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535 | OCT 96



# BATMAN



# THE OGRE AND THE APE

## CHAPTER ONE: 20,000 VOLTS OF VENGEANCE!

REMEMBER US,  
DR. BELMONT?

THE OGRE  
AND THE  
APE?

THE ONLY  
SURVIVING  
RESULTS OF  
YOUR EXPERI-  
MENT...?

I... I...  
REMEMBER...

GOOD.

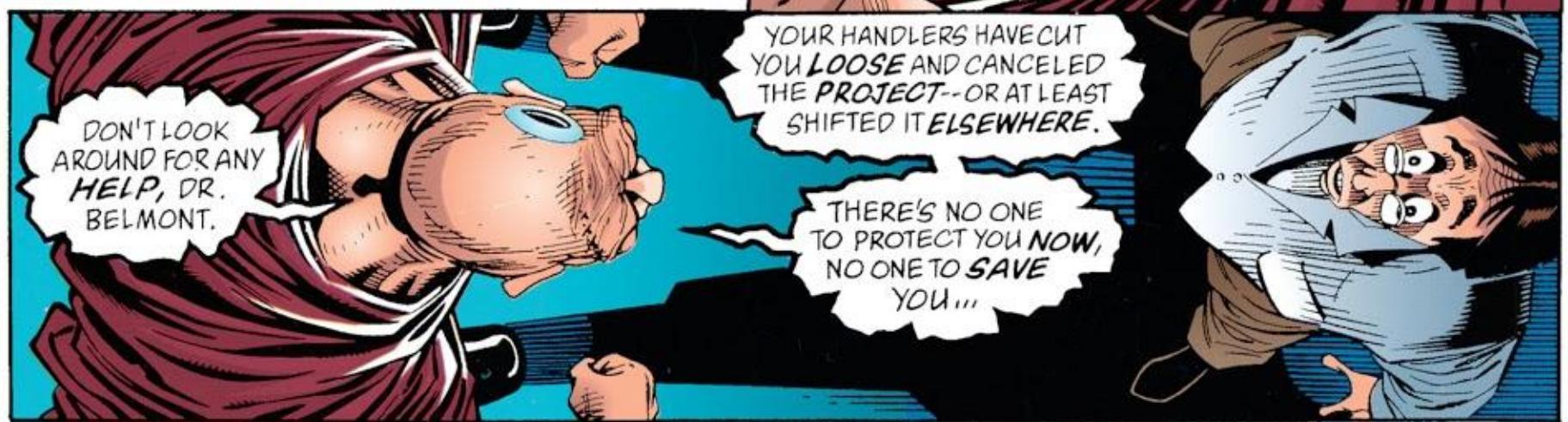
BECAUSE NOW  
THAT WE HAVE  
**ESCAPED**,  
DOCTOR... WE ARE  
THE PENALTY  
FOR YOUR EXPERI-  
MENT'S FAILURE.

RUHRR

DM-KJ-JB-17

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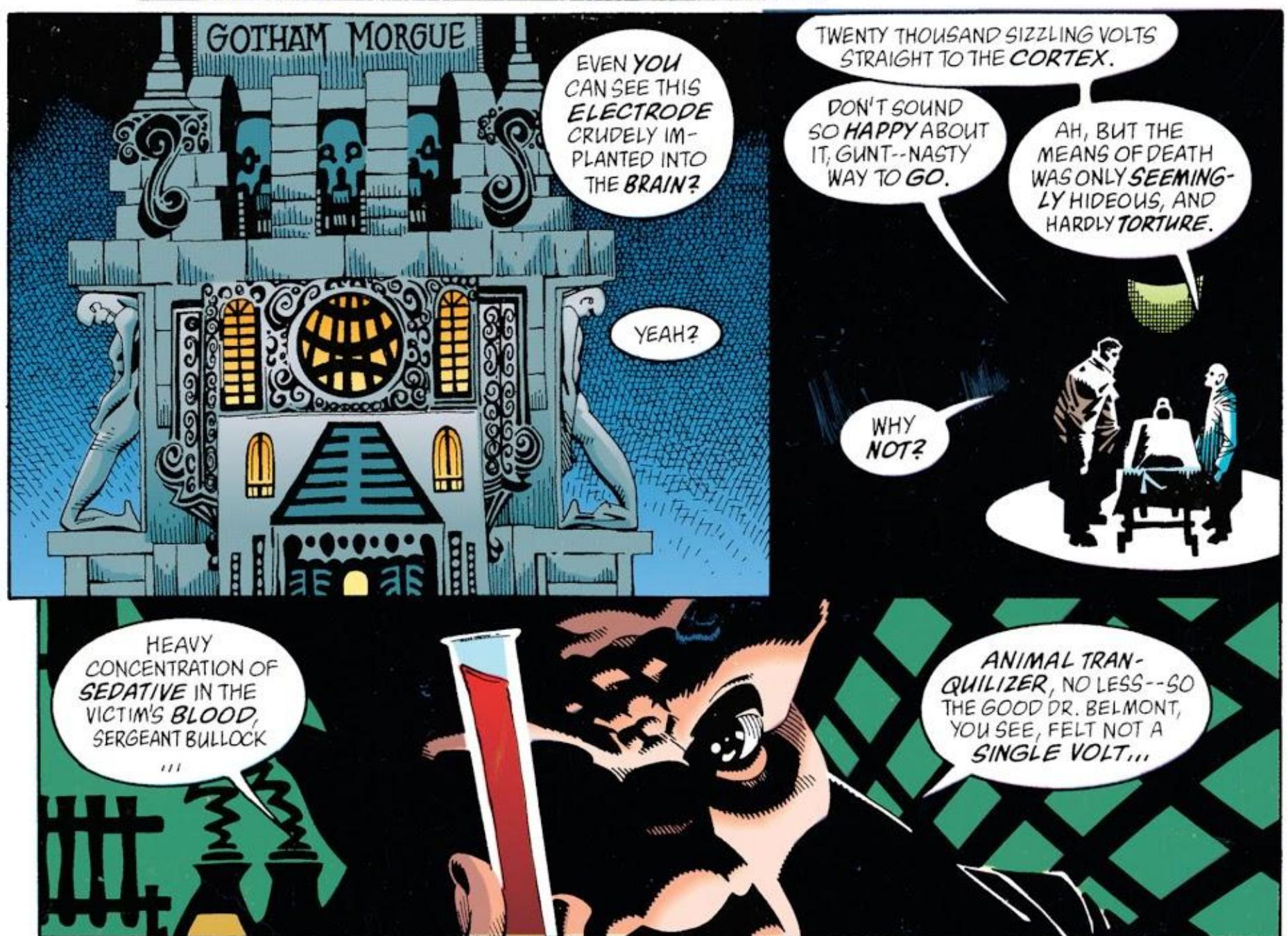




