

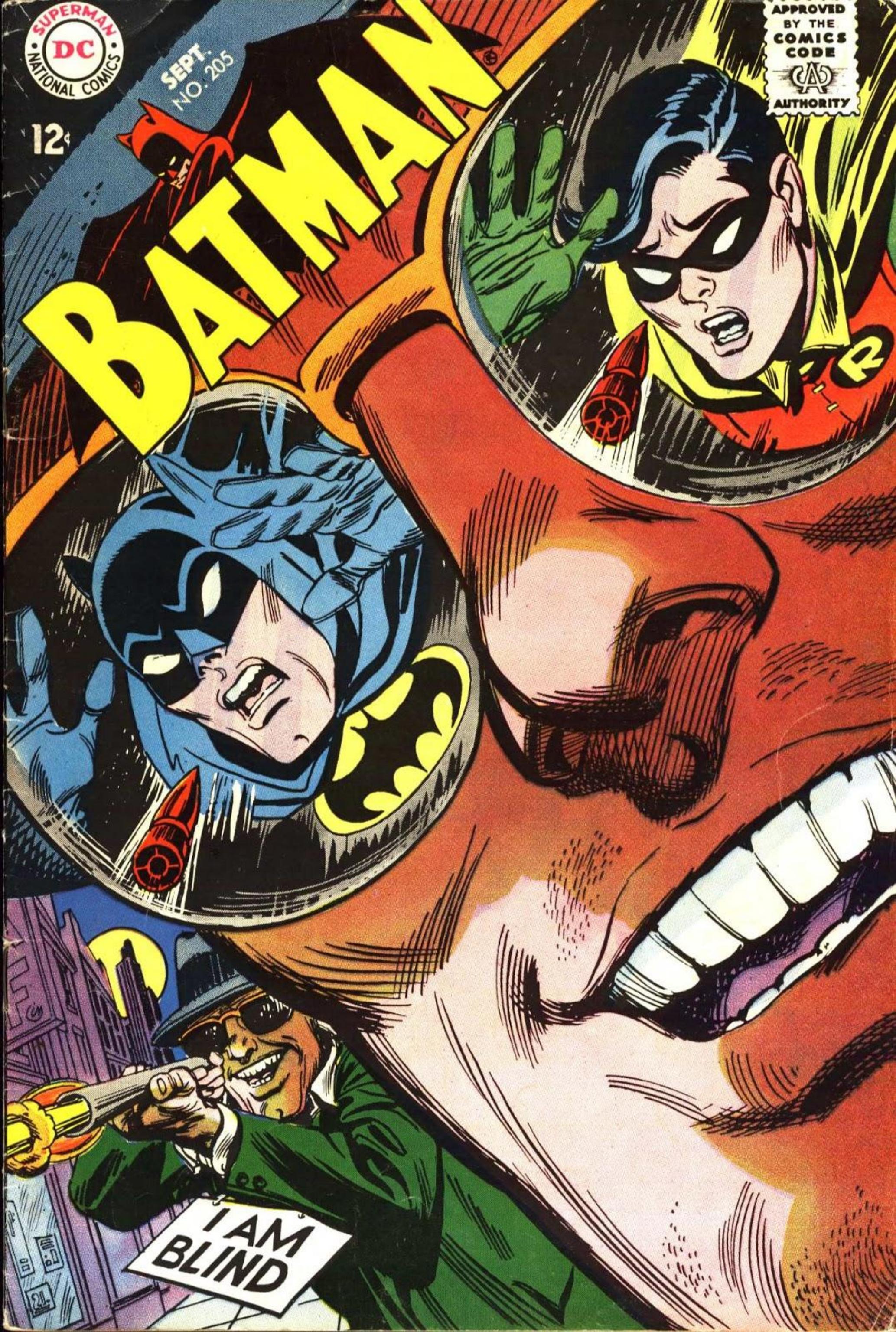


SEPT.  
NO. 205

12¢

# BATMAN

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# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

# "BLIND AS A... BAT?"

STORY BY FRANK ROBBINS; ART BY IRY NOVICK & JOE GIELLA



AND DESPITE THE REAL BATMAN'S PROOF THAT THE DYING MAN'S HAND WAS GUIDED BY THE KILLER... HE IS "HELD ON SUSPICION" BY COMMISSIONER GORDON... CHARGED WITH BEING HIS OWN IMPOSTOR!

HELPLESS, THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER EMPLOYS A RUSE TO ENABLE ROBIN TO ESCAPE IN AN ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN THE "KILLER"... AT THE SAME TIME PALMING A TINY OBJECT FOUND IN THE DEAD MAN'S EAR!

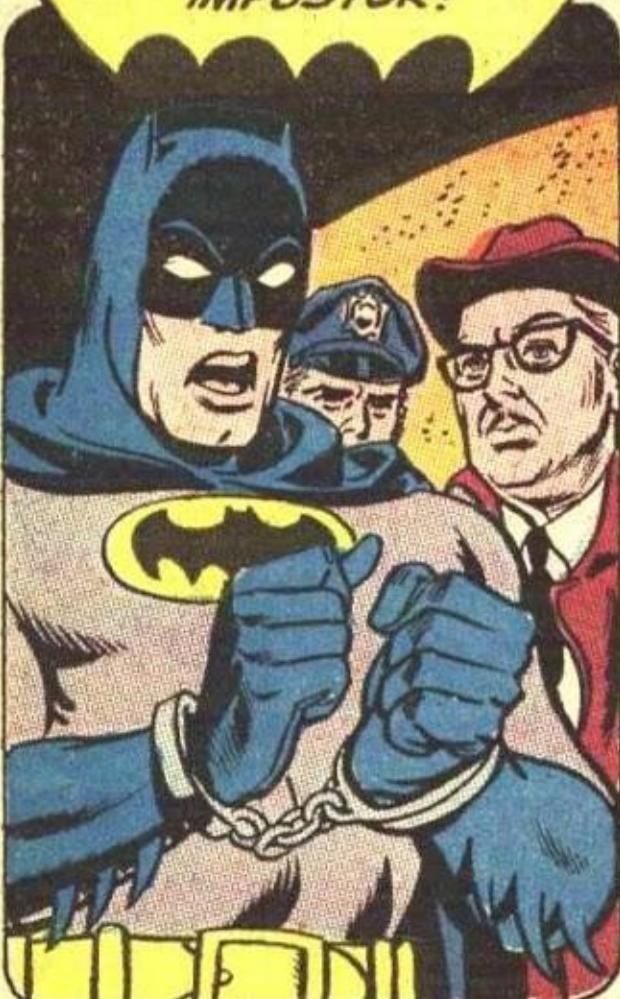
OPERATION THIS IS NOT A BLINDFOLD HEARING TO SCHEMER! AID! IT'S A ROBIN'S ESCAPED! FIXED-FREQUENCY RECEIVER... AND... ROBIN'S IN MORTAL DANGER!

GET HIM... DEAD OR ALIVE!

INDEED HE IS! AS ONE OF THE EVIL SCHEMERS "BLIND" SPOTTERS STAKED-OUT AROUND GOTHAM CITY FIRES A MINI-MISSILE AT THE BOY WONDER!...

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! BUT... WE HAVEN'T EVEN PICKED UP THE GOLD YET!

