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WILLINGHAM
CAMUNCOLI
HOPE

UWAR CRIMES

BATMAN



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SO JOKER'S PART OF THIS, TOO?

WHAT STARTED OFF AS AN INFURIATINGLY COMPLEX CASE HAS TAKEN A TURN INTO THE TRULY BAFFLING.

BACK OFF, JOKER! I HAVE PRIVATE BUSINESS WITH THIS AARON BLACK CHARACTER.

I'M SURE YOU DO, TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME. AND MAY I SAY YOU'VE GOT THE TRADEMARK BAT GRIMACE DOWN NEARLY PERFECT?

P-PLEASE, GUYS! I'M NO ONE IMPORTANT!

YOU AND I HAVE GONE ROUND AND ROUND FAR TOO OFTEN, JOKER. I SHOULD'VE KILLED YOU LONG AGO.

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO MEND THAT OVERSIGHT.

THUNK
MISSED ME BY A MILE, DEAR BOY! AREN'T YOU JUST TOO PRECIOUS FOR WORDS?



ENOUGH OF
WATCHING
FROM THE
SIDELINES.

TIME FOR THE
REAL MCCOY
TO STEP IN.

UURGH!

YOW!

WILDCRIMES

PART 2

MINOR DISCREPANCIES

BILL WILLINGHAM - WRITER
GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI - PENCILLER
SANDRA HOPE - INKER

PAT BROSSEAU - LETTERER • JASON WRIGHT - COLORIST
BRANDON MONTCLARE - ASSISTANT EDITOR • BOB SCHRECK - EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

A
LWAYS TAKE
JOKER OUT
FIRST. HE'S TOO
UNPREDICTABLE.

WOOOF!

THEN, LIKE A
RIDICULOUS
AMATEUR, I
HESITATE AT A
CRITICAL
MOMENT.

DO I FOLLOW MY
IMPOSTER, OR STAY
AND SAVE AARON
BLACK FROM THE
JOKER?

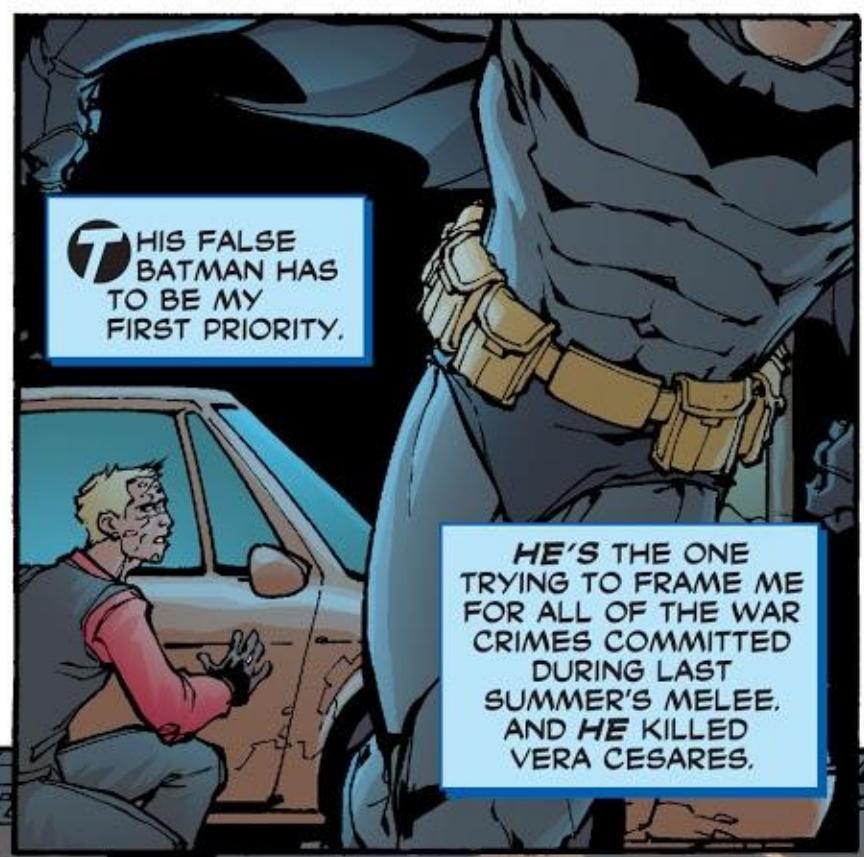
WHAO
THERE, BATMAN,
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU?

I NEED THEM
BOTH.

ONLY
ONE OR TWO
RIBS BROKEN
THIS TIME.
GETTING OLD,
CUPCAKE?

WHEN
DID YOU TURN
INTO SUCH A
BIG GIRL?

SHUT UP,
JOKER.



THAT SAME EVENING...

THANK YOU FOR COMING DOWNTOWN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, MRS. BROWN.

IS YOUR HOTEL ROOM OKAY?

IT'S FINE, MR. RODRIGUEZ. YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO BOTHER. MY HOUSE IS ONLY FORTY MINUTES FROM HERE-- DEPENDING ON TRAFFIC.

NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NOTHING BUT THE BEST FOR GUESTS OF MY SHOW.
AND BESIDES, WE NEED TO DO YOUR PRE-INTERVIEW TONIGHT--IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

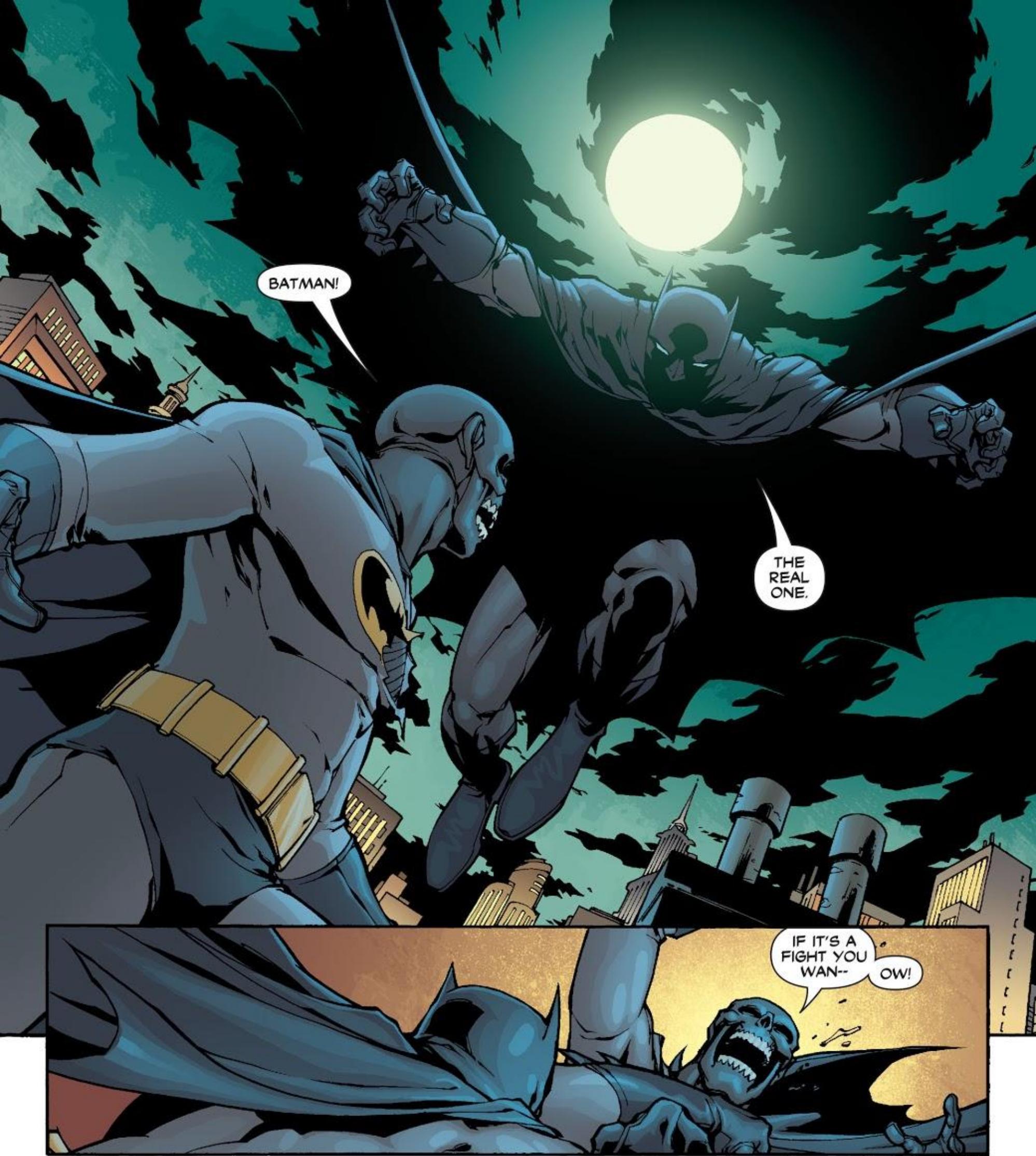
I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO HAVE AARON BLACK AGAIN TOMORROW AND SAVE YOU FOR OUR BIG END-OF-THE-WEEK FINISH.
BUT WE CAN'T FIND HIM, SO YOU GET TO GO ON EARLY.

NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET AN AUTHENTIC ON-CAMERA LOOK AT STEPHANIE BROWN'S GRIEVING MOTHER.

SO I'LL ASK LOTS OF PERSONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT HER AND MOSTLY WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS RESPOND WITH REAL FEELING.

CRYING IS BEST.









