



UNIVERSE

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# BATMAN™



TYNION IV  
DANIEL  
MIKI  
MOREY

**STARTING NOW!**  
**THE DARK KNIGHT'S**  
**most DANGEROUS STORY YET!**

Tony  
Daniel  
2019

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IT HAPPENED  
IN THE LITTLE  
MOMENTS.

I'D SKETCH ON THE EDGE OF A  
NAPKIN, OR AT THE CORNER OF  
A PAGE IN AN OLD CASEBOOK.

A FAMILIAR BUILDING,  
BUT WITH AN UNFAMILIAR  
NUMBER OF FLOORS.

THE CITY SKYLINE WITH A  
FEW ADDED SKYSCRAPERS.  
THERE WAS ALWAYS SOME  
MINOR DETAIL ALTERED.

PoOM

ALFRED CALLED  
THEM MY LITTLE  
GOTHAMS.

HE SAID THAT THEY WERE  
DESIGNS FOR THE CITY  
THAT LIVED IN MY HEAD. A  
BETTER CITY, WITHOUT ALL  
THE PAIN AND HORROR.

A CITY THAT DIDN'T  
NEED A BATMAN.

HE WOULD SAY, "WHAT  
IF YOU DIDN'T PUT ON  
THAT SUIT TONIGHT?"

"WHAT IF YOU GATHERED ALL THOSE  
SKETCHES AND STARTED BUILDING  
SOMETHING THAT COULD LAST?"

"YOU HAVE A DESIGN  
FOR GOTHAM CITY,  
MASTER BRUCE."

"ISN'T IT TIME  
THE WORLD  
SAW IT?"

