



# BATMAN

NO.428  
U.S. 75¢  
CAN \$1.00

by STARLIN,  
APARO &  
DeCARLO

Book Three  
of Four

a

# Death in the Family

The Batman  
was too late.

And now Robin  
lies in rubble,  
still,  
silent,  
shattered.

Can he possibly  
be alive?



# A DEATH in the FAMILY

## CHAPTER 5

JASON!

WHERE ARE YOU?!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO TAKE ON THE JOKER BY YOURSELF.

I BEGGED YOU TO WAIT, JASON. BUT OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T.

YOU NEVER LISTEN. WHY? **WHY?**

WHY DIDN'T I SEE THAT YOU WERE TOO YOUNG FOR THIS KIND OF WORK?

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?

JIM STARLIN  
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inker

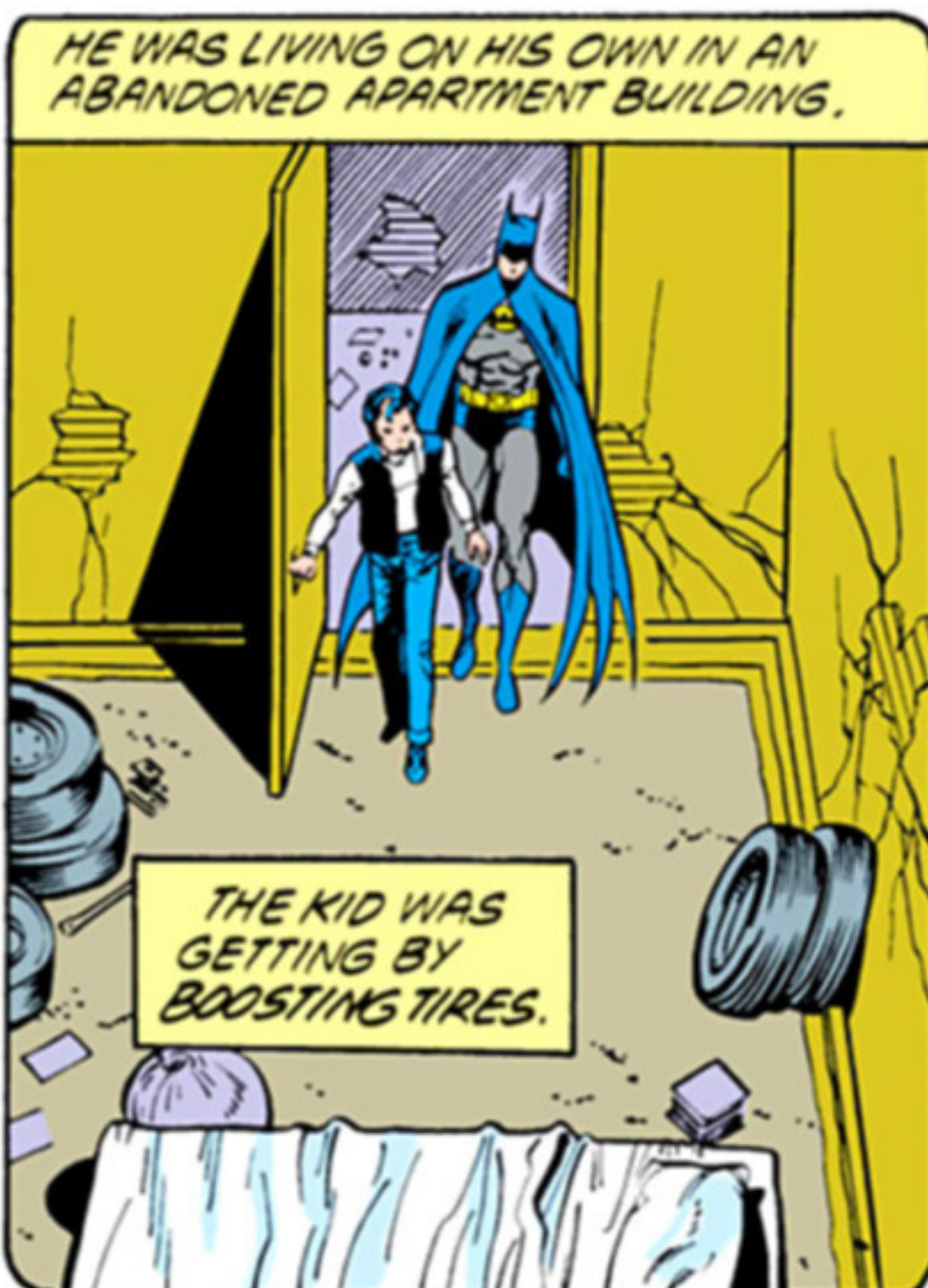
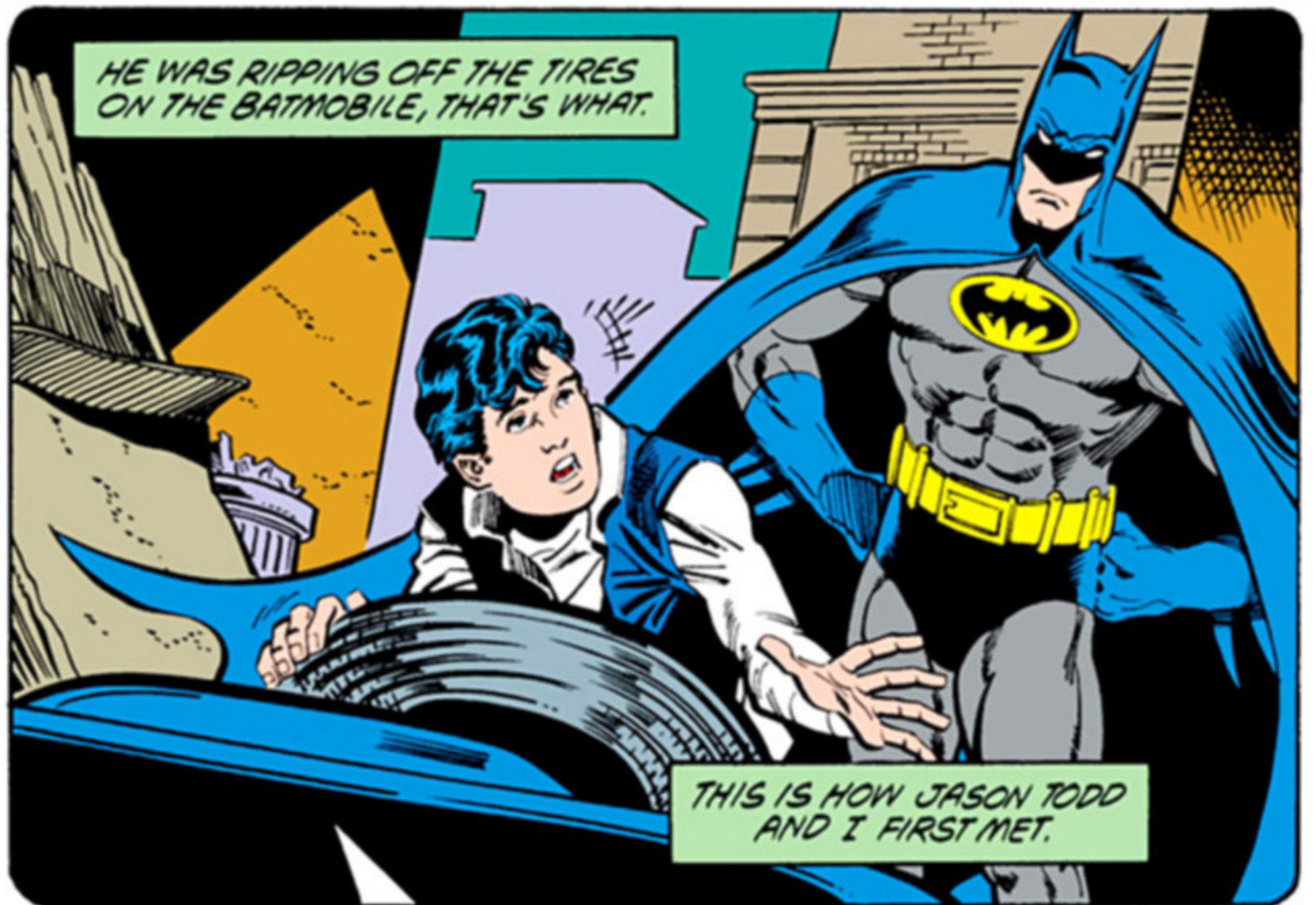
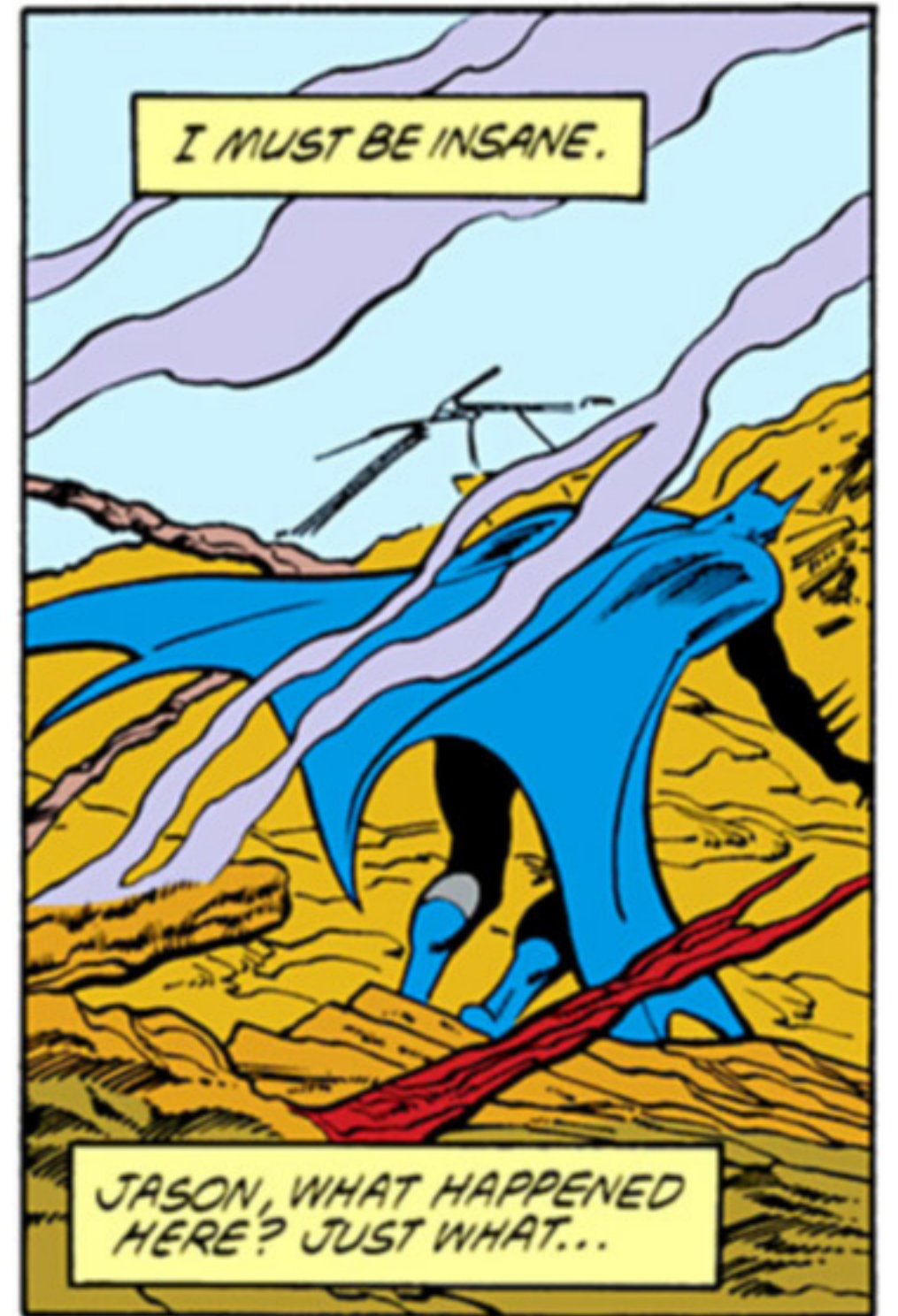
JOHN COSTANZA  
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DENNY O'NEIL  
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JASON TOOK TO THE TRAINING LIKE A FISH TO WATER.

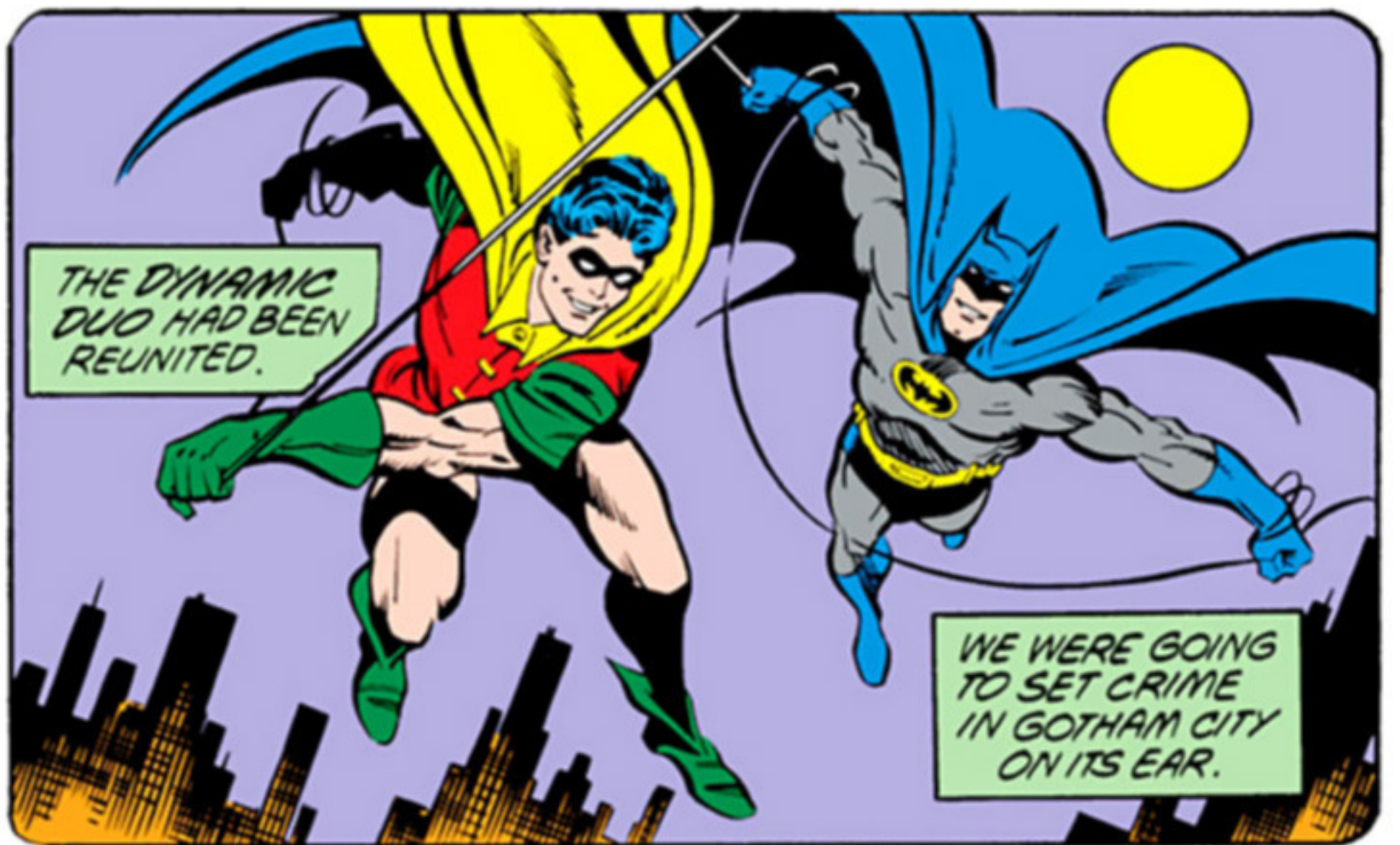
HE WAS QUICK AND INTELLIGENT. IT WAS LIKE TRAINING DICK AGAIN.

BUT THIS KID HAD A REBELLIOUS STREAK IN HIM. I TOLD MYSELF HE'D WORK IT OUT OF HIS SYSTEM IN TIME.



YES, I BLINDED MYSELF TO SO MUCH.

JASON AND I WERE GOING TO BE A GREAT TEAM. THAT WAS ALL THAT MATTERED.



THE DYNAMIC DUO HAD BEEN REUNITED.

WE WERE GOING TO SET CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY ON ITS EAR.



BUT RIGHT FROM THE START, THERE WAS TROUBLE.

