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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

MOENCH
JONES
WILLIAMS III
BEATTY
GRAY



INTRODUCING CHASE SHE HUNTS THE WORLD'S
MOST DANGEROUS PREY!



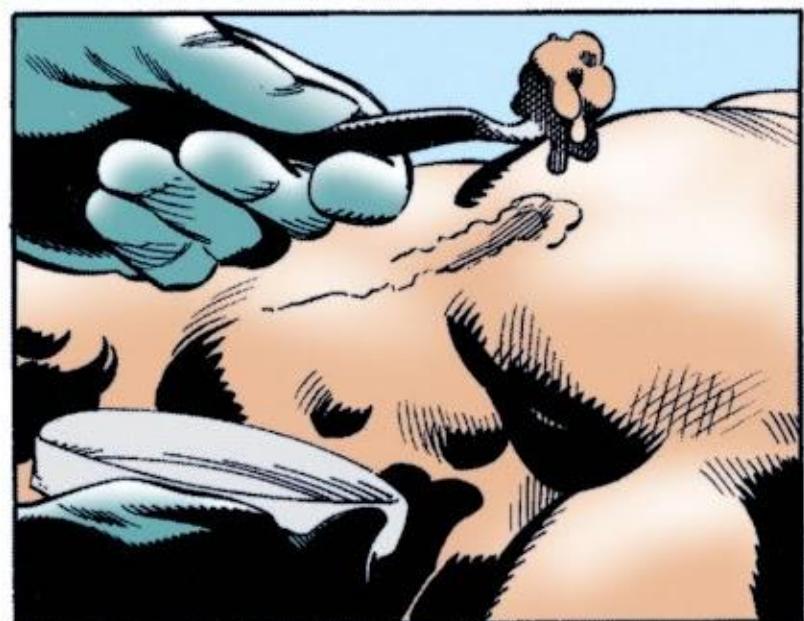
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CHASING CLAY

PAGES 13-15, 17, 22,
25-29, 37: J.H. WILLIAMS III
PENCILLER

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INKER





NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT
OF EXTRANORMAL
OPERATIONS:

...THE YOUTH NAMED
CASSIUS, FROM WHOM
A "TISSUE" SAMPLE HAS
JUST BEEN HARVESTED--

--ITS PROPERTIES UNKNOWN
BUT CERTAINLY UNIQUE, IF ONLY
IN BIOLOGICAL MAKEUP
ALONE.

--DR. PETER MALLEY,
DEO RESEARCHER, LEVEL Q,
DICTATING NOTES ON THE
FIFTH CLAYFACE
ENTITY...

BEFORE PRELIMINARY
ANALYSIS, HOWEVER...
SOME BACKGROUND ON THIS
EXTRANORMAL CHILD--AND
INDEED, ON THE ENTIRE
MULTIPLE-CLAYFACE
PHENOMENON...

IT ALL BEGAN
WITH HORROR FILM
ACTOR BASIL KARLO,
WHO HID BEHIND HIS
MOVIE ROLE AS
"CLAYFACE" WHEN
HE TURNED TO
CRIME.

HIS THEATRICAL
MAKEUP, OBVIOUSLY,
INVOLVED NO EXTRA-
NORMAL POWERS OR
PROPERTIES...

"HOWEVER, AT THE RISK OF GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, KARLO LATER INJECTED HIMSELF WITH BLOOD EXTRACTS FROM ALL THREE OF THE ENSUING CLAYFACES -- THEREBY ACQUIRING THEIR AGGREGATE AND TRULY EXTRANORMAL ABILITIES..."

"...WHEN HE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO 'THE ULTIMATE CLAYFACE'!"

BUT AS I SAY, THAT WAS YEARS LATER--AND WE NOW BACKTRACK TO CLAYFACE II..."

"DIVING FOR SUNKEN TREASURE--

"THIS BIZARRE SUBSTANCE, OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN, SOMEHOW TRANSFORMED HAGEN'S BODY TO A CLAYLIKE CONSISTENCY--

--MATT HAGEN DISCOVERED A STRANGE OILY SUBSTANCE ON THE WRECK OF THE SPANISH GALLEON BELINA HERMOSA..."

--WHOSE SHAPE COULD BE ALTERED AT WILL."

MATT HAGEN--AND THEREFORE CLAYFACE II-- IS NOW DECEASED, ALTHOUGH HIS REMAINS LED TO THE CREATION OF CLAYFACE III...

"BORN WITH THE TRAGIC CONDITION KNOWN AS ACROMEGALY--

--PRESTON PAYNE FOUND HIMSELF SHUNNED BY IGNORANT SOCIETY, THE OBJECT OF CEASELESS CRUELTY.

"PERHAPS IN DESPERATION, HE INJECTED HIMSELF WITH AN UNKNOWN AGENT ISOLATED FROM THE LATE MATT HAGEN'S BLOOD-- WHEREUPON PRESTON'S FLESH ALSO BECAME MALLEABLE.

gloosh

plsh

skutch

"BUT NOW HE SUFFERED SEVERE PAIN IN THE FORM OF HEADACHES AND FEVER...

"...TEMPORARILY RELIEVED ONLY BY 'TRANSFERRING HIS CURSE'-- BY USING HIS VERY TOUCH TO DISSOLVE THE FLESH OF ANOTHER INTO A PUDDLE OF PROTOPLASM.

"BUT EVEN THOUGH THIS 'MIDAS-MELT' PROCESS ALLEVIATED PHYSICAL PAIN--

--IT LED TO EVEN GREATER PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, ULTIMATELY DRIVING PRESTON PAYNE MAD."



"AS CLAYFACE III, PAYNE BECAME EVEN MORE DANGEROUS WHEN HE CREATED A FLESH-SUPPORTING EXOSKELETON, THEREBY ATTAINING EXTRANORMAL STRENGTH."

"AS EVIDENCE OF HIS INCREASING MADNESS, HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A WAX MANNEQUIN HE NAMED HELENA, THE ONLY 'WOMAN' IMMUNE TO HIS MELT-TOUCH--"

--AT LEAST UNTIL HE MET THE FOURTH CLAYFACE...

