



DC  
COMICS™

9

# NIGHT OF THE OWLS

# BATMAN

THE NEW 52!

SCOTT  
**SNYDER**  
GREG  
**CAPULLO**  
JONATHAN  
**GLAPION**  
RAFAEL  
**ALBUQUERQUE**

JUL 2012

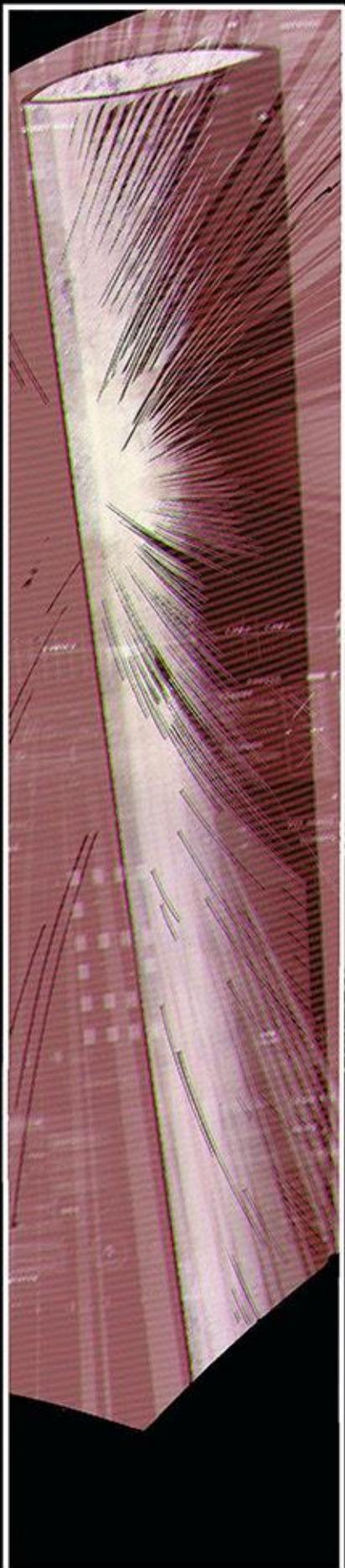
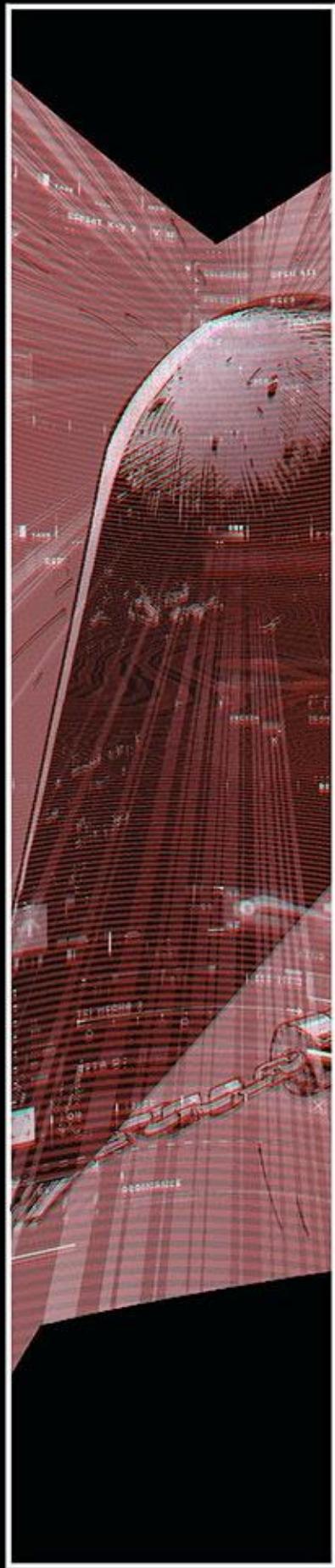
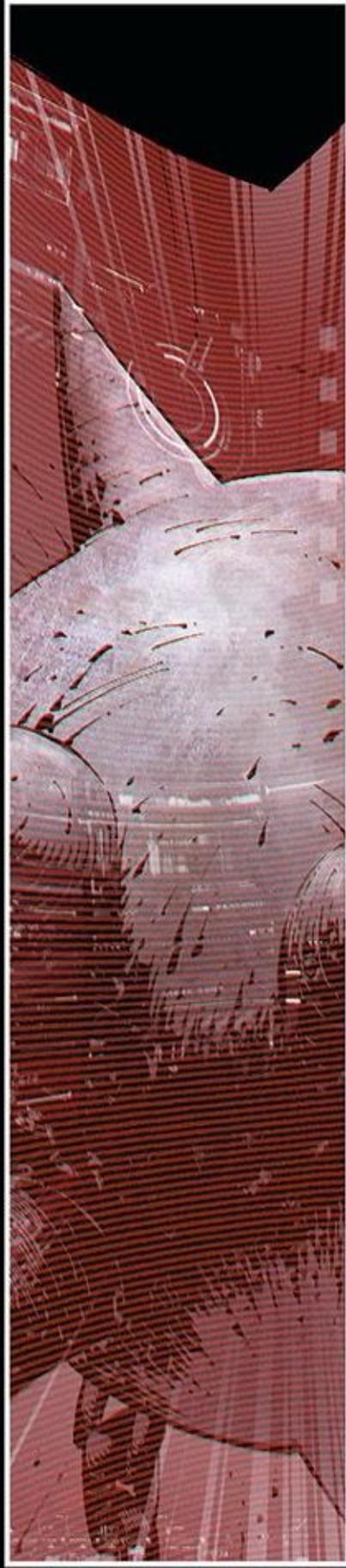
RATED T  
TEEN

Capullo  
12  
fco

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The First members  
of my family to live  
in the manor were  
Solomon and Joshua  
Wayne--brothers.  
They bought the  
house in 1855.

But they didn't  
move in until two  
years later.



