

**DC**

**709**

JUN 2011

# BATMAN®

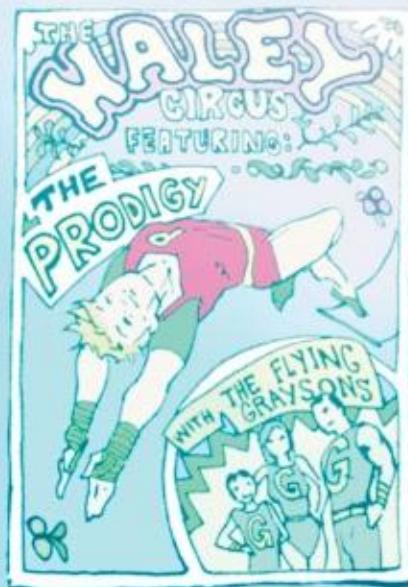
AM  
MARCH  
12/10

DAVID  
HINE  
GUILLEM  
MARCH



**bee-de-beep**

The Prodigy was real and I knew him. This poster proves it. So why did I have no memory of him until I was stabbed by Azrael's Sword of Sin?



**bee-de-beep**

DICK... PLEASE...



**bee-de-beep**

Red Robin and Catwoman both failed to match Azrael's standards of "Righteousness."\*

IF I fail too, he plans to bring down "God's Vengeance" on Gotham.



**bee-de-beep**

I THINK YOU'LL FIND THAT'S MASTER BRUCE ON THE LINE FROM HONG KONG.



DICK, WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

AZRAEL IS HAVING A CRISIS OF FAITH. NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

WHAT HAPPENED IN AFGHANISTAN? DID HE NEUTRALIZE THE THREAT FROM FIREBALL?

WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED IT.

DO I NEED TO COME BACK?

I'M ON TOP OF THIS, BRUCE. I CAN HANDLE IT.

ALL RIGHT. KEEP ME POSTED. I HAVE MY HANDS FULL HERE, BUT IF YOU NEED ME--

I'LL CALL YOU.

ALFRED, I WANT YOU TO CONTACT TIM AND SELINA. MAKE SURE THEY DON'T INTERFERE.

I HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE.

DICK GRAYSON  
**BATMAN**

DEVIL'S SQUARE.

I knew they'd be here.  
The Angels of Death. This is  
where it began and one way or  
another, this is where it will end.

IS THAT  
FIREBALL?  
WEREN'T YOU  
SUPPOSED TO  
NEUTRALIZE  
HIM?

MY  
MISSION  
HAS CHANGED.  
YOU KNOW  
THAT.

FIREBALL  
IS THE VESSEL  
GOD WILL USE TO  
BRING DOOM  
TO GOTHAM.

IF I FAIL  
YOUR TEST.

MICHAEL LANE  
**AZRAEL**

**THE  
CRUSADER**

ARE YOU  
READY,  
SINNER?  
SHALL I  
CALL THE  
WITNESS?

GAMI MOUGAN  
**FIREBALL**

Back there in  
the shadows...  
another one?

COME  
FORWARD.  
TELL US WHAT  
BROUGHT YOU  
HERE.

# JUDGMENT ON GO THAM CONCLUSION SECRET SIN

WRITTEN BY DAVID HINE INTERIOR AND COVER ART BY GUILLEM MARCH

LETTERED BY JARED K. FLETCHER

ASST. EDITOR KATIE KUBERT ASSOC. EDITOR JANELLE ASSELIN

CONSULTING EDITOR RACHEL GLUCKSTERN EDITOR MIKE MARTS

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

A FEW DAYS BACK...  
SOMETHING...A  
VOICE...TOLD ME TO  
GO TO GOTHAM...  
GO TO DEVIL'S  
SQUARE.

BEEN ON MY WAY  
EVER SINCE. WALKING,  
HITCHHIKING. I DON'T  
KNOW WHY. JUST KNEW  
I HAD TO BE HERE.

IT WAS THE  
VOICE OF GOD  
THAT SUMMONED  
YOU.

WE NEED  
TO HEAR THE  
TESTIMONY  
OF THE  
PRODIGY.



IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE CALLED ME THAT.

NOT SINCE I WAS A KID.

