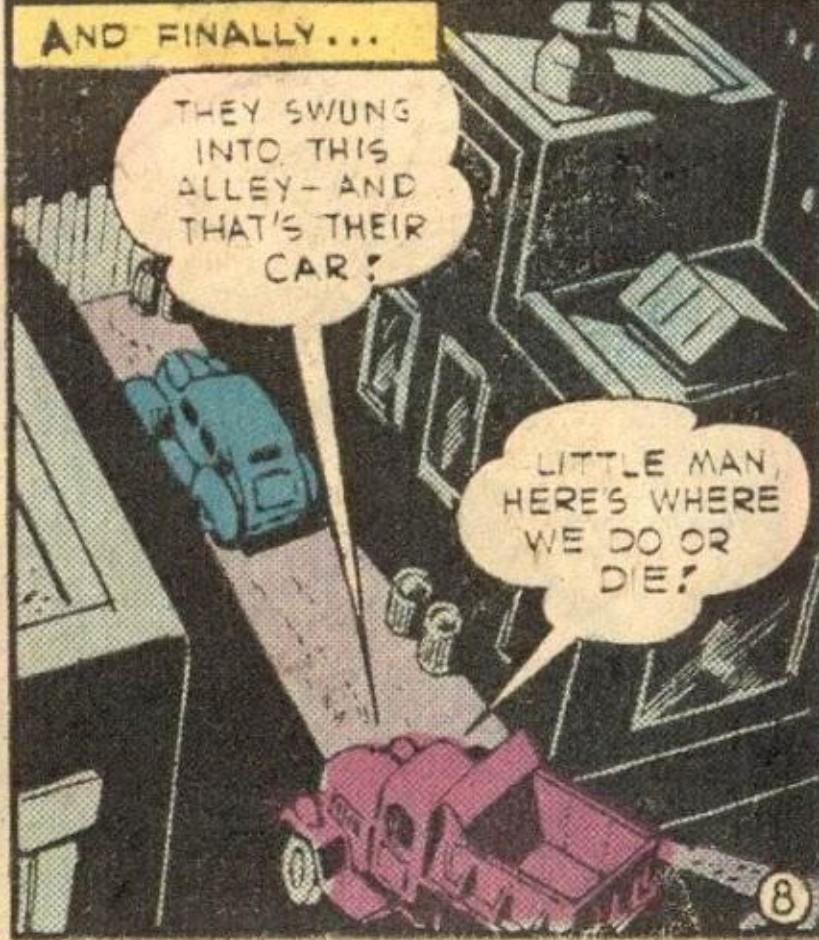
THIS IS OUR TOP SPEED!



AND FINALLY...

THEY SWUNG INTO THIS ALLEY — AND THAT'S THEIR CAR!

LITTLE MAN, HERE'S WHERE WE DO OR DIE!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE BEEN TRAVELING, TOO—BY WAY OF OVERHEAD SHORTCUTS...

YOU THINK WE'LL FIND THEM HERE, BATMAN?

CATSPAW MENTIONED A PLACE WITH THE SAME NAME—AND THIS IS A NOTORIOUS HANGOUT FOR CROOKS!

WE WANT CORKY HUGGINS AND CATSPAW CARLINS.

DEY AIN'T HERE; BATMAN—AN' YOU AIN'T WELCOME!

NOW SCRAM—OR ELSE!

I DON'T LIKE RATS THAT PULL GUNS!

LOW BRIDGE!

IF THERE WERE MORE OF YOU, I'D SHOW YOU SOME REAL FIGHTING!

MIND IF I GO THROUGH?

HE AIN'T HUMAN! LEMME OUTA HERE!

WE'LL TRY THE BACK ROOM, ROBIN?

CHECKS!

BUT CORKY AND CATSPAW HAVE ALREADY PREPARED FOR BATTLE!

DOUSE DA GLIM, CATSPAW—AN' BE READY TA SMACK 'EM WHEN I SQUIT DA JUICE!

I'M READY!

HEROES BY PROXY

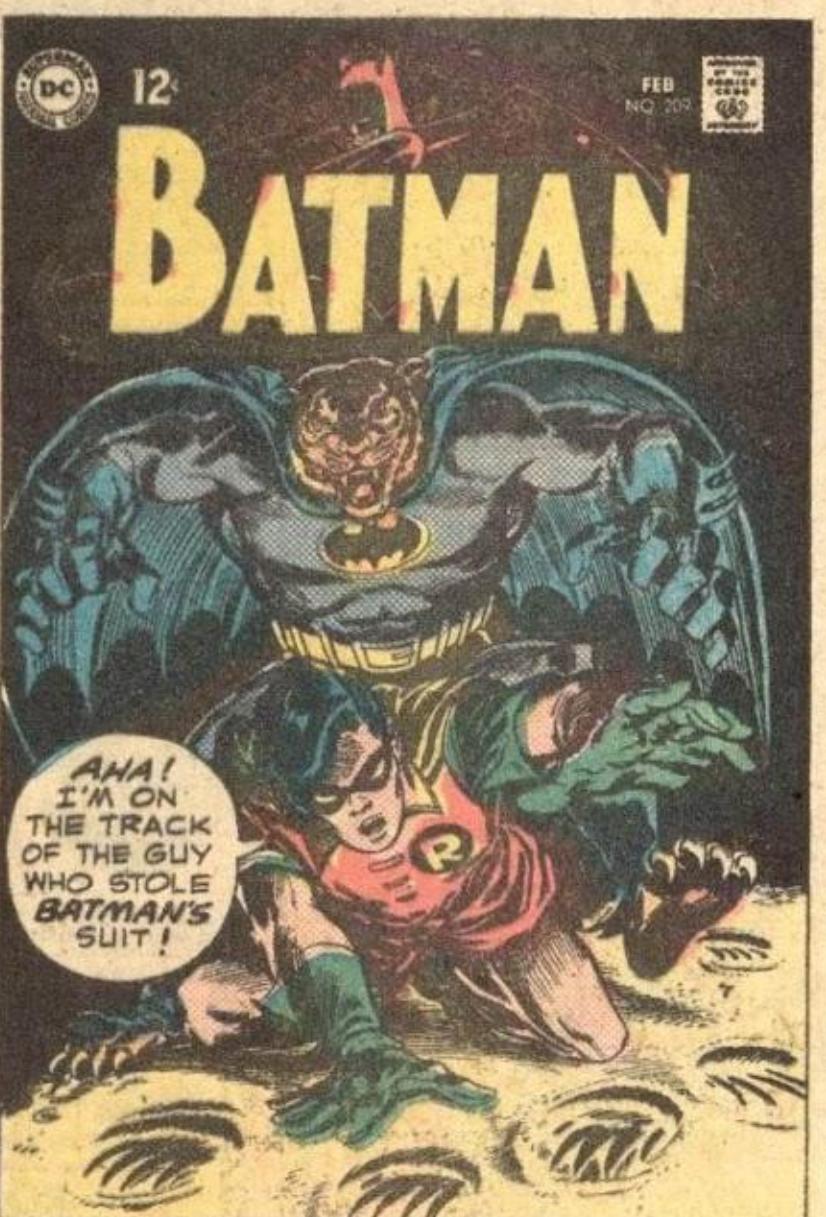
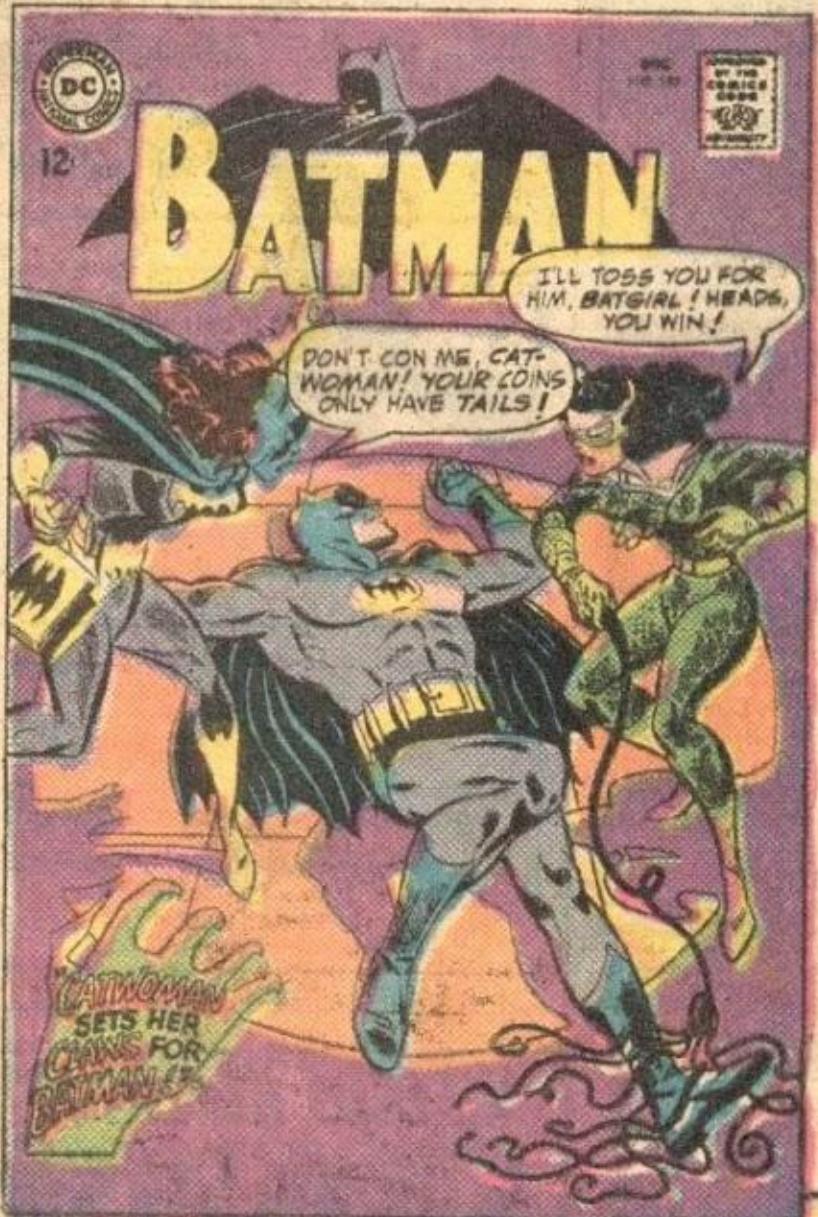
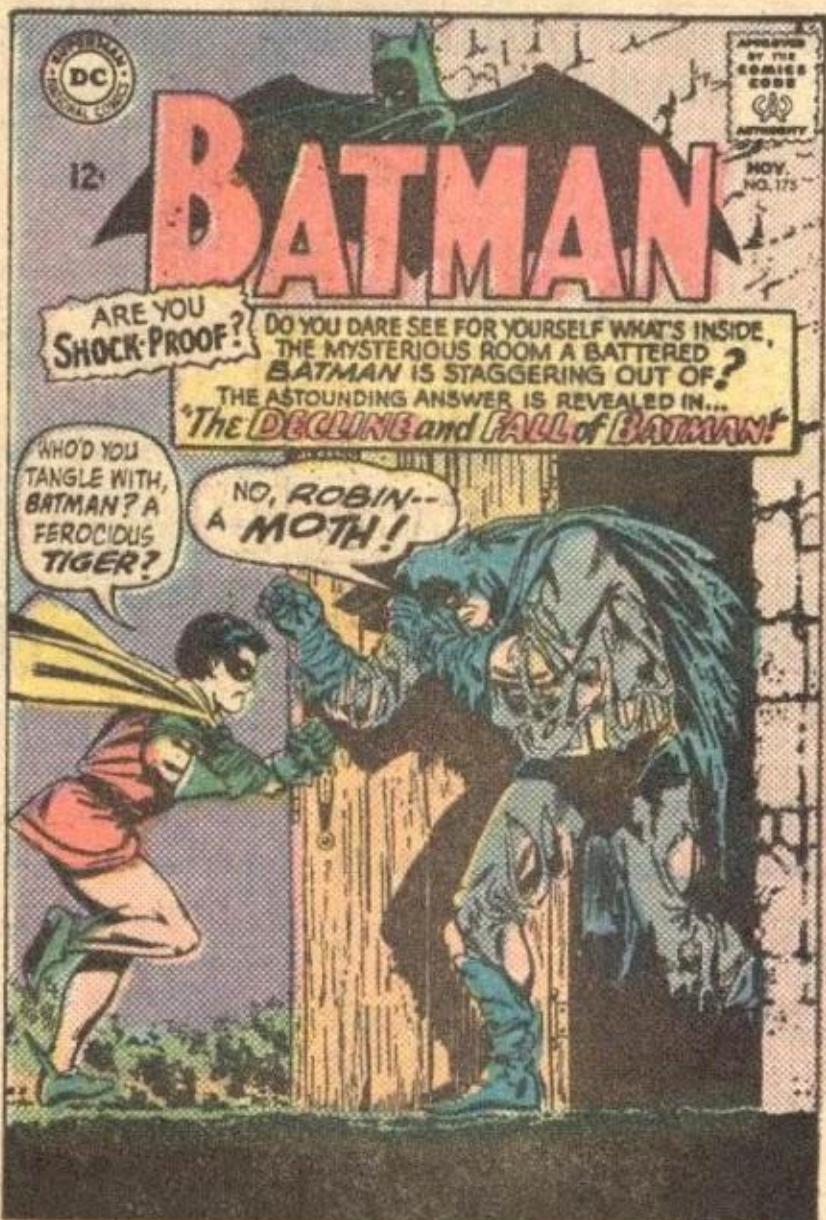
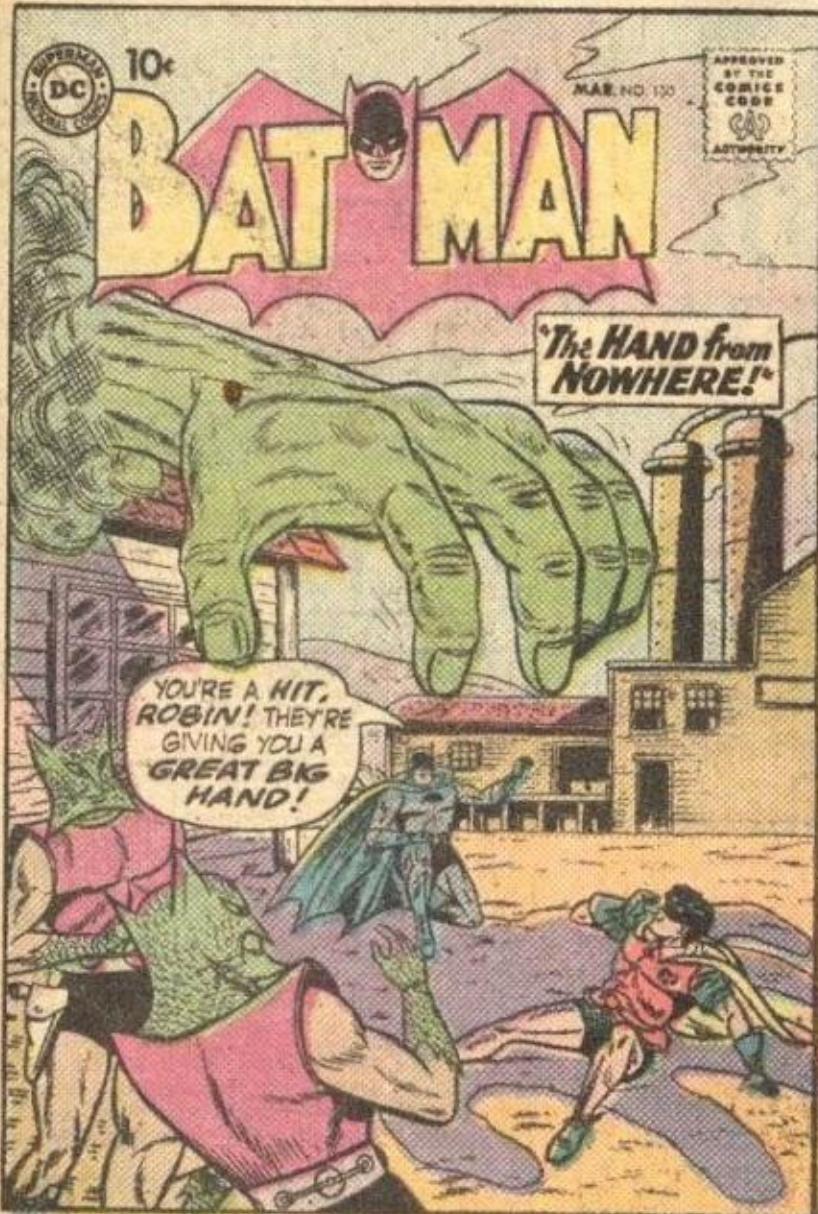


BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



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(FOR THE ORIGINAL COVER BALLOONS, SEE PAGE 80)

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SPEAKING OF BATMAN DOUBLES,
WE CAN'T OVERLOOK THE BIG AND
LITTLE VERSIONS OF YOU WHO GOT
INTO THE ACT A FEW YEARS AGO!

TRUE...BUT LET THE READERS
FIND OUT THE SECRET OF
THOSE TWO, ROBIN! DON'T
DROP ANY HINTS!

