



ANNUAL

5

BATMAN



THE ORIGIN OF
Clownhunter
REVEALED!

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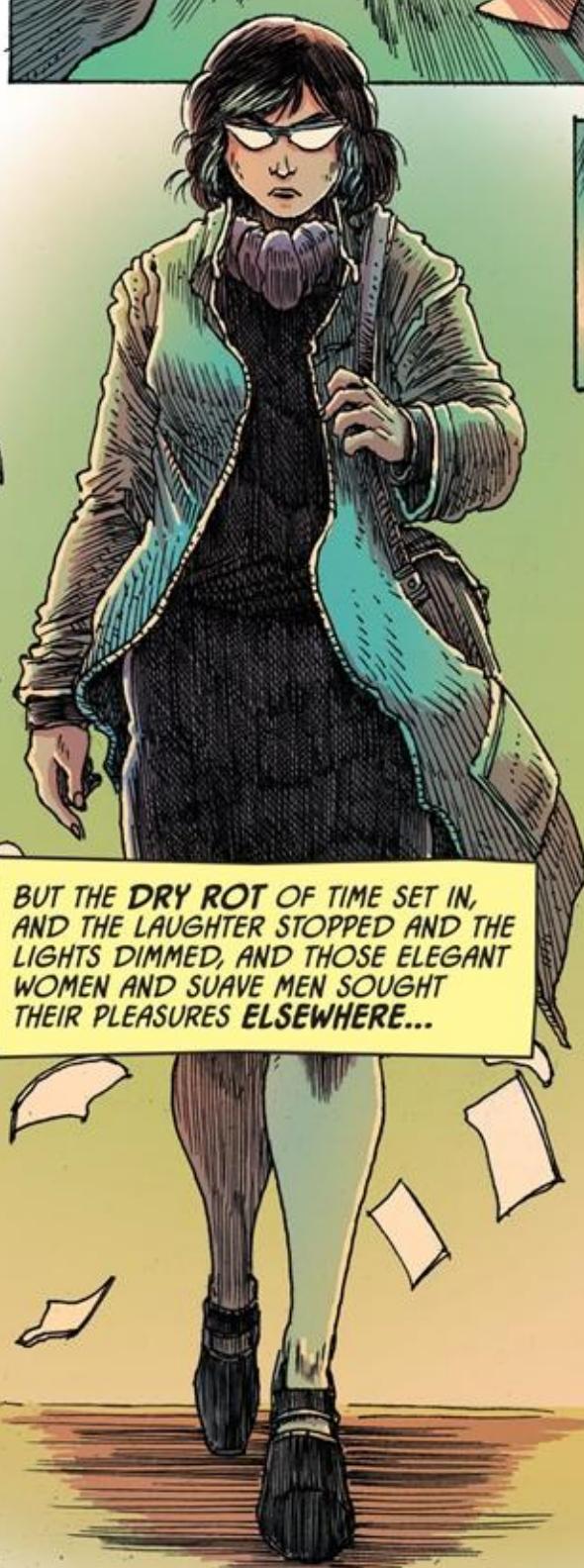
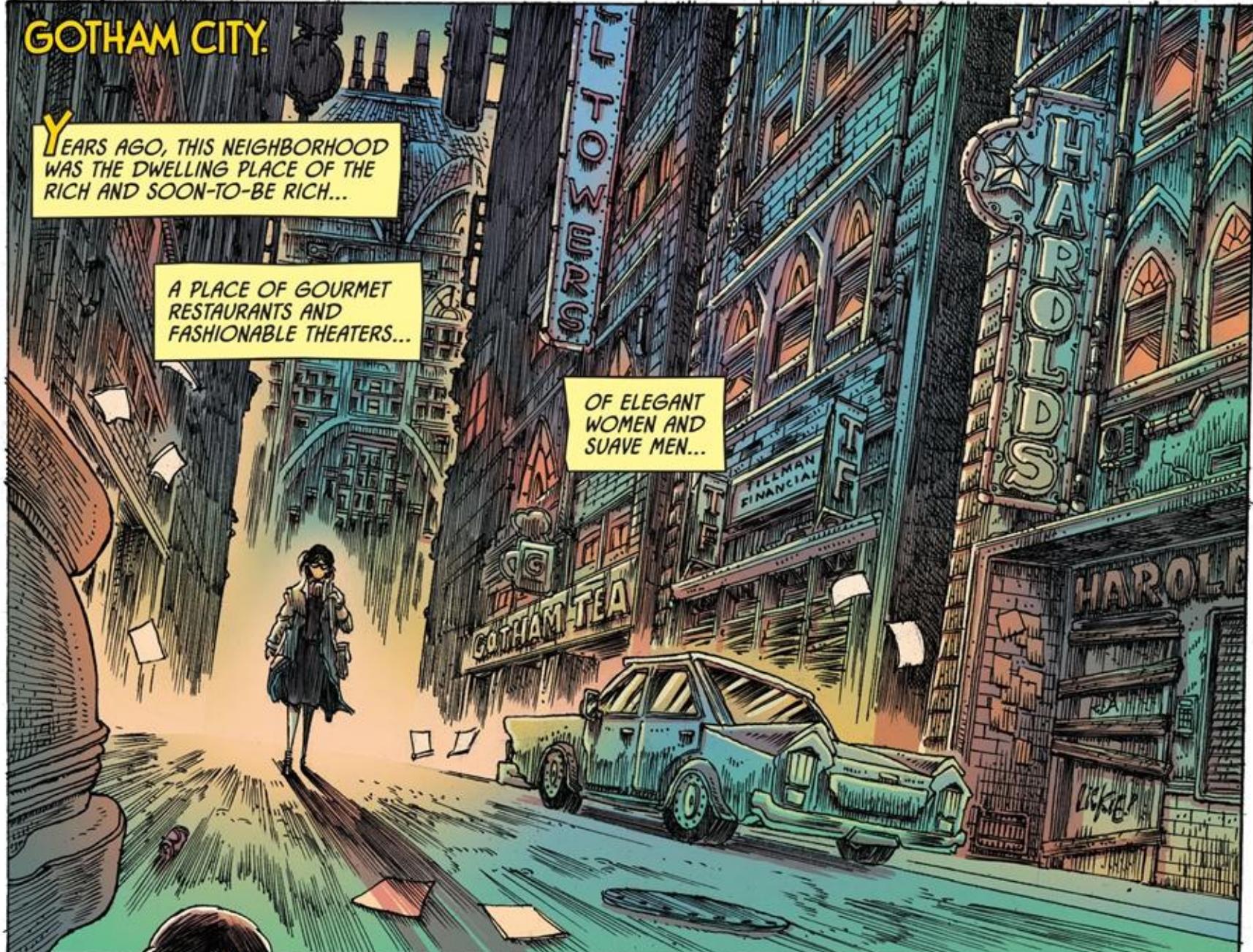
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GOTHAM CITY.