I WAS A PRODIGY THEN ALL RIGHT. BEST SOLO TRAPEZE ARTIST IN THESE UNITED STATES. MOST LIKELY THE BEST IN THE ENTIRE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

*There's a weary resignation in his voice, as if he's told this story to a hundred brief acquaintances in a hundred bars, but every word is a nail hammered into my heart.*



"I HAD THIS ACT WITH FLAMING HOOPS."

"NO SAFETY NET."

"I PERFORMED OVER A POOL OF BURNING OIL."

"NOT AS DANGEROUS AS IT LOOKED. THERE WAS WATER UNDER THAT LAYER OF OIL, AND STAGE HANDS WAITING WITH FIRE EXTINGUISHERS TO DOUSE THE FLAMES IF I FELL."

"BUT I NEVER FELL...AND IT LOOKED DAMNED IMPRESSIVE."



"THERE WAS A GIRL IN WISCONSIN WHO WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED. WHAT WAS HER NAME?"

"THERE'S A THING... ALL THOSE YEARS I NEVER FORGOT HER NAME, AND NOW IT'S GONE..."



"PROBLEM WAS, THIS GIRL... SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND ALREADY."



"CIRCUS FOLK WERE NEVER POPULAR WITH THE LOCALS IN THOSE SMALL TOWNS. THEY ALL LOVED TO WATCH THE SHOW, BUT OUTSIDE OF THE BIG TOP, THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME FOR US..."



"...'SPECIALLY WHEN WE STEPPED ONTO THEIR TERRITORY... TOOK WHAT THEY CONSIDERED WAS THEIRS..."



"THE DOCTORS TOLD ME I WAS LUCKY."



"LUCKY I DIDN'T DIE. LUCKY I DIDN'T SUFFER BRAIN DAMAGE. LUCKY I COULD STILL WALK."

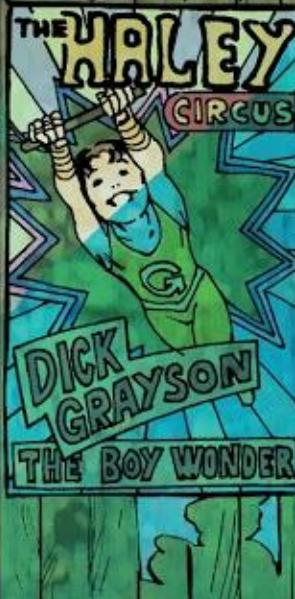


And it all comes back...  
my darkest secret.

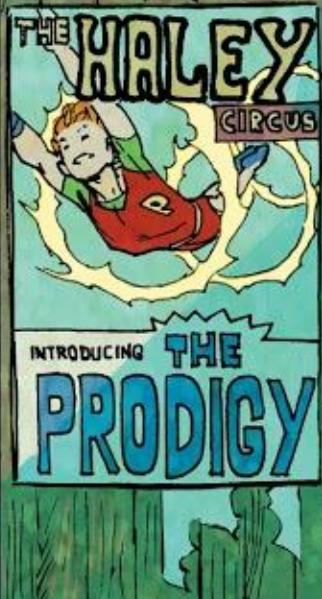
--I REMEMBER...

I was there when the Prodigy performed. Of course I was. The Flying Graysons had been the biggest draw for the Haley Circus...

...and I had been the star of the show...



...until he came...

