

**BATMAN
THE
KILLING
JOKER**
ALAN MOORE
BRIAN BOLLAND
JOHN HIGGINS

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BATMAN: THE KILLING JOKE

Batman created by Bob Kane

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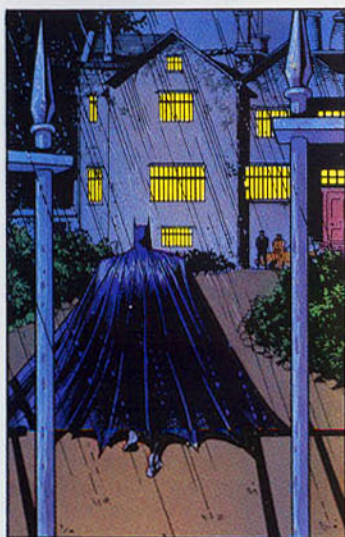
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THERE WERE THESE TWO
GUYS IN A LUNATIC
ASYLUM...









"WHERE IS HE?"

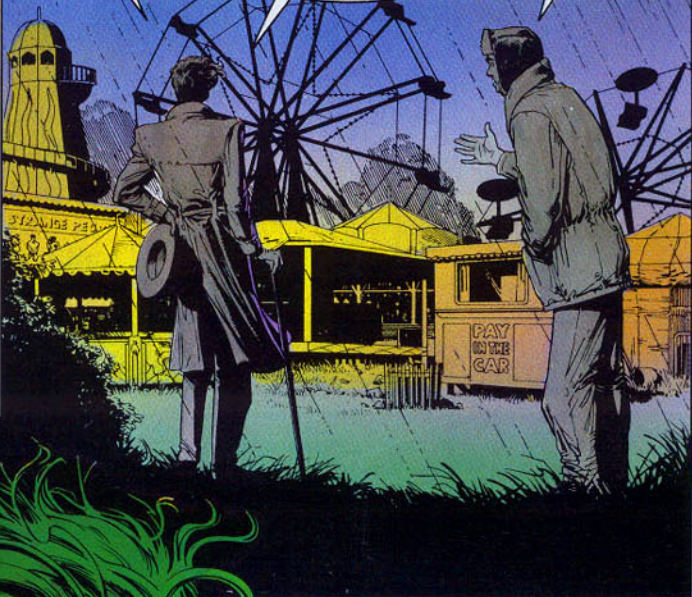
AH! THERE YOU ARE!

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?

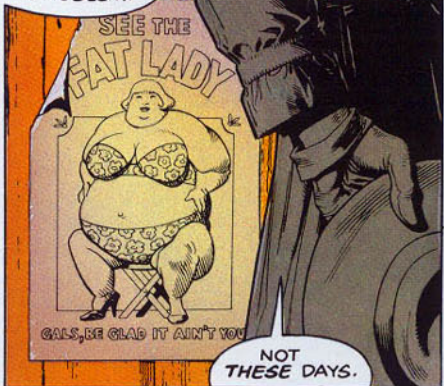
I'M CRAZY FOR IT.

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...



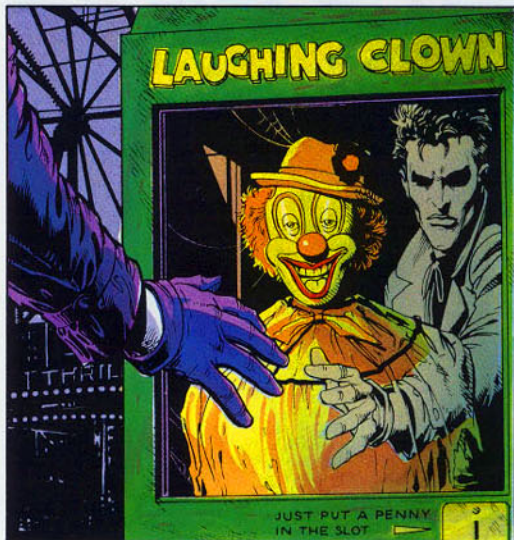
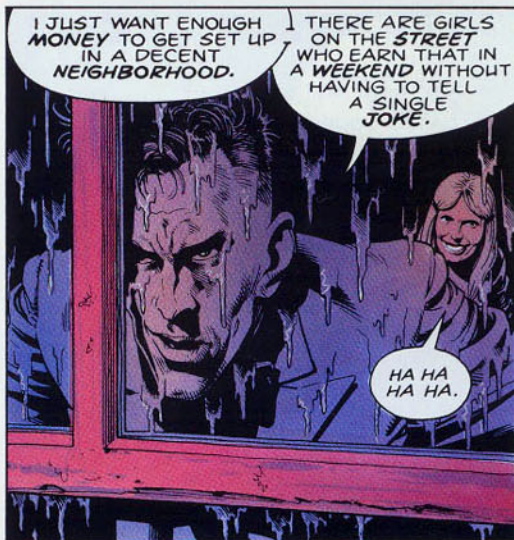
...AND ANYWAY, MONEY ISN'T REALLY A PROBLEM.



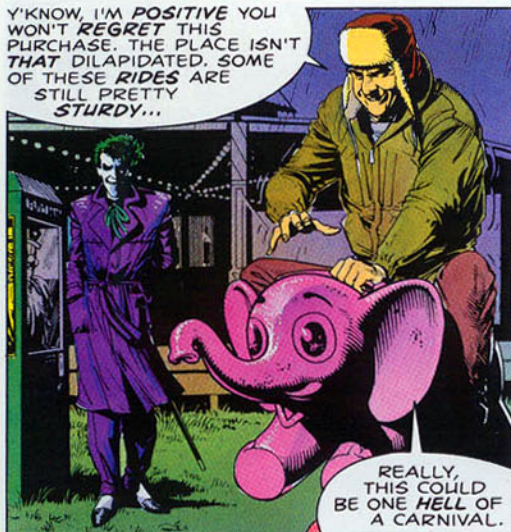
GALS, BE GLAD IT AIN'T YOU

NOT THESE DAYS.





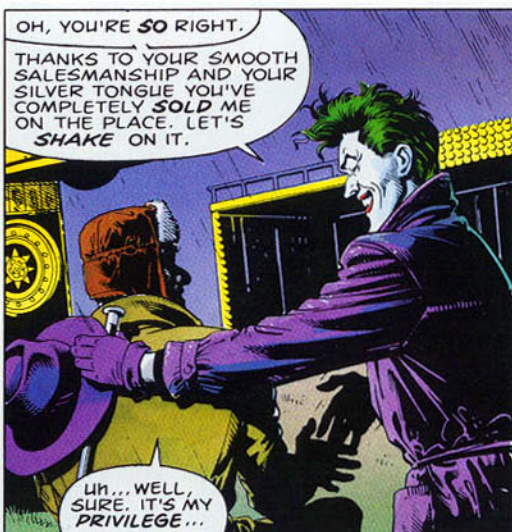
Y'KNOW, I'M **POSITIVE** YOU WON'T **REGRET** THIS PURCHASE. THE PLACE ISN'T **THAT** DILAPIDATED. SOME OF THESE **RIDES** ARE STILL **PRETTY STURDY...**



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...

