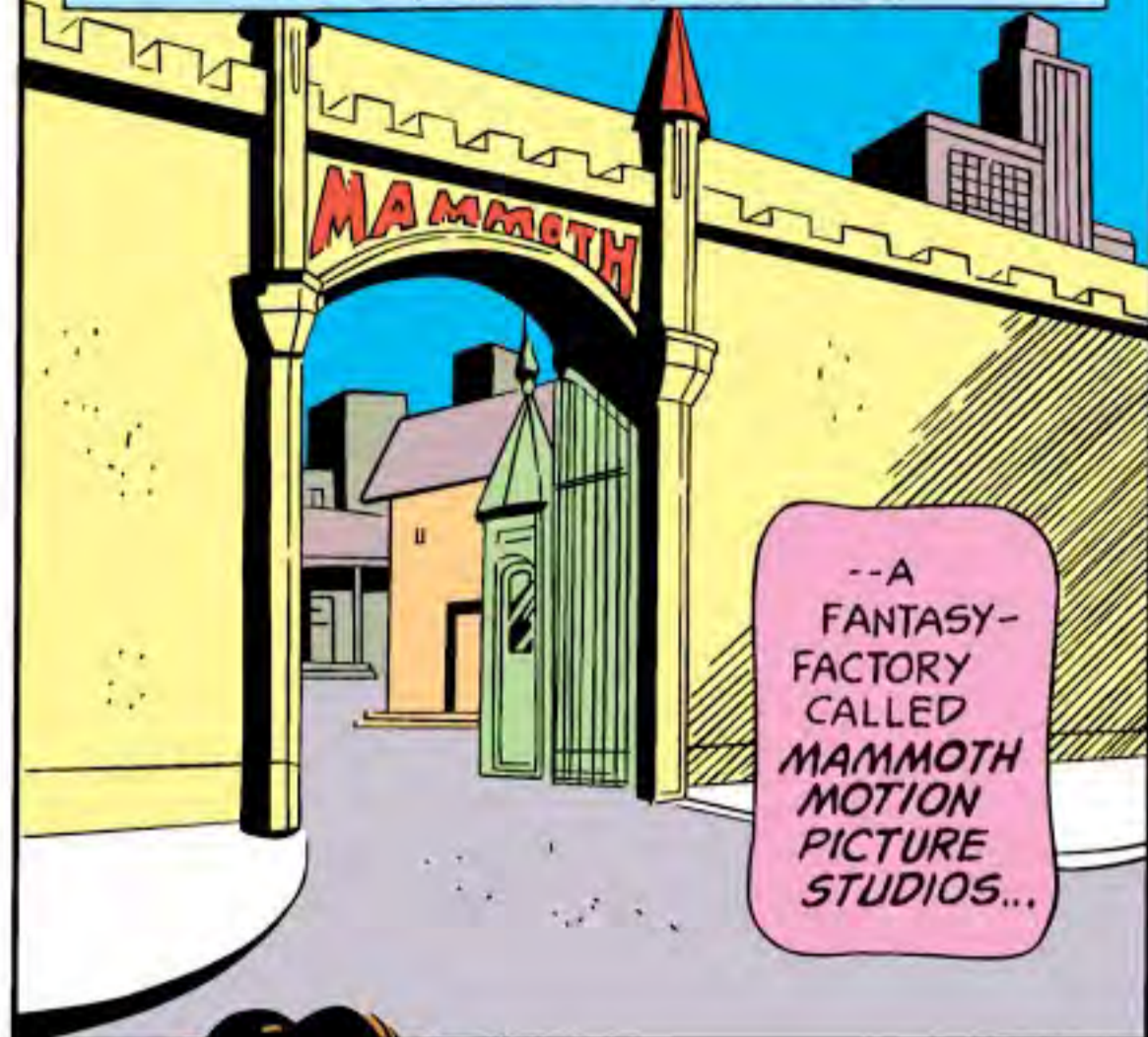


IN THE SUBURBS OF GOTHAM CITY SITS AN AWESOME THOUSAND-ACRE SPREAD FULL OF WAREHOUSES, EQUIPMENT, AND PEOPLE--



--A FANTASY-FACTORY CALLED MAMMOTH MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS...--

WHERE A MUCH-BELOVED STAR IS ABOUT TO SEE A PREVIEW OF HIS LONG-AWAITED RETURN TO THE SILVER SCREEN...



MR. SPRINGER, WE'RE READY TO ROLL SOON AS YOU'RE IN THE SCREENING ROOM!

GLAD TO SEE YOU BROUGHT YOUR CAT WITH YOU!



HOW COULD BENNY SPRINGER FORGET HIS FAVORITE CO-STAR -- HIAWATHA?

IT'S NO SECRET I ONLY AGREED TO DO THIS FILM BECAUSE HIAWATHA COULD BE IN IT TOO!



LEAD THE WAY, MY BOY... AND ON WITH THE SHOW!

I'VE BEEN TANGLING WITH A MASTER OF DISGUISE SO LONG...

SCREENING STUDIO



... I THINK SOME OF IT'S RUBBED OFF!

SCREENING STUDIO

THIS BENNY SPRINGER GET-UP IS SO GOOD IT COULD EVEN FOOL HIS CAT! HAHHAHA!



DO YOU THINK A LOWLY SCRIPT-GIRL CAN SNEAK A PEEK AT YOUR NEW MOVIE, MR. SPRINGER--?

A LOWLY ONE CAN'T, BUT YOU CAN!

HAHA! I COULD CHARM THE PANTS OFF A CENTIPEDE!



TAKE A LONG, HARD GUESS AT WHO THIS FAKE BENNY SPRINGER IS AND YOU'LL PROBABLY BE RIGHT...

SCREENING IN PROGRESS

BUT IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT--



--YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!

I'LL MUFFLE THE REAL SPRINGER'S EXIT IN THE DARK AND SUBSTITUTE MYSELF FOR...



KPOW!



AND WHEN THE MADCAP MOUNTEBANK NEXT SEES CONSCIOUSNESS...

OWWW! WHAT DIVE-BOMBER HIT ME...?

HEY! I MUST STILL BE BENNY SPRINGER! BUT HOW DID...

HE'S COMING AROUND, CHIEF! WANNA TALK TO HIM?



BENNY... BENNY? WHAT HAPPENED, FELLA?

WHAT HAPPENED--?

I DON'T REMEMBER A THING!

YES... I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER! EVERYTHING WAS SO FAST...

