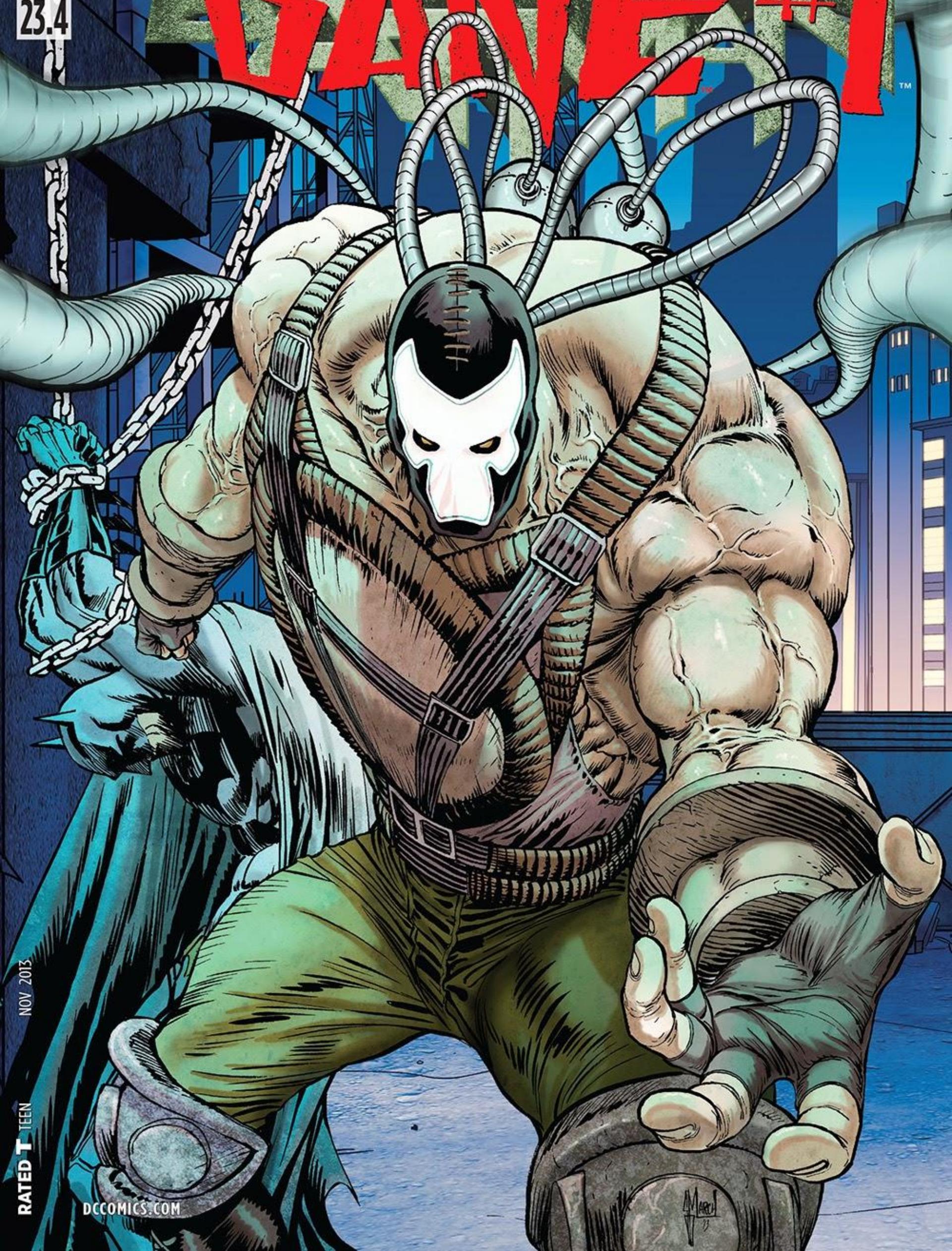




THE NEW 52!

