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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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BATMAN



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The Cave.
Underneath Wayne Manor.

CAN YOU
AT LEAST TELL
ME WHAT YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR?

I have invited Catwoman...
Selina... down here.

To include her
in this investigation.

ANSWERS.

YOU THINK
YOU COULD BE
A LITTLE MORE
VAGUE?

To include her in... my life.

WHAT IF EVERYTHING
THAT'S HAPPENED IN
THE PAST FEW
MONTHS --

-- POISON IVY'S
TAKING CONTROL
OF YOU --

-- KILLER
CROC'S
SUBSEQUENT
ATTACK --

-- THE FIGHTS
WITH SUPERMAN,
HARLEY QUINN,
THE JOKER --

-- TOMMY
ELLIOT'S
DEATH --

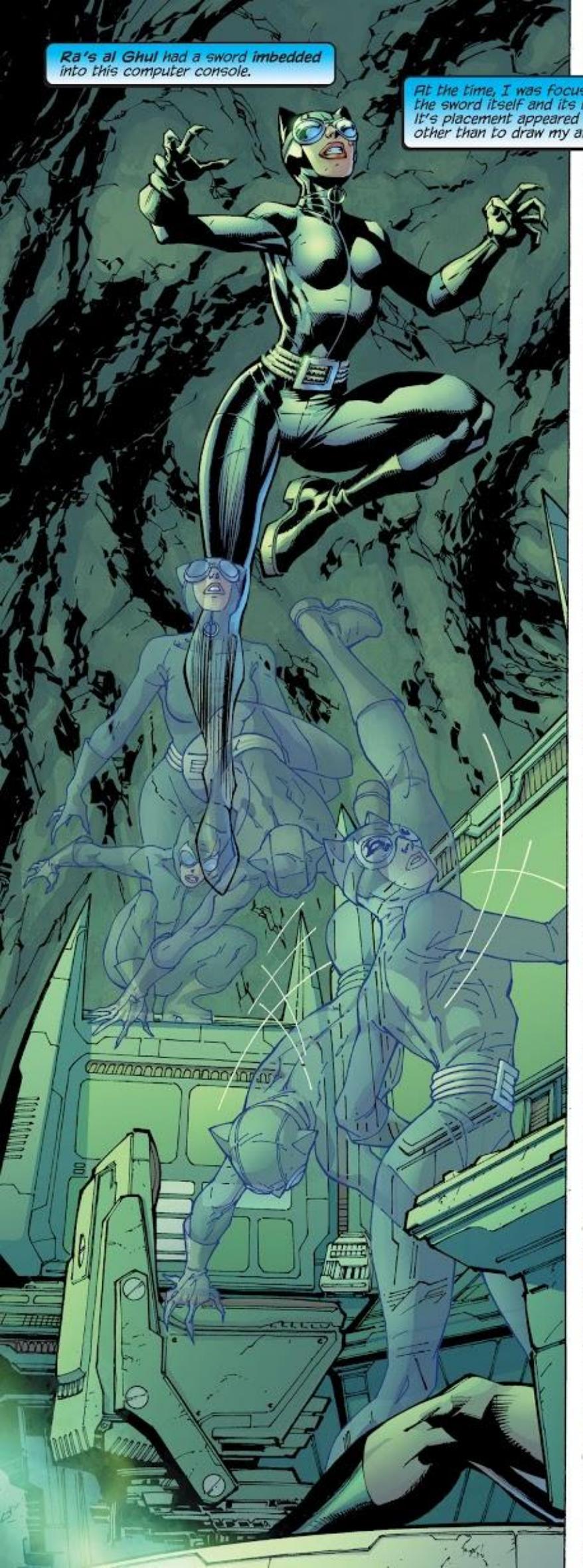
-- ALL HAD BEEN
ORCHESTRATED?
CURIOUS.
WHO'S DOING IT
AND WHY?

SINCE THIS
ALL STARTED,
WHAT IS
DIFFERENT?

US.

AND DO YOU
THINK THAT'S A
RESULT OF --

HOLD THAT
THOUGHT.



Tim Drake came into my life uninvited.

Dick Grayson had left, outgrowing his role as Robin and choosing to become Nightwing.

And after Jason Todd died...

YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
TELLING OTHER
PEOPLE WHAT
TO DO.

