



BATMAN®

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BY THE
COMICS
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NO. 575
MAR '00

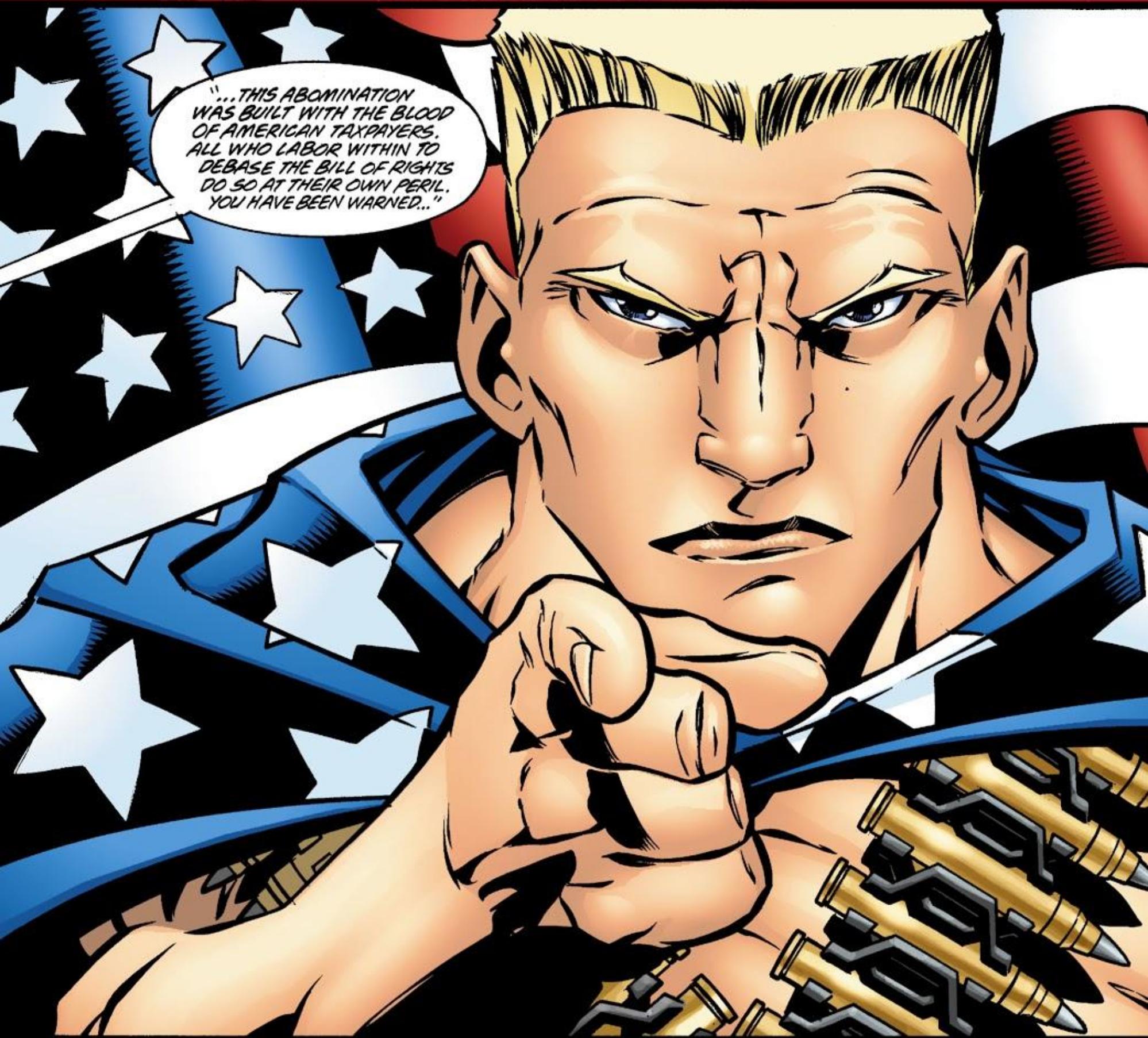
HAMA
McDANIEL
STORY



McDANIEL

dccomics.com

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE



LARRY HAMA-writer SCOTT McDANIEL-pencil KARL STORY-inker
JOHN COSTANZA-letterer ROBERTA TEWES-colorist WILDSTORM FX-separations
JOSEPH ILUDGE-associate editor DENNIS O'NEIL-editor BATMAN created by BOB KANE



HEAVILY ARMED
TREASURY AGENTS
PATROL THE GROUNDS
24 HOURS A DAY.

