



REMATCH!

THE STARK, BLOOD-CHILLING COMEBACK OF A FEARSOME FOE... NOW ENDOWED WITH STRANGE, UNEARTHLY POWERS! POWERS WHICH NOT EVEN THE BATMAN CAN OVERCOME!

STORY + ART BY

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S-887

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DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 416, October, 1971. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Ed Lolacher, Circulation Director. Second Class Postage Paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. For advertising rates address Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc. 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1971. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY, A MARRIAGE ALMOST MADE IN HELL...

... IS ABOUT TO BE SANCTIFIED IN HEAVEN!

WHILE THE MIND OF THEIR MIGHTY PROTECTOR AND BEST MAN, THE BATMAN... DRIFTS BACK TO ANOTHER TIME...

THEY'RE SO BLISSFULLY HUMAN NOW...

DO YOU, KIRK LANGSTROM, TAKE FRANCINE LEE AS YOUR LAWFUL WEDDED WIFE?

I DO!

... SO UNLIKE THAT MADDENED BAT-COUPLE, WHO UNITED TO PROVE THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER...

... BY DESTROYING THE BATMAN, THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SAVE THEM...

... FROM A "MARRIAGE IMPOSSIBLE"!

BUT I FINALLY DID SAVE THEM... WITH MY ANTI-BAT SERUM!

BUT... FOR HOW LONG?

HOW LONG...?



NEVER... NEVER AGAIN MUST THEIR HOPE FOR A NORMAL LIFE BE THREATENED! HOPEFULLY, THIS TIME I'VE SEEN TO THAT!

OH, BATMAN-- A WEDDING PRESENT?... HOW EXCITING!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE! YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN US MORE THAN WE DESERVE...



PLEASE TAKE IT! IT MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT OF YOUR LIVES!



IF "IT" SHOULD HAPPEN AGAIN, AT LEAST NOW THEY'RE PROTECTED!

A BEAUTIFUL LEATHER-BOUND CASE! WHAT COULD BE IN IT...?



EASY ENOUGH TO FIND OUT, KIRK, DEAR...



LITTLE GLASS VIALS! AND A NOTE FROM THE BATMAN...



"DEAR FRIENDS--I MUST WARN YOU THAT YOU STILL FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF FLASHBACK! AN UNCONTROLLABLE RETURN TO GASP HUMAN-BATHOOD!"

AGH! NOT A BACK-SLIDE INTO THAT LIVING NIGHTMARE?!



I-I'VE DREADED THIS ALL ALONG! JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO FACE IT-- OR TELL YOU, FRANCIE!



WE MUST FACE IT TOGETHER, KIRK, DEAR!

"FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG MY ORIGINAL ANTI-BAT SERUM WILL CONTINUE TO COUNTERACT THE UNKNOWN FORCES SET OFF INSIDE YOU..."

"BUT YOU MUST, AT ALL TIMES, KEEP ONE OF THESE VIALS ON YOUR PERSON... JUST IN CASE! [SIGNED] THE BATMAN"

LISTEN...



OH-H, KIRK! MUST THE SHADOW OF THE BAT HANG OVER US-- ALL OUR LIVES?

ONLY IF WE IGNORE THE BATMAN'S WARNING!



WITH CARE, FRANCIE-- WE CAN LEAD NORMAL... WELL, ALMOST NORMAL LIVES-- LIKE DIABETICS DO!

BUT YOU REALIZE...



YES, KIRK--I REALIZE ALL TOO WELL! WE CAN NEVER-- MUSTN'T EVER-- RISK HAVING...

DEAREST-- WE MUST BE EVERYTHING TO EACH OTHER, NOW! WE HAVE ONLY OURSELVES...



BUT YOU MUST PROMISE ME, KIRK-- SWEAR...

... YOU'LL NEVER EXPERIMENT AGAIN!

I SWEAR, FRANCIE-- IF IT'S HUMANLY POSSIBLE-- NEVER TO TEMPT THE UNKNOWN AGAIN!

"NEVER" IS A LONG TIME, KIRK LANGSTROM!

AFTER THE HONEYMOON, ALONE IN HIS LAB AT GOTHAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM...

... A DETERMINED MAN TAKES STEPS TO KEEP HIS VOW!

DAMNED MAN-BAT FORMULA!

YOU'VE DAMNED ME AND FRANCIE LONG ENOUGH!

KARRASH!!

KEEP YOUR "SPECIAL" POWERS, NIGHT-CREATURE!

I WANT NO FURTHER PART OF YOU! NO MORE CRINGING FROM SUNLIGHT--JUMPING AT TINY SOUNDS BEYOND HUMAN HEARING!...

... NEVER AGAIN!--- CHALLENGING THE BATMAN AT HIS OWN GAME...

... TRYING TO TOP HIM, WITH MY INHUMAN POWERS!

WHILE IN A DISTANT WING OF THE VAST MUSEUM...

IF THIS MACHINE WORKS AS CLAIMED, HOWIE-- WE'LL BE ABLE TO CLEAN OUR BRITTLE FOSSILS WITH NO RISK OF DAMAGE!

IMAGINE! INVISIBLE-SCOURING THROUGH ULTRA-SONIC VIBRATION! HERE GOES...

THE SWITCH IS THROWN, AND VIBRATIONS FAR ABOVE HUMAN HEARING COINCIDE WITH THE RISING OF A FULL MOON!

