



BATMAN[®]

by STARLIN,
APARO &
DeCARLO

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Book One
of Four

a Death in the Family

Robin begins a quest
for his identity.
His mother awaits him
somewhere in
the middle east.

But sudden
and violent death
is also waiting for him.

And the most tragic
secret of all.

Will The Batman
be in time?



A DEATH in the FAMILY

Chapter 1



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IT TOOK ME THREE WEEKS TO TRACK DOWN THE KIDNAP-PORN RING'S MAIN WAREHOUSE.

THE BUST WAS ALL SET TO GO. ROBIN AND I WERE IN HIDING, WAITING FOR OUR POLICE BACKUP.

SUDDENLY MY PARTNER RUNS OUT OF PATIENCE. THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES SOMETIMES WITH THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN.

ROBIN!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!



WHAT I WAS TRAINED TO DO!

GOINNA KICK SOME TAIL!!



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

ROBIN-- JASON TODD-- HAD BEEN ACTING ODDLY OF LATE.

I TRY TO TAKE IT A LITTLE EASIER ON THE OTHER GUNSELS.



VERY MOODY. RESENTFUL.

RECKLESS.

THAT ATTITUDE IS ABOUT TO GET HIM KILLED.



I BRING MY ENTIRE 210 POUNDS DOWN ON THEM, HARD.

NO TRACTION FOR THESE GUYS, JUST A NEED FOR EXTENSIVE DENTAL WORK.

THERE'LL BE SOME SERIOUS HOSPITAL TIME IN THEIR IMMEDIATE FUTURES.



I'VE LOST MY TASTE FOR THE WHOLE AFFAIR BY THE TIME I REACH THE LAST PORNOGRAPHER.

I TOSS HIM TO ROBIN.



LET THE BOY FINISH HIM OFF.

HE OBVIOUSLY HAS A DANGEROUSLY HIGH LEVEL OF AGGRESSIVE ENERGY TO WORK OFF.



I TRY TO KEEP MY TEMPER IN CHECK.

I REMIND MYSELF JASON'S JUST A KID.

WELL, THAT TAKES CARE OF THOSE CREEPS.



WHAT THE DEVIL WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO HOLD UP?!



YEAH, I HEARD YOU, BUT WE HAD THE GOODS ON THESE LOWLIFES.

I DIDN'T SEE ANY REASON TO WAIT. THERE WERE ONLY EIGHT OF THEM.



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THERE ARE PROCEDURES EVEN WE HAVE TO FOLLOW.

I PROMISED TO LET GORDON IN ON THE BUST. YOU JUMPED THE GUN!



WHAT'S WORSE, YOU NEARLY GOT YOURSELF KILLED DOING IT.

NEAR MISSES DON'T COUNT.



WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE DOING HERE?!

PLAYING SOME GAME?



OF COURSE.

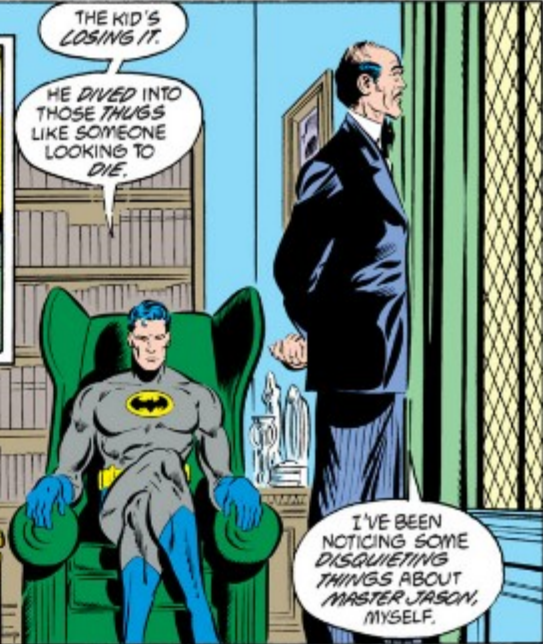
ALL LIFE'S A GAME.



WHEN I GET HOME TO WAYNE MANOR A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, I FIND ROBIN'S NOT YET RETURNED.

IN A WAY I'M RELIEVED IT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO TALK WITH MY OLDEST FRIEND.

I THINK I'VE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, ALFRED



THE KID'S LOSING IT.

HE DIVED INTO THOSE THUGS LIKE SOMEONE LOOKING TO DIE.



THE LAD AVOIDS TALKING ABOUT HIS PARENTS LATELY.

I'VE COME UPON HIM, SEVERAL TIMES, LOOKING AT THAT BATTERED OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS MOTHER AND FATHER, CRYING.

WHEN HE'S SEEN ME, HE'S HIDDEN THE PICTURE AND LEFT THE ROOM, REFUSING TO TALK.

I'VE BEEN NOTICING SOME DISQUIETING THINGS ABOUT MASTER JASON, MYSELF.



IN OTHER WORDS, I MAY HAVE STARTED JASON AS ROBIN BEFORE HE HAD A CHANCE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH HIS PARENTS DEATHS.

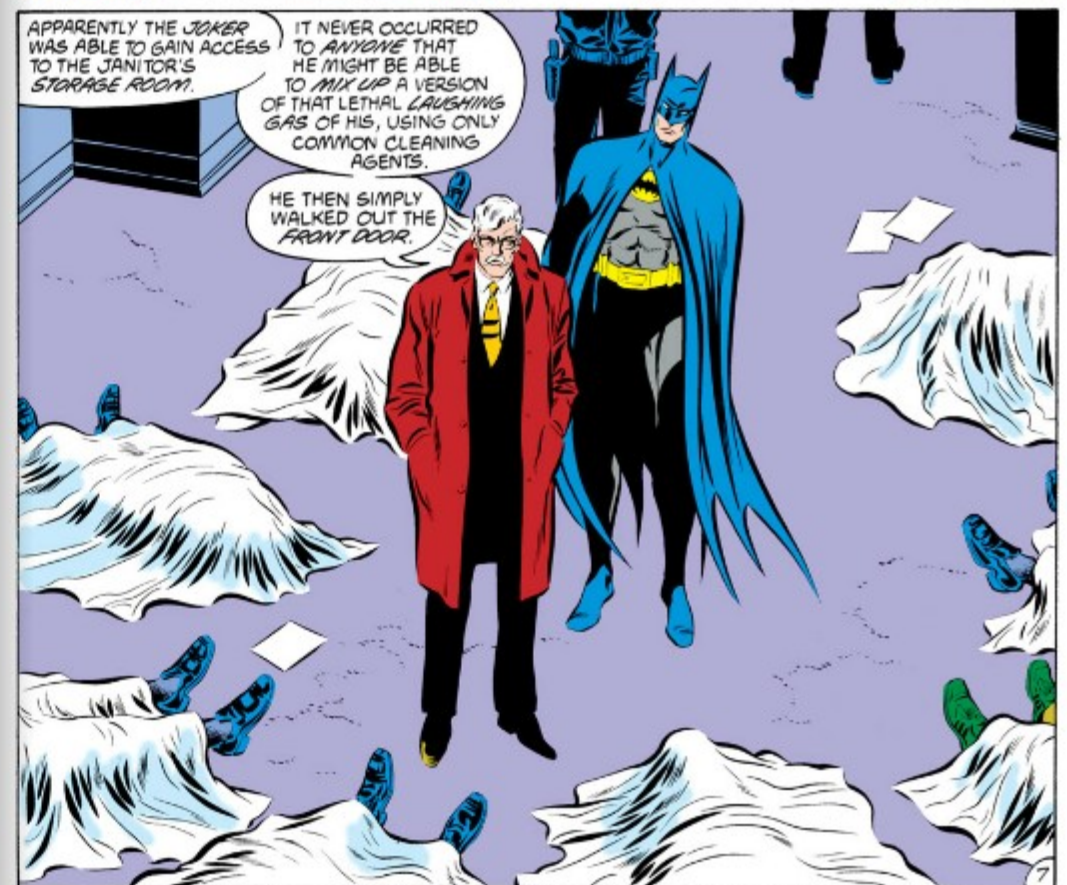
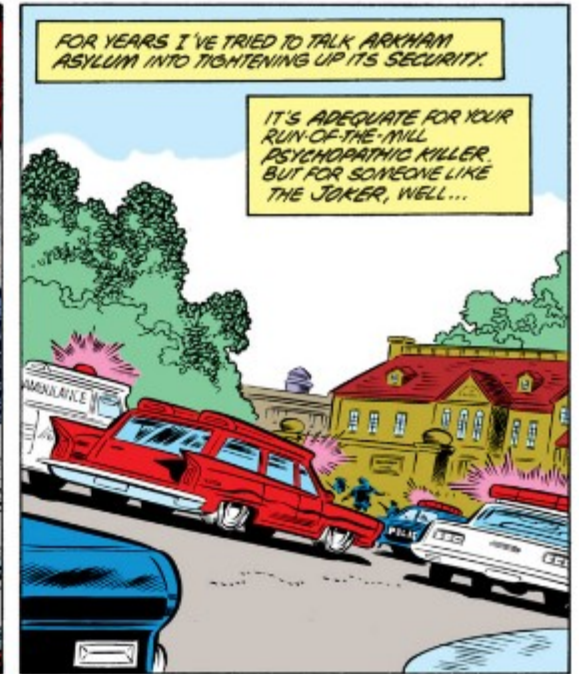


