

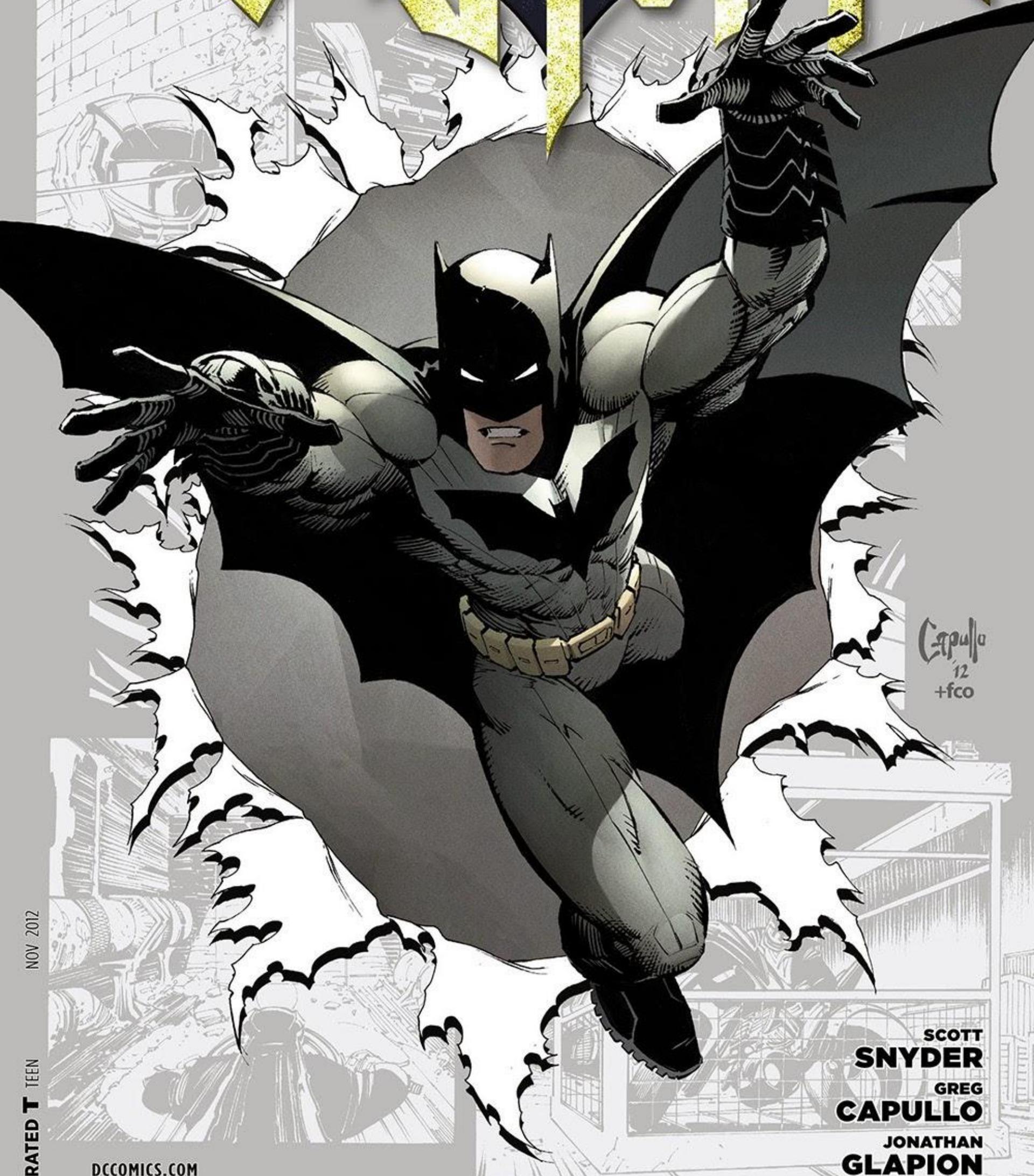


DC
COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

#0

BATMAN



NOV 2012

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM

SCOTT
SNYDER
GREG
CAPULLO
JONATHAN
GLAPION

GOTHAM CITY...

SIX YEARS AGO...

WHAT
WAS ONCE
OLD...

...WILL
BE NEW
AGAIN.

THAT
WAS OUR
MISSION.
PERHAPS SOME
WILL ACCUSE US OF
RAZING OUR OWN PAST
TOO QUICKLY, TOO
AGGRESSIVELY. WELL, TO
THEM I SAY, "BEFORE YOU
CRITICIZE OUR NEW
GOTHAM NATIONAL
BANK..."

...AT LEAST
TRY OUR FREE
COFFEE!"

HAHAHA
HA!

BANK

YOU REMEMBER HOW
MANY COMPLAINTS WE GOT
ABOUT THAT MACHINE? THE
GROUND'S GETTING THROUGH ALL
THE TIME? CUSTOMERS COMING
UP WITH THOSE SPECKS IN
THEIR TEETH? MY LORD...

SERIOUSLY,
THOUGH. WELCOME TO
YOUR NEW BANK, TEAM. IT'S
MODERN AND FRESH, BUT IT
HONORS THE RICH HISTORY
OF GOTHAM NATIONAL BY
OFFERING BETTER SERVICE,
BETTER STRATEGY AND
BETTER SECURITY.

NOW EAT
CAKE!

THIS IS
DELICIOUS,
SAM. WHERE DID
YOU FIND THE
PLACE?

IT'S
FROM THIS
LITTLE BAKERY
NEAR THE OLD
POWERS--

KNOCK,
KNOCK.

DC COMICS
Proudly
Presents:
**BEFORE
THE NEW 52!**
Starring BATMAN in

BRIGHT NEW YESTERDAY

SCOTT SNYDER
writer

GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN
GLAPION
inker

BATMAN
created by
BOB KANE

WHO'S
THERE?
HISTORY.

HISTORY?
WH--
BANG.
YOU'RE **DEAD**,
YOU IDIOT.
BECAUSE YOU
FORGOT
ME.



FCO
PLASCENCIA
colorist

RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT
lettering

KATIE KUBERT MIKE MARTS
assistant editor editor

GREG CAPULLO & ANDY CLARKE &
FCO PLASCENCIA FCO PLASCENCIA
cover variant cover

SO
REMEMBER
YOUR HISTORY,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN.

