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The eye of the beholder



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Stay Motivated

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THE TRICK IS, YOU
CALL IT FOR 'EM...

WATCH IT NOW...

Y'SEE? YOU
CAN'T TELL...

IT WORKS
EVERY TIME...

YOU CAN'T
LOSE...

TAKE IT.

GO AHEAD.
I GOT PLENTY
MORE.

ALWAYS
HAVE.

ALWAYS
WILL.

NO... DON'T...
I DON'T...

MMMM...
HARVEY?

...DON'T WANT
IT... DON'T...

HARVEY-- ARE
YOU OKAY--?

HARVEY--
WAKE UP!

MY GOD!
WHAT--?

IT WAS A DREAM,
HARVEY. A BAD ONE.
YOU CRIED OUT.
WOKE ME.

IT WAS ABOUT
YOUR FATHER,
WASN'T IT?

I THINK
SO...

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN. I TOLD
YOU NOT TO VISIT HIM. HE'S EVIL. AND
HE'LL NEVER CHANGE.

BUT HE'S SO OLD... SO FRAIL.
I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD HURT
ME ANYMORE...

I FIGURED WE COULD BURY
OUR DIFFERENCES... BEFORE
IT WOULD BE TOO LATE...

HE GAVE ME
A GIFT...
A SILVER
DOLLAR.

AFTER THIRTY YEARS.
HE FINALLY GAVE YOU
SOMETHING. A LEGACY.
A DOLLAR.

GILDA -- DON'T. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
ABOUT HIM. I'VE FELT IT, TOO.

MUCH
WORSE.

NOW...
TOUCHING.

HE TRIED TO MAKE
IT BETTER. I HONESTLY
BELIEVE HE TRIED. BUT
HE ONLY MADE IT
WORSE.



I wonder what makes them do it. More often than not, that's the key.

Find the motive, and everything else falls into place.

DECADENCE

GRANDFATHER OF 20 FOUND MURDERED

GOTHAM
BLADE

SLASHER ATTACKS SPINSTER

SUPERIOR
YOUTH
SPRING
WITH
VIBES

GOTHAM'S
SENIOR
SLASHER
STILL AT

I try to put myself in their positions. Get inside their heads.

Think like them. Act like them. For a moment, become them.

I try. It makes me sick. I can't. Not yet.

I still have a lot to learn.

Till then, I observe. I read the papers. I visit the scene of the crime. A little help from friends inside the police department gets me access to their witness interviews.

I mix it all up. And sometimes, it tells me something.

For the past weeks it's told me that senior citizens are being murdered. Sixteen butchered so far.

It told me who the most likely suspect is.

Tonight it tells me where to expect the next attack.

SNIFF
SNIFF...

REALLY, MASTER BRUCE. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE WASHED THAT OUTFIT?

EVEN IF YOU INTEND TO BE A "CREATURE OF THE NIGHT" - THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO SMELL LIKE ONE!

NOW, COME ALONG -- OFF WITH THAT COSTUME!

SORRY,
ALFRED--

I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OUT.

AND HEAVEN HELP ANY CRIMINALS DOWNWIND.



what a town.

For three weeks,
the only story
worth a nickel
in Gotham's
been the senior
slasher.

The tabloids have latched
onto it like it was the
Holy Grail of circulation

Commissioner Thomas is
screaming for an
arrest.

JAMES GORDON
CAPTAIN

The mayor's vowing vengeance
on the killer who's "robbing
this city of some of its
most valued citizens."

"Valued
citizens."

JAMES GORDON,
CAPTAIN

Last month, no one seemed
concerned that half of them
were living on fixed incomes,
in condemned buildings, on
a diet of PET FOOD...

They were ignored...invisible...

But once they start getting knocked
off... splattering their blood in our
fair city's streets...

THEN they become
"valued citizens."

YO,
CAPTAIN!

BLADE

CAPTAIN
GORDON!

GOT A REPORT OF SOME
KINDA DISTURBANCE ON THE
EAST SIDE. OVER AT THE
GOTHAM NURSING HOME.
WANNA TAKE A RIDE?

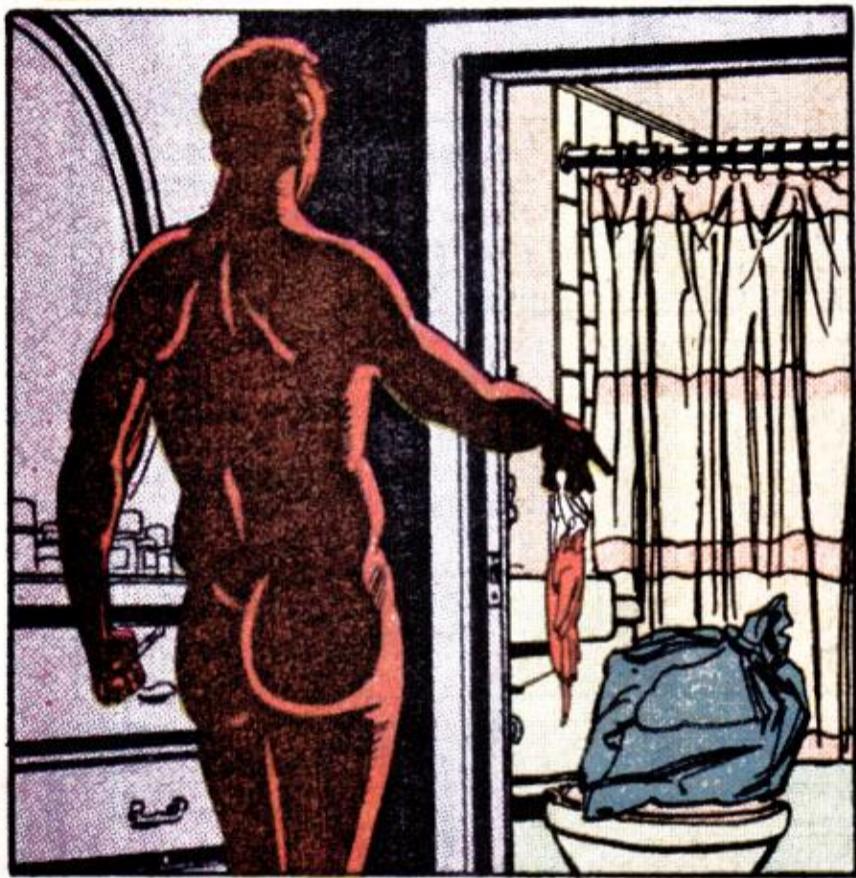
EH?

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE
TO ASK. LET'S MOVE.

PROB'LY JUST A
ROWDY BINGO
GAME-- BUT YA
NEVER KNOW!

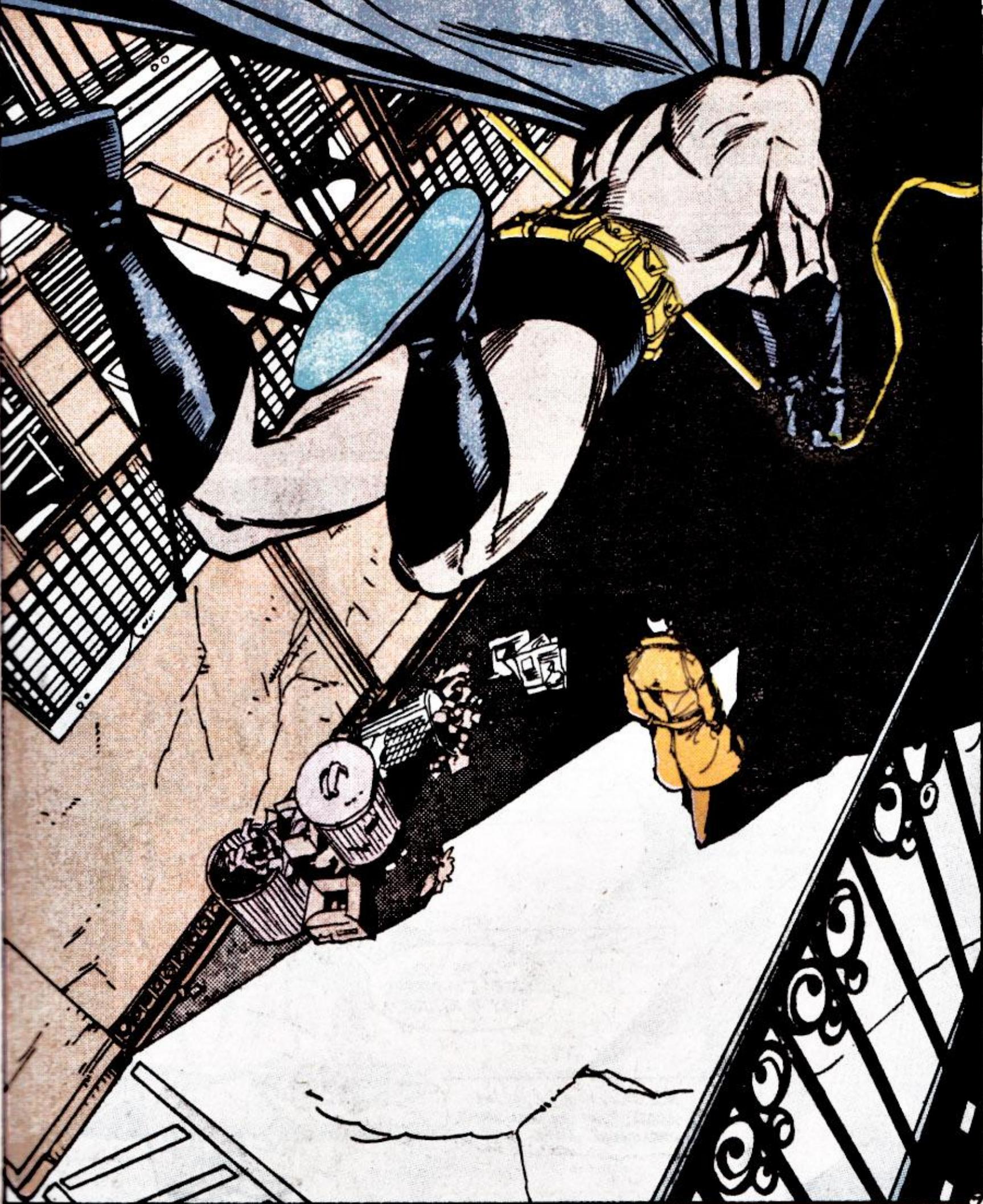
ANY LUCK, WE
CATCH THAT FREAK,
PULL A WEEK'S PAID
VACATION... TICKER
TAPE PARADE... THE
WHOLE BIT...

What a town...



That's him.
I feel it.

Maybe I'm
learning.



He's a madman.
I know that
now.

No regrets. No
remorse. Life--
even his own--
means nothing
to him.

His only need is the
need to kill. And to
continue that, he'll
need his freedom.

He'll put up a fight.

IT'S
OVER.

WHO--?

YOU'RE
YOU.
BECOMING A
RATHER COMMON
SIGHT IN GOTHAM
THESE DAYS, YOU
KNOW THAT?

YOU'RE...
SOMEONE.

SOMEONE
I'VE SEEN
BEFORE.

KLEMPER. DOCTOR RUDOLPH KLEMPER.
INTERNIST TO THE STARS. CALL
ME RUDY.

HAVE WE MET
BEFORE?

Maybe I was
wrong. Maybe--

YOU'RE TOO
LATE, I'M AFRAID.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD.

No. It's him. He is the
beast. And he has won...
one final time.

IT'S BEEN A
MOST SUCCESSFUL
EVENING. FIFTEEN
WARM BODIES IN
ALL. I--AH--SURGI-
CALLY REMOVED
THEM, IF YOU WILL.

I'D VENTURE
TO SAY THAT'S A
NEW WORLD'S
RECORD...FOR A
SINGLE SESSION,
AT LEAST...

THEN...
YOU ADMIT
IT?

OH, YES. TO YOU,
I'LL ADMIT EVERYTHING...
ALL THE GRISLY
DETAILS, IF YOU WISH.

NO, NO-- THERE'S NO NEED
FOR FISTICUFFS. I'LL OFFER
NO RESISTANCE.

I DO BELIEVE I'M
SATED... FOR NOW,
AT LEAST.

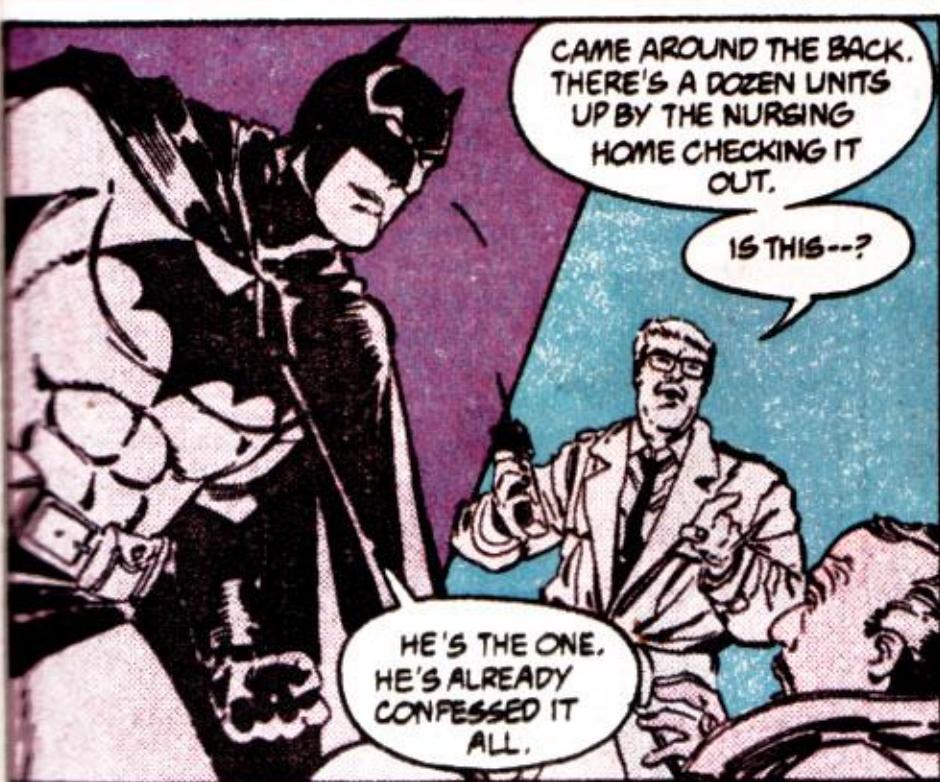
YES... RIGHT NOW, I
THINK I'M IN THE MOOD
FOR A RATHER PROTRACTED
COURT TRIAL... THAT
WOULD BE AMUSING,
I THINK...

