



523 | OCT 96

APPROVED
BY THE
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BATMAN



"Every
scarecrow
has a secret
ambition to
terrorize."
--Stanislaus
Lec

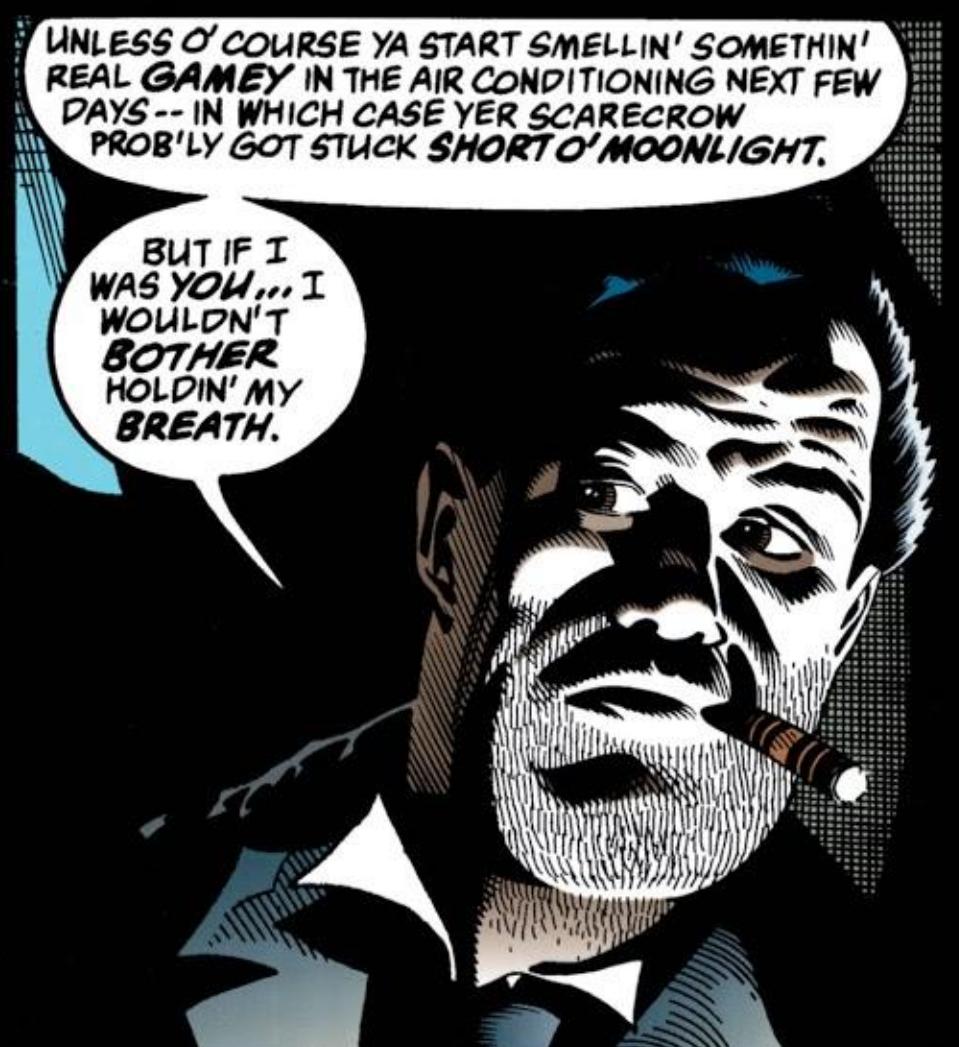
SCARECROW Part One

Dark Wings Fly Away in Fear

DOUG MOENCH KELLEY JONES JOHN BEATTY GREG WRIGHT ANDROID IMAGES
writer penciller inker colorist separation.
TODD KLEIN JORDAN B. GORFINKEL DENNIS O'NEIL Batman created by
letterer associate editor editor BOB KANE









THERE IS ALSO, CRAW,
THE PRACTICAL ASPECT.

IF THE BATMAN
IS NOT ELIMINATED,
WE CAN HARDLY
RESUME OUR CAREER
OF CRIME.

BUT MOST OF ALL,
OF COURSE, I'M TIRED
OF BEING STOPPED BY
THE BATMAN...