BEING YOUR PARTNER IS NOT EXACTLY THE BEST SITUATION FOR A TEENAGER ADJUSTING TO SUCH A LOSS



THEN I MUST TRY TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

JASON'S GOING OFF ACTIVE DUTY IMMEDIATELY.





LEAVING EIGHT DEAD MEN IN HIS WAKE.
THE KILLINGS NEVER STOPS WITH HIM.



I'VE PUT OUT AN APB ON THE JOKER AND HAVE ALERTED THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE TITANS.

GOOD. EVERYONE'S GOING TO WANT A PIECE OF THE JOKER, AFTER WHAT HE DID TO BARBARA.



BUT I HOPE I COME ACROSS HIM FIRST. I DOUBT HE'LL REMAIN ON THE LOOSE VERY LONG THIS TIME...

"...NOT WITH EVERY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY MAKING HIM THEIR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY."



BOSS, WHY'D WE COME HERE? WE OUGHTA BE HEADIN' FOR THE STATE LINE.



YOU'RE JUST TOO HOT TO BE STICKING AROUND GOTHAM, BOSS.

CRIPES, I DON'T THINK YA'D BE SAFE ANYWHERE IN THIS COUNTRY.

I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT FACT, RUPERT.



I HAPPEN TO BE CRAZY.

NOT STUPID.



THE JOKER KNOWS WHEN IT'S TIME TO TAKE A VACATION!



UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WILL HAVE TO BE A WORKING VACATION.

THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN BUSY SEIZING MOST OF MY HIDDEN ASSETS DURING MY LATEST STAY AT BEAUTIFUL ARKHAM ASYLUM.

THEY WAS PRETTY TICKED OFF AT WHAT YA DID TO GORDON'S DAUGHTER, BOSS.



THAT'S AWFULLY PETTY OF THEM.

THE WOMAN ONLY GOT WHAT SHE WAS OBVIOUSLY ASKING FOR.

BUT, BOSS, YA LEFT HER A CRIPPLE!



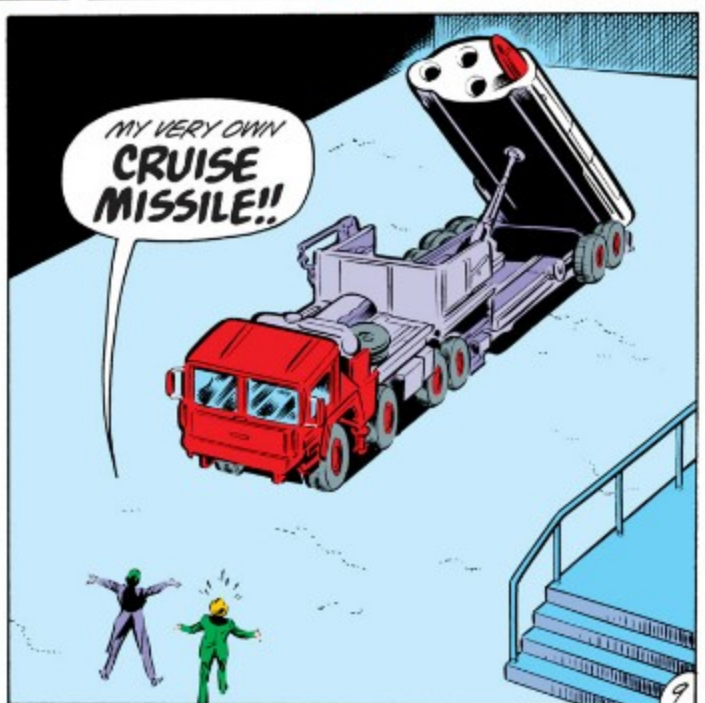
WELL, REMIND ME TO SEND HER A HANDFUL OF PENCILS AND A TIN CUP.



FORTUNATELY, THE GOVERNMENT WASN'T ABLE TO UNEARTH ALL MY BURIED TREASURES.



IN HERE'S SOMETHING I WAS SAVING TO BREAK UP THE BOREDOM OF SOME FUTURE RAINY AFTERNOON.



MY VERY OWN CRUISE MISSILE!!



IF THAT HAPPENS, THE MEMORIES WILL HIT HARD.

IT WON'T BE EASY FOR HIM, BUT IT MIGHT BE FOR THE BEST.

THE BOY'S GOT A LOT OF SORROW TO WORK OUT OF HIS SYSTEM.

HER NAME WAS CATHERINE TODD, A GOOD WOMAN WHO PROBABLY LOVED HER SON DEEPLY, ONLY WANTED THE BEST FOR HIM.

WILLIS TODD PROBABLY LOVED JASON ALSO. MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE DRIFTED INTO CRIME, HOPING TO GIVE HIS SON A BETTER LIFE.

THE POOR FOOL REALIZED TOO LATE THAT THOSE KIND OF SHORT-CUTS NEVER PAN OUT.

CATHERINE TODD'S LIFE WAS CUT SHORT BY A DISEASE THAT JUST DIDN'T CARE HOW MUCH LOVE SHE HAD IN HER HEART.

JASON'S DAD FELL VICTIM TO THE VICIOUS GANGSTER HE WAS WORKING FOR, TWO-FACE.

THAT LEFT JASON AN ORPHAN, LIVING IN AN ABANDONED BUILDING WHEN I FOUND HIM.