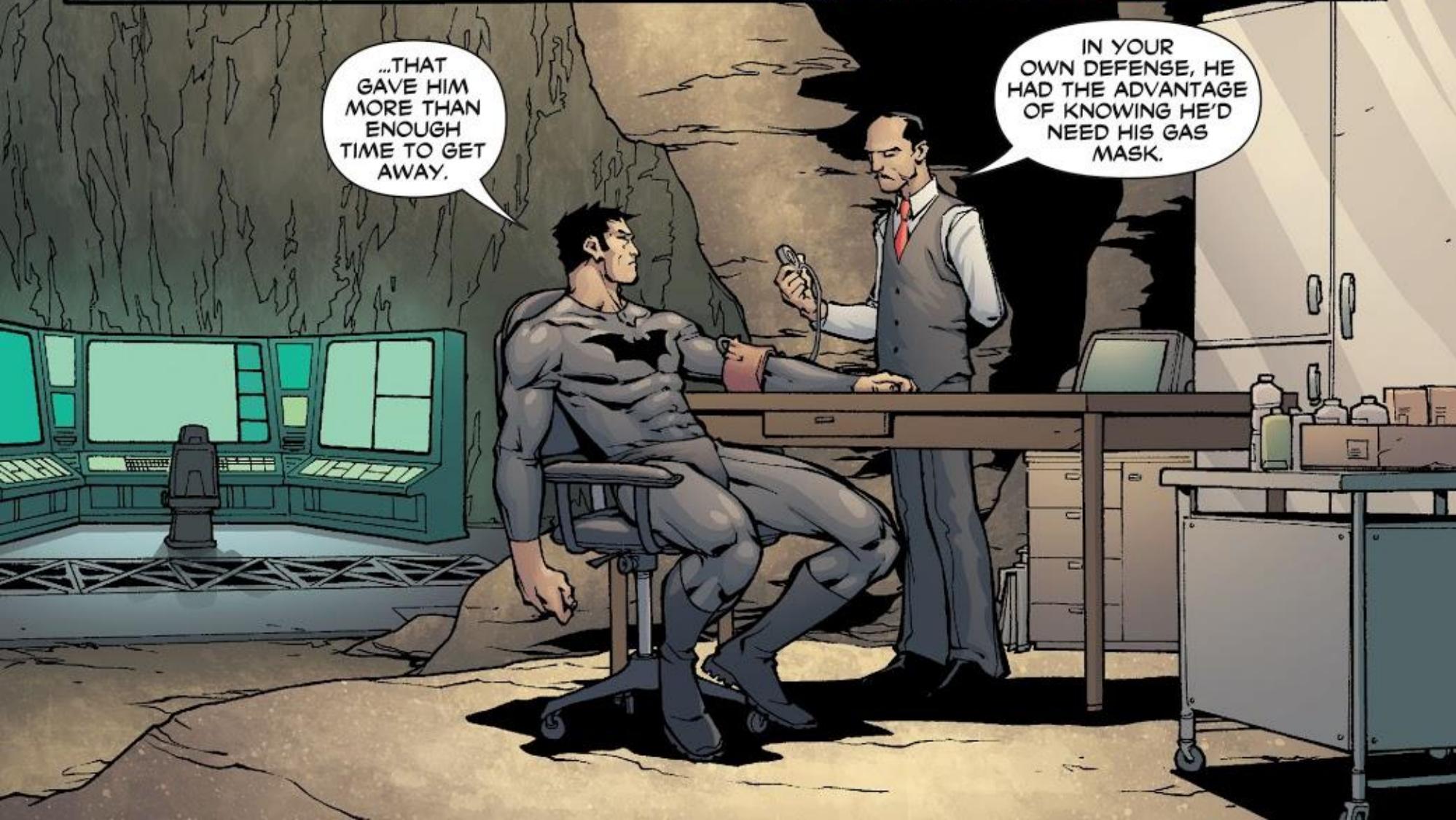
THE LAST
TIME WE FOUGHT
I WAS WOUNDED AND
NEARLY EXHAUSTED
FROM THREE DAYS
OF NON-STOP
FIGHTING.



AND EVEN
WITH ALL THOSE
ADVANTAGES, THE
BEST YOU COULD DO
WAS BARELY HOLD
YOUR OWN.



PATHETIC.



BREATHING IS FINE. PULSE AND BLOOD PRESSURE ARE FINE.

TOO SOON TO BE CERTAIN, BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'VE SUFFERED NO LONG-TERM EFFECTS FROM THE SMALL BIT OF GAS YOU INHALED.

SIMPLY SMALL COMFORT.

BLACK MASK GOT AWAY, AND BY THE TIME I GOT BACK TO THE JOKER, HE'D ESCAPED, TOO.

AND AARON BLACK'S DROPPED CLEAR OFF THE MAP...

AT YOUR URGING,

...ALONG WITH THE EVIDENCE I NEEDED.