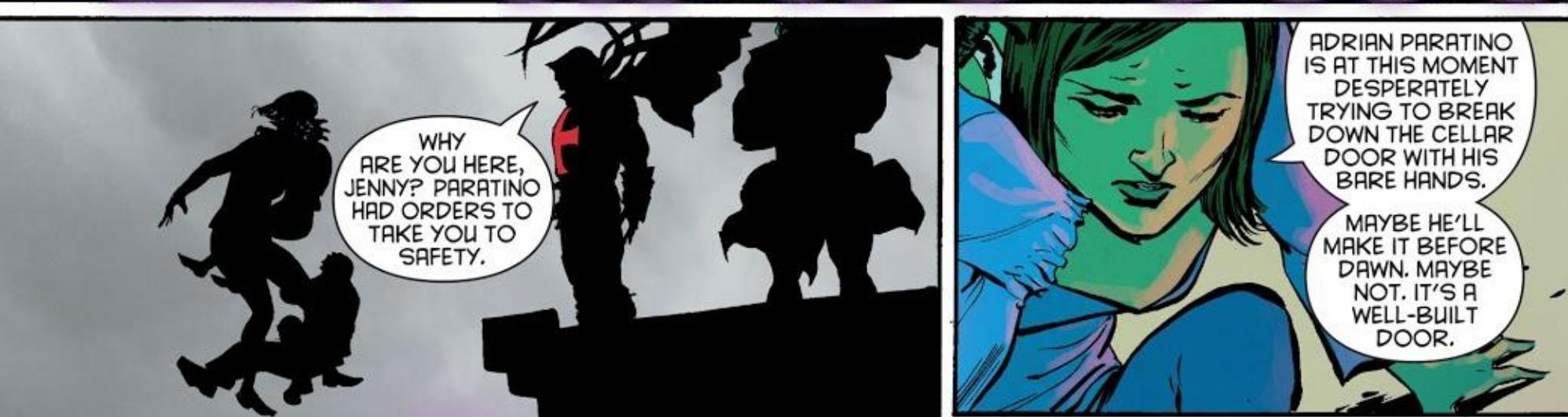


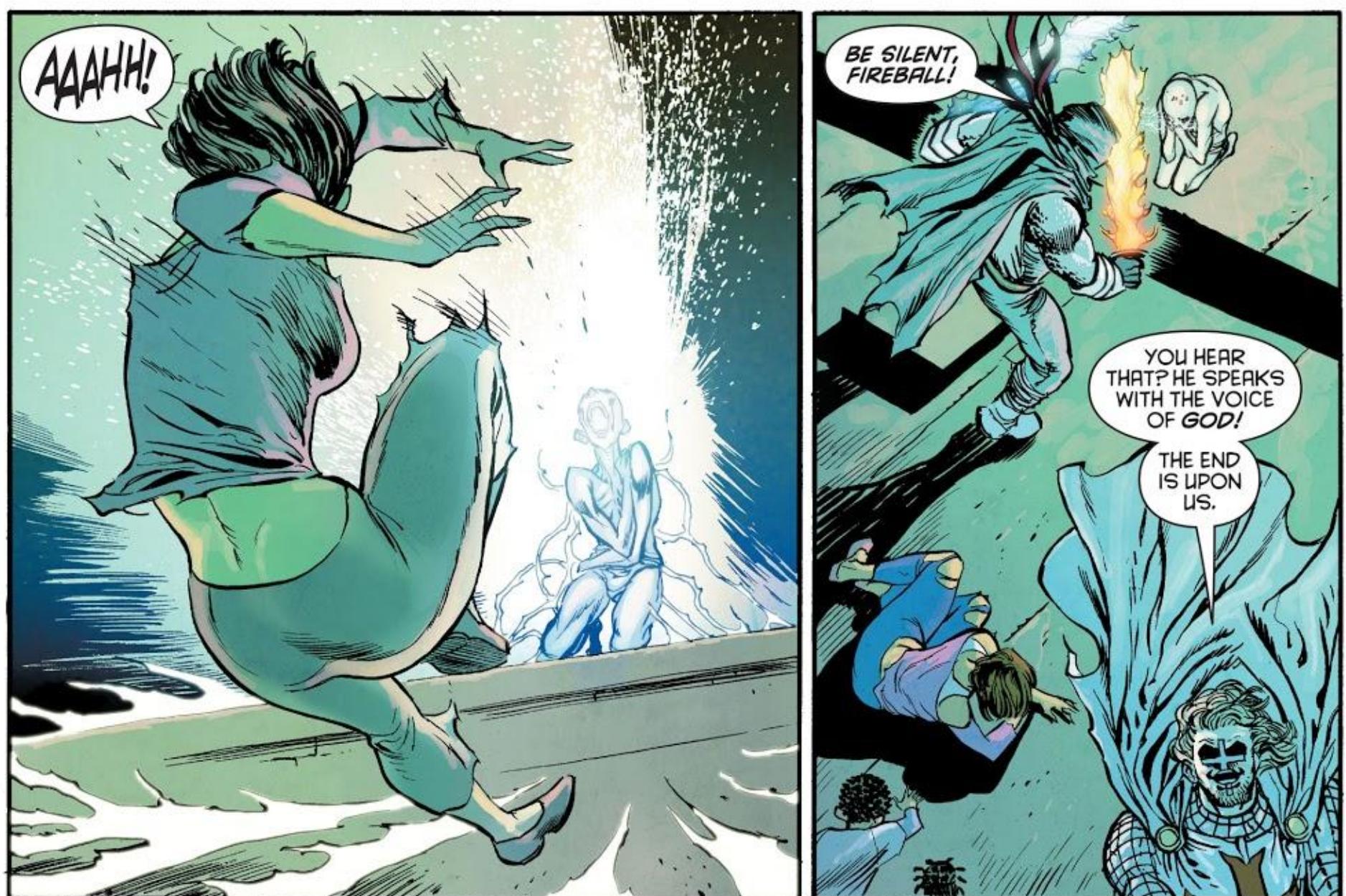
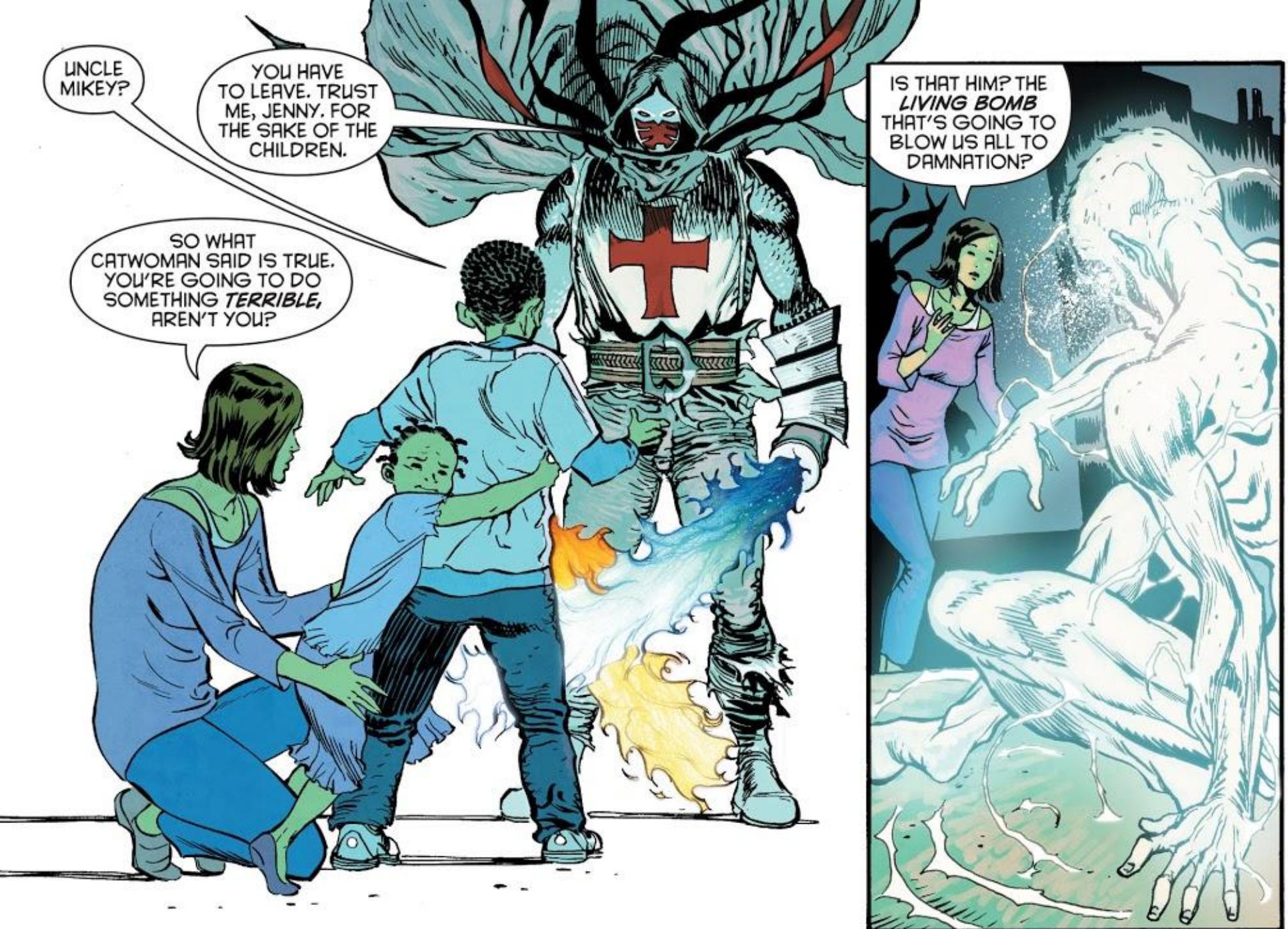
I was younger than he was, and he had no family of his own that I knew of. He treated me like a little brother.

