



# BATMAN

543 JUN 97

MOENCH  
JONES  
BEATTY

A MOMENT OF TRUTH,  
A MOMENT OF TERROR--

SOME BODY

--A MOMENT OF SWIFT,  
SUDDEN VENGEANCE...

KELLEY  
JONES

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

SO WHY DOES THE  
KILLER "SCALP" HIS  
VICTIMS' FACES?

BECAUSE HE HATES  
WHO THEY ARE... WHAT  
THEY LOOK LIKE?

OR IS IT  
BECAUSE HE'S  
JEALOUS OF  
THEIR IDENTITIES?

WHY?

MAYBE BECAUSE  
HE HAS NO IDENTITY,  
EXPLAINING HIS NAME--  
"FACELESS."

FACELESS PART  
II  
POSTMARKED  
MURDER

AND MAYBE  
YOU'RE READING  
TOO MUCH INTO  
IT--

--SINCE THE NAME  
ALSO DESCRIBES HIS  
VICTIMS WHEN HE'S  
DONE WITH THEM.

THEN WHAT ABOUT  
THE MESSAGES HE  
SCRAWLS AT EACH  
MURDER SCENE?

WHAT DO  
THEY SUGGEST  
TO YOU?

CONFUSION...  
CONFLICT-- LIKE  
THE "MURDUCIDE"  
ONE.

HOW CAN ANY KILLING BE MURDER AND  
SUICIDE AT THE SAME TIME?

THE KILLER  
"BECOMES" EACH  
VICTIM-- BY WEARING  
A GROTESQUE PARODY  
OF THEIR FACES.

SO EACH  
TIME HE  
MURDERS,  
HE'S "KILLING  
HIMSELF"?

SOMETHING LIKE  
THAT... OR CAUSING  
HIS VICTIMS TO BE  
"KILLED BY THEM-  
SELVES."

SO EITHER  
HE HATES HIS  
VICTIMS OR HATES  
HIMSELF.

MAYBE  
BOTH.

"THE MESSAGES ALSO SUGGEST HE'S BEGGING TO BE STOPPED BUT DOING HIS BEST TO AVOID CAPTURE."

"WHICH IS NOT UNUSUAL, ROBIN. THE URGE TO BE CAUGHT--TO FIND A CERTAIN PEACE IN PUNISHMENT--OCCURS IN FLEETING MOMENTS OF REMORSE. MOST OF THE TIME, A SERIAL KILLER OBEYS THE USUAL INSTINCTS FOR SELF-PRESERVATION. FIGHT OR FLIGHT."

"SO HE MAKES SURE HE'S 'FACELESS'--OR ACTUALLY, MANY-FACED. THE SAME KILLER, BUT WITH A DIFFERENT LOOK FOR EACH KILL. A MURDERER WITH AS MANY FACES AS VICTIMS, NONE HIS OWN...MAKING HIM VERY HARD TO FIND."

"UNLESS THERE'S SOME LINK BETWEEN THE VICTIMS, ROBIN--AND THEREFORE A LINK TO HIM?"

"BUT IF HE'S A RANDOM KILLER--PREYING ON PEOPLE HE'S NEVER EVEN MET BEFORE?"

"THEN IT BECOMES INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOME KIND OF LINK. THE KILLER STILL HAS TO GO 'HUNTING,' AND PREDATORS ARE CREATURES OF HABIT. IF THE VICTIMS ARE ALL YOUNG WOMEN, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH HAIR OF THE SAME COLOR AND LENGTH--"

"NOT MUCH OF A LINK."

"NO, BUT THE KILLER WOULD PROBABLY BE SOMEONE WHO FREQUENTS COLLEGE CAMPUSES, SINGLES BARS, MODELING AGENCIES--PLACES WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS MATCHING HIS CHOSEN TYPE. THE EASIEST MURDERER TO CATCH IS ONE WHOSE VICTIMS ARE ALL INTIMATELY LINKED--ALL MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY, FOR EXAMPLE."

"BUT IN THIS CASE..."

"THE VICTIMS ARE UNRELATED AND ALL OVER THE CHART IN TERMS OF AGE, OCCUPATION, STATUS--EVEN GENDER DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER. NO LINKS WHATSOEVER, OTHER THAN GEOGRAPHY--ALL KILLED IN THEIR HOMES, ON THE WEST SIDE OF GOTHAM..."

WELL, BY YOUR LOGIC, GEOGRAPHY IS SOMETHING.

NOT MUCH.