The reason was bats.

A massive infestation  
of bats in the cave  
system beneath the land.

They brought in a chiroptologist  
from Gotham University, and  
according to him, to get rid of  
the bats, they'd have to introduce  
a predator into the cave.

So the Wayne brothers did.

They carted in all sorts of birds,  
from Peregrine Falcons to kestrels,  
and unleashed them in different  
sections of the cave.

The most effective killers of bats,  
though, were the tiger owls.

My ancestors let owls loose in the cave...

NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 7:51 PM...

...and within a year, all  
the bats were gone.

ALFRED. HOW  
ARE WE DOING ON  
TEMPERATURE?

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in

# NIGHT of the OWLS

I'M  
DROPPING IT  
AS FAST AS  
POSSIBLE,  
SIR.

SCOTT SNYDER   GREG CAPULLO   JONATHAN GLAPION  
writer   penciller   inker

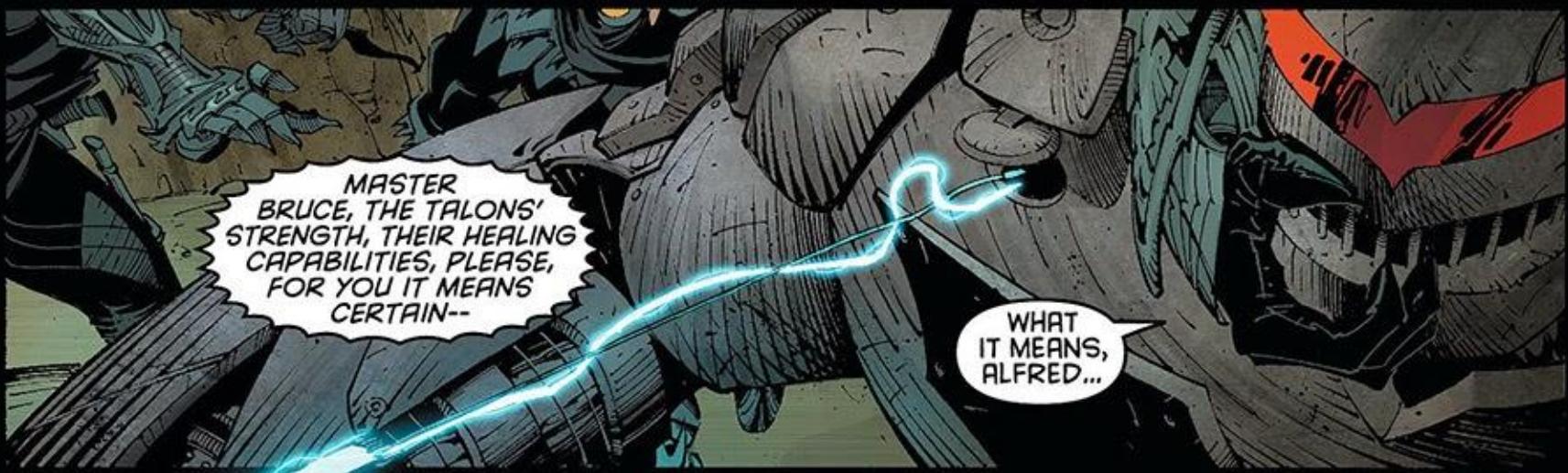
FCO  
PLASCENCIA   RICHARD STARKINGS and  
colorist   COMICRAFT'S JIMMY B  
lettering

KATIE KUBERT   MIKE MARTS  
asst. editor   editor

CAPULLO and  
FCO PLASCENCIA  
cover

DALE KEOWN and  
FCO PLASCENCIA  
variant cover

Batman created  
by  
BOB KANE



My suit is  
built for war.

It's made of meta-aramid  
fibers of my own design,  
tougher than Kevlar.

Made to withstand burning  
heat and freezing cold--  
temperatures as low as  
the Arctic winter.

It uses a semi-solid  
flow micro battery. It has  
enough oxygen for weeks.

Meaning, it's built for  
battle in the most alien  
territories on Earth.

And I'm wearing  
it here. In my  
own home.

COME  
ON!

I SAID  
COME ON, YOU  
UNDEAD SONS  
OF--

Alfred is right...

...they'll get through  
the suit, the Talons.

Because in a way,  
they already have.

CLANG

MASTER  
BRUCE!

