

BATMAN

By BOB KANE

ALREADY AN ALMOST LEGENDARY FIGURE, THE COWLED SHADOW OF THE BATMAN PROWLS THROUGH THE NIGHT PREYING UPON THE CRIMINAL PARASITE, LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAD ADOPTED



WHILE AN INNOCENT METROPOLIS SLEEPS, LITTLE DOES IT REALIZE THAT HUGE, TERRIFYING MAN - MONSTERS SHALL SOON STALK THE STREETS AND BRING TO THEM HAVOC AND DESTRUCTION; AND LITTLE DOES BRUCE WAYNE SUSPECT THAT FATE SHALL TOUCH HIS SHOULDER AND SINGLE HIM OUT AS THE ONE TO DO BATTLE WITH THESE MONSTERS, AS HE GOES FORTH CLAD IN THE GARB OF THE WEIRD AND MENACING ... **BATMAN!**



NOT LONG AGO THE BATMAN HAD SEEN THE ARCH-CRIMINAL, PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE IMPRISONED - AND YET...

ONE OF YOU MEN GET THE WARDEN. WE'LL USE HIM AS A SHIELD!

OKAY, STRANGE.



ONCE MORE PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE IS FREE TO CARRY OUT THE NEXT OF HIS DIABOLICAL SCHEMES.

WU! TRY! PROFESSOR STRANGE ESCAPES IN PRISON BREAK!



THE NEXT NIGHT ... THE METROPOLIS INSANE ASYLUM.

GET THEM OUT QUICKLY!

C'MON NUTS!

GOODY! GOODY!

OH GOO!



THAT NIGHT ... THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE

FLASH - A GUARD IDENTIFIED PROFESSOR STRANGE AS THE LEADER OF THE MEN WHO FREED FIVE INSANE PATIENTS FROM THE CITY INSANE ASYLUM.

INSANE MEN?

CRIMINALS, MANIACS, AND STRANGE CAN ONLY ADD UP TO ONE THING ... SOMETHING NEW IN CRIME ... SOMETHING FANTASTIC AND TERRIBLE **VERY TERRIBLE !!**

A MONTH LATER ... A CROWDED STREET IN LOWER MANHATTAN

SUDDENLY A WOMAN STOPS AND SCREAMS IN FRIGHT!

AA-AA-AH! **LOOK!**

HELP!

WHAT IS IT? IT ISN'T HUMAN!

ROARING UP A FULL FIFTEEN FEET, A GIGANTIC HULK LOOMS ABOVE THEM, HUGE AND TERRIBLE!!

HELP!

A MONSTER!

WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!

THE HORRIBLE CREATURE BEGINS ITS WAVE OF DESTRUCTION ...

HELP!

WHAT IS IT?

YAA-A-A

BULLETS THUD INTO THE BEAST BUT THIS ONLY MADDENS HIM!

LOOK! BULLETS DON'T STOP HIM ... HE'S STILL LIVING!

THE ENRAGED BEAST SEEMS TO GO MAD!



THE PEOPLE ARE PANIC-STRICKEN!



AS MORE POLICE RUN UP, THE MONSTER RIPS UP A LAMP POST...



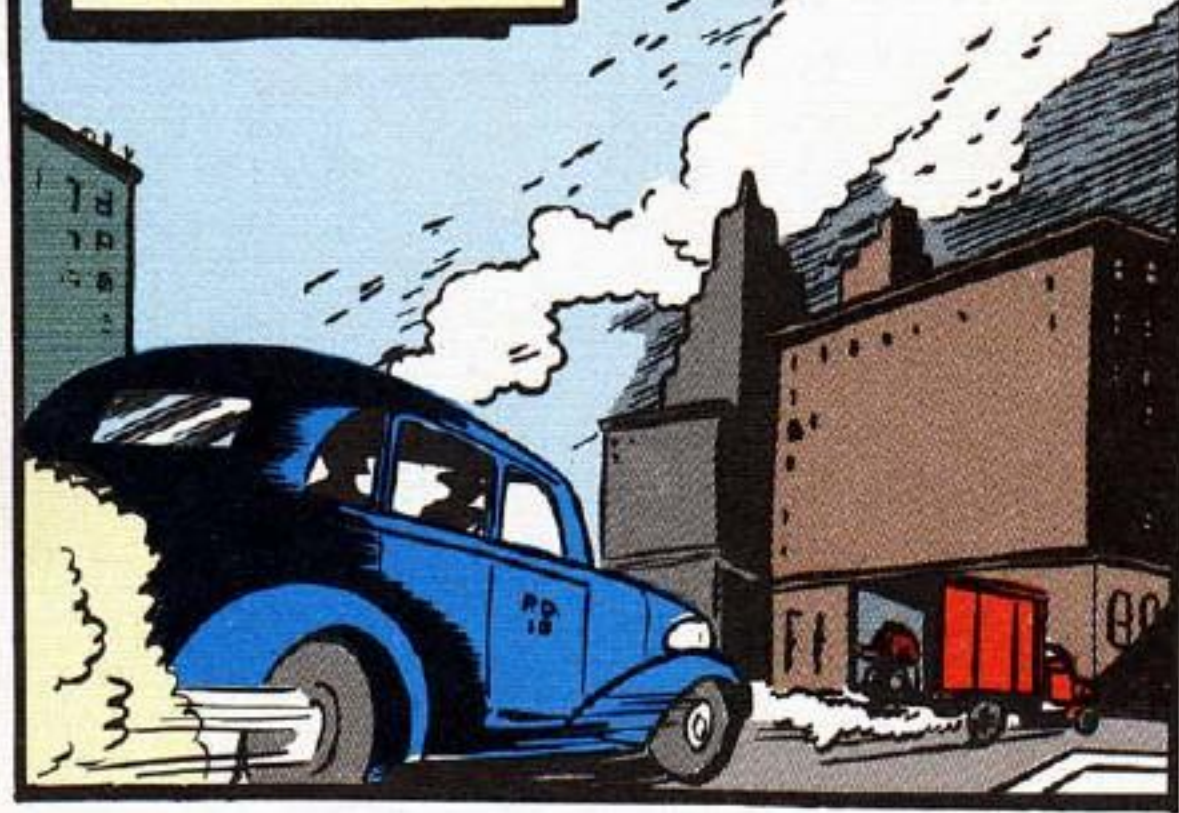
THE MONSTER WIELDS THE WEAPON WITH TERRIBLE EFFECT!