IF THIS BANNER PSYCHO
SO MUCH AS SHOWS HIS UGLY
FACE WITHIN A MILE OF HERE,
WE'LL DROP HIM TO HALF
MAST AND PLAY TAPS.

A COMPANY OF MARINES
COULDN'T STOP A DETERMINED
FANATIC WITH A CAR BOMB
IN BEIRUT.

THEY WERE HOBBLED
BY RIDICULOUS RULES OF
ENGAGEMENT. I HAVE AN
OPEN SANCTION TO SHOOT
THE BANNER ON SIGHT.

"NO MAN'S LAND" IS
HISTORY, BATMAN. THE
FEDS ARE BACK IN GOTHAM
AND WE'RE RUNNING A
TIGHT SHIP. THIS BUILDING
IS THE CENTERPIECE OF A
NEW RECONSTRUCTED
GOTHAM.

FRANKLY, WE DON'T
APPROVE OF YOUR BRAND
OF VIGILANTISM, UN-
OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED
AS IT IS BY LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT.

WHERE WOULD WE BE
IF EVERY CITIZEN DECIDED TO
TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN
HANDS AND PROWL THE STREETS
IN A CAPE AND COWL?

IF EVERY CITIZEN FELT THAT
MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAW
AND ORDER THERE WOULDN'T
BE ANY NEED FOR EITHER
OF US.



GENTLEMEN,
I LOVE MY COUNTRY,
BUT IT HAS COME
TO THIS.

I WAS BORN
HERE IN GOTHAM AND
I OWNED A SMALL
BUSINESS THAT I
INHERITED FROM MY
FATHER.



WHEN EVERYTHING FELL APART HERE, I
DECIDED TO STAY. I WANTED TO TRY TO
SALVAGE WHAT I COULD. I THOUGHT
THAT IF ENOUGH GOOD LAW-ABIDING
PEOPLE STAYED, WE COULD MAKE
A DIFFERENCE.

I WAS WRONG BECAUSE
AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF
AMERICANS HAS BEEN SPOILED
AND CORRUPTED BY A WRONG-
HEADED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT
IS ITSELF CORRUPTED AND DEBASED!

I WAS
WRONG.



THEY LEFT US HERE TO
ROT BECAUSE THEY HAD NEITHER
THE COURAGE NOR THE MORAL
FIBER TO DO THE RIGHT
THING!

NOW, THEY ARE BACK
AND WHAT IS THEIR SOLUTION
TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS? THEY
WANT TO RESCIND OUR BASIC
RIGHTS AS DELINEATED IN THE
FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS
TO OUR GLORIOUS
CONSTITUTION!

