



DC  
COMICS™

35

THE NEW 52!

# BATMAN

SNYDER  
CAPULLO  
MIKI  
PLASCENCIA



Capullo  
14 fco.

ENDGAME  
PART 1



DCCOMICS.COM

RATED T TEEN

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## GOTHAM CITY, NOW.

The Gotham Royal Theater was constructed four years ago, not long after the events of what became known as Gotham's "Zero Year."

The theater was part of a cultural reconstruction initiative, a second phase of rebuilding.

The idea was, now that the city's infrastructure had been repaired, it was time to rebuild Gotham's arts facilities, bigger and better than before. To make them places the people of Gotham could escape to and express their hopes and fears.

I was on the Royal Theater board and noticed more and more money pouring into the construction. In a few months we were nearly three hundred thousand dollars over budget.

I went personally to see what was going on.

The architect was a friend of mine named Wade. When I asked him about the money, he pointed up.

He'd constructed a special harness for the theater. They were doing Orestes, and, Wade explained, at the end of the play there was a "deus ex machina."

A moment when a god, Apollo, descends from the sky to save the characters from destruction.

"Bruce," he said, "after all we've been through, I just want that to feel real. I want everyone in the theater to believe in that god coming down to help. I just want them to feel saved."

And in the end...

...what could I say to that?

I REPEAT,  
SOMEONE APPEARS  
TO HAVE LAUNCHED A  
CHEMICAL ATTACK  
AGAINST MIDTOWN  
GOTHAM.

LITERALLY MINUTES  
AGO, WITHOUT WARNING,  
A CLOUD OF GAS EMERGED  
FROM THE SEWER GRATES,  
EFFECTIVELY COVERING  
NEARLY TEN SQUARE  
BLOCKS.



BLESS THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GCPD, LOLA. WE HAVE MORE BREAKING INFORMATION NOW, THOUGH...INITIAL REPORTS JUST COMING IN...THE GOTHAM DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY...

...WELL, THIS IS STRANGE. IT SEEMS THE GAS ITSELF, AFTER PRELIMINARY TESTS, APPEARS TO BE HARMLESS.



"A GAS ATTACK WITH HARMLESS GAS? IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE WANTED TO CLEAR THE AREA..."

"LOOKING AT THE PERIMETER, IT'S TIGHTLY CIRCUMSCRIBED. A CIRCLE. LIKE A STADIUM. OR..."

"...AN ARENA."



COME ON THEN!  
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME  
NOW! YOU THINK YOU CAN  
TAKE ME? HERE? IN MY  
CITY?! THEN STEP INTO  
THE RING!

KEEP GOING! AND DON'T AIM FOR THE CENTERS! AIM FOR THE RIDGES IN THEIR BELLS! THE RHOPALIA! THEIR SENSORY BUNDLES!

THERE ARE TOO MANY!

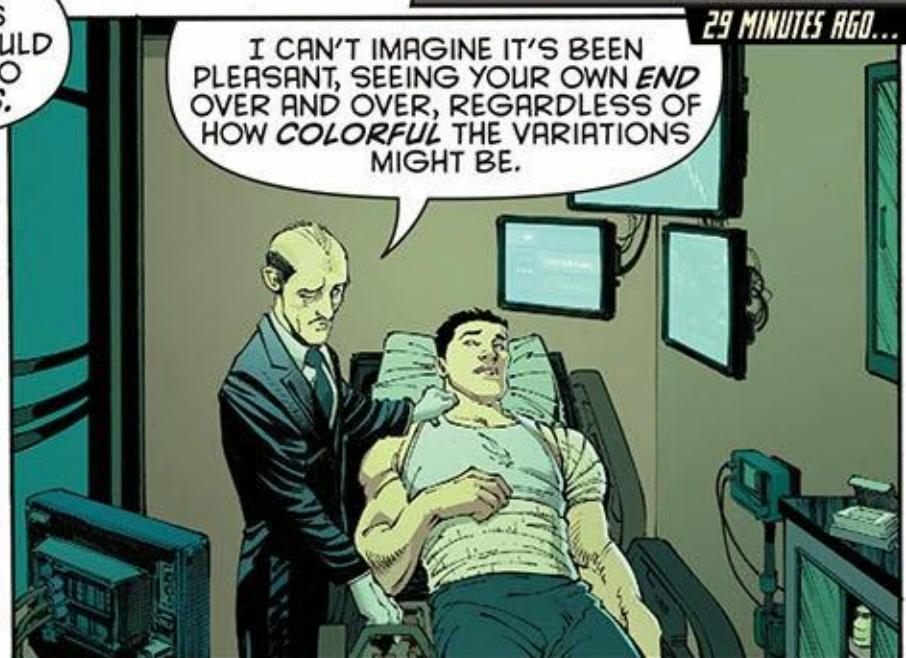
KEEP PUSHING, LARK! THEIR SHIP IS--

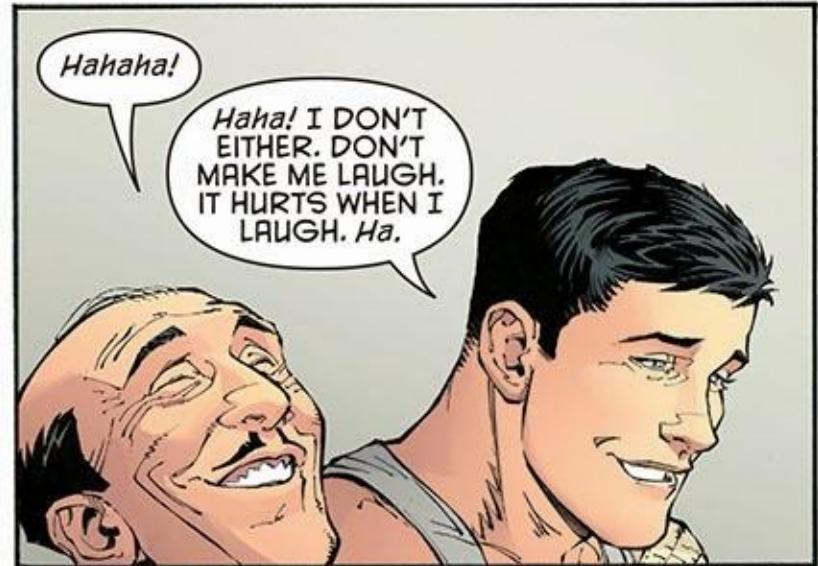
BATMAN, THERE'S NOWHERE TO PUSH! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

