



ARMAGEDDON 2001

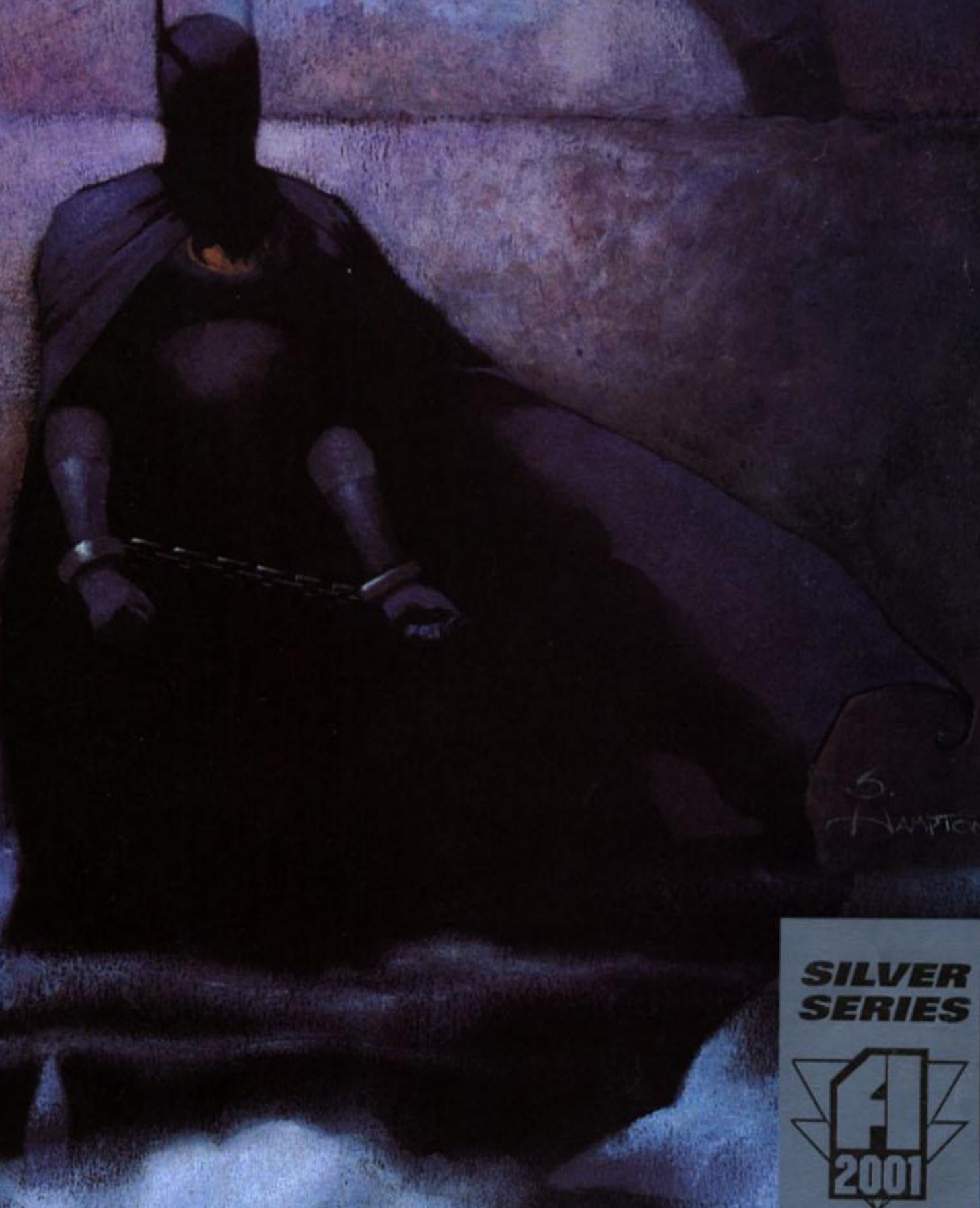
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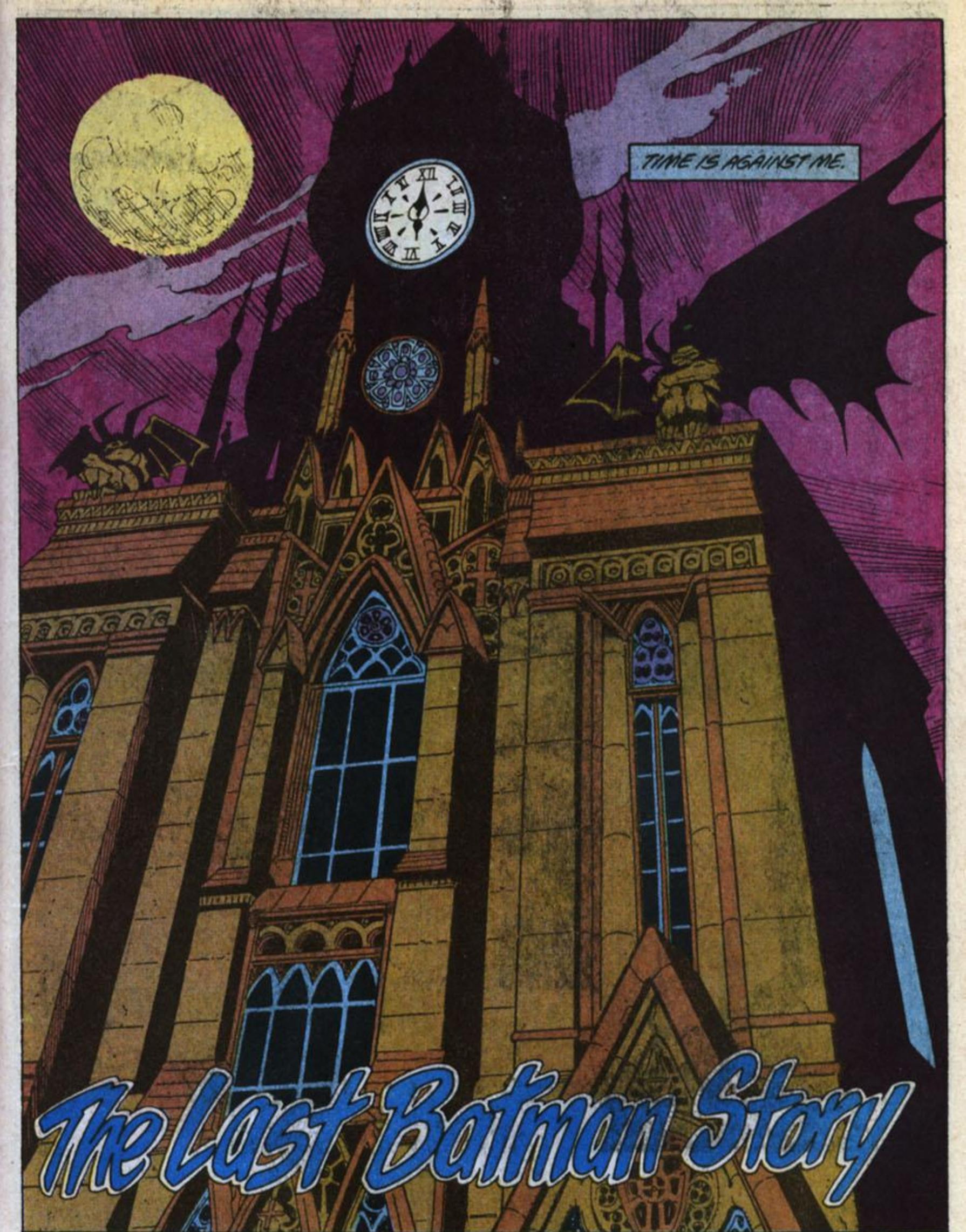
# BATMAN

BY GRANT,  
FERN AND  
LEIALOHA



SILVER  
SERIES





TIME IS AGAINST ME.

# The Last Batman Story

ALAN GRANT JIM FERN STEVE LEIALOHA ADRIENNE ROY JOHN COSTANZA KELLEY PUCKETT DENNIS O'NEIL  
script pencils inks colors letters asst editor editor

Batman created by BOB KANE

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NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I KEEP MY  
VIGIL. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I  
FIGHT MY WAR--

AND EVERY NIGHT I GET A  
LITTLE OLDER, MORE  
BATTLE WEARY--

TAKE MY PRISONERS--  
SUCCOR THE CIVILIANS--  
STAND FAST IN THE FRONT  
LINE.

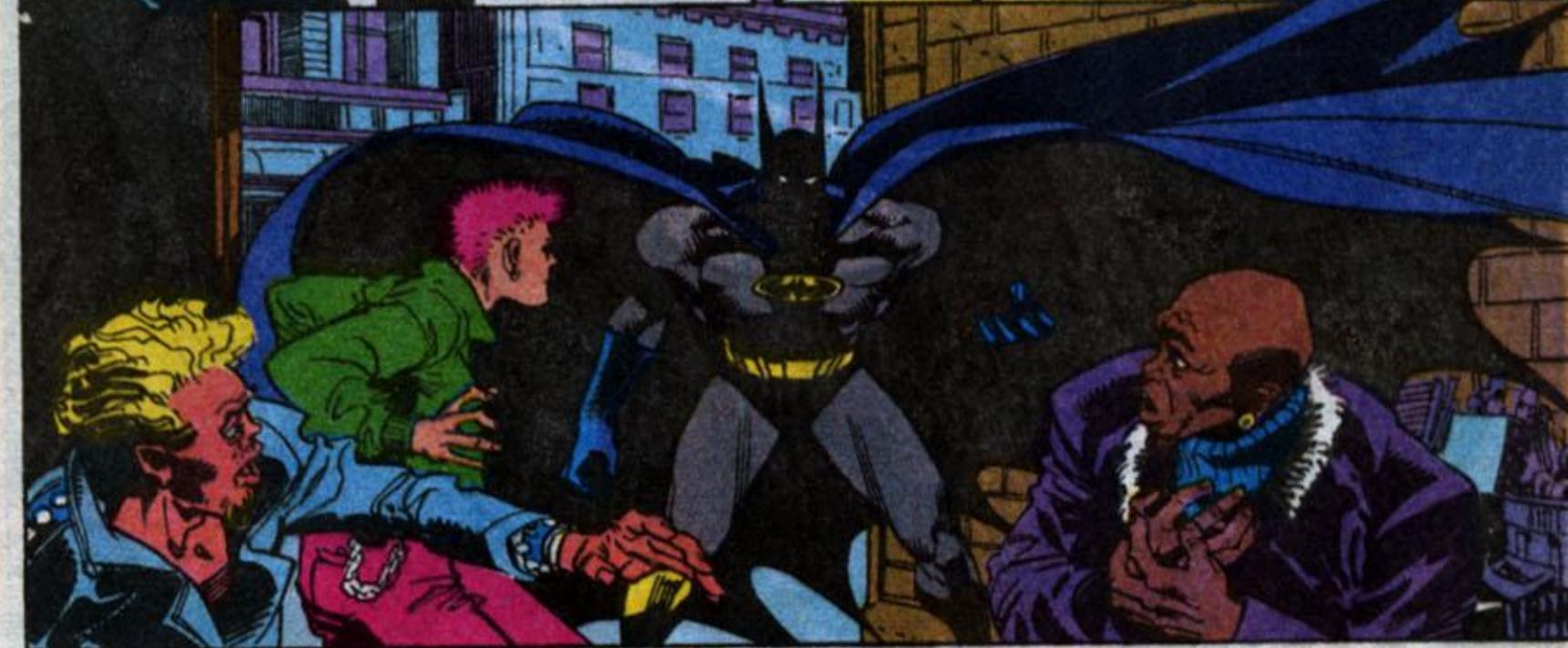
AS FRESH VOLUNTEERS MARCH  
IN TO THE VANGUARD OF  
CRIME'S ARMY.

SOMETIMES I ASK MYSELF: HOW  
LONG CAN I KEEP GOING BEFORE  
AGE, OR INJURY, CATCHES  
UP WITH ME?

HOW LONG BEFORE, ONE  
DARK NIGHT, I'M SENT  
HOME TOE-TAGGED, IN  
A BAG?

AND ALWAYS  
I ANSWER:

AS LONG AS I  
CAN MAKE IT.





NO MOVEMENT IS WASTED. NO RISK IS TAKEN. NO QUARTER IS SHOWN.



HE FIGHTS LIKE A LIVING MACHINE.



CLEAN -- EFFICIENT-- RUTHLESS.



IF SUCH AS HE WAS EVER CORRUPTED-- IF THAT POWER AND DEDICATION AND BURNING INNER DEMON WERE EVER TEMPTED TO TAKE THE WRONG PATH--



THEN ALL MEN WOULD HAVE REASON TO FEAR!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?



