



705



APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

BATMAN



TONY
DANIEL

THE SHIFTING CITY OF NANDA PARBAT.

"BATMAN WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO CHEAT DEATH THAT DAY."

"THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE HEALED THE DETECTIVE'S MORTAL WOUNDS."

"AMID THE CHAOS, RA'S AL GHUL--MY SON--ESCAPED TO A NEW HOST BODY."

RA'S!



"A BRAVE YOUNG SOUL ALTERED MY FATE, FISHING ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS..."

"...AND BACK TO THE LIGHT."

"'A SIP OF LAZARUS,' THE BRAVE SOUL INFORMED ME, WOULD NOT ONLY HEAL ME, BUT SHOW ME THE WAY TO TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT."



GOTHAM CITY, NOW.

MY ENLIGHTENMENT
INDICATES THAT YOU
ARE NOT THE BATMAN
THAT DIED BY MY HANDS
AT NANDA PARBAT--BUT A
CHILD IN DISGUISE.

NOW STEP ASIDE
AND LET ME DEAL
WITH PEACOCK OR
SEE HOW SHORT I
CAN MAKE YOUR
WOEFUL LIFE.

SENSEI

HE'S RIGHT,
BATMAN. THIS
IS MY FIGHT!

YAA!

AND
GOTHAM IS MY
HOME--SO EXCUSE
ME IF I DON'T FEEL
LIKE PLAYING HOST
TONIGHT.

SO BE IT!
YOU WILL
BOTH DIE
THEN!

YOU'RE
IN MY WAY,
BATMAN.

DAP

YOUR DEATH
WILL BE PAINLESS,
PEACOCK. I CANNOT
SAY THE SAME FOR
YOUR BROTHER
LUKI.

AHHGGG!

Have to get us out of
here. Peacock's inhaled
some kind of gas.

DOESN'T
ANYONE STAY
DEAD THESE
DAYS?

KRAK

THWACK

*Knockout Batarangs
for the score!*

TIME FOR A NAP,
GRAMPS. YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY ONE
WITH TOXINS AT HIS
DISPOSAL.

THUK

THUK

THUK

DICK GRAYSON
BATMAN

WE HAVE TO
JET, MISS. HOLD
ON TO ME AND I'LL
GET YOU OUT
OF HERE.

PERCOCK

I-I CAN HANDLE
MYSELF. MOST
POISONS ONLY DAZE
ME. BESIDES, I'M ONLY
SEEING THREE OF
YOU NOW.

AND
THAT'S
GOOD?

AT FIRST I
SAW TWELVE
OF YOU.

NOW--LET'S
MAKE SOME
DISTANCE.

FOLLOW
ME.

AFTER WITNESSING THE
DEATHS OF HIS PARENTS AS A BOY,
DICK GRAYSON WAS TAKEN UNDER BATMAN'S
WING, BECOMING ROBIN. BUT WHEN THE BOY WONDER
BECAME A MAN, HE SHED THE IDENTITY OF ROBIN
AND BRANDED HIMSELF AS NIGHTWING. TODAY
DICK IS THE GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM CITY.
TODAY HE IS...

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER PART TWO | SEE NO EVIL

BATMAN

FIRST
THINGS FIRST--
WE HAVE TO FIND
YOUR BROTHER,
LUKI.

HE WAS
HEADED TO THE
AIRFIELD. THERE'S
A CHANCE WE CAN
GET TO HIM IN
TIME.

YOU SEEM
TO KNOW A
LOT ABOUT ME--
DON'T YOU,
BATMAN?

I KNOW
ENOUGH. BUT I
NEED YOU TO FILL
IN SOME BLANKS.
LIKE WHAT DOES
SENSEI WANT
WITH LUKI?

THERE'S NOT
MUCH ELSE FOR
YOU TO KNOW, IS
THERE? A CHILD
IS IN DANGER--
ISN'T THAT
ENOUGH?

FOR
NOW...

DON'T YOU DRIVE A FAST
CAR OR SOMETHING? WE
COULD REALLY USE THAT
RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

IT'S IN THE
SHOP. BESIDES,
WITH THE CHINESE
NEW YEAR FESTIVAL
TONIGHT--

--WE CAN
IMPROVISE.

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THE BAT BUNKER, DEEP
BENEATH WAYNE TOWER.

ALFRED,
THE LIMO PURSUING
ME EARLIER... WERE YOU
ABLE TO KEEP TABS
ON IT FROM THE
BAT DRONE?

