ECLIPSO™ THE DARKNESS WITHIN

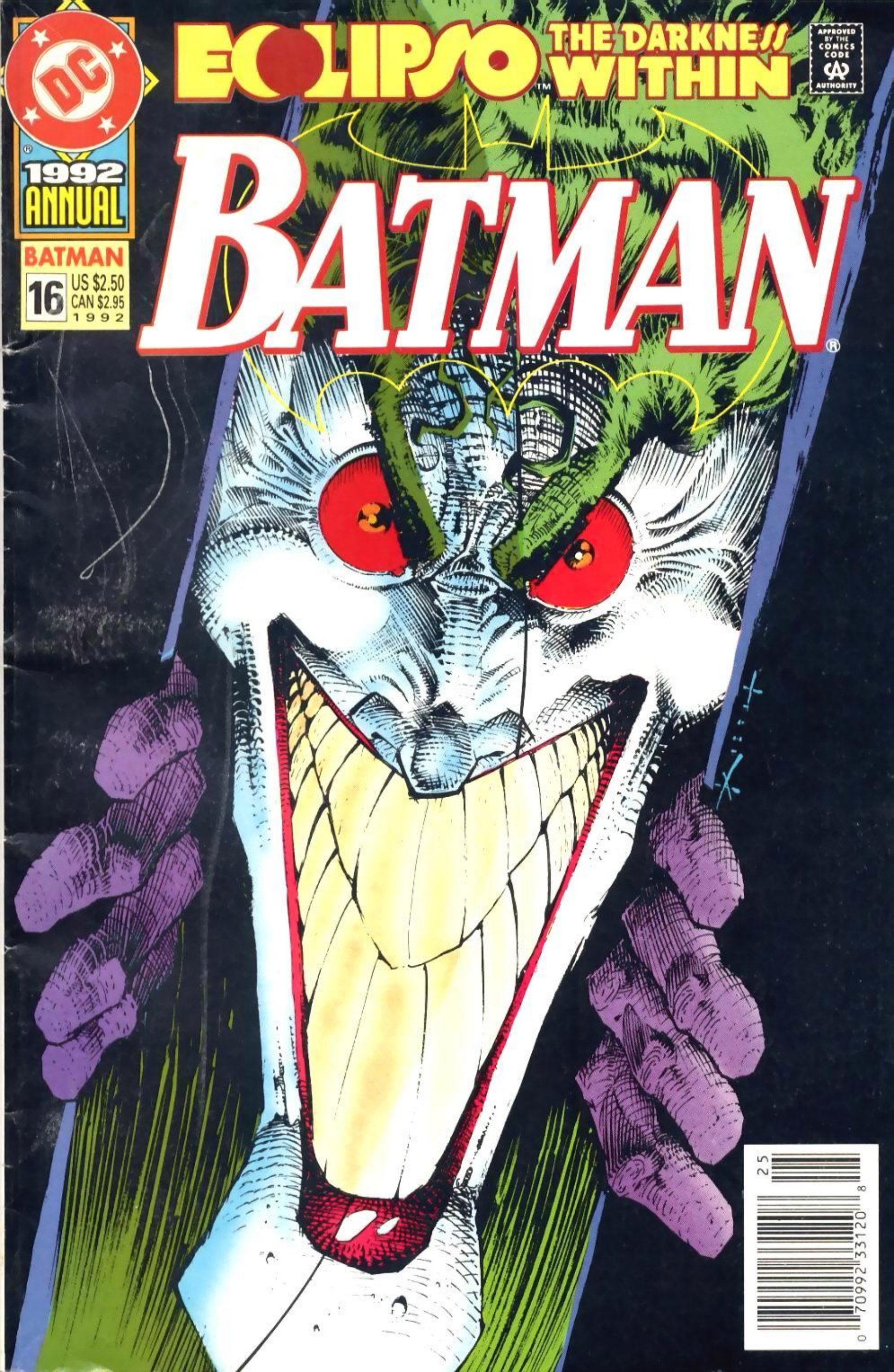
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

1992 ANNUAL

BATMAN

16 US $2.50 CAN $2.95 1992

BATMAN®



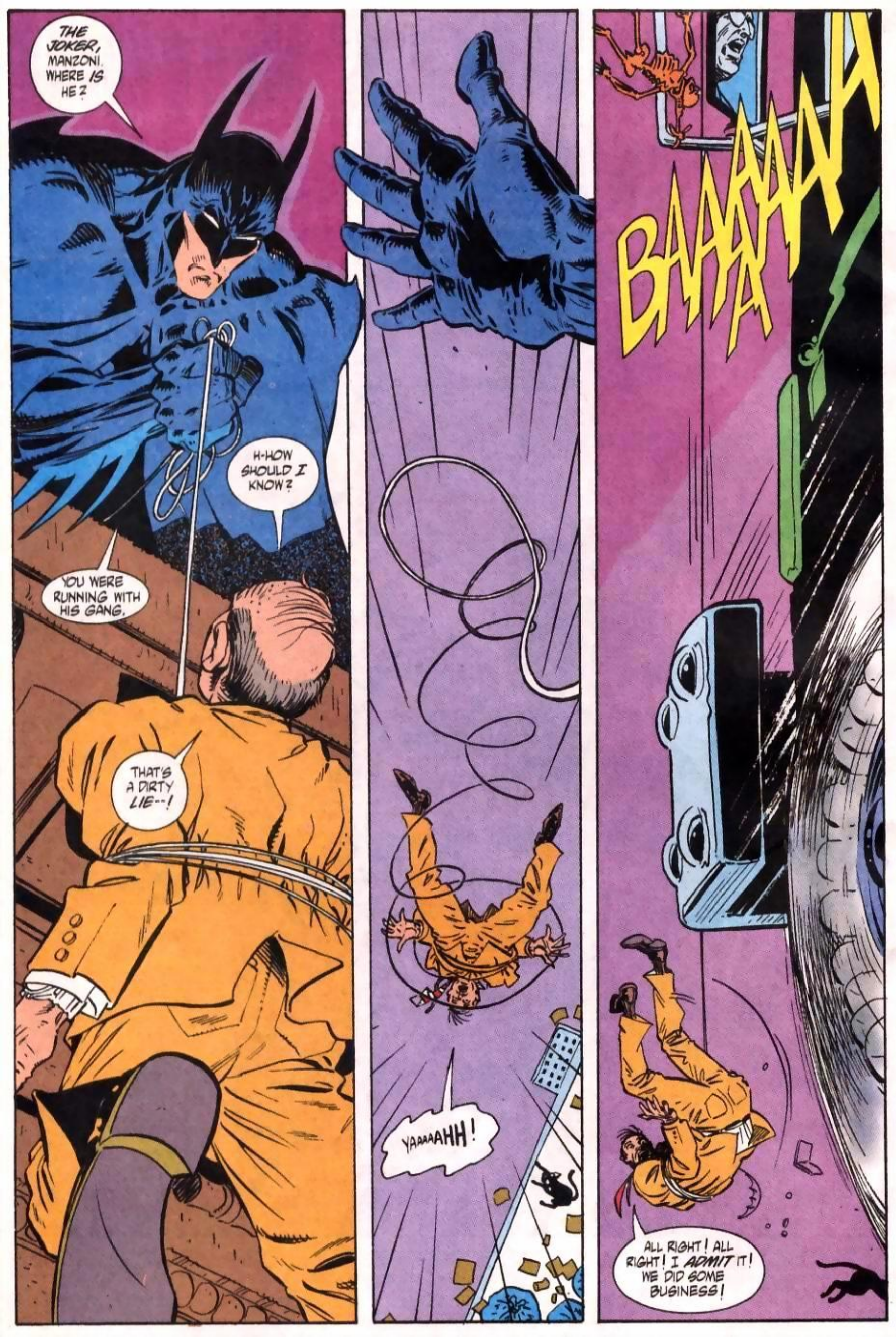
25
0 70992 33120 8

THE DARKNESS WITHIN

BY DARKNESS POSSESSED

BATMAN ANNUAL 16. Published annually by DC Comics Inc., 1325 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Copyright © 1992 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (212) 949-6850. **Printed in Canada**
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Bros. Inc. Company

~ HaCsA ~ nom deplume ~


THE JOKER, MANZONI. WHERE IS HE?
H-HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
YOU WERE RUNNING WITH HIS GANG.
THAT'S A DIRTY LIE--!
YAAAAAHH!
BAAAAAA
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I ADMIT IT! WE DID SOME BUSINESS!

VROOOOOMM
WELL?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS! YOU THINK IF I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE THERE? THE CREEP'S STILL GOT MY SHARE OF THE GUGGENHEIM HEIST--
I MEAN-- HE OWES ME SOME MONEY!
FORGET YOUR PERSONAL SCORES! I WANT HIM WORSE THAN YOU, MANZONI! IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING --ANYTHING AT ALL-- PUT OUT THE WORD SO I'LL HEAR IT.
AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS--UNTIL I PUT THE JOKER BACK IN ARKHAM, I'M GOING TO BE COMING DOWN EXTRA HARD ON THE WHOLE CRIMINAL FRATERNITY!
AAAAHHHHH!
SPREAD THE WORD!

--TELLING YOU, SMIFFY, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
SMIFFY'S BAR 'N' GRIDDLE
OPEN

IT WAS POSITIVELY SUPERNATURAL! ALL COMMISSIONER GORDON DID WAS HOLD THIS BLACK DIAMOND --AN' NEXT THING HE HAD SMOKE POURIN' OUTA EVERY ORIFICE!*
GET AWAY WITH YOU, BEN TURNER. YOU'VE HAD ONE TOO MANY TONIGHT!
*SEE DETECTIVE ANNUAL #5.