23.4

# BANE #1



NOV 2013

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MARCH  
13

LONG AGO,  
THESE HANDS TOOK  
DOWN THE **ONE MAN**  
WHO HAD NEVER  
BEFORE FALLEN. I TOOK  
THIS MAN'S CITY AND I  
TOOK THIS MAN'S  
**HOPE.**

BUT HE  
ROSE AGAIN LIKE  
A **DEVIL**, AND HIS  
CITY WAS STOLEN  
FROM ME.

HE IS GONE  
AGAIN, TAKEN  
BY THE HANDS OF  
OTHERS, AND **NOW**  
I WANT THE CITY  
**BACK.**  
I HAVE  
REFINED MY  
**VENOM.**

ITS UNIQUE  
PROPERTIES  
ENHANCE MY  
STRENGTH.

A SMALL  
DOSE FLOWS  
THROUGH YOU,  
AS WELL.

FEEL  
ITS **GIFT**  
AND COMPLETE  
THE SINGLE TASK  
I ASK OF YOU  
BEFORE I LEAVE  
THIS PLACE...

...TRY  
AND KILL  
ME IF YOU  
CAN!



THE CARIBBEAN REPUBLIC OF SANTA PRISCA.

PEÑA DURA PRISON.

A BODY AT REST STAYS AT REST.  
A BODY IN MOTION STAYS IN MOTION.

SKLATCH

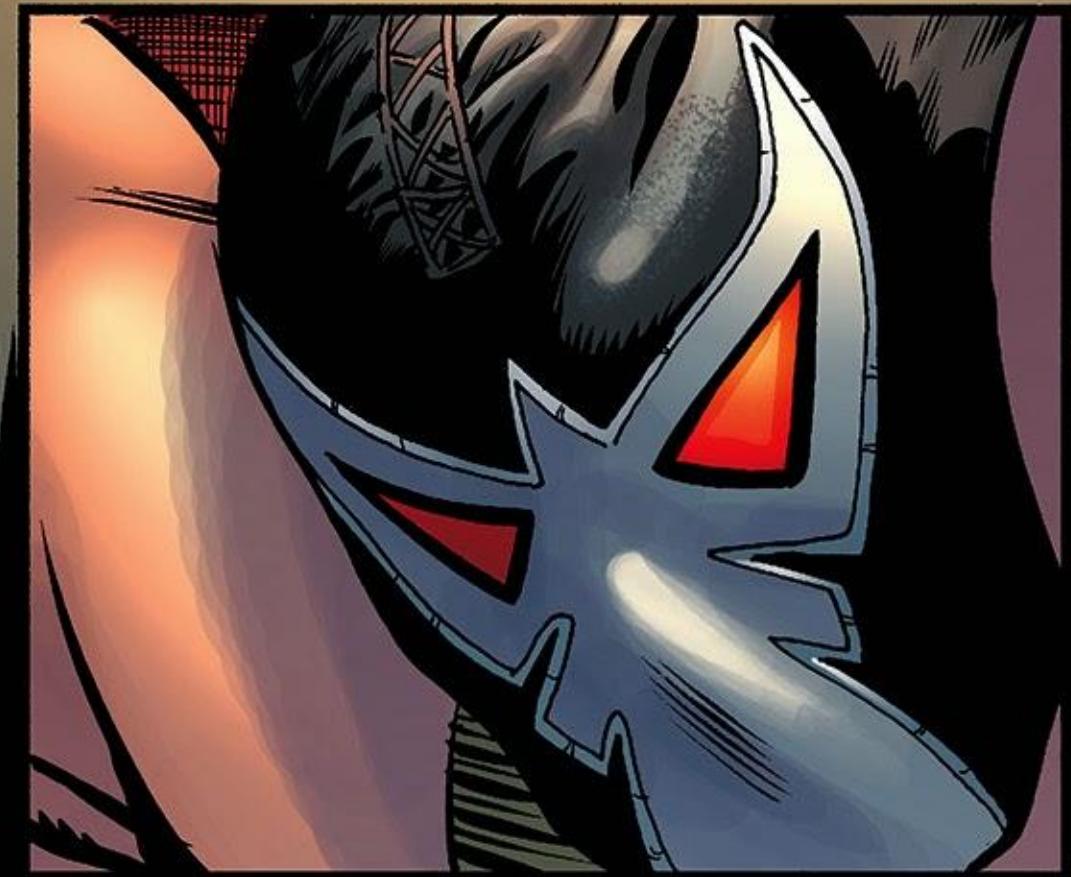
ONLY WHEN  
I'M DEAD DO  
I INTEND TO  
REST.

