



AZZARELLO
RISSO

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
UTHORITY

BATMAN

BROKEN
CITY
6

EVERY TIME
I HEAR GUNFIRE...

THE SHARP CRACK
FOLLOWED BY THE
START OF AN ECHO
THAT'S SHATTERED
BY ANOTHER
CRACK, ECHO AND
ANOTHER CRACK...

...I MAKE A
PROMISE TO
MYSELF THAT IT
WILL BE FOR THE
LAST TIME.

BUT LIKE SOME CHEATING HUSBAND
WHO KNOWS HE'LL BE "WORKING
LATE" AGAIN, IT NEVER IS.

NOT FOR ME.

PUT
THE GUN DOWN,
ARNOLD.

SINCE WHEN
DOES THE DUMMY
TAKE ORDERS FROM
YOU, SHAMUS?

HE'S ON MY
PAYROLL--MEANIN'
I CALL THE SHOTS,
GET ME?

BUT, DON'T GET
ME WRONG--I GOT
NOTHIN' AGAINST THAT
STIFF AT'CHER FEET--
JUS' ANOTHER NICKEL
AN' DIME PUNK FAR AS
I'M CONCERNED--

--BUT TO A
DUMMY?

A DAMN STUPID
MOON-EYED
IDIOT WHO LETS
HIS LITTLE HEAD
DO THE TALKIN'
FOR HIS--

MR. SCARFACE?

SHUT UP.





I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP NIGHTS, NOT SINCE THE DAY HER BODY WAS FOUND. I JUST LAY IN BED, WONDERING...

...WHO WE WOULD HAVE INVITED TO OUR WEDDING...

...HOW SHE WOULD HAVE LOOKED WHEN SHE WAS OLD...



...WHAT WE WOULD HAVE NAMED OUR SON. NOT THAT WE KNEW, BUT, SHE WANTED A BOY.



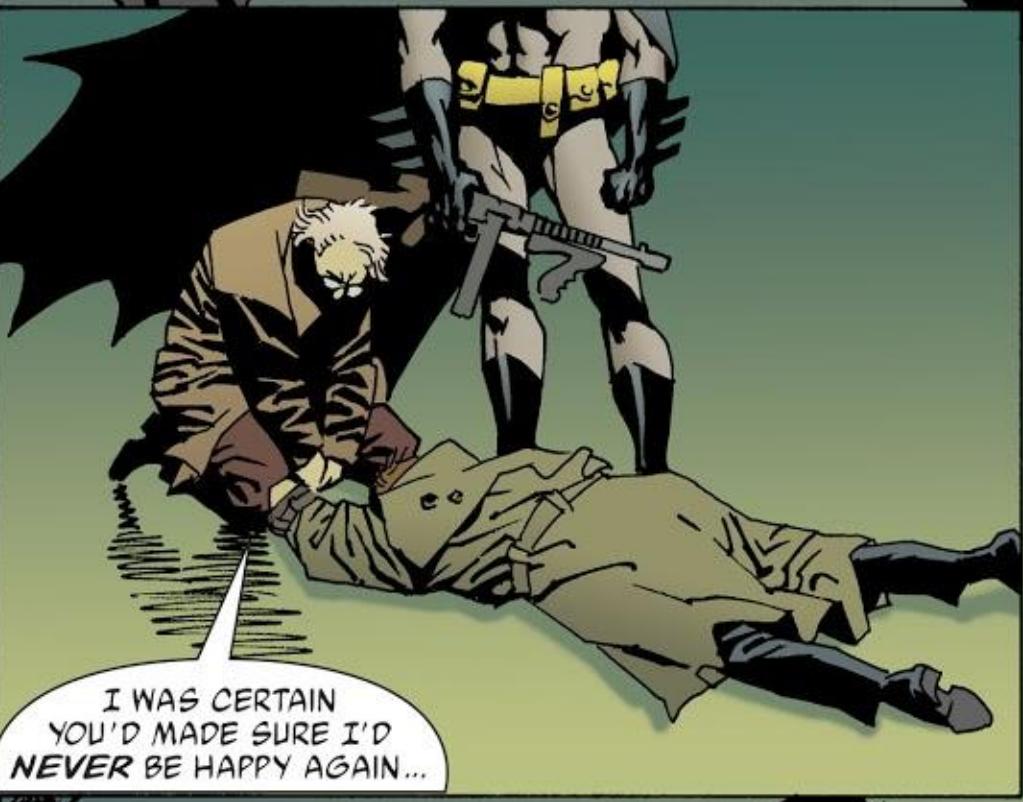
AND I WONDER, WHAT IF HE DIDN'T DIE WHEN SHE DID? WHAT IF HE WAS TRAPPED INSIDE OF HER? AS IF HIS MOTHER... SUDDENLY BECAME... HIS COFFIN AND HE WAS BURIED ALIVE...



