



BATMAN[®]

by *STARLIN,*
APARO &
DeCARLO

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Book One
of Four

a Death in the Family

Robin begins a quest
for his identity.
His mother awaits him
somewhere in
the middle east.

But sudden
and violent death
is also waiting for him.

And the most tragic
secret of all.

Will The Batman
be in time?



M. Pignola

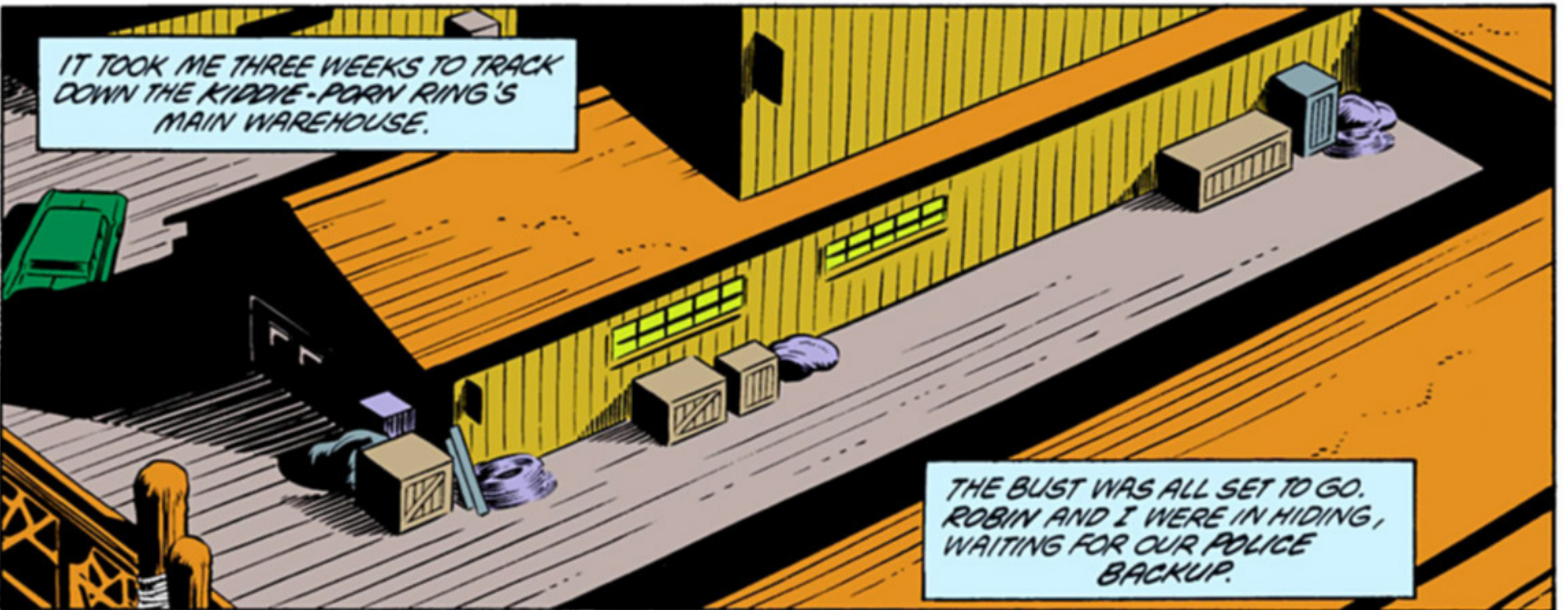
A DEATH in the FAMILY

Chapter 1



JIM STARLIN . JIM APARO . MIKE DECARLO . JOHN COSTANZA . ADRIENNE ROY
WRITER . PENCILLER . INKER . LETTERER . COLORIST
DAN RASPLER . DENNIS O'NEIL . BOB KANE
ASST.EDITOR . EDITOR . CREATOR

IT TOOK ME THREE WEEKS TO TRACK DOWN THE KIDDIE-PORN RING'S MAIN WAREHOUSE.



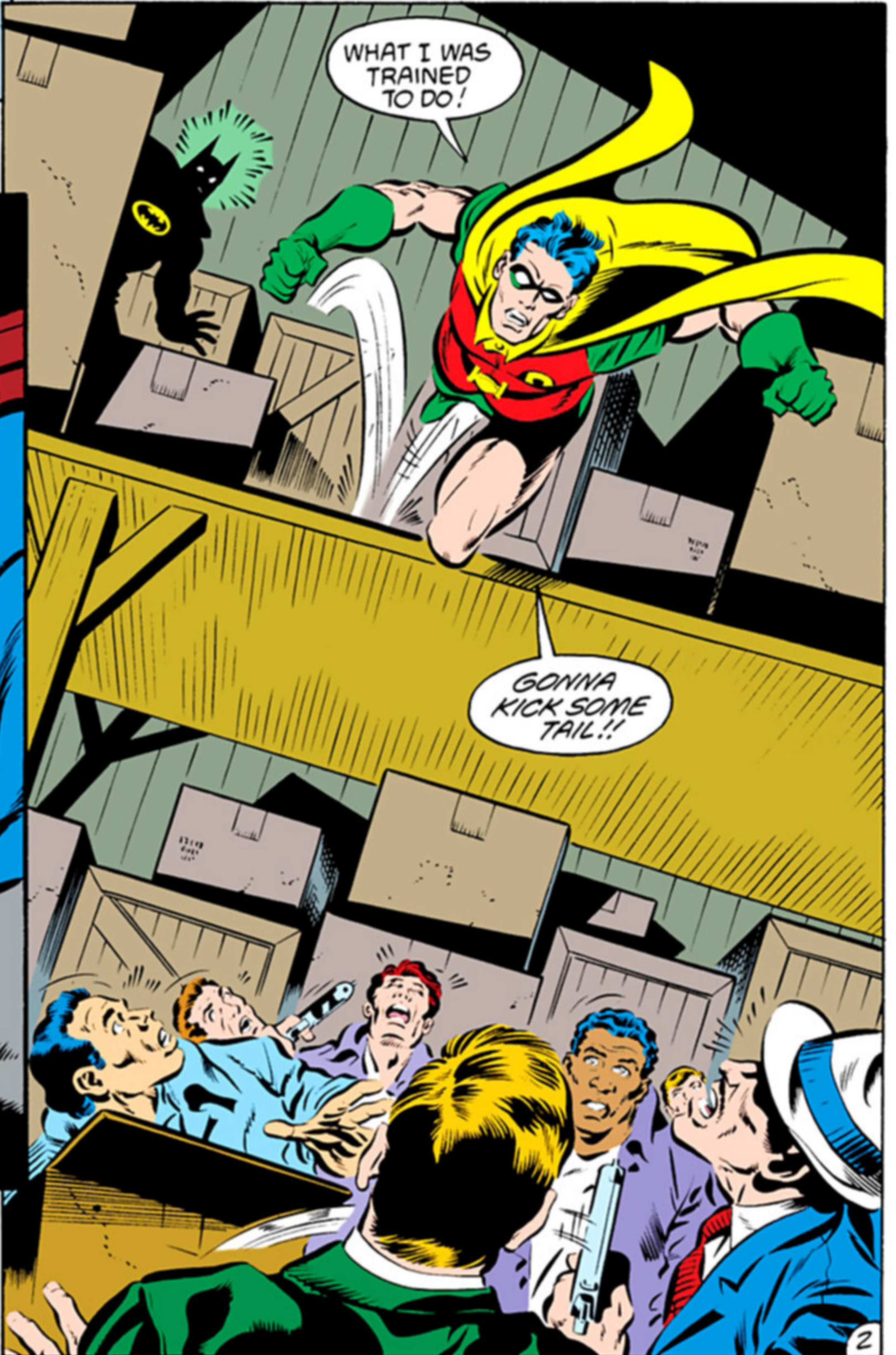
THE BUST WAS ALL SET TO GO. ROBIN AND I WERE IN HIDING, WAITING FOR OUR POLICE BACKUP.

SUDDENLY MY PARTNER RUINS OUT OF PATIENCE. THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES SOMETIMES WITH THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN.

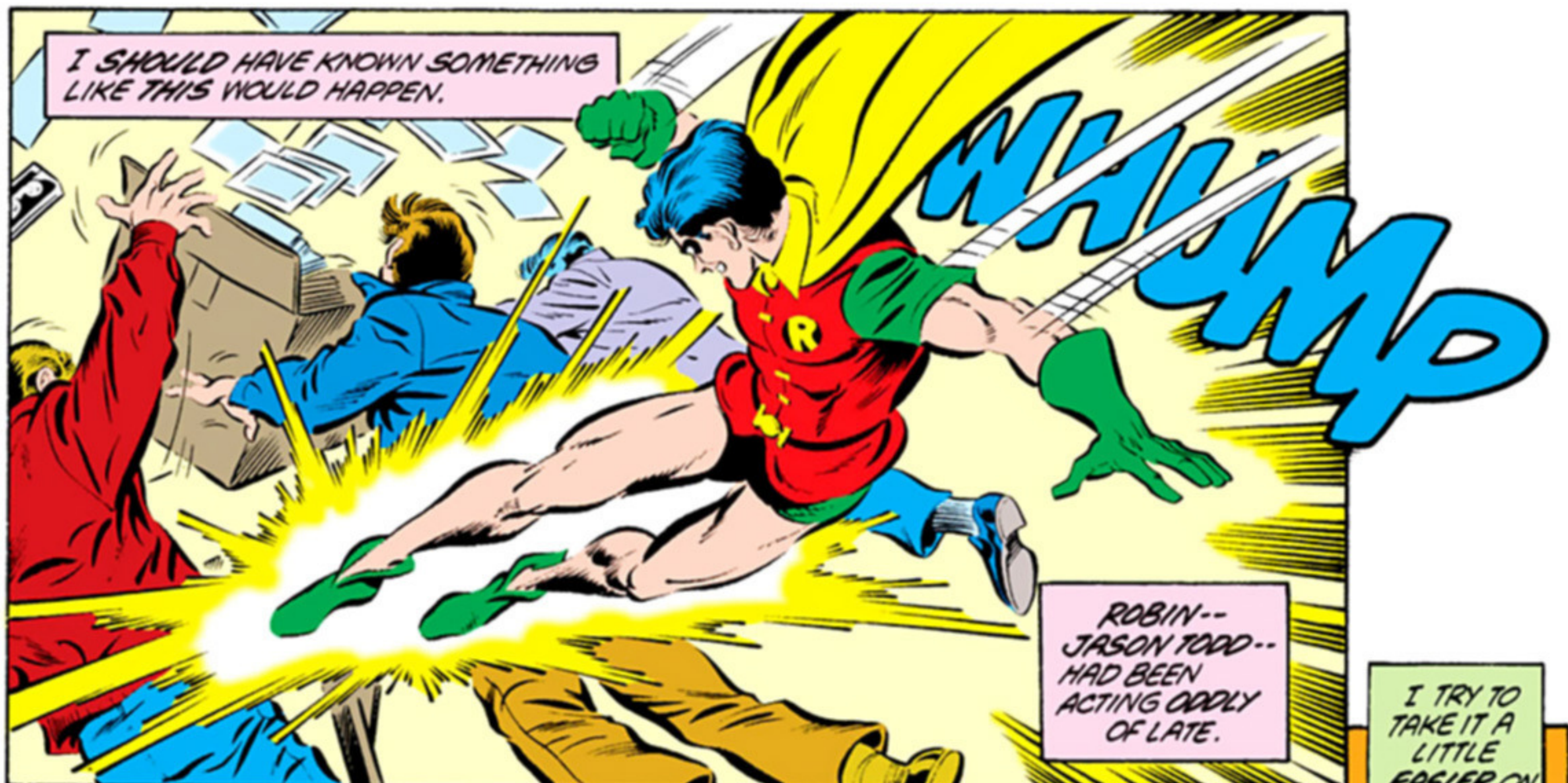
ROBIN!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!



WHAT I WAS TRAINED TO DO!



GONNA KICK SOME TAIL!!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

ROBIN-- JASON TODD-- HAD BEEN ACTING ODDLY OF LATE.

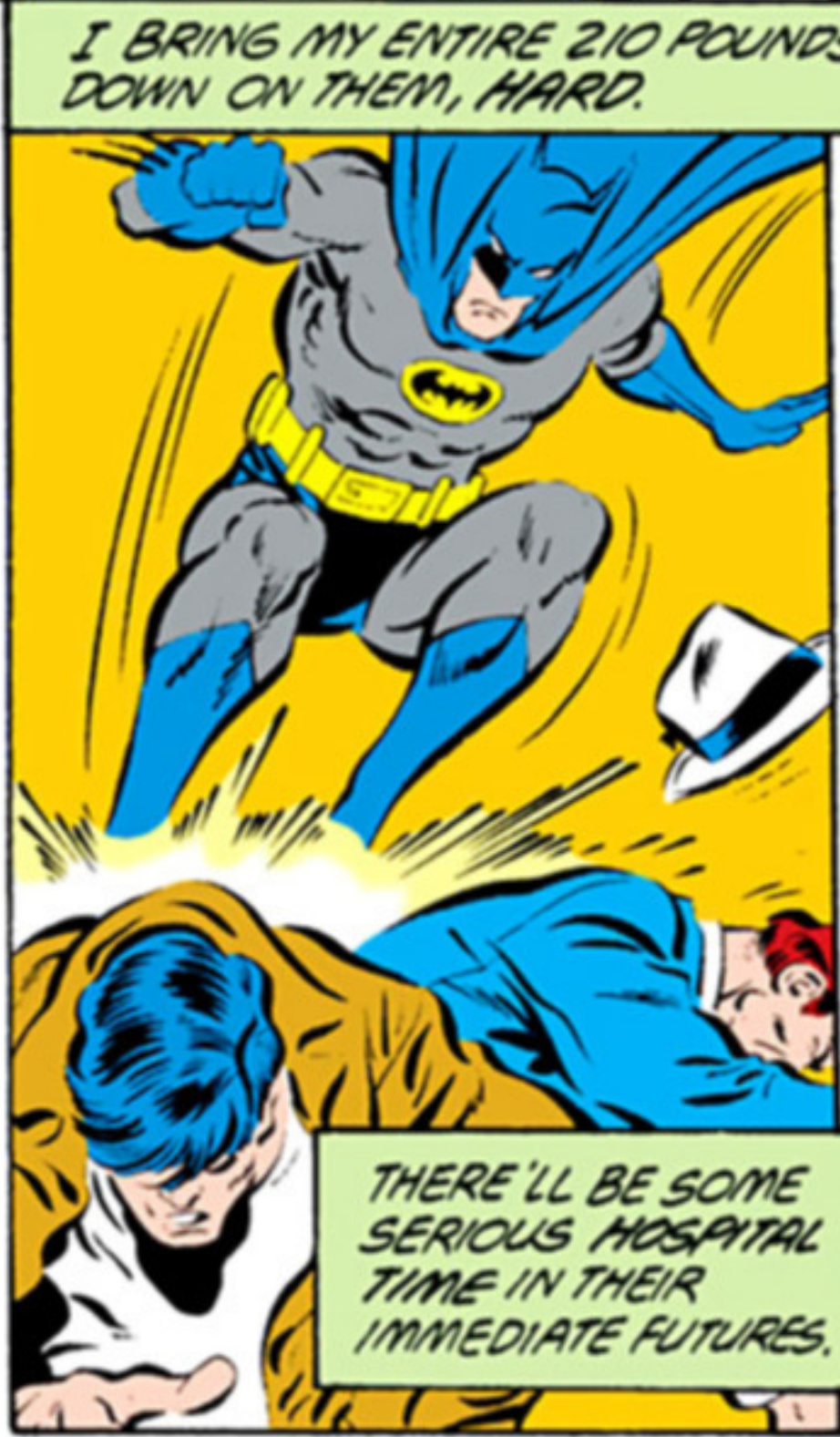
I TRY TO TAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER ON THE OTHER GUNSELS.



VERY MOODY.
RESENTFUL.

RECKLESS.

THAT ATTITUDE IS ABOUT TO GET HIM KILLED.

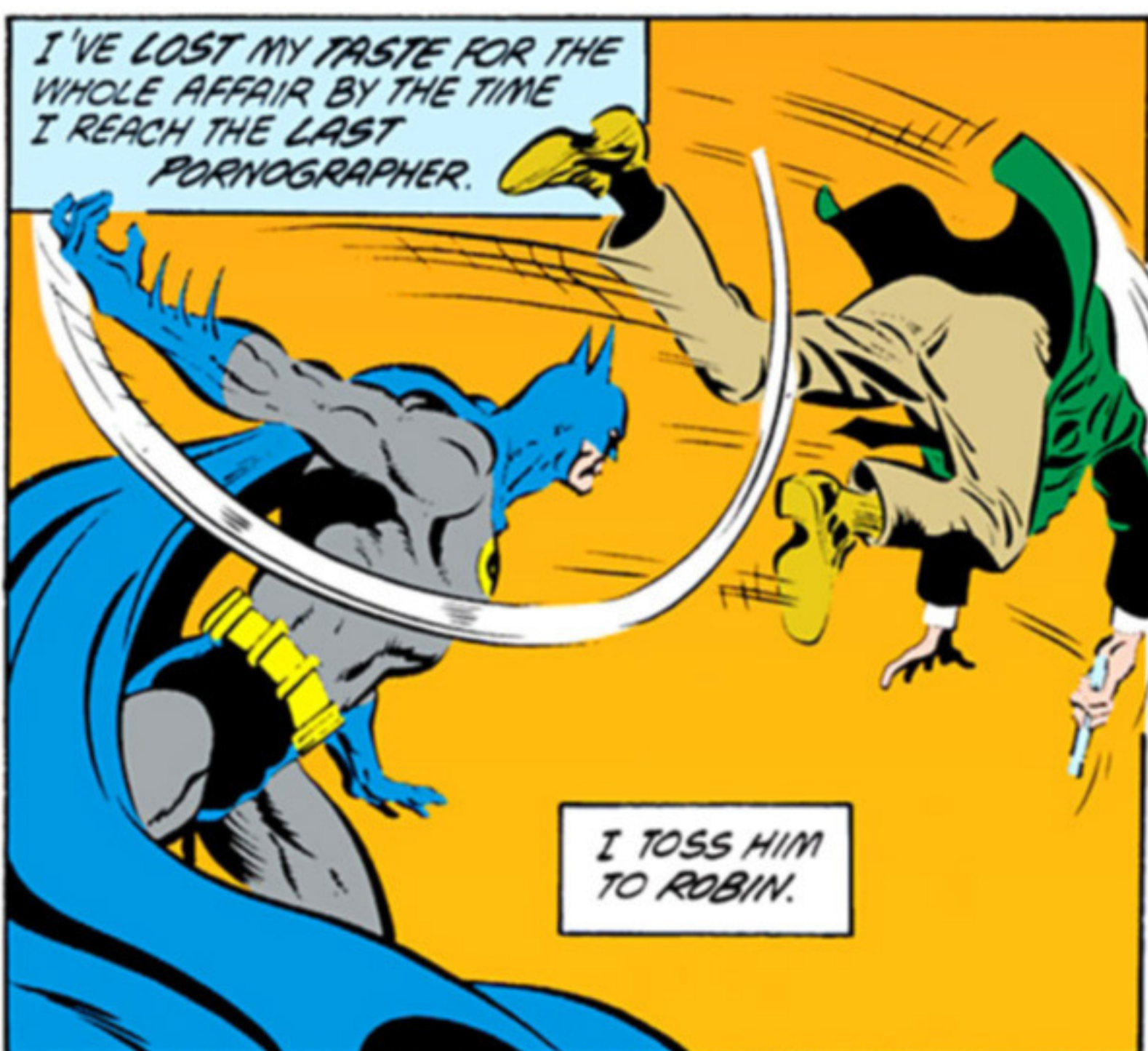


I BRING MY ENTIRE 210 POUNDS DOWN ON THEM, HARD.

THERE'LL BE SOME SERIOUS HOSPITAL TIME IN THEIR IMMEDIATE FUTURES.



NO TRACTION FOR THESE GUYS, JUST A NEED FOR EXTENSIVE DENTAL WORK.



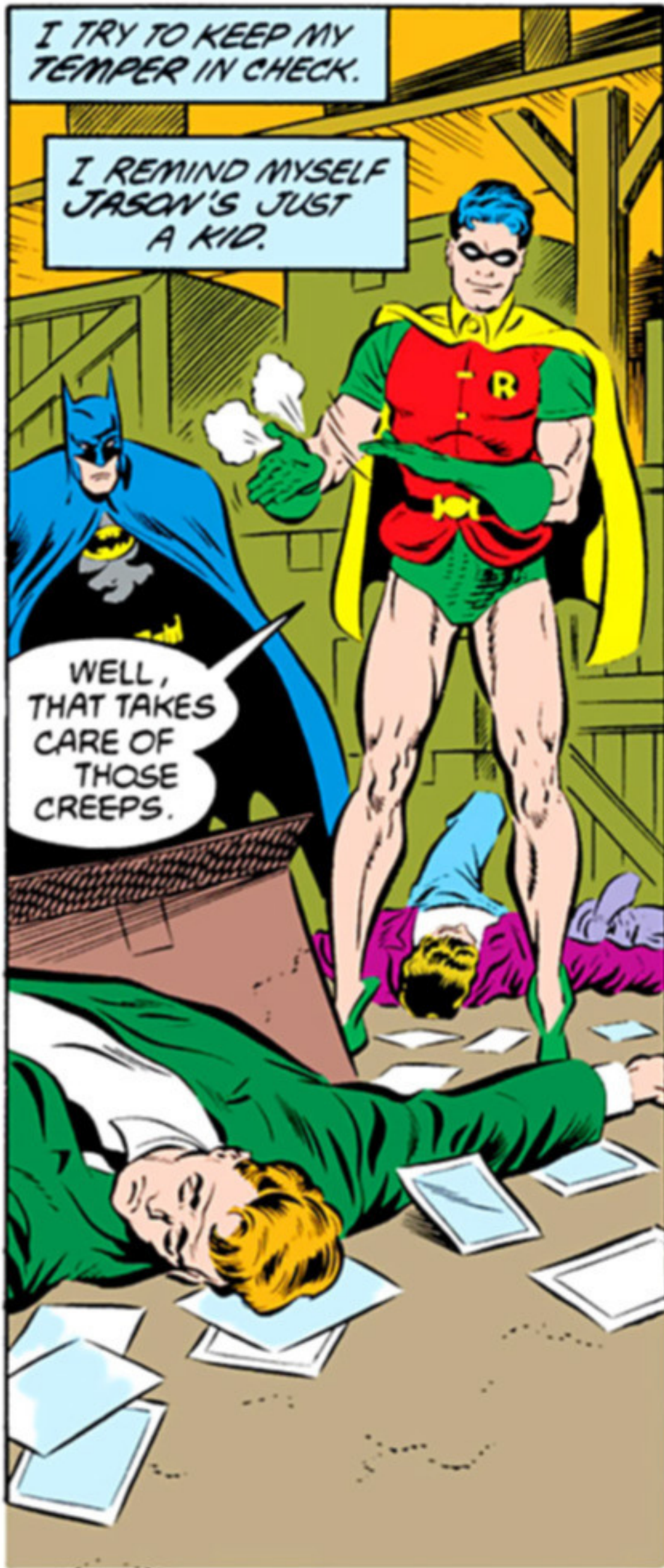
I'VE LOST MY TASTE FOR THE WHOLE AFFAIR BY THE TIME I REACH THE LAST PORNOGRAPHER.

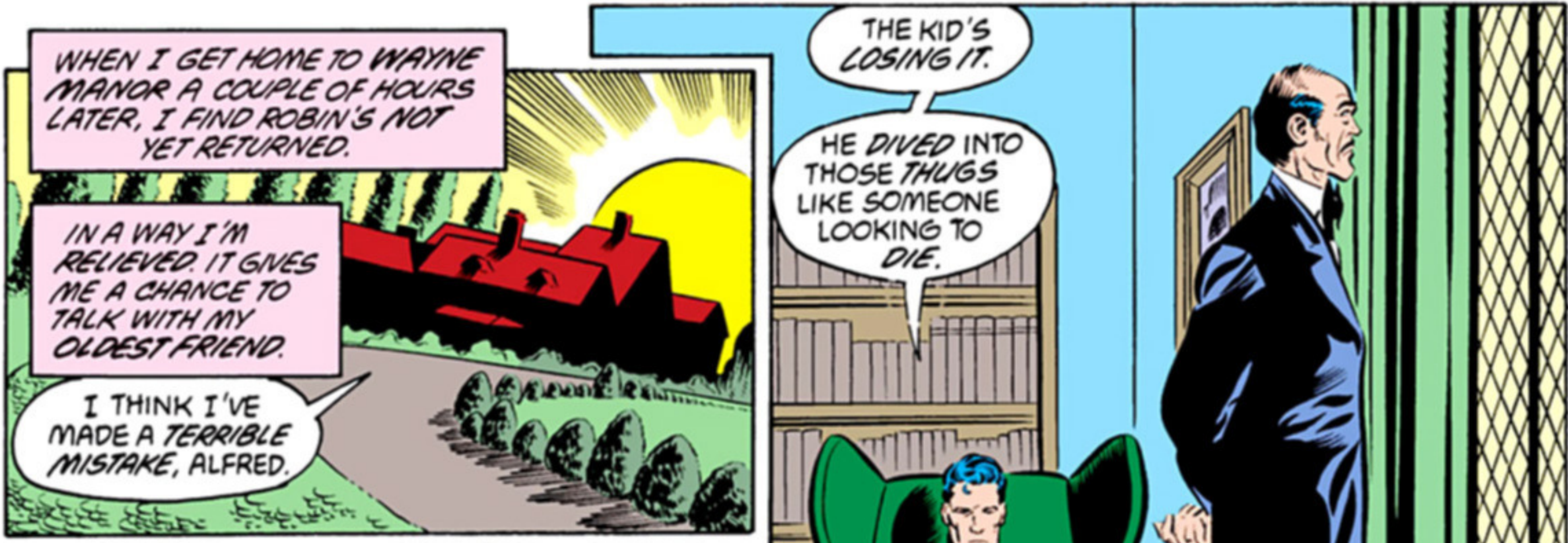
I TOSS HIM TO ROBIN.



LET THE BOY FINISH HIM OFF.

HE OBVIOUSLY HAS A DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVEL OF AGGRESSIVE ENERGY TO WORK OFF.





WHEN I GET HOME TO WAYNE MANOR A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, I FIND ROBIN'S NOT YET RETURNED.

IN A WAY I'M RELIEVED. IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO TALK WITH MY OLDEST FRIEND.

I THINK I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, ALFRED.

THE KID'S LOSING IT.

HE DIVED INTO THOSE THUGS LIKE SOMEONE LOOKING TO DIE.

I'VE BEEN NOTICING SOME DISQUIETING THINGS ABOUT MASTER JASON, MYSELF.

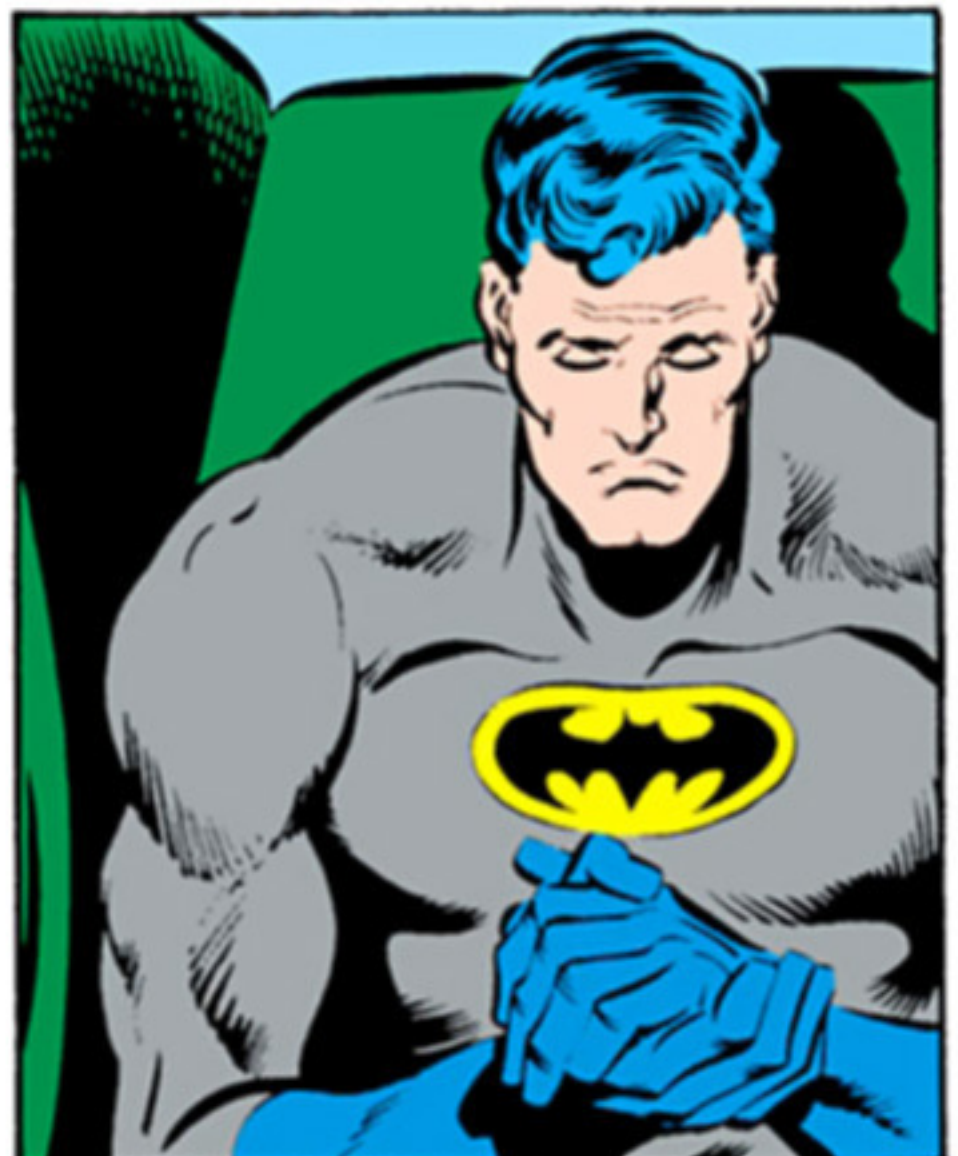
THE LAD AVOIDS TALKING ABOUT HIS PARENTS LATELY. I'VE COME UPON HIM, SEVERAL TIMES, LOOKING AT THAT BATTERED OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS MOTHER AND FATHER, CRYING. WHEN HE'S SEEN ME, HE'S HIDDEN THE PICTURE AND LEFT THE ROOM, REFUSING TO TALK.