BAH! WHAT WAS SO WRONG IN MY WANTING TO BE MORE THAN JUST HUMAN?
NOTHING!

MY ONLY MISTAKE WAS MISJUDGING THE **STRENGTH** OF THE **FIRST** BAT-GLAND EXTRACT...

A **HUMAN** ERROR... EASILY CORRECTED! I'LL ALTER IT... PHASE OUT THE GRUESOME **PHYSICAL** SIDE-EFFECTS!

A "HUMAN" ERROR INDEED, KIRK LANGSTROM! BUT ARE YOU **FULLY** HUMAN AT THIS MOMENT?

WORKING FEVERISHLY UNDER THE BALEFUL INFLUENCE OF A SILENT MOON... OR PERHAPS TO THE INSISTENT COMMAND OF A SUPERSONIC-SIGNAL... THE DREAD EXPERIMENT IS READY!



SUDDENLY... AS A DISTANT SWITCH IS THROWN, THE VIBRATIONS CEASE... A DARK CLOUD OBSCURES THE GLARING MOON, AND...

W-WHAT... WHAT AM I DOING?

NO! I DON'T DARE! THIS NEW FORMULA COULD TURN ME BACK INTO A **MAN-BAT-- FOREVER**

UGGH! THE MERE THOUGHT...

WAIT! I'M ACTING LIKE A PANICKED NIGHT-CREATURE, NOT AS...

... A RATIONAL SCIENTIST! I MUST TRY IT AGAIN! MANY CLINICAL TESTS MUST BE MADE...

BUT-- NO TIME NOW!

ALMOST FORGOT I'M MEETING FRANCIE AT THE OPERA! **BATMAN** SENT US TWO TICKETS FOR TONIGHT'S GALA OPENING!

LATER, AS THEIR BENEFACTOR WATCHES, SECURE FROM RECOGNITION IN HIS COVER-IDENTITY OF **BRUCE WAYNE**...

THE POOR KIDS ARE LIVING BRAVELY WITH THEIR "THING"... THEY DESERVE ALL THE ENJOYMENT THEY CAN GET!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO RELAXED, BRUCE-- I CAN NEVER LET UP! **MARLA MANNING** IS ALWAYS "ON"-- FOR DEAR OLD **GOTHAM DAILY PRESS!**

KIRK, YOU LOOK SO DARLING IN THOSE TAILS! NOT LIKE OUR FIRST "MARRIAGE" WHEN YOU WORE THEM AS... THE **MAN-BAT!**

WHICH REMINDS ME-- WHEN YOU CHANGED AT THE MUSEUM, DID YOU REMEMBER TO...



GOOD LORD, FRANCIE-- THE **EMERGENCY SERUM!** FORGOT TO TRANSFER IT FROM MY BUSINESS SUIT!

CALM, SWEET-- I HAVE **MINE!** AS ALWAYS...

AND WHAT CHANCE IS THERE OF OUR **BOTH** GETTING "FLASH-BACK" AT THE SAME TIME...?

BUT, AS THE FIRST VIOLINIST BOWS THE MUTED OPENING BARS...



STOP IT... STOP IT! THAT HIGH NOTE IS DRILLING THROUGH MY HEAD!



AND EVEN AS THE SOLO VIOLIN TRAILS OFF INTO MOMENTARY SILENCE...

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?! THOSE LIGHTS... BLINDING!!

EVEN THE TICK OF MY WRIST-WATCH...

LIKE... THUNDER!

MY... HANDS!

FLASHBACK..!

I'M TURNING INTO... MAN-BAT!



AS THE PRIMA DONNA BEGINS HER SOLO ARIA, A SQUIRMING LANGSTROM TRIES DESPERATELY TO CONCEAL HIS "FLASHBACK" FROM FRANCIE AND THOSE AROUND HIM, BUT...

R-ROBERT-- DO YOU SEE WHAT--

...I SEE!



FRANCIE...! THE VIAL-- QUICK!

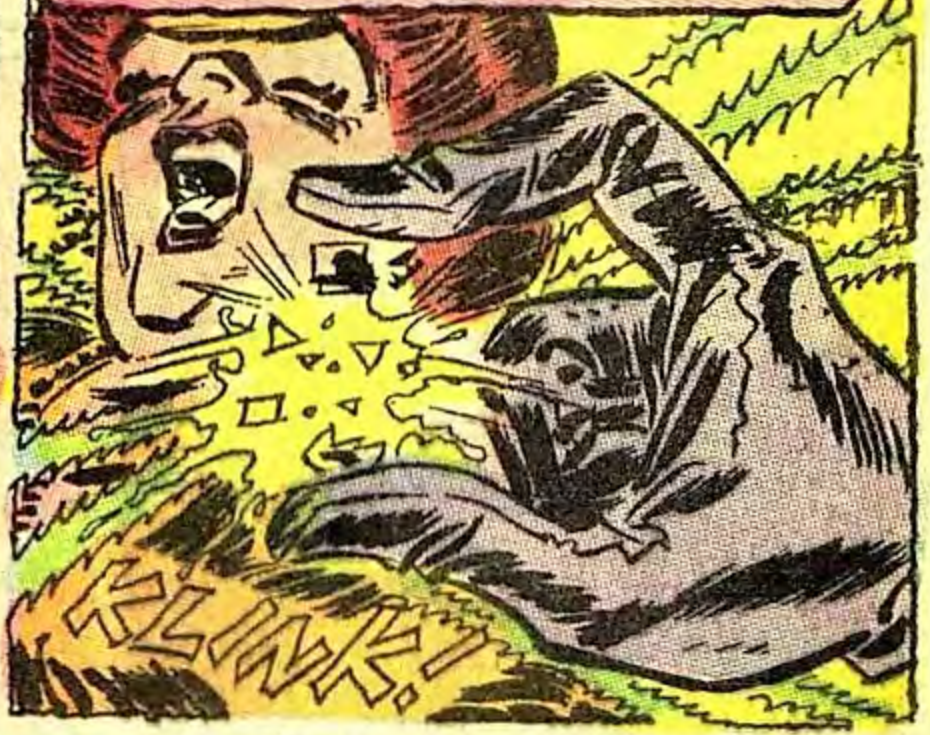
KIRK...? OH, NO!