HONEST! AN' NEXT THING THERE'S THIS FIFTY-FOOT MONSTER STANDING THERE!
YEAH? SO WHY WASN'T IT ON THE NEWS?
THEY'RE KEEPING THE LID ON IT--DON'T WANT TO PANIC THE PUBLIC!

BOY, WITH POWER LIKE THAT, A MAN COULD RULE THE WORLD. AND I KNOW WHERE TO GET IT, TOO!
WHERE'S THAT, BEN?

OHH, NO! YOU DON'T TRICK ME LIKE THAT, SMIFFY! I'M A GOOD COP. I KNOW WHEN TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT!

WELL, DOWN THE HATCH--!

'NIGHT, SMIFFY.
WATCH YOUR STEP, PAL!

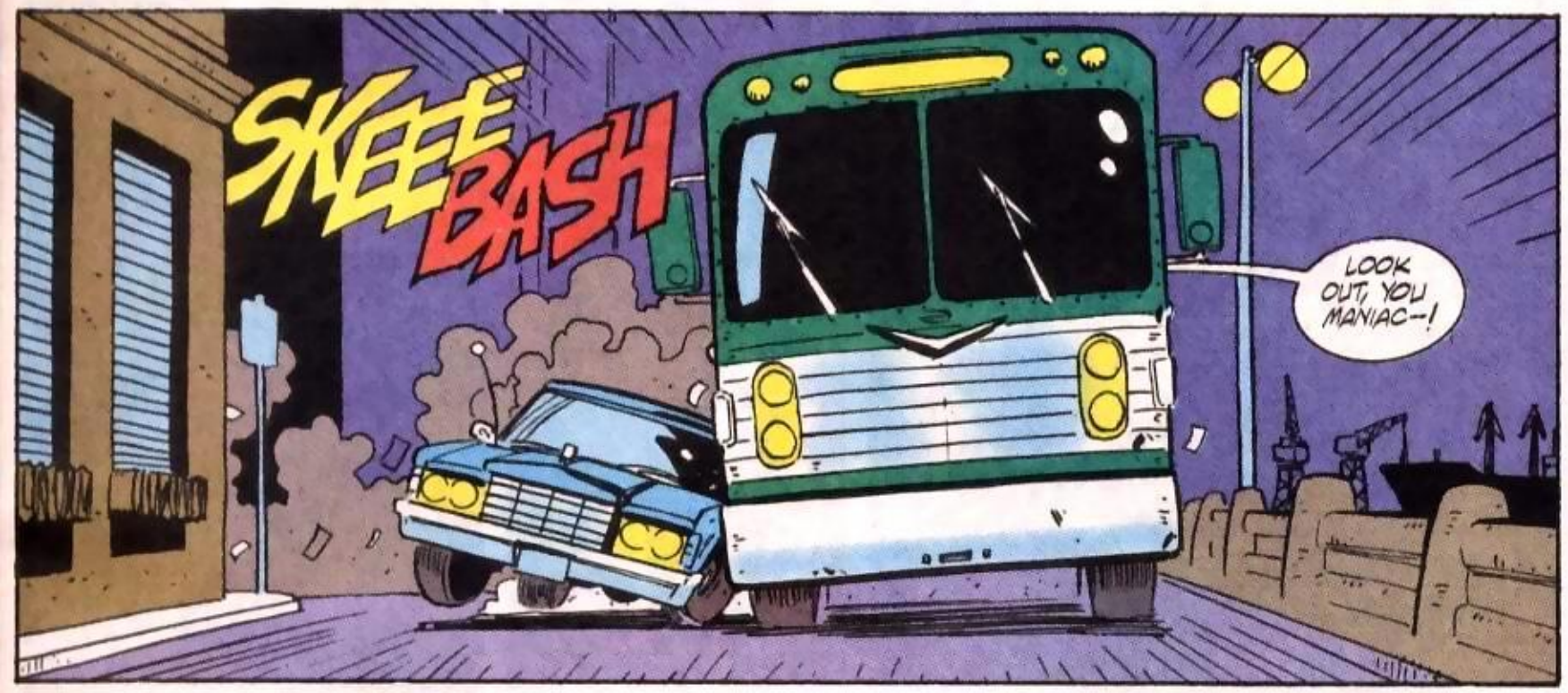
HEY! YOU!

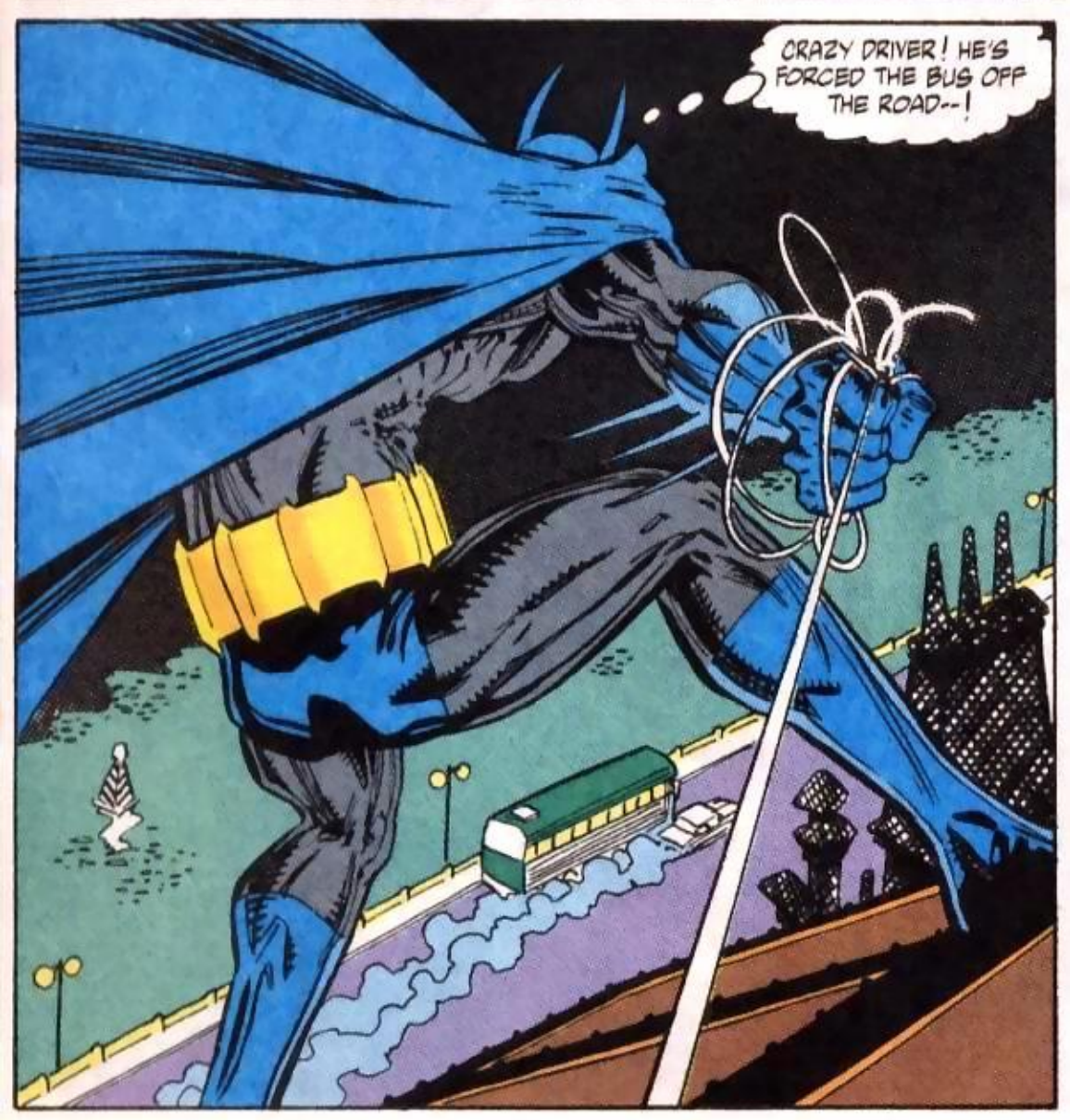
COULDN'T HELP LISTENIN' TO WHAT YOU WERE SAYIN' IN THERE. I KNOW A GENTLEMAN WHO'D BE VERY INTERESTED IN HEARING THAT STORY!
WELL, HE CAN WHISTLE! SHIC! I SAID TOO MUCH ALREADY!

I WASN'T ASKIN'...!
WAK

HOLY MIKE! THE BATMAN!

SKWEEEEEEEE
GET US OUTTA HERE!


SKEEE BASH
LOOK OUT, YOU MANIAC--!


CRAZY DRIVER! HE'S FORCED THE BUS OFF THE ROAD--!

KRAAASHH

SPLOOSH

DON'T PANIC, FOLKS!
WHADDYA MEAN, DON'T PANIC? WE'RE SINKING, YOU DUMMY!

OUT! HURRY!
ROK

SWIM FOR THE SHORE!

THE BUS IS TURNING OVER!
MY HUSBAND--! HE'S STILL IN THERE!

GOTHAM
WAXWO KS

GIMME A HAND WITH THAT DOOR--
JEAN PAUL
MARAT
DIED 1793

UUUHHHH..!
OH, MY HEAD..!

AAHHHHH!

CRASH

CHUNK
OHMYGOD--!

