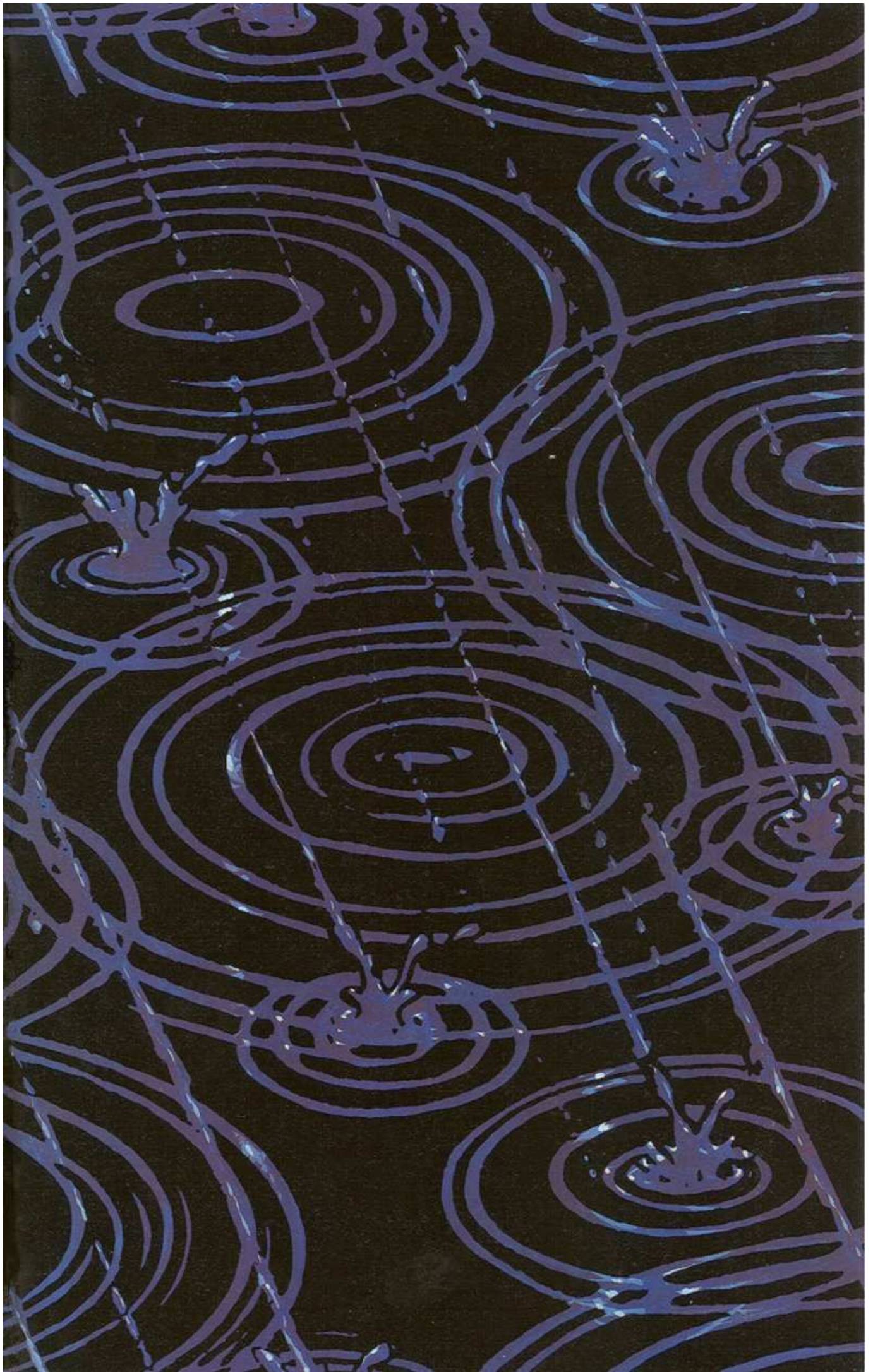


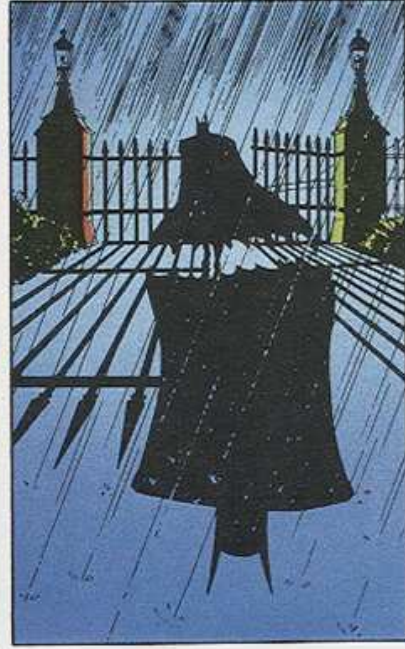
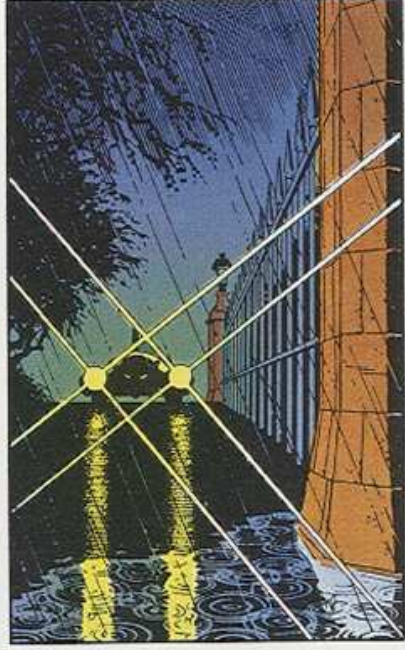
SMILE

**BATMAN  
THE  
KILLING  
JOKER**

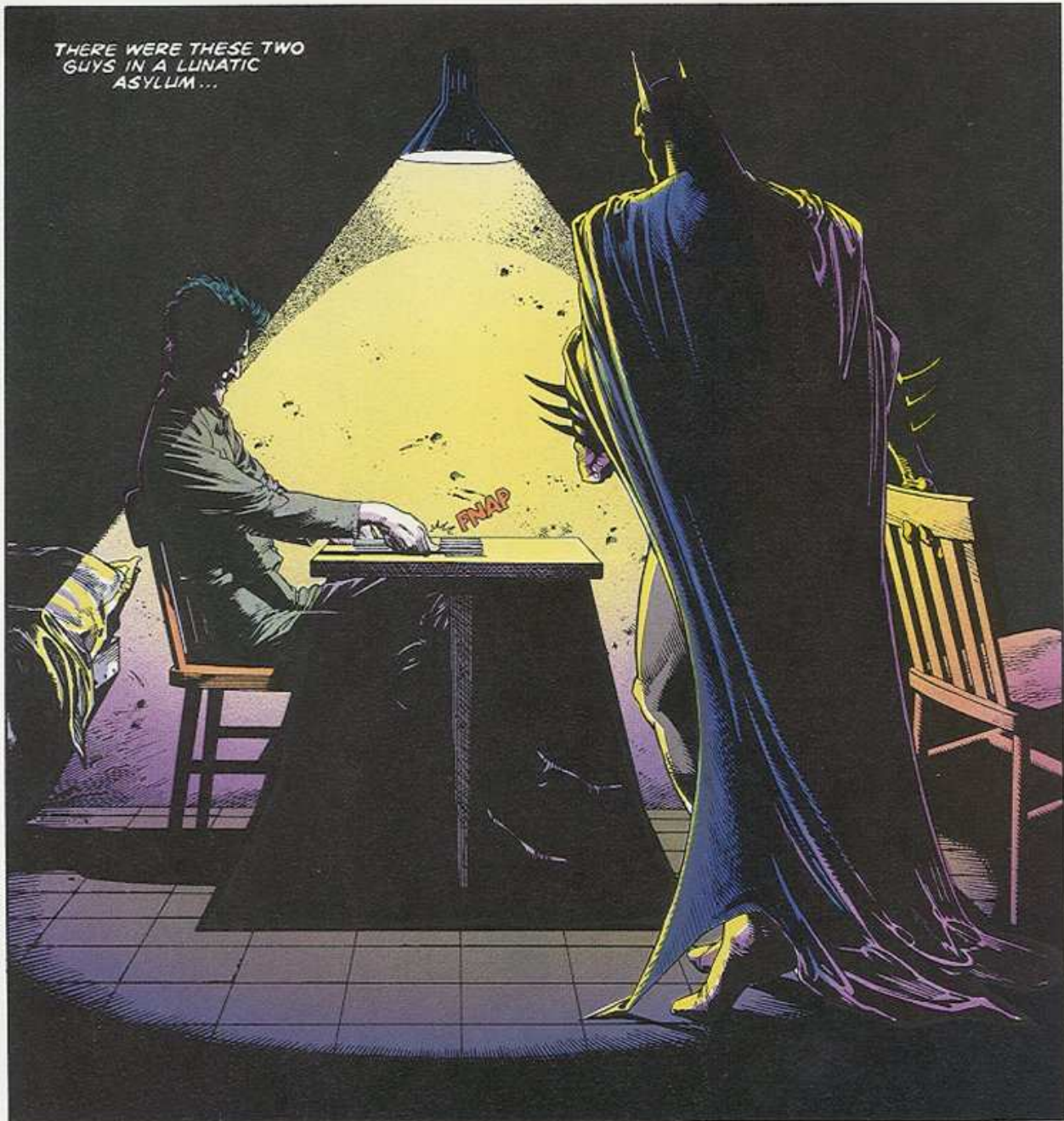
**ALAN MOORE  
BRIAN BOLLAND  
JOHN HIGGINS**

















"WHERE IS HE?"