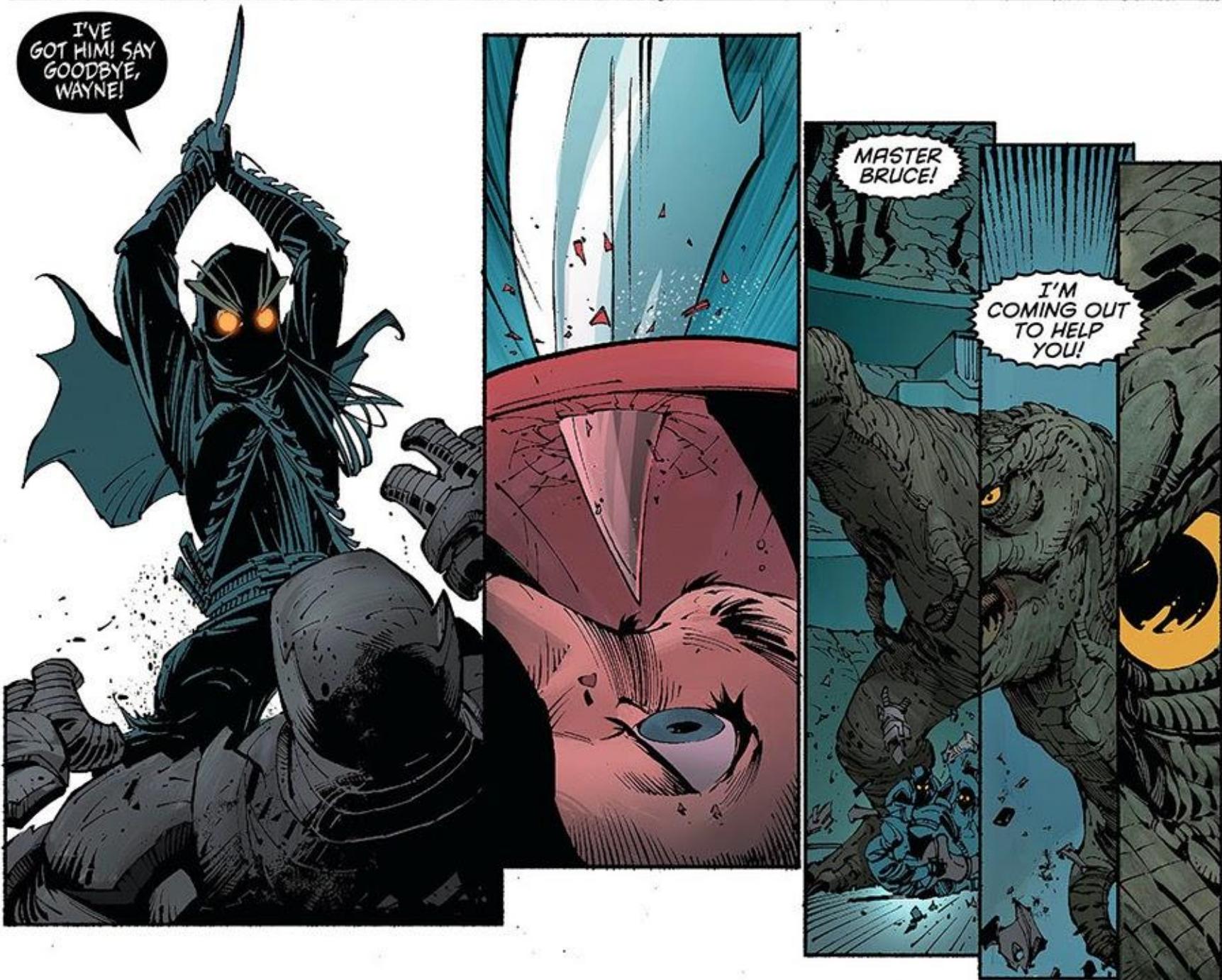
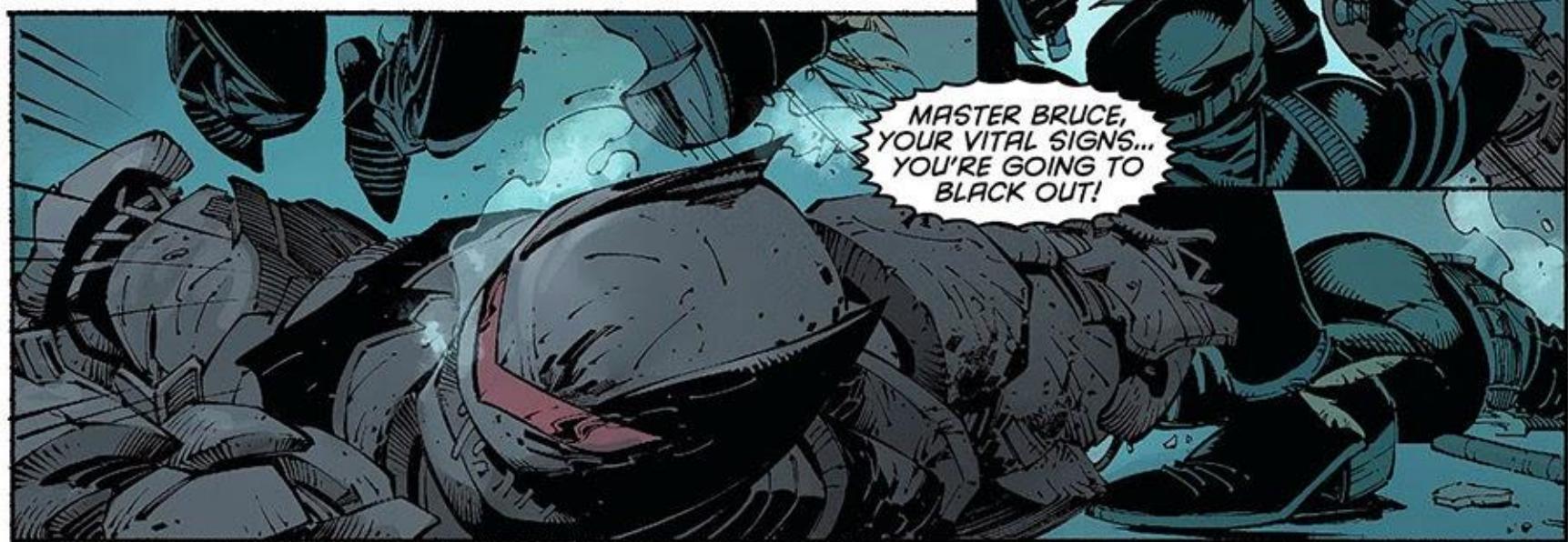
HE'S DOWN,  
BROTHERS!

WUMP

GET  
HIM!









...as soon as  
the owls left...

*...the bats...*

*...came back.*



Yes...

