



100



AGES 13+

BATMAN™



TYNION IV - JIMENEZ - MARCH
PAGULAYAN - MIKI - MOREY

Jorge Jimenez
Tomas Maestre

THE CLOCK TOWER. BURNSIDE.

COMPUTER,
ACTIVATE.

WELCOME,
BATGIRL.

I NEED EYES
EVERYWHERE. WE'RE
GOING TO NEED TO PIN
EVERY CLOWN IN THE CITY.
I NEED ALL CCTV SYSTEMS,
TRAFFIC CAMS, AND CELL
DATA WE CAN GET
OUR HANDS ON.

COMPLYING.

USE THE
BACK DOOR TO
GET THE BAT-COMPUTER
ONLINE, AND GIVE ME A
MAP OF THE FAMILY. PIN
EACH OF THEIR
LOCATIONS.

COMPLYING.

FIRST THINGS
FIRST. ANY BAT-VEHICLE
CURRENTLY IN ENEMY HANDS
NEEDS TO BE PUT IN MOTHBALLS.
IT'S TIME TO EXPEND THE
BATFALL PROTOCOL.
SHUT **EVERYTHING**
DOWN.

OVERRIDE
POLICE DISPATCH.
START DIRECTING OFFICERS
TO AREAS WITH HIGH
CLOWN DENSITY.

OKAY.
IT'S TIME TO
LET EVERYONE
KNOW THAT
ORACLE
IS BACK
ONLINE.



COMMISSIONER BULLOCK! THE MAYOR'S OFFICE WANTS YOU TO DIRECT EVERYONE TO SHUT THE ORACLE SYSTEM DOWN.

THERE ARE LUNATICS IN CLOWN MASKS BURNING DOWN THE CITY, AND HE WANTS ME TO DO WHAT?!

HE SAID THAT YOU DO IT, OR YOU'RE DONE. YOU'RE ON THIN ICE AS IT IS.

ALL THIS TIME, WE THOUGHT WE COULD MAKE IT BETTER FROM THE INSIDE, EH, JIM? WHAT WOULD YOU DO RIGHT NOW, IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE?

UGH. LIKE I EVEN HAVE TO ASK.

TELL MAYOR DUNCH THAT'S MY \$%#@ ANSWER.

BOYS. THIS IS YOUR EX-COMMISSIONER BULLOCK SPEAKING.

THE GCPD IS BEING ASKED TO STAND DOWN, BEING TOLD THAT DEFYING CITY HALL'S GOING TO COST YOU YOUR BADGE AND YOUR GUN.

BUT I DON'T NEED A BADGE OR GUN TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT. I'VE GOT MY RADIO, AND I'M GOING TO FOLLOW ORACLE AND GO @#%# HELP PEOPLE.

SO, THE LOT OF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW...

...DO YOU WANT TO BE A COP IN THIS CROOKED CITY, OR DO YOU WANT TO DO WHAT'S **RIGHT**?

"NIGHTWING TO ORACLE..."











YOU'RE
NOT A
BAT.

BRAK
!!

OKAY
THEN, LET'S TRY
THIS ANOTHER WAY!



IT'S
ME.

I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT
WE'D BE ABLE TO PUSH
THINGS A LITTLE
FURTHER.

BUT I
REMEMBER THE
PLAN, AND I
LOVE YOU.

AND I WILL
NEVER STOP
BELIEVING.

IT'S
ALL OVER...
SOONER THAN
YOU THOUGHT.

I KNOW
A SONG THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
THAT.

HI. NAME'S
NIGHTWING. WE
HAVEN'T MET. NOT
REALLY. I'VE BEEN
OUT OF TOWN
FOR A BIT.

YOU'RE
GOING TO PRISON
TONIGHT. YOU'RE GOING
TO STAY IN PRISON FOR
THE **REST** OF
YOUR LIFE.