YEARS AGO, THIS NEIGHBORHOOD WAS THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE RICH AND SOON-TO-BE RICH...

A PLACE OF GOURMET RESTAURANTS AND FASHIONABLE THEATERS...

OF ELEGANT WOMEN AND SUAVE MEN...



AND NOW, ONLY THE FORLORN AND DESPERATE WALK THESE STREETS.



FOR ONE NIGHT, TWO BRUTAL SLAYINGS OCCURRED, SIGNALING THE BEGINNING OF THE END.



--CRIME ALLEY.

BUT THE DRY ROT OF TIME SET IN, AND THE LAUGHTER STOPPED AND THE LIGHTS DIMMED, AND THOSE ELEGANT WOMEN AND SUAVE MEN SOUGHT THEIR PLEASURES ELSEWHERE...

THE AREA KNOWN AS PARK ROW ACQUIRED A NEW NAME--



LESLIE THOMPKINS HAS HEARD THE STORY OF THAT NIGHT MORE TIMES THAN SHE COULD SAY.

EVERY TIME SHE MAKES THE WALK IT PLAYS THROUGH HER MIND.

THOMAS SEES THE DANGER FIRST.

HE PLACES HIMSELF BETWEEN IT AND HIS FAMILY.

IT ISN'T ENOUGH.

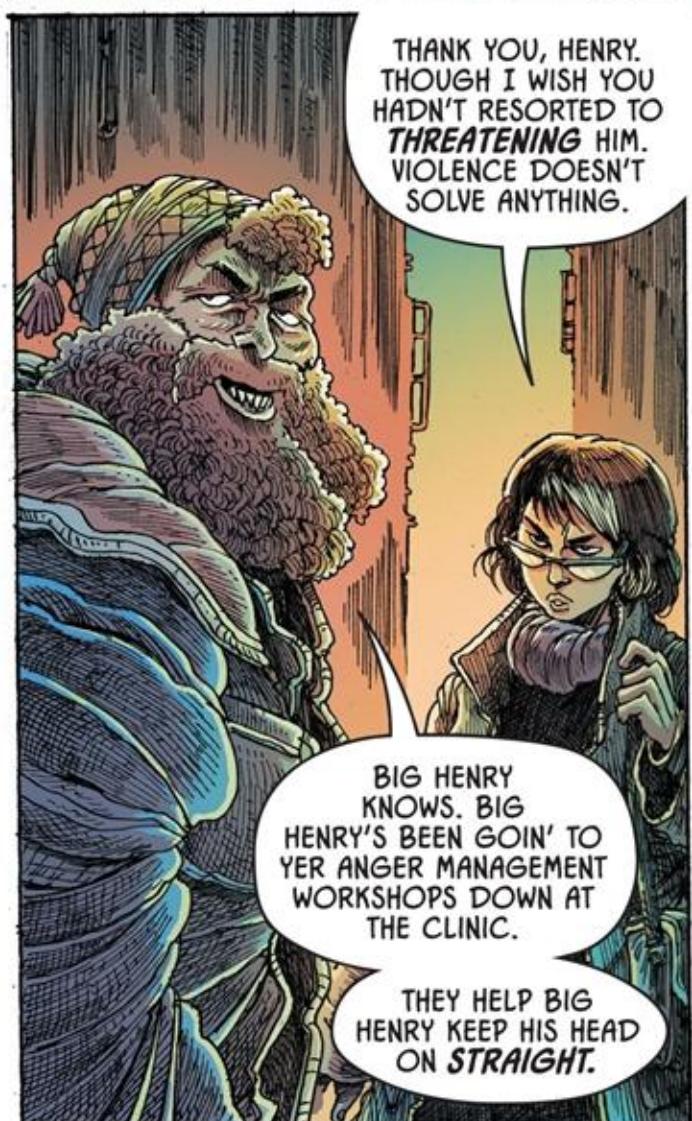
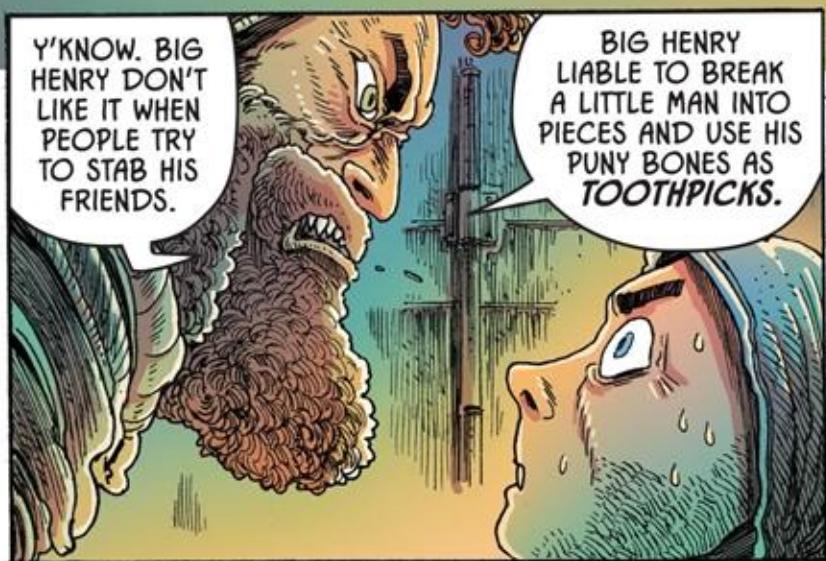
THE MAN IS DESPERATE AND HE TAKES WHAT HE WANTS.

