

IT IS HUSHED, HERE... THE ONLY SOUNDS ARE THE MUFFLED MURMURINGS OF SWAMP BEASTS AND THE GENTLE LAP OF WATER AGAINST GRASSY BANKS... AND THE ONLY SIGHTS THE GAUNT SHAPE OF AN ANCIENT VESSEL AND THE AWESOME FIGURE OF THE DREAD--

**BATMAN**

BUT BE NOT DECEIVED BY THE SERENITY! THERE IS DANGER IN THIS PEACEFUL PLACE, MYSTERY, AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH... FOR HERE LURKS...

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**HALF AN EVIL**

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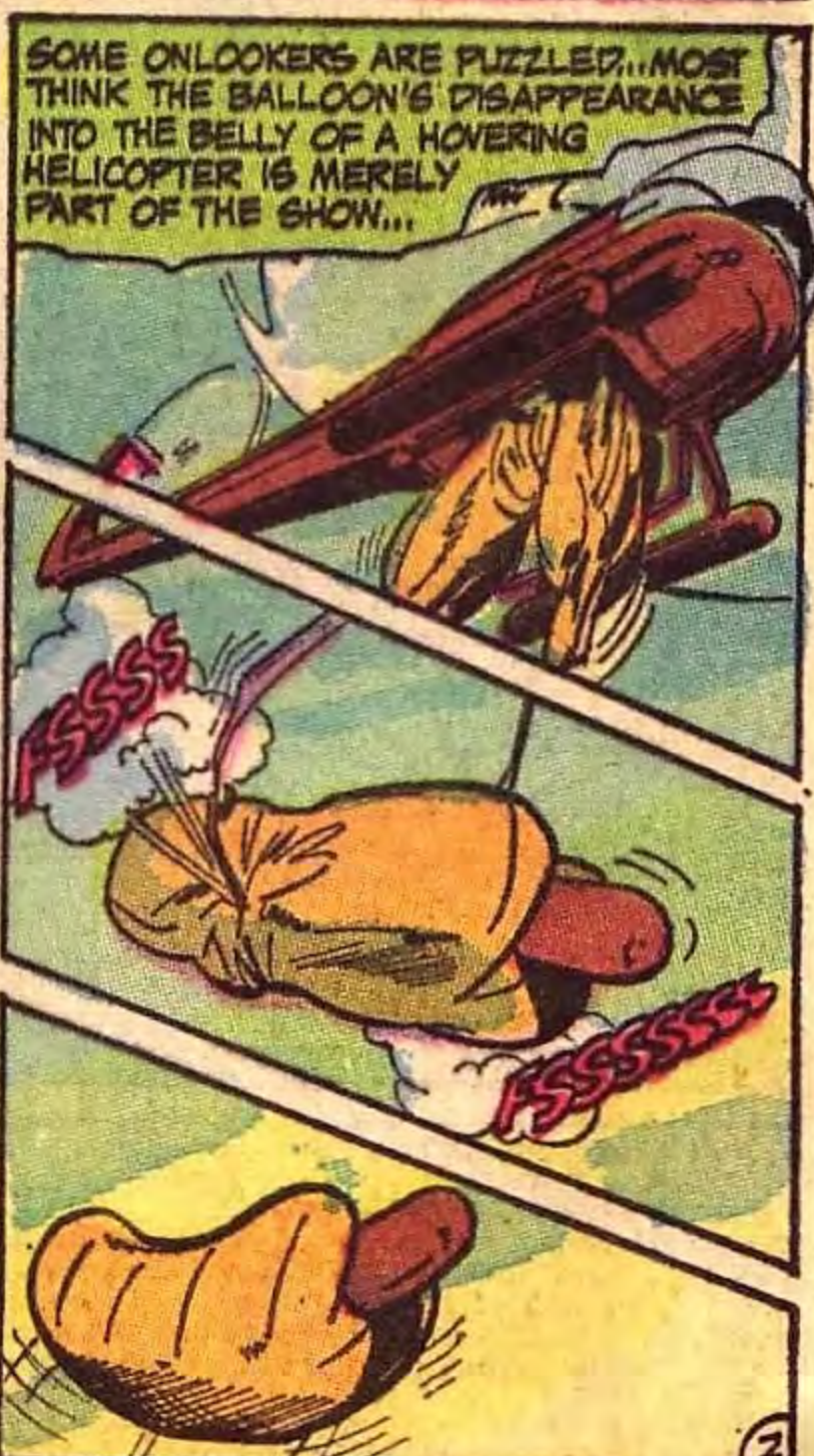
IT BEGINS AT THE ANNUAL *GOTHAM CITY MERCHANTS'* PARADE...A MERRY PROCESSION OF FLOATS THROUGH THE BUSINESS DISTRICT, CELEBRATING THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OF THE MIGHTY METROPOLIS...



NONE OF THE GRINNING SPECTATORS IS AWARE THAT A *CRIME* IS BEING COMMITTED BEFORE THEIR EYES...



OKAY! LET'S SPLIT, BEFORE SOMEBODY TUMBLES TO WHAT'S HAPPENIN'!





THAT NIGHT, A FAMILIAR SHAPE APPEARS ON THE STARLESS NIGHT-SKY-A SILENT CALL FOR THE BATMAN!

AND INSIDE THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON, A CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVANT IS WAVING HIS ARMS... AND SCREECHING JUST A BIT--

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO SUMMON THAT... THAT MASKED BLACKGUARD!

BECAUSE, MR. REEVES, THE THEFT OF A FRANKFURTER-SHAPED HELIUM BALLOON IS AN UNUSUAL CRIME... TO SAY THE LEAST!



AND THE UNUSUAL IS THE SPECIALTY OF THE BATMAN!



WELL, I HOPE HE SHOWS UP-- THAT'S ALL! I'M TIRED OF HIS MEDDLING IN CITY AFFAIRS...

I MAY DECIDE TO SEE HOW TOUGH HE REALLY IS! AN ARTHUR REEVES LEFT... FOLLOWED BY A REEVES RIGHT!