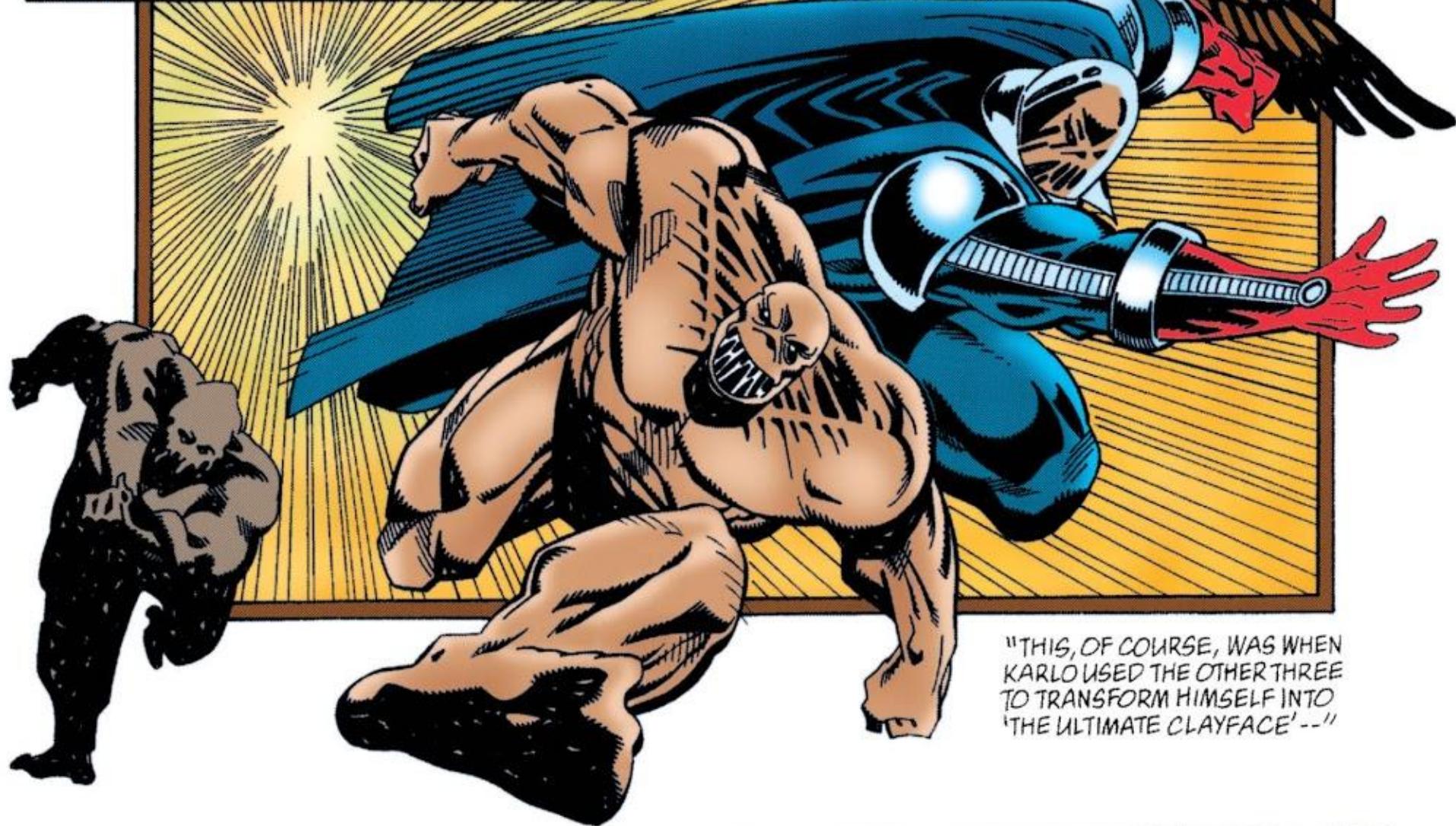
"SONDRA FULLER SO HATED HER APPEARANCE THAT SHE WOULD HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO CHANGE IT..."

"...AND, INDEED, ALLOWED THE ENTITY KNOWN AS KOBRA TO TRANSFORM HER INTO LADYCLAY--"

"--AN EXTRANORMAL BEING SIMILAR TO MATT HAGEN'S CLAYFACE II, ABLE TO CHANGE HER APPEARANCE AT WILL, SHAPING HER MALLEABLE FORM INTO ANYTHING SHE WISHED, WHETHER A WOMAN OF GREAT BEAUTY OR A MONSTROUS BIRD."

"WHICH BRINGS US TO THE BIZARRE MEETING OF CLAYFACES III AND IV--"

--WHICH OCCURRED WHEN BASIL KARLO UNITED ALL THE CLAYFACE ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE DEAD REMAINS OF MATT HAGEN, TO FORGE THE ALLIANCE KNOWN AS 'MUD PACK!'



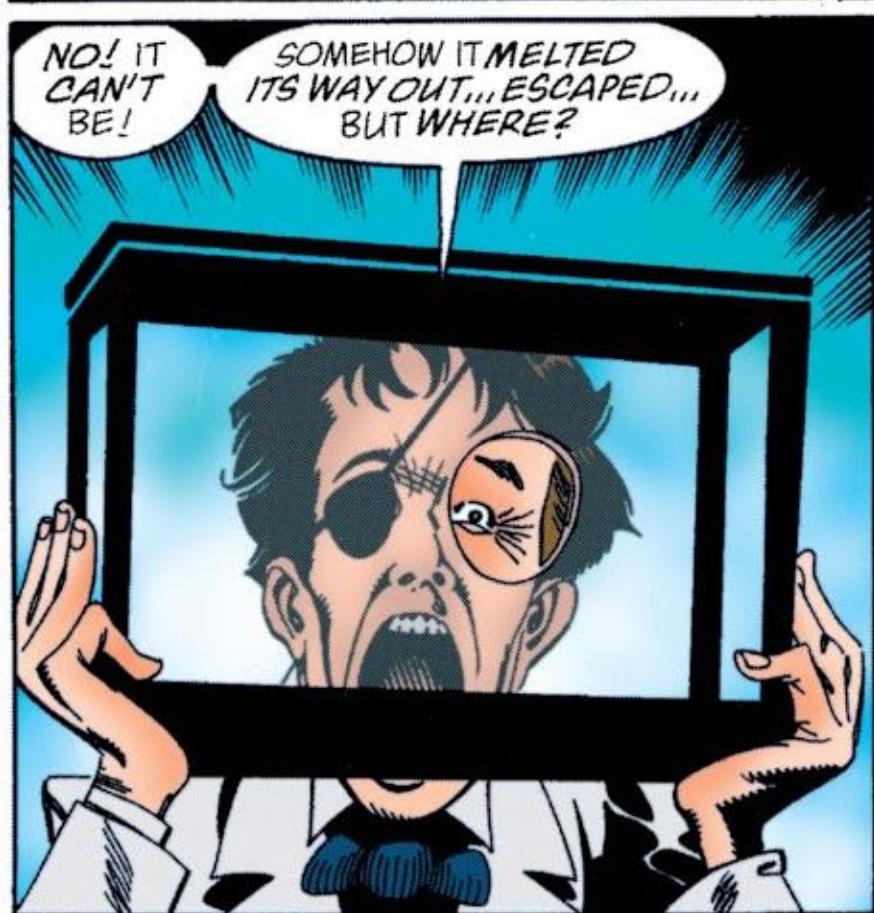
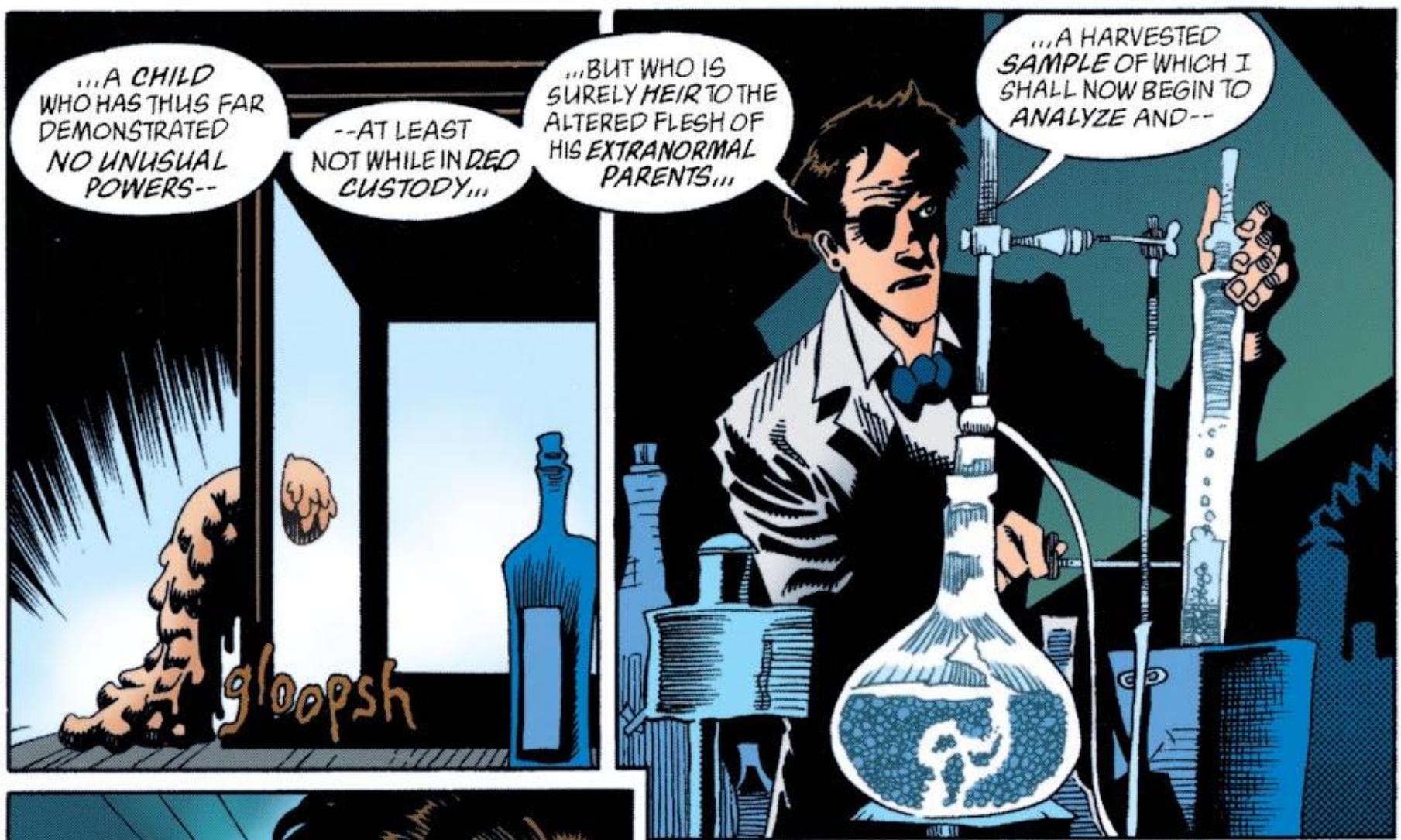
"THIS, OF COURSE, WAS WHEN KARLO USED THE OTHER THREE TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO 'THE ULTIMATE CLAYFACE'--"