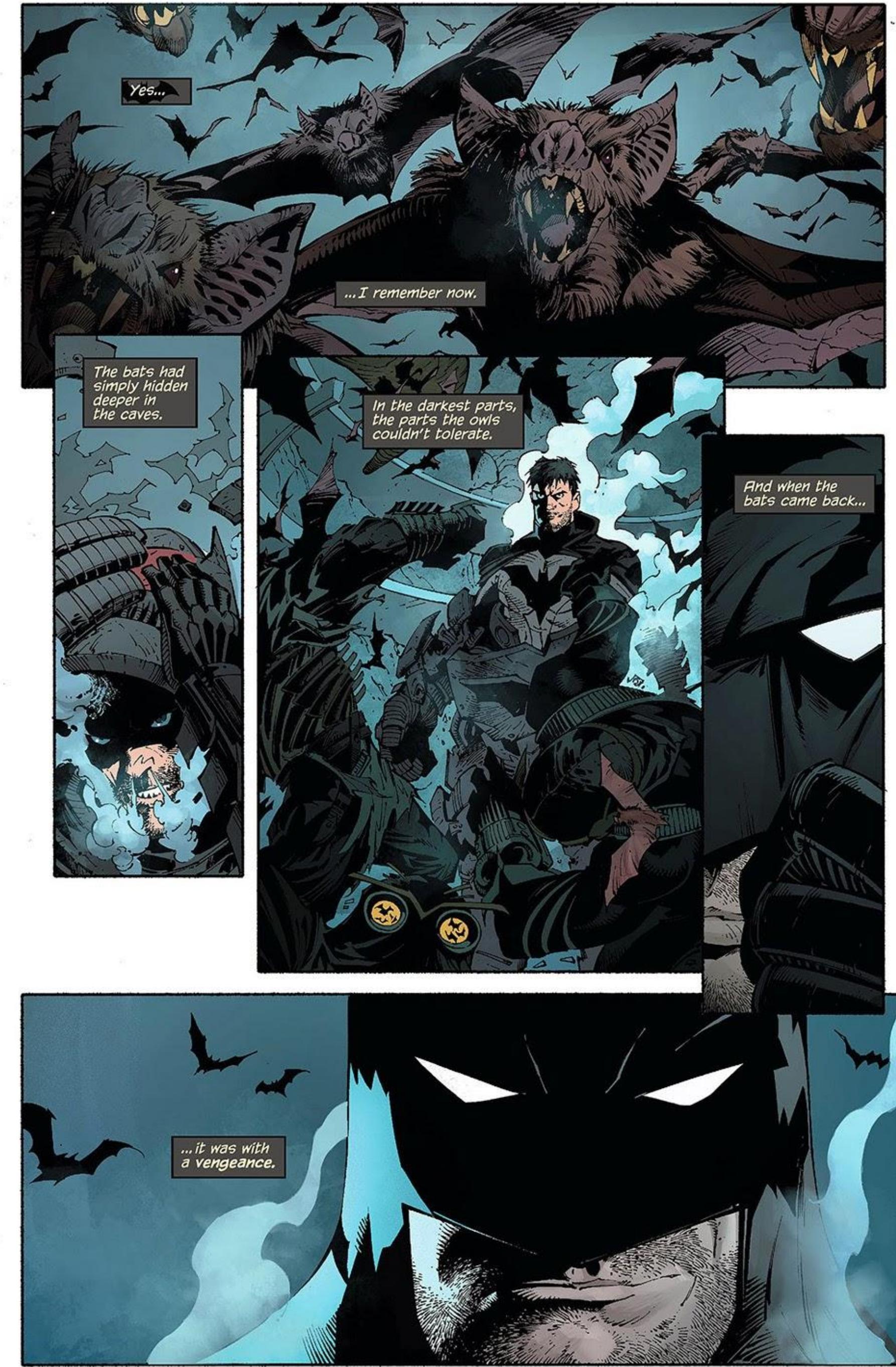
...I remember now.

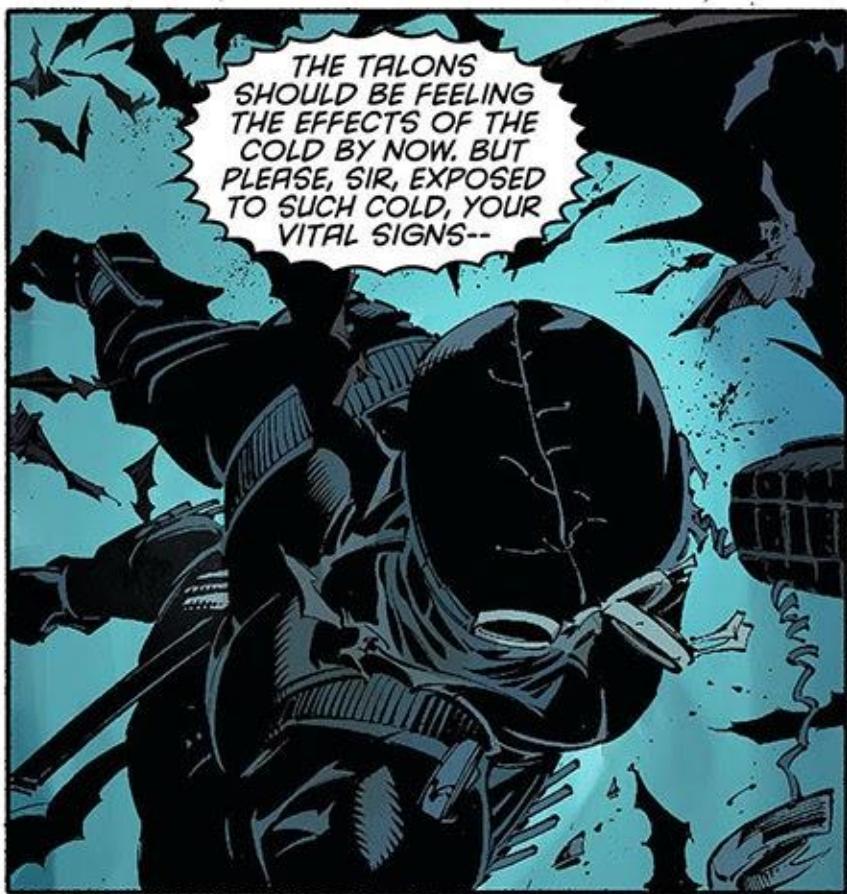
The bats had  
simply hidden  
deeper in  
the caves.

