

A N N U A L



2

# BATMAN

THE NEW 52!

FEATURING:  
THE ANCHORESS,  
THE ASYLUM AND  
ZERO YEAR!

SCOTT  
**SNYDER**  
MARGUERITE  
**BENNETT**  
WES  
**CRAIG**

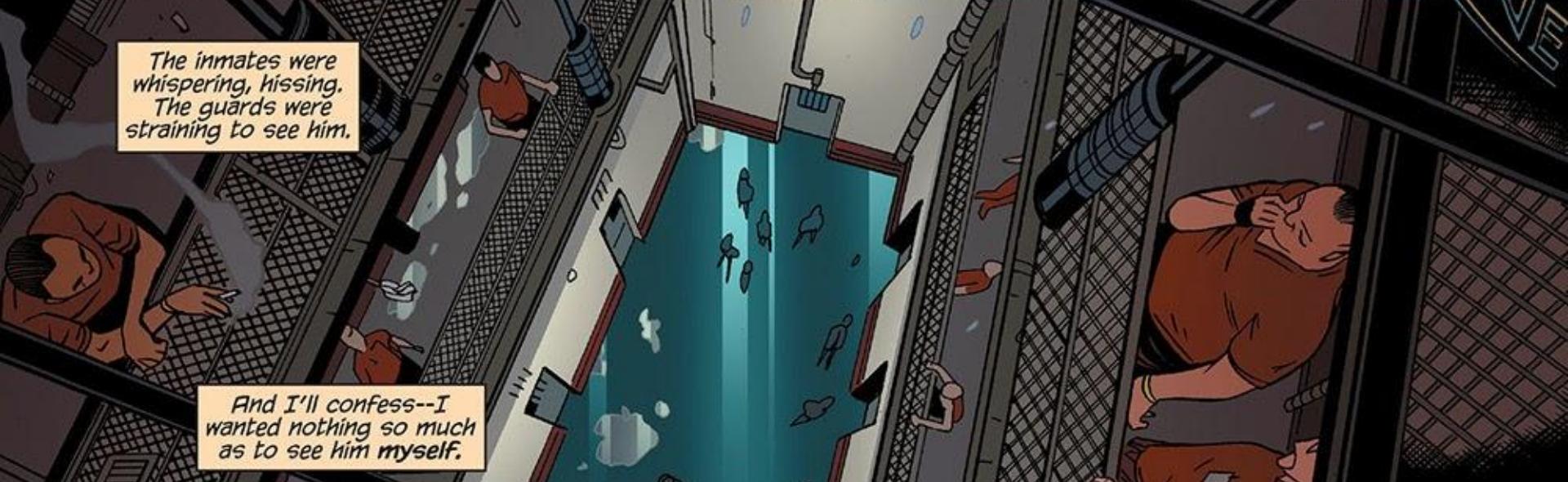
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SEP 2013

RATED T TEEN



They brought him  
into Arkham on my first  
night as an orderly.



The inmates were  
whispering, hissing.  
The guards were  
straining to see him.

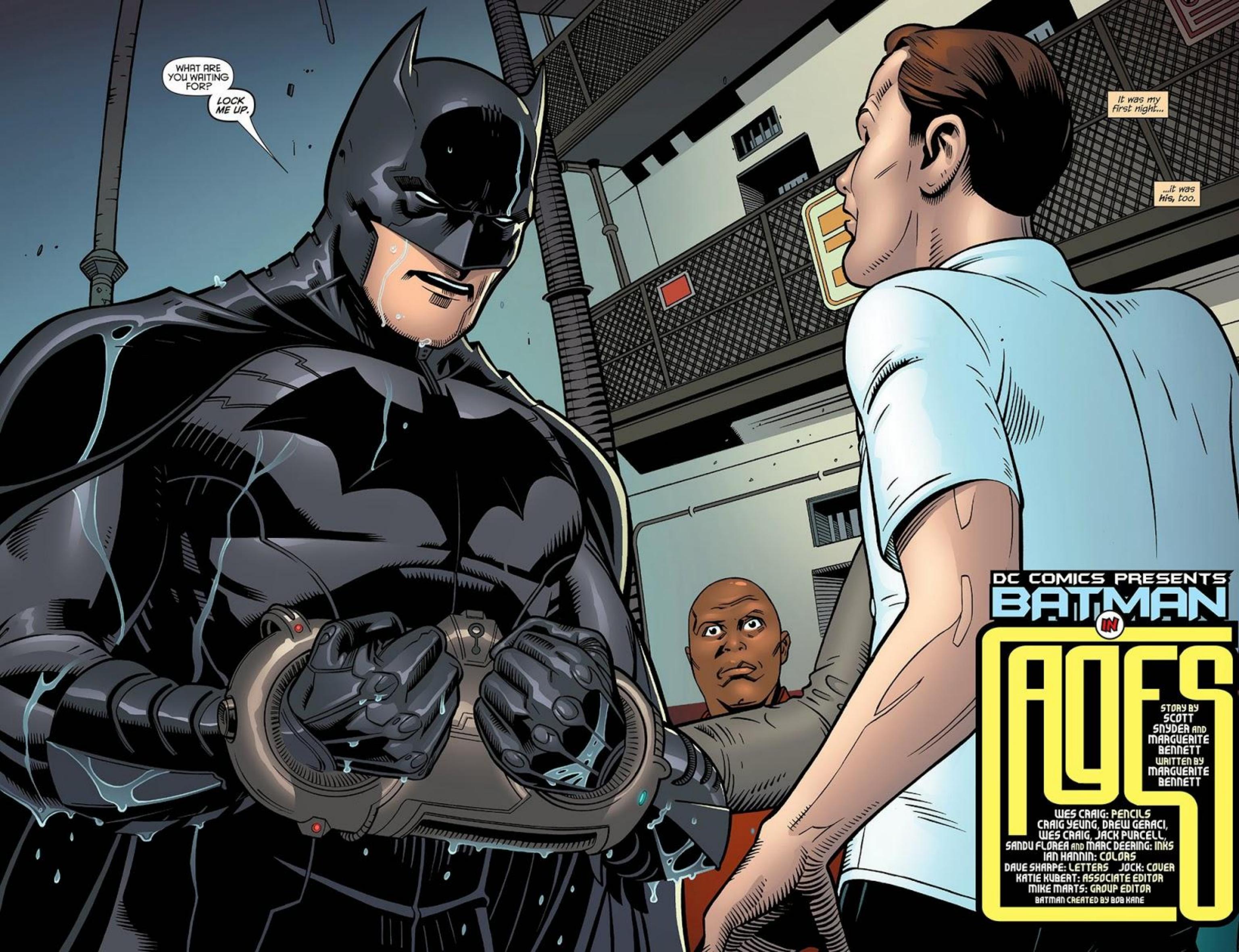
And I'll confess--I  
wanted nothing so much  
as to see him myself.



They said he was the most  
dangerous man ever to set  
foot in Arkham.



