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# BATMAN®

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THE  
**Idiot**  
**ROOT: PART THREE**

PETER MILLIGAN

NORM BREYFOGLE

# The Idiot

## PART THREE: INTO THE IDIOT ZONE

CONTINUED FROM DETECTIVE #639



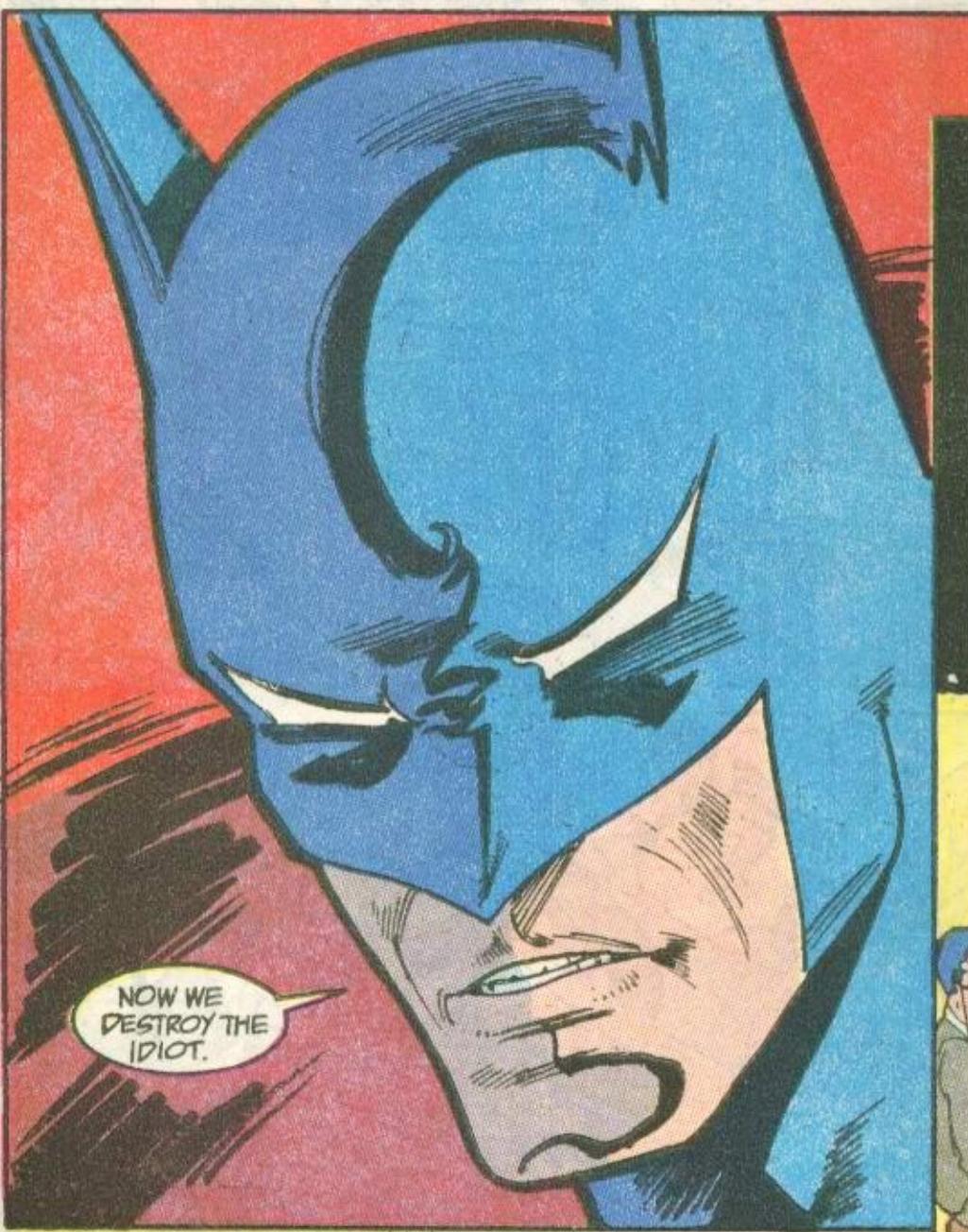
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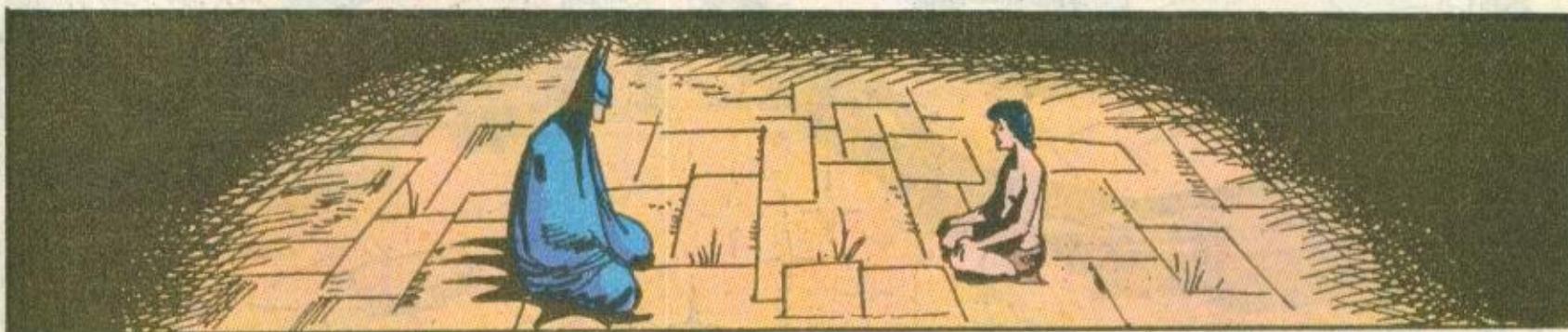






