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BATMAN® REBORN™

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY

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BATMAN



TJD
09

LONG SHADOWS PART THREE

TRIPWIRES

I've spent years as a student of my own behavior. And I mean that in the least egocentric way.

When you devote much of your life to putting your life on the line, you have to take great care in what you do and how you do it. There's very little room for carelessness.

Carelessness is born of complacency. Or out of cockiness.

Sometimes it's a combination of the two.

That said, you can learn from your mistakes. You dissect the situation, find where you erred, and plan for "next time."

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That is, if you haven't screwed up so royally that you might not survive your own idiocy for there to be a next time.

If it seems like I'm being too hard on myself, it's just because two major league psychopaths are trying to kill me.

THE ENEMY HAS BEEN MET. TARGET ACQUIRED.

OH, SO YOU LIKE THIS, SOLDIER BOY?! GOOD! WELL--
BOORAH!

BOORAH!

The walking dirt pile is of course, Clayface. Newly liberated from Arkham Asylum.

And I believe his running buddy is Lyle Blanco, a one-time Arkham resident as well.

Not to mention a former special forces, black bag operative.

And upon his return from duty in the desert, a serial killer.





A formidable team.
I'm at a loss as to
what brought this odd
couple together.

But at the moment,
their motivations
aren't really my
highest concern.

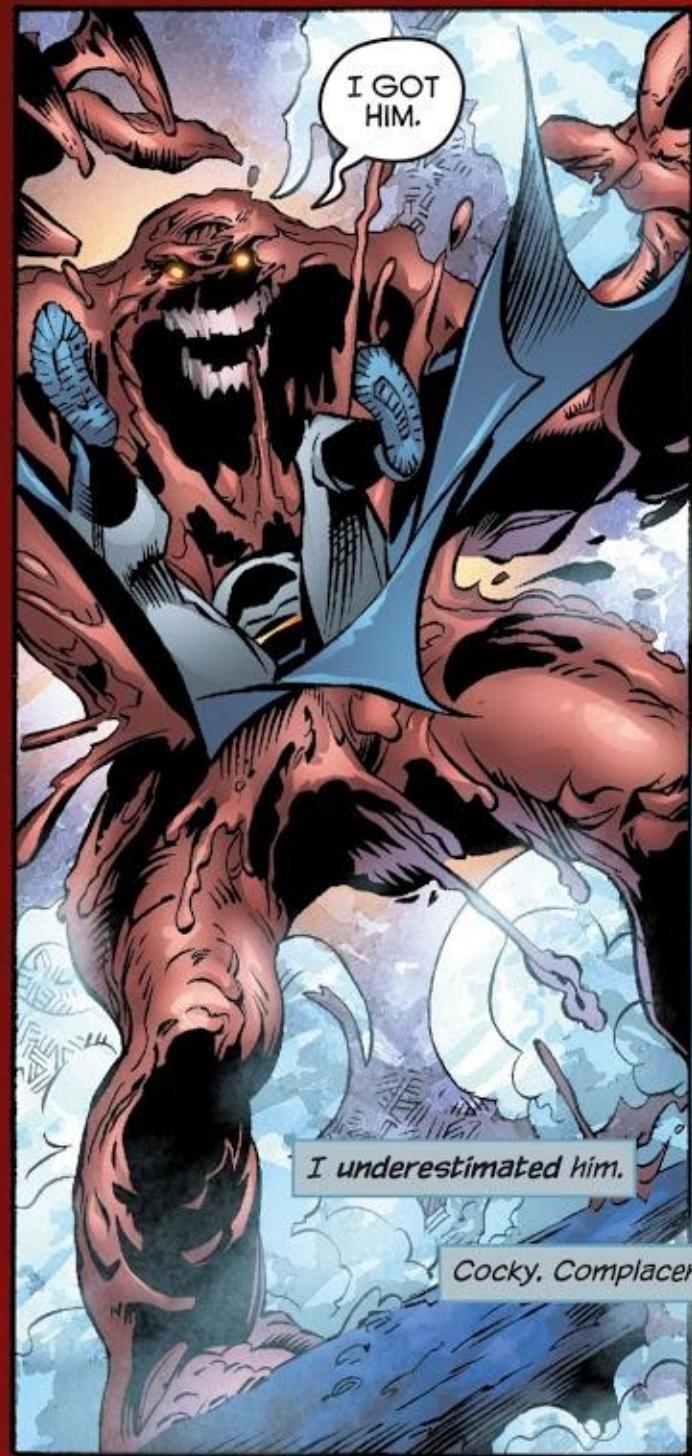


Let's just
end this.