AND
HISTORICALLY, AT
THE OLD GOTHAM
NATIONAL, THE WAY IT
WORKED WAS YOU
GOT DOWN ON THE
GROUND AND WERE AS
QUIET AS CHURCH
MICE AND WE DIDN'T
DECORATE THE
WALLS WITH
YOU.
ALL RIGHT?

NOW, RED
HOOD GANG--
ROB THEM
BLIND!

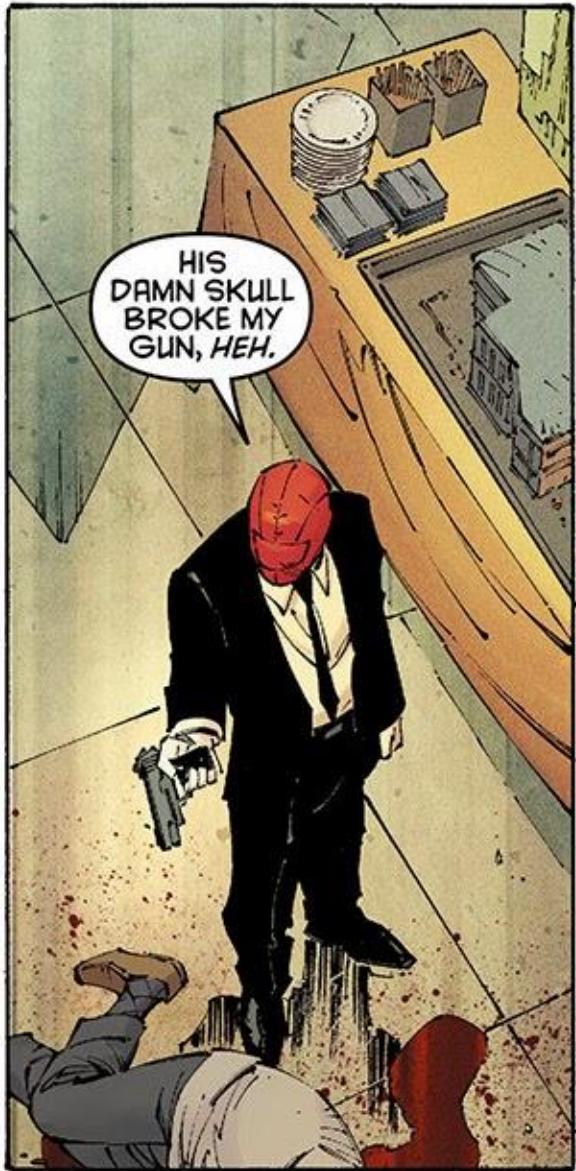
YOU...
YOU HAVE
NO RIGHT!
HOW DID
YOU GET IN
HERE?