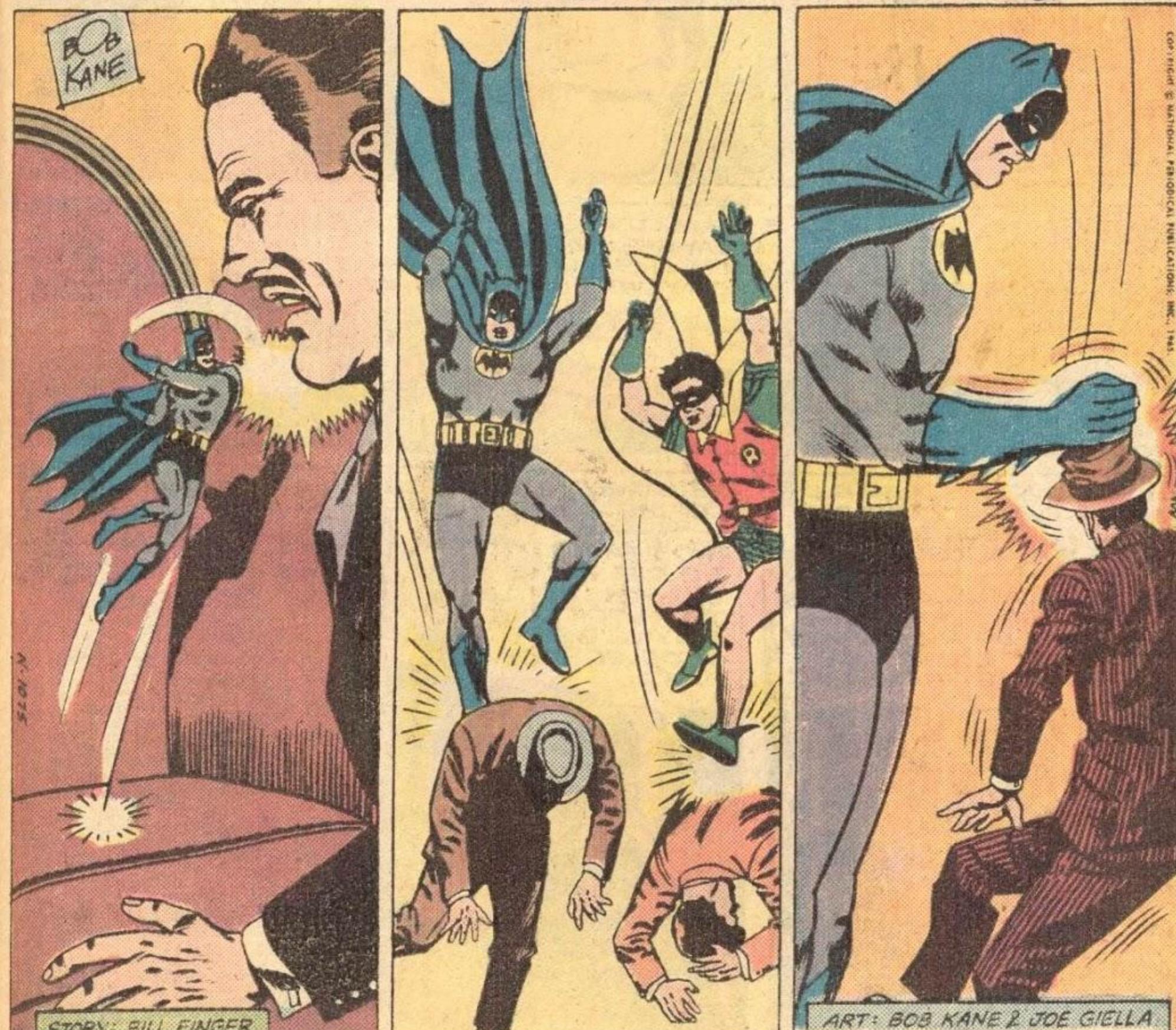
BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FOR CRIMINALS, HAVING BATMAN
(AND ROBIN) TO CONTEND WITH
IS ROUGH ENOUGH -- BUT THINGS
CAN GET EVEN ROUGHER --
ESPECIALLY WHERE THERE ARE
THREE BATMEN AROUND!
THAT'S THE FINAL BLOW --
THAT'S WHEN CROOKS CRY OUT
IN DESPAIR THAT THERE ARE ...

"TWO BATMEN TOO MANY!"

BOB
KANE



STORY: BILL FINGER

ART: BOB KANE & JOE GIELLA

THIS IS ED "NUMBERS" GARVEY, A MAN AT WAR--A MAN BESIEGED BY "BATS"--EVEN AT HIS HOME!

A BAT-SHAPED KITE! ANYBODY ELSE'D THINK A KID LOST IT--BUT I'M POSITIVE BATMAN PUT IT THERE--AS ANOTHER MANEUVER IN HIS PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR AGAINST ME!

AND EVEN A WALK THROUGH A GOTHAM CITY ALLEYWAY TAKES HIM TO A BATTLEGROUND OF "BATS"!

LAUNDRY--MAKING A BAT-SHAPED SHADOW! ANOTHER "COINCIDENCE" RIGGED BY BATMAN! HE CAN'T PROVE I STOLE THE KIMBER GEM COLLECTION, SO HE'S TRYING TO STAMPEDE ME INTO SURRENDERING IT...

I WAS DOING PLENTY OKAY IN THE NUMBERS RACKET, UNTIL I BECAME OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF STEALING THE KIMBER GEM SET! THE IDEA WAS DRIVING ME AS BATTY AS BATMAN IS DRIVING ME NOW!

SOMETIMES THE BEST STRATEGY IN WARFARE IS TO RETREAT--AND GARVEY'S RETREAT IS HIS ISOLATED HUNTING LODGE IN THE MOUNTAINS...

IF I STAY OUTA TOWN FOR AWHILE, BATMAN MAY LAY OFF ME! HEY--THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LANDSLIDE AHEAD! I HOPE MY CABIN ISN'T IN ITS PATH--

RUMBLE!

RELIEVED THAT HIS LODGE IS UNHARMED, CURIOSITY PROMPTS GARVEY TO CHECK THE PATH OF THE LANDSLIDE...

THE LANDSLIDE UNCOVERED A CAVE! BATS FLYING OUT--REMIND ME OF A BAT-CAVE! UGH--CAN'T I EVER STOP THINKING ABOUT BATMAN?

AS GARVEY'S TORCH PROBES THE CAVERN'S DARK DEPTHS...

TWO SEATED FIGURES --ONE BIG--ONE LITTLE! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN MODELED FROM CLAY!

SUDDENLY,
THE TORCH-
LIGHT IS
REFLECTED
FROM A MANY-
FACETED CRYSTAL
ON THE CAVERN
CEILING -- A
LIGHT WHICH
BLAZES WITH
AWESOME
INTENSITY!

AHHHH ! THAT TERRIBLE LIGHT--
BLINDING ME ! CAN'T SEE !



IT IS MANY MINUTES LATER
BEFORE GARVEY'S EYES
CAN FOCUS AGAIN -- ONLY
TO STARE AT AN AMAZING
SIGHT !

THE CLAY
FIGURES--
COMING
TO LIFE !
MY MIND'S
CRACKING--
THEY'VE
TURNED
INTO
TWO
BATMEN !

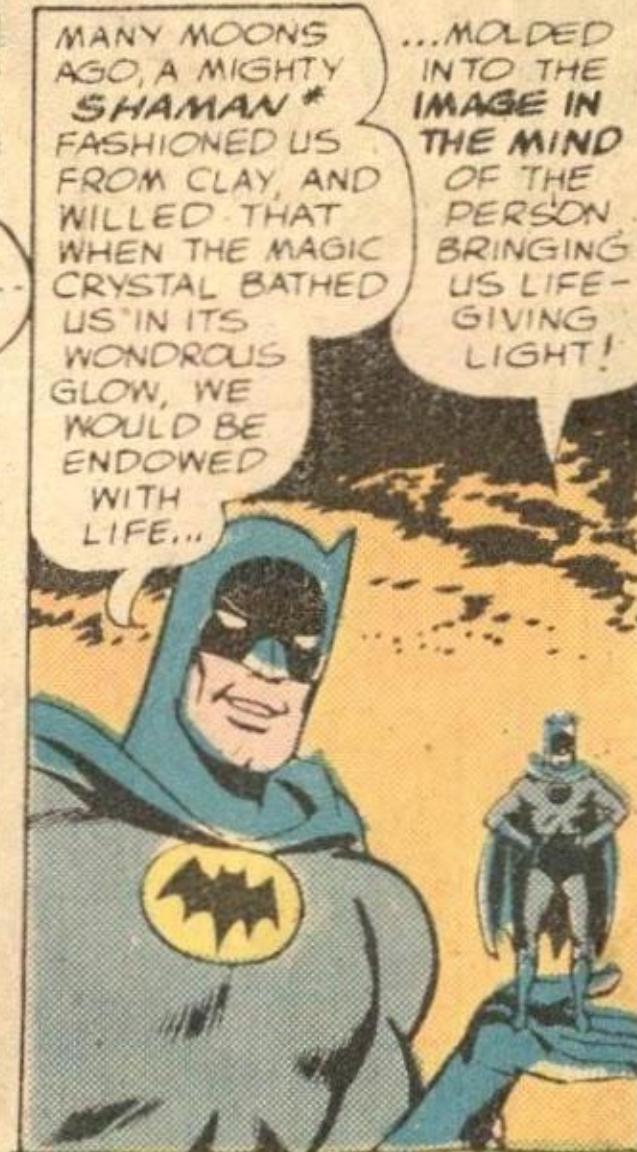
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT US
LIFE, O MASTER--
AND WE ARE
NOW YOUR
SLAVES !
LISTEN ...

MANY MOONS
AGO, A MIGHTY
SHAMAN*
FASHIONED US
FROM CLAY, AND
WILLED THAT
WHEN THE MAGIC
CRYSTAL BATHED
US IN ITS
WONDROUS
GLOW, WE
WOULD BE
ENDOWED
WITH
LIFE ...

...MOLDED
INTO THE
IMAGE IN
THE MIND
OF THE
PERSON
BRINGING
US LIFE-
GIVING
LIGHT !

HMM ! BECAUSE OF THOSE
CAVE BATS, I WAS THINKING
OF BATMAN WHEN THE LIGHT
TOUCHED THE CRYSTAL -- SO
THEY BECAME "BATMEN" !
AMAZING ! I WOULDN'T BELIEVE
ANY OF THIS IF THE PROOF
WASN'T BEFORE MY EYES !

AND NOW, MASTER--
WE ARE READY TO
OBEY YOUR
COMMANDS !



* EDITOR'S NOTE : SHAMAN
AN INDIAN MEDICINE MAN
BELIEVED GIFTED WITH
SUPERNATURAL POWERS !



SHORTLY, AS THE BATMAN DUO IS
ORDERED INTO GARVEY'S STATION
WAGON ...

ME--BOSS OF TWO
BATMEN ! HA ! HA ! I'LL DRIVE THEM
BACK TO MY PLACE -- WHERE I
PHONED THE BOYS TO MEET ME !
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SPRING
MY SURPRISE ! TWO
SURPRISES ! HA ! HA !



LATER THAT NIGHT, IN GARVEY'S GOTHAM CITY HANG-
OUT ...

YOW !
TWO BATMEN--
A BIG ONE AND A
LITTLE ONE !
WHERE'D THEY
POP FROM ?

I AIN'T GONNA
WASTE TIME
TRYIN' TO
FIGURE IT OUT !
ALL I SEE IS
TWO BATMEN
TOO MANY !

IF THEY FIGURE
ON TAKIN' US,
WE'RE NOT
GONNA BE
"TOOK" WITH-
OUT A FIGHT !



UHH! CAN'T REACH
HIS CHIN! I'D
NEED A POGO
STICK TO HOP
UP THAT
HIGH!



THEY BEGAN THIS BATTLE,
LITTLE BATMAN, SO WE
NEED NO ORDERS TO
DEFEND OURSELVES!



TRUE, BIG BAT-
MAN! SO NOW
WE PLUNGE
RIGHT INTO
BATTLE --
FISTS
FIRST!



ABRUPTLY, AN OBSERVER STEPS INTO THE
BATTLEGROUND ...

HAW! HAW! HAW! I HAVEN'T
HAD A YOCK LIKE THIS IN
YEARS! OKAY, SLAVES--
STOP FIGHTING! AS FOR
YOU "TOUGH" GUYS, PULL
YOURSSELVES TOGETHER SO
I CAN EXPLAIN ...

WE OBEY,
MASTER!



"MASTER"?
"SLAVES"?

LATER--
GRIMLY,
EAGERLY,
GARVEY
ISSUES
THE
COMMAND
THAT HE
HOPES
WILL
END
THE
CAREER
OF HIS
NEMESIS
FOREVER!

NOW, SLAVES-- I
ORDER YOU TO
SEEK OUT AND
DESTROY
BATMAN!



DESTROY THE MAN
AFTER WHOM WE
WERE PATTERNED?
IMPOSSIBLE!

BECAUSE
BATMAN
FIGHTS
EVIL, WE, TOO,
CANNOT OBEY
ANY COMMAND
TO DO EVIL!

HMM! THIS COMPLICATES MATTERS--
BUT I'VE SOLVED TOUGHER PROBLEMS!
OFFHAND, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO
MAKE USE OF BIG BATMAN, BUT I
GOT ME A NIFTY IDEA HOW TO PUT
LITTLE BATMAN TO WORK FOR
US!



AFTER ORDERING THE TWO BATMEN INTO
ANOTHER ROOM SO THAT THEY CANNOT OVER-
HEAR THE SCHEME HE EXPLAINS TO HIS GANG,
HE RETURNS TO HIS SLAVES...

NOW, LITTLE BAT-
MAN, MY ORDERS
FOR YOU... SAY,
WHAT'S WRONG
WITH
YOU?



IT'S A WEAKNESS
I HAVE, MASTER! TO REGAIN
MY VITALITY, IT MUST BE RE-
NEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE LIGHT OF CERTAIN
STARS! TONIGHT THE
BLUE-WHITE STAR,
RIGEL, IS IN
ASCENDANCY...

...SO YOU MUST LET
RIGEL SHINE UPON
A BLUE-WHITE
GEM-- THEN TOUCH
THAT GEM TO MY
FOREHEAD TO
REVITALIZE
MY LIFE-FORCE!

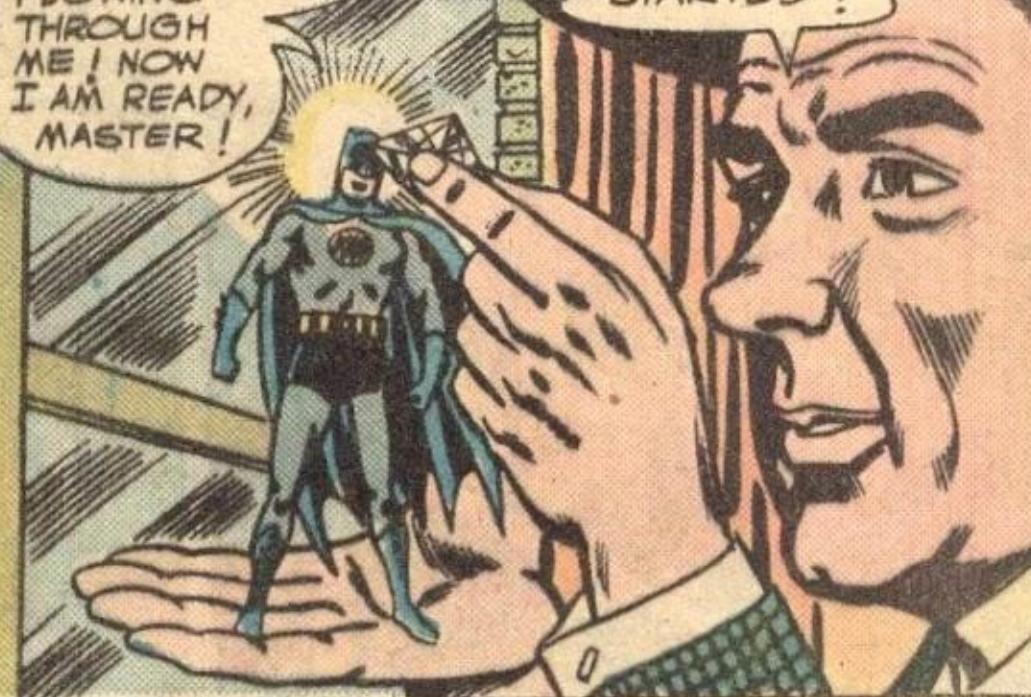
A BLUE-WHITE
DIAMOND? A
CINCH! I CAN
PUT MY HANDS
ON ONE IN A
JIFFY! WAIT HERE!



SHORTLY, GARVEY RETURNS WITH A MAGNIFI-
CENT BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND, AND BEGINS THE
REQUIRED RITUAL...

AH! I CAN FEEL
STELLAR ENERGY
FLOWING
THROUGH
ME! NOW
I AM READY,
MASTER!