WILL ANY  
OF YOU MAKE  
THAT HAPPEN?!

DC COMICS UNLEASHES **BANE**  
**DARK DESTINY**

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NAGHH!

KRACKK

I HATED  
HIM. HE BEAT ME  
AND MY MOTHER  
ALL THE TIME.

THE OTHER  
CHILDREN RUN  
FROM THIS PLACE.  
THEY KNOW IT IS  
YOUR HOME.

THEY KNOW  
YOU ARE THE MAN  
WHO FREED THIS  
COUNTRY...WE LEARN  
IT IN SCHOOL...BUT  
THEY FEAR YOU,  
TOO.



THEIR FATHERS  
AND BROTHERS AND  
UNCLES WORK FOR  
YOU...AND SO MANY  
OF THEM DO NOT  
RETURN.

BUT I HAVE  
SEEN WHAT FATHERS  
AND BROTHERS AND  
UNCLES CAN DO TO  
CHILDREN, SEÑOR  
BANE.

AND  
THAT IS  
WHY...

...YOU  
ARE OUR  
GREATEST  
HERO.





HOURS LATER...

"I SERVE  
BANE BECAUSE HE  
CARRIES THE SOUL  
OF SANTA PRISCA  
IN HIS HANDS--"

"--SOME  
FORGET, BUT I  
REMEMBER..."

"...HIS FATHER WAS A  
REVOLUTIONARY WHO STOOD  
UP FOR THOSE OF US WHO  
HAD ALWAYS BEEN BENEATH  
THE GOVERNMENT'S  
BOOT--"

WHAM

"--HIS FATHER,  
ALWAYS CUNNING,  
ESCAPED, AND BANE, STILL  
A CHILD, TOOK HIS PLACE  
IN PEÑA DURA PRISON."

"BANE PAID HIS FATHER'S  
DUE...THE TRUE TEST  
OF A SANTA PRISCAN."

"OVER MANY YEARS,  
BANE WAITED--HE GREW  
STRONGER--WISER  
AND CUNNING."

"SOME WILL SAY THAT  
THE VENOM THAT COURSES  
THROUGH HIS VEINS MADE THE  
MAN STRONGER--THAT HE WAS  
SOMETHING LESS UNTIL  
THE VENOM."

"BUT THE  
FAITHFUL KNOW  
THAT IT WAS THE  
MAN WHO BECAME  
GREAT FIRST."

"THE FAITHFUL  
KNOW THAT  
VENOM IS JUST  
HIS BLOOD."

SKRAK  
WHAM

"THAT IT ADAPTED TO  
HIS PHYSIOLOGY LIKE A  
MIRROR TO REFLECT  
HIS MAGNIFICENCE."

"AS HIS LEGEND GREW, HE SAW IN A FARAWAY LAND ANOTHER REFLECTION. A CITY THAT HOUSED DARK MADNESS THAT EVEN THOSE THROUGHOUT AMERICA FEARED.

"AN UNTAMABLE CITY.

"AND THEN, LIKE ALL GREAT MEN, HE SAW SOMETHING HE WANTED AND DECIDED TO TAKE IT.

"BUT THAT CITY HAD A PROTECTOR.