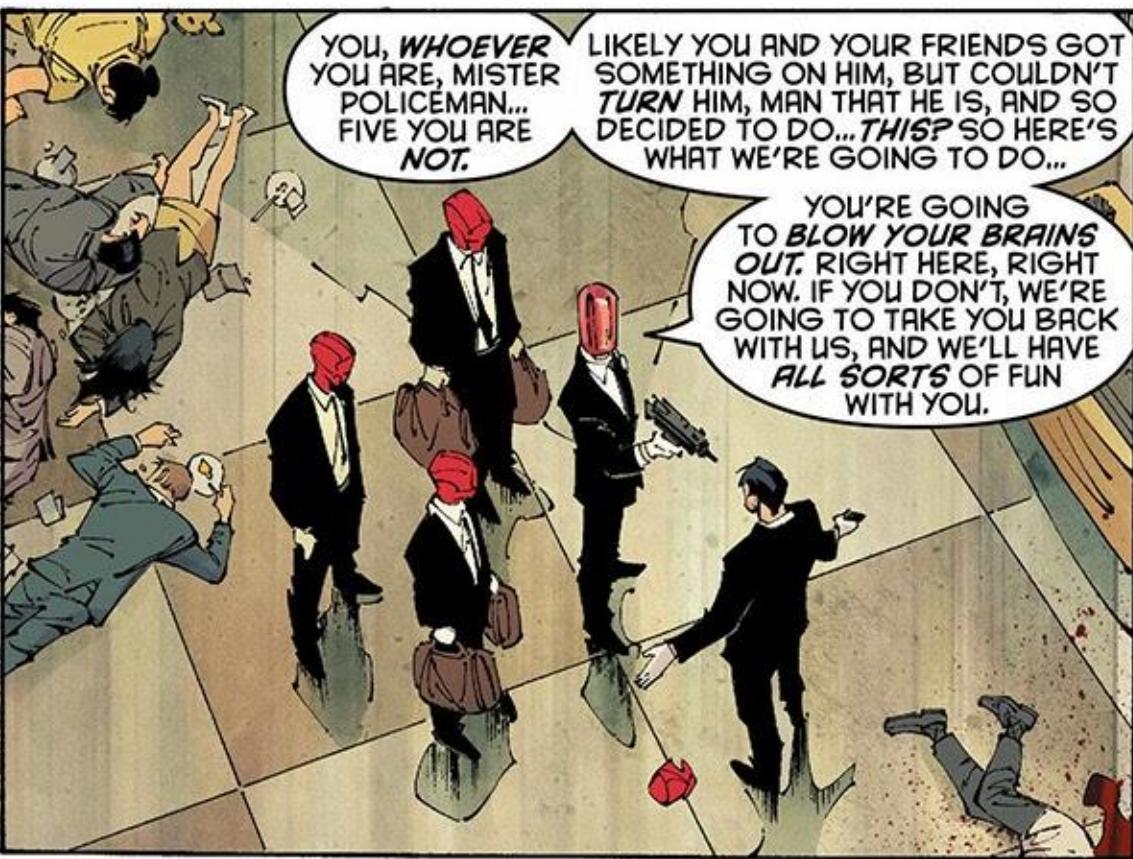
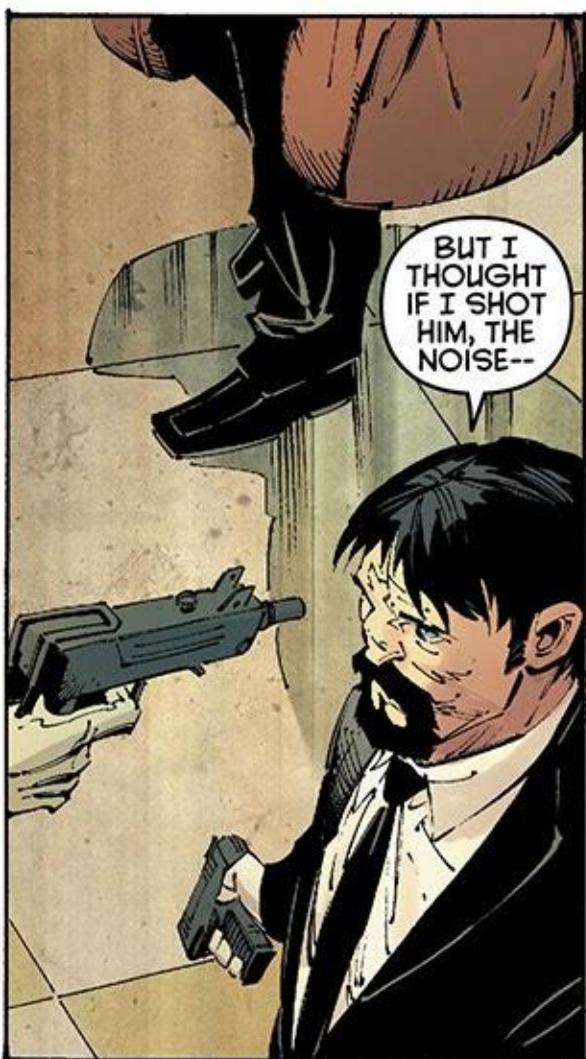
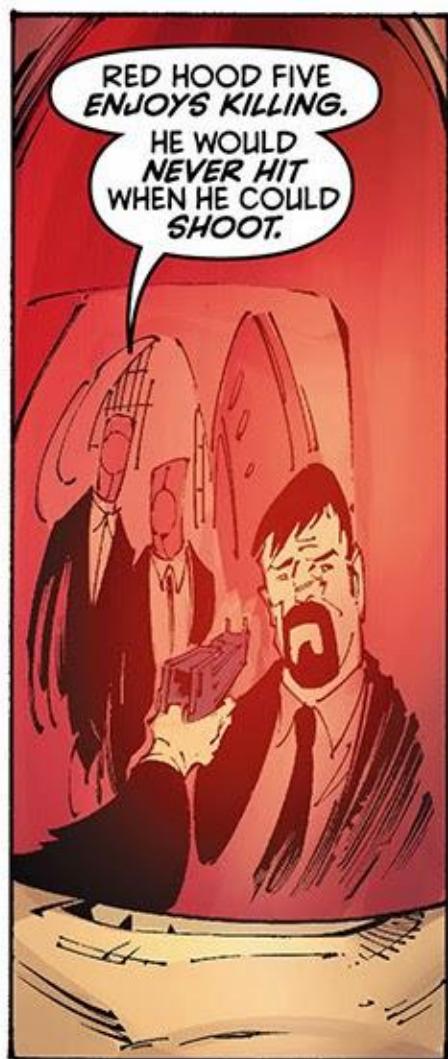
WITH THIS LITTLE
DOODAD, MADE
BY YOUR OWN
SECURITY TEAM,
STOLEN BY
US.

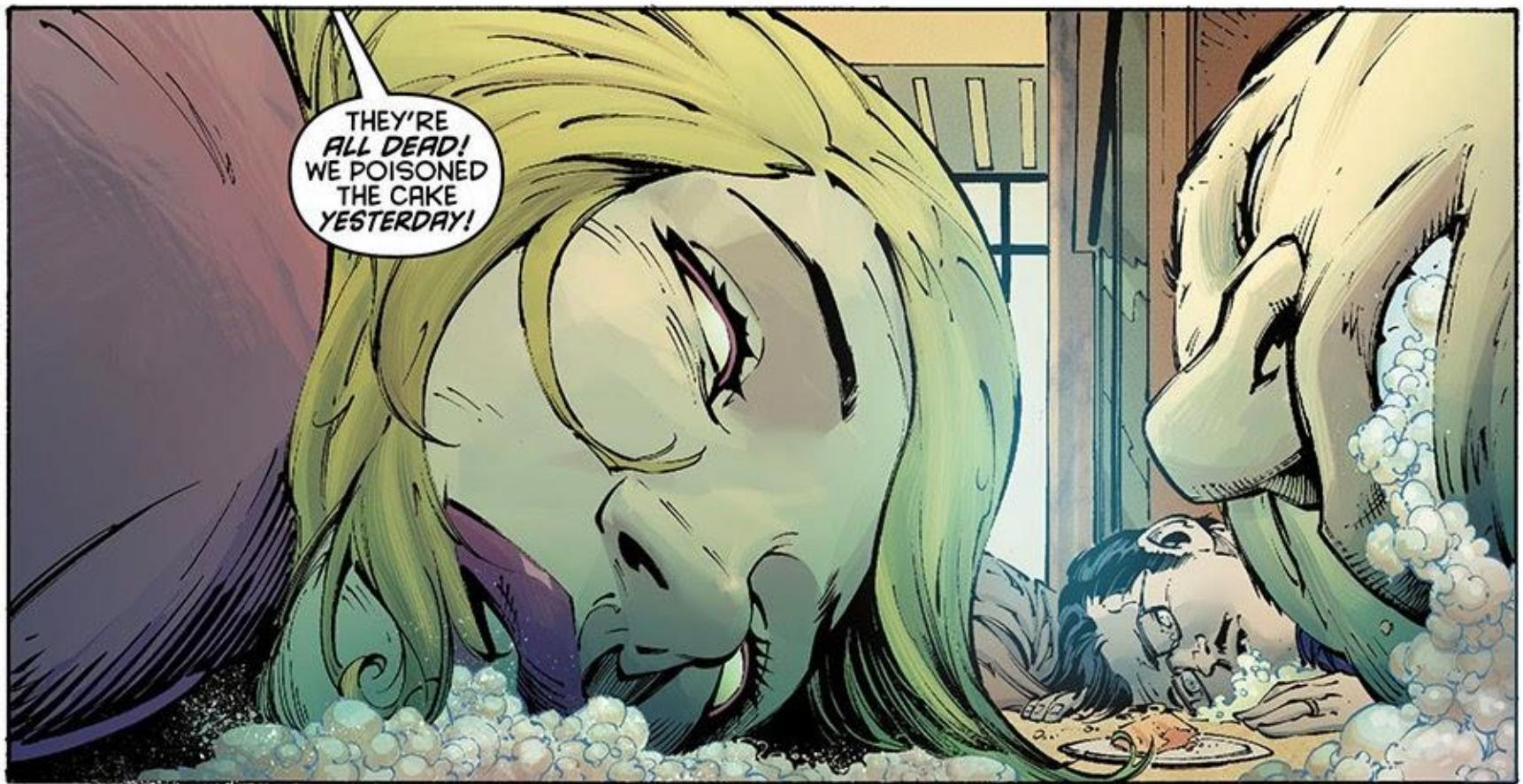
IT'S ALREADY
KNOCKED OUT
YOUR VAULT
CONTRACTION
SYSTEM, YOUR
SILENT ALARM, THAT
BRAND NEW COFFEE
MACHINE--THE ONE
THAT KEEPS THE
GROUNDS IN THE
PACKETS--
BUT SEE
I'M AFRAID
YOU WEREN'T
LISTENING TO
MY HISTORY
LESSON,
MR. DEKE.