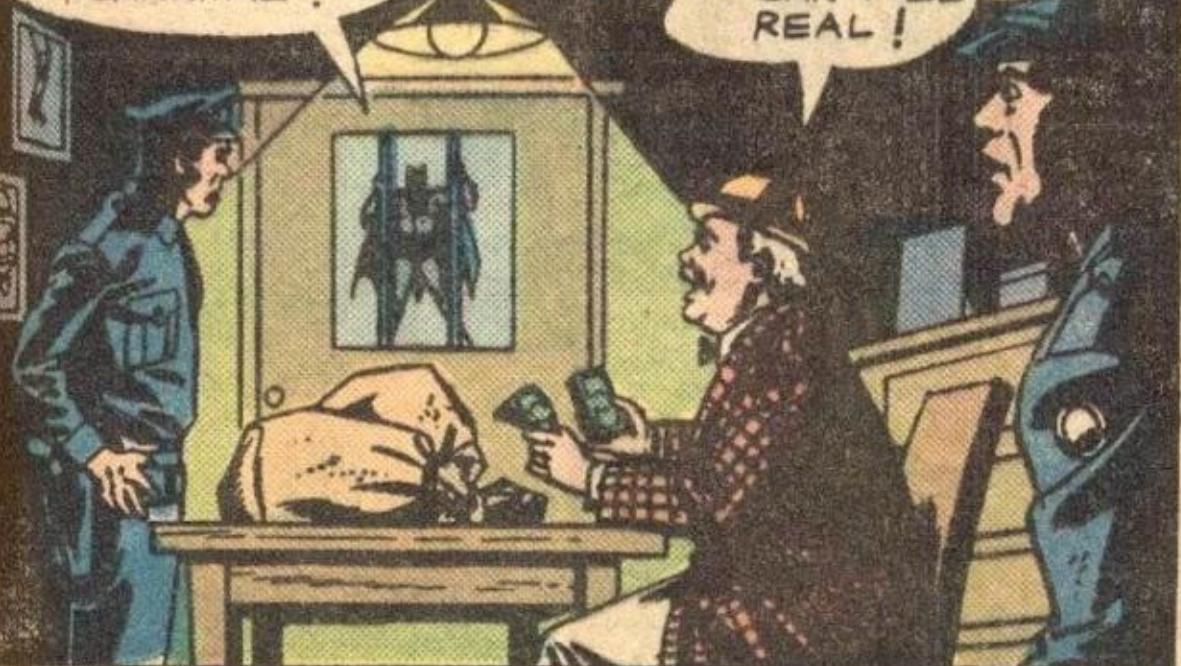
OKAY! SOON AS I PUT
THIS DIAMOND BACK IN ITS
HIDING PLACE, WE'LL GET
STARTED!



MIDNIGHT! THE BANGLE BROTHERS CARNIVAL IS
DARK AND DESERTED--BUT BEHIND THE PAY-WAGON'S
LOCKED DOOR, THE DAY'S RECEIPTS ARE BEING
TALLIED. SUDDENLY...

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!
I'M HERE TO OFFER MY
SERVICES IN YOUR
CARNIVAL!

WOW! A MIDGET--THE
SMALLEST MIDGET
THAT EVER LIVED!
NAW! IT'S A TRICK!
IT CAN'T BE
REAL!



OF COURSE I'M REAL! I CAN
BE YOUR STAR ATTRACTION!
I NOT ONLY LOOK LIKE
BATMAN, BUT I CAN DO
ANYTHING HE DOES! I'VE
EVEN GOT MY OWN
BAT-ROPE! WATCH
THIS--!



JUST BECAUSE I'M LITTLE, DON'T THINK I'M A SMALL-TIMER!

CONVINCED? READY TO SIGN ME UP NOW?

AND HOW! STAY PUT! DON'T MOVE! FIRST I WANT TO GET MY BROTHER IN HERE TO SEE YOU!

BUT AS BANGLE UNLOCKS THE DOOR, GARVEY'S LURKING GANG ATTACKS!

HANDS OFF YOUR GUNS, GUARDS! DON'T NOBODY TRY TO BE A DEAD HERO!

WE ONLY WANT THE CASH--NOT TARGET PRACTICE! LITTLE BATMAN, YOU COME WITH US! BOSS'S ORDERS.

SCOOPING UP THE SACKS OF MONEY, THE BANDITS EXIT--ONLY TO FIND A FAMED CRIME-FIGHTING DUO CHARGING AT THEM!...

ULP! THE REAL BATMAN-- AND ROBIN'S WITH HIM! THE HEAT'S ON--SO COOL OFF!

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

HERE IS THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE FOR THE COVERS on page 73

GREAT SCOTT!
THOSE ALIENS HAVE ORDERED THE GIANT HAND TO ATTACK ROBIN!

BATMAN!
WHO'S MAKING THESE TIGER TRACKS?

YOU'LL TAKE BATMAN TO YOUR CATACOMBS OVER MY DEAD BODY, CATWOMAN!

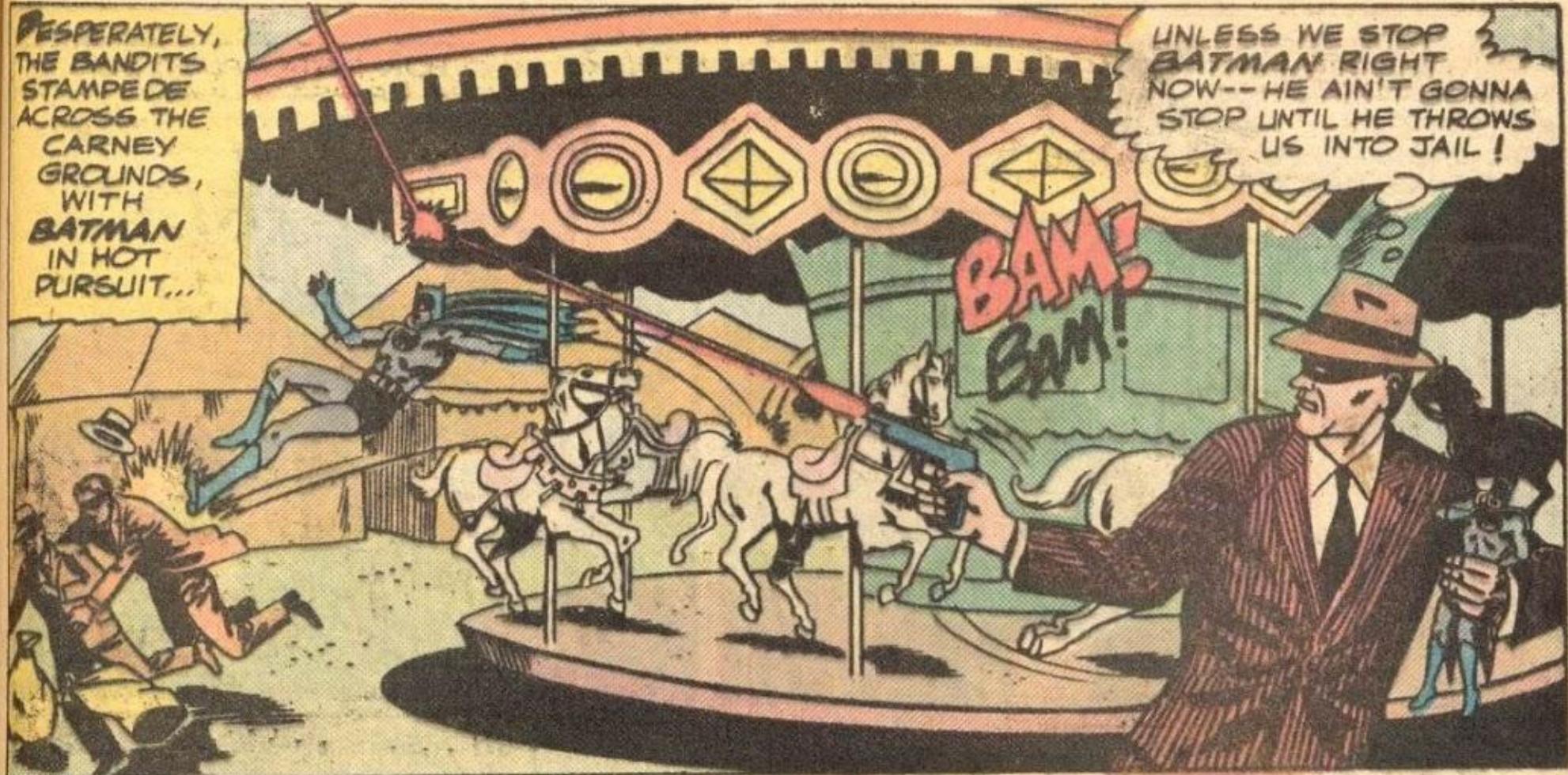
LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT HIM!

HOLD IT, ROBIN! DON'T GO IN THAT ROOM! I WAS OF THERE ALIVE!

HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY, BATGIRL!

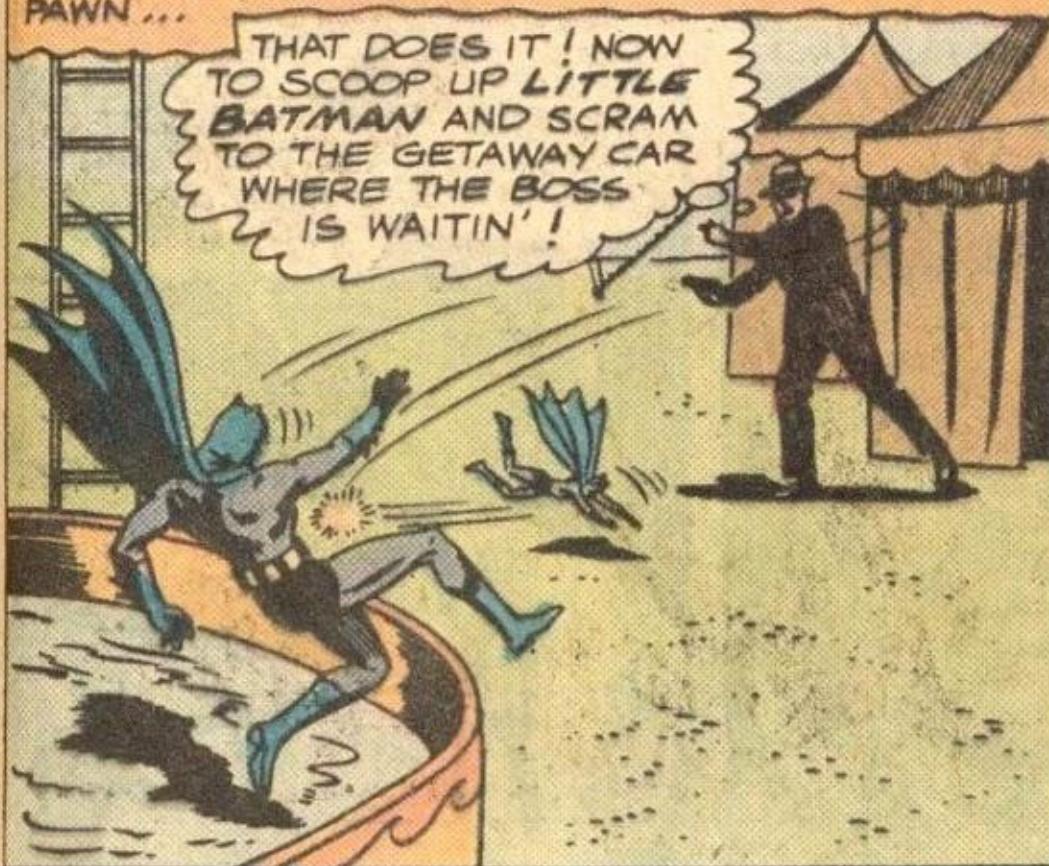
PESERATELY,
THE BANDITS
STAMPEDE
ACROSS THE
CARNEY
GROUNDS,
WITH
BATMAN
IN HOT
PURSUIT...

UNLESS WE STOP
BATMAN RIGHT
NOW-- HE AIN'T GONNA
STOP UNTIL HE THROWS
US INTO JAIL !



AS BATMAN HOTFOOTS IT AFTER HIS QUARRY,
THE WILY BANDIT SUDDENLY MOVES LIKE A
CHESS PLAYER--WITH LITTLE BATMAN AS HIS
PAWN ...

THAT DOES IT! NOW
TO SCOOP UP LITTLE
BATMAN AND SCRAM
TO THE GETAWAY CAR
WHERE THE BOSS
IS WAITIN'!



WHEN THE THUGS MAKE GOOD THEIR
ESCAPE ...

WELL, THEY DIDN'T
GET AWAY WITH
THE MONEY!

GOOD! I DELIBER-
ATELY PUT MYSELF
IN A SPOT WHERE
THEY COULD "STOP"
ME SO THEY COULD
ESCAPE!



WHY SHOULD BATMAN DO THIS? WHAT
COULD HIS REASON POSSIBLY BE?

MEANWHILE, IN THE GETAWAY CAR...

YOU TRICKED
ME INTO
HELPING
YOUR GANG
GET INTO
THE PAY-
WAGON ...

YOU'VE GOT NO
BEEF COMING, LITTLE
BATMAN! WHAT YOU
DID WASN'T CRIMINAL--
IT WAS WHAT THE BOYS
DID AFTERWARD! NOW
PIPE DOWN--YOUR MASTER'S
THINKING! TO MAKE UP
FOR THE MONEY WE LOST,
WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE
OTHER BATMAN FOR
A JOB NOW!

BUT, WHEN GARVEY RETURNS TO BIG BATMAN,
HE IS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE ...

OH, NO!
DON'T TELL
ME YOU
NEED YOUR
ENERGY
RENEWED,
TOO!

YES, MASTER--BUT NOT WITH A
BLUE-WHITE DIAMOND! THE
CONSTELLATIONS HAVE SHIFTED
THESE PAST HOURS--AND NOW
THE RED STAR, BETEL GEUSE,
IS IN POSITION--SO YOU MUST
USE A RED GEM--A RUBY!



ONCE AGAIN, GARVEY RETURNS FROM ANOTHER ROOM, AND...

HOW'S THAT,
BIG BOY? FEEL REVITALIZED?
FEEL THE LIFE-FORCE
COURSING THROUGH
YOUR BODY?

O YES,
MASTER--
YES...

SUDDENLY, GARVEY FLASHERS A SECRET SIGNAL TO HIS HENCHMEN, AND...

CRUNK!

TAKE 'EM!



SO SWIFT, SO SURPRISING
IS THE ATTACK THAT BOTH
BATMEN ARE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD...

HA! JUST LIKE
SWATTIN' A MOSQUITO!



ALL THAT "GEM-ENERGY"-TALK MADE ME SUSPICIOUS, SO I DECIDED TO TEST **BIG BATMAN**! I NOT ONLY TOOK OUT MY REAL RUBY--BUT A COPY, TOO! WHEN I HELD THE FAKE "RUBY" TO HIS FOREHEAD, AND HE WAS "REVITALIZED", I KNEW HE WAS A FAKE, TOO!



MOMENTS LATER, AFTER REPLACING THE REAL RUBY IN ITS SECRET HIDING PLACE, GARVEY RETURNS...

IF ALL THAT
"SHAMAN"
JAZZ WAS
PHONEY,
WHO ARE
THESE
CHARACTERS?

THEY
CAN'T BE
HUMAN! THEY
MUST BE
ROBOTS!
REMOVE
THEIR
BAT-MAN COSTUMES
AND LET'S SEE!



BUT, WHEN THE COSTUMES ARE TORN AWAY...

HUH? LITTLE BATMAN
WAS THE ATOM! AND
"BIG BATMAN" WAS
THE ELONGATED MAN...
STRETCHED TO FIT THE
PADDED BATMAN
COSTUME!



EVERYBODY KNOWS THE ELONGATED MAN IS RALPH DIBNY--BUT WHAT'S THE ATOM'S SECRET IDENTITY? THAT'S ONE QUESTION I'LL SETTLE RIGHT NOW!

WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN, CAN WE, ROBIN?

UH-UH! THIS GANG OUT-NUMBERS US, BUT THEY'LL FOLD FASTER THAN A DIVER WITH THE BENDS!



IF ONLY I COULD CONNECT...

KEEP TRYING -- YOU MAY BE ABLE TO NAIL ME YET--BUT DON'T COUNT ON IT!