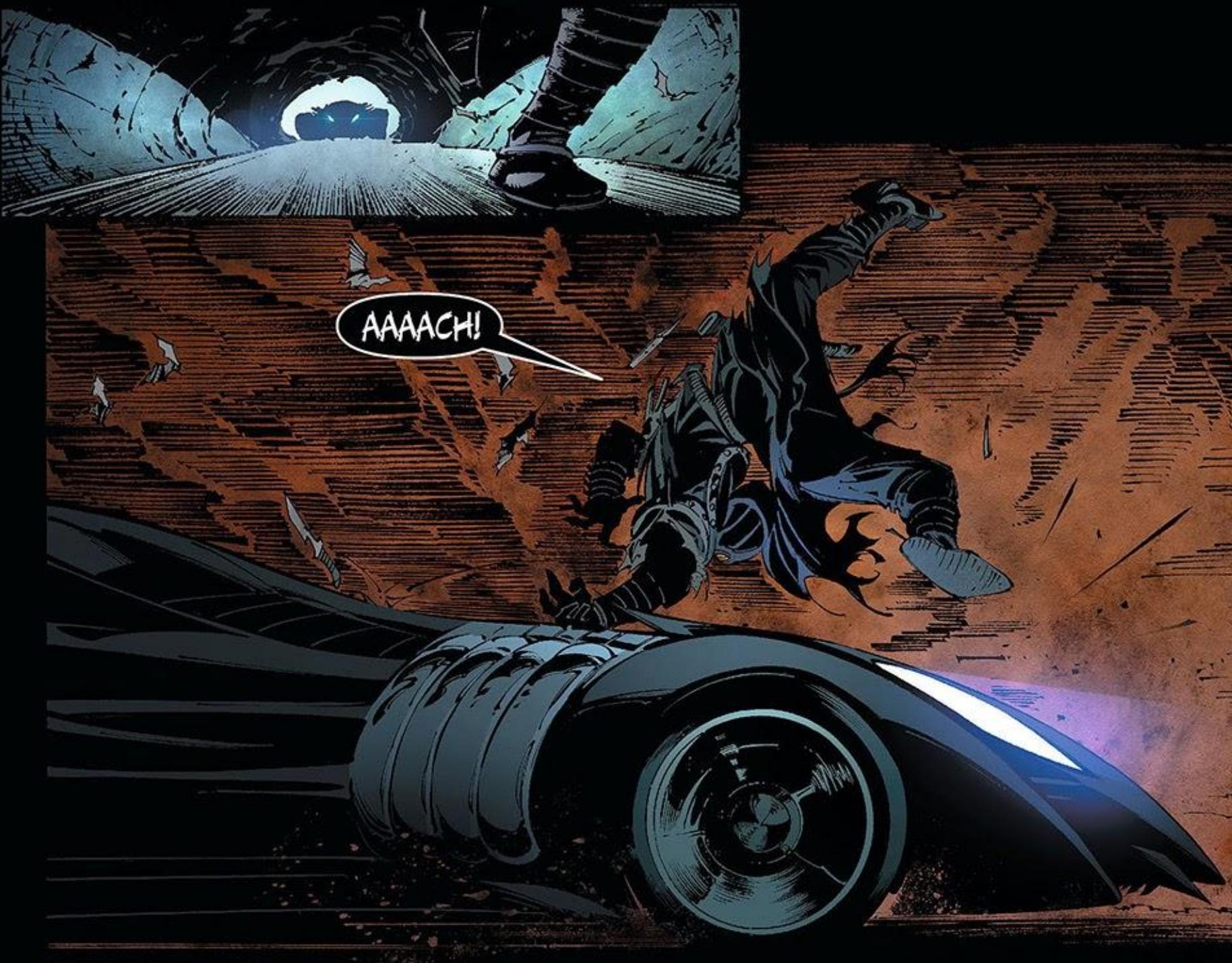
In the darkest parts,  
the parts the owls  
couldn't tolerate.

And when the  
bats came back...

...it was with  
a vengeance.







NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 8:36 PM

THE LIST  
OF PEOPLE THE  
COURT OF OWLS IS  
TARGETING...

AND  
THE ONES IN  
RED?

I'M AFRAID  
FOR THEM IT'S  
ALREADY TOO LATE.  
THE GREEN NAMES.  
THEY'RE THE ONLY  
TARGETS STILL  
UNACCOUNTED  
FOR.

THERE ARE  
BARELY ANY GREEN,  
ALFRED. JUST  
JEREMIAH ARKHAM  
AND LINCOLN  
MARCH.

I'M SENDING  
IT TO THE MAIN  
CONSOLE. THE NAMES  
IN BLUE, THEY'RE THE  
ONES THE ALLIES HAVE  
ALREADY GONE TO  
PROTECT.

"I'M AFRAID THIS NIGHT  
LARGELY BELONGS  
TO THE OWLS, SIR."

"THE NIGHT'S  
NOT OVER YET."