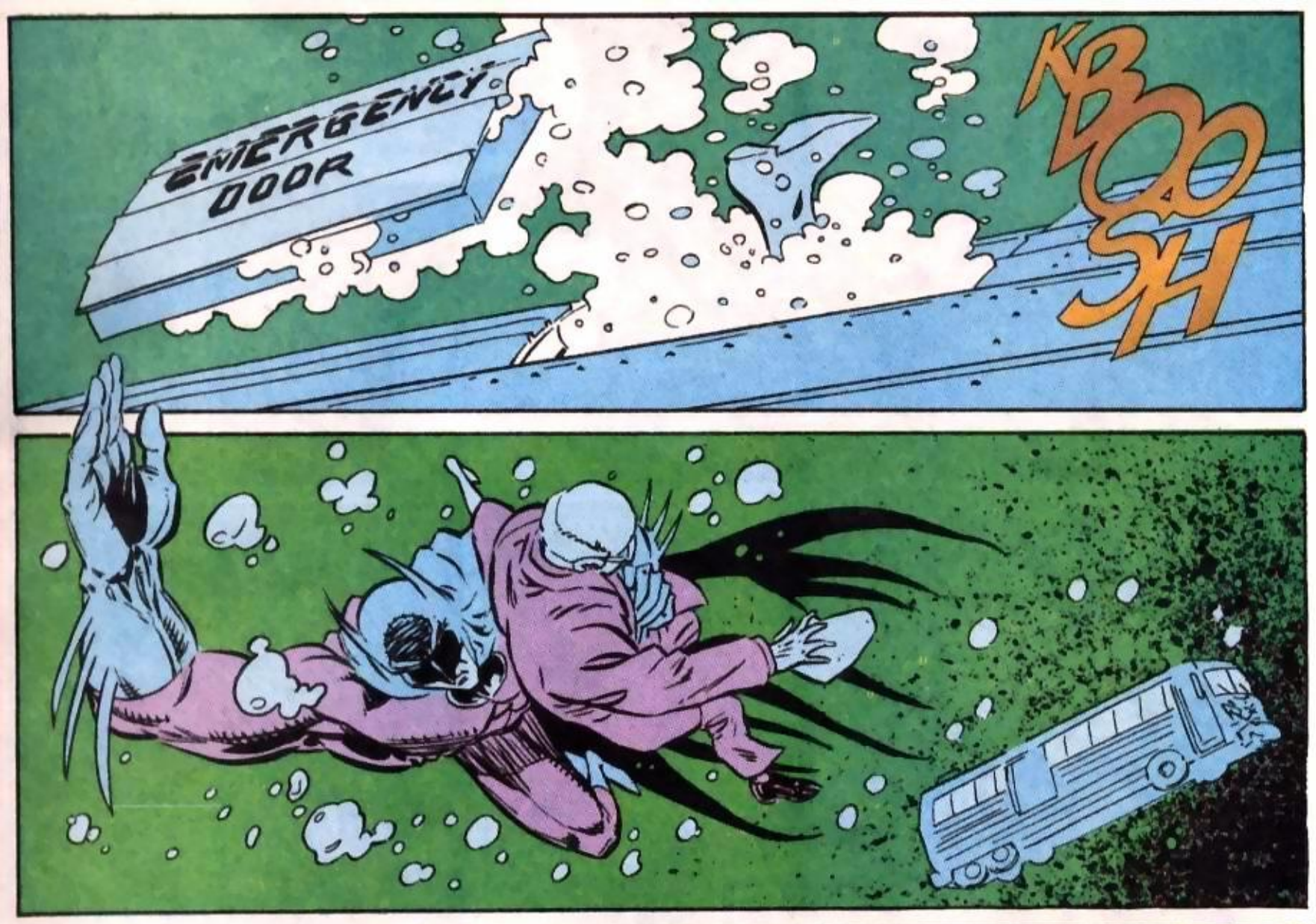
SHADDUP! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YA? THEY AIN'T REAL, YA STUPE! THIS IS A WAXWORKS!
WHAT...WHAT'M I DOING HERE?

YOU'RE GONNA TELL YOUR STORY TO THE BOSS. EVERYTHIN' YOU WAS BLABBIN' ABOUT IN THE BAR.
I'M A COP! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!
THE POLICE! OH, THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE COME, OSSIFER!
TORTURE CHAMBER

I WANT TO REPORT A DANGEROUS ESCAPED LUNATIC!

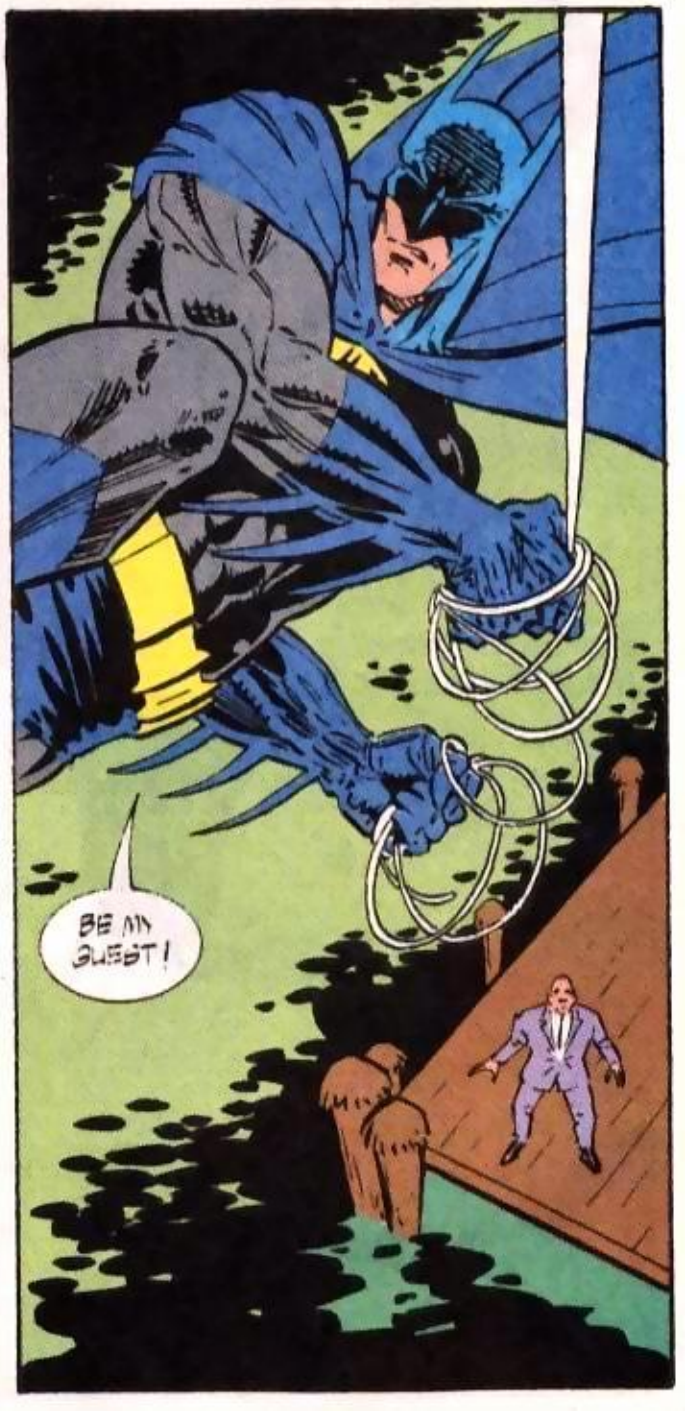
HAHAHAHAHA

HE'S TAKING IN WATER! HE DOESN'T HAVE LONG--!
HHHHHHHUUUUHHHH!


EMERGENCY DOOR
KBOOSH

HE'S GOT HIM! OH, THANK GOD!

BATMAN-- MY BRIEFCASE! IT'S STILL ON THE BUS! IT HAS SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS--
I KNOW IT'S A NUISANCE, BUT JUST ONE MORE DIVE...?
FSHH


BE MY GUEST!

WE HEARD HIM SHOOTIN' HIS MOUTH OFF ABOUT THIS MONSTER--SOUNDED LIKE THE SAME ONE CAME AFTER YOU THE NIGHT WE ESCAPED FROM ARKHAM!

WE FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO KNOW MORE!

TORTURE CHAMBER

YOU DID WELL, BOYS. HERE--HAVE A BONUS!

GEE, BOSS! THANKS!

SO, MY DEAR FLATFOOT--TELL ME SIMPLY EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS MONSTER!

YOU WON'T GET A WORD OUTTA ME, JOKER!

KREEK

AHHHH!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT--!

THERE ARE THESE BLACK DIAMONDS--THEY CONTAIN THE SPIRIT OF AN EVIL CREATURE CALLED ECLIPSO! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HOLD ONE WHEN YOU'RE FEELING ANGRY--

--AND YOU CAN RELEASE THE MONSTER!

I--I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THE MONSTER HAS TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON WHATEVER YOU'RE ANGRY AT!

FASCINATING! AND TELL ME--WHERE MIGHT I GET HOLD OF ONE OF THESE GEMS?

I'VE TOLD YOU ENOUGH! IF YOU THINK I'D LET THAT KIND OF POWER FALL INTO YOUR HANDS, YOU'RE CRAZY--!

YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, OFFICER.
AAAGGGHH!
THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW!
KREEK
P-PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME ANYMORE!
JUST SAY THE MAGIC WORDS--!
OKAY! THERE'S FIVE OF THEM-- THEY'RE BEING KEPT IN THE PROPERTY ROOM AT POLICE H.Q.!
FIVE? HMMM.
THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
KREEEEK
ONE FOR LUCK...?
AAIIIEEE!
Y-YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME! I SWEAR THAT'S ALL I KNOW!
ALL RIGHT. WE HAD TO BE SURE.
CUT HIM LOOSE, BOYS!

YOU'RE LETTING ME GO...?
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO, I'M AFRAID YOU'D GO STRAIGHT TO THE COPS.
NO, I WOULDN'T--!

YOU ARE A COP, DEAR BOY! OF COURSE YOU WOULD!
I--I'D GIVE YOU AN HOUR TO GET AWAY...!