I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE... STARVING? SUFFOCATING? FREEZING?



LIKE SOME MINER, LOST IN A CAVE-IN.



IF HAPPINESS IS ANYTHING,
IT'S HARD TO COME BY.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T
TELL ARNOLD THAT HE HAD IT
RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

WHEN SCARFACE'S
GOONS HAD OPENED
FIRE IN FRONT OF
PENGUIN'S CLUB, I
FIGURED THEY WERE
GUNNING FOR ME...



I DID, AND IT
CHILLED ME
MORE THAN
THE RAIN,
BECAUSE HE...

...ALWAYS...

...KEPT HIS
PROMISES.

TONIGHT, THREE INMATES
SIMULTANEOUSLY STUCK THEIR
ARMS UP WHERE THE SUN NEVER
SHINES AND PULLED THEIR GUTS
OUT INTO THE LIGHT OF DAY.

HE PROMISED THAT IT WOULD
HAPPEN AGAIN, UNLESS I
CAME TO SEE HIM IN...

...ARKHAM ASYLUM.

IF ARKHAM WASN'T
PROOF THERE WAS NO
GOD, IT CERTAINLY
MEANT THERE WAS A
PLACE--AND PEOPLE--
BEYOND HIS REACH.

HOME TO GOTHAM'S
CRIMINALLY INSANE, IT
WAS A STAIN ON THE
CITY, A DEPRESSINGLY
CONSTANT REMINDER OF
HUMAN POTENTIAL.

AND IF IT IS
GOD THAT
RAINS DOWN ON
GOTHAM, THEN
IT'S SURELY THE
DEVIL...

...THAT REIGNS
IN ARKHAM.

YOU
LOOK LIKE
HELL...

IT'S GOOD TO
SEE YOU. WELL, IT'S GOOD
TO SEE ANYONE WHOSE JOB
ISN'T TO CLEAN UP
AFTER ME.

OH, WAIT
A MINUTE--THAT
IS YOUR...WELL, IT
CAN'T BE A JOB,
BECAUSE NO ONE
PAYS YOU TO
DO IT.

IT'S A
LIVING.
BUT NOT
MUCH OF A LIFE. THAT IS,
IF WE ASSUME YOU DON'T
ENJOY IT.

WHAT IS IT
THEY SAY ABOUT
ASSUME?

THAT IT'S
MADE AN
ASS OUT
OF YOU...

GROWING NUTS?

PERIOD.

AS FOR
ME...

I'M
ENJOYING
THIS. YOU'VE
MADE SOME BIG
MISTAKES THE
PAST FEW
DAYS.



LITTLE
BIRDS.

MY
HOBBY.

SEE,
I'M YOUR
NUMBER
ONE
FAN.

YOU'RE
CRAZY.

I'M
FOCUSSED.

