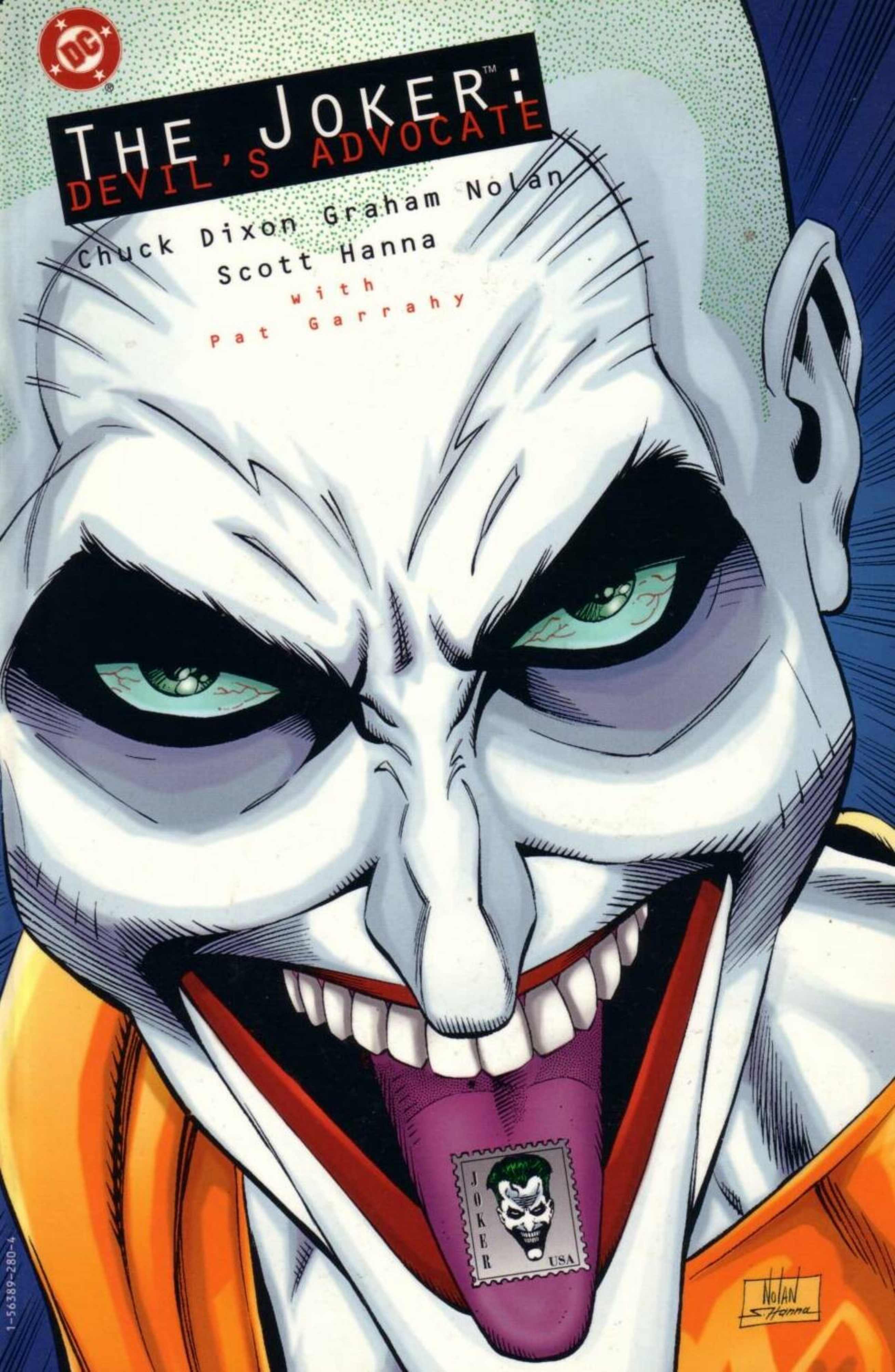




THE JOKER: DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Chuck Dixon Graham Nolan
Scott Hanna
with
Pat Garrahy



Nolan
Hanna



THE JOKER: DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

BY CHUCK DIXON AND GRAHAM NOLAN

SCOTT HANNA

INKER

PAT GARRAHY

COLORIST

HEROIC AGE

COLOR SEPARATOR

JOHN COSTANZA

LETTERER

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

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COVER COLOR BY JUDY JOHNSON

IT STARTS SIMPLY ENOUGH.

THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE ISSUES A COMMERATIVE SERIES OF STAMPS.

THE GREAT COMEDIANS.







THE GREAT
COMEDIANS,
HUH?

SO
WHERE'S
MY
STAMP?

SOMEBODY SHOW
ME **MY** STAMP OR
THE WHOLE
SACK OF YOU
ARE CANCELLED!

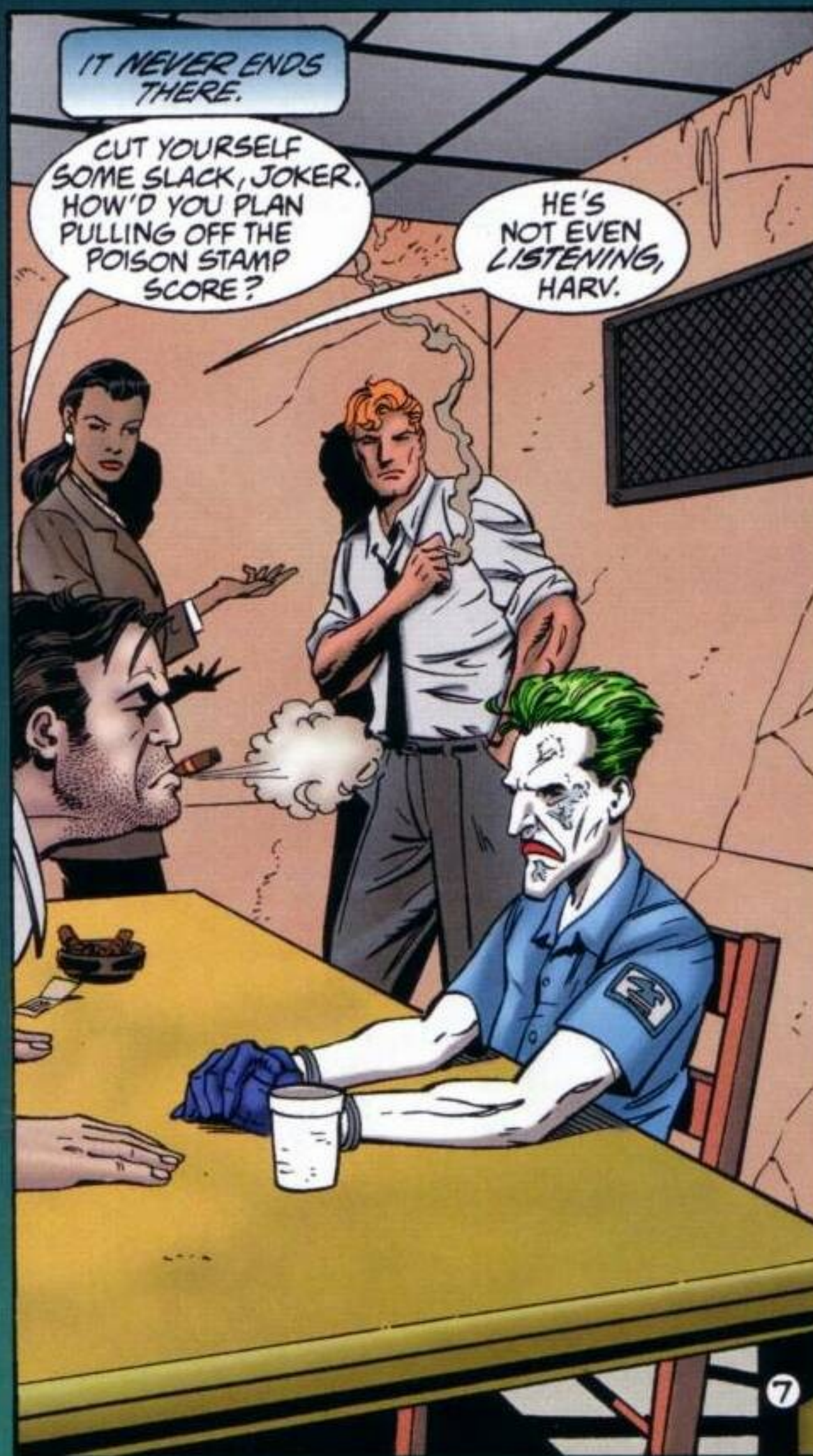
U/M-- MR.
JOKER--YOU HAVE
TO BE DEAD BEFORE
THEY CAN MAKE A
COMMEMORATIVE
OF YOU.

U/M--
SORRY.

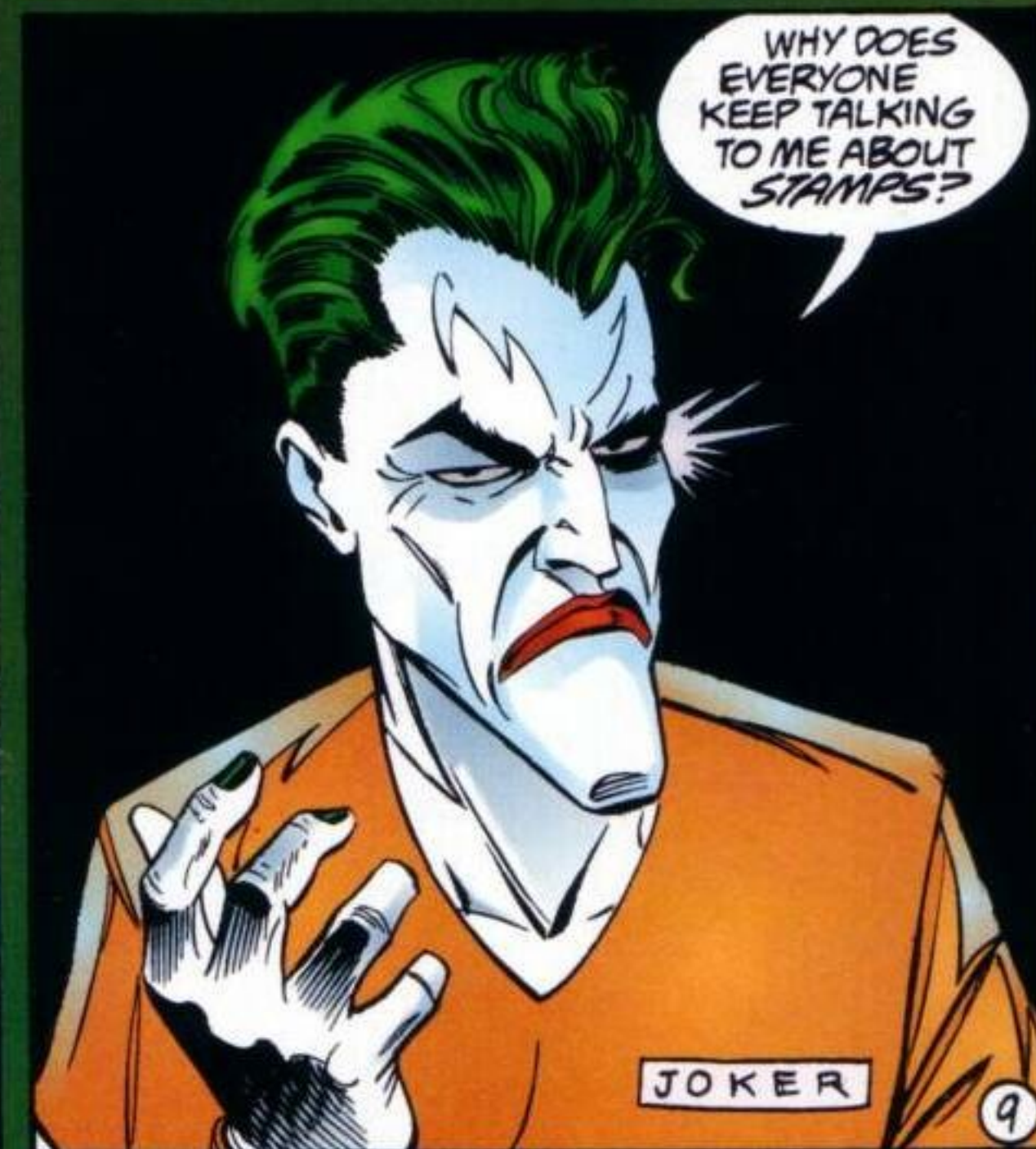
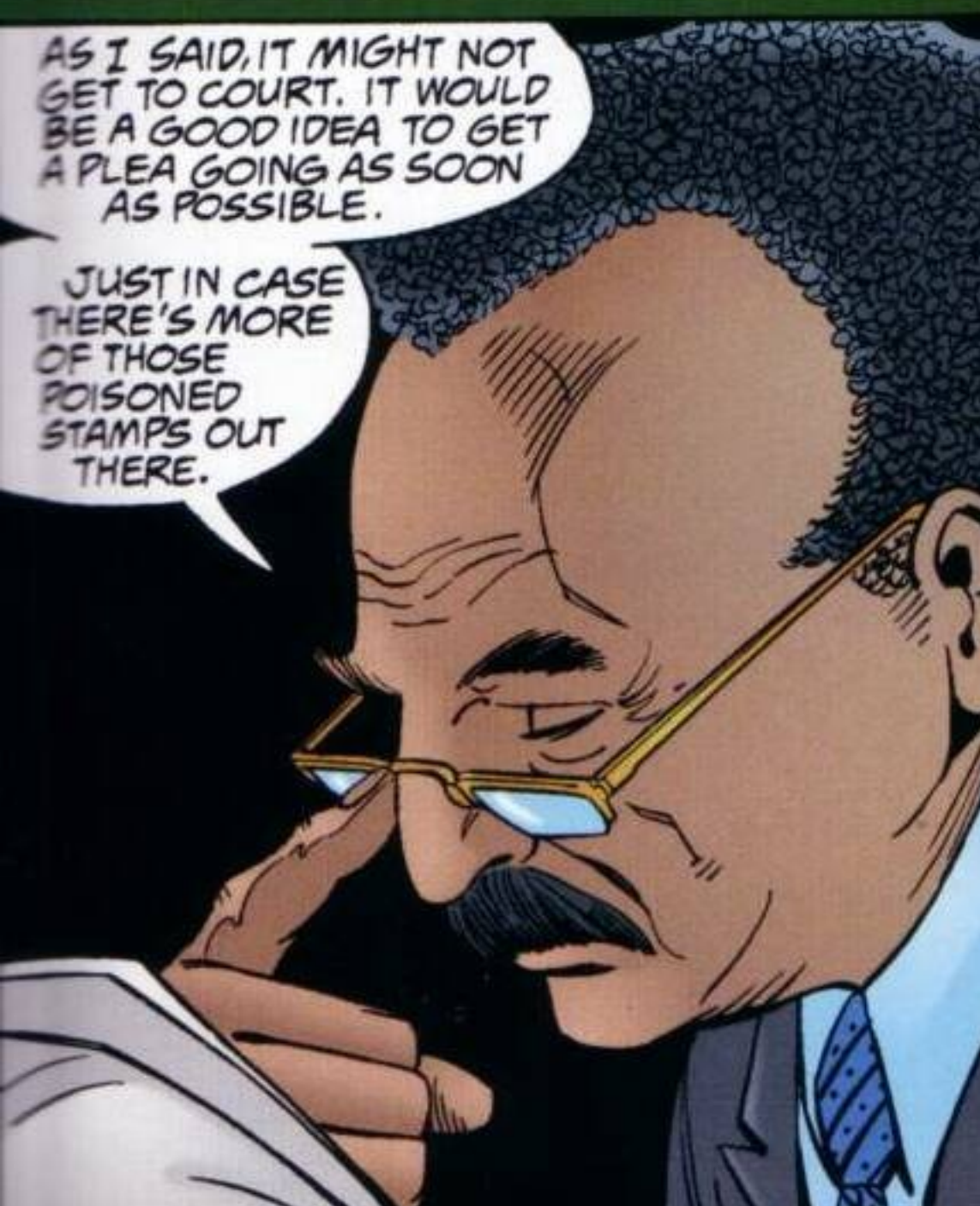
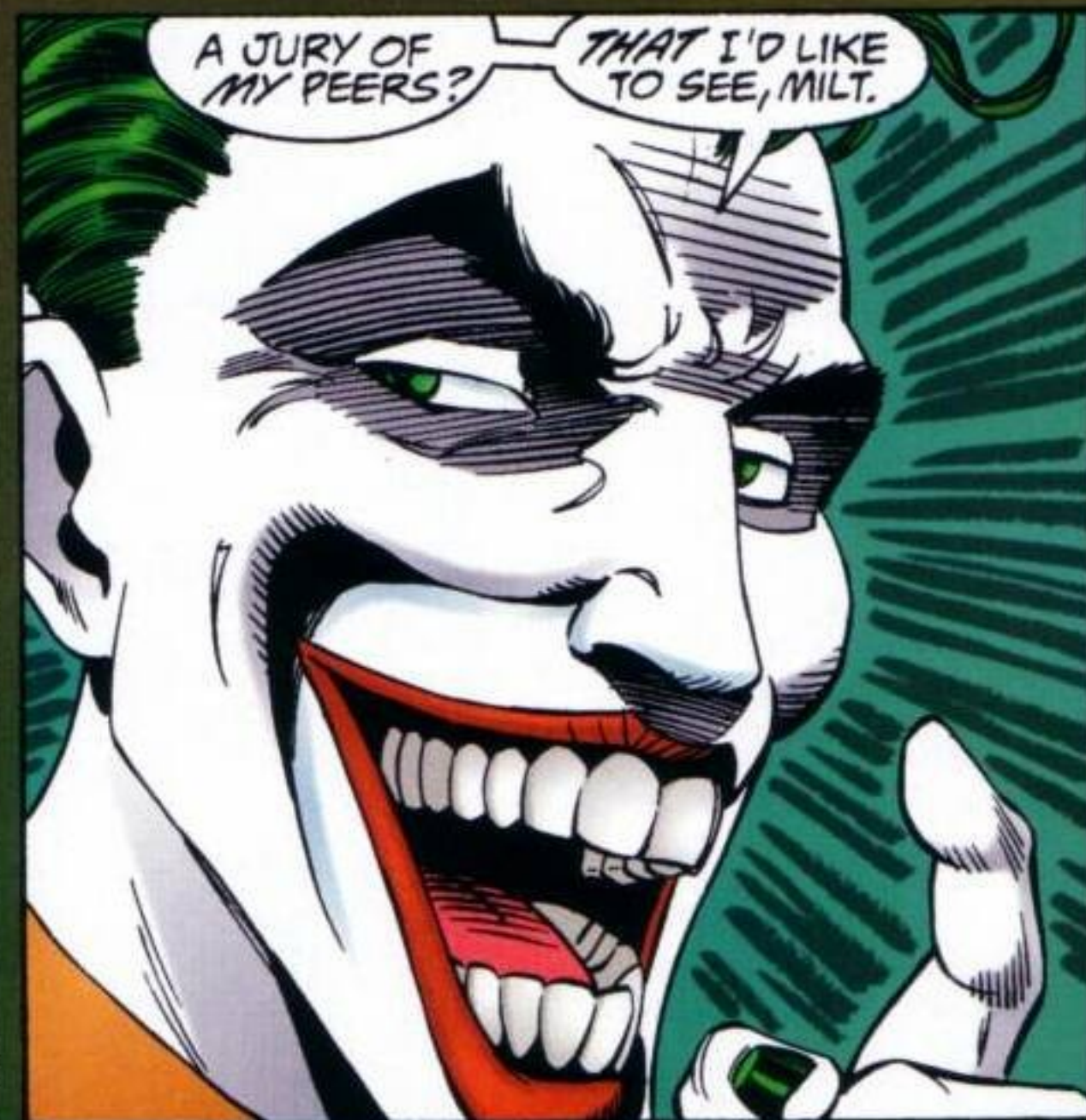
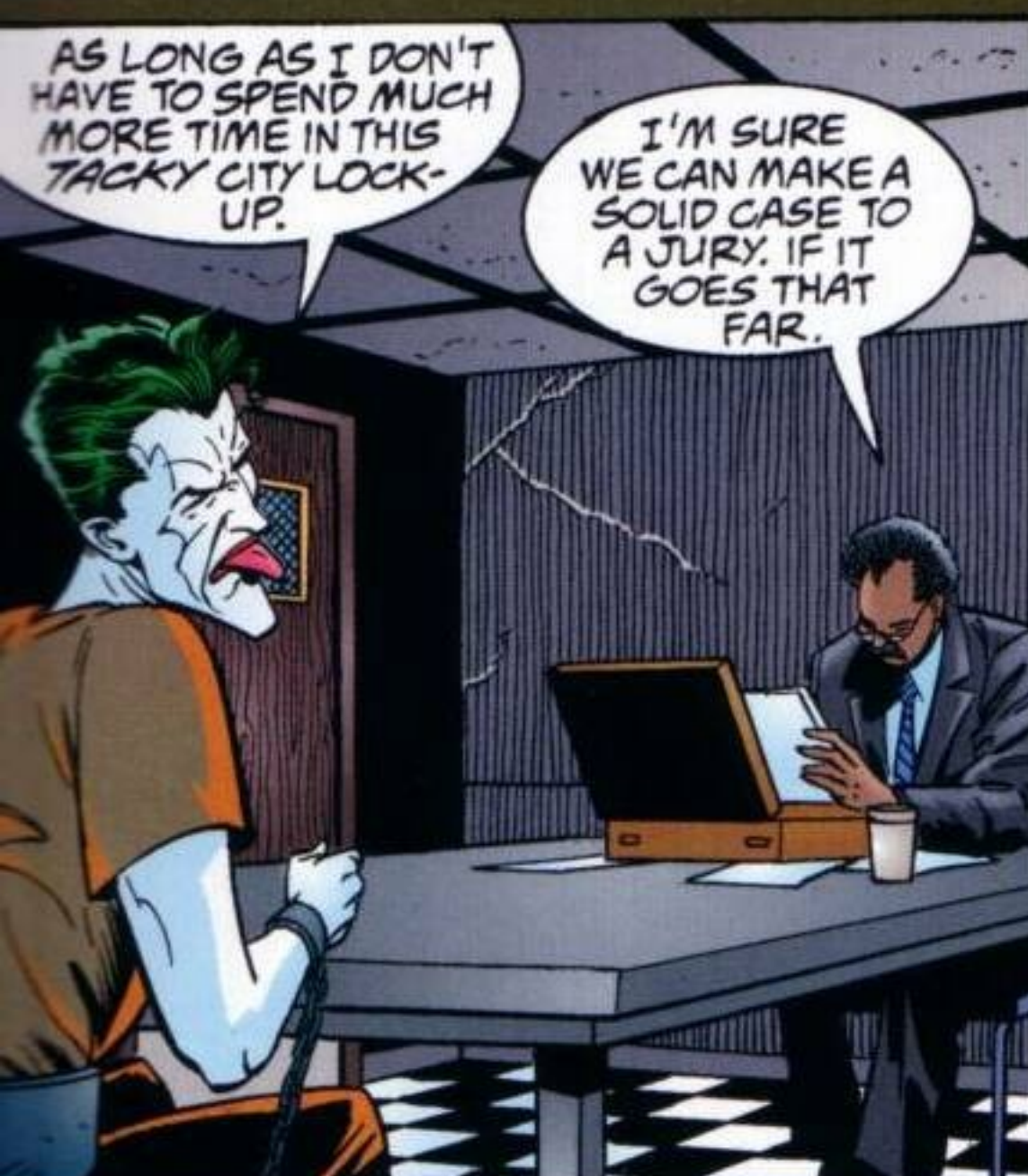
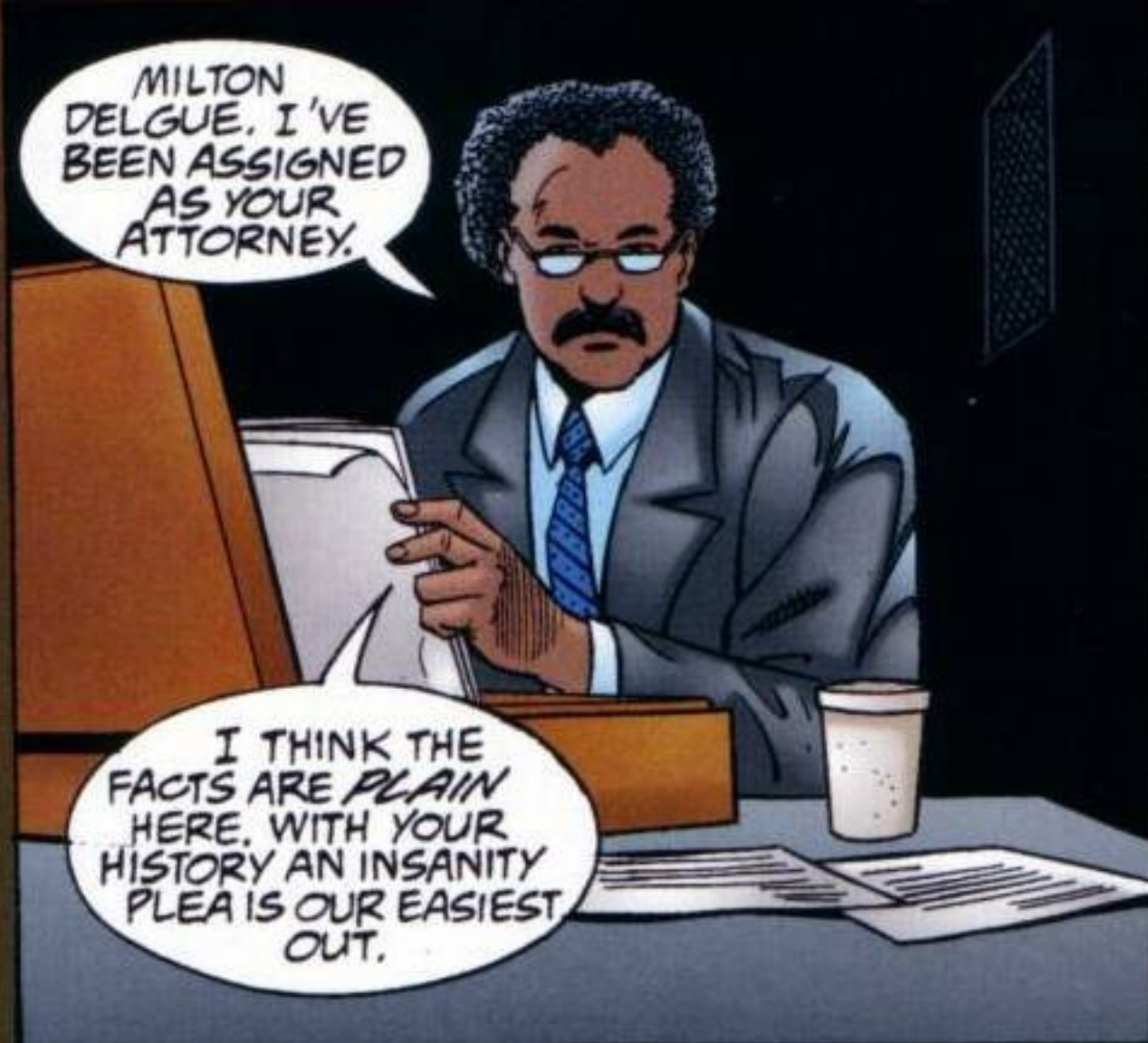
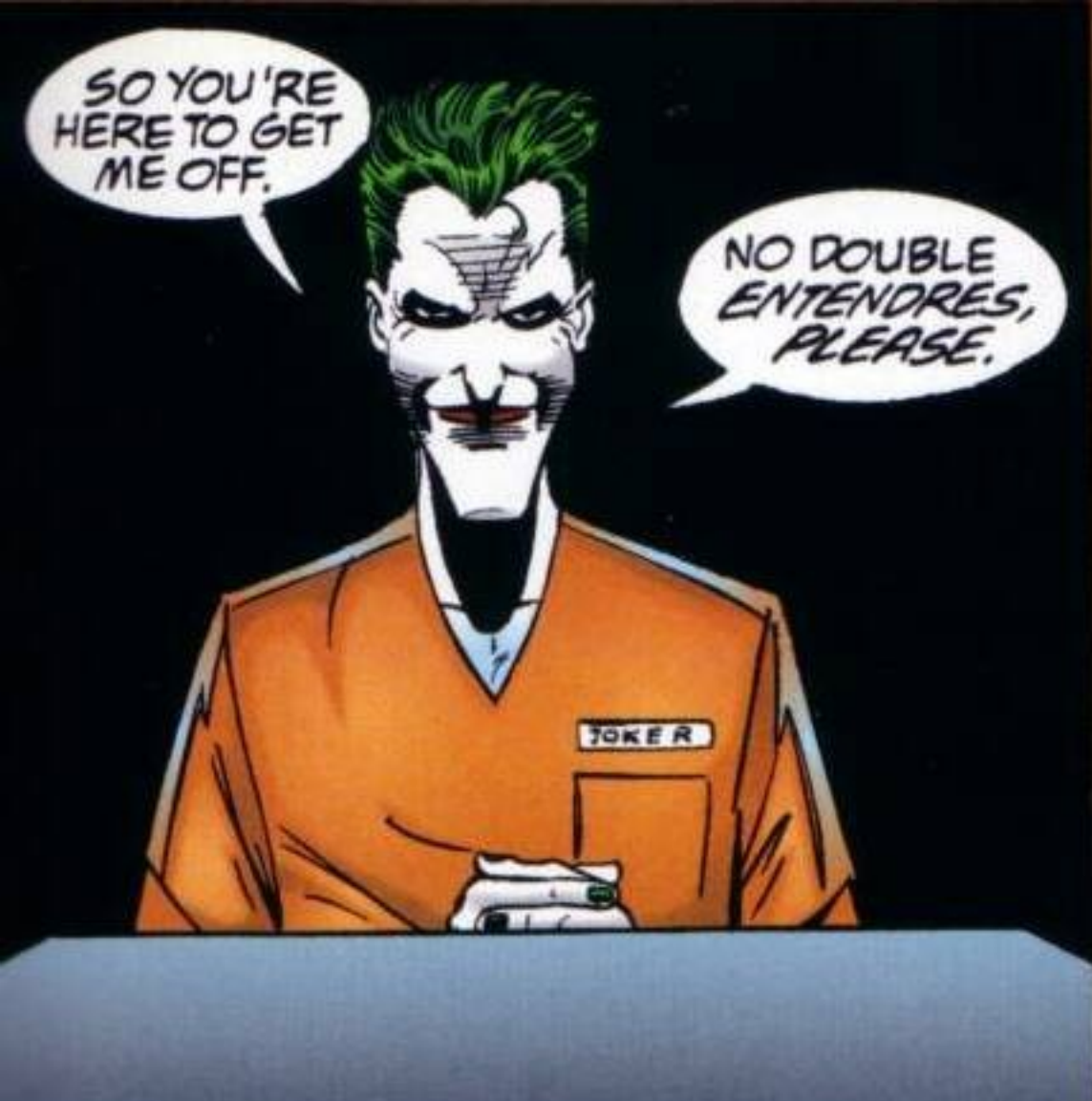
















I HAVE YOUR REPORTS AND THE WITNESSES' DEPOSITIONS, DETECTIVES.

IT'S A TYPICAL JOKER CASE. THERE'S ALREADY AN INCOMPETENCY PLEA ON THE TABLE WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY.



IF WE GO TO TRIAL IT WILL BE A TRAVESTY. THE PERP WILL INTIMIDATE THE JURY AND THE WITNESSES AND PLAY US FOR FOOLS IN THE MEDIA.

AND WHEN THE CIRCUS IS OVER HE'LL SKATE ON AN INSANITY DEFENSE.



THAT'S ABOUT WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM--

HEAR ME OUT, SERGEANT BULLOCK.

I'M TELLING YOU WHAT WILL PROBABLY HAPPEN.



BUT I SAY LET'S GO FOR IT.

NO PLEAS, NO DEALS.

WE NAIL HIM ON MULTIPLE MURDER ONES AND SHOOT FOR THE DEATH PENALTY. YOU LIKE THAT, SERGEANT



WHAT KINDA DONUTS DO YOU LIKE, MS. BEAUDREAU?

-- AND DESPITE THE JOKER'S ARREST AND THE CITY'S BEST EFFORTS, THE DEATHS CONTINUE.



THE POISONED STAMPS HAVE CLAIMED THREE VICTIMS SINCE THE RECALL OF THE COMMEMORATIVE SERIES.

THE MAYOR AND POSTMASTER URGE THE PUBLIC TO TURN IN ANY "COMEDIAN" STAMPS THEY MAY HAVE PURCHASED.



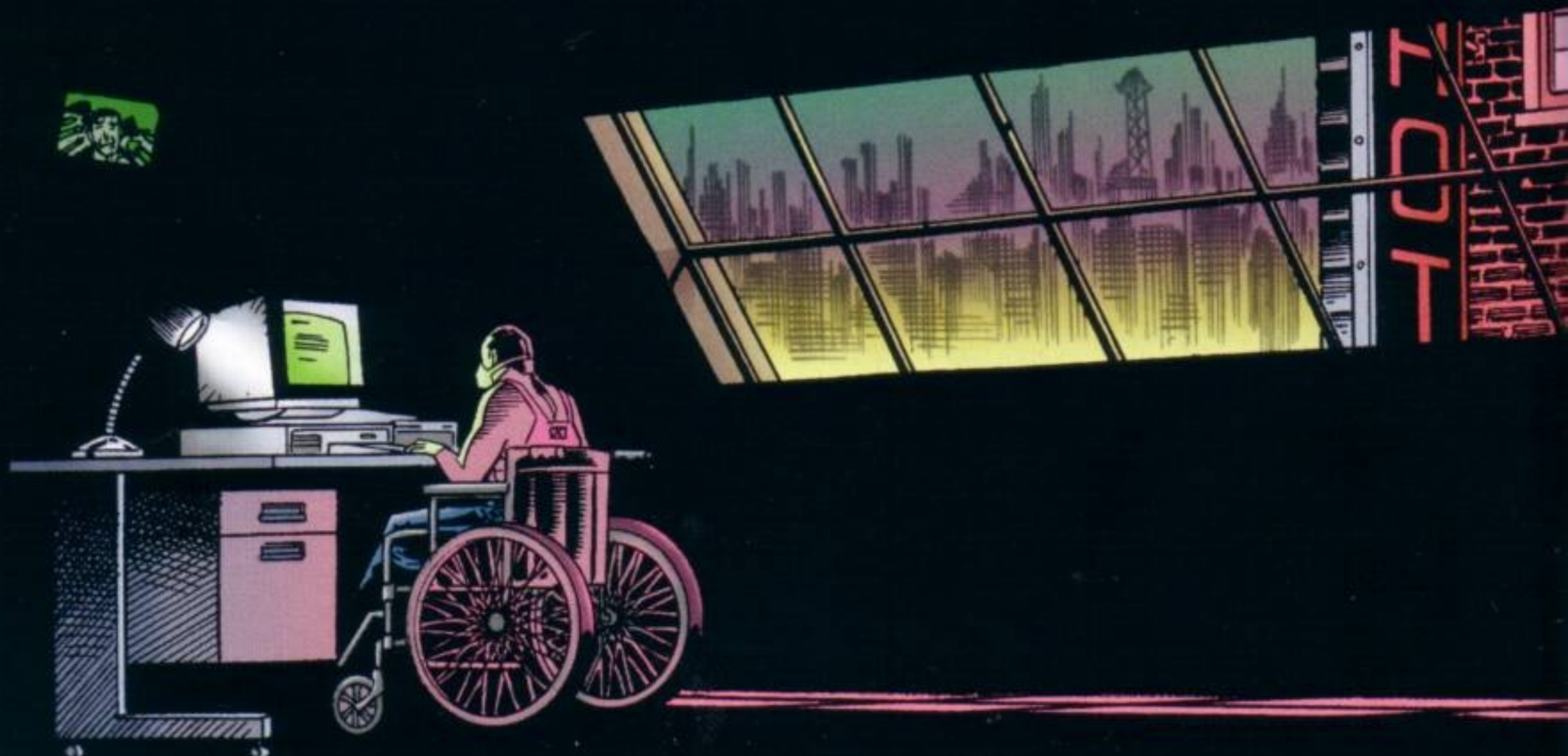
THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS KNOW THAT THIS "PRANK" IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.