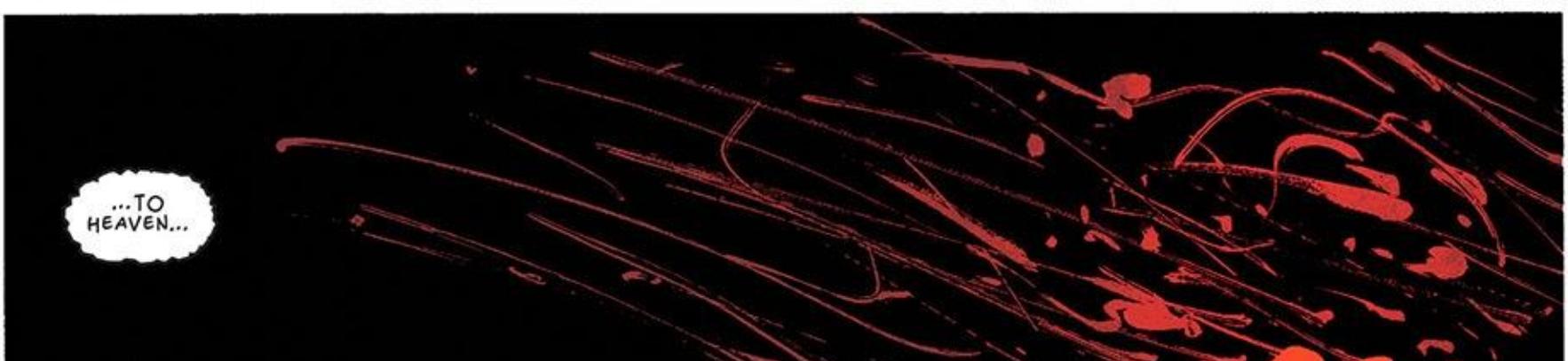
"AN OTHERWORLDLY DEMON WHO USED CUNNING AND TRICKERY TO STOP BANE FROM ACHIEVING A GREAT VICTORY TIME AND AGAIN.

"THE DEMON THOUGHT HE WAS THE CITY'S KNIGHT..."

...BUT HE ONLY DELAYED WHAT HAS BEEN LONG COMING...

HMM?  
THE SOCIETY'S REACH EXTENDS TO THE MOON.

..BANE BUILT AN ARMY OUT OF ALL WHO WOULD FOLLOW, AND IT'S NOW RISING AT HIS COMMAND..





THIS  
WORLD  
IS OURS.

THIS  
WORLD  
IS OURS.

THIS  
WORLD  
IS OURS.

...WHAT  
THE  
HELL...?

THIS  
WORLD  
IS OURS.

IT'S  
ON MY  
SCREEN,  
TOO.





HIYA,  
WARDEN.  
BANE  
CALLED  
AHEAD.

SATELLITE PHONE'S GONE DEAD, BUT THE LAST TRANSMISSION SAID BLACKGATE IS NOW UNDER CONTROL.

YOUR MEN INFILTRATED THE GUARDS EASILY, AND THE PRISON POPULATION IS EAGER TO COOPERATE.

THE POLICE KNOW NOTHING. THEY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE ARKHAM SITUATION.

I KNOW THEM WELL, MALICIA, AND THE ARKHAMITES ARE AS IDIOTIC AS THEY ARE INSANE.

RECENTLY, I WAS CALLED AMONG THEM AND THEIR PLAN IS TO WASTE TIME AND RESOURCES CUTTING GOTHAM LIKE A PIE--ALL TO SHOW OFF THEIR DIFFERENT BRANDS OF MADNESS TO EACH OTHER.

THE FOOLS DO NOT RESPECT WHAT THEY HAVE WON, AND THAT IS WHY I WILL TAKE IT.

I WIN BECAUSE I ALWAYS RESPECT THE PREY.

FLY AHEAD WITH A DOSE OF VENOM. SEND ONE OF OUR BLACKGATE GUARDS OUT INTO THE CITY ON A HUNT.

I WANT THE ONE WHO THINKS HE IS SMARTER THAN THE REST--THE ONE WHO THRIVES ON FEAR.

THE SCARECROW. THEY ALL DESPISE HIM.

TAKE THE CROW DOWN AND THE REST WILL UNDERSTAND THIS WAR CANNOT BE AVOIDED AS I GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TRULY FEAR.

