

BATMAN

BRUCE WAYNE: FUGITIVE

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APPROVED BY
THE COMIC
BOOK CODE
COUNCIL
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PART
ELEVEN
BRUBAKER
PHILLIPS



Sean
2002

--AND LOOK, IF YOU
REALLY FEEL THAT WAY
ABOUT GOTHAM, WHY DON'T
YOU JUST LEAVE?



AS USUAL, MY
DISTINGUISHED
COLLEAGUE HAS
MISINTERPRETED
MY WORDS... I
LOVE MY CITY, OR
I WOULD
LEAVE IT...

ALL I'M
SUGGESTING
IS THAT WE
MIGHT WANT
TO EXAMINE
WHAT IT IS
ABOUT GOTHAM
THAT SEEMS TO
ATTRACT SO
MUCH INSANITY
AND VIOLENCE...

K
A



YOU JUST HAVE TO
WONDER SOMETIMES
ABOUT A PLACE THAT
INSPIRED THE JOKER,
DON'T YOU?

OR THIS NEW ONE,
FROM A FEW WEEKS
BACK... NICODEMUS.
HE CLAIMS THAT
GOTHAM CITY IS EVIL
AND NEEDS TO BE
BURNED FROM THE
FACE OF THE EARTH...

AND I FOR ONE WONDER
WHAT THIS CITY HAS DONE
EXACTLY, TO DESERVE
ALL THIS... I WONDER
ABOUT THE KARMA
OF IT ALL, I GUESS.

OH, LEAVE IT TO A
FEMINIST-LIBERAL TO
SUGGEST THAT CITIES
HAVE KARMA... I SUPPOSE
THEY GET REINCARNATED, TOO,
AND GOTHAM WAS ONCE
ATLANTIS, RIGHT?



WHY IS THE RIGHT WING SO THREATENED
ANYTIME SOMEONE WANTS TO EXAMINE
THINGS ON AN INTELLECTUAL LEVEL?

WHY DOES EVERY
RESPONSE HAVE TO
BE AN ATTACK?



THE TURNING POINT

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GIVE ME A BREAK,
KATHLEEN... THAT WAS
HARDLY AN
ATTACK.

WHEN
I ATTACK,
YOU'LL
KNOW
IT.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO
JUST SIT HERE WHILE YOU
RUN DOWN OUR CITY...

...BECAUSE NO MATTER WHAT,
GOTHAM ALWAYS RISES ABOVE,
THAT'S WHAT THIS
CITY'S ALL ABOUT.

AND HOW DO WE RISE
ABOVE SOMETHING LIKE
THIS RECENT BRUCE
WAYNE MURDER
FIASCO?

OH, LET'S NOT
EVEN TAKE THIS
THERE,
PLEASE--

WHY NOT? I THINK IT SAYS A LOT
ABOUT GOTHAM THAT ITS NUMBER
ONE CITIZEN MURDERS HIS
GIRLFRIEND AND THEN
FLEES THE COUNTRY.
DON'T YOU?

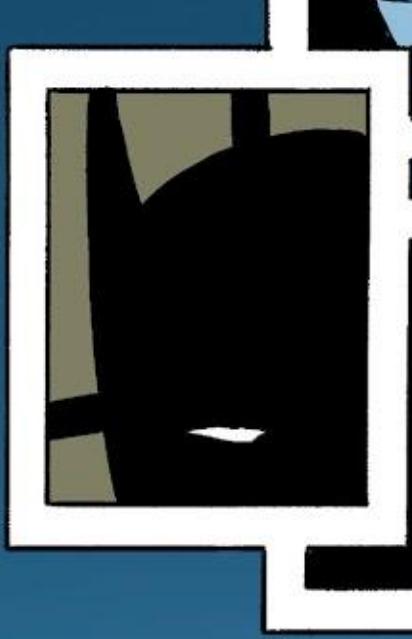
SKAASSH!

FIZZ... AND THAT'S ALL FOR TONIGHT...
ZZZIT... GOODNIGHT GOTHAM, TOMORROW'S
GUESTS WILL BE... FRZZZTTT...

KRAK!