End it quick.





MEANWHILE...

IF I HIRE YOU,
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE
WE'RE GOING. RIGHT
NOW, I JUST NEED TO
KNOW IF YOU CAN
GET ME THERE.

I'M NOT
AGREEING
TO ANYTHING
WITHOUT
DETAILS.

I HAVE TO
CONCUR THAT I HAVE
SOME RELUCTANCE
TO ENGAGE IN ANY
ACTIVITY WITHOUT
KNOWING--

SHUT UP. ALL OF YOU.
GODALMIGHTY, I
HAD NO IDEA THAT
TELEPORTERS WERE
SUCH A WHINY
BUNCH.

YOU'RE BEING PAID EXTREMELY
WELL. JUST SIT HERE AND ANSWER
A FEW OF MY QUESTIONS. ANSWER
'EM, YOU GET EVEN **MORE** MONEY.
TAKE THE JOB, AND IT'S LIKE
WINNING THE **LOTTERY**.

SO, FROM THE TOP... CAN YOU
TELEPORT TO AN **UNKNOWN**
LOCATION IF YOU'RE GIVEN AN
OBJECT FROM SAID LOCATION?
I WAS TOLD YOU ALL HAD
AN **AFFINITY** FOR THAT
SORT OF MOVE.

THAT'S
WHAT THEY
ALL **SAID**.

DO YOU WANT
TO GO TO THE
LAST PLACE
THIS OBJECT
WAS AT?

I CAN
DO
THAT.

NO, I KNOW
WHERE IT WAS
FOUND, AND
THAT DOESN'T
INTEREST ME.



BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE NEEDS YOU TELEPORTING PEOPLE FOR. I'M PRETTY MUCH KEPT ON THE NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.

JUST HIRED MUSCLE, HUH?

YEP. JUST MUSCLE.

GOO



EYE-IN-THE-SKY,
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

I CAN.

I COULD
USE A
HAND.

I NEED YOU
TO TAKE ON
CLAYFACE.

FROM HERE,
SIR? I ASSUME
YOU MEAN--

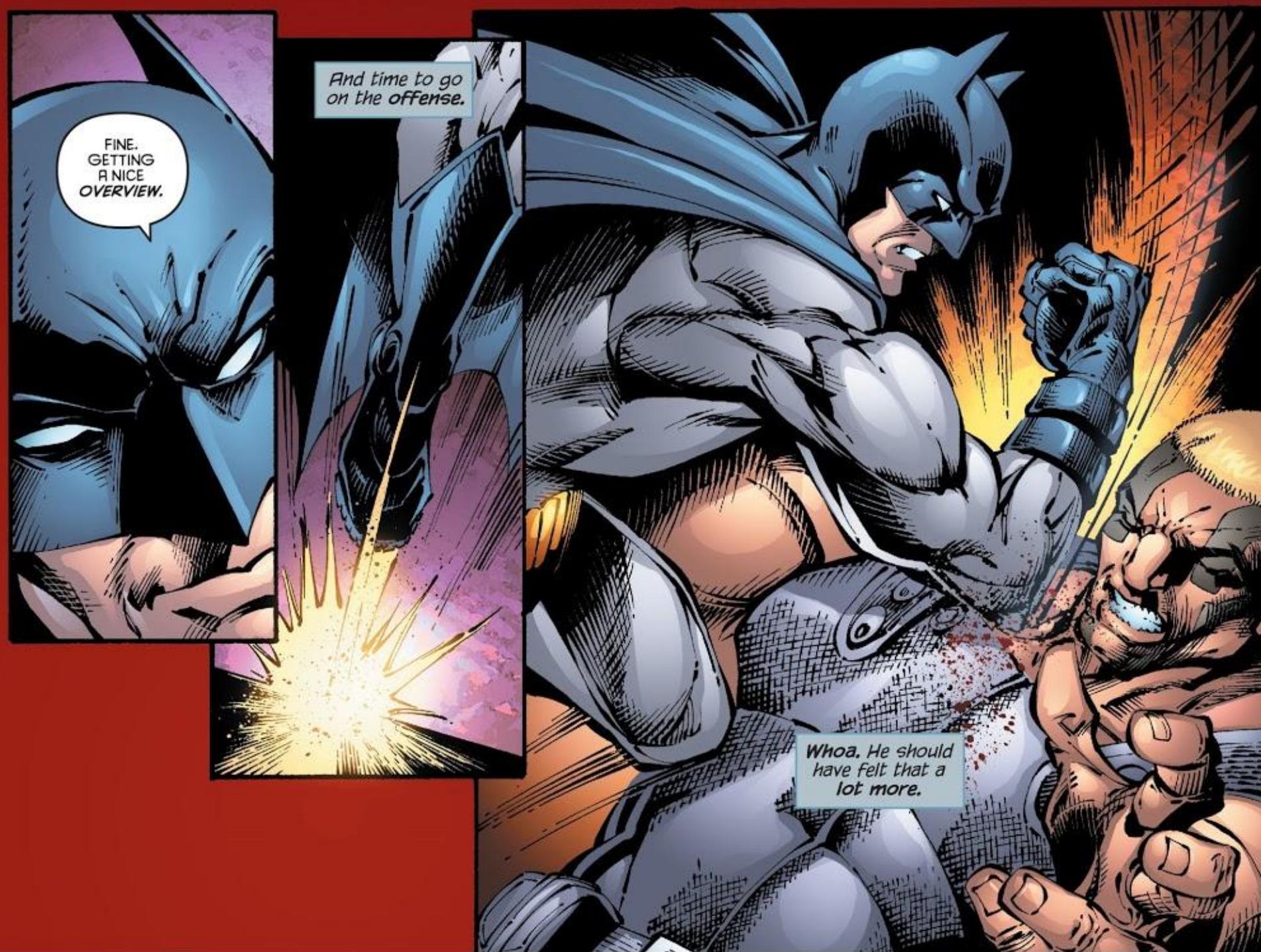
YES.