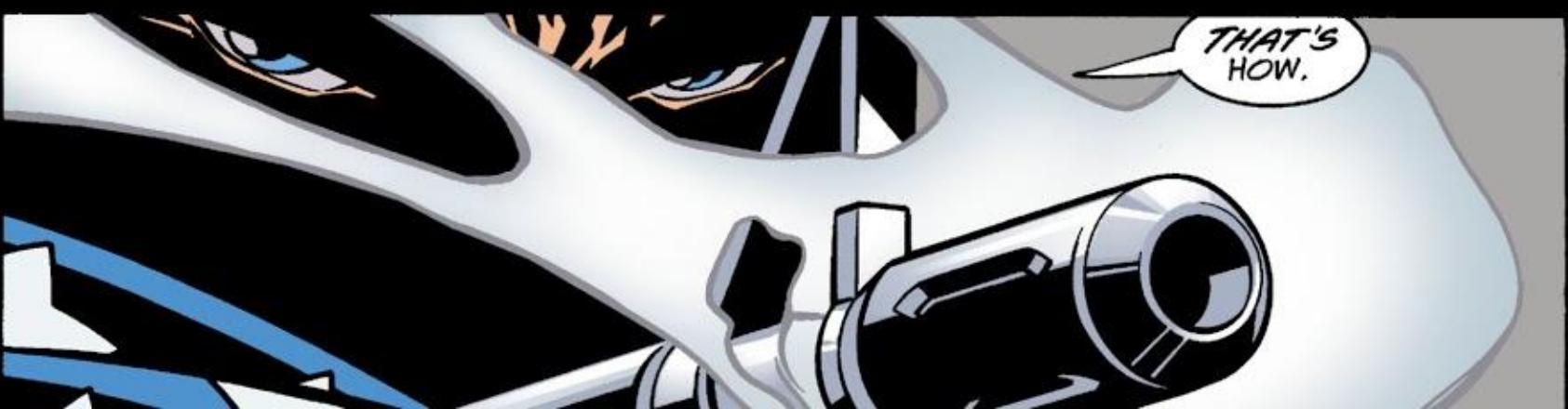
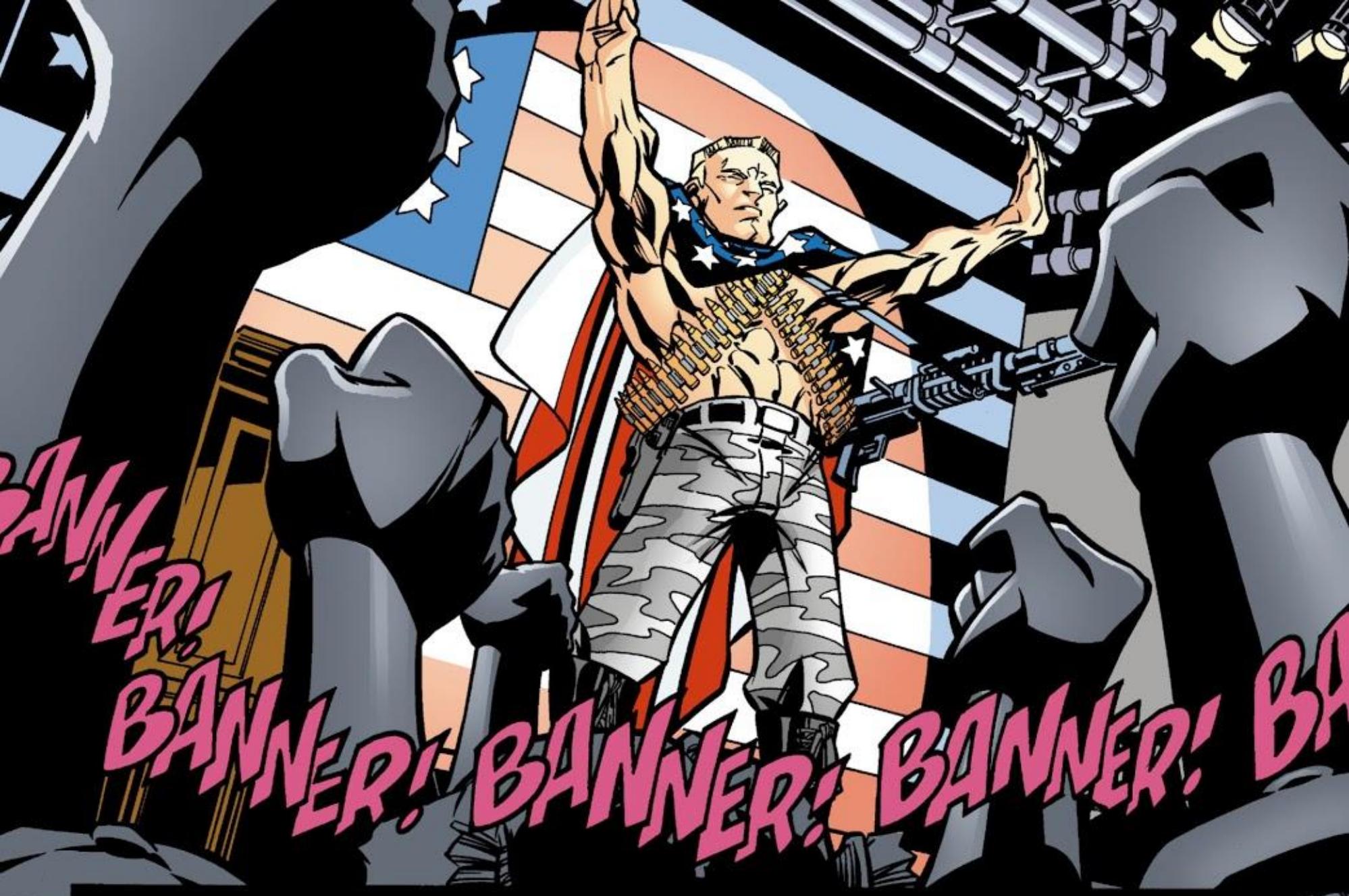


