



AFTERSHOCK

BATMAN®

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C
A
UTHORITY

559
OCT 98



MOENCH
HALL
BUSCEMA

DAMAGGIO 98

DEAD CITY

"CITY CAME A-WALKIN',
COVERED A LOT OF
GROUND..."

"GROUND ROSE UP IN
PROTEST, CRIPPLED CITY
CAME DOWN."

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THIS IS VESPER FAIRCHILD,
YOUR DUTIFUL "SIREN OF THE NIGHT,"
PASSING ON A BIT OF GRAFFITI
GLIMPSED ON A CRUMPLED WALL
EN ROUTE TO THIS STUDIO...

OBVIOUSLY I
THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH
PASSING ON, BUT WHAT
DO YOU THINK? DID
GOTHAM GO TOO FAR?
WAS OUR CITY
ASKING FOR IT?

DID WE
DESERVE THE
QUAKE?

DID WE BECOME
TOO BIG FOR OUR
COLLECTIVE BRITCHES?
TOO PROUD BEFORE
OUR FALL?

WELL? ANY CALL-IN
HUMPTY-DUMPTIES WITH
CELLPHONES OUT THERE?

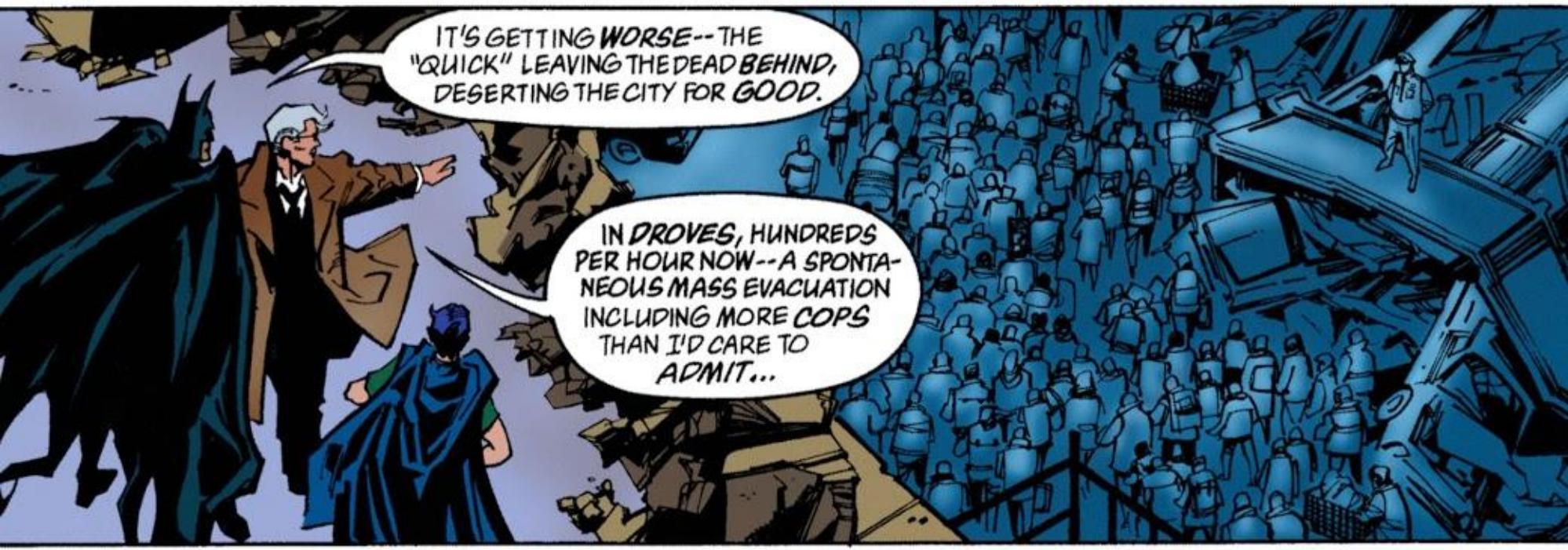
OR HAS
EVERYONE
ALREADY
LEFT?

GONE
A-WALKIN' TO
TRAMPLE NEW
GROUND?

HOW MANY NO-SHOWS?
UH-HUH... THAT MANY? ANY
WAY TO KNOW IF IT'S
PERMANENT?

NO, WHAT I MEAN
IS, HAVE THEY LEFT THE
CITY FOR GOOD OR ARE
THEY JUST--

I SEE... YES, I
UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFI-
CULT IT IS TO... YES, VERY
WELL.



CAN'T REALLY BLAME THEM, EITHER. WHEN YOUR HOME'S DESTROYED AND THE WHOLE CITY BREAKS DOWN... WELL, NOT MUCH POINT IN STAYING.