...I'LL TAKE HIM DOWN A PEG OR TWO... OHH!



BOO!



YOU CALLED ME ABOUT THAT ODD ROBBERY THIS AFTERNOON, COMMISSIONER!

YES...IT SEEMED TO BE YOUR SORT OF CASE! ANY IDEAS?

A DIM ONE, SIR! SO UNLIKELY IT'S HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING!

COMMISSIONER! THE ALARM AT THE NAUTICAL MUSEUM IS RINGING!

HAVE MY CAR BROUGHT TO THE FRONT DOOR!

COME ON, BATMAN! I'LL DRIVE YOU...

YOU HAVE YOUR TRANSPORTATION... AND I HAVE MINE! SEE YOU THERE!

BANG BANG BANG

BARE MINUTES LATER..

THE GUARDS ARE SHOOTING AT THE GETAWAY CAR...AND NOT DOING MUCH GOOD!

THEY'RE DUMB CROOKS... SHOWING THEMSELVES ON THE STREET! UNLESS...

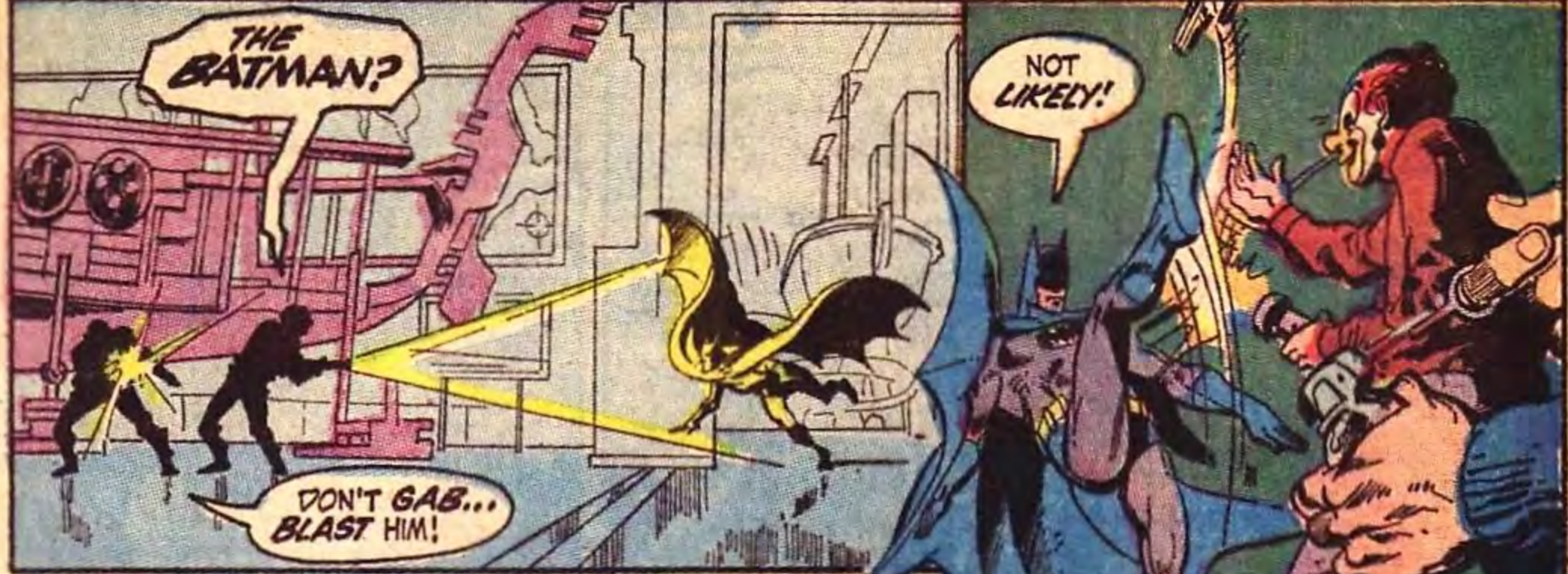
...THEY PLANNED ON BEING SEEN!... TO DIVERT THE GUARDS FROM WHERE THE REAL ACTION IS... INSIDE!

YES...THERE'S A FLASHLIGHT MOVING IN THE NEXT GALLERY!

WILL YOU GET IT IN GEAR? THIS JOINT GIVES ME THE CREEPY-CRAWLIES!

GO CHEW YOUR TONGUE! I GOT THE JUNK WE WAS SENT FOR!

EXACTLY WHAT JUNK, FUNNY-FACE?



THE BATMAN?

NOT LIKELY!

DON'T GAB... BLAST HIM!



THE OTHER ONE-- PITCHING A SMOKE-GRENADE! THEY'RE WELL-EQUIPPED FOR COMMON RIP-OFF ARTISTS!

UH!...



I'VE GOT TO COUNT THE GRENADE-TOSSER AS A DEAD LOSS... NO WAY OF FOLLOWING HIM THROUGH THE FLAMES!

BUT THIS CHARMER ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE... EXCEPT INTO A ROOM OF FRESH AIR!

WAK



STAY BACK, BATMAN... OR SO HELP ME, I'LL SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS! I DON'T WANNA MIX WITH YOU--!



JUST... KEEP AWAY!

NO NEED TO GET UPSET!...



... YOU'RE NO DANGER--NONE AT ALL!



THE POLICE WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY! IF YOU'D CARE TO BE HEALTHY WHEN THEY TAKE YOU AWAY, YOU'LL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS!

S-SURE... ANYTHING!



WHOM ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

I DUNNO... I SWEAR I DON'T! HE'S A WEIRDO... FACE HIDDEN ALL 'A TIME...

...AN' HE KEEPS TOSSIN' SOME KINDA COIN!



ONE MORE THING... WHAT DID YOUR PAL STEAL?

A LOUSY BOOK... THE "DIARIES OF CAPTAIN BYE"!

BYE? YES, YES... THAT MAKES IT CERTAIN!