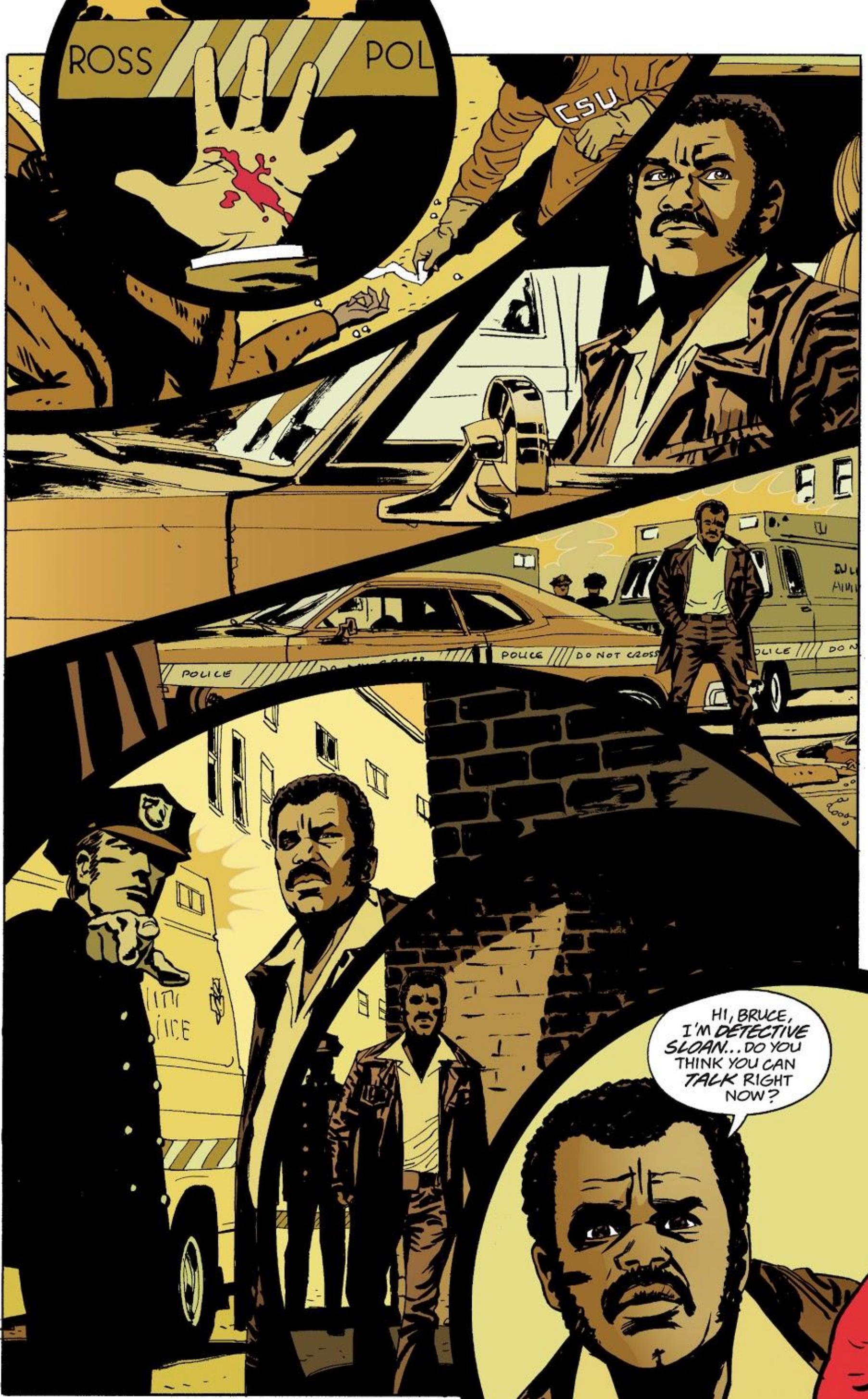




THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN
LATELY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW
IF YOU'LL CARE ABOUT
THIS... BUT I PRAY THAT
YOU DO

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?





"...OR SHOULD I COME BACK LATER?"

SORRY... DRIFTED OFF FOR A SEC... IS SOMEONE THERE?

I WAS TOLD YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, DETECTIVE SLOAN.

I HAVEN'T BEEN DETECTIVE SLOAN FOR OVER TEN YEARS NOW, BUT YOU HEARD RIGHT...

...BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WOULDN'T SHOW, THOUGH...

ALMOST ASKED THIS NEW COMMISSIONER TO BRING OVER THE BAT-SIGNAL SO I COULD BE SURE YOU DID...

