



BATMAN

516
MAR 95

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

MOENCH
JONES
BEATTY



KELLEY
Jones



WIDE AWAKE, SHE DREAMS
OF PAIN AND TERROR.
THE WAKING SLEEP IS HERS.
BUT SHE WILL GIVE THE
NIGHTMARE TO OTHERS,
STEALING HEARTS
IN RETURN.

SLEEPER PART ONE: NIGHTMARES

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO RELY
ON A FORMER ASSASSIN
WHILE I RECOVERED FROM
BANE'S ATTACK--AND JEAN
PAUL VALLEY'S FUTURE IS
NOW MY RESPONSIBILITY.

I CAN ONLY HOPE I'VE DONE
RIGHT IN PREPARING HIM FOR
THAT FUTURE BY RESTORING
HIS PAST.*

DW·KJ·JB·2

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER
KELLEY JONES
PENCILLER
JOHN BEATTY
INKER
ADRIENNE ROY, COLORS
TODD KLEIN, LETTERS
JORDAN B. GORFINKEL,
ASSISTANT EDITOR
DENNIS O'NEIL, EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED
BY BOB KANE

*See AZRAEL
#2.

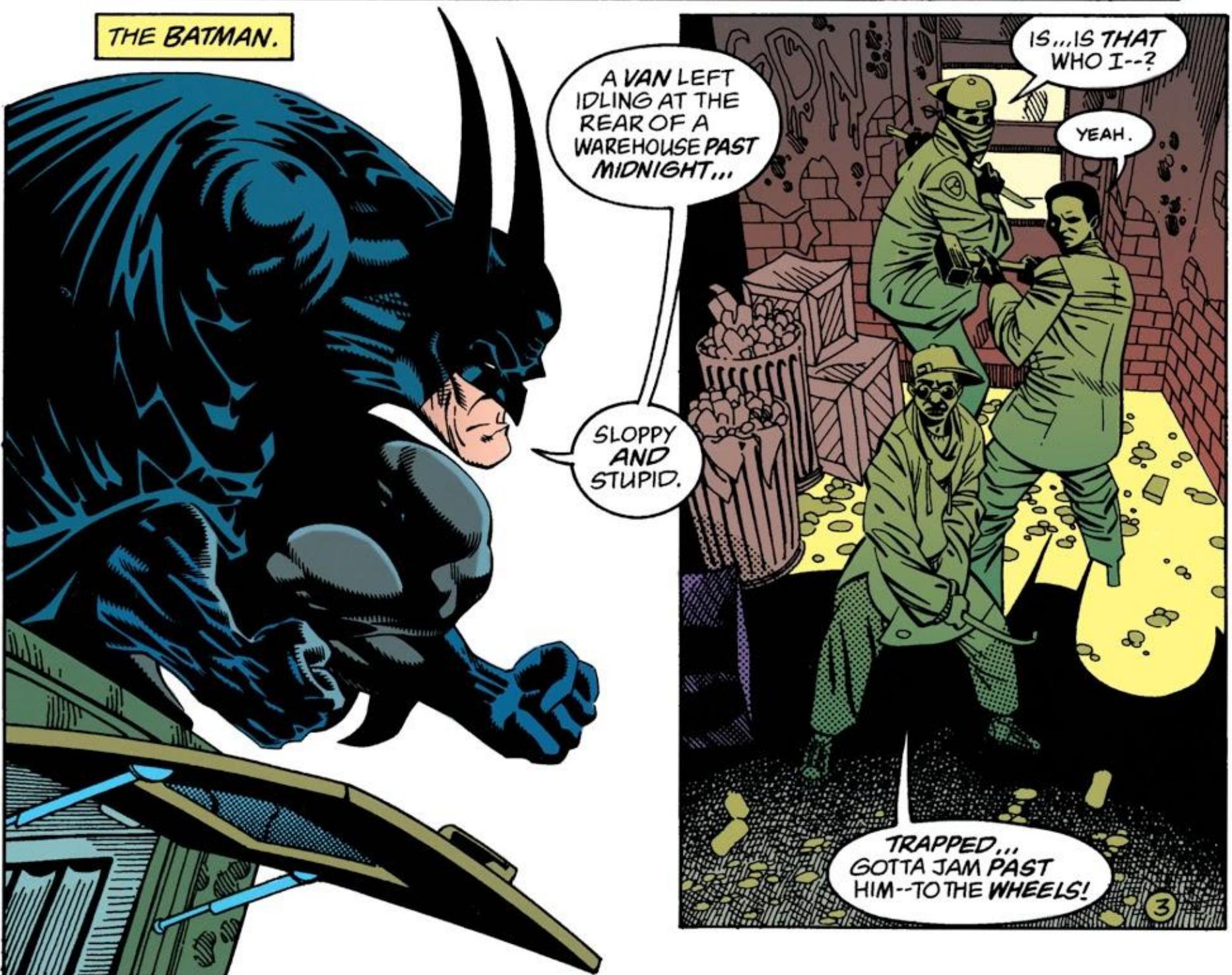
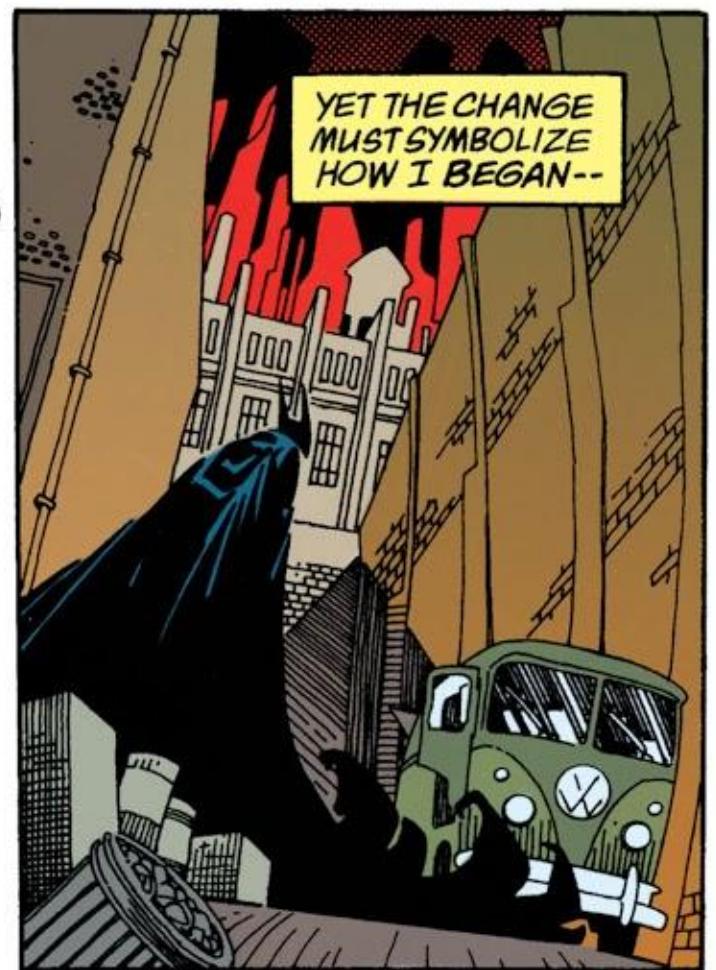
THE THEORY IS SIMPLE: HIS AZRAEL COSTUME IS THE KEY TO HIS PAST-- THE ONLY THING THAT CAN HELP HIM BREAK THE SPELL OF THE "SYSTEM"...