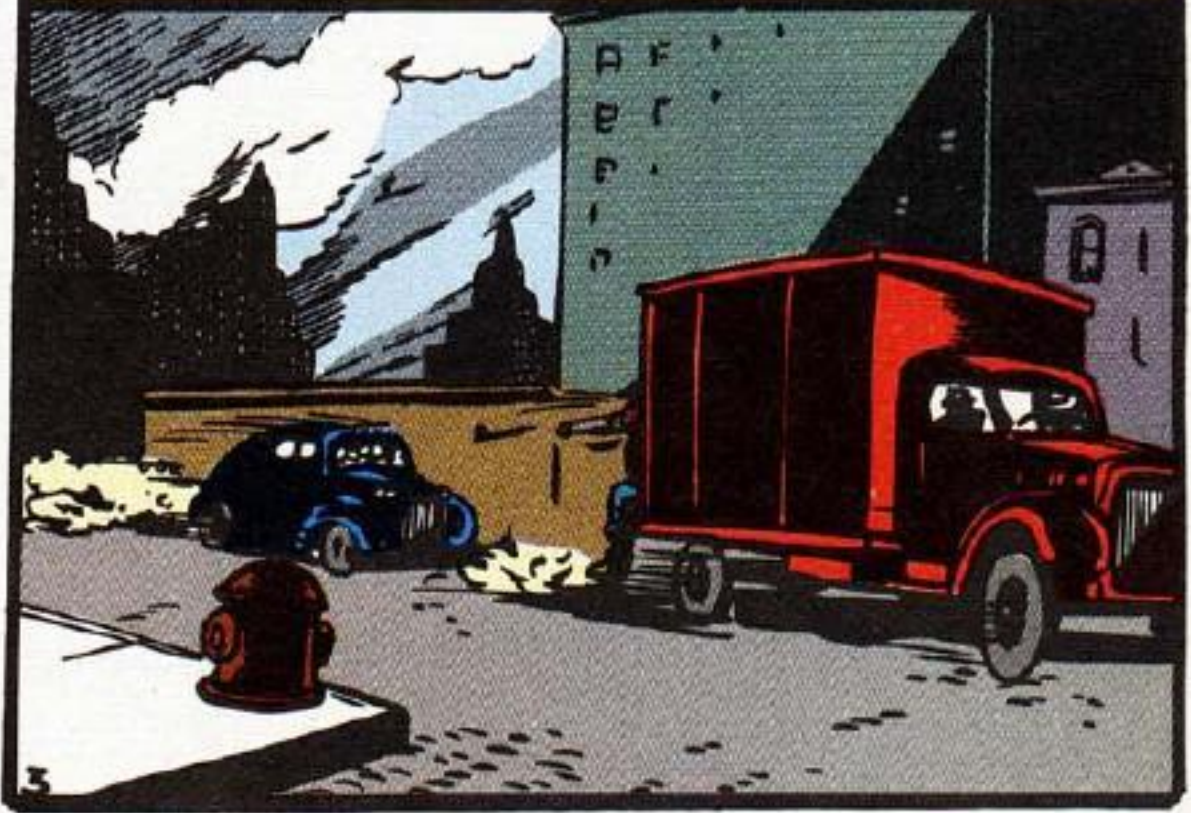
SUDDENLY AS POLICE CARS APPEAR, THE MONSTER LUMBERS TOWARD A TRUCK IDLING NEARBY



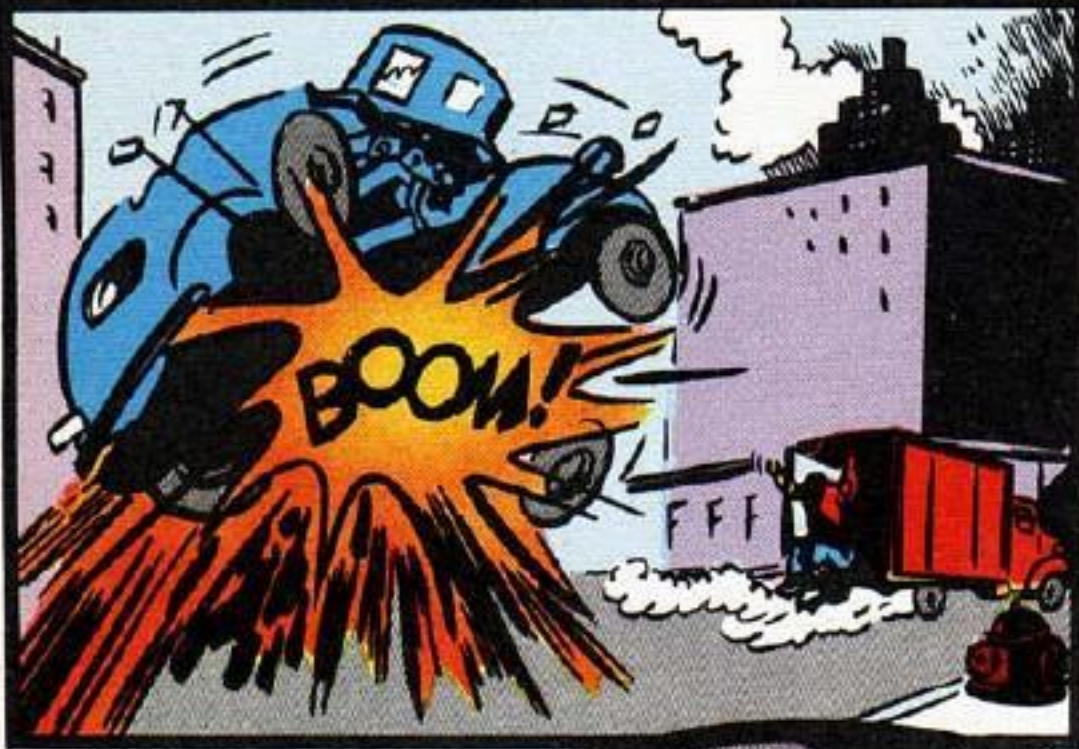
THE POLICE CAR STARTS IN PURSUIT!



AS THE POLICE DRAW NEAR, THE MONSTER HURLS SOMETHING AT THE CAR...



THERE IS A SHATTERING ROAR AS THE OBJECT HITS THE POLICE CAR!



THAT NIGHT...

IT COULD BE THE WORK OF ONLY ONE MAN...
STRANGE

AND THE MONSTER MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE BY BOMBING THE POLICE CAR THE PEOPLE...