And when he turned  
the corner, he didn't  
fail to impress.



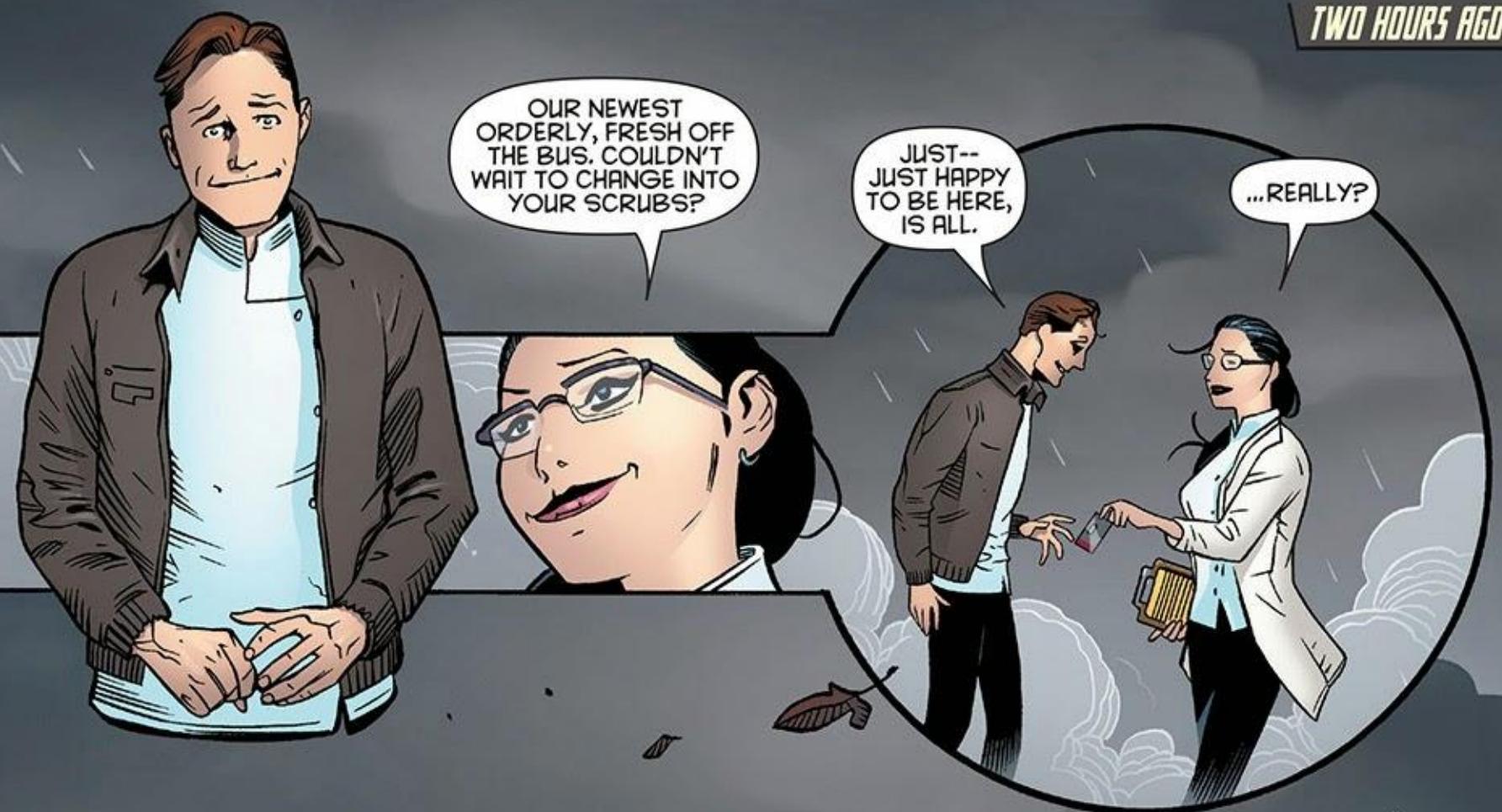
DC COMICS PRESENTS  
**BATMAN**

**IN**  
**AGES**

STORY BY  
SCOTT  
SNYDER AND  
MARGUERITE  
BENNETT  
WRITTEN BY  
MARGUERITE  
BENNETT

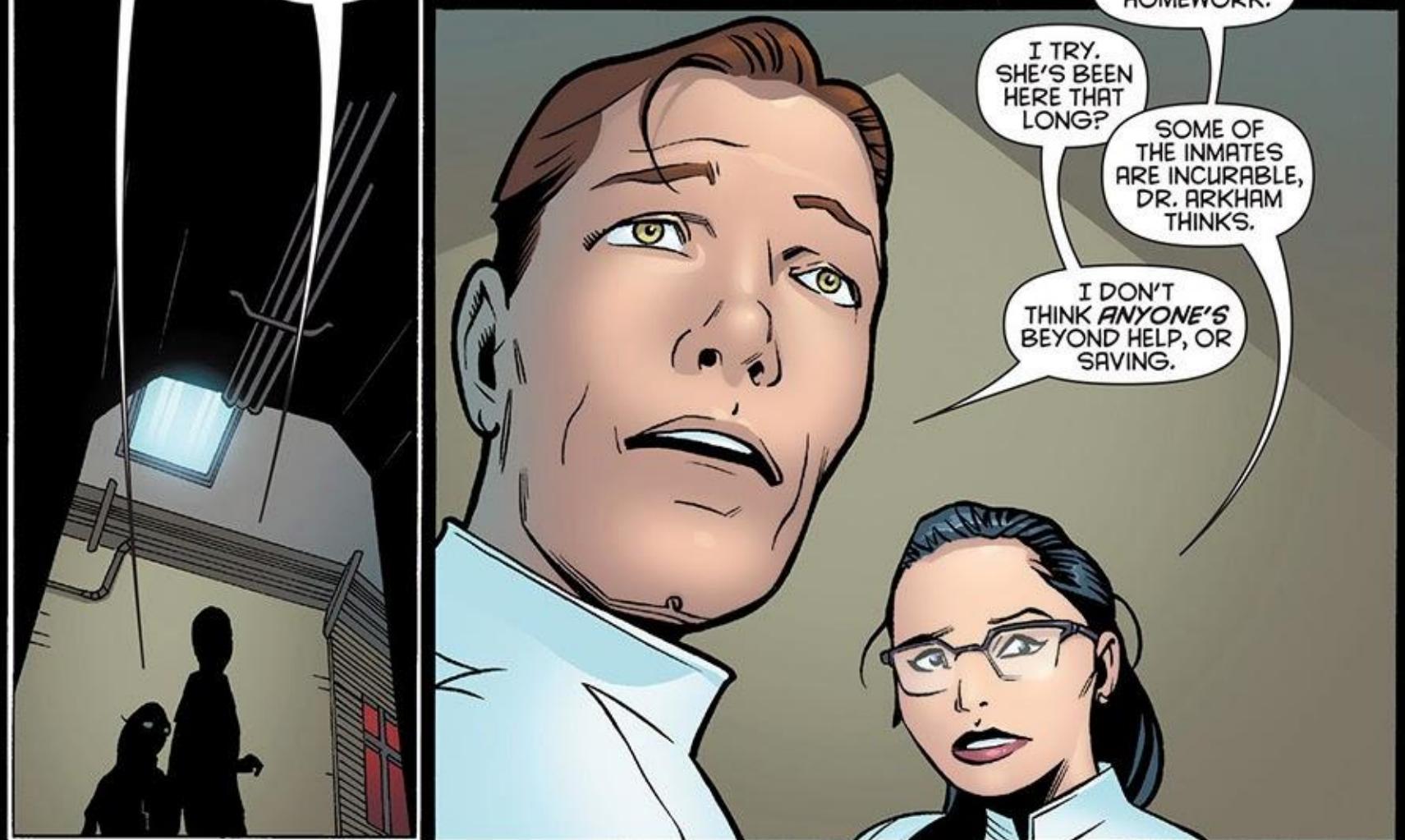
WES CRAIG: PENCILS  
CRAIG YEUNG, DREW GERACI,  
WES CRAIG, JACK PURCELL,  
SANDU FLOREA AND MARC DEERING: INKS  
IAN HANNIN: COLORS  
DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS JOCK: COVER  
KATIE KUBERT: ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
MIKE MARTS: GROUP EDITOR  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

