

BATMAN

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APPROVED BY THE
COMIC BOOK
CODE
AUTHORITY
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BRUBAKER • McDANIEL • SOWD





I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF BODYGUARD DOESN'T CARRY A WEAPON? THAT WOULD SEEM KIND OF SUSPICIOUS...

I DON'T CARE. YOU KNOW THE RULES.

MY PARENTS WERE KILLED WITH A GUN... WE DON'T USE THEM.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN LEAVE.

I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE AN N.R.A. REP, BUT... DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT YOUR PARENTS WERE ACTUALLY KILLED BY A PERSON, NOT A GUN?

BECAUSE I HATE GUNS AS MUCH AS ANYONE, BUT THEY'RE JUST TOOLS.

AND I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW THAT... BUT IT'S LIKE YOU DECIDED THIS AS A KID AND JUST REFUSE TO BUDGE. LIKE YOU DON'T WANT TO ADMIT THE TRUTH.

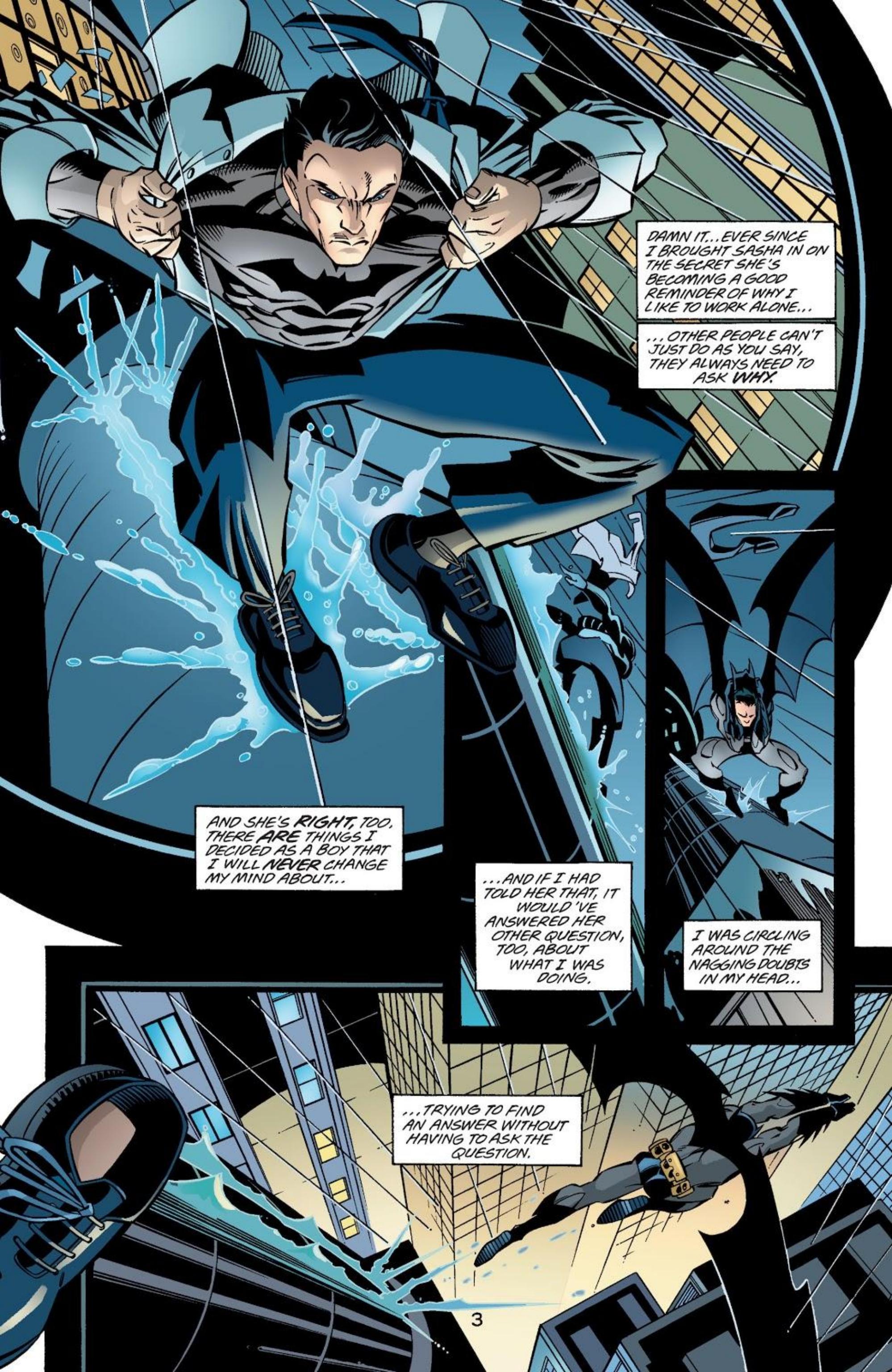
DESPITE ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT'S IT'S THE PEOPLE HOLDING THE GUNS WHO'RE THE PROBLEM.

