

DC COMICS

THE NEW 52!

#1

# BATMAN

SCOTT  
**SNYDER**  
GREG  
**CAPULLO**  
JONATHAN  
**GLAPION**

NOV 2011

RATED T TEEN

dccomics.com



Every Saturday, the Gotham Gazette includes a small life-styles piece called "Gotham Is."

In the column, random Gothamites are asked to complete the sentence "Gotham is..." using three words or less.

The Gazette has been running the "Gotham Is" column for years, ever since I was a boy.

Here are some of the words used to describe Gotham the past few weeks:

"Damned."

"Cursed."

"Bedlam."

"Murderous..."

DC Comics  
Proudly Presents

# BATMAN IN

# KNIFE TRICK

Gotham is  
"villainous."

Gotham is  
"a losing game."

Gotham is  
"hopeless."

YOU'RE  
ALL OURS,  
NOW.

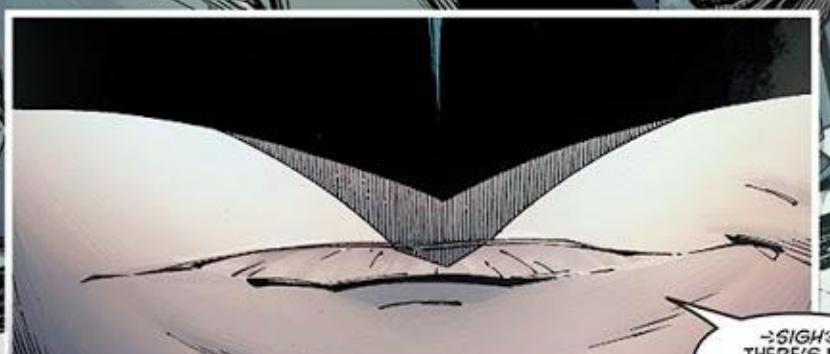
NO  
WAY OUT,  
BATS.

SCOTT SNYDER  
WRITER  
GREG CAPULLO  
PENCILLER & COVER  
JONATHAN GLAPION  
INKER  
FCO PLASCENCIA  
COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S  
JIMMY BETANCOURT LETTERS

KATIE KUBERT | JANELLE ASSELIN | MIKE MARTS  
ASSISTANT EDITOR | ASSOCIATE EDITOR | EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



SIGH...  
THERE'S NO  
PLACE LIKE  
HOME.

Once in a while, someone names one of the city's villains as their answer to the "Gotham Is" question.

Usually it's some kid, a teenager going for shock value.

But now and then someone actually tries to make the argument that the city is best reflected in its villains.

For example, "Gotham is Two-Face," meaning Gotham is a city at odds with itself.

Meaning the city is little more than a cannibalistic monster.

Or "Gotham is Killer Croc."





Granted, now and then, one of them will do something that catches even me off-guard...



I WAS HERE

twice

...something particularly depraved...



...or twisted...

THERE YOU ARE!

AND HERE I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WERE GOING TO DIE WITHOUT EVEN SAYING GOODBYE!

YOU READY TO DO THIS?

AW, ALWAYS SO SERIOUS.

FINE, THEN...





"Gotham is 'Batman.'"

"Gotham is 'Batman's city.'"

"Gotham is 'the Bat...'"

All answers I'm partial to, myself.

Still, I like to think a vote  
for Batman is a broader  
affirmation--a vote for  
all of Gotham's heroes.

A vote for  
the G.C.P.D.

Honest, tireless men like  
Commissioner Jim Gordon.

I STILL DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
A FULL-SCALE  
BREAKOUT? WITH  
NO WARNING?

IT WASN'T A  
BREAKOUT.

I'VE BEEN  
INVESTIGATING  
A WEAK LINK AT  
ARKHAM ASYLUM.  
A GUARD NAMED  
MATTHEWS. I WAS  
COMING FOR  
HIM.

HE SPRANG  
THE DOORS  
TO STOP ME.