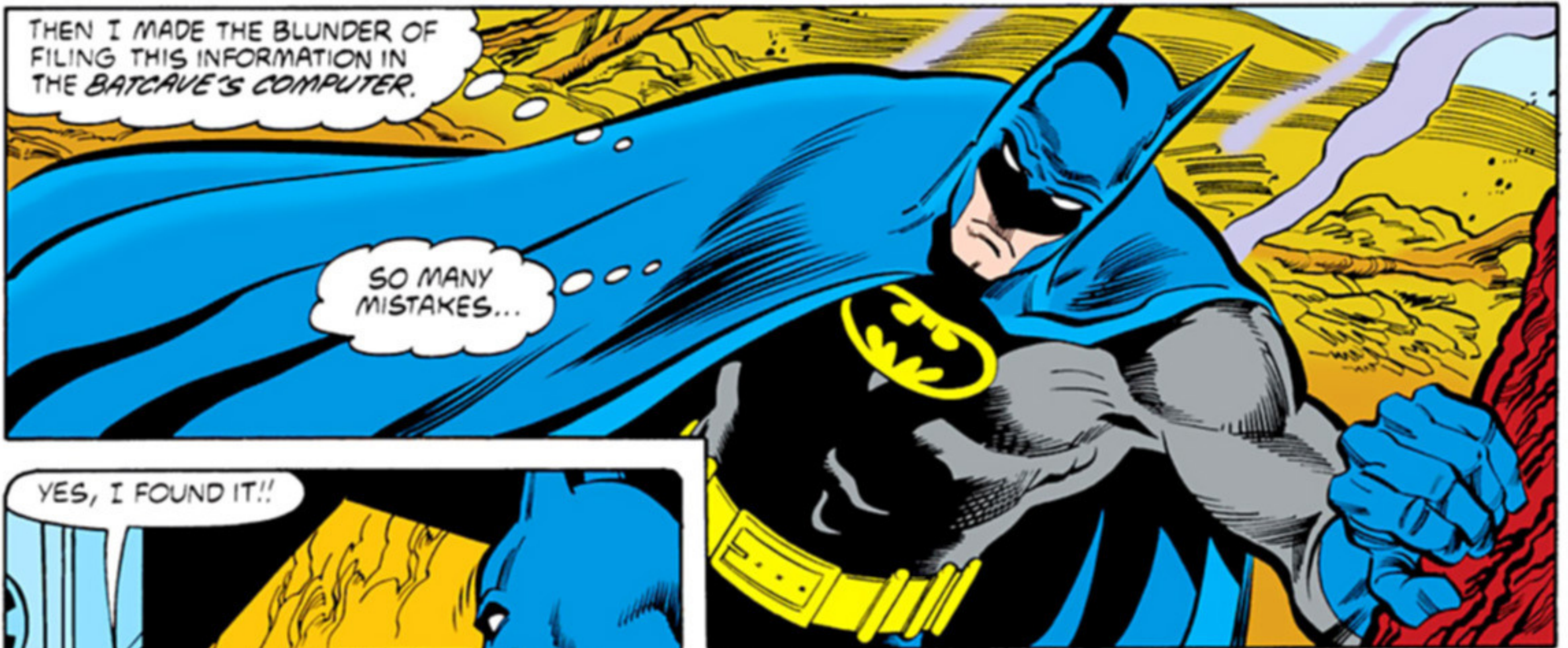
THIS NEW ROBIN CAME WITH AN OVERLOAD OF EMOTIONAL LUGGAGE.



MY INVESTIGATIONS SOON UNCOVERED THE FACT THAT JASON'S FATHER HAD WORKED FOR THE GANGSTER TWO-FACE.



WORSE YET, IT APPEARED THAT TWO-FACE HAD KILLED HIM FOR FAILING IN SOME ASSIGNMENT.



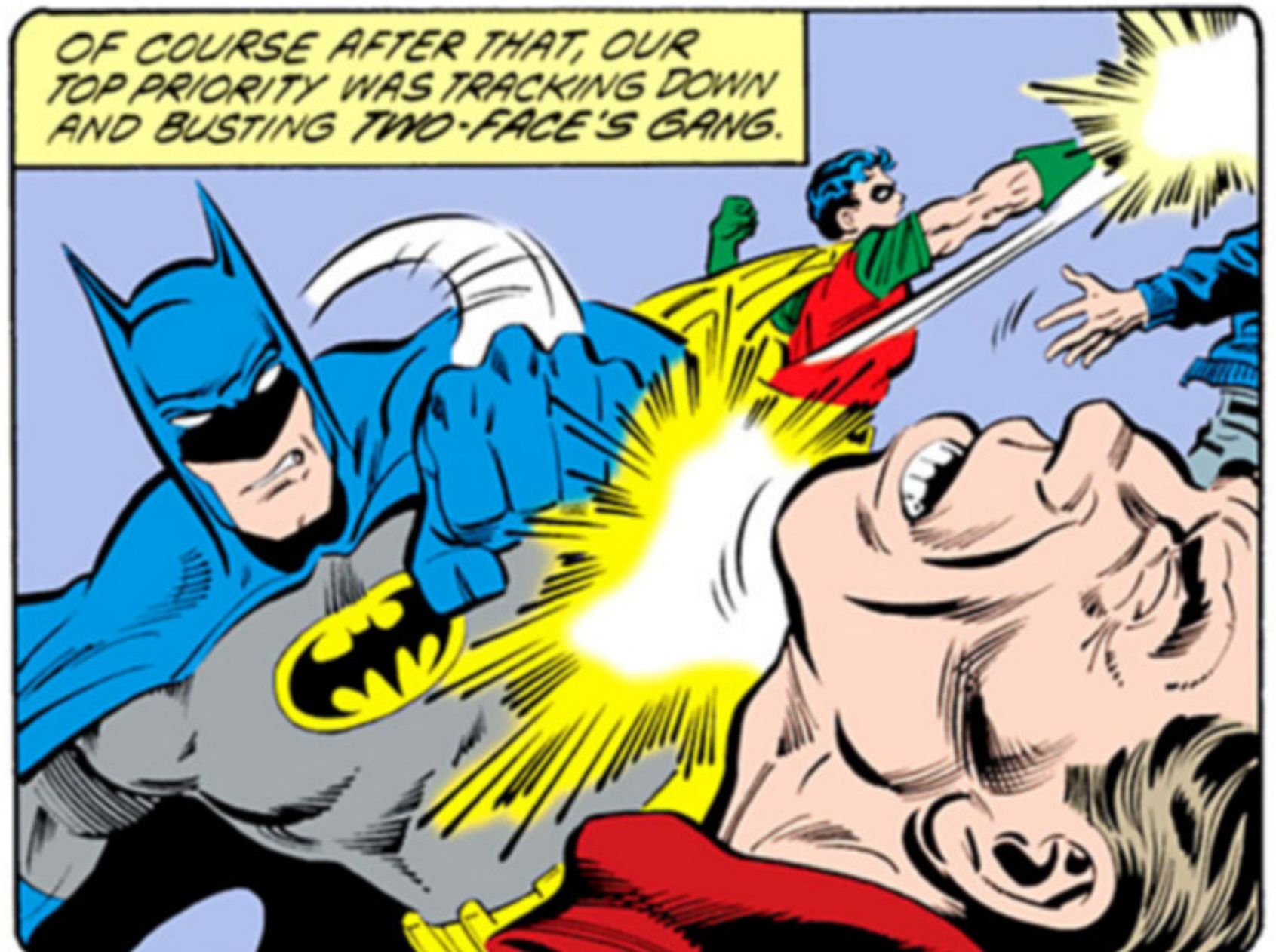
THEN I MADE THE BLUNDER OF FILING THIS INFORMATION IN THE BATCAVE'S COMPUTER.

SO MANY MISTAKES...



YES, I FOUND IT!!

HOW COULD YOU KEEP THIS SECRET FROM ME?!

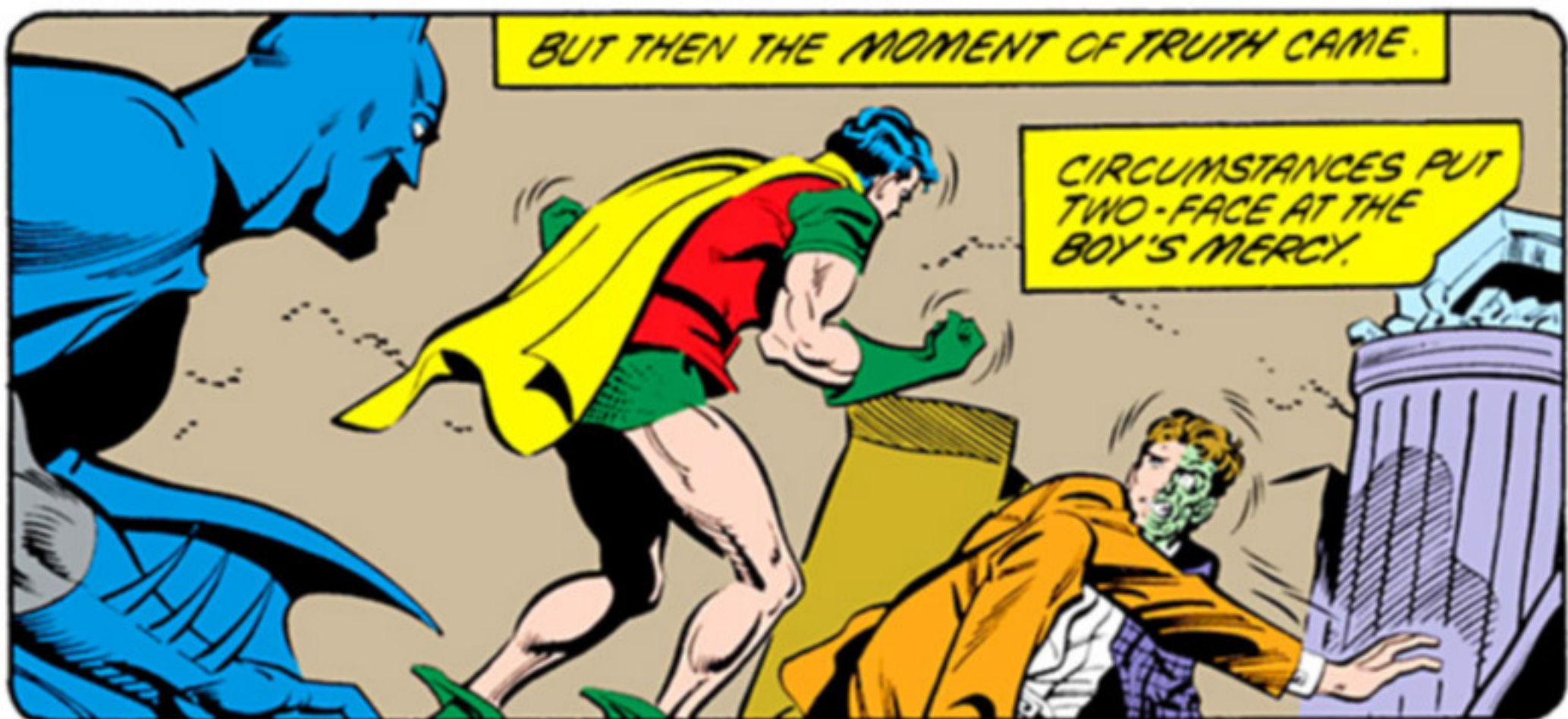


OF COURSE AFTER THAT, OUR TOP PRIORITY WAS TRACKING DOWN AND BUSTING TWO-FACE'S GANG.



MY WORST FEAR WAS THAT JASON WANTED MORE THAN JUSTICE FOR HIS FATHER'S DEATH.

I WAS AFRAID THAT HE WAS OUT FOR BLOOD.



BUT THEN THE MOMENT OF TRUTH CAME.

CIRCUMSTANCES PUT TWO-FACE AT THE BOY'S MERCY.



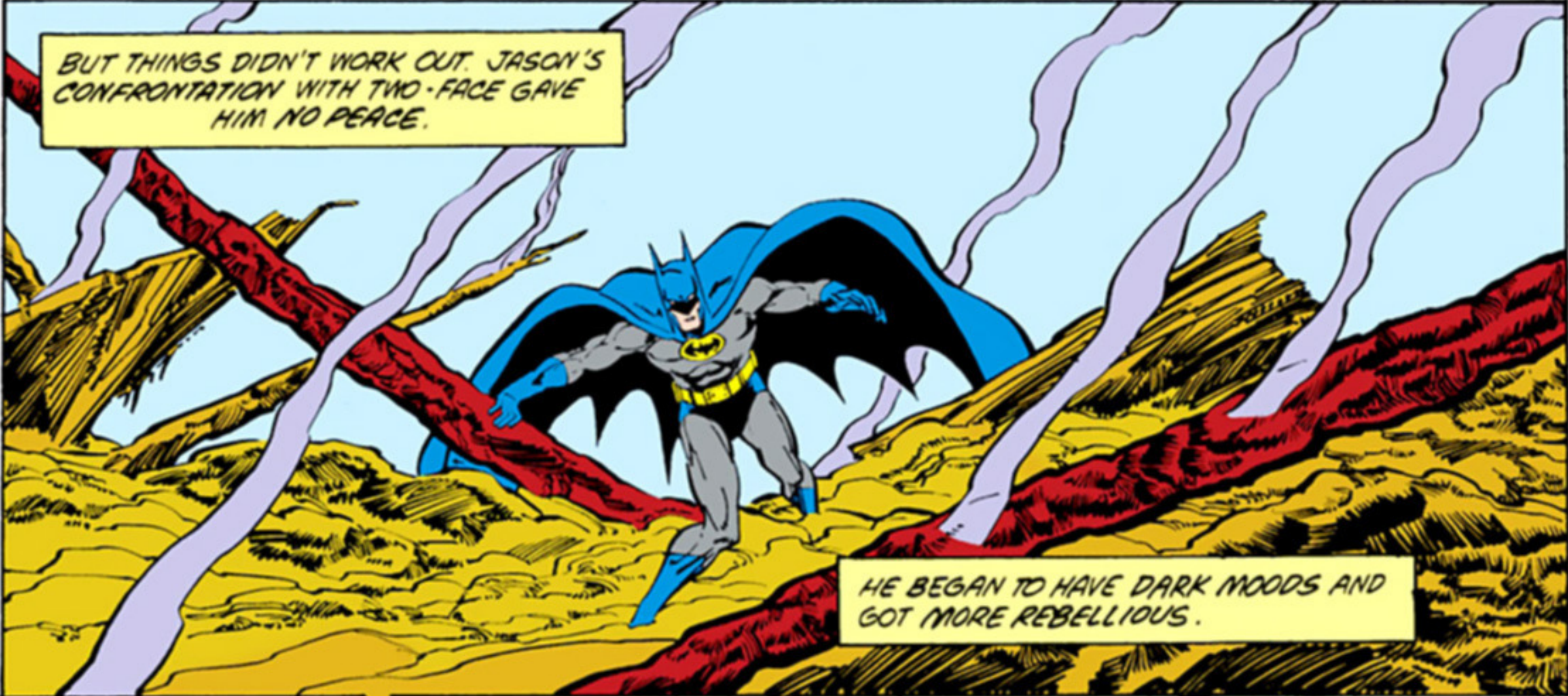
JASON WALKED AWAY.

HE LET TWO-FACE'S PUNISHMENT BE DETERMINED BY THE LAW.



I WAS SO PROUD OF THE LAD.

I THOUGHT, AT LAST, EVERYTHING WOULD BE OKAY.



BUT THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT. JASON'S CONFRONTATION WITH TWO-FACE GAVE HIM NO PEACE.

HE BEGAN TO HAVE DARK MOODS AND GOT MORE REBELLIOUS.

IT BECAME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE BOY UNDER CONTROL. HE'D DISOBEY ORDERS.

THEN JASON STARTED TAKING UNREASONABLE RISKS.