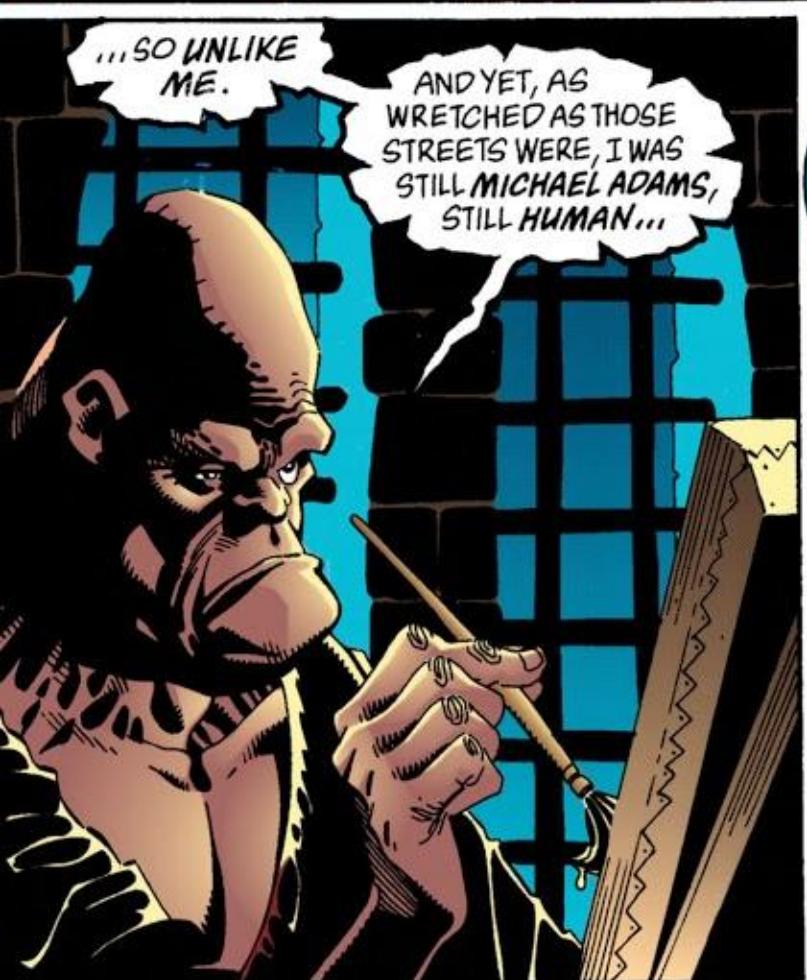
CHAPTER  
TWO

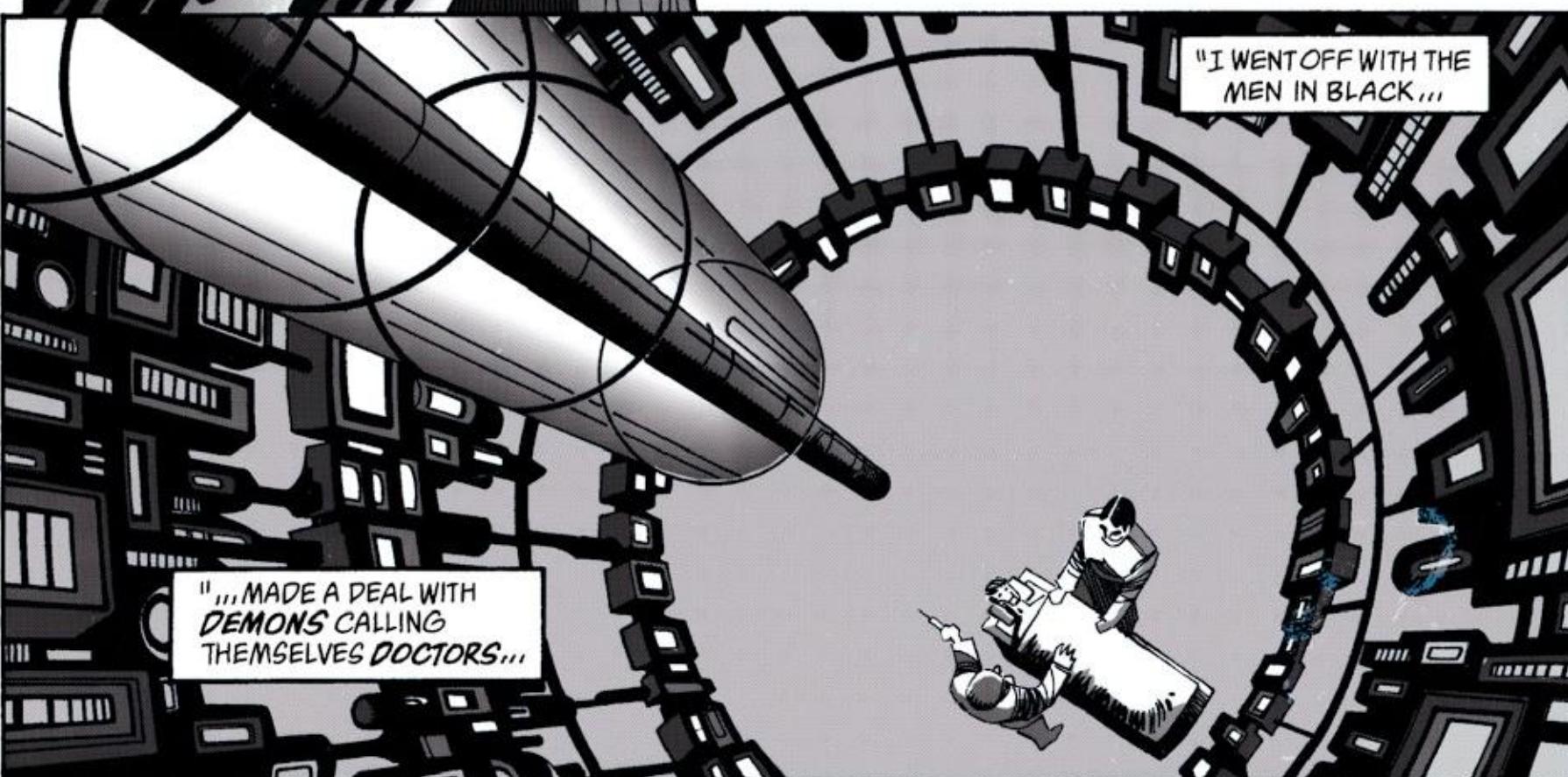
THE WRITING  
ON THE  
WALL

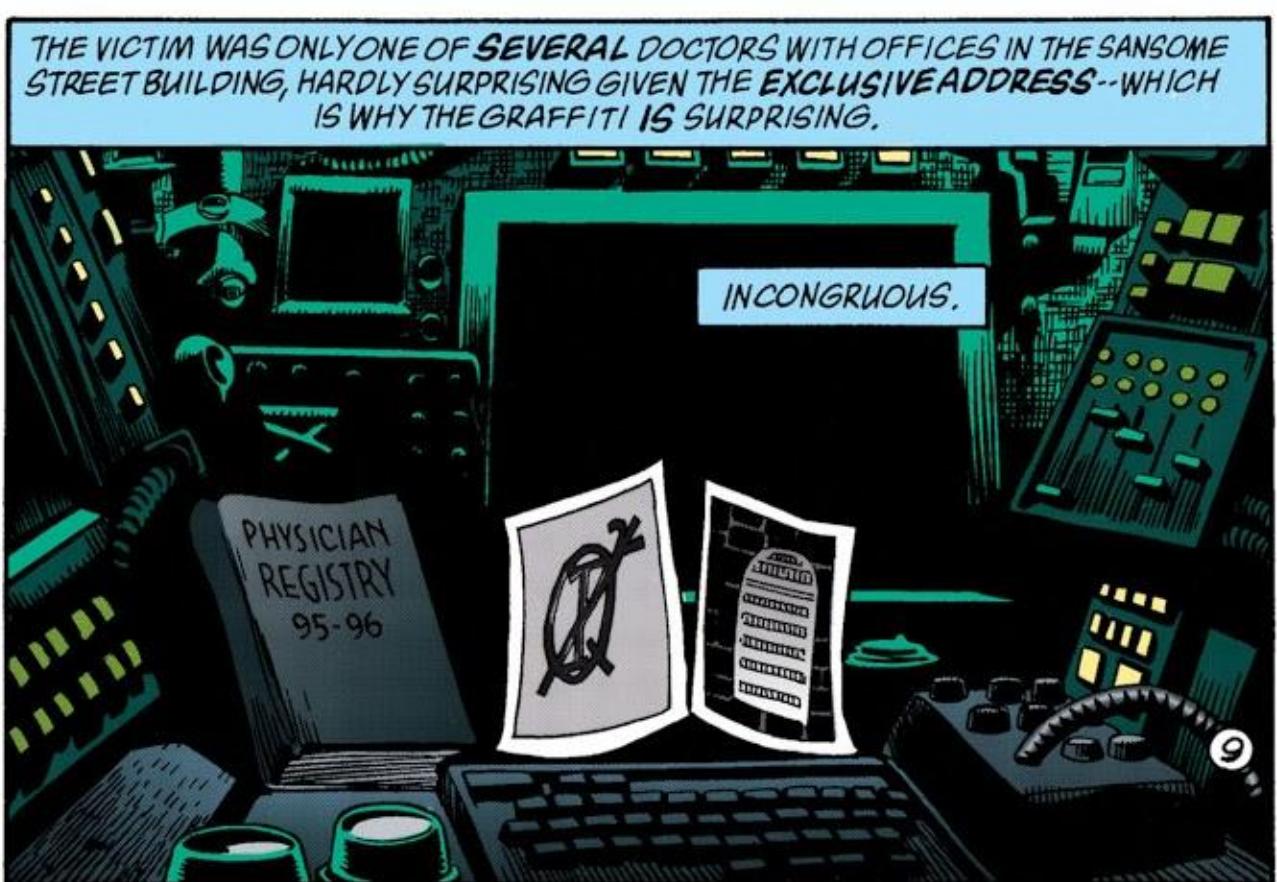
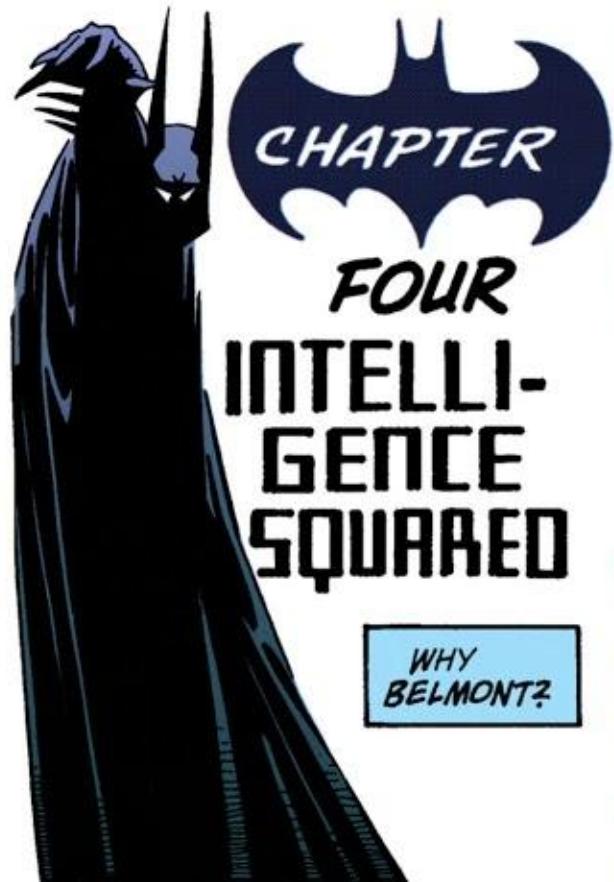
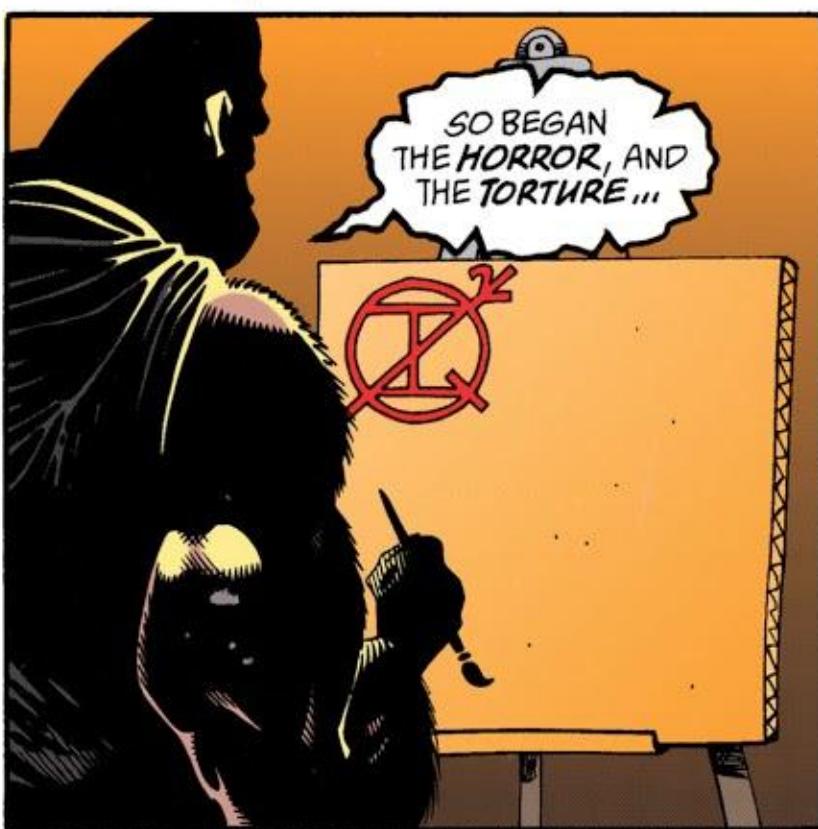
--HARDLY TAKES  
A GENIUS TO ESTABLISH  
THE CAUSE OF DEATH,  
SERGEANT BULLOCK...