RED HOOD FIVE,
PUT HIM DOWN.









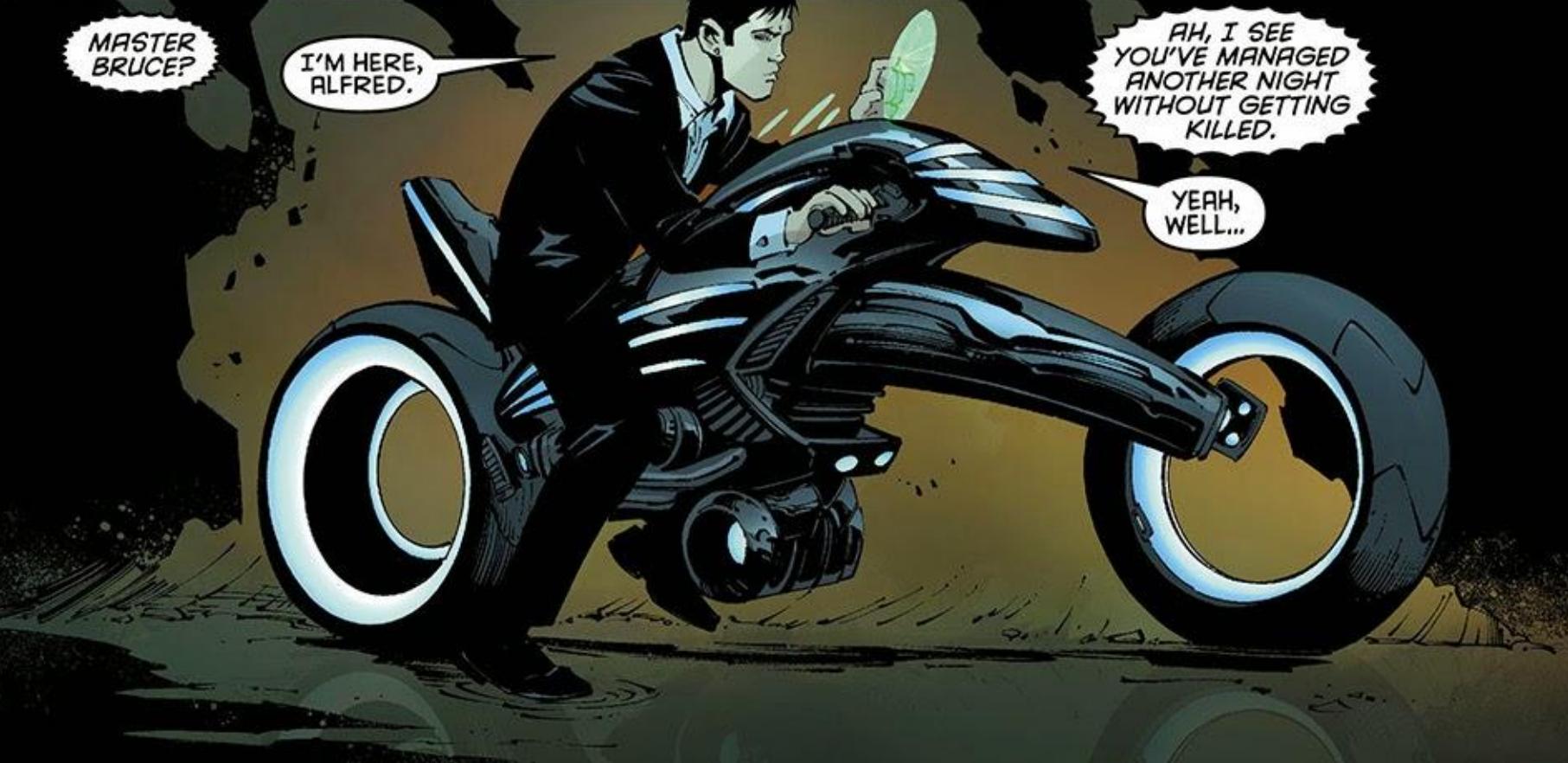


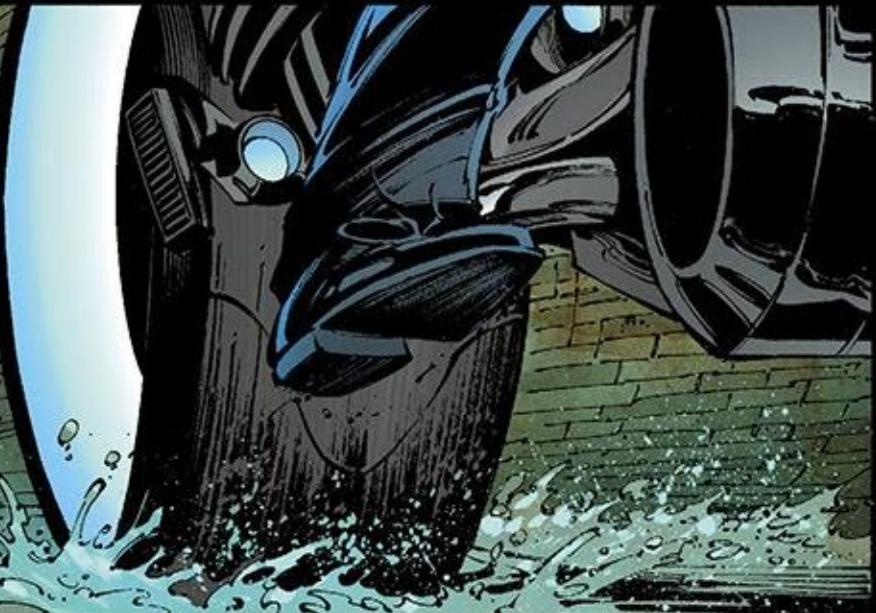
Should have done your homework.
Should have taken more time
studying him and the whole gang.









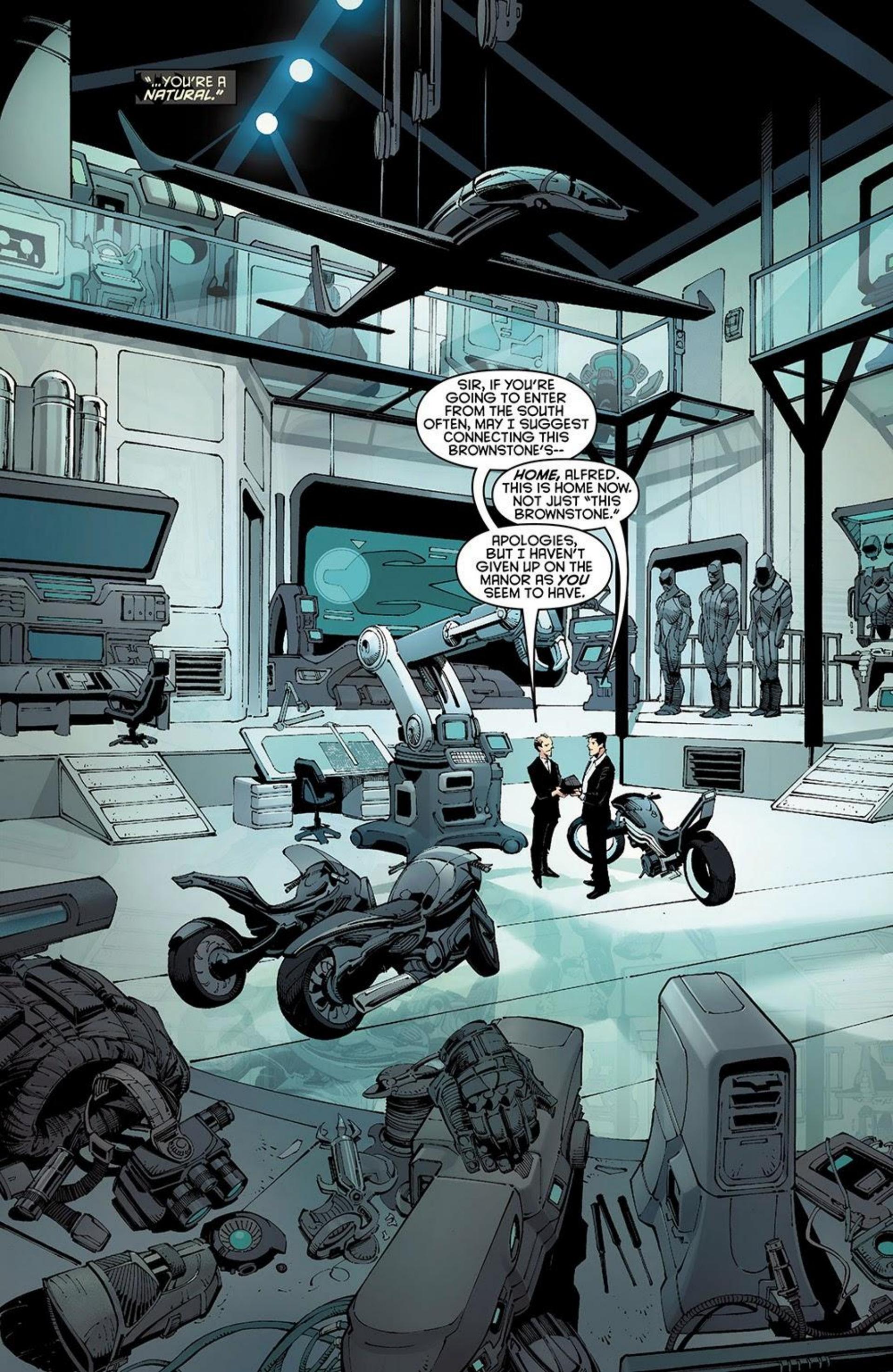


"...YOU'RE A
NATURAL."

SIR, IF YOU'RE
GOING TO ENTER
FROM THE SOUTH
OFTEN, MAY I SUGGEST
CONNECTING THIS
BROWNSTONE'S--

HOME, ALFRED.
THIS IS HOME NOW.
NOT JUST "THIS
BROWNSTONE."

APOLOGIES,
BUT I HAVEN'T
GIVEN UP ON THE
MANOR AS YOU
SEEM TO HAVE.



MY PARENTS DIED FORTY FEET FROM OUR NEW FRONT DOOR. THIS IS WHERE I HAVE TO BE, ALFRED. THIS IS WHERE MY WAR BEGINS.

AND HOW IS THAT WAR GOING SO FAR, SIR?

SAY WHAT YOU WANT. BUT I AM IMPROVING. NOT FAST ENOUGH, BUT I AM.

