

ARKHAM ASYLUM, A FOREBODING INSTITUTION NORTH OF GOTHAM CITY...

...HOME OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST TORMENTED SOULS...

NO! NO!  
NOOOOOOO!

SOULS SUCH AS HARVEY DENT--  
FORMER DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF  
GOTHAM CITY...

NO!

NO! I'LL SEE  
NO ONE!

... BUT MR. DENT, YOUR VISITOR  
IS FROM THE GOTHAM POLICE  
FORCE AND--

FOOL! HARVEY DENT  
IS DEAD! YOU ARE SPEAKING  
TO-- **TWO-FACE!**

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, AN ARCH  
CRIMINAL THREW A DEADLY VIAL  
OF ACID AND TWO-FACE WAS BORN...

ANOTHER GOTHAM  
COP!? YOU'RE ALWAYS  
HOUNDING ME!  
GO AWAY!

... BUT WAS IT THE CRIMINAL BOSS  
THAT BEGAN THE PLAGUE OF DOUBLE  
CRIMES UPON THE CITY OF GOTHAM...?

... OR  
WAS IT  
FATE?

HARVEY!  
I'VE GOT TO  
TALK TO YOU  
ABOUT SOMEONE  
WE BOTH HATE--

"BOSS"  
MARONI--!

# THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TWO-FACE-- DOUBLE TAKE

Revealed by  
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ED DAVIS and  
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SUBDUED BY GUARDS, TWO-FACE IS CARRIED AWAY AS ARKHAM'S ADMINISTRATOR SPEAKS TO THE VISITING DETECTIVE...

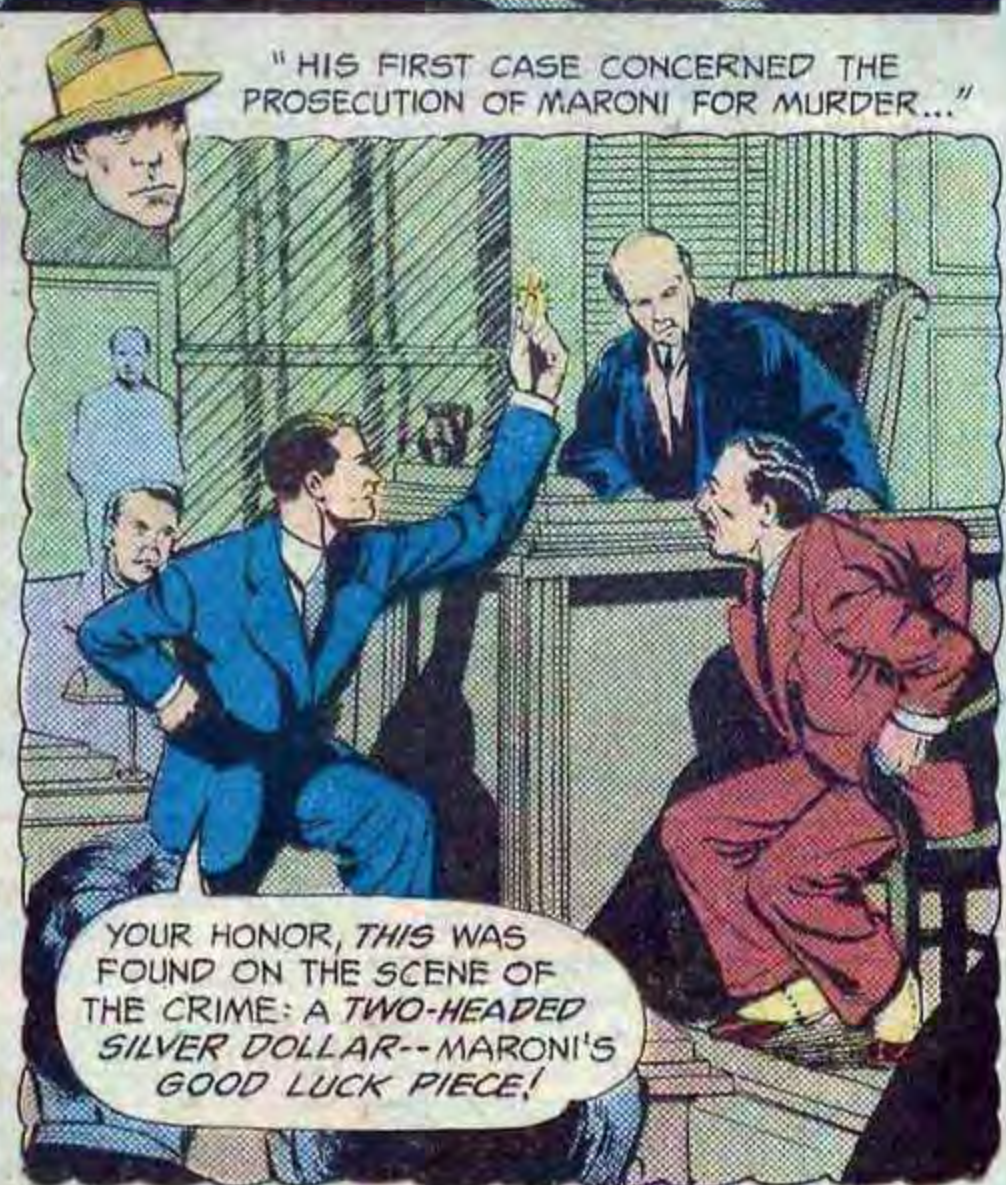
SORRY, DETECTIVE DAVIS, BUT I TOLD YOU HE'S UNCONTROLLABLE!