EVEN IF FACELESS LIVES IN THE AREA--WHICH IS HARDLY GUARANTEED --

--THE LIST OF SUSPECTS IS "NARROWED" TO A HALF-MILLION OR MORE.

WHAT ABOUT PRIOR CONVICTIONS AMONG THAT HALF-MILLION?

NONE WITH M.O.S THAT FIT.

YOU MEAN TAKING THE FACE OF EACH VICTIM--LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY.

YES...

THAT AND THE SCRiwED MESSAGES...  
THE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS...

HARD  
M.O. TO  
MISS.

AND NOTHING LIKE  
IT ANYWHERE -- NOT  
EVEN IN THE NATIONAL  
DATA BANK -- NOTHING  
EVEN CLOSE.

WE'RE  
LOOKING AT  
FIRST CRIMES  
HERE.

THIS KILLER HAS  
JUST STARTED--

FLAFT

-- AND  
HE'S FAR FROM  
FINISHED.

UNLESS ARKHAM'S  
POPULATION IS INCREASED  
BY ONE MADMAN WITH MANY  
FACES WHEN YOU STOP  
HIM ... OR WHEN WE  
STOP--

THANKS,  
TIM.

FOR WHAT? I DIDN'T  
REALLY DO ANYTHING  
EXCEPT LISTEN.

IT HELPED.

IF YOU'RE  
GOING AFTER  
HIM, WHY NOT LET  
ME REALLY  
HELP?

YOU CAN  
DO THAT BEST  
FROM HERE.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK BY THE  
COMPUTER -- I MAY NEED YOU  
TO WORK IT.

YEAH, SURE...  
BUT ORACLE'S  
GOT A COMPUTER,  
Y'KNOW.

WHAT?  
NOTHING.

WH-WHO...  
WHO ARE  
YOU?!

I'M FACELESS,  
MR. FLORIST...

WEST GOTHAM  
Florist

SALE  
50% OFF  
DELIV  
ONLY

...AND  
SO ARE  
YOU.

N-NO...

I'M THE MAILMAN  
AND THIS IS A SPECIAL  
DELIVERY!

THE M-  
MAILMAN--?

ROSE-RED,  
MR. FLORIST, BUT  
HARDLY FLOWERS!

NOTHING BUT GEOGRAPHY.

ALL THREE SCENES--  
AND FOUR MURDERS--  
WERE IN WEST GOTHAM.

A LARGE AREA, BUT THE  
ONLY LINK I'VE GOT...

MAYBE LUCK  
WILL BE ON  
THE SIDE OF  
LIFE.

TIME TO PUSH  
UP DAISIES, MR.  
FLORIST!

NO--!

NOT  
DEATH!

I DON'T  
DESERVE TO  
DIE! I DON'T  
WANT TO  
DIE!

TOUGH  
TIGER-LILIES,  
MR. FLORIST!

KEEESH

EEYAAHHH!

SHATTERED GLASS AND  
A SCREAM--NO MORE  
THAN TWO BLOCKS AWAY.

NOT  
FAR...

I'M STILL  
NOBODY.

NO MATTER HOW  
MANY FACES I POCKET...  
I'M STILL FACELESS.

BUT EXACTLY  
WHERE?