I JUST KEEP ASKING MYSELF...

"WHY PHYLLIS?"

WALTER WAS A WONDERFUL MAN... A LOVING, CARING...

...EVERYONE LOVED HIM.

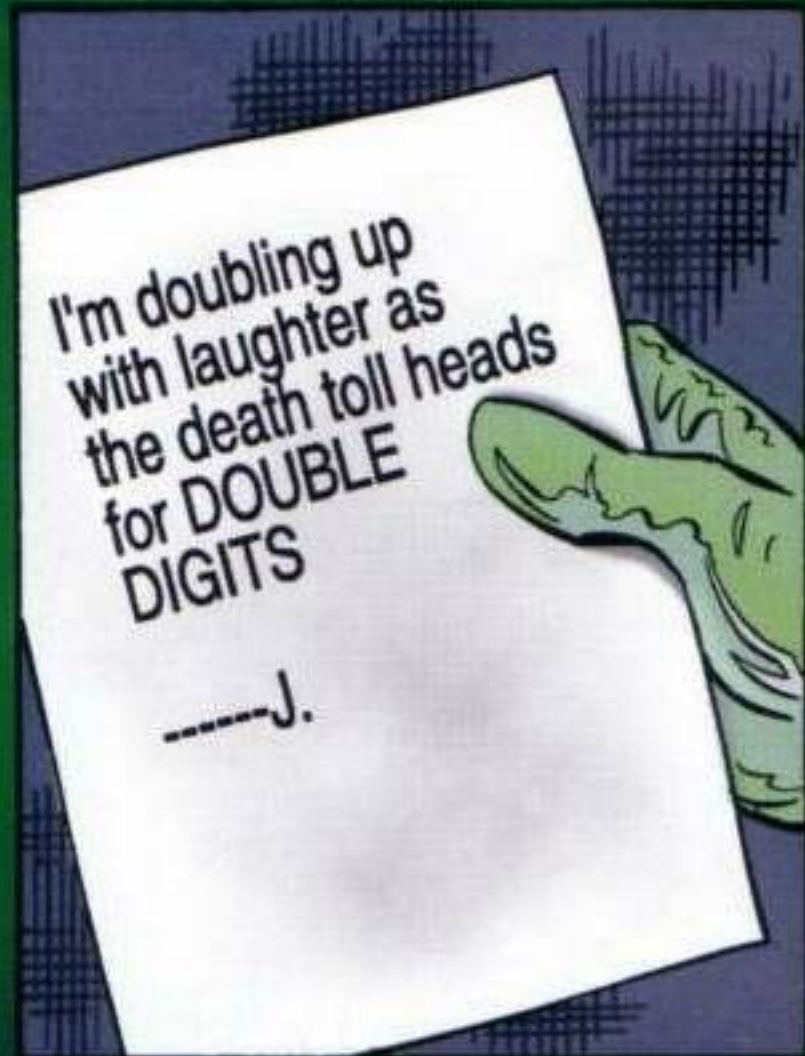




WHY DO
THESE THINGS
HAPPEN?



DIT DIT DIT
DEEEET



I'm doubling up
with laughter as
the death toll heads
for DOUBLE
DIGITS

-----J.



COMMISSIONER GORDON
GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
MAJOR CRIMES UNIT



THE
JACK
JACK

USA



BUSY?



TOO
BUSY TO EAT?
NEVER.

I GOT
CHINESE. HOPE
THAT'S OKAY.

BEAUTIFUL.





AND AT THE END OF THIS TRIAL WE WILL SEE THAT THE DEFENDANT ACTED OUT OF COLD CALCULATION.

THE NINE MURDERS HE IS CHARGED WITH WERE EACH PRE-MEDITATED AND MERCENARY.

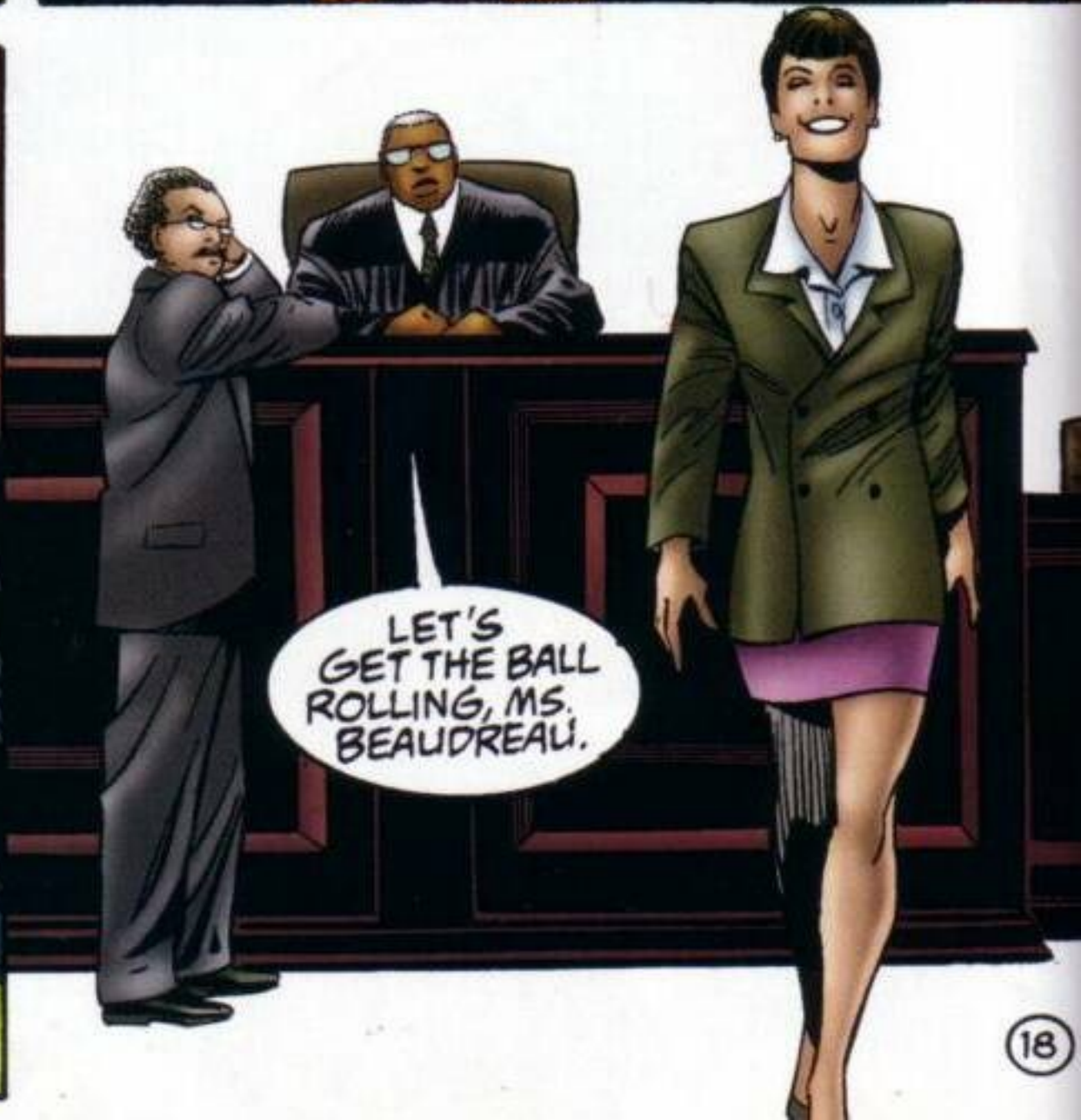
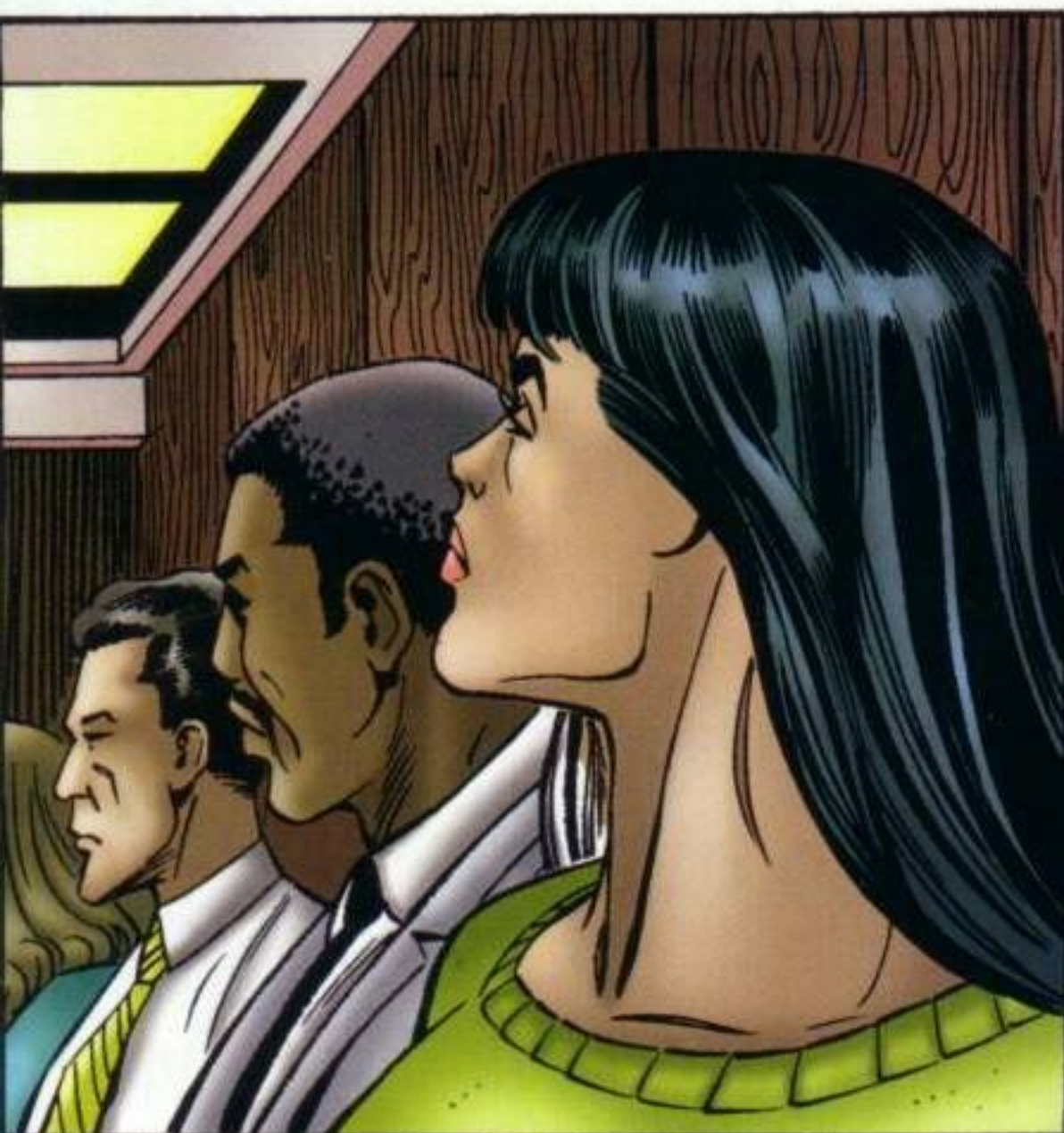
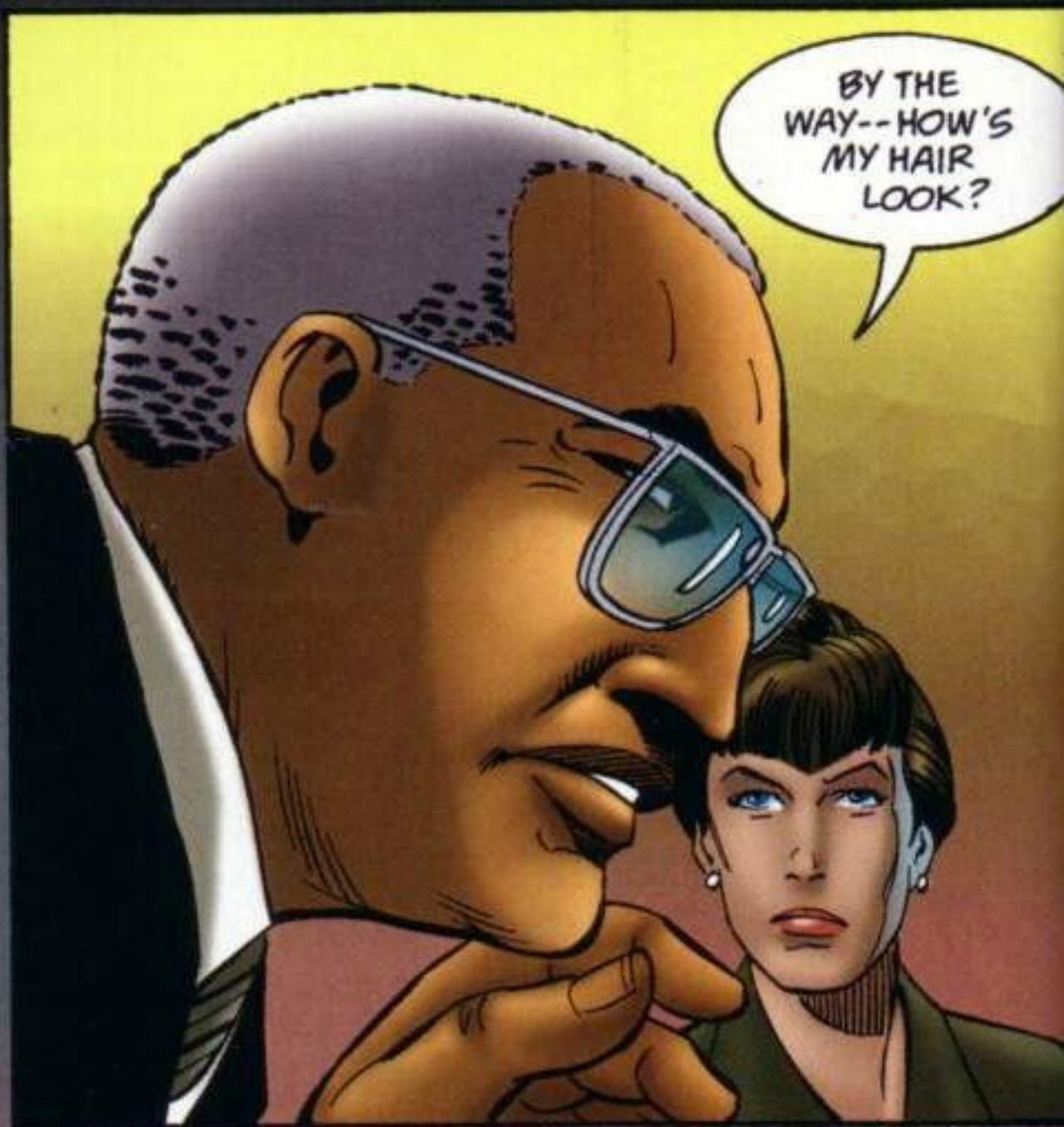
--A MAN TWISTED BY A CRUEL YOUTH AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. A MAN WHO NEEDS THERAPY, NOT PUNISHMENT.

A MAN WHO BEGS YOUR PITY, NOT YOUR SCORN.

THIS IS NOT THE FACE OF SANITY.

CAN YOU REALLY LOOK UPON THIS FACE AND SAY THAT THIS IS A MAN IN CONTROL OF HIS ACTIONS?







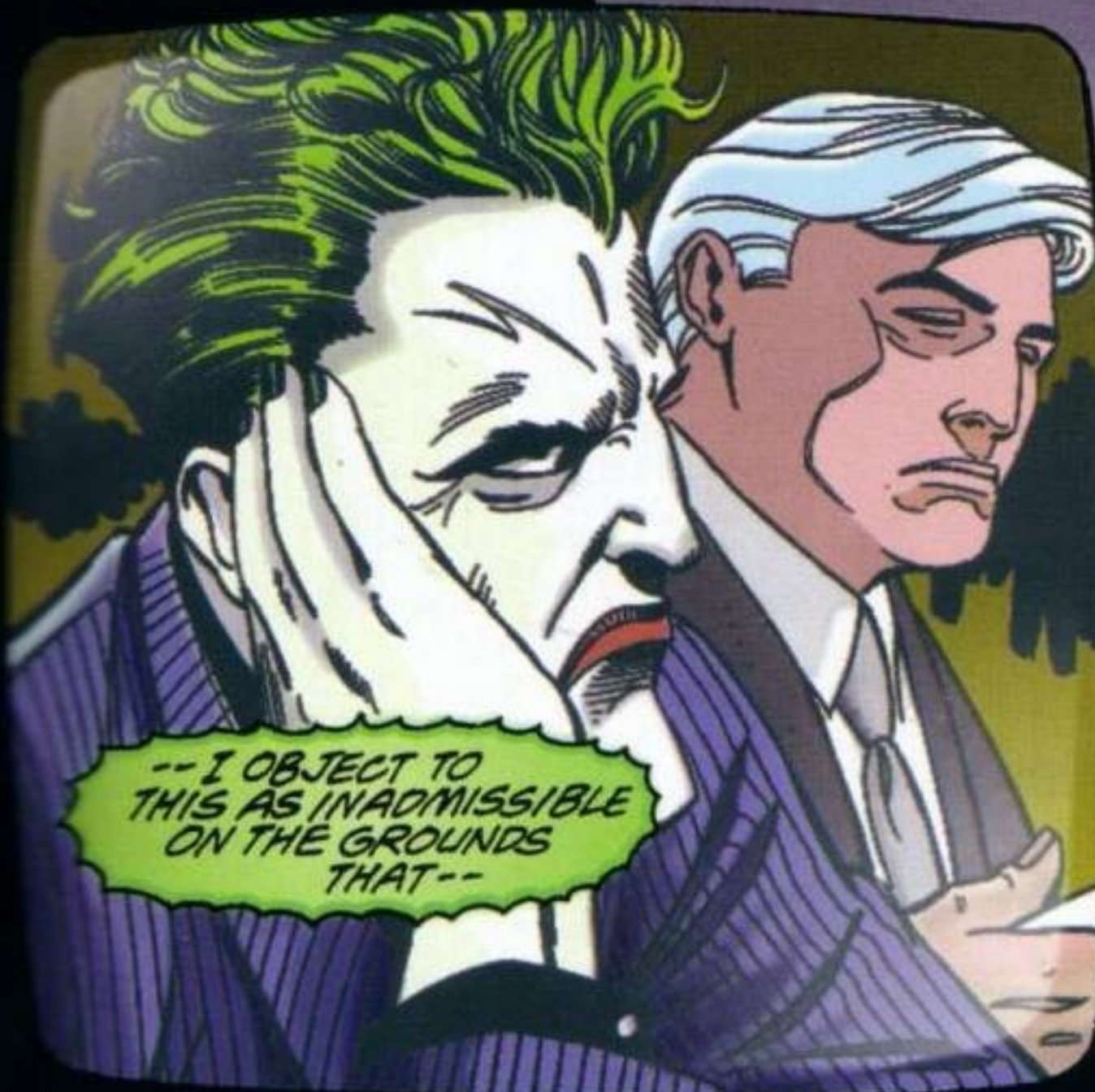
MY GOD, THAT AWFUL TRIAL IS ON AT THIS HOUR?

THESE ARE TAPES OF TODAY'S SESSION. IT WOULD BE A BIT CONSPICUOUS IF BRUCE WAYNE SPENT THE DAY WATCHING COURT TV.

AS YOU SAY.



--THOSE TESTS ARE INCONCLUSIVE AS THE EVIDENCE WAS MISHANDLED AT THE SCENE.



--I OBJECT TO THIS AS INADMISSIBLE ON THE GROUNDS THAT--







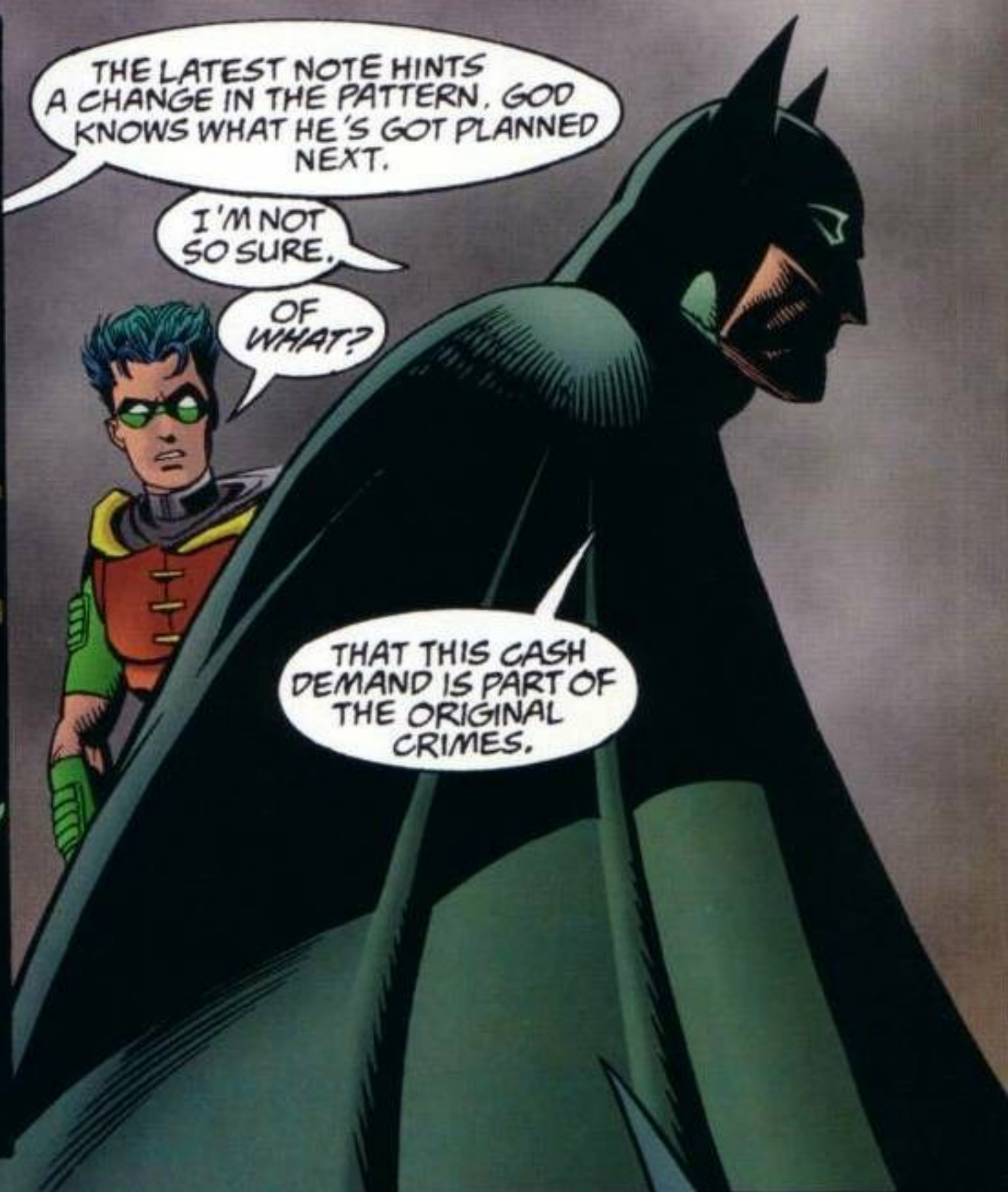




WE HAVE A NEW
EXTORTION NOTE. STILL
NO DETAILS FOR
PICK-UP.

AND
NO TRACE
EVIDENCE.

NOT EVEN
A PARTIAL.



THE LATEST NOTE HINTS
A CHANGE IN THE PATTERN. GOD
KNOWS WHAT HE'S GOT PLANNED
NEXT.

I'M NOT
SO SURE.

OF
WHAT?

THAT THIS CASH
DEMAND IS PART OF
THE ORIGINAL
CRIMES.

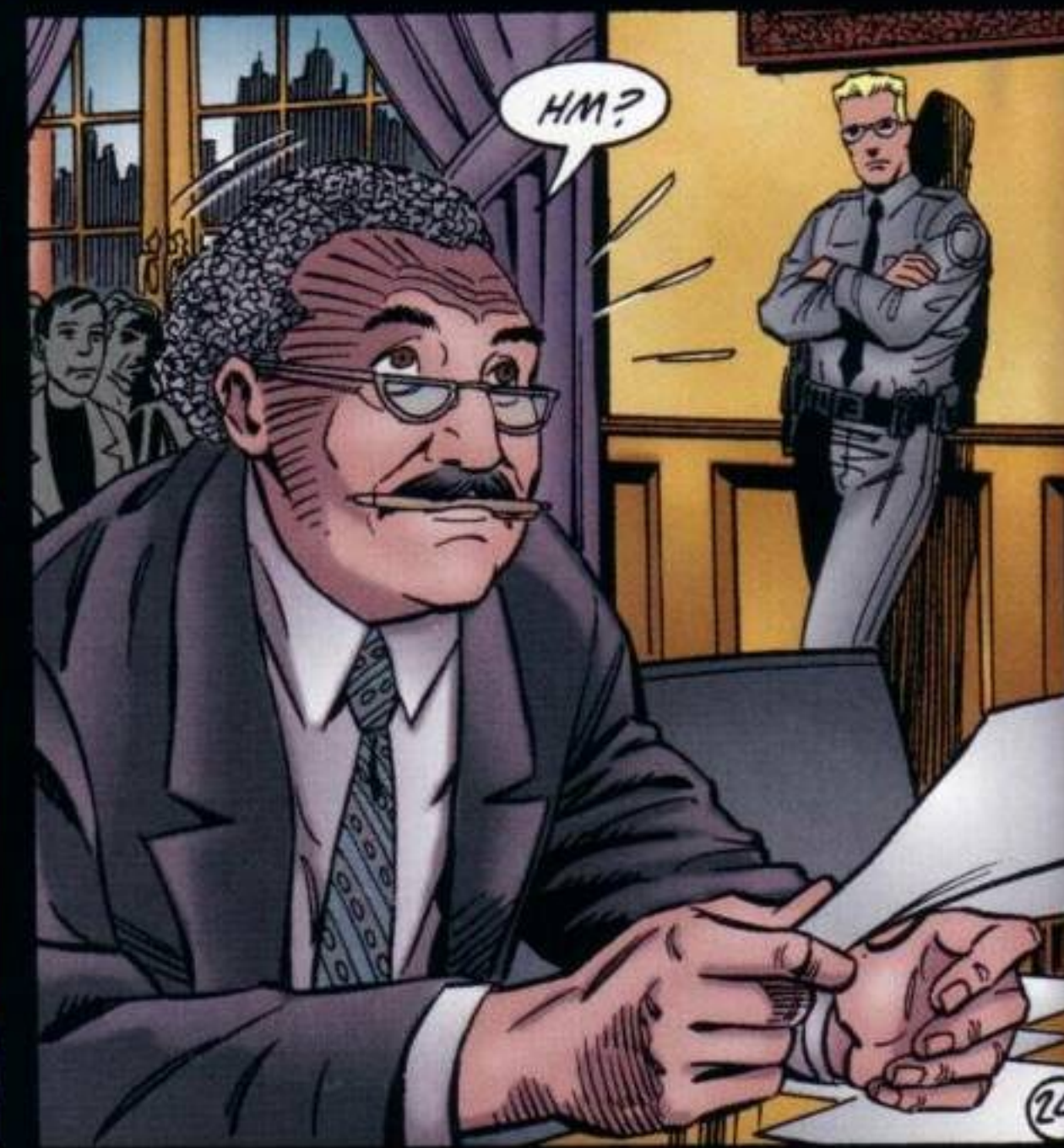
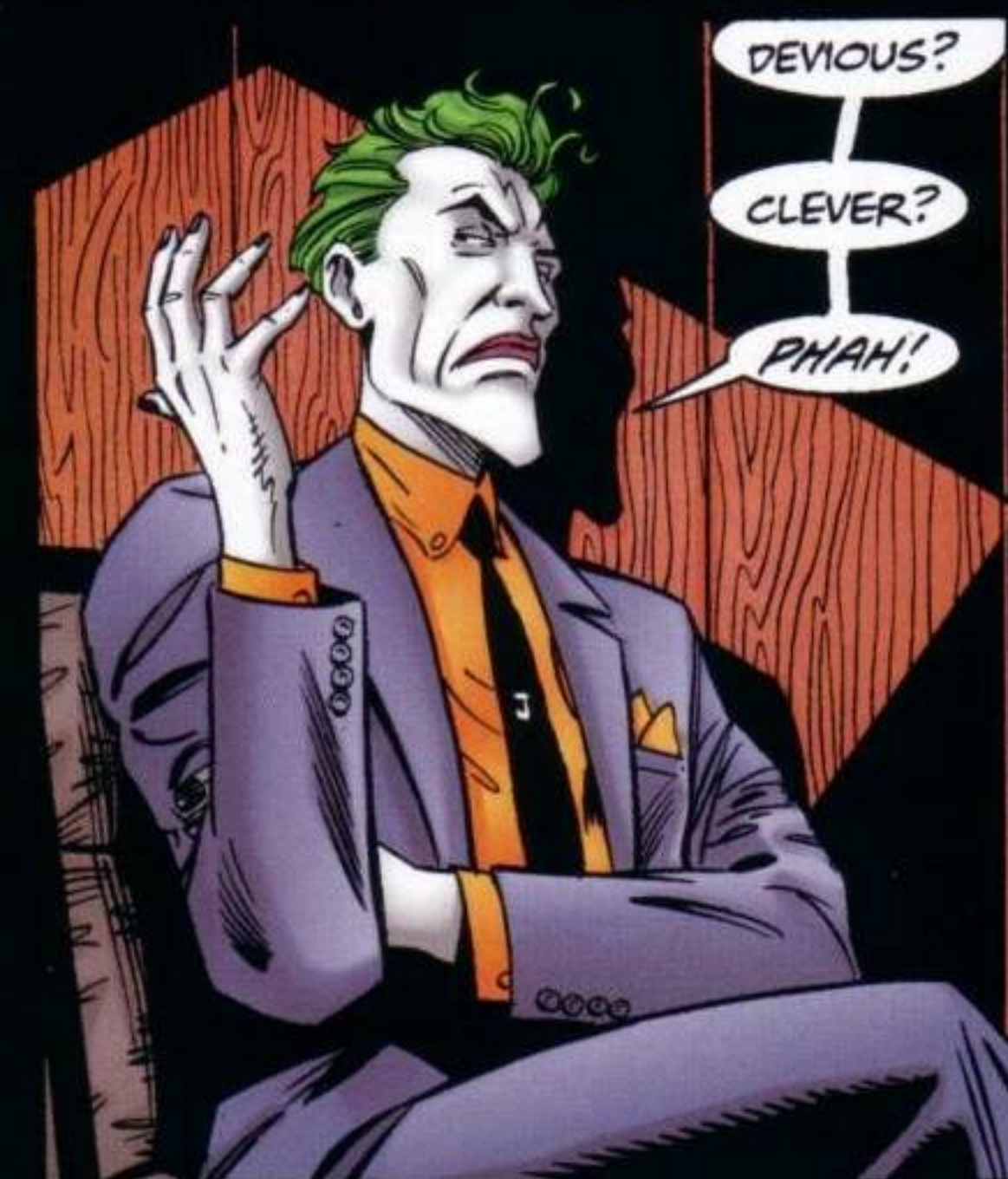
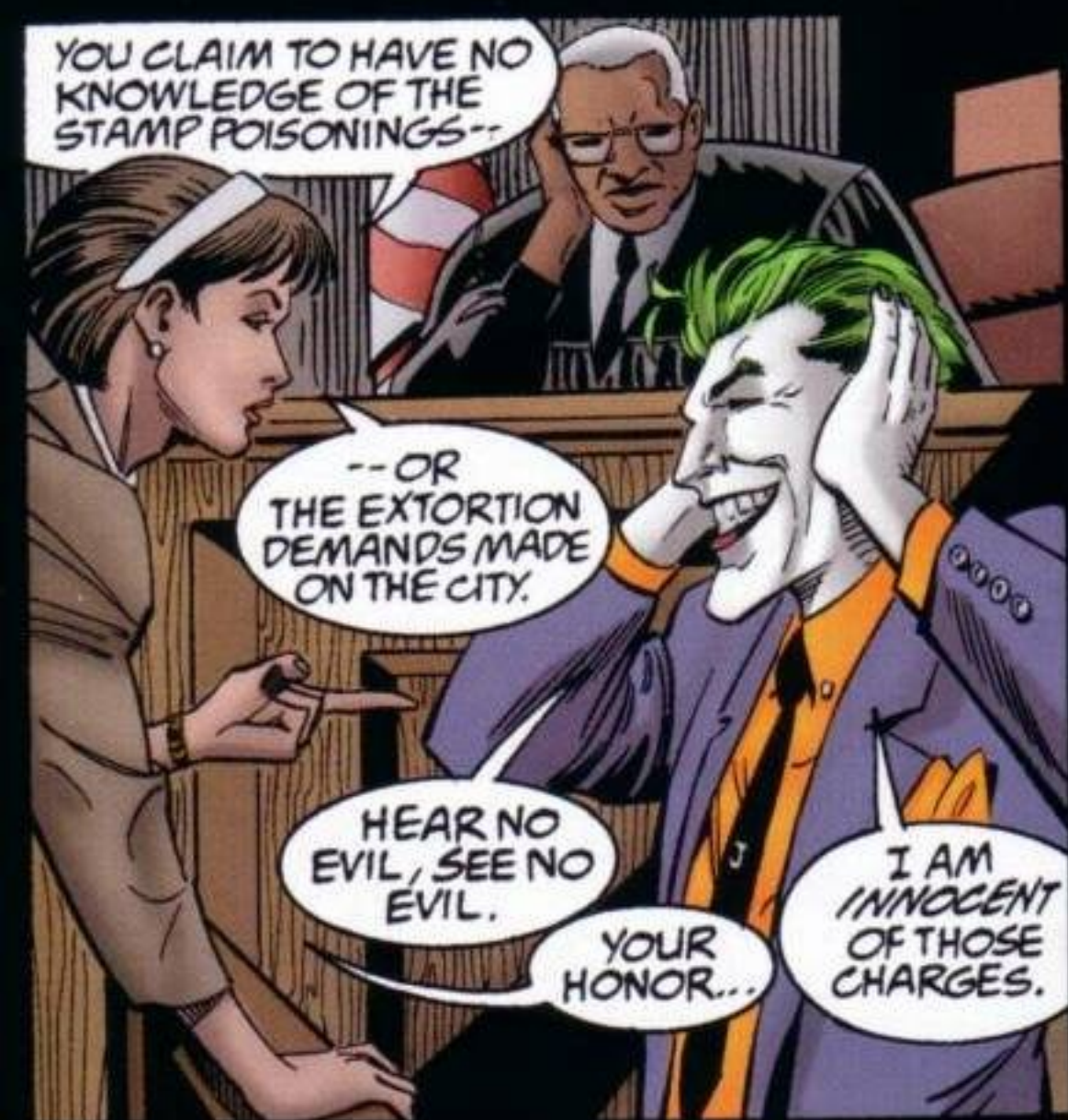
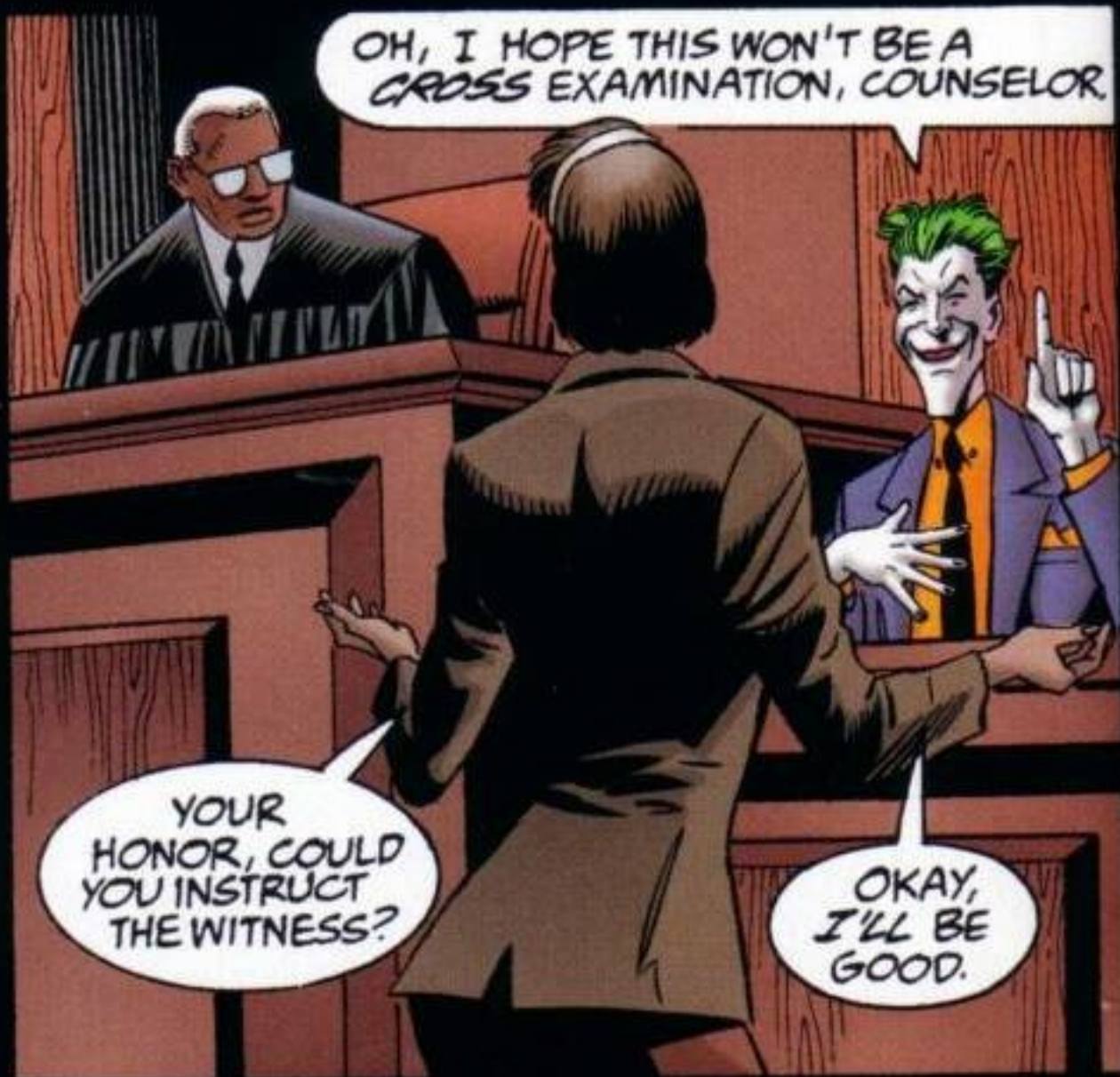