NOT DAN MATTHEWS?  
HE'S ONE OF THE  
BEST MEN ON PAYROLL  
THERE...I'VE KNOWN  
HIM SINCE HE WAS  
AN ACADEMY  
BOY.

HE'S  
GOT A FATHER  
WITH HEALTH  
PROBLEMS.  
A DIVORCE  
LOOMING.

HE  
AND BELLE  
ARE GETTING  
DIVORCED?

I HAD NO  
IDEA.

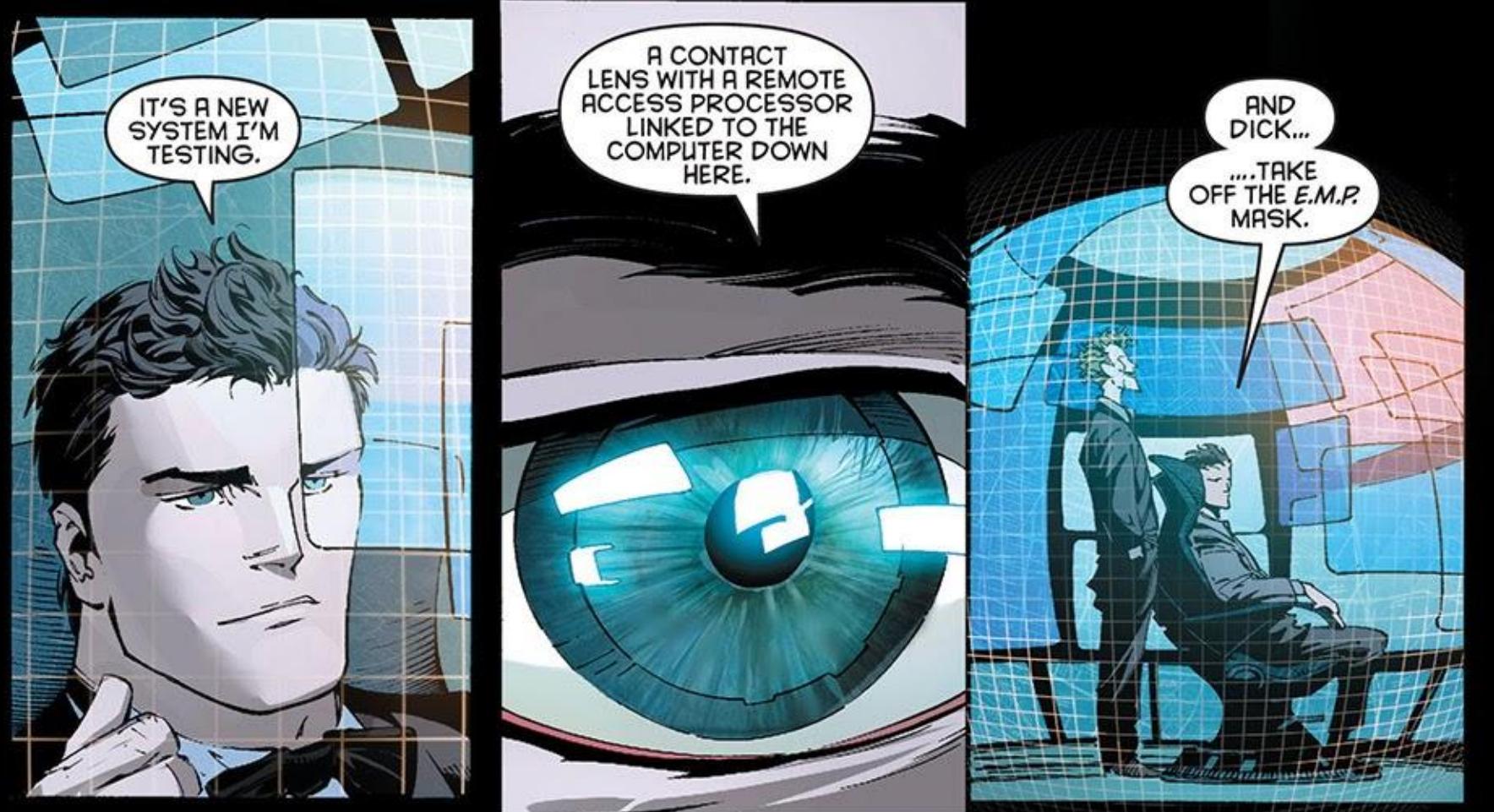
NEITHER  
DOES SHE.