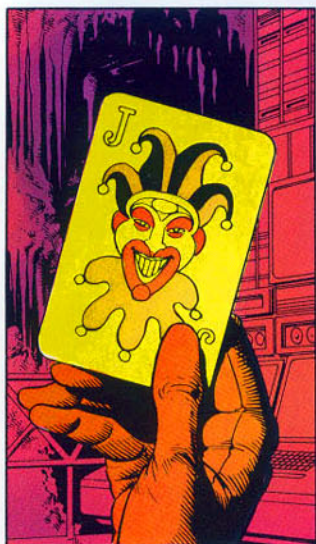
WELL, I MUST **DASH**. THERE'S **EQUIPMENT** TO **HIRE**, PLUS **WORKERS** WHO'LL SUIT THE **GENERAL TONE** OF THE **ESTABLISHMENT...**

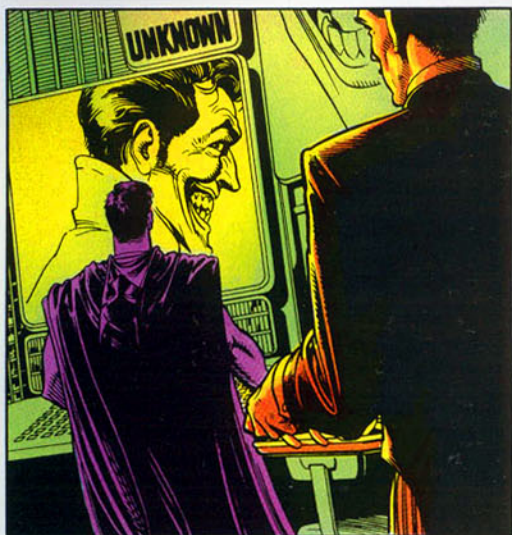
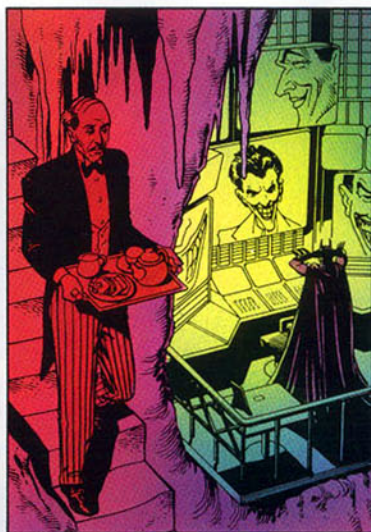


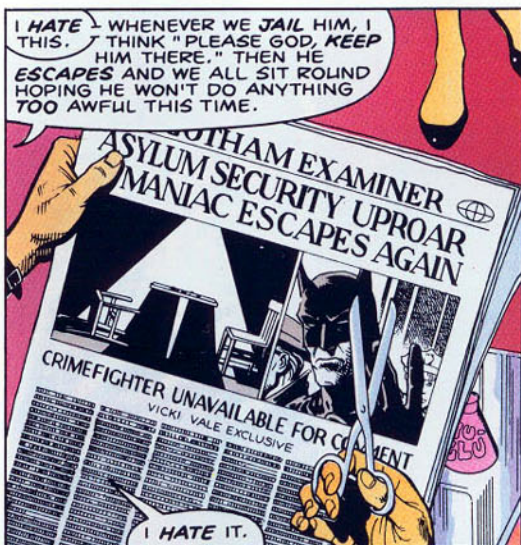
... AND THEN, OF COURSE, I'VE YET TO **SECURE** MY **MAIN ATTRACTION...**

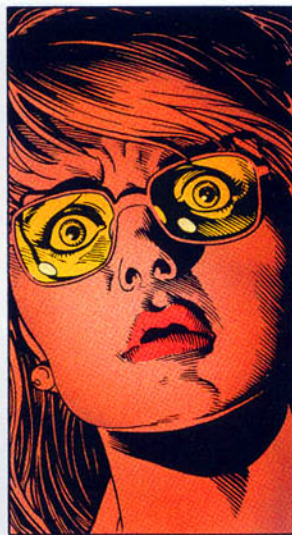
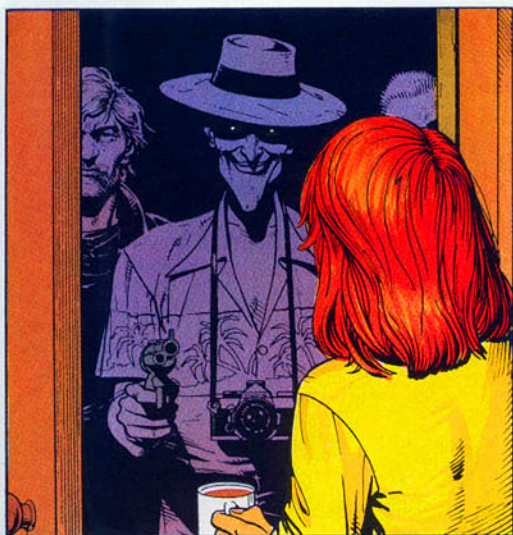
DO FEEL **FREE** TO **STICK** **AROUND**.





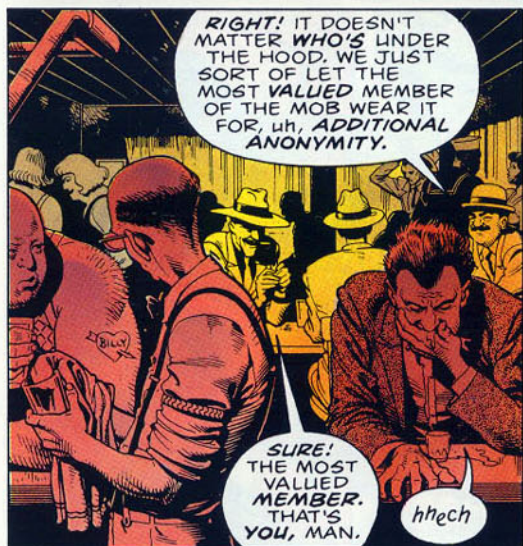












NO. NO. OF COURSE I MEAN, IT'S NOT. YOU'RE RIGHT. JUST THIS ONCE, THEN I CAN SWITCH NEIGHBORHOODS AND START A PROPER LIFE...



SURE. SURE, WHY NOT? HA HA. AND THEN, STARTING FROM SATURDAY MORNING, I'LL BE RICH. I CAN'T IMAGINE IT. MY LIFE'S GOING TO BE COMPLETELY CHANGED!