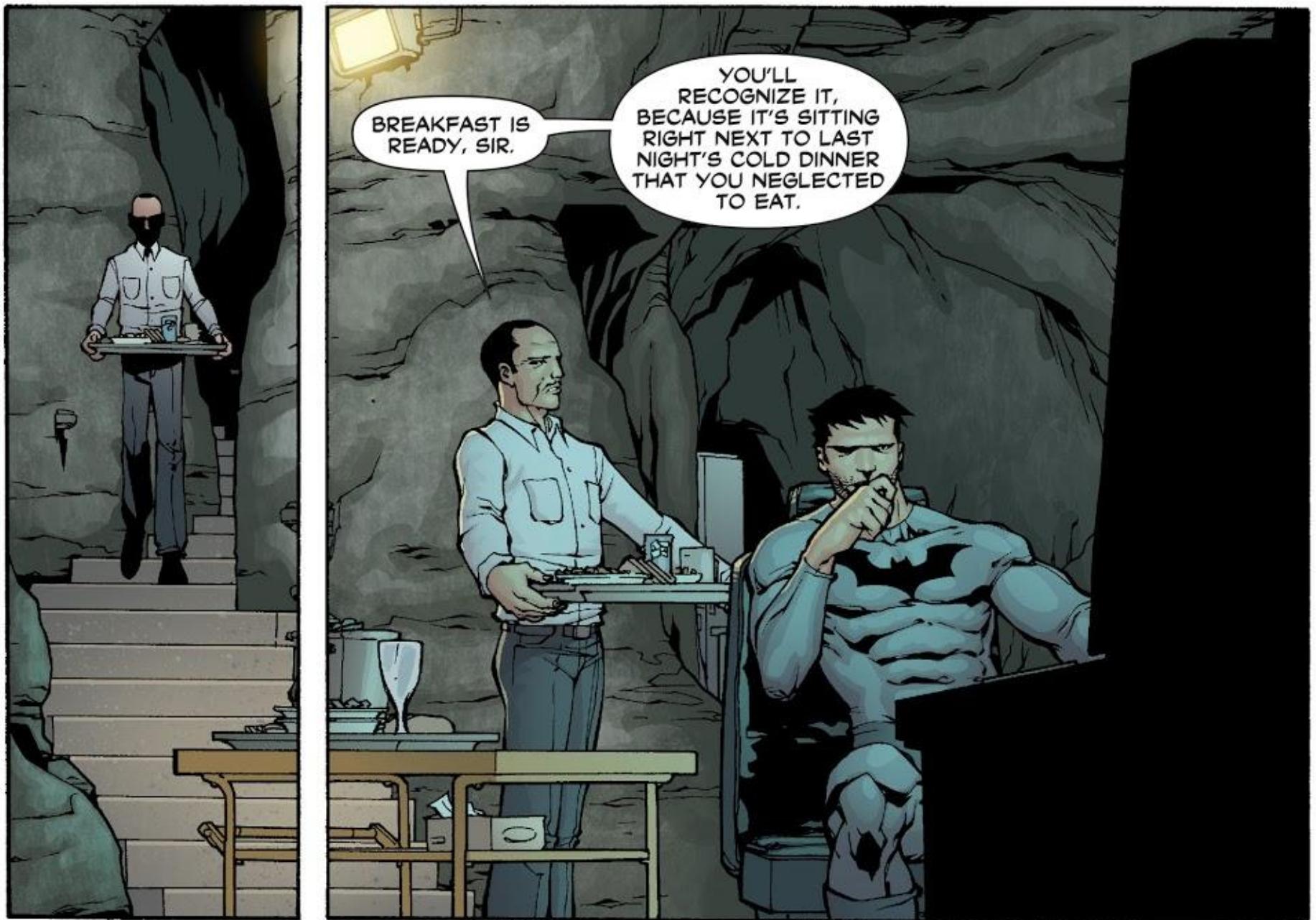
SO?