WHAT IS CENSORSHIP OTHER THAN
A FLAGRANT DILUTION OF THE FIRST
AMENDMENT? WHAT IS GUN CONTROL
OTHER THAN THE VIRTUAL
NULLIFICATION OF THE SECOND
AMENDMENT?

THE POLITICIANS, THE
WARD BOSSES, THE LAWYERS
AND THE SNAKE-OIL SALESMEN
WHO INFEST THE CAPITAL HAVE
TAKEN OUR HARD-EARNED
RIGHTS AND TRAMPLED THEM
IN THE MUD!



WELL, I AM HERE
TO TELL YOU THAT I AM
GOING TO GET THEM
ALL BACK!



THAT NIGHT,
IN THE NEW
GOTHAM RAPID
TRANSIT SYSTEM...

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
THIS STATION SHOULD BE
PACKED WITH THE AFTER-
THEATER CROWD AT
THIS TIME--

I TOLD THEM
ALL TO LEAVE.

PEOPLE TEND
TO OBEY A MAN
WITH A MACHINE
GUN.

SPECIAL
AGENT LEARY!
CODE TEN ALERT!
THE LOCAL COPS
ARE ON THE
SECURITY
CHANNEL ON
THE FM!

LIEUTENANT
BULLOCK? A SUBWAY
WAS HIJACKED? THERE
WAS A WITNESS?
PUT HER ON!!

IT WAS HIM! THAT BANNER WACKO! HE KICKED EVERYBODY OFF THE TRAIN AND TOOK OFF AT FULL THROTTLE! HE BLEW UP THE SWITCHING STATION SO WE CAN'T EVEN SHUNT HIM OFF THE MAIN LINE!

HE'S GONNA BE UNDER THE TRUMAN FEDERAL BUILDING IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES!

SHUT DOWN THE POWER!

WE CAN'T! THE WHOLE GRID WILL GO DOWN! OH, AND ONE OTHER THING-- BEFORE HE TOOK OFF, HE LOADED A DOZEN BIG OIL DRUMS ONTO THE FIRST CAR--

-- NOW, I WAS THINKING... DIDN'T THAT GUY IN OKLAHOMA CITY PACK HIS FUEL AIR EXPLOSIVES INTO OIL DRUMS?

IS THERE ANY PLACE ALONG THE TUNNEL THAT I CAN GET ON THE TRAIN?

THERE'S A CURVE IN THE TRACK BEFORE IT COMES INTO THE STATION. THE AUTOMATIC SENSORS WILL ACTIVATE THE BRAKES THERE--







THIS IS AGENT LEARY-- THE DRUMS IN THE TRAIN ARE EMPTY! THIS ATTACK MUST BE A DIVERSION!



THIS IS BATMAN.
I'VE BEEN MONITORING
YOUR GUARD CHANNEL.

IT'S A GOOD THING THE BANNER CHOSE NOW TO STRIKE OR THE BUILDING WOULD HAVE BEEN FULL OF WORKERS--



I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD HIT US DURING THE WORK DAY,
SO I SECRETLY REVERSED THE SHIFT SCHEDULES...