AND IF WE'RE
NOT GOING TO BE
WICKED, THEN I
MIGHT AS WELL
HAVE LEFT YOU
HAUNTING OUR DEAD
CORNFIELD.

...TIRED OF
BEING SENT BACK
TO ARKHAM--OLD
ARKHAM, NEW
ARKHAM--TIME
AND TIME AGAIN!

SOMETIMES, I SWEAR, THE
JOKER'S BRAYING IS ENOUGH
TO DRIVE ME MAD!

NOT AT ALL LIKE
YOUR SOOTHING
CACKLES...

ERGO, SIMPLE PROFITS
AND BELOVED BOOKS
WILL JUST HAVE TO
WAIT, CRAW, WHILE
OUR CRIMES SERVE
TWO OTHER
PURPOSES.

RESUMING
A PROGRAM OF
LONG-STALLED
REVENGE...

...AND LURING
THE BATMAN ONTO
OUR TRAIL--

KRAW!

--AND INTO A MOST
TERRIFYINGLY TERMINAL TRAP!

KROOO KRAAAH!

WHAT CAN
I SAY? SCARY,
SCARY, SCARY!

PROBABLY AFRAID
OF THEIR OWN
SHADOWS.

BACK-DOOR MEN--
ONLY TWO, AND
NOTHING BUT PUNKS.

GEM
ELECTRONICS
SERVICE ENTRANCE

SHOULD
BE EASY.

WHACK IT AGAIN, FRANKIE,
BUT THIS TIME--

--CLEARLY
POSTED ON THE
FRONT DOOR.

YOU'LL FIND
BUSINESS
HOURS--

H-HIM--!
BLOCKIN' THE
WAY OUT!

BUT PUNKS OR
NOT, I'M STILL
RECOVERING...

TAKE 'IM
DOWN!

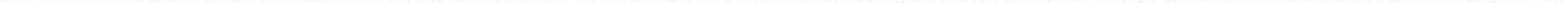
...TRYING TO FIND MY EDGE--
WITHOUT GOING OVER IT.

A FINE LINE.

SWAT

CHUNT

SEEKING THE DEEPEST
DARKNESS--WITHOUT GETTING
LOST IN OBSESSION.



LATE DAY--SLEPT
THROUGH THE
LIGHT...AND
THROUGH THE
NEWS.

WITH NO FUNDS FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY, THE NEWARKHAM IS A TIME BOMB WAITING TO EXPLODE--AND STILL NO SIGNAL LAST NIGHT.

FIRST KILLER CROC,
NOW JONATHAN
CRANE.

A MS.
MADOLYN
CORBETT
PHONED,
SIR.

HM?

I INFORMED HER YOU WERE ON THE
LINKS, AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD SHORT
OF THE BACK NINE.

JUST WHO IS
"MADOLYN CORBETT,"
ALFRED?

I ASSUMED YOU
WOULD POSSESS THAT
KNOWLEDGE, SIR.

NOT IMPORTANT...NOT
WHEN I HAVE TO START
LOOKING FOR THE
SCARECR--

TONIGHT, SIR?
I WAS UNAWARE WE HAD
CANCELED THE DINNER TO
WHICH YOU SPECIFICALLY
INVITED ALL THREE
MAYORAL CANDI-
DATES--

-- AS WELL AS THE
GAGGLE OF UNGOUTH
OPPORTUNISTS YOU
INSIST ON CALLING
"MOVERS AND
SHAKERS."