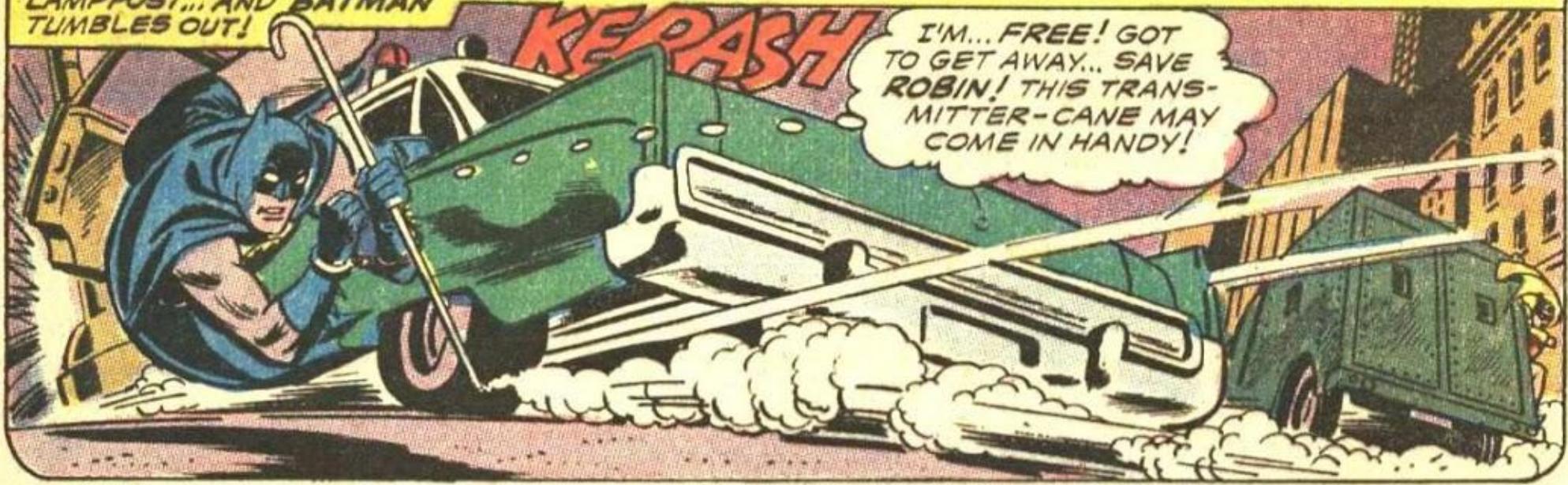
AN' BOTH THE BANK... AND OUR ROUTE HAVE BEEN KEPT TOP SECRET! TAKE EVASIVE... FULL SPEED!



AND SECONDS LATER, TO AVOID HITTING THE ARMORED TRUCK, COMMISSIONER GORDON'S CAR HITS A LAMPPOST... AND BATMAN TUMBLES OUT!

KERASH

I'M... FREE! GOT TO GET AWAY... SAVE ROBIN! THIS TRANSMITTER-CANE MAY COME IN HANDY!



ESCAPING, BATMAN IS STUNNED IN A COLLISION WITH ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN, AS THE "MAN WITH THE COMPUTER-BRAIN" RECEIVES A REPORT FROM ONE OF HIS SPOTTERS...

"OBJECTIVE" TRUCK SPEEDING TOWARD GRID-AREA 11...

THEN THEIR TARGET IS... THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK! CALL IN ALL STAKE-OUTS... CONVERGE ON TARGET USING OPERATIONAL PLAN "A"! AT THE SAME TIME...

WHILE IN A DANK ALLEY, BATMAN'S HEAD QUICKLY CLEARS AS THE GRIM ORDERS COME THROUGH...

... YOU CAN POLISH OFF ROBIN!

AS SOON AS I POLISH OFF NUMBER ONE-- BATMAN! HAW! HAW!

IN AN INSTINCTIVE PROTECTIVE GESTURE, THE CAPED CRUSADER THROWS HIS HANDCUFFED HANDS UP IN FRONT OF HIMSELF... AT THE SAME TIME KICKING UPWARD AND...

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH "POLISH" JOKES TO DATE! BUT THANKS FOR SHINING UP MY BRACELETS!

JEWELRY LIKE THIS ISN'T WHAT IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE!

AND WHEN YOU PLAY BALL WITH ME... ONE STRIKE AT BAT... AND YOU'RE-- OUT!



BUT NO SOONER DOES THE COWLED CRIME-FIGHTER ELIMINATE ONE OPPONENT, THAN...

THERE HE IS... COMMISSIONER GORDON! AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STEPS...!

OH... NO! I'D FORGOTTEN... I'M STILL A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE! AND I MUSTN'T BE RECAPTURED-- NOW!



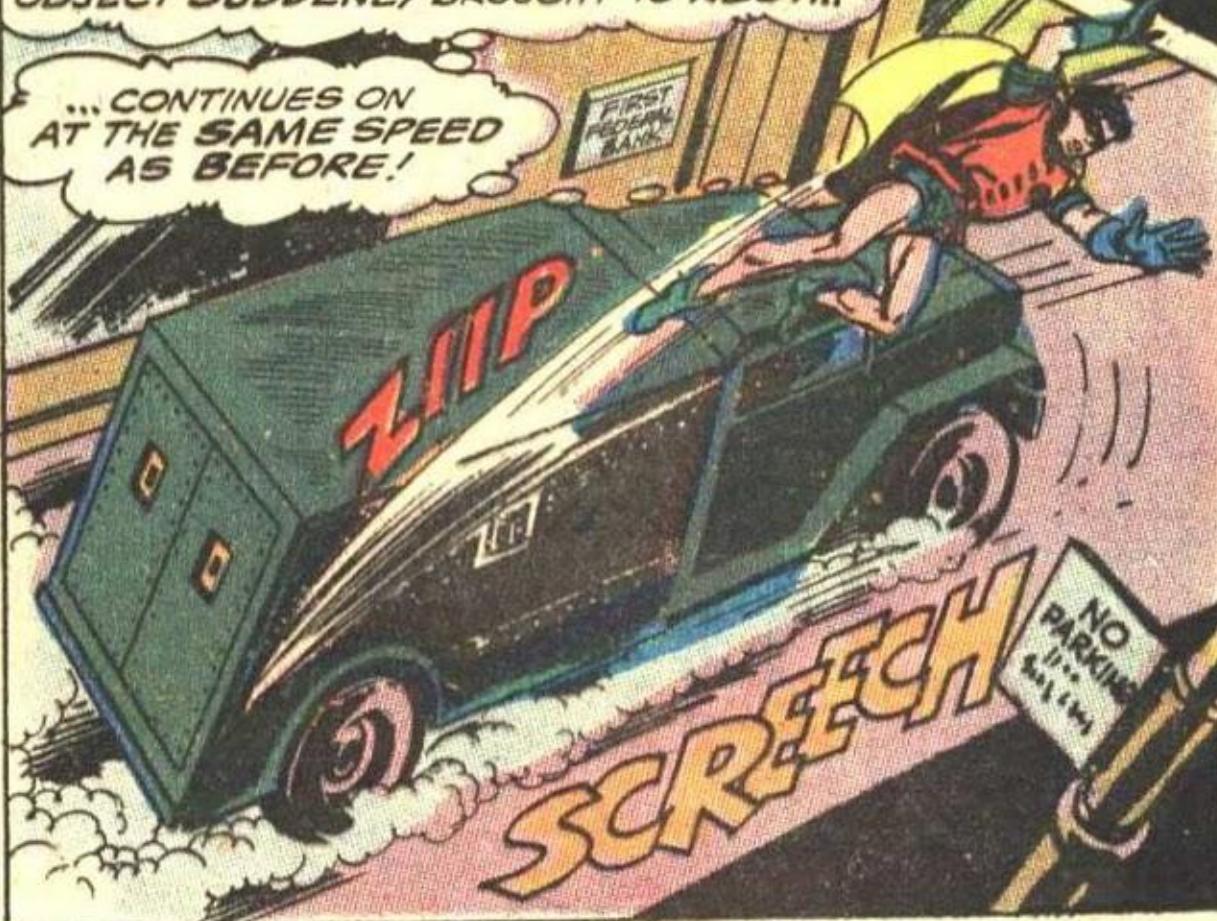
AND AS HIS ARMED PURSUERS CLOSE IN...