HOW SWEET!

NO, I'VE DONE ALL THE RUNNING I INTEND TO FOR THE MOMENT. IT'LL HAVE TO BE YOU THAT GOES--
FWSSSSSHHHHH

NEVER MIND. AT LEAST YOU DIED WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!
BUCK --LEFTY! TAKE HIM OUT AND PLUMP HIM!
THUD

I MUST HAVE THOSE DIAMONDS!

BUT HOW, BOSS? THEY'RE LOCKED UP IN THE COP STATION!

QUITE SIMPLE. WE'RE GOING TO WALK RIGHT IN AND TAKE THEM--

OR, RATHER, YOU TWO ARE.

THE DEATH OF BUGSY BUNITO

STRIP DOWN, BOYS! YOU'RE JOINING GOTHAM'S FINEST!

DUMP HIM, HE SAYS! WHERE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY!

I AIN'T WALKIN' ALL OVER TOWN WITH HIM, THAT'S FOR SURE!

GEDDOWN, BUCK!

JEEZ, THAT WAS CLOSE! IF *HE'S* ON THE PROWL, WE GOTTA GET RIDDA THIS STIFF *PRONTO!*

BUT WHERE? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM 'ROUND HERE!

I GOT AN IDEA!

THERE'S A TRAIN COMIN'. QUICK--GIMME A HAND!

BAAAAAA

WUMP

CLAKCLAK CLAKCLAK CLAKCLAK

THAT'LL TAKE HIM CLEAR ACROSS GOTHAM --SAVE US A LOT OF LEGWORK!

YOU'RE A *GENIUS*, LEFTY!

49
G.C.P.D.

JUST CLOSING, GUYS. HOW CAN I HELP?

THE BLACK DIAMONDS! GET THEM!

D-DO YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THESE THINGS ARE? YOU GUYS MUST BE INSANE--
NO--

BUT THE BOSS IS!
WAP
GCPD

MAN! THAT WAS EASY AS STEALIN' WELFARE CHECKS FROM YER GRANDMA!
HOLY HECK! I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEIN' HERE!
BEEP BEEP
G.C.P.D

HEY! DAN--KEEF!
WHAT'S THE SCAM, MAN? DON'T TELL ME YOU TWO JOINED THE COPS...!
DO WE KNOW THIS GUY, er... FRANKIE?
MY NAME AIN'T FR--uhh, I MEAN, I NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE, uh ...JACK!
WHAT'S WITH THE JACK AN' FRANKIE BULL? C'MON, GUYS --THIS IS ME, JOHNNY MANZONI!

WE DUNNO ANY MANZONI! NOW GET LOST BEFORE WE RUN YA IN!
C'MON, BILL! uh, I MEAN DAVE!
IT'S JACK, YA DUMMY!
UHH, SORRY, DAN!

WHAGGAMATTER WITH THESE GUYS? WHO ARE THEY TRYIN' TO KID?
THEY DIDN'T LOOK NONE TOO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, JOHNNY, THAT'S FOR SURE!
WAITAMINUTE! THOSE TWO CLOWNS USED TO BE WITH ME IN THE JOKER'S MOB, BEFORE THE GUGGENHEIM HEIST!
COULD BE THEY'VE TAKEN UP WITH HIM AGAIN...!

VROOOOMM
AFTER 'EM, GOOFBALL! DON'T LOSE THE BUMS!
HELL! HE'S FOLLOWIN' US!

MARCIE! WILL YOU PLEASE COME DOWN OFF THAT LEDGE!
NO! I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, WOODY! YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE!
DON'T BE SILLY! OF COURSE I LOVE YOU. I--I DIDN'T MEAN THOSE THINGS I SAID...!
COME DOWN, DARLING--PLEASE! GIVE ME YOUR HAND. YOU MIGHT FALL!

AS IF YOU'D CARE! KEEP BACK FROM ME--
EEEEEEEEE
BAAAAAAAA
MARCIE--!

BATMAN--!

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

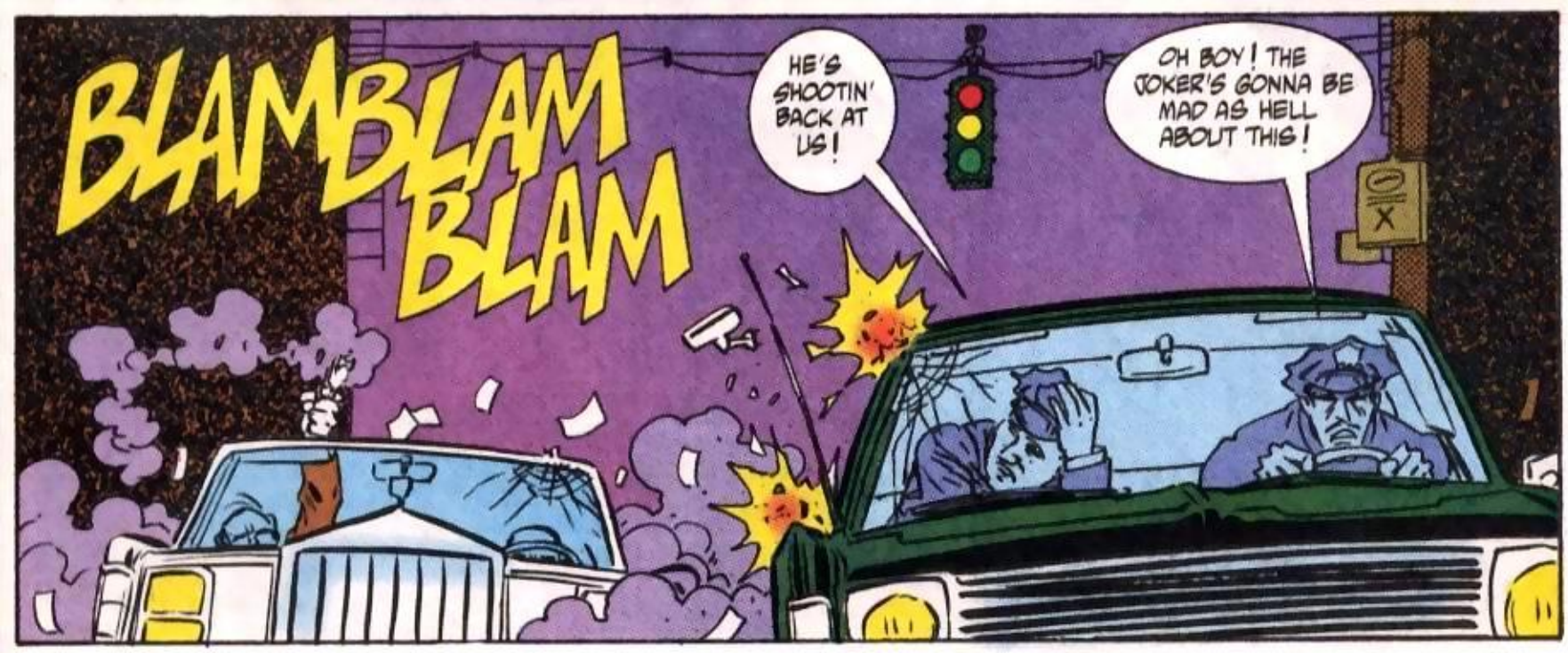
THANK YOU, OH THANK YOU! IT--IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I DIDN'T MEAN--
GOOD!

THUP
FACE FROZEN IN A GROTESQUE GRIN--
IT CAN ONLY BE THE JOKER'S WORK!

HEY, DAN-- KEEP! WHAT'S THE GAME? WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' TO HIDE?

CAN'T TAKE THE HINT, CAN YA, MANZONI?
BLAM BLAM
LOOK OUT--!

SPAK
THEY'RE DEFINITELY TRYIN' TO HIDE SOMETHIN', GOOFBALL! KEEP AFTER 'EM!