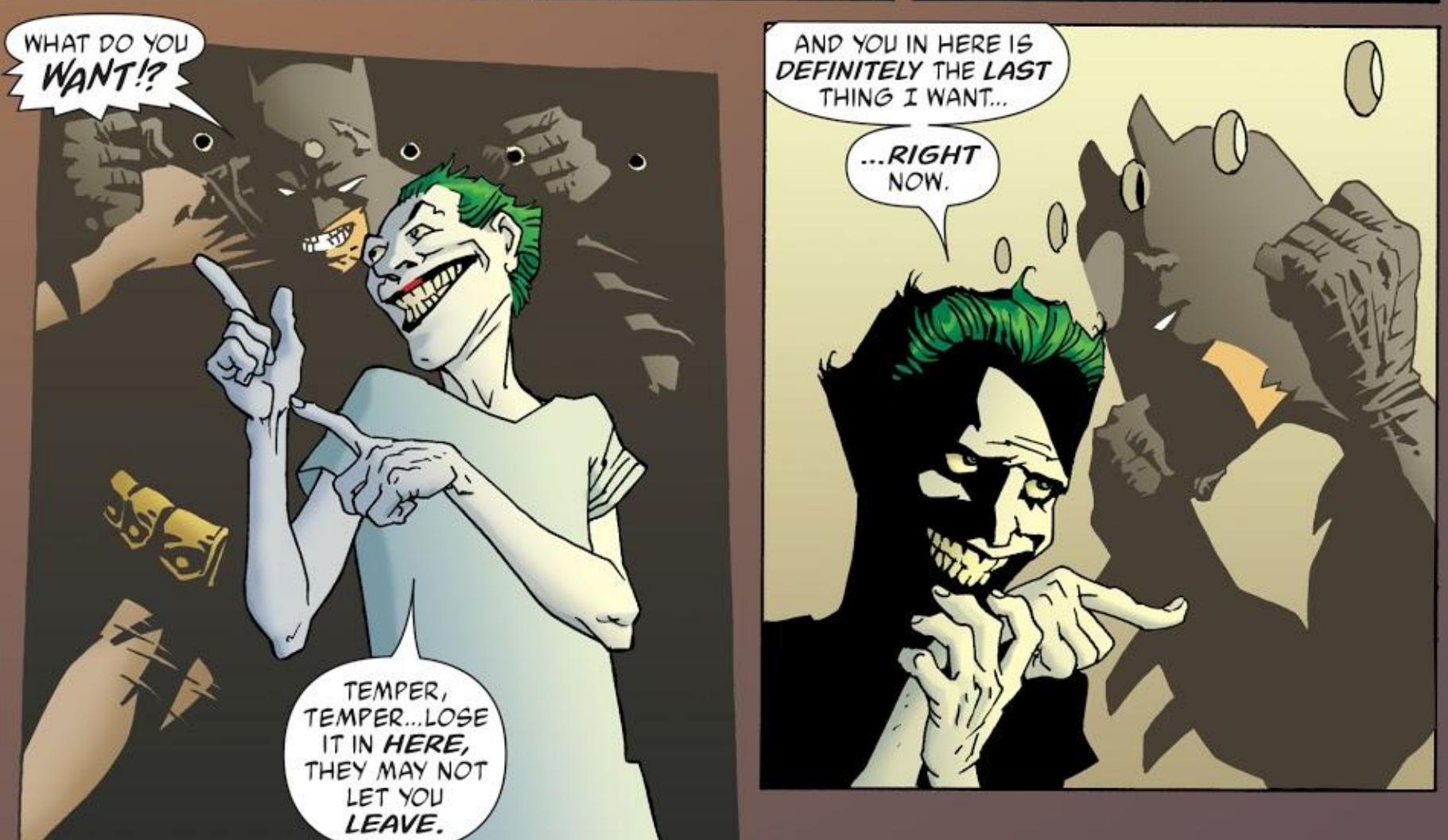
I KNOW
EVERYTHING
YOU'RE GOING TO DO
BEFORE YOU DO IT.
BUT YOU'VE DONE
THINGS LATELY
THAT...

...SURPRISED
ME.