I hated that.











BEWARE, MASTER.  
SATAN IS SUBTLE. HE  
SPEAKS WITH THE  
VOICE OF MEN.

THE SWORDS  
CAN'T HARM ME,  
CRUSADER.

THEY CAN  
ONLY REVEAL THE  
WILL OF GOD.

HERE, BATMAN.  
YOU GAVE ME THESE  
SWORDS. YOU ENTRUSTED  
ME WITH THE ARMOR OF  
AZRAEL.

AND I TOLD YOU  
I'D TAKE THEM BACK IF  
YOU SCREWED UP.

STRIKE, AND  
LET THE SWORDS  
REVEAL GOD'S  
WILL.

AGGHHH!

There's a voice in my  
head. Whispering.  
These things are alive.

How about that?  
He's hurting!

I see what  
Azrael sees...

...Ra's al Ghul!

THE USURPER  
BATMAN FAILS, AND  
THE THIRD DOMINO  
FALLS.

GOTHAM IS DESTROYED  
BY FIREBALL--AN AMERICAN  
CITY WIPE OUT BY A  
TERRORIST ATTACK.

THE U.S.A. IS FORCED TO  
RETALIATE, WHICH IN TURN  
INCITES MORE ATTACKS.

THE CHAIN  
REACTION BECOMES  
UNSTOPPABLE.

VIOLENCE BEGETS  
VIOLENCE, ESCALATING  
UNTIL THE WORLD IS  
CONSUMED BY  
GLOBAL WAR...

...AND OUT  
OF THE ASHES, A  
NEW WORLD IS  
BORN...

...A WORLD  
UNITED UNDER  
THE RULE OF  
RA'S AL GHUL.



JENNY, BRING THE CHILDREN HERE. EVERYONE COME TOGETHER. THE CRUSADER WILL SHIELD US.

This is how they planned to survive. The Crusader can create a telekinetic barrier to protect us. We'll live while the rest of Gotham--

NO! PUT THE SHIELD AROUND FIREBALL!

CONTAIN THE EXPLOSION!

MASTER?  
I DON'T KNOW  
IF I CAN DO IT. IF  
I FAIL, WE WILL  
ALL DIE.

