



A N N U A L

UNIVERSE

4

RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM

KING
FORNES
NORTON
STEWART

BATMAN

FROM THE DIARY OF
ALFRED
PENNYWORTH

A BATMAN TALE
LIKE NO OTHER!



Sunday, March 7th.

A group of men calling themselves "The Cavalry Charge" attempted to rob Gotham First National Bank...

...which is located at the bottom of Kubert Tower.

Gotham PD arrived on the scene in a prompt fashion, surrounding the tower.

This did not bother the Cavalry Charge as they had no plan to leave the bank.

At least not at the ground floor.

No, the men took the elevator to the rooftop, where they had staged a number of steeple-chase horses.

From there they planned to leap from building to building...

...eluding the police who would be stuck in late-night Gotham traffic.

There, they encountered Batman.







Monday,
March 8th.

Gotham is,
apparently,
cursed.

After a number of odd
occurrences and the
appearance of a dragon...

...Batman discovered that a
sixteenth century wizard-monk
placed a spell on the city.

This terribly evil man was
upset at Gotham's loss to
what he labeled a
"barbarous" tribe.

He cast:

"For Got'am,
For Got'am,
who would
ne'er be best.

"For the years and
fire, her destruction
wilt nest."

Or something
of the sort.

Regardless, this spell
was executed and today
it sees unfortunate
fruition.

However, I am
delighted to report
that the barbarous
tribe left a counter-
measure.

A sword forged in
the very blood of
the wizard-monk,
which is quite
convenient.

Batman
retrieved the
sword from the
Gotham
Museum.

And prepared
for battle.

This is, obviously, not Batman's first dragon.

KRAKK

I was therefore surprised to see, before he left the cave, a modicum of...

I inquired as to the basis for this mood.

At first he dismissed it as insignificant.

But then he could not help himself but to explain.

As is his nature.

...reservation in his eyes.

"It is that word," he said.
"In the curse."

KRASHH!!

"Nest."



Then, despite his reservation, he made his way to the car, to the danger.

SLASH!

He noted, whatever "nest" meant, he would discover it out there.

"Preparation is purpose," he said. "But preparation can also be paralysis."

AEEEEEEEEE



SCREEEE

SKRAK

"And while this city burns..."

"...I will not hold still."

Tuesday, March 9th.

About a year past, UFA champion Henry Feder offered a \$100 million purse, all to charity, for a chance to fight the Batman.

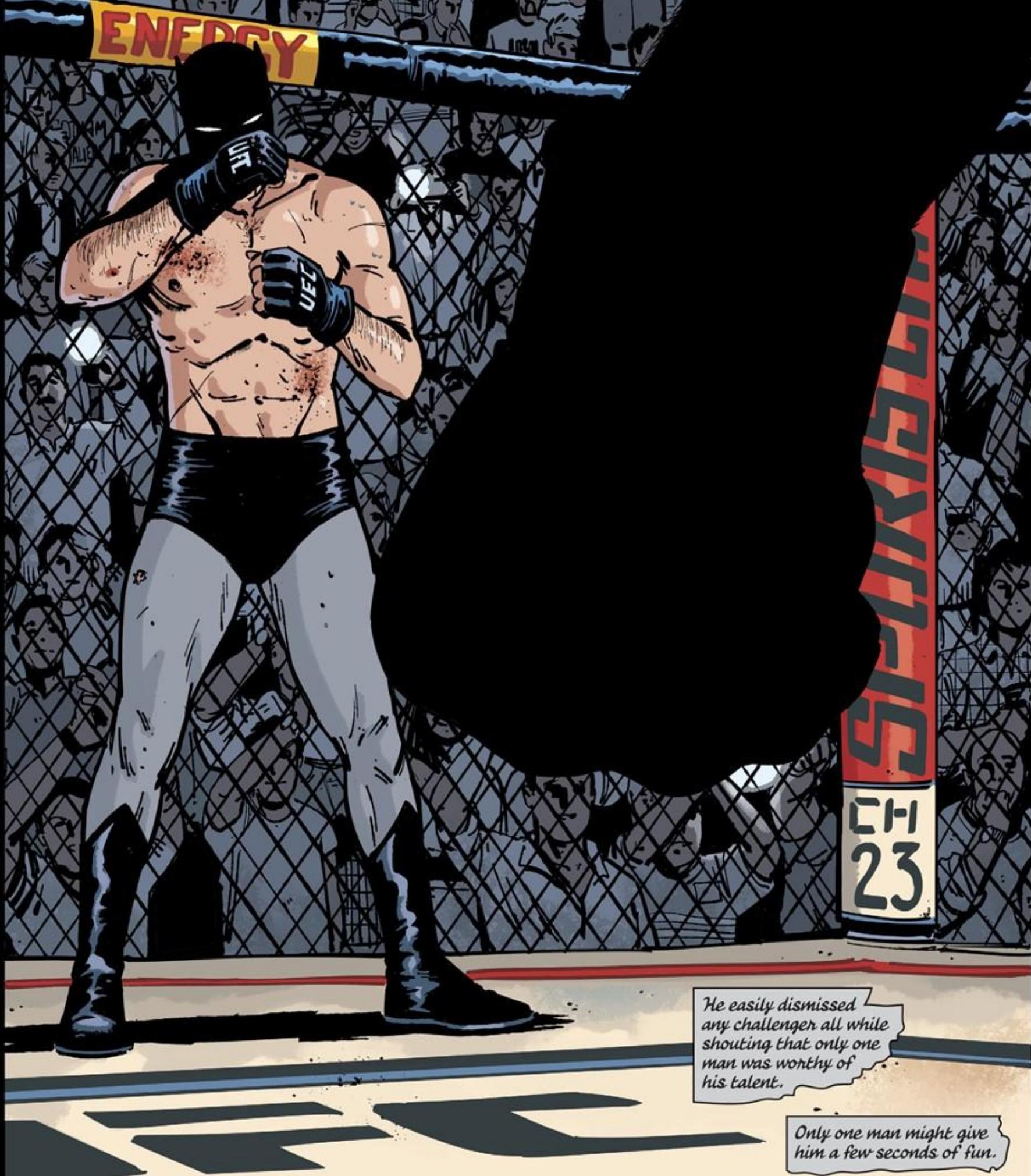
And about a year past this offer was politely ignored.

