



KNIGHTQUEST™
THE CRUSADE



BATMAN

505 \$1.50 US
\$2.00 CAN
70p UK

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

BATMAN®



DOUG
MOENCH
MIKE
MANLEY

BLOODKIN

"REPORTED GUNSHOTS,
POSSIBLE DOMESTIC
DISTURBANCE"--
HORROR REDUCED TO
THE FORMALITY OF A
POLICE RADIO
DISPATCH.

STILL, IF NINE OUT
OF TEN IN-HOME
MURDERS ARE
COMMITTED BY
FAMILY MEMBERS
AND "LOVED ONES," A
GOOD GUESS... BUT
APPARENTLY WRONG.

THE SCENE IS NO LONGER
A HOME--IT'S A CHARNEL
HOUSE--AND THE VICTIMS
OF THIS "DISTURBANCE"
ACCOUNT FOR THE
ENTIRE FAMILY.

DOUG MOENCH · MIKE MANLEY · BOB WIACEK · ADRIENNE ROY
WRITER PENCILLER INKER COLORIST

HEN BRUZENAK · JORDAN B. GORFINHEL · DENNY O'NEIL · BATMAN CREATED BY
LETTERER ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR BOB KANE

NO CASE OF MURDER-SUICIDE HERE, NOT WITH ALL FIVE BEATEN AND SHOT.



THEN FLAYED.

AS IF DEATH WERE A MERE BYPRODUCT AND NOT ENOUGH IN ITSELF... AS IF THE KILLER TRIED TO PENETRATE LIFE AND GET AT THE VERY CORE OF...

FAITHLESS SON, YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!

MY FATHER--BUT NOT A GHOST--JUST MY MIND AGAIN, FED AND POISONED BY THE SYSTEM--GARBLED INDOCTRINATION MANIFESTING AS HALLUCINATION...

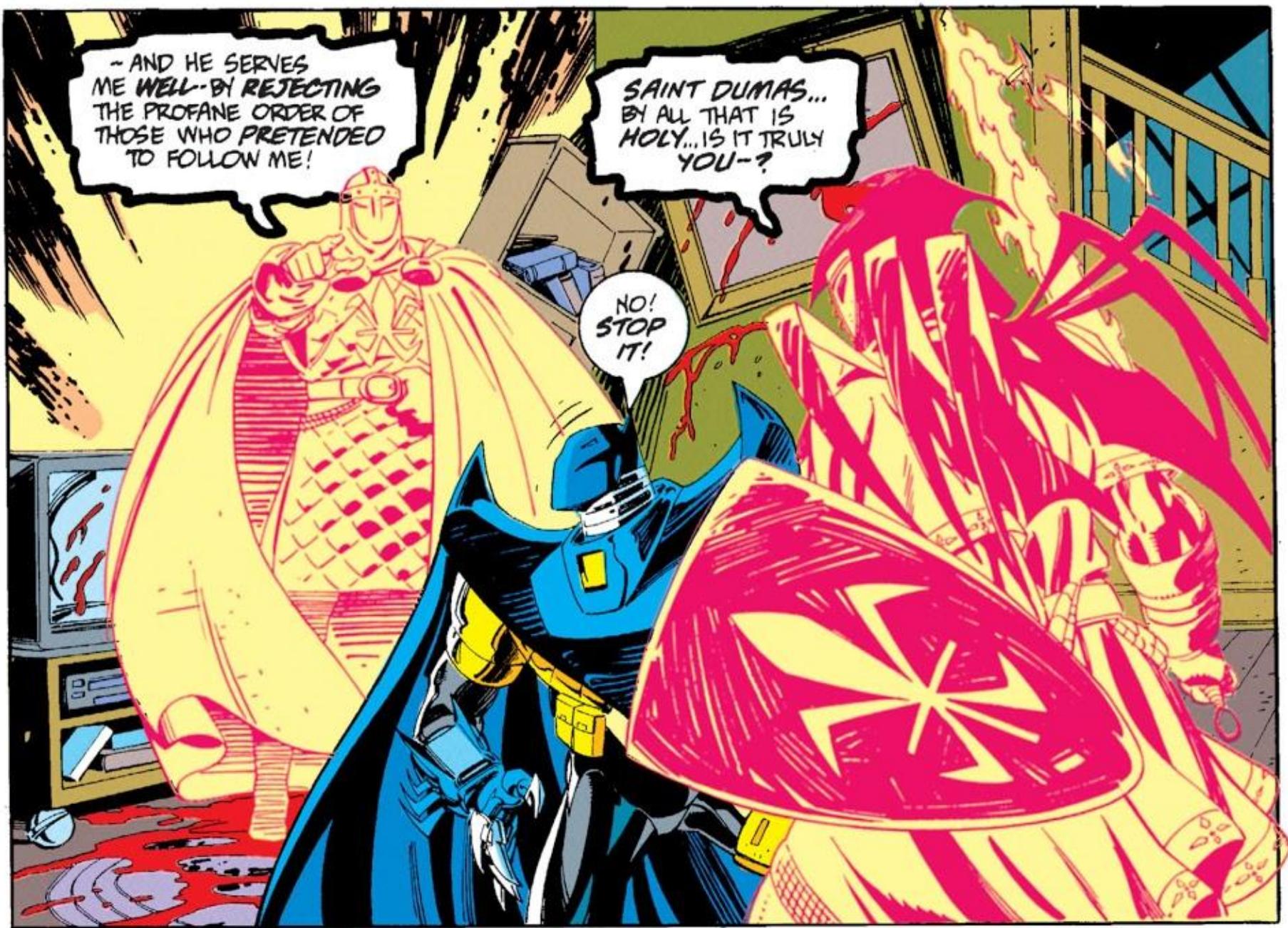
WHY DO YOU DENY ME BY DONNING THE MANTLE OF ANOTHER MAN? BY UPHOLDING THE TRADITION OF A FALSE FATHER?

