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43

# BATMAN™

SNYDER  
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MIKI  
PLASCENCIA

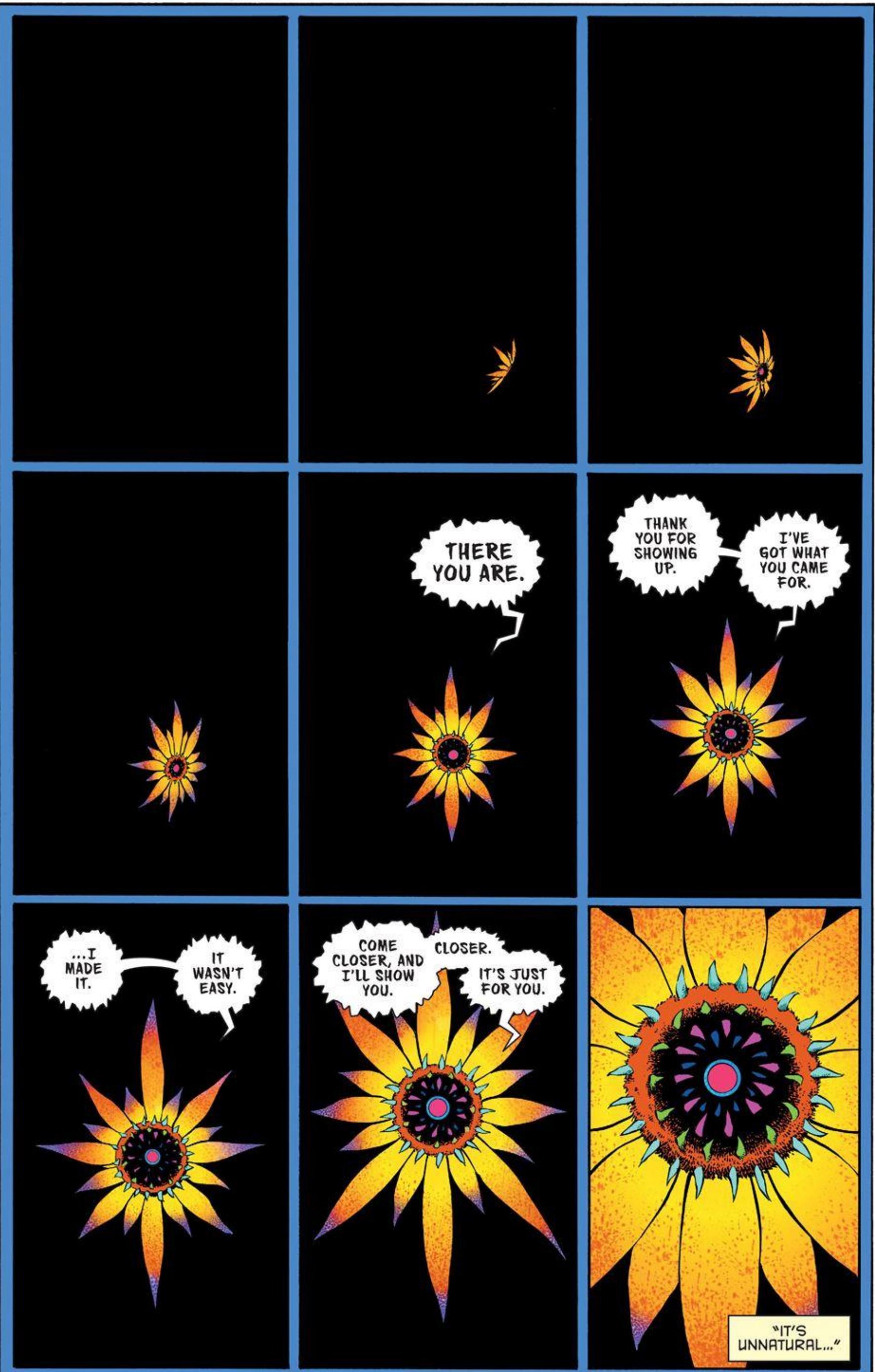


06/2015

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...I GET IT. I MEAN, I KNOW IT MUST FEEL THAT WAY. ME, JIM GORDON, COMING TO YOU, BRUCE WAYNE, AND SAYING THAT. BUT STILL, IT'S WHERE WE ARE.

I'M BATMAN.  
AND I NEED  
YOUR HELP.

BATMAN. I'VE SEEN YOU ON THE NEWS, YOU KNOW. FIGHTING CRIMINALS IN THAT NEW SUIT. IT'S IMPRESSIVE AND ADMIRABLE, MR. GORDON.

BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BATMAN ANYMORE.