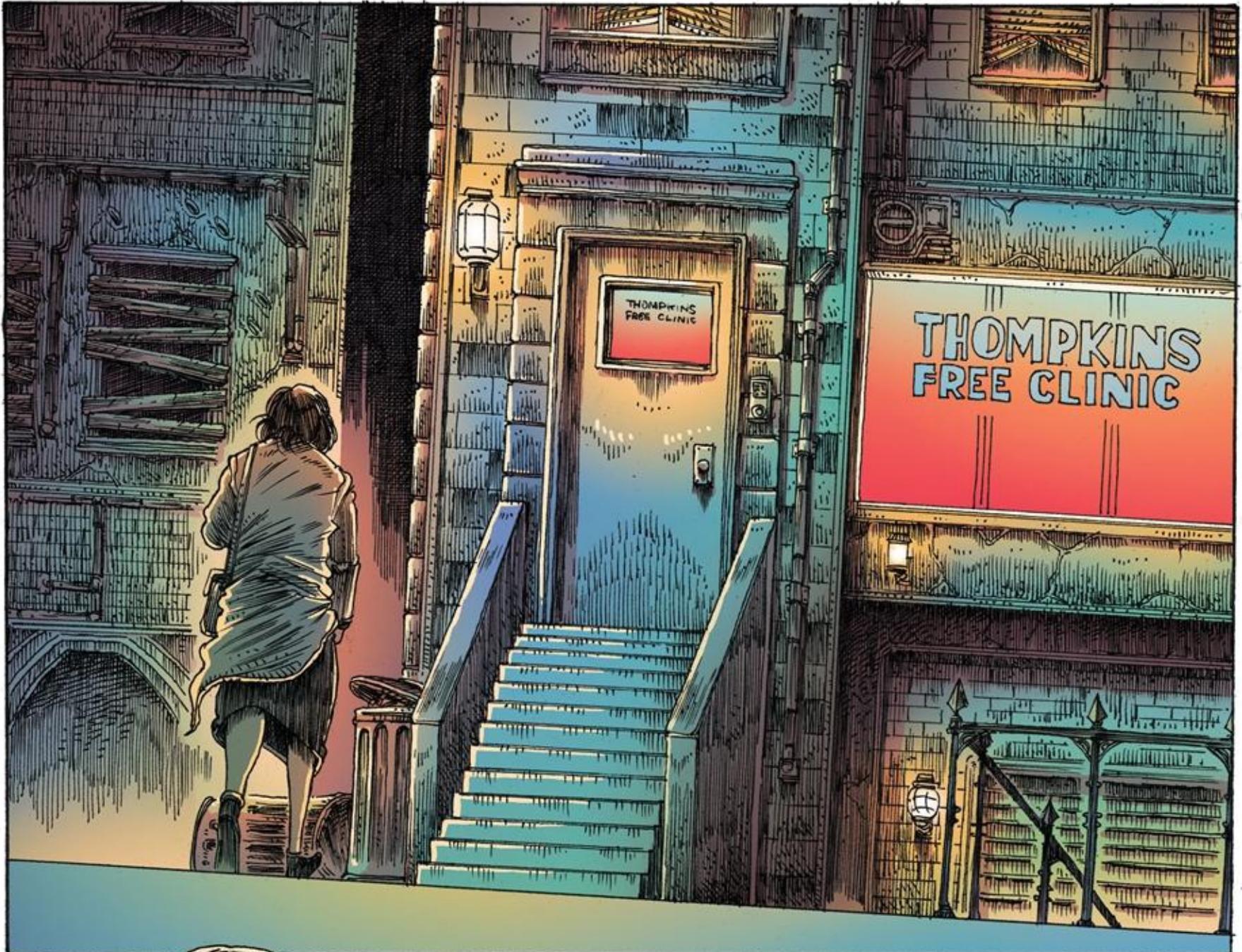
A BOY IS LEFT ALONE IN AN ALLEY. HE MAKES A SOLEMN OATH ON THE BODIES OF HIS PARENTS.

