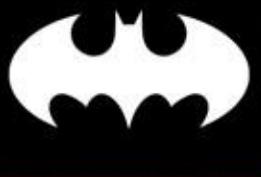




UNIVERSE

89

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ROGUE'S GALLERY...

BATMAN



TYNION IV
PAGULAYAN
MARCH
MIKI
MOREY

...UNITED?!

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GOTHAM MERCY HOSPITAL.

...I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE MUCH MORE CONCERNED THAN ANYONE SEEKS TO BE.

COME NOW, DR. WALTER. IT'S GOTHAM CITY. IT'S ALWAYS A LITTLE MAD HERE.

I THINK IT'S MAD, I REALLY DO...

I'D JUST LIKE SOME IDEA WHAT THIS CITY IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE TOMORROW. I'D LIKE SOME KIND OF SAY IN IT. INSTEAD, I'M JUST BRACING MYSELF FOR SOME HORROR SHOW.

WE SHOULD ALL HAVE RESPIRATORS ALREADY AFTER YEARS OF JOKER TOXINS, AND ACID AND SMOKE BOMBS.

WE'VE LET SOME LUNATIC BILLIONAIRE TEAR UP HALF THE CITY TO BUILD SOMETHING SIGHT UNSEEN. WE'RE ALL GOING TO BE BREATHING WITH RESPIRATORS FROM THE SMOKE AND DUST IN THE AIR.

ARRRGHHH!!!

WHAT ON EARTH?!