YOUR BOSS IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST CRIMINAL GENIUSES WHO EVER LIVED! ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC... AND ONE OF THE DEADLIEST!



AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SHACK NEAR THE GOTHAM CITY DOCKS...

YOU GOT IT?... THE DIARY?

YEAH... ONLY MY BUDDY WAS NABBED!



THAT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE... FOR HIM! IT'S NO CONCERN OF MINE, HOWEVER! THIS IS THE IMPORTANT THING...

...THIS WRITING! A CIPHER-EXPERT I MET IN PRISON TOLD ME THERE IS IN THESE PAGES THE CODED CLUE TO A FORTUNE!



AND I HAVE THE KEY TO THE CODE! BUT WILL I USE IT? WILL I ACTUALLY COMMIT THE CRIME?

THAT IS FOR THE COIN TO DECIDE!



WHICH FACE WILL IT SHOW? WHICH SIDE... THE WHOLE...



...OR THE RUINED?



THE COIN HAS DECIDED! THE EVIL PART OF MY NATURE WINS... AND SO TWO-FACE MUST STRIKE!

AS THE BELLS OF GOTHAM CITY TOLL MIDNIGHT, WEALTHY SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE STANDS ON THE BALCONY OF HIS PENTHOUSE, CONFERRING WITH HIS BUTLER, ALFRED...

A KNOTTY PROBLEM, MASTER BRUCE?



WORSE, ALFRED! I SUSPECTED THAT OUR OLD ENEMY TWO-FACE WAS BEHIND THE BALLOON THEFT...



...HE COULDN'T RESIST THE SLOGAN ON THE FLOAT--"DOUBLY DELICIOUS!" OR THE NAME "JANUS"... THE TWO-FACED ROMAN GOD!

ARE YOU SURE, SIR? ISN'T TWO-FACE STILL IN JAIL?

HE ESCAPED... SEVERAL MONTHS AGO! HOW COULD ANY JAIL HOPE TO HOLD A MAN SO CLEVER AND DEVILIOUS AS HARVEY?



"REMEMBER, ALFRED, HOW TWO-FACE CAME TO BE? HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT WHEN THAT TWO-BIT GANGSTER HURTTLED A VIAL OF ACID INTO THE FACE OF GOTHAM'S MOST BRILLIANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY, HARVEY DENT..."

...WHAT A MAD AND DIABOLICAL CHASE HE LED ROBIN AND ME WHEN HIS HALF-RUINED FACE TWISTED HIS MIND TOWARD CRIME!!



"IT WAS ONLY THANKS TO MODERN METHODS OF PLASTIC SURGERY THAT THE PERSONALITY OF HARVEY DENT WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM THE EDGE OF MADNESS..."



"ONCE AGAIN HE RE-ENTERED LAWFUL SOCIETY AND SPENT HIS ENERGIES ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE...UNTIL ONE UNHOLY DAY HARVEY ATTEMPTED TO STOP A ROBBERY..."

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO! STAND WHERE YOU ARE--!



"SO INTENT WAS HE ON CAPTURING THE THIEVES, HE FAILED TO SPOT THE SPLUTTERING FLUSE THEY HAD SET..."



"IT WASN'T UNTIL HE STAGGERED HOME AND LOOKED INTO A MIRROR THAT THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS TRAGEDY TOOK HOLD OF HIS MIND ONCE AGAIN..."

THE PLASTIC SURGERY! IT'S ALL BEEN UNDONE! IT CAN NEVER BE REPAIRED THIS TIME! I'M DOOMED TO REMAIN TWO-FACE... FOREVER...

**TWO-FACE... FOREVER!**





THEN IT'S NOT SURPRISING, EITHER, THAT HE STOLE A BOOK BY CAPTAIN BYE-- WHICH SOUNDS LIKE *BI*, THE PREFIX MEANING *TWO*!

EXACTLY! I'D RELAX IF I COULD FEEL IT'S ENDED... BUT *TWO-FACE* WON'T QUIT-- UNLESS THAT BLASTED COIN TELLS HIM TO! THOSE THEFTS MUST BE LEADING TO SOMETHING...

ALFRED! I'VE FOUND IT-- I THINK!

BYE'S OLD SHIP... A *TWO-MASTED* SCHOONER... IS DOCKED AT A *MARINA* ACROSS THE RIVER! I'LL BET TREES TO TOOTHPICKS THAT'S WHERE *TWO-FACE* IS HEADING...

...AND SO IS THE *BATMAN*!

AS IN *BISECT*, SIR!

...AND I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT *WHAT*! MAYBE THE *MARINE ENCYCLOPEDIA* HAS INFORMATION ON CAPTAIN *BYE*...

A SLEEK ROADSTER CUTS THROUGH THE DARKNESS, ACROSS A MAMMOTH BRIDGE...

...AND HURTLES ONTO A PIER FRONTING ONE OF *GOTHAM'S* TWIN RIVERS!

MY GUESS WAS *GOOD*! THE OLD SCHOONER'S BEEN CUT LOOSE... IT'S DRIFTING INTO THE CURRENT!

...AND THOSE THUGS MUST BE *TWO-FACE'S* NEW PLAYMATES!



THAT CAR AIN'T ONE OF OURS!

PROB'LY THE HEAT! GIVE IT TO 'EM!