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
FOUND 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.

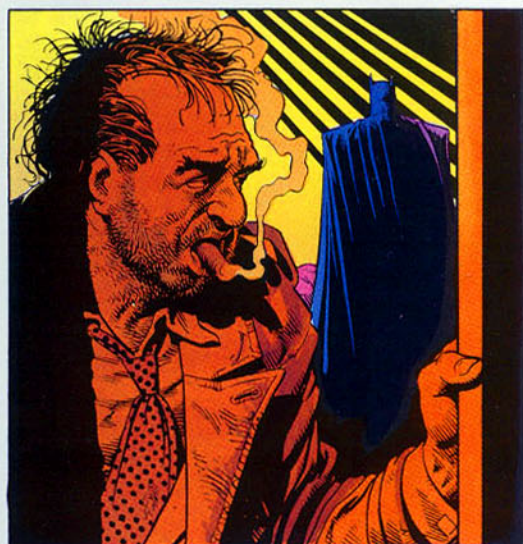
JEEZ, LOOK,
REALLY, I'M *SORRY*. I
THOUGHT YOU *KNEW*. IT'S
PRETTY *SICK*, AIN'T IT?



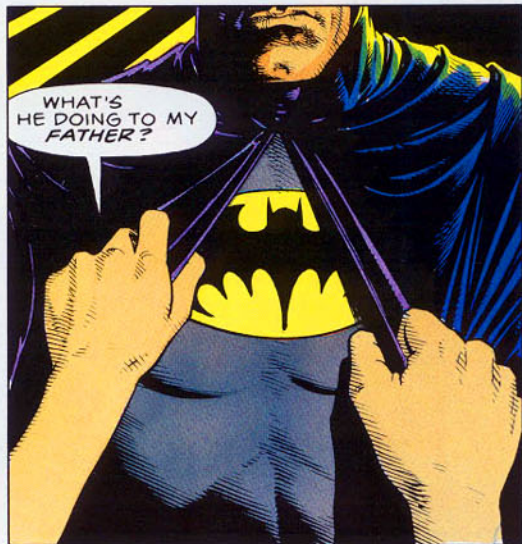
YES.

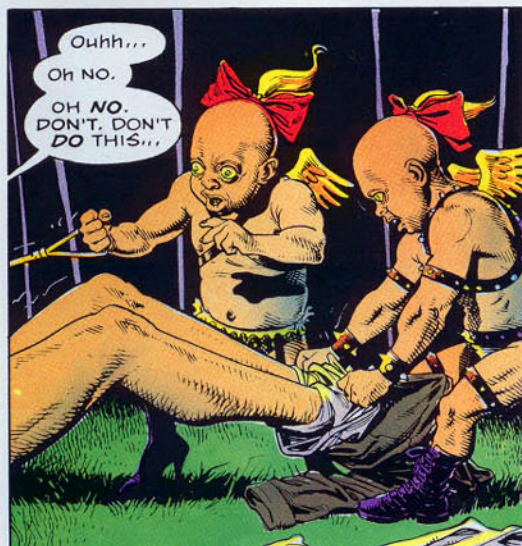
PRETTY
SICK.

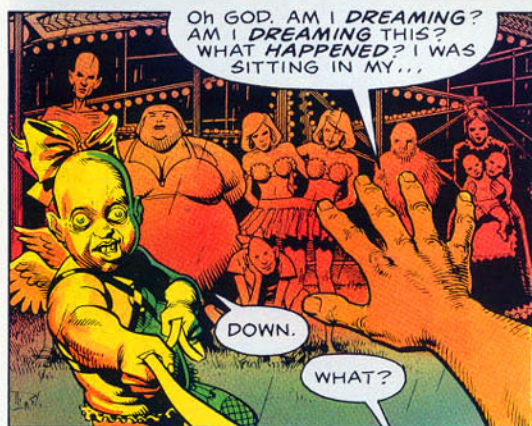
PLEASE
LEAVE US
ALONE FOR A
MOMENT.

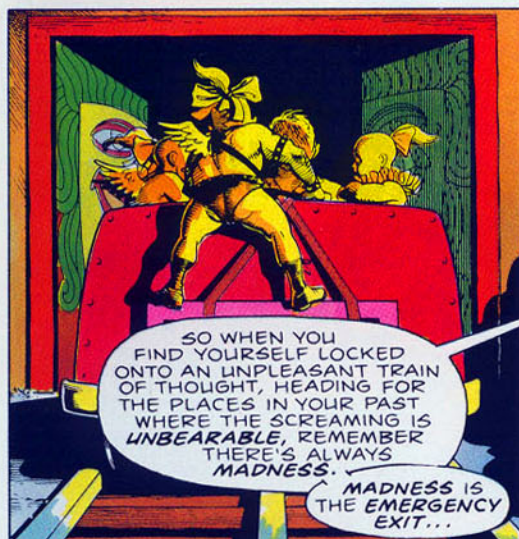
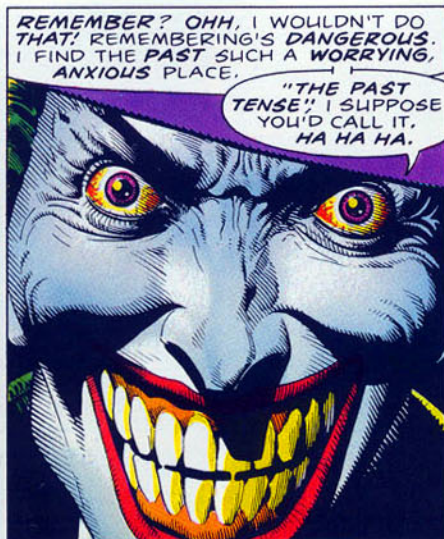


