

THE ORIGIN OF THE JOKER

HE BEGAN AS A SIMPLE LAB ASSISTANT... BUT HE HAD PLANS... BIG PLANS... WHEN HE BECAME THE RED HOOD...



NO ONE CAN TELL WHO I AM BECAUSE OF MY SEEMINGLY SOLID METAL HOOD! ACTUALLY, I CAN SEE THROUGH EYEHOLES THAT ARE RED TWO-WAY MIRRORS!

NOW I'LL STEAL ONE MILLION DOLLARS-- THEN RETIRE FROM CRIME!

HE SUCCEEDED! BUT AT HIS LAST JOB-- THE MONARCH PLAYING CARD COMPANY-- HE WAS NEARLY CAPTURED BY THE BATMAN...



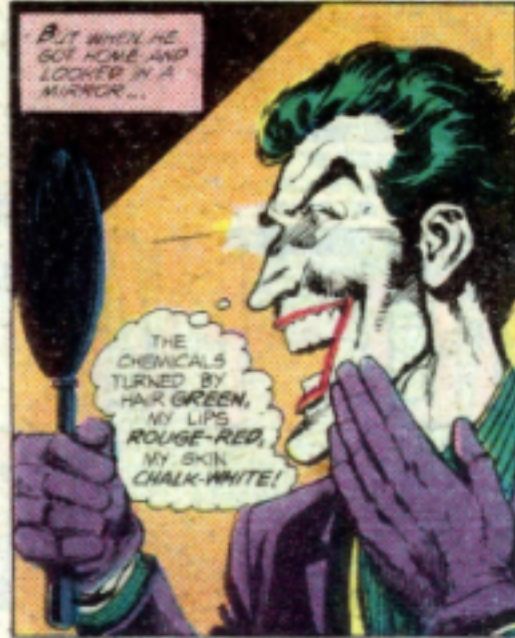
HE'S DIVING INTO THE CATCH BASIN FOR THE PLANT'S CHEMICAL WASTES!

IT DIPPED INTO THE RIVER-- BUT HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT ALIVE!



HOWEVER, THEY WERE UNAWARE OF THE EXTRAS BUILT INTO THE HELMET...

MY HOOD'S OXYGEN TANK ENABLES ME TO BREATHE UNDERWATER-- OR UNDER WHATEVER THIS STUFF IS!



BUT WHEN HE GOT HOME AND LOOKED IN A MIRROR...

THE CHEMICALS TURNED BY HAIR GREEN, MY LIPS ROUGE-RED, MY SKIN CHALK-WHITE!



BECAUSE HE LOOKED LIKE A CLOWN AND HE OWED HIS NEW APPEARANCE TO A PLAYING CARD COMPANY...

... HE TOOK A NEW NAME-- THE JOKER...

... THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME-- AN INSANE KILLER WHO LEAVES EACH VICTIM WITH A SMILE FROZEN ON HIS FACE!