SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

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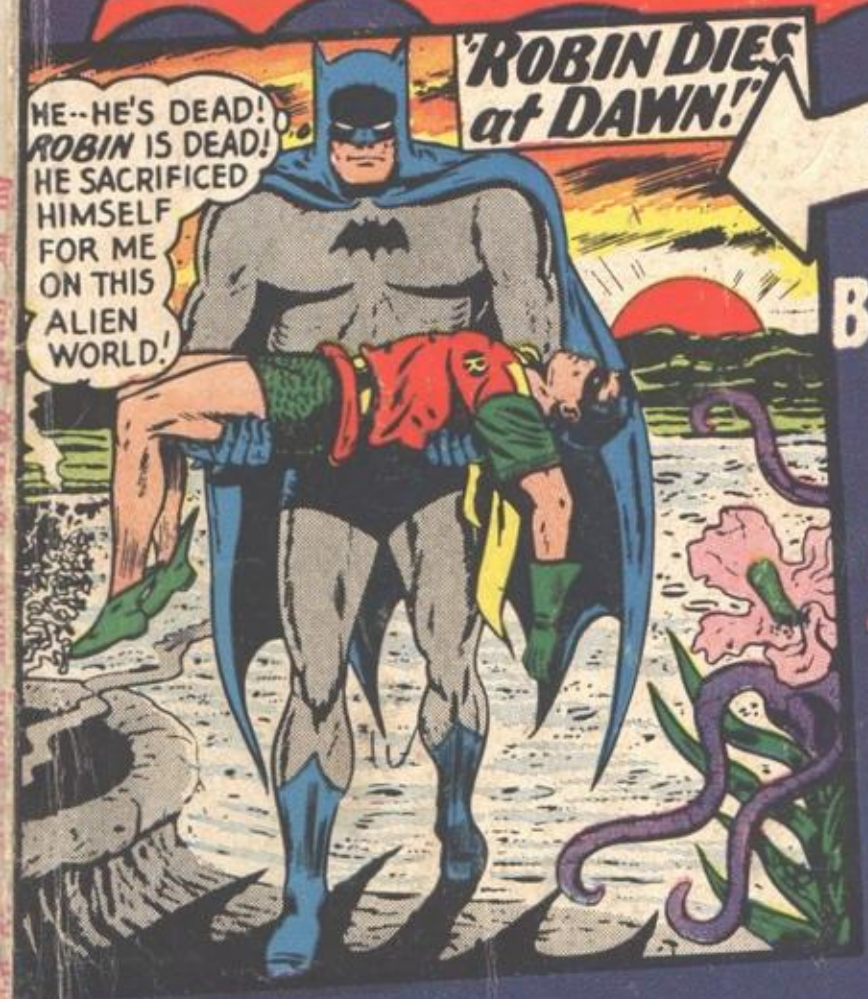
BATMAN SPECIAL

A PRIZE COLLECTION STARRING ROBIN the BOY WONDER



THIS COMPLETE BOOKLENGTH NOVEL plus 5

SUSPENSE-FILLED PERSONAL ADVENTURES!

including "ROBIN'S NEW BOSS!" and "ROBIN FALLS in LOVE!"

GIANT BATMAN

A Prize Collection starring ROBIN, the Boy Wonder

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★ ★ ★

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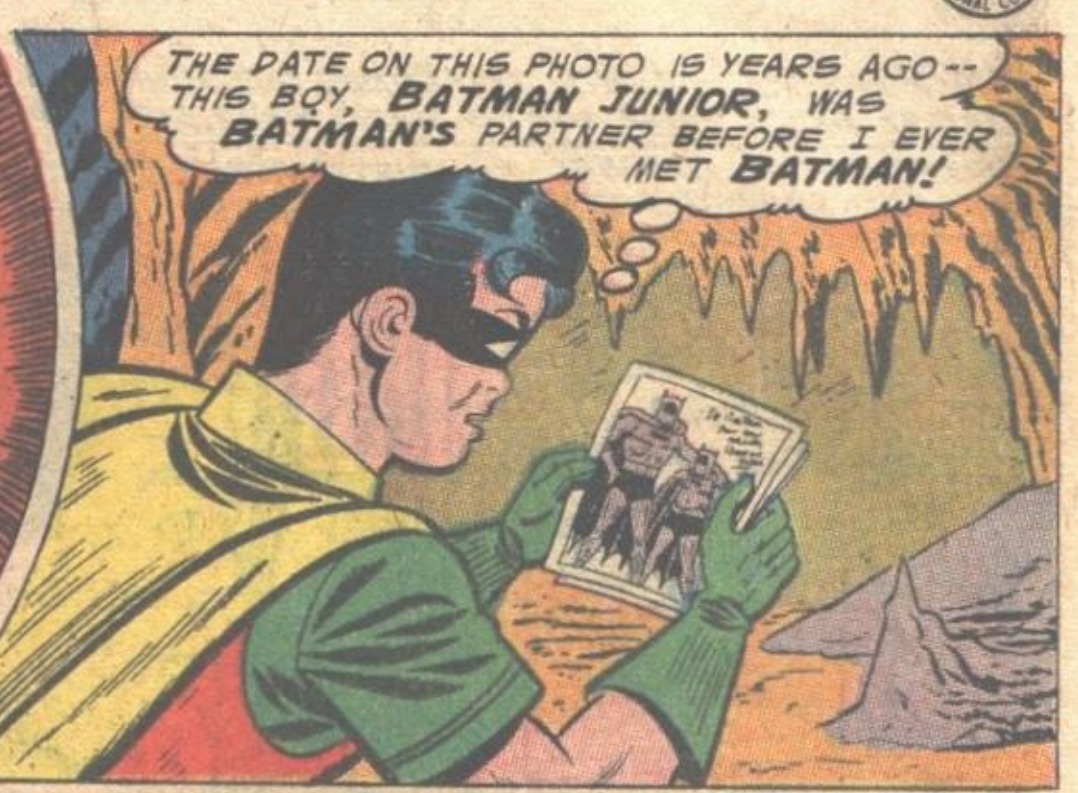
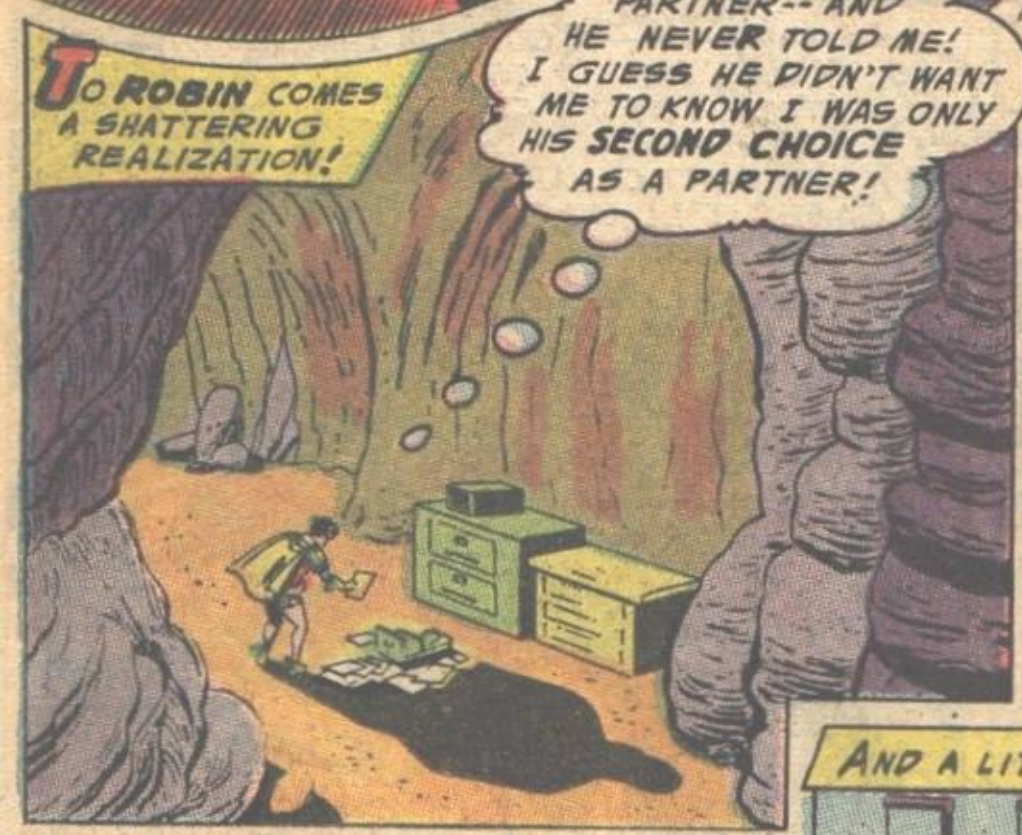
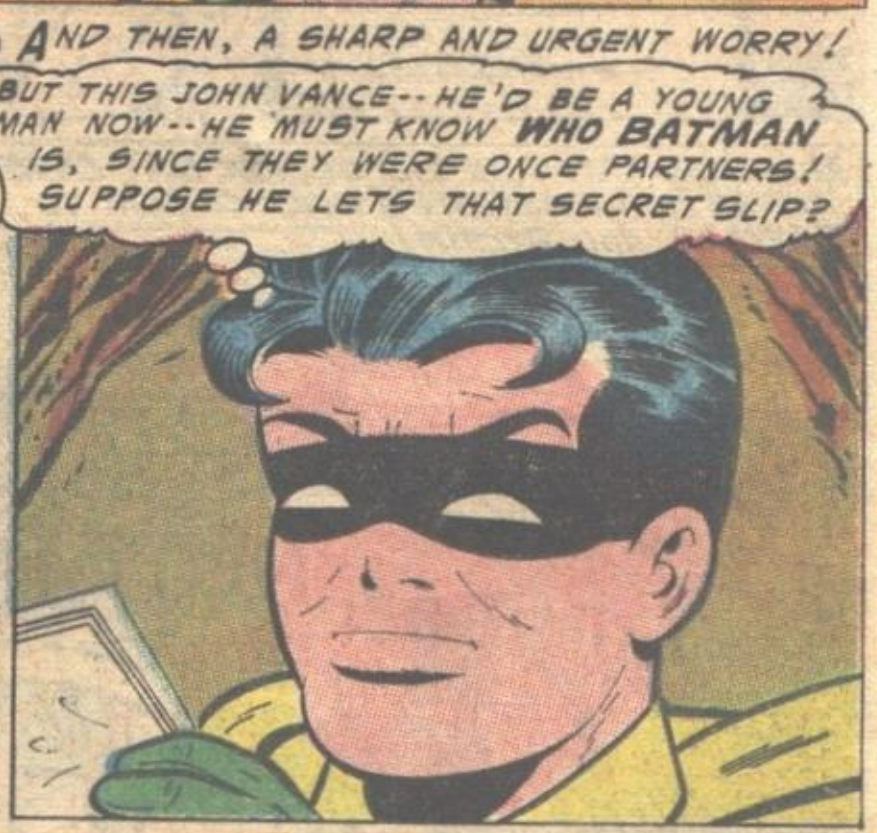
BATMAN
ROBIN
ALL THE WORLD KNOWS THE DYNAMIC DUO WHO FLASH INTO ACTION TO CHAMPION THE LAW--BATMAN AND ROBIN! BUT WHAT THE WORLD HAS NOT KNOWN IS THAT IN PAST YEARS THAT TEAM WAS COMPOSED OF DIFFERENT PARTNERS, THAT BATMAN HAD SOMEONE OTHER THAN ROBIN FOR A YOUNG ALLY! AND NOW A MYSTERY OF THE PAST BECOMES A MENACE IN THE PRESENT, WHEN THERE FINALLY COMES TO LIGHT THE SECRET STORY OF--
BATMAN, JUNIOR
LOOK OUT! IT'S BATMAN AND BATMAN, JUNIOR!
BOB KANE

IT'S A FATEFUL BULLETIN THAT COMES ONE NIGHT TO WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON!
BIRREL BINTER, ROBBERY LEADER SERVING A LONG TERM, ESCAPED PRISON TONIGHT!
WANTED
BINTER FREE! THAT MEANS DANGER!
BINTER? I DON'T REMEMBER THAT NAME!
NO, DICK--I SENT HIM TO PRISON BEFORE I EVER MET YOU! NOW THAT HE'S OUT I'VE GOT TO ACT SWIFTLY!
THEN, IN TENSE HASTE...
BUT, BATMAN, YOU'VE RARELY KEPT ME OUT OF THINGS -- OH, ALL RIGHT--
NO, ROBIN, I'D RATHER YOU STAYED OUT OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE! I'LL BE BACK SOON!
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE UNDER THE MANSION, A QUICK CHANGE TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!
FIRST, I'VE GOT TO CHECK SOMETHING--
WHY, THAT'S BATMAN'S PERSONAL FILE HE ALWAYS KEEPS LOCKED-- I'D NEVER SEEN IT OPENED BEFORE!
AND AFTER BATMAN'S HURRIED DEPARTURE...
HE LEFT HIS FILE-DRAWER OPEN, IN HIS RUSH! BETTER SHUT IT--OH, OH, IT FELL!
AND AS ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER STOOPS TO PICK UP THE CONTENTS...
WHY, THIS PHOTOGRAPH--AND ITS INSCRIPTION--IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!

To Batman from his partner, Batman Junior
John Vance

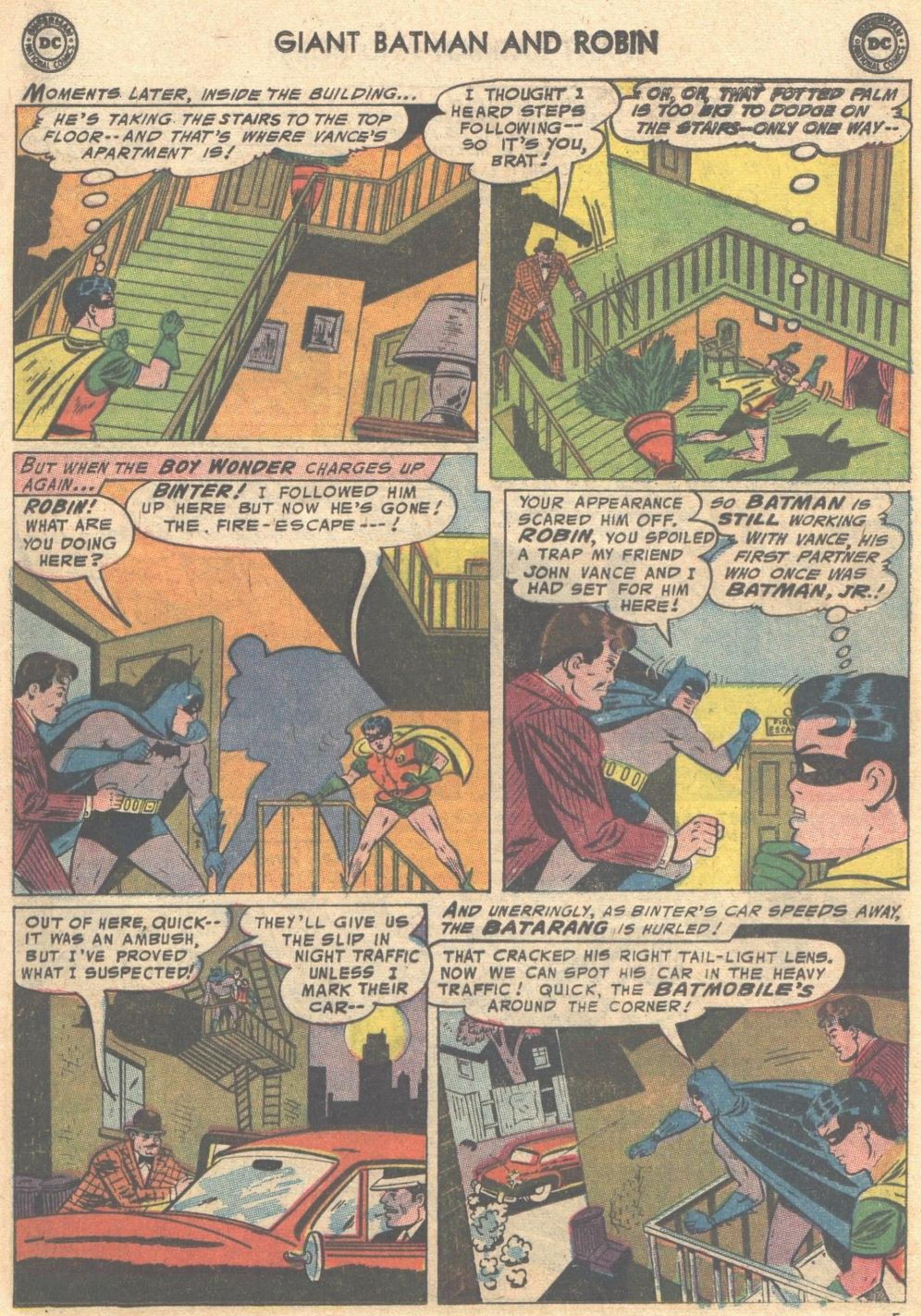

THE DATE ON THIS PHOTO IS YEARS AGO-- THIS BOY, BATMAN JUNIOR, WAS BATMAN'S PARTNER BEFORE I EVER MET BATMAN!

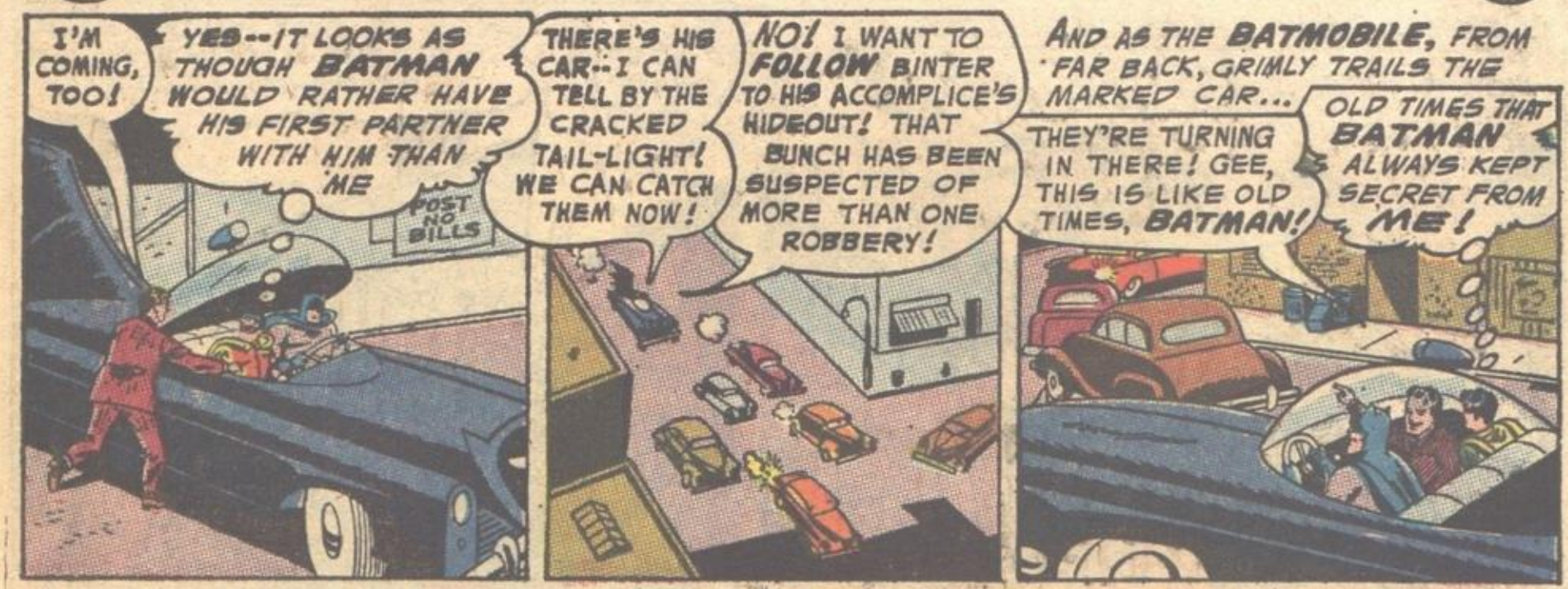

TO ROBIN COMES A SHATTERING REALIZATION!
BATMAN ONCE HAD ANOTHER PARTNER-- AND HE NEVER TOLD ME! I GUESS HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW I WAS ONLY HIS SECOND CHOICE AS A PARTNER!

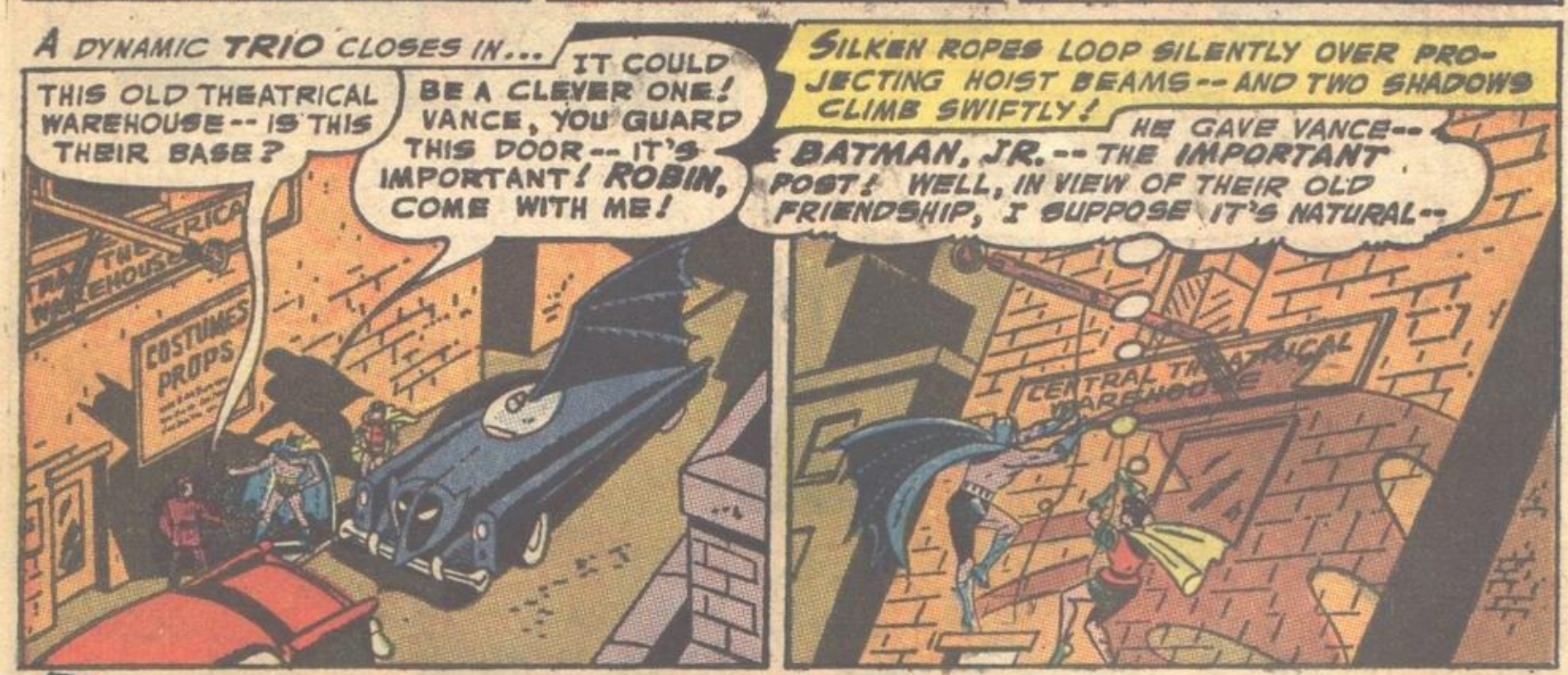

AND THEN, A SHARP AND URGENT WORRY!
BUT THIS JOHN VANCE-- HE'D BE A YOUNG MAN NOW-- HE MUST KNOW WHO BATMAN IS, SINCE THEY WERE ONCE PARTNERS! SUPPOSE HE LETS THAT SECRET SLIP?

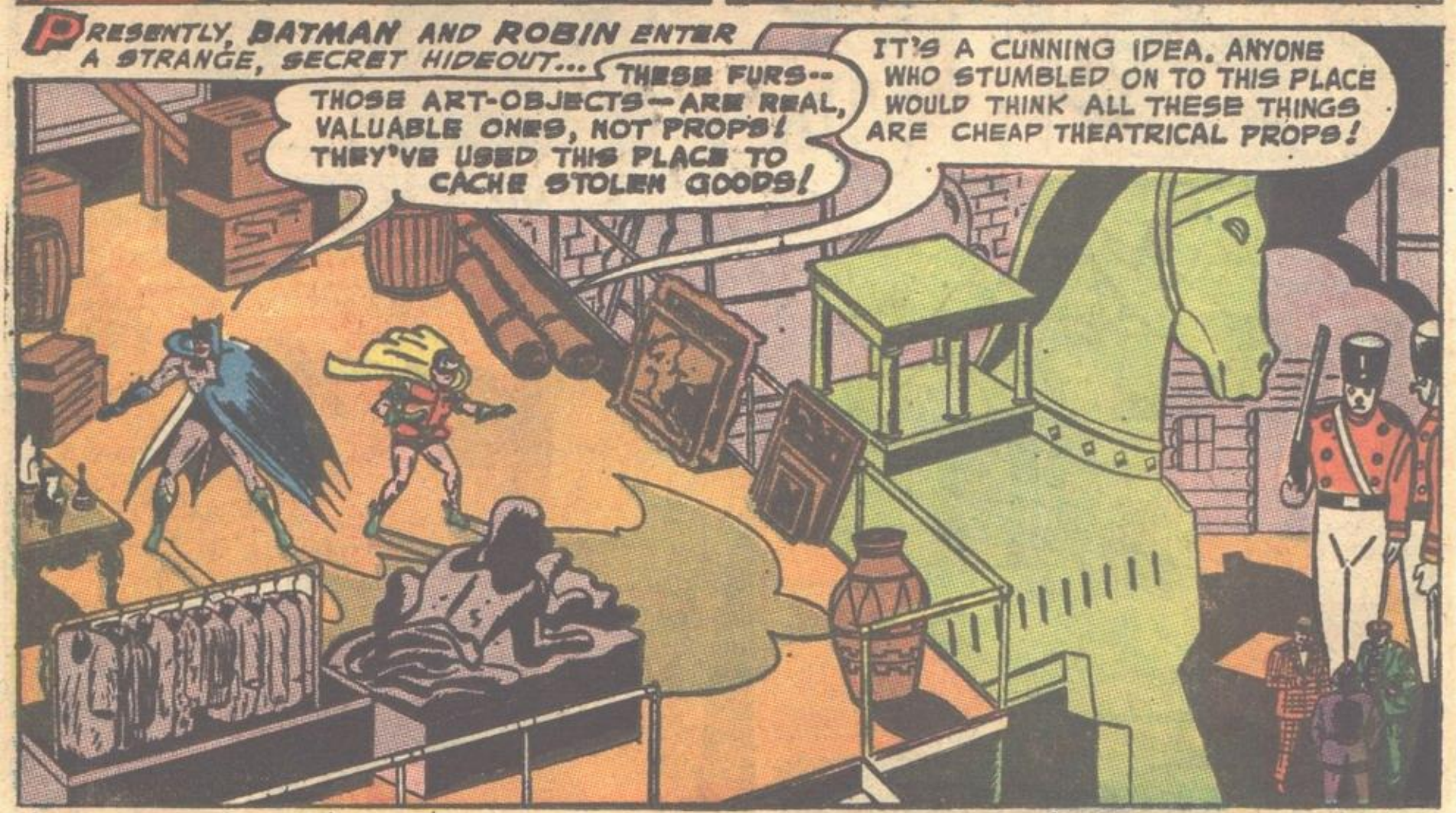
WORRY, ADDED TO DISMAY, SENDS ROBIN ON AN URGENT ERRAND!
VANCE'S PRESENT ADDRESS WAS IN THOSE PAPERS-- I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS MAN WHO WAS ONCE BATMAN, JR.! I'M-- I'M NOT JEALOUS, BUT I AM WORRIED!

AND A LITTLE LATER...
THAT'S WHERE VANCE LIVES-- BUT THAT MAN SLIPPING IN THERE! IT'S BINTER, THE ESCAPED CROOK! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?


MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE BUILDING...
HE'S TAKING THE STAIRS TO THE TOP FLOOR--AND THAT'S WHERE VANCE'S APARTMENT IS!
I THOUGHT I HEARD STEPS FOLLOWING--SO IT'S YOU, BRAT!
OH, OH, THAT POTTED PALM IS TOO BIG TO DODGE ON THE STAIRS--ONLY ONE WAY--
BUT WHEN THE BOY WONDER CHARGES UP AGAIN...
ROBIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
BINTER! I FOLLOWED HIM UP HERE BUT NOW HE'S GONE! THE FIRE-ESCAPE---!
YOUR APPEARANCE SCARED HIM OFF. ROBIN, YOU SPOILED A TRAP MY FRIEND JOHN VANCE AND I HAD SET FOR HIM HERE!
SO BATMAN IS STILL WORKING WITH VANCE, HIS FIRST PARTNER WHO ONCE WAS BATMAN, JR.!
OUT OF HERE, QUICK--IT WAS AN AMBUSH, BUT I'VE PROVED WHAT I SUSPECTED!
THEY'LL GIVE US THE SLIP IN NIGHT TRAFFIC UNLESS I MARK THEIR CAR--
AND UNERRINGLY, AS BINTER'S CAR SPEEDS AWAY, THE BATARANG IS HURLED!
THAT CRACKED HIS RIGHT TAIL-LIGHT LENS. NOW WE CAN SPOT HIS CAR IN THE HEAVY TRAFFIC! QUICK, THE BATMOBILE'S AROUND THE CORNER!


I'M COMING, TOO!
YES--IT LOOKS AS THOUGH BATMAN WOULD RATHER HAVE HIS FIRST PARTNER WITH HIM THAN ME
POST NO BILLS
THERE'S HIS CAR--I CAN TELL BY THE CRACKED TAIL-LIGHT! WE CAN CATCH THEM NOW!
NO! I WANT TO FOLLOW BINTER TO HIS ACCOMPLICE'S HIDEOUT! THAT BUNCH HAS BEEN SUSPECTED OF MORE THAN ONE ROBBERY!
AND AS THE BATMOBILE, FROM FAR BACK, GRIMLY TRAILS THE MARKED CAR...
THEY'RE TURNING IN THERE! GEE, THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES, BATMAN!
OLD TIMES THAT BATMAN ALWAYS KEPT SECRET FROM ME!


A DYNAMIC TRIO CLOSES IN...
THIS OLD THEATRICAL WAREHOUSE -- IS THIS THEIR BASE?
IT COULD BE A CLEVER ONE! VANCE, YOU GUARD THIS DOOR -- IT'S IMPORTANT! ROBIN, COME WITH ME!
COSTUMES PROPS
SILKEN ROPES LOOP SILENTLY OVER PROJECTING HOIST BEAMS -- AND TWO SHADOWS CLIMB SWIFTLY!
HE GAVE VANCE -- BATMAN, JR. -- THE IMPORTANT POST! WELL, IN VIEW OF THEIR OLD FRIENDSHIP, I SUPPOSE IT'S NATURAL--
CENTRAL THEATRICAL WAREHOUSE


PRESENTLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN ENTER A STRANGE, SECRET HIDEOUT...
THESE FURS -- THOSE ART-OBJECTS -- ARE REAL, VALUABLE ONES, NOT PROPS! THEY'VE USED THIS PLACE TO CACHE STOLEN GOODS!
IT'S A CUNNING IDEA. ANYONE WHO STUMBLED ON TO THIS PLACE WOULD THINK ALL THESE THINGS ARE CHEAP THEATRICAL PROPS!

BUT, BOSS, WE WORKED UP THIS SWELL BASE WHILE YOU WERE IN PRISON AND DON'T WANT TO RISK LOSING IT!
IT'S WORTH ANYTHING TO LEARN BATMAN'S IDENTITY! AND I KNOW NOW WHO--
BUT AT THAT MOMENT, TWO HUMAN BATS FLY THROUGH THE AIR...
THAT TROJAN HORSE IS ON WHEELS, ROBIN!
IT'S BIG FOR A HOBBY-HORSE-- BUT WE CAN USE IT!
LOOK OUT!
THAT HORSE WON'T ROLL FAR-- GET BACK--
IT'S GOING TO ROLL FAR ENOUGH TO MAKE TEN-PINS OUT OF THOSE WOODEN SOLDIERS!
OUCH-- LOOK OUT-- THESE BIG WOODEN SOLDIERS ARE HEAVY--
AND AS THE UPROAR BRINGS JOHN VANCE IN FROM OUTSIDE...
BINTER'S TRYING TO GET AWAY--
I'LL STOP HIM-- YOU TWO CAN'T HAVE ALL THE FUN!
THEN, IN A TWINKLING, THE ONE-TIME BATMAN, JUNIOR SHOWS HIS STYLE!
I'LL CUT HIM OFF FROM ESCAPE--
I'LL CUT YOU OFF-- BY STARTING THIS MECHANICAL DRAGON-DUMMY!

AND AS THE MECHANICAL DUMMY MOVES FORWARD...

I'LL--OOF--DIDN'T FIGURE ON THAT THING MOVING--

BINTER'S GETTING AWAY, BUT I'VE GOT TO SWITCH OFF THAT DRAGON-DUMMY BEFORE IT WALKS OVER VANCE!

WHEW!--THANKS, ROBIN! THAT WAS JUST IN TIME!

OH, I GUESS YOU'RE JUST OUT OF PRACTICE!

THE DYNAMIC TRIO PROVES TOO MUCH FOR THE GROGGY CROOKS!

THE POLICE CAN TAKE OVER THESE CHAPS--AT LEAST WE'VE BROKEN UP THEIR ROBBERY RACKET AND HIDEOUT!

BUT I LET BINTER GET AWAY!

I THINK WE CAN CATCH HIM, VANCE! ER--ROBIN--WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND CATCH SOME SLEEP?

THAT'S JUST A NICE WAY OF SAYING HE DOESN'T NEED ME ANY MORE!

ALL RIGHT, BATMAN!

IT'S A SAD BOY WONDER WHO RETURNS TO THE BAT-CAVE, ALONE!

BATMAN AND I WORKED ON ALL THESE CASES TOGETHER--BUT NOW THAT HE'S WITH HIS OLD PARTNER AGAIN, I WON'T BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE. THREE'S A CROWD!

BUT I SPOILED THE TRAP THEY SET FOR BINTER! IF I COULD MAKE THAT UP TO HIM, BEFORE I QUIT--HMM, I'VE AN IDEA--

THIS FILE BATMAN KEPT ON VANCE--IT SHOWS VANCE IS NOW A SHIP-BUILDING ENGINEER ON THAT NEW FREIGHT-SUBMARINE! AND BINTER MUST KNOW THAT FACT BY NOW!

WHILE BATMAN HUNTS FOR BINTER, I'LL SECRETLY KEEP AN EYE ON VANCE IN CASE BINTER COMES AFTER HIM AT THE SHIPYARD!
SOON, JUST BEFORE DAY BREAKS...
ANYONE COULD SLIP UP TO THIS UNGUARDED FREIGHT-SUB FROM ALONG SHORE AS I DID. IF BINTER TRIES THAT--

AND A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE THE ALMOST-COMPLETED SUBMARINE...
I'LL HIDE IN THIS LOCKER AND KEEP WATCH-- BINTER!
I GOT HERE BEFORE YOU! AND JOHN VANCE SHOULD REPORT FOR WORK HERE IN A FEW MINUTES! DON'T TRY ANYTHING!
SOON... YOU BOTH KNOW BATMAN'S IDENTITY-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME!
NO!
I'LL TELL NOTHING!

I'M LOCKING YOU IN--AND UNLESS YOU TELL QUICKLY, I'LL LAUNCH THIS SUB-- IT'LL SINK AND YOU'LL BE TRAPPED UNDERWATER TILL THEY CAN RAISE IT!
AND AS THE CONNING-TOWER HATCH CLANGS SHUT...
HE'S FASTENED IT DOWN-- BUT DON'T WORRY, VANCE! BATMAN'S ALERT AND WILL SURELY SHOW UP SOON!
ROBIN, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND-- I AM BATMAN!
AND AS MAKE-UP IS REMOVED...
I IMPERSONATED VANCE--KNOWING BINTER WOULD TRY TO GET HIM AGAIN!
BATMAN! AND YOU'D HAVE SUCCEEDED IF BINTER HADN'T HAD ME COVERED! I SPOILED THINGS AGAIN!

AND AS THE BATMAN DISCARDS HIS DISGUISE...
I'M SORRY I GOT YOU TRAPPED, BATMAN! I'LL NEVER BE AS GOOD A PARTNER TO YOU AS BATMAN, JUNIOR WAS!
YOU MEAN, YOU KNOW ABOUT BATMAN JUNIOR?
I ACCIDENTALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT HIM. I REALIZED YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW I WAS ONLY YOUR SECOND-CHOICE PARTNER!
I COULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT BATMAN, JUNIOR WITHOUT BREAKING A PROMISE! BUT RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS TRAP!
BINTER SABOTAGED THE VALVES SO THE BALLAST-TANKS CAN'T BE CLOSED! THIS SUB WILL SINK IF HE LAUNCHES IT!
IT COULD BE DAYS BEFORE THEY RAISED IT AGAIN!
WE'VE ONLY ONE CHANCE--TO CUT SOME RIVETS AND OPEN ONE OF THE HULL-PLATES! QUICK, GRAB THOSE ENGINE-ROOM TOOLS!
BUT WILL THERE BE ENOUGH TIME?
TIME IS RUNNING OUT, INDEED!
THE PROPS ARE OUT--WHEN I UNHOOK THE CABLES, SHE'LL SLIDE DOWN INTO THE WATER! BUT WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
BANG!
WE'VE CUT FOUR RIVETS OUT OF THIS PLATE--BUT THERE'S MORE!
LISTEN, I CAN HEAR BINTER'S VOICE!
I HEAR YOU TRYING TO CUT YOUR WAY OUT! SINCE YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME BATMAN'S IDENTITY, I'M LAUNCHING THIS SUB--NOW!
BANG BANG

BATMAN, WE'LL SLIDE DOWN THE WAYS IN A MOMENT-- AND BE UNDER WATER! THERE WILL BE NO TIME TO CUT THE OTHER RIVETS!
WE'LL HAVE TO GAIN TIME! QUICK, HELP ME START THE SUB'S MOTORS!

OUTSIDE, AS A LAST CABLE IS RELEASED...
THEY'LL BE TRAPPED UNDER WATER TILL THE SUB IS RAISED-- BUT THEY'VE STARTED THE PROPELLERS! WHY?

THE ANSWER COMES SWIFTLY!
THE PROPELLERS-- AT FULL SPEED AHEAD THEY'RE HOLDING BACK THE SUB FROM SLIDING DEEPER INTO THE WATER! I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE--

BUT BATMAN'S STRATAGEM HAS GAINED TIME ENOUGH...
THAT CUTS THROUGH!
QUICK, BINTER HASN'T TIME TO GET FAR YET!

GET THE CABLES BACK ON THIS SUB AND WINCH IT UP ONTO THE WAYS AGAIN!
LOOK, THERE GOES BINTER! WE CAN CATCH HIM!

SECONDS LATER...
SO IT WAS YOU IN THERE, BATMAN! BUT I'LL GET YOU AND VANCE YET--
QUICK, BEHIND THIS MAGNET-CRANE!
I CAN CLIMB UP ON THIS SIDE WITHOUT HIS SEEING!

AND A MOMENT LATER, THE GREAT CRANE SWINGS PONDEROUSLY...
MY GUN -- WHAT--
ROBIN USED A LITTLE MAGNETISM ON IT--I'LL JUST USE OLD-FASHIONED FISTS!
LATER...
BATMAN, YOUR SCHEME WORKED! YOU GOT HIM!
THANKS TO ROBIN'S HELP!
I--I'M GLAD WE HAD ONE LAST CASE TOGETHER, BATMAN!
"BUT I KNOW YOU'D RATHER WORK WITH YOUR ORIGINAL PARTNER, BATMAN, JUNIOR! I--I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT!
ROBIN, YOU STILL DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT BATMAN, JUNIOR! LISTEN!
"IT WAS YEARS AGO, BEFORE I EVER MET YOU! BINTER LED A DARING SAFE-ROBBERY ONE NIGHT..."
THOSE MEN--THEY'RE BANK ROBBERS! THEY BLASTED THE SAFE!
WAIT--THAT KID IN THE SHADOWS! HE SAW OUR FACES!
BANK
"BUT I WAS ON PATROL, AND THE BLAST OF THE SAFE-ROBBERS BROUGHT ME FAST..."
IT'S BATMAN!
OUT OF HERE! WE'LL FIND OUT LATER WHO THAT KID IS WHO SAW OUR FACES!
"THEY GOT AWAY. BUT THAT LAD, A STAR SCHOOL ATHLETE NAMED JOHN VANCE, WAS MY CLUE TO THEM!"
WHY, YES--THEY COULDN'T SEE ME WELL, BUT I RECOGNIZED THEM!
HMM... THEN YOU'RE IN DANGER! SINCE YOU SAY YOUR PARENTS ARE AWAY, YOU'D BETTER COME HOME WITH ME!

