



20c  
NO. 251  
SEPT.  
30430

# BATMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
CARTOON  
AUTHORITY



A large, stylized graphic of the word "HAHA" repeated five times in orange, set against a background of blue and green waves.

**HA HA**

**HA HA HA HA HA**

"HA HA HA

S-563

**HA**

**Faz**

# BATMAN

FROM THE DARKNESS OF A COUNTRY ROAD SOMEWHERE NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY... AND FROM THE GREATER DARK OF A PAST FILLED WITH EVIL ... COMES A TERRIFYINGLY FAMILIAR FACE!

THUNDER RACKS THE EARTH  
AND LIGHTNING SCARS THE  
SKY AND WETNESS STREAMS  
FROM THE CLOUDS LIKE  
TEARS OF MOURNING! IT  
IS AS THOUGH NATURE IT-  
SELF WERE WEEPING!

AND WELL IT  
MIGHT, FOR THERE  
IS DEATH  
ABROAD THIS  
NIGHT!

# THE JOKER'S FIVE- WAY

# REVENGE!

**STORY: DENNY O'NEIL  
ART: NEAL ADAMS  
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ**

IT IS NEARING ELEVEN O'CLOCK WHEN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON ANSWERS A SUMMONS TO A LONELY SPOT ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY... AND GAZES AT A HUDDLED FORM SPRAWLED IN THE RAIN-SOAKED MUD...



I'VE SEEN A LOT OF DEAD MEN BEFORE, COMMISSIONER -- BUT NONE LIKE HIM! LOOK AT THE FACE--

YES! TWISTED IN A HIDEOUS GRIN--! GHASTLY!

I WISH THE BATMAN WOULD ARRIVE!

I'M HERE, COMMISSIONER! BEEN HERE FOR TEN MINUTES!

BLAST IT, BATMAN! MUST YOU CONSTANTLY STARTLE ME--?

SORRY, SIR! I WANTED TO EXAMINE THE SCENE UNDISTURBED!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NO QUESTION OF WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME! THE DEAD MAN'S GRIN--

--IT'S THE TRADEMARK OF ONLY ONE CRIMINAL--

...AND TO CLINCH IT, I FOUND THIS NEARBY!

I'LL DETAIL A SQUAD OF MY BEST DETECTIVES IMMEDIATELY AND...