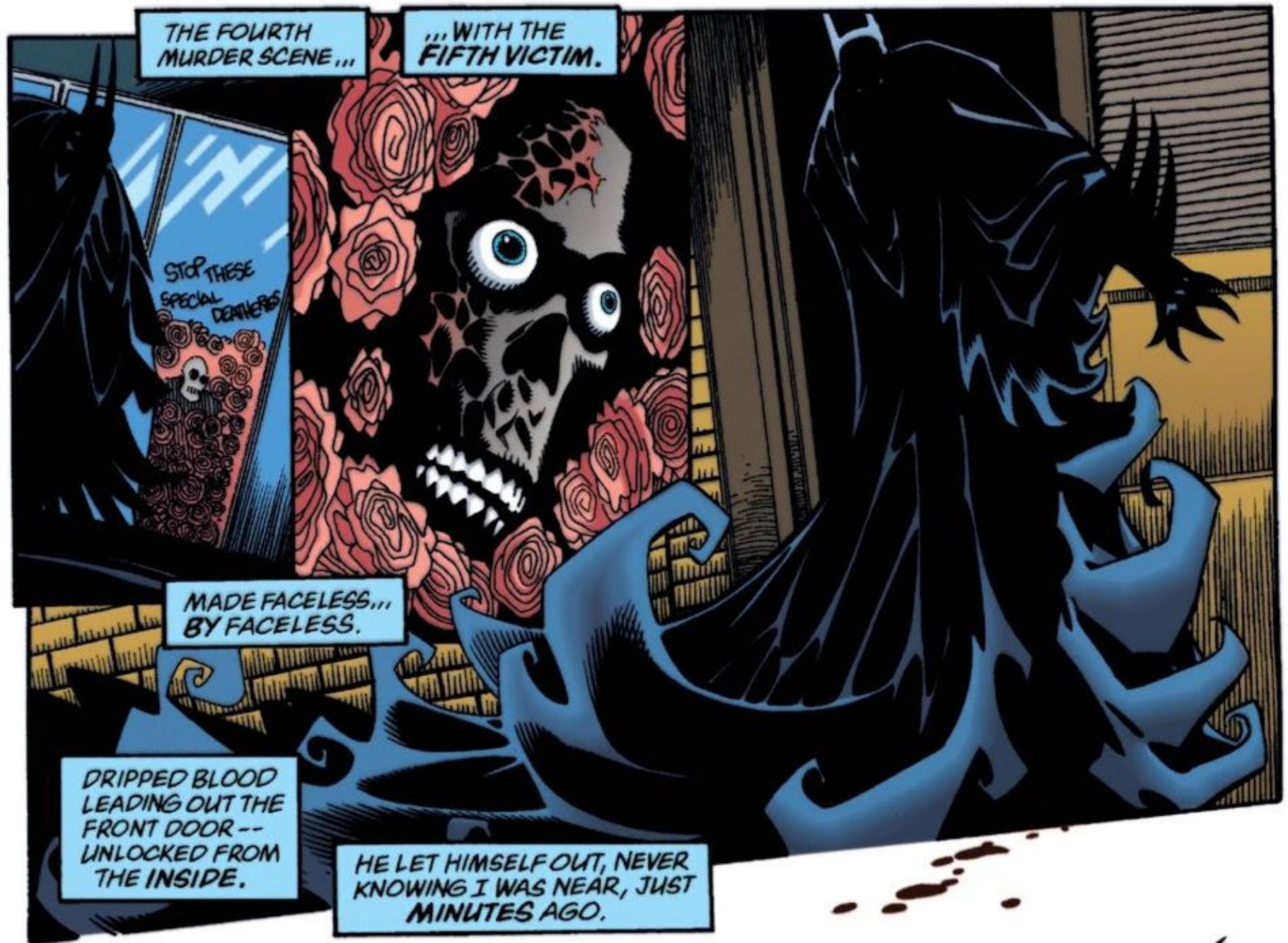
I'LL  
ALWAYS BE  
FACELESS.

HERE--THE REAR OF  
A FLORIST SHOP...

KEEP DOOR SHUT  
REFRIGERATED  
CONTENT

BUT I'M  
TOO LATE.

STOP THESE  
SPECIAL DEATHERIES



HE TURNED THE CORNER  
--OUT OF SIGHT.

THIS  
FACE IS  
DEAD.

FASTER.

GOT TO OVERTAKE  
HIM BEFORE --

NO!

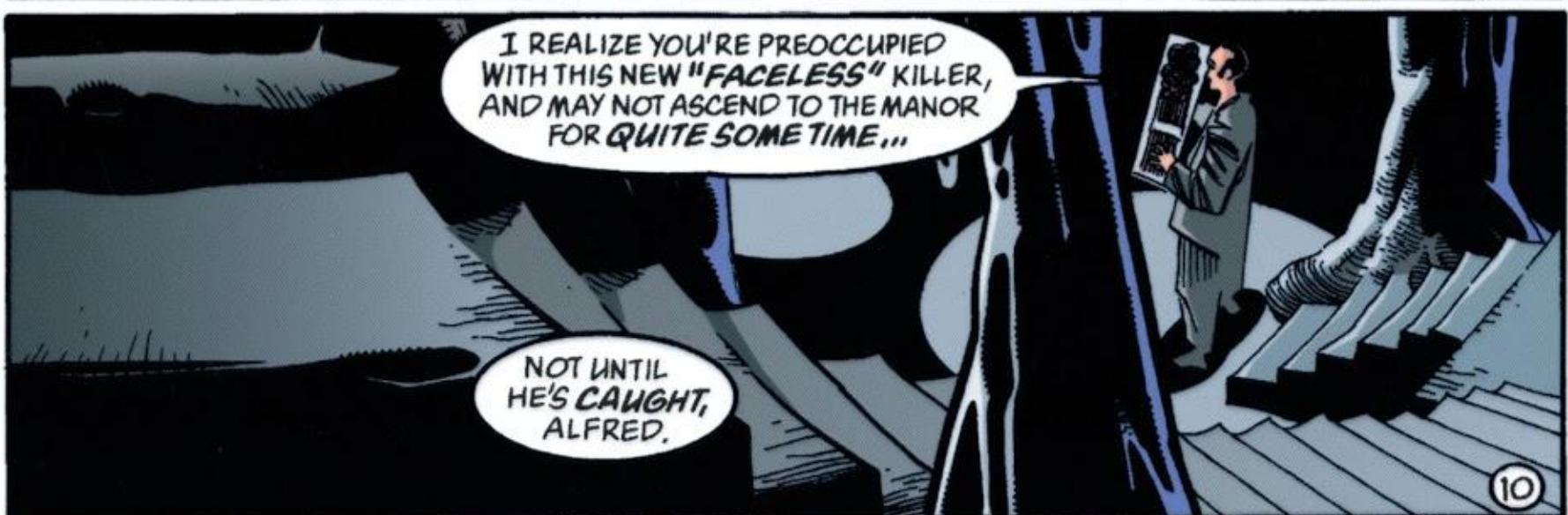
TIME  
FOR A NEW  
ONE.