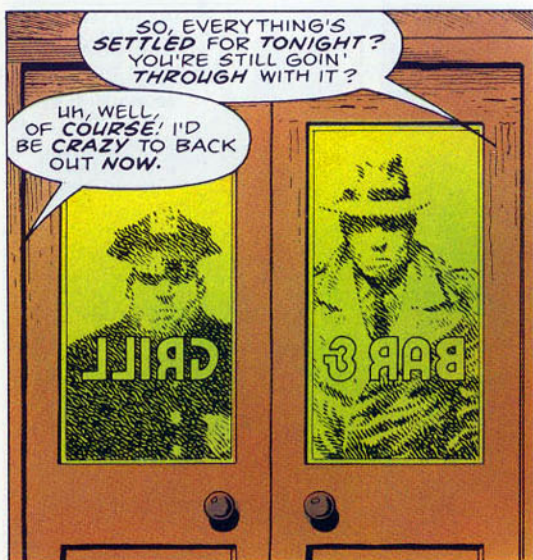
CLIC

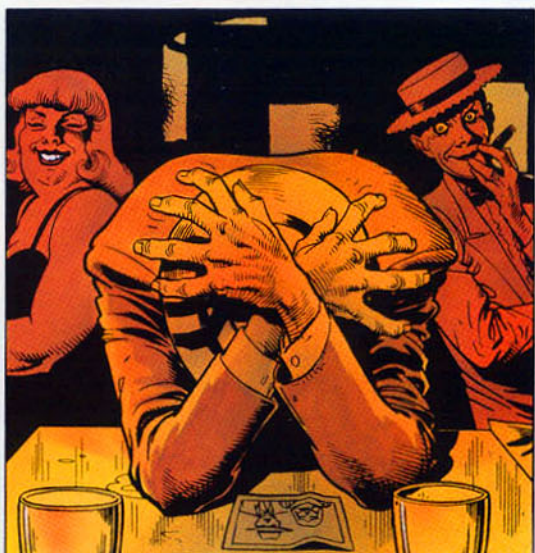














A-A-AH! HEADS UP, COMMISSIONER! NO FAIR HIDING YOUR EYES ON THE GHOST TRAIN, YOU OLD FRAIDY CAT!

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



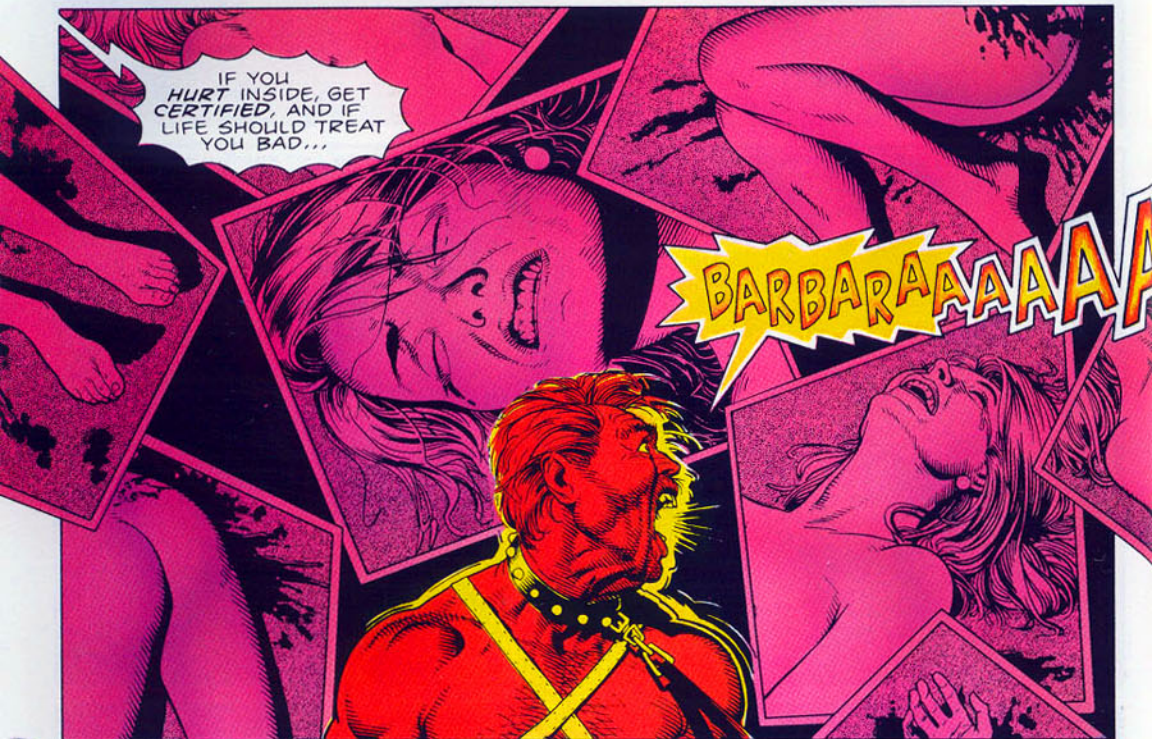
MISTER, LIFE IS SWELL IN A PADDED CELL, IT'LL CHASE THOSE BLUES AWAY...

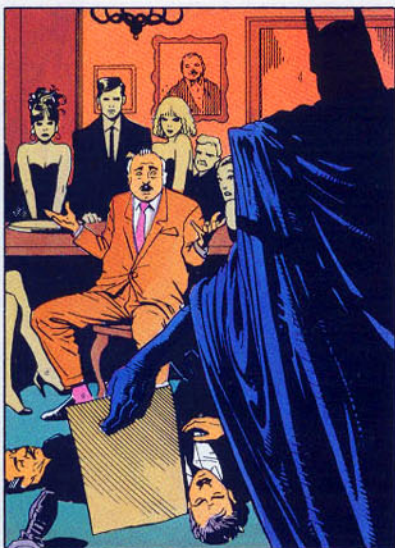
YOU CAN TRADE YOUR GLOOM FOR A RUBBER ROOM, AND INJECTIONS TWICE A DAY!

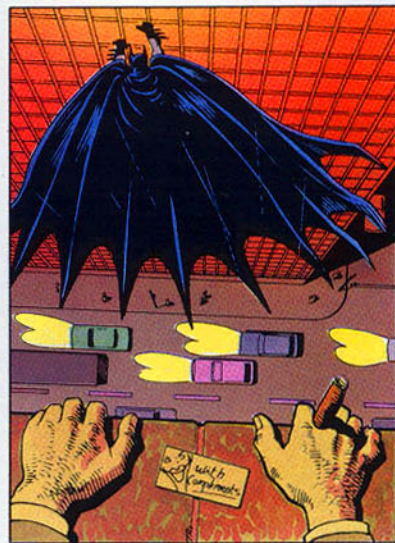


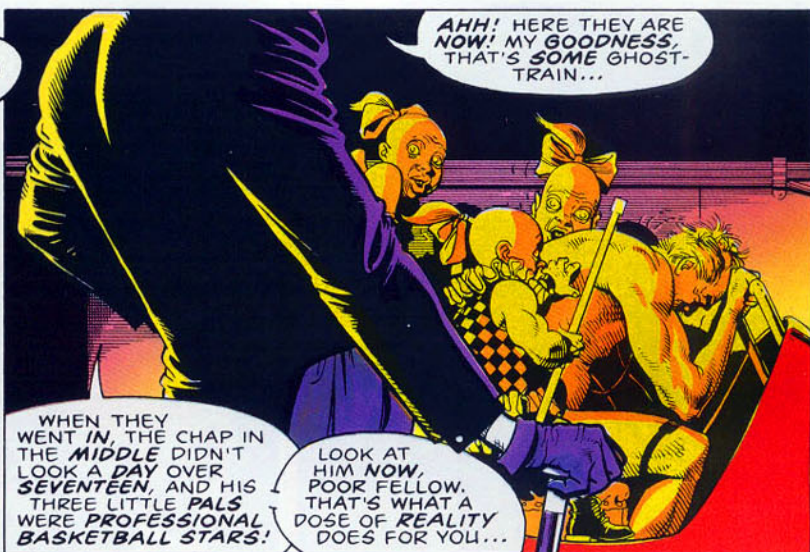
JUST GO LOO-OO-OONY, LIKE AN ACID CASUALTY, OR A MOO-OO-NIE, OR A PREACHER ON T.V.