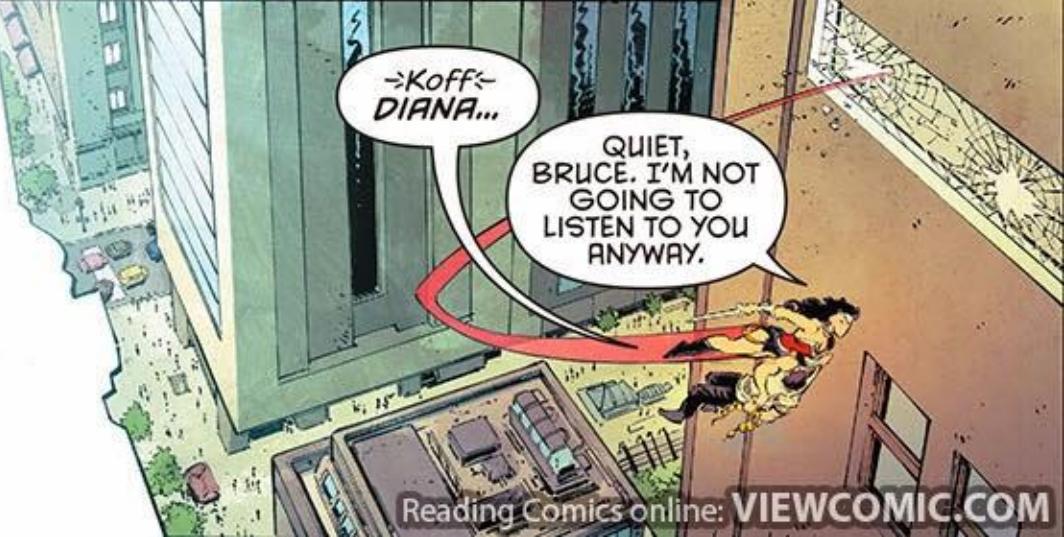
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT! PENNY-ONE! COME IN, PEN--

AGH! NO! AAC!

SIR! YOUR VITALS, SIR!







ACTUALLY...



...I THINK  
YOU ARE!

AAAGH!



YOU'RE ONLY  
PROLONGING  
THE INEVITABLE,  
BRUCE.



DAMMIT,  
WILL YOU  
JUST TALK  
TO ME?





NOW.

She means to kill you, Bruce.

There's no conflict in her about it. No pupil dilation. No hesitation in her movements. Whatever is doing this to her, she's a bit slower than normal, but the fact remains...

...she's not pulling her punches.

So you can't either.

DANGER LEVEL

MAX

DIANA, YOU HAVE TO FIGHT THROUGH WHATEVER THIS IS! PLEASE, TELL ME WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

MAYBE NO ONE DID THIS TO ME, BRUCE. DID YOU EVER THINK OF THAT? MAYBE I JUST HATE YOU. MAYBE WE ALL DO, AND THIS IS SIMPLY THE END.



*She's right.*

*She's a warrior  
of truth.*

*So the only to beat  
her is with a lie.*



*The relic is called the "bind of veils,"  
and it was woven by Hephaestus in a  
moment of doubt, not long after he  
forged her lasso. He used an inverted  
version of the same weave.*

*It's said to be made from wool  
from the sheep Odysseus' men  
used to trick the Cyclops. It took  
me nearly two years to track it  
down on the magical black market.*

*The suit isn't  
just armor.*

*It's designed for  
war. With the most  
powerful heroes on  
the planet.*

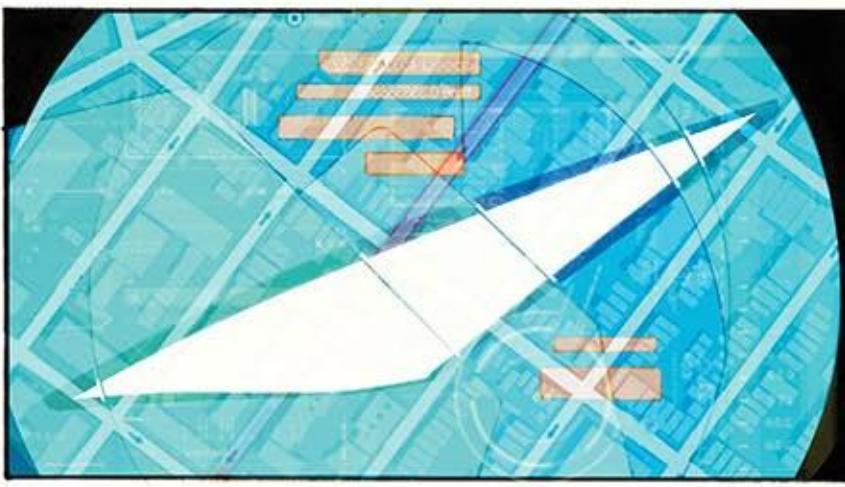
*BASE. ARE  
YOU PICKING UP ANY  
OTHERS?*

*NEGATIVE  
SIR, NOTHING  
Y...*



"...YYYYYEEEEEE..."





This next part happens faster than I can process it.



I've put more money into this suit than about sixty percent of the world's nations put into their respective militaries. And a good deal of that money went towards a protocol for one man...