HIT HIM
WITH THE
CAR.

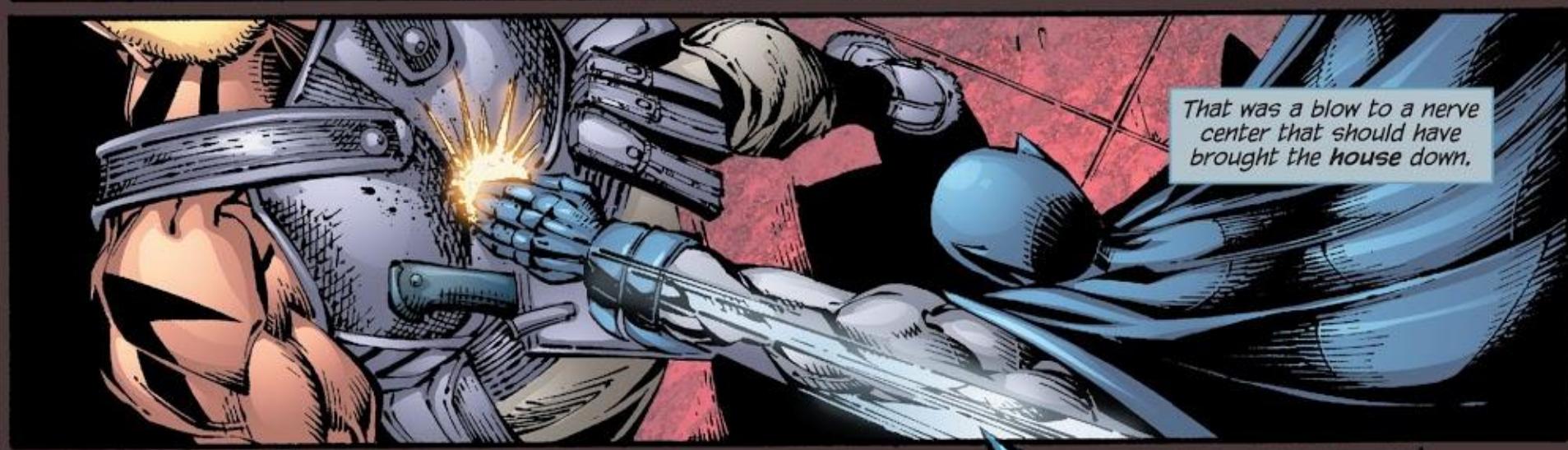
ALREADY
ON THE
JOB, SIR.

AND
ALWAYS HAPPY
TO ASSIST YOU IN
THE FIELD WHEN THE
SITUATION GETS
TOO HEATED.





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Wow. The train is still on the tracks.

All right, I've seen enough. Show's over.

