



TRAGEDY AND COMEDY... TEARS AND LAUGHTER... COMBINE FOR THE THEME OF THIS ISSUE'S STORIES! ROBIN AND I HAVE JUST HAD A THRILLING NEW ADVENTURE WHICH FALLS INTO ONE OF THOSE CATEGORIES!

BOTH! WHO COULD LOOK AT THE PENGUIN WITHOUT A CHUCKLE? BUT EVEN THOUGH HE'S A NATURAL FOR COMEDY, HE ALMOST PUT A TRAGIC END TO OUR CAREERS!



OLD-FASHIONED **BATMAN** ACTION MADE MODERN BY--
 DENNY O'NEIL — WRITER
 IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO — ARTISTS
 JULIUS SCHWARTZ — EDITOR

AN OLD FOE RETURNS TO PLAGUE AND IMPERIL--

the **BATMAN**

IT IS QUIET IN THIS ROOM... THE STILLNESS BROKEN ONLY BY THE LABORED BREATHING OF THE TWO ENEMIES, THE SIGH OF THE LOVELY, VEILED WOMAN AND THE SLIGHT SNUFFLING OF THE BOY!

DANGER LIES BEHIND THIS MOMENT... AND ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH-- AS THE BATMAN STRIVES TO CAGE THE MASTER OF FOUL PLAY!



"Hail Emperor PENGUIN!"



IT BEGINS
 THIS BRISK
 SPRING AFTER-
 NOON AT THE
 CAMPUS OF
HUDSON
UNIVERSITY...
 WHERE **KING**
PEEBLE IV,
 TWELVE-YEAR-
 OLD RULER OF
 THE KINGDOM OF
SWAWAK, IS
 PAYING A
 VISIT...



YOUR MAJESTY,
 I'M **DICK**
GRAYSON!
 THE COLLEGE
 PRESIDENT ASKED
 ME TO GIVE YOU
 THE **GRAND**
TOUR!

YOU? A
 MERE CHILD?
 I SHOULD
 BE INSULTED!

I TRUST
 YOU ARE AT
 LEAST AN **HONOR**
STUDENT!

FOR WHAT
 IT'S WORTH...
 I AM!



THIS IS A
 STATUE OF
 OUR **FOUNDER!**
 HE BUILT
 THE SCHOOL
 IN 1895
 AND...

WHO CARES?
 I WANT
 TO SEE
 THE "**MALT**
SHOP" WHERE
 THE "**CATS**
AND CHICKS
HANG OUT"...
 JUST LIKE IN THE
AMERICAN FILMS!

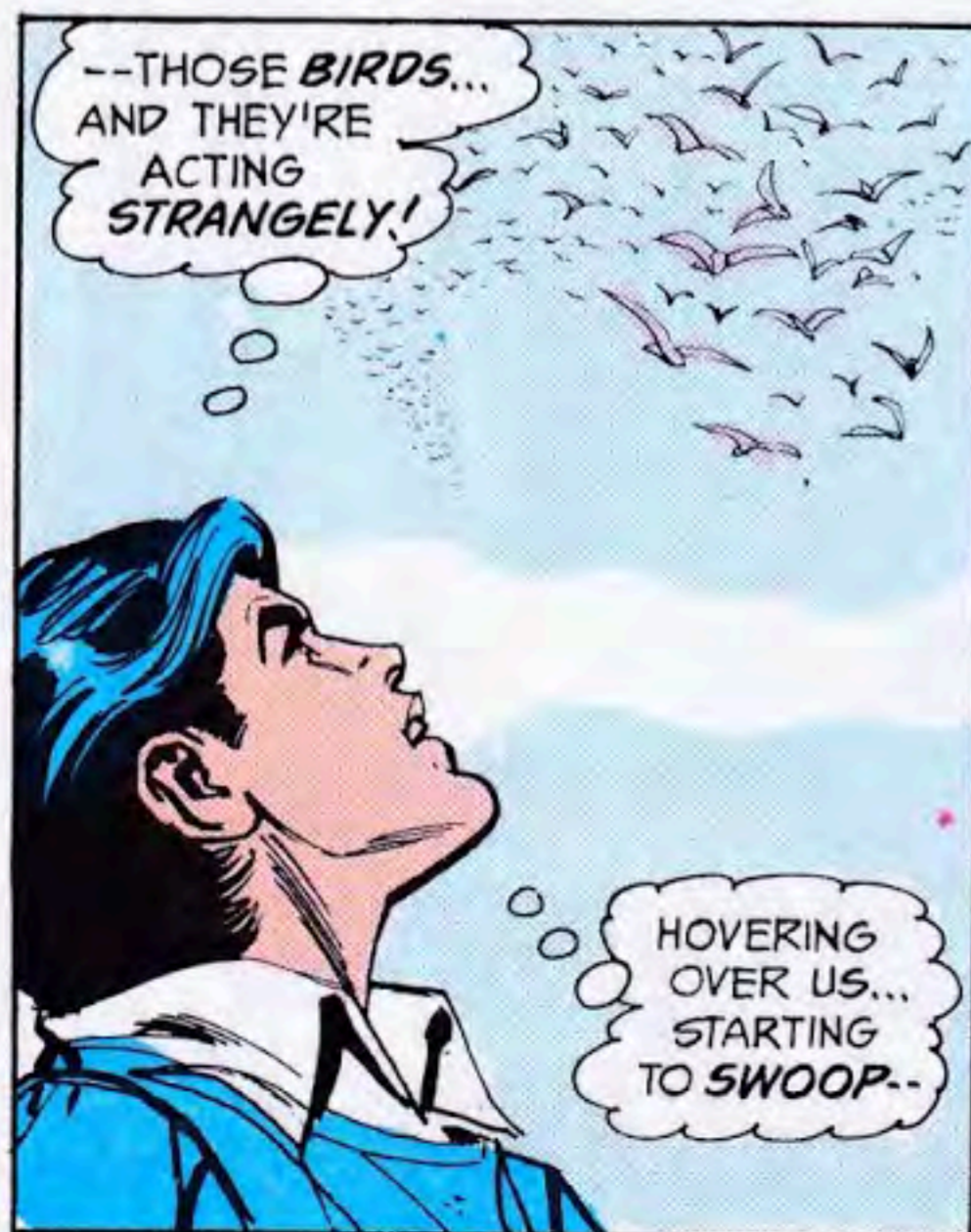


I AM
 INTERESTED
 IN "**SOCK**
HOPS" AND
 "**BEACH**
BLANKET
BIKINI
BINGO"!

ER... I'M AFRAID THE
 MOVIES GIVE A RATHER
DISTORTED PICTURE
 OF OUR LIFE!

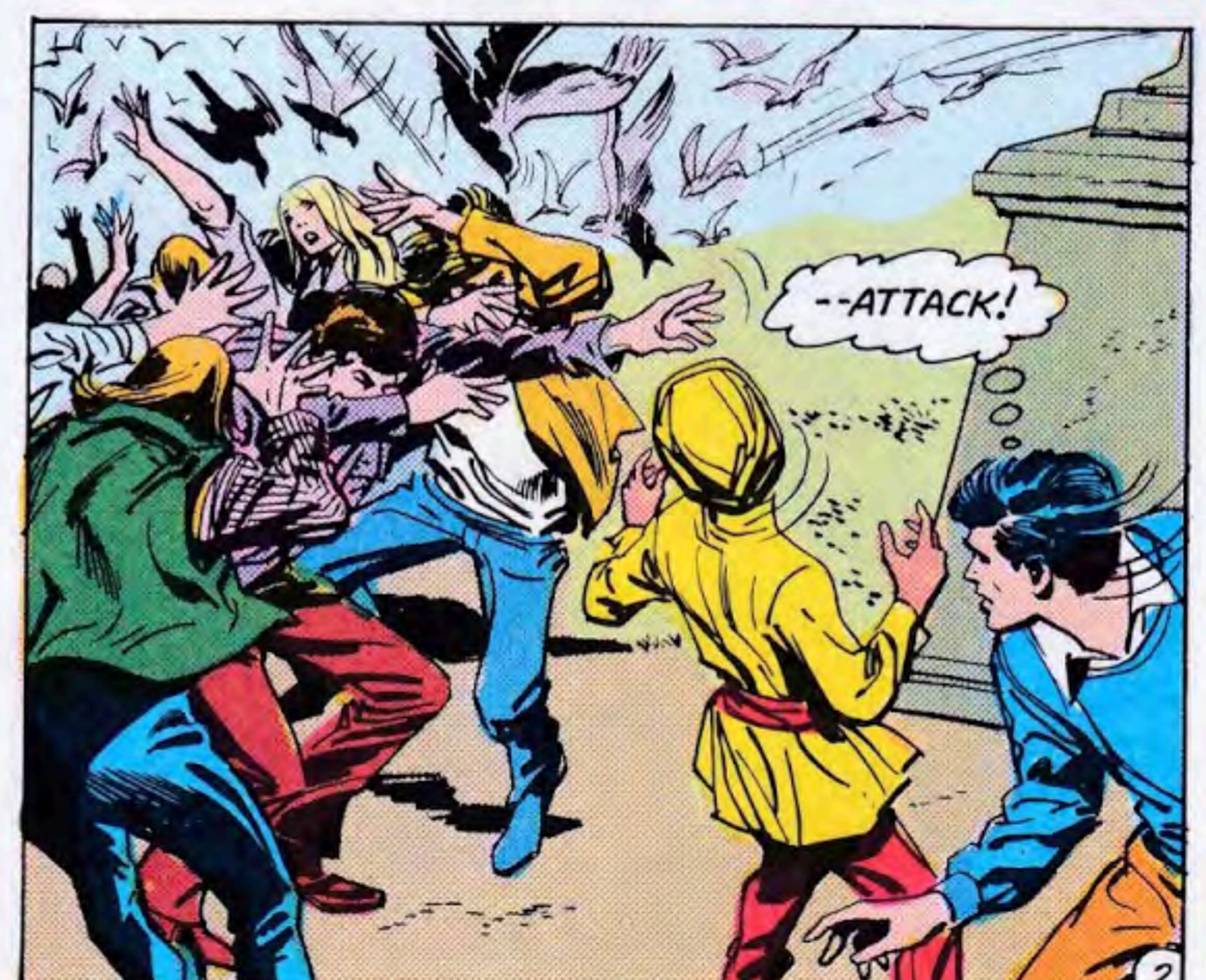
AS FOR BEACHES
 AND BIKINIS... IT'S
 A BIT EARLY IN
 THE YEAR!