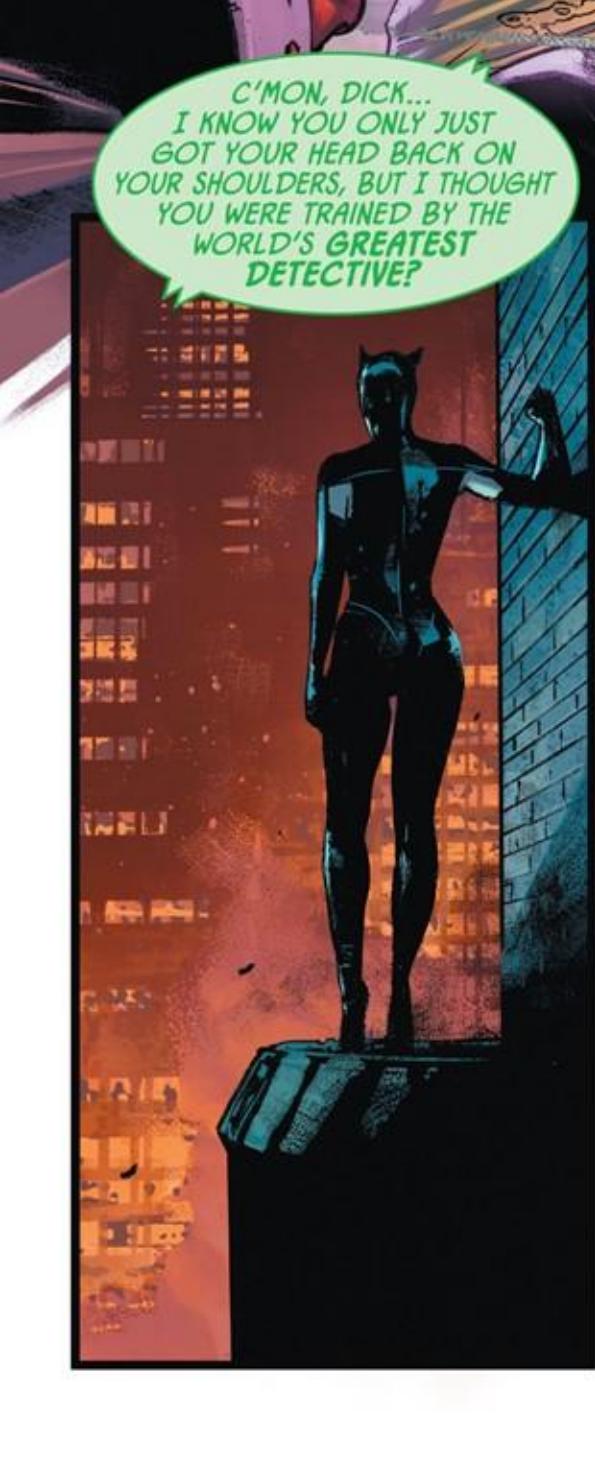
MAKE THIS
FAST, WE NEED YOU
IN MIDTOWN. WE STILL
HAVE WORD OF CLOWNS AT
SIXTEEN THEATERS. BUT I'M
GETTING SOME RATTLING
OVER THE WIRE.



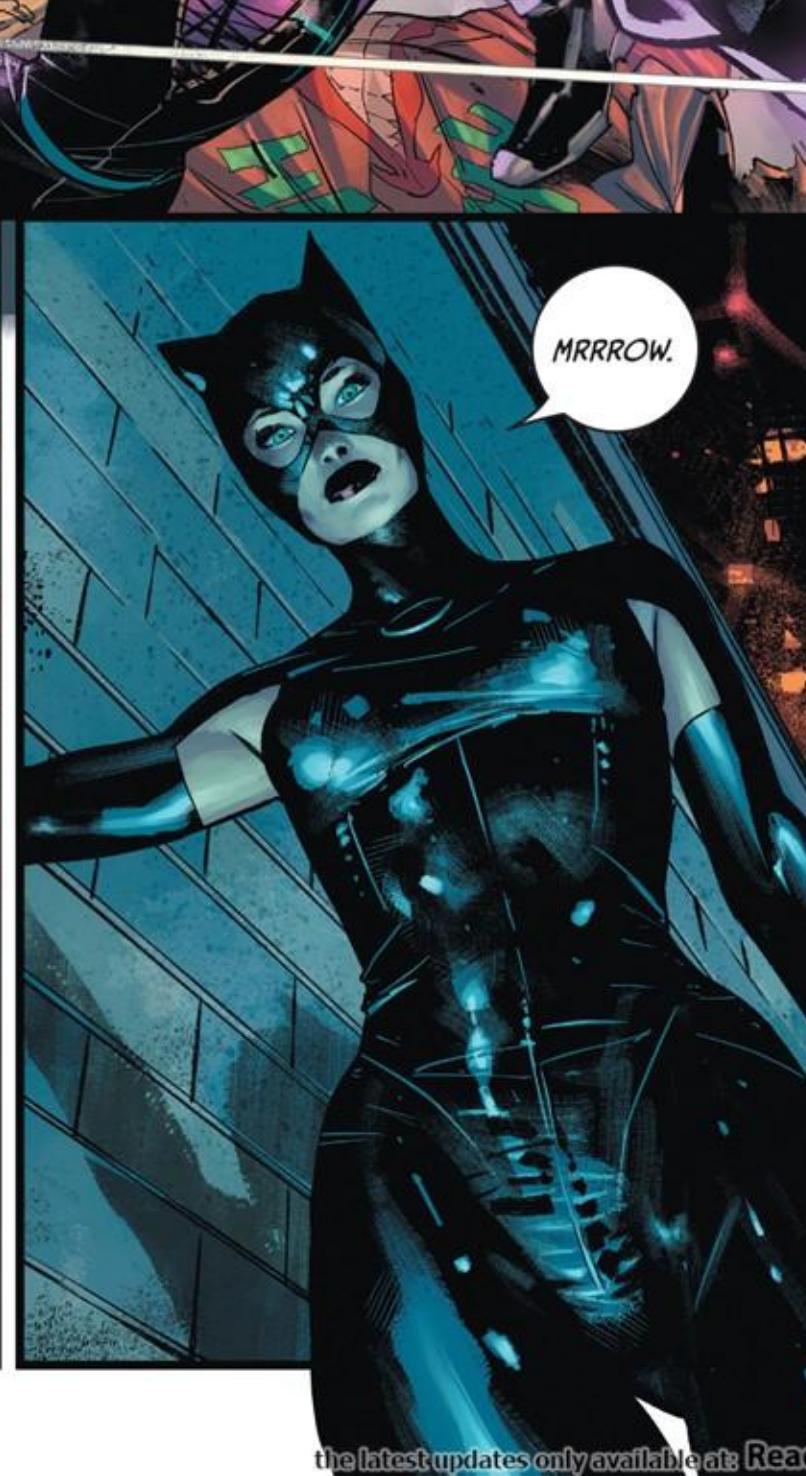
THEY'RE NOT
GETTING THEIR
MONEY. I THINK THEY
KNOW THIS IS OVER.
OR AT LEAST THAT
IT'S ENDING.