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!









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.

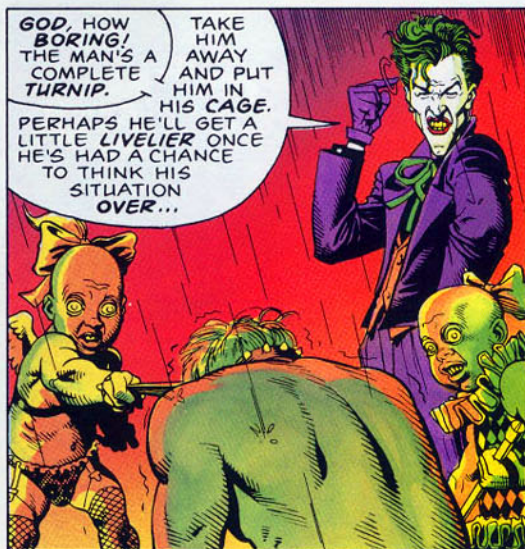


WHY, HELLO,
COMMISSIONER!
HOW'S THINGS?

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.



HEY,
C'MON! QUIT
DAYDREAMIN'.
ARE WE DOING
THIS THING OR
AIN'T WE?

FACE CHEMICALS SKOLE??



UH, YES. YES.
OF COURSE.

I WAS, I WAS JUST
REMEMBERING...
I USED TO WALK
ALONG HERE ON THE
WAY TO WORK EACH
MORNING...

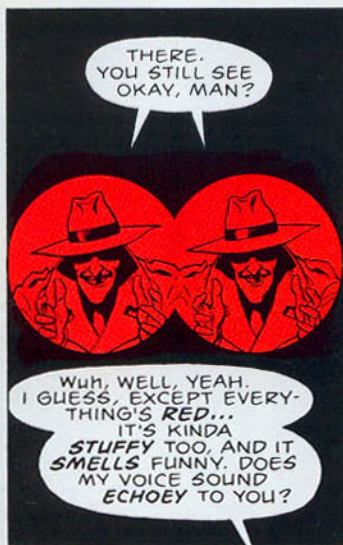
YEAH,
YEAH.
NOW PUT
THIS
SUCKER
ON, MAN.
AN' SHUT
UP.



WHAT, RIGHT NOW?
I MEAN... I MEAN, ARE
YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?

WILL I
BE ABLE TO
BREATHE?

HEY, MAN,
EVERYTHING'S
COOL, JEEZ...
Y'KNOW, YOU
GOT A FUNNY-
SHAPED
HEAD...



THERE.
YOU STILL SEE
OKAY, MAN?

Wuh, well, yeah.
I GUESS, EXCEPT EVERY-
THING'S RED...
IT'S KINDA
STUFFY TOO, AND IT
SMELLS FUNNY. DOES
MY VOICE SOUND
ECHOEY TO YOU?



YOU
SOUND
GREAT.
NOW... HOW
ABOUT
GUIDIN' US
THROUGH
THIS
STINKIN'
FACTORY
TO THE
JOINT
NEXT
DOOR?

SURE. SURE
THING. Y'KNOW...
THIS FEELS
KINDA
WEIRD. LIKE
A DREAM.
I KEEP
REMEMBERING
JEANNIE...

WATCH
OUT, MAN.
STEPS.



OKAY... WE GO
THROUGH HERE,
PAST THE FILTER
TANKS AND THEN
MONARCH PLAYING
CARDS IS JUST
BEYOND A
PARTITION.

Y'KNOW,
THIS PLACE...
IT LOOKS
EVEN WORSE
IN RED. IT
LOOKS
LIKE...

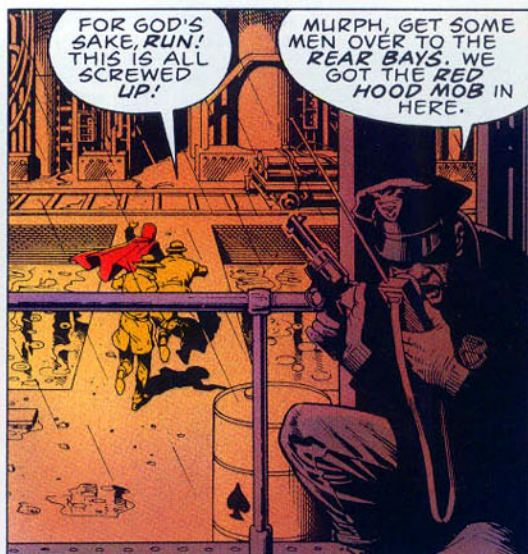
HEY, YOU!
FREEEEZE!