"I'M GOING  
TO ARKHAM  
ASYLUM FIRST." \*

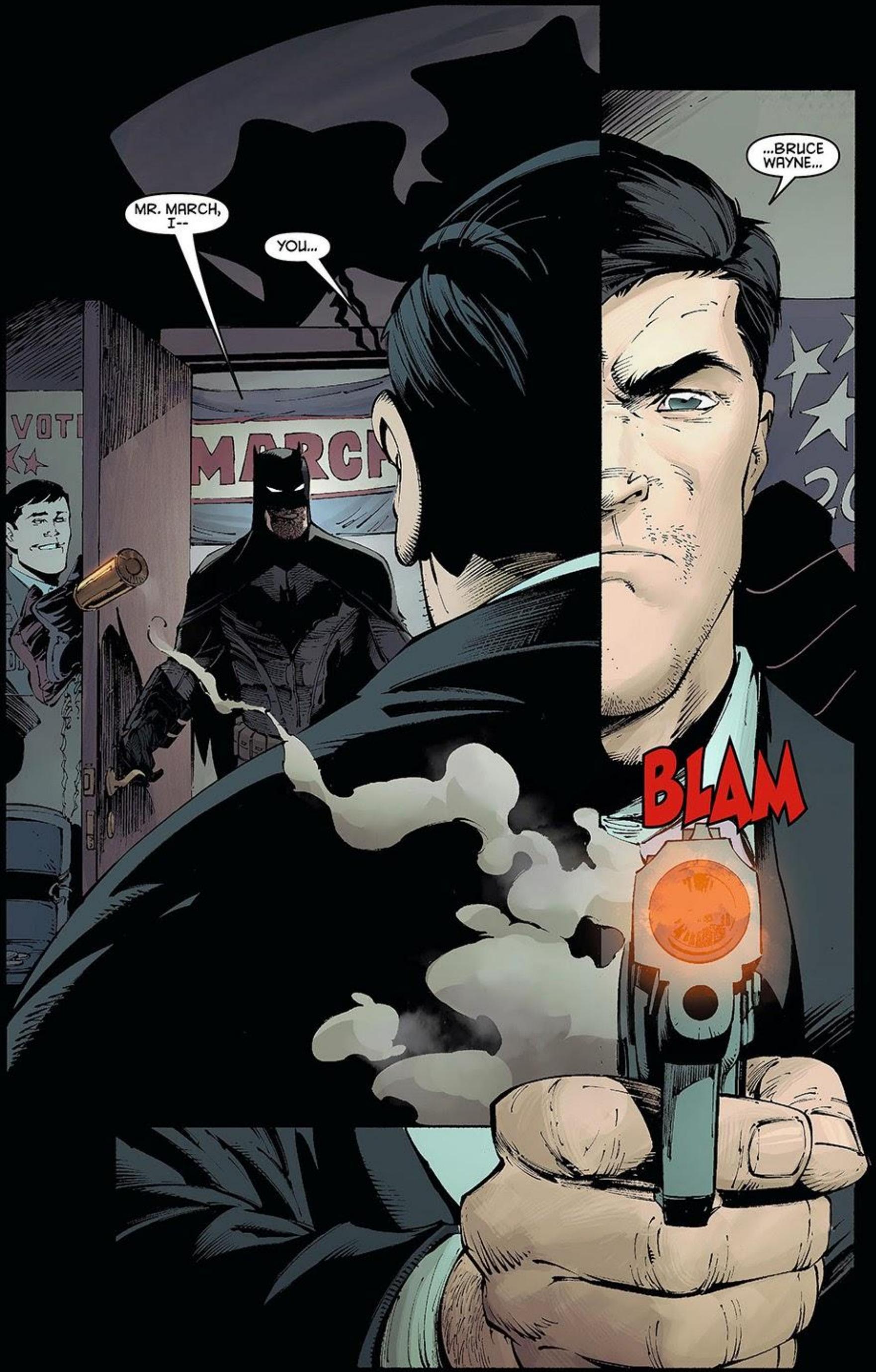
\*See DETECTIVE COMICS #9. --Mike

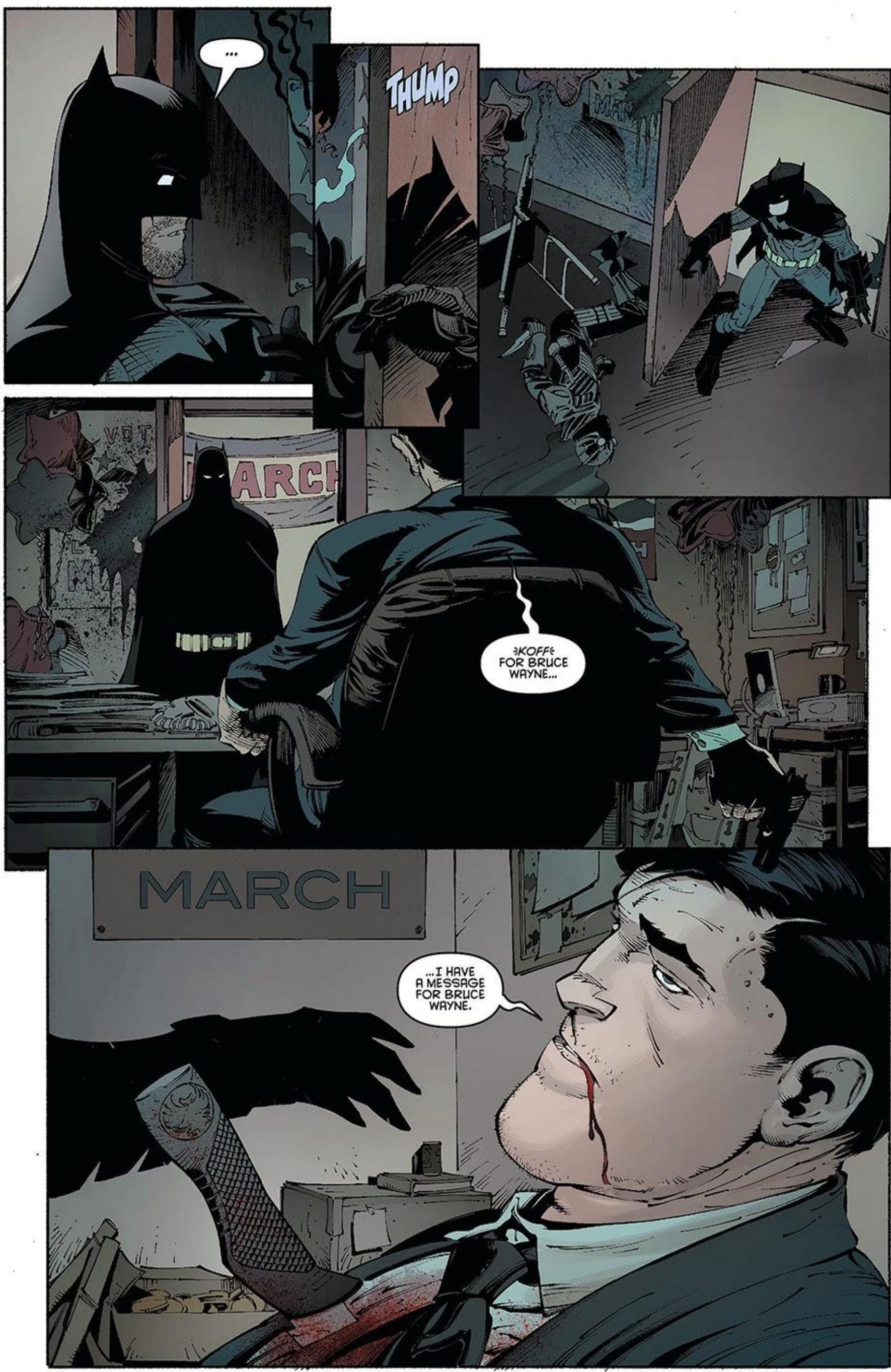
NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 11:02 PM