I... BRUCE WAYNE HELPED ME, BUT I... I NEVER THOUGHT OF HIM AS... A FATHER...

YOUR TRUE ALLEGIANCE IS NOW WHAT MINE WAS- TO THE ORDER, TO THE SYSTEM, TO MY LEGACY!

THE LINE MUST CONTINUE UNBROKEN! AS I WAS THE AVENGING ANGEL AZRAEL, SO TOO MUST YOU SERVE SAINT DUMAS!

SERVE ME HE DOES..



YOU MUST RELEASE ALL HOLD OVER YOUR SON-AND LET HIM EMERGE FROM YOUR DARKNESS INTO ANOTHER MAN'S LIGHT!

NO! FAR FROM BEING MY PATRON SAINT, YOU ARE BUT A DEMON CLOAKED IN DISGUISE-AND I WOULD DEFY HELL ITSELF IN MY APPOINTED CRUSADE!

EVEN AFTER DEATH, MY QUEST MUST GO ON!



SO BE IT! IF YOUR FALSE "SYSTEM" IS STRONGER THAN THE IDEALS OF HIM WHOM IT PRETENDS TO SERVE...

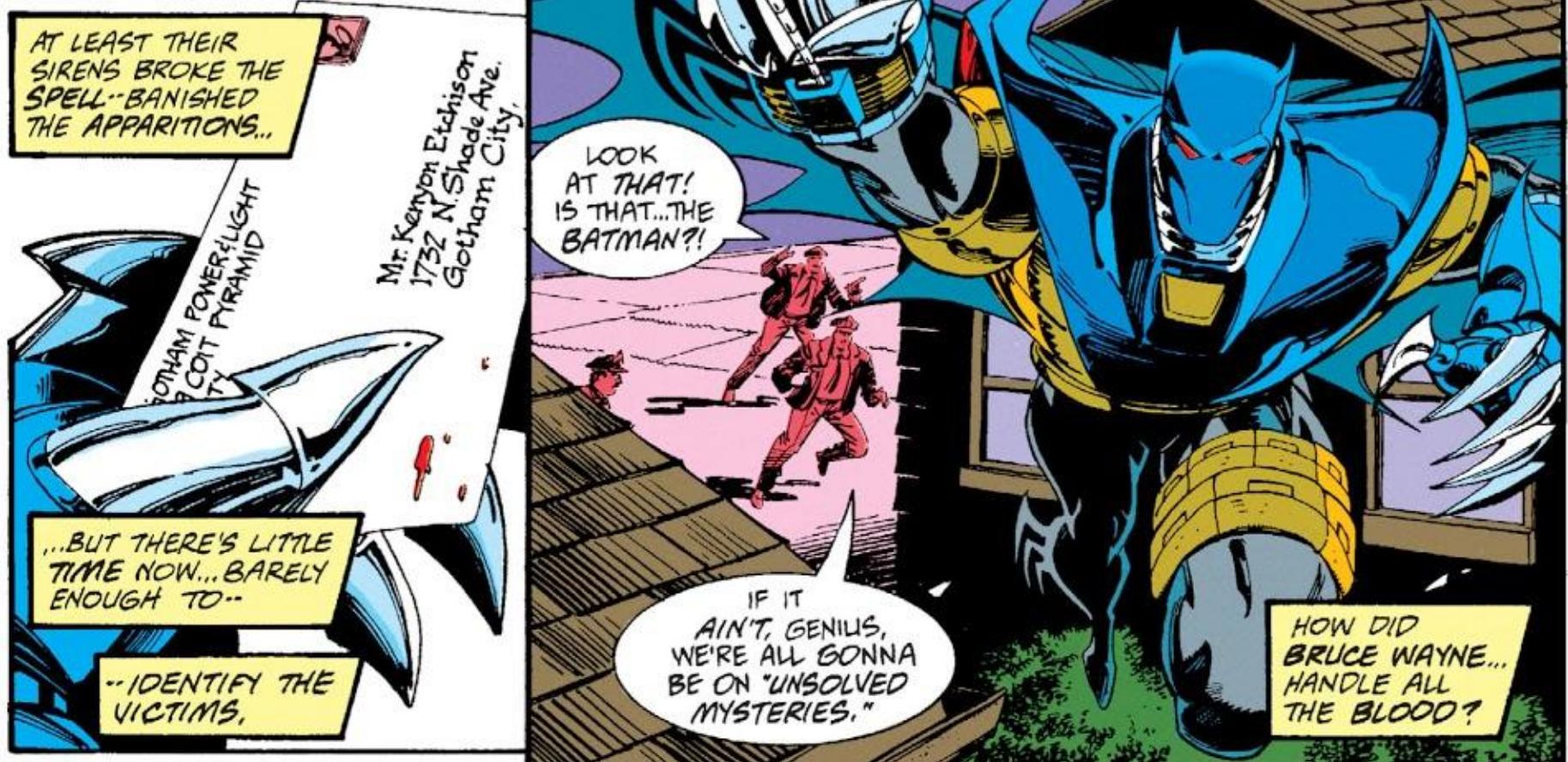
...KNOW THAT YOU CHALLENGE TRUTH ITSELF IN THIS STRUGGLE FOR THE FATE OF YOUR SON'S SOUL!

AND IT IS A STRUGGLE YOU ARE DAMNED TO LOSE!