...THEREBY UNLOCKING THE DOOR TO HIS FUTURE AS WELL.

IF I'M WRONG-- AND HE RETURNS TO THE PROGRAMMED MINDSET OF AN ASSASSIN-- I MUST STAND READY TO STOP HIM.

BUT I'M CONVINCED HIS COSTUME IS THE KEY...

...JUST AS MY NEW COSTUME FORGES A LINK TO THE DARKNESS OF MY ORIGINS.





IF NO ONE SEES
THEM BEFORE
THEY WAKE, THEY'LL
BE HEARD SOON
THEREAFTER.

UNTIL THEN, LET
THE CITY SLEEP.

GODDESS OF
SLEEP AND DEATH,
I BEG YOU...







BLOOD--BUT TOO NEAT AND
NOT ENOUGH FOR MURDER...

NO ARTERIAL
SPRAY.

AND A SKULL--
BUT TOO SMALL
TO BE REAL...

A MACABRE OBJET D'ART--
LEFT BY THE MURDERER?

CHINESE
HEADDRESS.

STRANGE.

AS EVER, SLEEPER, YOUR DREAM
CHAMBER HAS SOOTHED ME.

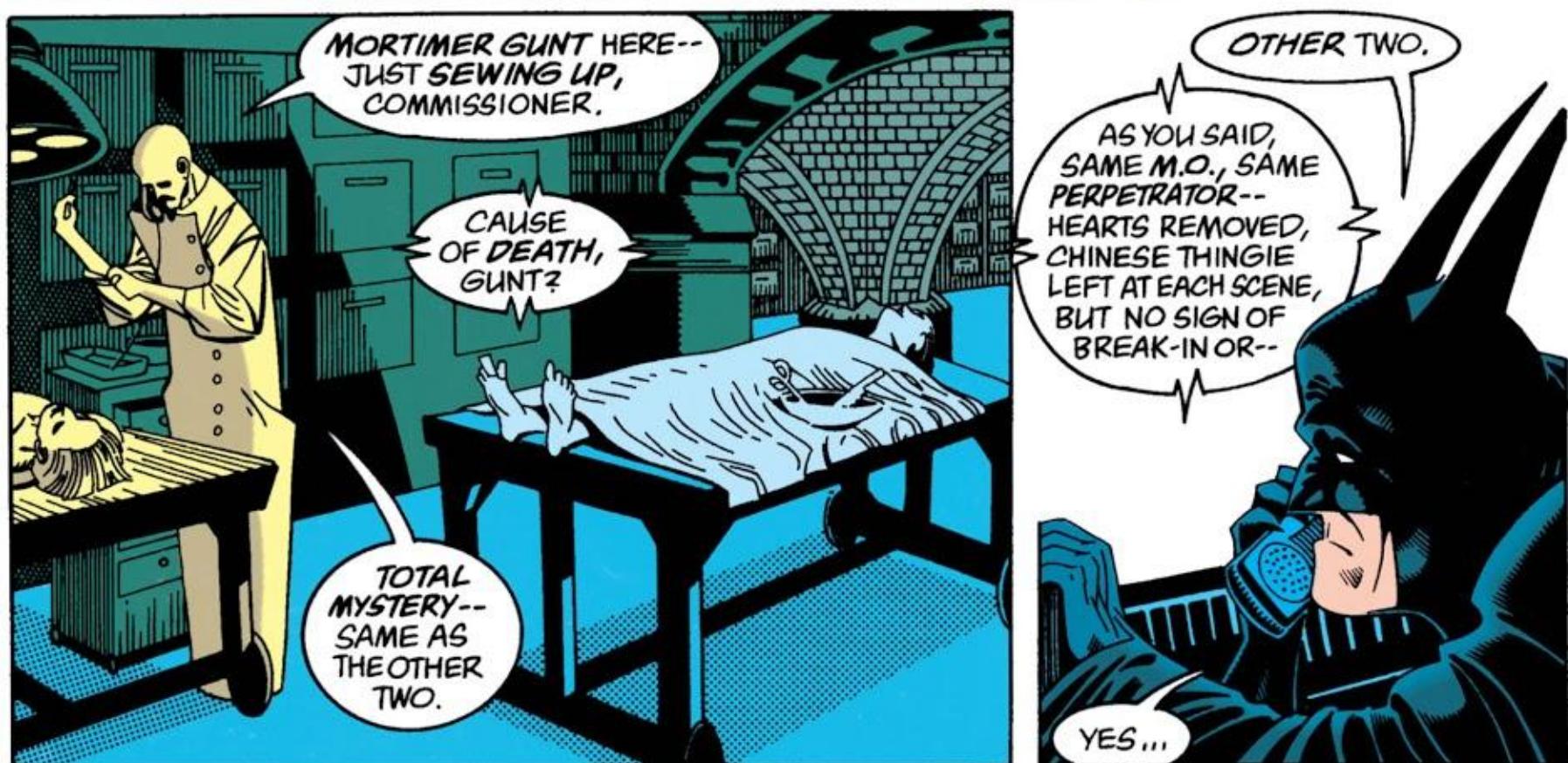
I THINK
I CAN REST
NOW.