BIT EARLY FOR
 SOMETHING **ELSE**--



--THOSE **BIRDS**...
 AND THEY'RE
 ACTING
STRANGELY!

HOVERING
 OVER US...
 STARTING
 TO **SWOOP**--



--ATTACK!



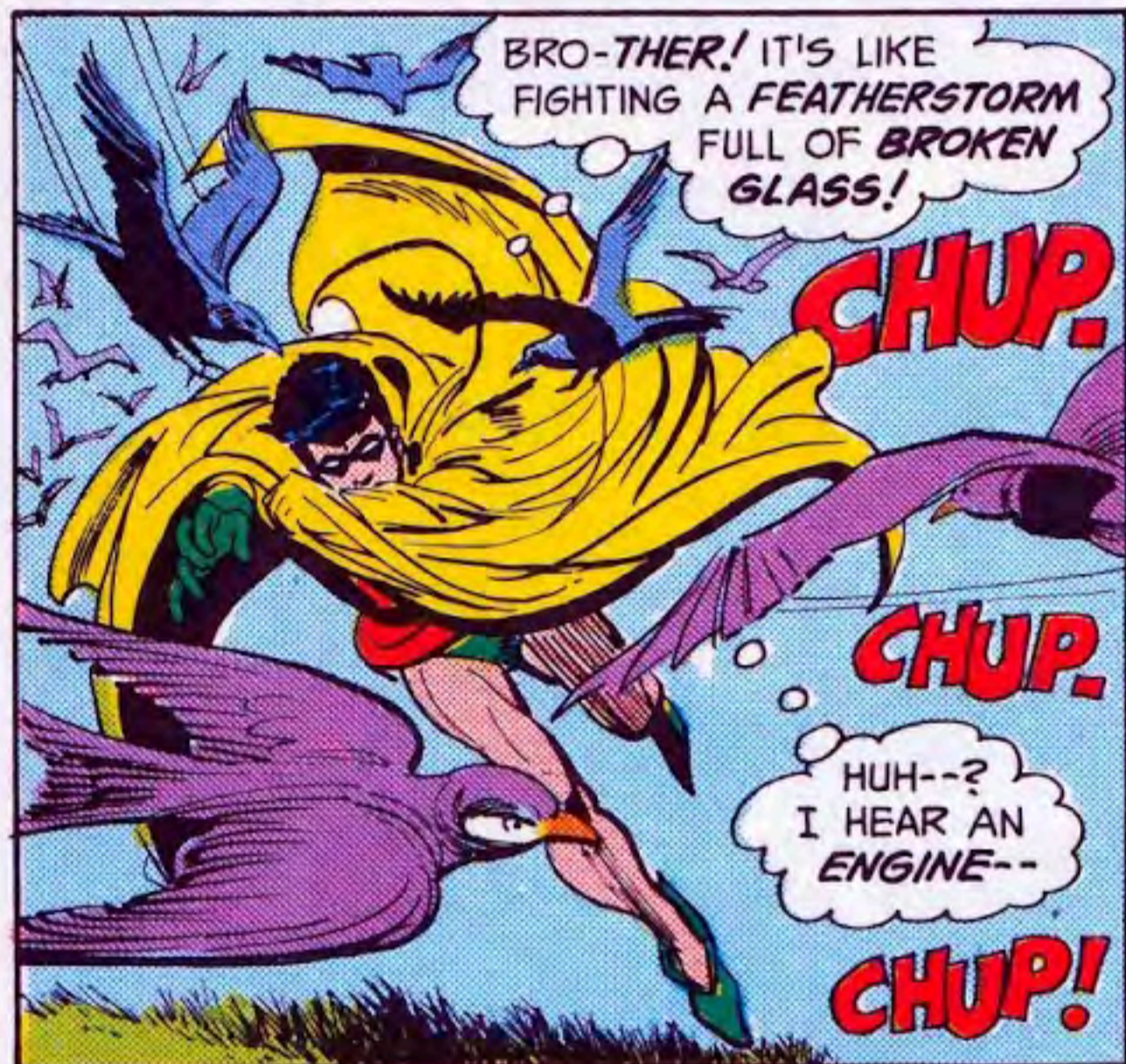
I'M TAKING A CHANCE... SWITCHING IDENTITIES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT--



--BUT EVERYONE'S BUSY TRYING TO FEND OFF THOSE WINGED NASTIES --AND BESIDES, I NEED MY CAPE TO PROTECT MY EYES!

ODD... THEY'RE NOT GOING NEAR THE KING!

JUST GIVING THE MISERIES TO EVERYONE ELSE!



BRO-THER! IT'S LIKE FIGHTING A FEATHERSTORM FULL OF BROKEN GLASS!

CHUP.

CHUP.

HUH--? I HEAR AN ENGINE--

CHUP!



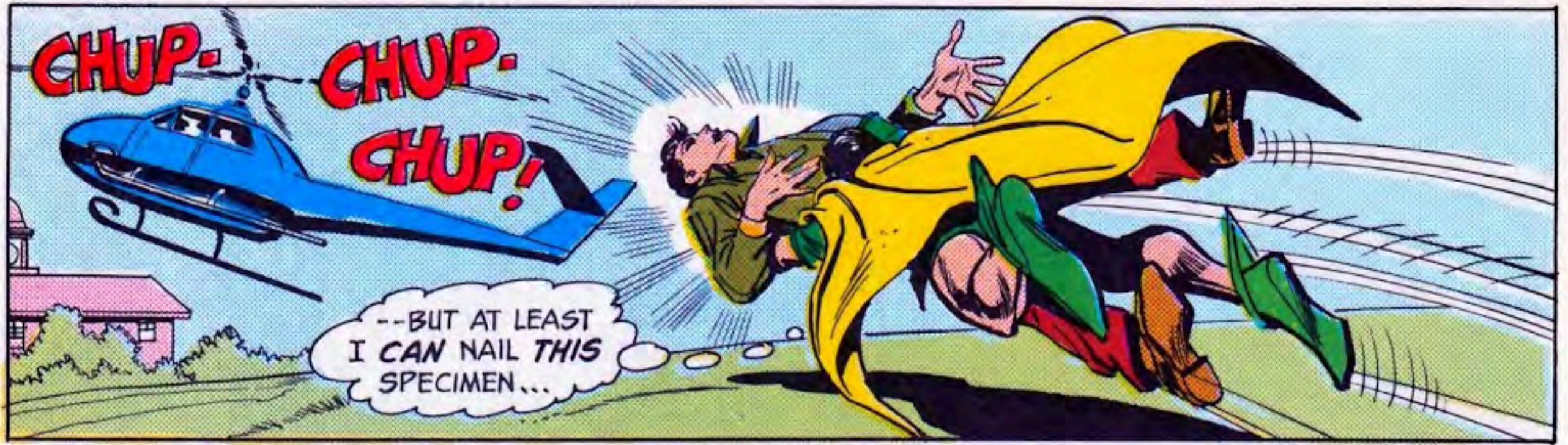
-- A HELICOPTER... LANDING AS THOUGH IT GOT A CUE-- WHICH I'M BETTING IT DID!

GOT TO GET THROUGH TO THE KING!



HE'S BEING KIDNAPED!

NO CHANCE OF REACHING HIM BEFORE THE 'COPTER LEAVES--



--BUT AT LEAST I CAN NAIL THIS SPECIMEN...



... HARD!



THE BATMAN WOULD SUBTLY THREATEN TO DISMEMBER HIM TO GET INFORMATION! ME, THOUGH, I'M A MORE PEACEFUL LAD!

TALK AND I MAY PUT IN A GOOD WORD AT YOUR TRIAL!

WHO'S YOUR BOSS?

YEAH-- I'LL TELL YA!

WHY NOT?

I SHOULD SUFFER FOR HIM?



A LARD-LEGGED DUDE NAMED FORSTER APTENODYTES PAID US TO PUT THE SNATCH ON THE SNOT!

HE ARRANGED THE GIMMICK WITH THE BIRDS--

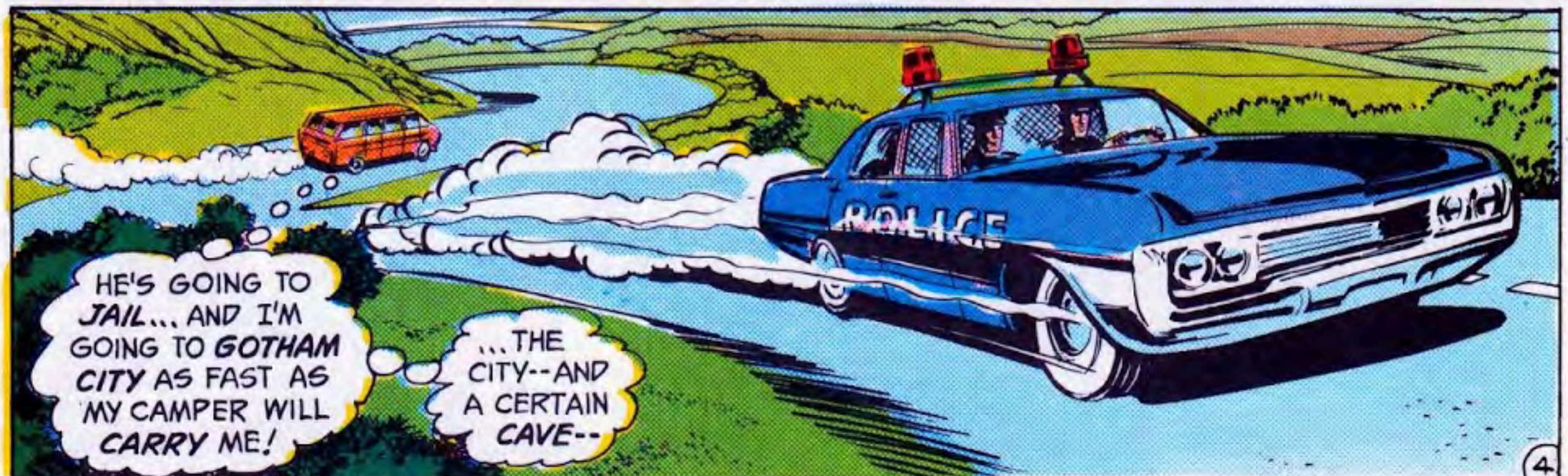


--AND OTHER THAN THAT, I KNOW NOTHIN'!