SOME DAY, A HERO WILL SAVE ME. I'LL LIVE INSTEAD OF DIE,  
AND SCIENCE WILL SEND ME BACK TO HERE, AND NOW--



TO FIND OUT IF THE ONE WHO  
SAVED ME IS THE ONE WHO WENT  
WRONG--

THE ONE  
WHO WENT  
BAD--

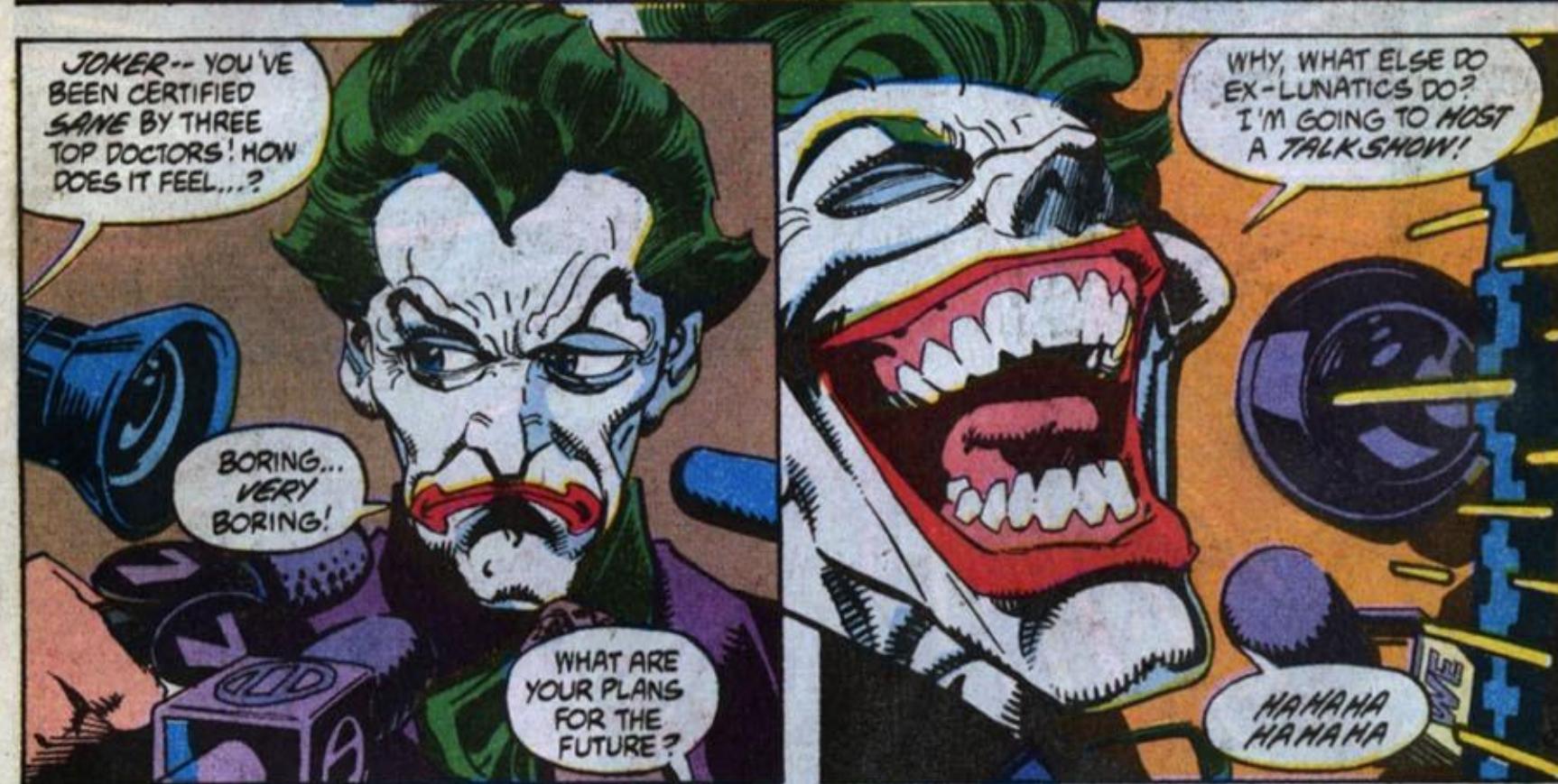


THE ONE WHO ENSLAVED  
THE WORLD!

TEN YEARS FROM NOW  
A HERO WILL FALL.

SICK OF THE ETERNAL WAR WITH EVIL,  
HE OR SHE WILL MAKE THE WRONG  
DECISION--TAKE THE WRONG ROAD --  
AND OUR WHOLE PLANET WILL SUFFER.

2001...



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I'M TIRED OF FIGHTING A WAR  
WE CAN NEVER WIN, THERE HAS  
TO BE ANOTHER WAY...AND I'M  
GOING TO FIND IT!



AND THEN, THE  
KILLINGS --



# GOTHAM GAZETTE

## BATMAN FREED AFTER POLICE GRILLING



no claim is to happen. From the police's point of view, it's a good idea to have a good relationship with the press. It's also important to be honest and transparent. This is especially true during the investigation phase, when journalists are likely to ask questions about what evidence you have and how it was obtained. It's important to be open and honest, and to provide journalists with the information they need to do their own research.

It's also important to be aware of the potential risks involved in interacting with the media. For example, if you're giving an interview, make sure you understand what questions will be asked and how they might be interpreted. You should also be careful about what you say, as even a single statement can be misconstrued or taken out of context.



YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE, PENGUIN!



JEWELRY

DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS--!

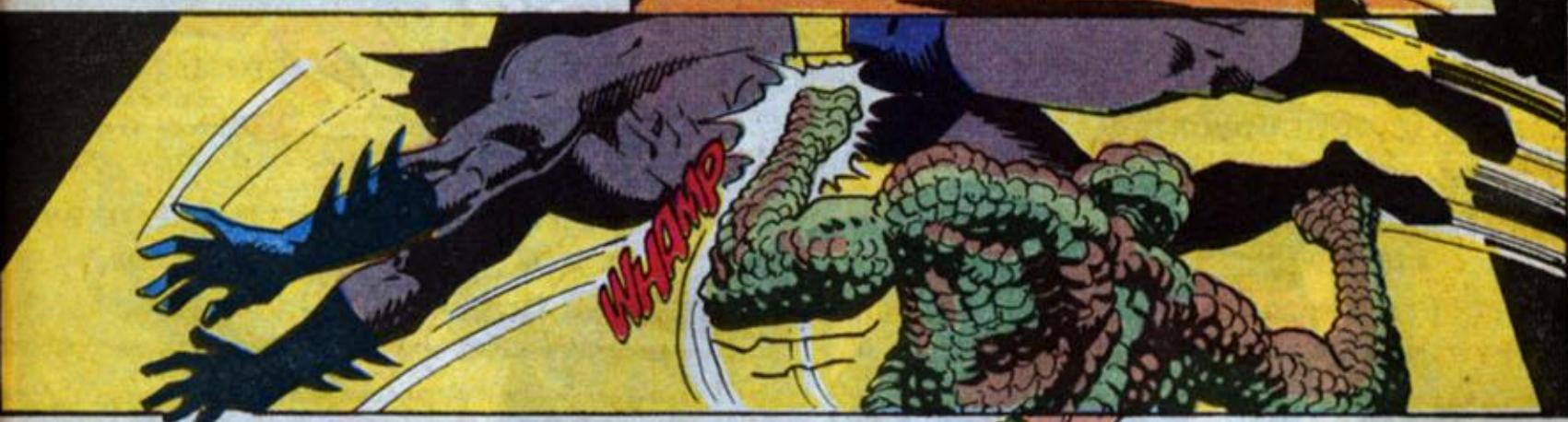
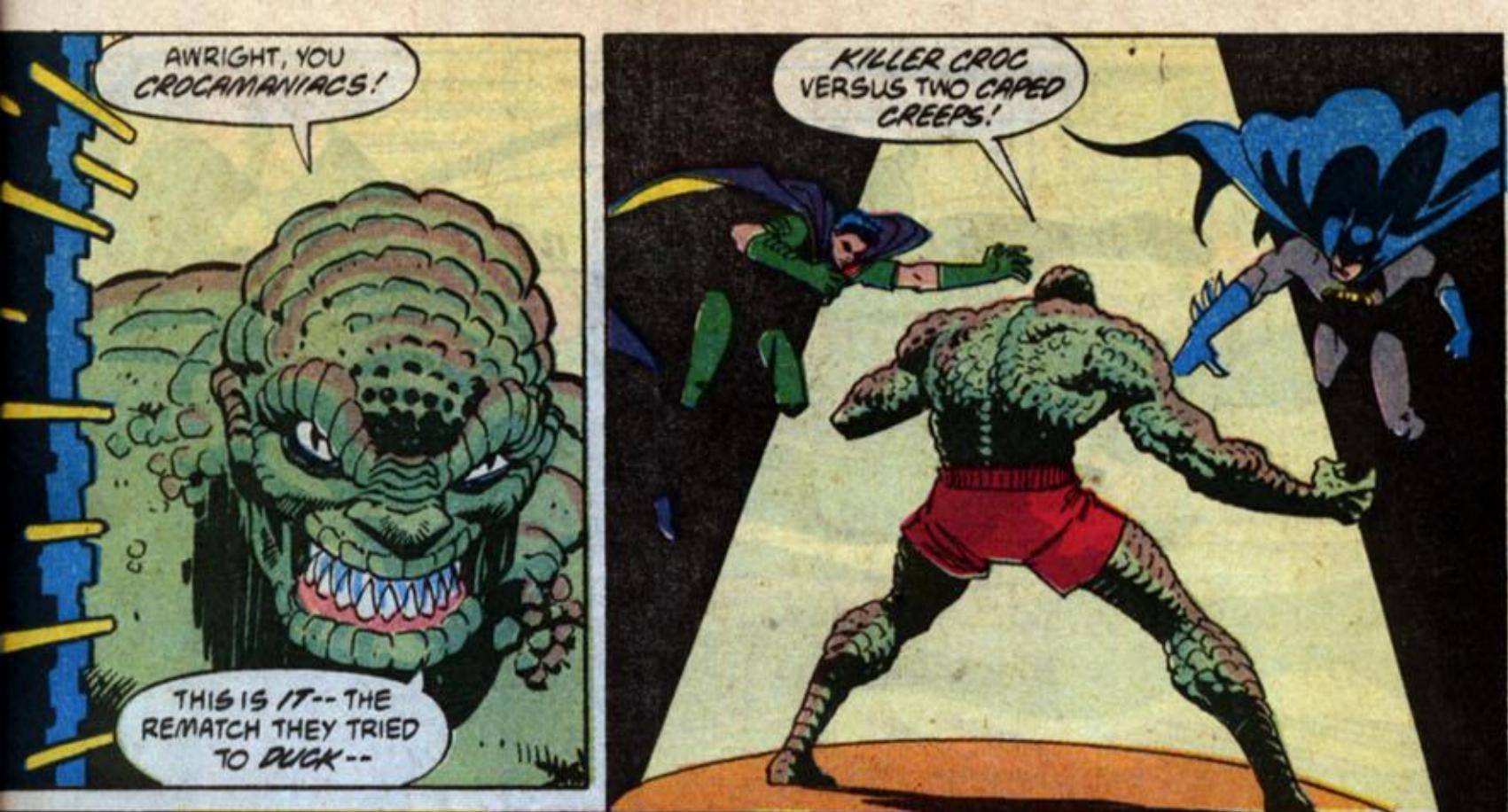




AWRIGHT, YOU  
CROCAMANIACS!

THIS IS IT-- THE  
REMATCH THEY TRIED  
TO DUCK--

KILLER CROC  
VERSUS TWO CAPE  
CREEPS!





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KILLER CROC AND THE DYNAMIC DUO  
SLUG IT OUT NEXT WEEK, SAME TIME,  
SAME CHANNEL! NOW, NEWS ON  
TONIGHT'S "THE JOKE'S ON YOU--"

COOL IT,  
YOU BUMS!

MOVE ON OUT!  
SUPPERTIME!

KICK!

WHAT A BUMMER! A LUNKHEAD LIKE KILLER CROC CLEANS UP, WHILE WE ROT BEHIND  
BARS BECAUSE OF THE  
BLOODY BATMAN!

WHO CARES? IT'S  
WORTH IT.

THIS TIME TOMORROW, BATMAN'LL  
BE SO MUCH FRIED MEAT!

YEAH. CREEP ALWAYS THOUGHT  
HE WAS BETTER THAN US -- BUT IT  
TURNS OUT HE'S JUST ONEA  
DA BOYS!

YA'RE GONNA  
FRY IN HELL,  
BATMAN!

HEAR ME? YA'RE  
GONNA BURN!

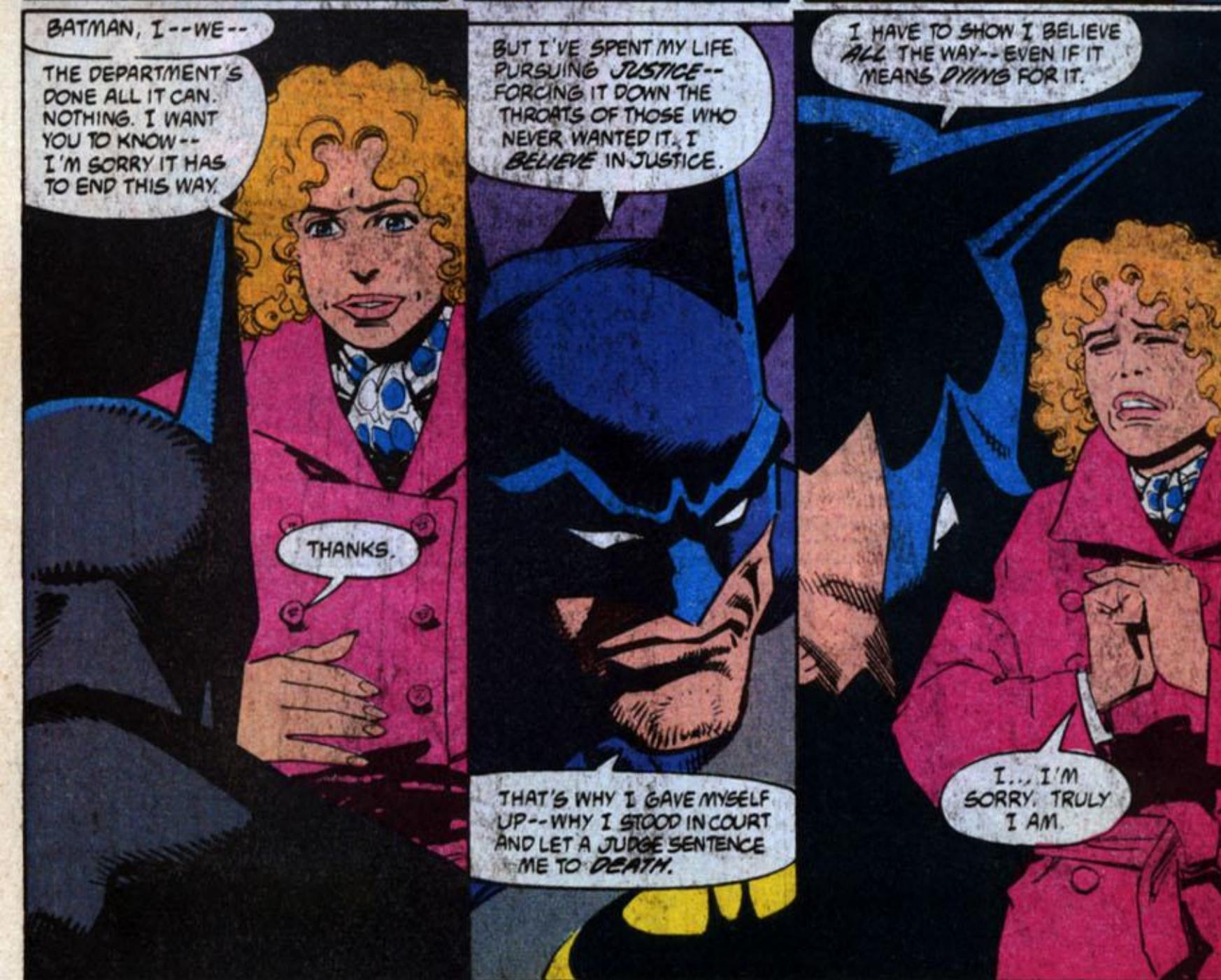
BURN!