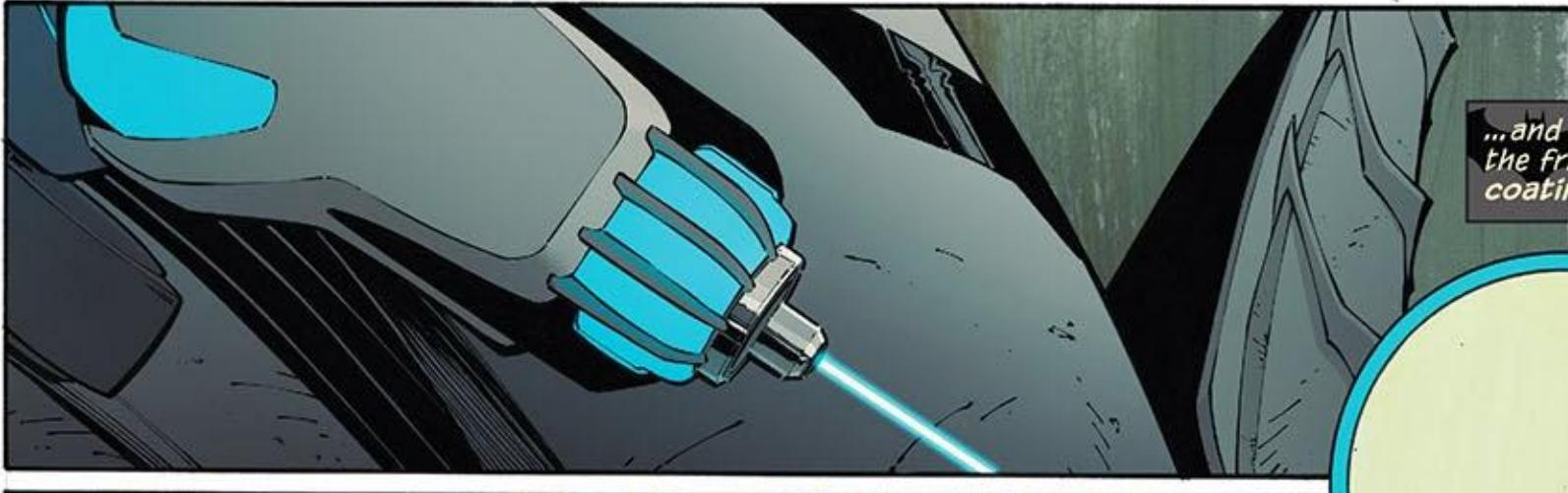
...making sure the servers were fast enough for him...



...faster than any human reaction...



...fast enough to map his movements, assuming he wasn't at optimal speed...



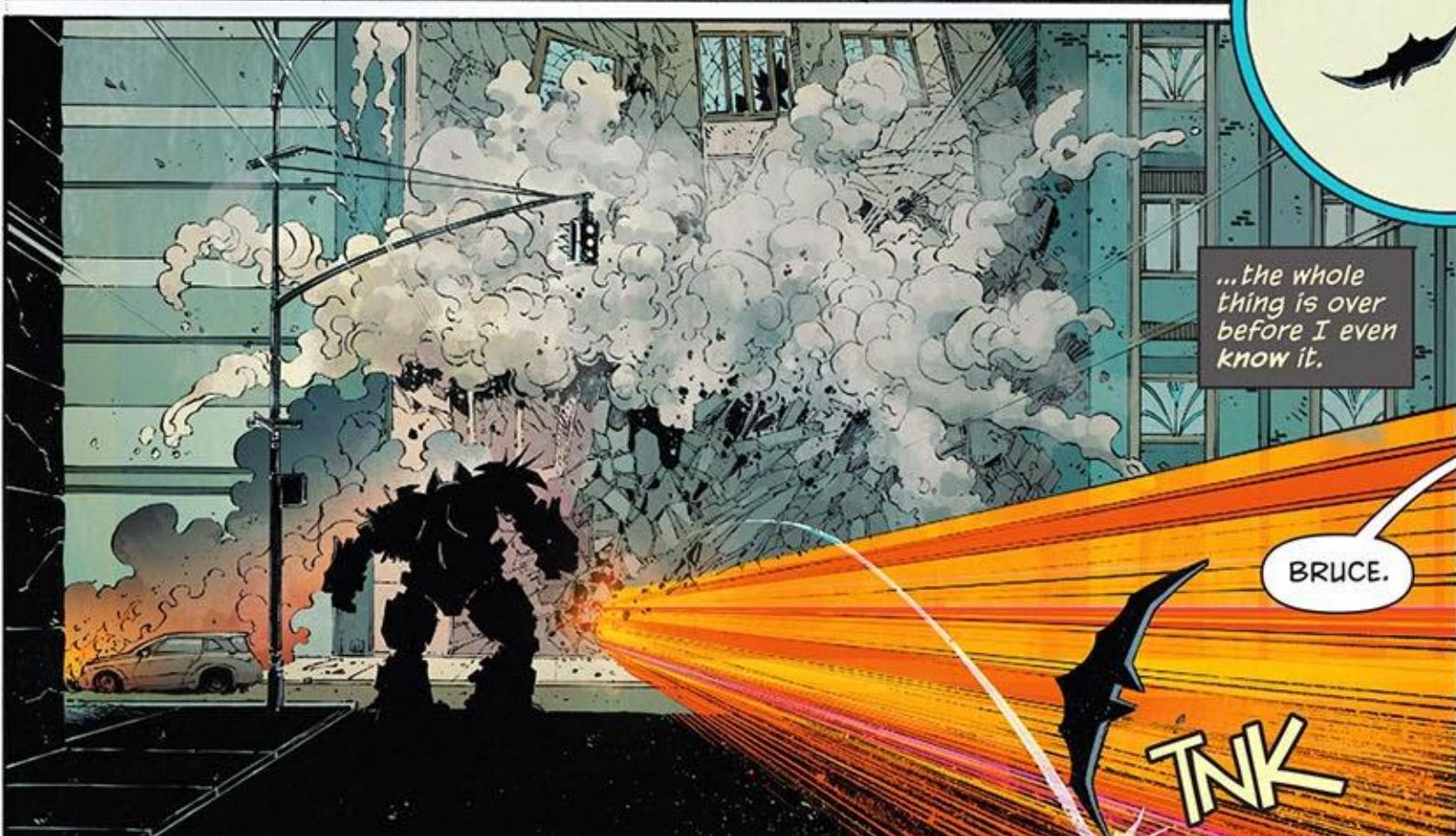
...and then fire the frictionless coating...