"I TOOK YOUNG VANCE TO THE BAT-CAVE AFTER FIRST TAKING THE PRECAUTIONS OF BLINDFOLDING HIM!"

SURE, I REALIZE YOU CAN'T LET ME KNOW YOUR SECRET IDENTITY, BATMAN! I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU!

YOU CAN, BY IDENTIFYING THOSE CROOKS FOR ME--BUT IF THEY EVER SEE WHO YOU ARE, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IN DANGER!

"I FOUND A WAY TO PROTECT VANCE FROM THAT DANGER!"

YOU MUST. BE MASKED LIKE MYSELF, TO HELP ME HUNT THEM! THEN THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHO IDENTIFIED THEM!

WOW!--I'M GOING TO BE BATMAN, JUNIOR! BUT OF COURSE YOU'LL BLINDFOLD ME AGAIN AS WE GO OUT!

"MY PLAN WORKED! BATMAN, JUNIOR, ALIAS JOHN VANCE, IDENTIFIED THE SUSPECTS!"

THERE HE IS--THE LEADER!

BIRREL BINTER! I SUSPECTED HIM AND THIS CINCHES IT!

WAIT--I DIDN'T MEAN YOU TO RISK YOURSELF IN THIS!

AS AN ATHLETE, THIS IS FUN FOR ME!

"BUT VANCE MADE A SLIP WHEN HE SAID THAT! FOR LATER..."

YOUR BATMAN, JUNIOR, SENT ME TO PRISON--BUT I KNOW HE'S A SCHOOL ATHLETE AND I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN SOME DAY! AND HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE, BATMAN!

BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW, REALLY!

TO PROTECT VANCE, I PROMISED HIM I'D NEVER TELL ANYONE OF BATMAN, JUNIOR!

BUT BINTER DID ESCAPE AND TRACK ME DOWN! WITH HIM BACK IN PRISON FOR LIFE, I'M IN NO DANGER!

THEN YOU NEVER REALLY HAD ANOTHER PARTNER?

BATMAN, JUNIOR HELPED ME IN THAT ONE CASE ONLY--AND, AFTER ALL, THERE'S ONLY ONE ROBIN!

THE END

BATMAN WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

As a crime-buster, **ROBIN** has come to grips with many a badman! But when the junior lawman suddenly finds himself in the romantic clutches of Dan Cupid, he becomes helpless, for he's just another boy in love, and that spells trouble with a capital T when...

ROBIN FALLS IN LOVE

TAKE ONE MORE STEP AND I'LL FIRE, **BATMAN!**

WHAT CAN WE DO? IF WE TRY TO NAB HIM, HE'S SURE TO HIT VERA LOVELY!

BOB KANE

At the Gotham City Arena, **BATMAN** and **ROBIN** stand watching a rehearsal of the "Ice Capers" show.

I THOUGHT WE SHOULD WATCH ONE OF THESE REHEARSALS, **ROBIN,** SINCE WE'LL BE APPEARING WITH THE SHOW AT THAT BENEFIT PERFORMANCE NEXT WEEK!

RIGHT, **BATMAN!** LOOK AT THAT VERA LOVELY SKATE! SHE'S ONLY 14--AND VERY PRETTY!

THAT MAN TURNED ON THE FAN AND IT'S BLOWING THE HOOP OUT OF POSITION! INSTEAD OF JUMPING **THROUGH** THE HOOP, VERA'S GOING TO CRASH RIGHT INTO THE FLAMES!

INSTANTLY, **ROBIN** HURLS ONE END OF HIS SILK ROPE INTO THE AIR, LASHING IT TO A STEEL GIRDER, AND THEN...

IT'S TOO LATE! I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

IT'S **NEVER** TOO LATE!

OH, YOU'RE MARVELOUS! YOU SAVED MY LIFE!

JUST A REGULAR SERVICE OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, INCORPORATED. THINK NOTHING OF IT!

OH, BUT I MUST REWARD YOU-- AT LEAST WITH A KISS!

TO **ROBIN'S** EMBARRASSMENT, THE KISS HAS A VERY PUBLIC WITNESS!

HOLD THAT! GREAT--WHAT A STORY! "**ROBIN** SAVES ICE QUEEN FROM MELTING!" HA-HA-HA!

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL PICTURE! I'M VERA'S PRESS AGENT, PAUL GARVEY. HOW ABOUT A SHOT NOW FOR YOUR PAPER WITH **BATMAN**?

WELL, MY EDITOR REALLY SENT ME FOR PICTURES OF THE FIRST SKATES MISS LOVELY WORE!

THAT'S TOO BAD. THOSE LITTLE SKATES ARE DEPOSITED IN A BANK VAULT UNTIL THEY'RE AUCTIONED OFF AT NEXT WEEK'S CHARITY BENEFIT!

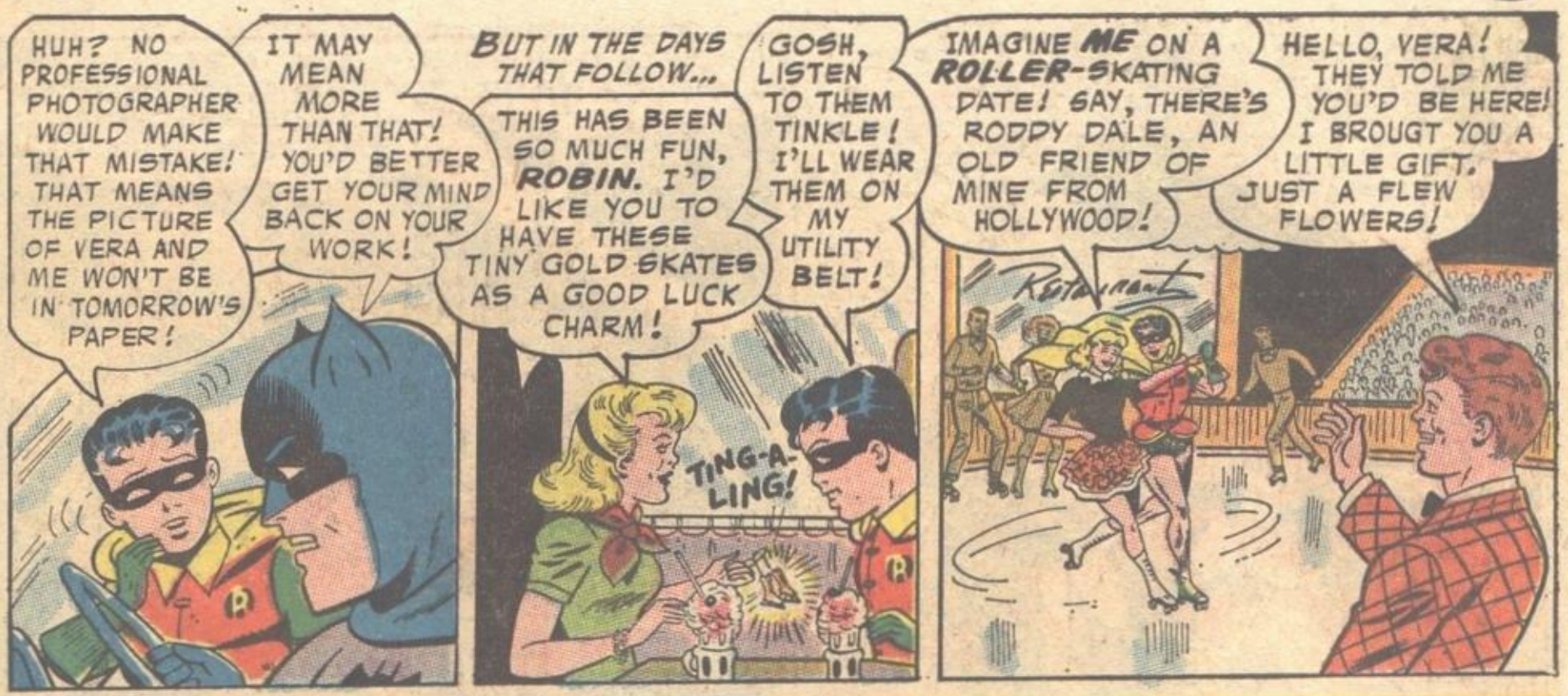
YEAH, TOO BAD! WELL, SEE YOU AROUND.

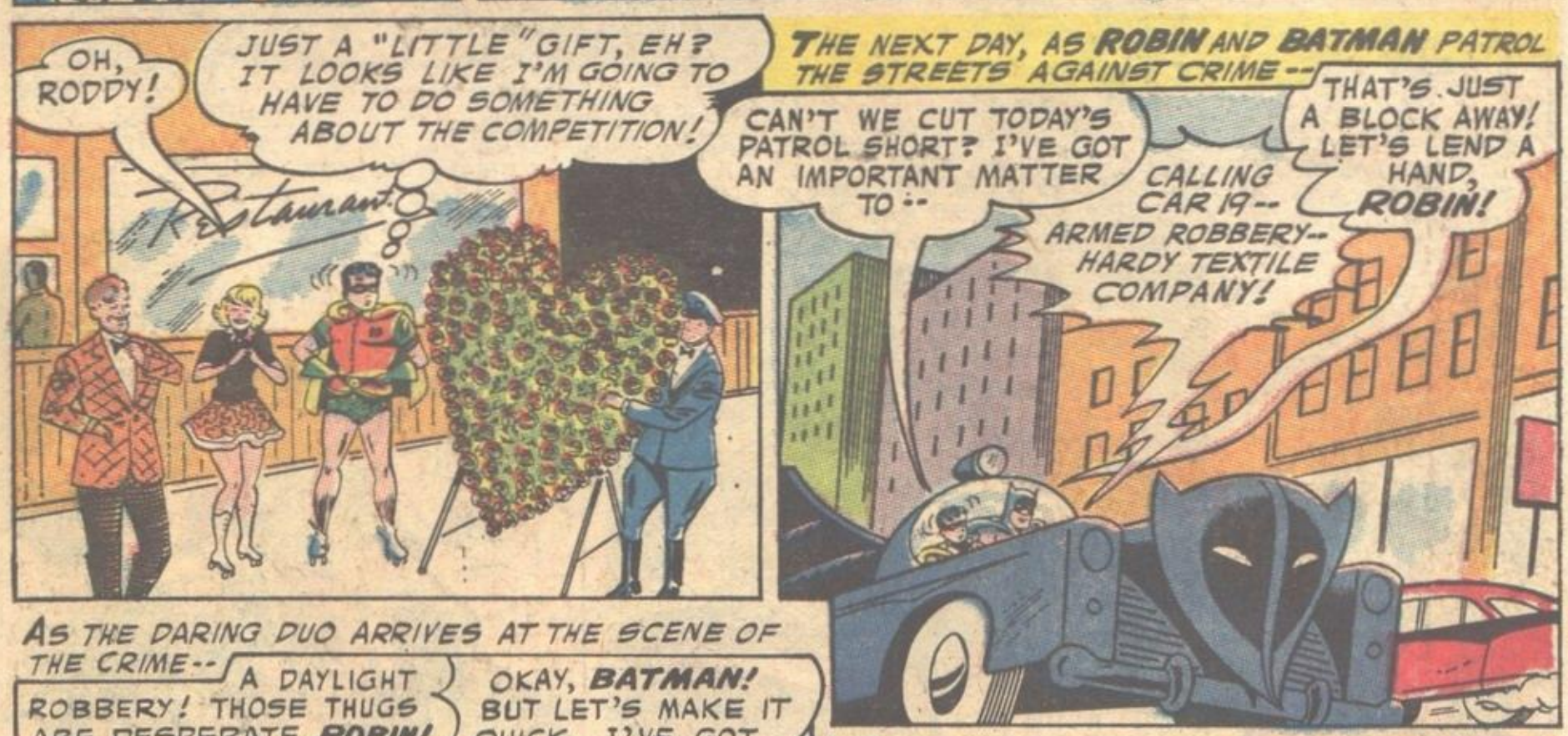
HMM?

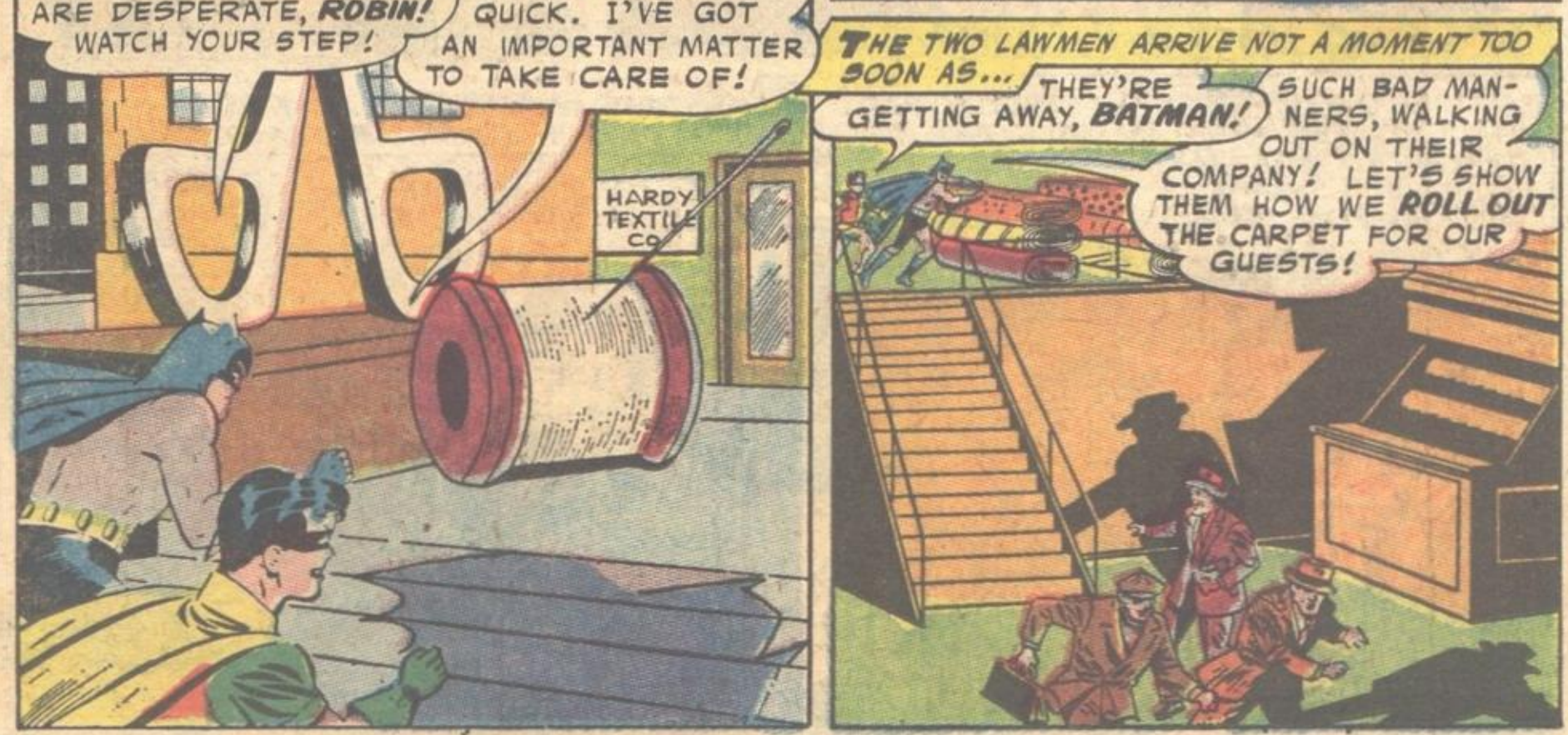
LATER, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HEAD FOR HOME IN THEIR **BATMOBILE**...

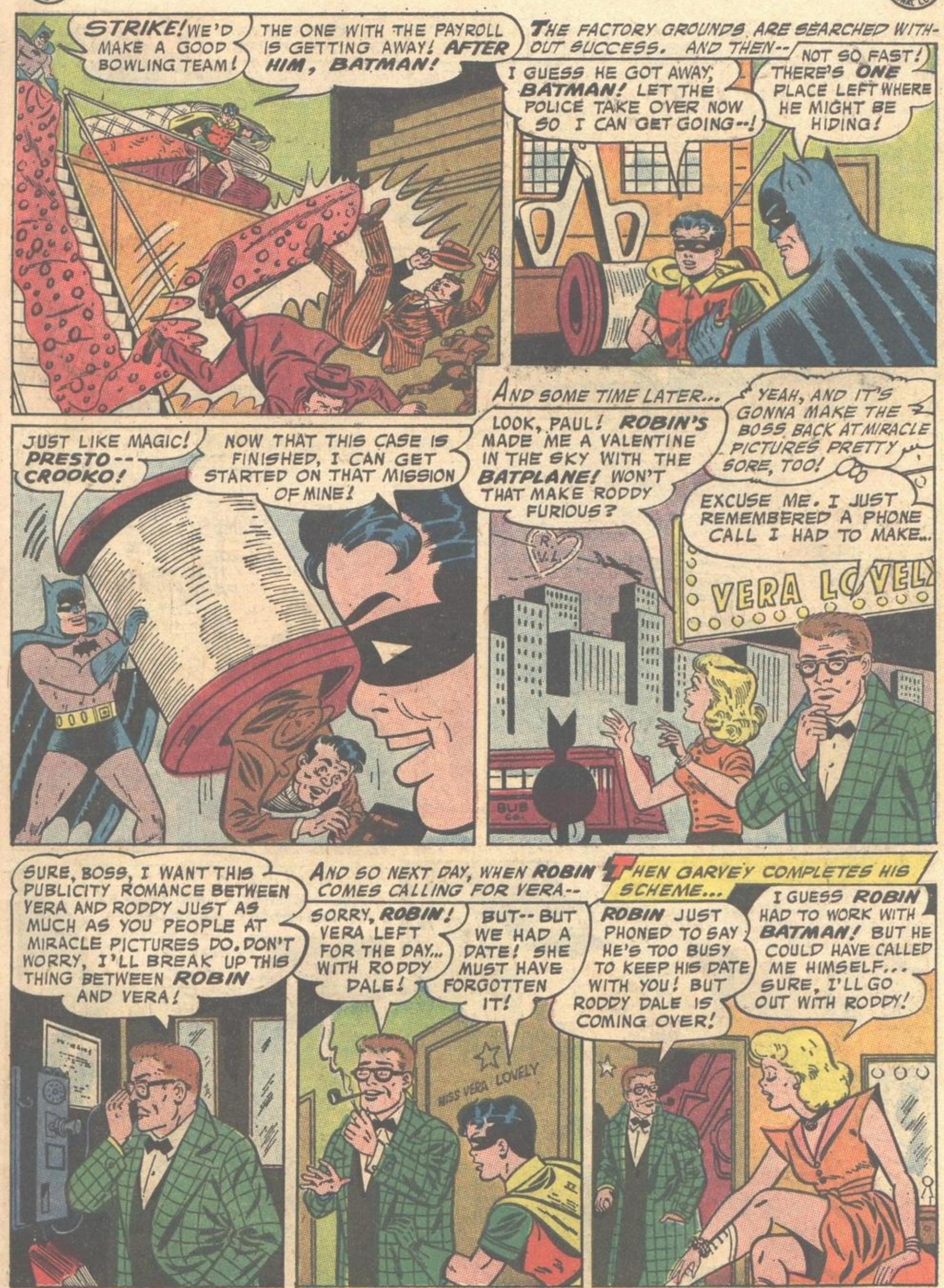
GEE, I COULDN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF OF VERA LOVELY!

IF YOU HAD, **ROBIN**, YOU'D HAVE NOTICED THAT THE NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER FORGOT TO REMOVE THE LENS CAP WHEN HE TOOK YOUR PICTURE!

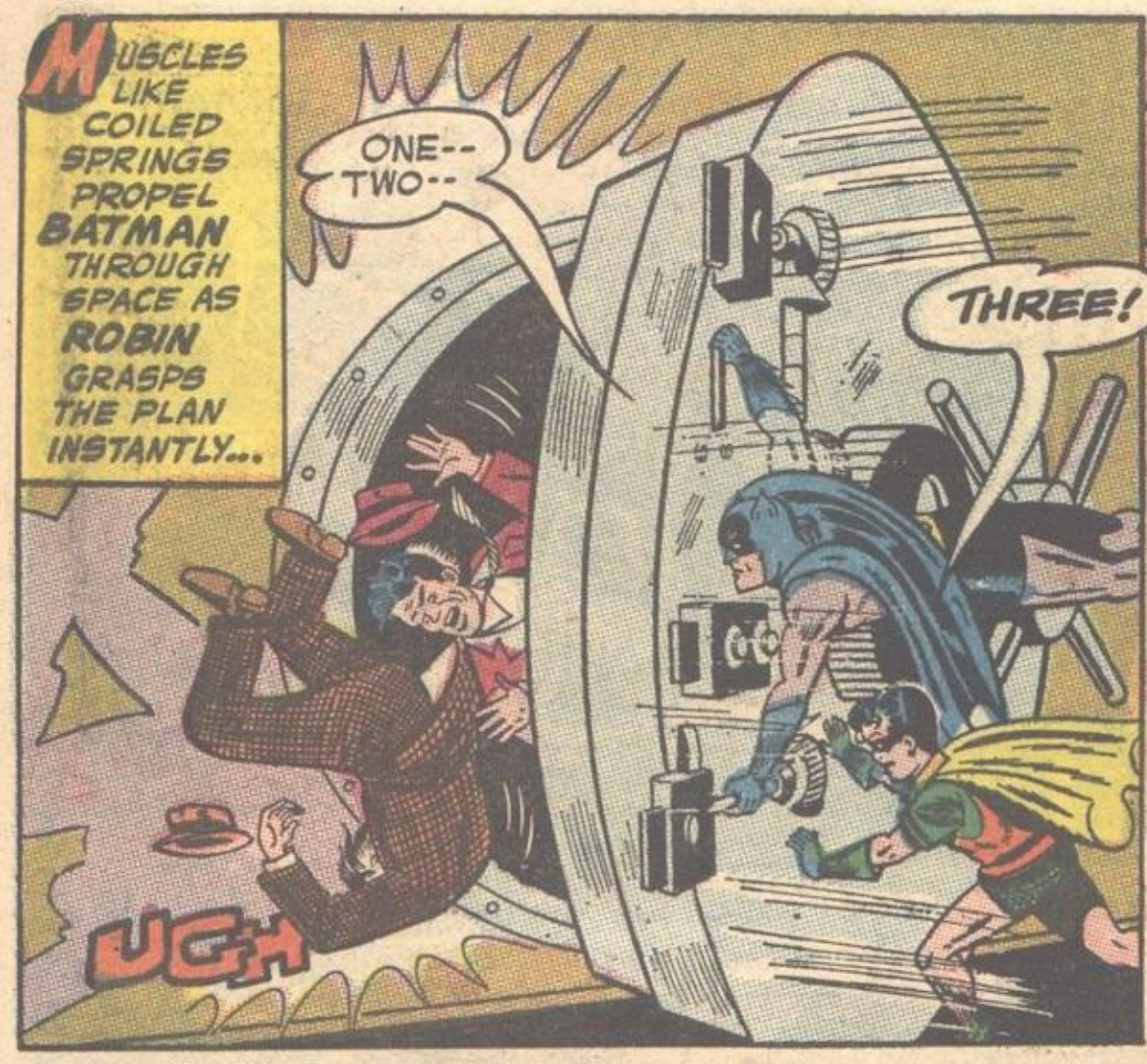

HUH? NO PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER WOULD MAKE THAT MISTAKE! THAT MEANS THE PICTURE OF VERA AND ME WON'T BE IN TOMORROW'S PAPER!
IT MAY MEAN MORE THAN THAT! YOU'D BETTER GET YOUR MIND BACK ON YOUR WORK!
BUT IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW...
THIS HAS BEEN SO MUCH FUN, ROBIN. I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THESE TINY GOLD SKATES AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM!
GOSH, LISTEN TO THEM TINKLE! I'LL WEAR THEM ON MY UTILITY BELT!
TING-A-LING!
IMAGINE ME ON A ROLLER-SKATING DATE! SAY, THERE'S RODDY DALE, AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE FROM HOLLYWOOD!
HELLO, VERA! THEY TOLD ME YOU'D BE HERE! I BROUGT YOU A LITTLE GIFT. JUST A FLEW FLOWERS!
Restaurant


OH, RODDY!
JUST A "LITTLE" GIFT, EH? IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE COMPETITION!
Restaurant
THE NEXT DAY, AS ROBIN AND BATMAN PATROL THE STREETS AGAINST CRIME--
CAN'T WE CUT TODAY'S PATROL SHORT? I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO--
CALLING CAR 19-- ARMED ROBBERY-- HARDY TEXTILE COMPANY!
THAT'S JUST A BLOCK AWAY! LET'S LEND A HAND, ROBIN!


AS THE DARING DUO ARRIVES AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME--
A DAYLIGHT ROBBERY! THOSE THUGS ARE DESPERATE, ROBIN! WATCH YOUR STEP!
OKAY, BATMAN! BUT LET'S MAKE IT QUICK. I'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO TAKE CARE OF!
HARDY TEXTILE Co.
THE TWO LAWMEN ARRIVE NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON AS...
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY, BATMAN!
SUCH BAD MANNERS, WALKING OUT ON THEIR COMPANY! LET'S SHOW THEM HOW WE ROLL OUT THE CARPET FOR OUR GUESTS!


STRIKE! WE'D MAKE A GOOD BOWLING TEAM!
THE ONE WITH THE PAYROLL IS GETTING AWAY! AFTER HIM, BATMAN!
THE FACTORY GROUNDS ARE SEARCHED WITHOUT SUCCESS. AND THEN--
I GUESS HE GOT AWAY, BATMAN! LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER NOW SO I CAN GET GOING--!
NOT SO FAST! THERE'S ONE PLACE LEFT WHERE HE MIGHT BE HIDING!
JUST LIKE MAGIC! PRESTO-- CROOKO!
NOW THAT THIS CASE IS FINISHED, I CAN GET STARTED ON THAT MISSION OF MINE!
AND SOME TIME LATER...
LOOK, PAUL! ROBIN'S MADE ME A VALENTINE IN THE SKY WITH THE BATPLANE! WON'T THAT MAKE RODDY FURIOUS?
YEAH, AND IT'S GONNA MAKE THE BOSS BACK AT MIRACLE PICTURES PRETTY SORE, TOO!
EXCUSE ME. I JUST REMEMBERED A PHONE CALL I HAD TO MAKE...
VERA LOVELY
SURE, BOSS, I WANT THIS PUBLICITY ROMANCE BETWEEN VERA AND RODDY JUST AS MUCH AS YOU PEOPLE AT MIRACLE PICTURES DO. DON'T WORRY, I'LL BREAK UP THIS THING BETWEEN ROBIN AND VERA!
AND SO NEXT DAY, WHEN ROBIN COMES CALLING FOR VERA--
SORRY, ROBIN! VERA LEFT FOR THE DAY... WITH RODDY DALE!
BUT-- BUT WE HAD A DATE! SHE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN IT!
MISS VERA LOVELY
THEN GARVEY COMPLETES HIS SCHEME...
ROBIN JUST PHONED TO SAY HE'S TOO BUSY TO KEEP HIS DATE WITH YOU! BUT RODDY DALE IS COMING OVER!
I GUESS ROBIN HAD TO WORK WITH BATMAN! BUT HE COULD HAVE CALLED ME HIMSELF... SURE, I'LL GO OUT WITH RODDY!

LATER, IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON, SECRETLY BATMAN AND ROBIN...
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, DICK? YOU'VE BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS ALL DAY!
IT'S NOTHING, BRUCE. I THINK MAYBE I'LL TAKE A WALK. THE AIR MIGHT HELP.
BUT DICK'S WALK TAKES HIM STRAIGHT TO THE GOTHAM ARENA...
I CAN'T BLAME VERA (SIGH!) THE "QUEEN OF THE ICE" DESERVES A HOLLYWOOD PRINCE LIKE RODDY DALE. BUT STILL SHE SHOULD HAVE BROKEN THE DATE HERSELF!
ICE CAPERS
Starring VERA LOVELY "Queen of the Ice"
OH, MISS LOVELY, MAY WE HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH?
OF COURSE! YOU'RE ALL SO WONDER FUL TO ME!
THAT'S HER WORLD-- BIG CROWDS--BRIGHT LIGHTS! AND I'M JUST NOT A PART OF IT, I GUESS!
EXIT
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
WHAT'S THE USE OF PHONING HER? GARVEY WOULD ONLY TELL ME SHE'S NOT IN, LIKE HE DID THE LAST TWO TIMES!
WHY SHOULD I CALL HIM? HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROKE THE DATE AND HE HASN'T CALLED ONCE SINCE!
BUT THE CRIMINAL WORLD MOVES ON, AND SO MUST THE WAR AGAINST CRIME!
PSST! BE AS QUIET AS YOU CAN, ROBIN! WE CAN GRAB THESE THREE UNAWARES!
RIGHT, BATMAN!
TING-A-LING...
THAT TINKLING SOUND! WHAT--? IT'S BATMAN!
TOO LATE TO SUR-PRISE THEM, ROBIN! SO LET'S SHOW THESE BOYS TO THE DOOR!


MUSCLES LIKE COILED SPRINGS PROPEL BATMAN THROUGH SPACE AS ROBIN GRASPS THE PLAN INSTANTLY...
ONE-- TWO--
THREE!
UGH

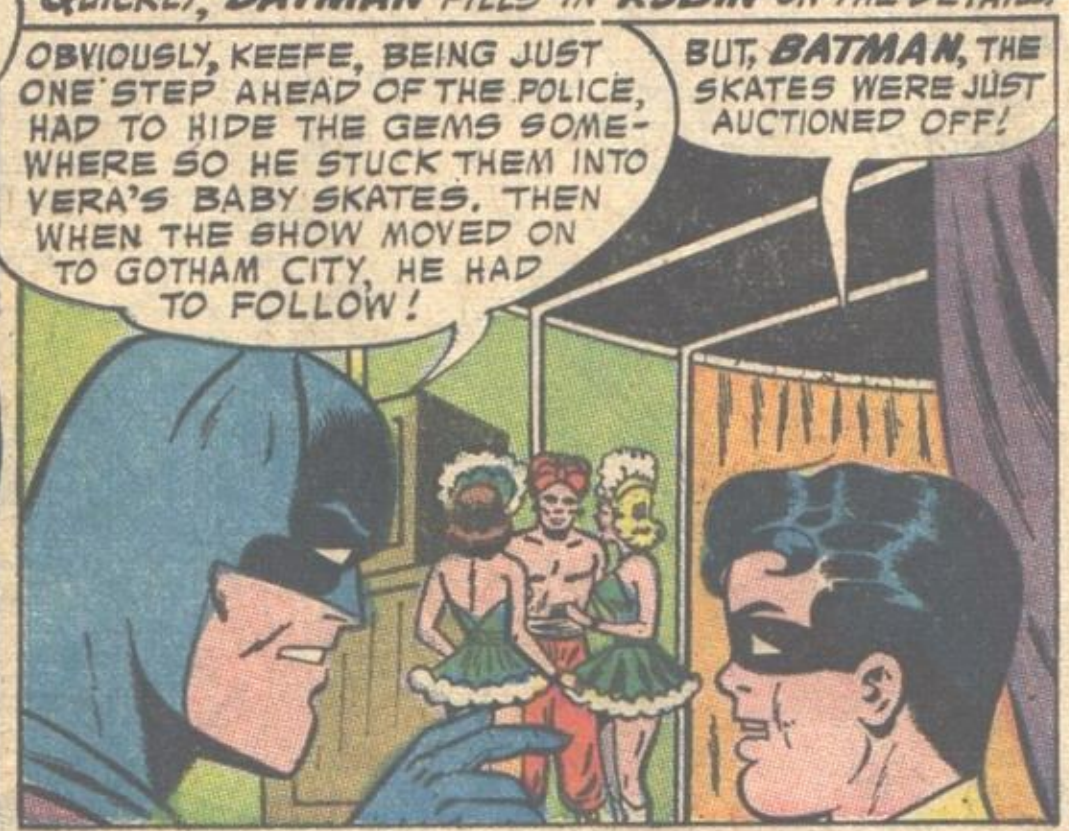
SHORTLY AFTER, AS POLICE LEAD THE DAZED THIEVES AWAY--
THAT GOOD LUCK CHARM VERA GAVE YOU WAS ALMOST UNLUCKY FOR US!
DON'T BLAME THE CHARM! IF I'D HAD MY MIND ON MY WORK, I'D HAVE REMEMBERED THE TINKLING SOUND THEY MAKE!

THE NEXT NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN REPORT FOR THE BENEFIT PERFORMANCE--
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANTED US TO SHOW UP SO EARLY, ROBIN! WE'RE NOT DUE TO MAKE OUR APPEARANCE FOR ANOTHER HOUR!
I KNOW-- I-- ER-- JUST WANTED TO SEE VERA -- I MEAN, THE SHOW, BATMAN!

BATMAN! THERE'S THAT PHOTOGRAPHER YOU WERE WONDERING ABOUT LAST WEEK!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M GOING OVER TO THE PRESS SECTION AND CHECK UP ON HIM RIGHT NOW!

NO, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE, BATMAN! HE DOESN'T WORK FOR ANY LOCAL PAPER!
THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECTED! AND I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I HAVE SEEN HIS FACE BEFORE! AMONG SOME WIRE-PHOTOS THAT CAME IN FROM THE MIDCITY POLICE YESTERDAY! MAY I USE YOUR PHONE?
PRESS

... BATMAN, YOU'VE JUST DESCRIBED BEN KEEFE, WANTED HERE ON SUSPICION OF LAST WEEK'S $50,000 JEWEL THEFT! WE TAILED HIM TO THE ICE SHOW, BUT HE GOT AWAY!
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW, CHIEF!


QUICKLY, BATMAN FILLS IN ROBIN ON THE DETAILS.
OBVIOUSLY, KEEFE, BEING JUST ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE POLICE, HAD TO HIDE THE GEMS SOMEWHERE SO HE STUCK THEM INTO VERA'S BABY SKATES. THEN WHEN THE SHOW MOVED ON TO GOTHAM CITY, HE HAD TO FOLLOW!
BUT, BATMAN, THE SKATES WERE JUST AUCTIONED OFF!

AND THERE GOES THE MAN WHO BOUGHT THEM!
YES, AND LOOK, THAT SKATER! IT'S KEEFE IN DISGUISE! HE'S A BETTER SKATER THAN HE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHER!

OKAY, BUDDY, YOU'RE TOO BIG FOR THOSE SKATES!
WHAT--? THAT MAN, HE STOLE THE SKATES!

LIGHTNING THOUGHT AND ACTION ENABLE BATMAN TO PURSUE THE THIEF!
GET READY TO HOIST SAILS, ROBIN! WITH A GOOD WIND, WE CAN STILL CATCH HIM!
RIGHT, BATMAN! A LITTLE ICE SAILING MIGHT BE FUN!
CLICK...

OKAY, KEEFE, YOUR NUMBER'S UP!
SAYS YOU, BATMAN!

YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE HOT STUFF -- AND NOW YOU WILL BE -- HA-HA!
NO TIME TO STOP NOW, ROBIN! WE'LL HAVE TO JUMP FOR IT!

ALLEZ --
OOP!

THE DELAYING ACTION GIVES KEEFE A CHANCE TO CONTINUE HIS ESCAPE, AND THEN --
IT'S TOO LATE TO CATCH HIM NOW!
YES, BUT MAYBE I CAN GET HIM WITH THAT SANDBAG ABOVE! HERE GOES!

WITH A POWERFUL TUG ON THE SILK CORD, ROBIN BRINGS THE SAND COUNTERBALANCE CRASHING DOWN!
GOOD BOY, ROBIN! KEEFE JUST LEARNED THAT SAND AND ICE DON'T MIX!

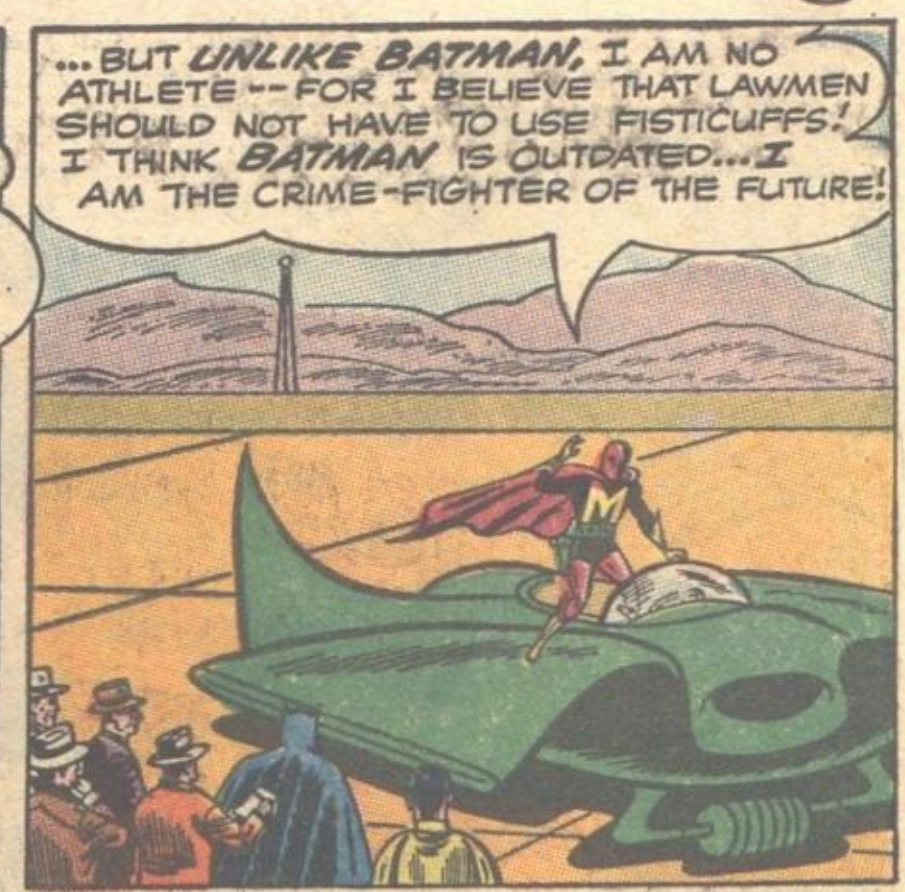
LATER, ROBIN AND VERA PATCH UP THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING --
--AND I THOUGHT YOU BROKE THE DATE, ROBIN!
AND I THOUGHT YOU DID! WE WERE BOTH PRETTY FOOLISH!
NO, I WAS THE FOOL! I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT VERA'S ROMANCE WITH ROBIN WAS MUCH BIGGER NEWS THAN THE ONE WITH RODDY DALE!

