



APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AO
AUTHORITY

BATMAN®

542 |
MAY 97

MOENCH
JONES
BEATTY

KELLEY
Jones '96

FACELESS

PART ONE:
MURDICEDE

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ELLEY JONES: PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY: INKER
REG WRIGHT: COLORIST
TODD LEIN: LETTERER
ANDROID IMAGES: SEPARATOR
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL: ASSOC. ED.
DENNIS O'NEIL: EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED by BOB KANE

HIJACKERS.

THREE OF THEM,
TWO WITH GUNS,

NO
WITNESSES--
JUST CAP HIS
SKULL!

WHAT
THE...?

P-PLEASE...
D-DON'T.



SAVE THE DRIVER.





SWAKK

THRAKK

DONE.

ALL THREE
HIJACKERS--
WAYLAID.

I'VE FOUND THE EDGE AGAIN--
THE FINE LINE BETWEEN DARK-
NESS AND OBSESSION.

BANE IS LESS THAN A LESSON
NOW, NOT EVEN A BAD MEMORY.

THE OLD FEELING IS BACK--CONFIDENCE WITHOUT CARELESSNESS; MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY WITH MINIMUM EFFORT.

MISTAKES WERE MADE, BUT I'M BEYOND THEM, AGAIN AND FINALLY WORTHY OF GOTHAM DARKNESS.

BUT IF I'M BACK AS THE BAT... WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE BRUCE WAYNE? I'VE NEGLECTED HIM, LOST TRACK OF WHO AND WHAT HE IS.

BRUCE WAYNE HAS BECOME LITTLE MORE THAN A MASK FOR THE BAT, AND SURELY HE DESERVES AN ACTUAL FACE.

BUT EVEN AS A MERE MASK, EVEN PLAYING TO SOMEONE AS FAMILIAR AS LUCIUS FOX, I'VE LOST TOUCH WITH THE BRUCE WAYNE ROLE...

OVERPLAYED IT.