...exactly where it needs to be...



...before he can react. The strike is so fast...



BRUCE.

TNK

Diana. Barry.  
Now Arthur...

It's too much for any  
human telepath. And  
Diana's defenses  
against magic...who  
the hell is doing this?

...ENOUGH  
TRICKS AND  
GADGETS.



NOW TURN AND  
FACE ME LIKE YOU  
HAVE SOME DAMN  
HONOR, AND  
WE'LL--

PFFFFFT



THAT'S  
THE THING,  
ARTHUR. THERE'S  
NO HONOR IN  
A STREET  
FIGHT.

THE FOAM IS MADE FROM POWDERED MAGNESIUM CARBONATE. IT'S THE MOST ABSORBENT MATERIAL ON EARTH. COVERED IN SO MANY PORES THAT A SINGLE GRAM HAS NEARLY EIGHT HUNDRED METERS OF SURFACE AREA.

BOTTOM LINE, THE MORE YOU STRUGGLE, THE MORE MOISTURE IT RIPS FROM YOUR BODY. NOW, LOOK AT ME. TELL ME WHO DID THIS.

I LOOK AT YOU AND SEE A DEAD MAN. THAT'S ALL.

DAMMIT, ARTHUR! WHO DID THIS?!

BATMAN...

WHAT IS IT?

WE'RE PICKING UP MOVEMENT. SOMETHING BIG COMING AT YOU.

SIR, YOU SHOULD--

I'M STAYING HERE. IT'S THE ONLY SAFE PLACE TO FIGHT THEM.

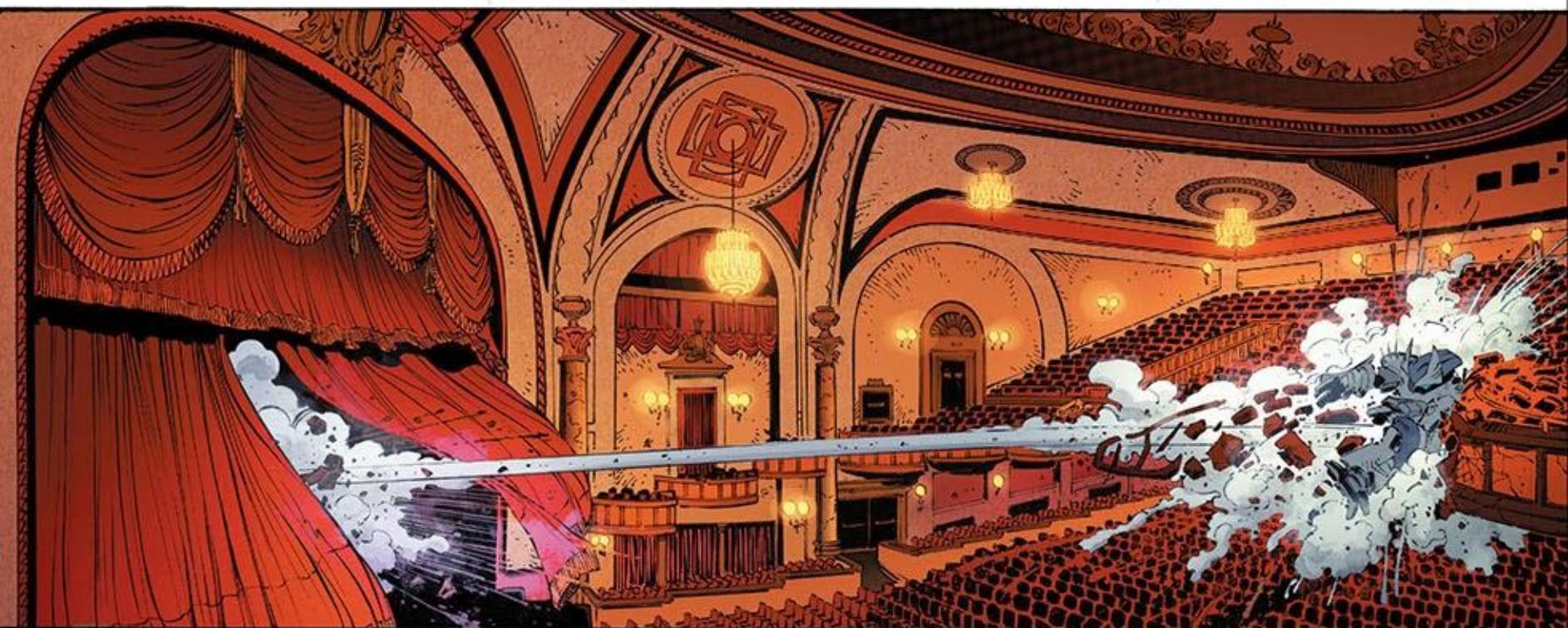
Get ready to react, Bruce.

IF it's Vic, the electromagnetic nerve tree is up.

Hal, you've got the citrine neurolizer.

Just please, please let him still be off plane--

# BOOM





"...IT'S ACTUALLY  
SORT OF...FUNNY."





NEXT: HE'S BAAAAAAACK!

KANE COUNTY.