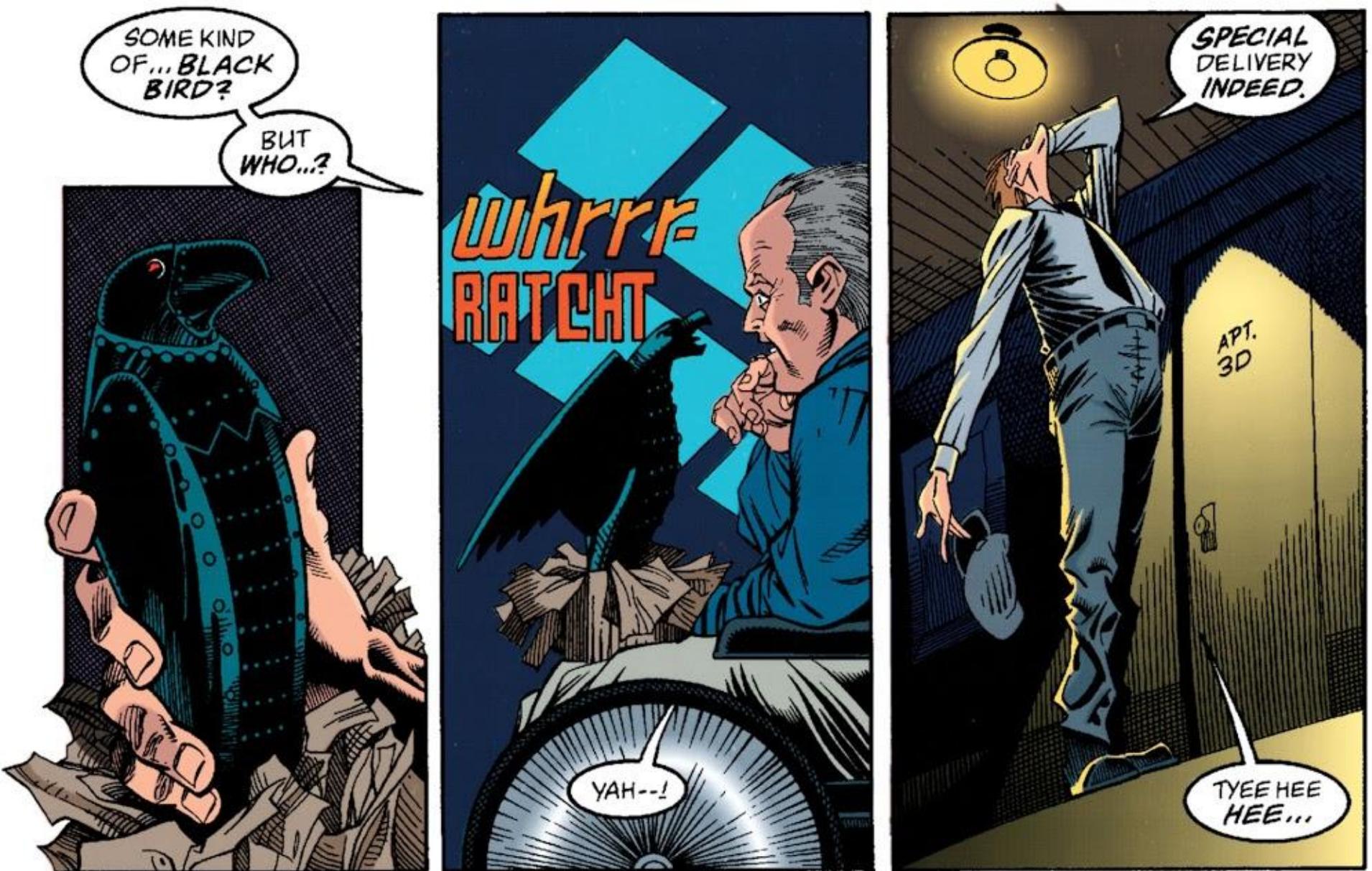
THEY'RE PEOPLE
OF INFLUENCE, ALFRED,
AND IT CAN'T HURT FOR
THEM TO SEE THE
CANDIDATES IN UN-
REHEARSED ACTION.

GORDON'S A GOOD MAN
BUT HARDLY CUTOUT FOR
POLITICS--AND KROL'S
GOT TO GO.

MEANING, SIR...WHAT
IS THE SLOGAN? "IT'S TIME
FOR A MARION GRANGE
CHANGE?"

SHE SEEMS DECENT--AND HAS
EXPERIENCE AS A DISTRICT ATTORNEY.









WAYNE
MANOR:

--KILL CRIME WITH
NEW LEGISLATION TO
REPEAL THOSE LAWS
WHICH ONLY HANDCUFF
OUR POLICE--



--BY CODDLING
THE CRIMINALS.

YOU MEAN THE ACCUSED,
DON'T YOU, MR. MAYOR? --SINCE
THEY ARE NOT CRIMINALS UNLESS
AND UNTIL CONVICTED.