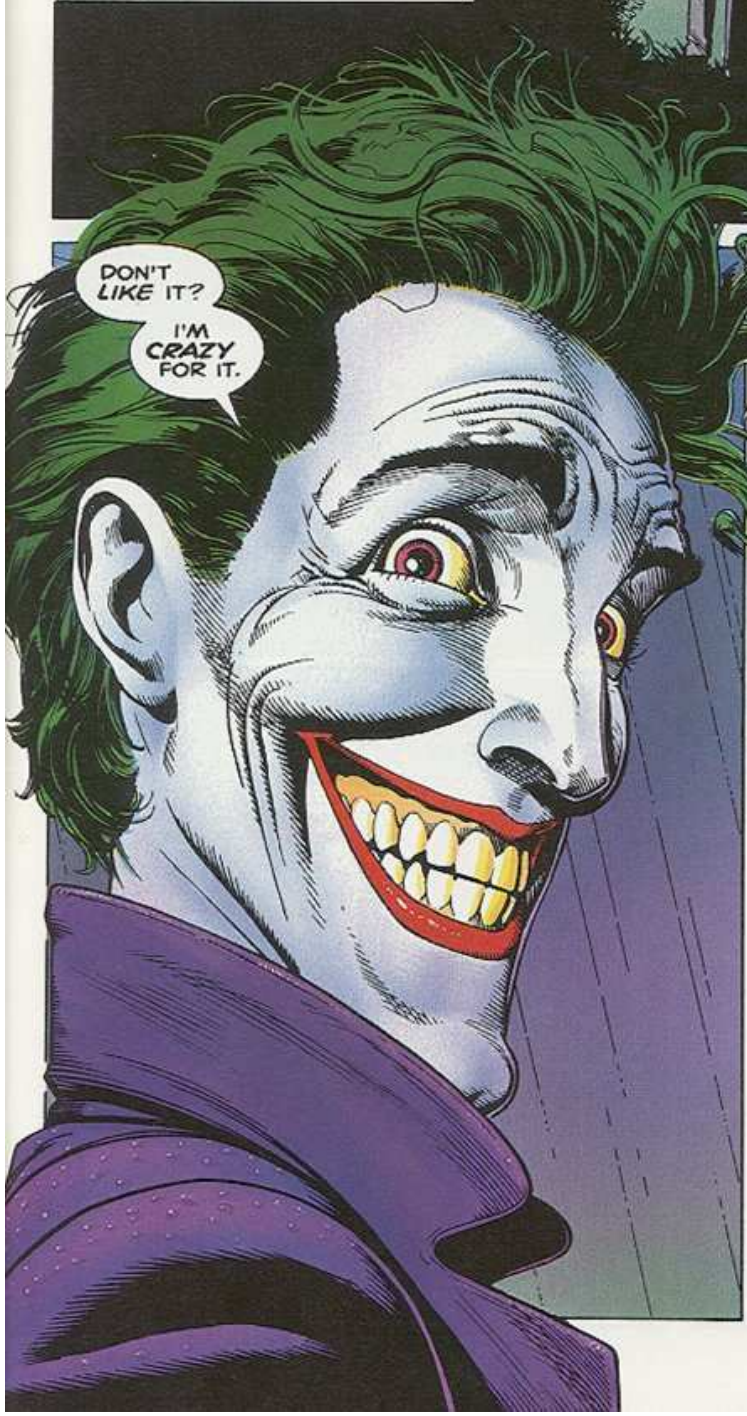
AH! THERE YOU ARE!

HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY AND DECIDE IF IT'S WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?

WELL, IT'S GARISH, UGLY, AND DERELICTS HAVE USED IT FOR A TOILET.

THE RIDES ARE DILAPIDATED TO THE POINT OF BEING LETHAL, AND COULD EASILY MAIM OR KILL INNOCENT LITTLE CHILDREN.

OH, SO YOU DON'T LIKE IT?



DON'T LIKE IT?

I'M CRAZY FOR IT.

YOU...? YOU REALLY WANT TO BUY IT? AND THE PRICE I MENTIONED, IT ISN'T TOO STEEP...?

TOO STEEP? MY DEAR SIR, AS I LOOK AT IT I'M MAKING A KILLING...

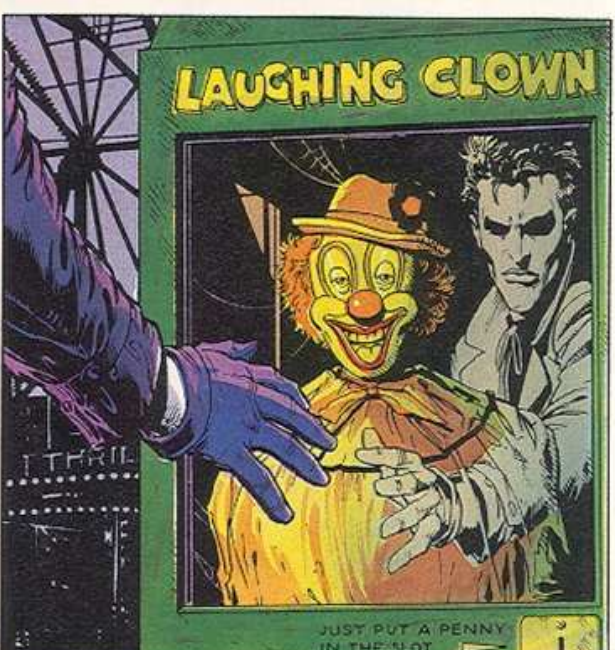


... AND ANYWAY, MONEY ISN'T REALLY A PROBLEM.

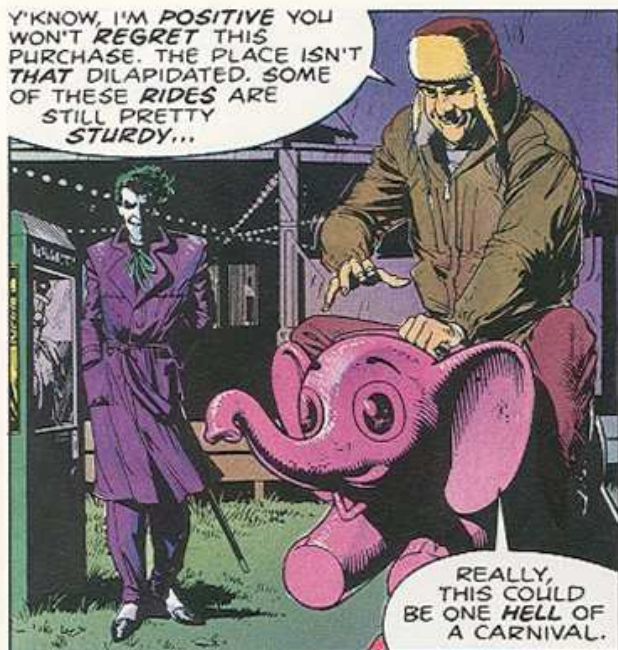


NOT THESE DAYS.





Y'KNOW, I'M POSITIVE YOU WON'T REGRET THIS PURCHASE. THE PLACE ISN'T THAT DILAPIDATED. SOME OF THESE RIDES ARE STILL PRETTY STURDY...



REALLY, THIS COULD BE ONE HELL OF A CARNIVAL.

OH, YOU'RE SO RIGHT.

THANKS TO YOUR SMOOTH SALESMANSHIP AND YOUR SILVER TONGUE YOU'VE COMPLETELY SOLD ME ON THE PLACE. LET'S SHAKE ON IT.



UH... WELL, SURE. IT'S MY PRIVILEGE...

INDEED IT IS.

NATURALLY, I WON'T BE PAYING YOU ANYTHING. MY COLLEAGUES PERSUADED YOUR PARTNER TO SIGN THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS JUST OVER AN HOUR AGO.

