



SPECIAL GUEST-VILLAIN... **LEX LUTHOR!**

NO. 293 NOV.
30430 35¢

BATMAN

I'VE TRAPPED YOU IN
BATMAN'S BODY,
SUPERMAN--

--SO WHEN I
KILL HIM--
YOU DIE!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
A.D.
AUTHORITY



ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...

THE BATMAN

CREATED BY

BOB
KANE

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL THE BATMAN! DOMINATE HIS MIND-- AND DESTROY HIM FROM WITHIN!

NOT ALL QUESTIONS HAVE ANSWERS -- AND WHO KILLED THE BATMAN REMAINS ONE OF THEM! NOT ALL CRIMES ARE SOLVED-- AND THE MURDER OF THE CAPE CRUSADER STILL DEFIES RESOLUTION, BUT NOW COMES A MIGHTY AND MALEVOLENT MONARCH OF CRIMINAL SCIENCE -- WITH ALL THE ANSWERS-- IN...

"THE TESTIMONY OF LUTHOR!"

STORY:
DAVID V. REED

ART:
JOHN CALNAN AND TEX BLAISDELL

COLOR: JERRY SERPE
LETTERING: BEN ODA

SPECIAL SURPRISE WITNESS--



SUPERMAN

THE SUPREME COURT OF CRIME MEETS AGAIN... NO CLOSER TO SOLVING THE SENSATIONAL MYSTERY THAT HAS THE UNDERWORLD IN TURMOIL! CONVOKED TO PROBE AND ADJUDGE THE NUMEROUS CLAIMS FOR THE GUILT AND GLORY OF THE BATMAN'S MURDER, IT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN SESSION THREE...



GATHERED AT A SECRET COUNTRY ESTATE TO ATTEND THESE EXTRAORDINARY TRIALS, THE RANKING NOBLES OF OUTLAWRY AWAIT THE GAVEL IN A HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE...

SO FAR, THE INFAMOUS CATWOMAN AND RIDDLER HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AND DEVASTATED BY UNANIMOUS VERDICTS OF NOT GUILTY...



...LARGELY DUE TO THE BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE OF THE PROSECUTOR-- HARVEY DENT, EX-D.A.-- THE MALEVOLENT TWO-FACE-- A SCARRED AND TWISTED CRIMINAL MASTER... AS HEARTLESS AS HE IS LAWLESS...



MAGNIFICENT JOB YOU'RE DOING, SIR! I DOFF MY HAT TO YOU!

ENTER THE PRESIDING JUSTICE, RA'S AL GHÜL, DIABOLICAL HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME-COMBINE CALLED DEMON...



THE JURORS-- THE MAD HATTER, THE SPOOK, POISON IVY, SCARECROW, SIGNALMAN, AND MR. FREEZE-- ALL CELEBRATED AND CERTIFIED FELONS!

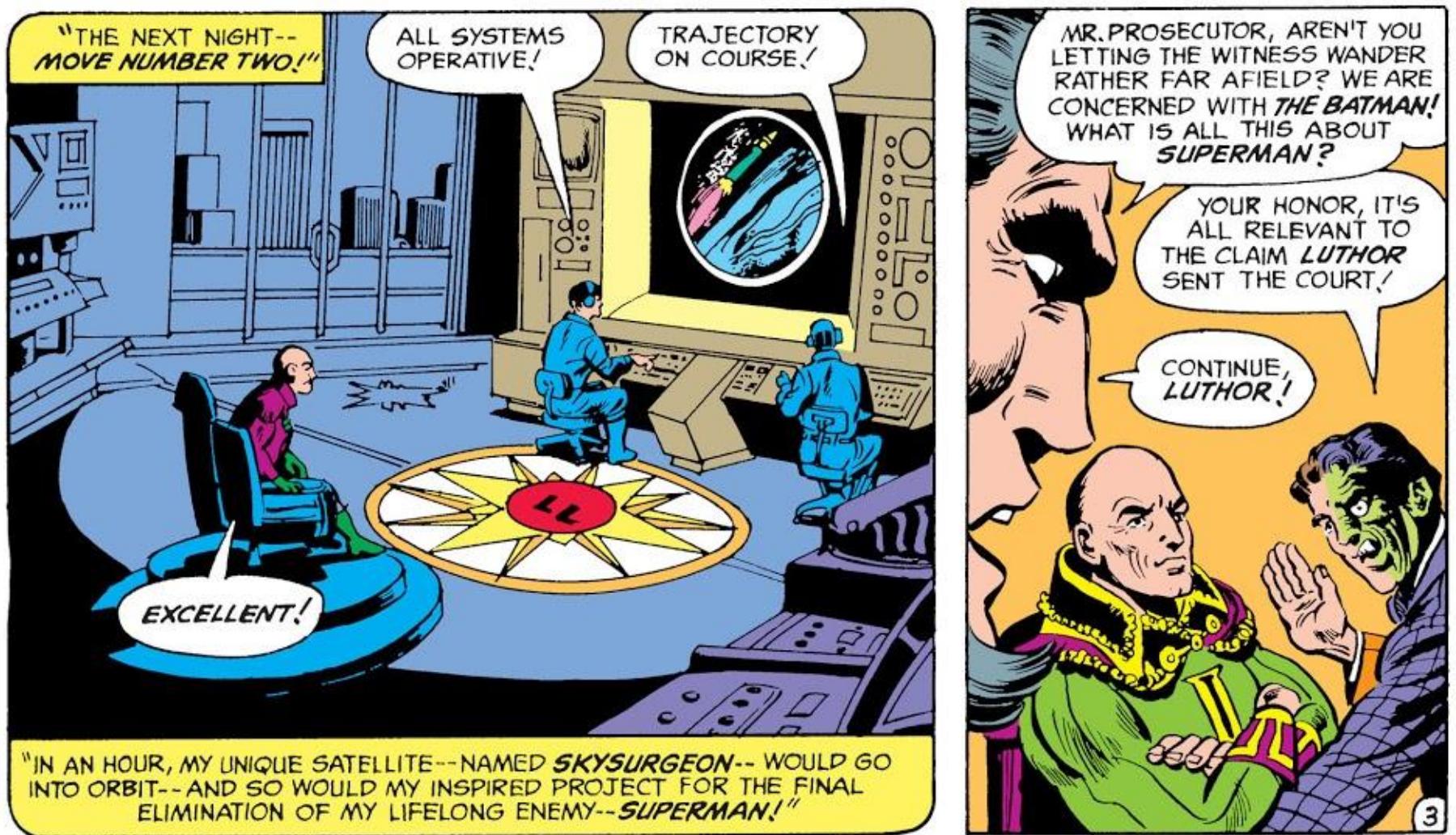
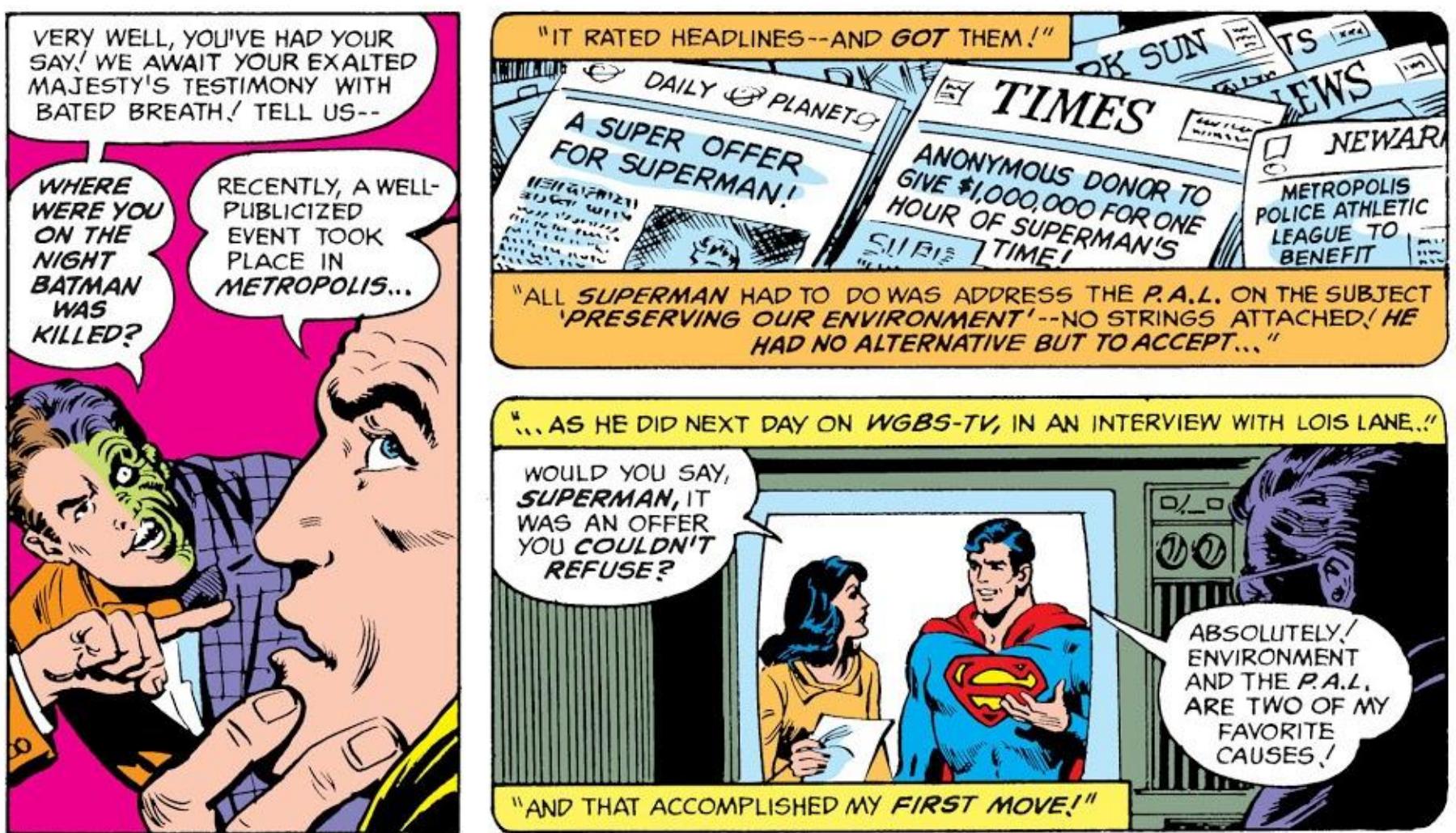
LEX LUTHOR-- TAKE THE STAND!

