



ALL NEW!
60¢

NO. 347
MAY

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

A TALE OF
TWO BOYS...
THE INNER CITY...
and
**"THE SHADOW
of the BATMAN"**

BUCKLER
& GIORDANO

C-865





I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT HIM... AND SOME OF THEM ARE REALLY SPOOKY.

"LIKE ONCE THERE WAS A BREAKOUT AT GOTHAM PRISON..."



"IT WAS A REALLY BLOODY BREAK. THE ONES BEHIND IT HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. THEY WERE ALL LIFERS-- MURDERERS ALL, AND PROUD OF IT!"

"THREE GUARDS WERE BUTCHERED AND THE ONES REMAINING REFUSED TO CHASE THE CONVICTS WITHOUT HELP."

"SO THEY JUST STOOD AND WATCHED AS A DOZEN OF THE PRISONERS ESCAPED INTO THE WOODS."

THEY'LL NEVER CATCH US NOW!

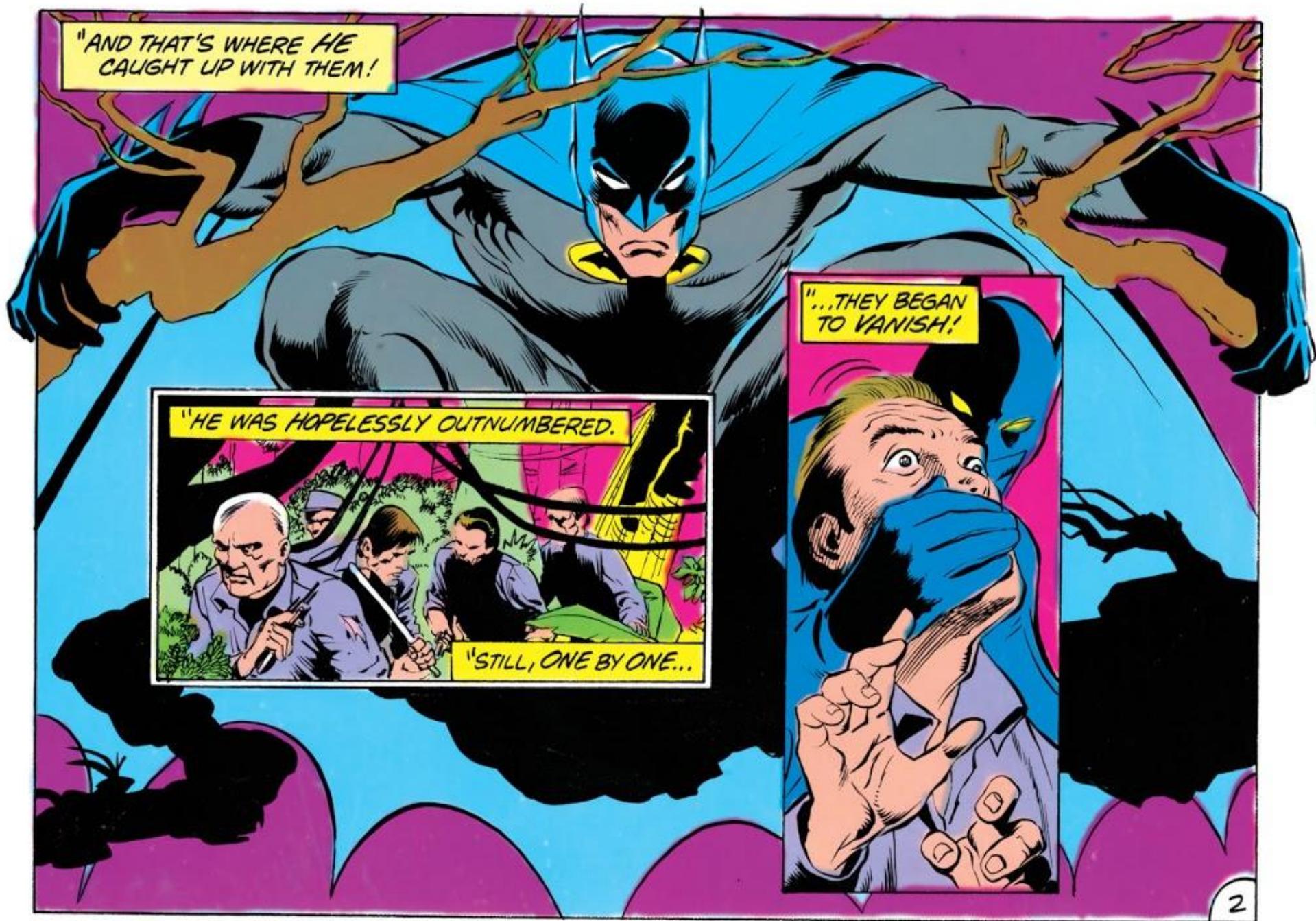


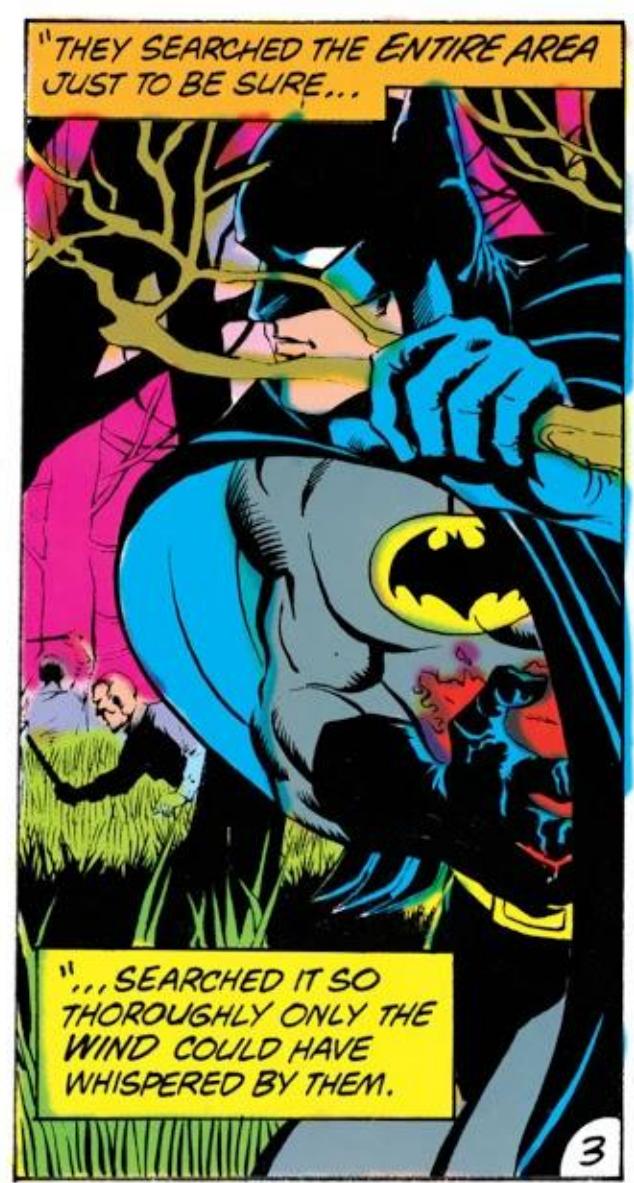
"AND THAT'S WHERE HE CAUGHT UP WITH THEM!"

"...THEY BEGAN TO VANISH!"

"HE WAS HOPELESSLY OUTNUMBERED."

"STILL, ONE BY ONE..."





"FINALLY, THEY GAVE UP THE SEARCH, CONVINCING THEMSELVES THAT BATMAN WAS SURELY DEAD-- DESPITE THE FACT THEY HAD FOUND NO BODY."

"THEN THEY FOUND THE BARN, AND THEIR HACKLES ROSE AGAIN."

