



WINICK  
MAHNKE  
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# BATMAN

**NOW!**  
I-IT CAN'T BE!

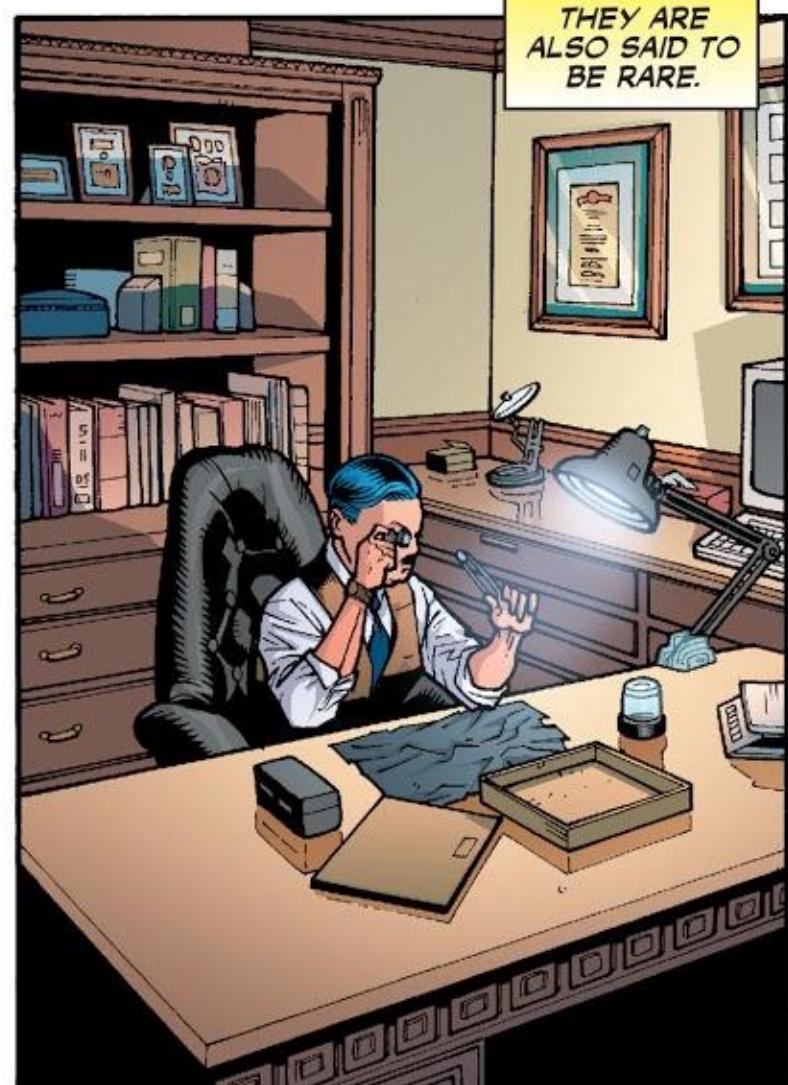
N-NOT...  
**YOU!**

FOR CENTURIES, GOLD HAS BEEN THE STANDARDBEARER FOR VALUE. IT WAS BUILT UPON ITS RARENESS, AS WELL AS ITS INTRINSIC BEAUTY.



ITS ALLURE IS NOT A NECESSARY DEBATE, BUT ITS RARENESS CAN BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.

DIAMONDS, WHILE NOT CONSIDERED A FORM OF CONVENTIONAL CURRENCY, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED NOT ONLY AS A SOURCE OF RICHES, BUT CARRY AN AIR OF STATUS.