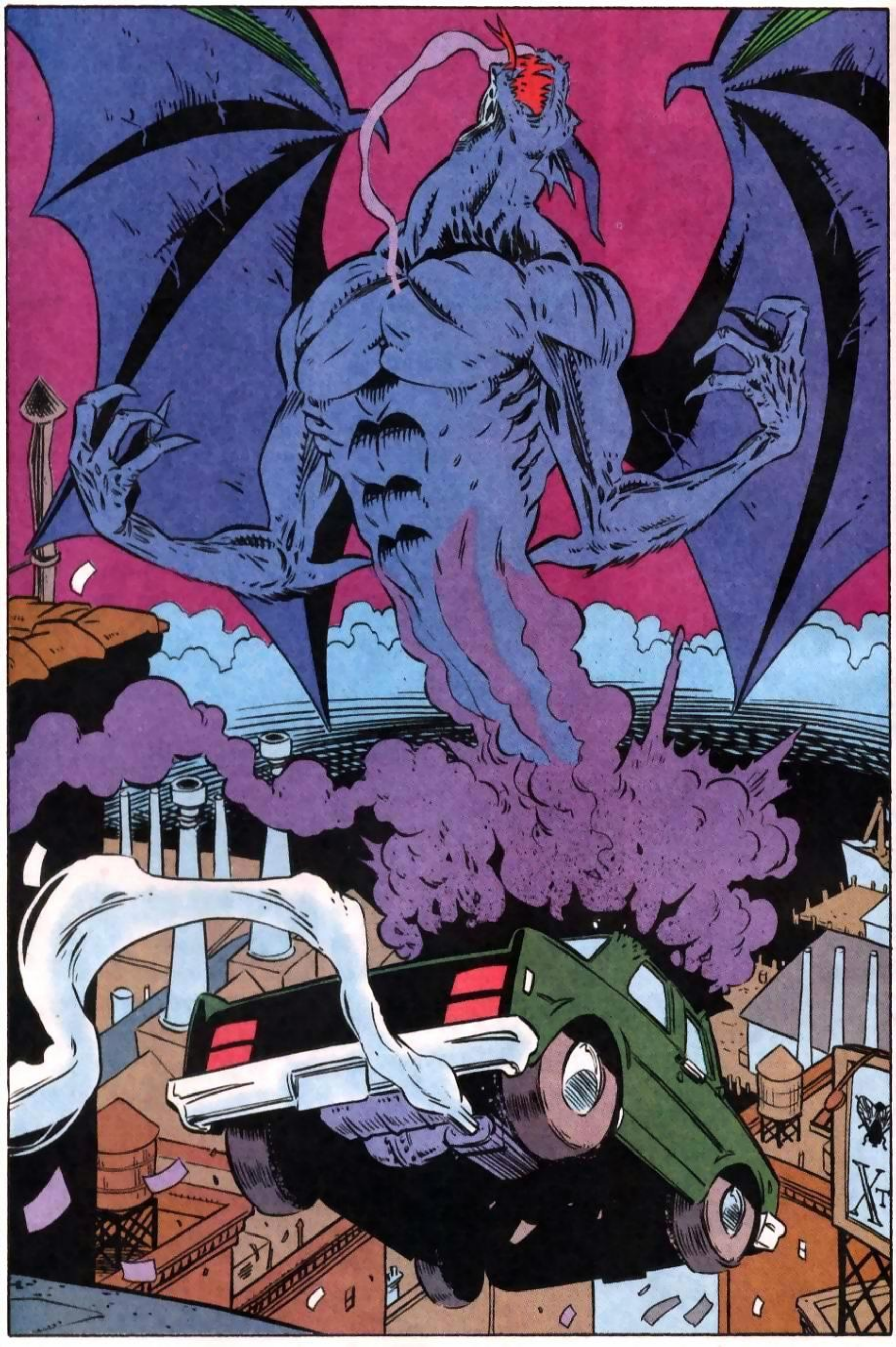

BLAMBLAM BLAM
HE'S SHOOTIN' BACK AT US!
OH BOY! THE JOKER'S GONNA BE MAD AS HELL ABOUT THIS!

I KNOW HOW TO GET HIM OFF OUR TAIL, DAN!
ALL I GOTTA DO IS THINK ANGRY THOUGHTS ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?

WHAT ARE YA DOIN', YA DODO? PUT THAT THING AWAY--!

HUUUUUUU--!

OH NO! OH NO--!


XT

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

IT'S TURNIN'--!
IT'S COMING BACK!
HOLD TIGHT!

BUMPPABUMPABUMPABUMA
IT'S NO GOOD, GOOFBALL! IT AIN'T GIVIN' UP!

HEY, I KNOW HIM! HE'S A COP!
YES... I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HIM BEFORE! HE WAS THERE THE NIGHT JIM GORDON EVOKED THE ECLIPSO BEAST.
I WONDER IF THAT HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH HIS DEATH...?
POLICE
SEE THIS--
BOTH SHOULDERS DISLOCATED--SIGNS OF CHAFING ON THE WRISTS AND ANKLES. THIS MAN'S BEEN TORTURED!
WHO'D TORTURE A COP?
THE JOKER!
WHAT'S THIS?
SOMETHING UNDER HIS FINGERNAILS...
WAX...
SOME KIND OF PIGMENT IN IT...LIKE A FLESH TONE.
ATTENTION ALL UNITS--
THERE HAS BEEN AN ARMED ROBBERY, POLICE HQ PROPERTY OFFICE! FIVE BLACK DIAMONDS ARE MISSING!
THE ECLIPSO GEMS! THIS IS ALL BEGINNING TO TIE TOGETHER TOO WELL! IF THE JOKER'S GOT HIS HANDS ON THEM--!

KARRRUUNNCHHHHH

YAAAAHHHHH!
PUT US DOWN!
JEEZ! I CAN'T LOOK!

WOULDJA LOOK AT THAT--!
AN ECLIPSO BEAST!

NOOOOOOOOOO

NOTHING I CAN DO FOR THOSE POOR DEVILS--!

KRASSHH

FORTUNATELY I'M STILL CARRYING THAT SOLAR FLASHLIGHT BRUCE GORDON GAVE ME! SOLAR ENERGY IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN DESTROY AN ECLIPSO!

MANZONI!

WE WAS...TAILIN' J-JOKER'S MEN... S-SUDDENLY THIS MONSTER COMES FLY-FLYIN'...UNH...

THIS CONFIRMS MY WORST FEARS! THE BLACK DIAMONDS ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE MOST DANGEROUS LUNATIC IN GOTHAM!

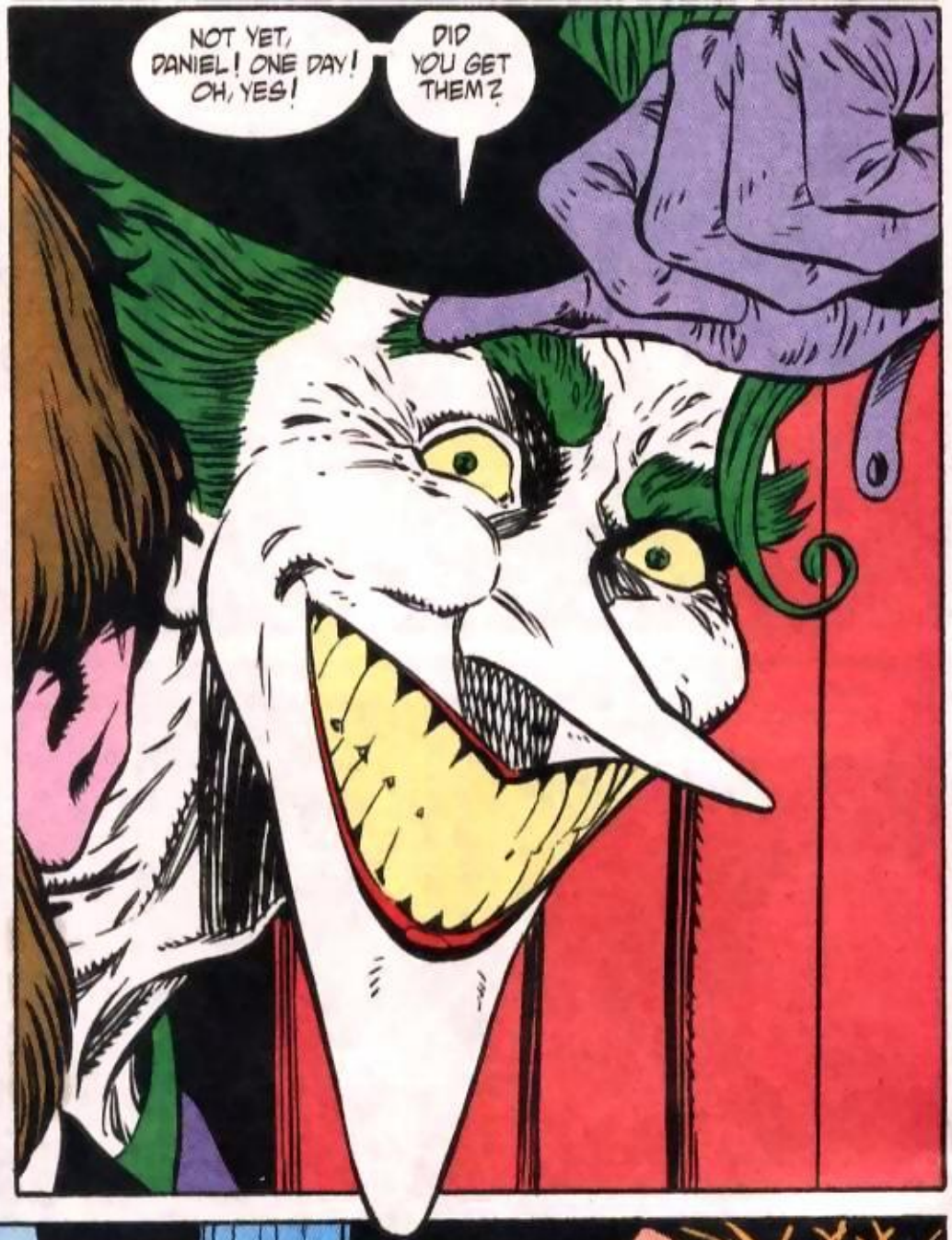
IT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE I FIND HIM!

IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT MAYBE IF I RIDE THE TRAIN BACK I CAN SPOT WHERE THEY DUMPED THE BODY FROM.

BAAAAAAAAAA

400 400

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline



YES...
STRANGE TO THINK ANYTHING SO TINY CAN HOLD SUCH FRIGHTENING POWER...
ARE YOU IN THERE, ECLIPSO?
GET READY! YOU'LL SOON BE DANCING TO THE JOKER'S TUNE!
HAHAHAH

GOTHAM WAXWORKS
KLACKLACKLACKLACK

WAX...