AH, THE CAVALRY. ODD.
I NEVER QUITE PICTURED
THEM COMING TO MY
RESCUE...

... BUT LIFE IS JUST FILLED
WITH LITTLE IRONIES,
ISN'T IT?

Long ago, I promised
never to kill. Never
to sink down to
their level.

That promise has never
seemed harder to keep...





THAT'S NOT FOR YOU
TO DECIDE, OFFICER SMITH.
NOW, YOU JUST TAKE IT
EASY. HEAD BACK TO
THE STATION. I'LL SEE
YOU THERE.

ROGERS... MARSHALL. READ
DOCTOR KLEMPER HIS RIGHTS.
THEN BRING HIM DOWNTOWN
AND HAVE HIM BOOKED ON
SUSPICION OF MURDER.

AS THE OFFICERS WILL SOON
INFORM YOU, DOCTOR, YOU HAVE
A RIGHT TO SHUT UP. I SUGGEST
YOU EXERCISE IT RIGHT NOW.

AND ROGERS--

SO HELP ME, IF ONE
HAIR ON THE DOCTOR'S HEAD IS MUSSED
BY YOU TWO ON THE WAY DOWNTOWN,
I'LL BUST YOU BOTH DOWN TO--

NO PROBLEM, CAPTAIN.
WE HEAR YA.

CAPTAIN! THIS IS OUT-
RAGEOUS! I'LL SCARE
THE CITY FOR FALSE--

HE TOLD ME, YOU KNOW.
CONFESSED IT ALL. THAT HE
DID IT... AND THAT HE
ENJOINED IT.

I KNOW.

PUT HIM
AWAY, JIM.
PUT HIM AWAY
FOREVER.

WE'LL TRY. YOU
KNOW WE WILL.

THIS ISN'T POLITICAL.
EVEN IN GOTHAM, THERE'S
NO SUCH THING AS POLITICS
WHERE SERIAL KILLERS
ARE CONCERNED.

BUT HE WAS TRICKY, TRICKY
AND EFFICIENT. HE NEVER
LEFT A SINGLE CLUE... WE'LL
BE LUCKY IF THIS GETS
TO TRIAL...

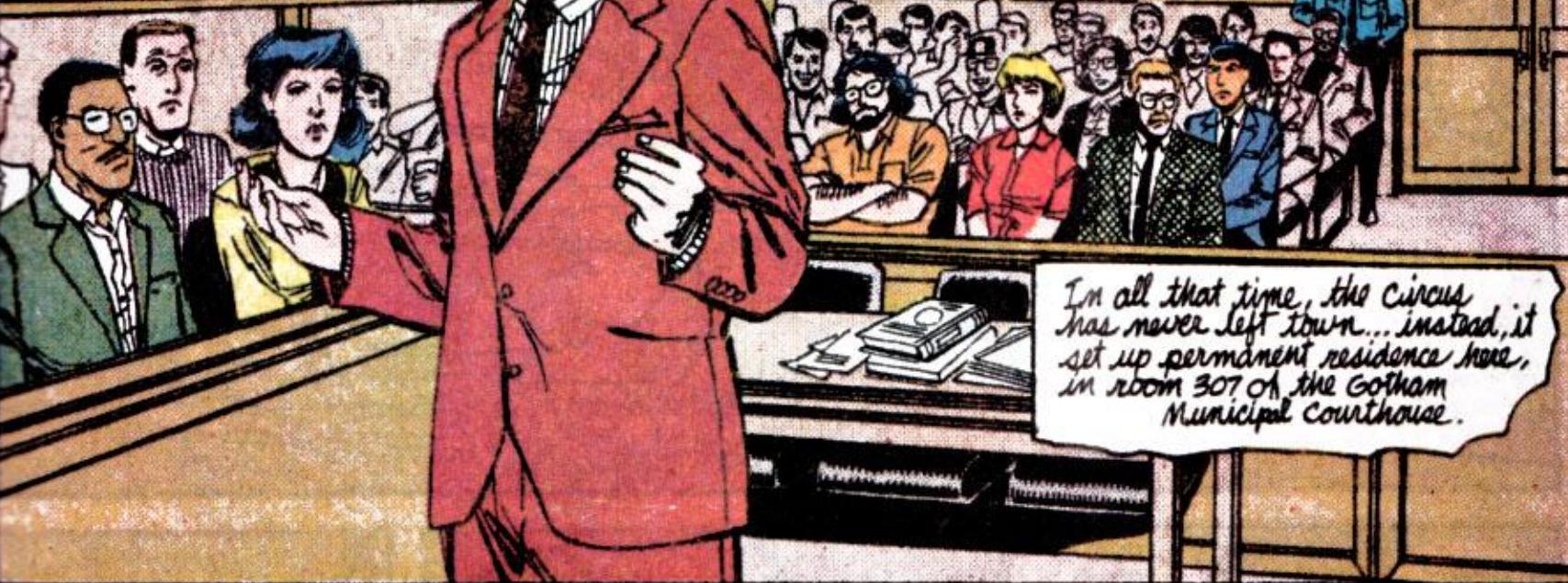
BUT... HE
ADMITTED
KILLING THOSE
PEOPLE--

I KNOW...

"...NOW ALL WE HAVE
TO DO IS PROVE IT..."

The wheels of Justice
turn slowly in Gotham.

six months to get to this point.
Six painful, frustrating months.



The circus is open to the public. They flock to see the clowns of justice and the jugglers of truth, all working under the direction of Klemper... the ringmaster.

To most, it's no different from the soap operas they watch on TV... just another sordid spectacle to pass the time.



The relatives of the victims come seeking justice... some small measure of satisfaction for the atrocities inflicted on their loved ones.

But as the days turn to weeks, and the weeks, to months, it becomes apparent that they will find little of that in this court of law.



Jim Gordon is here. Almost every day. I watch as his eyes, burning with hate, meet Klemper's...

Invariably, Klemper matches him, stare for stare. His eyes never waver.



Jim was right.
He is tricky.

Harvey Dent, the District Attorney, does what he can. He is a good man. Doing his best to prosecute a case where the evidence is, at best, circumstantial.

I can see his frustration. I can feel it within myself.



But I'm out of my depth here.
In a court of law, I can only watch.



Watch--as day after day, the defense's lies and distortions take shape, threatening to become every bit as real as the truth itself.

I know what I heard. Know what I saw. Nothing can change that. Not for ME.

But a man disguised as a Bat can never testify in a court of law. My justice may be FAIR...but it is also INADMISSIBLE as evidence.

And so, it falls to Harvey Dent, District Attorney, to do the one thing neither the police nor the Batman can do...

...put the beast away--forever.

...HAVE POINTED OUT THE DEFENDANT'S BOLTS OF INSTABILITY... THAT FROM HIS CHILDHOOD, HE HAS EXHIBITED HOSTILITY TOWARDS SENIOR CITIZENS...

...AND THAT, ON THE NIGHT OF THE NURSING HOME MURDERS, HE HAD NO REASON TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOME, SAVE ONE--

-- MURDER.

AND SO, THE STATE RECOMMENDS A VERDICT OF GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE--WITH A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR EACH OF THE SIXTEEN COUNTS.

Without evidence, Kemper's motive is sketchy at best.

The jury knows it.

Dent knows it.

I know it.

The question is... am I going to do anything about it?

This has to be a joke.

There's a man in a holding cell across the street. A killer, sure as I've ever seen one.

By tomorrow morning he'll be free. Found innocent by a jury of his peers...

...and let loose to do it all over again.

I could end it all. Right now, I can pick him off as he paces past his cell window.

No need for verdicts. I know he did it. Everyone in that court knows.

A triumph of justice, poetic, if not legal...

He deserves it. He--

JIM, IT'S
NOT A GOOD
IDEA.

FUNNY.
YOU TELLING ME
THAT, YOU READING
MY MIND NOW?

I KNOW YOU. NOT
WELL... BUT WELL
ENOUGH. I CONSIDERED
DOING THE SAME THING
--BUT I THOUGHT
BETTER OF IT.

I SUPPOSE I
WOULD HAVE, TOO...
GIVEN SOME TIME
TO RECONSIDER.

I'M A COP. IT'S IN MY
BLOOD. I'VE GOT TO
UPHOLD THE LAW. PLAY
IT BY THE BOOK.

WHAT'S
YOUR
EXCUSE?

JIM--
YOU'RE NOT
SUGGESTING...

NO. NEVER WOULD.
BUT KLEMPER'S AS
GOOD AS FREE. HIS
LAWYER RAN RINGS
AROUND DENT.

AND IF THERE
WAS EVER A MAN
WHO DESERVED
TO DIE...



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THIS TOWN
ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR
TWO VIGILANTES..

He's right

It's hardly
big enough
for one.



There's a part of me that can just take so much...and then, no more.

The frustration...the anger...the resentment...what keeps ANY of us from reaching the breaking point?

For me, it's knowing that there's more to life than crime and punishment..

There's responsibility...



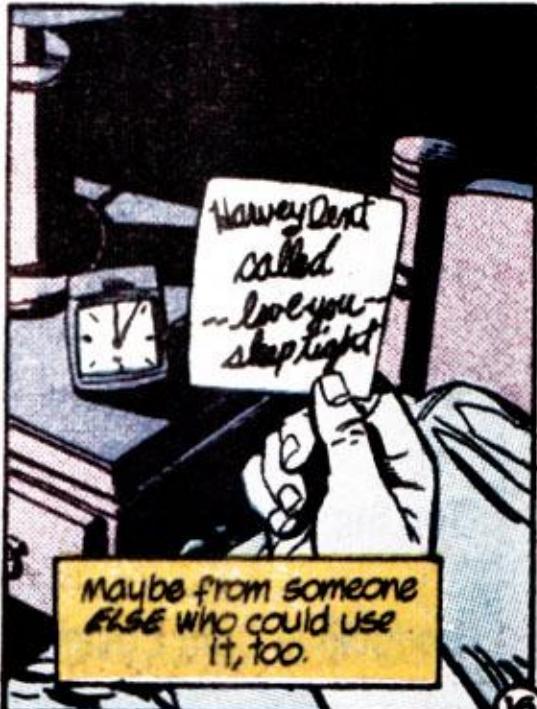
That's enough to keep my perspective...keep me from going over the edge.

But what about a man who swings through the night dressed as a bat?

what keeps HIM?

He'll need help.

Harvey Dent called
- love you -
sleep tight



They're out in force today...

Yesterday they were spectators. Today, they're a mob waiting to explode.

HAVE YOU
REACHED A
VERDICT?

WE HAVE,
YOUR HONOR.

They know what's coming, and they're ready

The collective mind of the city prepares to express its outrage.

Here it comes...

WE FIND THE
DEFENDANT...
NOT GUILTY!

Lord.

I expected this on the court-house steps--but not HERE--

Don't know which they want
MORE-- Dent, the defeated
DA, or the killer himself.

NO ONE'S IN CHARGE HERE--NOT
THE BAILIFFS, NOT THE JUDGE.

MACMILLIAN! CHRISTOPHER!
THEY'RE OUT FOR \$6,000!
KEEP THEM BACK!

THIS WAY--
JUDGE'S
CHAMBERS!

CLEAR THE COURT!
CLEAR THE COURT!

GOD, WHAT
HAPPENED TO
KLEMPER--?

MY GOD. THEY'VE GONE MAD! ALL OF THEM...

I DID ALL I COULD...

BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH...

YOU...

CAREFUL, DENT. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE--IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE YOU UP ON ASSAULT CHARGES NOW.

WE BOTH KNOW THE PUBLIC ANTHES A SORE LOSER.

TELL ME SOMETHING, DOCTOR...

HOW DID YOU DO IT?

WHY, WITH MY TRUSTY LITTLE SCALPEL, OF COURSE...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

HOW COULD YOU... SO TOTALLY DISASSOCIATE YOURSELF FROM IT? UNDER TESTIMONY... THE POLYGRAPH TEST...

IF YOU'D SLIPPED JUST A BIT... THE JURY WOULD HAVE LOCKED YOU UP FOR LIFE...

BUT YOU NEVER CRACKED... NEVER...

IT'S A SECRET OF MINE, HARVEY... AND I'VE NEVER TOLD A SOUL.

BUT I LIKE YOU, HARVEY. SOMEHOW, YOU REMIND ME OF...

...ME.

SO I'LL TELL YOU MY SECRET-- BUT I'LL DENY IT IN COURT.

THERE ARE TWO OF ME, HARVEY.

ONE IS DOCTOR KLEMPER, THE UPSTANDING, RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY.

THE OTHER IS A LITTLE RUDE, FUN-LOVING, MURDEROUS LITTLE RUDY.

WE HAD AN
UNDERSTANDING.
WE'D REMAIN DISTINCT
AND SEPARATE. THE
DOCTOR KEEPING UP
APPEARANCES...

...LITTLE RUDY
COMING OUT TO
HAVE HIS DIRTY
FUN WHENEVER
THE OPPORTUNITY
AROSE.