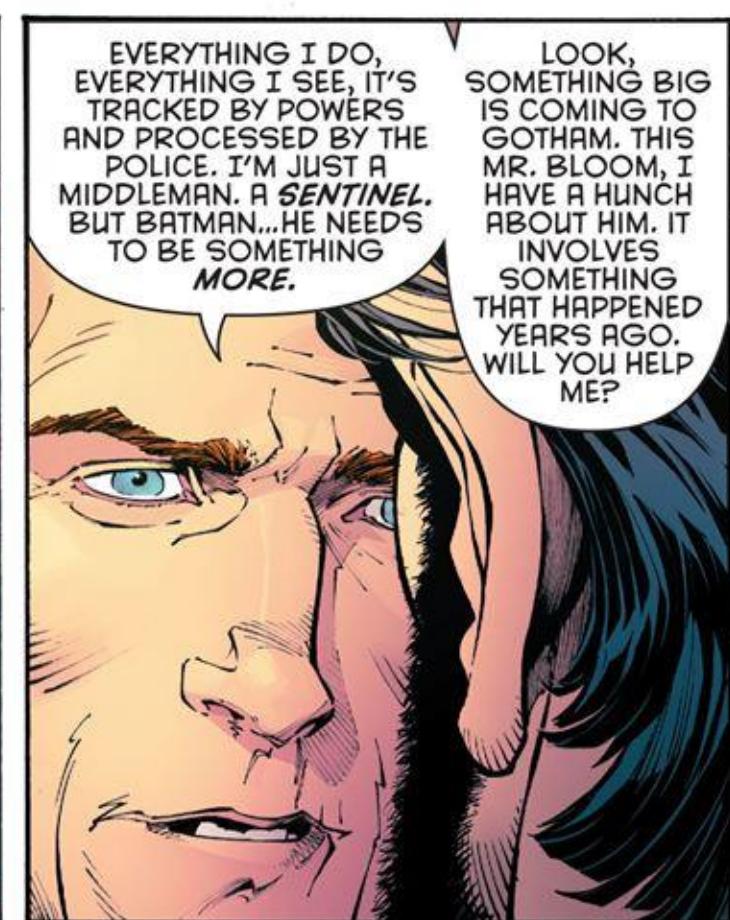
WELL,  
JUST...HUMOR  
ME. I WANT TO  
SHOW YOU  
SOMETHING.

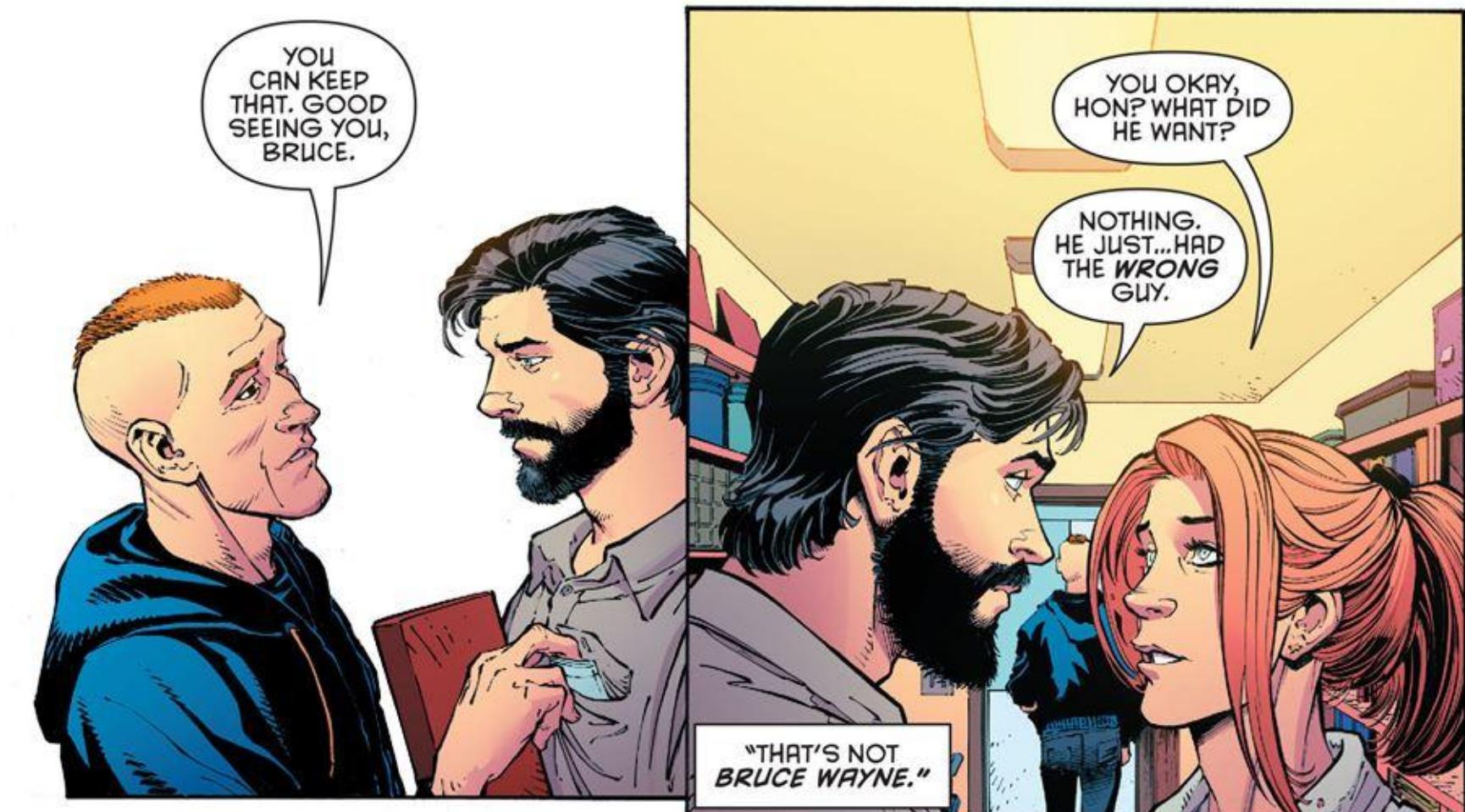
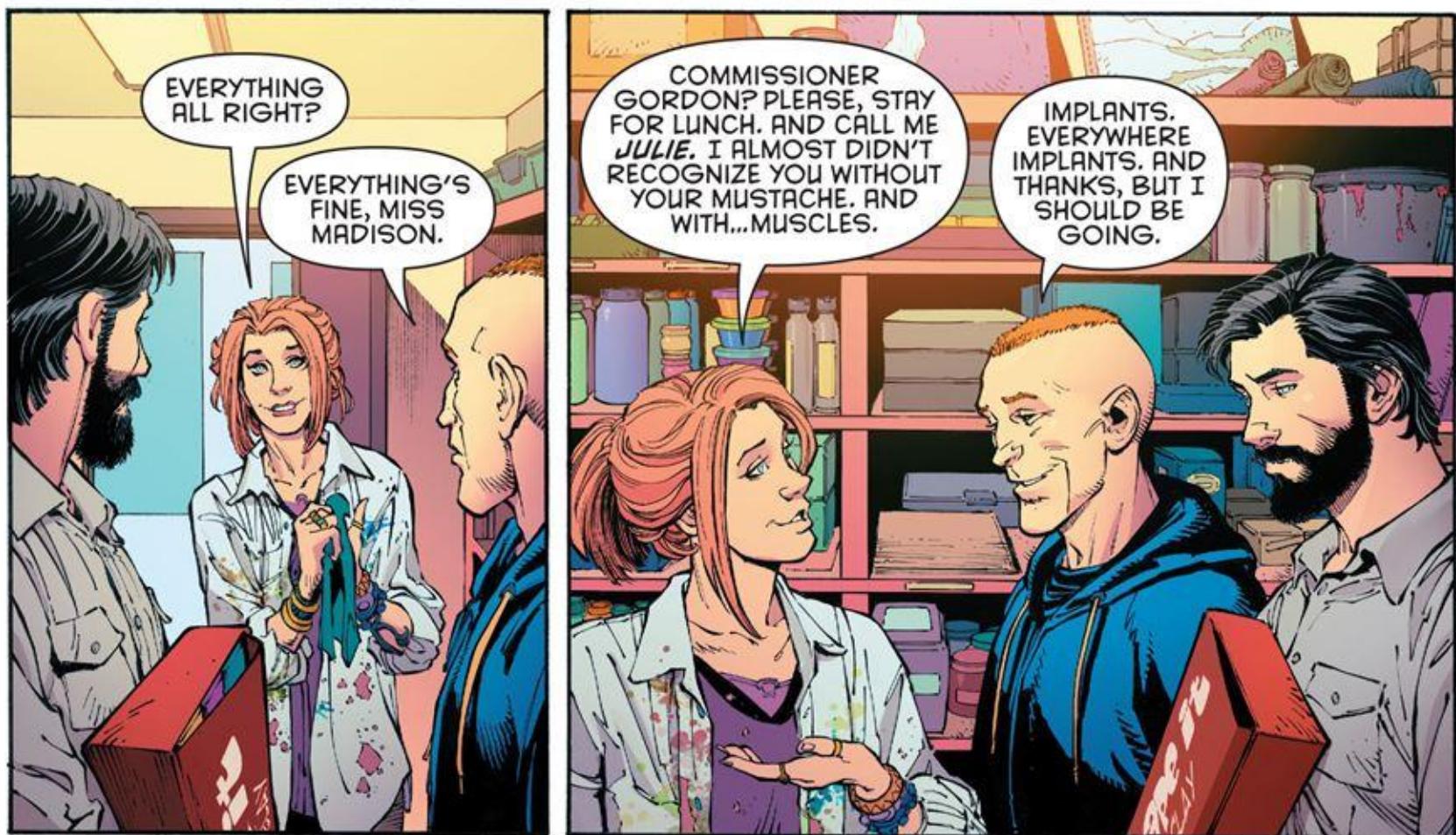
THIS THING, THIS  
"SEED," SOMEONE IS  
MAKING THESE AND  
SELLING THEM TO  
BAD PEOPLE IN THE  
NARROWS.