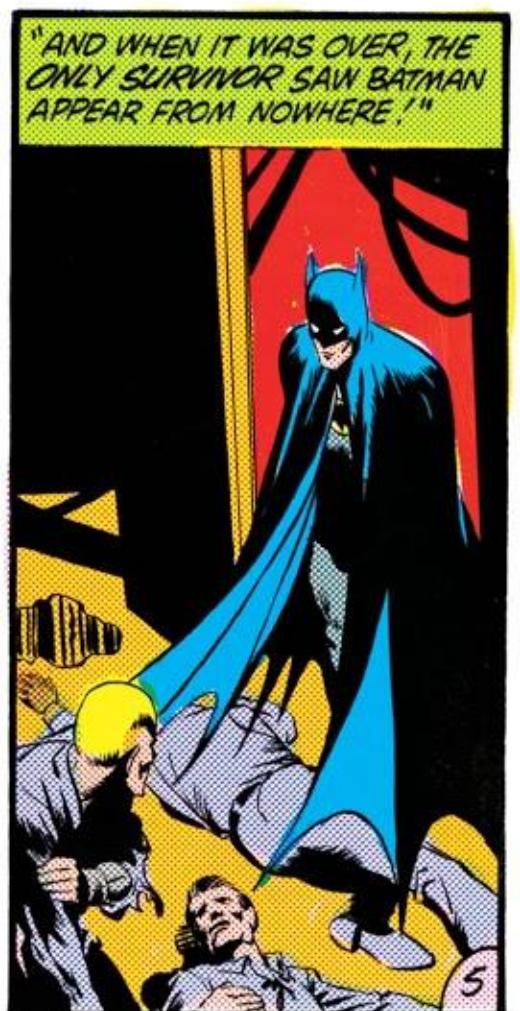
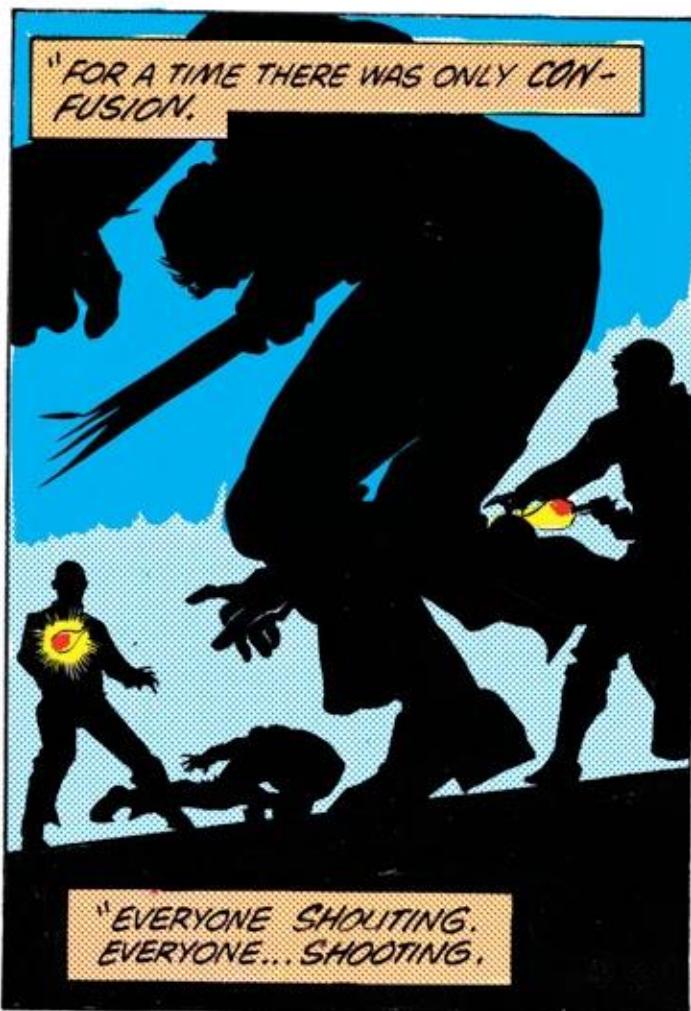
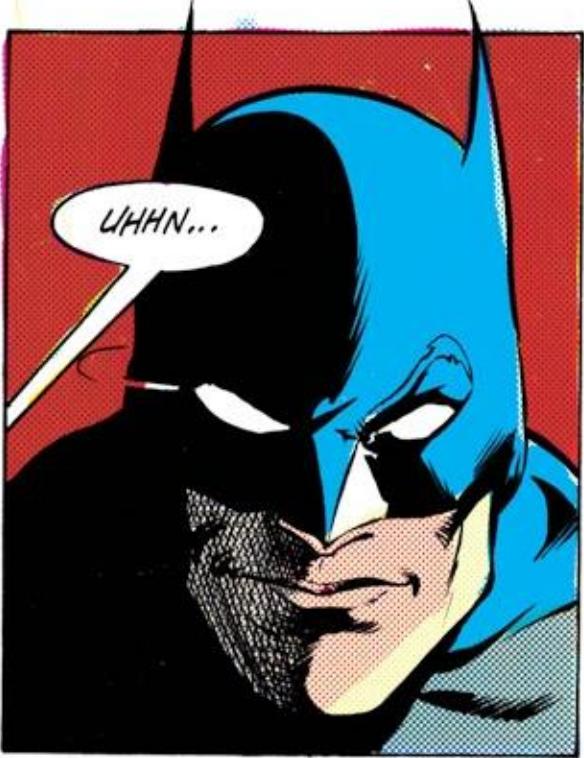
AH...AH, RELAX, GUYS.
NOBODY HUMAN
COULD HAVE MADE
IT TH-THIS FAR
WOUNDED.

YEAH.
NOBODY...
HUMAN.

"WITHOUT A WORD, A NEW SEARCH BEGAN."

"NO SHADOWY CORNER WAS IGNORED."

IS HE UP
THERE,
WEASEL?





OKAY, I WILL. IT'S ANOTHER STORY I HEARD ABOUT THE BATMAN...