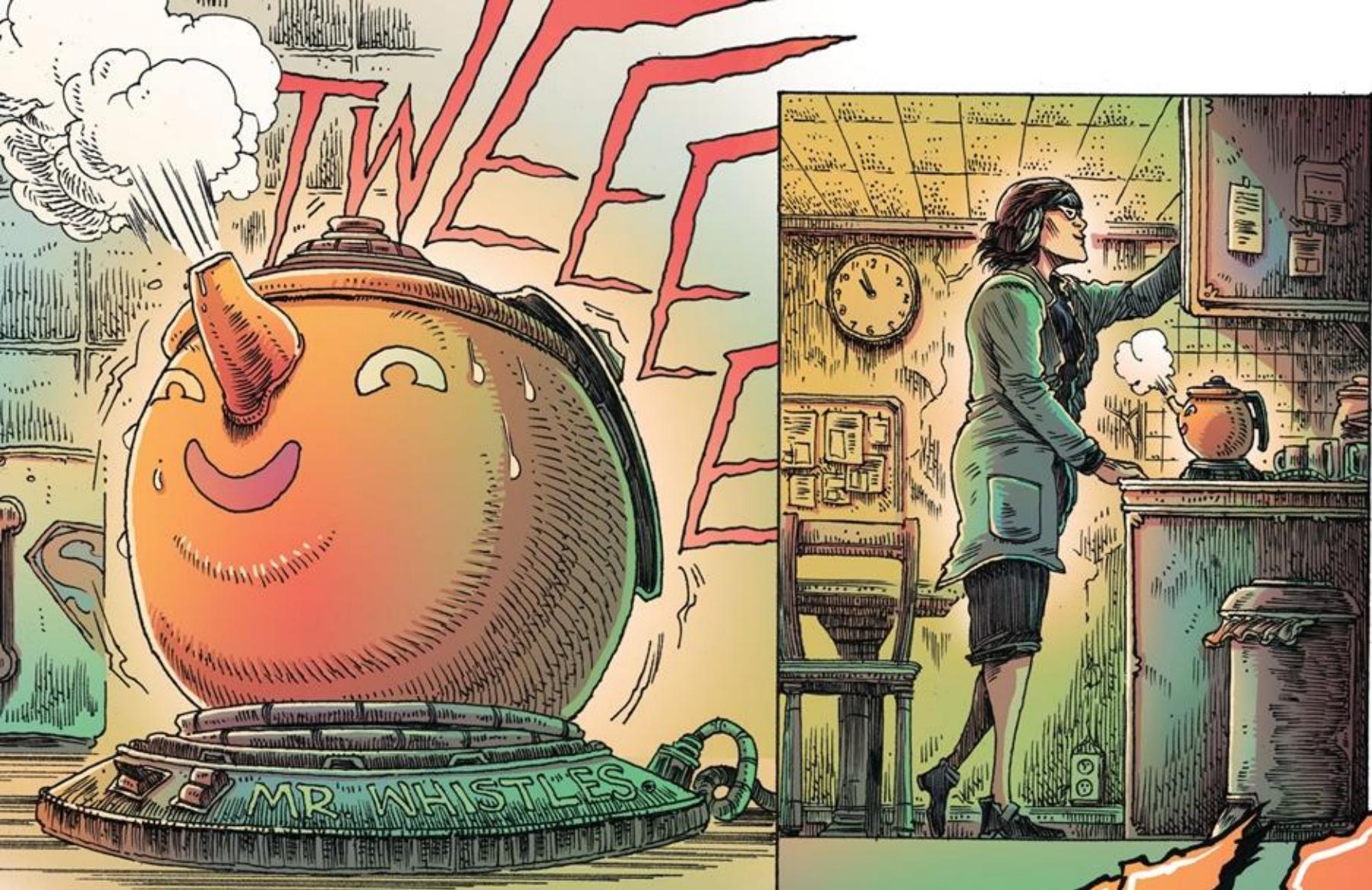
TO SPEND HIS LIFE WARRING AGAINST ALL CRIMINALS.

EVERY NIGHT SHE MAKES THIS WALK. EVERY NIGHT SHE WISHES, WITHOUT HOPE, THAT SHE COULD SAVE THAT POOR, LONELY CHILD.











i'm, uh...
sorry for getting blood
everywhere.

THAT'S
OKAY.

batman
told me i
should go
to you if i
needed help.

HOW
CAN I HELP
YOU?

i want...
the world
to make
sense.



SADO-MASOFIST

36

P2

BLITZ CROWBAR

14x
COMBO!!