TWO HOURS AGO.

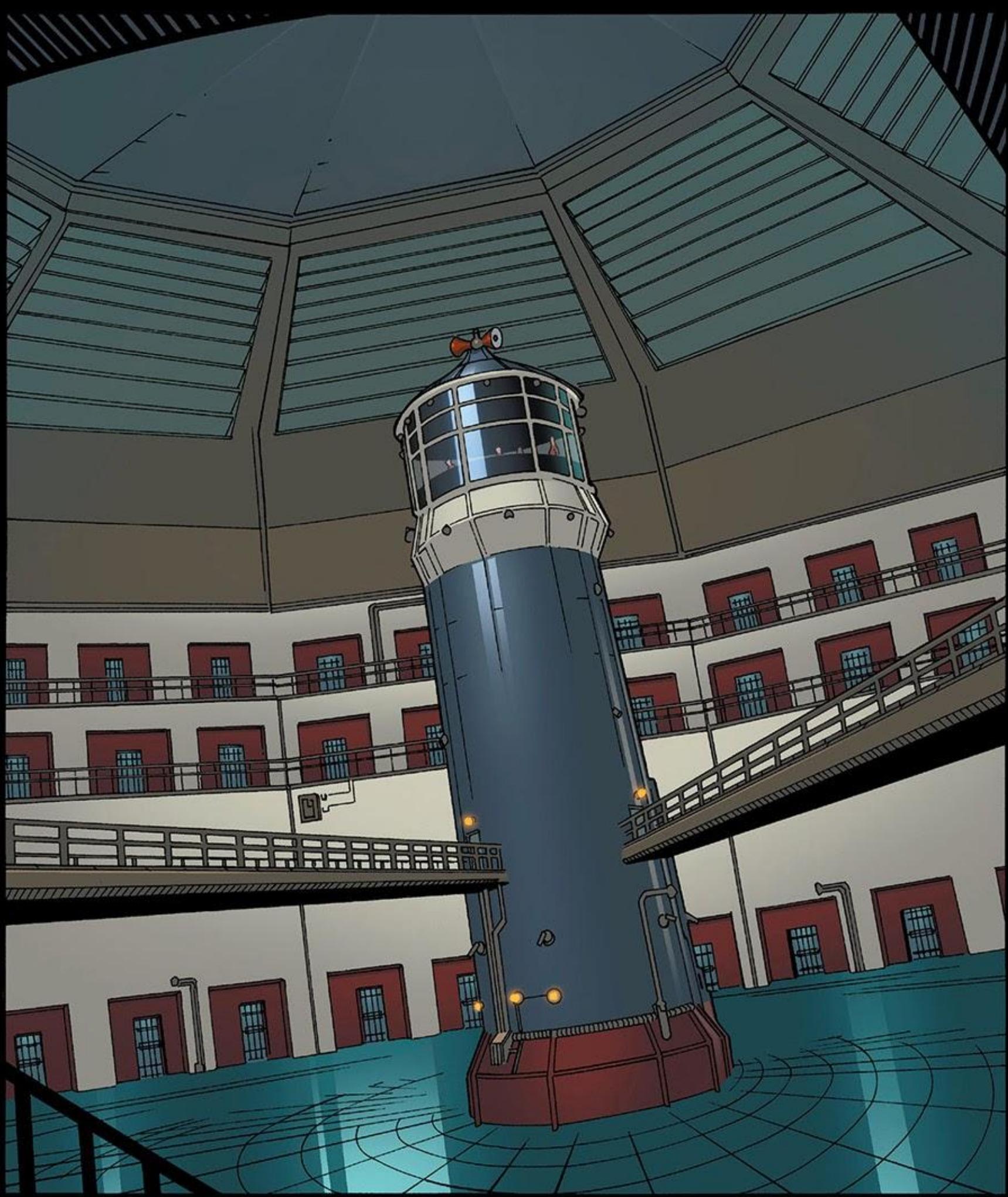


ECMASY





NOW.



ATTENTION--THIS IS DR. JEREMIAH ARKHAM--TONIGHT, WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE AN ESTEEMED GUEST, WHO HAS AGREED TO TEST OUR LATEST ADDITION TO THE ARKHAM ESTATE...

...A SPECIAL WING DESIGNED FOR OUR MORE PARTICULAR PATIENTS...

...THE TARTARUS WING.

THEY'RE ASKING THE BATMAN TO BREAK OUT OF THE WING? TO TELL THEM WHAT TO EXPECT OF THE INMATES?

BATMAN KNOWS THE ASYLUM BETTER THAN ANYONE--

--BETTER THAN ANYONE IN THE HALL OF FAME, BETTER THAN DR. ARKHAM, BETTER THAN THE JO--

AND WHO IS THIS, MAHREEN?

OUR NEWEST ORDERLY, SIR.

ERIC, SIR. ERIC BORDER.

MR. BORDER, YOU ARE UNDERFOOT. GO BE OF SOME USE ELSEWHERE.

ALL PERSONNEL ARE REMOVED FROM THE TARTARUS WING...

...TRIAL BREAKOUT COMMENCING...

...BATMAN, PLEASE CONFIRM AUDIO LINK.

CONFIRMED. COMMENCE TRIAL BREAKOUT.

THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IN THIS WING IS COMPUTER-OPERATED. FOOD, WATER, AND ALL BASIC NEEDS ARE ADMINISTERED BY DRONES. THERE IS NO HUMAN CONTACT.