REBUILDING  
GOTHAM CITY FOR  
EVERYONE  
WAYNE ENTERPRISES

DC COMICS  
proudly  
presents

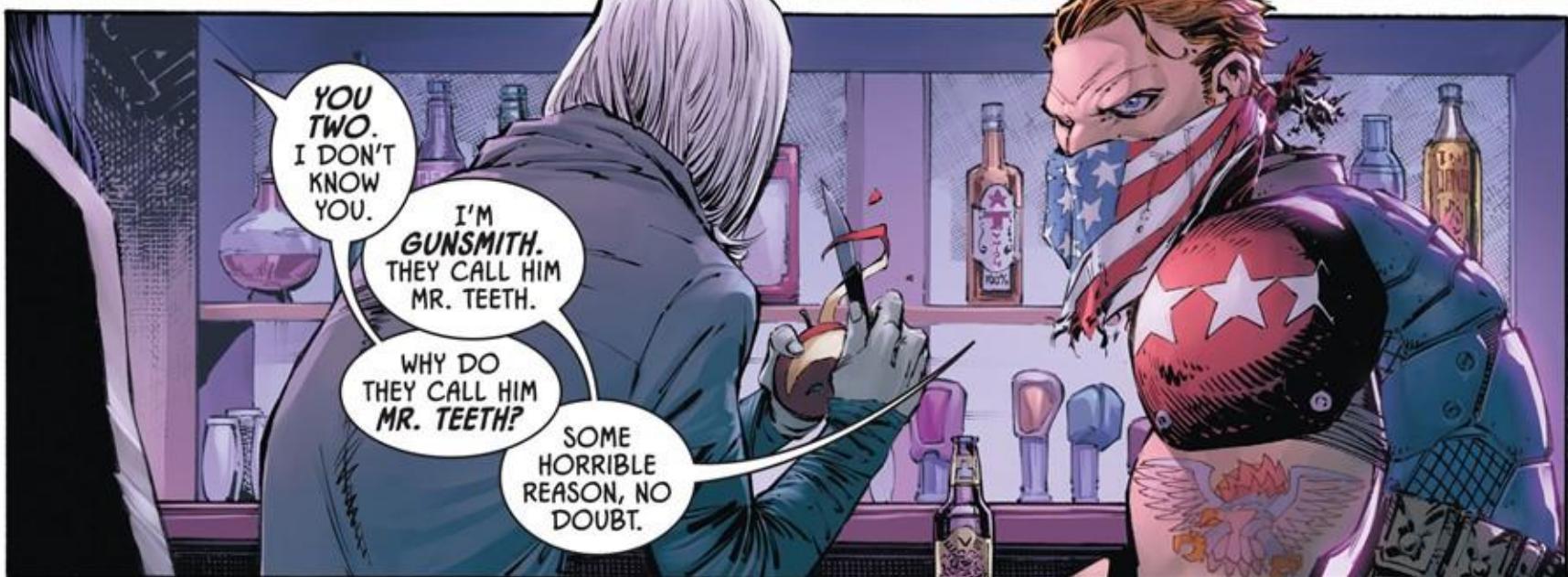
# BATMAN THE DARK DESIGNS

PART 1

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**GOTHAM CITY.**  
THE CAULDRON.





"...AND YOU NEED TO BE READY."

WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS BRUCE WAYNE?

OH, YOU KNOW. HE'S A BUSY MAN, MAYOR DUNCH.

AND THE NEW WAYNE CAMPUS IS A BIT BIGGER THAN THAT DRAB OLD BUILDING IN MIDTOWN. EASY TO GET LOST.

I DON'T KNOW HOW HE CONVINCED THE STATE HOUSE TO OVERRIDE THE REGULATORY BOARD. THIS IS THE FASTEST ANY MAJOR AMERICAN CITY HAS GROWN SINCE THE START OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

WELL, YOU KNOW. A LITTLE GLAD-HANDING, A GOOD SPEECH, AND A SIZABLE DONATION TO THEIR REELECTION FUNDS.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW, MS. KYLE...

THAT'S A JOKE, MR. MAYOR. HE MADE HIS PITCH. HE HAS A WAY OF CONVINCING PEOPLE TO STEP UP.

MAKE NO MISTAKE, BRUCE WAYNE HAS A DESIGN FOR GOTHAM CITY.

ENJOYING YOURSELF?

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.



# WAYNE ENTERPRISES TRICORNER YARDS CAMPUS.

SUBBASEMENT 13.  
THE HIBERNACULUM.

LUCIUS.  
IS IT  
READY?

YOU MEAN  
THE TUXEDO I  
SPENT **THREE**  
**THOUSAND DOLLARS**  
ON, AFTER YOU TOLD  
ME HOW IMPORTANT  
TONIGHT'S  
FUNDRAISING  
GALA WAS?

THAT YOU  
NEEDED THE CEO  
OF YOUR FAMILY'S  
COMPANY SMILING  
FOR THE CAMERAS,  
AND SHAKING  
THE RIGHT  
HANDS.

YES, MR.  
WAYNE. MY TUXEDO  
IS READY AND WAITING  
IN MY OFFICE A FEW  
THOUSAND FEET OVERHEAD.

LUCIUS.

OH, SO  
WE'RE TALKING  
ABOUT THAT NEW  
VEHICLE DESIGN YOU  
SENT ME THIS  
MORNING?

WHEN I  
PROPOSED  
BUILDING AN  
AUTONOMOUS  
FACTORY FLOOR,  
CAPABLE OF PRINTING  
AND ASSEMBLING  
MACHINE PARTS  
AT SHORT  
NOTICE...

...I REALLY  
THOUGHT YOU'D  
START WITH A  
CAR.

I HAVE A CAR. I HAVE A FEW CARS. HOW DOES IT LOOK?

HONESTLY, IT'S A BIT TERRIFYING. THOUGH I IMAGINE THAT'S THE INTENT. THE MORE YOU HAVE ME BUILD DOWN HERE, THE MORE FRIGHTENED I GET TO TAKE THE ELEVATOR.

IS IT READY?

