



LAST RITES



684
FEB
2009

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COMICS
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AUTHORITY

BATMAN®



DENNY
O'NEIL
GUILLEM
MARCH

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Tony S. DANIE
S. FLOREA / 03/06

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BATMAN: LAST RITES

LAST DAYS OF GOTHAM PART 2 OF 2

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MIKE MARTS EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

C'MON,
FELLA. WAKE
UP. YOU GOTTA
WAKE UP. I'M NOT
KIDDING--
WAKE UP!

WE GOTTA
GET OUTTA
HERE!

WAKE
UP!

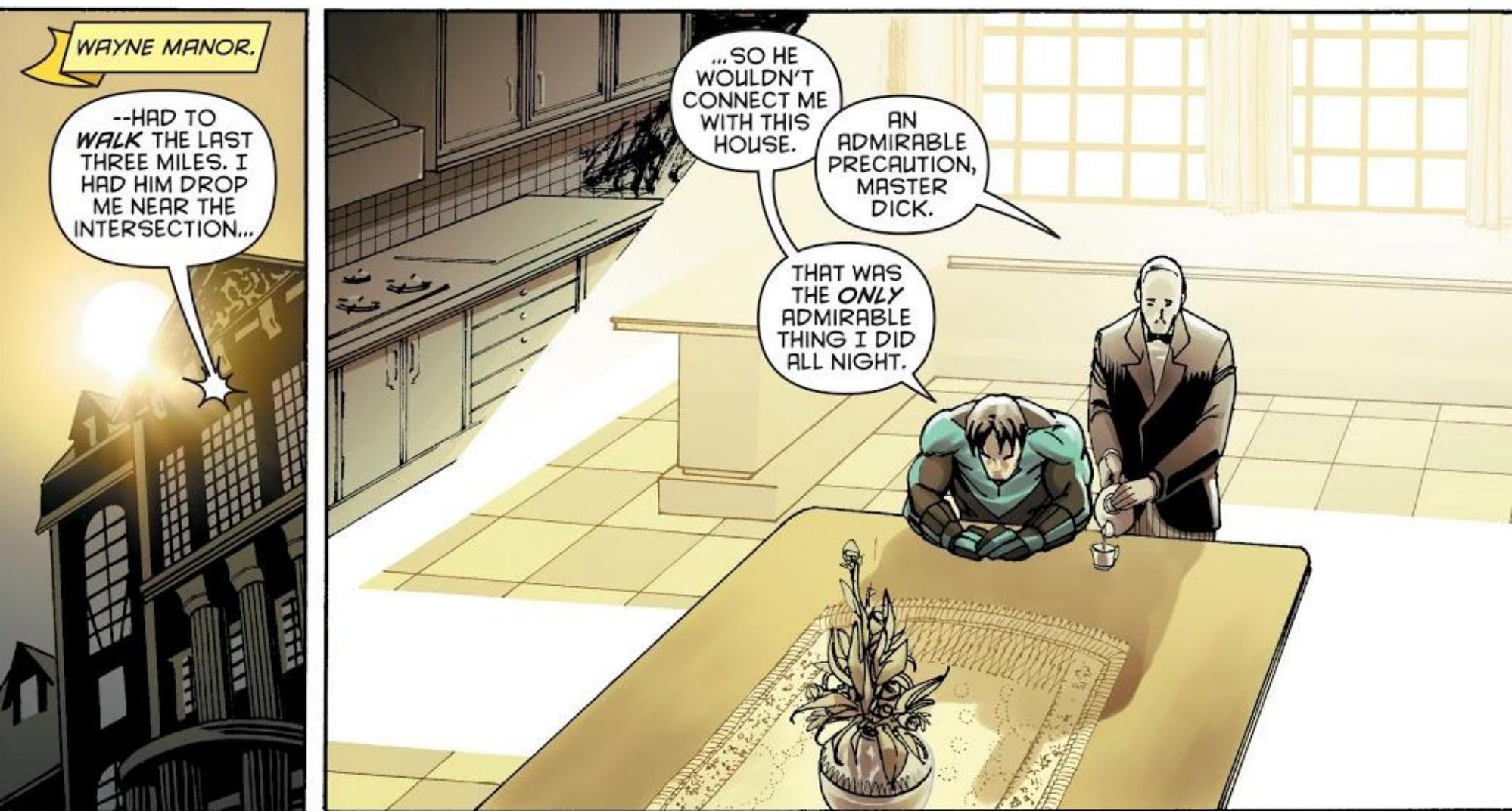
I'M
AWAKE...

*There is a sting in his eyes
and throat, an agonizing heat,
and breathing is difficult...*





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MAYBE
JUST...

...THINK
FOR A
WHILE.

Like so many in Gotham,
Dick Grayson--Nightwing--really
has no need to prove himself...

...but he feels that he has
to, and that feeling hurts.

Let us leave him
to his thoughts...

...and go first to a crime
being committed at a
small jewelry store near
the theater district...