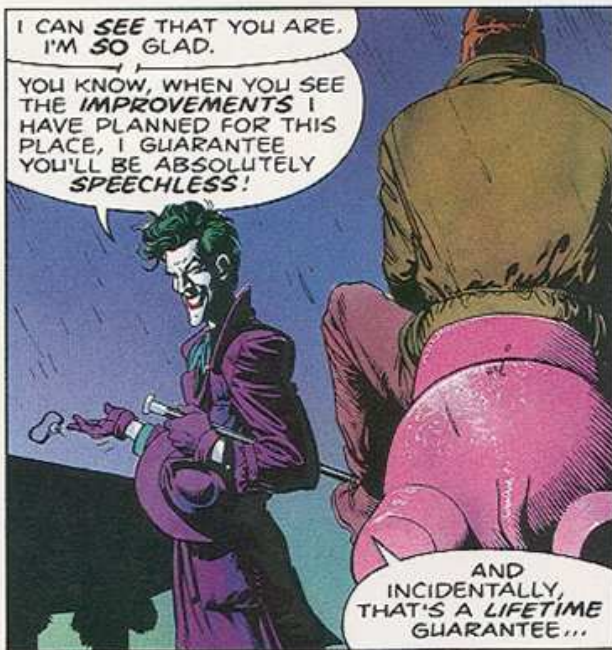
THE PROPERTY'S MINE ALREADY.



YOU'RE HAPPY WITH THAT, I TAKE IT?

I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE. I'M SO GLAD.

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU SEE THE IMPROVEMENTS I HAVE PLANNED FOR THIS PLACE, I GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE ABSOLUTELY SPEECHLESS!



AND INCIDENTALLY, THAT'S A LIFETIME GUARANTEE...

WELL, I MUST DASH. THERE'S EQUIPMENT TO HIRE, PLUS WORKERS WHO'LL SUIT THE GENERAL TONE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT...

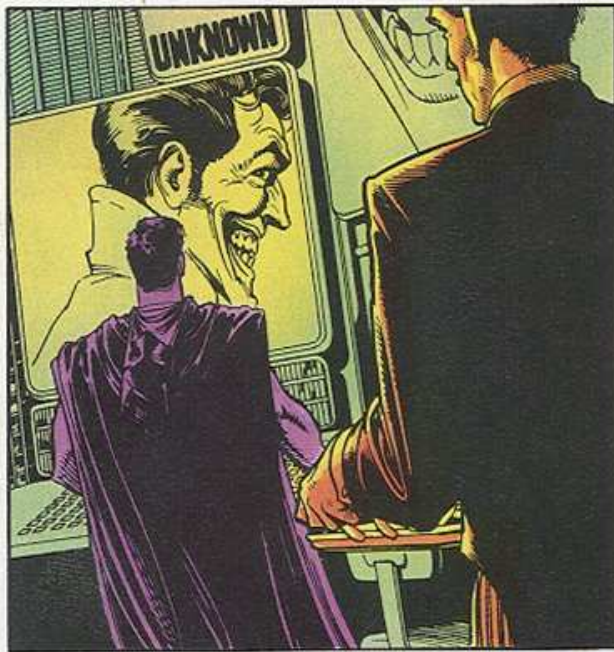


... AND THEN, OF COURSE, I'VE YET TO SECURE MY MAIN ATTRACTION.

DO FEEL FREE TO STICK AROUND.









I HATE THIS. WHENEVER WE JAIL HIM, I THINK "PLEASE GOD, KEEP HIM THERE." THEN HE ESCAPES AND WE ALL SIT ROUND HOPING HE WON'T DO ANYTHING TOO AWFUL THIS TIME.

**NOTHAM EXAMINER**  
**ASYLUM SECURITY UPROAR**  
**MANIAC ESCAPES AGAIN**

**CRIMEFIGHTER UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT**  
VICKI VALE EXCLUSIVE

I HATE IT.



DAD, JUST ONCE COULD YOU LEAVE YOUR WORK AND RELAX? I MADE YOU COCOA.

THANK YOU, SWEETHEART. I'LL DRINK IT WHEN I'VE PASTED THIS LATEST CLIPPING IN.



Y'KNOW, I FOUND THAT CAT-WOMAN SCRAPBOOK YOU SAID WAS MISSING. IT WAS BEHIND THE WARDROBE.

SOME DAY YOU OUGHT TO LET ME WORK OUT A PROPER FILING SYSTEM, LIKE WE USED AT THE LIBRARY.

Hmm.



LIRRGH. LOOK, YOU USED TOO MUCH PASTE! IT'S ALL SOLIDGING UNDER THE EDGES OF THE CLIPPING. YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT ON YOUR PANTS...

BARBARA, YOU'RE FUSSIER THAN YOUR MOTHER WA...

WAS THAT THE DOOR?



YEAH. IT'LL BE COLLEEN FROM ACROSS THE STREET. TONIGHT'S OUR YOGA CLASS.

C'MON, DAD... COMPANY! PUT YOUR SCRAPBOOKS AWAY.

**BAT-GARBED VIGILANTE**  
**CRITICALLY INJURES MURDERER**

**DISFIGURED HOMICIDAL MANIAC IN HOSPITAL**

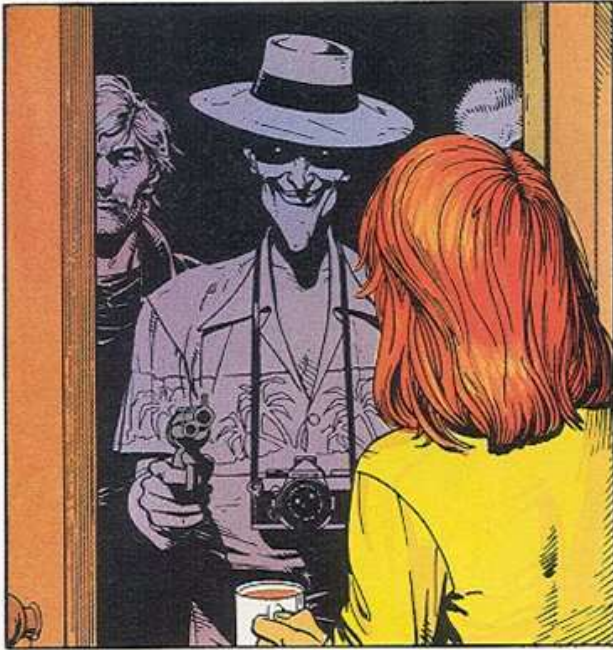
HEH. LOOK AT THIS ONE. FIRST TIME THEY MET. NOW WHAT YEAR WAS THAT?



WELL, I REMEMBER YOU DESCRIBING THE WHITE FACE AND THE GREEN HAIR TO ME WHEN I WAS A KID. SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME.

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED...

YEAH, WELL, I HAD SOME INTERESTING NIGHTMARES.





BARB..?

PLEASE DON'T WORRY. IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL COMPLAINT, COMMON AMONGST EX-LIBRARIANS. YOU SEE, SHE THINKS SHE'S A COFFEE TABLE EDITION...



MIND YOU, I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR THE VOLLIME'S CONDITION.

I MEAN, THERE'S A HOLE IN THE JACKET AND THE SPINE APPEARS TO BE DAMAGED.

YOU, YOU SCUM, MY DAUGHTER, I'LL...



YUFF

FRANKLY, SHE WON'T BE WALKING OFF THE SHELVES IN THAT STATE OF REPAIR.

IN FACT, THE IDEA OF HER WALKING ANYWHERE SEEMS INCREASINGLY REMOTE. BUT THEN, THAT'S ALWAYS A PROBLEM WITH SOFTBACKS.



GOD, THESE LITERARY DISCUSSIONS ARE SO DRY. WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED WITH THE OLD BOY, YOU KNOW WHERE TO TAKE HIM.

AND PLEASE... DO BE CAREFUL! AFTER ALL, HE IS TOPPING THE BILL.



YOU KNOW, IT'S SUCH A SHAME YOU'LL MISS YOUR FATHER'S DEBUT, MISS GORDON.

SADLY, OUR VENUE WASN'T BUILT WITH THE DISABLED IN MIND.

BUT DON'T WORRY... I'LL TAKE SOME SNAPSHOTS TO REMIND HIM OF YOU.



WUH...

WUH... WHY... ARE YOU...

DUH... DOING THIS..?



TO PROVE A POINT.

HERE'S TO CRIME.



Y'SEE...Y'SEE, I HAVE TO PROVE MYSELF. AS A HUSBAND, AND, AND AS A FATHER!

I MEAN, I, WELL, I WOULDN'T BE DOING THIS SORT OF THING IF, IF IT WASN'T SOMETHING IMPORTANT.



IT'S LIKE, I BEGAN AS A LAB ASSISTANT, AS A COMEDIAN. I WAS SO SURE. SO SURE I HAD TALENT.

SO, WHAT I DID, I QUIT TO BECOME A COMEDIAN. I WAS SO SURE. SO SURE I HAD TALENT.



BUT, HA, WELL, LOOK AT ME. I GUESS MY TALENTS DIDN'T LIE IN THAT DIRECTION.

SO, YOU SEE, LIKE, IF I JUST DO THIS ONE BIG CRIME...

HEY, JEEZ, MAN, BE COOL.



I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY. I DON'T USUALLY DRINK LUNCHTIMES...

IT'S JUST, IF YOU'RE SURE WE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS THING AND THAT NOBODY WILL KNOW I WAS INVOLVED...