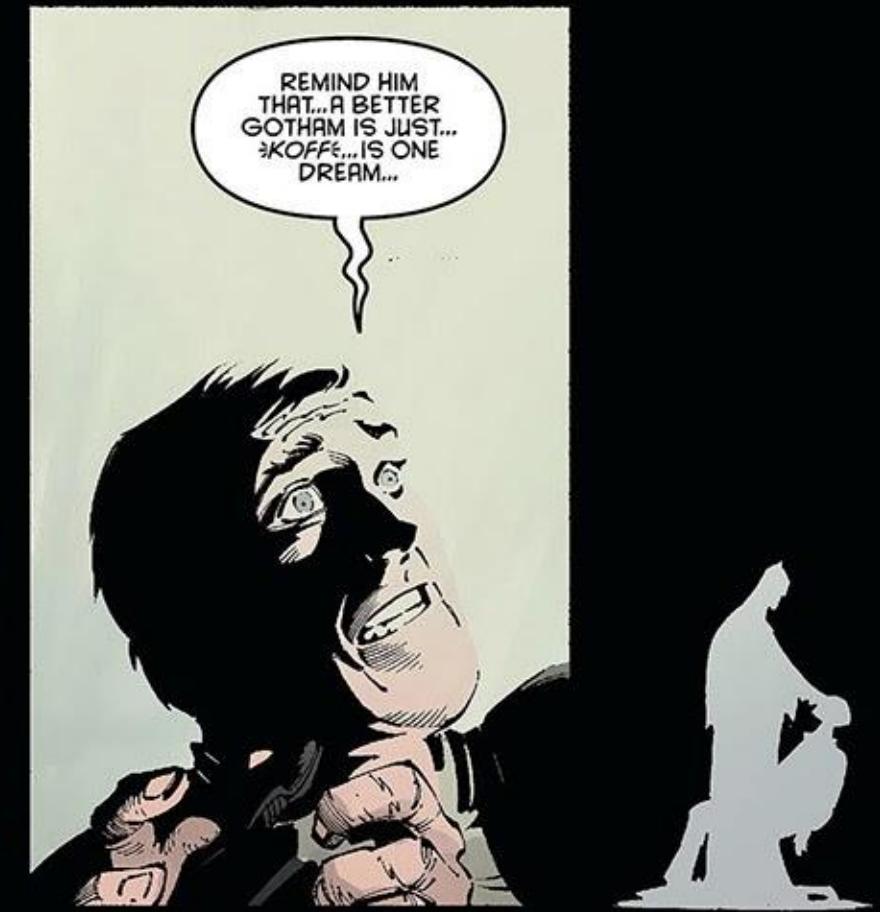
"AND THEN I'LL  
GO AFTER MARCH."

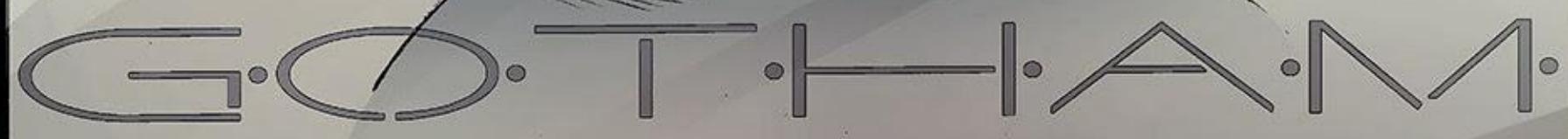
LINCOLN  
MARCH!  
I'M  
HERE TO HELP!  
MARCH?!"











NEXT: ASSAULT ON THE COURT

YEARS AGO...

From the desk of  
Jarvis Pennyworth:



...shadows move within  
Wayne Manor, and I  
fear that I may no  
longer be safe.

But frightened as I am for  
myself, I am more frightened  
for you, Alfred.

To My Dear  
Son, Alfred...

FOR  
ALFRED

Should I not survive  
the journey home to  
Britain, it is imperative  
that you read what I  
have to say...

You've long known that it is your duty to fulfill my role with the Waynes upon my retirement or passing.

I know you believe that I want this for you.

And I did, Alfred, for a long time, I did. But no longer.

I implore you, Dear Son. If you take only one line from this hurried letter, let it be this...

...never come to this house.

Never.

For you see, there's a secret to the House of Wayne, known only to those who have served the family.

And that secret is this, Alfred...this family, this house, the very ground I now walk is cursed.



