



UNIVERSE

103



TYNION IV
MARCH
PAGULAYAN
MIKI
BARON

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BATMAN

...FOR THE
GHOST-MAKER
vs.
CLOWNHUNTER...

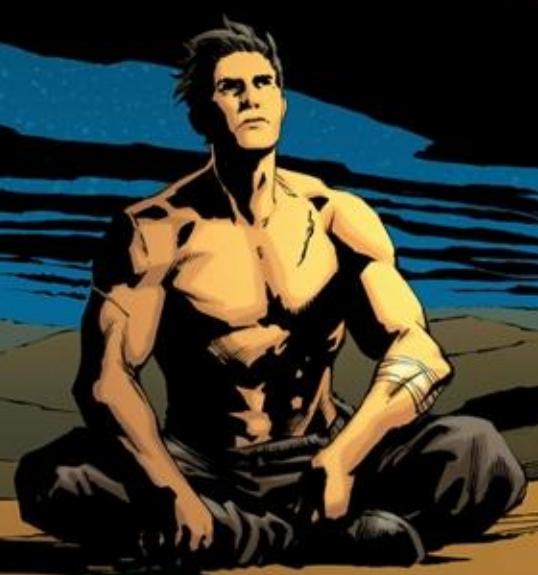
*Jorge Jimenez
2020*

...FOR THE **SOUL** *of the* **CITY!**

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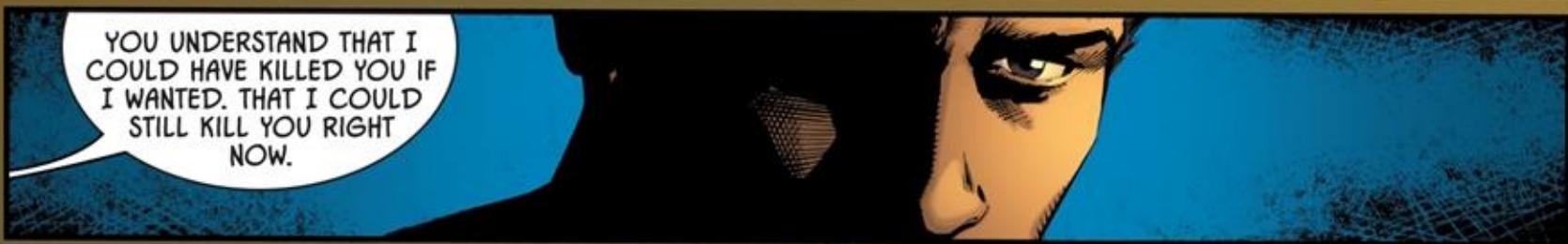
THE GOBI DESERT.

MANY YEARS AGO.









GHOST STORIES PART 2

JAMES TYNION IV writer
CARLO PAGULAYAN & DANNY MIKI,
GUILLEM MARCH artists
DAVID BARON colorist

"LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU."

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT'S HAPPENING,
BATMAN.

CLAYTON COWLES letterer JORGE JIMENEZ & TOMEU MOREY cover
FRANCESCO MATTINA variant cover JORGE JIMENEZ 1:25 variant cover
DAVE WIELGOSZ assoc. editor BEN ABERNATHY editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE with BILL FINGER



I CAN'T
SEE WHOEVER YOU'RE
FIGHTING, FROM ANY ANGLE.
AND HIS VOICE IS
DISTORTED.

YOU
WON'T GET HIM
ON RECORD. YOU
WON'T FIND HIS NAME
IN ANY INTERNATIONAL
DATABASE,
EITHER.

YOU NEED
TO STOP TRYING
TO GET A LOOK AT
HIM. IF YOU BRUSH UP
AGAINST HIS GHOST-NET,
HIS COMPUTERS WILL
EAT YOURS
ALIVE.



HE'S THE
GHOST-MAKER.
AND HE'S NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE.



PFFT.

DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW
WHAT I'VE DONE **TODAY**?
I'VE ONLY BEEN IN GOTHAM
ABOUT TWELVE HOURS.
I THOUGHT I'D
EASE INTO IT.

"BUT THERE WAS SO
MUCH WORK TO DO."

"I LEAKED THE CRIMINAL
ACTIVITIES OF **FOURTEEN**
DIFFERENT DISTRICT JUDGES TO
THE **GOTHAM GAZETTE**. YOUR
INEPT POLICE ARE ALREADY
TAKING THEM INTO CUSTODY."

