



AFTERSHOCK

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

556 | JUL 98

MOENCH
BREYFOGLE
RUBINSTEIN

BATMAN

BANK
OF
MAHTO



HELP TRAPPED MONEY RESCUE RUINS

THE DINING HALL
OF WAYNE MANOR:

YOU KNOW WHEN
WE WERE GOING AFTER
THOSE COMMUTERS
TRAPPED IN THE
SUBWAY...?

BEFORE THE
RATCATCHER
SHOWED UP.

YEAH--AND YOU
SAID SOMETHING ABOUT
COMMITMENT.

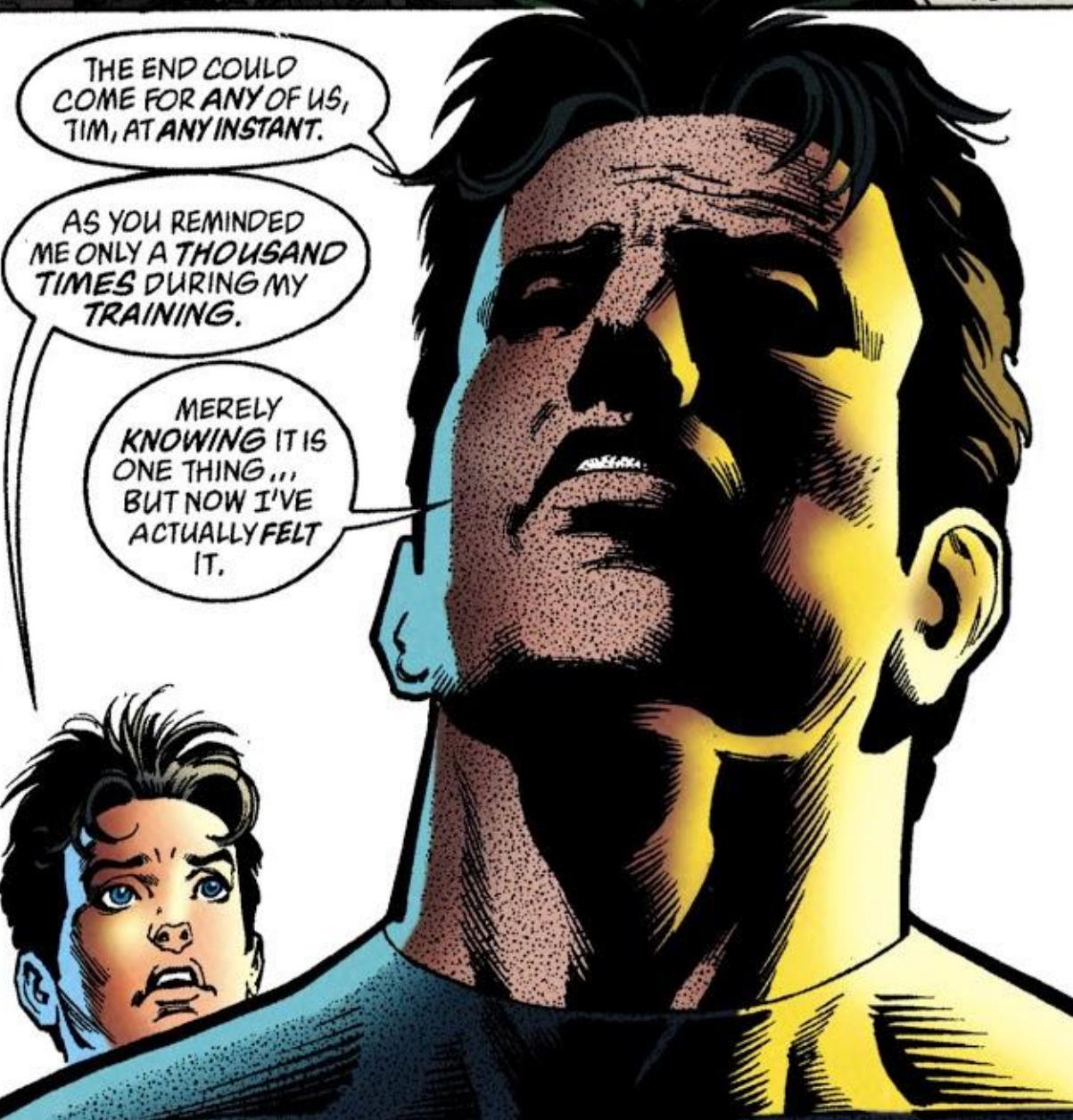
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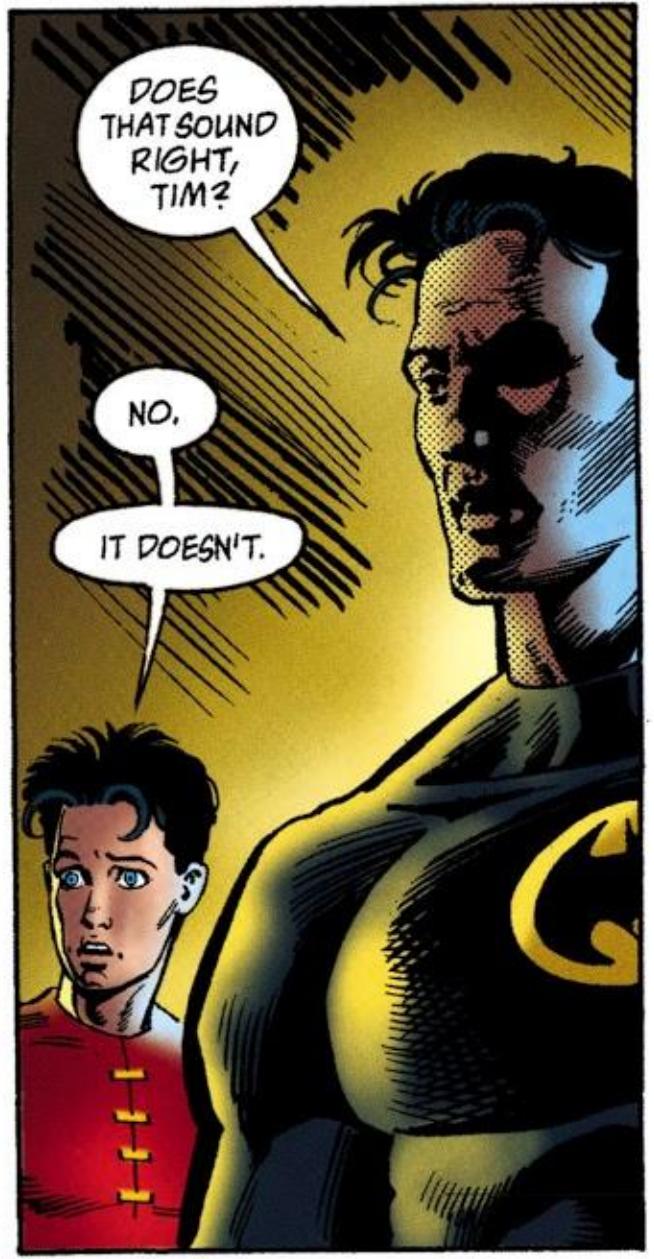