"IT STARTED WITH A BUNCH OF ARSON FIRES--IN THIS VERY NEIGHBORHOOD AS A MATTER OF FACT.



"THE COPS WERE GETTING NOWHERE... NOT EVEN COMMISSIONER GORDON."



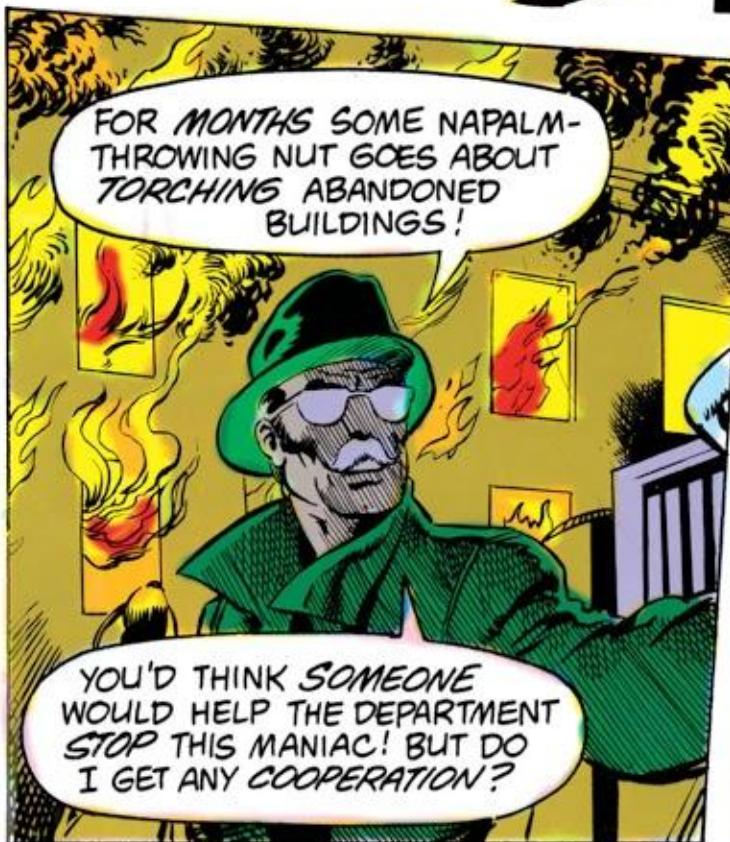
ANY LEADS, COMMISSIONER?

WHA--? OH, IT'S YOU.



NO. NOTHING. AS USUAL.

THIS CASE IS DRIVING ME OUT OF MY MIND, BATMAN!



FOR MONTHS SOME NAPALM-THROWING NUT GOES ABOUT TORCHING ABANDONED BUILDINGS!

YOU'D THINK SOMEONE WOULD HELP THE DEPARTMENT STOP THIS MANIAC! BUT DO I GET ANY COOPERATION?



NO! THE BUILDINGS' OWNERS DON'T CARE--AFTER ALL, THEY'RE INSURED!

AND SINCE THE BUILDINGS ARE UNINHABITED--UNINHABITABLE SOME SAY--NO TENANTS ARE UP IN ARMS!

SURELY AFTER ALL THESE FIRES
SOMEONE HAS *SEEN* THE
ARSONIST!

THE TENANTS IN THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS CALL
IT "A BLOW AGAINST THE CAPITALIST LAND BARONS."

OH, WE'RE SURE
SOMEONE--MANY, IN
FACT--HAVE. BUT
THEY'RE NOT TALKING
TO US!

I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE
SENTIMENT, COMMISSIONER.
IT'S A CARRY-OVER FROM THE
"BIGNESS IS BADNESS"
SYNDROME.

AND ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE HAS
GIVEN THIS WANTON DESTRUCTION
FALSE VALIDITY-- TURNED IT INTO
SOME KIND OF CAUSE!

THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT
MIGHT HAPPEN
NEXT!

WE REALLY NEED
YOUR HELP ON THIS
ONE, OLD FRIEND.

I'LL DO
WHAT
I CAN.

YEAH. THE MEDIA'S EATING THIS UP.
THEY'VE EVEN DUBBED THIS GUY "THE
FASTIDIOUS FIREBRAND". BECAUSE
THERE'S EVIDENCE TO INDICATE HE
ALWAYS MAKES SURE NO ONE IS IN
THE BUILDINGS HE TORCHES.

"WHEN THE BATMAN GETS ON
A CASE, YOU DON'T KNOW
WHERE OR HOW HE GETS HIS
INFORMATION!"

"SOME SAY HE'S GOT THE ENTIRE
UNDERWORLD BUGGED.