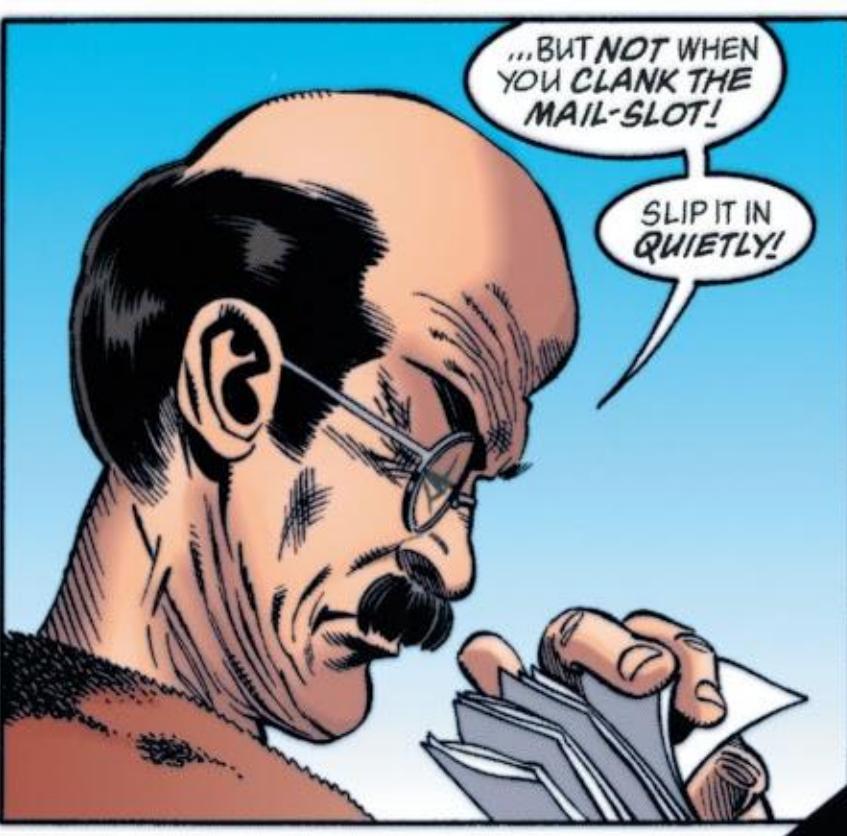
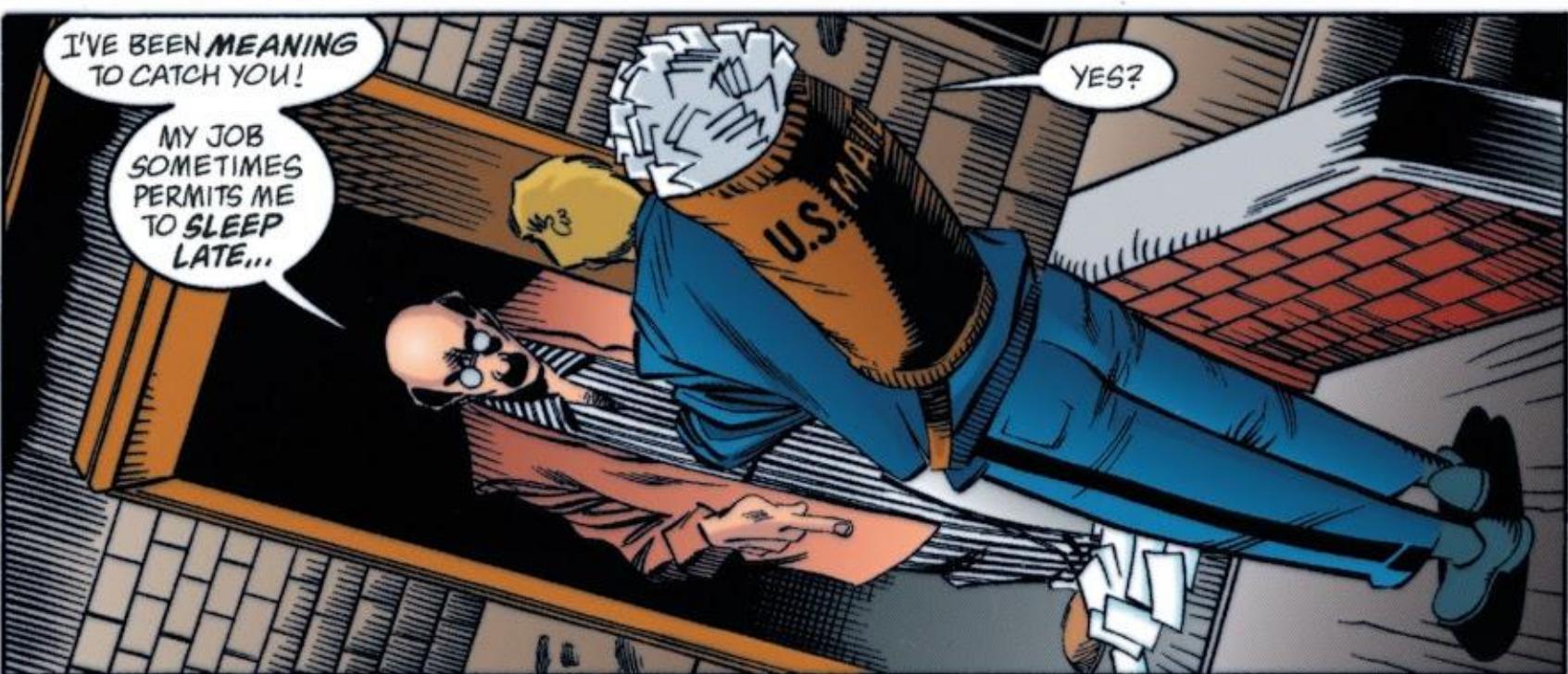