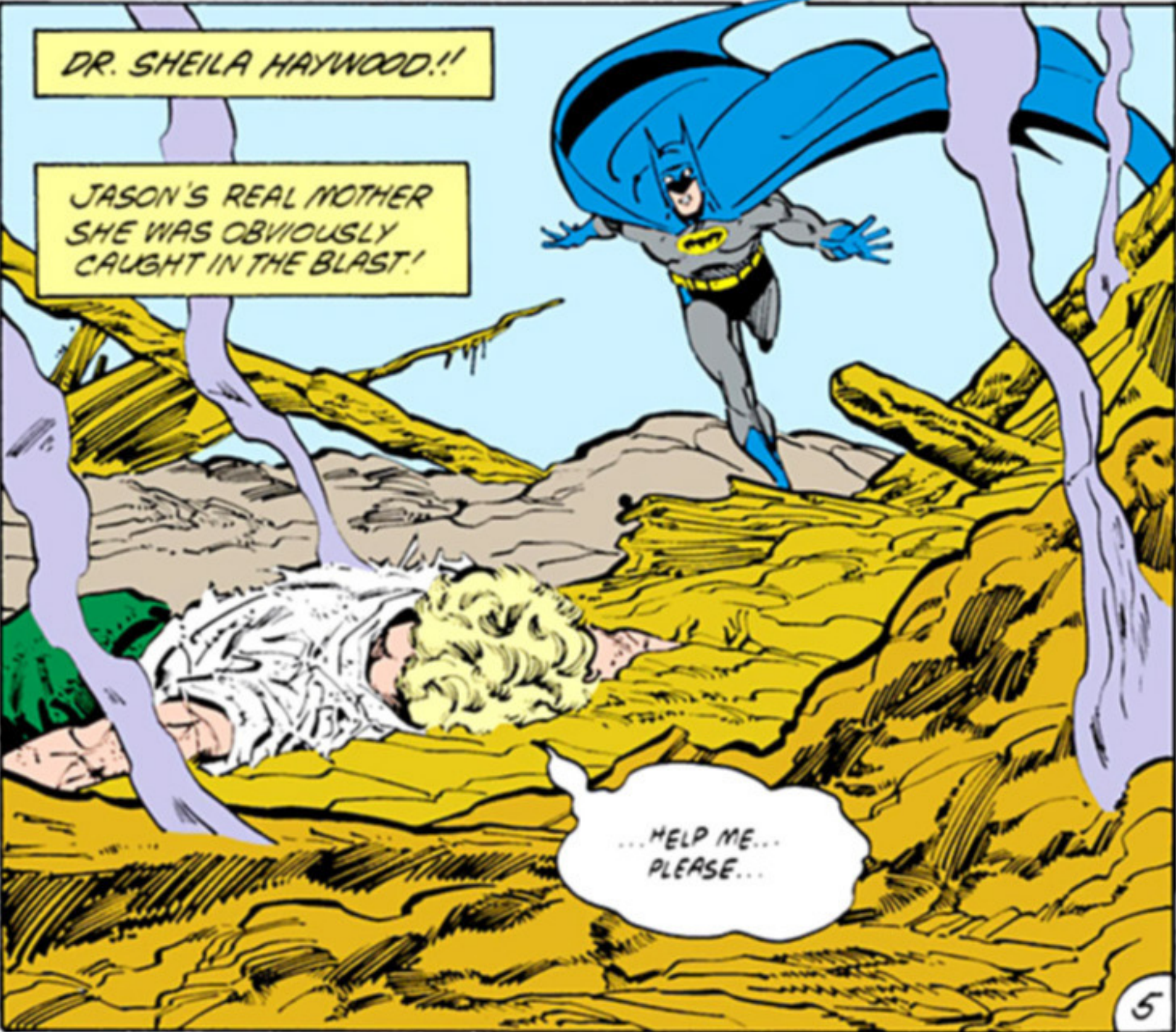
I HAD NO CHOICE. I PLACED THE BOY ON INACTIVE DUTY. HE DIDN'T LIKE IT.

THAT'S WHEN THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE. THAT'S WHEN JASON FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS MOTHER...



... HIS REAL MOTHER.

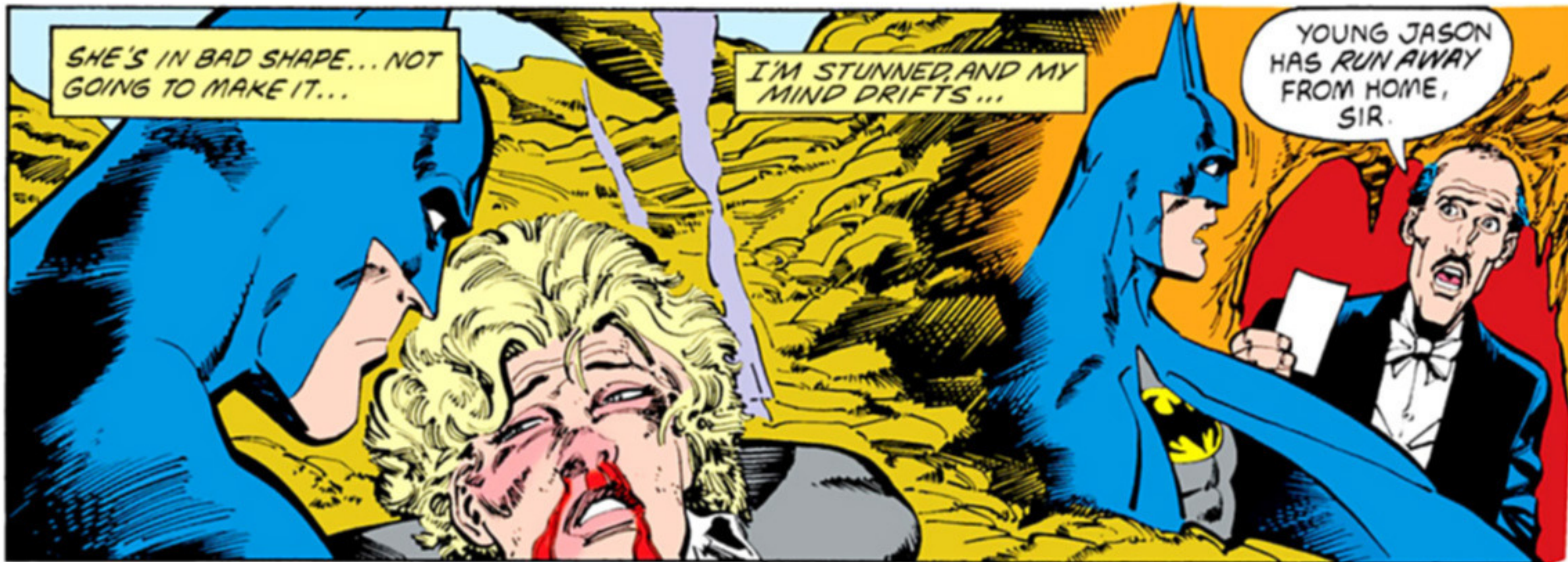
OOOOHHHH...



DR. SHEILA HAYWOOD!!

JASON'S REAL MOTHER SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!

...HELP ME... PLEASE...



SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE... NOT GOING TO MAKE IT...

I'M STUNNED, AND MY MIND DRIFTS...

YOUNG JASON HAS RUN AWAY FROM HOME, SIR.

I TRACKED JASON DOWN TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

UNFORTUNATELY HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE HEADING THIS WAY.

SO WAS MY OLD FOE, THE JOKER.

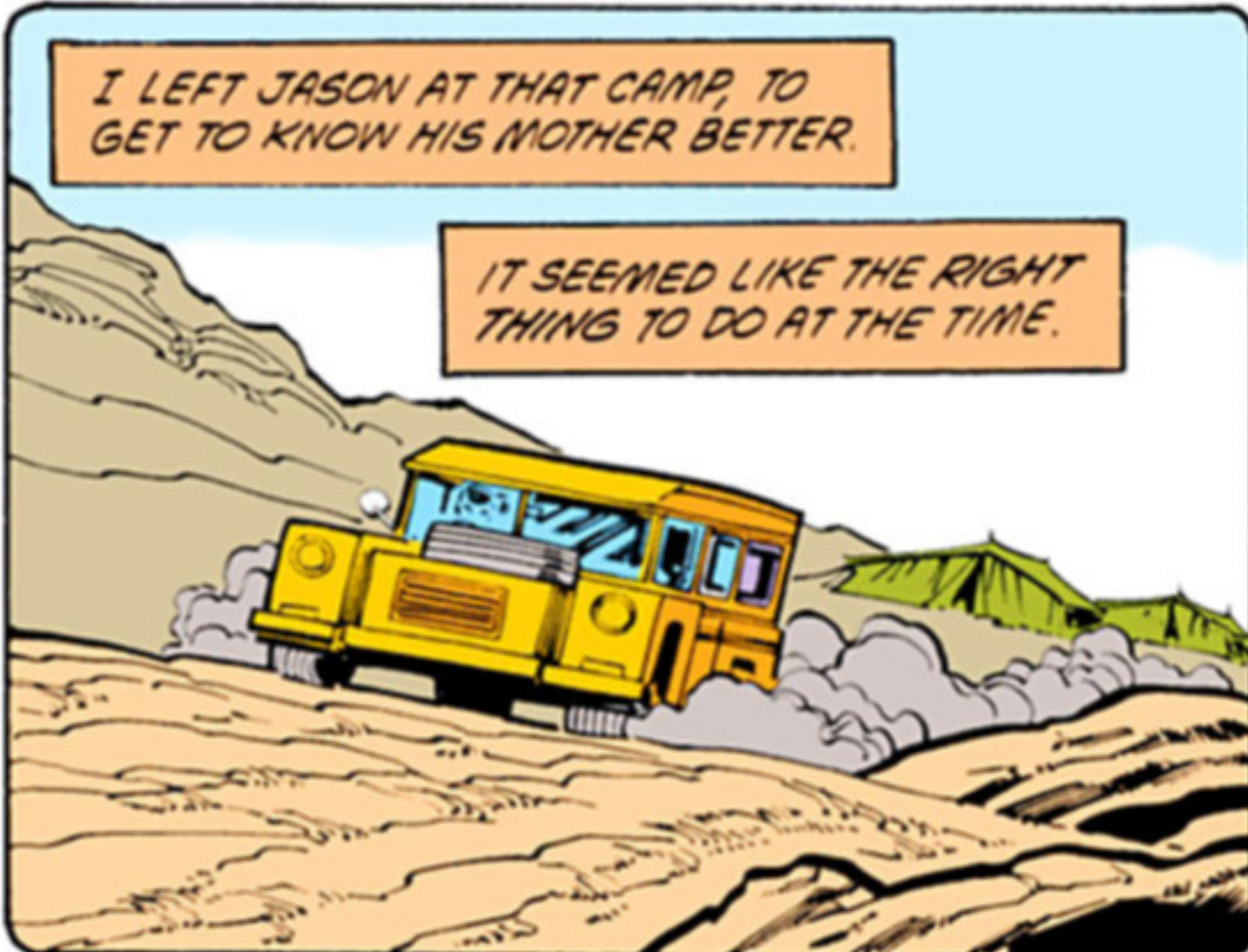


JASON HAD THREE WOMEN WHO HE SUSPECTED MIGHT BE HIS REAL MOTHER. HE STRUCK OUT ON THE FIRST TWO.

BUT HE HIT PAYDIRT WHEN WE CAME TO THAT FAMINE REFUGEE CAMP, HERE IN ETHIOPIA.



I CAN STILL SEE THE HAPPINESS ON THE BOY'S FACE WHEN HE REALIZED THE SEARCH FOR HIS REAL MOTHER HAD COME TO AN END.



I LEFT JASON AT THAT CAMP, TO GET TO KNOW HIS MOTHER BETTER.

IT SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT THE TIME.



HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT JASON WOULD DISCOVER THAT HIS MOTHER WAS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE JOKER?

THE JOKER PLANNED TO HIJACK A SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TO REPLENISH HIS OPERATING FUNDS.

HE PLANNED TO SUBSTITUTE A LOAD OF HIS LETHAL LAUGHING GAS IN PLACE OF THESE SUPPLIES.

I HAD TO GO AFTER THE SHIPMENT WHICH WAS HEADED FOR A REFUGEE CAMP. HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED IF I HADN'T.

JASON WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR MY RETURN, BEFORE GOING AFTER HIS MOTHER AND THE JOKER.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULDN'T WAIT...

SHEILA...

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

JOKER...

... HE TIED US UP... SET BOMB TO EXPLODE...

... WANTED TO ELIMINATE... ALL EVIDENCE... OF HIS BEING HERE...

... JASON TRIED... TO RESCUE ME...

... WE... ALMOST... MADE IT... SO CLOSE...

... HE TURNED OUT... TO BE... SUCH A... GOOD KID...

... ALL HIS PROBLEMS... AND HE... STILL... TURNED OUT GOOD...