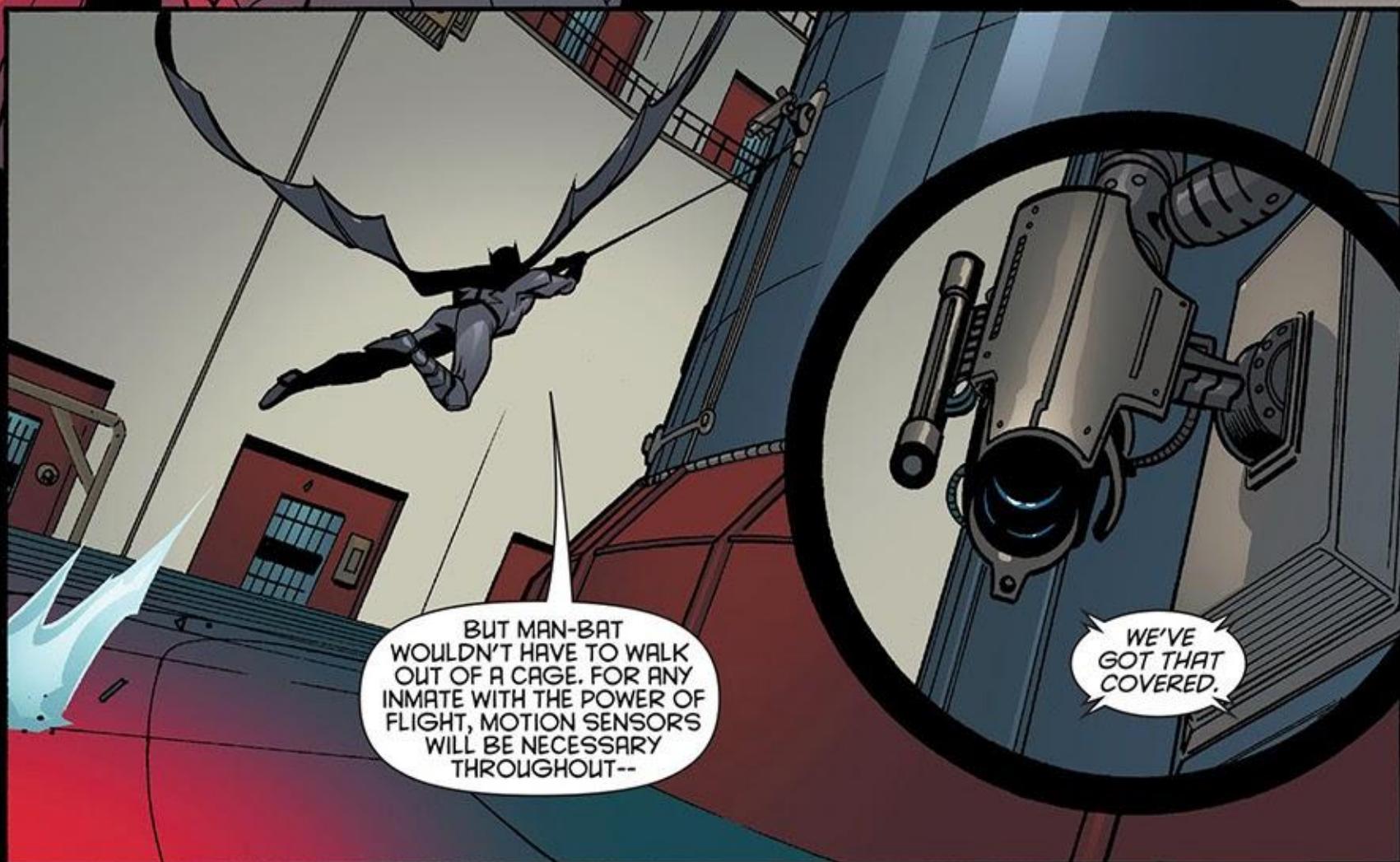
GOOD. HARVEY DENT COULD TERRIFY A GUARD OR AN ORDERLY INTO OBEDIENCE... THE RIDDLER COULD OUTSMART ONE, TRICK THEM INTO GIVING SOMETHING AWAY. THESE PRISONERS WILL NEED ISOLATION.

THESE BARS ARE TUNGSTEN ALLOY. THEY CAN'T BE BENT AND THEY CAN'T BE BROKEN.

BUT THE SCARECROW WAS A CHEMIST, TO BEGIN. IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE THAT HE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A CARBORANE ACID...

...MONTHS AGO, I MADE A SURGICAL INCISION ON A CALLUS OVER THE THENAR EMINENCE OF MY PALM. THE MATERIALS INSIDE ARE BIO-DEGRADABLE PROTOTYPES-- ENOUGH TO SLIDE BENEATH METAL DETECTION.

IT HAS ITS USES.





THIS IS A NEODYMIUM LASER. THE PENGUIN COULD EASILY ACQUIRE IT ON THE BLACK MARKET.

THE WALL WILL NEED TO BE RECAST AS A SOLID BLOCK, NOT ASSEMBLED PARTS.

AND YOU, BATMAN?

IF THIS WERE YOUR CELL, HOW WOULD YOU ESCAPE?



OH!  
...YOU  
CAME  
BACK.





"I WAS BORN IN GOTHAM BEFORE THE SINKING OF THE MAINE..."

"...HENRI BECQUEREL STUDIED RADIACTIVITY IN PARIS. THE CURIES HAD WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE THE PREVIOUS WINTER."

"AND NOTHING FASCINATED ME SO WELL AS EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS, AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE HUMAN FORM."

"I WAS NOT THE DEBUTANTE OF WHICH MY MOTHER HAD DREAMED-- I WAS NOT THE BEAUTY MY FATHER WOULD HAVE PRIZED."

"BUT I TRIED TO BE HAPPY."

"I TRIED."

"WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED MY IMPENDING MARRIAGE, I DECLARED I WOULD RUN AWAY."