AND NOW YOU'RE USING THIS GUN THING AS AN EXCUSE TO SIDETRACK OUR CONVERSATION, TOO...

EXCEPT AVOIDANCE DOESN'T WORK SO EASILY WITH ME, BRUCE...

...SO--

OH, RIGHT... DISAPPEARING. REAL MATURE.



DAMN IT... EVER SINCE I BROUGHT SASHA IN ON THE SECRET SHE'S BECOMING A GOOD REMINDER OF WHY I LIKE TO WORK ALONE...

... OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T JUST DO AS YOU SAY, THEY ALWAYS NEED TO ASK WHY.

AND SHE'S RIGHT, TOO. THERE ARE THINGS I DECIDED AS A BOY THAT I WILL NEVER CHANGE MY MIND ABOUT...

... AND IF I HAD TOLD HER THAT, IT WOULD'VE ANSWERED HER OTHER QUESTION, TOO, ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING.

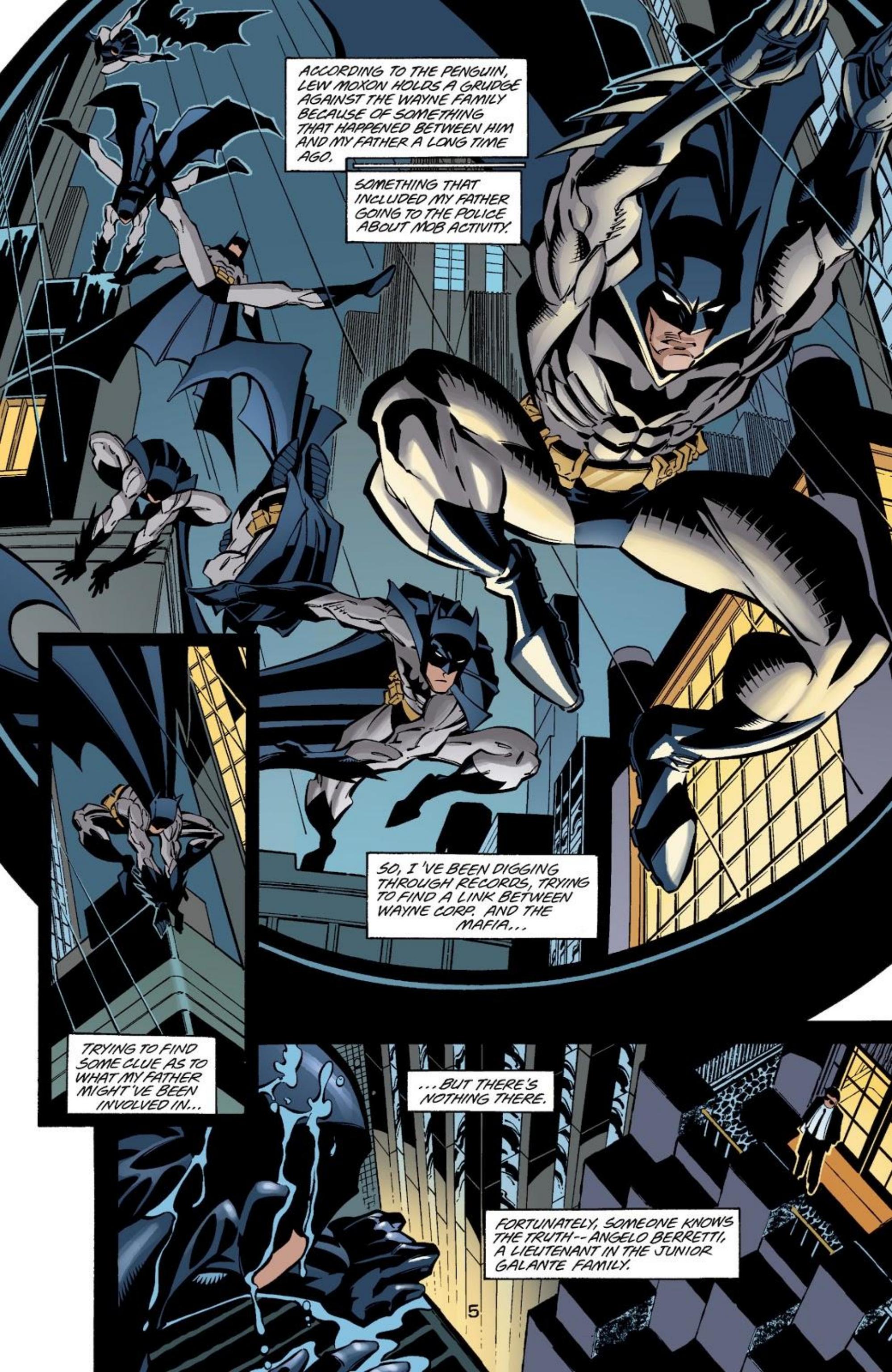
I WAS CIRCLING AROUND THE NAGGING DOUBTS IN MY HEAD...