"OTHERS SAY HE'S GOT A CRIME LABORATORY THAT
MAKES QUINCY LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR!"

"ALL I CAN FIGURE IS THAT THE BATMAN HAS
MORE WAYS OF GETTING INFORMATION THAN
ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD!"

B-BATMAN, I HEARD YOU
TALKING TO THE COMMISSIONER.
I CAN TELL YOU WHO'S
DOING THIS.

BUT I CAN'T
TELL YOU HERE.

"IT WASN'T TILL LATER THAT PEOPLE DISCOVERED HIS SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON THIS CASE."

I DON'T TRUST THE POLICE, BATMAN. NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT. YOU DON'T OWE NUTHIN TO NOBODY. YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS AND DO WHAT'S RIGHT.

I TRY.

C'MON IN AND MEET MY HUSBAND. HE'S BETTER AT EXPLAININ' THESE THINGS THAN ME.

HENRY! COME MEET A GUEST!

IS IT ONE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN, MARTHA? YOU KNOW HOW I LOVE MAKING THINGS FOR THE CHILDREN...

OH, MY LORD, BATMAN!
;KOFF: IT IS AN HONOR
TO MEET YOU. ;WHEEZE:

THAT'S QUITE A COUGH
YOU'VE GOT THERE, YOU
SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR.

I'VE GOT A ;KOFF:
APPOINTMENT TOMORROW.
BUT THAT ;WHEEZE:
CAN'T BE AS IMPORTANT
AS WHATEVER BRINGS
YOU HERE. CAN I HELP
YOU IN SOME WAY?

HE'S TRYING
TO FIND... THE
ARSONIST!

OH.

BATMAN, I GOTTA SAY ;KOFF:
I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT WHAT
THIS YOUNG ONE IS DOING
IS WRONG. HE THINKS WHAT
HE'S ;WHEEZE: DOING IS
HELPIN' THE PEOPLE OF
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

STILL, I'M NOT SURE IT'S
RIGHT EITHER. VIOLENCE
;KOFF: NEVER SEEMS RIGHT--
NOT EVEN WHEN SOME
SAY THAT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO GET ANY
REACTION.

HERE, I'LL WRITE DOWN
;KOFF: HIS NAME AND THE
PLACE WHERE YOU'RE
LIKELY TO FIND HIM.

AT LEAST HE
BELIEVES IN
SOMETHING. SO
FEW PEOPLE
TODAY DO.

I'LL LEAVE
IT FOR YOU
TO DECIDE.

"WITHIN AN HOUR, THE
BATMAN HAD LEARNED
MORE THAN THE POLICE
HAD IN SIX MONTHS.

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE ARRIVED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EQUALITY AND LIBERTY."

I'M HERE TO SEE JEREMIAH JONES.

FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EQUALITY AND LIBERTY

UH-UH, MAN. THERE'S A PRIVATE MEETING GOIN' ON. THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED IN ARE THOSE WITH A PERSONAL INVITE FROM JEREMIAH HIMSELF!

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, BATMAN? HAVING YOU HANGING AROUND WOULD INHIBIT FREE EXPRESSION AT THE MEETING.

SURELY YOU BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH, DON'T YOU?

YES, I DO...

...BUT I ALSO BELIEVE--

--THAT FREE SPEECH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE WILLING TO LISTEN.

LIKE ME.

INSIDE...

ECONOMY

...SO THAT COVERS THE LOGISTICS, OUR FIRST STRIKE WILL BE AT THE CORNER OF DUKE AND ELM STREETS. THEN WE MARCH DOWN, TORCHING EVERY HOUSE ON THE BLOCK!

HARRY, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE VACATING!

BART, YOU HANDLE THE POLICE SCAN. AND, JAN, YOU MAKE SURE THE PRESS GETS HERE WITHOUT TIPPING OFF THE POLICE.

ALL THREE NETWORKS HAVE BEEN COVERING OUR PROTEST TO DATE. THEY'LL ALL WANT TO BE IN ON THE EMANCIPATION MARCH!

WE'LL BURN DOWN EVERY ABANDONED BUILDING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THE PUBLIC TO RECOGNIZE OUR PLIGHT!

"GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW, BUT DAYS LATER--THE MOMENT JEREMIAH LIT THE FIRST FIRE -- BATMAN WAS THERE!"

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT! A FLAMING SYMBOL OF LIBERTY! AND IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING!

WILL YOU COME ALONG QUIETLY?

WHAT?

OH, HI, BATS! COME TO JOIN THE REVOLUTION?

YEAH? HOW? YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE PROOF TO PROSECUTE.

