

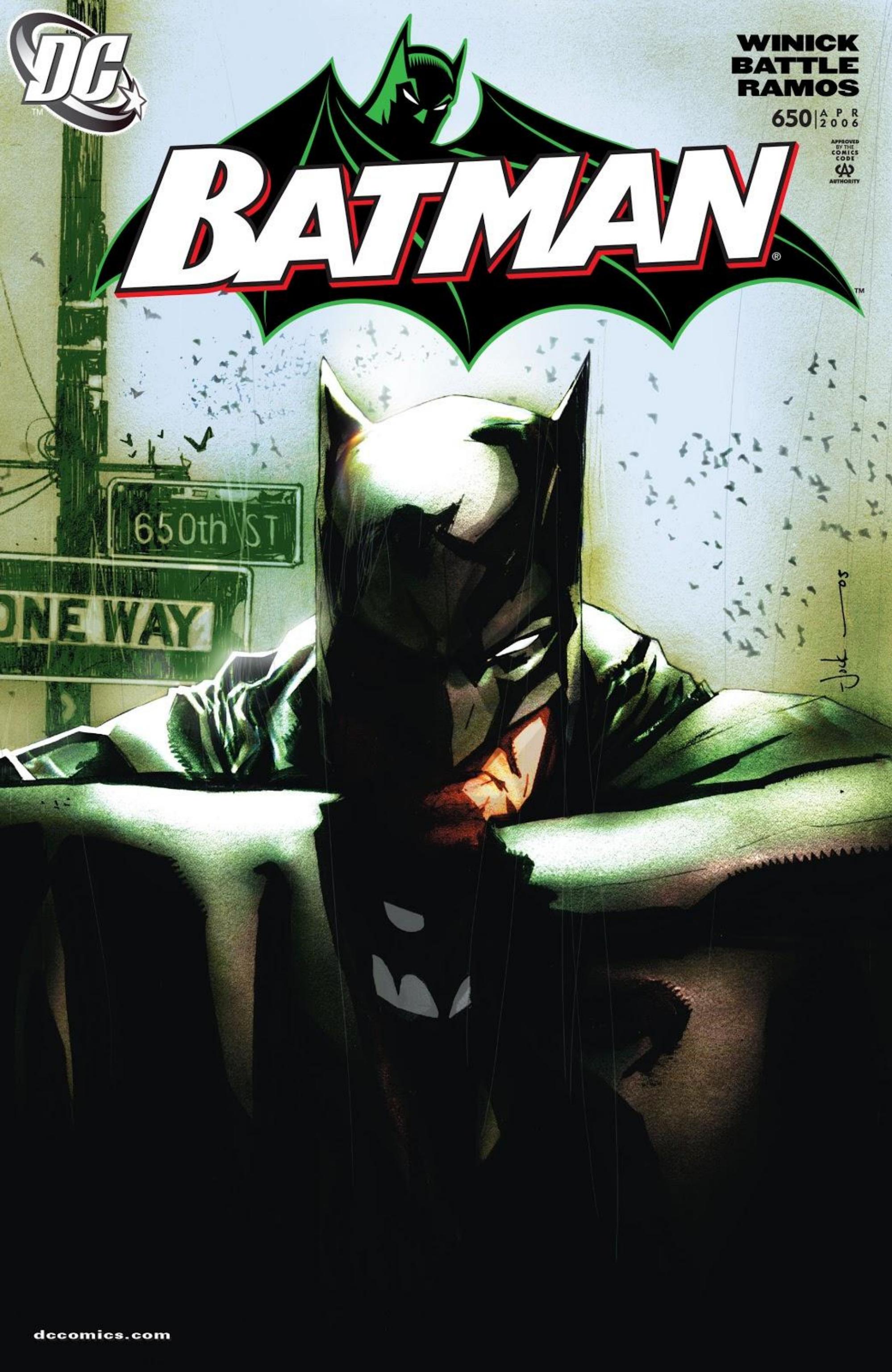


WINICK
BATTLE
RAMOS

650 APR 2006

APR
2006
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY

BATMAN



CRIME
ALLEY.

IT IS WHERE
THESE TWO FORMER
PARTNERS...STUDENT
AND TEACHER...ALLY
AND FOE...FATHER
AND SON...