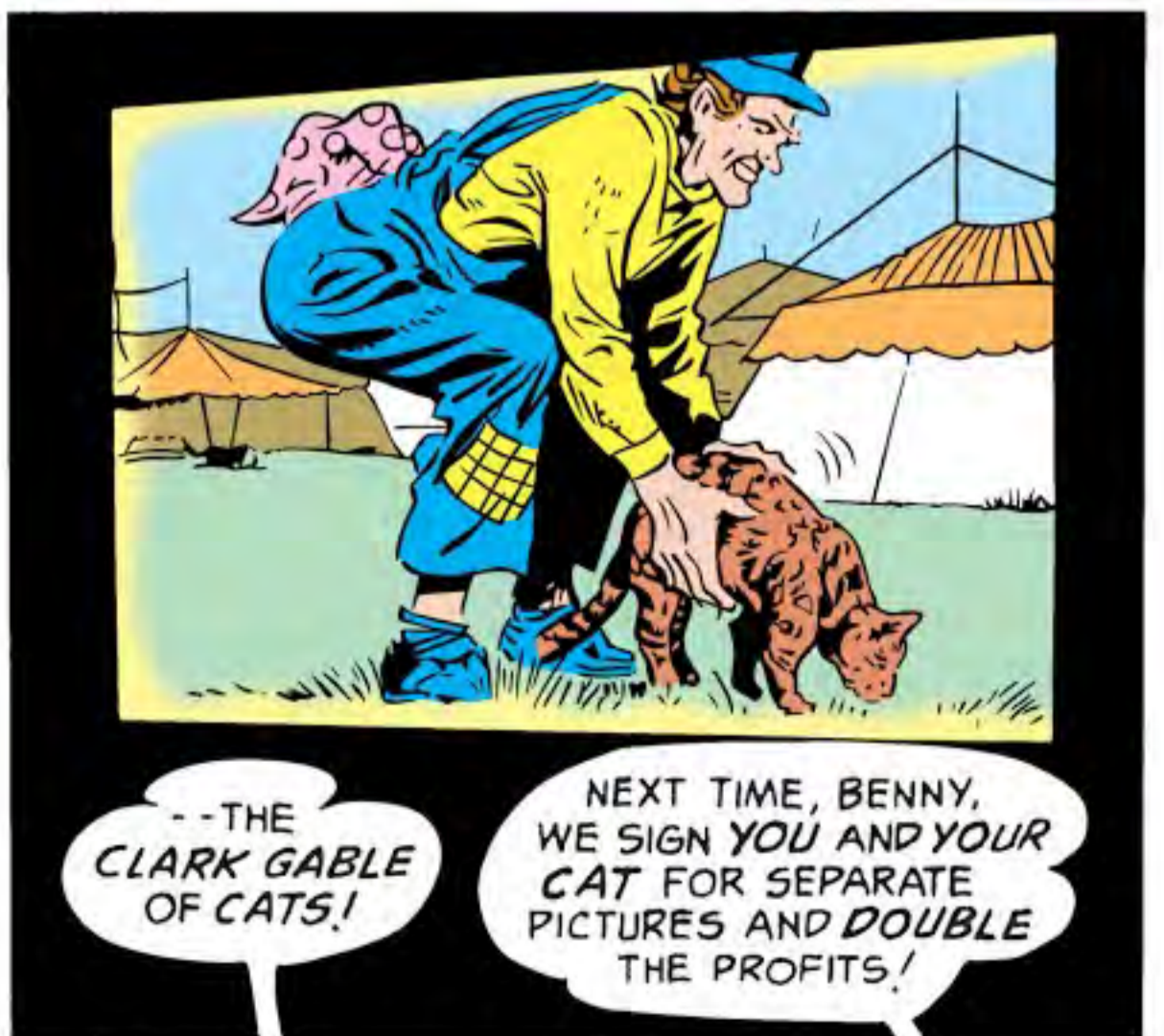


"LISTEN-- YOU AND HIAWATHA WERE IN THE SCREENING ROOM WITH THE STUDIO BRASS WATCHING YOUR NEW FILM, THE CAT AND THE CLOWN..."

LOOK AT THE SMILES ON THESE FACES, BENNY!

THE MONEY MEN ALL SEEM TO BE DELIGHTED!

OOOHH! THERE'S THE MILLION-DOLLAR KITTY--



--THE CLARK GABLE OF CATS!

NEXT TIME, BENNY, WE SIGN YOU AND YOUR CAT FOR SEPARATE PICTURES AND DOUBLE THE PROFITS!



"BUT JUST THEN,
A SHADOW
FELL ACROSS
THE SCREEN..."