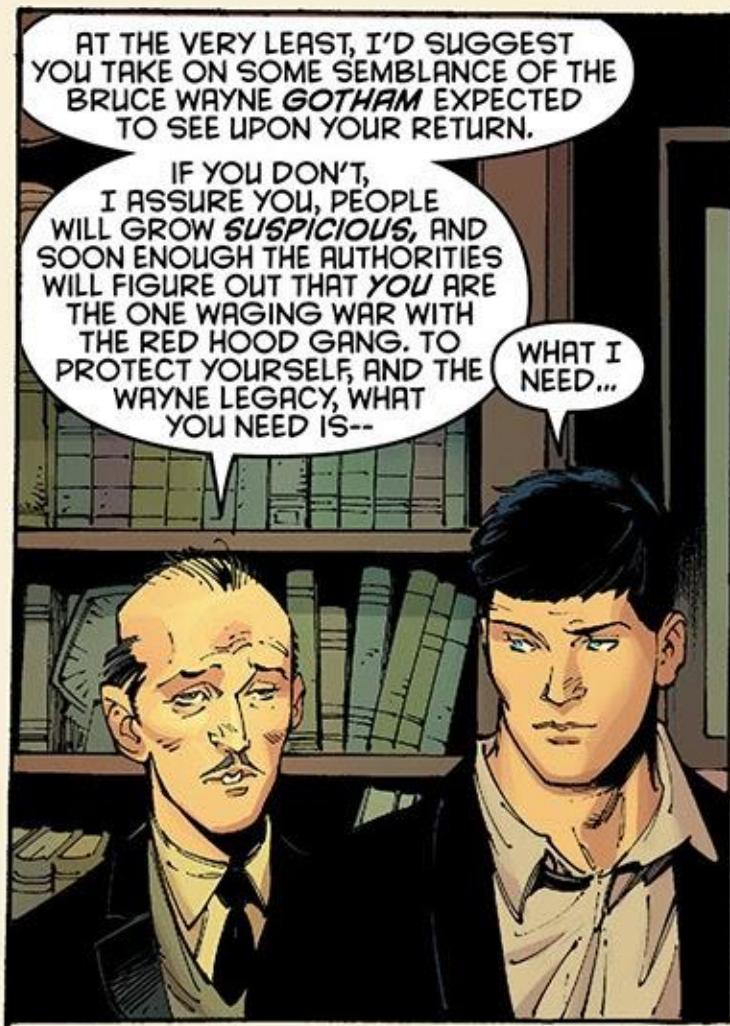
STILL, I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH. NOT YET. I HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY. I HAVE THE WEAPONS. I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIGHT THIS WAR WITHOUT ANYONE EVER KNOWING I EXIST.

BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT...

PERHAPS GOING BACK TO YOUR FAMILY HOME WOULD PROVIDE YOU WITH THE GROUNDING YOU NEED. SPEND SOME TIME GETTING TO KNOW BRUCE WAYNE AGAIN.

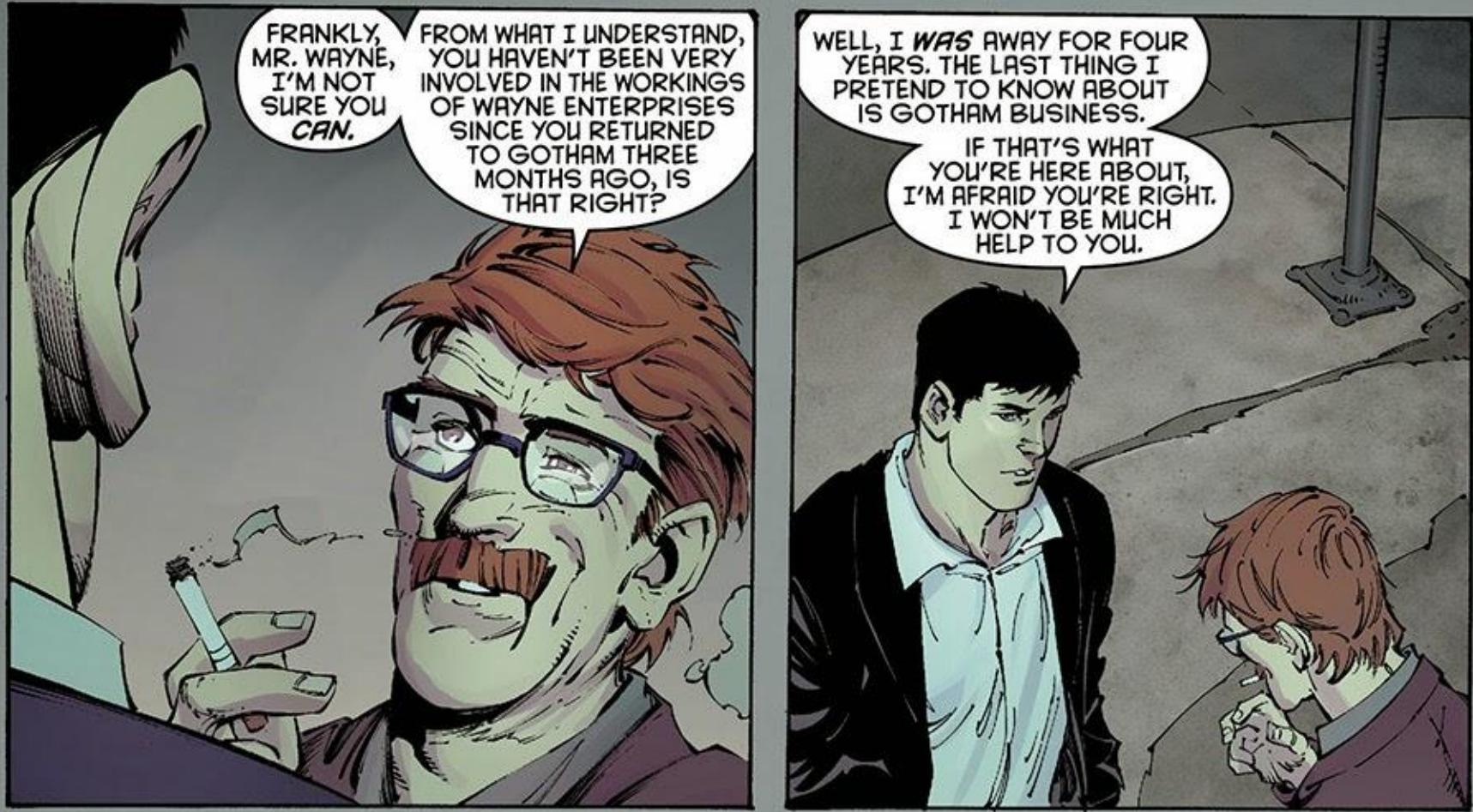
BRUCE WAYNE ISN'T IMPORTANT, ANYMORE, ALFRED. HE'S A MASK.

