



WINICK
MAHNKE
NGUYEN

634 JAN 2005

APPROVED
BY THE
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BATMAN

OUTLAW!

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I COULD COUNT ON
ONE HAND--



--THE TIMES I'VE
SEEN HIM
DRINK.

PURCELL'S
TWELVE-YEAR-OLD
BOURBON. GO
FIGURE.

HE MUST LIKE
THE BURN.

WHAT CAN
I SAY?

HE'S A MAN OF
SURPRISES.
SECRETS.
MYSTERIES.

AND, AFTER
ALL THESE
YEARS--



DEATH.

--HE STILL
SCARES ME.



ALFRED, AS ALWAYS,
HAS THE GOOD
TASTE TO CHANGE
THE SUBJECT.

AND, HOW IS LES--
AHEM, DOCTOR
THOMPKINS
DOING?

I DON'T
KNOW. SHE--
HM.



"THE LAST I
SAW HER--

--WASN'T UNDER THE
MOST IDEAL OF
CIRCUMSTANCES."

LESLIE--

JUST
GO.



"WE HAVEN'T
REALLY SPOKEN
SINCE."



SHAME.

THEN
WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

WHAT I
ALWAYS DO.



"I PUT ON A
FRESH SUIT."

"AND WENT
BACK TO WORK."

WAR GAMES: EPILOGUE

DECOMPRESSION

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"WITHIN HOURS, THE SCAVENGERS WERE ALREADY PROFITING FROM THE WAR."

SO, THIS WORK, OR WHAT?

THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?? IT'S A HUNNED BUCKS, AS IS. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

"AFTER ALL, WITH PENGUIN M.I.A., SOMEONE HAD TO PICK UP THE SLACK."

SO WHOSE GUN YOU THINK THIS WAS? THE JOKER'S? ONE OF THOSE HOT BABES IN THE RAVENS, MAYBE?

OR MAYBE IT WAS EVEN BATMAN'S. COULD YOU IMAGINE?

NO, I COULDN'T.

OH, AND WHY IS THA--

BECAUSE I DON'T PLAY WITH GUNS.

OH, \$#!%.

BAM
BAM
BAM







BANG





"...THAT TIM
STILL DIDN'T
KNOW."

WAIT.

WHAT
DO YOU MEAN
HE DIDN'T
KNOW?

WASN'T
HE WITH YOU
WHEN LESLIE
CALLED?

YES, MASTER
BRUCE, I WAS...
CURIOS AS TO
THAT DETAIL,
MYSELF.

WHY WOULDN'T
YOU TELL HIM HIS
GIRLFRIEND WAS ON
HER DEATHBED?

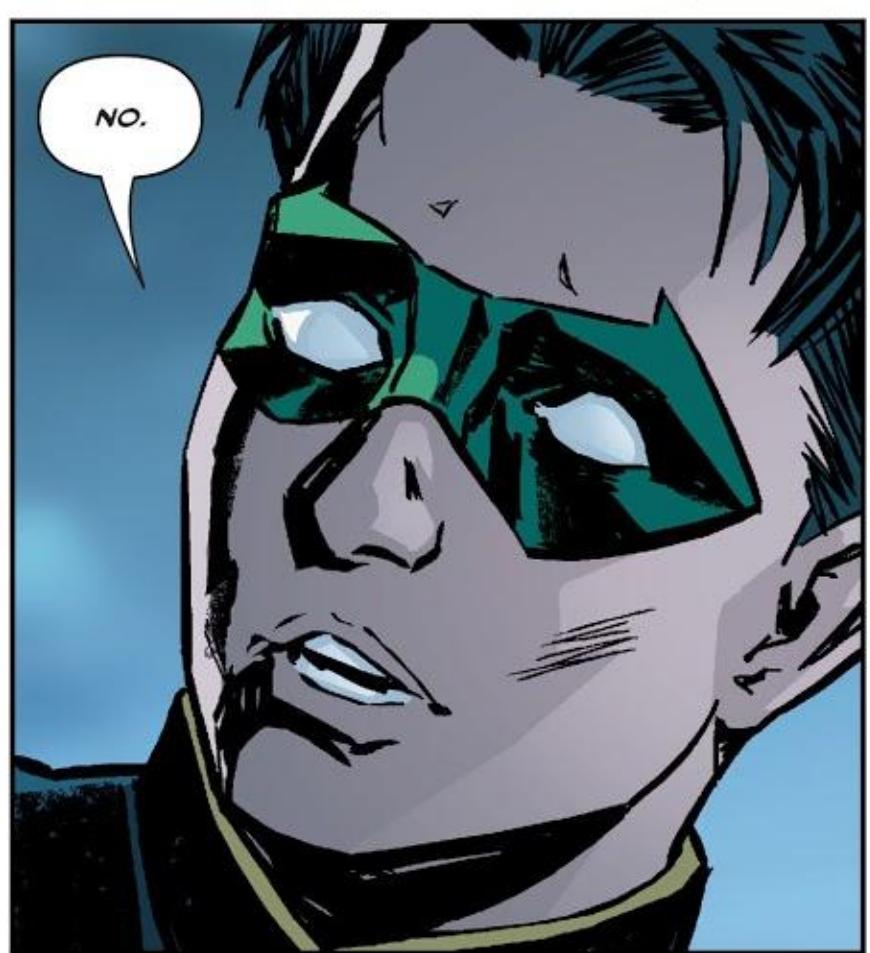
"I GOT
THE CALL.