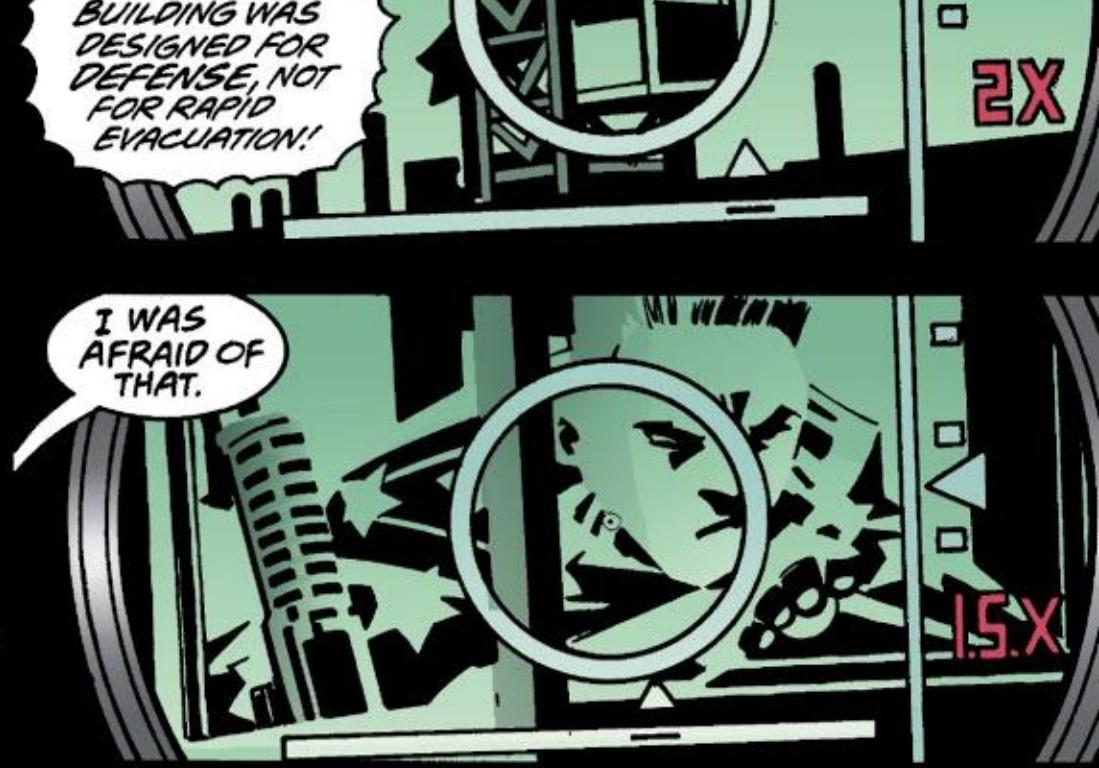
...THERE ARE OVER SIX HUNDRED AGENTS AND CIVILIAN WORKERS INSIDE THE BUILDING RIGHT NOW!



HOW FAST CAN YOU EVACUATE RIGHT NOW, LEARY?

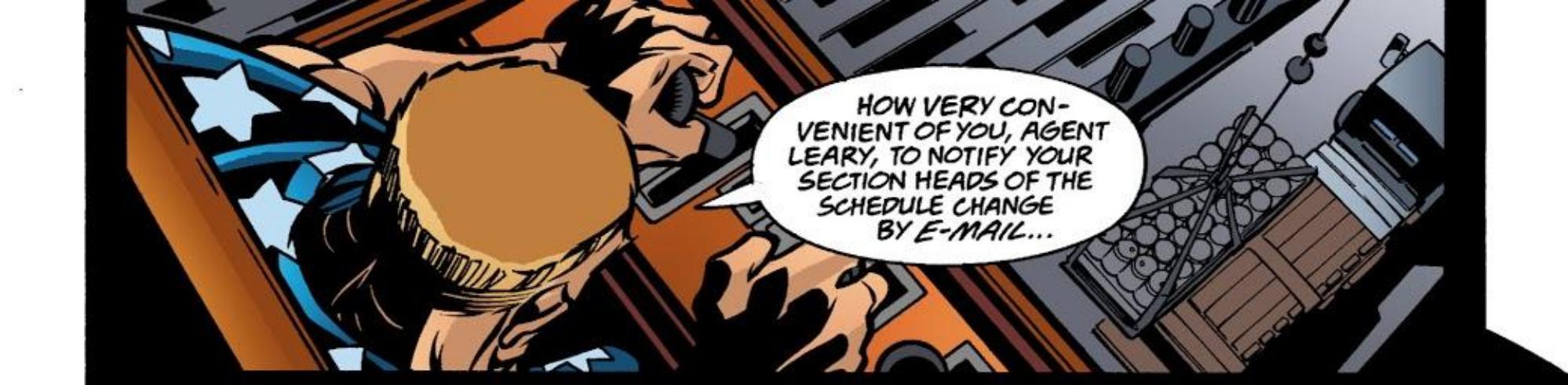
ARE YOU KIDDING? THE BUILDING WAS DESIGNED FOR DEFENSE, NOT FOR RAPID EVACUATION!