SIR, THE
STORM CLOUDS
ARE ONLY JUST
NOW DISPERSING.
I CAN'T SEE MUCH
OF ANYTHING
YET...

WHAT ABOUT
NEAR THE AIRFIELD?
THE STORM PASSED
THAT AREA SEVERAL
MOMENTS AGO.

ALFRED PENNYWORTH BUTLER TO THE WAYNE FAMILY

YES,
VISIBILITY'S
BETTER.

BINGO.
I'VE FOUND
A LIMO.

BUT HOW
WILL I KNOW
IF IT'S THE ONE
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR? THEY ALL
LOOK--

MY WORD!
IT JUST
EXPLODED!

COORDINATES,
ALFIE.

I'VE LOCATED
YOUR SIGNAL,
SIR? ARE THOSE...
HORSES?

I CAN SEE
THE SMOKE
FROM HERE.
WHAT'S THE
STREET?

FOUR
BLOCKS AWAY.
THE ALLEY
BETWEEN 4TH
STREET AND
PIPER.



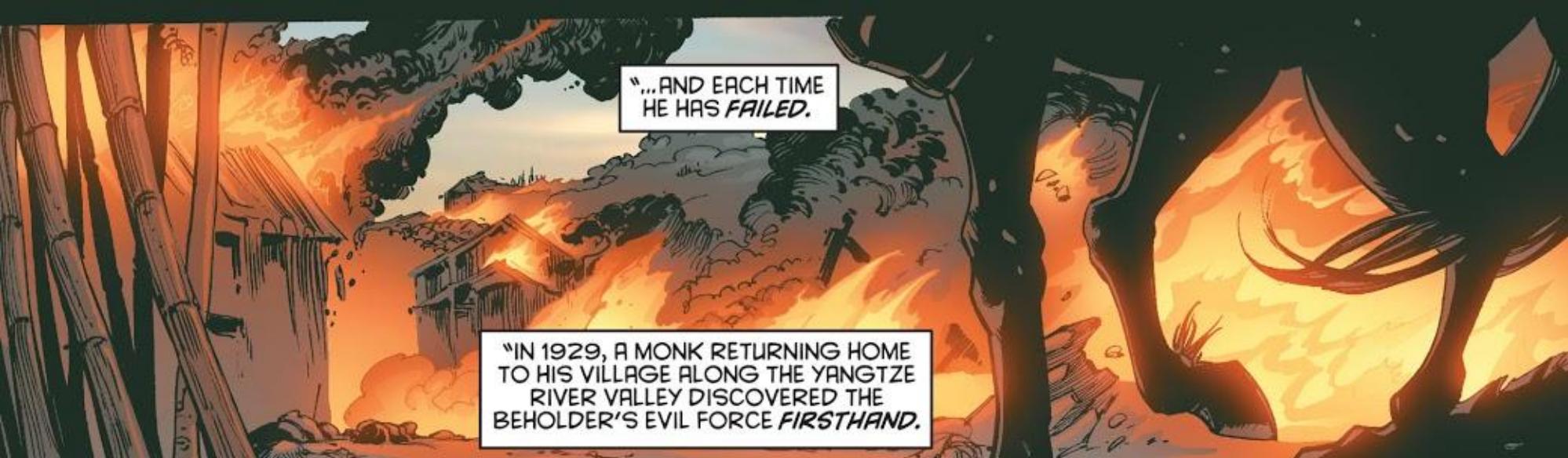




"THE FIRST WRITTEN RECORD OF THE BEHOLDER'S EXISTENCE SHOWS UP AROUND 1700 BC, DURING THE SHANG DYNASTY."

"ITS LEGEND BORE TALES OF ANNIHILATION OF WHOLE VILLAGES ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER."

"OVER THE CENTURIES, MAN HAS TRIED TO CONTROL AND WIELD ITS POWER..."



"...AND EACH TIME HE HAS FAILED."

"IN 1929, A MONK RETURNING HOME TO HIS VILLAGE ALONG THE YANGTZE RIVER VALLEY DISCOVERED THE BEHOLDER'S EVIL FORCE FIRSTHAND."



"HIS VILLAGE PROTECTED AND HID THE BEHOLDER FOR GENERATIONS. BUT CURIOSITY AND TEMPTATION PROVED TOO STRONG FOR ONE OF HIS BROTHERS."