AND, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN FROM THEIR BUSY NIGHT'S WORK --
WELL, YOU MADE A COUPLE OF SLIPS, ROBIN, BUT IF YOUR ROMANCE WITH VERA HADN'T BROUGHT US TO THE SHOW EARLY, WE'D NEVER HAVE CAPTURED KEEFE!
I DIDN'T THINK OF IT LIKE THAT, BATMAN! BUT ANYWAY, FROM NOW ON, I'M KEEPING MY MIND ON CRIMINALS, NOT GIRLS!
THE END

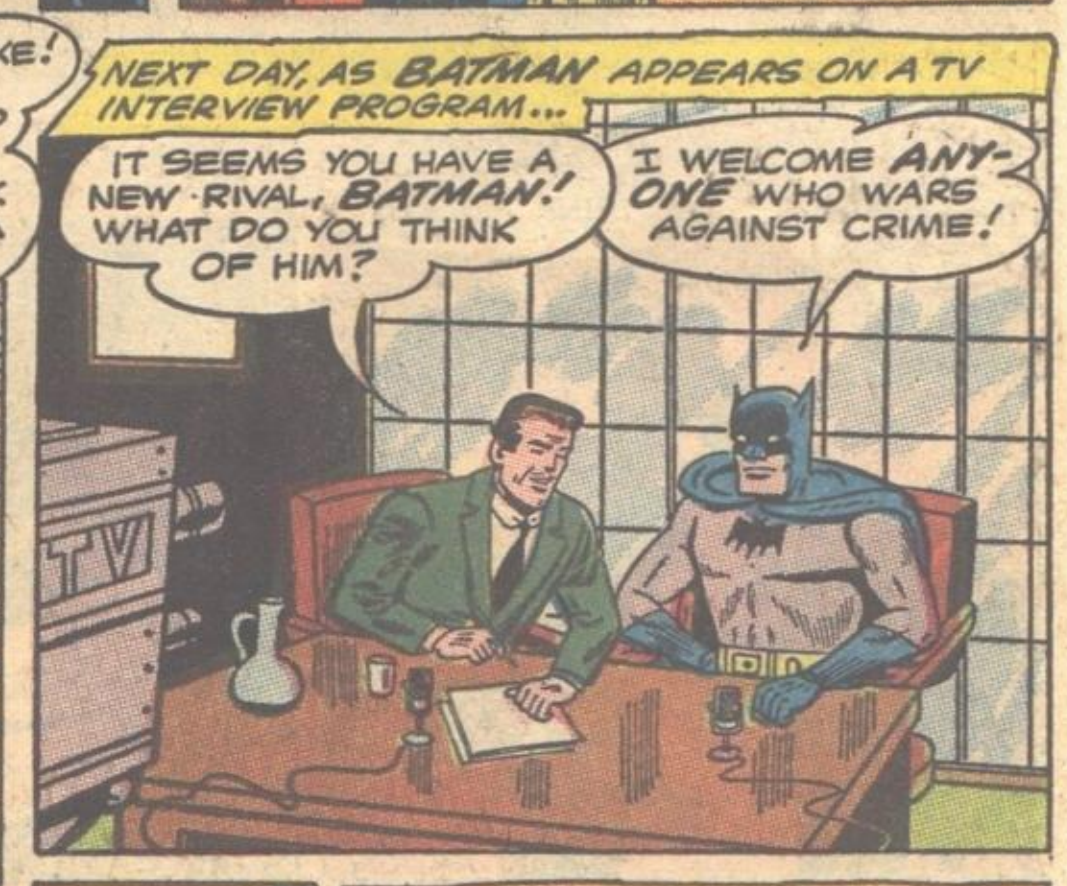
IS IT POSSIBLE?... BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE TEAM-- THE TWO MOST LOYAL OF FRIENDS-- BREAKING UP AND GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS? HOW DOES IT HAPPEN? THE ANSWER LIES BENEATH THE MASK AND COSTUME OF THE AMAZING NEW CRIME-FIGHTER WHO BECOMES...
ROBIN'S NEW BOSS
BATMAN WITH ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
YOU'RE TOO LATE, BATMAN! THE TEAM OF MR. MARVEL AND ROBIN HAS ALREADY CAPTURED THOSE CROOKS!
MR. MARVEL AND HIS FANTASTIC WEAPONS HAVE OUTCLASSED ME AGAIN! I--I CAN'T BLAME ROBIN FOR TEAMING UP WITH HIM!

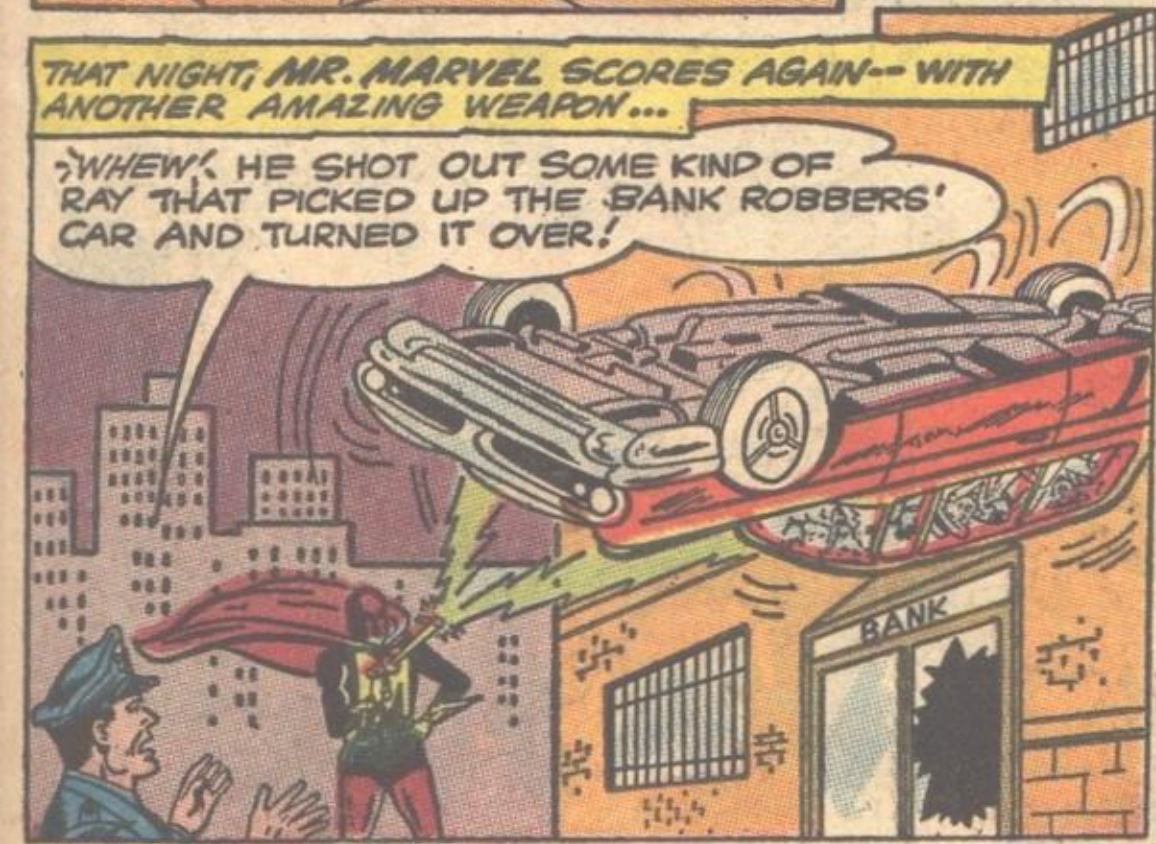
DEEP IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE, BENEATH THEIR MANSION, SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, DON THEIR ACTION GARB...
TIME TO GO OUT ON PATROL, DICK!
I WONDER IF WE'LL RUN INTO ANY CROOKS TONIGHT?
THE CRIME-FIGHTERS DO, AS BANDITS TRY TO ROB A MAIL PLANE SHIPMENT...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
SWIFTLY, THE AMAZING TEAM TAKES A FUEL HOSE AND PUTS IT TO A NEW USE...
QUICK--WE'LL RIDE THIS THING OUT OF HERE!
SUDDENLY, AS A STRANGE VEHICLE COMES STREAKING TO THE SCENE...
WHAT...? WE'RE CUT OFF! LET'S DITCH THE CART AND LAM ON FOOT!
BUT A STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE VEHICLE, AND...
ULP! C-CAN'T MOVE! THAT GADGET'S GOT US WRAPPED UP IN A--A COCOON!

SOON, REPORTERS CROWD ABOUT THE COSTUMED STRANGER...
WHO ARE YOU, MISTER?
I CALL MYSELF MR. MARVEL, TO HIDE MY TRUE IDENTITY! ACTUALLY, I AM A SCIENTIST WHO HAS WORKED FOR YEARS ON INVENTIONS TO FIGHT CRIME! I AM A CRIME-FIGHTER, LIKE BATMAN...
PRESS

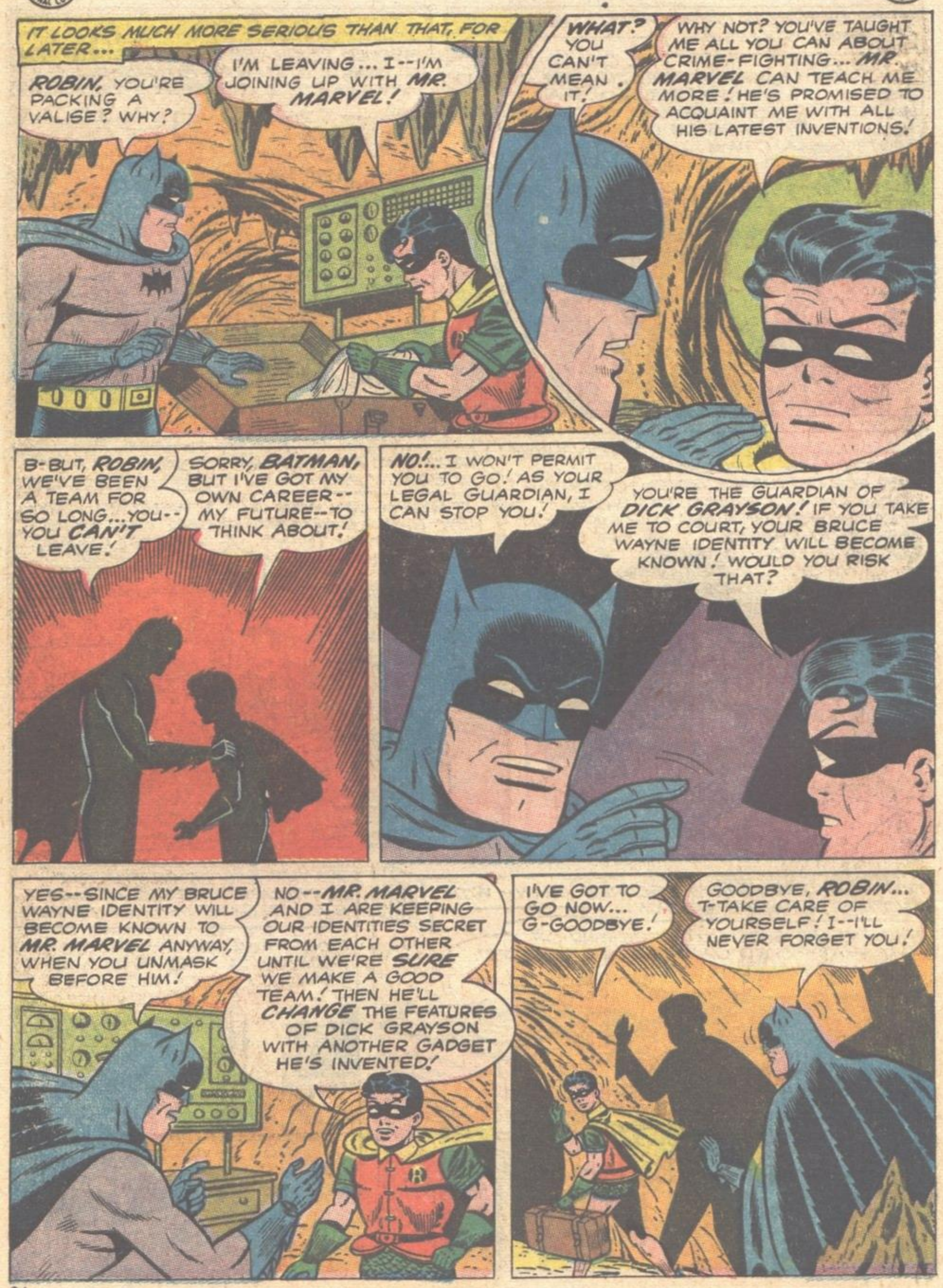

...BUT UNLIKE BATMAN, I AM NO ATHLETE -- FOR I BELIEVE THAT LAWMEN SHOULD NOT HAVE TO USE FISTICUFFS! I THINK BATMAN IS OUTDATED... I AM THE CRIME-FIGHTER OF THE FUTURE!

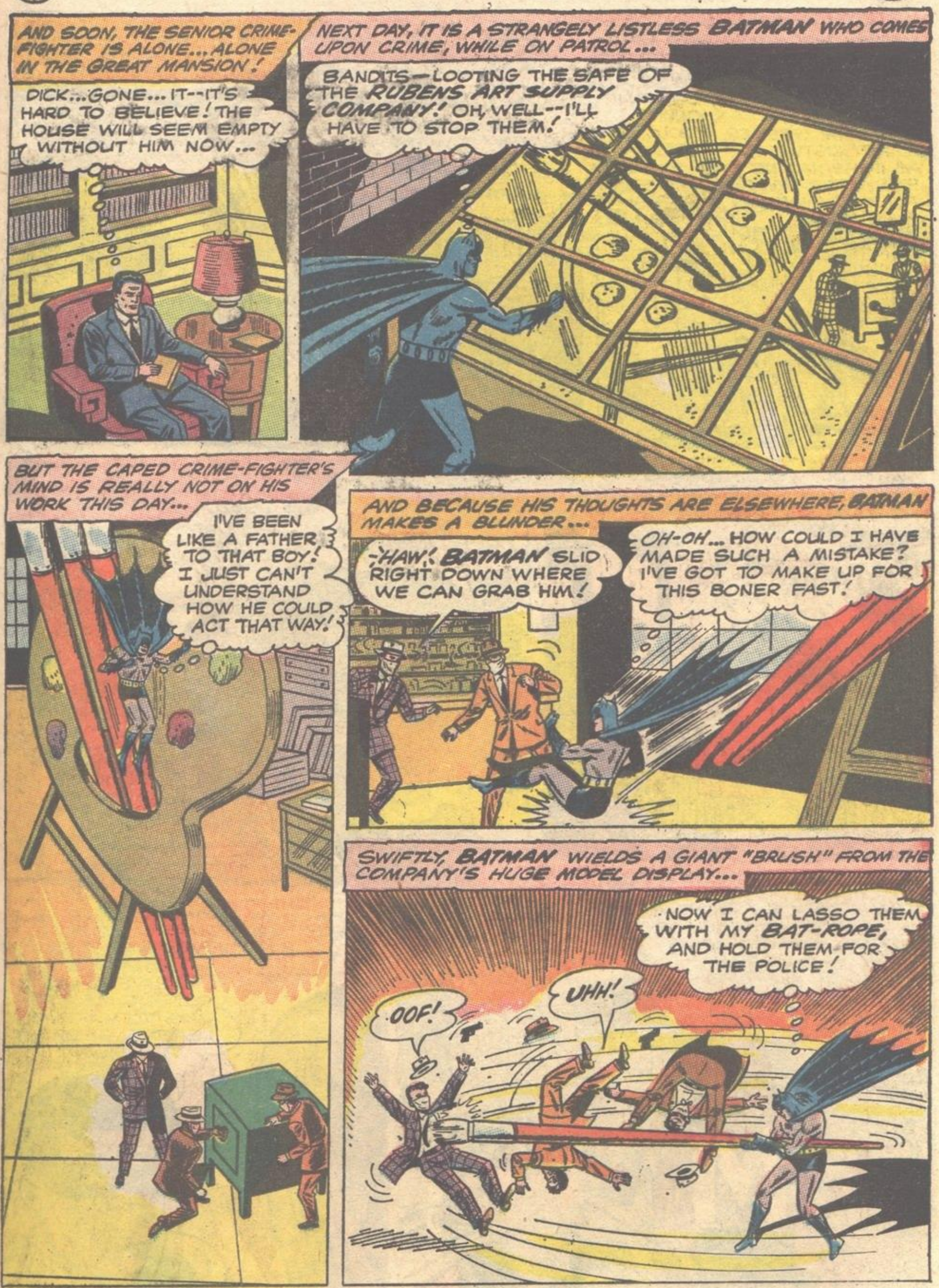
WHAT'S MORE, I DON'T NEED THE REWARD I SHOULD GET FOR CAPTURING THOSE CROOKS! I'M INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY -- SO GIVE THE MONEY TO CHARITY! GOODBYE -- FOR AWHILE!
HOLY SMOKE! HIS CAR SPROUTED WINGS -- AND TOOK OFF LIKE A PLANE!


NEXT DAY, AS BATMAN APPEARS ON A TV INTERVIEW PROGRAM...
IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A NEW RIVAL, BATMAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HIM?
I WELCOME ANY-ONE WHO WARS AGAINST CRIME!
TV


THAT NIGHT, MR. MARVEL SCORES AGAIN -- WITH ANOTHER AMAZING WEAPON...
WHEW! HE SHOT OUT SOME KIND OF RAY THAT PICKED UP THE BANK ROBBERS' CAR AND TURNED IT OVER!
BANK

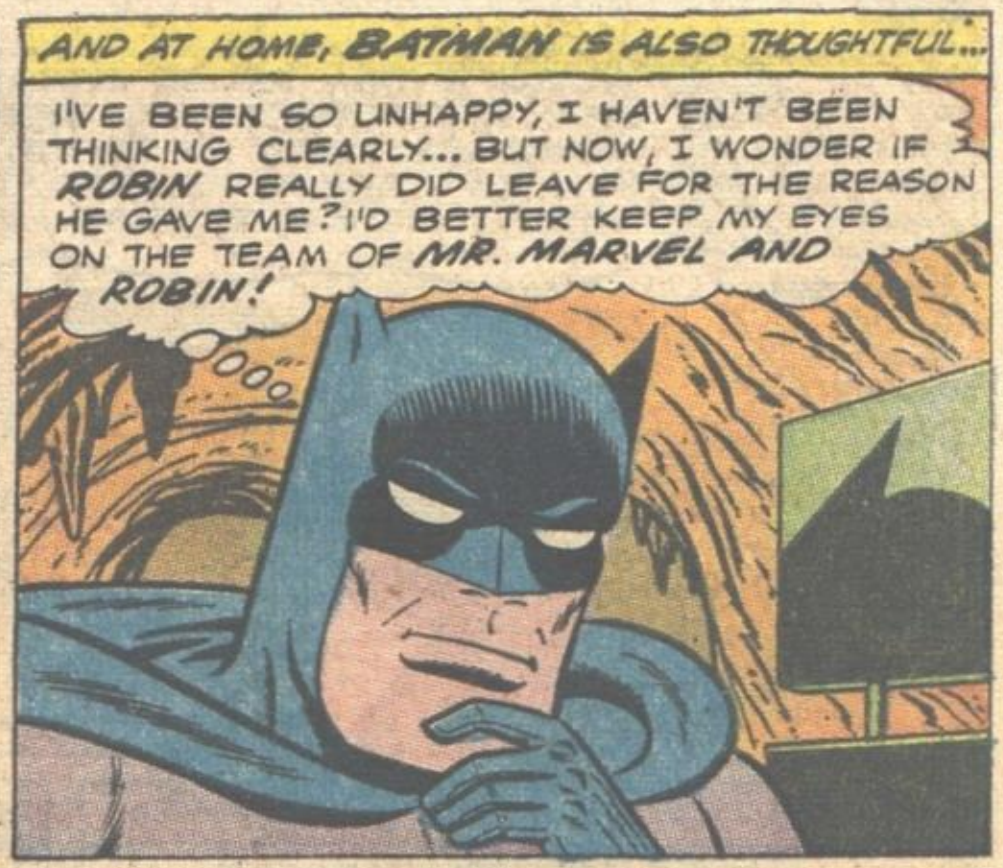
AS THE NEW CRIME-FIGHTER CONTINUES TO SCORE AGAINST EVIL, HE GAINS MANY NEW ADMIRERS...
GOLLY! THIS MR. MARVEL IS TERRIFIC! WHAT A GUY!
HMM... LOOKS AS THOUGH DICK HAS A NEW HERO!

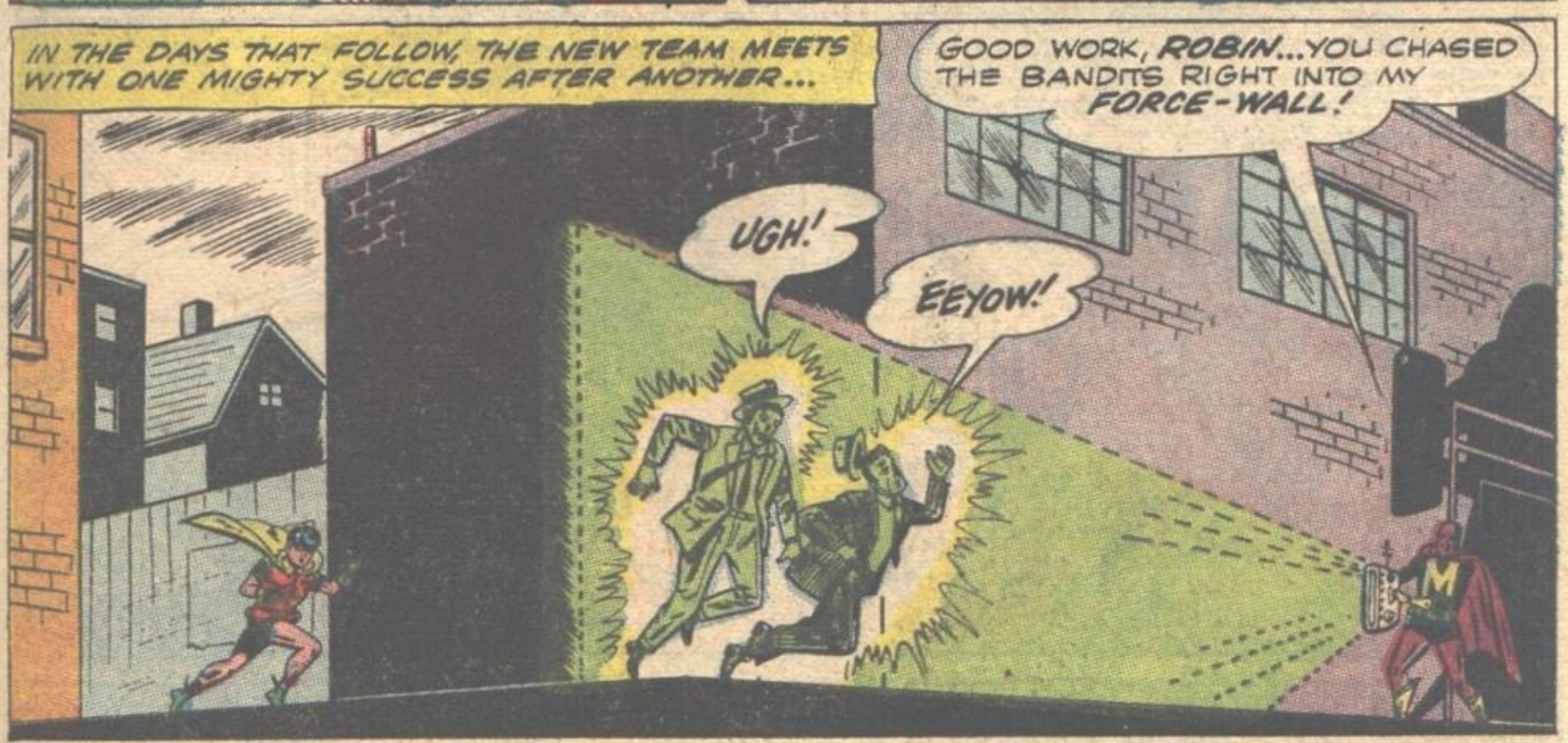

IT LOOKS MUCH MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT, FOR LATER...
ROBIN, YOU'RE PACKING A VALISE? WHY?
I'M LEAVING... I--I'M JOINING UP WITH MR. MARVEL!
WHAT? YOU CAN'T MEAN IT!
WHY NOT? YOU'VE TAUGHT ME ALL YOU CAN ABOUT CRIME-FIGHTING... MR. MARVEL CAN TEACH ME MORE! HE'S PROMISED TO ACQUAINT ME WITH ALL HIS LATEST INVENTIONS!
B-BUT, ROBIN, WE'VE BEEN A TEAM FOR SO LONG...YOU--YOU CAN'T LEAVE!
SORRY, BATMAN, BUT I'VE GOT MY OWN CAREER--MY FUTURE--TO THINK ABOUT!
NO!... I WON'T PERMIT YOU TO GO! AS YOUR LEGAL GUARDIAN, I CAN STOP YOU!
YOU'RE THE GUARDIAN OF DICK GRAYSON! IF YOU TAKE ME TO COURT, YOUR BRUCE WAYNE IDENTITY WILL BECOME KNOWN! WOULD YOU RISK THAT?
YES--SINCE MY BRUCE WAYNE IDENTITY WILL BECOME KNOWN TO MR. MARVEL ANYWAY, WHEN YOU UNMASK BEFORE HIM!
NO--MR. MARVEL AND I ARE KEEPING OUR IDENTITIES SECRET FROM EACH OTHER UNTIL WE'RE SURE WE MAKE A GOOD TEAM! THEN HE'LL CHANGE THE FEATURES OF DICK GRAYSON WITH ANOTHER GADGET HE'S INVENTED!
I'VE GOT TO GO NOW... G-GOODBYE!
GOODBYE, ROBIN... T-TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! I--I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU!


AND SOON, THE SENIOR CRIME-FIGHTER IS ALONE... ALONE IN THE GREAT MANSION!
DICK...GONE... IT--IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE! THE HOUSE WILL SEEM EMPTY WITHOUT HIM NOW...
NEXT DAY, IT IS A STRANGELY LISTLESS BATMAN WHO COMES UPON CRIME, WHILE ON PATROL...
BANDITS—LOOTING THE SAFE OF THE RUBENS ART SUPPLY COMPANY! OH, WELL--I'LL HAVE TO STOP THEM!
BUT THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER'S MIND IS REALLY NOT ON HIS WORK THIS DAY...
I'VE BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO THAT BOY! I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE COULD ACT THAT WAY!
AND BECAUSE HIS THOUGHTS ARE ELSEWHERE, BATMAN MAKES A BLUNDER...
HAW! BATMAN SLID RIGHT DOWN WHERE WE CAN GRAB HIM!
OH-OH... HOW COULD I HAVE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE? I'VE GOT TO MAKE UP FOR THIS BONER FAST!
SWIFTLY, BATMAN WIELDS A GIANT "BRUSH" FROM THE COMPANY'S HUGE MODEL DISPLAY...
NOW I CAN LASSO THEM WITH MY BAT-ROPE, AND HOLD THEM FOR THE POLICE!
OOF!
UHH!

LATER, WHEN NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THE STORY...
ACCORDING TO THE BOUND GUARD WHO OBSERVED HIM, BATMAN SEEMED TO ACT LISTLESSLY—AS IF HE HAD NO HEART FOR CRIME-FIGHTING ANYMORE...
IT'S BECAUSE OF ME! IF ONLY I COULD TELL BATMAN WHAT HAPPENED A FEW DAYS AGO...
"...WHILE BATMAN WAS BEING INTERVIEWED ON TELEVISION, AND I WAS WAITING FOR HIM WITH THE BATMOBILE, NEAR THE TV STATION..."
I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE! ROBIN! I WANT YOU TO TEAM UP WITH ME... I'LL MAKE YOU A GREATER CRIME-FIGHTER THAN BATMAN!
WHAT--? I'M SORRY, MR. MARVEL, BUT BATMAN AND I ARE PARTNERS! I'D NEVER LEAVE HIM!
BUT YOU WILL!... BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T LEAVE BATMAN, I'LL KILL HIM! SEE THAT BILLBOARD?... WATCH!
BATMAN SAYS, "STOP CRIME NOW"
HALF THE SIGN DISAPPEARED SILENTLY--IN A PUFF OF SMOKE!
POOF
YES--BUT THIS IS NOT THE WEAPON I WILL USE ON BATMAN! I ONLY USED IT TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT CAN HAPPEN...
AN SAYS, "STOP CRIME NOW"
ZZZZZ
MY BELT'S DIAL IS TUNED TO BATMAN'S FREQUENCY! IF I BUT TOUCH THE BUTTON, AN ELECTRONIC BEAM WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO BATMAN AND DESTROY HIM!--UNLESS YOU TEAM UP WITH ME!
WHY DON'T YOU CHOOSE ANOTHER KID AND TRAIN HIM TO BE YOUR PARTNER? WHY PICK ME?
M
I HAVE MY REASONS! WELL--WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
I--I'VE NO CHOICE! I CAN'T RISK BATMAN'S LIFE--I'LL HAVE TO JOIN YOU. BUT GIVE ME A FEW DAYS TO MAKE MY LEAVING SEEM PLAUSIBLE!

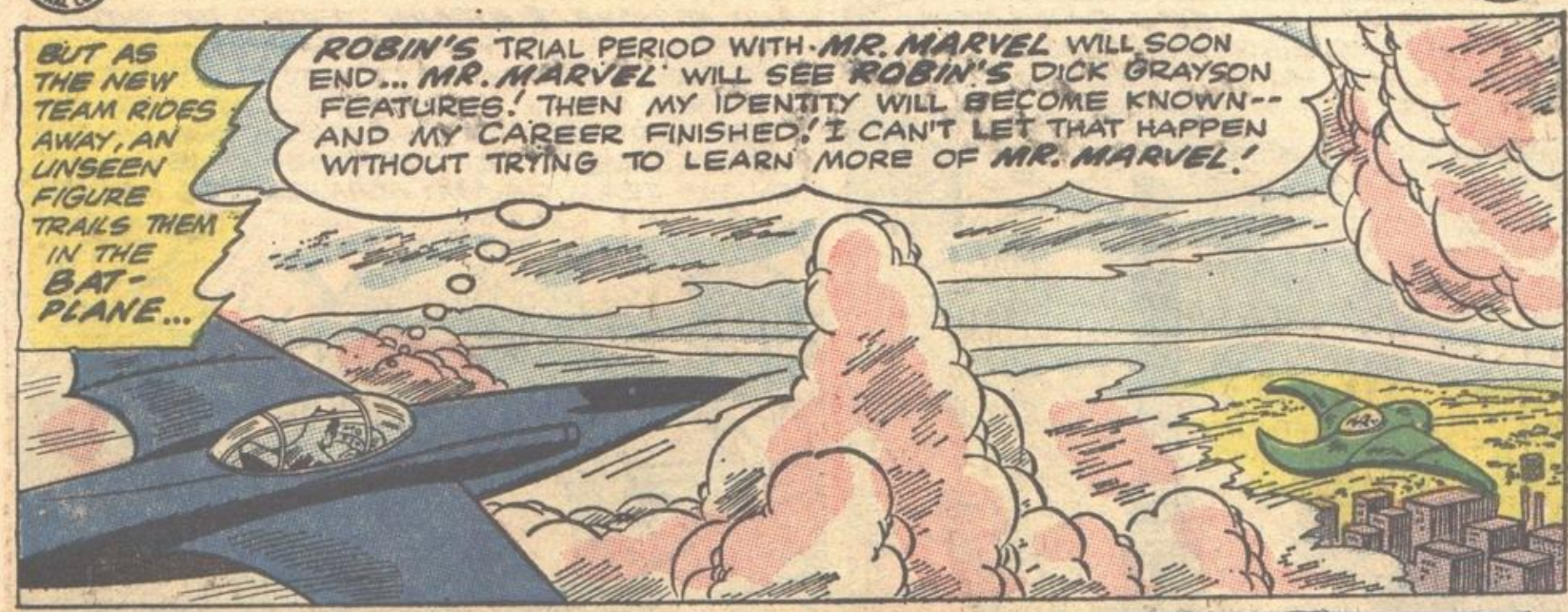
WHAT'S MR. MARVEL'S GAME? IS HE A CROOK IN DISGUISE? DOES HE SOMEHOW INTEND TO USE ME FOR A BIG JOB THAT WILL BRING HIM A FORTUNE?


AND AT HOME, BATMAN IS ALSO THOUGHTFUL...
I'VE BEEN SO UNHAPPY, I HAVEN'T BEEN THINKING CLEARLY... BUT NOW, I WONDER IF ROBIN REALLY DID LEAVE FOR THE REASON HE GAVE ME? I'D BETTER KEEP MY EYES ON THE TEAM OF MR. MARVEL AND ROBIN!


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE NEW TEAM MEETS WITH ONE MIGHTY SUCCESS AFTER ANOTHER...
GOOD WORK, ROBIN... YOU CHASED THE BANDITS RIGHT INTO MY FORCE-WALL!
UGH!
EEYOW!

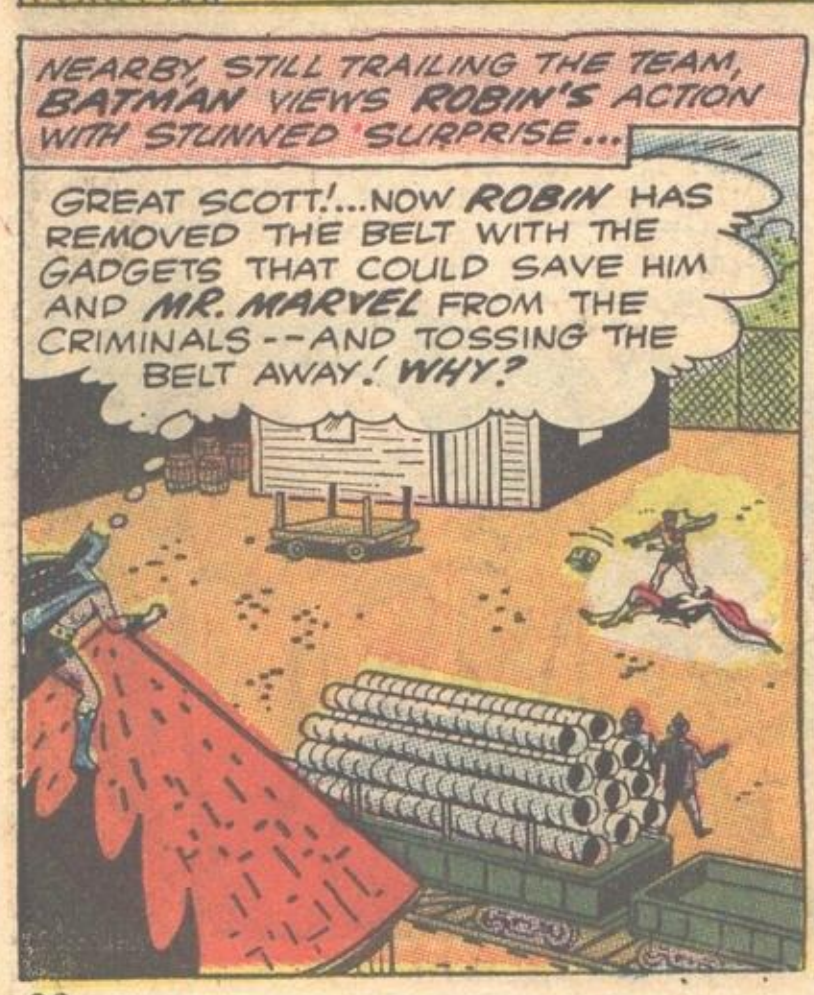
AND AFTER THE CRIMINALS ARE JAILED...
MR. MARVEL-- YOU'RE THE GREATEST! BOY, AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME TEAM UP WITH YOU!
OH?... THEN YOU DON'T HATE ME FOR THE HOLD I HAVE OVER YOU?
POLICE

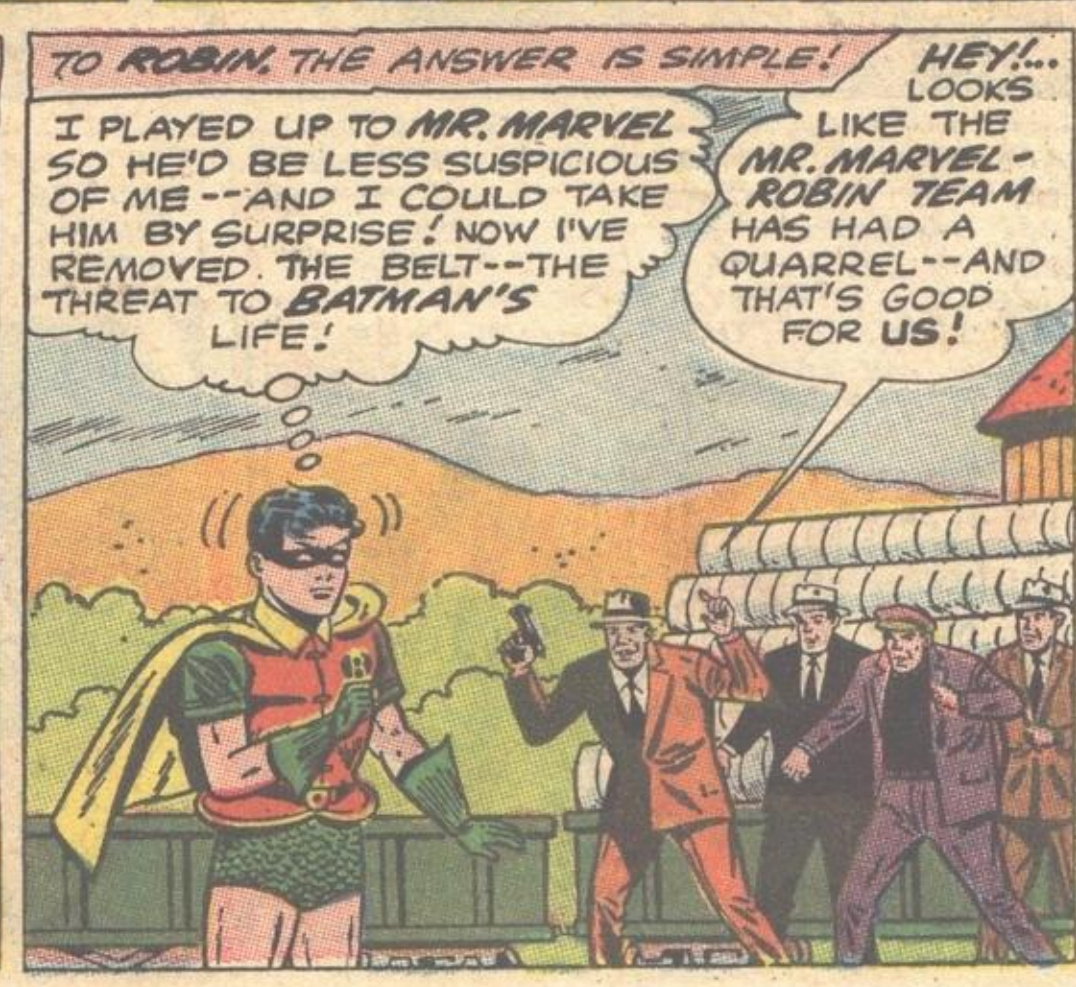
NOT ANYMORE! I REALIZE, NOW, I'VE GOT MY FUTURE TO THINK OF! WITH YOUR TEACHING, AND YOUR INVENTIONS, I CAN DO BETTER WITH YOU THAN I EVER COULD WITH BATMAN!