IN OTHER WORDS, I MAY HAVE STARTED JASON AS ROBIN BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HIS PARENTS' DEATHS.

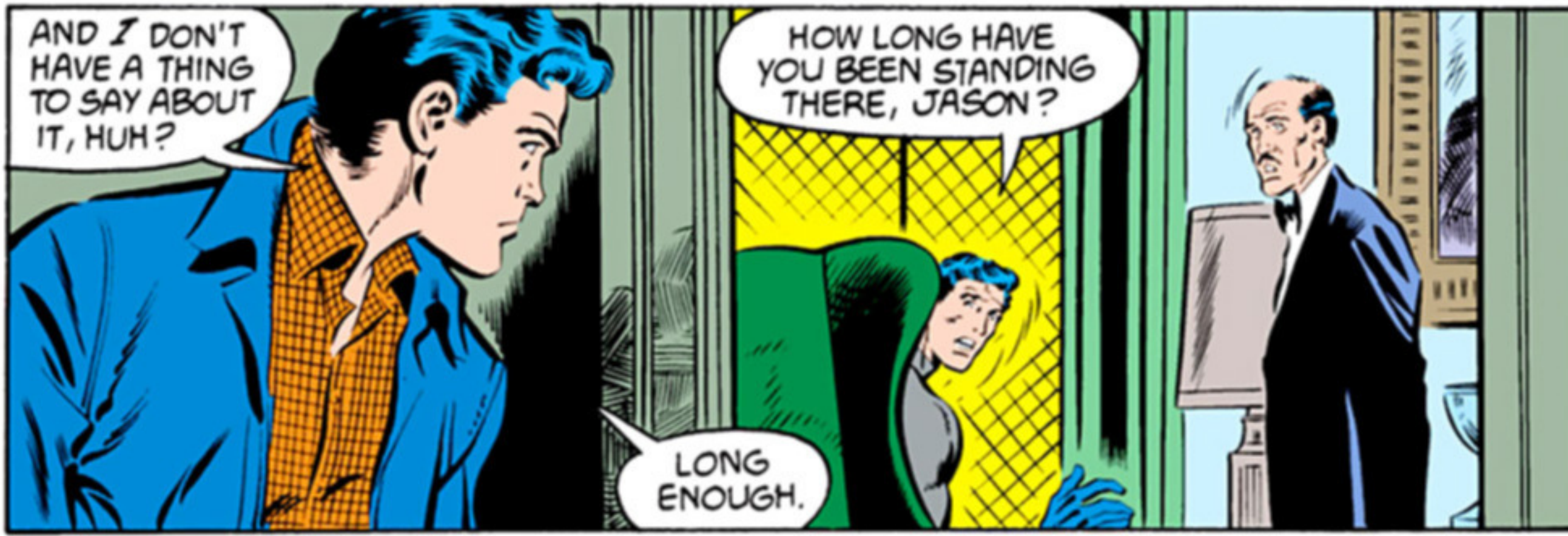


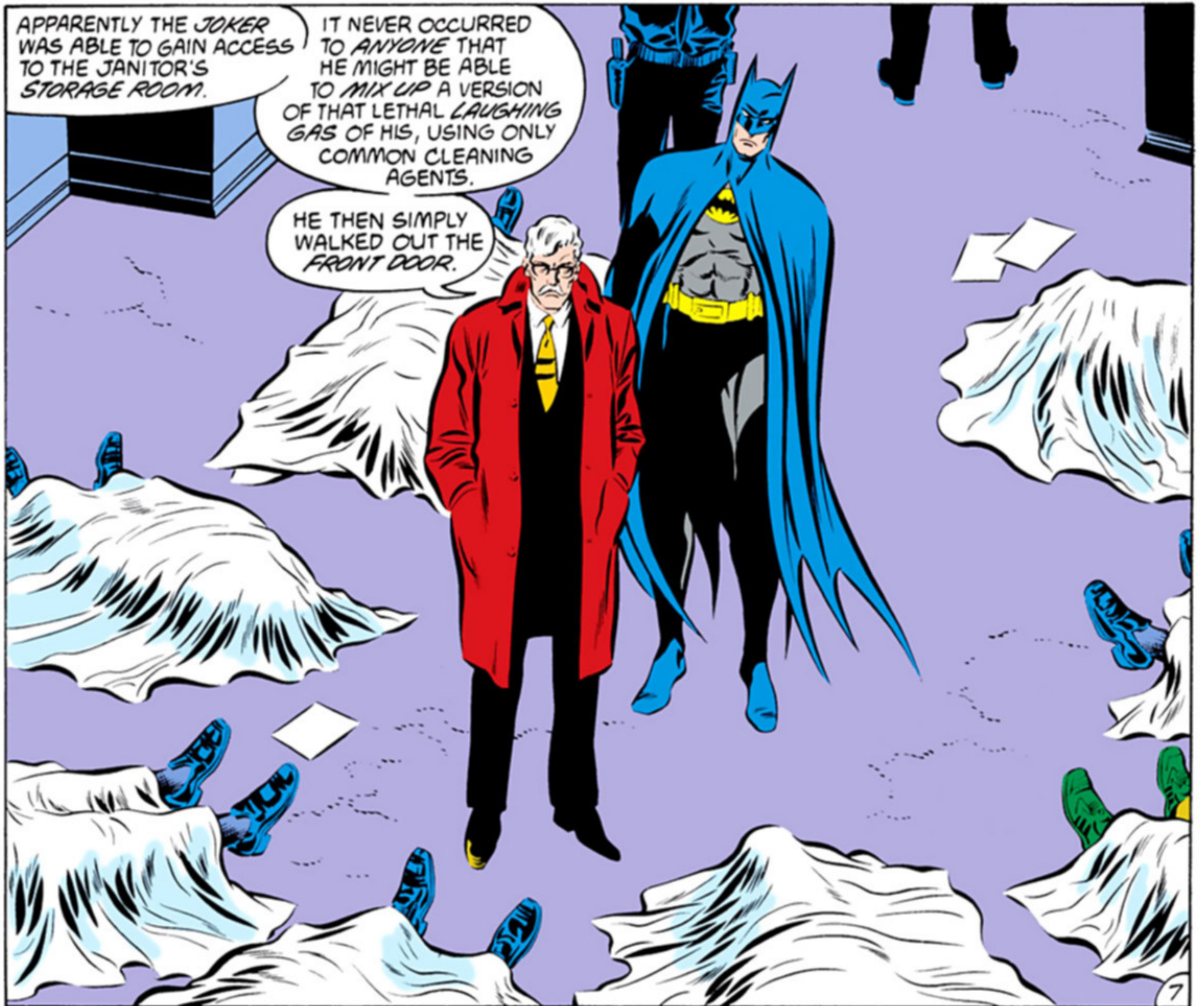
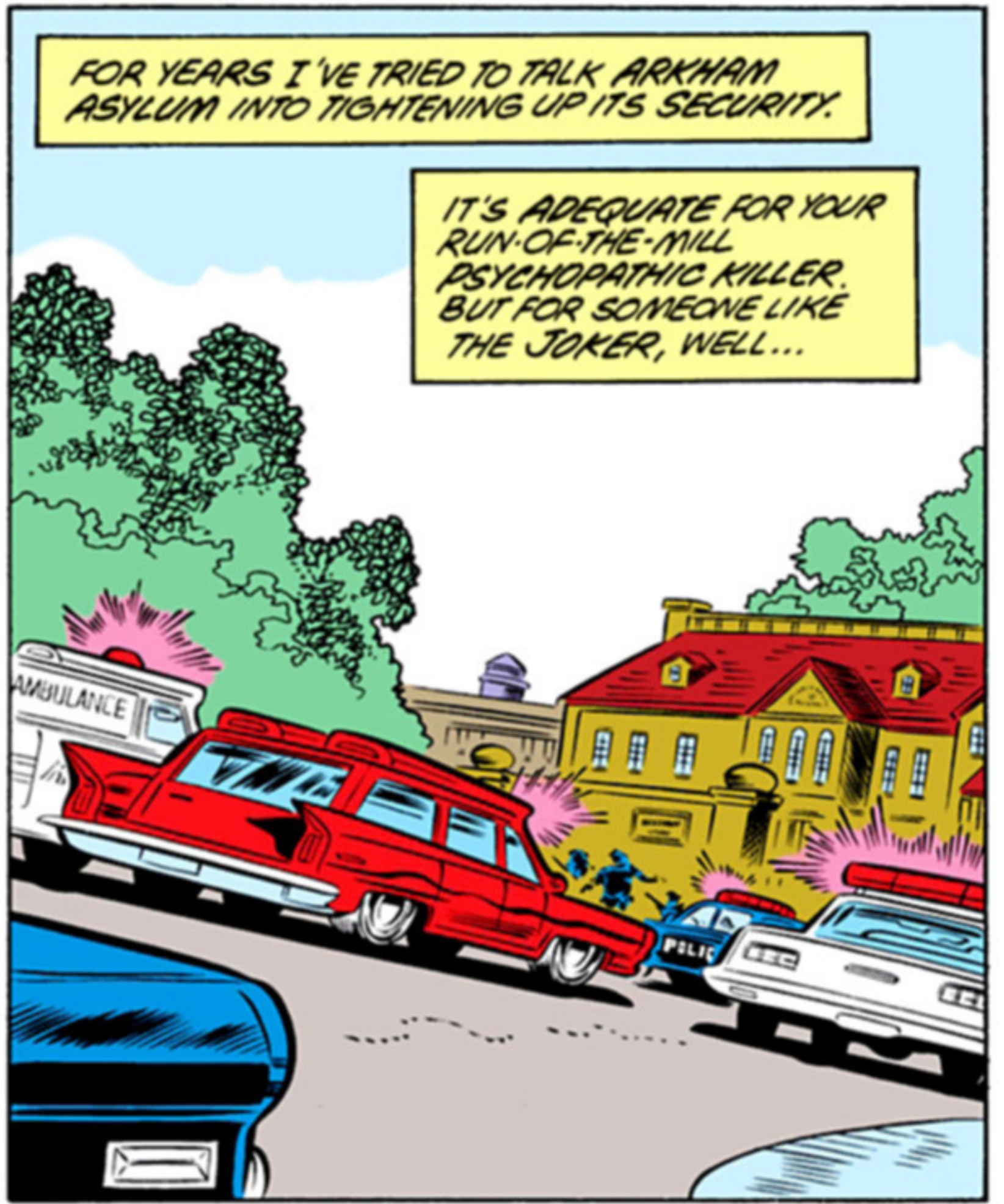
BEING YOUR PARTNER IS NOT EXACTLY THE BEST SITUATION FOR A TEENAGER ADJUSTING TO SUCH A LOSS.



THEN I MUST TRY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

JASON'S GOING OFF ACTIVE DUTY IMMEDIATELY.







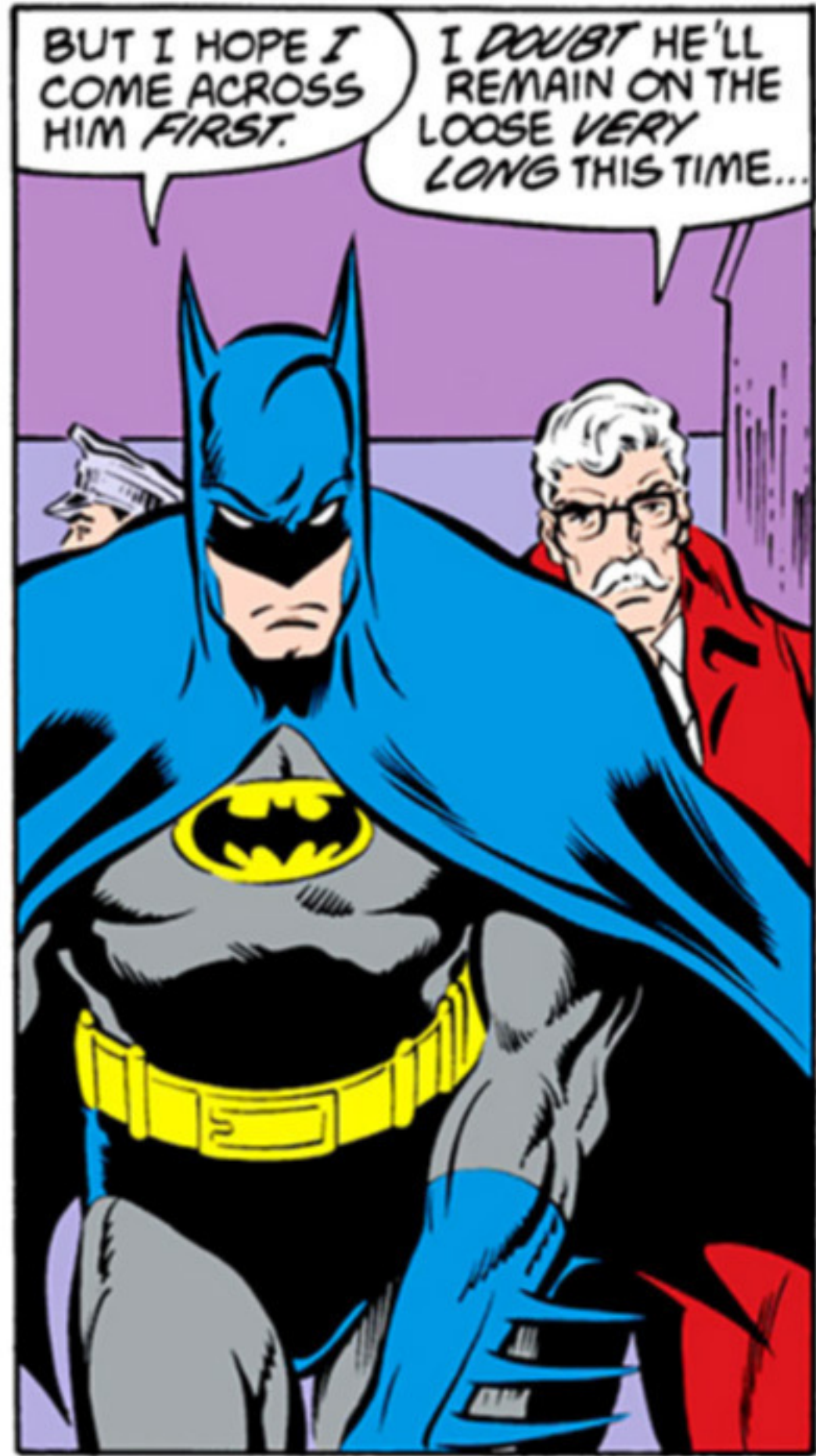
LEAVING EIGHT DEAD MEN IN HIS WAKE.

THE KILLING NEVER STOPS WITH HIM.



I'VE PUT OUT AN APB ON THE JOKER AND HAVE ALERTED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE TITANS.

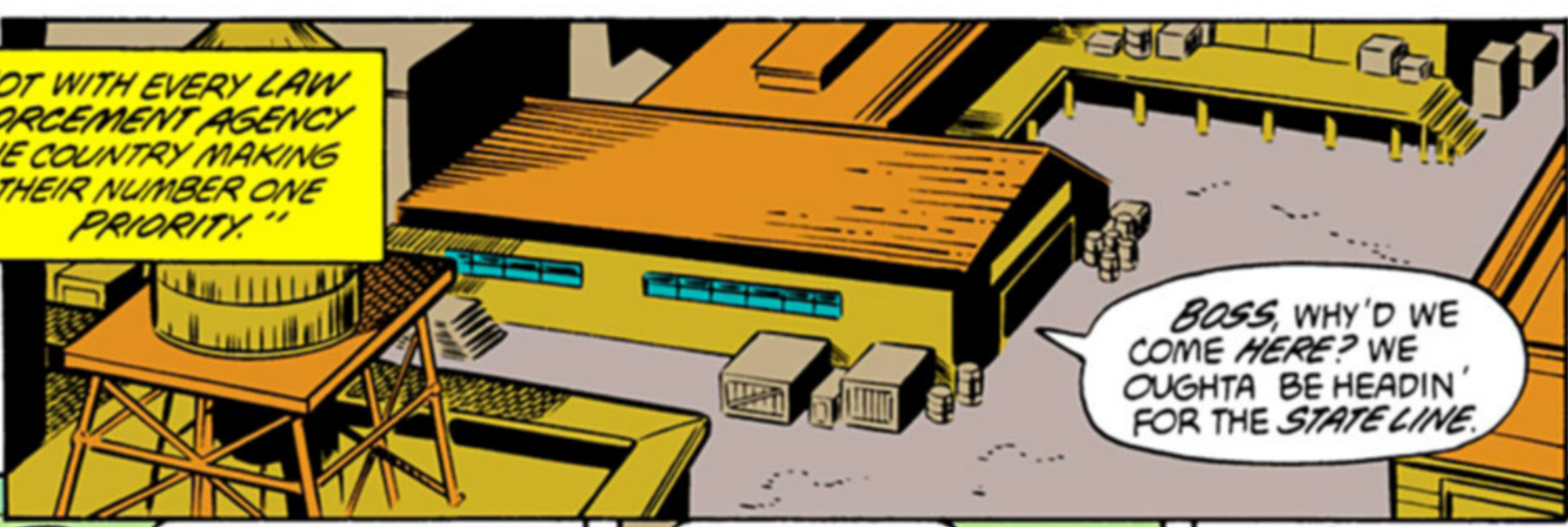
GOOD. EVERYONE'S GOING TO WANT A PIECE OF THE JOKER, AFTER WHAT HE DID TO BARBARA.



BUT I HOPE I COME ACROSS HIM FIRST.

I DOUBT HE'LL REMAIN ON THE LOOSE VERY LONG THIS TIME...

"... NOT WITH EVERY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY MAKING HIM THEIR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY."



BOSS, WHY'D WE COME HERE? WE OUGHTA BE HEADIN' FOR THE STATE LINE.



YOU'RE JUST TOO HOT TO BE STICKING AROUND GOTHAM, BOSS.

CRIPES, I DON'T THINK YA'D BE SAFE ANYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY.

I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT, RUPERT.

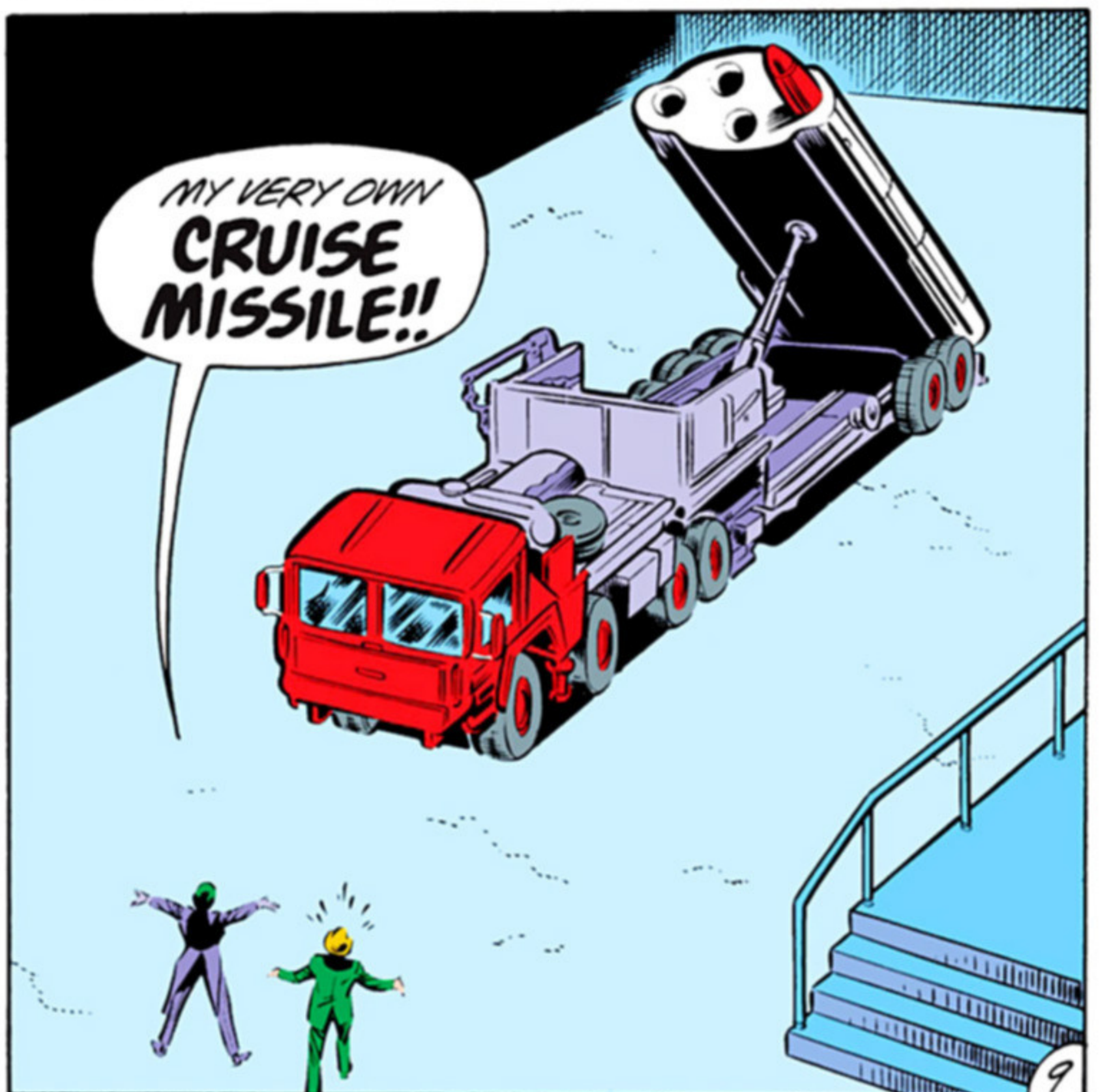


I HAPPEN TO BE CRAZY.

NOT STUPID.



THE JOKER KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO TAKE A VACATION!





HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU COME BY THIS, BOSS?

THROUGH A FRIEND OF MINE IN THE MILITARY WHO OWED ME A BIG FAVOR.

I PLANNED TO FIRE IT AT CITY HALL SOMEDAY.



BUT I GUESS I'LL NOW HAVE TO SELL IT TO SOME ARAB TERRORISTS INSTEAD.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO SAFELY REPLENISH MY SEVERELY DEPLETED FUNDS.

YOU AND I WILL DISMANTLE THIS FIRECRACKER AND SHIP IT TO THE MIDDLE EAST.



WE'LL NEVER GET IT OUTTA THE COUNTRY, BOSS! THAT ROCKET'S GOTTA BE HOTTER THAN EVEN YOU ARE!

NOT TO WORRY, RUPERT, MY LAD.



ON PAPER, THIS CRUISE MISSILE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST. NO ONE KNOWS IT'S MISSING.

IT'S ANOTHER FAVOR MY MILITARY FRIEND DID FOR ME BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY DEMISE.



YOU KNOW, RUPERT, IN A WAY I THINK THINGS HAVE WORKED OUT FOR THE BEST.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO MAKE A FEW CHANGES IN MY LIFE.



CRIME HASN'T BEEN ALL THAT GOOD TO ME OF LATE.

I'VE BEEN SPENDING MORE TIME IN ARKHAM ASYLUM THAN OUT.

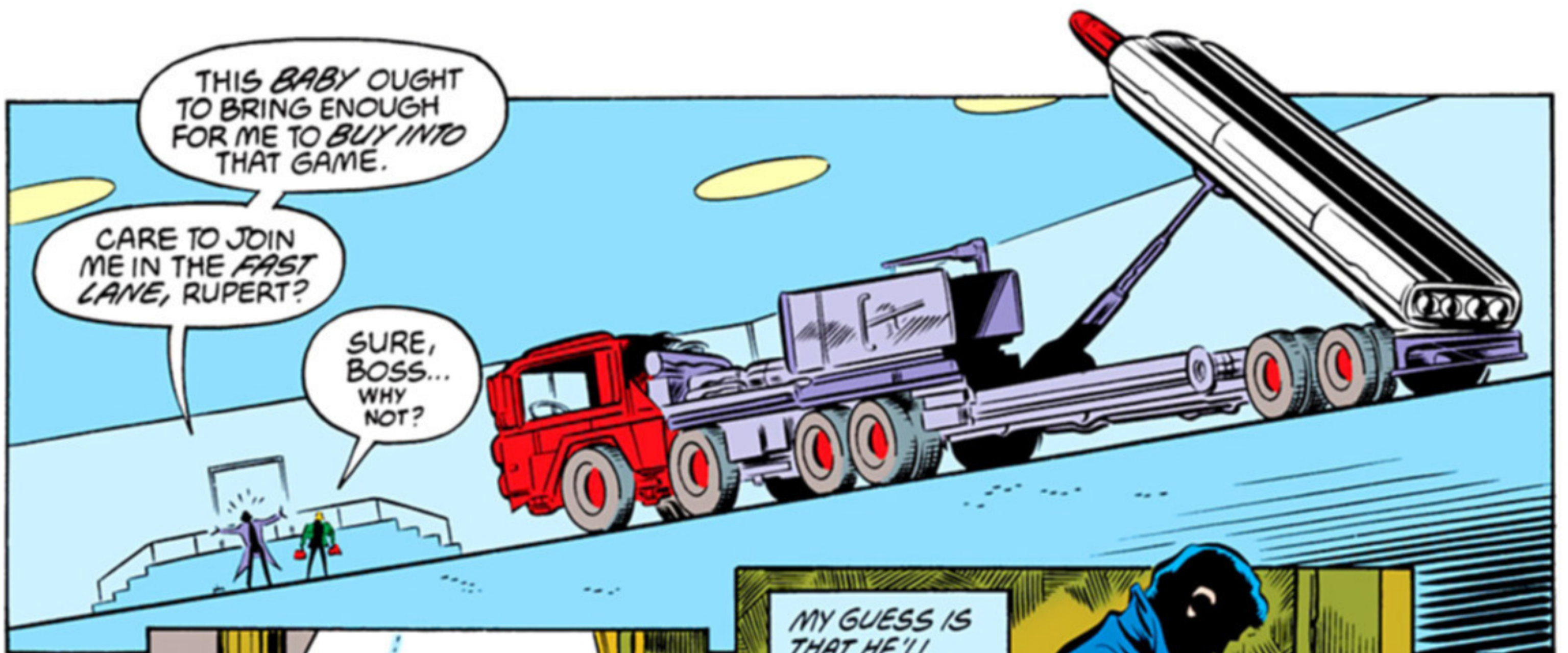


I'VE BEEN SERIOUSLY THINKING OF GETTING INTO A NEW LINE OF WORK...

... SOME ENDEAVOR WHERE MY SPECIAL TALENTS WILL BE PROPERLY APPRECIATED.



SOMETHING LIKE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS!



THIS *BABY* OUGHT TO BRING ENOUGH FOR ME TO *BUY INTO* THAT GAME.

CARE TO JOIN ME IN THE *FAST LANE*, RUPERT?

SURE, BOSS... WHY NOT?

JASON'S INTO HIS THIRD HOUR OF WALKING, TRYING TO LET OFF STEAM.



MY GUESS IS THAT HE'LL END UP SOMEWHERE IN HIS FORMER NEIGHBORHOOD...