ROBIN'S LIFE MAY DEPEND ON MY STAYING... AT LIBERTY! WAIT! THERE IS A WAY!

AT THAT MOMENT, ROBIN'S LIFE IS VERY MUCH IN NEED OF SAVING, AS THE CAREENING ARMORED TRUCK SLEWS TO A PANIC-STOP AT THE FIRST FEDERAL BANK!

ABOUT TO BECOME VICTIM... OF IMMUTABLE LAW OF PHYSICS... THAT AN OBJECT DETACHED FROM MOVING OBJECT SUDDENLY BROUGHT TO REST...

...CONTINUES ON AT THE SAME SPEED AS BEFORE!



UNLESS... SPEED IS ABSORBED BY AN OBJECT IMPARTING PROGRESSIVE DECELERATION TO THE SPEEDING OBJECT!



IRONIC... I SHOULD BE SAVED BY THE SAME CHARACTERS THAT ARE TRYING TO DESTROY ME!

NOW TO FIND A GOOD HIDDEN VANTAGE POINT... WHERE I CAN SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE BANK!

THEY'RE LOADING THE ARMORED CAR WITH... GOLD INGOTS! MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH!

HURRY IT UP! SOMEONE TOOK A POT-SHOT AT US COMING HERE...! MIGHT BE SHEER ACCIDENT, BUT I'M EDGY!

AN EDGINESS THAT IS QUITE JUSTIFIED, AS FROM ALL CORNERS OF GOTHAM CITY AN ARMY OF THE SCHEMER'S BLIND-SPOTTERS CONVERGES ON THE BANK SQUARE!...



THE CRESCEDEO OF APPROACHING TAPS... SUDDENLY STOPS! EQUALLY ALARMED, THE GUARDS STARE...

LIKE THEY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE! W-WHAT ARE THOSE BLIND MEN STARING AT?



AND AS MORE MEMBERS OF OPERATION-BLINDFOLD JOIN THEIR SILENTLY LINED-UP COLLEAGUES...

THEY'RE B-BLOCKING THE STREETS OUT OF HERE! WHAT'RE THEY... BLIND OR SOMETHIN'? ER... I MEAN...

I KNOW WHAT Y'MEAN... BUT WHAT ARE THEY... JUST STANDIN' THERE FOR?

AND WHILE THIS TENSION MOUNTS, WE SWITCH TO ANOTHER TENSE SITUATION, AS

COMMISSIONER GORDON! WE'VE GOT HIM... BATMAN!

IS IT POSSIBLE? HAS BATMAN BEEN RETAKEN? WHO WILL DEFEAT THE EVIL SCHEMER'S PLANS NOW?

THAT'S THE 'IMPOSTOR', ALL RIGHT! WHO CLOUTED HIM?

HE DID...

B-BATMAN...? I-I DIDN'T KNOW--

OF COURSE, YOU POOR MAN... YOU CAN'T SEE!

H-HE RAN INTO ME... THOUGHT I WAS BEING ASSAULTED--S-SO I... SWUNG! B-BUT... YOU SAID -- IMPOSTOR!

WHAT GOES ON HERE? HOW DID THE SCHEMER'S "BLIND" MAN REGAIN THE UPPER HAND OVER THE CAPED CRUSADER?

I AM  
BLIND

AND A PRETTY LOW ONE, TOO... ATTACKING A BLIND MAN! WE'LL THROW THE BOOK AT HIM!

AND AS  
THE POLICE  
DRAG THE  
UNRESISTING  
BATMAN  
AWAY...

UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S NO REWARD  
OUT FOR THIS... DISGUSTING  
CREATURE! BUT, PLEASE  
ACCEPT MY PERSONAL  
GRATITUDE!

YOU REALLY  
SHOULDN'T,  
KIND SIR!  
I JUST DID  
MY DUTY AS  
A GOTHAM  
CITIZEN!



BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY OUT OF... SIGHT?

THAT QUICK-CHANGE WAS WORTH  
THE COST OF ONE BATMAN  
OUTFIT! AT LEAST I'VE DELIVERED  
ONE OF THE SCHEMER'S MEN  
INTO POLICE HANDS...



IT'S JUST A DULL GLOW!  
WHICH MEANS... THESE LENSES  
ARE MADE OF AUTOMATICALLY-  
ADJUSTING PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
MATERIAL! \*

\* HIGH-SENSITIVE LENSES THAT  
GET DARKER WHEN EXPOSED  
TO BRIGHTER LIGHT-SOURCES!

WHILE BACK IN  
THE BANK SQUARE... AS  
THE LAST OF THE GOLD-  
BULLION IS LOADED  
ABOARD THE ARMORED  
TRUCK...

SO THAT WAS  
WHAT THE BLIND  
MEN WERE  
WAITING FOR...  
A 'COPTER!

QUICK, JOE...  
LOCK UP THE  
BACK! I'LL  
START THE  
MOTOR!



AT THE SOUND OF THE CHOPPER,  
ROBIN CASTS ALL CAUTION TO THE  
WINDS, AS...

ARE THEY GONNA...  
BOMB... THE BANK-TRUCK?  
GOTTA STOP 'EM...  
SOMEHOW...



Fired with righteous indignation, the Boy Wonder comes out of cover, just as...



LIKE AN ALL-AMERICAN, ROBIN LINE-BACKS HIS WAY THROUGH A WALL OF LIVING FLESH...

GOTTA GIVE THOSE BANK-GUARDS... A HAND!



BUT JUST AS HE PLUNGES THROUGH...  
THE SCHEMER'S 'COPTER DROPS ITS  
SECRET WEAPON... A BLINDING  
SUPER-MAGNESIUM FLARE!



AND AS THE LONG-PERSISTANCE FLARE SLOWLY DRIFTS DOWN...THE GUARDS ARE STOPPED SHORT IN THEIR TRACKS--BLINDED!

AND ALSO CAUGHT POINT-BLANK BY THE SUPER-BRILLIANT FLASH, THE BOY WONDER REELS AROUND...UNSEEING!

POOR ROBIN... SO THAT'S THE SECRET OF THIS WHOLE "BLIND-FOLD" OPERATION...

I--I'M BLIND!  
CAN'T SEE!

N-NEITHER  
CAN I...

"BLIND MAN" BRUCE CAN STILL SEE? HOW IS IT POSSIBLE...?

BUT HOW CAN  
I DEFEAT THIS  
DIABOLIC MOB...?

THE GLASSES!  
THE PHOTO-SENSITIVE  
LENS AUTOMATICALLY  
ADJUST TO SHIELD US  
FROM THE INTENSE GLARE!  
WHILE UNGUARDED EYES...

SUDDENLY,  
BRUCE'S  
WHIRLING THOUGHTS  
CATALYZE... AND A  
DARING PLAN FORMS IN  
HIS MASTER MIND! THEN,  
PUTTING THOUGHTS INTO ACTION...

I WANT TWO  
GIANT STEPS LEAD  
TO THAT ARMORED  
TRUCK!... LET'S PLAY...  
"JOHNNY ON THE PONY"!!

I AM  
BLIND

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO ATTEND THE WEDDING  
OF LOIS LANE AND SUPERMAN  
IN THE GIANT LOIS LANE ISSUE  
ON SALE JULY 11th,  
AT YOUR NEWSDEALER!

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TO MARRY SUPERMAN!