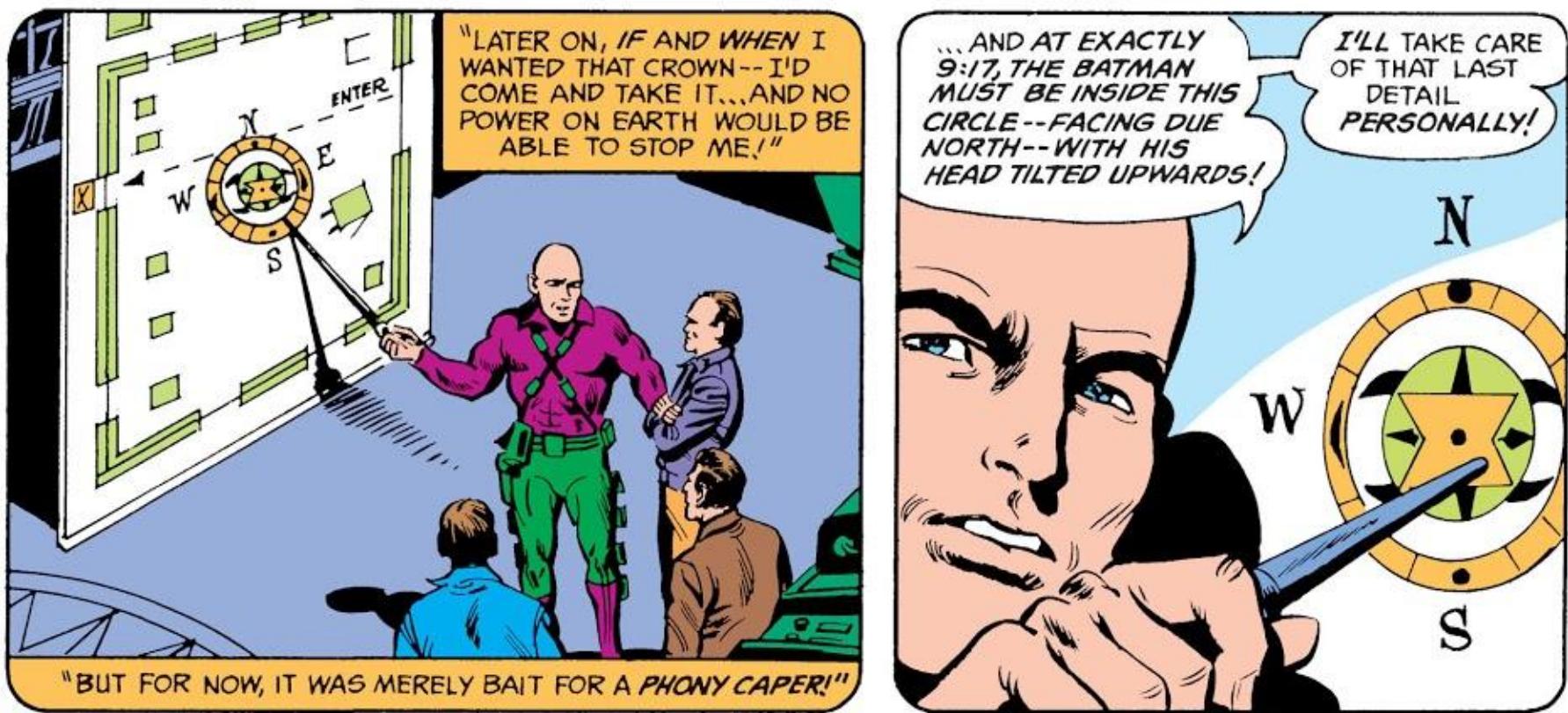
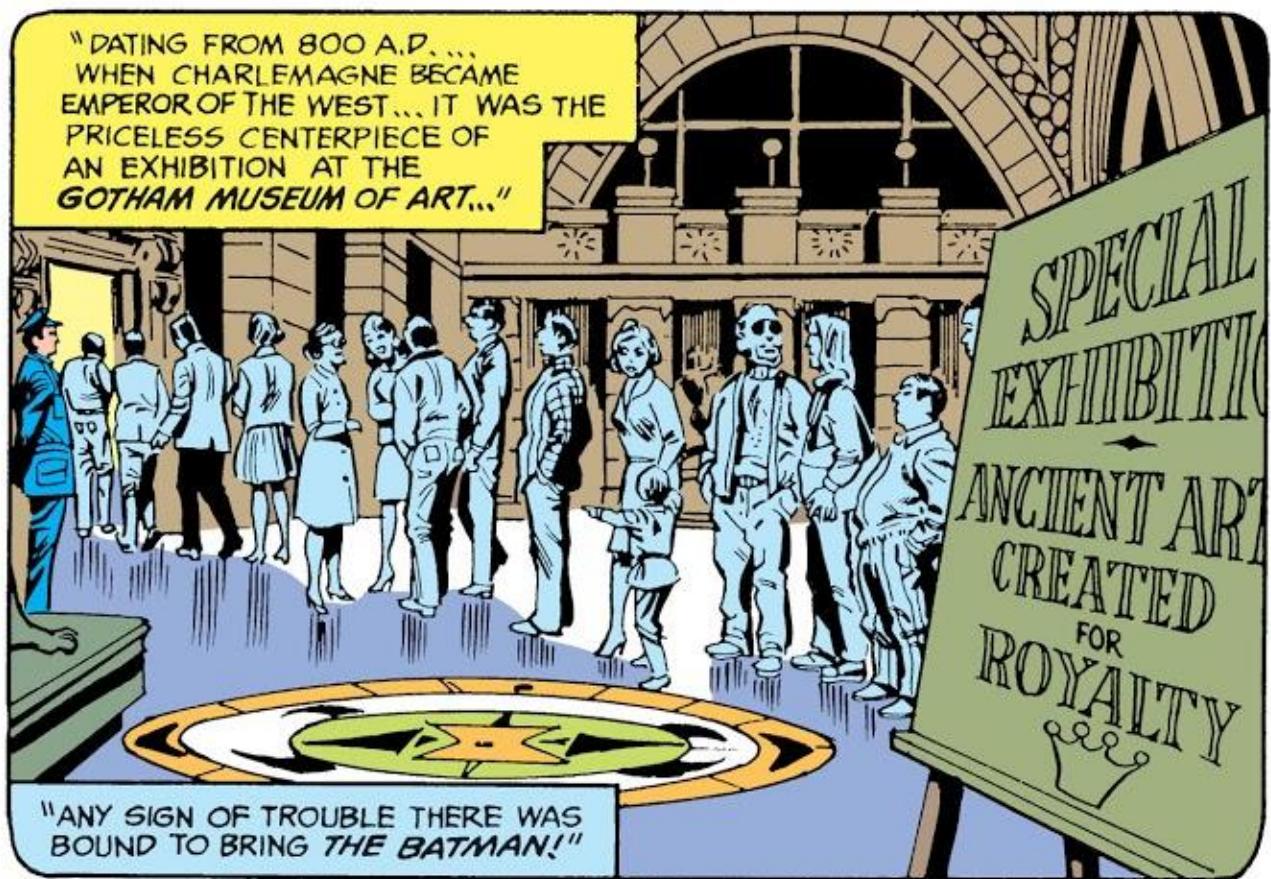
WHAT A GET-UP!