2X



I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.

15X



HOW VERY CONVENIENT OF YOU, AGENT LEARY, TO NOTIFY YOUR SECTION HEADS OF THE SCHEDULE CHANGE BY E-MAIL...



...ESPECIALLY AFTER I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF HACKING INTO YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM!



YOU WANTED TO KILL ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE?



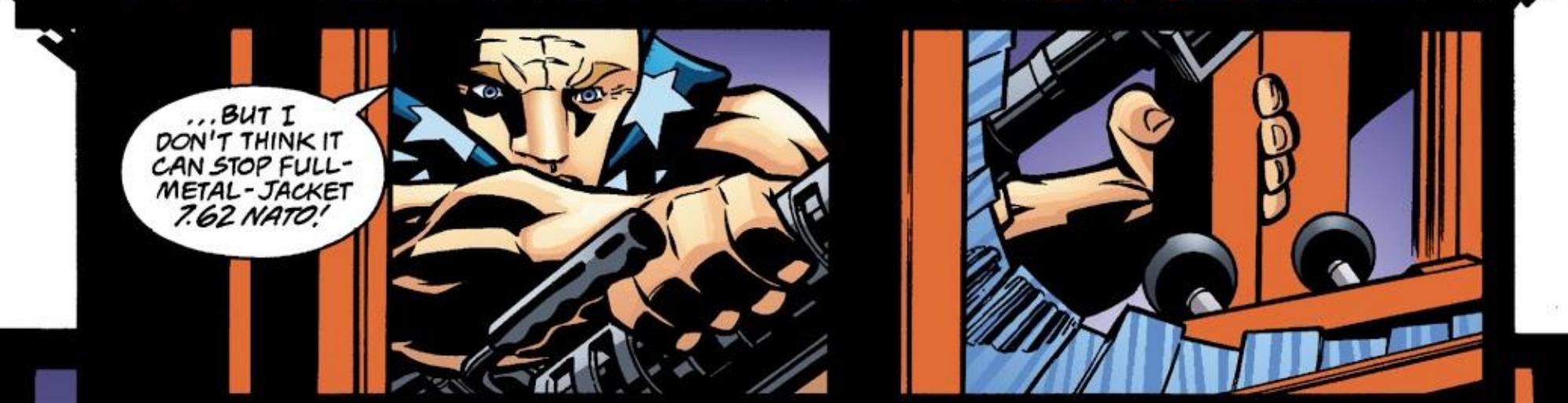
YOU REALLY ARE A MADMAN!



WAS JEFFERSON MAD? HE SAID, "THE TREE OF LIBERTY MUST BE WATERED FREQUENTLY WITH THE BLOOD OF PATRIOTS."



HE WAS REFERRING TO VOLUNTARY SACRIFICE, YOU MISGUIDED FOOL!





HE'S IN THE
CRANE ACROSS THE
STREET! HE'S SWINGING
A PALLET FULL OF OIL
DRUMS RIGHT
TOWARDS US--



WE'LL
SEE
ABOUT
THAT!

IF I CAN MAKE IT BLOW
BEFORE IT HITS THE WALL,
THEY MIGHT STAND
A CHANCE--

BLAMM!
BLAMM!
BLAMM!