DON'T WORRY, FRIEND. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



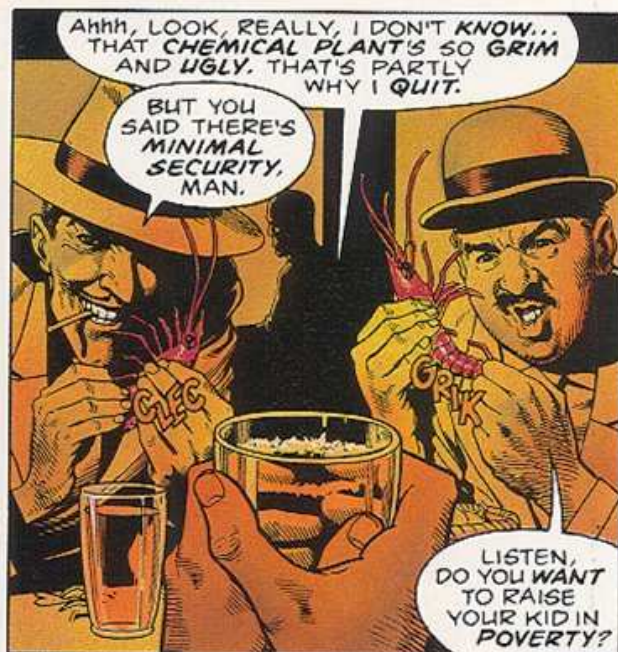
WE NEED YOUR HELP GETTING THROUGH THAT CHEMICAL PLANT WHERE YOU WORKED TO THE PLAYING CARD COMPANY NEXT DOOR.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR EXPERTISE.

SO, LIKE, TO ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE NOBODY CONNECTS YOU WITH THE ROBBERY...



...YOU'LL BE WEARING THIS.



NO. NO. OF COURSE I MEAN, IT'S NOT. YOU'RE RIGHT. JUST THIS ONCE, THEN I CAN SWITCH NEIGHBORHOODS AND START A PROPER LIFE...





THE BULLET WENT THROUGH HER SPINE.

I'M AFRAID HER LEGS ARE COMPLETELY USELESS.

PUTTING IT BLUNTLY, SHE MAY WELL BE IN A CHAIR FOR THE REMAINDER OF HER LIFE.



SOME WOMAN INNA SAME YOGA CLASS AS MISS GORDON FOUND HER, NAME OF COLLEEN REECE.

SHE FOLND THE, UH, VICTIM, IN A STATE OF UN-DRESS, BUT OTHERWISE THE PLACE WAS EMPTY. THE COMMISSIONER WAS...

UNDRESS?



THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU? HE'D REMOVED HER CLOTHING AFTER SHOOTING HER. WE, UH... WELL, WE FOUND A LENS-CAP ON THE FLOOR THAT DIDN'T FIT ANY CAMERA IN THE PLACE. WE BELIEVE THAT, UHH...



WELL, THAT HE TOOK SOME PICTURES.

OF HER.

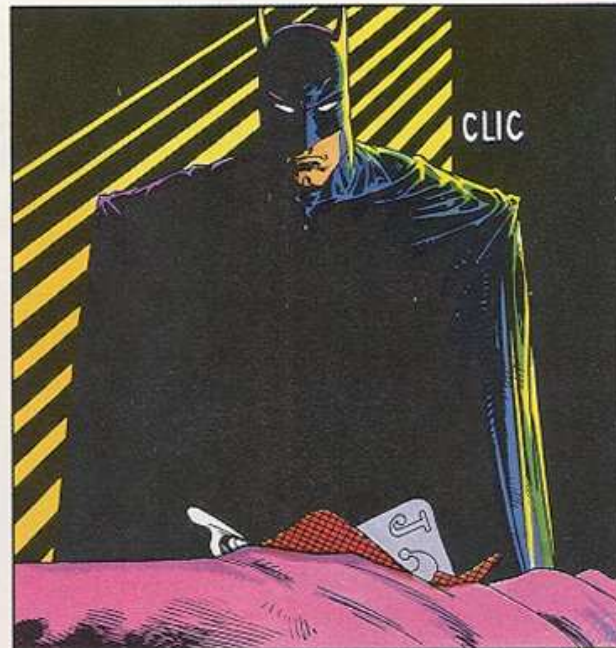
JEEZ, LOOK, REALLY, I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT YOU KNEW. IT'S PRETTY SICK, AIN'T IT?



YES.

PRETTY SICK.

PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE FOR A MOMENT.



CLIC



BARBARA?



BARBARA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?  
IT'S ME.  
IT'S BRUCE.



BRUCE...?



BRUCE... IT WAS HIM... TOOK DAD... H-HE...

OH GOD! OH GOD, I REMEMBER! OH, BRUCE, WHAT HE DID...

BARBARA, TAKE IT EASY. IT'S OKAY...



NO! NO, IT'S NOT OKAY! HE'S... HE'S TAKING IT TO THE LIMIT THIS TIME...

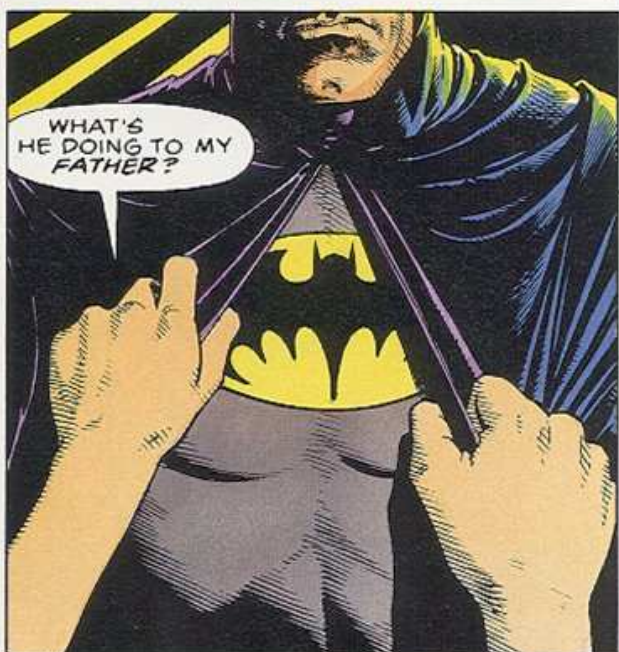
YOU DIDN'T SEE.

YOU DIDN'T SEE HIS EYES.



H-HE SAID HE WANTED TO PUH-PROVE A POINT... SAID ...DAD WAS ... TOP OF THE BILL ...

WH-WHAT'S HE DOING TO HIM, BRUCE?