SO THAT'S IT? GOTHAM BECOMES NOTHING BUT A CITY OF THE DEAD, THE DYING, AND THE DAMAGED?

AND US, ROBIN.

BUT NOT ENOUGH OF US. THERE'S A SIEGE SITUATION AT MERCY HOSPITAL.

BULLOCK AND MONToya VOLUNTEERED... SHOULD BE ON THE SCENE BY NOW... BUT THERE'S TOO MUCH GOING ON ELSEWHERE FOR ME TO SPARE ANY MORE--

SIEGE?

WE THINK IT'S ONE OF THE GANGS... HOPING TO SCORE THE HOSPITAL'S DRUG SUPPLY.

I DON'T LIKE TO ASK, BUT...

EH?

ALREADY GONE.

THANK YOU.

AGAIN.

AND ALWAYS.





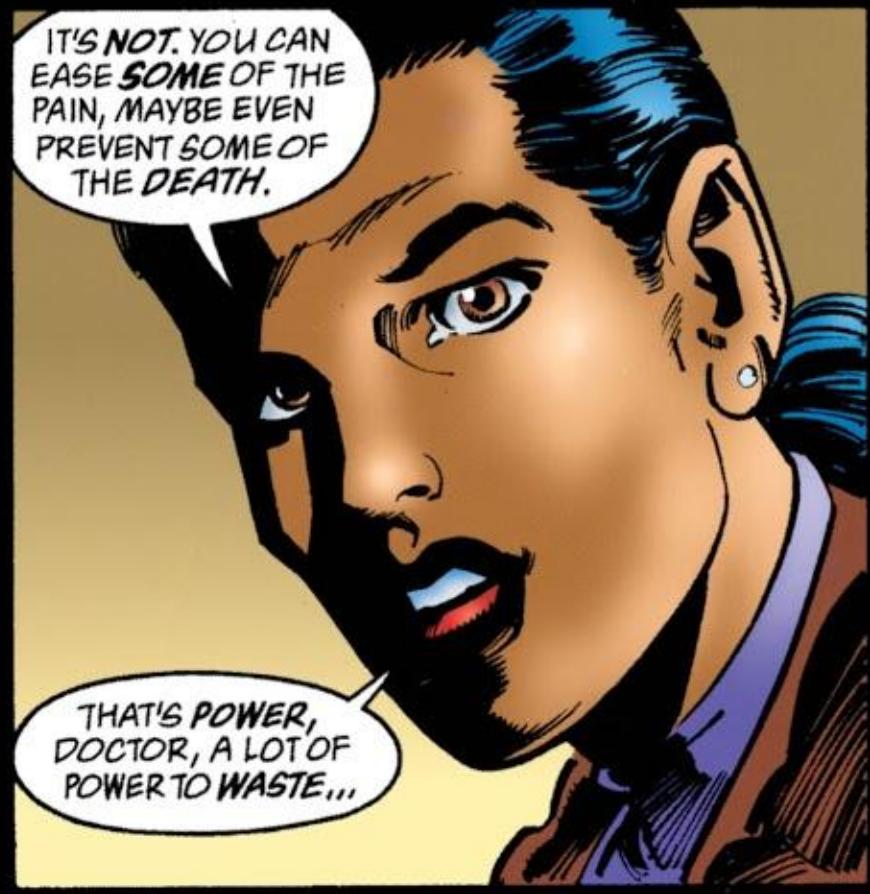
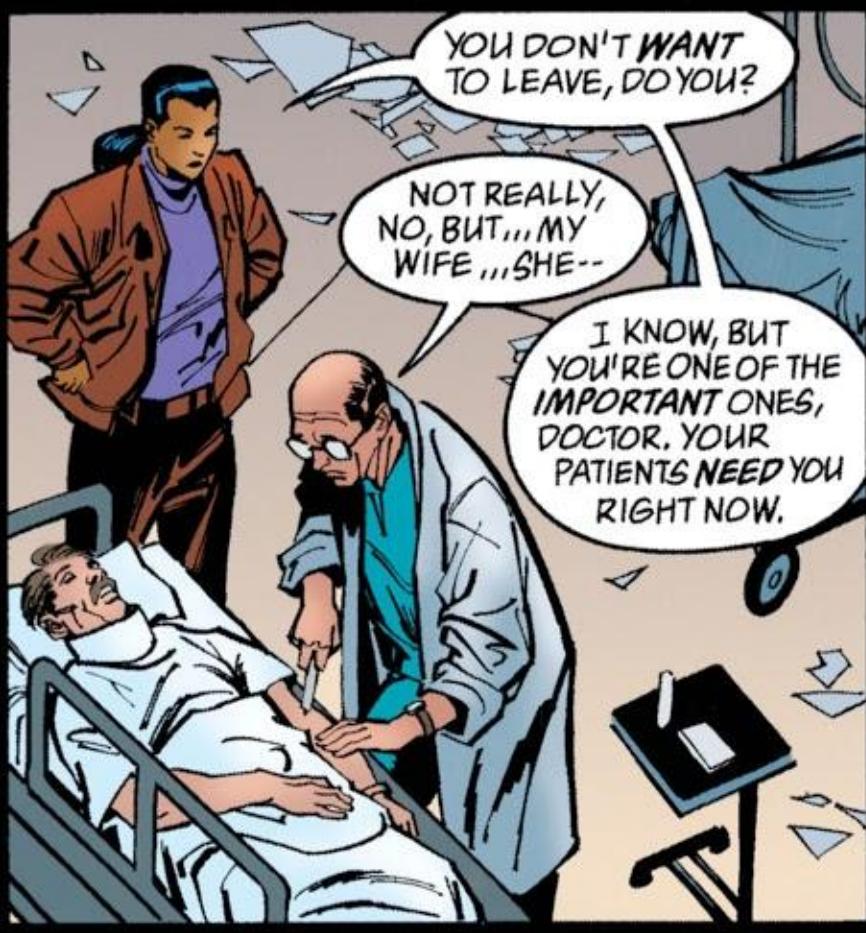