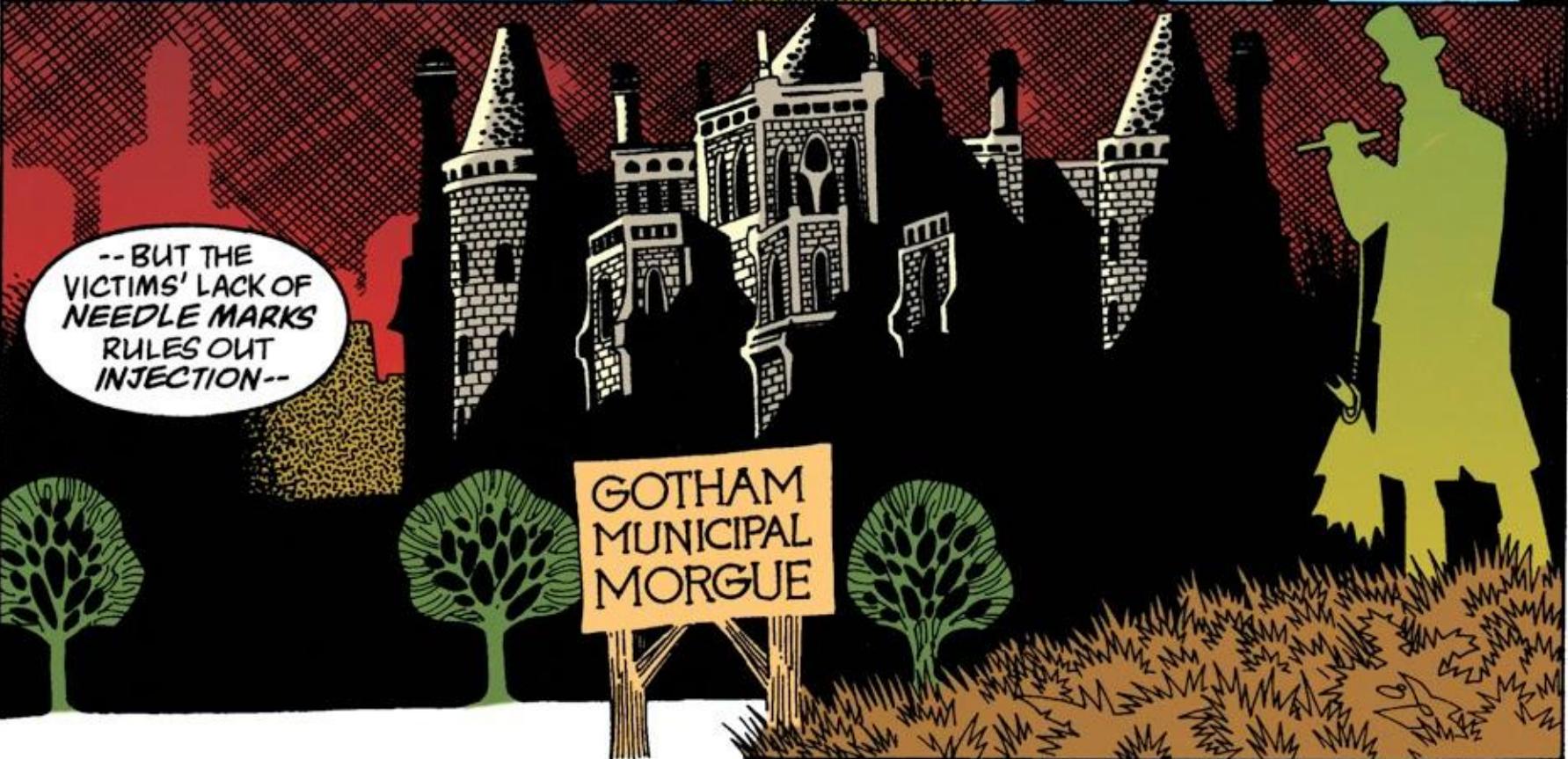
CAN
YOU?

NO, REMMY...
NEVER.