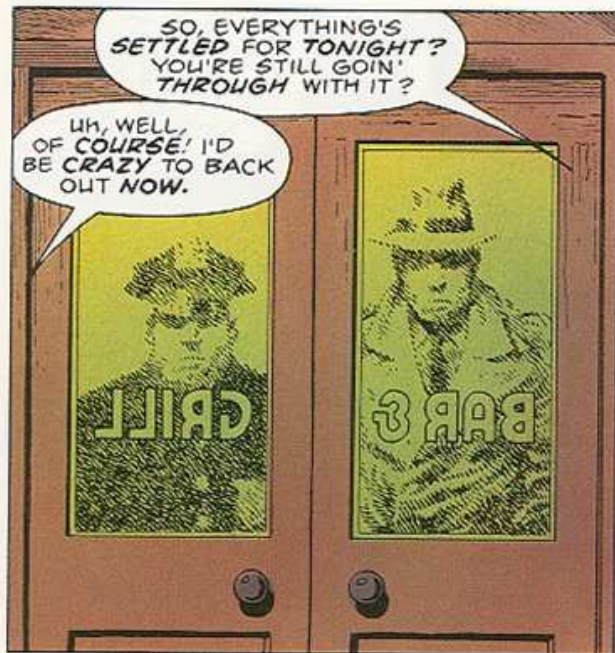


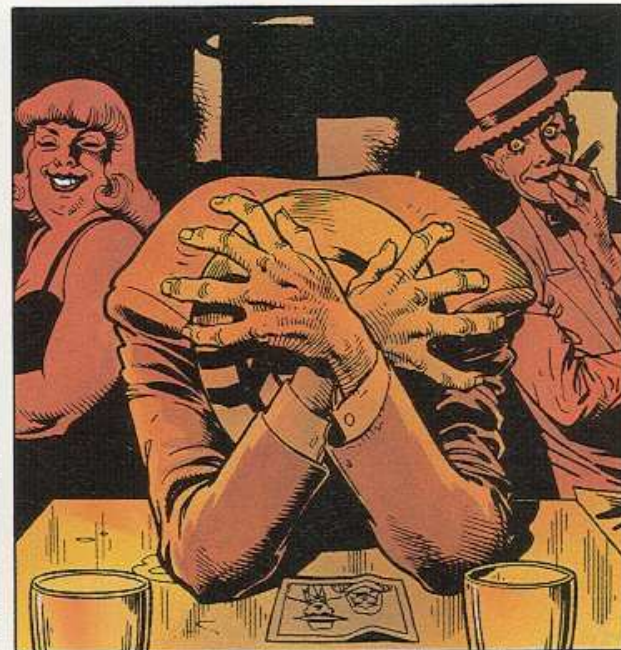
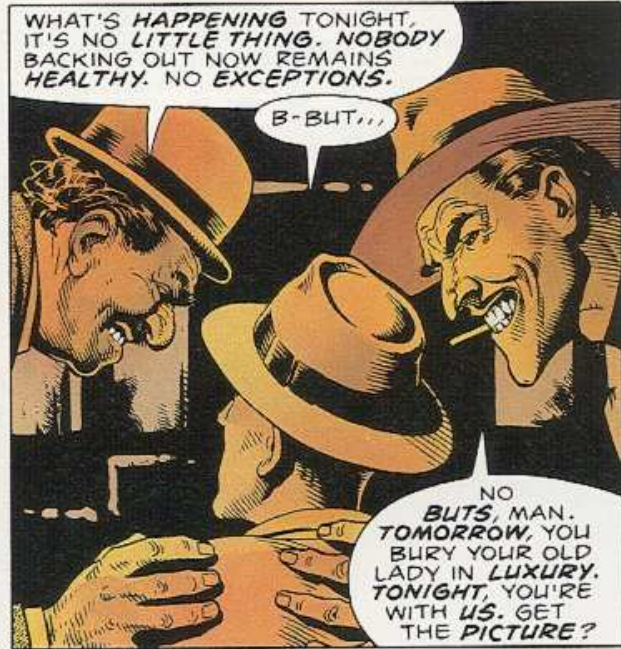
WHAT'S HE DOING TO MY FATHER?













A-A-AH! HEADS UP, COMMISSIONER! NO FAIR HIDING YOUR EYES ON THE GHOST TRAIN, YOU OLD FRAIDY CAT!

UP, UP!

GAA!

B  
D  
U  
M  
P



Oh, I KNOW... YOU'RE CONFUSED, YOU'RE FRIGHTENED, WHO WOULDN'T BE? YOU'RE IN A HELL OF A SITUATION!

BUT, Y'KNOW, THOUGH LIFE'S A BOWL OF CHERRIES AND THIS IS THE PITS, ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS...

MUSIC, SAM...



WHEN THE WORLD IS FULL OF CARE AND EVERY HEADLINE SCREAMS DESPAIR, WHEN ALL IS RAPE, STARVATION, WAR AND LIFE IS VILE...



THEN THERE'S A CERTAIN THING I DO WHICH I SHALL PASS ALONG TO YOU, THAT'S ALWAYS GUARANTEED TO MAKE ME SMILE...

I GO LOO-OO-OONY AS A LIGHT-BULB BATTERED BUG, SIMPLY LOO-OO-OONY, SOMETIMES FOAM AND CHEW THE RUG...

B  
D  
U  
M  
P



MISTER, LIFE IS SWELL IN A PADDED CELL, IT'LL CHASE THOSE BLUES AWAY...

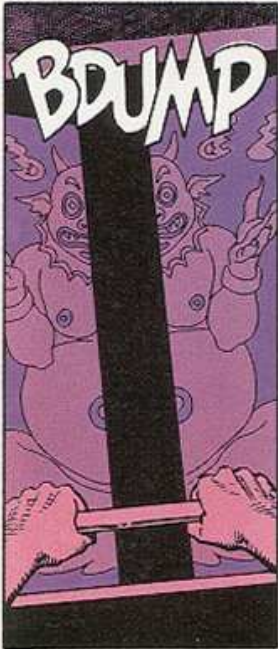
YOU CAN TRADE YOUR GLOOM FOR A RUBBER ROOM, AND INJECTIONS TWICE A DAY!



JUST GO LOO-OO-OONY, LIKE AN ACID CASUALTY, OR A MOO-OO-NIE, OR A PREACHER ON T.V.

WHEN THE HUMAN RACE WEARS AN ANXIOUS FACE, WHEN THE BOMB HANGS OVERHEAD, WHEN YOUR KID TURNS BLUE, IT WON'T WORRY YOU, YOU CAN SMILE AND NOD INSTEAD!







**BOUMP**



AHH! HERE THEY ARE NOW! MY GOODNESS, THAT'S SOME GHOST-TRAIN...

WHEN THEY WENT IN, THE CHAP IN THE MIDDLE DIDN'T LOOK A DAY OVER SEVENTEEN, AND HIS THREE LITTLE PALS WERE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL STARS!

LOOK AT HIM NOW, POOR FELLOW. THAT'S WHAT A DOSE OF REALITY DOES FOR YOU...



NEVER TOUCH THE STUFF MYSELF, YOU UNDERSTAND. FIND IT GETS IN THE WAY OF THE HALLUCINATIONS.

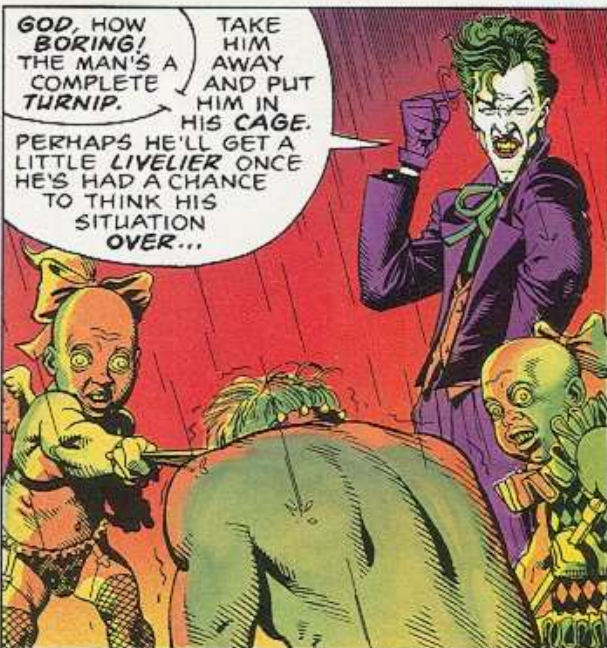


WHY, HELLO, COMMISSIONER! HOW'S THINGS?

COMMISSIONER?

HELLO?

ANYBODY HOME?



GOD, HOW BORING! THE MAN'S A COMPLETE TURNIP.

TAKE HIM AWAY AND PUT HIM IN HIS CAGE. PERHAPS HE'LL GET A LITTLE LIVELIER ONCE HE'S HAD A CHANCE TO THINK HIS SITUATION OVER...



... TO REFLECT UPON LIFE, AND ALL ITS RANDOM INJUSTICE.

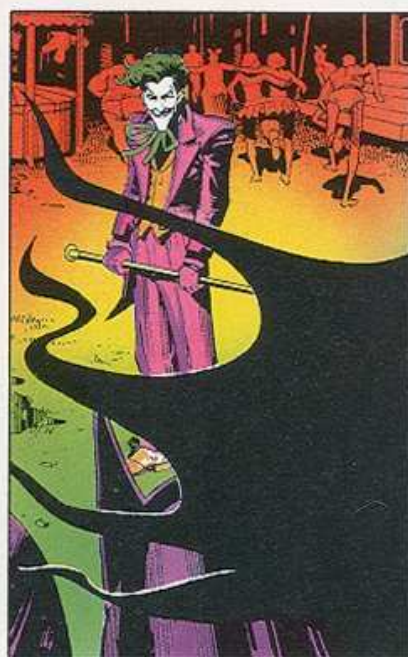
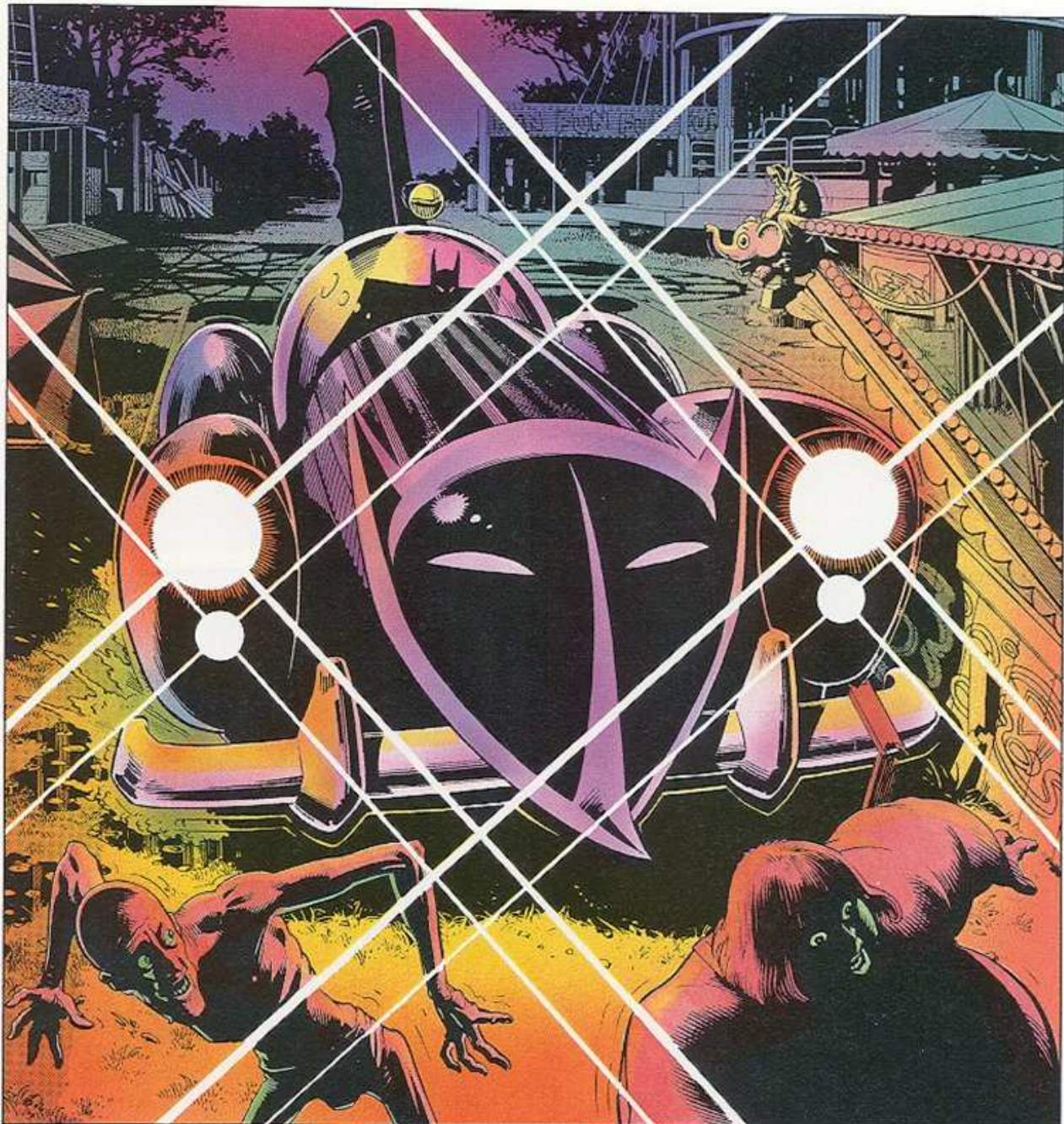