BURN!

SECU CAM #1

SECU CAM #2

SECU CAM #3





IS THIS REALLY IT, OLD FRIEND?



YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THAT, JIM. HEROES -- LIKE COPS -- RUN ON HOPE.

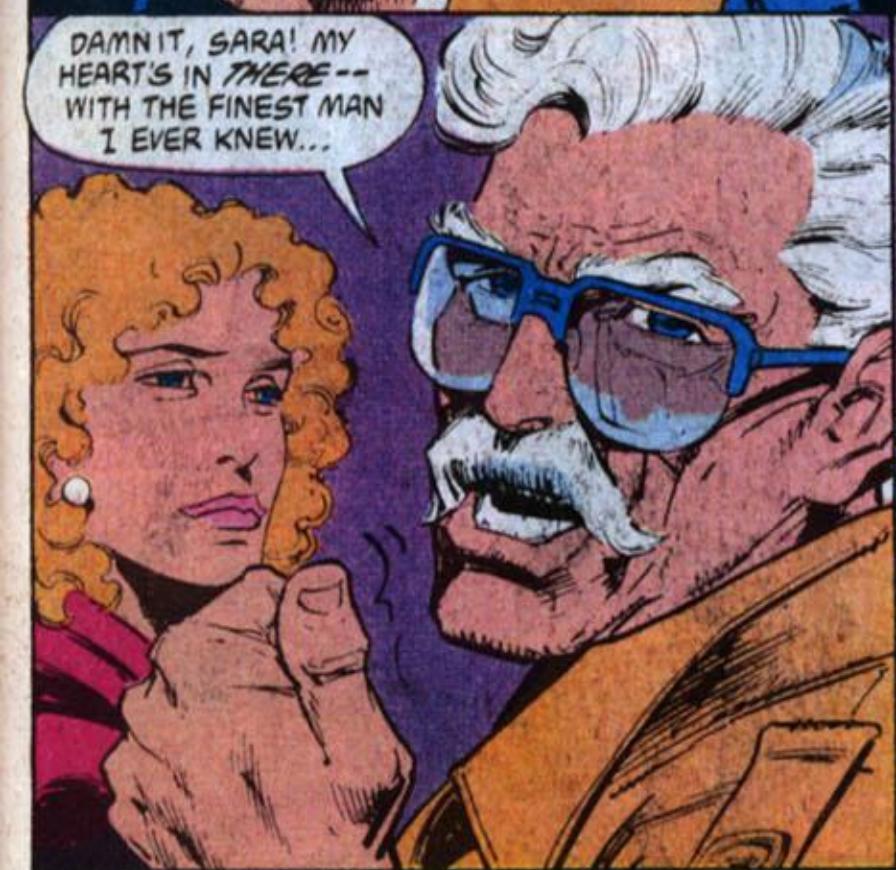
WE HOPE ONE DAY WE'LL WIN THE WAR -- EVEN THOUGH, DEEP DOWN, WE KNOW WE NEVER CAN.



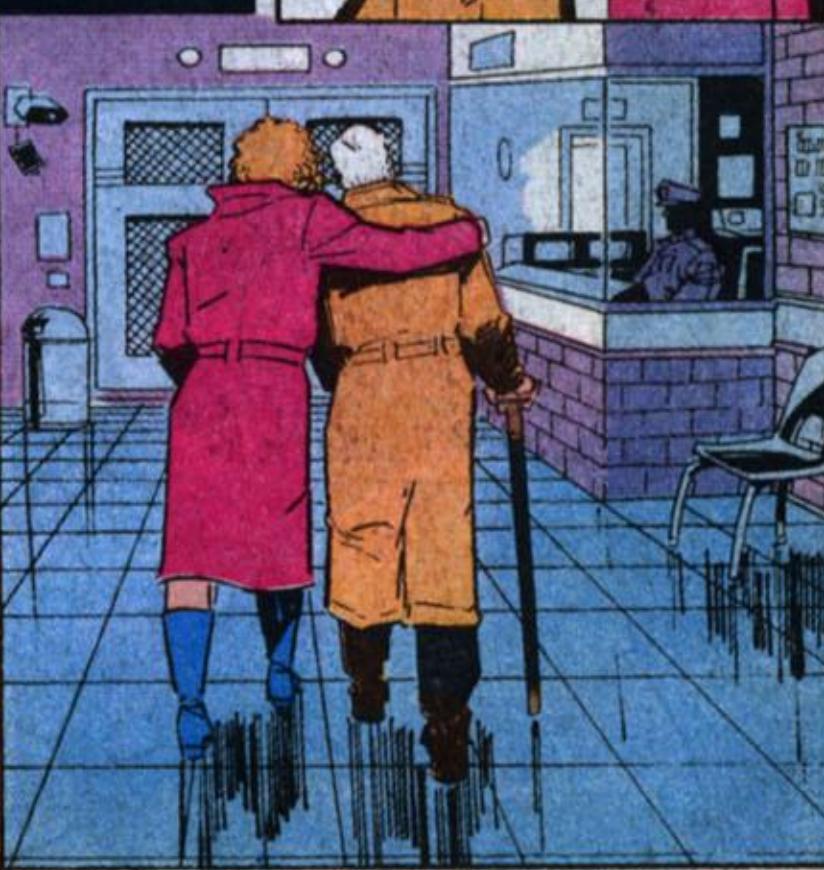
DAMN MAYOR TOOMBES AND HIS DEATH PENALTY! WHEN THE CITY VOTED HIM IN, THEY NEVER DREAMED IT'D BE USED AGAINST BATMAN!



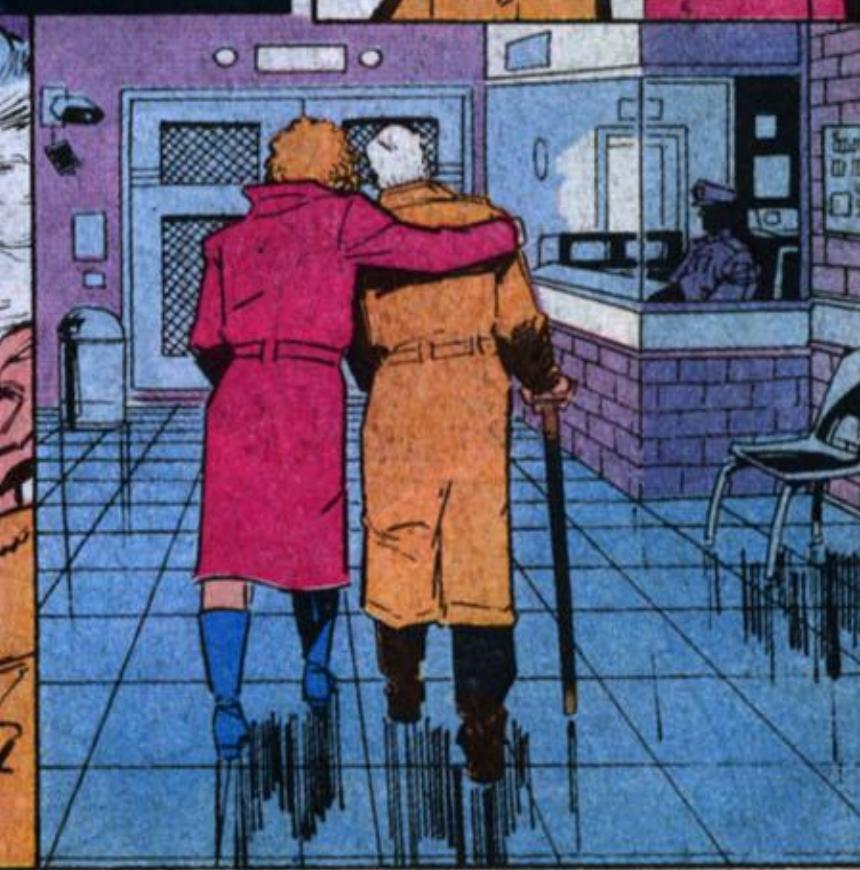
JIM -- PLEASE! REMEMBER YOUR HEART!

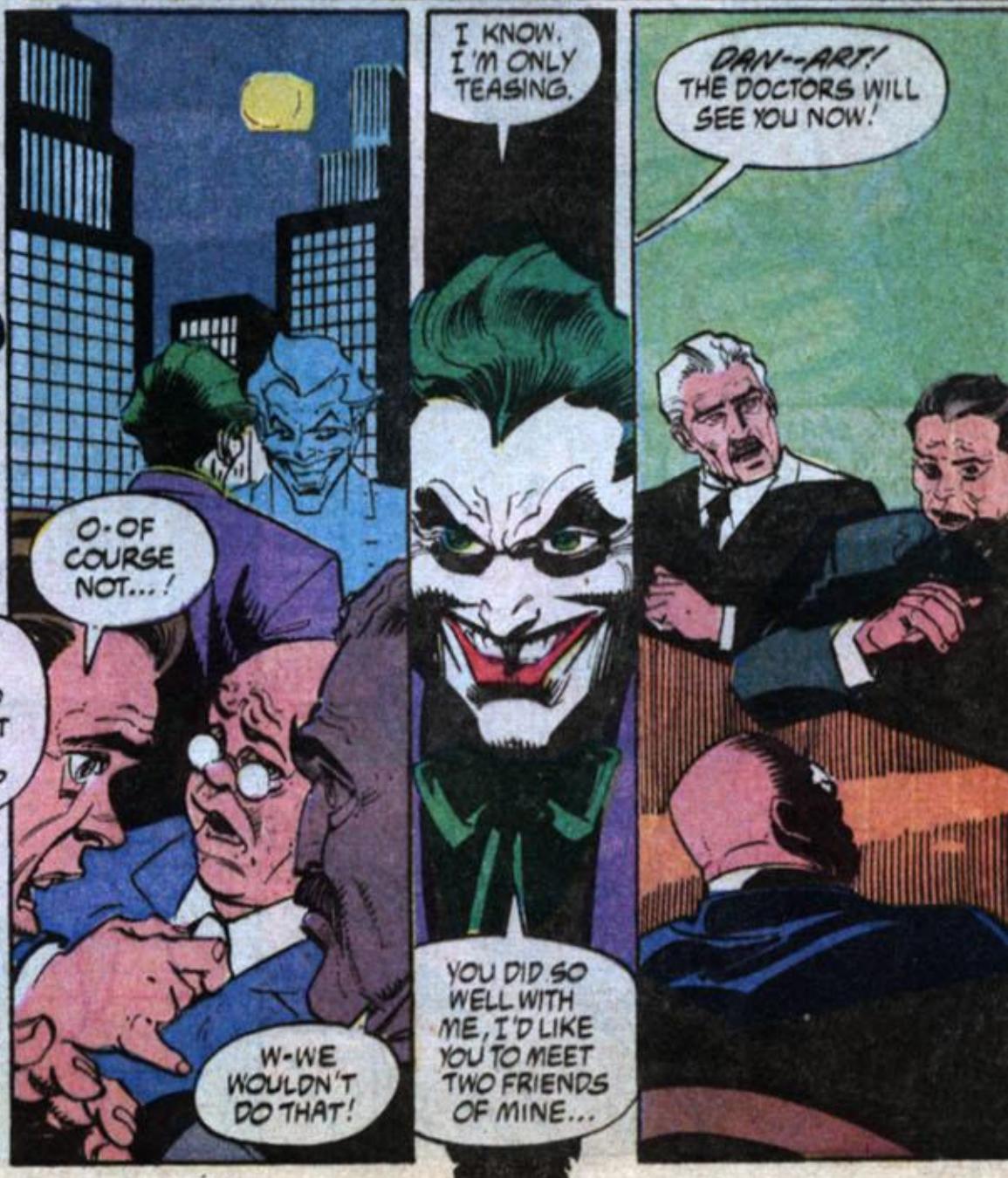


DAMNIT, SARA! MY HEART'S IN THERE -- WITH THE FINEST MAN I EVER KNEW...