WHY? BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME LEFT, AND YOU AND ME... WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT...

Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS WONDERED IF YOU EVEN REALIZED HOW MUCH YOU CHANGED EVERYTHING...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WW-HHCK!
HCK!
HAK!

HAK!
HOCK!

--HUNH...
HUK...
...YOU--YOU SMOKE?

UH...NO.

TAKE IT FROM ME, DON'T EVER START...

I'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVISEMENT.

HEH, YEAH
...YOU DO THAT.

SO, AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE I WAS SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED... YOU CHANGED WHAT IT WAS TO BE A COP IN GOTHAM CITY...

FOR GUYS LIKE ME, OLD-TIMERS... YOU CHANGED THE WHOLE WORLD.

GUY RUNNING AROUND IN SOME CAPE SCARIN' THE HELL OUT OF HALF THE TOWN...

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR JOB...

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT? BECAUSE--

NO, NO... I'M NOT HERE TO WASTE YOUR TIME, BELIEVE ME...

YOU REMEMBER THE BERKINS CASE? WOULD'VE BEEN JUST BEFORE YOU STARTED RUNNING AROUND WITH THAT KID IN THE RED SHIRT...

BALDWIN BERKINS THE THIRD... HE WAS PLANNING ON A RUN FOR THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, WASN'T HE?

"RIGHT, MIGHT OF WON, TOO... IF SOMEONE HADN'T ASSASSINATED HIM AT HIS DINNER TABLE..."

"...SHOT HIM RIGHT THROUGH THE JUGULAR."

"THAT WAS MY LAST CASE ON THE FORCE. AND I'LL TELL YOU, I KNEW GOING IN IT WAS GOING TO BE A MESS..."

"I MEAN, THIS ONE JUST STUNK OF POLITICAL COVER-UP..."

"AND AS I SUSPECTED, AFTER A WEEK I'M JUST GETTING NOWHERE... NO LEADS, NO WITNESSES, NO EVIDENCE... MOST COPS WOULD'VE GIVEN UP, UNOFFICIALLY, AT LEAST.

"HELL, AFTER TWO OR THREE DAYS PASS, YOU ALMOST NEVER CRACK IT ANYWAY, UNLESS IT'S BY ACCIDENT.

"BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT ON THAT NOTE... MY WHOLE TIME IN THE M.C.U. THERE WAS ONLY ONE CASE I DIDN'T CLOSE, AND I WASN'T GOING TO BREAK THAT RECORD...

"STILL, I WASN'T EVEN GRASPING AT STRAWS... I MEAN, I LITERALLY HAD NOTHING.

"THEN THE FREAKIN' SHOOTER WALKS RIGHT IN AND CONFESSES... SPILLS THE WHOLE THING, WHO HIRED HIM, WHO THEY WORK FOR...

"I NEVER SAW A GUY THAT SCARED... AT LEAST NOT SINCE BEFORE THE MIRANDA RULE."