I DON'T MIND A LITTLE COMPETITION--BUT THIS IS WORSE THAN TAKIN' ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

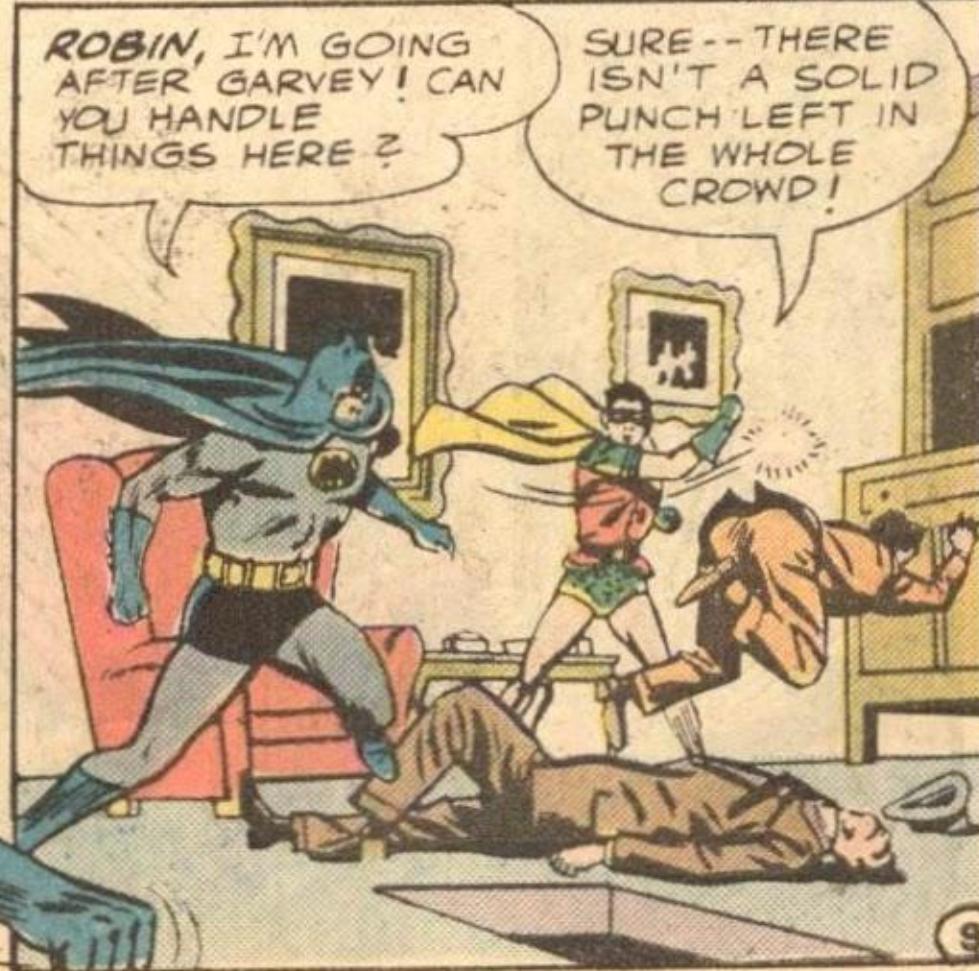


I'M NO HERO! TIME I USED MY PREPARED "ESCAPE HATCH"!

GARVEY--HE'S YANKED A SWITCH TO A SECRET TRAPDOOR--SO HE CAN MAKE HIS GETAWAY...

ROBIN, I'M GOING AFTER GARVEY! CAN YOU HANDLE THINGS HERE?

SURE--THERE ISN'T A SOLID PUNCH LEFT IN THE WHOLE CROWD!

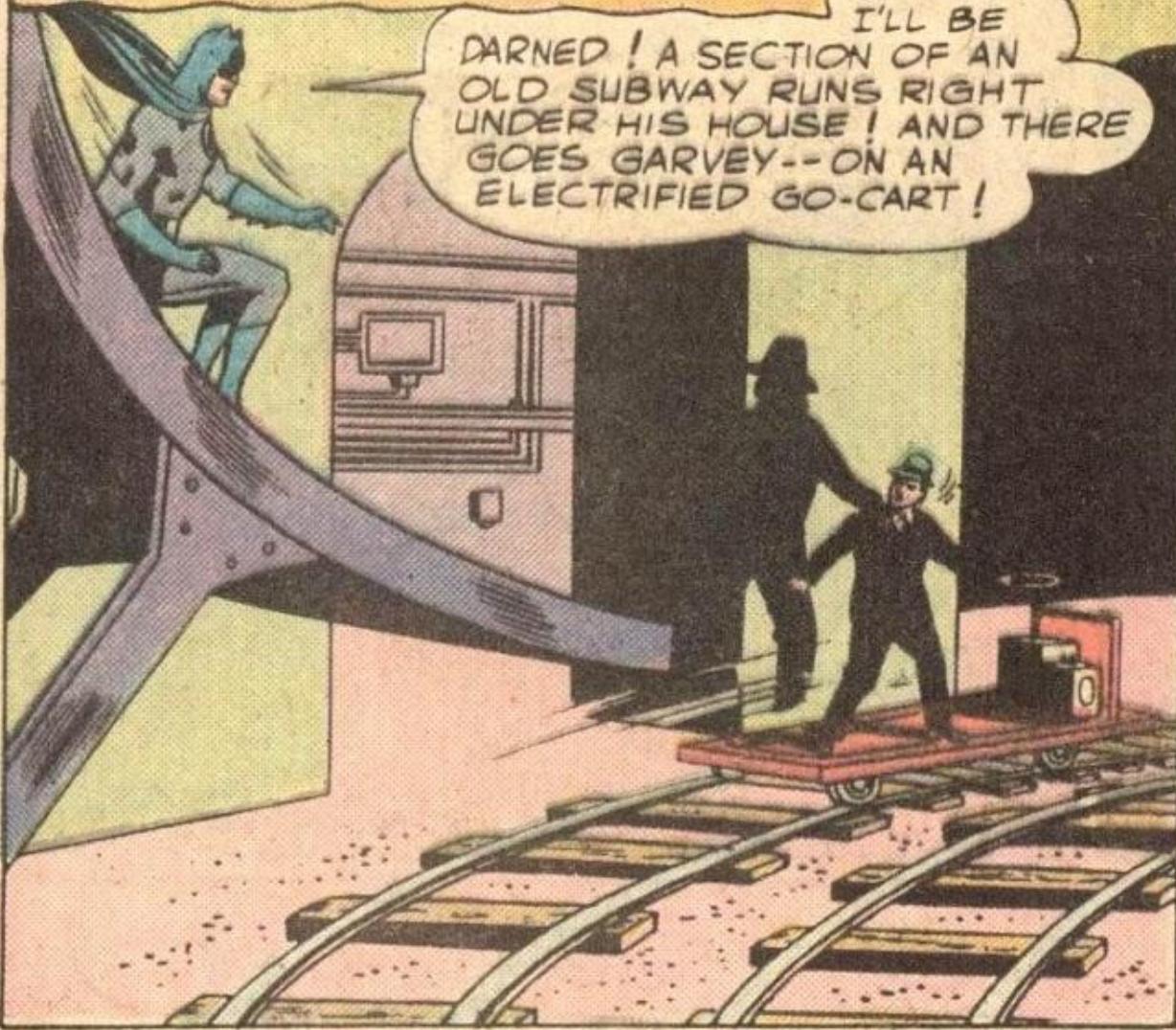


TO BATMAN'S ASTONISHMENT, HE DROPS INTO A SPREADING NETWORK OF TRACKS...

I'LL BE DARNED ! A SECTION OF AN OLD SUBWAY RUNS RIGHT UNDER HIS HOUSE ! AND THERE GOES GARVEY--ON AN ELECTRIFIED GO-CART !

TOO LATE, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER HURLS HIMSELF AT THE SPEEDING VEHICLE...

LAY OFF, BATMAN--THIS IS A PRIVATE CAR ! NO FREE RIDERS TODAY !



EVEN AS THE ELECTRIFIED CAR HUMS AWAY, THE CAPED CRUSADER SNATCHES UP A DISCARDED OLD CROW-BAR, AND DARTS THROUGH THE LABYRINTH !

I'VE GOT ONE ADVANTAGE -- HIS CAR HAS TO STAY ON THE TRACK--BUT I'M ON FOOT ! I CAN CROSS OVER, TAKE A SHORT-CUT, AND INTERCEPT HIM !



AFTERWARD, WITH HIS PRISONER IN TOW...

I GET IT ALL NOW!
YOUR BAT-CAMPAIGN
WAS DESIGNED TO
MAKE ME RETREAT
TO MY HUNTING
LODGE --

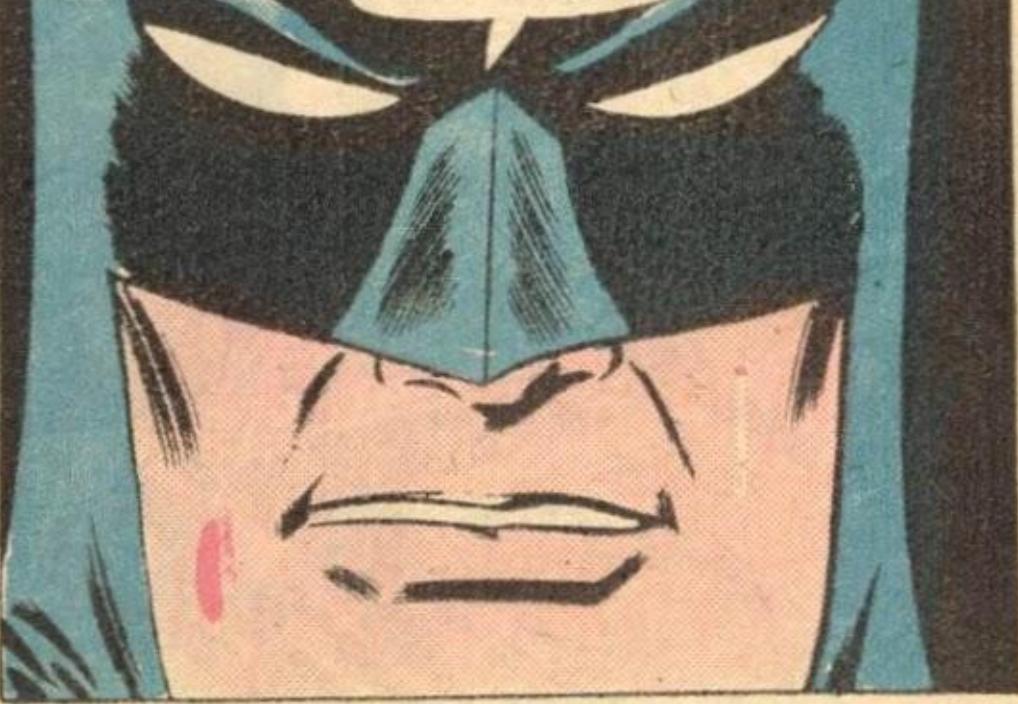
-- WHERE I HAD
EVERYTHING READY
AND WAITING! THE
LANDSLIDE... THE
BATS IN THE
CAVERN...



IT WAS A GOOD ACT--THANKS TO TWO STAR PERFORMERS! ELONGATED MAN WAS GLAD TO ASSIST, SINCE WE WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE! AND I USED MY SIGNAL-DEVICE TO CONTACT MY HELPFUL FELLOW-MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--THE ATOM!



...AND THE CRYSTAL WAS GIMMICKED TO BLIND YOU LONG ENOUGH FOR "BIG BATMAN" AND "LITTLE BATMAN" TO SWITCH PLACES WITH THE CLAY FIGURES!



"AFTER YOU LEFT WITH LITTLE BATMAN, MY MODIFIED GEIGER-COUNTER LED ME STRAIGHT TO YOUR CACHE--A CLOCK! BUT WHEN I LOOKED INSIDE..."

SHUCKS,
ONLY THE
DIAMOND'S
HERE!
MAYBE
GARVEY
HID EACH
GEM IN A
DIFFERENT
SPOT!

COULD BE! TOO
BAD GARVEY
NEVER TALKED
ABOUT THAT, OR
WE'D HAVE HEARD
IT THROUGH THE
MICROPHONES
WE PLANTED IN
HIS HOUSE!
BUT WE DID
OVERHEAR HIS
BANGLE BROTHERS
ROBBERY PLANS--
SO LET'S GET OVER
THERE!

WHEN YOU
DIDN'T
ARREST
GARVEY RIGHT
AWAY, I KNEW
THE DIAMOND
HADN'T LED
YOU TO THE
OTHER GEMS,
SO I THOUGHT
FAST, HOPING
A RUBY
MIGHT
DO THE
TRICK!

AN IDEA THAT
FIZZLED! AND
NOW YOU WON'T
EVEN RECOVER
THE REAL
RUBY--BECAUSE
IT WAS THE
FAKE ONE
THAT TOUCHED
THE RADIO-
ACTIVE POWDER!

BUT BATMAN'S UNIQUE
GEIGER-COUNTER SOON
BELIES GARVEY'S BELIEF...

YOU FORGOT
THAT YOU LATER
HELD THEM
BOTH IN THE
SAME HAND--
SO POWDER
FROM THE
FAKE RUBBED
OFF ON THE
REAL RUBY--
AND HERE IT
IS--INSIDE
THIS TELE-
PHONE!

BUT YOU STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE
REST OF THE
COLLECTION
IS, BATMAN!
HA! HA!
YOU STILL
HAVEN'T
OUT-
SMARTED
ED
"NUMBERS"
GARVEY!

CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!



FOR A MOMENT, BATMAN STARES THOUGHTFULLY-- AS HIS KEEN EYES SEARCH THE ROOM! THEN HE MAKES HIS MOVE ...

IF I'M RIGHT, THERE SHOULD BE ANOTHER GEM HIDDEN INSIDE THIS TYPEWRITER-- SURE ENOUGH, HERE IT IS!

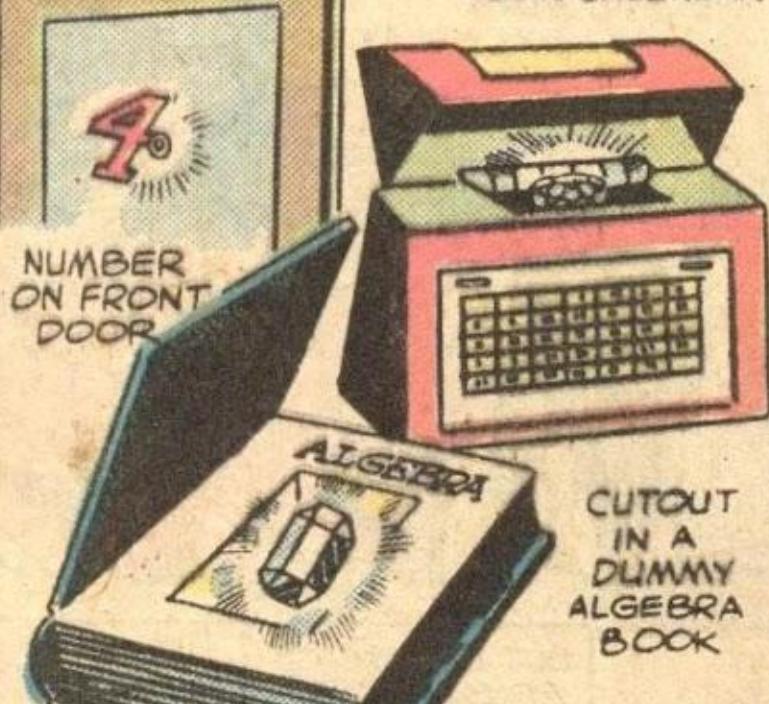
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU KNOW?

THE CLOCK--THE TELEPHONE--HAVE NUMBERS--SO I TRIED THE TYPE-WRITER, WHICH HAS NUMBERS ON SOME KEYS! MY HUNCH PAID OFF-- THE KEY TO GARVEY'S CACHES IS HIS NICK-NAME-- "NUMBERS"!



CONTINUING HIS SEARCH, BATMAN SOON RECOVERS EACH GEM OF THE COLLECTION FROM ITS NUMBERED HIDING PLACE...

HOLLOW IN DESK CALENDAR



AND AFTERWARD, GARVEY AT LAST REALIZES HIS NUMBER HAS FINALLY COME UP!

FROM NOW

ON, YOU'RE GOING TO BE CACHED AWAY, TOO--IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIKE YOU ALWAYS WEAR NUMBERS--PRISON NUMBERS!



CASEY THE COP

I WANT TO PUT IN A COMPLAINT. HIS DOG BIT ME!

YESSIR, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT. FIRST, WE'LL HAVE TO SWEAR OUT A SUMMONS!



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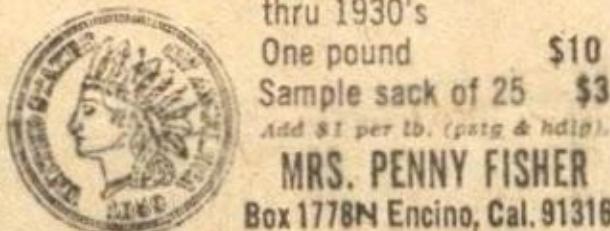
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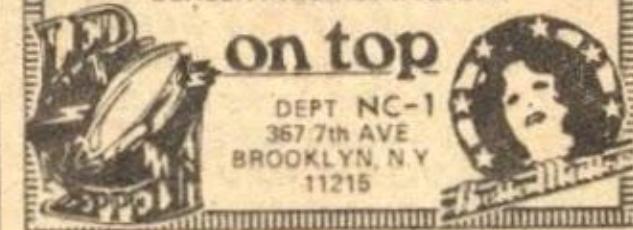
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WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR ONE MORE STORY, ROBIN! IT'S ABOUT THE TIME I UNMASKED PUBLICLY...

...AND LET EVERYONE SEE YOU WERE BRUCE WAYNE! YET YOU DID IT WITHOUT REVEALING YOUR SECRET IDENTITY!