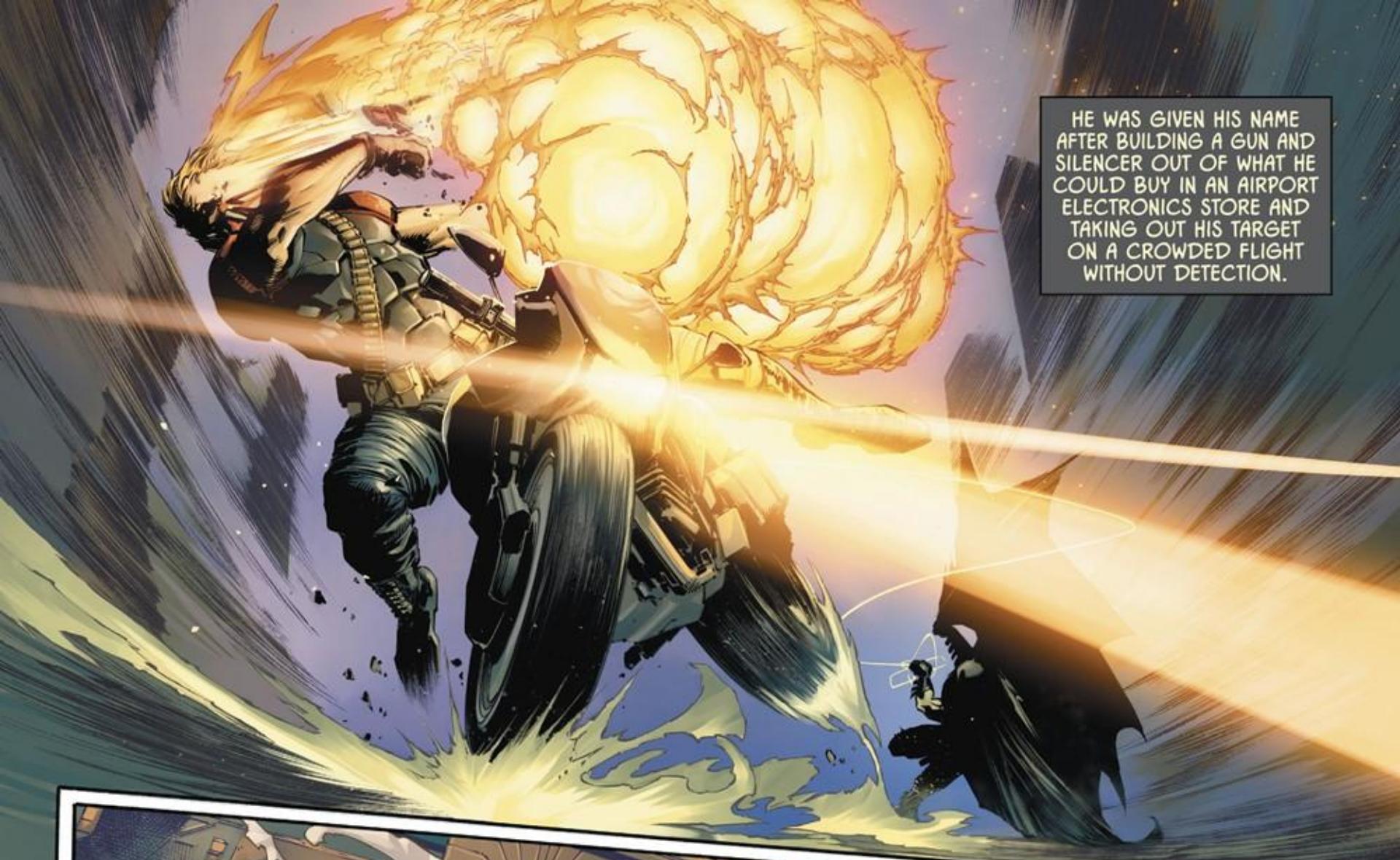


GUNSMITH.
REAL NAME,
DOUGLAS
WORTH.

A VETERAN OF A HALF-DOZEN
MILITARY CONTRACTORS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. QUIETLY FIRED
FROM EACH FOR TESTING
EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONRY IN
THE FIELD WITHOUT APPROVAL.



HE BEGAN WORKING AS A
DOMESTIC MERCENARY
TWO YEARS AGO, AND
GRADUATED TO
CONTRACT KILLING.



HE WAS GIVEN HIS NAME AFTER BUILDING A GUN AND SILENCER OUT OF WHAT HE COULD BUY IN AN AIRPORT ELECTRONICS STORE AND TAKING OUT HIS TARGET ON A CROWDED FLIGHT WITHOUT DETECTION.



AN IDEOLOGUE, HE WEARS THE FLAG AS A SHORTHAND FOR A UNIFORM HE HAS NEVER BEEN FIT TO WEAR. HE THINKS HE'S A SOLDIER.



BUT I'VE FOUGHT REAL SOLDIERS BEFORE.

I'M GOING TO NEED ANOTHER SUIT.

ANOTHER ASSASSIN, TOO, I'M GUESSING. THE OTHERS ARE MOVING MORE SUBTLY THAN OUR FRIEND WITH THE FLAGS AND AMMO.

I'M REACTING, AND THAT'S CLEARLY WHAT THEY WANT. THEY'RE TRYING TO OVERWHELM MY FACULTIES SO I CAN'T GET A SENSE OF THE FULL PICTURE.

WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR TACTICS. THIS ISN'T WORKING.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND, MR. WAYNE?

FIND CATWOMAN-- NOW! IF PENGUIN ISN'T LYING, SHE KNOWS WHO IS BEHIND THIS, AND HER COMMS LINE IS DEAD.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

THERE'S ANOTHER CONSPIRATOR AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HE'S HIDING.



JOKER'S BEEN
CLEANIN' HOUSE.
I'VE BEEN FOLLOWIN'
THE CLUES FOR A
LITTLE BIT.

HE'S
BEEN LEAVIN'
A TRAIL OF DEAD
CLOWNS ALL THE WAY
UP THE COAST. I THINK...
I THINK THIS WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE CLUE
NUMBER ONE FOR
BATMAN.

AND
WHAT ARE
YOU HERE TO
DO ABOUT
IT?

BUT
YOU GOT
HERE FIRST, AND
I HAD MY
MALLETS.

OH, I'M
GONNA KILL
HIM.

HEY.
GOOD FOR
YOU.

YEAH. FIGURED
IT WAS ABOUT TIME.
GOTTA LEAVE THE
PAST BEHIND.

LUCKY ME.

LOOK, HARLEY.
I NEED TO GET IN
TOUCH WITH BATMAN.
I NEED TO GET OUT OF
HERE, AND I'M PRETTY
SURE MY RIDE'S BEEN
TORCHED.

YEAH, I GOT
THIS GREAT BIKE.
YOU GOTTA SEE IT. IT'S
GOT A FLAMETHROWER
ON IT! I HAVEN'T FIGURED
OUT HOW TO WORK
IT YET, BUT--

YIKES!

THWAK





THREE YEARS AGO, THERE
WAS A SERIES OF **SEVEN**
MURDERS IN THE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

If you're
smart, you
aren't rich!

EVERY VICTIM WAS
FOUND WITH THEIR TEETH
SURGICALLY **REMOVED**
FROM THEIR MOUTH AND
SURGICALLY **IMPLANTED**
INTO THEIR STOMACH.