I EXPECTED THIS, DOCTOR, BUT I MUST GET THROUGH TO SOME RATIONAL PART OF HARVEY DENT'S MIND!

NO! NO! WAIT! H-HE SAID "MARONI"!

"MARONI"-- WHO'S THAT?

"HIS FIRST CASE CONCERNED THE PROSECUTION OF MARONI FOR MURDER..."



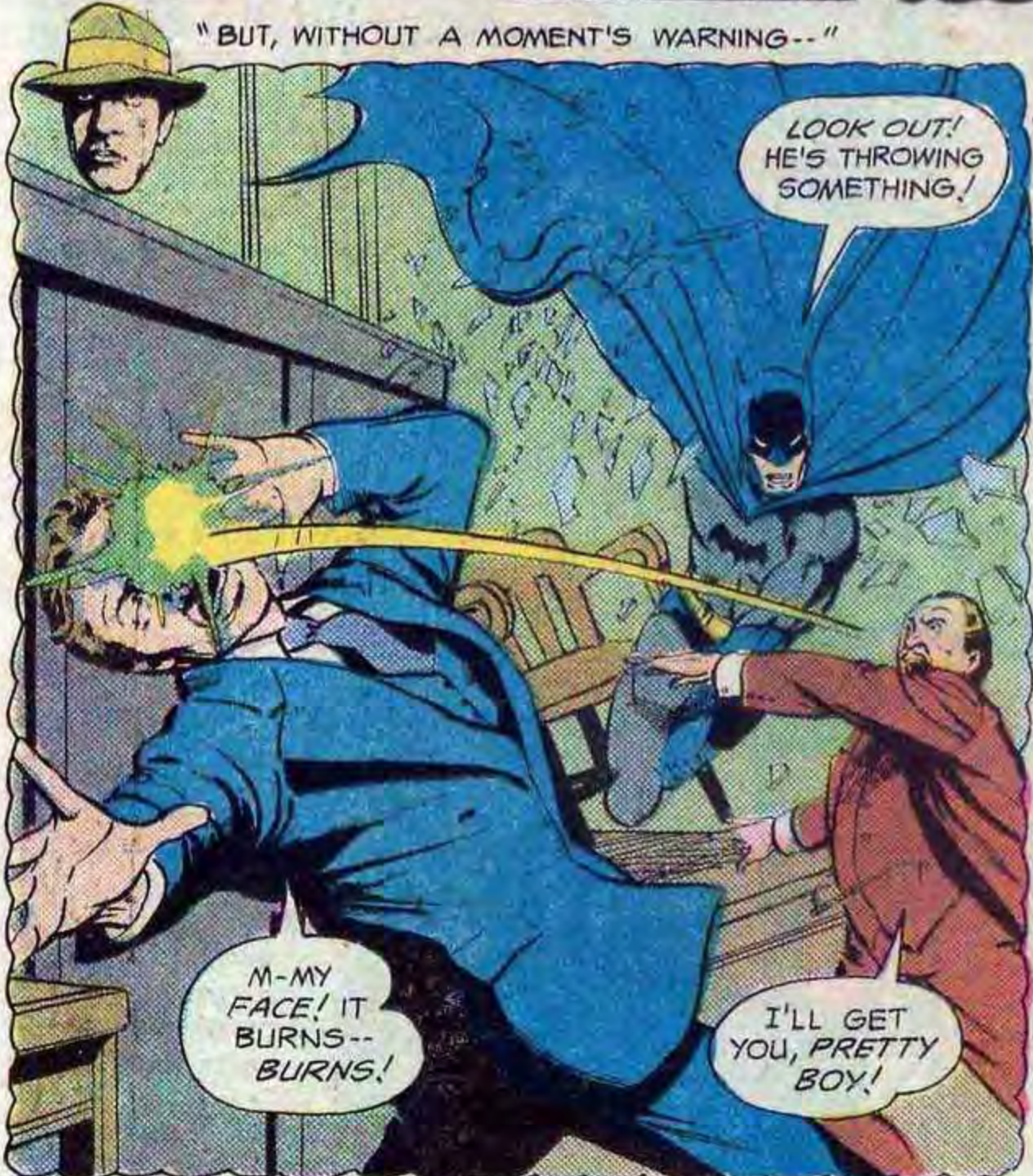
"BOSS" MARONI -- A CRIME LEADER OF GOTHAM ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO...

...IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM, THERE WOULD BE NO TWO-FACE!

"YEARS AGO, HARVEY DENT WAS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF GOTHAM CITY..."

YOUR HONOR, THIS WAS FOUND ON THE SCENE OF THE CRIME: A TWO-HEADED SILVER DOLLAR-- MARONI'S GOOD LUCK PIECE!

"BUT, WITHOUT A MOMENT'S WARNING--"



LOOK OUT! HE'S THROWING SOMETHING!

M-MY FACE! IT BURNS-- BURNS!

I'LL GET YOU, PRETTY BOY!