"DECIDING TO LEAVE SOCIETY FOREVER, THE THIRD AND FOURTH CLAYFACES TOOK REFUGE IN A CAVE OUTSIDE GOTHAM..."

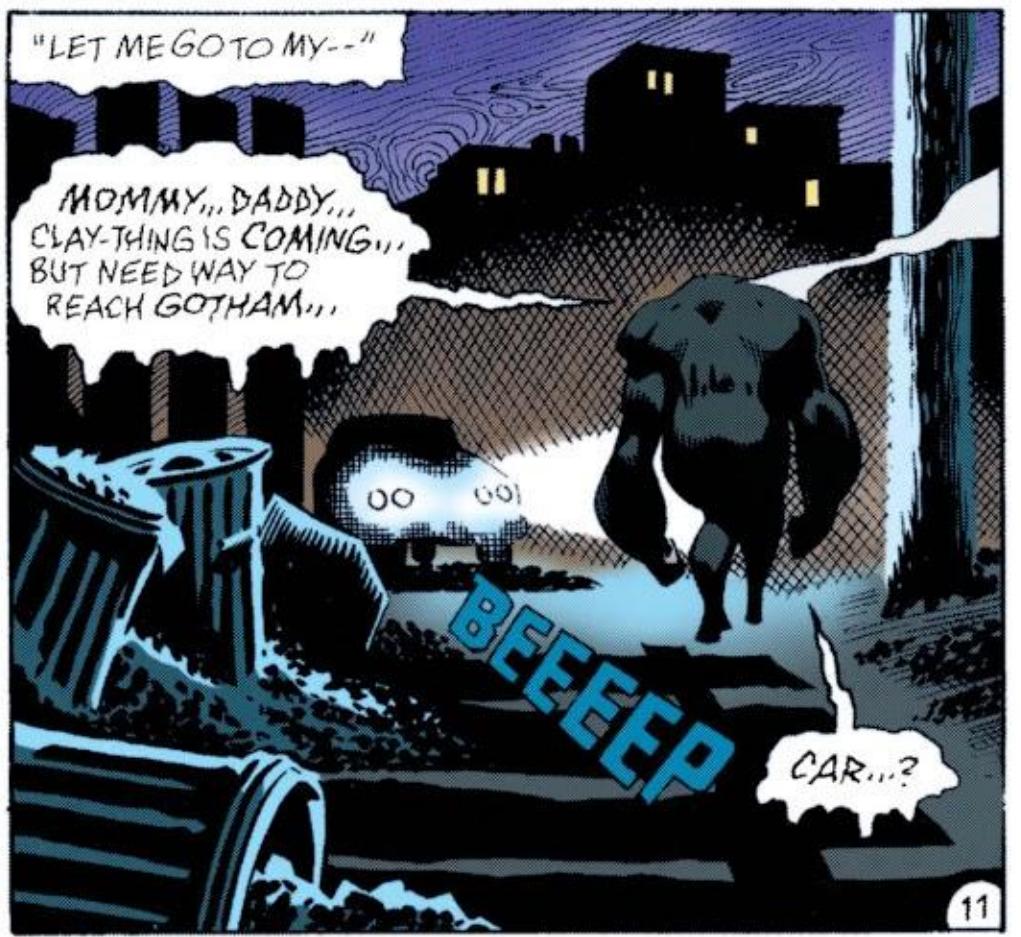


"...AND TOGETHER THEY BORE THE FIFTH CLAYFACE, WHOM THEY NAMED CASSIUS..."











MELTED THE GUN IN
YOUR HAND FROM A DISTANCE? WITHOUT EVEN
TOUCHING IT?

Y-YES...

AND
IT... IT
HURTS
...

TALK ABOUT
RESEARCHER
CONTAMINATION
BY THE SUBJECT.

DOES THE
CASSIUS-CHILD
POSSESS THIS...
THIS "MELT-
POWER"?

AT LEAST ONE OF HIS
PARENTS HAS THE ABILITY--
THE THIRD CLAYFACE,
PRESTON PAYNE.

IN PSYCHO-
KINETIC FORM?

NO, STRICTLY
BY TOUCH--SORT
OF A MIDAS OF
GOO RATHER
THAN GOLD.

HE HASN'T DEMON-
STRATED IT YET, BUT IT COULD
DEVELOP IN TIME...

DID DR. MALLEY
HIMSELF POSSESS ANY
PSYCHIC ABILITY?