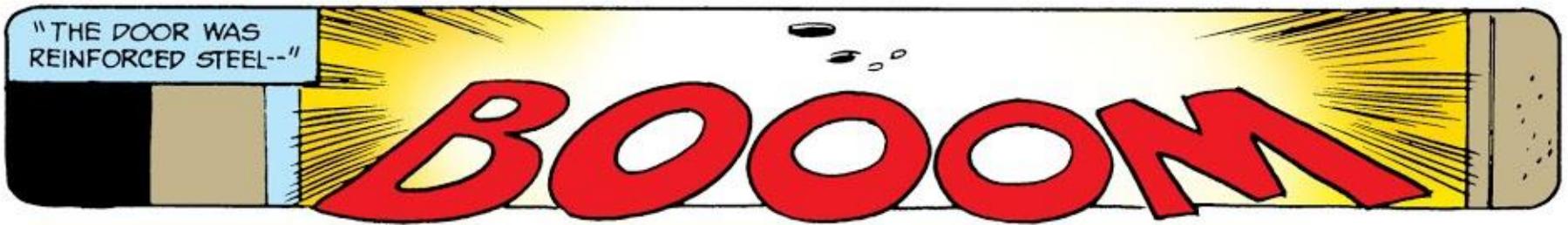
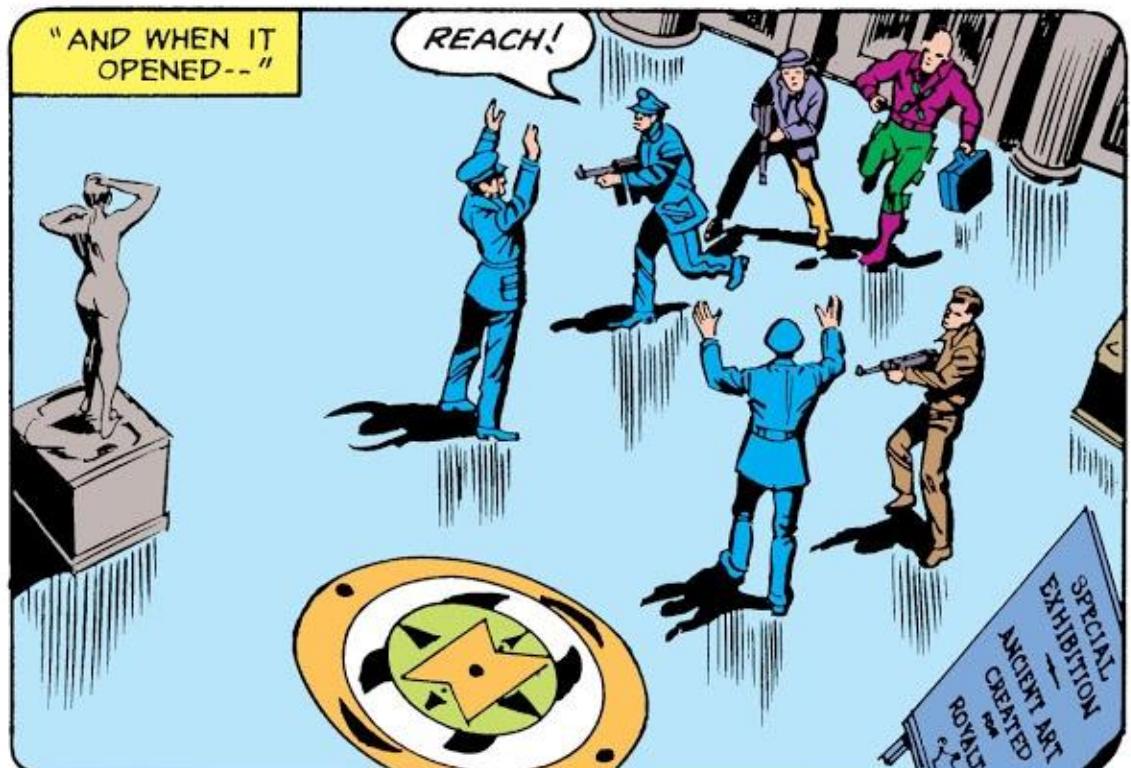
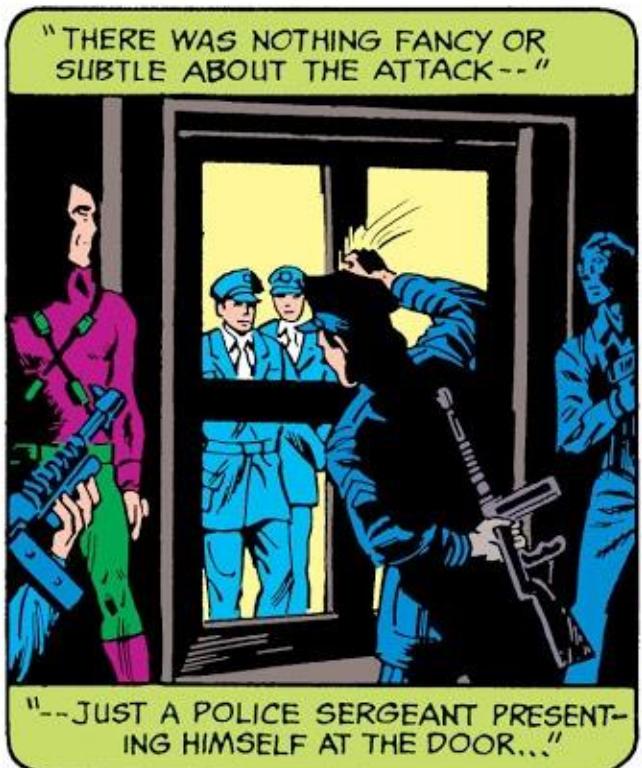
HE ALWAYS HAD DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