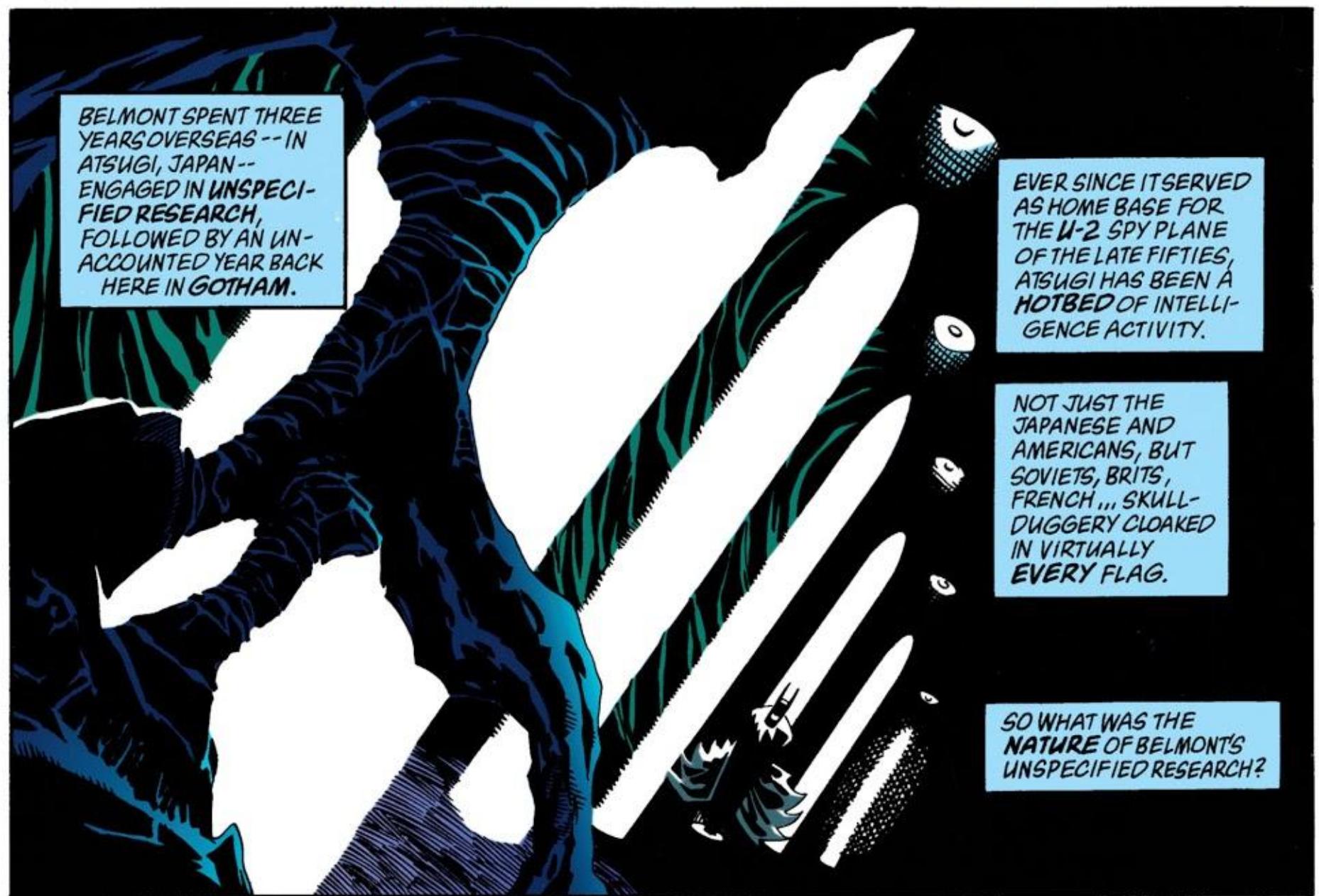














CHAPTER  
FIVE

# MAN AND APE





ANOTHER  
DOCTOR,  
SIR...

...JUST DISCOVERED  
OUTSIDE HIS "TOWNHOUSE  
RESIDENCE IN THE EXCLU-  
SIVE BRIAR HILL  
SECTION."

I THOUGHT  
YOU SHOULD  
KNOW.

-- JUST DON'T KNOW,  
COMMISH-- NAME'S CHOPRA  
AND HE LIVED HERE, BUT  
HE WAS MURDERED ELSE-  
WHERE, THEN DUMPED.

OH?

SAME M.O. AS THE FIRST DOC--  
ELECTRODE IN THE SKULL--AND THERE  
AIN'T NO POWER SOCKETS OUT HERE  
...BUT I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO  
COME TO THE SCENE PERSONALLY.

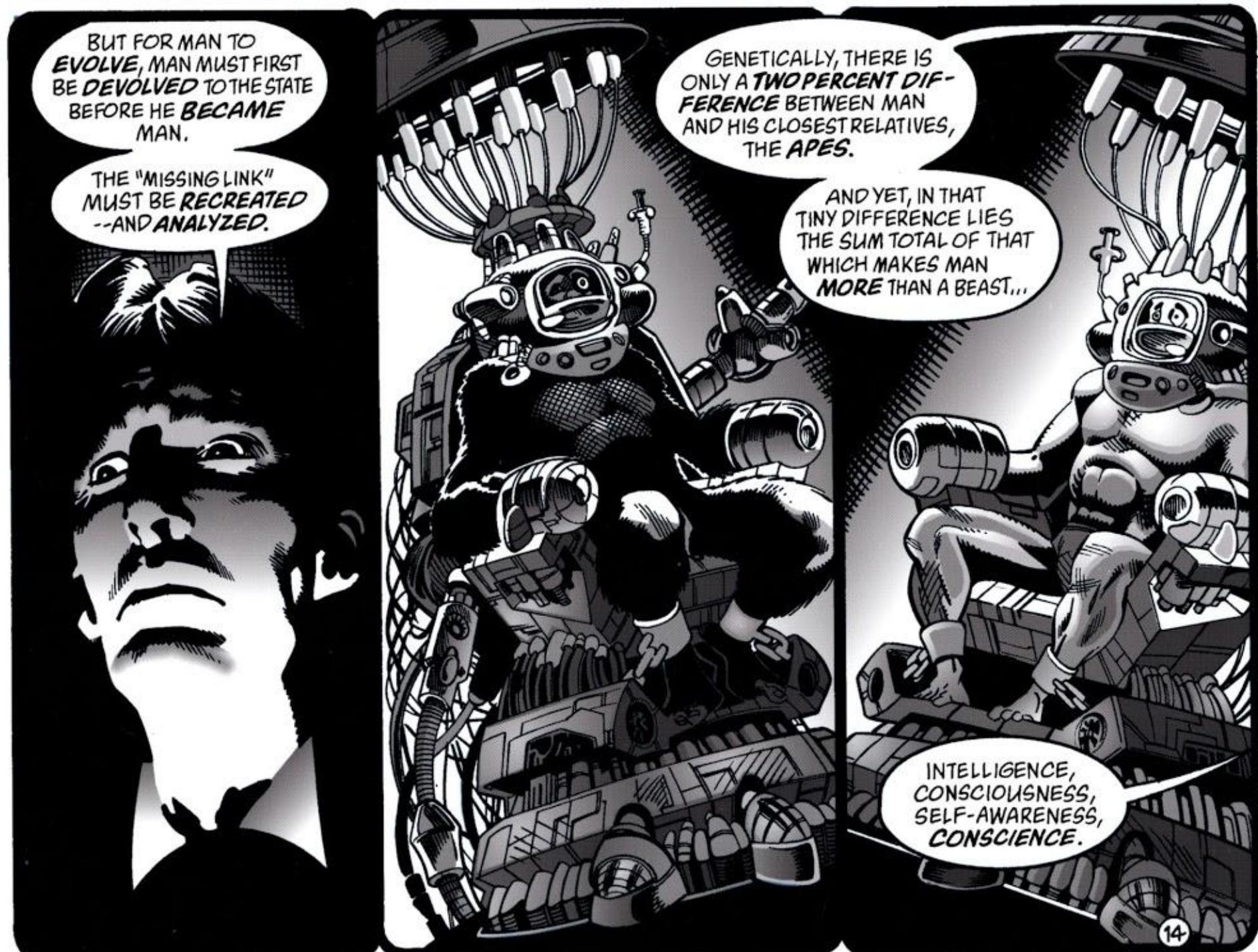
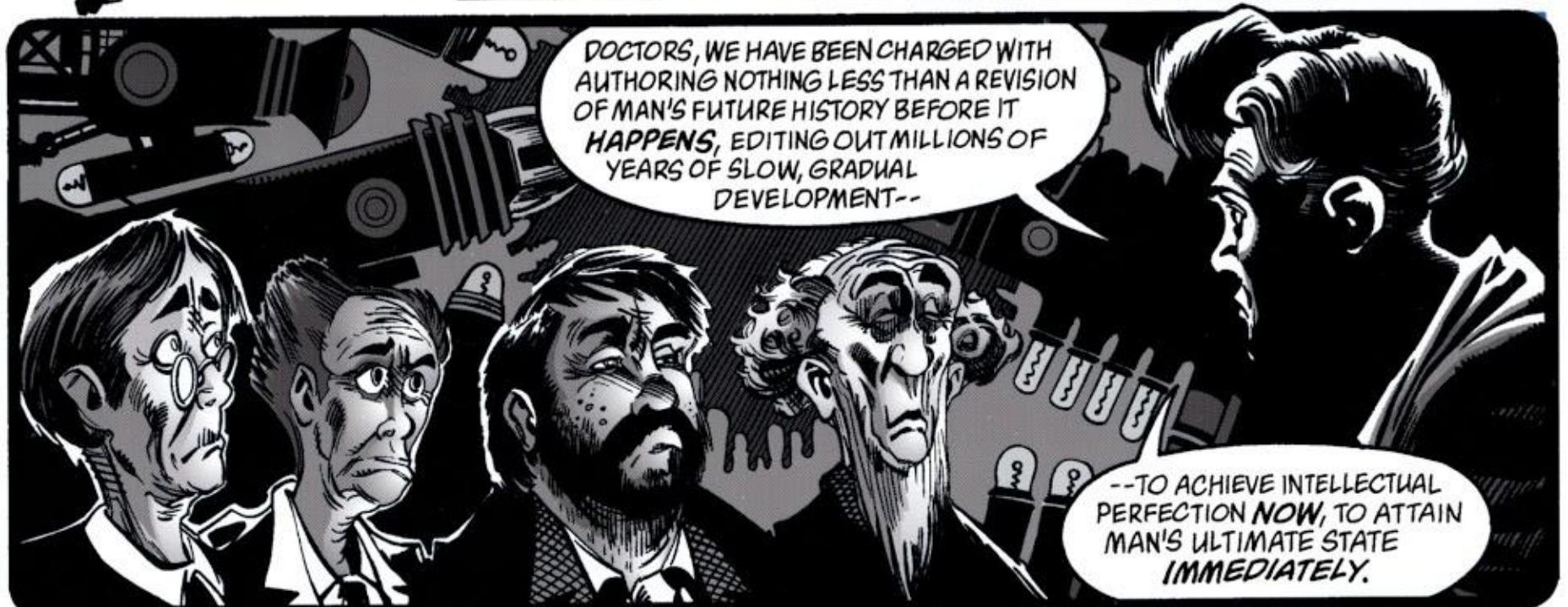
"WE'RE NOW  
DEALING WITH  
A SERIAL  
KILLER, SGT.  
BULLOCK--"