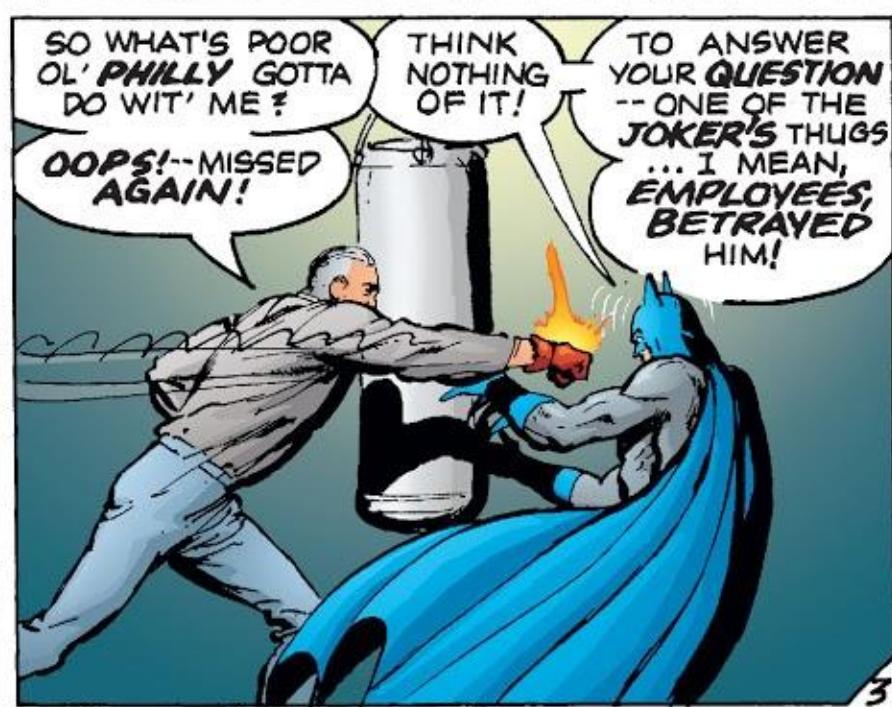
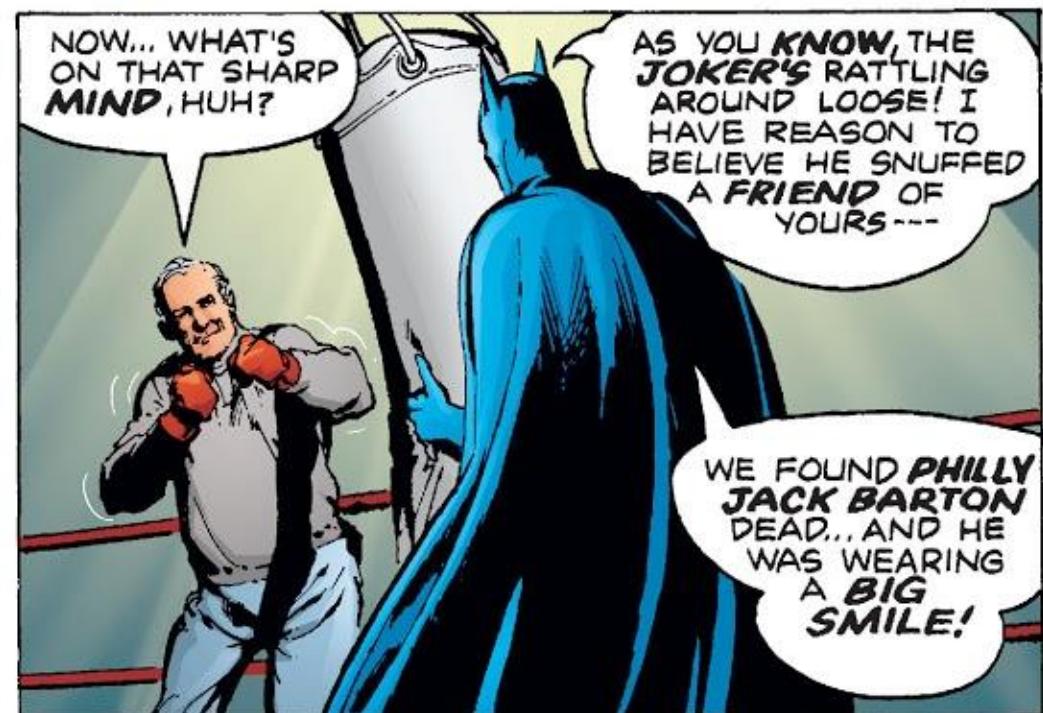
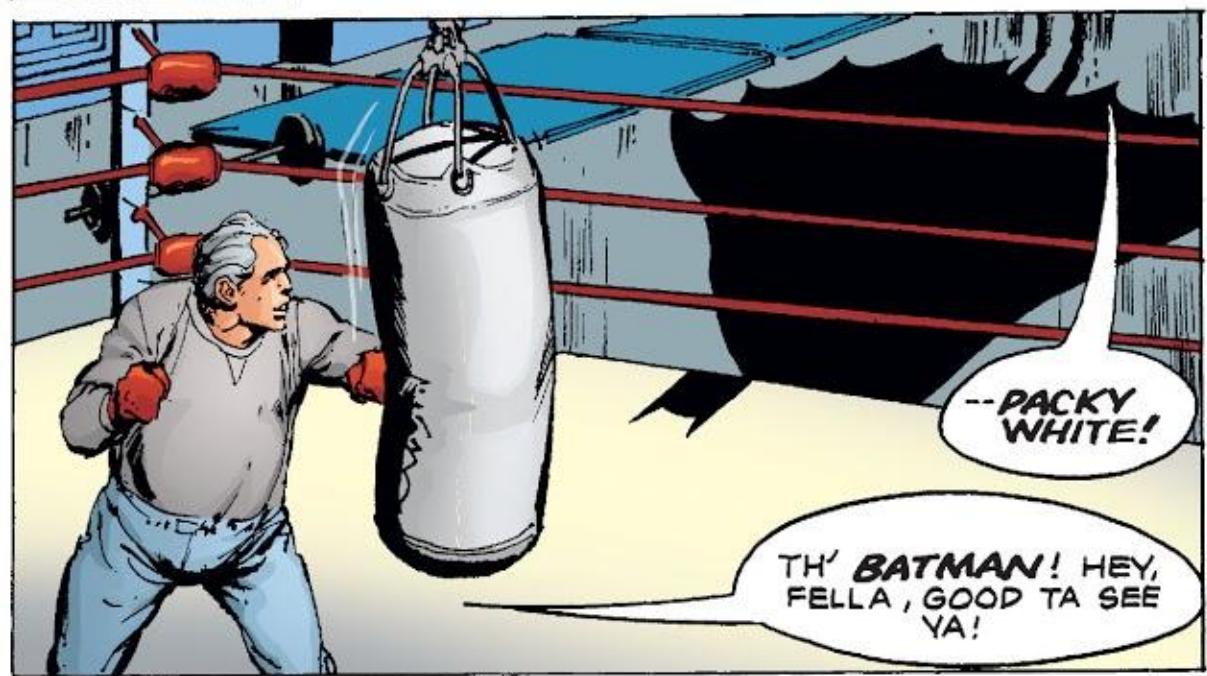
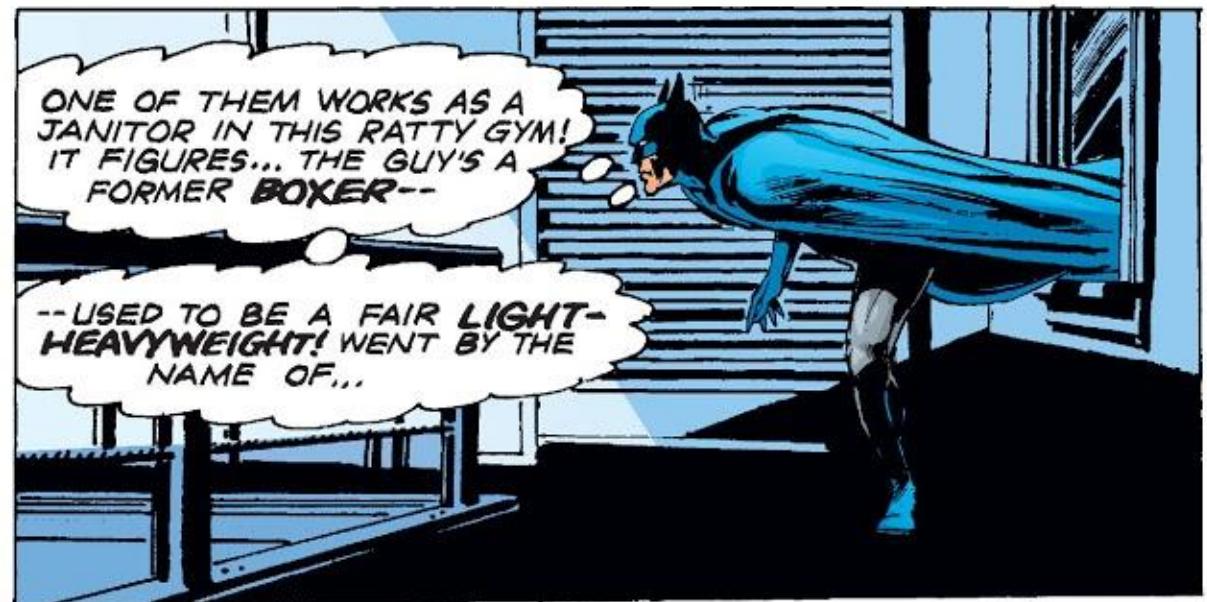
GO AHEAD, COMMISSIONER -- IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER! BUT I HAVE AN IDEA OFFICIAL METHODS WILL BE TOO SLOW TO PREVENT FURTHER KILLINGS--

SO I'LL BE INVESTIGATING ON MY OWN.