BROTHER. COME.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?



"THE VILLAGERS WENT MAD AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER UNTIL THERE WAS ONLY ONE LEFT."

THE MASK OF THE BEHOLDER SEEKS ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!

THE VILLAGE HAS BROUGHT THIS UPON ITSELF.



"THE MONK FLED THROUGH THE BAMBOO FOREST. HIS WILL TO LIVE AND WARN OTHERS OF THE MASK WAS **GREAT**.

"AS THE LAST OF HIS PEOPLE ENTRUSTED WITH THE BEHOLDER'S PROTECTION, DEATH WAS **NOT** AN OPTION."

"THAT'S WHEN DR. PAUL HENRY, A RENOWNED ARCHITECT AND ARCHAEOLOGIST, FOUND HIM DYING ON THE ROAD.

"UNDER WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A MORPHINE HAZE, HE GAVE DETAILS OF THE MASK THAT DESTROYED HIS VILLAGE. HE URGED DR. HENRY TO RECOVER THE BEHOLDER AND HIDE IT AWAY FOREVER.

"WHETHER THE HISTORIAN BELIEVED THE MONK'S STORY OR NOT MATTERED LITTLE.

"HENRY WAS STUDYING THE RUINS OF CHINA'S NEOLITHIC ERA ALONG THE YELLOW RIVER. THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR HIM TO VERIFY THE MONK'S OUTLANDISH STORY.

"DR. HENRY SAW THE DESTRUCTION FOR HIMSELF..."

"...AND **BELIEVED**."

"FROM THERE, DR. HENRY
WOULD TAKE THE BEHOLDER
HOME--TO GOTHAM CITY..."

"...A METROPOLIS ON THE FAST TRACK
TO BECOMING THE BIGGEST, TALLEST,
GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD."

"BUT IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING HIS
RETURN HOME, THE DOCTOR SOON
FELL ILL. HE BECAME MENTALLY
UNSTABLE AND FOUGHT OFF
FREQUENT THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE."

"HE FELT IT HAD TO BE
THE WORK OF THE
BEHOLDER MASK."

"HE HEARD IT SPEAKING
TO HIM--DRIVING HIM
TOWARDS INSANITY."

"AFTER HE TRIED TO DESTROY
IT--UNSUCCESSFULLY--
HE OPENED HIS PROBLEM TO
PEOPLE WHO COULD HELP HIM."

"DR. HENRY BELONGED TO A CLANDESTINE
ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS, CALLED
THE JADE COMPASS SOCIETY. A BROTHER-
HOOD ACCUSTOMED TO KEEPING SECRETS."

"THE SOCIETY HID THE
BEHOLDER SOMEWHERE
WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION
OF GOTHAM CITY--AND EVEN
YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING
MEMBERS HAD PASSED
ON, KEPT IT **SAFE**."

"BUT THAT SAFETY
IS NOW IN JEOPARDY.
SENSEI HAS DISCOVERED
ITS EXISTENCE HERE AND
IS SEEKING TO **CAPTURE**
THE MASK."

THE GOTHAM SCRAP METAL GRAVEYARD.

BUT HOW DOES THE BOY FIT INTO ALL OF THIS, I-CHING?

THAT IS WHAT WE WILL SHOW YOU HERE.

LUKI WARNED US OF THE CATASTROPHIC EVENTS THAT THE DISCOVERY OF THE BEHOLDER WOULD BRING. LESS THAN A WEEK AGO, HIS VISIONS STARTED.

SO THESE DRAWINGS OF DESTRUCTION... BELONG TO LUKI?

HE'S CLOSED HIS MIND. IT'S A BLACK CURTAIN. POSSIBLY TO PROTECT ME.

IN A SENSE. BUT I DREW THE PICTURES. THEY ARE THE VISIONS LUKI SHARED WITH ME, MIND TO MIND.

