



DC

27
2009

BATMAN Annual

FABIAN
NIECZEA
J.
CALAFIORE
MARK
McKENNA



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AND
ROBIN®



The Eighth Deadly Sin

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ASST. EDITOR: JANELLE SIEGEL EDITOR: MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

PART ONE Casting the First Stone

SO THEN DESECRATING A SINGLE GRAVESTONE WASN'T RANDOM, EITHER?

GRAVE'S OLDER'N DIRT. YOU CHASE THE MARKER, JOSIE...

...I'LL FOLLOW UP ON THE DEAD PRIEST.

WITH YOUR PEOPLE SKILLS, HARVEY, I GET THE ROCK?

CAUGHT A KILLIN' AT A CHURCH TWO MONTHS AGO. I'M ON A ROLL NOW.

HOLY ROLLER.

BESIDES, BAT-BOY IS PROB'LY WATCHIN' RIGHT NOW. GIVE 'IM THE NIGHT...

"...AN' HE'LL FIGURE IT ALL OUT..."

FATHER MARIO HERNANDEZ.
AGE FIFTY-FOUR.
NAMED PRIEST AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL
IN 1997.

NO KNOWN ENEMIES. NO SECRETS.
NO DEBTS. NO REASON FOR HIM TO BE KILLED.

WHICH MEANS THE REASON WAS THE GRAVESITE AND THE FATHER GOT IN THE WAY.

HERE LIES MARCO CANTONINI
b. Dec 12 1834
d. Jun 27 1906
HE BUILT A LIFE BY BUILDING A CITY

DETECTIVES FROM THE MAJOR CRIMES UNIT CAUGHT THE CASE. HARVEY BULLOCK AND JOSIE MACDONALD.

I KNOW BOTH OF THEM.

WHY NOT LET THE POLICE HANDLE IT, RICHARD?

THIS HARDLY SEEMS WORTHY OF THE ATTENTION OF ROBIN AND BATMAN...

...EVEN IF THE VICTIM WAS A CLERGY-MAN.

SO YOU THINK WE'RE TOO GOOD FOR A "SIMPLE" MURDER?

DAMIAN,
YOU MIGHT BE
BRUCE WAYNE'S
SON--

--BUT
YOUR MOTHER
IS THE DAUGHTER
OF RA'S AL
GHUL.

YOU'RE A
"SUPERIORIST"--

--THINK
YOU'RE BETTER
THAN EVERYONE
ELSE--

--BUT
NO SINGLE
LIFE IS ANY LESS
SIGNIFICANT THAN
ANOTHER--

--AND
ALWAYS--ALWAYS--
APPROACH EVERY
SITUATION--

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--THINKING
THAT THE OPPONENT
YOU FACE MIGHT BE
BETTER THAN YOU.

UNLIKELY,
BUT I'LL PRETEND
TO TRY.

IT'S A
START.

SPEAKING OF
WHICH, WHERE DO
WE BEGIN?

GOOD.

DO I GET
A TREAT? A BANANA,
PERHAPS? I AM NOT A
SIMPLETON.

ACTUALLY, I
COULD GO FOR A
BANANA RIGHT
NOW...

TRACING
THE FAMILY
NAME ON THE
MARKER.

FINDING A
ROOT CAUSE FOR
THE ANTAGONISM.

HERE LIES
MARCO
CANTONINI

b. Dec 12 1834
d. Jun 27 1906

HE BUILT A CITY
BY BUILDING
A CITY

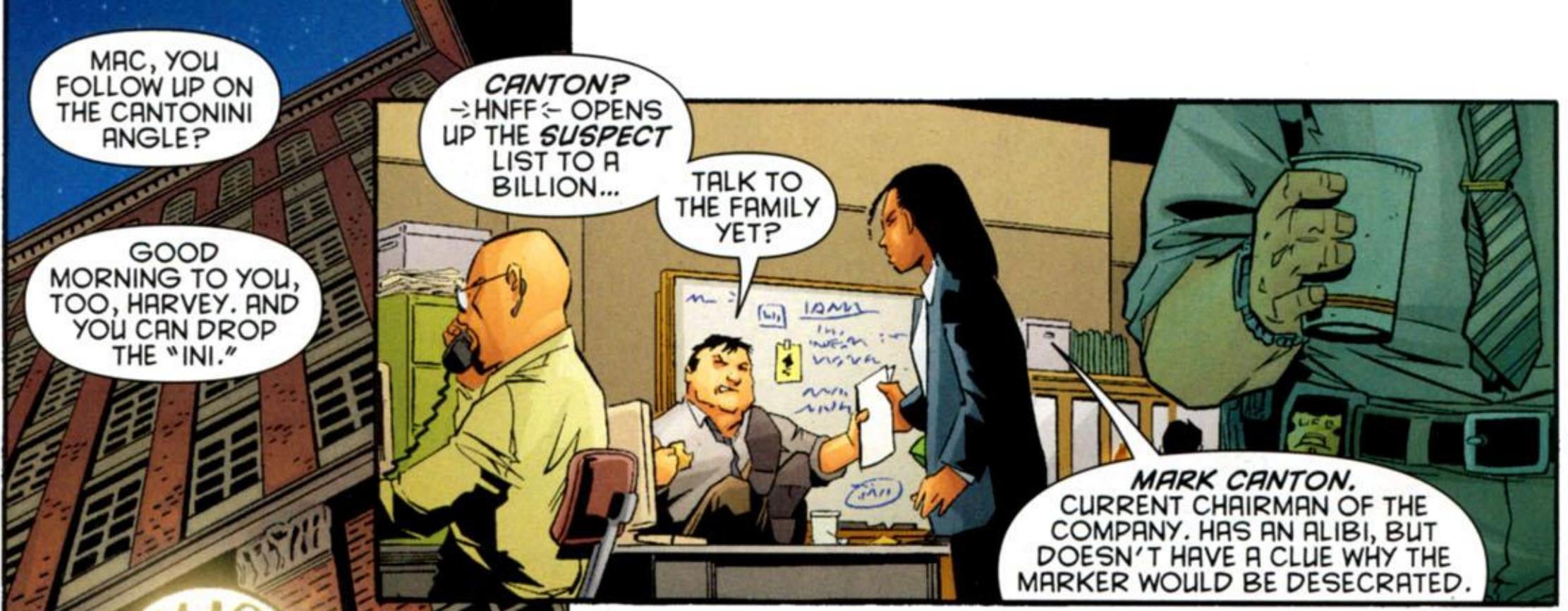
YOU
KNOW WHO THIS
MAN WAS?

SHOULD
I?

IF
YOU'RE GOING
TO LIVE AND WORK
IN GOTHAM,
YES.



THE BEST
WAY TO FIND THE
KILLER IS TO FIND
OUT WHAT THEY
WANTED...



"...IS TO HOPE HE STRIKES AGAIN."









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"...THE BUNKER."

VISUAL
REFERENCING
PROGRAM FOUND
A MATCH TO THE
DEMON, AMON.

IN THE
MATHERS TRANSLATION
OF GOETIA, AMON IS THE
SEVENTH SPIRIT, A MARQUIS
IN HELL WHO WIELDS
GREAT POWER.



"HE
APPERETH LIKE A WOLF
WITH A SERPENTS TAILE. HE
RECONCILETH CONTROVERSIIES
BETWEEN FRIENDS AND
FOES."

YOU POSTULATE
HE IS AN ACTUAL
DEMON?

NO,
BUT AMON
REPRESENTS
WRATH, ONE OF
MAN'S SEVEN
DEADLY
SINS.

I DON'T
KNOW.

AND HOW
EXACTLY IS
HE RECONCILING
FRIEND AND FOE?