As time passed, Mr. Feder repeated this farce again and again.

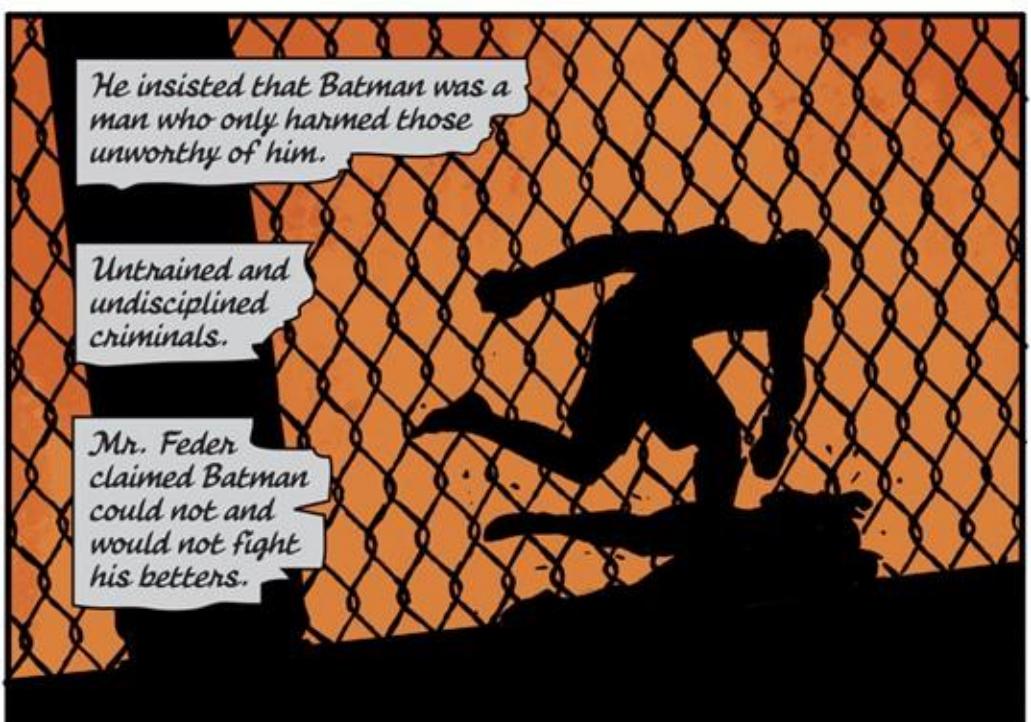
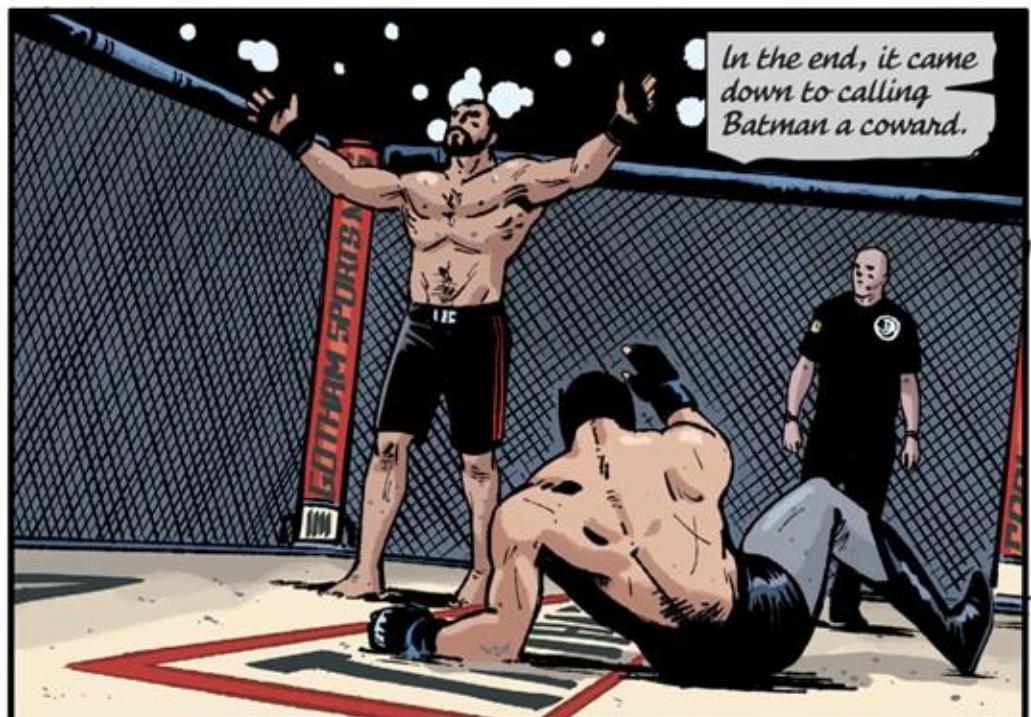
Noting that he was the undefeated champion in however many weight classes.