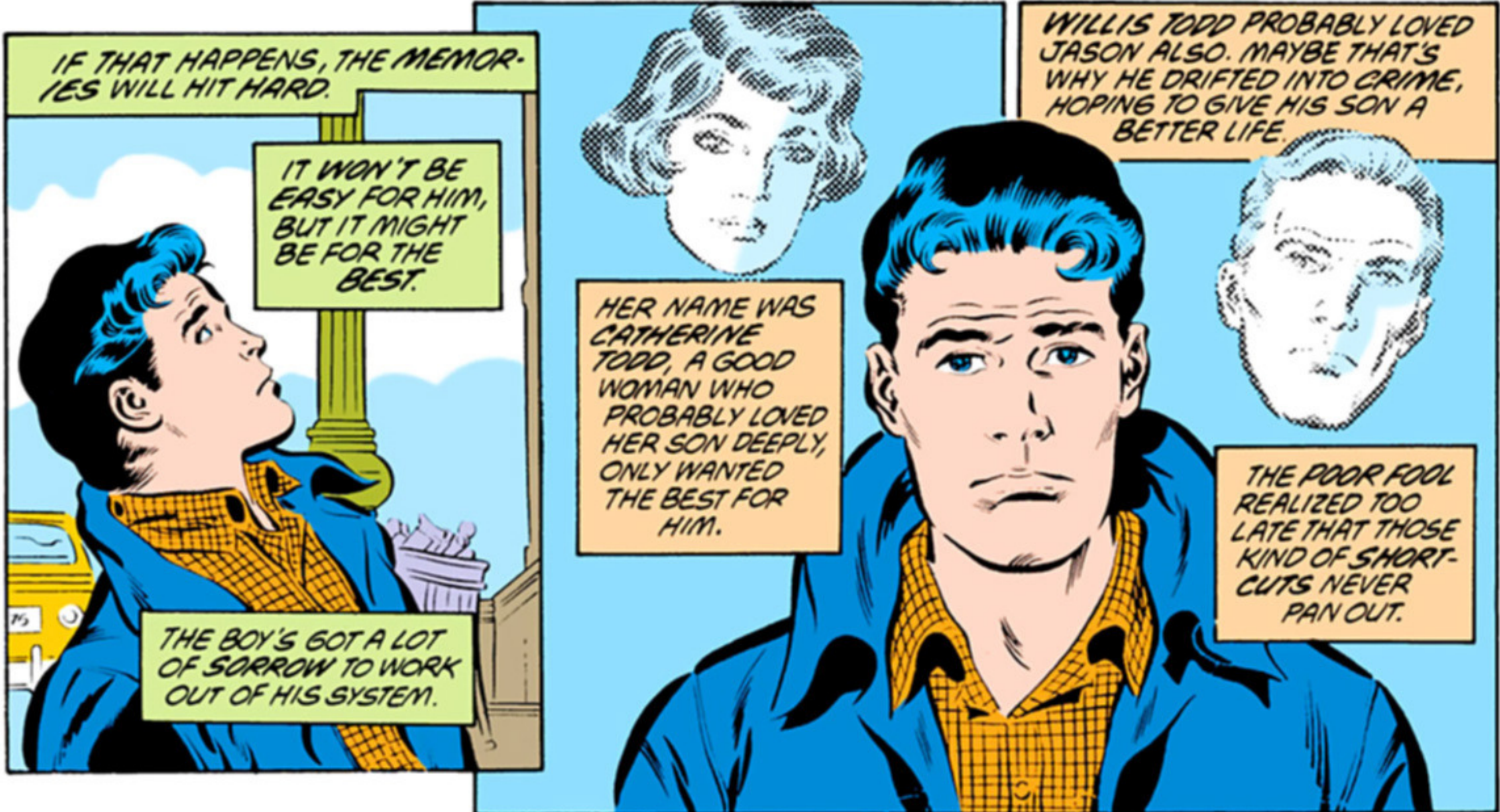
...CRIME ALLEY.

I WONDER IF HE EVEN NOTICES WHERE HE'S GOING?

HE MIGHT EVEN FIND HIMSELF OVER BY THE OL' HOMESTEAD...



... THE APARTMENT BUILDING HE ONCE SHARED WITH HIS NOW DEAD PARENTS.



IF THAT HAPPENS, THE MEMORIES WILL HIT HARD.

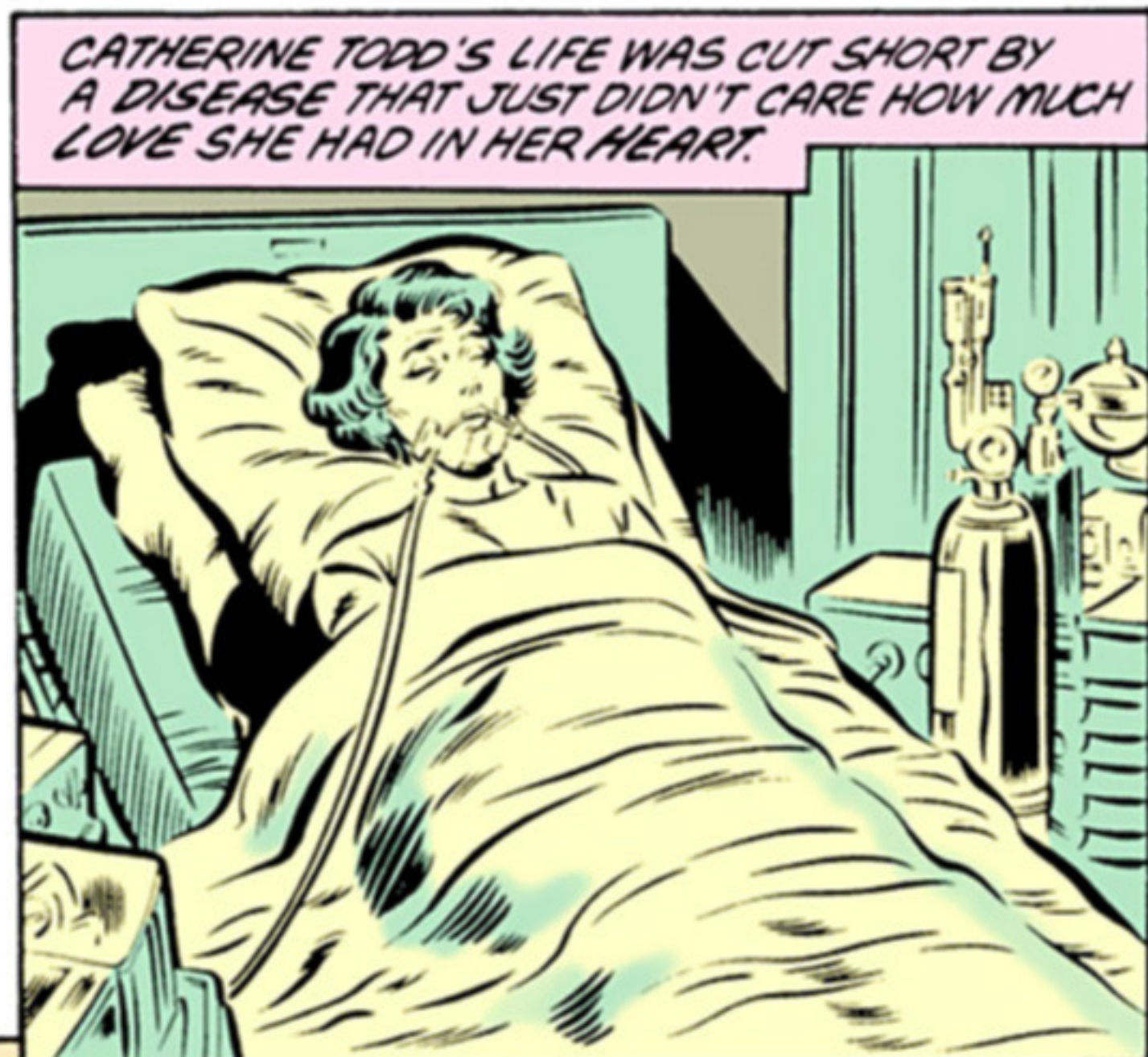
IT WON'T BE EASY FOR HIM, BUT IT MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST.

THE BOY'S GOT A LOT OF SORROW TO WORK OUT OF HIS SYSTEM.

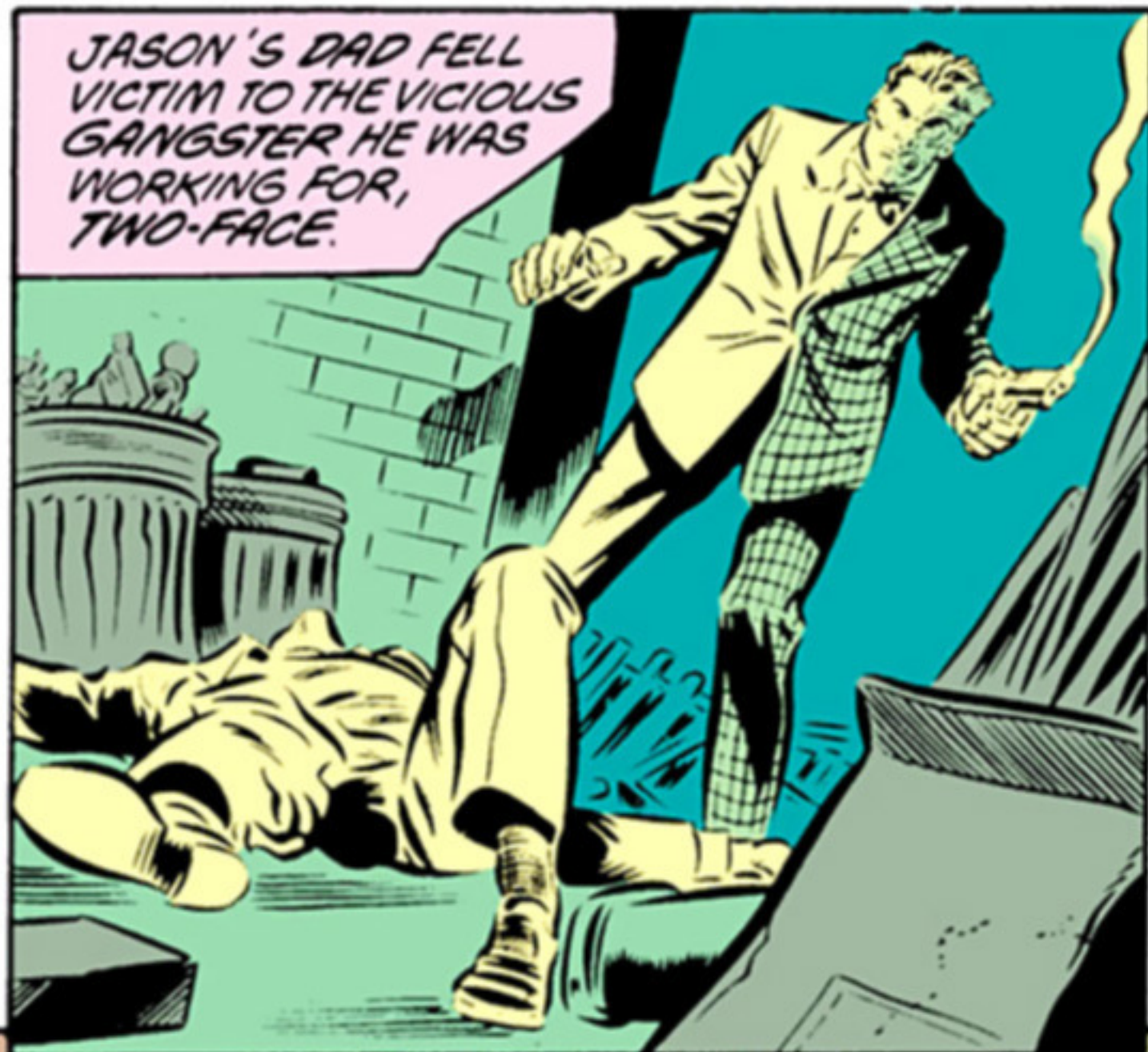
HER NAME WAS CATHERINE TODD, A GOOD WOMAN WHO PROBABLY LOVED HER SON DEEPLY, ONLY WANTED THE BEST FOR HIM.

WILLIS TODD PROBABLY LOVED JASON ALSO. MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE DRIFTED INTO CRIME, HOPING TO GIVE HIS SON A BETTER LIFE.

THE POOR FOOL REALIZED TOO LATE THAT THOSE KIND OF SHORT-CUTS NEVER PAN OUT.



CATHERINE TODD'S LIFE WAS CUT SHORT BY A DISEASE THAT JUST DIDN'T CARE HOW MUCH LOVE SHE HAD IN HER HEART.



JASON'S DAD FELL VICTIM TO THE VICIOUS GANGSTER HE WAS WORKING FOR, TWO-FACE.



THAT LEFT JASON AN ORPHAN, LIVING IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING WHEN I FOUND HIM.

THOUGHT I HAD HIS BEST INTERESTS AT HEART WHEN I RUSHED HIM INTO TRAINING TO BE THE NEW ROBIN.

GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY THE PATH TO HELL IS PAVED WITH.



YOU!!

YOU'RE YOUNG JASON TODD, AREN'T YOU!



YES.

THEN COME UP HERE!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU.



HELLO?

COME IN! COME IN!



YOU WERE A FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S. MRS. WALKER, WASN'T IT?

THAT'S RIGHT. HOW YOU BEEN DOING?



GETTING BY.

YOU KINDA *DISAPPEARED* RIGHT AFTER YOUR MOTHER DIED

JUVENILE AUTHORITIES WERE LOOKING TO PUT ME IN A STATE HOME. DIDN'T WANNA GO.



CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR THAT.

BUT WHEN *NO ONE* CLAIMED YOUR FAMILY'S POSSESSIONS, THE LAND-LORD SOLD THEM OFF.



I WAS ABLE TO SAVE THIS *STUFF* FOR YOU, 'CASE YOU EVER CAME BACK.

AFRAID IT'S A LITTLE WATER DAMAGED. DARN LEAKY, ROOFS!



THE OWNER'S *TOO CHEAP* TO FIX 'EM.

PHOTOGRAPHS!

PERSONAL PAPERS!



THOUGHT IT'D BE STUFF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE.

THIS IS *TERRIFIC!* HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU...

AIN'T NOTHING.



NOW I GOT TO *SHOO* YOU OUT OF HERE, LAD.

GOT *SHOPPING* I GOTTA DO.



NOW YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, SON.





BUT MAYBE GASPAR'S LUGGAGE WILL TELL ME A TALE OR TWO.



A PASSPORT AND A VISA FOR LEBANON.

INTERESTING.

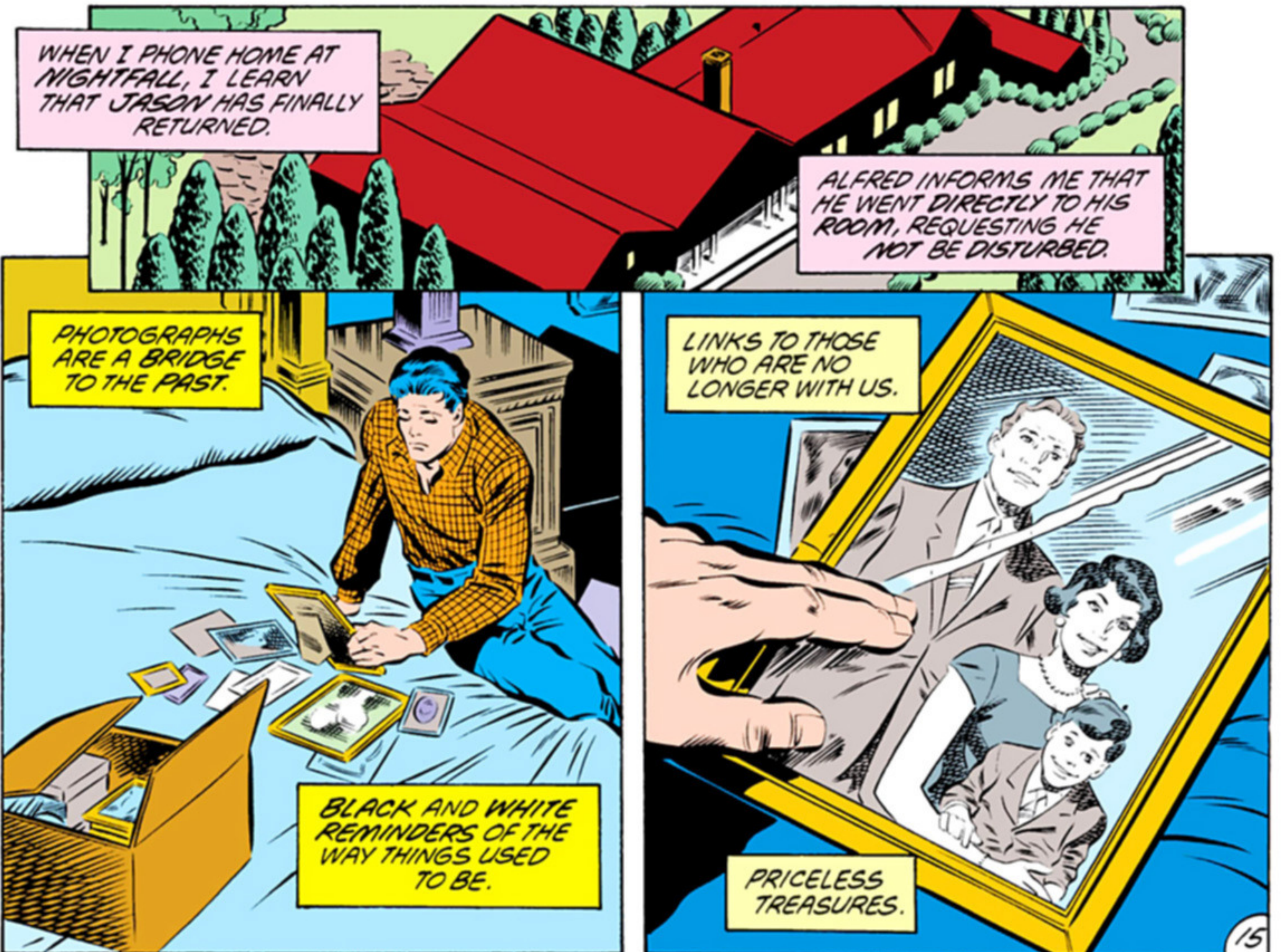


I SPENT THE NEXT FEW HOURS TRYING TO TRACK DOWN MORE OF THE JOKER'S FORMER HENCHMEN.

NO LUCK.

THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

ALL VACATIONING IN LEBANON, MAYBE?



WHEN I PHONE HOME AT NIGHTFALL, I LEARN THAT JASON HAS FINALLY RETURNED.

ALFRED INFORMS ME THAT HE WENT DIRECTLY TO HIS ROOM, REQUESTING HE NOT BE DISTURBED.

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE A BRIDGE TO THE PAST.

LINKS TO THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.

BLACK AND WHITE REMINDERS OF THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.

PRICELESS TREASURES.

THE BOX ALSO CONTAINS SOME OF HIS PARENTS' PERSONAL PAPERS.

A DEED FOR AN ACRE OF LAND IN VIRGINIA... A LAPSED INSURANCE POLICY.

SOME OF THE PAPERS ARE HIS OWN.

OLD GRADE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.

HIS BIRTH CERTIFICATE, WHICH CONTAINS...

... A GUT-WRENCHING SURPRISE!

THERE'S HIS OWN NAME ON IT.

JASON PETER TODD, JUST AS IT SHOULD BE.

THERE'S HIS FATHER'S NAME, ALL CORRECT AND PROPER.

THE TROUBLE LIES WITH HIS MOTHER'S NAME.

JASON'S MOTHER'S NAME WAS CATHERINE, NOT "S" SOMETHING!

HER LAST NAME'S WATER DAMAGED, SMEARED, UN-READABLE.

"S"?

WHO?

HOW?

WHY?

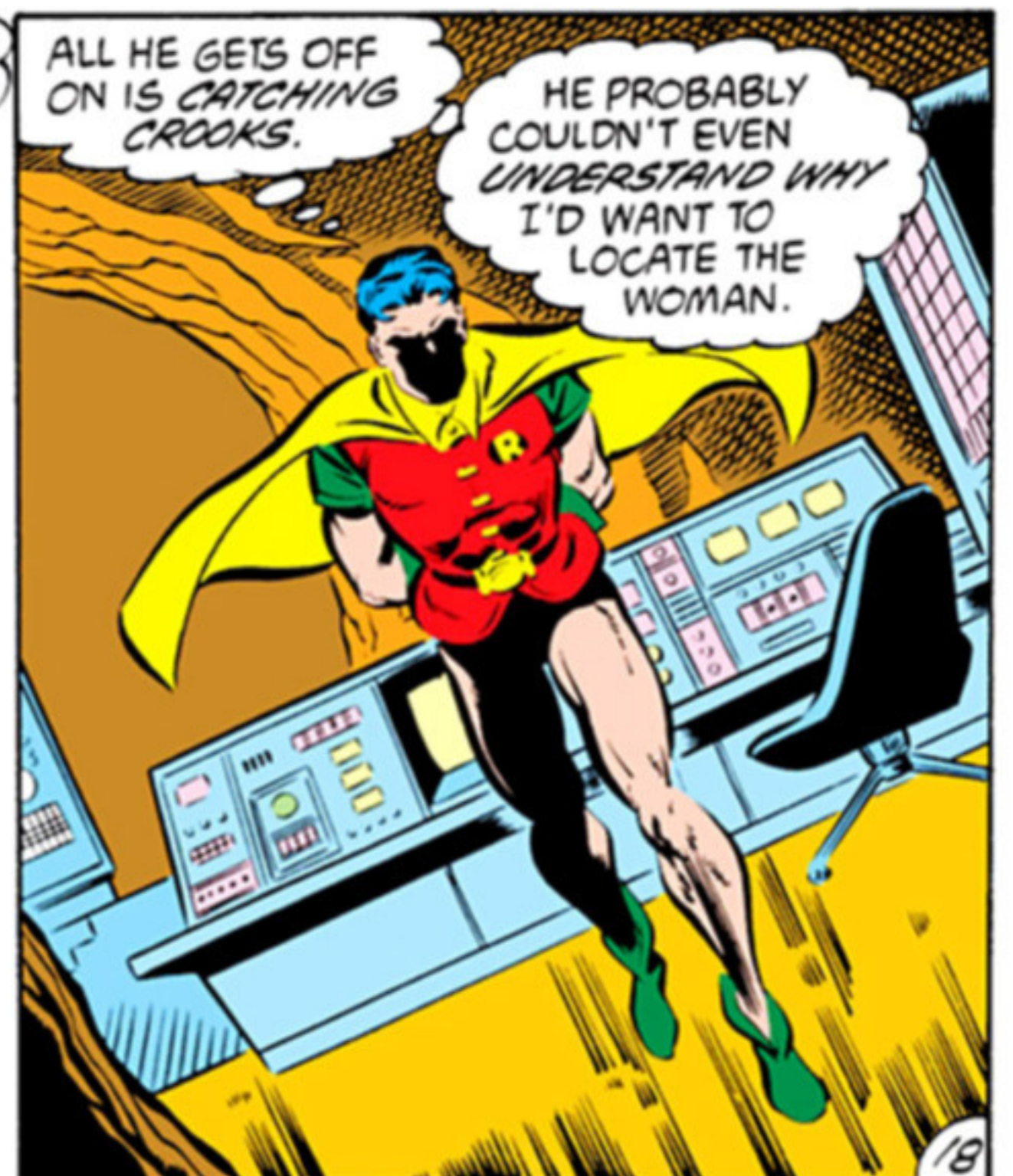
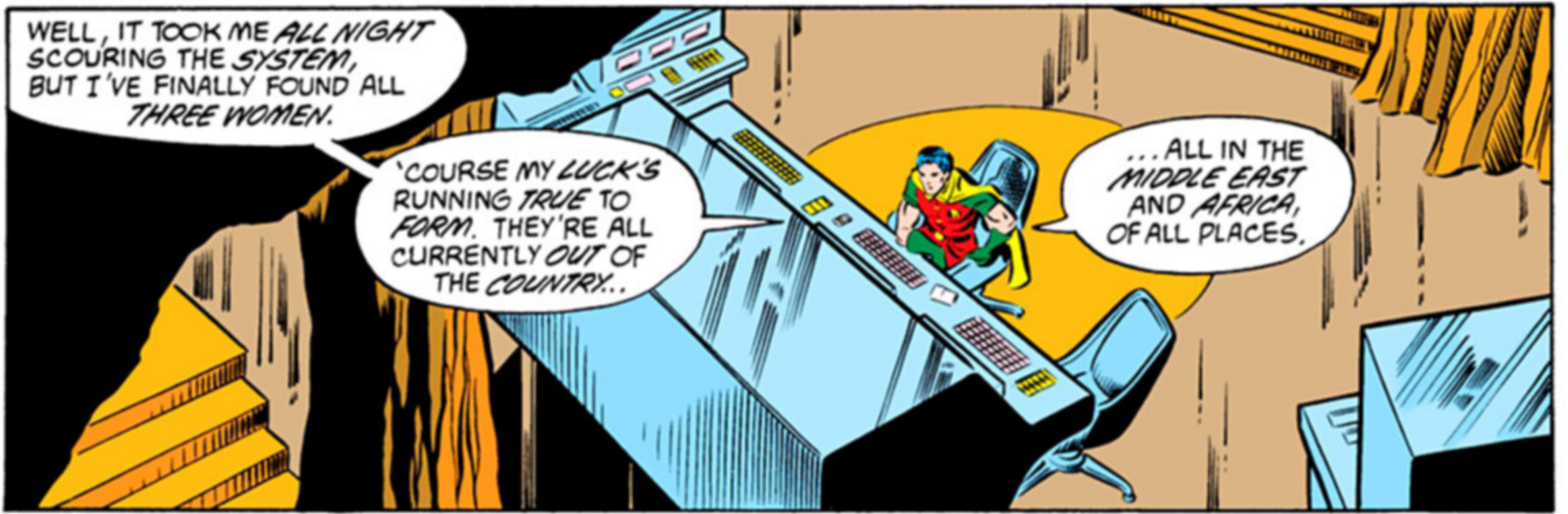
IT MUST TAKE HIM SOME TIME BEFORE HE ACCEPTS THE TRUTH.

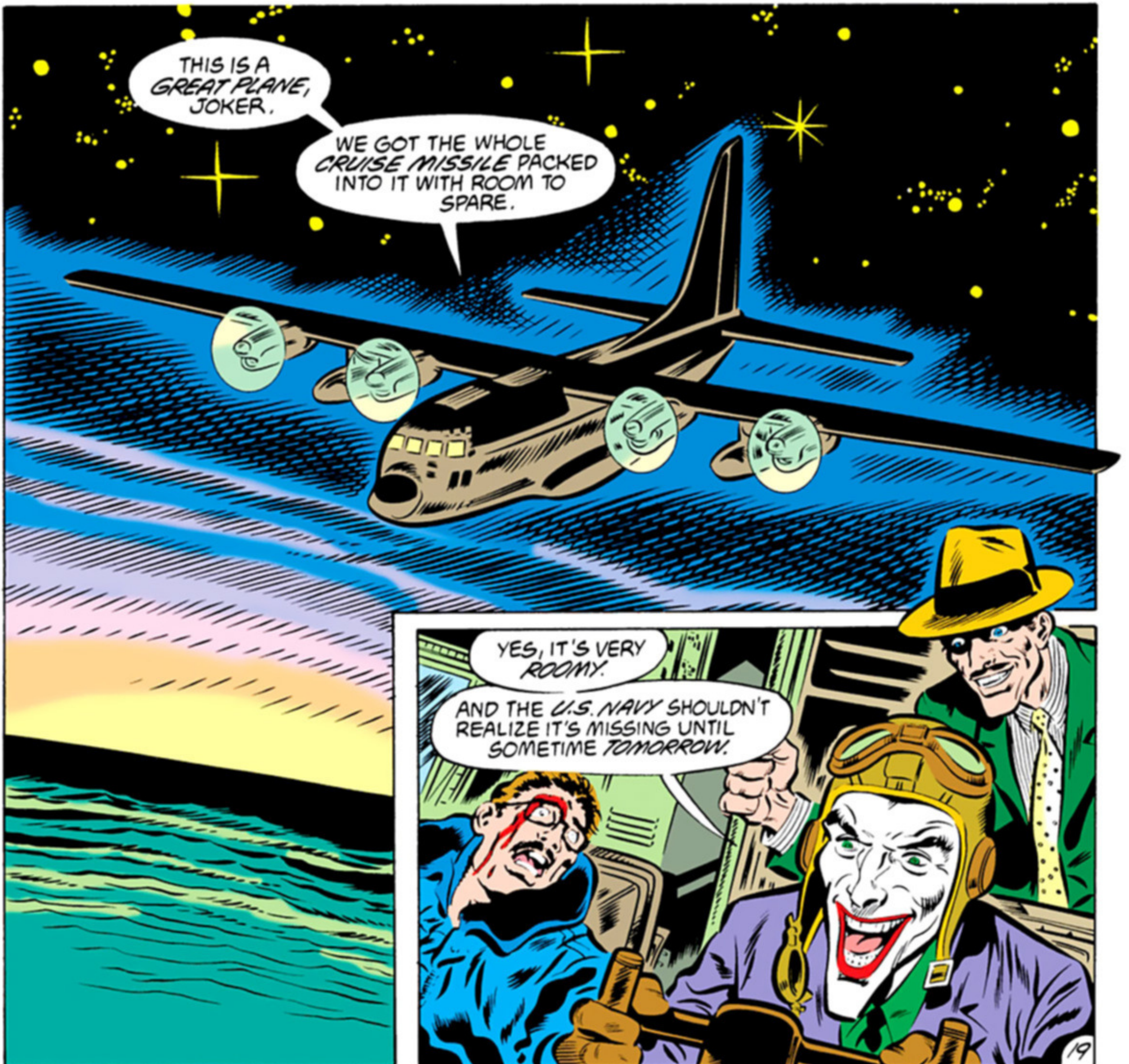
AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SEEMS, HE FINALLY GRASPS THE REALIZATION THAT...

