



BATMAN

by *STARLIN,*
APARO &
DeCARLO

429
JAN 89
U.S. 75¢
CAN \$1.00



Book Four
of Four

a Death in the Family

Robin is dead,
murdered by
the Joker.

And the Batman
can do nothing
about it.

Or can he?

Mignola



A DEATH in the FAMILY

CHAPTER 6

HIS NAME'S RALPH BUNDY, A CIA AGENT. THE PRESIDENT SENT HIM TO TALK TO ME. I ALREADY KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY, BUT I LISTEN ANYWAY.

IT'S LIKE THIS, BATMAN.

YOU TAKE OUT THE JOKER AND IT'S GOING TO CAUSE A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN.

ANOTHER ARMS FOR HOSTAGES DEAL?

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BATMAN...

BRUCE...



I READ ON THE TELEX ABOUT YOUR WARD, JASON TODD, BEING KILLED IN AN ETHIOPIAN WAREHOUSE FIRE.

WAS HE ROBIN?



YES.



I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

HE SEEMED LIKE A REALLY NICE KID.



HE WAS.



THE JOKER MURDERED HIM.

JASON WAS THE BEST.



YOU HAVE PROOF?

A DEATH BED STATEMENT BY HIS MOTHER. GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME IF NOT A COURT OF LAW.



BUT THE JOKER'S IMMUNIZED FROM RETRIBUTION FOR THAT AND ANY OTHER CRIME THAT HE'S EVER COMMITTED.



THAT'S THE LAW, NOT JUSTICE.

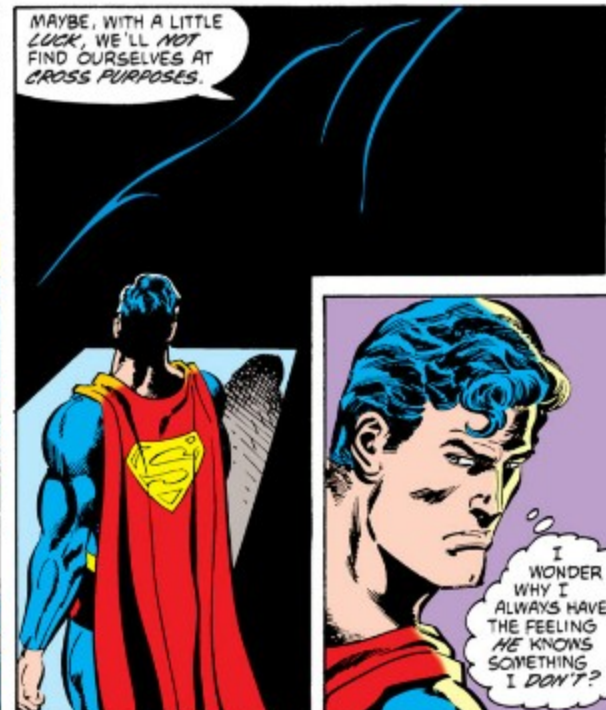
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, BRUCE.



YOU CAN'T PUT YOUR THIRST FOR VENGEANCE ABOVE YOUR COUNTRY'S BEST INTERESTS.

SPARE ME YOUR BOY SCOUT SENTIMENTALITIES, KENT.

TO USE YOUR OWN WORDS... I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO.



MAYBE, WITH A LITTLE LUCK, WE'LL NOT FIND OURSELVES AT CROSS PURPOSES.

I WONDER WHY I ALWAYS HAVE THE FEELING HE KNOWS SOMETHING I DON'T?



BACK IN MY HOTEL ROOM, I SEE WHAT MY FEDERAL CONTACTS CAN DO ABOUT GETTING ME INTO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS BRUCE WAYNE.



MY REPUTATION AS A PLAYBOY DILETTANTE KEEPS ME FROM OBTAINING A POSITION AS A DELEGATE.

BUT THEY MANAGE TO SQUEEZE ME IN AS AN UNOFFICIAL OBSERVER.



NOW I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON THE JOKER WITHOUT MAKING THE STATE DEPARTMENT NERVOUS.

THE FOOLS.



LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT.