U.S. MAIL



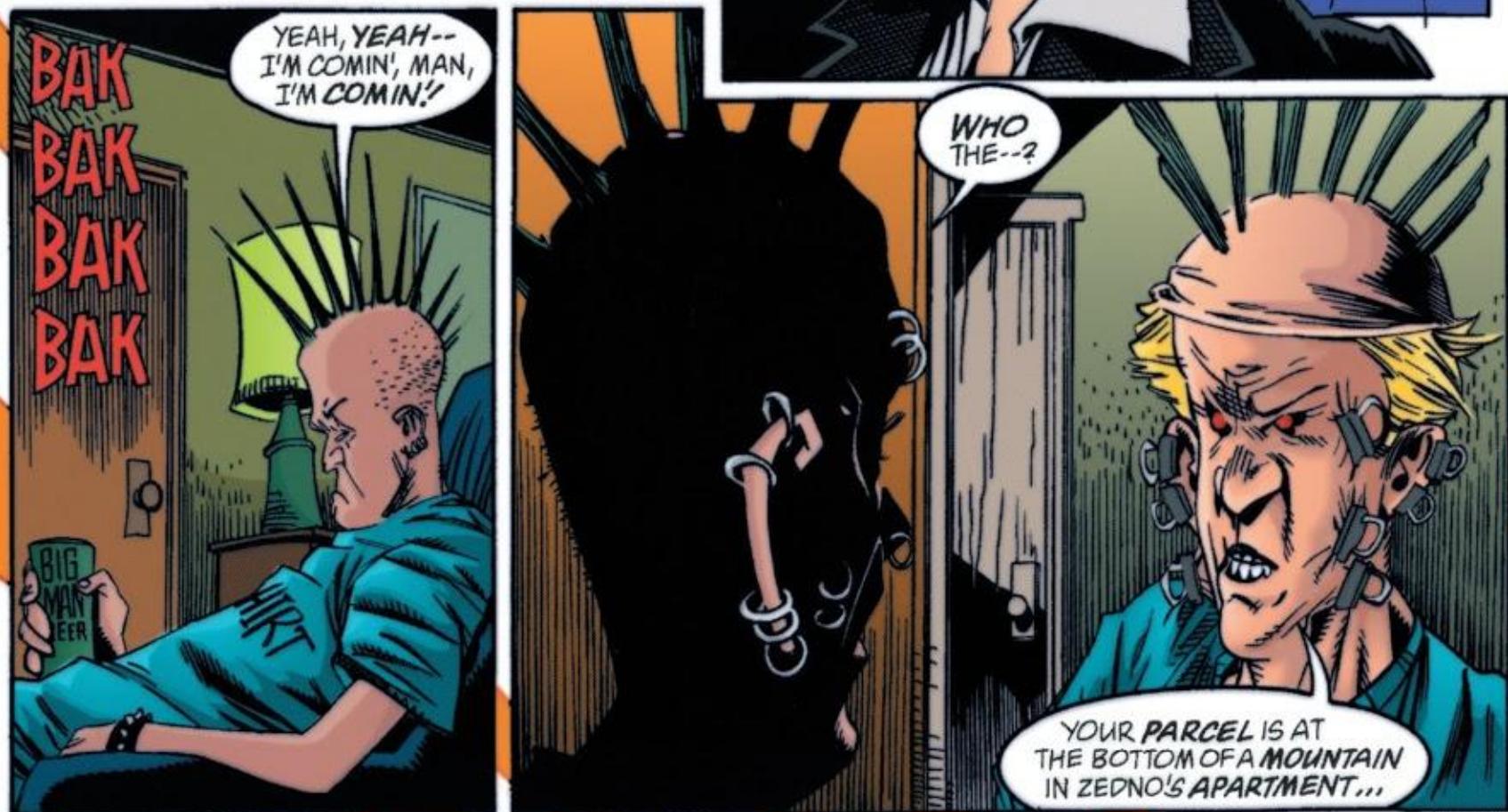














BALANCE--
EVERYTHING
DEPENDS ON
IT.

NIGHT AND DAY, LIGHT
AND DARKNESS, BATMAN
AND BRUCE WAYNE.