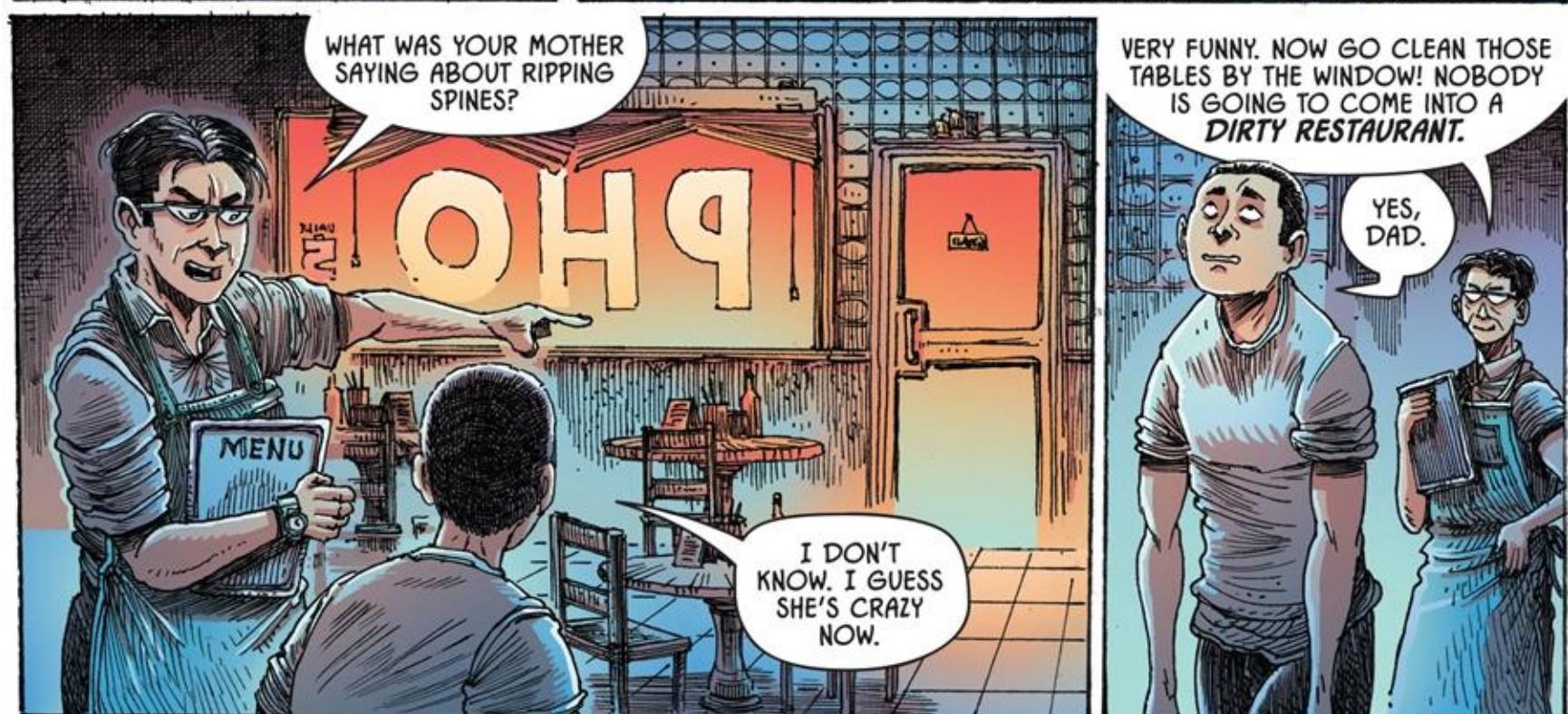


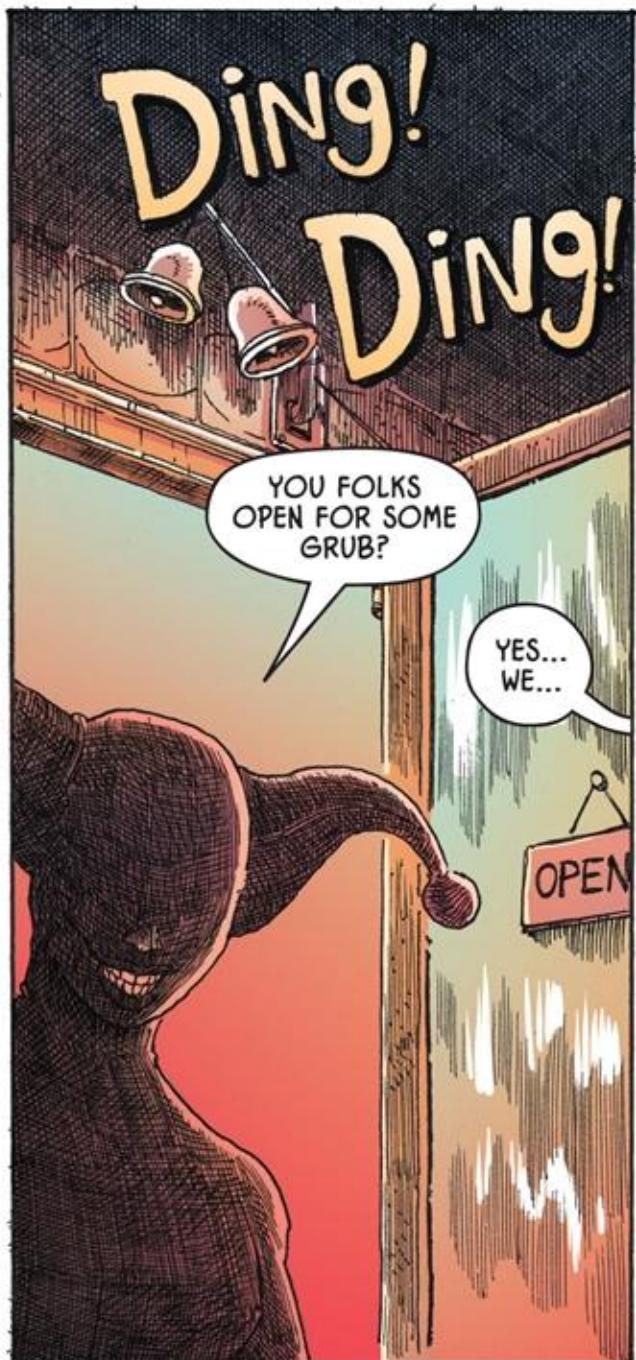
THE NARROWS.
THREE YEARS AGO.



...I BELIEVE I SAID THE OPTIONS WERE
CLEAN YOUR ROOM OR HELP YOUR
FATHER AND I GET READY FOR
THE DINNER RUSH.

WHAT RUSH?
THERE WERE ONLY
TWO PEOPLE
YESTERDAY.









MY
TIP IS: DON'T
BREATHE.

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

KAFF KAFF

HEH HEH
HEH...

HA!