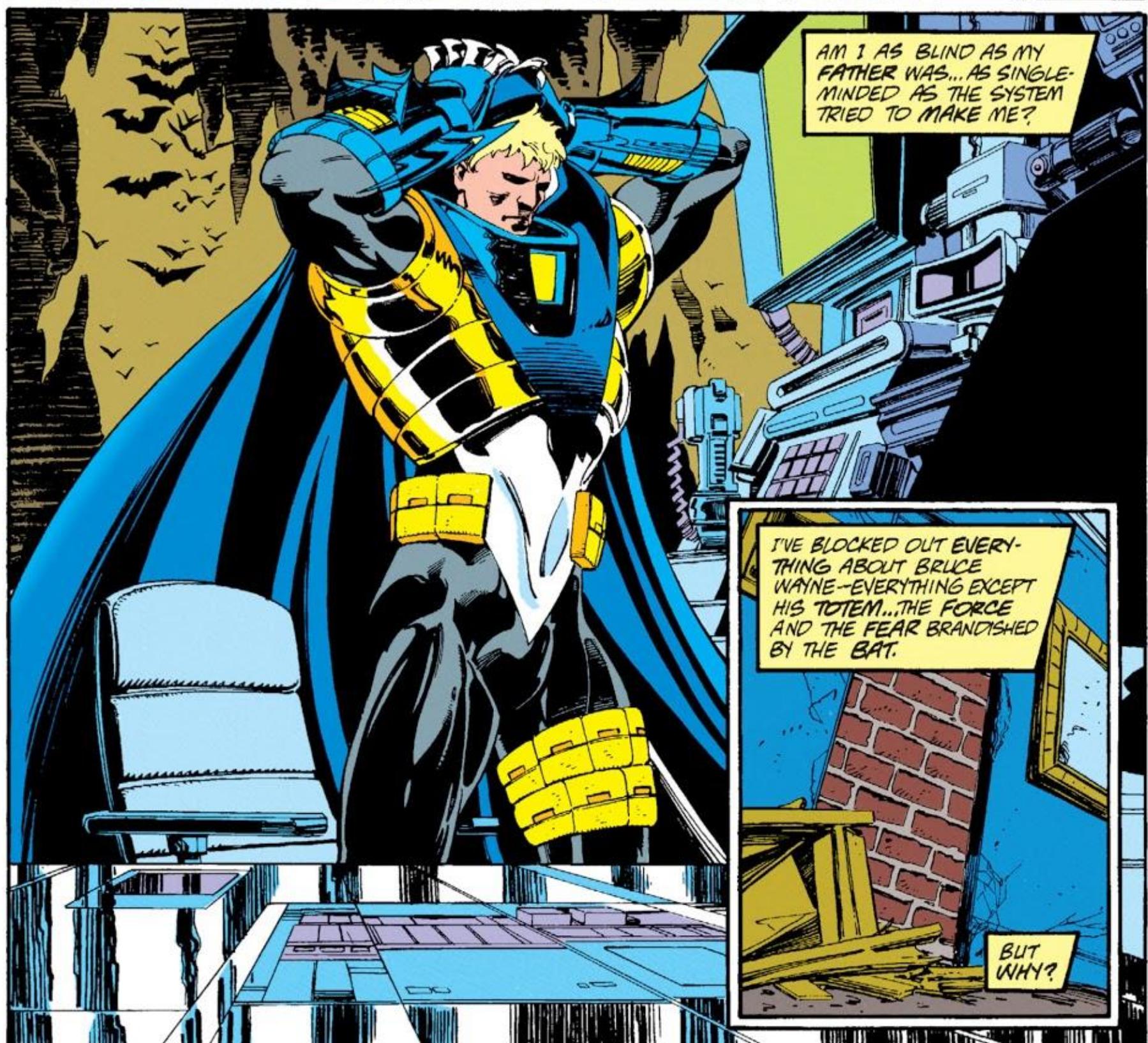