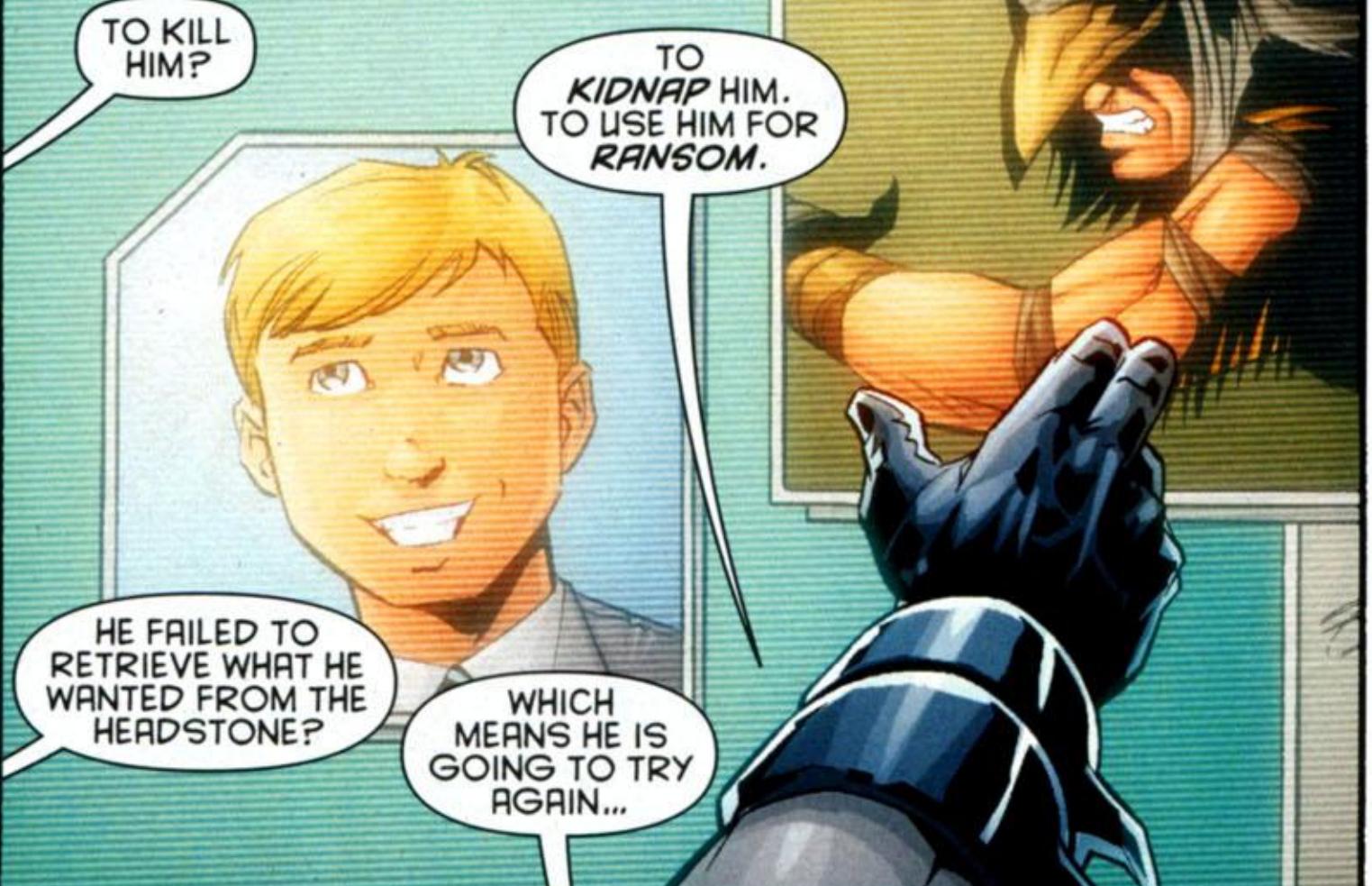
BUT
I DO KNOW THIS
"AMON" WAS SPECIFIC IN HIS
INTENT. HE WENT STRAIGHT TO
JACKSON CANTON'S ROOM.

TO KILL
HIM?

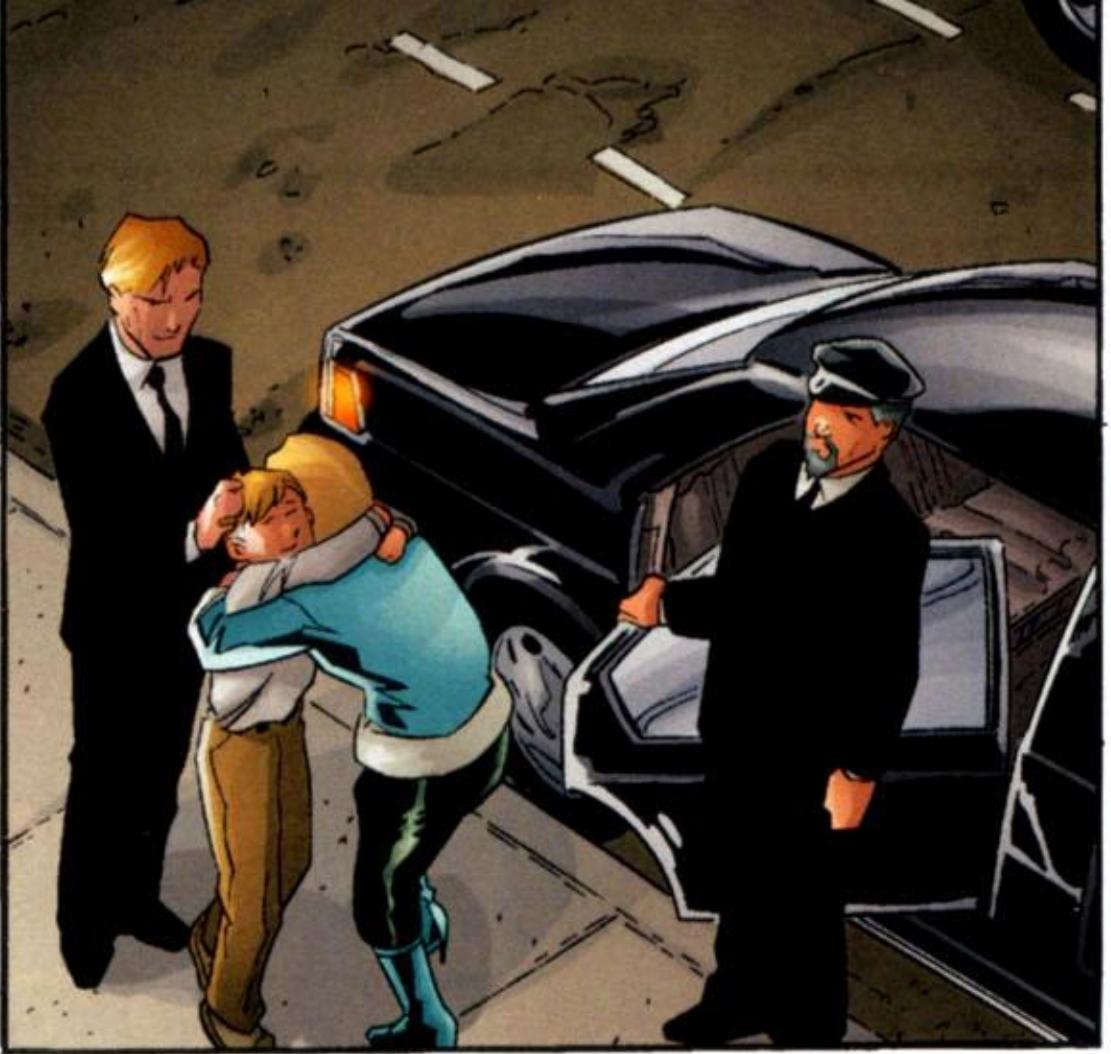
TO
KIDNAP HIM.
TO USE HIM FOR
RANSOM.

HE FAILED TO
RETRIEVE WHAT HE
WANTED FROM THE
HEADSTONE?