MARRED BY
WRONGDOING
AND BY DEATH,
IT HAS BECOME
A "BIRTH PLACE"
OF SORTS.

...HAVE COME TO
SETTLE THEIR
DIFFERENCES--
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.

THEN THE ENTIRE
CITY OF BLÜDHAVEN
IS VAPORIZED
BEFORE THEIR EYES
IN A NUCLEAR
EXPLOSION.

BLÜDHAVEN,
PROTECTED BY
THE COSTUMED
VIGILANTE
NIGHTWING.

GOOD GOD, THE IRONIES
ABOUND. HERE WE ARE AND
YOU HAVE TO RUN TO THE
SITE OF AN EXPLOSION TO
DIG THROUGH THE
WRECKAGE AND FIND THE
BODY OF YOUR "BOY
SIDEKICK."

IF HE'S
THERE, BRUCE...
YOU'RE TOO
LATE.

AGAIN.





"...SOMEONE ELSE IS GONNA DIE TONIGHT."

All they do is watch us kill

Part 3

It only hurts when I laugh

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BOOOOY...
SOUNDS LIKE
THEY'RE HAVING
SOME FUN UP
THERE...

OH...
LOOK AT
THAT.

HE'S
ASSESSING THE
SITUATION...AND TRYING
TO THROW OFF THAT
TERRIFYING VIBE.

DO I
LOOK
SCARED,
BRUCE?



HE WANTS ME
TO FIGHT MY
WAY OUT.

I WON'T
DISAPPOINT
HIM.

KNOWING
ALL THE
TRICKS ONLY
HELPS A BIT,
RIGHT?

BUT
I'VE GOT
TRICKS,
TOO!

NEW
ONES.

CHOO!

DAMN IT.

STUPID,
CARELESS
AND SLOW.



HE'S
PLAYING IT
ROUGH.



TWANG

CAN'T
HOLD BACK.



UH,
OH.





AND LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO WITHOUT YOUR "TOYS."

GWAAHH

KRASH

HARMON DENTAL



ENOUGH!
ALL OF IT ENDS
TONIGHT!



YOU
SAY YOU
WANT TO SAVE
GOTHAM!



TO KILL A
PART OF IT
SO IT CAN
SURVIVE!



YOU SAY
YOU WANT TO
BE BETTER
THAN ME!

MUH
MUAH

BUT IT
WON'T
HAPPEN!







IGNORING
WHAT'S HE'S DONE
IN THE PAST. BLINDLY,
STUPIDLY, DISREGARDING
THE ENTIRE GRAVEYARDS
HE'S FILLED, THE
THOUSANDS WHO HAVE
SUFFERED...

...THE
FRIENDS HE'S
CRIPPLED...

...I THOUGHT...
I THOUGHT KILLING
ME--THAT I'D BE
THE LAST PERSON
YOU'D EVER LET
HIM HURT.

IF IT HAD BEEN YOU THAT HE
BEAT TO A BLOODY MASS. IF IT
HAD BEEN YOU THAT HE LEFT IN
AGONY. IF HE HAD TAKEN YOU
FROM THIS WORLD...

...I WOULD HAVE DONE
NOTHING BUT SEARCH
THE PLANET FOR THIS
PATHETIC PILE OF EVIL,
DEATH-WORSHIPPING
GARBAGE...

...AND
SENT HIM
OFF TO
HELL.



YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. I
DON'T THINK
YOU'VE EVER
UNDERSTOOD.



WHAT? YOUR
MORAL CODE JUST
WON'T ALLOW FOR
THAT? IT'S TOO HARD
TO "CROSS THAT
LINE"?