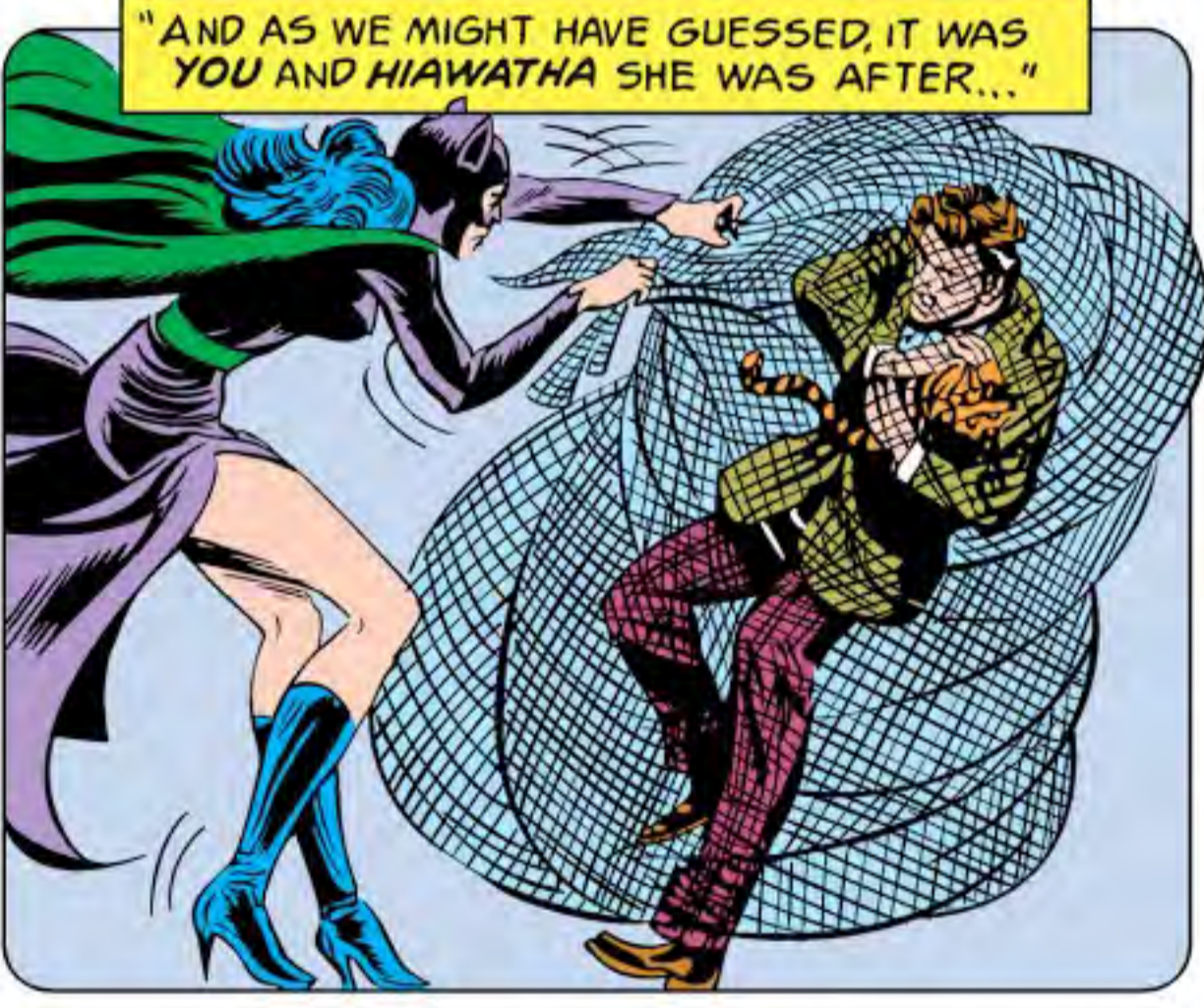


FACE IT,
BIG MOVIE
STAR...
... YOU
CAN'T SEE
IN THE
DARK--



- BUT THE
CATWOMAN
CAN!

"THE
SHE-DEVIL
TOOK EVERYONE
IN THE
SCREENING
ROOM BY
SURPRISE..."



"AND AS WE MIGHT HAVE GUESSED, IT WAS
YOU AND HIAWATHA SHE WAS AFTER..."



THEN SHE CUT
COMMUNICATION LINES,
LOCKED US ALL IN THE
THEATER, AND TOOK
OFF WITH YOU AND
HIAWATHA NEATLY
WRAPPED UP IN
THE NET!



WHEN WE FOUND YOU
UNCONSCIOUS OUTSIDE THE
THEATER, WE ASSUMED SHE
ONLY WANTED THE CAT!

SO THE LITTLE
WENCH WHO BONKED
ME WAS REALLY THE
CATWOMAN--?!

NOW WITH SPRINGER
AND THE CAT IN HER
BAG INSTEAD OF MINE,
SHE'LL COLLECT A
FAT JUICY RANSOM
FOR THEIR RETURN--



-- BUT NOT IF I CAN
HELP IT! TIME TO
DROP THIS CHARADE
AND SPLIT!

Y-YOUR FACE...
IT'S DEAD
WHITE!

YOU'RE NOT
BENNY
SPRINGER...
YOU'RE--



--THE JOKER, OF COURSE!
OUT OF MY WAY, *CRETIN*--
I'VE GOT A HOT DATE TO
FIX A KITTYS CATNIP!



IF I SAY I'M GOING OUT THAT
WINDOW, YOU GUARDS'LL PROBABLY
SAY, "OVER OUR DEAD BODIES!"

WELL,
SAVE YOUR
BREATH...



... BECAUSE
IT'LL BE
YOUR
LAST!

LAST BREATH
HA HA HA! AIN'T
THAT FUNNY?

P-PHNT!



HE GOT US
WITH DARTS FROM
HIS BLOWGUN!
HA HA HA HA HA!



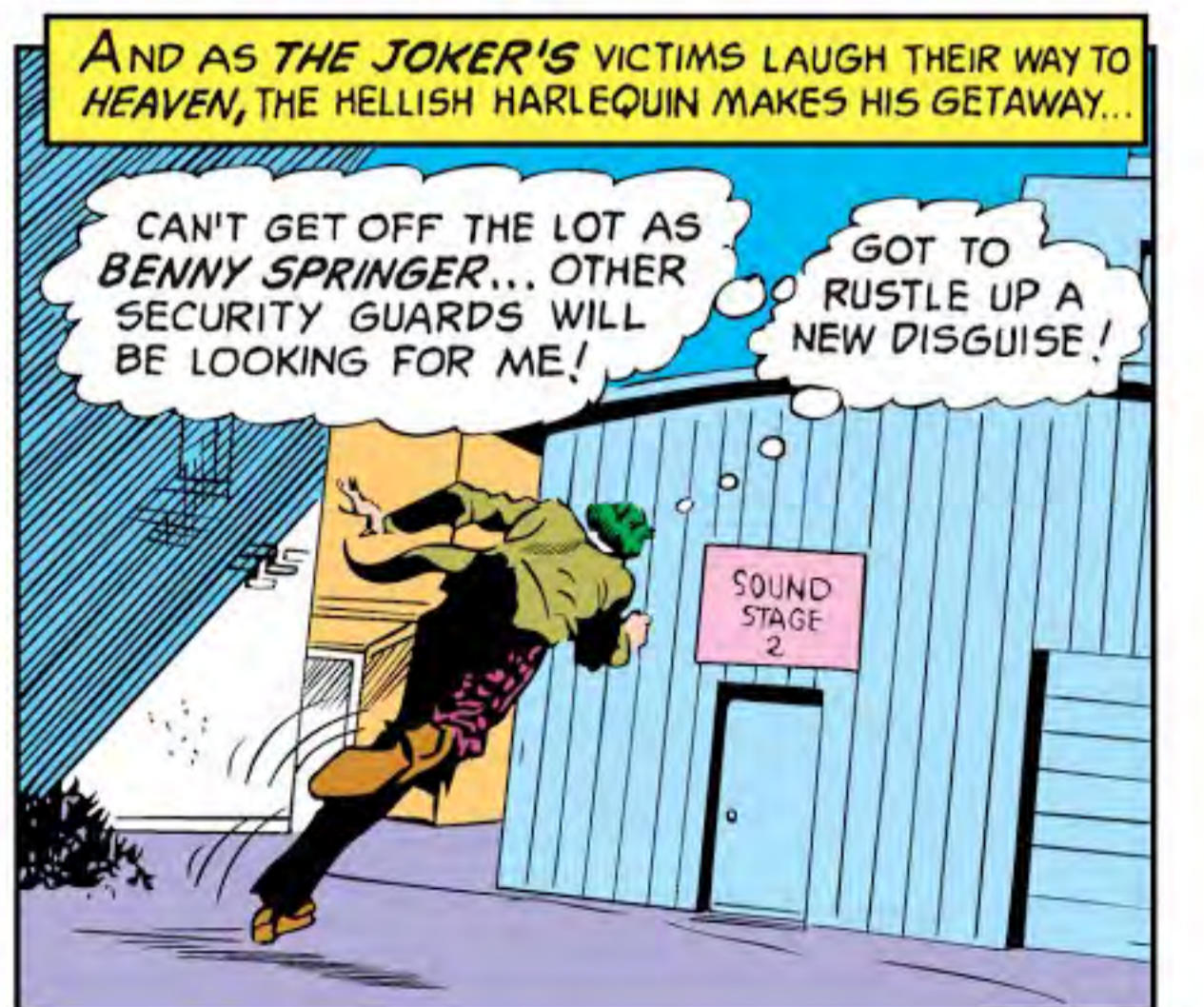
**HA-HA-
HA-HA!** BENNY
SPRINGER WAS REALLY
THE JOKER! SURE
IS A HOWL! **HA
HA HA!**

HA-HA-HA-
THOUGHT SPRINGER
WAS ONLY A CLOWN
ON THE SCREEN!
HA-HA-HA!