UNHH!

SOMEHOW, I FIND IT VERY EASY TO BELIEVE YOU!

TAKE HIM-- HE'S YOURS!



HE'S GOING TO JAIL... AND I'M GOING TO GOTHAM CITY AS FAST AS MY CAMPER WILL CARRY ME!

... THE CITY--AND A CERTAIN CAVE--

SOON, **ROBIN** IS RELATING THE BIZARRE EVENTS TO HIS GUARDIAN AND MENTOR IN A HUGE CAVERN BENEATH A SUBURBAN MANSION...

THAT'S THE **STORY!** MAKE ANY **SENSE** TO YOU?

QUITE A **BIT!**

CONSIDER THE **METHOD** OF THE CRIME!

BIRDS, HIGHLY TRAINED **NOT** TO ATTACK THE **KING**--

--AND THE **NAME** THE HOOD GAVE YOU-- **FORSTER APTENODYTES!**

THE LABEL SCIENTISTS GIVE TO A CERTAIN BIRD IS--

--**APTENODYTES FORSTERI!**...

...AND THAT BIRD IS THE **EMPEROR PENGUIN!**

IT ALL ADDS UP TO... **HIM!**

THE **PENGUIN**--!

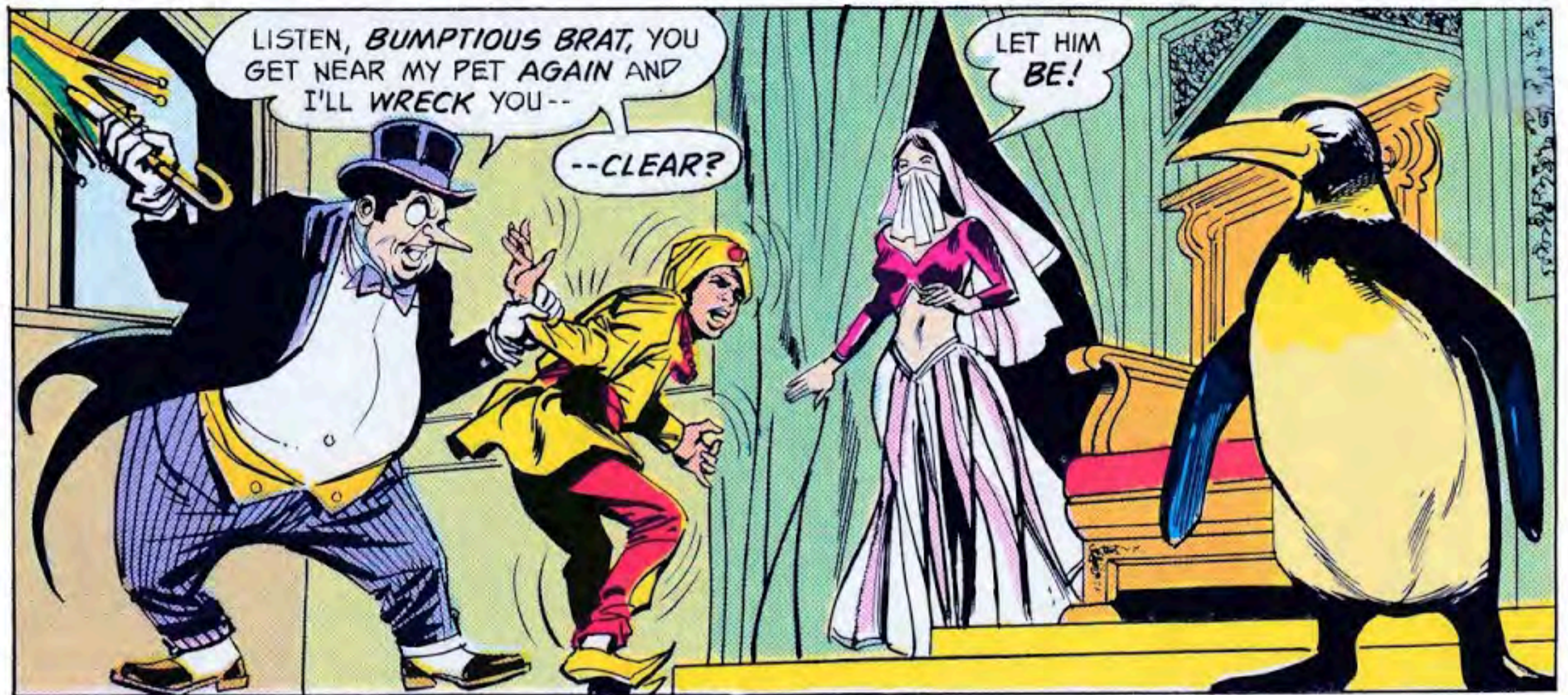
YES, THE **PENGUIN**--

--NEXT TO THE **JOKER**, THE GREATEST CRIMINAL GENIUS WE'VE EVER TACKLED!

AUK! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH MY PRIVATE PET--?

HE'S A **NOBLE** CREATURE... DELICATE, SENSITIVE!

I MEANT HIM **NO HARM!**





TWO MORNINGS LATER... GOSSAMER FINGERS OF MIST CARESS THE STEEL-GRAY SEA AND THE WIND BITES PLAYFULLY AS A PAIR OF CAPED FIGURES SURVEYS AN AWESOME SCENE--

READY FOR A ROUGH CLIMB, ROBIN?

WITH THE YOUNG KING A CAPTIVE, WE DON'T DARE STORM THE FRONT OF HIS CASTLE!

SO WE ENTER VIA THE BACK-UP THE SIDE OF THAT CLIFF!



I'M BEGINNING TO WISH I'D SPENT THIS SPRING VACATION WORKING ON MY STAMP COLLECTION!

YOU'RE SURE THE KING IS BEING HELD IN HIS OWN PALACE?

I'M NOT POSITIVE--



--BUT I'LL GIVE YOU BIG OPDS HE IS! REMEMBER...THE PENGUIN LOVES CRIME-FICTION-- HE ROOTS FOR THE BAD GUYS!

HE'S PARTICULARLY FOND OF EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "PURLOINED LETTER," THE STORY ABOUT A MISSING PAPER THAT'S WHERE THE HERO LEAST EXPECTS IT--



--RIGHT IN PLAIN SIGHT! NOBODY EXPECTS THE PENGUIN TO HIDE THE KING AT HIS PALACE!

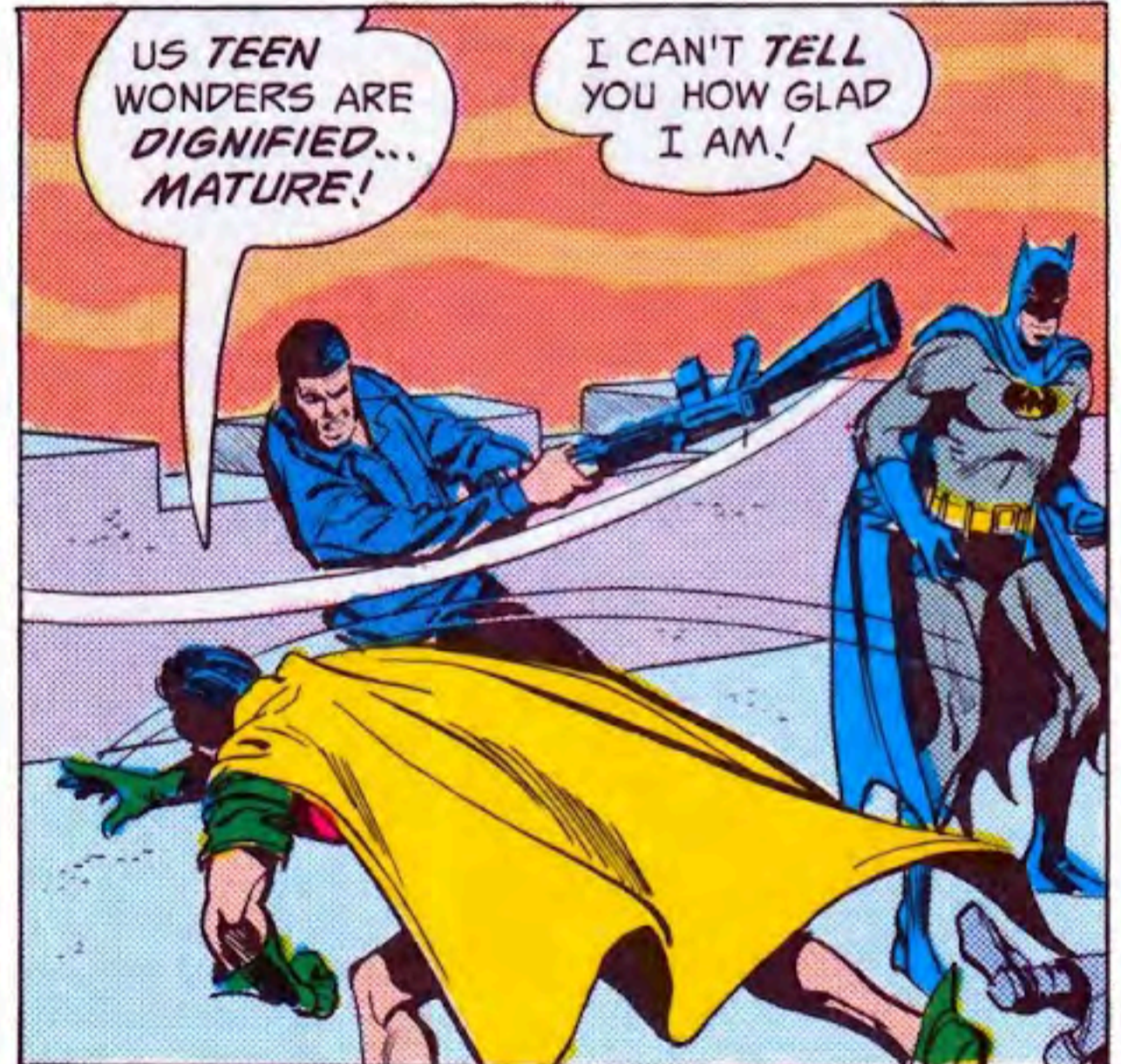
ALSO... THE CASTLE IS CALLED "LU DLOM" IN THE NATIVE LANGUAGE --MEANING, APPROXIMATELY, "ROOST OF WINGS"!