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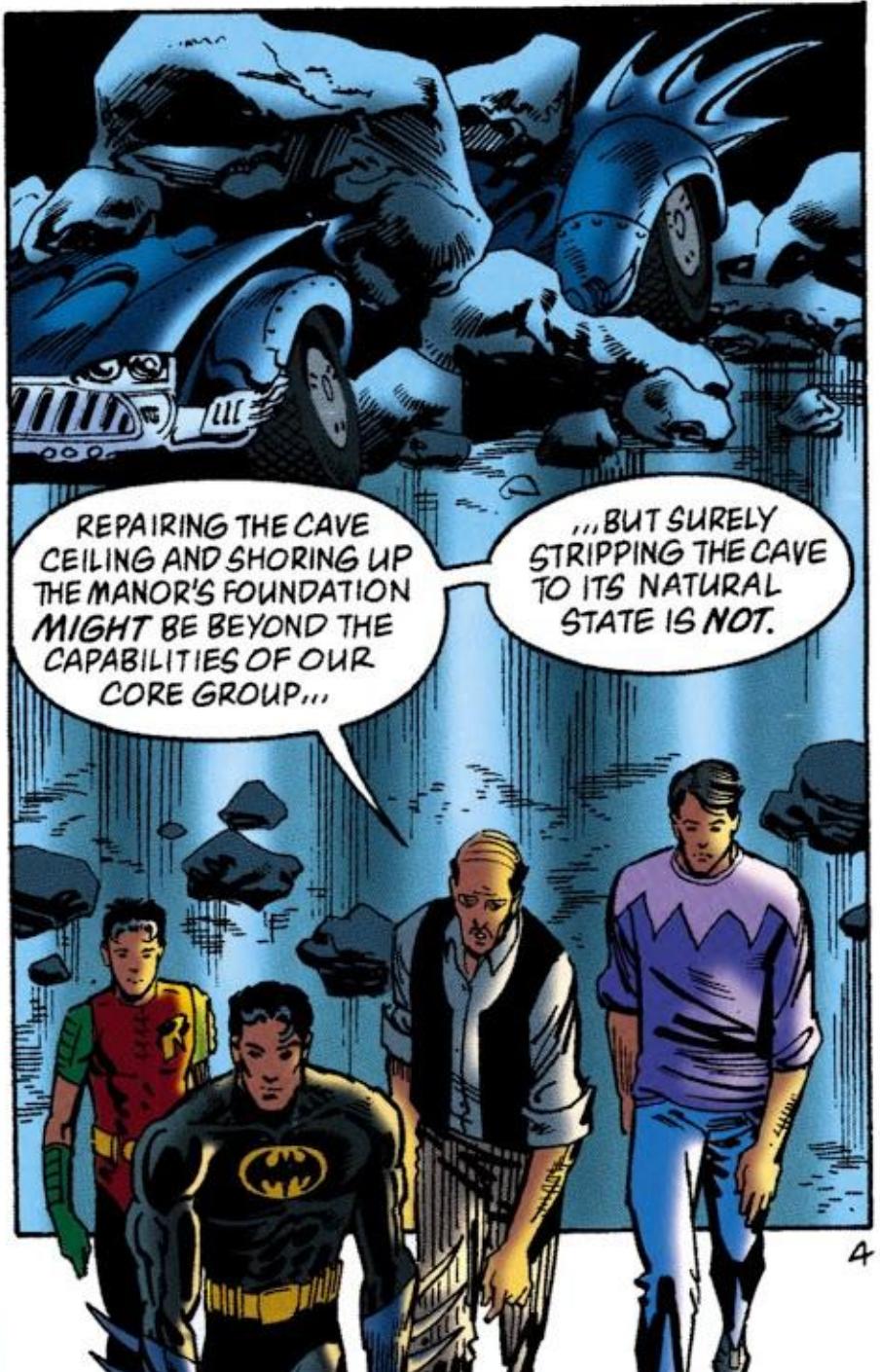
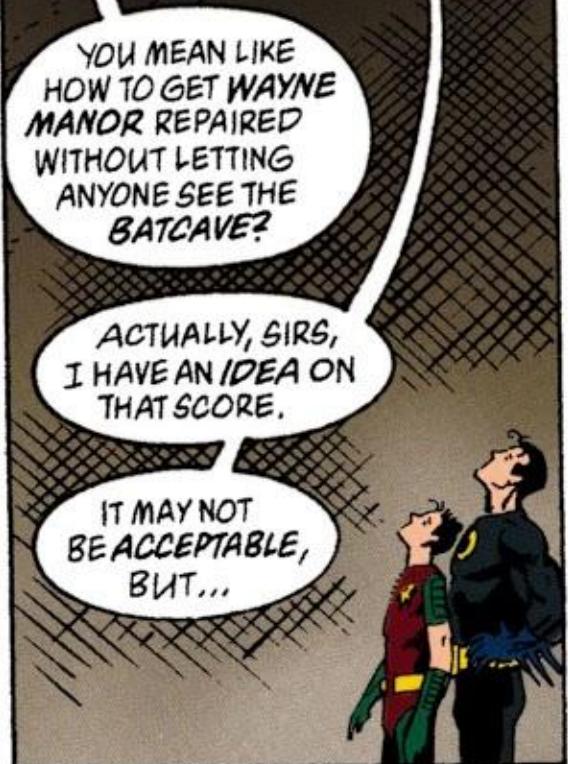
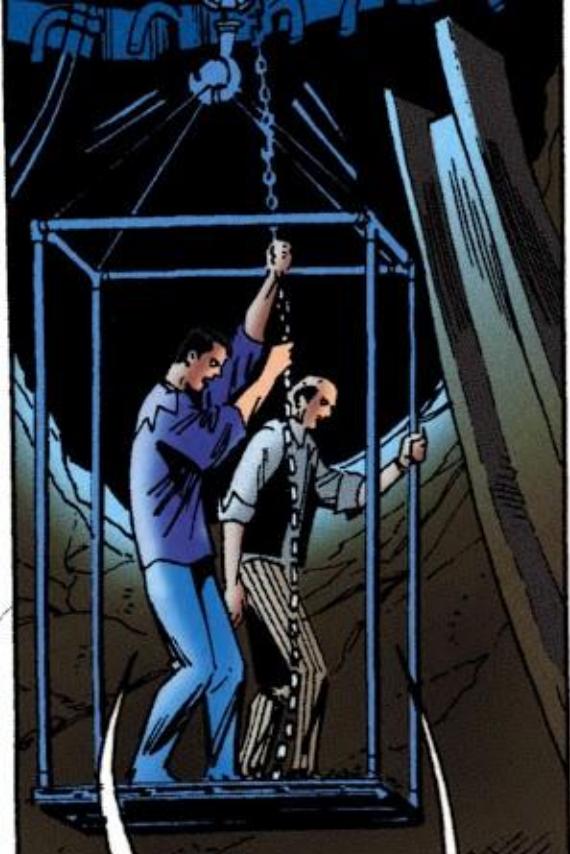
Jordan B. Gorfinkel: Assoc. Ed.
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Batman created by Bob Kane