THE FINAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE JOKER AND MYSELF.

GUESS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD SOMEDAY COME TO THIS.



ONE OF US IS GOING TO DIE. BUT IS THAT REALLY WHAT I WANT TO SEE HAPPEN?

THE MAN'S HOPELESSLY INSANE. HOW CAN I HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE EVEN FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO JASON?



OR AM I JUST LOOKING FOR A COP-OUT?

ADMIT IT, WAYNE. THE JOKER'S COME CLOSE TO FINISHING YOU OFF DOZENS OF TIMES. TOO CLOSE.



YOU'RE STILL NOT BACK TO TOTAL EFFICIENCY AFTER THAT ENCOUNTER YOU HAD WITH DEACON BLACK-FIRE.



YOU'RE TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED -- NOT THINKING STRAIGHT.

MAYBE IT'D BE BEST TO LET SUPERMAN HANDLE THIS?



THAT WAY YOU WON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.



BUT HE MURDERED JASON.



THE LIGHTS ARE STILL BURNING IN THE WINDOWS OF THE IRANIAN MISSION TO THE U.N.

I'M SURE THE AMBASSADOR IS UP. HE'S RUMORED TO BE AN INSOMNIAC.



EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED FOR YOU TO SPEAK BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TOMORROW NIGHT, SIR. WE'RE READY ALSO.

TOMORROW NIGHT?

U.N. SECURITY INSISTED IT BE SO.

THEY FEAR YOU AND ARE LIMITING ACCESS TO YOUR SPEECH. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE GALLERY.



SMART MOVE ON THEIR PART-- NOT THAT IT'LL DO THEM MUCH GOOD.

TOO BAD ABOUT THERE BEING NO AUDIENCE, THOUGH.



I JUST LOVE LARGE DEAD CROWDS.



THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TONIGHT. SWEET DREAMS, ABDUL.

YASSAR, SIR.

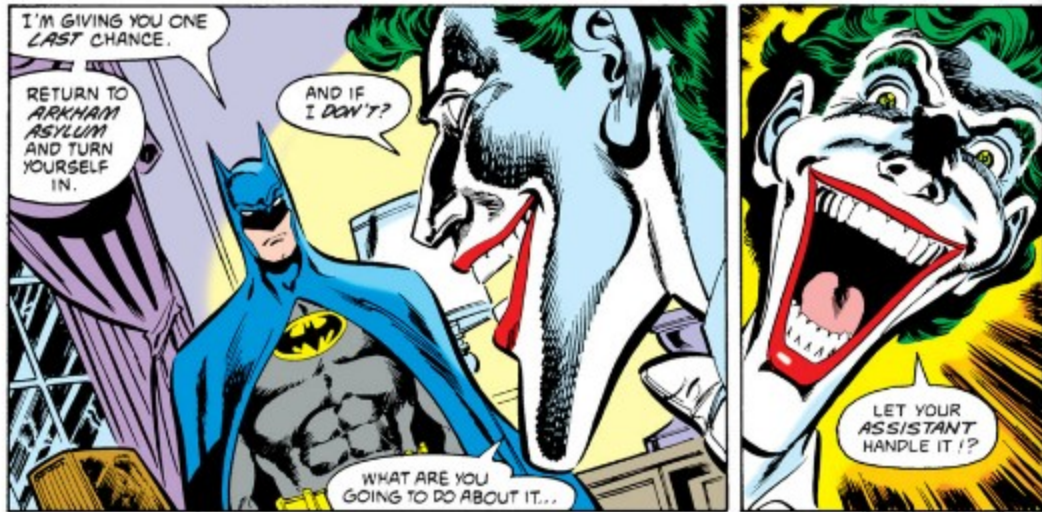
WHATEVER.



YES... LARGE DEAD CROWDS...



DON'T DO IT, JOKER!



I'M GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE.

RETURN TO ARKHAM ASYLUM AND TURN YOURSELF IN.

AND IF I DON'T?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT...

LET YOUR ASSISTANT HANDLE IT!?



I'D HAVE LOVED TO HAVE SEEN YOUR FACE WHEN YOU FOUND WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE BRAT!

