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COMICS™

25

SCOTT
SNYDER

GREG
CAPULLO

DANNY
MIKI

THE NEW 52!

BATMAN

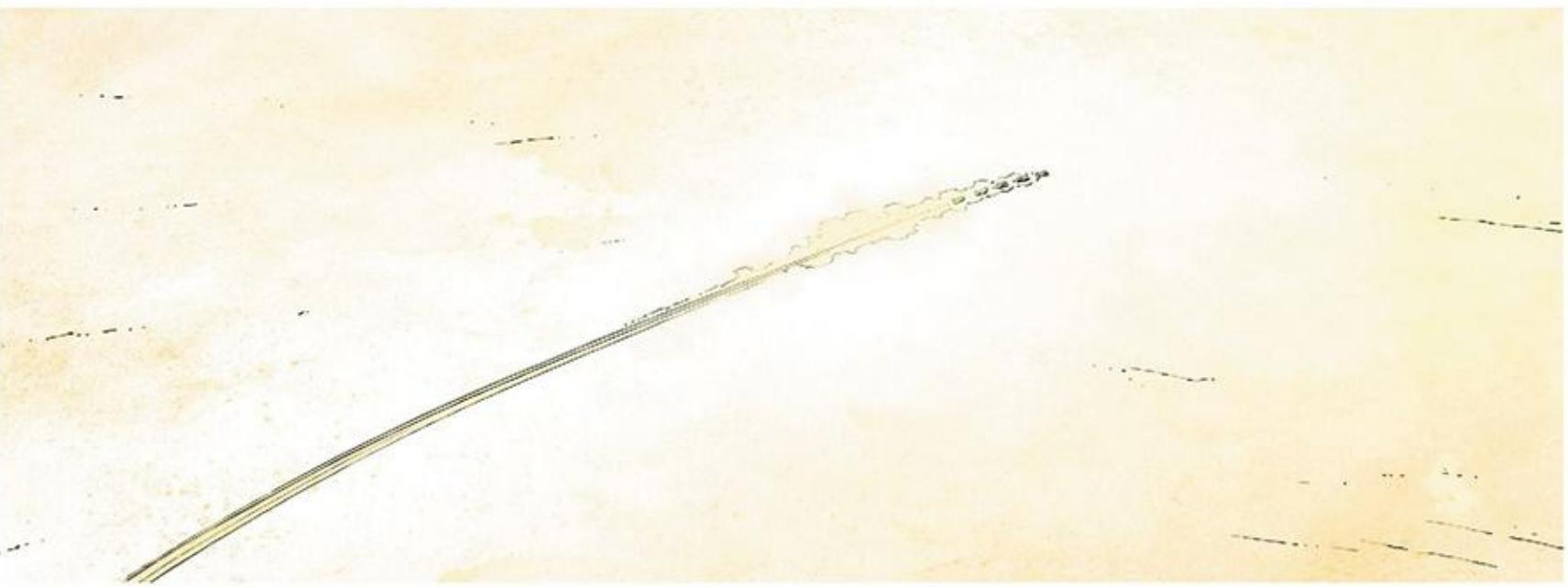
ZERO
YEAR

JAN 2014

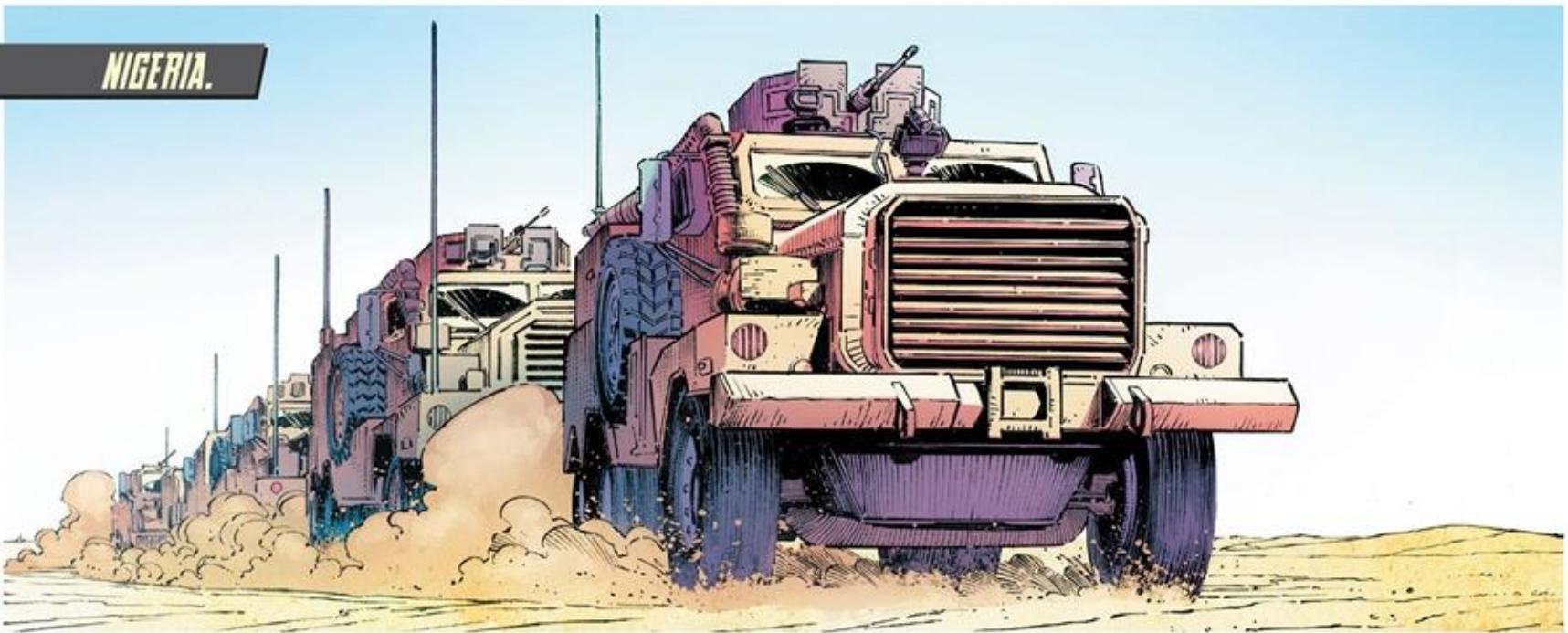
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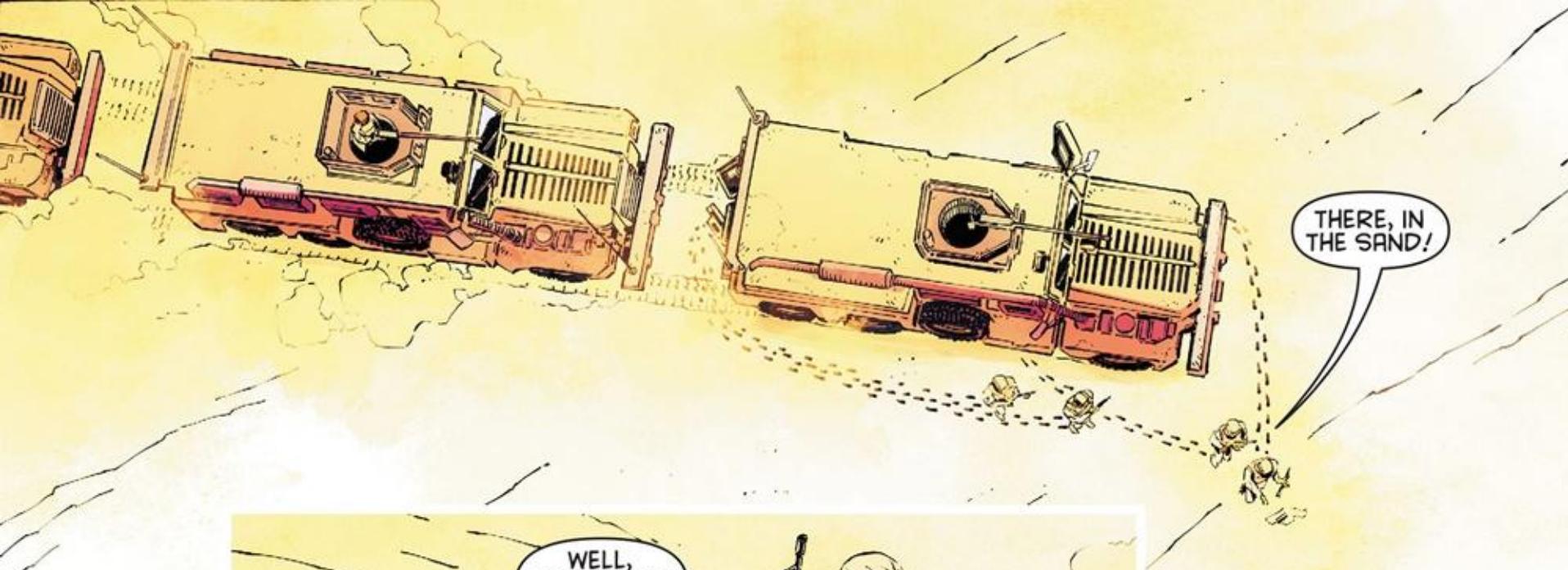
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NIGERIA.