A master of every known form of martial combat.

Universally acknowledged as the greatest fighter in the history of his or indeed any sport.



When his derisive calls were not answered, Mr. Feder resorted to childish taunts.



However.

A few months back a video of Mr. Feder was made public.

WHUKKK





Wednesday, March 10th.

Colonel Eric Yellin, tragically murdered in his home.

After the war, Yellin had invested heavily in rebuilding Gotham's infrastructure.

He had turned his small inheritance into one of the great fortunes in the country.

Master Bruce had encountered him at several balls thrown for the rich and famous.

He had always found him to be a pleasant and generous fellow.

A man who believed in the benevolent potential of the future.

When word of his passing came over the wire, Batman decided to handle the case personally.

Six people were in the house at the time of the murder, which was determined to be at seven a.m.

Batman interrogated them each in turn.

Lena Yellin, the colonel's daughter.

A professor of mathematics at the local college.

Major Sander Cohan, a friend from the colonel's army days.

He was staying at the house after the death of his wife in India.

Molly Knowles, the maid on duty that morning.

Molly was in the kitchen, preparing coffee and breakfast for the colonel.

She claimed to have been asleep in her bedroom on the third floor.

Recent stress from her job had caused her to rely on sleeping pills.

Under their spell she heard nothing before being awoken by police sirens.

At the time of the murder he was taking a walk in the gardens, admiring the newly blooming daffodils.

After hearing a scream, he rushed into the living room and discovered the body.

When she heard the scream she collapsed onto the floor, unable to move.

Distraught to her bones, she could hardly talk when questioned.

Nathan Yellin, the colonel's son.

Nathan had just returned from Egypt, where he was studying the world's largest pyramid.

Nicole Yellin, the colonel's second wife.

She had awoken with the colonel and taken him downstairs.

Don Salinger, the colonel's lawyer and occasional poker partner.

Don had a meeting with the colonel that morning to discuss a private matter.

He heard the scream, but assumed it was his father demanding morning service.

His father could be very unpleasant in the morning, especially to the maid.

When she went to the kitchen to see how breakfast was coming she heard the scream.

She ran to the room and saw the body. Wracked with anxiety she clung to Major Cohan for support.

He was in the study, preparing for the meeting, when he heard the scream.

He hid under a desk, not proudly, and waited for the police to arrive.

Six suspects,
one murder.



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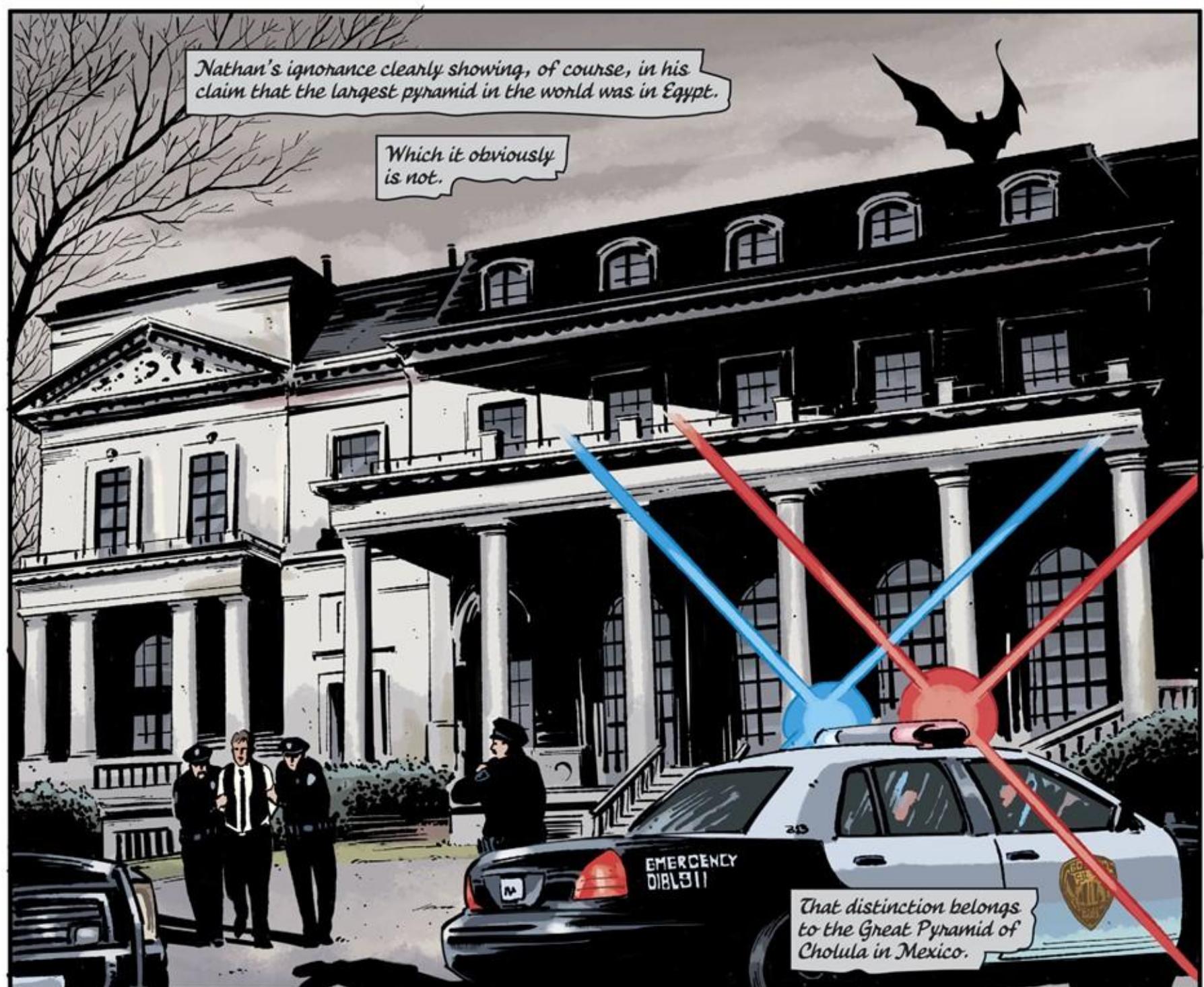
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Thursday, March 11th.