SET YOU OFF THE DEEP END, DID IT?

YOU SEE, EVEN A MADMAN CAN ADD 2 PLUS 2...



AND COME UP WITH 5.



OR MAYBE YOU'RE GLAD TO BE RID OF THE LITTLE DARLING?



YOU ALWAYS KNOW EXACTLY THE WRONG THINGS TO SAY, DON'T YOU?



THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME SO SPECIAL.



VERY WELL.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY.



I'LL BE SEEING YOU AROUND.

BY THE WAY, THANKS

HUH?



THANKS?!

THANKS FOR WHAT?



UP UNTIL NOW I WASN'T ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO JASON.

YOUR CONFIRMING IT MAKES WHAT I HAVE TO DO A LOT EASIER.



SO THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, HEY?



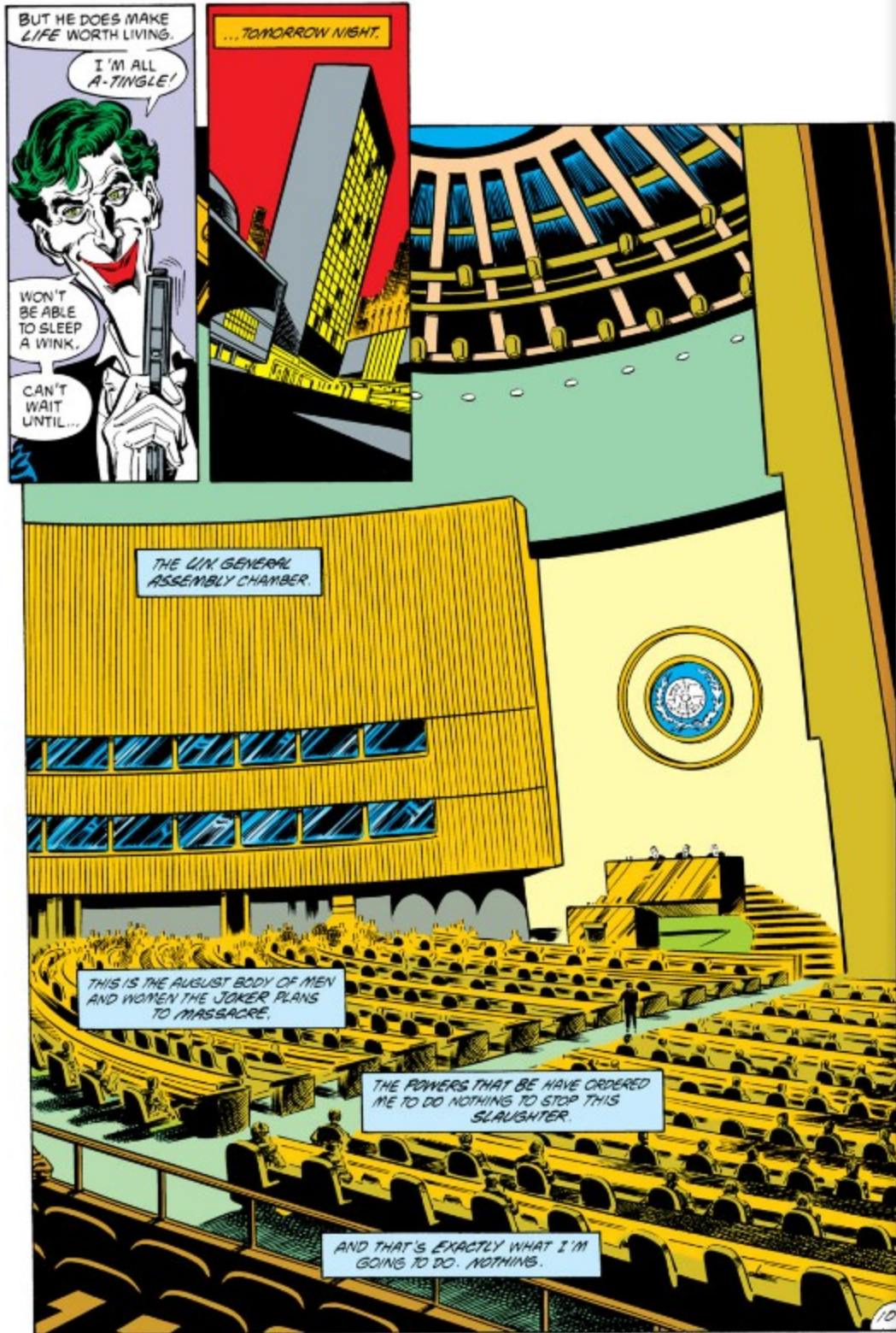
WANT TO PLAY TOUGH, DO WE?