THE THEATER--END  
OF PERFORMANCE.

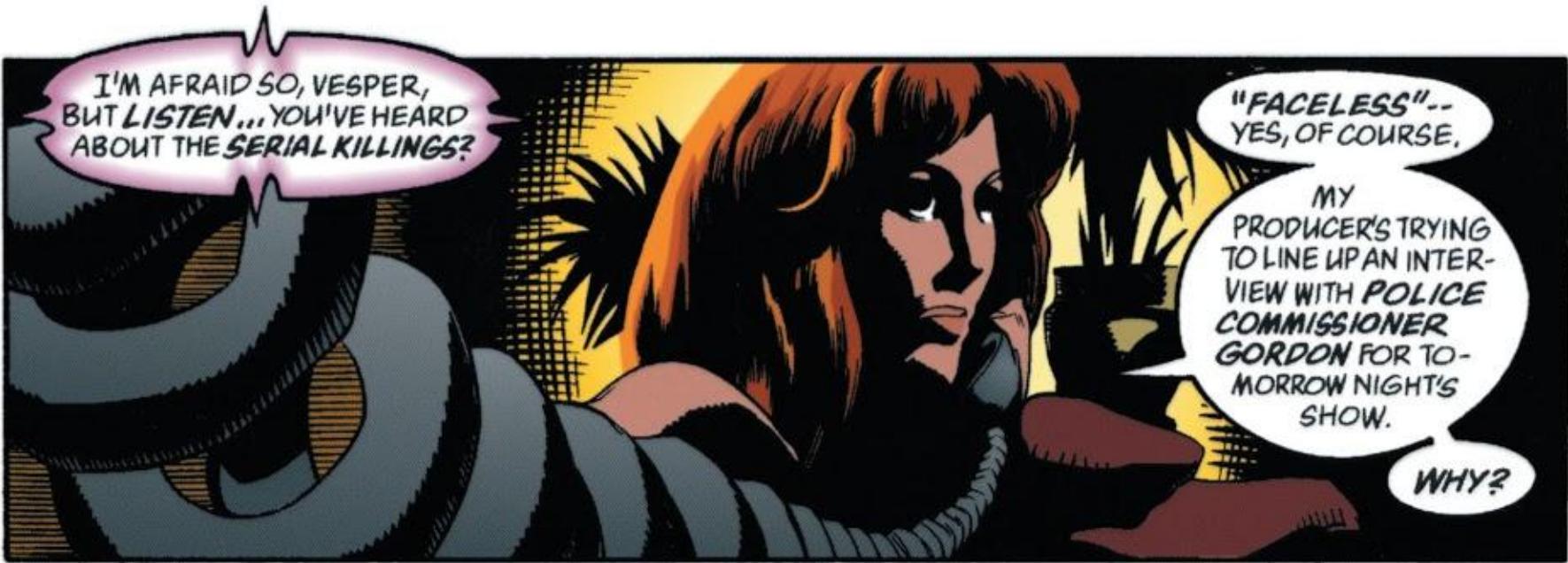
IF IT WAS HIM, I'LL  
NEVER FIND HIM NOW.