AND IF I BECOME ONE WITHOUT
THE OTHER, I MAY LOSE ALL
CONTROL.

EACH IS DEFINED
BY THE OTHER.

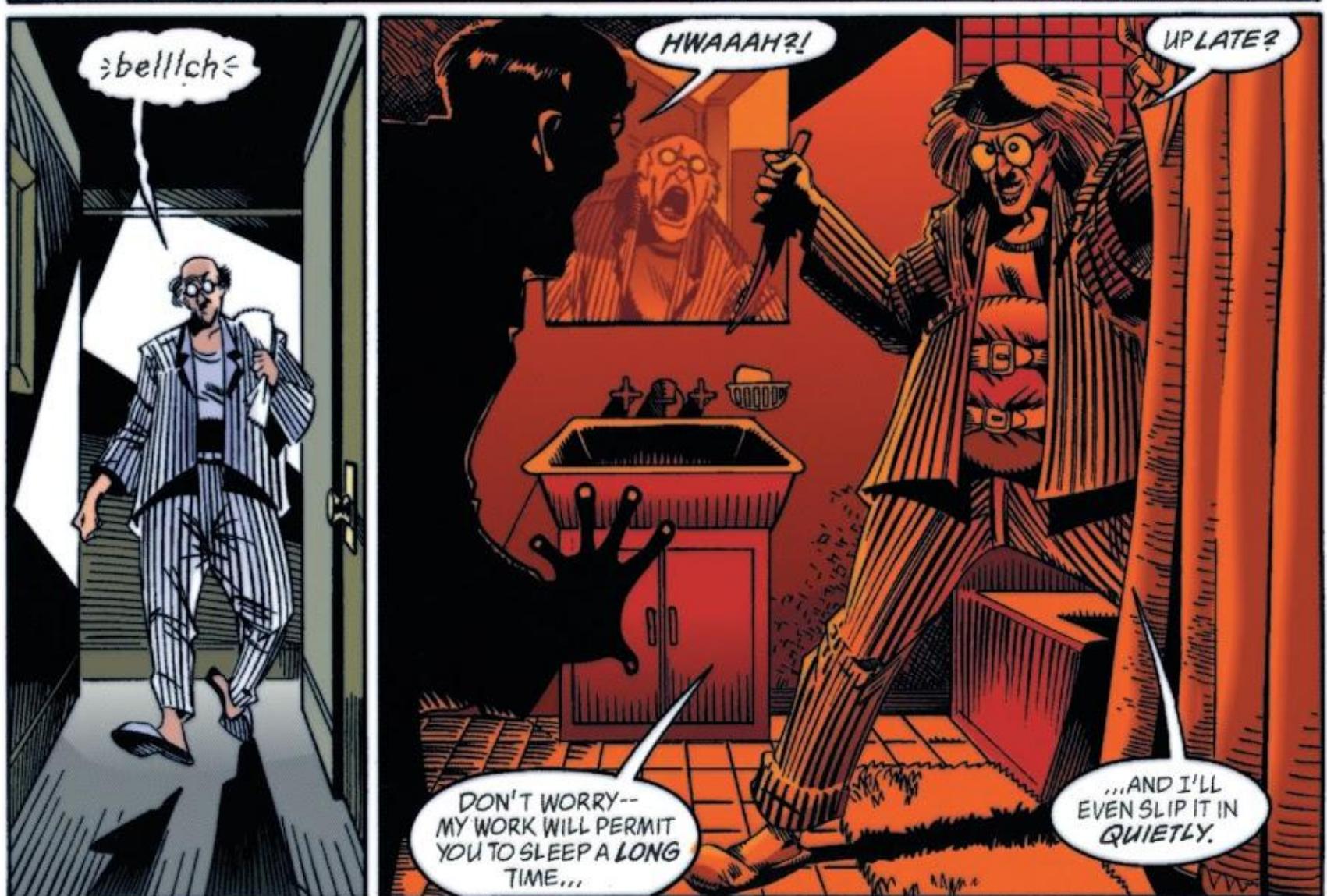
IN FACT IT MAY BE THAT
NEITHER CAN EXIST
WITHOUT THE OTHER.