I'VE COME TO PUT A STOP TO YOUR DESTRUCTION!

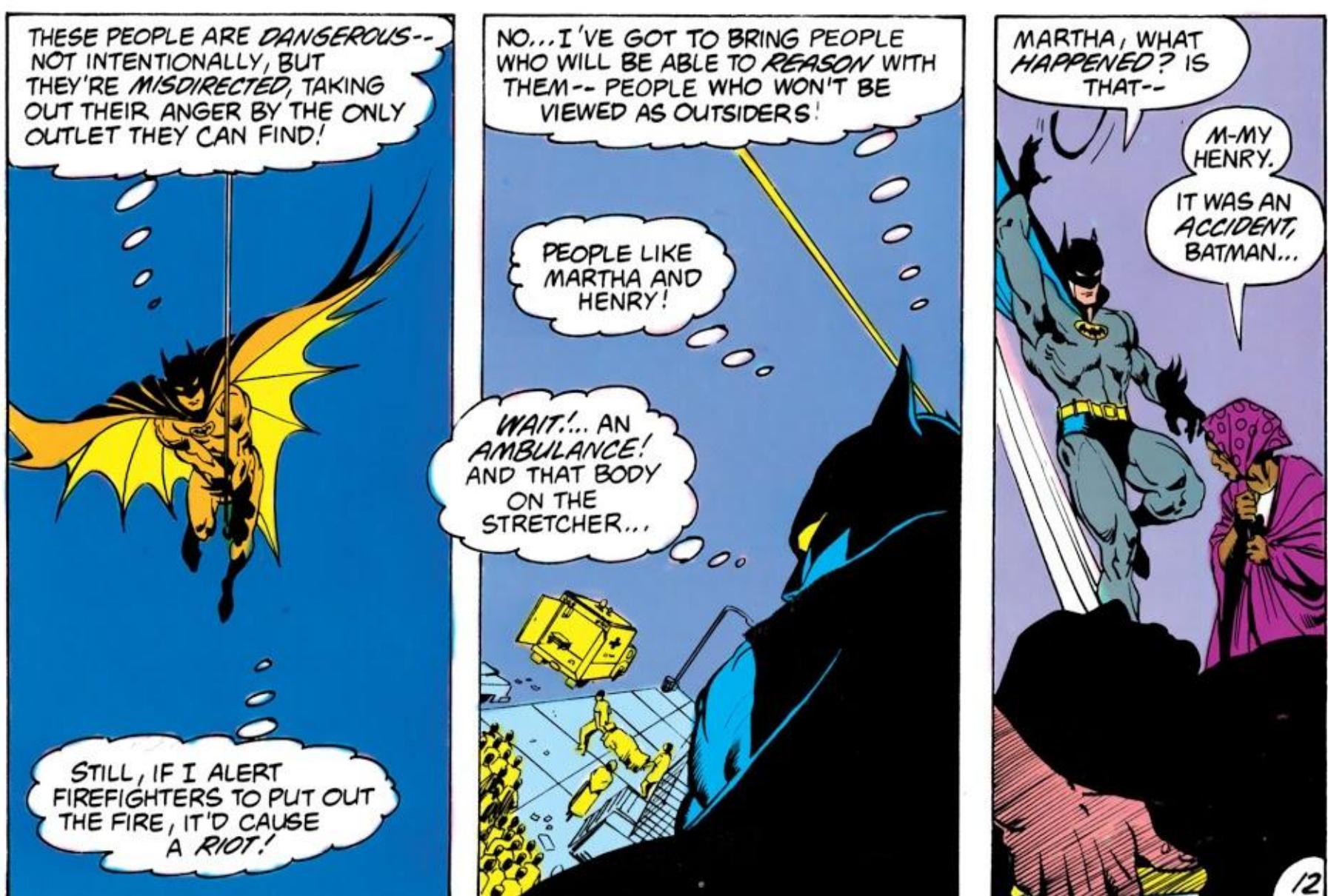
LOOK AROUND YOU, JEREMIAH--

I'VE GOT DOZENS OF WITNESSES TO YOUR ACT OF ARSON. AND THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY ENOUGH FINGERPRINTS ON THAT GAS CAN--

--THERE.

AND WHAT GAS CAN MIGHT THAT BE, BATMAN?

SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN THE ONE OVER THERE WITH ALL THE SMUDGED FINGER-PRINTS ON IT, DO YOU?



'WHILE I WAS AT THE GROCERY, A FIRE BROKE OUT IN OUR APARTMENT.'

'HENRY WAS TRAPPED!'