SCORED ONLY SLIGHTLY
ABOVE RANDOM CHANCE IN THE
RHINE TESTS--AND NO EVIDENCE
OF PSYCHOKINESIS--BUT WE
SUSPECT HE MAY BE A LATENT...

...CAPABLE OF
MORE WITHOUT
KNOWING IT.

G-GET
IT... OFF.

AND HIS
INTERACTION WITH
THE SAMPLE SPECIMEN
--COULD IT HAVE
UNLEASHED LATENT
ABILITIES?

EITHER THAT OR HE
DID SOMETHING TO THE
SPECIMEN--TO MAKE IT
MORE POWERFUL THAN
THE SUBJECT FROM
WHICH IT WAS
HARVESTED.

WHICH
BOTTOM-LINES
AS: WE'RE IN DEEP
DOO-GOO.

DID MALLEY SAY ANYTHING BEFORE OR AFTER HE MELTED YOUR GUN?

N-NOT MALLEY... CLAY-THING... AND HE...HE SAID... "MOMMY...DADDY... GOTHAM!"

OH, THAT'S JUST PEACHY.

EVEN BETTER, AGENT BARRETT...

THIS GLOP ISN'T MERELY BONDED TO HIS HAND, IT'S PERMEATING HIS FLESH, GROWING INWARD AND TRAVELLING UPWARD.

IT'S GOT TO GO-- NOW.

WH-WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE'VE GOT TO AMPUTATE-- UP TO THE SHOULDER...AND LET'S HOPE THE MELTED GUN-STUFF HASN'T ALREADY WORMED INTO HIS TORSO.

AGENT BARRETT?

AMPUTATE?

YES, I'M BARRETT.

JUST TAPPED A POLICE REPORT-- LESS THAN A MILE FROM HERE.

ABOUT MALLEY?

SOUNDS LIKE.

SOME POOR MOTORIST JUST DROWNED IN THE SLUDGE OF HIS MELTED CAR.

DO WE HAVE ANYONE IN GOTHAM?

NOT AT PRESENT, BUT WE DO HAVE A NEW AGENT SCHEDULED TO REPORT FOR FIRST DUTY --EN ROUTE FROM THE WEST COAST RIGHT NOW.

SHE'S STOPPING IN GOTHAM TO VISIT HER SISTER.

AGENT'S NAME?

CAMERON CHASE.

ANY GOOD?

WE HIRED HER.

ALL RIGHT.

LOOKS LIKE AGENT CHASE JUST GOT HER FIRST CASE... BEFORE REACHING HER DESK.

HELLO?

YEAH, THIS IS CAMERON CHASE.

WHO?

THE D.E.O.?

BUT... HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER? IT'S NOT THE SAME AS MY HOME PHO--

WE HAVE OUR WAYS, AGENT CHASE...

...AND YOU HAVE A SLIGHT DETOUR BEFORE REPORTING FOR DUTY.

DETOUR? WHERE TO?

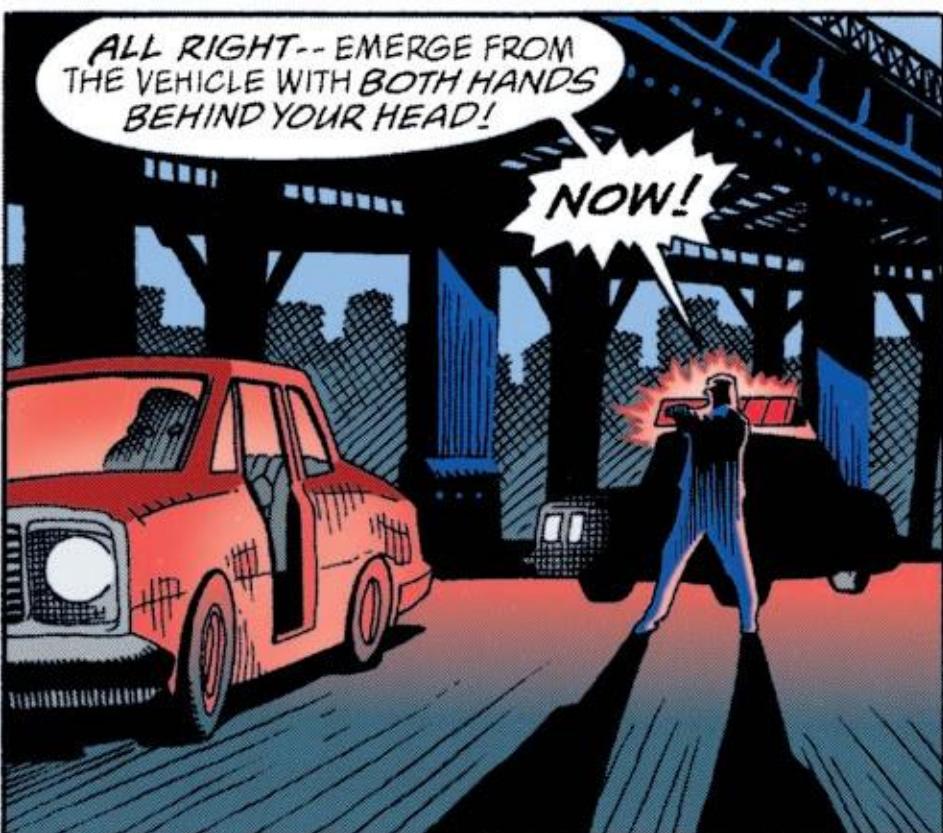
DON'T WORRY...

...IT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM YOUR SISTER'S PLACE.

YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE MY SISTER LIVES?

GOTHAM 37 mi.

YOU'LL FIND THE DETAILS OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT TRANSMITTED TO HER E-MAIL ADDRESS.



GREAT
TO SEE YOU,
CAM!

118

GOT AN E-MAIL
PRINTOUT FOR YOU, BUT
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU TOLD
YOUR NEW BOSSSES
ABOUT ME.

I DIDN'T,
TERRY.

OH, I
DON'T MIND
AT ALL,
CAM.

IN FACT, I
THINK IT'S PRETTY
EXCITING.

I MEAN,
NOT THAT
CLAYFACE IS
A HUNK LIKE
SUPERMAN,
BUT--

THERE'S A
FINELINE, YOU
KNOW, BETWEEN
HERO WORSHIP AND
BLASPHEMY.

I DON'T
WORSHIP THEM,
CAM. I'M JUST
FASCINATED
BY THE THINGS
THEY CAN DO,
THE POWERS
THEY--

SO WHAT'S
THE E-MAIL
ABOUT?

HOW SHOULD
I KNOW? IT'S MARKED
FOR YOUR EYES
ONLY.

TER-
RY...

OKAY,
OKAY.

IT'S ABOUT
SOME MISSING
D.E.O. RESEARCHER
"INFECTED WITH
CLAYFACE CON-
TAMINATION."

YOUR
FIRST CASE,
HUH?

HOW MANY
TIMES HAVE I
TOLD YOU ABOUT
THESE COSTUMED
CHARACTERS,
TERRY?

THEY DON'T
DESERVE
WORSHIP.

UH...RIGHT,
CAM, WHATEVER
YOU SAY.

SO, UH...
THINK I COULD
MAYBE HELP ON
YOUR FIRST
CASE?

SORRY, SIS.
THIS WAS
SUPPOSED TO
BE A NON-WORKING
VISIT BEFORE
I--



118A













A CLAYFACE--
BUT WHICH ONE?