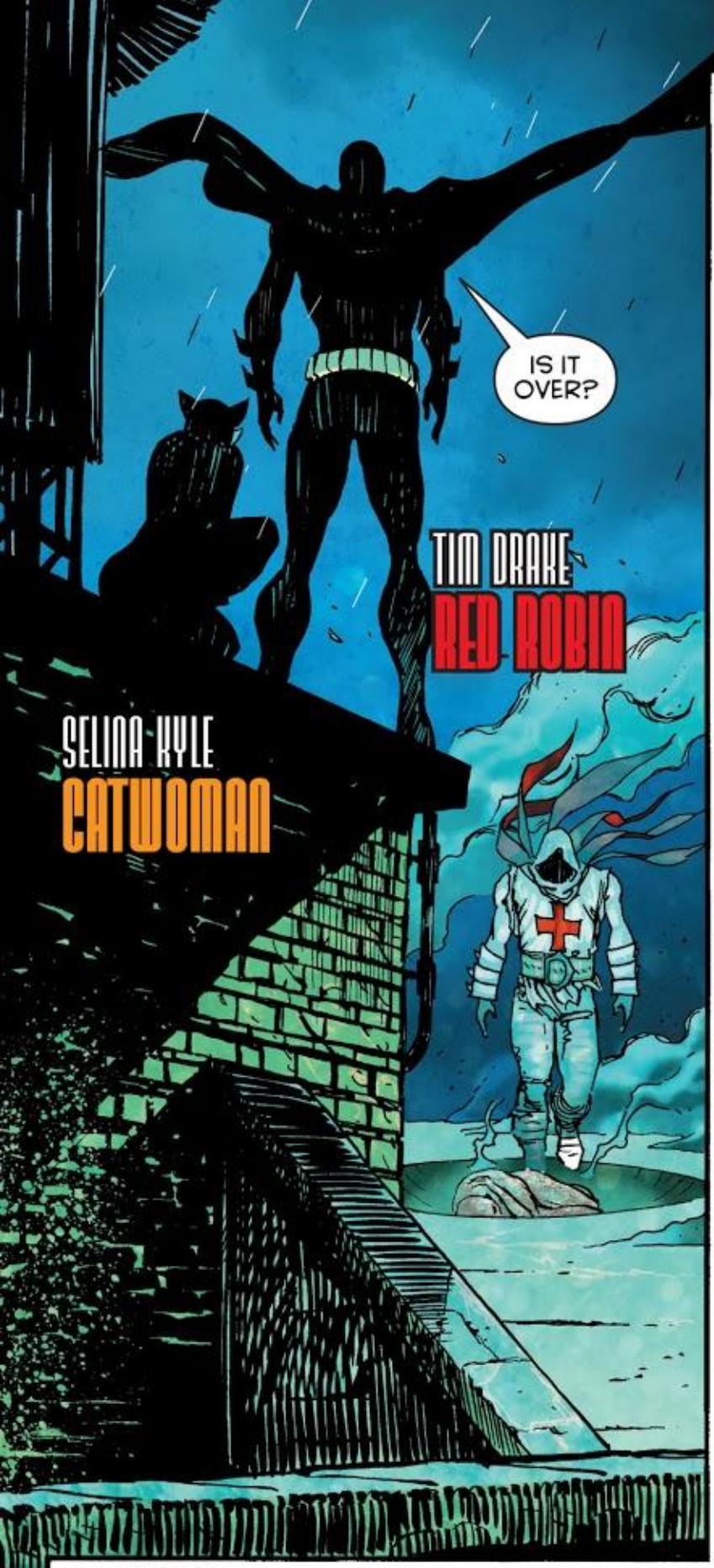
DO  
WHAT HE  
SAYS.

WE ARE  
IN GOD'S  
HANDS.

FORGIVE  
ME...







It's done.  
Gotham is safe.

And I feel lousy.

The pain in my chest is back.

LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE CITY IS WAKING UP, WONDERING WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED.

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH THEY OWE YOU.

YEAH.

I DIDN'T GET TO FINISH MY STORY. THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE I WANTED TO SAY.

THAT NIGHT I WAS BEATEN, HAD MY ARM BUSTED UP... I ALWAYS KNEW MY FRIEND DICK WAS THERE.

I NEVER HELD IT AGAINST HIM.

I GUESS I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD, BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS.

DICK WAS JUST A KID. KIDS MAKE MISTAKES.

I RECKON HE'S MADE UP FOR HIS, AND THEN SOME, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

REVENGE

"SO GOTHAM PREVAILS..."

ONLY BECAUSE  
AZRAEL BETRAYED  
YOU!

THERE WAS NO  
BETRAYAL. HE  
NEVER PLEDGED  
ALLEGIANCE  
TO ME.

HE'S STILL  
LOOKING FOR HIS  
OWN TRUTH. HIS  
OWN FAITH.

RA'S AL GHUL

**THE DEMON'S HEAD**

IN MARCH  
J. HILL

## WHITE GHOST

I UNDERESTIMATED  
THE YOUNG  
DETECTIVE, BUT  
THIS IS A SET-  
BACK, NOT  
A DEFEAT.

THE ADVANTAGE  
IS MINE. I HAVE  
ETERNITY... AND  
BATMAN MUST WIN  
EVERY SINGLE  
TIME...

...WHILE I  
NEED WIN BUT  
ONCE.