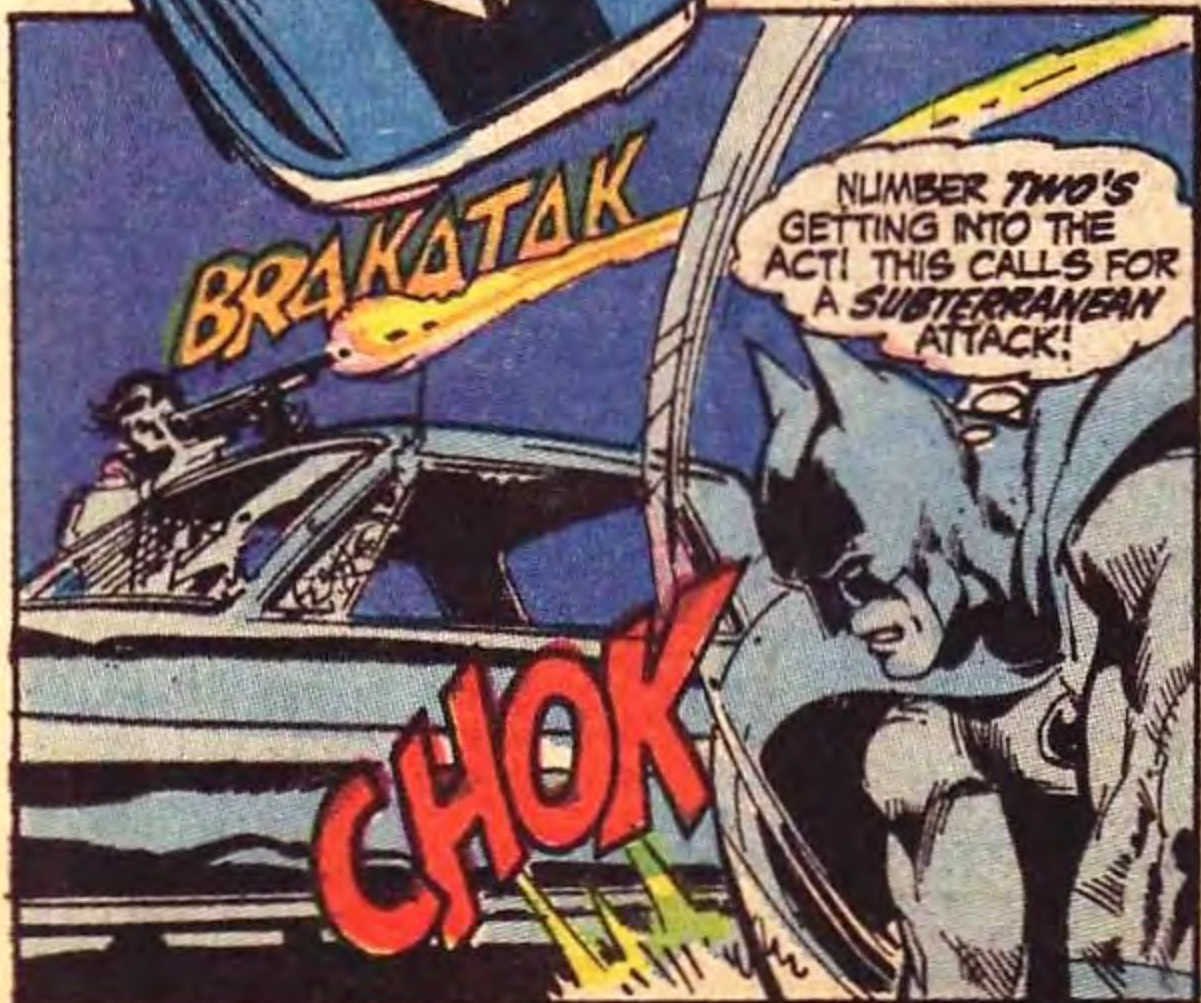


HE CAN'T SEE... HE'S FIRING AT WHERE HE FIGURES I AM! THE AUTOMATIC PILOT-TYPE CONTROLS IN THAT MODEL BAT-MOBILE ARE PRECISION PERFECT!



I'VE BEEN IN THIS SITUATION TOO OFTEN TO DO THE OBVIOUS!