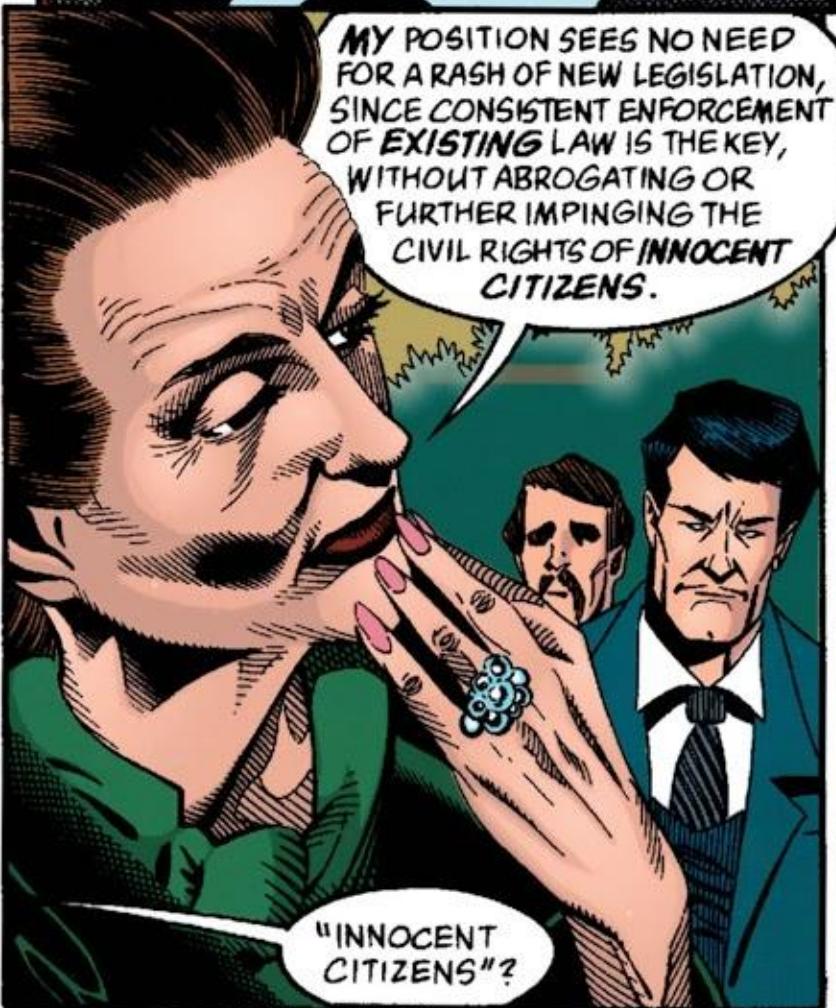
PRECISELY THE KIND OF
TECHNICALITY I'M TALKING
ABOUT, MR. FOX.



AND
ANOTHER
THING...

ONCE I'M REELECTED, I'M
GOING TO PUSH FOR MANDATORY
SENTENCING ACROSS THE
BOARD.

IF YOU'RE REELECTED, MAYOR
KROL, AND WITH ALL DUE RESPECT
I BELIEVE MS. GRANGE MAY
HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY
ABOUT THAT...