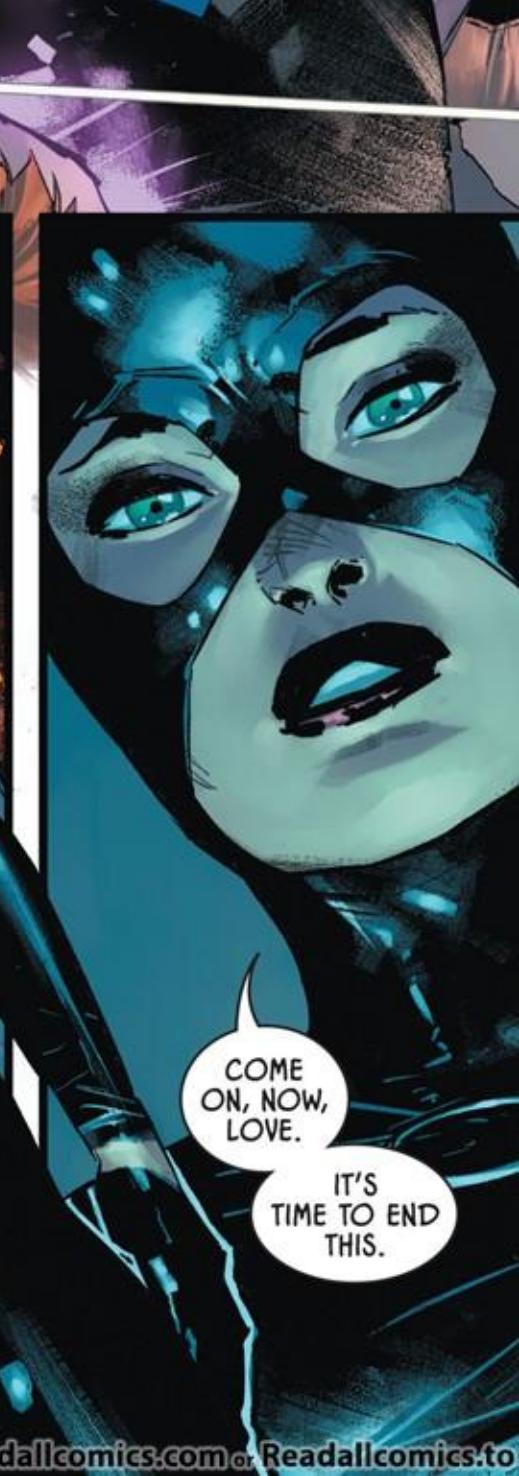
WHO DO
YOU THINK STOLE
THE FORTUNE BACK?



C'MON, DICK...
I KNOW YOU ONLY JUST
GOT YOUR HEAD BACK ON
YOUR SHOULDERS, BUT I THOUGHT
YOU WERE TRAINED BY THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
DETECTIVE?



MRRROW.



COME
ON, NOW,
LOVE.

IT'S
TIME TO END
THIS.

ORACLE
TO
BATMAN.

YOU HAVE
A BLOCKER ON
YOUR RADIO, BUT I'VE
BYPASSED IT THE BEST I
CAN FROM HERE. I CAN'T
HEAR YOU, BUT YOU
SHOULD BE ABLE TO
HEAR ME.

WE'VE
APPREHENDED
THE TANKERS. MOST
OF THE CLOWNS
ARE FALLING BACK.

PUNCHLINE WILL BE
IN OUR CUSTODY
IN A MATTER OF
MINUTES.

YOU TAKE
DOWN JOKER
AND THIS IS
OVER.

MY FAMILY HAS ALREADY
TAKEN THE CITY
BACK.

YOU
WON'T GET
YOUR WAR.

YOU...
CAN'T...
WIN...

OH,
BATMAN.
DON'T YOU
GET IT?

YOU
MISSIED THE
WAR. I ALREADY
WON.

YOU HAVE
TO BE SMART
ENOUGH TO HAVE
FIGURED THAT
OUT ALREADY.

WE'RE
ALREADY ONTO THE
AFTERMATH. YOUR LITTLE
BRATS ARE ONLY PICKING
THROUGH THE DEBRIS OF A
BRAND-NEW CITY, THEY
JUST DON'T SEE
IT YET.



WHATEVER FUTURE YOU HAD DREAMED OF, WHERE YOU GOT TO WEAR THIS SHINY NEW COSTUME? IT'S GONE, BRUCE. IT'S ALL GONE.

WHAT DID YOU PICTURE? RETIREMENT? SPENDING LONG HOURS IN THE MANOR WITH ROBINS AND GRAND-ROBINS COOING AT YOUR FEET?

AND THE CITY SOME BRIGHT AND SHINING PARAGON? METROPOLIS WITH FEWER ALIENS?



NOW EVERYBODY KNOWS
THAT WAYNE ENTERPRISES?
IT'S NOT THERE TO
HELP THEM.

IT'S THE
SAME SORT OF
CORRUPT CORPORATE
TERROR AS ALL THE OTHER
BIG COMPANIES IN
THE WORLD.