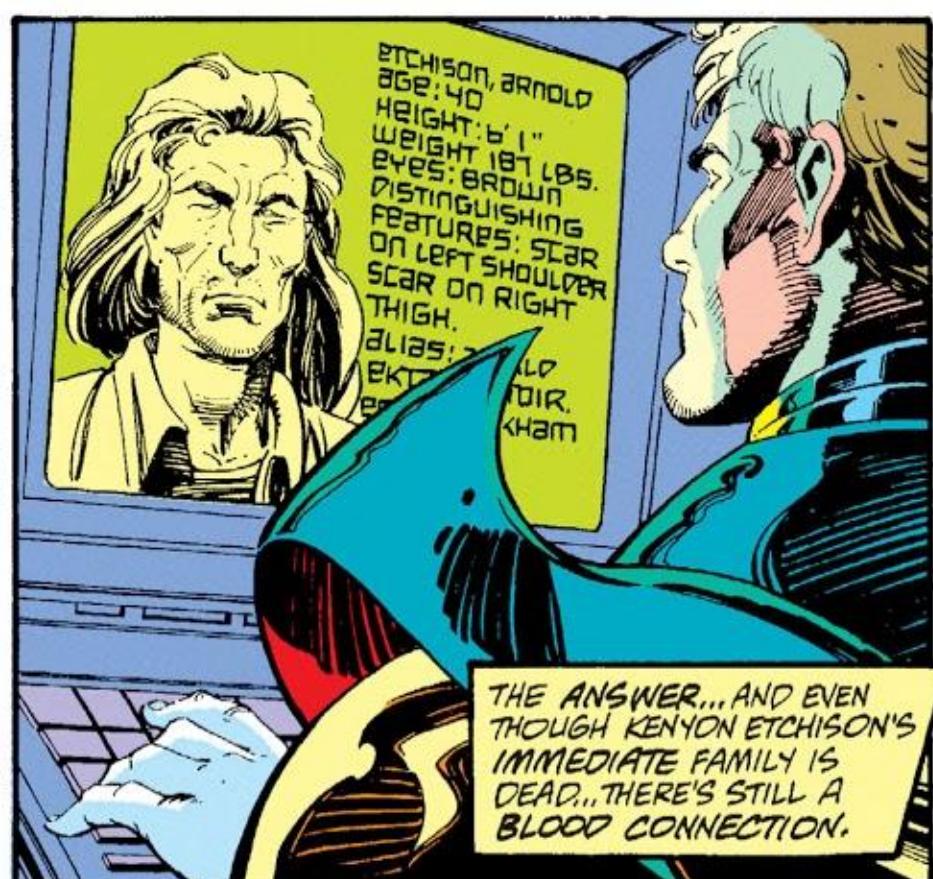
N-NO... DEFEATED BY... A D-DEMON...