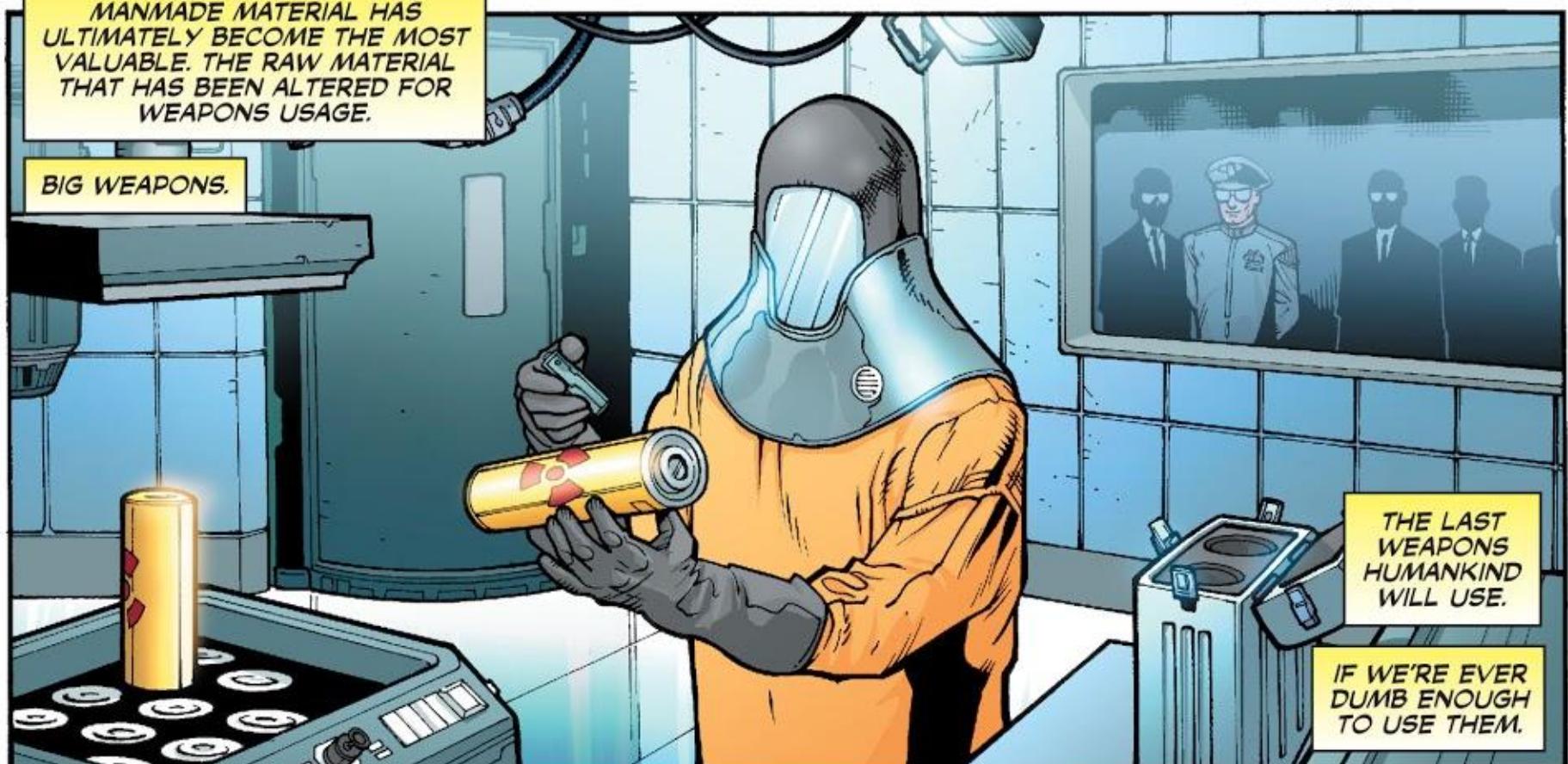


BUT WITH DIAMOND MINES ALL OVER THE GLOBE, CHOKED WITH UNDERPAID WORKERS HAULING OUT THE RAW STONES BY THE CARTFUL... DIAMONDS' SCARCITY IS ALSO UNTRUE.



MANMADE MATERIAL HAS ULTIMATELY BECOME THE MOST VALUABLE. THE RAW MATERIAL THAT HAS BEEN ALTERED FOR WEAPONS USAGE.