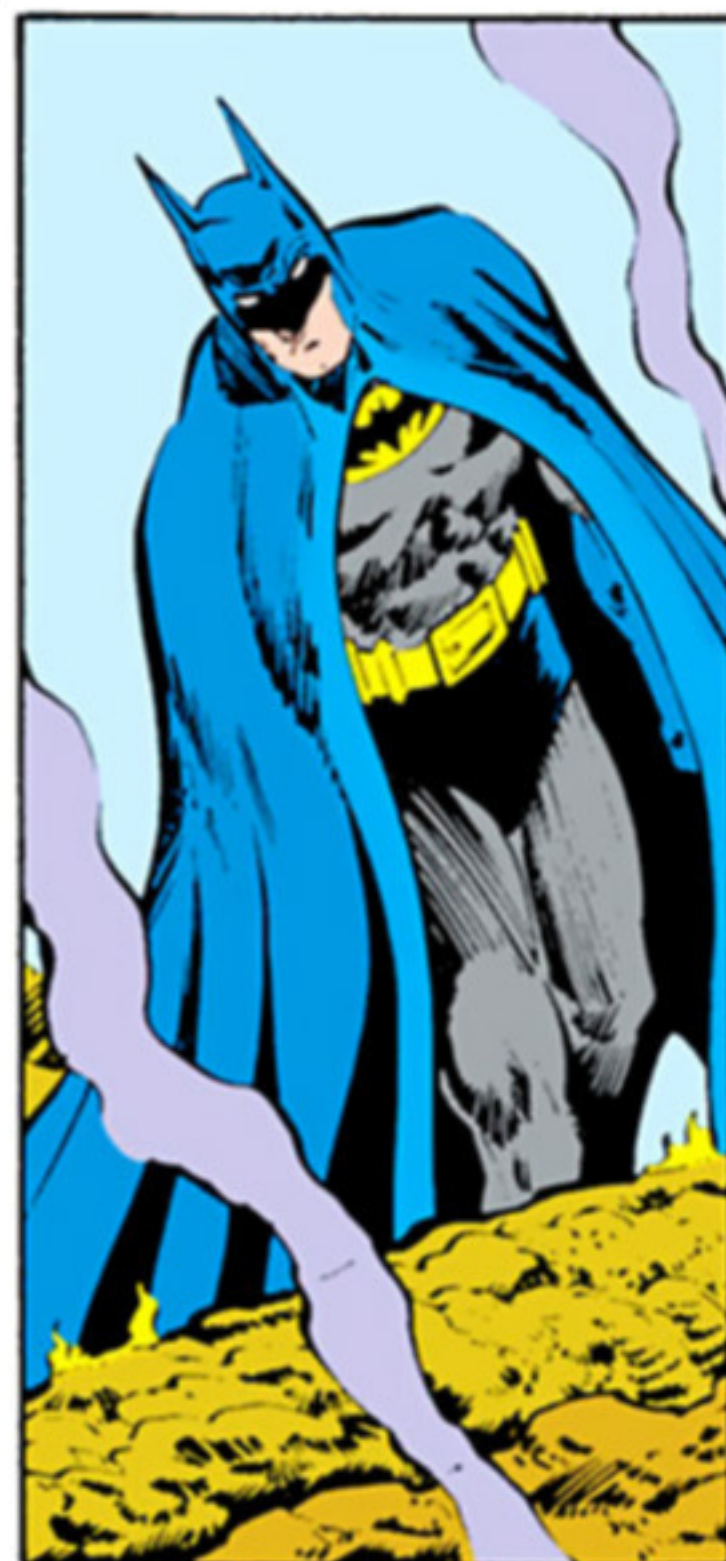
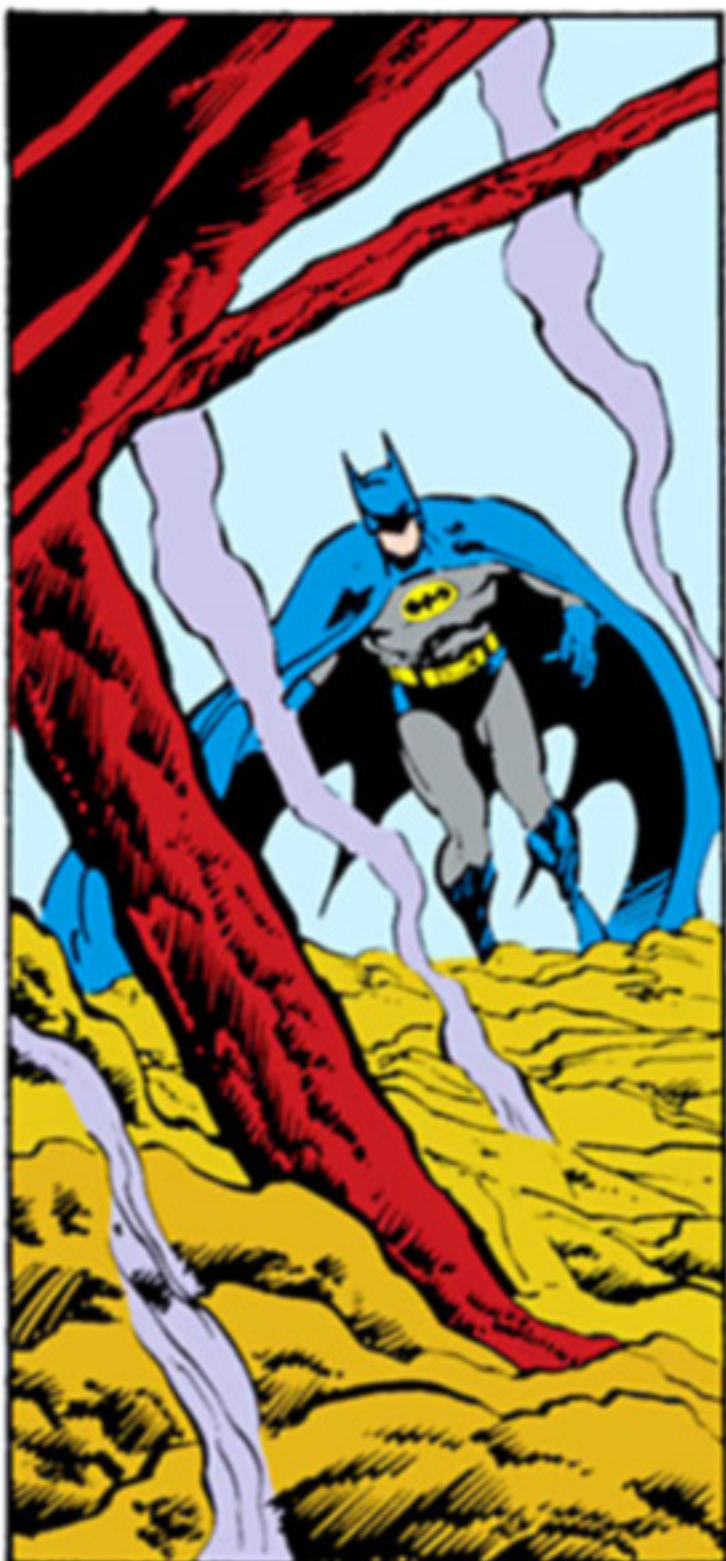
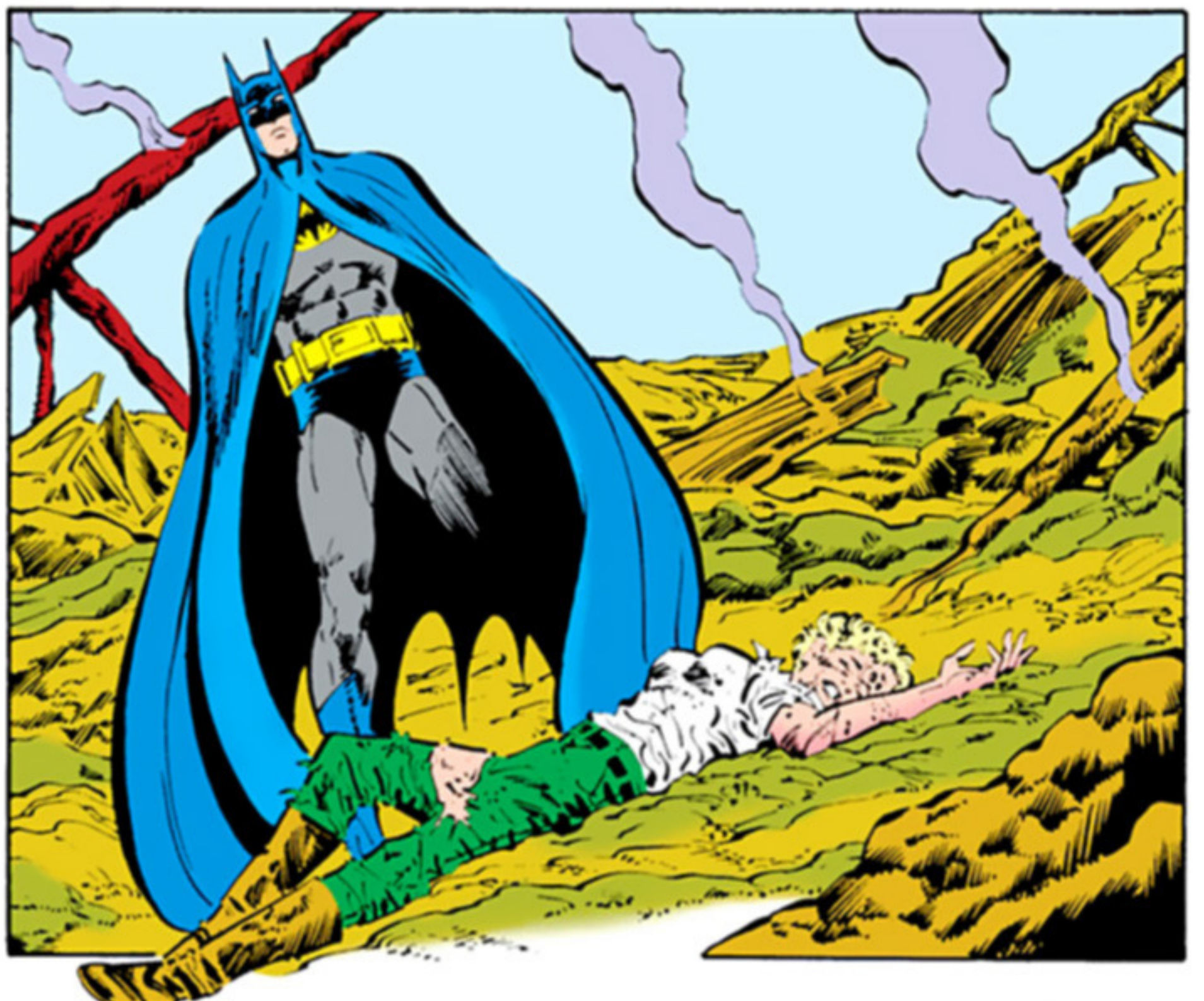
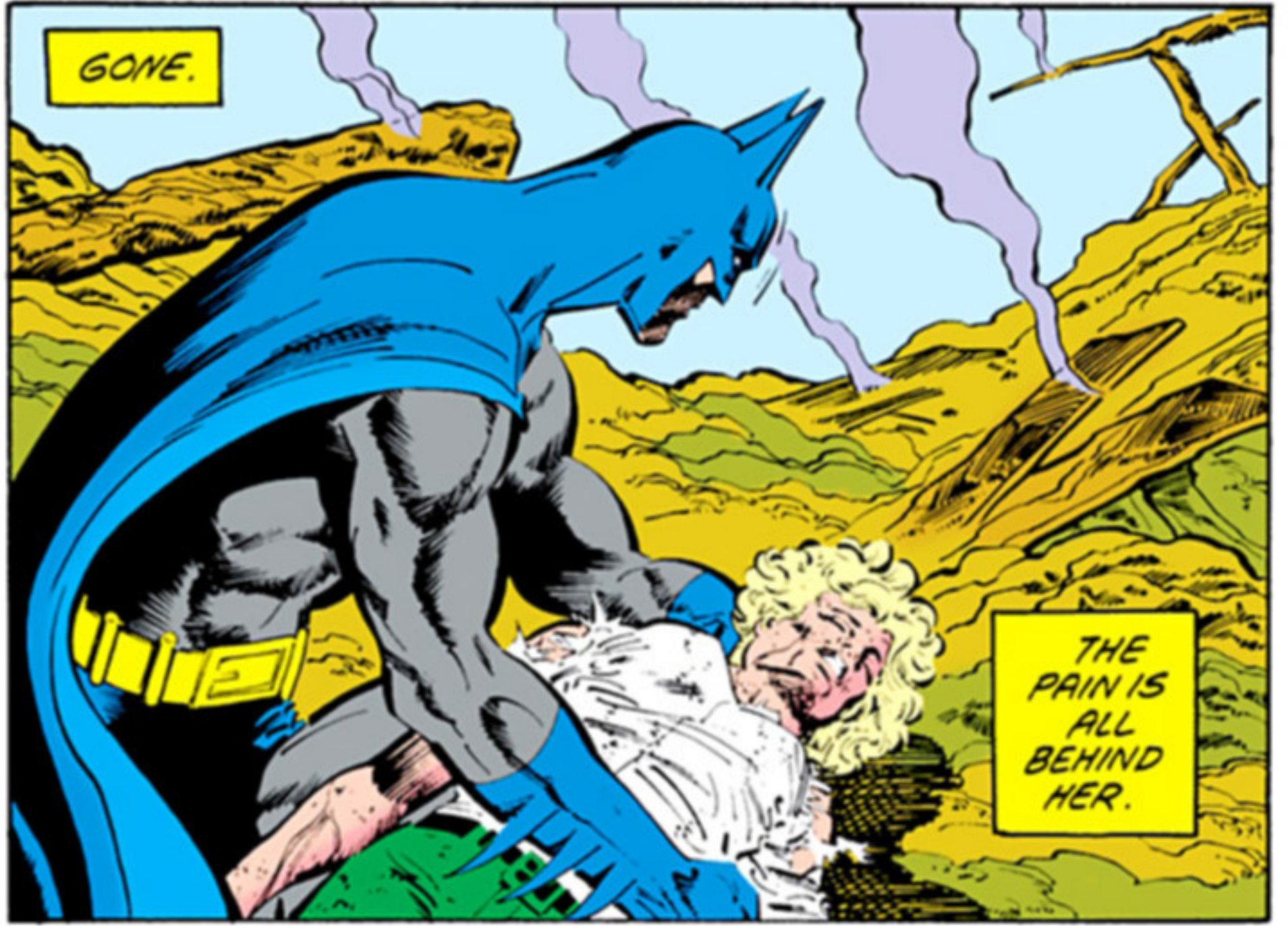
... HE'S... MUCH BETTER... THAN I DESERVE...

... MUCH BETTER...

... HE THREW... HIMSELF... IN FRONT... OF ME... IN FRONT OF ME...

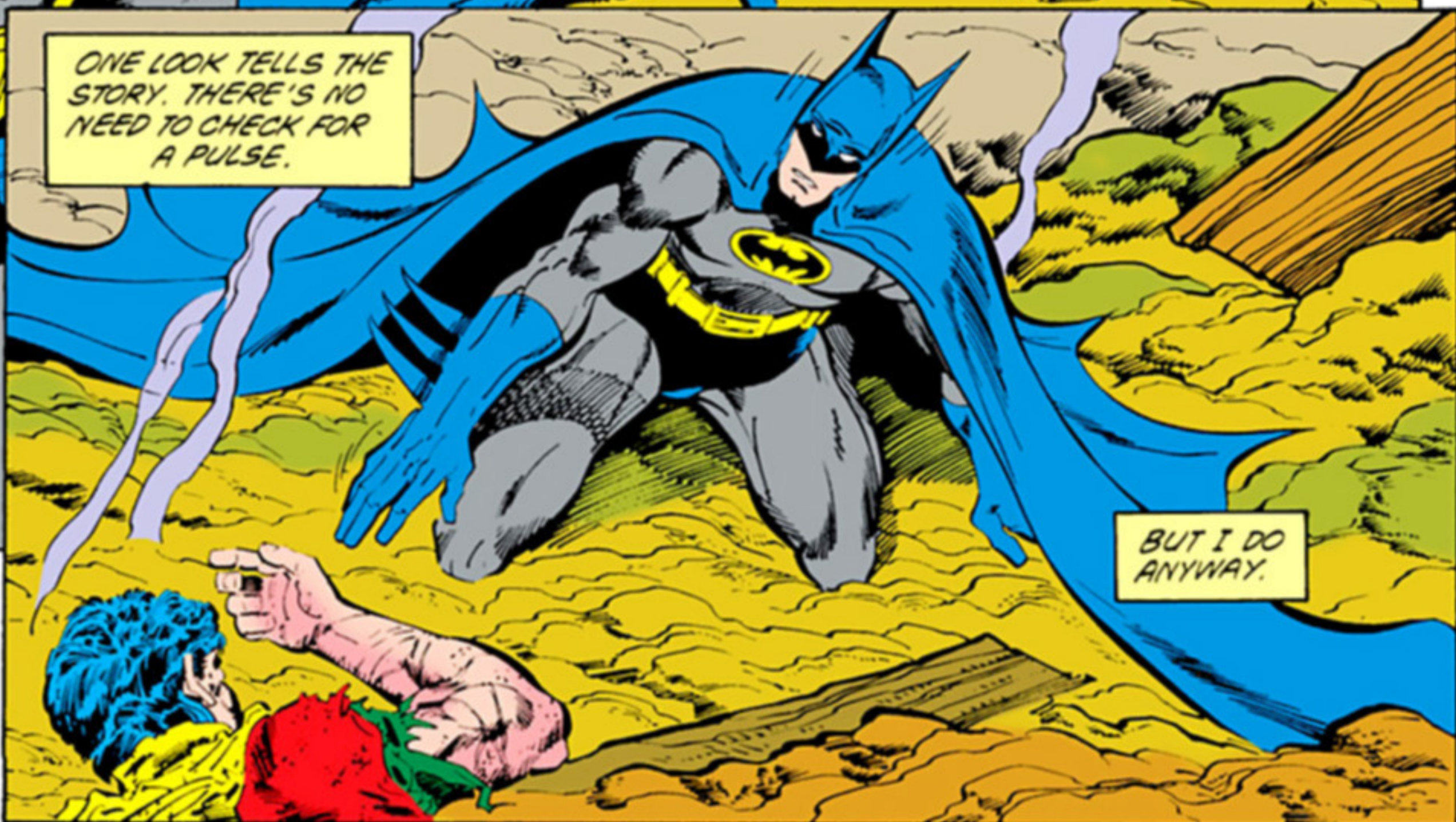
... HE TOOK... THE MAIN BRUNT... OF THE BLAST...







ONE LOOK TELLS THE STORY. THERE'S NO NEED TO CHECK FOR A PULSE.



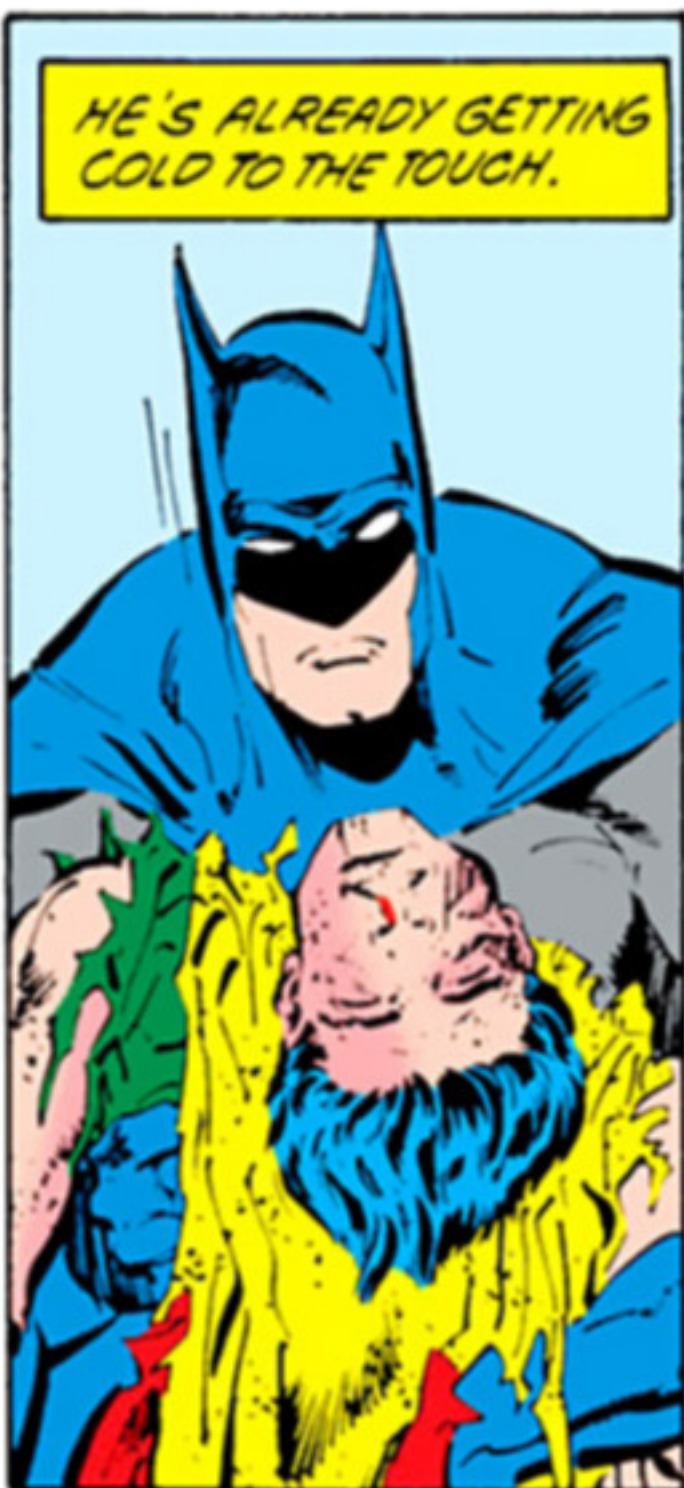
BUT I DO ANYWAY.



NOTHING.