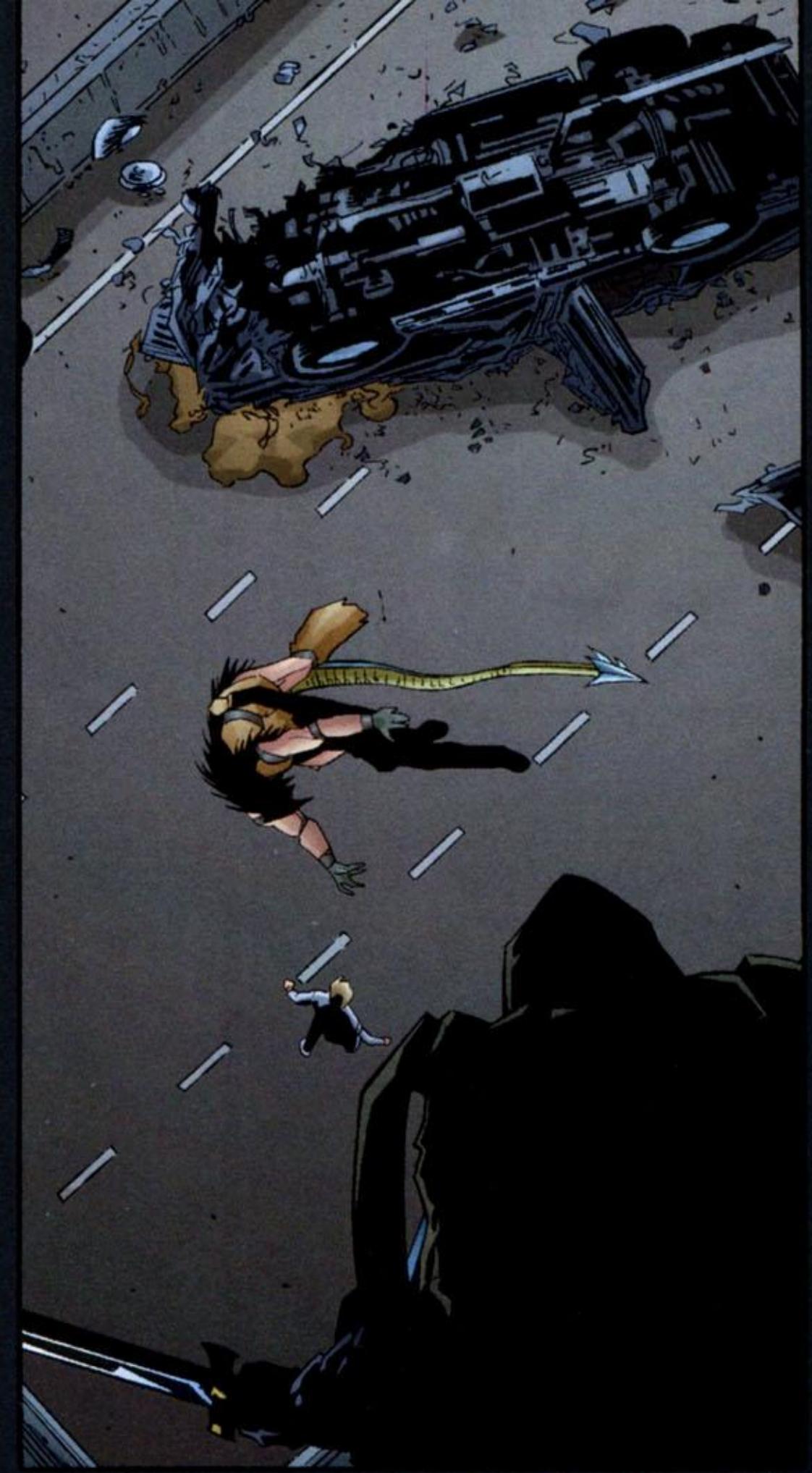
WHICH
MEANS HE IS
GOING TO TRY
AGAIN...