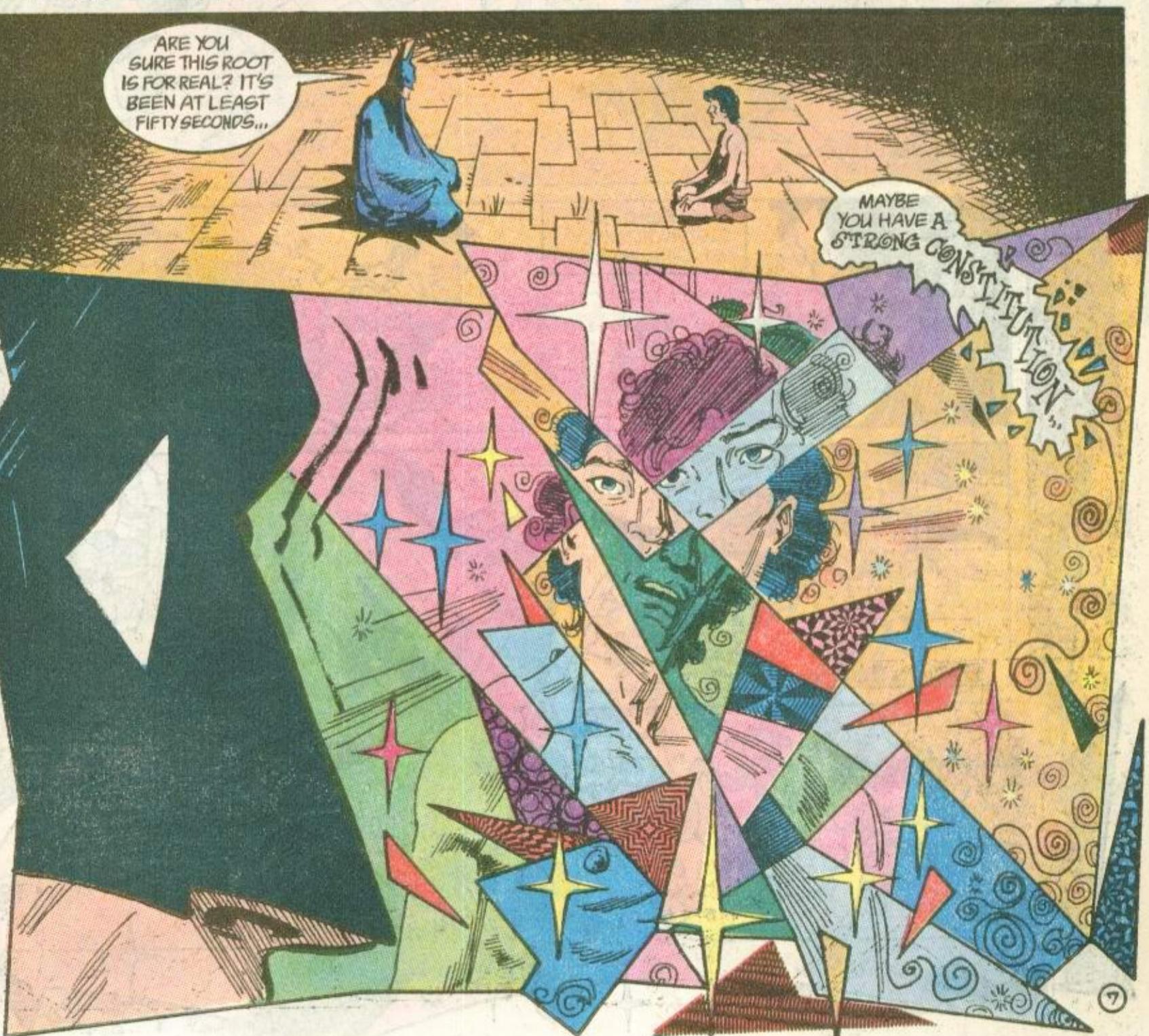


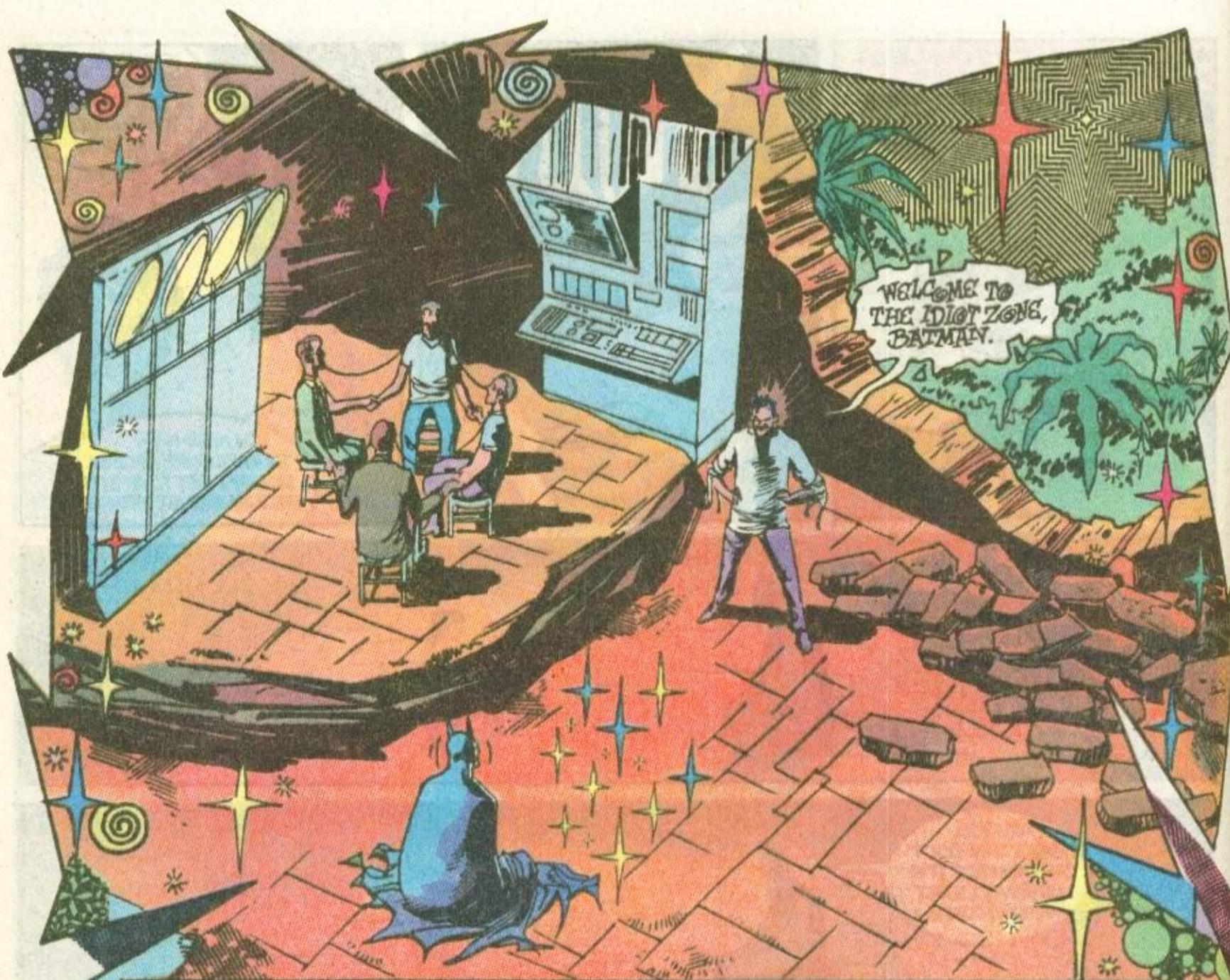
SOMETIMES TO BEAT THE DEVIL YOU  
MUST PLAY THE DEVIL'S TUNES...