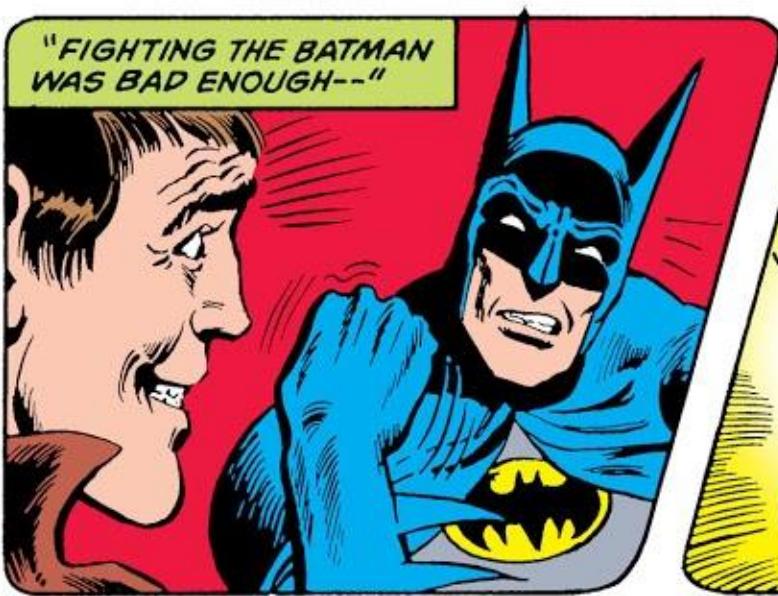
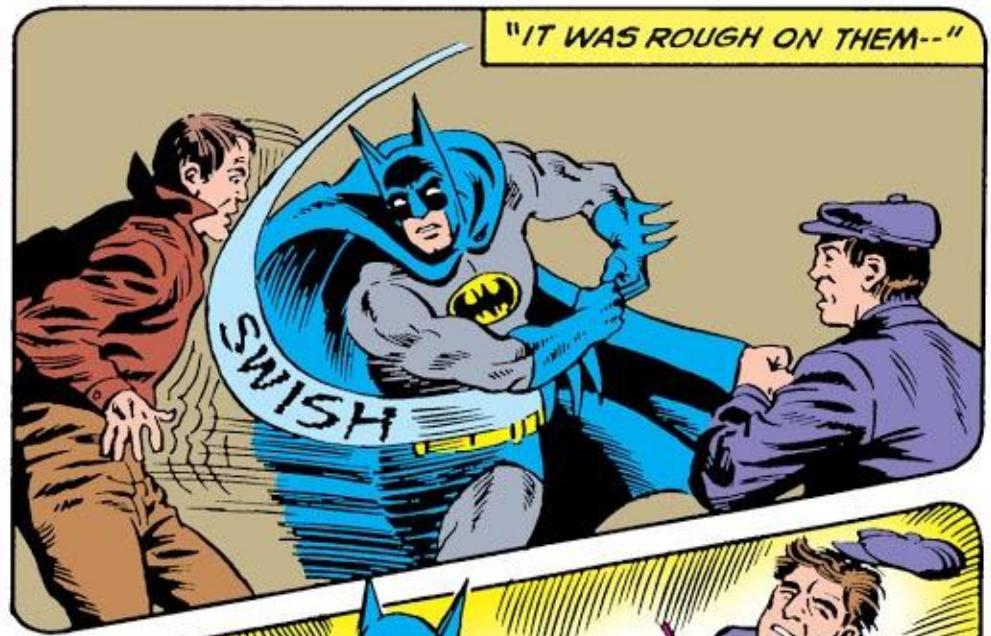


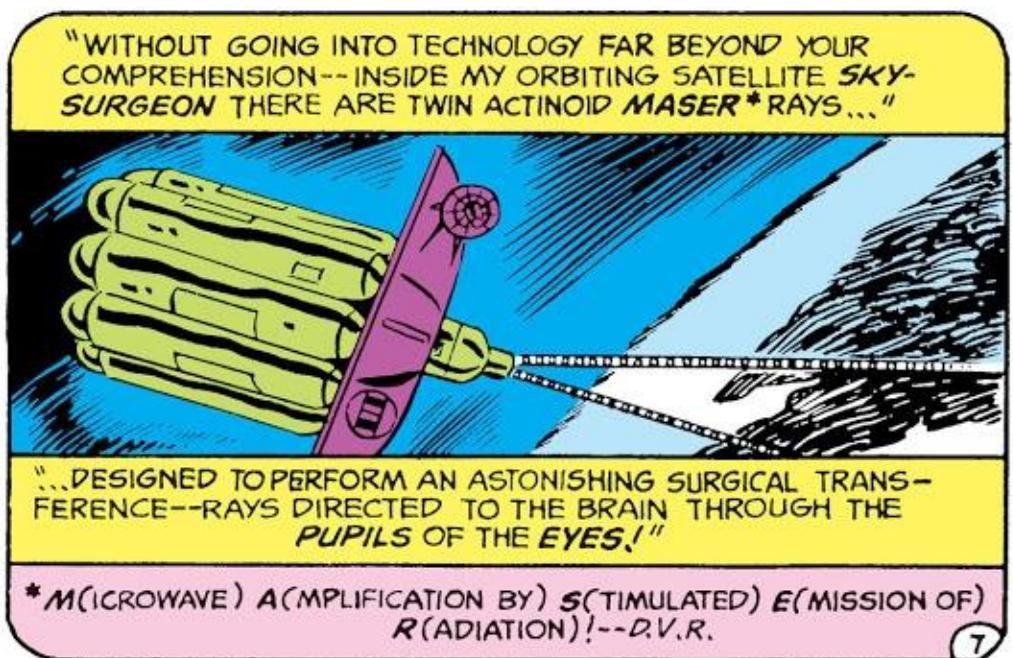
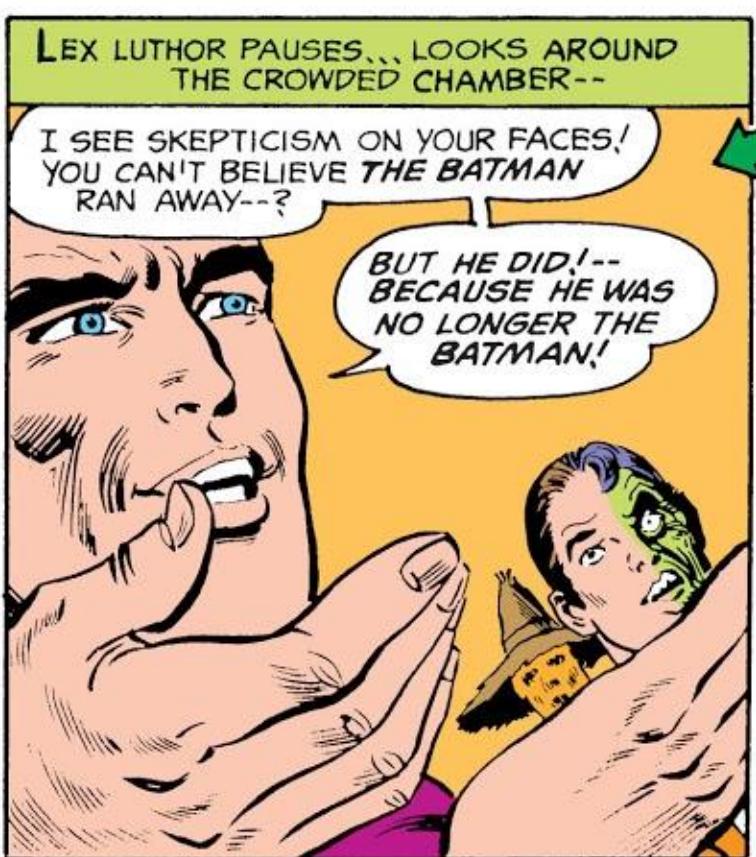
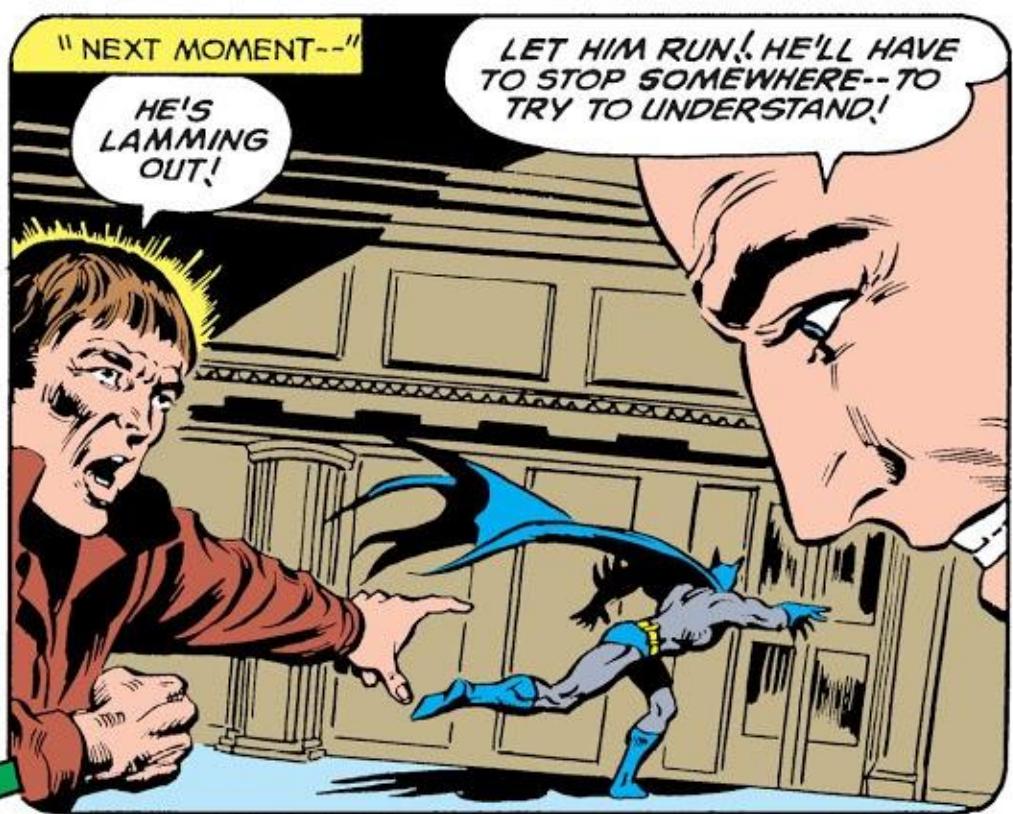
CLAD IN SPLENDOROUS NEW RAIMENT, THE SINISTER SULTAN OF SCIENCE MAKES A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE!