TO THE
WORK WE DO,
TIM.







ALFIE'S RIGHT-- IF WE JUST CLEAR ALL THE "INCRIMINATING" BAT-STUFF TEMPORARILY OUT OF VIEW...

I'D PREFER KEEPING EVERYTHING SECRET, EVEN THE CAVE ITSELF-- BUT IT IS AN IDEA, ALFRED, AND MAYBE OUR BEST BET.

CERTAINLY WORTH THINKING ABOUT, ANYWAY.

VERY GOOD, SIR-- AND IN THE MEANTIME, MASTER DICK AND I HAVE SAFEGUARDED THE CAVE AS BEST WE CAN FOR THE TIME BEING.

WHAT HE MEANS IS...

DANGER
UNSTABLE STRUCTURE
DO NOT APPROACH

"...WE FINISHED FENCING OFF THE COLLAPSED AREA."

AND WHATEVER OTHER HELP YOU GUYS NEED AROUND HERE... WELL, BLUDHAVEN CAN TAKE CARE OF ITSELF FOR A CHANGE.

MAYBE FOR A WHILE, DICK, BUT ONLY UNTIL NIGHT-WING IS NEEDED.

I KNOW YOU WILL, DICK, AND I APPRECIATE IT-- BUT THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH TIME ANY OF US CAN SPEND HERE...