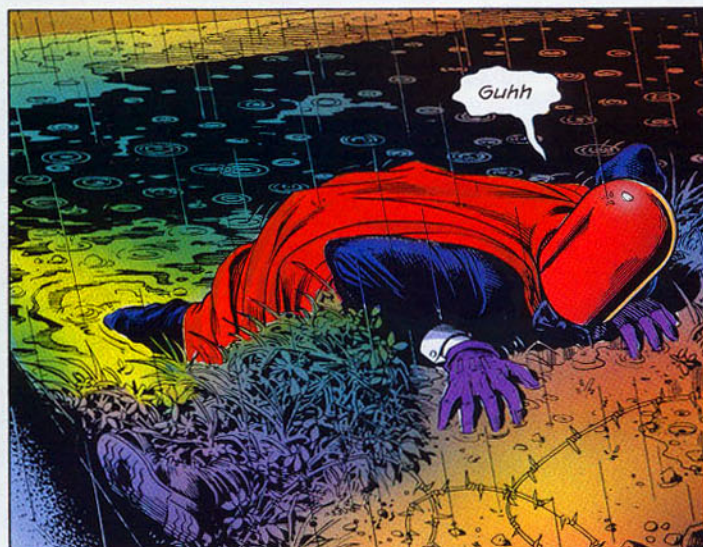


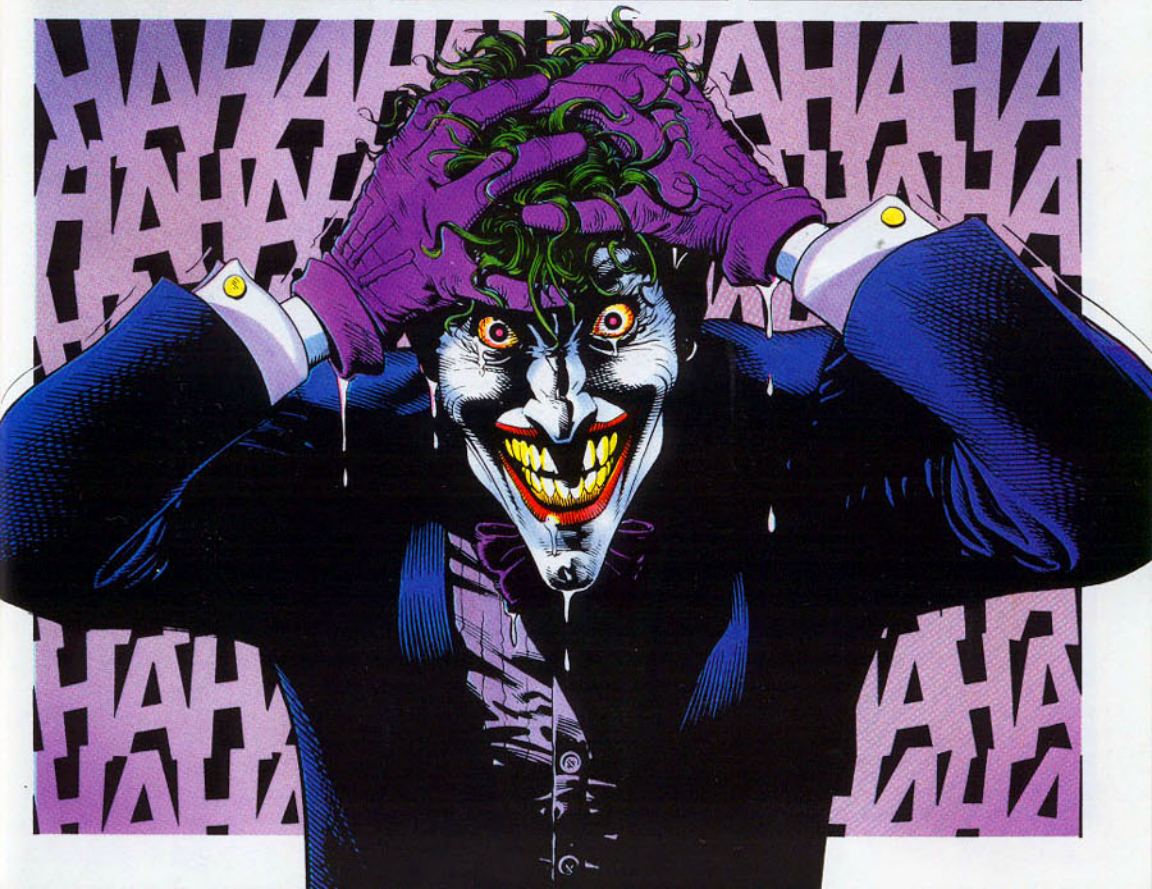
C'MON,
C'MON, GET
'EM UP!

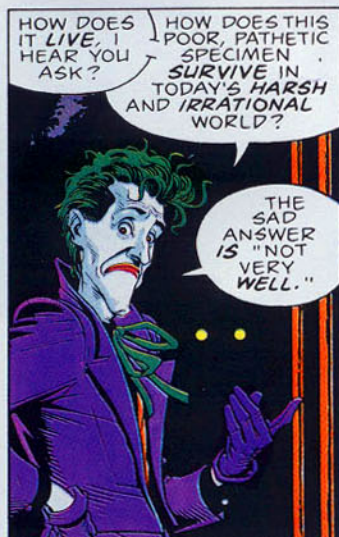
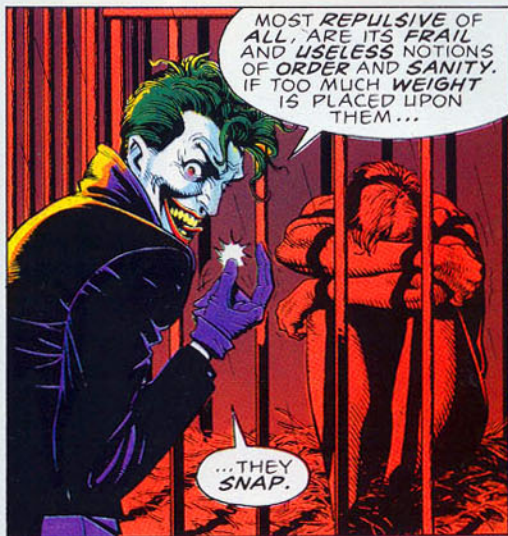
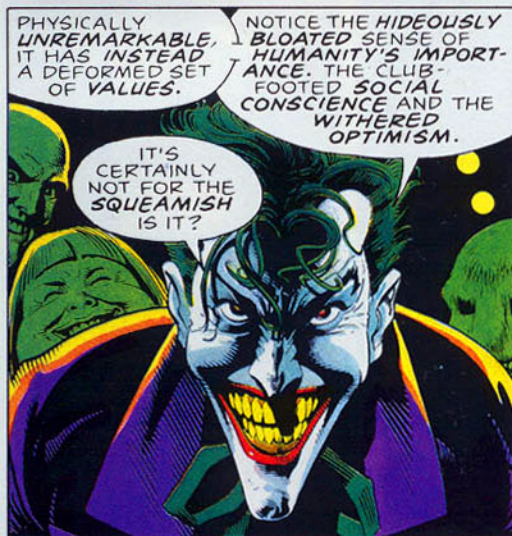
YOU
ASSHOLE! YOU
SAID THERE WAS
NO SECURITY!

THEY...
THEY MUST HAVE
ALTERED THINGS
SINCE I LEFT...