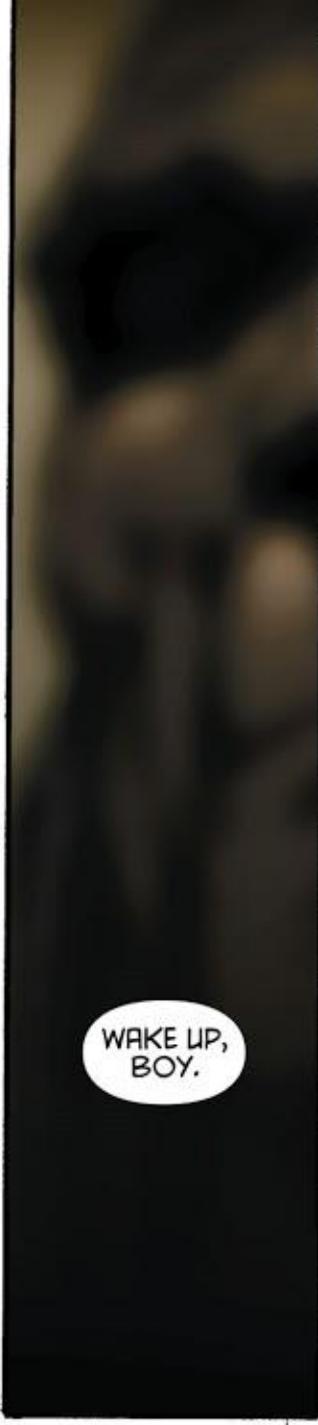
WITH HIM BEING MUTE, IT IS THE BEST WAY.

THEN IF HE CAN SHOW YOU HIS VISIONS, WHY CAN'T HE SHOW YOU WHERE HE IS NOW?

PROTECT YOU FROM WHA--
WAIT.

BATMAN?

I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE.



WAKE UP,
BOY.



YOU CAN'T
HIDE FROM MY
INTERROGATION
THROUGH
SELF-IMPOSED
BLACKOUTS.



IT IS
BECOMING
HARDER TO WAKE
YOU. I WOULDN'T
WANT TO IMPOSE
PERMANENT
DAMAGE.

BESIDES,
I NEED TO
DISCUSS YOUR
SENSE OF
HUMOR.



THE MAN IN
THE NOOSE BEARS
LITTLE RESEMBLANCE
TO ME--BUT I GET
THE PICTURE OF HOW
YOU FEEL...



YOU WILL
OPEN YOUR
MIND TO ME ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER.
I SWEAR ON MY
ENLIGHTENED
SOUL!



SENSEI, THIS
FELL FROM THE BOY'S
COAT...

...A BUSINESS
CARD BELONGING TO
LUCIUS FOX OF WAYNE
ENTERPRISES.

THIS USED TO BE ONE OF CHINATOWN'S OLDEST CURIO SHOPS UNTIL YESTERDAY.

I SMELL EXPLOSIVES. DYNAMITE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, I-CHING. THE FIRE MARSHAL DISCOVERED FRAGMENTS OF A TIMING DEVICE AMONG THE DEBRIS.

LUKI FOREWARNED OF THIS SHOP'S DESTRUCTION ON THE PLANE RIDE INTO YOUR COUNTRY, BATMAN.

IT'S LIKELY THIS PLACE WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED WITH THE LOCATION OF THE BEHOLDER.

SENSEI KNOWS ABOUT THE BEHOLDER AND HAS AT LEAST AS MUCH INFORMATION AS LUKI DOES... SO SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ITS LOCATION HAS TO BE FEEDING SENSEI INFORMATION.

THE BEHOLDER'S POWERS ARE SAID TO BE GREAT-- AND MYSTERIOUS. IT MAY BE ABLE TO ATTRACT THOSE IT FEELS WORTHY OF FREEING ITS POWER.

SO, LUKI HAS BEEN... COMMUNICATING WITH THIS THING-- AM I RIGHT, PERCOCK?

HEY... WHAT'S WRONG...

LUKI!
AH!!GGH!



SISTER!



AH!!GHH!



-NNGG-



PEACOCK!

GIRL, WHAT HAS HE SHOWN YOU?

MY GOD... GREAT PAIN. I FELT IT. NEVER BEFORE HAVE I...



I SENSE NO ONE NEW HERE. WHO HAS ARRIVED?

JUST MY BAT-CYCLE. I HAVE ANOTHER LEAD TO FOLLOW.

YOU LEAVE US?

I-CHING, TAKE HER TO REST. I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHAT I FIND OUT IMMEDIATELY.



SCREEECH

ON THE OUTSKIRTS
OF GOTHAM CITY.

FORENSICS SAYS
IT'S A PROBABLE
MURDER-SUICIDE. TEXT
MESSAGES ON THE
WIFE'S PHONE REVEAL
A LONG-STANDING
AFFAIR.