BUT WHEN WE WERE
CAUGHT, WE BOTH
KNEW THAT RUDY HAD
TO GO AWAY--

--SO THAT GUILT-
LESS, INDIGNANT
DR. KLEMPER COULD
TAKE THE WITNESS
STAND, AND FRUSTRATE
ALL OF GOTHAM WITH
HIS INNOCENCE.

IT'S SO EASY,
HARVEY. EVEN YOU
CAN DO IT.

AND YOU WANT TO. YOU
NEED TO.

I COULD SEE THAT THE
FIRST TIME WE MET.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
INSIDE YOU, HARVEY.
SOMETHING THAT
CAN'T RECONCILE
ITSELF WITH THE
PERSON THAT
YOU WANT
TO BE.

LET IT GO. GIVE IT FREE REIN.
BUT ONLY AT THE PROPER TIME,
AND IN THE PROPER PLACE.

TRUST ME, HARVEY.
I'M A DOCTOR.

ALL YOU NEED
REMEMBER IS ONE
SIMPLE RULE.
NEVER MIX
BUSINESS...WITH
PLEASURE.

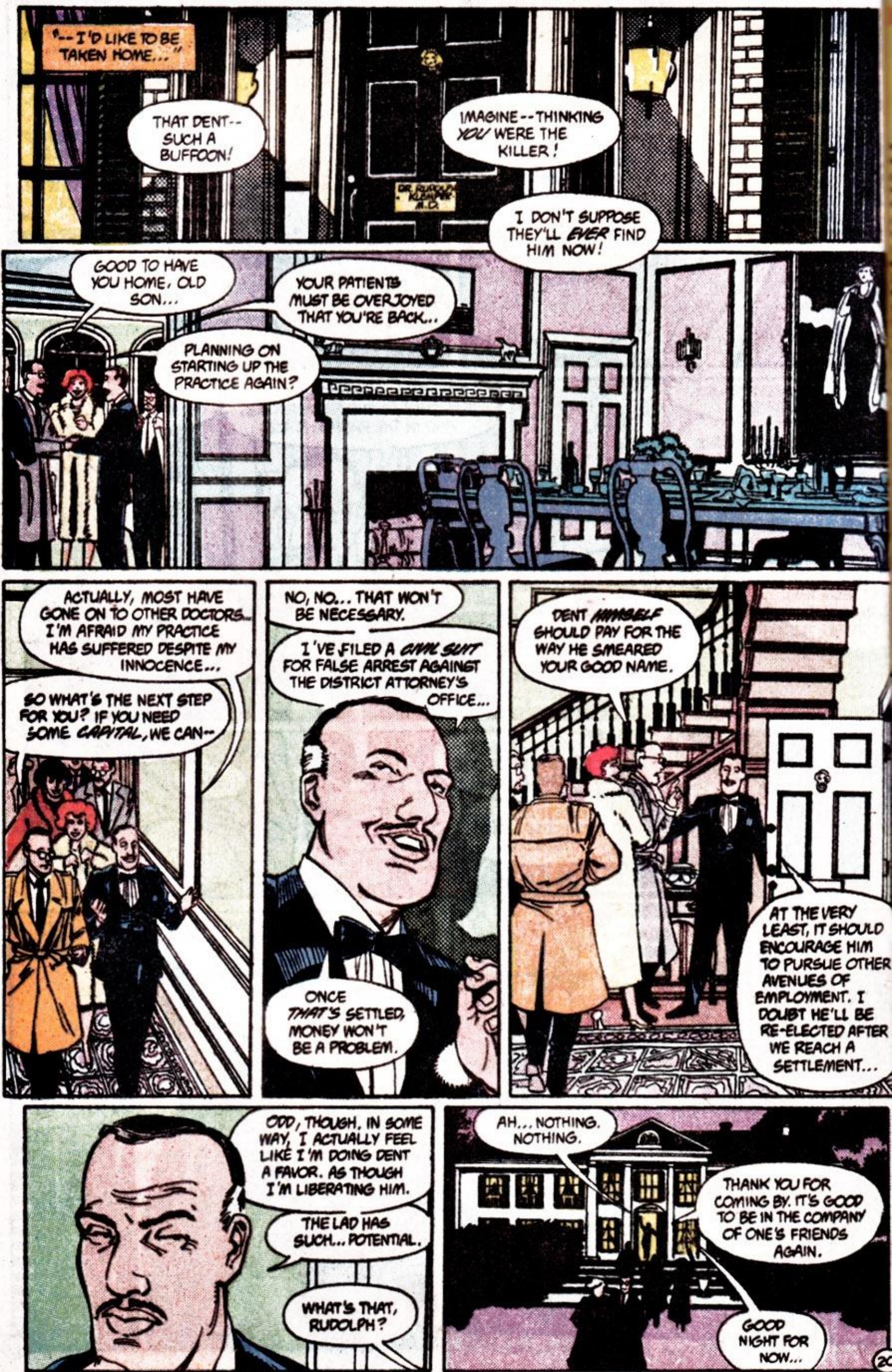
I--

:GAAK:
DENT--
GOOD
GOD--!
KLEMPER--
WHAT'S GOING
ON HERE?

WE WERE JUST SAYING
OUR GOODBYES, CAPTAIN
GORDON.

NOW, IF YOU
DON'T MIND...

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"...PLEASANT DREAMS."



YES--? WHAT--
WHO IS IT--



DENT? IS
THAT YOU?
SPEAK TO
ME--



TWO SIDES
OF EVERY
COIN...

...GOT A
FIFTY-
FIFTY
CHANCE...

YOU'RE
TAILS ...

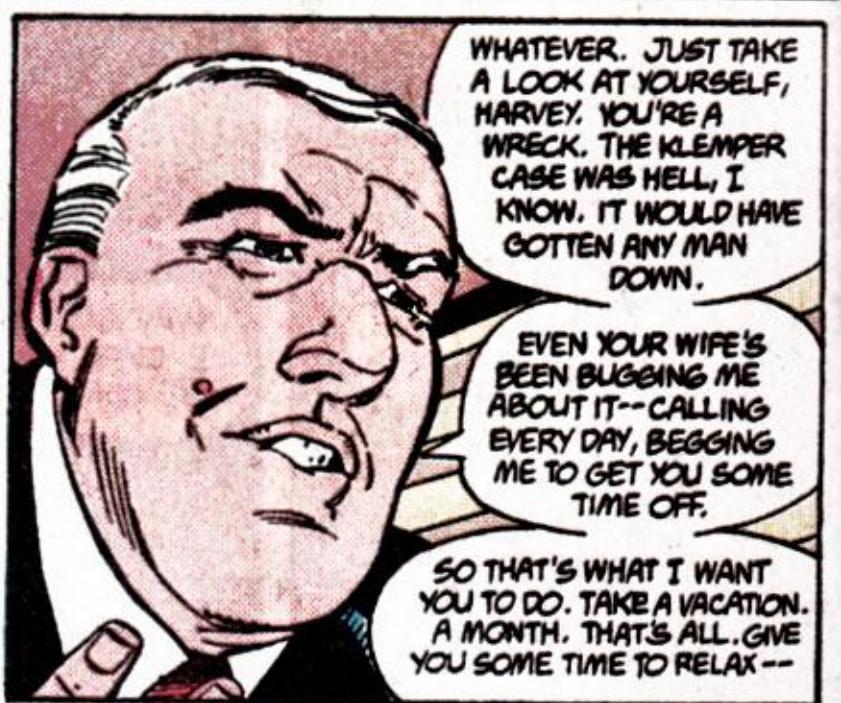
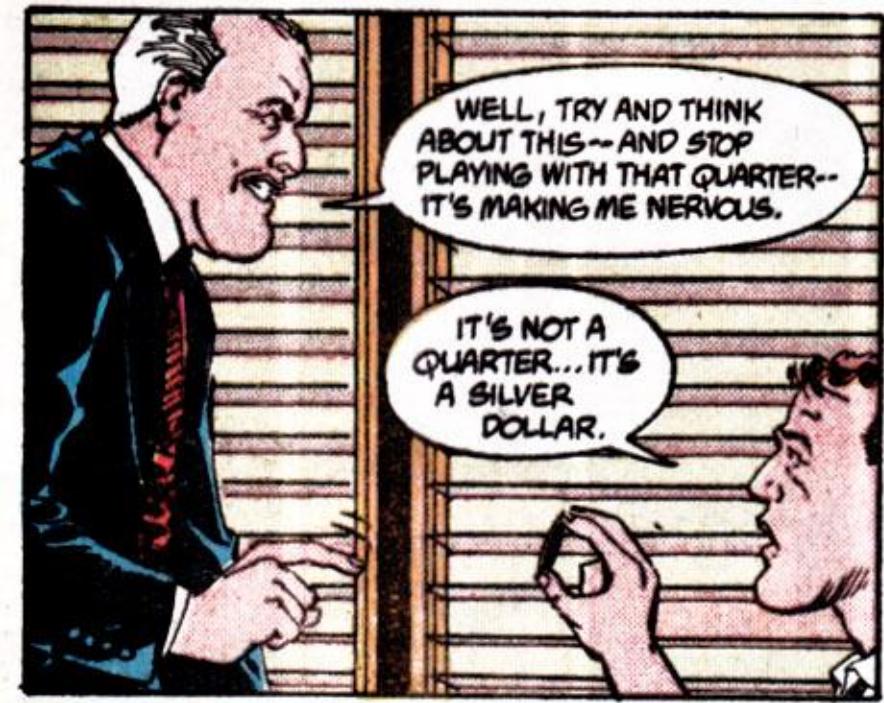
WHY CAN'T
I EVER
BE HEADS?

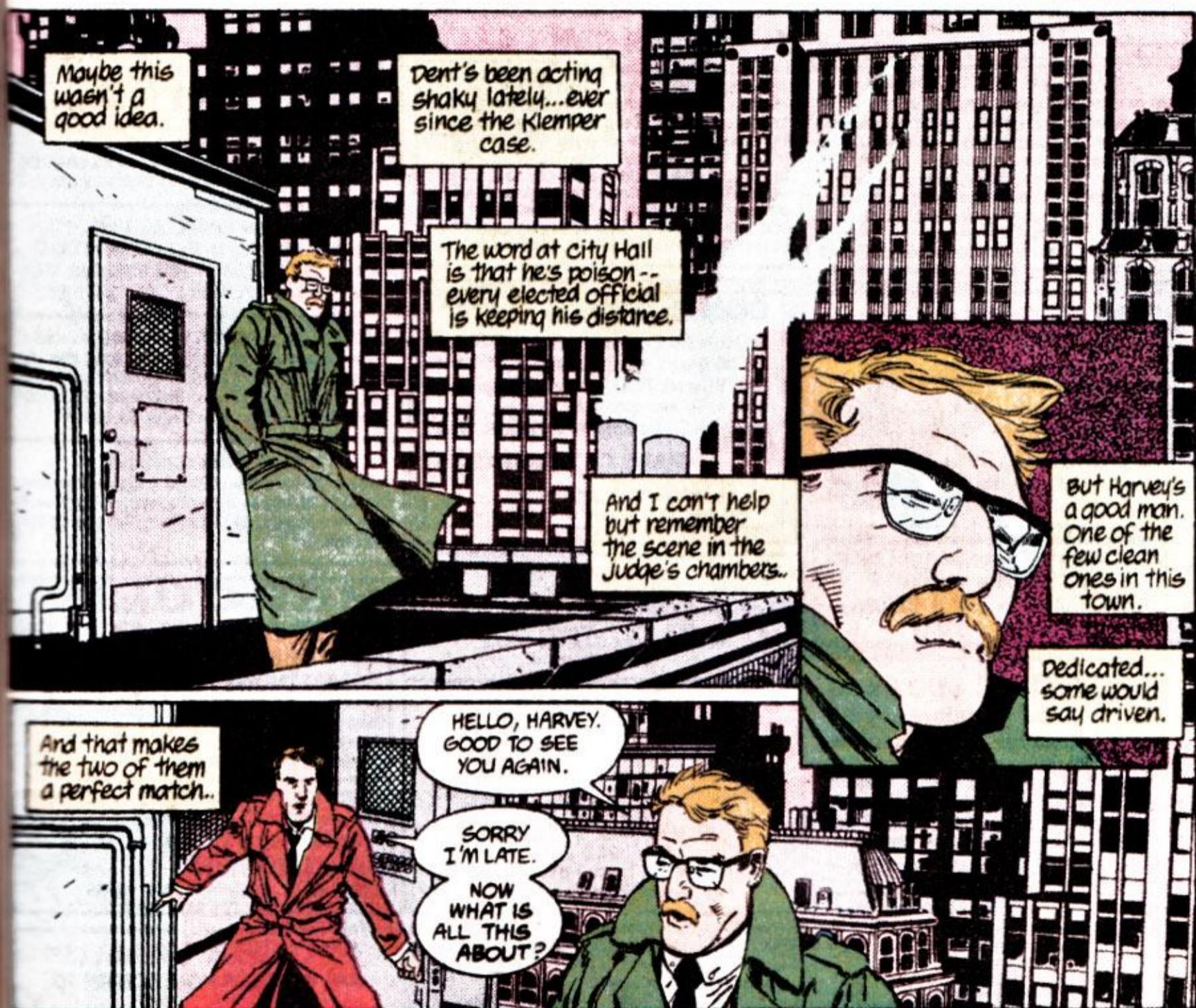
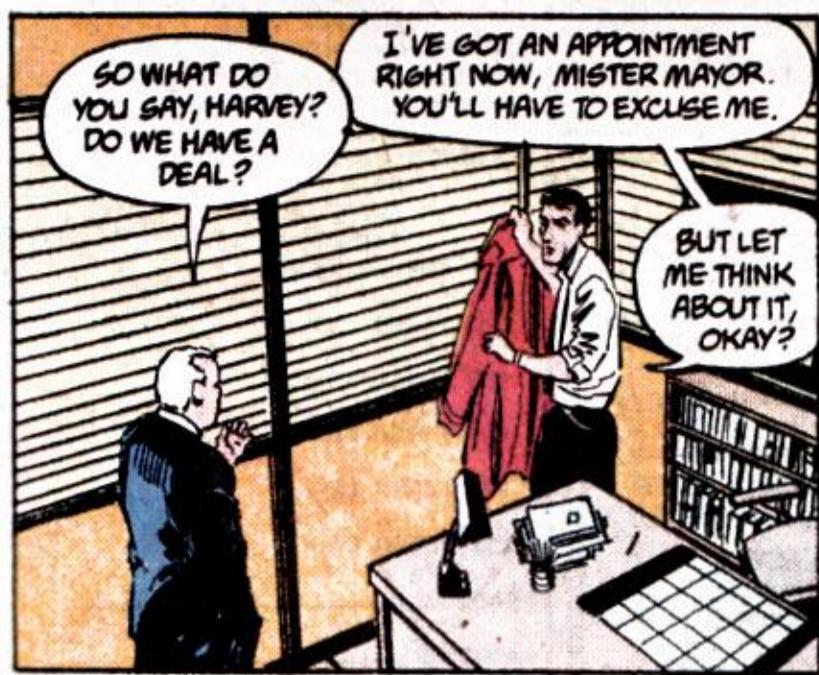
TAILS
YOU
WIN...