OKAY, LET'S MAMBO!!



GONE!

I HATE IT WHEN HE DOES THAT.





HE'S STOPPED!!

WHAT'S HE STARING AT?

DOES HE RECOGNIZE ME? DOES HE KNOW WHO I AM?



I MAY NEVER KNOW, I'M FEELING A TERRIBLE SENSE OF FINALITY...

WE'VE BEEN LINKED TO EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG, NEITHER OF US TRULY UNDERSTANDING THE BOND.



HAHAHAHA



I SHOULD HAVE TERMINATED HIS VILE EXISTENCE YEARS AGO, BUT I DIDN'T.

I COULDN'T. HIS INSANITY GAINED HIM A STAY OF EXECUTION.



BUT NO LONGER.

HE'S BECOME TOO DANGEROUS, HIS CRIMES TOO HEINOUS.

JASON'S DEAD.



IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE TONIGHT.



I AM PROUD TO SPEAK FOR THE GREAT ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN.



THAT COUNTRY'S CURRENT LEADERS AND I HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.



INSANITY AND A GREAT LOVE OF FISH.



BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE ALSO SHARE A MUTUAL PROBLEM.



WE GET NO RESPECT.



EVERYONE THINKS OF IRAN AS THE HOME OF THE TERRORIST ZEALOT!



THEY SAY EVEN WORSE THINGS ABOUT ME, WOULD YOU BELIEVE?



WE'VE BOTH SUFFERED UNKIND ABUSE AND BELITTLEMENT!



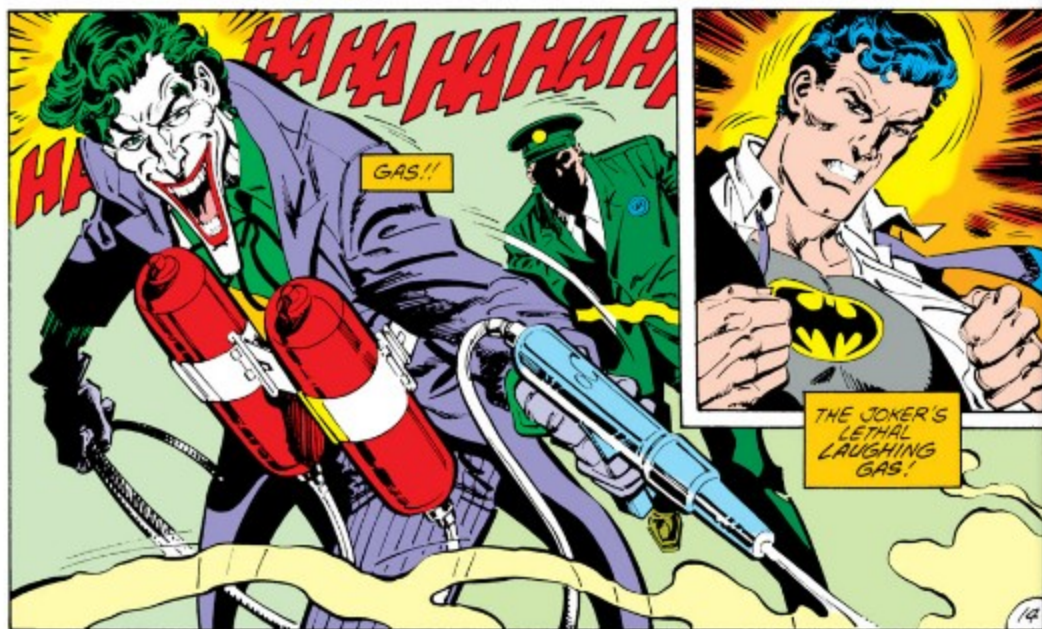
WELL, WE AREN'T GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!!