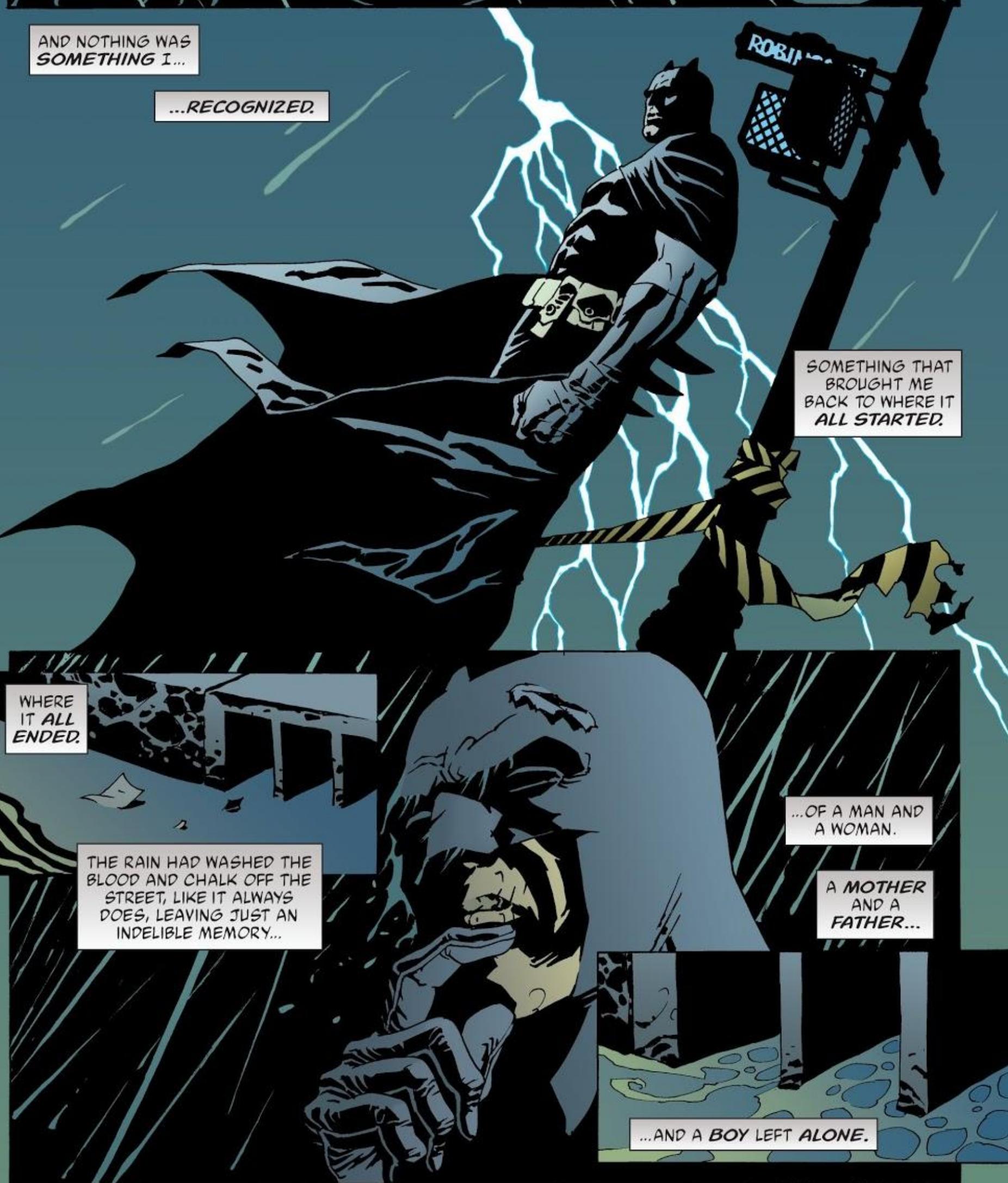


"AND I LOVE
SURPRISES,
ALMOST AS
MUCH AS I
LOVE YOU."











MY MOTHER WAS STUNNING, CONFRONTATIONAL AND CHARMING--THE KIND OF WOMAN EVERY MAN ADORED.

I WAS NO EXCEPTION.

MY FATHER WAS A VERY WEALTHY MAN, AT A TIME WHEN WEALTH DIDN'T MEAN CELEBRITY, BUT RESPONSIBILITY. AND RESPONSIBILITY MEANT HIS TIME WASN'T HIS OWN--OR MINE.