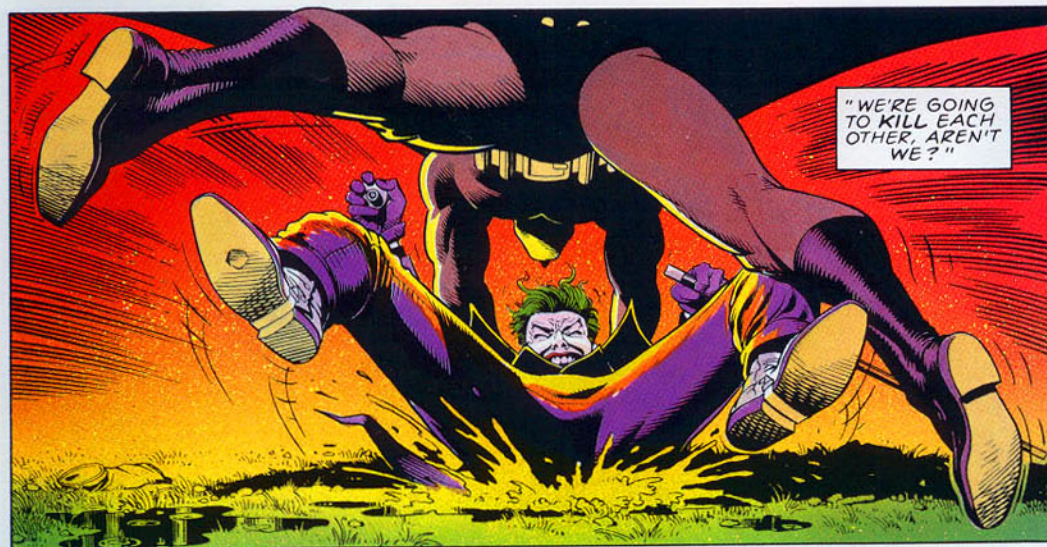
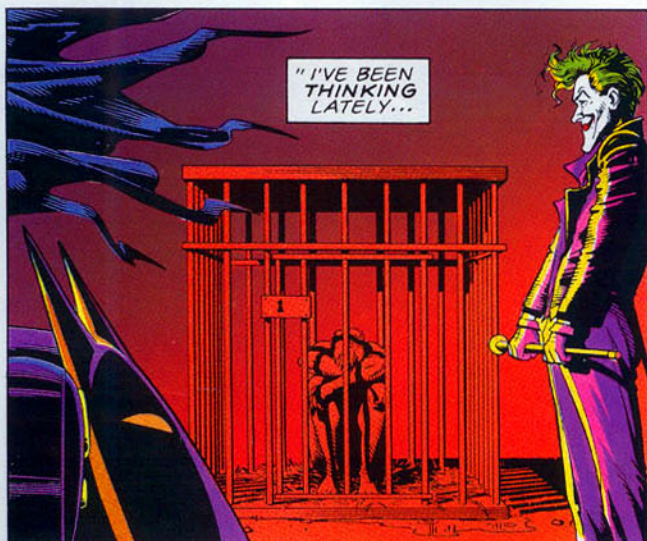


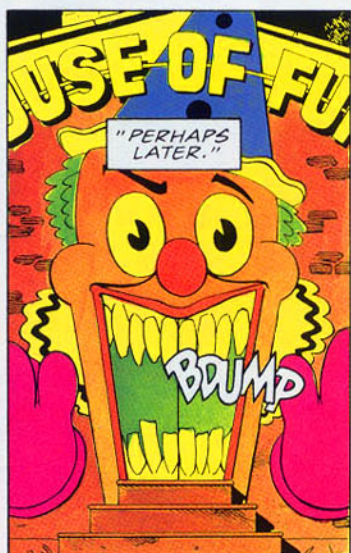
















SO... I SEE YOU RECEIVED THE FREE TICKET I SENT YOU.

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?



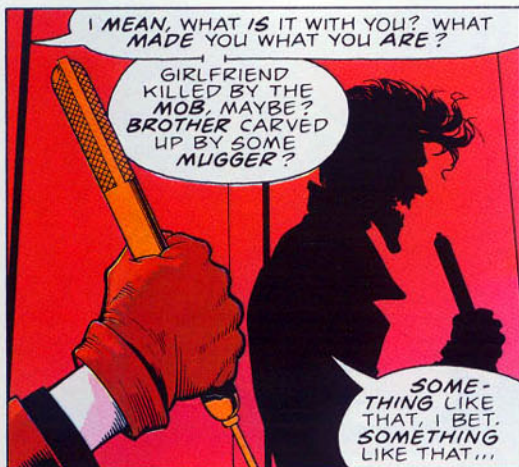
YOU HAD A BAD DAY, AND IT DROVE YOU AS CRAZY AS EVERYBODY ELSE...

ONLY YOU WON'T ADMIT IT!

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



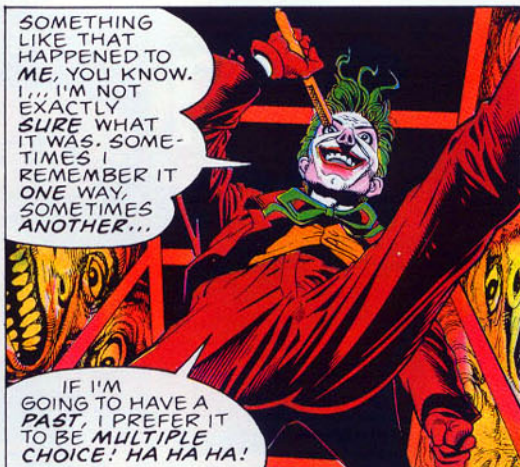
GOD, YOU MAKE ME WANT TO PUKE.



I MEAN, WHAT IS IT WITH YOU? WHAT MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE?

GIRLFRIEND
KILLED BY THE
MOB. MAYBE?
BROTHER CARVED
UP BY SOME
MUGGER?

SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT, I BET.
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...



SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
HAPPENED TO
ME, YOU KNOW.
I... I'M NOT
EXACTLY
SURE WHAT
IT WAS. SOME-
TIMES I
REMEMBER IT
ONE WAY,
SOMETIMES
ANOTHER...

IF I'M
GOING TO HAVE A
PAST, I PREFER IT
TO BE MULTIPLE
CHOICE! HA HA HA!



BUT MY POINT
IS... MY POINT
IS, I WENT
CRAZY.

WHEN I
SAW WHAT A
BLACK, AWFUL JOKE
THE WORLD WAS, I
WENT CRAZY AS A
COOT! I ADMIT IT!

WHY
CAN'T
YOU?



I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT
UNINTELLIGENT! YOU
MUST SEE THE
REALITY OF THE
SITUATION.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW MANY
TIMES WE'VE COME
CLOSE TO WORLD
WAR THREE OVER A
FLOCK OF GEESE ON A
COMPUTER SCREEN?



DO YOU KNOW WHAT TRIGGERED
THE LAST WORLD WAR? AN
ARGUMENT OVER HOW MANY
TELEGRAPH POLES GERMANY
OWED ITS WAR DEBT
CREDITORS!

TELEGRAPH
POLES! HA HA
HA HA HA!



IT'S ALL A JOKE! EVERYTHING
ANYBODY EVER VALUED OR
STRUGGLED FOR... IT'S ALL
A MONSTROUS, DEMENTED
GAG!

SO
WHY CAN'T
YOU SEE THE
FUNNY
SIDE?

WHY
AREN'T YOU
LAUGHING?



BECAUSE
I'VE HEARD IT
BEFORE...



... AND IT WASN'T
FUNNY THE FIRST
TIME.

AAAAAAA!



UNNF



INCIDENTALLY, I *SPOKE* TO COMMISSIONER GORDON BEFORE I CAME *IN* HERE. HE'S *FINE*.

DESPITE ALL YOUR SICK, VICIOUS LITTLE *GAMES*. HE'S AS *SANE* AS HE *EVER* WAS.