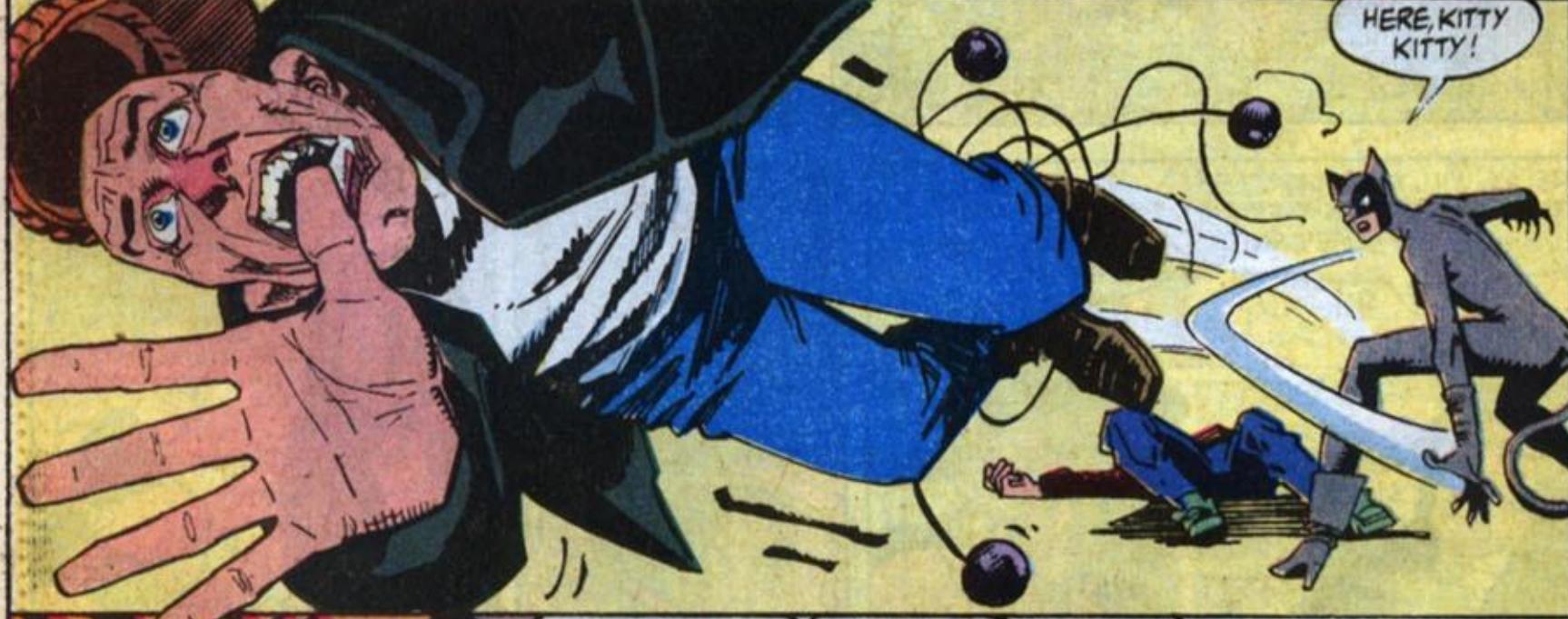


DON'T MOURN FOR ME TILL MY TIME RUNS OUT.









WE RAN FOR  
IT-- AN' THE  
BATMAN  
KILLED  
PENGUIN!

BIG DEAL! THAT  
FAT CREEP NEVER  
BALKED AT  
KILLING!

WHAT ABOUT  
THE OTHER DEATHS--  
RIDDLE? KILLER  
MOTH?

I ONLY KNOW WHAT I  
HEARD ON T.V. --  
THEY SAID IT WAS  
BATMAN!

AND I'M THE  
QUEEN OF ENGLAND!  
WHO TIPPED YOU  
OFF TO THIS  
DIAMOND?

PENGUIN  
GOT A PHONE  
CALL! I  
DUNNO WHO  
IT WAS!

RRRIP

IF YOU'RE LYING,  
KNUCKLES--

I'LL BE BACK  
FOR YOUR FACE!

IT'S HIGHLY UNORTHODOX,  
MR. DRAKE!

RETRIEVE  
BATMAN

GOTHAM  
NEEDS  
HIM!

LET  
HIM  
GO

FREE  
THE  
BAT-  
MAN!

STILL, I SUPPOSE HE'S  
AN UNORTHODOX PRISONER...  
AND YOU ARE GOING TO  
BE OUR NEXT SENATOR...

AND IT IS HIS  
LAST NIGHT!

EVEN HERE, IN THIS  
CAGE, UNDER THE  
SHADOW OF DEATH,  
HE LOOKS  
DIGNIFIED.

BATMAN...?

OF COURSE--  
SECURITY  
CAMERAS.

THE POLLS SAY I'M  
A CERTAINTY. BUT  
THAT'S NOT WHY  
I'M HERE.

I HAD TO  
SEE YOU...!  
IF THERE'S  
ANYTHING--

YOU CAN DO? THERE  
ISN'T. I KILLED THE  
PENGUIN.

ONCE, HE MIGHT  
HAVE SURVIVED  
THAT FALL. BUT HE  
WAS GETTING OLD.

LIKE  
ME.

A CLOSE FRIEND ONCE TOLD ME -- THE DAY OF THE VIGILANTE IS OVER. LARGE-SCALE CRIME NEEDS LARGE-SCALE SOLUTIONS -- THE KIND ONLY MEN IN POWER CAN DECREE.

COSTUMED HEROES BELONG TO THE PAST.

NO! I CAN'T LET THIS HAPPEN! I OWE YOU EVERY --

MR. DRAKE!

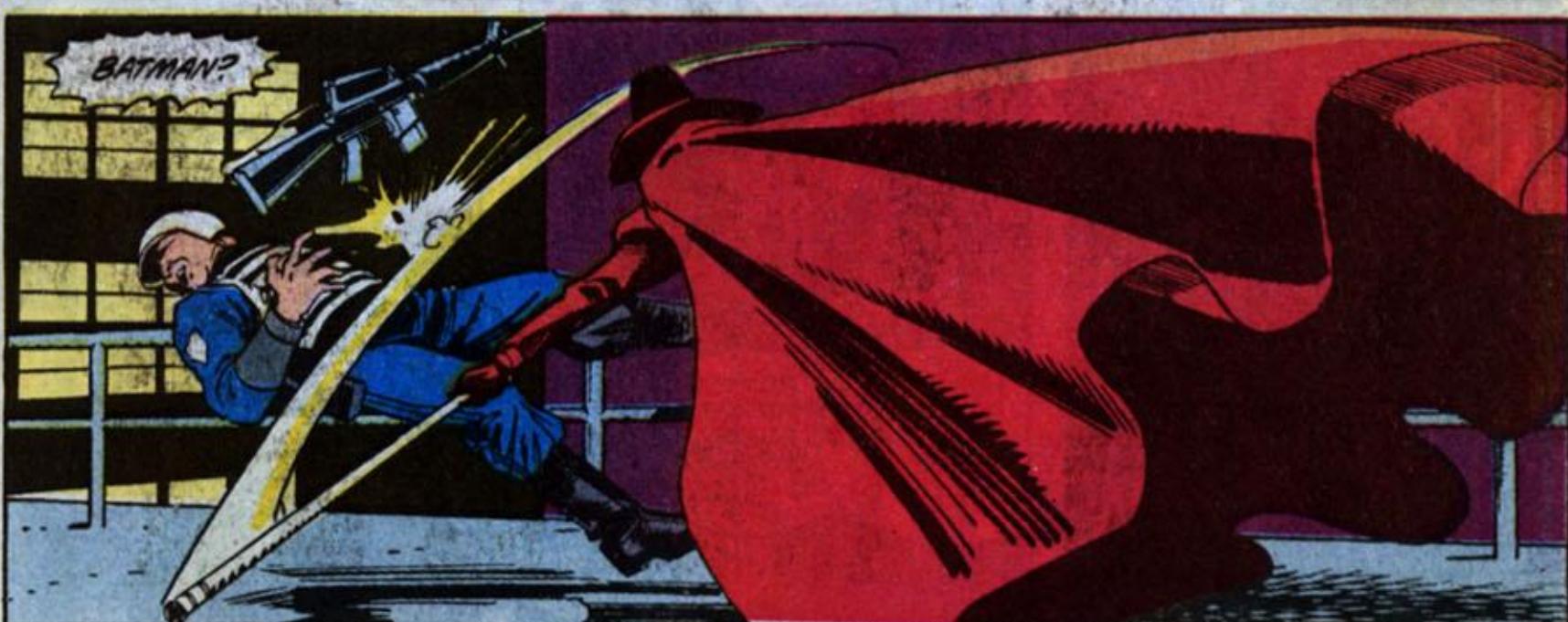
YOU OWE ME NOTHING!

HE KNOWS WHAT I'M THINKING. I GAVE UP BEING ROBIN SO AS NOT TO COMPROMISE MY CHANCES OF POLITICAL SUCCESS.

HE FORBIDDEN ONCE BEFORE TO PUT ON THE SUIT. I DISOBEDIED HIM AND SAVED HIS LIFE.

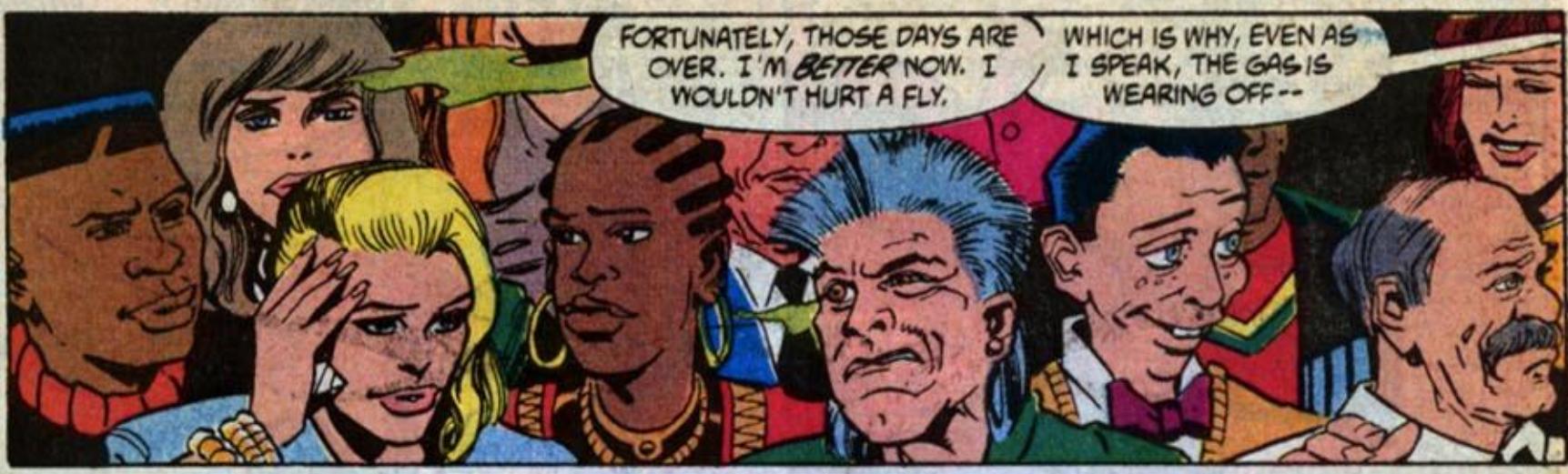
WHAT HAPPENS IF I DISOBEDI HIM THIS TIME?

BUT I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS...!

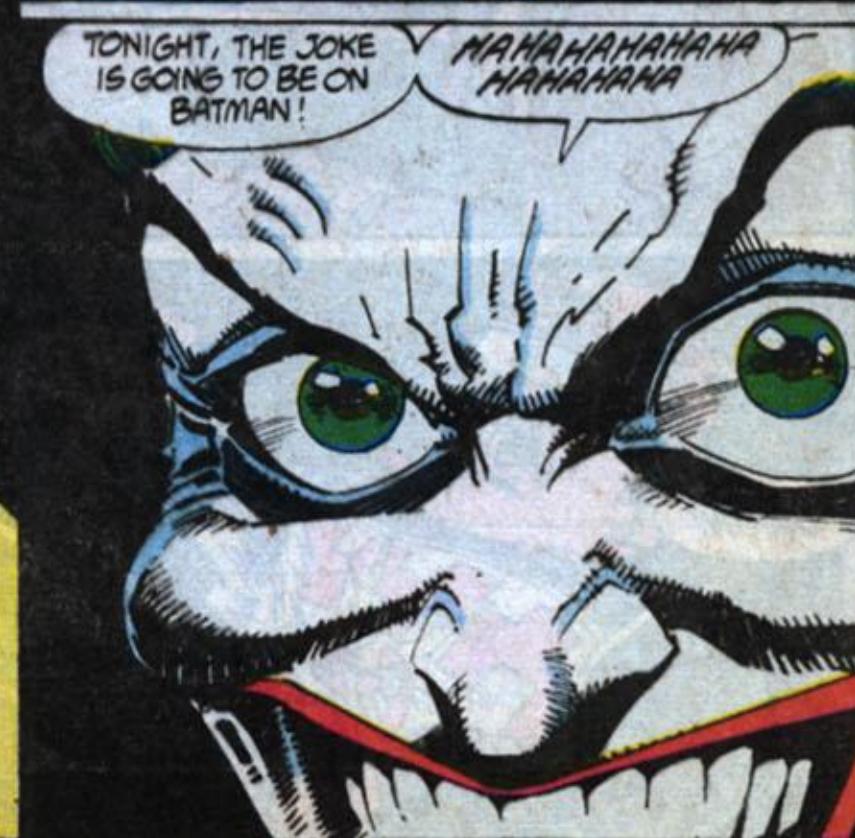








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ALFRED, IT'S ME -- TIM DRAKE! I USED TO LIVE HERE, REMEMBER?