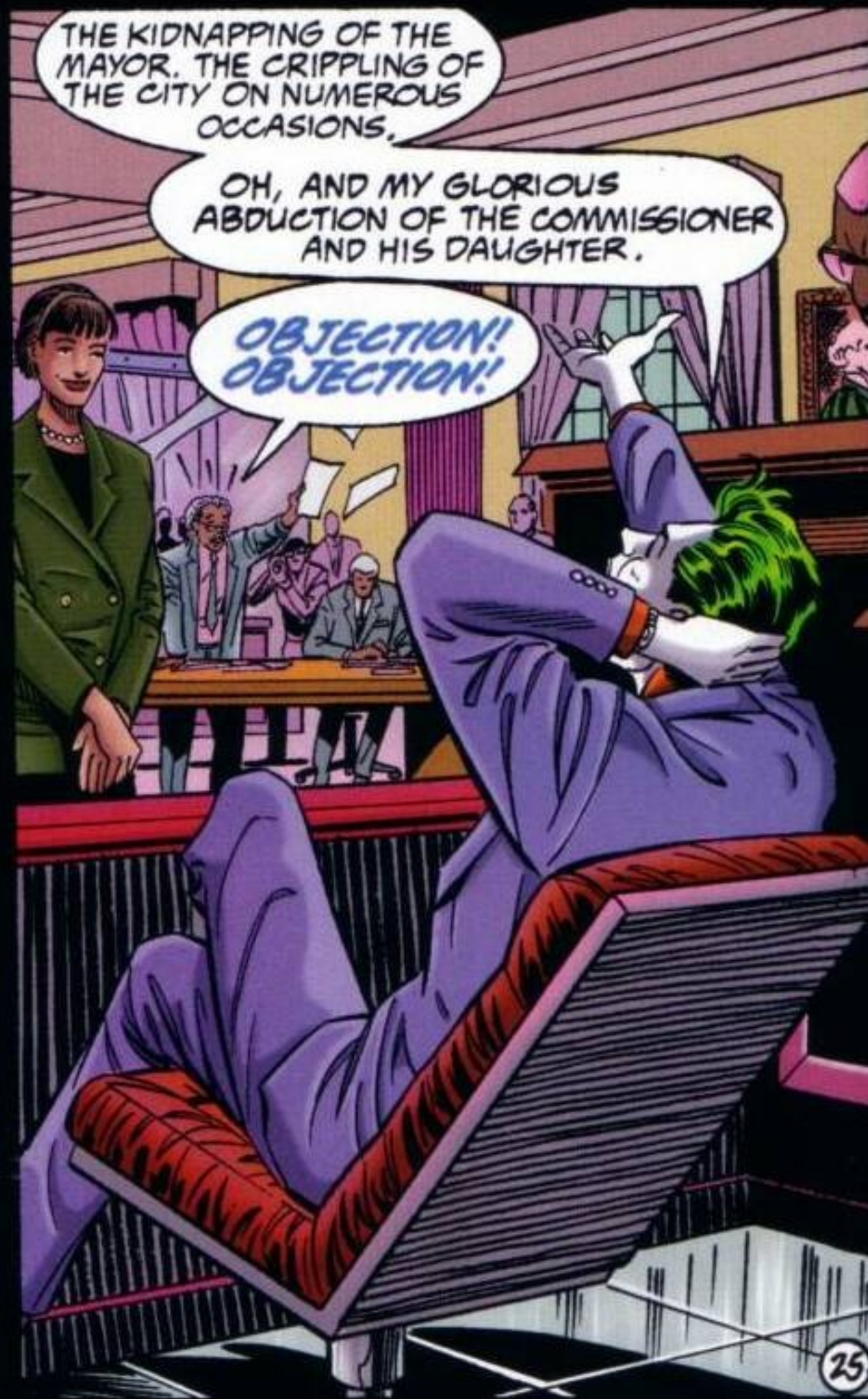
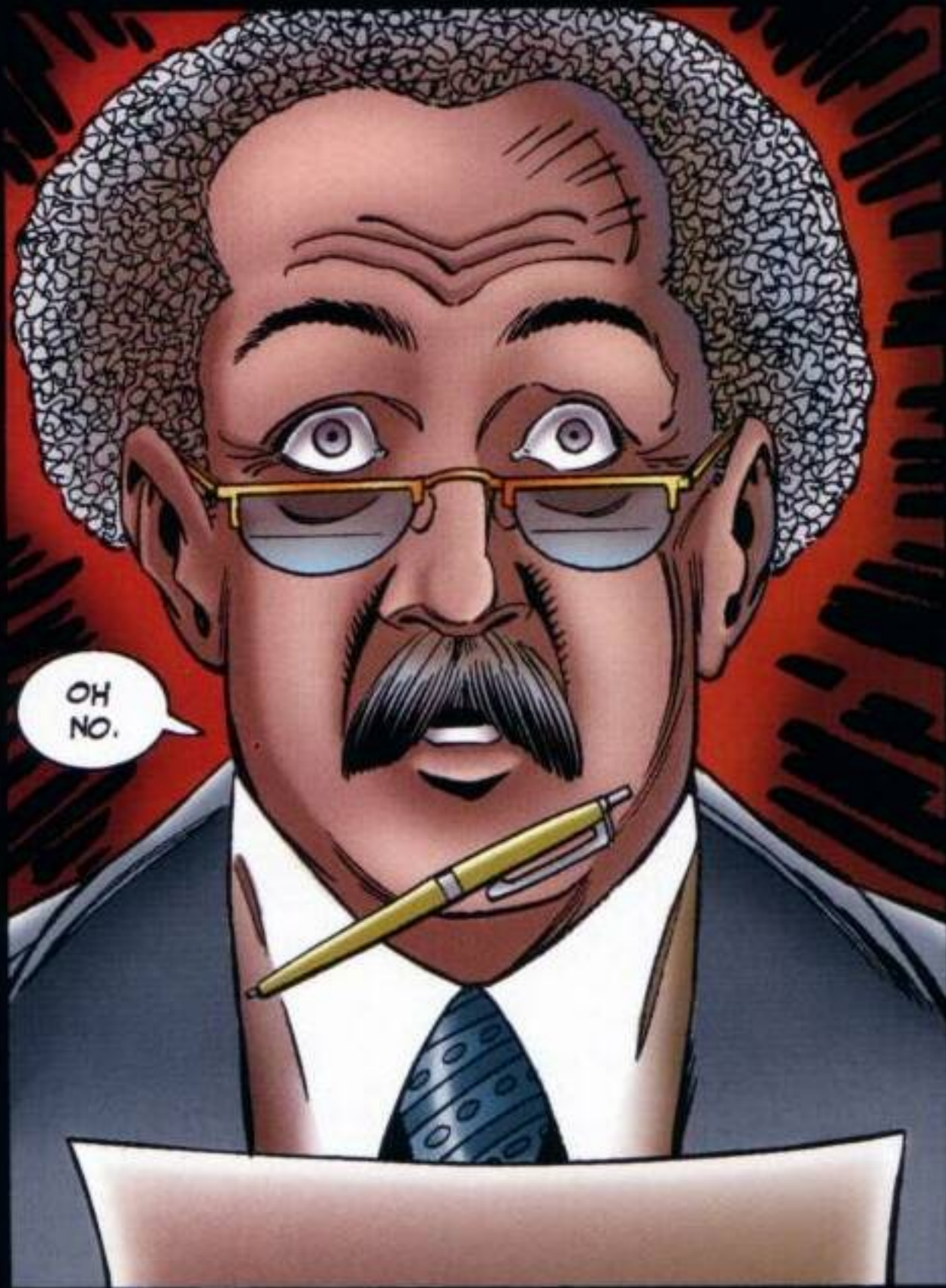
HAVEN'T YOU
BEEN WATCHING
THE TRIAL?

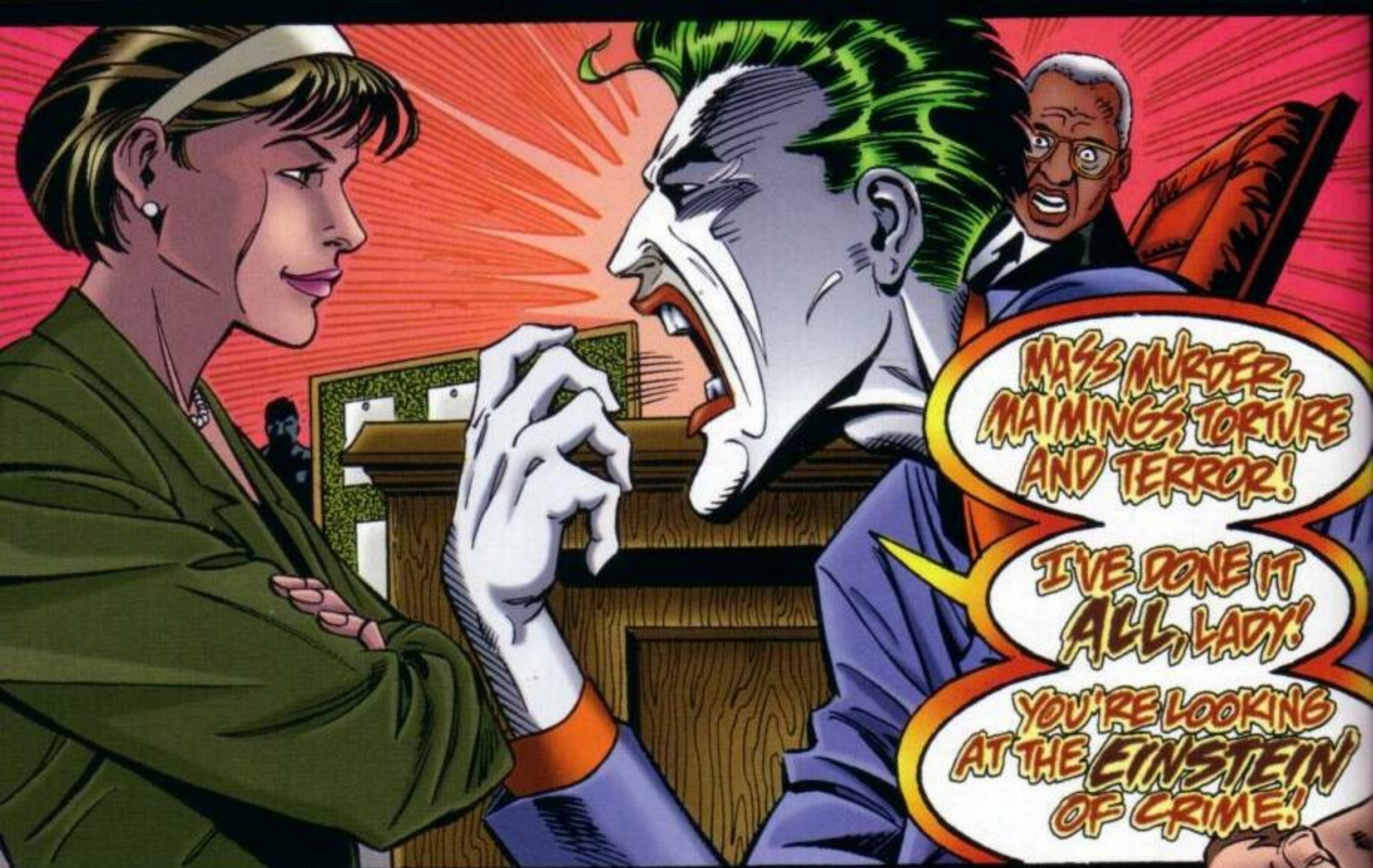
NO.



I'VE BEEN
WATCHING THE
JOKER.







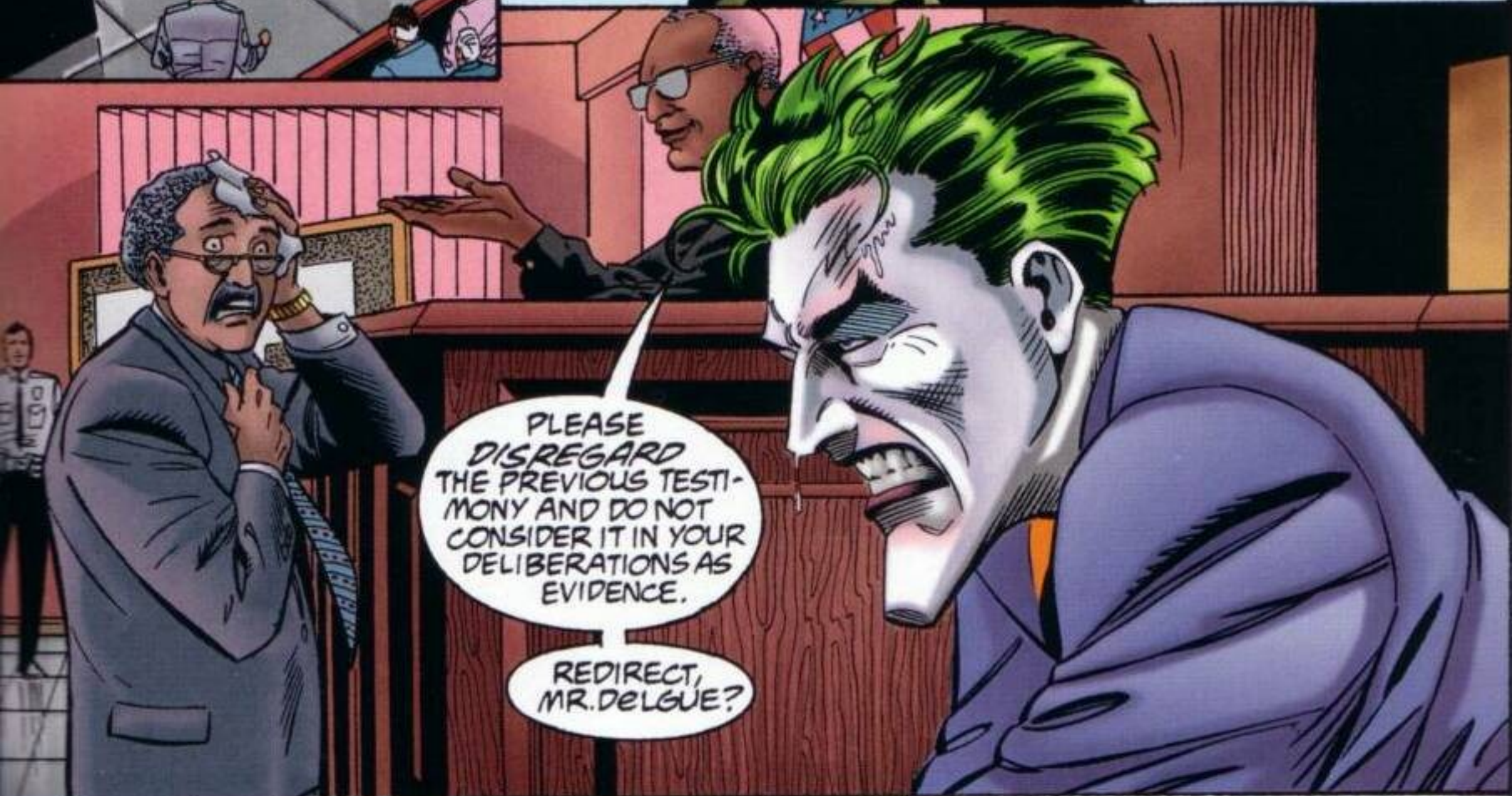


NO MORE QUESTIONS.



MY CLIENT'S PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD IS NOT ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN--

COOL YOUR JETS, COUNSELOR. I'LL INSTRUCT THE JURY.



PLEASE DISREGARD THE PREVIOUS TESTIMONY AND DO NOT CONSIDER IT IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS AS EVIDENCE.

REDIRECT, MR. DELGUE?



NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOUR HONOR.



SO WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR? WE'VE BEEN OVER JOKER'S STUFF A HALF DOZEN TIMES.

ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD US TO LOCATIONS THE JOKER USED AS HIDEOUTS OR STASHES. HE'S BEEN FREE FOR A LONG TIME.

HE'S COVERED A LOT OF GROUND SINCE GETTING OUT OF ARKHAM.



WILL THIS HELP US TO FIND OUT WHO HE'S USING TO MAKE GOOD HIS THREATS?

THAT'S PART OF IT.

YOU'RE BEING MYSTERIOUS AGAIN.

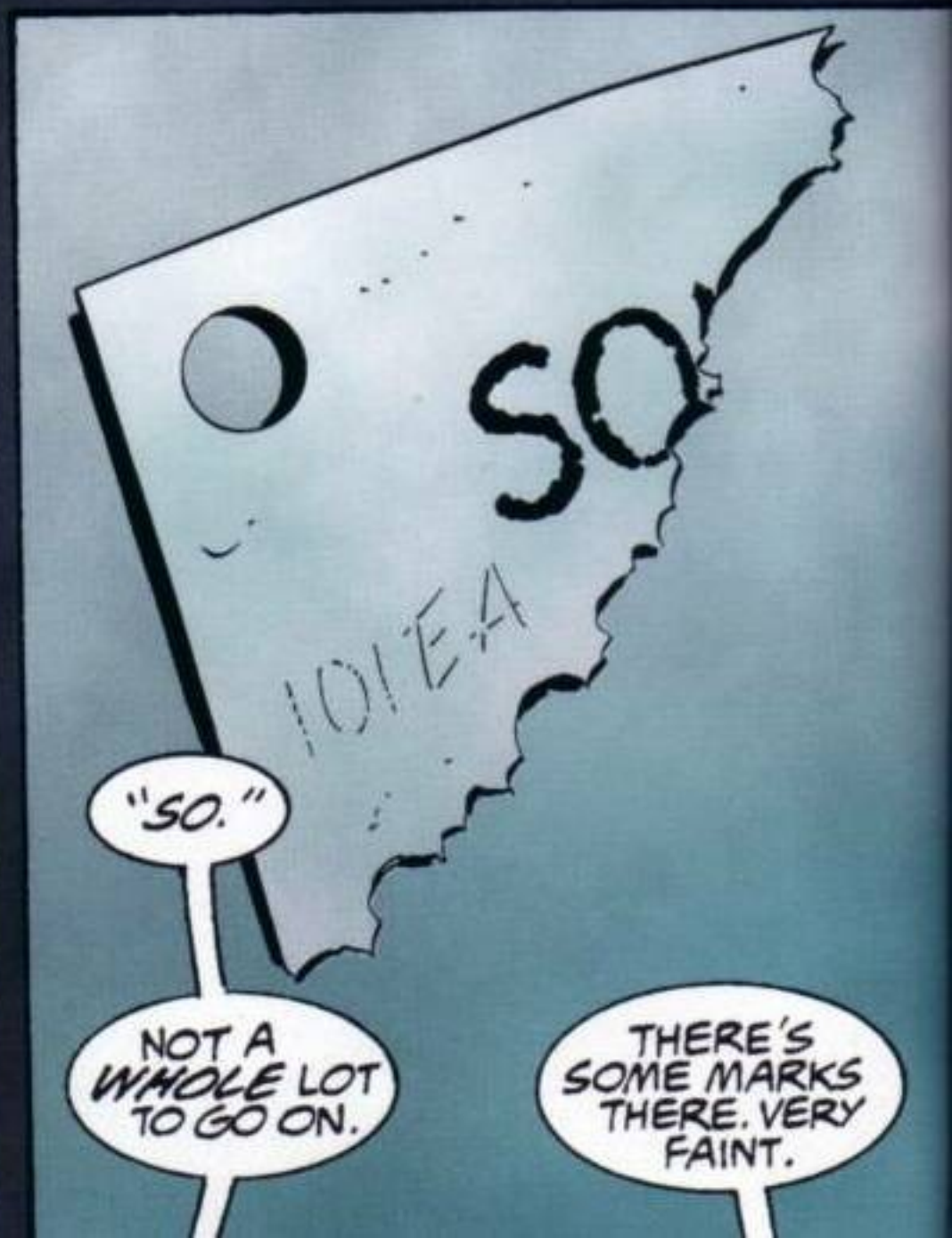


LET'S MAGNIFY THIS. IT'S SOME KIND OF RECEIPT.



BIG AS A HOUSE. BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH.

THE INVOICE NUMBER IS USELESS. BUT THOSE TWO LETTERS...



"SO."

NOT A WHOLE LOT TO GO ON.

THERE'S SOME MARKS THERE. VERY FAINT.



I CAN ENHANCE IT.

DO IT.

AN ADDRESS, MAYBE WRITTEN ON ANOTHER PIECE OF PAPER.

IT MADE AN IMPRESSION ON THIS ONE.



I BET IT'S A FAINT CARBON IMPRINT.

SOMEONE TOOK A NOTE ON AN INVOICE PAD, PROBABLY THE INVOICE BEFORE THIS ONE.

LIKE A DELIVERY DRIVER.

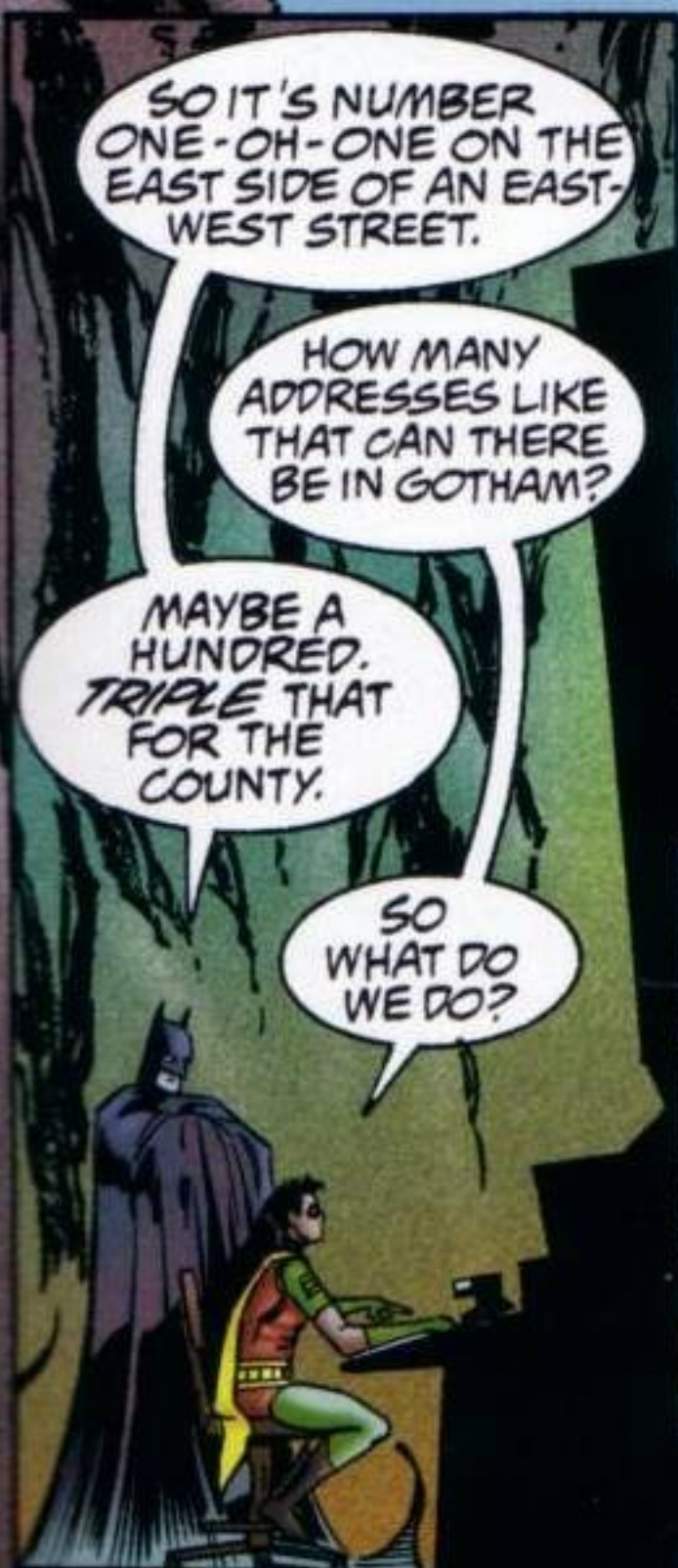


SO IT'S NUMBER ONE-OH-ONE ON THE EAST SIDE OF AN EAST-WEST STREET.

HOW MANY ADDRESSES LIKE THAT CAN THERE BE IN GOTHAM?

MAYBE A HUNDRED. TRIPLE THAT FOR THE COUNTY.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?



WE MATCH WITH ANY BUSINESS BEGINNING WITH "SO" AND CHECK THEM ALL.

AND THERE MAY NOT EVEN BE A CONNECTION.

THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN HELP US.

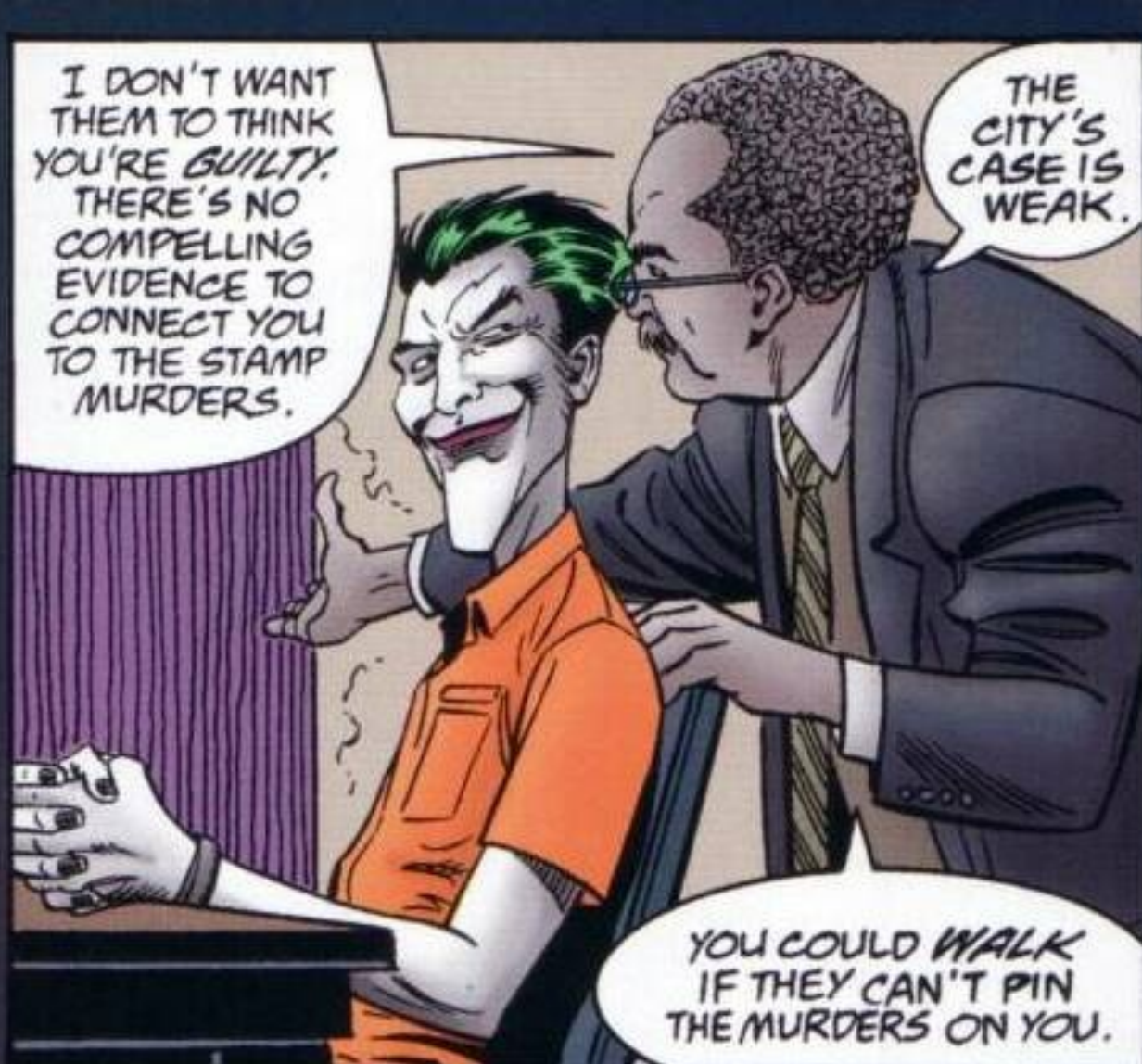






WE'RE GETTING DOWN TO THE WIRE, JOKER. NO OUTBURSTS LIKE THE OTHER DAY, PLEASE.

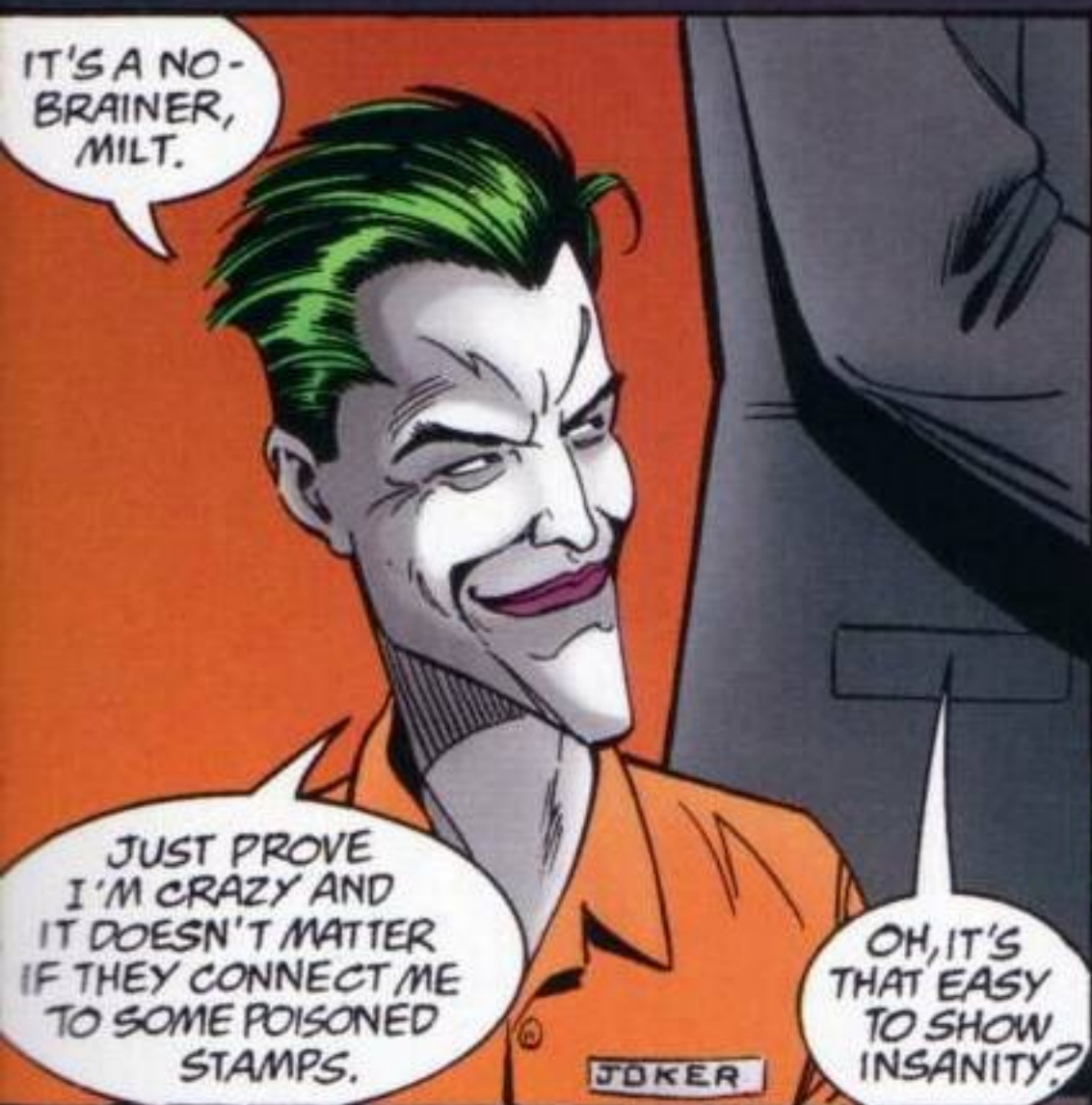
SO I GIVE A SHOW. YOU WANT THEM TO THINK I'M NUTS, RIGHT?



I DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK YOU'RE GUILTY! THERE'S NO COMPELLING EVIDENCE TO CONNECT YOU TO THE STAMP MURDERS.

THE CITY'S CASE IS WEAK.

YOU COULD WALK IF THEY CAN'T PIN THE MURDERS ON YOU.



IT'S A NO-BRAINER, MILT.

JUST PROVE I'M CRAZY AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY CONNECT ME TO SOME POISONED STAMPS.

OH, IT'S THAT EASY TO SHOW INSANITY?

JOKER



IT'S THAT EASY.





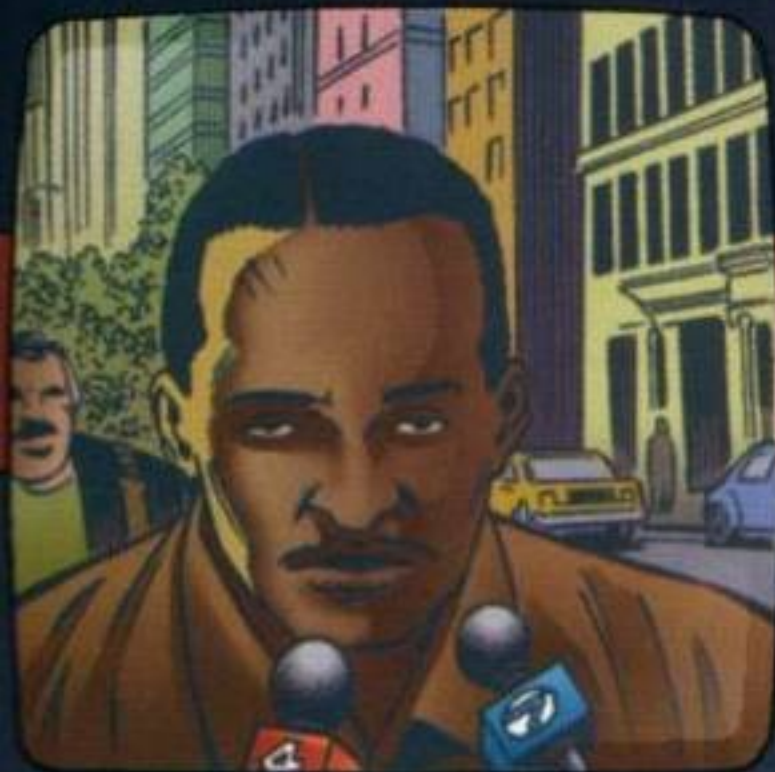


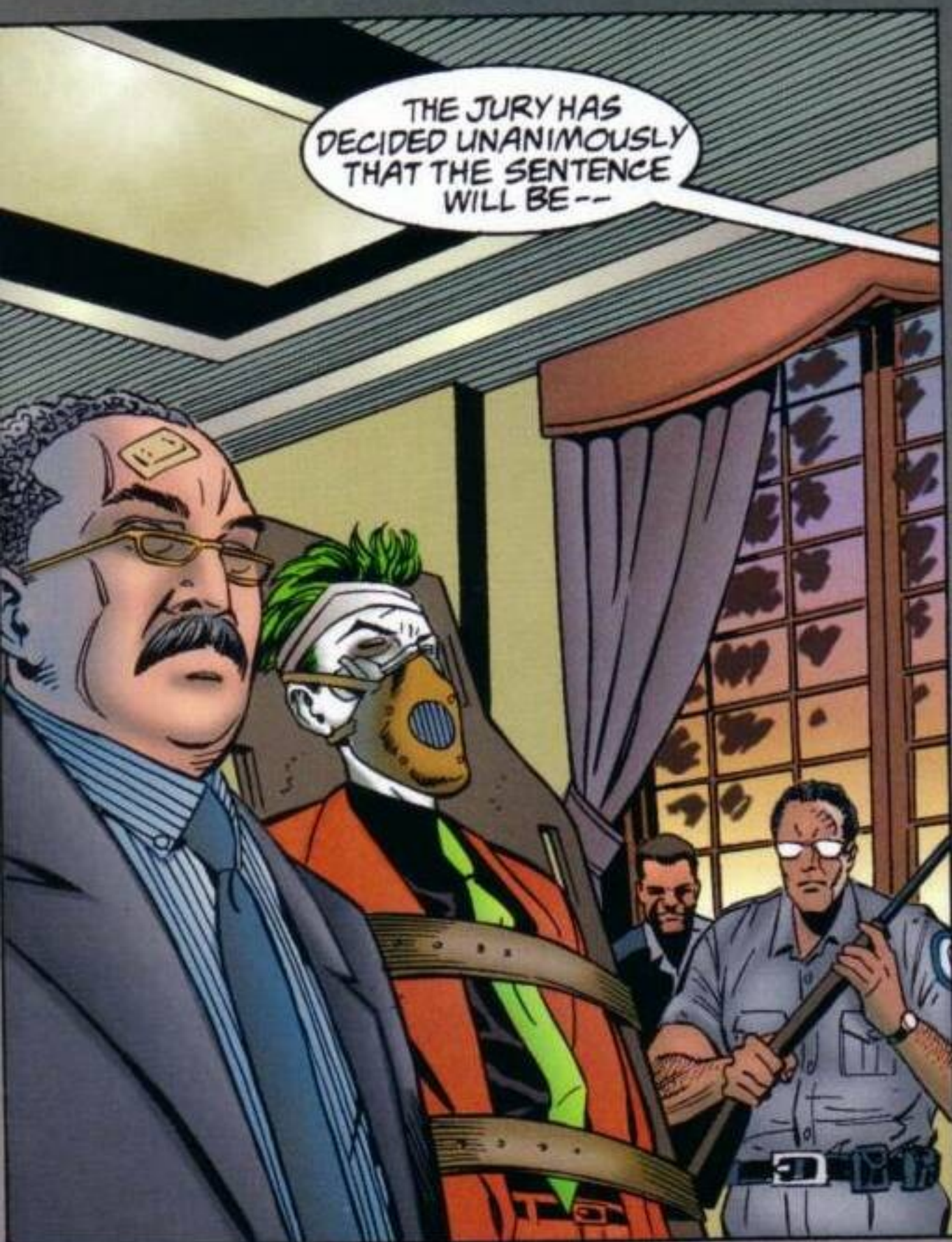
I'D LIKE TO THINK
MY WIFE RESTS EASIER.
I KNOW I WILL.


THE DEATH PENALTY
IS THE ONLY PUNISHMENT
FOR HIM. AND EVEN THAT'S
GOING TOO EASY.

WHAT CAN I
SAY? JUSTICE
WAS SERVED.

BUT WHAT
GOOD DOES
THAT DO
PHYLLIS?








TOMORROW THEY TAKE
YOU TO BLACKGATE, BLOCK
SIX. THE DEATH HOUSE.

I FIGURED
YOU'D
SHOW.




YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN A
REAL PRISON BEFORE. I
MEAN MIXED IN WITH
POPULATION.

I'LL
MANAGE.

I
WONDER.

I THINK
YOU'LL DO
HARD
TIME.



IN TWO WEEKS
I'LL BE *RUNNIN'*
THE PLACE.



YOU
DIDN'T
DO IT.

DID
YOU?



HA.

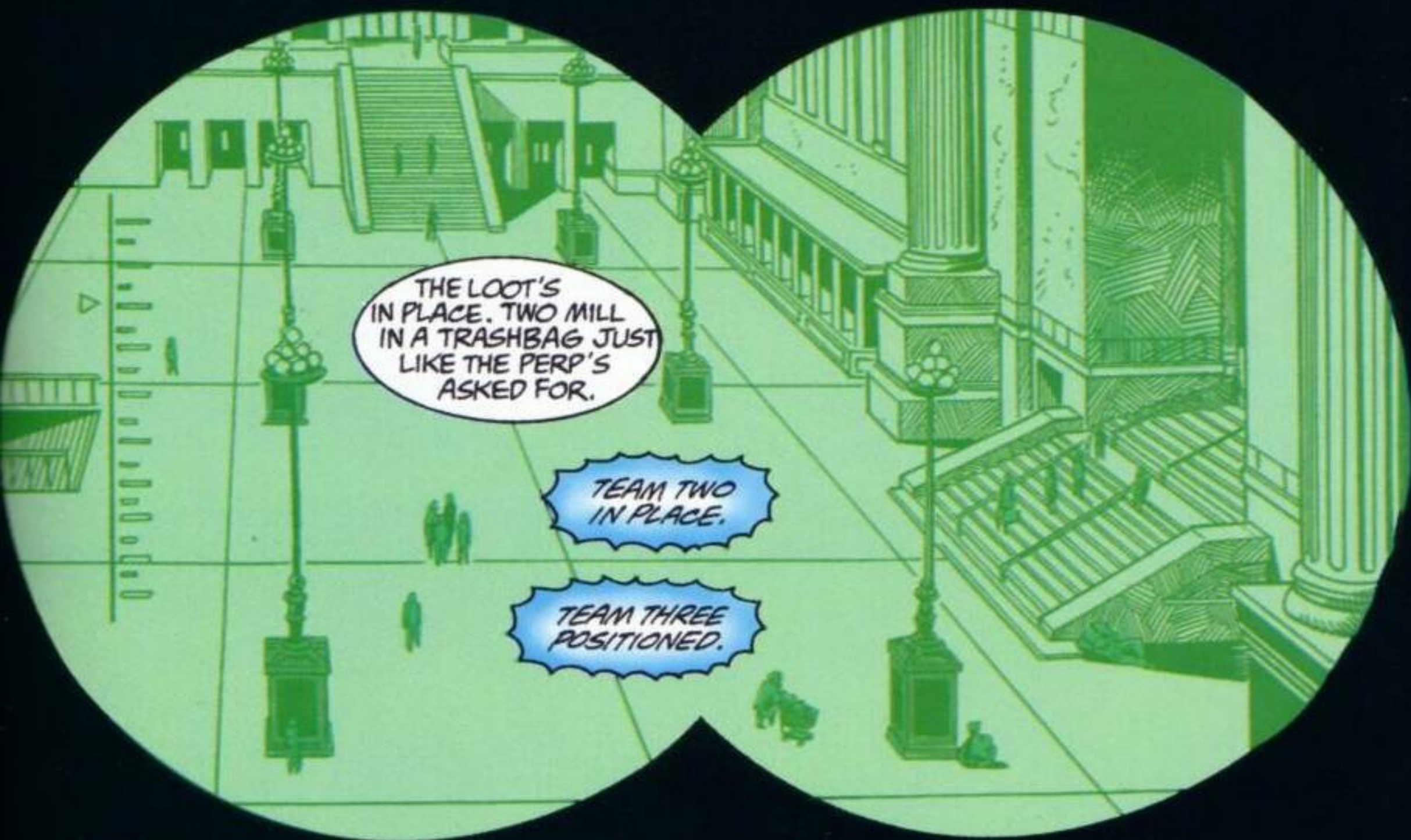
THAT'S
FOR ME TO
KNOW AND YOU
TO FIND OUT.



TEAM ONE IN POSITION. EVERYBODY IN THEIR PLACES?

GUNG HO AND ALL THAT CRAP, PETTIT.

LET'S MAINTAIN STANDARD RADIO PROCEDURE, BULLOCK.



THE LOOT'S IN PLACE. TWO MILL IN A TRASHBAG JUST LIKE THE PERP'S ASKED FOR.

TEAM TWO IN PLACE.

TEAM THREE POSITIONED.



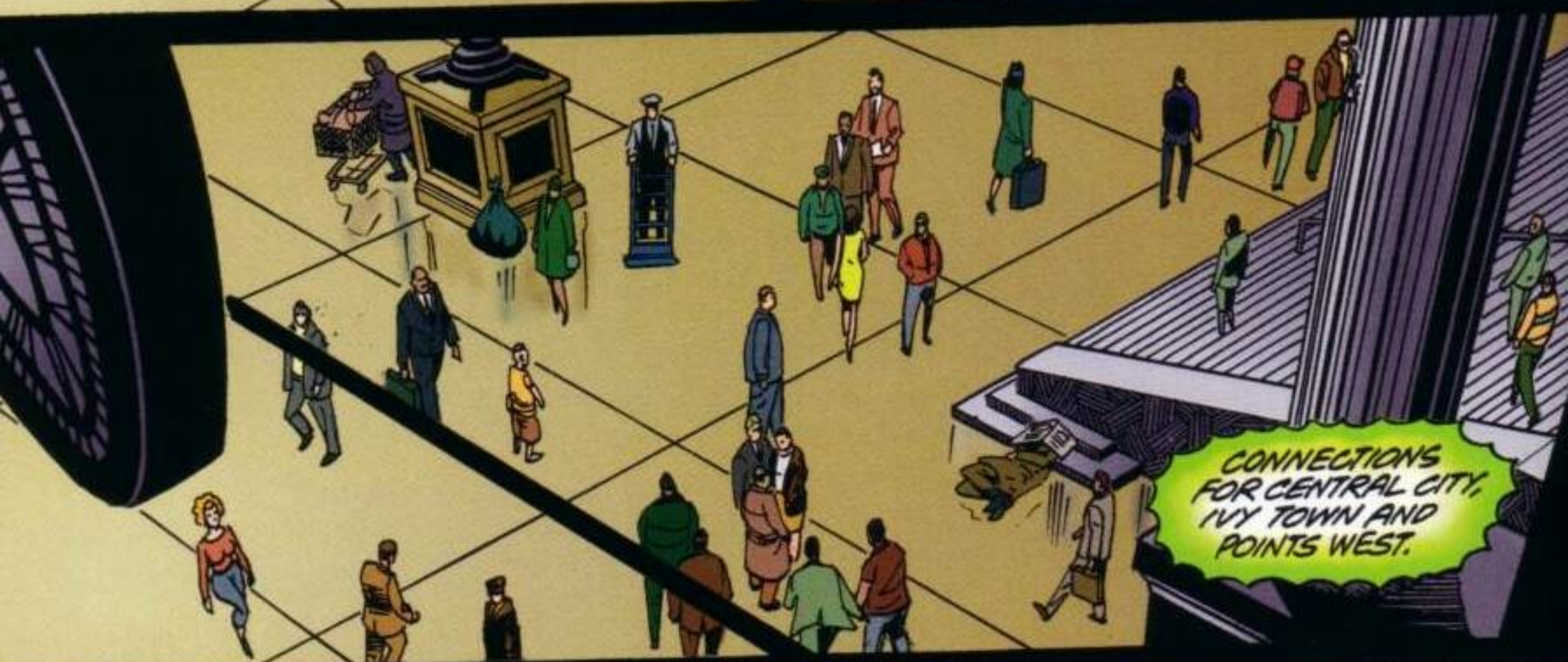
TEAM FOUR?

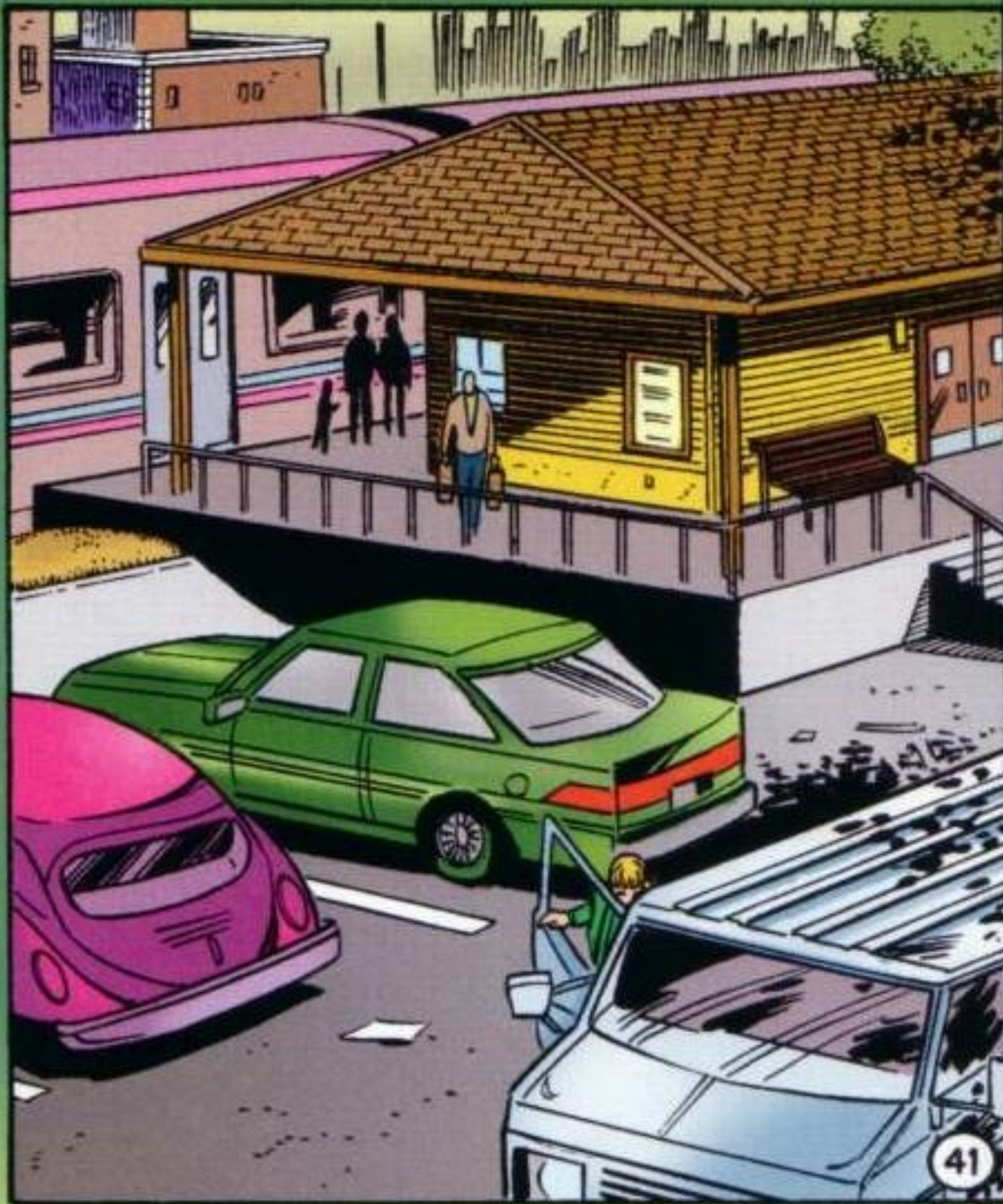
I'M HERE, DAMMIT. HOW'S ANYBODY DOZE IN THIS PLACE?

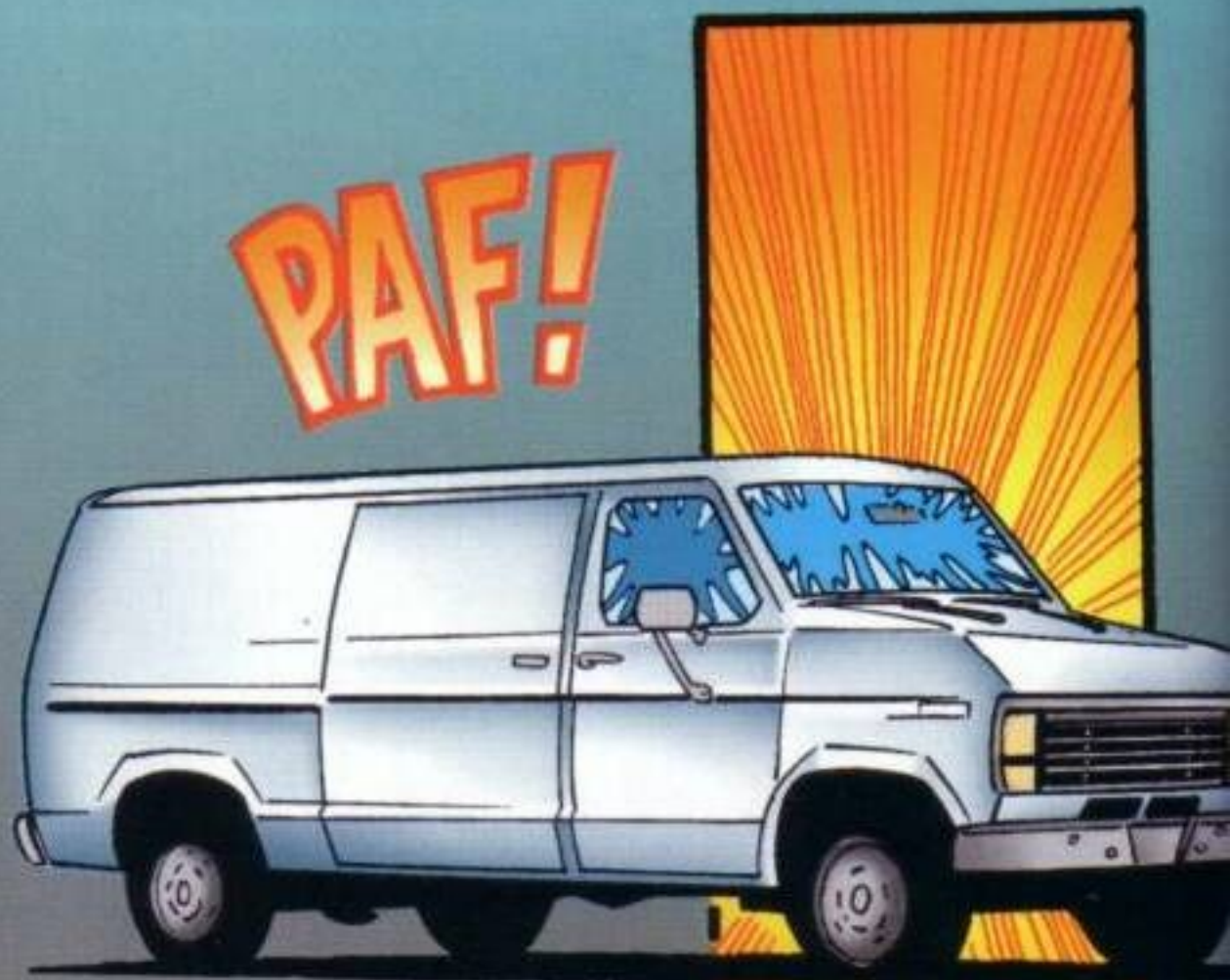


NOBODY SUSPICIOUS NEAR THE DROP. THEY'RE MAKING US WAIT.

WE'LL GIVE 'EM ANOTHER COUPLE HOURS.









I DON'T GET IT.

HE'S NOT GUILTY. HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE POISON STAMPS OR THE EXTORTION SCHEME.

I HAVE A LEAD ON SOME OF HIS OLD GANG MEMBERS.



I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU CARED MORE FOR JUSTICE THAN THE LAW.

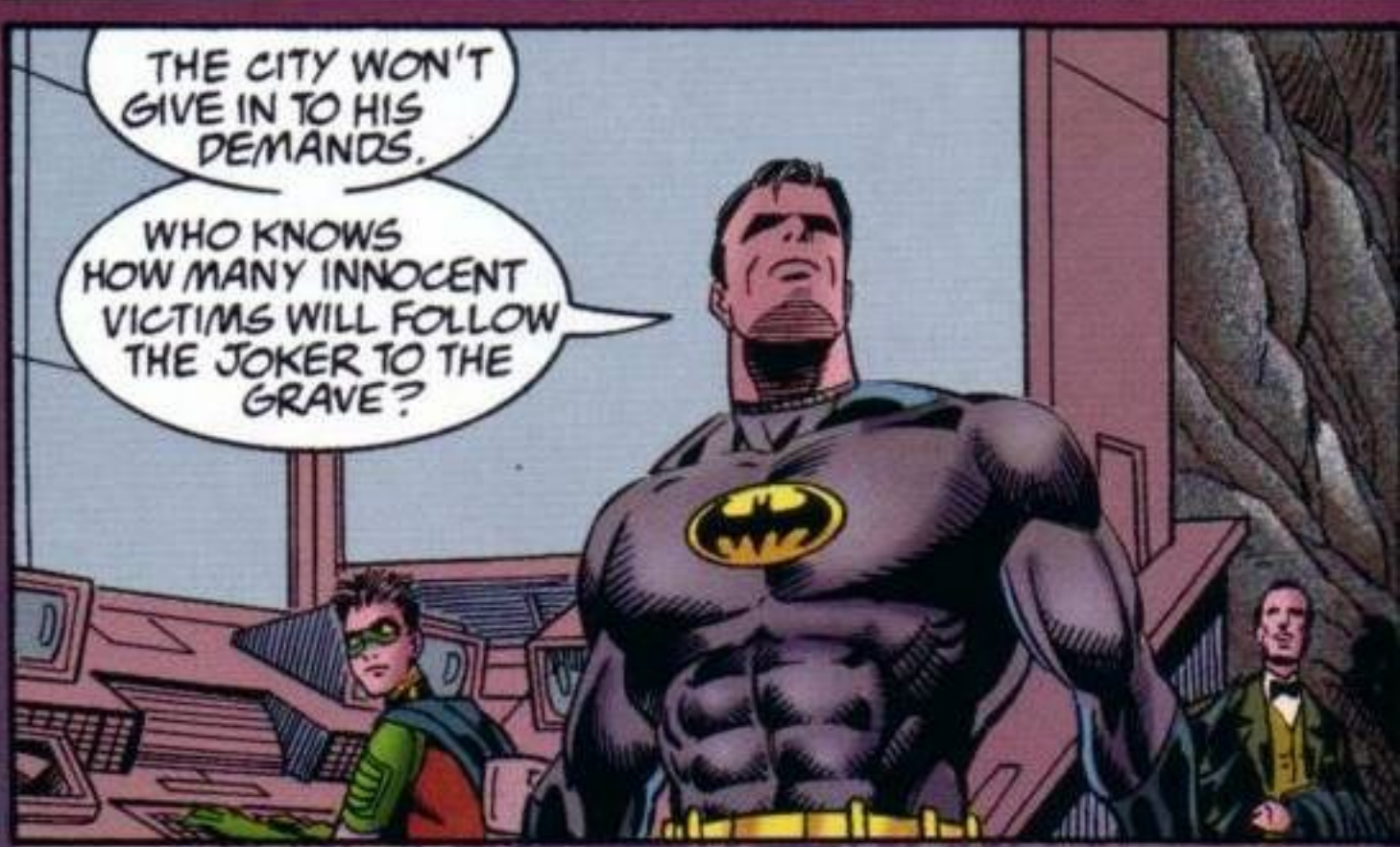
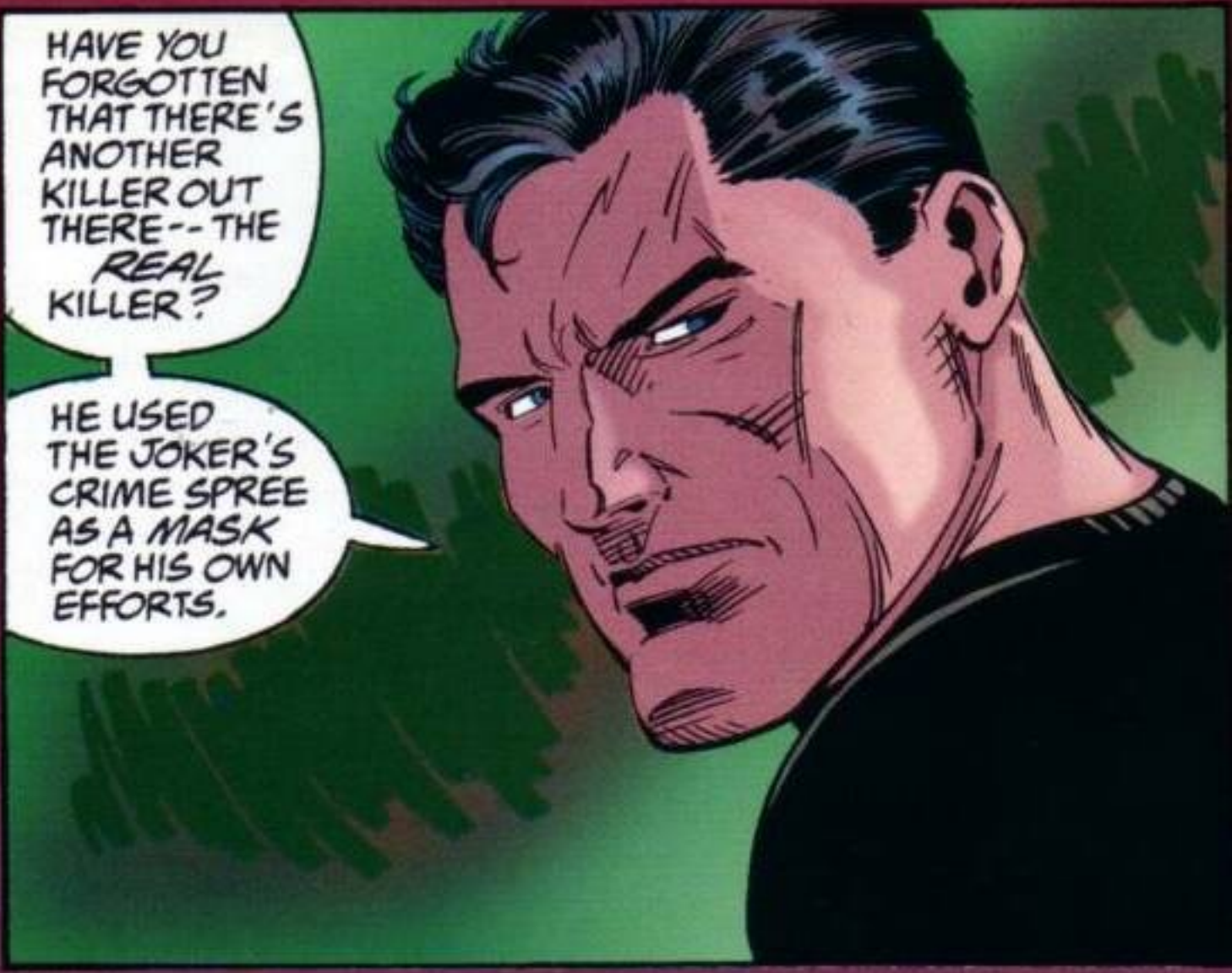
SO JOKER GETS THE DEATH PENALTY FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT.

HE'S DESERVED IT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER IN HIS LIFE. THIS TIME HE DIDN'T SLIP AWAY.



YOU *KNOW* IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.

YEAH. BUT MAYBE IT *SHOULD*. JUST THIS *ONCE*.



HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THERE'S ANOTHER KILLER OUT THERE-- THE *REAL* KILLER?

HE USED THE JOKER'S CRIME SPREE AS A MASK FOR HIS OWN EFFORTS.

QUITE FRANKLY, I'M CONFUSED AS WELL.

I WOULD SAY THAT THE SINS OF THE PAST HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH THE CLOWN PRINCE.

WOULD YOU?

THE CITY WON'T GIVE IN TO HIS DEMANDS.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS WILL FOLLOW THE JOKER TO THE GRAVE?

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM THIS... THEATRICAL?

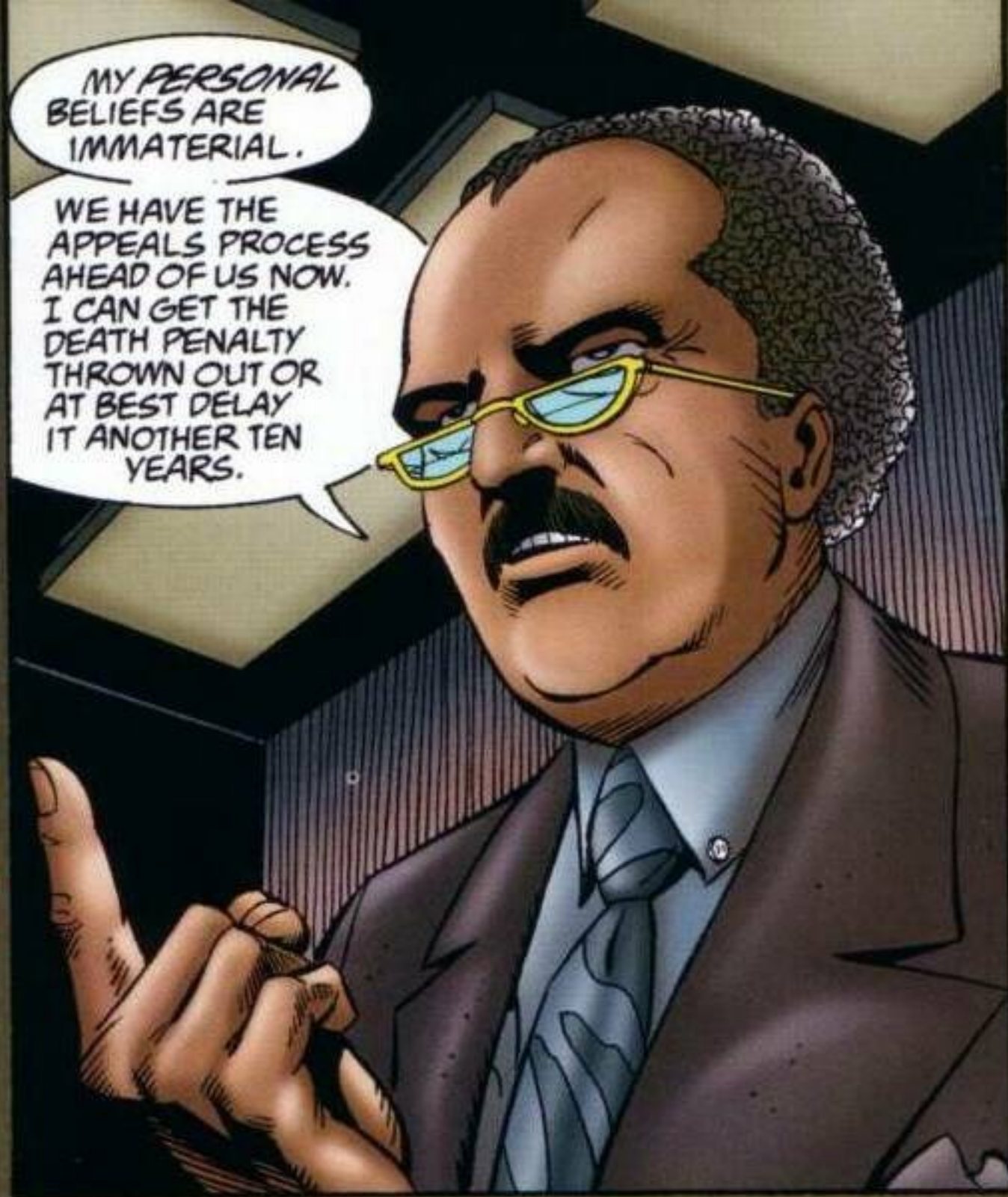
...GRIM.

HE'S LIKE ALL GREAT DETECTIVES.

HE POSSESSES A DEEP-SEATED LOATHING FOR MYSTERIES.



EVEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?



MY PERSONAL BELIEFS ARE IMMATERIAL.

WE HAVE THE APPEALS PROCESS AHEAD OF US NOW. I CAN GET THE DEATH PENALTY THROWN OUT OR AT BEST DELAY IT ANOTHER TEN YEARS.



THEY'RE TAKING ME TO BLACKGATE TOMORROW.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A PRISON BEFORE.



LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE. YOU WON'T BE IN POPULATION. DEATH ROW IS SEGREGATED.

YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO CHEER A FELLOW UP, MILT.

WHAT CAN I DO?