KLITCH

--WHOSE VICTIMS  
ARE EXTREMELY PROMINENT  
CITIZENS.

BUT MAYBE  
DIRTY AS SIN.

# CHAPTER SEVEN: OGRE'S EVOLUTION



WE MUST IDENTIFY, ISOLATE, AND  
UNDERSTAND THIS CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE  
--SO THAT ENHANCED EVOLUTION...MAY  
BE STIMULATED, WHETHER IN EVOLVED  
APE OR DEVOLVED MAN.

AND NOW,  
DOCTORS...SHALL  
WE BEGIN?

AND BEGIN THEY DID,  
MY BROTHER.

THEY "WORKED"  
ON US, JAMMING US  
FULL-THROTTLE  
THROUGH THEIR  
"MIRACULOUS"  
HELL.

AND MONTHS  
LATER, WHEN THEY  
FINALLY ALLOWED  
THE DRUGS TO  
WEAR OFF...

RNF?  
IN THE NAME OF  
HEAVEN...WHAT HAVE  
THEY DONE TO MEEE?!

"AND WHEN ONE OF  
THEM ENTERED--"

MAN-  
APE,  
APE-  
MAN?

"--THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM WAS  
ENOUGH TO DRIVE ME MAD."

NO...MORE...

KRINK!  
THE CH-  
CHAINS!

"WE COULD HAVE SLAIN ONE OF THE DEMONS THEN AND THERE--"



"WE WERE NOTHING BUT INTELLIGENT ANIMALS, THINKING ONLY OF ESCAPE, PAUSING ONLY TO GRAB WHAT WE COULD ON THE WAY OUT--RECORDS, AND A MEDICAL BAG."



"AND THEN, KNOWING THEIR FACES, POSSESSING THEIR NAMES, ESCAPE WE DID..."

"...FLEEING INTO THE NIGHT, BACK TO THE WORLD I'D KNOWN WHEN I WAS HUMAN..."



"...TO STREETS NOW ALIEN TO BOTH OF US...AND TO THIS GARRET, OUR NEW HOME."



AND NOW THE HOME OF SOMETHING ELSE... AN EVOLVING WORK IN PROGRESS...

THE ART...OF VENGEANCE.



THE SECOND VICTIM--DR. REN CHOPRA, SPECIALIST IN "INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH"--DID NOT HAVE AN OFFICE IN BELMONT'S BUILDING, BUT HE DID SPEND TIME IN ATSUGI, MARKING BOTH MURDERS WITH THE FINGER-PRINTS OF INTELLIGENCE...

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### HARDBACK'S HIEROGLYPHICS

...AND THE SAME SYMBOL AT BOTH SCENES CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE.

GORDON?  
WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW ABOUT  
GRAFFITI?

NOT MUCH...  
BUT I CAN MEET  
YOU ON THE ROOF  
WITH AN EXPERT.

THIS IS SERGEANT  
MACKENZIE "HARDBACK"  
BOCK, A COP WHO  
READS.

TELL HIM  
ABOUT YOUR  
GRAFFITI  
FINDINGS,  
SERGEANT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT  
SEEING HIM--HE'S THERE,  
IN THE SHADOWS, AND HE  
CAN SEE AND HEAR YOU  
JUST FINE.

NOW  
TELL  
HIM.

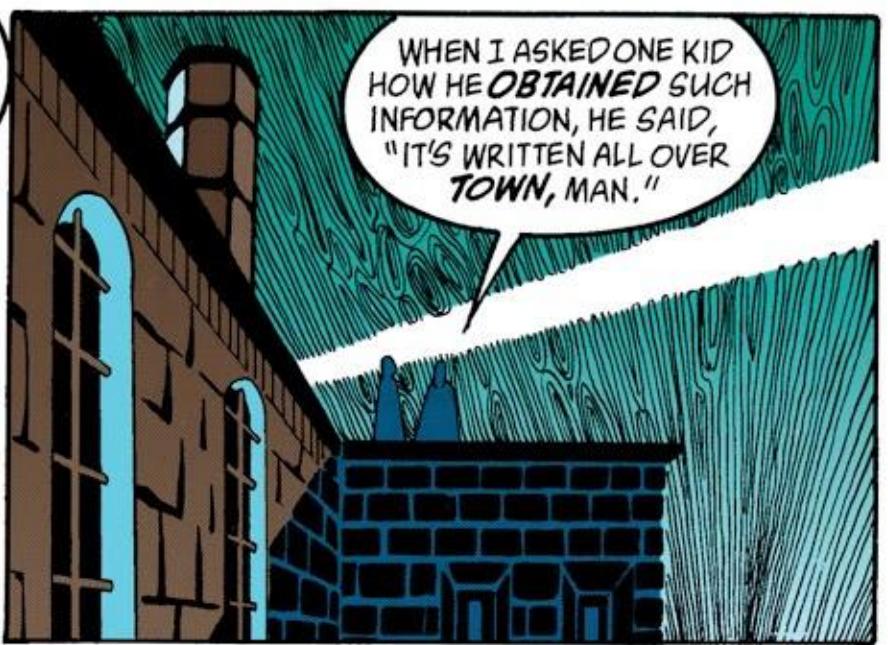
AH... VERY WELL,  
COMMISSIONER...

BUT...  
I...

FIRST OF ALL... RATHER  
THAN URBAN ART ON BRICK CANVAS,  
I'M CONVINCED THAT SOME OF THIS  
IS A FORM OF MODERN HIEROGLYPH-  
ICS--A WAY OF RECORDING DEEDS,  
BRAGGING, EVEN SENDING  
MESSAGES.

THE STREETS ARE  
A "JUNGLE," AND GRAFFITI  
IS A PRIMITIVE BUT EFFECTIVE  
FORM OF COMMUNICATION  
IN THAT MILIEU--

--A HIGHLY DECORATIVE  
CODIFICATION OF BESTIAL  
URGES, GESTURES,  
IMPULSES...





ONE DAY, NEW BENAVIDES "BOY B" SCRUALS BEGAN APPEARING ON TOP OF "235" TAGS, OFTEN OBLITERATING THE OLDER GRAFFITI.

THIS IS THE SUPREME "DISS" AND NEVER TAKEN LIGHTLY, ESPECIALLY IF THE GRAFFITI ARTISTS ARE ALSO DRUG DEALERS MARKING TURF.

IN THIS CASE, RETALIATION WAS SWIFT--AND WHILE GRAFFITI SYMBOLS ARE USUALLY FAR MORE ARCANES, THIS CARTOONY BULLET SEEMED OBVIOUS...



...AND INDEED, TWO NIGHTS LATER, BENITO BENAVIDES WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH.

WE LEARNED THAT "235" WAS ONE DARYL JACKSON--ARRESTED WITH A GUN STILL IN HIS WAISTBAND...



...AND OUR BALLISTICS LAB FOUND A PERFECT MATCH WITH THE SLUG TAKEN FROM THE BODY OF BENITO BENAVIDES, A.K.A. "BOY B."

HE'D BEEN WARNED.



even months later,  
still haunted by  
dreams and  
nightmares of  
Project Mirakle.  
Where will it  
end??

A REFERENCE TO  
POE'S "MURDERS  
IN THE RUE  
MORGUE" --  
THE STORY OF  
A MAN WHO  
INCREASED  
THE INTELLI-  
GENCE OF  
AN APE...

...AND WHO USED  
THATAPE TO COMMIT  
MURDER.

SO THE SYMBOL MIGHT  
MAKE PERFECT SENSE...

## CHAPTER TEN GORILLAS of GOTHAM

...EVEN IF AN  
APE DOESN'T.

GRF!

STUBBORN  
LOCK JUST WON'T  
GIVE...