YOU
MIGHT'VE
FOOLED
HIM.

SEDUCED
HIM.

BUT,
I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE --

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE HERE.

KID.

TKUSH

YOU
DON'T KNOW
THE FIRST
THING ABOUT
ME.

SO, LET ME
SCHOOL YOU ON
SOMETHING --

-- I DON'T LET GROWN
MEN SPEAK TO ME
THE WAY YOU
JUST DID --

-- BUT THOSE
WHO HAVE ONLY
DID IT ONCE.

After Jason died, I swore there would never be another Robin, and yet...

I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...

BATMAN

CREATED BY
BOB KANE

Chapter Ten **THE GRAVE**

Jeph LOEB writes

Jim LEE pencils

ENOUGH.

Tim Drake is Robin,
The Teen Wonder.

Scott WILLIAMS
inks
Richard STARKINGS
letters
Alex SINCLAIR
colors
Bob SCHRECK
edits
Michael WRIGHT
associate edits
special thanks to
Mark CHIARELLO







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I had told Tim about my decision to include Selina in my life...

...if for no other reason than I knew Dick would tell him and Tim should hear it from me.

KROOM

He was angry. Confused. And I had to remember how young he is and how long ago it was since I was his age.

If Tim has one character flaw, it's that he still sees the world in blacks and whites. Good and evil wear very different masks in his eyes.

SKREETCH

HEY!

HROOM

HUNTRESS...?

He's getting old enough to accept that there are "grays" in every situation. We may not like them, but it's part of what we do.

And my relationship with Catwoman is, at best, gray.

So... when Tim asked the obvious question, "Do you trust her?"--

LADY, YOU PICKED THE **WRONG** NIGHT TO PLAY GAMES WITH ME...

--I gave him the obvious answer.

"I wouldn't have told her I was Bruce Wayne unless I didn't."