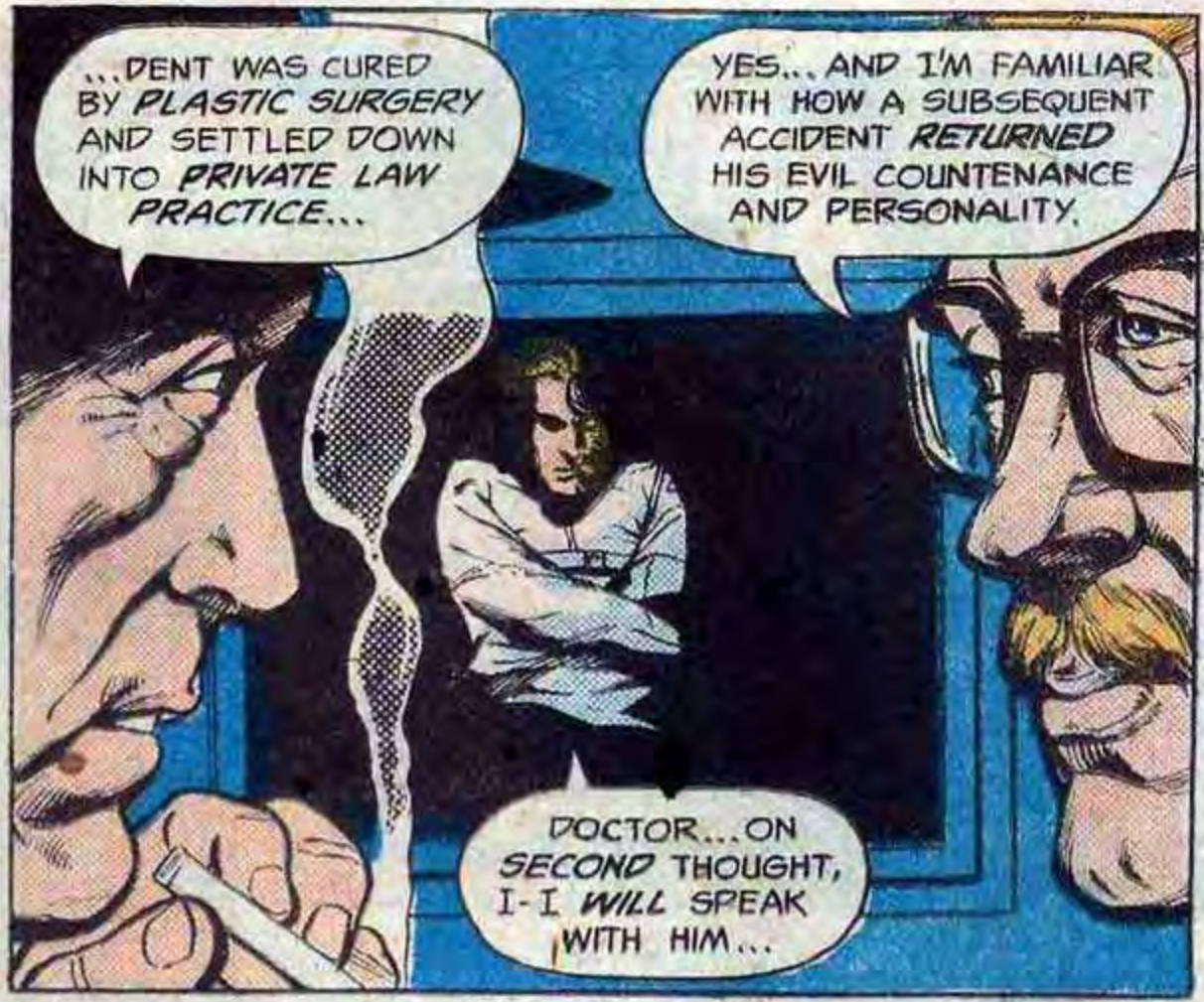
"THE ACID NOT ONLY BURNED INTO HIS FLESH, BUT HIS MIND AS WELL..."

I-I'M RUINED! PEOPLE WILL SHUN ME FOREVER-- HALF HANDSOME, HALF HIDEOUS! SO BE IT!

MARONI'S SILVER DOLLAR WILL BE MY SYMBOL-- I'LL SCAR HALF OF IT AND LEAVE THE OTHER SIDE CLEAN-- LIKE ME-- HALF GOOD, HALF EVIL-- TWO-FACE!!



"AFTER ESTABLISHING A CRIMINAL CAREER BASED ON THE NUMBER TWO, AND BEING THWARTED BY THE BATMAN..."



...DENT WAS CURED BY PLASTIC SURGERY AND SETTLED DOWN INTO PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE...

YES... AND I'M FAMILIAR WITH HOW A SUBSEQUENT ACCIDENT RETURNED HIS EVIL COUNTEenance AND PERSONALITY.

DOCTOR... ON SECOND THOUGHT, I-I WILL SPEAK WITH HIM...



AND SO...

SO YOU'RE DAVID DAVIS, EH? I LIKE YOUR NAME-- AND I SEEM TO KNOW YOU...

I WAS THE ARRESTING OFFICER IN THE MARONI CASE-- FIFTEEN YEARS AGO-- AND I NEED YOUR HELP...



I CANNOT IMAGINE HOW I CAN AID YOU, DAVIS, BUT FLIP THE COIN MY DOCTOR GAVE YOU...



THE INFAMOUS COIN IS TOSSED INTO THE AIR-- AND TO FATE!

IT SEEMS TO HOVER OMINOUSLY FOR A MOMENT... THEN LANDS...