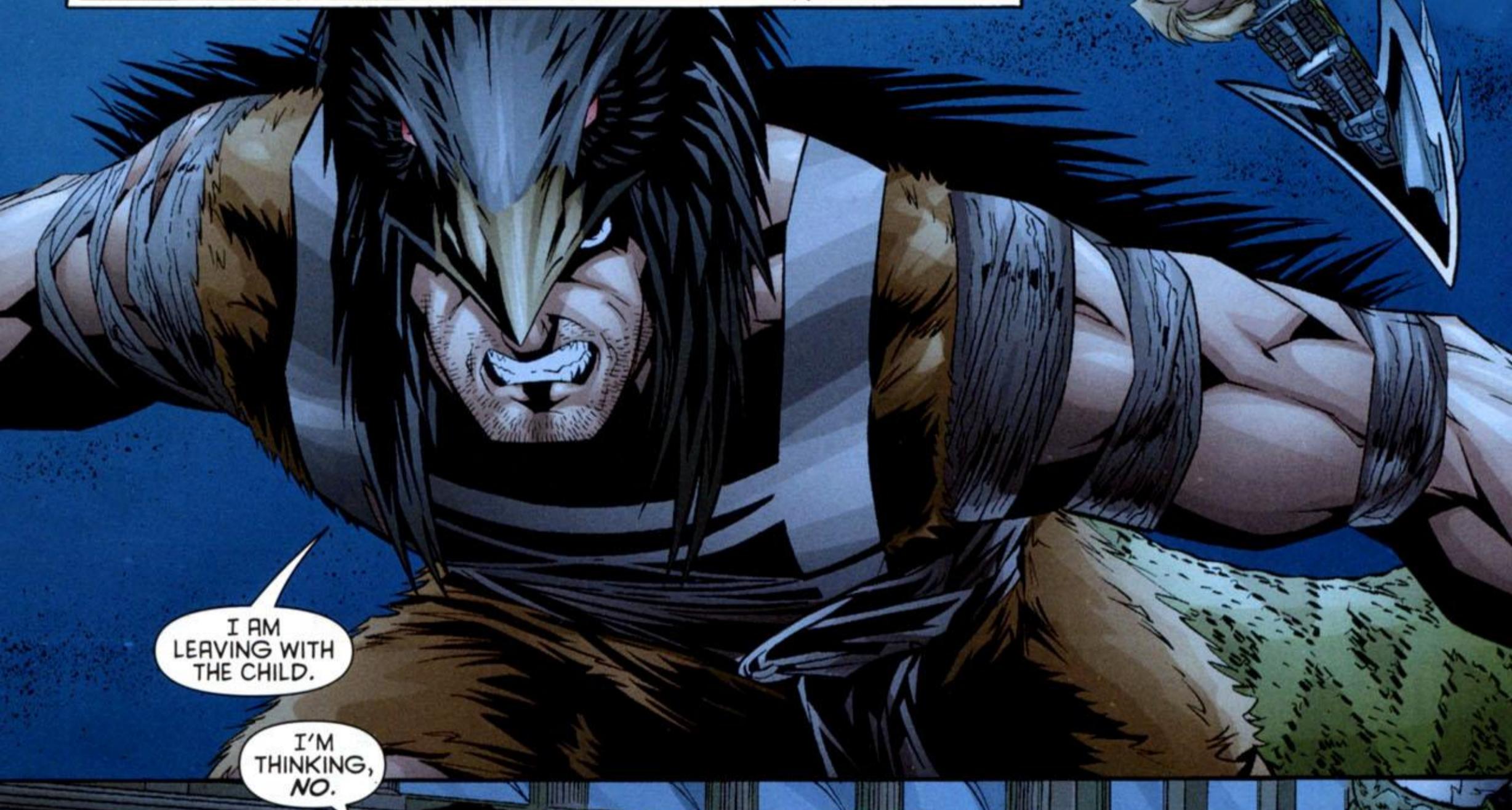








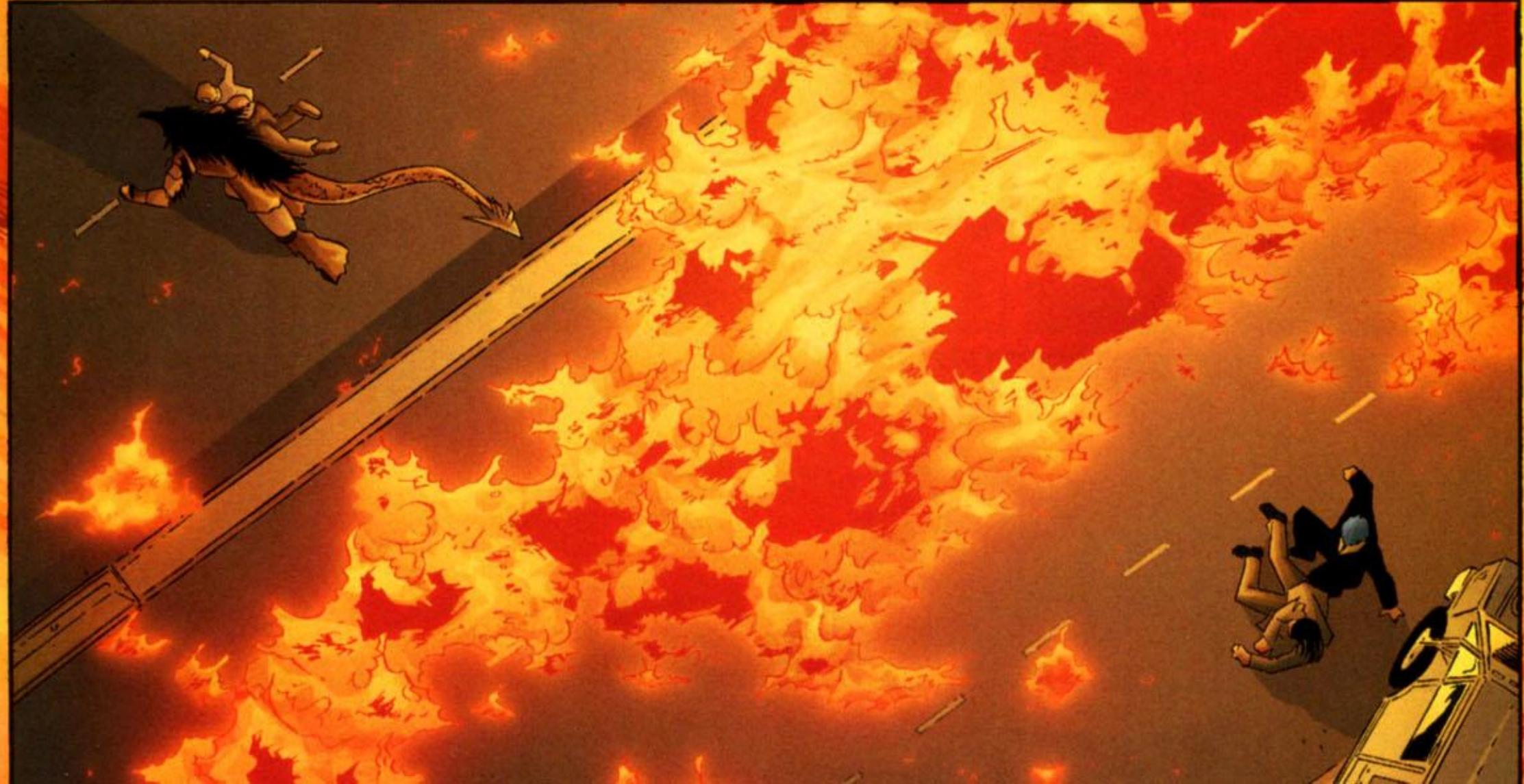
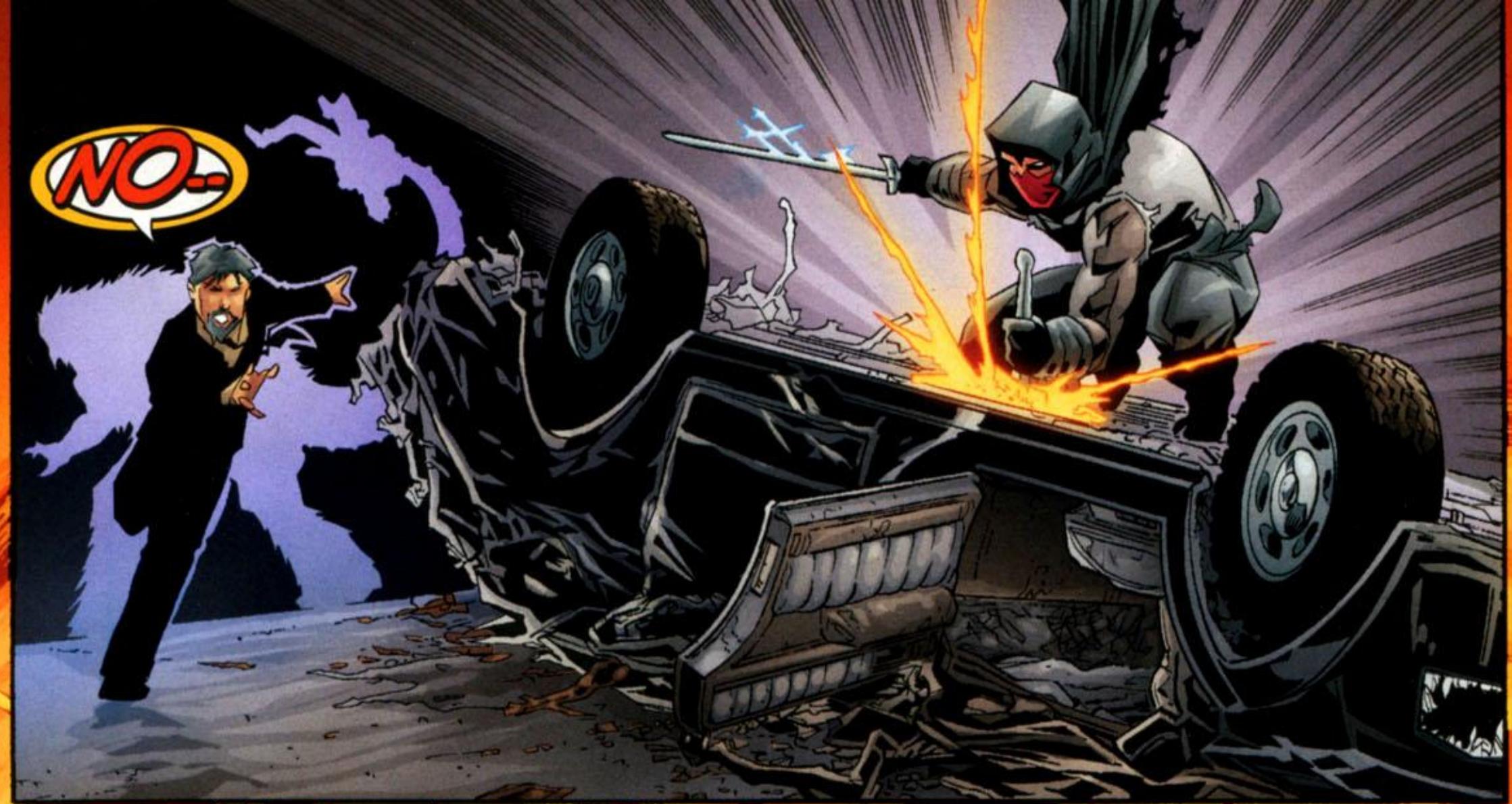




I'M
THINKING,
NO.

















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THE ORDER TOLD ME YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO TRACK AMON.

WHICH MEANS WE'RE BOTH BACK AT SQUARE ONE WITH A PERSONAL STAKE IN THE SITUATION.

I NOTICED SOMETHING IN BULLOCK AND MacDONALD'S INTERVIEW NOTES.

CANTON SAID CANTONINI'S TOMB HAD BEEN DESECRATED, BUT HE KNEW THAT ONLY THE HEADSTONE WAS DAMAGED.

...IT COULD ALSO MEAN THE FAMILY KNEW THE KEY WAS HIDDEN IN CANTONINI'S COFFIN.

SO IT COULD HAVE BEEN A SLIP OF THE LIP, BUT...

THE KIDNAPPED KID ISN'T CANTON'S SON... IT'S ROBIN?

UNFORTUNATELY, IT LOOKS LIKE AMON FIGURED IT OUT, TOO...



I
WANTED TO
USE THE KEY
TO CONTROL
AMON.

HE
FOUND OUT THE OLD
SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION
PROVIDED UNDERGROUND
ACCESS TO THE
CEMETERY.

THE ONLY WAY
TO FIND AMON
NOW--

--IS
TO FIGURE OUT
WHAT LA SALIGIA
IS DOING.

AND
IN THE TIME IT
TAKES TO DO THAT,
ROBIN COULD BE
DEAD.

WE
HAD AMON--BUT
YOU HELPED HIM
ESCAPE.

AND
IF YOU HADN'T
TRIED TO SPRING
A TRAP, I'D STILL
BE TAILING
HIM.

HOW DO WE SOLVE A
RIDDLE THAT'S BEEN
KEPT SECRET FOR
TWO THOUSAND
YEARS?

I KNOW
SOMEONE WHO CAN
HELP US...

...BUT
BY THE TIME SHE
ANSWERS THAT
QUESTION...