TP  
TP  
TP

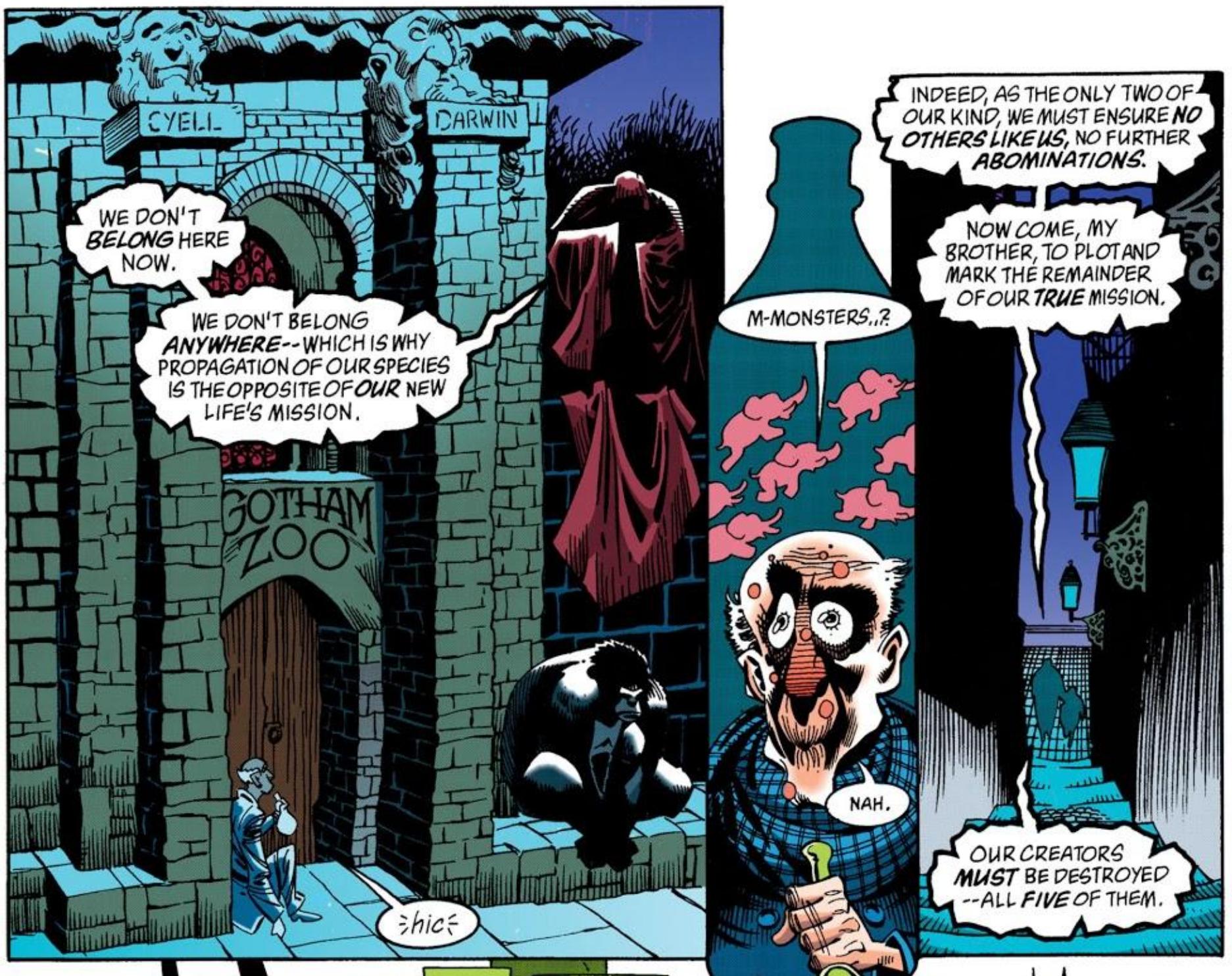
EH--?

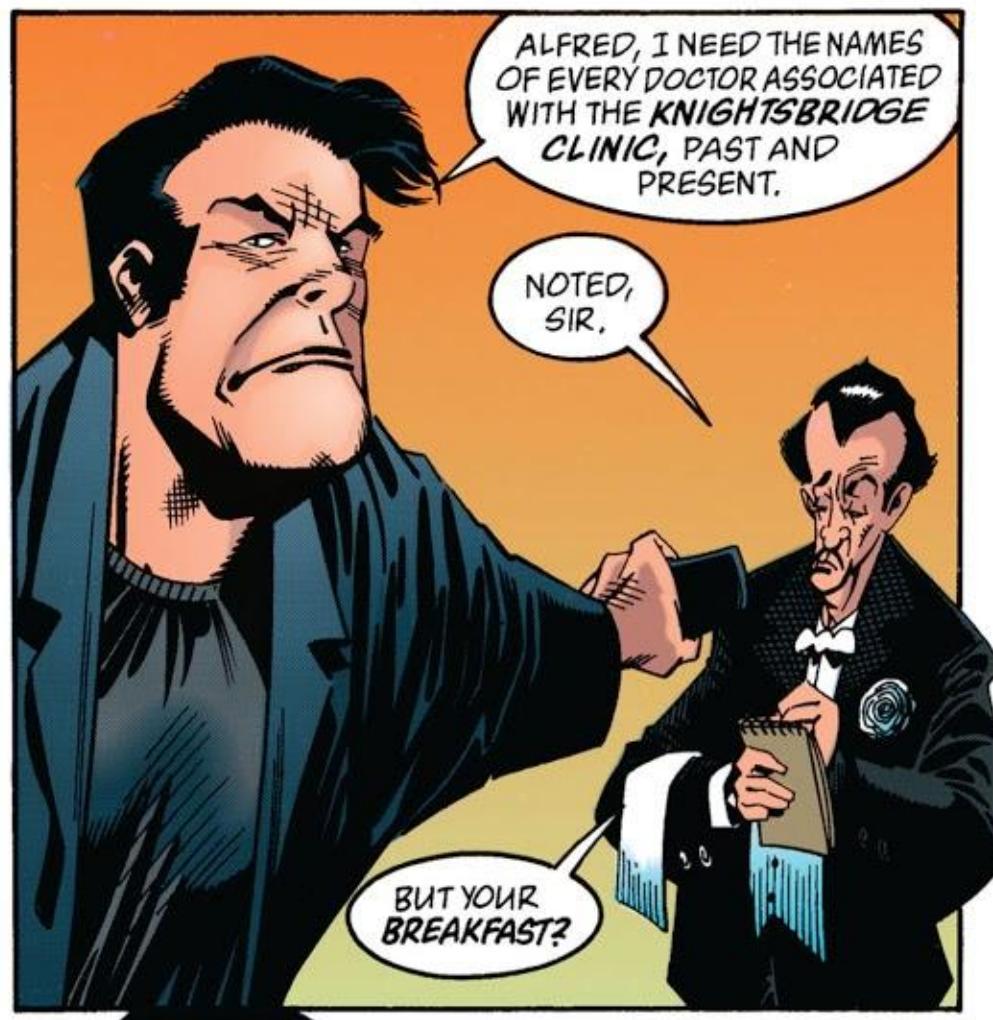
MFF!

OH, YOU  
THINK YOU CAN  
DO BETTER?

FAT CHANCE,  
BROTHER...

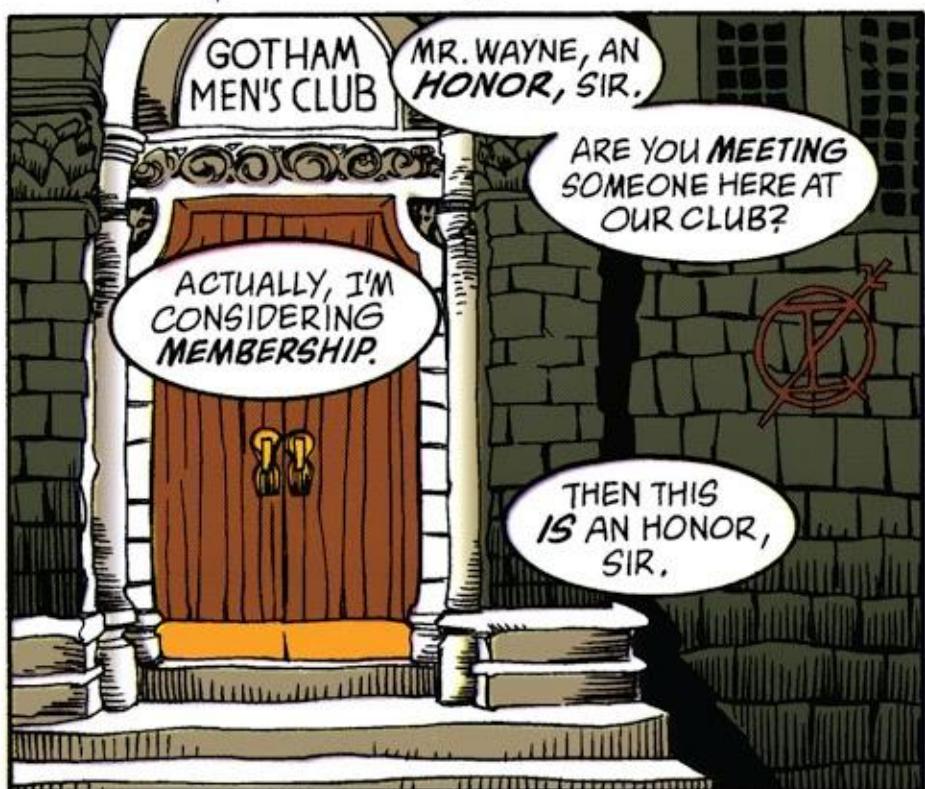






## CHAPTER TWELVE

# GENTLEMEN of GOTHAM



OURS IS A VERY  
DEMOCRATIC CLUB,  
MR. WAYNE, WITH  
MEMBERS FROM THE  
LEGAL AND MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONS.

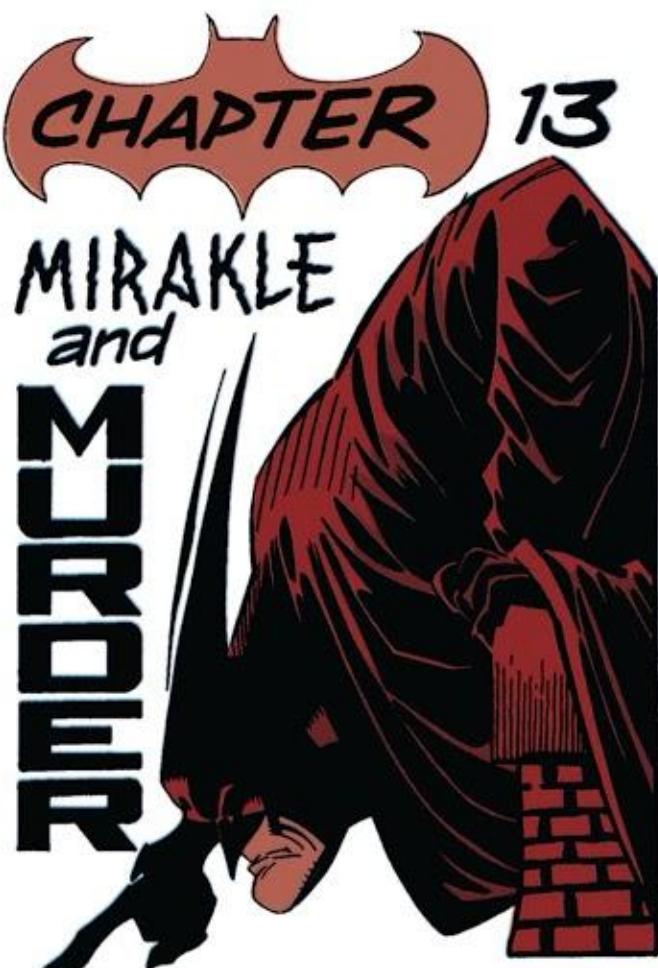
EXCELLENT--BUT MIGHT  
I STUDY YOUR ACTUAL  
MEMBERSHIP LIST  
BEFORE MAKING MY  
DECISION?