AND
NEITHER DID BATMAN.

SHOULDN'T HE
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
STOP ALL OF THIS
BEFORE IT
HAPPENED?

LOOK,
BRUCE, YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND GOTHAM.
YOU DON'T EVEN LIVE
IN THE CITY. YOU'RE OUT
IN THE FANCY SUBURBS
IN YOUR BROODY
CASTLE.

BATMAN WAS
A STUPID LITTLE
KID'S STUPID IDEA.
AND NOW THIS CITY
SEES IT FOR HOW
HOLLOW
IT IS.

I DIDN'T NEED
TO SHOW THEM THAT
BATMAN IS BRUCE WAYNE
SO THEY COULD SEE
WHO YOU REALLY
ARE.

IT'S ABOUT
TO GET SO
MUCH HARDER. I'M
MAKING YOU START
OVER FROM
SCRATCH.

YOU WON'T
EVEN LOOK LIKE
BRUCE WAYNE ANYMORE
WHEN I'M DONE CARVING
YOU UP...YOU'LL HAVE TO
START FIGHTING BACK
WITH NOTHING.

HAHA
HAHAHA
HAHA!



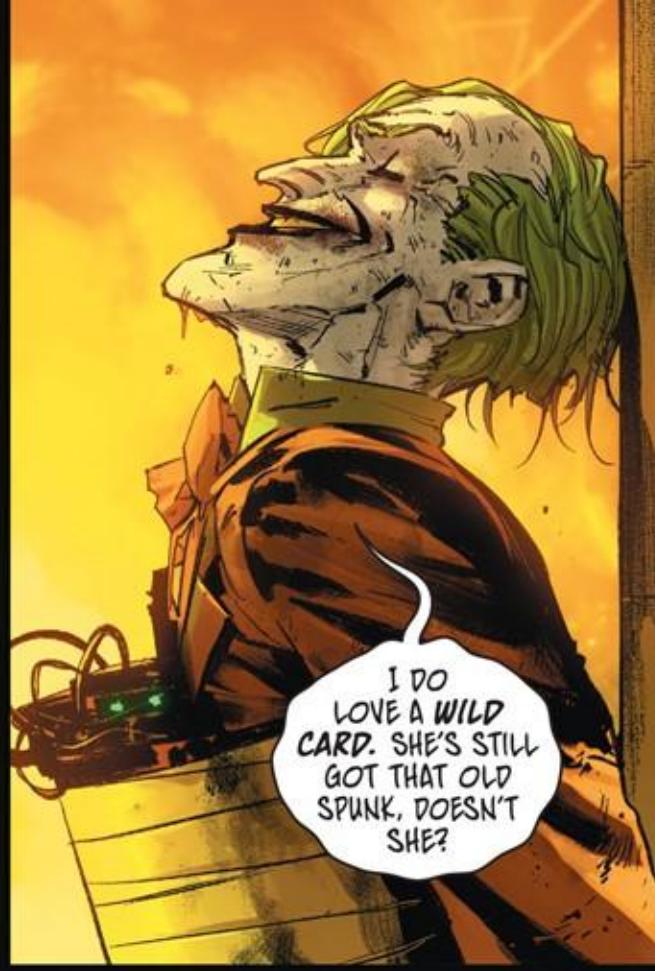


AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO MAKE A DECISION...