BIG WEAPONS.



THE LAST WEAPONS HUMANKIND WILL USE.

IF WE'RE EVER DUMB ENOUGH TO USE THEM.

BUT OF IT ALL, THERE IS ONE SUBSTANCE THAT HOLDS A VALUE THAT CAN'T BE MEASURED.

ITS ORIGIN BEING OUTER SPACE, IT IS NOT ONLY RARE, BUT IT HAS LITTLE APPLICATION.

ITS NEAR USELESSNESS ADDS TO ITS MYSTIQUE AS MUCH AS ITS SCARCITY.

IT COMES FROM A DIFFERENT PLANET.

IT IS AMONG THE LAST FEW REMNANTS OF A DEAD WORLD...

...AND ITS EXISTENCE ISN'T COMMON KNOWLEDGE.



UNLIKE ANOTHER REMNANT FROM THAT SAME PLANET.

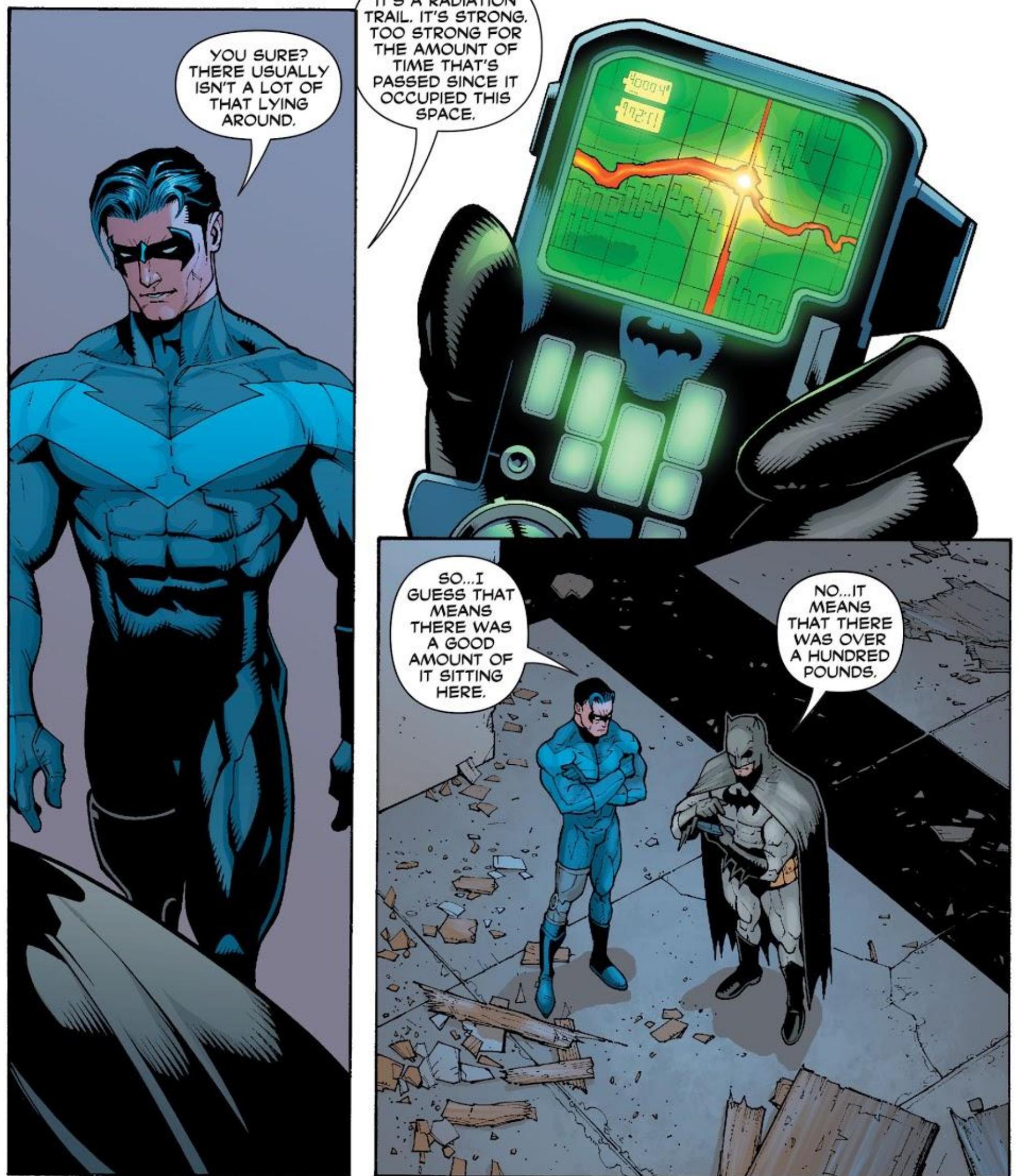
BUYERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WOULD PAY A KING'S RANSOM TO POSSESS EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT. WHETHER FOR STATUS OR BRAGGING RIGHTS, BUT MORE LIKELY PROTECTION.