Adrienne Williams.

So many years ago.

Robinson High School prom.

His first tuxedo.
His first cologne.

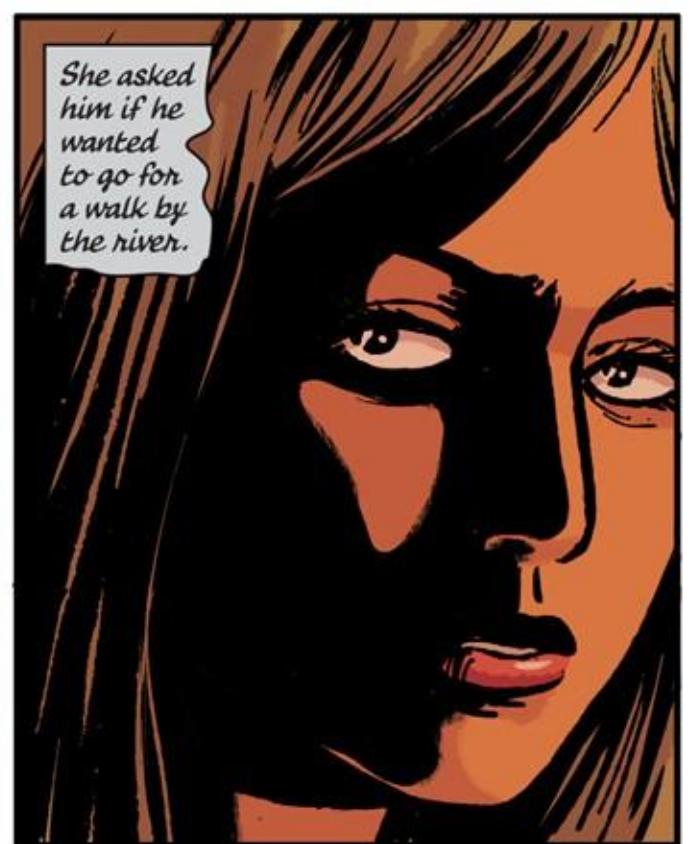
His first kiss.

Days later he would leave for the East.

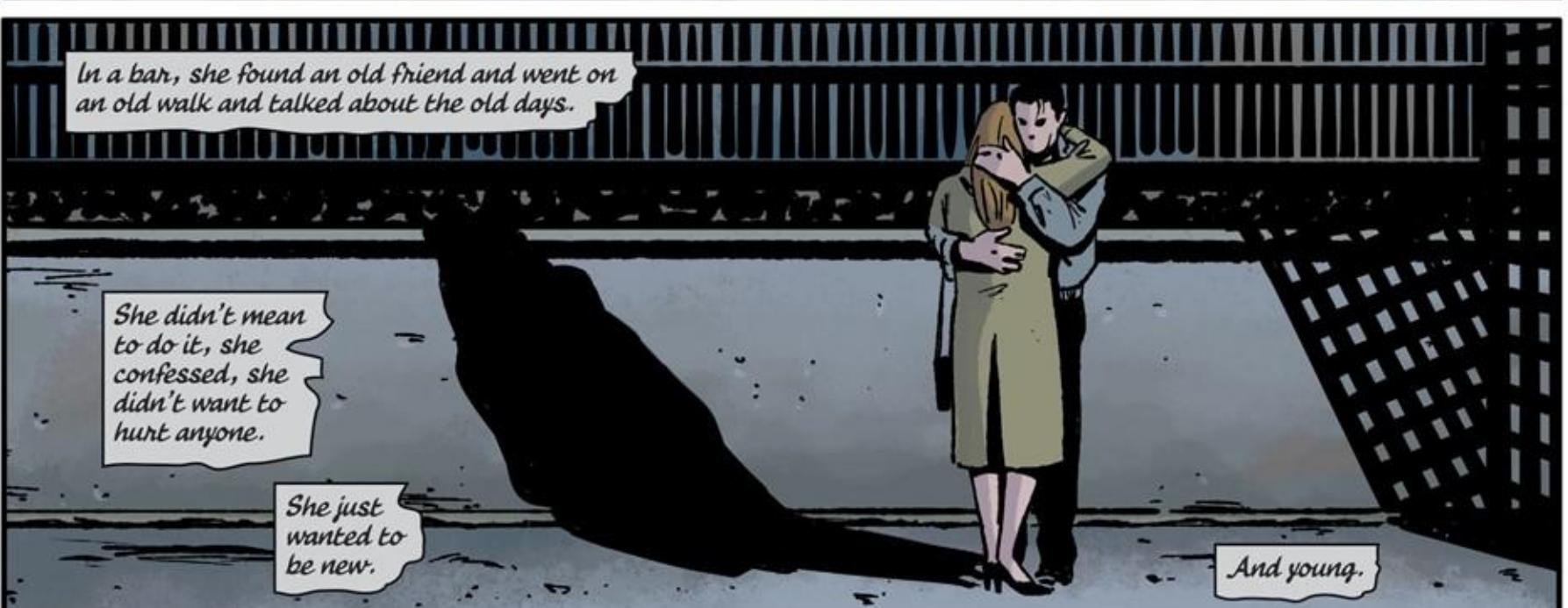
Bruce Wayne would never love again.