HEADS
YOU
LOSE...

YOU
LOSE...

...WERE LOOSE, THAT WOULD BE ONE THING.
BUT FOR GOD'S SAKE, HARVEY--KLEMPER'S
BEEN DEAD FOR A WEEK NOW, SO I DON'T
SEE WHY YOU CAN'T--





They're waiting for me.
Idle chatter to pass the
minutes. I observe...and
learn.

They're talking about
their families.

Their faces give that away.
The fact I can read their
lips only helps.

I designed this costume
to instill fear in the minds
of criminals.

I suppose I may
have succeeded
too well.

There are certain things even
my friends will never share
with me.

YEAH... SEVEN MONTHS NOW. THE KIDS
A DREAM. NO TROUBLE AT ALL...

CONGRATU-
LATIONS. GILDA
AND ME, WE'VE
BEEN TRYING,
BUT SO FAR--

HELLO,
JIM.

HELLO. GLAD YOU
COULD MAKE IT.

THIS IS
THE MAN I
SPOKE TO YOU
ABOUT--HARVEY
DENT--

WE'VE MET.
GOOD TO SEE
YOU AGAIN.

I HEARD
ABOUT
KLEMPER.

A REAL PITY. I ONLY WISH I WAS
THERE TO SEE IT. WHOEVER
KILLED HIM--

-- WILL
EVENTUALLY
BE CAUGHT.

I DON'T
THINK SO. NOT
THIS TIME, UNLESS
YOU ARE PLANNING
TO INVESTIGATE
THE MURDER...

NO.

THERE'S A FEW THINGS ABOUT ME YOU SHOULD KNOW.

ALL MY LIFE I'VE WANTED TO BE ONE THING. NOW HERE I AM.

THE LAW IS MY LIFE. IT KEEPS ME WHOLE, MAYBE EVEN KEEPS ME SANE.

THE PRESS... THE MAYOR... THEY'RE ON MY BACK NOW. I NEED TO GET THEM OFF.

NOT TO GET INVITED TO PARTIES. NOT TO RUN FOR MAYOR. JUST DO MY JOB

JIM HAD AN IDEA. HE CALLED ME, AND I WORKED OUT THE DETAILS. IT'S SIMPLE--AND IT WILL WORK.

PLEASE.

OUR PROBLEMS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. WE BOTH WANT TO PUT GOTHAM'S CRIMINALS BEHIND BARS.

BUT TO DO THAT, I NEED EVIDENCE.

I DON'T WANT TO IMPEDE YOUR WORK--I JUST WANT OUR INDICTMENTS TO STICK.

I CAN BE AT YOUR DISPOSAL FOR CONSULTATION. WHENEVER YOU GET CLOSE TO A COLLAR, CALL ME AND TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

IF IT'S ENOUGH, YOU GET TO DO YOUR THING. THE POLICE WILL CLEAN UP AFTER YOU.

AND IF NOT? IF THE EVIDENCE I SEE ISN'T SUFFICIENT--?

WELL, WE'VE GOT A CHOICE, THEN. YOU CAN BIDE YOUR TIME AND WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...

...OR YOU CAN BUST SOME HEADS FOR THE SHEER HELL OF IT.

YOU DECIDE WHICH. IT'S LIKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A HOBBY AND A JOB...

IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF HOW SERIOUSLY YOU TAKE IT.

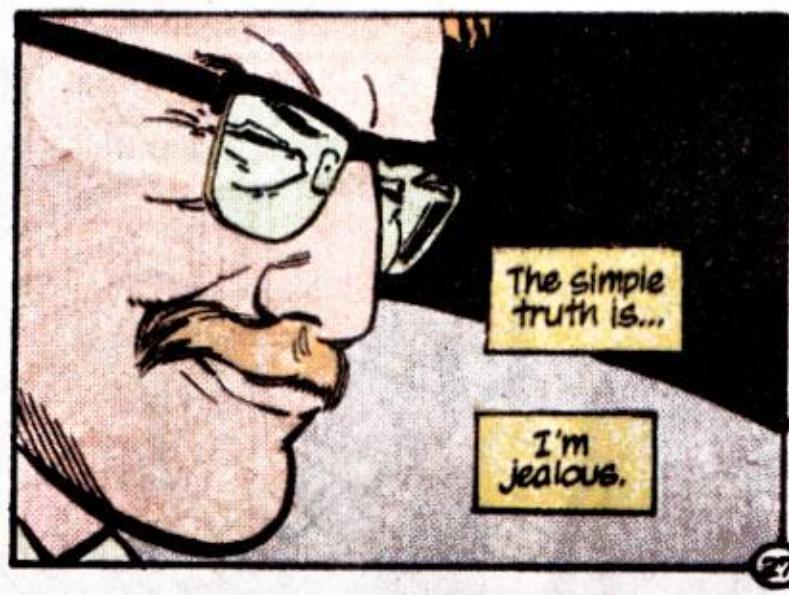
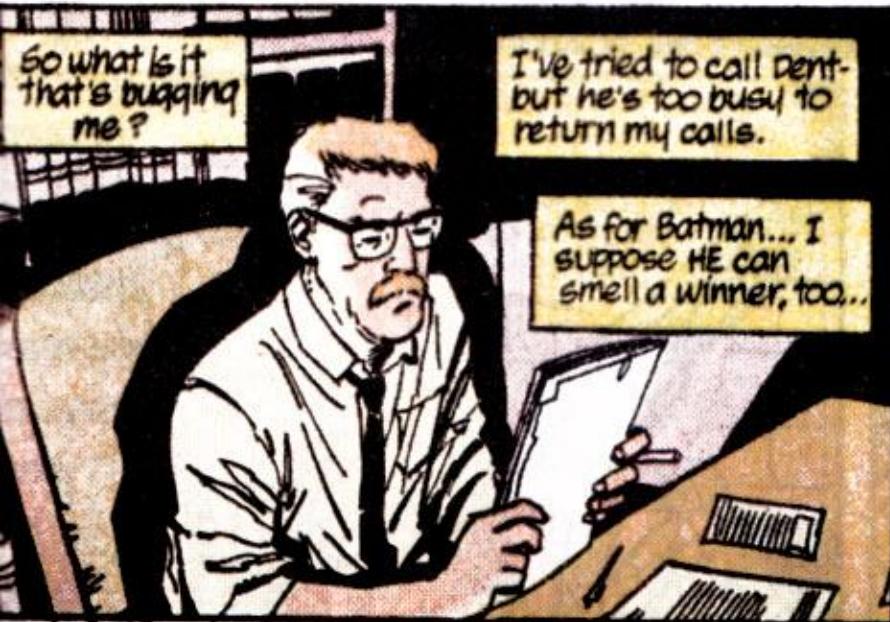
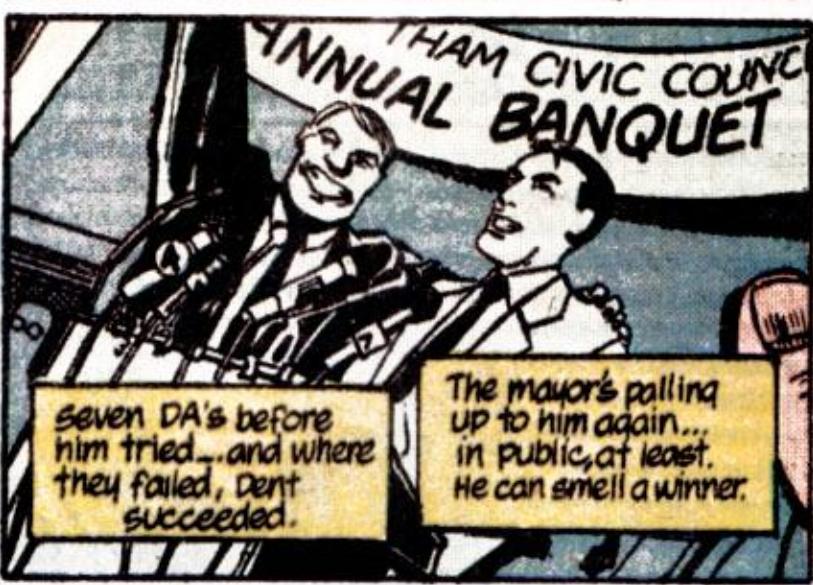
I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.

THAT'S GOOD. SO DOI.

SO, WE'RE SET. HERE'S MY NUMBER. ANY TIME. MORNING OR NIGHT.

I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

PART TWO





YOU'VE ASKED ME
TO DO THAT KIND OF THING
BEFORE, HARVEY. MY
FEELINGS HAVEN'T
CHANGED--

--THAT'S NOT
MY WAY.

ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT.
THEN LET'S TRY THIS
ON FOR SIZE.

PIKE IS SCUM,
THROUGH AND THROUGH.
HE BROKE THE ARM OF
AN EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD
DELI OWNER JUST
BEFORE WE NAILED
HIM.

HE'S GOT NO
RIGHT TO BE OUT
WALKING THE
STREETS.

HARVEY--
IT SHOULD BE
EASY... FOR SOMEONE
LIKE YOU. JUST FINISH
IT. KILL HIM.

HARVEY--
YOU'RE UPSET,
YOU DON'T
MEAN THAT--

OH, YES I DO. LISTEN TO
ME, FRIEND. YOU THINK
THIS IS SOME KIND OF
BOARD GAME, WITH
RULES PRINTED UNDER
THE BOX LID?

ALL YOUR
STUPID CODES--
THEY'RE NOT
WORTH A DAMN
HERE. WE'VE GOT
TO TAKE CARE OF
IT. HAVE TO
MAINTAIN CON-
TROL OVER THE
SCUM. ANY
WAY WE CAN.

AND IF YOU WON'T DO IT,
MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE
HAS TO. MAYBE I--I--

STOP
IT!

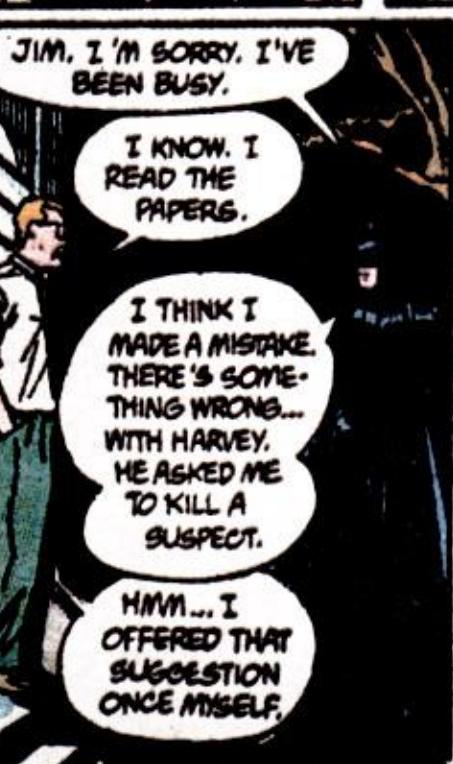
YOU'RE
RIGHT, OF
COURSE.
WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO
WAIT AND
SEE.

I'M SORRY.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT CAME
OVER ME.

THIS IS DELICIOUS,
BARBARA. YOUR BEST
YET.

YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT SHE WAS
TALKING ABOUT WHEN
SHE SAID YOU COULDN'T--

--COOK...



HEADS.

FAIR AND
SQUARE...

YOU
LOSE...



DADDY--
DON'T!



I'M A
GOOD BOY!

GOOD BOYS
DON'T DO
BAD THINGS.



I'M
GOOD.

BAD BOYS
DON'T DO
GOOD THINGS!



YOU MADE
YOUR
CHOICE.

NO
CHOICE.

Nooooo!

HARVEY...
NOT AGAIN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S FIVE AM...

I'M GOING TO
THE OFFICE.
WHERE IT'S
SAFE.

SAFE? WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT? IT'S
SAFE RIGHT HERE--

I'VE GOT WORK. THE MARONI
TRIAL STARTS TOMORROW. I
CAN'T SLEEP ANYWAY.

HARVEY--TALK TO
ME! WHATEVER
IT IS, WE CAN WORK--

SLAM

--IT
OUT...

LORD, I TRY! KEEP IT
DOWN, KEEP IT DOWN! BUT
IT'S INSIDE OF ME! ALL
THIS ANGER... ALL
THIS RAGE!

I'M GOOD!
I'M GOOD DAMMIT!
I KEEP IT DOWN!

BUT HE LIED TO
ME. ALL ALONG. MY
OWN FATHER. I NEVER
HAD A CHOICE...