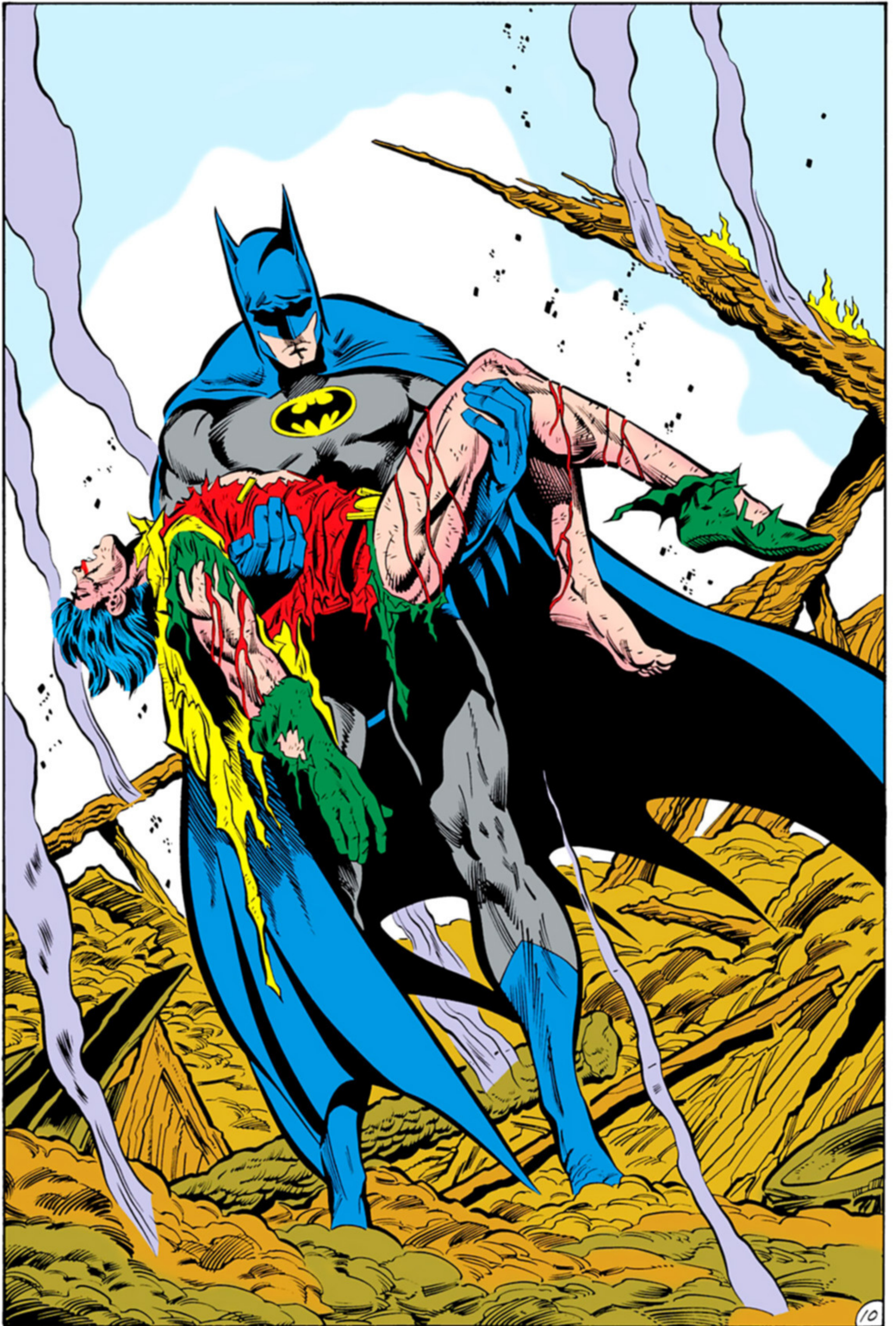
I'VE LOST HIM.



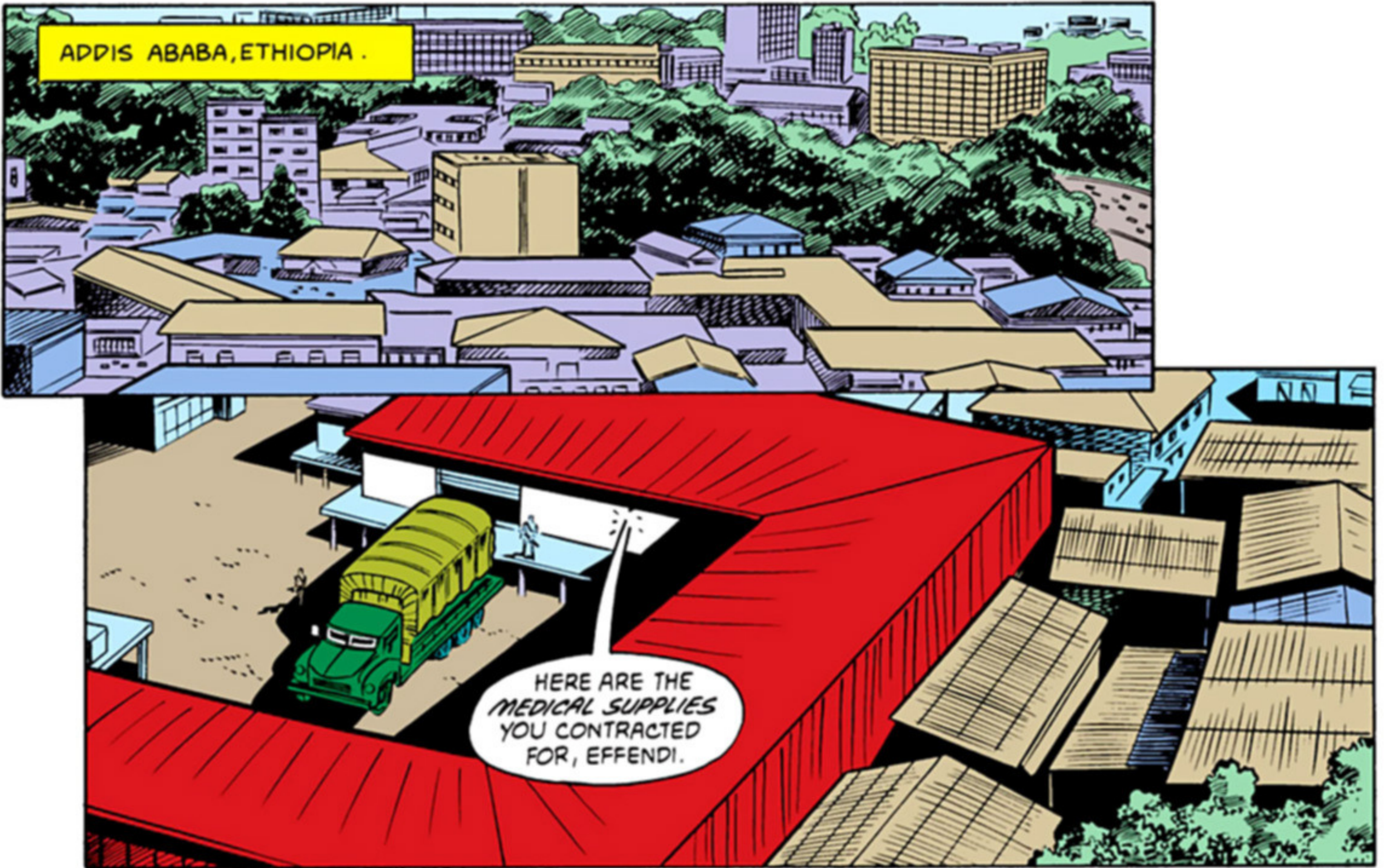
HE'S ALREADY GETTING COLD TO THE TOUCH.



GONE.



ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA.



HERE ARE THE  
MEDICAL SUPPLIES  
YOU CONTRACTED  
FOR, EFFENDI.



LET IT BE KNOWN  
THAT THE JOKER  
ALWAYS DELIVERS ON  
HIS WORD.

WE ARE INDEED  
PLEASED BY THIS.

BUT THERE  
IS ANOTHER MATTER  
WE MUST DISCUSS.

I HAVE  
TWO  
GENTLEMEN  
WITH ME  
WHO WISH  
TO SPEAK  
WITH YOU.

AND WHO  
MIGHT  
THEY BE?



WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN SECRET SERVICE.

MY, MY! NOW WHAT WOULD A COUPLE OF THE AYATOLLAH'S BOYS WANT WITH ME?



OUR SUPERIOR HAS A BUSINESS PROPOSITION HE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

HE'S WAITING IN THE REAR OFFICE.



HERE! HOLD THIS.

I'LL SETTLE UP WITH YOU BOYS WHEN I GET BACK.

PLEASE, SIR. MY SUPERIOR IS NOT USED TO BEING KEPT WAITING.



IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE MY CUE TO JUMP THROUGH A HOOP?

SORRY, EFFENDI, I DON'T DO REQUESTS.



IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO KNOW ME, ABDUL, YOU'LL FIND THAT THE JOKER ISN'T IMPRESSED BY...


...JUST...

...ANYONE.

ULP!




I HAVE A POSITION  
IN MY GOVERNMENT  
I WISH TO OFFER YOU,  
MONSIEUR JOKER.




I REMOVE WHAT LITTLE  
REMAINS OF JASON'S  
COSTUME THAT COULD  
HAVE IDENTIFIED HIM  
AS ROBIN BEFORE  
CALLING THE AUTHORITIES.

THEY'VE GOT A MILLION QUESTIONS. THIS  
TAKES UP MOST OF THE DAY.



BRUCE WAYNE PATIENTLY  
ANSWERS THEIR EVERY INQUIRY.



NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
CAUSED THE EXPLOSION. MAYBE  
SOMETHING THEY HAD STORED  
THERE?

THE VICTIM'S NAMES WERE SHEILA  
HAYWOOD AND JASON TODD. THEY  
WERE MOTHER AND SON.



YES, I'LL SEE TO HAVING THE  
BODIES FLOWN BACK TO THE STATES  
FOR BURIAL.

I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF EVERYTHING.



THE COPS CONTINUE THEIR SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF THIS TRAGEDY, EVIDENCE I'VE ALREADY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE.

LET THEM WRITE IT OFF AS AN ACCIDENT. THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO BE INVOLVED.

THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER.



IT'S SOMETHING THE JOKER AND I SHOULD HAVE SETTLED BETWEEN US A LONG TIME AGO.



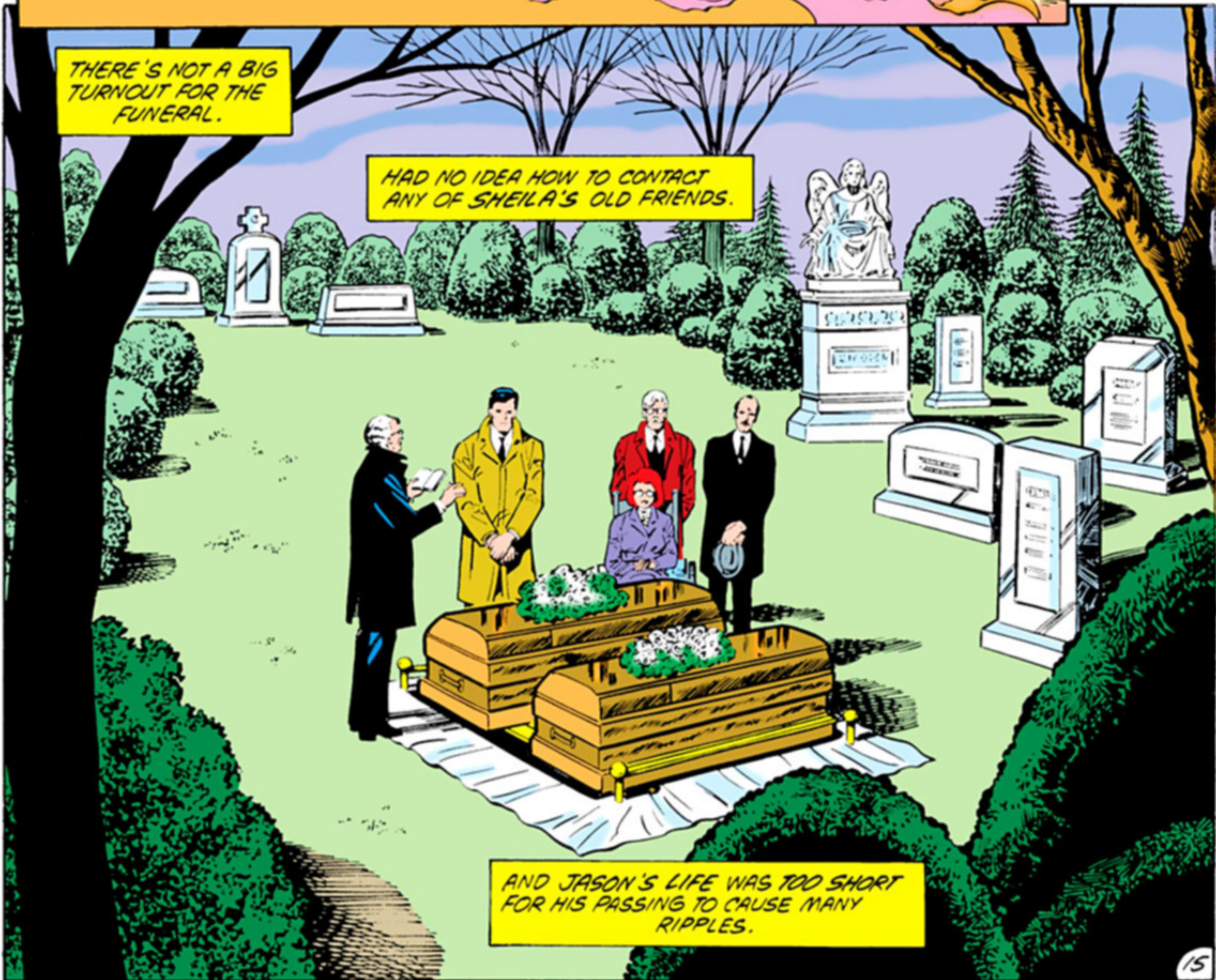
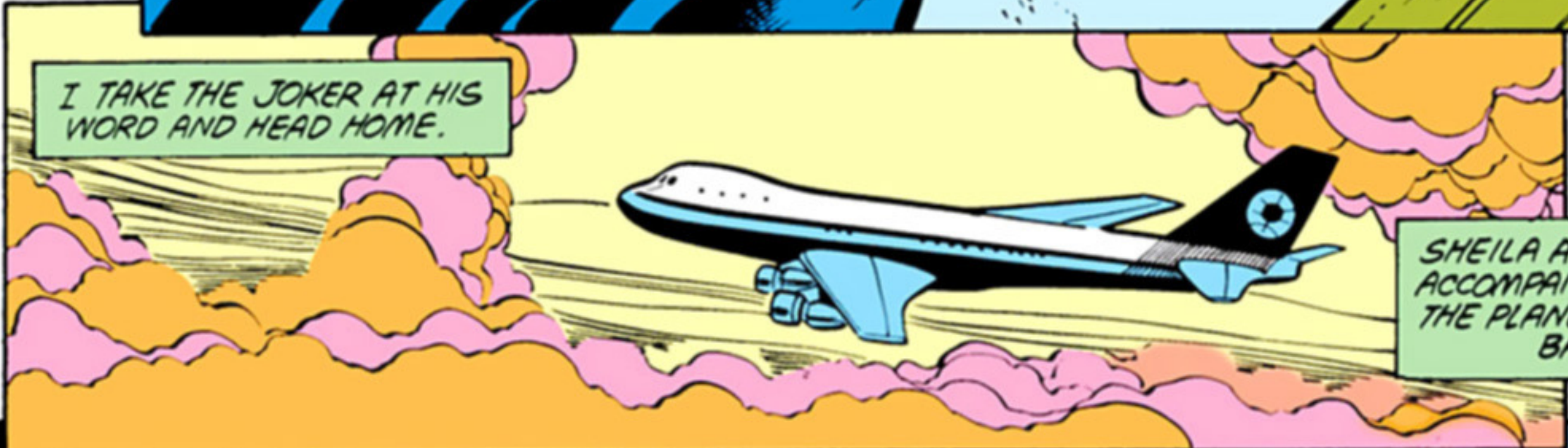
I DON'T LOCATE THE WAREHOUSE THE JOKER USED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

I KNOW HE'LL BE LONG GONE FROM HERE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE CHECKED OUT ANYWAY.



THE JOKER MAY HAVE LEFT A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS, ALONG WITH THE BODIES OF HIS DISCARDED HENCHMEN.

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE RIGORED SMILES OF THE JOKER'S VICTIMS.







YOU SEE, THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE NEW ROBIN IS DEAD.

THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO REMAIN, IF I WANT TO MAINTAIN A SECRET IDENTITY.

YEAH, I KNOW THAT'S COLD BUT THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

IT'S A MEAN, CRUEL WORLD OUT THERE.



SHOULD I GET IN TOUCH WITH MASTER DICK, MASTER BRUCE?

HUH?