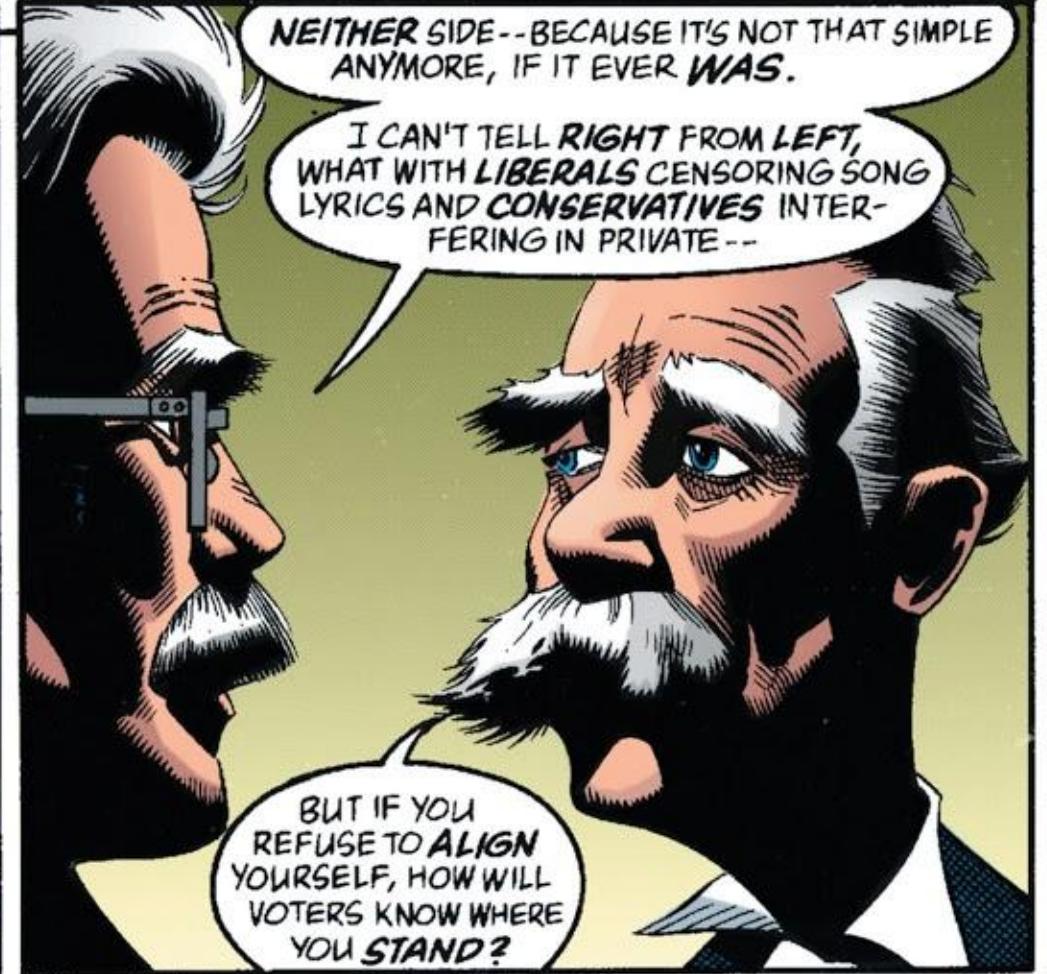
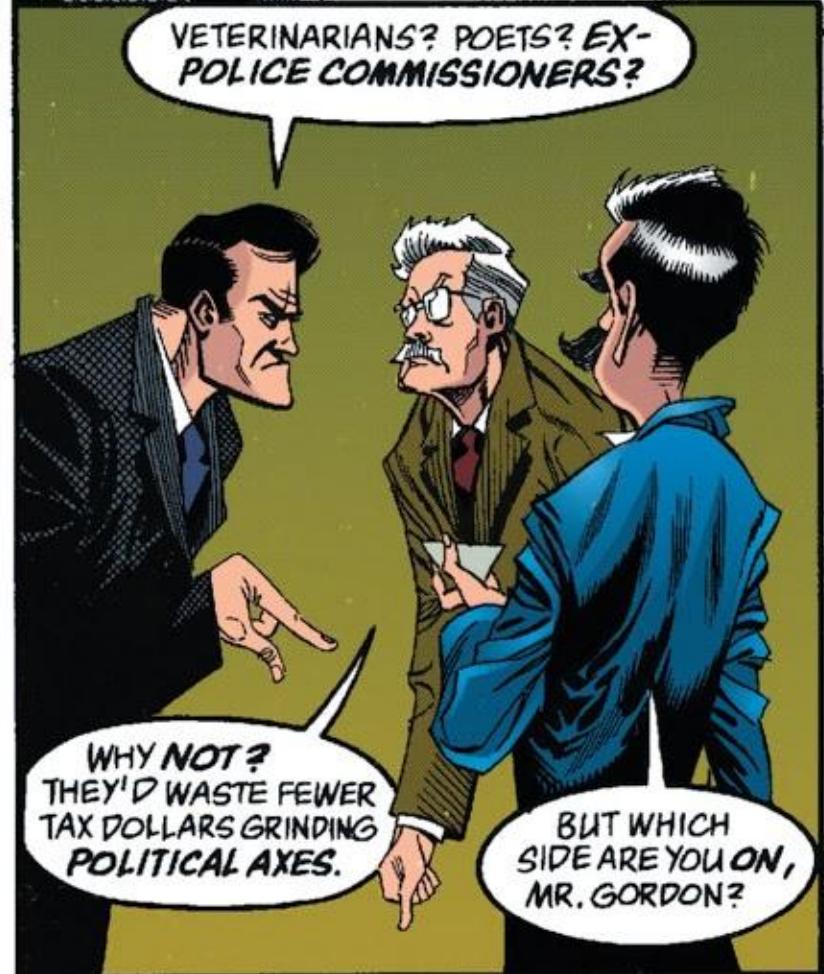
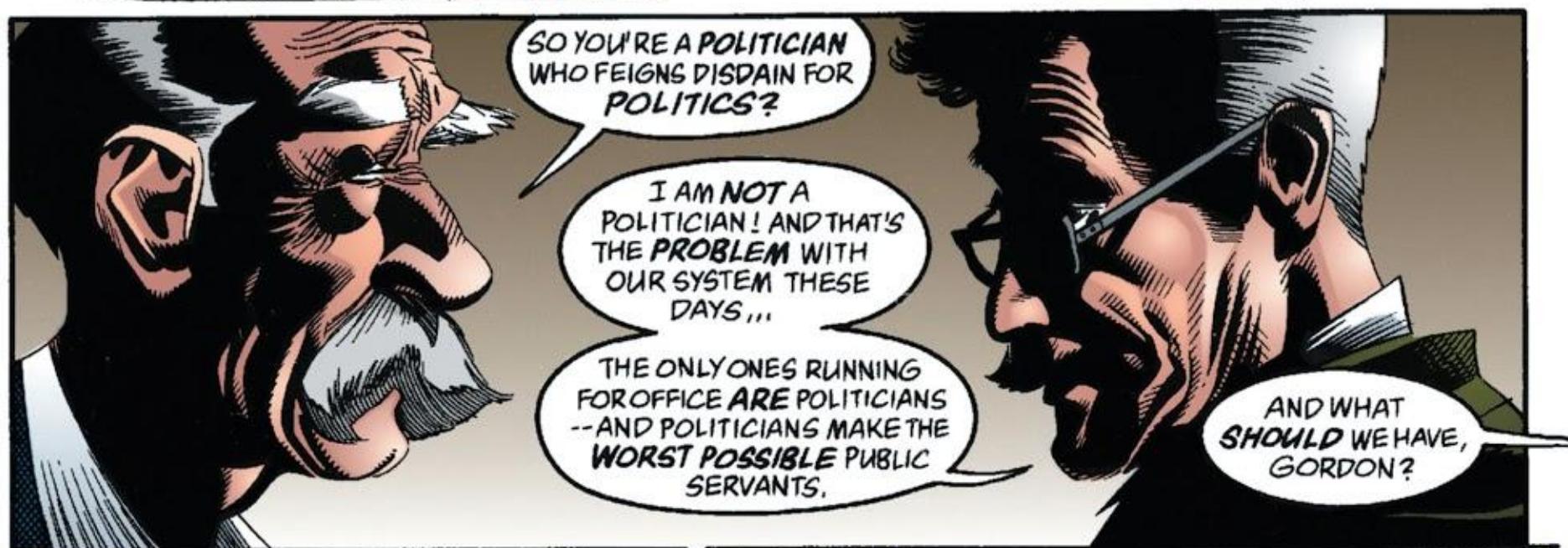
MY POSITION SEES NO NEED
FOR A RASH OF NEW LEGISLATION,
SINCE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT
OF EXISTING LAW IS THE KEY,
WITHOUT ABROGATING OR
FURTHER IMPINGING THE
CIVIL RIGHTS OF INNOCENT
CITIZENS.