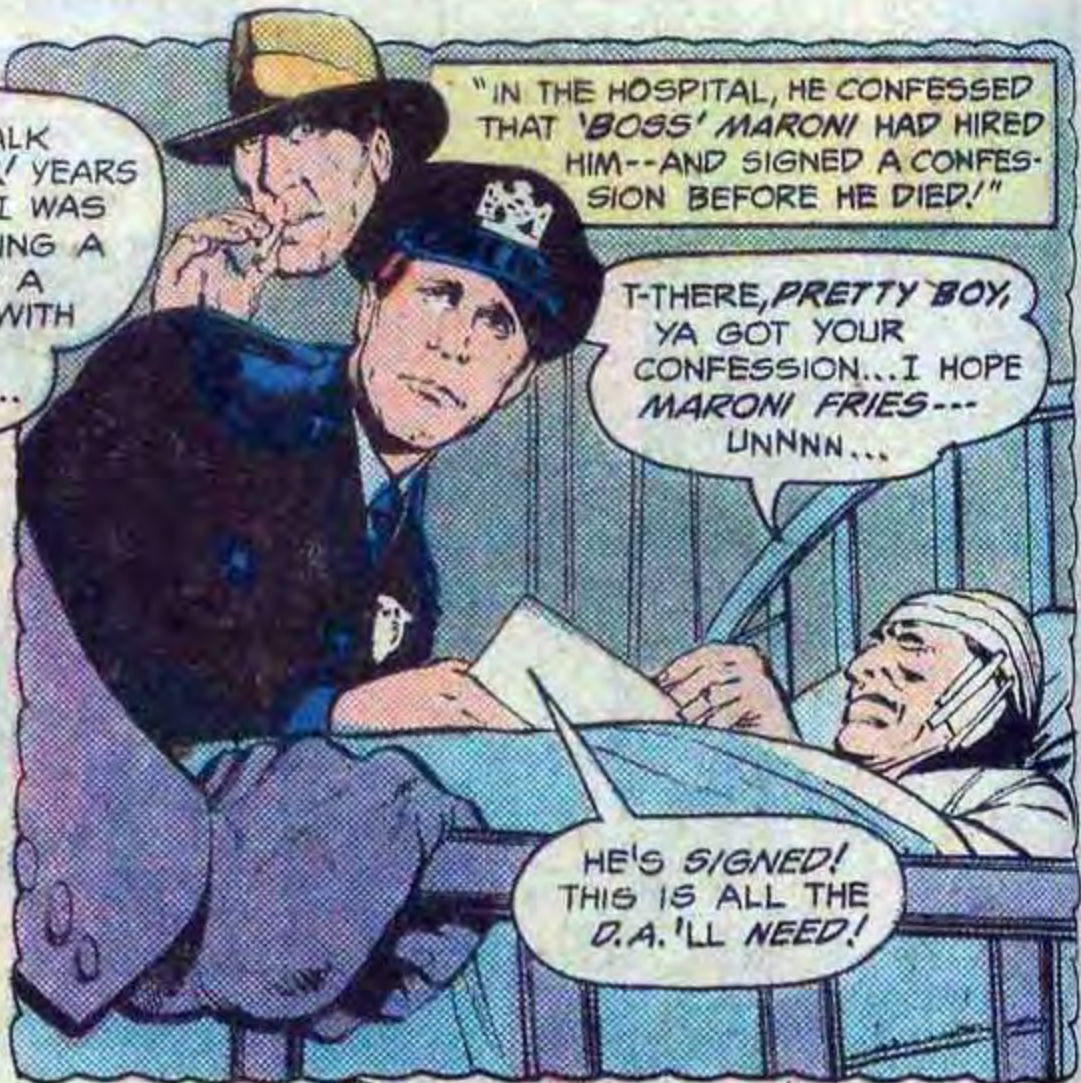


...THE GOOD SIDE UP!

YOU'RE IN LUCK, DAVIS-- I WORK WITH YOU... FOR THE TIME BEING...



THEN I'LL TALK WHILE I CAN! YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL POUNDING A BEAT, I HAD A SHOWDOWN WITH A HIRED ASSASSIN...