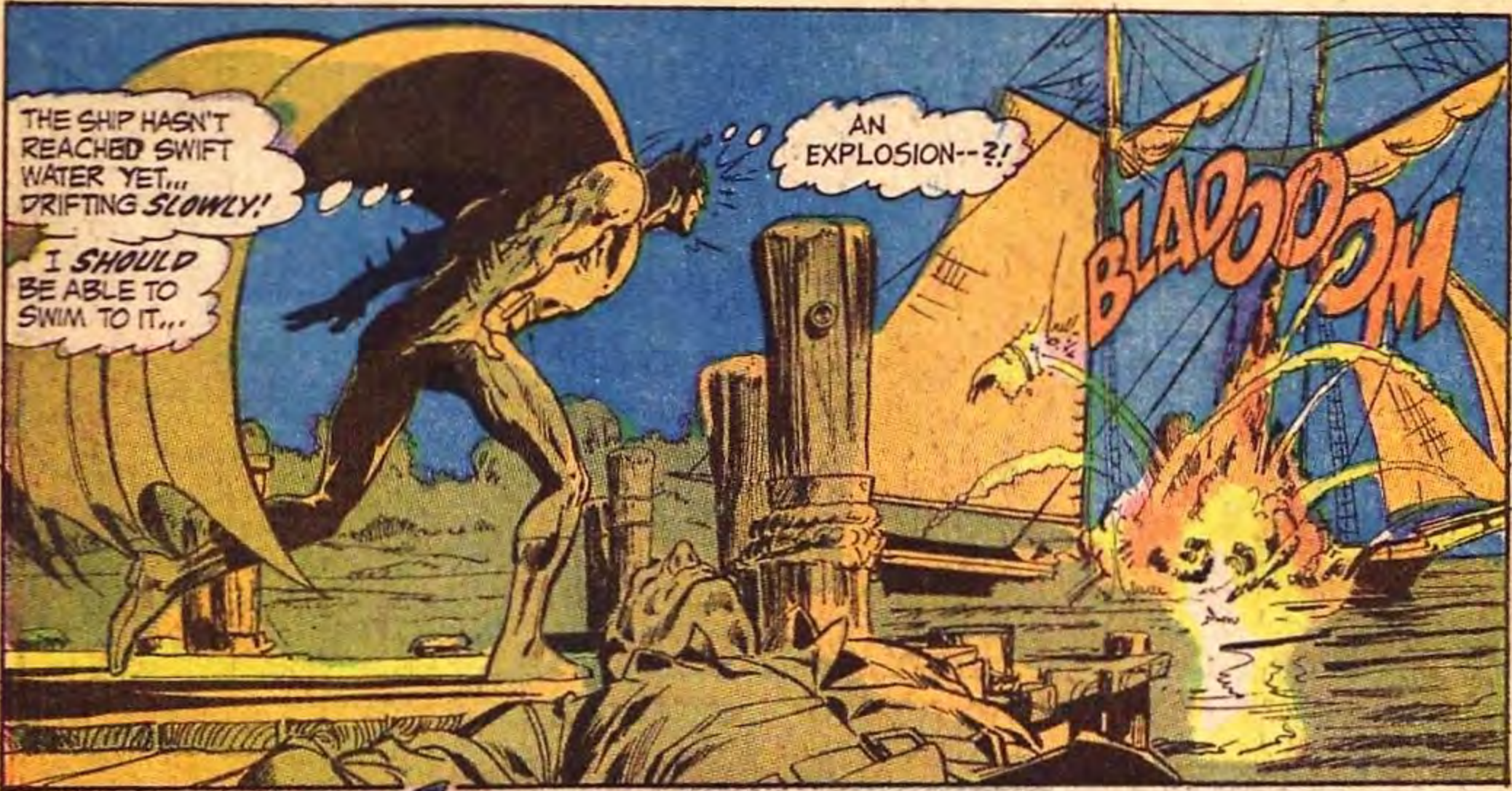
AYIFEEE



NUMBER TWO'S GETTING INTO THE ACT! THIS CALLS FOR A SUBTERRANEAN ATTACK!

CHOK



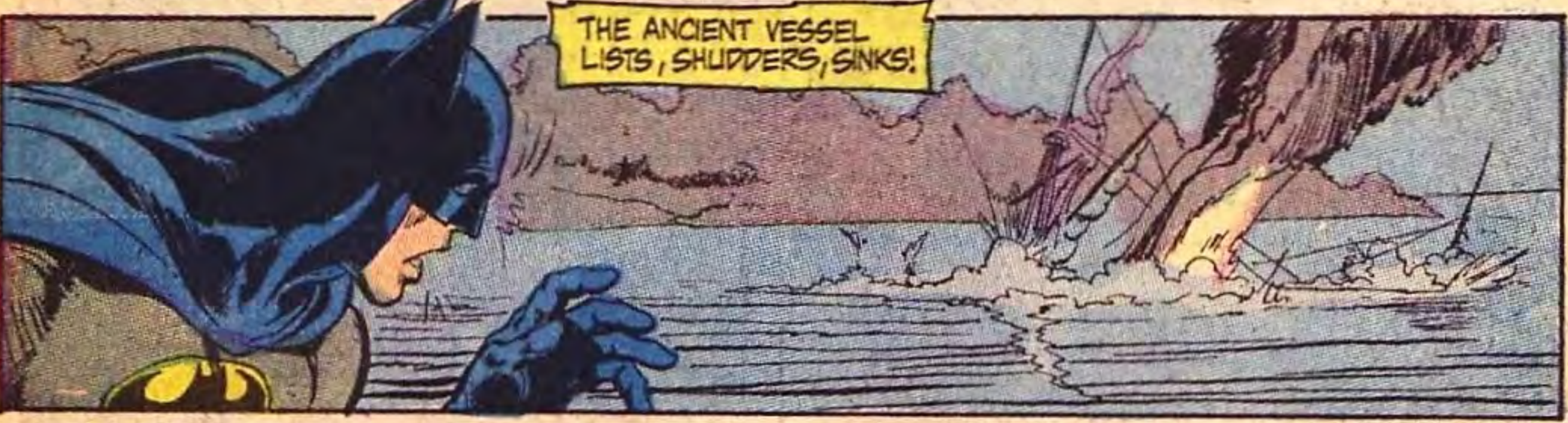


THE SHIP HASN'T REACHED SWIFT WATER YET... DRIFTING SLOWLY!

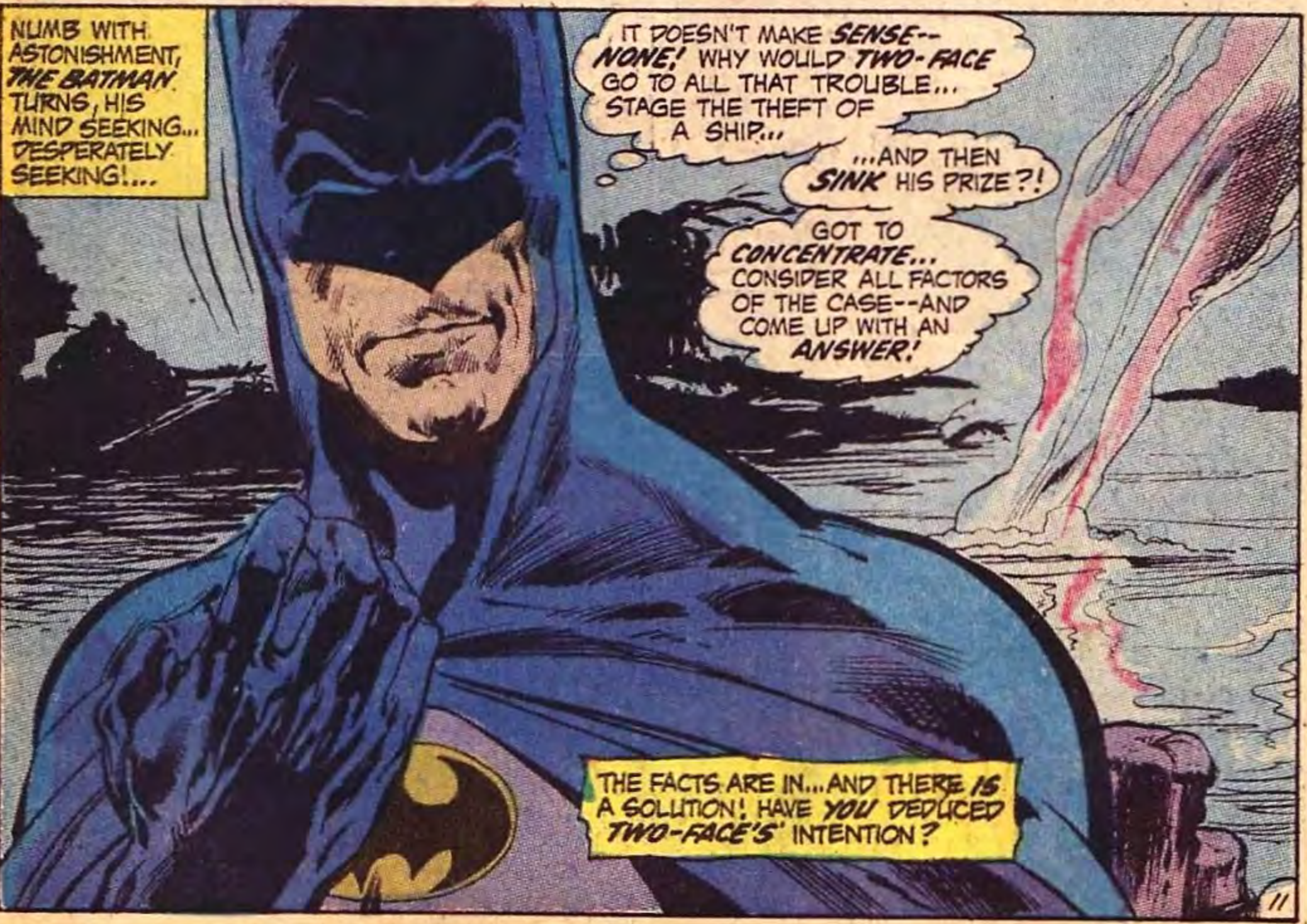
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWIM TO IT...

