



DC
COMICS™

ANNUAL

#1

NIGHT OF THE OWLS

BATMAN

THE NEW 52!



SCOTT
SNYDER
JAMES
TYNION IV
JASON
FABOK

FEATURING
THE TORMENT OF
MR. FREEZE!

RATED T TEEN

JUL 2012

DCCOMICS.COM

LOWELL, NEBRASKA.
OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO...

NIGHT OF THE OWLS

FIRST SNOW

SLOW
DOWN!

SCOTT SNYDER AND JAMES TYNION IV
WRITERS

PETER STEIGERWALD
COLORS

JASON FABOK
ART & COVER

SAL CIPRIANO
LETTERS

VICTOR,
THERE'S NO
RUSH! THE
SNOW'S NOT
GOING
ANYWHERE!

KATIE KUBERT ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR

BUT THE
COMPETITION
STARTED AN
HOUR AGO,
MAMMA!

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

AND WE HAVE UNTIL SUNSET TO BUILD OUR SNOWMAN, SILLY. THAT'S NEARLY TWO HOURS YET!

LOOK AROUND YOU--IT'S THE FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON. YOU SHOULD ENJOY IT BEFORE IT'S MUDDIED.

BUT OUR SNOWMAN NEEDS TO BE **BIGGER** IF ALL WE'RE USING TO DECORATE HIM IS **THAT**!

SARAH AND PETRA, EVERYONE ELSE WILL BE USING ALL SORTS OF TRINKETS AND--



AND THEIR SNOWMEN WILL LOOK LIKE CLOWNS WITH RED LIPS AND BIRDS WITH LONG NOSES...

...THIS IS HOW WE DID IT IN THE OLD COUNTRY, AND HOW WE WILL DO IT HERE.

WE MAKE HIS FACE FROM THIS ONE **APPLE**... FROM OUR OWN TREE. FROM HIS EYES TO HIS WRINKLES.

THERE IS A CRAFT TO IT, VICTOR, AN ELEGANCE THAT SPEAKS OF **HOME**.



FINE, FINE. BUT WE'RE MAKING HIM **BIG**, JUST TO BE SAFE!

HA! ALL RIGHT THEN, WE WILL MAKE HIM AS BIG AS YOU!