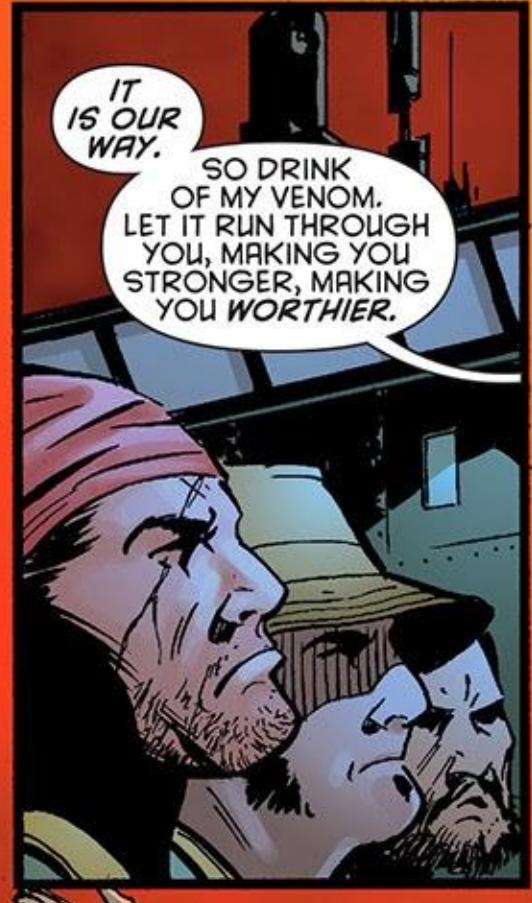
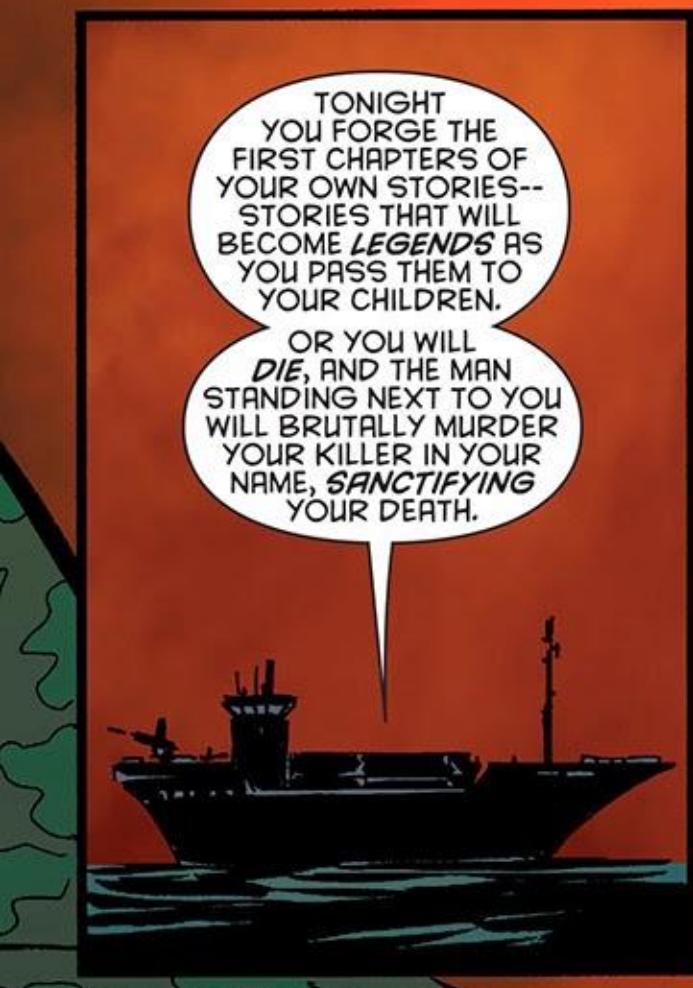
THEN WE PREPARE THE MEN.  
GO.



OFF THE COAST OF GOTHAM CITY.

THESE GIFTS  
ARE YOURS. ARM  
YOURSELVES!







...AND  
GOTHAM  
CITY IS  
MINE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN  
**FOREVER EVIL**  
**ARKHAM WAR #1**