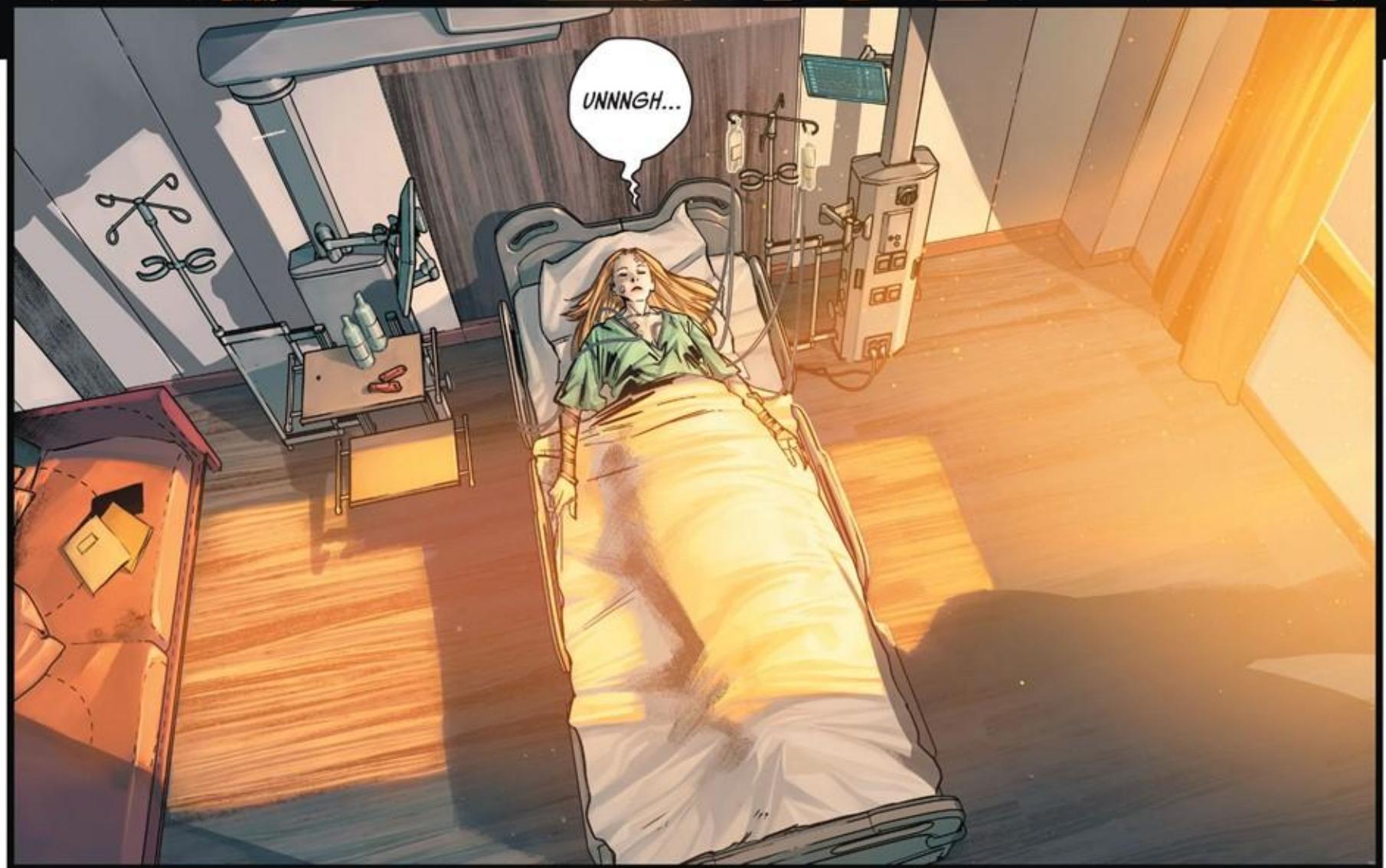


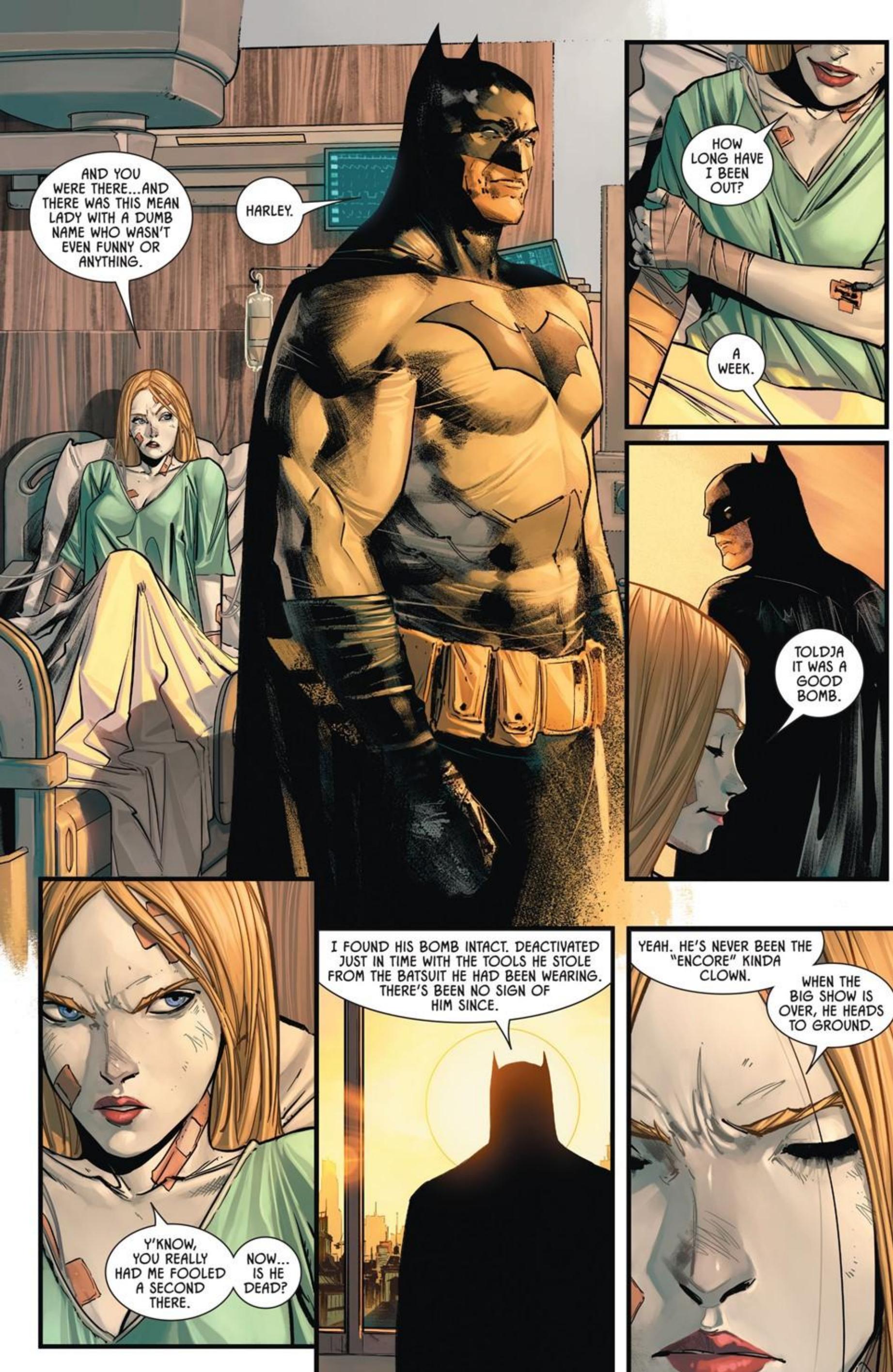


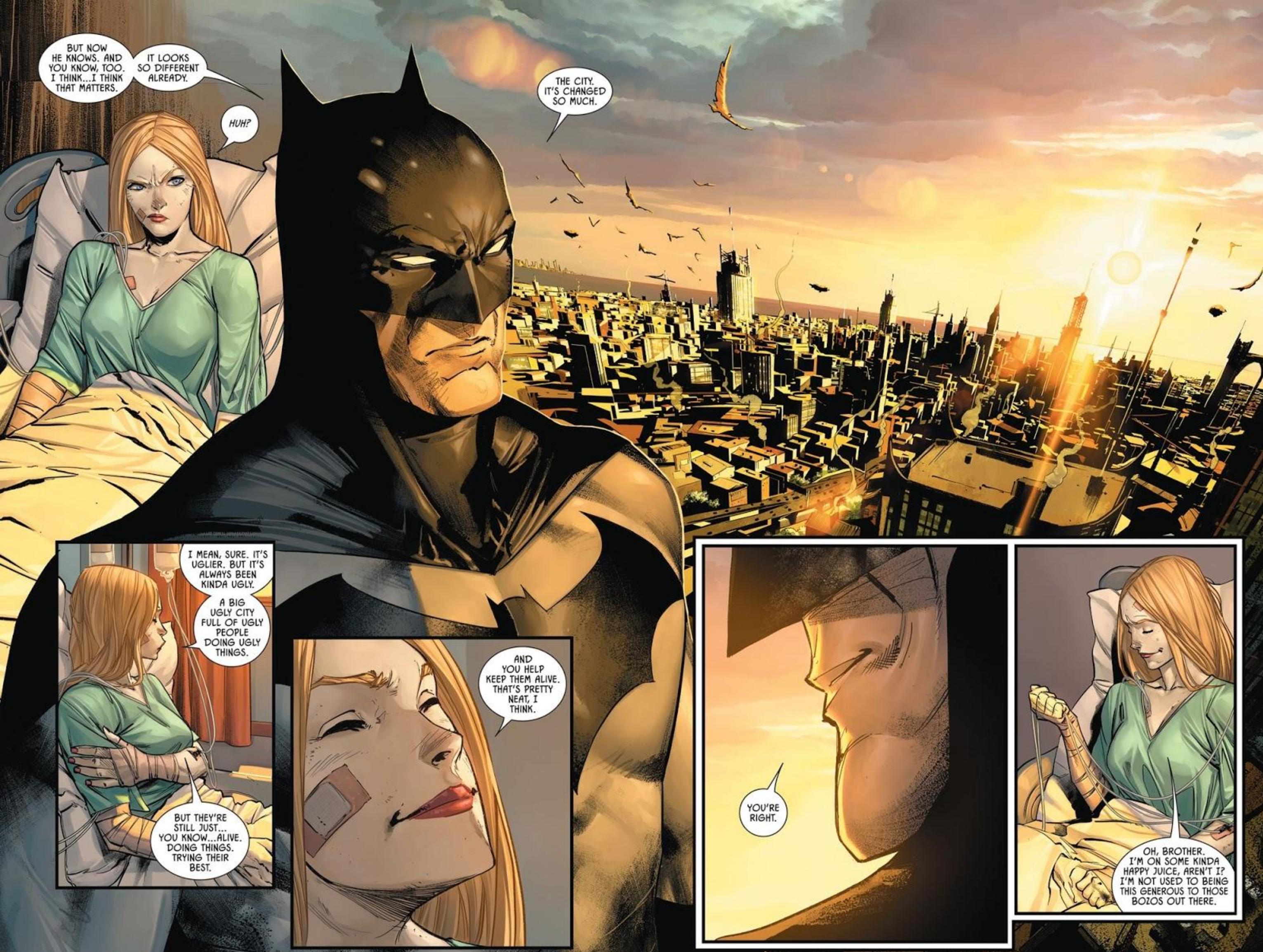




ONE WEEK LATER.









HE ONCE TOLD ME THAT A FIGHT WITH JOKER IS A FIGHT AGAINST DEATH ITSELF.

AND THAT FIGHTING IS LIVING, CONTINUING ON.



AND I'M READY FOR THAT FIGHT.



BUT I
THINK I CAN
MEET IT FACE ON.
I THINK I CAN BE
A BETTER MAN.
A BETTER BATMAN.

WELL,
GOOD.

NO POINT
IN BEING A
CRAPPIER BATMAN,
YOU KNOW?

I
GUESS
NOT.

NOW, YOU
GOTTA HELP ME
BUST **OUT** OF THIS
JOINT BEFORE THEY ASK
ME ABOUT **HEALTH
INSURANCE**,
OKAY?

EPILOGUE.



NEXT: AFTER THE LAUGHTER!

GOTHAM CITY.
THE NARROWS.



I HEAR
YOU CALL YOURSELF
CLOWNHUNTER.