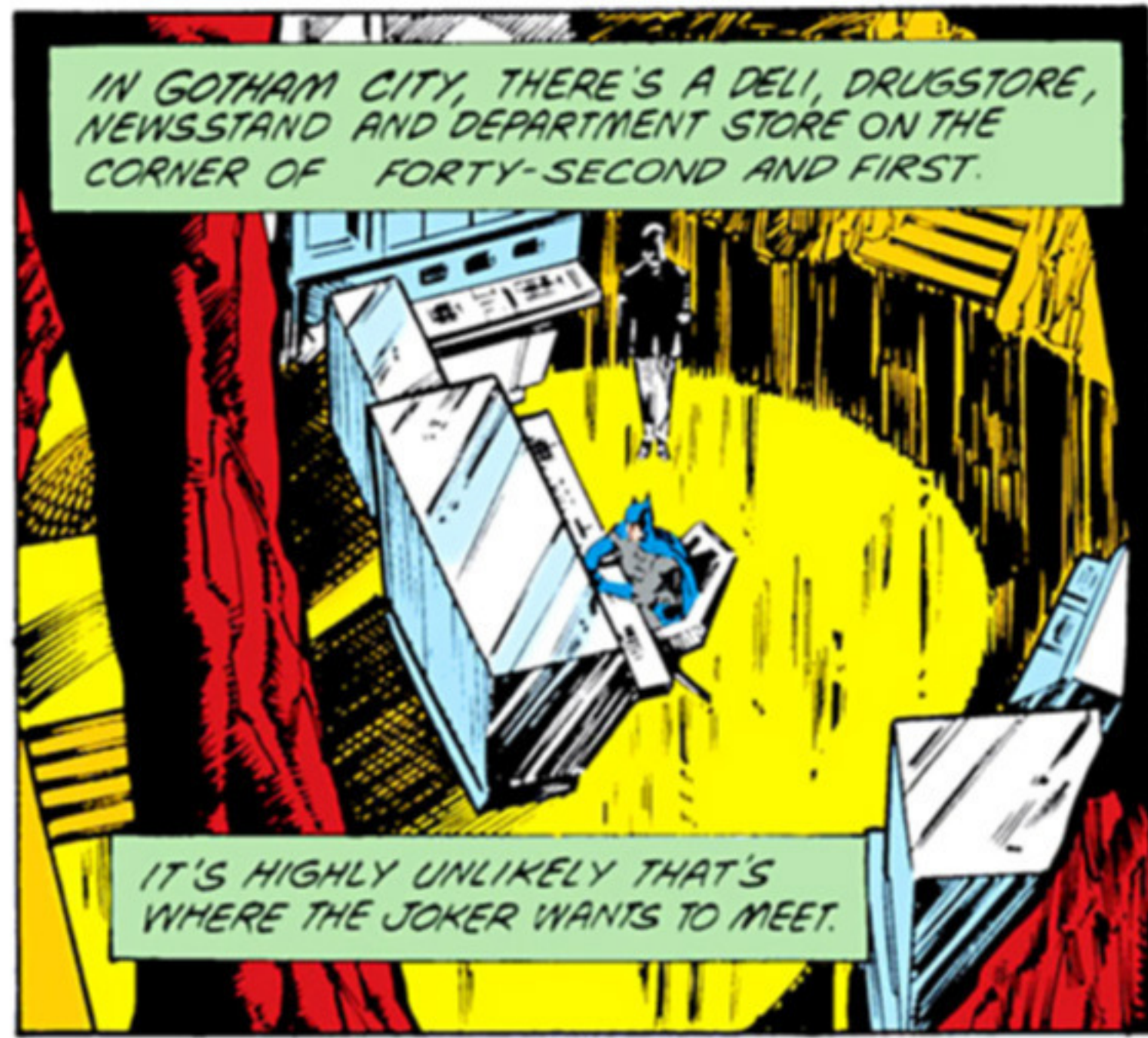
NO... NO, ALFRED. I'LL HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF.



NO HELP FROM NOW ON...



...THAT'S THE WAY I WANT IT.



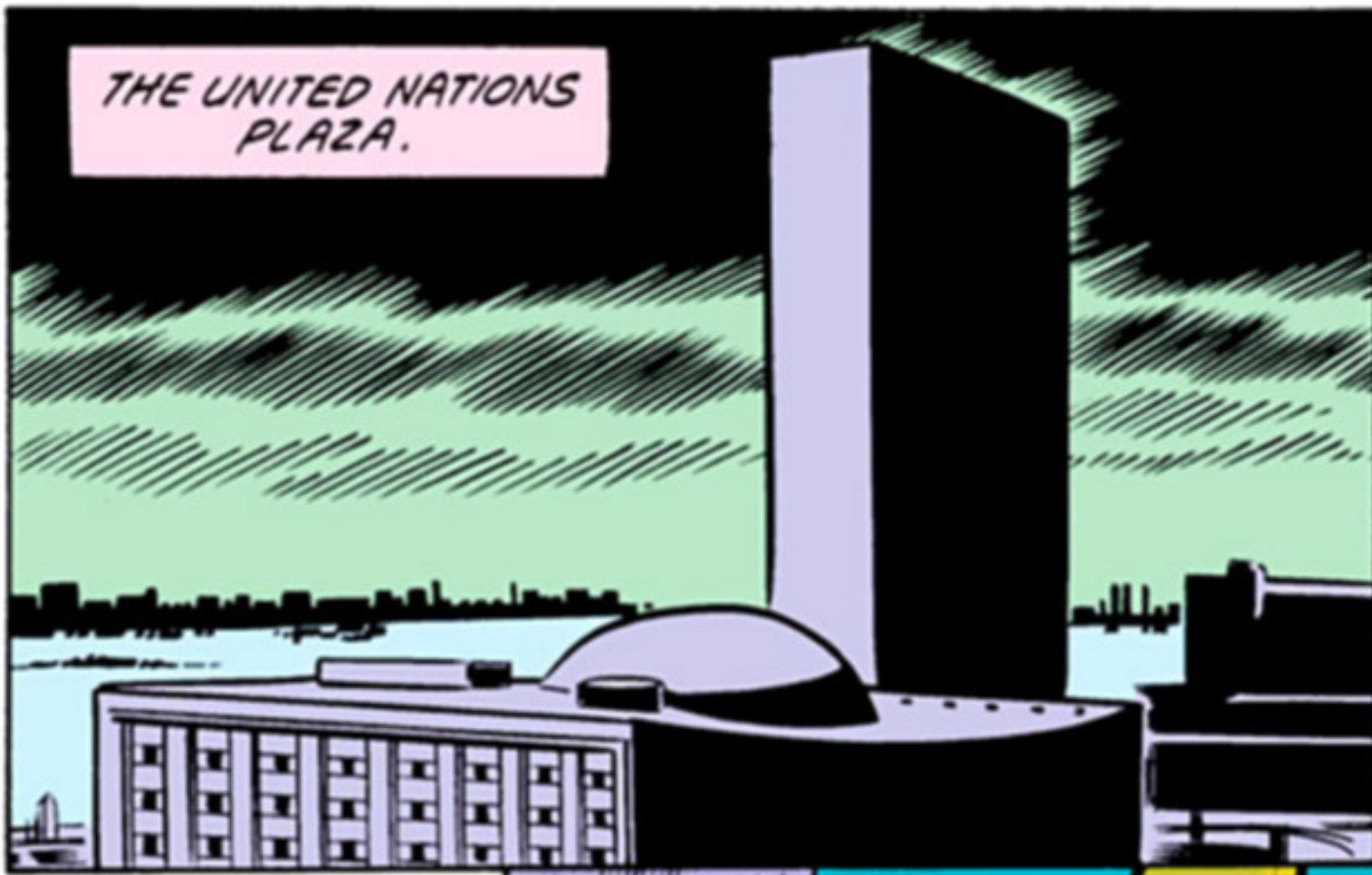
IN GOTHAM CITY, THERE'S A DELI, DRUGSTORE, NEWSSTAND AND DEPARTMENT STORE ON THE CORNER OF FORTY-SECOND AND FIRST.

IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT'S WHERE THE JOKER WANTS TO MEET.

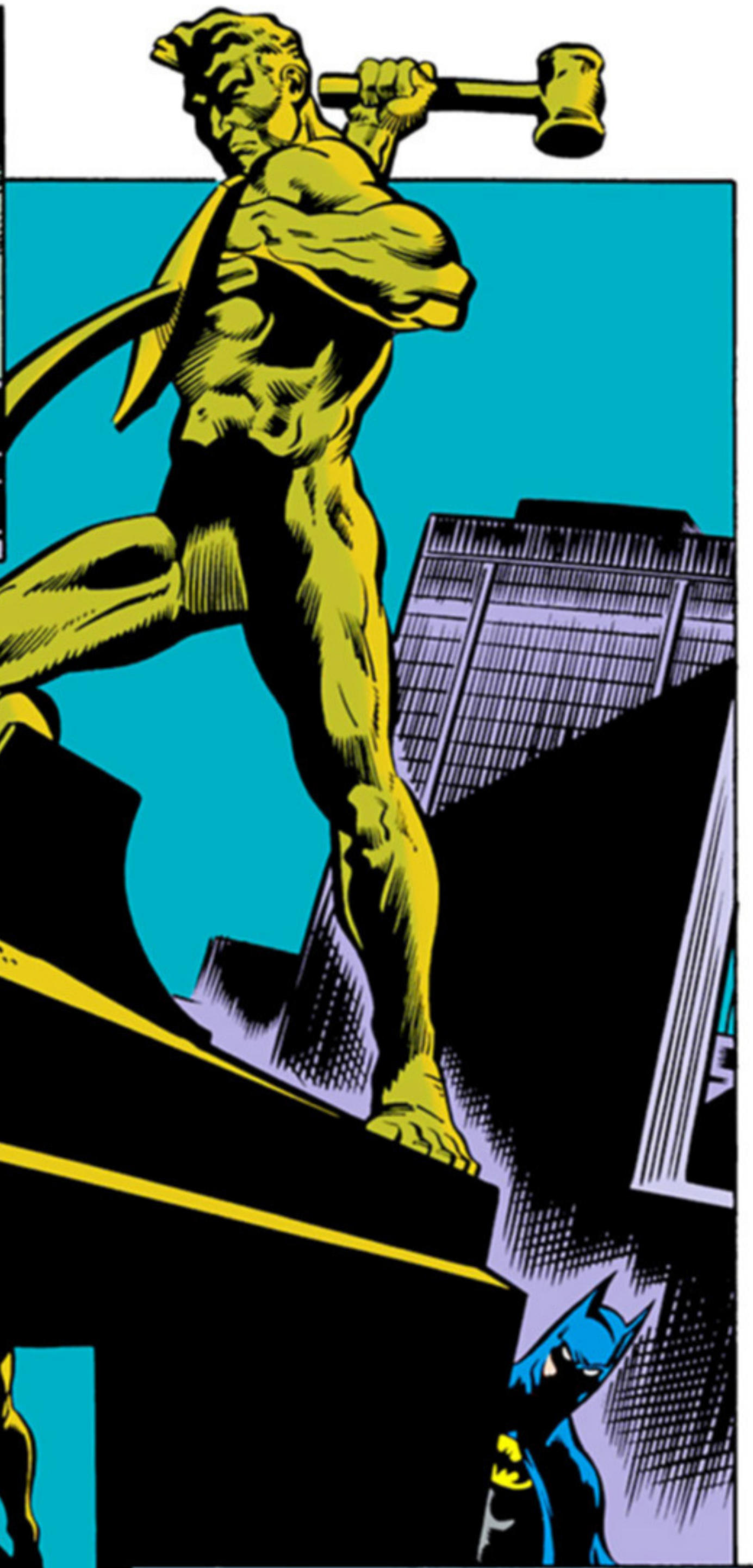


IN METROPOLIS, THERE'S TWO PARKING LOTS, ANOTHER DELI AND AN OFFICE BUILDING ON THOSE CORNERS. NO.

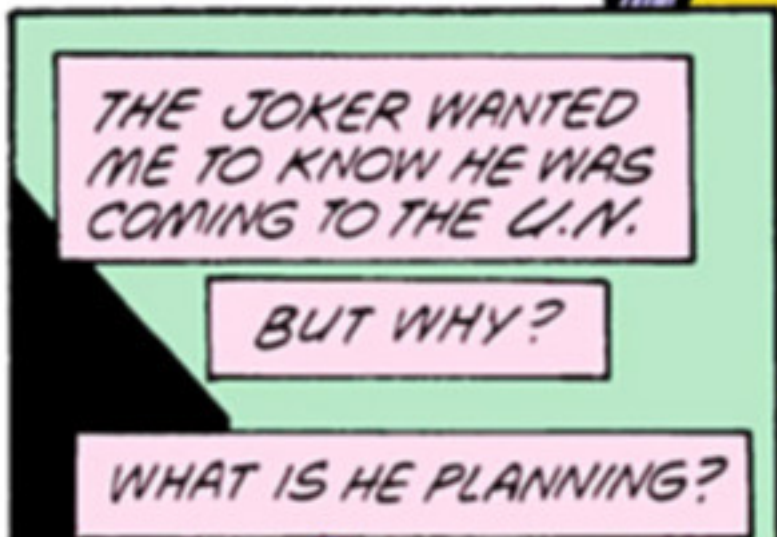
BUT IN NEW YORK CITY...



THE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA.



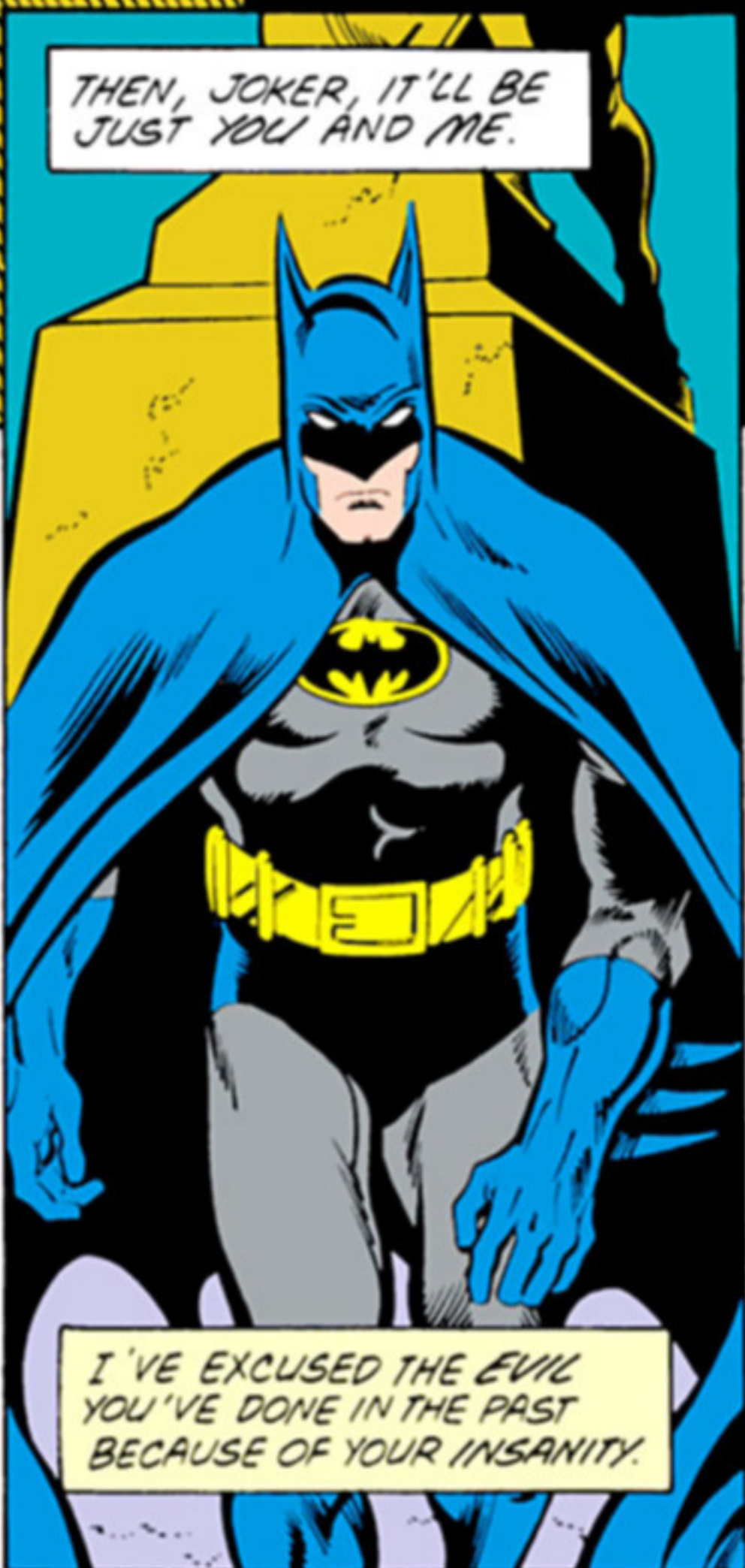
THIS HAS GOT TO BE IT!



THE JOKER WANTED ME TO KNOW HE WAS COMING TO THE U.N.

BUT WHY?

WHAT IS HE PLANNING?



THEN, JOKER, IT'LL BE JUST YOU AND ME.

I'VE EXCUSED THE EVIL YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF YOUR INSANITY.



I'VE GOT TO FIND SOMETHING TO TELL ME WHAT THAT MADMAN'S UP TO.