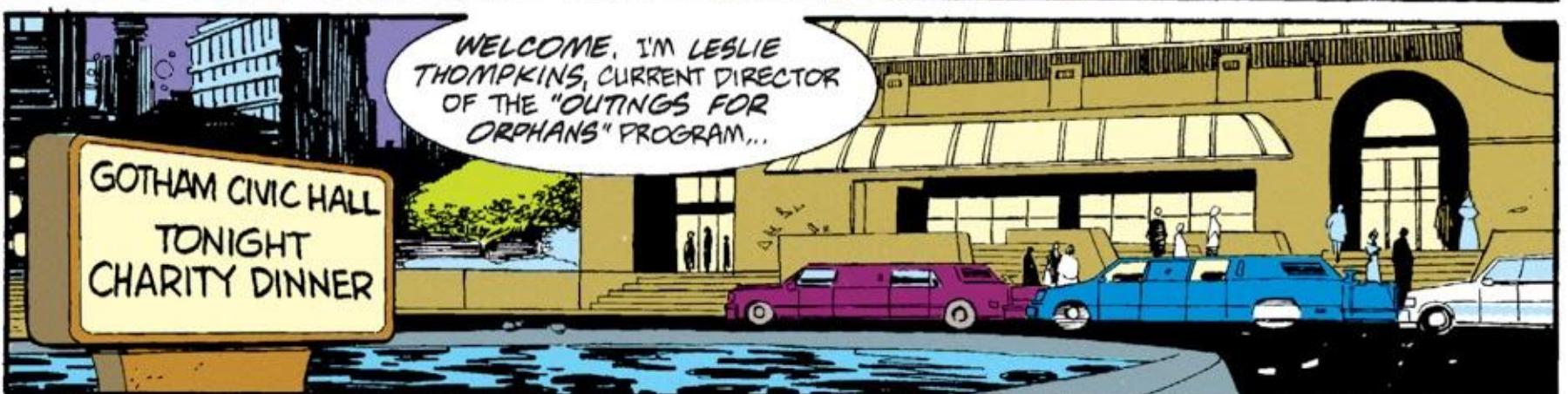
















ABATTOIR IS RUNNING OUT OF RELATIVES.

ACCORDING TO THE CAVE COMPUTER, HENRY ETCHEISON IS IN PRISON FOR ARRANGING THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE ELINORE AT ABATTOIR'S HANDS.

ONE POTENTIAL VICTIM ALREADY SLAIN, THE OTHER OUT OF REACH.

BUT HENRY AND ELINORE HAD A SON, NOW EFFECTIVELY "ORPHANED"...

GRAHAM ETCHEISON...

THANK YOU, GRAHAM-- YOUR WORK WITH THE KIDS IS A LARGE FACTOR IN OUR PROGRAM'S SUCCESS.

...STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE, AT LEAST AT THE MOMENT.

IT'LL BE DAWN SOON--GIVING ME THE DAY TO LOCATE GRAHAM BEFORE ABATTOIR DOES...

...PROVIDED I'M FREE OF FURTHER HAUNTINGS.

THE HALLUCINATIONS SHAKE ME, AS MUCH AS THE BLOOD DID--NEVER KNOWING WHEN THEY'LL NEXT APPEAR, INVADING REALITY, BECOMING A PART OF IT.

CLEARLY, THERE'S A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE SYSTEM AND MY SUBCONSCIOUS-- BETWEEN THE ASSASSIN AZRAEL AND THE SPIRIT OF SAINT DUMAS...

IT FEELS LIKE I'M UNDER SIEGE OF INSANITY, BUT AT LEAST MY CONSCIENCE HAS BEGIN TO FIGHT BACK.

AT LEAST THERE'S THE CHANCE MY MIND CAN WIN.