IF THIS WERE COMING OUT THROUGH ONE OF OUR DEFENSE CONTRACTORS, I'D SAY WE'RE ABOUT SIX MONTHS OF SAFETY TESTING AWAY FROM ME BEING COMFORTABLE PUTTING A HUMAN BEING INSIDE OF IT.

WILL IT DO WHAT I NEED IT TO DO?

IT'LL RUN EASY ENOUGH... IT'LL BE ABLE TO SCUTTLE UP WALLS, POUNCE AND TRACK YOUR TARGETS. OF THAT, I'M PRETTY SURE.

WILL IT FLY?

THE MATH ALL SEEMS TO CHECK OUT. BUT THIS CREATION OF YOURS, MR. WAYNE. IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING YOU'VE USED BEFORE.

COULD IT FLY? YES. WILL IT?

I'M AFRAID THAT'S A MATTER OF FAITH.

THIS IS ALL A MATTER OF FAITH, LUCIUS. IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.

HAVE THE NIGHTCLIMBER MEET ME AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS...

FIVE DAYS AGO, THE BATCOMPUTER FLAGGED AN ALERT ON THE DARK WEB HUBS USED BY ASSASSINS GUILDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE WARNING DESCRIBED A HURRICANE IN GOTHAM CITY IN A FEW DAYS' TIME. THAT A GROUP WOULD BE WEARING EXPENSIVE RAINCOATS.

TRANSLATED, IT DESCRIBED A MAJOR HIT PERFORMED BY HIGH-END COSTUMED CONTRACTORS.

THE POST WAS DELETED WITHIN THREE MINUTES ON EACH HUB. LONG ENOUGH FOR THE FIXERS TO KNOW TO STEER CLEAR OF THE CITY. NOT LONG ENOUGH TO ATTRACT THE WRONG ATTENTION.

FIVE DAYS AGO, IT WAS MY ONLY FLEETING CLUE THAT SOMETHING DARK WAS BREWING IN GOTHAM.

IT TOOK ANOTHER THREE TO DETERMINE THE CONTRACT KILLERS IN PLAY.

EACH OF THEM IS EXTRAORDINARILY DANGEROUS, AND EXPENSIVE. THE HIGHEST-PAID KILLERS IN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

WITH A FEW DAYS' PLANNING, I'VE ALREADY DEFEATED EACH OF THEM.

BUT THE MAN BROUGHT IN TO RUN THE SHOW...

DEATHSTROKE.  
SLADE WILSON.

HIS PRESENCE HERE... WORRIES ME. HE IS DISCERNING. DELIBERATE. MONEY ALONE WOULDN'T BRING HIM BACK TO GOTHAM.

HIS MIND OPERATES AT PEAK EFFICIENCY, NINE TIMES BEYOND THAT OF AN AVERAGE MAN. WHICH MEANS IF I HAVE ANY HOPE, I NEED TO TAKE HIM DOWN FAST.







BUT I  
ALREADY  
HAVE.





TRICORNER  
YARDS.

OKAY...  
OKAY, I CAN  
DO THIS.

I CAN  
DO THIS, AND  
EVERYTHING WILL  
BE ALL--

--RIGHT?

WHAPP

YOU KNOW,  
DEAR. YOU MIGHT  
HAVE ACTUALLY PULLED  
THIS OFF IF YOU  
HADN'T LOOKED SO  
DREADFULLY NERVOUS  
ALL EVENING.

I HAD  
MY SIGHTS  
ON YOU THIRTY  
SECONDS AFTER  
YOU CAME  
INTO THE  
BUILDING.