ZERO YEAR

DARK CITY

SCOTT SNYDER
WRITER

GREG CAPULLO
PENCILLER

DANNY MIKI - INKER

FCO PLASCENCIA - COLORIST • NICK NAPOLITANO - LETTERER

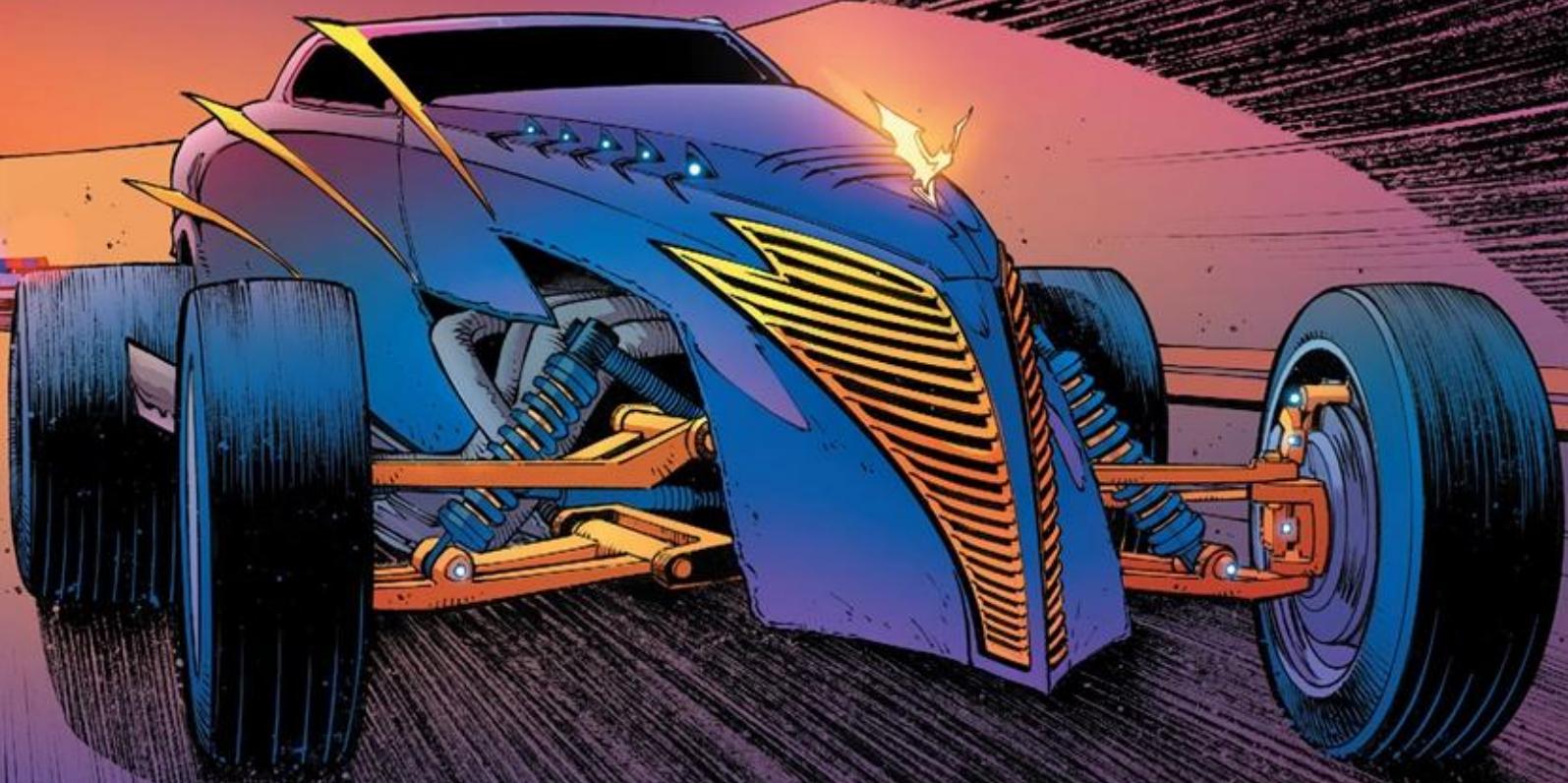
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