"I TURNED
TO TELL HIM..."

SAY
AGAIN,
LESLIE.
YOU'RE
BREAKING
UP.







I'M...
...SORRY.

"I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING. HOW SHE STARTED THE GANG WAR TO GARNER MY FAVOR.

"HOW SHE FOUGHT VALIANTLY AGAINST BLACK MASK TO CORRECT HER MISTAKE.

"AND HOW SHE DIED.

"HE DIDN'T CRY. DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND, ONLY NODDING WITH EACH REVELATION."

OF COURSE, IT WAS ONLY DAYS LATER HE LOST HIS FATHER.

I SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE FOR HIM.

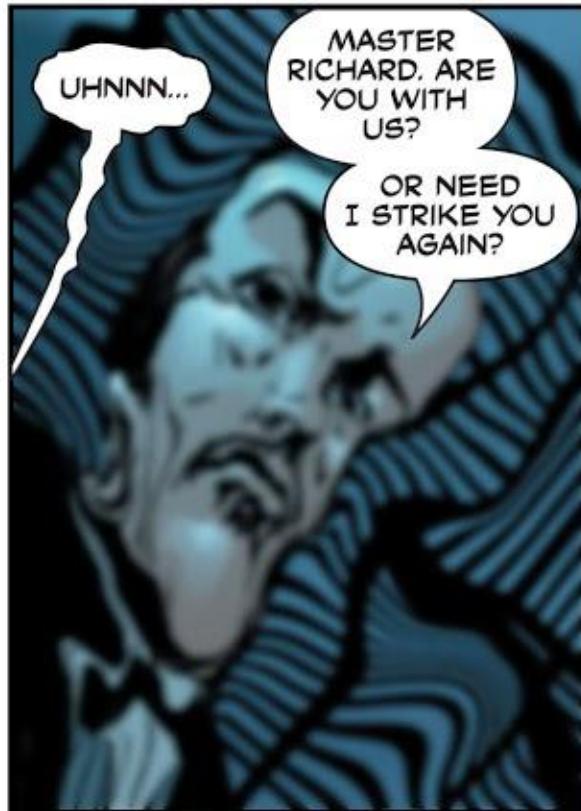
INSTEAD OF IN A SICKBED.

OH, I SUPPOSE THE YOUNG SIR WOULD'VE PREFERRED THE ALTERNATIVE AS WELL?

"ALL RIGHT, SO IT BEATS BLEEDING TO DEATH IN AN ALLEY.

"AFTER I RADIOED IN, I REMEMBER FEELING--

--IT ALL JUST GO AWAY.





"NEARLY? I THOUGHT BLACK MASK'S CONTROL WAS PRETTY COMPLETE."