...WHEN THE AFTEREFFECTS OF THE QUAKE KEEP DEMANDING OUR PRESENCE ELSEWHERE.

OKAY, SO I'LL COME BACK TO HELP OUT WHENEVER I CAN.



"INSPECTION BY POLICE AND A RESCUE TEAM, HOWEVER, REVEALED NOTHING BUT A COLLAPSE IN A STAIRWELL TO THE BANK'S BASEMENT VAULT --AT THE TIME PRESUMED LOCKED..."

"BUT NOW, JUST FOUR HOURS AGO, PASSERSBY REPORTED MUFFLED SHOUTS COMING FROM THE BANK--AND IT IS FEARED THAT THREE PEOPLE COULD BE TRAPPED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRWELL OR EVEN INSIDE THE SUBTERRANEAN VAULT..."

"WHILE AUTHORITIES AREN'T SURE WHO WOULD HAVE RISKED THEMSELVES ENTERING THE UNSTABLE STRUCTURE--"

--THEY SUSPECT IT MAY HAVE BEEN BANK PERSONNEL ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE VITAL RECORDS.

BUT WHOEVER IT IS--

--THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN TRAPPED FOR MORE THAN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS!

ENOUGH CASH TO TIDE US THE REST OF OUR LIVES--AND NO WAY TO SPEND A DIME.

WE DON'T GET OUTTA HERE SOON, A DIME'LL COVER THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

YEAH, MY STOMACH STARTED EATIN' ITSELF FOURTEEN HOURS AGO.





TWO HOURS LATER,
NEAR MIDNIGHT, AT
THE WAYNECORP
BUILDING:

--APOLOGIZE FOR
THE LATENESS OF THIS
MEETING AND APPRECIATE
YOUR WILLINGNESS
TO ATTEND...

MS. RELAZZO, AS
OUR RESIDENT QUAKE
EXPERT, WHY DON'T
YOU BEGIN.

WELL, ALL SEISMIC
TESTING INDICATES THE MAJOR
EVENT HAS RUN ITS COURSE,
WITH THE FAULT SETTLED
INTO A FAIRLY STABLE
ALIGNMENT...

THERE MAY BE
A FEW MORE MINOR
AFTERSHOCKS...

...BUT THE
WORST SEEMS
TO BE--

--OVER.

SKUPT

IN OTHER WORDS,
MS. RELAZZO, IT'S SAFE
TO PICK UP THE
PIECES.

AS YOU WELL KNOW,
MR. WAYNE, THE EFFORT'S
ALREADY UNDER WAY--
AND LARGELY THANKS
TO YOU.



WAYNECORP IS MERELY SERVING AS A LOCAL RESOURCE FOR FEMA AND OTHER FEDERAL RECOVERY GROUPS.

I THINK YOU'RE BEING UNDULY MODEST, MR. WAYNE, WHEN THE FACTS--

BEYOND THE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO WAYNETECH RESOURCES AND THE CARTE BLANCHE WAYNE FOUNDATION FUNDING?

NOPE.

WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, MS. RELAZZO. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?

ANY RESISTANCE TO YOUR QUAKE-PROOFING SPECIFICATIONS--BY ANYONE?

NOT SINCE THE EVENT--AND CERTAINLY NOT FROM THE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

LUCIUS? ANYTHING TO REPORT?

MAYOR GRANGE WOULD LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK YOU IN A CEREMONY FOR THE MEDIA AND--

FINE, BUT SEE IF YOU CAN FILL IN FOR ME--AND WHAT ABOUT IMPORTANT MATTERS?

THERE'S PROGRESS, BRUCE--BUT IT'S STILL SLOW.

WAYNECORP, WAYNETECH, AND THE WAYNE FOUNDATION ARE IN HOLDING PATTERNS, WITH ALL YOUR DIRECTIVES STILL IN EFFECT...