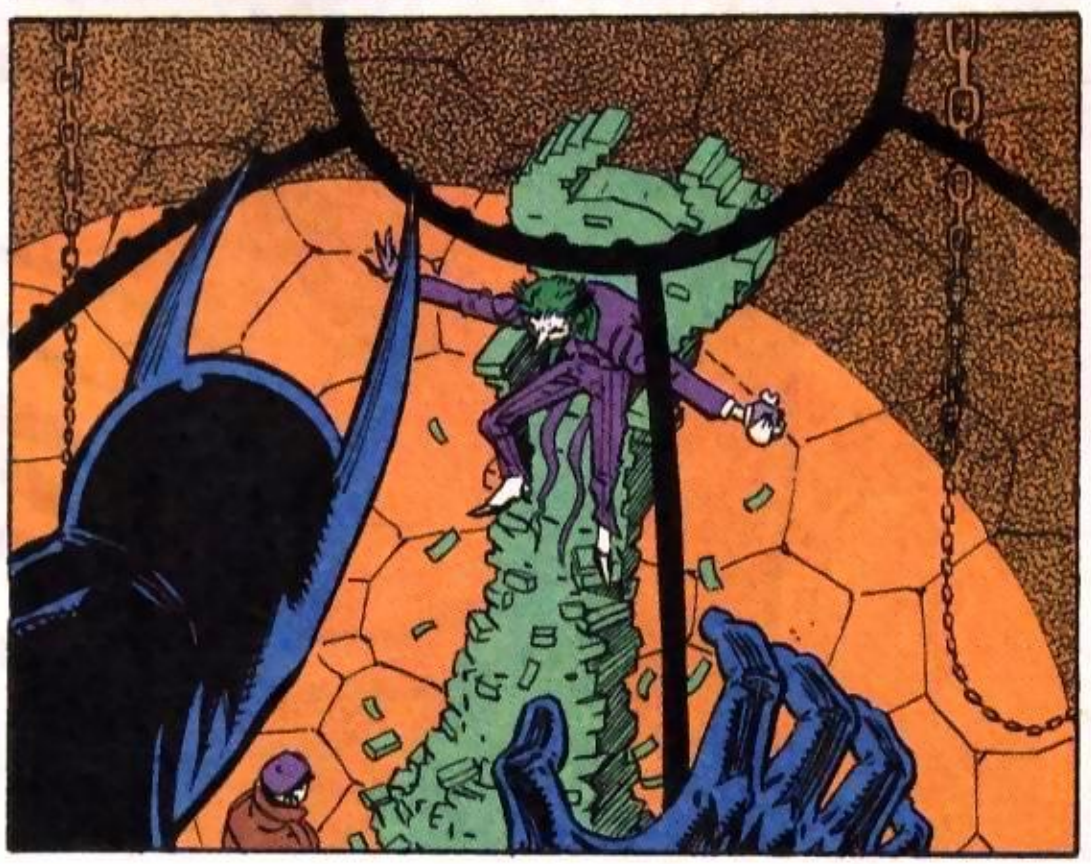
CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW EXCRUCIATINGLY TEDIOUSLY *BORING* IT IS FOR A MAN OF MY INTELLECT TO BE COOPED UP HERE DAY AFTER DAY...?

CAN YOU COMPREHEND HOW *FRUSTRATING* IT IS TO BE SITTING ON TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS AND NOT BEING ABLE TO SPEND A *CENT* OF IT?

AND *WHY*?

BECAUSE IF I SO MUCH AS STICK MY NOSE OUTSIDE THE DOOR, EVERY COP IN GOTHAM WILL BE DOWN ON ME LIKE VULTURES!

BUT WITH THESE PRECIOUS STONES AT LAST I HAVE THE ANSWER TO ALL MY PROBLEMS! IF THE COPS GET IN MY WAY, WHY, I'LL JUST *WISH* THEM AWAY!



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

CEASE FIRE, YOU HALFWITS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

IT WILL BE A PERFECT WAY TO TRY OUT MY NEW TOY!

HE STILL HAS ONE OF THE DIAMONDS!

I HATE YOU, BATMAN! I HATE EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR--EVERYTHING YOU ARE! I HATE YOUR COWL AND YOUR CAPE AND YOUR STUPID POINTY EARS--!

JOKER! DON'T BE A FOOL! YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE FORCES YOU'RE TAMPERING WITH!

NEVER MIND! I HAVE THE REMEDY HERE--

NO YOU DON'T!

BLAM SPAK

JOKER! YOUR EYES-- YOUR FACE..!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? THOUGHT YOU WAS SUPPOSED TO CREATE A MONSTER, NOT TURN INTA ONE!

WAKK
THE JOKER IS NO MORE, FOOL!
I AM ECLIPSO!

KRASH
AHHHHHH!

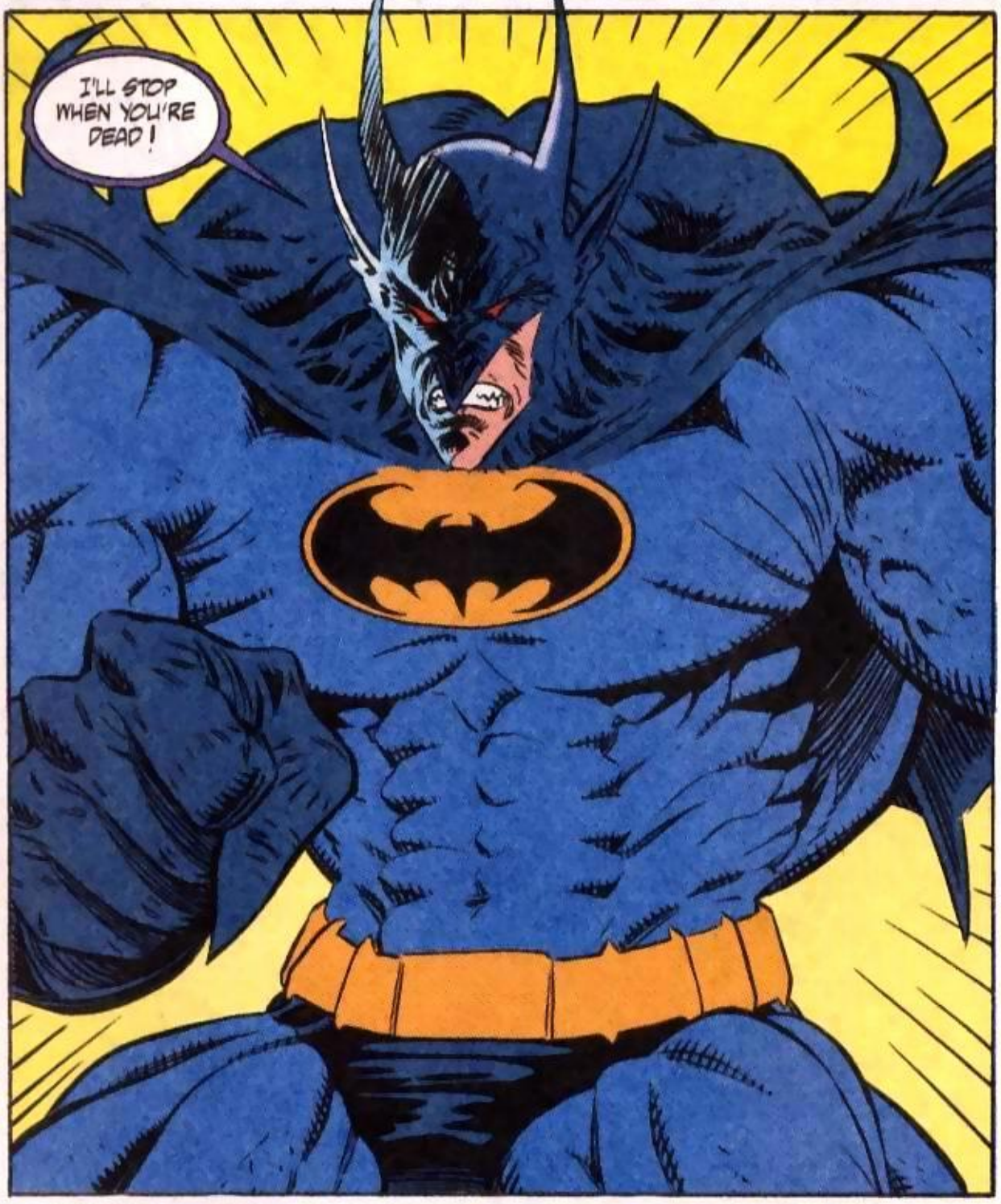
AND NOW YOUR TIME HAS COME AS WELL, BATMAN!
WITHOUT A SOLAR WEAPON HE'LL CRUSH ME LIKE AN INSECT! THEN ALL THE DIAMONDS WILL BE HIS AGAIN!

KRASHHH
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STAND UP TO ECLIPSO!

WAIT! I'M WRONG! THERE IS ANOTHER POWER ON EARTH WHO CAN MATCH ECLIPSO--
ECLIPSO HIMSELF!

I NEED ONLY DIRECT MY ANGER--

NO! STOP--!


I'LL STOP WHEN YOU'RE DEAD!

THIS IS CRAZY! THEY'RE BOTH AT IT NOW!

KRASHHHH

VENTRILOQUIST
CLUB
Open
Nite!
BZZZ

JEEZ! THEY'RE KNOCKIN' THE HELL OUT OF EACH OTHER! NOTHIN' SEEMS TO HURT EITHER OF 'EM!
LEAVE 'EM TO SLUG IT OUT--

COPS WILL BE HERE BEFORE LONG! THE JIG'S UP! LET'S TAKE THE CASH AND BEAT IT!