THIS IS ALL I NEED TO BE. IT'S WHO I AM.









I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT DAY BY DAY, I'M GROWING CONCERNED ABOUT THE LEGALITY OF THE PROJECTS HE'S DEVELOPING HERE ON CITY LAND.

DO YOU HAVE *PROOF*, LIEUTENANT?

-SIGH- NO, I DON'T. I HAVE WHISPERS AND A HUNCH, AND A HELL OF A LOT OF *RED TAPE*.

WELL, I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T HELP YOU. SO IF THAT'S ALL...

OF COURSE.

1:48

THOUGH THERE IS ONE MORE THING...

WE'VE HAD REPORTS OF A... **VIGILANTE** IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SOMEONE SNEAKING AROUND AT NIGHT, STOPPING CRIMES.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, EH?

HEH, THIS GUY'S APPARENTLY A LITTLE MORE *UPTOWN* THAN THAT. HE'S GOT RESOURCES. TECH THAT HAS OUR I.T. GUYS SWOONING LIKE TEENAGERS.

WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME, LIEUTENANT?

I'M ASKING YOU IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, THAT'S ALL.

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T HELP YOU.

GOOD. BECAUSE WHAT I'M TELLING YOU IS THAT ANYONE WHO HELPS THIS PERSON, ANYONE WHO SO MUCH AS KNOWS ONE FACT ABOUT HIM AND KEEPS QUIET...

...IS GOING TO PRISON. AND A VERY PUBLIC EXAMPLE WILL BE MADE OF HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

UNDERSTOOD. BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT ANY OF THIS HAS TO DO WITH ME.

NOTHING, MOST LIKELY. BUT SEE, YOU COME BACK TO GOTHAM AND FIRST THING YOU DO IS PLANT YOUR FLAG HERE, IN CRIME ALLEY, THE WORST OF THE WORST, WHEN YOU COULD BE IN A COZY MANSION.

I'M CONCERNED THAT SHOULD YOU CROSS PATHS WITH THIS PERSON, THIS VIGILANTE, YOU MIGHT SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM. YOU SEEM TO BE ON A BIT OF A CRUSADE HERE, IS ALL.

HEH. WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY. I WON'T BE FRATERNIZING WITH ANY VIGILANTES. BUT IT'S FUNNY, I HEAR YOU'RE A BIT OF A CRUSADER YOURSELF.

IS THAT SO?

I'M AFRAID IT IS.

WELL, I BETTER DISPEL THAT RUMOR AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. I'VE HEARD CRUSADERS IN GOTHAM, THEY END UP PRETTY DAMN LONELY.

KCHINK

"THIS IS IT."



THE STORY CONTINUES IN 2013!

FIVE YEARS AGO...

EXPLAIN IT
TO ME AGAIN, DAD.
EXPLAIN TO ME HOW
THIS SOMEHOW
ISN'T *CRAZY*.

DON'T
YOU HAVE
SOME KIND
OF STUDYING
TO DO,
BARBARA?

DAD, PLEASE.
DOING THIS IS THE
SAME AS TELLING
THE WORLD THAT
YOU HAVE NO
CONTROL.

YOU'RE
GOING TO TURN
THE ENTIRE *JUSTICE*
SYSTEM IN GOTHAM
UPSIDE DOWN!

->SIGH-<

THAT'S EXACTLY THE
POINT. THERE IS NO JUSTICE
SYSTEM IN GOTHAM CITY.
BUT THERE IS *JUSTICE*, AND
WE NEED TO FIGHT TO
KEEP IT ALIVE.

TOMORROW

JAMES TYNION IV WRITER
ANDY CLARKE ARTIST
FCO PLASCENCIA COLORIST
PATRICK BROSSEAU LETTERER
KATIE KUBERT ASST. EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR

THE PEOPLE OUT THERE...
THEY THINK HE'S NOTHING
BUT A *MYTH*... A BOGEYMAN
FOR CRIMINALS THAT THE
PRESS CAME UP WITH TO
SELL PAPERS.

WE HAVE TO
CHANGE THAT,
BARBARA. OTHERWISE,
THERE'S NO HOPE FOR
THE FUTURE OF THIS
CITY.

THE VERY FACT
THAT I'M STANDING
HERE AND THAT OTHER
DECENT CIVIL SERVANTS
ARE STARTING TO RISE
UP... IT'S ALL BECAUSE
OF ONE MAN...
THE BATMAN.

YOU SAW HIM JUST THE
OTHER WEEK IN THIS
VERY BUILDING... SAW
WHAT HE CAN *DO*.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED
TO BRING YOU HERE
TONIGHT.

"WE HAVE TO LET THE HEROES OF TOMORROW KNOW THAT THEY AREN'T ALONE."

TIMOTHY,
ARE YOU EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?

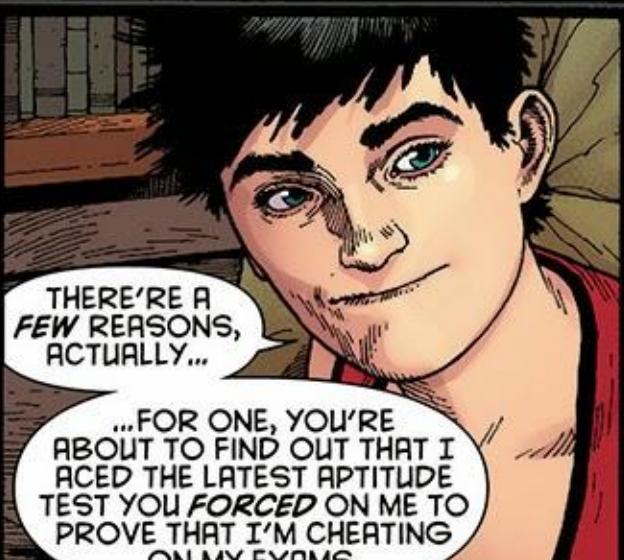


OH, I ABSOLUTELY AM. JUST SHOOTING OFF A QUICK E-MAIL. YOU KNOW...BUSY DAY AND ALL.