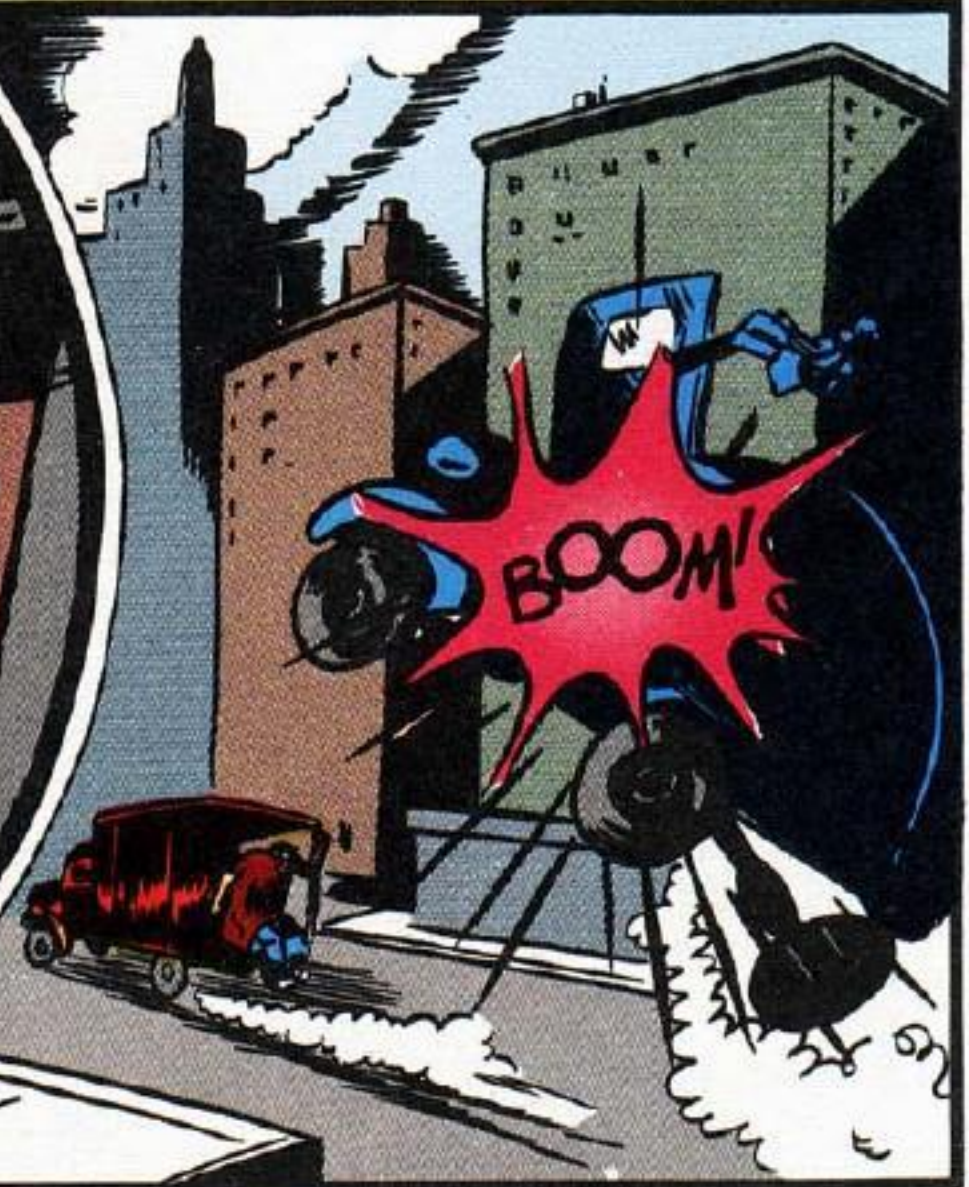
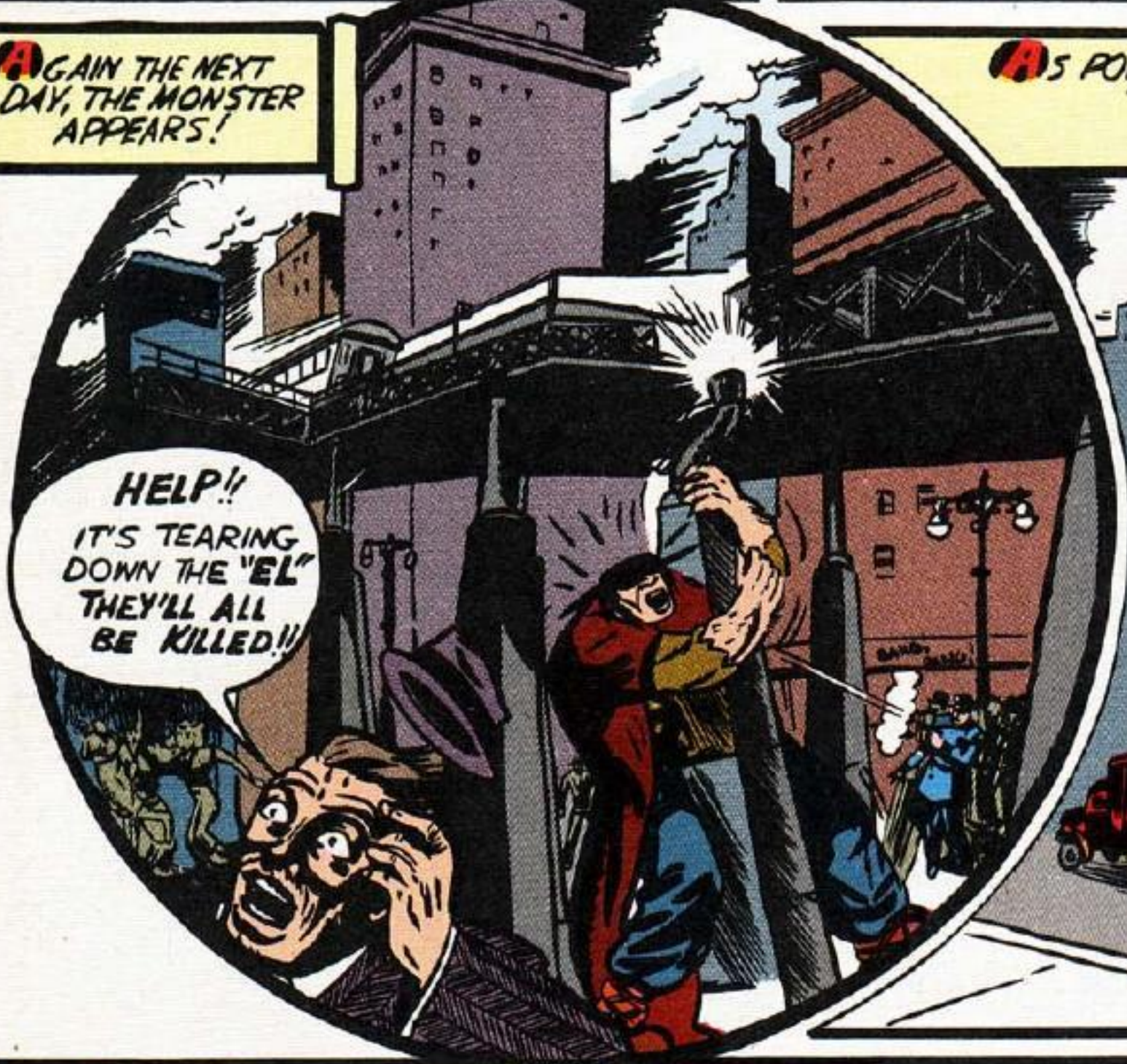


IF I KNOW PROFESSOR STRANGE THERE WILL BE MORE OF THEM TO COME. I MUST STOP HIM...
HMMM...



A GAIN THE NEXT DAY, THE MONSTER APPEARS!

A S POLICE AGAIN PURSUE, THEY MEET THE SAME FATE AS THOSE THE DAY BEFORE!!



B UT HIGH ABOVE...

THAT TRUCK SHOULD LEAD ME STRAIGHT TO THE HIDEOUT OF HUGO STRANGE!



WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE END OF MY SEARCH!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

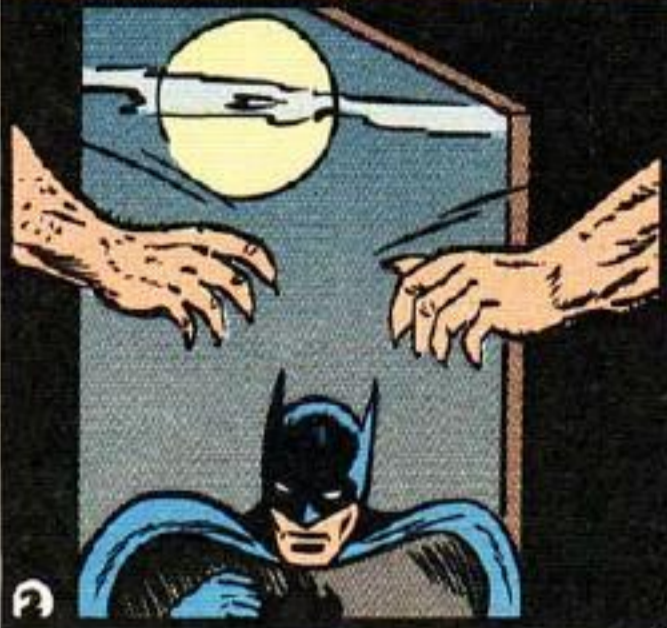


THE DOOR SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN, REVEALING THE DARK INTERIOR!



WHAT TH! IT LOOKS LIKE A TRAP BUT I'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT!

THE BATMAN CAUTIOUSLY STEPS INSIDE. FAILING TO NOTICE HUGE HANDS....



SUDDENLY THE LIGHT FLASHES ON! THE BATMAN IS IN THE HANDS OF THE MONSTERS!!

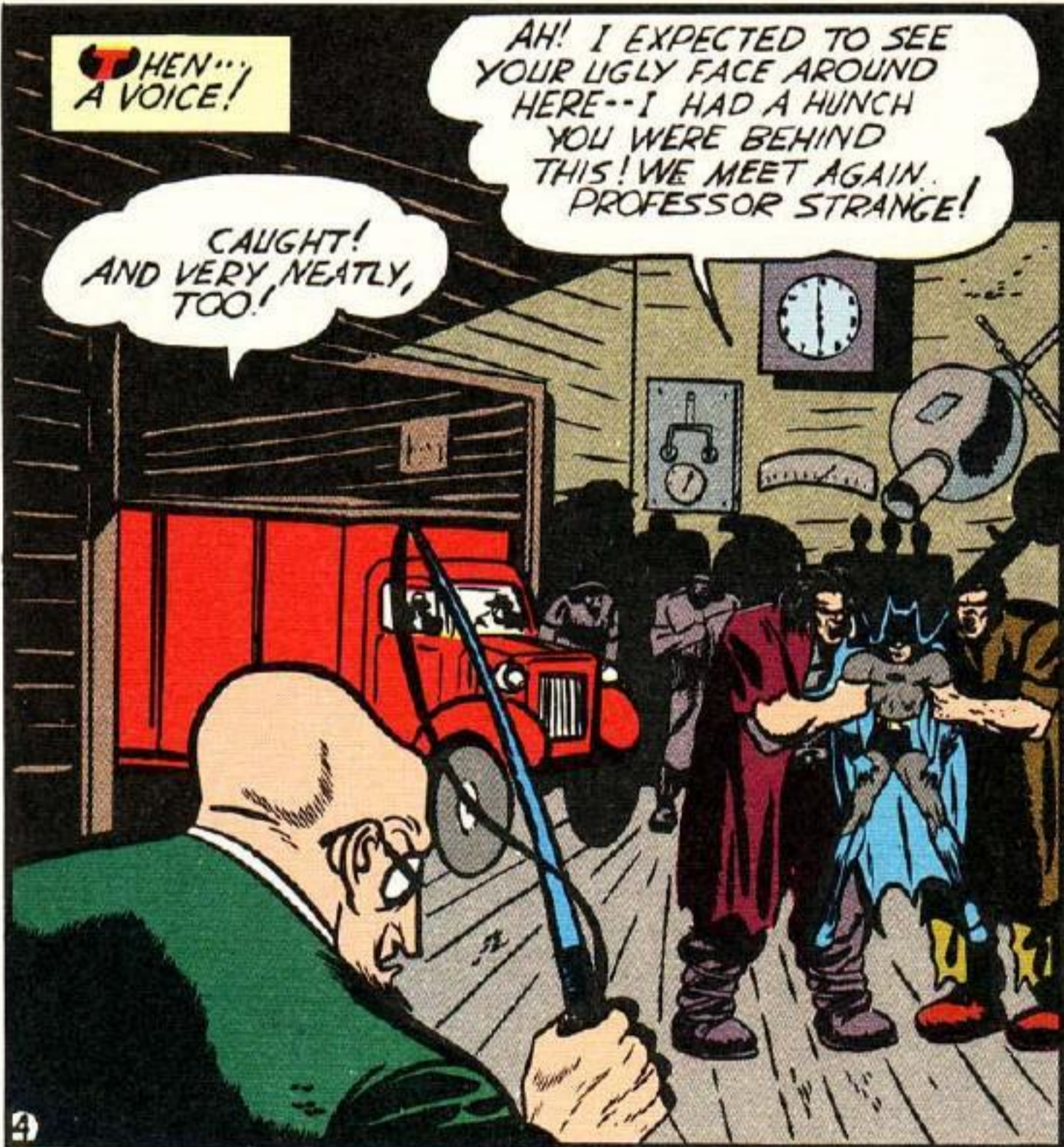


ER.. GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!

THEN... A VOICE!

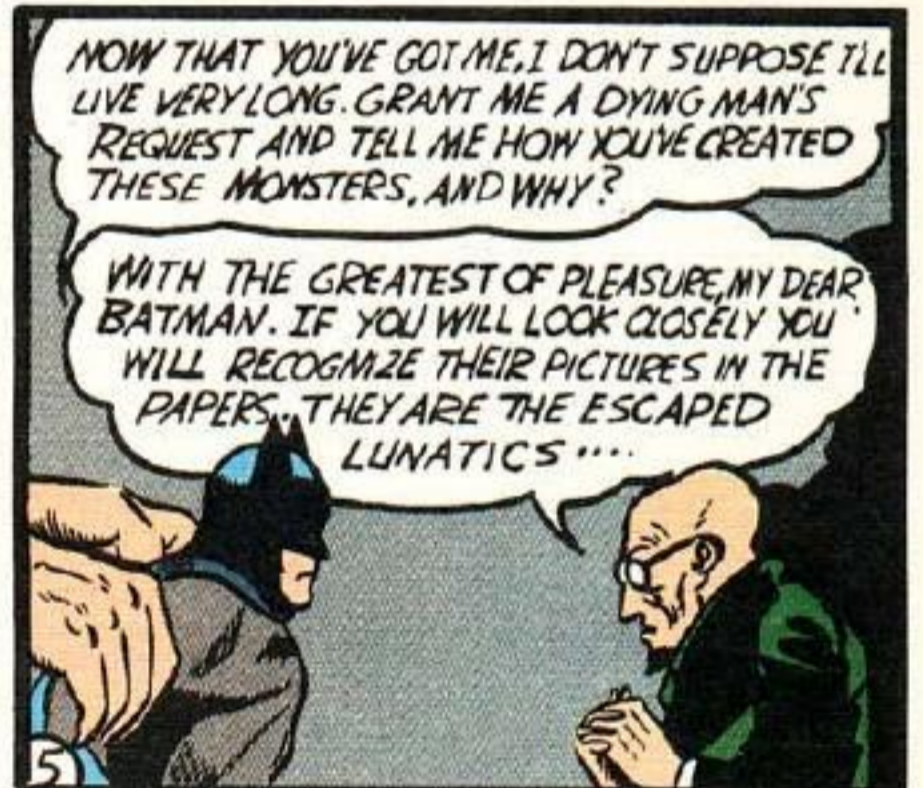
AH! I EXPECTED TO SEE YOUR UGLY FACE AROUND HERE--I HAD A HUNCH YOU WERE BEHIND THIS! WE MEET AGAIN, PROFESSOR STRANGE!