"I SOLVED A STRING OF HOMICIDES THOSE SAME POLICE
HADN'T LINKED TOGETHER. THE KILLER WAS CLEVER ENOUGH
NOT TO TRY A GIMMICK OR PUT ON A CUTE COSTUME.
THE MAN IS ALREADY EN ROUTE TO YOUR ARKHAM."

"I ALSO SENT THE
FBI THE LOCATION
OF SIX INCOMING
SHIPMENTS OF
HEAVY ARTILLERY
FROM **SANTA
PRISCA**."

THAT WAS **BEFORE**
I LEFT MY PLANE,
BRUCE.



I DON'T CARE MUCH ABOUT THIS CHILD, BATMAN. IT'S MORE WHAT HE REPRESENTS. IT'S THE SAME FIGHT WE'VE BEEN HAVING FOR YEARS.

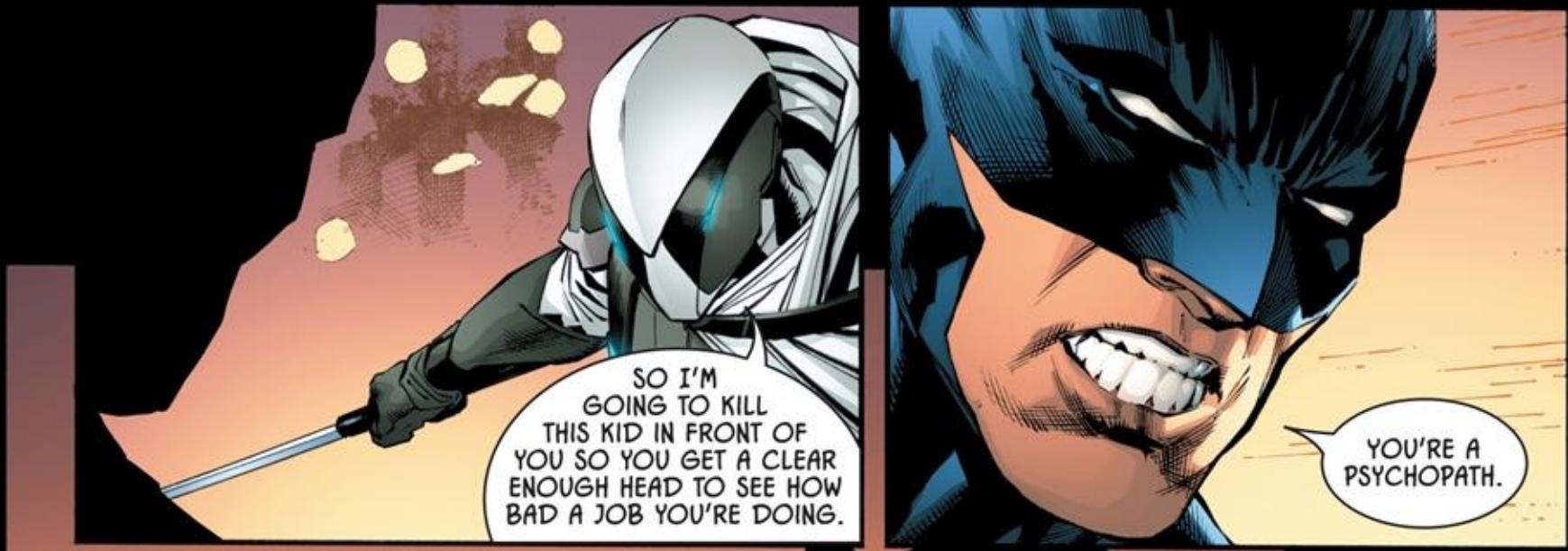
THIS IS ALL TOO PERSONAL TO YOU. YOU CARE TOO MUCH TO SAVE THIS CITY.

YOU'RE FAILING, BRUCE. AND I NEED TO SHOCK YOU INTO SEEING THAT.

THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT YOU'VE EVER REALLY PROCESSED. TRAUMA.

SO I'M GOING TO KILL THIS KID IN FRONT OF YOU SO YOU GET A CLEAR ENOUGH HEAD TO SEE HOW BAD A JOB YOU'RE DOING.

YOU'RE A PSYCHOPATH.



YES. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M BETTER THAN YOU.



SO, UH...
HEY, PAMMY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I'VE BEEN
LOOKIN' FOR YOU.
THE WORLD'S GOTTEN REAL
WEIRD SINCE THE LAST
TIME I SAW YOU.