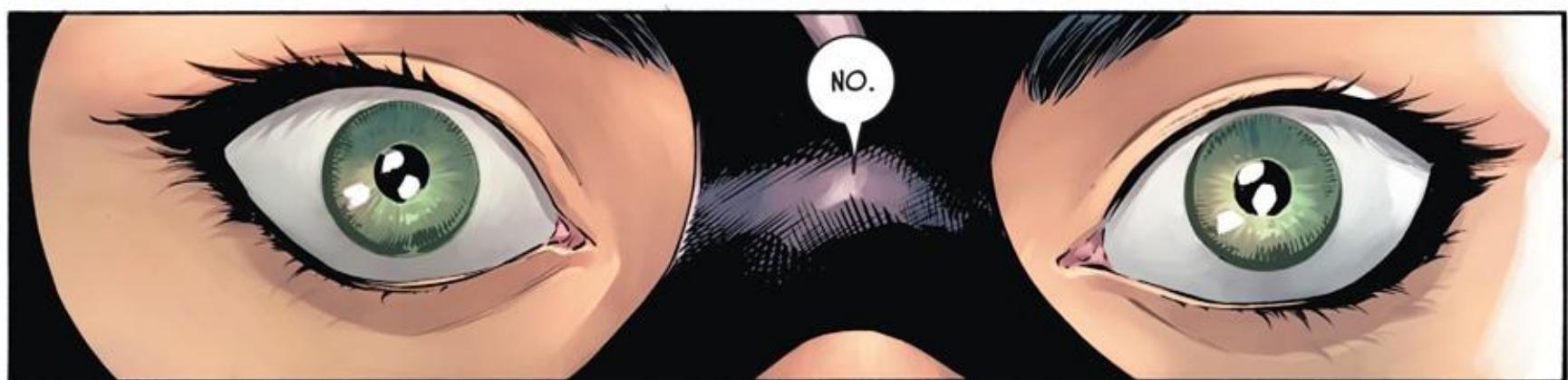
NOW,  
WHAT DO  
YOU HAVE  
HERE?

IT'S...IT'S  
DESIGNS...IT'S  
PLANS FOR THE CITY.  
NEW PLANS TO REPLACE  
WAYNE'S. YOU CAN'T  
LET THEM HAPPEN.  
YOU CAN'T!

YOU  
HAVE TO STOP  
HIM. YOU ALL  
HAVE TO--

NO!

NO!



"BUT  
SO DID  
WE."

-PANT PANT-  
ALFRED, SEND A  
PRIORITY SIGNAL  
TO THE GCPD.

TELL THEM  
TO PREPARE  
FIVE CELLS IN  
THE BLACK  
BLOCK.





THE SUGGESTION ALWAYS UNSETLED ME. THE IDEA OF TAKING THE WHOLE CITY IN HAND AND RESHAPING IT INTO SOMETHING THAT MIGHT NOT NEED A BATMAN.



I HAD ALWAYS KNOWN IN MY HEART THE WORK COULD NEVER BE FINISHED. I FOUGHT THE SYMPTOMS. BUT THE WAR COULD NEVER BE WON.



MY DESIGNS FOR GOTHAMS WERE A FICTION. A FANTASY. NOT WORTH KINDLING INTO SOMETHING MORE. THEY WERE IMPOSSIBLE.

I WOULD TELL HIM THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN, LATE AT NIGHT IN THE CAVE.



HE WOULD ALWAYS JUST GRIN AT ME AND SMILE. HE'D TELL ME "MASTER BRUCE...FOR GOD'S SAKE. YOU'RE BATMAN."



"I THINK WHAT'S POSSIBLE IS ONLY LIMITED BY WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS POSSIBLE."

I FEEL THE INERTIA OF  
METAL WINGS TAKE ME INTO  
THE SKY. AND I START TO  
SEE THE IMPOSSIBLE TAKE  
SHAPE BENEATH ME.

A CITY I'VE ONLY SEEN IN  
RAW DESIGN BEFORE.  
SOMETHING THAT CAN,  
AND WILL, BE SO MUCH  
BETTER THAN BEFORE.

AND IN THAT  
MOMENT, I DO WHAT  
YOU TOLD ME TO,  
OLD FRIEND.

I BELIEVE.

NEXT: CAGES FOR KILLERS!

## EPILOGUE

MPHH...  
HP...HLP...