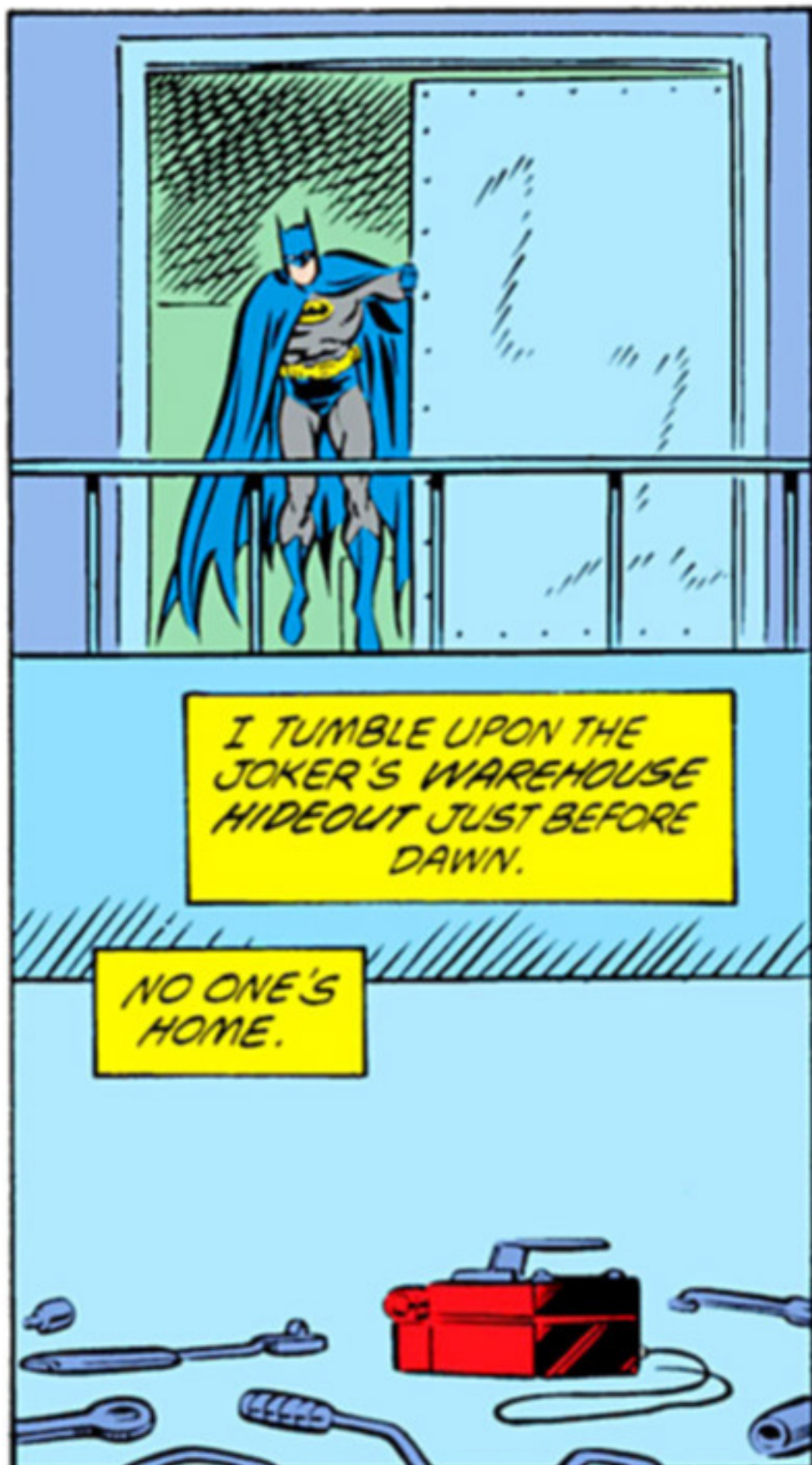
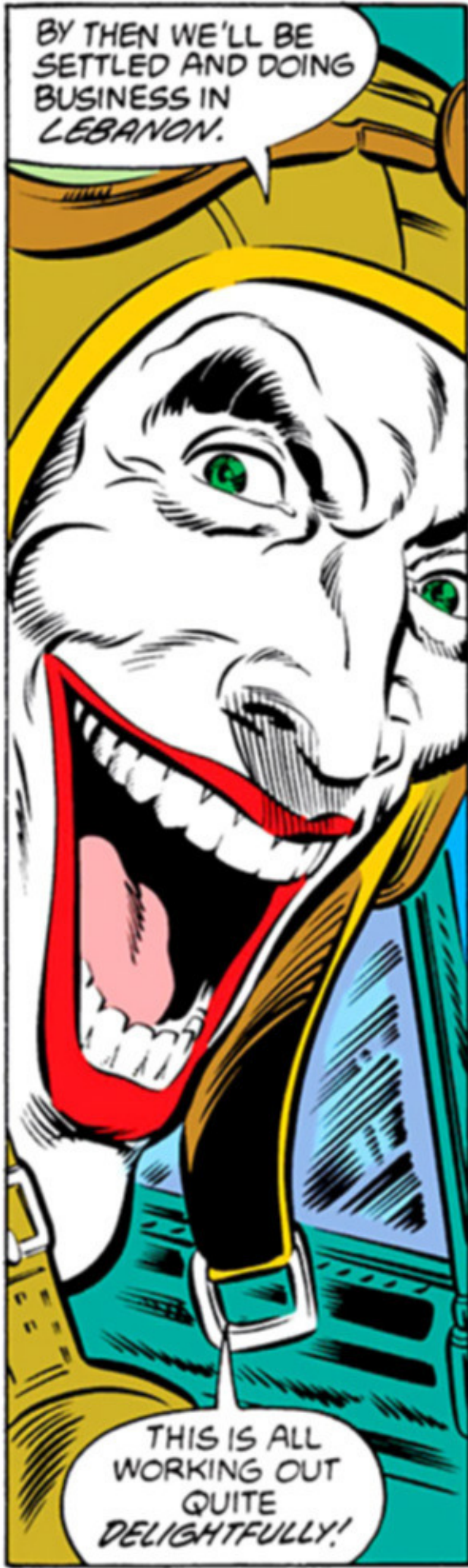
... CATHERINE TODD WASN'T HIS REAL MOTHER!

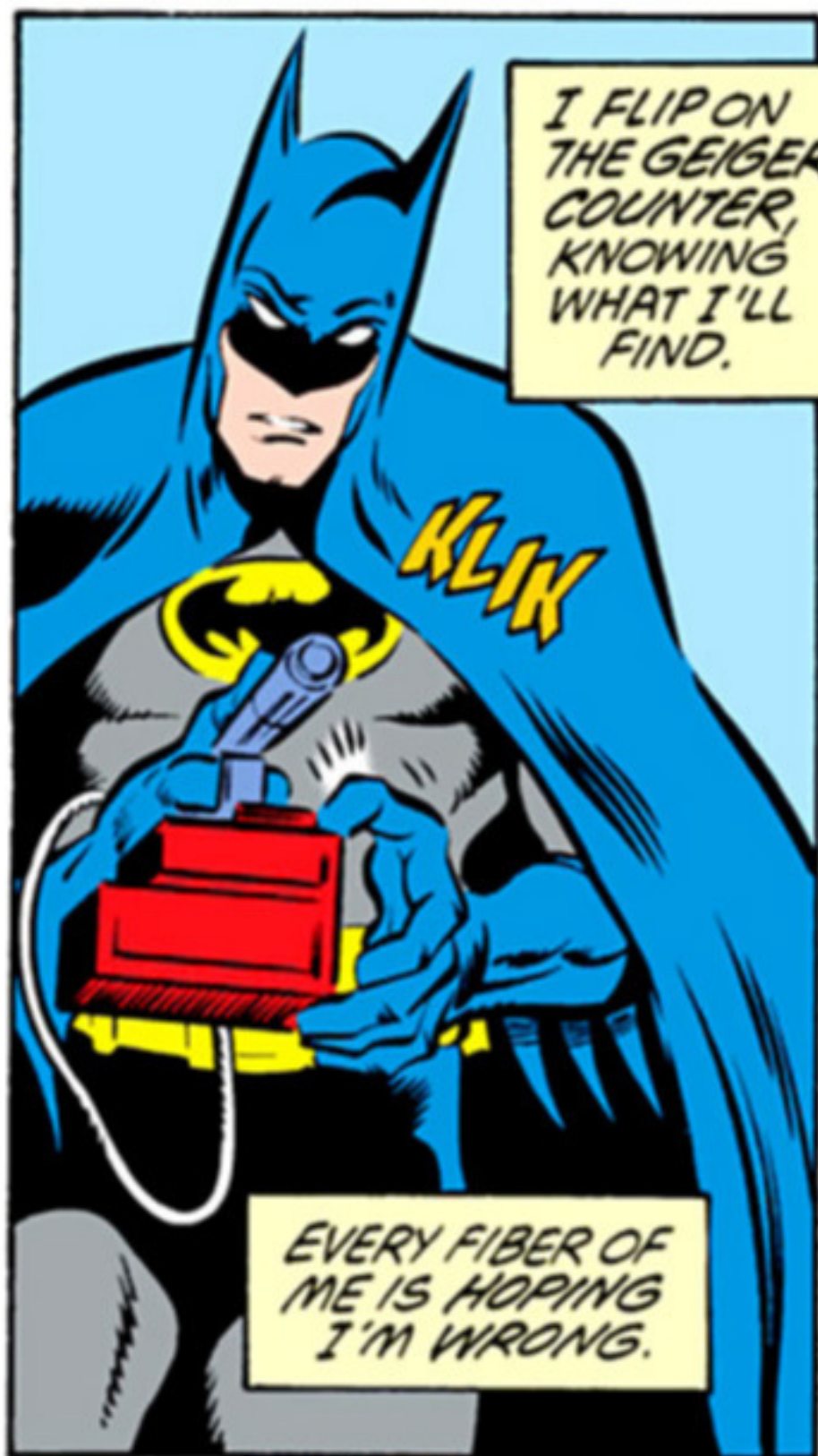
BUT THEN WHO WAS?





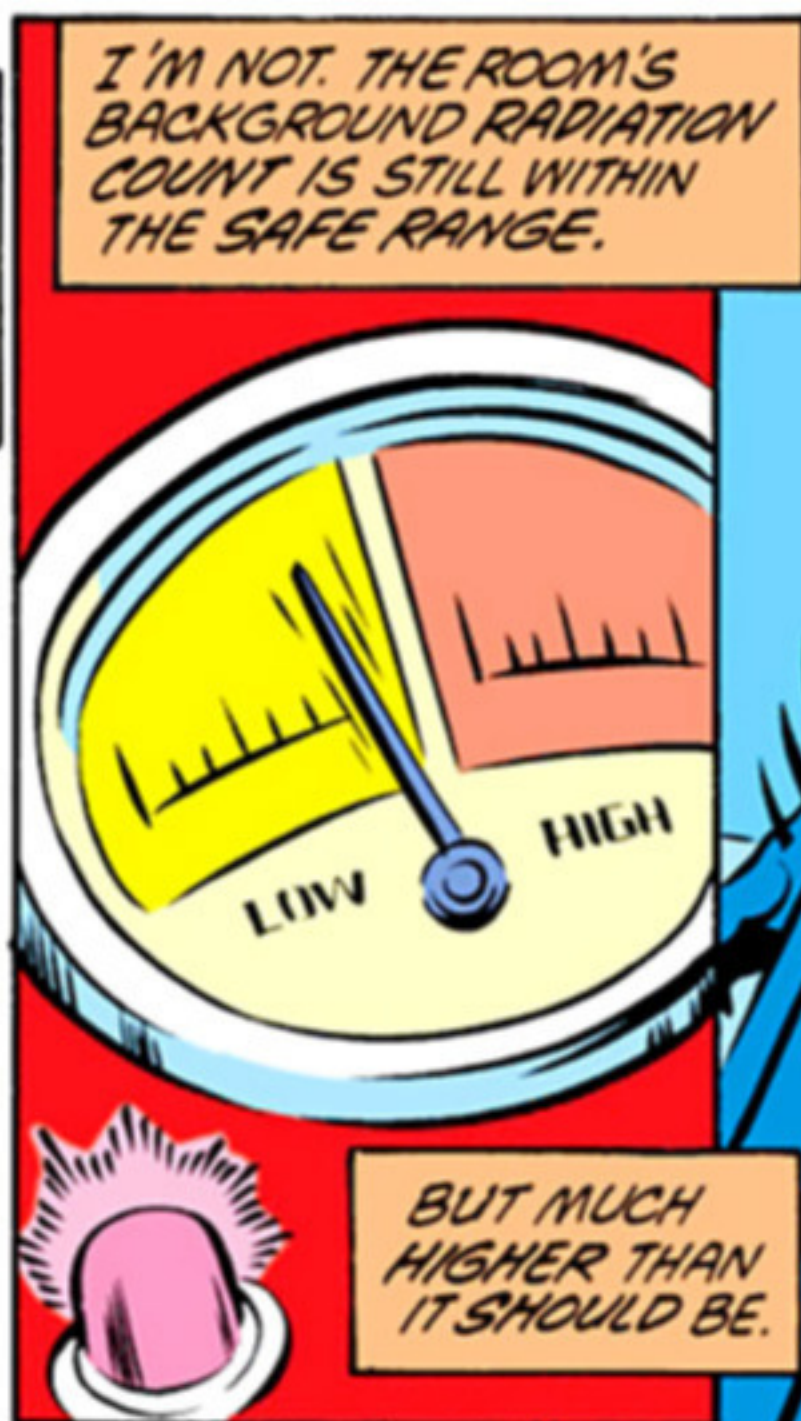






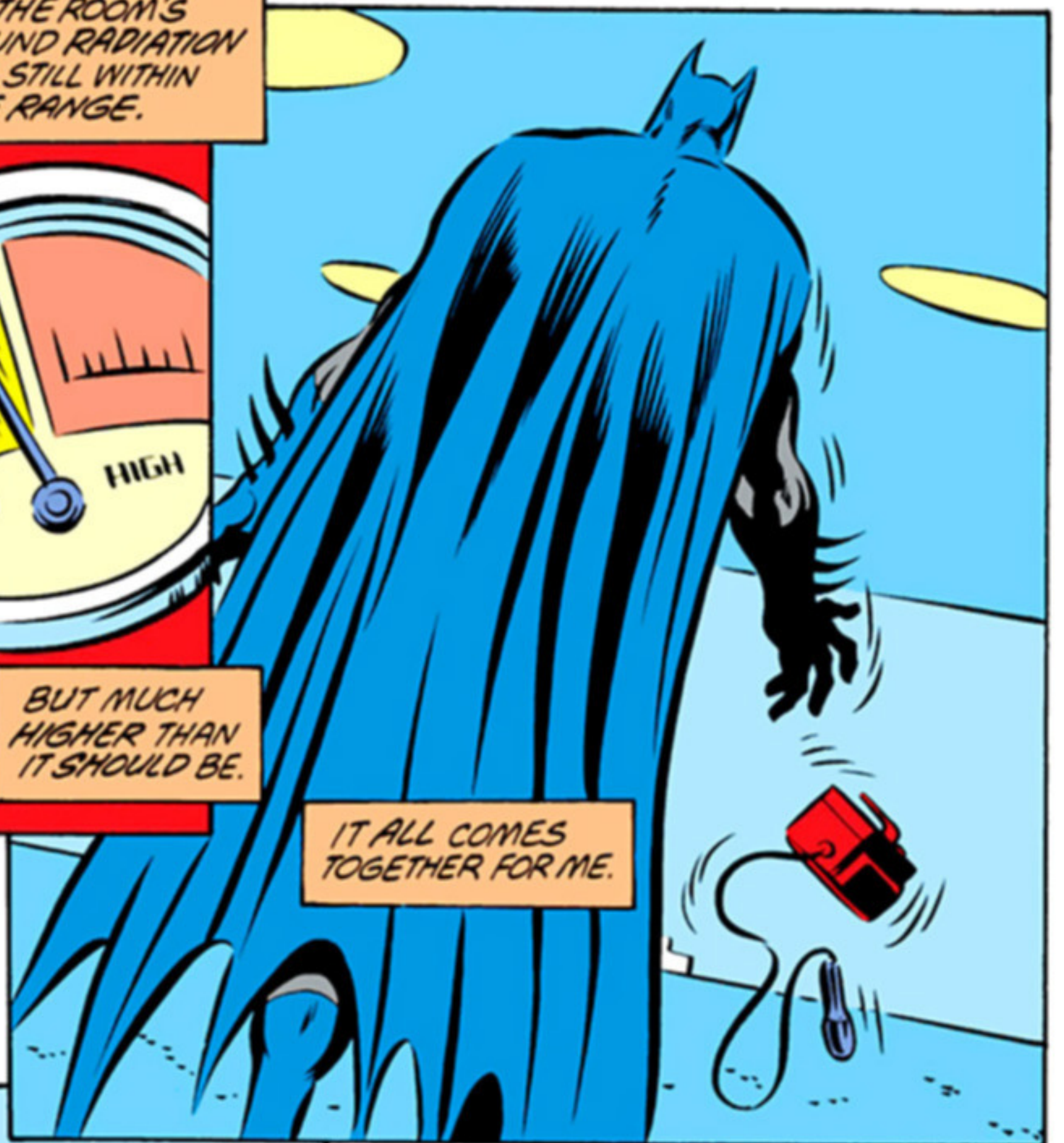
I FLIP ON THE GEIGER COUNTER, KNOWING WHAT I'LL FIND.

EVERY FIBER OF ME IS HOPING I'M WRONG.



I'M NOT. THE ROOM'S BACKGROUND RADIATION COUNT IS STILL WITHIN THE SAFE RANGE.

BUT MUCH HIGHER THAN IT SHOULD BE.

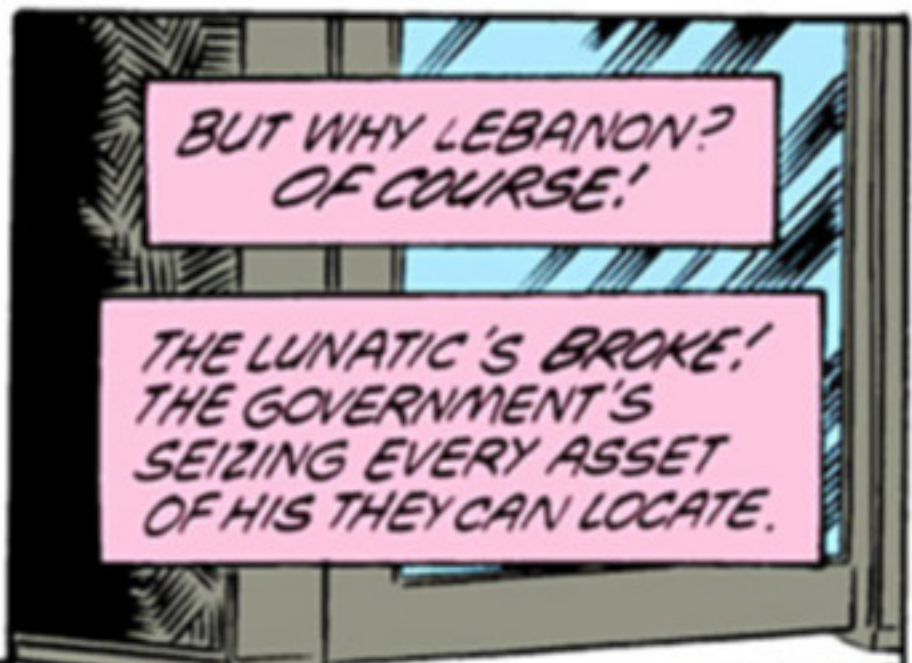


IT ALL COMES TOGETHER FOR ME.



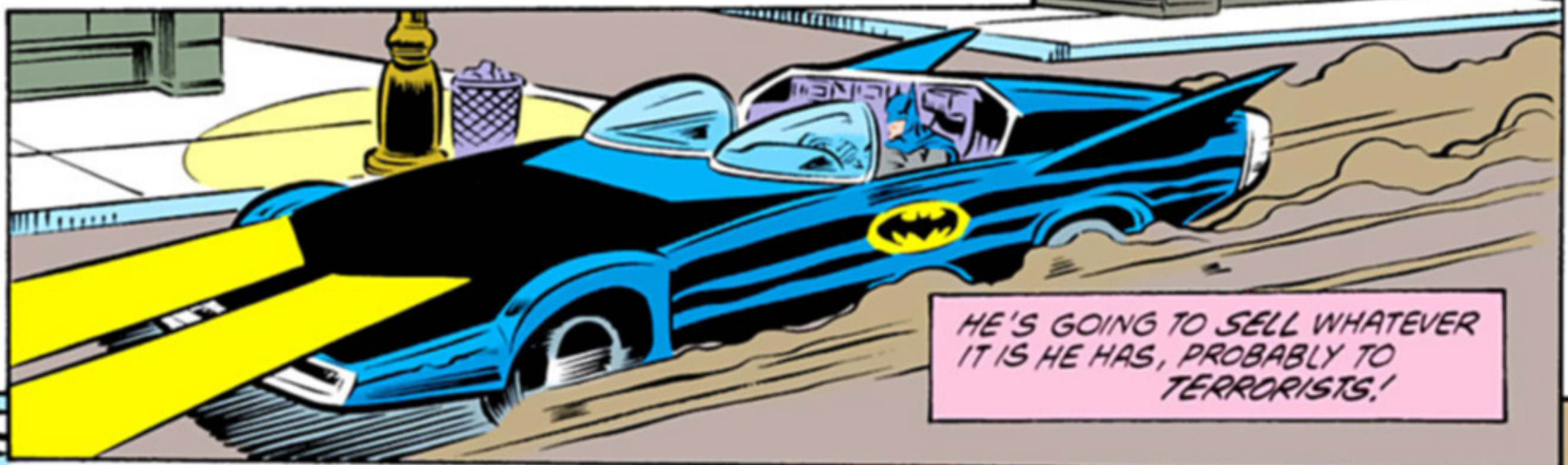
A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN THE HANDS OF THAT MADMAN!

THE MIND BOGGLES AT THE POSSIBLE USES HE'D PUT IT TO.



BUT WHY LEBANON? OF COURSE!

THE LUNATIC'S BROKE! THE GOVERNMENT'S SEIZING EVERY ASSET OF HIS THEY CAN LOCATE.



HE'S GOING TO SELL WHATEVER IT IS HE HAS, PROBABLY TO TERRORISTS!



FORTUNATELY, MY ASSOCIATION WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL GREASE THE WAY FOR ME OVER IN LEBANON.

MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BEING PART OF AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION.

MY CONTACTS OVER THERE AS BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE, WILL ALSO COME IN HANDY.



MASTER BRUCE,
I'M SO GLAD YOU'VE
RETURNED.

WHAT'S
THE TROUBLE,
ALFRED?



I JUST FOUND THIS IN
YOUNG JASON'S
ROOM A SHORT
WHILE AGO.

WHAT?



IT'S A FAREWELL
NOTE.

JASON
HAS RUN
AWAY.



CHOICES.

DO I STAY IN GOTHAM TO
LIVE UP TO MY RESPONSIBILITIES
AS THE BOY'S
GUARDIAN?

OR DO I GO AFTER
THAT MADMAN AND
HIS NUCLEAR
WEAPON?



IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS
WHICH PATH I MUST
CHOOSE.

THE QUESTION IS:
HOW WILL I EVER BE
ABLE TO LIVE WITH
THIS DECISION?

Chapter 2

THE NORTH WESTERN
MEDITERRANEAN COAST
OF LEBANON.

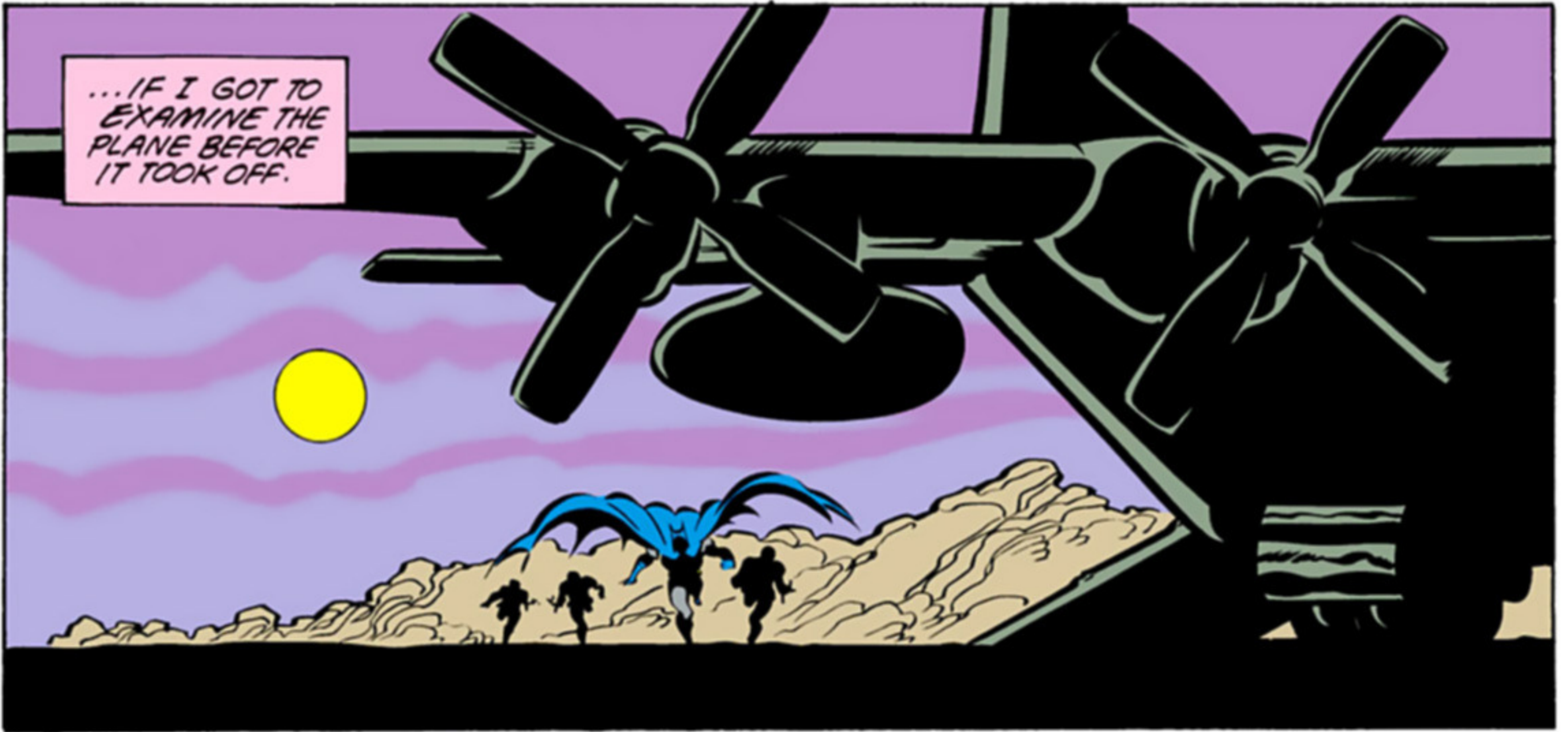
BEFORE COMING HERE, I CHECKED
IN WITH RALPH BUNDY, A FRIEND
OF MINE AT THE C. I. A.

THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT ABOUT
THE HIJACKED C-130 TRANSPORT
PLANE.

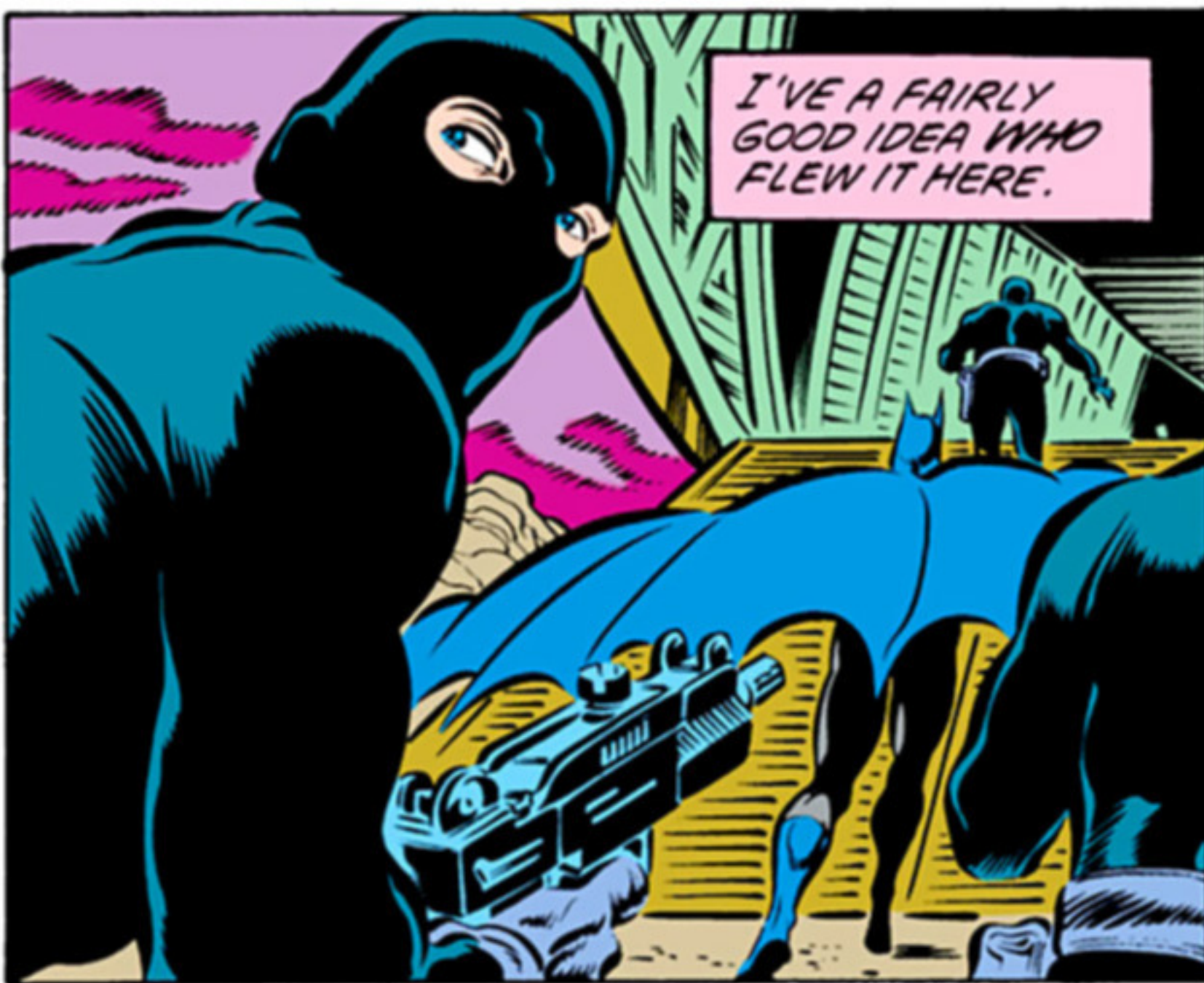
THE PLANE HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF A
SHIITE EXTREMIST GROUP, WHO REFUSES TO
GIVE IT BACK TO UNCLE SAM.