... TRYING TO FIND AN ANSWER WITHOUT HAVING TO ASK THE QUESTION.

OUT OF THE PAST

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ACCORDING TO THE PENGUIN,
LEW MOXON HOLDS A GRUDGE
AGAINST THE WAYNE FAMILY
BECAUSE OF SOMETHING
THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM
AND MY FATHER A LONG TIME
AGO,

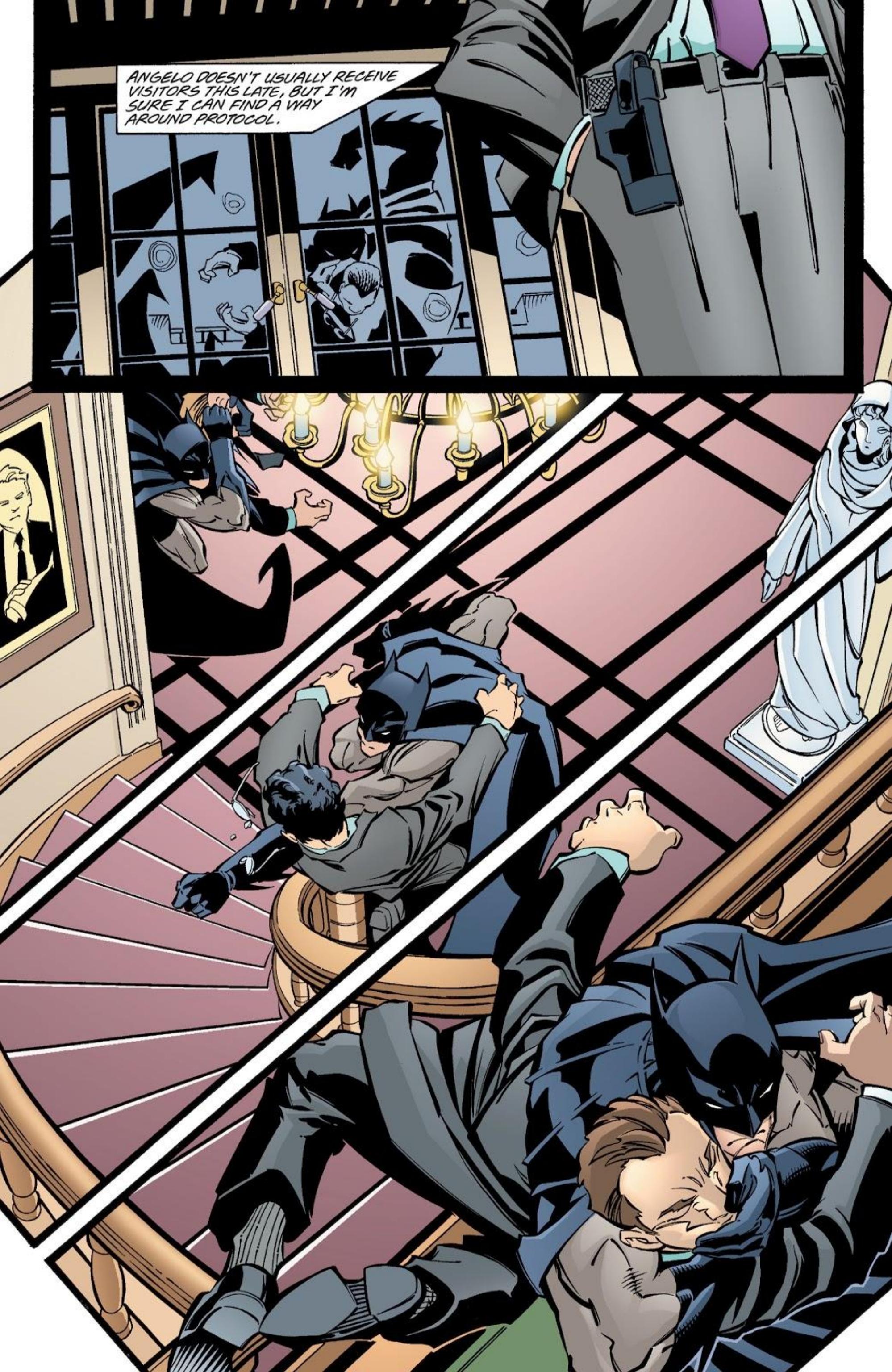
SOMETHING THAT
INCLUDED MY FATHER
GOING TO THE POLICE
ABOUT MOB ACTIVITY.

TRYING TO FIND
SOME CLUE AS TO
WHAT MY FATHER
MIGHT'VE BEEN
INVOLVED IN...

...BUT THERE'S
NOTHING THERE.

FORTUNATELY, SOMEONE KNOWS
THE TRUTH--ANGELO BERRETTI,
A LIEUTENANT IN THE JUNIOR
GALANTE FAMILY.

ANGELO DOESN'T USUALLY RECEIVE VISITORS THIS LATE, BUT I'M SURE I CAN FIND A WAY AROUND PROTOCOL.





FEELS LIKE I
GOT EMPHYSEMA...
DAMN.

SHOULD
JUST GET MY
LUNGS DRAINED...

Rx Berret

MAYBE I
CAN HELP
YOU WITH
THAT.

AHHH!
HELP
ME!

GINO!
TUCCI!

... MOTHER
MARY.

NO ONE'S
COMING, ANGELO...
ALL ASLEEP ON
THE JOB, I'M
AFRAID...

etti, A.
opone
75mg
ice da

...YOU--
YOU TOOK THEM
ALL OUT... MY
GOD...

WHAT--
WHAT DO YOU
WANT OF
ME?

BEFORE LEW MOXON
CAME BACK TO GOTHAM
HE SENT HIS SOLDIER,
ZEISS, TO TEST ME.
ALONG THE WAY, A
FRIEND OF MINE
ENDED UP DEAD.

NOW I FIND OUT
THAT HE DIED
BECAUSE HE WAS
ALSO A FRIEND
OF BRUCE
WAYNE'S...

...AND THAT
MOXON WAS TRYING
TO REPAY AN OLD
DEBT TO WAYNE'S
FATHER.

SO, WHAT
I WANT TO KNOW
FROM YOU IS...