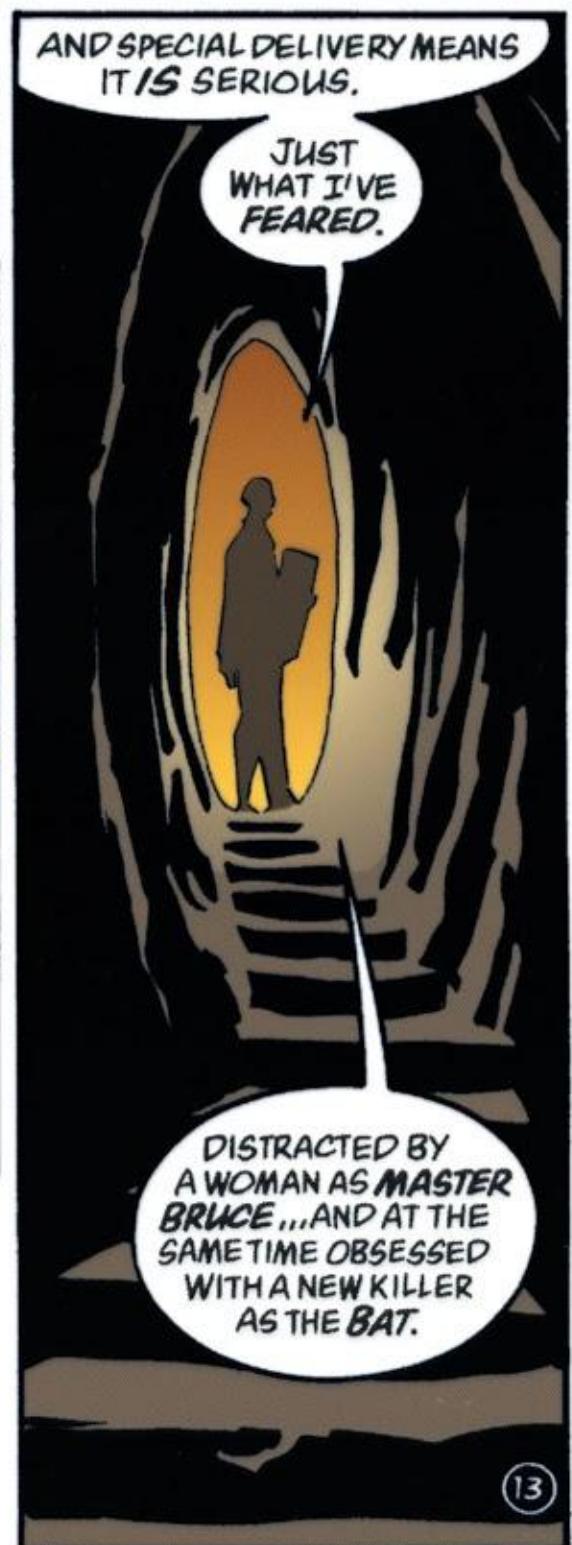
GOTHAM ARTS  
THEATER

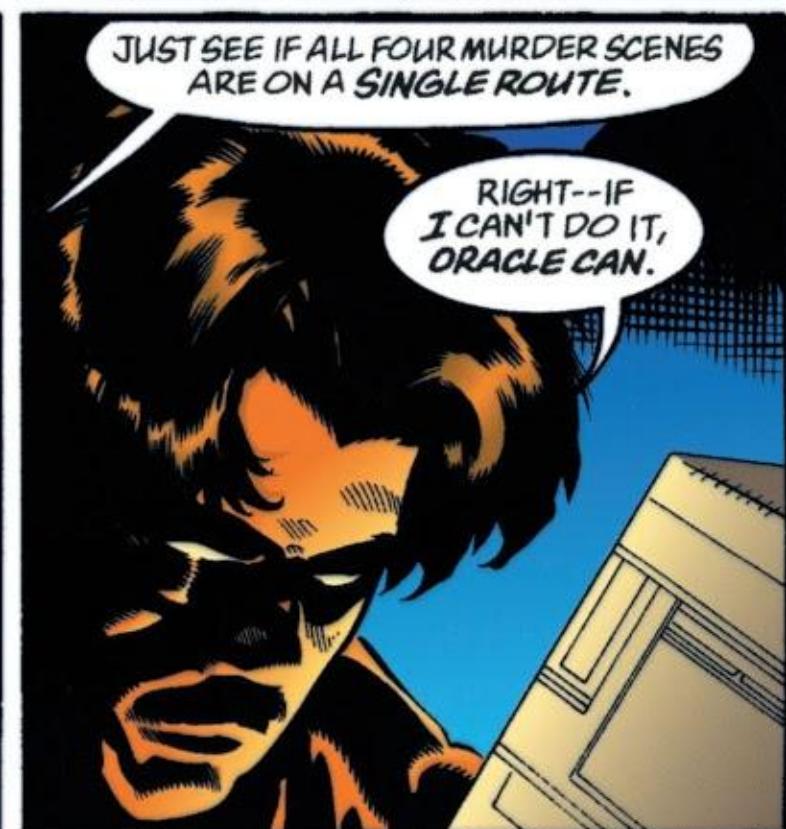
HE COULD BE  
ANYONE--ANY  
FACE IN THE  
CROWD.