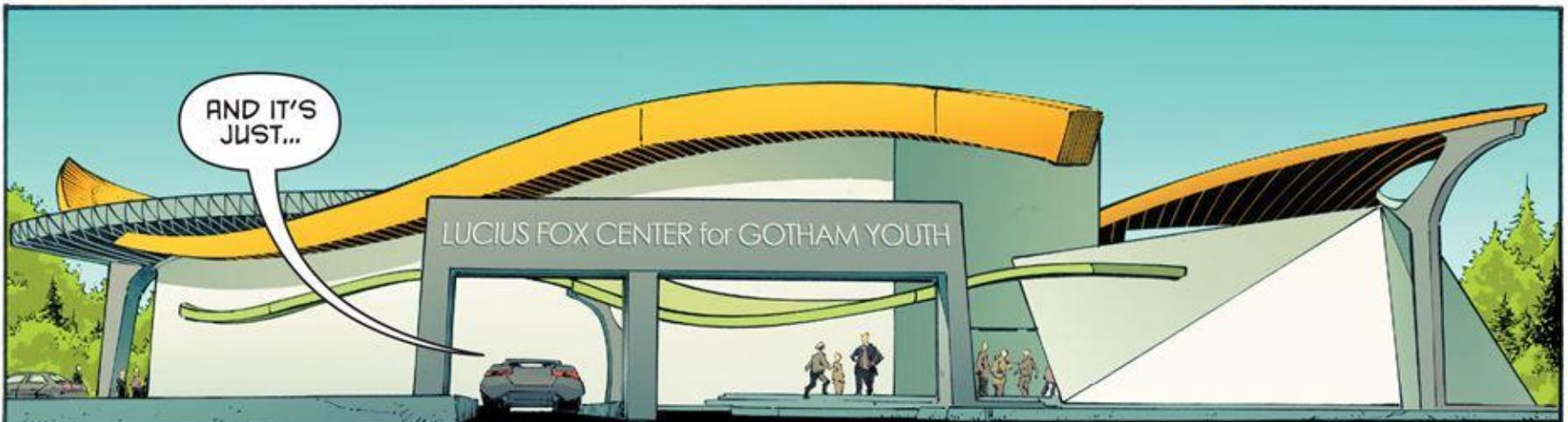
THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.  
RIGHT HERE, WHERE YOU'RE  
WORKING EVERY DAY, BRUCE. I'M  
NOT SURE WHO THIS MR. BLOOM  
IS, BUT THESE THINGS, THEY'RE  
POWERFUL WEAPONS. THEY GIVE  
THEIR USERS TERRIBLE ABILITIES.  
AND EACH SEED SEEMS MORE  
POWERFUL THAN THE LAST.  
SOON, THEY MIGHT BE...