SKRREEKK



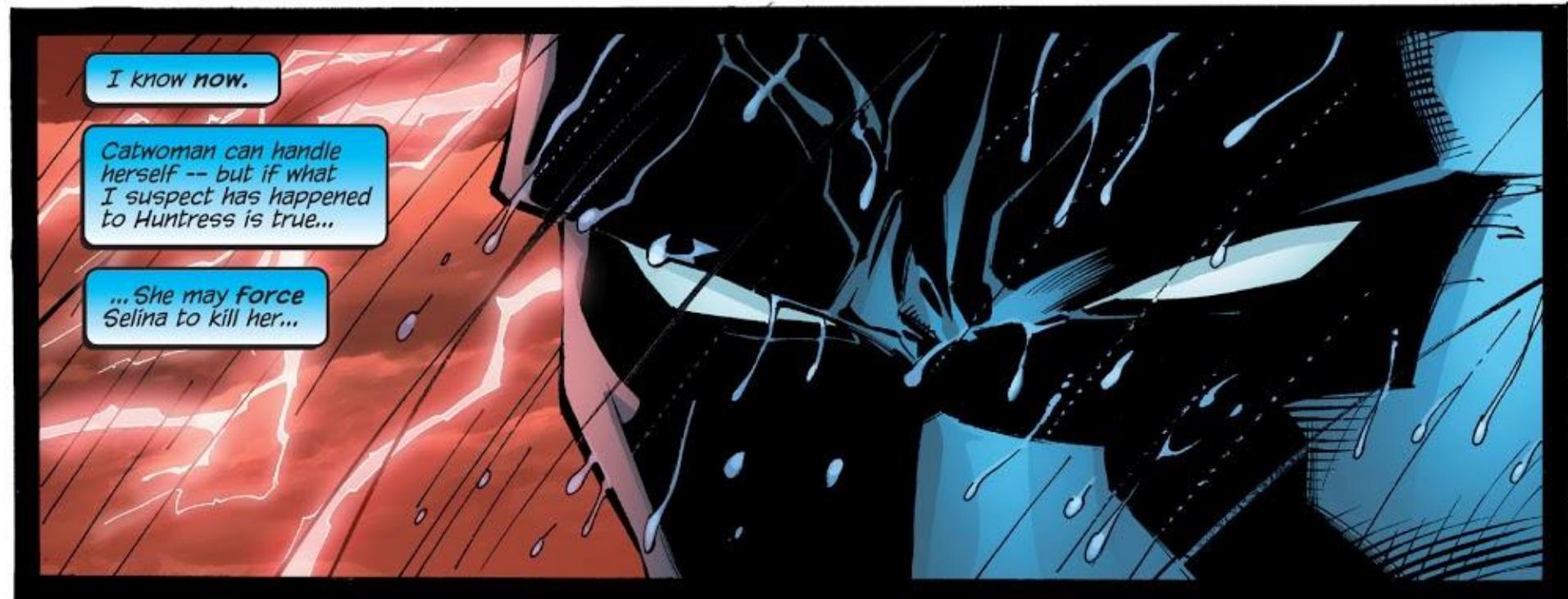


IT'S GOING
TO GET WORSE
BEFORE IT GETS
BETTER!

SLAY

HUNTRESS!

As Alfred would undoubtedly say,
"The seeds of doubt grow bitter fruit."





Huntress' movements.
Her speech pattern.
Her obvious fear of
something that is
haunting her.

TALK
TO ME,
DAMMIT!

Only one person could have
affected her mind in that way.

Jonathan Crane is
The Scarecrow.
Psychiatrist turned
Psychopath.

HUSH,
LITTLE BABY,
DON'T SAY
A WORD...

VROOOOM

His involvement in tonight...
in all of this... reveals a great deal.

...MAMA'S GOING
TO BUY YOU A
MOCKINGBIRD.



...to bring me here.

BAM

EEU UU
EEU UU

AND IF THAT DIAMOND RING TURNS BRASS, MAMA'S GOING TO BUY YOU A LOOKING GLASS.

GAH!

SNAP

PHOOOSH

AND IF THAT LOOKING GLASS GETS BROKE, MAMA'S GOING TO BUY YOU A BILLY GOAT.

-KOFF-
-KAFF-
-KOFF-

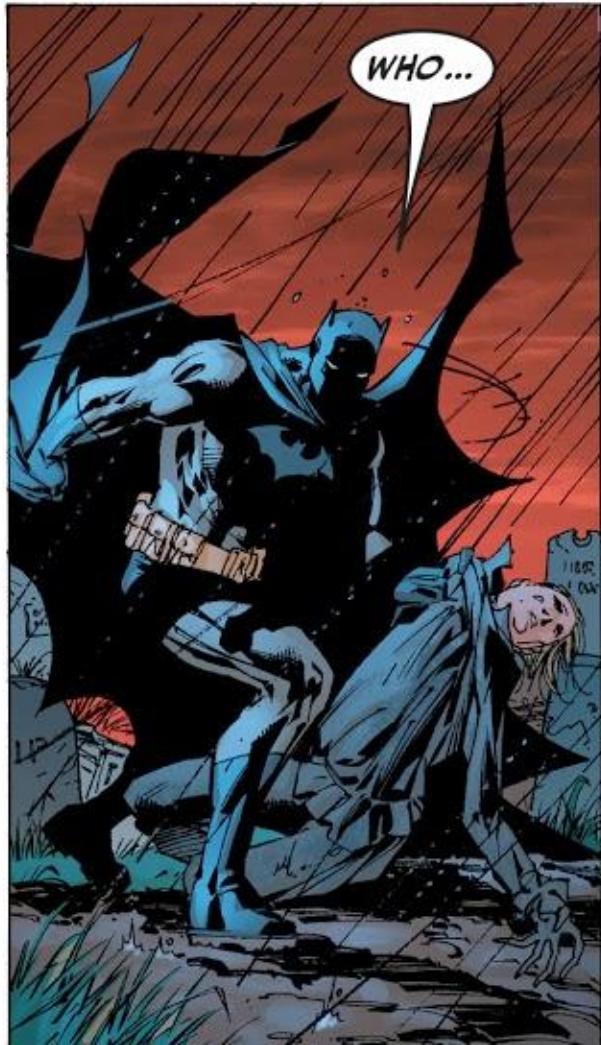
This graveyard.

No one should know...

...who is buried here.

AND IF THAT BILLY GOAT WON'T PULL, MAMA'S GOING TO BUY YOU A CART AND BULL.







...AND
THIS TIME,
YOU
LOSE.

Jason Todd became Robin after Dick Grayson.

Hoping to harness the rage that had driven him throughout his life, I taught him how to fight.

Next: BATMAN vs ROBIN

He knows all my secrets.

...and he has been dead for years...