"WE NABBED HIM BEFORE HE COULD DAMAGE HIMSELF IN FUTILE ATTEMPTS TO DO THINGS THAT WERE NOW PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM--"



--WITH A STEEL NET THAT SUPERMAN COULD HAVE EASILY CRUMPLED TO FINE POWDER!"



"THE SITE OF OUR FINAL ENCOUNTER WAS AN EMPTY CONCRETE BUNKER-- FOUR WALLS, INSIDE WHICH MY MORTAL ENEMY WAS WAITING!"

"NO OTHER WEAPONS, LUTHOR-- JUST YOUR PAIN-INDUCING GLOVES?"

"NO! THIS I DO WITH MY HANDS!"



"IT WAS, OF COURSE, NO MATCH FROM THE START--"

"MY HATED FOE COULD SCARCELY COORDINATE!"



"EVERY STEP--
EVERY MOVE--
WAS A NEW AND
SHOCKING EXPERIENCE
FOR HIM!!"

"HE THREW A PUNCH THAT-- HAD IT BEEN
SUPERMAN'S BODY-- WOULD HAVE
CAPSIZED A BATTLESHIP!"

--IT WAS AN EXECUTION!"

"WHAT THE BATMAN'S BODY
COULD DELIVER--I COULD TAKE!"

"BUT MY BLOWS WERE LETHAL--"

"--EACH ONE A
THUNDEROUS
REMINDER OF
WHAT SUPERMAN
HAD DONE TO ME--"

WHUMP

WOK

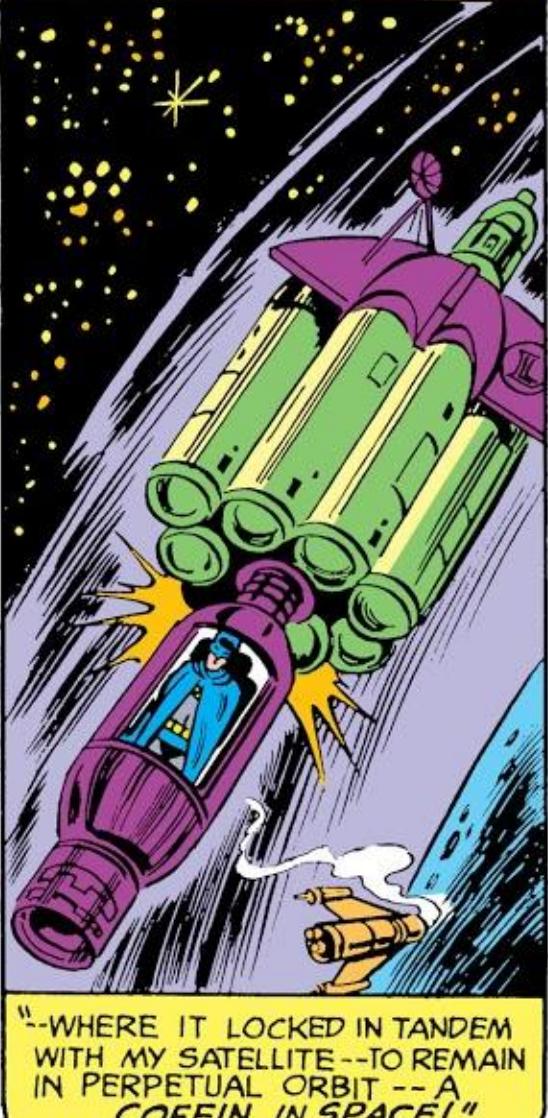
--THE DREAM
OF A LIFETIME--"

--AND THE PENALTY I
HAD SO LONG PROMISED HIM--"

--DEATH!"

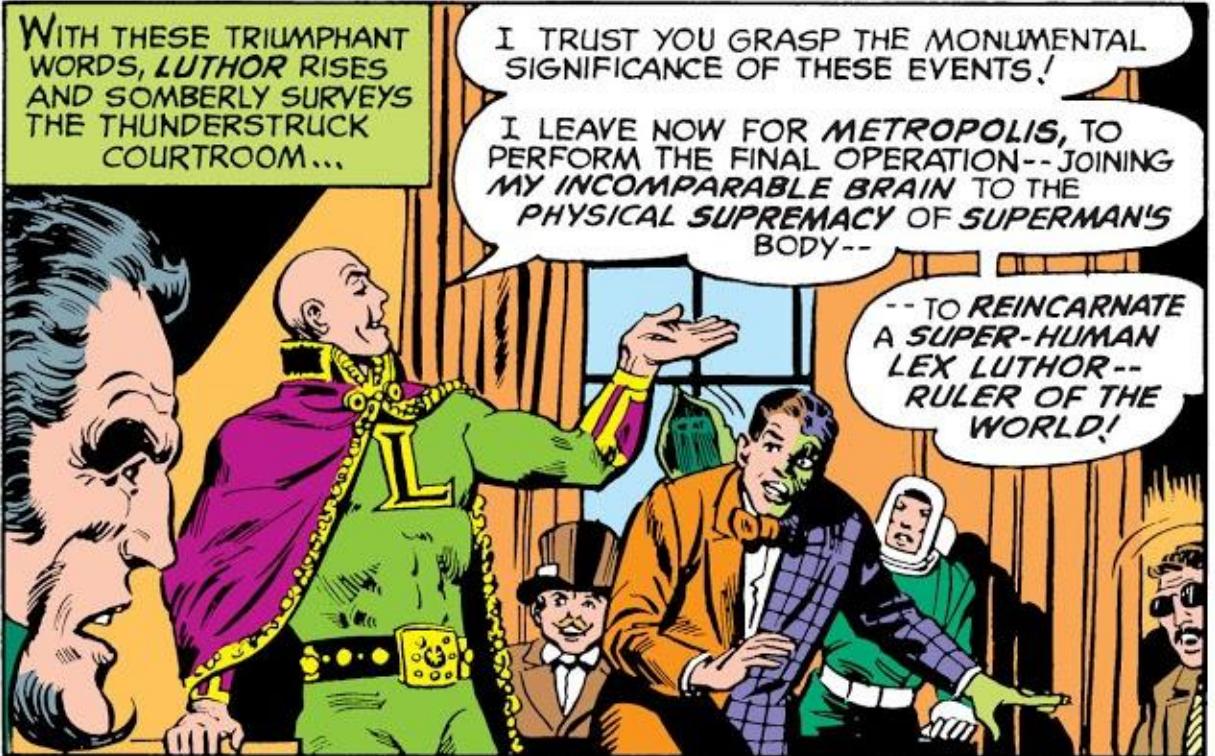
"THE BODY OF THE BATMAN WAS LIFELESS--
BUT IT WAS SUPERMAN I HAD KILLED!"

"WITHIN THE HOUR, I SEALED THE BODY IN A CAPSULE... PLACED IT ABOARD A ROCKET... AND SHOT IT INTO THE STRATOSPHERE--"



--WHERE IT LOCKED IN TANDEM WITH MY SATELLITE--TO REMAIN IN PERPETUAL ORBIT -- A COFFIN IN SPACE!"