RRRIPPP

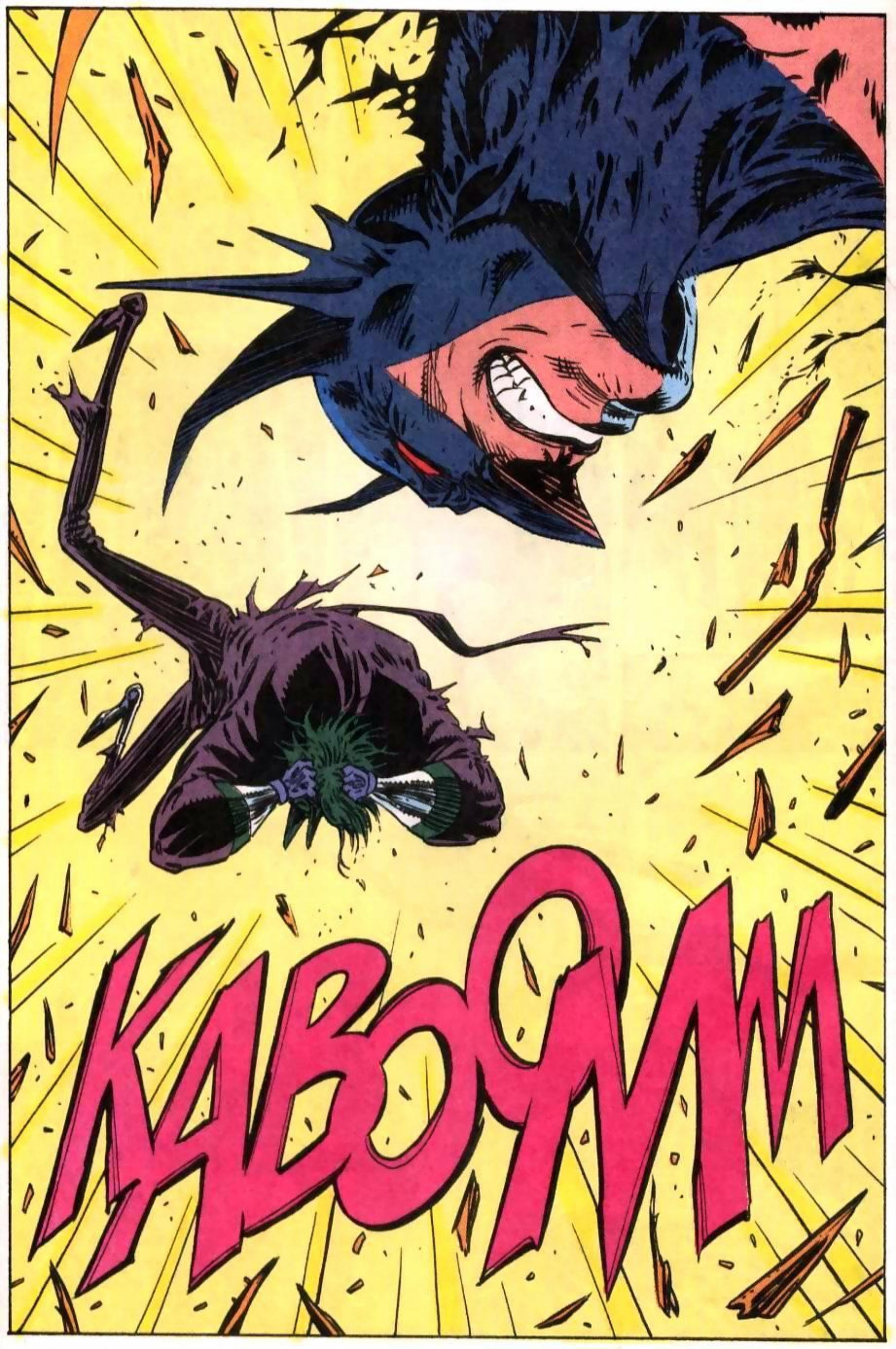
THIS MADNESS MUST END! YOU MUST DIE!

YOU UNDERESTIMATE OUR POWER, ECLIPSO!
BAM

LET ME GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION!
WAP
THIS IS ABSURD! I'M FIGHTING AGAINST MYSELF--
THUD
--AND I CANNOT STOP!
BAAAAAAAAAA

SKRRRRRRRR
THUD
SKEERUNCH
UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SPELL WHICH IMPRISONED ME IN THE BLACK DIAMOND I CANNOT BE FREE UNTIL I HAVE CARRIED OUT THE REVENGE OF HIM WHO SET ME LOOSE !

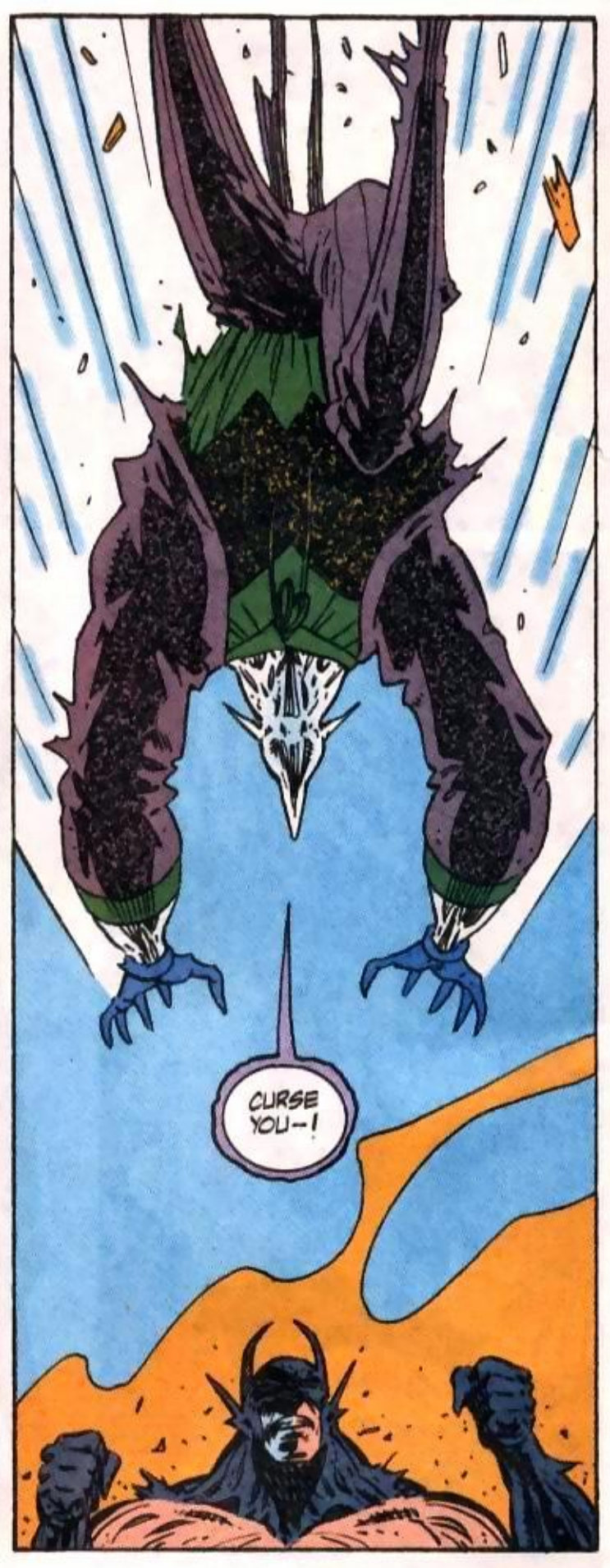
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline


KABOOM

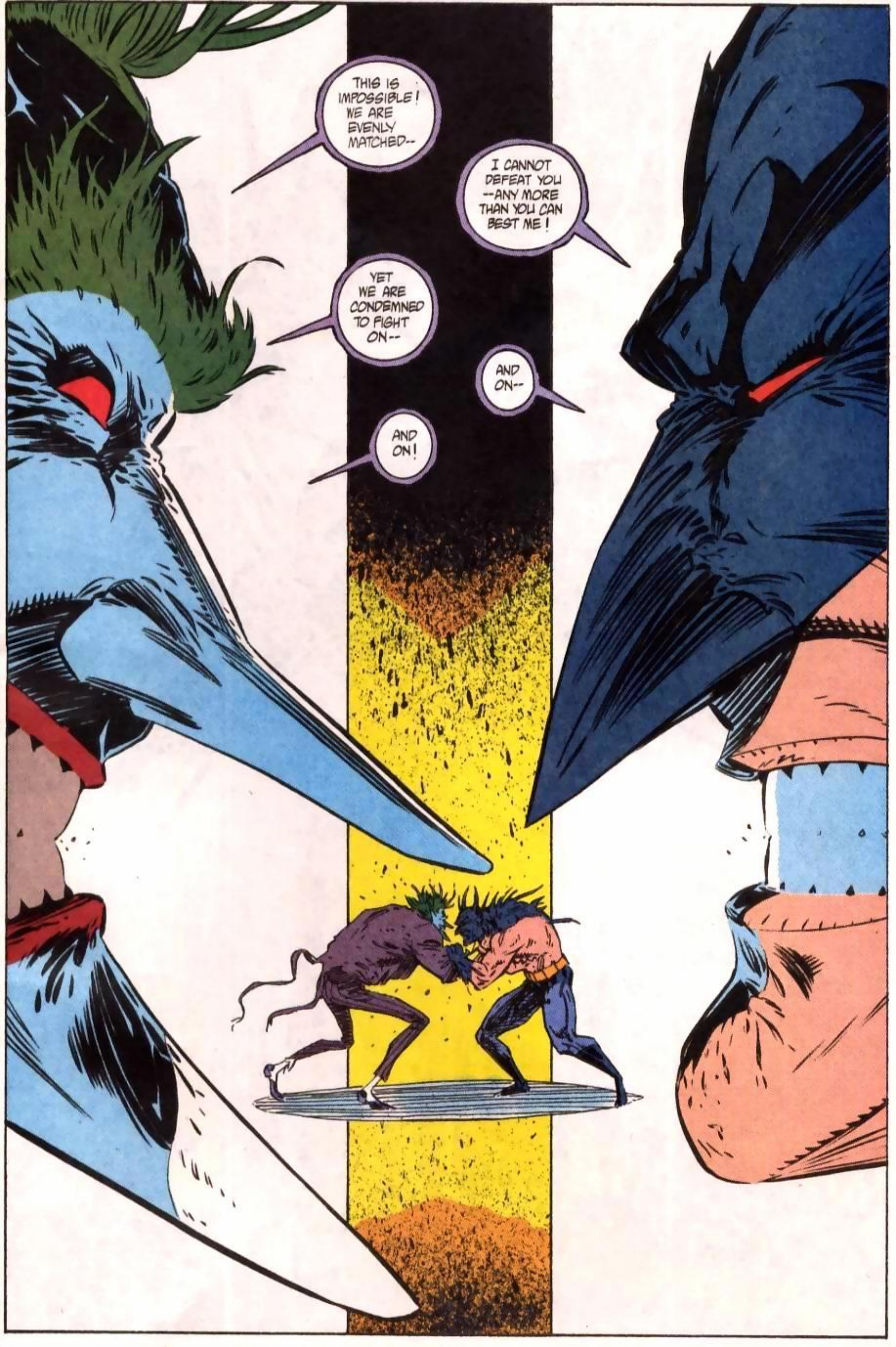
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