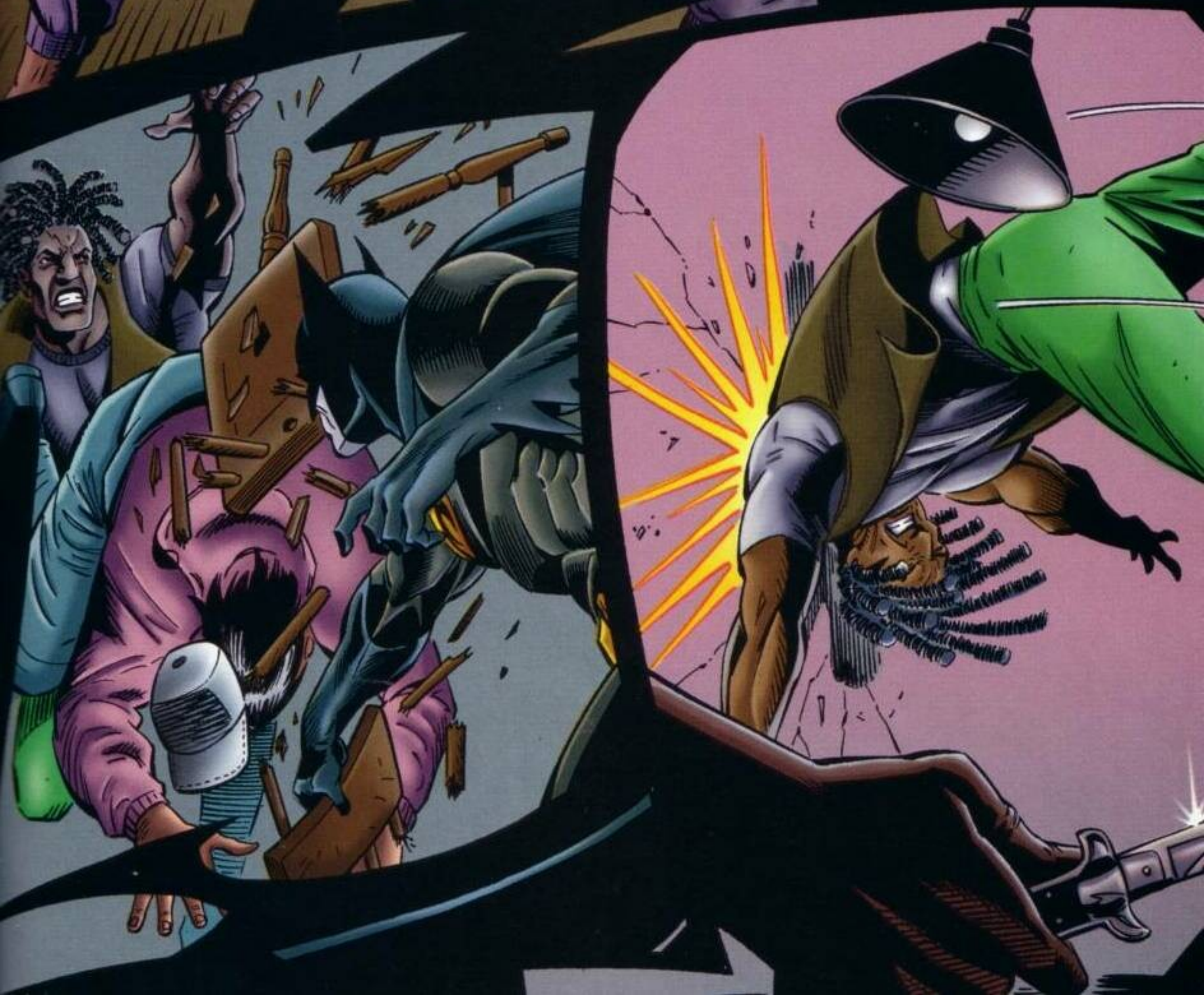


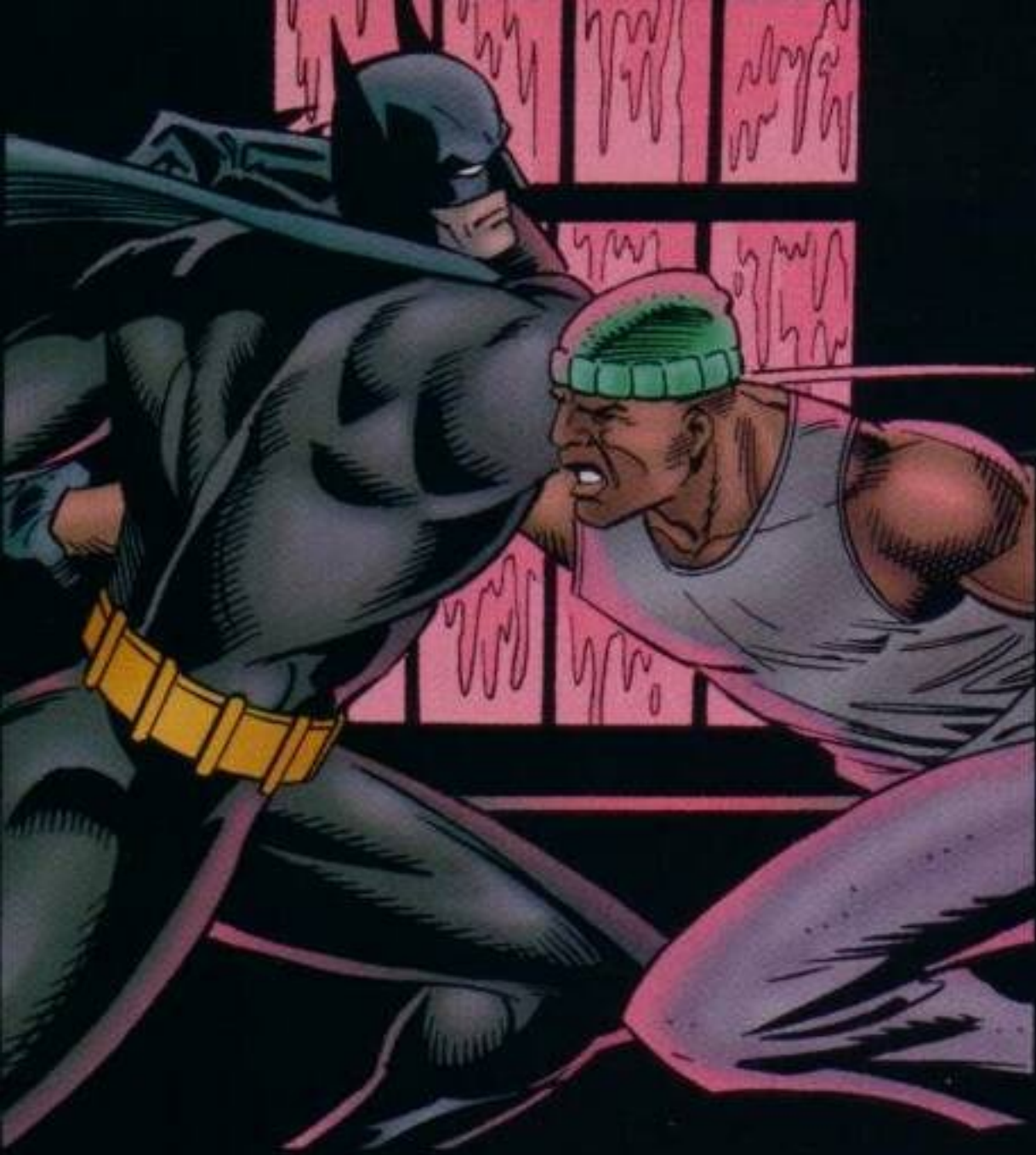
I JUST WANT SOMEBODY ELSE TO BELIEVE IN MY INNOCENCE.



DAMN...
THERE GO THE
LIGHTS.









AS SOON AS
ONE OF YOU COMES
AROUND WE'LL HAVE
A LITTLE TALK.

YOU'RE GOING
TO TELL ME EXACTLY
HOW YOU'RE WORKING
THE JOKER'S EXTOR-
TION GAME.

I GOT OUR FIRST
APPEAL IN. I BASED
IT ON--

WHO CARES,
MILT! JUST STALL
THEM! STALL FOR
ALL YOU'RE
WORTH!

I DON'T
WANT TO DIE
FOR SOME
OTHER MUTT'S
GAG!

**STALL, MILT!
PLAY FOR
TIME!**

WHUH?

JOKER!

LOOK
THIS
WAY!

OVER
HERE!

A FEW
QUESTIONS,
JOKER!





YOU'RE IN SIX
BLOCK. THAT'S DEATH
ROW. HERE'S THE
RULES.

TOUCH A
GUARD AND IT'S
AN AXE HANDLE
FOR YOU.

HIT A
GUARD AND IT'S
THE AXE HANDLE
AND MACE.

STAB A
GUARD AND IT'S
THE HANDLE, THE
MACE AND THIRTY
DAYS IN THE
BOX.

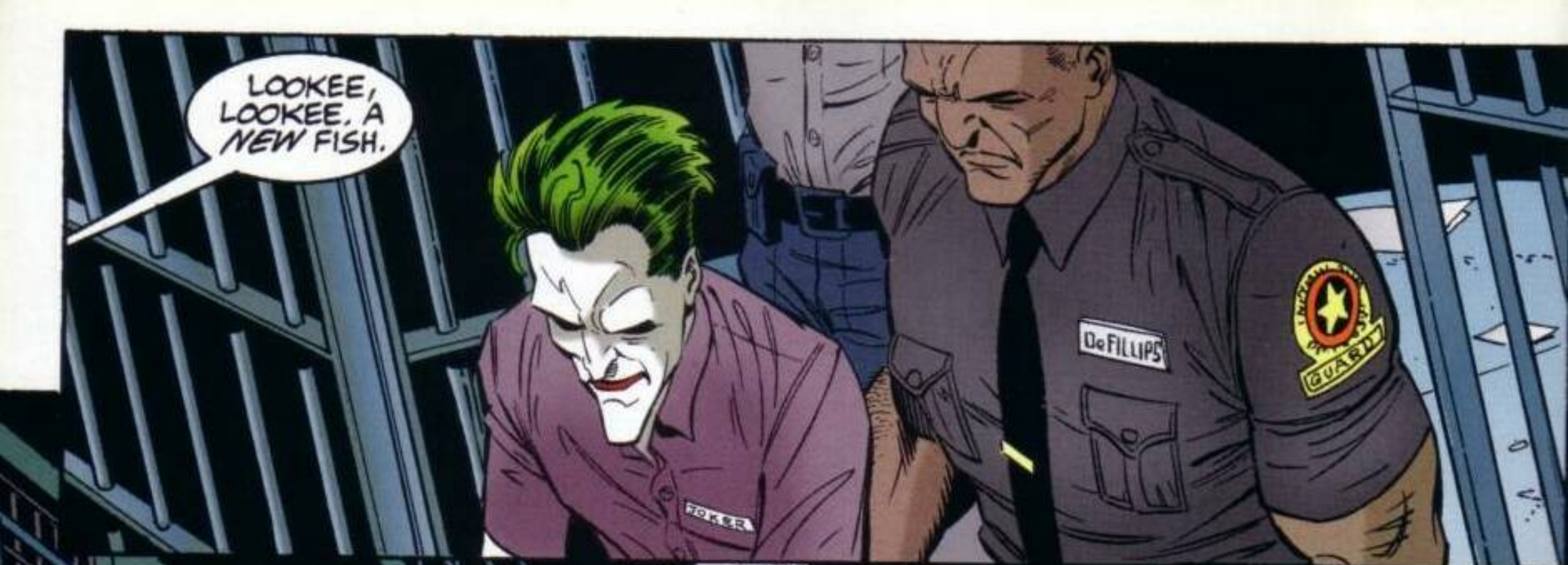
KILL
A GUARD AND
GOD HELP
YOU.

ANY
QUESTIONS,
CLOWNBOY?



HOW DO THEY GET
THOSE LITTLE PIMENTOS
IN THE OLIVES?

HE'S
ALL YOURS,
JACK.



LOOKEE, LOOKEE, A NEW FISH.



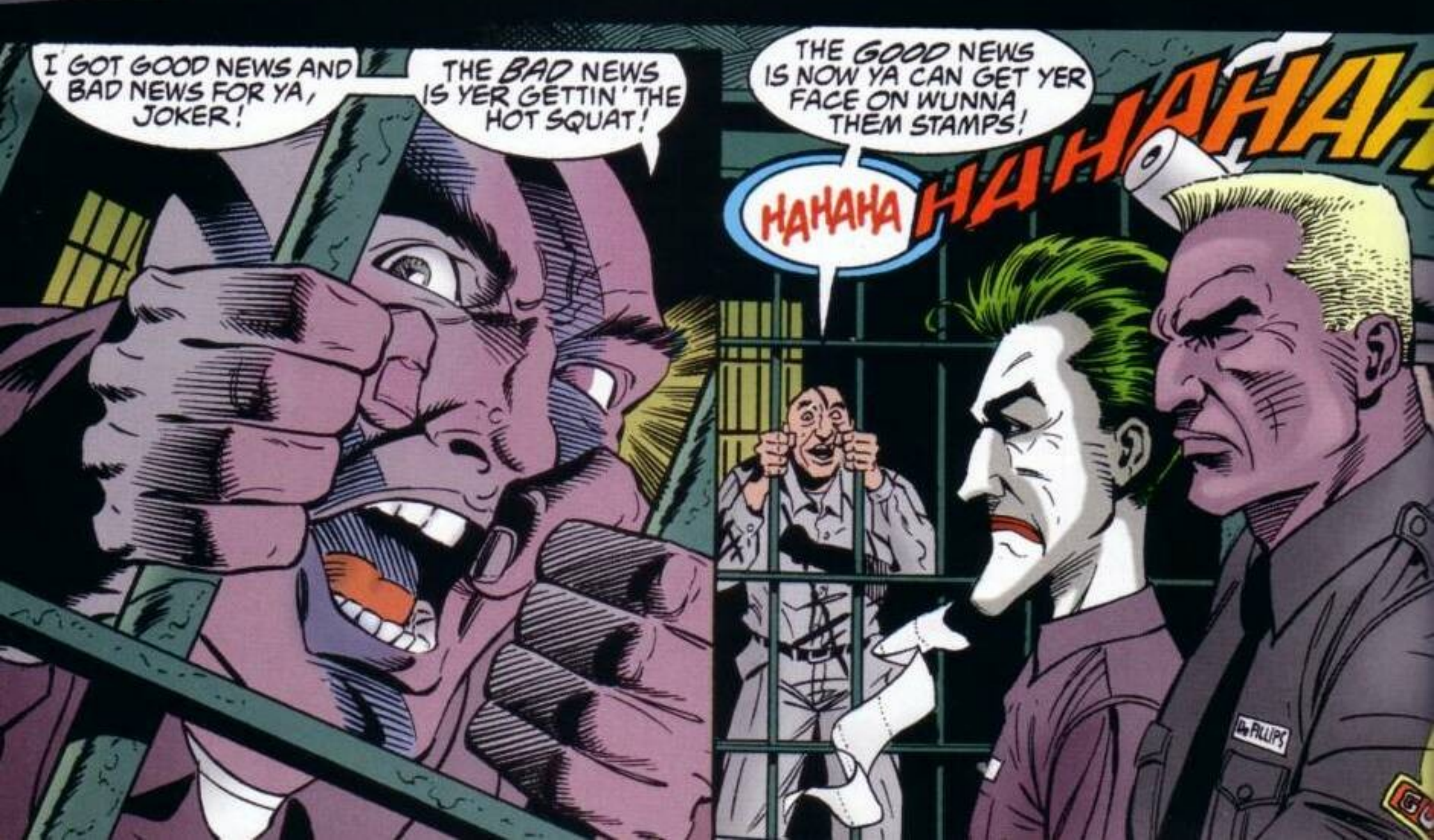
IT'S THE FRIGGIN' JOKER!

WHOOO-HA!

DON'T HURT ME, MR. JOKER!

HA HA HA HA

GIVE US A SMILE, JOKESTER!



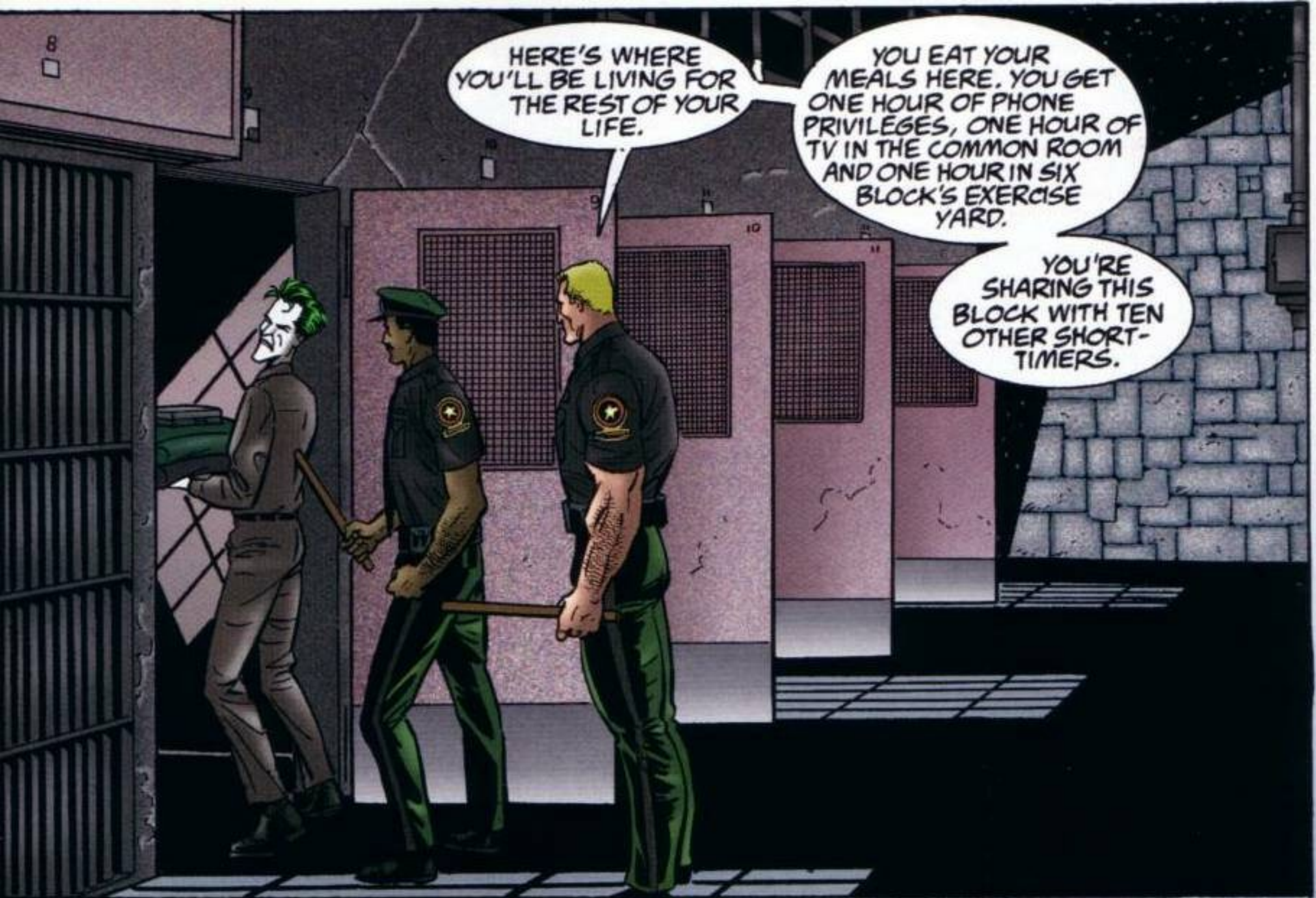
I GOT GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS FOR YA, JOKER!

THE BAD NEWS IS YER GETTIN' THE HOT SQUAT!

THE GOOD NEWS IS NOW YA CAN GET YER FACE ON WUNNA THEM STAMPS!

HAHAHA

HAHAHAHA



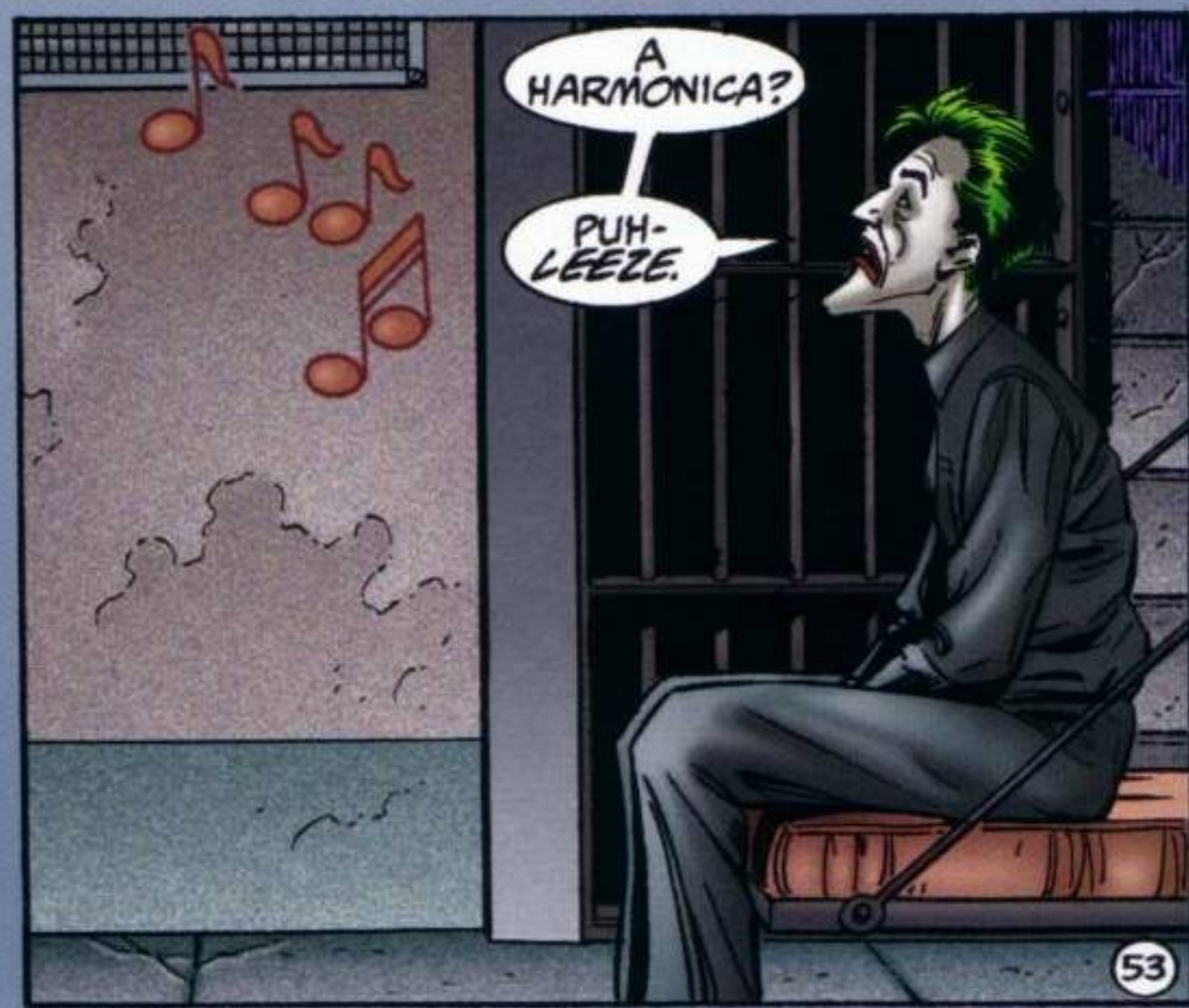
HERE'S WHERE YOU'LL BE LIVING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

YOU EAT YOUR MEALS HERE. YOU GET ONE HOUR OF PHONE PRIVILEGES, ONE HOUR OF TV IN THE COMMON ROOM AND ONE HOUR IN SIX BLOCK'S EXERCISE YARD.

YOU'RE SHARING THIS BLOCK WITH TEN OTHER SHORT-TIMERS.



LOVELY.



A HARMONICA?

PUH-LEEZE.



SOMETHING
YOU'D LIKE TO
SAY?

NOT
REALLY.

YOU DON'T
WANT TO JOIN THE
CHORUS--EVERYONE
ASKING ME WHY I'M
WORKING SO HARD
TO CLEAR GOTHAM'S
GREATEST THREAT?



YOU
HAVE YOUR
REASONS.

THE SAME
ONES THAT
BRING YOU OUT
HERE EVERY
NIGHT.



SO WHAT'S
ON FOR
TONIGHT?



"KNOWN ASSOCIATES."

I WASN'T IN ON ANY SCORES. I FENCED A FEW THINGS FOR HIM, SURE.

THAT WAS HISTORY. I *DONE* MY STRETCH.



Whew.

I AIN'T HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WITH *THAT* WACKO IN A LOOOOONG TIME.



WE... U/M... PARTED ON BAD TERMS.

FIRST HE BROKE MY HEART. THEN HE BROKE MY LEGS.



THE JOKER?

YOU USED TO BE
TIGHT WITH HIM.
YOU WERE PART
OF HIS STRING,
WENT ON HIS
BIGGEST EARLY
SCORES.

MAYBE YOU
KNOW ABOUT HIS
LATEST
SCHEME?

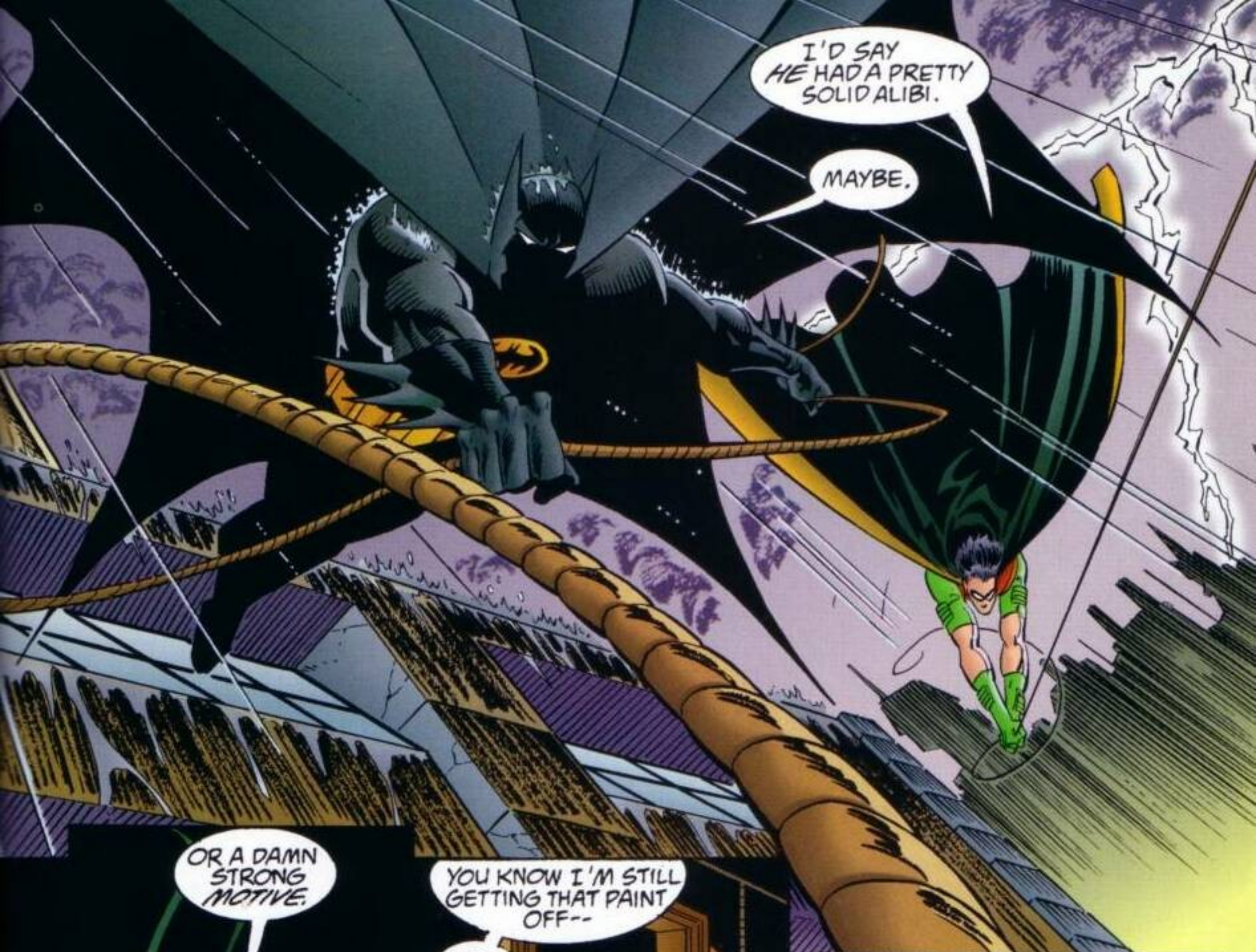
ALL I KNOW IS THEY
NAILED HIM THIS TIME.
HE'S GETTING THE
CHAIR.

AND I COULDN'T BE
HAPPIER. HE PUT ME IN
THIS CHAIR.

LEFT ME TO
DIE ON ONE OF
HIS JOBS. COPS
LIFTED A TRUCK
OFF ME. I WAS
TWO MONTHS
IN A COMA,
MAN!

I ONLY WISH
I COULD BE THERE
AND PULL THE SWITCH
ON THAT SICK
BASTARD.





I'D SAY HE HAD A PRETTY SOLID ALIBI.

MAYBE.



OR A DAMN STRONG MOTIVE.



YOU KNOW I'M STILL GETTING THAT PAINT OFF--

HEY-- WHAT'S GOING ON?



DID WE HAVE COMPANY? I HEARD YOU--

BATMAN WAS HERE.

THE BATMAN?



I GOT TO MAKE THIS DEAL WORK, I GOT TO GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT. BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY AROUND, BABE.

SILLY.



WE'RE PARTNERS, REMEMBER?

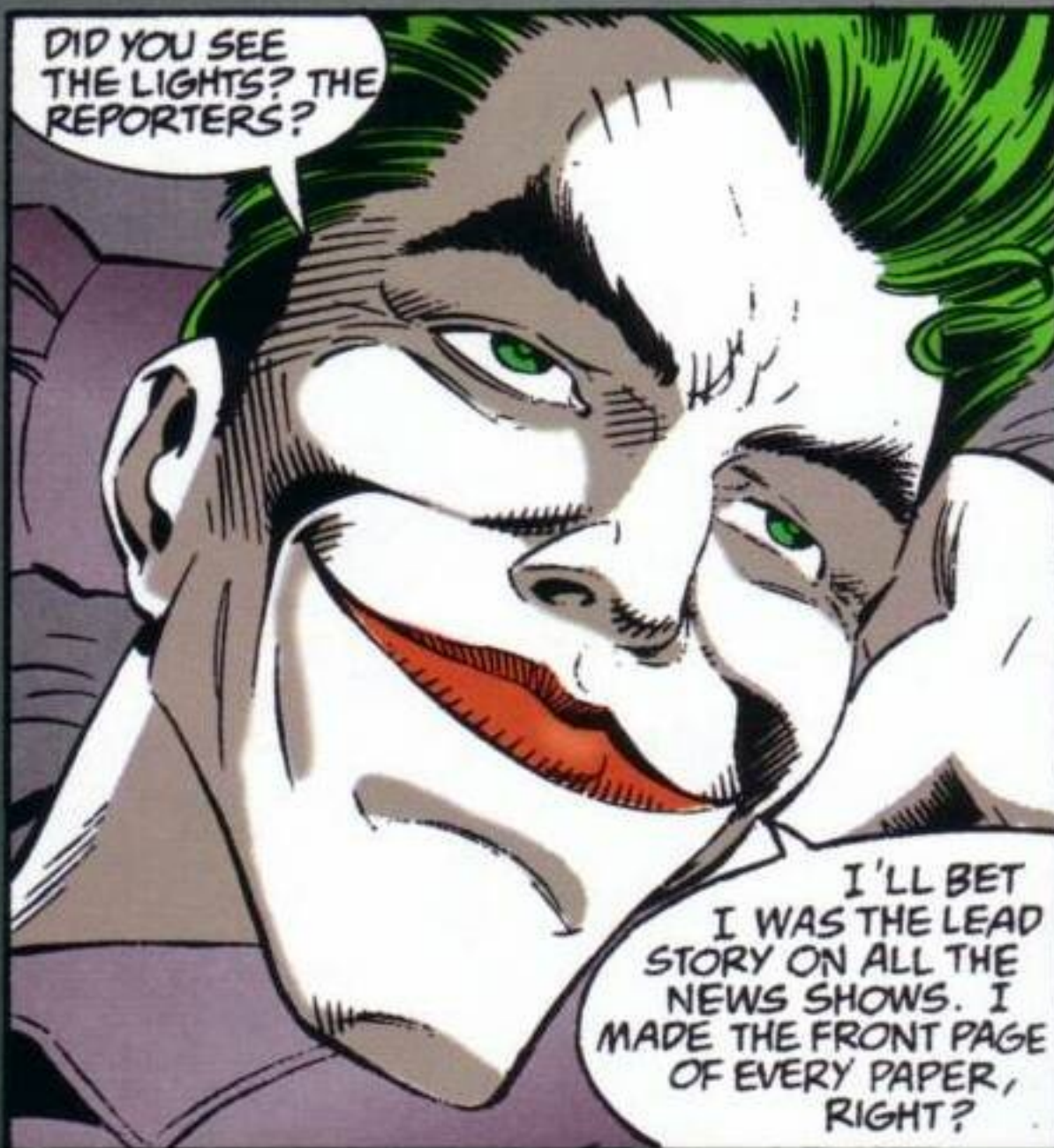


WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



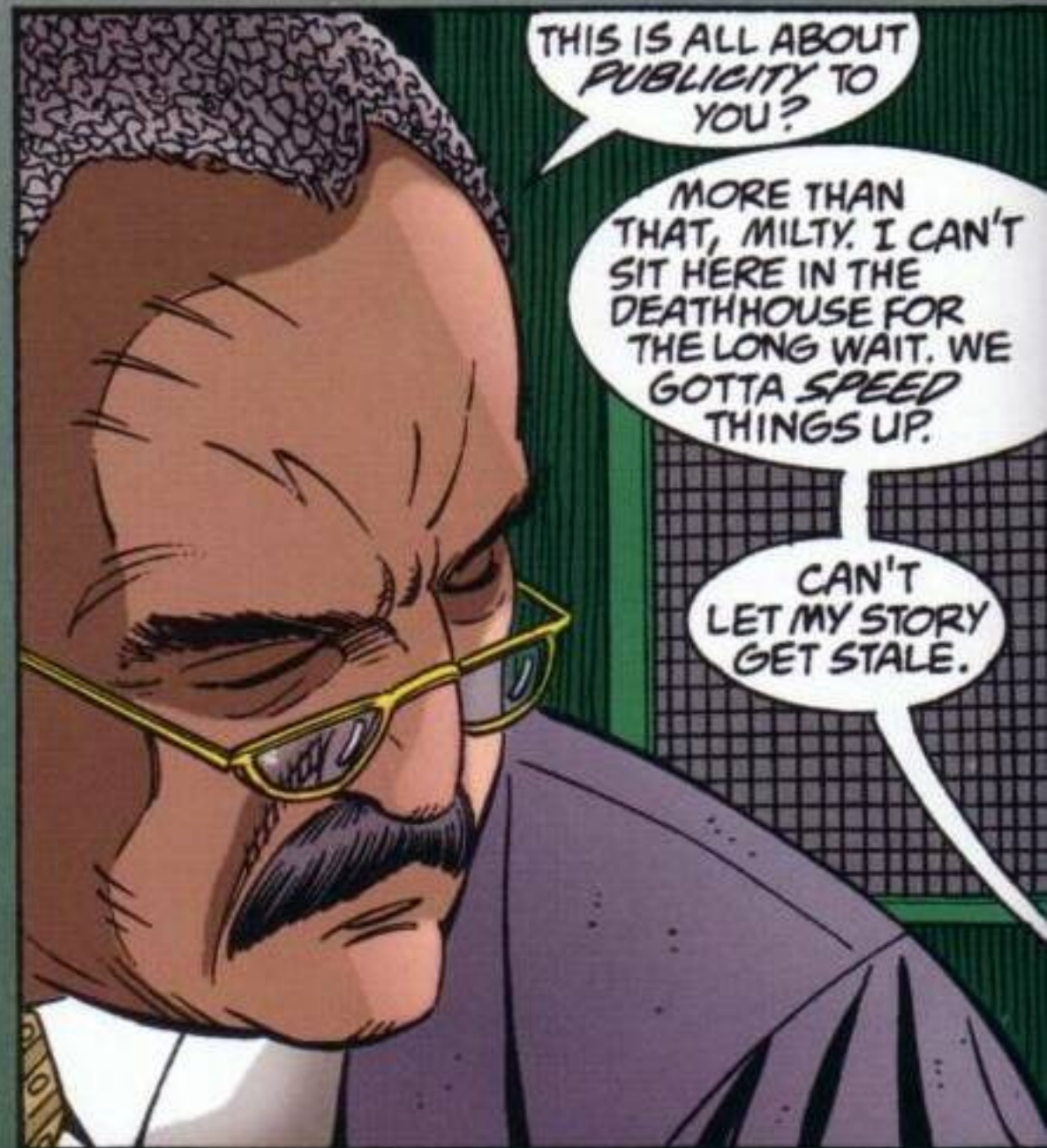
NO APPEALS, MILT.