NEVER
HADA--

Y'KNOW
SOMETHING
DENT?

YOU'RE
ONE SICK
PUPPY.

AND
BELIEVE ME--
THAT'S COMIN'
FROM ONE
WHO KNOWS.



HE BEAT PIKE?

SENSELESS,
WITH THE MAN'S
OWN WEAPON.

JEEZ... THE
FIGHTING DAD STRIKES...
DIDN'T THINK HE HAD
IT IN 'IM...

LOOK, MISTER MARONI.
WE BOTH THOUGHT PIKE
COULD DO THE JOB.
WITH DENT GONE, I
COULD'VE MOVED FOR
DISMISSAL.

BUT IT'S TOO LATE.
DENT CHECKED OUT
OKAY AT THE
HOSPITAL--

--AND HE'S
INSISTING THE
TRIAL BEGIN AS
SCHEDULED.

THEN THAT'S IT.
I'M FINISHED. A
DEAD MAN.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY. I DID
MY BEST--BUT
DENT'S CASE
AGAINST YOU IS
AIRTIght. YOU'RE
GOING AWAY
FOR LIFE... OR
WORSE.

IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY. IF
THERE'S NO WAY OUT, I'LL
TAKE WHAT'S COMING. I'M
PHILOSOPHIC ABOUT IT.

YOU TRIED. YOU'RE A
GOOD BOY. GONNA
GO FAR. AND YOU'LL
BE WELL TAKEN CARE
OF. I'LL MAKE SURE
OF IT.

THERE'S JUST
ONE THING MORE
I WANT YOU TO
DO.

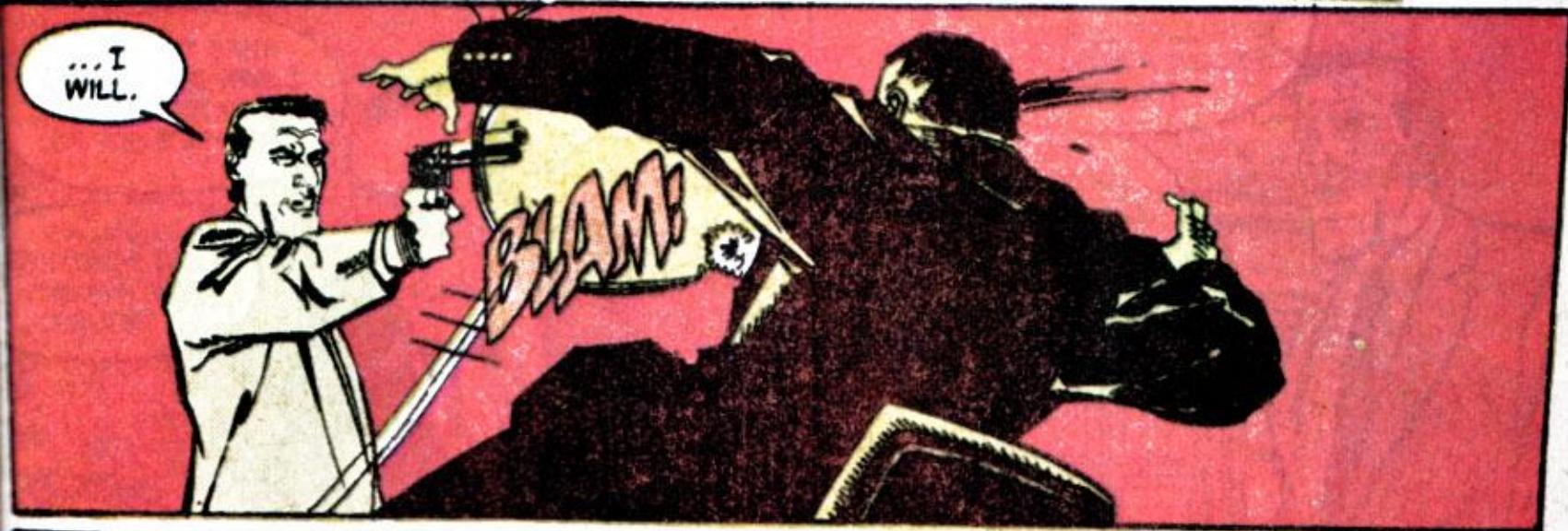
CERTAINLY, SIR.
ANYTHING.

GET ME A GUN.
I'M GONNA BLOW
THAT DENT AWAY
RIGHT IN COURT.
MAKE 'EM ALL
REMEMBER ME.

YOU'D NEVER
GET INTO THE
COURTROOM.
METAL DETECTORS.

HMM...
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

SOMETHING
ELSE, THEN...
SOMETHING THAT'LL
LEAVE AN
IMPRESSION...



MR. DENT! DID YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID-- CALL YOUR NEXT
WITNESS!

TOK TOK TOK

UH...
SORRY, YOUR
HONOR...

UHM... THE STATE WISHES
TO CALL THE DEFENDANT,
VINCENT MARONI, TO
THE STAND.

ONE
DEFENDANT,
COMIN' RIGHT
UP, JUDGE.

VINCENT
--I THOUGHT
WE'D AGREED
YOU WEREN'T
GOING TO--

LOOK, COUNSELOR.
WE AIN'T GOT A
PRAYER. THIS JUST
AIN'T MY DAY.

WHAT THE HELL,
I SAY. DENT WANTS
ME TO TESTIFY SO
BAD--HE'S GOT ME.

SO LONG AS
I GET SOMETHING
FROM HIM IN
RETURN...

AWRIGHT, YER
HONOR... I'M ALL
YOURS...

Again, I find myself in the gallery.
Again, a man I apprehend faces a
jury of his peers.

I ask myself why I bothered
to come. The answer is simple:

To see that Justice is served.
And this time, it will be.

Our arrangement
worked. But it
has to end.

I've felt it for days.
Seeing Dent now
confirms it. The man
is on the edge...
ready to fall.

Maybe he's not the unbalanced one...
maybe he sees reality more clearly
than I do.

Still, I have to wonder
why. Is it something
inside him... or is it
the world around him?



But I've drawn the line
between right and wrong.
However blurred it might
sometimes seem... I
can never cross it.

...TELL THE JURY EXACTLY
WHAT YOU WERE DOING ON THE
EVENING OF THE SIXTH...

SURE, HARV. I WAS
ON FIFTH AND CYPRESS...
CHECKIN' UP ON MY BOYS
WHILE THEY BROKE A
FEW SKULLS...Y'KNOW--
JUST MAKIN' SURE I GOT
MY MONEY'S WORTH--

THEN YOU ADMIT TO
HIRING THEM TO
EXTORT?

OM, JEEZ...
DID I JUST SAY
THAT? WHEN YOU
PUT IT THAT WAY--
I JUST...OOOH.

EXCUSE ME A
SEC...STOMACH'S
ACTING UP.
DOC GAVE
ME THIS
MEDICAMENT...

BURRD:

Something's
wrong
here...

ANTACID

...BUT YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU COULD
USE SOME
YOURSELF!

DENT--!

YAAARGH!!

Dear god-- all
hell's breaking
loose--

The bailiffs--
they don't
realize what
he's got--

C'MON!
YOU WANT
SOME OF
THIS--

I'LL
GIVE YOU
SOME
OF THIS--

It's
like he's
begging
them to--!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM

--kill him...

HEY! GET
A STRETCHER
IN HERE!

DENT'S
STILL ALIVE!!!

GAAAHHHHHH...

...NO WORD ON THE CONDITION ON DA HARVEY DENT, WHO WAS DOUSED WITH ACID BY ALLEGED RACKETEER VINCENT "BOSS" MARONI TWO WEEKS AGO.

IN DENT'S ABSENCE, THE MAYOR HAS PROMOTED ADRIAN FIELDS TO THE POSITION OF ACTING DA. FIELDS WAS TIGHT-LIPPED ON THE RUMORS THAT THE MAYOR PLANS TO ENDORSE HIM IN THE COMING ELECTION.

CERTAINLY, NO ONE CAN HOPE TO TAKE THE PLACE OF HARVEY. WE'LL TRY TO FILL HIS SHOES-- BUT PERSONALLY, I'M PRAYING FOR HIS SPEEDY RECOVERY.

I'M SURE HE IS.

WHAT WAS THAT, DEAR?

NOTHING.

OH, I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU-- NEVER MIND.

LOOK WHO'S HERE.

IT'S TIME, MISTER DENT.

YOUR WOUNDS HAVE HEALED ENOUGH TO BEGIN PLANNING RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY.

TAKING THE BANDAGES OFF WILL FURTHER THE HEALING PROCESS. GIVE IT SOME AIR... AND LET US SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

HERE. I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING. IT GOT A LITTLE... UH... DAMAGED IN THE ACCIDENT.

THANK YOU, GRACE. I THINK I'M GOING TO NEED IT.

HARVEY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE.

NO, I'M NOT.

BUT I KNOW IT'LL BRING YOU LUCK.

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, SON?

YOU'RE ACTING
LIKE YOU'RE
AFRAID OF IT!

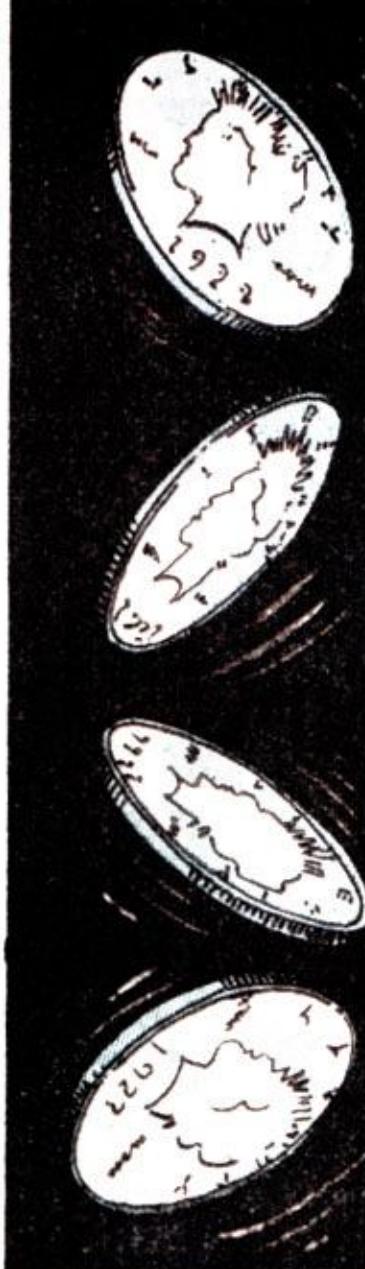
I'M
AFRAID.

NO. NOT AFRAID.
IT'S JUST--

WELL, GO 'WAN.
TAKE IT.

I'M A GOOD BOY.

IT'S ONLY A COIN,
FER GOD'S SAKE!



ALL MY
LIFE, I
TRIED
TO DO
GOOD.

ALL MY LIFE, I
KEPT DOWN THE
BAD.

BAD BOYS
DON'T DO GOOD
THINGS!

THE BAD STAYED INSIDE
ME, SMALL AND UGLY...
BUT HIDDEN.

ALL MY LIFE... HIDDEN.

NO MORE.

NOW I CAN'T HIDE IT.

NOW I'M
MARKED.
LIKE A CARD.



ORA
COIN.

ONE SIMPLE
RULE, THE MAN
SAID... NEVER
MIX BUSINESS...

BUSINESS.
THE WIFE, THE
JOB, THE
HOUSE, THE
CITY, BUSINESS.

PLEASE...

LET ME OUT
YOU'RE ALREADY
OUT

SHOW ME
THE LIGHT
YOU SEE THE
LIGHT

WHEN?

CHOOSE.

I WANT TO
BE HEADS.

WE'RE BOTH
HEADS.

...WITH
PLEASURE...

PLEASURE.
KILL THE
WIFE. QUIT
THE JOB.
BURN THE
HOUSE.
DESTROY
THE CITY.
PLEASURE.

GIVE ME
FREE REIN...

BUT ONLY
AT THE
PROPER
TIME...

WE MADE
OUR CHOICE.

NO CHOICE.

I've been putting this moment off for days.

But I had to come. To tell him how very sorry I am...

...and something else...

BEFORE YOUR ACCIDENT, I'D ALREADY DECIDED TO CONCLUDE OUR WORKING AGREEMENT. MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE THEN...

...BUT THERE'S ONE CASE THAT'S STILL UNRESOLVED...ONE CRIME COMMITTED THAT STILL CRIES FOR JUSTICE.

YOUR ASSISTANT DA PICKED UP AN ORDER OF NITRIC ACID FROM A CHEMICAL SUPPLY HOUSE TWO DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL.

HARVEY--FIELDS GOT MARONI THE ACID. SMUGGLED IT INSIDE HIS MEDICINE BOTTLE.

MAD DOG PIKE'S RELEASE WASN'T ACCIDENTAL, EITHER. I'M BETTING FIELDS INTENTIONALLY LET HIM OFF CHEAP-- IN EXCHANGE FOR KILLING YOU.

BUT I WANT TO WAIT. BUILD UP THE EVIDENCE AGAINST FIELDS. SO WHEN WE NAIL HIM, IT'LL STICK.