ISN'T IT ALL
HYSTER-- HYS--
HGGGH...

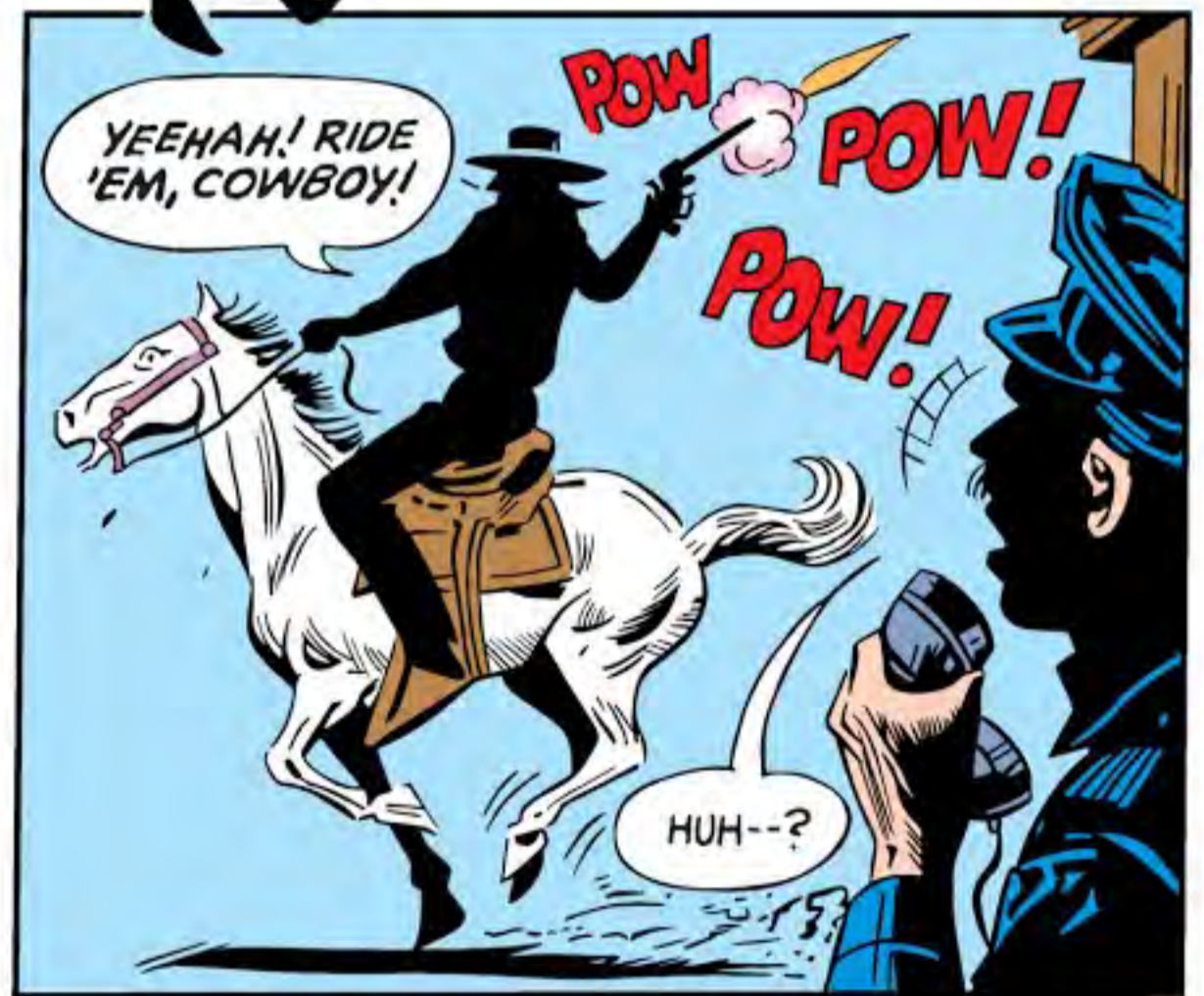
GGGHHFFF



AND AS THE JOKER'S VICTIMS LAUGH THEIR WAY TO
HEAVEN, THE HELLISH HARLEQUIN MAKES HIS GETAWAY...

CAN'T GET OFF THE LOT AS
BENNY SPRINGER... OTHER
SECURITY GUARDS WILL
BE LOOKING FOR ME!

GOT TO
RUSTLE UP A
NEW DISGUISE!