"I'VE BEEN THINKING LATELY..."



"ABOUT YOU..."



"ABOUT ME."



"ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, IN THE END."



"WE'RE GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER, AREN'T WE?"







SO... I SEE YOU RECEIVED THE FREE TICKET I SENT YOU.

I'M GLAD. I DID SO WANT YOU TO BE HERE.



YOU SEE, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU CATCH ME AND SEND ME BACK TO THE ASYLUM...

GORDON'S BEEN DRIVEN MAD.

I'VE PROVED MY POINT.



I'VE DEMONSTRATED THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND EVERYONE ELSE!

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE BAD DAY TO REDUCE THE SANEST MAN ALIVE TO LUNACY.

THAT'S HOW FAR THE WORLD IS FROM WHERE I AM. JUST ONE BAD DAY.



YOU HAD A BAD DAY ONCE, AM I RIGHT?

I KNOW I AM. I CAN TELL. YOU HAD A BAD DAY AND EVERYTHING CHANGED.

WHY ELSE WOULD YOU DRESS UP LIKE A FLYING RAT?



YOU HAD A BAD DAY, AND IT DROVE YOU AS CRAZY AS EVERYBODY ELSE...

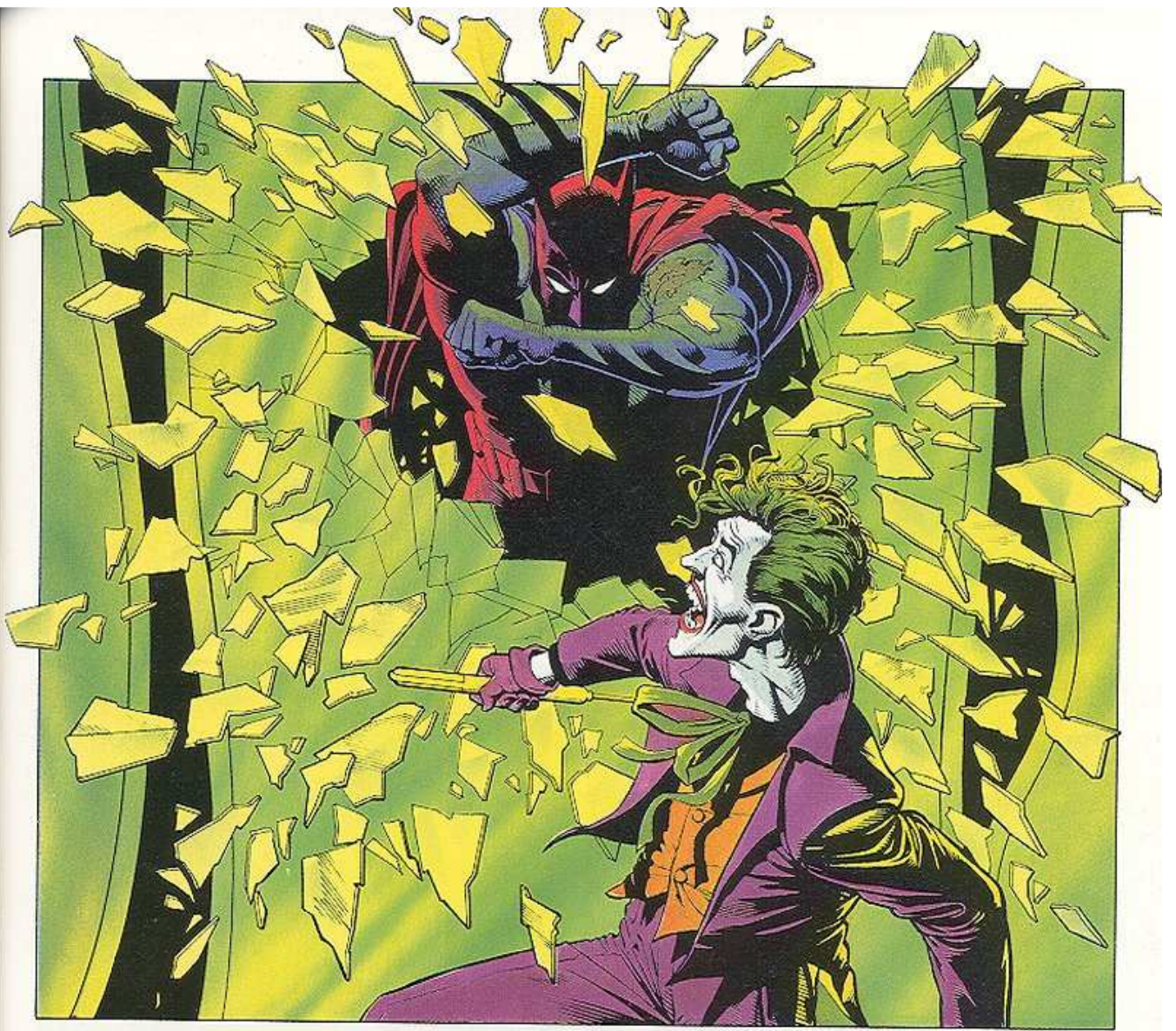
ONLY YOU WON'T ADMIT IT!

YOU HAVE TO KEEP PRETENDING THAT LIFE MAKES SENSE, THAT THERE'S SOME POINT TO ALL THIS STRUGGLING!