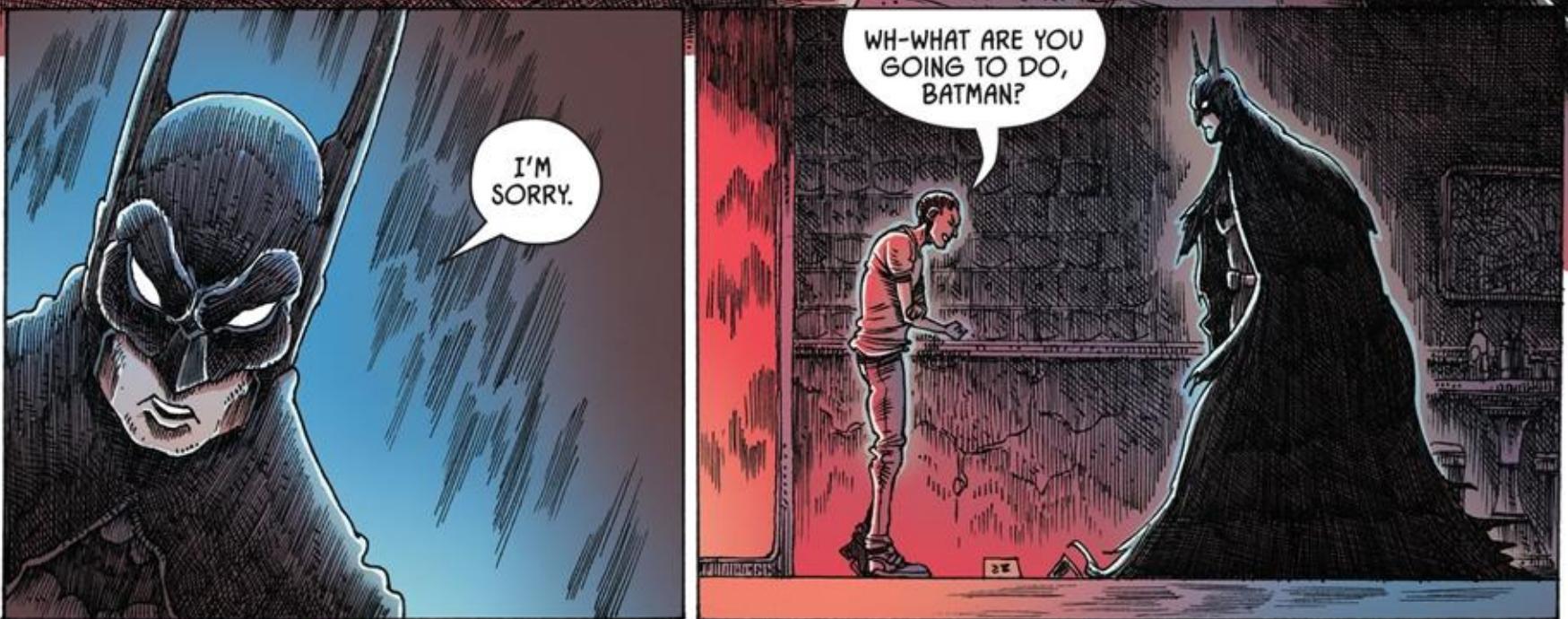
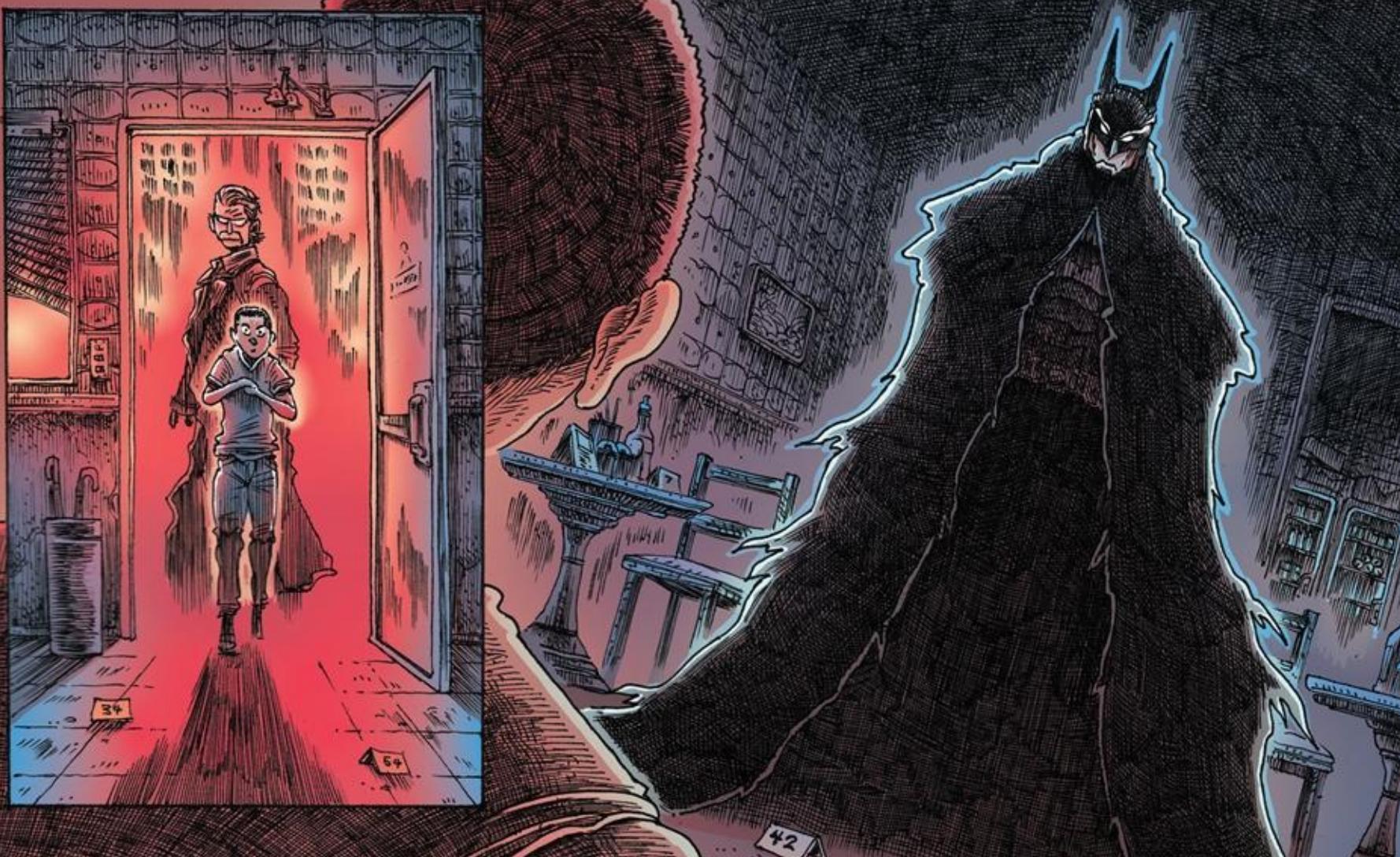
HAH