I JUST...  
COULD USE  
YOUR HELP.









"THEY SAY A PARENT CAN FEEL IT WHEN THEIR CHILD LEAVES THE EARTH."

"I NEVER BELIEVED IT. ALL THE TIMES BEFORE..."

"BUT WHEN THAT CAVE COLLAPSED ON HIM AND THE JOKER, I... I FELT IT."

"THE OTHERS HAD BEEN HOPEFUL, WORKING IN SHIFTS, BUT I KNEW."

"THE PHONE CALL CAME THREE WEEKS AFTER HE WENT MISSING. I WAS WAITING FOR IT BY THE FURNACE, READY TO BURN ALL TRACES OF BATMAN'S MISSION."

"IT WAS JULIA WHO FOUND HIM. HIS BODY WAS INTACT, READY TO COME HOME."

"SO I DROVE TO THE SITE TO COLLECT HIM."

"THE MAN I'D CARED FOR AS A BABY, THEN A BOY, THEN AN ANGRY YOUNG MAN..."

"I'D TAKE CARE OF HIM ONE LAST TIME, BEFORE LAYING HIM TO REST."

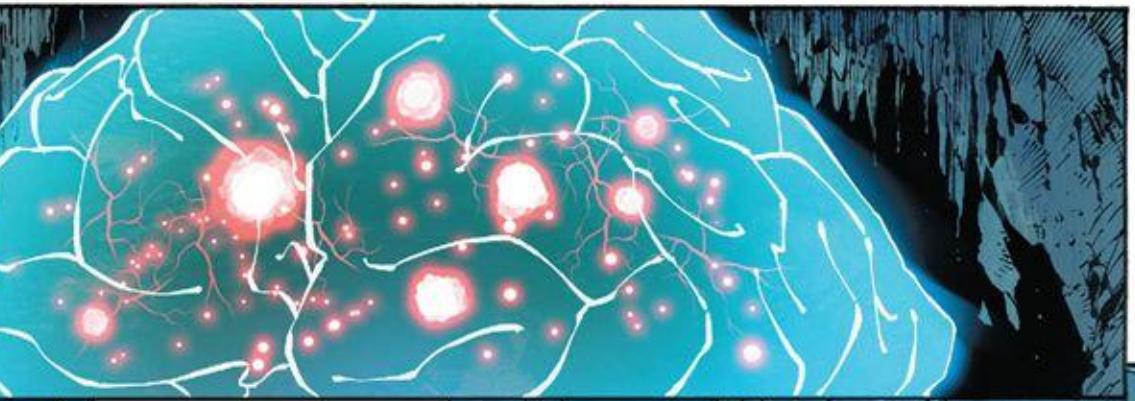
"BUT WHEN I ARRIVED..."

"I SAW..."

"HE'D COME BACK TO LIFE. JULIA COULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT. SHE'D HAD HIM IN THE BAG, SHE'D BEEN ZIPPING HIM UP, WHEN... HE'D JUST WOKEN UP."

"MY BRUCE."

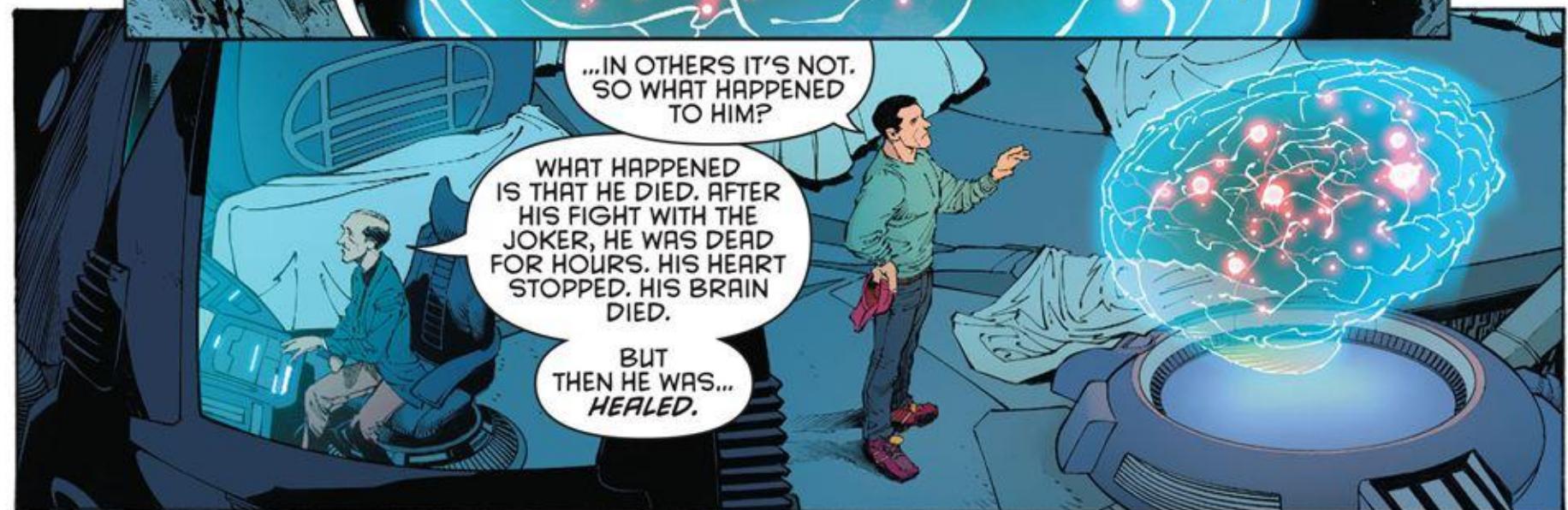
BUT IT'S NOT BRUCE. I'M LOOKING AT THIS MIND, RIGHT NOW, AND IT'S NOT BRUCE WAYNE'S MIND. IT IS, IN SOME WAYS... BUT IN OTHERS...