14 MILES FROM ARKHAM MANOR.

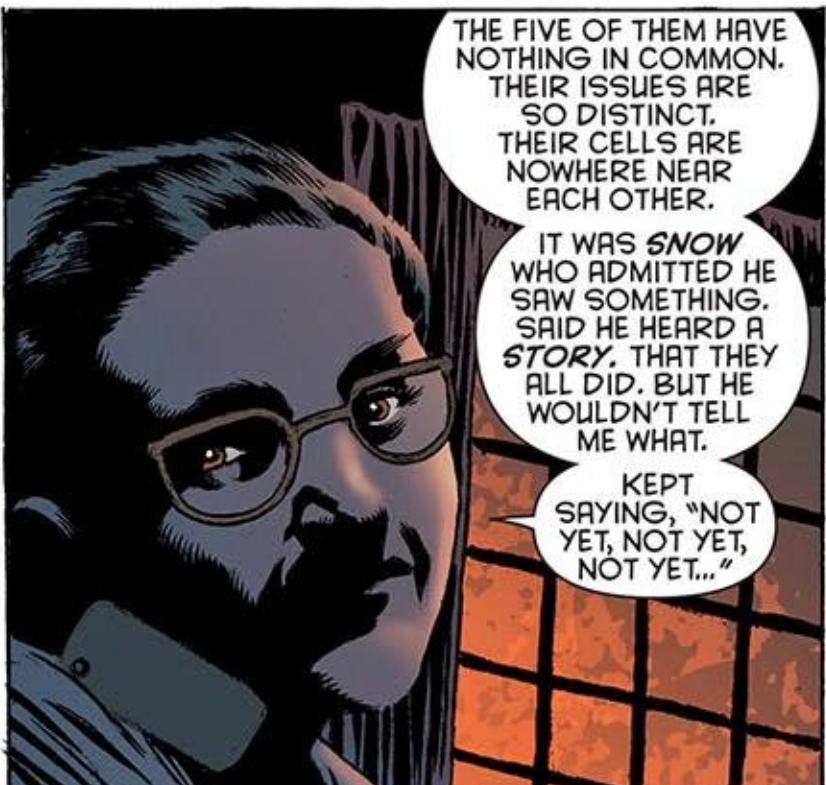
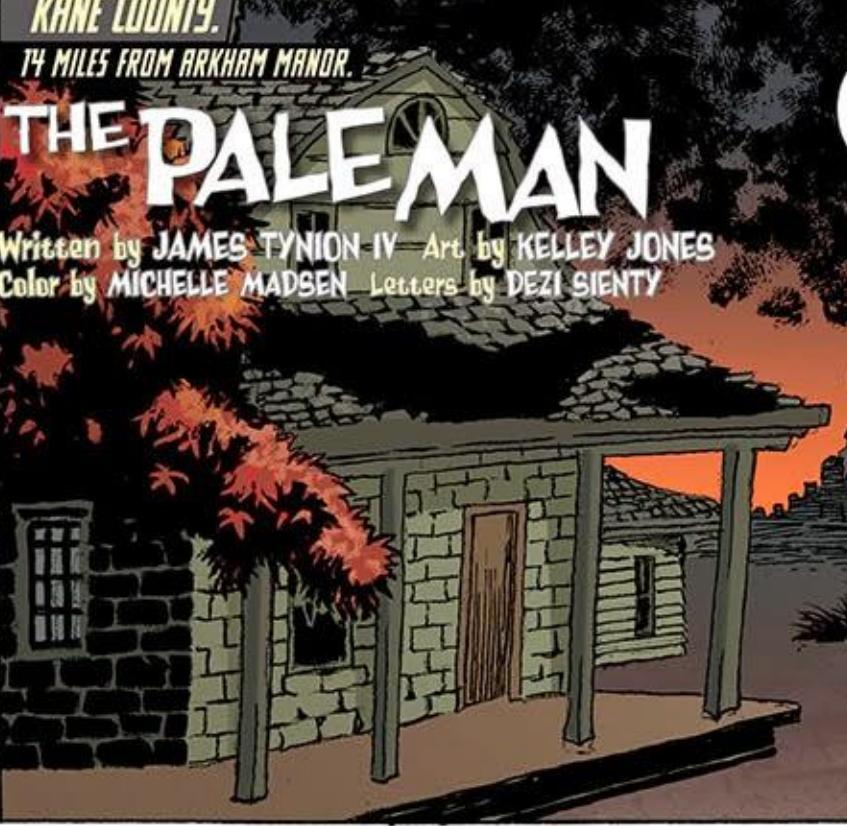
# THE PALE MAN

Written by JAMES TYNION IV Art by KELLEY JONES  
Color by MICHELLE MADSEN Letters by DEZI SIENTY

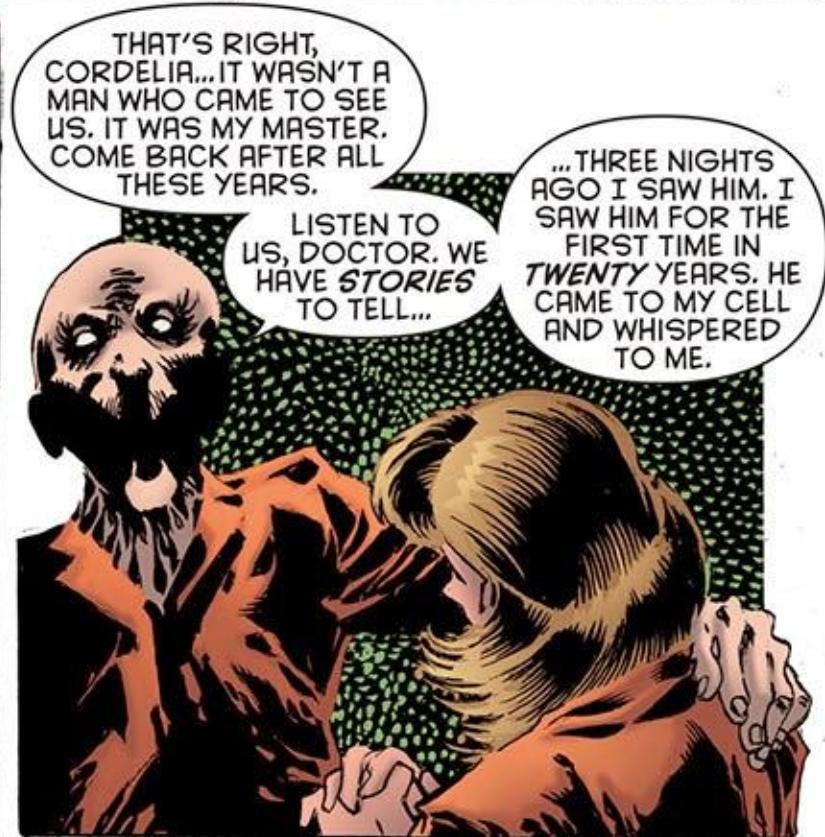
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TALKED ME INTO THIS, ERIC... I SHOULD BE BACK THERE LEADING THE MANHUNT. I SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING.