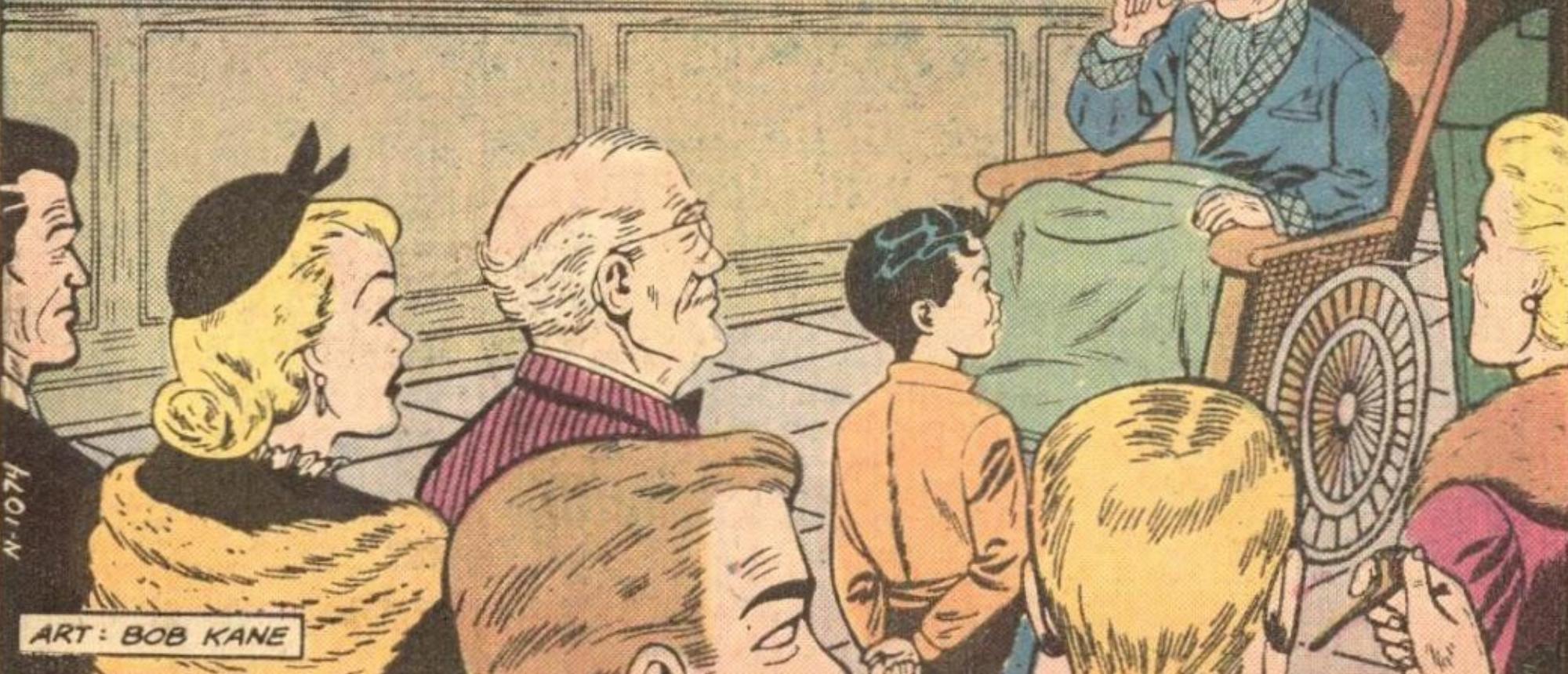
<WHAT'S THIS? BATMAN'S REAL IDENTITY REVEALED TO OTHERS? HOW WAS THE WORLD'S MOST CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET FINALLY EXPOSED? DOES THIS MEAN AN END TO THE CAREER OF THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER? THESE WERE THE QUESTIONS THAT AROSE WHEN BATMAN HAD TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM OF...

BATMAN

With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

WE OF THE WAYNE FAMILY ARE GATHERED HERE IN OUR ANCESTRAL GALLERY, TO ADD WITH PRIDE A NEW PORTRAIT--THE PORTRAIT OF THE GREATEST OF ALL THE WAYNES--**BRUCE WAYNE!**



ART: BOB KANE

THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

IN THE **BAT-CAVE** ONE MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON ARE INTERRUPTED BY THEIR BUTLER, ALFRED, THE ONLY LIVING MAN TO KNOW THEY ARE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**...

SIR, YOUR GREAT-UNCLE SILAS PHONED! HE WISHES YOU TO COME THIS AFTERNOON!

HMM' PROBABLY WANTS TO GIVE ME ANOTHER LECTURE ON THE WAYNE TRADITION!

AND LATER, JUST AS BRUCE ANTICIPATED...

AS YOU KNOW, MY BOY, ALL THE WAYNES WERE BRAVE ADVENTURERS-- MEN WHO BROUGHT PRIDE AND HONOR TO THE FAMILY...



GENERAL ANTHONY WAYNE, WHO FOUGHT IN THE REVOLUTION -- CALEB WAYNE, WHO LED A WAGON TRAIN THROUGH INDIAN TERRITORY-- CAP'N ISHMAEL WAYNE, THE GREAT WHALER-- AND COLONEL THOMAS WAYNE, YOUR FATHER, WHEN HE WAS AN ARMY DOCTOR ...



UNCLE SILAS,
WHY THE
EMPTY
FRAME?

THAT IS WAITING FOR **YOUR** PORTRAIT
TO JOIN THE OTHERS-- BUT IT WILL
NEVER HAPPEN! (SIGH) I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A RICK IDLER!

BRUCE, I'M AN OLD MAN--
BUT IF I KNEW YOU WERE
CARRYING ON OUR GREAT FAMILY
TRADITION, I'D DIE HAPPY!

UNCLE SILAS,
I--I...



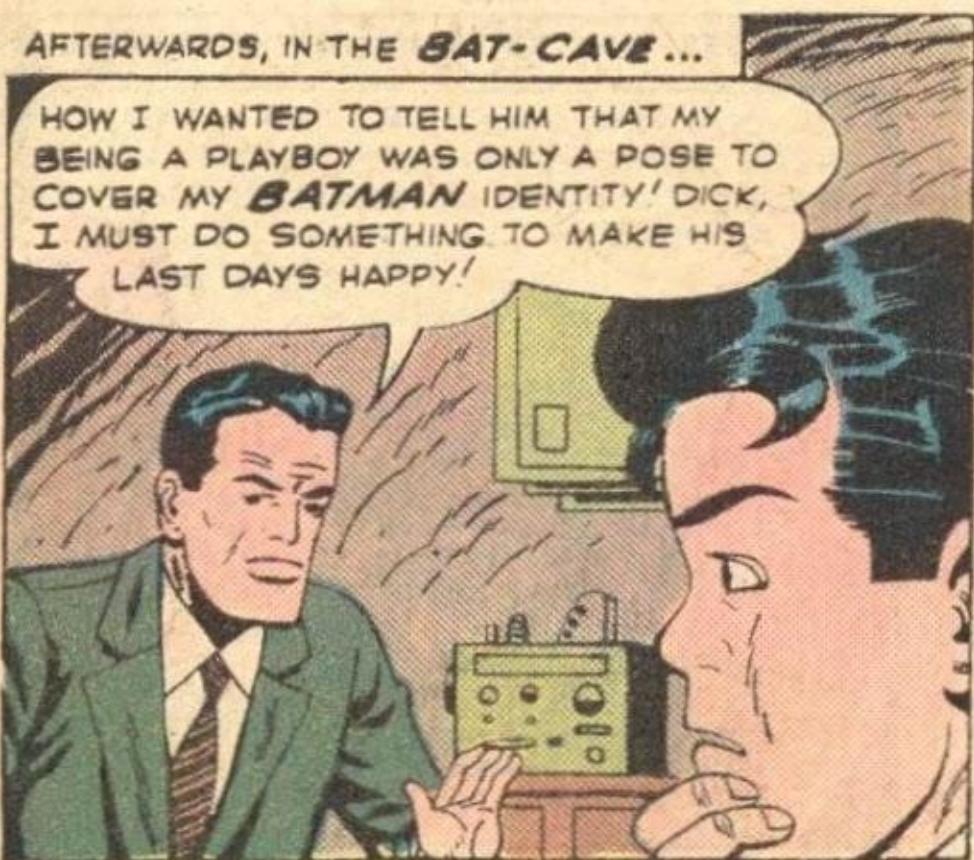


BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



AFTERWARDS, IN THE **BAT-CAVE**...

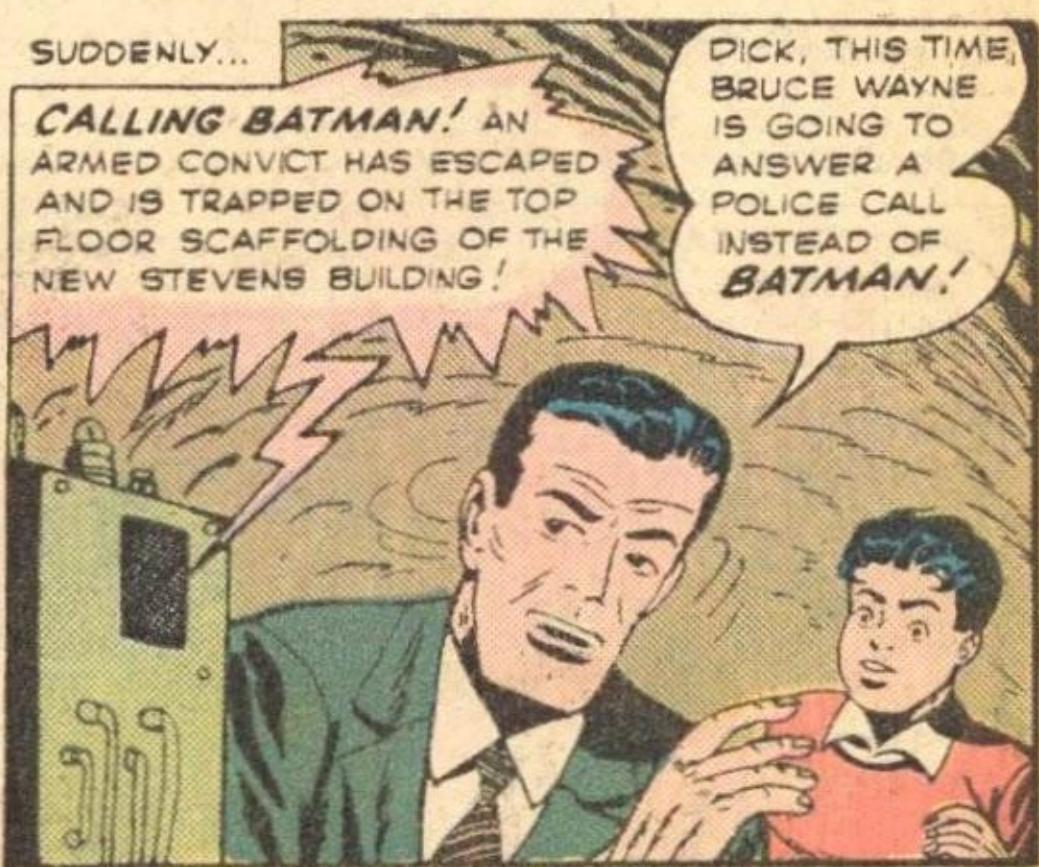
HOW I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT MY BEING A PLAYBOY WAS ONLY A POSE TO COVER MY **BATMAN** IDENTITY! DICK, I MUST DO SOMETHING TO MAKE HIS LAST DAYS HAPPY!



SUDDENLY...

CALLING BATMAN! AN ARMED CONVICT HAS ESCAPED AND IS TRAPPED ON THE TOP FLOOR SCAFFOLDING OF THE NEW STEVENS BUILDING!

DICK, THIS TIME, BRUCE WAYNE IS GOING TO ANSWER A POLICE CALL INSTEAD OF **BATMAN**!



AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE...

OFFICER, I'M A REPORTER! ISN'T THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN REACH THE CONVICT?

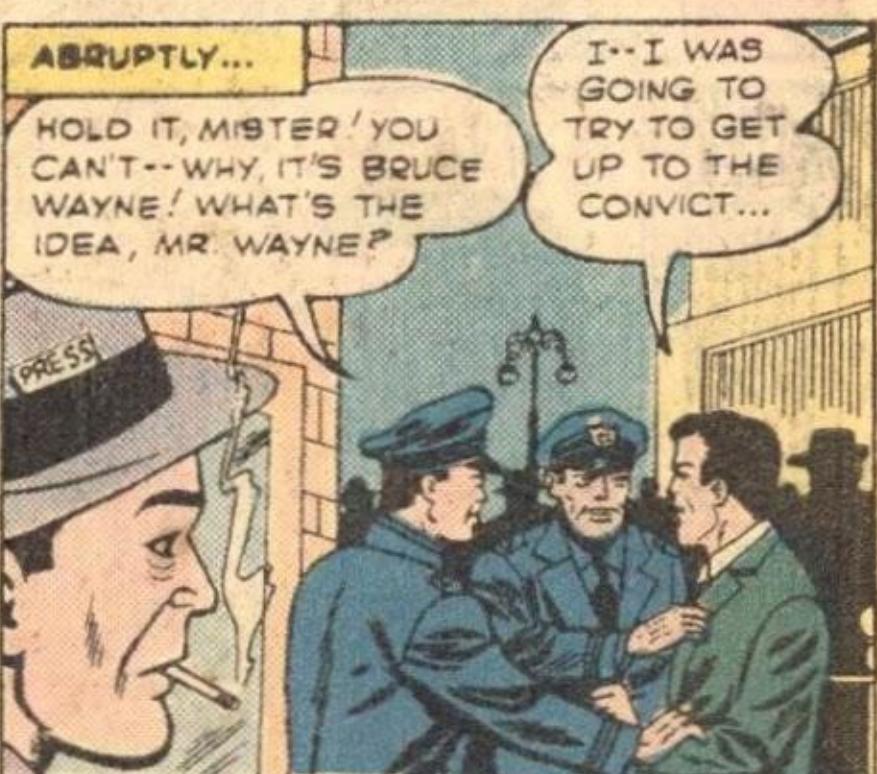
NO' HE JAMMED THE ELEVATOR! THAT'S WHY WE NEED **BATMAN**! MAYBE HE CAN SWING ACROSS FROM THE TV MAST OF THE STATE BUILDING!



ABRUPTLY...

HOLD IT, MISTER! YOU CAN'T--WHY, IT'S BRUCE WAYNE! WHAT'S THE IDEA, MR. WAYNE?

I--I WAS GOING TO TRY TO GET UP TO THE CONVICT...



AFTER SECRETLY SWITCHING TO HIS **BATMAN** COSTUME, THE CRIME-FIGHTER RIDES TO THE ADJACENT ROOF...

LOOK--IT'S **BATMAN**!

HE'S CLIMBING UP THE TV MAST!