CAUGHT! AND VERY NEATLY, TOO!



NOW THAT YOU'VE GOT ME, I DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL LIVE VERY LONG. GRANT ME A DYING MAN'S REQUEST AND TELL ME HOW YOU'VE CREATED THESE MONSTERS, AND WHY?

WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE, MY DEAR BATMAN. IF YOU WILL LOOK CLOSELY YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THEIR PICTURES IN THE PAPERS... THEY ARE THE ESCAPED LUNATICS...



... AND THESE ARE MONSTERS. I MADE THEM, SO! I DISCOVERED AN EXTRACT THAT SPEEDS UP THE GROWTH GLANDS. I INJECT THIS FLUID INTO A NORMAL MAN. THE SUDDEN GROWTH NOT ONLY DISTORTS THE BODY BUT ALSO THE BRAIN--AND SOON HE IS A MONSTER!!



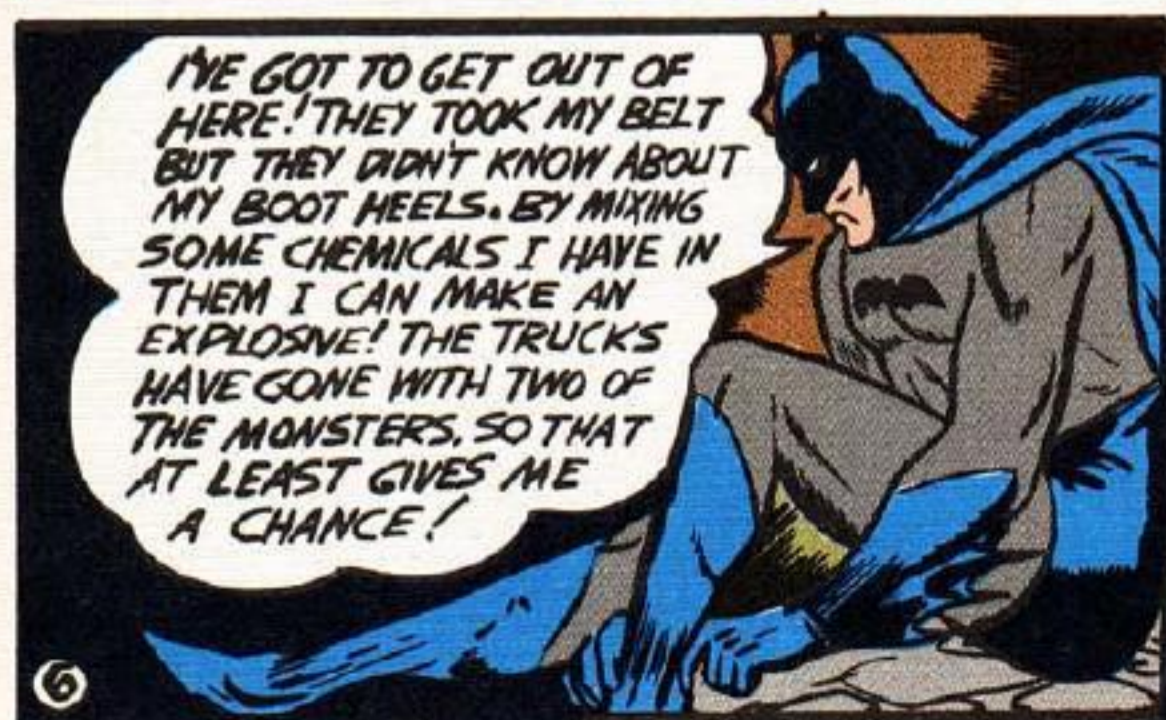
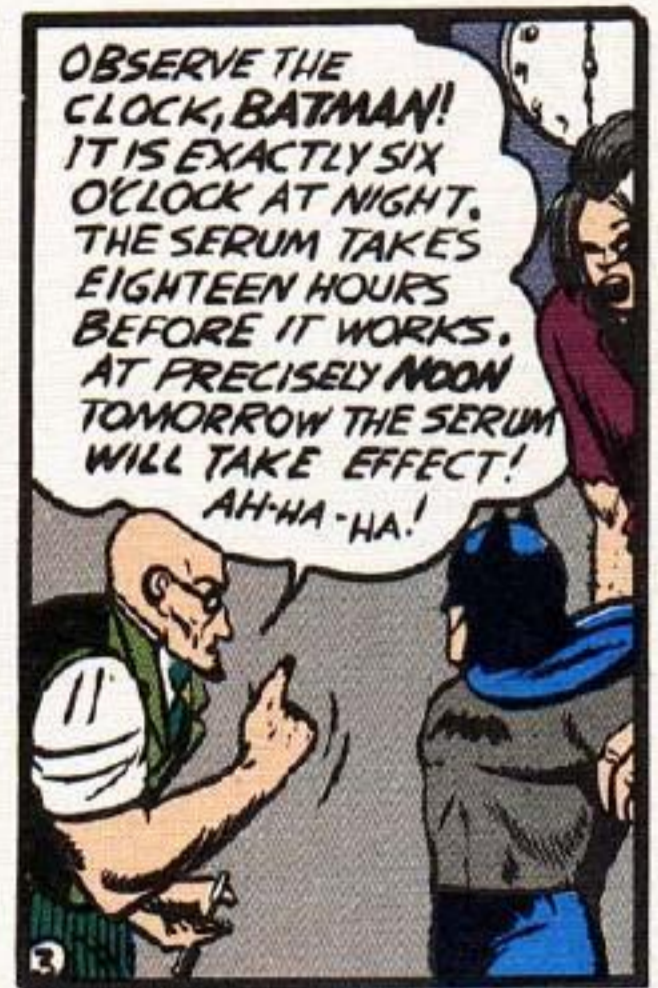
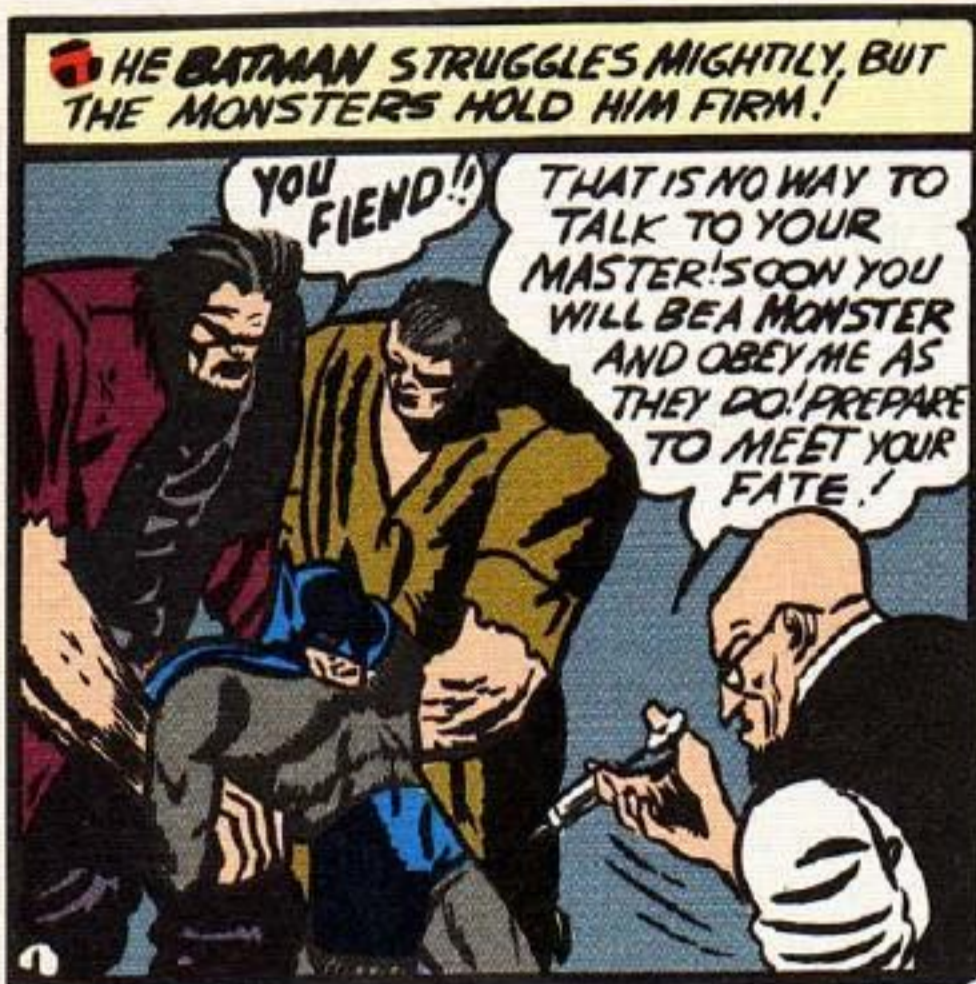
I HAVE SENT OUT A MONSTER IN CLOTHES OF BULLET PROOF MATERIAL SO THAT THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE MAY BE ER.. ACQUAINTED WITH HIM TOMORROW I SHALL SEND OUT TWO MONSTERS AND WHILE THE POLICE ARE CONCERNED WITH THEM MY MEN WILL LOOT THE BANK'S. CLEVER ISN'T IT? YOU KNOW, AT TIMES I AM AMAZED AT MY OWN GENIUS!