THE PORTLAND POLICE
DUBBED THEIR NEW
SERIAL KILLER **THE**
TOOTH EATER.

THE JOKE, TOLD OFTEN ON THE
DARK WEB ASSASSINS BOARDS, IS
THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE TOLD
HIM THE OLD TRUISM, "IF YOU'RE
GOOD AT SOMETHING, DON'T
DO IT FOR FREE."

HE GOES BY
MR. TEETH NOW.
THEY SAY HE HATES THE
OTHER NAME. THAT IT'S
A MISUNDERSTANDING
OF HIS **ART**.

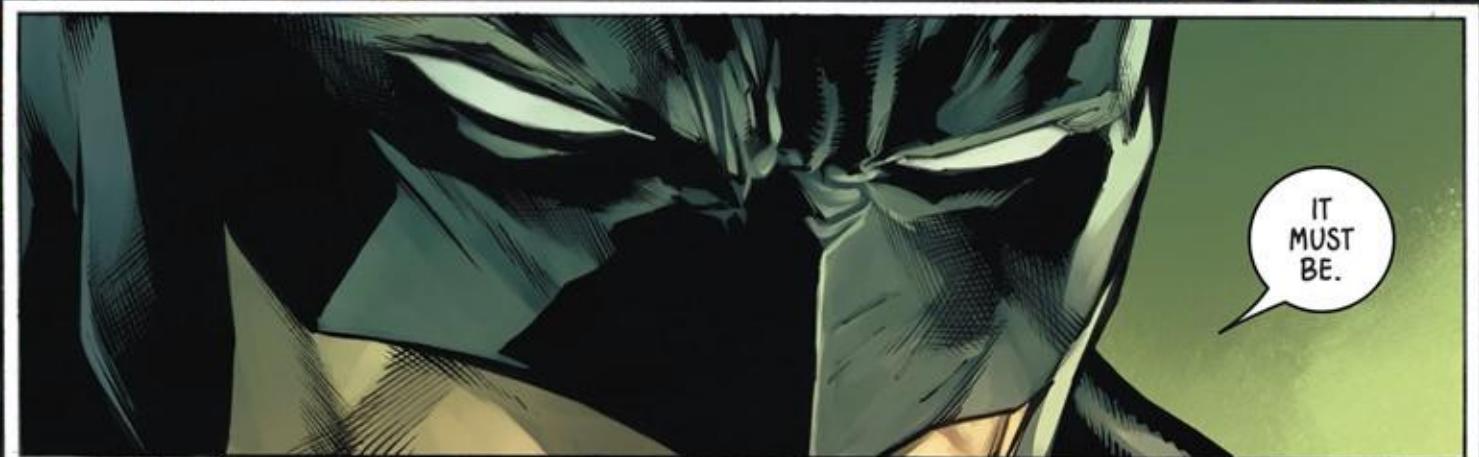
OF HIS
Horror.





HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIM BEFORE?

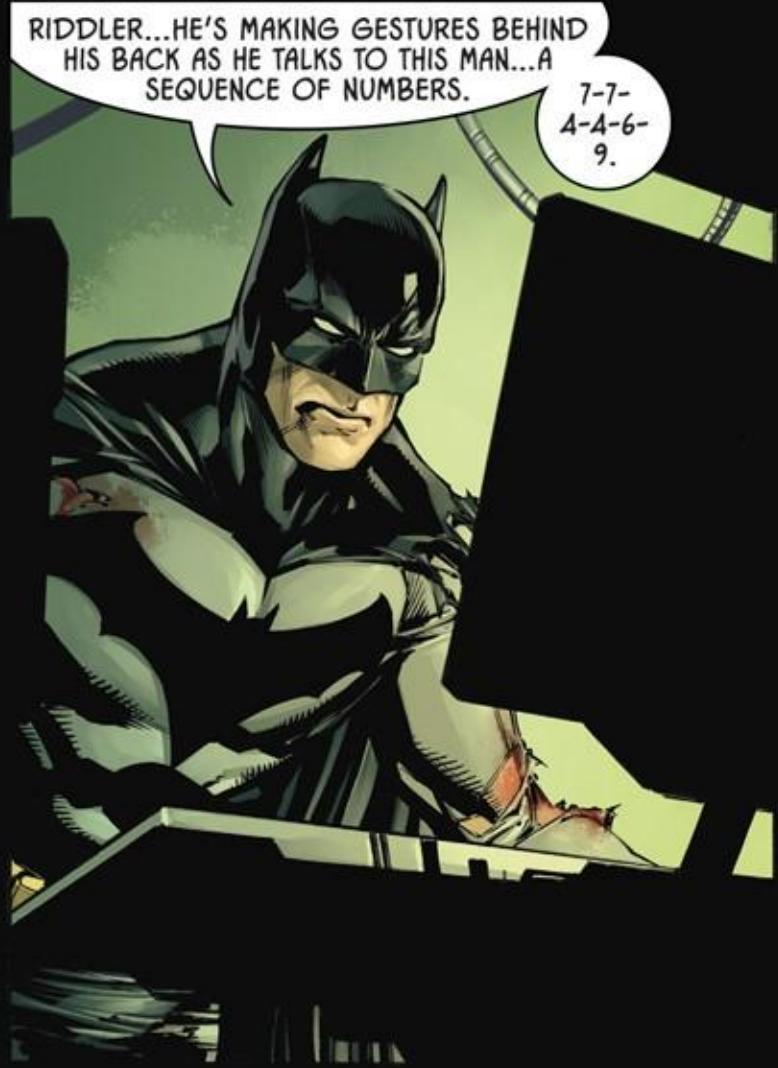
NO.