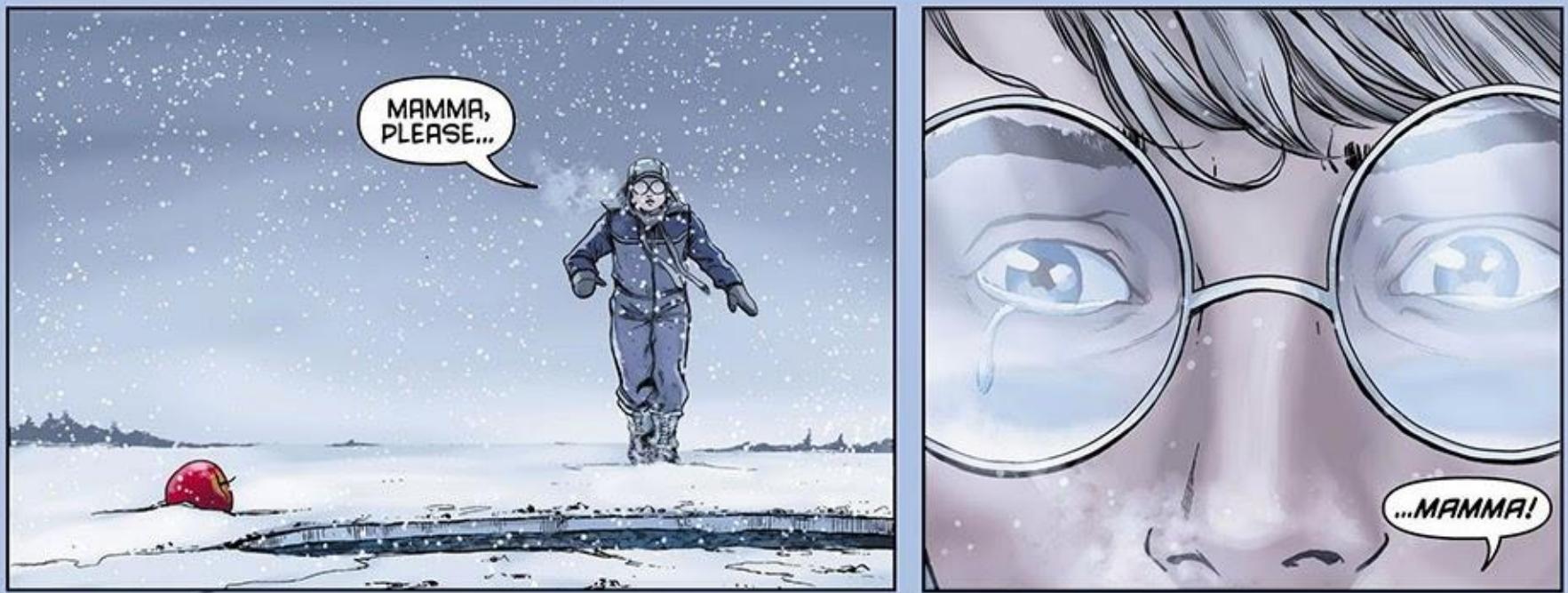
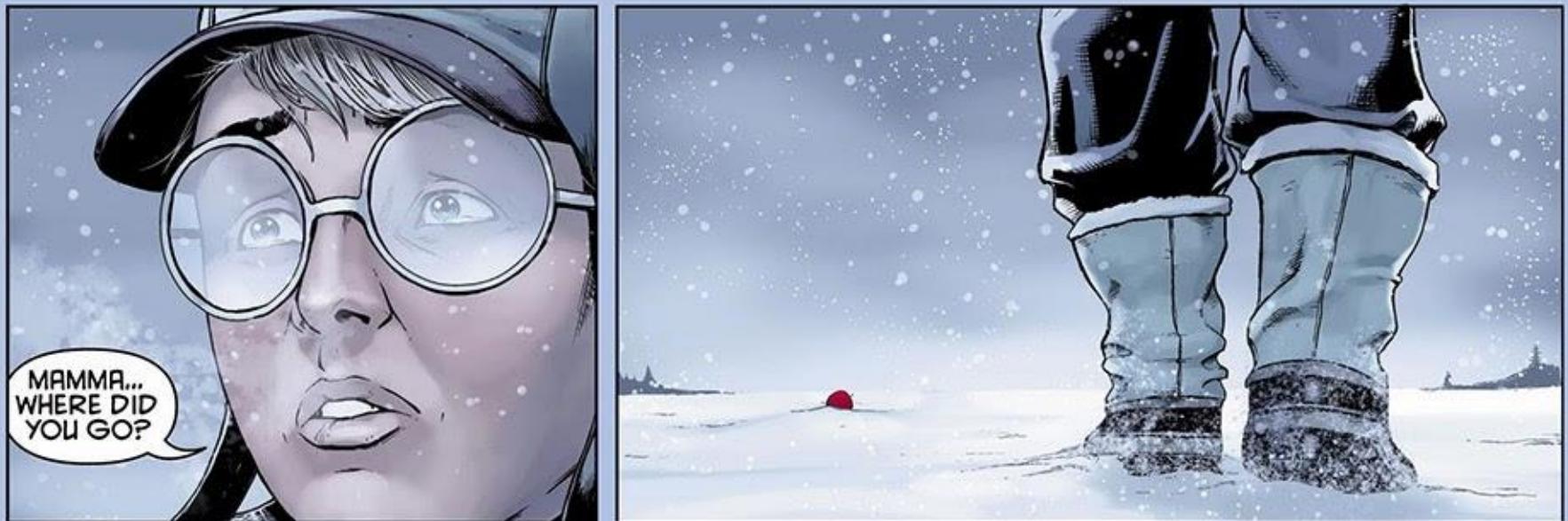
I MEAN **BIGGER** THAN ME!



SO BIG HE WILL LAST THROUGH SPRING...



...BEFORE HE...
...MELTS?



ARKHAM ASYLUM, GOTHAM CITY.

NIGHT OF THE OWLS, 12:02 AM...





WIRE COATING.
NOW I WILL HAVE
IT FROM YOU.