HOW AM I SUPPOSED
TO KNOW, IT MUST
HAVE BEEN OVER
TWENTY--

I'VE BEEN TOLD IT
HAS SOMETHING
TO DO WITH A
COSTUME
PARTY.

...WHAT DID
THOMAS WAYNE DO
THAT WOULD CARRY
A BLOOD DEBT?

YES, I DO
REMEMBER IT, NOW
THAT YOU MENTION
THAT...

I CAN'T RECALL WHETHER IT WAS TWENTY OR TWENTY FIVE YEARS AGO... BUT I DO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS THE MAYOR'S HALLOWEEN BALL...

"...LEW THOUGHT WE'D ALL BE VERY CLEVER AND CUTE, DRESSING UP LIKE GANGSTERS FROM THE 30S..."

"...AND DR. WAYNE WAS THERE, TOO... HE WAS EVER THE GOTHAM SOCIALITE--CHARMING, DASHING... AND HIS COSTUME REFLECTED THAT."

WHAT WAS HE?

IT WAS THE HERO... FROM THE MOVIES, WHAT WAS HIS NAME...? WITH THE CAPE AND THE SWORD...

ZORRO...

"YES, THAT'S IT, HE WAS ZORRO... I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HIS WIFE AND CHILD WERE WEARING, THOUGH..."

"BUT ZORRO, THAT WAS FLASHY..."

SO, WHAT HAPPENED?

WELL, THINGS WERE GOING FINE, LEW WAS A BIG MAN IN GOTHAM BACK THEN... THIS WAS ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE HIS TRIAL, WHEN HE WAS RUNNING FOR CITY COUNCILMAN...

"I GUESS HE'D MET WAYNE THE PREVIOUS SUMMER AT A RESORT IN FRANCE, AND THE TWO DID NOT EXACTLY HIT IT OFF, BUT THEY WERE POLITE TO EACH OTHER..."

HAVING A GOOD TIME, DOC?

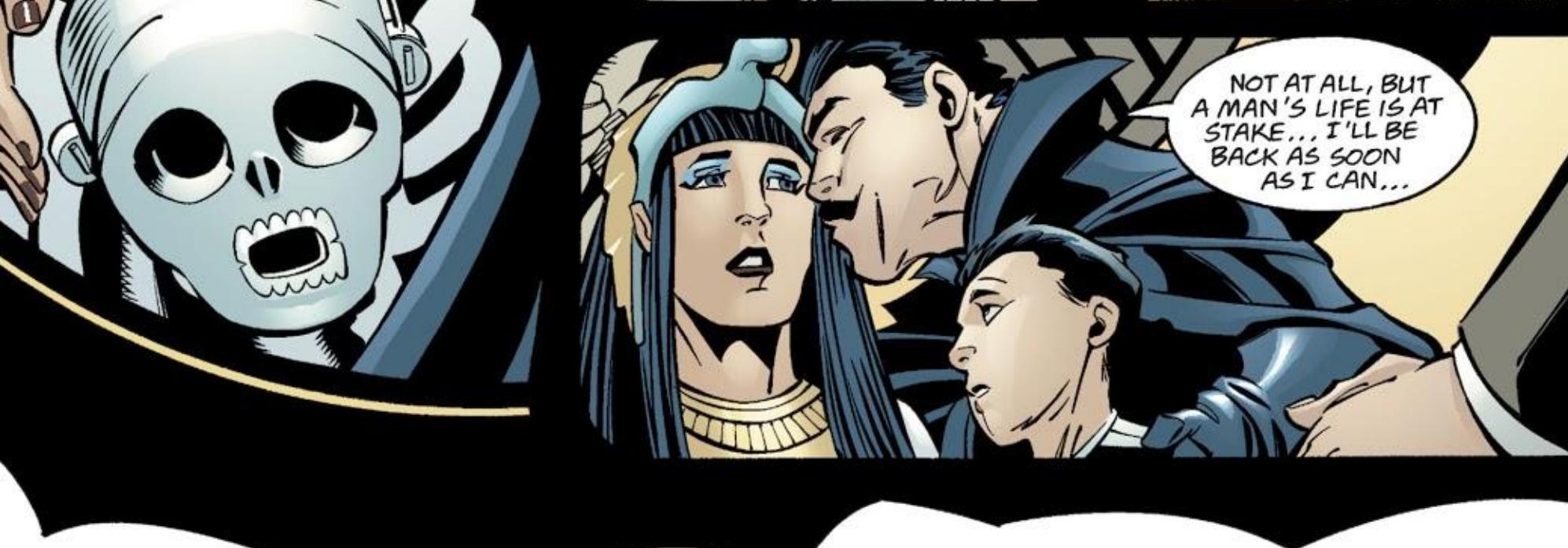
SO FAR... HOW'VE YOU BEEN, LEW?