TRUST ME, MAHREEN. I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED.

YOU NEED TO GO HOME. YOU NEED SOME REST. I'VE GOT ALL OF THIS UNDER CONTROL BACK AT ARKHAM.







"THE DEVIL.

"THE DEVIL  
HIMSELF.

"STILL REMEMBER THAT NIGHT,  
TWENTY YEARS AGO. IT GETS HAZY  
WHEN YOU MAKE ME TAKE THE  
PILLS, BUT IT'S STILL IN THERE.

"I FOUND A PATH THAT  
NEVER EXISTED BEFORE  
THAT NIGHT AND NEVER  
EXISTED AFTER.

"AND ON THAT  
PATH THERE WAS  
A CROSSROADS...  
AND HE CAME TO  
ME THERE. HE  
TOLD ME WHAT I  
NEEDDED TO DO.

"AND WHEN HE SMILED I  
COULD SEE HELL REFLECTED  
IN HIS CROOKED TEETH.

"AND WHEN HE LAUGHED, I FELT  
THE FIRE IN MY BONES, BRANDING  
ME. MAKING ME HIS. FOREVER.

"WASN'T LIKE IN THE  
STORYBOOKS.

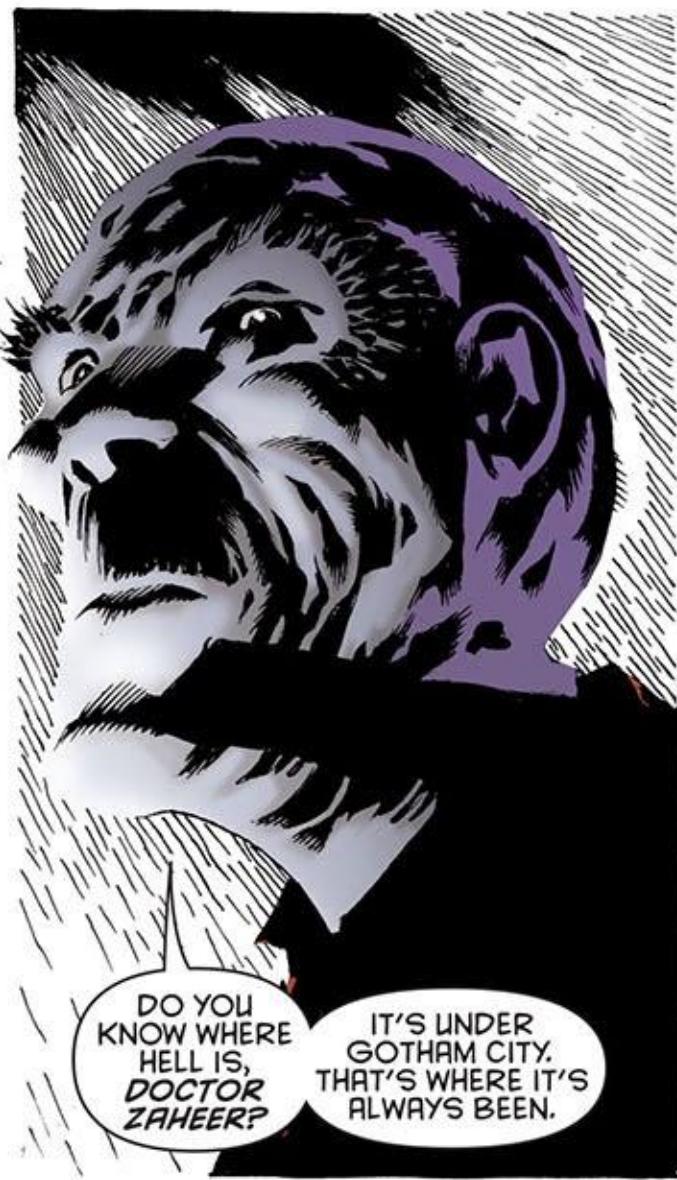
"WASN'T RED,  
WITH THE HORNS  
AND THE  
HOOFES...HE WAS  
TALL AND PALE.

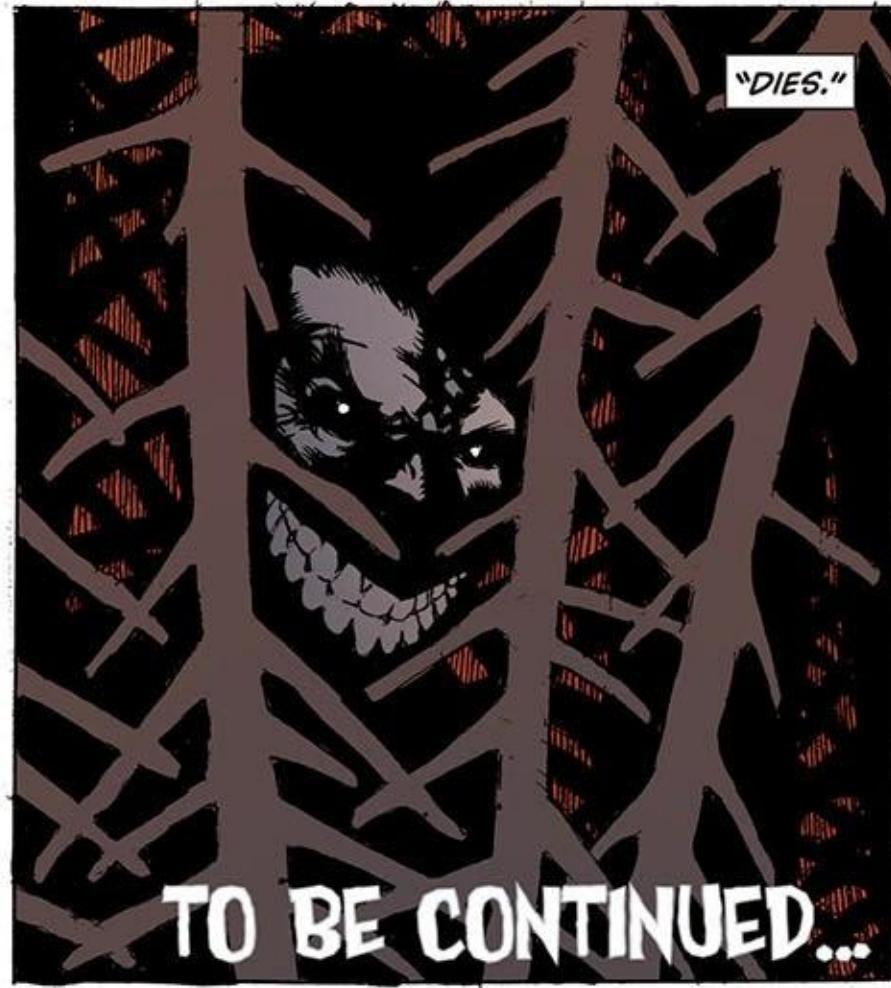
"HE TOLD ME ABOUT THE GIRLS...  
THE GIRLS WHO HE NEEDED BACK.  
HE TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND THEM.  
THEIR SECRET PLACES.

