

SECRET ORIGINS

BATMAN

BY BOB KANE

...EERIE FIGURE OF THE NIGHT - NEMESIS OF CRIME - THIS IS THE BATMAN!

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LEGEND

THE BATMAN AND HOW HE CAME TO BE

SOME FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THOMAS WAYNE, HIS WIFE, AND SON, WERE WALKING HOME FROM A MOVIE...

W. WHAT IS THIS?

A STICKUP, BUDDY! I'LL TAKE THAT NECKLACE YOU'RE WEARIN', LADY!



LEAVE HER ALONE, YOU - OH...

YOU ASKED FOR IT!



THOMAS! YOU'VE KILLED HIM! HELP! POLICE... HELP!

THIS'LL SHUT YOU UP!



BATMAN

THE BOY'S EYES ARE WIDE WITH TERROR AND SHOCK AS THE HORRIBLE SCENE IS SPREAD BEFORE HIM.

FATHER.. MOTHER!



.. DEAD! THEY'RE D.. DEAD!



DAYS LATER, A CURIOUS AND STRANGE SCENE TAKES PLACE

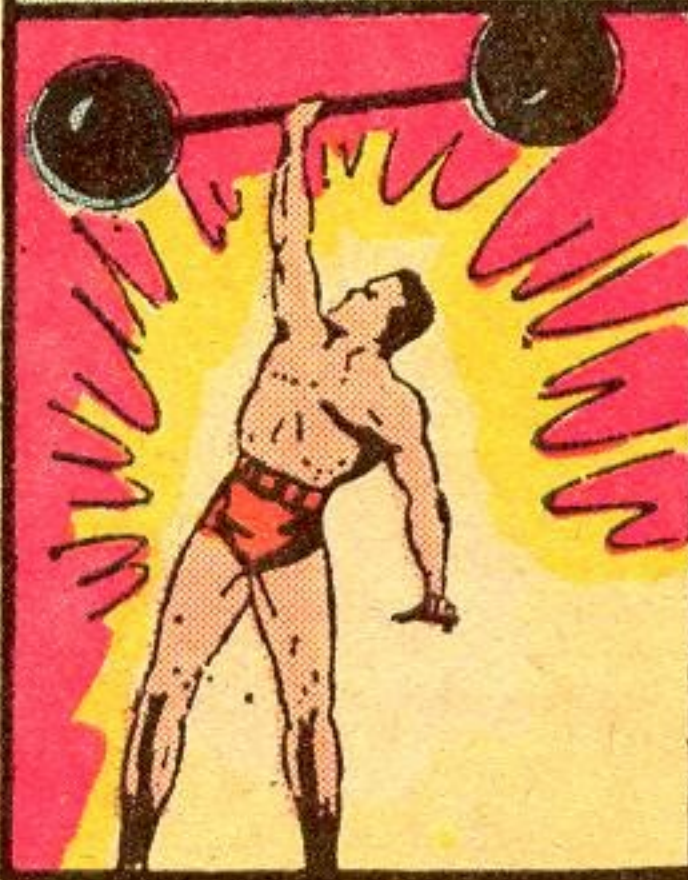
AND I SWEAR BY THE SPIRITS OF MY PARENTS TO AVENGE THEIR DEATHS BY SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE WARRING ON ALL CRIMINALS.



AS THE YEARS PASS, BRUCE WAYNE PREPARES HIMSELF FOR HIS CAREER. HE BECOMES A MASTER SCIENTIST.



TRAINS HIS BODY TO PHYSICAL PERFECTION UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO PERFORM AMAZING ATHLETIC FEATS.



DAD'S ESTATE LEFT ME WEALTHY. I AM READY, BUT FIRST I MUST HAVE A DISGUISE.



CRIMINALS ARE A SUPERSTITIOUS, COWARDLY LOT, SO MY DISGUISE MUST BE ABLE TO STRIKE TERROR INTO THEIR HEARTS. I MUST BE A CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, BLACK, TERRIBLE.. A A..

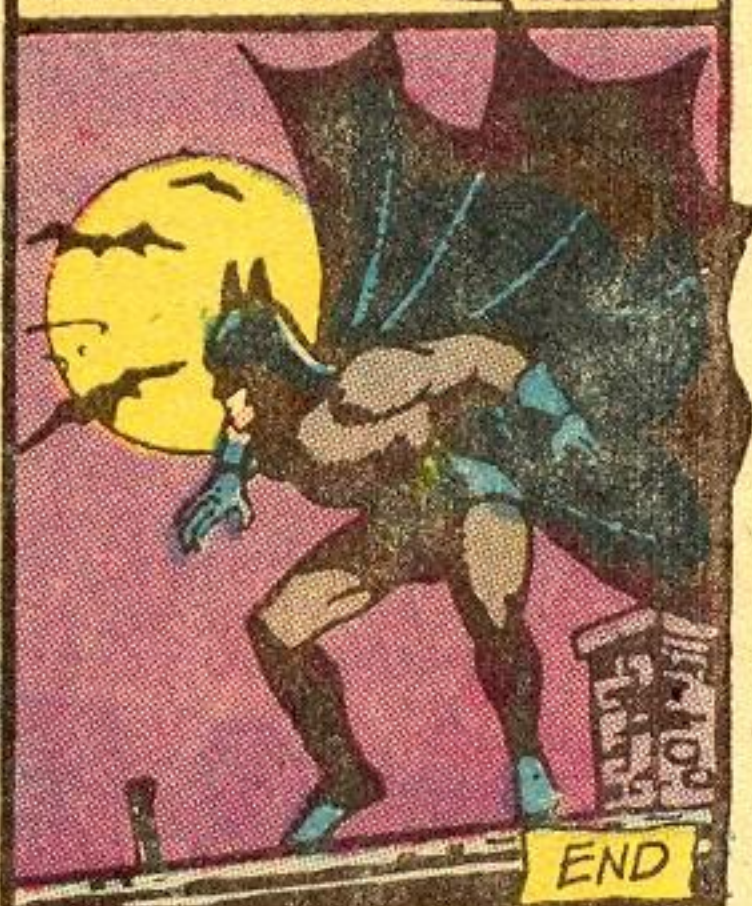


- AS IF IN ANSWER, A HUGE BAT FLIES IN THE OPEN WINDOW!

A BAT! THAT'S IT! IT'S AN OMEN.. I SHALL BECOME A BAT!



AND THIS IS BORN THIS WEIRD FIGURE OF THE DARK.. THIS AVENGER OF EVIL.. THE BATMAN.



END