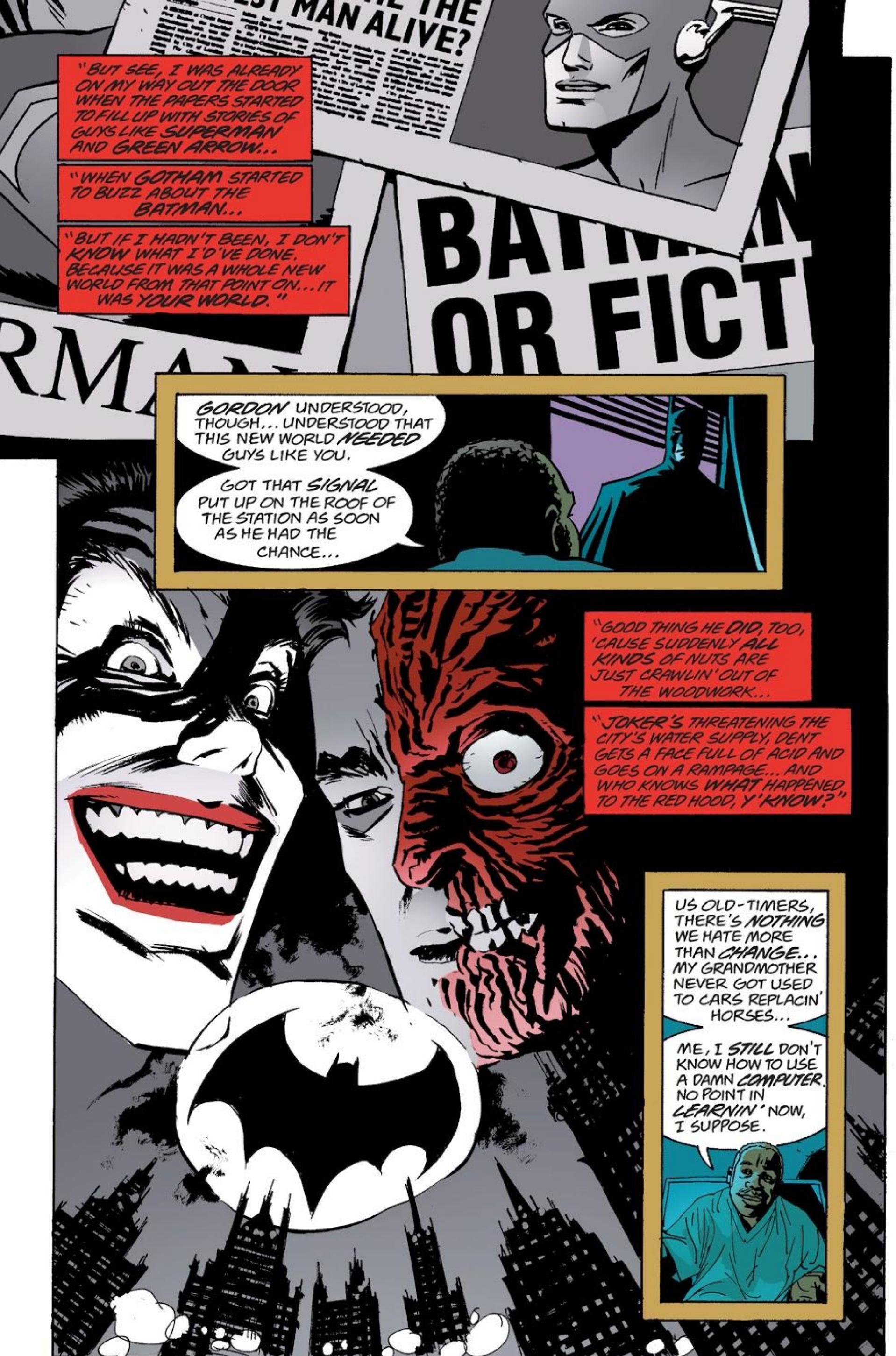
GOD, DID I HATE YOU THAT NIGHT.

BUT I TOOK THE COLLAR ANYWAY, AND RETIRED A WEEK LATER...

ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT YOU DID TO THAT GUY TO MAKE HIM GO THAT SOFT, THOUGH...

HELD HIM UPSIDE DOWN IN FRONT OF AN ONCOMING TRAIN.

OH... GOOD CALL.



BUT IF I DID LEARN ANYTHING OVER THE YEARS, IT'S THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU CAN'T STOP CHANGE FROM COMING...

I MAY WISH FOR THE WORLD OF MY YOUTH, WHEN THERE WASN'T SO MUCH GUNS AND DOPE ON THE STREETS. WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE LIFE HAD MORE MEANING... BUT THAT WORLD IS GONE...

AND IN THIS NEW WORLD, THE REAL WORLD... YOU ARE VERY GOOD AT WHAT YOU DO, BATMAN.

WHICH IS ALL A VERY ROUND-ABOUT WAY FOR AN OLD MAN TO TELL YOU HE WANTS YOU TO DO HIM A FAVOR...

NAME IT.

WELL, LIKE I SAID BEFORE, MY WHOLE TIME AS A LEAD INVESTIGATOR, THERE WAS ONLY ONE CASE I NEVER CLOSED... AND NOW, WITH GORDON OFF THE FORCE, THERE'S NO COP I'D TRUST WITH IT...

...SO, I WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER MY LAST CASE.

I'M AFRAID I
DON'T UNDERSTAND,
DETECTIVE... I THOUGHT
YOU HAD RETIRED?

OFFICIALLY, BUT SOME CASES... I
SURE... DON'T KNOW, THEY
JUST HAUNT
YOU.