INSTANTLY ALERT TO HIS MORTAL DANGER, FRAN THRUSTS THE PRECIOUS AMPULE AT HIM...

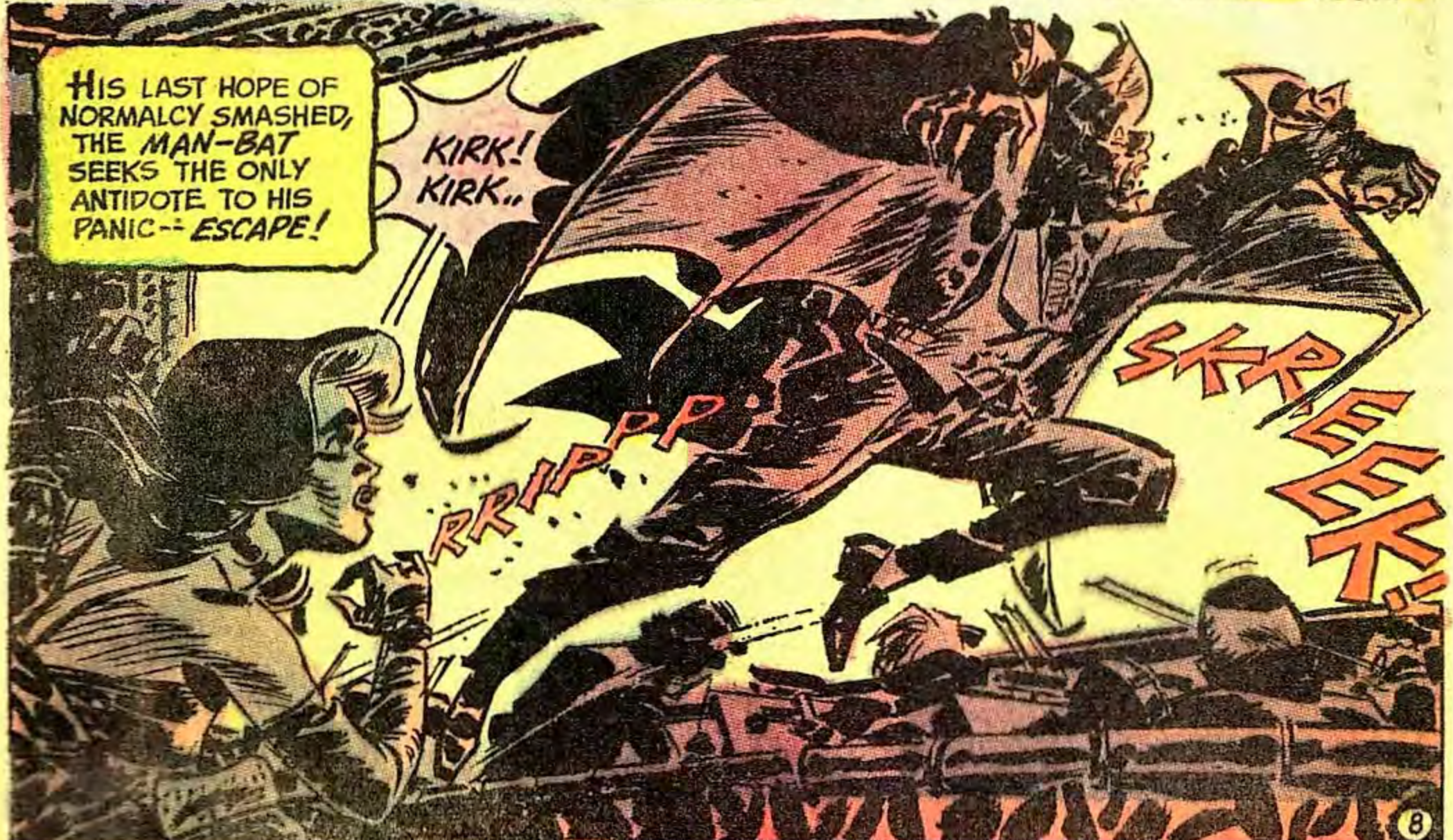


... JUST AS, ON STAGE, THE SOPRANO HITS A SHATTERING HIGH-C!



HIS LAST HOPE OF NORMALCY SMASHED, THE MAN-BAT SEEKS THE ONLY ANTIDOTE TO HIS PANIC-- ESCAPE!

KIRK! KIRK..