WITH LUCK, VESPER'S APARTMENT IS FAR ENOUGH FROM THE FLORIST SHOP TO KEEP HER SAFE.



BUT EVERYONE ON THE SAME MAIL ROUTE AS THE SHOP IS A POTENTIAL TARGET AND--



BATMAN? IT'S A GUY GOIN' POSTAL, ALL RIGHT, EVERY MURDER OCCURRED ON THE DELIVERY ROUTE OF A JOSEPH ZEDNO...



...WHO WAS JUST GIVEN A TWO-WEEK NOTICE OF TERMINATION DUE TO "EXCESSIVE COMPLAINTS OF UNDELIVERED MAIL."



NINE-OH-THREE WEST RACINE...



HIS ADDRESS, ROBIN!



FOUR MINUTES FROM HERE.

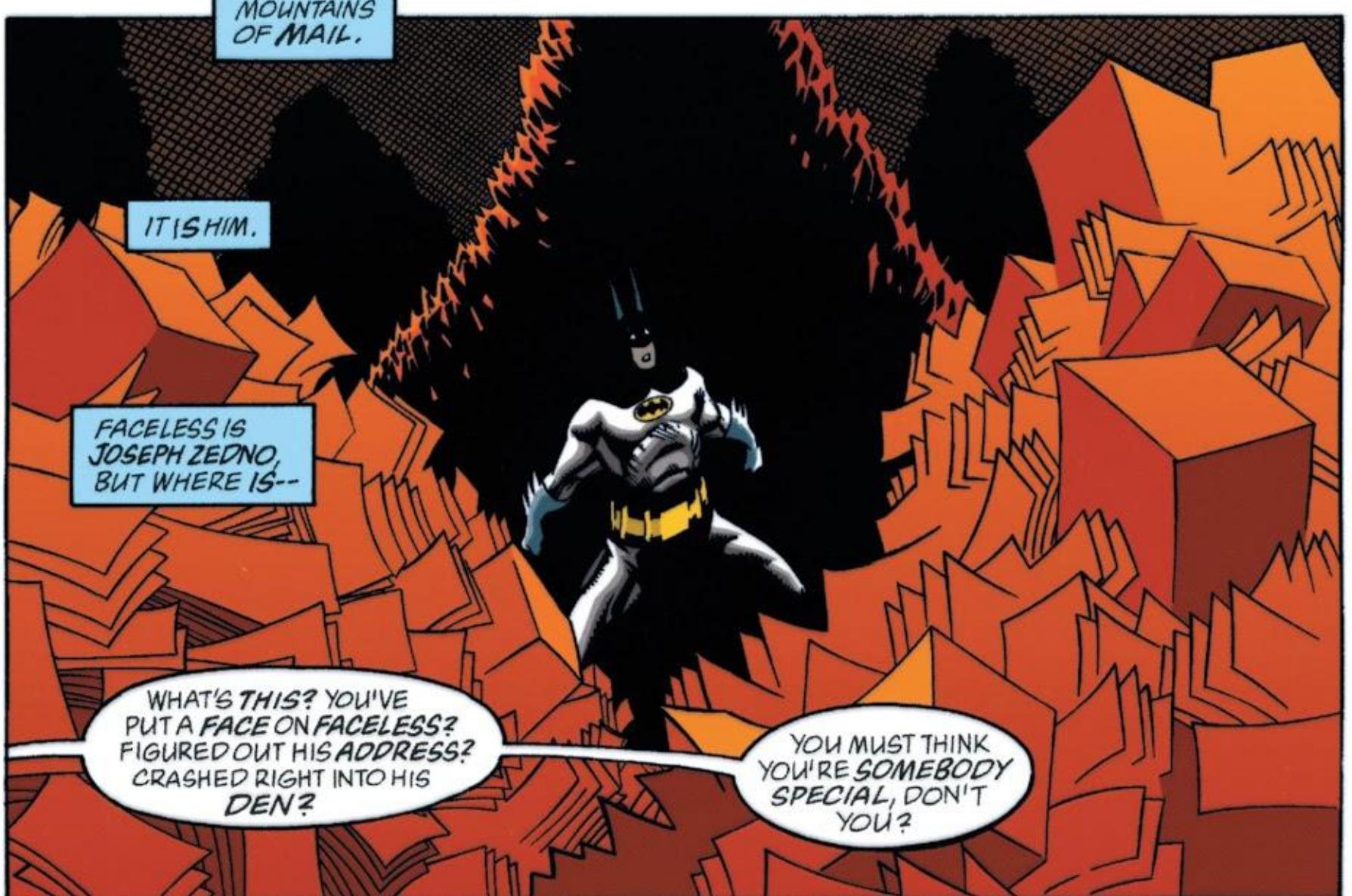


"...APARTMENT TWO-B."

WHICH SOMEBODY DOES THE NOBODY BECOME?

WHO LOSES FACE NEXT?

WHO RECEIVES MIDNIGHT SPECIAL DELIVERY?





THEN WHY DIDN'T  
YOU STOP ME BEFORE  
I KILLED MYSELF  
AGAIN?!

RIGHT  
FOOT  
BACK...



BRACE  
FOR THE  
WEIGHT.

CHP

NFF!

YES.



NO.

NOT HIS  
WEIGHT  
TOO.