"INNOCENT
CITIZENS"?



JUST ONE FALSE
OR MISTAKEN ARREST,
MR. MAYOR, IS MORE THAN
ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY
SAFEGUARDS FOR THE
REST OF US.

YOU'RE A D.A., GRANGE -- HOW MANY
INNOCENT CITIZENS DO YOU SEE CLOGGING
UP THE COURTHOUSE?!





POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
REAR EXIT:

ROLL OUT YER
DONUTS, VERDA MAE,
CUZ HERE I--

BULLOCK.

WHA--?

YOU-- BUT I REALLY
WISH YA WOULDN'T DO THAT
TO A BIG MAN WITH AN
OVERSTRAINED HEART AS
IT IS.

GORDON'S GONE--
AND THE NEW
MANAGEMENT
DOESN'T LIKE THE
ROOF.

TWO
FOR TWO,
HUH?

CUT OUTTA THE LOOP
BY BOTH COMMISSIONER
GORDONS-- AN' YOU
WANNA CONTINUE OUR
ARRANGEMENT CUZ
I'M THE ONLY ONE
YOU CAN TURN
TO.

SO
WHADDAYA
NEED?

SCARECROW
IS A MASS
MURDERER.

SCARECROW'S
FREE-- AND THERE'S
BEEN A MURDER.

IN THIS CITY,
THERE'S ALWAYS
A MURDER.

SPARE YOUR
HEART MORE
STRAIN AND SKIP
THE DONUTS...

GO TO THE
MORGUE INSTEAD
-- AND TAKE
THIS.

WELL,
I'LL
BE.

A
BUG.

BUT I NEED TO
BE CERTAIN HE'S
RESPONSIBLE.

EATIN' LUNCH IN
A PLACE LIKE THIS AT
MIDNIGHT--YOU'RE A
COLD GHOUl,
MORTIMER GUNT.

A MORGUE, SERGEANT BULLOCK,
IS HARDLY CONDUCIVE TO WARMTH.

YOU'RE
TELLIN'
ME...

NOW TELL ME
SOMETHIN' I DON'T
KNOW--LIKE WHAT
HAPPENED TO THIS
POOR STIFF.

DESPITE POSSESSING
AN EXTREMELY STRONG
HEART, MR. BO GRIGGS
DIED OF CARDIAC
FAILURE.

Y'MEAN LIKE
SCARED TO
DEATH?

PRECISELY...
WHICH FIRST LED
ME TO SUSPECT THE
FEMALE SERIAL
KILLER WHO--

IF YA MEAN SLEEPER, SHE'S STILL
SLEEPIN'--AN' YOU AIN'T PAID TO
PLAY DETECTIVE OR SUSPECT
ANYONE.

IN ANY CASE, SERGEANT, I REJECTED
"SLEEPER" WHEN THE CADAVER YIELDED
TRACES OF NOREPINEPHRINE...

...THE SAME
SUBSTANCE FOUND
IN PREVIOUS VICTIMS
EXPOSED TO THE "FEAR
GAS" CONCOCTED BY
JONATHAN CRANE,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS--

THE
SCARECROW.

THANKS,
GUNT--THAT'S
ALL WE
NEEDED TO
KNOW.

"WE,"
SERGEANT?

THAT'S RIGHT,
GUNT--ME AN' A
LITTLE BIRDIE
WITH VERY DARK
WINGS.

BO GRIGGS AND JONATHAN CRANE ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER.

- Conners, Melissa
- Crane, Jonathan
- Draper, Alice
- Dunstan, George
- Dvorak, Anne
- Ewing, Mary
- Grey, Jackson
- Griggs, Bo

AND A COMPUTER CHECK ON THE THIRTY-NINE STUDENTS IN THEIR HOME ROOM CLASS... REVEALS NINETEEN STILL RESIDING IN GOTHAM.

TOO MANY TO COVER.