THOUGHT I HAD HIS BEST INTERESTS AT HEART WHEN I RUSHED HIM INTO TRAINING TO BE THE NEW ROBIN.

GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY THE PATH TO HELL IS PAVED WITH.

YOU!!

YOU'RE YOUNG JASON TODD, AREN'T YOU!

YES.

THEN COME UP HERE!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU

HELLO?

COME IN! COME IN!

YOU WERE A FRIEND OF MY MOTHER'S, MRS WALKER, WASN'T IT?

THAT'S RIGHT. HOW YOU BEEN DOING?

GETTING BY.

YOU KINDA DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER YOUR MOTHER DIED.

JUVENILE AUTHORITIES WERE LOOKING TO PUT ME IN A STATE HOME. DIDN'T WANNA GO.

CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR THAT.

BUT WHEN NO ONE CLAIMED YOUR FAMILY'S POSSESSIONS, THE LANDLORD SOLD THEM OFF.

I WAS ABLE TO SAVE THIS STUFF FOR YOU, 'CASE YOU EVER CAME BACK.

AFRAID IT'S A LITTLE WATER DAMAGED DARN LEAKY ROOFS!

THE OWNER'S TOO CHEAP TO FIX 'EM.

PHOTOGRAPHS!

PERSONAL PAPERS!

THOUGHT IT'D BE STUFF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HAVE.

THIS IS TERRIFIC! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU...

AIN'T NOTHING.

NOW I GOT TO SHOO YOU OUT OF HERE, LAD.

GOT SHOPPING I GOTTA DO.

NOW YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, SON.



GASPAR TAYLOR IS A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF THE JOKER'S.

THE ADDRESS I HAVE ON FILE FOR HIM IS A TRANSIENTS' HOTEL ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE.



♪ We're in the money...♪

♪... We got a lot of what it takes to get along...♪

ALMOST FORGOT WHAT FAST REFLEXES GASPAR HAS.



LOOKS LIKE I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME.

GOING SOMEWHERE, GASPAR?



GUESS I'M LETTING MY WORRIES ABOUT JASON GET IN THE WAY OF MY PERFORMANCE ON THE JOB.



YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO GET SLOPPY IN THIS LINE OF WORK. MIGHT END UP DEAD.

THAT REALIZATION CAUSES ME TO OVERCOMPENSATE.



I TAKE GASPAR DOWN TOO HARD.

HE'LL BE OUT FOR HOURS.



I CAME HERE FOR INFORMATION.

I'LL NOT BE GETTING ANY FROM GASPAR.



BUT MAYBE GASPAR'S LUGGAGE WILL TELL ME A TALE OR TWO.



A PASSPORT AND A VISA FOR LEBANON.

INTERESTING.

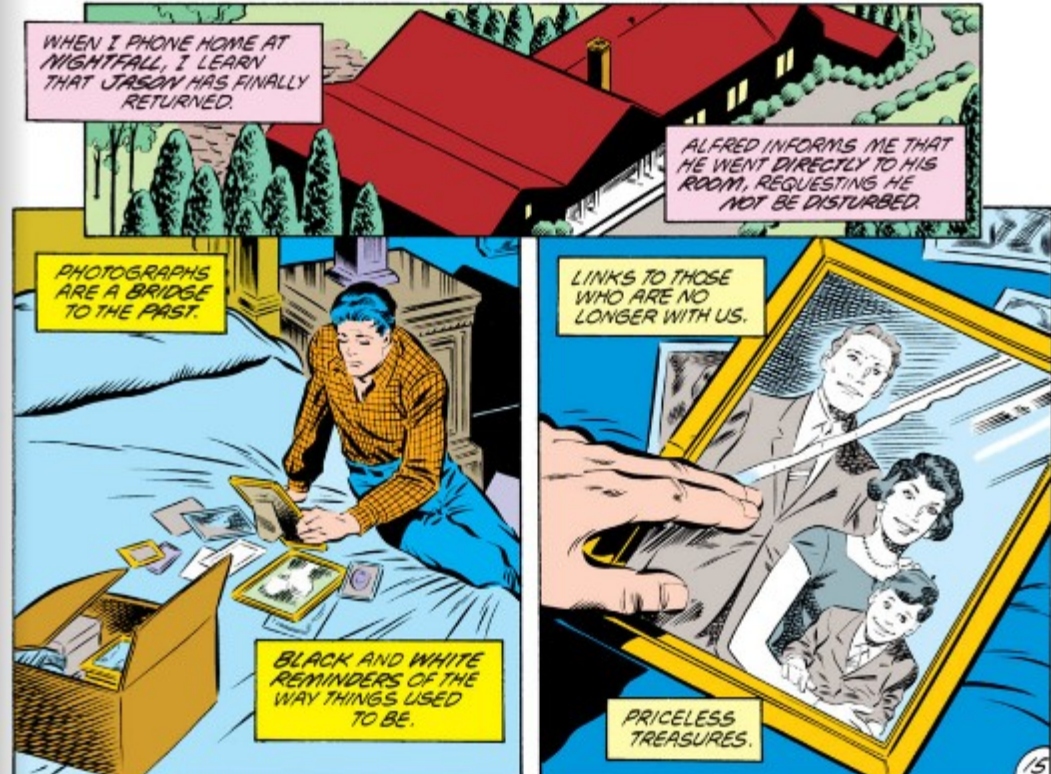


I SPENT THE NEXT FEW HOURS TRYING TO TRACK DOWN MORE OF THE JOKER'S FORMER HENCHMEN.

NO LUCK.

THEY ALL SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

ALL VACATIONING IN LEBANON, MAYBE?



WHEN I PHONE HOME AT NIGHTFALL, I LEARN THAT JASON HAS FINALLY RETURNED.

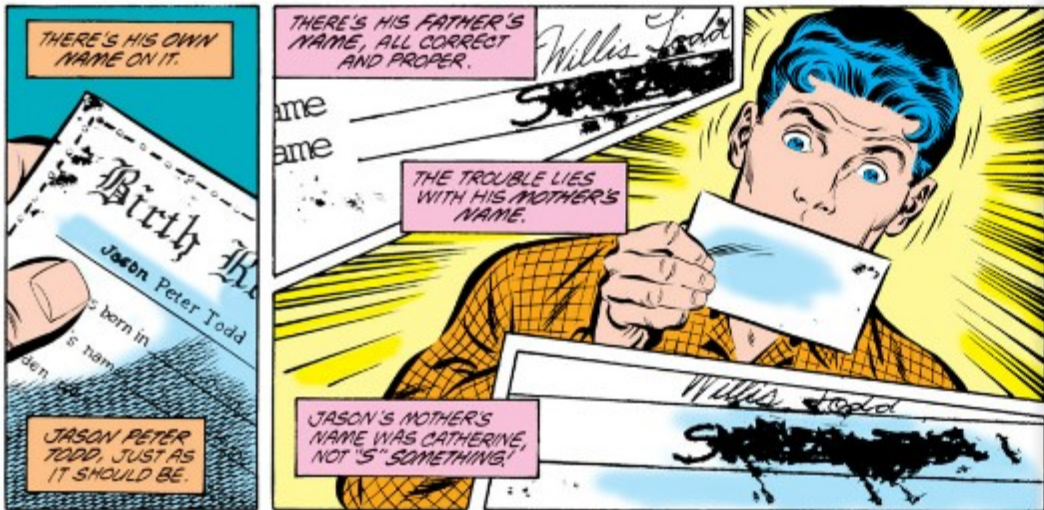
ALFRED INFORMS ME THAT HE WENT DIRECTLY TO HIS ROOM, REQUESTING HE NOT BE DISTURBED.