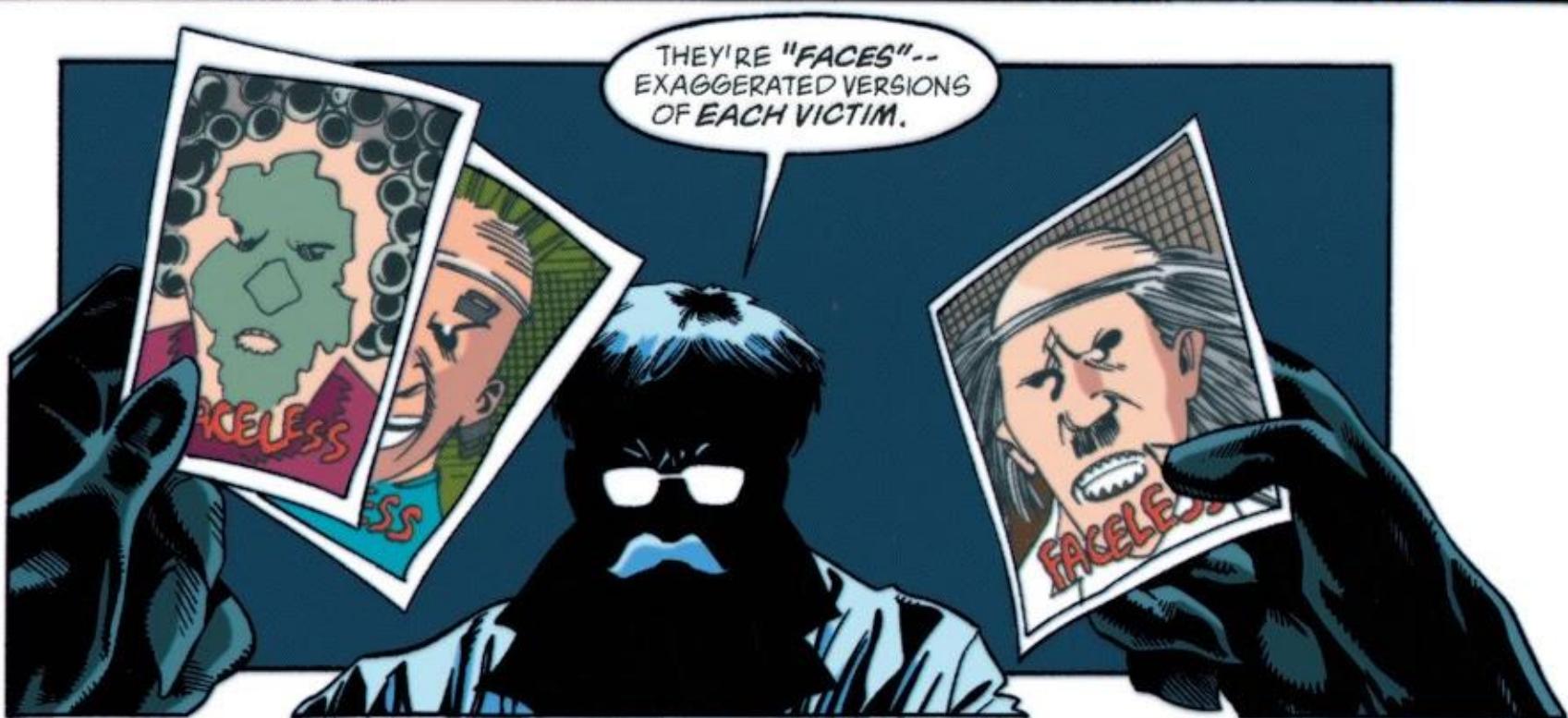
WH-WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU?

