



THE JOKER WAR

PART
ONE

BATMAN

HEY,
BATS...

...LIKE WHAT
I'VE DONE WITH
THE PLACE?

TYNION IV
JIMENEZ
MOREY

AGES 13+



YEARS AGO.

YOU'RE
THINKING ABOUT
THEM, AREN'T YOU,
MASTER
BRUCE?

THE
BODIES.



IT'S
NOT THE
BODIES,
ALFRED...

YOU HAVEN'T
BEEN SLEEPING,
SIR. NOT SINCE THE
CASE BEGAN.

I KNOW
WHICH CRIME SCENE
IMAGES YOU'VE BEEN
RIFLING THROUGH, OVER
AND OVER. IT'S THEIR FACES.
YOU'VE SCARRED
THEM INTO YOUR
MIND.

THE TEST
SUBJECTS AT
THE CHEMICAL
PLANT.



THE CAMERA
OPERATOR WHO
GAVE HIM WHAT HE
NEEDDED TO BROADCAST
HIS RANSOM VIDEOS
ACROSS GOTHAM.



CLARIDGE,
THE DIAMOND
MAGNATE...



HOW MANY HAS THIS "JOKER" FIGURE ALREADY KILLED?

TWENTY-FOUR. AND I EXPECT TO FIND MORE BODIES AT THE RESERVOIR.

AND THEN WE CAN BRING HIS NIGHTMARE TO AN END...

I'M NOT SURE THIS WILL BE THE END.

SIR?

IT'S... DIFFICULT TO PUT INTO WORDS, ALFRED.

HIS MOTIVATIONS ARE BEYOND WHAT I'VE ENCOUNTERED, NOT JUST IN GOTHAM, BUT IN ALL MY TRAINING.

IT FEELS LIKE AN OVER-SIMPLIFICATION TO CALL HIM INSANE...

I'VE SEEN MORE BODIES THAN I CAN COUNT, BUT THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A REASON BEHIND THE MURDERS. WHETHER IT'S A MEANS TO AN END...

OR THERE'S SOME KIND OF THRILL IN THE KILL ITSELF. A PLEASURE THEY CAN ONLY GET THIS WAY.

TO HIM, THEY'RE JUST... MEAT...

THE CITY, THIS WHOLE WORLD AND THE PEOPLE IN IT, THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD IN HIS EYES.

HE'S JUST HELPING THEM ALONG.

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE, ISN'T THERE?

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME.

I THINK ALL OF THIS... ALL THESE KILLINGS, AND THE RESERVOIR... I THINK THEY'RE SOME KIND OF TEST, TO UNDERSTAND MY LIMITS.

I THINK HE KNOWS HE'S GOING TO LOSE, BUT HE ALREADY KNOWS HOW HE WANTS TO COME AT ME NEXT TIME...AND THE TIME AFTER THAT.

I'M THE ONLY OTHER PERSON IN THIS WORLD HE THINKS IS ALIVE, AND BECAUSE OF THAT...

I DON'T KNOW THAT THIS BATTLE WILL EVER END.