MANY WOULD LOVE TO KEEP SUPERMAN AT "ARM'S LENGTH."

"IT'S KRYPTONITE."

ARMOR WITH CASE



THE RED HOOD.  
THE NEW FACE  
IN GOTHAM'S  
UNDERWORLD.

I HEARD  
YOU THE FIRST TIME.  
YOU KEEP SAYING  
THAT IT'S YOURS. BUT  
I SHOULD REMIND  
YOU THAT I DON'T  
CARE.

# UNDER THE HOOD

PART 4  
BIDDING WAR

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

I SEE...

THE BLACK  
MASK. THE NEW  
HEAD OF  
GOTHAM'S  
UNDERWORLD.

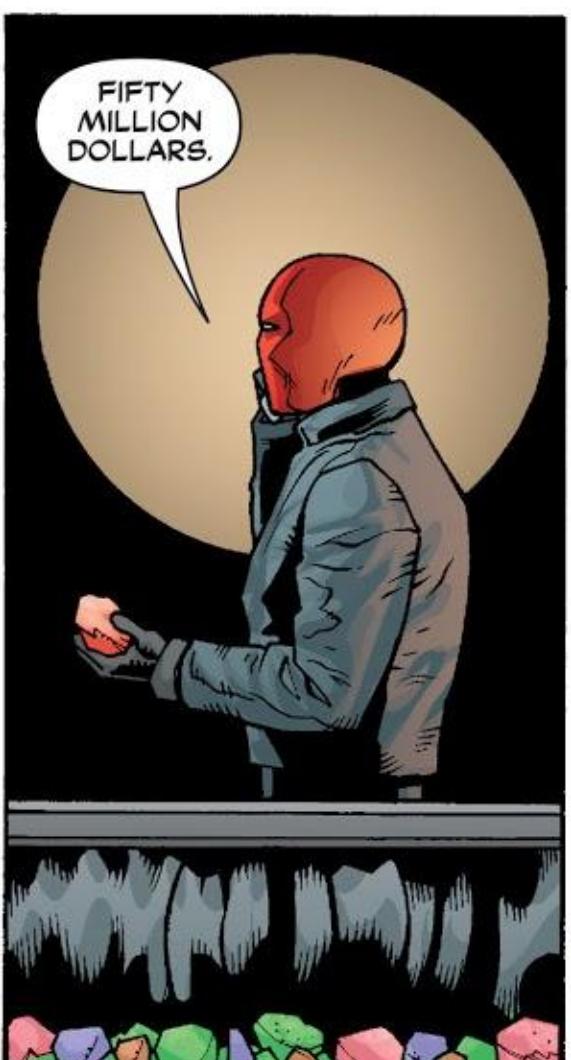
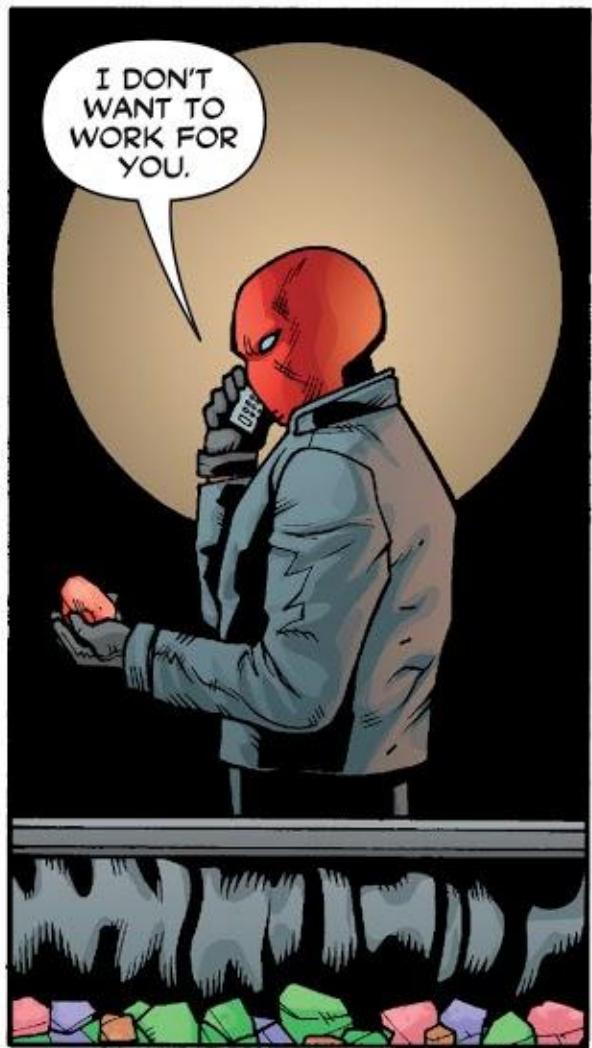
I  
SUPPOSE  
THERE'S JUST  
NO PERSUADING  
YOU TO GIVE IT  
BACK?

YOUR  
DEFINITION OF  
PERSUASION BEING WHAT?

FOR ONE, I DON'T  
KILL YOU. FOR TWO,  
I DON'T KILL YOU.  
THREE, YOU CAN  
HAVE A JOB. WORK  
FOR ME.

YOU  
HAVE TO BE  
KIDDING.  
SHUT UP.







YOU  
HEAR ALL  
THAT?

I DID.

I'D REALLY LIKE YOU  
TO GO KILL THIS GUY  
AND GET ME MY  
KRYPTONITE. CAN YOU  
SWING THAT?

I CAN  
SWING  
THAT.

GOOD. I  
NEED YOU  
TO RUN AN  
ERRAND.

I DON'T "RUN  
ERRANDS" FOR  
YOU.

I KNOW. I  
WAS BEING SARCASTIC.  
I WON'T MAKE THAT  
MISTAKE AGAIN.

LOVELY...

WHAT A  
DAY...I WOKE UP  
IN SUCH A GREAT  
MOOD...

THIS IS PRETTY SLOW GOING.

I KNOW. DESPITE THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL, IT FADES IN AND OUT.

WE COULD PROBABLY GET BETTER COVERAGE IF WE TRACK FROM SEVERAL POINTS. LET'S GET...