WITH THESE TRIUMPHANT WORDS, LUTHOR RISES AND SOMBERLY SURVEYS THE THUNDERSTRUCK COURTROOM...



I TRUST YOU GRASP THE MONUMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE EVENTS!

I LEAVE NOW FOR METROPOLIS, TO PERFORM THE FINAL OPERATION--JOINING MY INCOMPARABLE BRAIN TO THE PHYSICAL SUPREMACY OF SUPERMAN'S BODY--

--TO REINCARNATE A SUPER-HUMAN LEX LUTHOR-- RULER OF THE WORLD!

UNBROKEN SILENCE... THEN, A DRY, RASPING VOICE--

SO THE BATMAN'S DEATH--ACCOMPLISHED FIRST BY ERASING HIS MIND AND CONSCIOUSNESS-- THEN BY KILLING HIS BODY--

--WAS ONLY AN INCIDENTAL SIDE-ISSUE OF YOUR VICTORY OVER SUPERMAN?

A WASTE PRODUCT!

I CAME HERE NOT TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR THE DEED--BUT TO USE THIS DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLAGE AS A FORUM FOR MY ANNOUNCEMENT! THAT DONE, I BID YOU--

HOLD IT! THIS TRIAL IS NOT OVER--NOT QUITE!

WHY NOT? I'VE TOLD YOU THE WHOLE STORY! ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR?

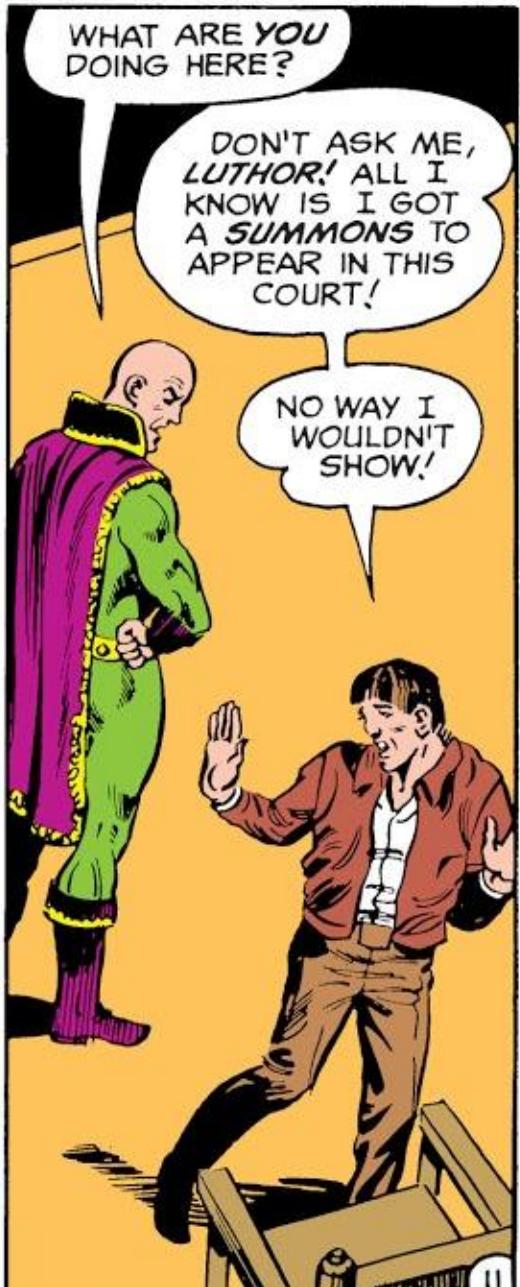
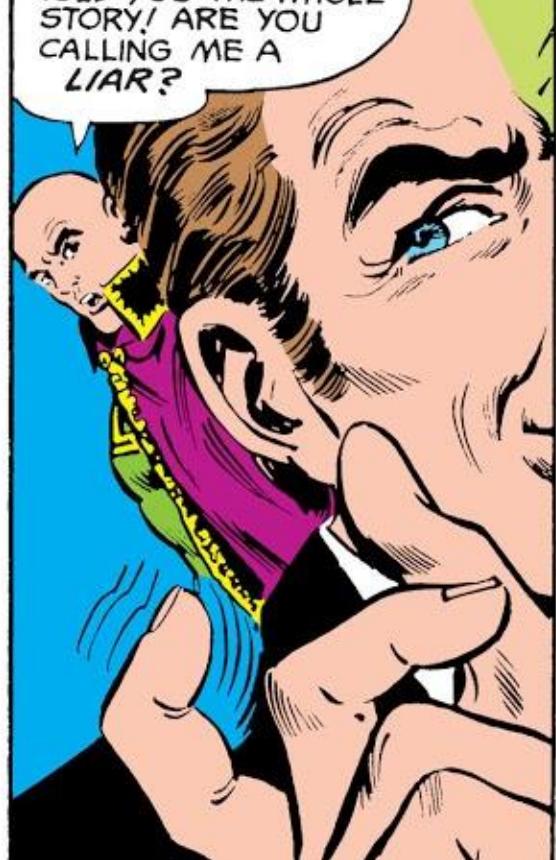
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LYING AND NOT KNOWING THE TRUTH... SO IF YOU'LL STEP DOWN, I'LL CALL ANOTHER WITNESS--