**SUPERMAN - NATIONAL COMICS - DC**

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**JUST MARRIED**

**SHE WEDS HIM IN HIS CLARK KENT IDENTITY!**

**SHE ADOPTS A SECRET IDENTITY OF HER OWN!**

**SHE EVEN MAKES A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!**

BE BACK FOR YOU LATER,  
BUD! NOW... THERE'S  
ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP  
THIS HORDE!

HEY...!  
WHATSA-  
MATTER...  
YA BLIND?

YE-AH... YOU'RE  
ONE OF US!

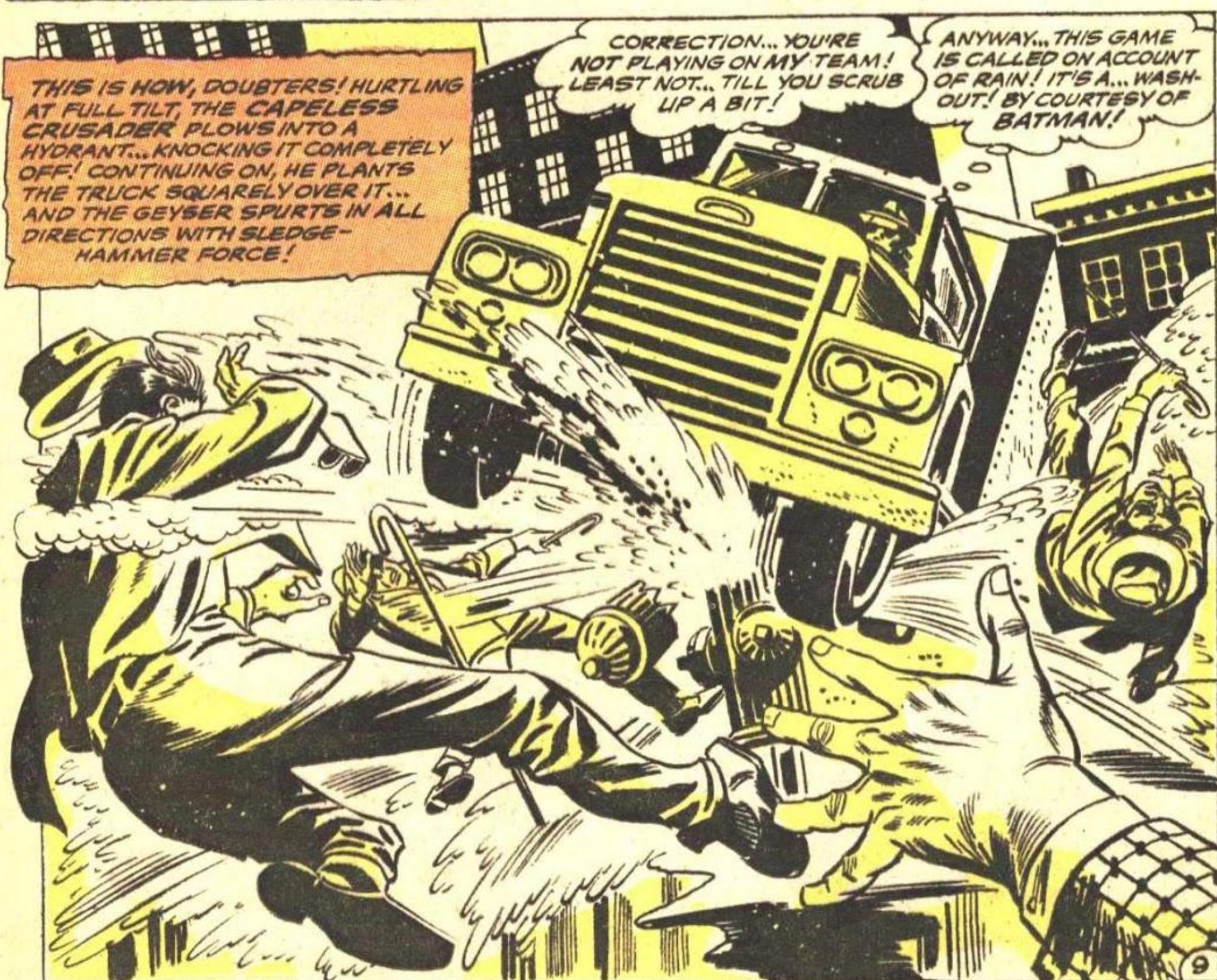


THAT JUST TAKES CARE OF A FEW, BATMAN! BUT HOW CAN YOU STOP THE WHOLE MOB?

THIS IS HOW, DOUBTERS! HURTLING AT FULL TILT, THE CAPELESS CRUSADER PLOWS INTO A HYDRANT... KNOCKING IT COMPLETELY OFF! CONTINUING ON, HE PLANTS THE TRUCK SQUARELY OVER IT... AND THE GEYSER SPURTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS WITH SLEDGE-HAMMER FORCE!

CORRECTION... YOU'RE NOT PLAYING ON MY TEAM! LEAST NOT... TILL YOU SCRUB UP A BIT!

ANYWAY... THIS GAME IS CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF RAIN! IT'S A... WASH-OUT! BY COURTESY OF BATMAN!



AND THEN THE BLINDING FLARE DROPS INTO THE FLOODED SQUARE... FIZZLES... AND DIES! BATMAN BROADCASTS A MESSAGE VIA HIS TRANSMITTER-CANE TO THE HOVERING 'COPTER...

YOUR WHOLE OPERATION'S A FIZZLE, SCHEMER... JUST LIKE THAT DEAD "BLUNDER"! SO KNOCK IT OFF... WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD!

**PHET**

WHILE ABOVE... [CORRECTION... BATMAN!]

PHASE 1 OF THE GAME IS YOURS...! BUT NOW WE ENTER PHASE 2! RIGHT, BRAIN DRAIN?

QUICKLY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE BACKS THE TRUCK AROUND TO THE GUARDS...

CAN YOU SEE WELL ENOUGH TO DRIVE?

VISION'S KINDA... SPOTTY, BUT--

LEAPING OFF, BRUCE TURNS THE TRUCK OVER TO THE GUARDS... AND... BUTTONED-UP, IT ROARS AWAY TOWARD THE AIRPORT...

SCHEMER TO OPERATION-- BLINDFOLD... PLAN A--ABORTED! SWITCH TO PLAN B! STEP 1... PICK UP ROBIN!

THEN... HOP IN!

**WHEOSH**

WHAT NEW EVIL HAS THE SCHEMER AND HIS MALEVOLENT COHORTS HATCHED? HIS FIRST SCHEME LAID ONE BIG OWL EGG! WHAT NOW?

?

AS BRUCE TRIES TO SPEED TO ROBIN'S RESCUE, HIS PROGRESS IS IMPEDED BY THE STILL-RUSHING WATER...



WHILE AT A DISTANCE THAT COULD BE OCEANS AWAY... THE OVERWHELMED, BUT FIERCELY BATTLING BOY WONDER PUTS UP A DETERMINED... BUT FUTILE ... STRUGGLE!...



HIS COURAGE MORE THAN HIS STRENGTH CAN MATCH, THE TEEN TITAN IS LIFTED AWAY... A LOSER TO STACKED ODDS! WHAT GRIM ROLE HAS HE BEEN SELECTED TO PLAY IN THE SCHEMER'S FOUL PLAN B? AFTER A SHORT SPONSOR-SELECTED INTERMISSION... WE SHALL SEE... ON THE NEXT PAGE!