"NO CONTROL IS EVER THAT COMPLETE. THERE ARE ALWAYS A FEW POCKETS OF RESISTANCE."

"SO FAR, ONYX HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN KEEPING THE HILL FREE FROM HIS INFLUENCE."

YO, KOSOV! WHERE YOU THINK--

--YOU'RE GOIN'?

I GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOUR BOSS.

TELL THAT MONSTER: AFTER WHAT HE DID TO ORPHEUS...

...HE WILL NEVER TAKE THE HILL.

SLAM

THAT'S THE SECOND TIME HE'S TRIED A FULL-FRONTAL ASSAULT IN AS MANY WEEKS.

BUT **EVERY DAY** MY BOYS'RE ON THE STREET KEEPING HIS DEALERS, BOOKIES, AND THIEVES FROM SETTING UP SHOP HERE.

THAT'S QUITE A TURNAROUND FROM THE BACK-STABBING, SELF-SERVING **GANGSTAS** YOU AND ORPHEUS STARTED WITH.

UH-UH. I DID NOT JUST HEAR BATMAN USE THE WORD "GANGSTA."

IT'S THE MOST ACCURATE *NOMENCLATURE*.

YEAH, WELL... REGARDLESS--

ARE YOU SAYING ORPHEUS'S **DEATH** HAS DONE THAT FOR THEM?

I'M SAYING ORPHEUS'S **ASSASSINATION** HAS DONE THAT. THERE IS NO GREATER UNIFYING PURPOSE THAN A COMMON ENEMY.

THEY'LL DO EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING TO KEEP BLACK MASK OUT.

EVEN KILL? OR DIE?

THAT'S A BRIDGE WE HAVEN'T HAD TO CROSS, YET.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THAT? **HE** IS.

REMEMBER BACK WHEN YOU SAID THESE BOYS NEEDED A PURPOSE? SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES TO WORK FOR?

OH, I **SEE**. YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT **HER**. YOU FEELING LIKE YOU GOT SOME BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS? WELL, LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHING...

...I **HAVE** BLOOD ON MY HANDS. I HAVE **KILLED** PEOPLE. AND NOT FOR ANY JUST CAUSE-- EXCEPT MY **WALLET**. THAT IS **BLOOD**, MY FRIEND.

AND NOTHING WILL **EVER** WASH THAT AWAY. BUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT GIRL...

OKAY, HERE IT IS--SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THEIR **INTENTIONS**, ARE JUST **SCREW-UPS**. **SOMETIMES** THEY GET IT TOGETHER--I **DID**--

--AND SOMETIMES THEY DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO BECAUSE THEY **SCREW UP** AND **DIE**.

SHE DID IT. NOT **YOU**. YOU WERE ALWAYS TRYING TO DO WHAT WAS BEST FOR HER. AND FROM WHERE I SIT, AIN'T NO SHAME IN THAT.



"I HEARD HER COMING
A MILE OFF. PLENTY
OF TIME FOR ME TO--
BUT I DIDN'T."

EXCUSE
ME?

BUT
AREN'T YOU
BRUCE
WAYNE?