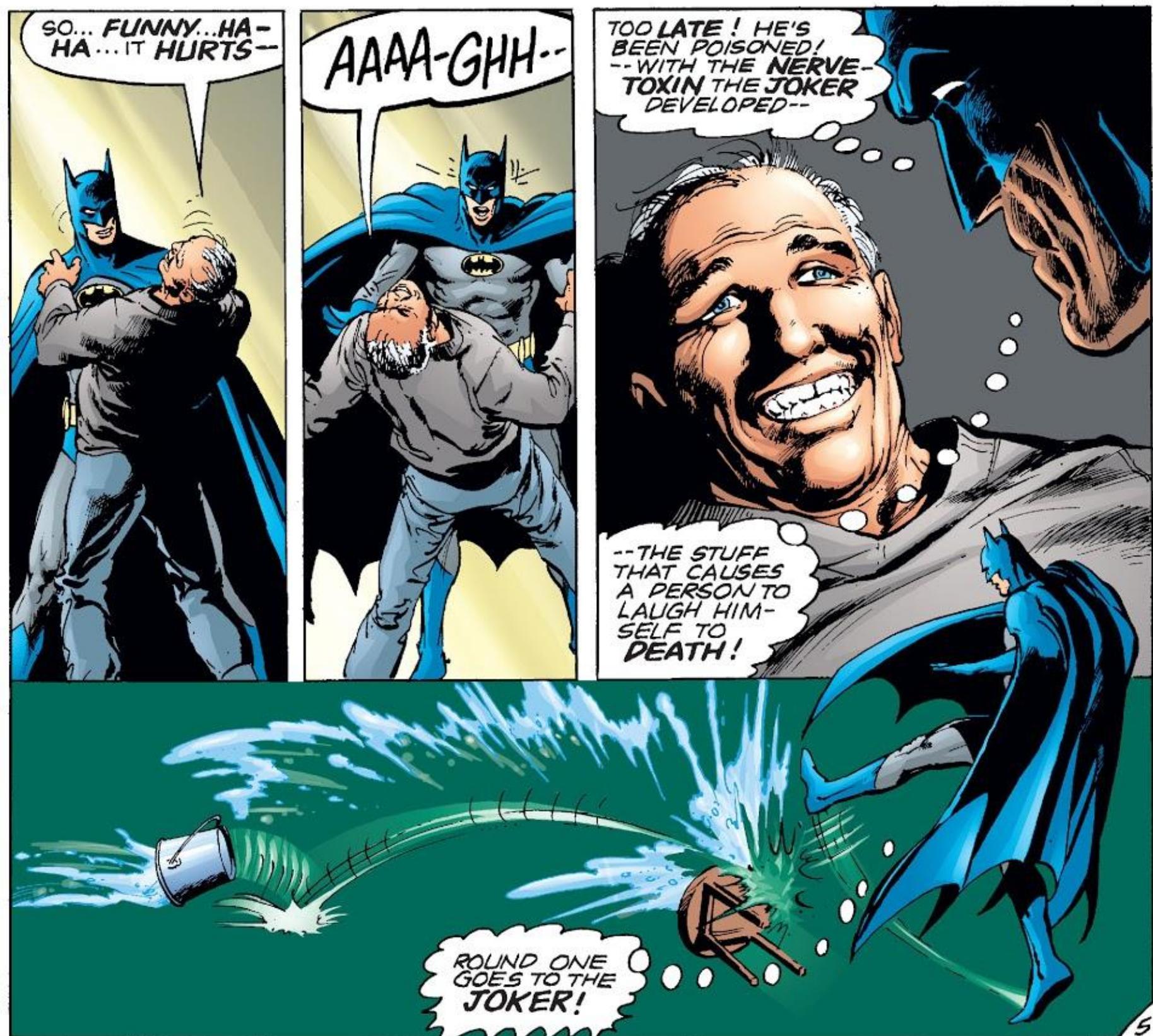
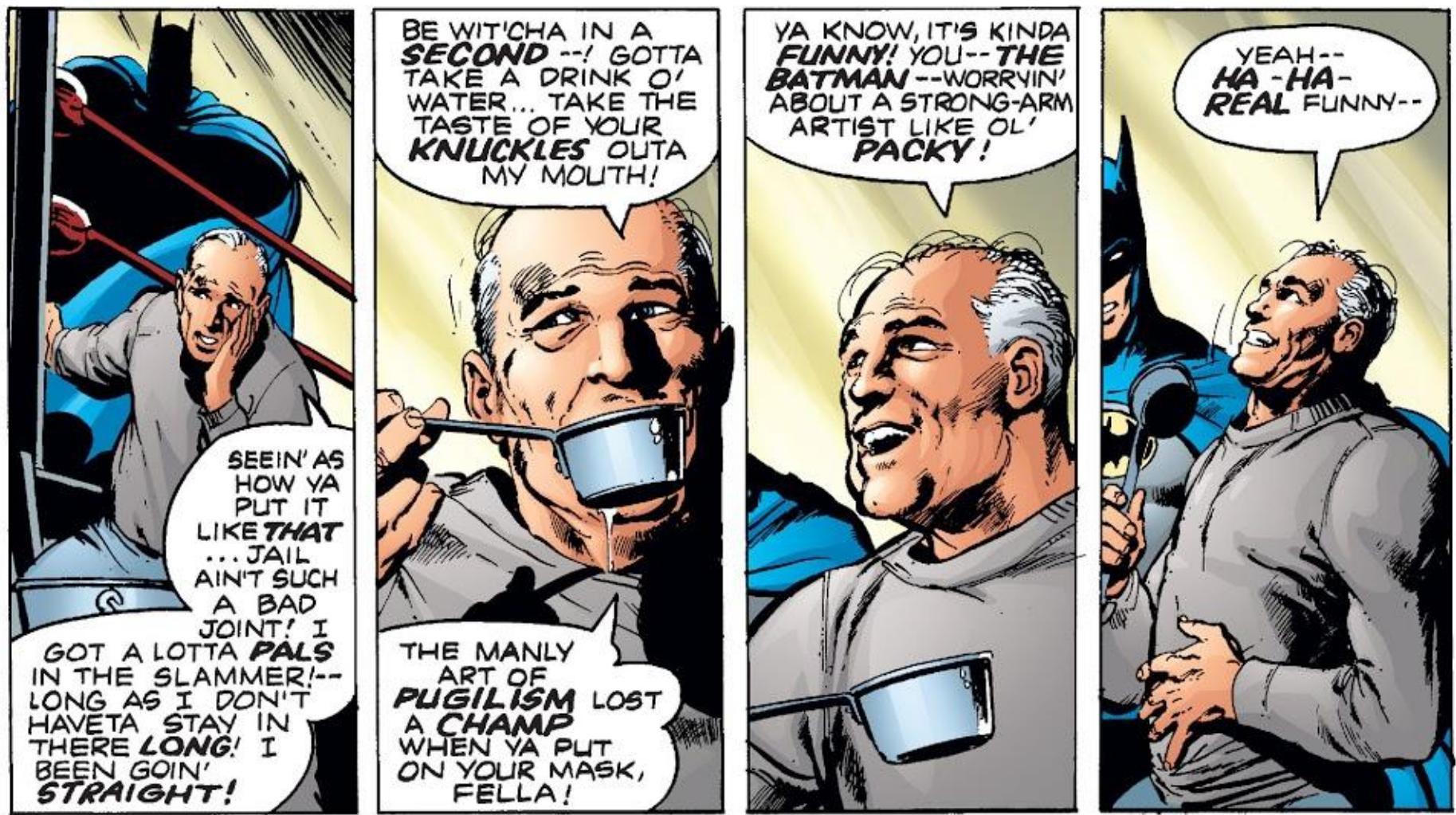
A JOKER!

EVER SINCE I HEARD THE JOKER ESCAPED FROM THE STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING HIM TO SHOW UP--

--BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO SEARCH FOR HIM IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION UNTIL HE MADE A MOVE--







AND UNKNOWN TO THE BATMAN, HIS FOE IS ABOUT TO TAKE THE SECOND ROUND ALSO! FOR, IN A SLEAZY HOTEL ROOM...

I'M S'PRISED TO SEE YA IN GOTHAM! I FIGGERED YA'D WANNA STAY CLEAR OF THE BATMAN!

OH, DEAR ME, NO--

COSY HOTEL

--I FULLY EXPECT HIM TO FIND ME, REGARDLESS OF WHERE I HIDE! I DON'T KNOW HOW... OR WHEN...

...BUT THE CAPED CRUSADER WILL LOCATE ME! HE ALWAYS DOES! HOWEVER, I INTEND TO BE READY FOR HIM!

BY THE WAY, WERE YOU THE ONE WHO BETRAYED ME, ALBY?

M-ME? AW, JOKER... I'M YER PAL!