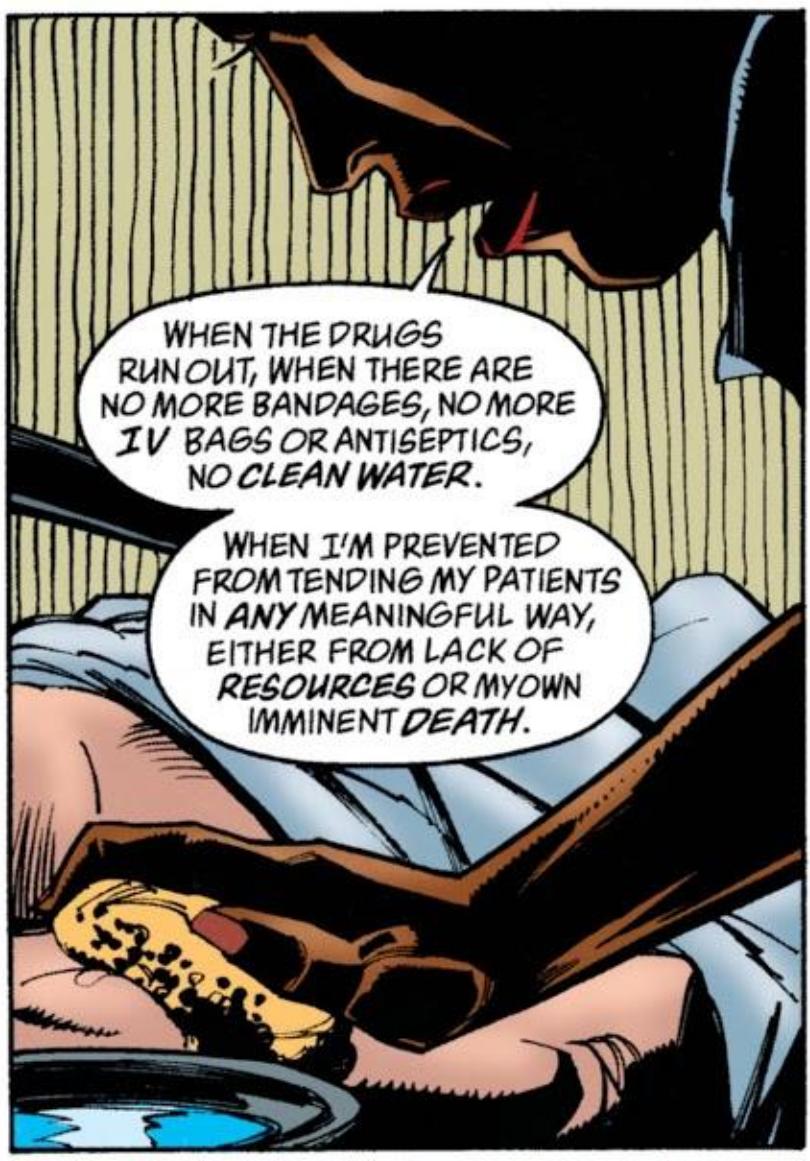


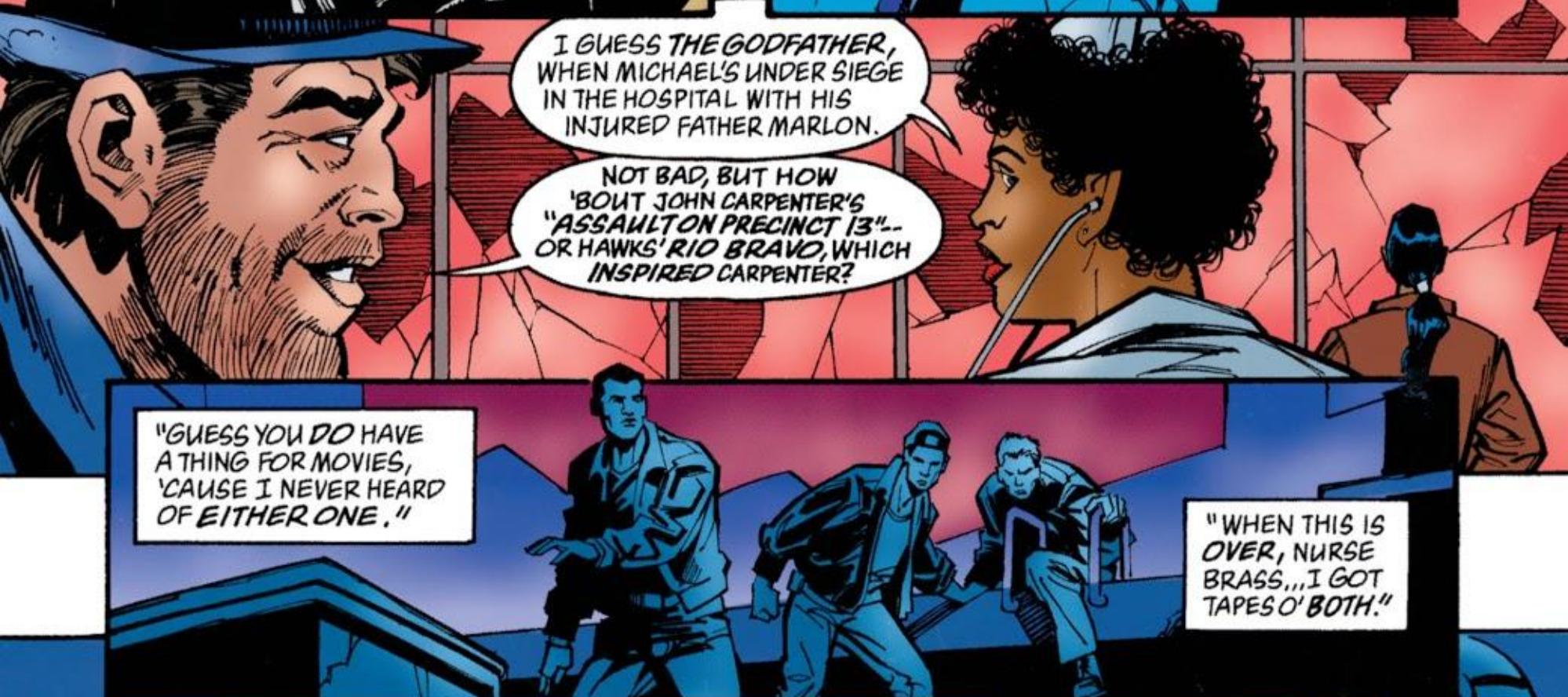
























--AND FOR THOSE GRAFFITI-DOUBTERS DECIDING TO GO A-WALKIN', POLICE COMMISSIONER JAMES GORDON ASKS THAT YOU PLEASE EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION.

THE SOUTH BRIDGE IN PARTICULAR HAS SUSTAINED SEVERE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE AND REMAINS UNSTABLE, PERHAPS DANGEROUS...

"NO ONE CAN REALLY BLAME YOU FOR DESERTING SHIP, BUT PLEASE, PEOPLE..."

"...DO SO IN A SANE AND ORDERLY FASHION."

"AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU... WHEREVER YOU END UP."

SHAKEN FROM THE
ROOTS UP... FALLEN FROM
THE TOP DOWN... AND NOW,
JUST WHEN GOTHAM NEEDS
HER PEOPLE MOST,
THEY'RE LEAVING.

THEY EXPECT THE
CITY TO SUPPORT AND
PROTECT THEM, GORDON,
NOT THE OTHER WAY
AROUND.

YOU'RE RIGHT--
AND SO ARE THEY,
I GUESS...

THE WHOLE CITY'S
BECOME A THREAT TO THEIR
LIVES-- DANGER AND DEATH
BOUND IN EVERY BRICK OF
EVERY BUILDING.

HARD TO EVEN
RECOGNIZE THE PLACE...
AFTER THE WAY IT'S
BEEN...

AND IT'S
STILL CHANGING,
ROBIN...

"...FOR THE
WORSE."

"AMEN--BIG
TIME."

END