SO I MADE A DEAL
WITH BUNDY.

I'D FIX IT SO HIS
NAVAL COMMANDOS
COULD FLY IT OUT OF
HERE...



...IF I GOT TO EXAMINE THE PLANE BEFORE IT TOOK OFF.

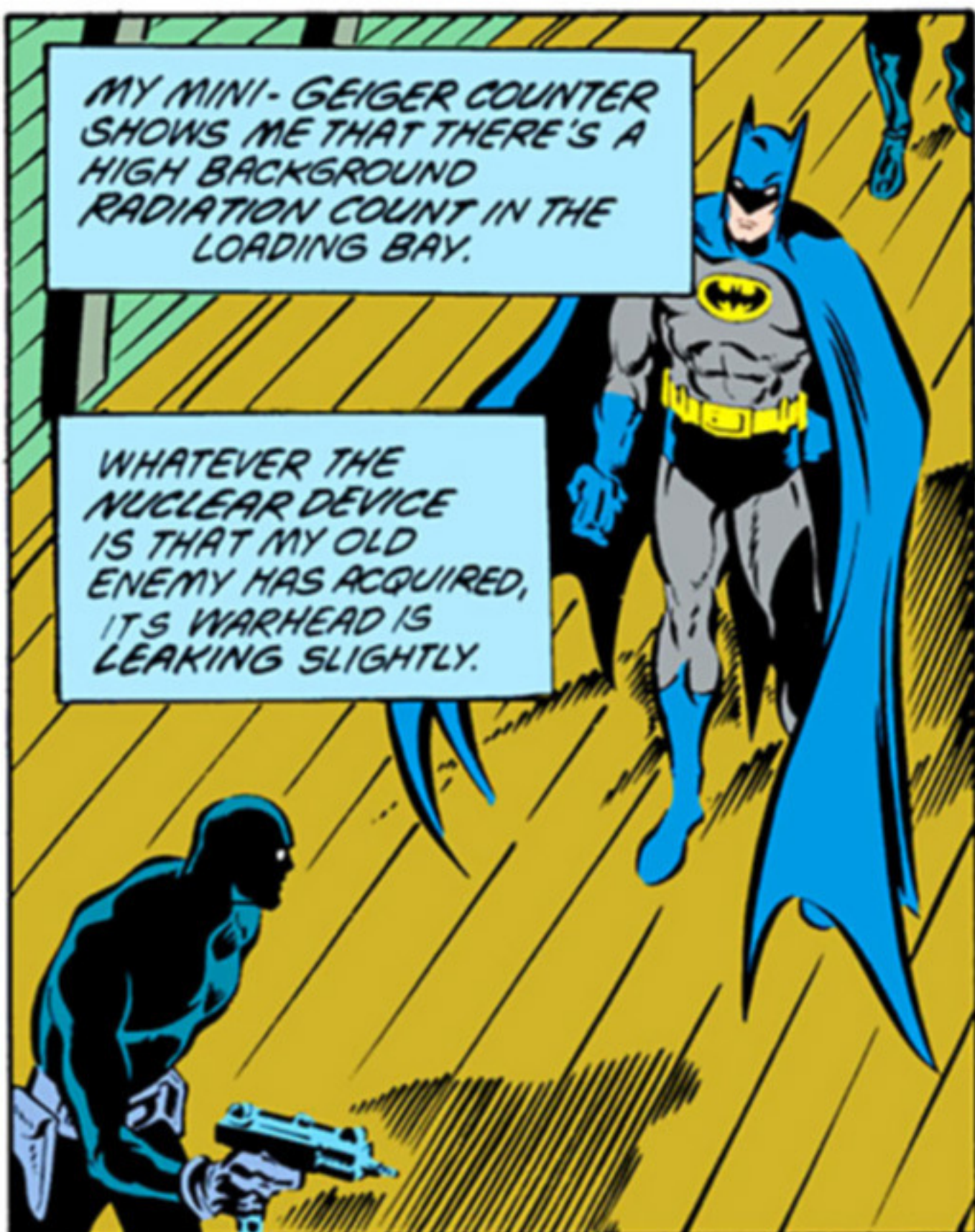


I'VE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA WHO FLEW IT HERE.



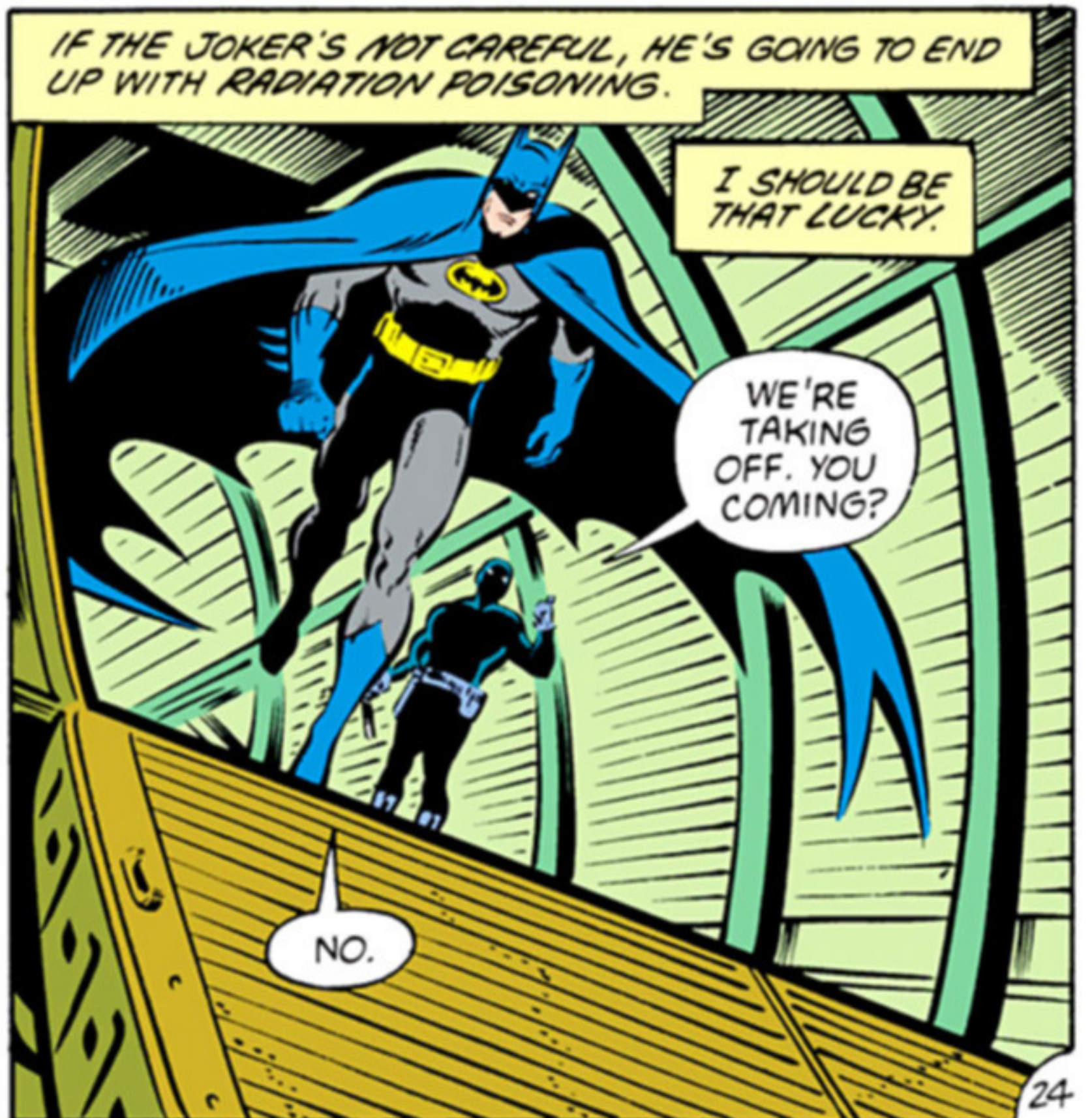
THE DEAD NAVAL PILOT, IN THE COCKPIT, CONFIRMS MY SUSPICIONS.

THIS IS THE JOKER'S HANDIWORK, ALL RIGHT.



MY MINI-GEIGER COUNTER SHOWS ME THAT THERE'S A HIGH BACKGROUND RADIATION COUNT IN THE LOADING BAY.

WHATEVER THE NUCLEAR DEVICE IS THAT MY OLD ENEMY HAS ACQUIRED, ITS WARHEAD IS LEAKING SLIGHTLY.

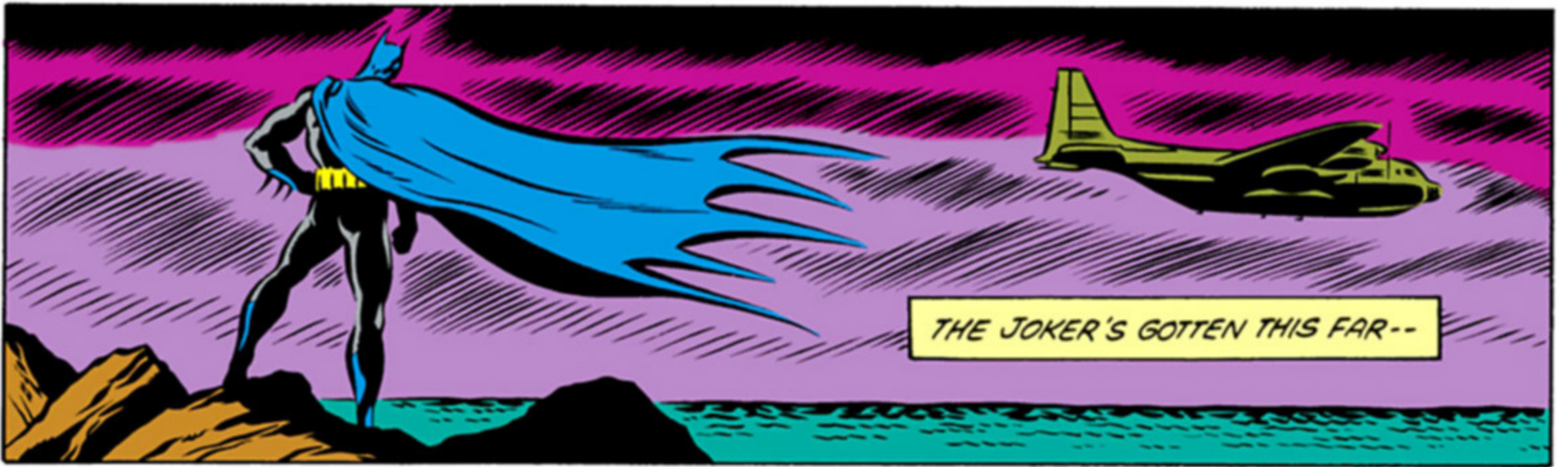


IF THE JOKER'S NOT CAREFUL, HE'S GOING TO END UP WITH RADIATION POISONING.

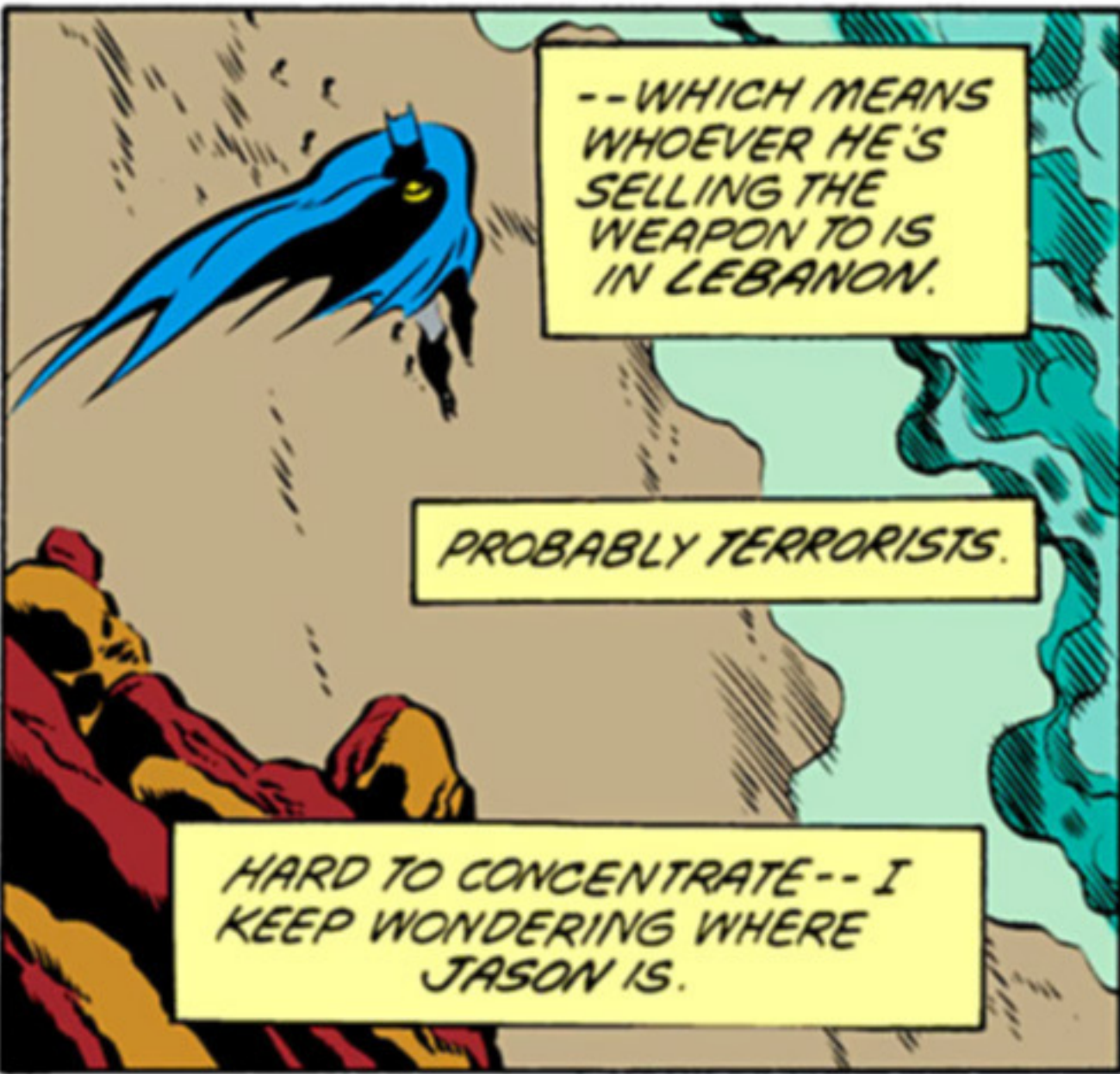
I SHOULD BE THAT LUCKY.

WE'RE TAKING OFF. YOU COMING?

NO.



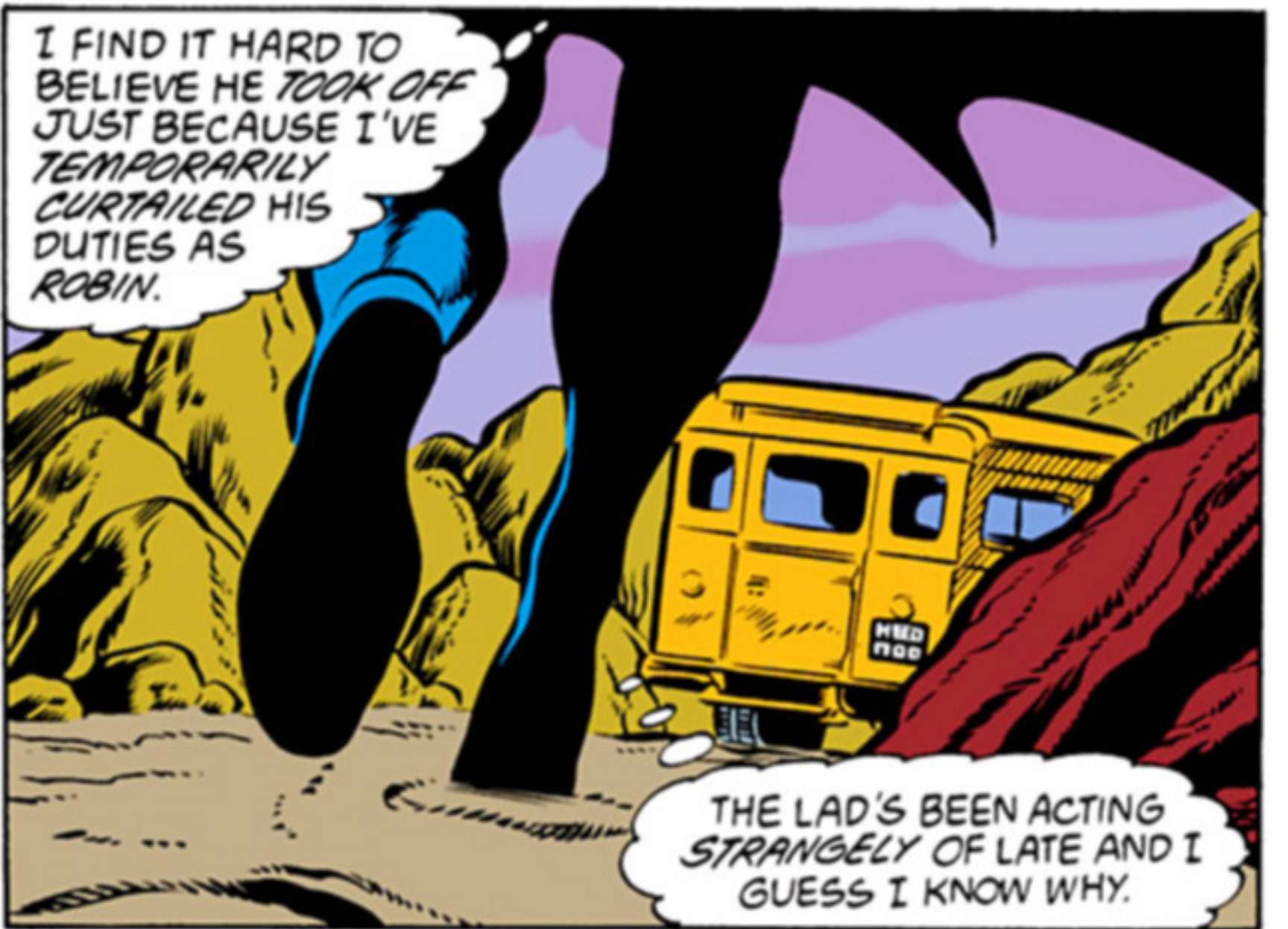
THE JOKER'S GOTTEN THIS FAR--



-- WHICH MEANS WHOEVER HE'S SELLING THE WEAPON TO IS IN LEBANON.

PROBABLY TERRORISTS.

HARD TO CONCENTRATE-- I KEEP WONDERING WHERE JASON IS.



I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE HE TOOK OFF JUST BECAUSE I'VE TEMPORARILY CURTAILED HIS DUTIES AS ROBIN.

THE LAD'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY OF LATE AND I GUESS I KNOW WHY.



SINCE HE'S NOT YET ADJUSTED TO THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS...

...HE NEEDS TIME TO WORK OUT HIS GRIEF. TIME HE WON'T FIND FIGHTING CRIME BY MY SIDE.



WISH I COULD TRACK DOWN THE BOY AND BRING HIM HOME MYSELF.

BUT THIS JOKER BUSINESS TAKES PRIORITY. LIVES ARE AT STAKE.



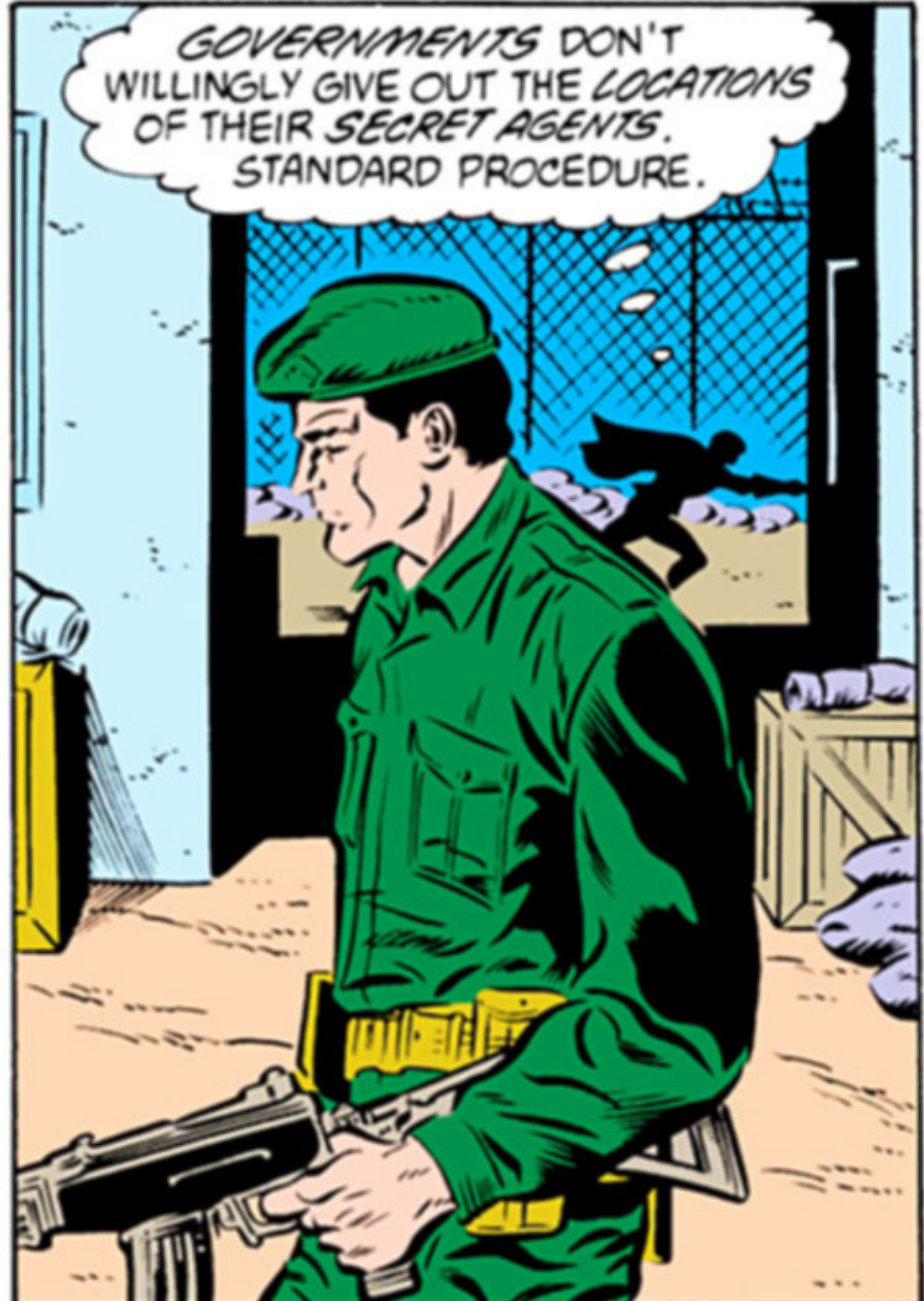
BUT FORTUNATELY ALFRED'S BACK HOME, ON THE JOB.

IN FACT, IT'S TIME I CONTACT HIM VIA SCRAMBLED SATELLITE RELAY.



HOMEBASE, THIS IS EL ZOO. ANY WORD ON THE LOST BIRD YET?

YES.





THE LADY MAY BE MY REAL MOTHER.

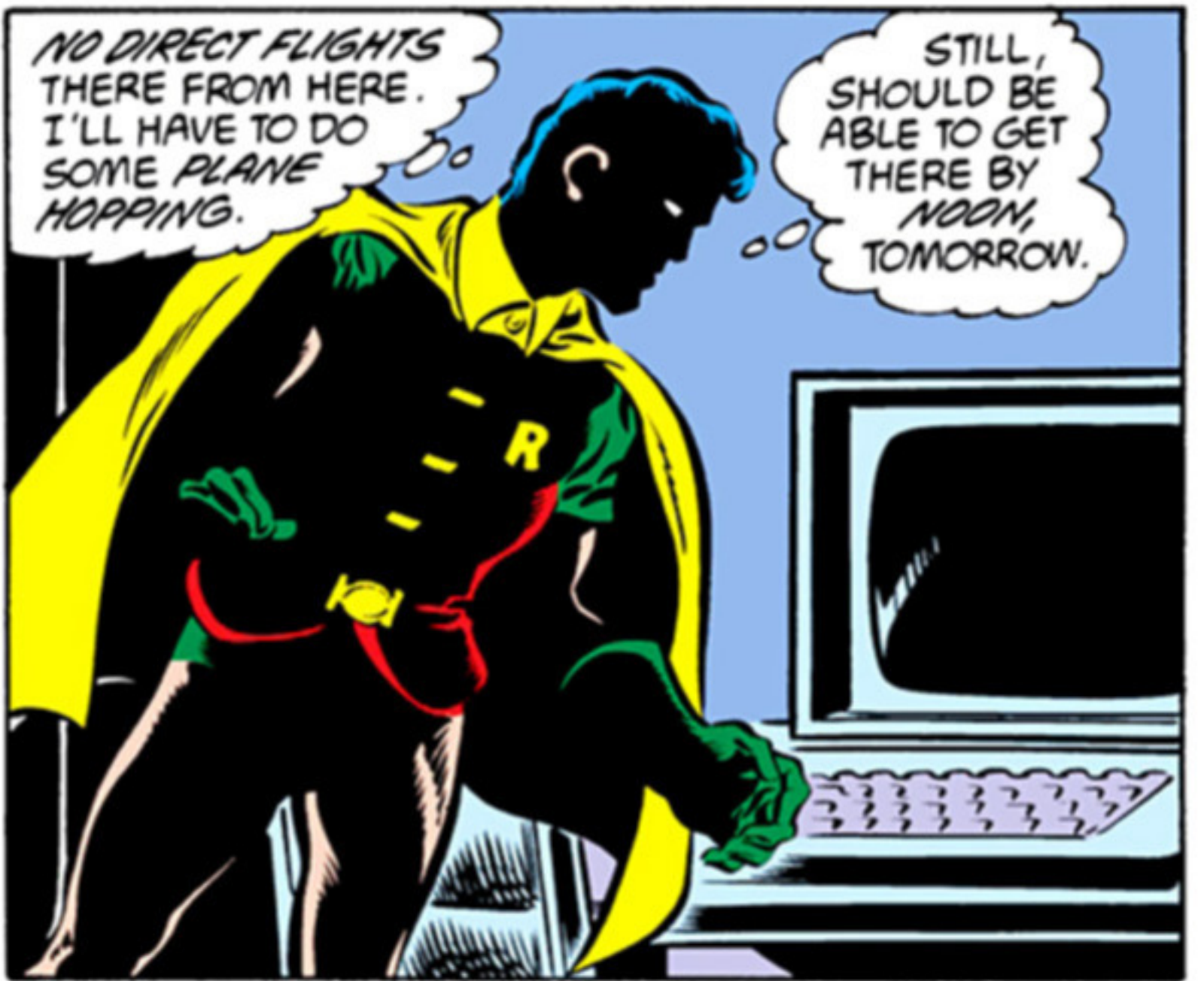
FORTUNATELY, EVERYTHING'S KEPT ON COMPUTERS THESE DAYS...

... EVEN WHERE TO FIND SECRET AGENTS, IN CASE YOU NEED THEM.