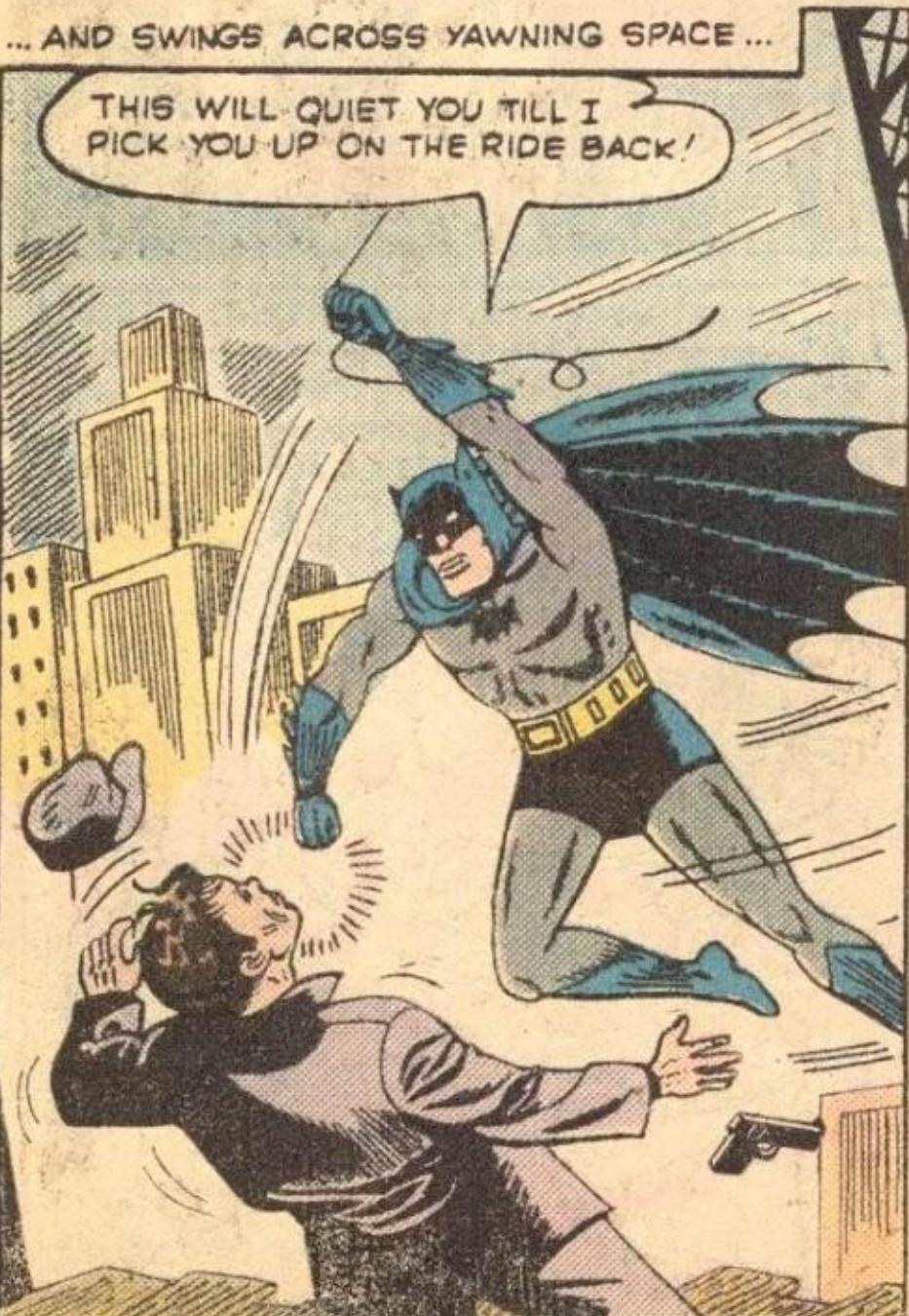
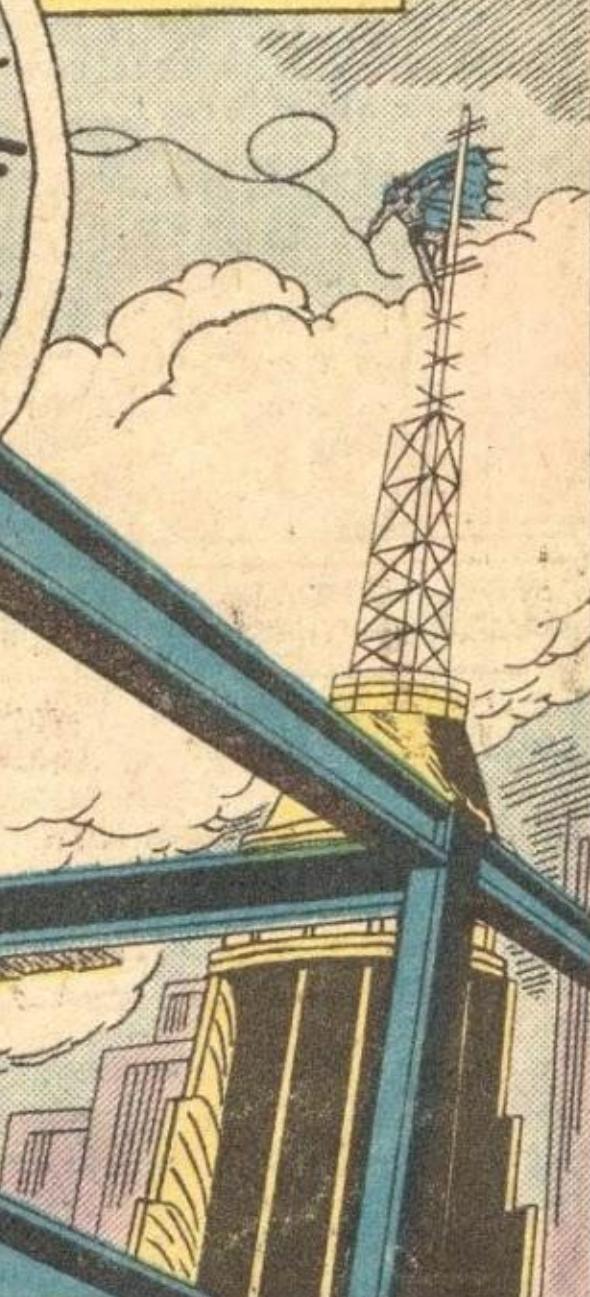
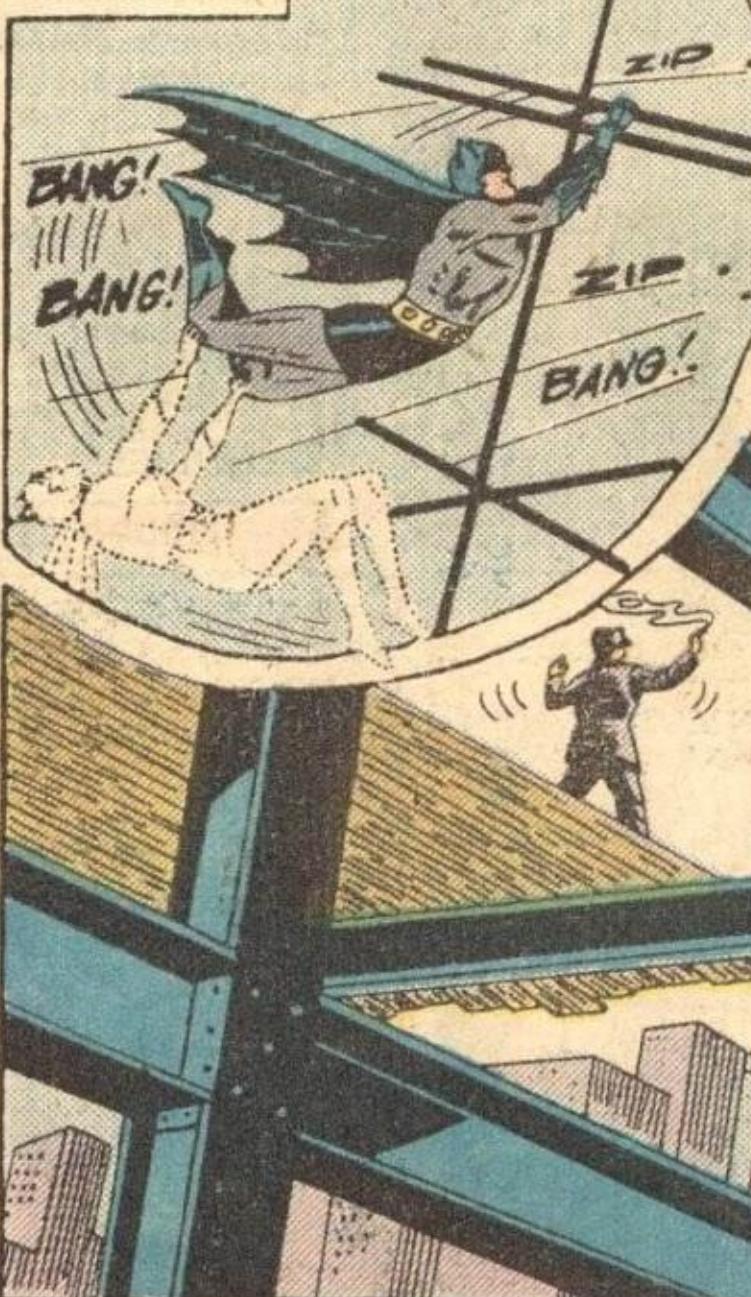
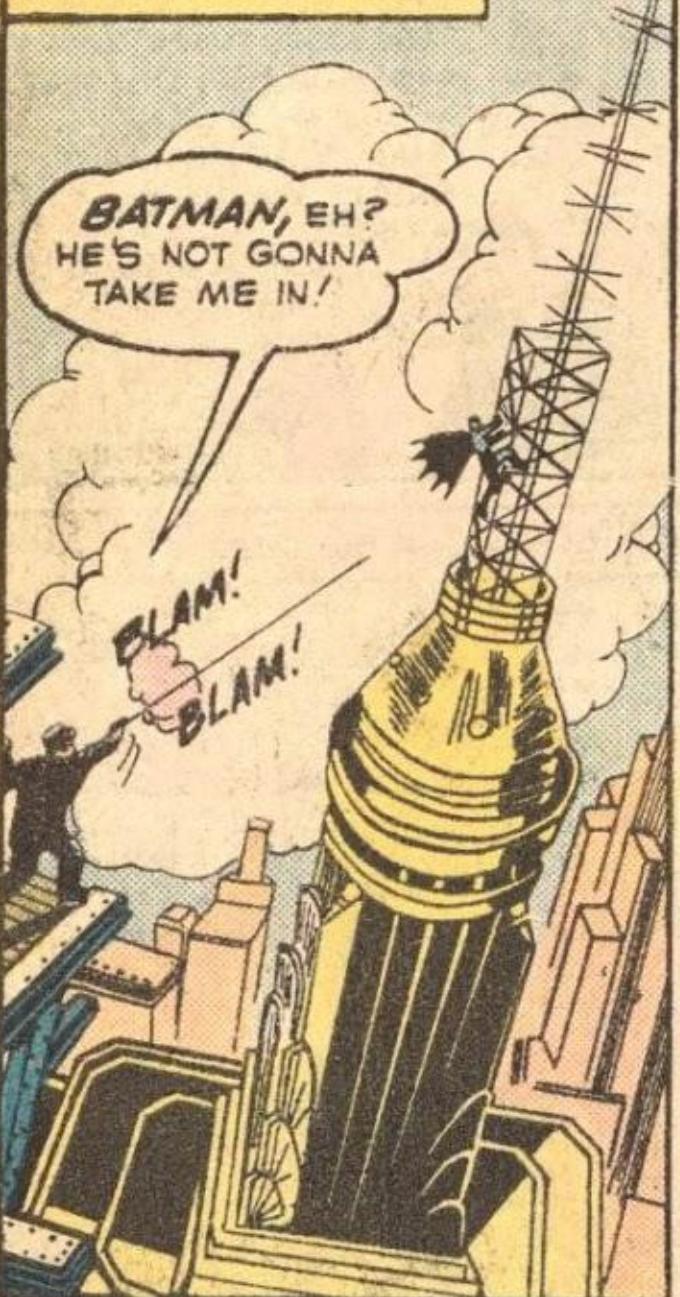


THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

FROM HIS PRECARIOUS PERCH, THE FEAR-MADDENED CONVICT SIGHTS THE CAPE FIGURE ...

BUT THE ACROBATMAN INSTANTLY FLIPS HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY UPWARD ...

REACHING THE TOP OF THE TV MAST, BATMAN HURLS HIS SILKEN LASSO...



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

NEXT DAY, OLD SILAS READS THE STORY OF BRUCE'S VAIN ATTEMPT TO BE A HERO...

WELL, AT LEAST HE TRIED, I'LL SAY THAT FOR HIM! MAYBE HE'LL LIVE UP TO THE WAYNE NAME YET...



MEANWHILE, AS BRUCE IMPATIENTLY AWAITS ANOTHER SUMMONS...

CALLING BATMAN!

AN EXPERIMENTAL ROBOT IS ON THE LOOSE AND PANICKING THE CITY!

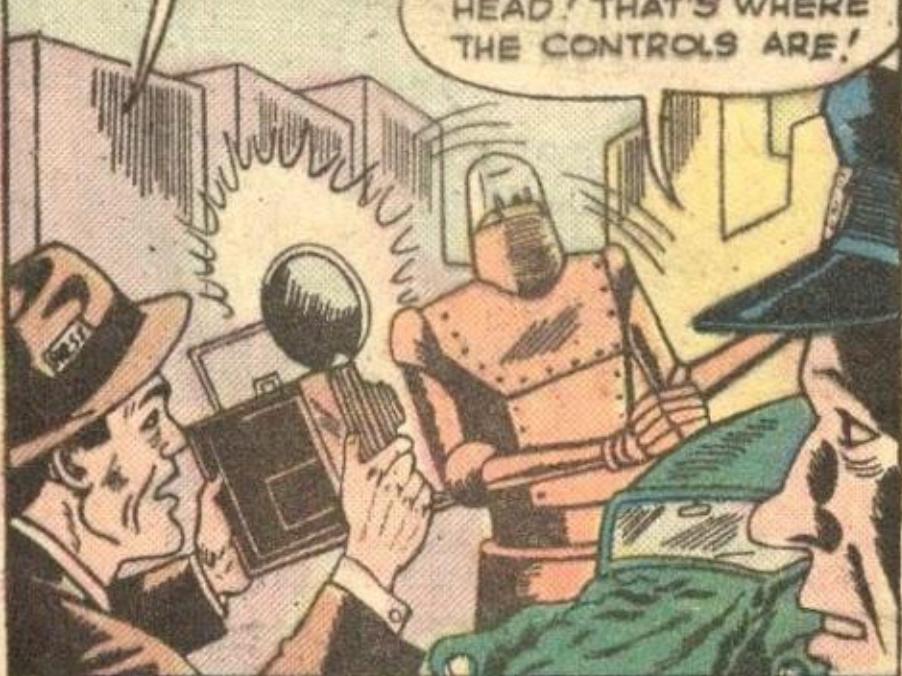
IT MUST BE THE ROBOT PROFESSOR SHECKLEY WAS WORKING ON! DICK, THIS IS MY SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE BRUCE WAYNE A HERO!



LATER, AS THE MENACING MECHANISM RAMPAGES THROUGH THE CITY...

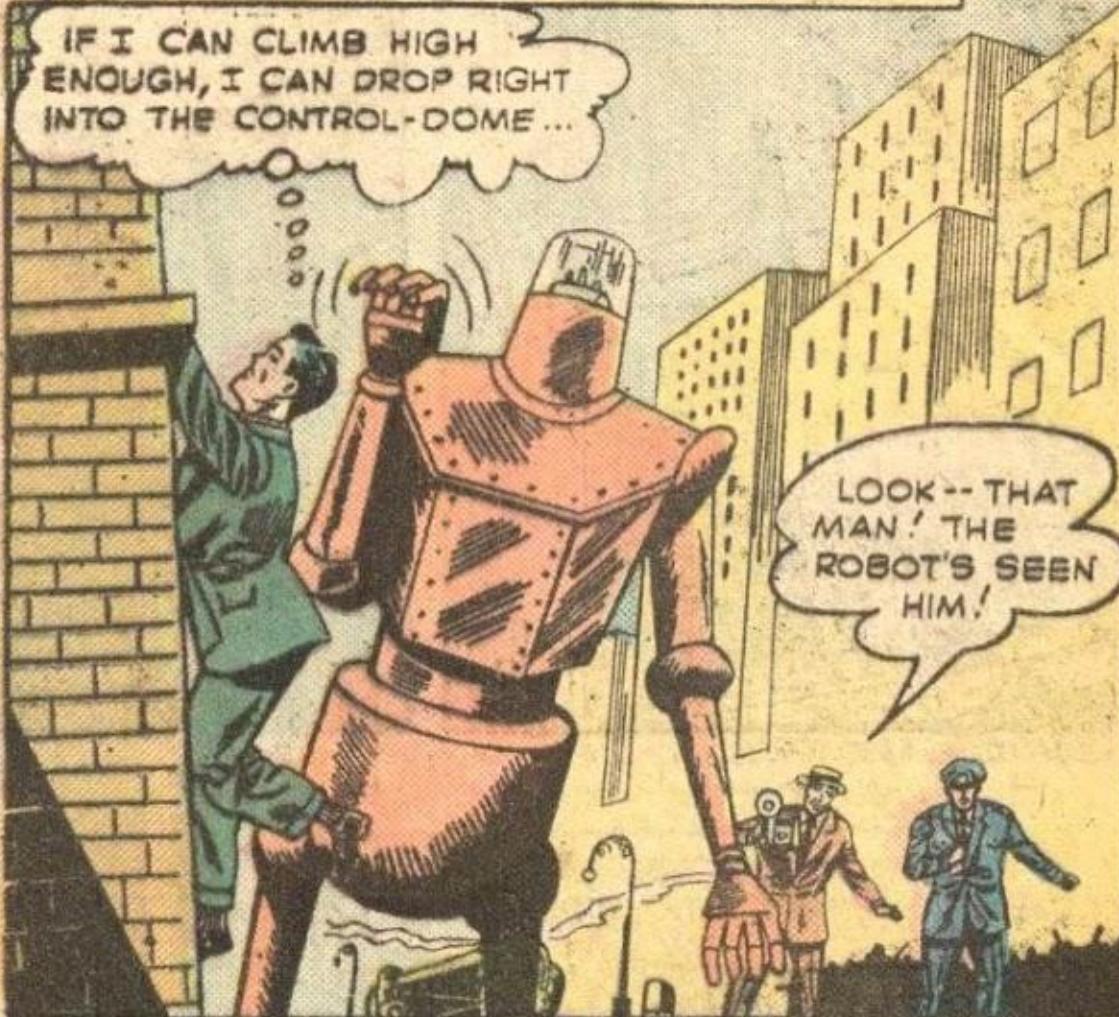
A LOOSE CONNECTION MUST'VE CAUSED IT TO RUN AMUCK LIKE THAT!

WHEN BATMAN SHOWS UP, WE'RE HOPING HE CAN DROP INTO THE PLASTIC DOME ON THE ROBOT'S HEAD! THAT'S WHERE THE CONTROLS ARE!



AS A FIGURE STARTS SCALING A BUILDING...

IF I CAN CLIMB HIGH ENOUGH, I CAN DROP RIGHT INTO THE CONTROL-DOME...



AN IRON HAND REACHES OUT-- AND CLOSES LIKE A VISE!