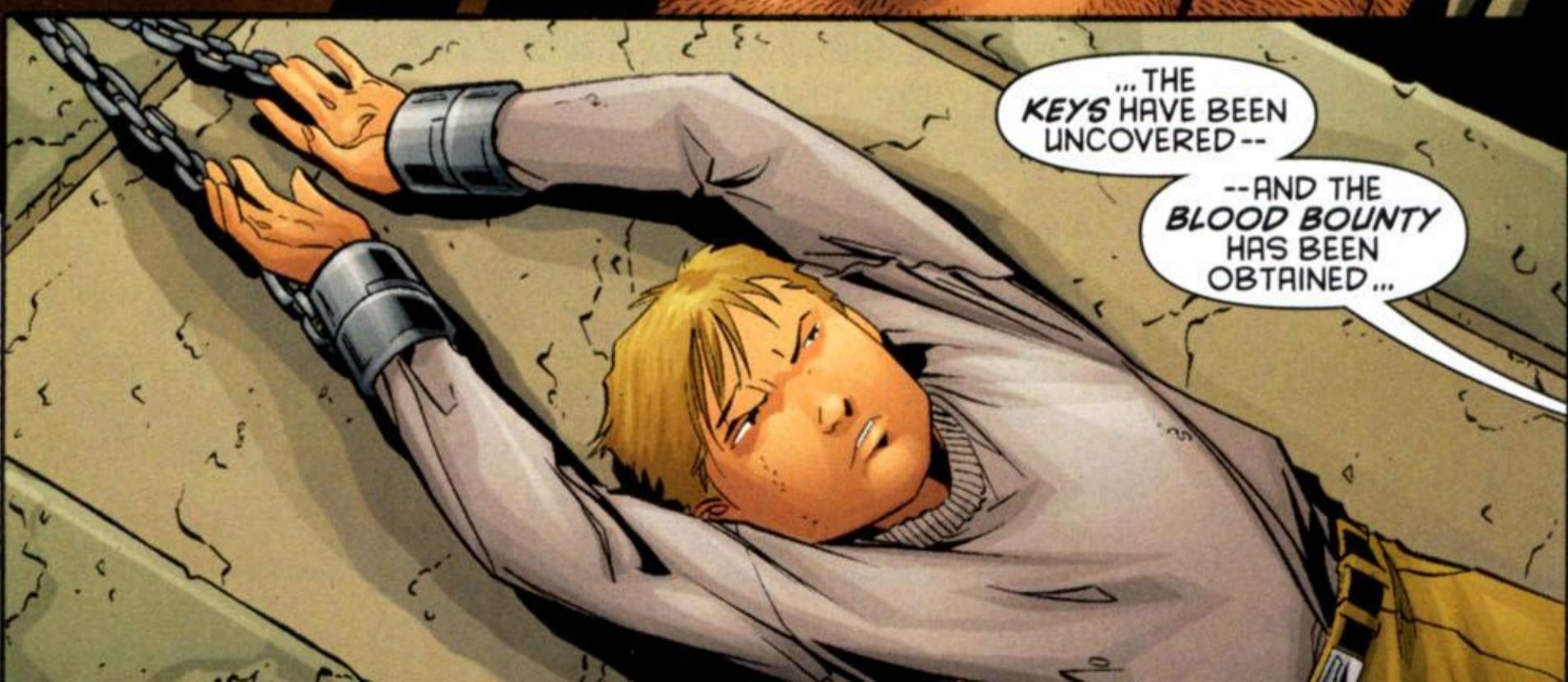
"...WILL IT ALREADY BE TOO LATE?"

"FROM NAGASAKI..."

"...TO MARKOVIA..."



...FROM SEVEN LOCATIONS SCATTERED ACROSS THE WORLD ...





...SO THAT ALL
MAN'S SINS CAN BE
ABSOLVED--



--BY GOD'S
DECREE, THE
EIGHTH DEADLY
SIN MUST BE
RESTORED--

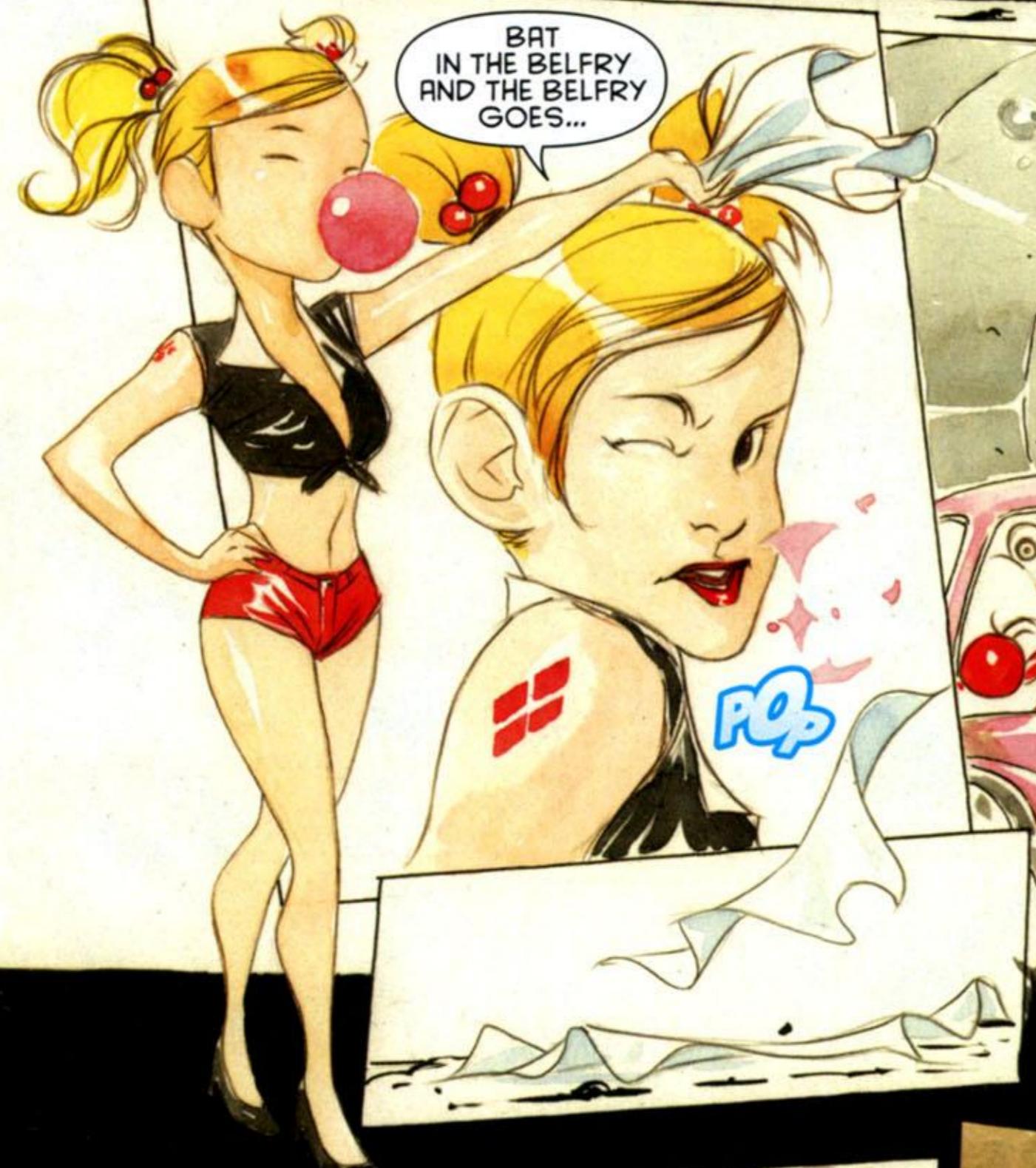
--AND THE
CHILDREN OF THE
SEVEN SHROUDERS
OF SIN MUST
DIE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN
Detective Annual 2009

OFF ROGUE RACING

A LIL' GOTHAM TALE!

WRITERS DEREK FRIDOLFS & DUSTIN NGUYEN
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EDITOR JANELLE SIEGEL **BATMAN GROUP EDITOR** MIKE MARTS
BATMAN **CREATED BY** BOB KANE



GOTHAM CITY
BLOOD BANK.

SO MUCH
DEATH.

AND
DARKNESS.

HEY,
"QUINCY." WE FOUND
SOMETHING YOU
GOTTA SEE.

UH, IT'S
ABRAMS, SERGEANT
BULLOCK. CHRISTOPHER
ABRAMS.

WHATEVER,
KID. JUST GET
OVER HERE.

BUT GOTHAM WAS
LIKE A MIRE OF
DISEASED CHATTEL.

GUESS
OUR THIEF IS AN
ARTIST.

SIR?

WE'RE
GONNA NEED THE
SHRINK TO TAKE A
LOOK AT THIS ONE.
I GOT A BAD
FEELING.

MAKE SURE YOU
GET SHOTS OF THAT,
CHRISTOPHER.

DARKER THAN BLACK

PART I

A
DECAYING
CITY WITH ITS
DECAYING
FLESH.

AND
GOOD BLOOD
WAS SO HARD
TO FIND.

WRITTEN BY
MANDY MCMURRAY
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LETTERS BY **JOHN J. HILL**
ASSISTANT EDITOR **HARVEY RICHARDS**
EDITOR **MICHAEL SIGLAIN**

BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE

I don't know how he works in this mess...

...but since I'm waiting for him to go to lunch, I might as well help him out a bit--

--what is that?

You know it's a bad sign when you've worked with Batman for as long as I have and something still gives you chills.





You have no idea.

Not that I quote Batman a lot, but...

...if you want something done right, do it yourself...

LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

...and then do it again, just to make sure.

ΟΤΕΛΕΧΟΣ ΥΙΑ ΚΕΙΝ Νόπτα
Όπως και μια περγυν ψυχή¹
από την στογιός τρανεζέν
Αναψυν για το φως

As Oracle, my greatest weapon is information, so I take that particular piece of advice very seriously.

THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD SIGN.