"TOLD ME HOW  
TO GIVE THEM  
TO HIM."











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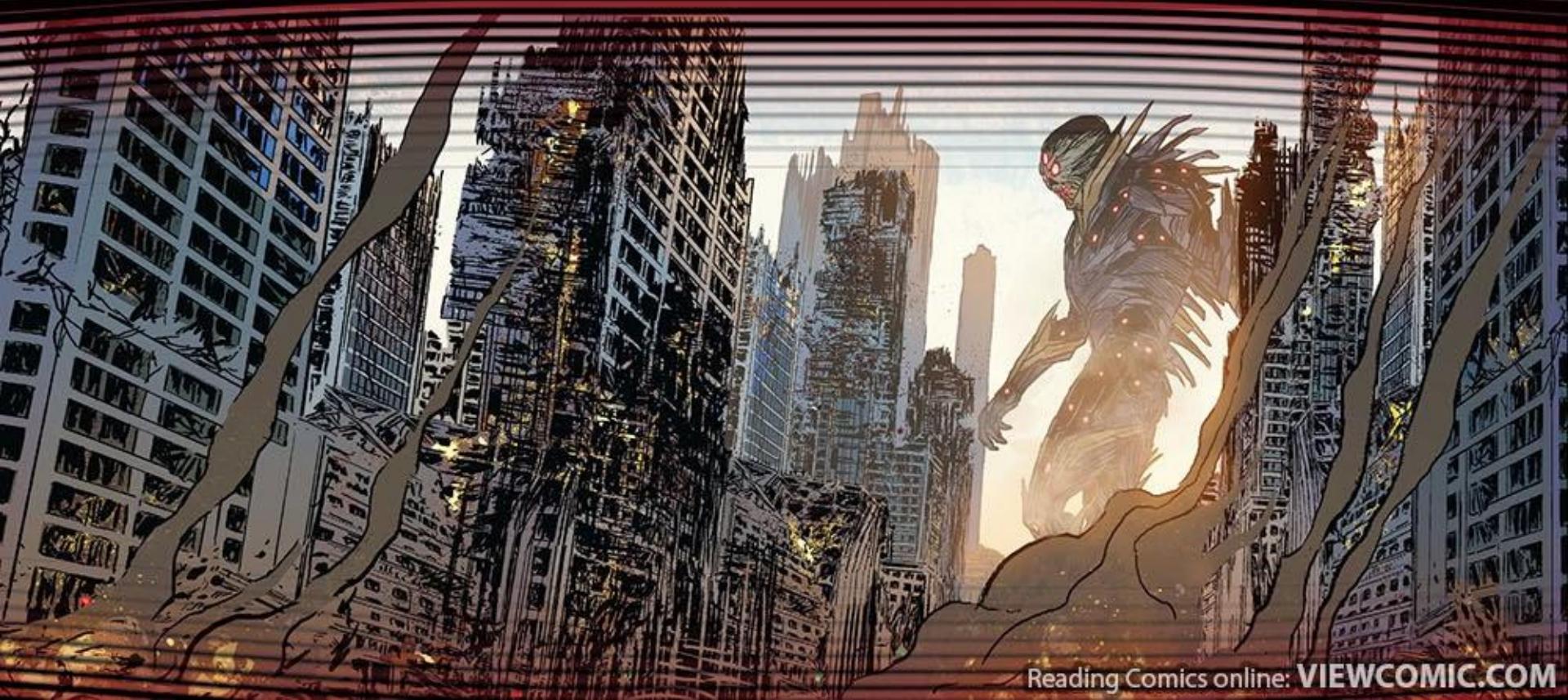


ENDGAME  
PART 1

TOO LATE.



EYE HAVE SEEN IT.





YOU WILL



SUFFER.