AN EXPLOSION--?!

**BLADDOOM**



THE ANCIENT VESSEL LISTS, SHUDDERS, SINKS!



NUMB WITH ASTONISHMENT, THE BATMAN TURNS, HIS MIND SEEKING... DESPERATELY SEEKING!...

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- NONE! WHY WOULD TWO-FACE GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE... STAGE THE THEFT OF A SHIP...

...AND THEN SINK HIS PRIZE?!

GOT TO CONCENTRATE... CONSIDER ALL FACTORS OF THE CASE--AND COME UP WITH AN ANSWER!

THE FACTS ARE IN... AND THERE IS A SOLUTION! HAVE YOU DEDUCED TWO-FACE'S INTENTION?

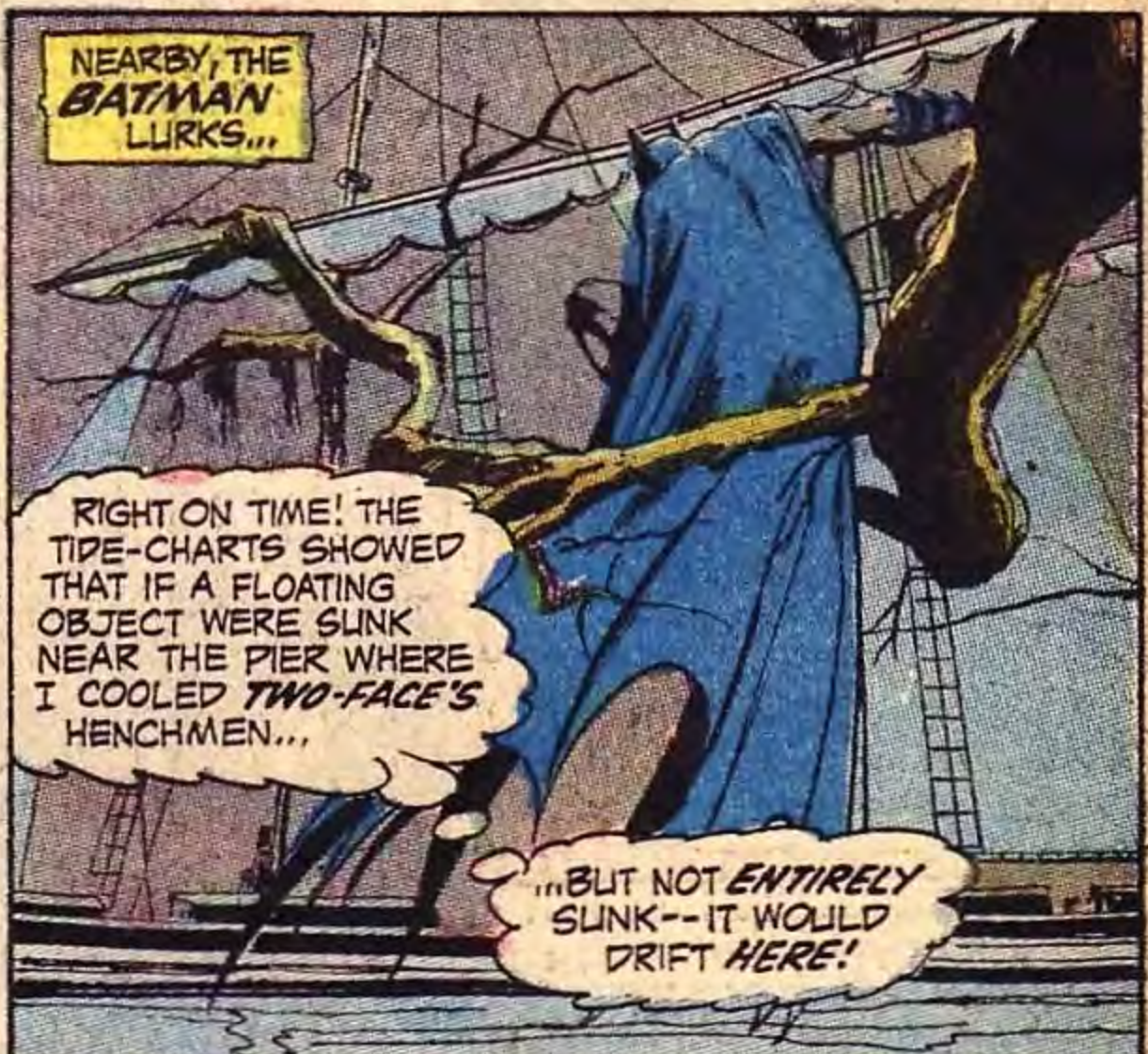
MEET NOW, **BILLY THE TRAMP**...HAVING AN EARLY MORNING NAP IN A BACKWATER BAY SOUTH OF **GOTHAM**. HE'S HAD A HARD NIGHT, BILLY HAS--



BUT NOT NEARLY AS HARD AS HIS MORNING WILL BE! FOR THE TOP-MAST OF A SHIP POKES ABOVE THE BAY NEAR HIS HEAD...