I knew they were calling it a theft, but when you add all the elements together--the intellect, the calling card and text, the bat mythos, the blood...it just reeked of someone obsessed with death...and darkness.

Like someone who lurked in the shadows, waiting...



The Batcave...
my new home
away from home.

TWO
DIFFERENT DNA
SOURCES. THE DNA
FROM THE INKBLOT
DOESN'T MATCH THE
DNA FROM THE
HIDDEN TEXT.

HOWEVER,
THE DNA FROM THE
INKBLOT MATCHES
ONE OF THE
DONORS.

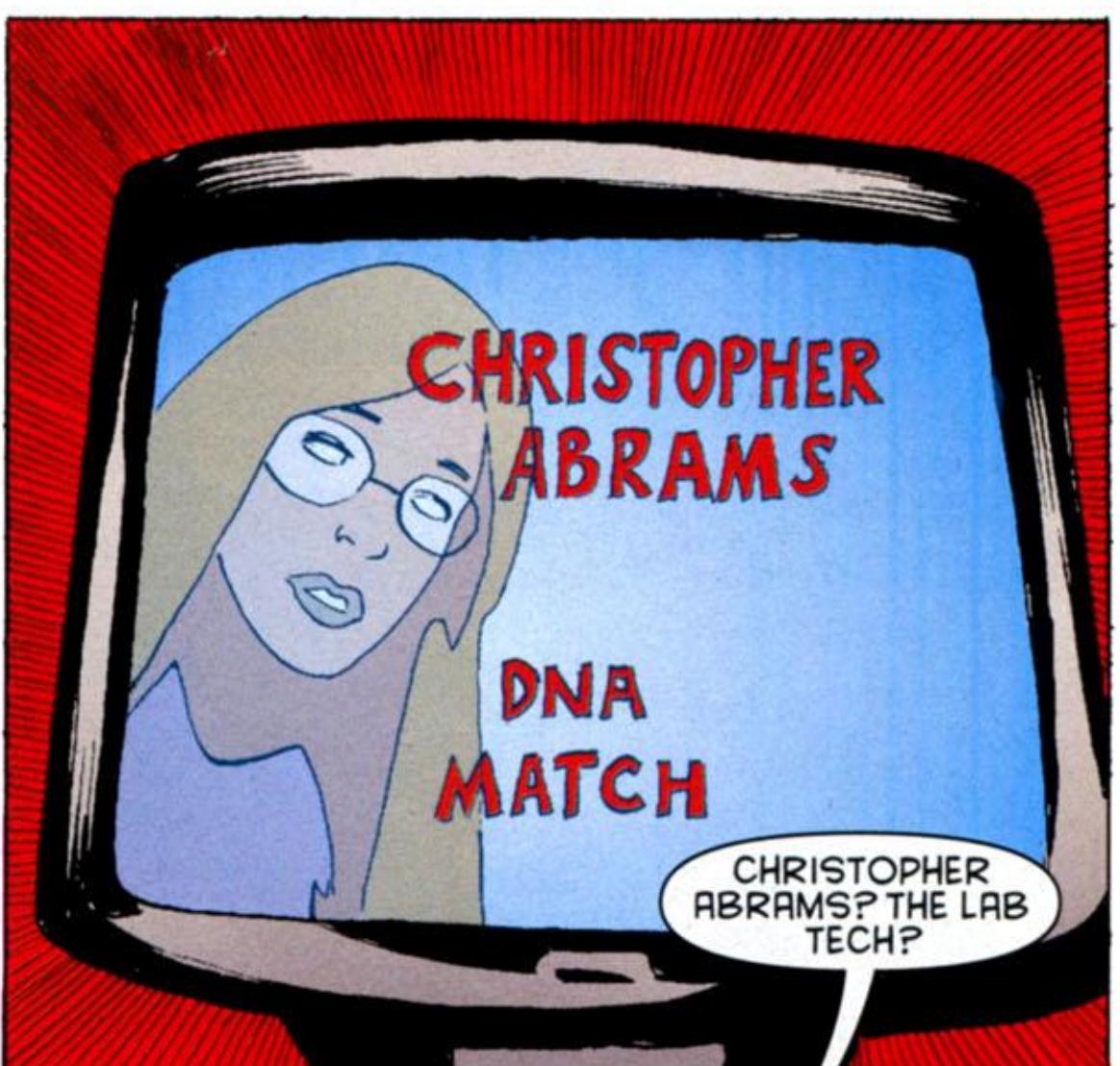
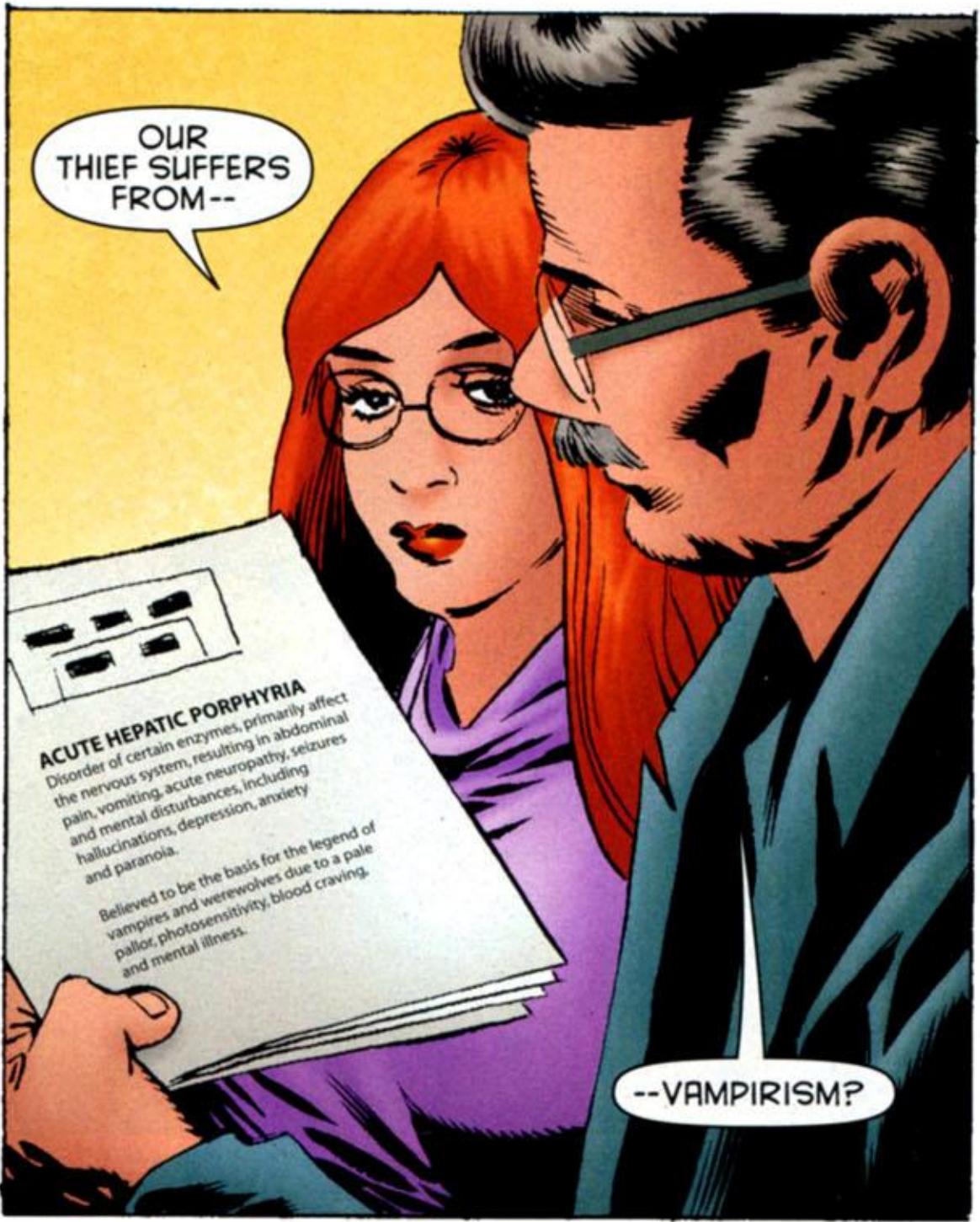
ORIGINAL TEXT:
στέλεχος για κείνη πόρτα
όπως και μια περίεργη ψυχή
από καταχθονιούς τράπεζες
Αναμονή για το φως

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:
I STALK ABOUT HER DOOR
LIKE A STRANGE SOUL
UPON THE STYGIAN BANKS
SEARCHING FOR LIGHT