"ASIDE FROM THE ONE DOWN IN OUR LOBBY, WE'VE SET UP EIGHTY-TWO OTHER SHELTERS AROUND THE CITY, WITH NO FOOD SHORTAGES AFTER THE FIRST FEW DAYS..."

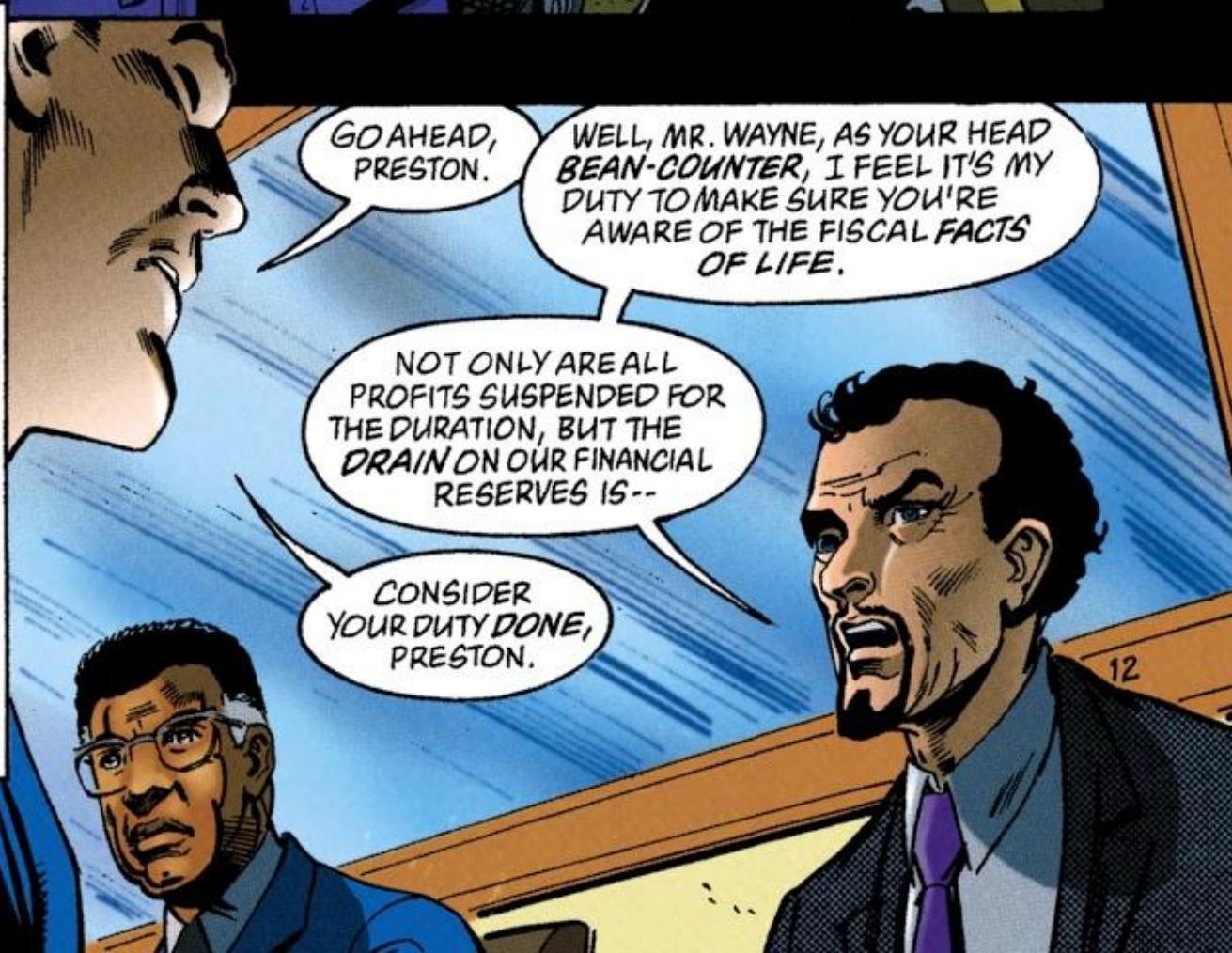
"...AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BEING HELPED IS NOW ACTUALLY IN DECLINE."