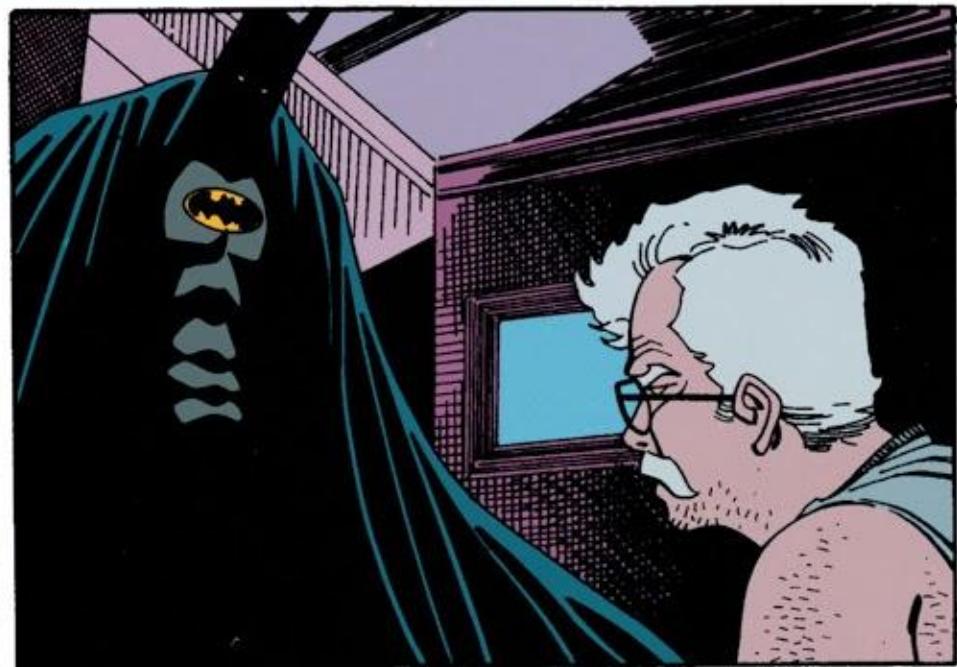
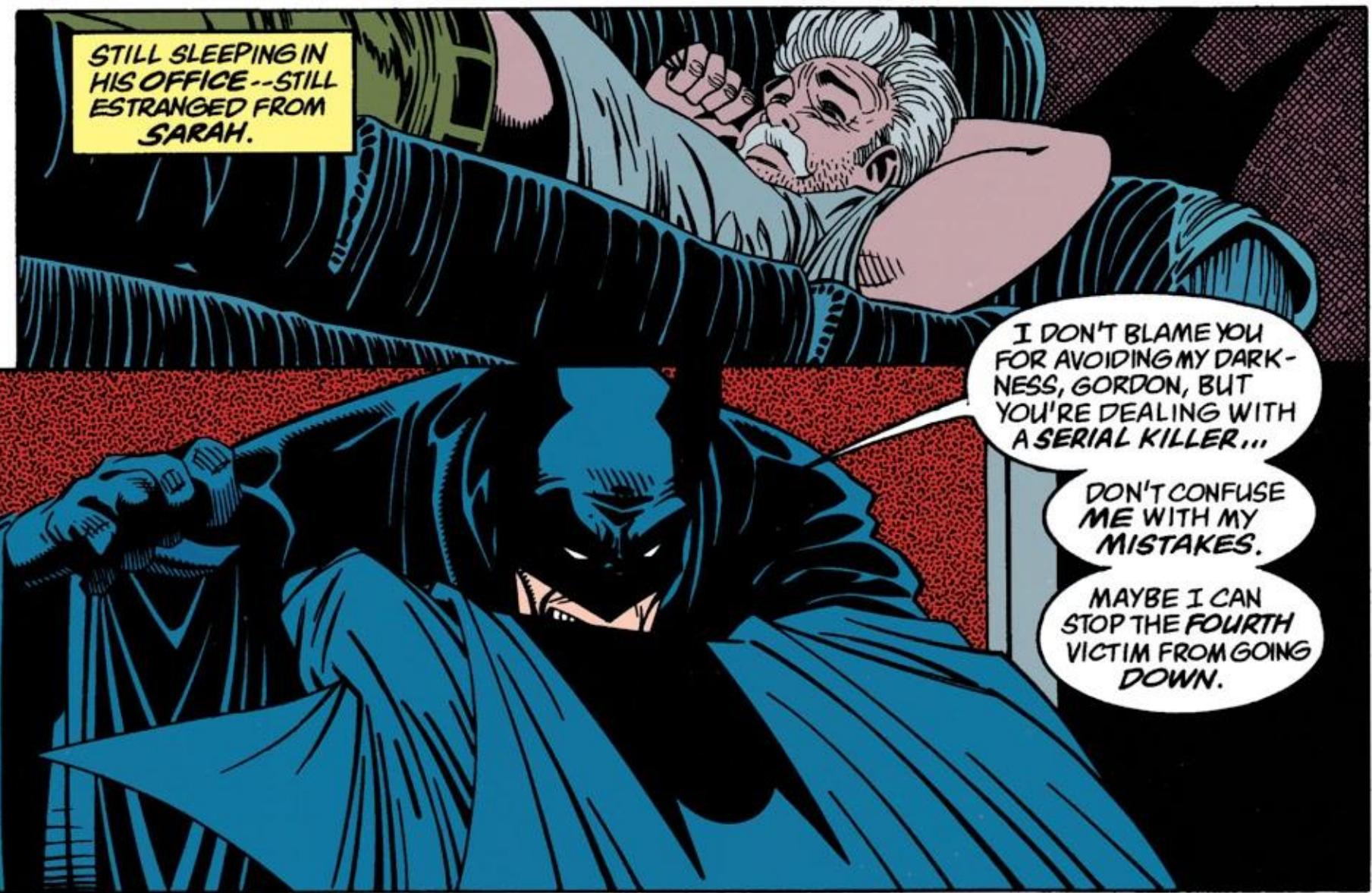
SLEEP,
FOR ME, IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