I AM WELL AWARE OF YOUR IDENTITY, SIR. BUT MY PROGRAM WILL NOT PERMIT YOU PAST THIS POINT.

WARNING! ELECTRONIC STUN CAPACITY ENGAGED.

YOU STUPID MACHINE! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO--

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! JUST GET OUT OF MY WAY!

ALFRED! I DIDN'T MEAN TO WAKE YOU. IT'S THIS--THIS--

THERE, THAT'S BETTER.

I WASN'T ASLEEP, SIR. AND I BELIEVE THE PHRASE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS "ABOMINABLE CONTRAPTION".

HAROLD REPROGRAMMED IT AFTER YOUR DECISION TO ENTER POLITICAL LIFE. JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, YOU UNDERSTAND.

YOU'VE SOME BUSINESS IN THE CAVE, SIR? SOMETHING YOU FORGOT, PERHAPS?

PERHAPS.

ALFRED-- AREN'T  
YOU WORRIED  
ABOUT HIM?

I'VE SPENT MOST OF  
MY LIFE WORRYING ABOUT  
HIM. ALWAYS, HE'S PROVED  
MY FEARS GROUNDLESS.

THIS TIME,  
I FEAR HE  
WON'T.

HE KILLED THE PENGUIN. AN  
ACCIDENT, PERHAPS, BUT BY HIS  
OWN CODE HE'S GUILTY. AND  
JUSTICE MUST BE DONE,  
MUSTN'T IT?



I'VE CLASHED WITH HIM A DOZEN TIMES OVER THE YEARS. THE MAN'S OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE!



I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT HE'D ARREST HIMSELF, GIVEN HALF A CHANCE.



HE COULD HAVE ESCAPED ANY TIME HE WANTED. BUT NO. NOT HIM. HE PLAYS TO THE BITTER END.



HE'S ESCAPING -- WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT!



YOU CAN'T GO MEEKLY  
TO THE CHAIR, PENGUIN  
DESERVED TO DIE!

NOT BY MY  
HAND.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE  
BEEN ENEMIES THIS  
PAST DOZEN  
YEARS.

I'D HAVE  
DONE IT, GIVEN  
HALF THE  
CHANCE!

THAT HATCHET'S BURIED  
FOR NOW. I'VE COME  
TO BREAK YOU OUT!

AND HOW'RE YOU  
GOING TO DO IT?  
KNOCK ME UNCON-  
SCIOUS AND CARRY  
ME?

IF... IF I  
HAVE TO!

DON'T TRY IT,  
SON. YOU'LL  
ONLY REGRET  
IT.

WE'LL  
SEE.

I'D LIKE YOU  
TO DO ME A  
FAVOR...

BUT-- YOU'RE  
A HERO! YOU CAN'T  
DIE LIKE THIS!



YOU'VE GOT  
OLD AND SOFT,  
CROC--

YOU'RE A  
T.V. WRESTLER  
NOW--A PHONY--

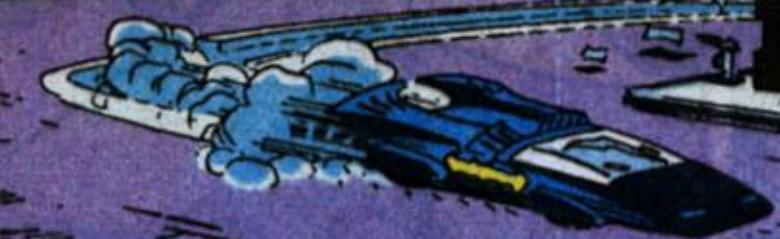
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN  
ANYTHING YOU EVER  
LEARNED ABOUT  
STREET FIGHTING!

DO I HEAR  
"UNCLE"?





HE TOLD ME NOT TO.



HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY IT, BUT HIS EYES TOLD ME--



"DON'T WEAR THE SUIT!"



SO WHAT DOES HE EXPECT?



I CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

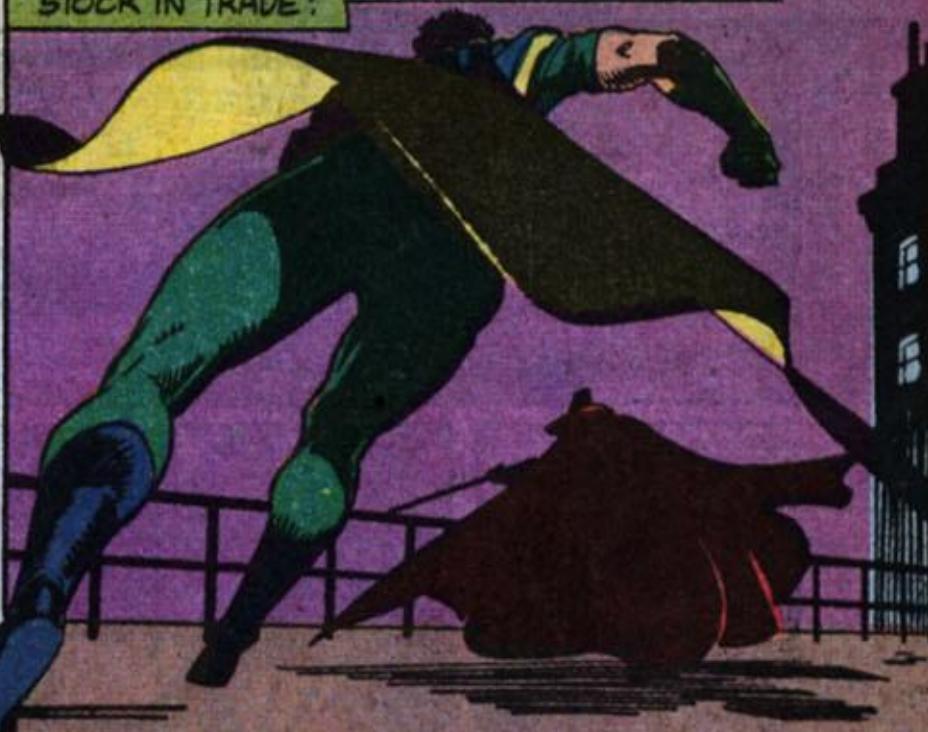


UNCONSCIOUS.  
SOMEONE HERE  
ALREADY. WHO...?



**ANARKY!**

CALLS HIMSELF A VIGILANTE -- SAYS HE'S ON  
THE SAME SIDE AS US -- YET MURDER IS HIS  
STOCK IN TRADE!



STOP  
OR WE  
SHOOT!

COME  
ON--

SPARK!

SPANG

THIS WAY! I  
LEFT MY LINE--!

THEY  
GOT CLEAR  
AWAY!

IT'S OKAY!  
THAT'S THE  
JOKER'S CHOPPER!

WARDEN SNOOD? I HOPE  
THAT WASN'T YOU-KNOW-  
WHO ESCAPING?

DON'T  
WORRY, JOKER.  
HE'S STILL  
HERE...

THOUGH WHY HE'S  
LETTING YOU HAVE  
YOUR POUND OF  
FLESH, I DON'T  
KNOW!

I HAVE A DUTY TO  
MY PUBLIC -- AND  
THEY WANT TO SEE  
BATMAN. HALF A  
BILLION VIEWERS  
CAN'T BE WRONG!

OKAY?

PLEASE! I'M NOT THE  
MAN I WAS. I'M NOT HERE  
TO GLOAT.

BEAUTIFUL,  
SIR. READY  
TO ROLL!

GOOD EVENING, VIEWERS.  
I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT  
SOMETHING FUNNY HAPPENED  
ON MY WAY TO THE PEN  
TONIGHT. BUT IT  
DIDN'T.

OUR SPOTLIGHT FALLS  
ON A MAN WHO  
PERSONIFIES GRIMNESS--  
WHO HAS HIMSELF BEEN  
REDUCED TO THE  
GRIMMEST OF  
CIRCUMSTANCES.



TAKE IT FROM ME,  
WE WON'T BE NEEDING  
THIS!

HAHA  
HAHAHA!

FEW MEN DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO FIGHTING CRIME.

EVEN FEWER CHOOSE FOR THEIR EMBLEM THE SINISTER SYMBOL OF THE RABID BAT!

PROWLING THE CITY, DISPENSING HIS OWN ROUGH JUSTICE, THE BATMAN STRIKES TERROR INTO EVIL HEARTS--



AND BRINGS SOLACE TO THE INNOCENT.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, CERTAIN COSTUMED VILLAINS--MANY OF THEM BATMAN'S SWORN ENEMIES--WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED.



THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM WAS MERELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL...

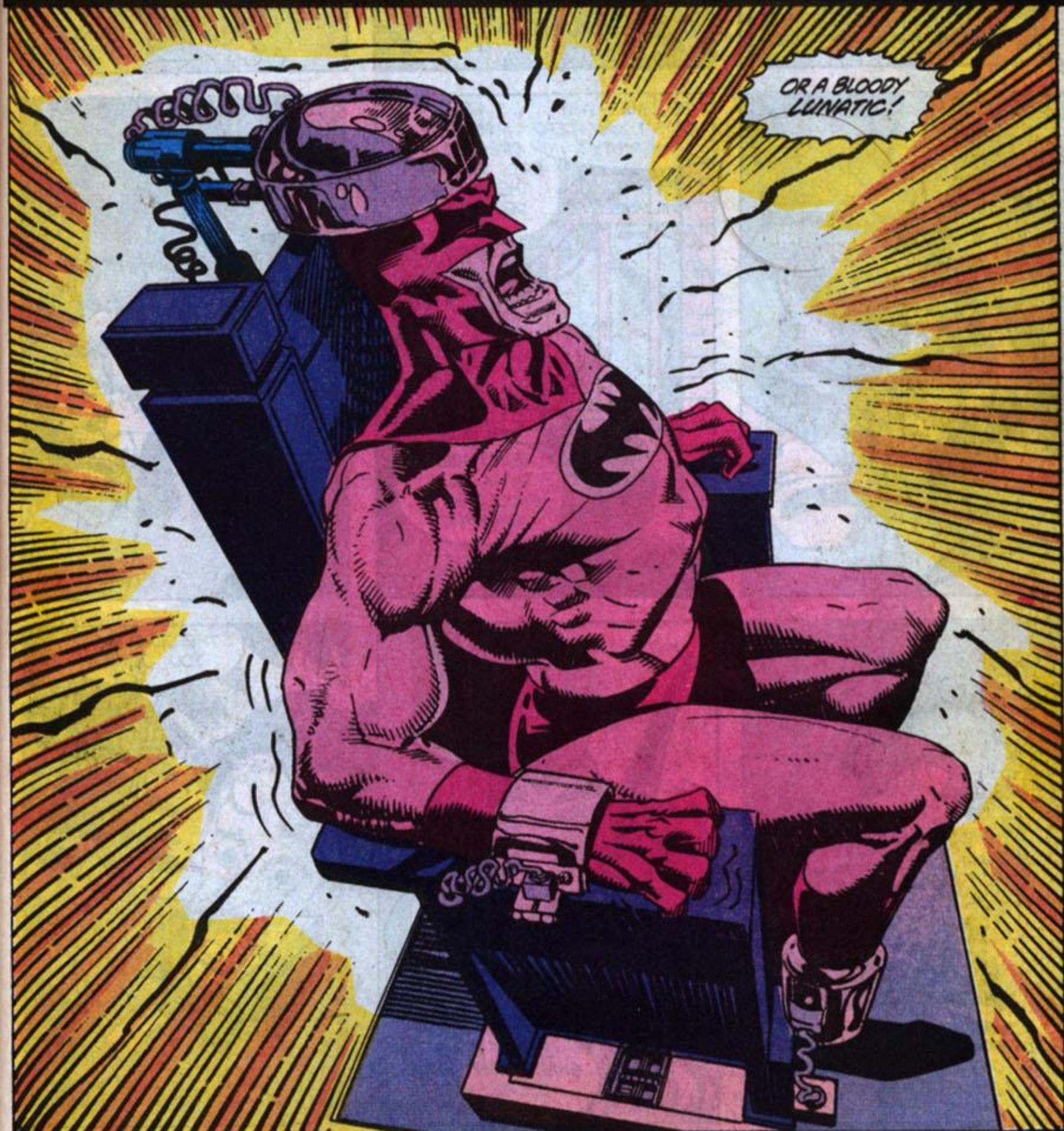
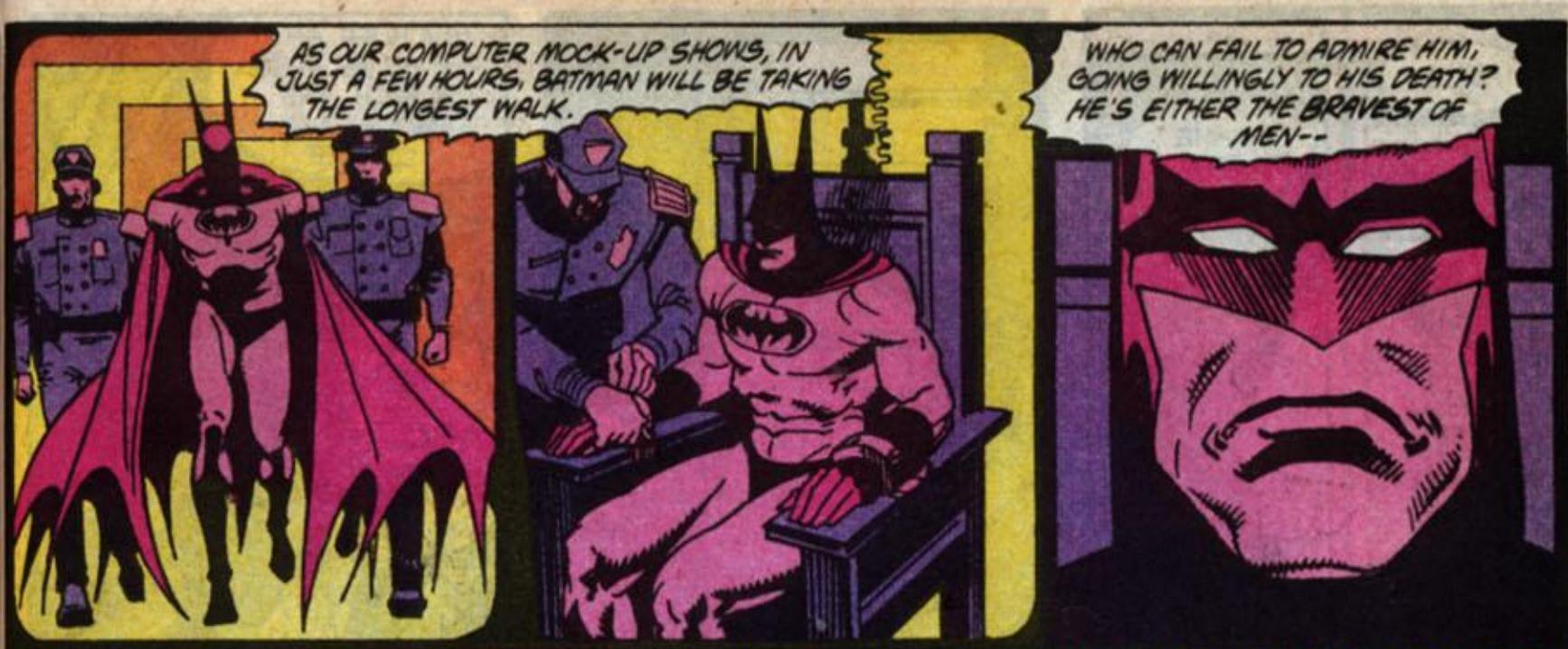
UNTIL THE NIGHT BATMAN--BY HIS OWN ADMISSION--SLEW THE PENGUIN!