THE FIRST CLAYFACE
WAS LAST SEEN MELTING
DEEP INTO THE GROUND,
AND CLAYFACE II IS
DECEASED.



ACCORDING TO JEREMIAH
ARKHAM, CLAYFACES III
AND IV ARE STILL SECURE
IN THE ASYLUM.

SO UNLESS THE FIRSTONE HAS SOMEHOW
RESURFACED, ALL ARE ACCOUNTED FOR...
EXCEPT CLAYFACE V, THE CHILD NAMED
CASSIUS, PLACED WITH A WELFARE
AGENCY WHICH NOW PROFESSES NO
KNOWLEDGE OF HIM...

THEY'RE LYING,
BUT IF ORACLE
IS UNABLE TO
TRACE--

deet
deet



I DON'T HAVE MUCH, BUT I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE CLAYFACE CHILD WAS SURRENDERED INTO THE CUSTODY OF A FEDERAL AGENCY.

WHICH ONE, SORRY, ORACLE?

SOMETHING CALLED THE D.E.O....

DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-NORMAL OPERATIONS-- VERY TIGHT COMPUTER LOCKS. I'VE TRACED THE CLAYFACE CHILD TO ONE OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS-- IN NEW YORK.

THANKS, ORACLE--IT MAY BE ENOUGH.

NEW YORK... AND THE HIGHWAY OFFICER WAS MURDERED AFTER PULLING A CAR OVER WITH NEW YORK PLATES.

HAVE TO ASSUME IT IS THE CHILD-- THE FIFTH CLAYFACE-- BUT WHAT COULD HE WANT IN GOTHAM?

HIS PARENTS.

HIS HOME.

NO, YOU CAN'T MEET
ME HERE, TERRY... YES, I KNOW
YOU WANT TO HELP, BUT I'M ON
A STAKEOUT AND--

UH...
GOTTA GO,
TERRY.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

AT THIS
CAVE.

NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS.

YOU'RE
WRONG.

THE CLAYFACES
ARE MY BUSINESS--
AS IS MURDER.

MURDER IS THE
CONCERN OF DULY
APPOINTED AUTHOR-
ITIES--NOT COSTUMED
VIGILANTES.

YOU'RE A
GOTHAM COP?

CAMERON CHASE--
FROM A HIGHER AU-
THORITY, ON ASSIGNMENT
WITH THE COOPERATION
OF THE GOTHAM
POLICE.

THE SAME
COOPERATION
I HAVE.

WITH NO RIGHT.

IT
WORKS.
WHY
SHOULD YOU
OBJECT?

BECAUSE I DON'T CARE FOR YOU, FOR ANY OF YOU GAUDY "HEROES."

YOU'RE NOT GODS.

NO, WE CREATE NOTHING-- BUT OTHERS DO.

WE MERELY REACT TO WHAT IS CREATED-- AND IT'S OFTEN PAIN, MISERY, INJUSTICE.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THAT.

SOCIETY DOES.

OF WHICH WE'RE A PART.

NO, YOU BELONG IN ISOLATION-- AND I'D LIKE TO HUNT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU DOWN AND PUT YOU THERE.

YOU'RE DIFFERENT-- ALIEN.

AND YOU'RE XENOPHOBIC.

HOW DARE YOU?

I HAVE GOOD REASON TO LOATHE EVERYTHING YOU REPRESENT!

I DON'T DOUBT IT-- BUT THAT REASON IS CLEARLY EMOTIONAL, NOT RATIONAL.

I'M REACTING TO YOUR JUDGMENT OF ME-- BUT ASK YOURSELF: IF YOU WERE A "GAUDY HERO," WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE ME!

NOR DO I.

I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS OR--

IF YOU DID, CHASE...

WOULD YOU
USE THEM? TO PREVENT
SUFFERING?

NOR IS
SUFFERING.
THAT'S NOT
FAIR!

OBVIOUSLY YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE CLAYFACE CHILD
WHO ONCE LIVED IN THIS CAVE.

I THINK HE'S
SUFFERING--AND
BECAUSE OF IT, OTHERS
WILL SUFFER.

ONE COP
IS ALREADY
DEAD.

I THINK
THE KILLER
WE'RE BOTH
CHASING, AGENT
CHASE--

--IS SUFFERING
BECAUSE HE WAS
SEPARATED FROM
HIS PARENTS.

HE...HE DID
SAY... "MOMMY,
DADDY, GOTHAM!"

WHICH IS WHY
YOU'RE HERE--
PROVING IT IS THE
CLAYFACE CHILD.

NO.
THE CHILD DID NOT
ESCAPE, BUT A PIECE OF
HIM DID...NOW FUSED TO...
SOMEONE ELSE.

A RESEARCHER... AND HIS
MIND WAS AFFECTED, AS WELL AS
HIS BODY... MAKING HIM THINK
LIKE THE CHILD.

THEN THERE'S
A NEW CLAYFACE--
A SIXTH ONE.

WE'RE
CALLING
THE ALTERED
ENTITY...
"CLAY-
THING."

AND THIS CLAY-THING HAS
INHERITED HIS FATHER'S POWER
--THE ABILITY TO MELT OBJECTS
WITH ITS TOUCH.

WORSE
THAN THAT.

IT CAN MELT
ANYTHING IT SEES,
NO TOUCH REQUIRED,
TELEKINETICALLY.

THEN IT'S THE
WORST CLAY-THING
OF ALL.

DOES IT
TAKE AFTER
ITS MOTHER
AS WELL?

THE
ABILITY TO
ASSUME ANY
SHAPE?

HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN HERE AT
THE CAVE?

STAKED OUT
FOR SEVERAL HOURS
-- NO SIGN OF THE
CLAY-THING.

THEN MAYBE IT'S
NOT COMING HOME. IF
IT'S TELEKINETIC, MAYBE
IT'S ALSO TELEPATHIC.

WITH A LINK
TO THE MIND OF
ITS MOTHER OR
FATHER...

NOT AS
FAR AS WE
KNOW.

AND
LET'S
HOPE
NOT.

IN ARKHAM.