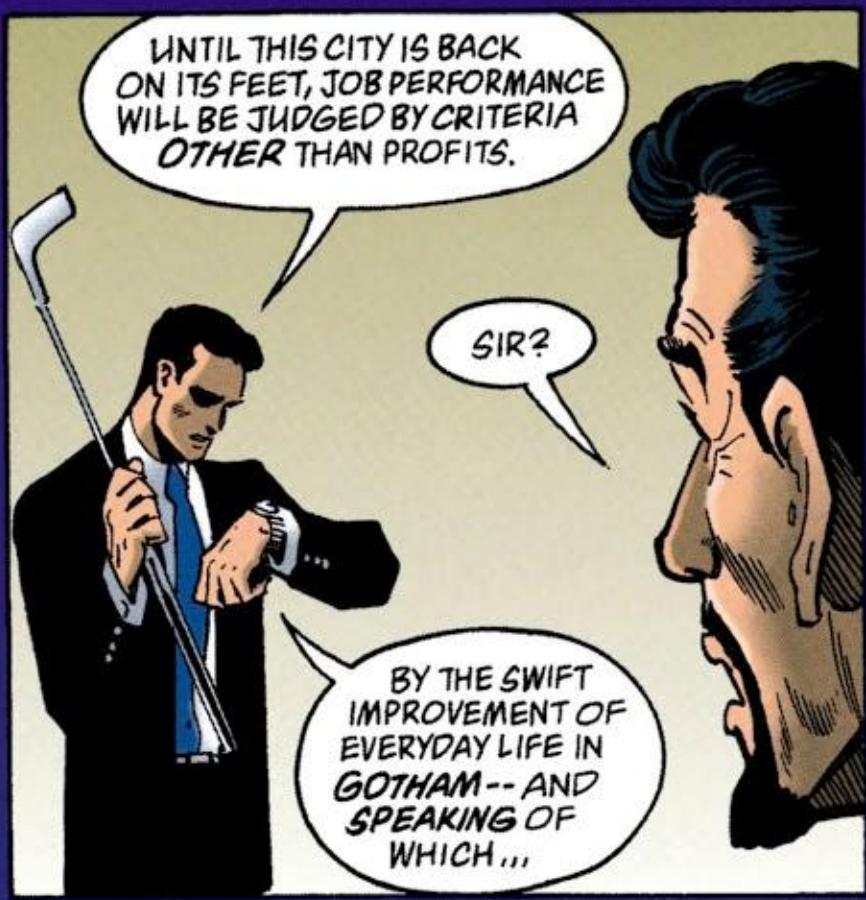
ANY NEEDED FUNDS ARE STILL BEING MADE AVAILABLE, EITHER AS INTEREST-FREE LOANS OR OUTRIGHT DONATIONS, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

NORMAL OPERATIONS ARE SUSPENDED, WITH ALL EMPLOYEES RETAINED AT FULL SALARY AND FARMED OUT WHEREVER THE CITY CAN USE THEM...

WE'VE BEEN SURPRISED, HOWEVER, AT HOW FEW REQUESTS HAVE COME IN.

"MS. RELAZZO'S EXPERTISE HAS PROVEN INVALUABLE, OF COURSE, BUT CITY HALL IS EQUALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE USE OF WAYNETECH EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERS..."















JUST BEFORE DAWN:

AH--RESCUED
BY THE CITY'S HERO
AFTER ANOTHER NIGHT
ON DISASTER
DUTY.

I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT RESCUE, VESPER,
BUT I THOUGHT I MIGHT
WALK YOU HOME THROUGH
THE RUBBLE.

SPLENDID IDEA--
PARTICULARLY SINCE
DRIVING IS STILL
IMPOSSIBLE.

AND HOW WAS
YOUR DISASTER DUTY?
WHAT ARE THE CALLERS
SAYING THESE
NIGHTS?