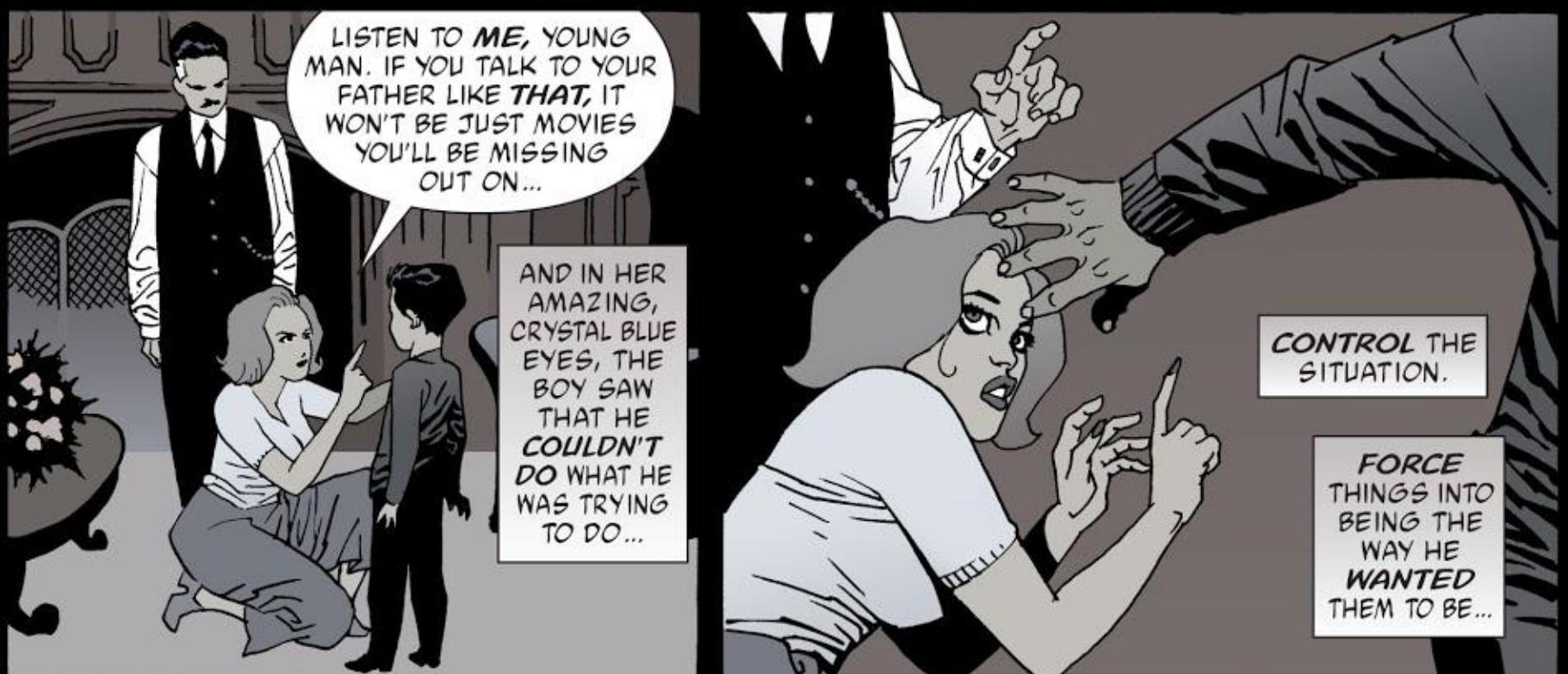
I TOOK EXCEPTION TO THAT, BEING A BOY.



I WAS SO IN AWE OF HIM I NEVER DARED LET MY FEELINGS BE KNOWN, BUT HE KNEW. WHEN HE COULD SWINDLE A MINUTE FOR ME, HE ALWAYS DID. WHEN HE COULD STEAL A NIGHT...

...IT WAS SPECIAL. WHEN HE ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO GO TO THE MOVIES, I WAS SO HAPPY I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

AND WHEN HIS RESPONSIBILITY TRIED TO ROB IT BACK...



SO HE SCREAMED
AT HIS PARENTS.

SCREAMED
THREE WORDS.

THREE
WORDS.

...AND KNOWING
WHAT LINE HE
HAD CROSSED
WITH THOSE
WORDS, HE RAN.

...AND THEY
FOLLOWED.

BRUCE?

HE RAN...

JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!

HE WAS HURT,
COMING IN SECOND TO
RESPONSIBILITY,
AND HE WANTED TO
PUNISH THEM FOR IT.

THE NEXT DAY
HE DIDN'T SAY
ANY WORDS.
NOT EVEN WHEN...

BRUCE,
WE'RE
GOING.

IF YOU'RE
COMING
WITH US YOU'D
BETTER HURRY.
I DON'T WANT
TO MISS THE
CARTOONS.



HIS SILENT, TOUGH GUY
ROUTINE HAD **WORKED**.
HE GOT HIS WAY, BUT FELT
GUILTY FOR IT. BEING A
BOY, HE **BLAMED** HIS
PARENTS FOR THAT TOO.

SO HE KEPT HIS **MASK** ON TO SAVE FACE.
HE WANTED TO LET HIS MOTHER AND FATHER
OFF THE HOOK, BUT IT WAS HARD, AND HE
COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS TO DO IT...