I FOUND THIS BATCH OF
POISON IVY IN ROBINSON
PARK, SO I POTTED IT, AND
I'VE BEEN TRYING MY BEST
TO KEEP IT ALIVE. I GUESS
IT'S JUST MY LITTLE
TOUCHSTONE
TO YOU.

THOUGH
I PROBABLY
SHOULD STOP
TOUCHING
IT.

I HAVE
RASHES IN
PLACES YOU
WOULDN'T
BELIEVE.

SO...WHAT
HAVE YOU MISSED?
ALL THE BATS AND
BIRDS GOT TOGETHER AND
HAD ONE OF THEIR BIG
"CITY'S GONNA DIE"
PUNCH-'EM-UPS, AND
I ACTUALLY HELPED
THE GOOD GUYS
FOR A SPELL.

I KEPT
THINKING YOU
WERE GONNA SHOW
UP AND HELP ME FIGHT
OFF THIS PUNCHFACE
LADY. SHE'S IN JAIL NOW,
BUT I KEEP KINDA WISHING I
HAD KNICKED AN ARTERY OR
SOMETHING PERMANENT LIKE.

I SHOT MR. J IN THE
HEAD. YOU WOULD'A
LOVED IT.

I SAVED BATMAN'S
LIFE, AND THEN HE
SAVED ME...

...AND NOW
I'M SITTIN' HERE IN THIS
CRUMMIES LITTLE APARTMENT
THINKING, WHAT THE HECK
AM I SUPPOSED TO
DO NEXT?



THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN
SOMEBODY TELLIN'
ME WHO TO FIGHT. MR. J...
WALLER...

BUT I WAS
DOING JUST WHAT
I FELT LIKE BEFORE,
AND IT FELT LIKE I WAS
HELPING PEOPLE. AND
I THINK THAT'S WHAT I
GOT IN THIS FOR,
WAY BACK
WHEN.

I'M NO
GOODY-TWO-
SHOES, AND I'M
NOT GONNA SAVE
THE #\$\$% WORLD OR
SOMETHING, BUT I
DO THINK MAYBE
I CAN DO
BETTER.



BUT MAYBE
THAT'S CRAZY.
YOU ALWAYS TELL ME
WHEN I'M GETTIN' TOO
WRAPPED UP IN MY HEAD.
OPERATING WITH **FAULTY
MACHINERY**, YOU
KNOW?

YOU ALWAYS
TOLD ME TO DO
WHAT I WANTED. NOT
WHAT MR. J WANTED. NOT
EVEN WHAT YOU
WANTED...

MAYBE I
WANNA BE A
BETTER PERSON.
NOT ON BATMAN'S
TERMS OR ANYTHING.
BUT ON **MY TERMS**.



IF YOU'RE
LISTENING: I LOVE YOU
AND I MISS YOU, AND I
HOPE YOU'RE **OKAY**, AND
YOU'RE, LIKE, IN SOME PLEASURE
DOME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
JUNGLE, AND YOU'RE NOT
SCARED OR ANGRY
OR ANYTHING.



SO, UH...
you talk to a lot
of plants?

OH, SURE. SOMETIMES
IT HELPS TO GET THE
INSIDE THOUGHTS OUTSIDE,
Y'KNOW? OLD TRICK
FROM WHEN I WAS ON
THE **OTHER END**
OF THE PSYCH
WARD.

FIND SOME
KIND OF **TOTEM** TO
HAVE THE CONVERSATIONS
YOU NEED TO HAVE WITH
THE PEOPLE WHO
AREN'T WITH YOU
ANYMORE.

IT HELPS
TO KEEP YOUR
BRAIN TOGETHER
TO HEAR THE
THINGS YOU'RE
THINKING.

KRAK

LIKE, RIGHT
NOW I'M THINKIN'
THAT THERE'S THIS WEIRD
TEENAGER WITH A **MOHAWK**
GLUED TO HIS SKATEBOARD
HELMET, AND HE'S IN MY
APARTMENT TRYING
TO KILL ME.

how do
you know i'm a
teenagerz

OH, HONEY.
THAT'S SO SWEET.
DID YOU THINK PEOPLE
WERE GOING TO
MISTAKE YOU FOR A
GROWN-UP?

C'MON.
YOU STINK LIKE A
TEENAGER.

WE DON'T
TALK ABOUT IT MUCH
IN POLITE SOCIETY, BUT YOU
ALL HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT ALL YOUR
NEW OILS AND HORMONES, AND YOU ALL
STINK WAY MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU DO.