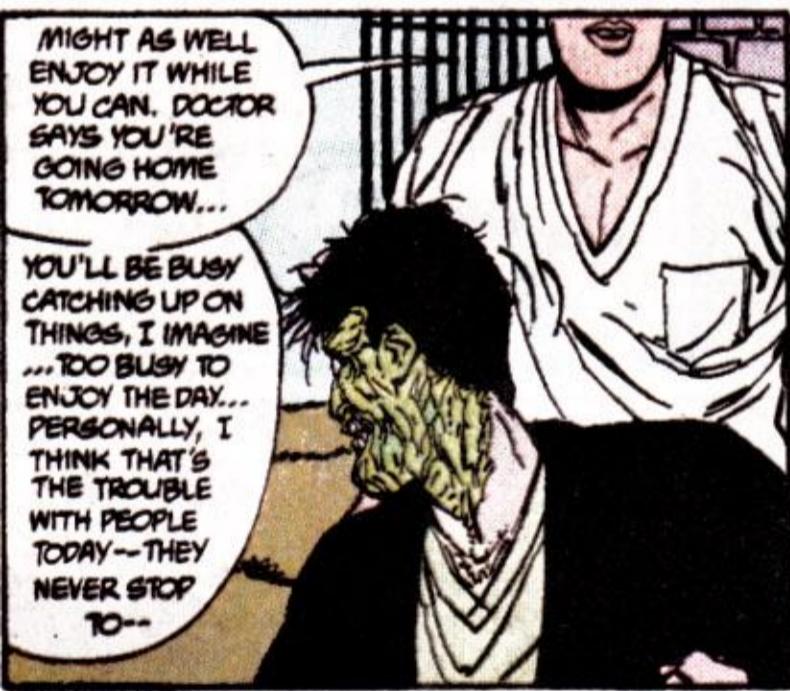
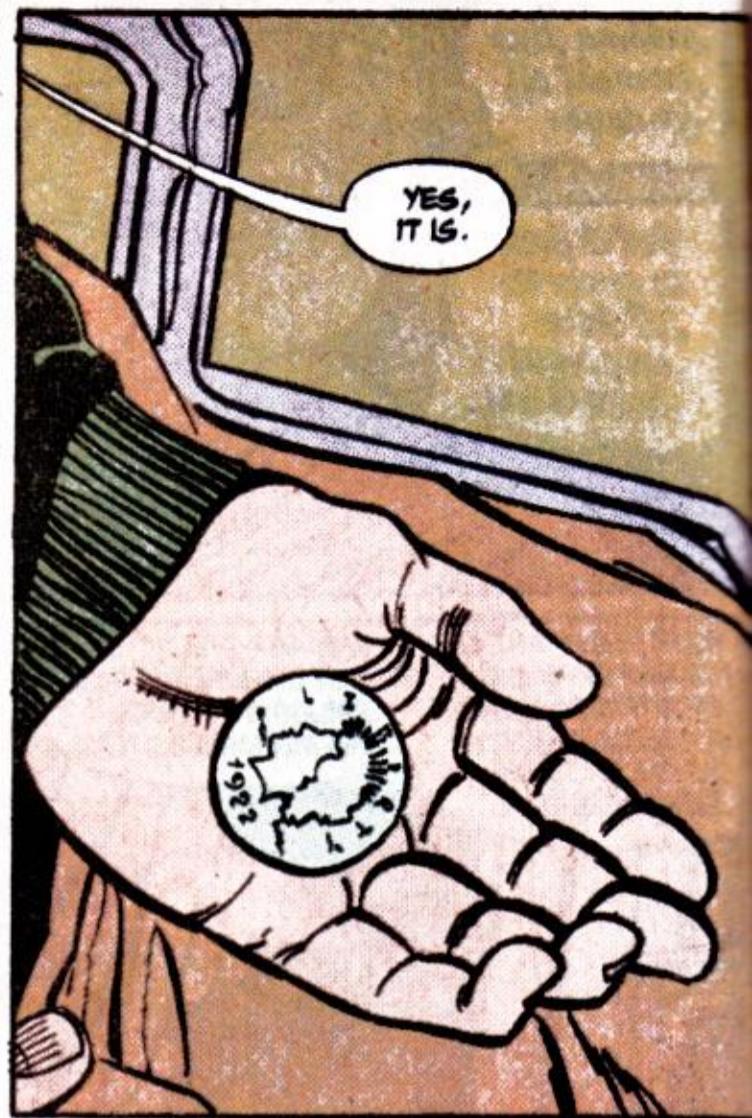
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO WE THINK?

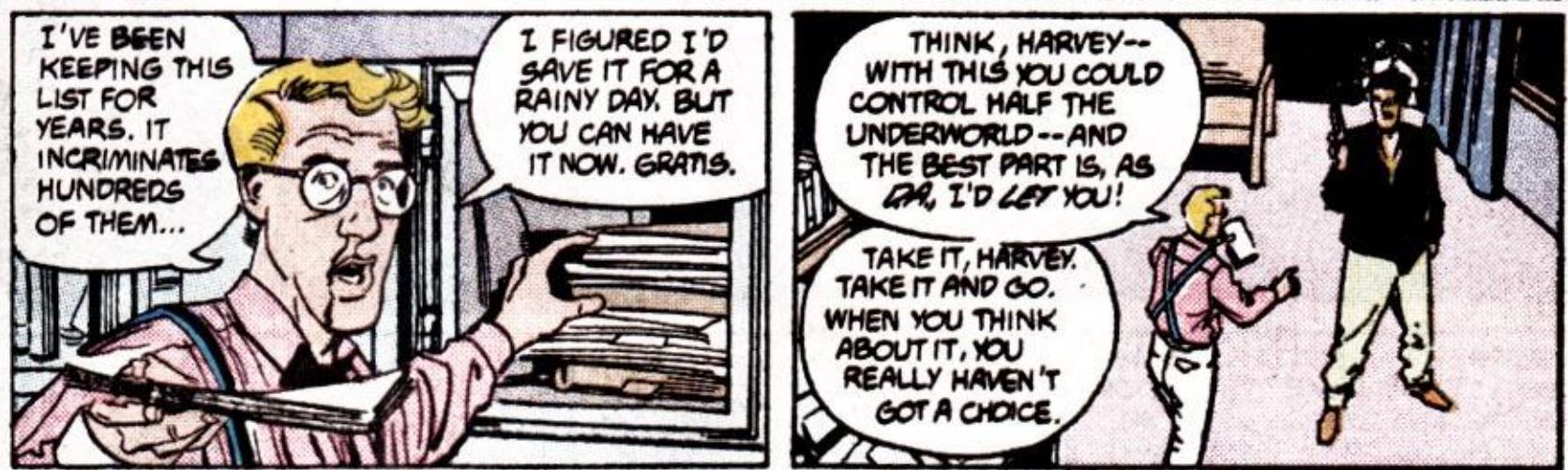
WE THINK YOU SHOULD WAIT. DO IT LEGALLY. MAKE IT AIR-TIGHT.

I'M GLAD YOU AGREE.

I'LL VISIT WHEN YOU'RE BACK AT WORK. WE'LL PREPARE A CAGE... ONE LAST TIME...



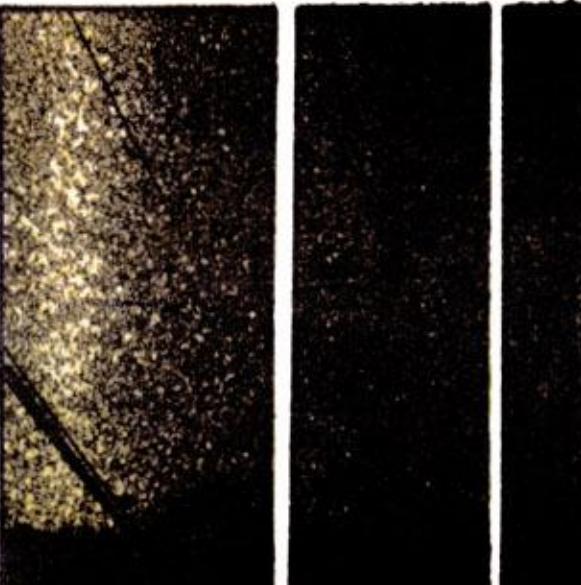
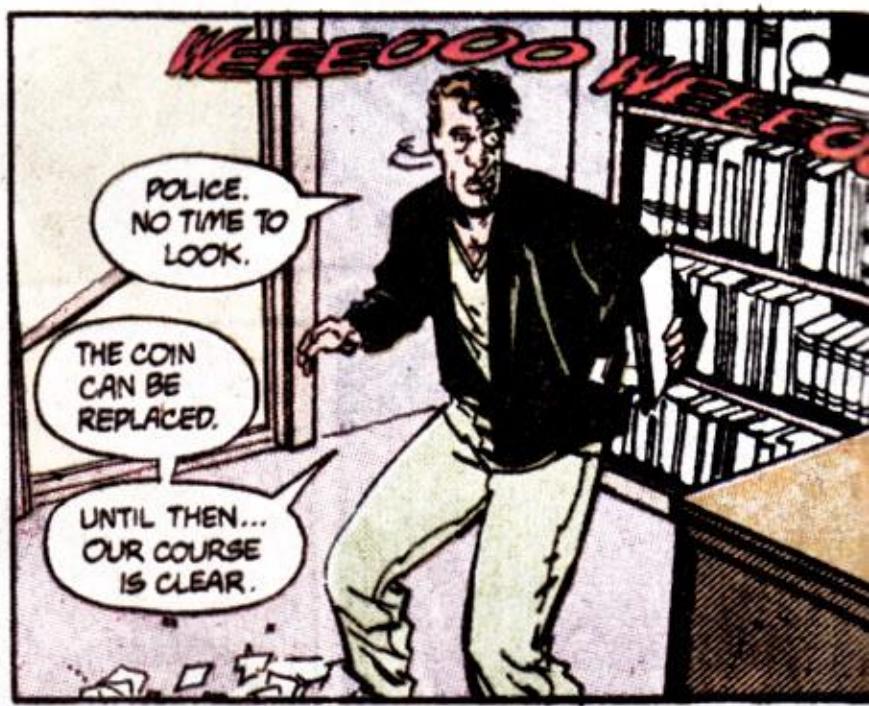