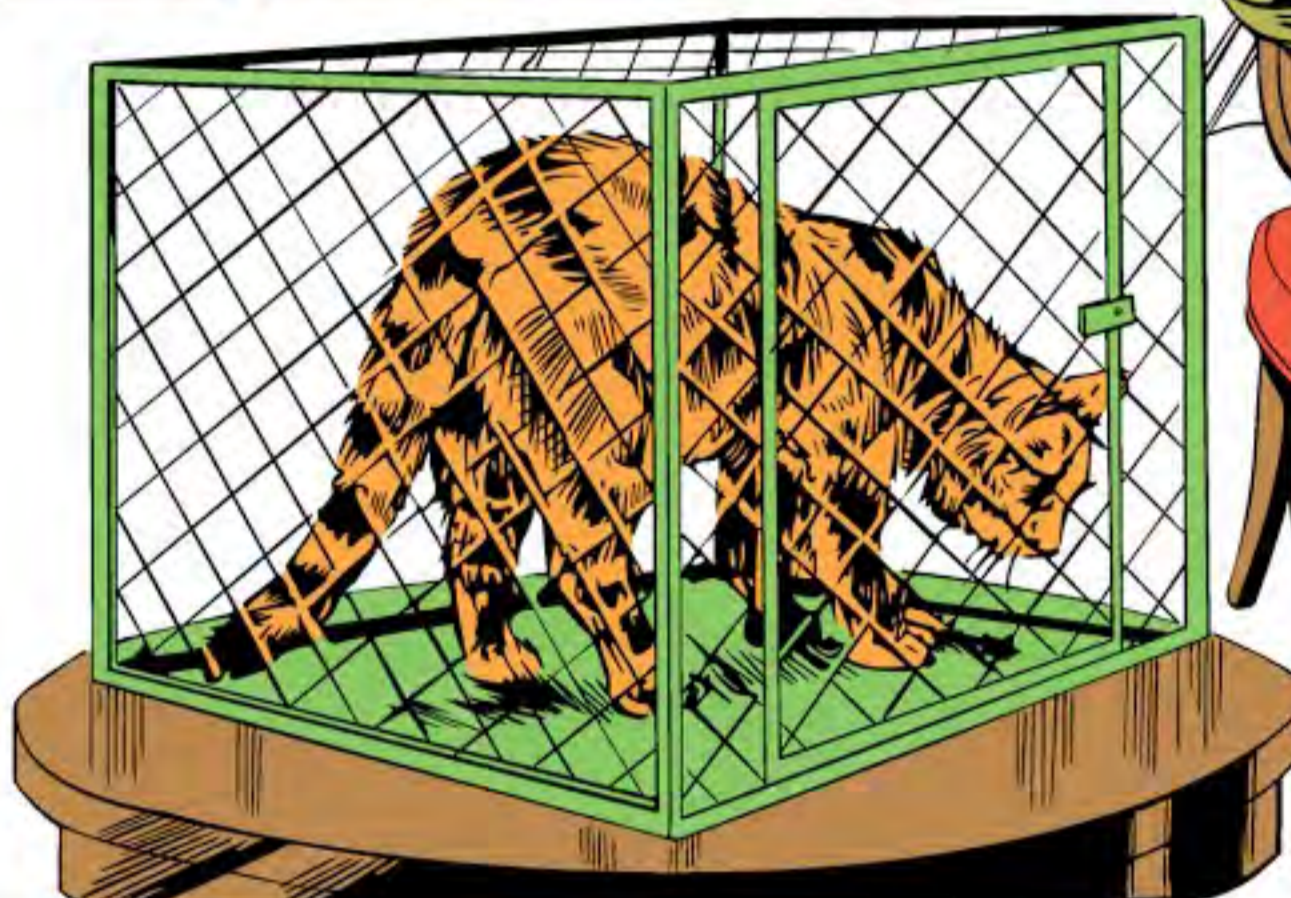
NEXT DAY, THE HEADLINES TELL THE STORY...



SO! THAT WAS THE JOKER DRESSED AS YOU...

... AND THE JOKER, BEING A CERTIFIED LOON, CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS WHEN HIS PLANS ARE INTERFERED WITH--

--THOUGH WHAT THAT MADMAN WANTS WITH YOU, I HAVE NO IDEA!



BUT YOU CAN SAY WHAT A MAD-WOMAN WANTS WITH ME!

NOW, NOW-- IS THAT ANY WAY FOR THE BEST-LOVED CLOWN ON FILM TO BEHAVE--



-- ESPECIALLY WHEN HE AND HIS VALUABLE PET ARE GOING TO COST THEIR STUDIO A RECORD AMOUNT IN RANSOM!

THAT IS, AFTER YOU SERVE AS BAIT FOR THE JOKER!

COME AGAIN?



THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE JOKER FROM INTERFERING WITH MY PROJECT IS TO LET HIM CARRY OUT HIS OWN!

BY "LEAKING" WORD OF WHERE YOU ARE--

RIP



-- I CAN LURE HIM ONTO MY HOME GROUND, WHERE I CAN'T HELP BUT OVERPOWER HIM!

AND WITH ANY LUCK AT ALL, I'LL GET THAT SEXY BATMAN HERE TOO!

BUT EVEN BEFORE WORD GETS OUT-- AT THE JOKER'S ZANY DEN, THE HA-HACIENDA...

AND SHORTLY, THE JOKER USHERS IN A NEW ACQUAINTANCE...

YOU SAY YOU'VE FOUND A MEMBER OF CATWOMAN'S CROWD, SOUTHPAW? WELL, BRING HIM IN... BRING HIM IN!

OF COURSE HE CAN SEE WHERE THE HIDE-OUT IS! HE'LL NEVER TELL ANYONE!

HA-HAHA HA

YOUR GUEST, BOSS-- HIS NAME'S MOUTH MADIGAN!

MOUTH? HOW APPROPRIATE! WON'T YOU HAVE A SEAT?

YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE US SOME INFORMATION--

-- NAMELY, THE LOCATION OF THE CATWOMAN'S LAIR!

HEY! WHY'D YOU GUYS PICK ME?

WHUZZAT YOU'RE DOIN', JOKER, HEY?

YOU'VE NO DOUBT HEARD OF THE LAUGHING DEATH? THIS IS THE LITTLE DRUG THAT CAUSES IT!

HEY! YEOWW!!

WHADDYA WANT?

WILL YIZ GIMME THE ANTIDOTE IF I SPILL IT, HEY?

SPILL AWAY, MOUTH!

IT'S-- HEH-HEH-- IN A WAREHOUSE BASEMENT... HA HA!

CORNER OF BROOME AND GREENE STREETS! HA! HA! HAH!

THERE-- I TOLD YA... HAH! HAH!... HEY?