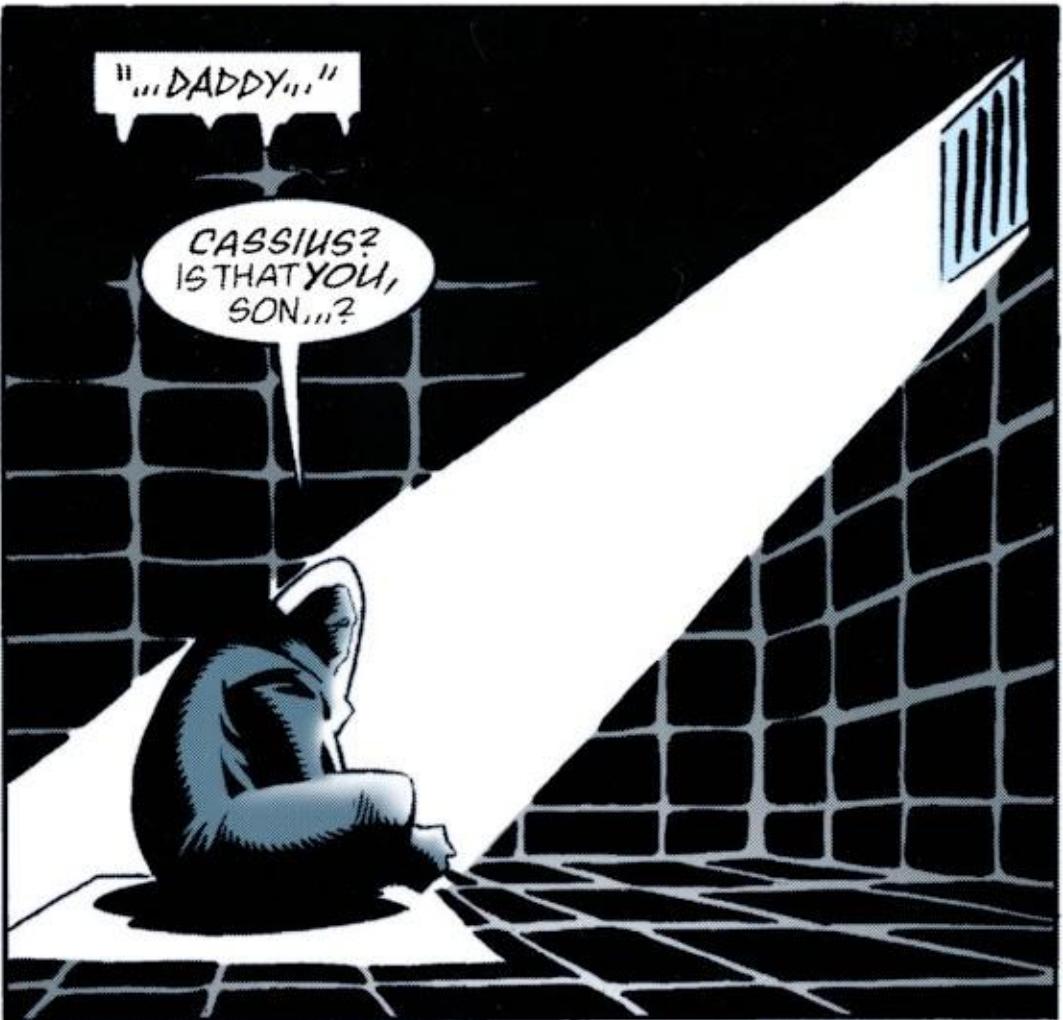
RIGHT-- BUT
NOT WITHOUT ME,
DARK-EARS.