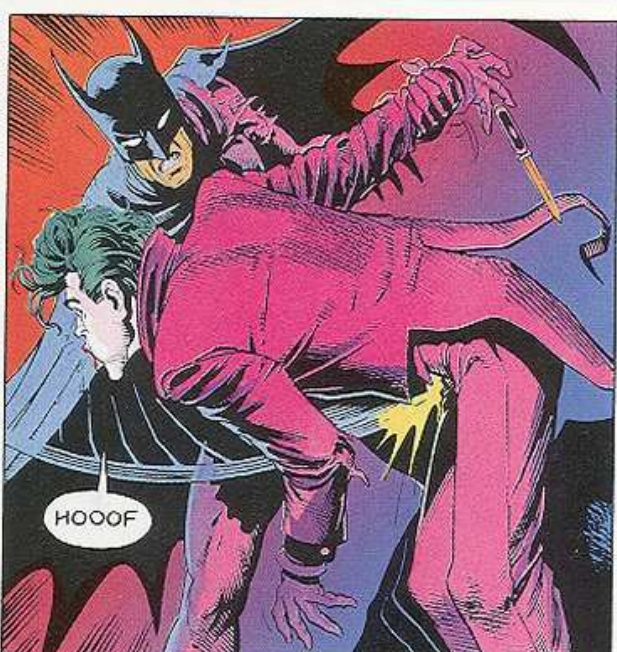
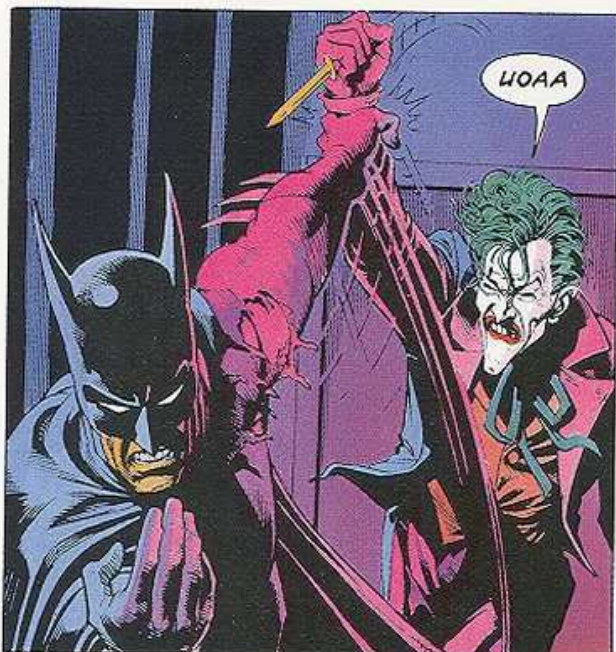
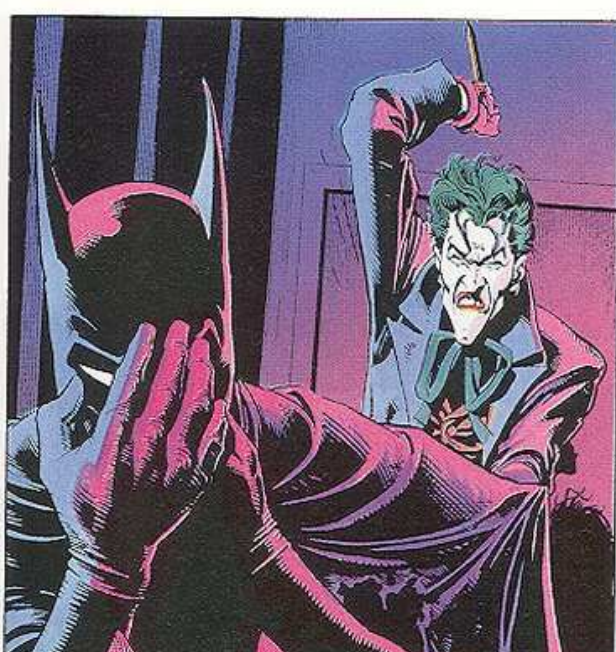
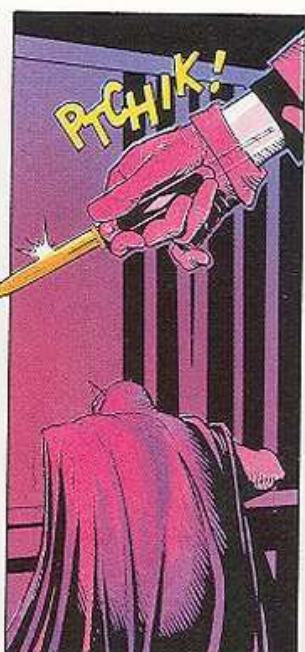


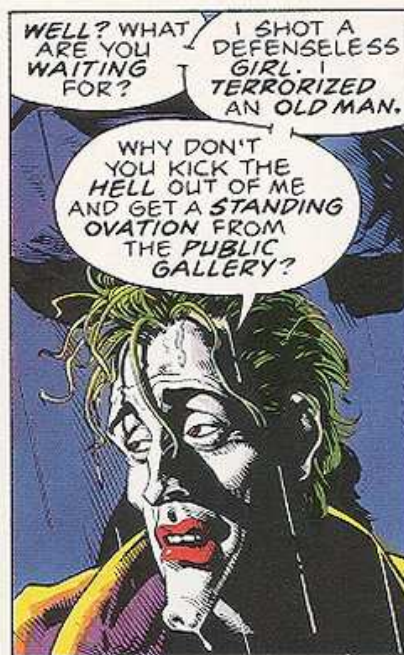
GOD, YOU MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE.

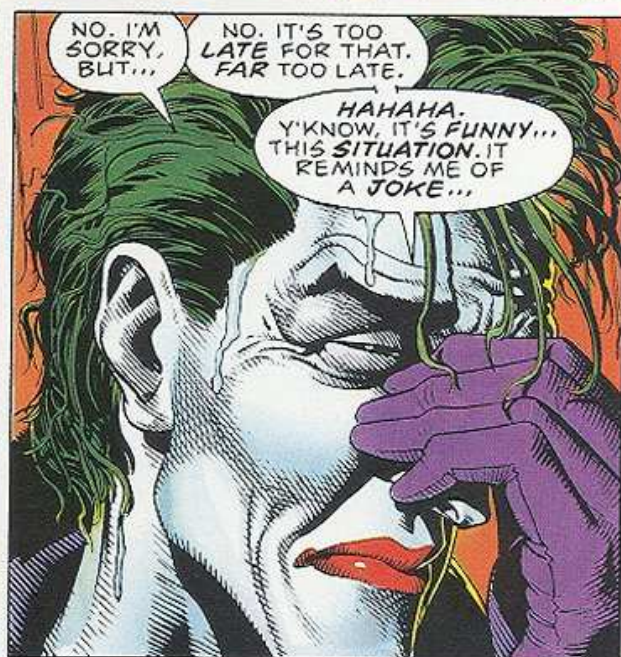
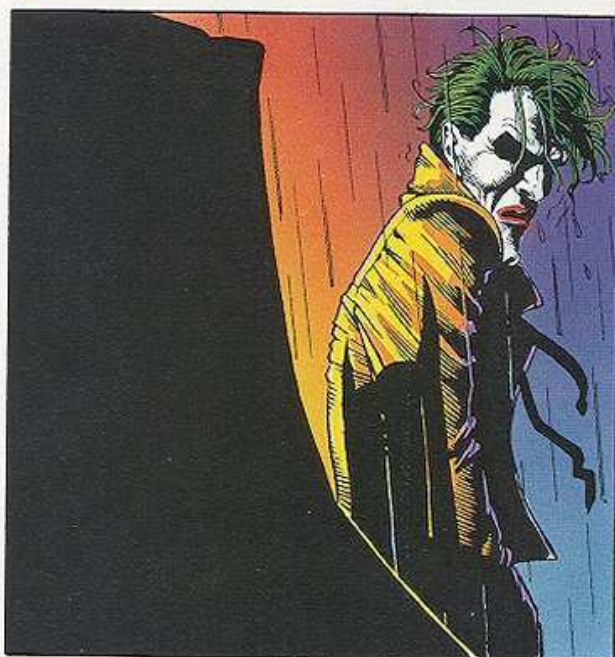
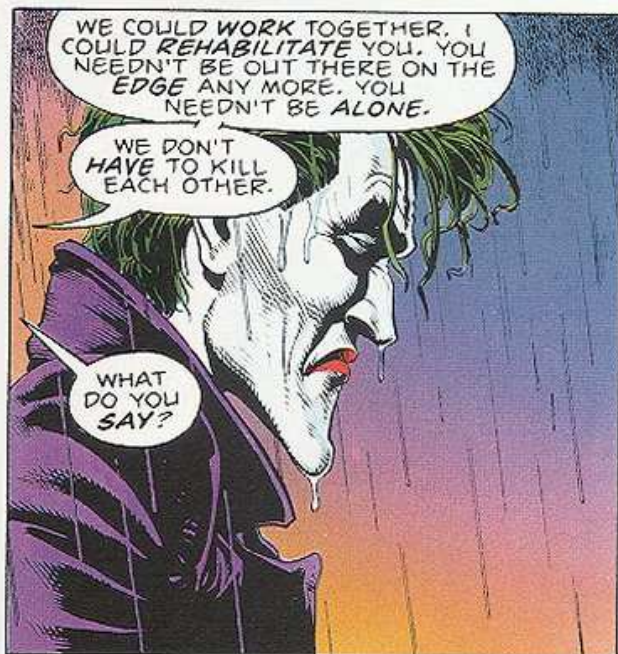
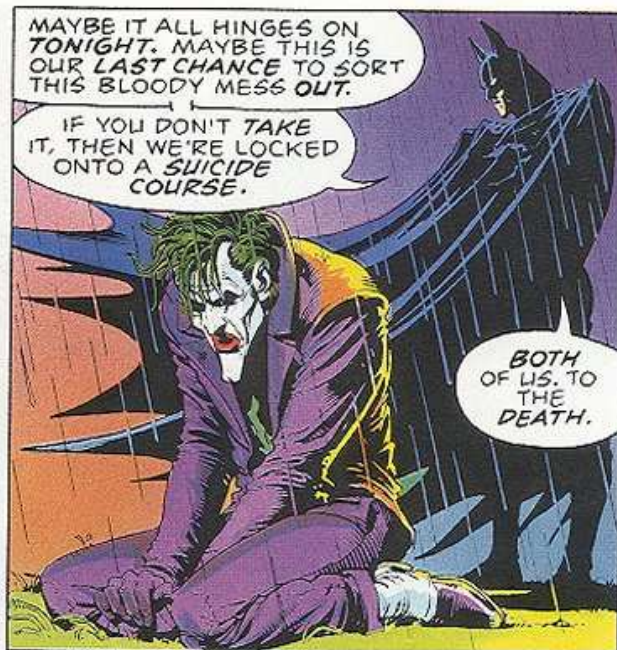