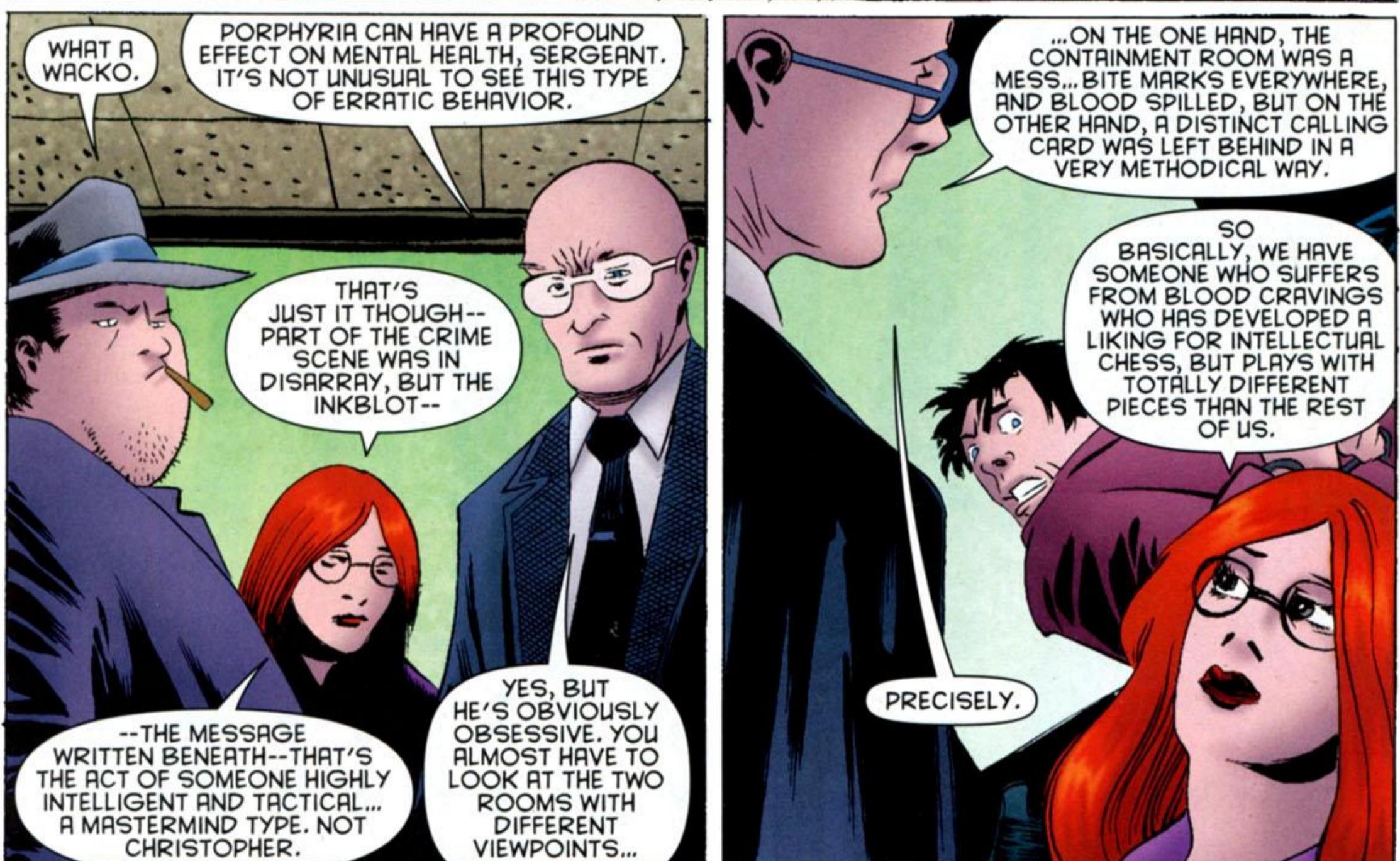
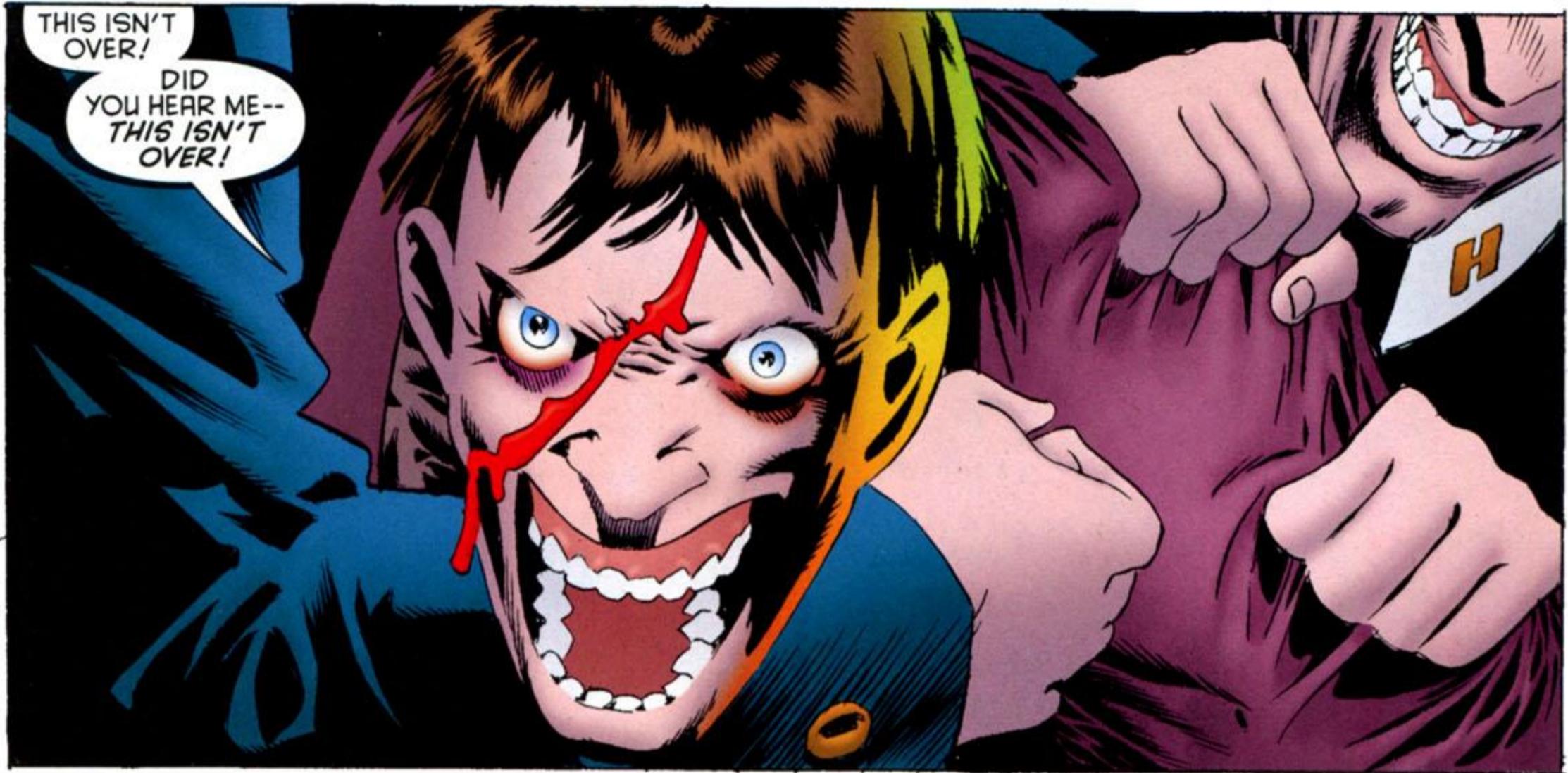
... AND
HE'S A FAN OF
SHAKESPEARE... BUT
WHY GREEK?

BATS...
BLOOD...
THE RIVER
STYX...
THIS
GUY IS A ONE-MAN
CIRCUS OF PSYCHOTIC
SYMBOLISM.

THE
CRIME SCENE IS
DISORGANIZED, SHOWING
AN IMPASSIONED ACT OF
EXPRESSION, BUT THE CALLING
CARD, THE SHAKESPEARE...
THOSE ARE THE PARTS OF
THIS CRIME THAT SHOW A
METICULOUSNESS.









The nagging feeling
that something wasn't
quite right haunted
me all night.