YOU HURT ME,
VICTOR, THEY'LL
TURN THIS ROOM
INTO A SALINA SO
FAST, YOUR--

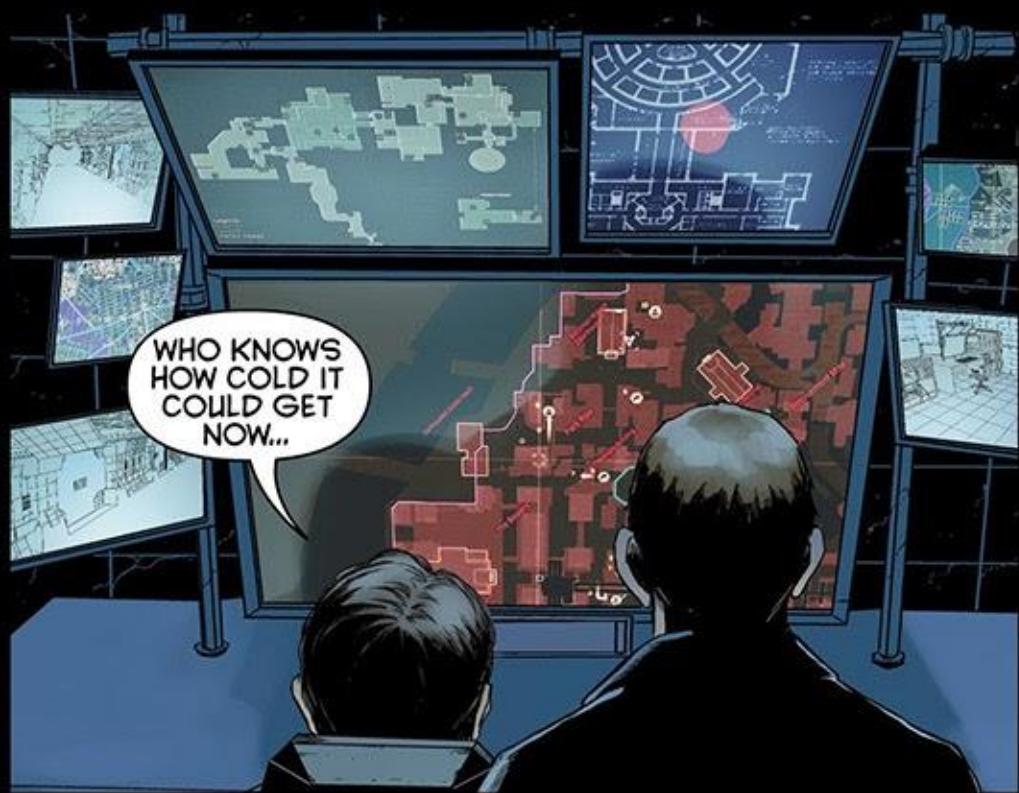
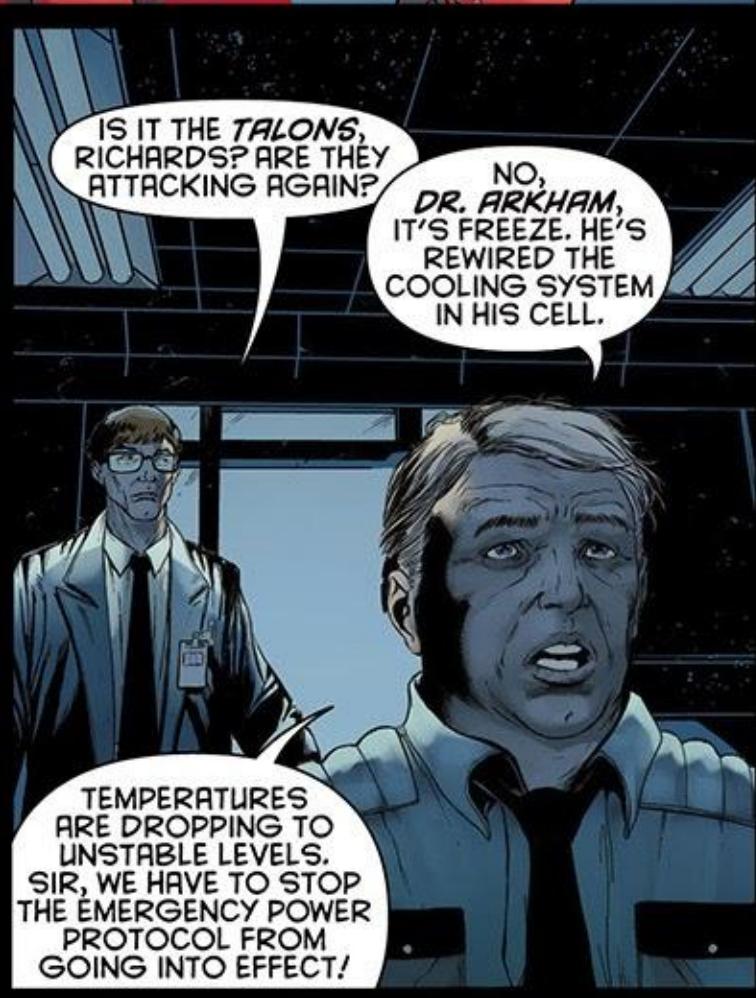
FORGIVE ME,
DOCTOR, BUT
THAT WAS *NOT*
A REQUEST.