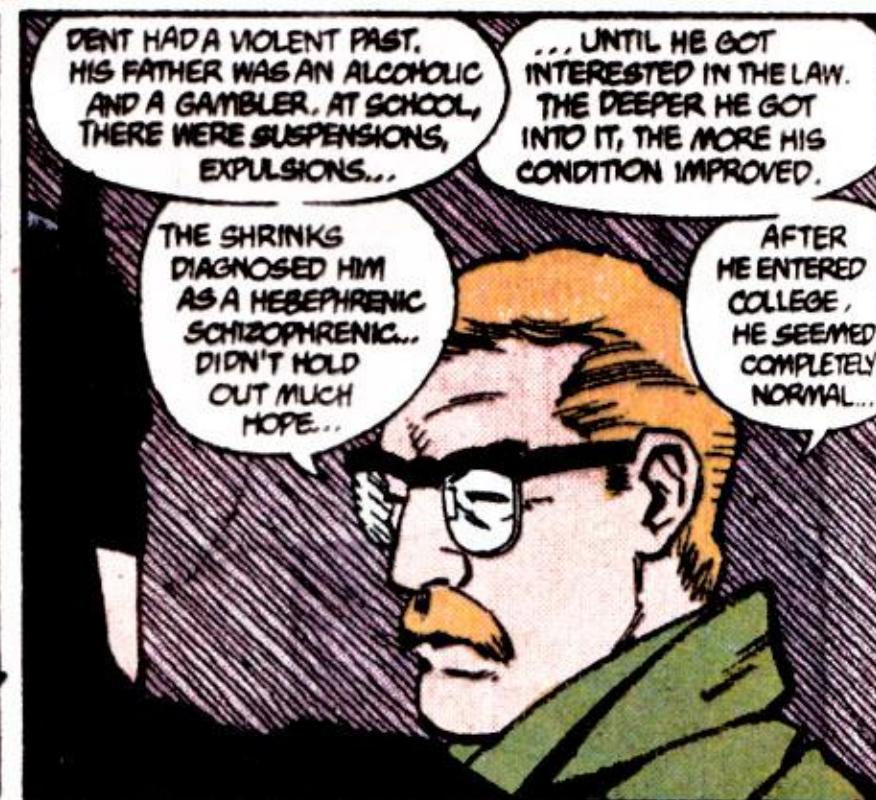


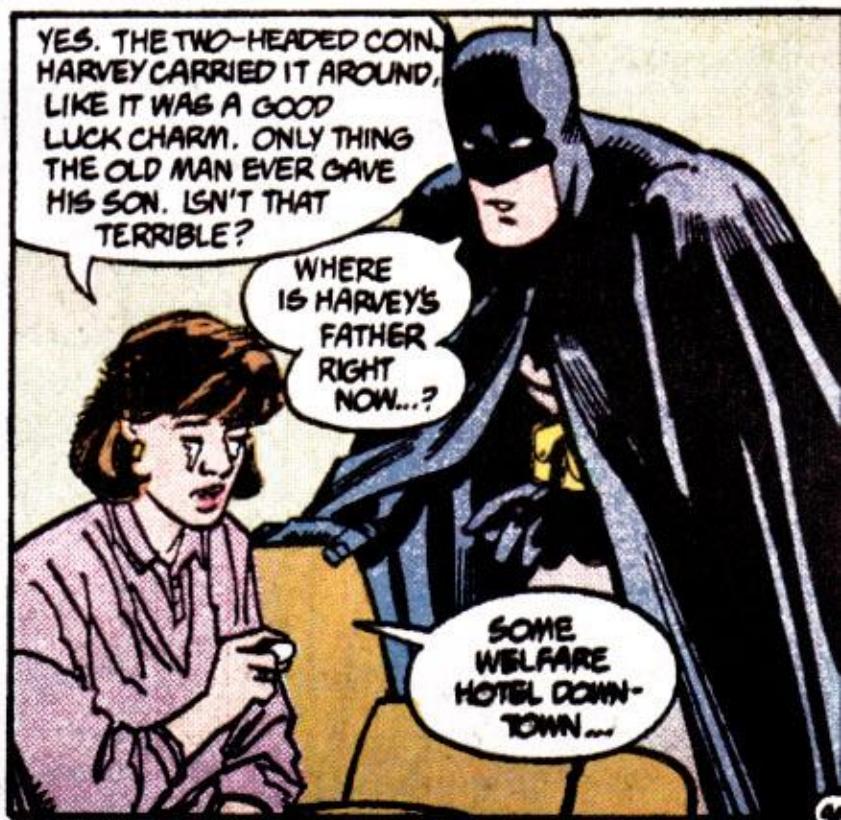
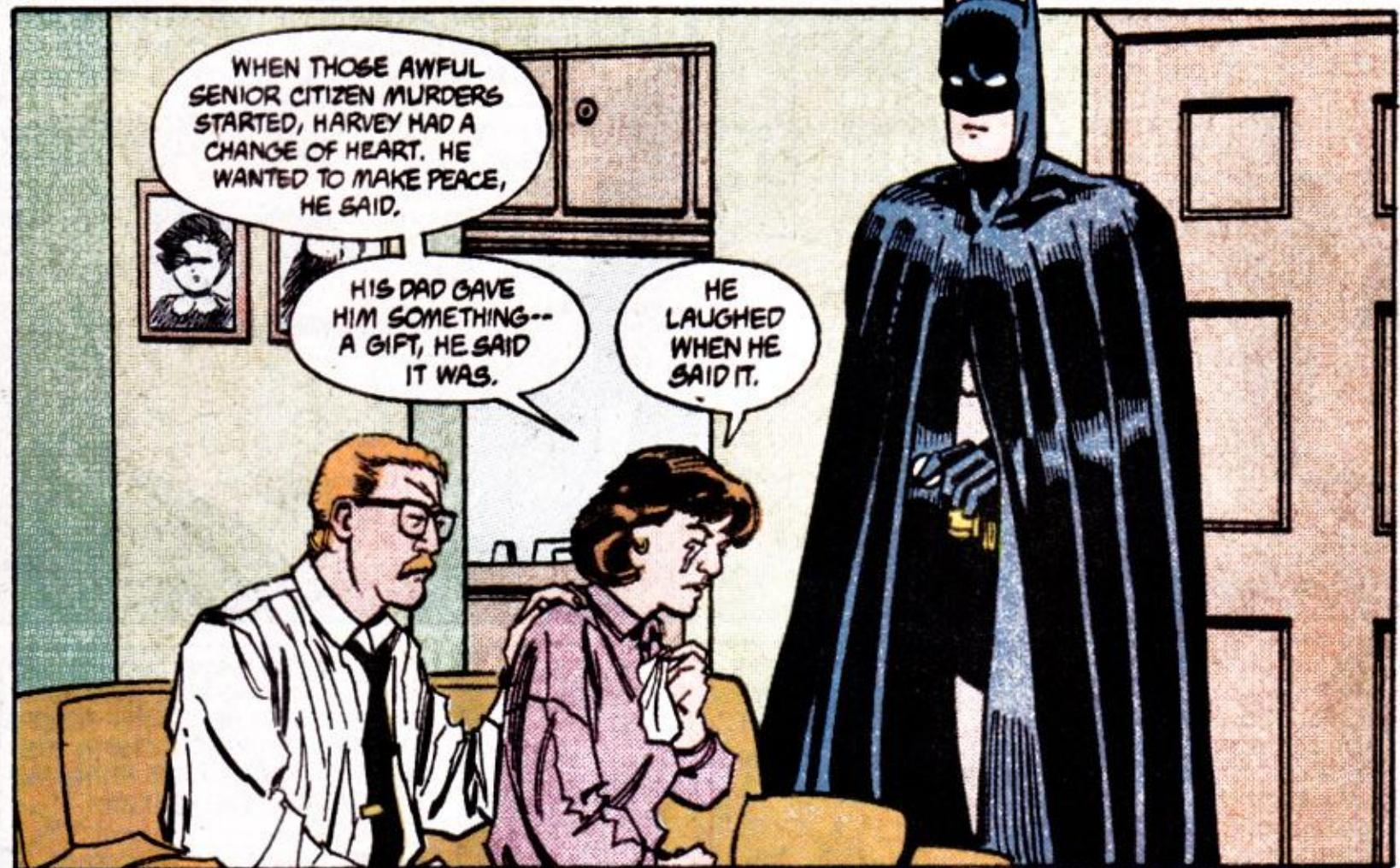
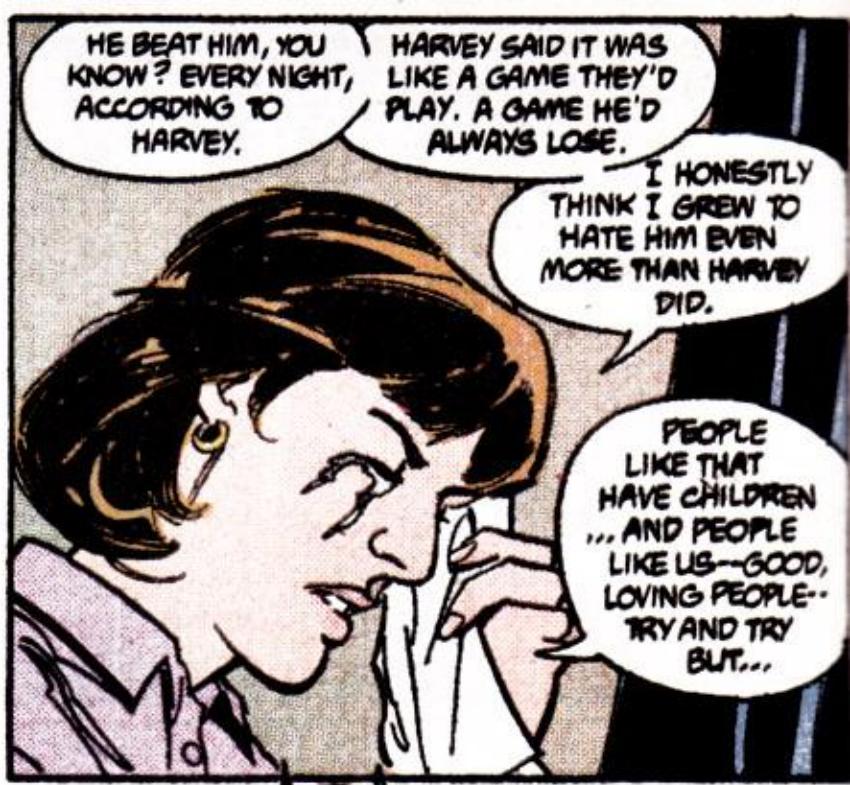
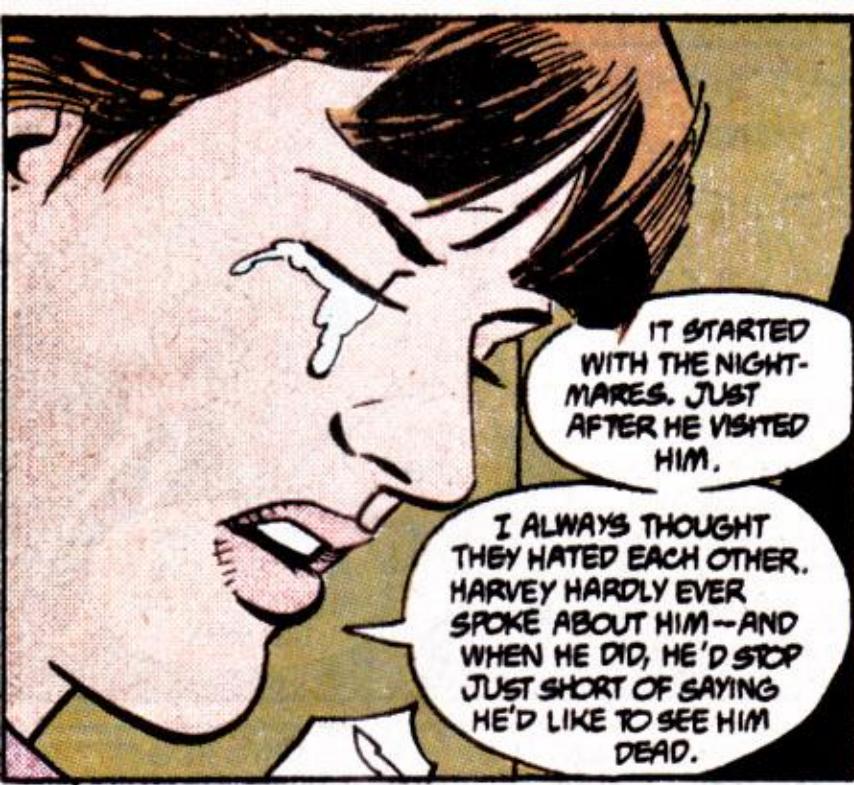
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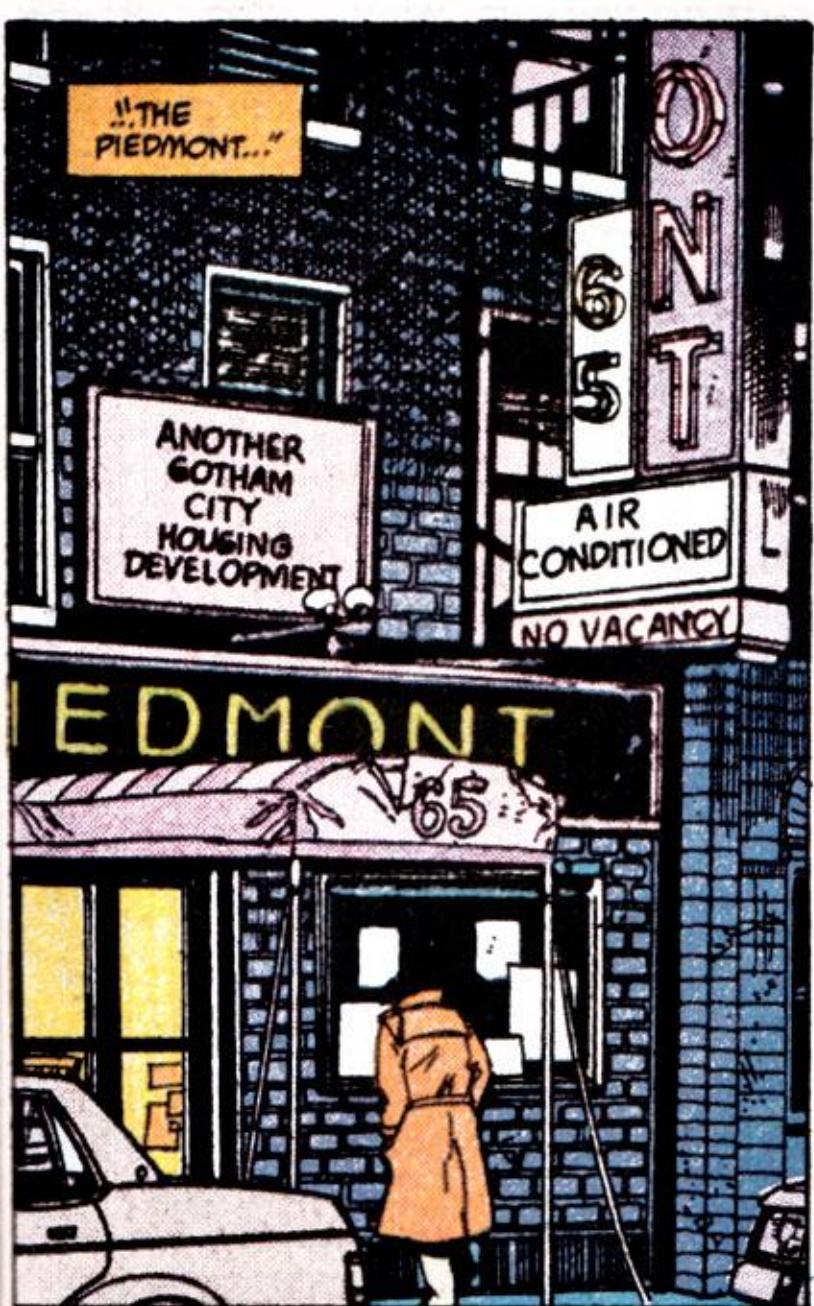
CREEESH!