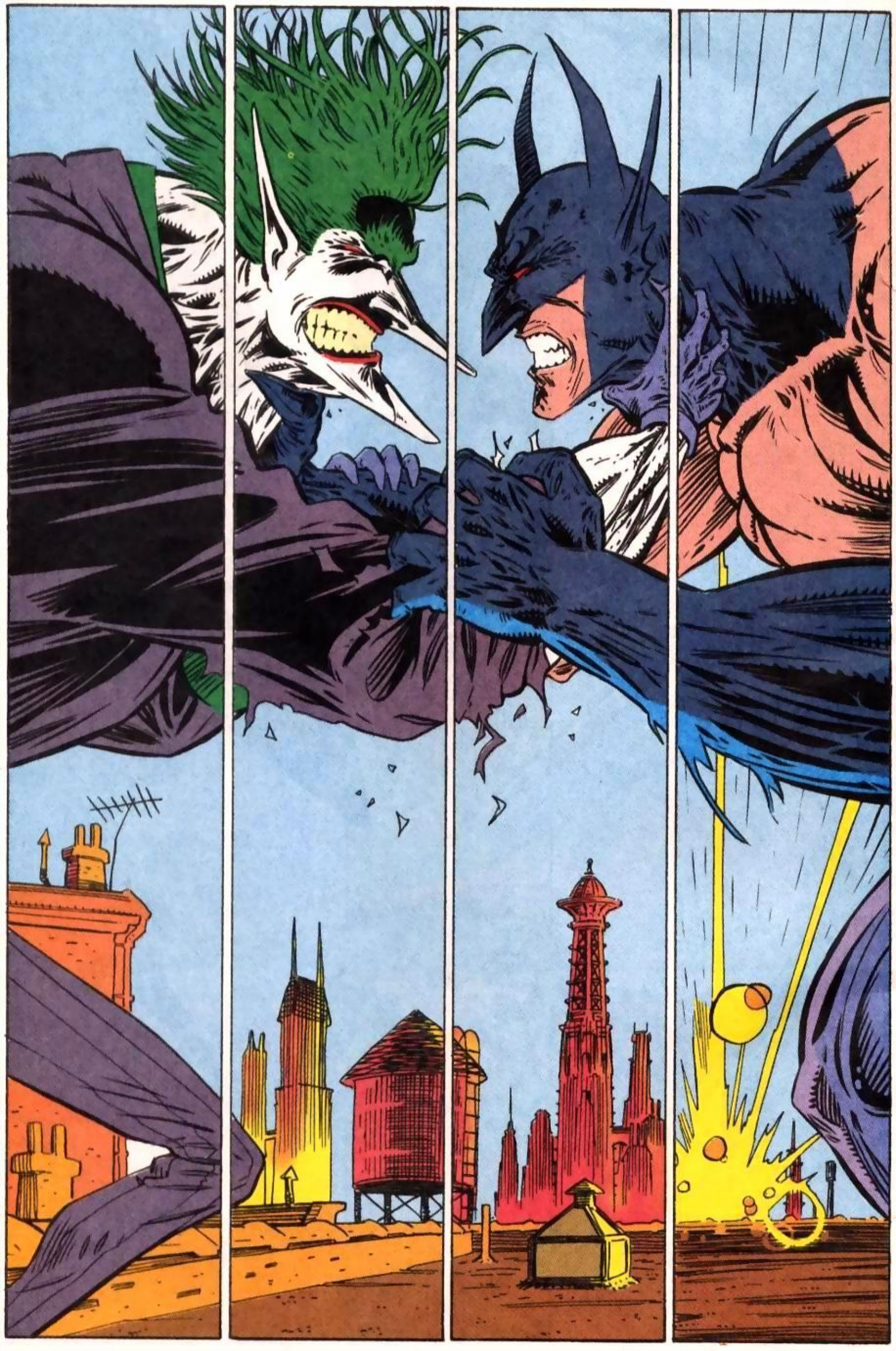
KRUMPP

WUMPP

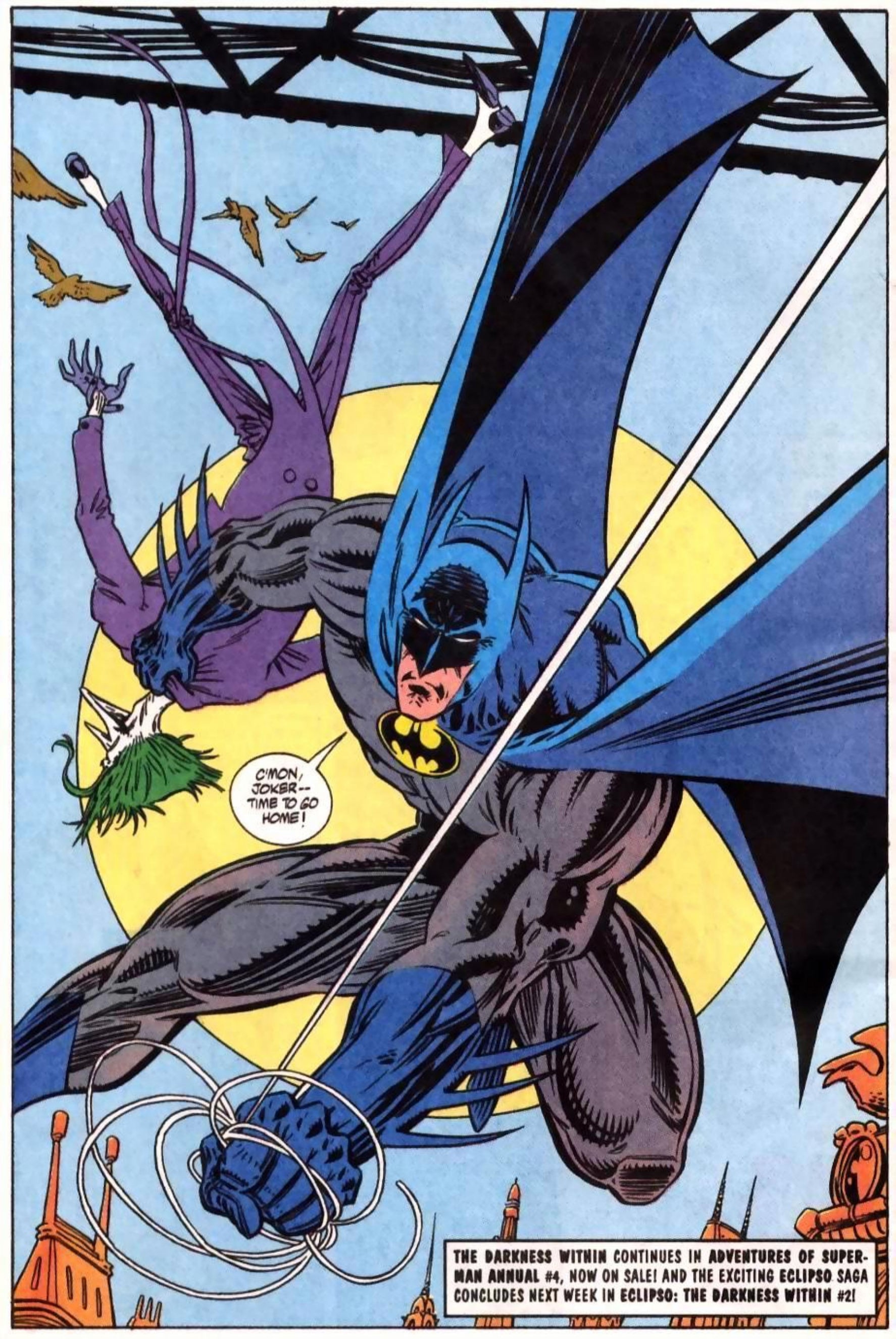

CURSE YOU--!

BAM


THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE EVENLY MATCHED--
I CANNOT DEFEAT YOU --ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN BEST ME!
YET WE ARE CONDEMNED TO FIGHT ON--
AND ON--
AND ON!



THE SUN! NO--!
WHAAAATTTT--?
WHERE AM I?
I'M NOT QUITE SURE, JOKER, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU'RE GOING--
UNGG!
BACK TO ARKHAM!
SOK
I'LL TAKE THIS!
MY PLAN WORKED. WE MUST'VE FOUGHT UNTIL DAWN--WHEN THE POWER OF THE SUN DROVE OUT ECLIPSO!
FSHHHHH


C'MON, JOKER-- TIME TO GO HOME!
THE DARKNESS WITHIN CONTINUES IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #4, NOW ON SALE! AND THE EXCITING ECLIPSO SAGA CONCLUDES NEXT WEEK IN ECLIPSO: THE DARKNESS WITHIN #2!