ARE YOU  
SURE THIS ROOT  
IS FOR REAL? IT'S  
BEEN AT LEAST  
FIFTY SECONDS...

MAYBE  
YOU HAVE A  
STRONG CONSTITUTION









DON'T LET YOUR MIND GO TURN IT TO THE SLIPPERY MUD JELLY THAT THE MONSTER CAN'T HOLD.

USE IT. AS ZENO'S FOREFATHERS MUST HAVE USED IT TO SURVIVE IN THE UNREAL WORLD...

USE IT.

YOU ARE NO ORDINARY MAN.

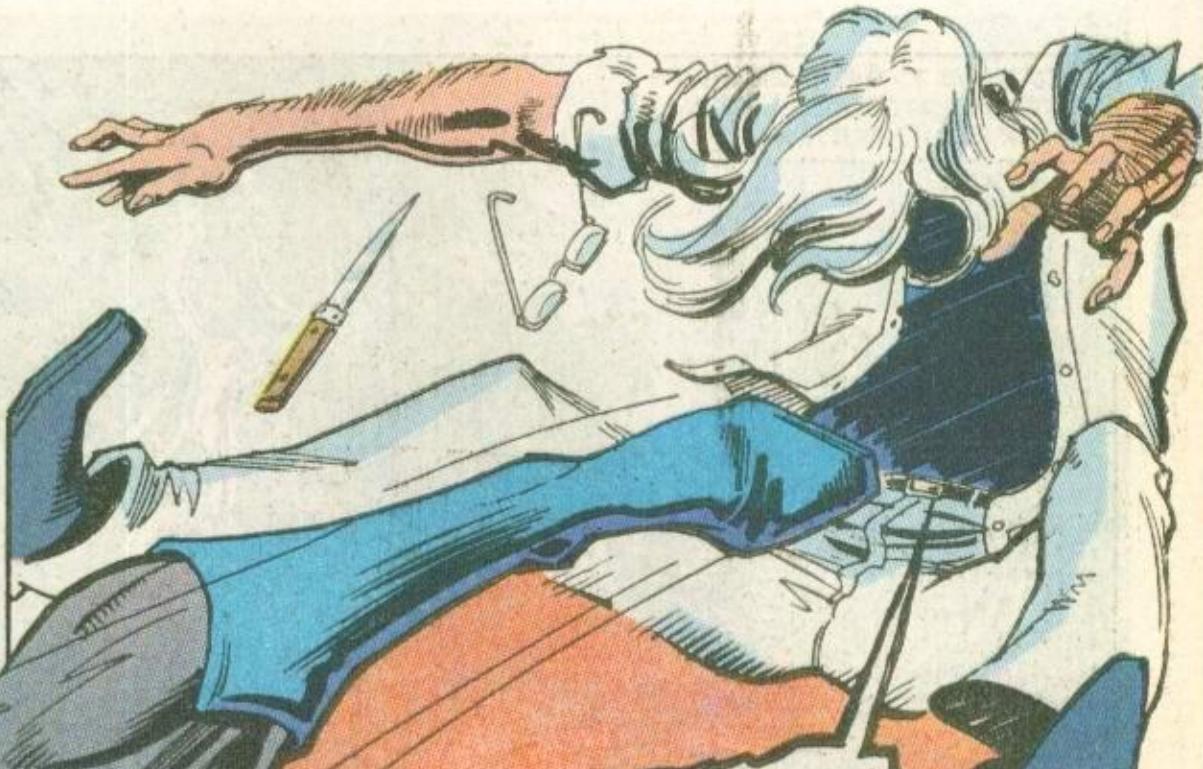
YOURS IS NO ORDINARY MIND.