IS MALLORY HERE, TOO?

SORRY, BRUCIE... HER MOM WOULDN'T LET ME TAKE HER OUTTA BOARDING SCHOOL FOR THE WEEKEND.







"SO, WE GOT DOCTOR WAYNE AND DROVE HIM TO THE SAFE HOUSE, SO HE COULD FIX UP LEW'S NEPHEW..."

WHAT'S ZIS...?
BONNIE AND CLYDE
MEET ABBOTT AND
COSTELLO?

SHUT YER
TRAP, YOU
IDIOT...

MY GOD,
THIS MAN
SHOULD BE IN
A HOSPITAL...

WELL, UNFORTUNATELY,
HE'S NOT GOING TO ONE...
EITHER YOU FIX HIM **RIGHT
HERE**, OR HE DIES...
IT'S YOUR CALL,
DOC.

BUT WASN'T THERE
SOMETHING I HEARD OF
ONCE CALLED THE HIPPOCRATIC
OATH? SOMETHING ABOUT
HELPING THOSE IN NEED...?

I'M GOING TO
NEED BOILING WATER,
AND ANY ALCOHOL
THAT YOU'VE GOT
IN THE HOUSE.

SEE, I TOLD
YOU WAYNE
WOULD COME
AROUND...

WAYNE

"WAYNE WORKED MIRACLES THAT NIGHT... IT TOOK HOURS, BUT EVENTUALLY HE GOT BRUNO STABLE, GOT THE BULLET OUT, AND STITCHED HIM UP."

THAT SHOULD DO IT... HE'LL SURVIVE, BUT HE SHOULD REALLY SEE A SPECIALIST ABOUT THAT SHOULDER, THOUGH.

GREAT, DOC, HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?

NOTHING... I WON'T TAKE YOUR MONEY.

WHAT? HEY, I KNOW YOU'RE RICH, BUT CONSIDER IT A GRATUITY FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I'M GOING TO BE VERY CLEAR HERE, MOXON, SO THERE WON'T BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN US...

I SAVED THIS MAN'S LIFE, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I DO... YOU BROUGHT UP THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH BEFORE...

...WELL, THERE'S ANOTHER OATH DOCTORS WORK UNDER, TOO-- TO UPHOLD THE LAW, AND THAT INCLUDES REPORTING ANY GUNSHOT WOUNDS WE TREAT...

...WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.

WHAT? NOW LISTEN, WAYNE, MAYBE YOU BETTER JUST CONSIDER ALL THIS TO BE UNDER DOCTOR/PATIENT PRIVILEGE...

...YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO THAT NICE FAMILY OF YOURS, WOULD'YA?

SO, JUST TAKE THE MONEY AND WE'LL CALL IT--

YOU TOUCH MY FAMILY AND I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL!

PLEASE,
DR. WAYNE,
STOP...

BOSS?

NOT HERE.
TAKE HIM TO THE
PLACE AND GET
RID OF HIM.

NO, I'M
AFRAID WE
CAN'T...

WHAT? WHY
THE HELL NOT? HE
HIT ME... AND BESIDES
THAT, HE'S GONNA
TALK...

I GUARANTEED HIS
SAFETY, GAVE HIS WIFE
MY SOLEMN WORD...