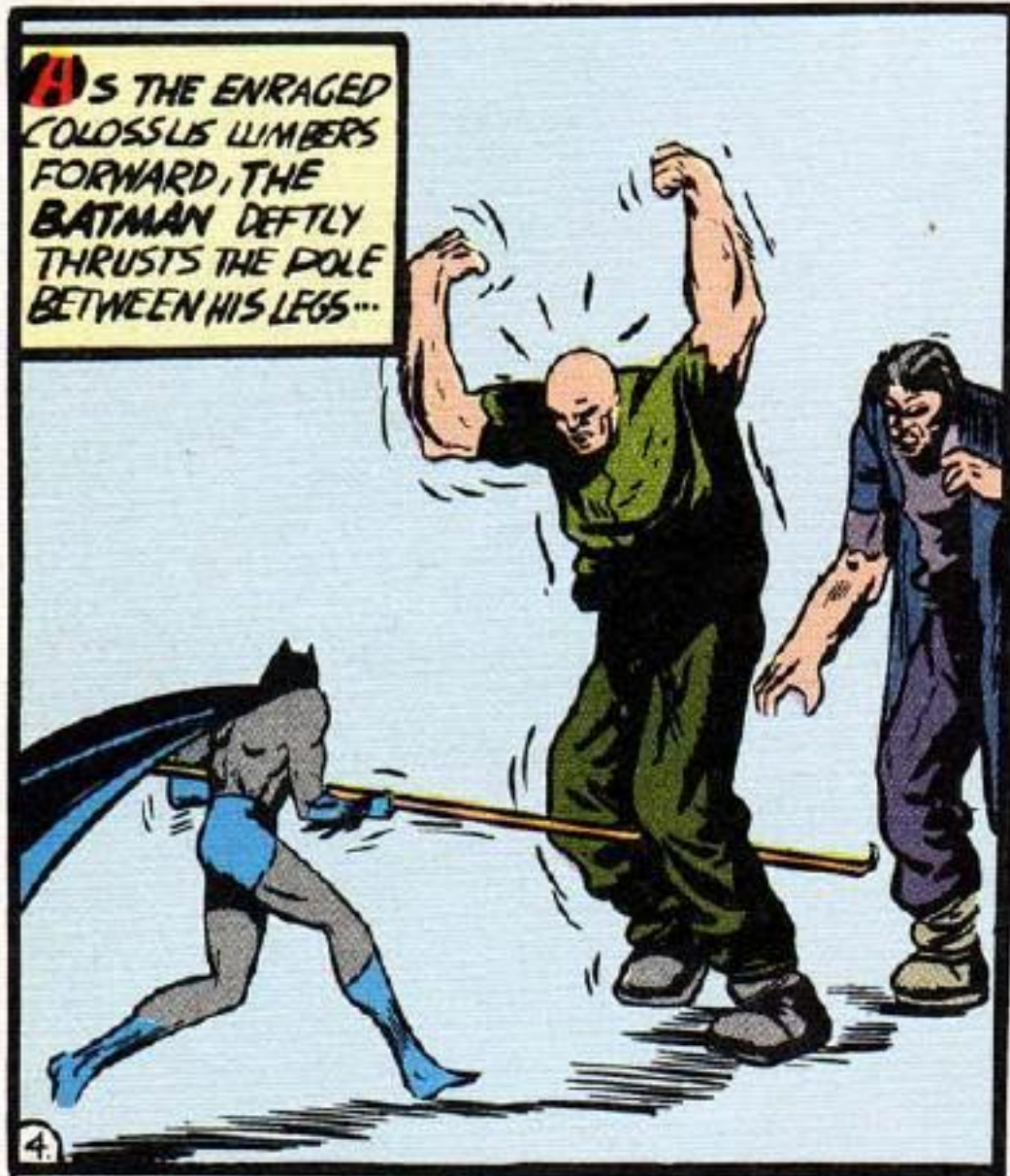
AN EVIL GENIUS, STRANGE!