**INSTANT PANDEMONIUM
IN THE PACKED OPERA HOUSE!**

A NEWS SCOOP--
RIGHT ON MY DOORSTEP!
'SCUSE, PLEASE, BRUCE--
BUSINESS FIRST!

DITTO FOR
BATMAN!
SERIOUS
BUSINESS!

HAS KIRK
GONE ALL
THE WAY
THIS TIME?
BEYOND MY
HELP...?

A MOMENT LATER...

THERE
GOES THAT
BAT-THING!

...UP
INTO THE
WINGS!

...FOLLOWED
BY... THE
BATMAN!

I'VE HAD
MY GUT FULL
OF YOUR "HELP",
BATMAN!

ONLY A HALF-HITCH AROUND HIS ANKLE SAVES THE BATMAN FROM SUDDEN DEATH!...



BATMAN'S LOST HIM!

I MUST GET TO KIRK! HELP HIM... SOMEHOW!

WHILE OUTSIDE, A DISTRAUGHT MAN-BAT EMERGES FROM BACKSTAGE DARKNESS... INTO THE PITILESS GLARE OF A BENIGN MOON!



ARGH

SKREEEK

BUT THIS IS A MORE TERRIFYING MAN-BAT! A NIGHT-CREATURE WITH ALL THE AWESOME FACULTIES OF HIS TINY BROTHERS... PLUS THE CUNNING OF MAN AT HIS WORST!



YOU BROUGHT THIS ON ME, DEVIL MOON! YOU MAY CONTROL THE TIDES... AND THE DESTINY OF LESSER BEINGS...

... BUT YOU WON'T CONTROL ME!

SKREEEK

I'LL ESCAPE YOUR EVIL RAYS BY GOING UNDERGROUND... WHERE YOU CAN'T REACH ME!

WHERE I'LL BE MASTER OF MY OWN FATE!



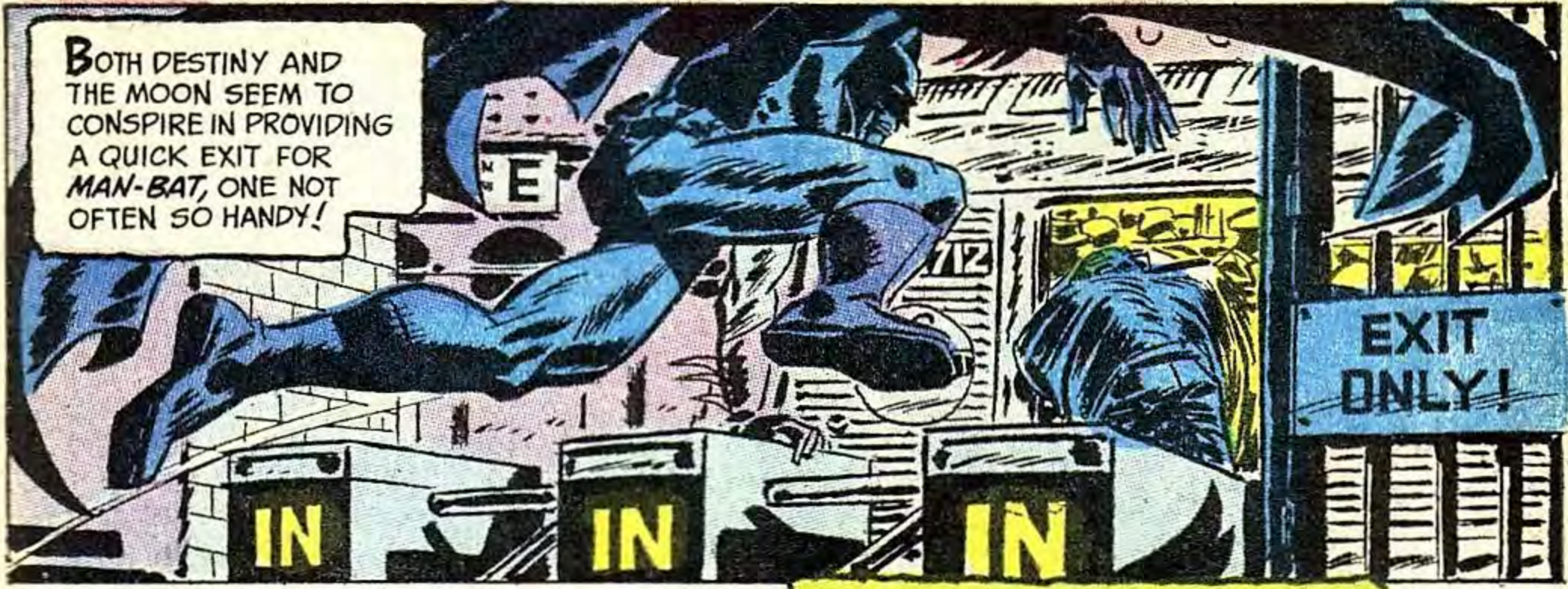
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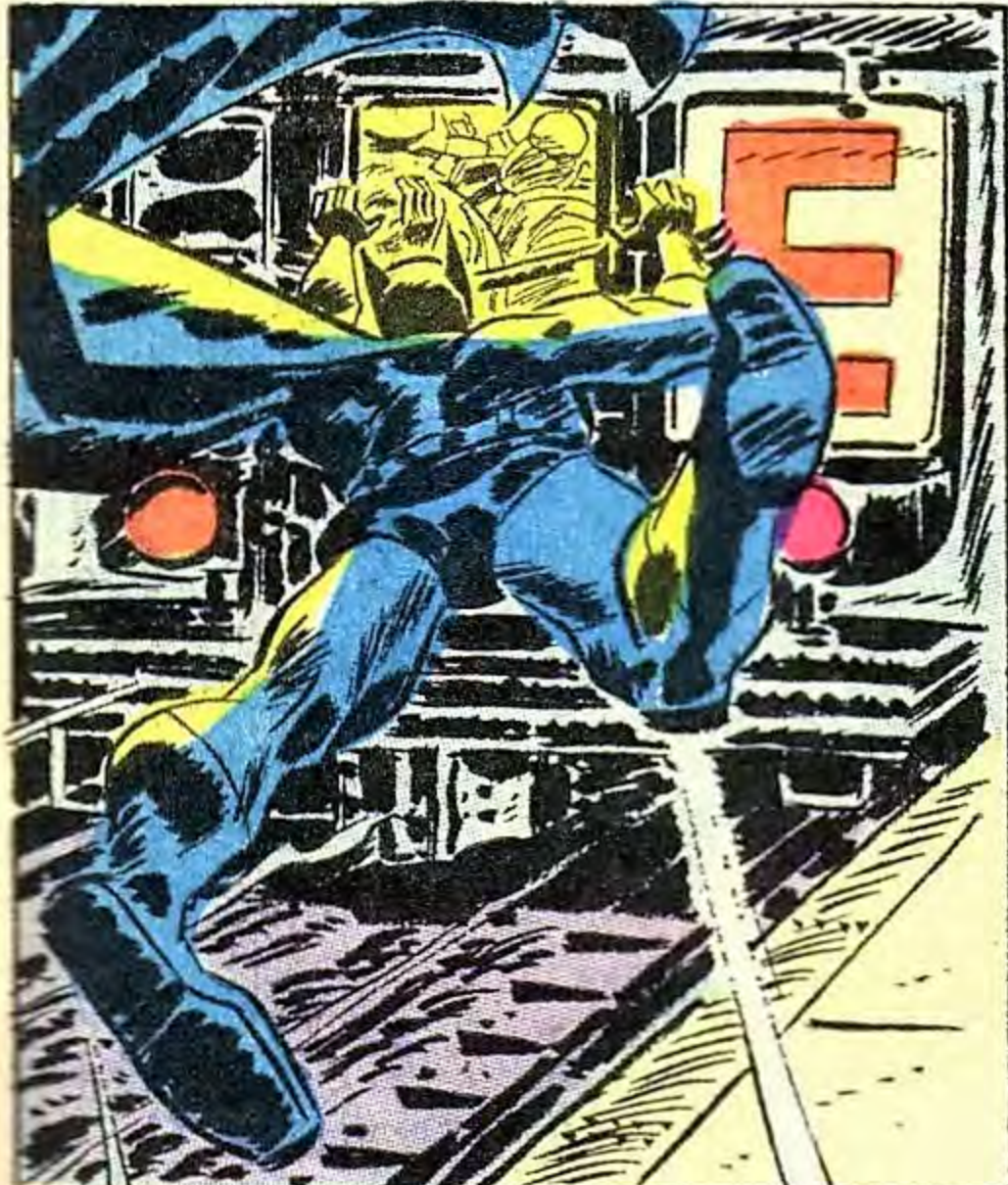
SUBWAY