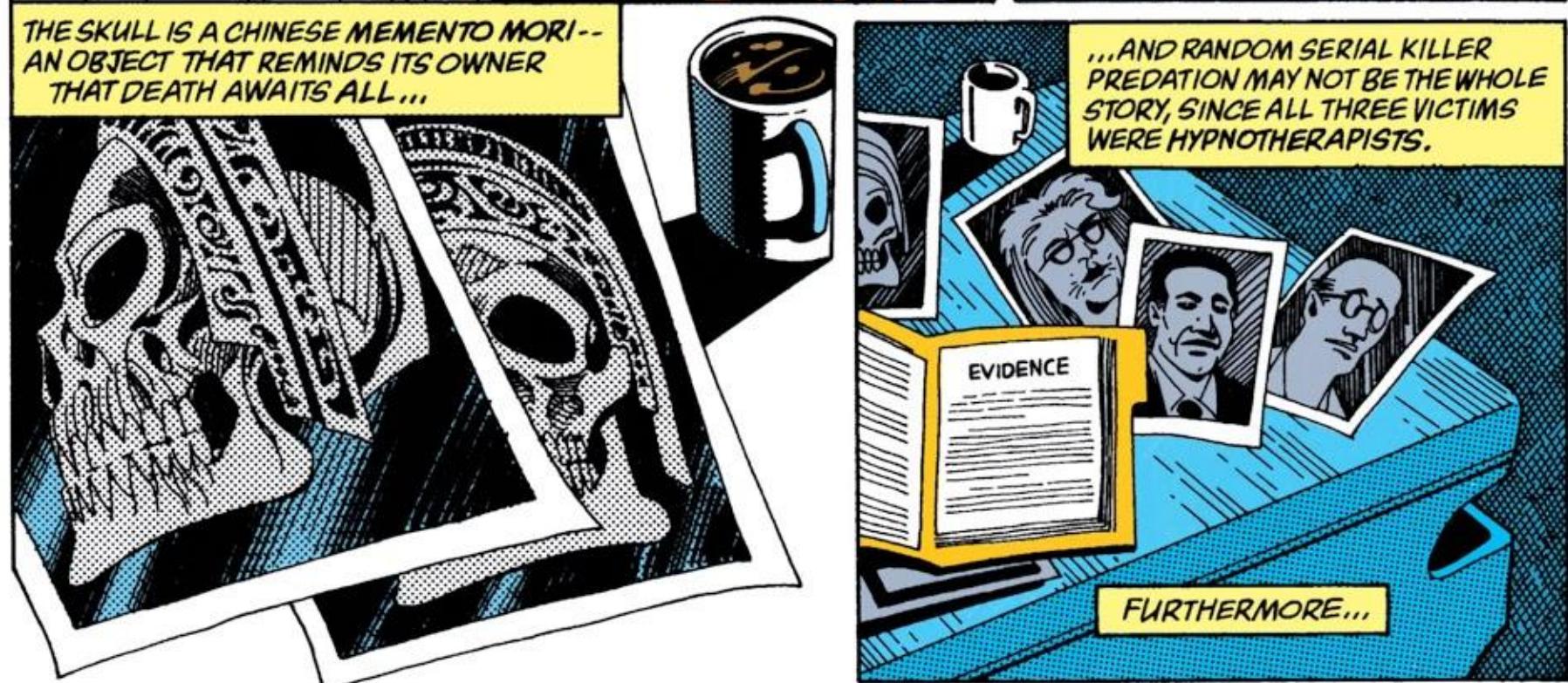
SLEEP IS
TOO CLOSE...TO
DEATH.













HELLO.