IT MUST BE.

RIDDLER...HE'S MAKING GESTURES BEHIND HIS BACK AS HE TALKS TO THIS MAN...A SEQUENCE OF NUMBERS.

7-7-
4-4-6-
9.



YOU'RE KIDDING ME. THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING IN YOUR COWL THAT DID THAT FOR YOU.

REMEMBER, I WAS EXPECTING A DEATH TRAP. ALFRED USED TO TEST ME WHEN I WAS ON STAKEOUTS. I KNOW SOME KEY WORDS IN ALL THE BASIC ENCRYPTIONS.

CLEVER. BUT WHAT DOES THAT GET YOU?

THE SPHINX'S RIDDLE. WHAT WALKS ON FOUR LEGS IN THE MORNING, TWO LEGS AT MIDDAY, AND THREE LEGS IN THE EVENING?



6-2-6.





HE'S FRIGHTENED
OF THIS MAN...BUT HE
DELIBERATELY KILLED THE
AUDIO FEED. HE DIDN'T
WANT ME TO HEAR WHAT
HE **SAID** TO HIM.

HE JUST
WANTED ME TO
KNOW THAT HE WENT
WITH HIM. **WHOEVER**
HE IS.

THERE
HAS TO BE
SOMETHING
MORE IN THIS
SYSTEM.



LET'S SEE
WHAT THE **RIDDLE**
CAN SEE THAT WE CAN'T.
I'M HOOKING RIDDLE'S
NETWORK UP TO THE
BATCOMPUTER NOW,
GIVING YOU
CONTROL.



WELL,
HE HAS **ONE**
TRACE RUNNING THAT
WE DON'T. I HAVE
DEATHSTROKE'S
LOCATION.

LET'S
SLOW HIM
DOWN. IS THE DRONE
SYSTEM FINISHED
PRINTING AND
ASSEMBLING?



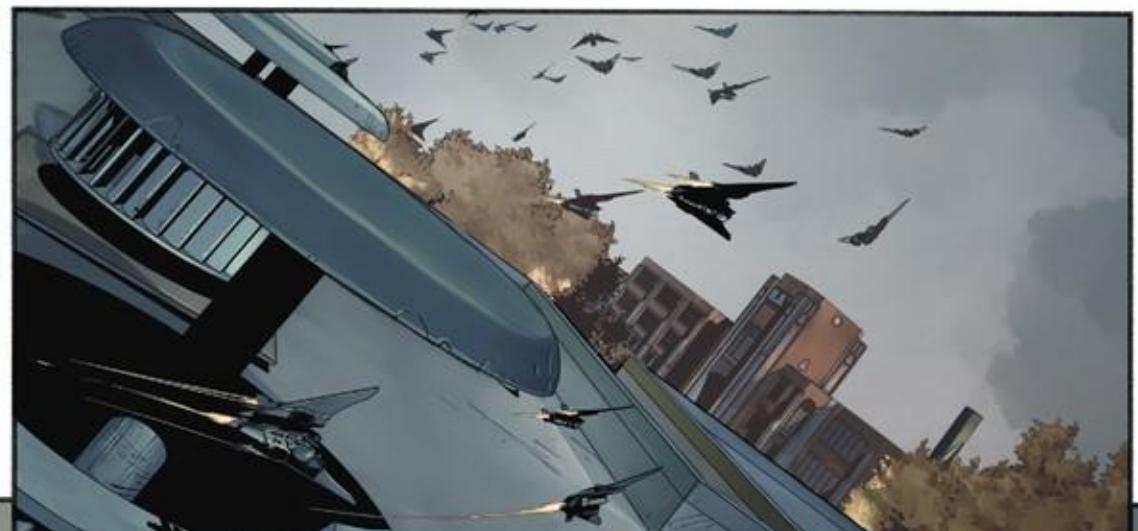
PLEASE,
MR. WAYNE.
LET'S USE THE
PROPER
TERMS.