"THE DARKKNIGHT DETECTIVE PLACED A COMFORTING HAND ON THE ELDERLY WOMAN'S SHOULDER--
'WERE THERE FIREMEN?'

'OH, THEY CAME--REAL FAST, TOO! AN' HENRY EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO SURVIVE!'



'BUT WHEN FIREMEN TURNED ON THE HOSES...'

'...THERE WAS NO WATER PRESSURE--'

--BECAUSE OF ALL THE FIRES AROUND HERE YOU KNOW.

YOU CAN'T BLAME THE FIREMEN, THEY DID THEIR BEST.

SO WHO IS RESPONSIBLE...





"SUDDENLY IT HAD GOTTEN SO QUIET WE COULD HEAR THEIR VOICES OVER THE CRACKLING OF THE FLAMES... AND THE CREAK OF WEAKENING TIMBERS."

"BATMAN WASN'T EVEN SCARED-- OR MAYBE HE WAS. BUT IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING ELSE WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM..."

"...LIKE HE HAD A POINT TO MAKE WORTH DYING FOR!"

"DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING?"

"WHAT I'M DOING, I'M DOING FOR THE PEOPLE, MAN! THE PEOPLE!"

"THE PEOPLE-- OR THE PRESS?"

"BULL! WE AIN'T HURTIN' NOBODY-- ONLY BRICKS AND MORTAR, MAN! WOOD AND NAILS! STEEL AND PLASTIC..."

FLESH
AND
BLOOD!

"W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?"

"UH-OH. WE'LL HAVE TO CUT THAT LAST REMARK."

"BECAUSE YOU'RE HURTING A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU'RE HELPING!"



"SO WE DID NOTHING. I GUESS MAYBE OUR HATE WAS STRONGER THAN OUR LOYALTY."

"THEN SOMEONE CAME RUNNING UP..."

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU ALL? BATMAN'S TRAPPED IN THERE!

ARE YOU GOING TO LET SOMEONE ELSE DIE?

ISN'T IT ENOUGH YOUR ACTS CAUSED THE DEATH OF MY HENRY?!

"THAT STRUCK HOME."

"WHEN BATMAN SAID SOMEONE HAD DIED, BECAUSE OF US, WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT... WE DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT."

"WE STARTED ANOTHER CHAIN-- THIS TIME PASSING DOWN BUCKETS OF WATER... TO PUT OUT THE ROARING FLAMES."

"NOBODY WAS VERY TALKATIVE, SO I CAN'T SPEAK FOR THE OTHERS. BUT I KNOW I PITCHED IN BECAUSE I FELT..."

"BUT MARTHA-- SHE WAS ONE OF OURS. EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD KNEW HER. AND WE KNEW SHE WOULDN'T LIE."

"...I FELT..."

"--NOT ANGRY AT JEREMIAH--

"...NOT EVEN CONCERN FOR BATMAN--"

"--BLUNT PITY FOR MARTHA FOR HER LOSS, AND SHAME FOR MY OWN PART IN IT."

"MY SHAME WAS INTENSIFIED WHEN I SAW BATMAN DIRECT THE OTHERS..."

"...SO THAT HE COULD ADMINISTER LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS... TO THE MAN WHO WAS TO BLAME FOR ALL THAT HAD OCCURRED." 17



GETTING TOO OLD FOR POLICE WORK.
WITH THE SHAKE-UP AT CITY HALL I
DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO RETIRE. TOOK
THIS JOB JUST FOR OLD TIMES SAKE.

MEET HENSEL, SGT, GPD,
RET. AND NOW A SECUR-
ITY GUARD FOR
METROPOLITAN DETECTIVE
AGENCY. HIS QUIET,
BORING EVENING IS
ABOUT TO END...

BANG!

...NOW!

MURDER!

A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY:

Starring



"THE IMPOSSIBLE MURDER!"

ROBIN SNYDER, TREVOR VON EEDEN & LARRY MAHLSTEDT
writer

artists

JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER

ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST

J-7861



TWO BULLET WOUNDS HIGH IN THE CHEST!

MIND TELLING US WHAT HAPPENED?

OH MY! IT WAS JUST AWFUL! I'M RICHARD BUSSE, BATMAN! TH-THAT'S MY PARTNER, RALPH JOHNSON. WE WERE WORKING LATE...

"JOHNSON HAD JUST OPENED THE WINDOW FOR SOME AIR WHEN..."



TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE! THE KILLER DROPPED HIS GUN AND RUSHED DOWN THE FIRE-ESCAPE!

BLAM!

YOUR PARTNER MUST HAVE SPUN ABOUT, KNOCKED THOSE PAPERS ON THE FLOOR AND FALLEN BESIDE THE DESK. THAT ABOUT RIGHT?