11

JULY, 1968

## No Chicken Kamikaze

You've never heard of a chicken Kamikaze pilot. In fact, he had no chance for "change of mind." Once he was airborne, he was committed. He was locked into his plane so he couldn't bail out. Triggered bombs were bolted to his wings so he couldn't land without blowing up. So why not be a hero in your Zero? The newest Revell model is a realistic reproduction of the famous Kamikaze from Japan . . . the infamous Zero. Build it, and you can recreate history as you create a model. Only \$2.00.



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Model of the Month

# "BLIND AS A... BAT?" PART 2

AND, AS SUDDENLY AND SILENTLY AS THEY CAME... THE MEMBERS OF OPERATION-BLINDFOLD HAVE FADED AWAY... LEAVING A FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE ALONE IN THE FLOODED SQUARE...

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN RESPONSE TO BRUCE'S URGENT PHONE CALL...

OH MY, MASTER WAYNE... YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH PADDLING ABOUT IN THAT PUDDLE! COME UP AT ONCE, SIR... I HAVE A FRESH CHANGE OF CLOTHING WAITING!

GOOD OLD ALFRED... MY FAITHFUL BUTLER... AND MOTHER-HEN!

GLAD YOU HAD MY OTHER BATMAN OUTFIT LAID OUT... GAVE MINE TO A SERF—"BLIND" MAN!

...AND WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR YOUNG MASTER DICK? YOUR CALL WAS SO BRIEF... WH-WHERE IS HE NOW?

CAN'T HELP ROBIN THIS WAY!  
NEED BIG HELP IN A HURRY!

SCUTTLED BY THE SCHEMER,  
ALFRED! PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE AIRPORT NOW FOR ANOTHER STAB AT THE GOLD-BULLION SHIPMENT!

SOON, YOUNG ROBIN... YOU WILL SEE THE WIZARDRY OF THE SCHEMER'S WILY WITS... IN ACTION!

WHILE APPROACHING THE MARSHES BORDERING GOTHAM CITY BAY... SITE OF GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...



AND, AS DAWN BREAKS...

NOW WE APPROACH MY  
BASE OF OPERATIONS!  
SOON WE WILL BE  
WHERE EVEN YOUR  
**FEARLESS FERRET**  
CANNOT FIND YOU!

I--I SEE NOTHING BUT...  
SEA MARSHES!  
W-WHERE--?

OPERATION BLINDFOLD HAS A  
MOST APT... AND... WELL-NAMED  
...HIDE-OUT! HA! HA!

AS THE HATCH COVERS OPEN,  
AN ELEVATOR RISES TO  
MEET THE DESCENDING  
'COPTER! THEN, ITS ROTOR-  
BLADES FOLDED... THE  
HELIPAD GOES DOWN,  
SWALLOWING ROBIN  
AND THE  
SCHEMER!

AND, ON A TRANSMITTED SIGNAL FROM THE SCHEMER'S  
'COPTER... THE "DUCK BLIND" SUDDENLY RISES! DISCLOSING...

A MOST INGENIOUS "COVER", EH,  
ROBIN? FLOATING DUCK DECOYS,  
AND... MY PERISCOPE AND  
ANTENNA DISGUISED AS--  
SHOTGUN BARRELS!

SUBMERGED, ROBIN'S UNDERWATER PRISON ONCE MORE GREETS THE CASUAL EYE AS A PEACEFUL, SYLVAN, HUNTER'S RETREAT...

AND, BELOW...

SUFFERIN' SUBS! Y-YOU CAN'T... SINK THAT!

OH...? CAN'T I...?

AND NOW, I SUPPOSE, YOUR TEEN-AGE CURIOSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS! A GLANCE THROUGH THIS PERISCOPE SHOULD SATISFY THAT...

A MOST ASTUTE QUERY FROM THE BOY WONDER... AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE! HOW CAN THE SCHEMERS SINK... A JET-CARGO PLANE?...

HA! THOSE WOULD-BE GENIUSES HOPE TO OUTSMART THE SCHEMERS BY DRIVING THE GOLD-TRUCK DIRECTLY INTO THE AIR-TRANSPORT... WITH AN UNBREAKABLE ARMED RING AROUND IT! HA! HA!

I'D SAY IT'S RATHER CLEVER! THERE'S NOT A CHANCE YOU CAN...

THE SCHEMERS LEAVES NOTHING TO CHANCE! SURE-- THE GOLD SHIPMENT IS INVULNERABLE ON THE GROUND...

BUT ONCE IT TAKES OFF, I KNOCK IT DOWN WITH MY MINI-POLARIS TYPE MISSILE! SALVAGING THE TREASURE UNDERWATER WITH THIS SUB... WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY!

THE SCHEMERS THROWS A SWITCH... A SILO HATCH-COVER OPENS AND...

YOUR PLAN  
IS VIOLENT...  
BUT YOU'LL  
NEVER GET  
AWAY WITH IT!

AND WHO'S TO STOP ME...  
BATMAN? WITH HIS PRECIOUS  
TEEN-TODDLER IN MY TENDER  
CLUTCHES? HA! HA!

HOO-HOOT!

I FEAR...  
THAT UNDER THE  
CIRCUMSTANCES, SIR...  
I'D MUCH PREFER BEING  
WITH THOSE DUCK  
"NIMRODS" BELOW!

OF COURSE...  
I'D MUCH  
PREFER--  
GROUSE!

WHILE... APPROACHING GOTHAM AIRPORT...

HOW ARE WE GOING  
TO COPE WITH  
THIS SITUATION,  
MASTER  
BRUCE?

FIRST, ALFRED... WE'RE  
GOING TO CASE THE AIRFIELD  
GOLD-LOADING AREA! SEE IF  
WE CAN SPOT WHERE THE  
SCHEMER MIGHT MASS  
HIS FORCES FOR  
AN ATTACK!



BUT THEIR OVER-FLIGHT OF THE SENSITIVE AREA IS GREETED WITH AN ALERT WARNING...

I SAY,  
SIR... THEY'RE  
TRYING TO PUT...  
HOLES IN  
OUR WITS!

BULLY FOR  
THEM,.. ALFRED...  
THEY'RE ON THEIR  
TOES! LEAST  
NOW... WE CAN  
BE SURE THE  
SCHEMER  
WON'T TRY A  
'COPTER  
ASSAULT!



AND THAT "RING OF STEEL"  
AROUND THE CARGO PLANE  
WILL PREVENT A GROUND  
ATTACK... TILL SHE'S  
SAFELY OFF AND AWAY!

WHAT OTHER  
WAY CAN THE  
**SCHEMER**  
HIT THEM?

I-I CAN'T  
GUESS, SIR!  
WE'RE HAVING  
AS MUCH LUCK  
AS THOSE  
HUNTERS BELOW,  
IN FINDING  
FLYING  
DUCKS!

WHILE IN THE INNOCENT-LOOK-  
ING SHELTER BELOW... THE  
"SHOTGUN" PERISCOPE  
TRAVERSES, AND...

LOADING COMPLETED!  
PLANE ABOUT TO TAXI  
FOR TAKE-OFF...  
**BATTLE STATIONS!**

WHAT DID  
YOU SAY,  
ALFRED--?

I-I SAY, SIR...  
WHAT DID I  
JUST SAY?



OH, I HAVE  
IT, SIR! AS  
MUCH LUCK  
AS THOSE  
HUNTERS  
BELOW...  
FINDING--  
AH, THAT'S  
IT--FLYING  
DUCKS!

AND... AND  
WHEN DID  
THE HUNTING  
SEASON  
**OPEN**  
AROUND  
GOTHAM  
CITY,  
ALFRED?



WHY, SIR-- IT  
HASN'T AS  
YET! IN  
FACT...

IN FACT, IT **STARTS**  
NEXT MONTH! WHICH  
MEANS... EITHER THOSE  
JOKERS BACK THERE  
ARE POACHERS, OR...