CRIMES A' PASSION.
ONLY WAY YOU CAN
EXPLAIN HUNDREDS
OF STABS LIKE THAT,
EH, COMMISH?

THE PROFESSOR'S
PHONE RECORDS
SHOW THAT A CALL
WAS MADE TO FONG'S
ANTIQUE SHOP.

MR. FONG
DIED IN A BOMBING
THERE SHORTLY
AFTER.

WE CAN'T FIND A PRIOR
CONNECTION TO SINNOT AND
FONG. THEY'RE CHALKING IT
UP TO A WRONG NUMBER.
WE MAY NEVER KNOW.

THIRTY-EIGHT
SECONDS IS
TOO LONG FOR
A WRONG
NUMBER.

THEN YOU WON'T
THINK LUCIUS FOX'S
CALL TO PROFESSOR
SINNOT EARLIER IN
THE AFTERNOON WAS
WRONG, EITHER. THAT
LASTED A MINUTE
AND THIRTEEN
SECONDS.

WE TALKIN'
WAYNE
ENTERPRISES
LUCIUS FOX
HERE?

I HAVE
NO PROBLEM
SENDING OVER
A COUPLE BOYS
TO QUESTION
LUCIUS.

"THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY,
COMMISSIONER--
I'LL TALK TO HIM *MYSELF*."

NORTH AVENUE, HOME
OF LUCIUS FOX.

Two of three men who spoke to each other are now dead. I can only hope it isn't three for three.

LUCIUS?
MR. FOX?

My worst fear--they've gotten to Lucius, too. The place is ransacked--but luckily, no sign of anything worse.

Yet.

My new thermo-imaging software zeroes in on three heat signatures.

Two adults. One dropped to the floor. Likely struck with a blunt object. The third is small... almost childlike. A girl?

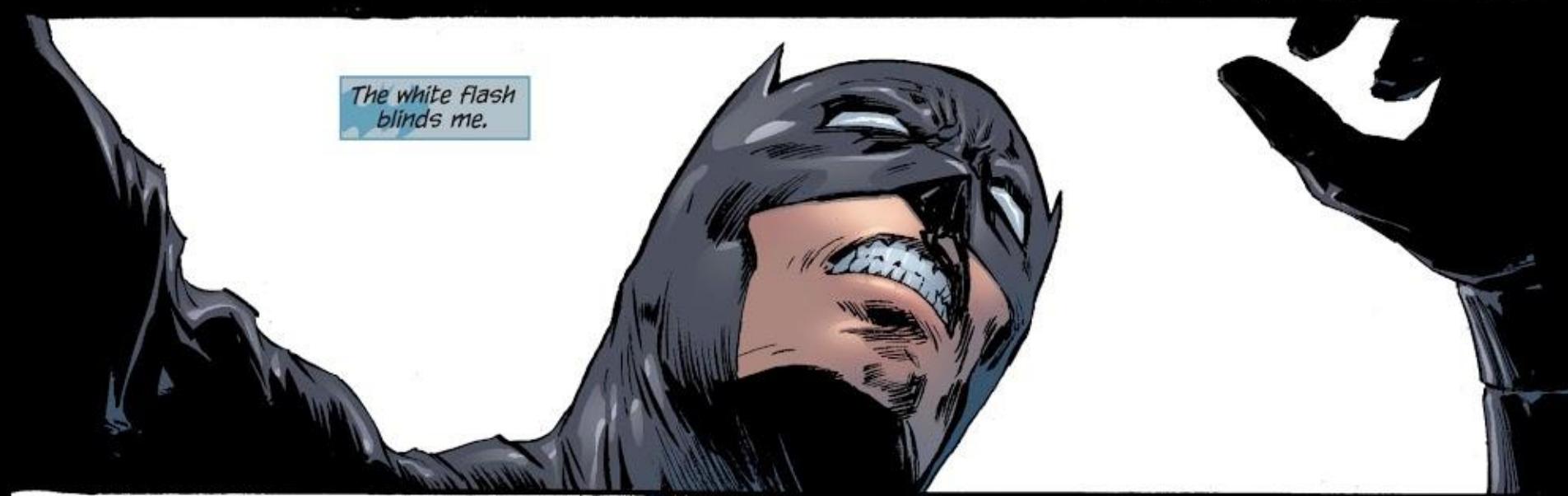
Something rattling... in that desk drawer.

BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZ

OH, N--



The white flash
blinds me.



I can make out a shape.
There's someone else
in the room with me.