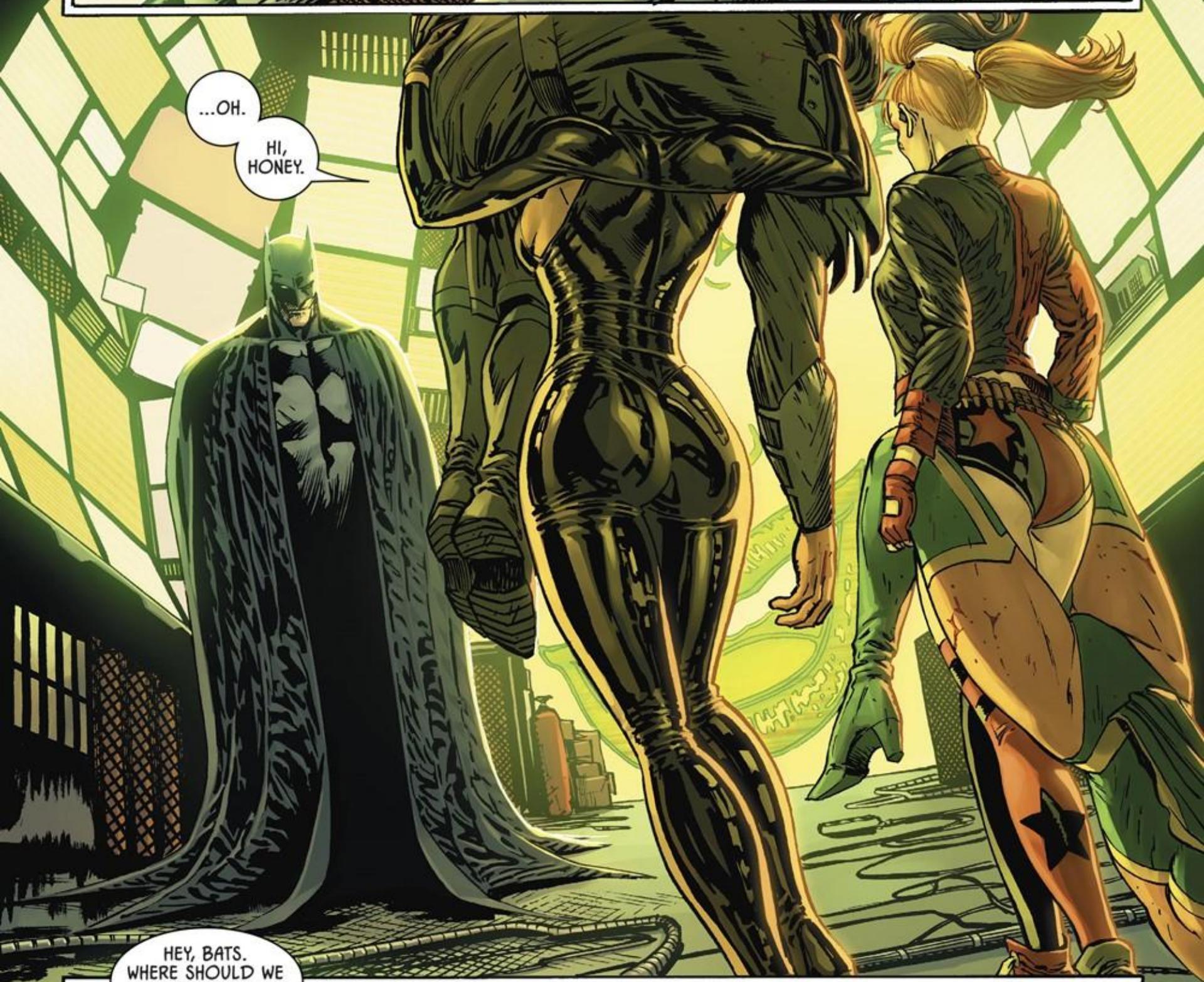
THE FLEET
OF **BATSPAWN**
IS READY FOR
DEPLOYMENT.