...THAT "DUCK BLIND" IS A  
BLIND FOR SOMETHING  
ELSE! AND IF I DIG THE  
SCHEMER'S TWISTED  
SENSE OF HUMOR...

...IT COULD BE  
A COVER FOR  
**OPERATION-**  
BLINDFOLD'S  
HIDE-OUT!

I SAY! A **BLIND**  
FOR A **BLIND FOLD**...  
OF FOUL FOWL!





TWO... YANKS! WHICH  
IS MORE THAN ONE  
BRITISHER...  
CAN STAND! OH,  
MASTER BRUCE...  
MUST I  
LEAVE YOU?

AS ALFRED RELUCTANTLY REELS IN THE  
BAT-CABLE... THE SUB SURFACES!

OH, POOR MASTER... TRAPPED  
ON THAT UGLY SEA MONSTER!

AND AS  
ALFRED, IN  
DESPAIR, STARTS  
TO SLOWLY WITHDRAW  
FROM THE SCENE...

OPEN HELIPAD  
HATCH! RAISE  
ELEVATOR...

NOW HEAR THIS...  
BATMAN... HEAR THIS!  
IF YOU MAKE ONE  
MOVE IN OUR  
DIRECTION...

F' R PETE'S SAKE, ALFRED--  
GET GOING--OR YOU'LL BE  
SHOT DOWN!

AS THE HELIPAD ELEVATOR COMES INTO VIEW...

...WE'LL  
SUBMERGE!  
NEEDLESS TO  
SAY... YOUR JUNIOR  
CRIME-FIGHTER'S  
DAYS WILL BE  
OVER-- AND  
UNDER!

HE THINKS  
I'M ABOARD  
THE BATCOPTER...  
WHICH COULD  
GIVE ME AN  
ADVANTAGE! BUT  
HOW DO I MOVE  
AGAINST HIM  
WITH ROBIN SO  
VULNERABLE  
FOR REPRISAL?

AND AS THE GOLD-CARRIER  
STARTS DOWN THE RUNWAY...

SONIC-DETECTOR  
REVEALS TAKE-OFF,  
SCHEMER!

PREPARE  
MISSILE FOR  
FIRING!  
MUST HIT  
PLANE WHEN  
WELL OVER  
BAY!

THAT PLANE'LL BE A  
SITTING DUCK... WITH  
MORE LIVES AT STAKE  
THAN JUST ROBIN'S!

HMM! THAT  
SHOT-GUN  
MAY BE THE  
ANSWER!



IF YOU LOST THE CLUE... OR  
CUE... READER, SEE LAST  
PANEL OF PREVIOUS PAGE!

AS THE PLANE TAKES OFF, AND THE SCHEMER STARTS HIS  
COUNT-DOWN... BATMAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION...

...EIGHT... SEVEN  
...SIX...

WHO-HOOT!

SHALL I SAY FIRE?



AS THE OUTLANDISH OWL COMES AT HIM, TALONS AND BEAK GLEAMING WITH AVID ANTICIPATION...  
BATMAN, CAUGHT OFF BALANCE, FIRES BOTH BARRELS... HARMLESSLY INTO THE SKY!

DESPERATELY TRYING TO HANG ON, THE CAPED CRUSADER FENDS OFF-- WITH HIS FREE HAND-- THE PERSISTENT NIGHT-HUNTER, TRYING TO GET AT HIS EYES...

BLASTED BIRD... I CAN'T LET SCHEMER SUBMERGE OR ROBIN IS DEAD!

SUDDENLY... FROM OUT OF NOWHERE... ASSISTANCE COMES!



BUT THAT SHORT "NICK OF TIME" COULD BE FATAL, AS...

THAT HATCH-COVER MUSTN'T SHUT, OR...

SNATCHING THE SHOTGUN OUT OF ITS SWIVEL-MOUNT...

I'M NOT GETTING SHUT OUT OF THIS GAME, SCHEMER! THERE'S ANOTHER TURN AT BAT... AND IT'S GOING TO BE BATMAN'S!

OW-W!

SLING

KAANG!

WITH A MIGHTY PULL, THE MASKED MANHUNTER BRINGS A GASPING SCHEMER OUT OF HIS HAVEN, LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER...

YOU'RE TOO BIG TO THROW BACK, SO...

...I'LL HAVE TO PREPARE YOU FOR--THE FRYING PAN!

HURRY, ALFRED! THOSE AREN'T JUST CABIN-BOYS BRINGING OUR FISH-'N'-CHIPS!

PUTTING THE BATCOPTER ON AUTOMATIC PILOT, ALFRED ASSAYS A RESCUE OF THE PINIONED ROBIN, AS OUT OF A DECK-HATCH...

HAVE YOU OUT OF THESE NASTY CLAMPS IN A SECOND, YOUNG ROBIN!

USING THE MISSILE ON ITS SWIVEL-MOUNT AS A GIANT MERRY-GO-ROUND, THE TEEN TITAN TEARS INTO THE TEETERING THREATS!

TIME FOR A CLEAN SWEEP... YOU DECK SWABS!

CROW!

WHILE ATOP THE CONNING TOWER, THE CAPED CRUSADER CUTS A WIDE SWATH IN A WALL OF MENACING FLESH, USING A LIVING MAN-BAT!

THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD, SCHEMER... FOR A GOOD PURPOSE! AND NEXT TIME 'ROUND... YOU BETTER SETTLE FOR THE BRASS RING, 'CAUSE--

TCHOK!

...THE GOLD WENT THATAWAY!

KLUK!

PLATZ!

LATER... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

LOOKS LIKE THE SCHEMER SCHEMED HIMSELF INTO JAIL EH, BATMAN... ROBIN?

WITH A SLIGHT ASSIST FROM A PAIR OF "IMPOSTORS" COMMISSIONER GORDON?

DON'T RUB IT IN... PLEASE? I MUST ADMIT THE MURDERED "BLIND-MAN" PLANT THREW ME!

FUNNY, YOUNG MASTER ROBIN... HOW EVEN THOUGH NASTY BLIGHTERS ALWAYS GET IT IN THE END-- THEY DON'T GET IT! THE LOOT... THE SWAG... GET IT? THE JOKE... THAT IS? HAW!

HAW... YOURSELF, ALFRED!

...UNTIL WE LATCHED ON TO THIS PHONEY YOU DRESSED IN YOUR OUTFIT, BATMAN! HE CONFESSED THAT THE REAL BLIND MAN...THE VICTIM...

...HAD BEEN HIRED BY THE SCHEMER TO TRAIN THE MEMBERS OF HIS MOB HOW TO ACT BLIND... SO THEY COULD FOOL ANYONE...

...LIKE THEY DID YOU, COMMISSIONER GORDON!

PRECISELY, ROBIN! THEN... BECAUSE THE SIGHTLESS MAN KNEW TOO MUCH... AND BECAUSE THE SCHEMER WANTED ME TO THINK...

...I WAS DEAD, SO YOU'D PUT ME AWAY AS AN IMPOSTOR... AND LEAVE THE FIELD CLEAR FOR HIS NEFARIOUS OPERATION-BLINDFOLD!