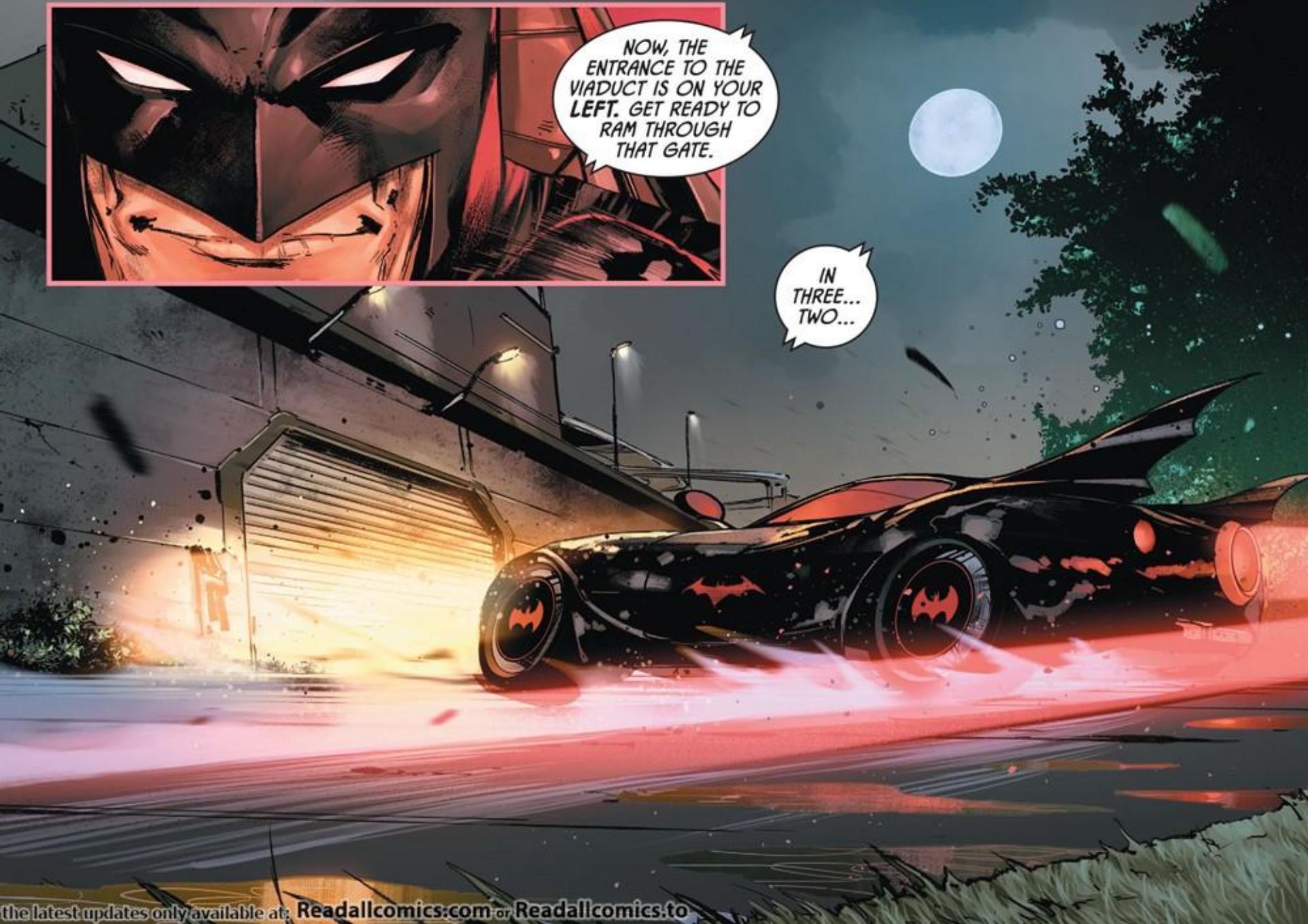
WELL, MASTER BRUCE, AT LEAST YOU WON'T BE WAGING IT ALONE.

ALFRED?

YOU DON'T THINK I'D LET YOU FIGHT A MURDEROUS NIGHTMARE CLOWN FOR THE REST OF TIME ON YOUR OWN, DID YOU?

NOW, THE ENTRANCE TO THE VIADUCT IS ON YOUR LEFT. GET READY TO RAM THROUGH THAT GATE.

IN THREE... TWO...



THE GOTHAM AQUEDUCT
THE PRESENT.