**THE  
END**

FROM THE WRITER OF  
ALL-STAR SUPERMAN & JLA

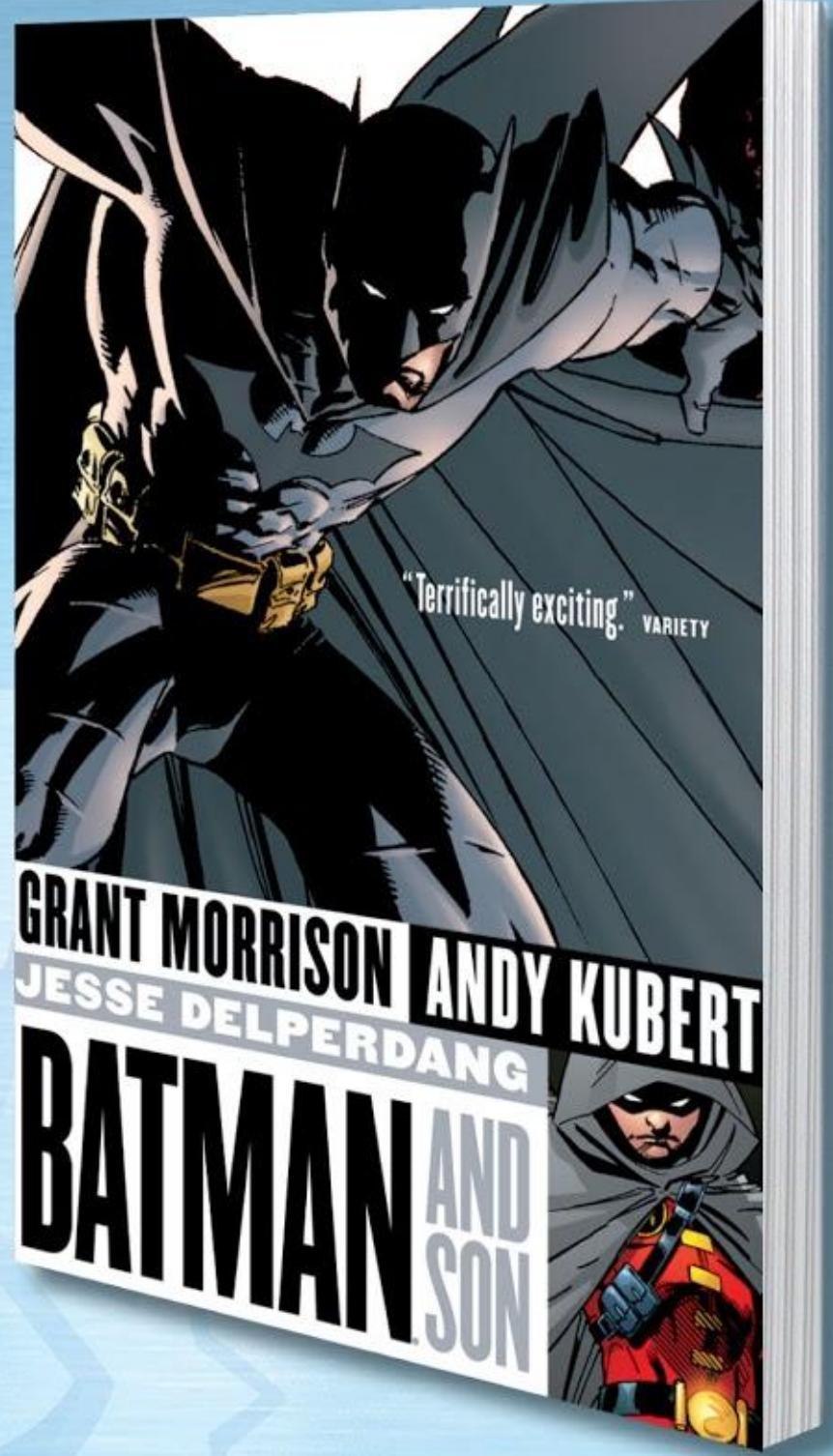
# GRANT MORRISON

with ANDY KUBERT

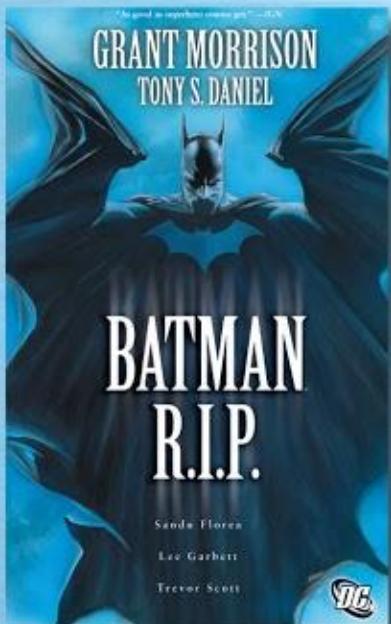
"As good as superhero comics get."  
— IGN

"Morrison and Quiteley have the magic touch."  
— MTV SPLASH PAGE

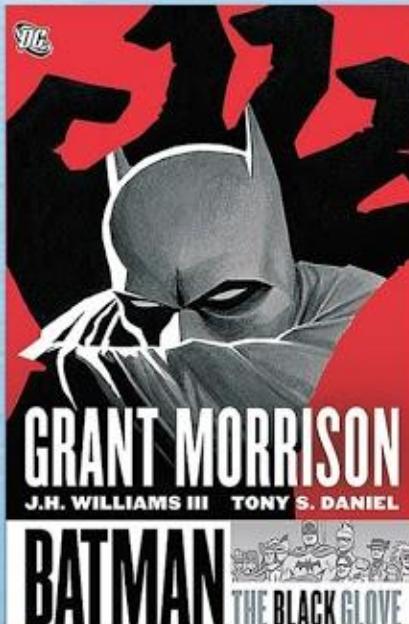
"The best title that DC Comics  
is currently publishing."  
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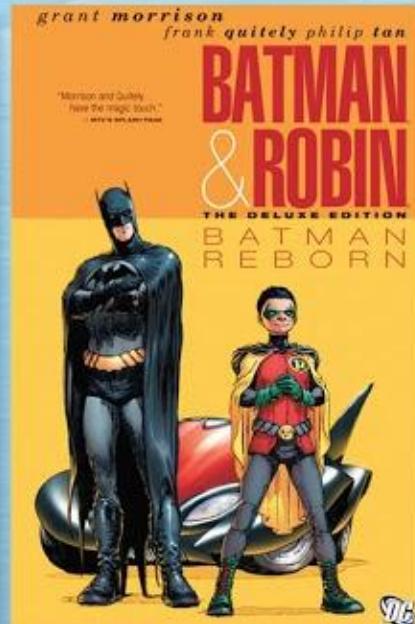