STILL CAN'T FIND
THE TIME TO LISTEN TO
YOUR GIRL'S RADIO
SHOW, EH?

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, VESPER,
I REALLY HAVE BEEN
BUSY...

I KNOW YOU
HAVE--AND I'M PROUD
OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

SO ARE THE
CALLERS, DESPITE
YOUR EFFORTS TO
AVOID
PUBLICITY.

THEN THE MOOD
OF THE CITY IS...?

TALK RADIO TENDS TO
ATTRACT COMPLAINERS,
EVEN WHEN THERE'S
NOTHING TO COMPLAIN
ABOUT.

IT'S AN
ELECTRONIC
SOAP BOX
PEOPLE USE
WHEN THEY
WANT TO
VENT...

COMPLICATED--
STILL A LOT OF MOURNING
GOING ON, BUT
LACED WITH A CERTAIN
AMOUNT OF...DEFIANT
BLACK HUMOR.

I CAN'T
DECIDE IF IT'S
STRANGE OR
NOT.

BUT NOW THAT
EVERYONE'S ACTUALLY
GOT GRIEFS AND BEEFS,
NO ONE'S REALLY
COMPLAINING.

INSTEAD, THEY SEEM
TO BE COMING TOGETHER,
CUTTING EACH OTHER A LOT
OF SLACK.

ALL IN THE SAME BOAT SYNDROME,
I GUESS, AND THE BOAT SANK BIGGER
THAN THE TITANIC.

EMPATHY?

WELL, THE
QUAKE IS THE
ONLY THING
THE WHOLE CITY
HAS SHARED
IN A LONG
TIME...

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE
EVERYONE'S JUST
NUMB.

THEY ARE,
VESPER.

ALL OF GOTHAM
IS PROBABLY IN A
COLLECTIVE STATE
OF LOW-GRADE
SHOCK.

IT'S NEVER EASY TO FIND INNER
STRENGTH AND PEACE, EVEN WHEN THE
OUTER WORLD IS RELATIVELY
STABLE...

...THE DESTRUCTION
OF PHYSICAL REALITY
ALWAYS DOES SPIRITUAL
DAMAGE.

HOME, SWEET
HOME... SUCH AS
IT IS.

STILL
SUCH A...
MESS.

BUT IN BETTER
SHAPE THAN A LOT
OF BUILDINGS.

YES... I
KNOW.

I SAW ANOTHER
COLLAPSE JUST A
WHILE AGO... ON MY
WAY TO THE RADIO
STATION.

YOU FEEL VERY
PROTECTIVE OF THIS
CITY, DON'T YOU,
BRUCE?

IT'S WHERE I'VE
LIVED MY WHOLE
LIFE, VESPER.

IT
SHAPED
ME.

AND NOW ITS
SHAPE IS PRETTY
SAD... LIKE YOU.

WE'LL...
WE'LL
MAKE
IT.

THE BUILDINGS WILL BE
REBUILT, YES, AND THE STREETS
WILL BE PATCHED, AND SOMEDAY
WE'LL LOOK AROUND AND WE
WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THAT
IT EVER HAPPENED.

BUT THAT'S
ONLY THE PHYSICAL
DESTRUCTION,
BRUCE...

WHAT ABOUT
THE SPIRIT YOU
MENTIONED?

YOU'RE RIGHT--THAT'S
FAR MORE IMPORTANT, AND IT'S
ALSO WHERE THE SCARS CAN'T
BE SEEN.

WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO LISTEN...
AND LET TIME
TELL.

HOPING IT
WILL HEAL ALL
WOUNDS.

SLEEP WELL,
VESPER, AND BE
STRONG.

STAY ON THE
RADIO, AND KEEP
LISTENING TO THE
PEOPLE...

DON'T LET
GOTHAM'S SPIRIT
DOWN.

IT'S TOO
PRECIOUS TO STAY
IN RUINS.

END