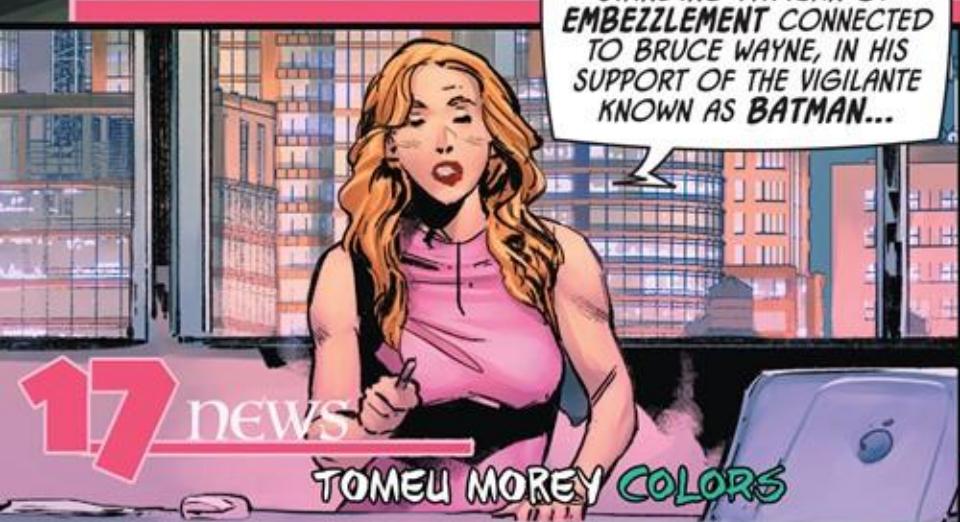
DC COMICS PRESENTS

THE JOKER WAR

PART ONE



JORGE JIMENEZ ARTIST



...HARLAN GRAVES, NEW LEGAL COUNSEL FOR WAYNE ENTERPRISES AND ITS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAS DEMANDED THE BATMAN HAND OVER ALL ILLEGALLY ACQUIRED TECHNOLOGY TO THE COMPANY AT ONCE...



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FREAKING NEWS

JIMENEZ & MOREY COVER

FRANCESCO MATTINA VARIANT COVER

THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN!



DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOC. EDITOR

THIS CITY DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU ANYMORE!



...UNDER DIRECTIVE OF THE WAYNE ENTERPRISES LEGAL TEAM, STATELY WAYNE MANOR IN THE PALISADES WAS REPOSSSESSED BY THE CITY EARLIER TONIGHT. THERE IS NO SIGN OF BRUCE WAYNE...



BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

IT BELONGS TO HIM!



...THE GOTHAM GAZETTE HAS RECEIVED A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CEASE AND DESIST AFTER RELEASING AN EDITORIAL CLAIMING THE JOKER IS BEHIND THE NEW COMPANY DECISIONS. THE PAPER RETRACTED THE STORY EARLIER TODAY...



BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

BOOOOOOM



**WAYNE
ENTERPRISES.**
TRICORNER
YARDS CAMPUS.

TELL ME
WHAT HE CALLED
THIS PLACE, MR.
FOX.

JOKER
ALWAYS LOVED
HIS LITTLE NAMES FOR
EVERYTHING. HE SAYS
BATMAN PRENTENDS IT'S THE
KIDS WHO NAMED THEM,
BUT HE KNOWS BETTER
THAN THAT.

NUH...
JOKER...I
WUH... WON'T
HELP...

OH, COME NOW, MR. FOX. **FOCUS.**
YOU'RE **HIS** CEO NOW. YOU HAVE
TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING IN THAT
SWEET OLD HEAD OF YOURS.
LET THE TOXIN DO THE WORK.
DON'T STRUGGLE.

TELL
ME WHAT HE
CALLS IT.

THE
HEH...
HEH
HEH...
THE
HIBERNACULUM.

AHH... WHERE BATS
BREED. THAT'S
DISGUSTING.

HE'S BEEN BREEDING
ALL SORTS OF LITTLE
BATS, HASN'T
HE?

IT'S LIKE
HE KNEW WE WERE
GOING TO GET OUR
HANDS ON IT. HE'S GIVEN
MY BOSS THE PERFECT
PRESENT, AND HE
DOESN'T EVEN
REALIZE IT.

WHERE...

WHERE IS
JOKER?

WHERE WOULD
YOU GO IF YOU
WERE SUDDENLY
WORTH ALMOST **ONE
HUNDRED BILLION
DOLLARS?**

PARK ROW.

"YOU'D GO SHOPPING."

YOU KNOW... THEY USED TO CALL THIS PART OF PARK ROW **CRIME ALLEY**.

YOU DON'T SAY.

OH, YES. USED TO BE YOU COULDN'T WALK DOWN THESE STREETS WITHOUT GETTING INTO SOME TROUBLE.

IF IT GOT TOO LATE, I USED TO SLEEP UP WITH ALL THE OLD REELS.

ESPECIALLY AFTER THE WAYNES.

I USED TO SAY THAT I COULD HEAR THE SHOTS FROM IN THE PROJECTIONIST BOOTH, BUT NOW I CAN'T REMEMBER IF THAT WAS REAL OR JUST A STORY I'D TELL.

IT GETS HARDER AND HARDER TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T IT?

I WAS JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I SAW A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE. WHEN I KNEW WE'D BE FRIENDS FOR LIFE.

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HARD.

THE DAD USED TO LIKE TAKING THE SON OUT HERE, WATCH THE MOVIES HE GREW UP WITH.