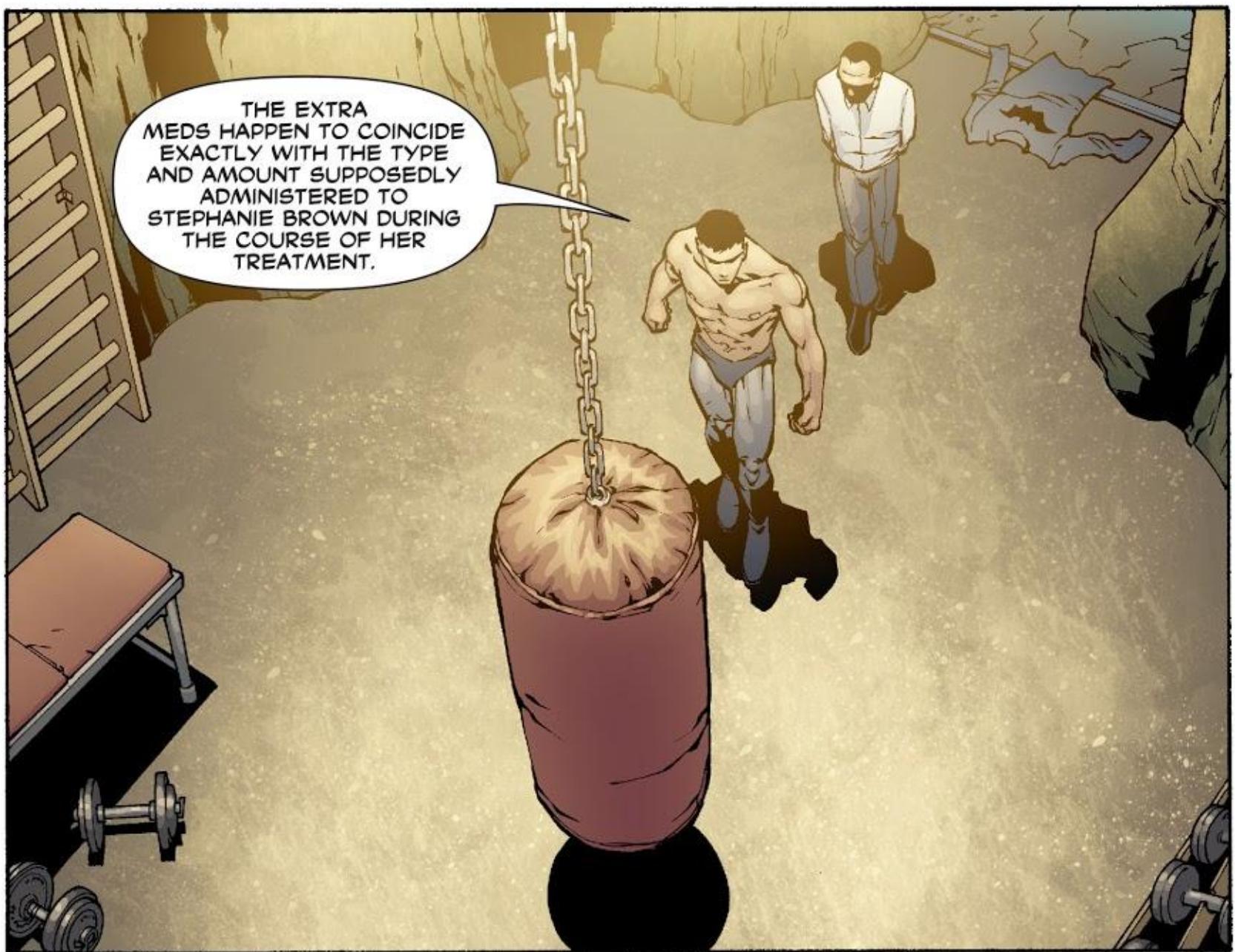
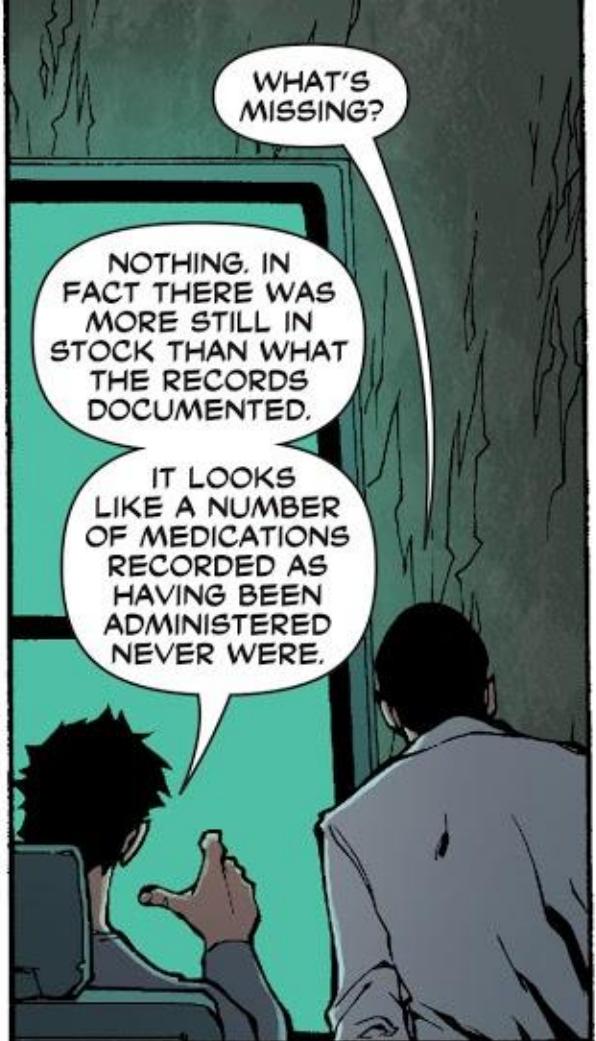
I HEARD A RUMOR ONCE THAT YOU WERE THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.

ANYONE CAN SOLVE A CRIME IF THE EVIDENCE IS DROPPED RIGHT IN HIS LAP, BUT--

OKAY, OLD FRIEND, REIN IN THE SARCASM BEFORE YOU BURST SOMETHING. YOU MADE YOUR POINT.

IF YOU'LL FIX DINNER, I'LL GET TO WORK.







WELCOME BACK
TO "GOOD MORNING
GOTHAM!" NOW, BEFORE
WE GO TO SUSAN SASH
AND THE WEATHER, WE
WANT TO REMIND YOU NOT
TO MISS TODAY'S SIZZLING
EDITION OF "TAKING SIDES
WITH ARTURO!"

DO YOU
WANT TO
EXPLAIN THIS
TO ME,
ARTURO?

EXPLAIN
WHAT, MIKE?
I JUST GOT
IN.

AND
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
IN MY
OFFICE?