BATMAN:  
R.I.P.



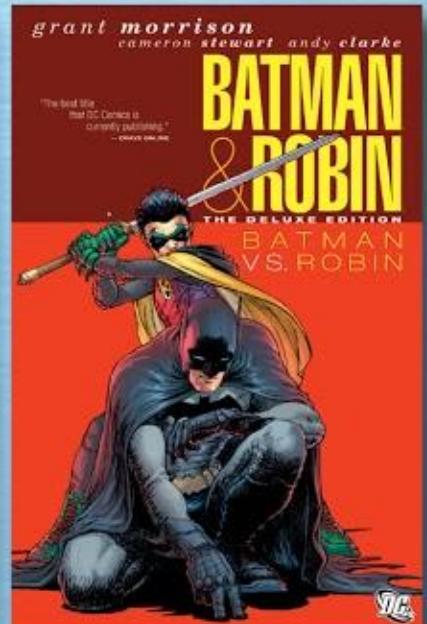
BATMAN:  
THE BLACK GLOVE



BATMAN AND ROBIN  
DELUXE EDITION VOL I:  
BATMAN REBORN



BATMAN AND ROBIN  
DELUXE EDITION VOL 2:  
BATMAN VS. ROBIN



with  
**TONY DANIEL**

with  
**J.H. WILLIAMS III  
& TONY DANIEL**

with  
**FRANK QUITELY  
& PHILIP TAN**

with  
**CAMERON STEWART,  
ANDY CLARKE  
& DUSTIN NGUYEN**

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