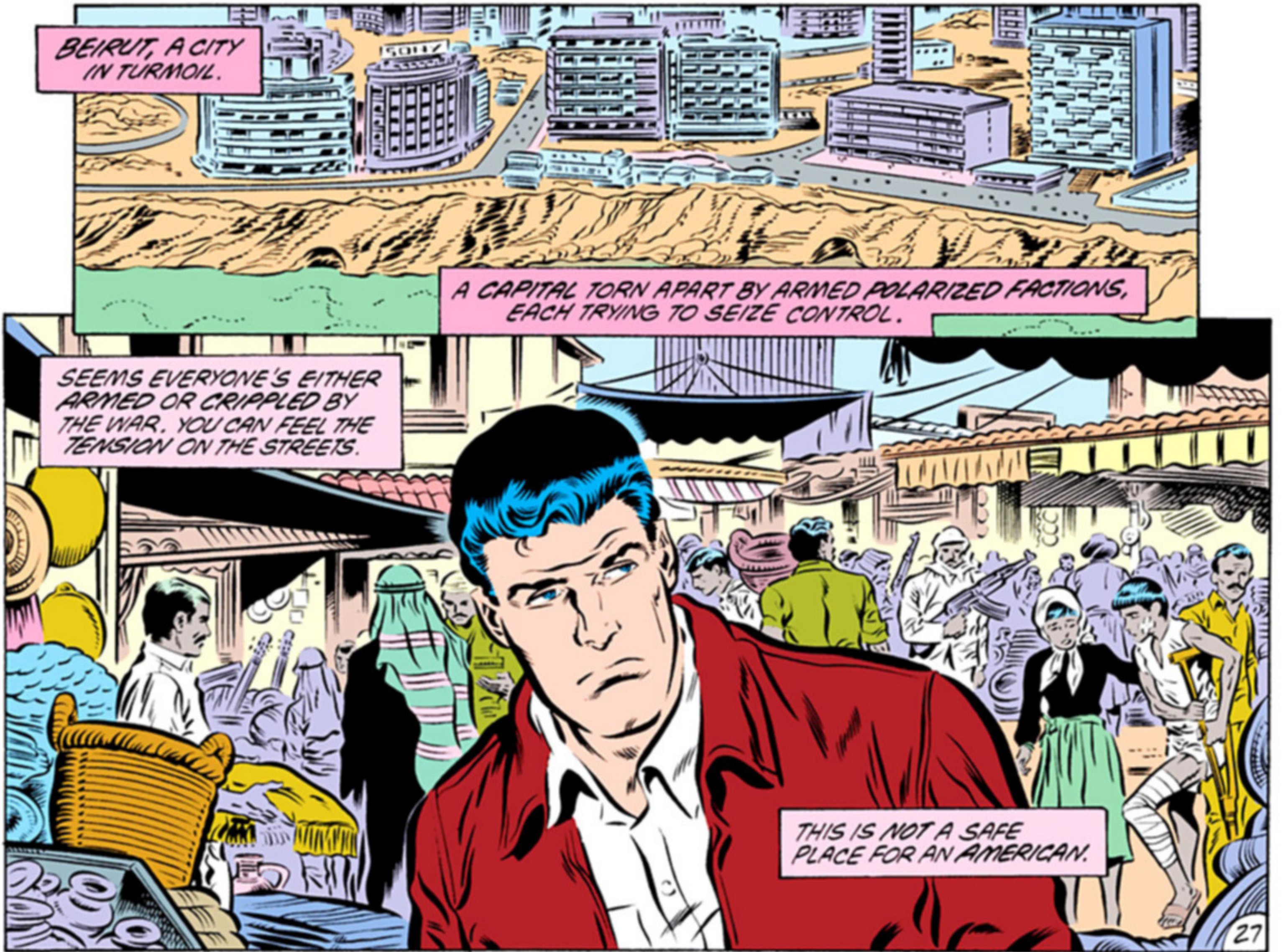
WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT! SHE'S OUT OF THE COUNTRY, UNDER-COVER IN BEIRUT.

AT LEAST THEY'VE GOT THE HOTEL SHE'S STAYING AT LISTED.



NO DIRECT FLIGHTS THERE FROM HERE. I'LL HAVE TO DO SOME PLANE HOPPING.

STILL, SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THERE BY NOON, TOMORROW.



BEIRUT, A CITY IN TURMOIL.

A CAPITAL TORN APART BY ARMED POLARIZED FACTIONS, EACH TRYING TO SEIZE CONTROL.

SEEMS EVERYONE'S EITHER ARMED OR CRIPPLED BY THE WAR. YOU CAN FEEL THE TENSION ON THE STREETS.

THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE FOR AN AMERICAN.



THAT'S WHY I'M TRAVELING UNDER A PHONY NORTHERN IRISH PASSPORT.

CHANCES ARE THE JOKER CAME TO BEIRUT TO CONTACT HIS CUSTOMERS.



IT'D BE TOO DANGEROUS, EVEN FOR HIM, TO TAKE HIS PRIZE DIRECTLY INTO THE BEK AA' VALLEY WHERE THE RADICAL ELEMENTS ARE ENTRENCHED.

<TAXI!>*

* Translated from Farsi.



TROUBLE IS, BEIRUT'S A BIG CITY.

<WHERE TO, EFFENDI?>

I'M HOPING THIS CABBY CAN HELP ME.



<TAKE ME TO THE WORST SECTION OF THIS CITY, A PLACE WHERE CRIMINALS GATHER.>

HUH?!



THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

WEAPON SMUGGLING HAS GOT TO BE THIS AREA'S LEADING COMMERCE.

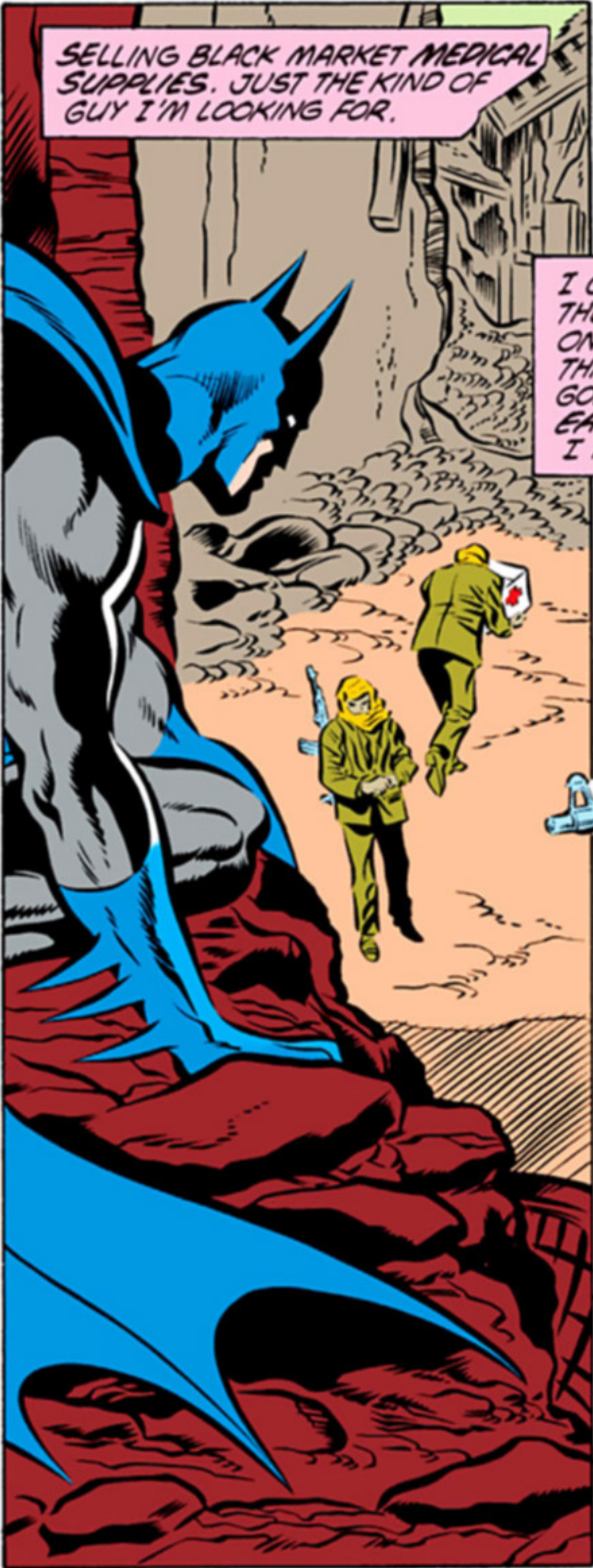


SELLING INFORMATION PROBABLY RUNS A CLOSE SECOND.

BUT I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO DICKER AND BARGAIN.



A CHANGE OF CLOTHES WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO TAKE THE DIRECT APPROACH.



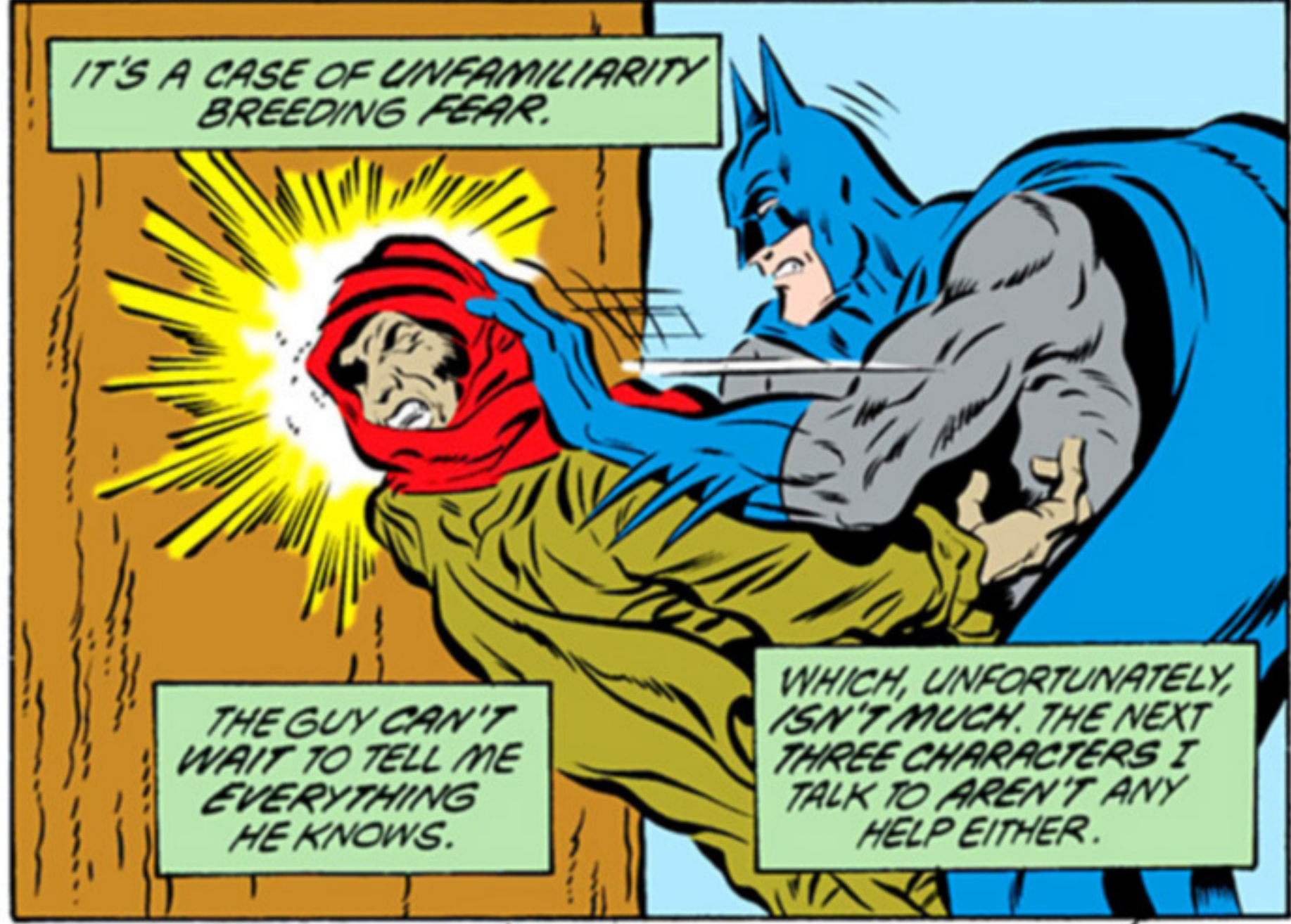
SELLING BLACK MARKET MEDICAL SUPPLIES. JUST THE KIND OF GUY I'M LOOKING FOR.



I CAN TELL BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.



UNLIKE GOTHAM'S HOODS, THESE GUNSELS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE BATMAN.



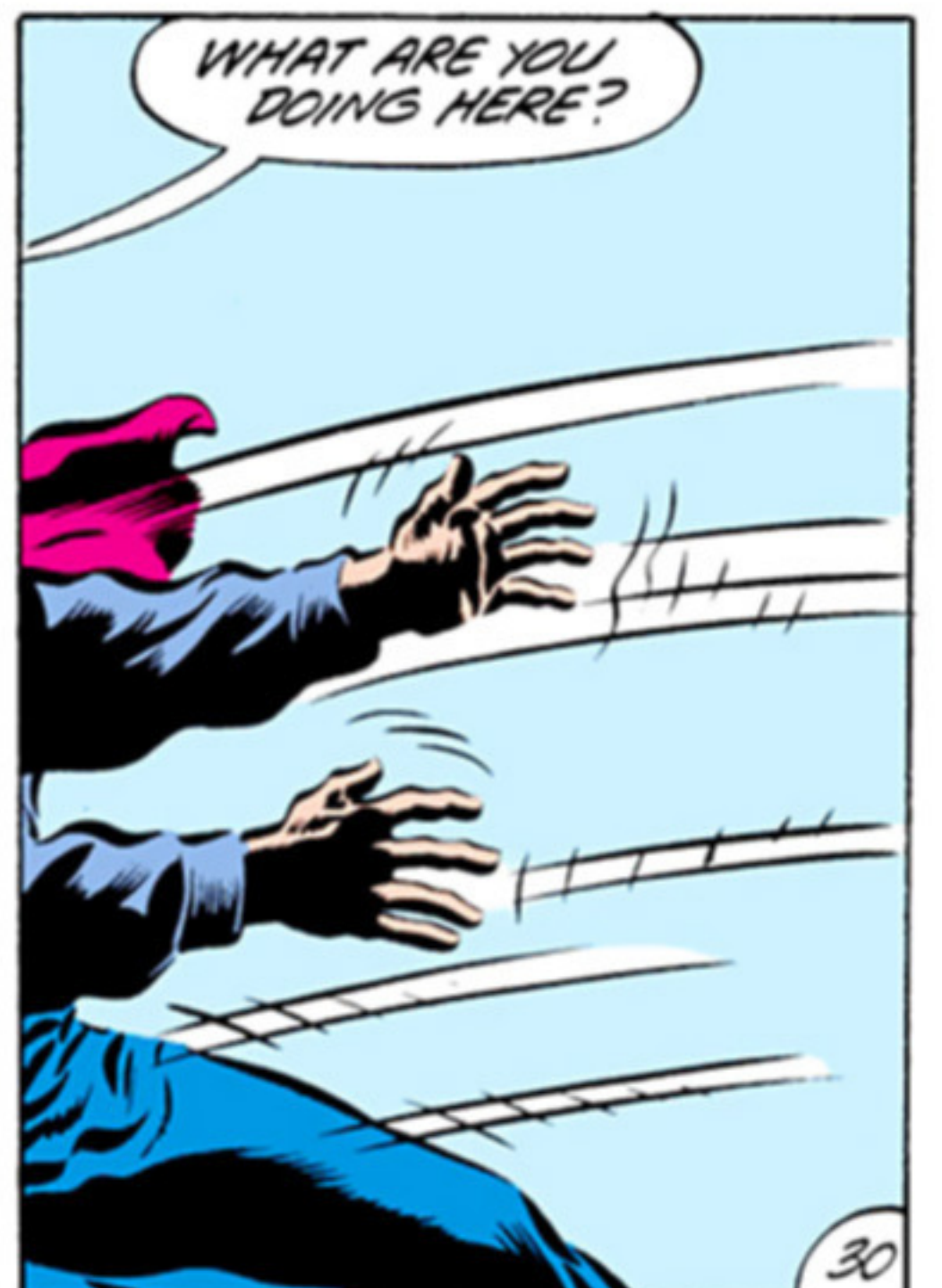
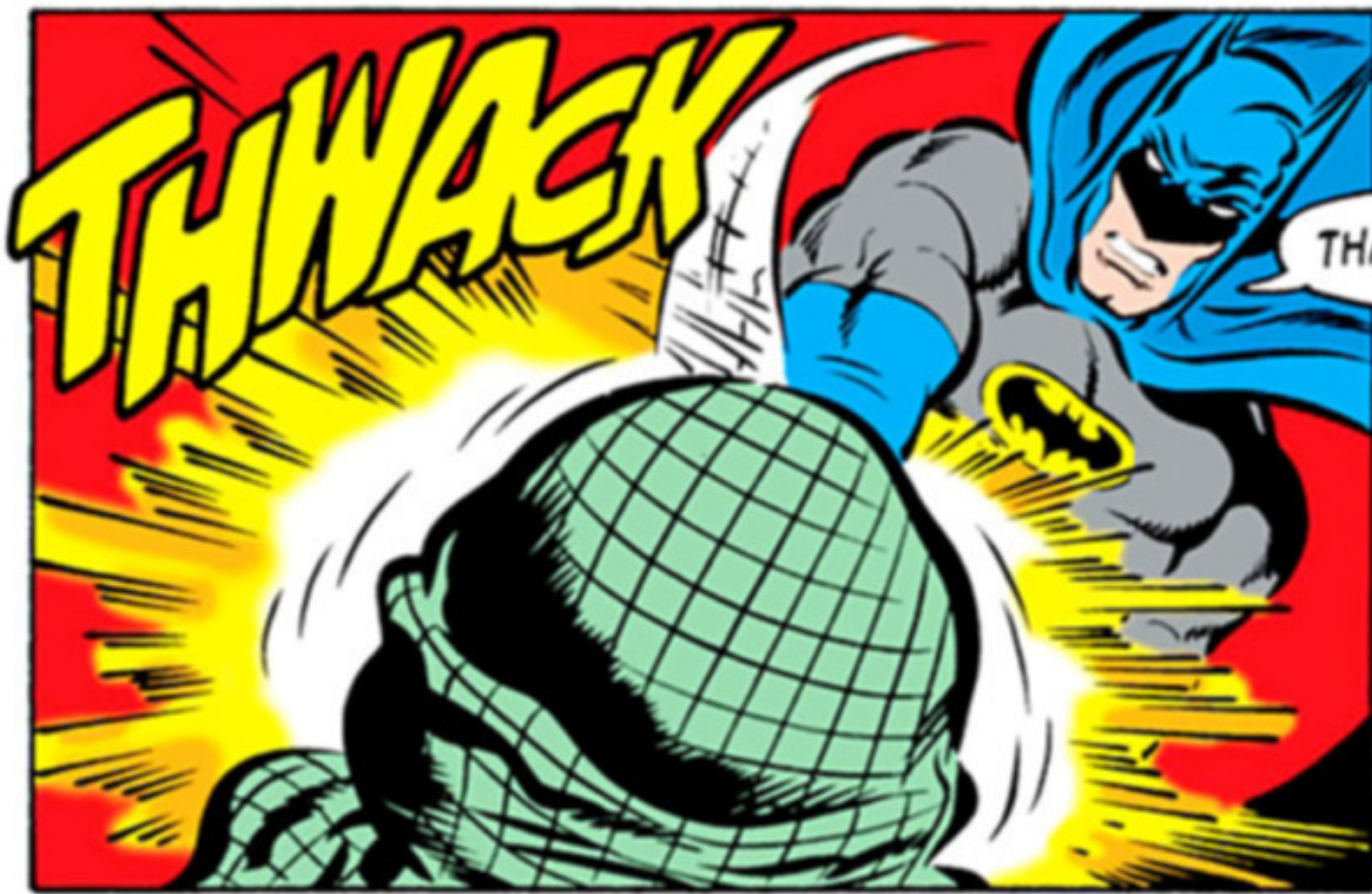
IT'S A CASE OF UNFAMILIARITY BREEDING FEAR.

THE GUY CAN'T WAIT TO TELL ME EVERYTHING HE KNOWS.

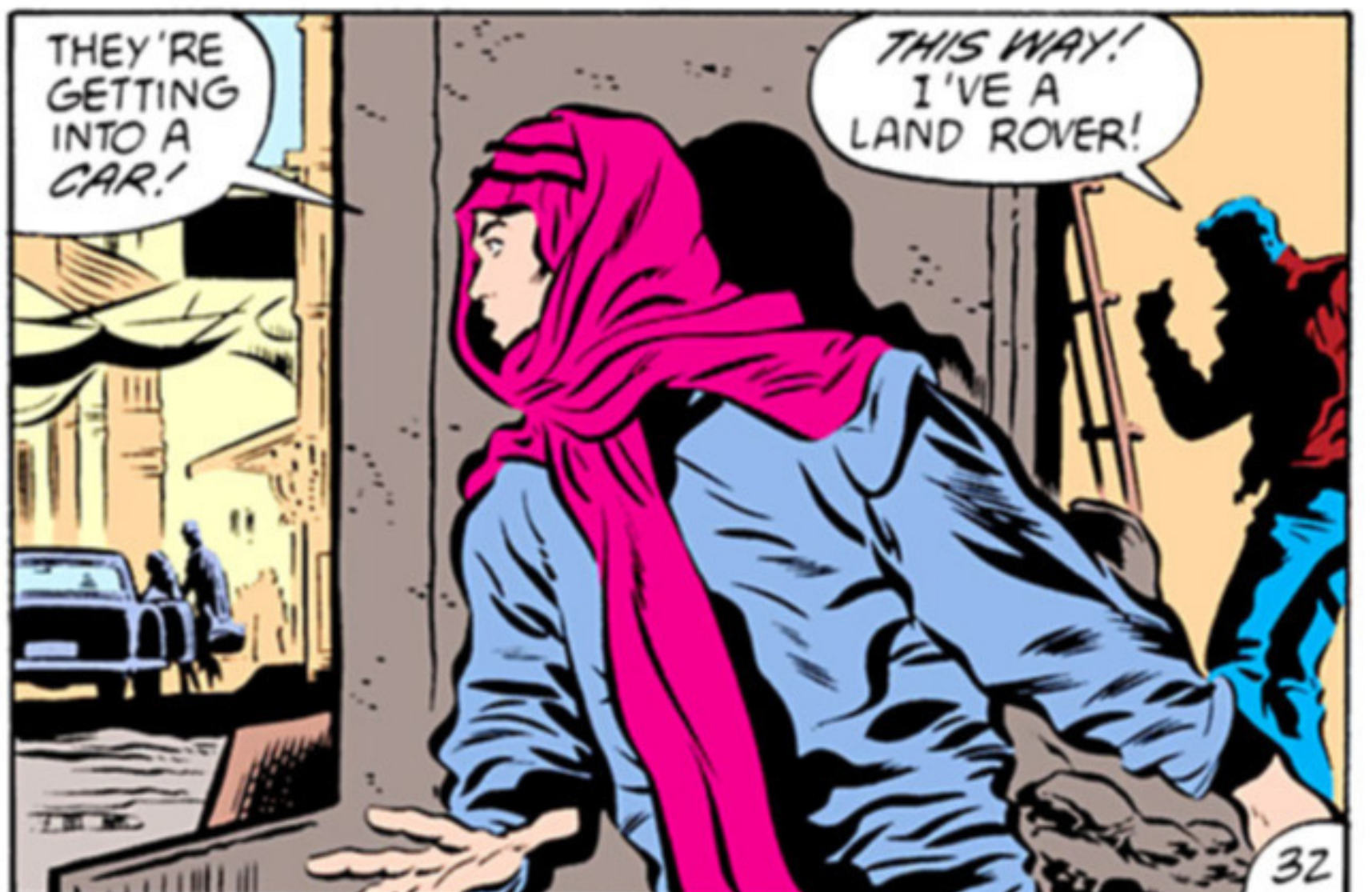
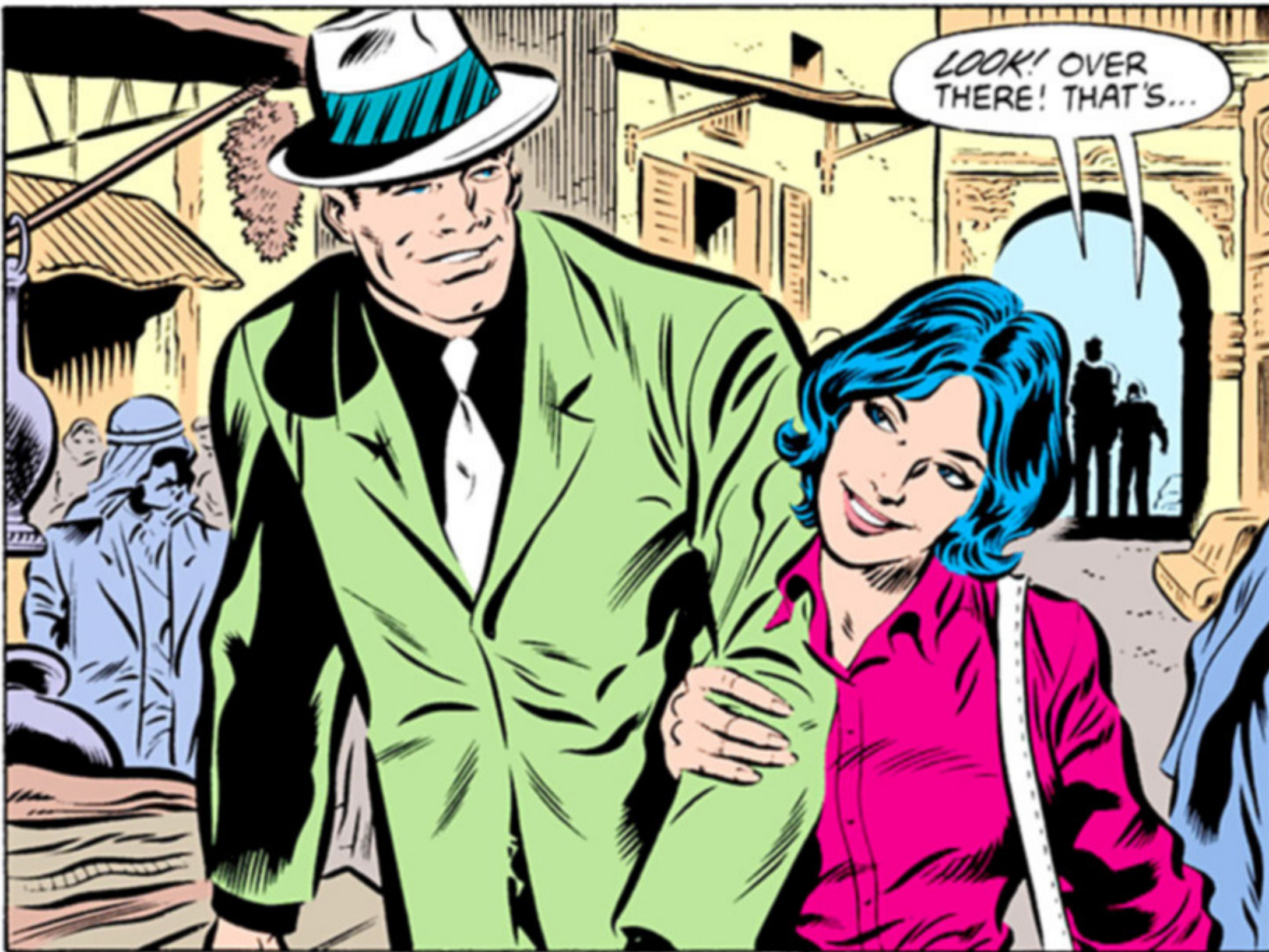
WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, ISN'T MUCH. THE NEXT THREE CHARACTERS I TALK TO AREN'T ANY HELP EITHER.



I FINALLY HIT PAY DIRT WITH NUMBER FIVE.







"BRUCE, THEY'LL SPOT US FOLLOWING THEM ON A DESERTED ROAD LIKE THIS!"

"NO PROBLEM."

I'VE SOMETHING HERE THAT WILL TURN US INVISIBLE.

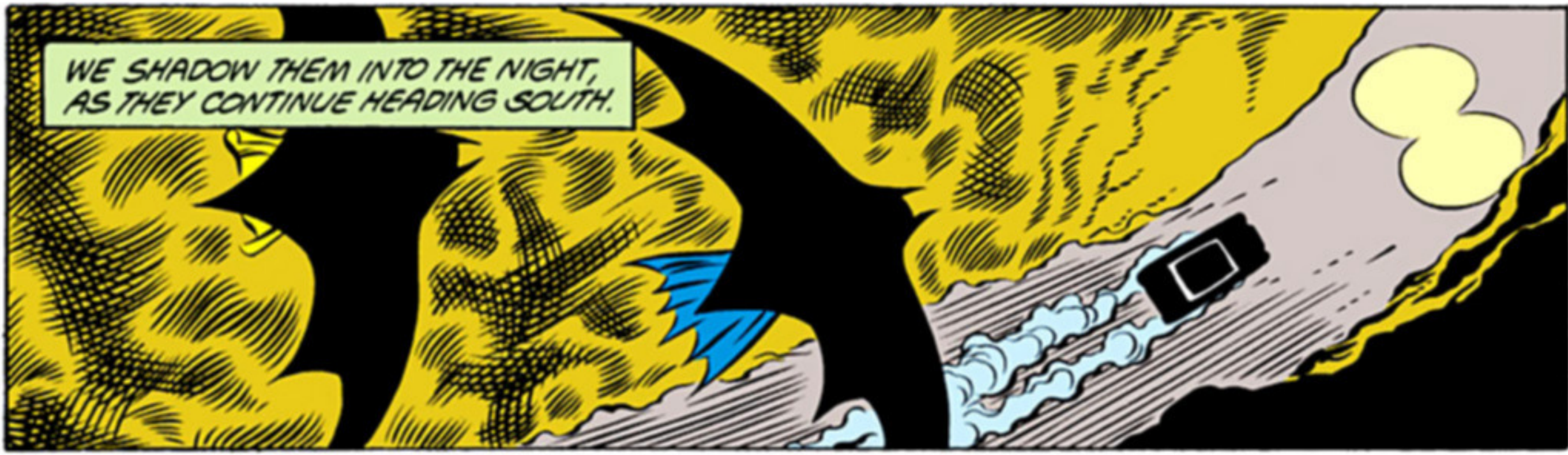
GET INTO YOUR ROBIN OUTFIT.

IF WE STAY FAR ENOUGH BACK, EVEN IF THEY DO SEE OUR JET-POWERED HANG GLIDERS, THEY'LL MISTAKE US FOR BIRDS.