INTERVENTION

JAMES TYNION IV WRITER
CARLO PAGULAYAN PENCILS
DANNY MIKI INKS
TOMEU MOREY COLORS
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS

uh,
yeah.

sorry, this is
weird. i wasn't
expecting...
company.

you looking
for a room? i've
got a closet i can **sublet**
as long as you don't
have, like...any pets.

do you have
any pets,
batman?

I DO,
ACTUALLY.

aw \$#%&%,
no go, then.
too bad.

WE NEED TO
TALK.

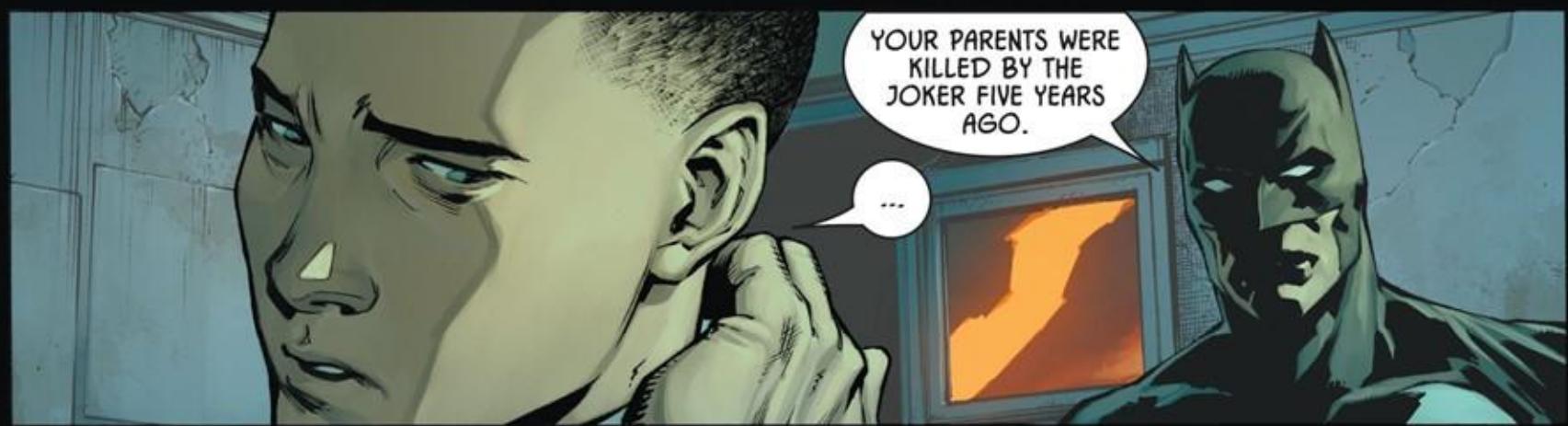
hmhhh.
i'm not
a big talker.
i'd talk to her.
do you know
her?

YES.

i have dreams where she
just hugs me sometimes.
no weird stuff. just a
real long hug. it's a
good dream. you
hug her?

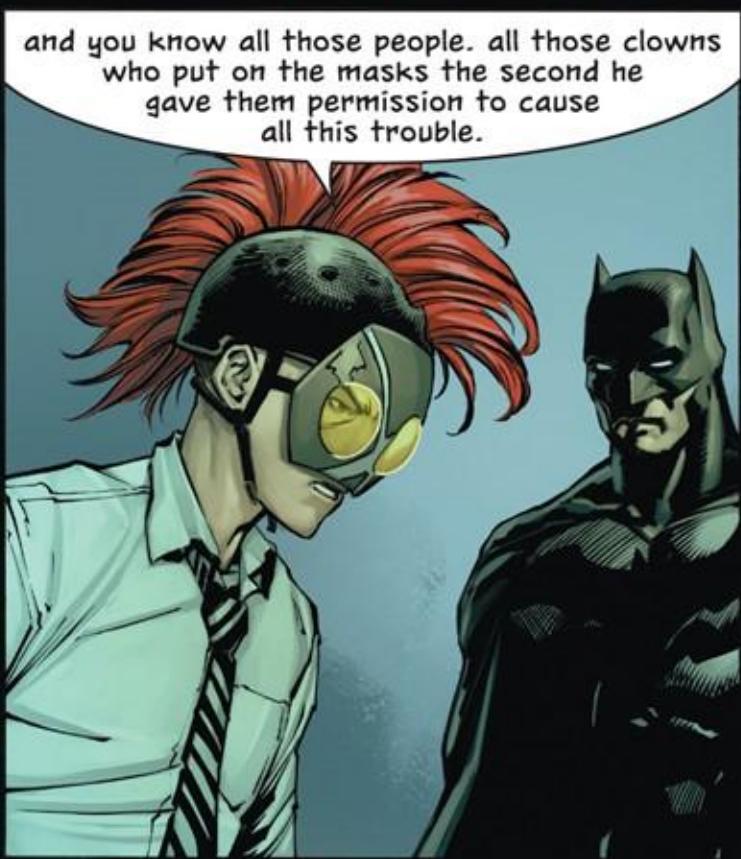
...











THIS IS
THE NUMBER FOR
THE THOMPKINS FREE
CLINIC. DR. LESLIE
THOMPKINS HELPED
ME WHEN I WAS IN MY
DARKEST PLACES.
SHE CAN HELP
YOU.