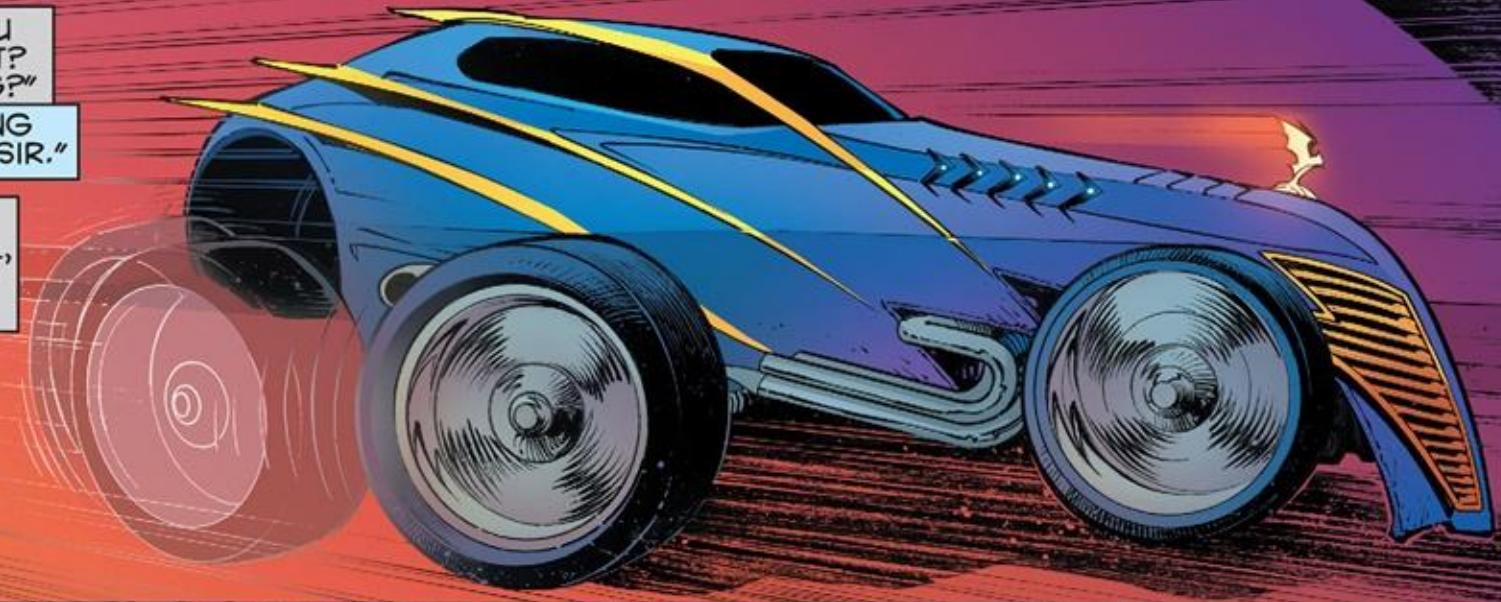




"CAR 39, DO YOU COPY? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?"

"IT'S... DOING SOMETHING, SIR."

"DOING SOMETHING? WELL, WHAT THE HELL IS IT DOING?!"

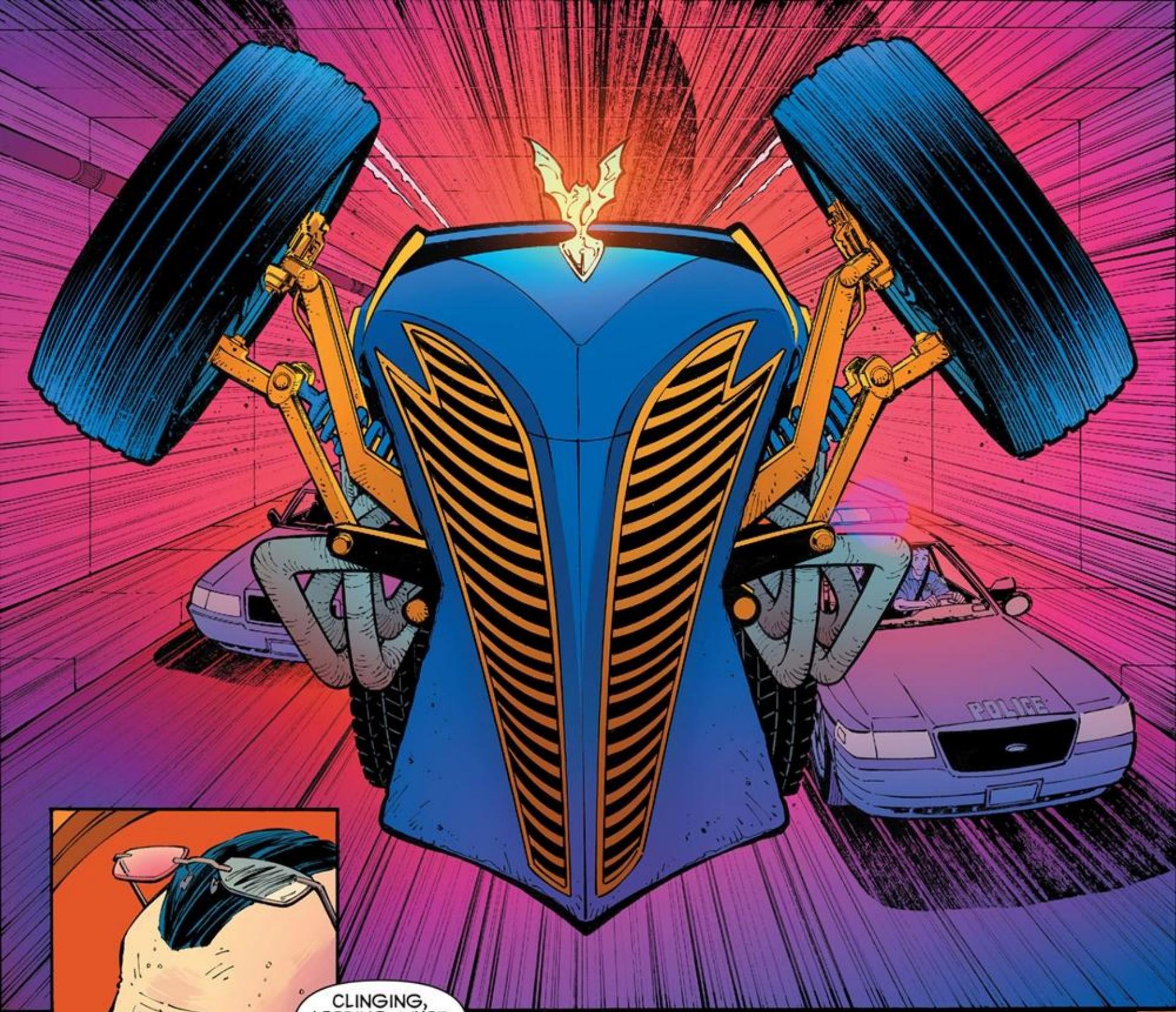


"IT'S JUST A CAR!"

Heh.

CAR 27!
VALDEZ! TALK TO
ME! WHAT IS IT
DOING?!





CLINGING,
LEAPING, WHAT
THE HELL ELSE IS
IT DOING?

TELL
ME IT'S NOT
ESCAPING.

BOYS!?



UNIT EIGHT,
AT LEAST TELL ME
THAT FREAK DIDN'T
LEAVE THE CRIME
SCENE TOO
DISTURBED...