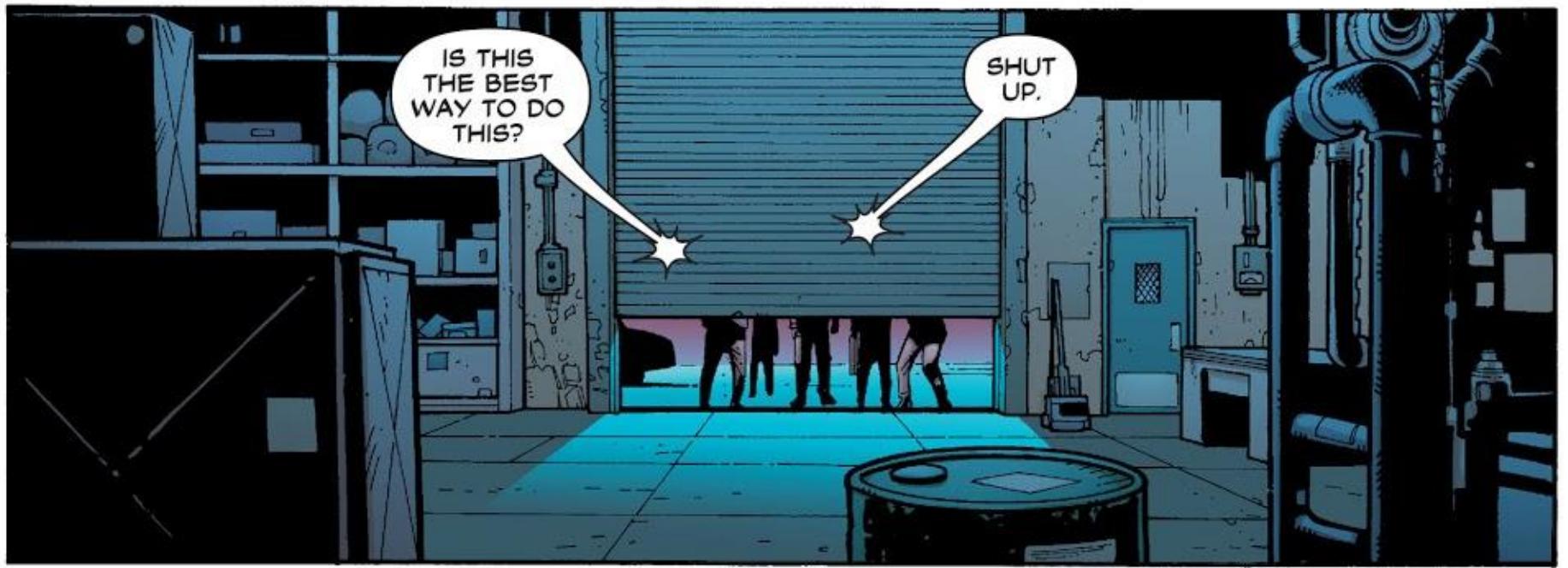
YES...?

NEVER MIND.

YOU WERE GOING TO SAY "ORACLE," THAT WE SHOULD HAIL ORACLE, WHO COULD HELP US TRIANGULATE THE SIGNAL THROUGH SATELLITE HOOK-UPS.







WE HAVE  
YOUR MONEY. GIVE US  
THE KRYPTONITE AND  
WE'LL COMPLETE THE  
WIRE TRANSFER.

THAT'S CUTE.  
WE'RE ALL GOING  
THROUGH THE MOTIONS.  
TELL ME, IS THAT  
ACTUALLY FOUR MILLION?  
OR JUST THE TOP LAYER  
IS CASH AND THE REST IS  
CHINESE NEWSPAPER  
UNDERNEATH?

IT'S ACTUALLY SIX  
INCHES OF THE GOTHAM  
GUARDIAN.