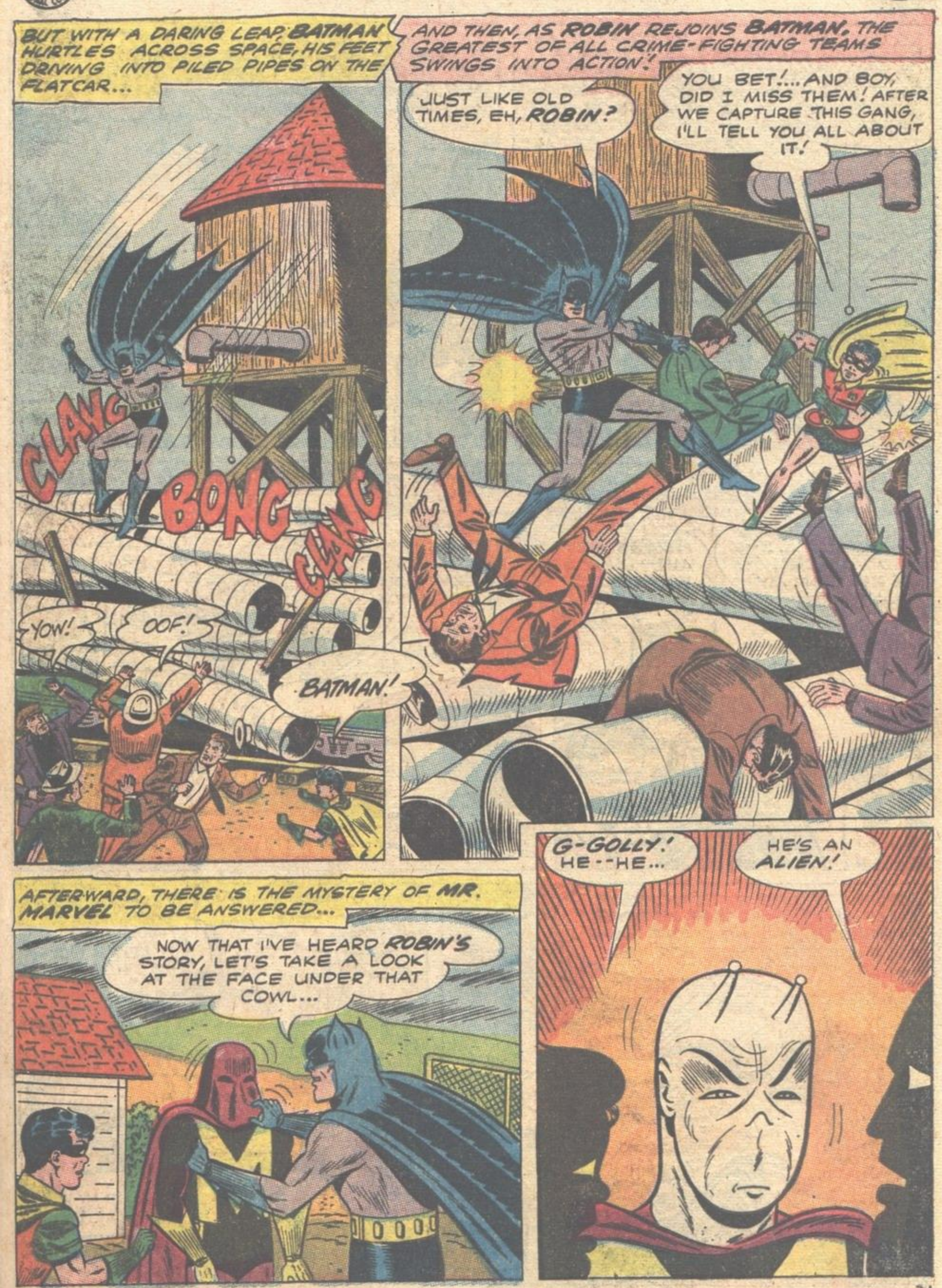

BUT AS THE NEW TEAM RIDES AWAY, AN UNSEEN FIGURE TRAILS THEM IN THE BAT-PLANE...
ROBIN'S TRIAL PERIOD WITH MR. MARVEL WILL SOON END... MR. MARVEL WILL SEE ROBIN'S DICK GRAYSON FEATURES! THEN MY IDENTITY WILL BECOME KNOWN-- AND MY CAREER FINISHED! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN WITHOUT TRYING TO LEARN MORE OF MR. MARVEL!

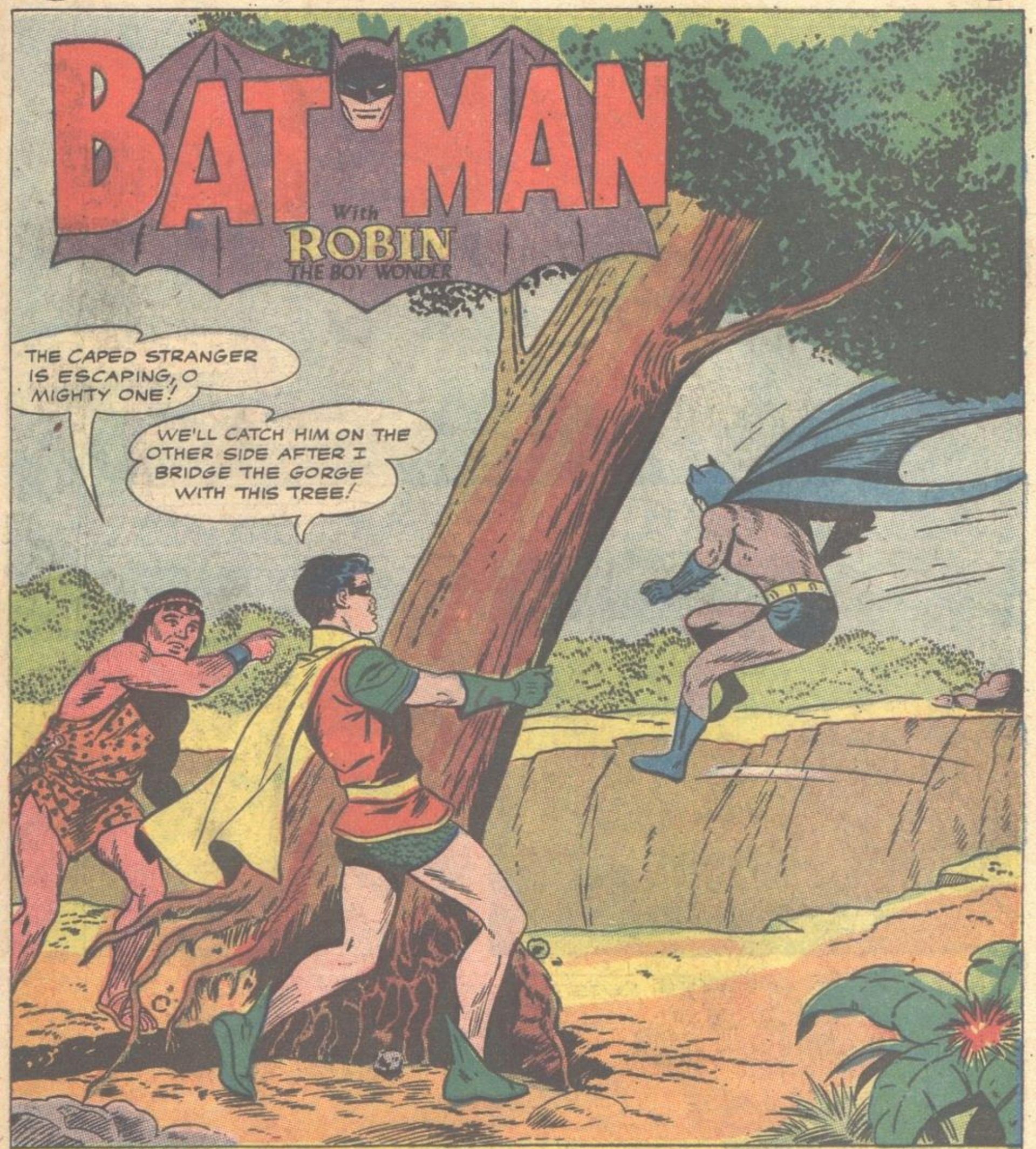
LATER, AS BANDITS ATTACK A TRAIN AT A SIDING...
COME ON--LET'S SHOW THESE CROOKS WHAT THE TEAM OF MR. MARVEL AND ROBIN CAN DO!
ROBIN, NOW YOU SEEM AS HAPPY, FIGHTING WITH ME, AS YOU DID WITH BATMAN!

BUT ABRUPTLY, AS THE JUBILANT MR. MARVEL RACES SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE BOY WONDER...
NOW!
OOF!


NEARBY, STILL TRAILING THE TEAM, BATMAN VIEWS ROBIN'S ACTION WITH STUNNED SURPRISE...
GREAT SCOTT!...NOW ROBIN HAS REMOVED THE BELT WITH THE GADGETS THAT COULD SAVE HIM AND MR. MARVEL FROM THE CRIMINALS--AND TOSSING THE BELT AWAY! WHY?


TO ROBIN, THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE!
I PLAYED UP TO MR. MARVEL SO HE'D BE LESS SUSPICIOUS OF ME--AND I COULD TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE! NOW I'VE REMOVED THE BELT--THE THREAT TO BATMAN'S LIFE!
HEY!... LOOKS LIKE THE MR. MARVEL-ROBIN TEAM HAS HAD A QUARREL--AND THAT'S GOOD FOR US!

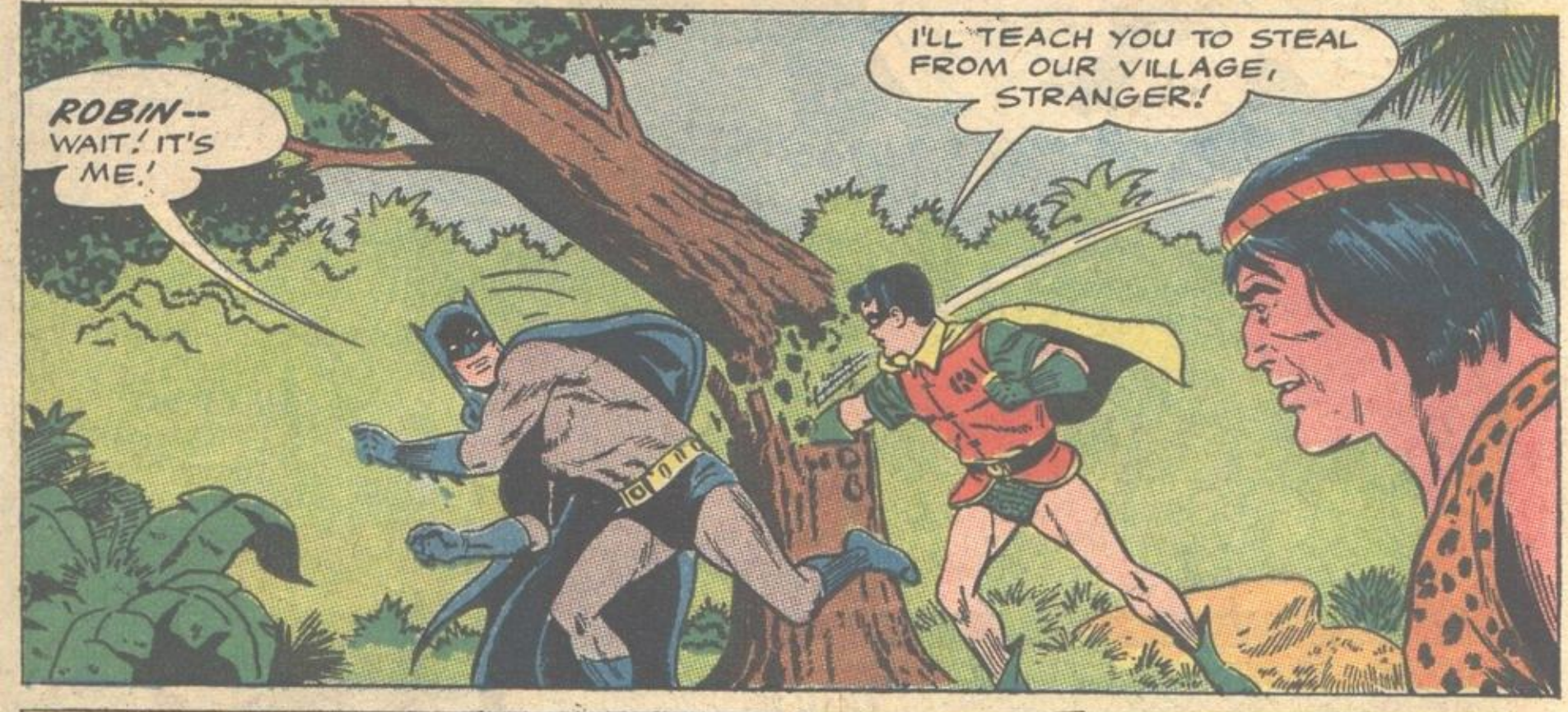

BUT WITH A DARING LEAP, BATMAN HURTLES ACROSS SPACE, HIS FEET DRIVING INTO PILED PIPES ON THE FLATCAR...
CLANG
BONG
CLANG
YOW!
OOF!
BATMAN!
AND THEN, AS ROBIN REJOINS BATMAN, THE GREATEST OF ALL CRIME-FIGHTING TEAMS SWINGS INTO ACTION!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH, ROBIN?
YOU BET!... AND BOY, DID I MISS THEM! AFTER WE CAPTURE THIS GANG, I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!
AFTERWARD, THERE IS THE MYSTERY OF MR. MARVEL TO BE ANSWERED...
NOW THAT I'VE HEARD ROBIN'S STORY, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE FACE UNDER THAT COWL...
G-GOLLY! HE--HE...
HE'S AN ALIEN!

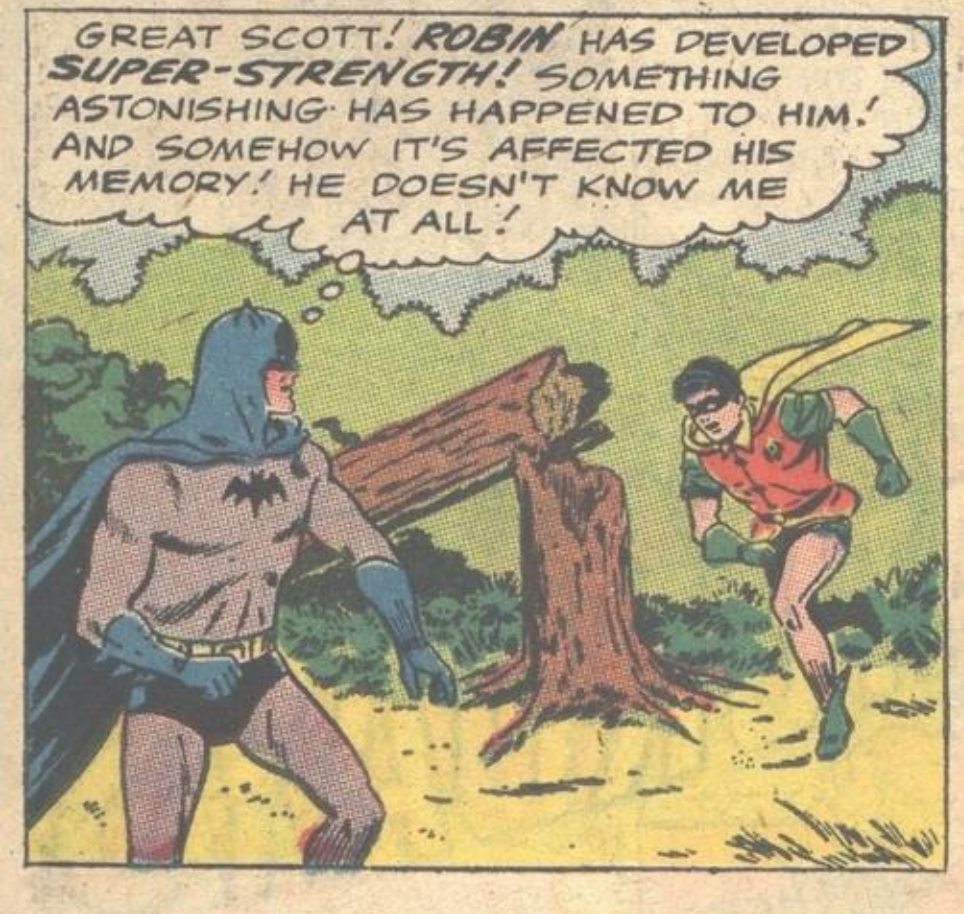


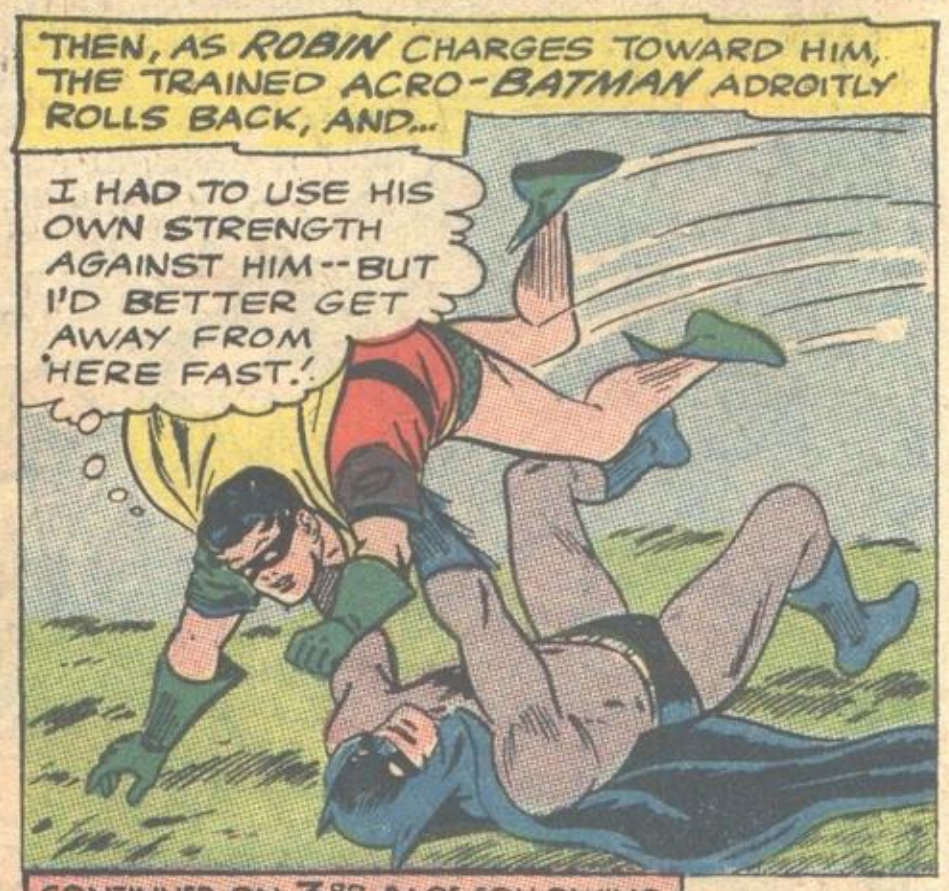
FOR YEARS, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HAVE RELENTLESSLY PURSUED AND BROUGHT CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE! BUT NOW, IN A PLACE FAR FROM CIVILIZATION, SOMETHING HAPPENS TO SEPARATE THEM -- AND **BATMAN** BECOMES THE HUNTED QUARRY, FORCED TO FLEE FROM A LOYAL PARTNER WHO HAS AMAZINGLY CHANGED TO A HOSTILE...

ROBIN, the SUPER BOY WONDER!

ABOVE A REMOTE REGION OF THE YUCATAN JUNGLE, THE BAT-PLANE DIPS FOR A LANDING ON A RUGGED PLATEAU...
WE'LL NEVER SPOT BIFF WARNER IN THIS DENSE JUNGLE FROM THE BAT-PLANE! OUR BEST BET IS TO USE OUR WHIRLY-BATS AND FLY AT TREE-TOP LEVEL!
RIGHT, ROBIN! YOU COVER THE AREA NORTH OF THIS PLATEAU! I'LL TAKE THE SOUTHERN END! THAT'LL DOUBLE OUR CHANCES OF FINDING WARNER'S TRAIL!
SHORTLY AFTER...
OH-OH! LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE SUDDEN VIOLENT TROPICAL STORMS COMING UP DEAD AHEAD!
IN SECONDS, THE FULL FURY OF THE STORM HITS AND HURLS BATMAN'S FRAIL CRAFT INTO...
LOOKS AS IF MY WINGS ARE CLIPPED-- BUT GOOD! WONDER HOW ROBIN MADE OUT? HE DIDN'T SEEM TO RESPOND TO MY RADIO SIGNALS! I'LL JUST HAVE TO SCOUR THIS JUNGLE UNTIL I FIND HIM!
CRASH
LATER, AFTER HOURS OF WEARY TREKKING THROUGH THE JUNGLE...
GREAT SCOTT! ROBIN'S WRECKED WHIRLY-BAT! BUT NO SIGN OF ROBIN! WHERE CAN HE BE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM? IS HE HURT?
JUST THEN...
SEIZE THE STRANGER! HE IS THE ONE I SAW PILFERING THE EMERALDS FROM THE EYES OF THE SACRED STATUE!
OH-OH--I'M BEING ACCUSED OF SOME-THING, AND IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A CHANCE TO DENY IT!







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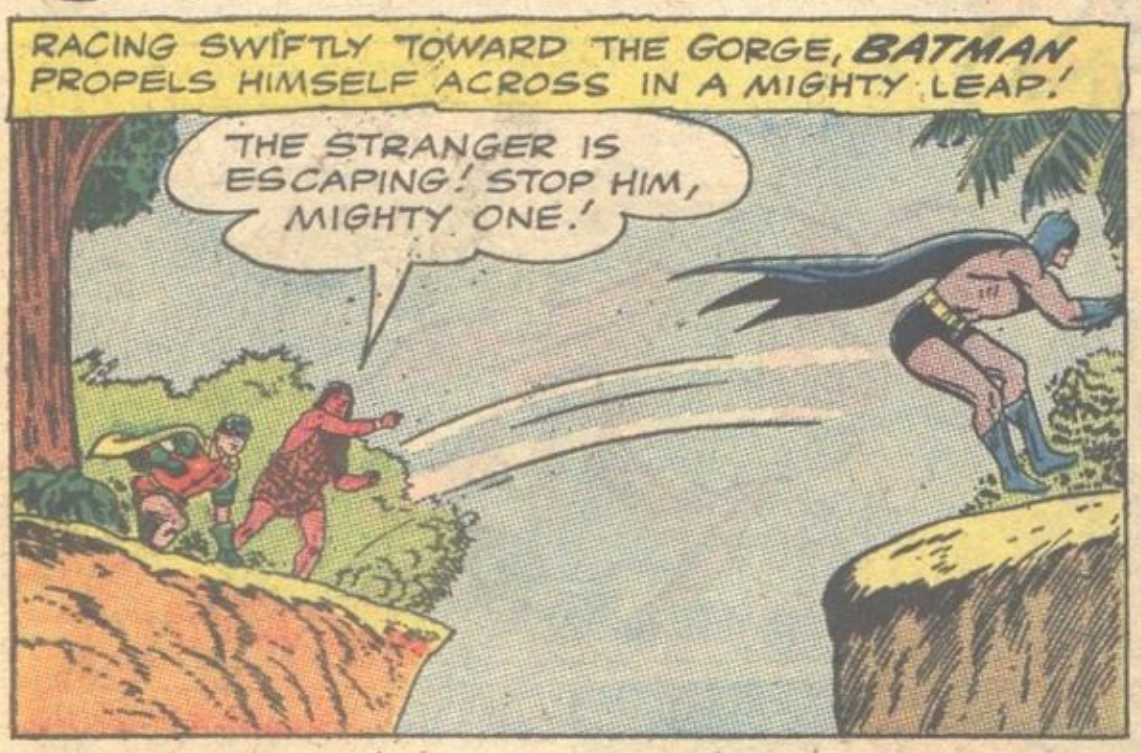
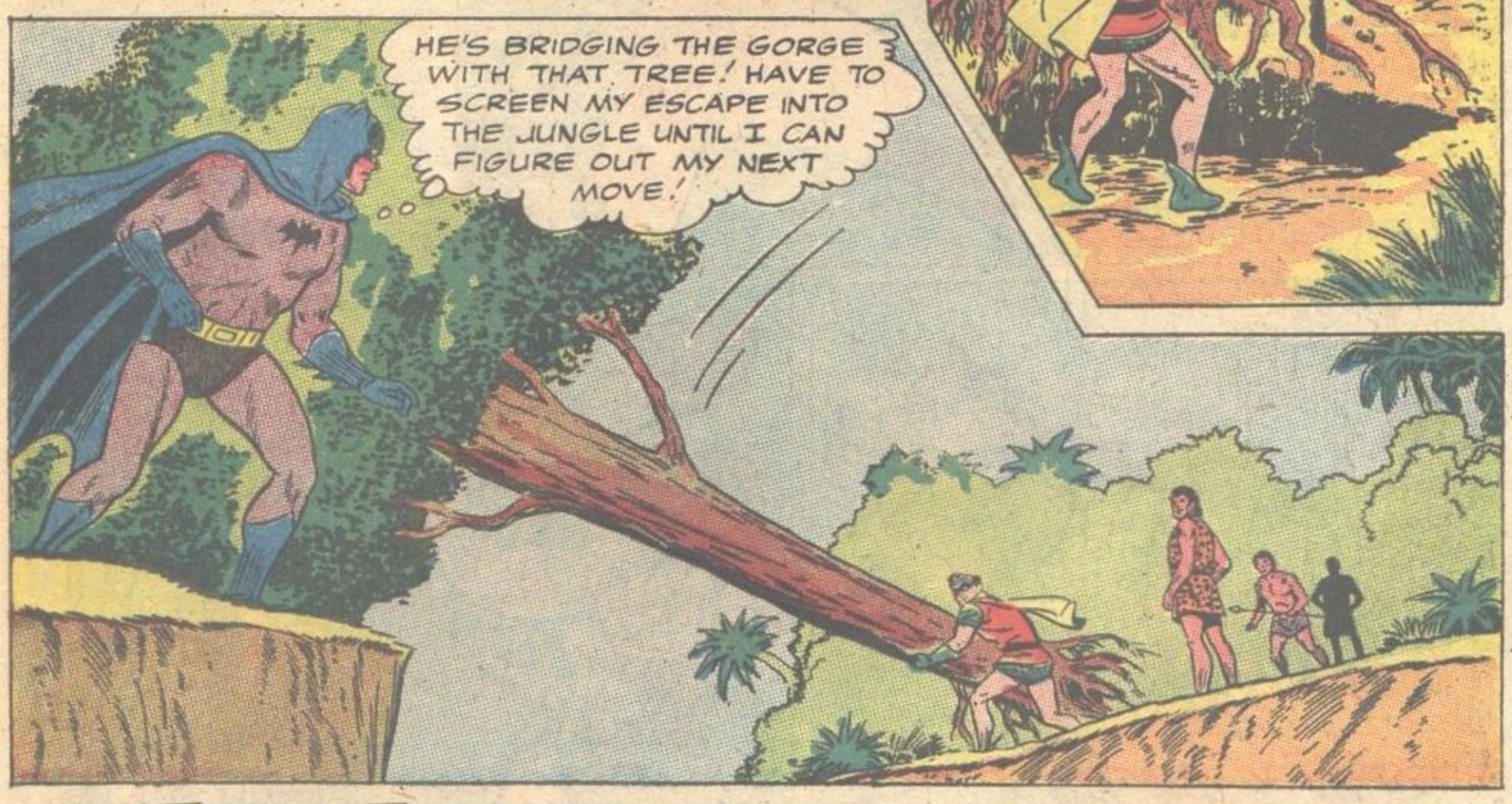
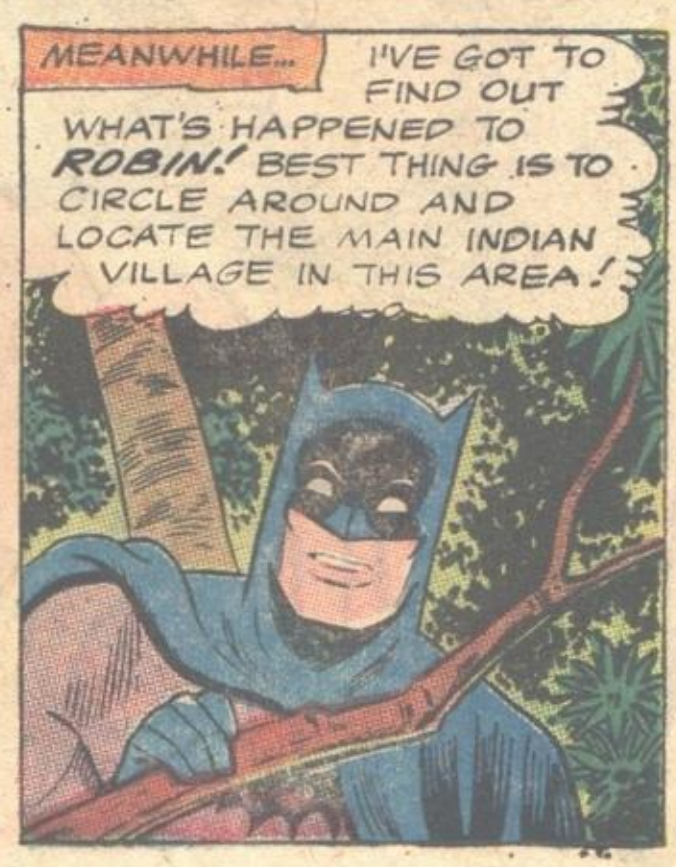
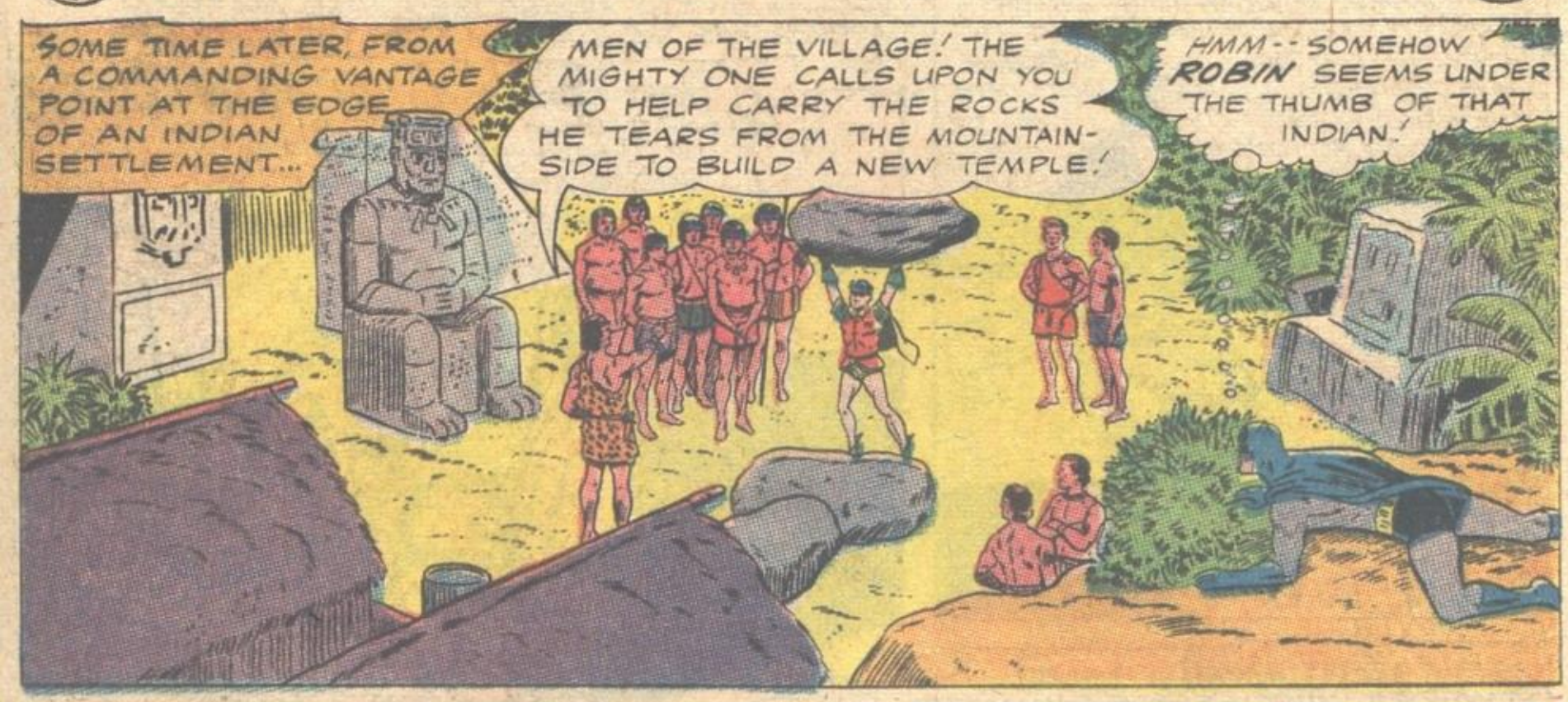

RACING SWIFTLY TOWARD THE GORGE, BATMAN PROPELS HIMSELF ACROSS IN A MIGHTY LEAP!
THE STRANGER IS ESCAPING! STOP HIM, MIGHTY ONE!

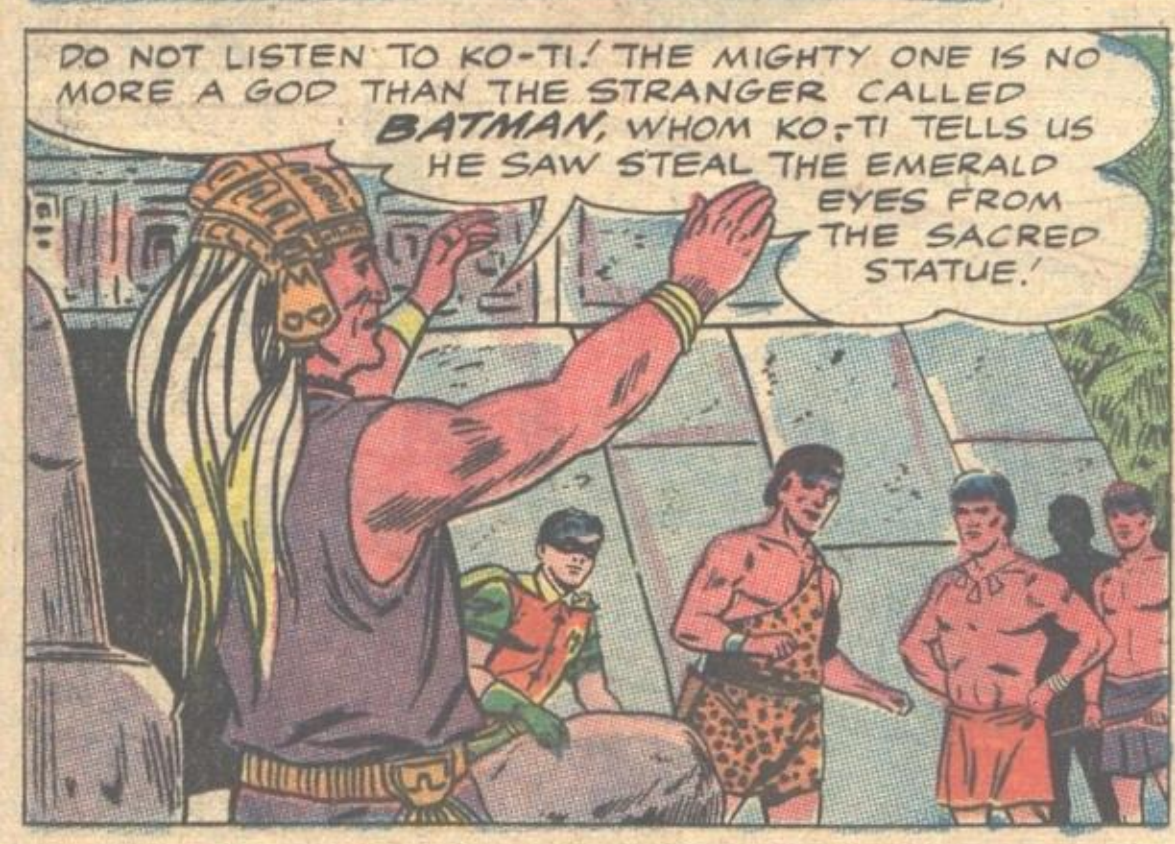
HE WON'T GET FAR, KO-TI!


HE'S BRIDGING THE GORGE WITH THAT TREE! HAVE TO SCREEN MY ESCAPE INTO THE JUNGLE UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT MY NEXT MOVE!

AND AS BATMAN HURLS A SMOKE BOMB FROM HIS UTILITY BELT...
IT'S NO USE, MIGHTY ONE! THROUGH THIS SMOKE, WE SHALL NEVER SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE JUNGLE SWALLOWS HIM! LET US TURN BACK! WE HAVE OTHER IMPORTANT WORK TO DO!

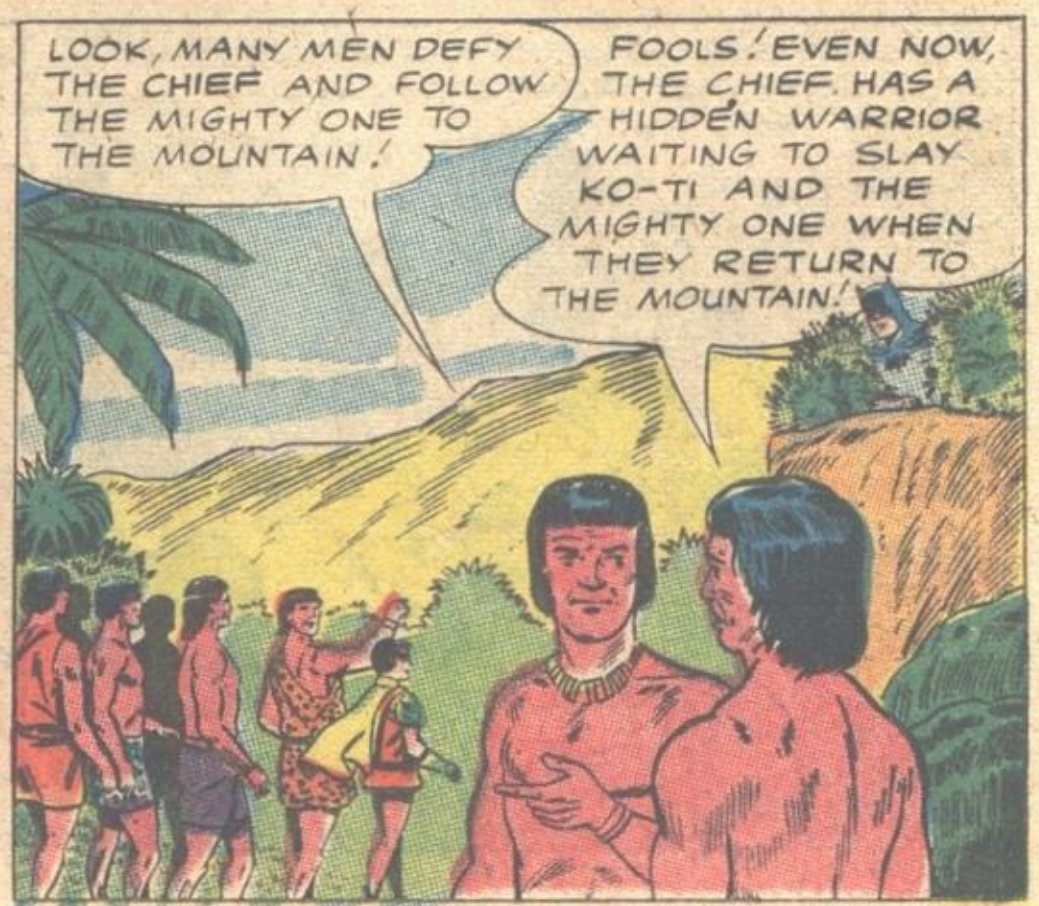

MEANWHILE...
I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ROBIN! BEST THING IS TO CIRCLE AROUND AND LOCATE THE MAIN INDIAN VILLAGE IN THIS AREA!

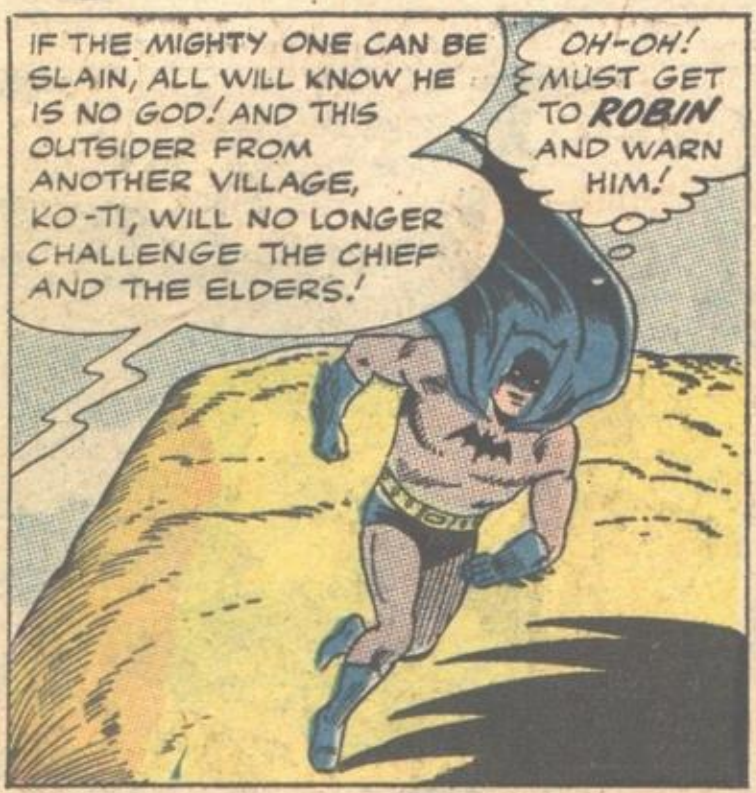

SOME TIME LATER, FROM A COMMANDING VANTAGE POINT AT THE EDGE OF AN INDIAN SETTLEMENT...
MEN OF THE VILLAGE! THE MIGHTY ONE CALLS UPON YOU TO HELP CARRY THE ROCKS HE TEARS FROM THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE TO BUILD A NEW TEMPLE!
HMM--SOMEHOW ROBIN SEEMS UNDER THE THUMB OF THAT INDIAN!