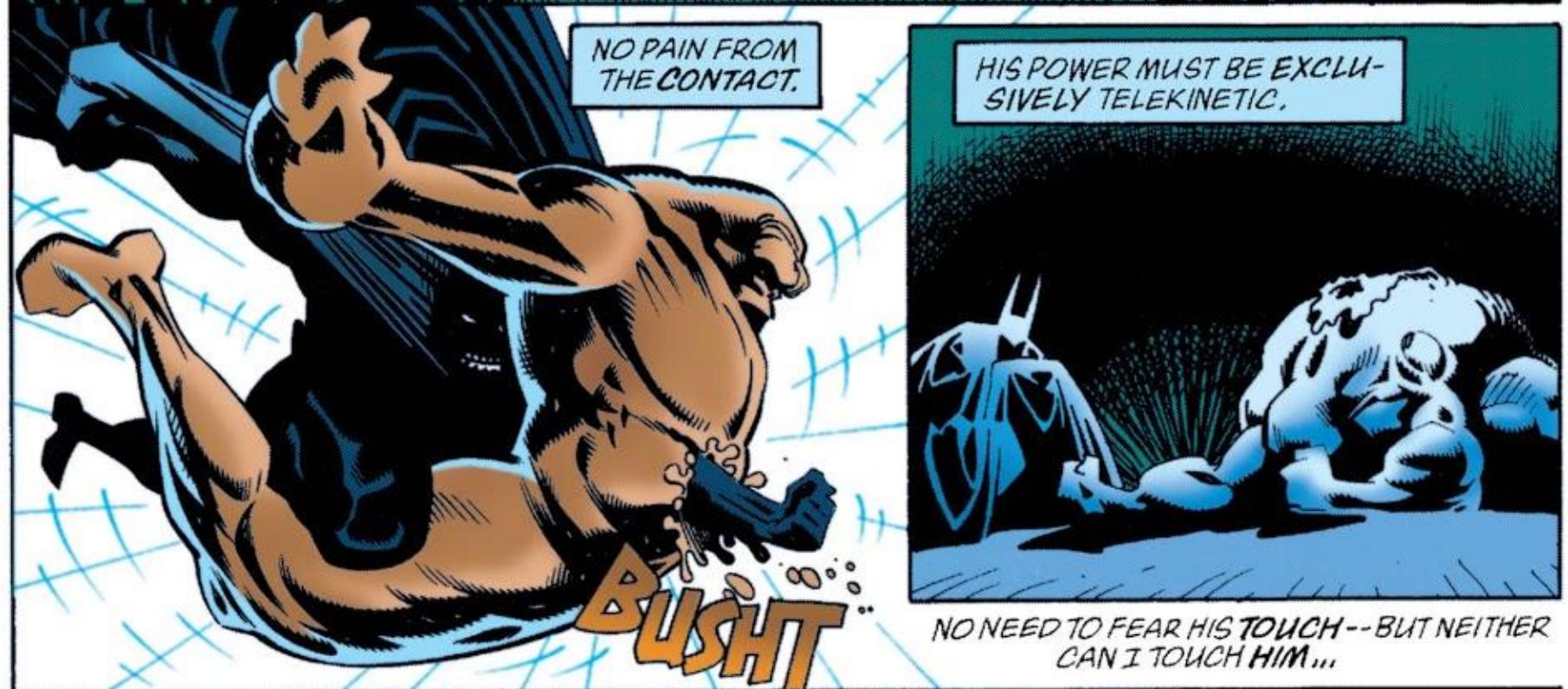
VRAOWWW

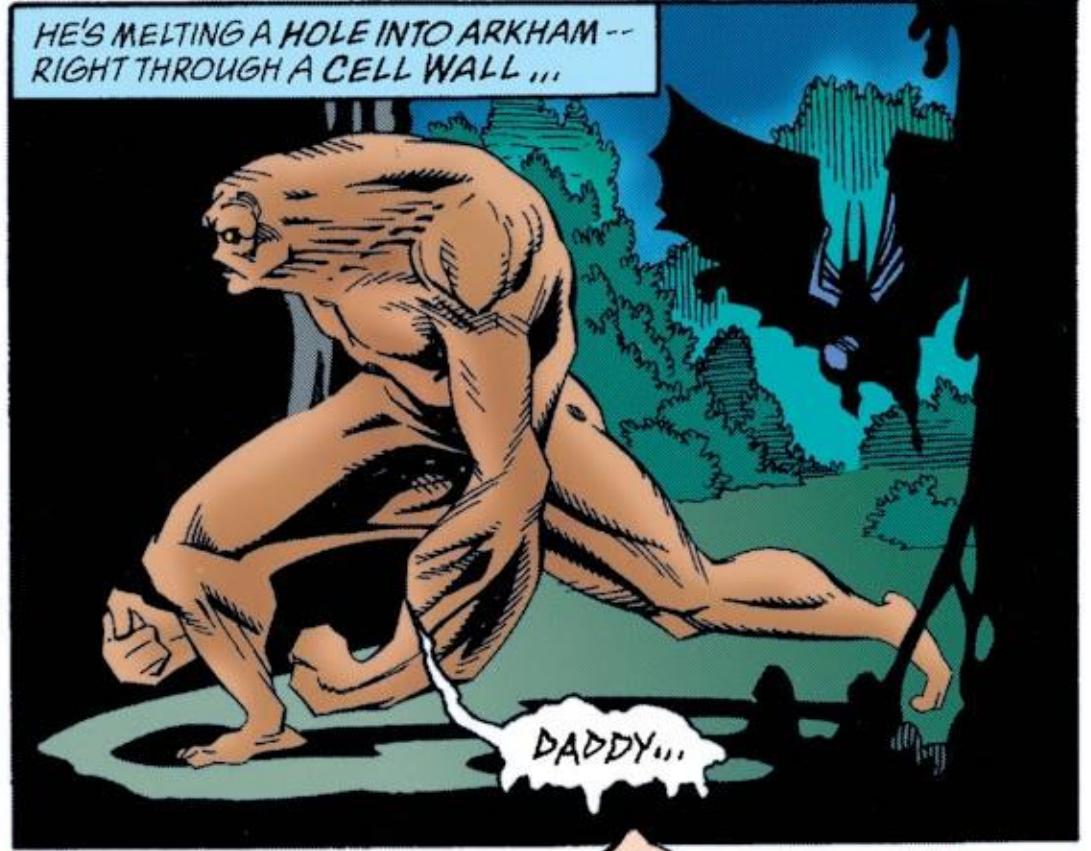
VROOM

SHRECHT









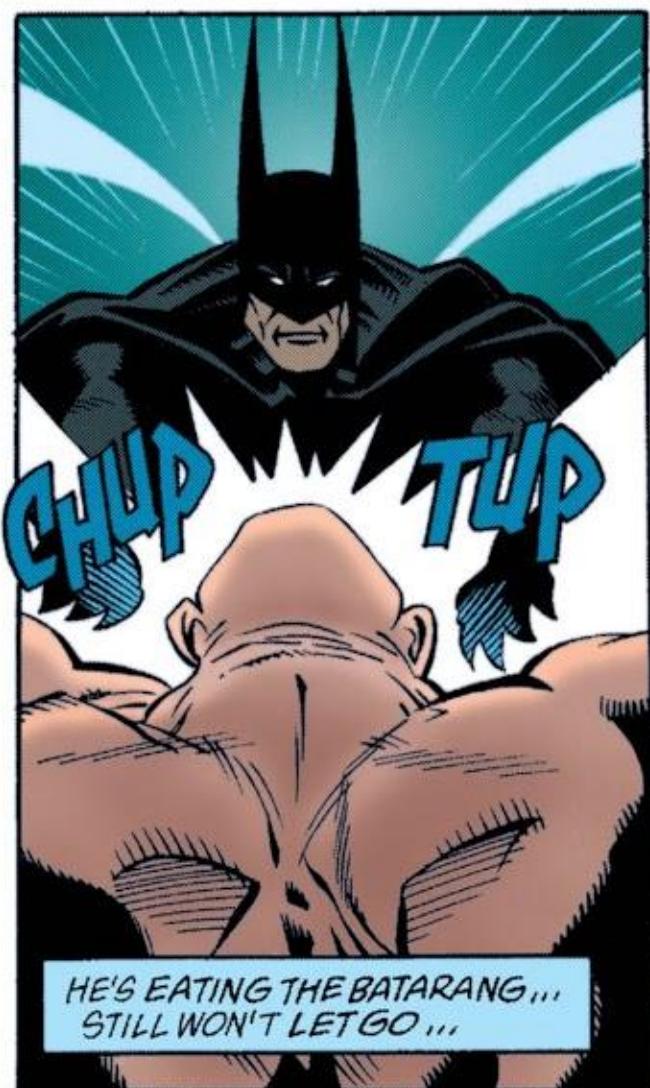
AMYGDALA.

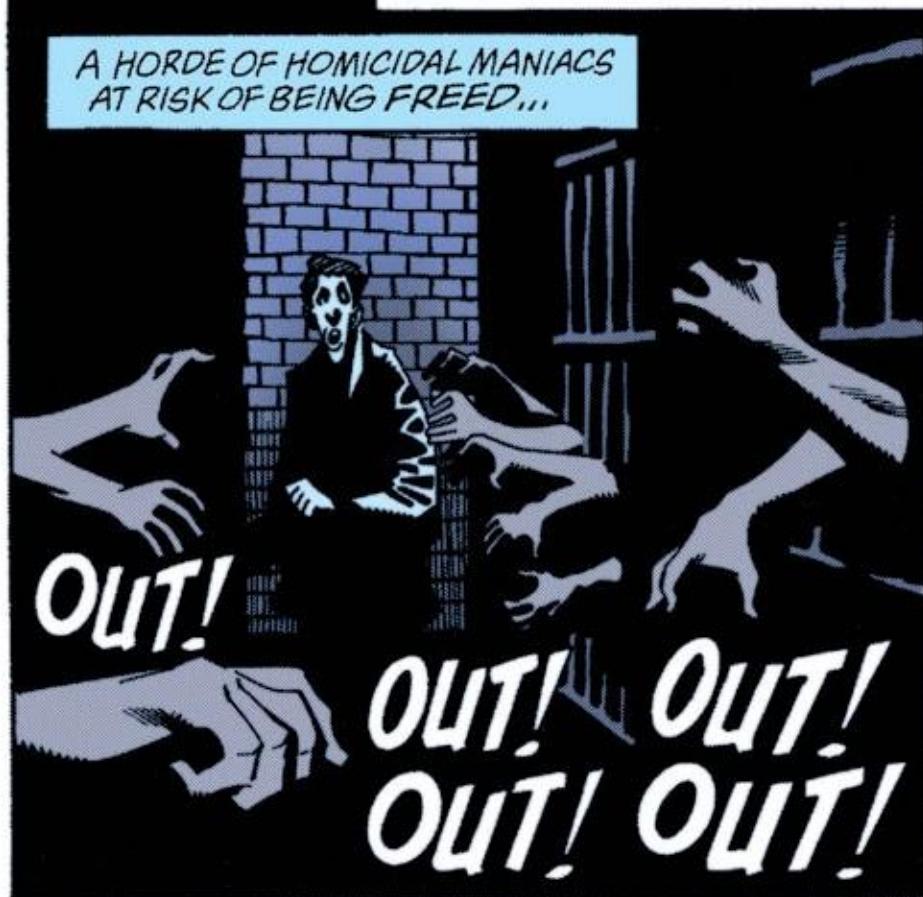
I'M OUT
IN THE OPEN
NIGHT!