YOU'RE DONE, BLANCO.

I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE YOU LIKE THIS--

--BUT YOU WON'T BE PUTTING ANY OF THEIR WORK TO USE IN THE FIELD FOR A WHILE!

So sit tight, soldier--

--you're being taken off active duty.

YOU'VE GOT A
CELL WAITING FOR
YOU AT BLACK-
GATE!

EVAC.

NO.

Damn it! Neither one of them
tripped that wire. They're not working
alone--we're being watched.

WE'RE
GONE.
HANG ON
THERE,
MARINE!







WAYNE MANOR.

"I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU SAID THE CAVE WAS BREACHED. HOW CAN IT BE BREACHED IF NONE OF THE EXTERNAL SENSORS WERE TRIPPED?"

SIR, THE INTERNAL MOTION DETECTORS WERE TRIGGERED. FOR SIX MINUTES SOMEONE OR SOME ONES WERE MOVING AROUND THE CAVE.

I'M NOT SEEING ANYTHING.

AND ALL THE READINGS ON MY HANDHELD'S AREN'T SHOWING ANYONE IN HERE BUT ME.

WAIT...

I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND, BUT IT MAY HAVE BEEN JUST AN ELECTRICAL SHORT. WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOO DILIGENT WITH THE UPKEEP ON THE...

THE COIN...

THE COIN, SIR?

IT'S BEEN UNCOVERED.



AND MOVED.

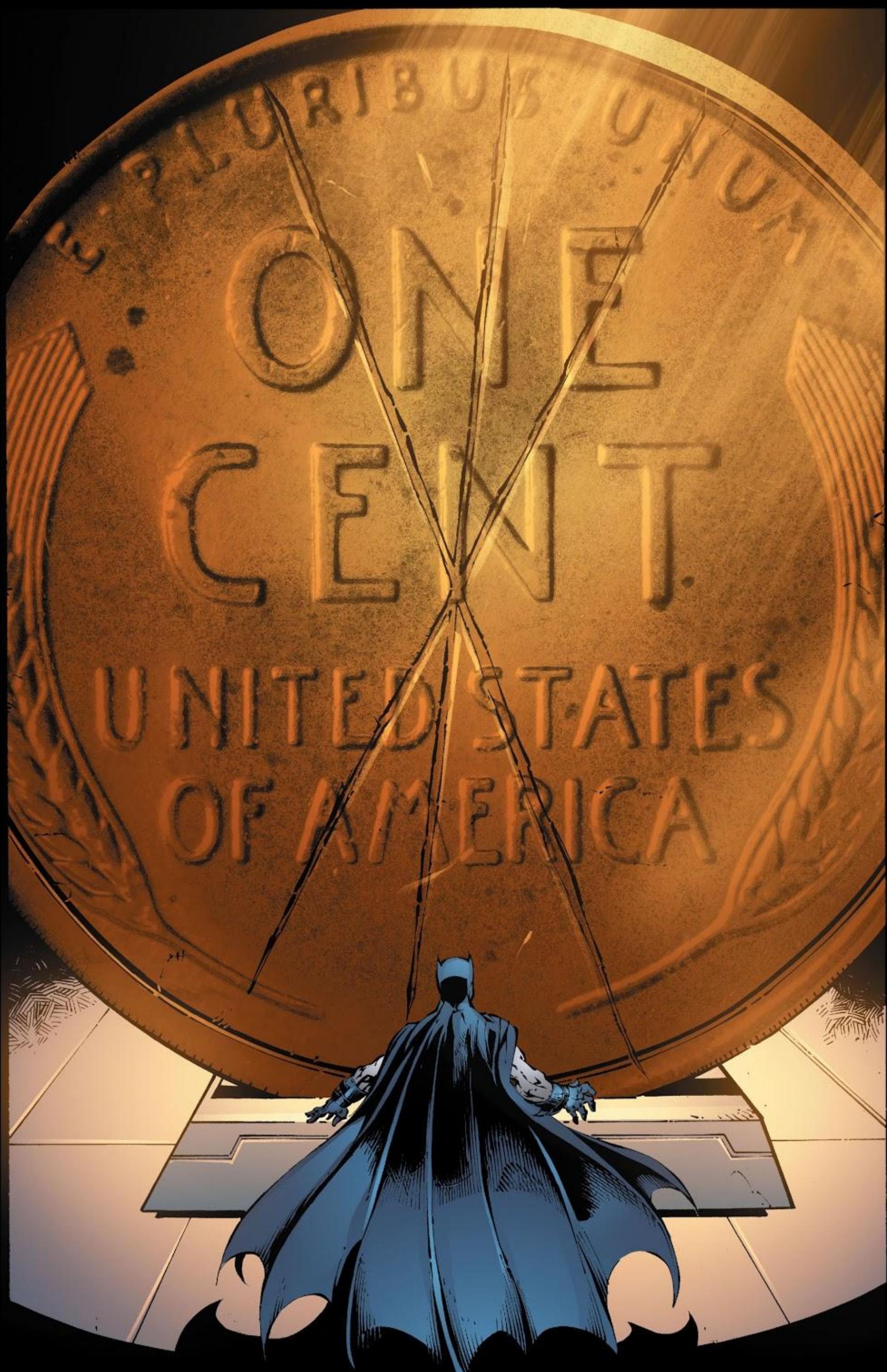
CAREFUL,
SIR...