SUBWAY

BOTH DESTINY AND THE MOON SEEM TO CONSPIRE IN PROVIDING A QUICK EXIT FOR MAN-BAT, ONE NOT OFTEN SO HANDY!



PINNED IN A TYPICALLY OBLIVIOUS GOTHAM CRUSH... MAN-BAT STARES INTO THE FACE OF HIS PURSUER!



AS THE ROARING EXPRESS THUNDERS THROUGH THE DARK TUNNEL, MAN-BAT BUFFETS HIS FRANTIC WAY FORWARD, RETARDED BY A MASS OF RESISTING HUMANITY!





SKREEEK

MAKE WAY--
INFERIORS--
FOR A SUPERIOR
BEING!

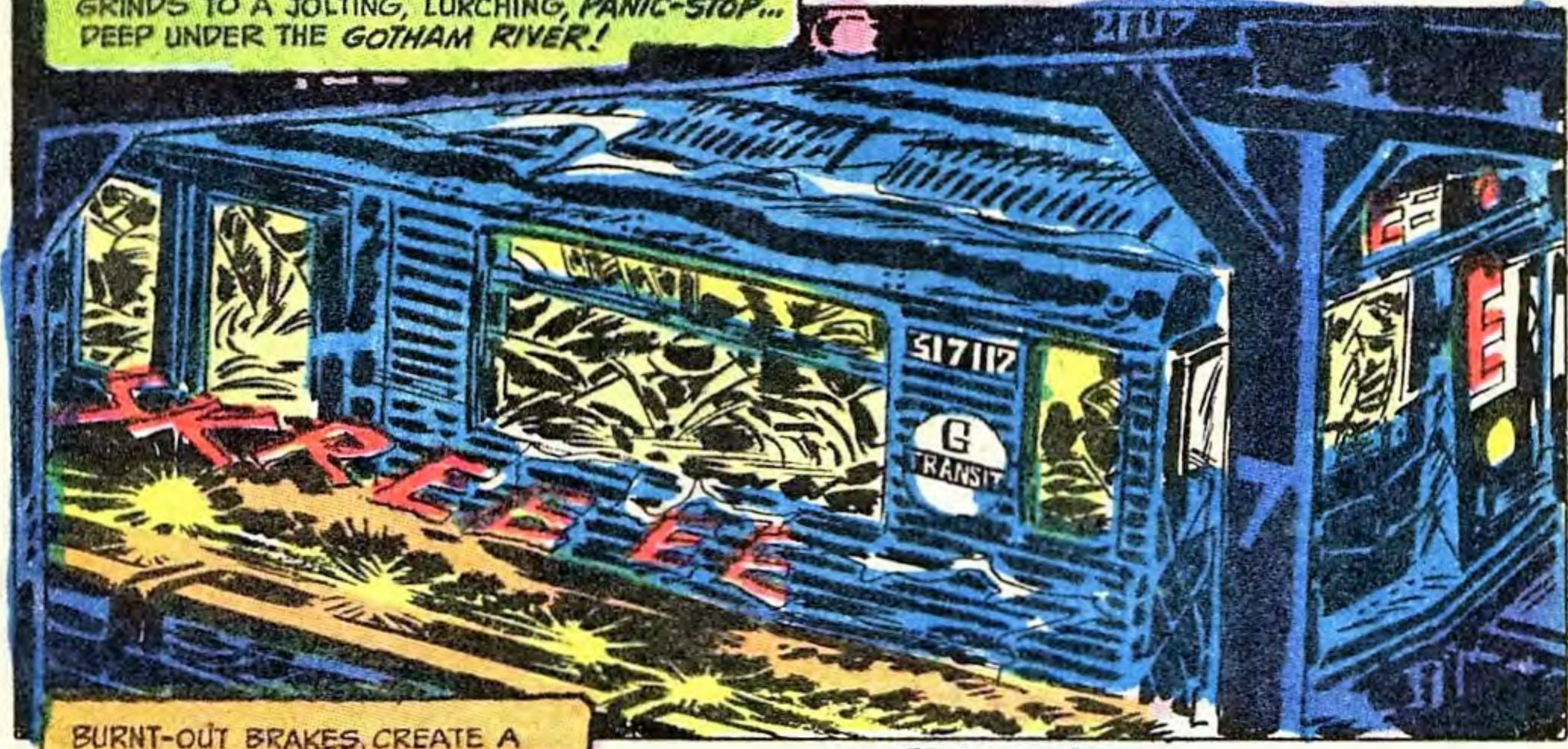


EEEEEE