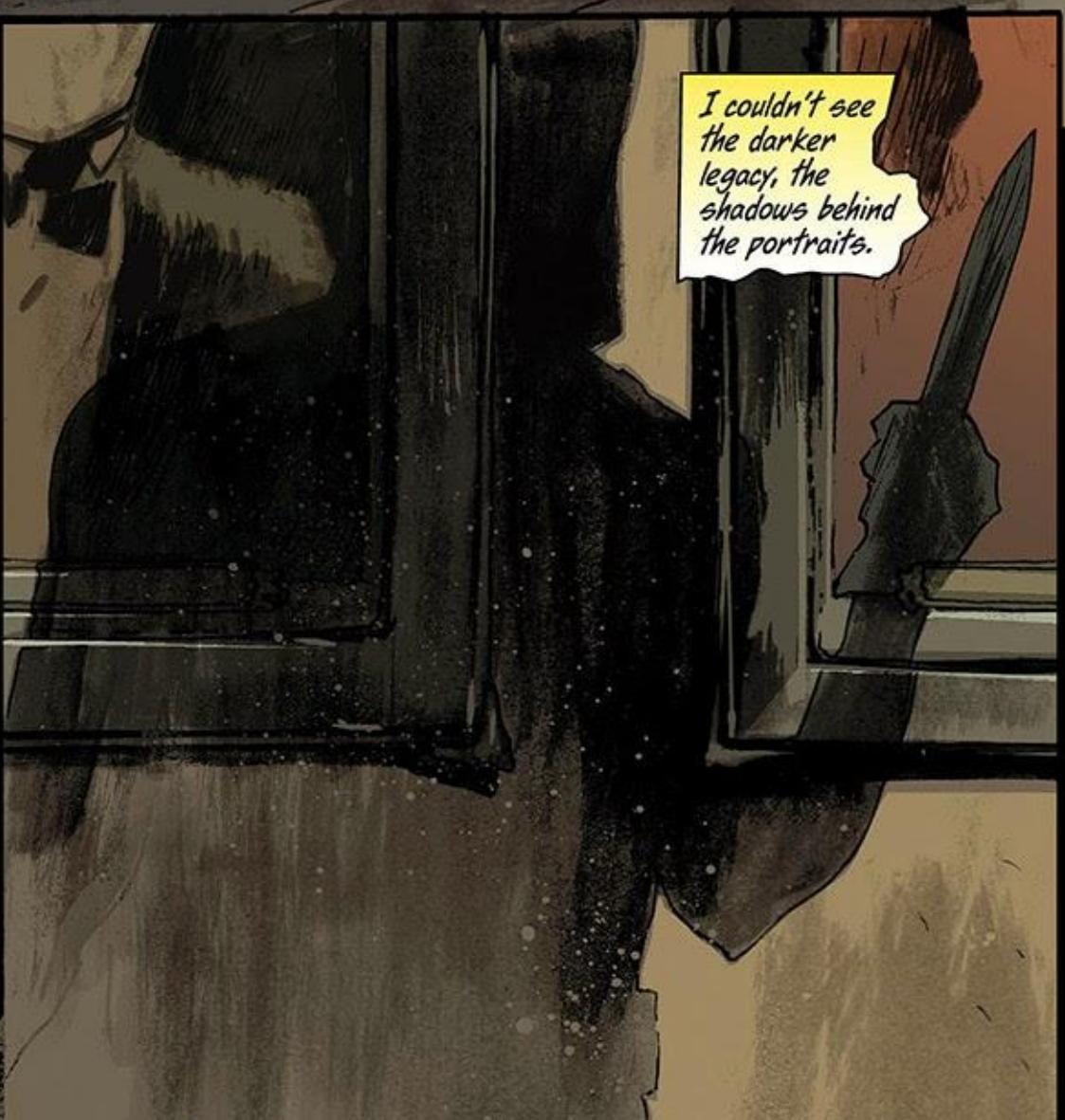
If only I had seen it sooner, Alfred. If only I'd understood.



But I was blind.



Or blinded, rather...blinded by the grandeur of the Waynes, by the storied history of their line.



I couldn't see the darker legacy, the shadows behind the portraits.



Or the danger...

...the terrible  
danger.



"...AND I'M COMING FOR YOU, OLD MAN."



To think I may never see you again, Alfred. Never see you laugh or perform on the stage. Never see you marry. Or raise children of your own.

COME ON, YOU BLOODY...

GKK

It's more than I can bear. I cannot tell you, Son, how I regret not seeing more of you these last few years.

Please know that I thought of you often.

And in my own mind, in my heart, I believed that all the effort, all the time spent serving Martha and Thomas Wayne and their young son...







For a while,  
at least.



I'VE  
HAD IT,  
THOMAS.



THE MAYOR  
HAS SHUT DOWN  
ANOTHER FIVE  
SCHOOLS,  
THAT CORRUPT,  
SHORT-  
SIGHTED  
IDIOT...

...YOU KNOW IT'S  
ONLY BECAUSE THE  
SCHOOLS HAVEN'T FIGURED  
OUT A WAY TO PAY HIM OFF.  
IT'S DISGUSTING.



WELL, HE'LL GET  
AN EARFUL THE NEXT  
TIME HE COMES  
KNOCKING AT OUR  
DOOR FOR  
FUNDRAISING.



WE NEED TO DO MORE THAN THAT, THOMAS. IT'S TIME. YOU KNOW IT, TOO.

I WANT GOTHAM TO BE A PLACE THAT ANY SON OF OURS WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, JARVIS? TIME FOR US ALL TO VENTURE OUT OF THE NEST?

A FINE IDEA, MADAM.



How wrong we were, though, my Son...

I hesitate as I write this, because the temptation to blame all that followed on Martha Wayne is incredibly powerful.

And particularly since I am writing this to you, my Son, I am ashamed to tell the truth.

You see, what happened to the Waynes--and whatever might happen to me--is entirely my own fault.



...it is I who  
have doomed  
us all.



# THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF WAYNE PART 1 OF 3

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