...SO HE WAS
LEFT--ALONE--



--WITH THE
LAST WORDS HE
SAID TO THEM.

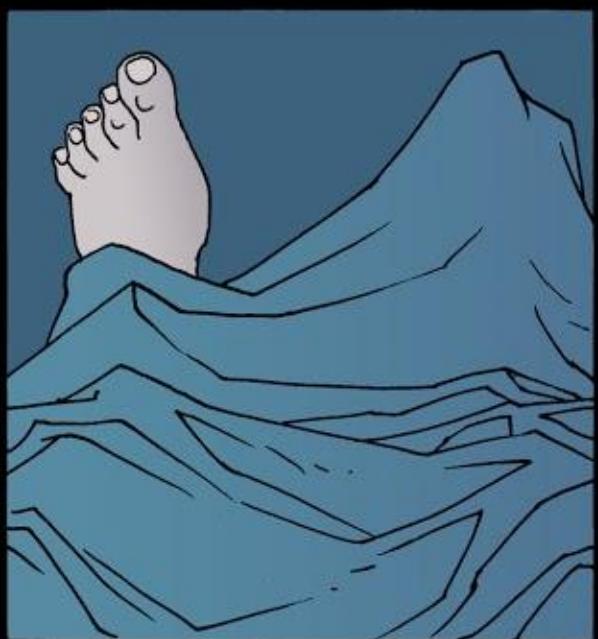
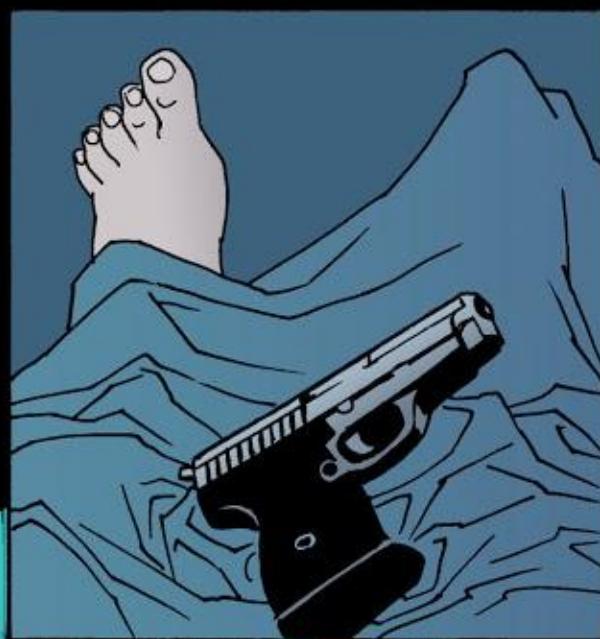


MAYBE HE'LL
SPEND HIS
LIFE TRYING
TO TAKE
THOSE WORDS
BACK...