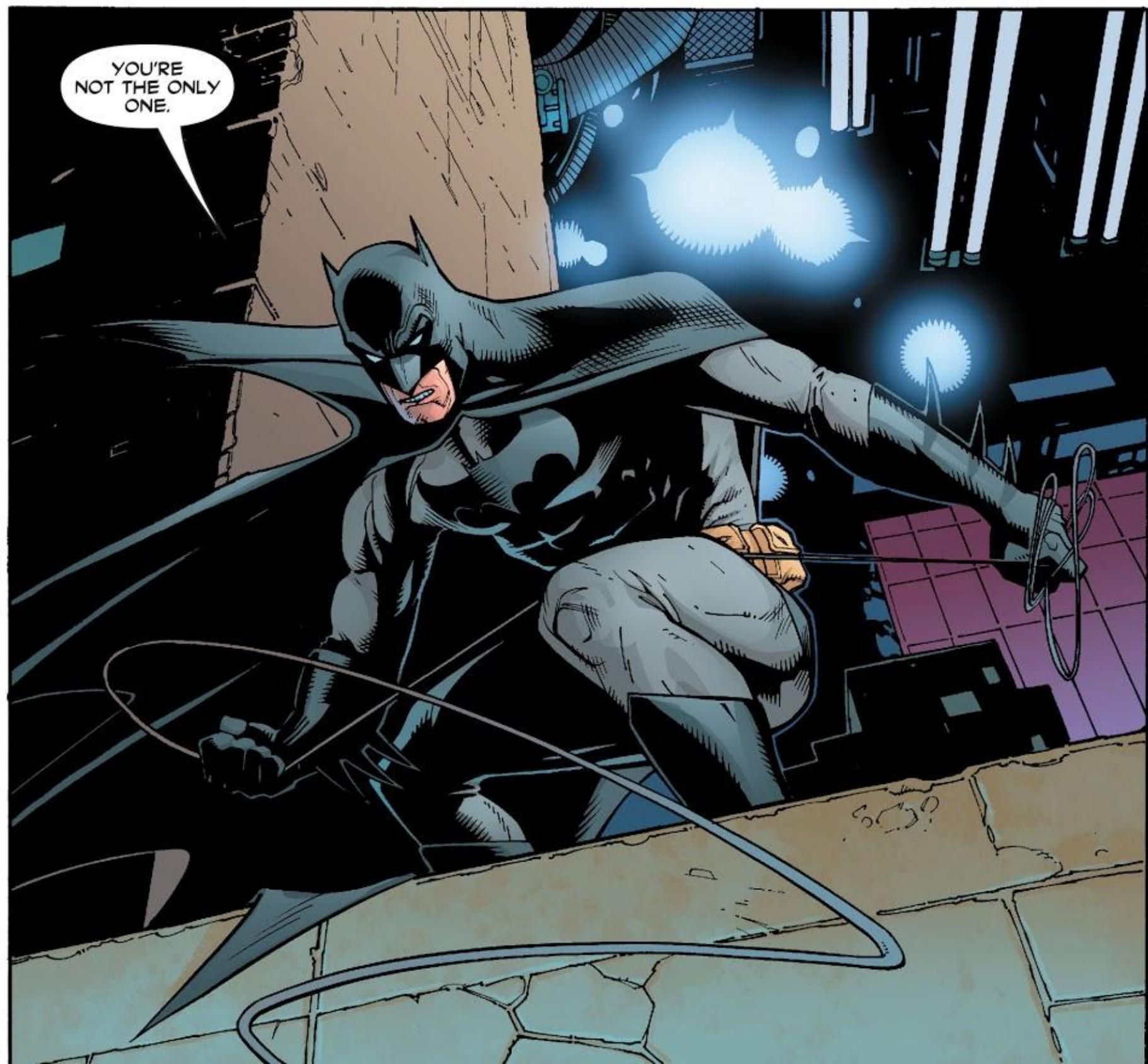
MAN,  
SHUT  
UP!

BE QUIET,  
YOU IDIOT. THIS  
DOESN'T CONCERN  
YOU.









NICE TO  
SEE YOU AGAIN.  
WE'LL BE TAKING THE  
KRYPTONITE OFF  
YOUR HANDS.

YOU CAN HAVE IT.  
I GOT WHAT I  
CAME FOR.

DEEP

THE  
LAY OF THE  
LAND.



EPILOGUE.

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND HIM.

AND HE HAD A LOT OF BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE ALLOWING HIMSELF THIS MOMENT.

BUT NOW IT FELT RIGHT.

REUNIONS ARE A FUNNY THING.

WHO'S THERE...?