I WANT THE *FAST* LANE TO THE HOT SEAT.



DID YOU SEE THE LIGHTS? THE REPORTERS?

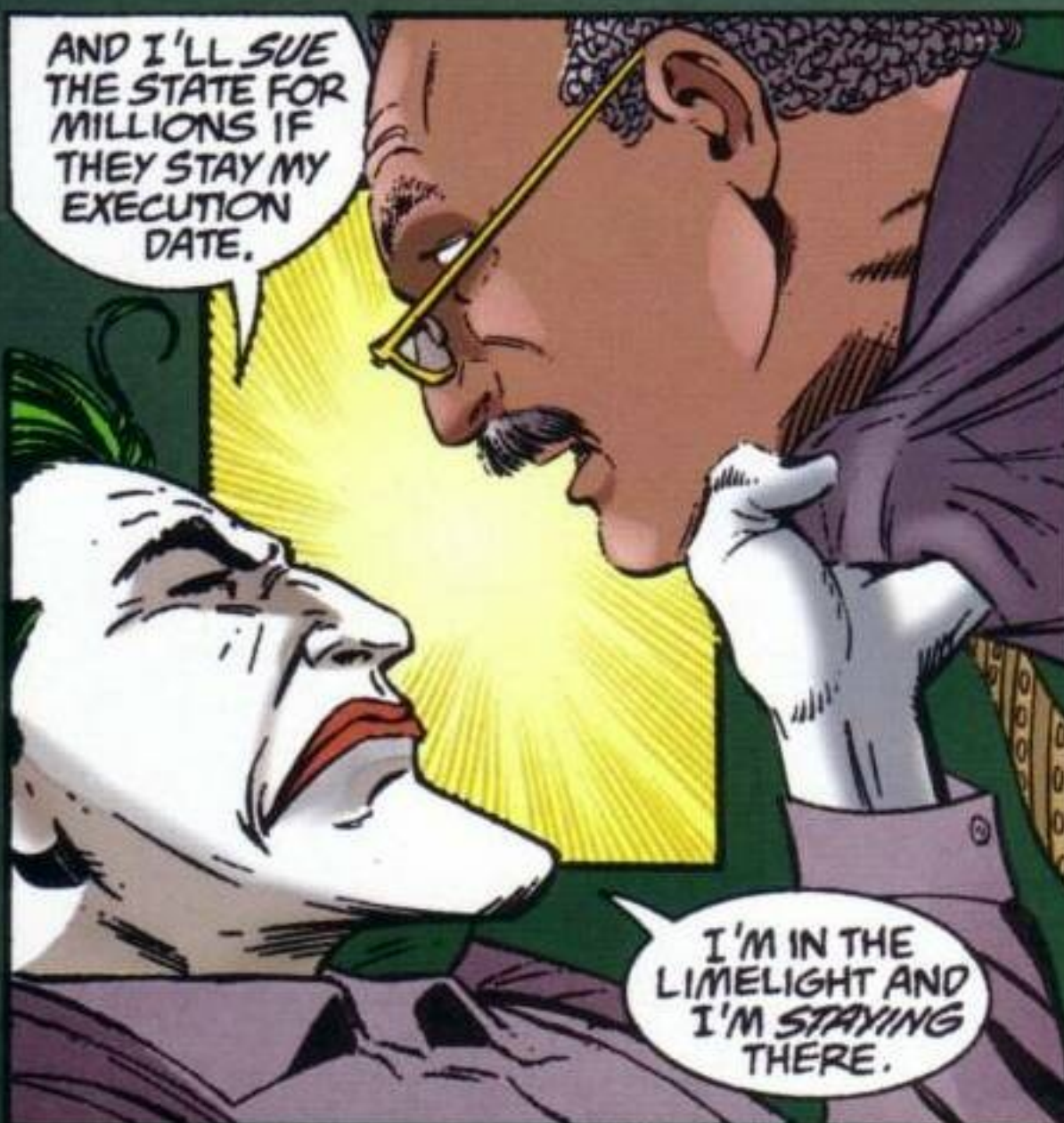
I'LL BET I WAS THE LEAD STORY ON ALL THE NEWS SHOWS. I MADE THE FRONT PAGE OF EVERY PAPER, RIGHT?



THIS IS ALL ABOUT PUBLICITY TO YOU?

MORE THAN THAT, MILTY. I CAN'T SIT HERE IN THE DEATHHOUSE FOR THE LONG WAIT. WE GOTTA *SPEED* THINGS UP.

CAN'T LET MY STORY GET STALE.



AND I'LL *SUE* THE STATE FOR MILLIONS IF THEY STAY MY EXECUTION DATE.

I'M IN THE LIMELIGHT AND I'M *STAYING* THERE.



BUT THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU.

I MIGHT HAVE *THAT* FIXED TOO.



--REVERBERATIONS STILL FELT THROUGHOUT THE GOTHAM AREA FROM THE SPATE OF "POISON STAMP" KILLINGS.

ADD TO THAT THE JOKER'S "WRONGFUL LIFE" SUIT AGAINST THE CITY AND YOU HAVE A STORY THAT JUST WON'T DIE.



JOINING US TODAY ARE VICTIMS OF THE JOKER'S MAD MURDER SPREE.

A SPREE THAT STILL COMMANDS OUR ATTENTION TODAY AS--

YER A STAR, JOKER!

--THE DEATHCLOCK TICKS FOR THE SELF-PROFESSED CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME.



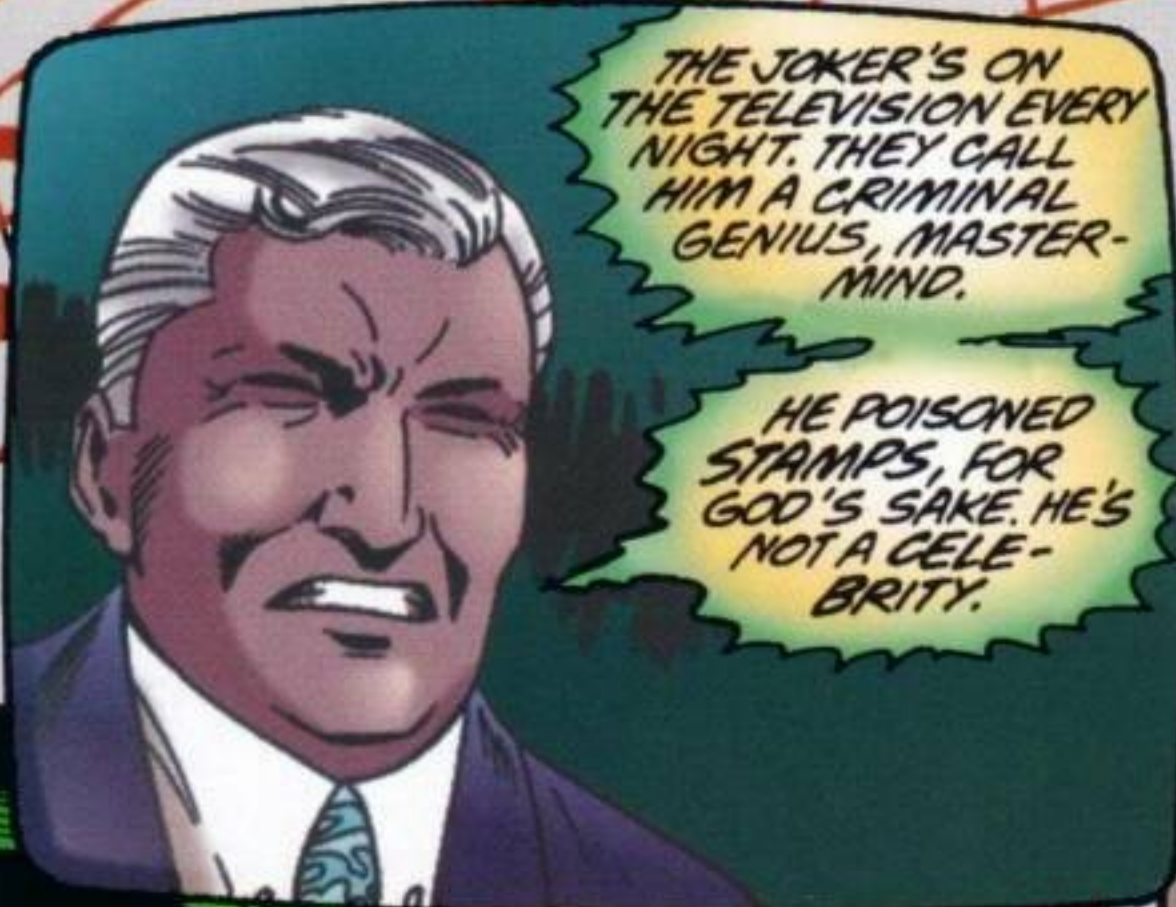
ERNEST KELLEHER, A GOTHAM BUSINESSMAN, HAS FOUNDED A GROUP FOR JOKER VICTIMS.



I THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT, CASSIE.



WE NEEDED TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER. JUST TO TALK. TO REMEMBER. TO SHARE THE LOSS.



THE JOKER'S ON THE TELEVISION EVERY NIGHT. THEY CALL HIM A CRIMINAL GENIUS, MASTER-MIND.

HE POISONED STAMPS, FOR GOD'S SAKE. HE'S NOT A CELEBRITY.



HE'S A COWARD.

NOTHING BUT A COWARD.

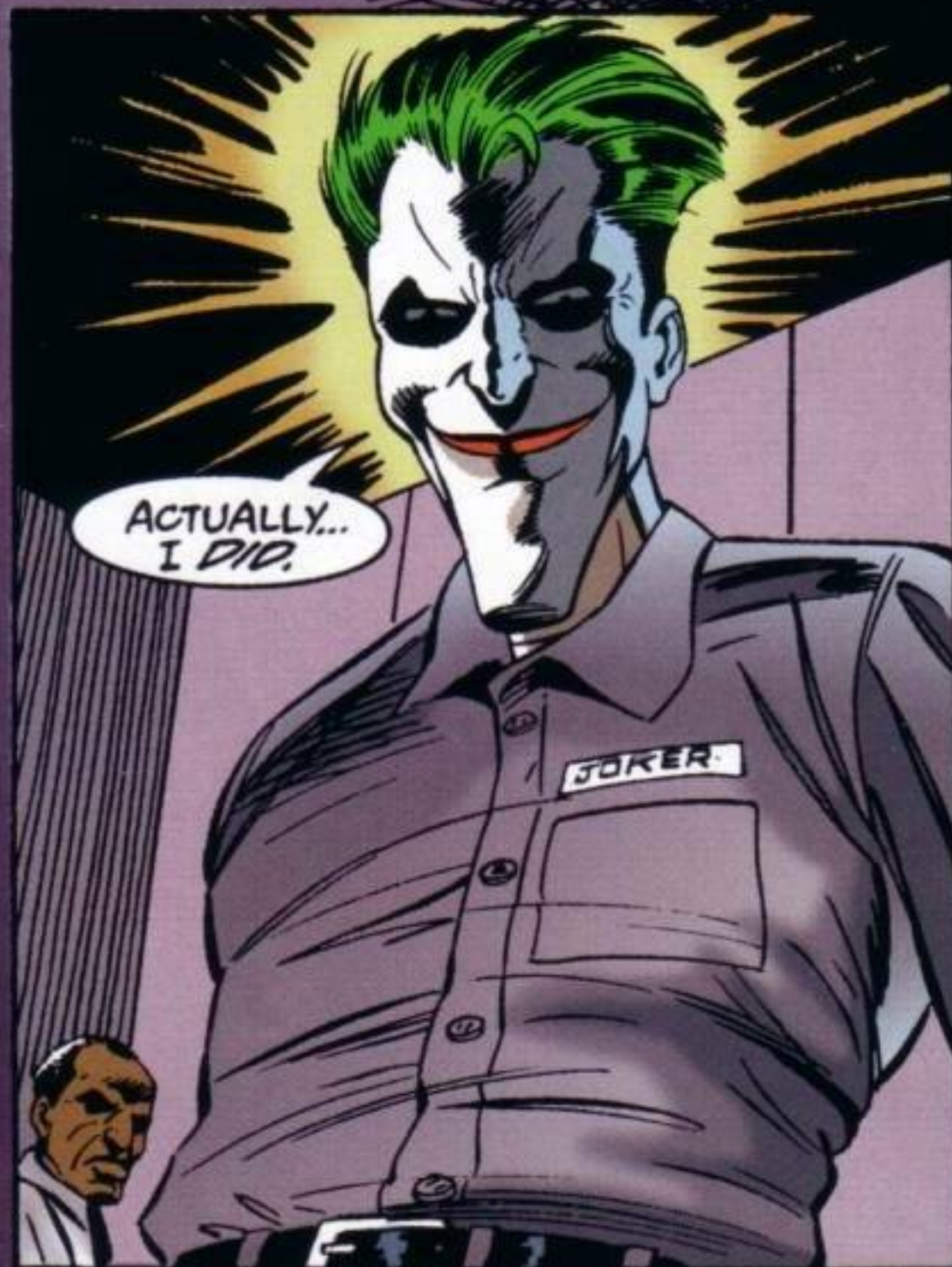


A COWARD.



UH... DID YOU HAVE A REQUEST?

SLOSSER



ACTUALLY... I DID.

JOKER



YEP. GONNA HAVE TO OPERATE.

CLARENCE BUREAU



WE'VE CHECKED AND CROSS-CHECKED AND EVEN WENT TO EACH POSSIBLE SITE.

THERE'S NO ADDRESS THAT CORRESPONDS TO THIS RECEIPT FRAGMENT.



THE ENTIRE SUBJECT WILL SOON BE MOOT. THE JOKER'S DATE WITH THE EXECUTIONER IS ONLY A WEEK AWAY.

YEAH, BUT WE STILL HAVE A KILLER OUT THERE.

BUT THERE'VE BEEN NO KILLINGS FOR QUITE SOME TIME.



TRUE. BUT THE EXTORTION MECHANISM IS SET UP. WHO-EVER IT IS MIGHT TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

ANOTHER TARGET.



THEY HAVE ACCESS TO THE JOKER'S VENOM. THEY'LL USE IT AGAIN.

AND IS YOUR MENTOR ABROAD TONIGHT?

HE HASN'T SLEPT IN DAYS.



HE'S FOLLOWING HIS OWN LEADS.

BUT MOST OF THEM ARE LAME.



NOTHING.

WE'RE
AT A DEAD
END.

THE
PHILATELISTS?

YOUR HUNCH WAS
GOOD. WE UNCOVERED
DOZENS OF COLLECTORS
HOLDING ONTO FIRST OF
ISSUE STAMPS.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE HEARD THEM
HOLLER WHEN WE
IMPOUNDED THEIR
COLLECTIONS.



BUT NO TOXICS ON
THE GLUE OF ANY OF
THEM.

THAT TELLS
US HOW THE POISONED
STAMPS MIGHT HAVE
GOTTEN INTO
CIRCULATION.

THE SUSPECT
BOUGHT THE STAMPS,
DOSED THEM, THEN
RETURNED THEM
FOR CASH.

HAD TO BE.
NOTHING CONSPICUOUS
ABOUT IT.



WE HAVEN'T HAD A DEMAND SINCE THE PICKUP. I THINK WHOEVER IT IS PULLED UP STAKES.

THEY'RE IN ANOTHER TOWN BY NOW. THE JOKER WILL BE COLD IN HIS GRAVE BY THE TIME WE CATCH THEM.

IF WE CATCH THEM. IF THERE'S ANOTHER SET OF SUSPECTS.



NO. THEY DIDN'T GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO QUIT NOW.

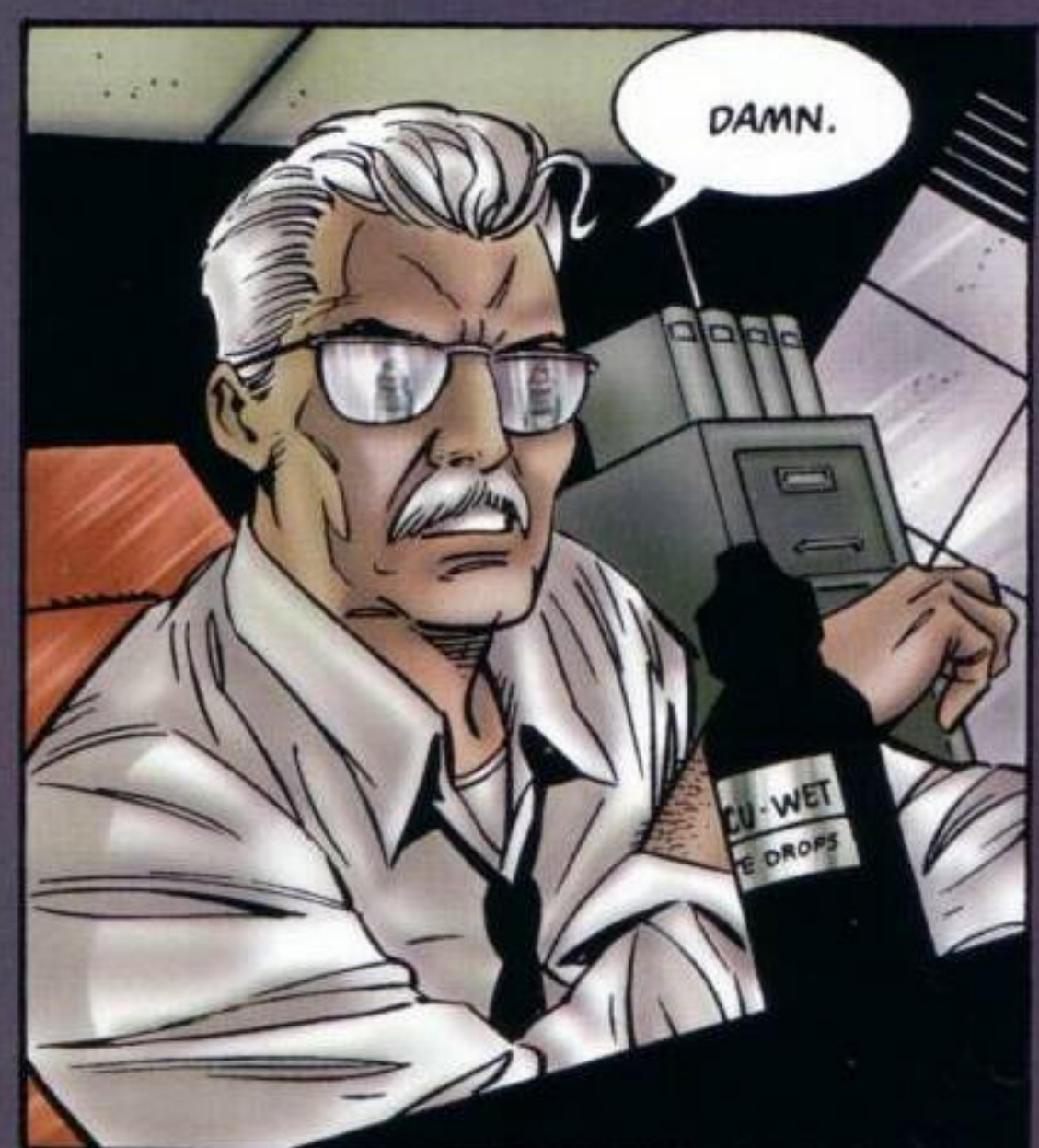
THEY'LL CHANGE TACTICS. TAMPER WITH SOMETHING ELSE.



PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

FOOD.

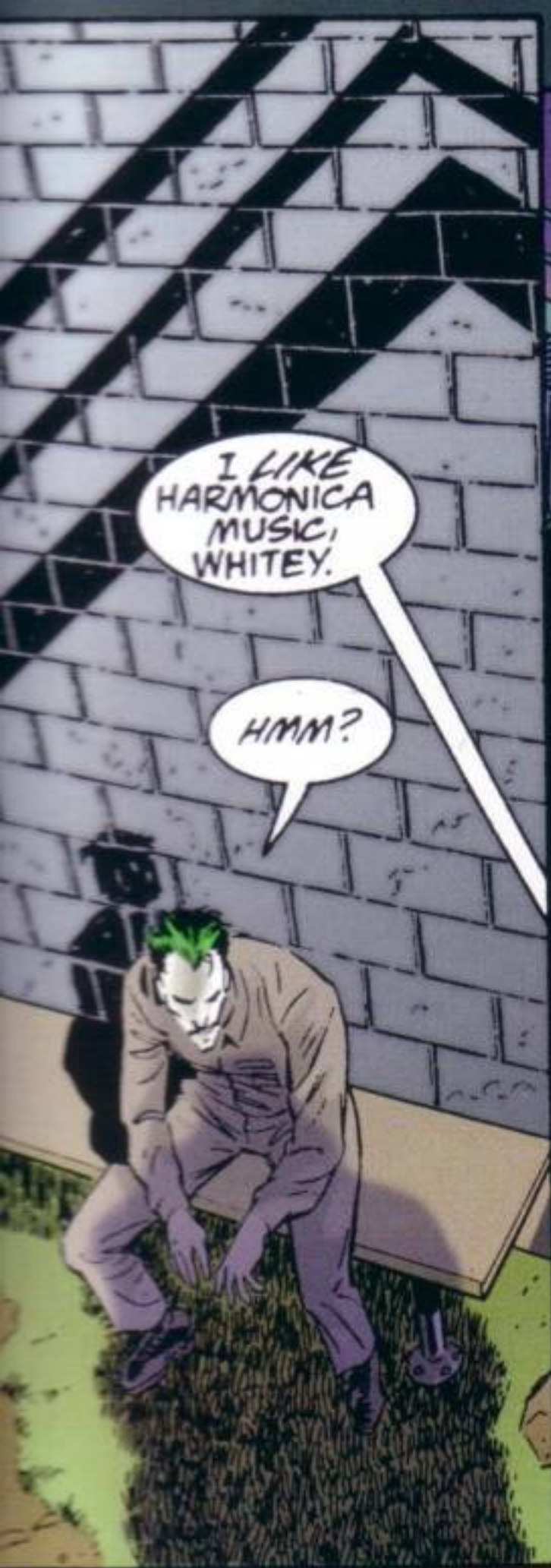
WATER.

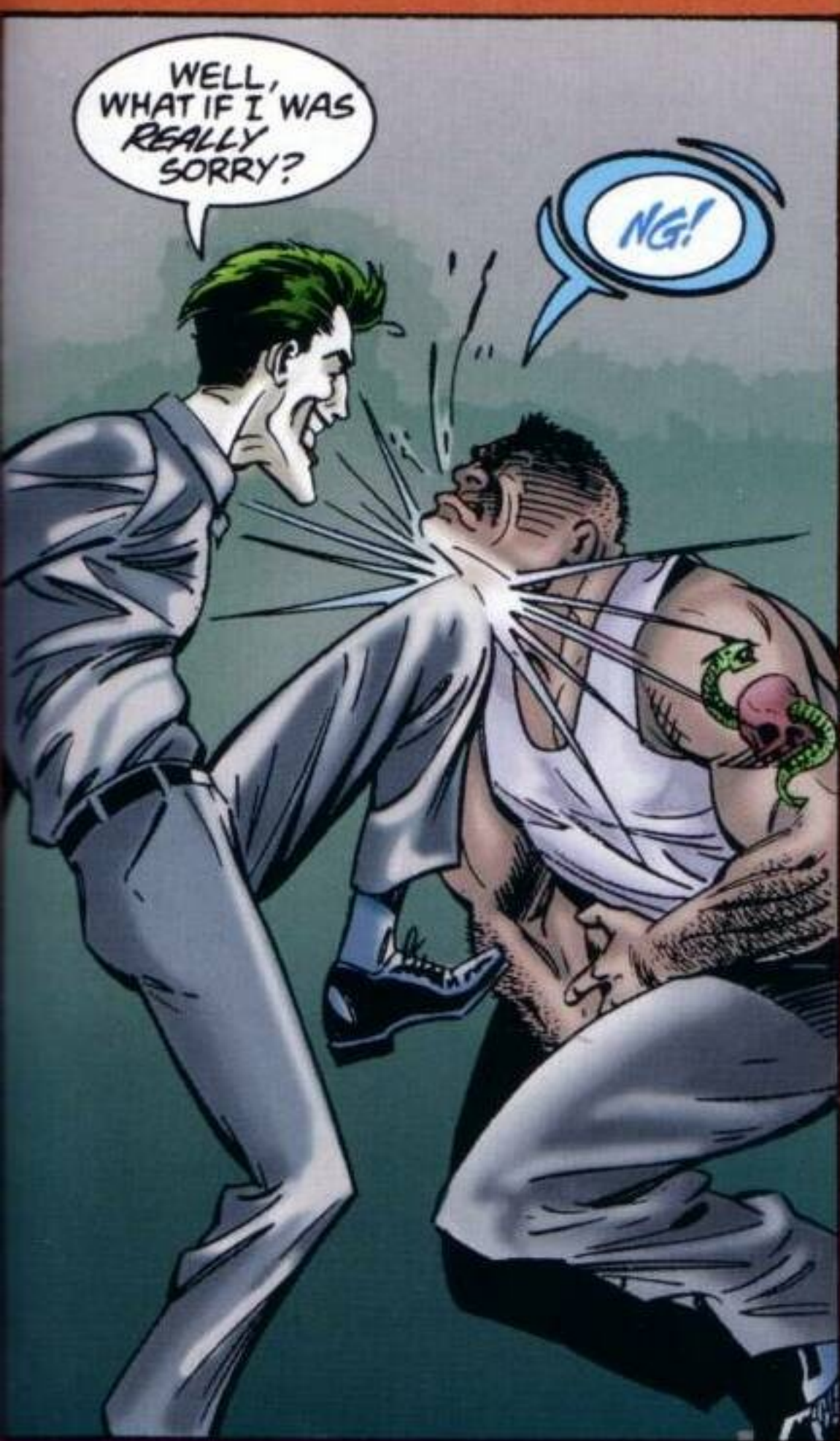
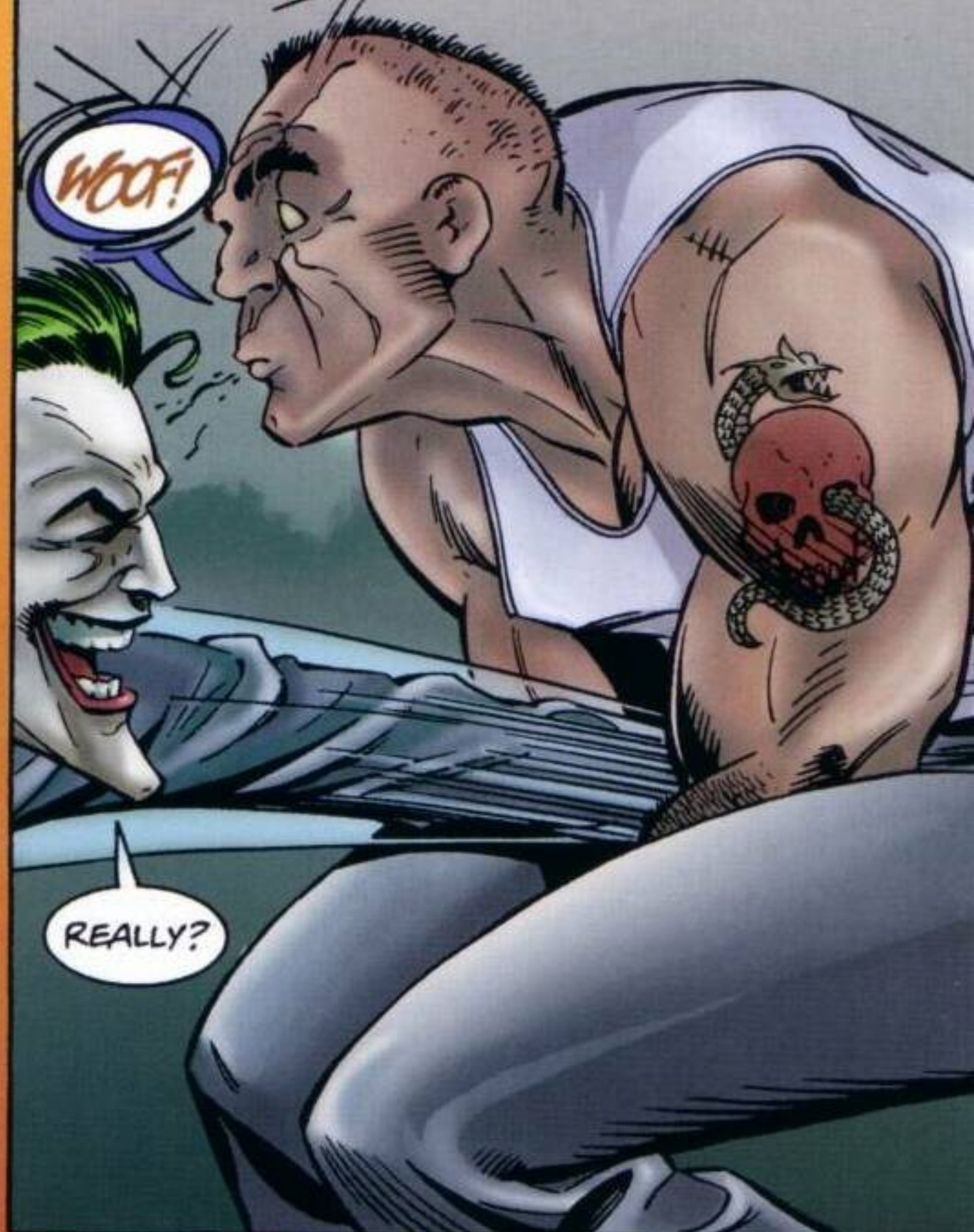


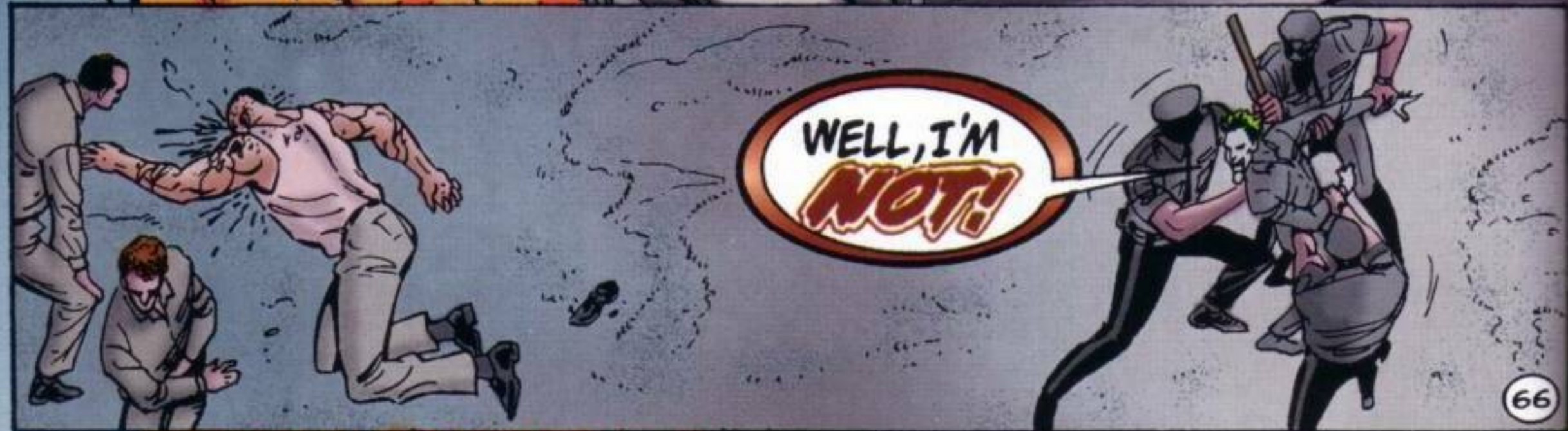
DAMN.

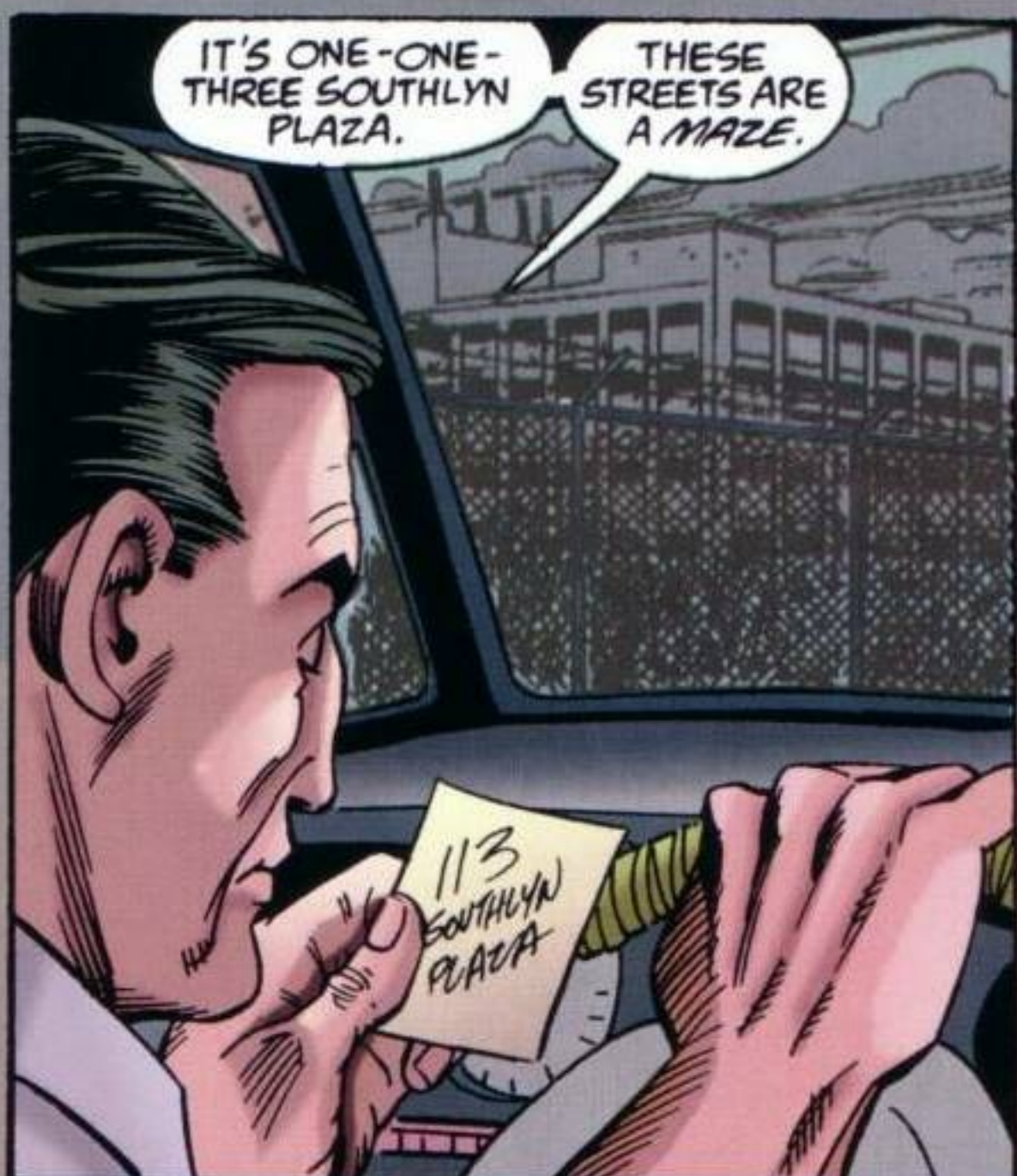


SOMETHING ELSE TO WORRY ABOUT.