For after that, truly, sadly, there was no Bruce Wayne.









Friday, March 12th.

Batman intercepted a rather secret communication.

The codes to Gotham's missile defense system were being sold to a nonstate entity on the express to Metropolis.

Using these codes, this entity could set the missiles to detonate in place.

Killing millions.

Fortunately, the seller had never seen the buyer.

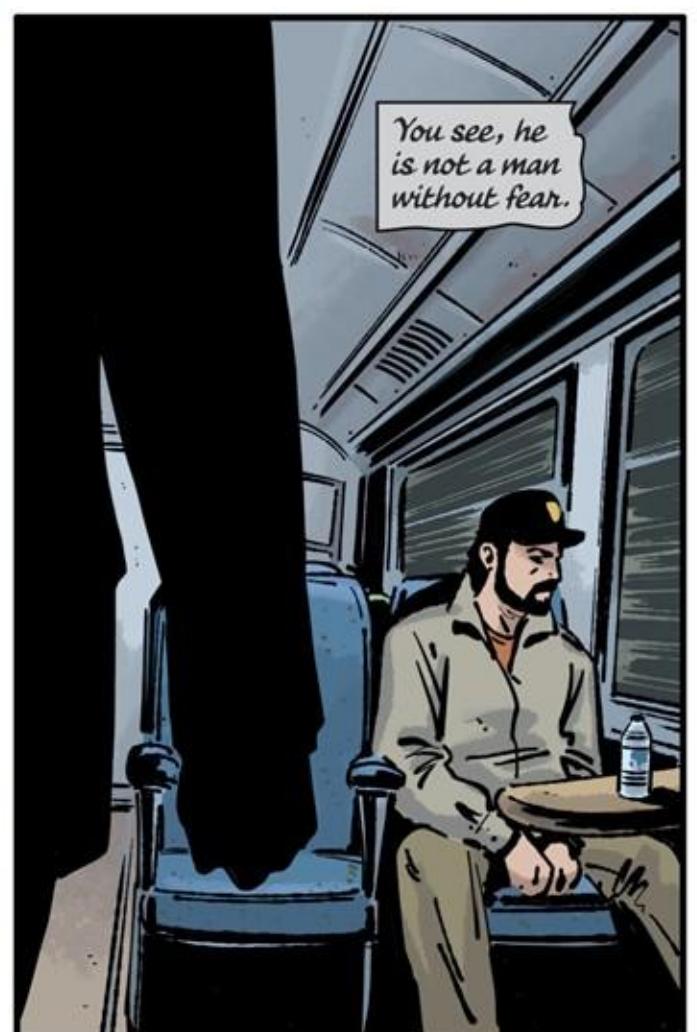
The seller said he'd meet the buyer on the midnight train to Metropolis.

The seller would be seated in the quiet car. He would be wearing a Gotham Knights baseball cap.

If Batman could get to this meeting at the correct time, he could identify both parties and secure the codes.

Unfortunately, the train had, quite literally, already left the station.







Saturday, March 13th.

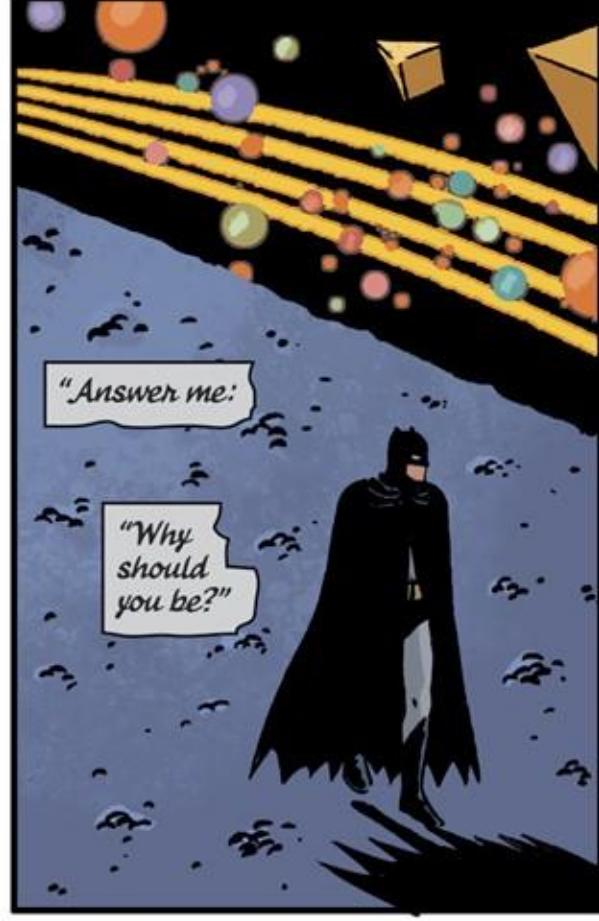
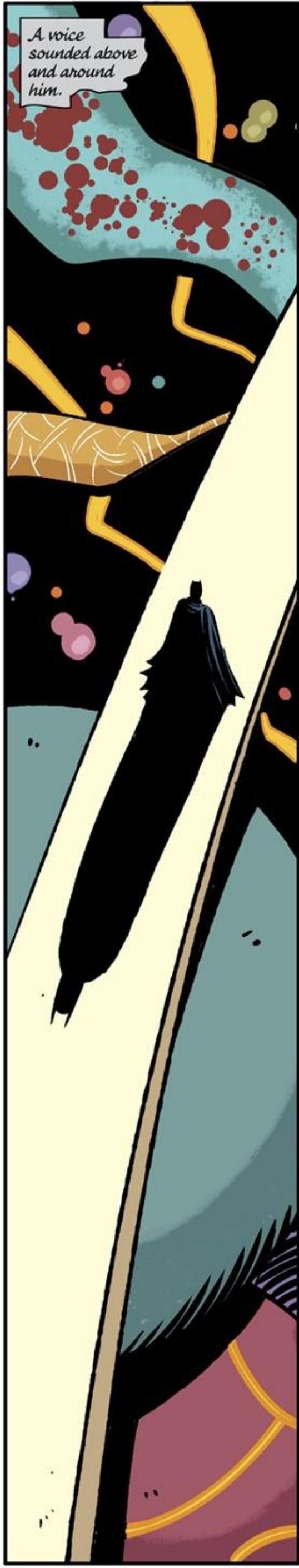
Batman found himself transported to the very limits of the universe.