AND... I
MADE A
PROMISE TO
SOMEONE...

ARE YOU
GOING TO FIND
THE MAN WITH
THE GUN, MISTER
SLOAN?

I HOPE SO,
BRUCE, I
DO... I CAN
PROMISE
YOU THAT
I'LL NEVER
GIVE UP
TRYING...

STUPID THING TO DO,
I SUPPOSE, MAKING
PROMISES I WASN'T
SURE I COULD KEEP...
I MEAN, HELL, A
RANDOM CRIME
LIKE THAT...

... IF YOU DON'T
CATCH THE SHOOTER
FENCING JEWELRY OR
SOMEONE DOESN'T
TURN HIM IN... WELL,
YOU KNOW HOW
IT GOES.

YES,
I DO.

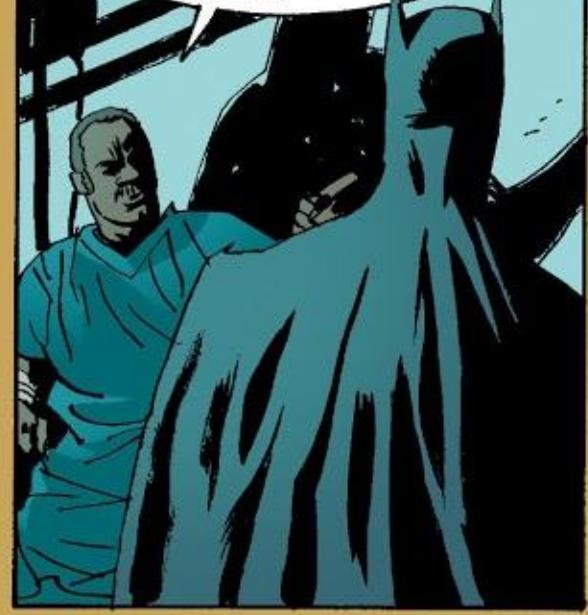


I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW IF IT'S SOLVABLE... BUT MAYBE YOU CAN FIND OUT THINGS IN WAYS I NEVER COULD...



I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE, TOO... SINCE I'M A SICK OLD MAN NOW AND THAT'S MY PREROGATIVE...

I DON'T BELIEVE BRUCE WAYNE MURDERED THAT WOMAN, EITHER.



REALLY?



SEE, SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT WE CAN NEVER KNOW WHAT A MAN IS CAPABLE OF, BUT I WORKED HOMICIDE FOR TOO MANY YEARS TO BELIEVE THAT...

I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT A PERSON WHETHER THEY'RE A MURDERER OR NOT.

YOU PROBABLY CAN, TOO...

MOST OF THE TIME.

AND THE FACT IS, MOST OF US HAVE DEFINING MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES...