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE A BRIDGE TO THE PAST.

LINKS TO THOSE WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.

BLACK AND WHITE REMINDERS OF THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.

PRICELESS TREASURES.





WELL, IT TOOK ME ALL NIGHT SCOURING THE SYSTEM, BUT I'VE FINALLY FOUND ALL THREE WOMEN.

"COURSE MY LUCK'S RUNNING TRUE TO FORM. THEY'RE ALL CURRENTLY OUT OF THE COUNTRY...

... ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, OF ALL PLACES.



SHARMYN ROSEN, EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1982 AND CURRENTLY WORKS FOR THE ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE.



SHIVA WOODSAN, A LADY WITH A SHADY PAST, SUSPECTED OF BEING A MERCENARY, OPERATING OUT OF LEBANON AT THE MOMENT.



DR. SHEILA HAYWOOD, WORKING ON FAMINE RELIEF EFFORTS IN ETHIOPIA.



SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?

TAKE WHAT I HAVE TO BRUCE, ASK FOR HIS HELP?

NO WAY!

I KNOW WHAT HE'D SAY...



"YOU'RE IN NO SHARE TO BE RUNNING OFF ON THIS TYPE OF INVESTIGATION!"

BESIDES, BRUCE WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT FINDING MY REAL MOTHER



ALL HE GETS OFF ON IS CATCHING CROOKS.

HE PROBABLY COULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND WHY I'D WANT TO LOCATE THE WOMAN.



THIS JOB'S ALL MINE.

CAN'T DEPEND ON ANYONE FOR HELP.



'COURSE I HAVE TO THANK BRUCE FOR FINANCING MY LITTLE ADVENTURE.

VERY THOUGHTFUL OF HIM TO PROVIDE ME WITH ALL THIS PLASTIC GOLD.



FEEL KIND OF SHABBY RUNNING OFF LIKE THIS.

BRUCE AND ALFRED HAVE BEEN REAL KIND TO ME.



BUT I GUESS I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER, DO I?

I MEAN... SHE'S MY MOM.



THIS IS A GREAT PLANE, JOKER.

WE GOT THE WHOLE CRUISE MISSILE PACKED INTO IT WITH ROOM TO SPARE.

YES, IT'S VERY ROOMY. AND THE U.S. NAVY SHOULDN'T REALIZE IT'S MISSING UNTIL SOMETIME TOMORROW.

YES, IT'S VERY ROOMY.



BY THEN WE'LL BE SETTLED AND DOING BUSINESS IN LEBANON.

THIS IS ALL WORKING OUT QUITE DELIGHTFULLY!



HOW ABOUT A RUM AND COKE?



FIRST CLASS SECTION OR NOT, CHAMP, YOU DON'T LOOK RIPE ENOUGH FOR RUM.

HOW ABOUT A STRAIGHT COKE INSTEAD.

OKAY...



I'M ON MY WAY, MOM.



I TUMBLE UPON THE JOKER'S WAREHOUSE HIDEOUT JUST BEFORE DAWN.

NO ONE'S HOME.



LOOKS LIKE HE LEFT IN A HURRY. LEFT A REAL MESS BEHIND.

AN INTERESTING MESS, THOUGH. SOPHISTICATED TOOLS AND A GEIGER COUNTER.



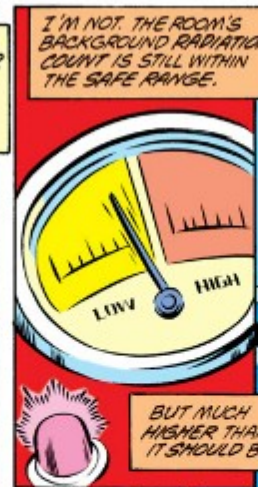
TIRE TRACKS ON THE FLOOR. A HEAVY-DUTY TRUCK.

I RECOGNIZE THE TREADS DESIGN AS A TYRE ONLY THE MILITARY USES



I FLIP ON THE GEIGER COUNTER, KNOWING WHAT I'LL FIND.

EVERY FIBER OF ME IS HOPING I'M WRONG.



I'M NOT. THE ROOM'S BACKGROUND RADIATION COUNT IS STILL WITHIN THE SAFE RANGE.

BUT MUCH HIGHER THAN IT SHOULD BE.



IT ALL COMES TOGETHER FOR ME.



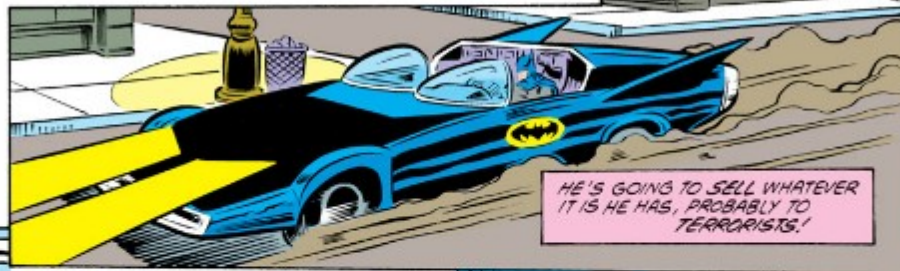
A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN THE HANDS OF THAT MADMAN!

THE MIND BOSSLES AT THE POSSIBLE USES HE'D PUT IT TO.



BUT WHY LEBANON? OF COURSE!

THE LUNATIC'S BROKE! THE GOVERNMENT'S SEIZING EVERY ASSET OF HIS THEY CAN LOCATE.



HE'S GOING TO SELL WHATEVER IT IS HE HAS, PROBABLY TO TERRORISTS!



FORTUNATELY, MY ASSOCIATION WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WILL GREASE THE WAY FOR ME OVER IN LEBANON.

MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BEING PART OF AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION.

MY CONTACTS OVER THERE AS BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE, WILL ALSO COME IN HANDY.



MASTER BRUCE, I'M SO GLAD YOU'VE RETURNED.

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, ALFRED?



I JUST FOUND THIS IN YOUNG JASON'S ROOM A SHORT WHILE AGO.

WHAT?



IT'S A FAREWELL NOTE.

JASON HAS RUN AWAY.



CHOICES.

DO I STAY IN GOTHAM TO LIVE UP TO MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS THE BOY'S GUARDIAN?

OR DO I GO AFTER THAT MADMAN AND HIS NUCLEAR WEAPON?



IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WHICH PATH I MUST CHOOSE.

THE QUESTION IS: HOW WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH THIS DECISION?



Chapter 2

THE NORTH WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF LEBANON.

BEFORE COMING HERE, I CHECKED IN WITH RALPH BUNDY, A FRIEND OF MINE AT THE C. I. A.

THAT'S HOW I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE HIJACKED C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE.

THE PLANE HAD FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF A SHIITE EXTREMIST GROUP, WHO REFUSES TO GIVE IT BACK TO UNCLE SAM.

SO I MADE A DEAL WITH BUNDY.

I'D FIX IT SO HIS NAVAL COMMANDOS COULD FLY IT OUT OF HERE...