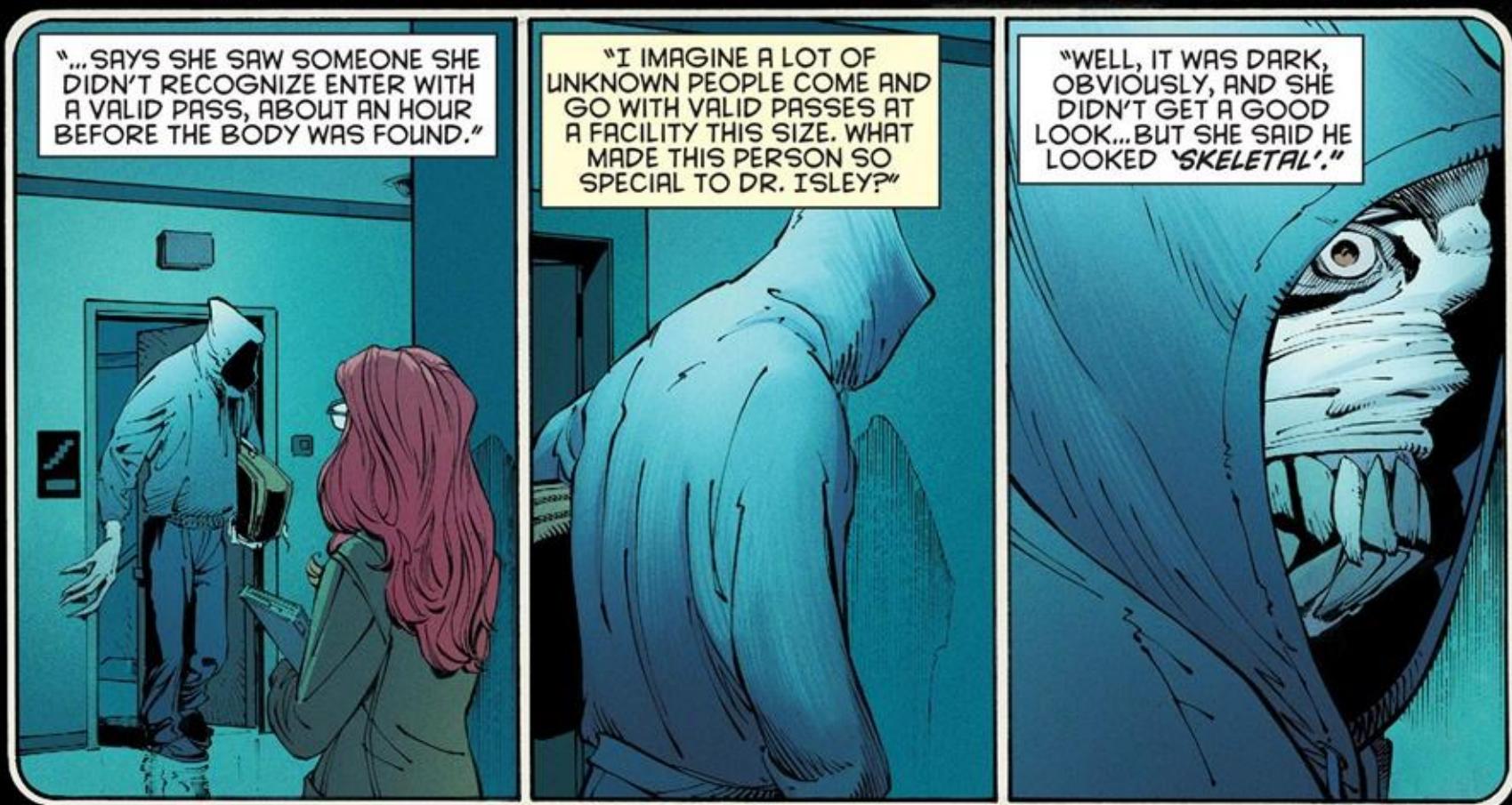


"...A TERRORIST JUST CRIPPLED THE CITY. THE WHOLE THING. FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THERE'S A MAJOR STORM BEARING DOWN ON THE AREA--RENE. ACCORDING TO THE PRETTY PEOPLE ON THE NEWS, OLD RENE COULD EVEN BE A SUPER-STORM."

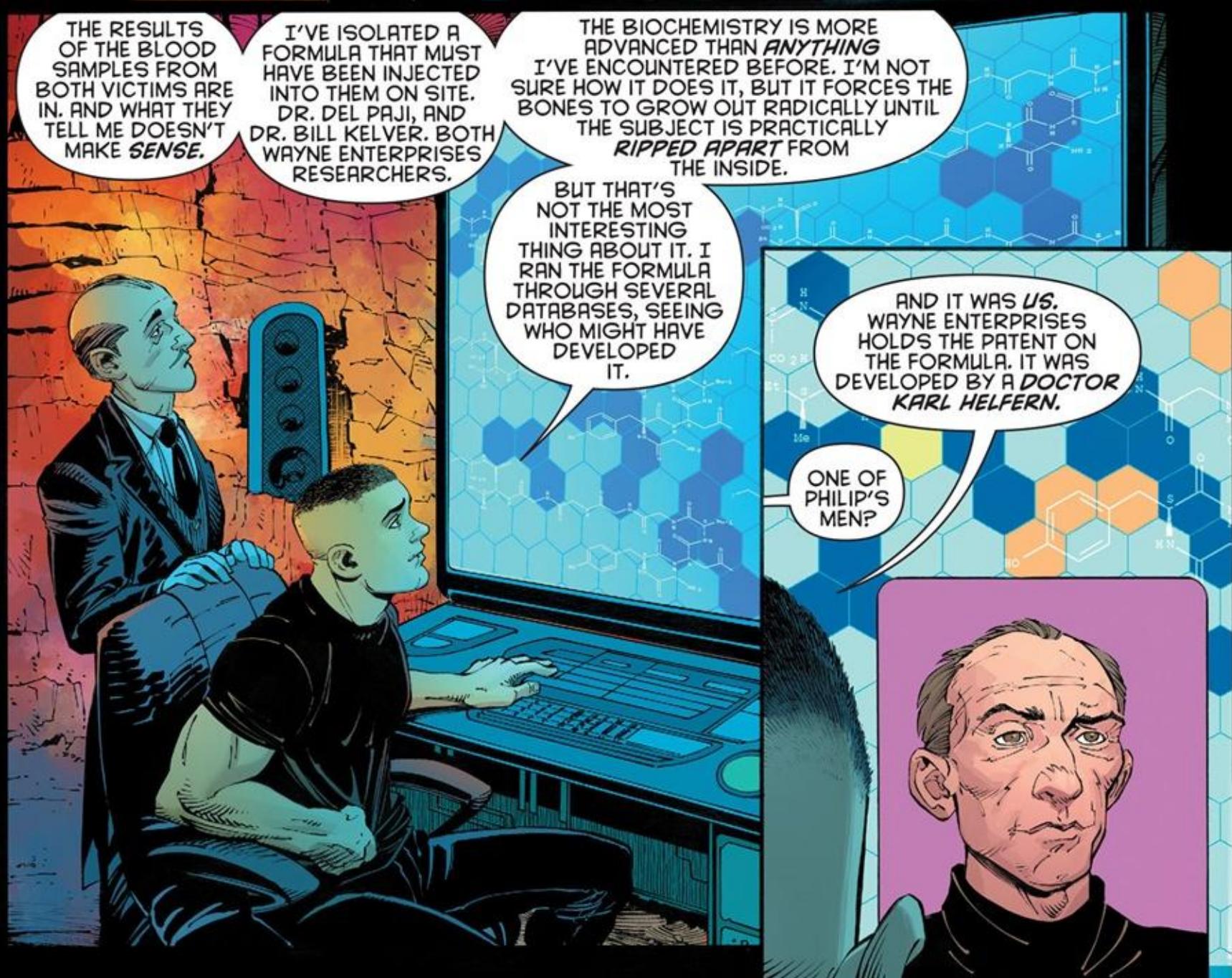
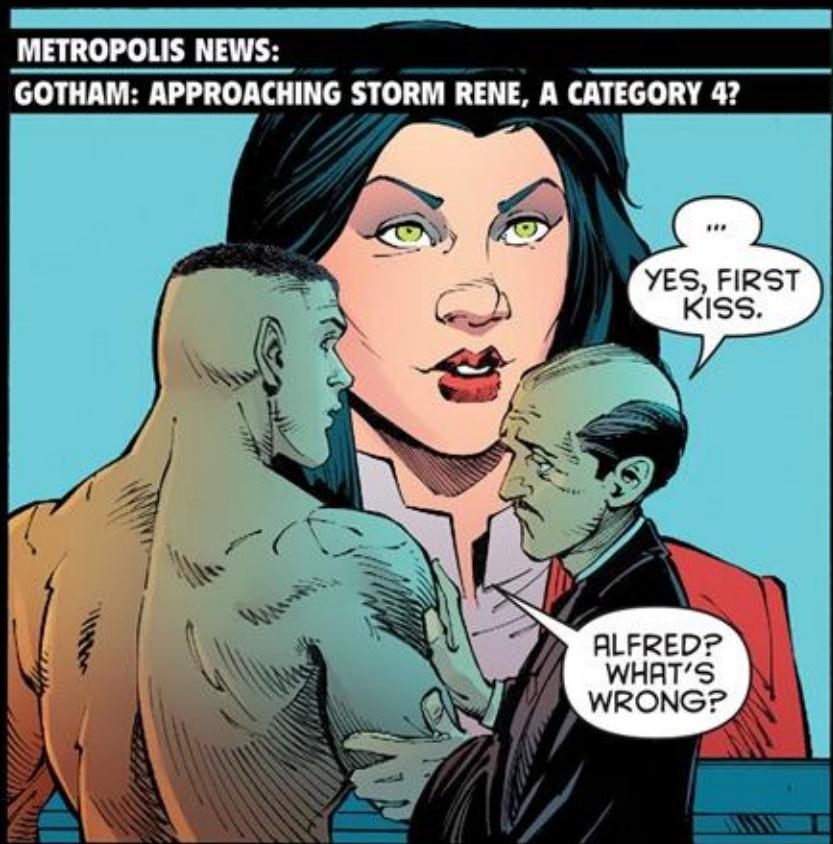
"MEANWHILE, LOEB HAS COPS LOOKING FOR A VIGILANTE INSTEAD OF PROTECTING THE PEACE. WHICH MEANS THE CITY IS A *DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND* RIGHT NOW. BLACKED OUT, PANICKED, WILD..."