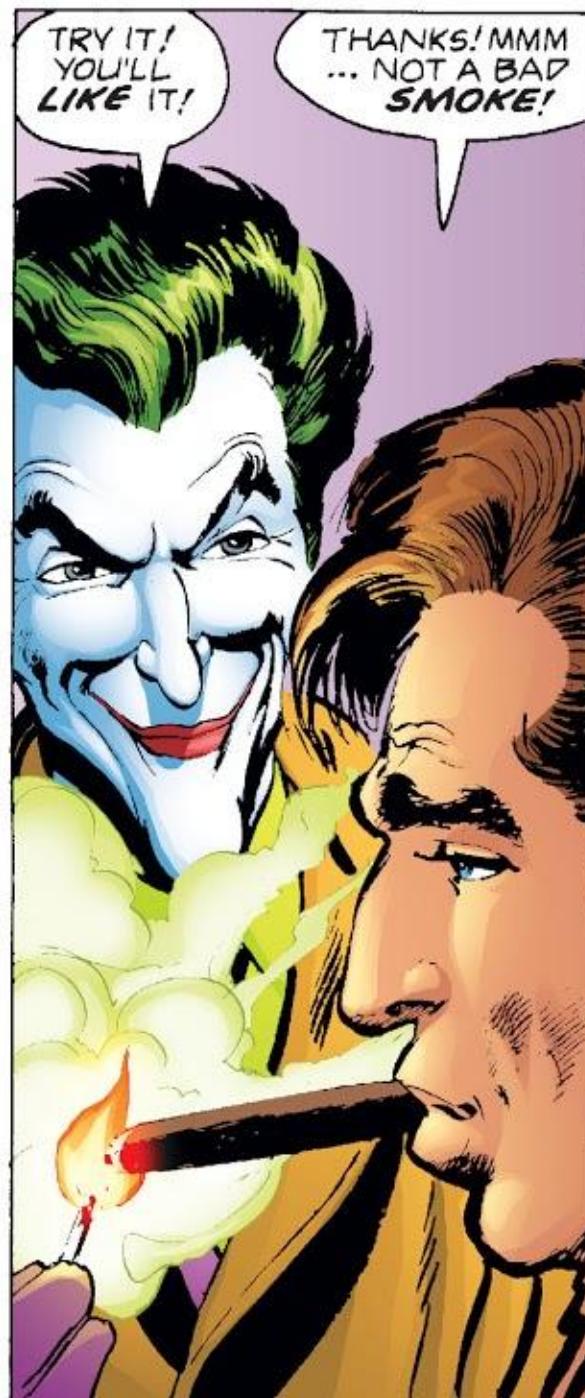
THEN HAVE A CIGAR... PAL!

TRY IT! YOU'LL LIKE IT!

THANKS! MMM... NOT A BAD SMOKE!

HEY... I BET YOU'RE PULLIN' A GAG ON ME, RIGHT? I BET THIS'S AN EXPLODING CIGAR, RIGHT?

SAME OLD JOKER... ALWAYS WITH THE GAGS! WELL... I CAN GO ALONG WITH A LAUGH! I MEAN, WHAT HARM CAN A LITTLE EXPLODING CIGAR DO, RIGHT?



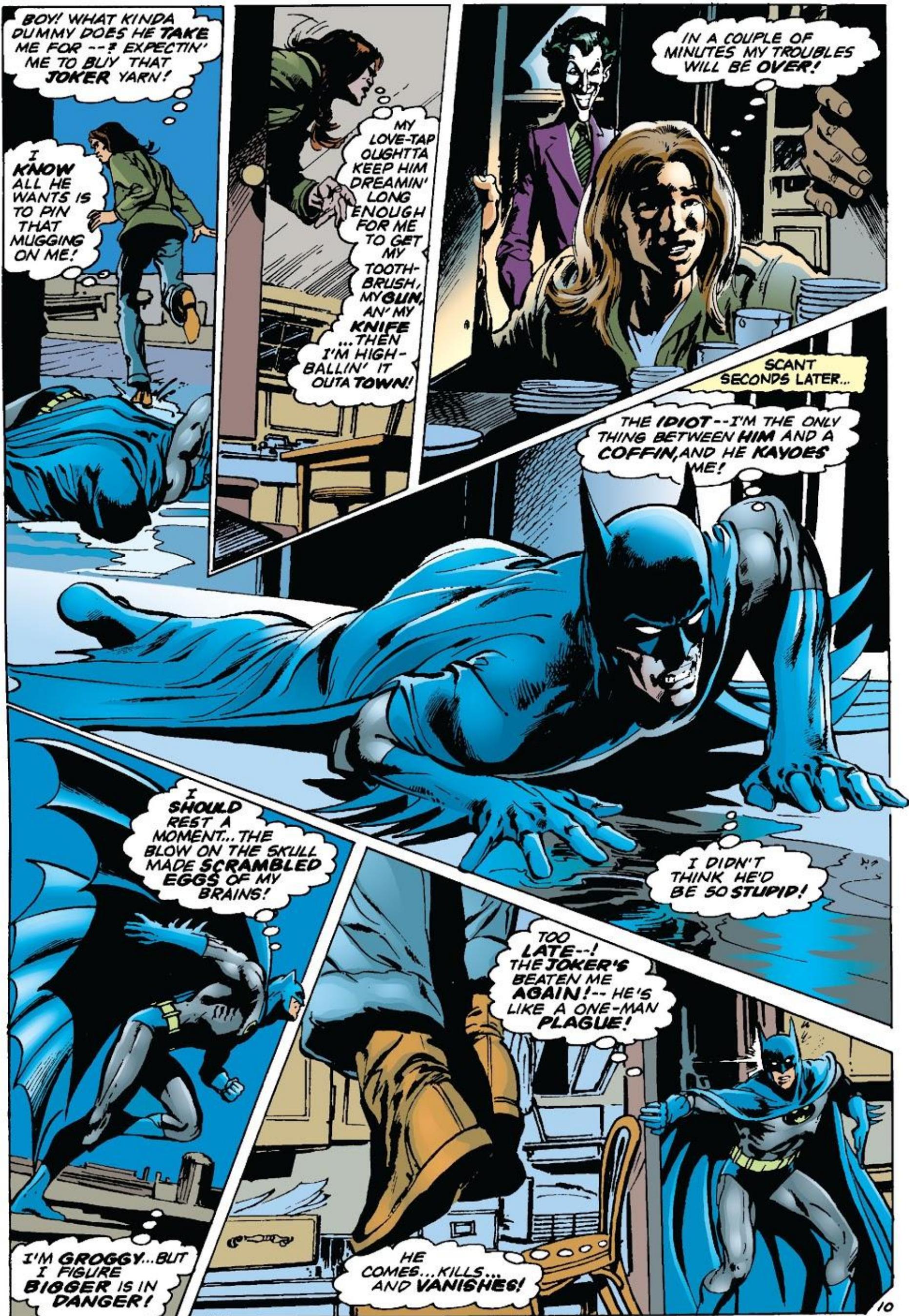


TEN MINUTES LATER, THE BATMAN HEARS OF ALBY'S ABRUPT DEMISE ON THE POLICE RADIO, AND...









OR...  
HAS  
HE  
VANISHED?

QUICKLY, THE BATMAN  
WHIRLS... HIS PAIN-  
NUMBED SENSES  
TELLING HIM HE IS  
NOT ALONE IN THE  
SQUALID SHACK...

...BUT NOT QUITE QUICKLY  
ENOUGH! HE IS A FRACTION  
OF A HEARTBEAT TOO SLOW!