WHAT
THE--?

PING!







THERE'S
ALWAYS ANOTHER
CHOICE IF YOU
THINK HARD
ENOUGH!



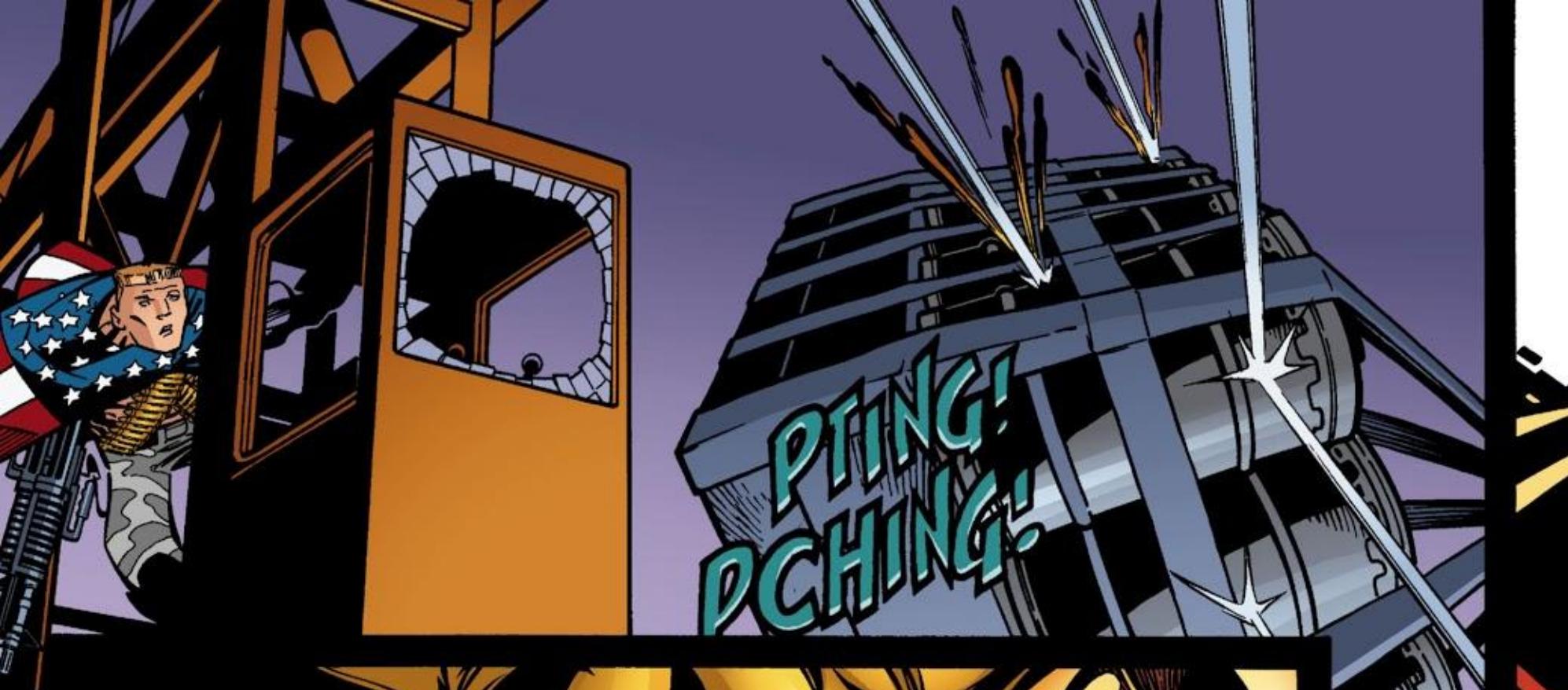
HA!
RIGHTEOUSNESS
WINS OUT IN
THE END!



BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM



I
COULDN'T
HAVE SAID
IT BETTER.



JUST
HOLD ME
UNTIL THE
END--

THE
END OF
WHAT?

OH! I
THOUGHT--
I MEAN--DON'T
GET ANY IDEAS
ABOUT WHAT
I SAID!

DON'T
WORRY, I
WON'T.