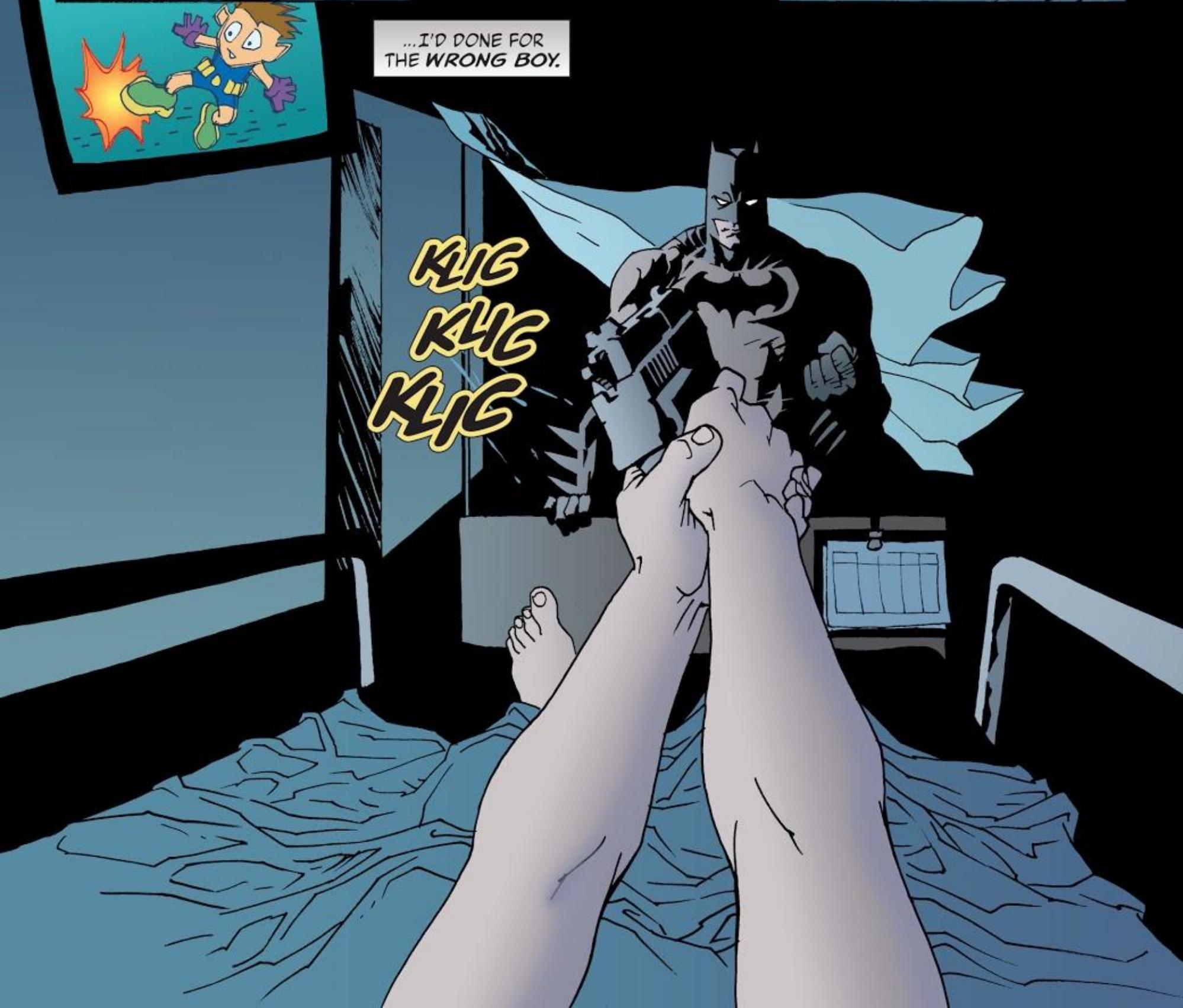
...OR MAYBE HE
MEANT THEM.

EVERYTHING
I'D DONE IN THE
PAST FEW DAYS...



...I'D DONE FOR
THE WRONG BOY.

KLIC
KLIC
KLIC







THE RAIN SEEMED TO BE LETTING UP, COMING DOWN IN DRIBBLES AND SHAKES--MEANING GOD WAS DONE WITH GOTHAM.



THE RAIN SEEMED TO BE LETTING UP, COMING DOWN IN DRIBBLES AND SHAKES--MEANING GOD WAS DONE WITH GOTHAM.



I APPRECIATED THAT HIS TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN WORSE FOR ME, BUT I FELT LUCKY TO FIND A BROKEN GUTTER, SO I COULD HIDE THE STREAM RUNNING DOWN MY FACE.



AND AS THE SUN, THAT HAD BEEN TOO AFRAID TO SHOW ITS FACE IN THIS CITY, STARTED TO TURN THE BLACK INTO GREY, I SMILED.



NOT OUT OF HAPPINESS. BUT BECAUSE I KNEW...

...THAT ONE DAY, I
WOULDN'T HAVE TO
DO THIS ANYMORE.

ONE DAY, I
COULD STOP
FIGHTING,
BECAUSE
ONE DAY...

...I WOULD WIN.
ONE DAY, THERE
WILL BE NO PAIN,
NO LOSS...

...NO CRIME.

BECAUSE OF
ME, BECAUSE I
FIGHT. FOR YOU.

ONE DAY,
I WILL WIN.

I HOPE, FOR
YOUR SAKE,
THAT DAY IS
TOMORROW.



BROKEN CITY CONCLUSION

Written by **BRIAN AZZARELLO**
Illustrated by **EDUARDO RISSO**

Colored by **Patricia Mulvihill**
Lettered by **Clem Robins**
Cover by **Dave Johnson**
Assistant Editor **Casey Seijas**
Edited by **Will Dennis**
and **Bob Schreck**
Batman created by **Bob Kane**