KRAK

Victor Fries
Wally Norrie

WIRFOOM





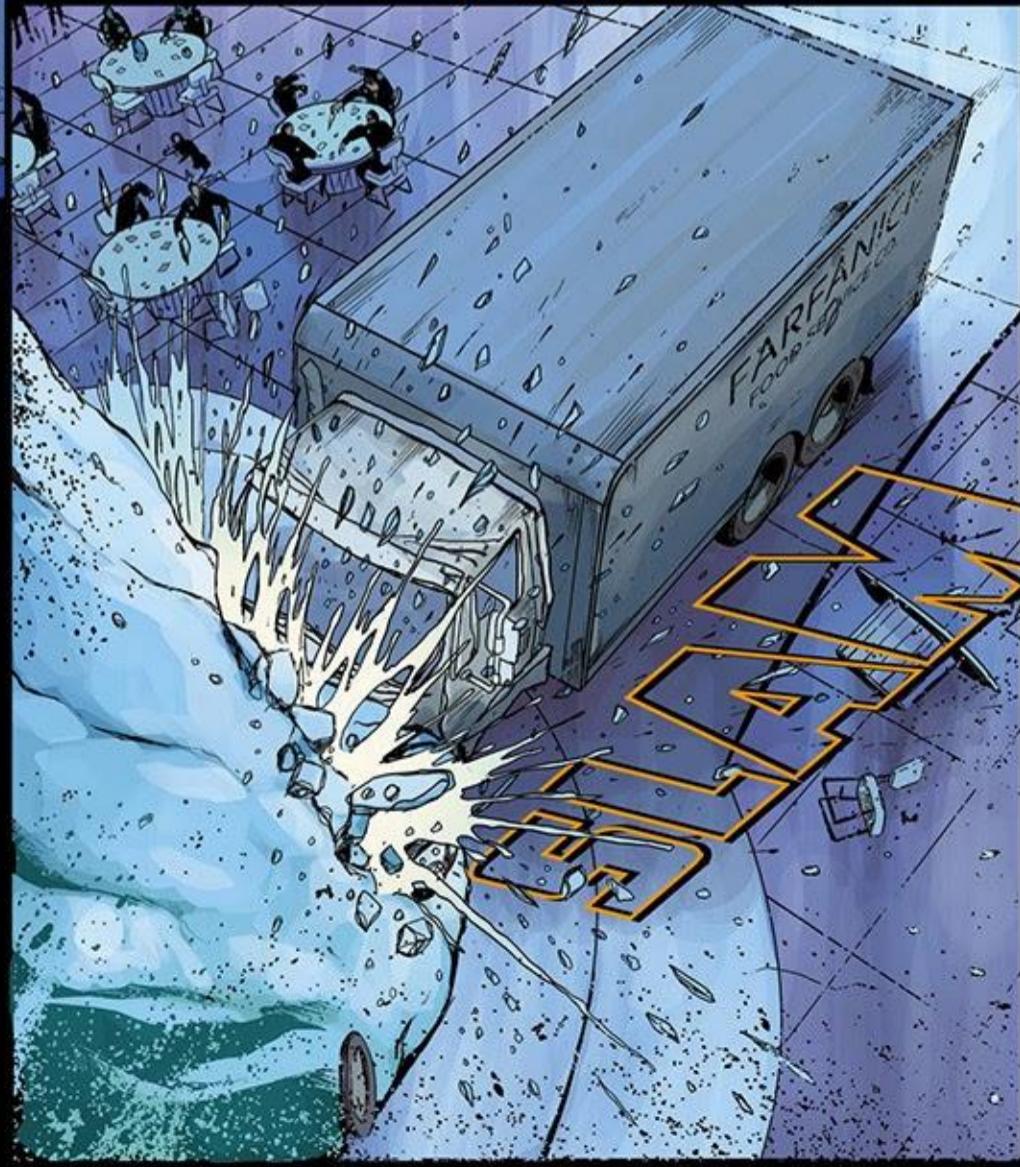