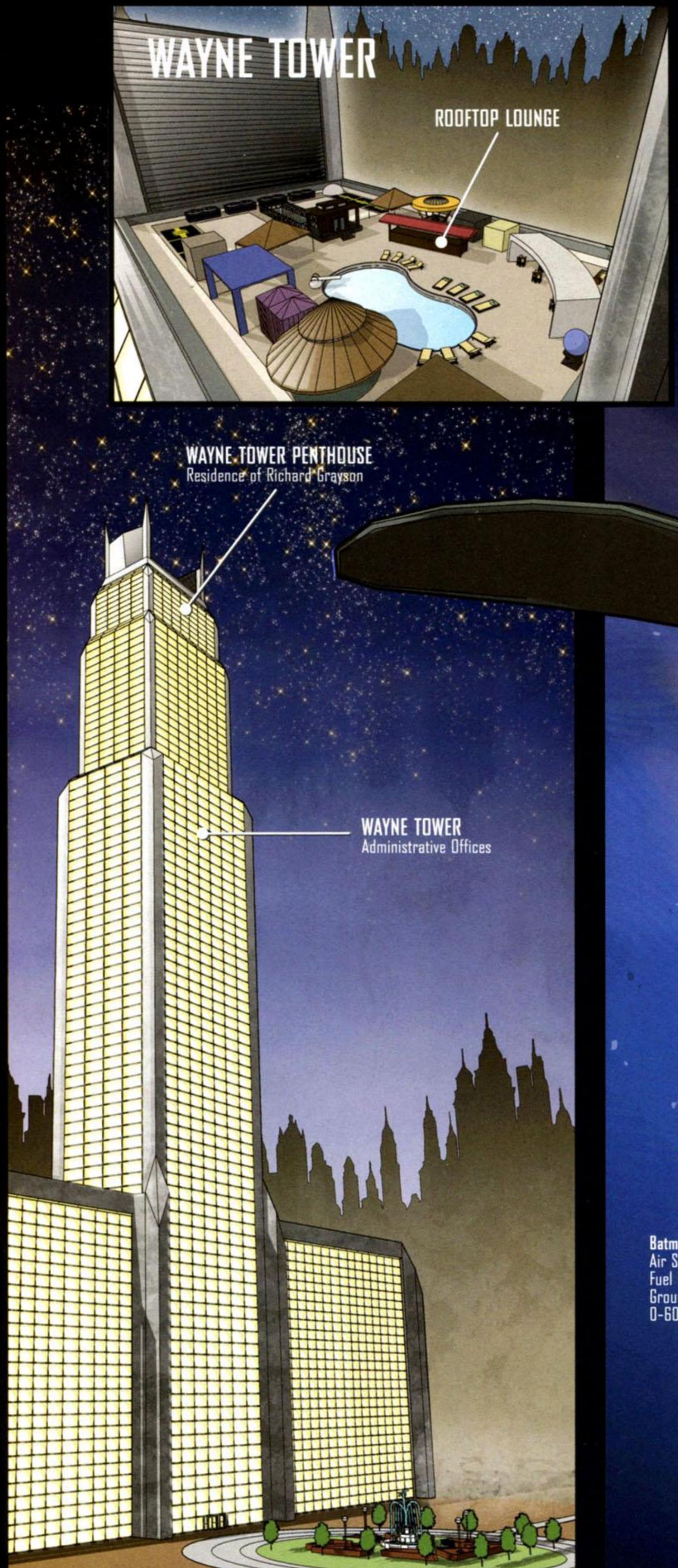
I kept telling
myself that they were
just dreams, but
somehow I knew...



He's still
out there...

TO BE CONTINUED IN
DETECTIVE COMICS
ANNUAL 2009

BATMAN: OPERATIONAL FILES



I REALLY WISH I COULD LET YOU KNOW...

...all the great plans we have for the DC Universe following BLACKEST NIGHT, especially since we are almost at the halfway mark for the series, but unfortunately I can't, at least not right now.

And I wish that I could talk to you about our BLACKEST NIGHT skip month in January, where our best-selling BLACKEST NIGHT miniseries takes a month off for a special event that has more than just characters rising from the dead. But nope, can't talk about that either.

I even wanted to talk about why we skipped BATMAN AND ROBIN in December, and how issue 7 was so important to events in the DC Universe that it had to come out after BLACKEST NIGHT 6. But I can't do that either.

So, like in most social situations where you are hard pressed to find something to talk about, I am making the topic of this column... the weather. But not just the weather here in New York (which is actually quite nice this time of year), but the weather throughout the DCU.

- In Markovia, umbrellas will be necessary as storm clouds cover the country and there is a 90% chance of rain.
- Clear skies over Metropolis, and the night sky is filled with stars that have never looked bigger or more ominous.
- And a mix of clouds and sunshine on Oolong Island isn't stopping folks from taking it to the street.
- The heat is on in Gotham, and the city is dry to the bones.
- There is no weather report for Star City.

So there you go, a nice conversation among friends here in the Nation, and not a single spoiler to be found... sort of.

To be continued...

DD

Featuring
"The
**WEATHER
WIZARD
BLOWS UP
A STORM!**"



DC NATION



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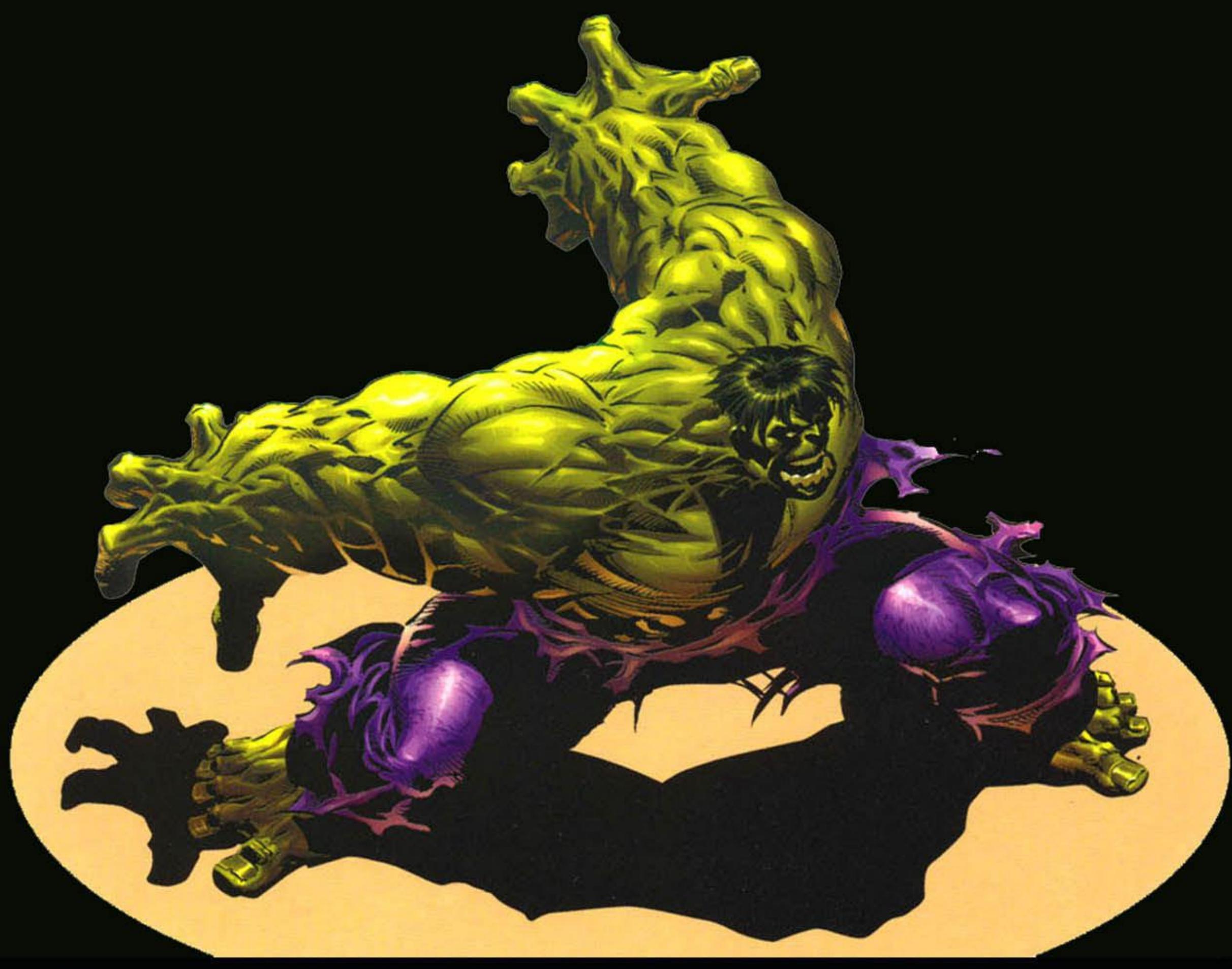
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A
GREEN GIANT
SCAN



D&P
LIKE IT?
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