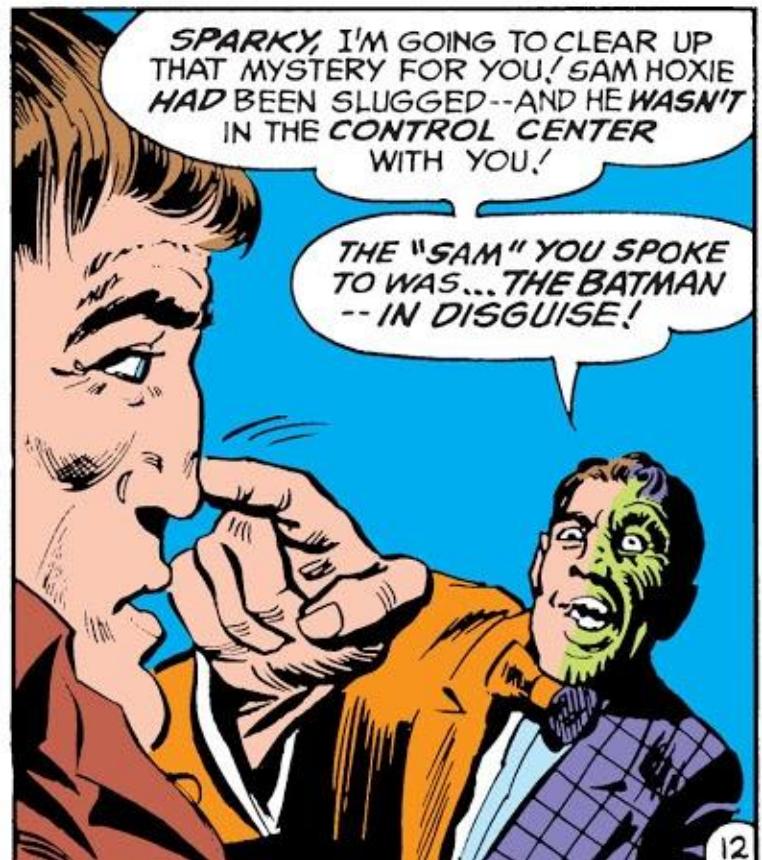
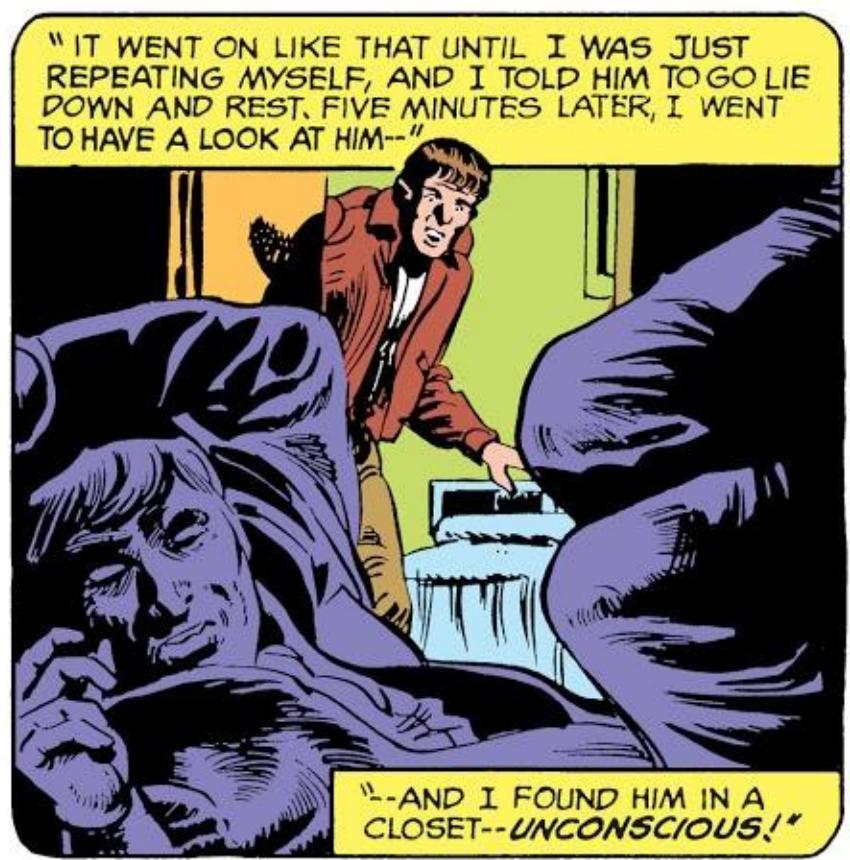
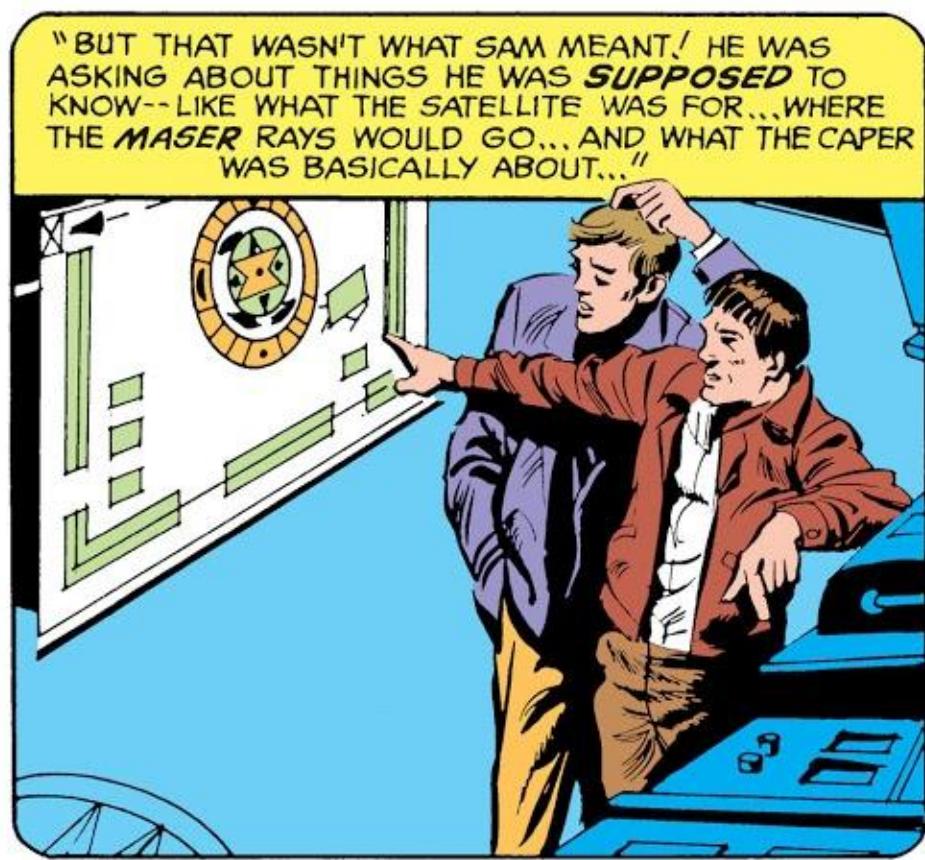
SPARKY GRIMES-- TAKE THE STAND!

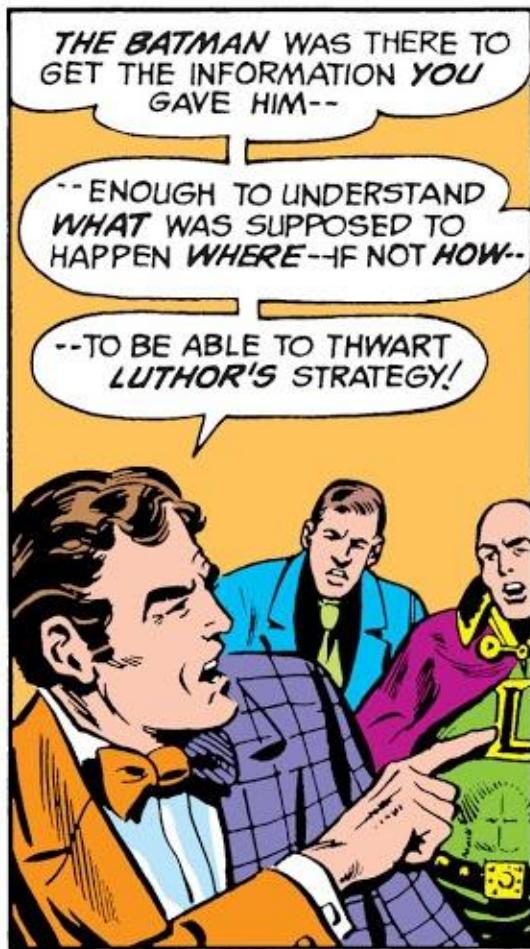
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DON'T ASK ME, LUTHOR! ALL I KNOW IS I GOT A SUMMONS TO APPEAR IN THIS COURT!