Or perhaps the very limits of the mind.

If there is such a distinction to be made, that is.

Unsettled but also unshaken, Batman walked on.

And searched for answers.



Batman did not hesitate to respond.

"You come with threats and ask for knowledge."

"Well then, know this."

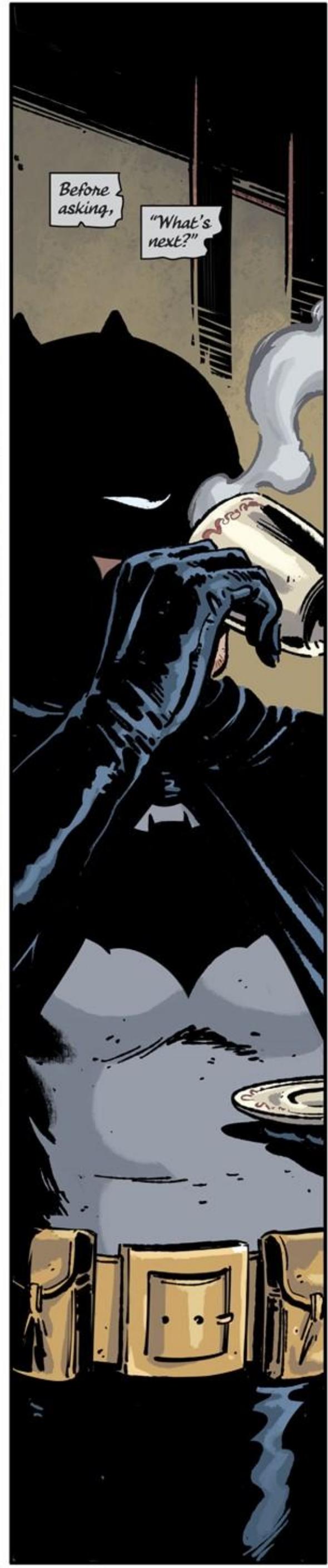


"If you try to hurt my universe, my world, my family."

"Like so many before you, you will fight, you will fail, and you will fall."







Sunday, March 14th.

Gotham subway employees unearthed a lost tomb glittering with gold.

They heard a creaking voice in the shadows.

"You are not to be here," it said.

Over and over.

"You are not to be here."



Monday, March 15th.

The monsters arrived unexpectedly.

With fire on their breath, they tortured the citizens of Gotham.

The city panicked. Everyone ran and hid.

Well, of course, not everyone.

Batman, as is his wont, took to the rooftops.

Tuesday, March 16th.

A small research submarine was damaged outside Gotham harbor.

It sank quickly into the depths.

The crew radioed for help, reported cracks in the hull.

There was little time left for them to live. They had messages for their families.

Messages of love and hope.