HE HAS TIME JUST TO GLIMPSE A GRIN BE-  
FORE A HEEL SMASHES BRUTALLY INTO HIS  
FACE... AND OBLIVION CLAIMS HIM!

HIS LIFE  
IS MINE...

--I CAN  
CRUSH THE  
BREATH OUT  
OF HIM...  
EFFORTLESS-  
LY! I CAN,  
AT LAST,  
TRIUMPH!

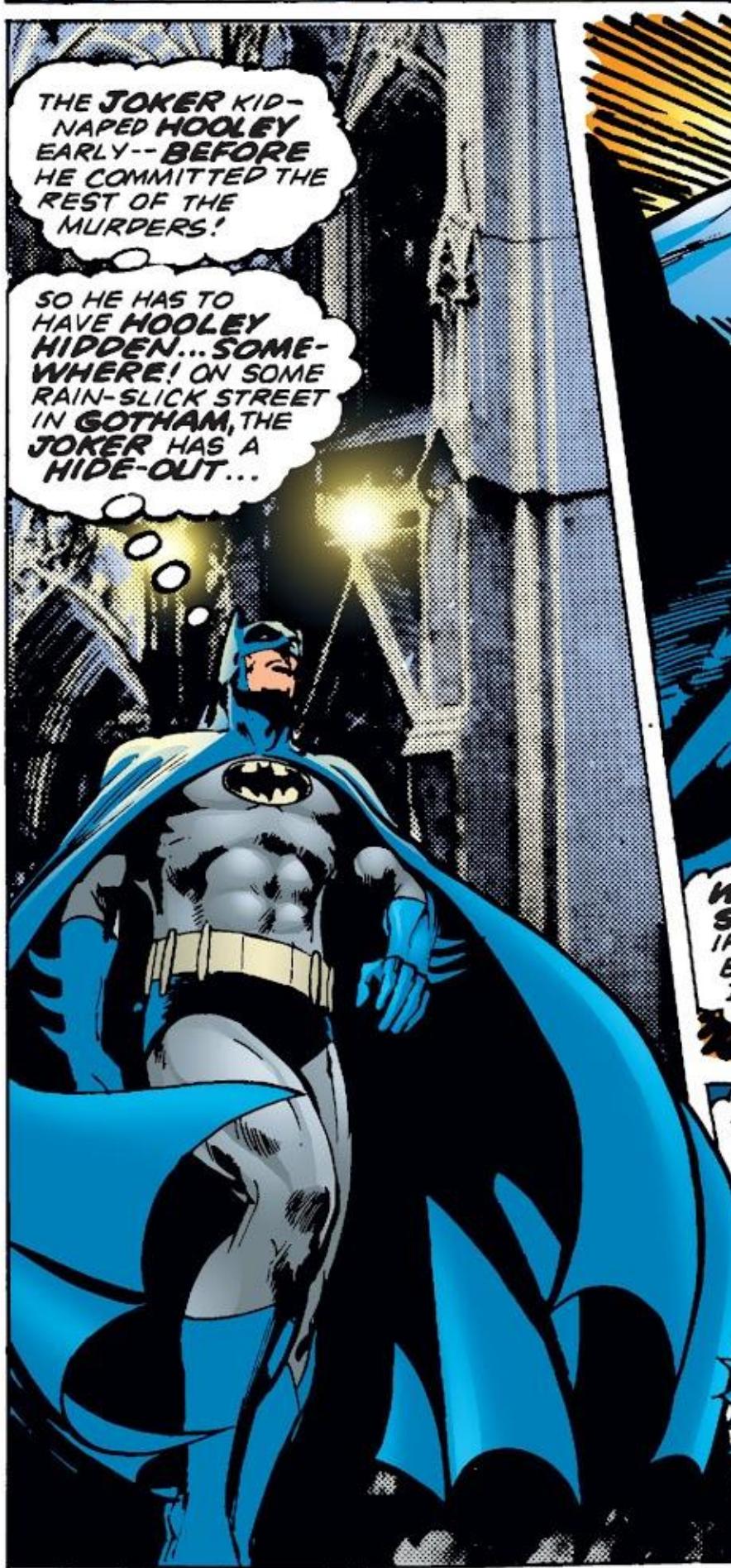
BUT SUCH A  
HOLLOW VIC-  
TORY--! IT WAS  
MERE LUCK  
THAT CAUSED  
MY ATTACK  
ON HIM TO  
SUCCEED!

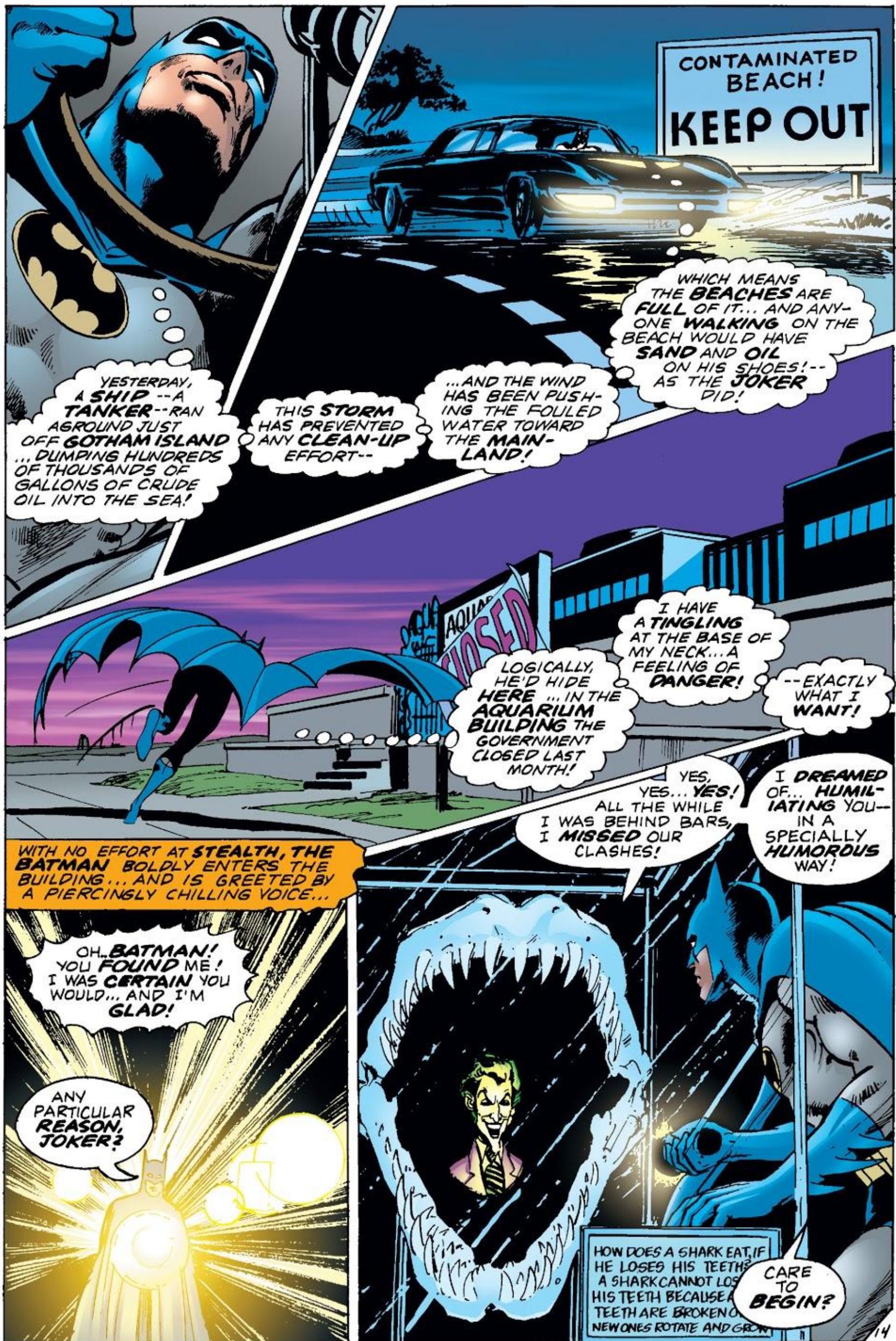
I'D ALWAYS  
ENVISIONED MY  
WINNING AS A RE-  
SULT OF CUNNING...  
AT THE END OF A  
BITTER STRUGGLE  
BETWEEN THE  
BATMAN AND  
MYSELF--