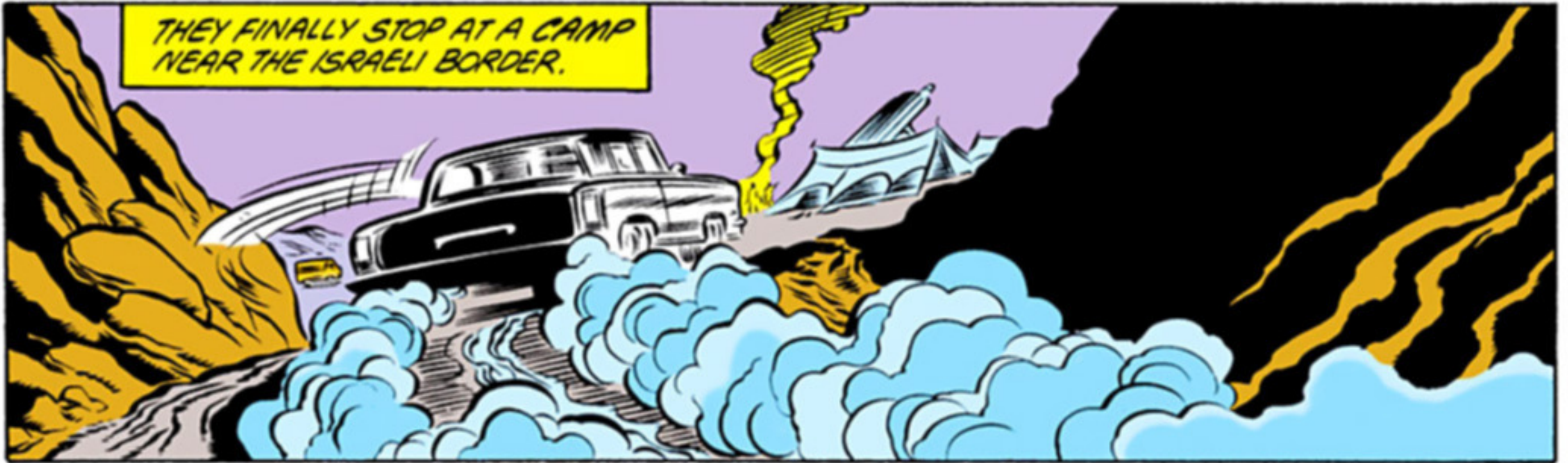
IT'S FUNNY THAT I DECIDED TO BRING A SPARE GLIDER ALONG.

MAYBE I'M GETTING PRECOGNITIVE IN MY OLD AGE.

EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT FEELS GOOD HAVING JASON BY MY SIDE AGAIN.



WE SHADOW THEM INTO THE NIGHT, AS THEY CONTINUE HEADING SOUTH.



THEY FINALLY STOP AT A CAMP NEAR THE ISRAELI BORDER.



WE'LL SNEAK UP TO THE CAMP BY FOOT FROM HERE.



MANAGEABLE. WHO'S THE BROAD?

HOW'S IT GOIN' HERE, RUPERT?

NAME'S SHARMIN. SHE'S FROM JERSEY. SHE'S OKAY.



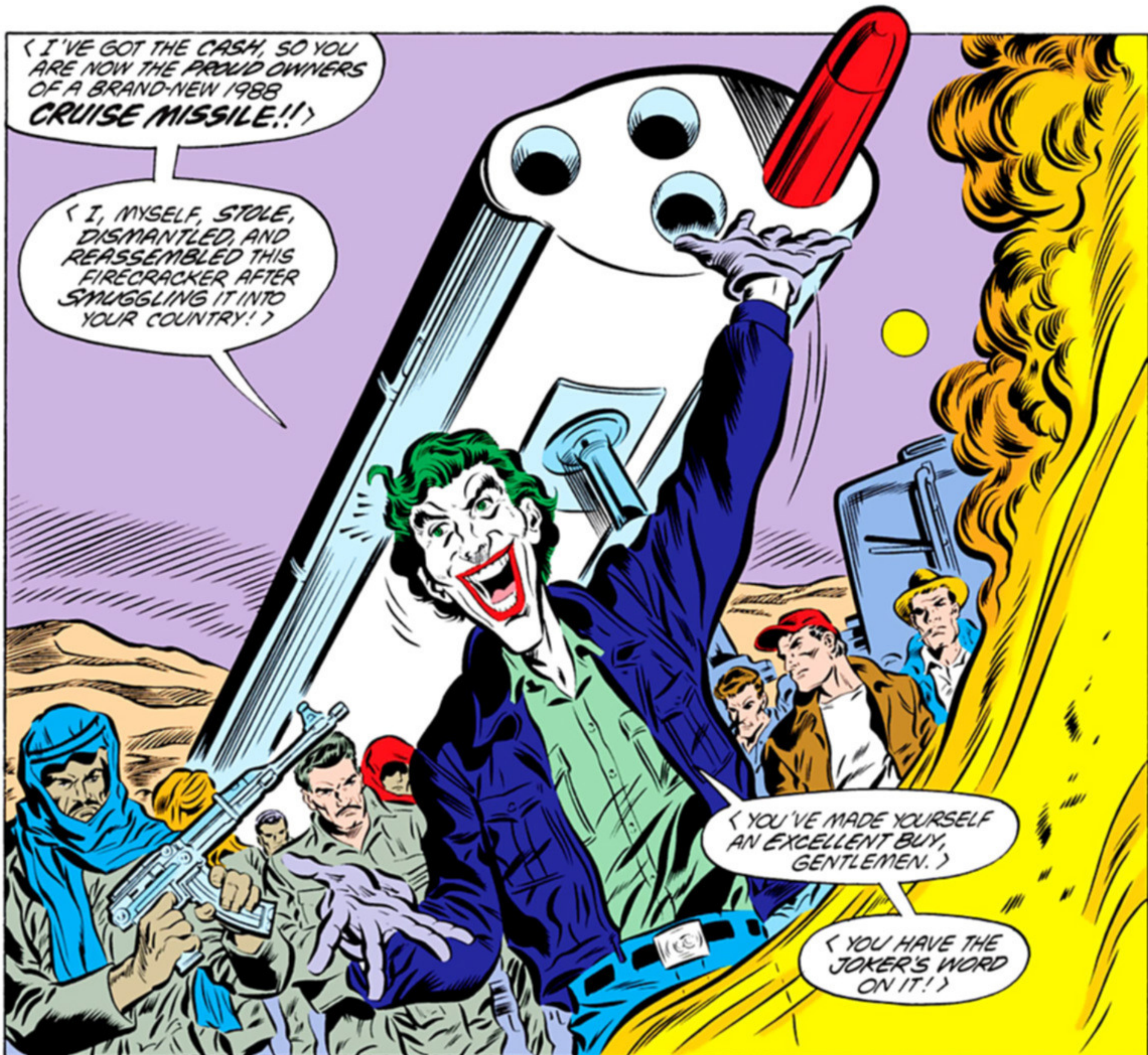
GUESS IF YOU VOUCH FOR HER, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

YOU GET THE MONEY FROM THESE BANDITS-IN-BEDSHEETS' PALS?



RIGHT IN THIS CASE. ONE MILLION DOLLARS!

THEN AS MONTY SAYS, "IT'S TIME FOR US TO MAKE A DEAL."



< I'VE GOT THE CASH, SO YOU ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNERS OF A BRAND-NEW 1988 CRUISE MISSILE!! >

< I, MYSELF, STOLE, DISMANTLED, AND REASSEMBLED THIS FIRECRACKER AFTER SMUGGLING IT INTO YOUR COUNTRY! >

< YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF AN EXCELLENT BUY, GENTLEMEN. >

< YOU HAVE THE JOKER'S WORD ON IT! >



< I'M MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING THE FIRING CODE AND COORDINATES FOR THE TARGET WE DISCUSSED. >

< OF COURSE, JAMAL! >



< HERE YOU GO, PAL! >

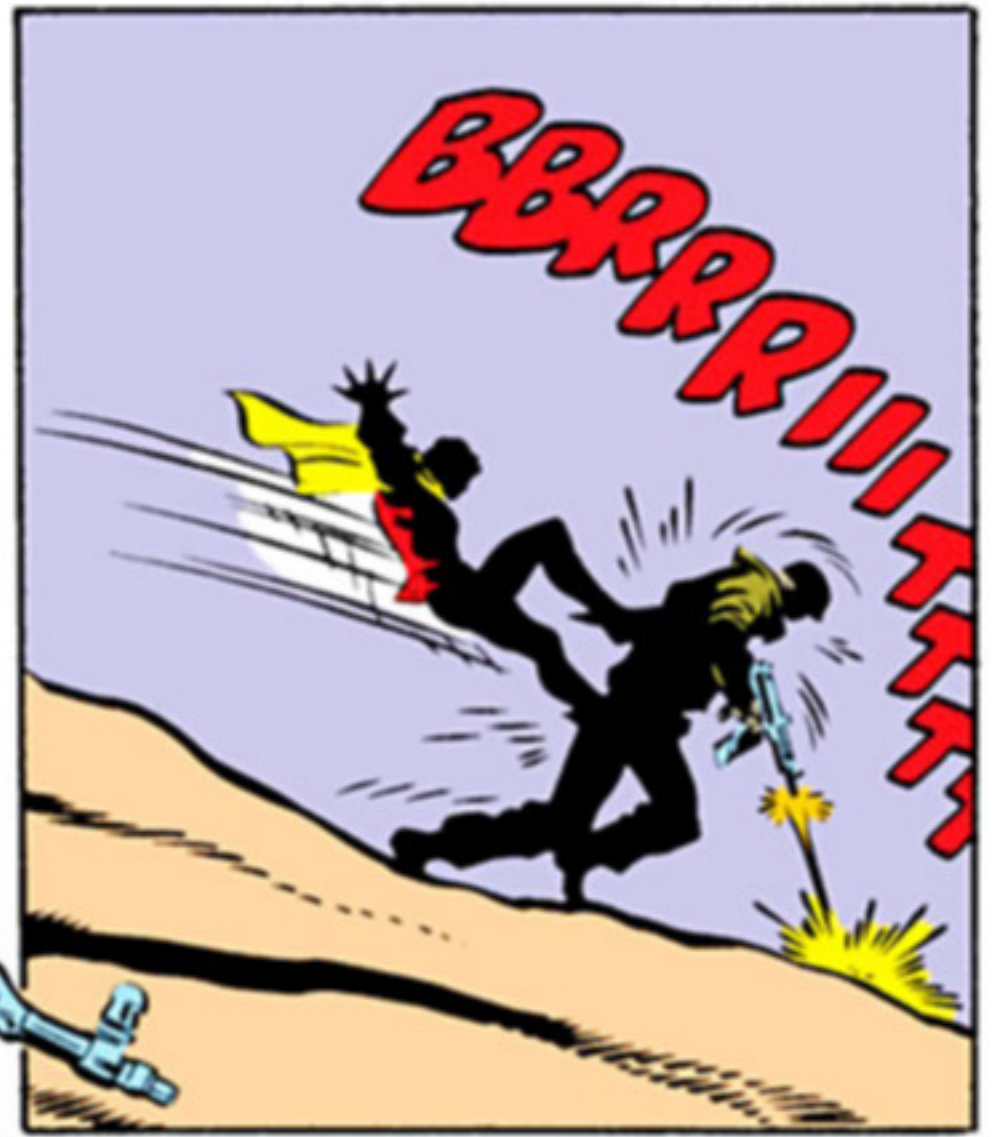
< PRETTY ANXIOUS TO SHOOT YOUR NEW TOY AT TEL AVIV, AREN'T YOU? >



< WELL, ENJOY YOURSELVES. MY BOYS AND I WILL BE RUNNING ALONG NOW. >

TA-TA!

< I DON'T THINK SO. >





< NO ONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT BARRAGE! >

< EVERYBODY RELOAD! >

< YOU'RE GOING TO CHECK ON WHO WAS OUT THERE! >

< I WILL REMAIN BEHIND TO GUARD THE MISSILE! >

SPREAD OUT AND STAY ALERT!

RUPERT, YOU STAY ALSO AND KEEP THE MONEY SAFE.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

THERE'S A LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THIS.

ARAB TERRORISTS AND AMERICAN SCUM JOINING FORCES TO KILL US.

BUT ROBIN AND I ARE A LITTLE TOO BUSY AT THE MOMENT TO APPRECIATE THE SITUATION'S GEO-POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE.



WE TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW.



WE WHITTLE THEIR NUMBERS DOWN...



... ONE AT A TIME.



THE DARKNESS IS OUR ALLY.



THESE MEN DEPEND TOO MUCH ON GUNS.



THE FEEL OF COLD STEEL IN THEIR HANDS MAKES THEM OVERCONFIDENT...



... MAKES THEM CARELESS.

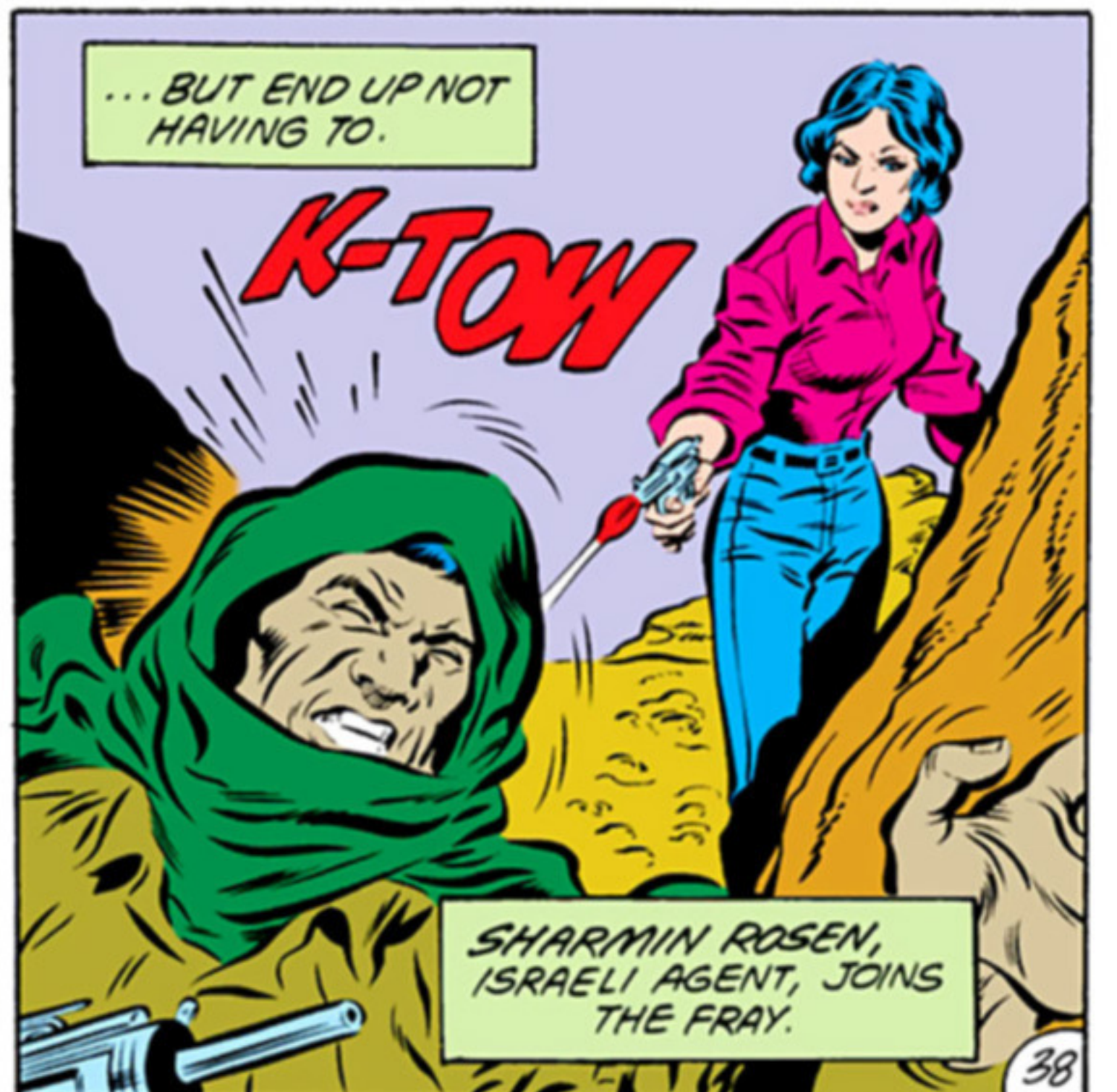


EASY PICKINGS.



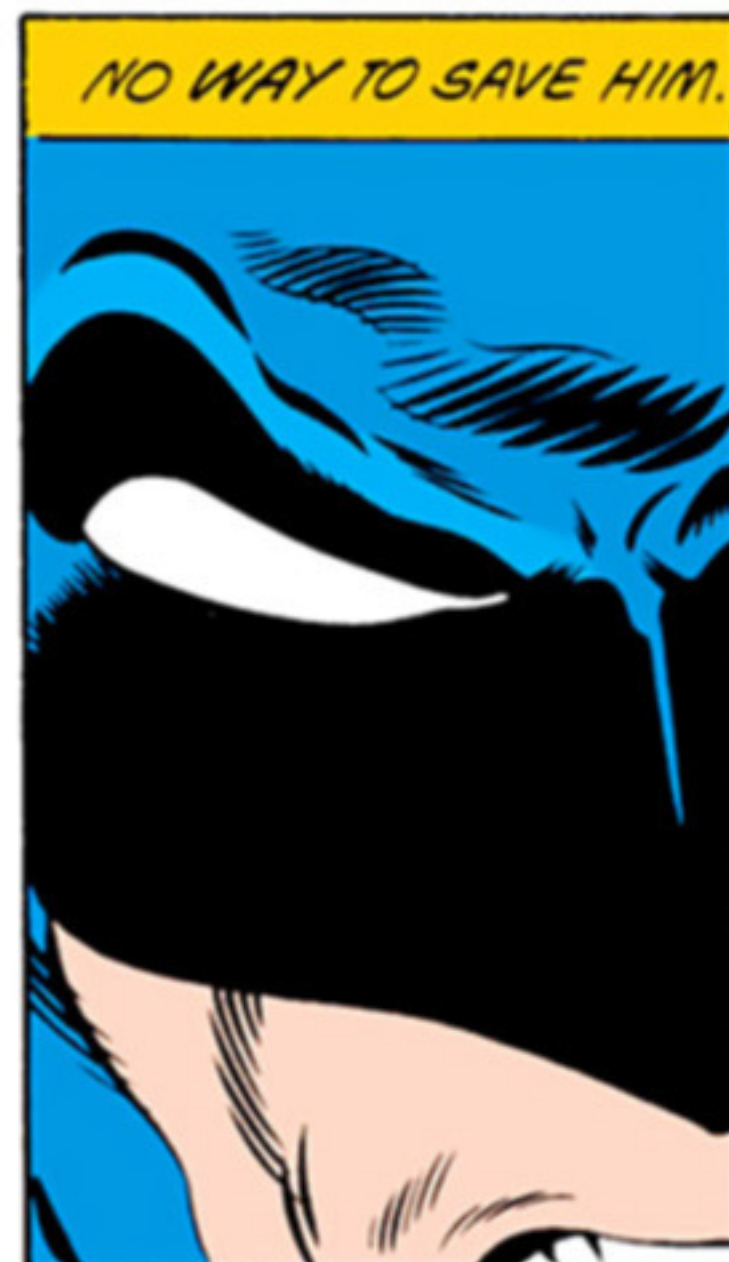
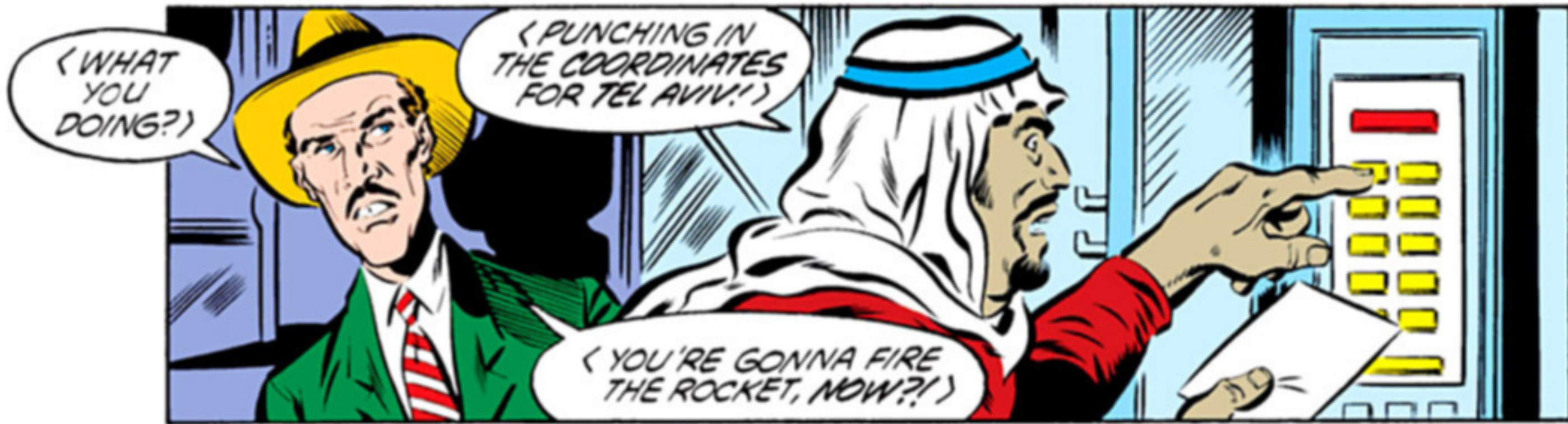
I HEAR THE SNIPER RISE FROM BEHIND THE ROCKS.

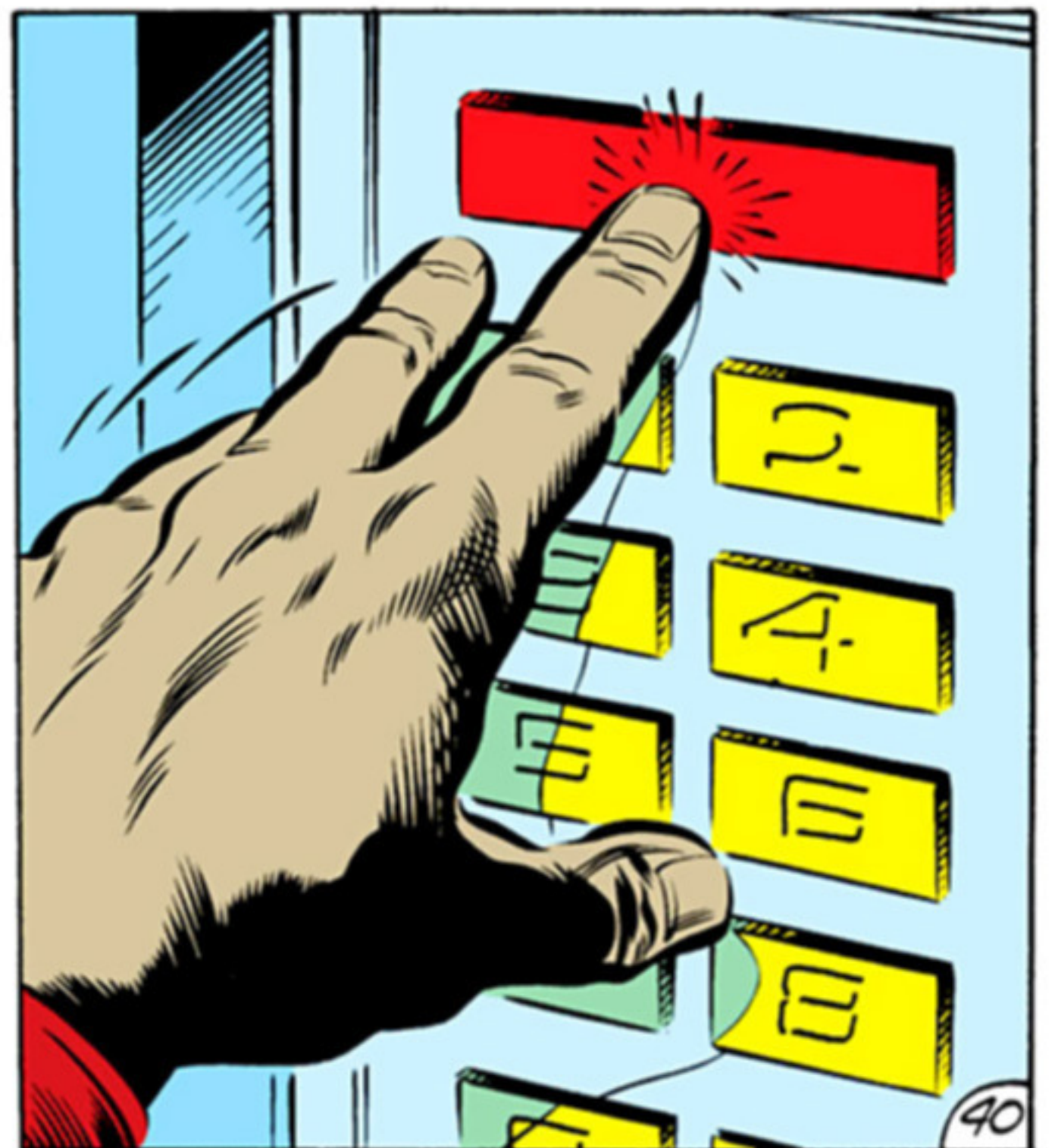
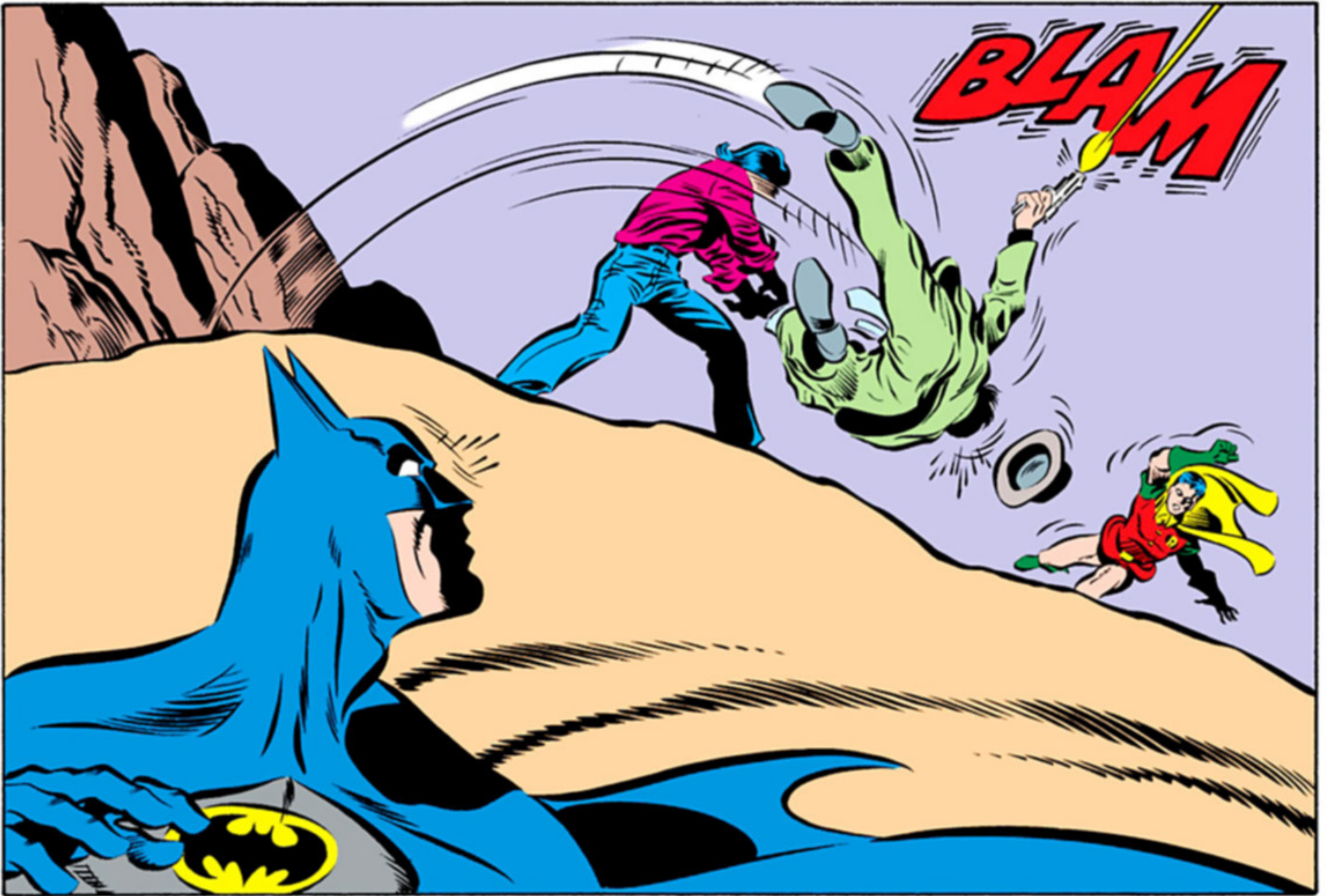
I'M READY TO ROLL OUT OF HIS LINE OF FIRE...



... BUT END UP NOT HAVING TO.

SHARMIN ROSEN, ISRAELI AGENT, JOINS THE FRAY.