I JUST TOLD YOU YOU'VE BEEN EXPelled FOR TAMPERING WITH MR. ARCHER'S COMPUTER, AND YOU'RE WRITING E-MAILS ON A DEVICE SPECIFICALLY BANNED IN THIS SCHOOL?

YOU'D THINK THAT EXPULSION WOULD KINDA WASH OUT THE WHOLE SMART PHONE DEAL...BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EXPEL ME, MR. RENFIELD.

AND WHY NOT? I DIDN'T PULL YOU OUT OF YOUR EVENING GYMNASTICS TRAINING TO GIVE YOU A PAT ON THE BACK, TIMOTHY.



THERE'RE A FEW REASONS, ACTUALLY...

...FOR ONE, YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT THAT I ACED THE LATEST APTITUDE TEST YOU FORCED ON ME TO PROVE THAT I'M CHEATING ON MY EXAMS.

(I'M NOT, BY THE WAY). AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THROW OUT THE BEST STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL.

THEN THERE'S THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T JUST GET INTO MR. ARCHER'S COMPUTER--I GOT INTO THE ENTIRE TEACHERS' NETWORK...

AND, WELL, THAT REASON KINDA LEADS INTO THE NEXT ONE. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO STAY PRINCIPAL VERY LONG, MR. RENFIELD.



TIMOTHY,
WHAT--

YOU'VE TAKEN ROUGHLY
\$1.6 MILLION FROM THE ACADEMY
OVER THE LAST DECADE. I'VE
GOT THE ENTIRE MONEY TRAIL
RIGHT HERE ON MY PHONE.

FRANKLY, I
THOUGHT IT'D BE
A BIT MORE FUN TO
CATCH YOU IN THE
ACT...A CHALLENGE,
YOU KNOW?
BUT YOU MADE
IT RIDICULOUSLY
EASY.

I MEAN...HOW STUPID
DOES A MAN HAVE TO BE
TO USE HIS **SCHOOL
E-MAIL** TO SOLICIT
MONEY FOR ACADEMIC
PROJECTS THAT
DON'T EXIST?

HOW...

I'VE BEEN
PUTTING IT TOGETHER
FOR MONTHS. THE
FLASHY CAR, THE NEW
WATCH...BUT THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT. IT'S REALLY
MORE AN ISSUE OF
CHARACTER.

THE WAY
YOU TREAT YOUR
STUDENTS AND
YOUR FACULTY...
YOU'RE A **BAD**
MAN, MR. RENFIELD.
I JUST NEEDED
TO DIG A LITTLE
TO FIND OUT
HOW BAD.

**KNOCK
KNOCK**

OH, I BET THAT'S
THE POLICE.

THAT WAS THE E-MAIL I
WAS SENDING, BY THE WAY. I
JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE I
COULD ASK YOU SOMETHING
BEFORE THEY TOOK YOU
AWAY...

THAT LAST
TEST...WAS IT
WHAT I THINK
IT WAS?

...IT WAS
LAST YEAR'S
S.A.T.

WELL
THEN, I
BETTER
START
PICKING
COLLEGES,
HUH?

BUT IF IT'S
ALL THE SAME TO YOU,
I WOULD LIKE TO FINISH
MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRST.
NOT THAT YOU REALLY
HAVE ANY SAY ABOUT
IT ANYMORE...



THIS
IS A
STICK-
UP!

YOU KEEP LOOKOUT,
MAN. AND MAKE SURE
THAT LADY DOESN'T
MOVE A FREAKING
MUSCLE.

P-PLEASE
DON'T HURT
ME... I DON--

SHH...
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY.

I'M JUST A
REGULAR GUY IN A
ROUGH PLACE. ALL
WE'RE TRYING TO DO
IS GET SOME MONEY
FOR RENT AND
GROCERIES.

MY NAME'S JASON... AND I
PROMISE YOU WON'T GET
HURT. THIS'LL ALL BE
OVER IN A MINUTE.

YOU
IDIOT...

YOU TOLD HER YOUR NAME? YOU'RE
GOING TO GET US BOTH LOCKED UP! YOU
WERE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKOUT... CAN'T
YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?

I'LL TAKE
CARE OF THIS
MYSELF...

NO!

BLAM

COME
ON, MAN! WE
HAVE TO
RUN!



C'MON,
JASON →PANT
PANT←...WE
HAVE TO KEEP
MOVING...

THIS WAS JUST
ABOUT THE MONEY,
CHRIS! YOU SAID
THE GUN WAS
UNLOADED!

SHE WON'T...
SHE WON'T
EVER MOVE
AGAIN.

YOU
PROMISED
ME NOBODY
WOULD GET
HURT!

GONNA MAKE
SURE... YOU NEVER
HURT ANYONE
AGAIN.

GET
OFF
HIM!

HE SHOT THE
WOMAN DOWN THE
STREET. KILLED HER... I
JUST... I STOPPED HIM. I
NEEDED TO STOP
HIM.

WELL, YOU
DID THE JOB,
SON... DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE MUCH
OF A THREAT
NOW, DOES
HE?

WHATEVER
YOU SAY,
OFFICER.





IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LIGHT, BARBARA.

IT'S A SIGNAL.



A SIGNAL TO GOTHAM THAT THEIR SECRET HOPE FOR JUSTICE, FOR A BETTER TOMORROW, ISN'T JUST A FANTASY.

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT IT'S BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET HOLD OF HIM UNTIL NOW...

NOW LET'S JUST HOPE THE RIGHT PEOPLE SEE IT.

THEY WILL, DAD. I BELIEVE IN YOU.

THEN BELIEVE IN HIM, TOO.

ANYONE WHO ACTUALLY STANDS FOR WHAT'S RIGHT IN THIS WICKED TOWN... THEY NEED ALL THE BELIEF THEY CAN GET.

YOU COMING DOWN? I THINK I CAN HEAR THE PHONES RINGING ALL THE WAY UP HERE.

NOT YET...



...I JUST NEED ANOTHER MINUTE.