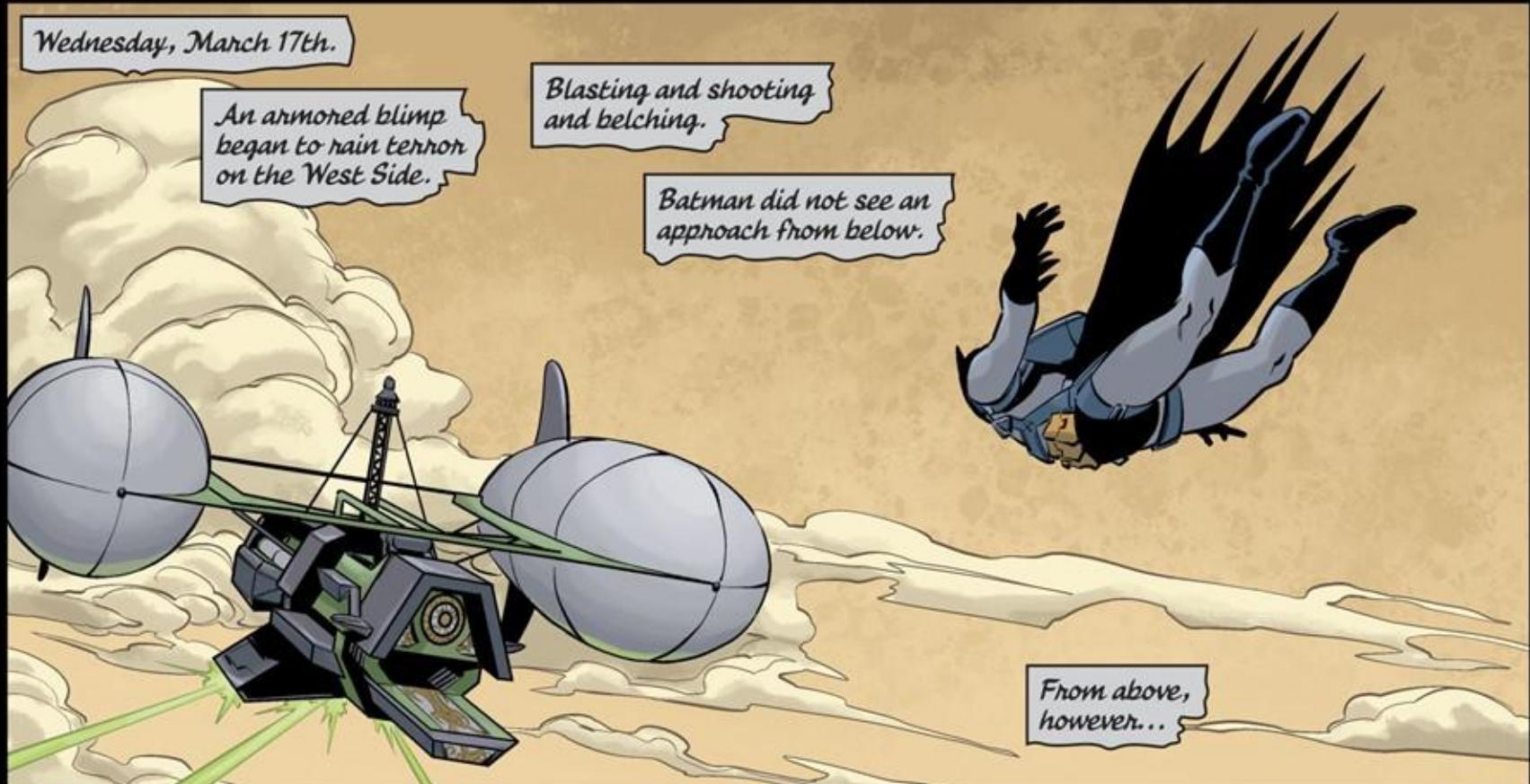
Batman listened as he dove into the water.

Wednesday, March 17th.

An armored blimp began to rain terror on the West Side.

Blasting and shooting and belching.

Batman did not see an approach from below.



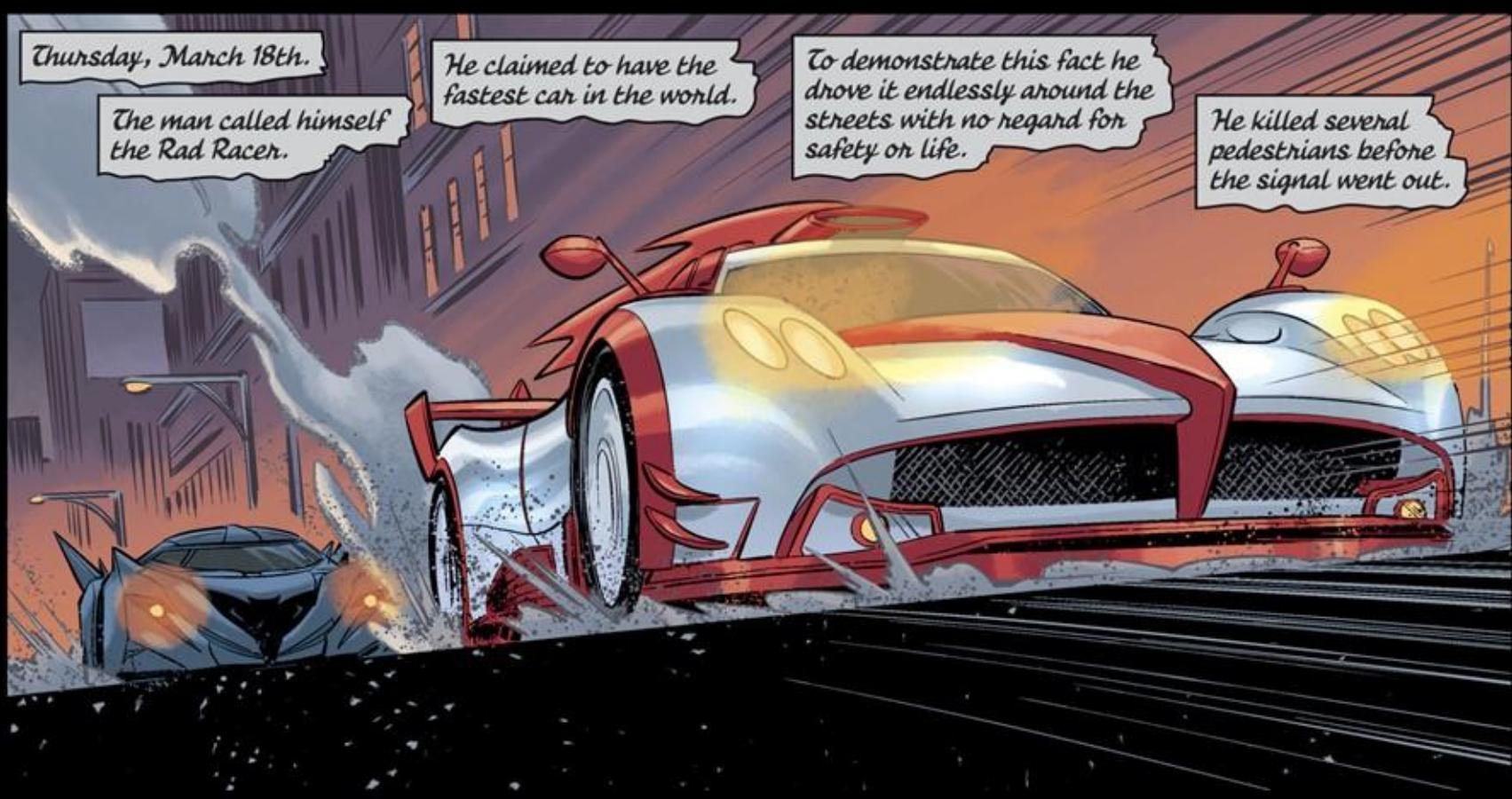
Thursday, March 18th.

