

651
MAY
2006
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**ROBINSON
KRAMER
CHAMPAGNE**

ONE YEAR LATER.

ADAM STERLING LOOKED UP FROM THE TELEVISION FIVE MINUTES AGO.

HE'S BEEN LOOKING AT THE SKY EVER SINCE.

"THE SIGNAL! THE BAT-SIGNAL! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE..."

"TOO DAMN LONG," THINKS SAPPHIRE BRADY. "WHERE WAS IT WHEN MY SON WAS KILLED. MY BOY. SHOT IN A DRIVE-BY KILLING LAST YEAR."

"WHERE WAS BATMAN THEN?"

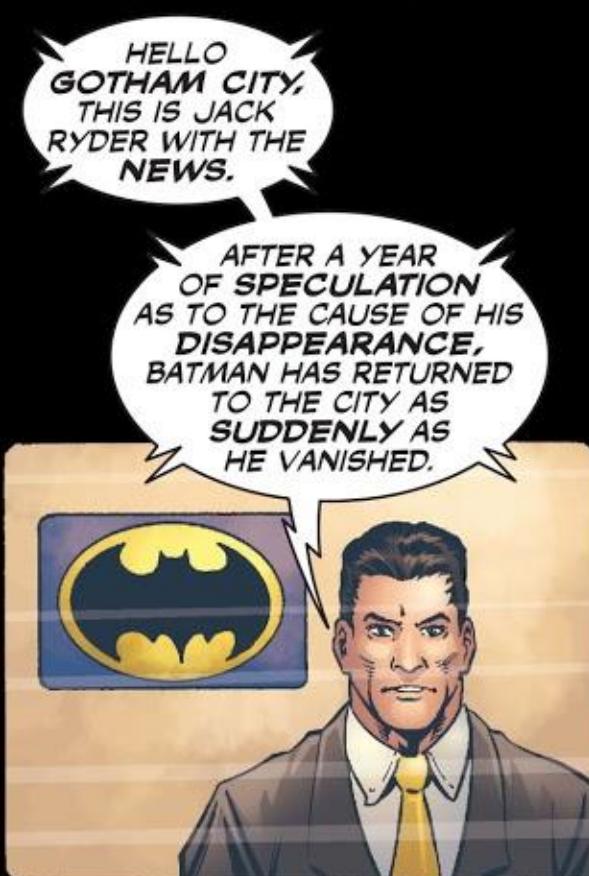
"I'M JUST GLAD HE'S BACK," JOHN BURNS SAYS TO NO ONE IN PARTICULAR.

HE WATCHES THE TV OVER THE BAR AND SIPS HIS SCREWDRIVER. AND SMILES...

...TO NO ONE IN PARTICULAR.

"NO. NO. THAT'S ALL I NEED. BAD ENOUGH THERE'S A CRAZY VIGILANTE BEEN JUMPING EVERY CRIME COMMITTED IN GOTHAM."

"NOW BATMAN'S BACK TOO. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE A DOLLAR?" THINKS SEAN RASSEL, SAFECRACKER AND FATHER OF FOUR.



PAMELA ISLEY... POISON IVY...HOLDS THE VANGUARD BUILDING HOSTAGE ALONG WITH THE CEOs OF SEVERAL CORPORATIONS WHO WERE MEETING THERE AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK.

SOON
AFTER, THE
BAT-SIGNAL
APPEARED IN THE
NIGHT SKY...

...FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN SEVERAL
YEARS.

AND...YES...I
BELIEVE WE HAVE
CRISSY DUBLIN ON
THE STREET AND ON
THE SPOT. HELLO
CRISSY, WHAT CAN
YOU TELL
US?

WELL
JACK, THIS IS
WHAT WE
KNOW...

THE BAT-SIGNAL
APPEARS TO BE
COMING FROM POLICE
HEADQUARTERS, NOT
A COINCIDENCE SINCE
JAMES GORDON HAS
RECENTLY BEEN
REINSTATED AS
GOTHAM'S
COMMISSIONER.