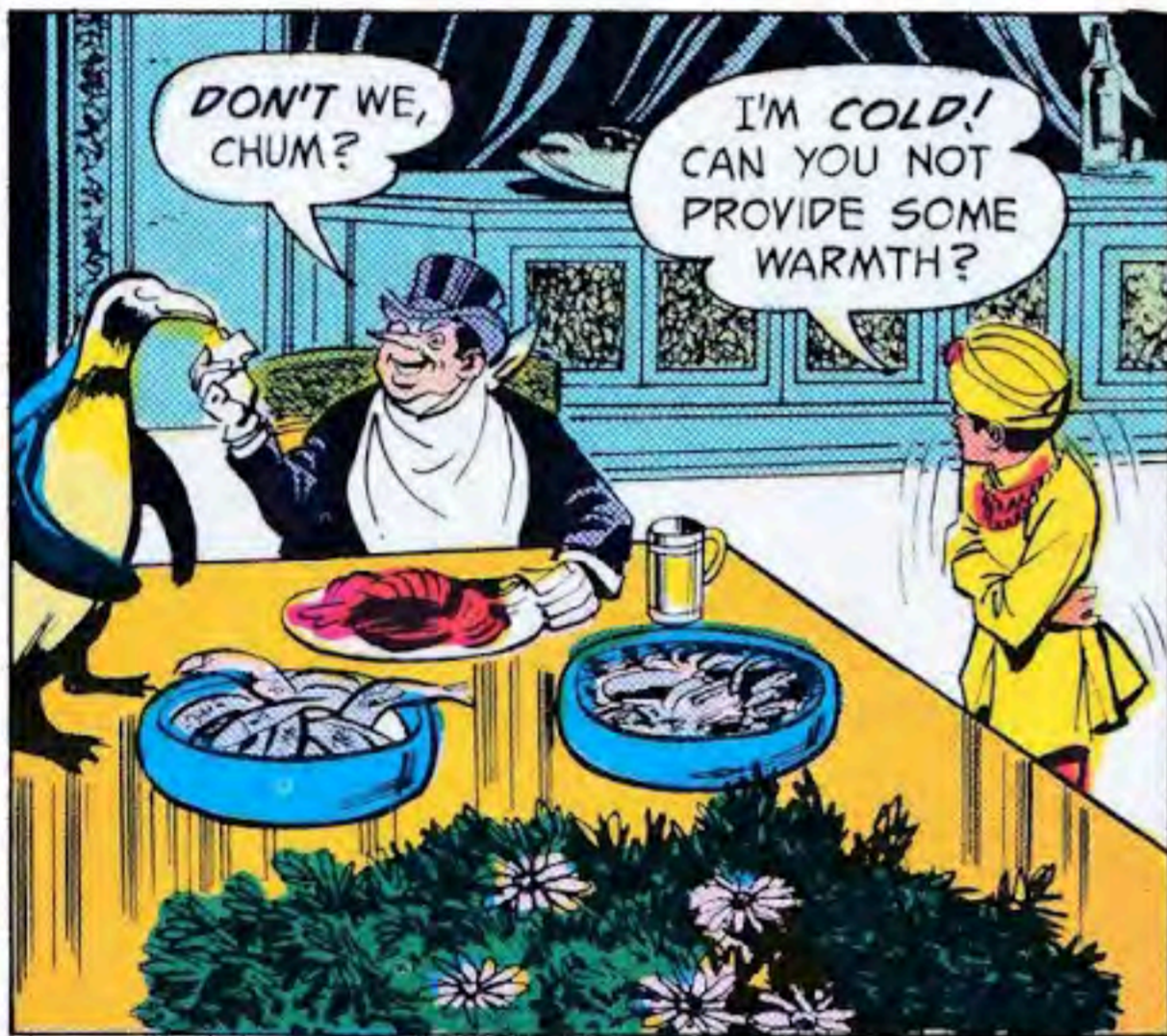


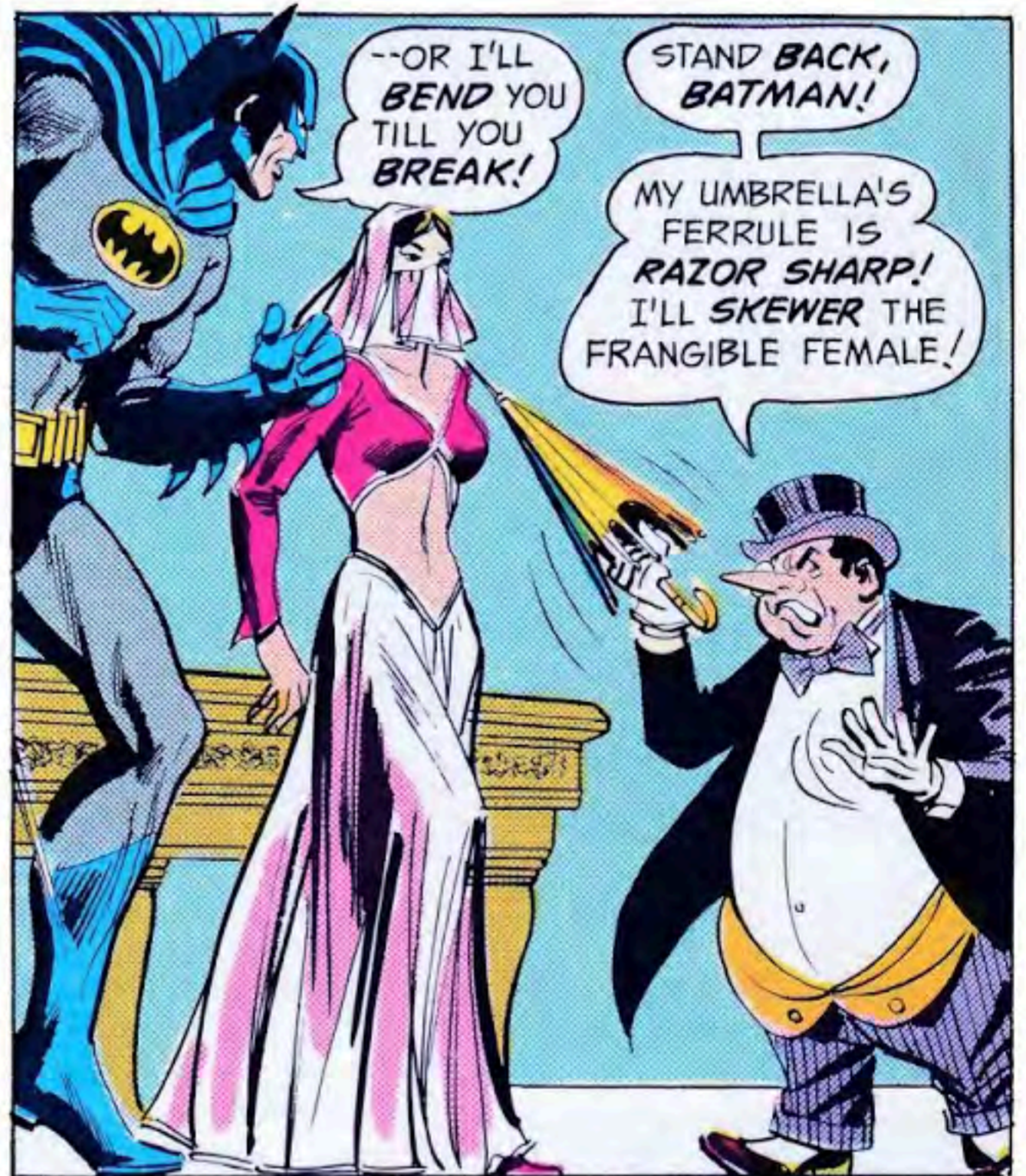
"ROOST OF WINGS"... CHECK! THE PENGUIN WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THAT!

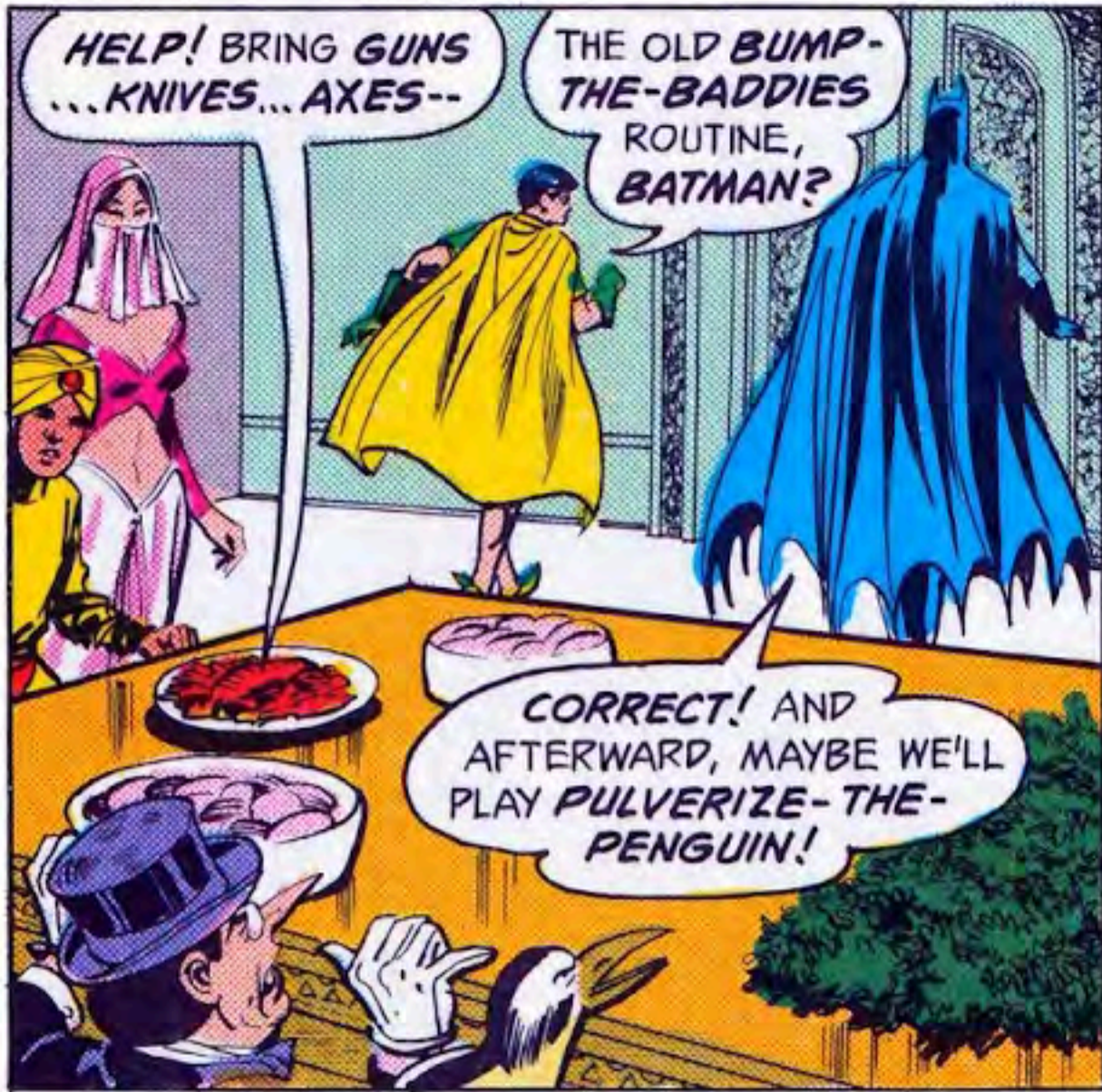
ROBIN... LOOK! EAGLE'S NEST AND THREE ROPES DANGLING NEARBY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, BUT IT GIVES ME A CHILL!