The man called himself the Rad Racer.

He claimed to have the fastest car in the world.

To demonstrate this fact he drove it endlessly around the streets with no regard for safety or life.

He killed several pedestrians before the signal went out.



Friday, March 19th.

They found ten bodies underneath Vanya Chenka's basement.

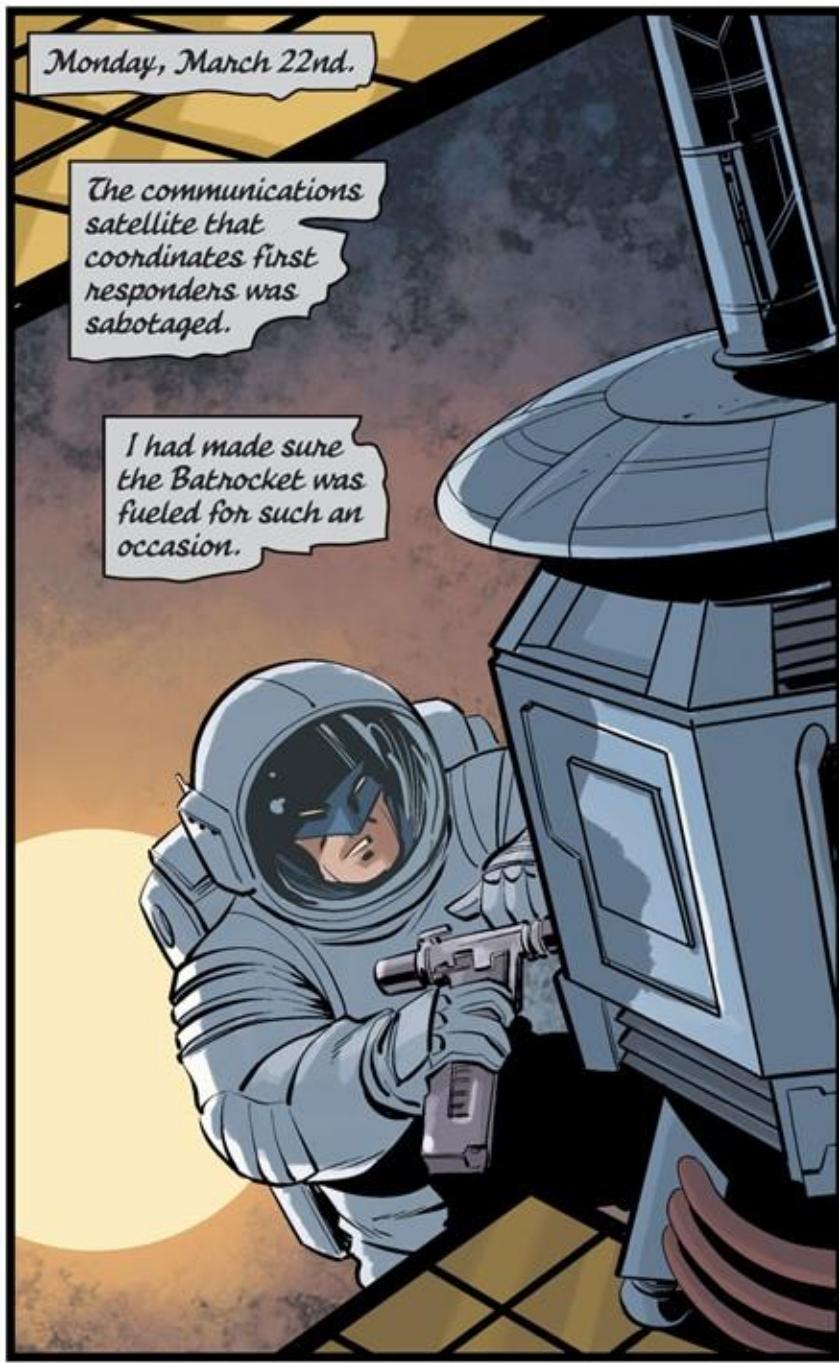
He said he was guilty. He was proud of the death.

He said there were more.

But he wouldn't tell where the more were.

After hours of interrogation, they called Batman.





Wednesday, March 24th.

A computer virus attempted to erase the identities of everyone in the city.

Thursday, March 25th.

Batman for the first time was able to remove cells infected by Joker's toxin.

Friday, March 26th.

Juan Castro's parents reported that he never came home from school.

Saturday, March 27th.

Large alligators had begun invading many Gotham homes.

Sunday, March 28th.

A disturbed man began flying an old plane, threatening to crash it into the highway.







Monday, April 19th.



DC Comics
Presents.

Tuesday, April 20th.



Wednesday, April 21st.



Everyday.

Thursday, April 22nd.



Friday, April 23rd.



TOM KING writer
JORGE FORNES (1-29, 38) &
MIKE NORTON (30-37) artists
DAVE STEWART colorist
CLAYTON COWLES letterer
DAVID WIELGOSZ asst. editor
ROB LEVIN assoc. editor
JAMIE S. RICH editor
BATMAN created by
BOB KANE with **BILL FINGER**

Saturday, April 24th.