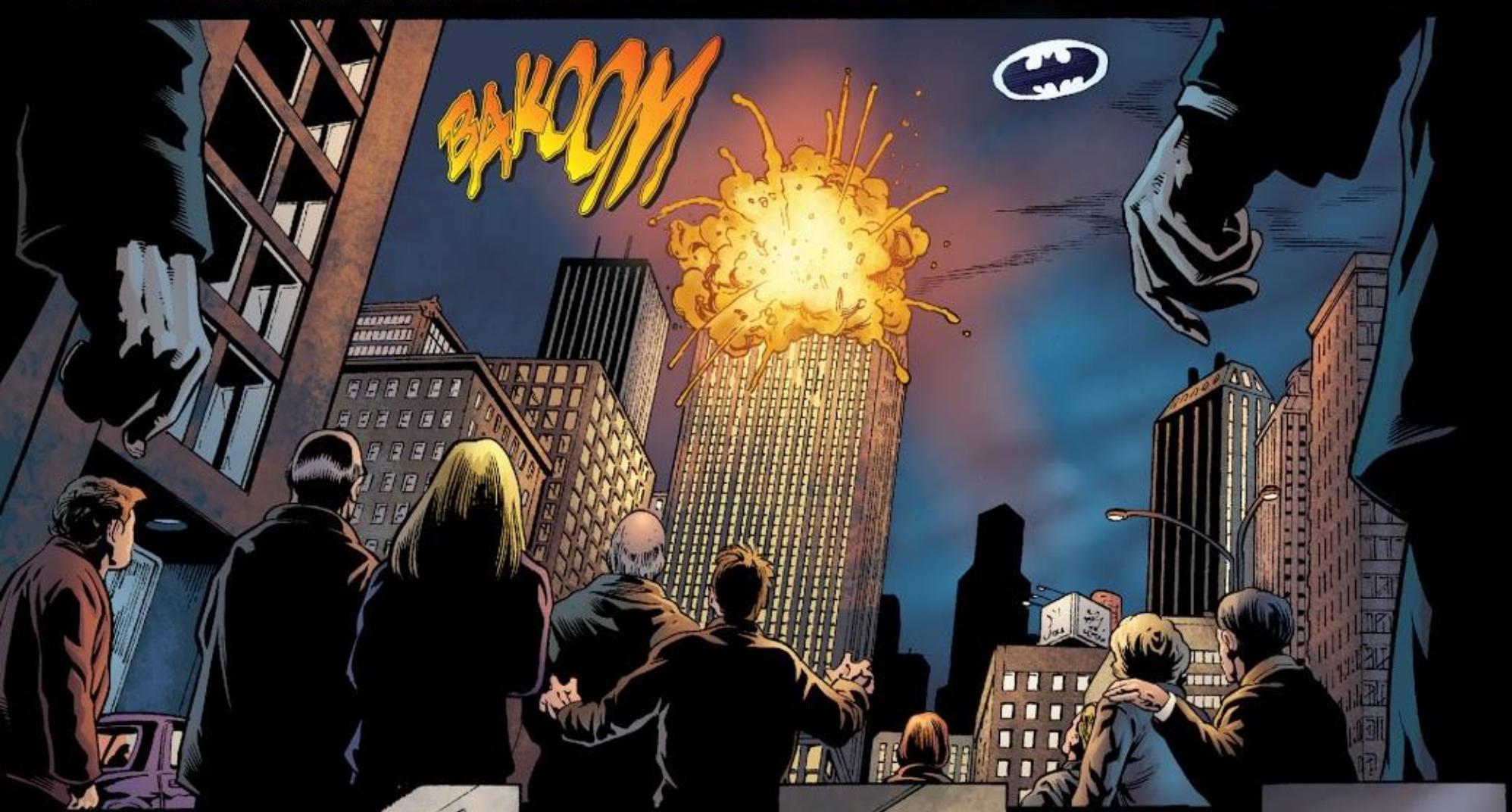
-WAIT!

IN
PAST YEARS
HE'S--

WE'VE
SPOTTED
BATMAN AND
ROBIN.

THEY
APPEAR TO
BE LEAVING THE
SCENE IN A
SMALL JET.

I THINK--
YES, THEY'RE
HEADING FOR THE
VANGUARD BUILDING
WHERE THEY WILL
NO DOUBT--







FACE THE FEAR

PART 2 OF 8

James Robinson
Writer

Don Kramer
Penciller

Keith Champagne
Inker

John Kalisz-Colorist
Pat Brosseau-Letterer
Cover by Simon Bianchi

Michael Siglain-Assoc Editor
Peter Tomasi-Editor
Batman created by Bob Kane

YOU
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO.