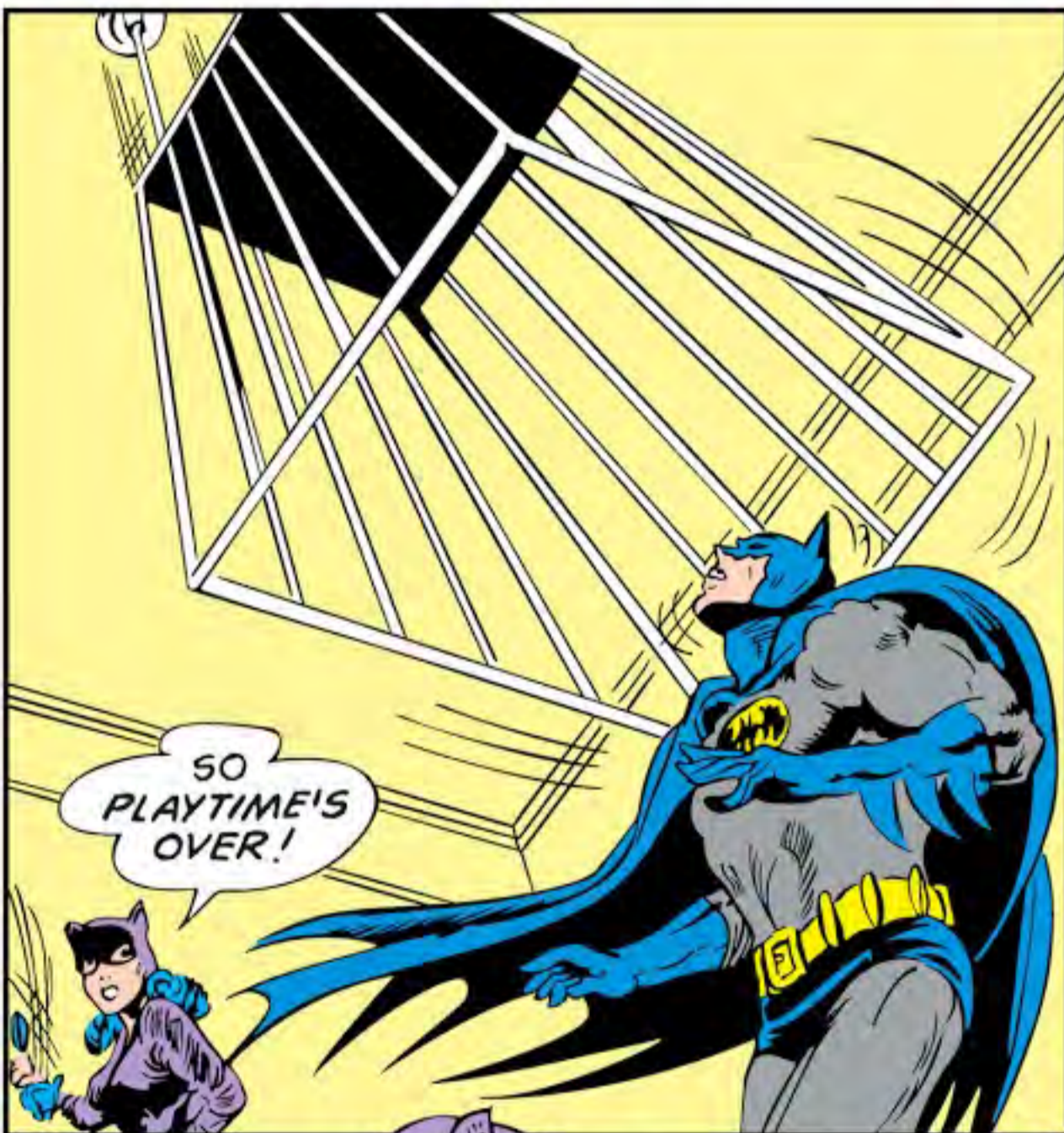
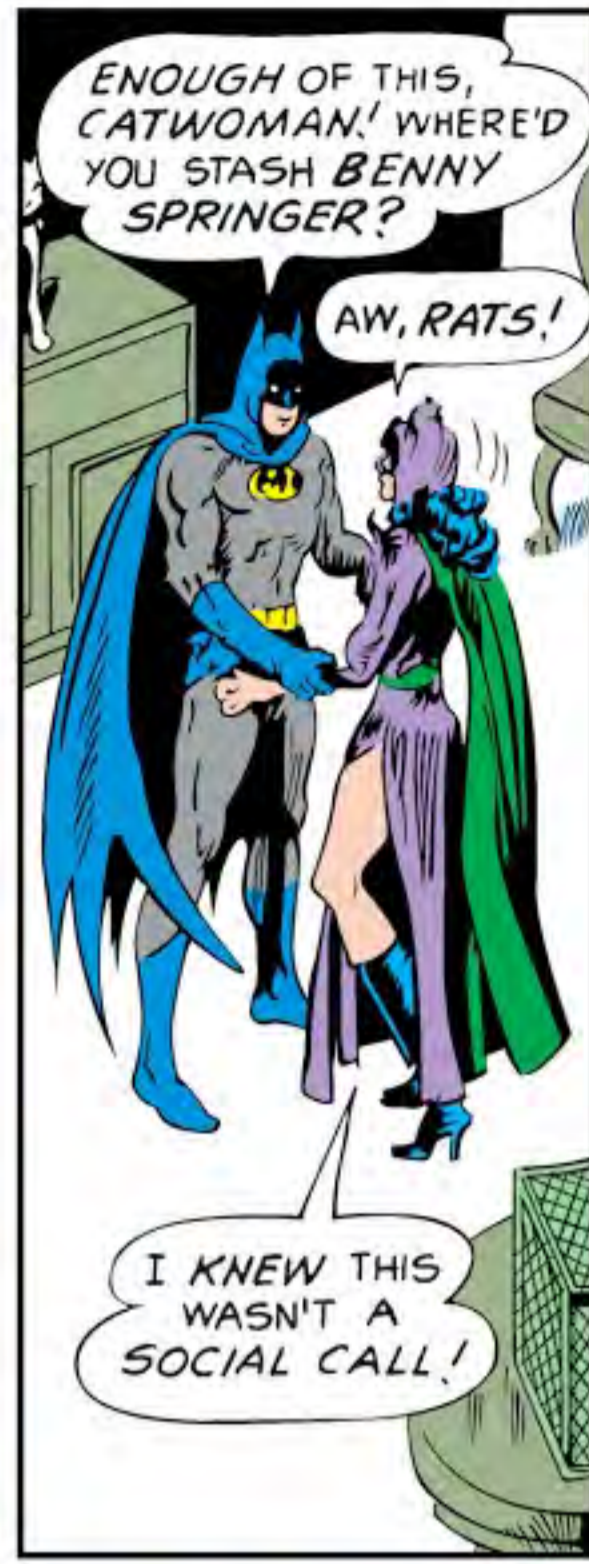
NOW... HOW 'BOUT THE ... HYUCK! HACKK!... THE ANTIDOTE?