"...ANYONE PROVIDING A LITTLE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS..."







I CAN'T TELL. ALL RECORD OF HIM HAS BEEN *ERASED*. BUT YOU CAN START TO SEE A MOTIVE THERE IF YOU SQUINT LONG ENOUGH.

A FORMER WAYNE SCIENTIST KILLING CURRENT WAYNE SCIENTISTS... HELFERN COULD BE THE MAN BEHIND ALL OF THIS.

I DUG FOR ANY RECORD IN GOTHAM OF *BONE-RELATED* RESEARCH. ALL I COULD FIND WAS A TRAIL OF HORRORS. A STRING OF ILLEGAL LABS WHERE LAB ANIMALS WERE RIPPED APART BY THEIR OWN MALFORMED SKELETONS.

NO ONE WAS EVER ARRESTED, BUT WHOEVER'S BEHIND THE INCIDENTS EARNED HIMSELF THE NICKNAME "DR. DEATH."

DR. DEATH. PLEASENT. IF HELFERN IS THIS "DOCTOR DEATH," HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND HIM?

I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE ONLY MAN IN GOTHAM WHO MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE EVERYTHING COVERED, SIR. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER INFORMING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT...

NO.
YOU SEEM DETERMINED TO MAKE THEM YOUR *ENEMY*, MASTER BRUCE.

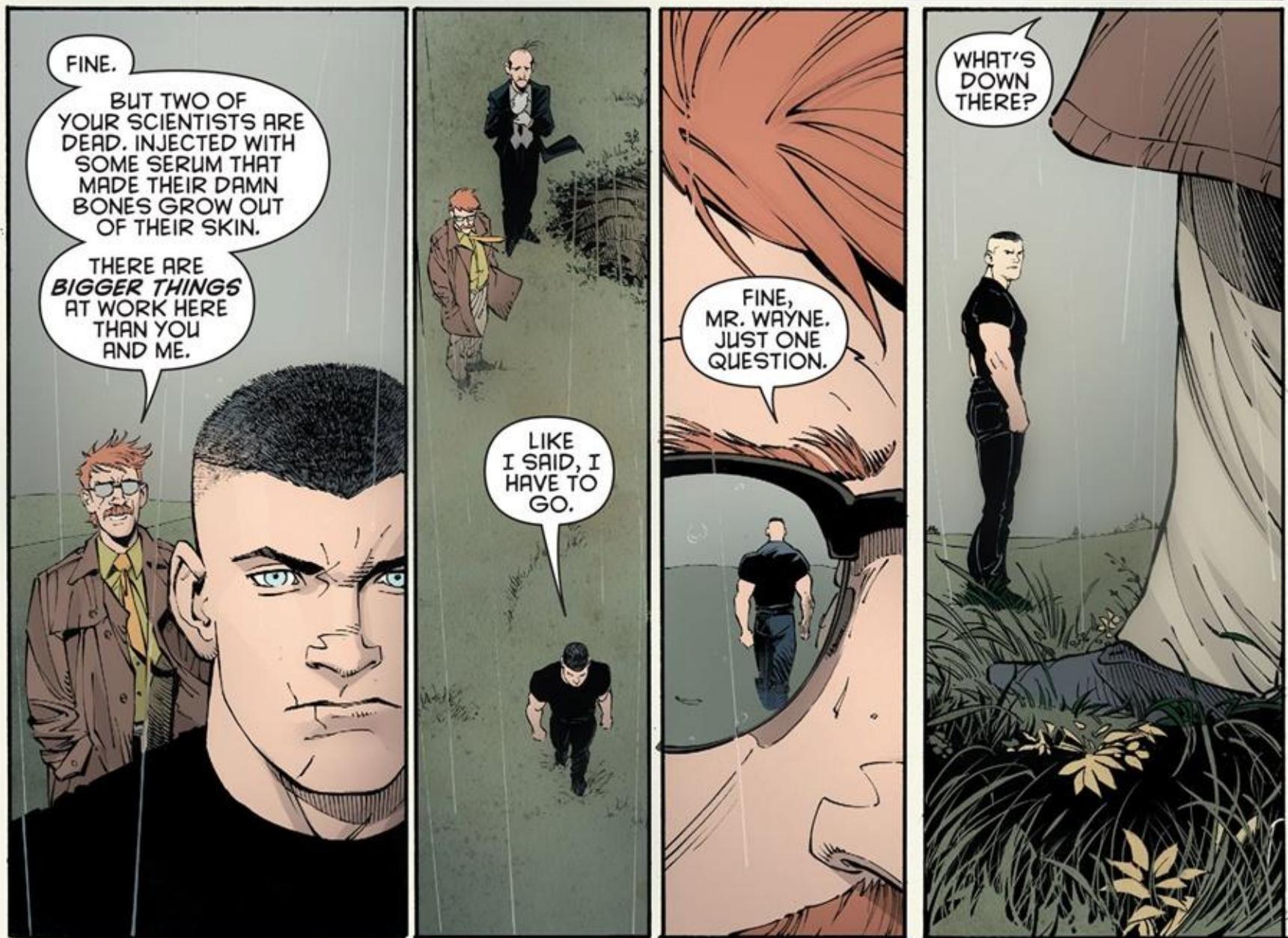
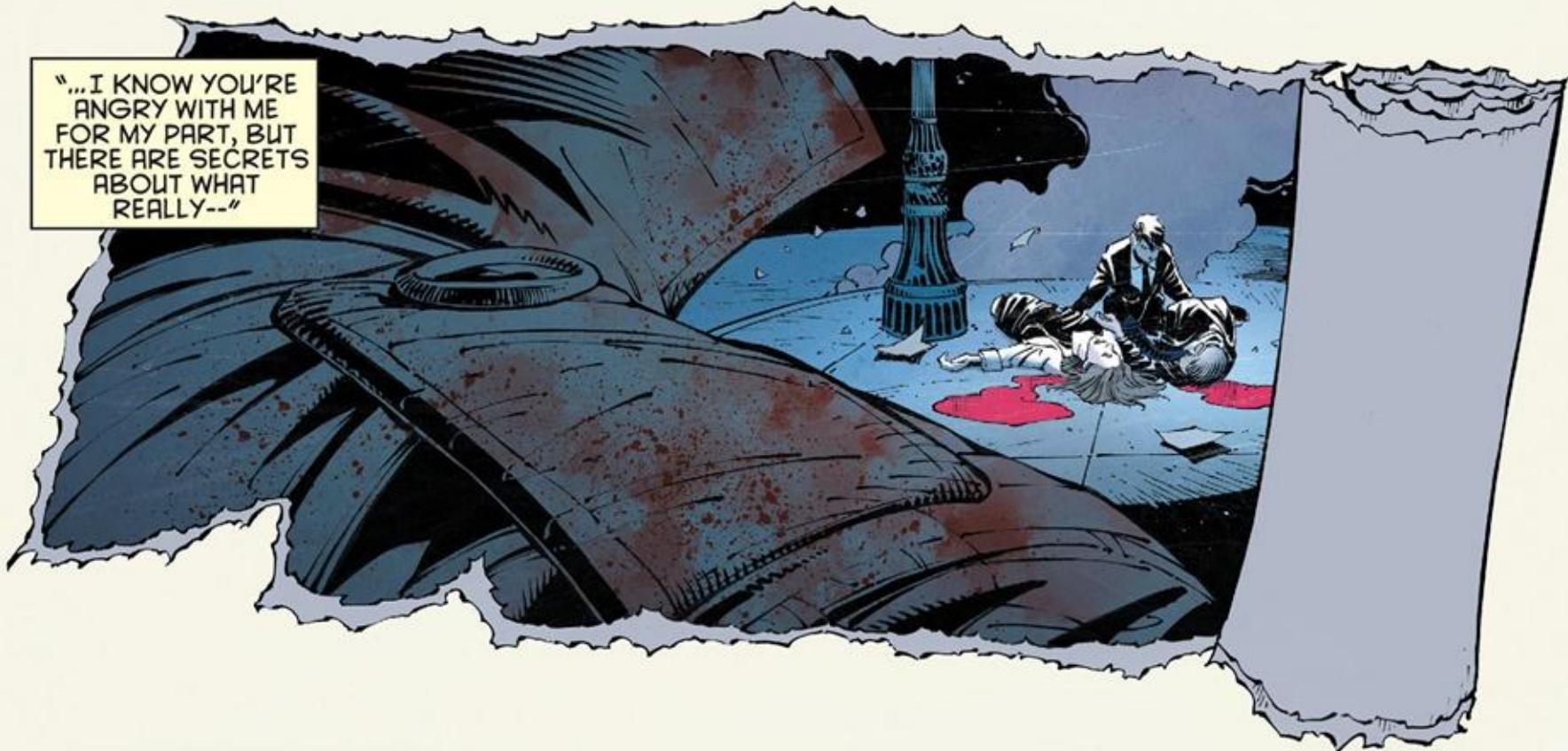
I GAVE THEM A FLEET OF DIRIGIBLES.