...IF I GOT TO EXAMINE THE PLANE BEFORE IT TOOK OFF.

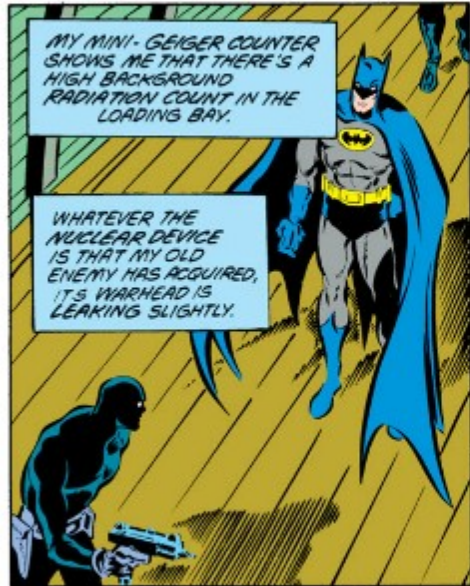


I'VE A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA WHO FLEW IT HERE.



THE DEAD NAVAL PILOT, IN THE COCKPIT, CONFIRMS MY SUSPICIONS.

THIS IS THE JOKER'S HANDIWORK, ALL RIGHT.



MY MINI-GEIGER COUNTER SHOWS ME THAT THERE'S A HIGH BACKGROUND RADIATION COUNT IN THE LOADING BAY.

WHATEVER THE NUCLEAR DEVICE IS THAT MY OLD ENEMY HAS ACQUIRED, ITS WARHEAD IS LEAKING SLIGHTLY.



IF THE JOKER'S NOT CAREFUL, HE'S GOING TO END UP WITH RADIATION POISONING.

I SHOULD BE THAT LUCKY.

WE'RE TAKING OFF. YOU COMING?

NO.



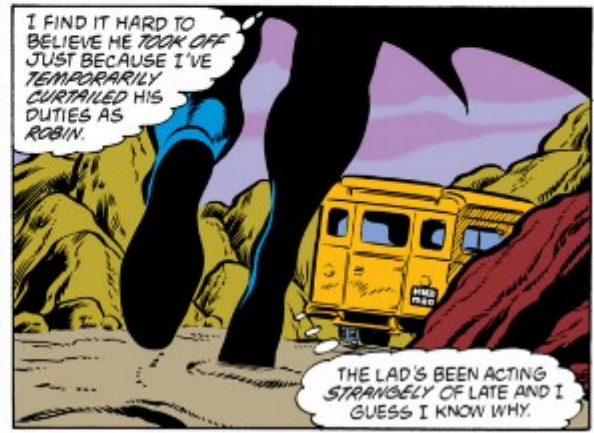
THE JOKER'S GOTTEN THIS FAR--



-- WHICH MEANS WHOEVER HE'S SELLING THE WEAPON TO IS IN LEBANON.

PROBABLY TERRORISTS.

HARD TO CONCENTRATE-- I KEEP WONDERING WHERE JASON IS.



I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE HE TOOK OFF JUST BECAUSE I'VE TEMPORARILY CURTAILED HIS DUTIES AS ROBIN.

THE LAD'S BEEN ACTING STRANGELY OF LATE AND I GUESS I KNOW WHY.



SINCE HE'S NOT YET ADJUSTED TO THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS...

...HE NEEDS TIME TO WORK OUT HIS GRIEF. TIME HE WON'T FIND FIGHTING CRIME BY MY SIDE.



WISH I COULD TRACK DOWN THE BOY AND BRING HIM HOME MYSELF.

BUT THIS JOKER BUSINESS TAKES PRIORITY. LIVES ARE AT STAKE.



BUT FORTUNATELY ALFRED'S BACK HOME, ON THE JOB.

IN FACT, IT'S TIME I CONTACT HIM VIA SCRAMBLED SATELLITE RELAY.



HOMEBASE, THIS IS ALFRED. ANY WORD ON THE LOST BIRD YET?

YES.



I JUST COMPLETED A COMPUTER CHECK ON ALL CREDIT CARDS ISSUED TO OUR RUNAWAY CHARGE.

HE LISTED, YESTERDAY, AS A PASSENGER ON A LATE NIGHT FLIGHT TO ISRAEL.



I'LL CHECK IT OUT AFTER I'M DONE HERE IN LEBANON.

CALL YOU AGAIN IN 12 HOURS OVER AND OUT.

WHAT'S HE DOING IN ISRAEL?



I TRIED TO GO THROUGH CHANNELS, PLAY IT STRAIGHT.

I REALLY DID!



BUT THEY JUST PLAIN REFUSED TO TELL ME WHERE SHARMIN ROSEN IS.

GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY.



GOVERNMENTS DON'T WILLINGLY GIVE OUT THE LOCATIONS OF THEIR SECRET AGENTS. STANDARD PROCEDURE.



BUT NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS DON'T CUT A LOT OF ICE WITH ME.

I JUST GOTTA KNOW WHERE MS. ROSEN IS.



THE LADY MAY BE MY REAL MOTHER.

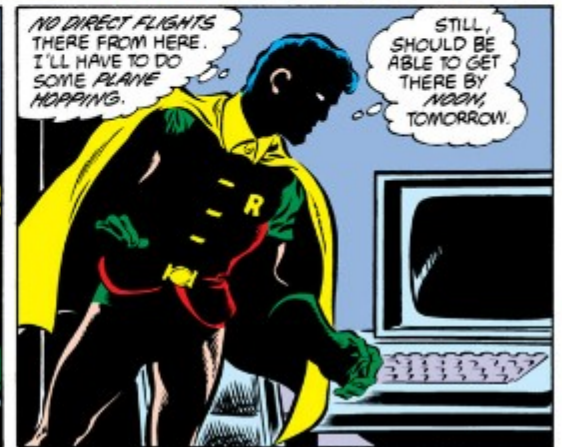
FORTUNATELY, EVERYTHING'S KEPT ON COMPUTERS THESE DAYS...

... EVEN WHERE TO FIND SECRET AGENTS, IN CASE YOU NEED THEM.



WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT! SHE'S OUT OF THE COUNTRY, UNDER-COVER IN BEIRUT.

AT LEAST THEY'VE GOT THE HOTEL SHE'S STAYING AT LISTED.



NO DIRECT FLIGHTS THERE FROM HERE. I'LL HAVE TO DO SOME PLANE HOPPING.

STILL, SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THERE BY NOON, TOMORROW.



BEIRUT, A CITY IN TURMOIL.

A CAPITAL TORN APART BY ARMED POLARIZED FACTIONS, EACH TRYING TO SEIZE CONTROL.



SEEMS EVERYONE'S EITHER ARMED OR CRIPPLED BY THE WAR. YOU CAN FEEL THE TENSION ON THE STREETS.

THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE FOR AN AMERICAN.



THAT'S WHY I'M TRAVELING UNDER A PHONY NORTHERN IRISH PASSPORT.

CHANCES ARE THE JOKER CAME TO BEIRUT TO CONTACT HIS CUSTOMERS.



IT'D BE TOO DANGEROUS, EVEN FOR HIM, TO TAKE HIS PRIZE DIRECTLY INTO THE BEK AA VALLEY WHERE THE RADICAL ELEMENTS ARE ENTRENCHED.

<TAXI!>

* TRANSLATED FROM FOFS!