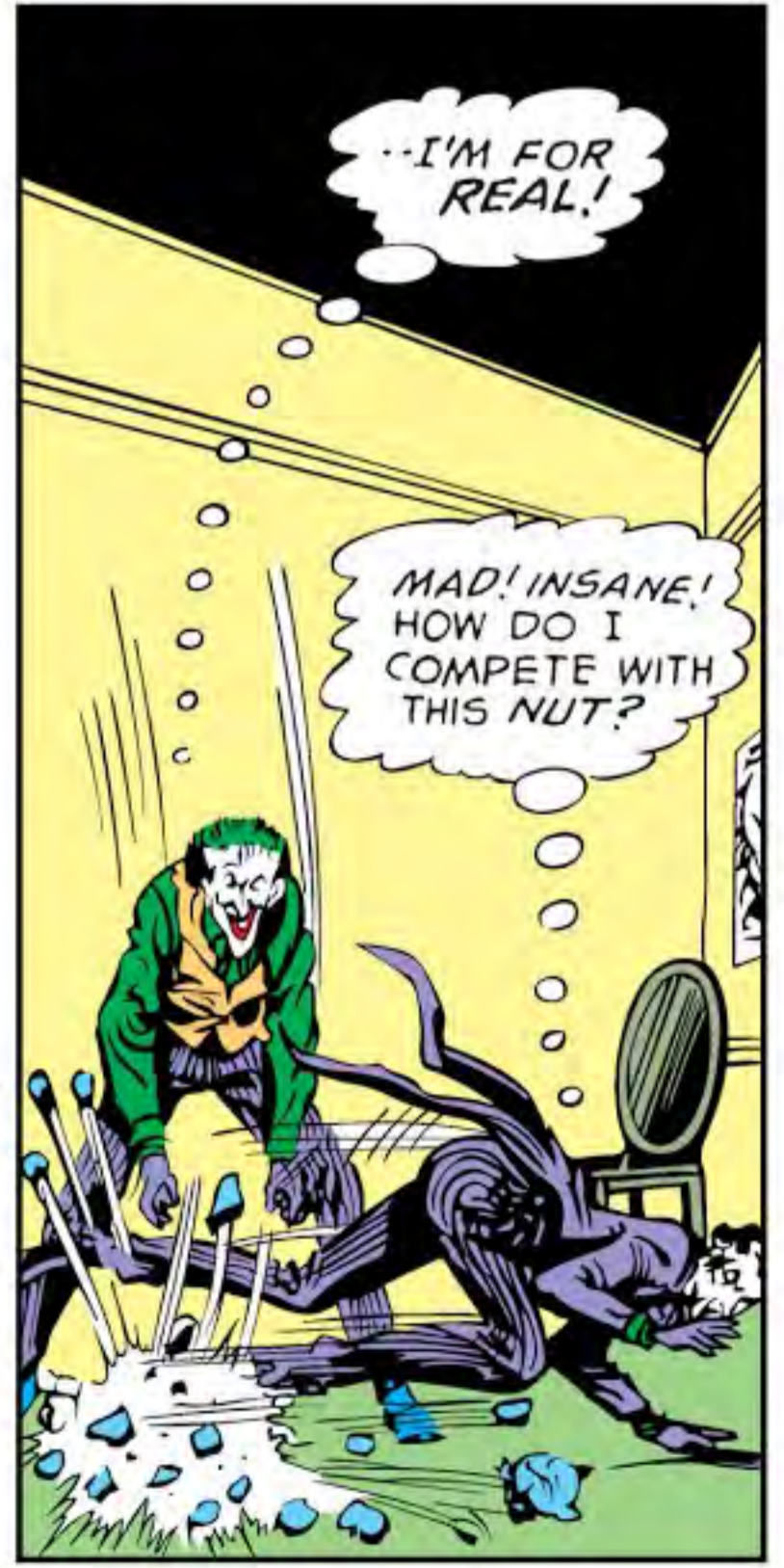
WHAT ANTIDOTE? I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THERE BEING AN ANTIDOTE!

COME, SOUTHPAW! MY DISGUISE IN MY VEHICLE!

Close-up of Mouth in a vehicle, looking disoriented. A Joker card is visible in the foreground.













LOOKS LIKE YOUR LUCK'S RUN OUT ON YOU!

HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A HELPING HAND!



HOW ABOUT PLAYING THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE?



ATTABOY-- THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD!

MAYBE YOU'LL GET LUCKY AND WIN THE BOOBY PRIZE! HAHHA!

URRGP!



HEY-- WHAT'S A MATTER, MAN...



... DON'T BE SUCH A SORE LOSER!

HA-HA-HA

WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH YOU...

... YOU'LL BE SORE-- LOSER!

HAHA!



WHO'S CALLING WHOM A LOSER?

UNGH!

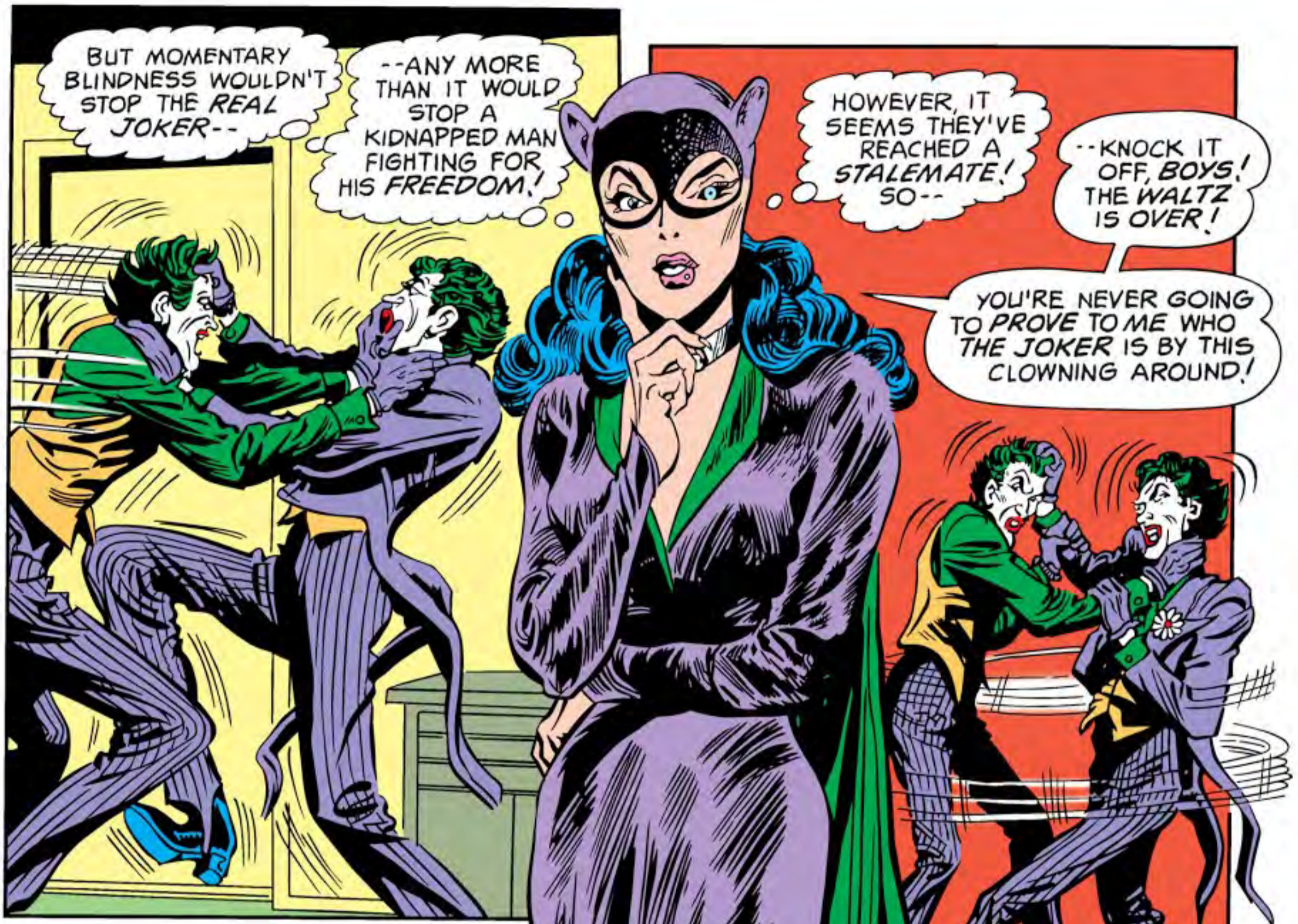


SAY... YOU'RE LOOKING GROGGY, CHUM!