TRAPPED BY HIS OWN CODE OF JUSTICE, BATMAN MUST NOW PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE.



AS OUR COMPUTER MOCK-UP SHOWS, IN  
JUST A FEW HOURS, BATMAN WILL BE TAKING  
THE LONGEST WALK.

WHO CAN FAIL TO ADMIRE HIM,  
GOING WILLINGLY TO HIS DEATH?  
HE'S EITHER THE BRAVEST OF  
MEN--



HELLO.

I CAME  
TO TALK.

IN A HUFF, EH?  
PEEVED BECAUSE  
I'M RICH, AND  
FAMOUS, AND  
LOVED?

AND  
SANE,  
OF COURSE.

TELL ME -- WHY  
DIDN'T YOU PLEAD  
INSANITY?

I MEAN, A  
MAN WHO  
DRESSES AS A  
BAT... HAUNTS  
THE NIGHT...  
DELIGHTS IN  
FEAR...

DON'T YOU  
THINK YOU  
SHOULD BE IN  
ARKHAM?

THE JOKE'S ON  
YOU, JOKER!

HOW ABOUT YOUR  
SECRET IDENTITY? THE JUDGE  
SAID YOU KILLED AS BATMAN--  
SO IT'S AS BATMAN YOU  
SHOULD DIE.

BUT AT LEAST  
SHARE THAT LITTLE  
SECRET WITH  
US--!

I KNEW IT! SOON AS I HIT YOU, I KNEW IT!

AND ANARKY IS BACK IN THE PEN? NEAT SWITCH!



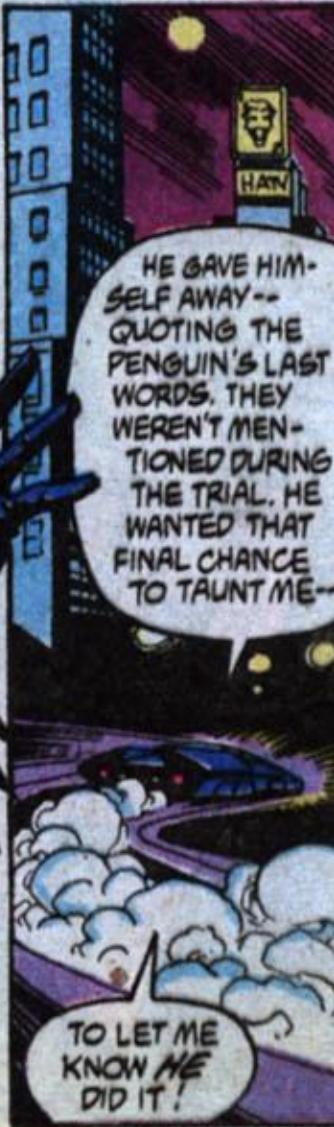
NOW... ANY CHANCE OF YOU TELLING ME WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON?

I'M NOT QUITE SURE MYSELF, BUT FOR STARTERS, THE JOKER ISN'T SANE. HE'S AS CRAZY AS HE EVER WAS!



HE GAVE HIMSELF AWAY-- QUOTING THE PENGUIN'S LAST WORDS. THEY WEREN'T MENTIONED DURING THE TRIAL. HE WANTED THAT FINAL CHANCE TO TAUNT ME--

TO LET ME KNOW HE DID IT!



IF IT MEANS PROVING YOUR INNOCENCE--

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

ARE YOU UP FOR THIS, SENATOR?



BUT YOU CAN'T BE  
BATMAN! YOU'RE  
LONNIE MACHIN!!

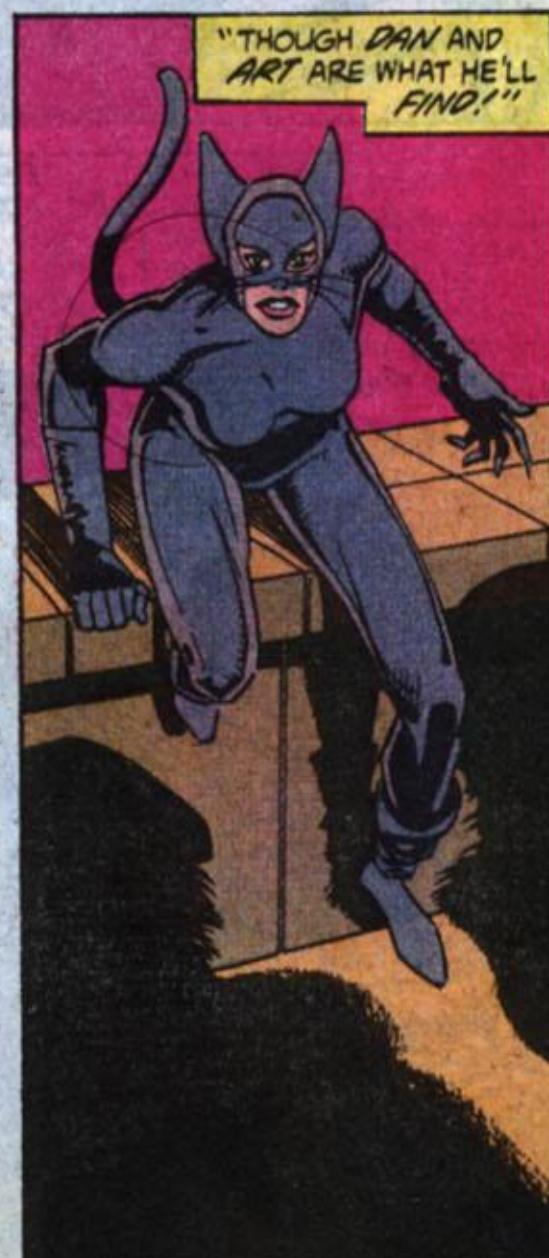
ANARKY,  
AT YOUR  
SERVICE!

THIS IS NOT  
FUNNY!

HE'S NOT THE  
BATMAN! HE'S HELPED  
HIM ESCAPE! I  
DEMAND YOU ARREST  
HIM!

CUT, YOU  
FOOL! WE'RE  
NOT SHOWING  
THIS!

OWW!



I EXPECTED GUARDS,  
BUT THIS...!?

KU... KILL!  
K-KILL MERR!

BU-BLOOD!  
YESSS!

AAAHH!

SOME KIND OF  
MUTANT BABOONS--  
STRONG--

FAST--

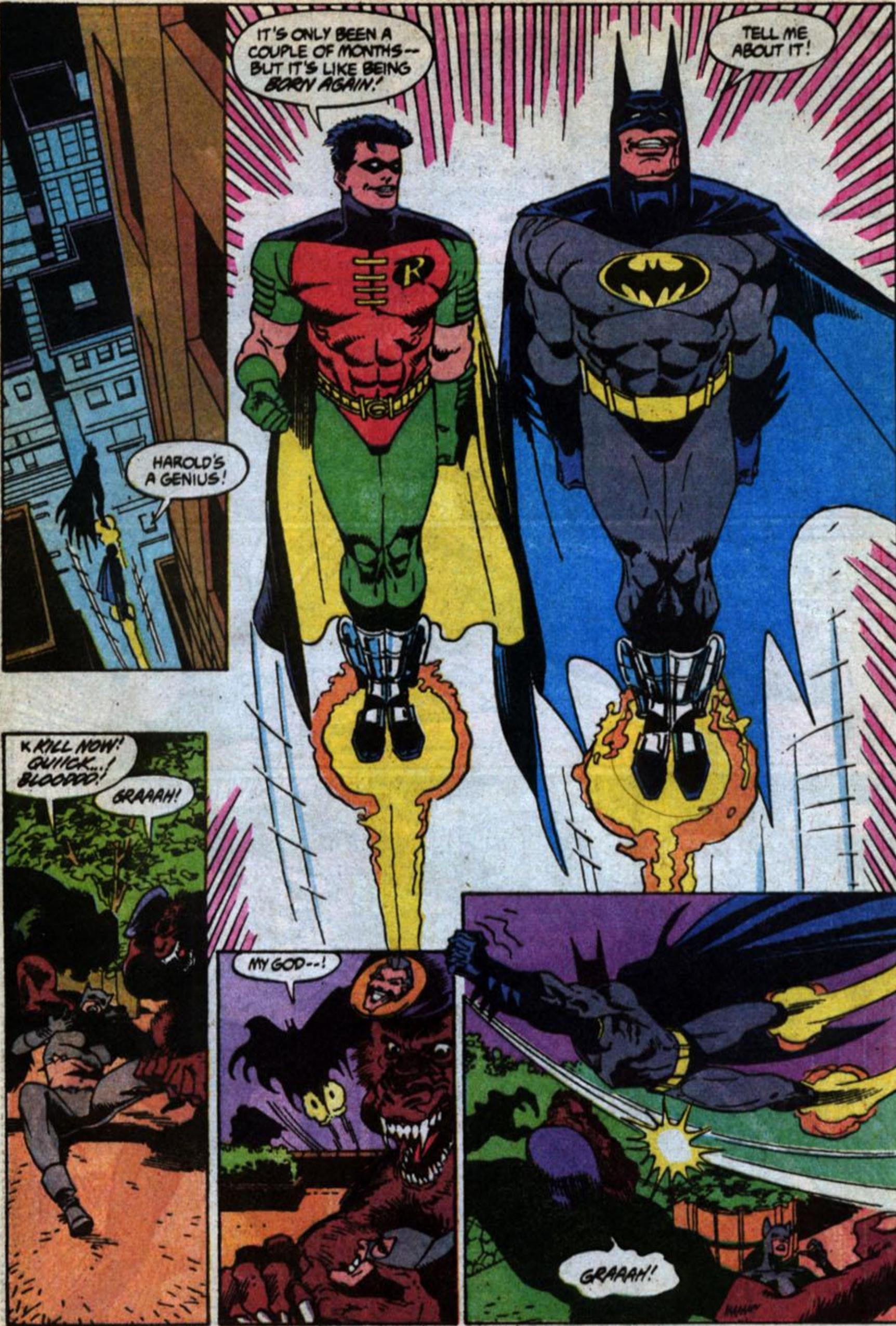
AAAHH!