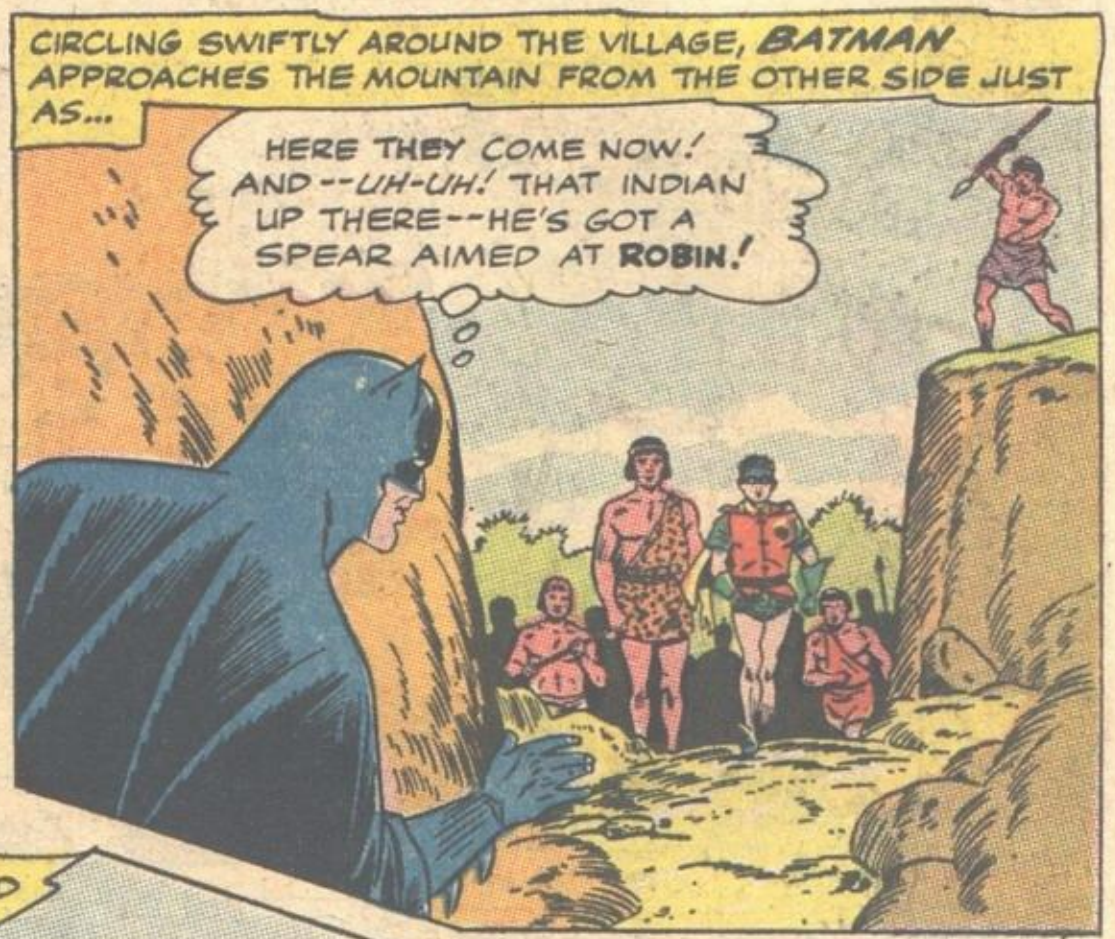

DO NOT LISTEN TO KO-TI! THE MIGHTY ONE IS NO MORE A GOD THAN THE STRANGER CALLED BATMAN, WHOM KO-TI TELLS US HE SAW STEAL THE EMERALD EYES FROM THE SACRED STATUE!

WERE HE A GOD, COULD HE NOT OVERCOME A THIEF? I TELL YOU, IT IS EVIL TO NEGLECT THE FIELDS! DO NOT QUARRY IN THE MOUNTAIN! WHILE OUR OLD TEMPLE STANDS, WE NEED NO NEW ONE!

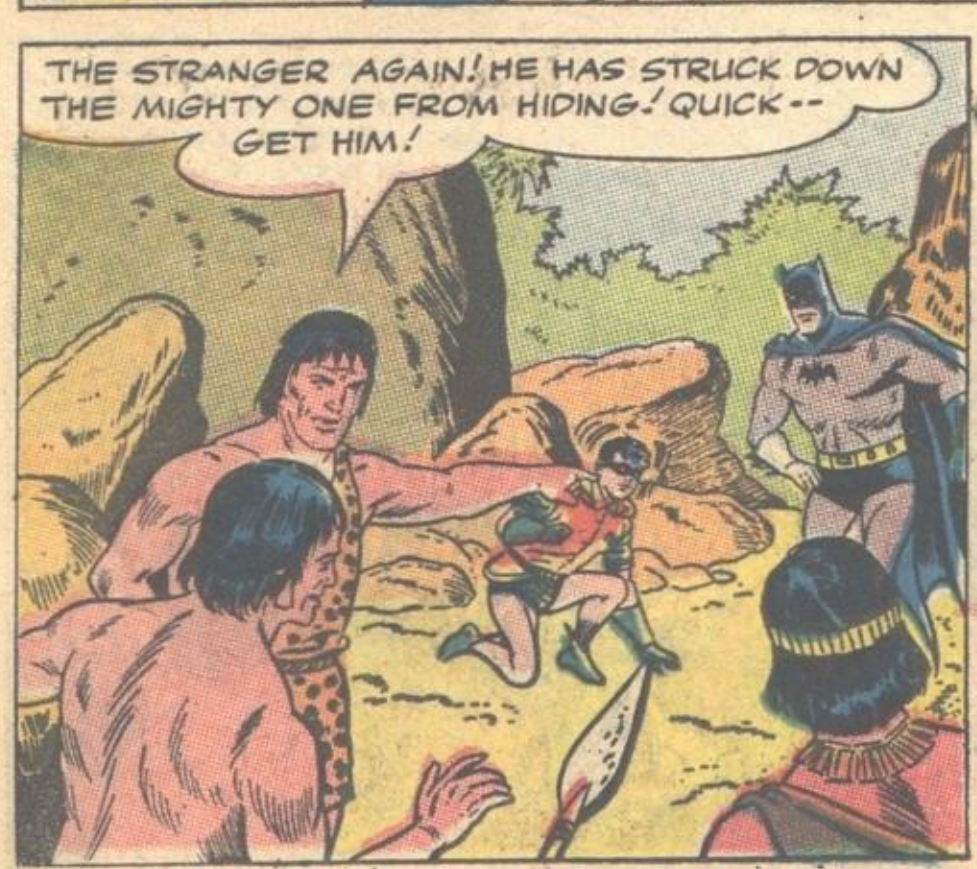
BEHOLD--THE OLD TEMPLE NO LONGER STANDS! THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DESTROYED IT!

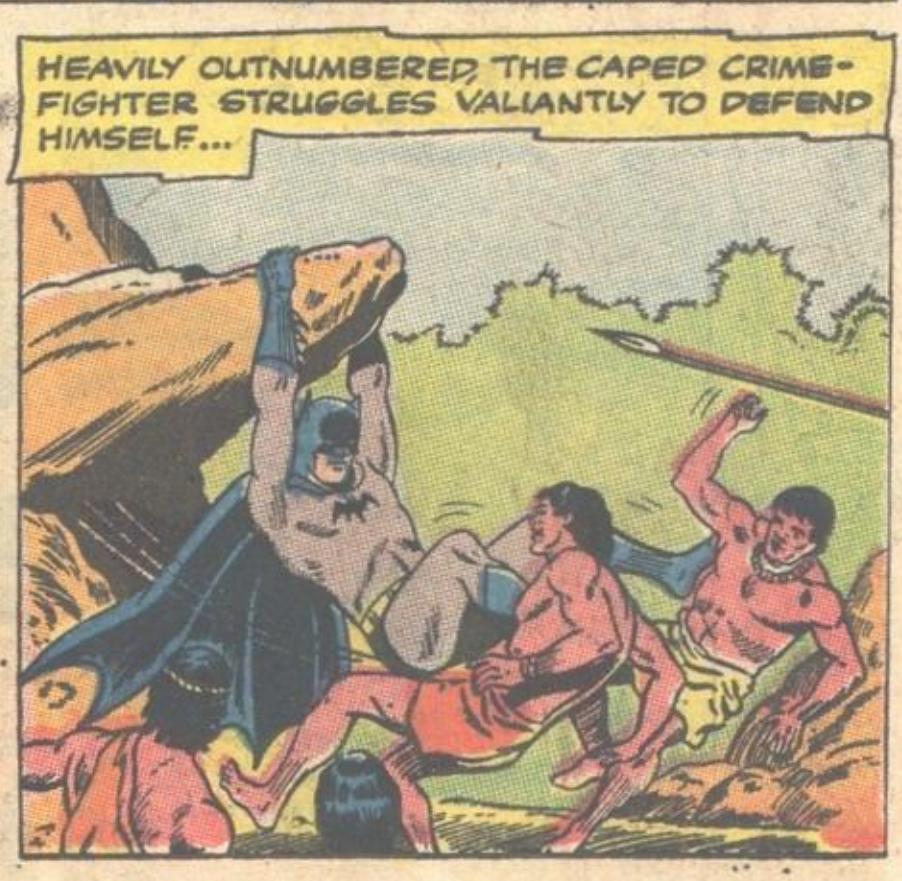

LOOK, MANY MEN DEFY THE CHIEF AND FOLLOW THE MIGHTY ONE TO THE MOUNTAIN!
FOOLS! EVEN NOW, THE CHIEF HAS A HIDDEN WARRIOR WAITING TO SLAY KO-TI AND THE MIGHTY ONE WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE MOUNTAIN!


IF THE MIGHTY ONE CAN BE SLAIN, ALL WILL KNOW HE IS NO GOD! AND THIS OUTSIDER FROM ANOTHER VILLAGE, KO-TI, WILL NO LONGER CHALLENGE THE CHIEF AND THE ELDERS!
OH-OH! MUST GET TO ROBIN AND WARN HIM!


CIRCLING SWIFTLY AROUND THE VILLAGE, BATMAN APPROACHES THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE OTHER SIDE JUST AS...
HERE THEY COME NOW! AND--UH-UH! THAT INDIAN UP THERE--HE'S GOT A SPEAR AIMED AT ROBIN!

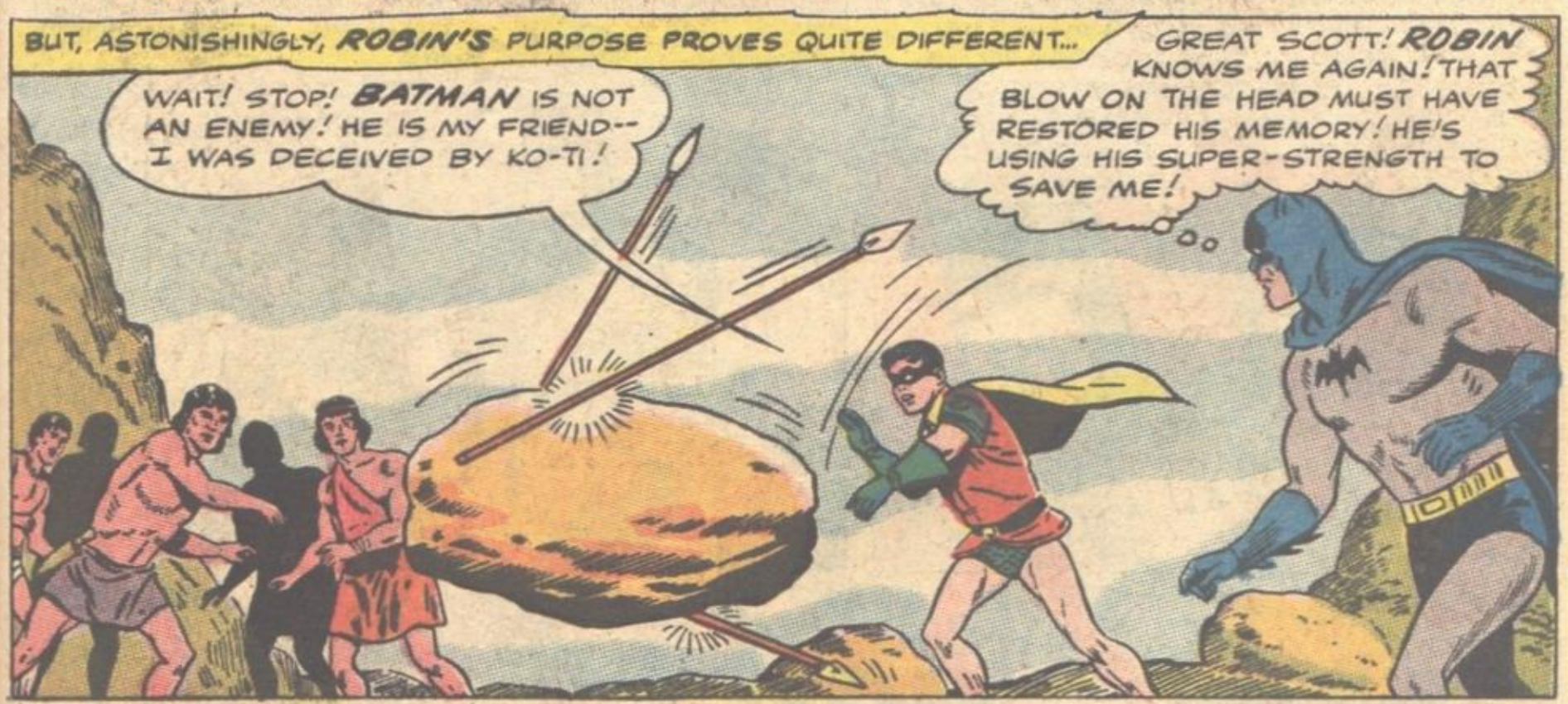
AS THE DEADLY SPEAR IS HURLED, POWERFUL MUSCLES ARE GALVANIZED INTO LIGHTNING ACTION, AND...
WATCH OUT!
HUH--OUCH!


THE STRANGER AGAIN! HE HAS STRUCK DOWN THE MIGHTY ONE FROM HIDING! QUICK--GET HIM!


HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER STRUGGLES VALIANTLY TO DEFEND HIMSELF...

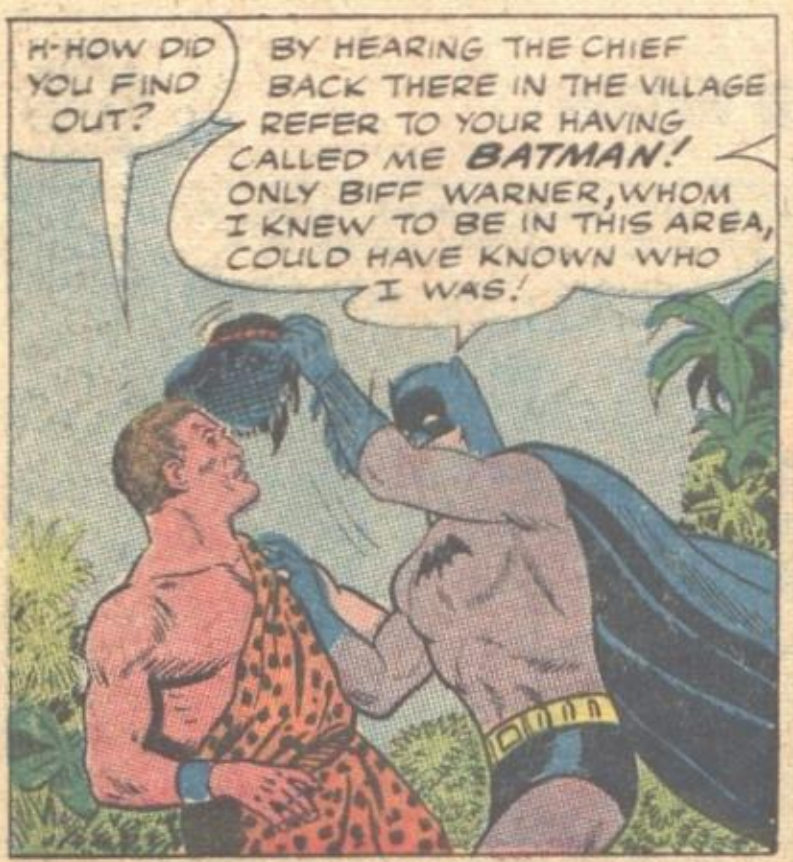
I HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE SPEARS!

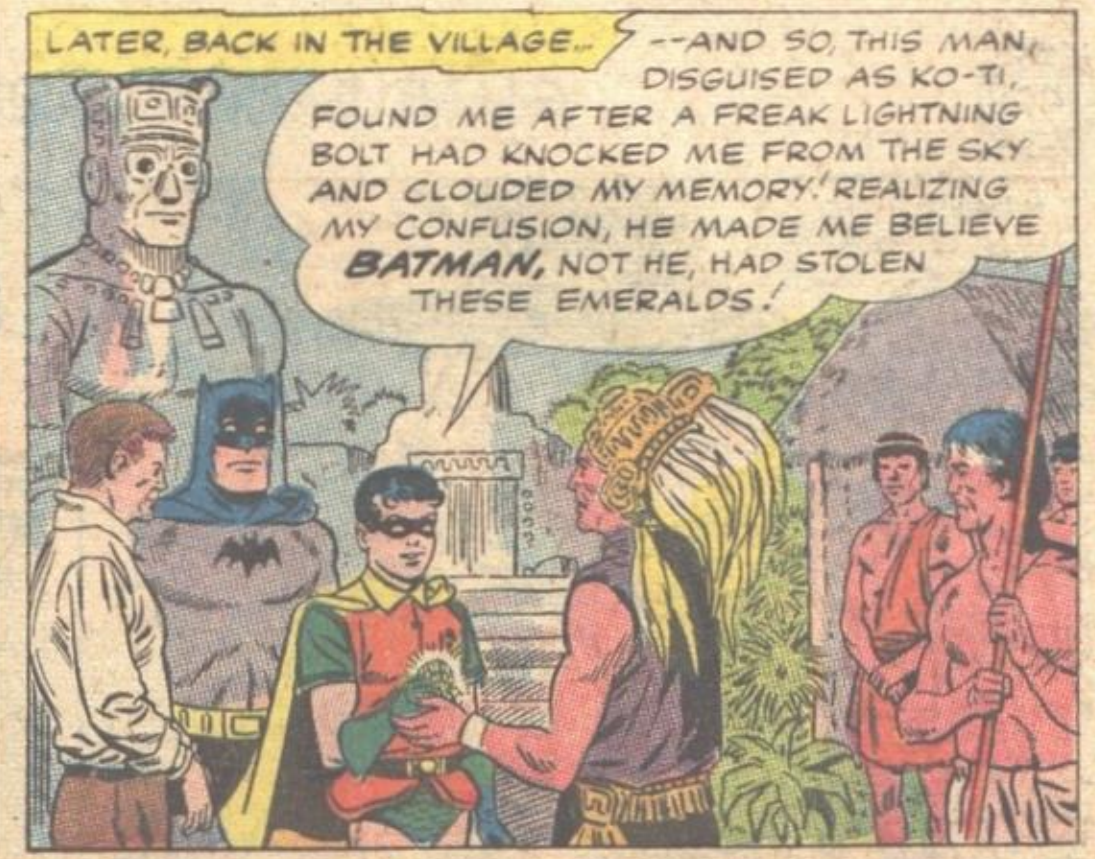
AND HERE COMES ROBIN TO HELP FINISH ME OFF!


BUT, ASTONISHINGLY, ROBIN'S PURPOSE PROVES QUITE DIFFERENT...
WAIT! STOP! BATMAN IS NOT AN ENEMY! HE IS MY FRIEND-- I WAS DECEIVED BY KO-TI!
GREAT SCOTT! ROBIN KNOWS ME AGAIN! THAT BLOW ON THE HEAD MUST HAVE RESTORED HIS MEMORY! HE'S USING HIS SUPER-STRENGTH TO SAVE ME!

HMM... KO-TI'S TRYING TO MAKE A QUICK GETAWAY WHILE HE CAN!

A PANTHERISH SPRING AND...
I CAN'T LET YOU RUSH OFF SO SOON NOW THAT I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE, BIFF WARNER!



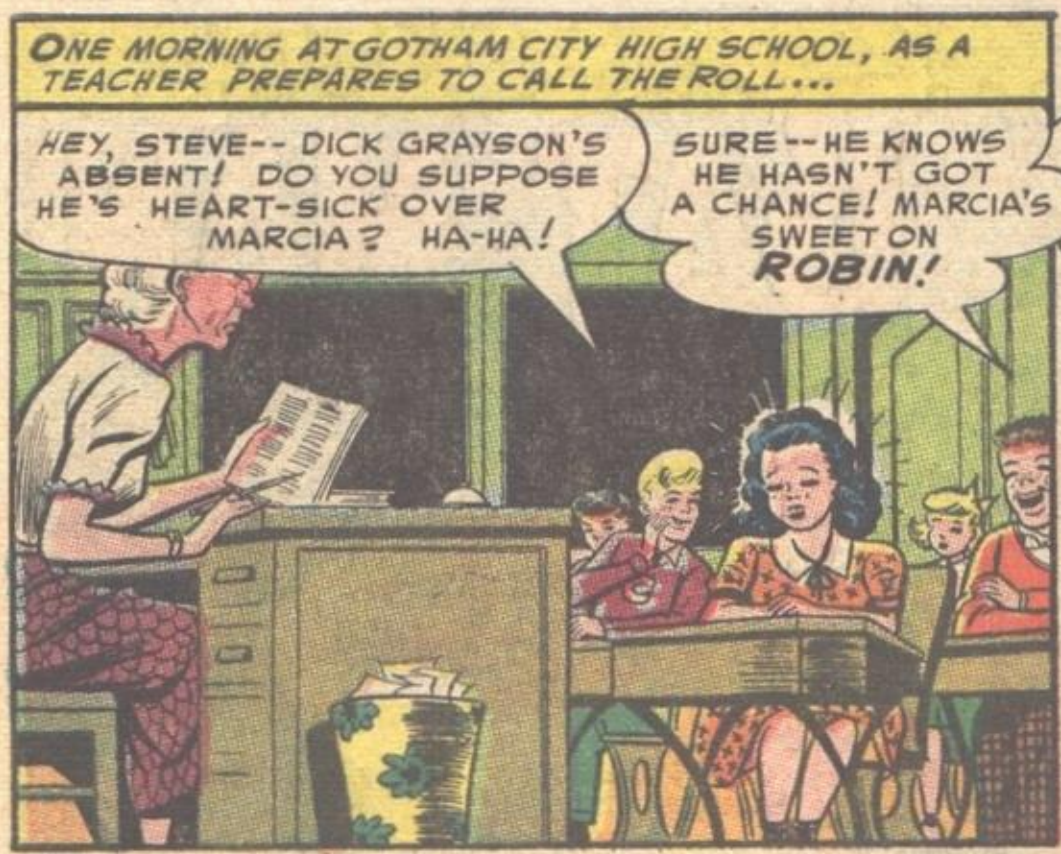


For the MOST in THRILLS...

GO-GO-GO!

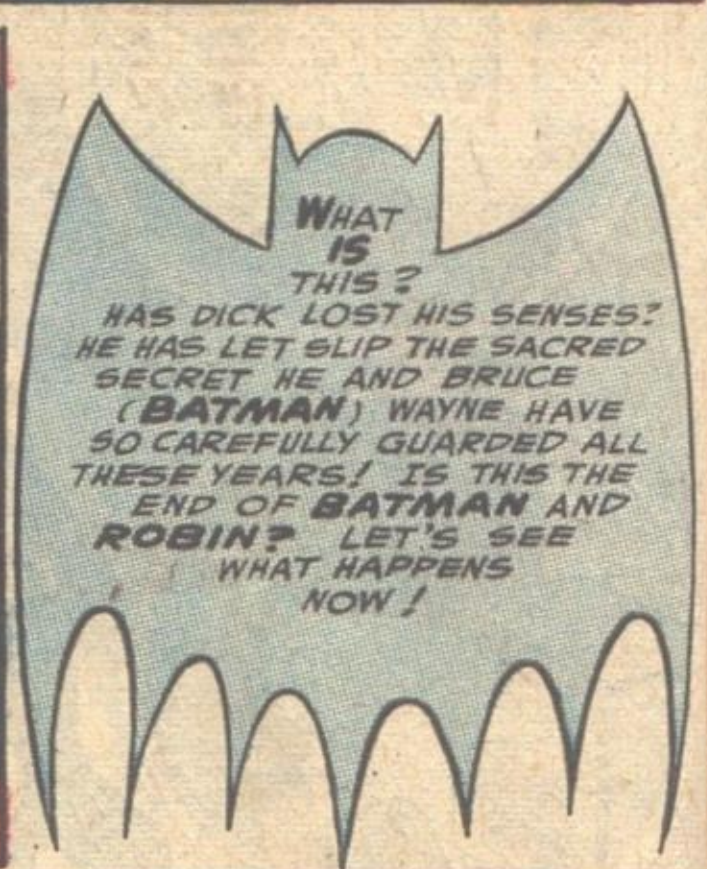
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

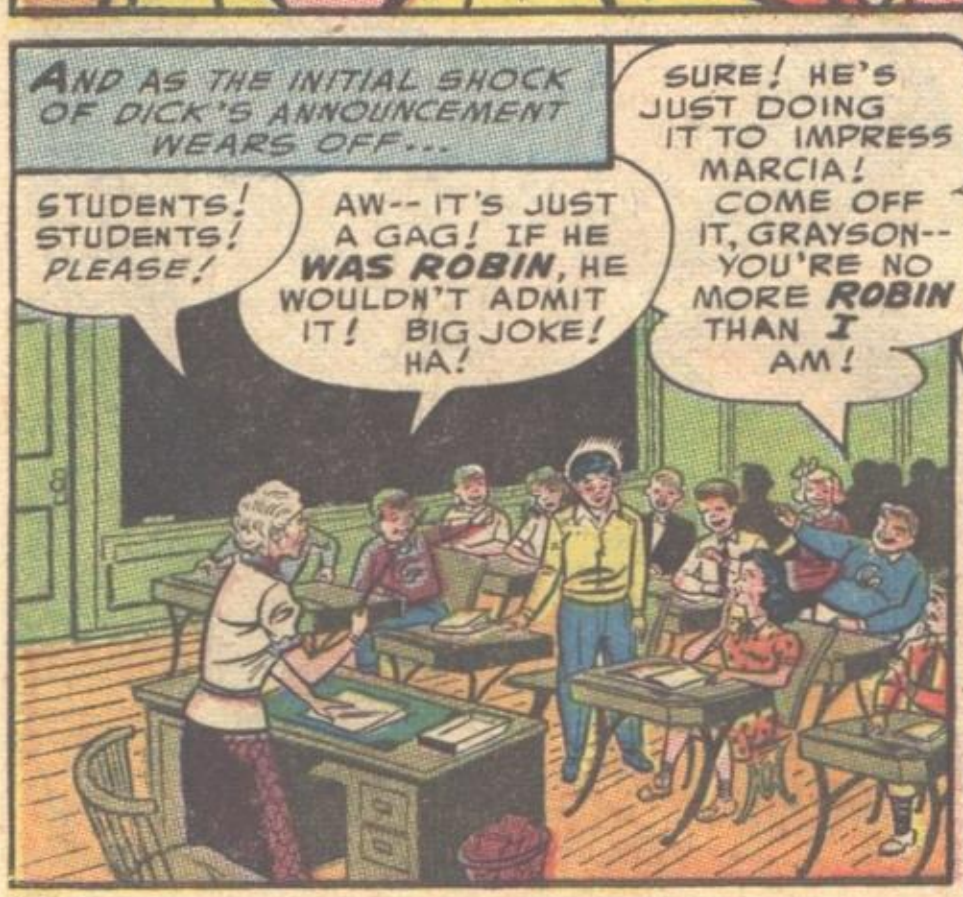
NOW COMES A TALE ALMOST TOO INCREDIBLE TO BELIEVE! A STORY THAT ROCKS THE GLORIOUS BATMAN AND ROBIN LEGEND TO ITS VERY FOUNDATION! A STORY THAT STARTS WHEN ROBIN BLANDLY GIVES AWAY HIS IDENTITY-- AND DOESN'T STOP UNTIL AN AMAZING CLIMAX HAS BEEN REACHED! FOR THRILL-AFTER-THRILL, SURPRISE-UPON-SURPRISE-- READ—
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
"The BOY WONDER CONFESSES!"
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FROM COAST-TO-COAST! I CAN'T CONTAIN MY SECRET ANY LONGER! I-- ROBIN-- AM REALLY DICK GRAYSON! AND THAT MAKES BATMAN BRUCE WAYNE!
R
WN
TE
BY BOB KANE


ONE MORNING AT GOTHAM CITY HIGH SCHOOL, AS A TEACHER PREPARES TO CALL THE ROLL...
HEY, STEVE-- DICK GRAYSON'S ABSENT! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S HEART-SICK OVER MARCIA? HA-HA!
SURE--HE KNOWS HE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE! MARCIA'S SWEET ON ROBIN!

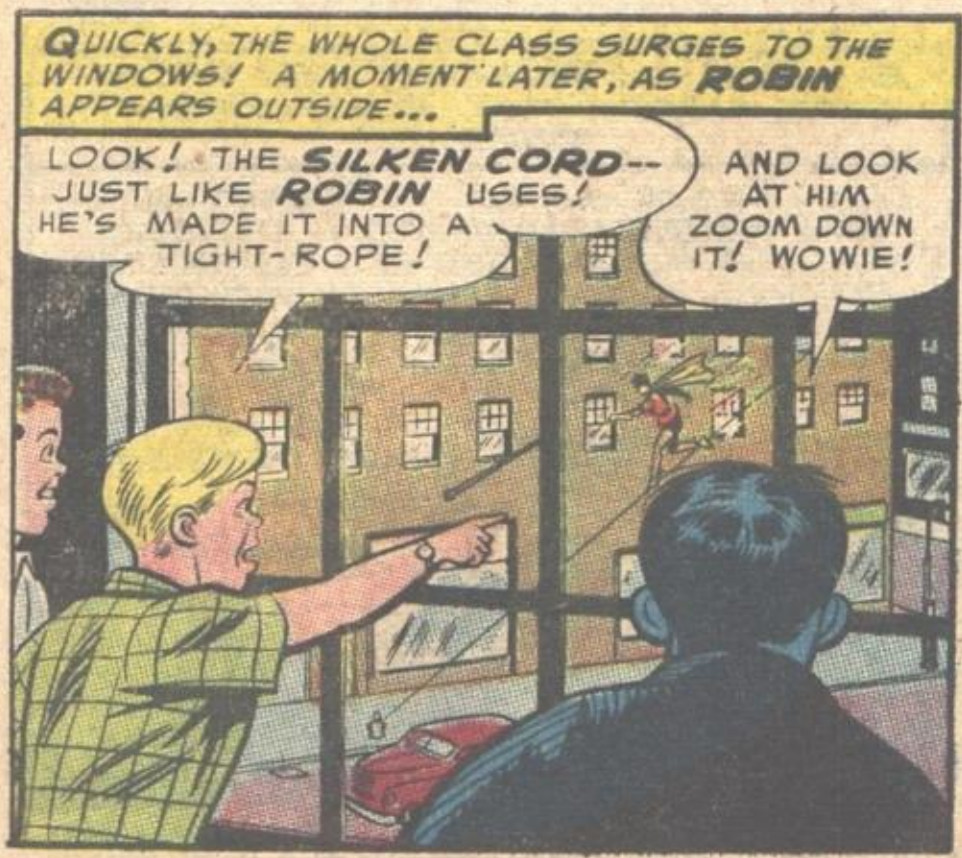
MOMENTS LATER, AS DICK GRAYSON SUDDENLY ENTERS THE CLASSROOM...
SORRY I'M LATE! I WAS UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED...
WELL NOW, DICK-- THAT'S NOT MUCH OF AN EXCUSE! CAN'T YOU BE MORE EXPLICIT?

AND THEN A BOMBSHELL BURSTS IN THE CLASSROOM!
WELL, ACTUALLY I'M LATE BECAUSE I WAS CHASING A CROOK! YOU SEE--I'M ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!
HUH?
WHAT?
ROBIN?

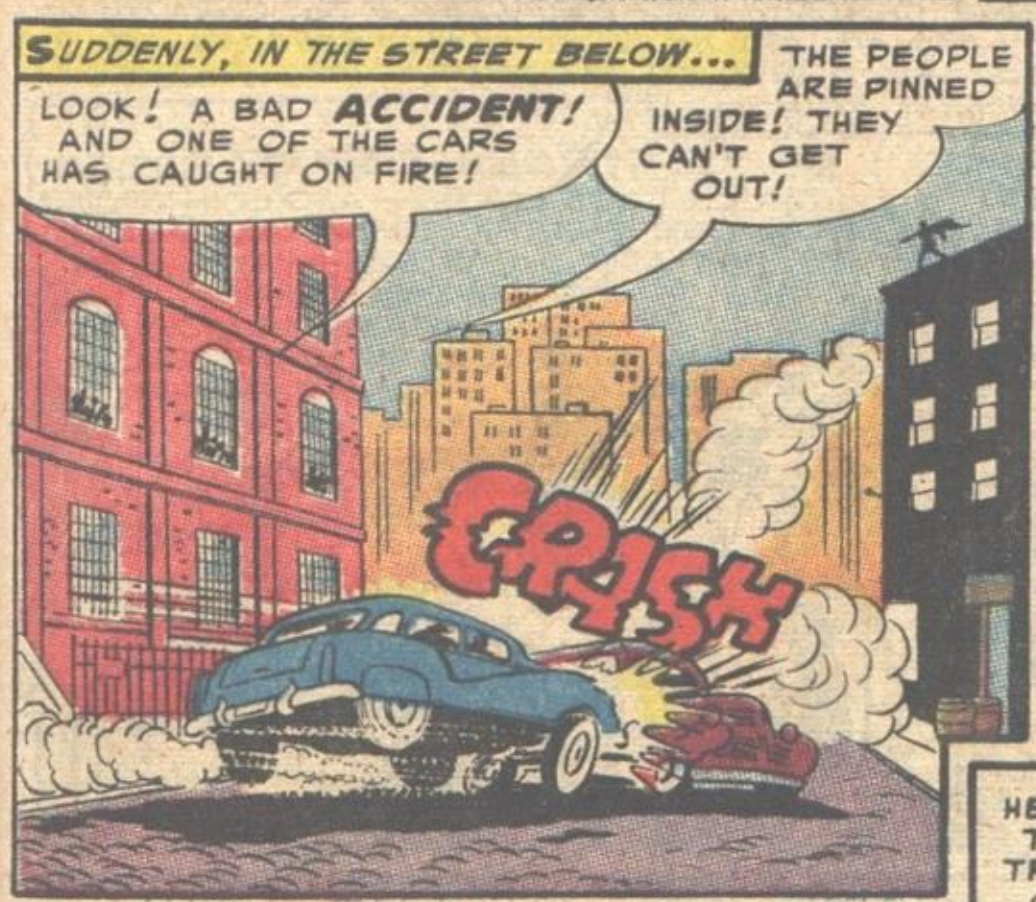

WHAT IS THIS? HAS DICK LOST HIS SENSES? HE HAS LET SLIP THE SACRED SECRET HE AND BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE HAVE SO CAREFULLY GUARDED ALL THESE YEARS! IS THIS THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN? LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS NOW!


AND AS THE INITIAL SHOCK OF DICK'S ANNOUNCEMENT WEARS OFF...
STUDENTS! STUDENTS! PLEASE!
AW--IT'S JUST A GAG! IF HE WAS ROBIN, HE WOULDN'T ADMIT IT! BIG JOKE! HA!
SURE! HE'S JUST DOING IT TO IMPRESS MARCIA! COME OFF IT, GRAYSON--YOU'RE NO MORE ROBIN THAN I AM!

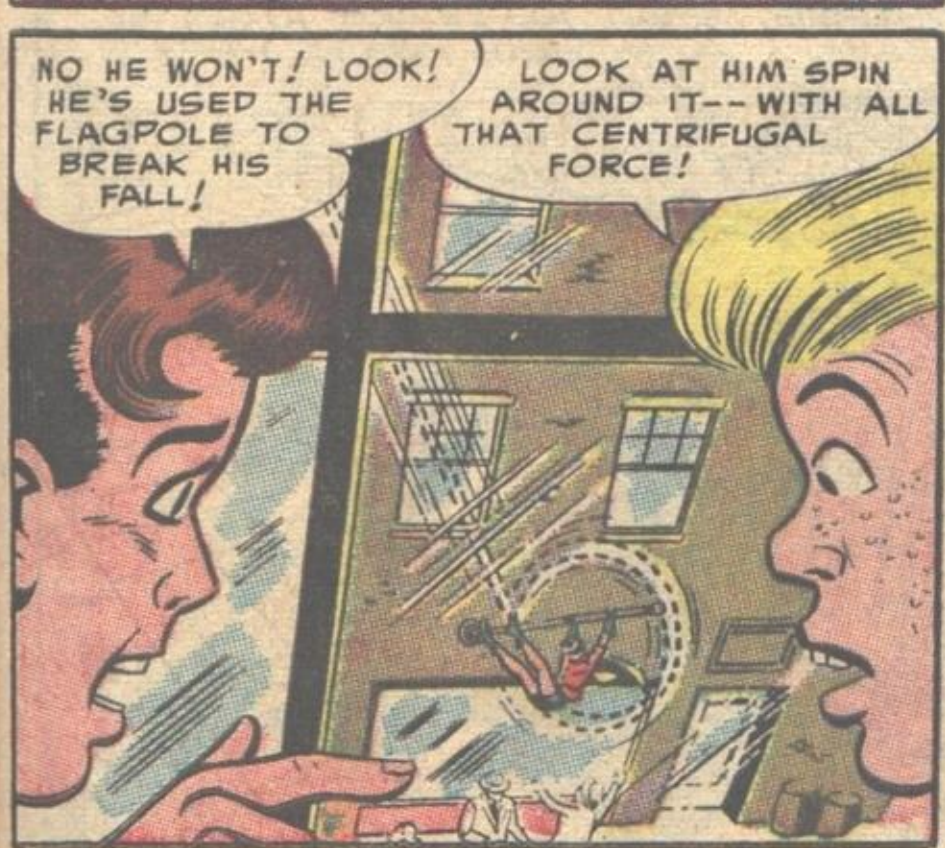
THEN, ANOTHER STUNNING MOVE!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? ALL RIGHT--I'LL PROVE IT! SEE? MY ROBIN UNIFORM--UNDER MY CLOTHES! I'LL SLIP ON MY MASK--AND THEN GO OUTSIDE AND SHOW YOU STUNTS ONLY ROBIN COULD PERFORM!
WOW! THIS IS GETTING MORE INTERESTING ALL THE TIME!


QUICKLY, THE WHOLE CLASS SURGES TO THE WINDOWS! A MOMENT LATER, AS ROBIN APPEARS OUTSIDE...
LOOK! THE SILKEN CORD-- JUST LIKE ROBIN USES! HE'S MADE IT INTO A TIGHT-ROPE!
AND LOOK AT HIM ZOOM DOWN IT! WOWIE!

GOSH-- HE'S A REGULAR HUMAN FLY!
SAY! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK DICK GRAYSON TOLD THE TRUTH!


SUDDENLY, IN THE STREET BELOW...
LOOK! A BAD ACCIDENT! AND ONE OF THE CARS HAS CAUGHT ON FIRE!
THE PEOPLE ARE PINNED INSIDE! THEY CAN'T GET OUT!
CRASH

ALL AT ONCE...
LOOK AT ROBIN! HE DOVE RIGHT OFF THE ROOF!
HE'LL BE KILLED FOR SURE!


NO HE WON'T! LOOK! HE'S USED THE FLAGPOLE TO BREAK HIS FALL!
LOOK AT HIM SPIN AROUND IT-- WITH ALL THAT CENTRIFUGAL FORCE!

AND AS THE HIGHLY-TRAINED BOY WONDER COMPLETES HIS SPIN, HE SUDDENLY LETS GO-- HIS MOMENTUM CARRYING HIM FEET-FIRST TOWARD THE DISABLED CARS!
HE MADE IT! HE'LL FREE THOSE PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THAT CAR IN A SECOND!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT ANYMORE! DICK GRAYSON IS ROBIN! WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT!
SAY! I'M CALLING THE NEWS-PAPERS! THEY WILL PAY ME FIVE BUCKS FOR THIS SCOOP!