...IN OTHERS IT'S NOT. SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

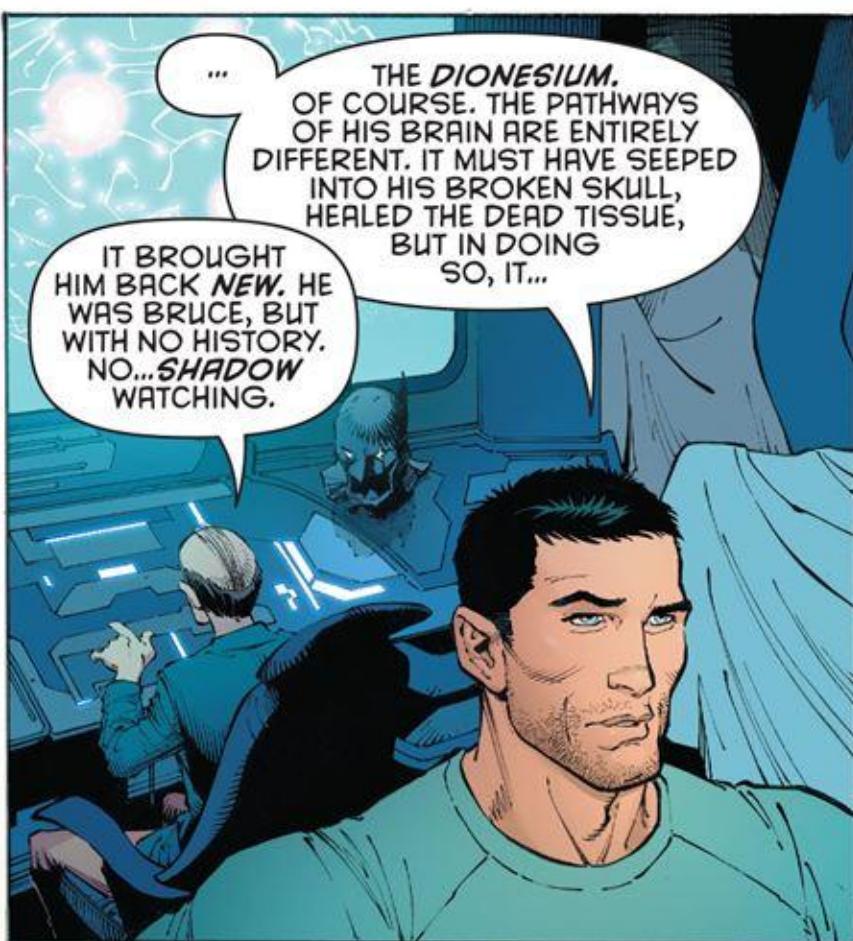
WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT HE DIED. AFTER HIS FIGHT WITH THE JOKER, HE WAS DEAD FOR HOURS. HIS HEART STOPPED. HIS BRAIN DIED.

BUT THEN HE WAS... HEALED.



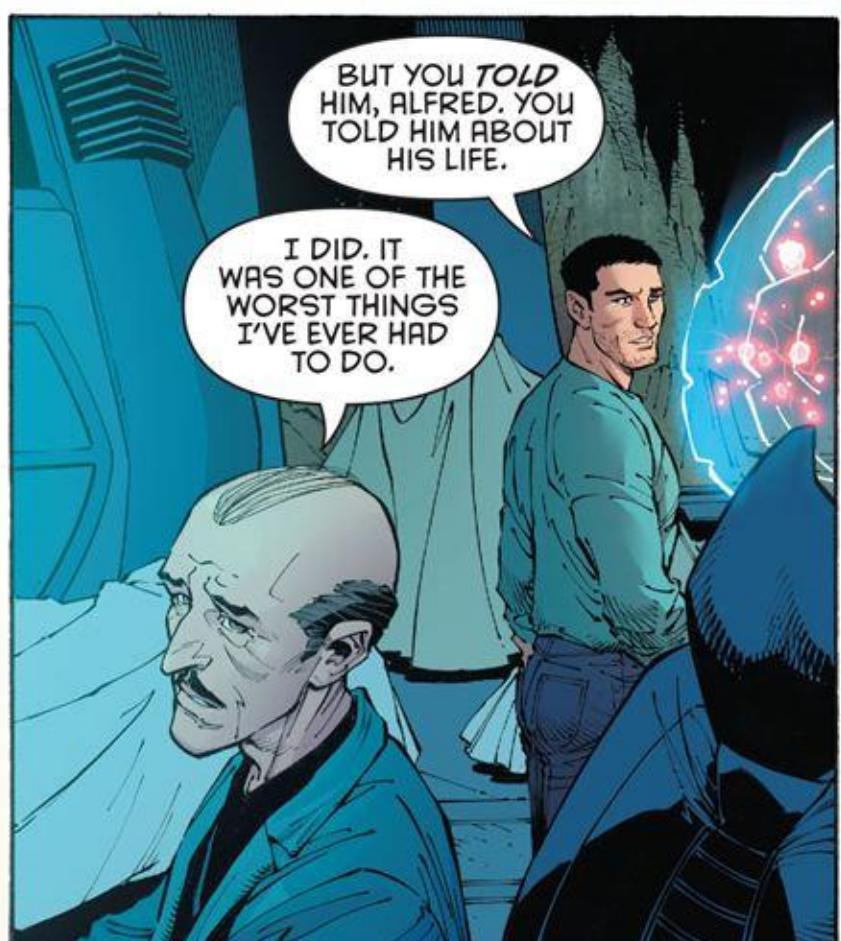
...  
THE DIONESIUM.  
OF COURSE. THE PATHWAYS OF HIS BRAIN ARE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. IT MUST HAVE SEEPED INTO HIS BROKEN SKULL, HEALED THE DEAD TISSUE, BUT IN DOING SO, IT...