YOU DON'T
NEED TO GO
DOWN THIS ROAD.
YOU DON'T NEED TO
KILL ANYONE ELSE. THERE
ARE OTHER WAYS YOU
CAN HELP MAKE THIS
CITY BETTER.

what if i don't go?
what if i don't
want to make this
city better?

what if i just
want to kill
every %\$#@&
in a clown
mask?

THEN I'LL STOP
YOU, IF I HAVE
TO.

I WON'T
LET YOU TAKE
ANOTHER LIFE. I
KNOW WHERE YOU
LIVE. I'VE ALREADY
DISMANTLED ALL OF
YOUR GUNS AND
EXPLOSIVES.

THIS WILL
BE YOUR ONLY
WARNING. I WON'T
ALLOW A CLOWNHUNTER
IN THIS CITY. I
MEAN IT.

CALL LESLIE.
GET THE HELP
YOU NEED.



TO BE CONTINUED
IN BATMAN #101!

GOTHAM CITY.
ROBBINSVILLE.









AND IT IS, ISN'T IT? I THINK PEOPLE MY AGE SEE IT MOST OF ALL. HOW THE SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN FAILING FOR YEARS. HOW THE SO-CALLED HEROES HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO CHANGE THEM.

AND SO DID HE. HE TWISTED EVERYTHING I SAW IN HIM, FOUND THE EXCUSES FOR WHY HIS OLD ATROCITIES WERE LIES SPREAD BY BATMAN AND THE MEDIA.

HE TOLD ME I COULD HELP HIM BRING HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

AND MAYBE THAT DOES MAKE ME CRAZY ENOUGH TO THROW ME IN AN ASYLUM. BUT THAT FEELS LIKE LETTING ME OFF TOO EASY.

I BELIEVED IN SOMETHING THAT WASN'T THERE, AND I PUT ON A COSTUME AND BECAME SOMETHING I'M NOT.

I SAW JOKER AS A SYMBOL OF HOW WE NEEDED TO TEAR DOWN THE SYSTEM WE HAD SO WE COULD BUILD SOMETHING NEW. I WANTED TO BELIEVE IN THAT SYMBOL.

AND ONCE I REALIZED THE HORROR UNDERWAY, I WAS TRAPPED, WITH NO WAY OUT.

PEOPLE WERE DYING ALL AROUND ME, AND I SAW THAT THE JOKER WAS EVERY BIT THE MONSTER THE MEDIA CLAIMED HIM TO BE.

I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE, BUT I DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM DOING IT EITHER.

I WAS AN UNWILLING ACCOMPLICE AND WITNESS TO HIS CRIMES. IF THIS CITY DECIDES TO PUT ME AWAY FOREVER...I'LL UNDERSTAND.

I WAS TOLD NOT TO DO THIS. BUT AFTER HURTING THIS CITY, I THINK I BEAR SOME RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE MY STORY KNOWN, AND I DON'T PLAN ON STOPPING BEFORE THE TRIAL IS UNDERWAY.

THANK YOU.

OH,
SHE'S
GOOD.

SHE'S VERY GOOD.

SORRY?

SHE EVEN SAID WHAT SHE'S DOING, RIGHT IN THE VIDEO. THAT'S THE ART OF IT. BRINGING MY MESSAGE TO THE WORLD. HA!

THIS TRIAL IS GOING TO BE A *CIRCUS*, AND REALLY, THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE FOR A CLOWN.
HEHEHEHEEE...

WAIT, YOU'RE NOT...I'M SORRY, YOU SAID YOU WERE A COMEDIAN, SO I'M SURE YOU'RE JUST MAKING A JOKE...

YOU'RE NOT HIM, ARE YOU?

NO, NO,
NO...

YOU
ARE.

THEY'LL WASTE A FEW WEEKS TRYING TO PROVE IT'S NOT ME. ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO SET EVERYTHING IN PLACE FOR MY BIG GOODBYE.

I'M PLANNING ON SOME TRAVEL. I THINK A VACATION WILL DO ME SOME GOOD. AS YOU CAN SEE, I COULD USE A LITTLE SUN.

IT'LL BE NICE. TAKING SOME TIME OFF, LETTING THE CITY MEND ITS BROKEN BONES INTO A BRAND-NEW CONFIGURATION.

YOU SEE, THIS WAS A TEST TO SEE HOW FAR I COULD PUSH THINGS. IT'S TIME FOR US TO ALL START THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE AND OUR PLACE IN IT.

WELL,
YOUR BODY
WILL BE.

THEY'LL FIND IT DOWN BY ONE OF THE DOCKS IN A DAY OR TWO, ALL BLOATED, WITH THE SKIN BLEACHED JUST RIGHT.

GAK

I JUST BROKE THIS CITY IN WAYS THAT WILL TAKE YEARS TO FULLY RECKON WITH.

IT'S ALL GOING TO CHANGE NOW, AND HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO CHANGE WITH IT.

WHICH IS GOOD. HE WAS STARTING TO GET AWFULLY BORING, DON'T YOU THINK?

I GUESS
YOU DON'T
THINK ANYMORE,
DO YOU,
FRIEND?



DEAD RINGER

JAMES TYNION IV WRITER
GUILLEM MARCH ARTIST
TOMEU MOREY COLORS
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS

March
10

THAT'S
VERY, VERY
GOOD.

TO BE CONTINUED IN *PUNCHLINE* #1
ON SALE 11/11/20!