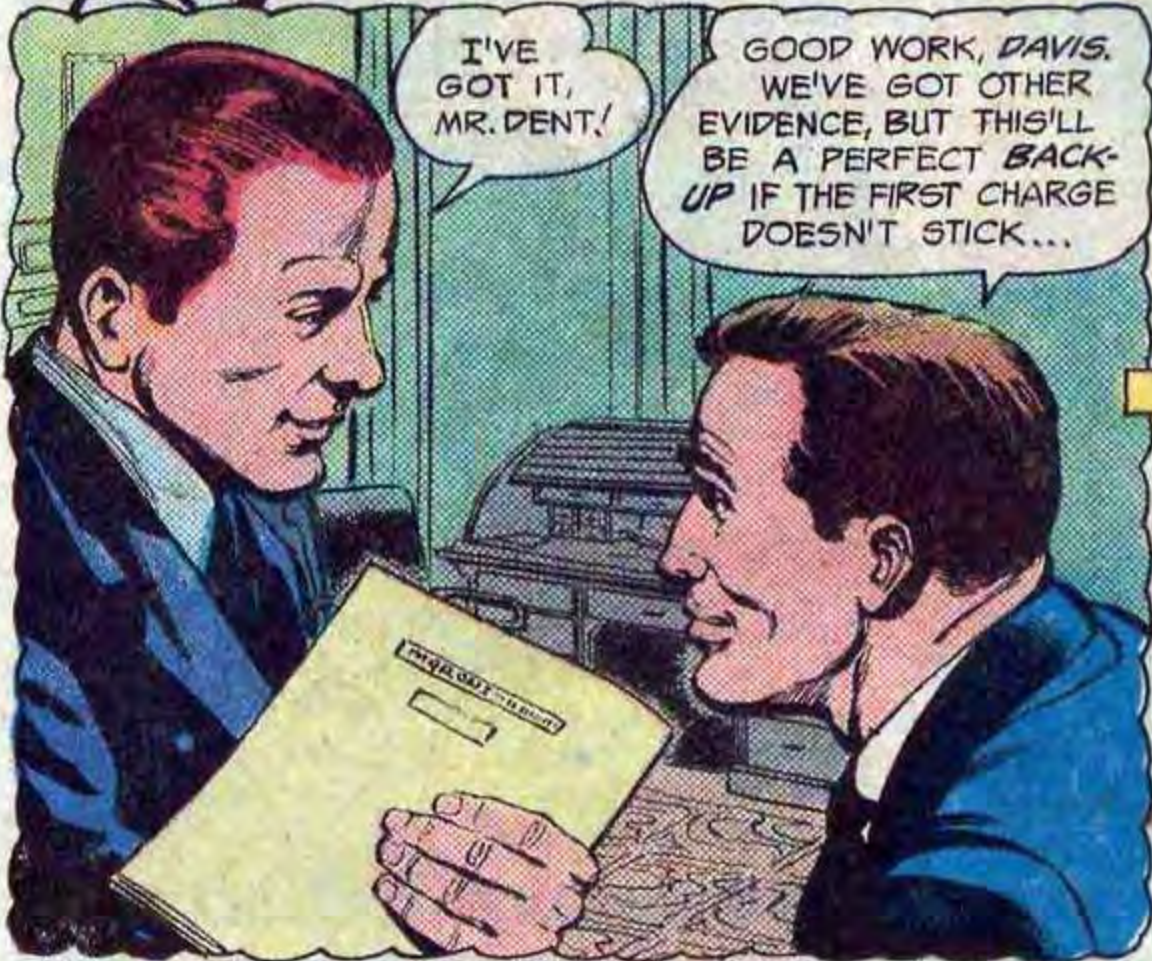
"IN THE HOSPITAL, HE CONFESSED THAT 'BOSS' MARONI HAD HIRED HIM--AND SIGNED A CONFESSION BEFORE HE DIED!"

T-THERE, PRETTY BOY, YA GOT YOUR CONFESSION... I HOPE MARONI FRIES--- UNNNN...

HE'S SIGNED! THIS IS ALL THE D.A.'LL NEED!



"YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THE CROOKS CALLED ME, 'PRETTY BOY'-- REMEMBER HOW I LOOKED BACK THEN...?"



I'VE GOT IT, MR. DENT!

GOOD WORK, DAVIS. WE'VE GOT OTHER EVIDENCE, BUT THIS'LL BE A PERFECT BACK-UP IF THE FIRST CHARGE DOESN'T STICK...



"YOU TOOK THAT EVIDENCE AND HID IT SOMEWHERE... BUT MARONI LEARNED OF IT AND THOUGHT I STILL HAD IT--!"

"MARONI THREW THE ACID AT ME-- 'PRETTY BOY'-- BUT HE HIT YOU!!"



YOU! THE ACID WAS AIMED AT YOU! THEN IT WAS DESTINY THAT MADE ME TWO-FACE... NOT MARONI!

YES--BUT MARONI STILL THREW THE ACID, AND NOW HE'S FREE!

FREE WHILE YOU'RE IMPRISONED HERE!

AND ONLY YOU CAN LOCK HIM UP AGAIN--BY RECOVERING THE EVIDENCE THAT HAS BEEN LOST SINCE THAT DAY IN COURT!



AFTER MANY HOURS OF CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS...

I-I'M STILL LEARY ABOUT RELEASING TWO-FACE IN YOUR CUSTODY, DETECTIVE--

HE'LL HELP ME, DOCTOR --THE COIN HAS SPOKEN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DOCTOR? AFRAID I'LL PULL A DOUBLE-CROSS--?

NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY... AS A STRANGE PAIR USES A PASS KEY TO THE POLICE STORAGE WAREHOUSE...

WHY ARE WE HERE, DENT? THIS IS JUST WHERE WE KEEP OLD FURNITURE AND OUTDATED EQUIPMENT...

THE COIN DICTATED THAT I WORK WITH YOU, DAVID DAVIS, BUT ADDRESS ME AS TWO-FACE--!

HOURS PASS AS THEY DIG THROUGH THE CORRIDORS OF THE PAST...

AT LAST! MY OLD DESK. THE CONFESSION YOU OBTAINED LIES WITHIN!

C'MON, GET SERIOUS. ALL IMPORTANT PAPERS WERE REMOVED FROM THIS JUNK LONG AGO!

TAKE A... SECOND LOOK, DETECTIVE.

UNDER THE DIM LIGHT OF HIS FLASHLIGHT, DAVIS INSPECTS THE FIFTEEN YEAR OLD DOCUMENT.

THIS IS IT! YOU HID IT, FEARING MARONI'S MEN WOULD FIND IT!

NOT HIS MEN--

-- BUT HIMSELF!

YOU!

MARONI!



SUDDENLY, A BLUR OF MOTION IN THE DARK...

HAVE A SECOND DRAWER, MARONI--!

UNN--!

KPOW!