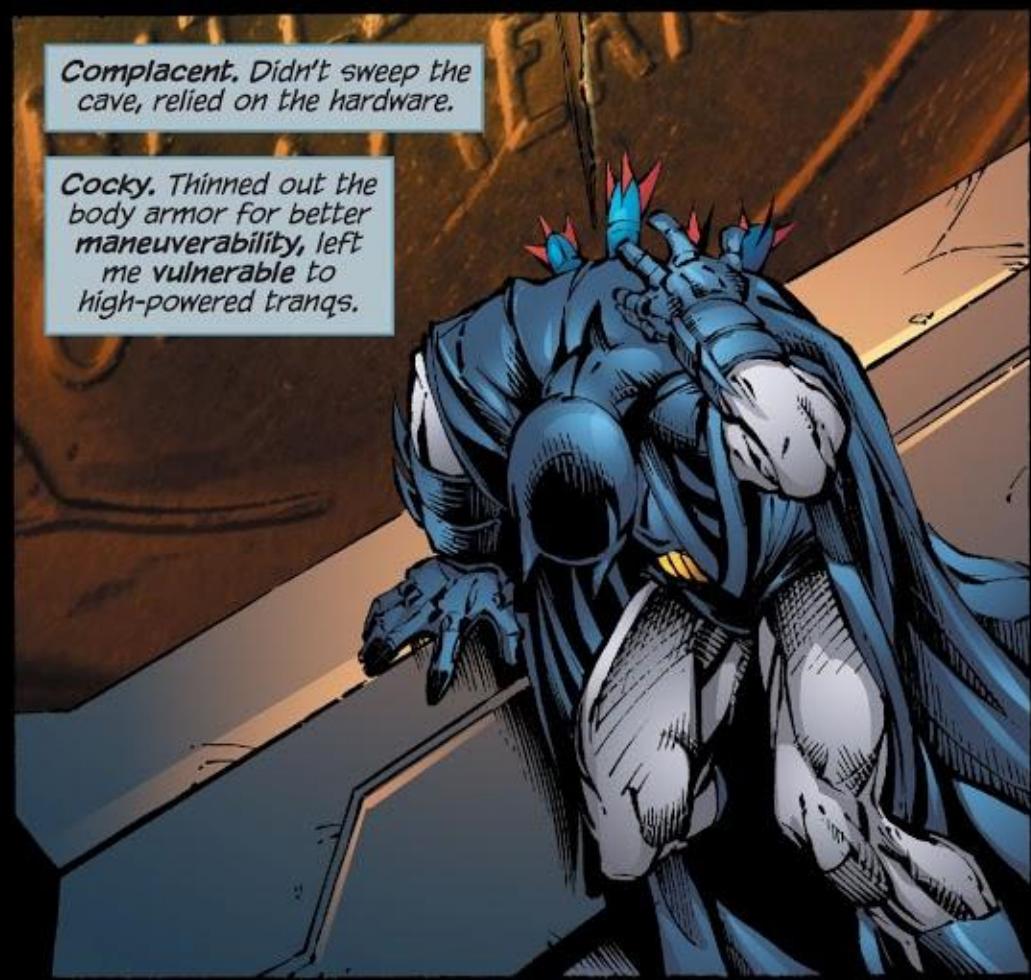


JUST
GETTING A
CLOSER
LOOK.



OH
GOD...





...if I don't die.

WHO ARE
YOU?

AND WHERE'S
THE REAL
BATMAN?

TO BE
CONCLUDED



novus
Distributions