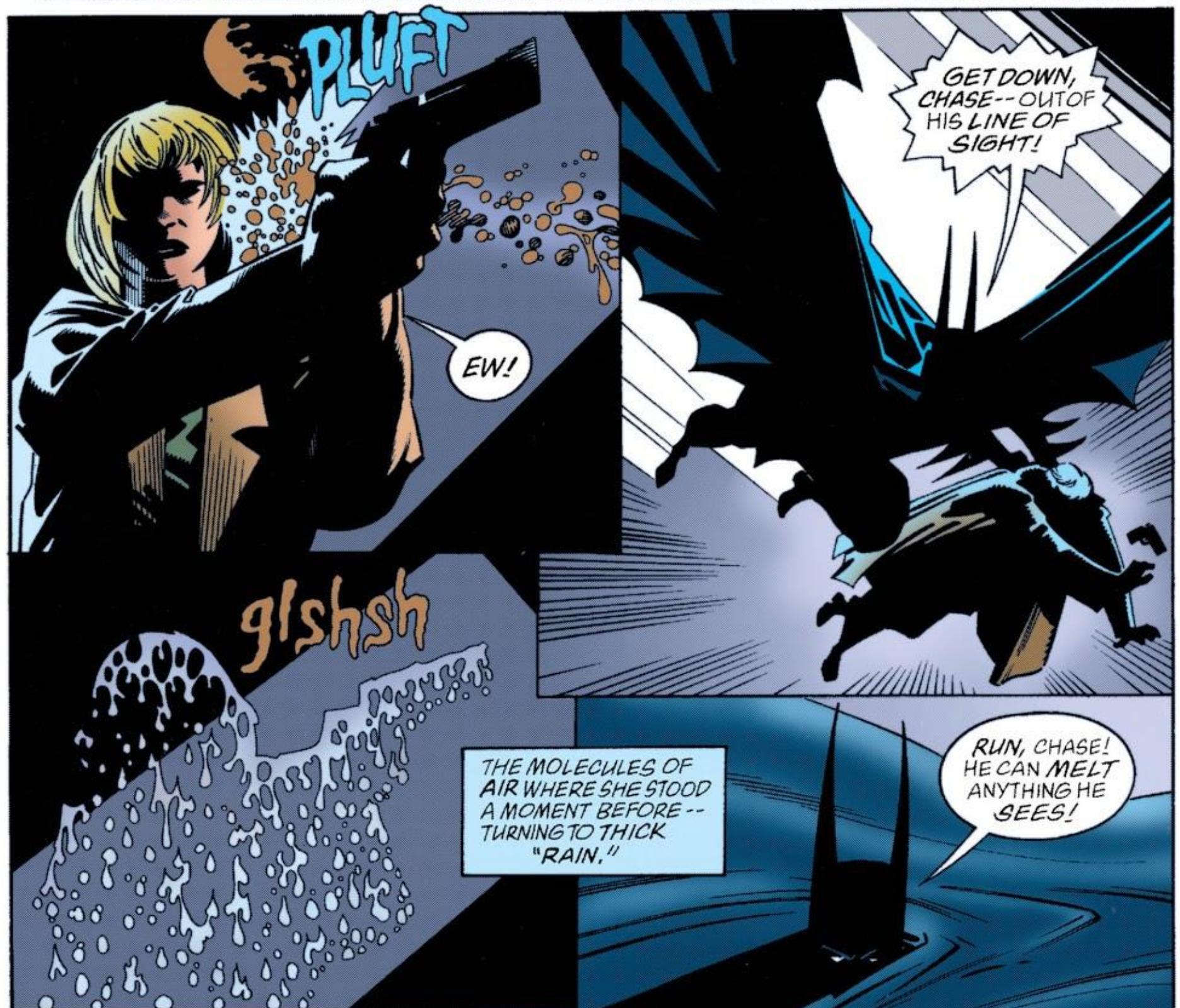
THE OPEN
NIGHT!

HE STUNNED
CLAY-THING--
BUT NOW HE'S
RUNNING FREE...

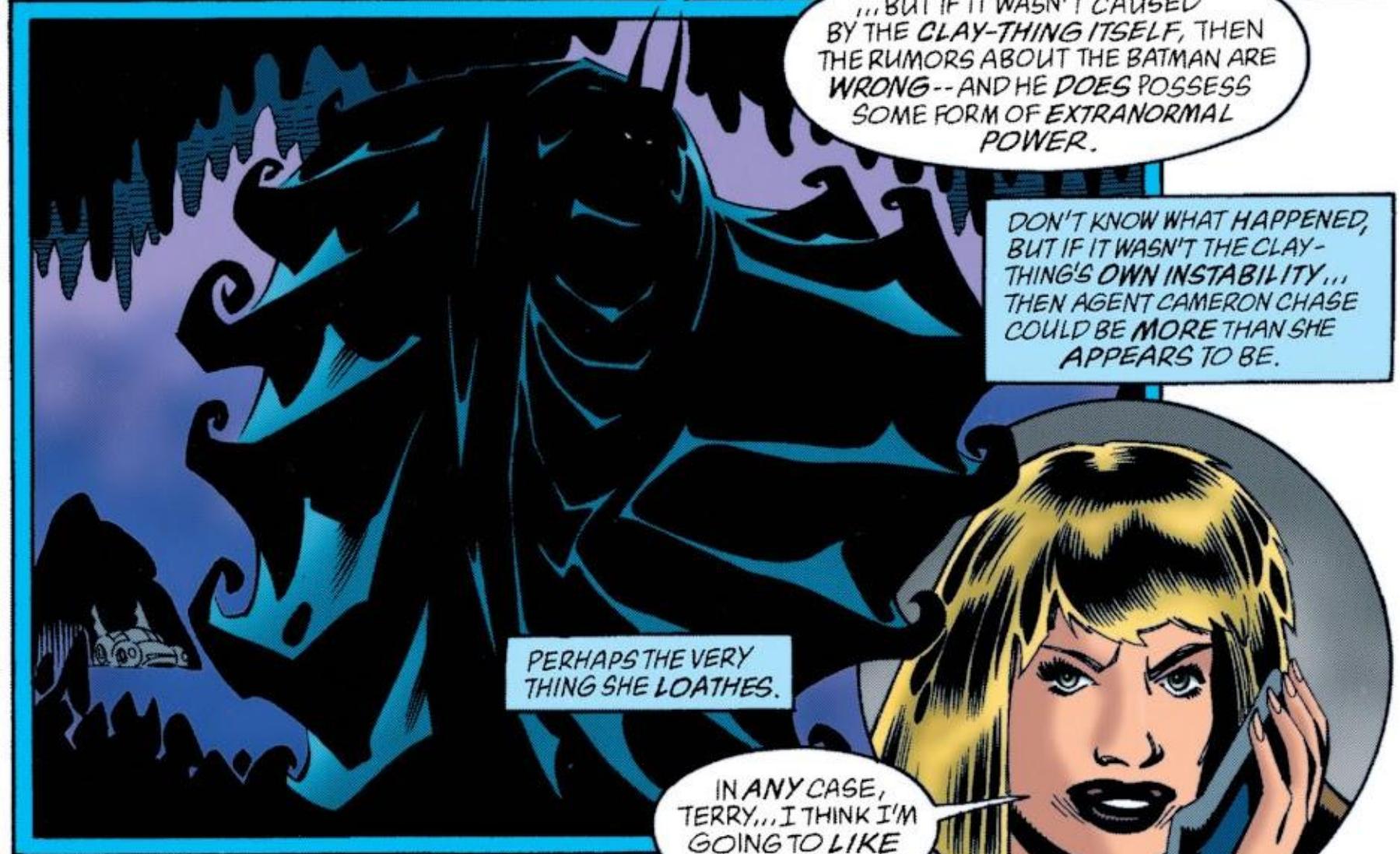












IN ANY CASE,
TERRY... I THINK I'M
GOING TO LIKE
THIS JOB.

NEXT
ISSUE:

RAGMAN

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE"

DCP