HYSTERICALLY, THE HORRIFIED WOMAN
CLUTCHES FOR SUPPORT-- AND FINDS
IT... IN THE EMERGENCY CORD!

EMERGENCY
BRAKE

SPARKS FLY AS THE PLUNGING JUGGERNAUT
GRINDS TO A JOLTING, LURCHING, PANIC-STOP...
DEEP UNDER THE GOTHAM RIVER!



BURNT-OUT BRAKES, CREATE A
FLASH-FIRE... A MASSIVE SHORT-
CIRCUIT! THE LIGHTS BLACK-OUT...
AND ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE!



CAN'T
SEE!

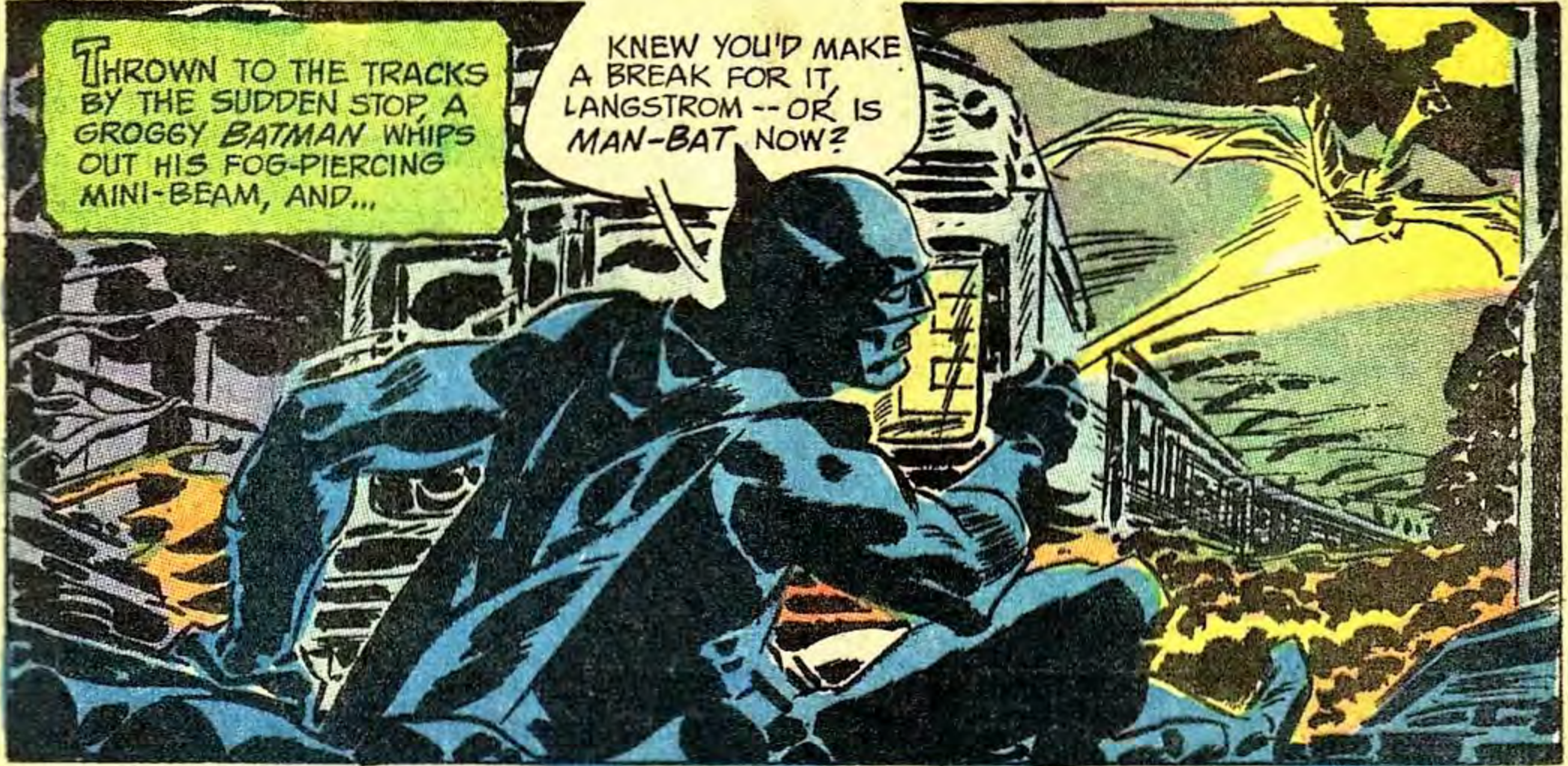
W-WE'RE
TRAPPED--
LIKE RATS!