NIGHT:

CLUB MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES  
ONE DOCTOR WHO WAS ALSO  
A MEMBER OF THE MYSTERIOUS  
ATSUGI TEAM...

MOST CERTAINLY,  
MR. WAYNE--FEEL FREE  
TO MAKE YOURSELF  
COMFORTABLE WHILE  
I OBTAIN A COPY  
FOR YOU.

JARED BARZINSKI--  
A GENETICIST.



"YES, MY BROTHER...  
MOZART AWAITS."

AND THERE--  
ON THE ROOF...

THE MURDERER IS AN  
APE--KILLING DOCTORS  
LINKED BY A SECRET  
FROM ATSUGI.

...THE POE STORY  
MADE REAL--  
AND SURREAL.

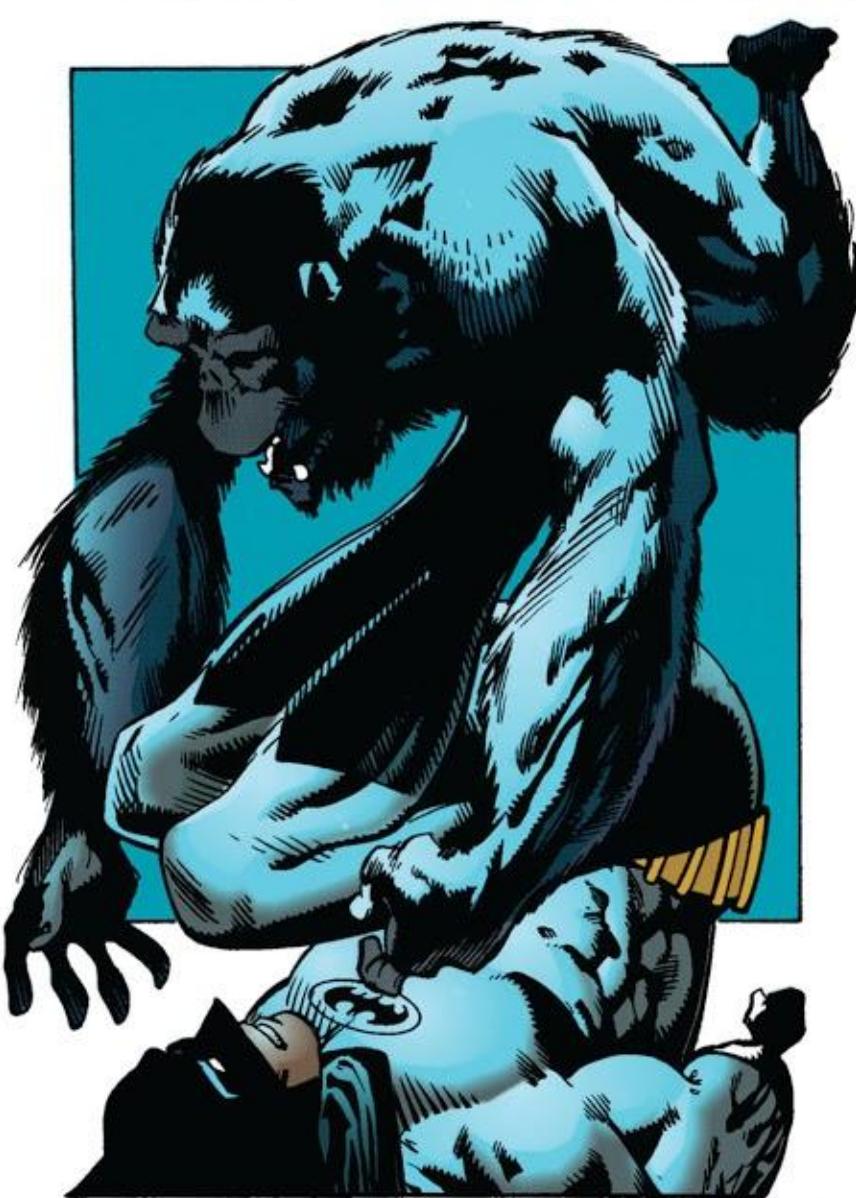
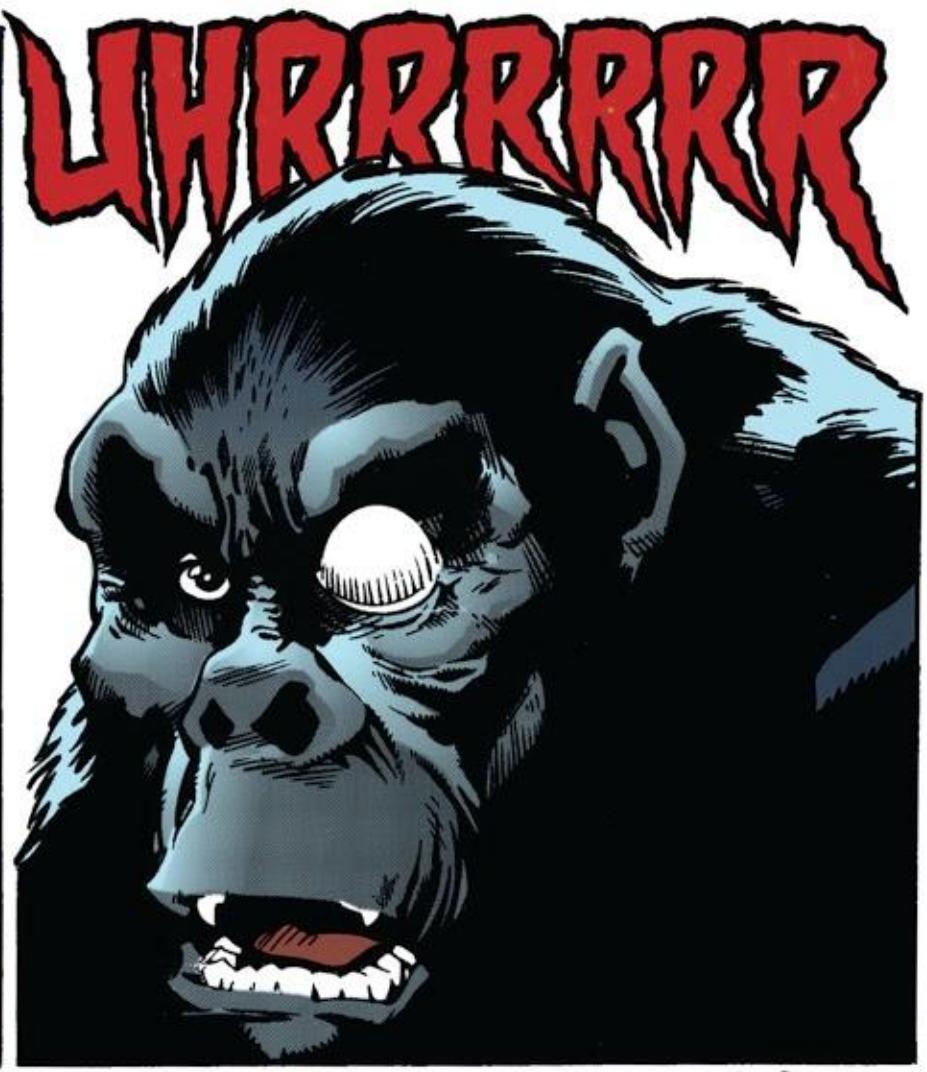
SAME SYMBOL ON THE  
WALL--MARKING ANOTHER  
VICTIM, ANNOUNCING  
ANOTHER DEATH.

HE'S LEAVING, NOT ENTERING --  
TOO LATE TO SAVE BARZINSKI.

...IS HE OR IT THE  
APE'S MASTER?

BUT WHOEVER OR WHAT-  
EVER "MIRACLE" MAYBE...

**ROWMP?**



BUT HE IS  
A BEAST.

OR THE  
THICKNESS  
OF HIS  
SKULL.

SHUMA

CHUFT

NO WAY TO MATCH HIS  
STRENGTH AND SPEED.

FEINT A KICK.  
LET HIM CATCH  
IT.

LOWER HIS  
GUARD.

RELY ON SIMILARITY  
TO HUMAN ANATOMY.

PRESSURE POINT IN  
NECK--YES, HE'S  
SAGGING...

CHUT

...AND--

TWO  
APES?