MY OFFICE,
KIDD. AS LONG AS
I'M STILL THE STATION
MANAGER ALL THESE
OFFICES ARE MINE.
YOU'RE NOT SO MUCH
A STAR NOW THAT I
STILL COULDN'T FIRE
YOU IN A GOTHAM
SECOND.

YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT WE
NEED TO TALK
ABOUT.

DID YOU
HAVE SOME
OTHER POINT TO
MAKE, OR ARE
YOU JUST HERE
TO MARK
TERRITORY?

I HAVE
A SHOW TO
PREPARE.



AND WHY HAVE YOU DECIDED TO NO LONGER APPEAR ON "TAKING SIDES WITH ARTURO?"

HIS STATION PROMISED ME SECURITY PROTECTION AND YET THE ASSASSINS KNEW RIGHT WHERE TO FIND ME.

ARE YOU ALLEGING THAT ARTURO RODRIGUEZ WAS COMPLICIT IN--?

WHAT WE NEED TO ASK IS, WHO PROFITED FROM THE GANG WAR.

COMMISSIONER AKINS PROFITED, BECAUSE THE CITY HAS BLINDLY EMBRACED HIS NEW "GET TOUGH ON CRIME" POLICIES.

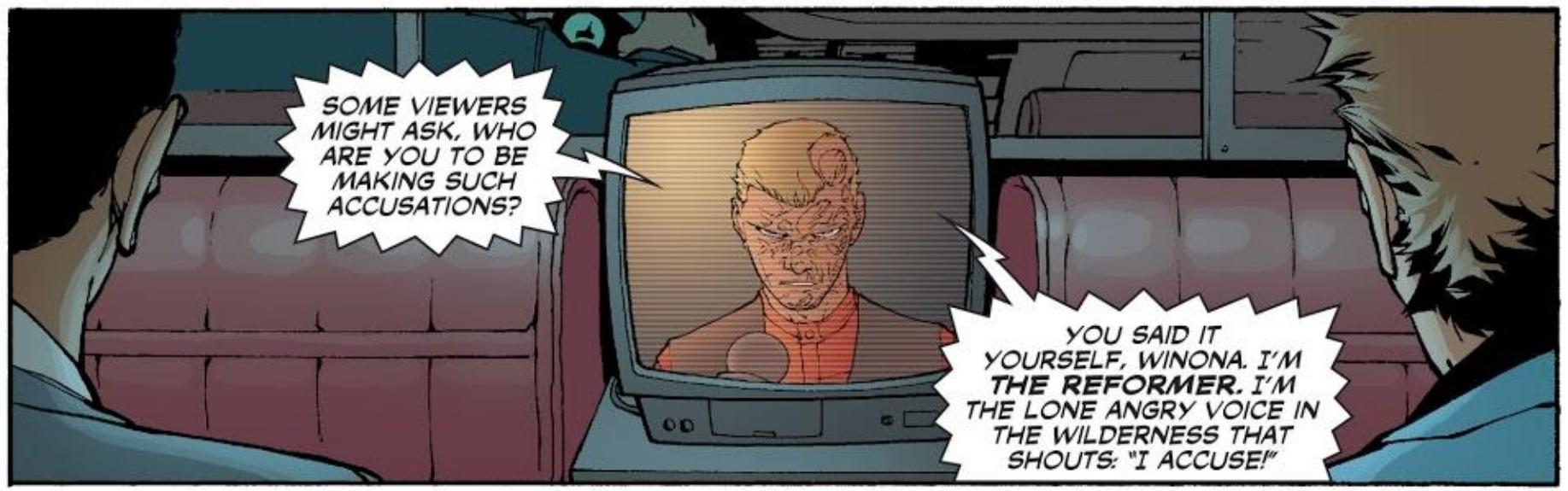
BUT WHY ARE WE STILL WAITING FOR ONE GANG WAR-RELATED CRIMINAL INDICTMENT TO BE HANDED DOWN?

BLACK MASK PROFITED BECAUSE HE TOOK OVER THE GOTHAM GANGS.

AND ARTURO RODRIGUEZ PROFITED BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY GANG WAR REPORTER TO BECOME A STAR. WHY? BECAUSE HE WAS BLACK MASK'S HOSTAGE.

BUT WAS HE REALLY AN UNWILLING HOSTAGE? BLACK MASK KILLED MANY OF HIS OWN MEN ON A WHIM, BUT LET A REPORTER-SLASH-WITNESS LIVE? THAT DEFIES LOGIC!

IS ARTURO AN OBJECTIVE JOURNALIST, OR BLACK MASK'S PAID MEDIA FLACK?