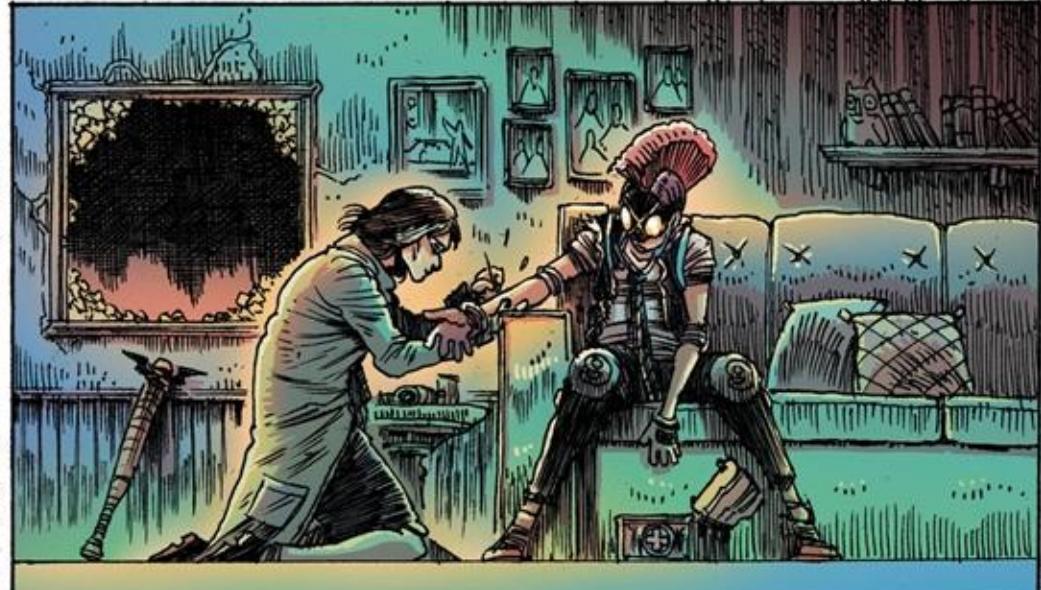
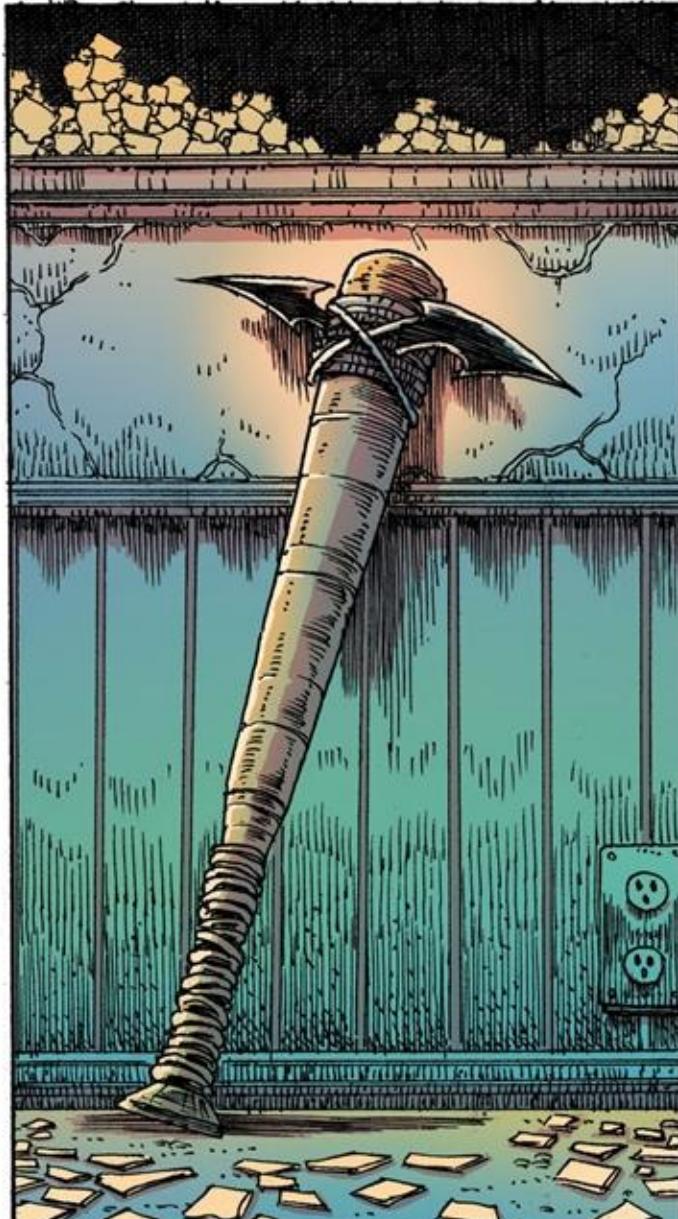
HAHNAHA

TAKE IT FROM ME, KID.
PARENTS ONLY GET
IN YOUR WAY.

YOU'RE
WELCOME.











"I tried believing in him. in his promise to me..."