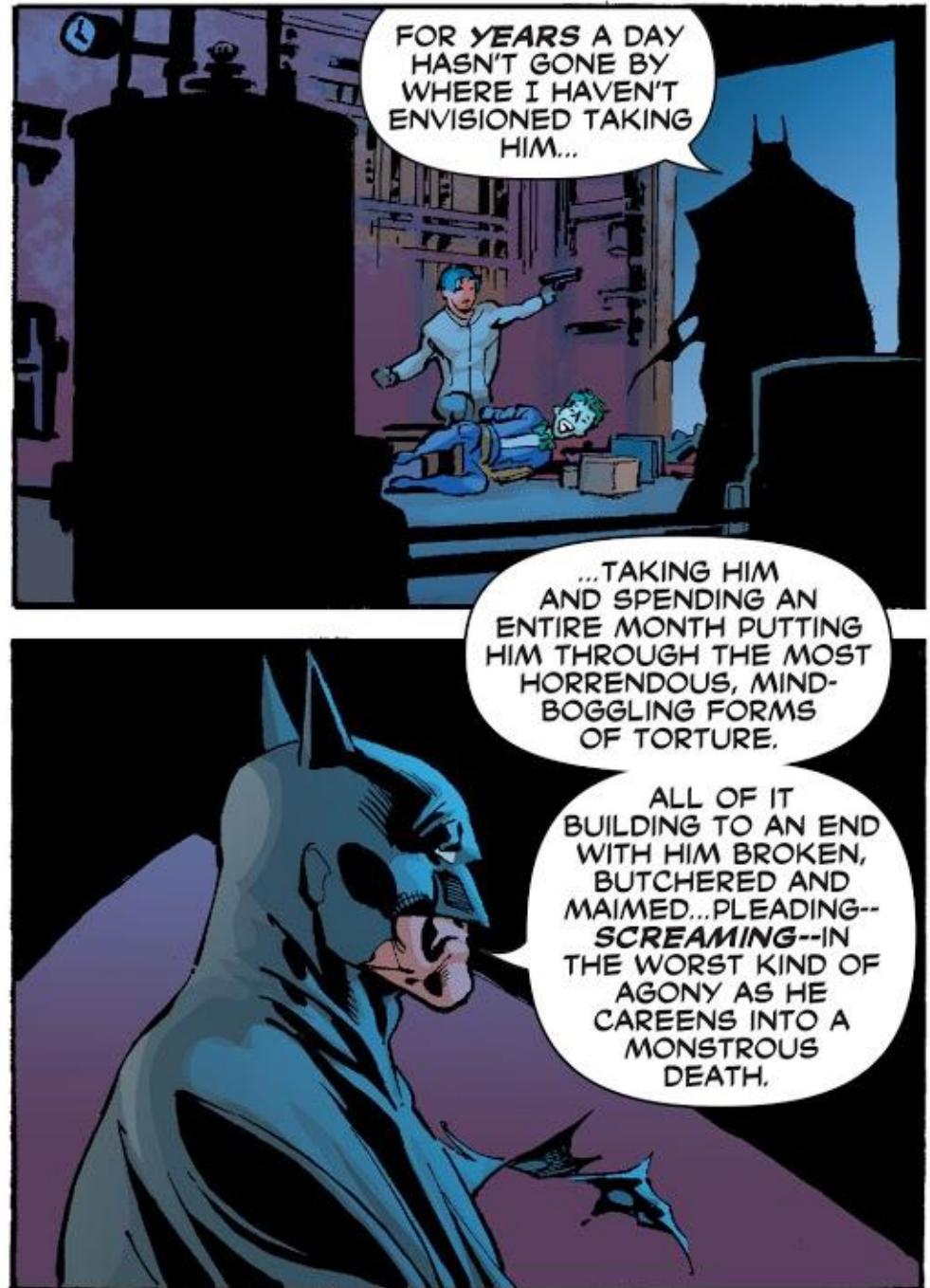
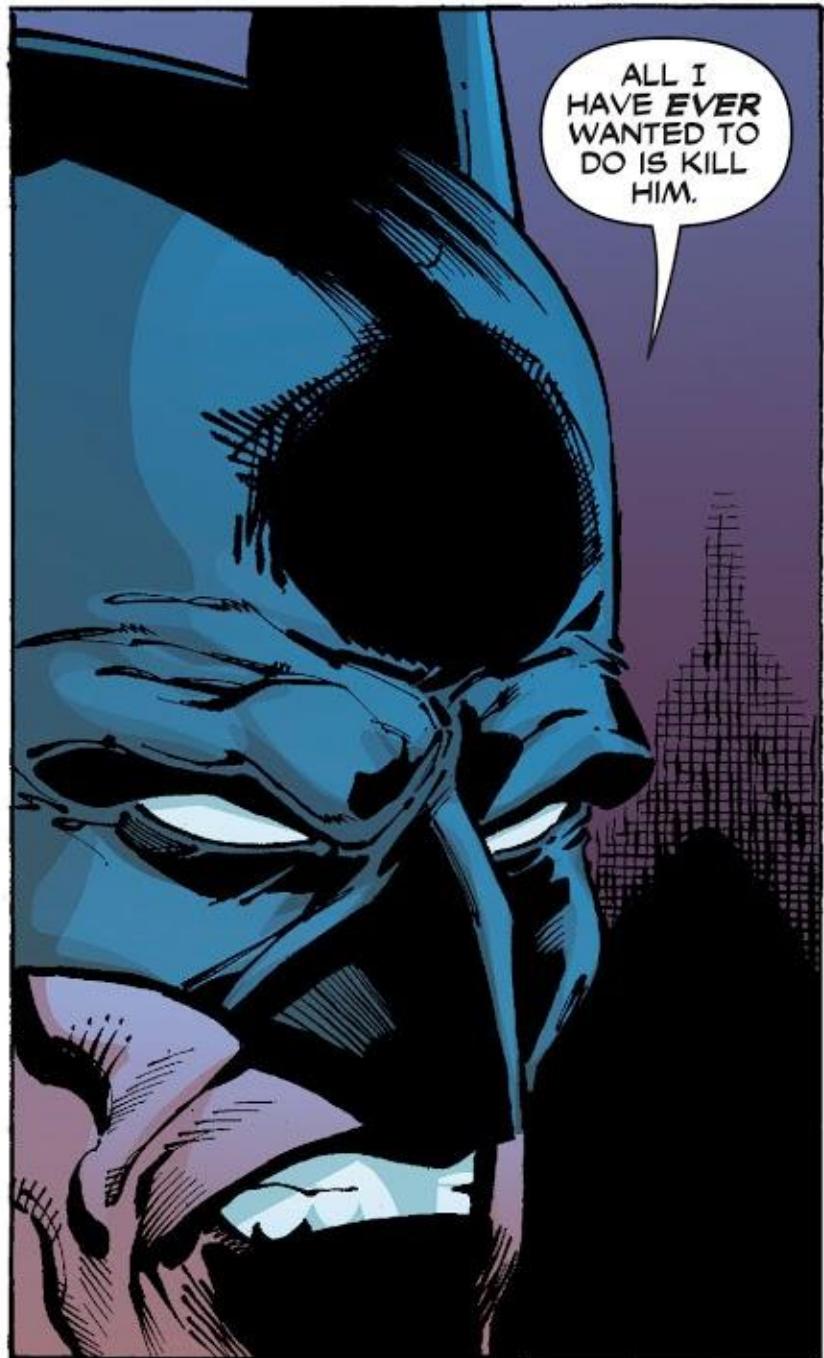


NO. GOD
ALMIGHTY...
NO.



IT'D
BE TOO
DAMNED
EASY.





WHY?

WHAT?

WHY DO ALL THE CUB
SCOUTS IN SPANDEX
ALWAYS SAY THAT? "IF
I CROSS THAT LINE,
THERE'S NO COMING
BACK."

I'M NOT
TALKING
ABOUT KILLING
COBLEPOT AND
SCARECROW OR
CLAYFACE. NOT
RIDDLE OR
DENT...

AND
DOING IT
BECAUSE...

I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
HIM. JUST
HIM.

...BECAUSE
HE TOOK ME
AWAY FROM
YOU.













FATE IS
A FUNNY
THING.



IT PROVIDES NO
EXIT, NO DEVIATION.
IT DROPS US IN A
BOTTOMLESS OCEAN,
AND COMPELS US...



...WE
EITHER
SWIM...

...OR
DROWN.



AND
SOMETIMES AS
WE STRUGGLE
AGAINST THE
TIDE, A GREAT
TRUTH ARISES...

...WE'VE BEEN
HERE BEFORE.

JAAAASOON!!!

JAAAASOON!!!

JAAAASOON!!!

JAAAASOON!!!

JAAAASOON!!!

NEXT: **YEAR
LATER**