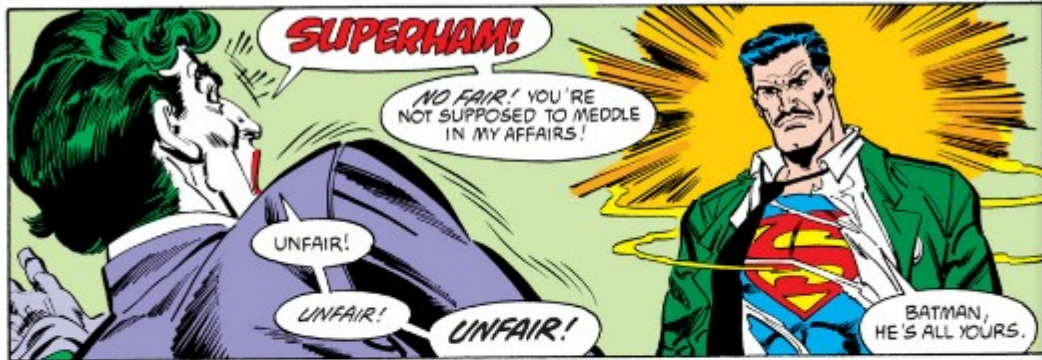


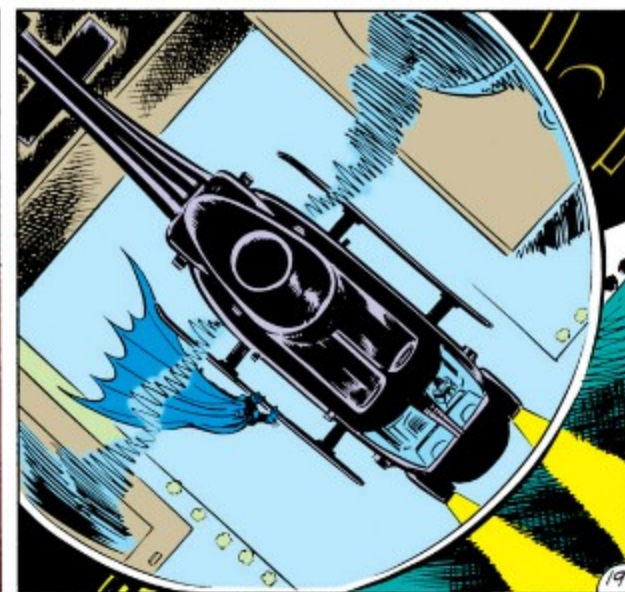
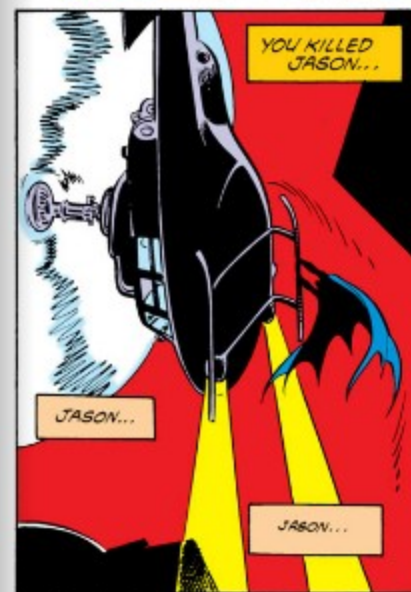
YOU'LL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO KICK US AROUND!