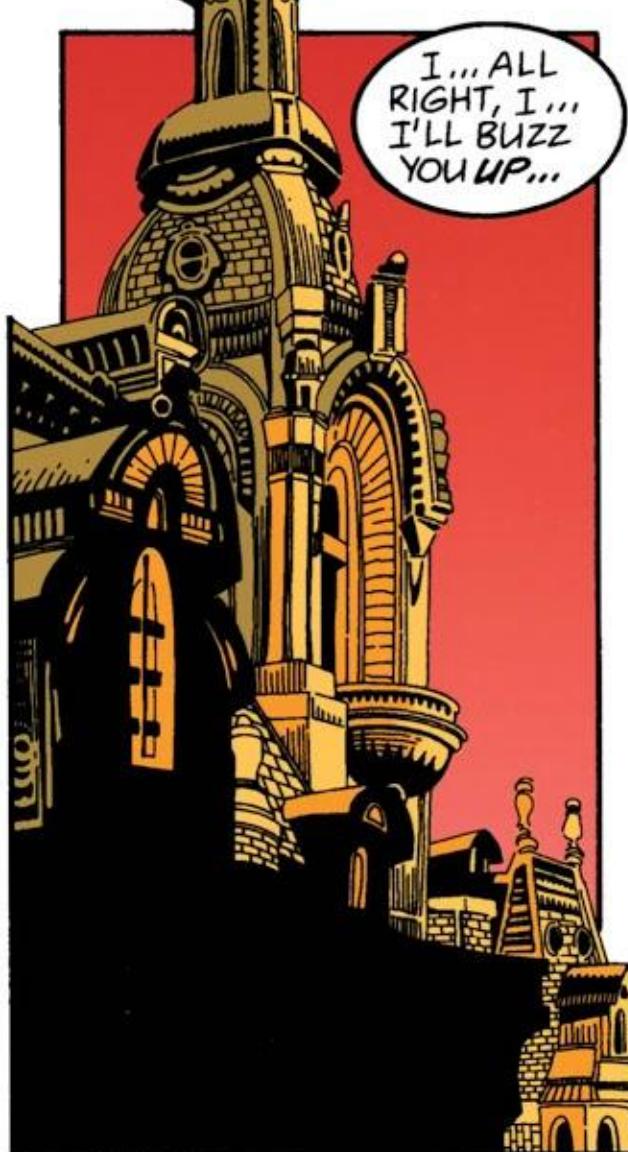


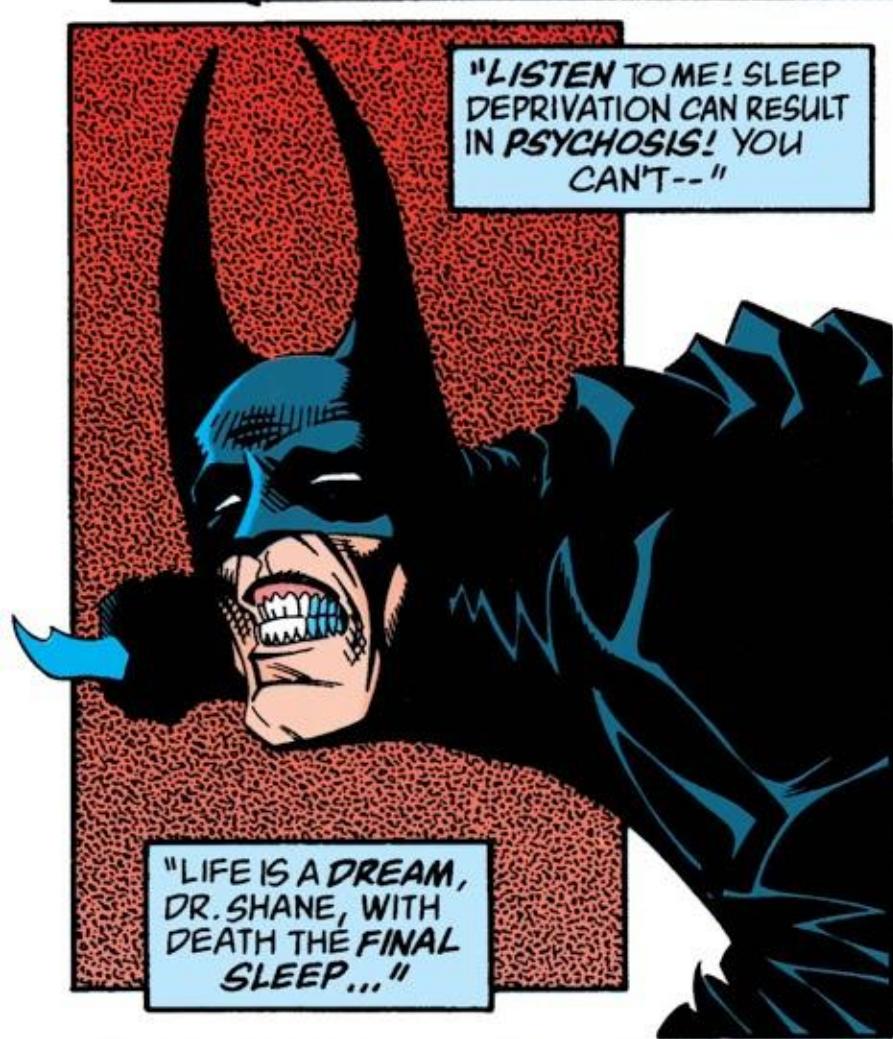
IT IS...