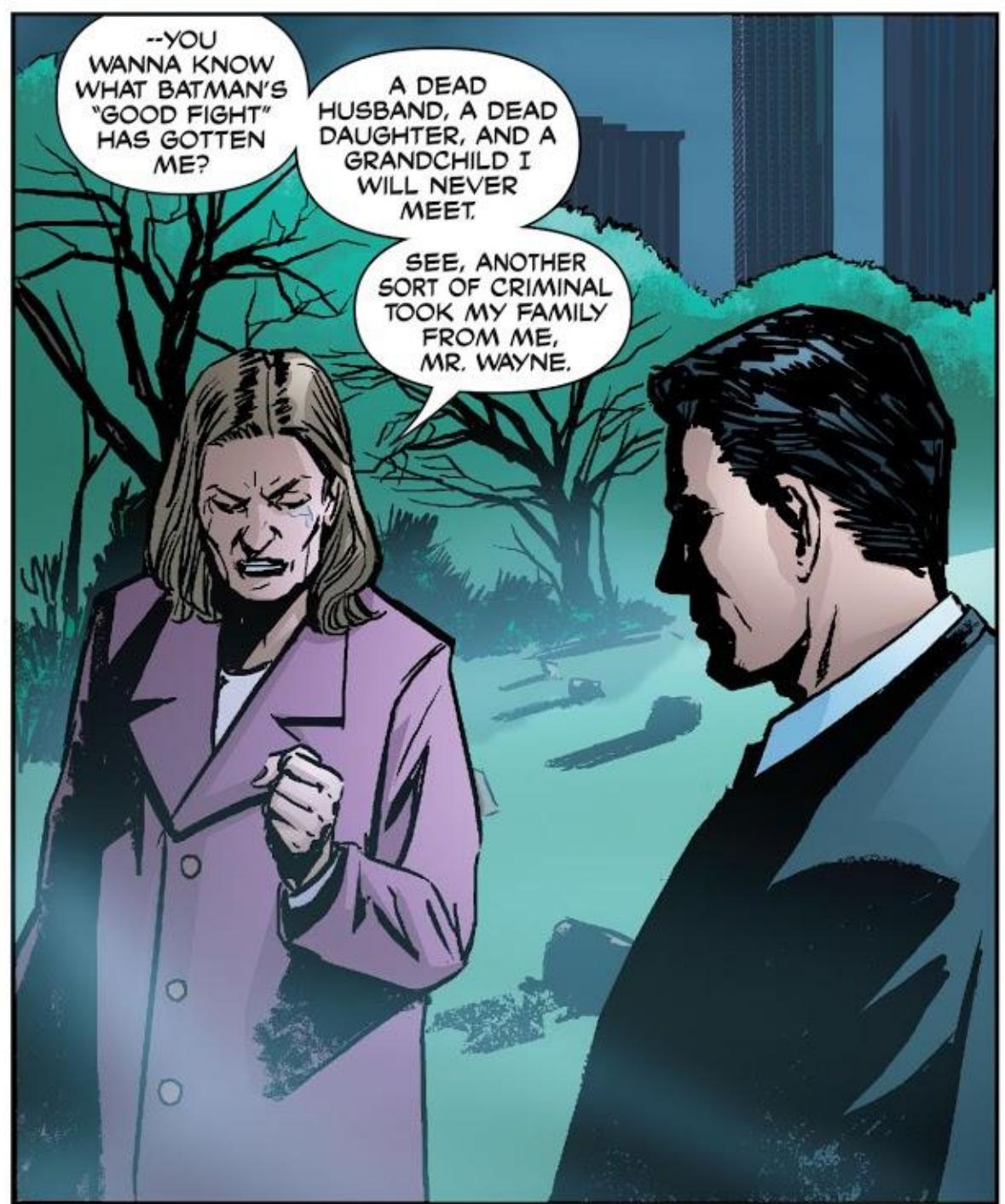
YES.
THAT'S
RIGHT.