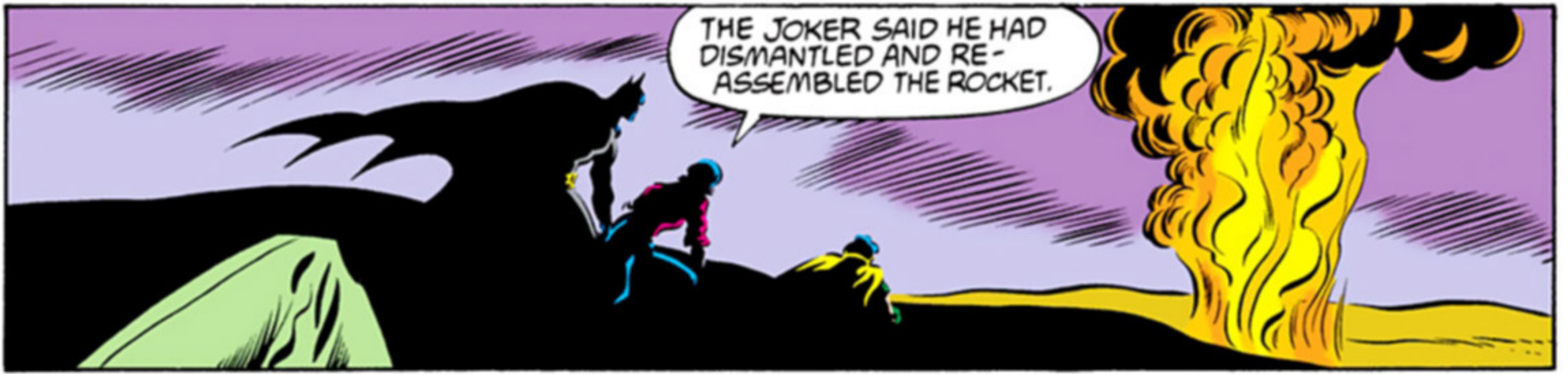


MY GOD!!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

THE MISSILE... IT BLEW UP ON ITS LAUNCHER!!

HOW?!



THE JOKER SAID HE HAD DISMANTLED AND RE-ASSEMBLED THE ROCKET.



OBVIOUSLY, AS A NUCLEAR ENGINEER, THE JOKER MAKES A GOOD PSYCHOTIC KILLER.

WE'RE LUCKY THE WARHEAD DIDN'T DETONATE ALONG WITH THE ROCKET.



SPEAKING OF THE JOKER, HE ESCAPED AGAIN.



MY MONEY...



ALL MY LOVELY MONEY... BURNT TO A CRISP...

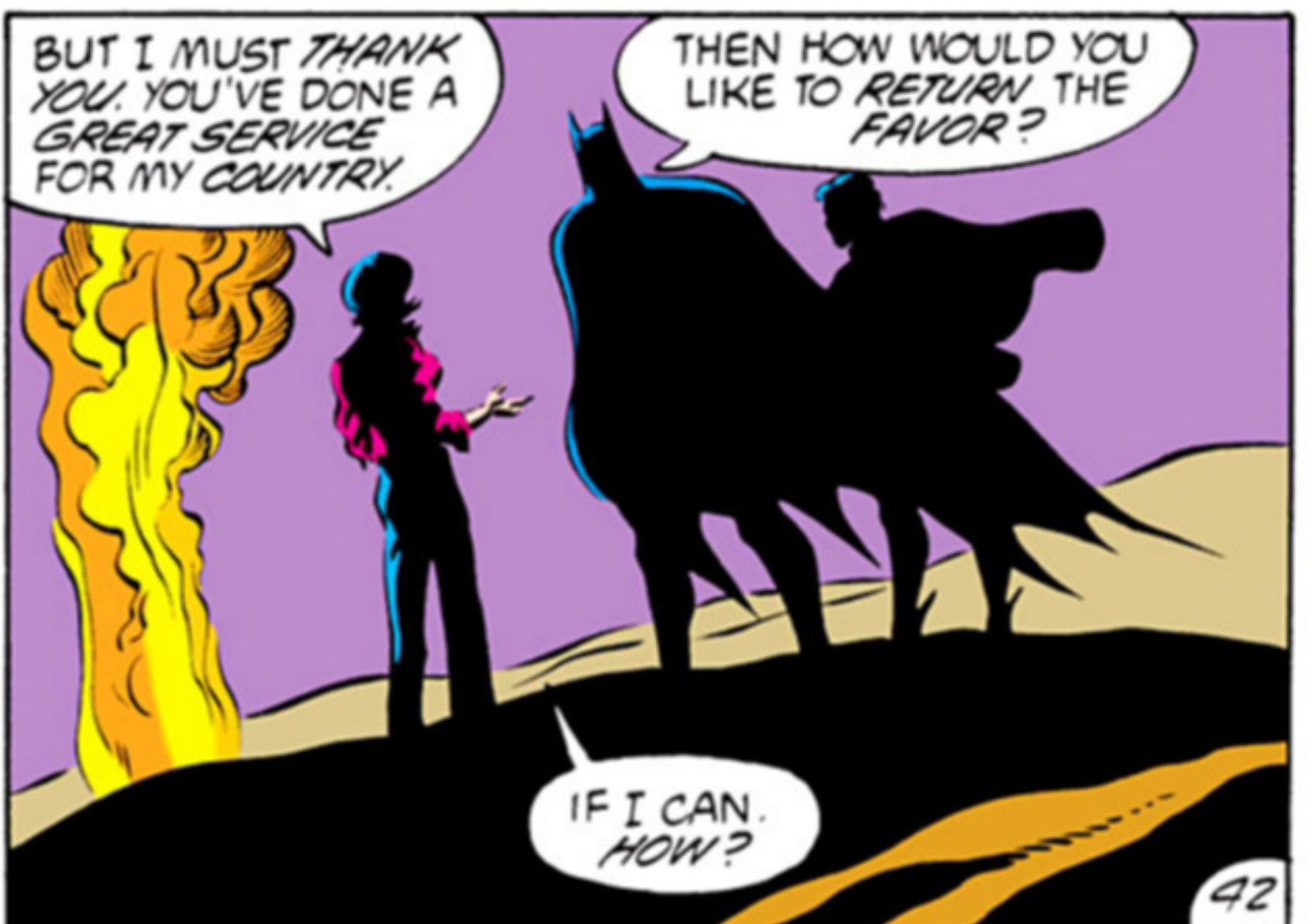


WHAT EVER WILL I DO NOW?



HOW'D YOUR PEOPLE TUMBLE ONTO THE JOKER'S NUCLEAR FIRE SALE?

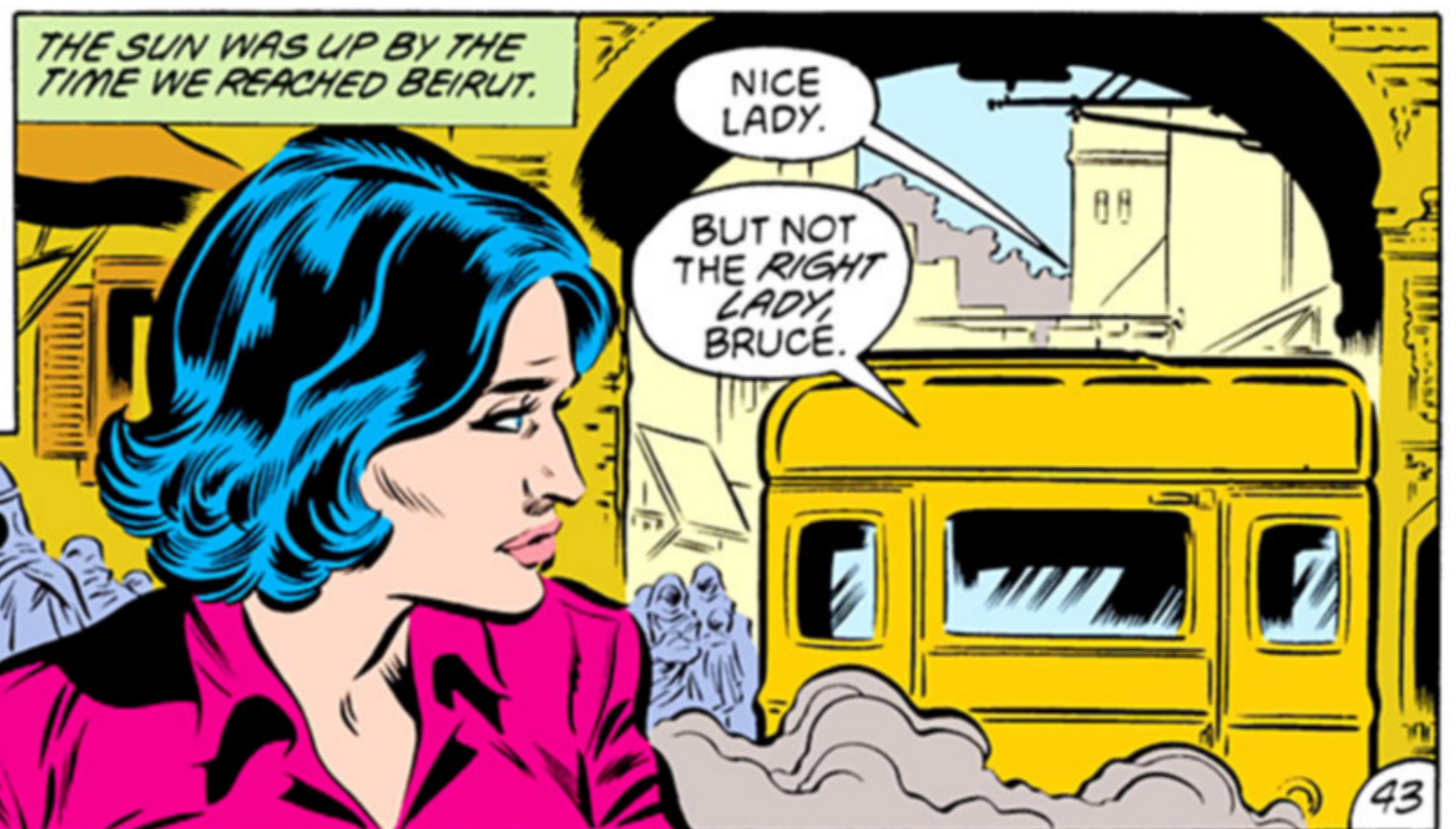
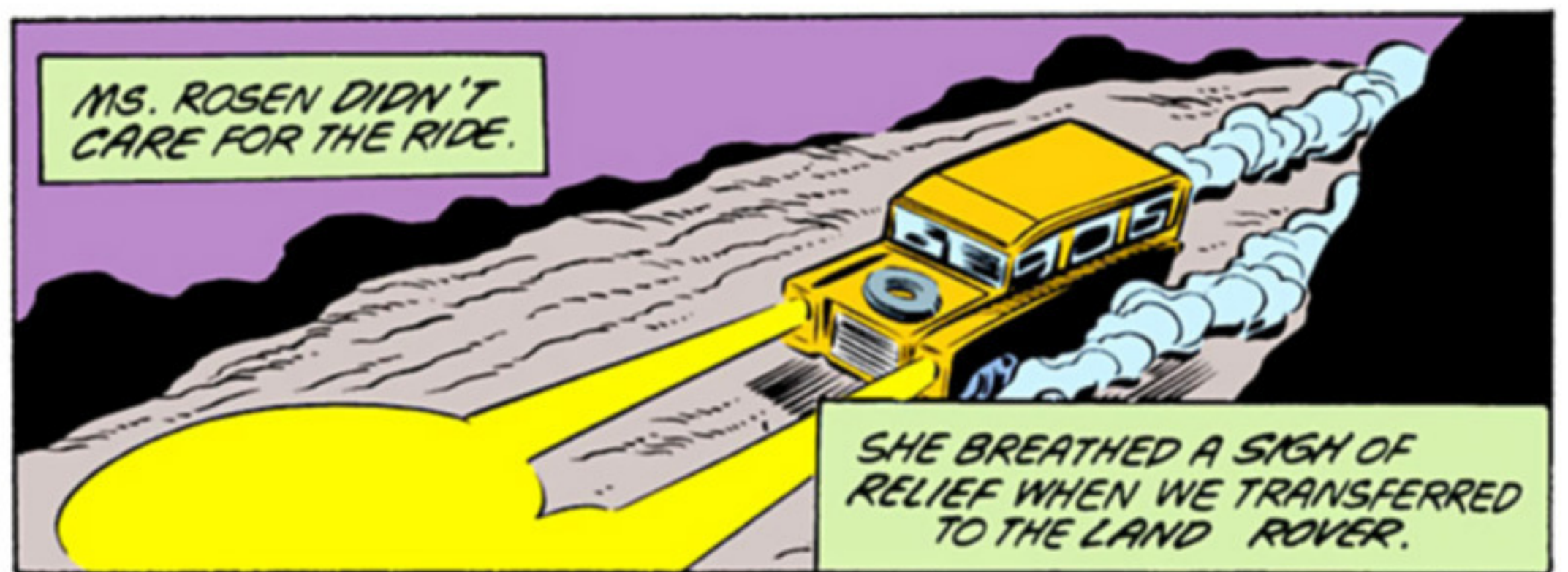
SORRY, CAN'T SAY. THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

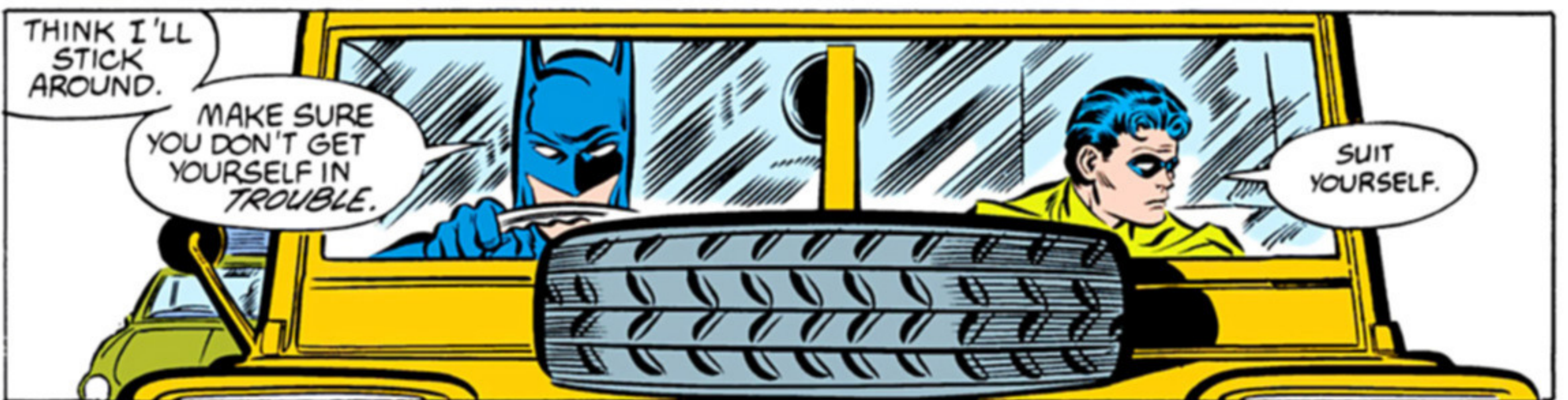
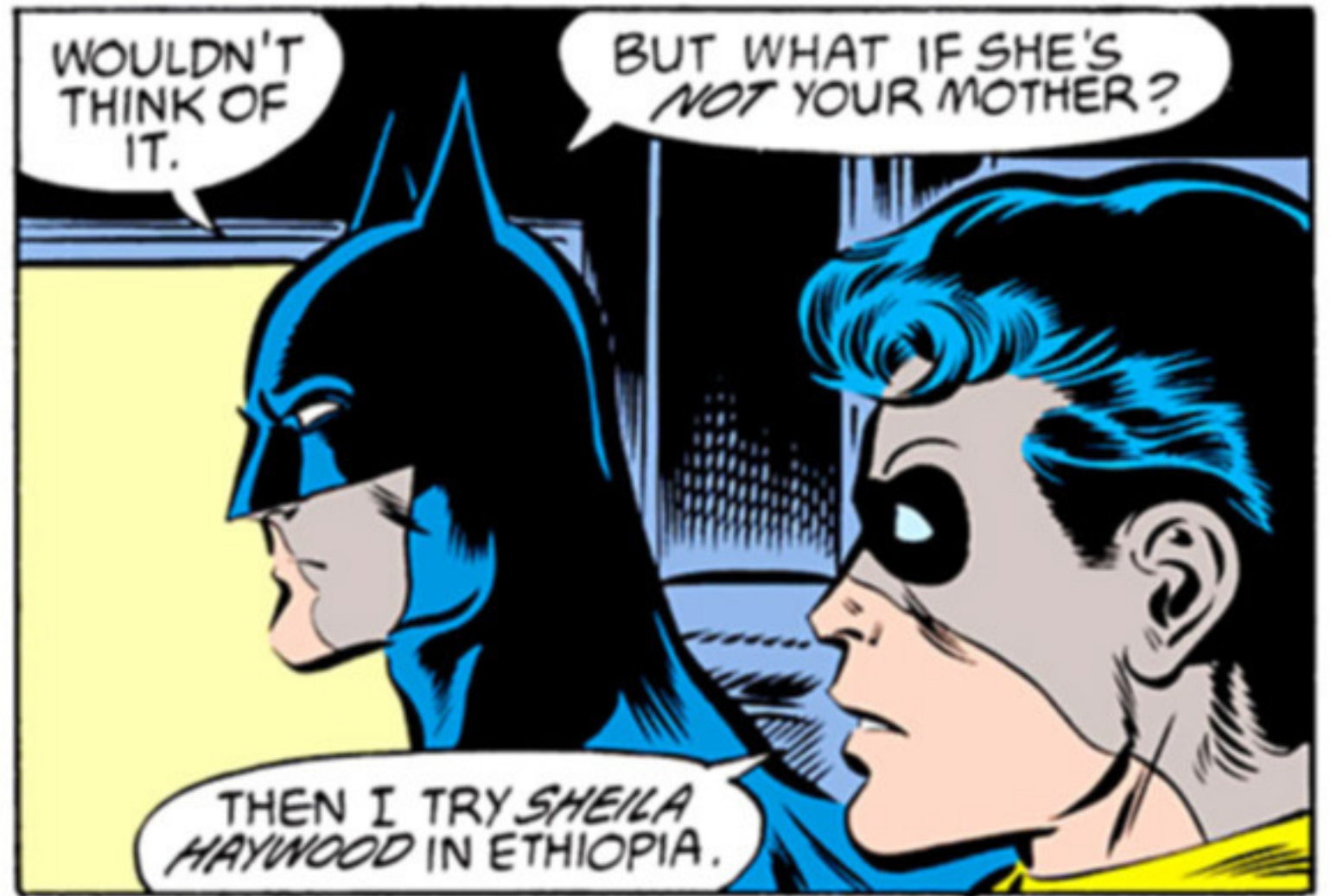
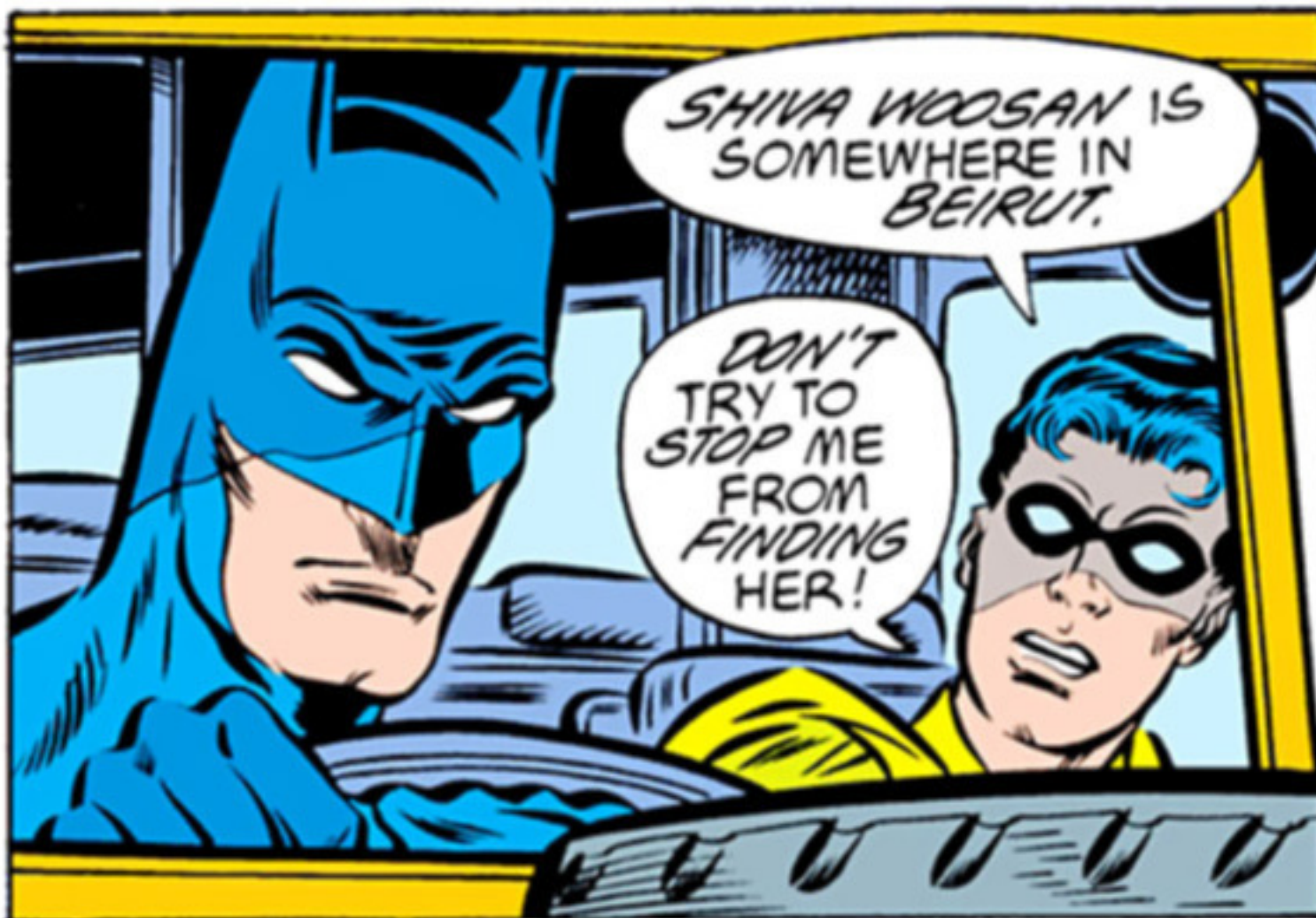
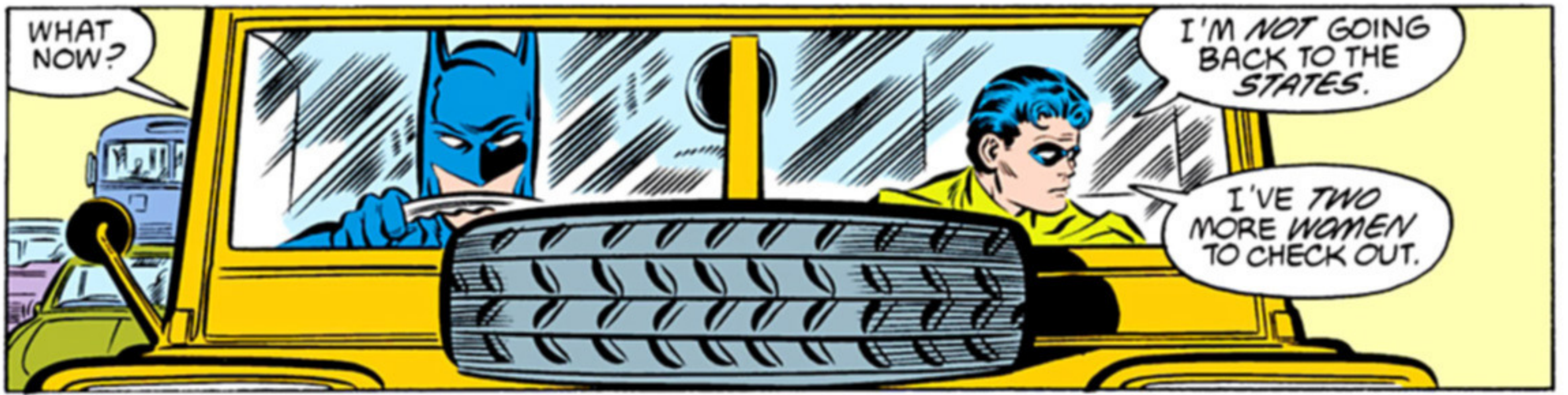


BUT I MUST THANK YOU. YOU'VE DONE A GREAT SERVICE FOR MY COUNTRY.

THEN HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR?

IF I CAN. HOW?

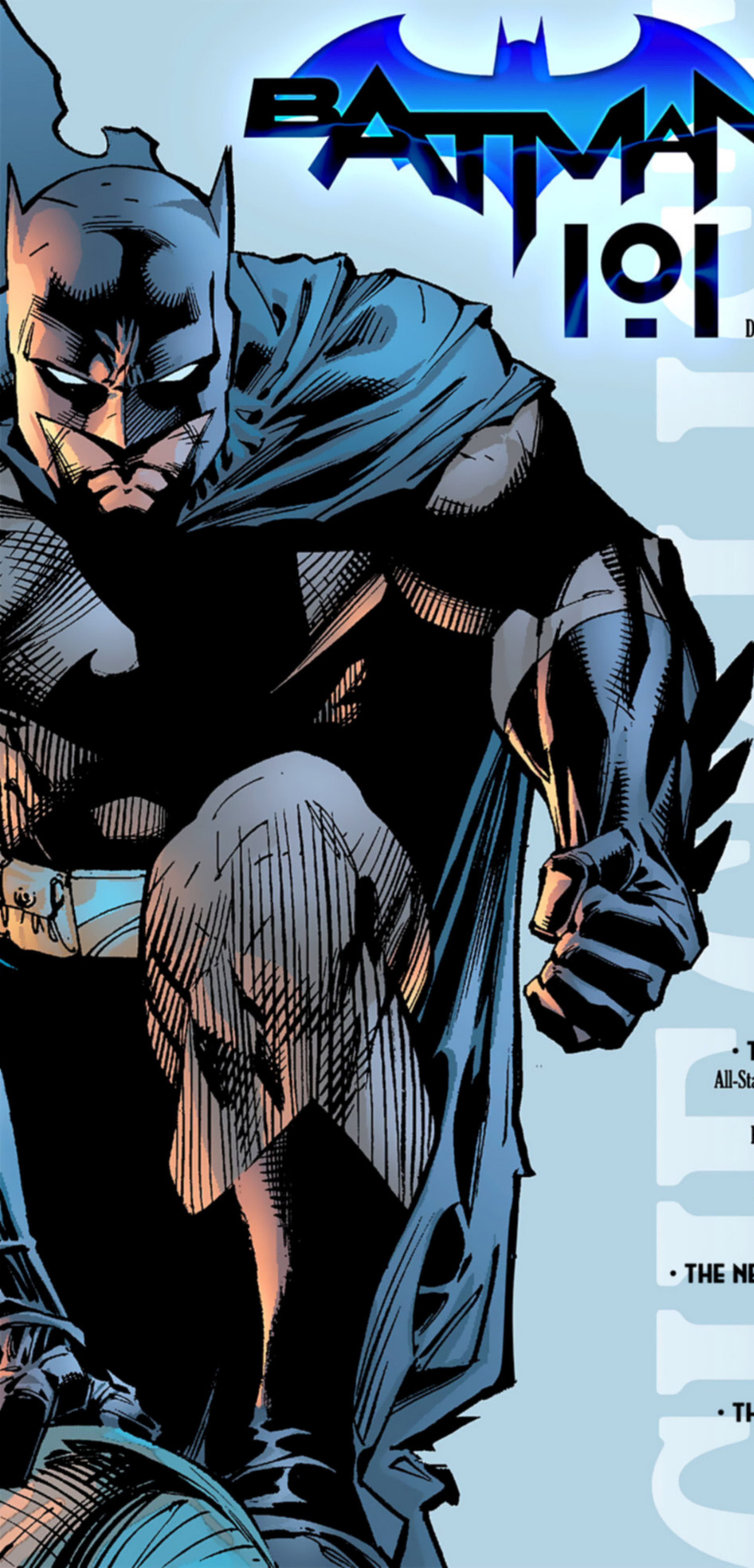






BATMAN

101



• BATMAN BEGINS! •

Detective Comics (1937-2011) #27-33

Batman (1940-2011) #1-4

Batman: Dark Victory #0-13

BATMAN: YEAR ONE

Batman #404-407

Batman: The Long Halloween #1-13

• DARK TIMES FOR THE DARK KNIGHT! •

Batman: The Cult #1

BATMAN: DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Batman #426-429

BATMAN: HUSH

Batman #608-619

BATMAN: HEART OF HUSH

Detective Comics #846-850

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL V. 1

Batman #491-497

Detective Comics #659-663

BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND

Batman: No Man's Land #1

Batman: Shadow of the Bat #83-#84

Batman #563-#564

Detective Comics #730-#731

Legends of the Dark Knight #116

• THE BATMAN FAMILY! •

All-Star Batman & Robin the Boy Wonder #1

Batman: Black and White #1

Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun #1

Gotham Central #1

Batman and Robin (2009-2011) #1-6

Superman/Batman #1

• THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE! •

Dark Knight Returns #1

Batman Beyond (1999) #1

Batman Beyond (2011) #1

• THE CITY HE PROTECTS! •

Batman: Arkham City #1

Batman: Gates of Gotham #1

Batman: Streets of Gotham #1

Planetary/Batman: Night on Earth #1



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