It's only now that
I notice I can't hear.

CRASH



I never saw it coming.
Nor heard it.

When I land on the parked car I realize my body has gone numb, as well.

SLAM

Maybe that's good.

THUD

LOOKIT HIS MOUTH.
I JUST SAW IT QUIVER!

OOH!
THERE IT GOES
AGAIN! SEE?
HE'S WAKING
UP!

AND YOU
SAID HE WAS
GONNA BE
TOUGH.

YOU
HAVE A LOT
TO LEARN,
KIDDIO. FIRST
OFF...

...NEVER, NEVER,
NE-VERRRR
UNDERESTIMATE
THE CAPE
CRUSADER.

YOU?

RIDDLER?

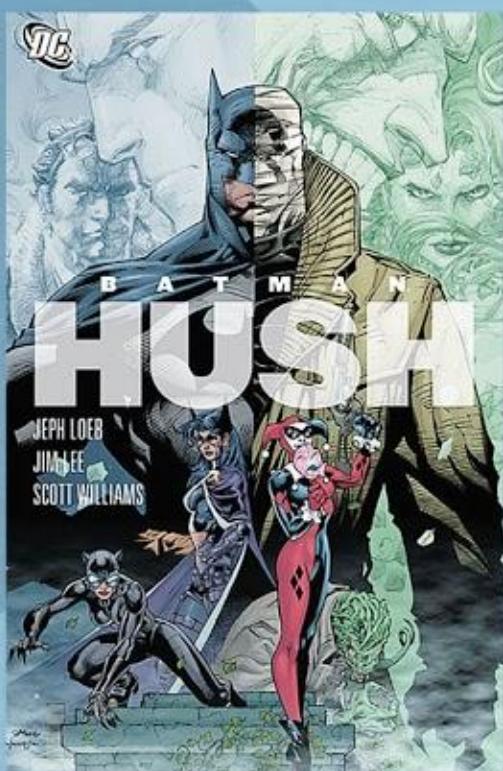
IN ALL MY
GLORY, BATMAN.
I DON'T BELIEVE
YOU'VE MET MY
DAUGHTER?

ALLOW ME
TO INTRODUCE
ENIGMA.

NEXT | SPEAK NO EVIL

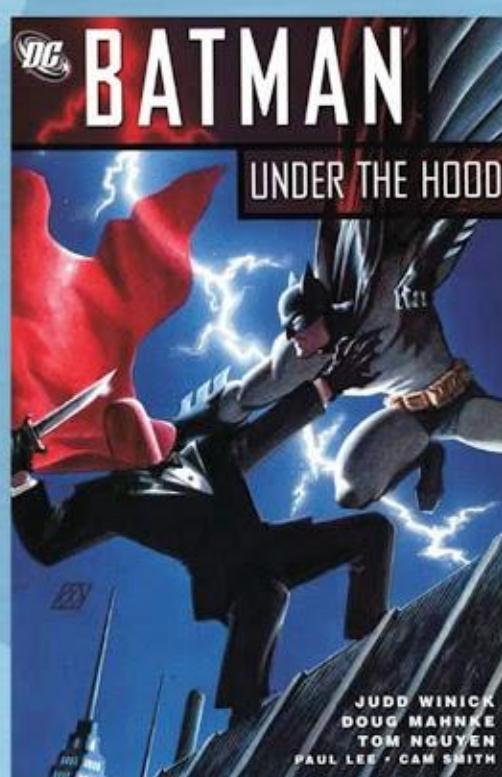
MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



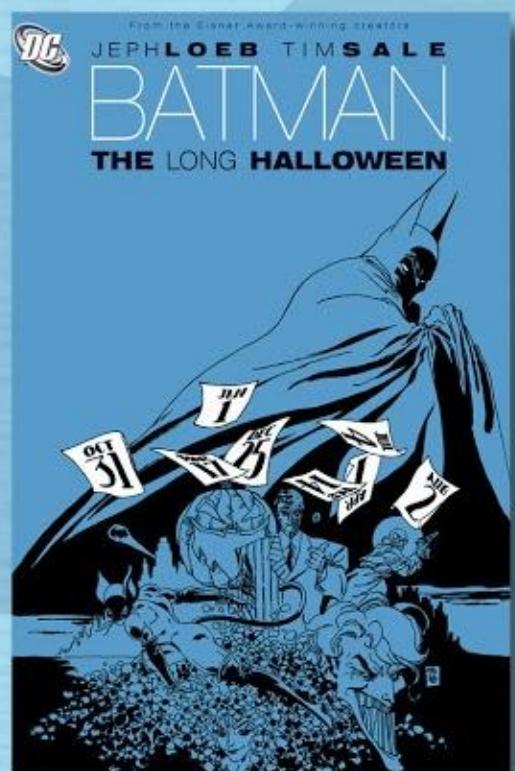
JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