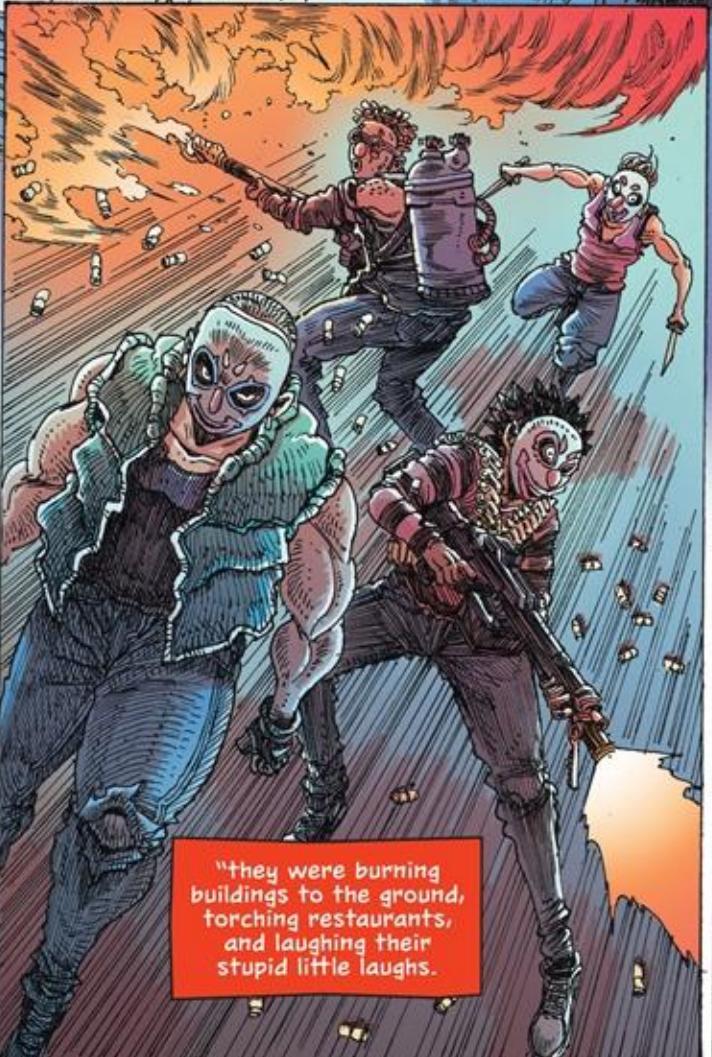
"I tried so hard."

"every time i heard there was a new joker attack i thought there'd be something. either he'd kill him, or he'd find some way to lobotomize him or paralyze him..."

"just something. something that'd stop him from coming back year after year after year and hurting more and more people."

"i kept his little batarang on my wall and i would tell myself each time that it was going to be the end for real."

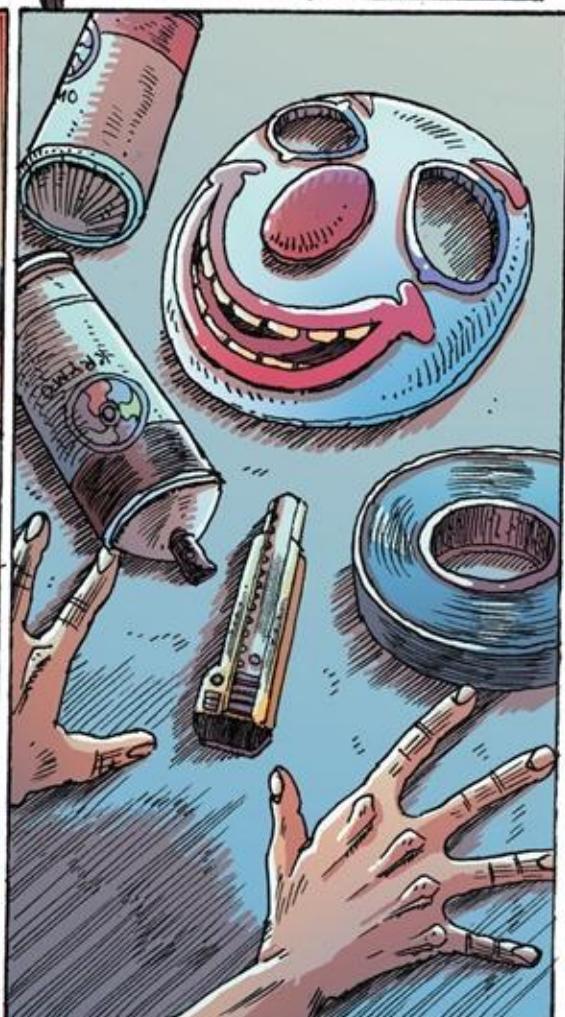
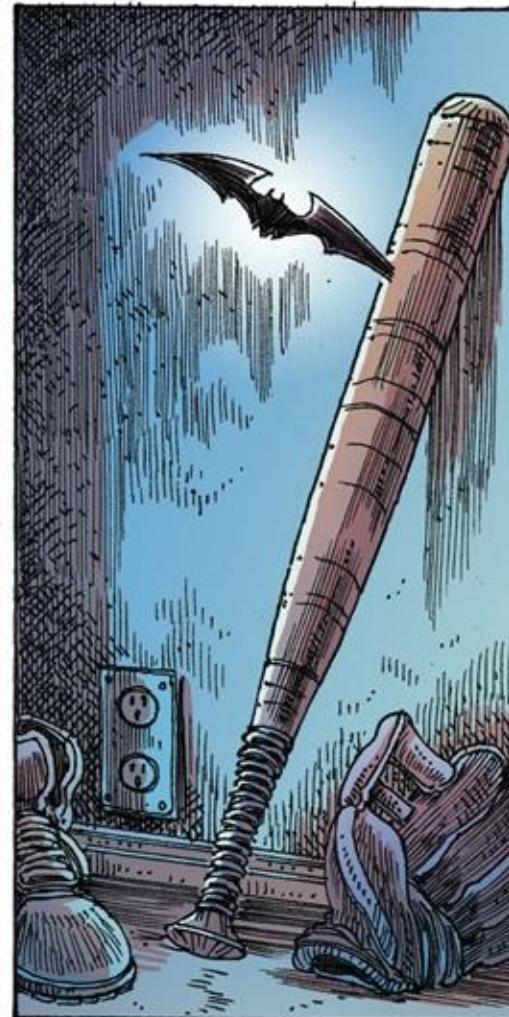
"but every time i think i believed it a little less..."



"I kept telling myself...he was going to show up and do something about it."













"it felt...good. it
felt good to do
something. it
made *sense* to
do something.

"and the people in
the narrows...they
were cheering me on.
i made all the clowns
too scared to come
to our neighborhood.

"i kept them
from burning our
buildings and our
nice old ladies."

GOTHAM CITY.
NOW.