N-NO...

SWAT

VNGGG...





"WE'D DRIVE TO THE RIVER WHERE THERE'S A BOAT STATION. IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE NOW."

"GOOD."

I WANT TO  
GET THESE KIDS  
TO A HOSPITAL  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE.

THE RIVER IS LIKE AN  
ANIMAL, WITH AN  
ANIMAL'S SMELL...

HE CAN'T HELP THINKING  
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG,  
SOMETHING MISSING. THE  
JUNGLE SEEMS EMPTY...



WELL,  
ZENO?



NOTHING  
TO DO BUT  
WAIT.

GET THE  
OTHERS SETTLED  
IN FOR THE  
NIGHT.

THE NIGHT IS DARK,  
THE RIVER DARKER.

THE NOISES SO STRANGE, HIS  
THOUGHTS SO DISTURBING.

THE DAWN SO SHODDEN.

SUDDEN, AND QUIET, AND  
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING  
MISSING...

GET EVERYONE  
READY. I CAN HEAR  
SOMETHING COMING.

WHAT IS  
IT? A  
STEAMER?

I DON'T KNOW.  
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE  
A STEAMER. SOUNDS  
LIKE MORE THAN  
ONE ENGINE OF  
SOME KIND.

MAYBE SPEED  
BOATS. ALWAYS  
WANTED TO RIDE  
IN A SPEEDBOAT.

THAT'D BE SO  
APPETIZING...

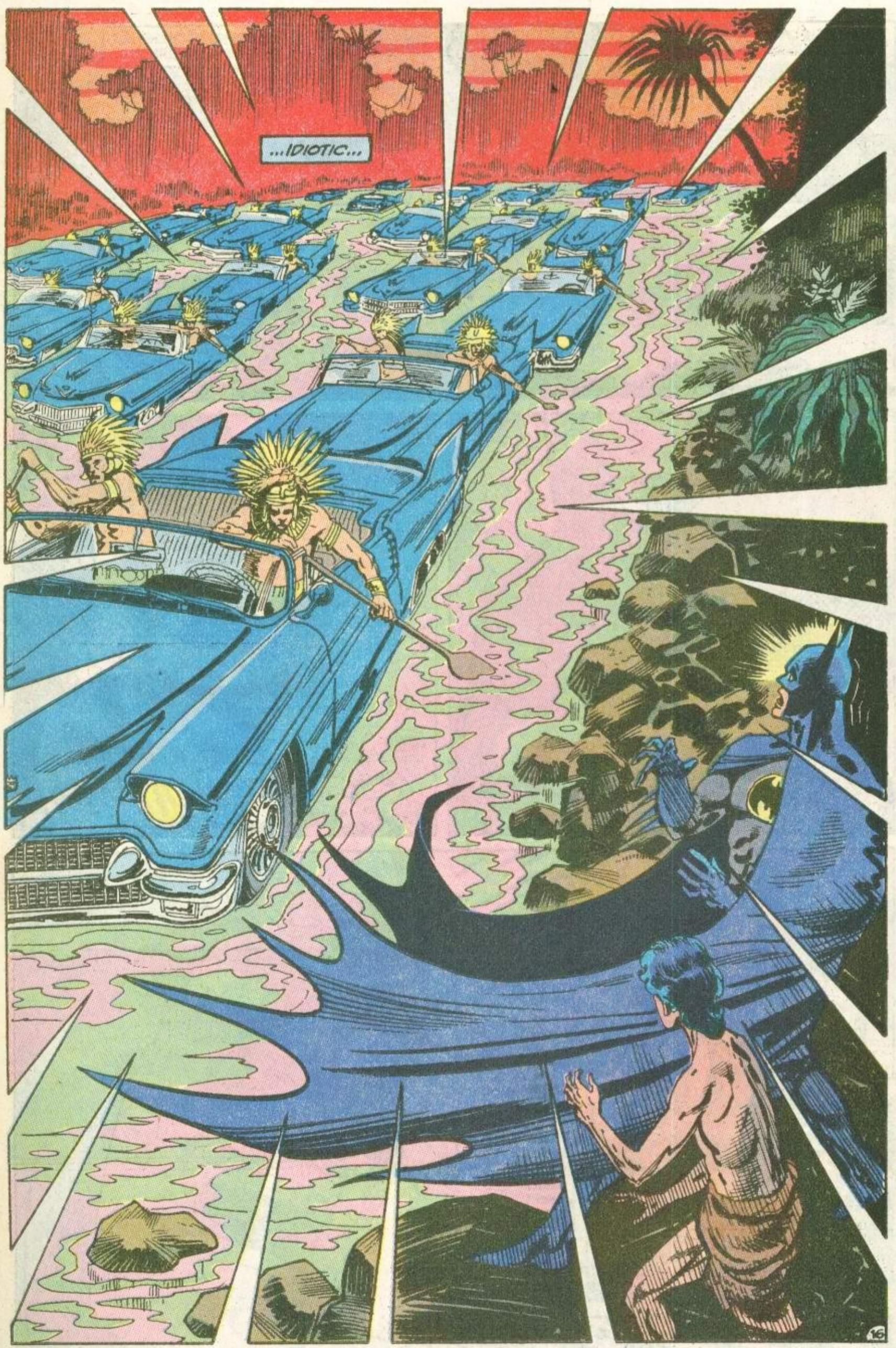
WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