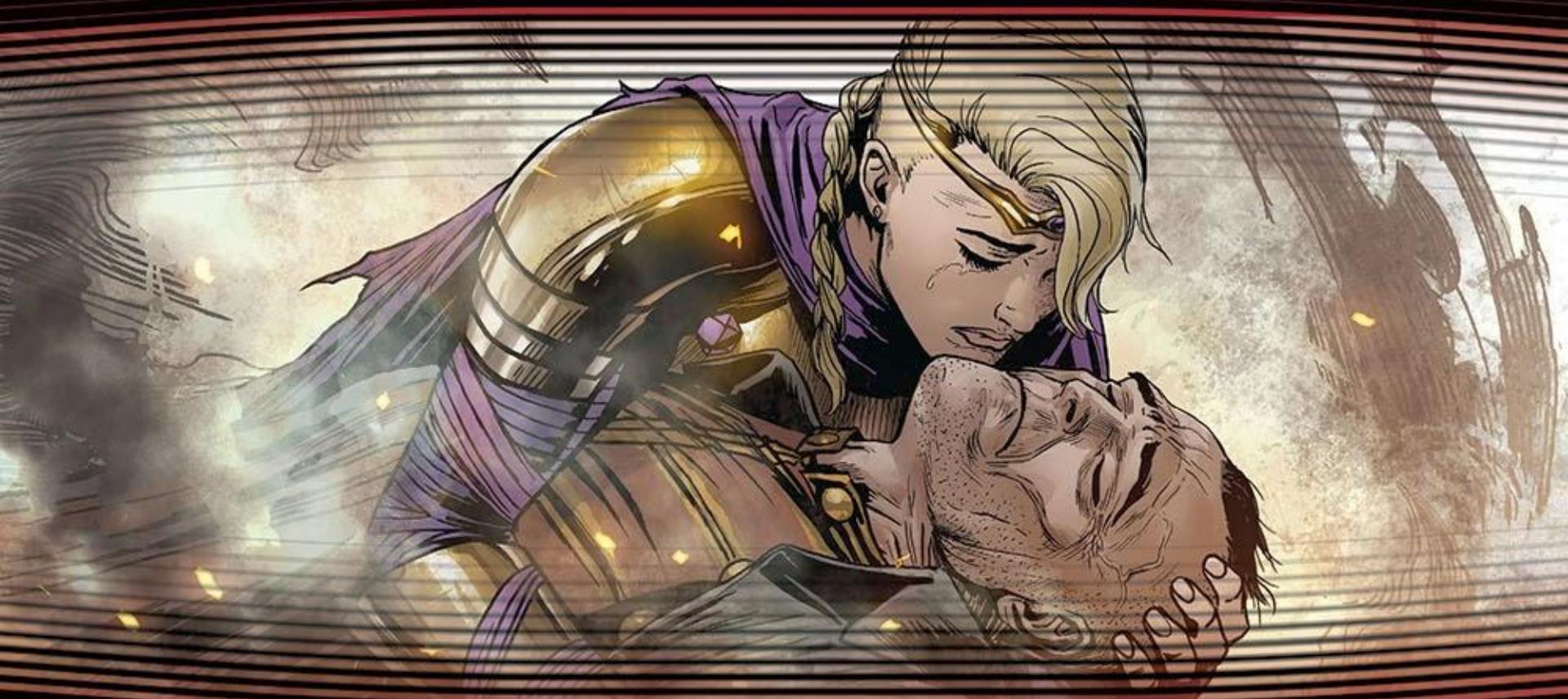
YOU WILL

SUBMIT.





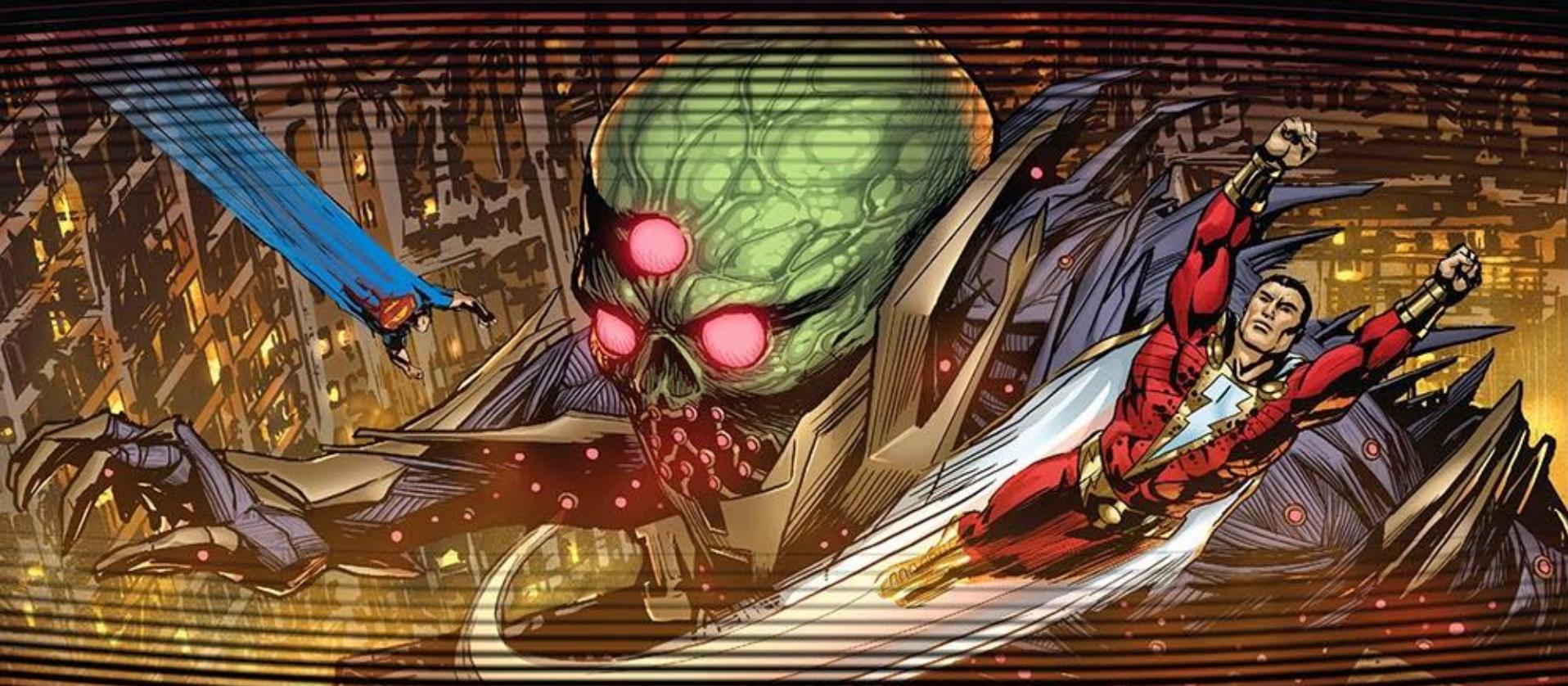
YOU WILL



99.9%

DIE.

EYE



AM





YOUR



FUTURE.

THE NEW 52  
**FUTURES END**  
WEEKLY.

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