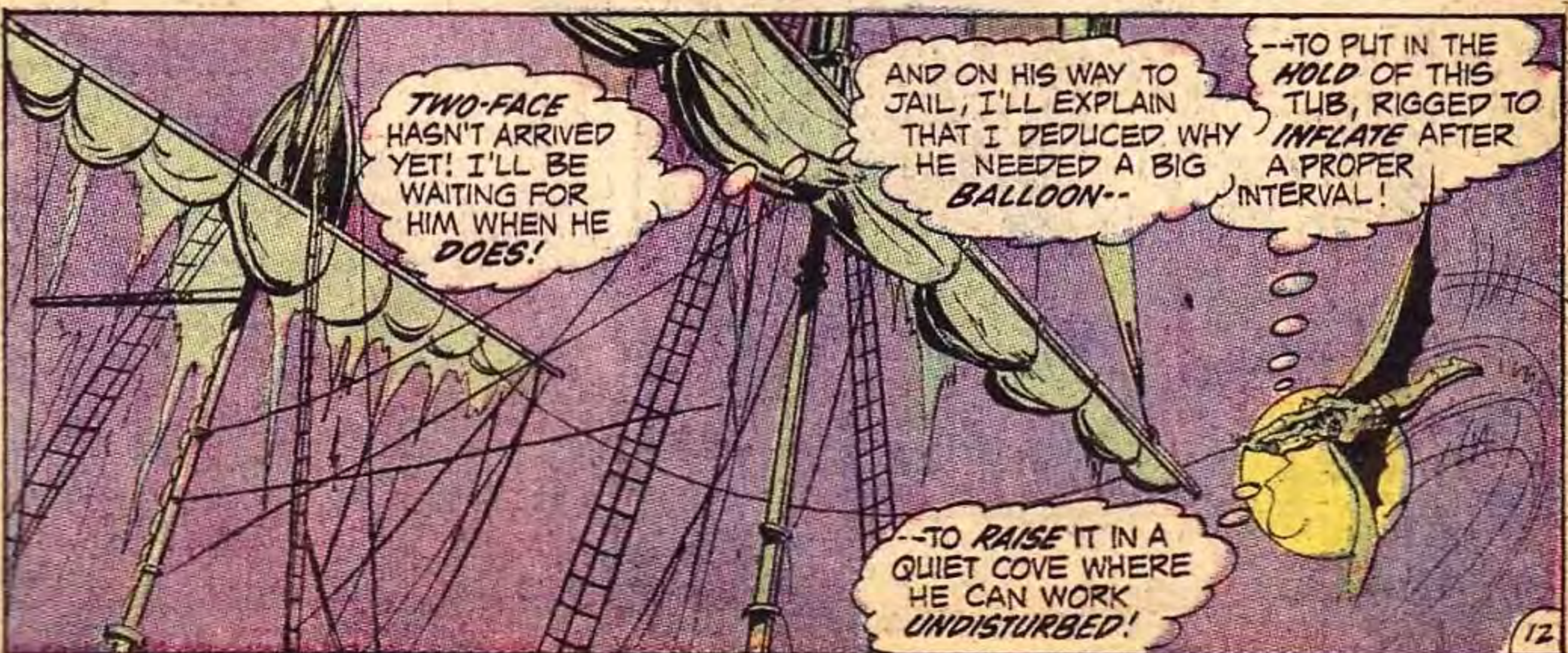
...AND...



NEARBY, THE **BATMAN** LURKS...

RIGHT ON TIME! THE TIDE-CHARTS SHOWED THAT IF A FLOATING OBJECT WERE SUNK NEAR THE PIER WHERE I COOLED **TWO-FACE'S** HENCHMEN...

...BUT NOT ENTIRELY SUNK--IT WOULD DRIFT HERE!



**TWO-FACE** HASN'T ARRIVED YET! I'LL BE WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE DOES!

AND ON HIS WAY TO JAIL, I'LL EXPLAIN THAT I DEDUCED WHY HE NEEDED A BIG **BALLOON**--

--TO PUT IN THE HOLD OF THIS TUB, RIGGED TO INFLATE AFTER A PROPER INTERVAL!

--TO RAISE IT IN A QUIET COVE WHERE HE CAN WORK UNDISTURBED!



EH? WHO THE DEUCE IS THAT IN THE RIGGING? LOOKS LIKE A HOBO! HOW IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S HOLY DID HE GET THERE?



**KAK**

I'LL HAUL HIM DOWN...

I DON'T WANT ANY DISTRACTIONS WHEN THE FIREWORKS BEGIN... UNNNGH!

QUICKLY, THE WET-SUITED CRIMINAL PRODUCES A LENGTH OF WIRE-ROPE, AND BEGINS LASHING THE CAPE'D CRUSSADER TO A MAST...

I WAS SURE THE BATMAN WOULD TAKE A HAND! SO I HID IN THE SHIP'S HOLD, BREATHING WITH AN OXYGEN MASK...