TO SPY ON THEM.

I DON'T TRUST THEM, ALFRED. THE FORCE WAS FULL OF CORRUPTION BEFORE THE RED HOOD GANG INFILTRATED IT. EVEN WITH THE RED HOOD GONE NOW, WHO KNOWS.

TO MY MIND, THERE ISN'T ANYONE ON THE FORCE WORTH A DAMN.

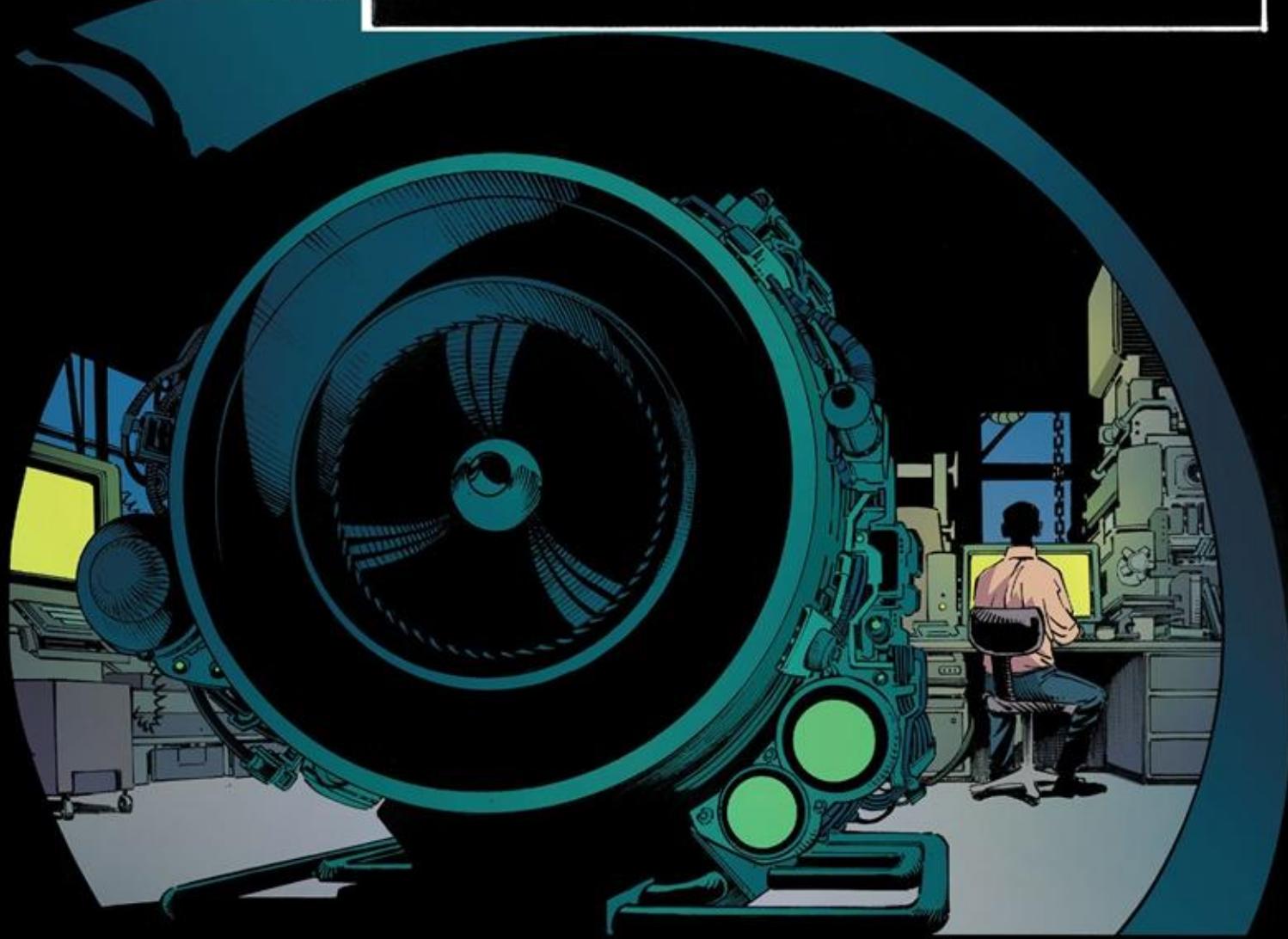
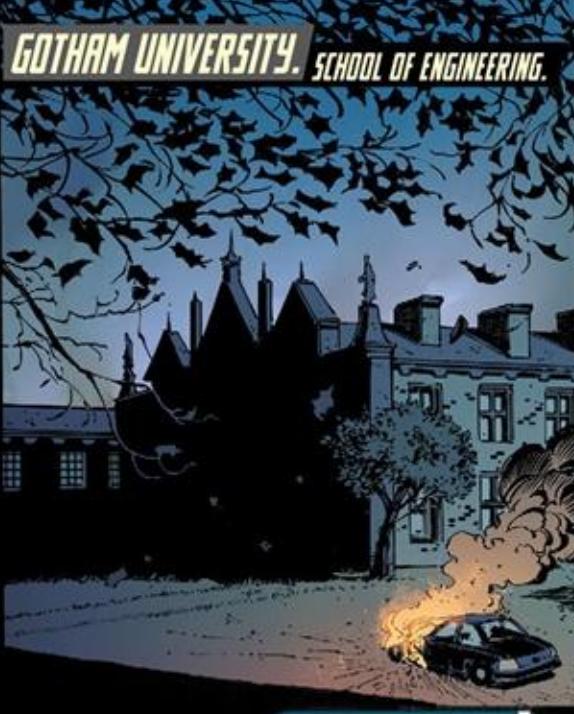