HOWEVER, WITH UNEXPECTED SPEED, THE PENGUIN'S "ALLY" SINKS HIS BEAK INTO THE BATMAN'S FOOT--



UNFRIENDLY BEASTIE, ISN'T HE?
COME HERE...



B-BATMAN... SUDDENLY FEEL DIZZY!

ME... TOO...



YOU SURELY SHOULD! MY BUDDY'S BILL IS TIPPED WITH POISON... A CURARE EXTRACT!

YOU'LL SLEEP-- BUT NOT RESTFULLY, I SHOULD ADD!

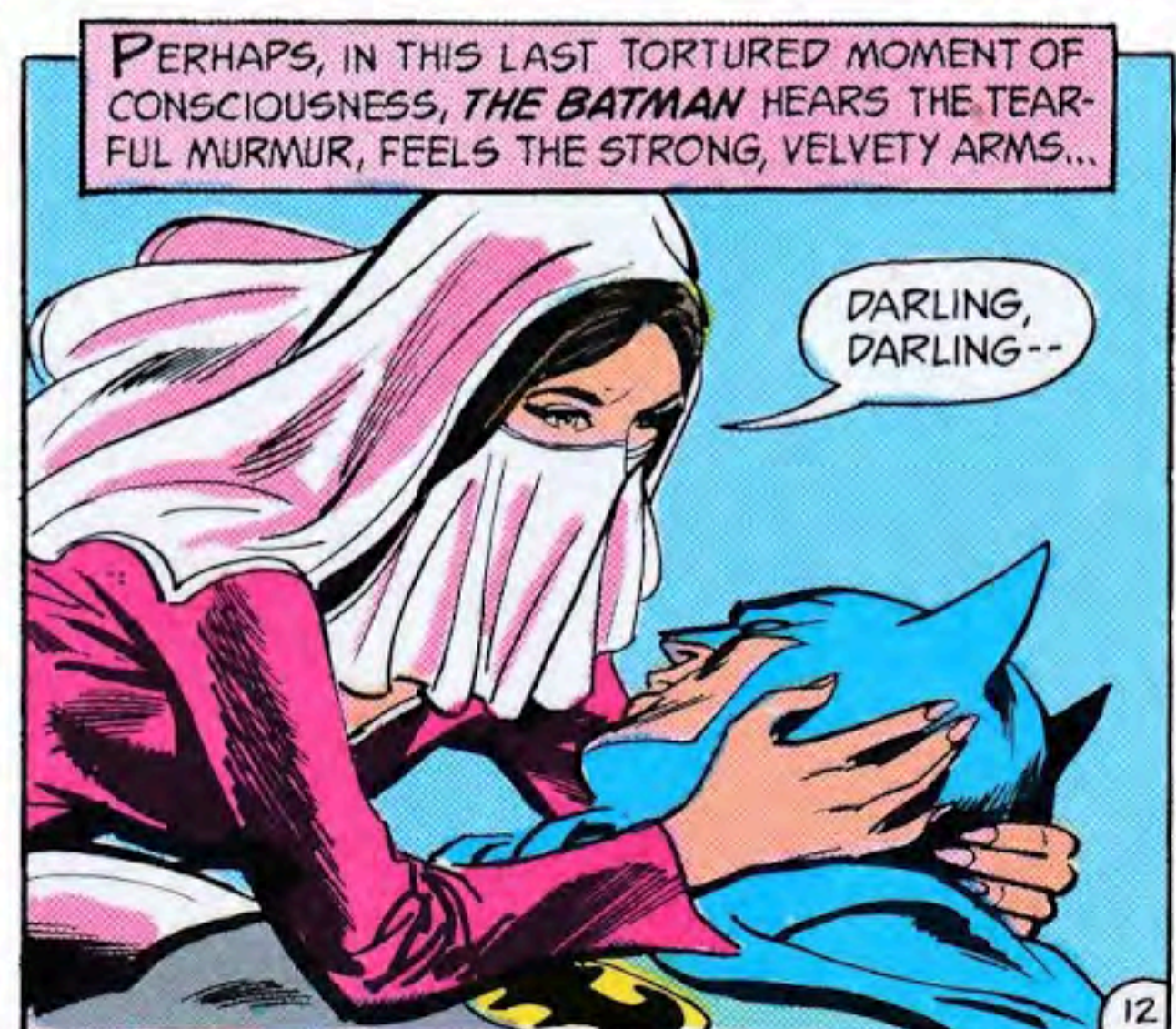


PERHAPS, IN THIS LAST TORTURED MOMENT OF CONSCIOUSNESS, THE BATMAN HEARS THE TEARFUL MURMUR, FEELS THE STRONG, VELVETY ARMS...

BATMAN!

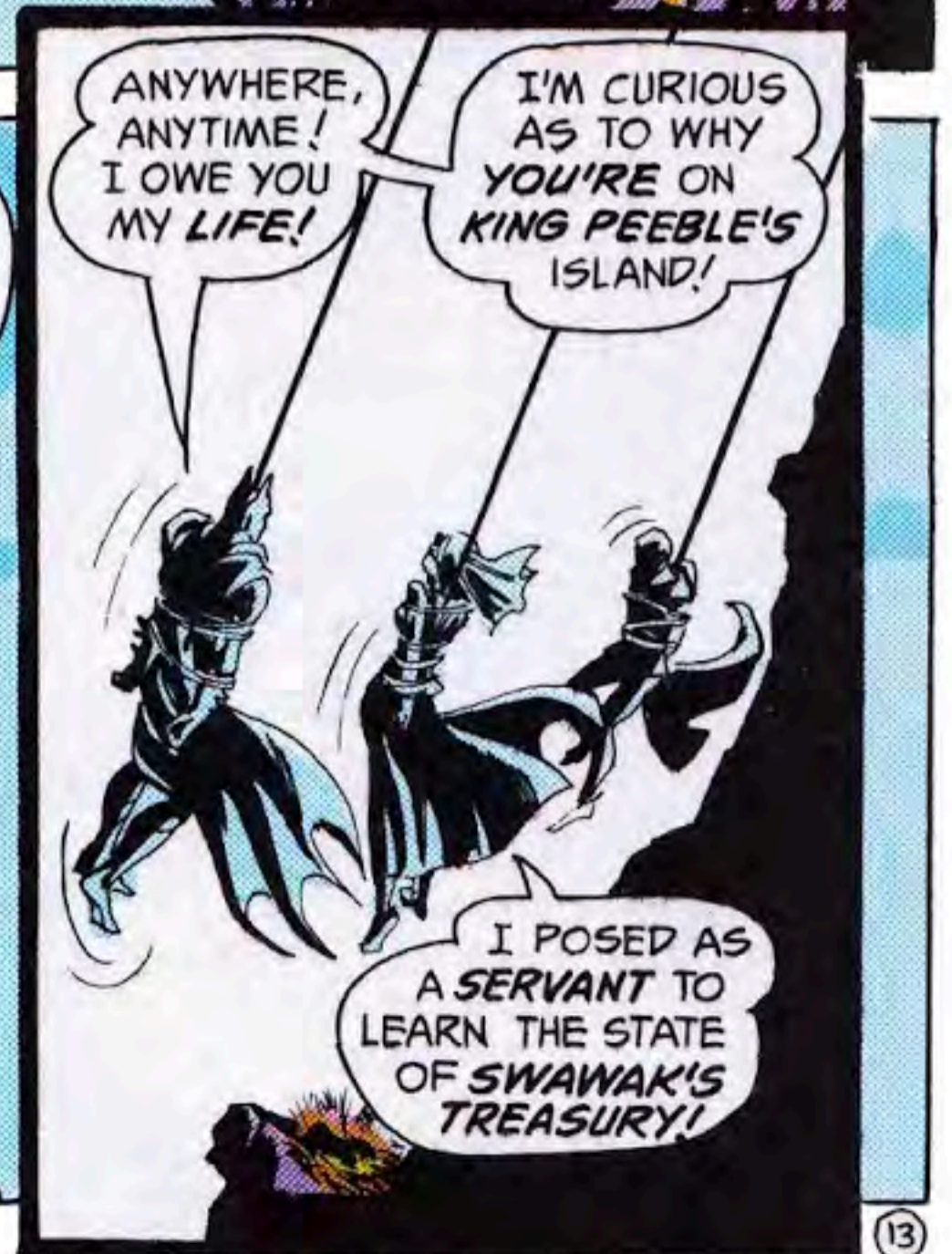
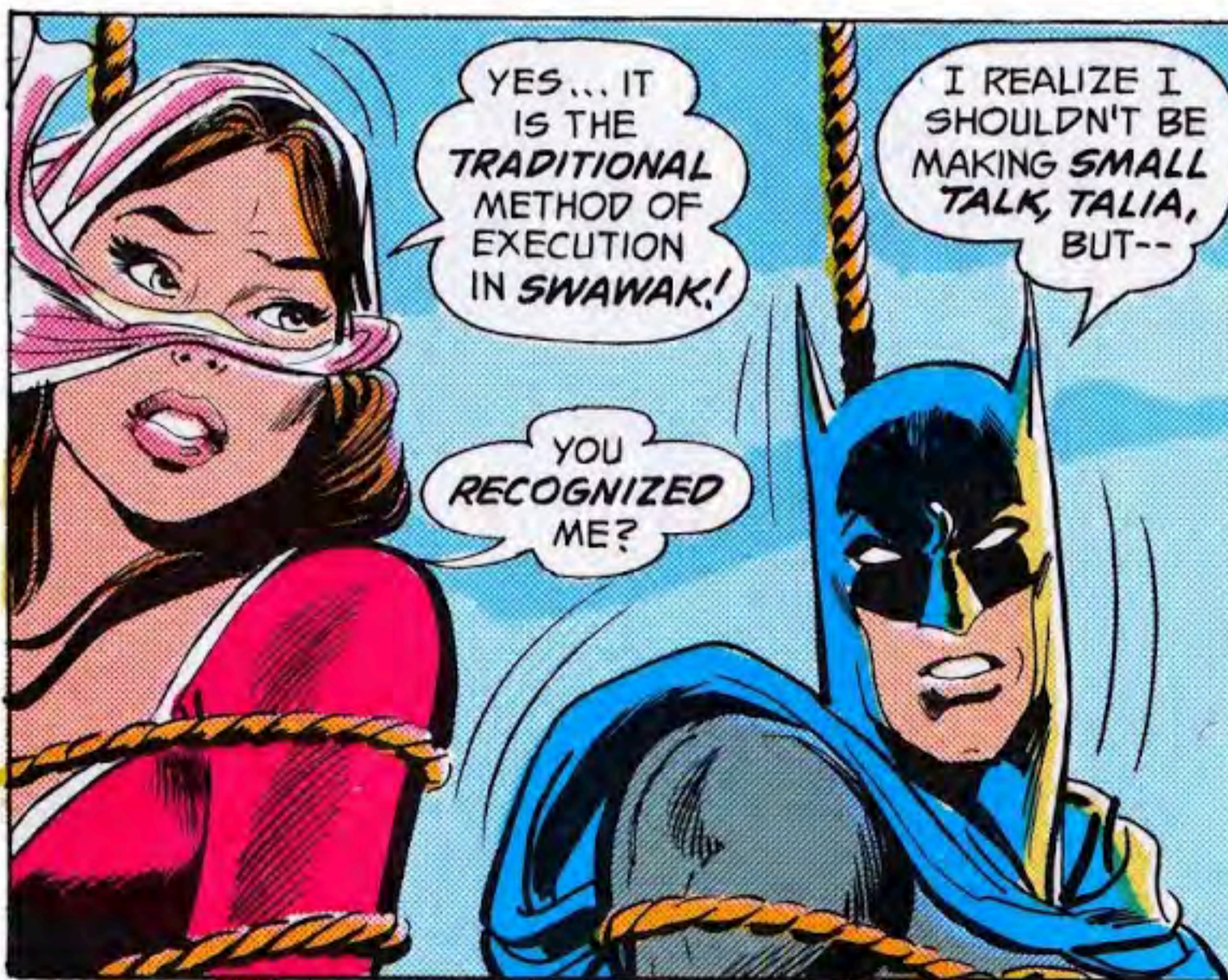