THEY WERE SITTING RIGHT UP FRONT. I'D SHOW YOU, BUT I DON'T THINK I COULD FIND THE SEAT WITH MY EYES.

I REMEMBER THE FEELING MORE THAN THE SPECIFIC MEMORY. LIKE COMING OUT OF A DREAM.

YOU KNOW... IT'S THE FUNNIEST THING... IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE ARE PEOPLE DOWN IN THE THEATER...

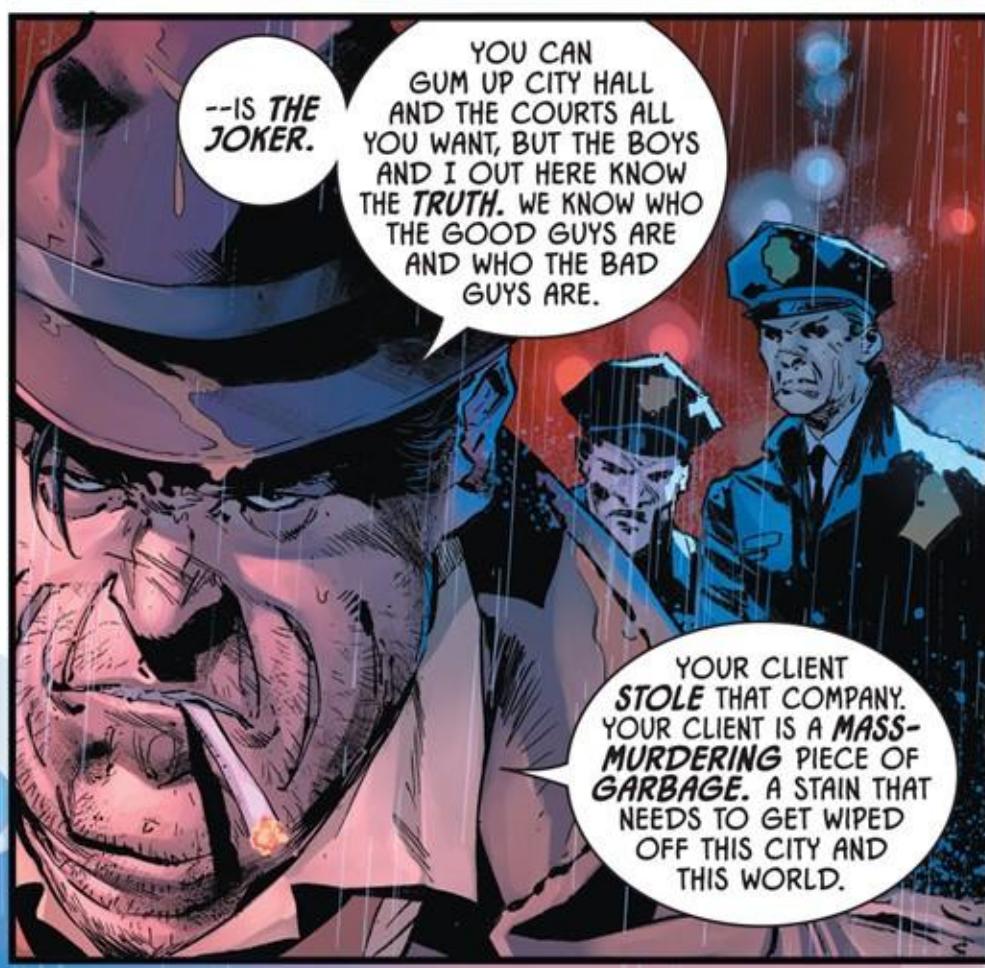






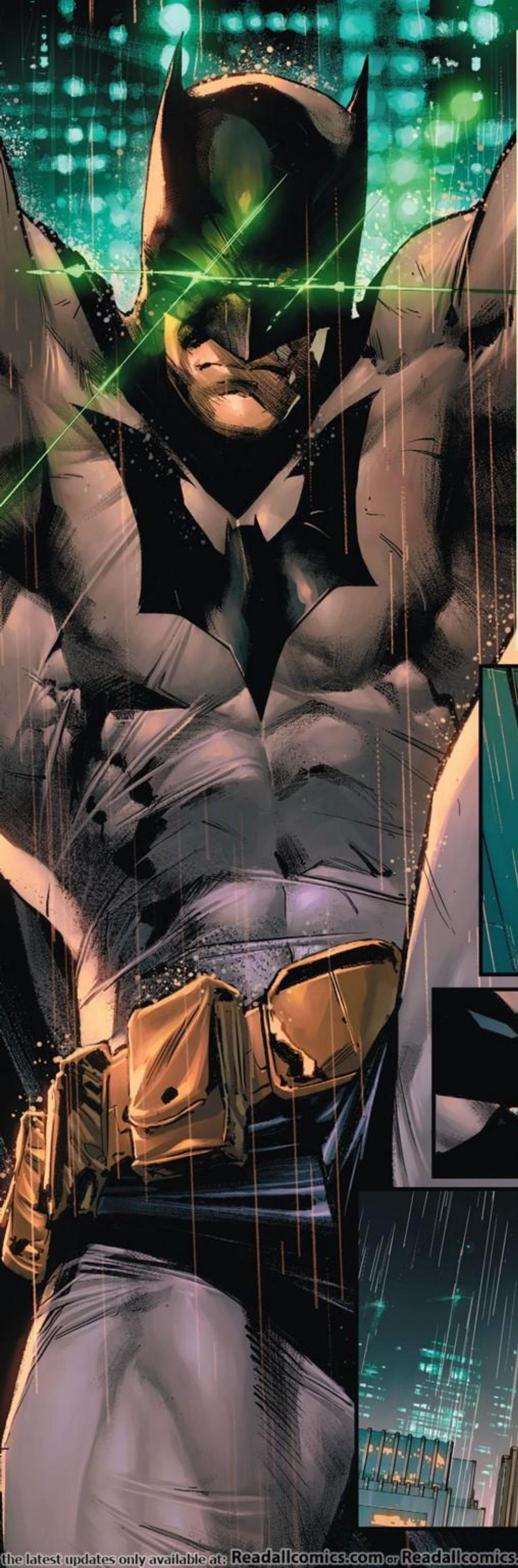
**WAYNE
ENTERPRISES.**
TRICORNER
YARDS CAMPUS.











COMPUTER,
GIVE ME EYES
IN THE BUILDING.
I WANT
JOKER.

HE'S
NOT HERE
RIGHT
NOW.

YOUR
FRIEND MR. FOX
OUTLINED THE SIX
MICRO-CAVES YOU
SNUCK INTO THE
BUILDING.

I'M
SORRY...
BATMAN...

IT'S LIKE
YOU PLANNED
FOR EVERY TYPE
OF ATTACK ON
GOTHAM CITY, AND HAD
A DIFFERENT CRISIS
CAVE TO OPERATE
OUT OF IN EACH
ONE...

OH,
SORRY. WAS
THIS SUPPOSED TO
BE A *SECRET*
HIDEOUT?

THIS
ONE WAS
MY FAVORITE.
WANNA KNOW
WHY?





THIS IS
THE ONE YOU
HADN'T **EARNED** YET.