TROUBLE IS, BEIRUT'S A BIG CITY.

<WHERE TO, EFFENDI?>

I'M HOPING THIS CARRY CAN HELP ME.



<TAKE ME TO THE WORST SECTION OF THIS CITY, A PLACE WHERE CRIMINALS GATHER.>

HUH?!



THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

WEAPON SMUGGLING HAS GOT TO BE THIS AREA'S LEADING COMMERCE.



SELLING INFORMATION PROBABLY RUNS A CLOSE SECOND.

BUT I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO DICKER AND BARGAIN



A CHANGE OF CLOTHES WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO TAKE THE DIRECT APPROACH.



SELLING BLACK MARKET MEDICAL SUPPLIES. JUST THE KIND OF GUY I'M LOOKING FOR.

I CAN TELL BY THE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE THAT THIS IS GOING TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.



UNLIKE GOTHAM'S HOODS, THESE GUNSELS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE BATMAN.



IT'S A CASE OF UNFAMILIARITY BREEDING FEAR.

THE GUY CAN'T WAIT TO TELL ME EVERYTHING HE KNOWS.

WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, ISN'T MUCH. THE NEXT THREE CHARACTERS I TALK TO AREN'T ANY HELP EITHER.



I FINALLY HIT PAY DIRT WITH NUMBER FIVE.





HE LISTENS TO ME TELL ABOUT THIS AFFAIR WITH THE JOKER.

THE NUCLEAR THREAT HAD TO BE DEALT WITH FIRST.

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?



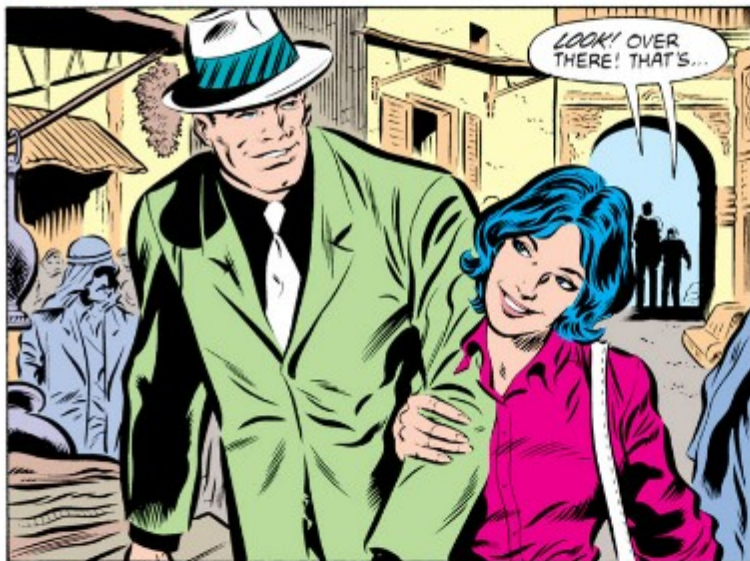
SURE, BRUCE...

NOTHING GLAMOROUS ABOUT HUNTING DOWN A RUNAWAY.



JASON, THAT'S UNFAIR.

WHO CARES!



LOOK! OVER THERE! THAT'S...



PETER BRANDO!

...SHARMIN ROSEN!

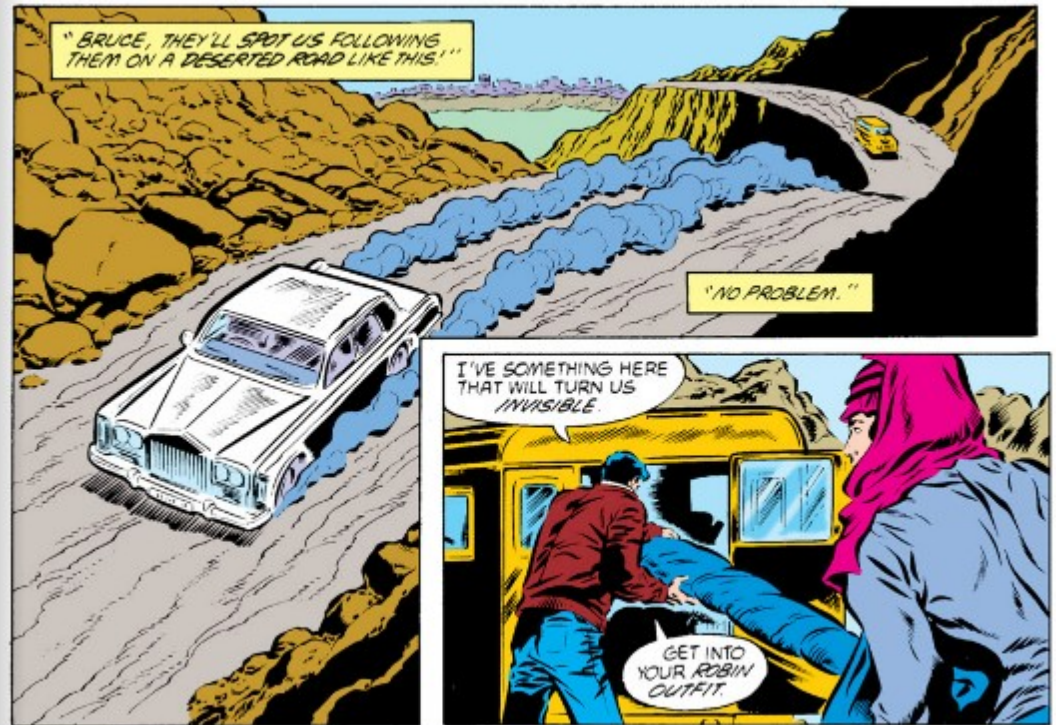


LOOKS LIKE WE'RE WORKING ON THE SAME CASE AFTER ALL.



THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR!

THIS WAY! I'VE A LAND ROVER!



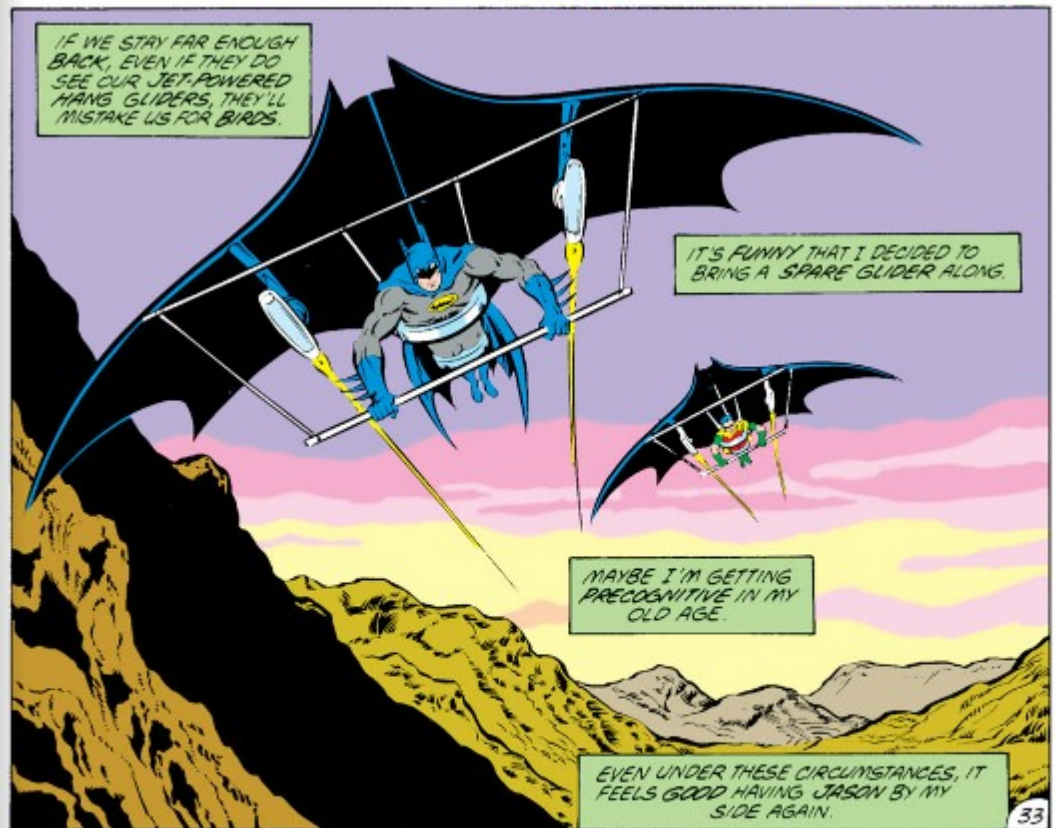
"BRUCE, THEY'LL SPOT US FOLLOWING THEM ON A DESERTED ROAD LIKE THIS!"