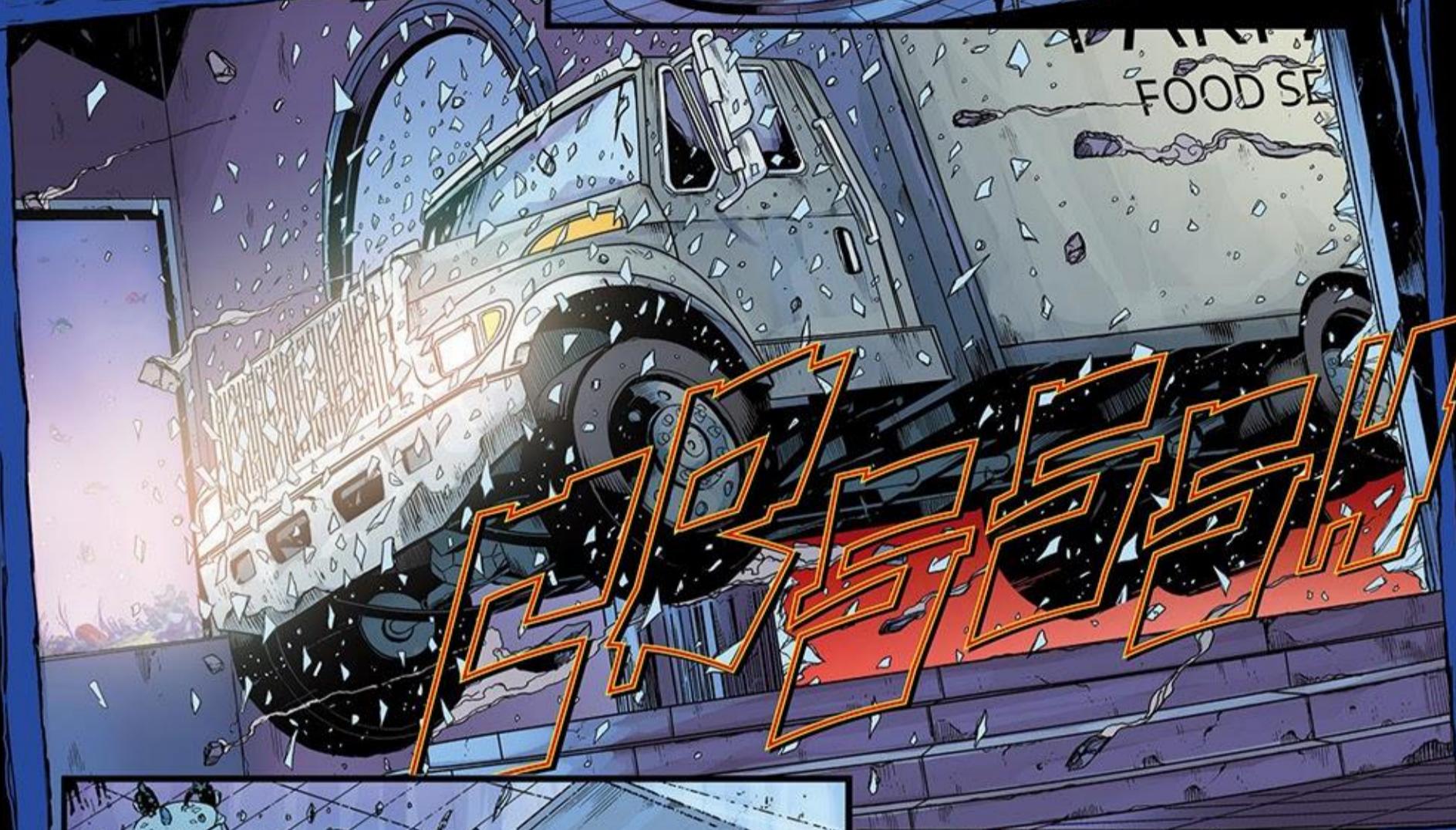
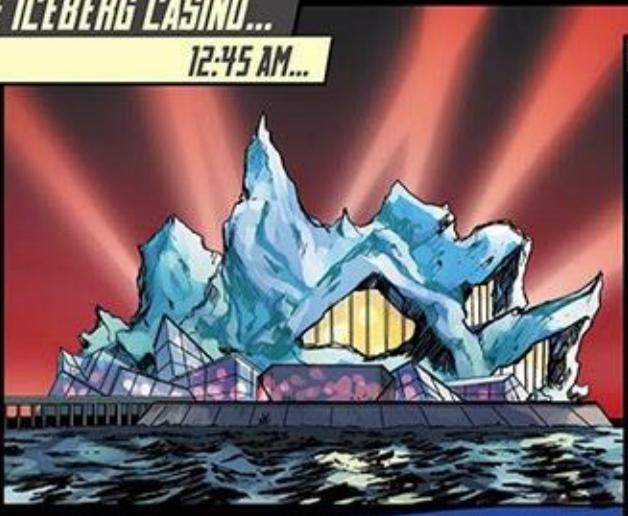