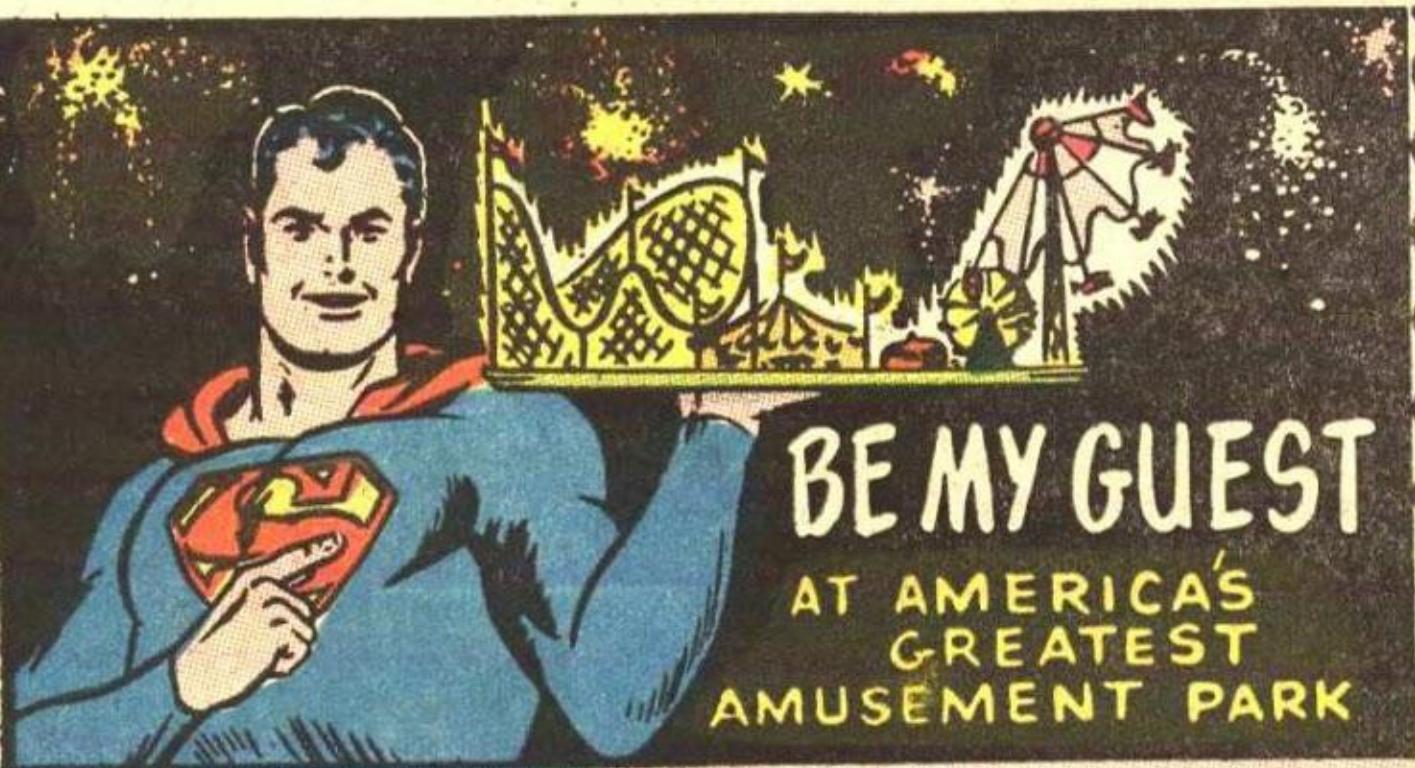
HE SURE PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, MEN!

WHICH PROVES YOU SHOULDN'T VIEW THE WORLD WITH...BLINDERS ON!

OR BELIEVE... ALL BATS ARE-- BLIND!

The End

23



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# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

For once, instead of giving a detailed analysis of a comic, I'd like to give my first impressions of it. These impressions are received the very first time one peruses an issue.

Naturally, the cover is the *very* first thing that hits a person, and the cover of *Batman* #201 intrigued me. It definitely was *not* done by Carmine Infantino, but I did not dwell on it. Eagerly, I opened the magazine to discover just why *Gotham City* policemen were gunning for *Batman*. About fifteen minutes later, I put it down and felt three different things, all at the same time: enjoyment, satisfaction, expectation.

*Enjoyment* because the issue was fun; all through "Batman's Gangland Guardians" was plenty of *Bat*-action featuring some mob trying to wipe out our *Caped Crusader*—while seven of his cleverest foes try to prevent it—and succeeding. And, best of all, not once through the entire tale did *Batman* suspect just who it was helping him.

Now to my second impressionistic feeling: *satisfaction*. I was glad that the story hadn't turned into the cliché proposed by the cover—that of *Batman* momentarily being a criminal and having a short fight for his life against the forces he's always worked hand-in-hand with. Also *satisfaction* because *Batman* didn't, as I expected, crash into the hideaway of the *Gangland Guardians* on the last page of the story.

And this is where *expectation* comes in, for *Batman* now has a grand total of eight foes to match wits with in issues to come—and any one of these eight have been enough in the past to keep *Batman* busy for at least half an issue.

Ah, yes—there is one other impression I received when I first read this issue. In the lettercol we fans were challenged to spot this issue's cover artist, and as soon as I took another look at the cover one name popped into my head—Joe Giella. The more I thought about it, the more it seemed to fit: it looked like Giella all the way—pencils and inks. (And since I saw mentioned in a fanzine that Joe Giella will be doing future work on *Batman*, how could I possibly be wrong?)

—Jim Vlcko, Scarborough, Ont., Can.

(How you could possibly be so wrong is obligingly revealed by another cover-artist-spotter—who used *Batman*-technique to solve the problem.—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I believe I have solved the guess-the-artist-puzzle for the cover of *Batman* #201—thanks to a neat bit of deduction! On the cover of *Detective Comics* #374 there appears a newspaper in the background. The headline is barely readable, but the letters form the name *Irving Novick*. Place the covers of *Detective* #374 and *Batman* #201 next to each other and you will find that the figures of *Batman* are nearly identical! I'll place my bet on Novick as the mystery artist of *Batman* #201!

—Mark Dillman, Topeka, Kans.

(You win a check-mark, Mark, for correctly identifying the cover-artist—but a wrong-mark goes to another Mark on the story's writer.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I'm going to guess that the story in *Batman* #201 was written by Mike Friedrich. If we begin with the so-obviously-drawn-by-Irv-Novick-cover, we see a trite, over-used idea—the hero wanted by the police.

Now, if Gardner Fox has been assigned to write a story around that cover, he would've made it some fantastic trick on *Batman's* part. John Broome would've done the exact same thing as Fox. (Broome always does—I think those guys are Siamese twins!) Bill Finger stories are obvious 'cause he always puts some kind of giant object in them. (Pick up any pre-new look-*Batman*; chances are that some crook's robbing an exhibit where there are giant toys, clocks, musical instruments, etc.)

As the plot went, the writer took a trite cover and turned it into a trite plot with enough novel twists to make it the *best Batman* story in over three issues. (High praise, indeed!)

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

(Sorry, story-wise it was Gardner Fox all the way.—Editor)

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Dear Editor:

May I compliment you on a superb job in issue 201 of *Batman*. I've been waiting a long time to see a number of *Batman's* foes team up against him. But instead of being against him they were in the story to help him. Yes, the story line of "Batman's Gangland Guardians" intrigued me very much. I haven't enjoyed a *Batman* yarn as much since issue 180, with its outstanding "Death Knocks Three Times."

—David Combs, Burbank, Cal.

(From "superb" to "unbelievable"—that's the range of ratings on #201's story—as we graciously allow a famous femmefan to have the last word.—Editor)

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Dear Editor:

Of all the unbelievable stories you have ever published, "Batman's Gangland Guardians" takes the cake! While I can swallow, with few doubts, the idea that *seven* of *Batman's* toughest, wildest foes would gather together and work to save his life (of all the implausible things!), I find it *impossible* to believe that they could refrain from attempting a series of double-crosses. It is *absurd*; for years I've been reading about these villains and their congenital inability to "go straight". Why should the opportunity to save *Batman's* life preoccupy *all* of them to such an extent that none of them behaves as if they really *are* criminals they profess to be? These are *complex* people, all with a demonstrated ability to say one thing and do another. Being involved in honest work for a change isn't going to change *them*—certainly not all *seven* of them! Bring true to character traits means *more* than just a series of one-line speeches consisting of terrible puns that not even *Robin* would use!