IT BROUGHT HIM BACK NEW. HE WAS BRUCE, BUT WITH NO HISTORY. NO... SHADOW WATCHING.



BUT YOU TOLD HIM, ALFRED. YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS LIFE.

I DID. IT WAS ONE OF THE WORST THINGS I'VE EVER HAD TO DO.



"TO WALK THIS MAN THROUGH THE TRAGEDY OF HIS OWN LIFE AGAIN. TO TAKE HIM, UNFORMED, THIS PERSON YOU LOVE, AND TWIST THE CLAY OF THEM INTO A MALFORMED THING. WORKING MY WAY TO BATMAN."

"I TOLD HIM HE'D BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT DURING THE JOKER'S ATTACK, AND THEN I STARTED AT THE BEGINNING. I TOLD HIM ABOUT HIS CHILDHOOD, ABOUT HIS PARENTS' DEATH. I TOLD HIM HOW WHEN THEY DIED, HE'D BECOME ANGRY, DRIVEN... HOW HE'D TURNED THAT INTO FUEL TO HELP THE CITY."



"HOW HE'D BUILT WAYNE ENTERPRISES INTO SOMETHING HEROIC AND SPECIAL."

"HOW HE'D BEEN A SYMBOL. ALL THE WHILE, WORKING MY WAY TO THE LAST TRUTH. A TERRIBLE MONOLOGUE ON A TERRIBLE STAGE."

"AND I WAS JUST ABOUT TO TELL HIM THE LAST TRUTH, TO OPEN THAT LAST, WORST DOOR, WHEN--"

STOP.

I'VE HEARD ENOUGH, ALFRED.

BUT THERE'S MORE, BRUCE.

I'M SURE THERE IS.



I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS ACCIDENT DID TO ME, BUT I'M... I'M NOT THE PERSON YOU'RE DESCRIBING. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE. I KNOW I LOVED YOU. I LOOK AT THESE PICTURES, AND I KNOW I LOVED THEM. BUT I DON'T FEEL THEIR LOSS.

I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR THAT BOY IN THE ALLEY, BUT I CAN'T BE WHO HE WAS. IT'S NOT WHO I AM.

"FOR TWO DAYS, I DIDN'T SEE HIM."

"AND THEN, ON THE THIRD DAY, HE REAPPEARED AND SAID SOMETHING THAT LIFTED MY HEART."

I MAY NOT BE THE MAN I WAS, BUT I WANT TO HELP. IN MY OWN WAY, THOUGH. FACE-TO-FACE. MY MOTHER WORKED IN SCHOOLS. MY FATHER WORKED IN CITY HOSPITALS. THAT FEELS RIGHT. THAT FEELS LIKE ME.



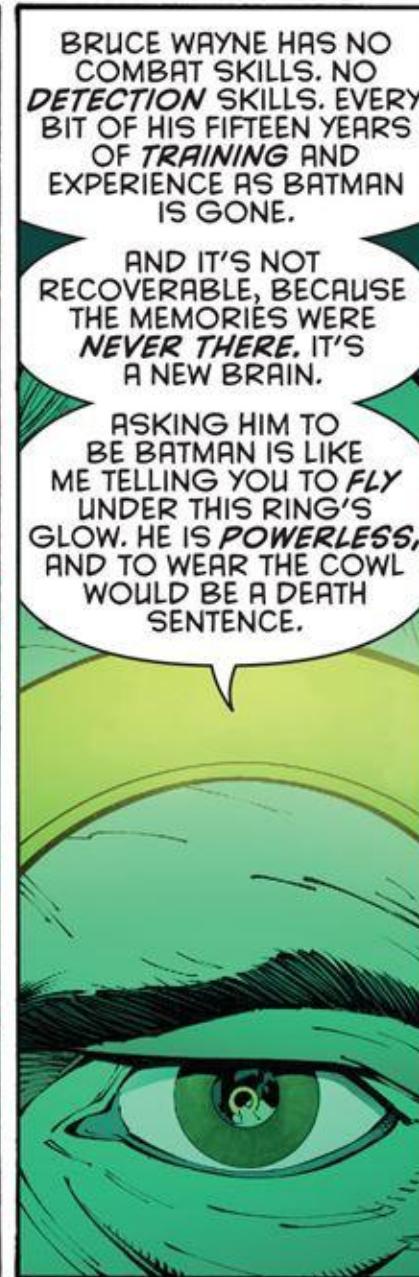
"NOW THIS CITY, MR. KENT, IT NEVER GIVES ANYTHING BACK. NEVER."

"BUT I SWEAR TO YOU, NOT A MINUTE AFTER BRUCE SAID THIS TO ME, THE DOORBELL RANG."

"A MISS JULIE MADISON, COMING TO CHECK ON BRUCE. SHE'D HEARD HE'D HAD AN ACCIDENT DURING THE ATTACK. A GIRLFRIEND FROM HIS YOUTH. WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE NARROWS..."

"THE CITY...IT NEVER GIVES. BUT IT GAVE."