I'LL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

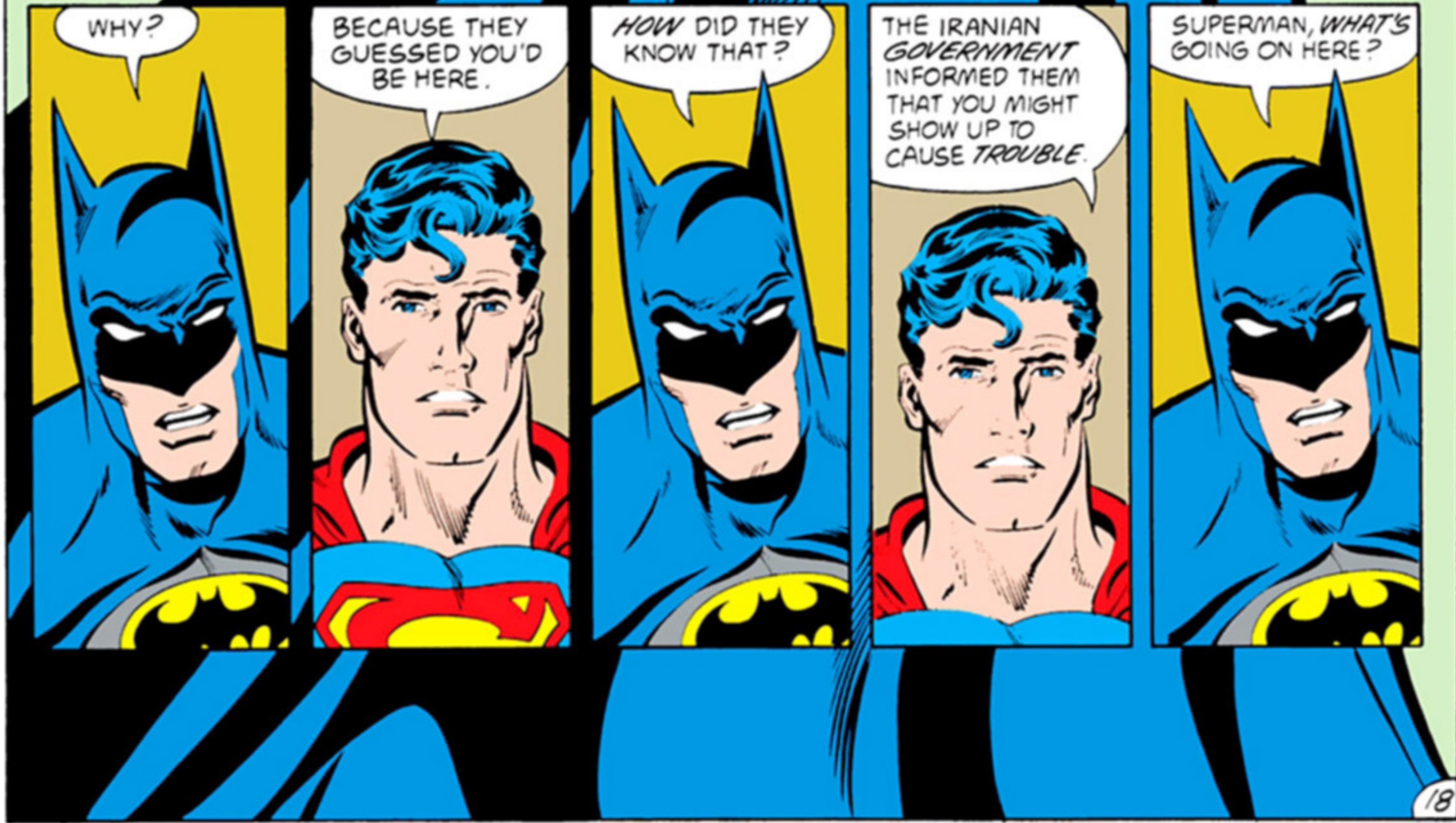
**BATMAN!**



**SUPERMAN?!**

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED ME TO STOP BY.



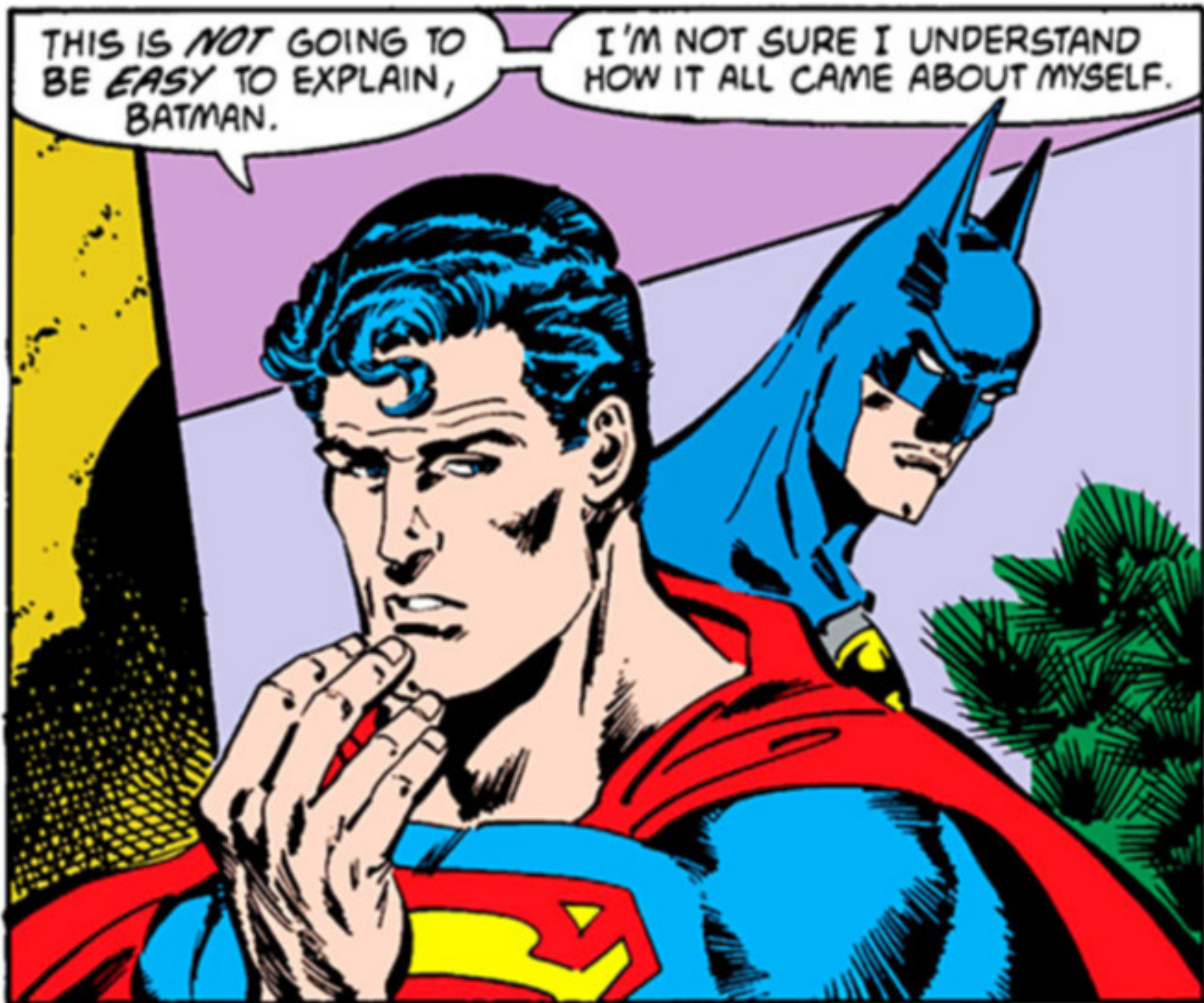
WHY?

BECAUSE THEY GUESSED YOU'D BE HERE.

HOW DID THEY KNOW THAT?

THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED THEM THAT YOU MIGHT SHOW UP TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

SUPERMAN, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



THIS IS *NOT* GOING TO BE *EASY* TO EXPLAIN, BATMAN.

I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT MYSELF.



IRAN HAS A NEW AMBAS-SADOR TO THE U.N. SHOWING UP TODAY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHECKED. IT'S ALL *LEGITIMATE* AND *BY THE BOOK*.



THE POLICE CAN'T TOUCH HIM.

SO IT SEEMS THIS MAN NOW HAS COMPLETE *DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY*.

THAT MEANS *NO ONE* CAN ARREST HIM FOR *ANY CRIMES* IN THIS COUNTRY.



NEITHER CAN YOU.



THIS IMMUNITY ALSO COVERS *ANY VIOLATIONS* OF THE LAW HE MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED *BEFORE* BEING APPOINTED TO THE POST.

I'M SORRY, BATMAN. THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS.



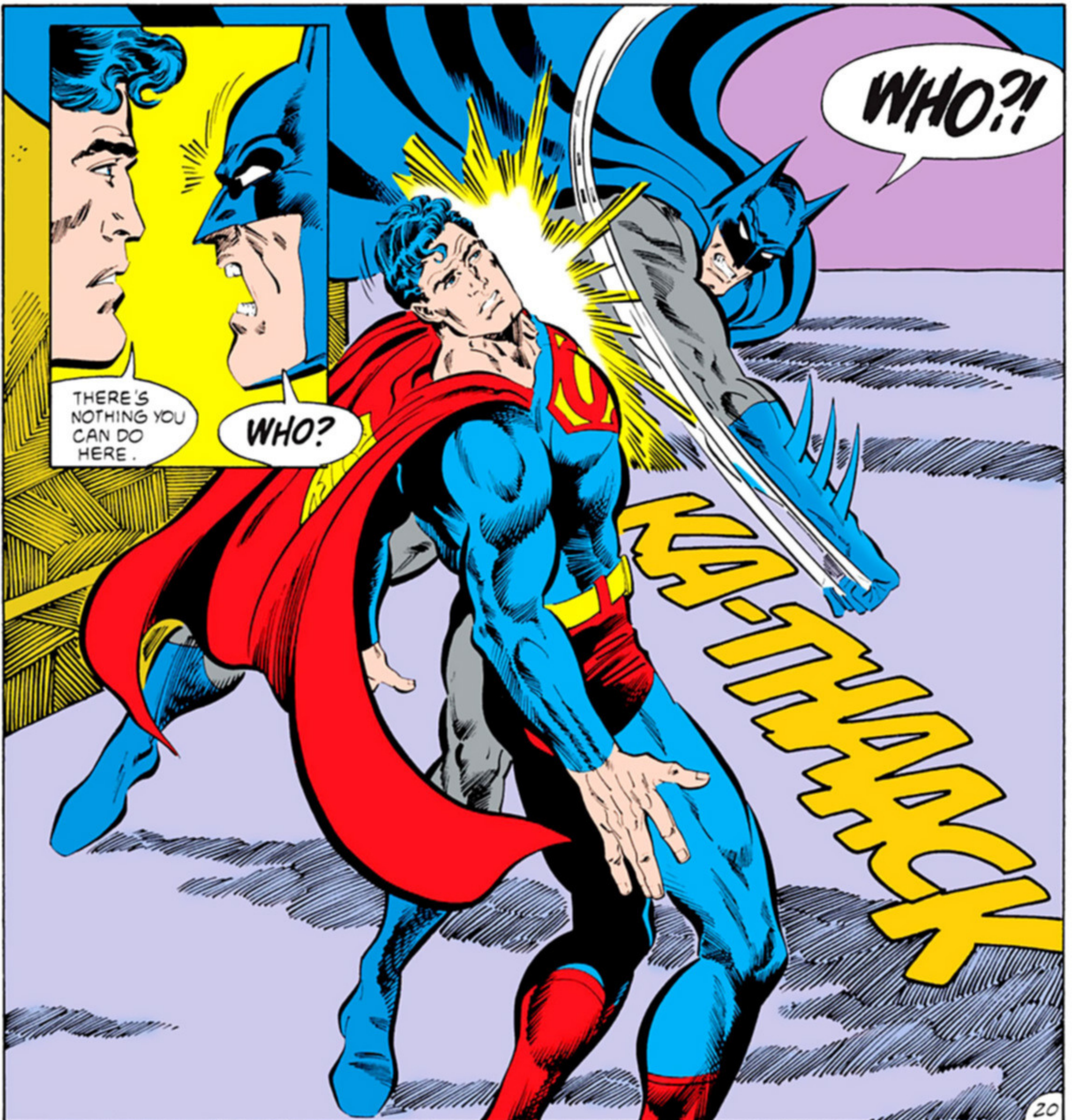
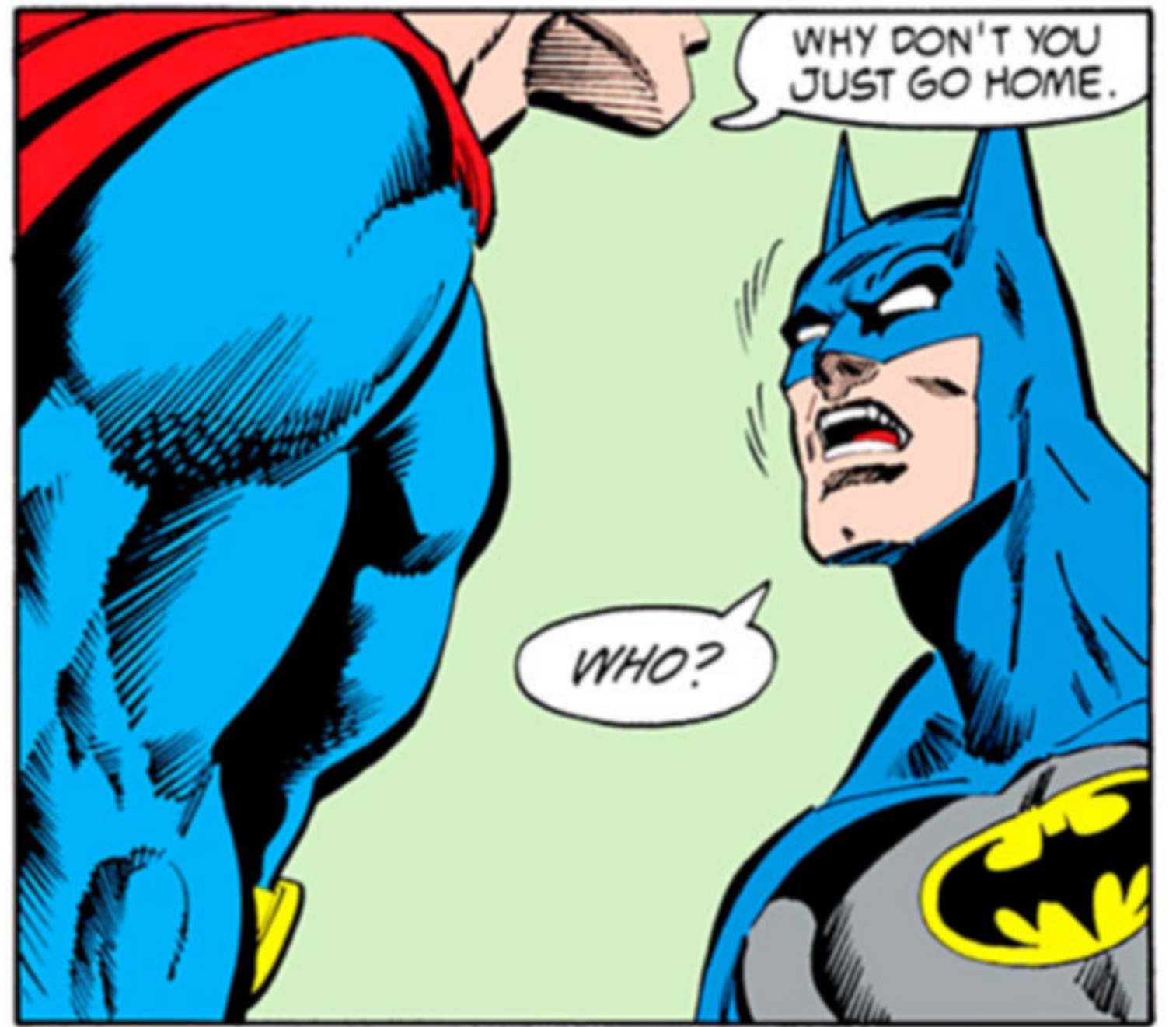
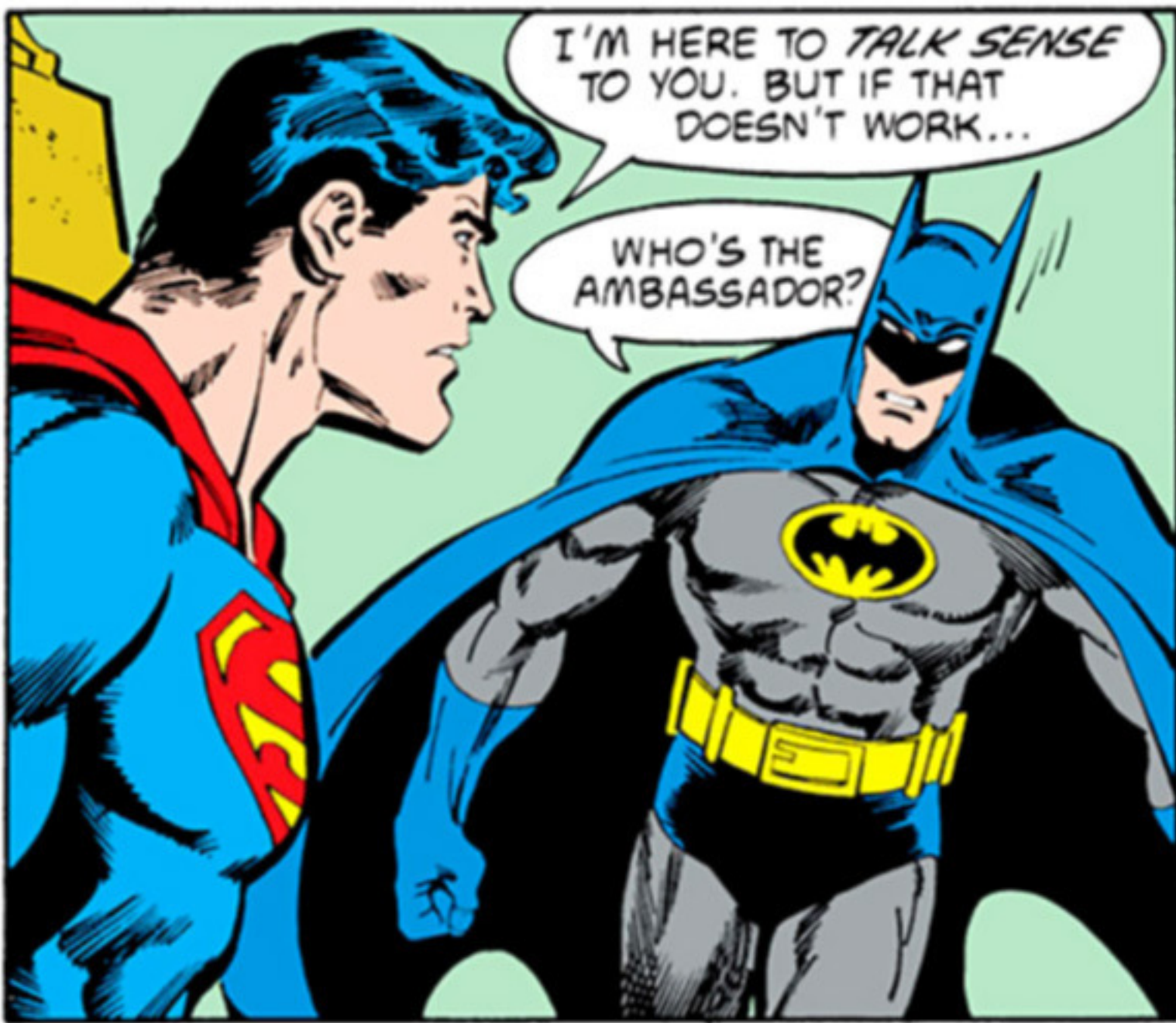
WE HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THIS MADNESS. *DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IS A TWO-WAY STREET.*