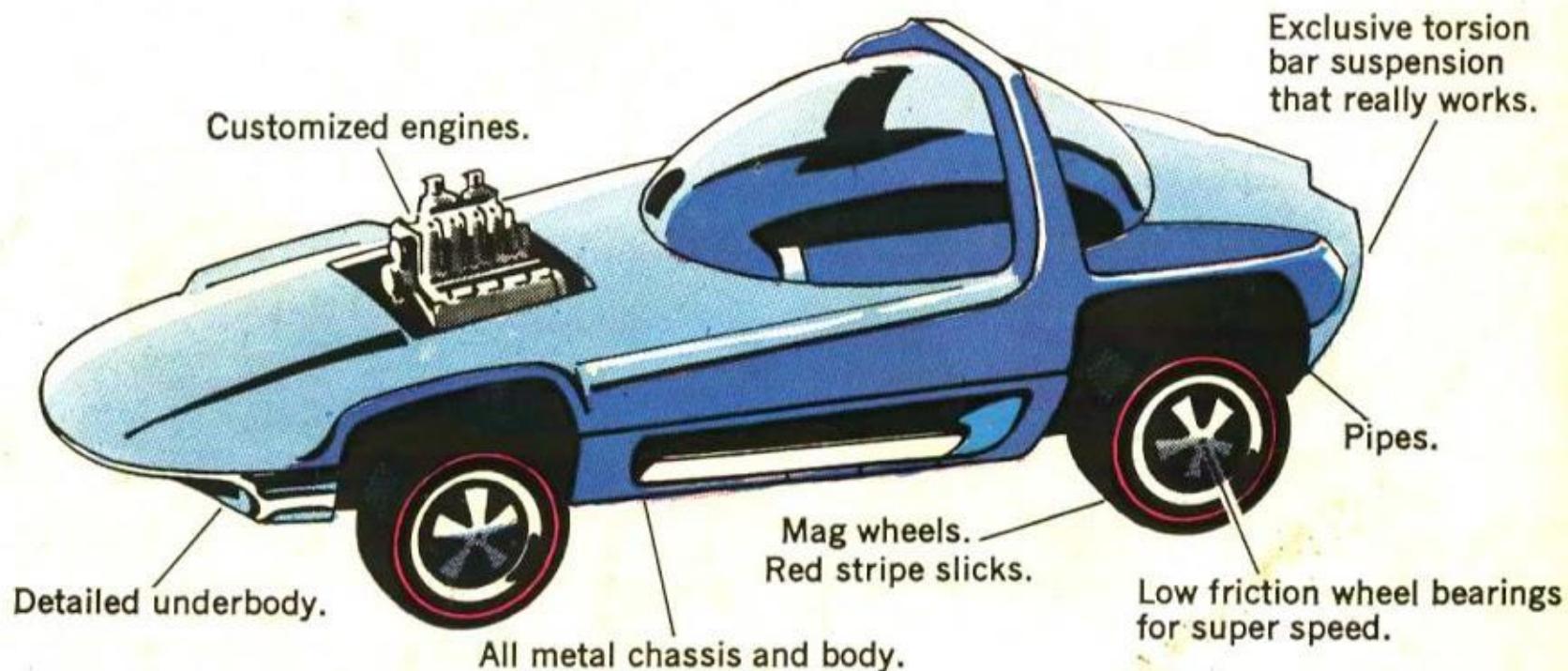
—Irene Vartanoff, Lake Forest, Ill.

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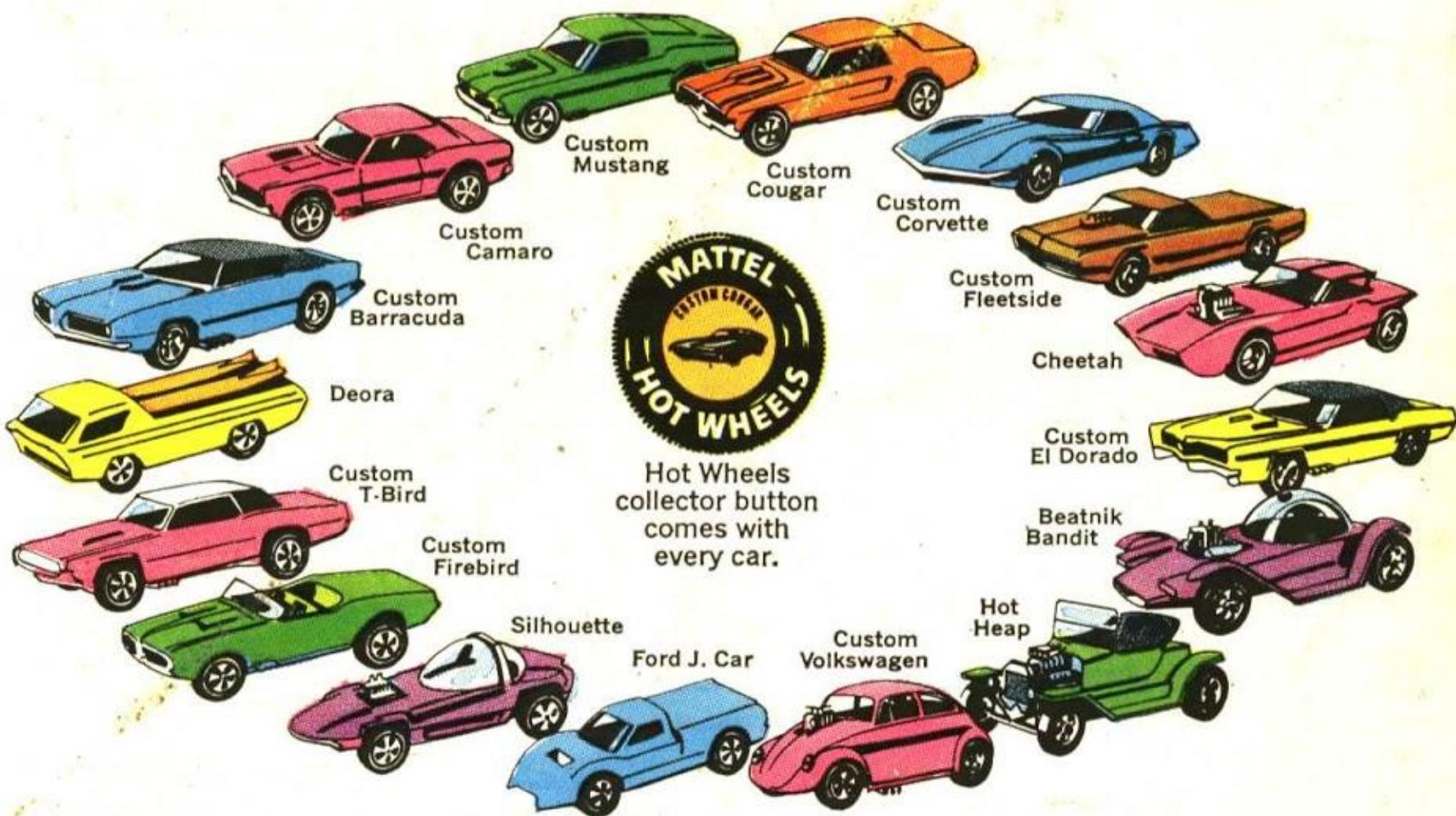
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