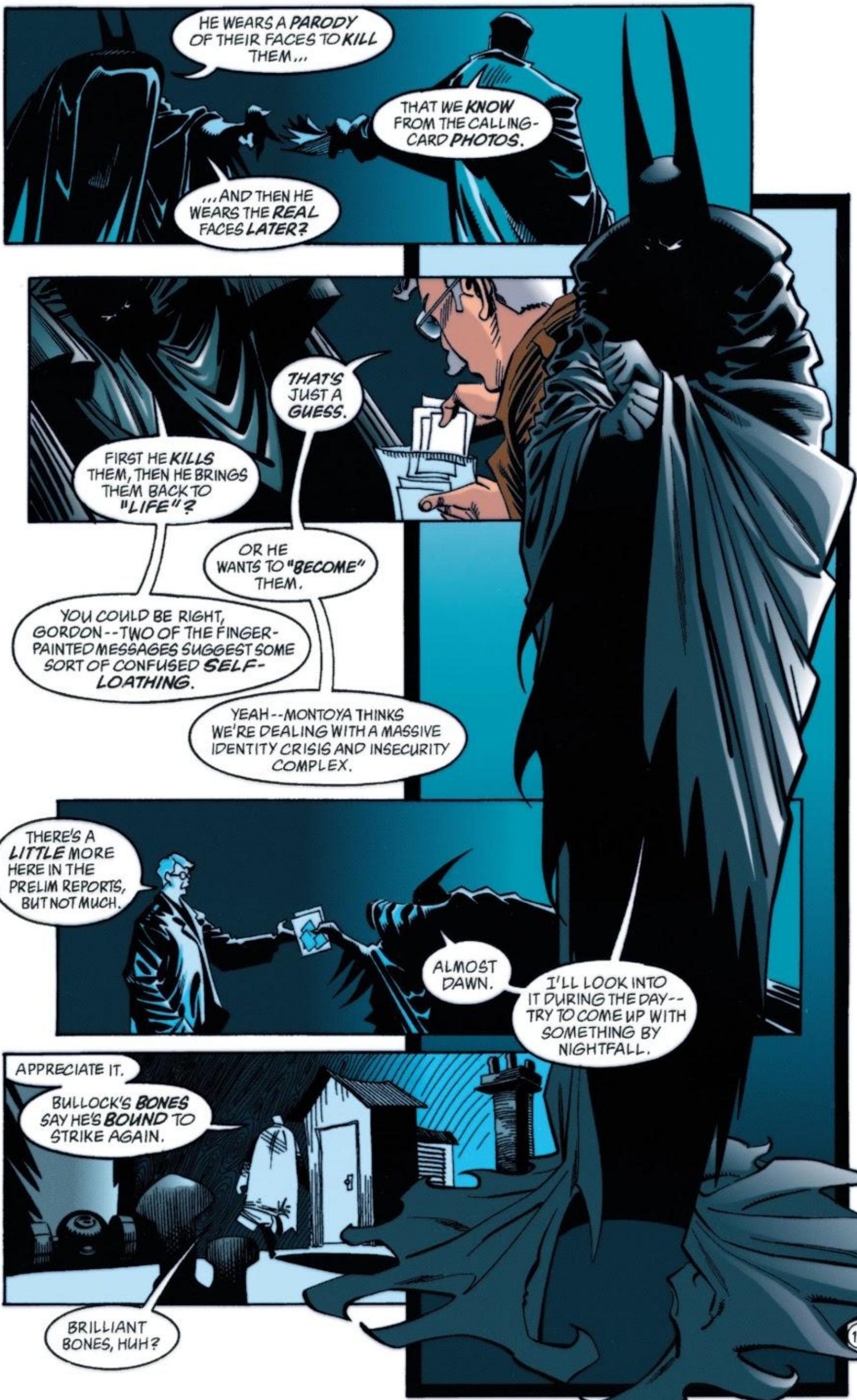
EDNA--?
WHAT WAS THAT
SOUND, EDNA?

OH,
NOBODY,
IRV.

JUST
THE MURDER-
MAN.















NEXT ISSUE:
THE CONCLUSION--

CANCELLED

FACELESS,
PART TWO:

POSTMARKED: MURDER!



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