GROGGY... BUT... NOT OUT... GOT TO EXPAND MY MUSCLES... PREVENT HIM TYING LINE TIGHTLY--



DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE NOT AWAKE, OLD FOE! I WANT YOU TO SEE-- HOW YOU'LL DIE! UGLY, YOU'LL DIE... UGLY AS THE ACCIDENT THAT MADE ME A FREAK!



I PUT A HOT EMBER TO THE BALLOON WHICH HELD THIS SCOW AFLOAT ONCE--AND FOR THE SECOND TIME...

**PAWOOOSH**



...AND WHILE THE GAS ESCAPES, I SMASH AWAY THIS MOULDING...

BEHOLD, A FORTUNE IN GOLD COMES SPILLING... GOLD DOUBLOONS, JUST AS CAPTAIN BYE'S DIARY PROMISED!



HAVING FILLED HIS SACK, TWO-FACE WHIRLS TO A LIFEBOAT, AND...

WITHIN MOMENTS, THIS SCOW WILL HAVE SLUNK... TAKING A BATMAN WITH IT!

NOT ONLY ME! LOOK-- UP IN THE RIGGING!



ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM DROWN-- AN INNOCENT, OLD MAN?

HIS MISFORTUNE, BATMAN... AND NO CONCERN OF MINE!



YOU'VE ALWAYS PRIDED YOURSELF ON BEING AS GOOD AS YOU ARE EVIL! WAS YOUR PRIDE A MERE POSE?

QUIET, BATMAN! MY DECISION IS FINAL!



ONCE MORE CAPTAIN BYE'S SCHOONER SETTLES, WATER CREEPING RAPIDLY UP ITS HULL--! TWO-FACE TRIES TO IGNORE IT...



...BUT CAN'T! RELUCTANTLY, HE REMOVES THE DOUBLE-HEADED COIN FROM HIS POUCH, FLIPS IT... AND...





**BATMAN--**  
YOU'RE FREE?!

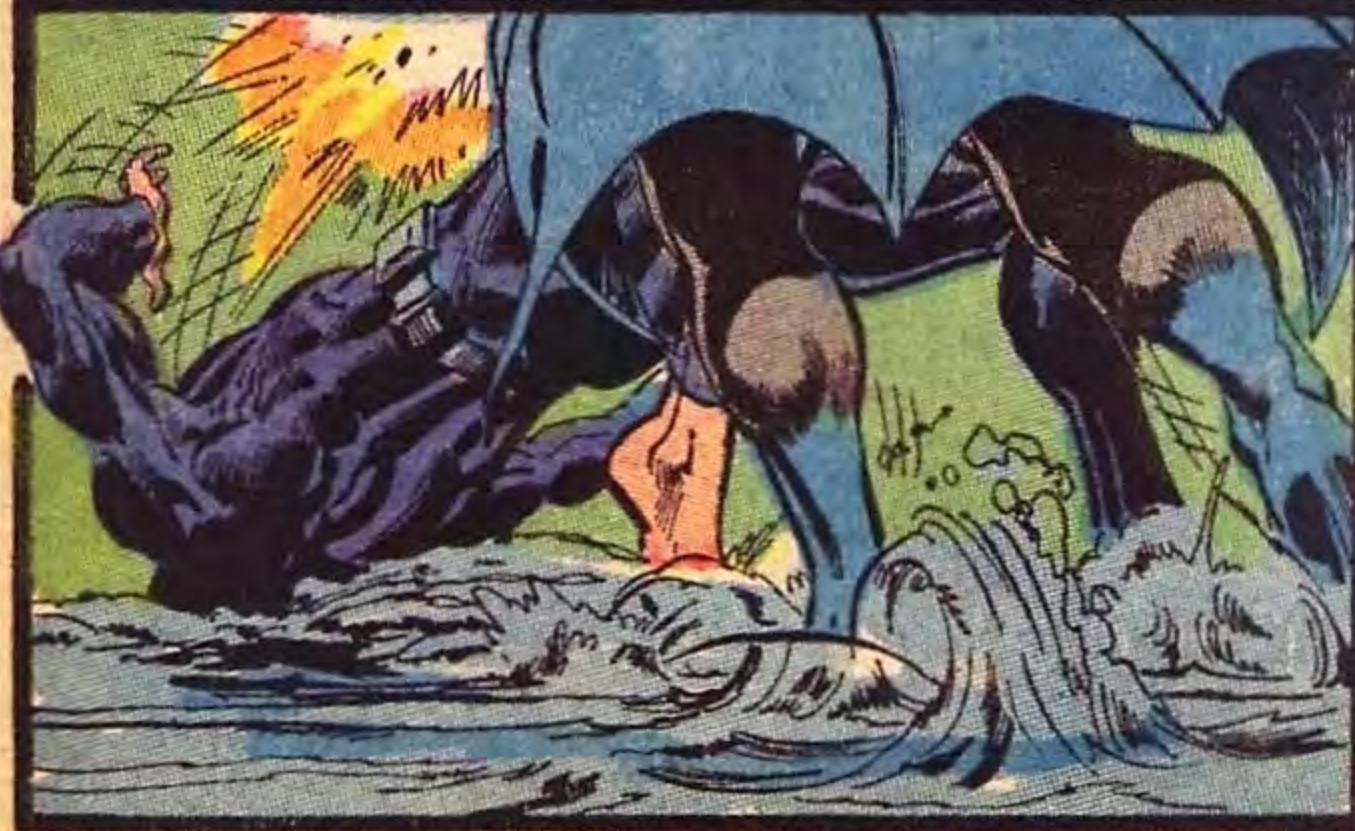
I MIGHT  
HAVE KNOWN--

IT WASN'T DIFFICULT!  
I EXPANDED MY  
MUSCLES WHILE YOU  
WERE ROPING ME!  
BY CONTRACTING  
THEM, I GOT ENOUGH  
SLACK TO SLIP OUT  
OF THE KNOTS!

DO YOU  
WANT TO  
SURREN-  
DER?



**NEVER!** THE COIN  
DICTATED I SAVE THE  
OLD MAN... YOU  
REMAIN MY ENEMY!



AND THIS IT  
ENDS...PERHAPS!