GET
US OUTA
HERE!!



AND, UNDER COVER
OF THE DENSE-
BLACK, BILLOWING
SMOKE...

IF ONLY YOU
COULD SEE ME
NOW, MOON... HOW
I GUIDE MY
OWN DESTINY!



THROWN TO THE TRACKS BY THE SUDDEN STOP, A GROGGY BATMAN WHIPS OUT HIS FOG-PIERCING MINI-BEAM, AND...

KNEW YOU'D MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, LANGSTROM -- OR IS MAN-BAT NOW?



MAN-BAT... LISTEN TO ME--!

YOU CAN ESCAPE WITH YOUR NATURAL SONAR...

...BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE HELPLESS PEOPLE?

SKREET SKREET SKREET



DO YOU WANT THEIR DEATHS ON YOUR CONSCIENCE?



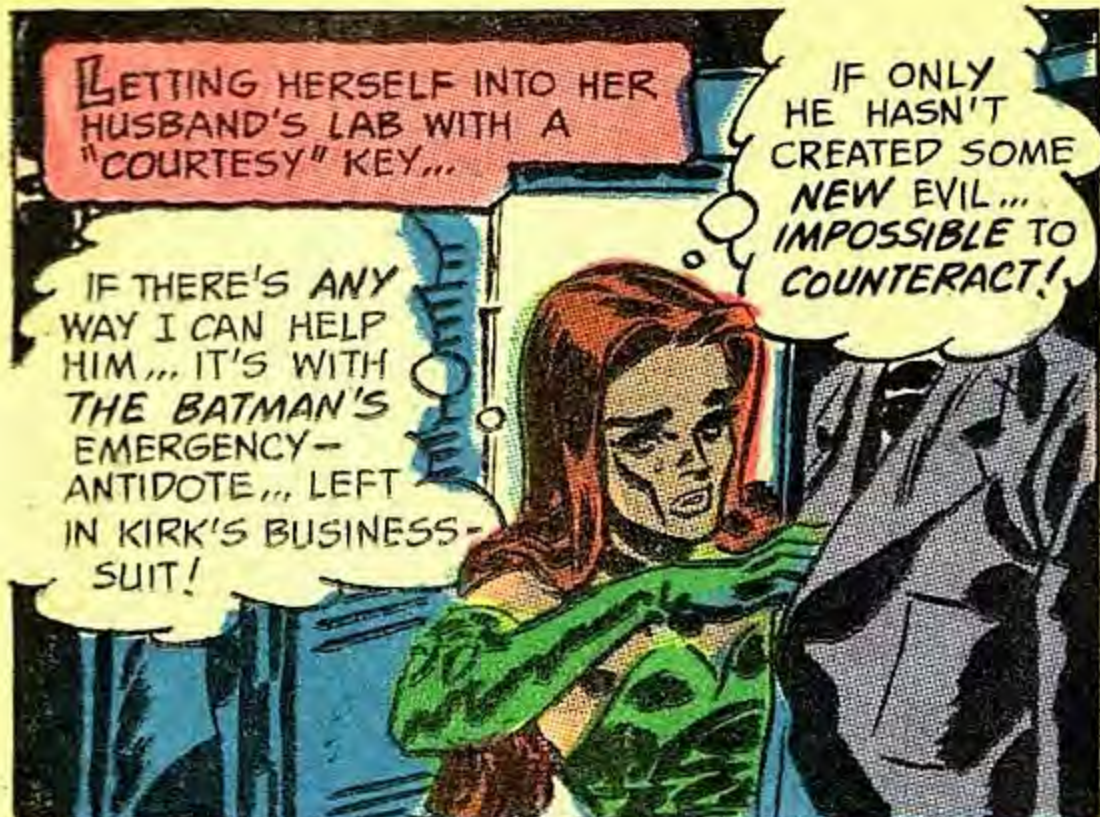
HAVEN'T YOU ANY "HUMAN" FEELING LEFT?