YEOW-- MY ARM!



DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU HERE--!

YOU! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT MADE ME A FREAK-- A MONSTER!

DON'T WANNA MESS WITH YOU NOW-- I CAME FOR SOMETHIN' ELSE--!



UNNFF!



CAME FOR SOME DOUGH I STASHED-- AND A CONFESSION!

EH--MY COIN FELL FROM MY POCKET--!



THE EVIL SIDE UP! MARONI-- I THINK I CAN HELP YOU FIND HALF OF WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR-- DESTINY SAYS I MUST SWITCH SIDES!



BUT IT WILL COST YOU--! YOU MENTIONED MONEY?

SUSPICIOUSLY, THE EX-CRIME BOSS EYES THE MANGLED MAN BEFORE HIM...



Y-YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND JUST LIKE THAT. I'D HEARD ABOUT YOU AND YER COIN--BUT--

I GOT OUTTA THE PEN TODAY-- THE COP MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT-- I KNEW HE'D BE LOOKIN' FOR THAT PIECE O' PAPER! THERE'S NO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON MURDER!



I NEED THAT PAPER TOO, BUT I KNEW THIS WAS HERE IN STORAGE TOO--PART O' THE EVIDENCE YOU COLLECTED YEARS AGO TO USE AGAINST ME--

IT'LL DO YOU NO GOOD, IT'S NOT LOADED...



YEAH, I KNOW... BUT THIS IS WHERE I HID MY EXTRA CASH FIFTEEN YEARS AGO --AND YOU NEVER FOUND IT!

THERE'S \$50,000 HERE-- I'LL PAY FOR THAT CONFESSION IN YER HANDS!



OKAY, DEAL! BUT YOU CAN KEEP \$27,777.78 -- LEAVING MY CUT--



--\$22,222.22! HA HA HA, VERY FITTING!

OKAY, TWO-FACE, NOW, MAYBE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER...

BOY, ALL THE WILD TALES I HEARD ABOUT THIS NUT ARE TRUE-- INFATUATED WITH THE NUMBER 2! MIGHT STILL BE USEFUL, THOUGH!



THEN, FROM THE DARKNESS...

OKAY TWO-FACE, LET'S-- UNNH--!

STRAINING EVERY MUSCLE, DAVIS CONFRONTS MARONI-- WITH TWO-FACE IN BETWEEN--!

MARONI--I KNEW YOU WERE BEING RELEASED TODAY... AND I REALIZED THIS WAS MY LAST CHANCE TO GET YOU--!

YEAH, P**R**ETTY BOY, I HEARD THROUGH THE "GRAPEVINE" THAT YOU'RE BEING RETIRED TOMORROW --TOUGH BREAK--

-- IT'S TWO AGAINST ONE!



TWO-FACE--DENT!  
JUMP HIM!  
HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE YOU WHAT YOU ARE--CAUSED YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER TO LEAVE YOU--!\*

--I CREATED YOU!  
YOU'RE THE GREATEST CRIMINAL MASTERMIND IN GOTHAM-- SHOOT THE COP-- DOUBLE-CROSS HIM!

HE'LL USE YOU, DENT--HE'LL CUT YOU DOWN FIRST CHANCE HE GETS...

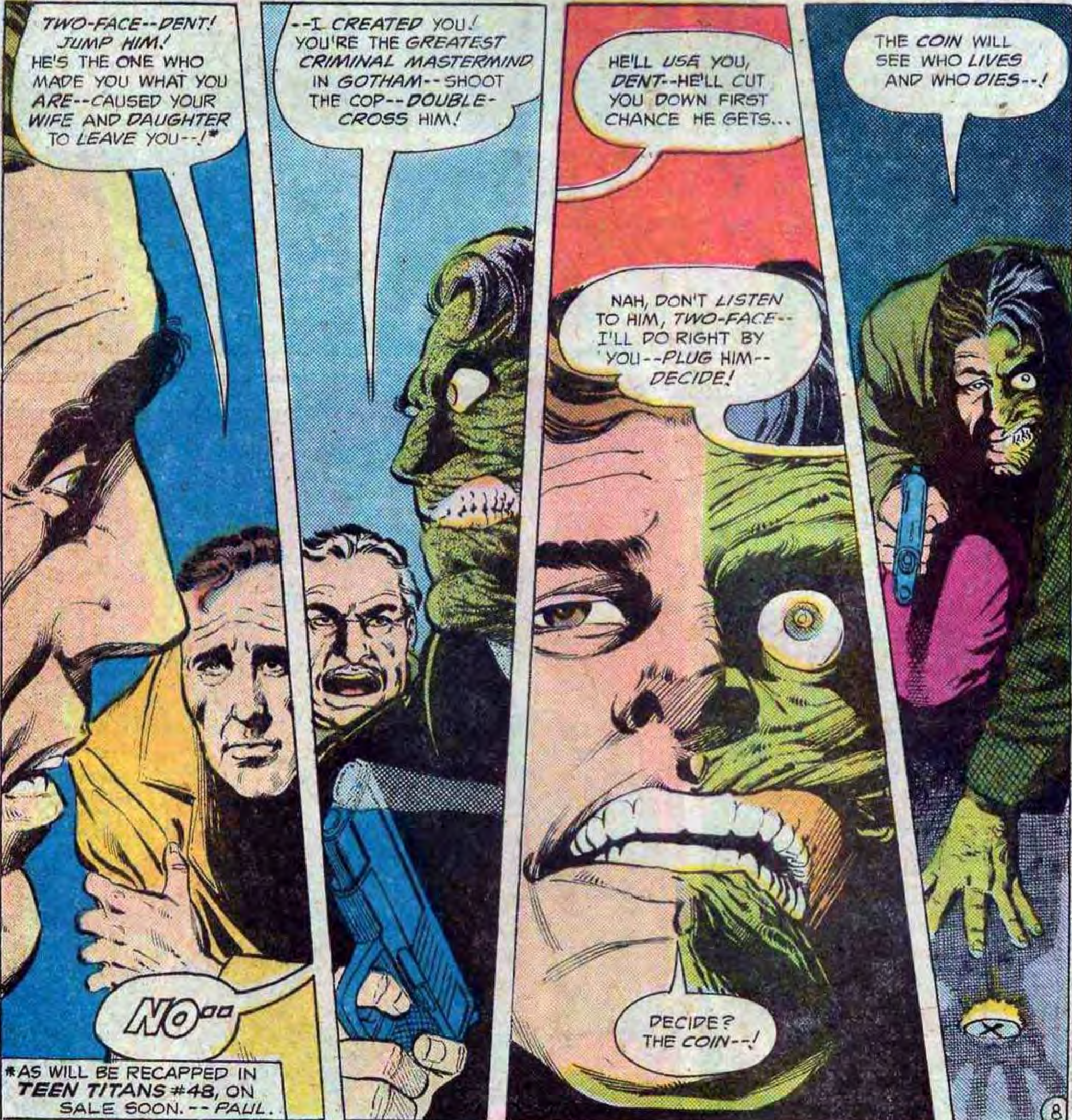
THE COIN WILL SEE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES--!