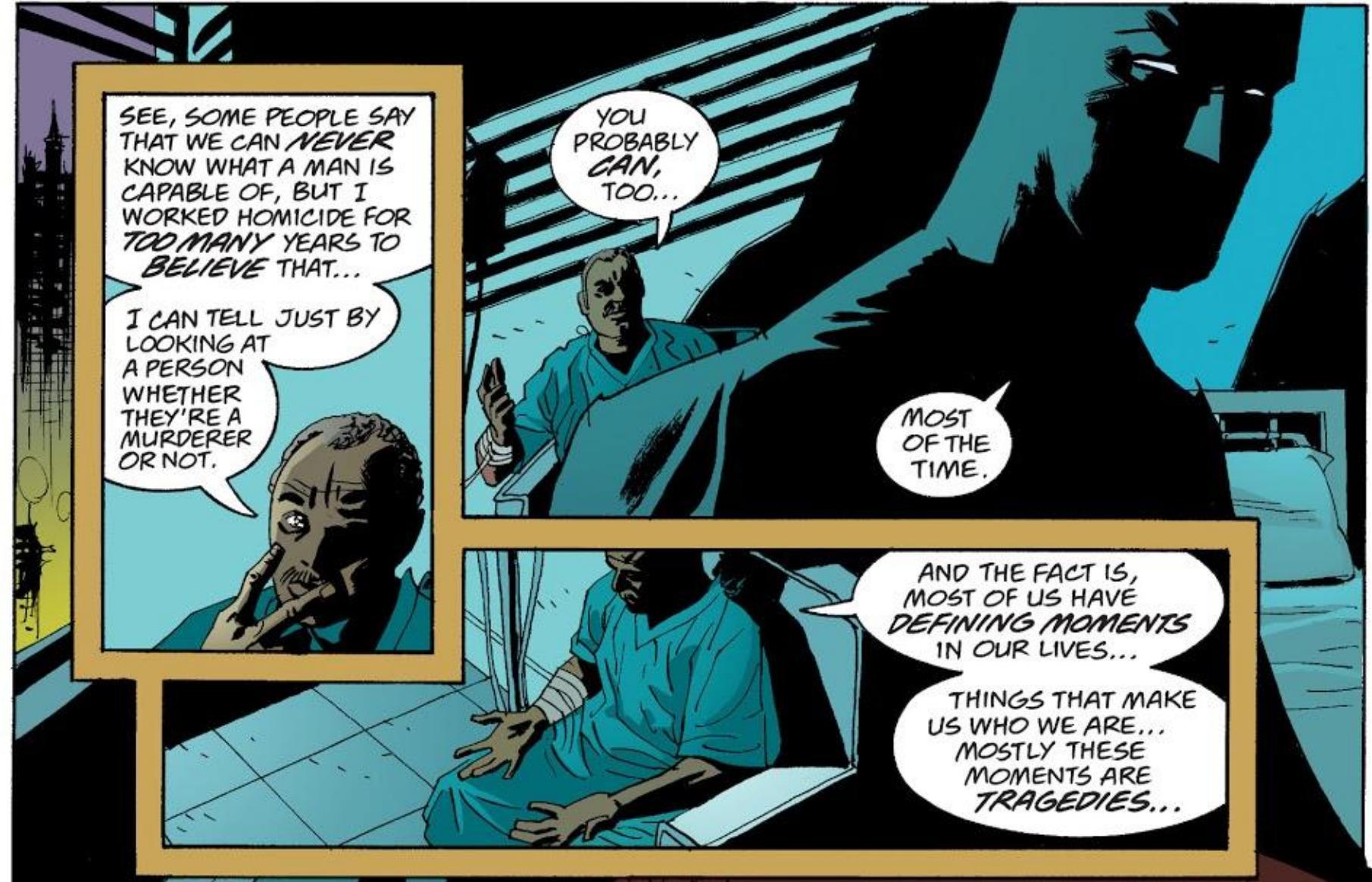
THINGS THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE... MOSTLY THESE MOMENTS ARE TRAGEDIES...

"THE DEFINING MOMENT OF BRUCE WAYNE'S LIFE WAS THAT NIGHT, IN THAT ALLEY, WATCHING HIS PARENTS DIE..."

"EVERYTHING HE'S DONE SINCE THEN IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THAT MOMENT, WHETHER HE KNOWS IT OR NOT... THAT MOMENT WHERE HIS INNOCENCE WAS RIPPED AWAY."

"AND I WAS THERE. I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES... LOOKED INTO THEM PLENTY OF TIMES OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, TOO..."

"THAT BOY WAS CHANGED THAT NIGHT, FOR SURE... BUT IT WASN'T INTO A KILLER."



SO I DON'T KNOW,
MAYBE IF YOU CAN...
TRY TO HELP
HIM, TOO...

HELP HIM
GET BACK
HIS LIFE.

HE DESERVES THAT
MUCH, AT LEAST, AFTER
ALL HE'S BEEN
THROUGH...

AND I JUST
FEEL LIKE...
LIKE I LET
HIM DOWN
SO MUCH...

NOT AT ALL. IF
ANYTHING, YOU
WERE AN
INSPIRATION.

SORRY... DRIFTED
OFF FOR A
SEC... YOU SAY
SOMETHING?

"...SOME
CASES...
THEY JUST
HAUNT
YOU..."