EVEN AS THE HAND HURLS HIM DOWNWARD, BRUCE TWISTS HIS BODY, AND...



THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

AFTER THE ROBOT LUMBERS BY...

YOU AGAIN, MR.
WAYNE? LET ME
HELP YOU DOWN!
YOU'RE LUCKY
THAT ROBOT
TOSSED YOU INTO
THIS AWNING!

GO HOME, MR.
WAYNE! THIS
IS A JOB
ONLY
BATMAN
CAN DO!

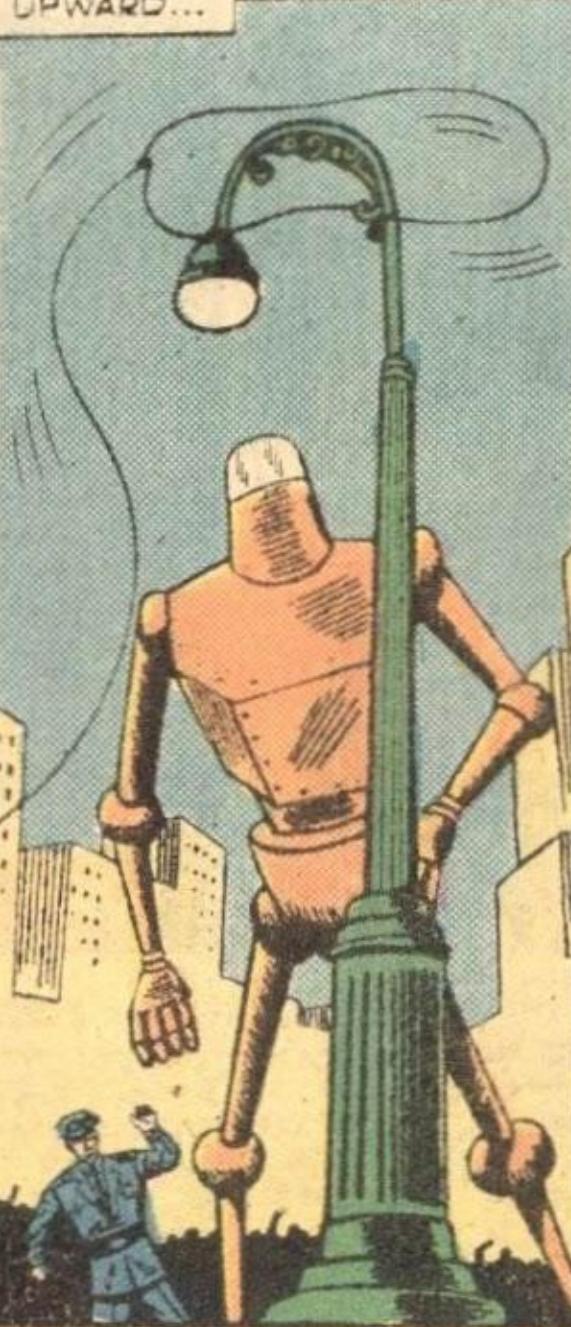
HMM, I
GUESS PEOPLE
MIGHT SUSPECT
I'M **BATMAN**
IF I DID THIS
TRICKY JOB!



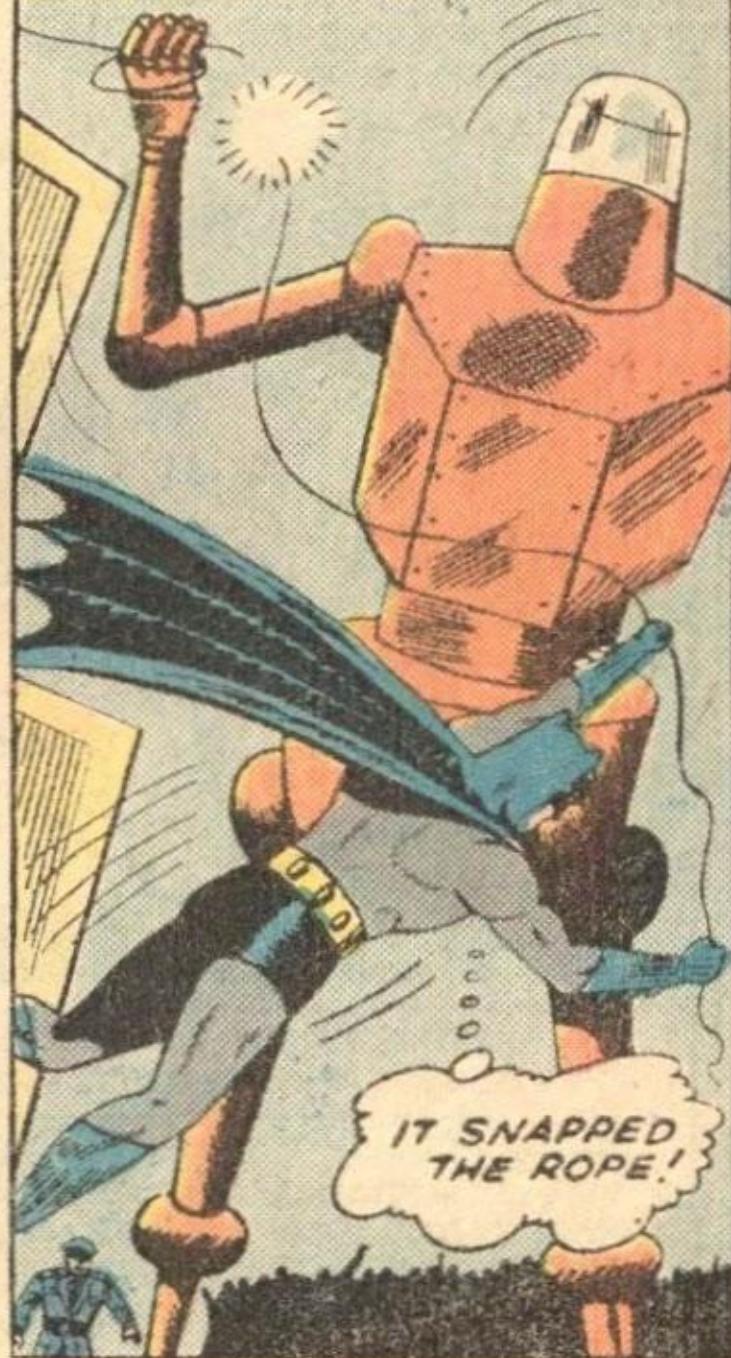
IT'LL BE EASY
TO SWING UP
ATOP ITS
HEAD!



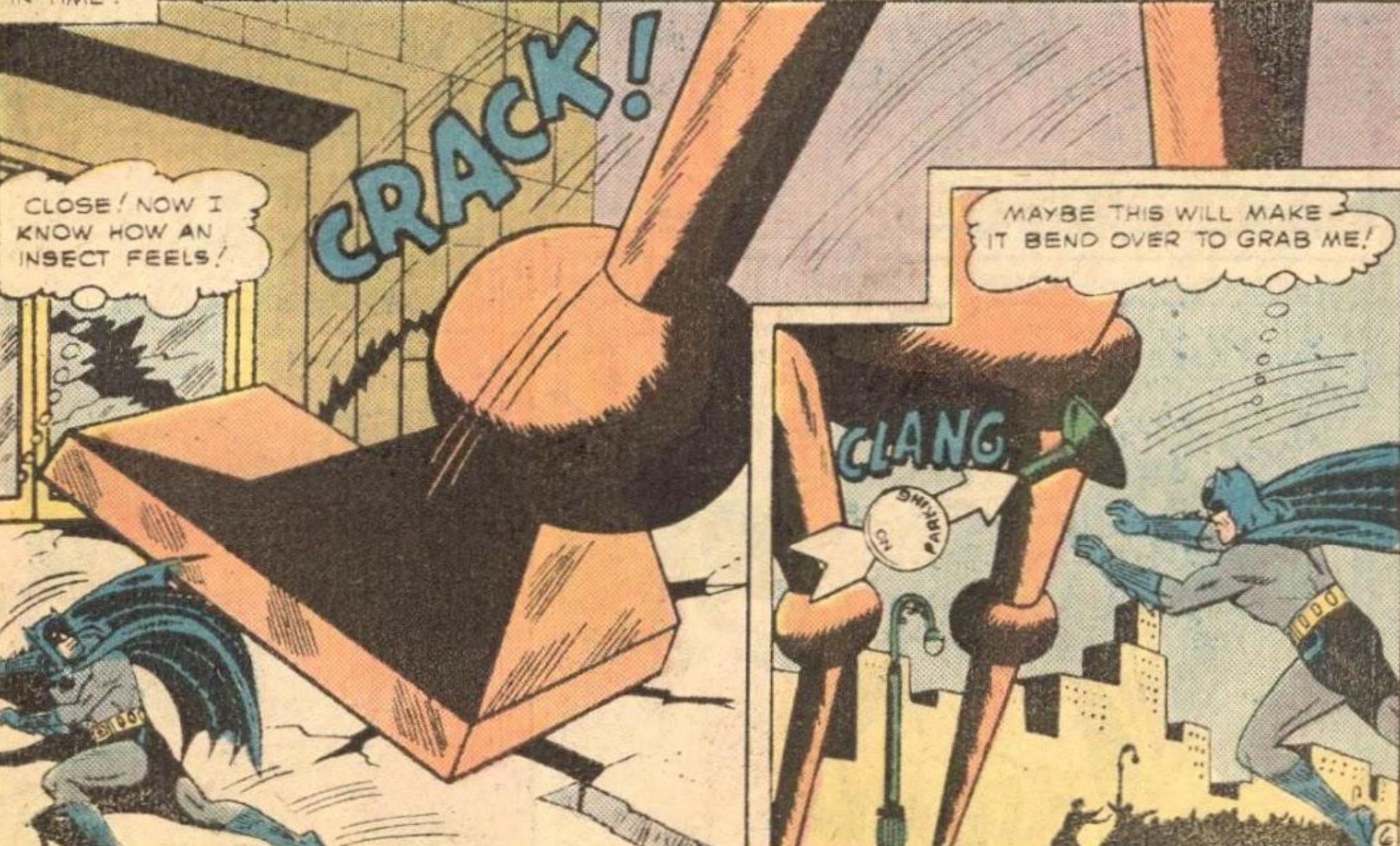
AGAIN, SECRETLY SWITCHING TO HIS ACTION GARB, **BATMAN** WHIPS HIS SILKEN ROPE UPWARD...



BUT THE ROBOT'S METAL HAND REACHES OUT, AND...



AS THE ROBOT RUMBLES ON, A HUGE FOOT SMASHES DOWN--BUT THE AGILE **BATMAN** ROLLS ASIDE IN TIME!



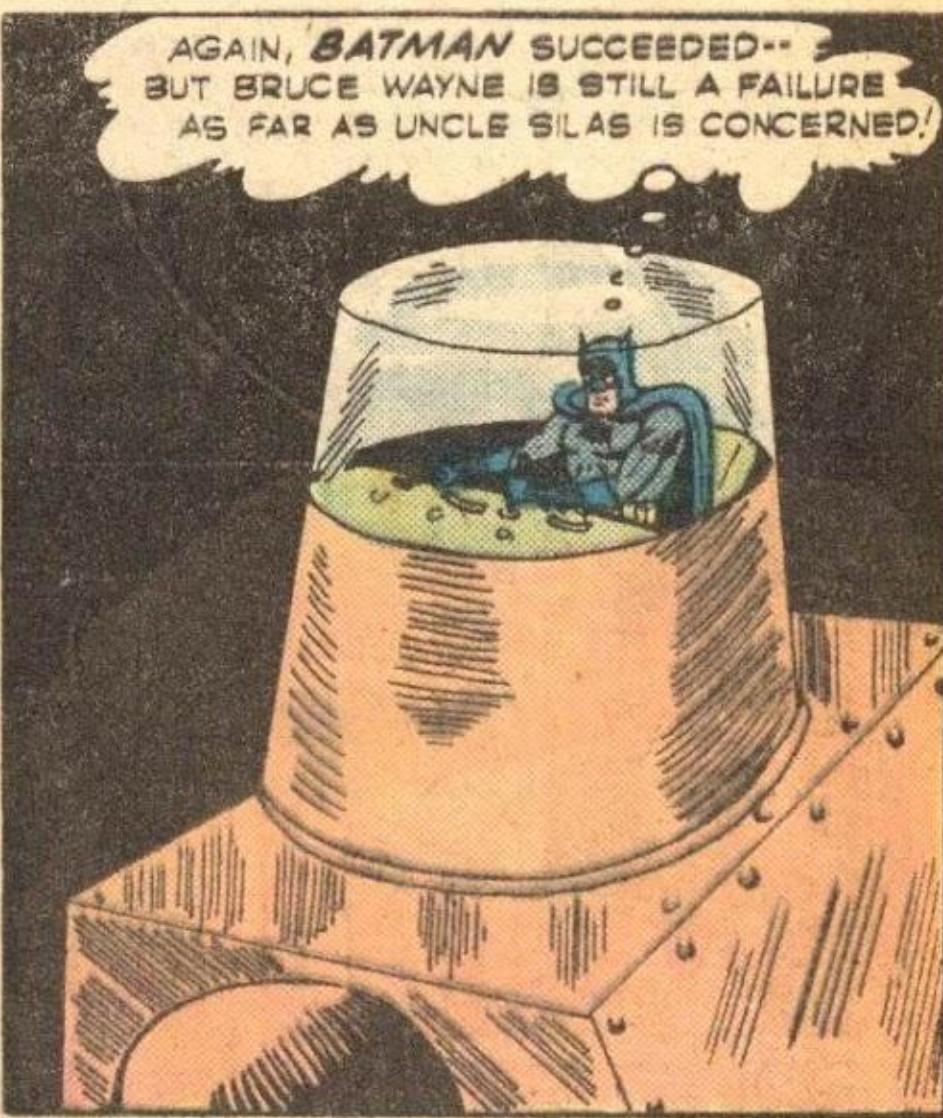
BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AS IT STOOPS TO SEIZE ITS PUNY PREY...

NOW TO GET AT ITS
CONTROLS AND SWITCH
OFF THE POWER!



AGAIN, BATMAN SUCCEEDED--
BUT BRUCE WAYNE IS STILL A FAILURE
AS FAR AS UNCLE SILAS IS CONCERNED!



THAT NIGHT, THE ELDEST WAYNE READS OF HIS
NEPHEW'S SECOND FUTILE ATTEMPT TO BE A
HERO...

HE'S STILL TRYING! THAT BOY HAS
WAYNE BLOOD IN HIM! MAYBE I'LL SEE
HIS PORTRAIT IN THIS FRAME YET...



BUT, LATER, A DOCTOR IS HASTILY SUMMONED...

HE'S HAD A RELAPSE! YOU'D BETTER
NOTIFY THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY! HE HASN'T
MUCH TIME LEFT!



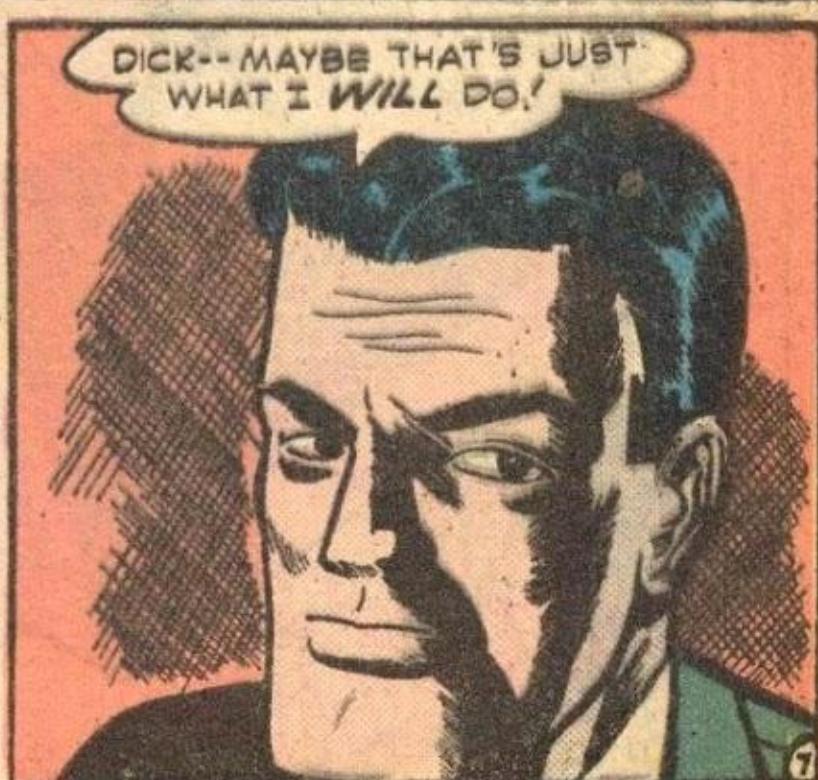
AND WHEN THE NEWS REACHES THE PAIR...

I JUST CAN'T LET HIM DIE
THINKING I LET HIM DOWN!
I JUST CAN'T!

BUT WHAT CAN YOU
DO, BRUCE? YOU
CERTAINLY CAN'T TELL
HIM YOU'RE REALLY
BATMAN!