NAH, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, TWO-FACE-- I'LL DO RIGHT BY YOU--PLUG HIM-- DECIDE!

DECIDE? THE COIN--!

NO!!

\*AS WILL BE RECAPPED IN TEEN TITANS #48, ON SALE SOON. -- PAUL.







EYES GLUED TO THE SPINNING COIN, TWO-FACE RELAXES HIS GUARD...



DENT!  
WATCH  
OUT!



YOU LOONY  
IDIOT! GIMMIE  
THAT ROD--

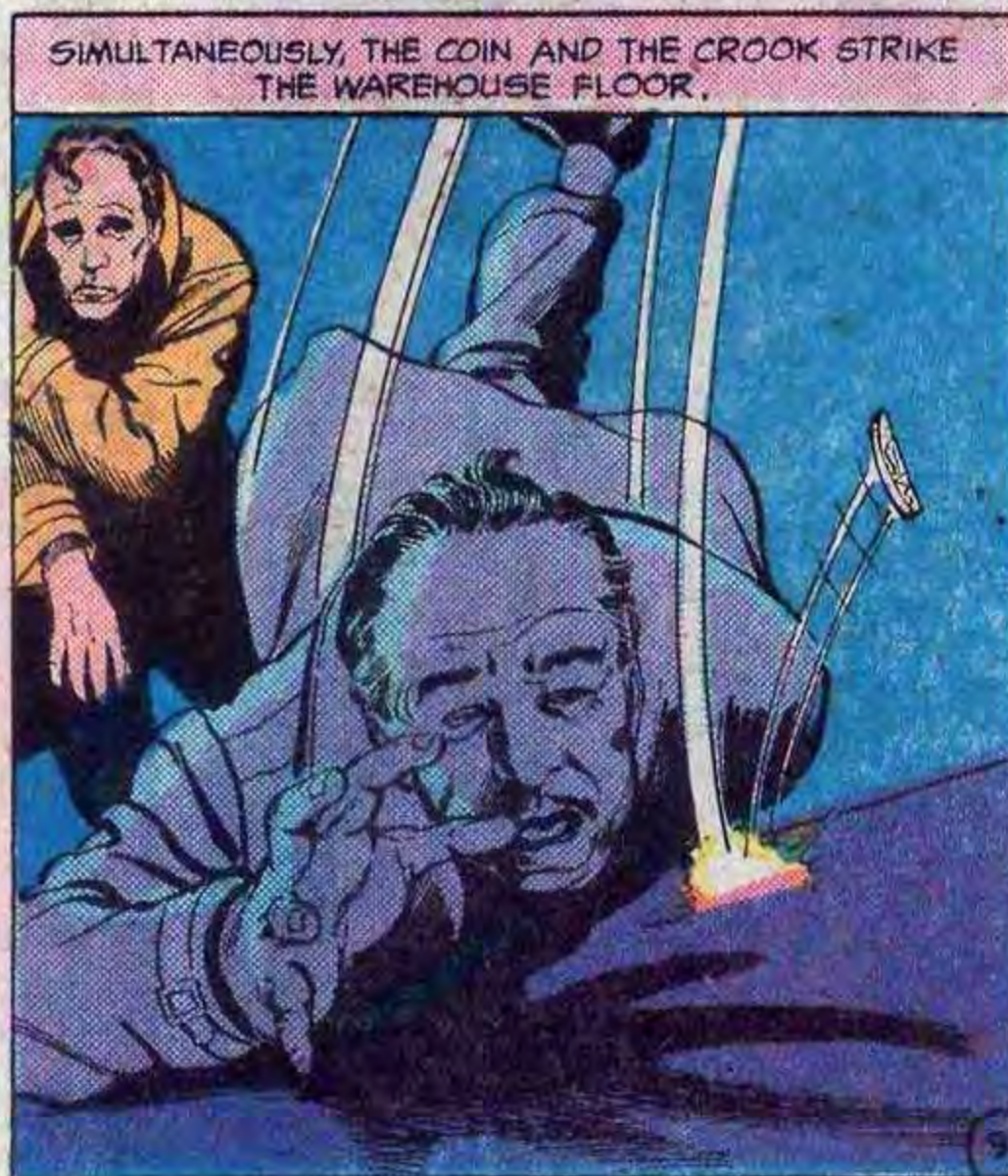
WHA--?