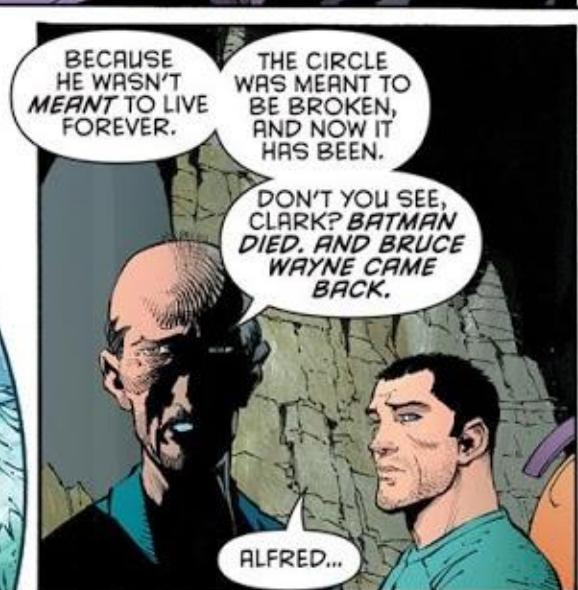
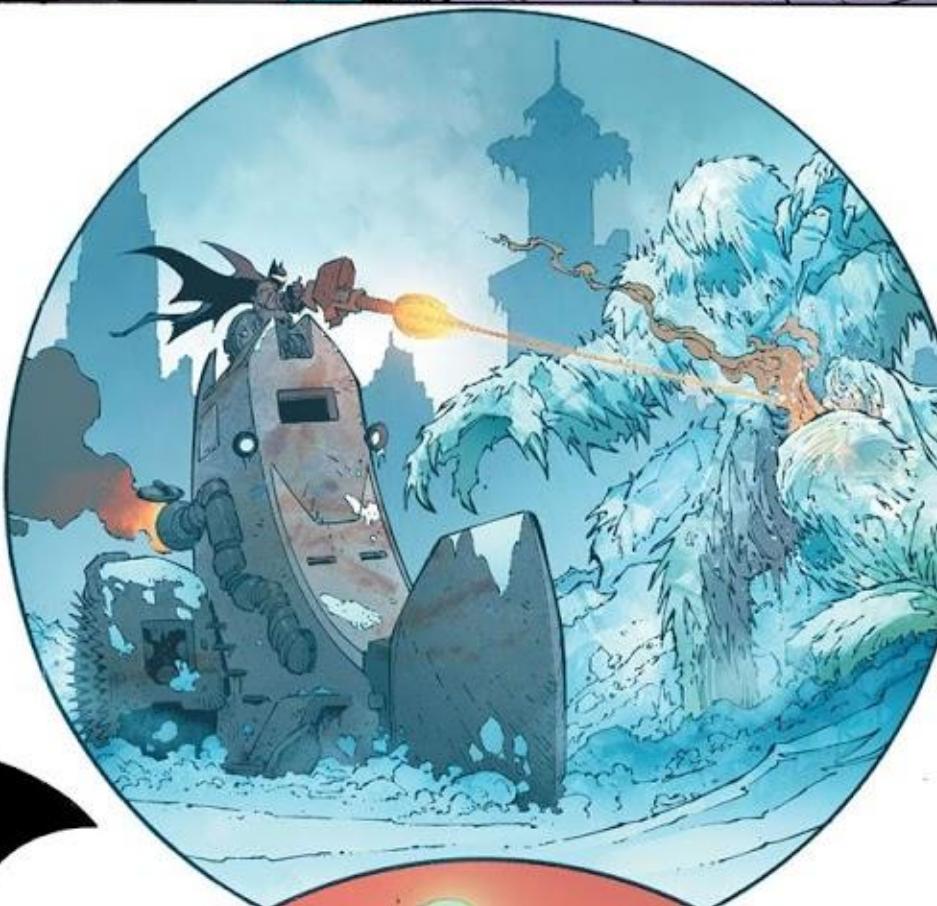


FOLLOW ME A MOMENT, MR. KENT. I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO SHOW YOU IMAGES OF BRUCE'S BRAIN.





PICTURE IT...  
...PICTURE AN ENDLESS CHAIN OF TRAGEDY. EACH VERSION OF HIM SUBJECTED TO THE SAME HORRORS.  
BRUCE KILLED BY BATMAN SO THAT HE, BATMAN, COULD BE BORN AGAIN. AN UNNATURAL GENEALOGY OF THEM.  
"YES, FATHER, I SHALL BECOME A BAT," BUT SPOKEN BY BRUCE TO BATMAN, FATHERED BY BATMAN. ONE REPLACING THE NEXT, GENERATION TO GENERATION.  
BUT EVEN HE, WITH ALL HIS GENIUS, HE NEVER EVEN CAME CLOSE TO FINISHING IT.



"...LET SOMEONE ELSE SUFFER FOR THIS CURSED CITY."

HI, THERE.

I READ YOU. YOU'RE CHARGED. FIRING IN THREE, TWO, ONE...

PoOM

THE CHARGE CAUSES THE MOLECULES TO CONTRACT AGAINST YOUR FINGERS...

...SHRINKING THE GLASS. NO NEED TO CUT OR SHATTER THE PANE.

WITH GREAT STICKINESS COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

WELL, DON'T GET USED TO IT. THAT ONE CHARGE WAS PRETTY MUCH ALL I CAN MANAGE WITHOUT ALERTING POWERS TO THE SUIT'S ABSENCE.

YOU'LL NEED TO USE IT AS A COSTUME, NOTHING MORE.

I CAN DO THAT. I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HALF THE FUNCTIONS IN THIS THING YET ANYWAY.

FEET WARMERS?

YOU'RE JOKING.

AM I? MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE BIG PRESENTATION TONIGHT. THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RIGHT NOW, ISN'T IT? GERI IS LIKELY LOOKING TO SORT YOU OUT, JIM.