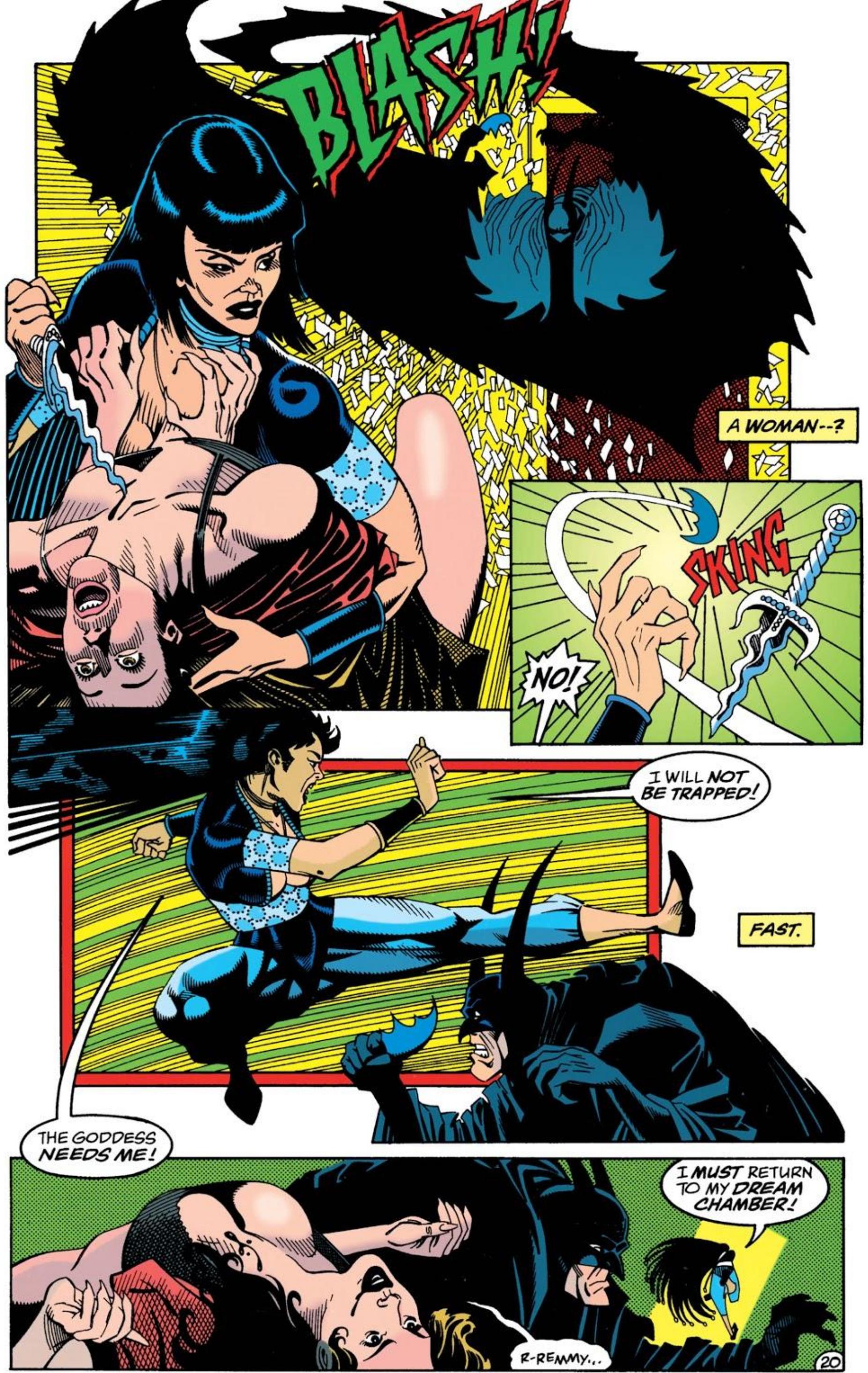














GUNT WAS RIGHT--NOT
INJECTION OR INGESTION...

...BUT INHALATION.

BUKSH

GAS.

GOT TO HOLD MY
BREATH BEFORE--

SWEET DREAMS,
BATMAN...

...BECOME BITTER
NIGHTMARE...

TOO LATE--ALREADY
INHALED SOMEON REFLEX...
AND IT...IT'S TAKING EFFECT...

EVERYTHING SPINNING...
LURCHING...LOSING MY
BALANCE...

...WHEN THE GODDESS
OF SLEEP AND DEATH MUST
BE APPEASED...

...AND
YOUR LIFE...
BECOMES
HERS.

HEART RACING...
POUNDING TOWARD...

...DEATH.

NEXT ISSUE:
THE CONCLUSION--
SLEEPER Part
two:

DARKNESS IN DREAM
THE CHAMBER



novus
Distributions