SORRY,
KID. YOU'LL GROW
INTO IT. GET SOME
DEODORANT.



HA! THAT
WAS A GOOD
HIT. YOU'RE HALF
GOOD AT
THIS!

you don't
have to sound so
surprised.

i've had
practice. lotta your
old friends in the clown
masks staining my
bat-bat.

YOUR WHAT
NOW?

i call
it my bat-
bat.

HAHAHAHA, THAT'S
GREAT. I LOVE
THAT.

YOU'RE
A FUNNY
KID. I LIKE
YOU.

i don't
want you to
like me.

RUDE.
I AM VERY
LIKABLE.

stop
playing with
me.

LOOK, I'M PRETTY USED TO PEOPLE TRYING TO KILL ME. THE NOVELTY OF THE WHOLE THING HAS WORN OFF.

NOW, I'D KILL YOU MYSELF, BUT I'M TRYING TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS THESE DAYS AND I DON'T THINK THAT'D FLY WITH OL' POINTY EARS.

good
guysz!

you
think
you can be
a good
guyz!

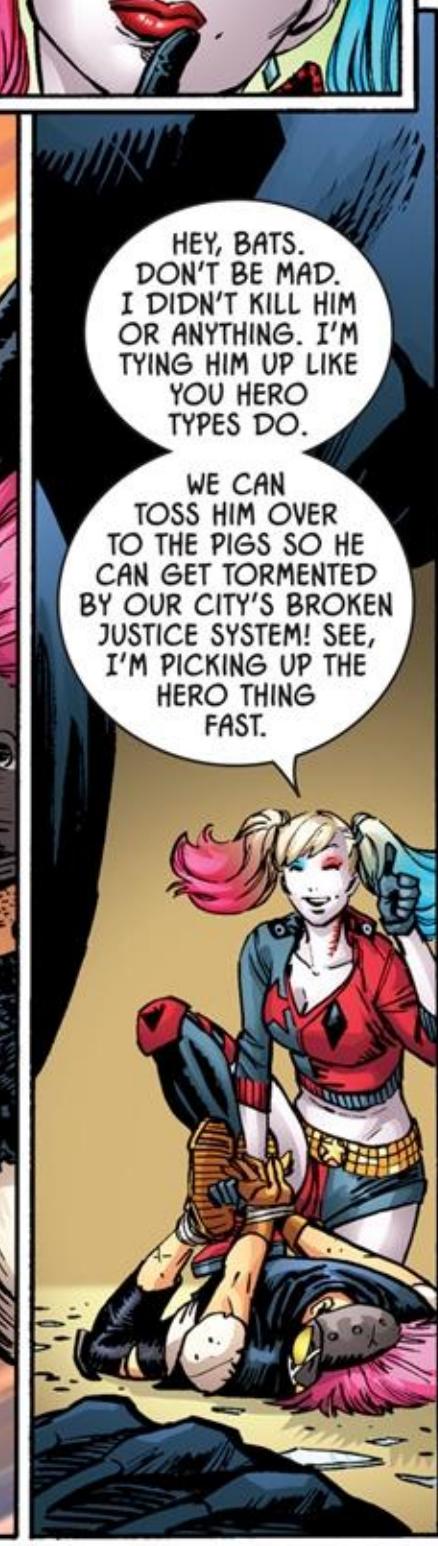
how many
people have you
killedz how many
more did you
watch joker
killz?

IN MY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KEEP TRACK OF HOW MANY THEY'VE KILLED ARE COMPLETELY @\$@@ NUTS, AND NOT IN THE FUN WAY.

BUT I TRY NOT TO LIVE IN THE PAST. I'M ALL ABOUT FINDING MY POTENTIAL. AND MY FUTURE IS LOOKIN' SHINY AND BRIGHT.



YEAH, I'M
GONNA NEED
TO BRIBE THE HELL
OUT OF THE
LANDLORD
NOW.



I'M ALSO PICKING UP THAT YOU'VE BEEN STABBED. HUH.

HEY, PEOPLE WHO LISTEN INTO BATMAN'S HEAD RADIO THING. HE'S BEEN STABBED A BUNCH. WE'RE IN LITTLE SANTA PRISCA. 93 TIMM STREET, THIRD FLOOR.

THE KID FROM THE NARROWS WHO KILLED ALL THOSE CLOWNS IN THE JOKER WAR IS TIED UP.

GUESSING WHOEVER DID THE STABBING IS GONNA SHOW UP HERE IN A SECOND AND TRY TO FINISH THE JOB.