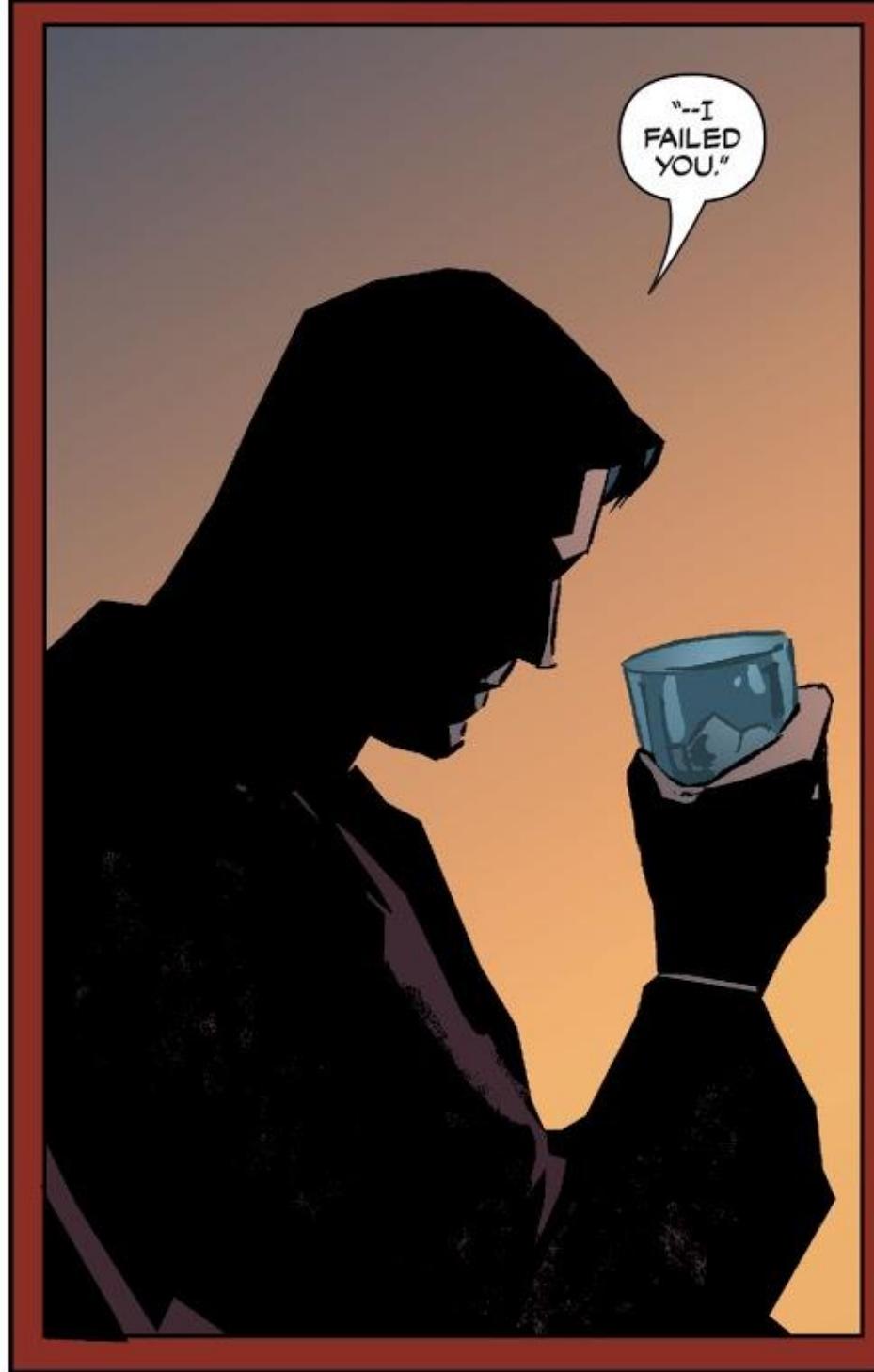
NOW PARDON ME IF
I SOUND RUDE--TO
BE HONEST I'VE HAD
A LITTLE WINE--OKAY
A LOT OF WINE,
BUT--

WHY ARE
YOU VISITING MY
DAUGHTER'S
GRAVE?

I SAW YOU AT
HER FUNERAL,
TOO. WHY IS
THAT?

WELL...I
UNDERSTAND
YOUR DAUGHTER
WAS A HERO.





WHILE WE'VE
ADDRESSED A GOOD
MANY QUESTIONS
REGARDING THE
OUTCOME OF RECENT
EVENTS, MASTER
BRUCE--

WE HAVEN'T
EVEN TOUCHED ON
HOW YOU PLAN
TO CONDUCT
BUSINESS...

"...WHEN THE POLICE
FORCE HAS ORDERS TO
SHOOT YOU ON SIGHT."

"JUST LIKE WE DID
IN THE BEGINNING,
OLD FRIEND--"



AND AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS...

BUT, YES,
THERE ARE A LOT
OF THINGS WE DON'T
KNOW. THE CITY'S
CHANGED. BUT
THERE ARE STILL
MILLIONS OF
PEOPLE...

...I WILL
PROTECT...
WITH MY
LIFE.

...HE STILL GIVES
ME HOPE.

THE END