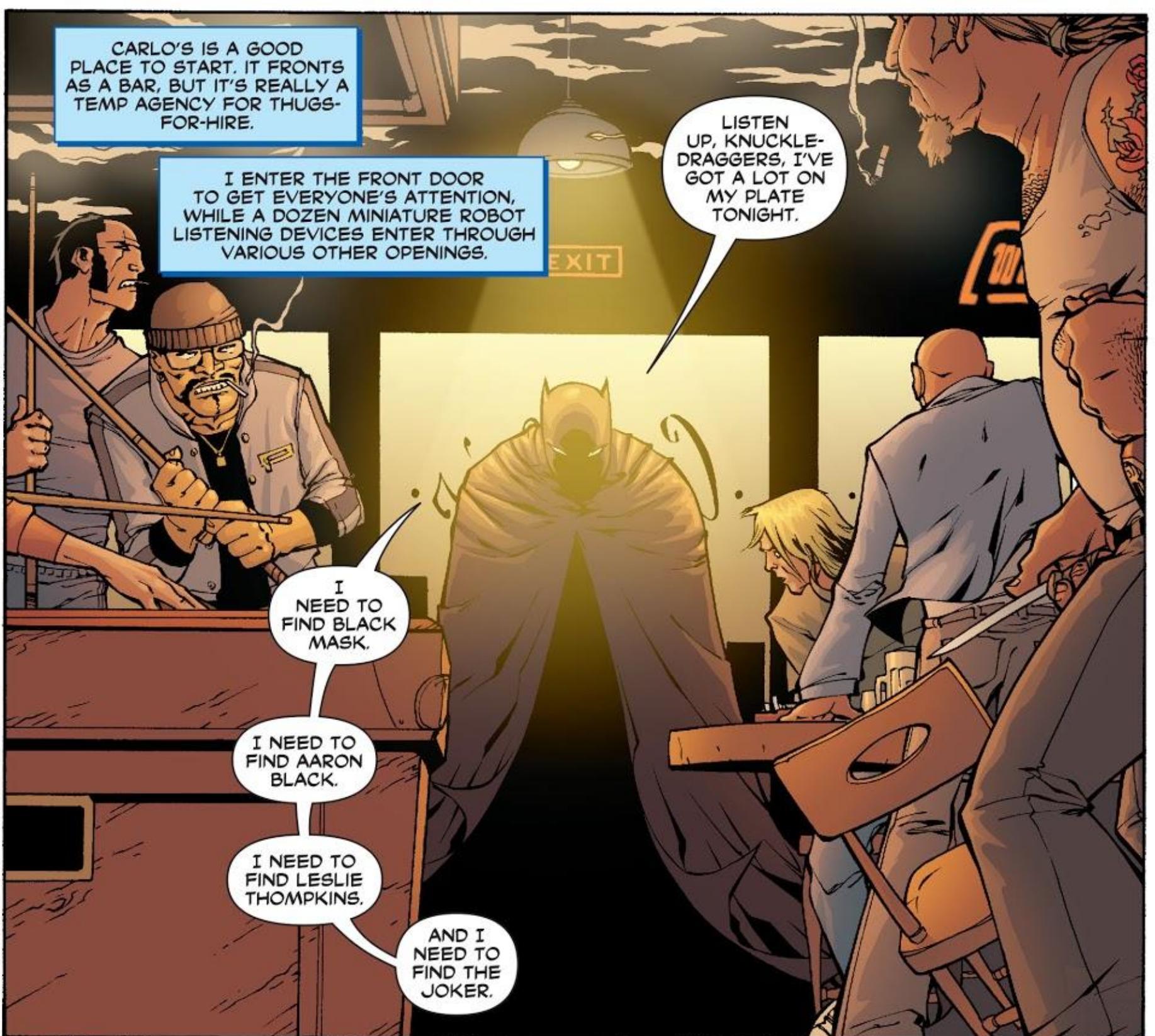


...IN A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER TODAY WHEN THE MAYOR PROMISED TO NAME AN INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION RELATED TO...