-- HIM  
USING HIS  
DETECTIVE  
SKILLS

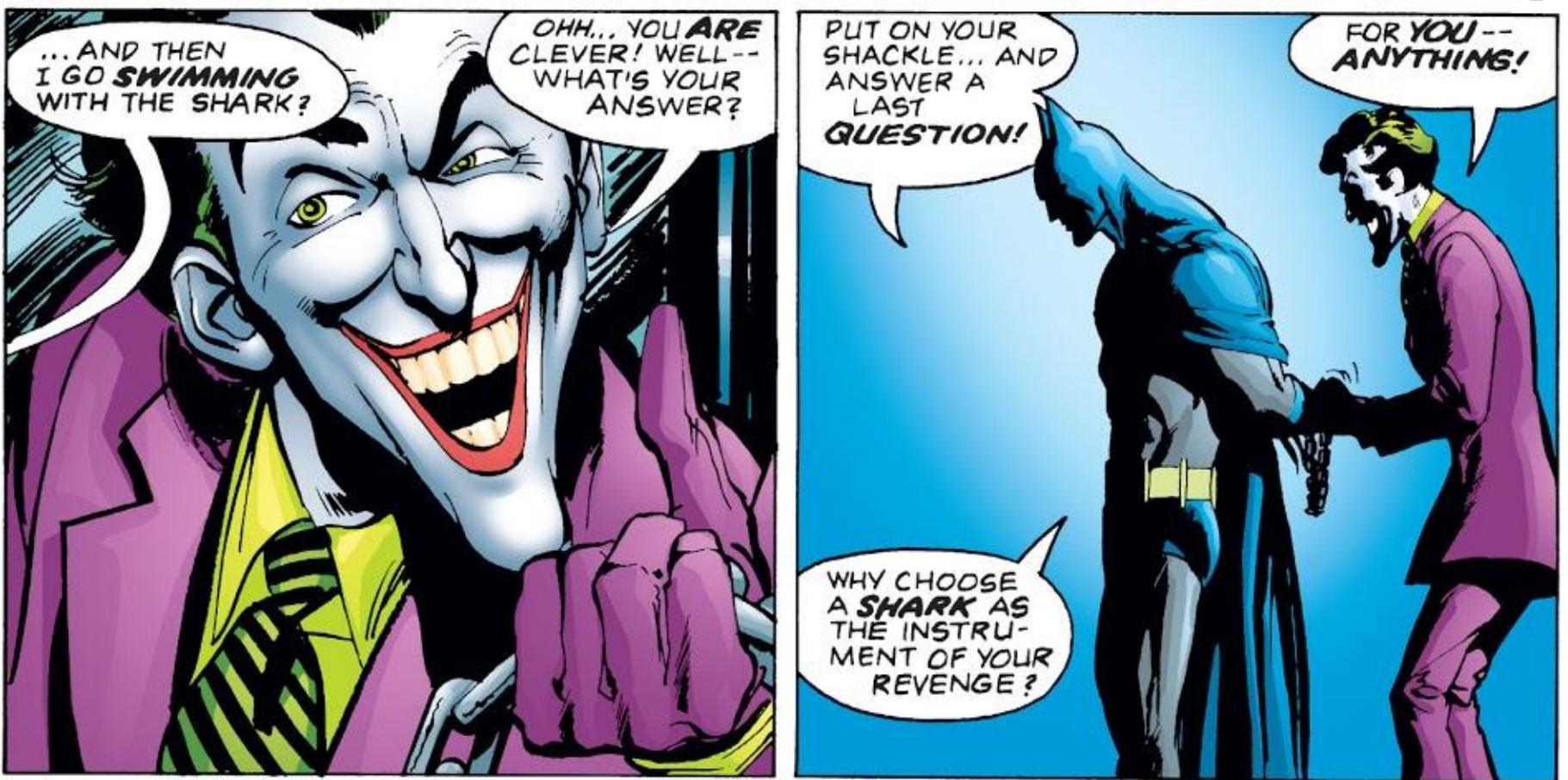
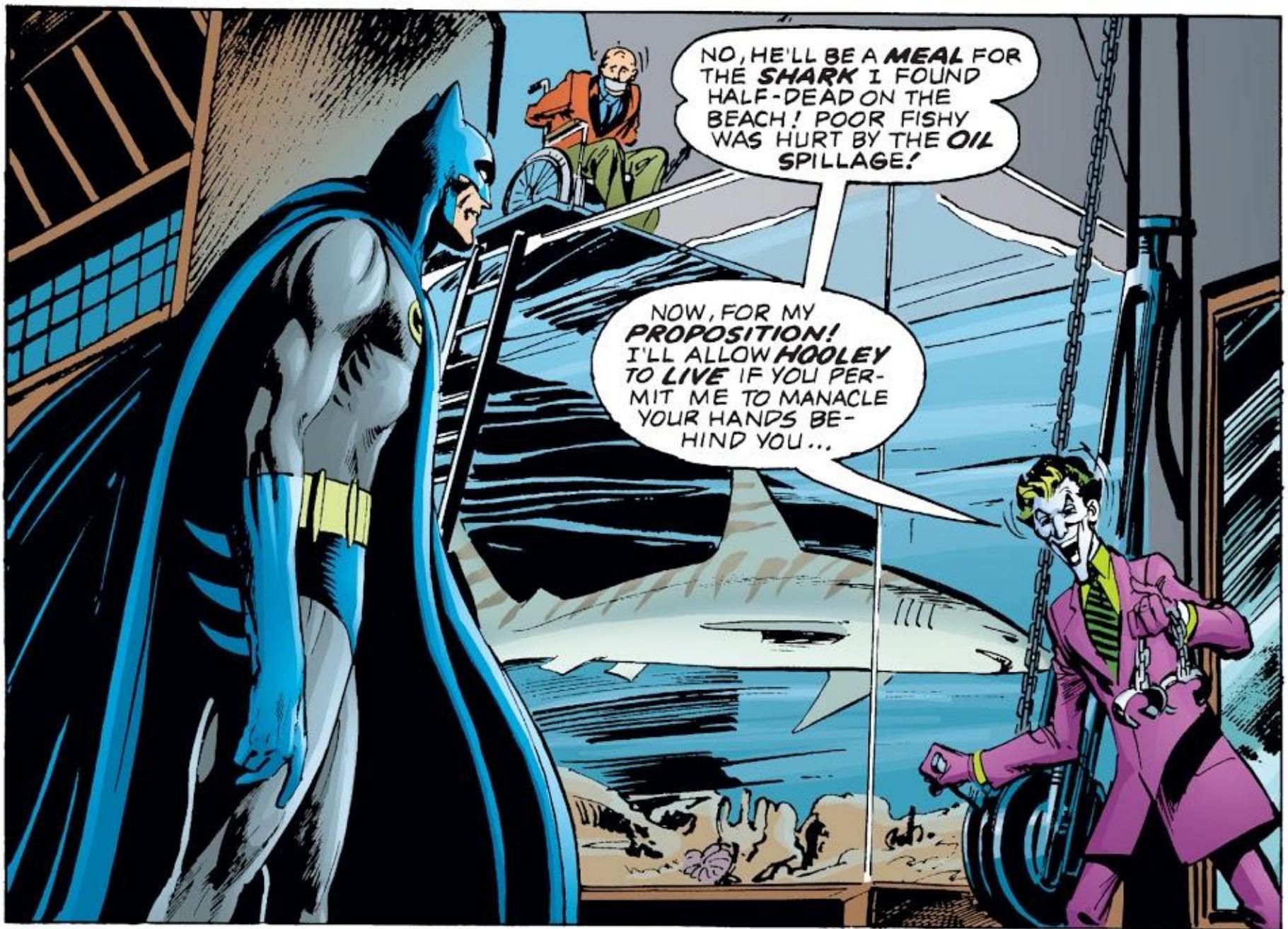
AND ME  
EMPLOYING  
THE DIVINE  
GIFT MEN  
CALL  
MADNESS!