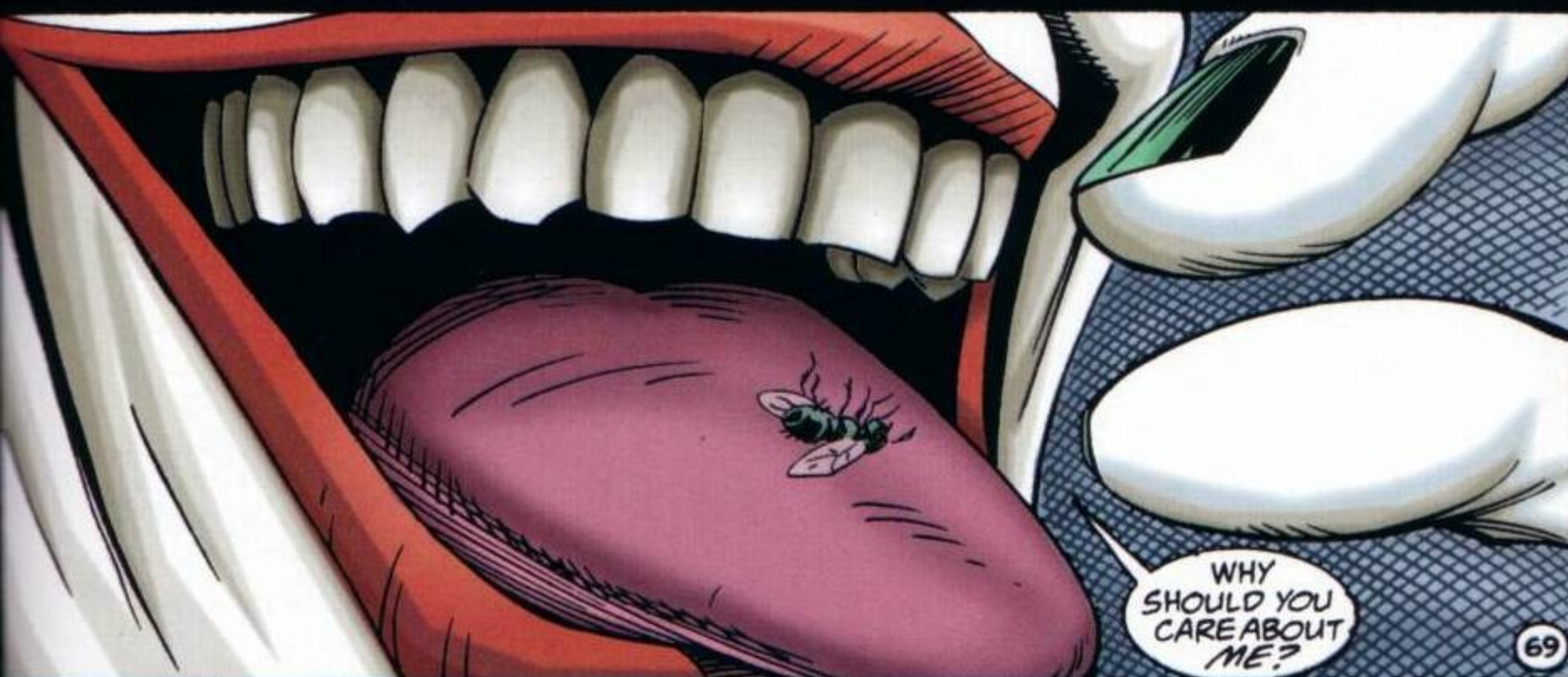














I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
YOU.

I CARE
ABOUT
JUSTICE.

JUSTICE.

JUST US.

SHOW
YOURSELF TO
THE DOOR, OLD
FRIEND.



THAT'S THE MISTAKE
WE'RE MAKING.

GOATHAM'S
BROKE. YOU CAN'T
SQUEEZE BLOOD
FROM A STONE.

THEY EVEN
MOVED UP
JOKER'S DEATH
DATE TO SAVE
ON THAT CRAZY
LAWSUIT OF HIS.



WE SHOULD THINK
ABOUT STARTING A
CAMPAIGN AGAINST
A CORPORATION.

SOME OF
THESE BILLS ARE
WAY PAST DUE,
HON. YOU EVER
THINK OF PAYING
THEM?

LET 'EM
HOWL,
BABY.



WHEN ZESTI PAYS OFF,
WE'LL BE IN THE ISLANDS
WITH A FAT WAD.

WELL,
UNTIL THEN
I'D LIKE TO
KEEP THE
LIGHTS ON.

I'M
GONNA SEND
IN A FEW
PAYMENTS.

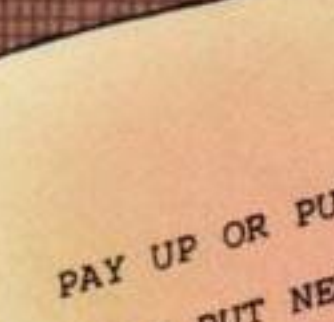


MIGHT
AS WELL USE
THESE UP.



I'LL GO
IN THE OTHER
ROOM WHERE
I WON'T BOTHER
YOU.

THE
PAYOFF'S
COMING, BABY.
I CAN FEEL
IT.

A hand holding a sign with a threatening message. The sign is yellow and tilted, with black text that reads: "PAY UP OR PUT UP.
I'LL PUT NEW LIFE
IN YOUR OLDEST SLOGAN--
A ZESTI AND A SMILE!"
TWO MILLION OR WATCH
YOUR PROFITS FIZZLE." The background is a dark, textured surface.

PAY UP OR PUT UP.
I'LL PUT NEW LIFE
IN YOUR OLDEST SLOGAN--
A ZESTI AND A SMILE!"
TWO MILLION OR WATCH
YOUR PROFITS FIZZLE.

A comic book panel featuring a man with a goatee and a light blue jacket, smiling and holding up a yellow envelope. A speech bubble above him says "OH YEAH." He is sitting at a desk with a computer monitor and keyboard.

BABY?

I NEED THOSE STAMPS WE USED SO--

A close-up comic book panel. On the left, a man with a wide, toothy grin and a speech bubble saying "Haha..." is shown. On the right, a woman's face is partially visible, looking at him. The background is a bright yellow with radiating lines.







YOUR SUSPECT IS AN OPPORTUNIST. HE KNEW THE JOKER WELL ENOUGH TO COPYCAT RANSOM DEMANDS.

AND YOU SAID HE'S GOT THE MOTIVATION.



AND THIS PROVES THE JOKER'S GUILT?

IT WOULD SEEM TO. PUT IT TO REST, BATMAN.

THE JOKER HAS ONLY TWO DAYS.



TO HELL WITH HIM.

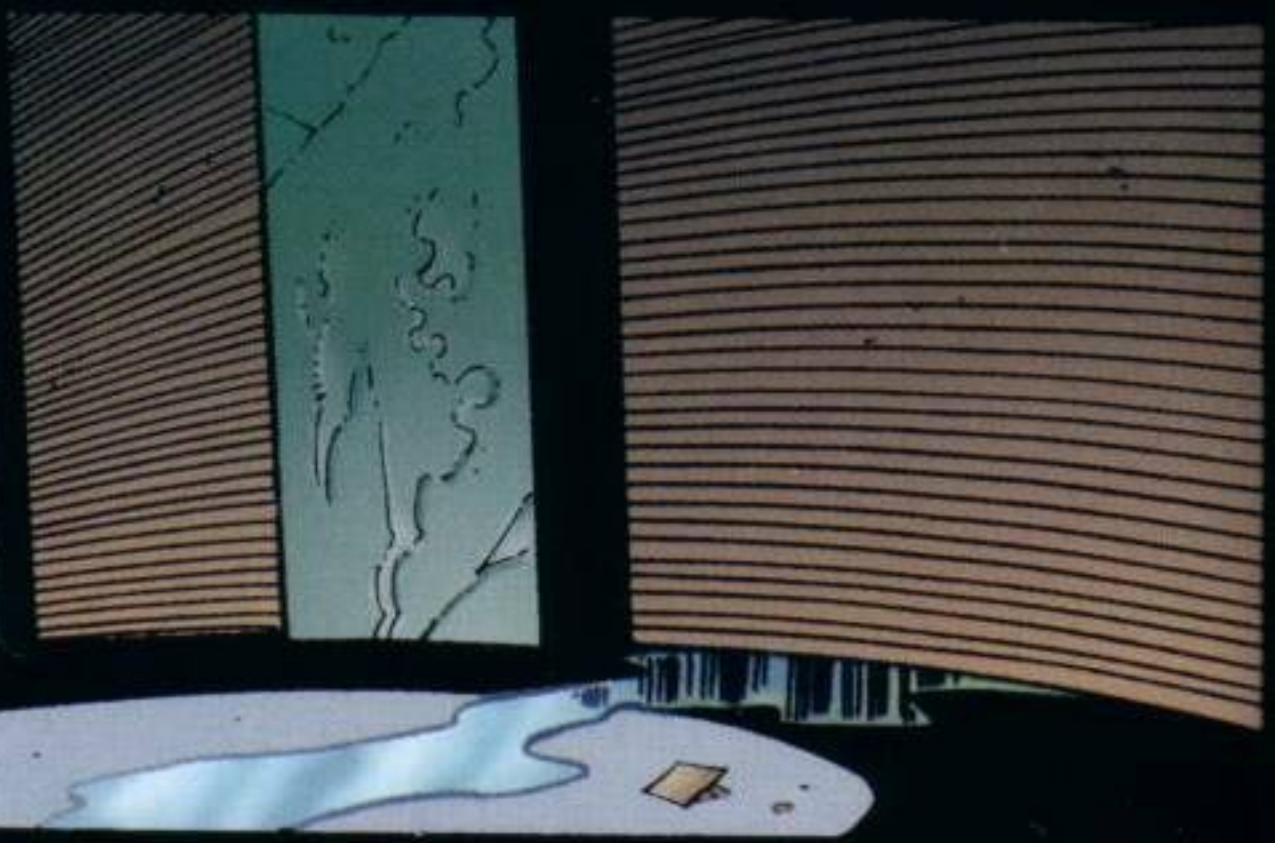
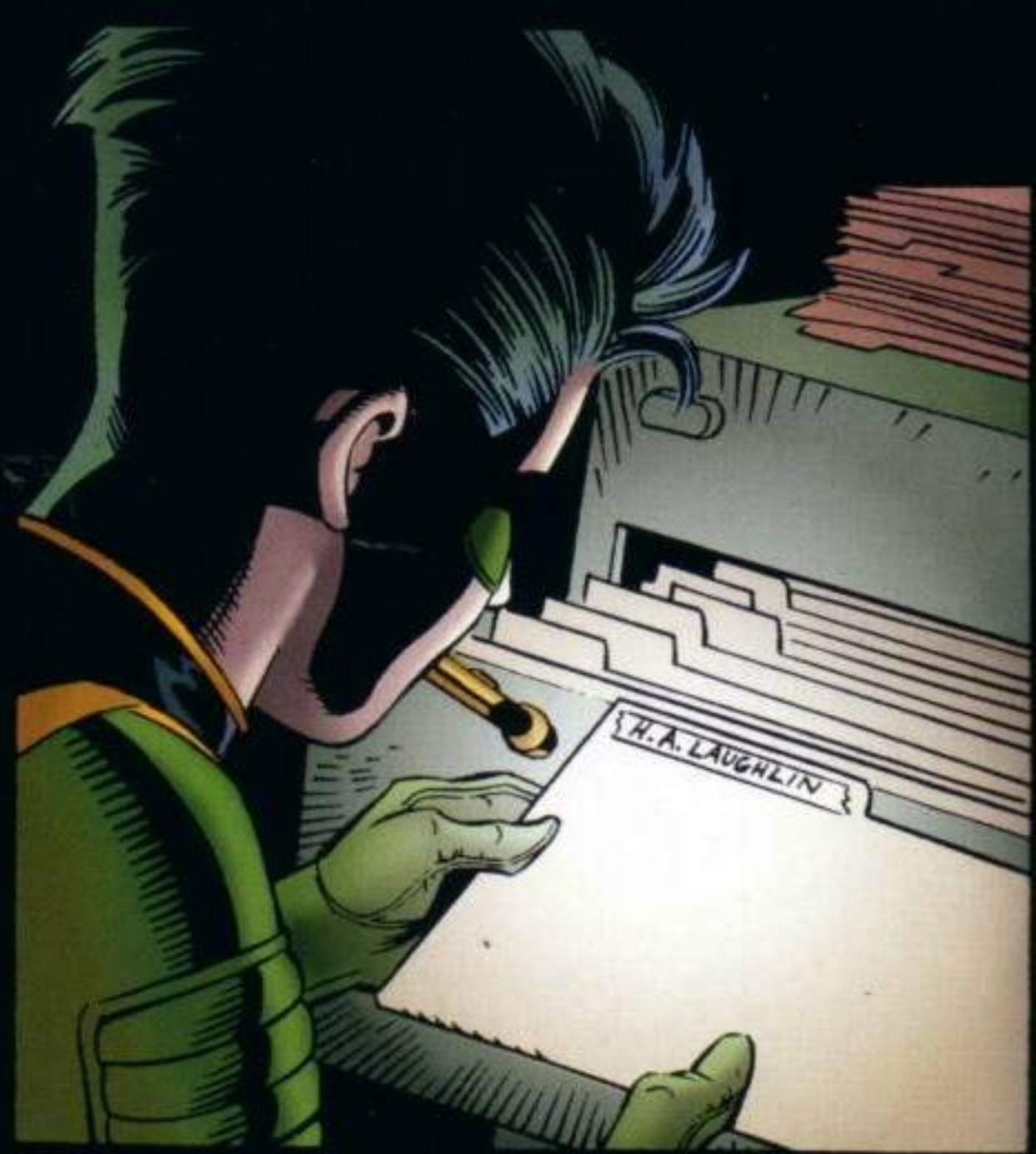
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME. THERE'S NO ELEVENTH-HOUR STAY FOR THAT MADMAN.



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, JIM. GOD KNOWS I DO.

BUT I HAVE TO KNOW.







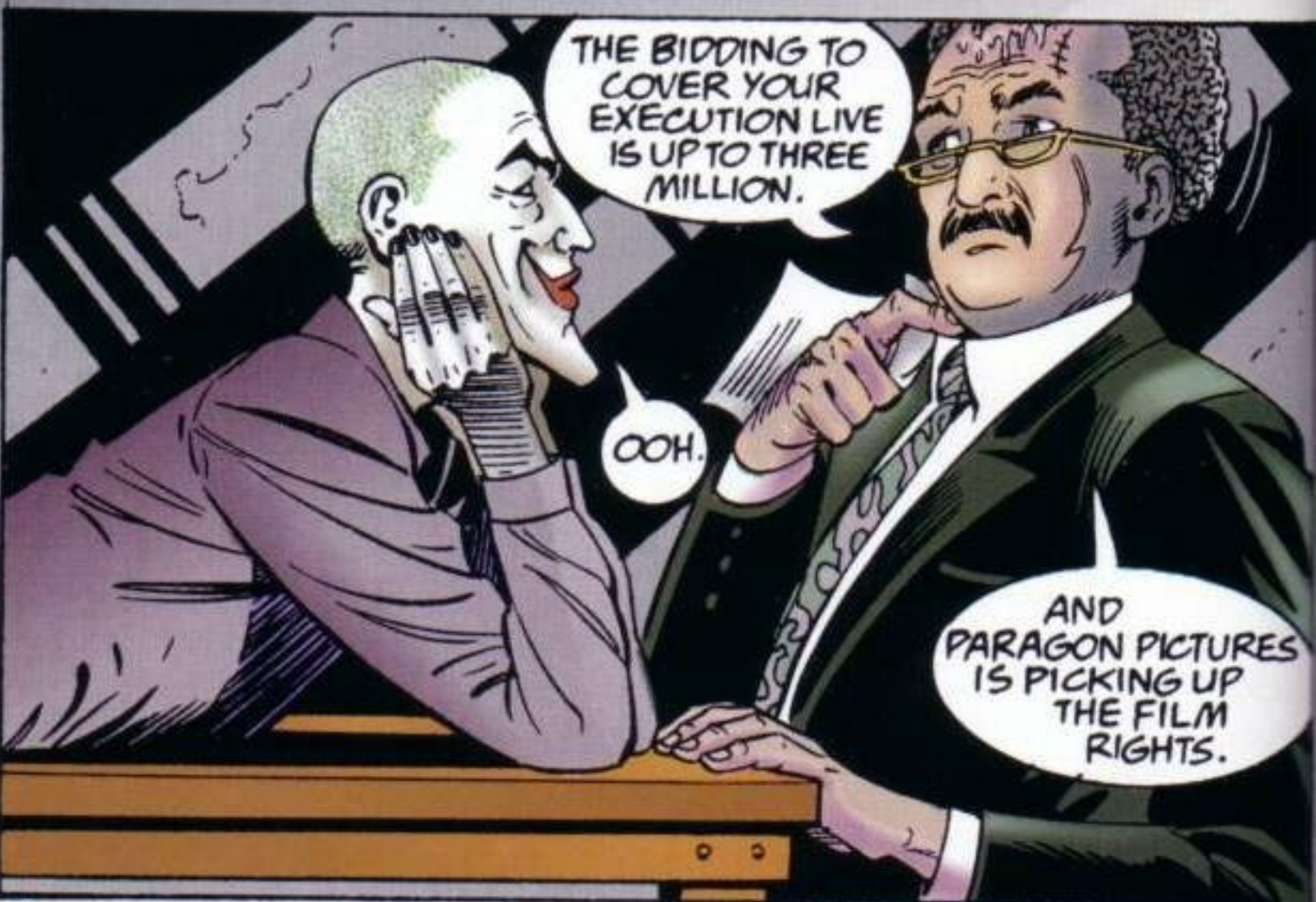
I GOT
YOU EVERYTHING
YOU WANT.

AND THE
LAWSUIT?



OBSVIOUSLY YOU'LL NEVER COLLECT,
BUT IT MADE THEM RACE YOU TO
THE CHAIR IN RECORD TIME.

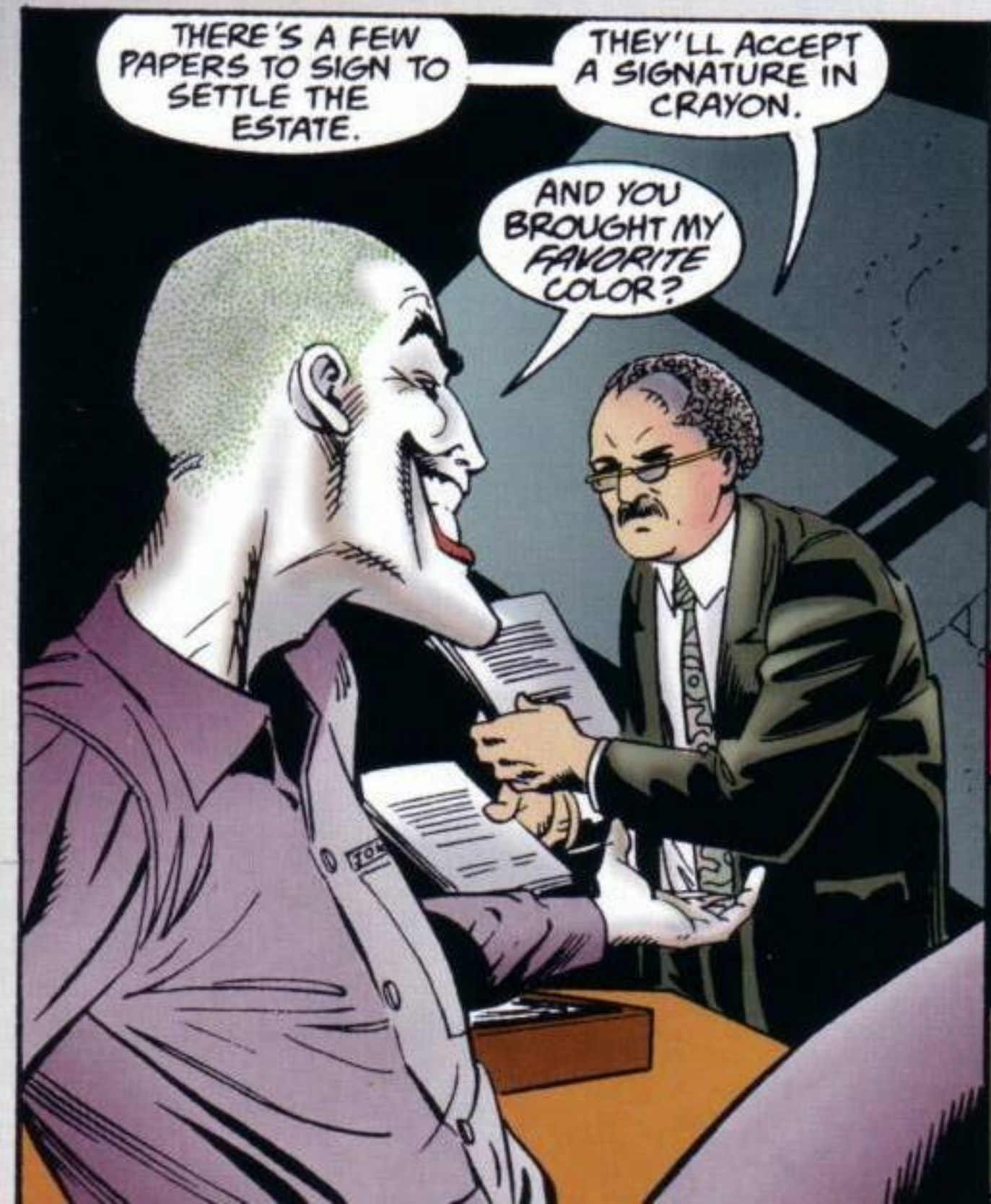
AND HOW
ARE NEGOTIATIONS
GOING FROM THE
FOURTH
ESTATE?



THE BIDDING TO
COVER YOUR
EXECUTION LIVE
IS UP TO THREE
MILLION.

OOH.

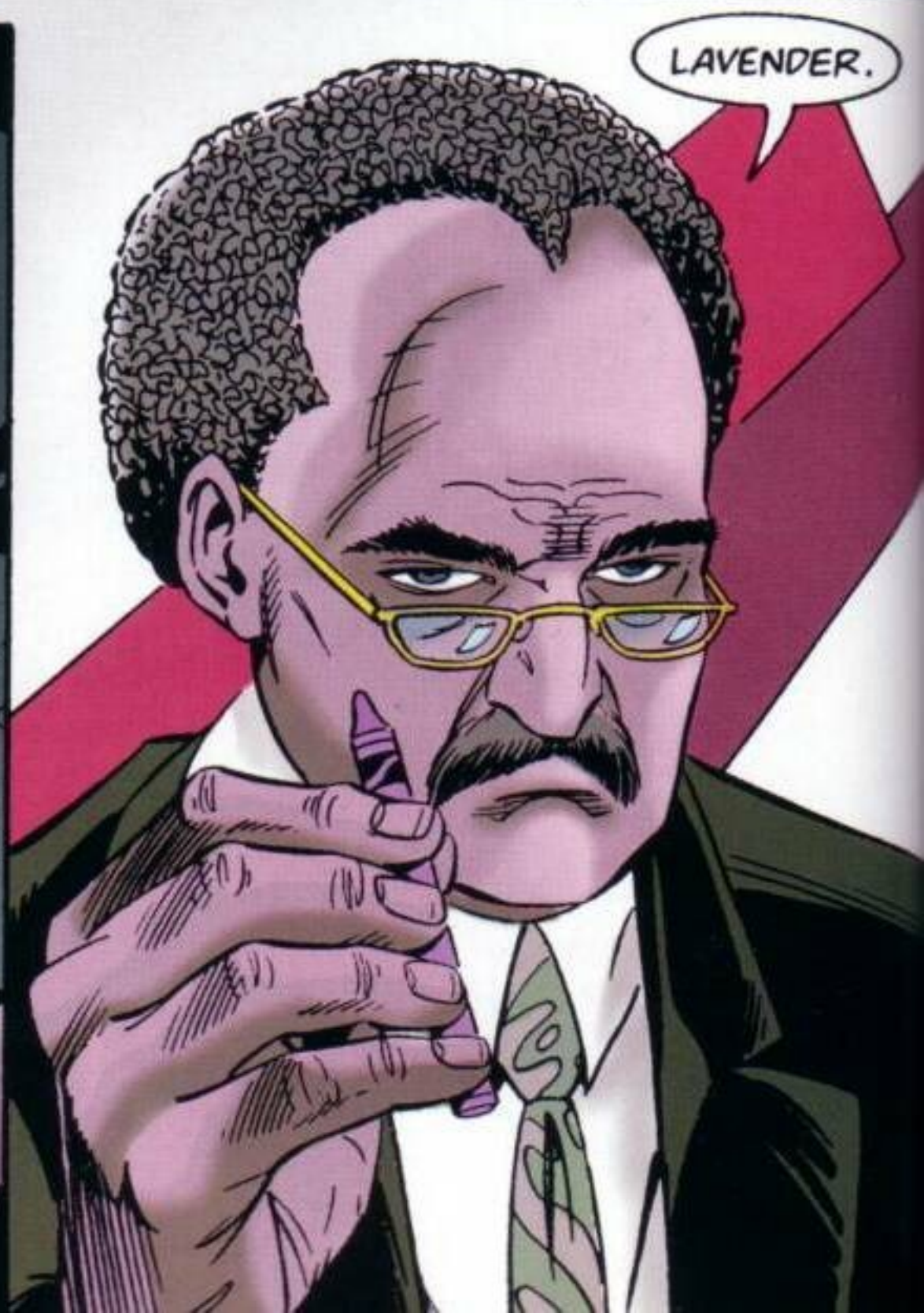
AND
PARAGON PICTURES
IS PICKING UP
THE FILM
RIGHTS.



THERE'S A FEW
PAPERS TO SIGN TO
SETTLE THE
ESTATE.

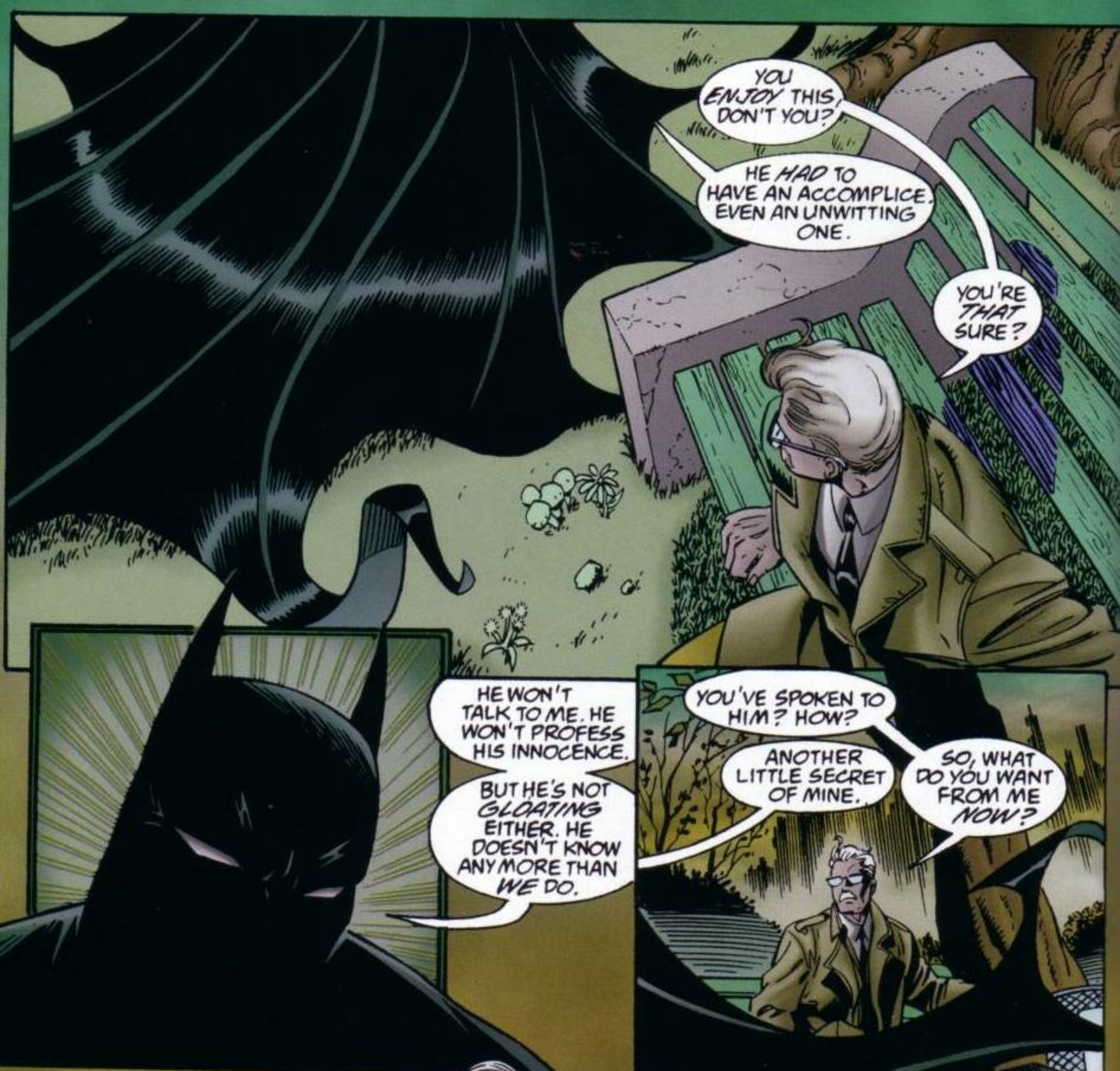
THEY'LL ACCEPT
A SIGNATURE IN
CRAYON.

AND YOU
BROUGHT MY
FAVORITE
COLOR?



LAVENDER.





YOU ENJOY THIS, DON'T YOU?

HE HAD TO HAVE AN ACCOMPLICE, EVEN AN UNWITTING ONE.

YOU'RE THAT SURE?

HE WON'T TALK TO ME. HE WON'T PROFESS HIS INNOCENCE.

BUT HE'S NOT GLOATING EITHER. HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN WE DO.

YOU'VE SPOKEN TO HIM? HOW?

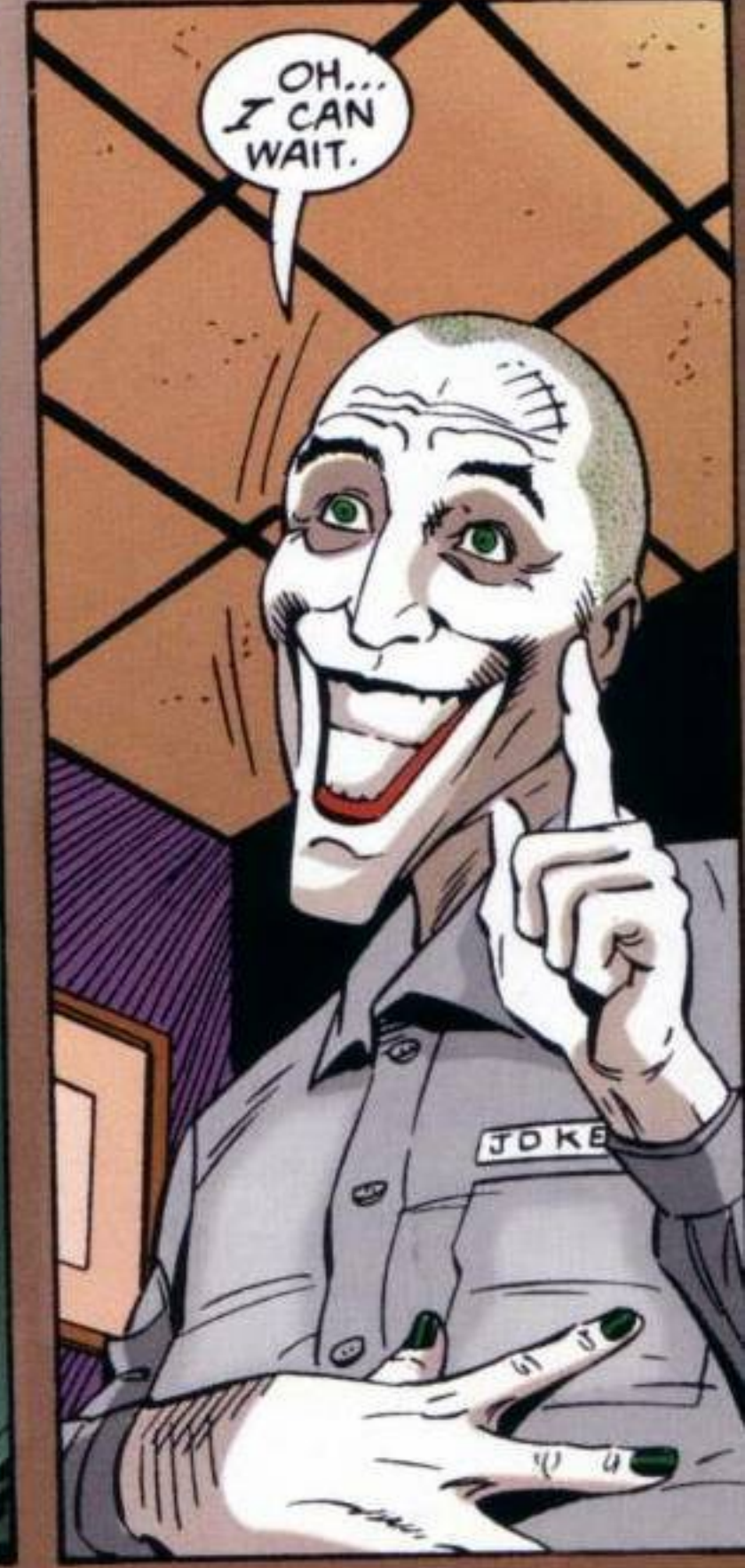
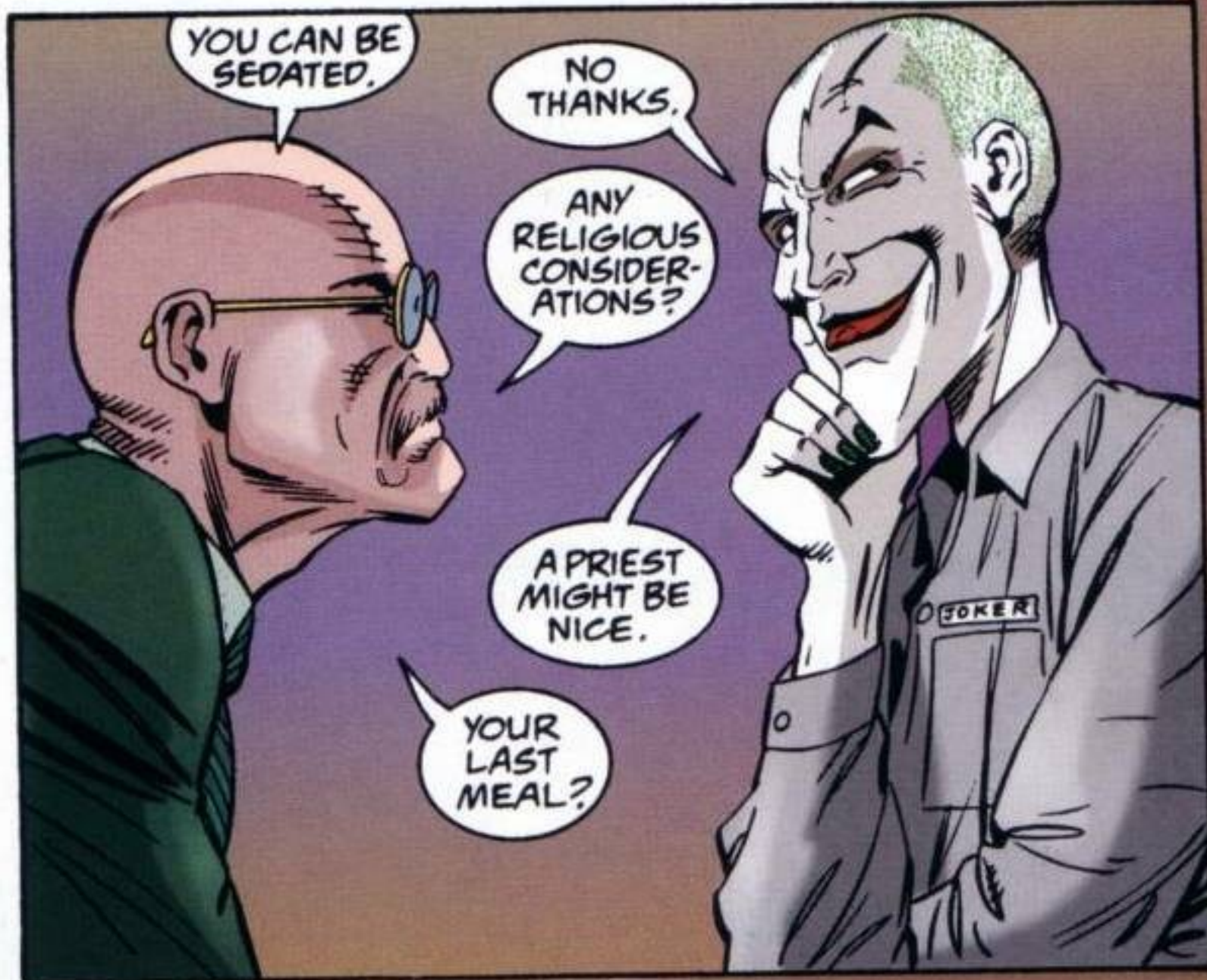
ANOTHER LITTLE SECRET OF MINE.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME NOW?