THOMAS
MARTHA

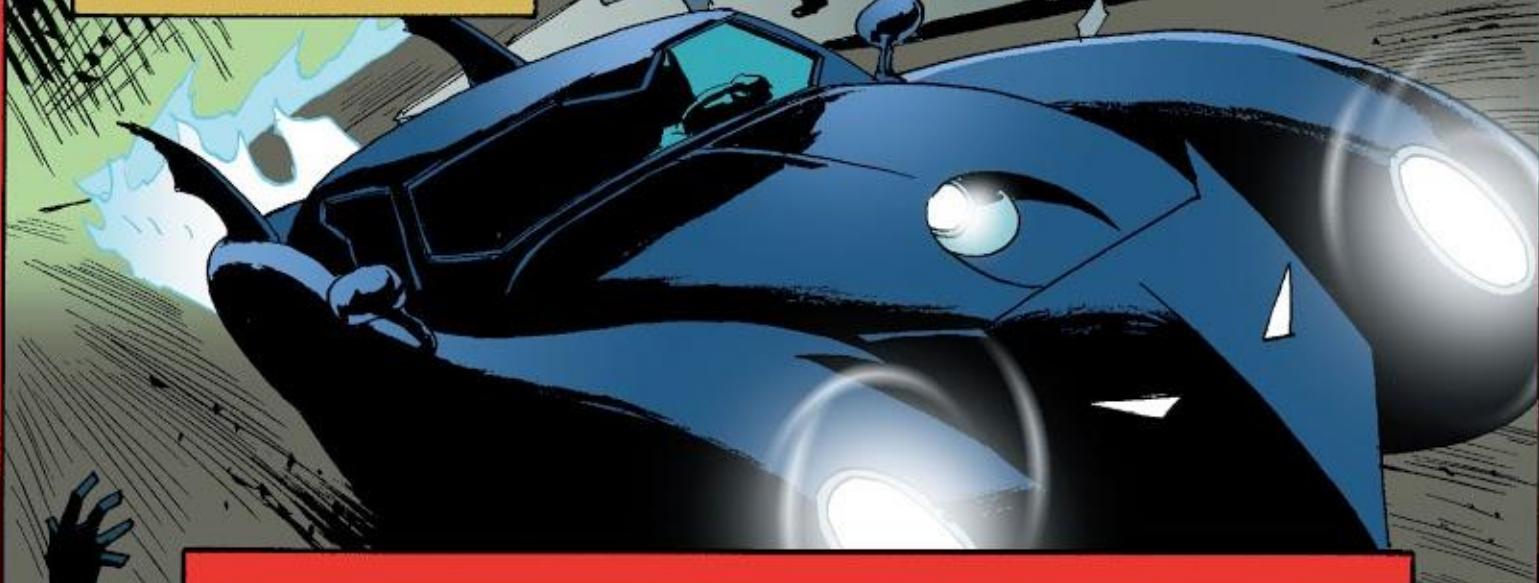
HOSP

"...IF YOU'D VE JUST
SEEN THIS KID'S EYES
THAT NIGHT, YOU'D
UNDERSTAND..."

WROOOOMM



"... MOST OF US HAVE
DEFINING MOMENTS
IN OUR LIVES..."



"... THINGS THAT
MAKE US WHO
WE ARE..."



"... MOSTLY
THESE
MOMENTS
ARE
TRAGEDIES..."



COMPUTER,
OPEN FILE -
TMWI...

"...THE DEFINING MOMENT
OF BRUCE WAYNE'S
LIFE WAS IN THAT ALLEY..."

Gotham Gazette

GOTHAM
SOCIALITE
AND WIFE
MURDERED

WAYN
DOUB
MURD

"...WHERE
HIS
INNOCENCE
WAS RIPPED
AWAY..."

"...EVERYTHING HE'S
DONE SINCE THEN IS A
DIRECT RESULT OF
THAT MOMENT, WHETHER
HE KNOWS IT OR NOT..."

OPEN
FILE - BW-
MURDER...

MILLIONAIRE
BRUCE WAYNE
FACES MURDER
CHARGE

BODY FOUL
IN WAYNE
MANOR
Bruce Wayne Arr...

FUGITIVE WAYNE
BRUCE FLEES COUNTRY

"...THAT BOY WAS
CHANGED THAT NIGHT..."

WAY
GUILTY OR
NOT GUILTY?

ROSS

NOT GUILTY

"...BUT IT WASN'T
INTO A KILLER..."

"...HELP HIM GET
BACK HIS LIFE...
...HE DESERVES
THAT MUCH,
AT LEAST..."

BLIP

ORACLE,
THIS IS BRUCE...
I NEED YOU TO RUN
SOME INFORMATION
FOR ME...

UHH... I'M
SORRY... COULD
YOU REPEAT
THAT, PLEASE?

WAY
GUILTY
NOT GUILTY

TO BE CONTINUED...