LATER, WHEN **ROBIN** HAS RUSHED THE ACCIDENT VICTIMS TO A HOSPITAL...

THAT'S **RIGHT!** DICK GRAYSON ANNOUNCED HE WAS **ROBIN**-- AND THEN HE WENT OUT TO PROVE IT! WE ALL SAW IT, I TELL YOU!

WOW! THIS IS THE SCOOP OF THE YEAR! BECAUSE IF **DICK GRAYSON** IS **ROBIN**-- THAT MAKES **BRUCE WAYNE** THE **BATMAN!** AND WE CAN CONFIRM **THAT** RIGHT AWAY!

EN MASSE, THE NEWSHAWKS RACE TO THE WAYNE MANSION. THEN, AS THEY CONFRONT BRUCE...

DICK GRAYSON CLAIMS HE'S **ROBIN!** HE PROVED IT TO HIS WHOLE CLASS AT SCHOOL! THAT WOULD MAKE **YOU BATMAN,** MR. WAYNE! WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?

GENTLEMEN,-- I'VE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH THIS **SO** MANY TIMES, I'VE FOUND THE SAFEST ANSWER IS-- **NO COMMENT!**

MR. CAMERA WAS SO-NAMED BECAUSE OF THE CURIOUS CAMERA-LENS HELMET HE WORE--AND BECAUSE HE EMPLOYED ALL SORTS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVICES IN HIS CRIMINAL RAIDS...

HOW LONG CAN BRUCE STALL? AND WHY DID DICK PUT HIM ON THE SPOT--WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD HE HAVE? WELL, THERE **IS** A REASON-- AND TO LEARN IT, WE MUST GO BACK NEARLY A YEAR--TO A TIME WHEN **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WERE TANGLING WITH THE STRANGE CRIMINAL WHO CALLED HIMSELF **MR. CAMERA!**

THOSE LIGHTS! BLINDING! CAN'T SEE!

HA-HA! **STROBE-LIGHTS!** BRIGHTER THAN FLASH-BULBS--AND CONTINUOUS! WITH OUR SPECIAL TINTED GLASSES, MY MEN AND I CAN SEE--WE'LL LOOT THIS PLACE BEFORE THESE STARTLED FOOLS CAN RECOVER FROM THE SURPRISE ATTACK!

BATMAN AND **ROBIN** HAD MANY RUN-INS WITH **MR. CAMERA**-- POSSIBLY THE MOST SPECTACULAR OCCURRED AT GOTHAM PALACE DURING THE ANNUAL CAMERA SHOW...

YOU'LL MAKE A WONDERFUL PICTURE, MR. CAMERA-- IN JAIL!

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GET ME THERE FIRST! HA-HA!

CODAC

BUT MR. CAMERA ESCAPED— AND CONTINUED TO ELUDE THE LAWMEN UNTIL AN EVENING A FEW WEEKS LATER...
SO YOU THINK THIS 3-D PICTURE MAY BRING MR. CAMERA OUT OF HIDING?
NOT THE PICTURE-- BUT THE CAMERA! DURING INTER-MISSION, THE 3-D CAMERA USED TO FILM THIS PICTURE WILL BE DEMONSTRATED ON STAGE! I'M HOPING THIS WILL INTRIGUE MR. CAMERA!
3-D
AS THINGS TURNED OUT, BRUCE'S HUNCH PAID OFF! FOR, SHORTLY AFTER THE CAMERA DEMONSTRATION BEGAN, MR. CAMERA STRUCK!
YOU WERE RIGHT! THERE HE IS!
THERE'S AN ALLEY NEXT TO THIS THEATRE! WE'LL CHANGE INTO OUR UNIFORMS THERE, AND CLOSE IN ON MR. CAMERA!
SOON AFTER...
MR. CAMERA-- LOOK OUT! BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY CAME IN FROM THE ALLEY!
THE ALLEY?? HO-HO! THIS MAY BE MY LUCKY DAY!
A CRYPTIC REMARK-- WHICH THE LAWMEN WERE NOT TO UNDERSTAND UNTIL LATER. MEANWHILE, THEY HAD PLENTY OF TROUBLE ON THEIR HANDS...
HE'S ABANDONED THE CAMERA-- AND IS TRYING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE ORCHESTRA!
COME ON-- WE'VE GOT TO HEAD HIM OFF!
BUT THE PANICKY AUDIENCE OBSTRUCTED THE DUO LONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW MR. CAMERA TO REACH THE ADJOINING ALLEY. THEN...
LOOK! MR. CAMERA'S DOING SOMETHING TO THAT PILE OF RUBBLE!
MOMENTS LATER, THE VALIANT CRIME-FIGHTERS HAD REACHED THE PILE OF RUBBLE-- AND MADE A STRANGE DISCOVERY!
A MOVIE CAMERA-- AND INFRA-RED LIGHTS! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS, BATMAN?
IT'S A COMPLICATED RIG-UP. IT MUST HAVE BEEN SET UP EARLIER. BUT THE FILM IS MISSING, ROBIN! HE MUST HAVE JUST TAKEN IT! AND WE'D BETTER GET IT BACK AT ALL COSTS!

REDOUBLING THEIR EFFORTS, THE LAWMEN STALKED THE NIGHT LIKE AVENGING COMETS -- AND WITHIN AN HOUR HAD ONCE AGAIN TRACKED DOWN MR. CAMERA!

DOWN THERE, ROBIN! GETTING INTO THAT CAR! IT'S MR. CAMERA!

BUT THIS TIME THE WILY BATMAN DIDN'T CLOSE IN! IN THE HOPE THAT MR. CAMERA MIGHT LEAD THEM TO HIS HIDEOUT, THE LAWMEN FOLLOWED -- ZOOMING OVER THE ROOFTOPS. AND SOON AFTER, THEIR HOPES CAME TRUE!

NO SUCH LUCK, MR. CAMERA!

BATMAN! I WAS HOPING WE'D THROWN YOU OFF OUR TRACK!

A FURIOUS BATTLE FOLLOWED — AS THE COMBATANTS WEAVED BACK AND FORTH THROUGH THE BIZARRE HIDEOUT!

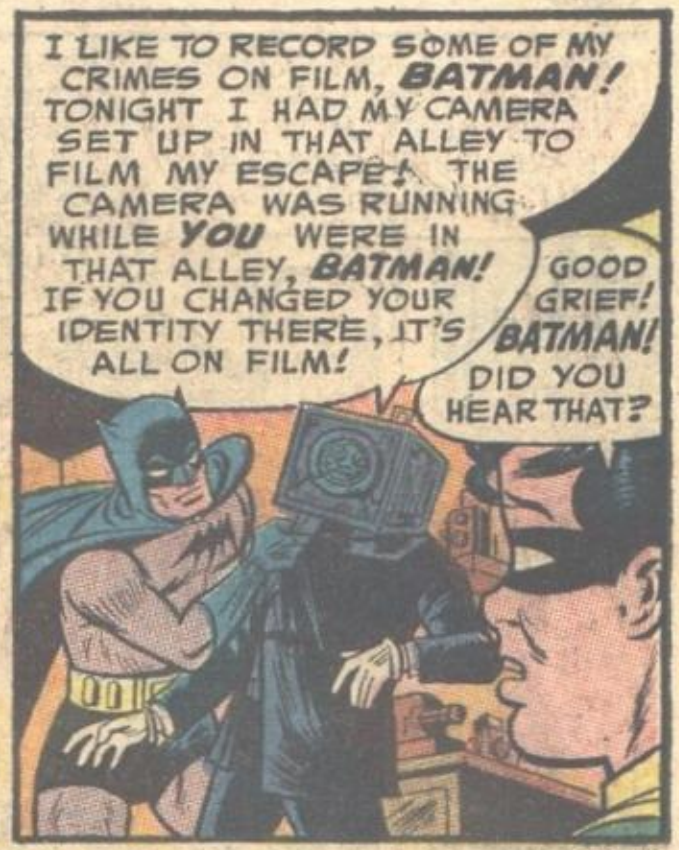
THIS IS WHAT I CALL REEL FUN!

YOU MAY LAUGH NOW -- BUT I'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH! YOU'LL SEE!

CLIMB UP ON TOP, WILL YOU? I'LL JUST TURN THIS BABY ON --- AND SEE HOW YOU LIKE THE HEAT FROM THIS GIANT PROJECTION LAMP!

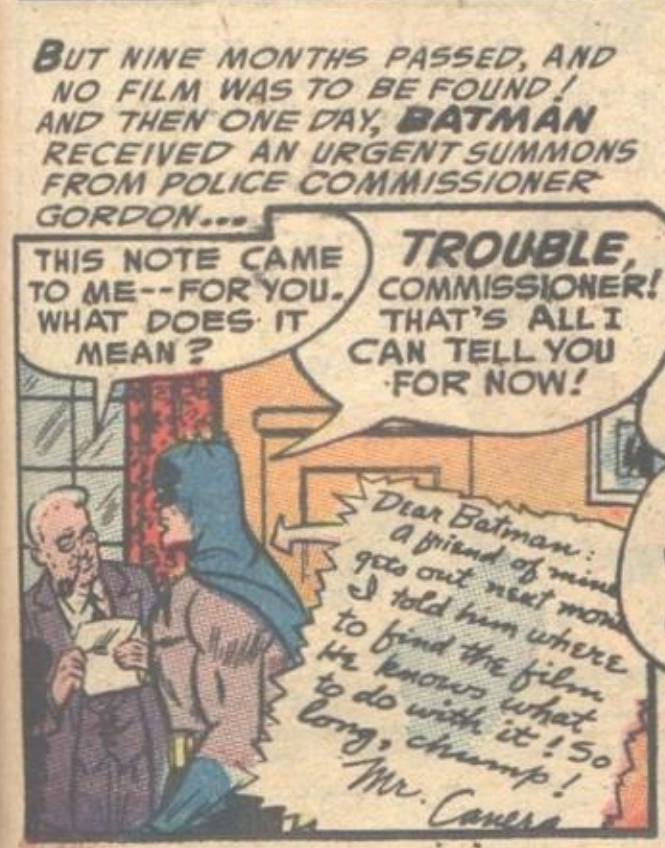
YEEOW! IT'S LIKE A BLAST FURNACE!

NOTICING THE HUGE REEL OF THE PROJECTOR TURNING, **ROBIN** SOON PUT IT TO GOOD USE-- WHILE **BATMAN** WAS DELIVERING THE COUP DE GRACE TO **MR. CAMERA!**



A SEARCH OF THE HIDEOUT PROVED FRUITLESS-- **MR. CAMERA** WASN'T LYING! HE WENT TO JAIL SOON AFTER-- BUT HIS MOCKING TAUNT STILL RANG IN **BATMAN'S** EAR...

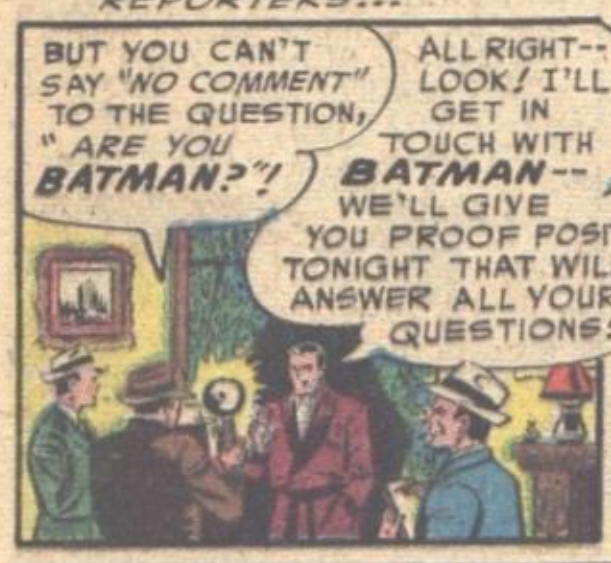
BUT NINE MONTHS PASSED, AND NO FILM WAS TO BE FOUND! AND THEN ONE DAY, **BATMAN** RECEIVED AN URGENT SUMMONS FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...



THAT NIGHT, A SERIOUS CONFERENCE WAS HELD BETWEEN BRUCE, DICK AND THEIR LOYAL BUTLER, ALFRED, THE ONLY LIVING PERSON TO KNOW OF THEIR DOUBLE LIVES...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER, SIR? I WON'T BE HERE NEXT MONTH. I HAVE THAT SPECIAL FBI ASSIGNMENT...
GOSH, I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN! I VOLUNTEERED YOUR SERVICES TO THE BUREAU CHIEF! AND THEY'RE COUNTING ON YOU! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

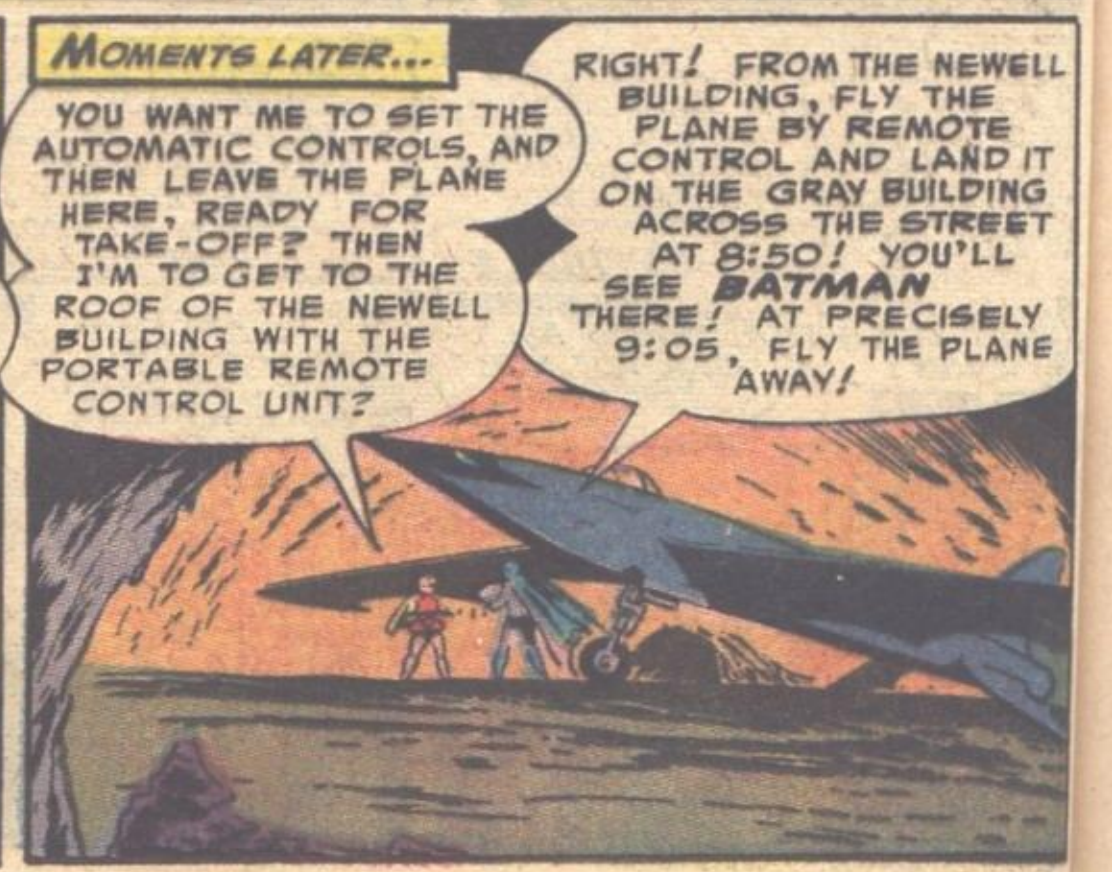
FOR HOURS, BRUCE STRUGGLED WITH THE PROBLEM--AND THEN FINALLY A DARING POSSIBILITY FORMED IN HIS MIND!
WAIT! SUPPOSE WE BRING THIS BRUCE WAYNE-BATMAN SITUATION TO A HEAD RIGHT NOW--WHILE ALFRED IS AVAILABLE TO DOUBLE AS BRUCE WAYNE!
I GET IT! IF WE SET UP THE STORY THAT BRUCE IS BATMAN--AND THEN KNOCK THE PROPS FROM UNDER IT--THAT'LL TAKE THE WIND OUT OF MR. CAMERA'S SAILS! PEOPLE WON'T BELIEVE HIS FILM--THEY'LL RECALL IT WAS JUST PROVEN THAT BRUCE COULDN'T BE BATMAN!


AND SO THAT WAS THE REASON FOR DICK'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR--TO CAST SUSPICION ON BRUCE WAYNE! NOW--BACK TO THE STORY, AS BRUCE SPARS WITH THE REPORTERS...
BUT YOU CAN'T SAY "NO COMMENT" TO THE QUESTION, "ARE YOU BATMAN?"!
ALL RIGHT--LOOK! I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH BATMAN--WE'LL GIVE YOU PROOF POSITIVE TONIGHT THAT WILL ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS!

EARLY THAT EVENING...
WHAT A SNOW STORM! THINK IT WILL HURT ANY OF OUR PLANS?
NO. AS SOON AS ALFRED RETURNS FROM HIS SHOPPING TRIP, WE'LL GET READY TO PUT OUR PLAN INTO ACTION!

BUT SUDDENLY--A STUNNING SET-BACK! A PHONE CALL FROM MERCY HOSPITAL...
ALFRED--SLIPPED IN THE SNOW--FRACTURED A LEG. HE'S RESTING COMFORTABLY NOW--BUT IT SURE KNOCKS OUR PLANS FOR A LOOP!
NOW WHAT DO WE DO? IN A HALF-HOUR, EVERY REPORTER IN TOWN WILL BE JUMPING DOWN OUR THROATS! I HAD A FEELING THIS SNOW-STORM WAS BAD LUCK!

THEN, AS PRECIOUS MINUTES TICK AWAY, A WILD IDEA FLASHES INTO BRUCE'S NIMBLE MIND!
SNOW-STORM! SNOW-STORM! IT GIVES ME AN IDEA! HURRY, DICK--INTO YOUR UNIFORM! THEN GET THE BATPLANE READY FOR TAKE-OFF! AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS--WE HAVEN'T TIME!
OKAY--BUT I SURE WISH I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING!

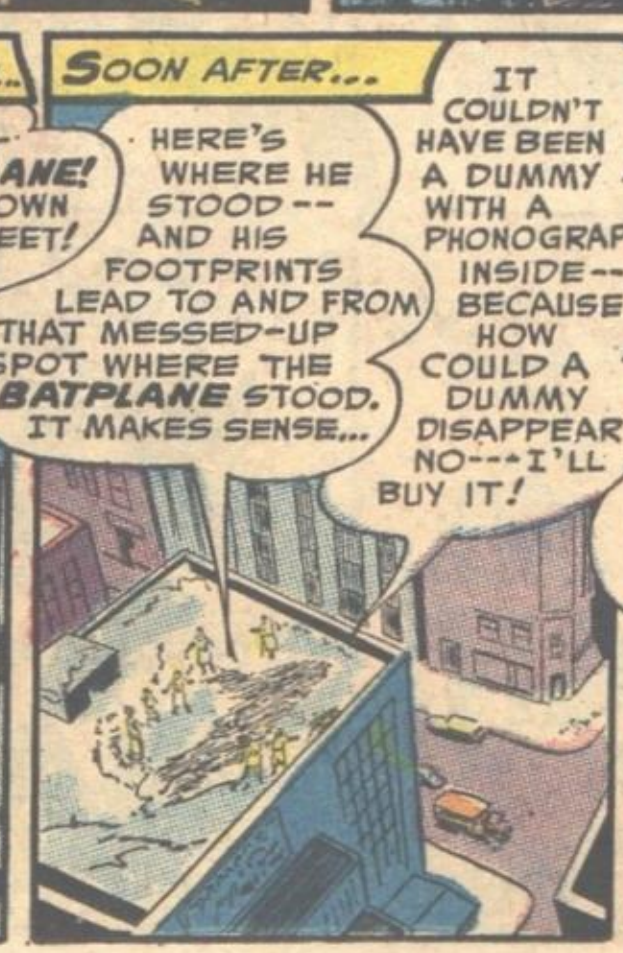

MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WANT ME TO SET THE AUTOMATIC CONTROLS, AND THEN LEAVE THE PLANE HERE, READY FOR TAKE-OFF? THEN I'M TO GET TO THE ROOF OF THE NEWELL BUILDING WITH THE PORTABLE REMOTE CONTROL UNIT?
RIGHT! FROM THE NEWELL BUILDING, FLY THE PLANE BY REMOTE CONTROL AND LAND IT ON THE GRAY BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET AT 8:50! YOU'LL SEE BATMAN THERE! AT PRECISELY 9:05, FLY THE PLANE AWAY!

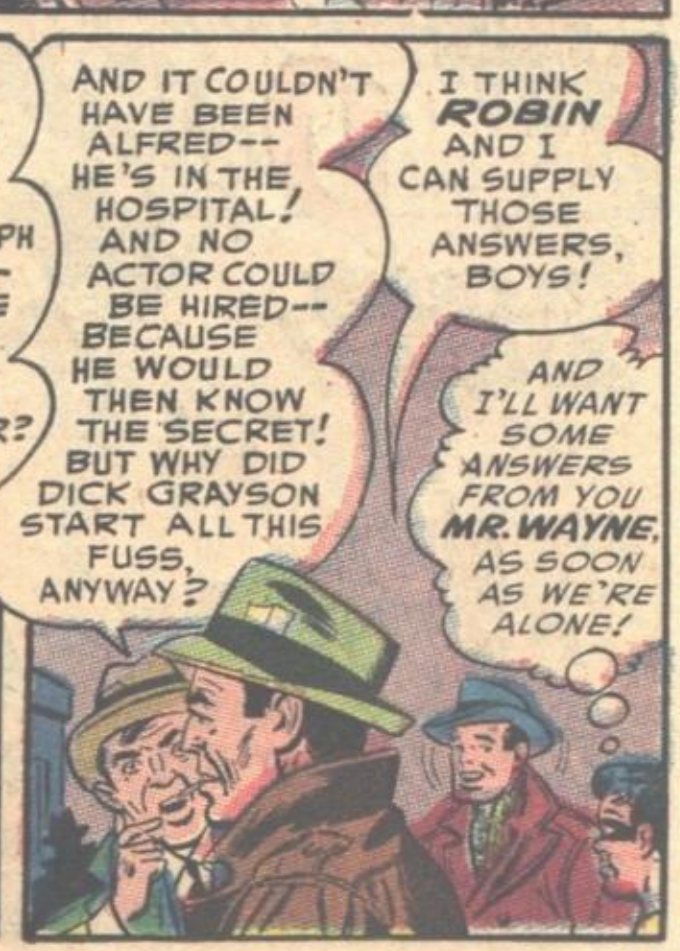
THAT EVENING, AT 8:30 P.M. ...
THERE'S BATMAN--AND I'VE LANDED THE PLANE THE WAY HE WANTED. NOW I'M TO STAY HERE AND EXPOSE MYSELF!

SOON AFTER...
HI, BRUCE! HAVING TROUBLE WITH THOSE REPORTERS?
THERE'S BRUCE-- AND THERE'S BATMAN! HOW IN THE WORLD DID HE DO IT?

YEAH--SAME AS EVER! THEY THINK I'M YOU!
WON'T THEY EVER LEARN? WELL, I CAN'T STAY AROUND FOR SUCH FOOLISHNESS! I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

A MOMENT LATER, AT 9:05 P.M...
BATMAN'S DISAPPEARED-- AND THERE GOES THE BATPLANE! ROBIN COULDN'T HAVE FLOWN IT — HE'S ACROSS THE STREET! SEEMS LEGIT, ALL RIGHT-- BUT LET'S JUST CHECK THAT ROOF!


SOON AFTER...
HERE'S WHERE HE STOOD-- AND HIS FOOTPRINTS LEAD TO AND FROM THAT MESSED-UP SPOT WHERE THE BATPLANE STOOD. IT MAKES SENSE...
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A DUMMY WITH A PHONOGRAPH INSIDE-- BECAUSE HOW COULD A DUMMY DISAPPEAR? NO---I'LL BUY IT!


AND IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALFRED-- HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL! AND NO ACTOR COULD BE HIRED-- BECAUSE HE WOULD THEN KNOW THE SECRET! BUT WHY DID DICK GRAYSON START ALL THIS FUSS, ANYWAY?
I THINK ROBIN AND I CAN SUPPLY THOSE ANSWERS, BOYS!
AND I'LL WANT SOME ANSWERS FROM YOU MR. WAYNE, AS SOON AS WE'RE ALONE!

LATER, IN THE BATCAVE, AS BATMAN EXPLAINS TO ROBIN...

I MADE A SNOW-BATMAN, ROBIN! WITH ONE OF THESE SELF-TIMING THERMITE PILLS INSIDE! WHEN THE PILL EXPLODED, ITS INTENSE HEAT MELTED THE SNOWMAN ALMOST AT ONCE! IT ALSO CONSUMED THE SPECIAL SELF-DISINTEGRATING UNIFORM!

AND YOU USED VENTRILOQUISM, OF COURSE! BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT MELTED SPOT THAT WAS LEFT--DIDN'T THAT WORRY YOU?

NOPE! I CHOSE A SPOT RIGHT ABOVE STEAM PIPES--THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MY EXCUSE! OH-- AND THE FOOTPRINTS. I MADE THEM WHEN I MADE THE SNOW-MAN-- THEN I WALKED AWAY DRAGGING A SNOW-SHOVEL AFTER ME, WHICH COVERED UP ALL OTHER PRINTS!

NEXT MORNING...

THAM GAZETTE

KID HOAX REVEALED

DICK GRAYSON'S MASQUERADE AS ROBIN SEEN AS EFFORT TO IMPRESS TEEN-AGE SWEETHEART! ROBIN ADMITS TO PARTICIPATION IN THE HOAX CLAIMS DICK ASKED HIM TO AS A FAVOR. IT WAS THE REAL ROBIN PERFORMING STUNTS OUTSIDE THE SCHO ONCE AGAIN, BRUCE WAYNE PROVES CONCLUSIVE HE IS NOT BATMAN!

AND LATER THAT DAY, A FINAL BIT OF IRONY...

BATMAN! IN A RAID ON A BOOKIE JOINT TODAY, POLICE FOUND THIS REEL OF FILM. IT'S MR. CAMERA'S! I DEVELOPED IT--AND YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S BADLY UNDEREXPOSED! SO DARK, OUR IDENTITIES COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN PICKED OUT!

HMM... ALL OUR WORK FOR NOTHING! NO! I TAKE THAT BACK! AT LEAST WE'VE ONCE AGAIN FIRMLY LED SUSPICION AWAY FROM BRUCE WAYNE. THAT WILL HELP US IN THE FUTURE!

THE END

NOW--in your DAILY NEWSPAPER!

VILLAINS BEWARE! They're Here! WHAMM! BAM! ZAP! POW!! BATMAN and ROBIN POW!!

IN THE COMIC PAGES OF MORE THAN 200 NEWSPAPERS FROM COAST TO COAST!

IF NOT IN YOUR TOWN, PHONE THE EDITOR OF YOUR LOCAL PAPER TO RUN IT IN!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

NOW--in COLOR and CINEMASCOPE!

ZAP! LUNK!! WHAMM POW! GLOMP!

You'll just hate yourself if you miss 20th CENTURY-FOX'S PRODUCTION of BATMAN CO-STARRING The PENGUIN, CATWOMAN and The JOKER!

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
PROLOGUE
JEWELERS CONVENTION
JUNE 8 - JUNE 15
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A NEW CRIME-FIGHTING PARTNER. WHILE BATMAN IS AWAY--THE ANT-MAN!
OKAY, KID-- I'LL HANDLE THIS CHARACTER!
WHILE BATMAN IS AWAY ON A TOP SECRET MISSION, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, IS FACED WITH THE TASK OF FIGHTING CRIME ALONE! BUT SUDDENLY A TINY, COSTUMED FIGURE JOINS HIM TO HELP COMBAT BANDITRY! BUT WHAT IS THE IDENTITY OF ROBIN'S NEW, CRIME-FIGHTING PARTNER? PERHAPS YOU CAN GUESS...
The SECRET of the ANT-MAN

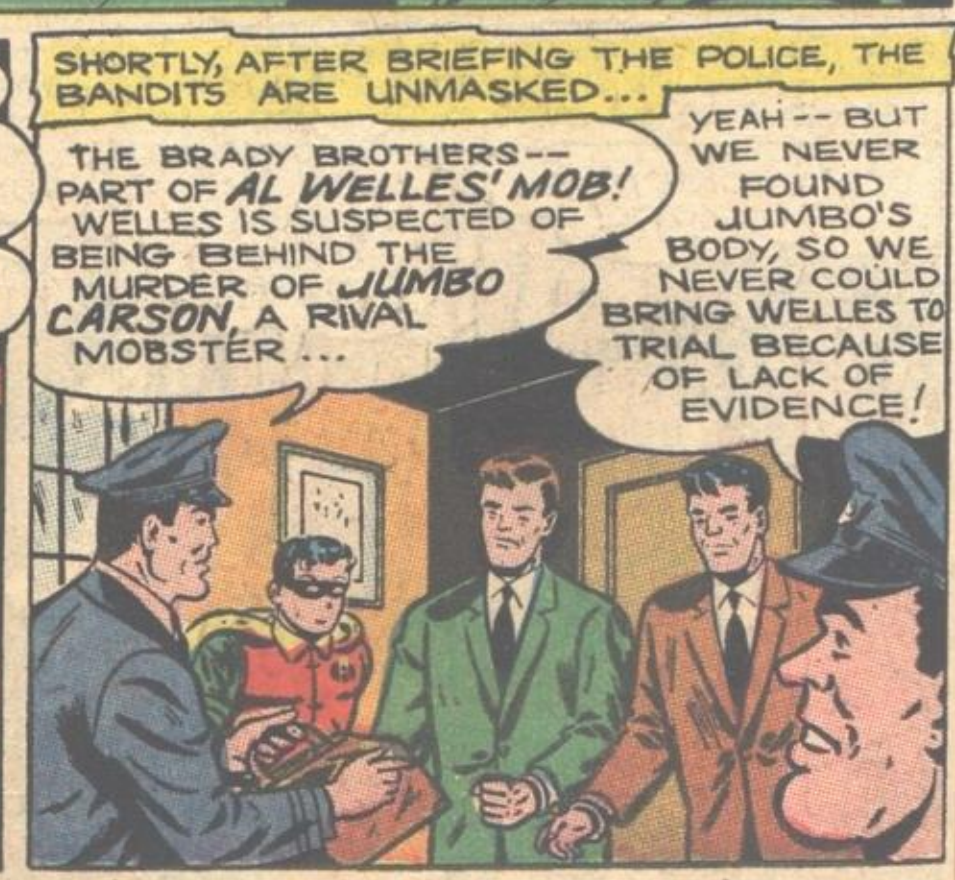
ONE MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKS SECRETLY TO HIS YOUNG WARD IN THE BAT-CAVE...
DICK, AS YOU KNOW, I'M GOING AWAY ON A TOP SECRET MISSION FOR A WHILE! WHILE I'M GONE, BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IF YOU GET INVOLVED IN A CRIME CASE...
BATMAN'S BEEN VERY SECRETIVE ABOUT THIS MISSION...
LATER, THE SECRET BOY WONDER PUTS ASIDE CRIMINAL LAW FOR SCHOOL LORE...
DICK, REMEMBER YOU'RE TAKING ME TO THE SCHOOL DANCE TONIGHT!
HOW COULD I FORGET?
THAT NIGHT, AS HAPPY YOUNG PEOPLE CROWD THE GYM FLOOR...
OH, DICK, I LEFT MY SCARF ON THE TERRACE WHEN WE WERE TALKING OUT THERE BEFORE...
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU, EDIE, AFTER THIS DANCE...
SHORTLY, AS DICK HEADS FOR THE TERRACE...
QUIET, PLEASE! NOW I HAVE THE HONOR TO INTRODUCE AN EX-ALUMNUS--OUR GOOD BENEFACTOR, H.H. HOBBS! AS YOU PROBABLY HAVE HEARD, MR. HOBBS IS DRAMATIZING OUR DRIVE FOR NEW GYM EQUIPMENT WITH A $20,000 CASH DONATION...
THE ROBBERY IS A SURPRISE--BUT SOON COMES ANOTHER SURPRISE!
WITHOUT WARNING, TWO MASKED GUNMEN SUDDENLY STEP FROM BEHIND THE BACKDROP...
DON'T NONE O' YOU KIDS MOVE!
HAND OVER THAT SATCHEL OF DOUGH, HOBBS!
LOOK! IT'S ROBIN! ISN'T HE JUST TOO, TOO WONDERFUL?
BEING OUTSIDE MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO MAKE A QUICK CHANGE WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

IF ROBIN'S HERE, I WANTA BE THERE!

AS ROBIN PURSUES THROUGH THE DRAPES AND INTO THE CORRIDOR BEYOND...
OOOF!
RELAX, ROBIN-- HE WON'T GO ANYWHERE--NOW!
CRACK!
HOLY SMOKE! A TINY FIGURE-- TACKLING THAT GUNMAN!
GYA!

A-ARE YOU REAL? WHO...?
YOU MAY CALL ME-- THE ANT-MAN! THE NAME IS APT--FOR, LIKE THE ANT, I POSSESS PHYSICAL PROWESS MANY TIMES MY SMALL SIZE!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
AND MY TINY SIZE IS CONVENIENT WHEN I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO SUDDENLY GET CURIOUS ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY!
GOOD HEAVENS! A TINY MAN-- ESCAPING THROUGH THE VENTILATOR DUCT!

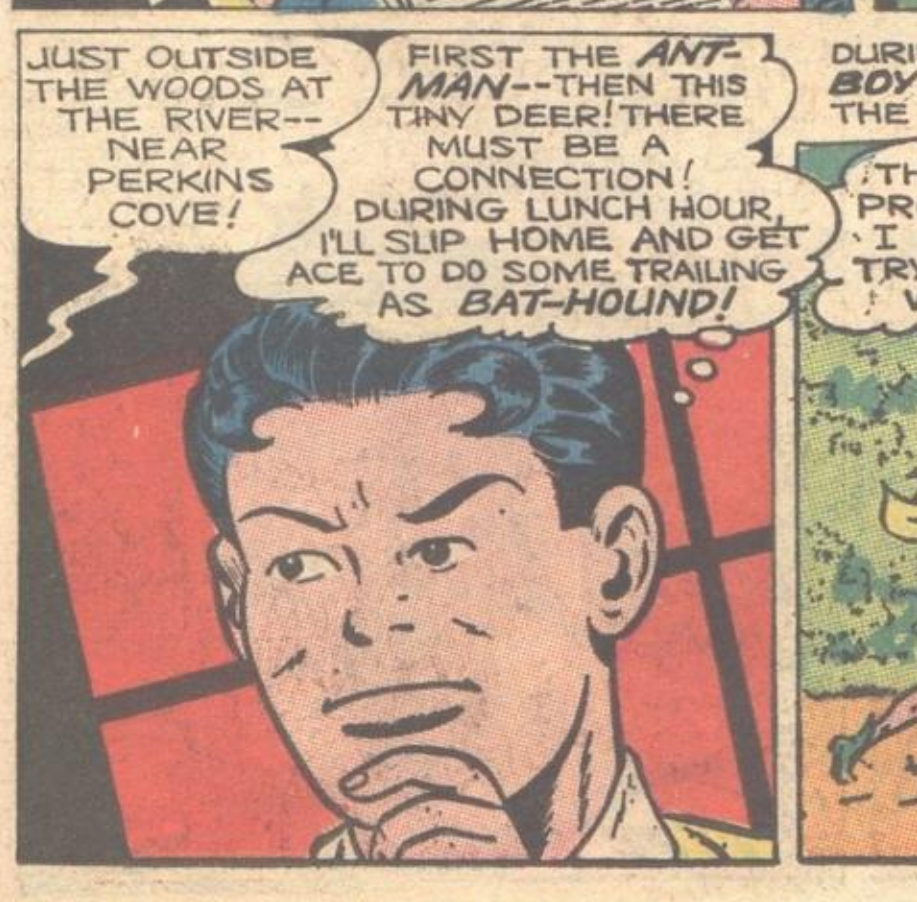

SHORTLY, AFTER BRIEFING THE POLICE, THE BANDITS ARE UNMASKED...
THE BRADY BROTHERS-- PART OF AL WELLES' MOB! WELLES IS SUSPECTED OF BEING BEHIND THE MURDER OF JUMBO CARSON, A RIVAL MOBSTER...
YEAH-- BUT WE NEVER FOUND JUMBO'S BODY, SO WE NEVER COULD BRING WELLES TO TRIAL BECAUSE OF LACK OF EVIDENCE!

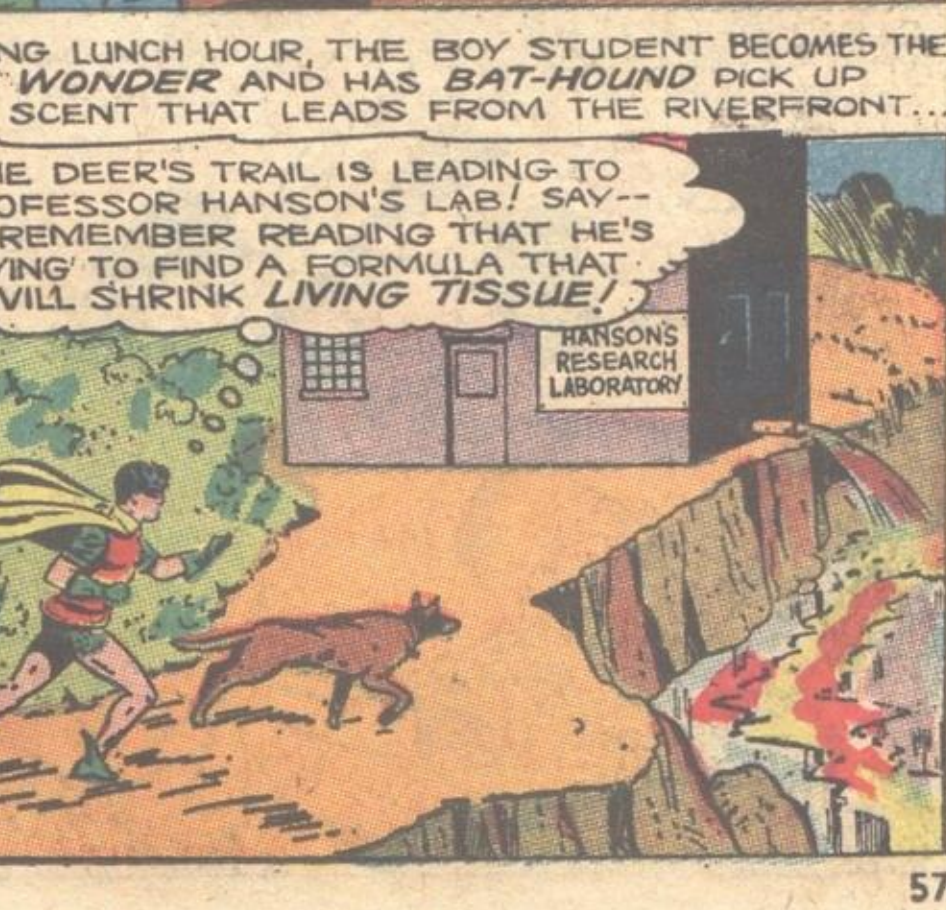
AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE THAT WILL JAIL THE BRADY BROTHERS FOR ARMED ROBBERY!
THANKS TO ROBIN--AND A NEW CRIME-FIGHTER CALLED THE ANT-MAN!

SHORTLY, AFTER ROBIN SLIPS AWAY TO RESUME HIS OTHER IDENTITY...
OH, DICK--YOU MISSED ALL THE EXCITEMENT! WHEN I TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED, YOU'LL BE AMAZED!
I'M STILL AMAZED! A DOLL-SIZED MAN--IN AN ANT COSTUME! WHO IS HE? AND HOW DID HE EVER BECOME SO TINY?