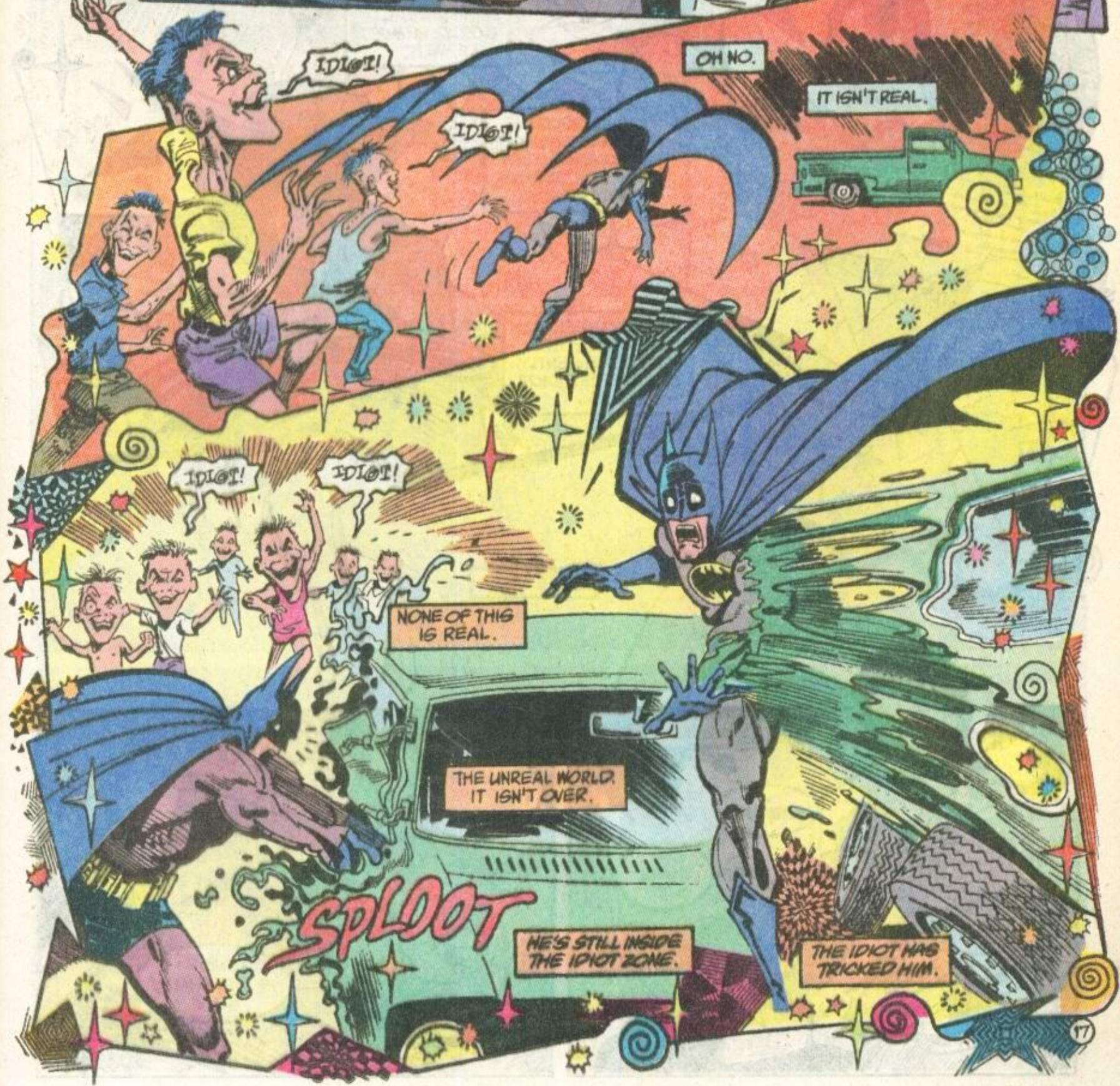
NOTHING.  
LOOK...