SO-- WHY DON'T I JUICE YOU UP A BIT?

HMM... HE'S OPERATING LIKE THE REAL JOKER--

-- SQUIRTING THE OTHER'S EYES WITH LINIMENT!



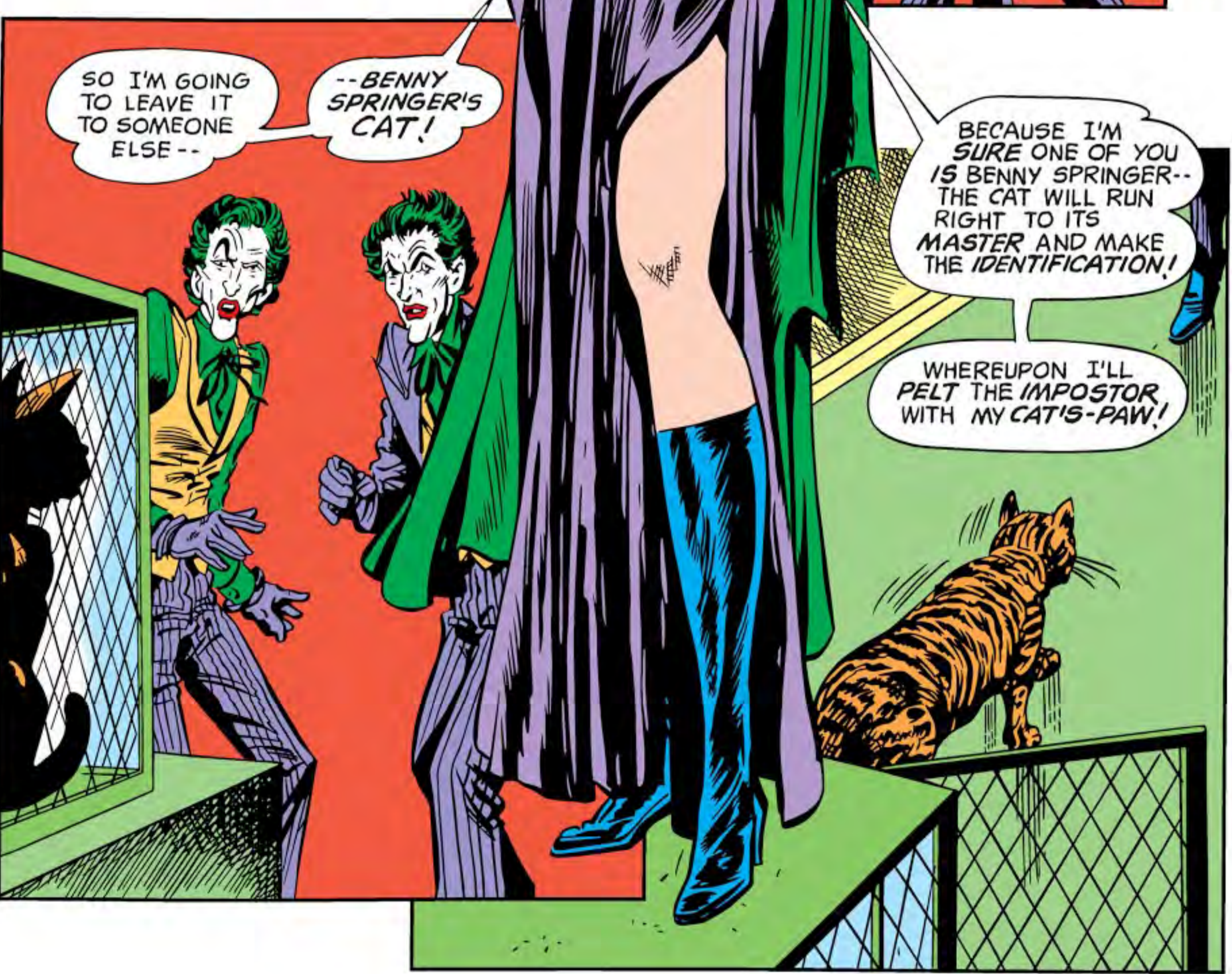
BUT MOMENTARY
BLINDNESS WOULDN'T
STOP THE REAL
JOKER--

--ANY MORE
THAN IT WOULD
STOP A
KIDNAPPED MAN
FIGHTING FOR
HIS FREEDOM!

HOWEVER, IT
SEEMS THEY'VE
REACHED A
STALEMATE!
SO--

--KNOCK IT
OFF, BOYS!
THE WALTZ
IS OVER!

YOU'RE NEVER GOING
TO PROVE TO ME WHO
THE JOKER IS BY THIS
CLOWNING AROUND!



SO I'M GOING
TO LEAVE IT
TO SOMEONE
ELSE--

--BENNY
SPRINGER'S
CAT!

BECAUSE I'M
SURE ONE OF YOU
IS BENNY SPRINGER--
THE CAT WILL RUN
RIGHT TO ITS
MASTER AND MAKE
THE IDENTIFICATION!

WHEREUPON I'LL
PELT THE IMPOSTOR
WITH MY CAT'S-PAW!



SCAT--
YOU KRAZY
KITTY!

I'M NOT
YOUR
CLOWNISH,
CLODDISH
MASTER!

I'M THE
CLOWN
PRINCE OF
CRIME!



NO--NO!
YA GOTTA
BELIEVE ME,
CATWOMAN!

I'M
THE
J-JOKE--

ZAP

UNNN!



THAT'LL
TEACH YOU
TO INSULT
FELINE
INTELLIGENCE,
YOU FRAUD!

A CAT KNOWS
THE SCENT OF
ITS MASTER...

...AND CATWOMAN
KNOWS THE LOOK OF--



--OF A
LOSER,
CATWOMAN?

CLANG!



YOU--BENNY SPRINGER?!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NO CAT CAN BE TRAINED
WELL ENOUGH TO GO TO
THE WRONG PERSON--
NOT EVEN MINE!



NO CAT EXCEPT
MY MILLION DOLLAR
KITTY--WHEN I
GAVE HIM A
SECRET SIGNAL!

OPERATOR--
GIVE ME THE
POLICE!