SO MAYBE ORDINARY PEOPLE *DON'T* ALWAYS CRACK.

GAAAK

MAYBE THERE *ISN'T* ANY NEED TO CRAWL UNDER A *ROCK* WITH ALL THE OTHER SLIMEY THINGS WHEN TROUBLE HITS...



MAYBE IT WAS JUST *YOU*, ALL THE TIME.



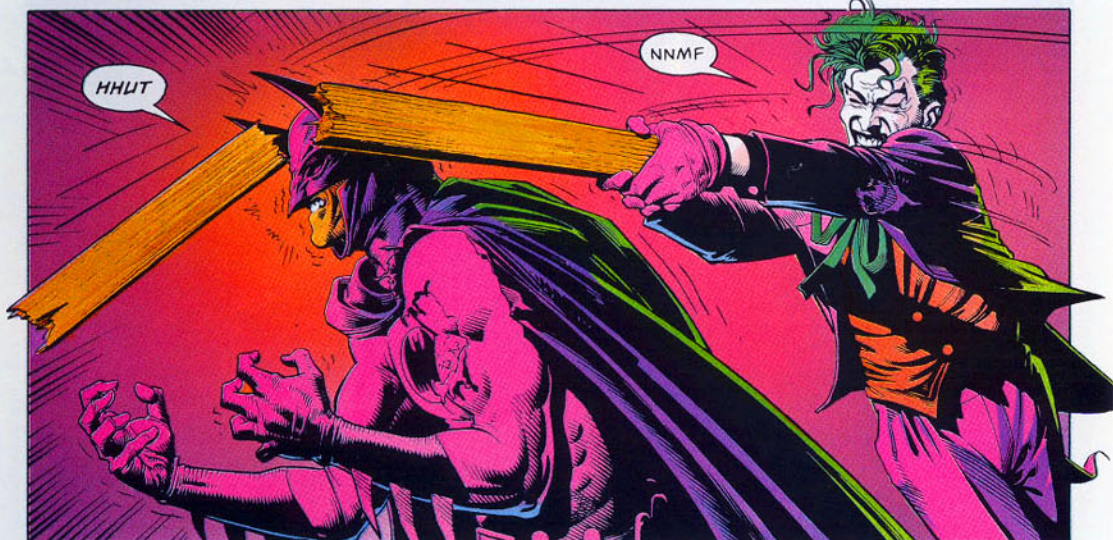
NO!

UNNGH



DON'T...

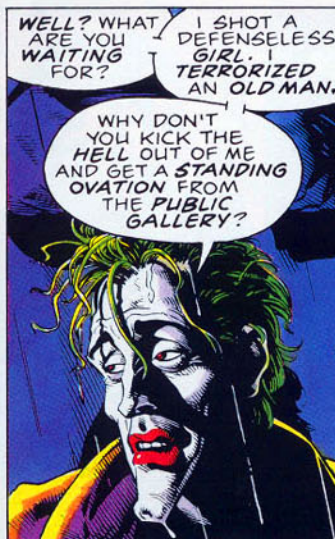
AHAH! AHAH!

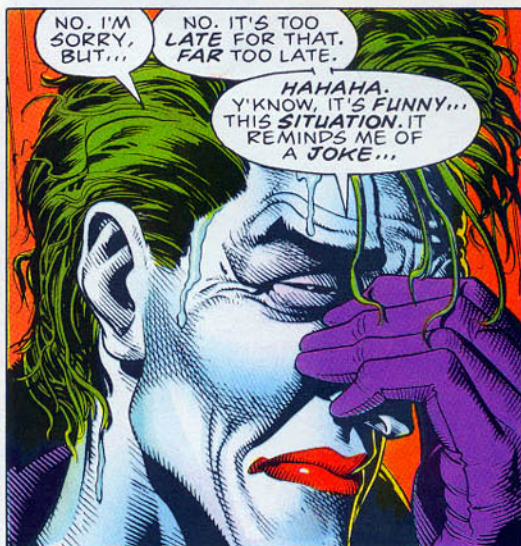
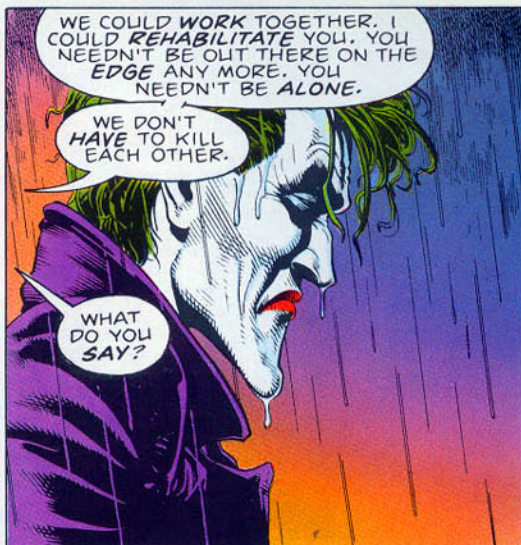
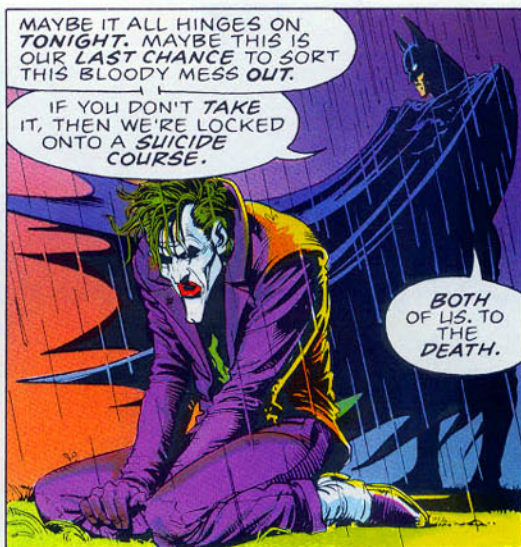


HHUT

NNMF

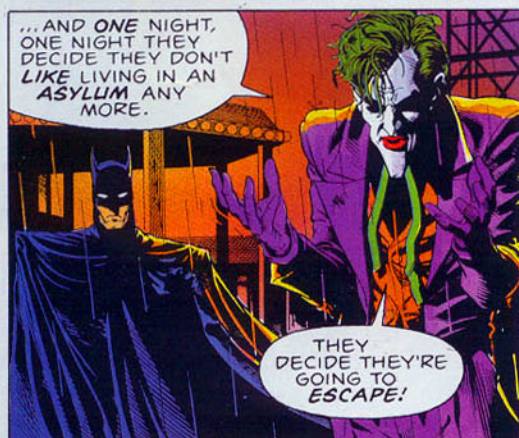








SEE, THERE WERE THESE TWO GUYS IN A LUNATIC ASYLUM...



...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!"