GEEZ. WHO'S  
THE NEW PAL?

COCKTAIL  
WAITRESS.  
ICEBERG LOUNGE.  
IMPRESSIVE SHEET  
OF HER OWN.





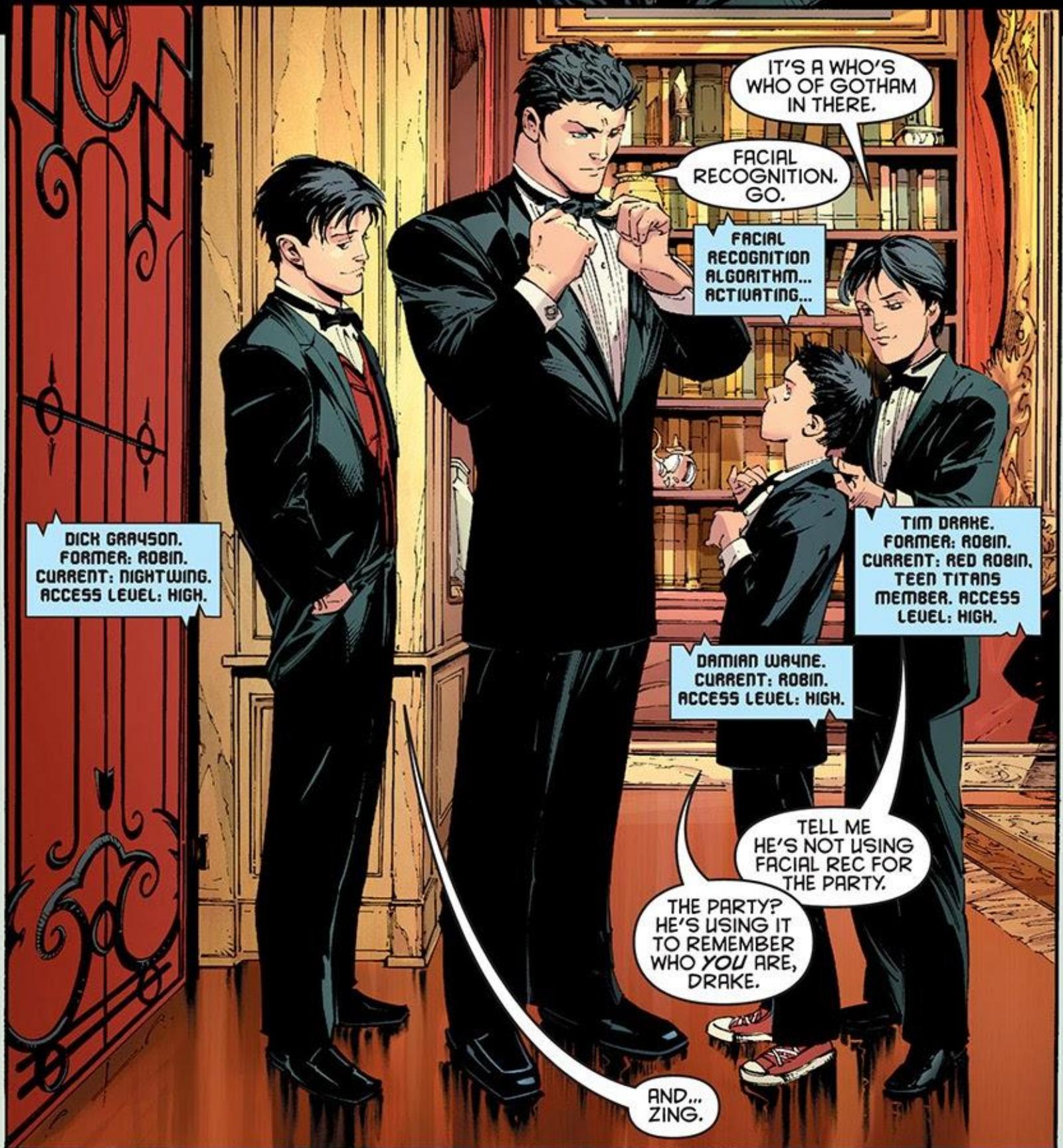


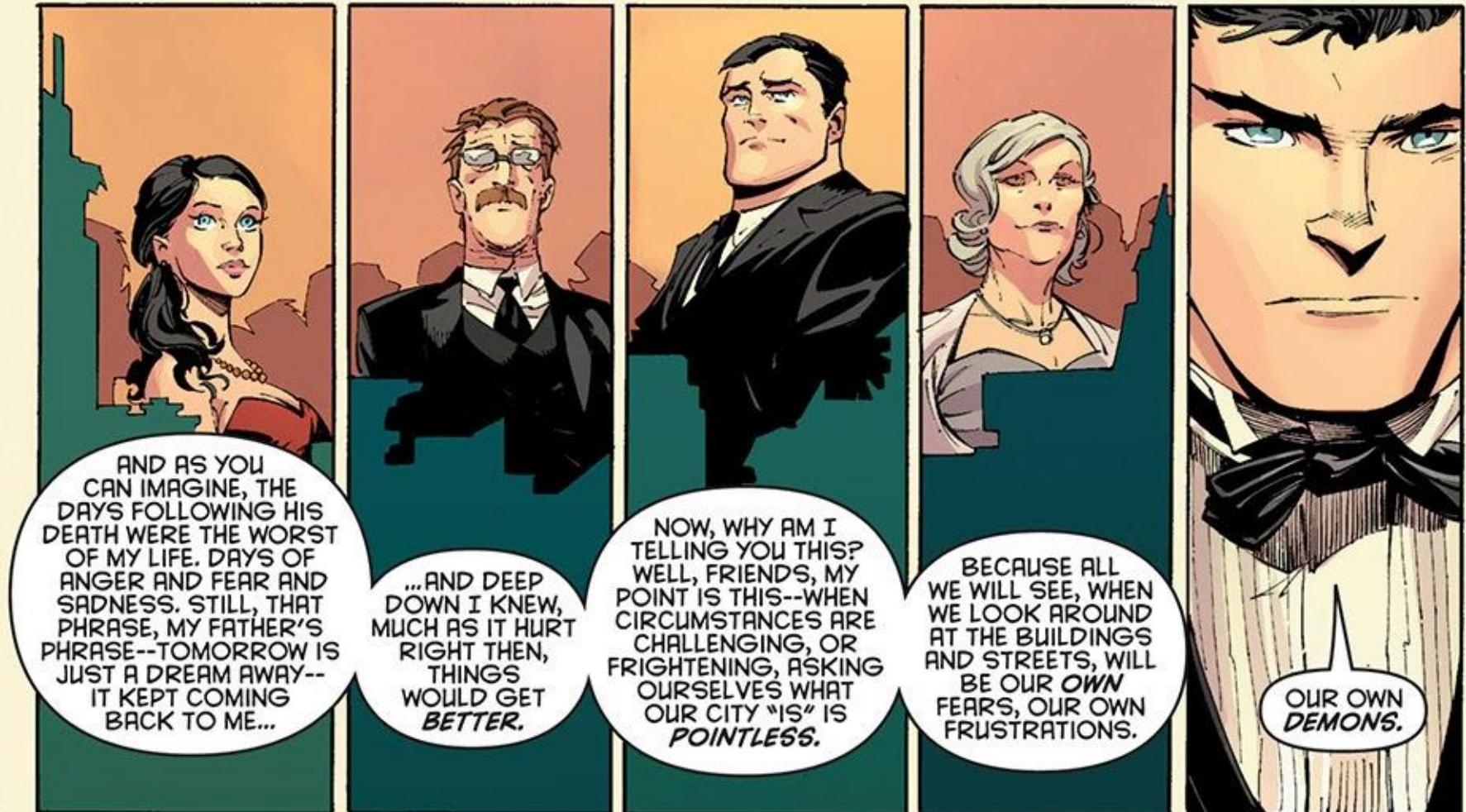
BELIEVE ME,  
I'VE BEEN DYING TO.  
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE  
SURE YOU DISCONNECTED  
IT FROM THE MAIN-  
FRAME FIRST.