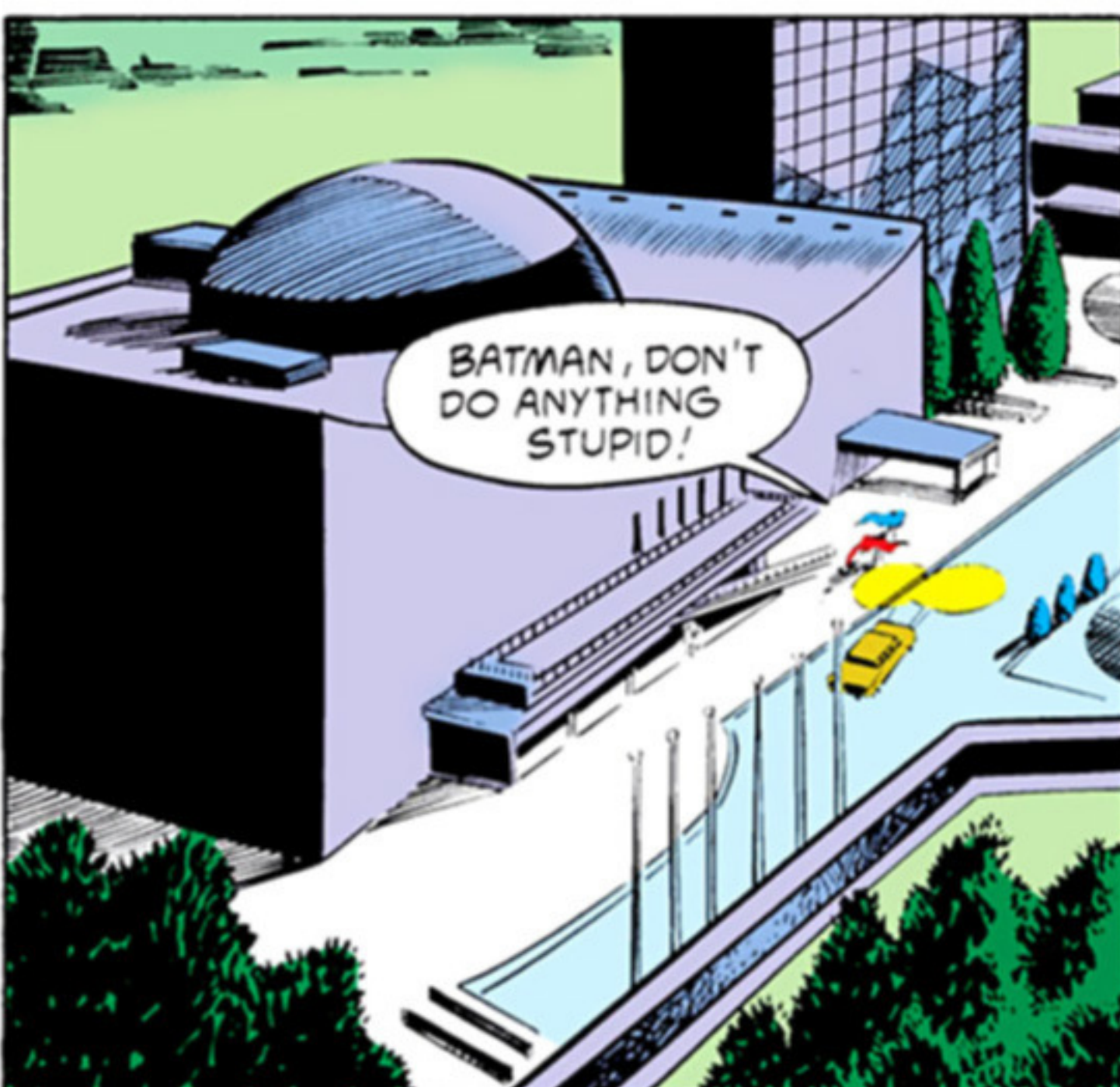
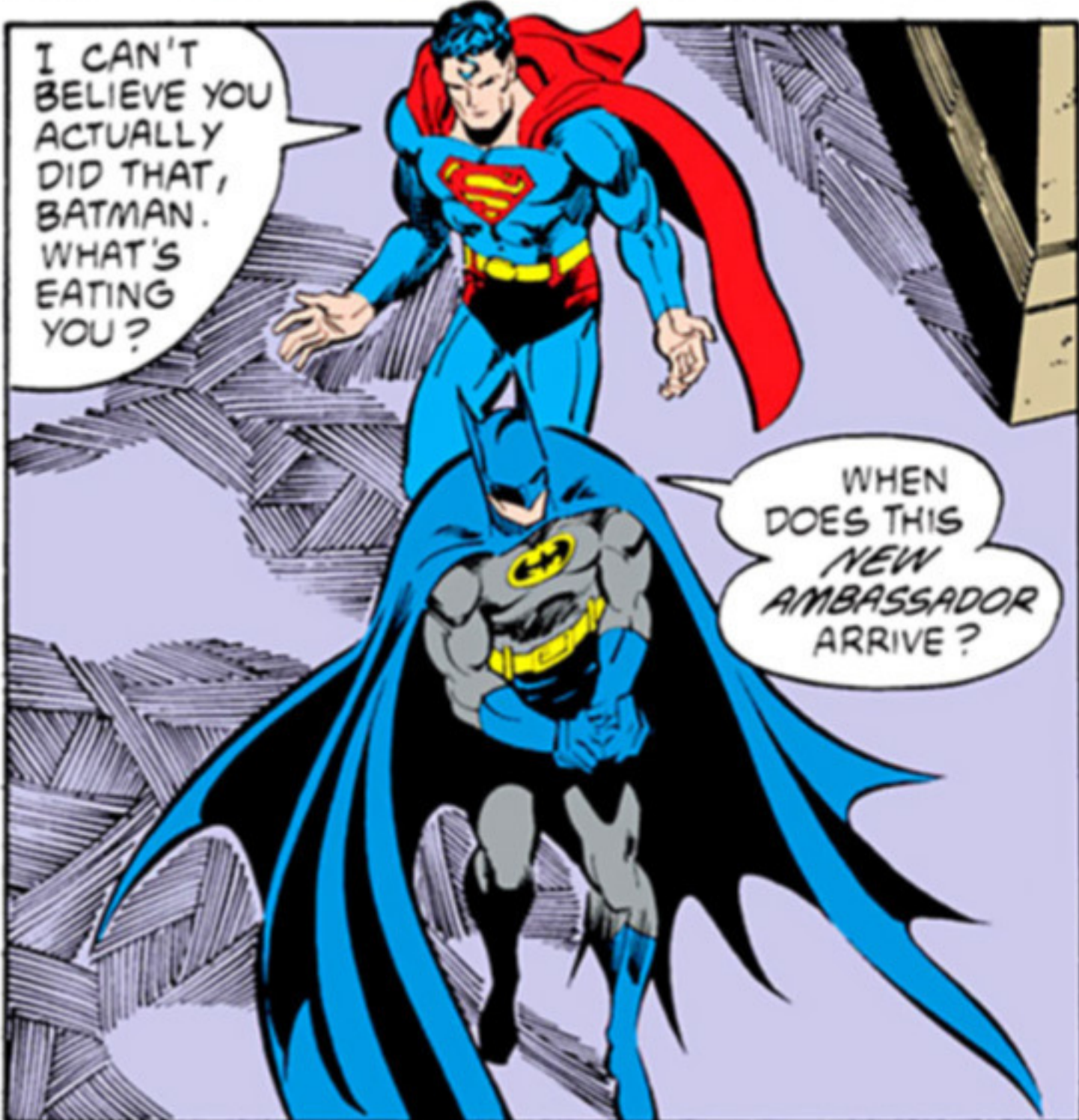
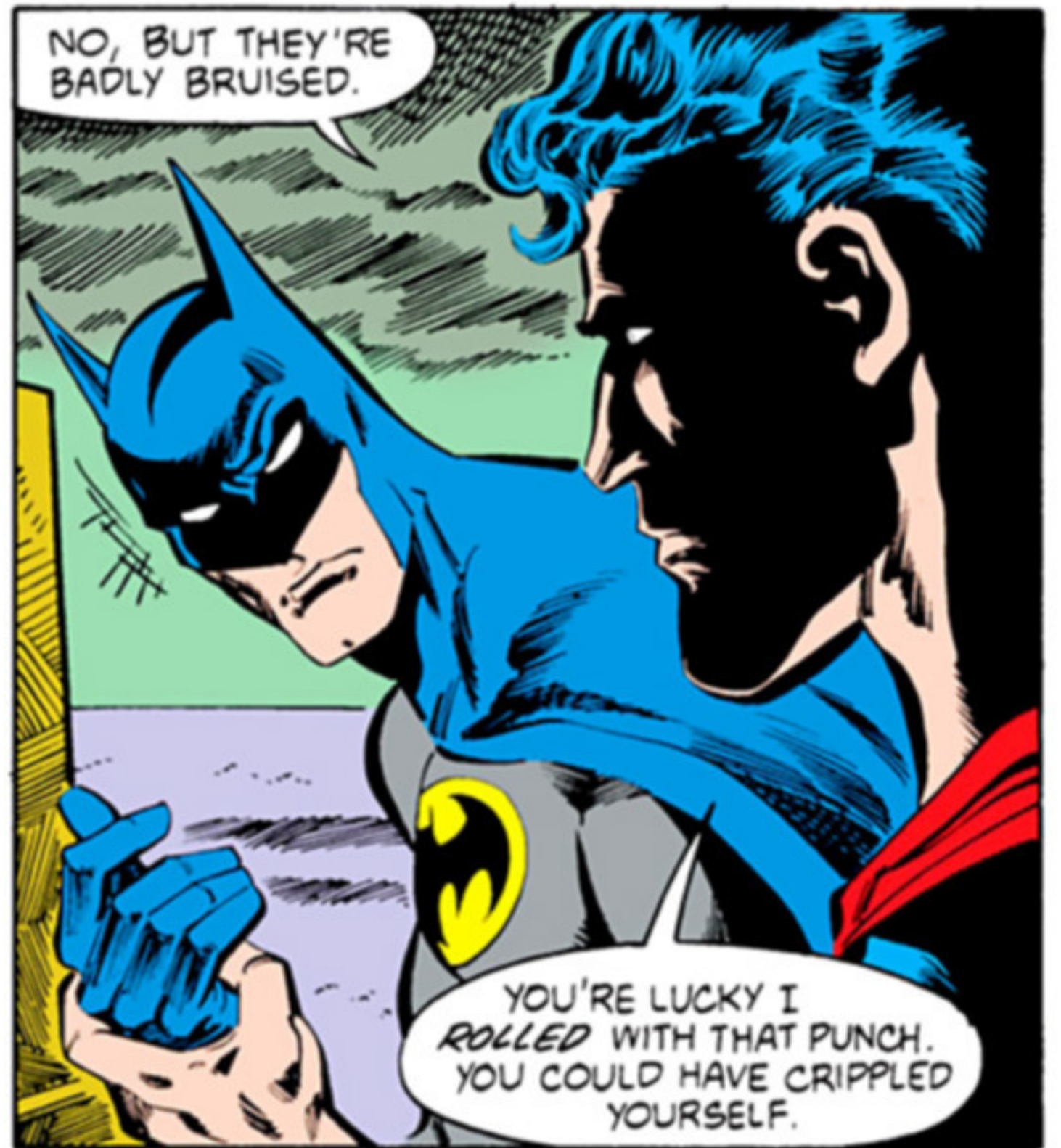
IF WE DON'T HONOR IRAN'S RIGHTS IN THIS MATTER, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO RESPECT OURS.



I DIDN'T KNOW THEY *EVER DID* OR DID YOU JUST FORGET HOW THEY TOOK OVER OUR *EMBASSY* A FEW YEARS BACK.

IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, BATMAN, IT COULD CAUSE AN *INTER-NATIONAL INCIDENT*.





NOW ISN'T THIS TOUCHING!

MY OLD PALS, SUPERHAM AND BATPEST, HAVE COME TO CONGRATULATE ME!

IT'S TRUE, GUYS. I'M THE NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N.!

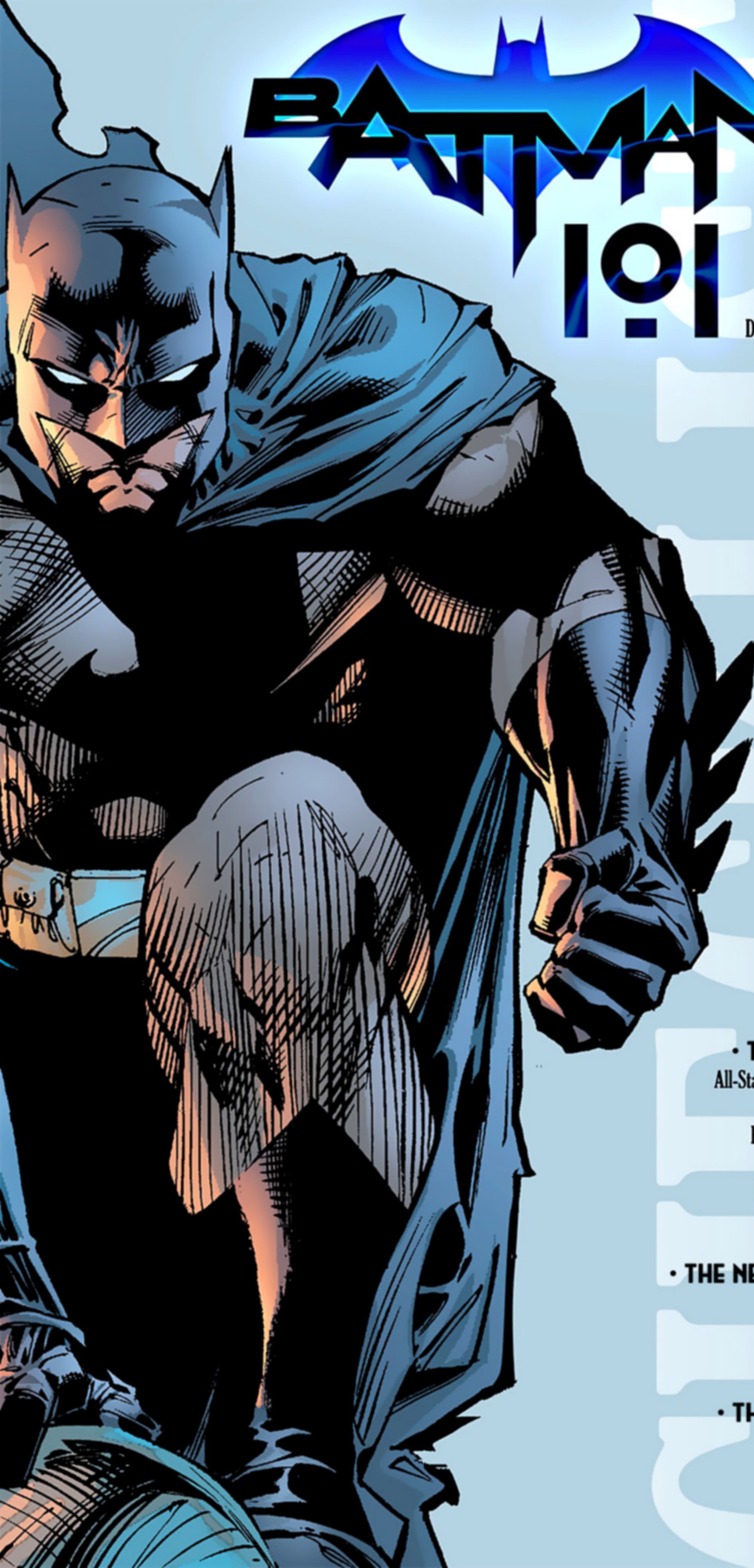
EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT.





# 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





**EMPIRE**