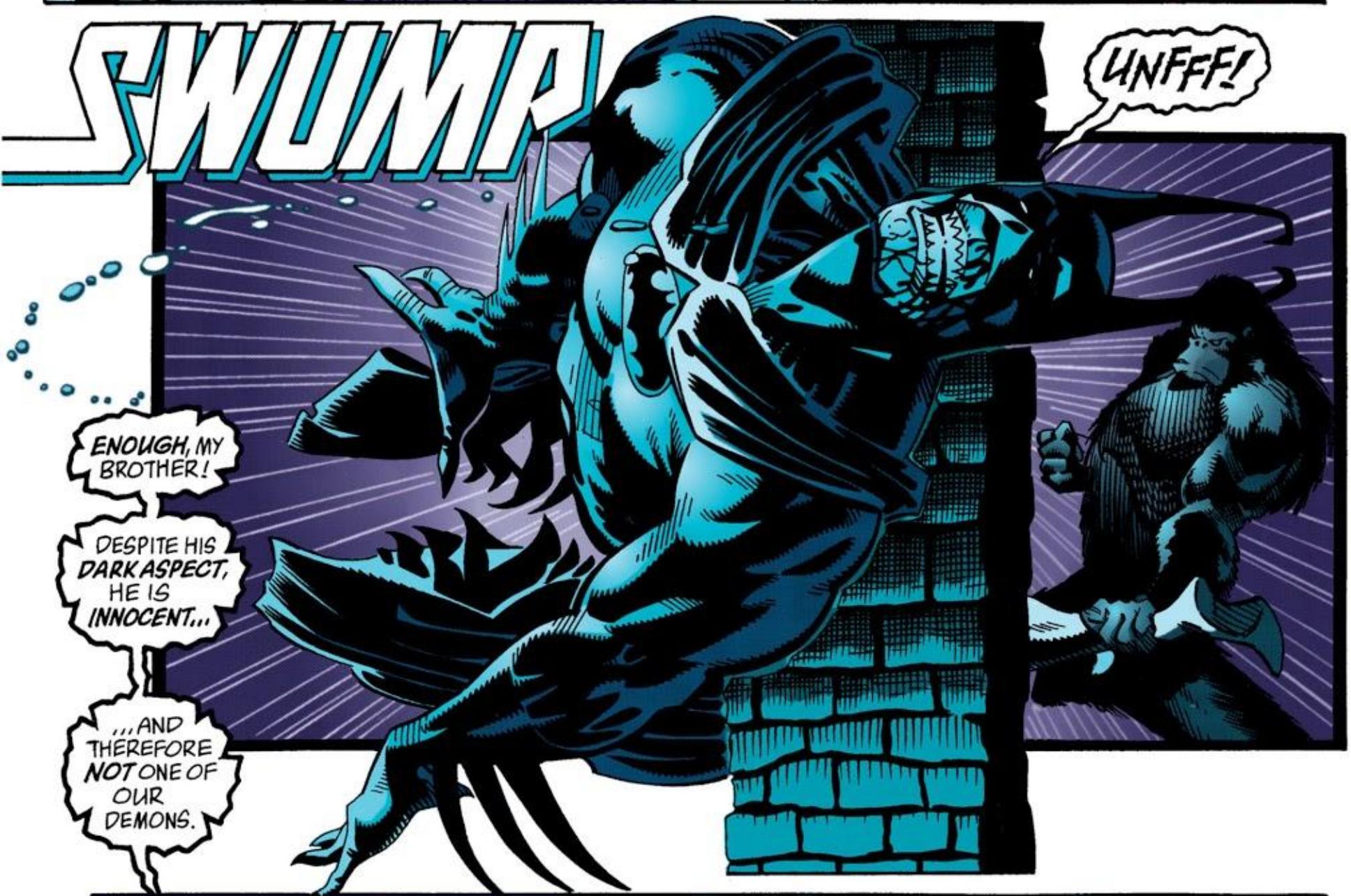
WHY  
HAVE YOU  
INTER-  
FERED?

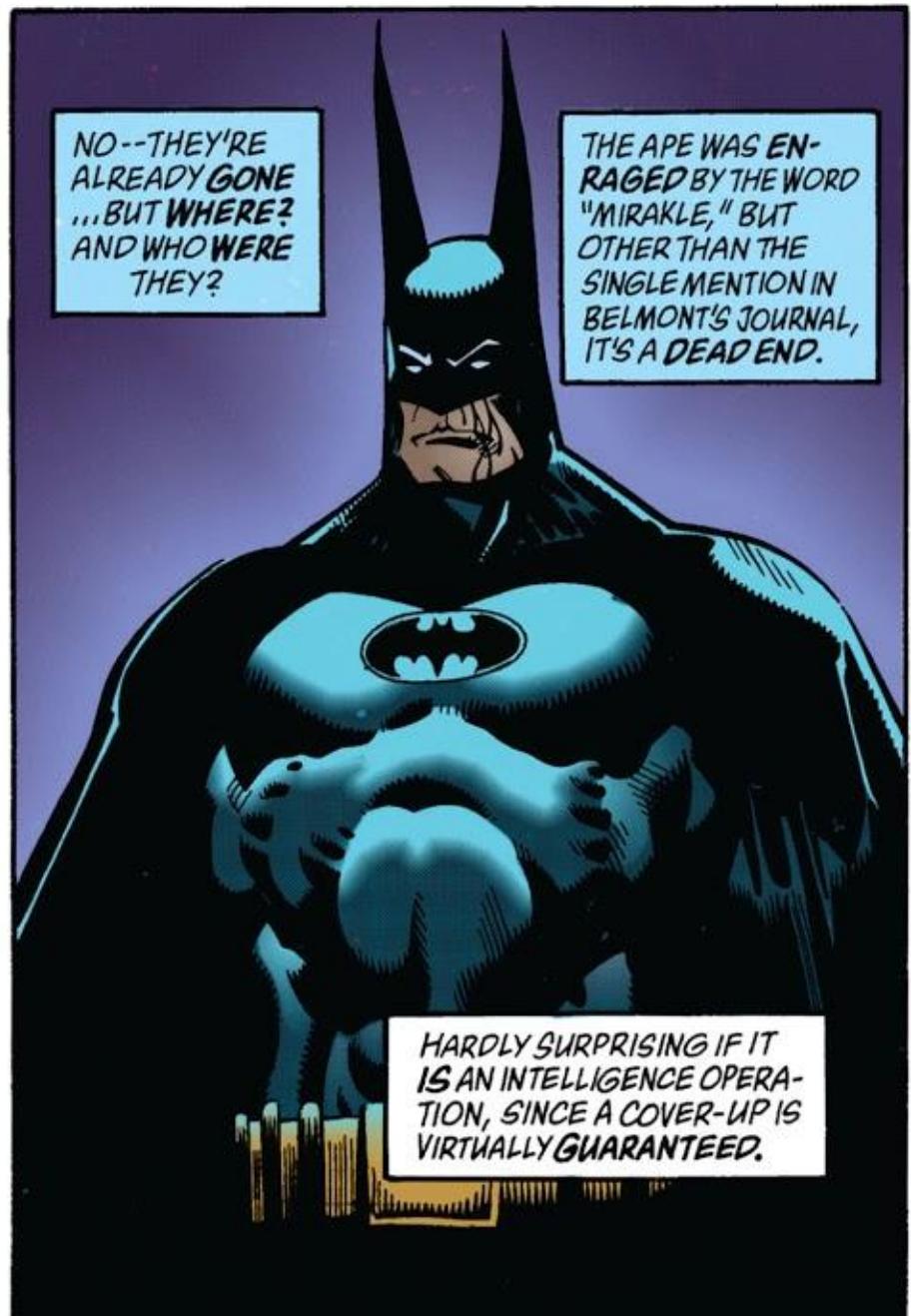
NO--THIS ONE  
IS HUMAN...

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

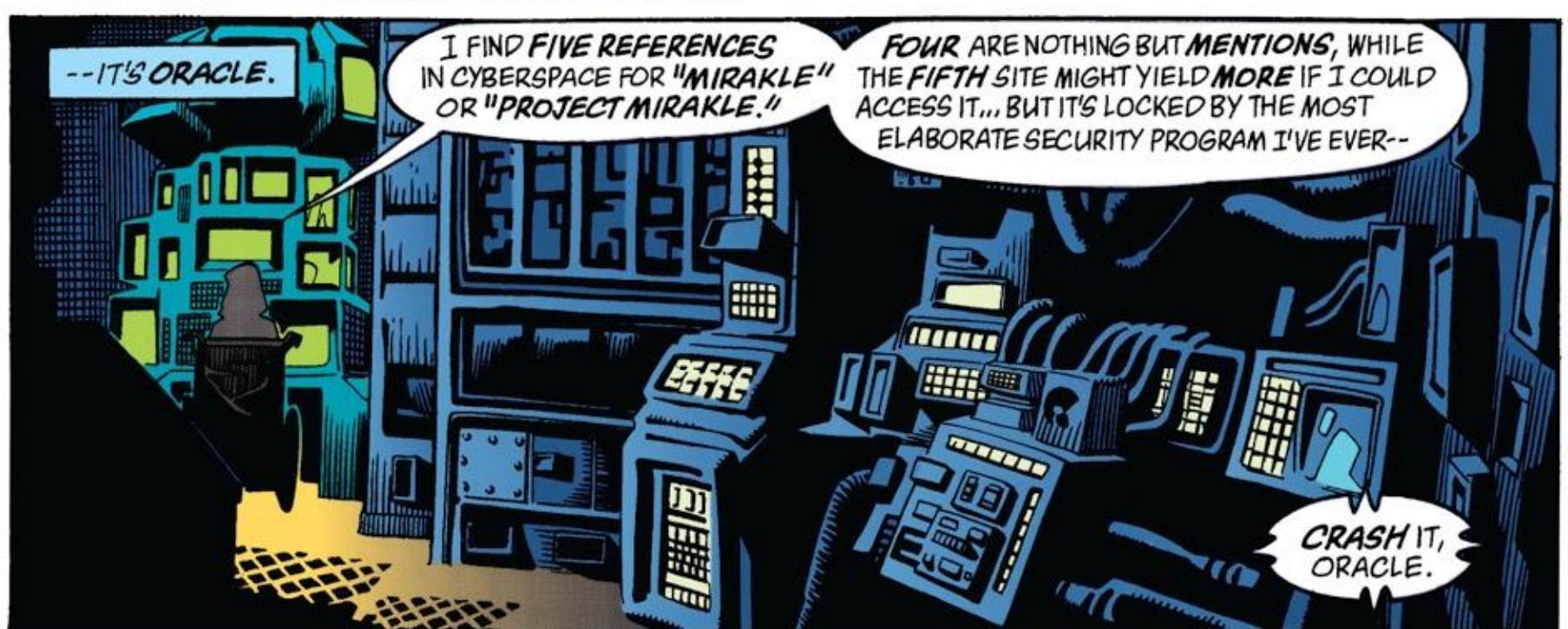
YOU HAVE  
NO ROLE IN  
THIS DARK  
DRAMA.

WE ARE  
BROTHERS--  
BY MAKING, NOT  
BIRTH...