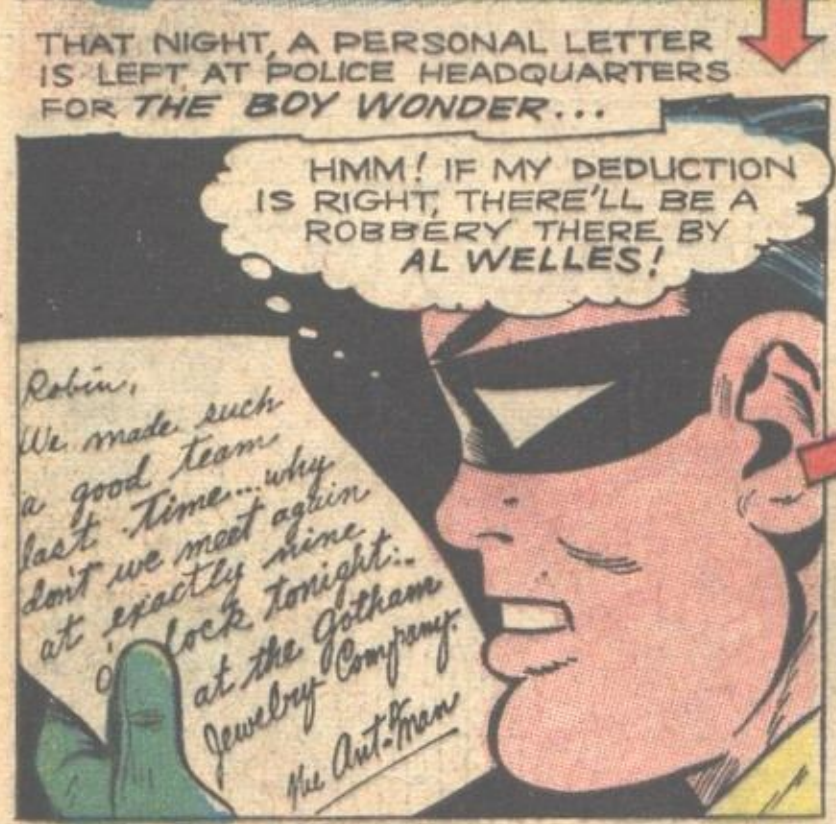
THAT NIGHT, NEWSPAPER HEADLINES ABOUT THE ANT-MAN EVOKES ANGER FROM GANG-BOSS AL WELLES...
RELAX, BOSS--THE BRADY BROTHERS WON'T TALK!
THEY BETTER NOT! BAH! BATMAN, ROBIN... ANT-MAN! THEY DON'T SCARE ME--AND I'LL PROVE IT BY PERSONALLY TAKING CHARGE OF THE BIG JOB I GOT PLANNED FOR TOMORROW NIGHT! NOW LISTEN...
Gotham News

THE NEXT MORNING, AS DICK ENTERS HIS BIOLOGY CLASS, A SURPRISE IS WAITING!
AS SOON AS I FOUND IT, I PUT IT IN THIS CAGE SO YOU COULD SEE IT, MR. STINE!
AMAZING! A TINY DEER! BUT WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
BIOLOGY


JUST OUTSIDE THE WOODS AT THE RIVER--NEAR PERKINS COVE!
FIRST THE ANT-MAN--THEN THIS TINY DEER! THERE MUST BE A CONNECTION! DURING LUNCH HOUR, I'LL SLIP HOME AND GET ACE TO DO SOME TRAILING AS BAT-HOUND!


DURING LUNCH HOUR, THE BOY STUDENT BECOMES THE BOY WONDER AND HAS BAT-HOUND PICK UP THE SCENT THAT LEADS FROM THE RIVERFRONT...
THE DEER'S TRAIL IS LEADING TO PROFESSOR HANSON'S LAB! SAY--I REMEMBER READING THAT HE'S TRYING TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL SHRINK LIVING TISSUE!
HANSON'S RESEARCH LABORATORY

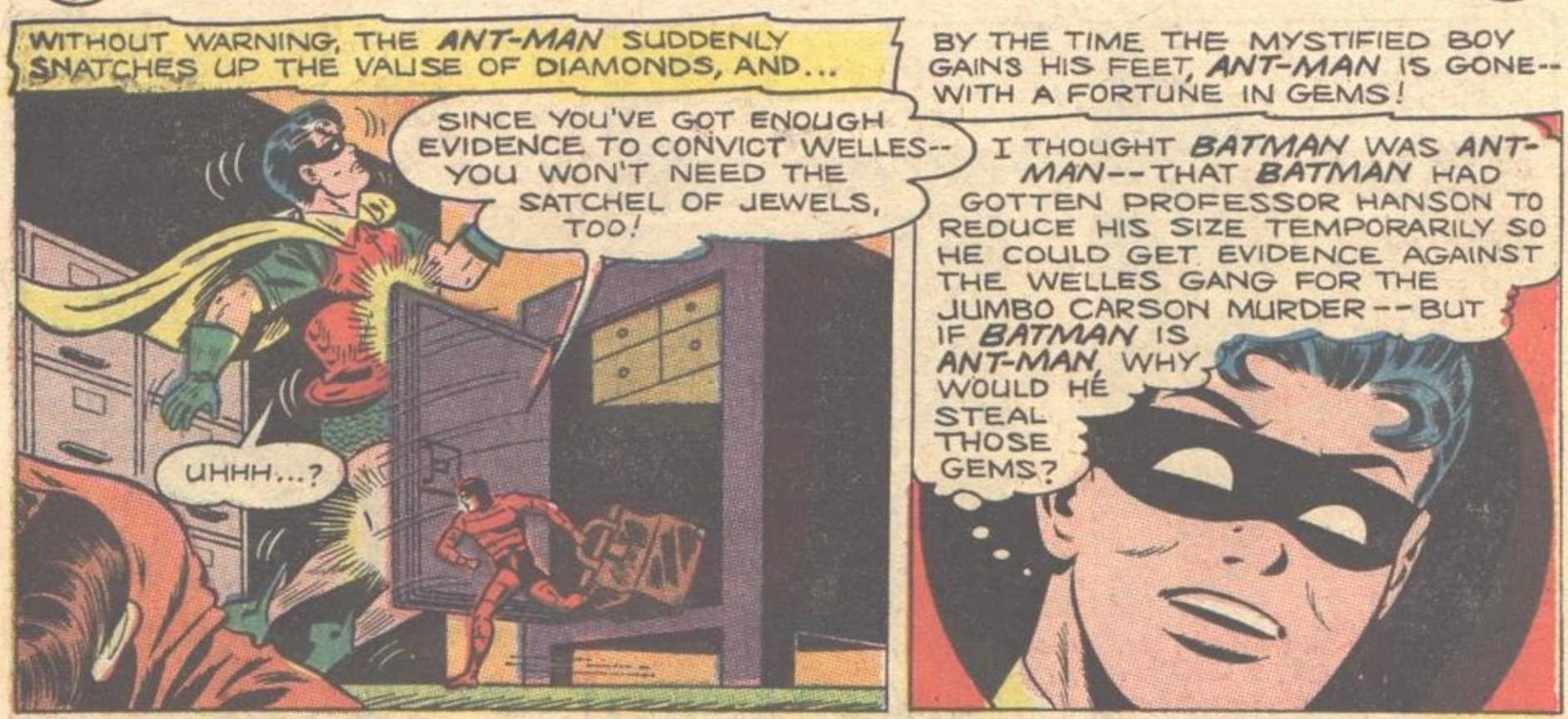
SUCH SECRECY!— WHY? STRANGE-- BATMAN GOES AWAY, AND SUDDENLY A TINY, BATMAN-LIKE CRIME-FIGHTER APPEARS! HMMM...!
NO VISITORS ALLOWED KEEP OUT!


THAT NIGHT, A PERSONAL LETTER IS LEFT AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BOY WONDER...
HMM! IF MY DEDUCTION IS RIGHT, THERE'LL BE A ROBBERY THERE BY AL WELLES!
Robin, We made such a good team last time...why don't we meet again at exactly nine o'clock tonight.. at the Gotham Jewelry Company. The Ant-Man

LATER, AS TWO BANDITS CRACK THE COMPANY'S BASEMENT STORAGE VAULT...
HAW! WE'RE PULLING THIS JOB RIGHT UNDER THE EYES OF "BATMAN"!
JEWELERS CONVENTION
JUNE 8 - JUNE 15
HONORED GUEST SPEAKER BATMAN
L-LOOK! IT'S ROBIN!

THEN, ANOTHER FIGURE SCOOTS FORWARD TO TEAM UP WITH ROBIN...
OKAY, KID--YOU HANDLE THAT CHARACTER WHILE I TAKE CARE OF WELLES!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH, BA... I MEAN... ANT-MAN!

ANT-MAN, I'LL MAKE A GUESS THAT YOU USED YOUR TINY SIZE TO SNEAK INTO WELLES' HEADQUARTERS TO EAVESDROP ON HIS PLANS! THAT'S HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT THE ROBBERIES IN ADVANCE!
RIGHT! AND WELLES HOLDS THE EVIDENCE IN HIS HAND THAT WILL CONVICT HIM!


WITHOUT WARNING, THE ANT-MAN SUDDENLY SNATCHES UP THE VALISE OF DIAMONDS, AND...
SINCE YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CONVICT WELLES-- YOU WON'T NEED THE SATCHEL OF JEWELS, TOO!
UHHH...?
BY THE TIME THE MYSTIFIED BOY GAINS HIS FEET, ANT-MAN IS GONE-- WITH A FORTUNE IN GEMS!
I THOUGHT BATMAN WAS ANT-MAN--THAT BATMAN HAD GOTTEN PROFESSOR HANSON TO REDUCE HIS SIZE TEMPORARILY SO HE COULD GET EVIDENCE AGAINST THE WELLES GANG FOR THE JUMBO CARSON MURDER--BUT IF BATMAN IS ANT-MAN, WHY WOULD HE STEAL THOSE GEMS?

THAT NIGHT, THE LATE EDITIONS BLAZON HEADLINE NEWS...
Gotham Gazette
PROFESSOR HANSON FINDS FORMULA TO SHRINK HUMAN BEINGS!
SCIENTIST ALSO CLAIMS HE HAS ANTIDOTE FOR RESTORING TO NORMAL SIZE!
MUCH LATER THAT NIGHT, A DIMINUTIVE INTRUDER STEALS INTO PROFESSOR HANSON'S LABORATORY...
ANT-MAN!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I'M THIS SIZE! NOW, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, YOU'LL GIVE ME A LARGE BOTTLE OF THE ANTIDOTE--AND A BOTTLE OF THE SHRINK CHEMICALS!
I'VE GOT PLANS, HANSON! I'LL DRINK A LITTLE SHRINK FORMULA, BECOME ANT-MAN, AND PULL CRIMES! THEN I'LL DRINK THE ANTIDOTE, BECOME NORMAL SIZE AND NO COP WILL SUSPECT I'M THE ANT-MAN! I'LL DO THAT UNTIL I RETIRE WITH A FORTUNE! NEAT, EH?
NO, ANT-MAN--BECAUSE ROBIN ANTICIPATED YOUR PLANS--AND TO STOP THEM, ROBIN MADE ME SHRINK HIS SIZE TOO, SO YOU COULDN'T SLIP AWAY FROM HIM!

SO--NOW WE'RE ON EQUAL TERMS, EH? THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! YOU'VE ONLY GOT A BOY'S STRENGTH...

... BUT I'VE THE STRENGTH OF A MAN! HAW! YOU FOLDED EASILY...

SUDDENLY...
ROBIN--MOVING AROUND ME! BUT EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T TOUCHING ME, MY ARMS AND LEGS ARE CAUGHT BY SOMETHING I CAN'T SEE!

SUDDENLY, PROFESSOR HANSON SWITCHES ON THE LIGHTS--AND IN THE GLARE, THE ANT-MAN SEES...
CLICK!
ROBIN! THE TINY "ROBIN" WAS ONLY A PUPPET! YOU TRICKED ME!
YES--I PLANTED THAT FAKE ITEM ABOUT PROFESSOR HANSON IN THE NEWSPAPERS, KNOWING IT WOULD BRING YOU HERE, WHERE I COULD SNARE YOU! DON'T TRY TO BREAK THAT PUPPET "STRING" BECAUSE YOU CAN'T--IT'S A SPECIAL EXTRA-STRONG FISH-LINE!
MOMENTS LATER--THE ANT-MAN IS UNMASKED!
JUMBO CARSON! THE GANGSTER WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN MURDERED!
YES--WELLES' TRIGGERMEN THOUGHT SO, TOO! I CAN GUESS WHAT HAPPENED! JUMBO WAS AMBUSHED BY THEM NEAR YOUR BUILDING! THEIR BULLETS MISSED HIM BUT JUMBO SLIPPED, FELL INTO THE RIVER...

GIANT BATMAN

Dear Editor: I've read every GIANT BATMAN issue since the first, and I love 'em all! The stories are the greatest, from the secret personal kind of adventures to the fantastic villains and the strange lives of Batman and Robin. One thing I'd like to see, though, are more stories with Robin playing a more prominent role. I think a collection like that would be real cool. —Ed James, San Francisco, Calif.

(We do, too, and we've had quite a few requests of a similar nature. That's why we decided to publish this current special issue—stories starring the Boy Wonder. —Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I just got my copy of the second collection of "Strange Lives of Batman and Robin," and I really flipped. I thought the first one was out of this world, but in some respects this issue was even better! "The Joker Batman" and "Batman, Junior and Robin, Senior," were zany and exciting. And "The Experiment of Professor Zero" deserves being rated as a classic. I was so absorbed that I almost fell off my chair while I was reading it. Keep up the good work! —Dale Phelps, Milwaukee, Wisc.

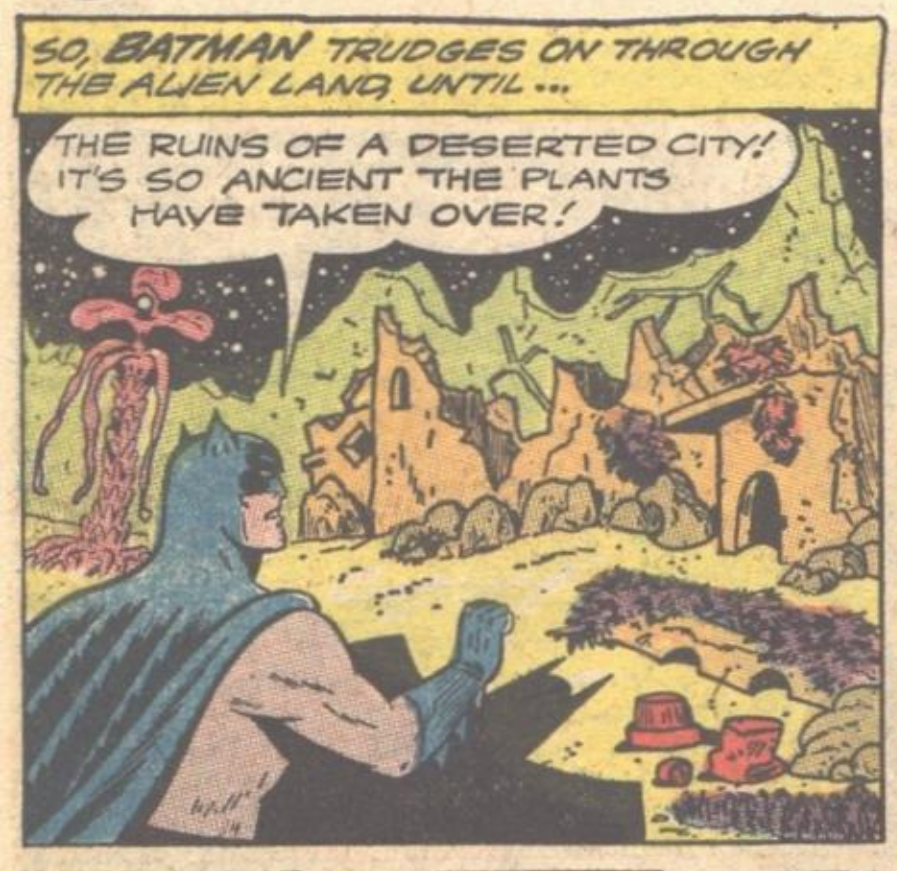
* * *

Dear Ed: I've got mixed feelings about "The Strange Lives" GIANT BATMAN that I just finished reading. Most of the stories were sensational. "The Villains of 100 Elements" had everything you could want in a story—a bizarre villain

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 70)

THE FRIENDSHIP OF BATMAN AND ROBIN IS ONE THAT HAS STOOD STEADFAST AS A ROCK! TO BATMAN, ROBIN IS LIKE HIS OWN SON--AND ROBIN WOULD BRAVE ANY DANGER TO KEEP BATMAN FROM HARM! NOW THIS FRIENDSHIP BECOMES THE PIVOTAL POINT OF A STRANGE ADVENTURE IN A FANTASTIC WORLD--A WORLD WHERE DOOM WAITS, AND WHERE BATMAN IS CONFRONTED BY THE TERRIBLE TRUTH THAT...
ROBIN DIES AT DAWN
CHAPTER 1
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
IT'S COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN--RUN!
THE STONE IDOL IS ALIVE!
BOB KANE

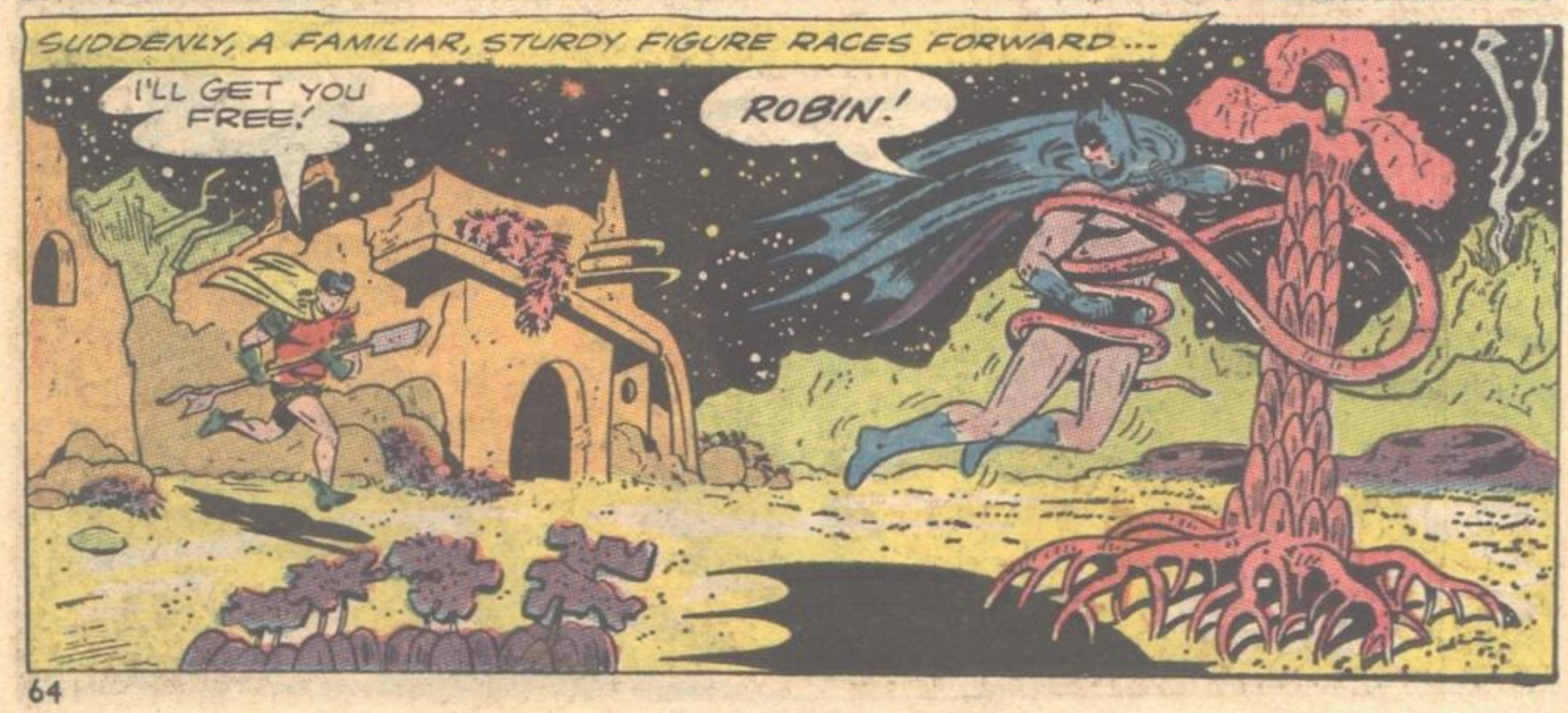
"WHERE IS BATMAN?" ROBIN WONDERS! AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER SOON WONDERS, TOO-- FOR HIS WHEREABOUTS IS A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF!
ALL BATMAN KNOWS IS THAT HE IS BEING SWEPT ALONG BY SWIRLING LIGHTS THROUGH VAST REACHES OF SPACE...
THEN SAND CRUNCHES UNDER HIS FEET--AND AN UNFAMILIAR LANDSCAPE ENCIRLES HIM!
TWIN MOONS! I'M ON AN ALIEN PLANET!
THOSE SWIRLING LIGHTS-- WERE THEY AN ALIEN ENERGY THAT TRANSMITTED ME HERE? I--I CAN'T REMEMBER! MAYBE ALIENS DELIBERATELY ERASED MY MEMORY! BUT WHY? WHAT IS IT THEY DON'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?
MY UTILITY-BELT IS GONE-- WITH MY BAT-ROPE AND BATARANGS! I'VE BEEN MADE DEFENSELESS-- THRUST ON AN ALIEN WORLD-- AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!
THEN BATMAN IS TOUCHED BY A TINY FEAR--THE INSTINCTIVE FEAR OF ANY MAN WHO IS ISOLATED AND WEAPONLESS--AND CONFRONTED BY THE UNKNOWN!
IT'S NOT KNOWING THAT'S SO DISQUIETING! AND SOMEHOW I SENSE TERRIBLE DANGER-- WAITING! I--I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALONE IN ALL MY LIFE...


SO, BATMAN TRUDGES ON THROUGH THE ALIEN LAND, UNTIL...
THE RUINS OF A DESERTED CITY! IT'S SO ANCIENT THE PLANTS HAVE TAKEN OVER!

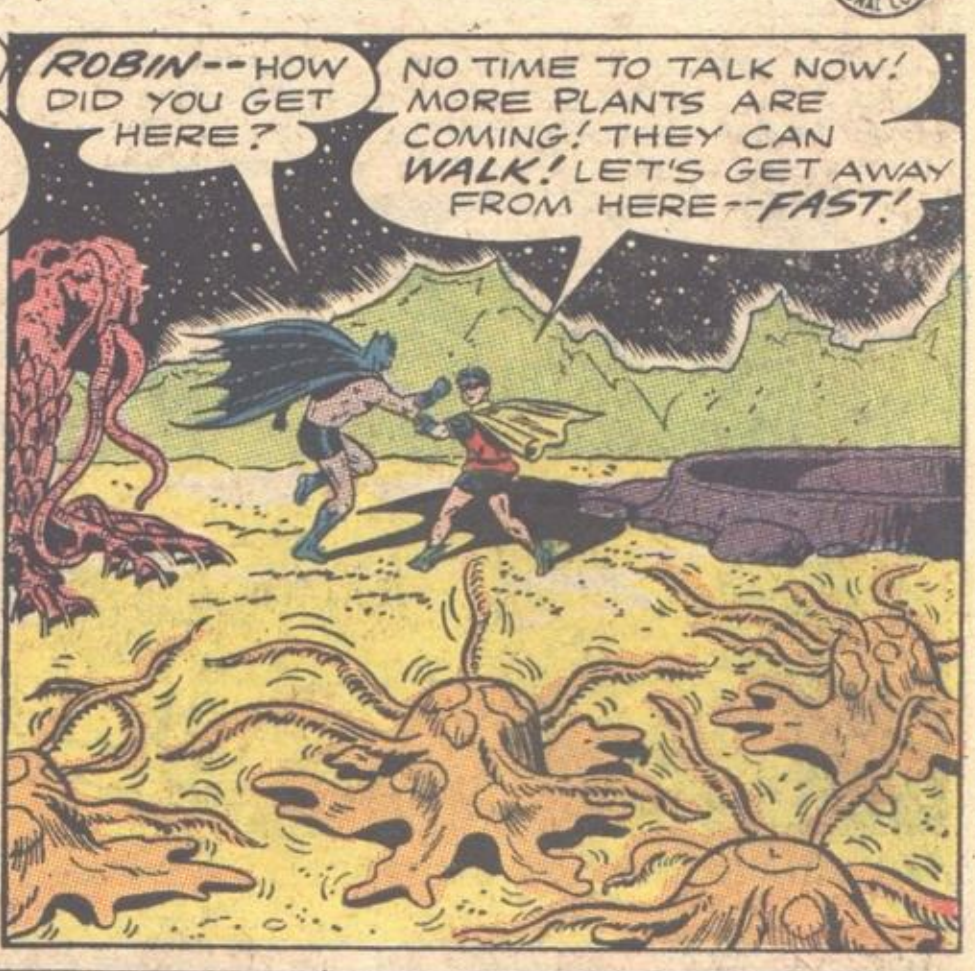
WITHOUT WARNING, SOMETHING SHOOTS OUT AT HIM...
GREAT SCOTT! THAT PLANT'S TENDRIL HAS ELONGATED AND WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND ME! GOT TO YANK MYSELF LOOSE!

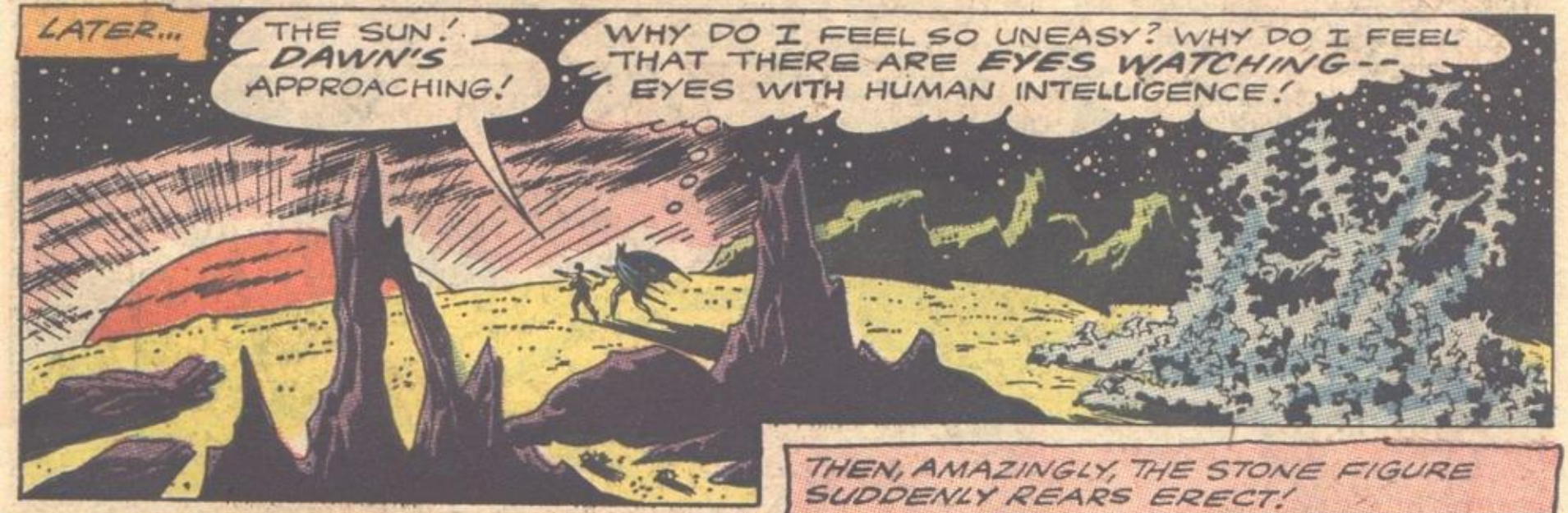
BUT BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...
UH--CAN'T FREE MY ARM! I'M HELPLESS!

THEN AS THE TERRIBLE PLANT RELENTLESSLY TIGHTENS ITS GRIP...
IF ONLY ROBIN WERE HERE TO HELP ME! ROBIN! WHERE ARE YOU, ROBIN? ROBIN!


SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR, STURDY FIGURE RACES FORWARD...
I'LL GET YOU FREE!
ROBIN!

ALL RIGHT NOW?
CRACK
YES-- THE TENDRILS HAVE RELAXED THEIR GRIP!


ROBIN--HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
NO TIME TO TALK NOW! MORE PLANTS ARE COMING! THEY CAN WALK! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE--FAST!


LATER...
THE SUN! DAWN'S APPROACHING!
WHY DO I FEEL SO UNEASY? WHY DO I FEEL THAT THERE ARE EYES WATCHING-- EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE!

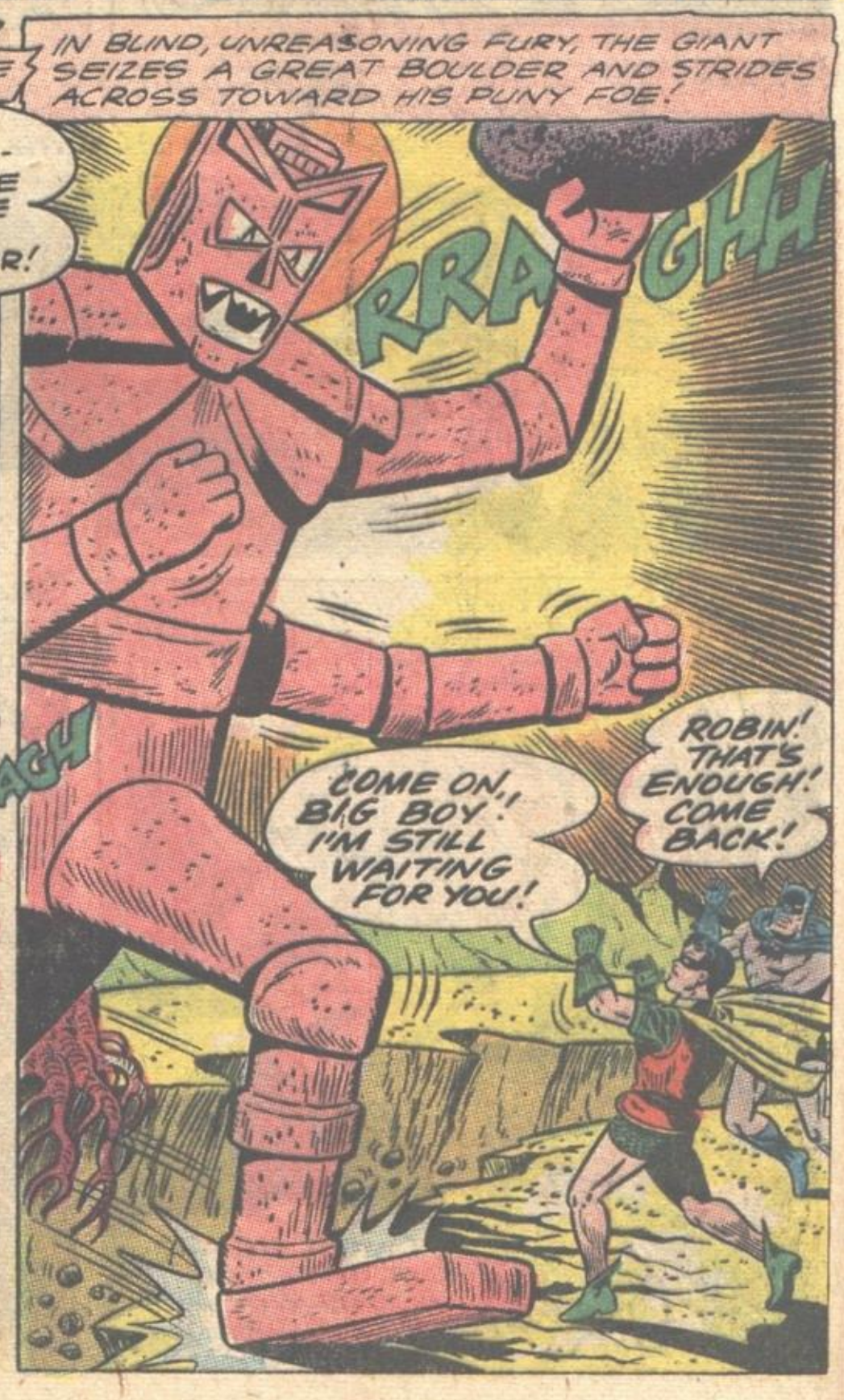
LOOK! A GIANT STATUE!
IT MUST BE AN IDOL THAT THE ALIENS WORSHIP!

THEN, AMAZINGLY, THE STONE FIGURE SUDDENLY REARS ERECT!
IT'S ALNE-- AND COMING AFTER US! RUN, ROBIN-- RUN!

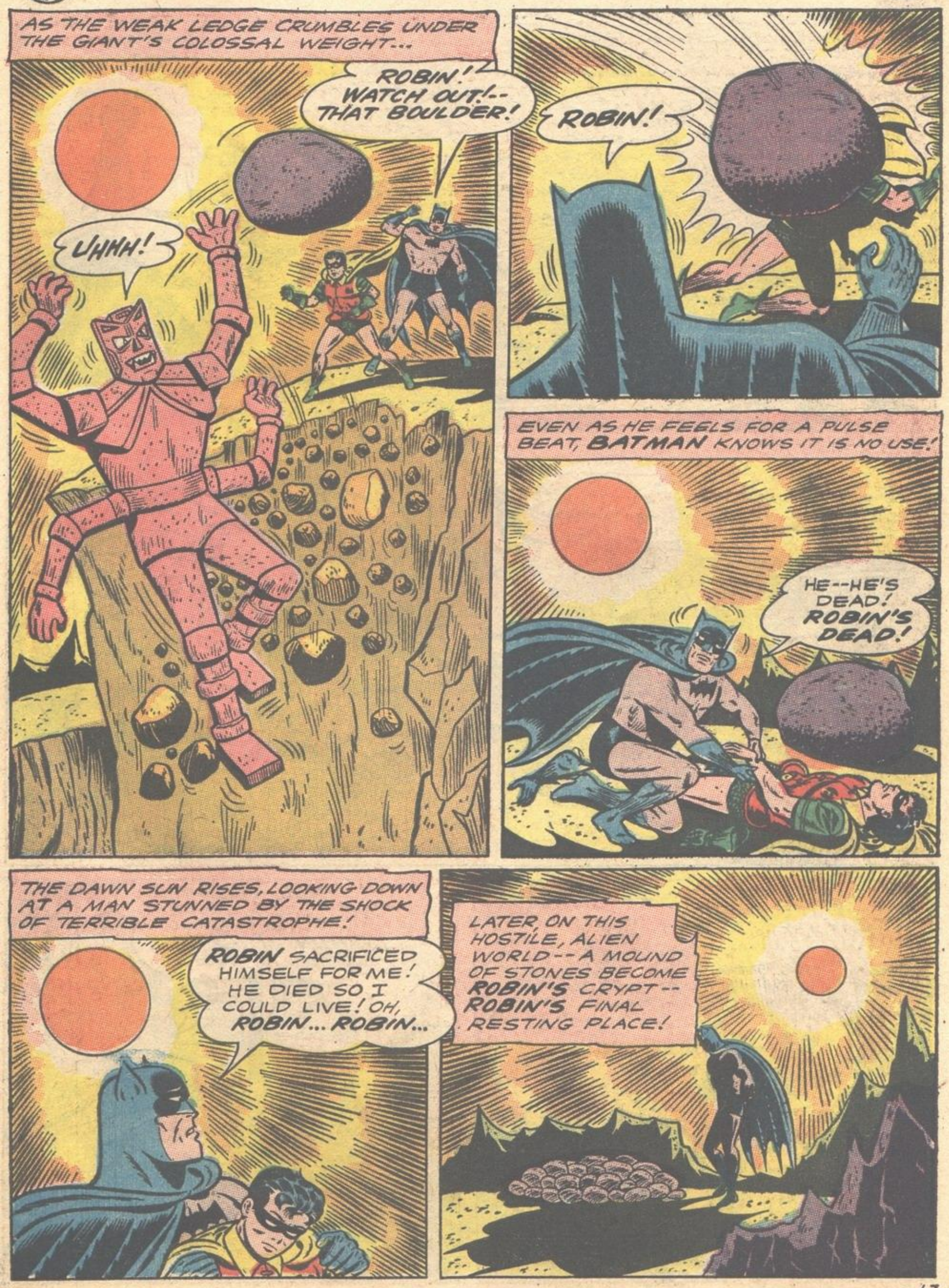
AS THE STONE COLOSSUS LUMBERS AFTER THEM IN DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CUT OFF!
A CHASM -- AND THAT STONE MONSTER IS COMING ON FAST!
THAT JUTTING BRANCH WILL TAKE US ACROSS! C'MON!

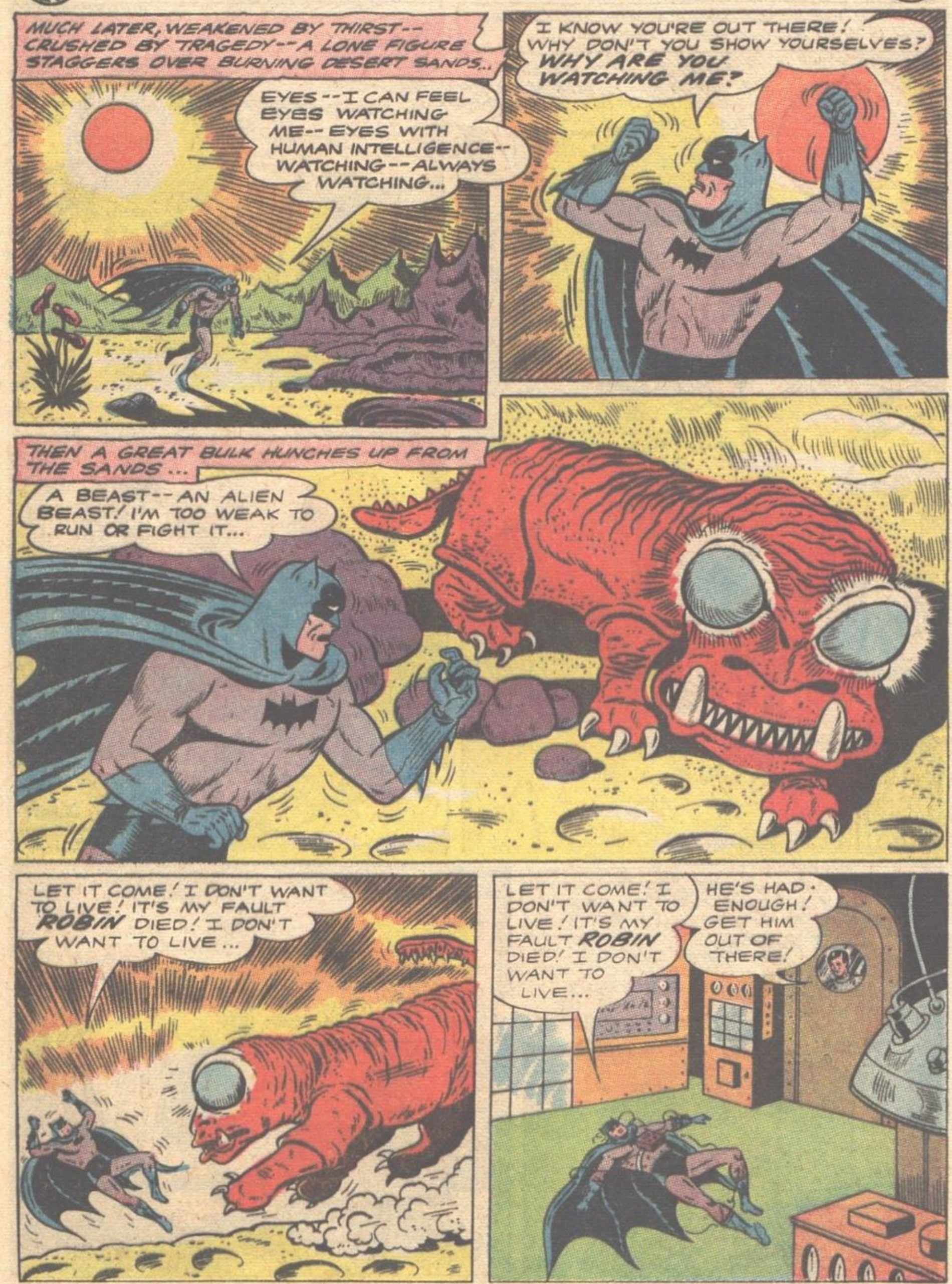
HAND-OVER-HAND, THE FUGITIVES MAKE THEIR WAY ACROSS THE CHASM...
WE'LL NEVER ESCAPE! THAT GIANT CAN GET ACROSS AT US WITH JUST ONE STEP!
YES -- BUT THE LEDGE ON THIS OPPOSITE SIDE IS WEAK! IT WILL CRUMBLE UNDER THE GIANT'S TREMENDOUS WEIGHT -- AND SEND HIM PLUNGING INTO THE CHASM!