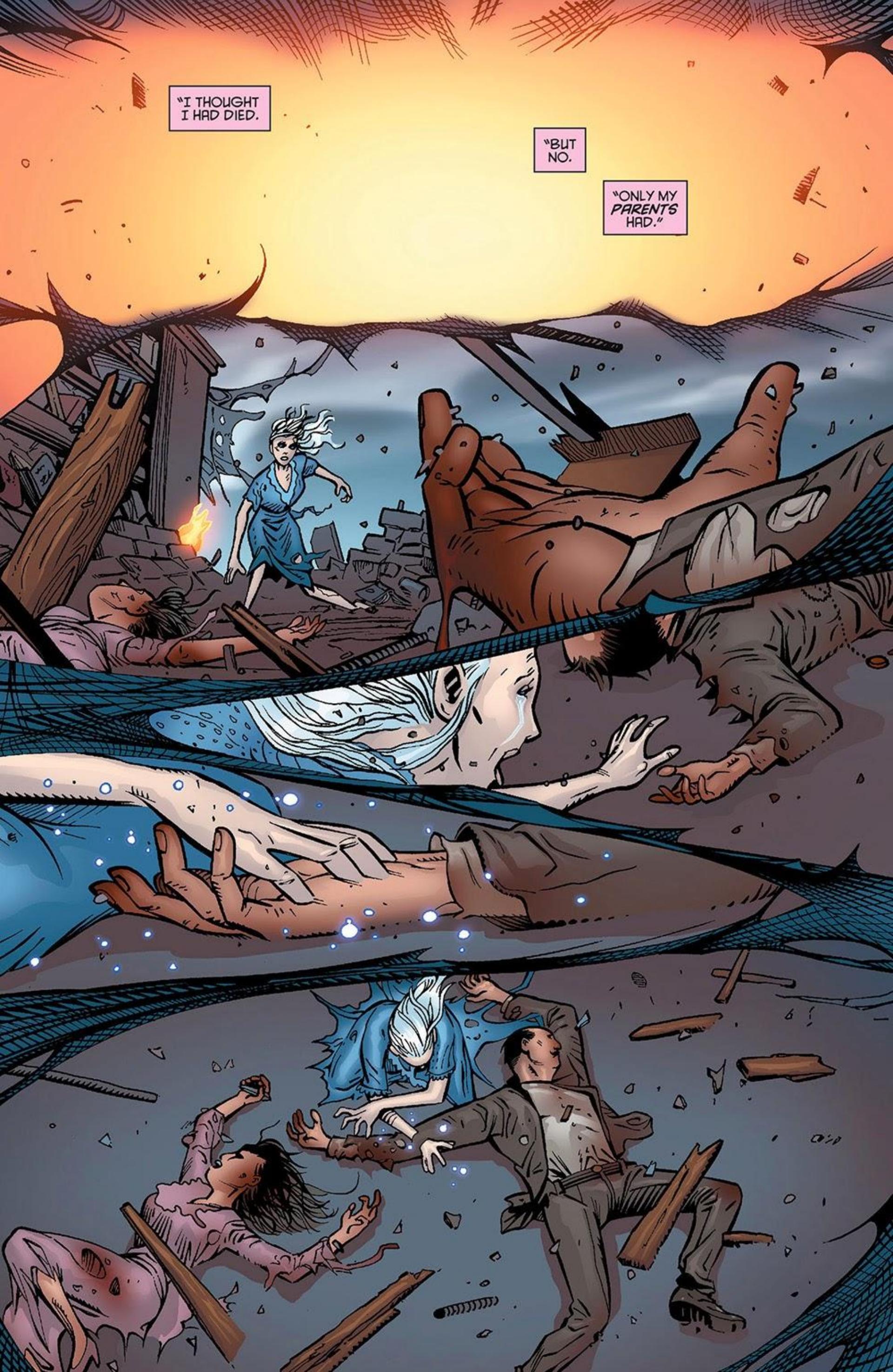
"MY PARENTS ANSWERED THAT IF THEY HAD TO LOCK ME IN MY BEDROOM AND CHAIN ME TO THE BED, I WOULD BE WED."

"NO CAGE WOULD EVER HOLD ME. I PROMISED THEM THAT."

"I THOUGHT  
I HAD DIED."

"BUT  
NO."

"ONLY MY  
PARENTS  
HAD."



"I HAD KILLED MY OWN PARENTS... I GRIEVED."

ODD

"I HAD MYSELF LOCKED AWAY, WALLED UP INSIDE ARKHAM--MY CAGE, MY CELL, MY SANCTUARY."

"HERE I WAS PROTECTED FROM THE SCORN OF THE CITY, WHICH CALLED ME MURDERESS AND MONSTER..."

"...ASYLUM. WHAT A LOVELY WORD."

"DR. ARKHAM SAID I WAS GETTING BETTER--FIRST THE FATHER, THEN HIS SON, THEN HIS SON'S SON, AND ON..."

"...I WAS GETTING BETTER."



"YEARS PASSED, AND I WAS SAFE..."

"...BUT THEN HE CAME, AND VIOLATED THE TRUST OF SANCTUARY."

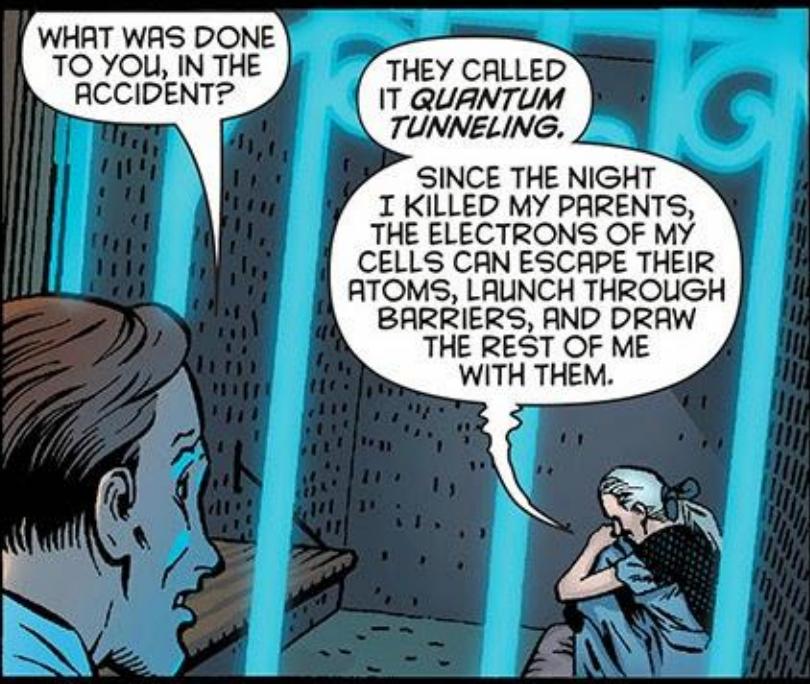
"HE CAME--THE BATMAN."

"HE FILLED THIS PLACE WITH EVIL, UNREPENTANT EVIL. THESE FREAKS."

"AND THE GOOD DOCTOR NO LONGER HAD TIME FOR ME. ALL I HAD WAS MEMORY AND TIME."