NO, NO, THIS  
IS TOTALLY...

TOTALLY...

...IDIOTIC...





THE IDIOT MADE  
HIM BELIEVE HE'D  
WON...

MADE HIM BELIEVE  
THE LINK HAD BEEN  
BROKEN.

A FOREST OF CYMBALS  
IN HIS HEAD BUT HE  
MUST STOP, THINK,  
THINK AND STOP...

THERE'S NO USE  
RUNNING BACK TO  
THE TEMPLE. HE'S  
IN THE UNREAL  
WORLD. HE MUST  
LEAVE IT.

TAKE HOLD OF  
YOURSELF, ORDER  
THOUGHTS, USE  
MENTAL TRAINING,  
PRAY TO GOD...

FORCE YOURSELF TO  
COME OUT OF THE  
IDIOT ZONE, GENTLY,  
CAST OFF THE IDIOT  
ROOT...

COME OUT...

COME OUT...

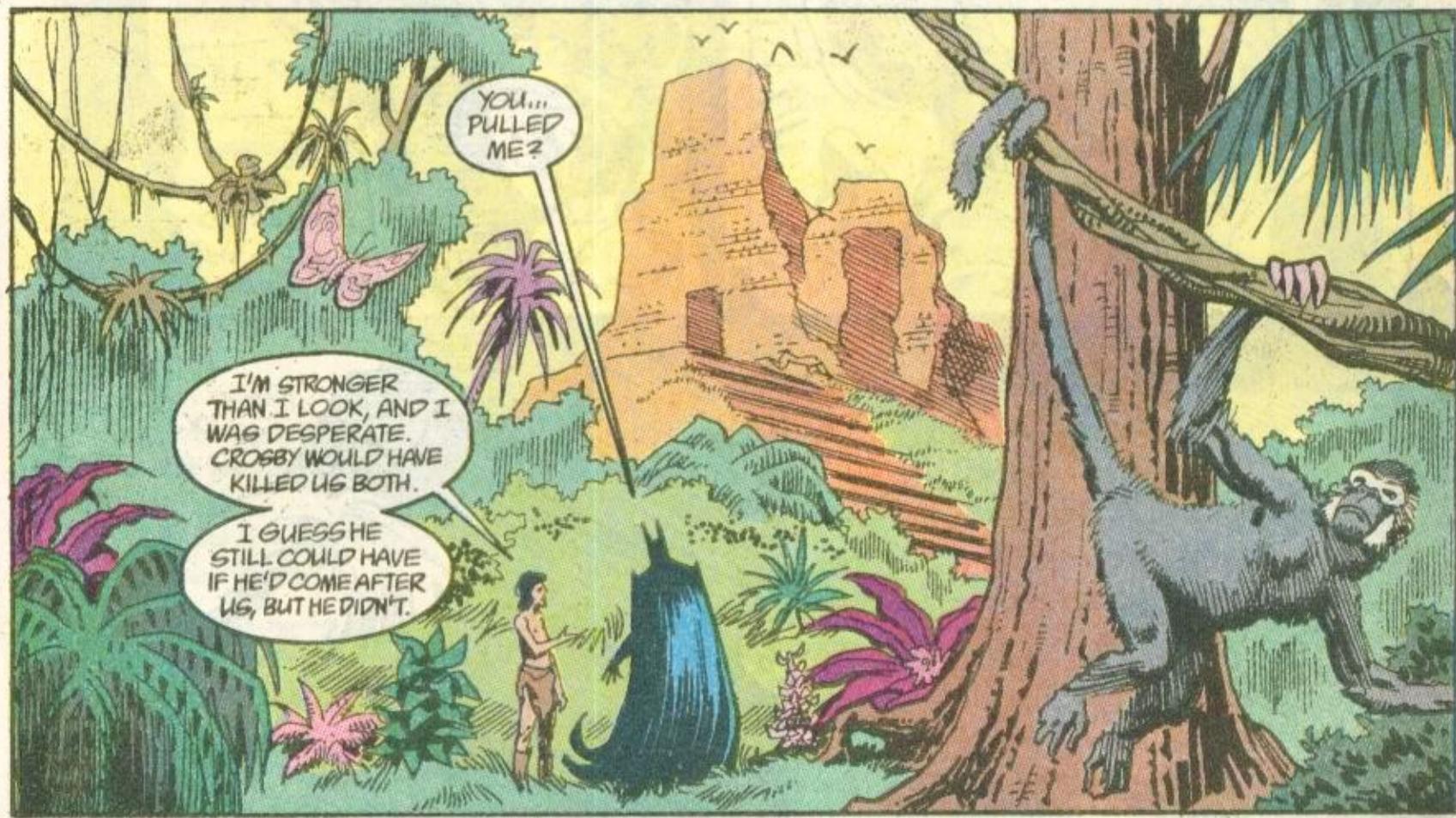
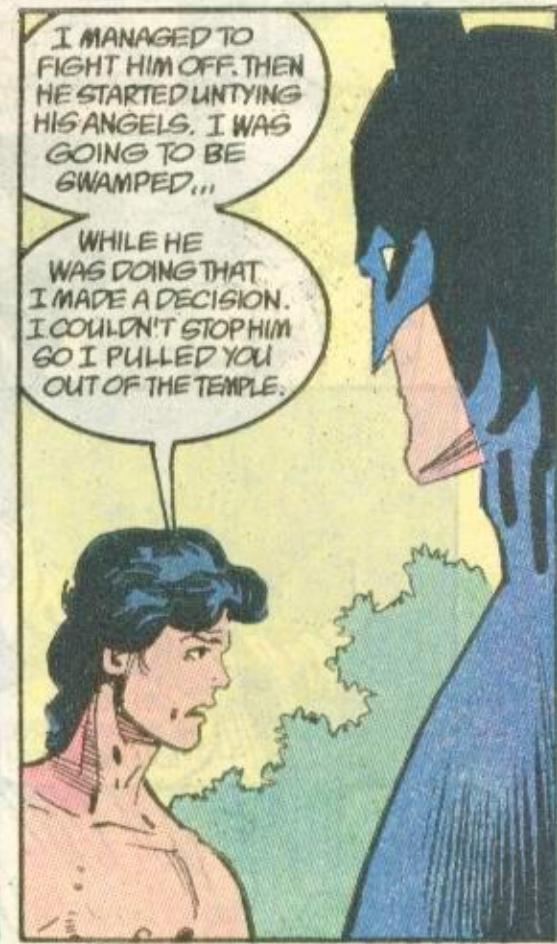
BATMAN?

OH,  
THANK  
GOD!

UHH...

I THOUGHT  
HE'D EATEN  
YOU TOO!

ZENO?  
IS THAT REALLY  
YOU?



"HE GAVE THEM ALL THE ROOT.  
THEY JUST LINED UP FOR HIM.  
THEY WANTED TO GO TO  
HEAVEN..."

"IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR  
THE KIDS TO BECOME DEAD  
BOYS. THE IDIOT WAS HAVING  
A REAL FEAST..."

"OH LOOK  
HOW I'VE SERVED  
YOU, MASTER!"

"THE HEADS  
JUST BLEW UP."

"THEY JUST BLEW  
UP BEFORE MY  
EYES."

I  
FEEL SO  
REAL.



I'M SO HUNGRY  
I THINK I'LL START  
ON YOU. NOW YOU'RE  
NO LONGER ANY  
USE TO ME...



ME? BUT I  
SERVED YOU SO  
WELL, MASTER!