UPON REACHING THE OTHER SIDE, THEY WATCH HOPEFULLY AS THE STONE GIANT APPROACHES...
LOOK AT THAT CRAFTY GRIN! THE GIANT SUSPECTS OUR RUSE! HE'S LOOKING FOR MORE SOLID FOOTING!
WE'RE FINISHED -- UNLESS WE CAN MAKE HIM LOSE HIS TEMPER!


IN BLIND, UNREASONING FURY, THE GIANT SEIZES A GREAT BOULDER AND STRIDES ACROSS TOWARD HIS PUNY FOE!
RRA
GHH
COME ON, BIG BOY! I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU!
ROBIN! THAT'S ENOUGH! COME BACK!

THEN, BEFORE BATMAN CAN MOVE...
ROBIN! COME BACK! ROBIN!
COME ON, YOU BIG LUG! DON'T STOP TO THINK! COME AFTER US!
KRACH


AS THE WEAK LEDGE CRUMBLES UNDER THE GIANT'S COLOSSAL WEIGHT...
ROBIN! WATCH OUT!-- THAT BOULDER!
UHHH!
ROBIN!
EVEN AS HE FEELS FOR A PULSE BEAT, BATMAN KNOWS IT IS NO USE!
HE--HE'S DEAD! ROBIN'S DEAD!
THE DAWN SUN RISES, LOOKING DOWN AT A MAN STUNNED BY THE SHOCK OF TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE!
ROBIN SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR ME! HE DIED SO I COULD LIVE! OH, ROBIN... ROBIN...
LATER, ON THIS HOSTILE, ALIEN WORLD--A MOUND OF STONES BECOME ROBIN'S CRYPT-- ROBIN'S FINAL RESTING PLACE!


MUCH LATER, WEAKENED BY THIRST-- CRUSHED BY TRAGEDY--A LONE FIGURE STAGGERS OVER BURNING DESERT SANDS...
EYES--I CAN FEEL EYES WATCHING ME--EYES WITH HUMAN INTELLIGENCE-- WATCHING--ALWAYS WATCHING...
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE! WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELVES? WHY ARE YOU WATCHING ME?
THEN A GREAT BULK HUNCHES UP FROM THE SANDS...
A BEAST--AN ALIEN BEAST! I'M TOO WEAK TO RUN OR FIGHT IT...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
HE'S HAD ENOUGH! GET HIM OUT OF THERE!

SWIFTLY, A HATCH OPENS--FIGURES HURRY TO BATMAN'S SIDE ...
WHAT...? ROBIN--ALIVE! I--I...
EASY, BATMAN--EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL! YOU'RE IN THE TEST CHAMBER--REMEMBER?

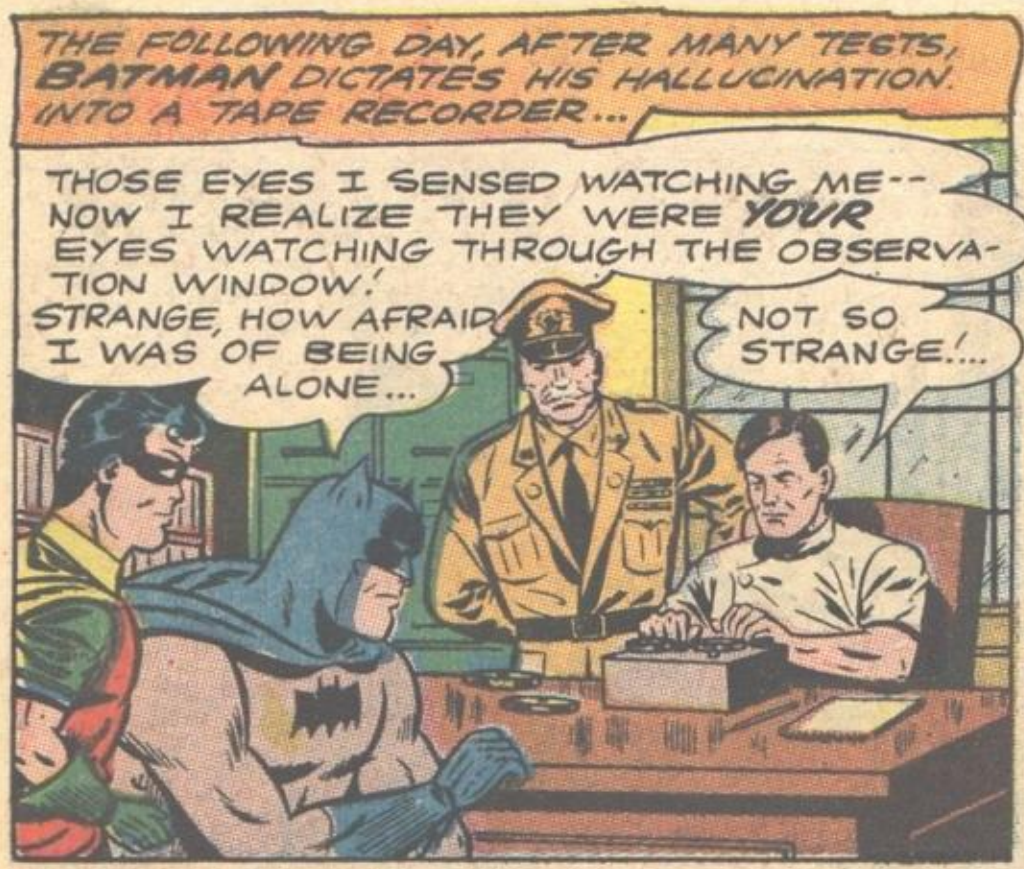
THE TEST--I REMEMBER NOW! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY--I LEFT A LETTER WITH GORDON FOR YOU--TO BE GIVEN TO YOU AFTER TWO DAYS...
YES--I GOT THE NOTE--AND I'VE BEEN COMING HERE EVERY DAY SINCE THEN, TO LOOK IN ON YOU!

WELL, DOC--HOW DID I DO?
YOU DID FINE! YOU MADE A SIMULATED "FLIGHT" INTO SPACE IN THIS CHAMBER THAT DUPLICATES CONDITIONS AN ASTRONAUT MIGHT UNDERGO IF HE FOUND HIMSELF ALONE ON SUCH A SPACE FLIGHT!

BATMAN, BY VOLUNTEERING FOR THIS TEST, YOU'VE MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO SPACE MEDICINE!
YES, INDEED! THE DATA COLLECTED ON THESE SENSITIVE RECORDING INSTRUMENTS WILL ENABLE US TO GAUGE EFFECTS ON AN ASTRONAUT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM!

YOUR REACTIONS WILL HELP US DETERMINE HOW LONG, AND WHAT KINDS OF STRAINS AN ASTRONAUT CAN ENDURE IN LONELINESS, BEFORE HIS MIND STARTS IMAGINING THINGS...

IMAGINING THINGS...I HAD AN HALLUCINATION...
WE GUESSED THAT WHEN WE HEARD YOU YELLING! YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW--BUT RIGHT NOW YOU NEED SLEEP!



GIANT BATMAN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 61)

and a suspense situation with Batman changing into all kinds of elements. Ditto for "The Experiment of Professor Zero," and the "Joker Batman." Also, the one with the mix-up of Batman and Robin was novel and thrilling. But "The Rainbow Batman," and "Batman, Robot," were not really "Strange Lives." I'm not saying they were bad stories, by themselves, especially "Batman, Robot," but they didn't fit the theme as well as the first GIANT BATMAN collection and the other stories I mentioned in the current one. —Arnold Kaufman, Philadelphia, Pa.

(You may have a point, but we didn't think we had to be so literal. Actually, we selected the two stories for this issue, because a number of readers have been asking for them—and they thought we could include them in a "Strange Lives" collection. —Ed.)

Dear Editor: Each GIANT BATMAN, except for the Silver Anniversary issue, has a theme of some kind, and all the stories are around that theme. That's okay—I don't mind having a collection of the greatest Secret Adventures or the best Mystery Cases, etc. But I'd like to see, occasionally, some issues like the Silver Anniversary one, with a lot of variety. —Doug Mandel, New York, N.Y.

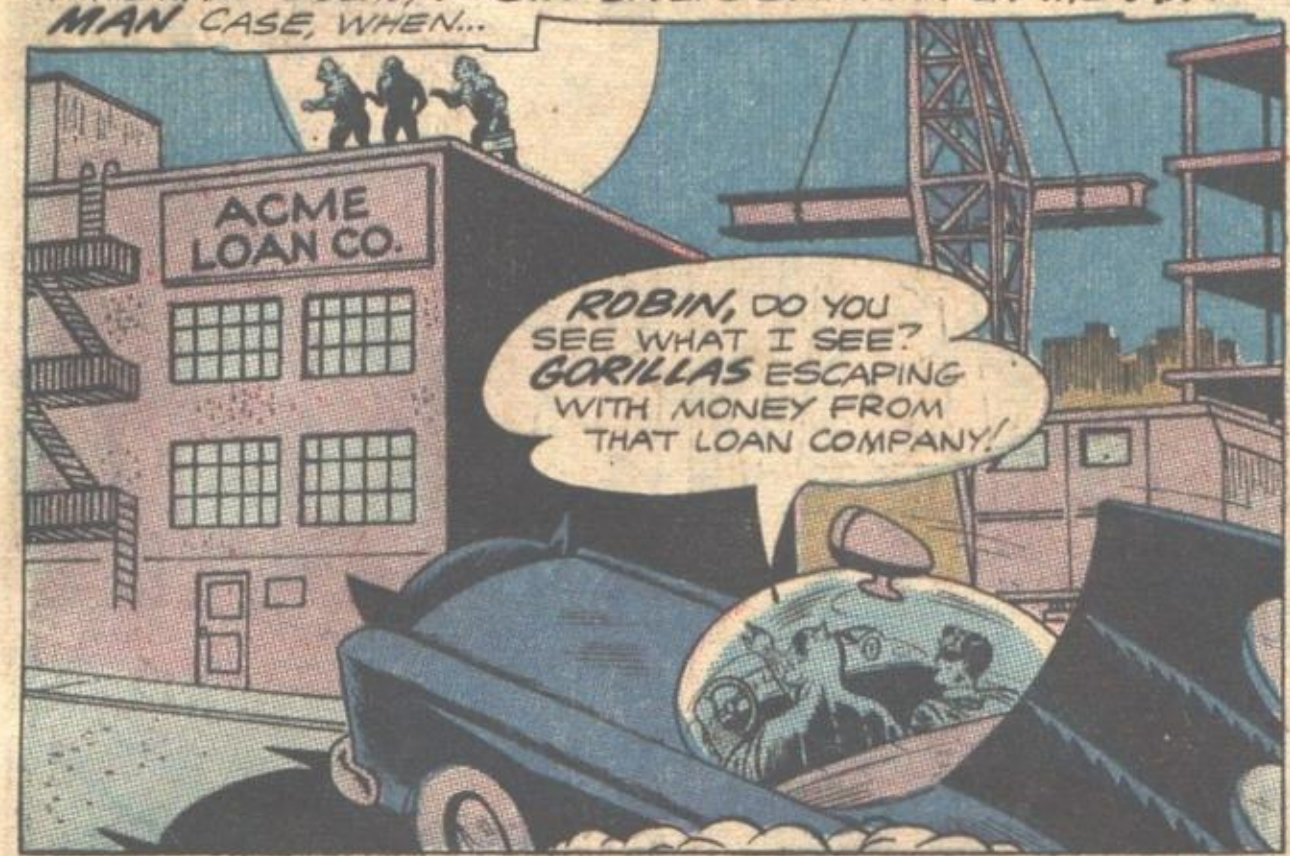
* * *

Dear Editor: I've enjoyed the great stories about Batman villains that you've had, but I wonder if you're not overdoing it, especially with all the TV adventures (which are terrif—don't get me wrong!). But I'd like to see some variety—so why not put out an issue of a more general type? —Seth Everett, Jr., Miami, Fla.

(Letters like the above two made us think twice

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 78)

CHAPTER 2 ROBIN DIES AT DAWN



SWIFTLY, SILENTLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN DART UP THE FIRE-ESCAPE -- AND CHARGE INTO THE GORILLA GANG!

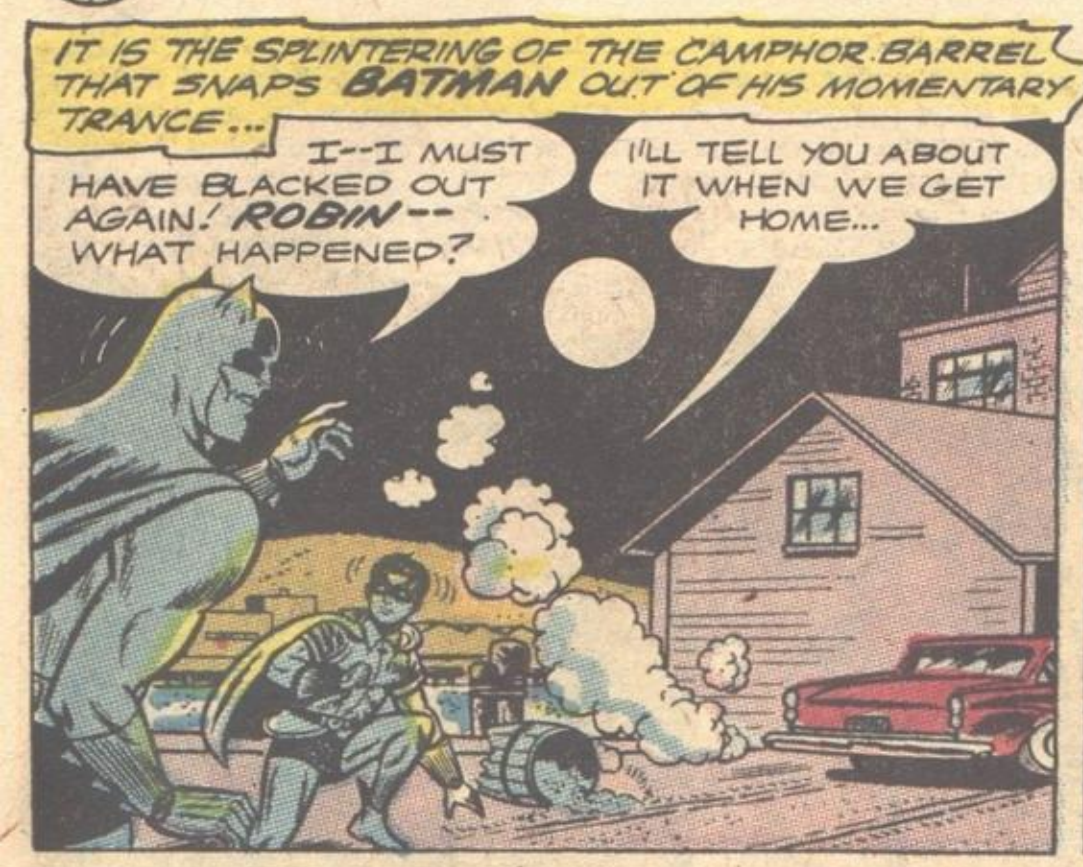
NOW LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE APES!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! QUICK -- WE'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE TO THE NEXT BUILDING, OVER THE DANGLING GIRDER!

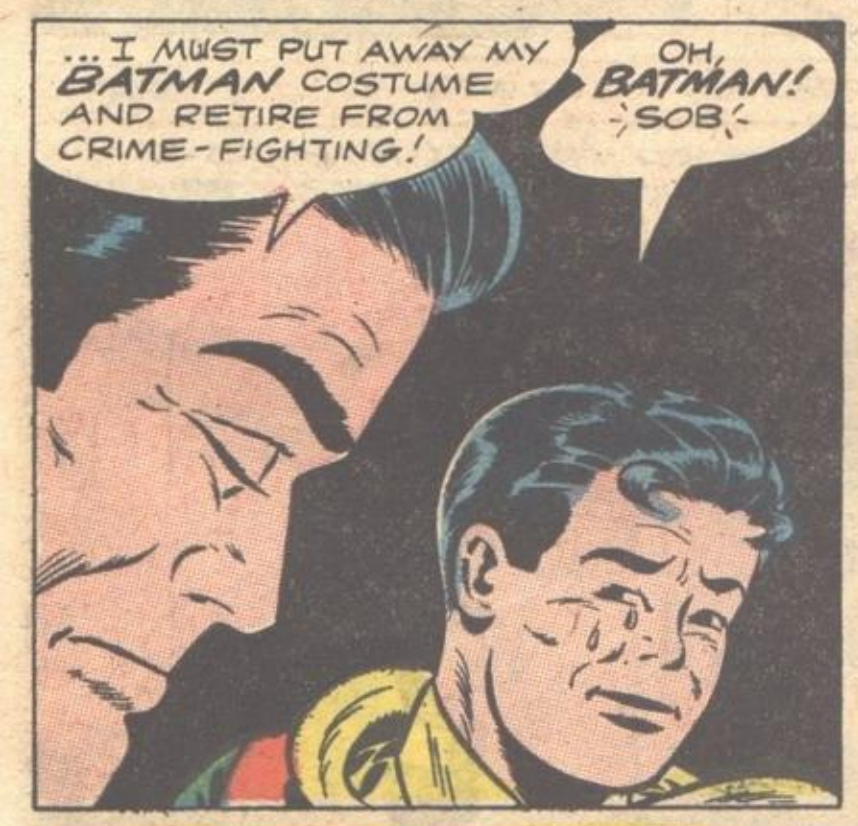
ACME LOAN

GIANT BATMAN AND ROBIN

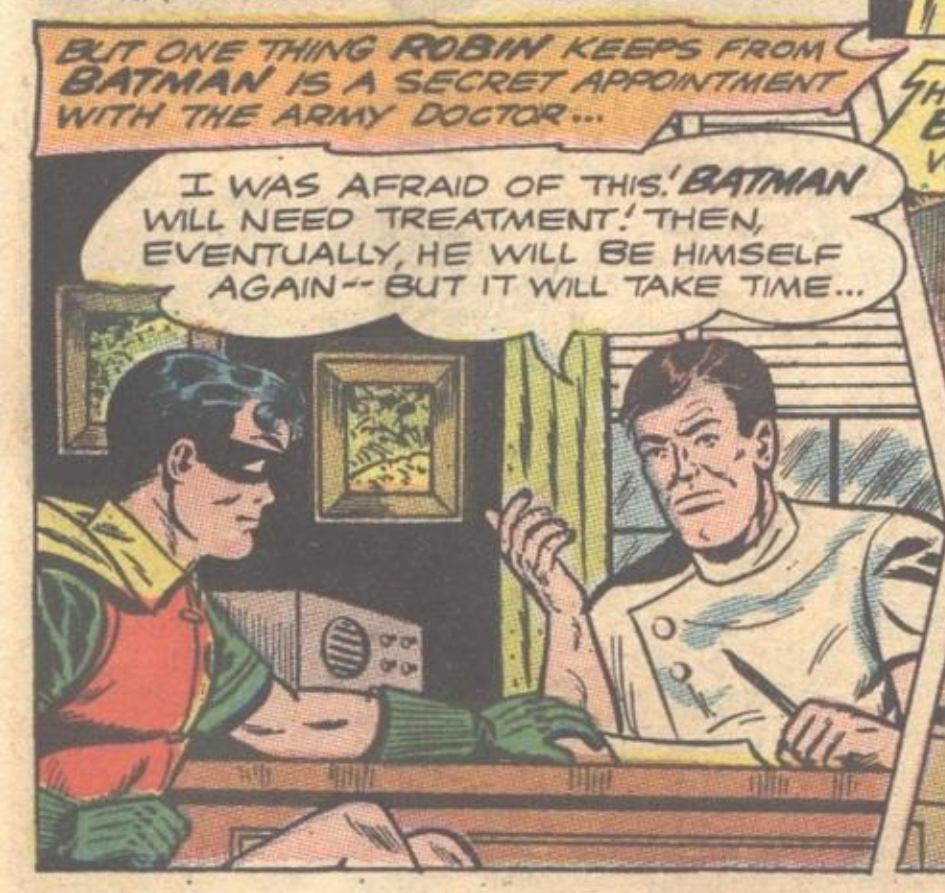
LATER--EVER ON THE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO INSTANTLY DASHES TO THE SOURCE OF A CLANGING BURGLAR ALARM!
A LUCKY BREAK FOR US! IT'S THE GORILLA GANG AGAIN!
THEY'VE CRACKED THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S VAULT! QUICK--CIRCLE AROUND THEM, ROBIN! WE'LL HIT THEM FROM TWO DIRECTIONS!
CLANG
GOTHAM TRUCKING CO
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE GORILLA GANG PILES INTO A GETAWAY CAR HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS... ITS MOTOR ROARS... AND HEADLIGHTS FLASH ON...
UH--THAT DAZZLING LIGHT!
RUN HIM DOWN!
HALF-BLINDED BY THE SUDDEN GLARE, BATMAN STANDS TRANSFIXED--LIKE A MOTH HYPNOTIZED BY FLAME...
...AND IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE CAR SUBTLY CHANGES SHAPE...
...UNTIL HE IS ONCE AGAIN RELIVING HIS HALLUCINATION!
LET IT COME! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE! IT'S MY FAULT ROBIN DIED! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE...
REALIZING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE BOY WONDER LEAPS AT THE BANDIT CAR AND...
HE'S YANKED THE WHEEL! GOTTA SHOVE HIM OFF!
WHEW! IT JUST MISSED BATMAN!
SCREEEECH
ACME CAMPHOR FLAKES
CRACK


IT IS THE SPLINTERING OF THE CAMPHOR BARREL THAT SNAPS BATMAN OUT OF HIS MOMENTARY TRANCE...
I--I MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT AGAIN! ROBIN-- WHAT HAPPENED?
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT WHEN WE GET HOME...

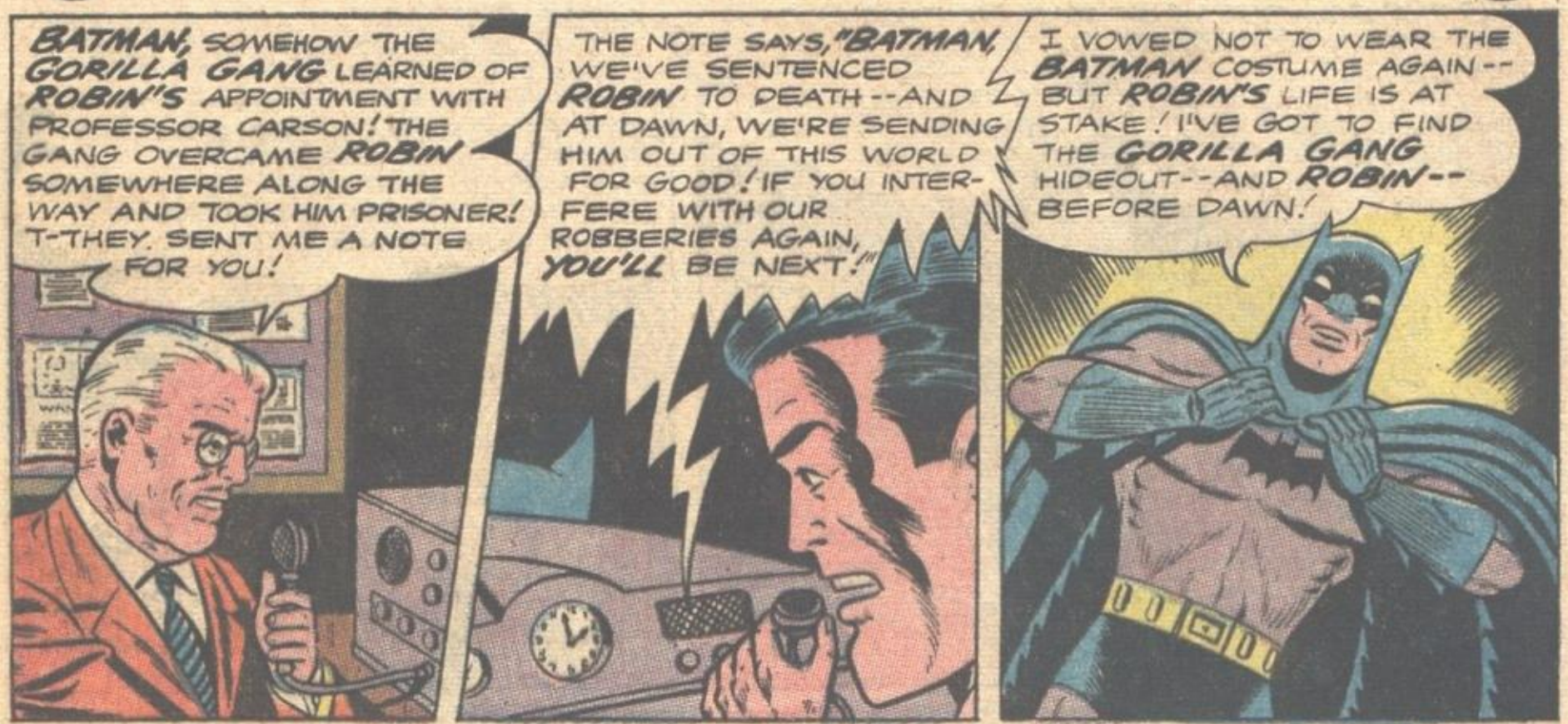
LATER, BATMAN AT LAST REALIZES THERE IS SOMETHING VERY, VERY WRONG WITH HIM...
LET'S FACE REALITY! WHILE I HAVE THESE MENTAL BLACKOUTS, I ENDANGER YOUR LIFE! I CAN'T EVER LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO...


...I MUST PUT AWAY MY BATMAN COSTUME AND RETIRE FROM CRIME-FIGHTING!
OH, BATMAN! -SOB-

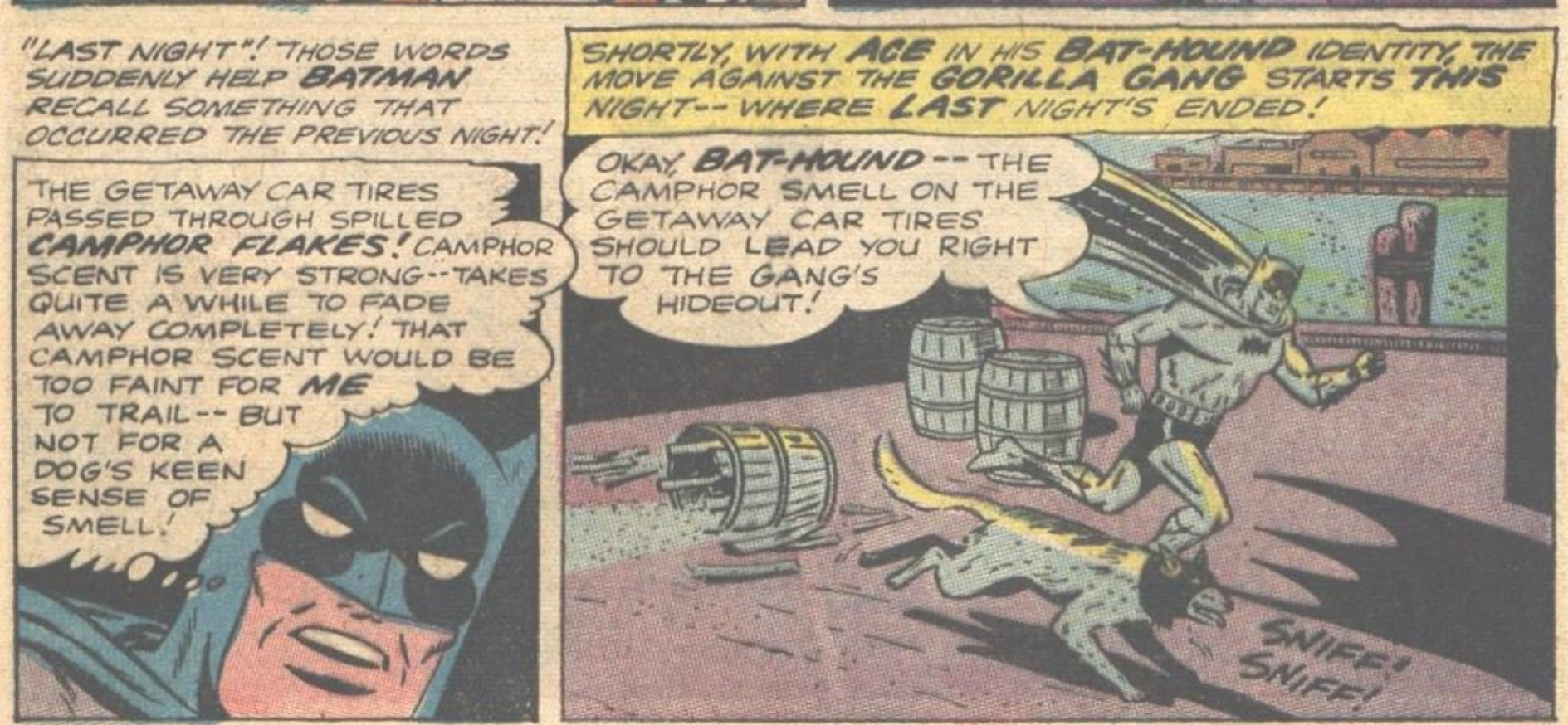
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT--ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMED TEAM DONS CRIME-FIGHTING GARB...
I'VE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON--ABOUT THE TESTIMONY WE'LL GIVE AT THE ANT-MAN'S TRIAL! I--I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!
I-IF YOU RUN INTO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, BE EVEN MORE CAREFUL THAN YOU WOULD BE IF I WERE ALONG!


BUT ONE THING ROBIN KEEPS FROM BATMAN IS A SECRET APPOINTMENT WITH THE ARMY DOCTOR...
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! BATMAN WILL NEED TREATMENT! THEN, EVENTUALLY, HE WILL BE HIMSELF AGAIN-- BUT IT WILL TAKE TIME...

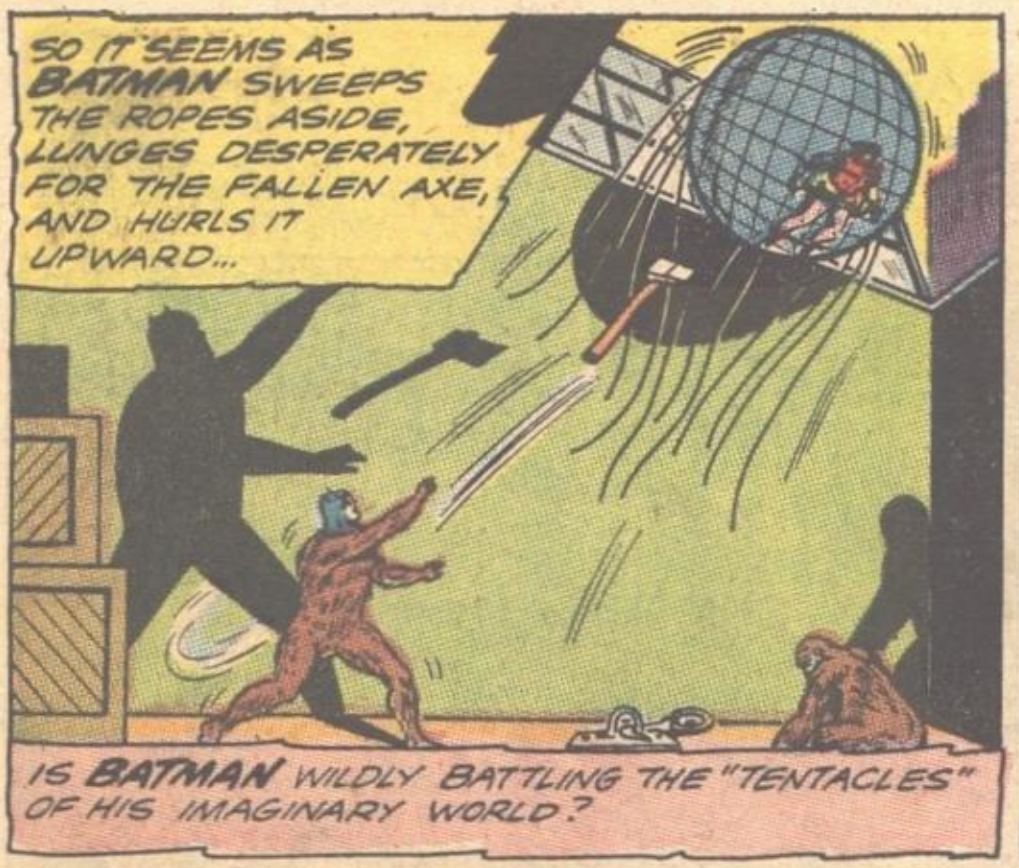
HOURS PASS, AND KEEPING HIS VIGIL IN THE BAT-CAVE, BRUCE IS GETTING WORRIED, WHEN...
THE EMERGENCY BAT-SIGNAL FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON! I'D BETTER CONTACT HIM AT ONCE ON THE BATMOBILE'S TWO-WAY RADIO!
BBZZZZZ

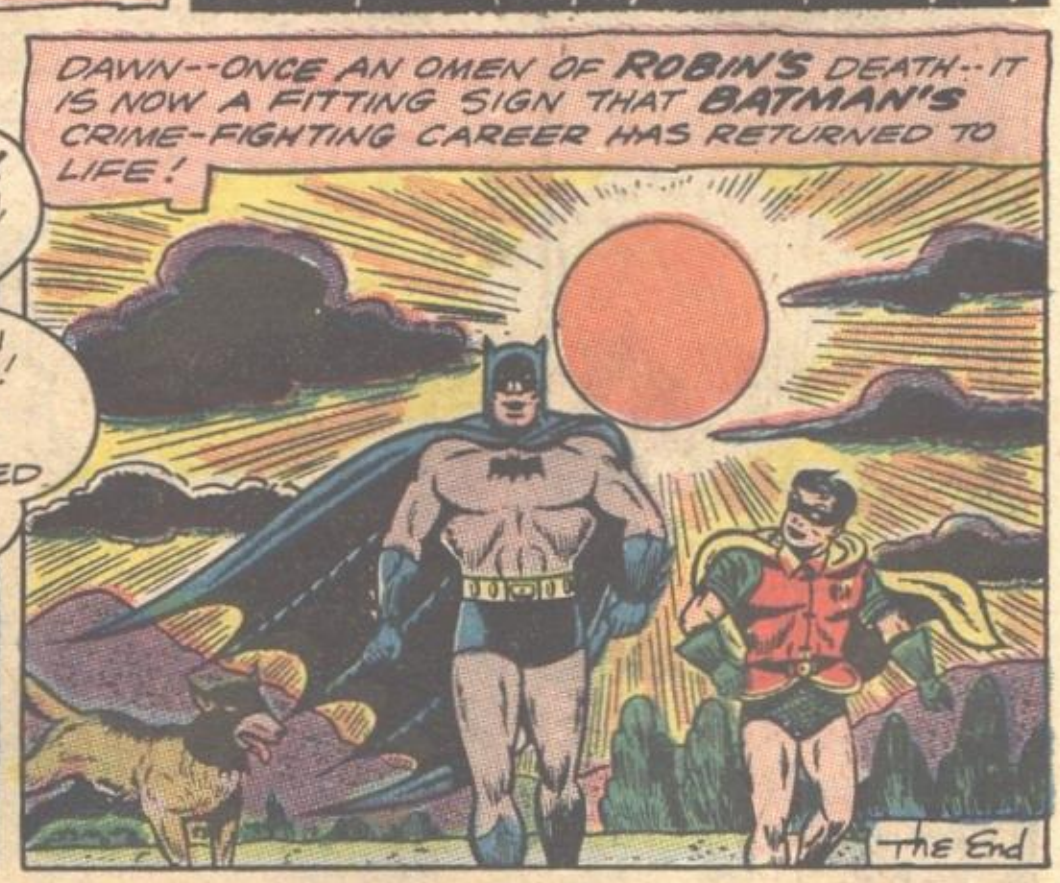

BATMAN, SOMEHOW THE GORILLA GANG LEARNED OF ROBIN'S APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR CARSON! THE GANG OVERCAME ROBIN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY AND TOOK HIM PRISONER! T-THEY SENT ME A NOTE FOR YOU!
THE NOTE SAYS, "BATMAN, WE'VE SENTENCED ROBIN TO DEATH--AND AT DAWN, WE'RE SENDING HIM OUT OF THIS WORLD FOR GOOD! IF YOU INTERFERE WITH OUR ROBBERIES AGAIN, YOU'LL BE NEXT!"
I VOWED NOT TO WEAR THE BATMAN COSTUME AGAIN--BUT ROBIN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE! I'VE GOT TO FIND THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT--AND ROBIN--BEFORE DAWN!

THOUGH POLICE JOIN THE SEARCH, BATMAN IS LIKE A FURY AS HE CRASHES UNDERWORLD HAUNTS!
WHERE'S THE GORILLA GANG HIDEOUT? TALK!
G-GOSH! IF I KNEW I'D TELL YA! H-HONEST!
PRECIOUS HOURS PASS--WITH NO RESULT!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT! ROBIN'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS BIG CITY! BUT WHERE? AND IF I DO FIND HIM, WILL I BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM--OR WILL I BLACK OUT AGAIN AS I DID LAST NIGHT?


"LAST NIGHT"! THOSE WORDS SUDDENLY HELP BATMAN RECALL SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!
THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES PASSED THROUGH SPILLED CAMPHOR FLAKES! CAMPHOR SCENT IS VERY STRONG--TAKES QUITE A WHILE TO FADE AWAY COMPLETELY! THAT CAMPHOR SCENT WOULD BE TOO FAINT FOR ME TO TRAIL--BUT NOT FOR A DOG'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL!
SHORTLY, WITH ACE IN HIS BAT-HOUND IDENTITY, THE MOVE AGAINST THE GORILLA GANG STARTS THIS NIGHT--WHERE LAST NIGHT'S ENDED!
OKAY, BAT-HOUND--THE CAMPHOR SMELL ON THE GETAWAY CAR TIRES SHOULD LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!
SNIFF! SNIFF!

SOON--DAWN! SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT PROBE EVERYWHERE--ESPECIALLY THROUGH A SLIDING ROOFTOP...
SUNRISE--AND ROBIN'S GONNA RISE UNTIL HE'S OUTA THIS WORLD! HA, HA! ONE WHACK OF THIS SHARP AX AND...
HOLD IT, PETE! I HEARD SOMETHING--SOUNDS LIKE FOOTSTEPS! LUKE, TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE AND SEE IF ANYBODY'S SNOOPING AROUND!
CHECK!
MINUTES PASS AS THE CRIMINALS WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF THEIR COMPANION...
WELL? ANYBODY OUTSIDE?
YES...
...ME!
BATMAN! HE KAYOED LUKE--AND GOT INTO LUKE'S SUIT TO CATCH US OFF-GUARD! I'LL FIX HIM!
THEN, A SHAGGY SHAPE HURTLES FORWARD LIKE A MISSILE...
THE AX--IT'S CUT THE MOORING ROPES!
FREED, THE BALLOON STARTS TO RISE, THE ROPES TRAILING LIKE TENTACLES AROUND BATMAN'S SHOULDERS!..
"LIKE TENTACLES"! WILL THOSE ROPES CAUSE BATMAN TO BLACK OUT AGAIN? WILL HE IMAGINE HE IS IN THE GRIP OF THE TENTACLE-PLANT?





GIANT BATMAN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 70)

about a 3rd all-villain issue right now. So we're considering having the next regularly *scheduled GIANT BATMAN an all-around "Best of Batman." It'll still include, we hope, the promised Joker Syndicated story. —Ed.)*

* * *

Dear Editor: Congrats on your latest GIANT BATMAN. It lived up to the high standards of your previous GIANTS. I'm particularly grateful to you for "The Experiment of Professor Zero," since I've been wanting to get hold of a copy of that story for some time. I'd heard about it—and there it was in this great collection of Batman stories. You must be a mind-reader! —David Patterson, Buffalo, N.Y.

* * *

Dear Editor: Some of the past issues of GIANT BATMAN had stories about the adventures of Superman and Batman, like "The Three Super-Sleepers," and "The Bewitched Batman." I thought they were fabulous. Can't we have more of them? —Dorothy Sanders, Newark, N.J.

(Since we published GIANT SUPERMAN-BATMAN last year, and it received such enthusiastic comments, we decided to keep these combined adventures for that magazine. Another issue is coming out about the same time as this GIANT BATMAN, so get your copy real fast! —Ed.)

Please address all mail to: GIANT BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Because of the large volume of mail received, we cannot always answer all letters, so please understand if your questions do not receive personal replies. —Ed.