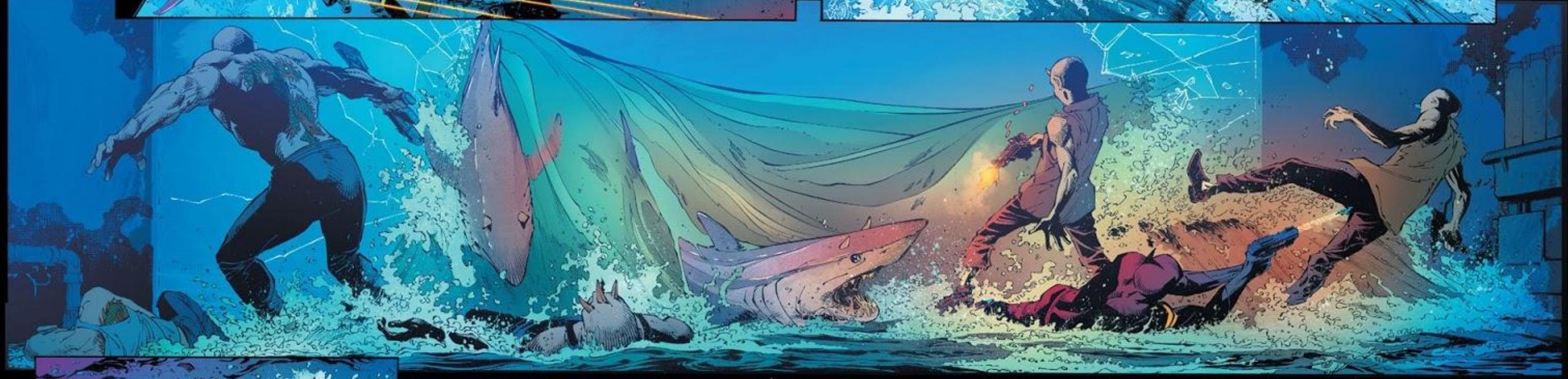
SO BE IT. WE NEED TO LEARN ABOUT MR. BLOOM.

AND THIS PLACE...IF QI TSU DID BUSINESS WITH HIM, THERE'LL BE A RECORD OF BLOOM HERE. AS LEADER OF THE DEVIL PIGS, HE'D HAVE TO RECORD EVERYTHING, SEND THE MATERIAL TO HIGHER-UPS OVERSEAS.

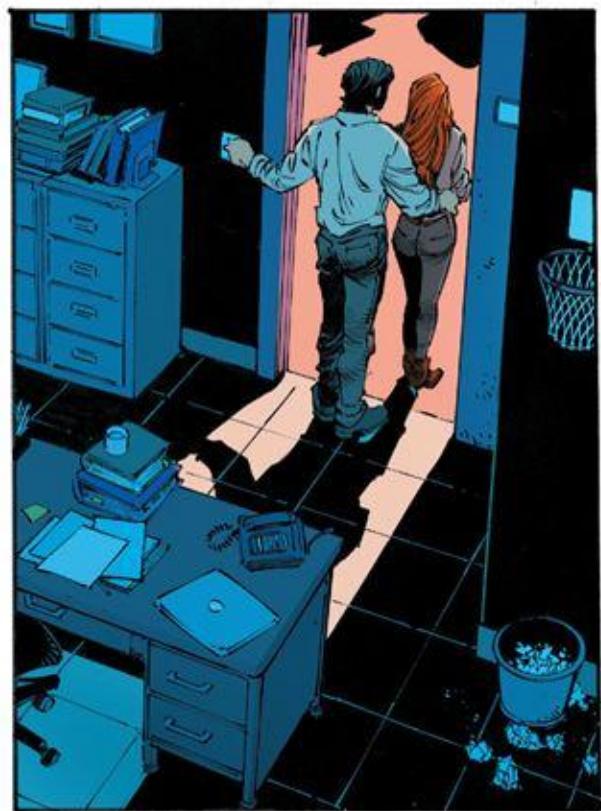












THIS ONE.  
THIS ONE IS  
YOURS.

IF YOU  
SEWED IT IN,  
IT'D COME  
TO LIFE.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK?

I  
THINK...

I NEVER NEEDED  
POWERS TO WIELD  
POWER HERE IN GOTHAM,  
"MR. BLOOM," AND I'M NOT  
SURE I NEED THEM NOW.  
BUT...PEOPLE SEEM TO BE  
BUYING WHAT YOU'RE  
SELLING. SO I'M  
INTERESTED.

BUT I'M SO SORRY,  
MR. COBBLEPOT. I THINK  
WE'VE MISUNDERSTOOD  
EACH OTHER. THAT SEED  
WOULD WORK FOR YOU,  
FOR YOUR BODY, BUT I  
CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU.

Heh. IS THAT  
SO? AND WHY  
NOT? YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH?

NO,  
I DO.  
I HAVE TOO  
MANY. IT'S  
JUST...YOU'RE  
NOT PART OF  
THIS.

Ah.

WELL, I DO FIND  
THIS ALL VERY CUTE, MR.  
BLOOM. I'VE BEEN HEARING  
ABOUT YOU FOR A BIT. THE  
MAN WHO GIVES AWAY POWERS.  
A WEAPONS DEALER WHO  
MAKES NO DEALS. GROWING  
SOMETHING. A GARDEN.  
A BUSINESS.



# SUPERHEAVY

PART THREE

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GREG CAPULLO PENCILS

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FCO PLASCENCIA COLORS

STEVE WARD LETTERS

CAPULLO, MIKI, PLASCENCIA COVER

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MARK DOYLE EDITOR

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY

JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.

© SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH

THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

...AND WE  
GROW VERY,  
VERY FAST!

NEXT MONTH:  
WHO IS MR. BLOOM?

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