AND AS TWO-FACE PREDICTED,  
THE COIN DECIDES--!



N-NO--  
ARRGH!



SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE COIN AND THE CROOK STRIKE  
THE WAREHOUSE FLOOR.



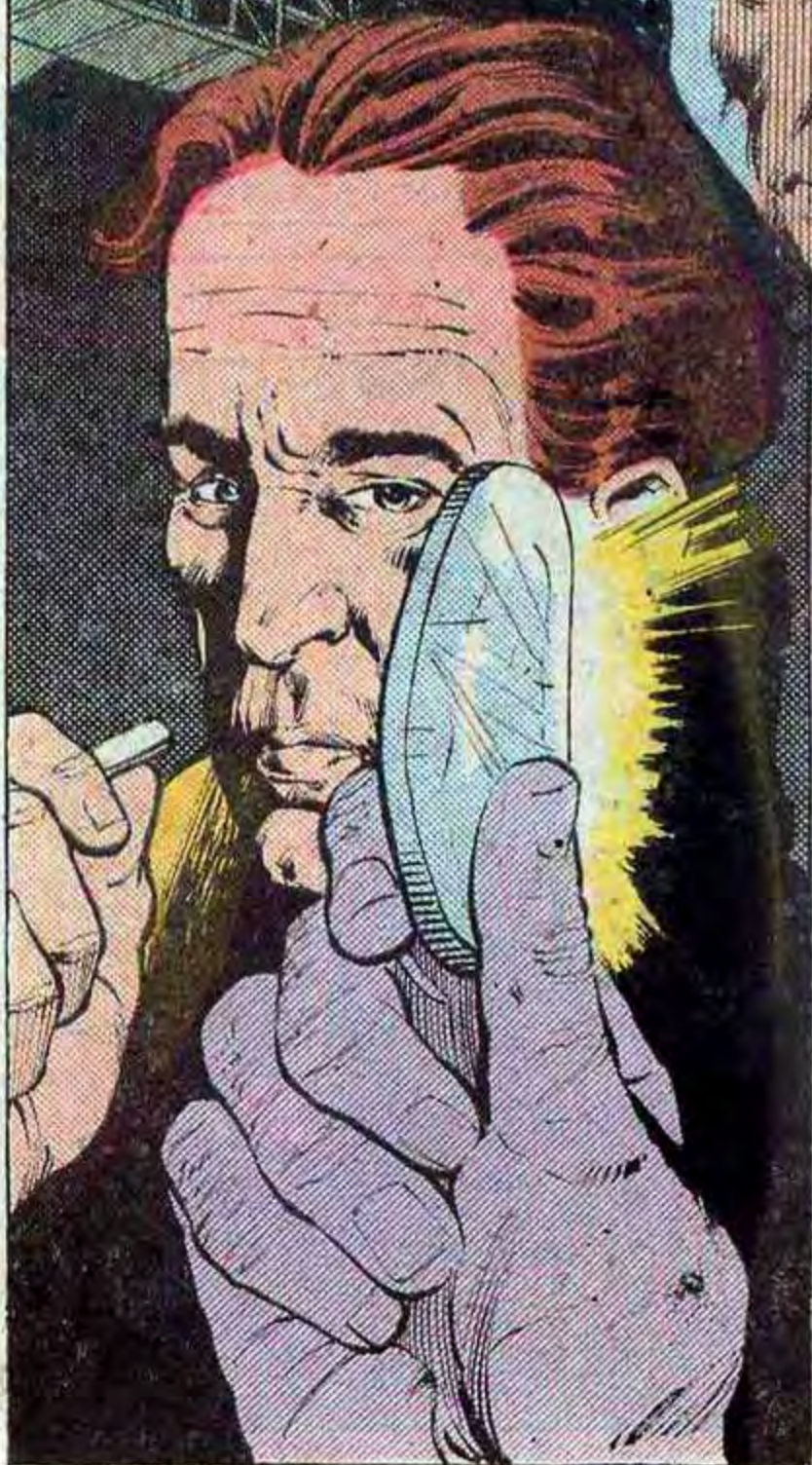
IT'S OVER. HE'S DEAD.

LOOK--



HIS BULLET HIT THE EVIL SIDE-- HE WAS MEANT TO DIE--

--AND HIS SHOT CAUSED THE COIN TO LAND GOOD SIDE UP--I GUESS IT MEANS I'M TO RETURN TO ARKHAM...PEACEFULLY!



YES, PEACEFULLY. IT'S OVER AT LAST. I CAN RETIRE NOW, KNOWING THAT THE ONLY OPEN CASE ON MY RECORD IS CLOSED...

...BUT WHAT OF THE NEXT COP THAT CROSSES PATH WITH THIS MADMAN--



"--WHAT HAPPENS THEN?"

"WHAT HAPPENS THEN?"

END. 10