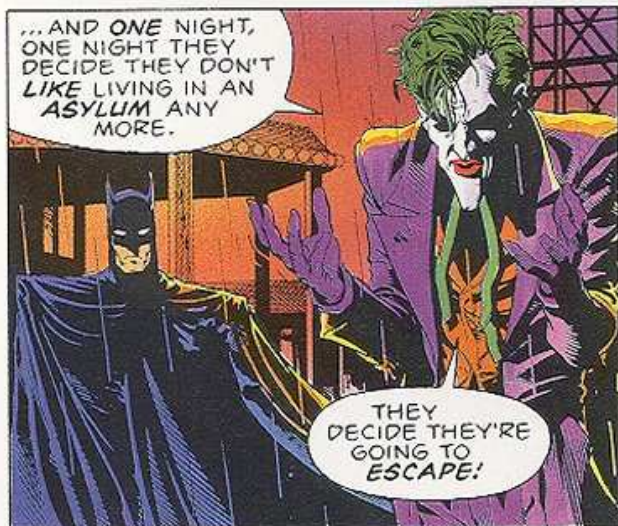






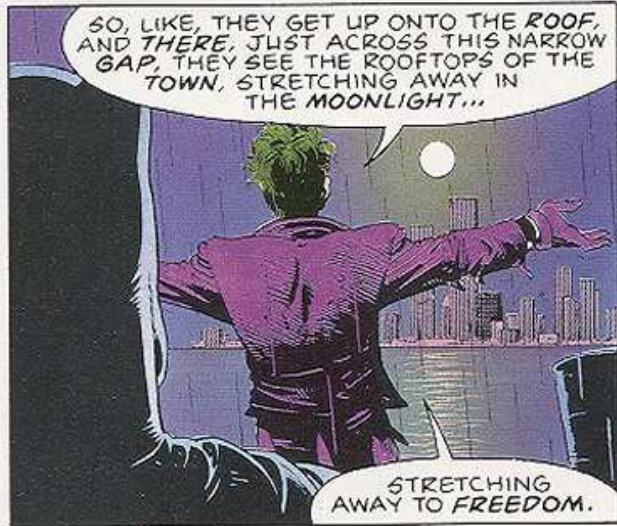


SEE, THERE WERE THESE TWO GUYS IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM...



... AND ONE NIGHT, ONE NIGHT THEY DECIDE THEY DON'T LIKE LIVING IN AN ASYLUM ANY MORE.

THEY DECIDE THEY'RE GOING TO ESCAPE!



SO, LIKE, THEY GET UP ONTO THE ROOF, AND THERE, JUST ACROSS THIS NARROW GAP, THEY SEE THE ROOFTOPS OF THE TOWN, STRETCHING AWAY IN THE MOONLIGHT...

STRETCHING AWAY TO FREEDOM.



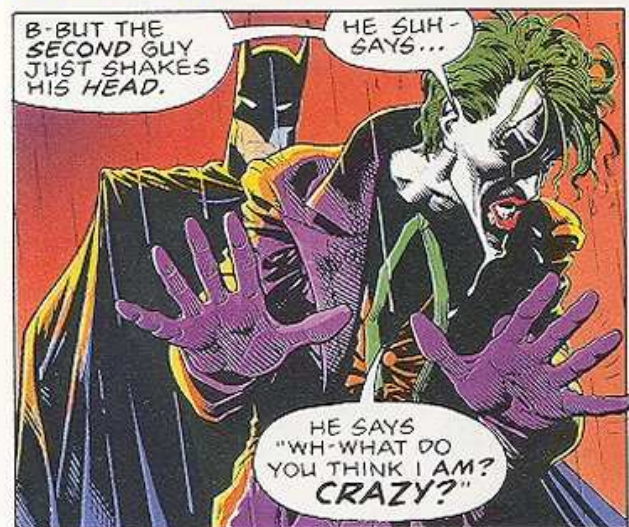
NOW, THE FIRST GUY, HE JUMPS RIGHT ACROSS WITH NO PROBLEM. BUT HIS FRIEND, HIS FRIEND DARED'NT MAKE THE LEAP. Y'SEE...

Y'SEE, HE'S AFRAID OF FALLING.



SO THEN, THE FIRST GUY HAS AN IDEA...

HE SAYS "HEY! I HAVE MY FLASHLIGHT WITH ME! I'LL SHINE IT ACROSS THE GAP BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS. YOU CAN WALK ALONG THE BEAM AND JOIN ME!"



B-BUT THE SECOND GUY JUST SHAKES HIS HEAD.

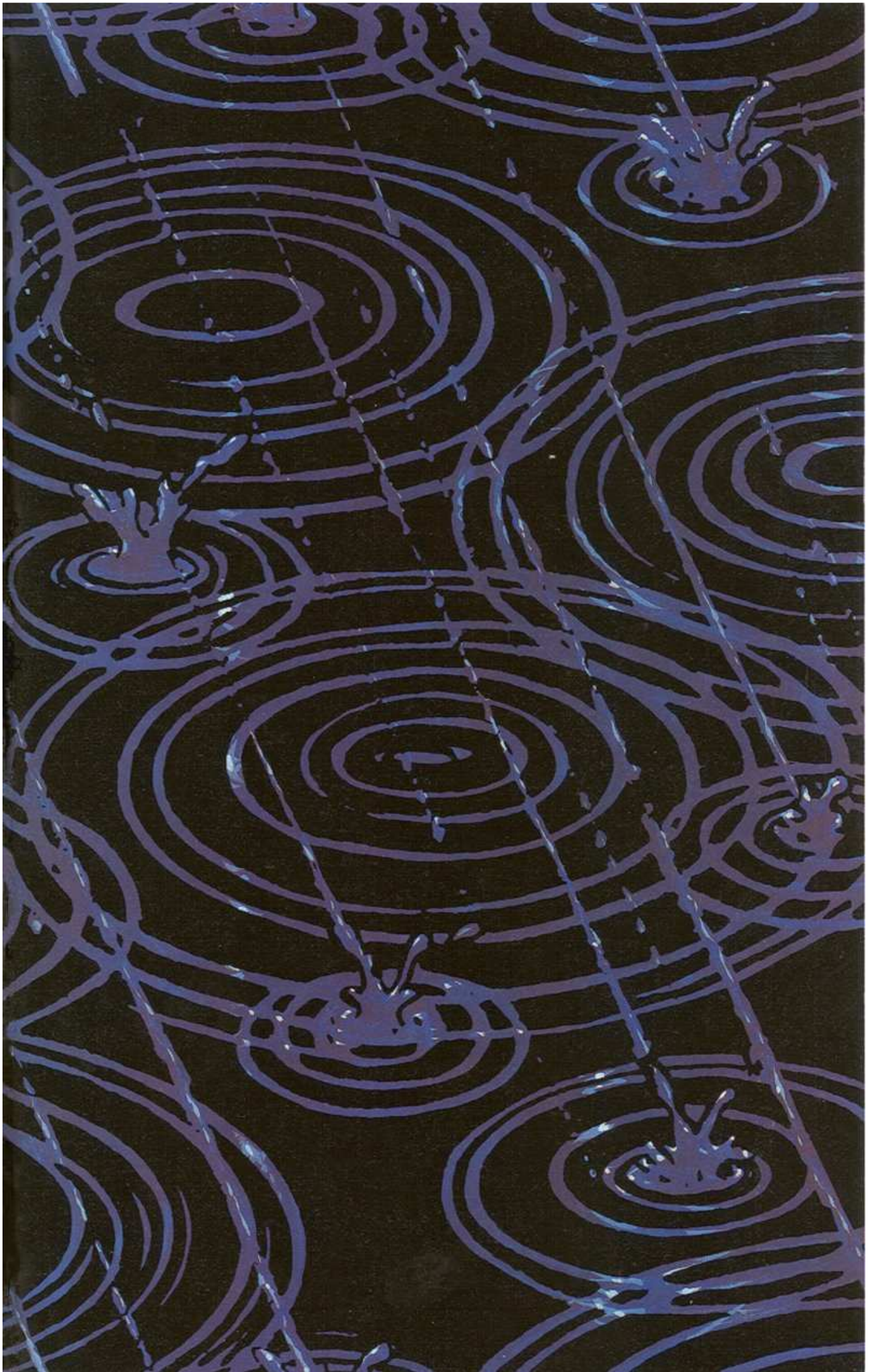
HE SUH-SAYS...

HE SAYS "WH-WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM? CRAZY?"



"YOU'D TURN IT OFF WHEN I WAS HALF WAY ACROSS!"





\$3.50 U.S.A.  
\$4.75 CAN.