OKAY,  
GUYS! YOU  
WANNA  
BOOGIE--

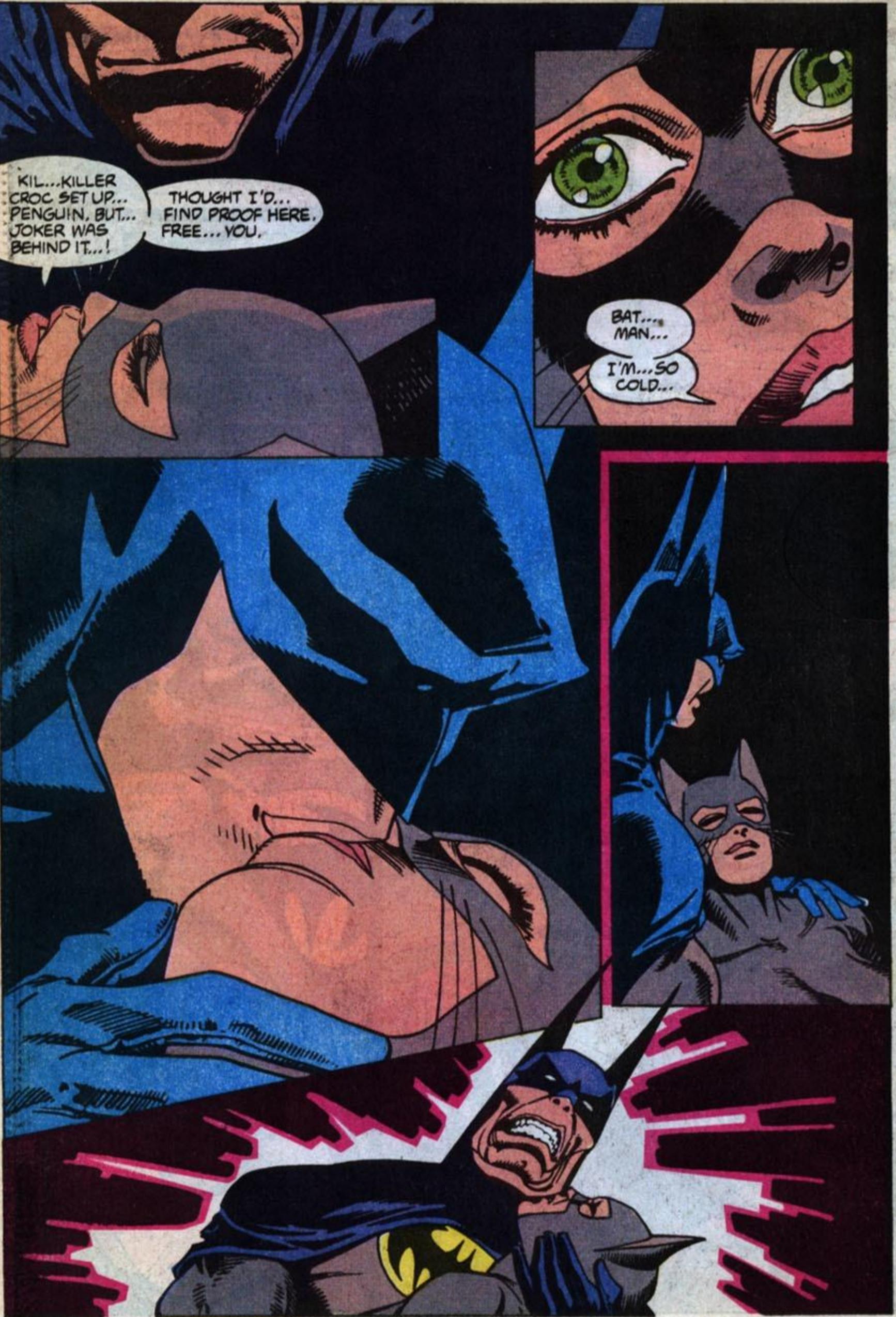
LET'S  
BOOGIE!

SMACK!

SMACK!







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THIS IS IT,  
JOKER!

TONIGHT

IS

IT!

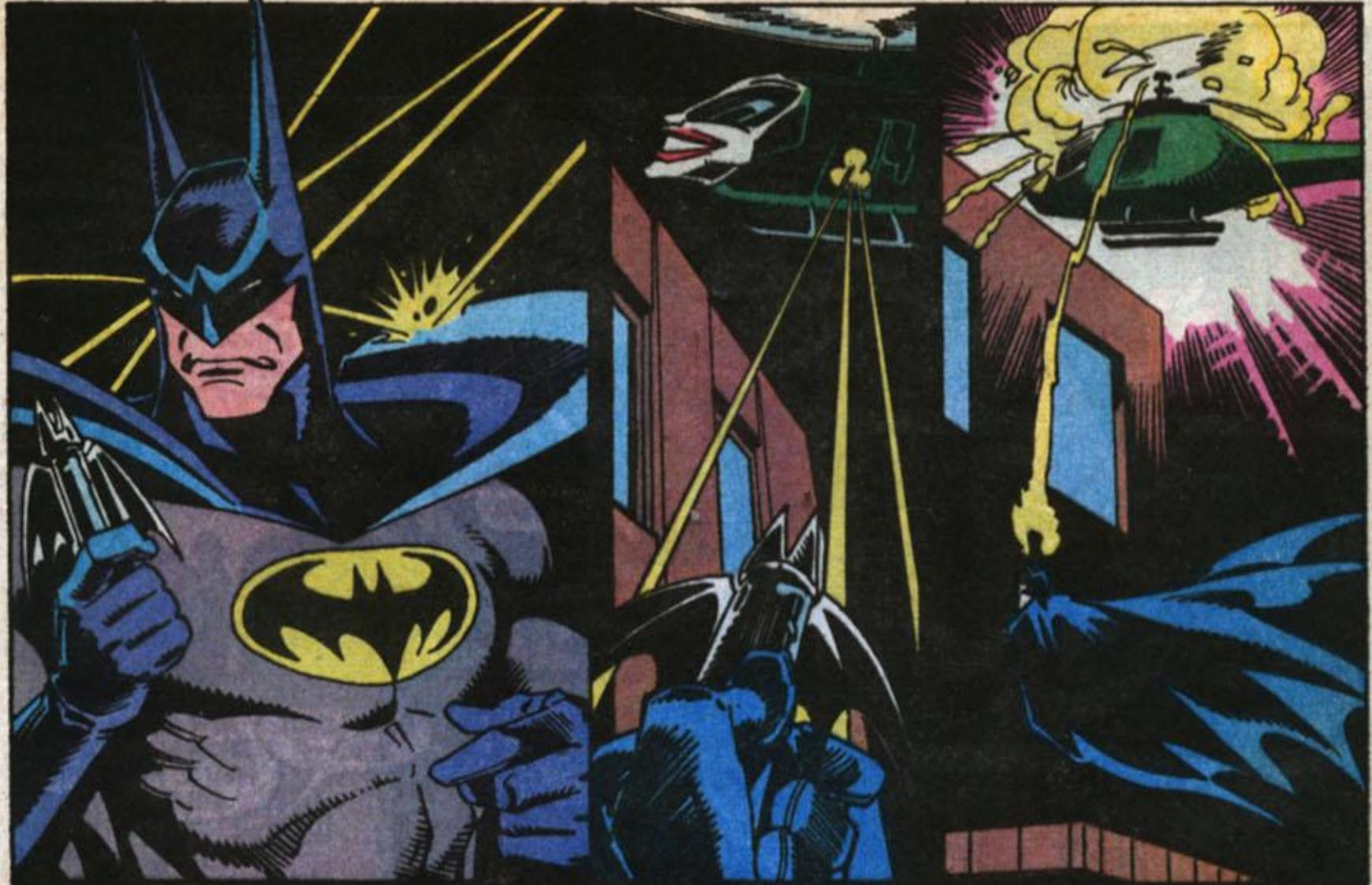
HE'S THERE! SO MY PETS  
ALREADY! DIDN'T STOP HIM!  
ALERT THE GUARDS  
INSIDE! ONE WAY OR  
THE OTHER--

HE STANDS THERE LIKE A  
GOD, WITH HOT DEATH  
SCREAMING AROUND HIM.

TONIGHT  
IS IT!

FOR GOD'S  
SAKE, TAKE  
COVER!

WHITE FURY  
BOILS FROM  
HIS EYES, AS  
IF HE COULD  
BRING THAT  
CHOPPER  
DOWN BY  
WILLPOWER  
ALONE.



THIS WAY--!



JOKER!

AAH!

STUDIO

R

EMPLOYEES  
ONLY

YOU KILLED HER, JOKER.  
CATWOMAN--AND ALL  
THE OTHERS!

ME? SURELY YOU'RE  
MISTAKEN! IT WAS THOSE  
TWO SAVAGES -- DAN  
AND ART.

YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR  
THEM. I GOT THEM ARMY-  
SURPLUS--THEIR BROTHERS  
ARE FIGHTING IN NICARAGUA  
RIGHT NOW!

WHY, JOKER? WHY?

IT'S A LONG  
STORY, OLD CHUM--

BUT IF YOU  
PROMISE TO SIT  
STILL, I'LL TELL  
IT!

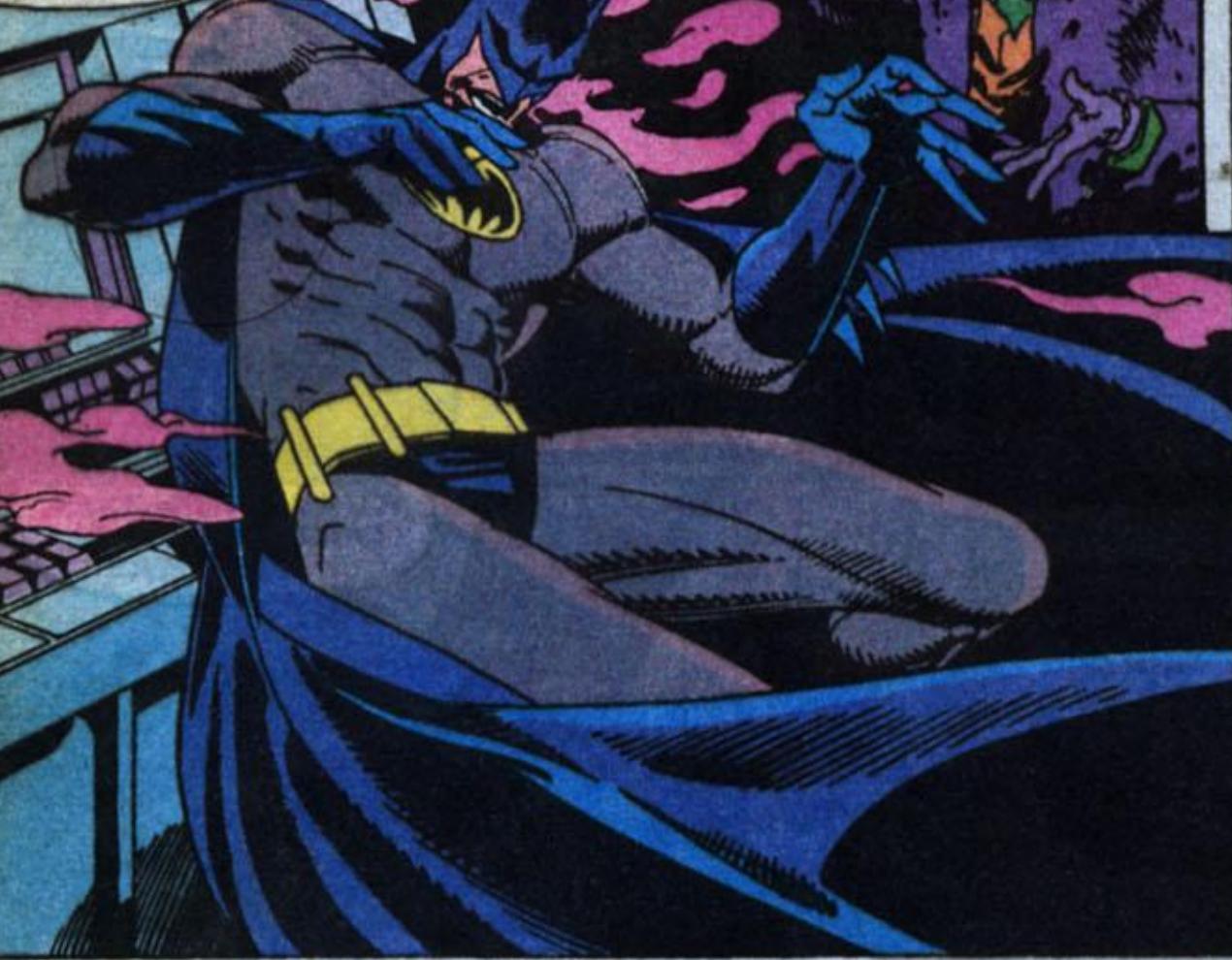


IT ALL BEGAN ONE DAY  
IN ARKHAM...

I HAD A FLASH OF INSIGHT--  
YOU KNOW, AS LUNATICS  
WILL. "JOKER," I THOUGHT,  
"WOULDN'T THINGS  
BE SO MUCH NICER  
IF YOU WERE  
SANE?"

I COULDN'T ARGUE WITH  
THAT. SANITY'S A MUCH-  
PRIZED ASSET IN TODAY'S  
CRAZY WORLD.

SO I HAD A WORD WITH  
MY OLD FRIEND PENGUIN.  
HE KNEW THESE DOCTORS,  
YOU SEE, WHO WERE JUST  
DELIGHTED TO DECLARE  
ME CURED--



ESPECIALLY AS IT MEANT THEIR  
FAMILIES WOULDN'T DIE... ALTHOUGH  
THEY WEREN'T TO KNOW THEY WOULD.

I WAS A NATURAL FOR T.V. HALF A  
BILLION VIEWERS-- AND ALL THE  
GUESTS I  
CARED TO  
HUMILIATE!

IT WAS ALMOST A GOD-  
SEND WHEN THAT  
GREEDY PENGUIN  
STARTED TO BLACK-  
MAIL ME. I'D KILL TWO  
BIRDS WITH ONE STONE,  
SO TO SPEAK.