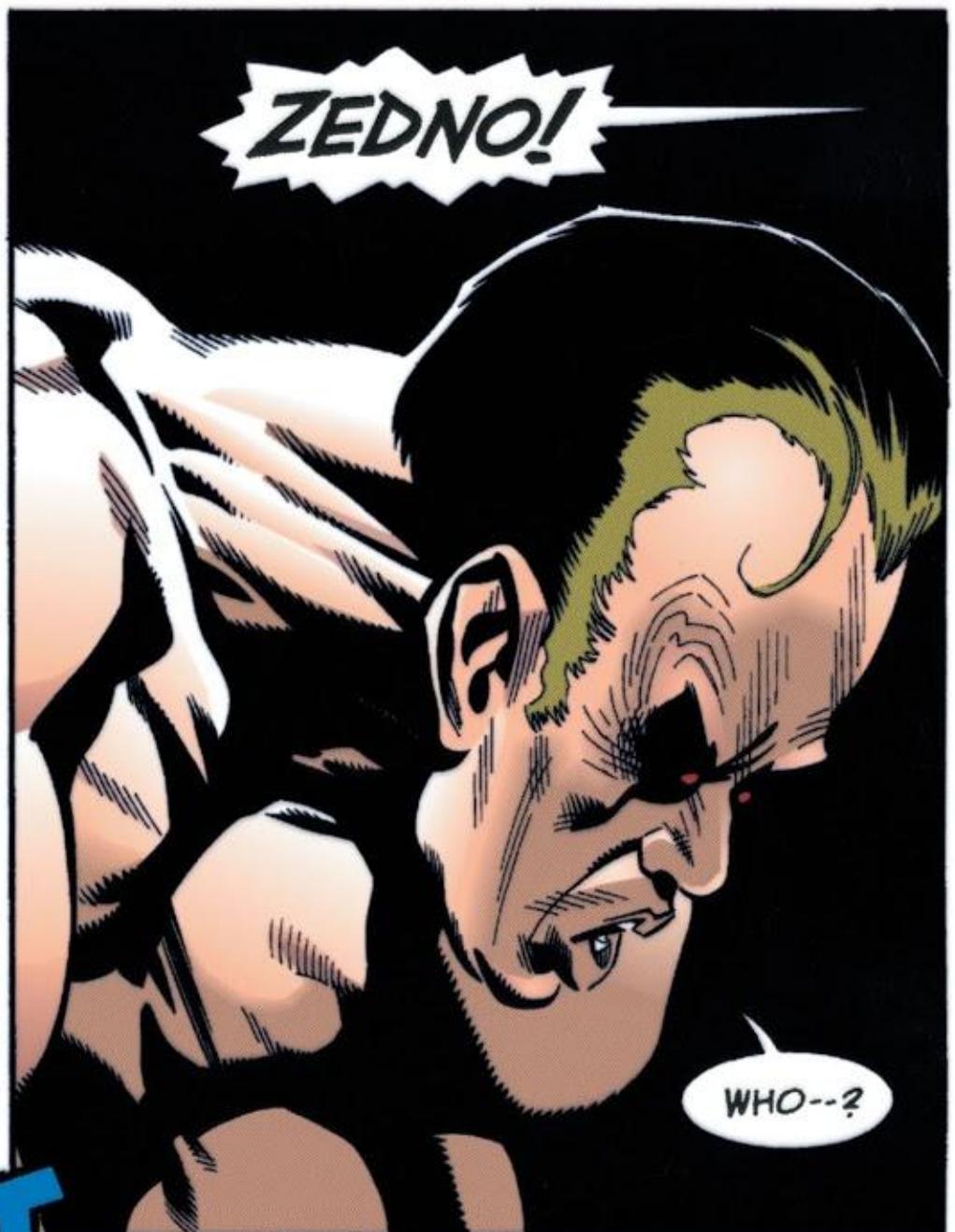
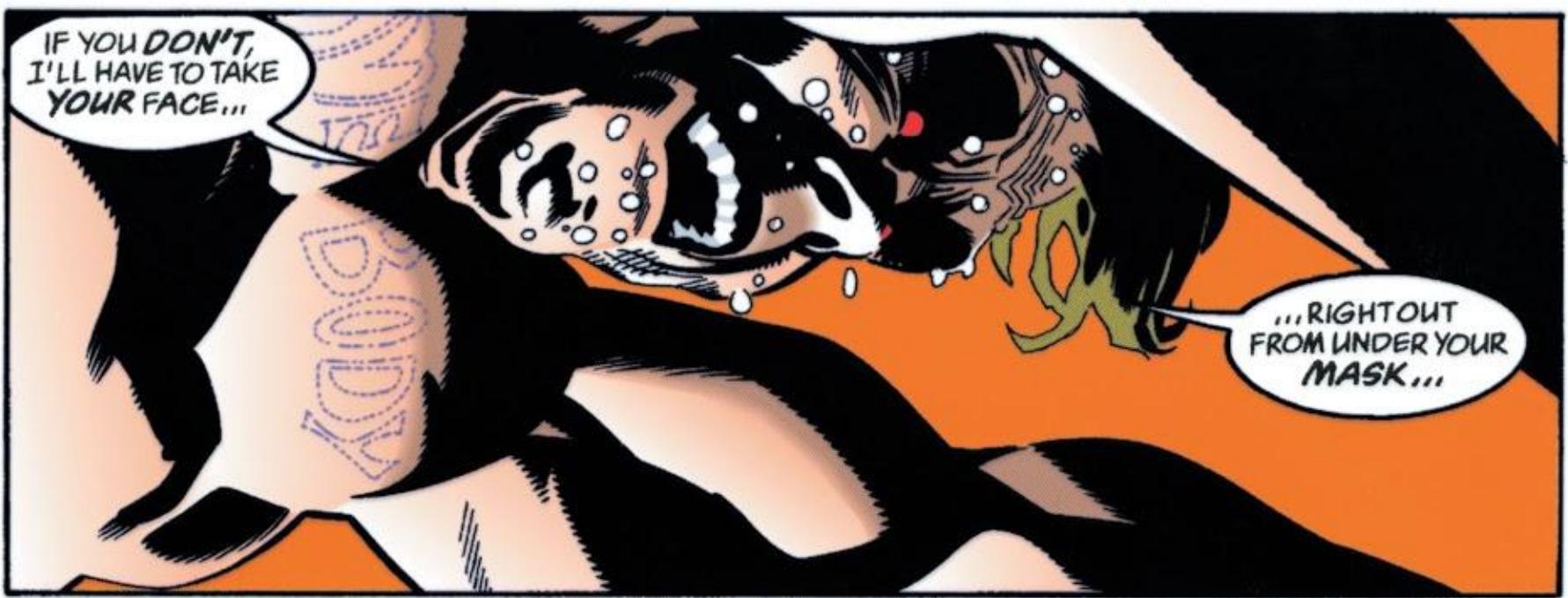


WHAT'S THE  
MATTER, SOMEBODY?  
GETTING LOST IN  
THE MAIL?!

AT LEAST YOU  
FINALLY GOT MY  
MESSAGES--AND IT'S  
ABOUT TIME!

NO, ZEDNO--IT'S FIVE  
LIVES AND FIVE MURDERS  
TOO LATE.









**NEXT ISSUE:**  
THERE'S HELL TO PAY... WHEN  
JOKER AND THE DEMON ETRIGAN  
TEAM UP TO GIVE THE DEVIL HIS  
DUE IN GOTHAM--

**•MAJOR ARCANA•**  
PART ONE:  
**JOKIN' WITH MR. D.**

Hnyeh heh heh...



**novus**  
Distributions