IT'S THE ONE THAT YOU
WERE GOING TO UNLOCK
WHEN YOU AND MR. FOX AND
MR. WAYNE HAD FINISHED
BUILDING YOUR NEW
GOTHAM CITY.



I...
I HADN'T
SEEN...LUCIUS, YOU
DESIGNED
THIS?

NO...
FOUND IT ON
THE COMPUTER...
I THOUGHT IT
WAS YOU...

HAHAHAHAH!
AND YOU CALL
US CRAZY.

BUT YOU
DON'T GET YOUR
BEAUTIFUL CITY OF
THE FUTURE, YOU DON'T
GET YOUR NEW TOYS,
AND YOU DON'T GET
YOUR COOL NEW
DUDS.

WE
TOOK IT
ALL AND NOW
WE'RE GOING
TO KILL YOU
WITH IT.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

LOOKING
PRETTY ROUGH
OVER THERE, BATMAN.
I HEARD DEATHSTROKE
GOT YOU PRETTY BAD.
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T
GET STITCHED
UP RIGHT...

OH WAIT.
I KNOW WHAT
IT IS...EASY TO SLIP
MY MIND, SINCE I'VE
SPENT THE LAST YEAR
BUILDING UP MY
IMMUNITIES...



HE'S TAKEN
IT ALL! YOUR
VEHICLES, YOUR
CITY!

MASTER
BRUCE, YOU
NEED TO GET
OUT OF
THERE!

WE'RE
ALL DEAD
NOW.

NEXT: ALL THESE
WONDERFUL
TOYS!