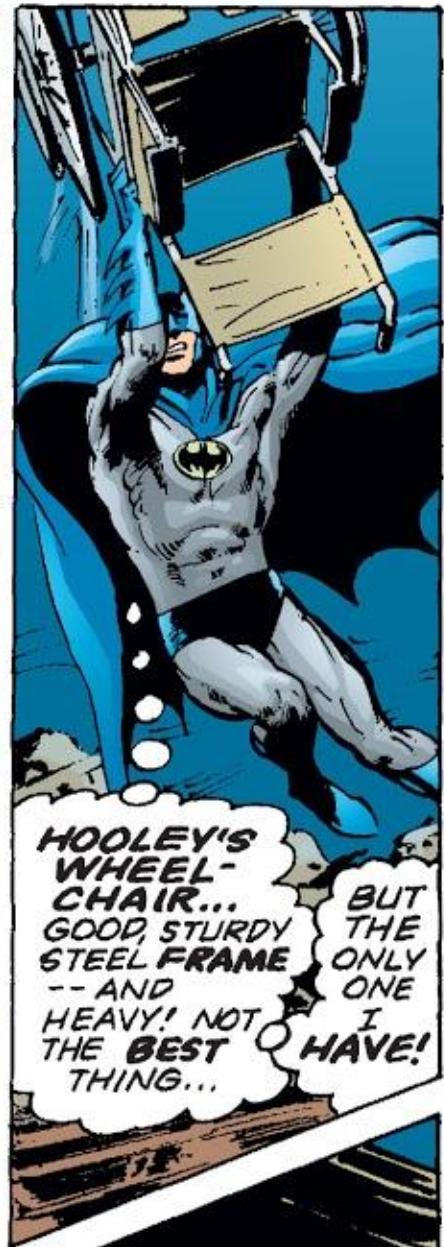




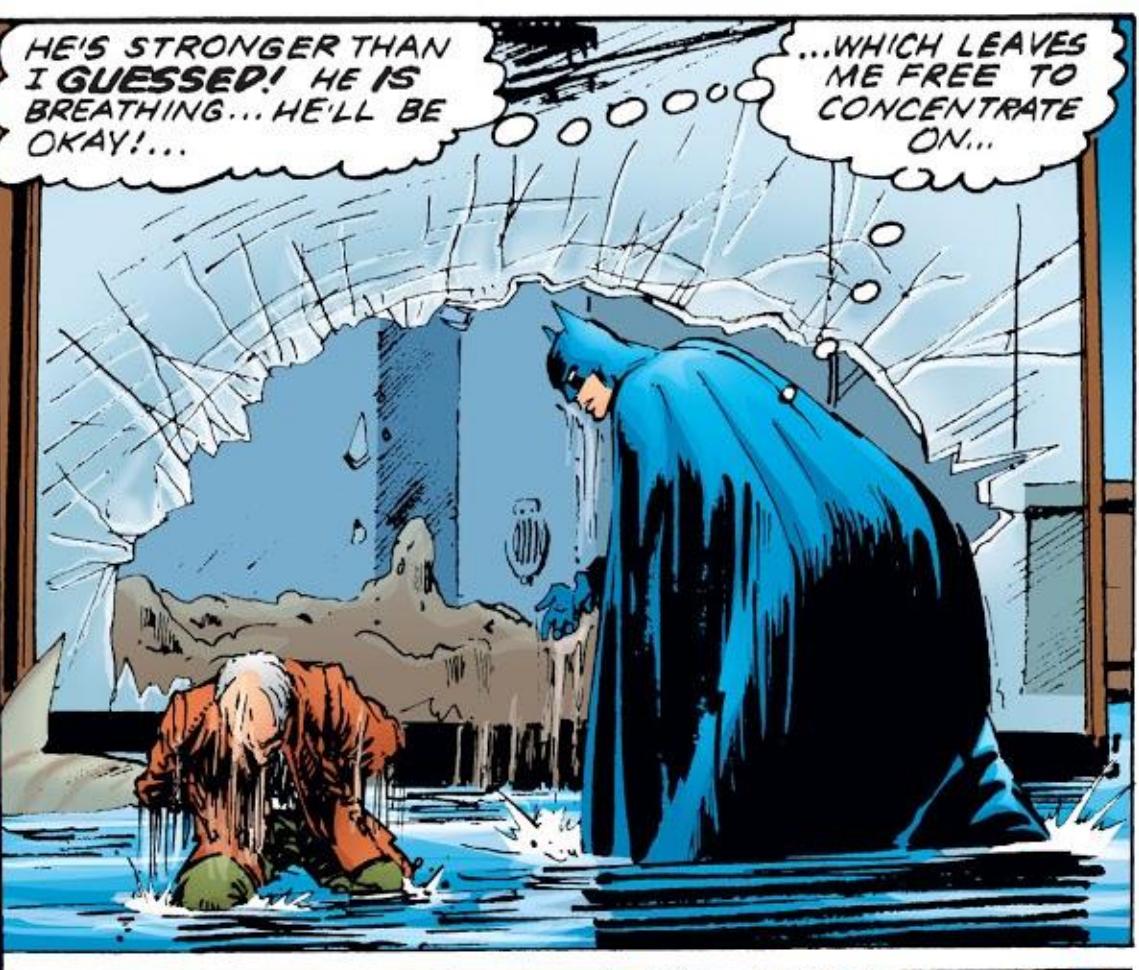
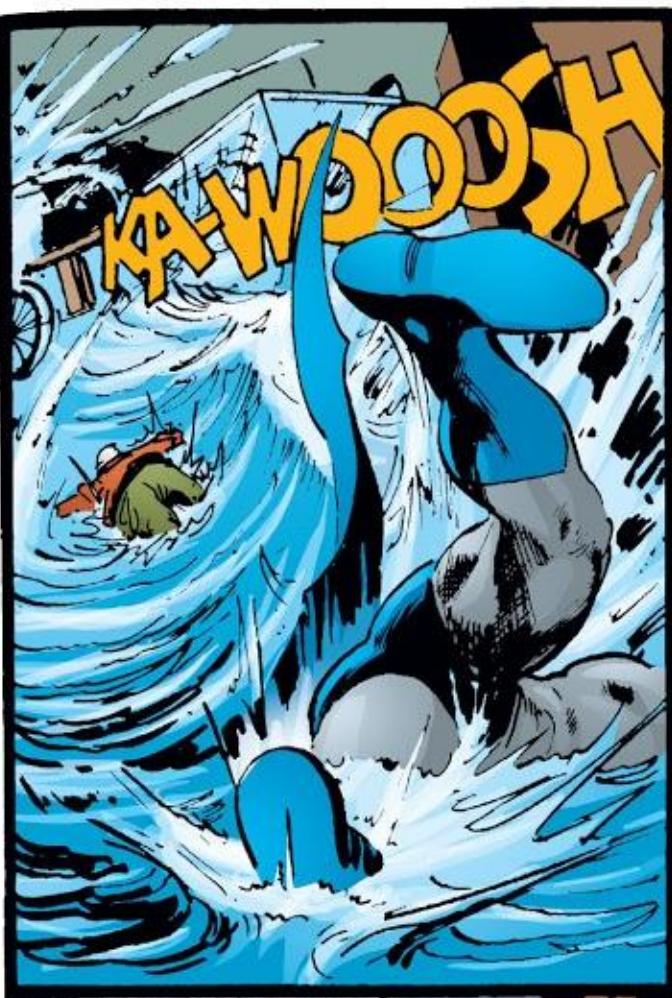