WH-WHY, YES!

YOU'LL HAVE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVE, BUSSE! YOU'D BETTER THINK UP A BETTER STORY THAN THE ONE YOU GAVE US!

JUST A MOMENT! WHAT WAS IT THAT TRIPPED UP BUSSE? QUICKLY NOW!

MIGHTY CLUMSY OF THAT FELLA! IF HE'D REALIZED AN AUTOMATIC EJECTS ITS SHELLS TO THE BACK AND RIGHT HE MIGHT HAVE TOSSED THE CARTRIDGES INTO THE CORNER BY THE LAMP BEFORE CALLING US!



FRIEND, YOU'LL NEVER BE TOO OLD FOR POLICE WORK!

A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY

Featuring BRUCE WAYNE in:

ARTIFACT

IT'S BEEN A PARTICULARLY HECTIC WEEK FOR BRUCE WAYNE AND NOW IT'S TIME TO UNWIND. RECENT ACQUAINTANCES HAVE INVITED HIM TO THEIR ESTATE IN SAN DIEGO AND BY FRIDAY EVENING HE IS RELAXING AND HAVING A GOOD TIME.

PETRA CHRISTIANSON, YOU ARE A JEWEL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE INVITATION.

MY PLEASURE, BRUCE.



ROBIN SNYDER . TREVOR VON EEDEN &
WRITER LARRY MAHLSTEDT
ARTISTS JOHN COSTANZA · LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY · COLORIST

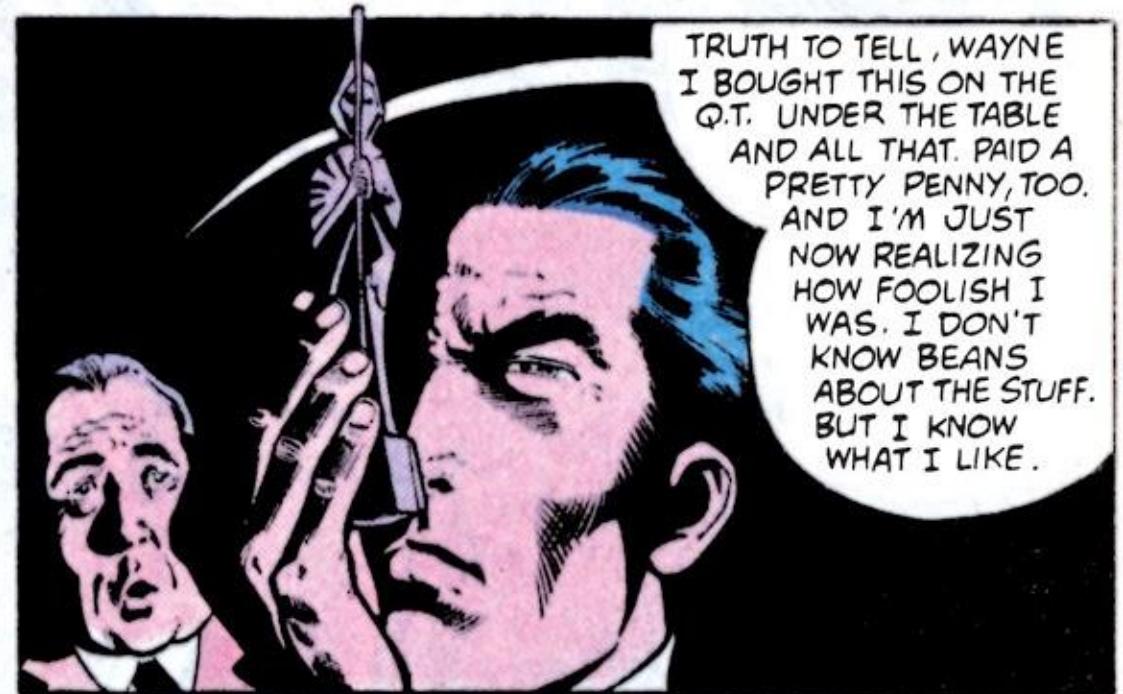
OPAL-S

MY TURN, BRUCE, YOU'VE BEEN MONOPOLIZING MY DARLING SINCE THE DANCE BEGAN.

RELUCTANTLY I RETURN HER TO YOUR CARE.

AH... MR. WAYNE?
MR. BRUCE WAYNE?





A JUST-A-MOMENT-MYSTERY

"THE NERVOUS NEPHEW"

starring
Alfred
in:

ROBIN SNYDER
AND
TREVOR VON EEDEN
AND
LARRY MAHLSTEDT

JOHN COSTANZA
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST







novus
Distributions