"NO PROBLEM."



I'VE SOMETHING HERE THAT WILL TURN US INVISIBLE.

GET INTO YOUR ROBIN OUTFIT.



IF WE STAY FAR ENOUGH BACK, EVEN IF THEY DO SEE OUR JET-POWERED HANG GLIDERS, THEY'LL MISTAKE US FOR BIRDS.

IT'S FUNNY THAT I DECIDED TO BRING A SPARE GLIDER ALONG.

MAYBE I'M GETTING PRECOGNITIVE IN MY OLD AGE.

EVEN UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT FEELS GOOD HAVING JASON BY MY SIDE AGAIN.



WE SHADOW THEM INTO THE NIGHT, AS THEY CONTINUE HEADING SOUTH.



THEY FINALLY STOP AT A CAMP NEAR THE ISRAELI BORDER.



WE'LL SNEAK UP TO THE CAMP BY FOOT FROM HERE.



HOW'S IT GOIN' HERE, RUPERT?

MANAGEABLE. WHO'S THE BROAD?

NAME'S SHARMIN. SHE'S FROM JERSEY. SHE'S OKAY.



GUESS IF YOU TOUCH FOR HER, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

YOU GET THE MONEY FROM THESE BANDITS-IN-BEDSHEETS' PALS?



RIGHT IN THIS CASE, ONE MILLION DOLLARS!

THEN AS MONTY SAYS, "IT'S TIME FOR US TO MAKE A DEAL."



< I'VE GOT THE CASH, SO YOU ARE NOW THE PROUD OWNERS OF A BRAND-NEW 1988 CRUISE MISSILE!! >

< I, MYSELF, STOLE, DISMANTLED, AND REASSEMBLED THIS FIRECRACKER AFTER SMUGGLING IT INTO YOUR COUNTRY! >

< YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF AN EXCELLENT BUY, GENTLEMEN. >

< YOU HAVE THE JOKER'S WORD ON IT! >



< I'M MORE INTERESTED IN GETTING THE FIRING CODE AND COORDINATES FOR THE TARGET WE DISCUSSED >

< OF COURSE, JAMAL! >



< HERE YOU GO, PAL! >

< PRETTY ANXIOUS TO SHOOT YOUR NEW TOY AT TEL AVIV, AREN'T YOU? >



< WELL, ENJOY YOURSELVES. MY BOYS AND I WILL BE RUNNING ALONG NOW. >

TA-TA!

< I DON'T THINK SO. >





WE WHITTLE THEIR NUMBERS DOWN...

THE DARKNESS IS OUR ALLY.

... ONE AT A TIME.

WE TAKE IT NICE AND SLOW.

THE FEEL OF COLD STEEL IN THEIR HANDS MAKES THEM OVERCONFIDENT...

EASY PICKINGS.

... MAKES THEM CARELESS.

THESE MEN DEPEND TOO MUCH ON GUNS.

... BUT END UP NOT HAVING TO.

I HEAR THE SNIPER RISE FROM BEHIND THE ROCKS.

I'M READY TO ROLL OUT OF HIS LINE OF FIRE...

K-TOW

SHARMIN ROSEN, ISRAELI AGENT, JOINS THE FRAY.

TOO BAD SHE DIDN'T CHECK BEHIND HER BEFORE ACTING

GONNA BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT!

NO!

I SAW THAT, YOU LITTLE TRAMP!

(WHAT YOU DOING?)

(PUNCHING IN THE COORDINATES FOR TEL AVIV!)

(YOU'RE GONNA FIRE THE ROCKET, NOW?!)

THE BOY'S ANGRY CRY HAS MADE HIM BRANDO'S TARGET...

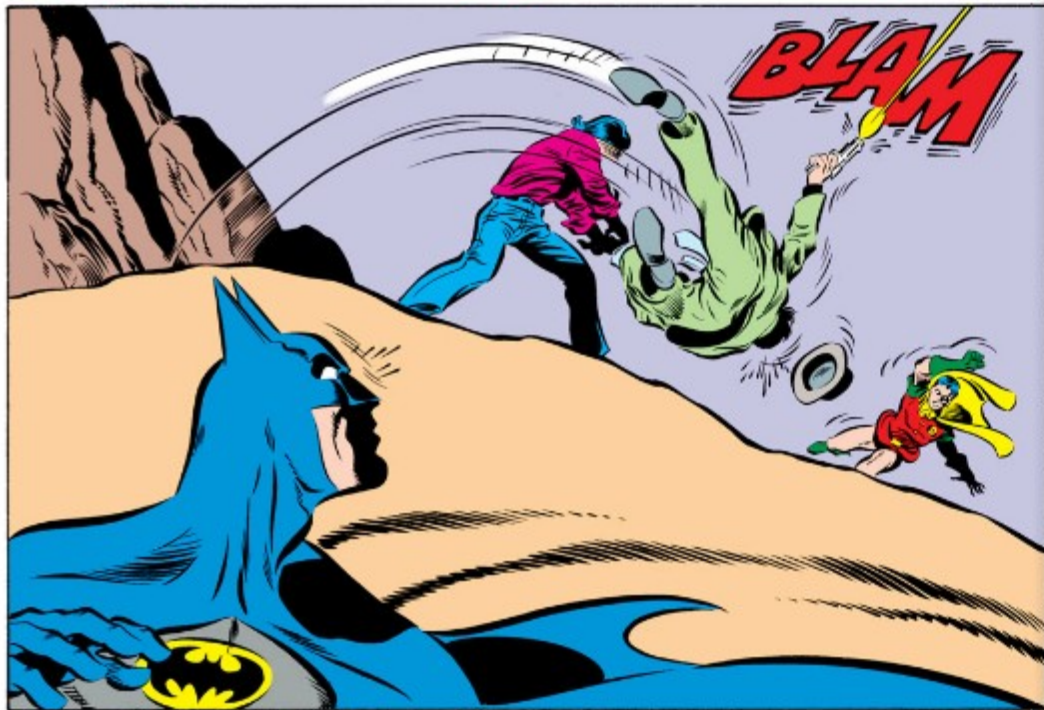
... JUST AS I'M SURE HE INTENDED!