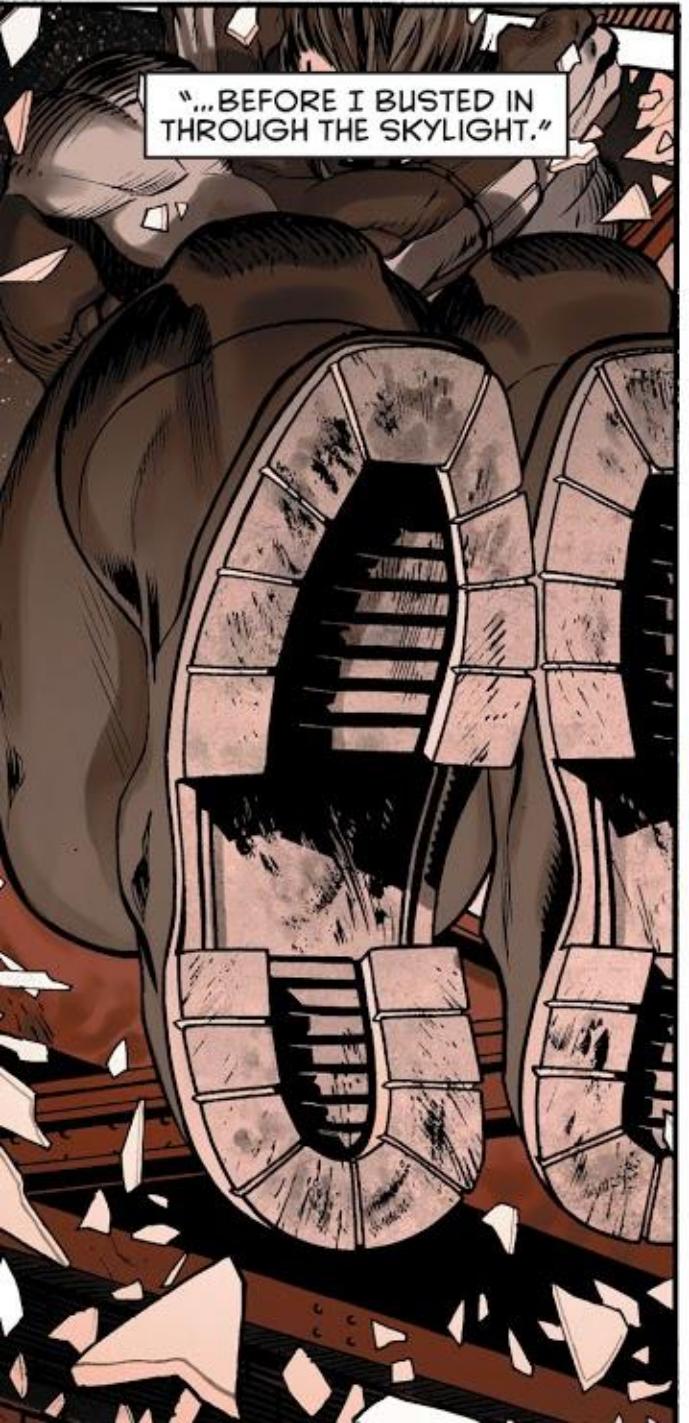
NOBODY
MOVE! CUZ
MAYBE YOU
HEARD
OF ME!

YOU KNOW
WHO I AM,
MORON?

YOU LOOK
LIKE...THAT
TWO-FACE?

YEAH.
THAT'S ME!
TWO-FACE!
MASTER
CRIMINAL!











...but I don't mind,
and neither does he.

MILICENT
MAYNE?

I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU, YOUNG
MAN.

AT THAT MOMENT,
A MILE DISTANT...

LOTS
COP
CARS...

...ALL
GOING
THE OTHER
WAY.

BEST
WAY FOR
'EM TO BE
GOING.

HEY,
GRACCHUS--
WHY YOU STILL
WEARING THE
TWO-FACE
GET-UP?

CUZ IN CASE
ANYBODY SEES
US, TWO-FACE
GETS THE RAP,
MORON.

ASK ME,
YOU LIKE
LOOKING
LIKE TWO-
FACE.

I DIDN'T ASK YOU,
AND I HEAR ANY-
THING ELSE OUTTA
YOU, YOU'LL LOOK
LIKE TWO-FACE.
ON
BOTH
SIDES.

By then, I had finished telling Nightwing about the night Gracchus changed my life...

SO AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, THE DIAMONDS ARE STILL BURIED INSIDE THE THEATER.

INDEED.

DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TRY TO DIG THEM OUT?

I SAW NO REASON TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE OF THEM WITH ANYONE.

AND RETRIEVING THEM MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT. POLICEMEN ARE OFTEN IN THE AREA.

THEY ARE VERY NICE, THOSE POLICEMEN. BRAWNY DEVILS, TOO.

THEY MAKE ME WISH I WERE STILL ABLE TO FLIRT.

BUT TONIGHT, ALL THE COPS ARE AT CITY HALL.

SO UNLESS I'M EVEN DUMBER THAN I THINK I AM, ANY SECOND NOW WE'LL BE SEEING WHAT LOOKS LIKE...

"...A CITY REPAIR VAN."

EVERYBODY OUT!















At midnight, the rain stops...and now, at 3 a.m., most of my citizens are snug in their beds.

Some, however, like those at police headquarters, are still at work...

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS, COMMISSIONER.





Listen... do you hear? The rumble and honk of trucks and vans. The early deliveries have begun and with them, another day.

In an hour the sun will rise over the tallest buildings and the citizens of Gotham will waken and yawn and be about their business.

Until then, this extraordinary young man and I will talk of good and evil and the kinds of masks we all wear.

We will wonder together about what is the most real-- the mask or the face.

Soon, he will be gone, but I will still be here.