SO...A  
CONTACT LENS  
WITH REMOTE  
ACCESS?

MEANING,  
ANYWHERE  
YOU GO, THE  
**BATCAVE**  
GOES WITH  
YOU?







...IF WE ASK OURSELVES WHAT CAN BE--WHAT WILL BE--TOMORROW... THEN WE'RE ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION. BECAUSE TO HOPE, TO DREAM, TO PREDICT IS TO **SHAPE** THE CITY YOURSELF, RATHER THAN TO BE SHAPED **BY** IT.

SO, PUTTING MY MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS...

...NEXT MONTH, WAYNE ENTERPRISES WILL BEGIN INVESTING--AGGRESSIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY--IN GOTHAM'S FUTURE.

WORKING WITH VARIOUS DOMESTIC DESIGN FIRMS, WE'VE ALREADY SET IN MOTION AN INITIATIVE TO REBUILD SOME OF GOTHAM'S MOST DERELICT INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. FROM THERE, WE PLAN ON MOVING BOLDLY TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE GOTHAM'S PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.

I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW EXCITED, HOW **HOPEFUL** I AM ABOUT THESE PLANS. MUCH MORE WILL BE REVEALED IN THE COMING DAYS, BUT FOR NOW, I ASK YOU TO DO THIS...

LOOK PAST WHAT GOTHAM WAS, WHAT GOTHAM IS...AND IMAGINE WITH ME, JUST FOR A MOMENT...

...GOTHAM AS IT WILL BE...

->GASP!<-



THANK YOU... NOW WHAT I ASK OF YOU, FRIENDS, IS TO INVEST WITH ME. INVEST IN GOTHAM'S FUTURE. BECAUSE I PROMISE YOU, IF WE CAN ALL DO THAT, TOGETHER...

CLAP!  
CLAP!

BRAVO!  
BRAVO!

"...A BETTER, BRIGHTER  
GOTHAM IS JUST  
ONE DREAM AWAY."

ALFRED  
PENNYWORTH.  
CARETAKER.  
WAYNE ESTATE.  
ACCESS LEVEL:  
HIGHEST.

WELL DONE,  
MASTER BRUCE.  
INSPIRING.  
THOROUGH...

THANK YOU,  
ALFRED.

THOUGH YOU DID  
FAIL TO MENTION  
THE MYRIAD OF NEW  
*BAT-BUNKERS*  
YOU'LL BE BUILDING  
THROUGHOUT  
THE CITY.

HUH. MUST  
HAVE SLIPPED  
MY MIND. NEXT  
PRESENTATION  
MAYBE.

VICKI VALE. REPORTER FOR  
THE GOTHAM GAZETTE.

BRUCE!  
THERE YOU  
ARE.

SO FIRST YOU FUND  
THE DIGITIZING OF THE  
GAZETTE, NOW YOU'RE REBUILDING  
HALF THE CITY... I'D SAY YOU WERE  
GOTHAM'S OWN *MAN OF TOMORROW*,  
THAT IS, IF I WASN'T ALREADY  
SAYING HE IS.