HE
HIT
ME.

HE WAS SEEN LEAVING
THE PARTY WITH US, AND HE'S
ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT
MEN IN GOTHAM... BE SMART, LEW.

FINE, TAKE HIM
HOME...

YOU GOT LUCKY THIS TIME,
WAYNE, BUT YOU MIGHT WANNA
RETHINK YOUR DUTIES TO THE
LAW ABOUT BRUNO IF YOU
WANNA STAY LUCKY.

"SO I WAS ABLE TO KEEP MY WORD AND RETURN
THOMAS WAYNE TO HIS FAMILY, DESPITE LEW'S
OBVIOUS ANGER AT THE SITUATION..."

DID THOMAS WAYNE REPORT BRUNO TO THE POLICE?

THE NEXT DAY, AND BRUNO WAS KILLED A WEEK LATER IN COUNTY JAIL... THE LESS SAID ABOUT THAT THE BETTER.

AND A FEW MONTHS LATER THOMAS AND MARTHA WAYNE WERE MURDERED...

YES, IN RATHER SHOCKING FASHION, AS I RECALL... THAT POOR BOY.

WAS THAT MOXON'S DOING?

NO, LEW WAS IN THE MIDST OF HIS CAMPAIGN BY THEN, AND I CLEARLY RECALL HOW ANGRY HE WAS THAT SOMEONE HAD TAKEN HIS REVENGE FROM HIM...

SO, IS MOXON GOING TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE HIS REVENGE AGAINST THE WAYNE FAMILY?

I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA, WE AREN'T AS CLOSE AS WE USED TO BE...

I WOULD IMAGINE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, LEW MOXON WILL MOSTLY BE LEARNING HOW TO SURVIVE WITHOUT THE USE OF HIS LIMBS.

WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME SO FREELY, ANGELO? I'D ALWAYS HEARD YOU WERE FAIRLY TIGHT-LIPPED.

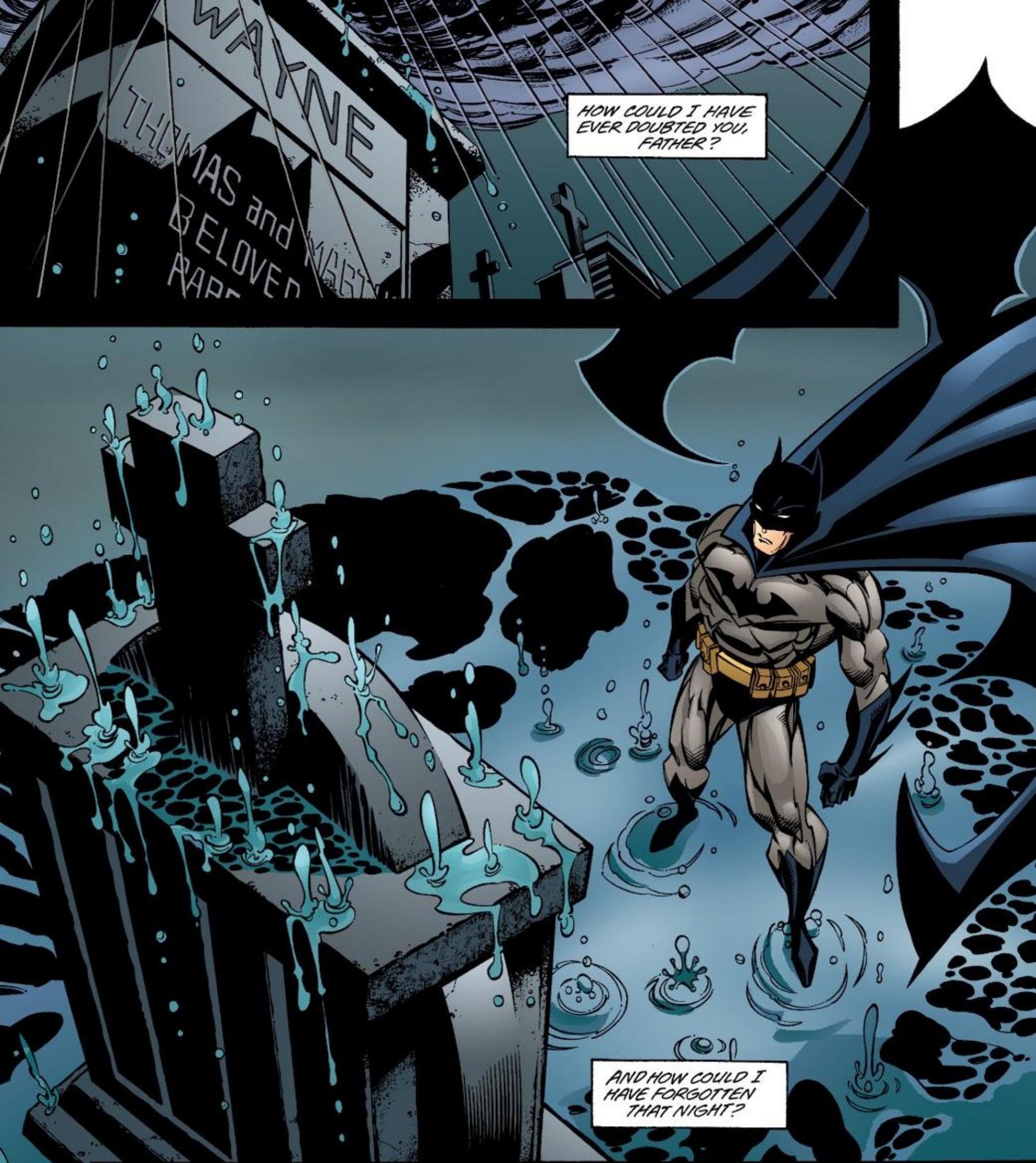
...AND HONESTLY, YOU SCARE THE HELL OUT OF ME, BATMAN... ALWAYS HAVE...