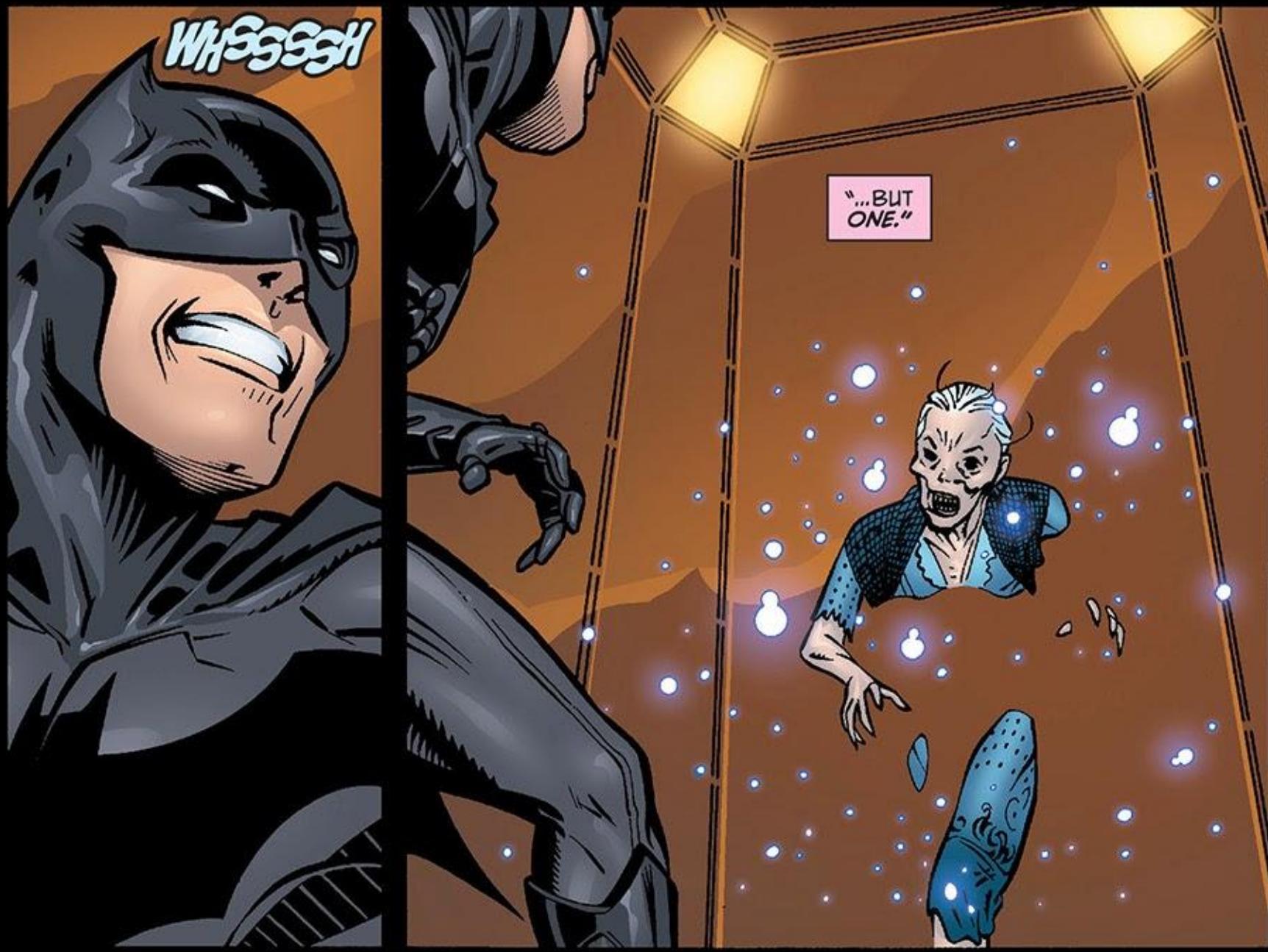
"ONCE, I CAME HERE OF MY OWN FREE WILL. BUT THE BATMAN DESTROYED THIS PLACE."

"IT WAS NO LONGER A PLACE OF HEALING. IT WAS ONLY A PLACE OF PUNISHMENT."





"TONIGHT, I WILL OPEN  
EVERY CELL IN ARKHAM."



MAHREEN!



ERIC!  
SOMETHING'S  
GONE WRONG IN  
THE TARTARUS  
CELL!

THE CAMERAS  
ARE ALL OFF-LINE--THERE'S  
BEEN A MASSIVE DISTURBANCE  
IN THE SYSTEM--I DON'T THINK  
IT'S ELECTRICAL, IT  
LOOKS--

MOLECULAR.

ONE OF THE  
TARTARUS TRAPS  
TRIGGERED--WE'VE  
LOST VISUAL WITH  
THE BATMAN--

SHE GOT  
OUT, MAHREEN. THE  
ANCHORESS.

QUANTUM  
TUNNELING, THAT'S  
WHAT SHE DOES. SHE  
COULD DIP HER FINGER  
INTO ANY FUSE BOX IN  
ARKHAM AND DISRUPT  
THE FLOW OF  
ENERGY.

IF SHE  
PUT HER HAND  
TO YOUR  
FACE--

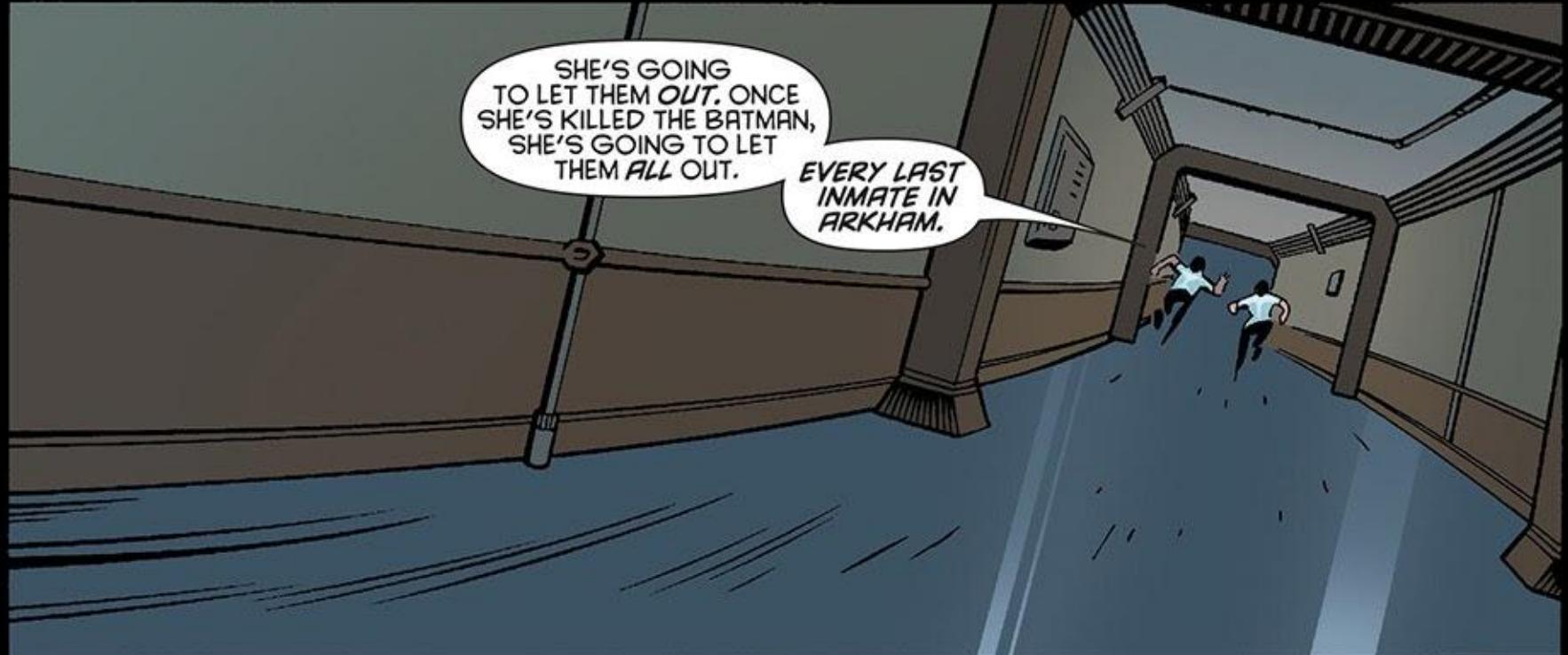
--COME  
WITH ME!