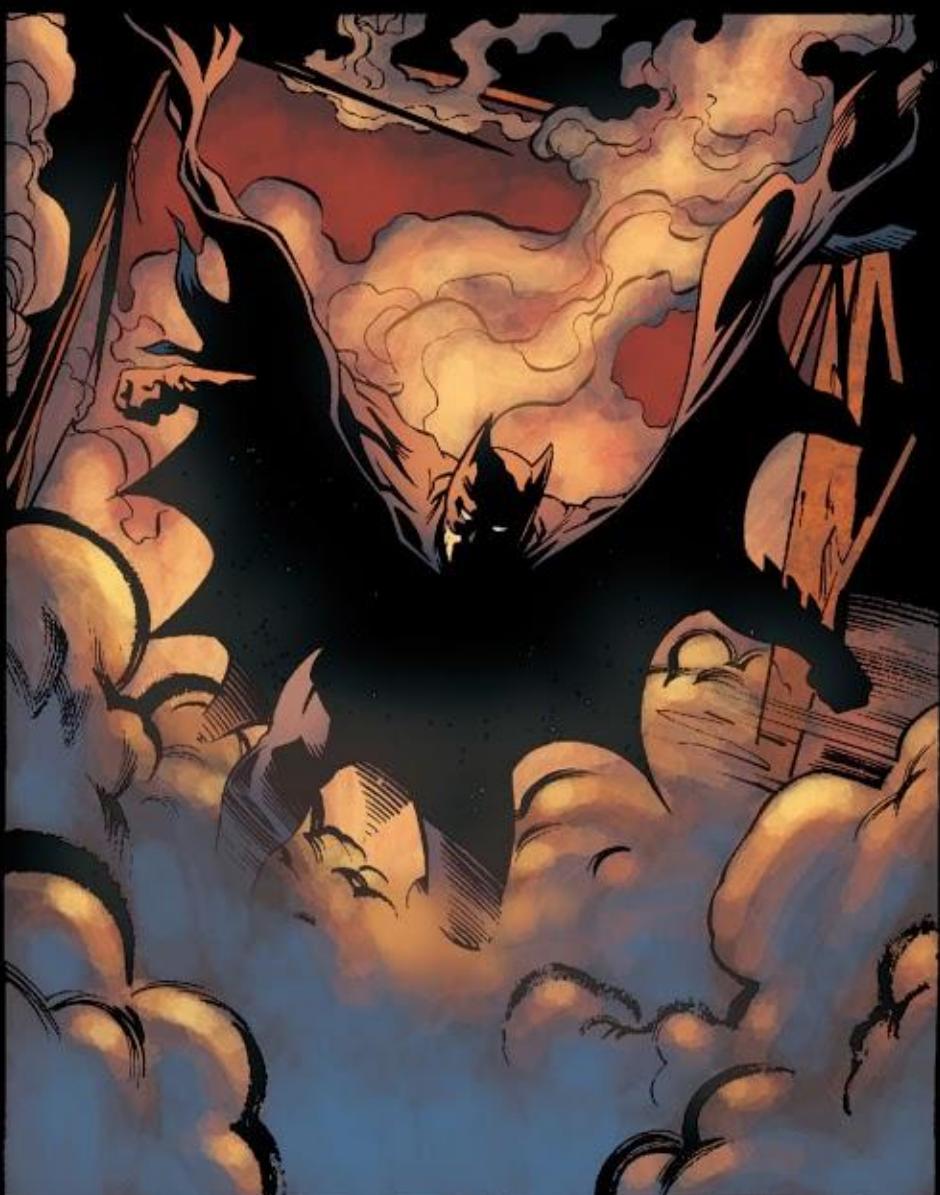






Read more FREE comics on [ReadComicOnline](#)









I'D CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES WITH YOU...

...BUT MY OTHER GUESTS MIGHT NOT BE AS KEEN TO RELIVE OUR PAST, AND I EVER SO STRIVE TO BE POLITE.

THE POINT IS YOU'RE BACK AND I'M BACK TOO.

AND STRONGER THAN EVER.

AH, WELL, THAT'S A STORY I'VE YET TO TELL.

DO YOU KNOW THE PRESENT AND ASSEMBLED?

LUCIUS FOX. HE WORKS FOR WAYNE.

HE RUNS WAYNE ENTERPRISES. THESE MEN ALL RUN OR OWN OTHER CORPORATIONS OF EQUAL VILLAINY.

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, YOU--

SNAP

NOW, NOW, MR. SUIT, WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THE NEXT WORD OUT OF YOUR MOUTH WOULD HAVE BEEN HURTFUL.

THESE BUSINESSES ARE DESTROYING THE PLANET. POLLUTION, DE-FORESTATION, OVER-HARVESTING--

--AND ALL FOR MORE OF THE THING THEY HAVE TOO MUCH OF TO BEGIN WITH.

MONEY.