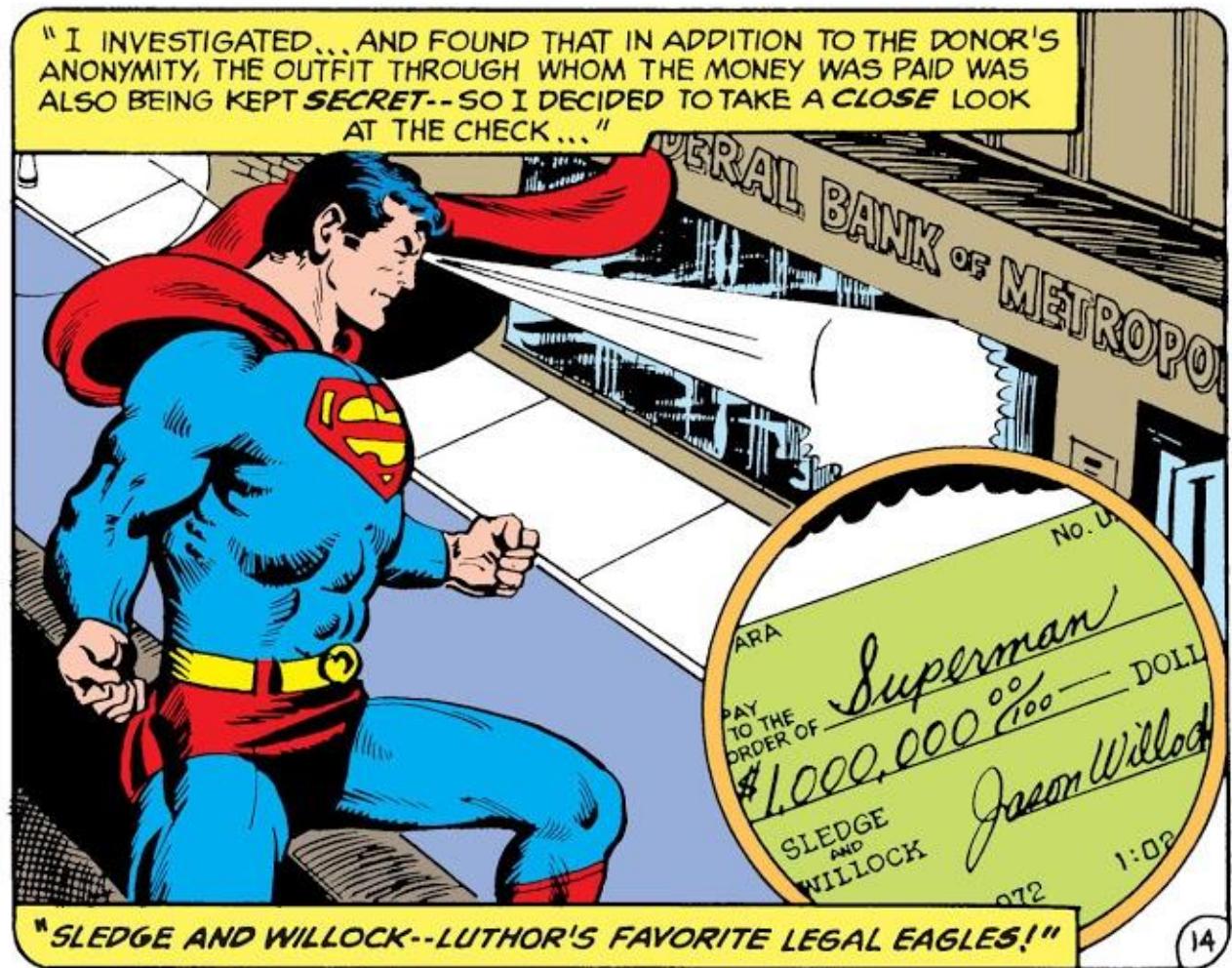
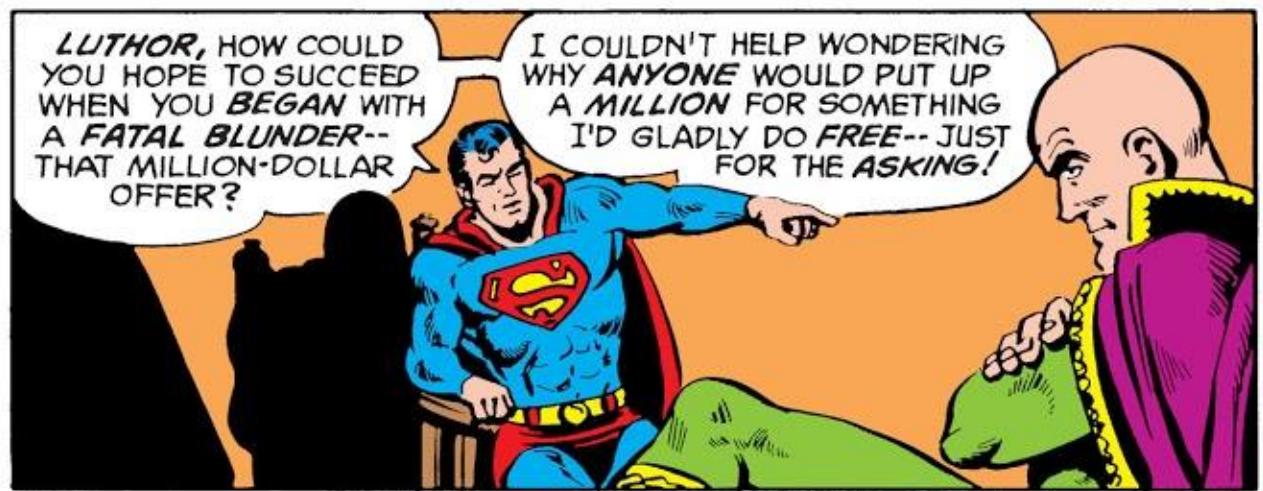
NO WAY I WOULDN'T SHOW!







SUPERMAN!



"THE MORE I PUZZLED OVER IT, THE MORE I DECIDED IT WAS A JOB FOR THE BATMAN! WE RENDEZVOUSED AT HIS HEADQUARTERS IN GOTHAM CITY..."

I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND ALL THIS... WHAT LUTHOR'S UP TO! THINK YOU CAN FIND OUT--?

THAT'S MY SPECIALTY!

SO NOW YOU KNOW, LUTHOR, WHO PUT THE BATMAN ON YOUR TAIL!

AFTER HE PENETRATED YOUR H.Q., HE BROUGHT BACK ENOUGH DATA ON SKYSURGEON TO FRUSTRATE YOUR WHOLE GOULISH OPERATION!

"YOUR MASER RAY IS EASILY COUNTERED-- PROVIDED ONE KNOWS IT'S THERE..."

I'M NOT THE ACTOR BATMAN IS, BUT I GAVE A CONVINCING PERFORMANCE AFTER THE FLARE WENT OFF!

OBVIOUSLY, SINCE SKYSURGEON DIDN'T WORK FOR ME--NEITHER DID IT WORK ON THE BATMAN AT THE MUSEUM!

"THEN --AFTER HE AND I CHANGED PLACES-- AND YOU THOUGHT YOU'D CAPTURED ME IN THE BATMAN'S BODY-- DISORIENTED AND HELPLESS..."

"INSTEAD OF A PUNCHING BAG FOR YOUR MURDEROUS FURY--"

"I SET UP A MICROWAVE FREQUENCY-SCRAMBLER TO SCREEN ME ALL THE TIME I WAS ON STAGE!"

--WHAT YOU GOT WAS REALLY ME-- IN MY BODY!"

--YOU GOT A WORKOUT THAT EXHAUSTED YOU! JUST BE GLAD I ROLLED WITH YOUR PUNCHES--TO KEEP YOU FROM BREAKING YOUR HANDS..."

SO I LET YOU "KILL"
ME...AND WHEN YOU
SENT ME UP IN THAT
COFFIN TO JOIN
SKYSURGEON IN
ORBIT--YOU SOLVED
OUR REMAINING
PROBLEM--

--THE LOCATION OF
YOUR RADAR-SHIELDED
SATELLITE, WHICH WOULD
OTHERWISE CONTINUE
TO POSE A CONSTANT
THREAT AS LONG AS
IT WAS UP THERE!..."

"I EASILY TOOK
CARE OF THAT!"



AS FOR THE BATMAN,
THE LAST I SAW OF HIM
WAS WHEN WE SWITCHED
ROLES--AND WHILE I
CAN'T ANSWER FOR
WHAT MAY LATER HAVE
HAPPENED TO HIM, IT'S
NOW ABUNDANTLY
CLEAR THAT LUTHOR
DID NOT KILL THE
BATMAN!

I PROMISED IMMUNITY
FOR EVERYONE PRESENT
IN THIS COURTROOM--
BUT FOR LUTHOR,
THAT ENDS THE MOMENT
HE LEAVES HERE--

-- AND I'LL BE
WAITING!



ONE MOMENT LATER...

MEMBERS OF THE JURY-- HOW SAY YOU?

NOT GUILTY!



ALL RIGHT, I'VE LOST! BUT WHERE IS THE HONOR OF THIS COURT WHEN ITS GLORY-HUNGRY, UNPRINCIPLED PROSECUTOR CAN BE IN COLLUSION WITH THE ENEMY?

IT'S OBVIOUS THE WELL-NAMED TWO-FACE HAD MORE INFORMATION THAN I DID-- BUT HOW DID HE GET IT?

HOW COULD HE ESTABLISH SUCH QUICK AND INTIMATE CONTACT WITH SUPERMAN? WHAT BETRAYALS AND SELLOUTS WERE INVOLVED?



AND AFTER LEX LUTHOR MAKES HIS RAGING EXIT...

MR. DENT, WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY TO THOSE CHARGES?

YOUR HONOR, I CANNOT DISCLOSE MY METHODS WITHOUT MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THESE TRIALS TO CONTINUE!



BUT I GIVE YOU MY WORD EVERYTHING WILL BE PERFECTLY CLEAR AT A LATER DATE--AND THAT I HAVE DONE NOTHING TO COMPROMISE MY INTEGRITY!

THE COURT EXPRESSES ITS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE PROSECUTOR-- AND LOOKS FORWARD TO THE NEXT SESSION!

SO DO I!
HAHAHAHAHA!



AND WITH THAT MANIACAL LAUGH RINGING IN OUR EARS, COURT IS ADJOURNED TILL "THE TESTIMONY OF THE JOKER"