TELL  
ME THE  
PLAN--



SHE'S GOING  
TO LET THEM OUT. ONCE  
SHE'S KILLED THE BATMAN,  
SHE'S GOING TO LET  
THEM ALL OUT.

EVERY LAST  
INMATE IN  
ARKHAM.



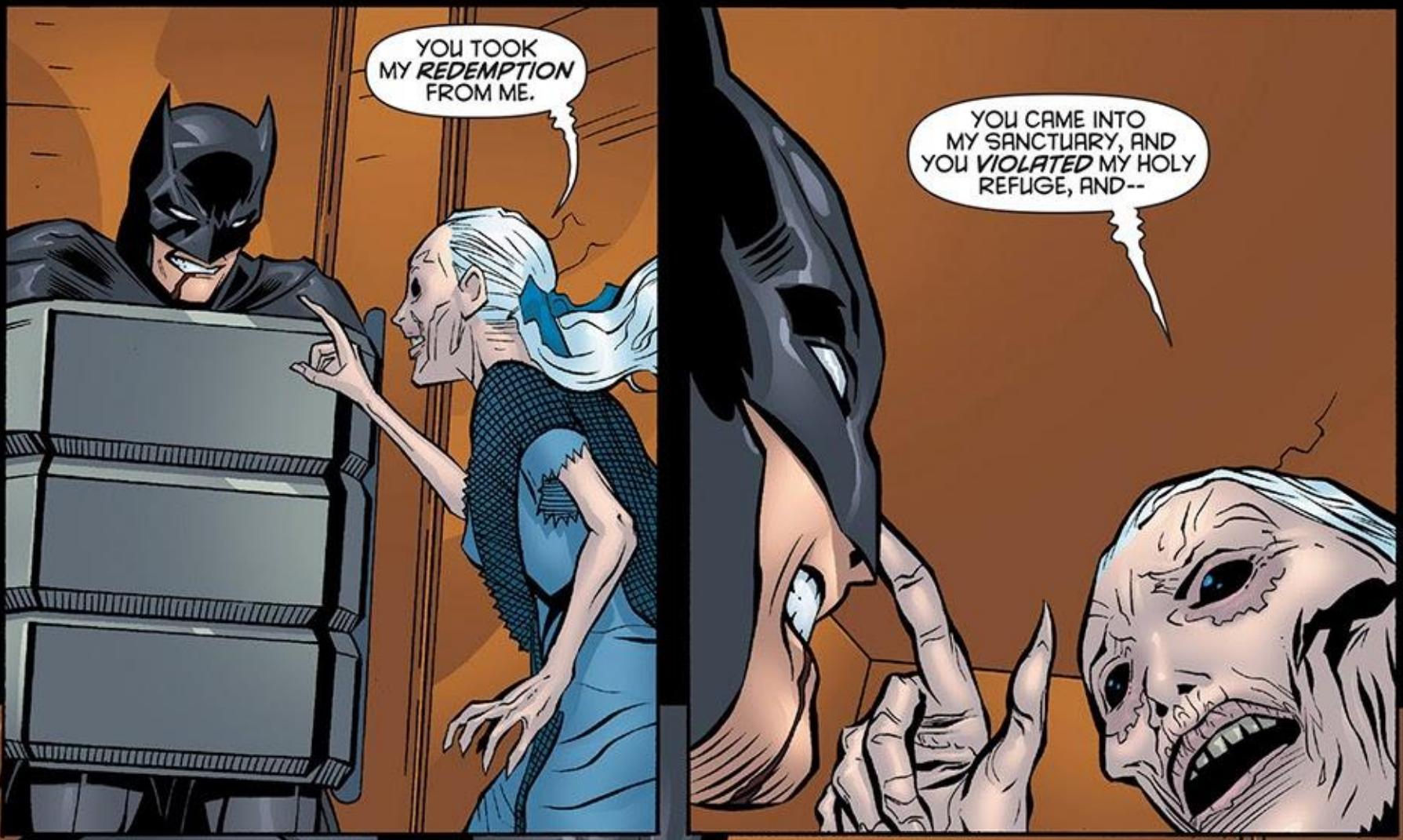
BATMAN!  
BATMAN, COME  
IN! WE'VE LOST  
AUDIO!

ARKHAM,  
THERE'S BEEN  
A SECURITY  
BREACH.

WHO  
ARE YOU?

YOUR  
CREATION!





THE ZERO YEAR...

"...I'D COME TO ARKHAM TO SEARCH FOR FILES ON THE RED HOOD GANG THAT WAS WRECKING THE CITY."

"THERE WERE NO DATABASES, NO MAINFRAMES TO BE INFILTRATED, ONLY HARD COPIES TO BE STOLEN."

"THERE WAS A WOMAN OUT OF HER ROOM, WALKING THE GROUNDS."

"SHE SAW ME, FOLLOWED ME..."

"...AND CAUGHT ME."

"YOU THIEF! YOU TRESPASSER! THIS IS A SAFE PLACE--THIS IS A SANCTUARY! THOSE ARE FOR DOCTORS, NOT FOR YOU! GET OUT! GET OUT!"

"THE ORDERLIES OF ARKHAM SAW HER. OUT OF BED. OUT OF BOUNDS. VIOLENT."

"THEY KNEW I COULD FREE MYSELF WHEN I PLEASED."

"THEY TOOK ME TO SOLITARY, LOCKED ME BEHIND BARS. I COULDN'T ESCAPE. THEY CONSIDERED ME DANGEROUS NOW."

"THAT WAS YOU."

"THAT WAS ME."

I KNEW YOU THEN. *TRESPASSER*,  
TO VIOLATE THE OATH BETWEEN  
DOCTOR AND PATIENT.

WHEN I HEARD  
OF THE BATMAN IN  
THE MONTHS TO  
COME, I *KNEW IT*  
WAS YOU.

DO YOU KNOW  
WHAT THE *CRUELEST*  
WEAPON IS, YOU, WHO  
HAVE SO MANY  
WEAPONS?