IT'S HARDLY NEWS, PAMELA. WHY NOW?

WHY NOT? I THOUGHT I'D START OFF RIGHT.

YOU'RE NOT MY ENEMY, BATMAN. I USED TO THINK DEFEATING YOU WAS MY MAIN OBJECTIVE IN LIFE.

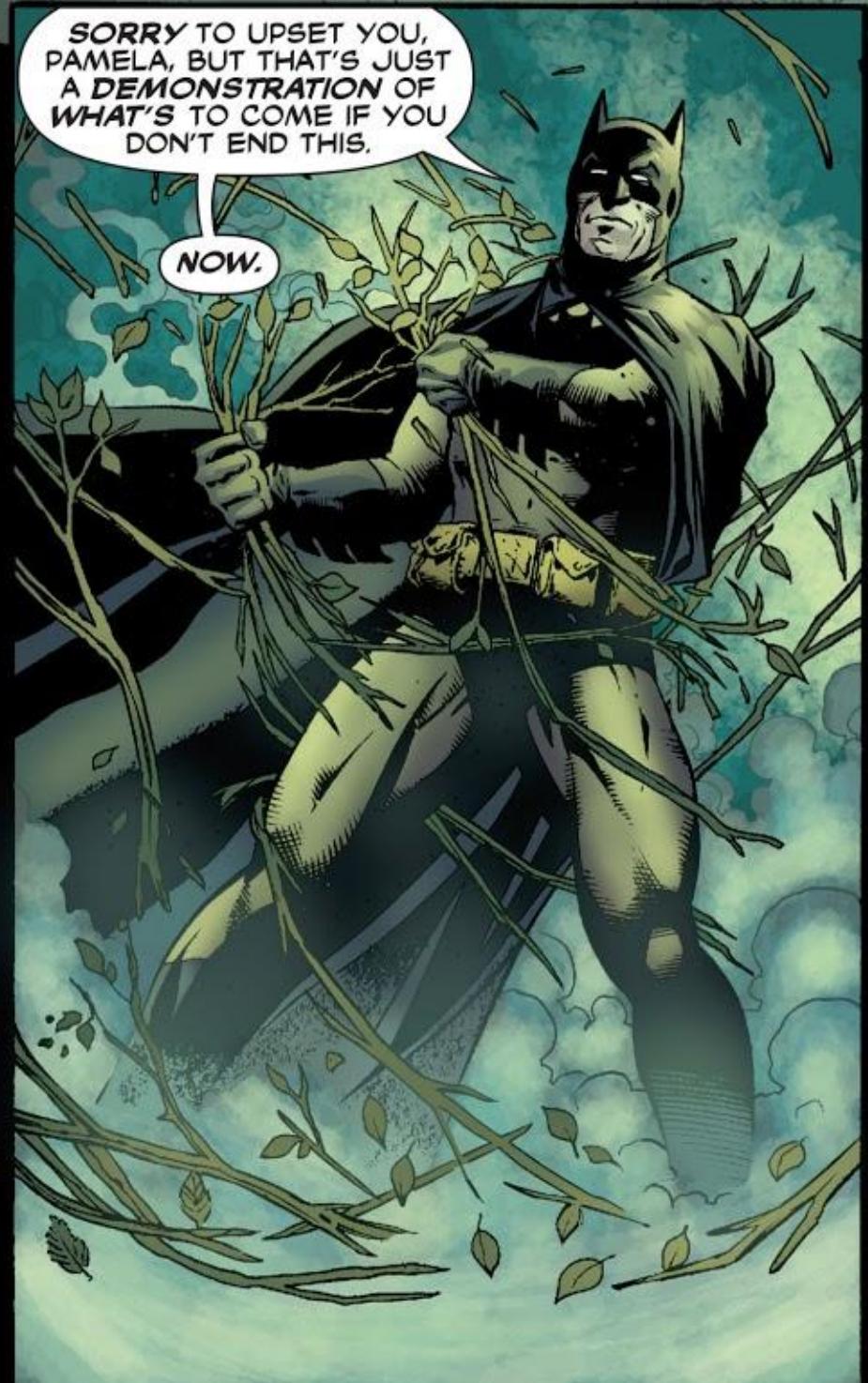
NO.

YOU'RE MERELY A HINDRANCE.

MY MAIN GOAL NOW AND FOREVERMORE WILL BE A BETTER WORLD. IF THAT MEANS WE CROSS SWORDS, SO BE IT, BUT...

...I'VE CHANGED.