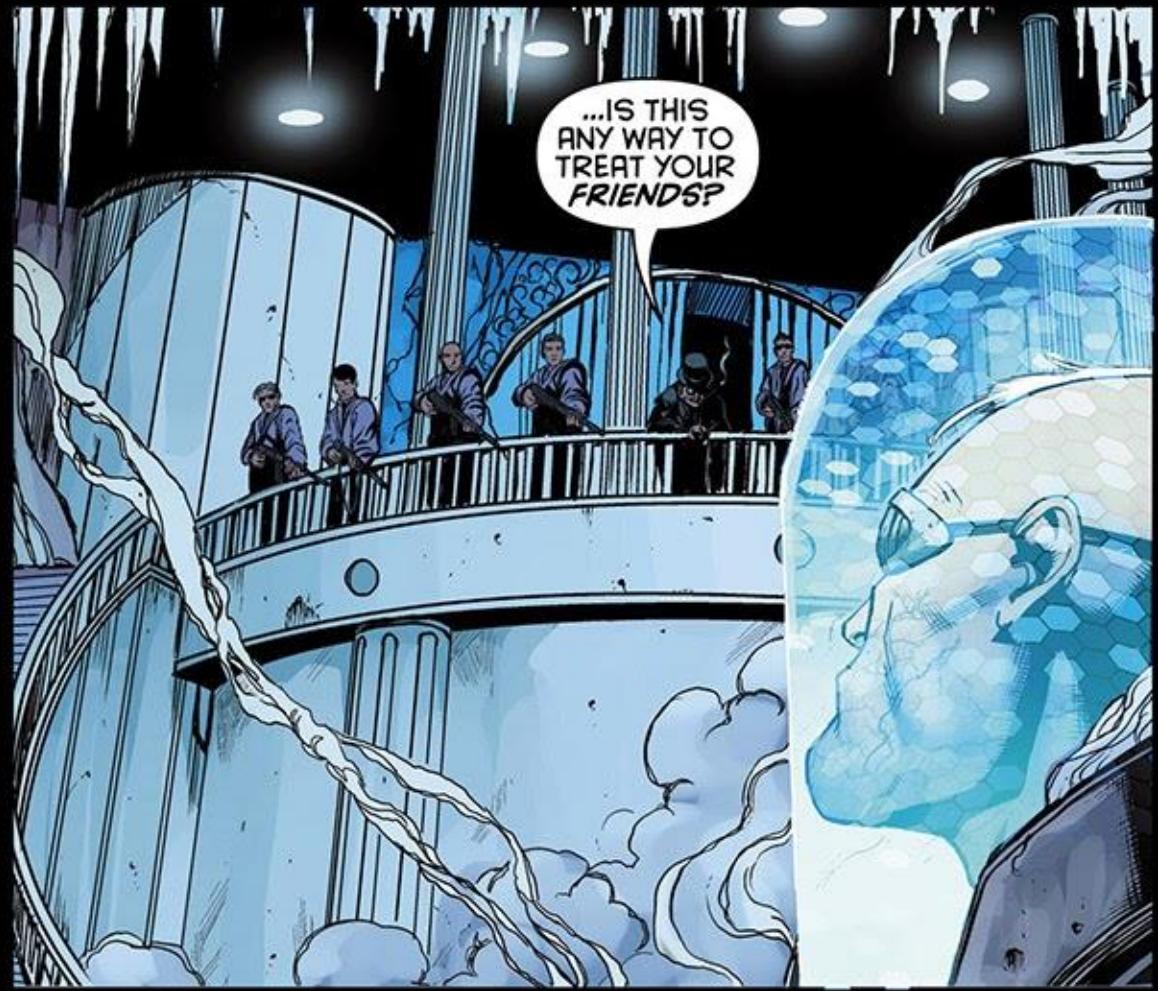


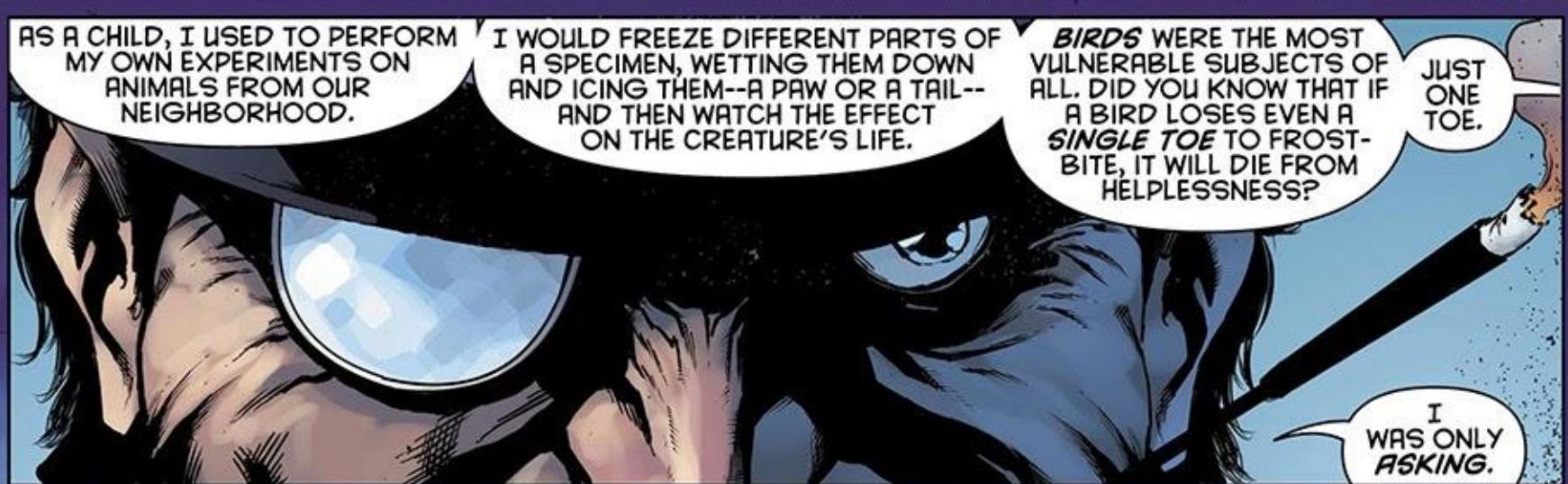
THE ICEBERG CASINO...

12:45 AM...











WAYNE TOWER LABORATORIES.

SIX YEARS AGO...

"...VENGEANCE ON
BRUCE WAYNE."

DR. VICTOR FRIES,
I PRESENT TO YOU THE
PRODIGAL SON, BRUCE WAYNE.

DR. FRIES RUNS THE SMALL
CRYONICS LAB WE KEEP
BENEATH THE LABORATORIES
PROPER. FROZEN HEADS
ABOUND.

DOCTOR, I'M GIVING MR. WAYNE A
TOUR OF HIS KINGDOM, IF YOU WILL.
HE ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED
TO GOTHAM.

RIGHT, OF
COURSE. YOU WERE
VACATIONING, I
TAKE IT?

THAT'S ONE WAY OF
PUTTING IT. ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, LUCIUS?

DR. FRIES,
MR. WAYNE HAS BEEN
OUT OF THE COUNTRY
FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

FORGIVE ME.
ADMITTEDLY, I DON'T
GET OUT OF THE LABORATORY
VERY OFTEN. I NOW RECALL
SOMETHING IN THE LOCAL NEWS
ABOUT IT. YOUR RETURN, I MEAN.

YES, YES WE ARE.
THE ADVANCEMENTS
WE'VE MADE IN THE **SLOW-**
HEATING PROCESS OF CRYO-
PRESERVED INDIVIDUALS--

DON'T GIVE IT A
SECOND THOUGHT,
DOCTOR. FROM WHAT I
HEAR, YOU'RE DOING
IMPORTANT WORK
DOWN HERE.