AT THAT MOMENT... ARRIVING AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM...

DID KIRK BREAK HIS VOW TO ME... BY EXPERIMENTING AGAIN? I FEEL NO "FLASHBACK"... NOT THE SLIGHTEST!



I MIGHT STILL SAVE HIM... IF HE RETURNS HERE!



LETTING HERSELF INTO HER HUSBAND'S LAB WITH A "COURTESY" KEY...

IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN HELP HIM... IT'S WITH THE BATMAN'S EMERGENCY-ANTIDOTE... LEFT IN KIRK'S BUSINESS-SUIT!

IF ONLY HE HASN'T CREATED SOME NEW EVIL... IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNTERACT!



OH, DEAR GOD-- HE HAS!

NOTES FOR A REVISED BAT-GLAND FORMULA... DATED TODAY!

SUDDENLY, FROM OUT OF THE SMOKE-FILLED BLACKNESS...

WHILE IN THE DISASTER AREA, THE MIGHTY STRENGTH OF THE BATMAN HAS FORCED OPEN JAMMED DOORS, AND...



COVER YOUR MOUTHS, NOSES -- BREATHE SHALLOWLY! FOLLOW ME... HANDS LINKED!



SKREEEK!

YOU'RE NOT SADDLING ME WITH A HUMAN "GUILT-COMPLEX," BATMAN!



WHAT DO YOU KNOW? MY "PSYCH" WORKED!

I SPARKED THAT ONE TINY EMBER OF HUMANITY STILL SMOLDERING IN MAN-BAT!

AS THE CRUSADER'S RESCUE-LINE MOVES SLOWLY TO THE SURFACE, A SWIFT, SONAR-GUIDED MAN-BAT MAKES MANY TRIPS!



I'M MORE THAN "HUMAN"... AND PROVING IT IN MY OWN WAY!



THE JOINT-RESCUE ENDS, AND SURFACE TEAMS TAKE OVER!

YOU SAY YOU WERE FLOWN OUT--BY WHAT?

A--MAN-BAT? SURE YOU DON'T MEAN-- THE BATMAN?

NAW, HE LED US OUT ON FOOT! WHERE'D HE GO? WANT TO THANK HIM ...



AND... SPEEDING FROM THE SCENE...

I SAW HIM HEAD THIS WAY!

HE PROVED HIS WORTH AS A MAN... I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!

ABRUPTLY, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS BROUGHT UP SHORT BY MUFFLED, ANGUISHED MOANING!



LANGSTROM? MAN-B--?

SKREEEK
SKREEEK
SKREEEK

MAN-BAT-- AS YOU STARTED TO SAY!



I'M NO LONGER AN IMITATION OF YOU, BATMAN!!



I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT!

--ENOUGH OF HUMAN LUNACY!

SKREEEK
SKREEEK
SKREEEK



"LUNACY" ... ?

IS THERE MORE TO THIS SO-CALLED "INFLUENCE" OF THE FULL MOON THAN EVEN I DREAM OF?

SHORTLY, FRANCIE'S DEVOTION AND INTUITION IS REWARDED, WHEN...



OH, I KNEW IT... KNEW KIRK WOULD SENSE WHERE I'D WAIT, AND RETURN TO ME!



KIRK... DEAREST-

SKREEEK!

OUT OF MY WAY, HUMAN THING!



SK

THE FORMULA... THE NEW ONE! MAN-BAT-- FOREVER!

SKREEEK!



AND AS THE AGITATED CREATURE FUMBLES NERVOUSLY WITH THE WALL-SAFE COMBINATION...

OH, KIRK, SOBE YOU CAN'T MEAN IT!



TAKE THIS INSTEAD-- PLEASE! BATMAN'S EMERGENCY ANTIDOTE!



"BATMAN"...? THAT'S WHOM YOU'RE SPEAKING TO NOW!

SKREEEK!
ME! I AM
THE BATMAN!



OH-H, NO... NO, KIRK...

YES-- ME--THE ONLY BATMAN!
YES!



BATMAN...?!
OH-H... TOO LATE--
TOO LATE!

NO, FRAN! I SECOND-GUESSED HIM--SWITCHED TEST TUBES WHEN YOU DISTRACTED HIM FROM THE WALL-SAFE!



SWITCHED... TEST TUBES...? THEN WHAT-- WHAT DID KIRK DRINK?

AN IMPROVED HI-POTENCY "ANTI-BAT" SERUM I'D BEEN WORKING ON! IT WAS ABOUT READY FOR LAB-TESTING-- WHEN THIS HAPPENED!



I'D NEVER HAVE USED KIRK AS A "GUINEA-PIG" FRAN-- BUT HE GAVE ME NO OTHER CHOICE!

IT HAD TO BE-- CURE OR KILL! NOW, IF IT WORKS-- IT MAY BE YOUR PERMANENT SALVATION, TOO...



OH, BATMAN-- YOU MEAN... THAT SOMEDAY-- KIRK AND I... MAY HAVE NORMAL CHILDREN?

GOD WILLING, FRAN-- GOD WILLING!