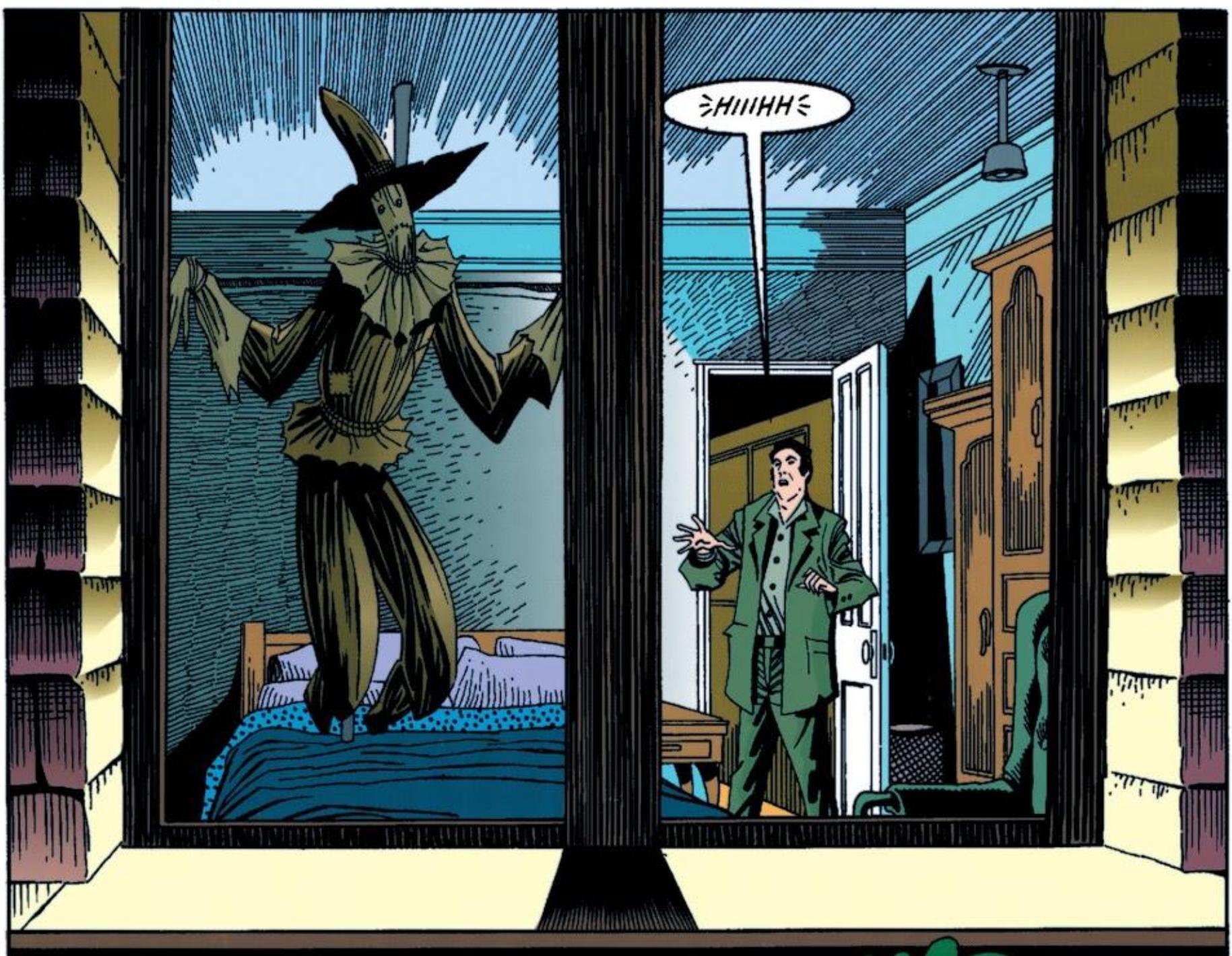
BUT CRANE HAS ALLUDED TO THE TAUNTING HE RECEIVED FROM "BIG HANDSOME BULLIES"--AND NARROWING THE LIST TO MALES LEAVES EIGHT...

--WITH TEAM CAPTAIN BO GRIGGS.

ACCORDING TO THE SCHOOL'S OWN FILES, OF THOSE EIGHT... ONLY TWO WERE JOCKS WHO PLAYED FOOTBALL--

JACKSON GREY AND GEORGE DUNSTAN.

GOT TO CHECK ON BOTH FAST, BECAUSE ONE OF THEM --





RUN, GEORGE DUNSTAN! RUN FROM THE SOURCE OF FEAR!

SMASH THE GLASS AND FLEE!

NO TIME FOR STAIRS.

IT IS YOUR ONLY ROUTE TO SAFETY--YOUR ONLY WAY OUT--THE ONLY RELIEF FROM YOUR FEAR!

N-NO...

SMASH IT, DUNSTAN! SMASH THE--

BRAAAH

THE BATMAN--AND YOU FOUND ME FAR SOONER THAN I EXPECTED!



AND I WON'T LET IT
BE ENOUGH.

SWFFFF

ONLY ROUTE
TO SAFETY... ONLY
WAY OUT... ONLY
RELIEF FROM
FEAR...

THE
END.

WHA--?

STOP--
DON'T DO
IT!

GO AHEAD,
BULLY, PUNCH ME--
AND LET DUNSTAN
DIE!

ONLY...
WAY...
OUT.

YOU MUST,
DUNSTAN! FLY AWAY--
STRAIGHT DOWN TO
THE END OF
FEAR!

NO!!

NEXT ISSUE:
THE CONCLUSION...
**HAUNTED
HOUSES of
the HEAD**

BOO.



novus
Distributions