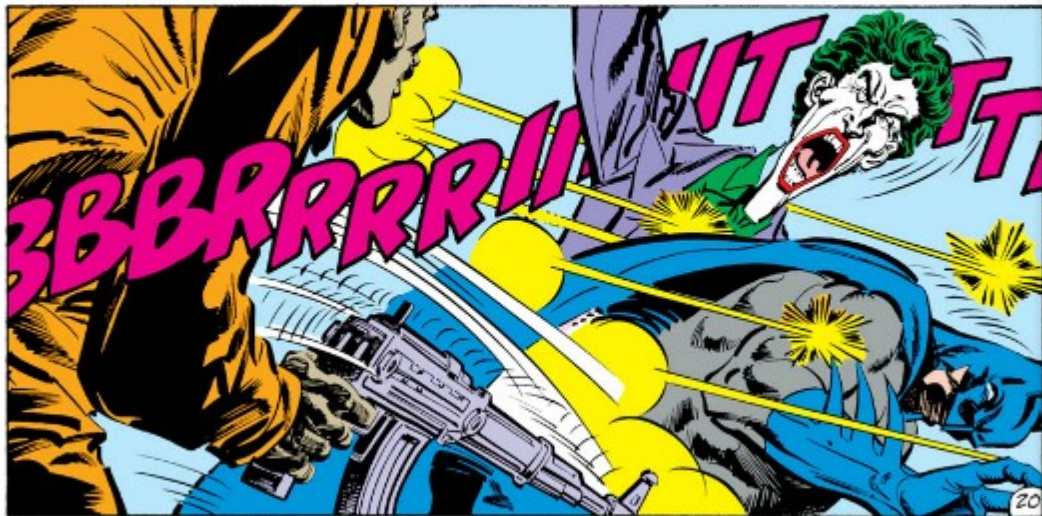


IN FACT, YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO KICK ANYONE AROUND EVER AGAIN!









THE PANICKED ARAB'S GUNFIRE IS INDISCRIMINATE, NOT CARING WHO IT STRIKES.

ONE SLUG TAKES OFF THE BACK OF THE PILOT'S HEAD.



THE GUNMAN IMMEDIATELY REALIZES HIS MISTAKE.



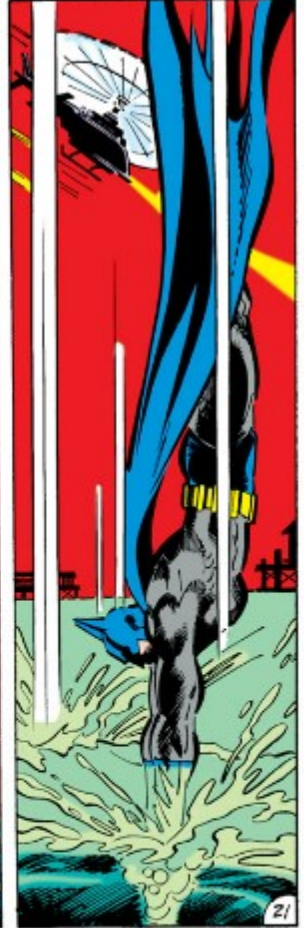
NOT QUITE THE WAY I IMAGINED THE SCENARIO ENDING.

I'LL BE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH MY LIFE.



FAREWELL, OLD FOE.

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...





BATMAN 101

• BATMAN BEGINS! •

Detective Comics (1937-2011) #27-33

Batman (1940-2011) #1-4

Batman: Dark Victory #0-13

BATMAN: YEAR ONE

Batman #404-407

Batman: The Long Halloween #1-13

• DARK TIMES FOR THE DARK KNIGHT! •

Batman: The Cult #1

BATMAN: DEATH IN THE FAMILY

Batman #426-429

BATMAN: HUSH

Batman #608-619

BATMAN: HEART OF HUSH

Detective Comics #846-850

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL V. 1

Batman #491-497

Detective Comics #659-663

BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND

Batman: No Man's Land #1

Batman: Shadow of the Bat #83-#84

Batman #563-#564

Detective Comics #730-#731

Legends of the Dark Knight #116

• THE BATMAN FAMILY! •

All-Star Batman & Robin the Boy Wonder #1

Batman: Black and White #1

Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun #1

Gotham Central #1

Batman and Robin (2009-2011) #1-6

Superman/Batman #1

• THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE! •

Dark Knight Returns #1

Batman Beyond (1999) #1

Batman Beyond (2011) #1

• THE CITY HE PROTECTS! •

Batman: Arkham City #1

Batman: Gates of Gotham #1

Batman: Streets of Gotham #1

Planetary/Batman: Night on Earth #1