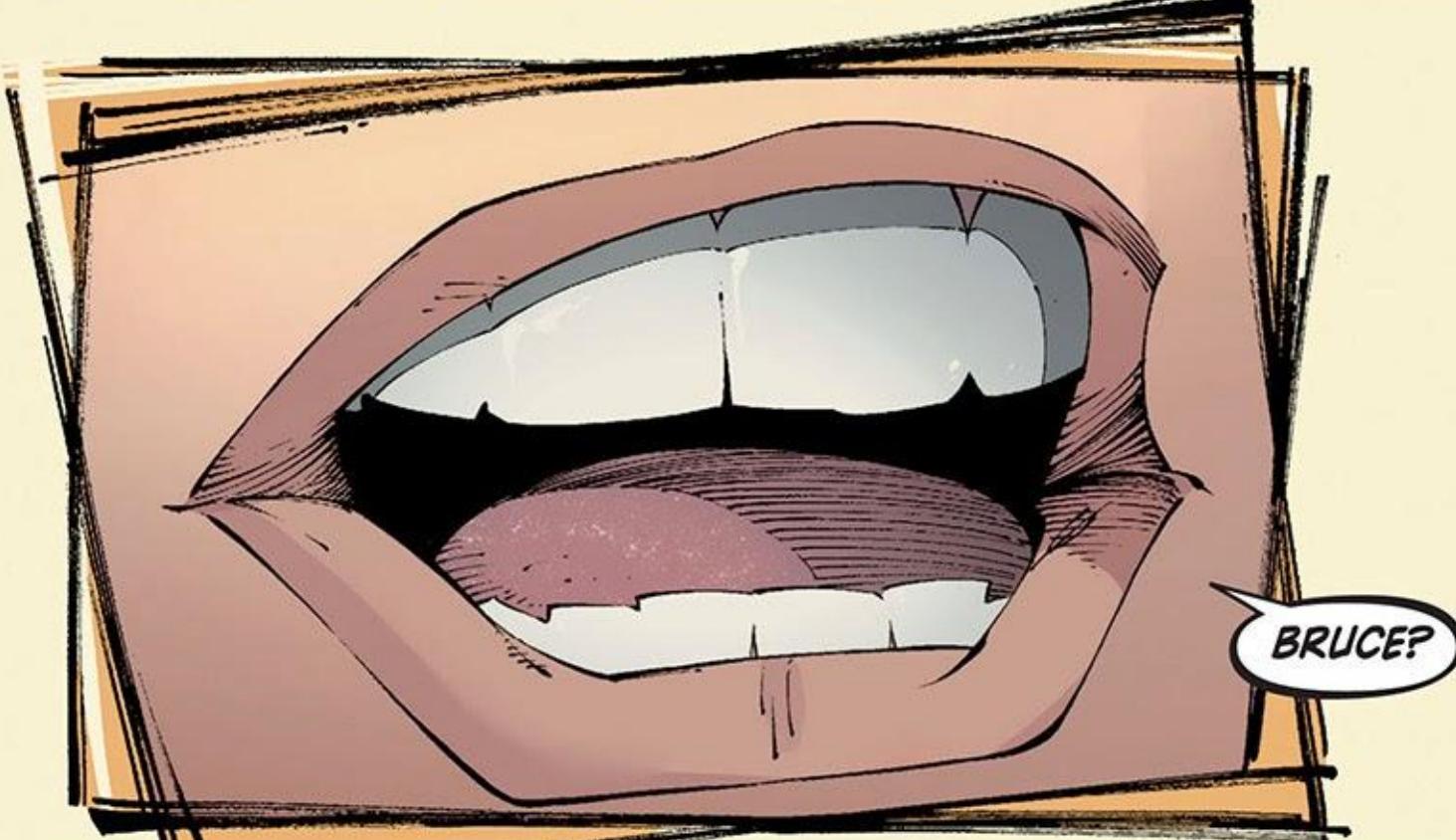
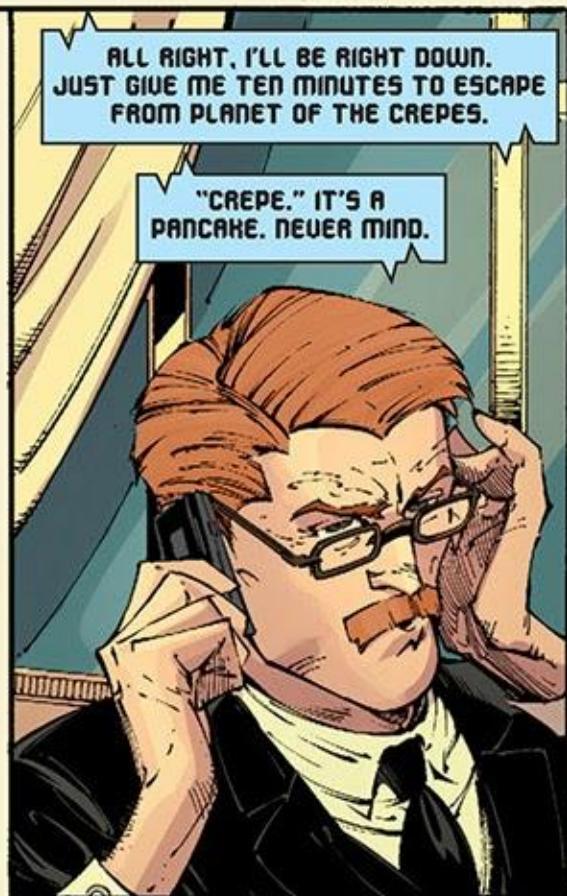
LINCOLN MARCH,  
BRUCE WAYNE.  
LINCOLN IS--