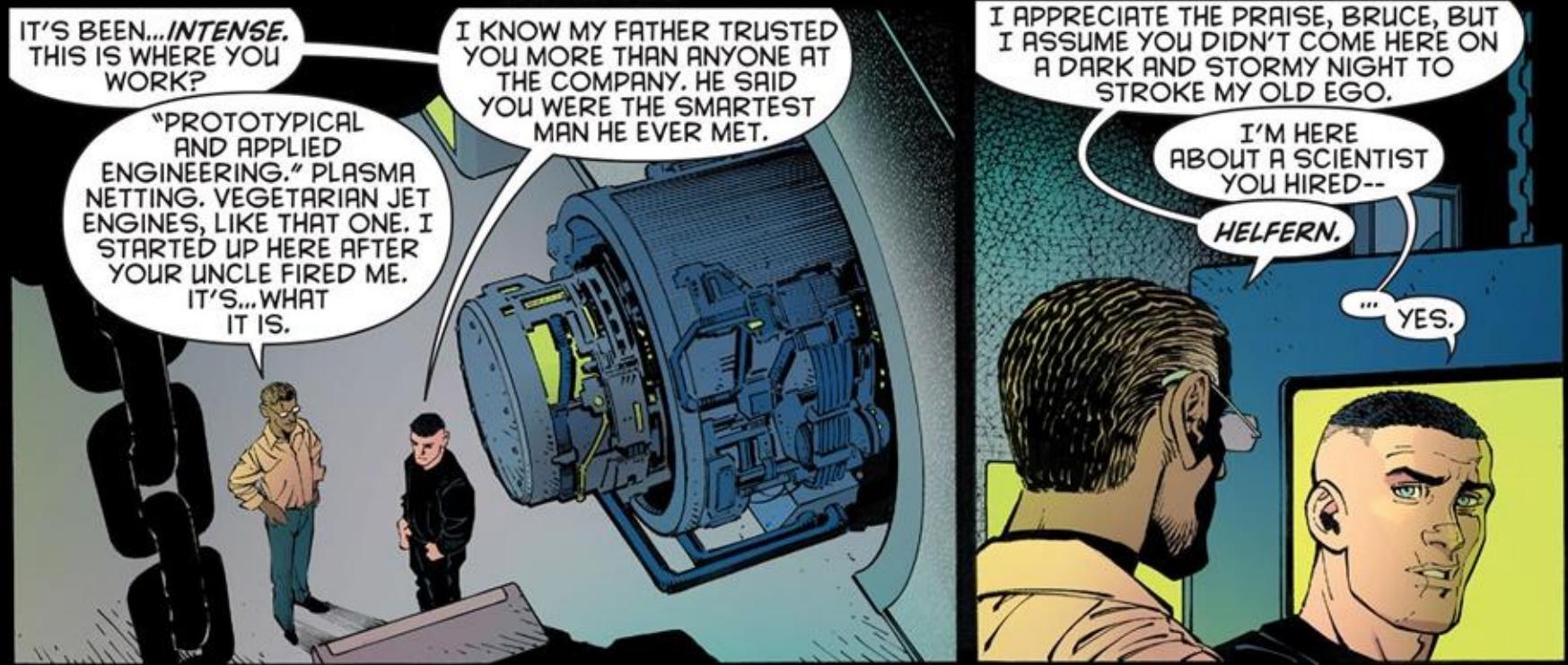






GOTHAM UNIVERSITY. SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

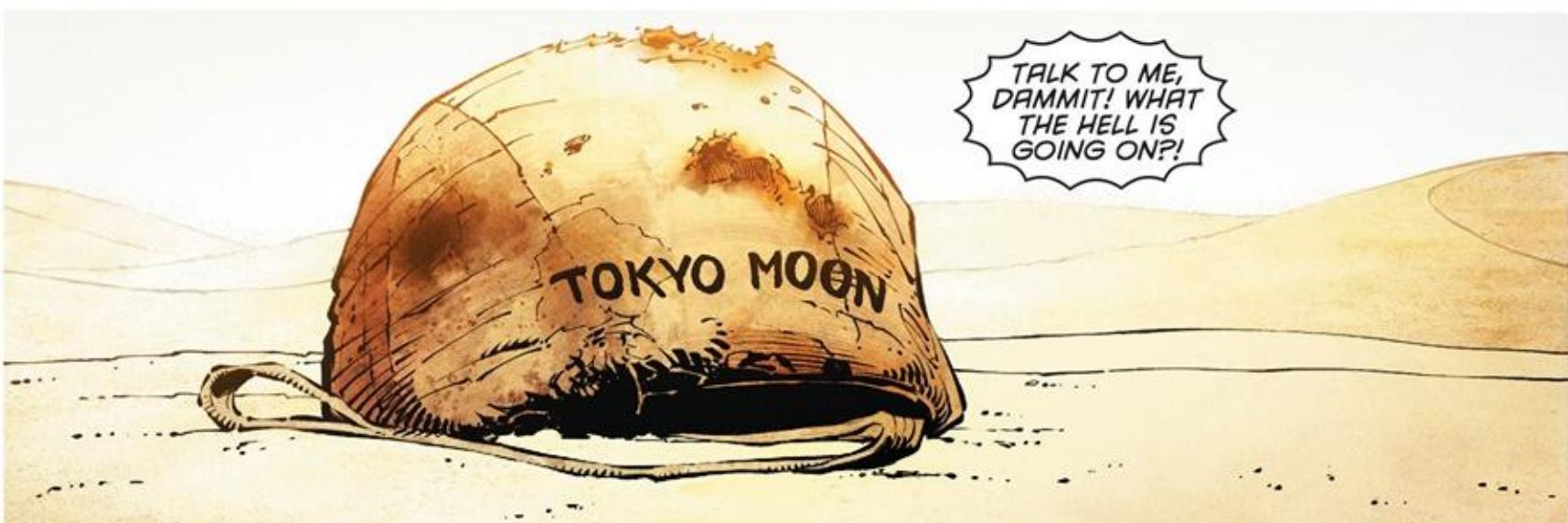
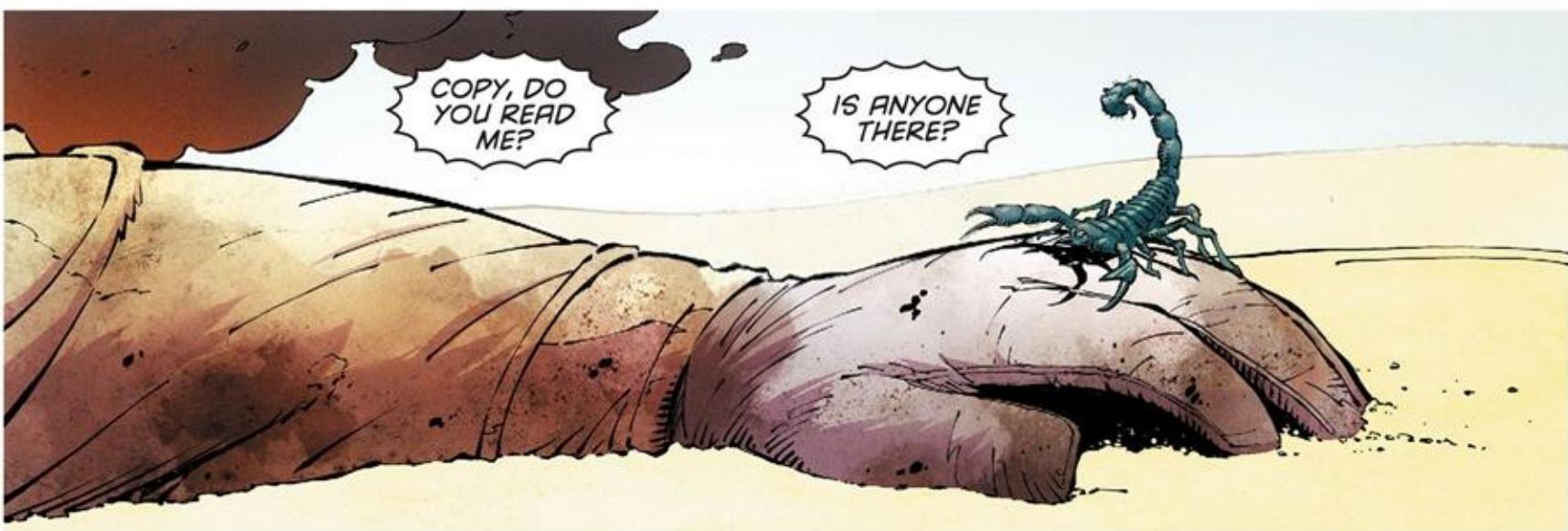






...THIS CITY'S
NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING LIKE
ME.

AND I'M
JUST GETTING
STARTED.



NEXT: DEATH COMES TO GOTHAM

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--CONDITIONS WORSEN IN GOTHAM AS THE STORM APPROACHES UP THE COAST--

--MAYOR'S OFFICE ASSURES GOTHAMITES THAT POWER WILL BE RESTORED BEFORE THE SUPERSTORM ENTERS GOTHAM--

YOU'RE A LIAR!

CULLEN'S AFRAID OF THE DARK, DAD. YOU PROMISED YOU'D FIGURE OUT HOW TO TURN ON A LIGHT FOR HIM. YOU PROMISED.

YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US AGAIN.

C'MON, HARPO. I'M ONLY GRABBING A DRINK WITH THE BOYS. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FIXING A LIGHT.

AFTER WHAT THAT RIDDLER MANIAC DID, YOU SHOULD FEEL LUCKY YOU KIDS HAVE A ROOF OVER YOUR HEADS BEFORE THIS STORM.

YOUR BROTHER COULD USE SOME MANNING UP, ANYWAYS... I MEAN, A NIGHTLIGHT? REALLY?

BUT I GOT YOU A BOOK AND A BATTERY--

YEAH, SOME KID'S LIBRARY BOOK IS GOING TO SHOW ME HOW TO DO IT. SURE. LOOK, I'LL TRY IN THE MORNING.

IF YOU'RE EVEN BACK BY THEN... LAST TIME, YOU WERE GONE FOR TWO DAYS!

JUST SHUT UP, ALL RIGHT?! I'M YOUR FATHER! YOU DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!

IF YOU DON'T WANT US, WHY DID YOU TAKE US?! WHY CAN'T WE GO BACK AND STAY WITH MOM--

KID, YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON THERE...

...JUST GO TO SLEEP!

SLAM

PEOPLE IN THE DARK

SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV STORY

ANDY CLARKE ART

BLOND COLORIST

DEZI SIENTY LETTERER

KATIE KUBERT ASSOC. EDITOR

MIKE MARTS GROUP EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

I DON'T
LIKE IT HERE,
HARPER...

ME NEITHER,
CULLEN. JUST...
FORGET HIM. WE
DON'T NEED
HIM, OKAY?

YOU REMEMBER
WHEN WE WERE AT
GRAMMA'S A FEW