THEN
DEPLOY.

TRICORNER YARDS.



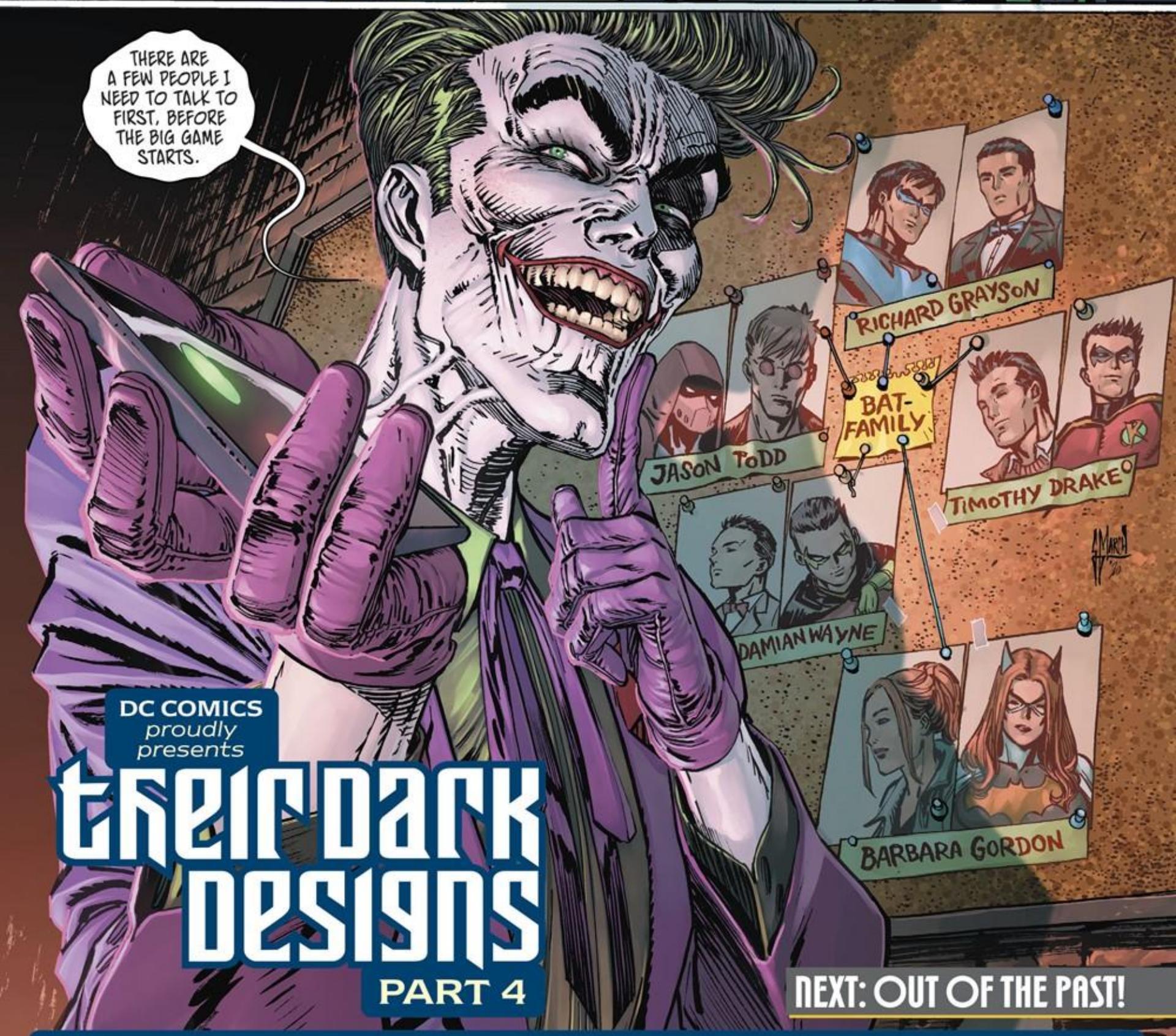


WE
NEED TO
TALK.

YEAH.



EPILOGUE



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