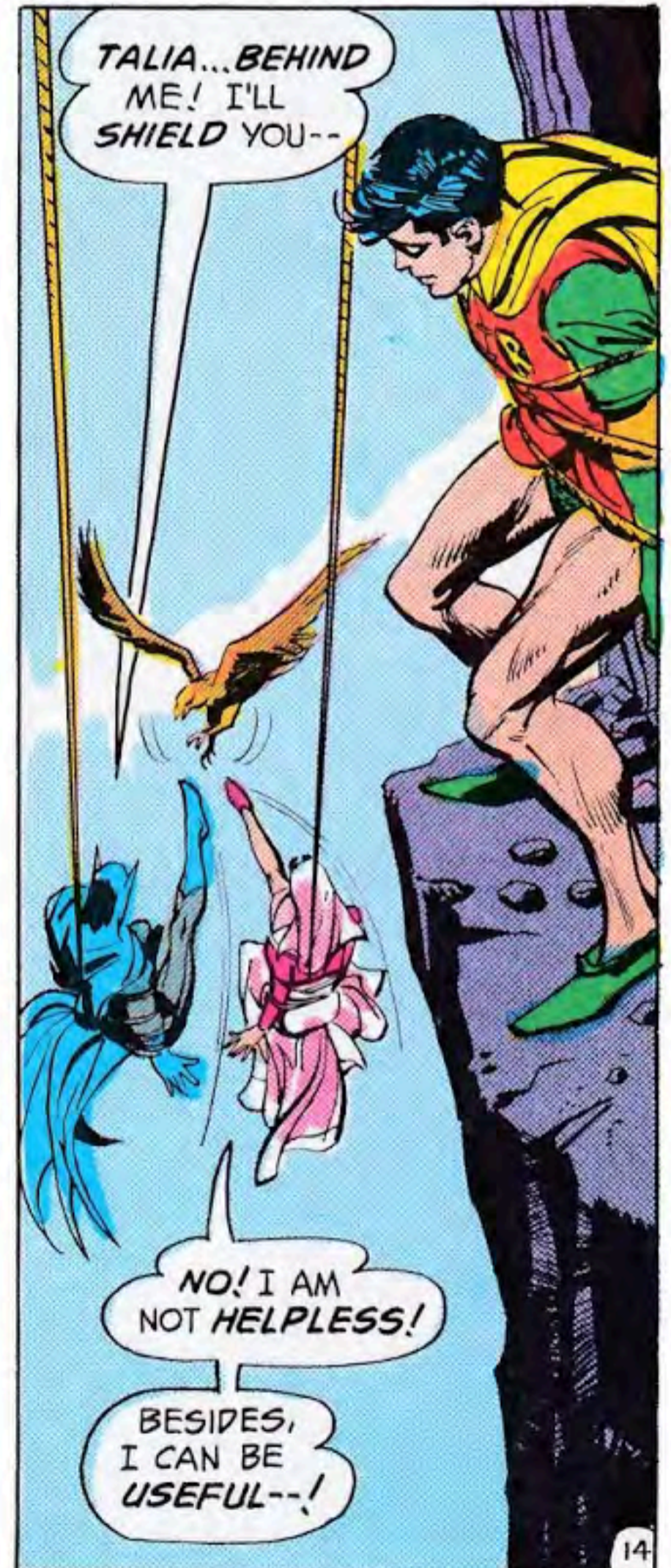
DARLING, DARLING--

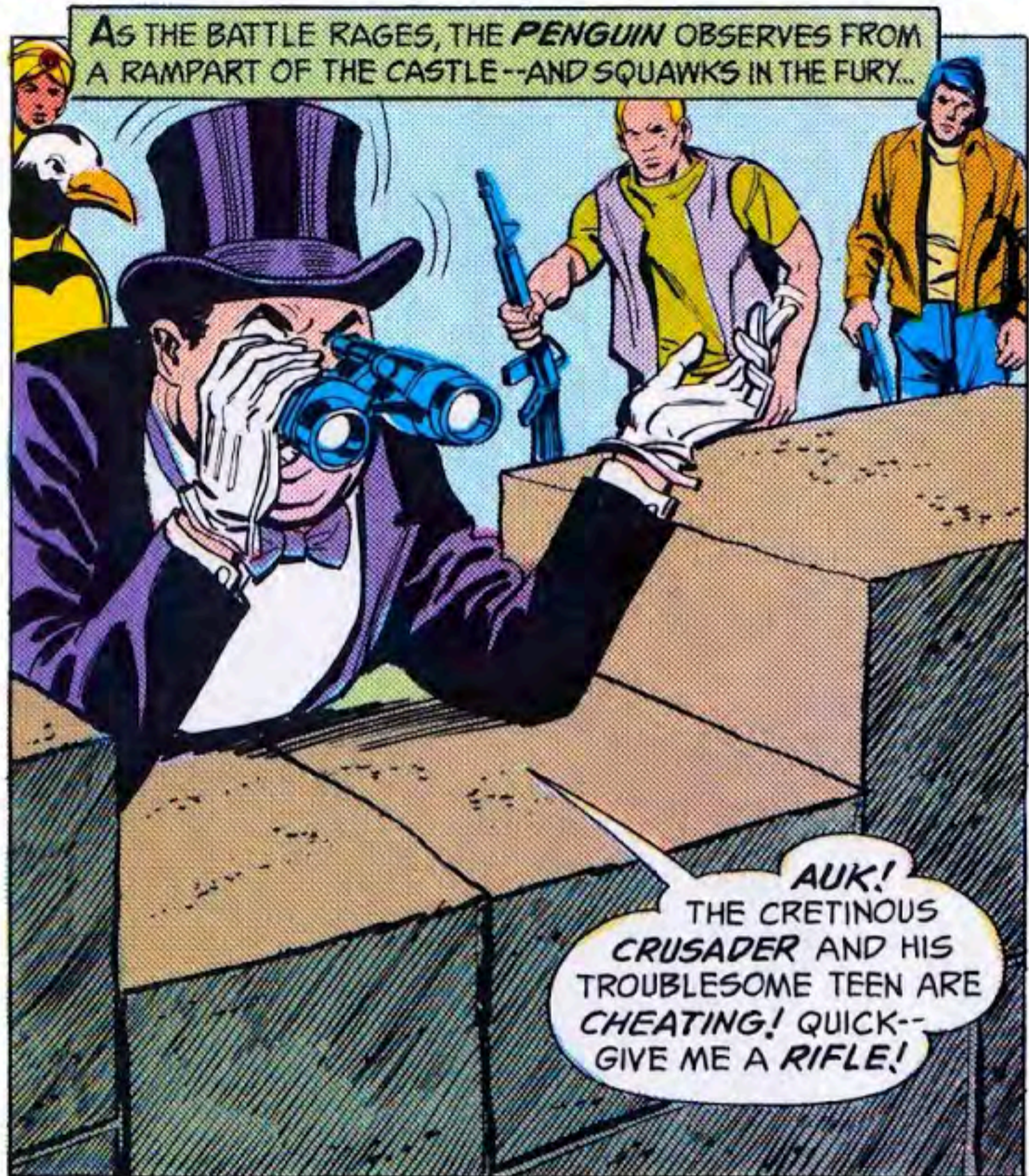


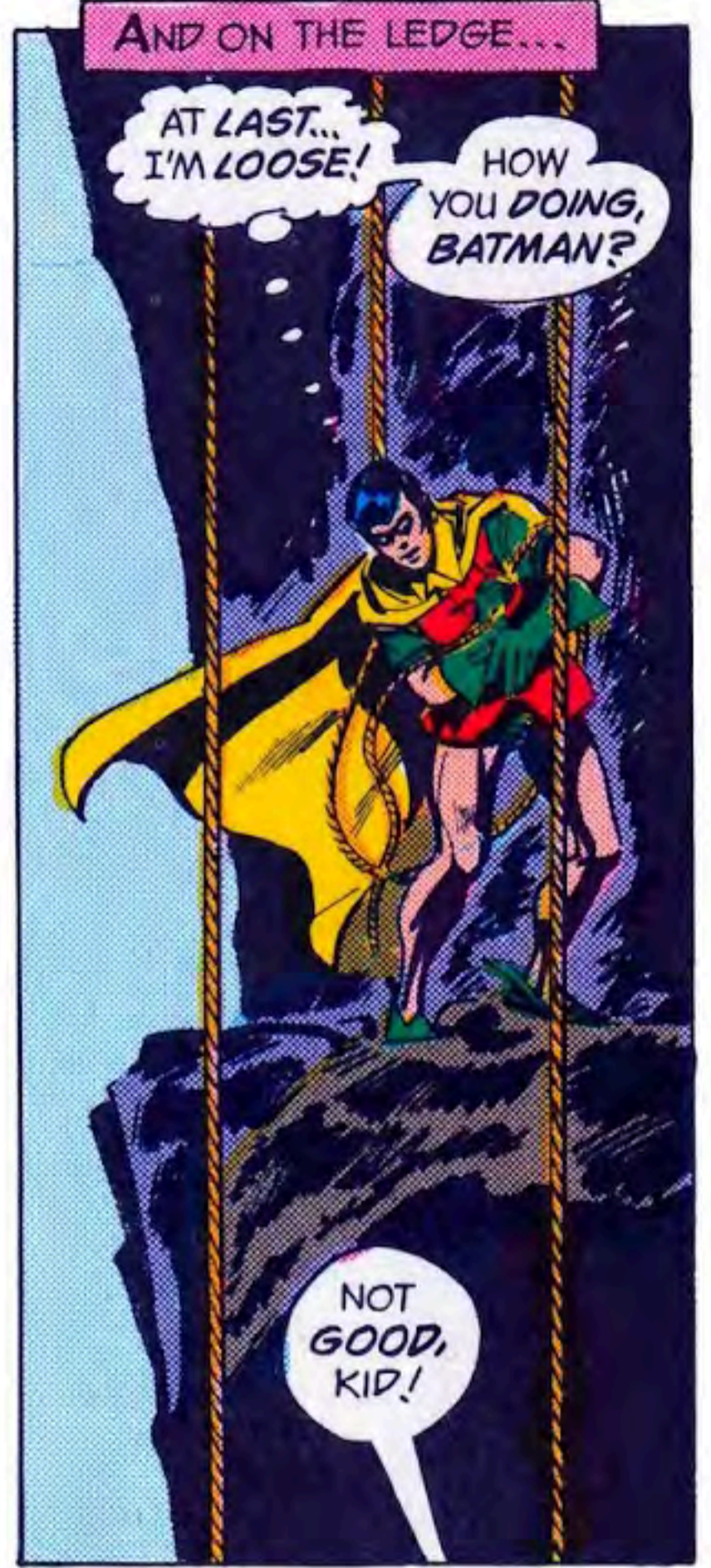
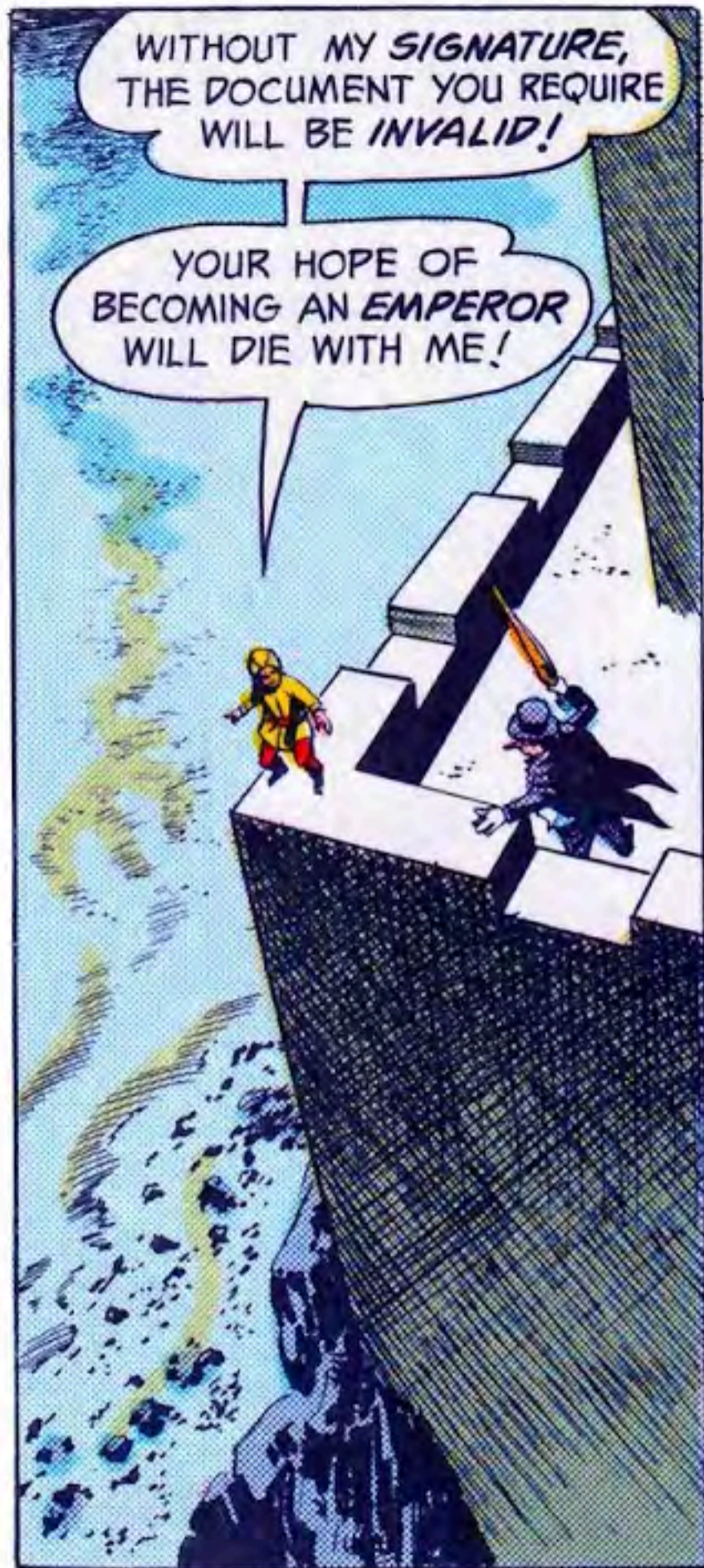


STUNG BY SALT-LADEN WIND, THE TRIO AWAKENS AND...









SLOWLY, THE SUN SINKS, AND A CHILL TOUCHES THE ISLAND, AS...



COME ON, **KIDDY KING**-- I'M A FRIENDLY FELLA WHEN YOU **UNDERSTAND** ME! I'LL GIVE YOU **CANDY**--

THE **AMERICANS** HAVE AN EXPRESSION: "**SCRAM, BUSTER!**"



AUUK! I'LL **COOK** YOUR **CONTEMPTIBLE** **CARCASS**--!

NO!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S **COOKED**, **PENGUIN!**



AUUK! THE **BLASTED** **BATMAN!**

I'M IN NO MOOD TO **TRADE** **REPAREE** WITH YOU!

I'LL ASK YOU-- **JUST ONCE--** **SURRENDER!**



MY **FRIEND!** THANK THE **HEAVENS** YOU'RE **SAFE**...

YOUR **MAJESTY**... BE **CAREFUL**-- YOU'LL **FALL!**



EXCITED, FULL OF **DELIGHT** AT SEEING **TALIA**, **KING PEEBLE II** **TOPPLES** OFF AND **DOWNWARD**...

OH--
OH!!

HIS DESPERATELY SEEKING FINGERS FIND A SLIM GAP IN THE STONES, MOMENTARILY HALTING HIS PLUNGE...

HELP!
SOMEONE
HELP!!



... AND, ACTING AS THOUGH THEY WERE A TEAM, ROBIN AND TALIA SPRING INTO ACTION TO RESCUE THE YOUNG MONARCH...



HAND TOUCHES HAND, THE GRIP TIGHTENS, AND A SIGH OF RELIEF FLUTTERS THROUGH TALIA'S LIPS, FOLLOWED BY A TRIUMPHANT CRY--

GOT HIM!