DICK--MAYBE THAT'S JUST
WHAT I WILL DO!



THE FAILURE OF BRUCE WAYNE

SOON AFTER ...

WHEN ALFRED INTERRUPTED US,
WE WERE ABOUT TO EXAMINE THE
GLOVE ONE OF THE "BABYFACE"
MULLER GANG DROPPED WHEN
THEY HELD UP THE GOTHAM
BANK ...

ANY
CLUE
ON
IT?

YES-- WOOD FIBRES
AND GLUE! THAT
DUST INSIDE THE
GLOVE CAME FROM
A CARPENTER'S
SHOP!

ARNIE BRIGGS USED TO
BE IN MULLER'S GANG!
MAYBE HE'S REJOINED
THE GANG--AND THEY'RE
USING HIS CARPENTRY
SHOP AS A HIDEOUT!



LATER, IN THE HIDEOUT, THE GANG SUDDENLY HEARS A SCUFFLE OUTSIDE ...

"BABYFACE"--LOOK!
BATMAN--SLUGGING
OUR LOOKOUT!

QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO
GRAB **BATMAN**
BEFORE HE GETS
AWAY TO TIP OUR
HIDEOUT TO THE
LAW!



AS THE THUGS PURSUE THE CAPE FIGURE...

THERE HE GOES!
AFTER HIM!



SUDDENLY...

BATMAN! HOW DID
HE GET AROUND US SO
FAST?

HUNCHING HIS BODY, **BATMAN** HURLES INTO THE
MASSED GANGSTERS LIKE A CANNONBALL ...



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME!

GOOD WORK, ROBIN! HANDCUFF THEM AND TAKE THEM TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN THE BATMOBILE! I'LL MEET YOU THERE LATER-- AFTER I RECOVER THE BANK MONEY FROM THEIR HIDEOUT!



LATER, WHEN BATMAN ARRIVES...

HOLD IT! I WANT A SHOT OF YOU FOR MY PAPER!

SURE--BUT FIRST LET ME...



SUDDENLY, ANOTHER CAPE FIGURE ENTERS...

ANOTHER BATMAN!?

TWO OF 'EM! NO WONDER HE GOT BEHIND US SO FAST! WHILE WE WERE CHASING THE FIRST BATMAN, THE SECOND BATMAN WAS WAITING TO JUMP US! IT WAS ALL PLANNED!



EXACTLY! THE HIDEOUT WAS TOO WELL PROTECTED, SO I ASKED MY GOOD FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE, TO DOUBLE FOR ME AND LURE THE GANG OUT INTO THE OPEN WHERE I COULD JUMP THEM!

WOW! YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED, WAYNE! THAT TOOK COURAGE!



LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, THE SECOND BATMAN REMOVES MAKEUP AND A PADDED UNIFORM TO REVEAL HIMSELF AS ALFRED, THE BUTLER...

ALFRED, THE GANG NEVER SUSPECTED IT WAS YOU WHO LURED THEM OUT-- AND THEN ARRIVED AT HEADQUARTERS AFTER I DID!

QUITE SO, SIR! AND THE REPORTERS NEVER KNEW THEY SAW THE FACE OF THE REAL BATMAN AT HEADQUARTERS!

AND SO ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE WAYNE FAMILY GATHERS BEFORE A NEW PORTRAIT IN THE ANCESTRAL GALLERY...

BRUCE WAYNE -- IN THE COSTUME HE WORE WHEN HE COURAGEOUSLY DOUBLED FOR THE REAL BATMAN!



BUT WHEN THE REST OF THE FAMILY LEAVES, AND BRUCE WHEELS HIS UNCLE BACK TO BED...

BRUCE, MY BOY, YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE-- JUST SO I COULD PUT THAT PORTRAIT OF YOU IN YOUR ACTION UNIFORM ALONGSIDE THOSE OF THE OTHER UNIFORMED WAYNES...

I KNEW THAT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY...

YES, BUT I'M EVEN HAPPIER THAT YOU TOLD ME YOUR SECRET IDENTITY BEFORE THE FAMILY ARRIVED! YOUR SECRET WILL DIE WITH ME, AND I'LL DIE PROUDLY KNOWING A WAYNE IS ACTUALLY THE GREATEST HERO OF OUR TIME -- BATMAN!



COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *Detective Comics*



THE BATMAN
THE MURDERER

THE MASKED MANHUNTER A WANTED KILLER? THAT'S THE WAY IT IS IN THE NEW SHOCK-SERIES COMING IN THIS MAGAZINE! YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A SINGLE GRIPPING ISSUE!



TALIA
THE VICTIM

No. 444 DEC.-JAN.

ALSO...

YOU DEMANDED NEW TALES OF THE ELONGATED MAN! SO HERE HE COMES IN HIS LATEST PUZZLER-- "The MAGICAL MYSTERY MIRROR!"

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PLUS OTHER STORIES OF MYSTERY & SUSPENSE, STARTING--

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Manhunters Around the World

EXTRA: A GANGBUSTERS THRILLER!

ROY RAYMOND,
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ROBIN

ON SALE
THE LAST WEEK
IN SEPTEMBER

DO YOU NEED EXTRA MONEY?

CHRISTMAS
REMEMBRANCE
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18 selections
featuring striking
borders and silver
glitter. 7 delicate,
misty-toned designs.



WINTER MAGIC CHRISTMAS ASST.

18 nostalgic creations
with an artistic dusting
of snowy glitter.
6 festive designs!



It costs you nothing to try

**\$100.00
IS YOURS**



for selling only 100 boxes of our new Winter Magic Assortment. You make \$1.00 for selling 1 box, \$10.00 for 10 boxes, etc. These are exclusive card assortments—not sold in any store! You can make even more money showing our full-color catalog of marvelous gift and household items. A few dollars or hundreds of dollars—it's yours. Just call on neighbors, friends, and relatives in your spare time.

Cut out entire Postage-Paid Reply Coupon Below—mail it today

—and we will send you immediately, leading Greeting Card Box Assortments on approval—plus FREE album of personalized Christmas Cards. No experience necessary.

Last year some folks made only \$25 to \$50 while others made \$150-\$250-\$500 and more selling our entire line. Many church groups, organizations, schools, lodges, etc. do this year after year. Everybody buys greeting cards.



BIG VALUE! NOEL CHARMERS CHRISTMAS ASST.

18 warm greetings
with Old World charm.
5 distinct scenes.

DELIGHTFUL ENSEMBLE ALL-OCCASION ASST.

32-piece selection
plus color-coordinated
envelopes. Large and small
cards, and personal notes.



IT COSTS
YOU
NOTHING
TO TRY

FREE
FULL-COLOR
CATALOG
OF 400 CARD
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PLUS
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5535A

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DIVISION OF BEVIS INDUSTRIES, INC.

White Plains, N.Y. 10606

CHEERFUL HOUSE, DEPT. F-13
White Plains, New York 10606

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE. SEAL (PASTE OR TAPE) AND MAIL
THIS ENTIRE FOLD-OVER COUPON FORMS A NO-POSTAGE-REQUIRED BUSINESS REPLY CARD

DIVISION OF
BEVIS
INDUSTRIES, INC.
NEW YORK, U.S.A.

I want to make extra money. Please rush me immediately, your Christmas Greeting Card box assortments on approval for 30-day free trial, plus FREE Full-Color Catalog of money-making Gifts and Cards—everything I need to start making money the day my sales kit arrives. Sales kit may be returned without cost or obligation.

Check Here

I would also like to continue to receive additional FREE money-making catalogs, literature, special offers PLUS Seasonal Samples on approval. I understand samples may be returned without cost or obligation.

Fill in your name and address below—No stamp necessary

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Please Print

APT.
NO.

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Age _____
If writing for an organization, give its name here.

DO NOT CUT HERE JUST FOLD OVER, SEAL AND MAIL—NO STAMP NECESSARY

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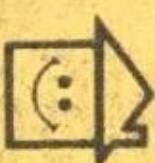
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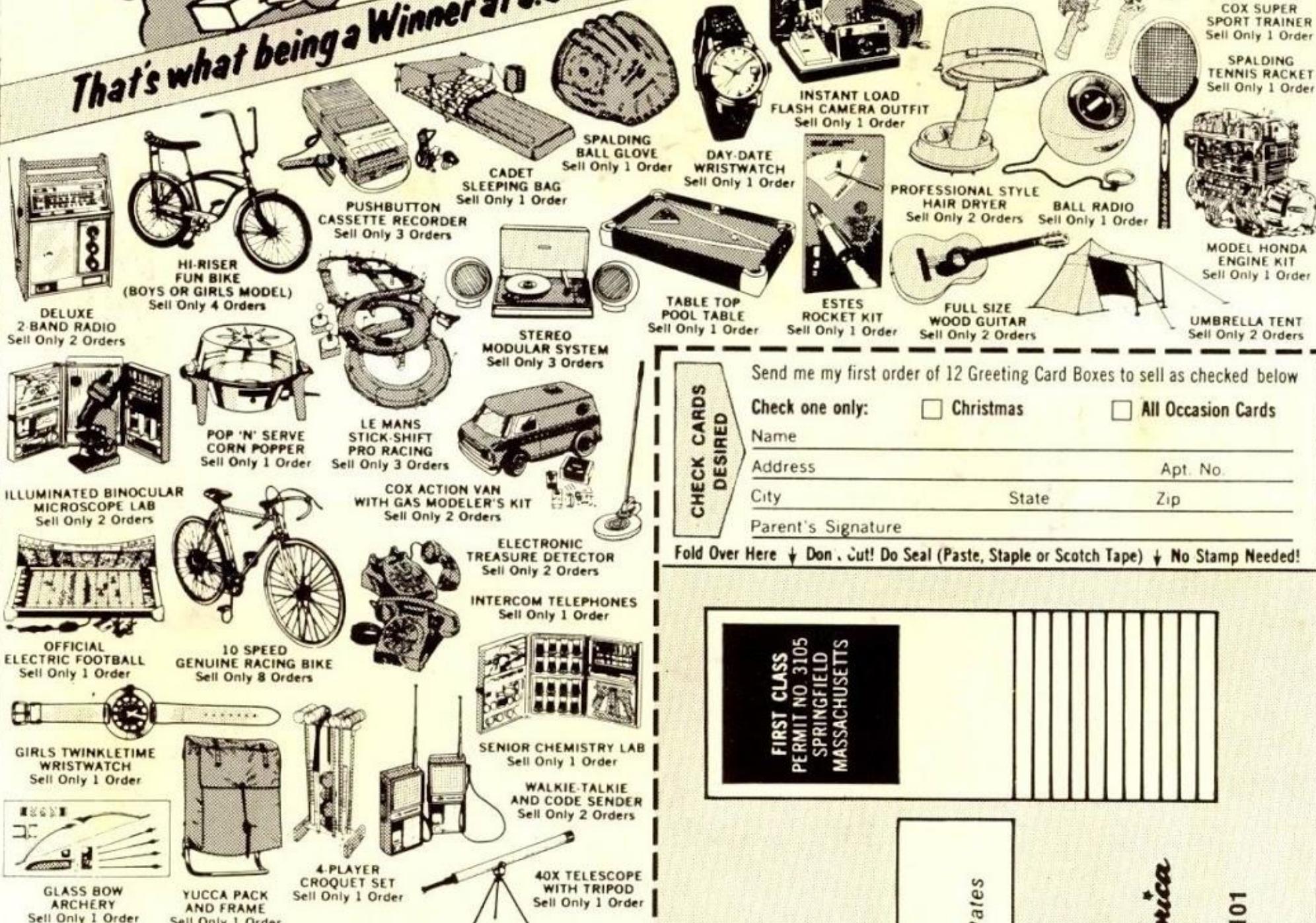
WIN

PRIIZES

OR GET**Cash****MAKE
FRIENDS****BE HAPPY!**

JUST A FEW SHOWN HERE

That's what being a Winner at J.S.C.A. is all about! IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!

CHECK CARDS
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Send me my first order of 12 Greeting Card Boxes to sell as checked below

Check one only: Christmas All Occasion Cards

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Apt. No. _____

State _____

Zip _____

Parent's Signature _____

Fold Over Here ↓ Don't Cut! Do Seal (Paste, Staple or Scotch Tape) ↓ No Stamp Needed!

FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 3105
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Winning great prizes is fun the easy J.S.C.A. way.

Enroll now as a member of the Junior Sales Club of America. We'll send you a Free Prize Catalog, Membership Card, full selling information plus your first order of 12 boxes of elegant All Occasion Greeting Cards or sensational new Christmas Cards. As each order is sold, you may reorder additional cards until you've met your prize requirement. Cards are sent on credit. **YOU PAY NOTHING IN ADVANCE.**

Each box of 21 fine quality greeting cards costs just \$2.00. That's less than 10¢ a card. Think of all the people you know — relatives, friends, neighbors — who'll want to buy these handsome cards by the box. Many J.S.C.A. members have earned a prize in only a few hours. **IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE AS YOUR PRIZE 70¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL.**

Just fill out and mail the coupon-reply card to receive your first order of greeting cards. You may take up to 30 days to sell them. If after that time you have any boxes unsold, promptly return them prepaid by parcel post, keeping 70¢ for each box you've sold.

Get the prizes you want the fast, easy J.S.C.A. way. Act now!

MAIL YOUR POSTAGE-PAID REPLY CARD NOW!

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FILL IN COUPON-REPLY CARD • CUT & MAIL TODAY • NO STAMP NEEDED

Business Reply Mail
No postage necessary if mailed in United States

Postage will be paid by

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No Limit to the Number of Prizes (or Cash) you can Earn.

WIN ONE OF 250

BIG WHEEL PRIZES

ENTER MONOGRAM'S BIG WHEEL/BIG DEAL CONTEST

THIRD PRIZE
10-speed bike.



SECOND PRIZE

1975 Harley-Davidson X-90 mini-bikes with four-speed transmission and 90cc oil injected engine.



FIRST PRIZE

Targlia MKV full size ready-to-run "replicar" with rear-mounted VW engine, by Jerred Company, 7515 W. 59th St., Summit, Ill. 60501.



FIRST PRIZE:

A replica of the famous classic car of the '20's... A "Bugatti" style, full-size sports car. An actual street ready car complete with a VW engine. Completely assembled and delivered to you anywhere in the U.S.

6 SECOND PRIZES

1975 Harley-Davidson X-90 mini-bikes.

8 THIRD PRIZES:

10-speed racing bicycles.

10 FOURTH PRIZES:

\$50 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

25 FIFTH PRIZES:

\$35 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

25 SIXTH PRIZES:

\$25 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

175 SEVENTH PRIZES:

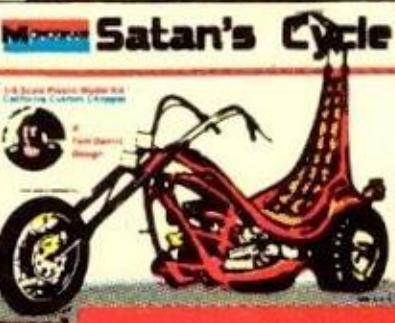
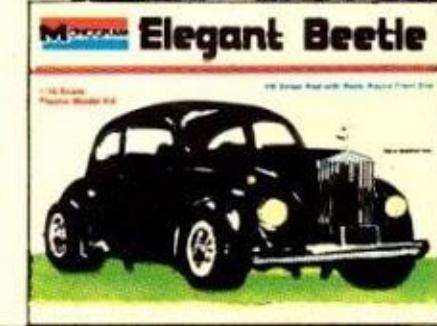
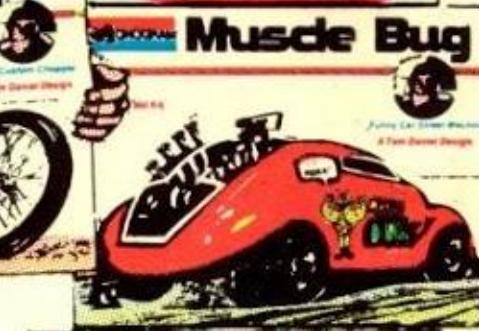
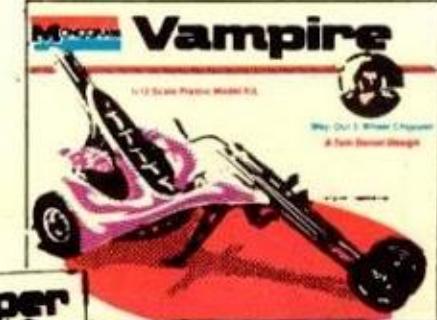
\$10 selection of Monogram kits from our new catalog.

AN ENTRY BLANK FOR THIS SUPER CONTEST IS CONTAINED IN EVERY ONE OF MONOGRAM'S BIG-SCALE KITS (Elegant Beetle, Muscle Bug, Satan's Cycle, Grim Reaper and Vampire).

SEND THE ENTRY BLANK AND END PANEL OF THE KIT YOU SELECTED, AND A BRIEF LETTER (50 words or less) on "WHY I CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR MONOGRAM BIG-SCALE KIT."

So rush down to your dealer and buy one of Monogram's Big-Scale Kits for \$3.99 or less (a special "Big Deal" price for this contest) and enter Monogram's "Big Wheel/Big Deal" Contest. But hurry...

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