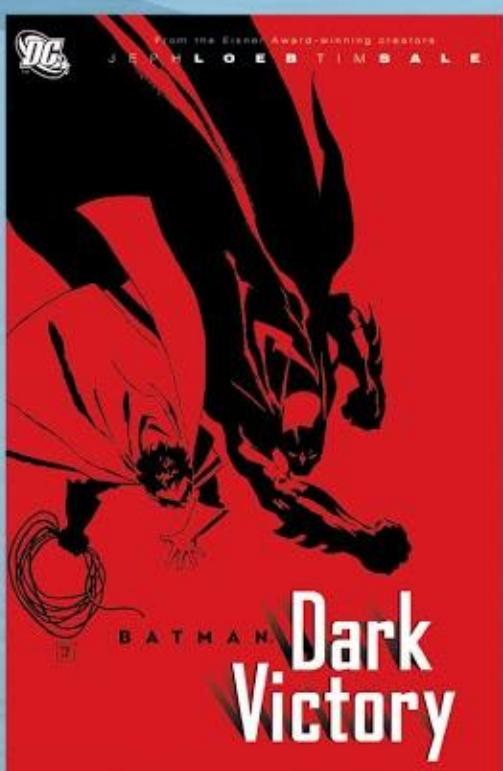
JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



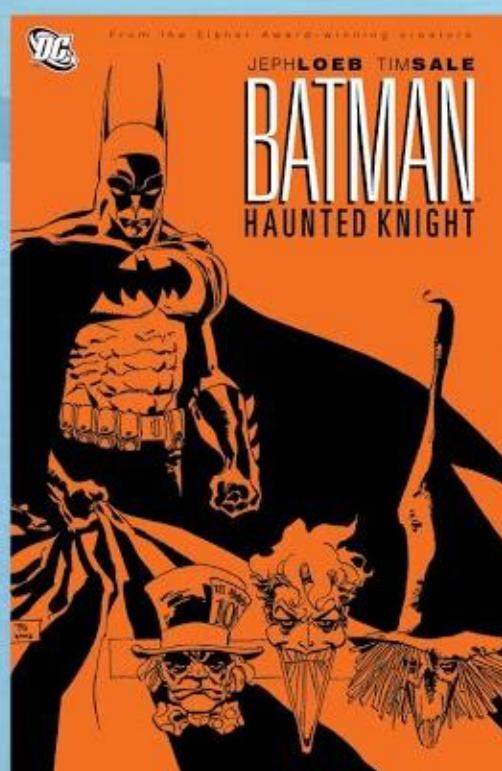
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



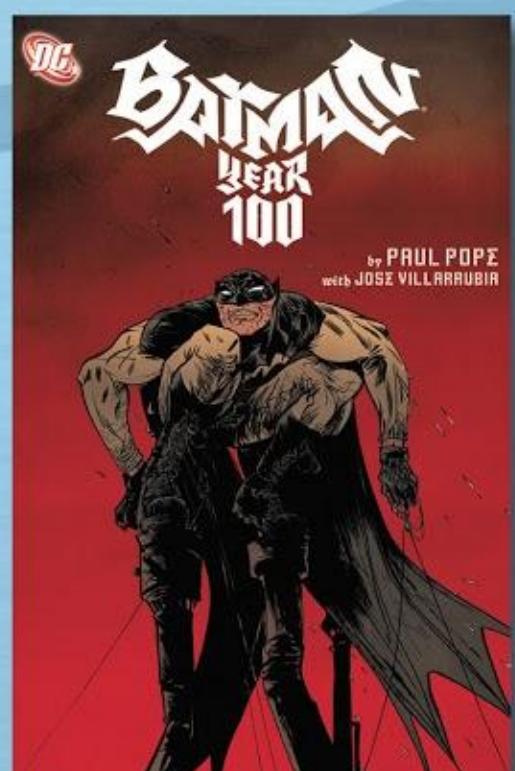
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BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



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BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

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