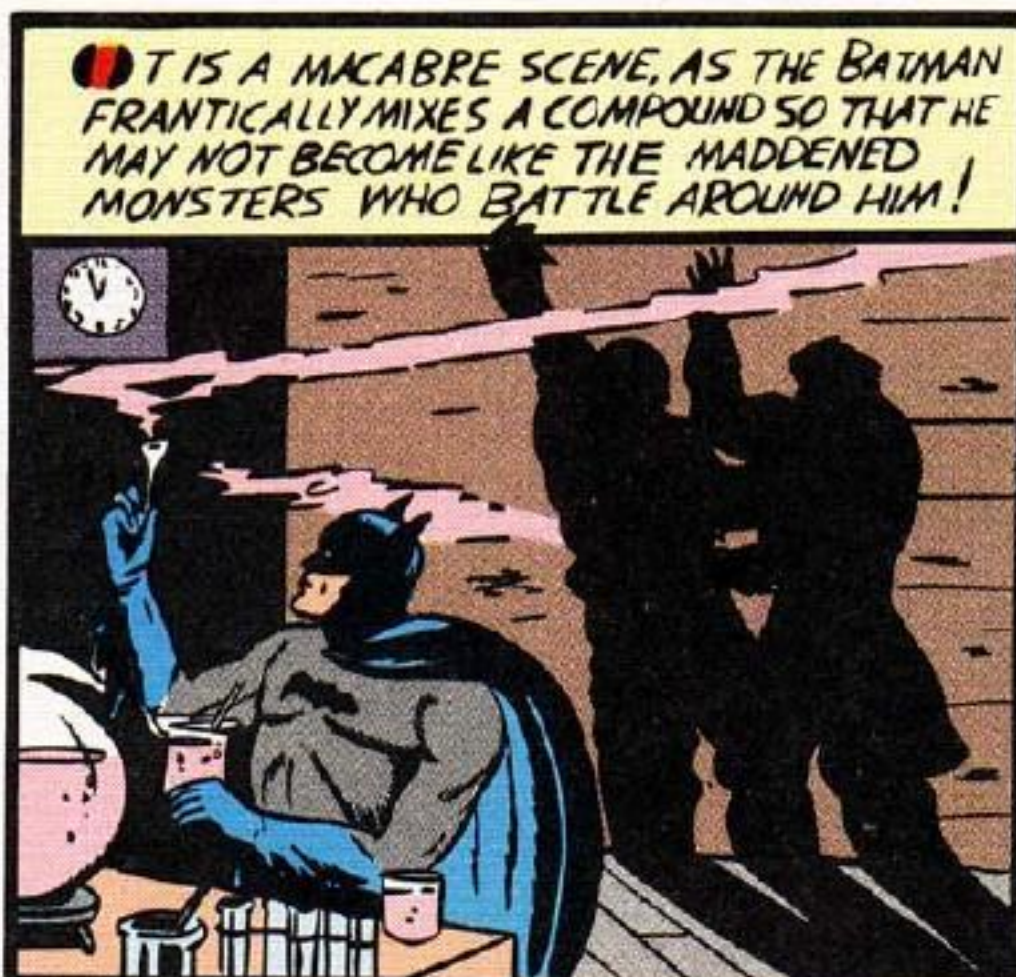
REMOVE HIS BELT OF GAS CAPSULES--I WANT NO ESCAPE. I AM GOING TO INJECT THIS FLUID INTO YOU! YOU, DEAR BATMAN, ARE TO BE A MONSTER! A MONSTER! HA-HA-HA