AT THAT RANGE, BRANDO WILL CUT ROBIN CLEAN IN HALF.

I'LL NEVER REACH HIM IN TIME TO STOP HIM FROM FIRING.

NO WAY TO SAVE HIM.

NO WAY!





THE JOKER SAID HE HAD DISMANTLED AND RE-ASSEMBLED THE ROCKET.

OBVIOUSLY, AS A NUCLEAR ENGINEER, THE JOKER MAKES A GOOD PSYCHOTIC KILLER.

WE'RE LUCKY THE WARHEAD DIDN'T DETONATE ALONG WITH THE ROCKET.

SPEAKING OF THE JOKER, HE ESCAPED AGAIN.



MY MONEY...



ALL MY LOVELY MONEY... BURNT TO A CRISP...



WHAT EVER WILL I DO NOW?



HOW'D YOUR PEOPLE TUMBLE ONTO THE JOKER'S NUCLEAR FIRE SALE?

SORRY, CAN'T SAY. THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.



BUT I MUST THANK YOU. YOU'VE DONE A GREAT SERVICE FOR MY COUNTRY.

THEN HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN THE FAVOR?

IF I CAN. NOW?



BY ANSWERING A QUESTION OR TWO.

SUCH AS?



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO GOTHAM CITY? EVER HAD A BABY THERE?

IS THIS A SURVEY OR SOMETHING?

WELL, HAVE YOU?!



NO. NOT IN GOTHAM CITY.



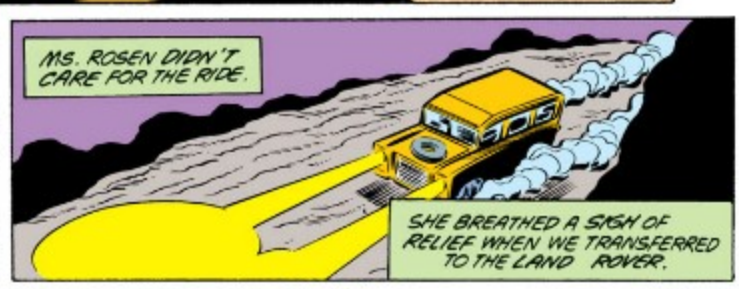
WHY DID YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

SORRY, CAN'T SAY. THAT'S CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.



BUT I GUESS WE CAN AT LEAST OFFER YOU A LIFT BACK TO BEIRUT.

EVER FLOWN ON A HANG GLIDER?



MS. ROSEN DIDN'T CARE FOR THE RIDE.

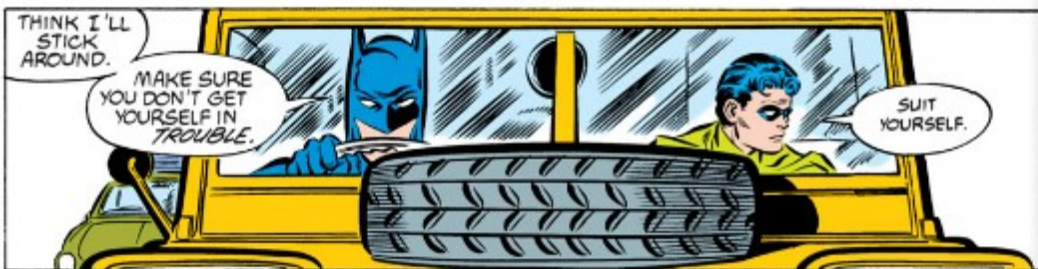
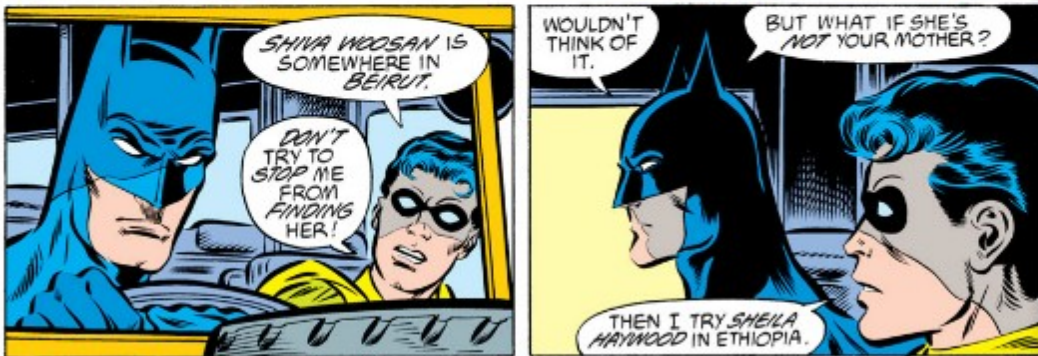
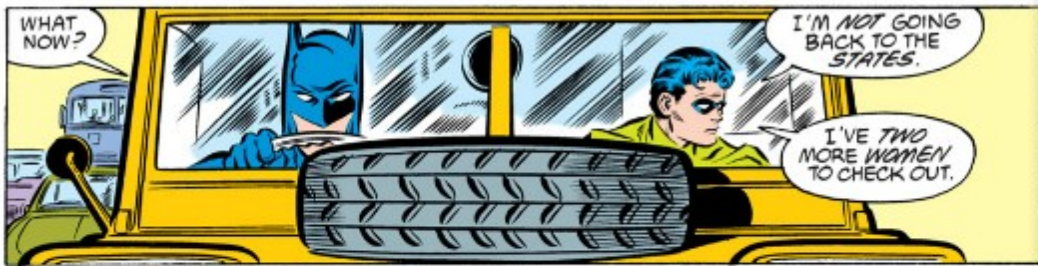
SHE BREATHED A SIGH OF RELIEF WHEN WE TRANSFERRED TO THE LAND ROVER.



THE SUN WAS UP BY THE TIME WE REACHED BEIRUT.

NICE LADY.

BUT NOT THE RIGHT LADY, BRUCE.



BATMAN 101

• BATMAN BEGINS! •

Detective Comics (1937-2011) #27-33

Batman (1940-2011) #1-4

Batman: Dark Victory #0-13

BATMAN: YEAR ONE

Batman #404-407

Batman: The Long Halloween #1-13

• DARK TIMES FOR THE DARK KNIGHT! •

Batman: The Cult #1

BATMAN: DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Batman #426-429

BATMAN: HUSH

Batman #608-619

BATMAN: HEART OF HUSH

Detective Comics #846-850

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL V. 1

Batman #491-497

Detective Comics #659-663

BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND

Batman: No Man's Land #1

Batman: Shadow of the Bat #83-#84

Batman #563-#564

Detective Comics #730-#731

Legends of the Dark Knight #116

• THE BATMAN FAMILY! •

All-Star Batman & Robin the Boy Wonder #1

Batman: Black and White #1

Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun #1

Gotham Central #1

Batman and Robin (2009-2011) #1-6

Superman/Batman #1

• THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE! •

Dark Knight Returns #1

Batman Beyond (1999) #1

Batman Beyond (2011) #1

• THE CITY HE PROTECTS! •

Batman: Arkham City #1

Batman: Gates of Gotham #1

Batman: Streets of Gotham #1

Planetary/Batman: Night on Earth #1