## CHAPTER FOURTEEN ERASURES AND ADDITIONS





## CHAPTER 15

### THE ORACLE'S ADVICE

PRINTOUT OF "PROJECT MIRAKLE," SHOWING WHY THE OTHER FOUR MENTIONS WERE SANITIZED--AND A SEPARATE PRINTOUT OF ALL AVAILABLE DATA ON MICHAEL ADAMS.

HOW DOES THIS ADAMS FIT IN, ORACLE?

YOU'LL... SEE.

AND WHOSE FILES ARE THESE?

WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER KNOW.

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY DATA BANK, BUT NSA WAS MERELY KEEPING TABS ON WHOEVER RAN THE OPERATION FROM DEEP COVER.

IT'S...HORRIFYING.

HER VOICE IS DEAD, DULL, ON THE VERGE OF CRACKING -- AND SMALL WONDER.

"PROJECT MIRAKLE" IS OR WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A BLACK BUDGET PROGRAM OF SYSTEMATIC TORTURE AND MURDER WITH A MAD OBJECTIVE...

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HUMAN AND APE SUBJECTS  
FORCED THROUGH "DEVOLUTION"  
AND "ENHANCED HYPER-  
EVOLUTION"... TO INCREASE  
BRAIN CAPACITY AND EVEN  
"PSYCHIC POWERS" IN THE CREATION  
OF A "PERFECT INTELLIGENCE  
AGENT"...

APE HORMONES AND  
ENZYMEs INJECTED INTO  
HUMANS AND VICE VERSA...  
STEROIDS, RADIO-ISOTOPES,  
ELECTRO-STIMULATION OF  
BRAIN AREAS... EVEN  
ATTEMPTED EUGENICS,  
WITH APE GENES SPliced  
INTO HUMAN DNA AS  
WELL AS THE REVERSE ...

ALL HUMAN VICTIMS CHOSEN FOR  
ANONYMITY... NO FAMILY OR FRIENDS,  
NO ONE TO ASK QUESTIONS SHOULD  
THE SUBJECTS "DISAPPEAR"... AS  
THEY INEVITABLY DID...

FAILURE RATE OF 100% SPANNING 22  
SUBJECTS, 22 HIDEOUS DEATHS IN THE  
NAME OF "SCIENCE," UNTIL SUBJECT 23--  
MICHAEL ADAMS--MANAGED TO ESCAPE  
BEFORE THE "FINAL PROCEDURE"...

...WHEREUPON "PROJECT MIRAKLE"  
WAS FINALLY AND IMMEDIATELY SHUT  
DOWN--OR SHIFTED TO SOME OTHER  
SECRET AEGIS.

SO ADAMS WAS THE GROTESQUE MAN ON  
THE ROOF--THE "OGRE"--AND HE AND  
HIS FELLOW ESCAPEE, THE APE, HAVE  
BECOME AVENGERS... THE ONLY  
POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT FOR FIVE GOULS  
PROTECTED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL ...

KANG  
CH



## CHAPTER 16

### MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

ONLY TWO OF THE FIVE LEFT--GOULD AND MALMSTADT --AND ACCORDING TO ALFRED, BRAIN SPECIALIST MALMSTADT WAS ONCE AFFILIATED WITH THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE CLINIC.

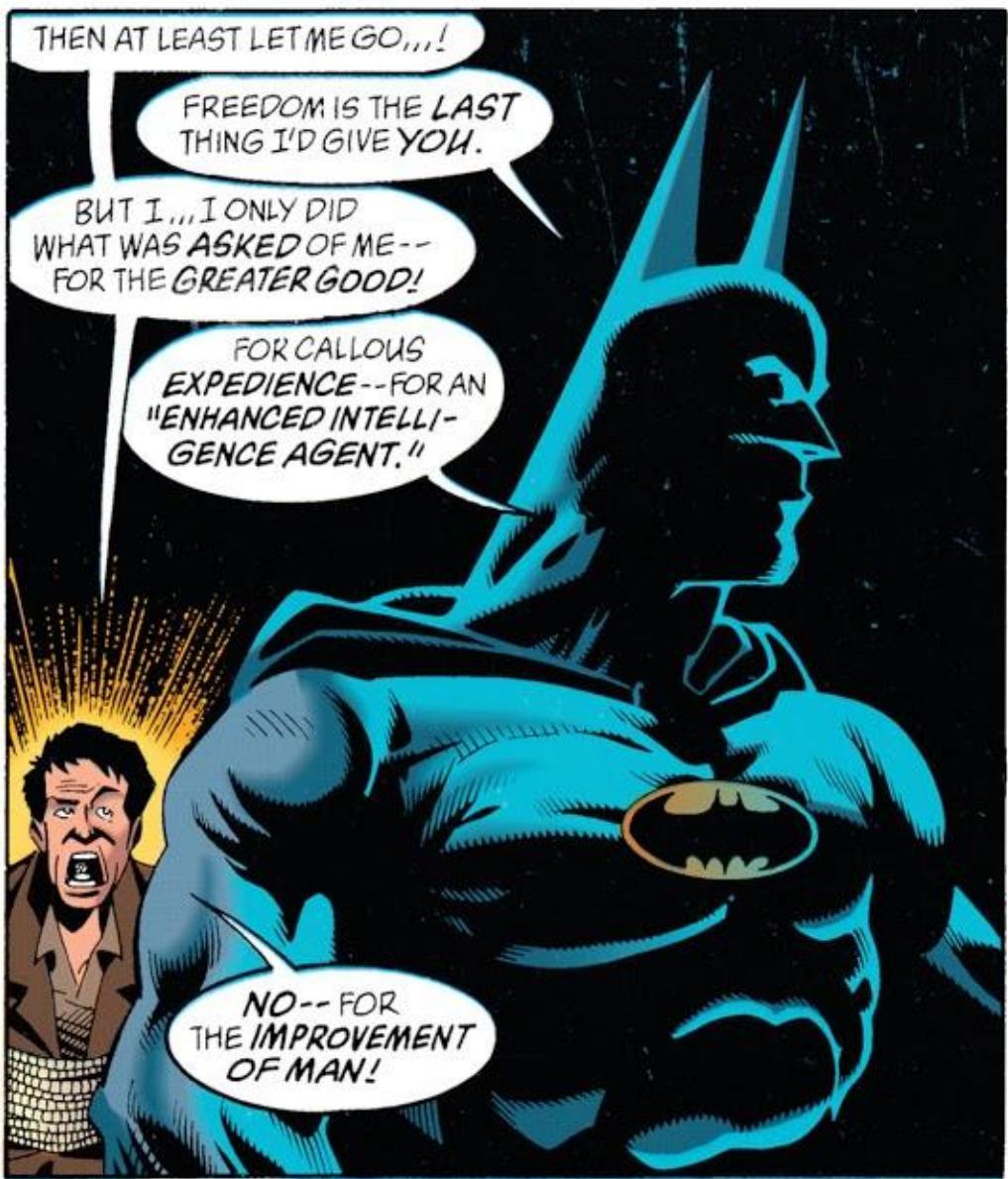
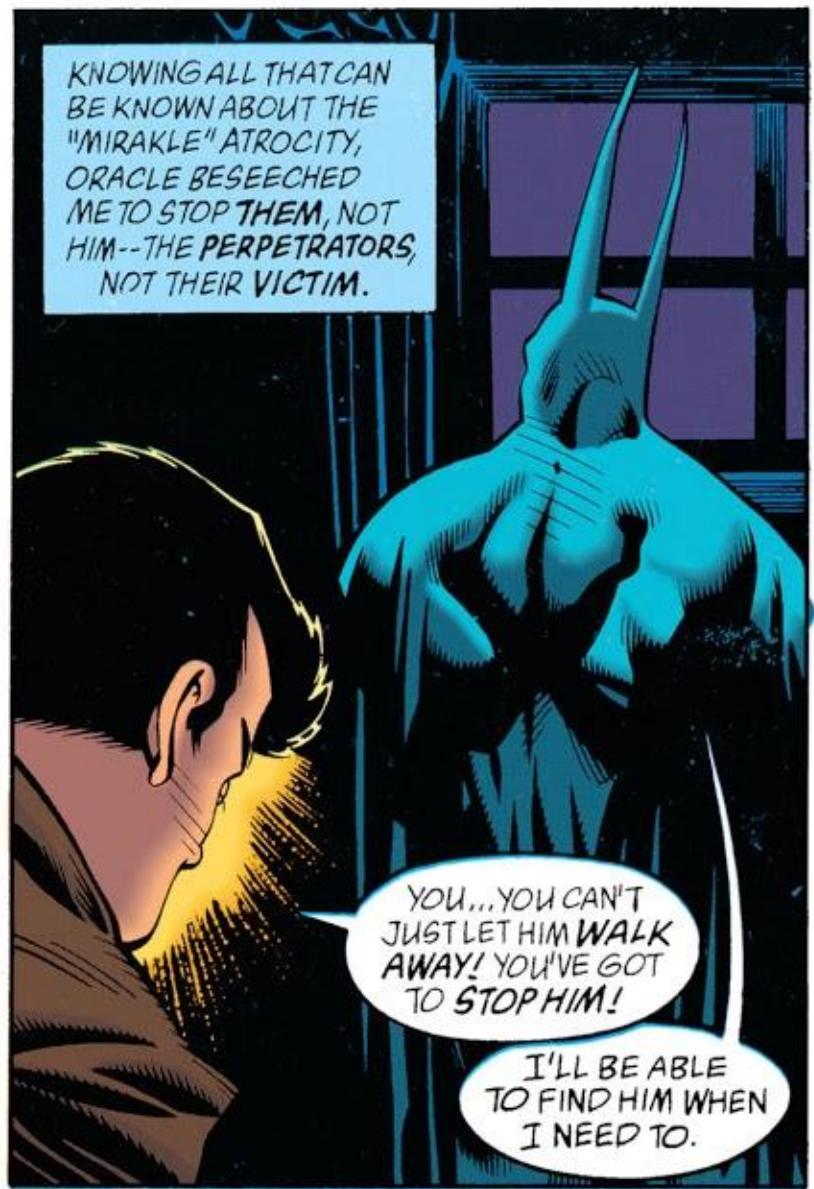
HIS HOME IS CLOSER...















**novus**  
Distributions