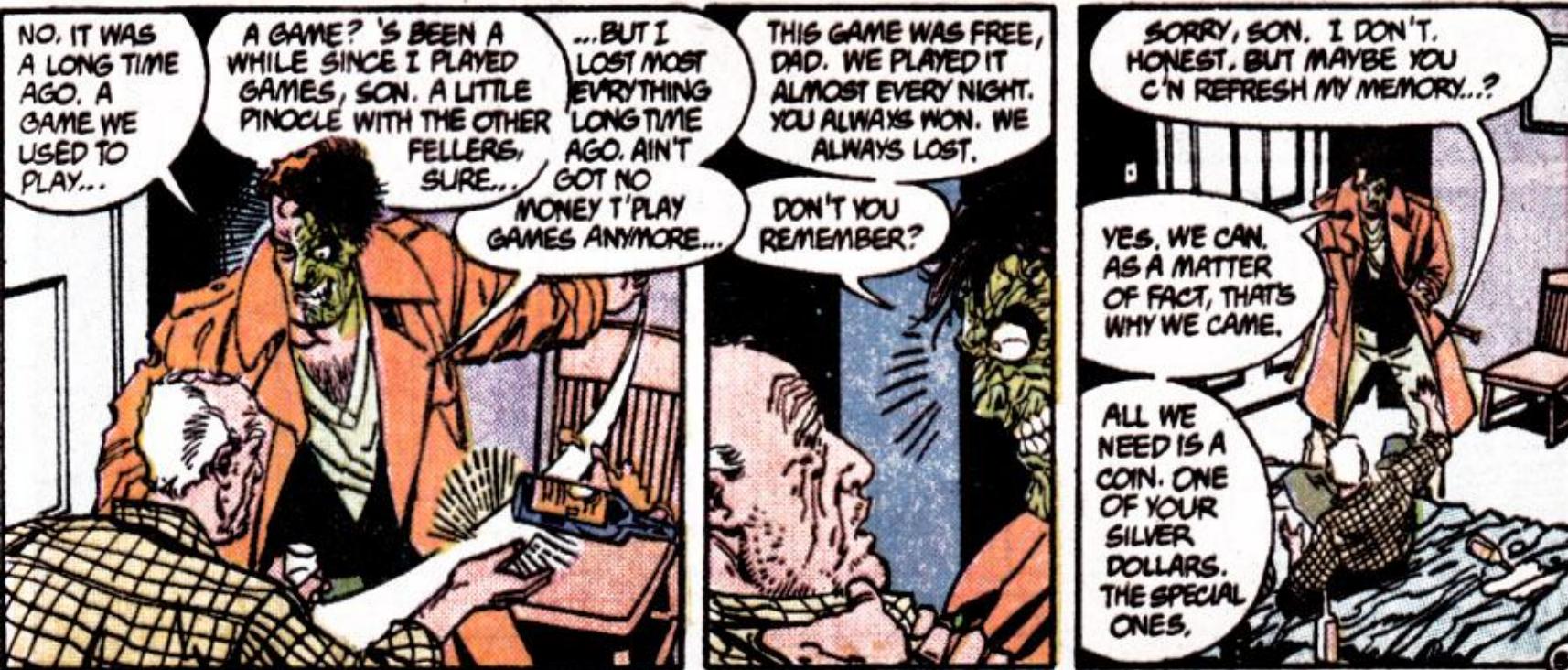
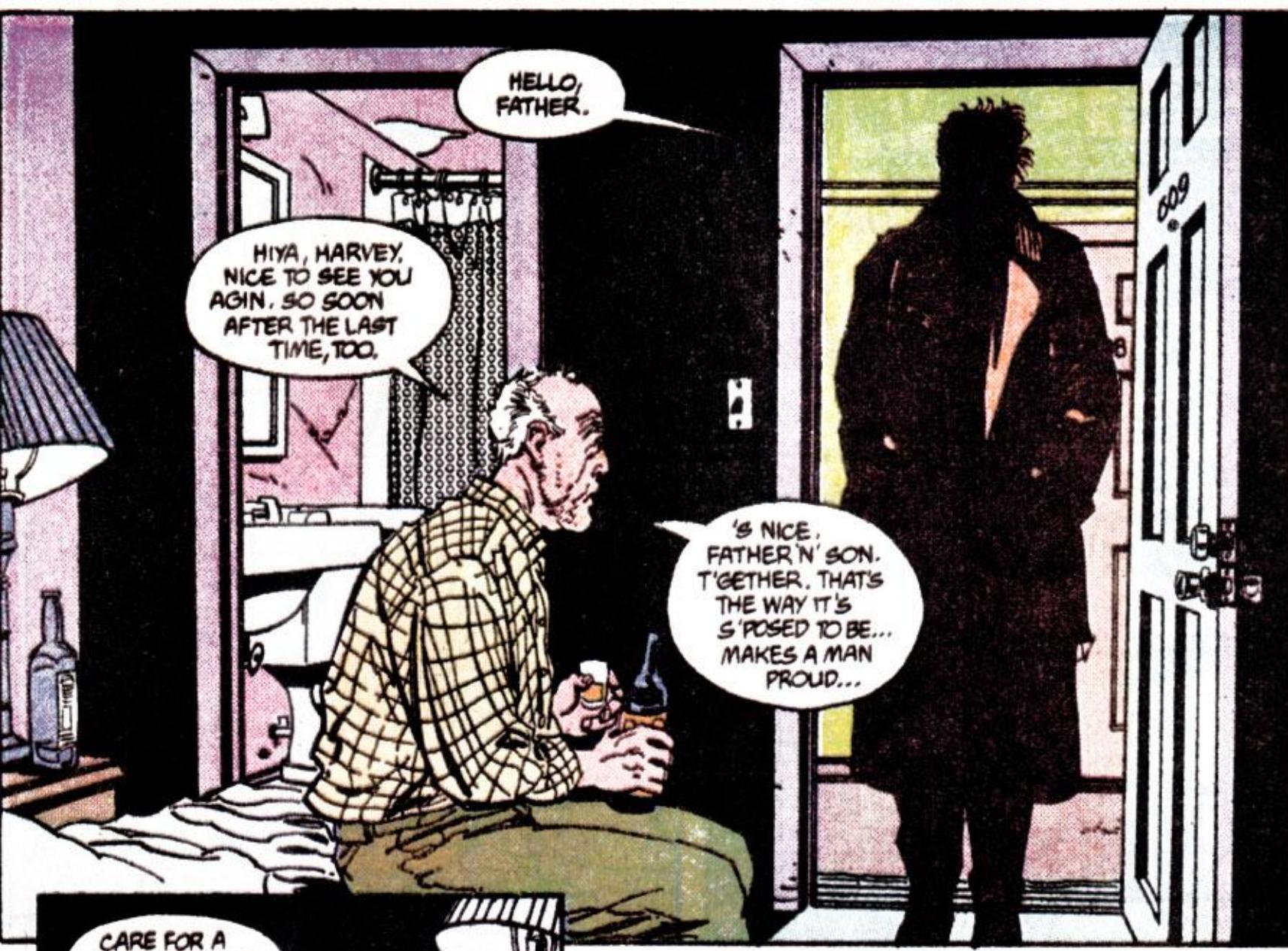




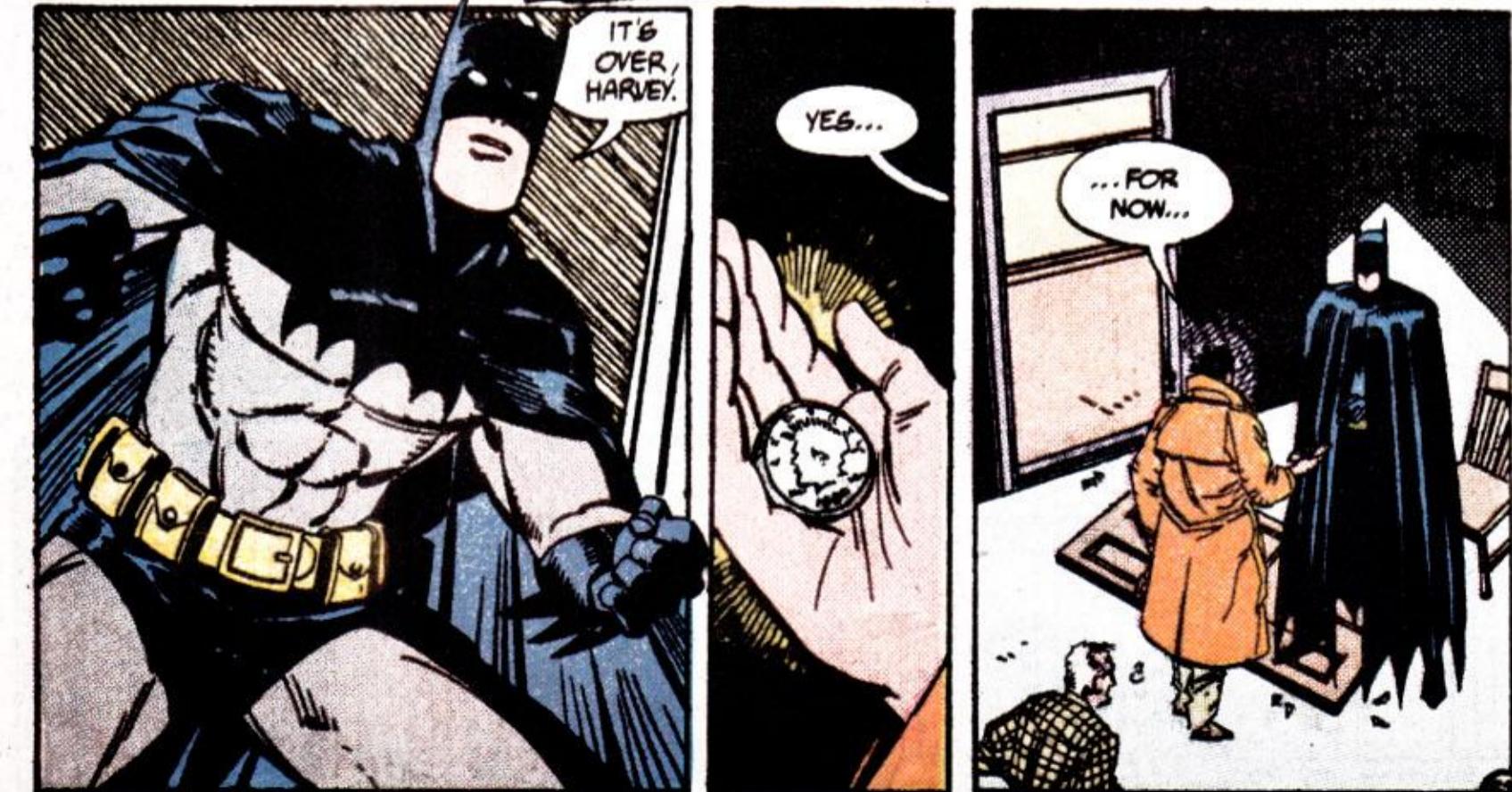
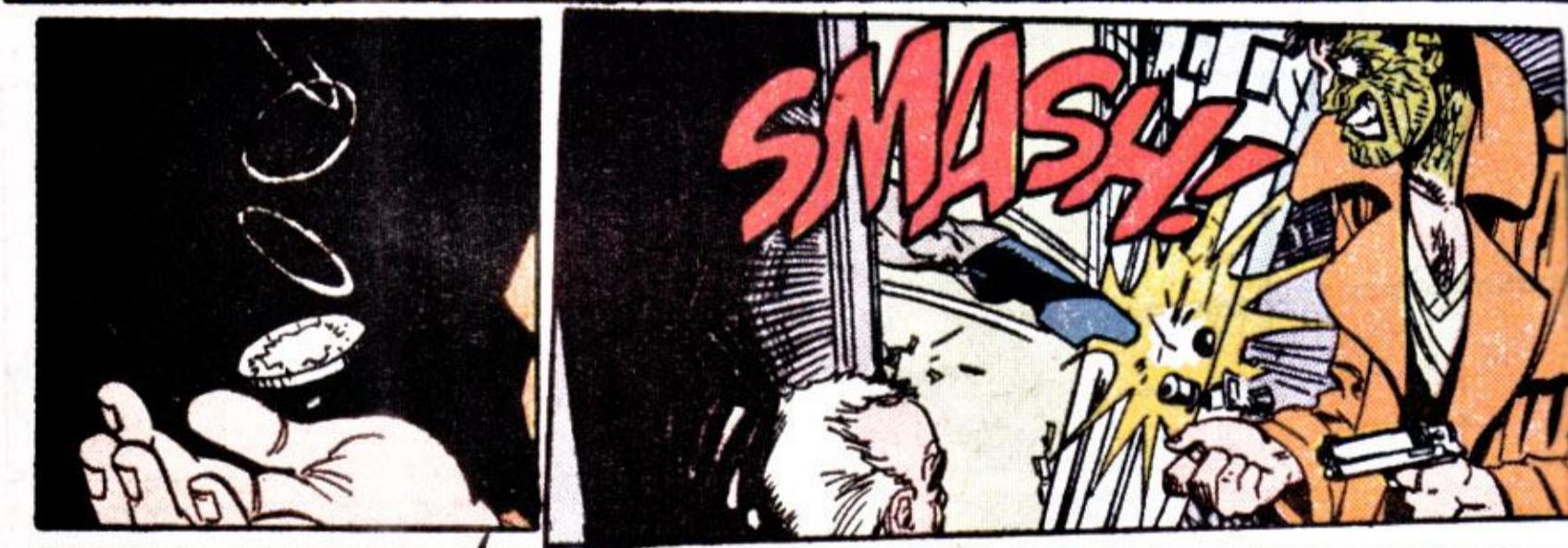












EPILOGUE

FROM ALL WE CAN TELL RIGHT NOW, THE COIN WAS THE KEY... THAT, AND THE UNFORTUNATE SCARRING OF DENT'S FACE.

IT APPEARS DENT HAD TWO PERSONALITIES -- HE'D MANAGED TO SUBLIMATE THE SECOND, ANTI-SOCIAL ONE SINCE HE WAS A TEENAGER...

...BUT SOMEHOW, THE COIN BROUGHT ALL THE OLD CONFLICTS BACK INTO PLAY... AND SIMPLY SNAPPED HIS MIND IN TWO...

THE COIN BECAME THE VEHICLE OF DECISION-MAKING. A TIE-BREAKER, IF YOU WILL.

DOES HE HAVE A CHANCE OF RECOVERY... I MEAN, THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF TREATMENT...

THERE IS... AND WE'VE ALREADY BEGINNED. TWO WEEKS AGO, WE PERFORMED AN EXPERIMENTAL PLASTIC SURGERY PROCEDURE ON HIM.

I'M HAPPY TO SAY, THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN MIRACULOUS. PHYSICALLY, AT LEAST, HARVEY HAS BEEN CURED.

ONCE HE BECOMES ACCUSTOMED TO HIS OLD FACE, WE'LL BEGIN HEALING THE SCARS IN HIS MIND...

THE OTHER HALF HAS BEEN STRANGELY QUIET OF LATE. IT MIGHT BE GONE... OR SIMPLY AWAITING AN OPPORTUNITY TO MANIFEST ITSELF...

ONLY TIME WILL TELL...

DENT, HARVEY

IT'S STILL HEALING, BUT THE SCARRED SIDE OF HIS FACE IS GONE. HE'S BEEN SPENDING THE LAST FEW DAYS COMING TO TERMS WITH THIS FACT.

NO ONE KNOWS. ALL WE ARE CERTAIN OF RIGHT NOW IS THAT HE WANTS TO BE CURED... AT LEAST, HALF OF HIM DOES.

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