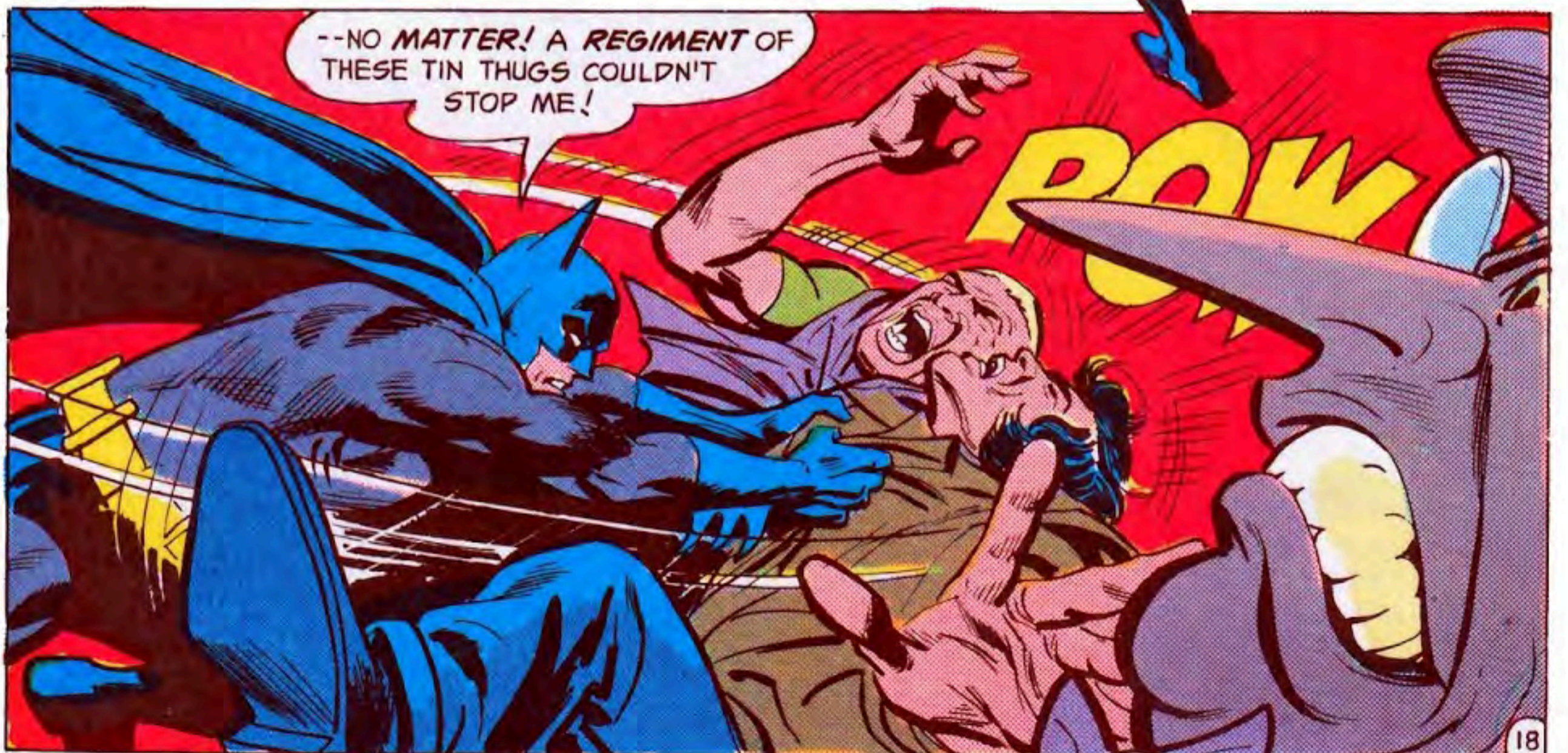
LAST OPPORTUNITY TO OBLITERATE OUR OPPROBRIOUS OPPONENT, MEN!

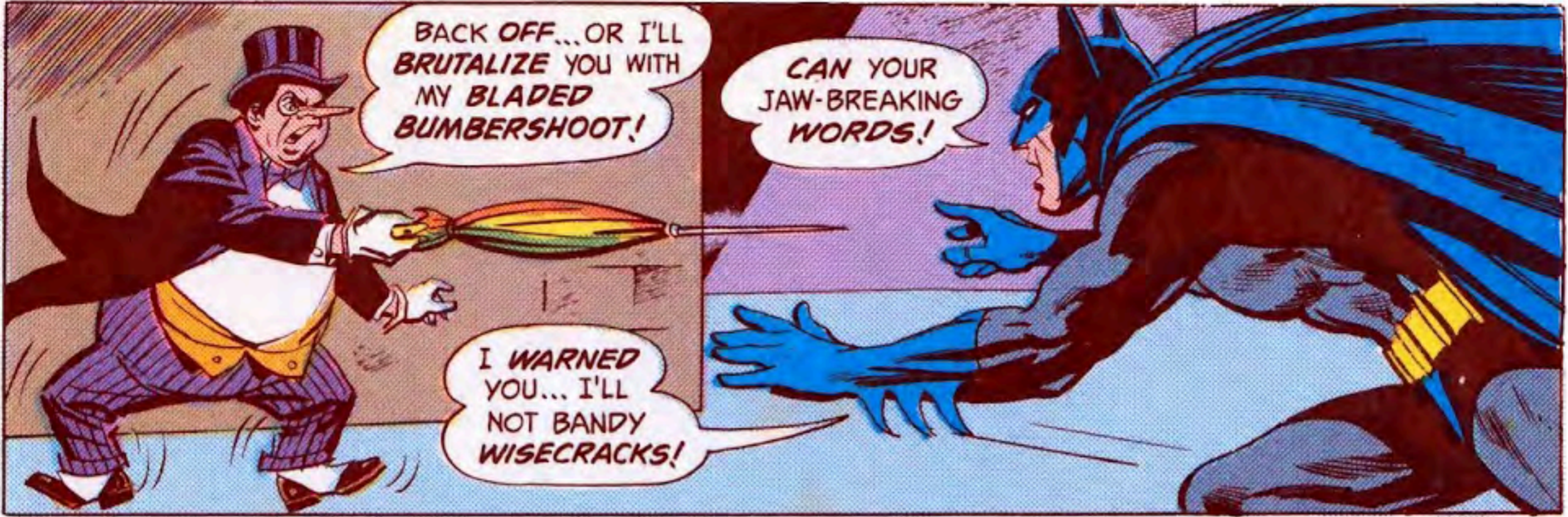
NOR HAS THE BATMAN BEEN IDLE--

OBLITERATE?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE PLANNING TO "ALLITERATE" ME TO DEATH--



--NO MATTER! A REGIMENT OF THESE TIN THUGS COULDN'T STOP ME!





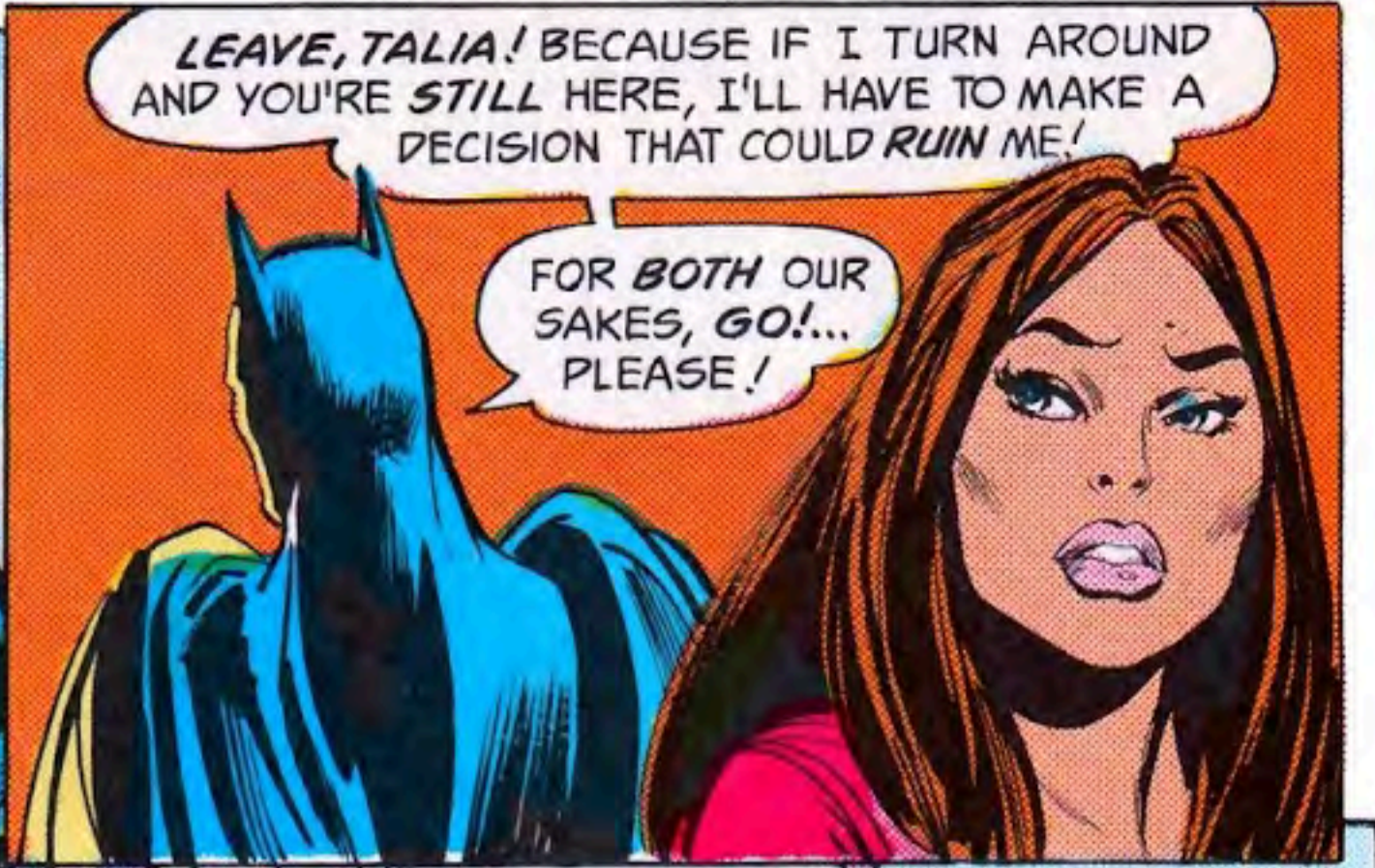


BATMAN, IS EVERYTHING--

TALIA, YOU CAME TO SWAWAK TO COMMIT A CRIME!

YOU DIDN'T... AND YOU HELPED US PREVENT GREATER CRIMES!

MAYBE... JUST MAYBE YOU'VE EARNED YOUR FREEDOM--



LEAVE, TALIA! BECAUSE IF I TURN AROUND AND YOU'RE STILL HERE, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION THAT COULD RUIN ME!

FOR BOTH OUR SAKES, GO!... PLEASE!



BATMAN... ROBIN... YOU ARE INDEED SPLENDID! I SHALL REWARD YOU... RUBIES, DIAMONDS... ANYTHING!

NO, YOUR YOUNG MAJESTY... ANY REWARD WOULD BE EITHER TOO MUCH... OR NOT ENOUGH!



THE SKY DIMS, AND THE LONG SHADOWS OF NIGHT CREEP ACROSS A PATH THAT IS HARD AND, PERHAPS, WITHOUT END. SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE, GULLS MOAN A SONG OF WELCOME TO THE DARKNESS...