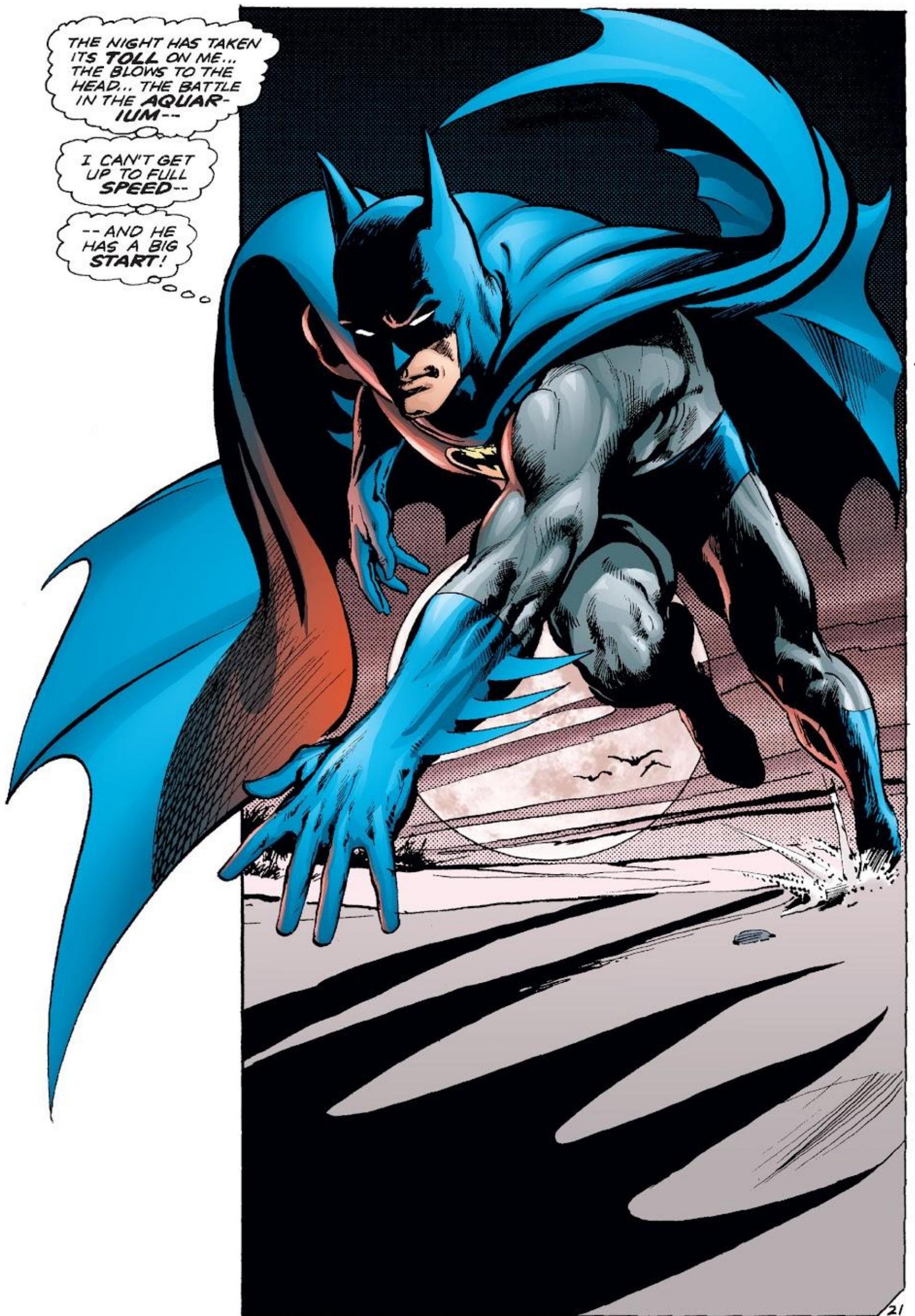


SUDDENLY, THE SHARK SHUDDERS... AND SLOWLY SINKS!



USING EVERY SCINTILLA OF THE POWER LOCKED IN HIS INCREDIBLE FRAME, STRAINING TO OVERCOME WATER-RESISTANCE, THE BAT-MAN SMASHES THE CHAIR FORWARD... AGAIN-- AND AGAIN...





BUT... WITHIN YARDS OF FREEDOM, THE FLEEING MADMAN SLIPS...



FRANTIC, HE RISES... TO BE CONFRONTED BY A PILLAR OF GREY RAGE--

IT'S OVER, JOKER! -- FINISHED!

THEY'RE GOING TO PUT YOU PRECISELY WHERE YOU BELONG-- IN A PADDED CELL! AND I HOPE THEY LOSE THE KEY!