THE NAMES OF ANY EMPLOYEES CONNECTED TO THE STORAGE WAREHOUSE.

A FOOL'S ERRAND.

IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.









GUARDS!



FOR GOD'S SAKE!

I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A BAD IDEA. THEY BEEN IN THERE FOR HOURS.



HAVE MERCY! I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!

SHUT UP AND HELP ME GET HIM OUT!



THANK THE LORD YOU'RE HERE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, FATHER? WHAT'S HE DOING TO YOU?

CONFESSING!



AND HE DIDN'T DIE ALL AT ONCE. IT WAS HOURS BEFORE THE SCREAMING STOPPED.

I ALMOST DIDN'T GET TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT. THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I'D USED CRUSHED GLASS...



WHUHH?



FRAN
BEAUDREAU.

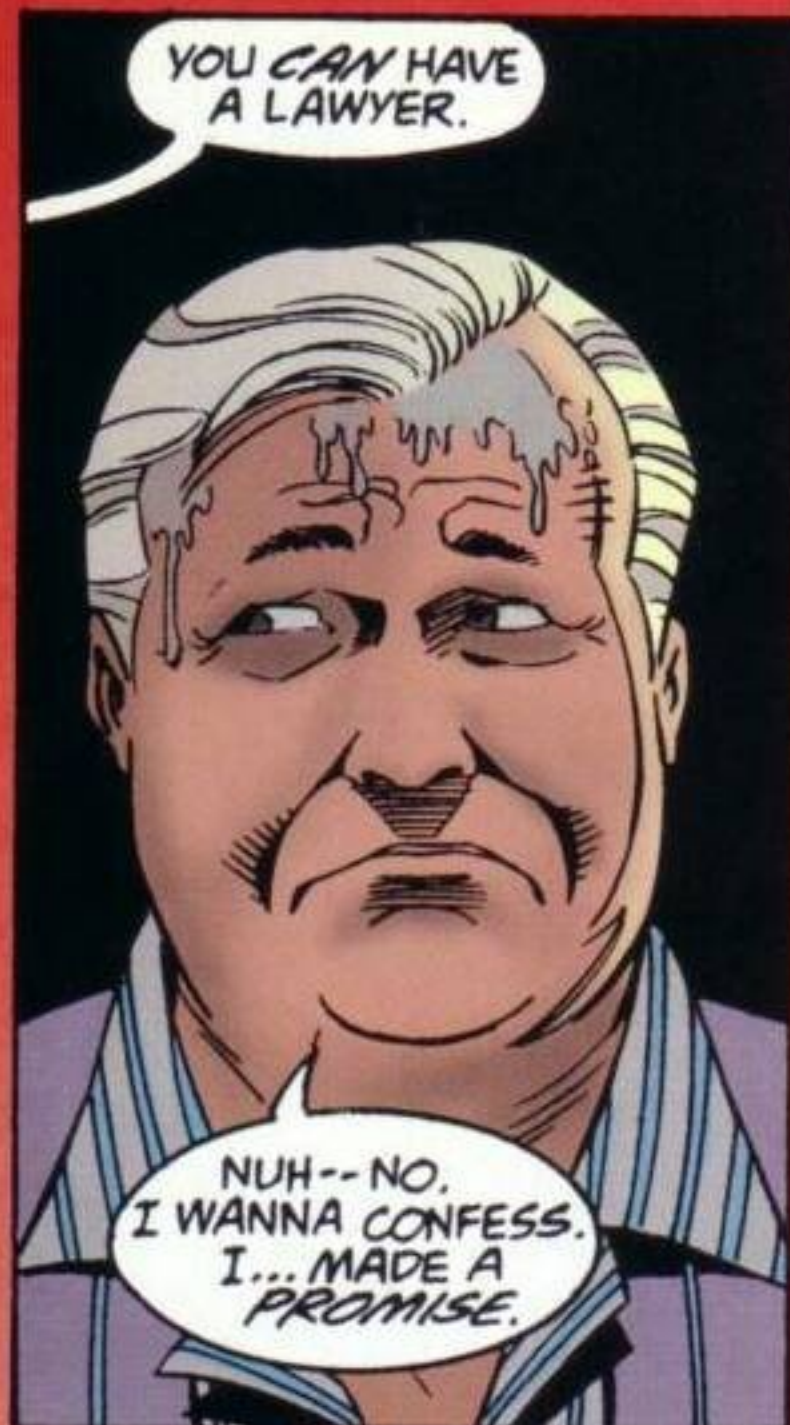
GET
DOWN TO
MAJOR CRIMES
RIGHT AWAY,
MS
BEAUDREAU.

WHO IS
THIS? I'M
NOT CATCHING
TONIGHT.



THIS
IS JAMES
GORDON.

WE'VE GOT
SOMEBODY HERE
THAT WANTS TO
TELL YOU A
STORY.



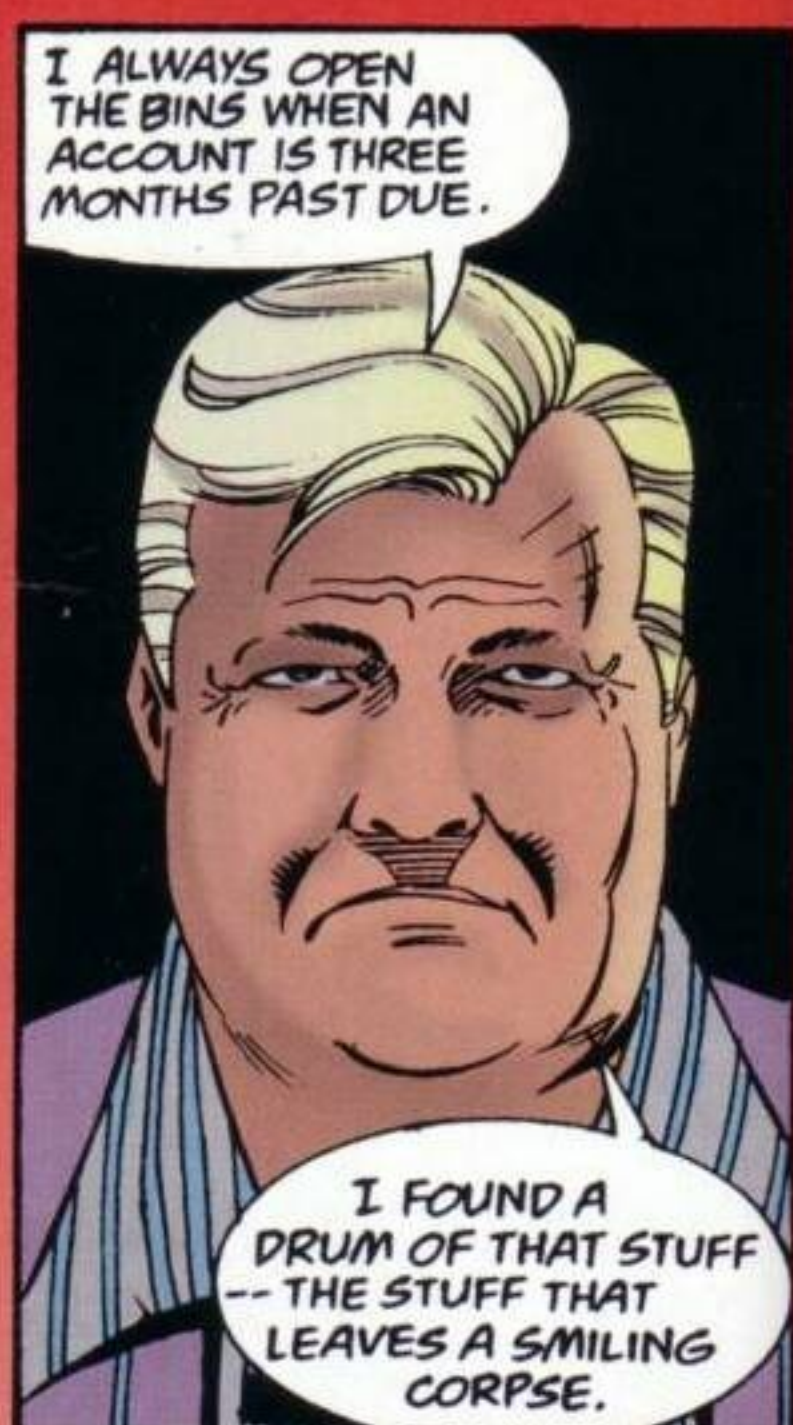
YOU CAN HAVE A LAWYER.

NUH--NO. I WANNA CONFESS. I... MADE A PROMISE.



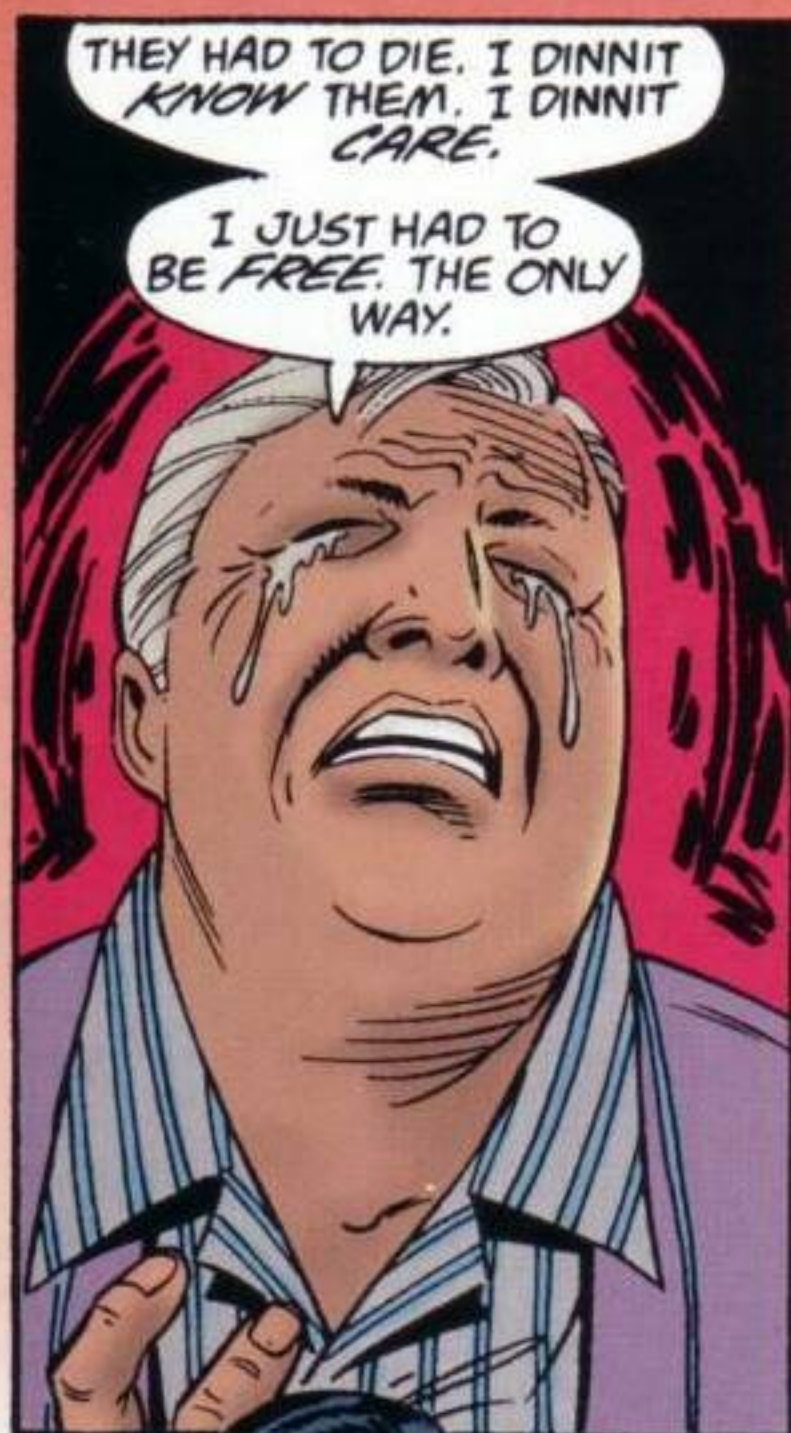
SHE'D NEVER SHUT UP. I COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING RIGHT.

I JUST WANTED TO SHUT HER UP.



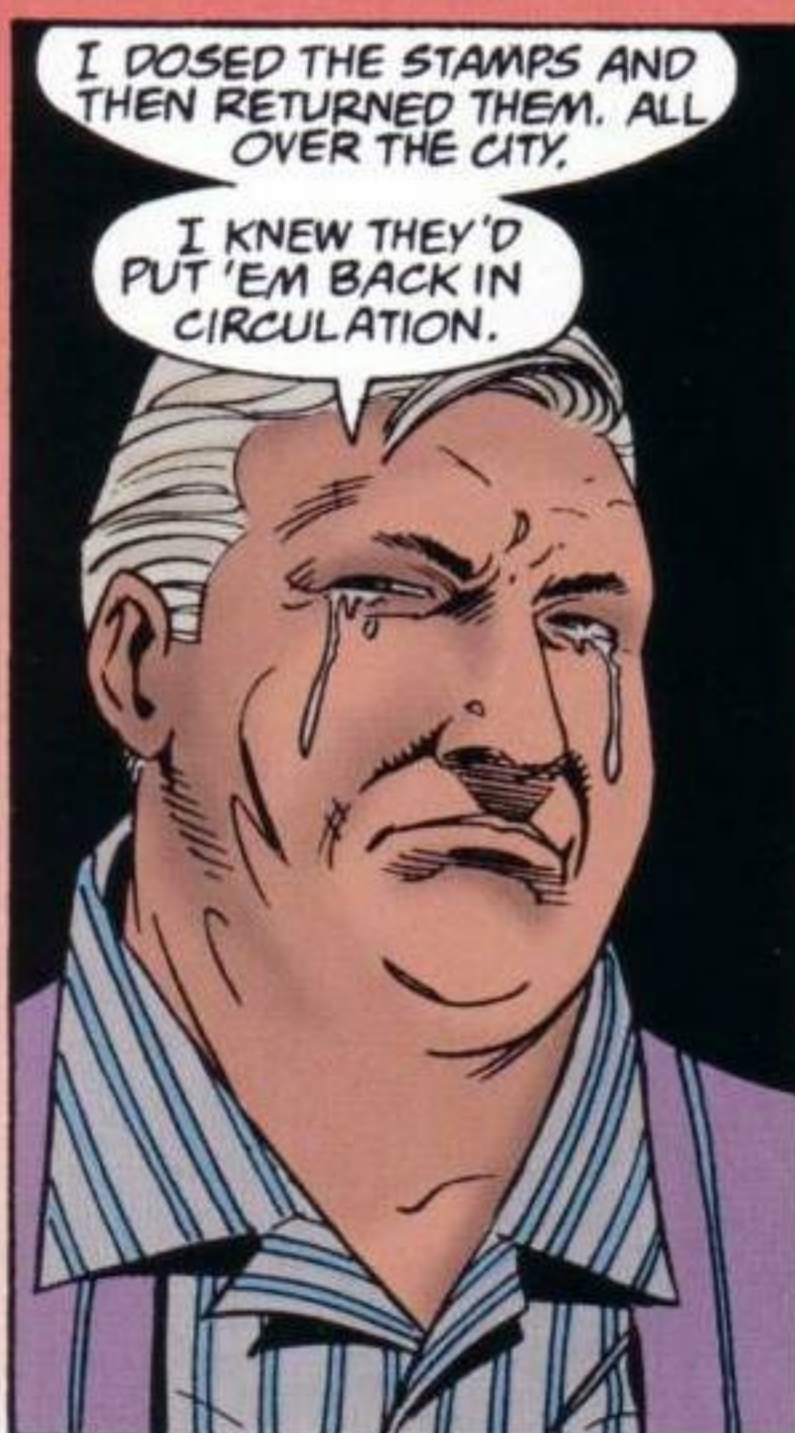
I ALWAYS OPEN THE BINS WHEN AN ACCOUNT IS THREE MONTHS PAST DUE.

I FOUND A DRUM OF THAT STUFF -- THE STUFF THAT LEAVES A SMILING CORPSE.



THEY HAD TO DIE. I DINNIT KNOW THEM. I DINNIT CARE.

I JUST HAD TO BE FREE. THE ONLY WAY.



I DOSED THE STAMPS AND THEN RETURNED THEM. ALL OVER THE CITY.

I KNEW THEY'D PUT 'EM BACK IN CIRCULATION.



I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH ME. DO WHATEVER YOU GOT TO.



YOU OKAY, FRAN?



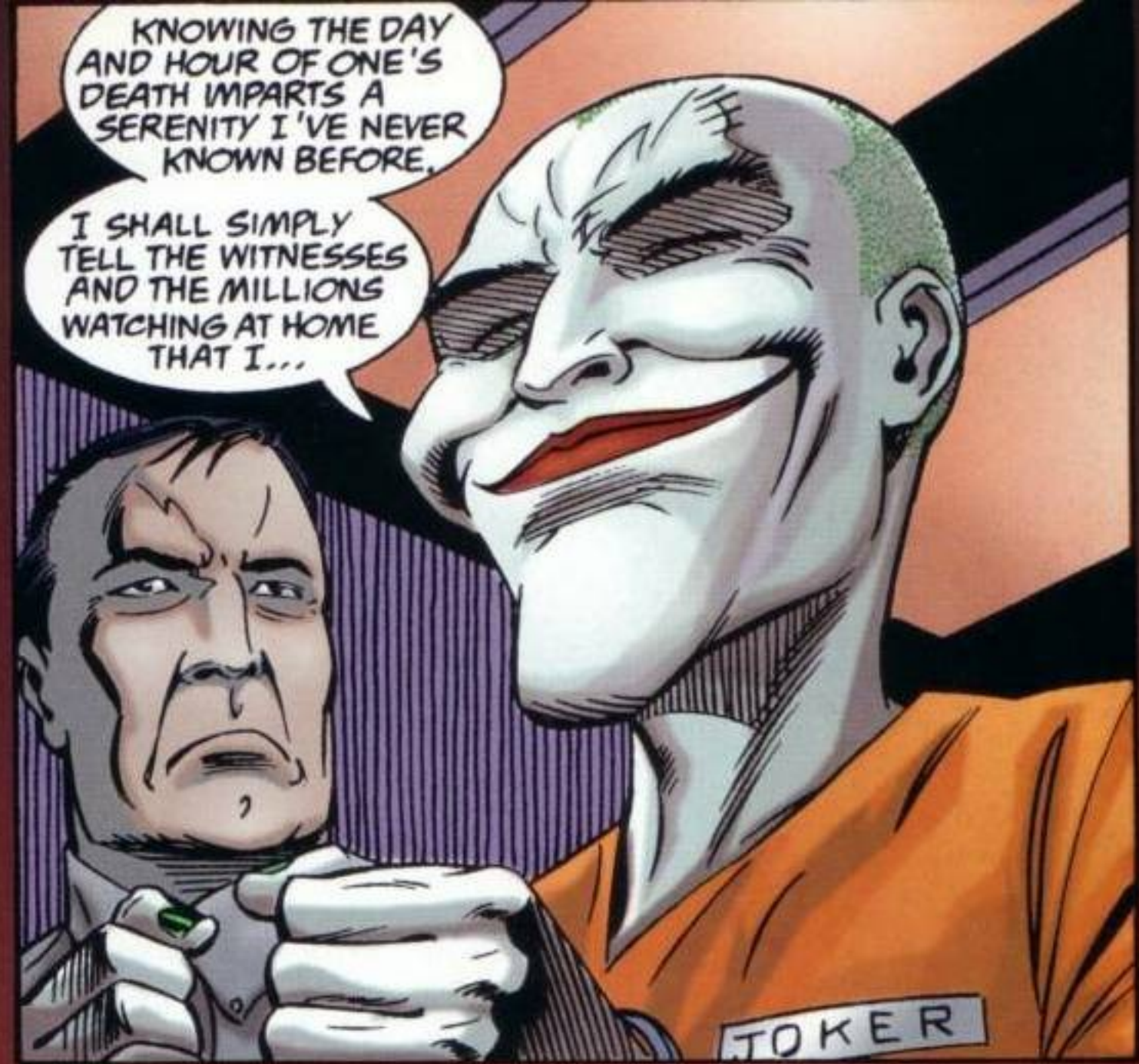
I DON'T KNOW HOW I FEEL.

SICK IS HOW I FEEL.



YOU'LL HAVE TIME FOR A LAST STATEMENT, JOKER. DON'T EVEN THINK OF JERKING US AROUND.

WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.



KNOWING THE DAY AND HOUR OF ONE'S DEATH IMPARTS A SERENITY I'VE NEVER KNOWN BEFORE.

I SHALL SIMPLY TELL THE WITNESSES AND THE MILLIONS WATCHING AT HOME THAT I...

JOKER



OH, DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU?

THE GOVERNOR TURNED DOWN THE NETWORK'S REQUEST TO TELEVISIONIZE YOUR EXECUTION.

WHAAAAA-



RIIING

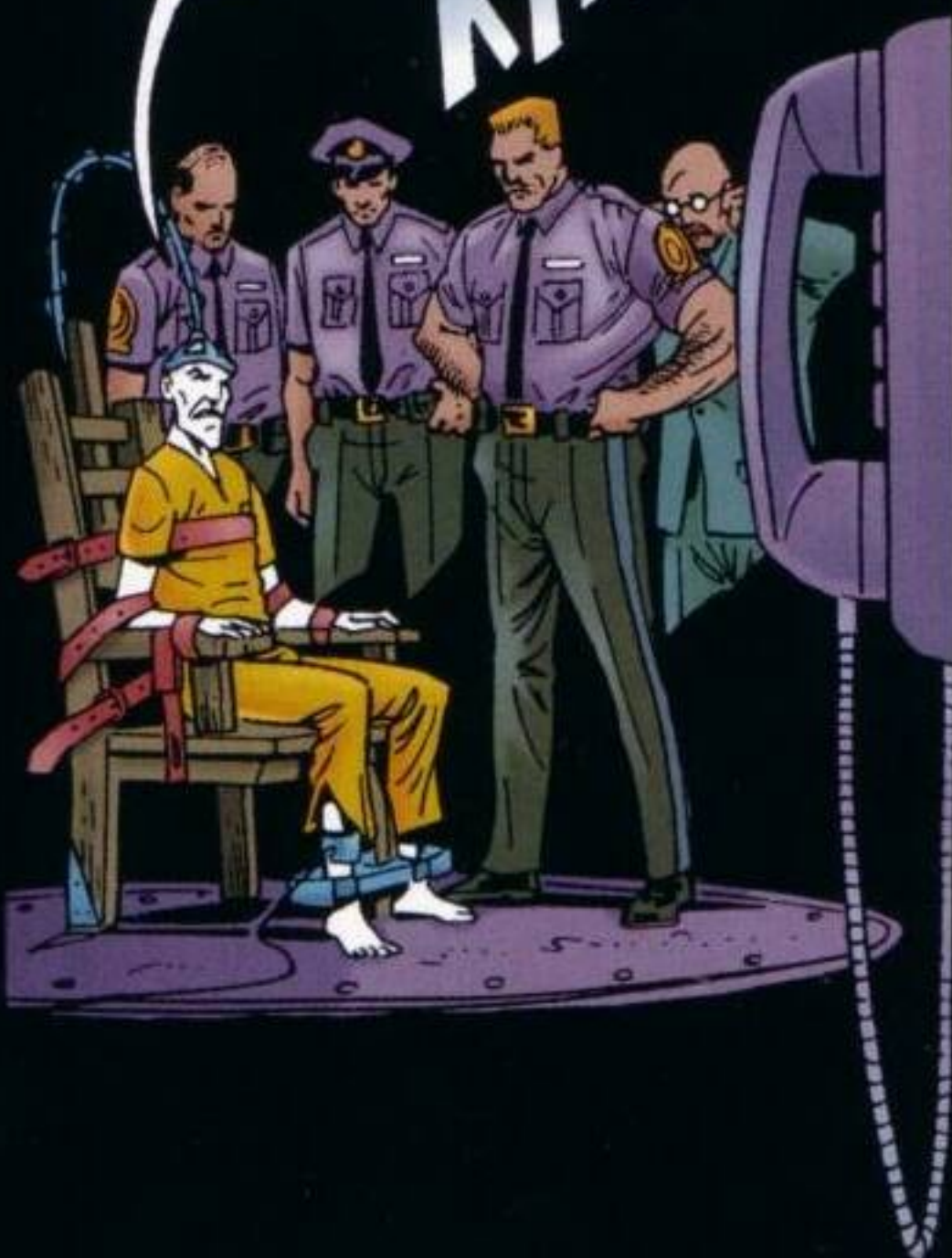


RIIING



WOULD
SOMEBODY
PLEASE--

RIIING



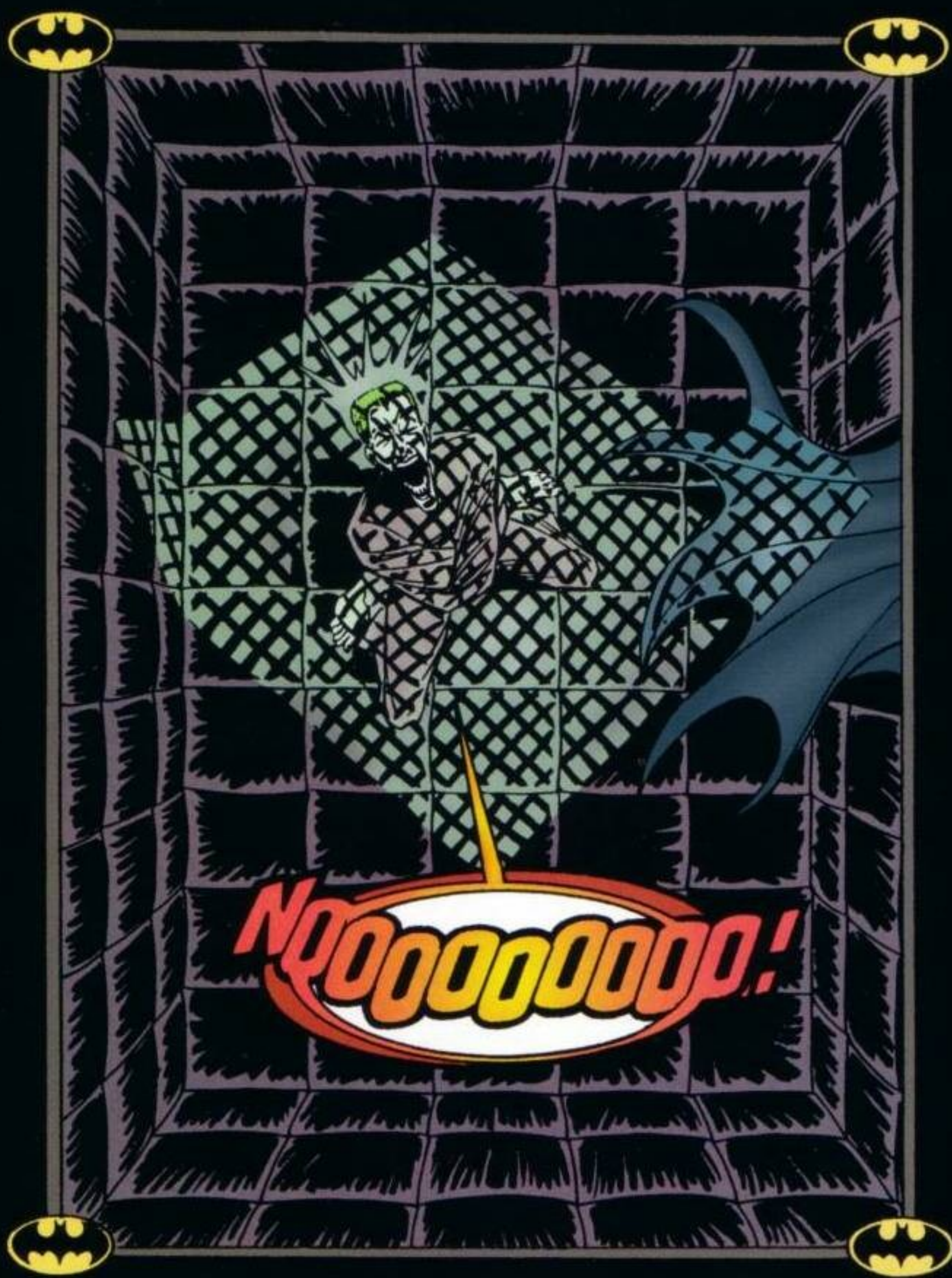
--ANSWER
THAT
PHONE!



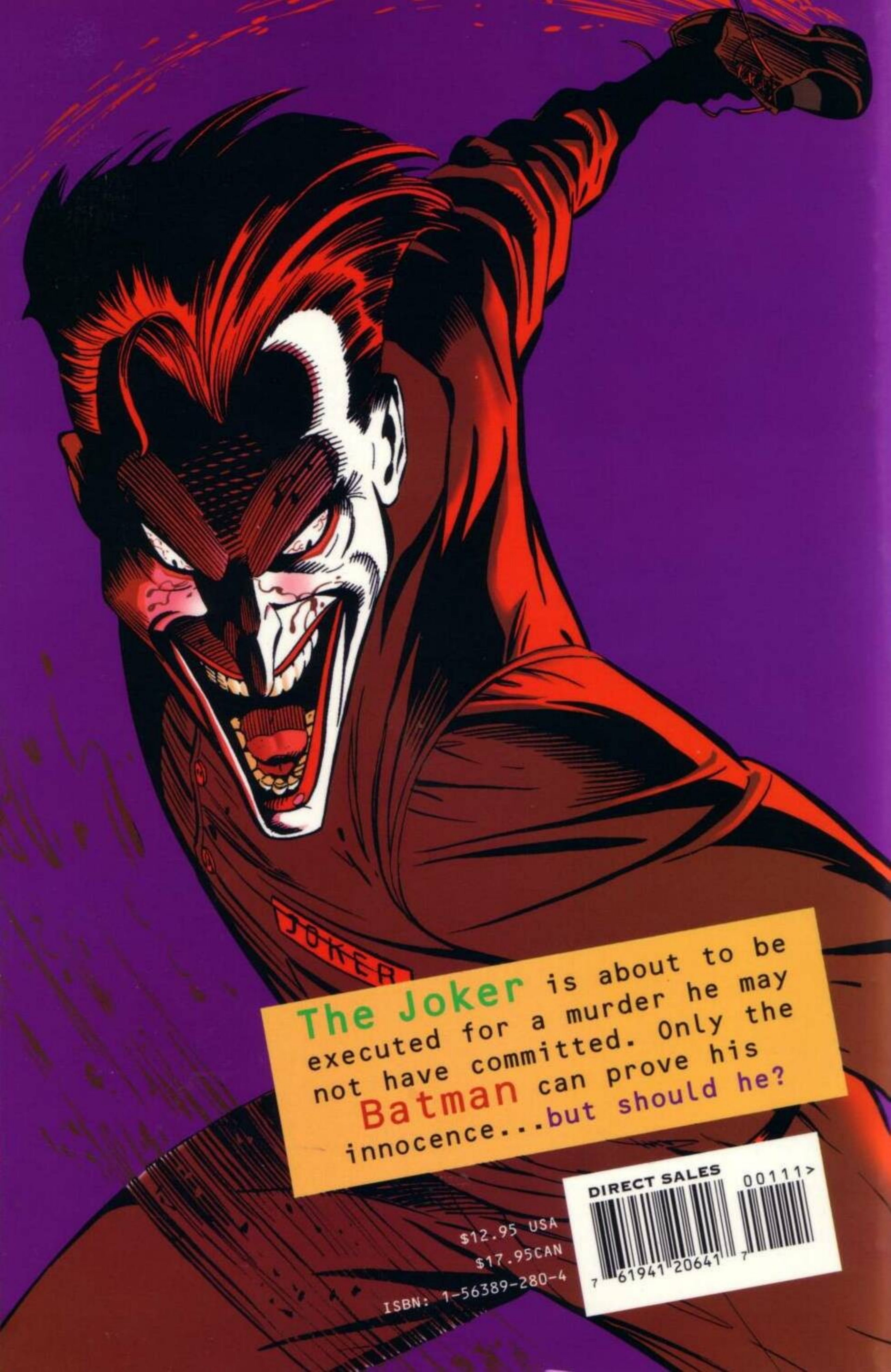












The Joker is about to be
executed for a murder he may
not have committed. Only the
Batman can prove his
innocence...but should he?

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