RUNNING  
FOR MAYOR,  
YES, I KNOW. AND  
MARCH VENTURE...  
YOU UNDERWROTE  
LESLIE THOMPKINS'S  
SATELLITE CLINIC  
ON THE EAST SIDE,  
DIDN'T YOU?

LINCOLN MARCH.  
C.O.O. MARCH VENTURE.  
CURRENT GOTHAM CITY  
MAYORAL CANDIDATE.

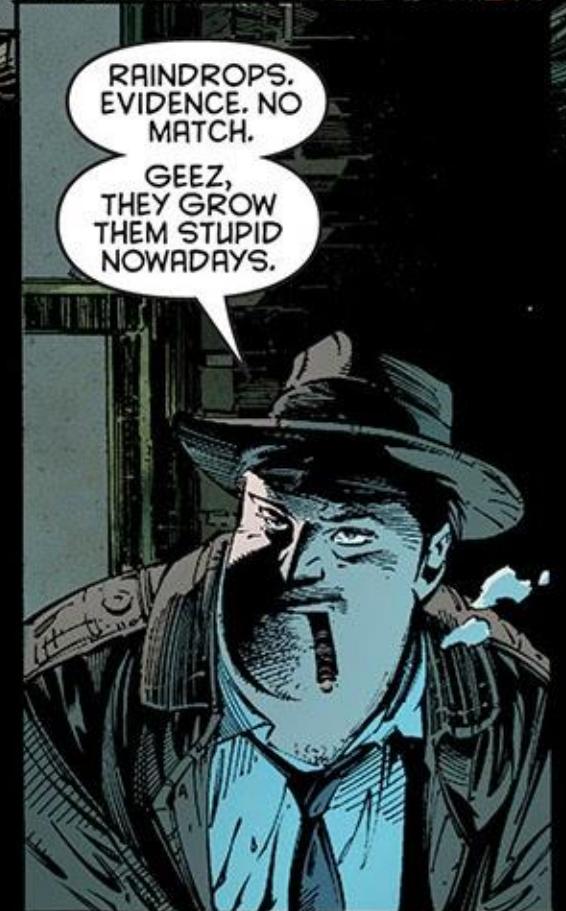
WOW. I'M  
IMRESSED.







“...I NEED TO  
GET SOME AIR.”



THE LANDLORD FOUND HIM ON A ROUTINE RENT RUN.

HE WENT BY THE NAME **SAM STRIGS**, BUT WHEN WE RAN IT, TURNED OUT TO BE A PHONY. GUY HAS NO CREDIBLE I.D. IN THE APARTMENT. NOTHING ON HIS PRINTS. HE PAID EVERYTHING IN CASH. A TRUE BLUE JOHN DOE.