ROBIN HAS PUT
A VERY POWERFUL
DEFOLIANT IN THE
BUILDING'S WATER--
SPECIFICALLY THE
SPRINKLER
SYSTEM.

SURRENDER,
PAMELA. TEN
SECONDS AND
ROBIN LIGHTS A
FIRE.

SURRENDER
OR ALL YOUR
PLANTS **DIE**.

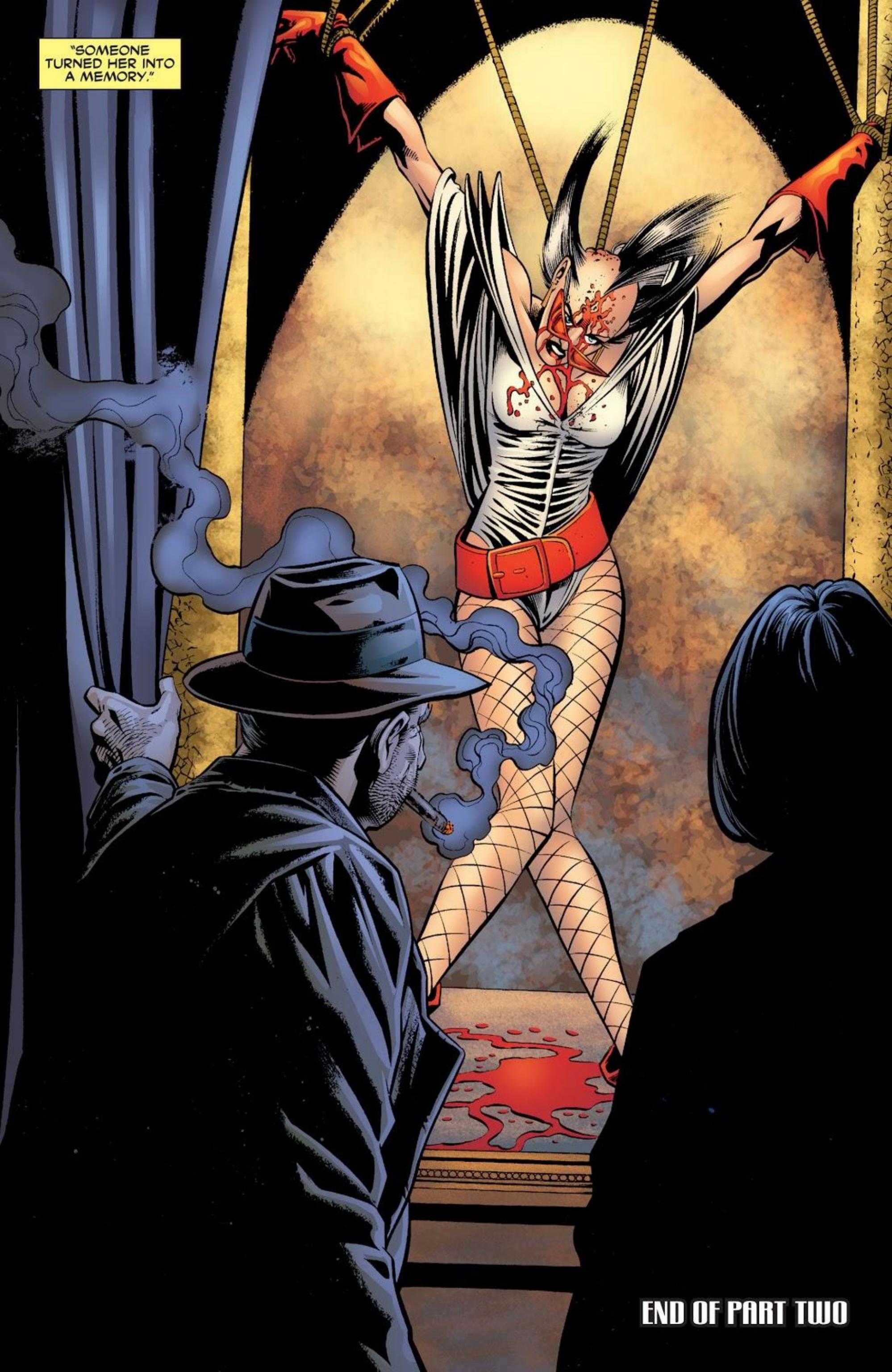
I WANTED
TO DO THE
RIGHT
THING.

PERHAPS,
BUT IN THE
WRONG
WAY.

LATER...



"SOMEONE
TURNED HER INTO
A MEMORY."



END OF PART TWO