IS IT A *KNIFE*, TO  
MAKE OF DEATH  
A LINGERING  
TORTURE?

IS IT *Poison*, SO  
THAT THE DYING CAN  
FEEL THE CORRUPTION  
IN THEIR VEINS?

OR A *GUN*? A BLAST  
OF SMOKE AND FLAME,  
TO MAKE LIFE SO CHEAP,  
SO SHORT, SO *LITTLE*...

...I WILL TELL YOU WHAT  
THE *CRUELEST* WEAPON  
IS, BATMAN.

THE  
*CRUELEST*  
WEAPON--IS  
A *CAGE*.

TO FEEL YOUR  
SENSES NUMB AND ROT, TO  
PACE THE SAME FOUR WALLS,  
TO FEEL THE MADNESS BEAT  
THROUGH YOUR BLOOD, THE  
RISING TIDE OF A SCREAM  
THAT NO ONE HEARS--

--THAT IS  
A *CAGE*.

I WILL GIVE YOU A *CAGE*. A  
*CAGE* OF YOUR OWN GUILT AND  
MEMORIES--FOREVER.

YOUR LIFE WILL BE LONG.  
THOUSANDS OF YEARS WILL PASS  
IN YOUR HEAD, IN THE MOMENTS IT  
TAKES FOR THE WARDENS OF  
ARKHAM TO BREAK DOWN  
THESE WALLS...

...AND THE SECONDS  
IT WILL TAKE ME TO *SHRED*  
THEM TO GUTS AND GORE  
AND SPLINTERS OF BONE.

IF YOU DIE IN THE PRISON OF  
YOUR MIND, YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE  
THE *CAGE* I GIVE TO YOU. EVEN  
DEATH WILL NOT FREE YOU.

AND  
YOU WILL  
REMEMBER  
ME.

AFTER YOU HAVE  
FORGOTTEN THE NAME OF  
EVERY CHILD WHO EVER DIED  
IN YOUR SERVICE, OH--YOU  
WILL REMEMBER ME.

QUANTUM TUNNELING...A  
STRAY *CELL* OF MINE THAT PASSES  
THROUGH YOUR WALLS OF BONE AND  
BRUSHES A *CELL* OF YOURS, TUNNELS  
DEEP INTO THE AMYGDALA, OR  
THE TEMPORAL LOBE...

...THE HUMAN  
BRAIN WAS ALWAYS  
A FASCINATION  
TO ME.

A *CELL* IN  
A *CELL*...

No. No. You  
can't know this...

I don't need to know it,  
Bruce. I'm only here in  
your mind--a projection  
of your mind--

--and the mind that is  
all that is left, in a cage.

This again, you  
are thinking. Yes,  
this again!

THIS AGAIN AND  
AGAIN AND AGAIN AND  
AGAIN...THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN  
UNTIL YOU ARE MAD, BRUCE,  
UNTIL YOU ARE ONE MORE  
MADMAN IN ARKHAM, BRUCE,  
UNTIL IT IS HELL, BRUCE,  
UNTIL IT IS HELL...

UNTIL IT  
IS HELL!

BROTHER,  
NO!

BROTHER--NO--  
HOW COULD YOU--  
HOW COULD YOU DO  
THIS TO ME?!

DIE NOW AND  
YOU WILL NEVER BE FREE.  
DO YOU FEEL FRIGHTENED,  
INVADER? VULNERABLE? ANGRY?  
HAS SOMEONE COME  
INTO YOUR HOLY PLACE?  
YOUR ASYLUM?

THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST DETECTIVE!  
THE ASYLUM OF  
YOUR MIND!



FA...THER?

DIDN'T I...  
WASN'T I GOOD  
ENOUGH?

IN THE END,  
WHY DIDN'T YOU...  
DIDN'T YOU...COME  
FOR ME?

IN THE END,  
WASN'T I...WASN'T  
I WORTH IT?

FA-THER...?

YOUR  
PARENTS, YOU  
COULD NOT  
SAVE.

YOUR  
BROTHER, YOU  
COULD NOT  
SAVE.

YOUR  
SON,  
YOU COULD  
NOT SAVE.

YOUR LITTLE  
FLITTING FAMILY, BIRD  
AND BAT AND WING AND  
HOOD--**NONE** SHALL  
BE SAVED.

YOU HAVE BUT  
ONE TRUE SANCTUARY,  
ONE PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG--  
AND THAT IS WITH THE MADMEN,  
THE INMATES, THE SICK AND  
THE BROKEN...

...THE  
ASYLEES OF  
ARKHAM.





THIS IS FOREVER,  
BRUCE. A PRISONER  
TO YOUR OWN MIND  
AND MEMORIES...

...FOREVER.

HELL  
IS REPETITION.

HELL  
IS OTHER  
PEOPLE.

HELL IS FOR  
HEROES.

HELL IS  
A CAGE.

NO.

HELL IS A  
CAGE, BATMAN.  
HELL IS--  
**AARRGGHH!**

NO!

HURRY!

THE BAR  
YOU CUT FROM THE  
ANCHORESS' CELL--  
THE ANTI-CONDUCTOR  
DIODE--I'M FLOODING  
IT WITH ALL THE  
ENERGY THE STUN  
GUN'S GOT!

ANCHORESS!  
GET AWAY FROM HIM!

*Her powers drain when  
she uses them. She's  
vulnerable again.*

*In a different way, she  
was always vulnerable.*

BATMAN!  
GET OUT OF HERE!

WE CAN'T  
HELP YOU  
WITH HER  
HERE!

GO!









HERE YOU GO,  
SWEETIE.

THANKS,  
MAHREEN.

ALL CELLS ARE  
QUIET. NONE OF THE  
DOORS EVER OPENED,  
AFTER WHAT THE  
ANCHORESS DID.

THE OTHER ORDERLIES TELL ME  
THE ANCHORESS WILL BE HELD  
WITH STRONGER SECURITY  
DOWN BELOW...

...BUT IN A  
DIFFERENT CELL,  
A MORE HUMANE  
CELL. SHE'LL RECEIVE  
TREATMENT  
AGAIN.

ARKHAM WAS  
A SANCTUARY  
ONCE, MAHREEN.  
IT CAN BE  
A SANCTUARY  
AGAIN.

AND BATMAN?  
YOU'LL HAVE A HARD  
TIME CONVINCING  
HIM.

I'M NOT  
GOING TO LIE--  
I'LL HAVE A HARD  
TIME CONVINCING  
MYSELF.

BUT WHEN  
HE'S READY,  
WE'LL BE HERE  
FOR HIM.

I KNOW IT'S  
JUST MY FIRST  
NIGHT...

...BUT I  
REALLY BELIEVE  
THIS.

I FEEL THIS PLACE  
CAN BE A FORCE  
FOR GOOD IN  
GOTHAM.

A  
BEACON  
IN THE  
DARK.  
A  
FRIEND.

END