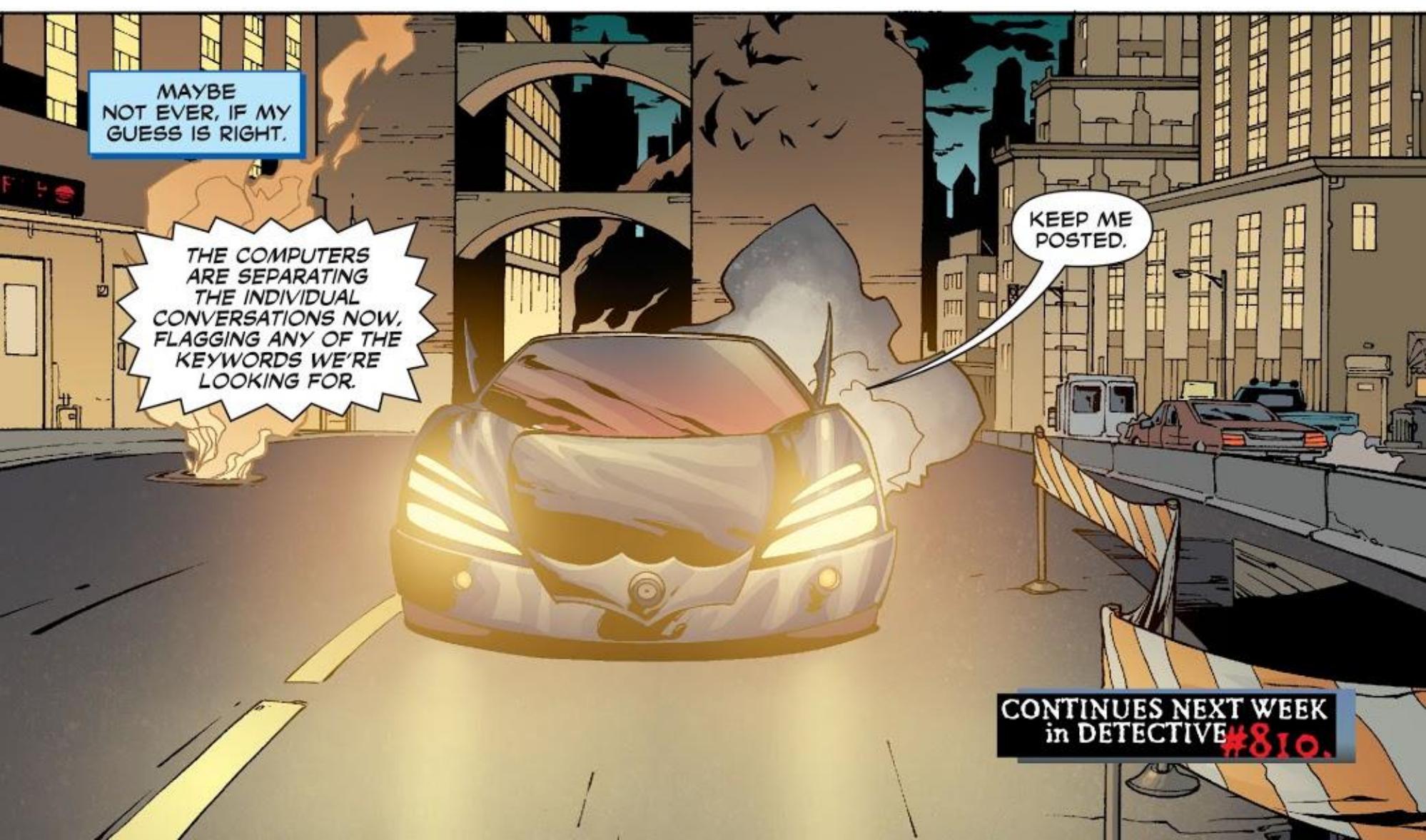
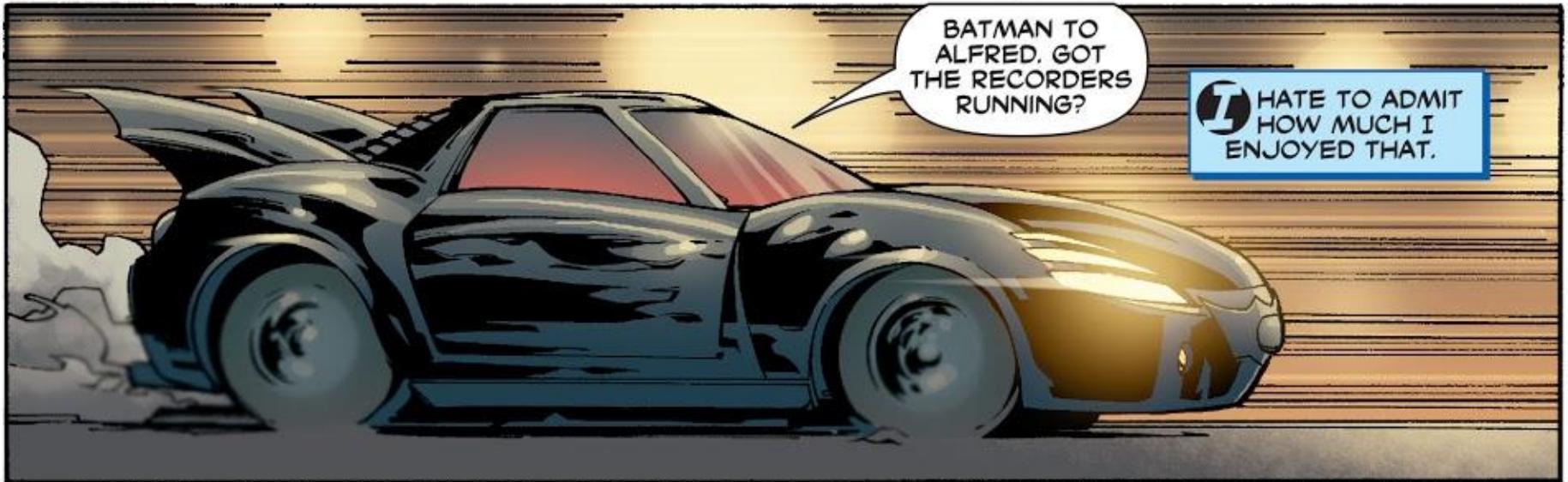


GOTHAM'S BUILDING UP TO EXPLODE AGAIN. THIS TIME FROM ALL THE CROSS-ACCUSATIONS. I NEED TO SHUT IT DOWN BEFORE THINGS GET OUT OF HAND.

PROTECT YOURSELF. NONLETHAL.



THE
BEATINGS
STOP WHEN
YOU START
TALKING.



CONTINUES NEXT WEEK
in DETECTIVE #810.