EVIDENCE POINTS TO A T.O.D. FIVE, MAYBE SIX DAYS AGO. WHEN SOMEONE DECIDED TO USE HIM AS A HUMAN DART BOARD.

THING IS, WHOEVER DID IT MISSED EVERY ONE OF JOHN DOE'S MAJOR ARTERIES--ON PURPOSE.

MEANING THEY WANTED TO HURT HIM VERY BADLY, FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

THE POTSTICKERS ARE---

ANTIQUE THROWING KNIVES, PROFESSIONAL GRADE. THE GROOVES ARE FILLED WITH MERCURY FOR STEADIER FLIGHT.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE ONE.

HELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT.

MAKE ANYTHING OF THE SYMBOL?

IT'S AN OWL.

HAR HAR. I MEANT, DO YOU THINK IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OLD WIFE'S TALE ABOUT THE C--

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.

RUN DNA ANALYSIS. LOOKS LIKE SKIN BEHIND THE VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS, POSSIBLY THE KILLER'S.

RUNNING AMPFLP NOW.

SNIFF SNIFF



**BATMAN: WILL DIE TOMORROW**

...OR MAYBE HE WAS USING IT TO LEAVE A LAST MESSAGE, A WARNING, BEFORE HE WAS MURDERED.

WELL, OUR JOHN DOE WASN'T ANY NOSTRADAMUS, THAT'S FOR SURE.

I'M JUST SAYING, IF OUR TIME OF DEATH FOR HIM WAS A WEEK AGO, THE "TOMORROW" HE THOUGHT WOULD BE WAYNE'S LAST DAY ALREADY CAME AND WENT. SO WAYNE'S IN THE CLEAR.

UNLESS JOHN DOE KNEW WHEN HE'D BE FOUND. YOU SAID THE LANDLORD WAS MAKING A ROUTINE RUN. I ASSUME HE--

ALWAYS CAME ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH...SO IT'S POSSIBLE OUR VICTIM KNEW HE WAS GOING TO DIE, KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE FOUND TODAY, AND SO LEFT A WARNING THAT WHOEVER KILLED HIM WOULD BE COMING AFTER WAYNE NEXT.

THEN TO THE KILLER I SAY GOOD LUCK. WAYNE'S SECURITY HAS SECURITY.

ALMOST?

I KNOW YOU AND WAYNE ARE PALS AND ALL THAT. BUT GUYS LIKE WAYNE, THEY DON'T GET HOW THE CITY WORKS THE WAY WE DO.

I MEAN, I LISTENED TO HIS SPEECH TONIGHT ON THE RADIO. ALL ABOUT WHAT GOTHAM "IS" AND "WAS" AND "WILL BE."

ANYONE GOING TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE GUY IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE SOMEONE CLOSE. SOMEONE IN WAYNE'S CIRCLE, WOULD BE MY GUESS.

MAKES YOU ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THE GUY.

WHEN  
IT COMES  
TO GOTHAM,  
THOUGH--  
QUIET.

YOU'RE  
SURE.

QUITE,  
SIR. THE SKIN  
CELLS BENEATH  
THE VICTIM'S  
FINGERNAILS  
CAME BACK  
A PERFECT  
MATCH...

LOOK, I  
DIDN'T MEAN TO  
KNOCK YOUR  
BOY WAYNE. I'M  
JUST SAYING...

"...MY VIEW IS, WHEN IT COMES TO  
GOTHAM, YOU DON'T KNOW IT,  
BROTHER. IT KNOWS YOU."

"AND THE MOMENT YOU THINK  
OTHERWISE, THE MOMENT YOU  
GET TOO COMFORTABLE..."

"...THAT'S WHEN IT STABS  
YOU RIGHT IN THE BACK."

## DNA Match: Dick Grayson

"BECAUSE ABOVE EVERYTHING,  
GOTHAM IS... A MYSTERY."

NEXT:  
**TRUST FALL**