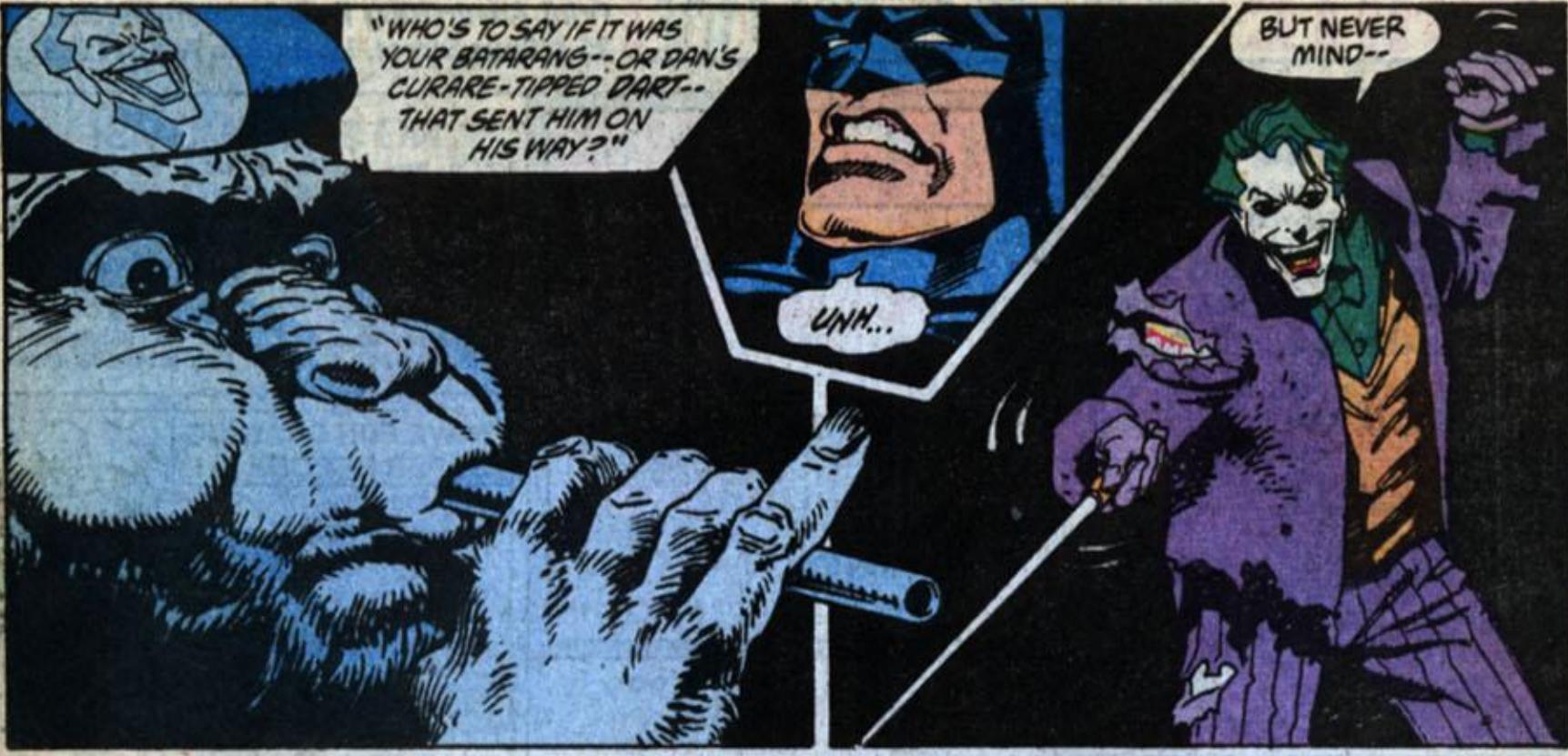
"THEN FATE--BLESS HER  
COTTON SOCKS!--LENT A  
HAND. ON THE VERY NIGHT  
PENGUIN WAS TO  
DIE, YOU  
CHANCED  
BY--

I'D HAVE ART AND DAN  
...DISPOSE OF YOUR  
ENEMIES-- SUSPICION  
WOULD FALL ON YOU--  
AND NO ONE WOULD  
CONNECT ME TO  
PENGUIN'S  
DEATH!

BUT THERE  
WAS SOME-  
THING MISSING  
FROM MY  
HAPPINESS.

YOUR  
HUMILIATION!



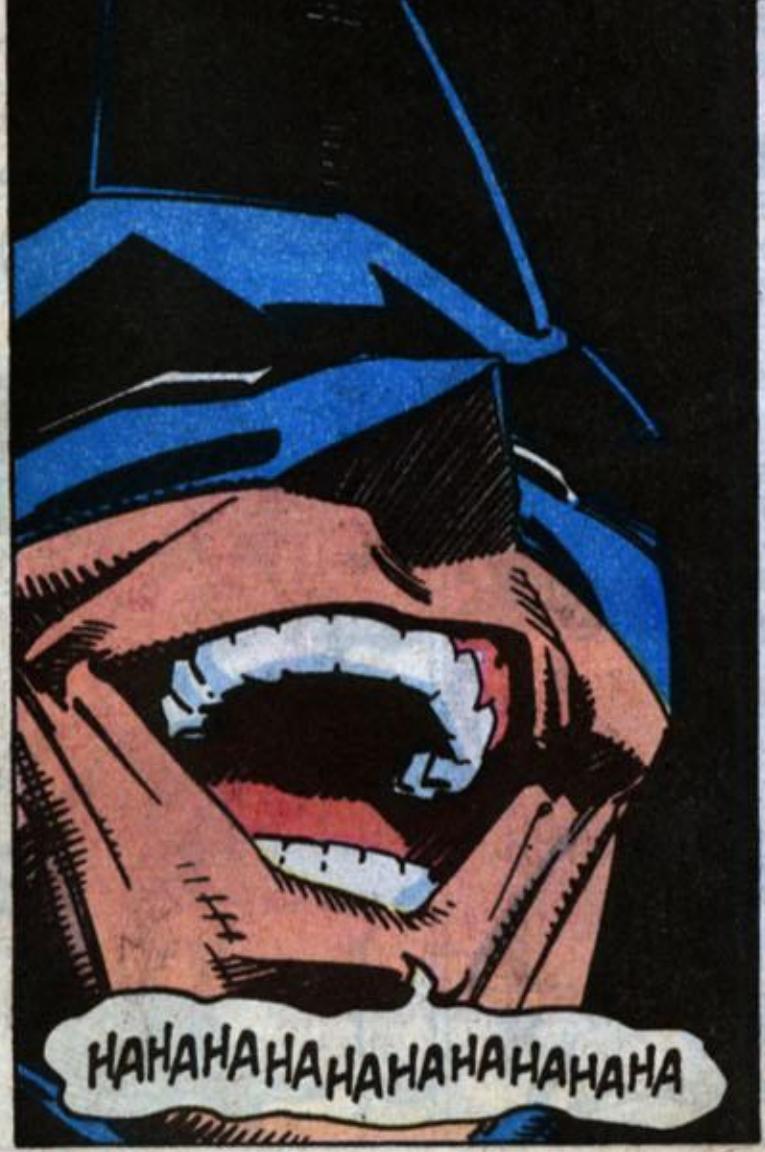
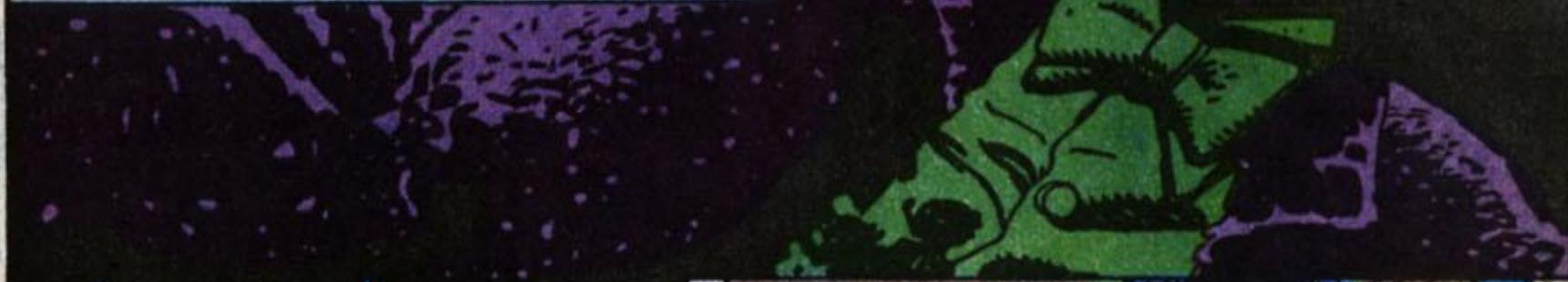


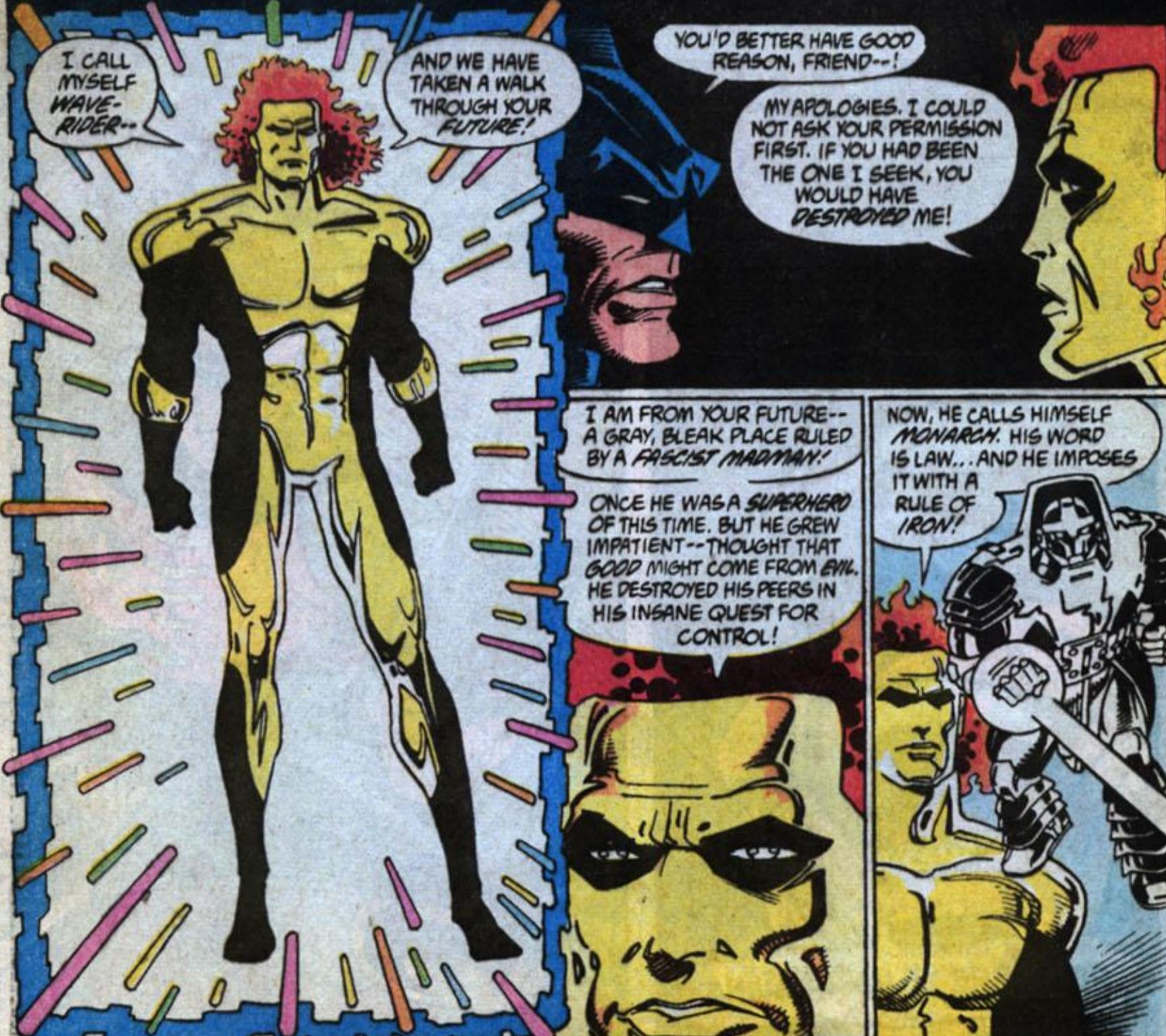
I...I FOUND IT. EVERYTHING  
WE NEED. ON FILE.

IS--IS HE...?

YES.

THE JOKE REALLY  
WAS ON HIM.





A HERO OF MY TIME--  
GONE BAD? WHO?

AND TAKE THE STEPS  
NECESSARY TO MAKE  
SURE HIS FUTURE  
NEVER HAPPENS!

MIS  
\$150  
DM

SING  
00.15

WE DO NOT KNOW. THAT IS  
WHY I HAVE ENTERED THE  
TIMESTREAM--SO I MAY  
JOURNEY BACK TO THE DAYS  
THAT PRODUCED HIM...  
DISCOVER WHO HE REALLY IS...

SO...IS IT  
ME?

I...DO NOT KNOW.  
I WILL DO...WHAT-  
EVER I MUST.

BUT I WILL DIE  
MYSELF BEFORE I  
RETURN TO THE  
NIGHTMARE HE  
HAS MADE OF  
LIFE!

YOU ARE STRONG--  
INTELLIGENT--WEALTHY.  
THE FORCE THAT DRIVES  
YOU MIGHT EASILY GIVE  
BIRTH TO MONARCH--  
IF IT WAS EVER  
CORRUPTED.

I MUST  
GO.

I HAVE A  
TASK I MUST  
COMPLETE!

BUT THE LINE OF YOUR LIFE RUNS  
TRUE. ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE  
REASON, FEAR YOU. YOUR  
CITY HAS CAUSE ONLY TO  
THANK YOU.

YOU  
ARE NOT  
MONARCH!

NO  
PARKING  
ALL  
WEEK

THERE ARE MANY HEROES IN THIS WORLD. ANY ONE OF THEM MIGHT HARBOR THE SEEDS OF MONARCH.

MY WAY WILL BE LONG AND DANGEROUS. BUT I TAKE COMFORT IN KNOWING WHATEVER ELSE IS AGAINST ME...

ME  
TOO.

"THE LINE OF YOUR LIFE RUNS TRUE..."

HIS WORDS ECHO IN MY HEAD AS I'M SWALLOWED BY THE NIGHT.

TIME IS ON MY SIDE..

THE WAR GOES ON!

THE END