YEARS BACK? OUT
IN THE TENT, WHEN
THE FLASHLIGHT
WENT OUT...

YOU GOT
SO SCARED,
AND WE DIDN'T
KNOW HOW TO
GET BACK TO
THE HOUSE.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT I
SAID?

YOU SAID
THE DARK WAS
IN MY HEAD...YOU
SAID THAT'S WHY
IT WAS SO SCARY,
BECAUSE I
COULDN'T
SEE YOU.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

IT'S SCARY
IN THE DARK. IT
DEFINITELY IS. YOU
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
AROUND YOU,
HIDING IN THE
CORNERS.

YOU JUST IMAGINE
ALL THE BAD THINGS
THAT COULD BE
THERE, AND IT'S SO
EASY TO FORGET
THE GOOD
THINGS...

...BUT
I'M HERE,
AREN'T
I?

I...I
GUESS...

Pretty
sure I'm here,
Cullen.

OKAY.

LOOK...RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE IS AFRAID IN THIS WHOLE CITY...YOU SAW THE GROCERY STORES. PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING OVER CANS OF BEANS.

LIKE, ACTUAL GROWNUPS, PUNCHING EACH OTHER.

"BUT THERE ARE SPECIAL PEOPLE OUT THERE, CULLEN..."

"...PEOPLE WHO SEE ALL THE FEAR AND ALL THE BAD THINGS, AND THEY STAND UP AND THEY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT..."

"...AND EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T SEE THEM, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THEY'RE OUT THERE."

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, IN THE TENT? EVEN I WAS TOO AFRAID TO TRY AND FIND OUR WAY BACK TO THE HOUSE.

BUT YOU DID. YOU STOPPED CRYING AND YOU GOT US THERE. YOU REMEMBERED THE WAY.



YOU SEE, CULLEN,
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE
PEOPLE. YOU ARE
STRONG.

WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

KLK

OH, IT'S LIKE
WAY EASY TO WIRE
SOMETHING UP LIKE
THIS. I READ THE
WHOLE BOOK
EARLIER TODAY.

I THINK
YOU'RE
SMARTER
THAN DAD.

SO THERE, ARE YOU
READY TO GO TO
SLEEP NOW?

I KNOW
I'M SMARTER
THAN DAD.

IT'S
OKAY. YOU
CAN TURN
IT OFF.

I
LOVE YOU,
DINGUS.

KLK

I LOVE YOU
TOO, WALRUS
BREATH.

END



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