ANY STORY WHERE LEW MOXON GETS A FAT LIP IS ALWAYS WORTH TELLING, AND THERE'S NOTHING OLD MEN LIKE MORE THAN TELLING STORIES...

GOOD.

--OH, THANK GOD...

HOW COULD I HAVE EVER DOUBTED YOU, FATHER?



AND HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT NIGHT?



AND I REMEMBER ONE
MOMENT IN PARTICULAR...
A MOMENT THAT
FORESHADOWED ALL OF
OUR FATES...

ZORRO?
WHO'S
THAT?

WHEN I WAS A
LITTLE BOY THERE
WAS A GREAT MOVIE
ABOUT ZORRO, IN
THE STORY HE WAS
A HERO IN MEXICO...
A MASKED MAN
FIGHTING FOR
THE PEOPLE...



SOUNDS
COOL, I
WANNA
SEE IT...

WELL, THE NEXT
TIME IT PLAYS AT
THE REPERTORY
THEATRE, WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO TAKE
YOU, WON'T WE?

ALL
RIGHT!

NOW HURRY,
YOU DON'T
WANT TO MISS
ALL THE FUN,
DO YOU?

OH, LOOK,
THOMAS, THERE'S
LEW MOXON...WHAT
AN IRONIC COSTUME.

YES, HE'S
GOT QUITE A
SENSE OF HUMOR
...MOSTLY BAD.



WAIT,
WAIT...MOM,
DAD...

HOW
DO I
LOOK?



I REMEMBER WHEN YOU LEFT WITH THOSE MEN, TOO, AND HOW WORRIED MOTHER WAS...

WHY ARE YOU SCARED, MOMMY?

BECAUSE YOUR FATHER IS VERY BRAVE, BRUCE... SO SOMETIMES I HAVE TO BE SCARED FOR ALL OF US.

YOU WERE BRAVE THAT NIGHT, AND YOU DID THE RIGHT THING... REGARDLESS OF THE COST...

YOU WERE ZORRO, I SUPPOSE... A HERO.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT ALL ALONG... I'LL NEVER DOUBT YOU AGAIN.

AND I'LL NEVER BE A COWARD AGAIN, EITHER.