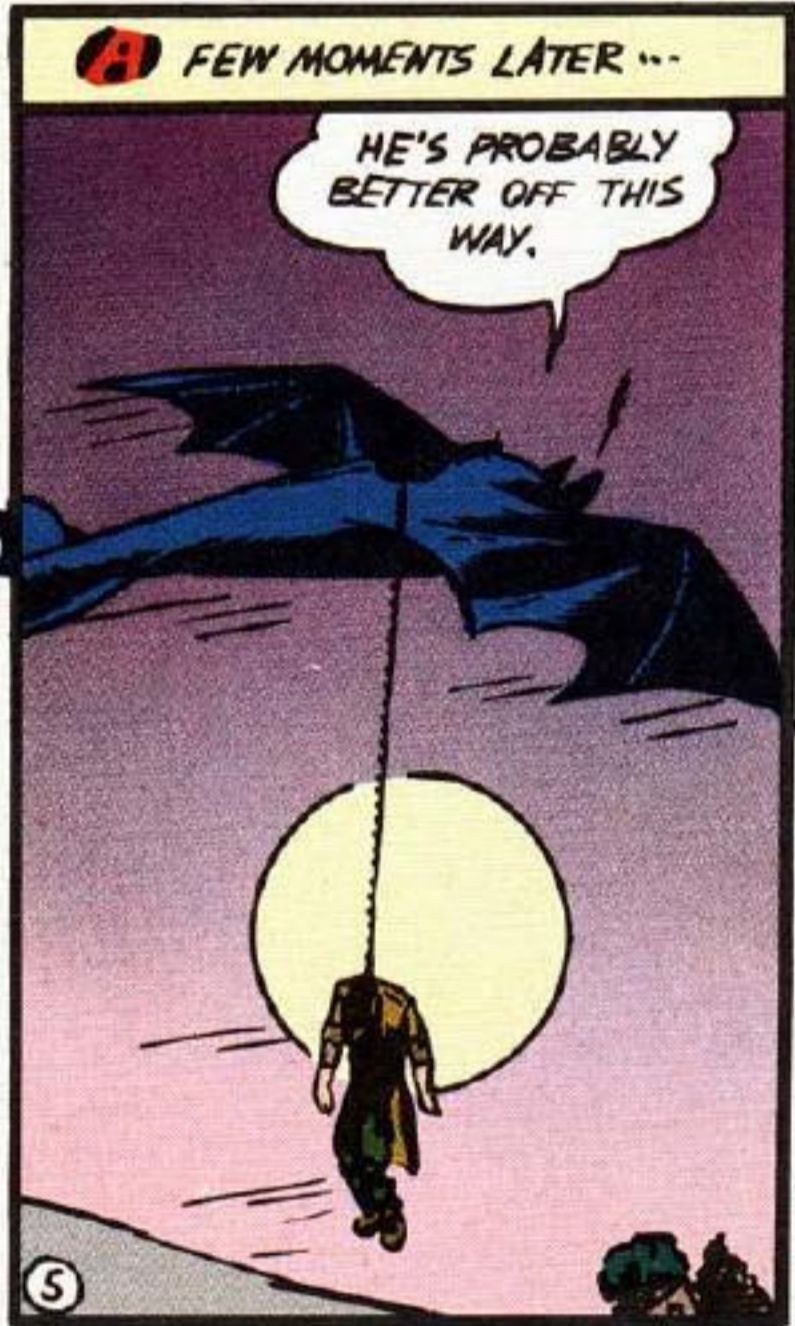
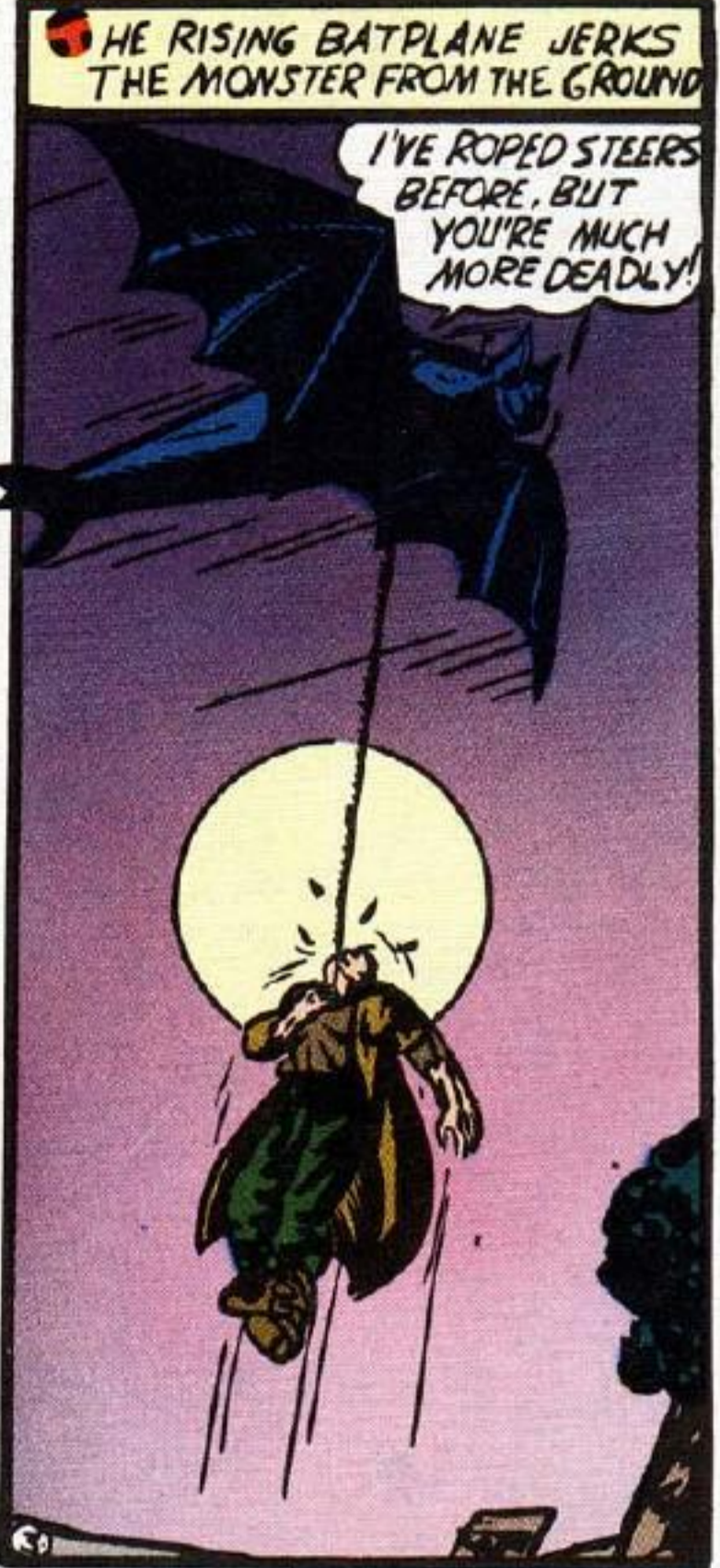
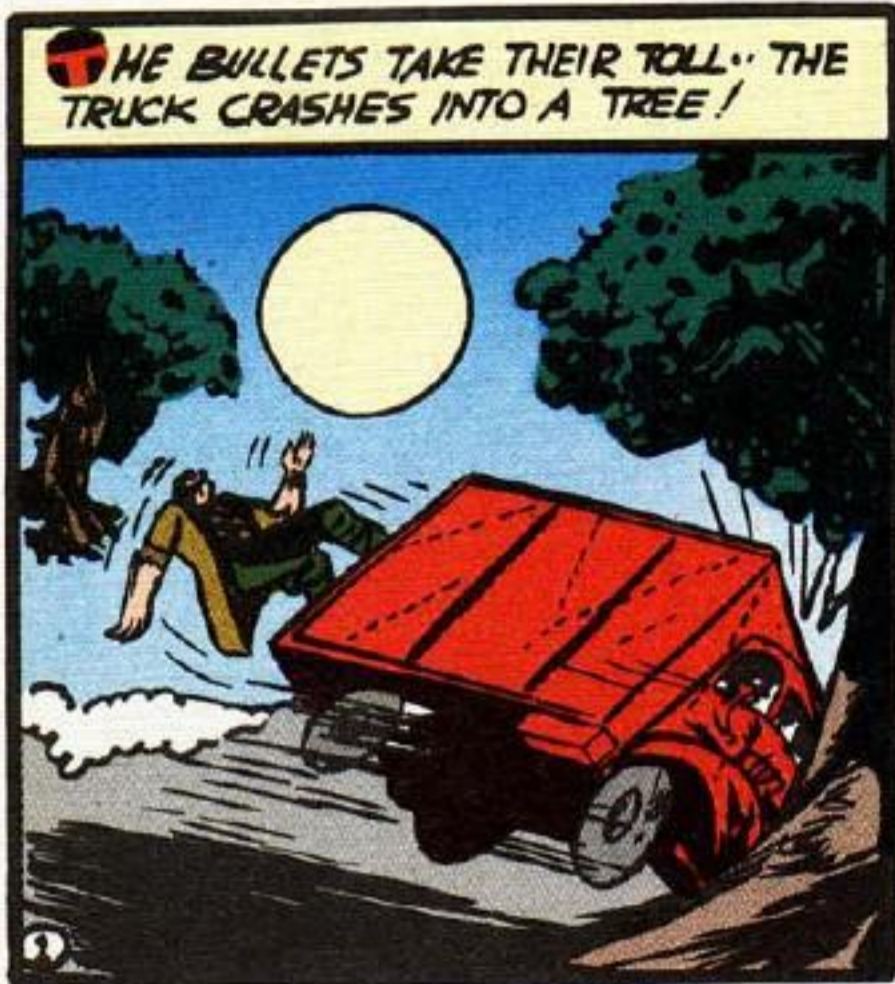














...AND FINALLY THE TOP!

THE BULLET PROOF CLOTHES PROTECT THE MONSTER...



IF BULLETS DON'T STOP HIM - I KNOW WHAT WILL!

HIS TIME FROM THE BATPLANE GAS PELLETS!!



AS THE GAS TAKES EFFECT THE MONSTER ONCE MORE SEES THE BATPLANE... SHAKES HIS HANDS DEFIANTLY...



...AND THEN TOPPLES OFF TO HIS DOOM!!

THERE GOES THE LAST OF THE MONSTERS... YET I HAVE A FEELING THAT THE BIGGEST MONSTER OF THEM ALL, PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE, STILL LIVES! PERHAPS WE SHALL MEET AGAIN... PERHAPS!!



BOB KANE

THE **BATMAN**
APPEARING EVERY MONTH
IN DETECTIVE COMICS