OH WOW. THESE SWORDS ARE COOL AS @#\$%.

THEY REALLY ARE.

YOU'RE HARLEY QUINN. I PRESUME YOU'RE THE BOY'S TARGET.

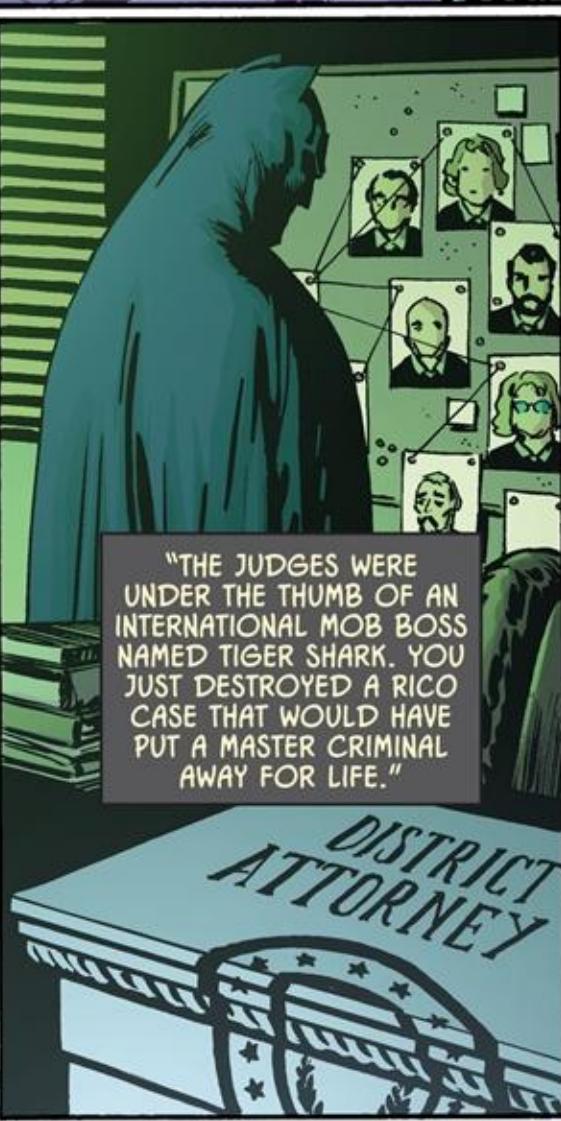
SO, UH... YOU AN ASSASSIN OR SOMETHING? DO YOU WORK WITH BIG JULIE?

I AM NOT AN ASSASSIN. I AM A CRIME-FIGHTER. I AM CALLED GHOST-MAKER.

HUH.

THAT'S A DUMB NAME.

I HATE THIS CITY.





I REPLACED THE AMMUNITION FOR THE WEAPONS FROM SANTA PRISCA SIX DAYS AGO WITH FAULTY SHELLS, AND WAS WAITING TO TAKE DOWN THEIR BUYERS HERE IN GOTHAM.

PROVE IT.



"THERE WAS A CRATE FILLED WITH LIVE CHICKENS IN WITH THE WEAPONS. ALONG WITH A HANDWRITTEN BOOK OF SANTA PRISCAN RECIPES.



I'M NOT PERFECT, GHOST-MAKER. THIS CITY IS DANGEROUS AND I COULD ALWAYS DO BETTER. BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GOTHAM OR WHAT IT NEEDS.



THE BOY KILLED 24 PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF JOKER'S LAST ATTACK. MORE THAN THREE TIMES THE NUMBER OF OUR SERIAL KILLING FRIEND, MR. QUILL.

AND YOU'RE PROTECTING HIM.



YOU THINK THAT IF THEY THREW HIM INTO BLACKGATE, HE'D STOP? THE GUARDS WOULD HELP HIM, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

THEN HE REQUIRES MORE PERMANENT ACTION.



HE'S SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD. HE WATCHED HIS PARENTS DIE IN FRONT OF HIM, DAMN IT...

AND THERE IT IS. AS ALWAYS. YOU LET YOUR EMOTIONS GET IN THE WAY OF THE WORK.



I'M
TAKING YOU
OFF THE FIELD,
BRUCE.

AND THEN I'M
GOING TO SHOW
YOU WHAT GOTHAM CITY
CAN BE WITH A **REAL**
CRIME-FIGHTER IN
CHARGE.

AMARCH

NEXT: GHOST-MAKER'S GOTHAM!

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