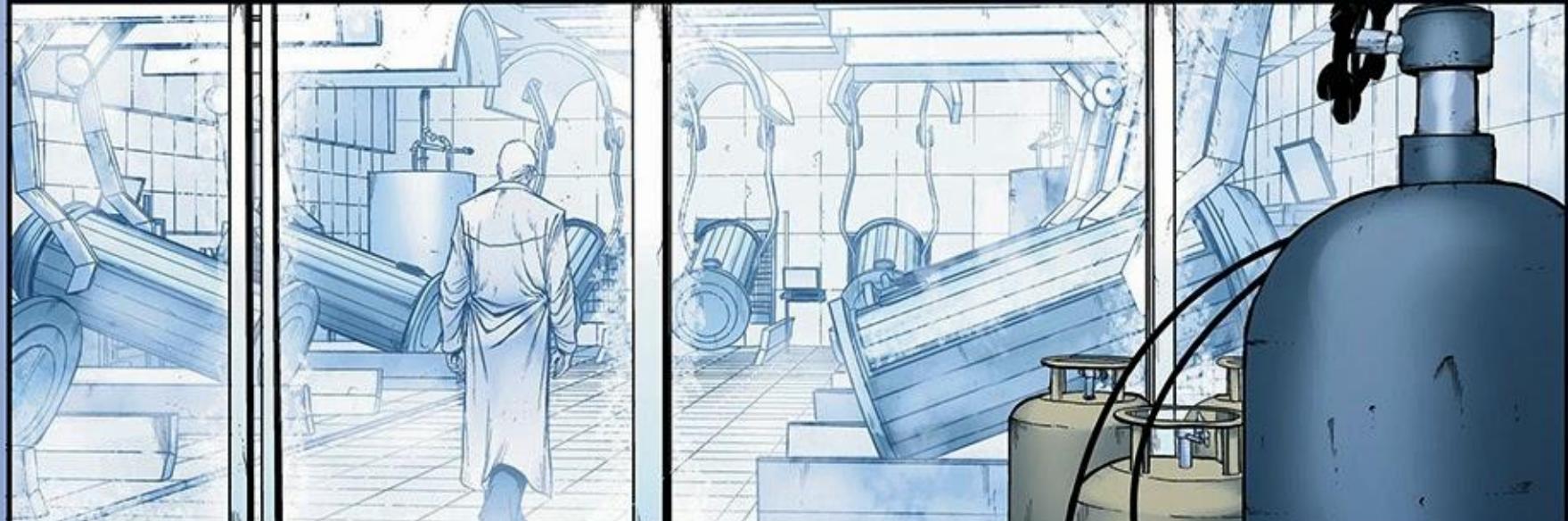
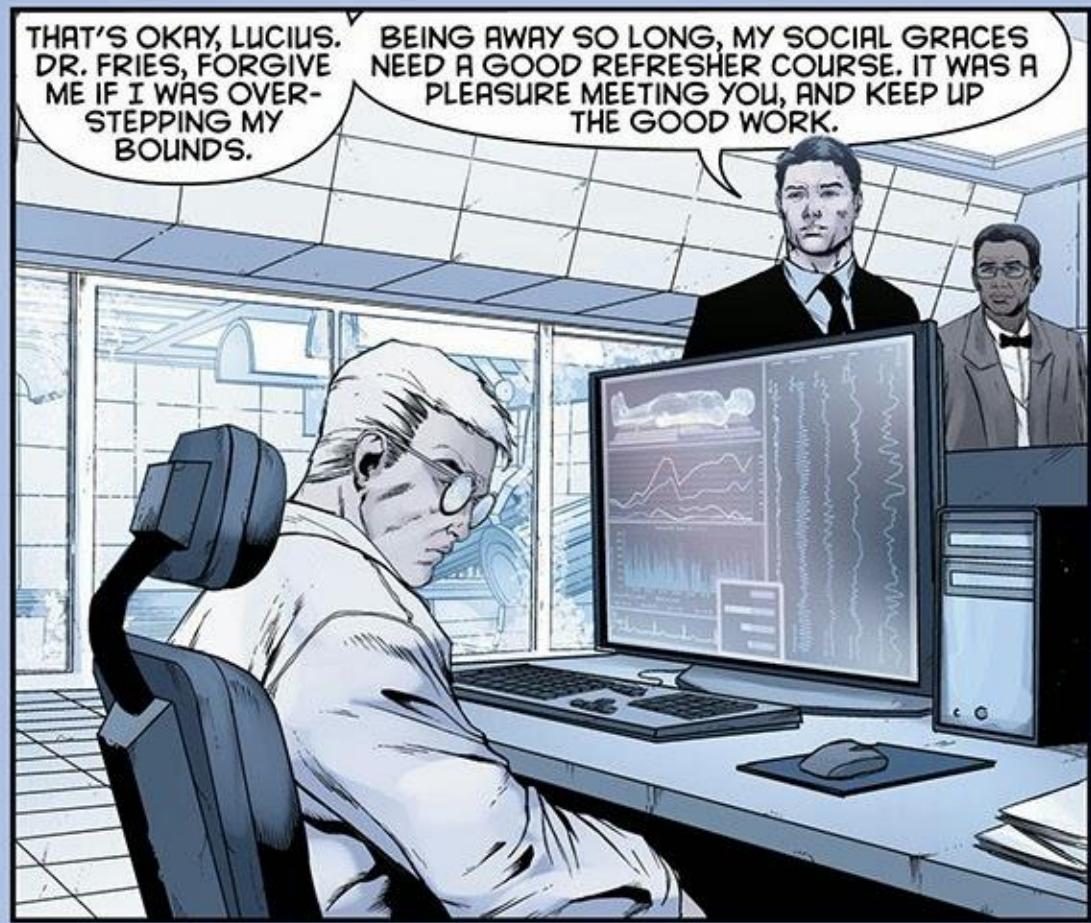
SLOW-HEATING?
LUCIUS, I THOUGHT THE LAB WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE MOVING **AWAY** FROM
CRYONICS, FROZEN MUMMIES AND ALL
THAT, TOWARDS NEWER, MORE SPECIALIZED
FIELDS. LIKE ORGAN VITRIFICATION.

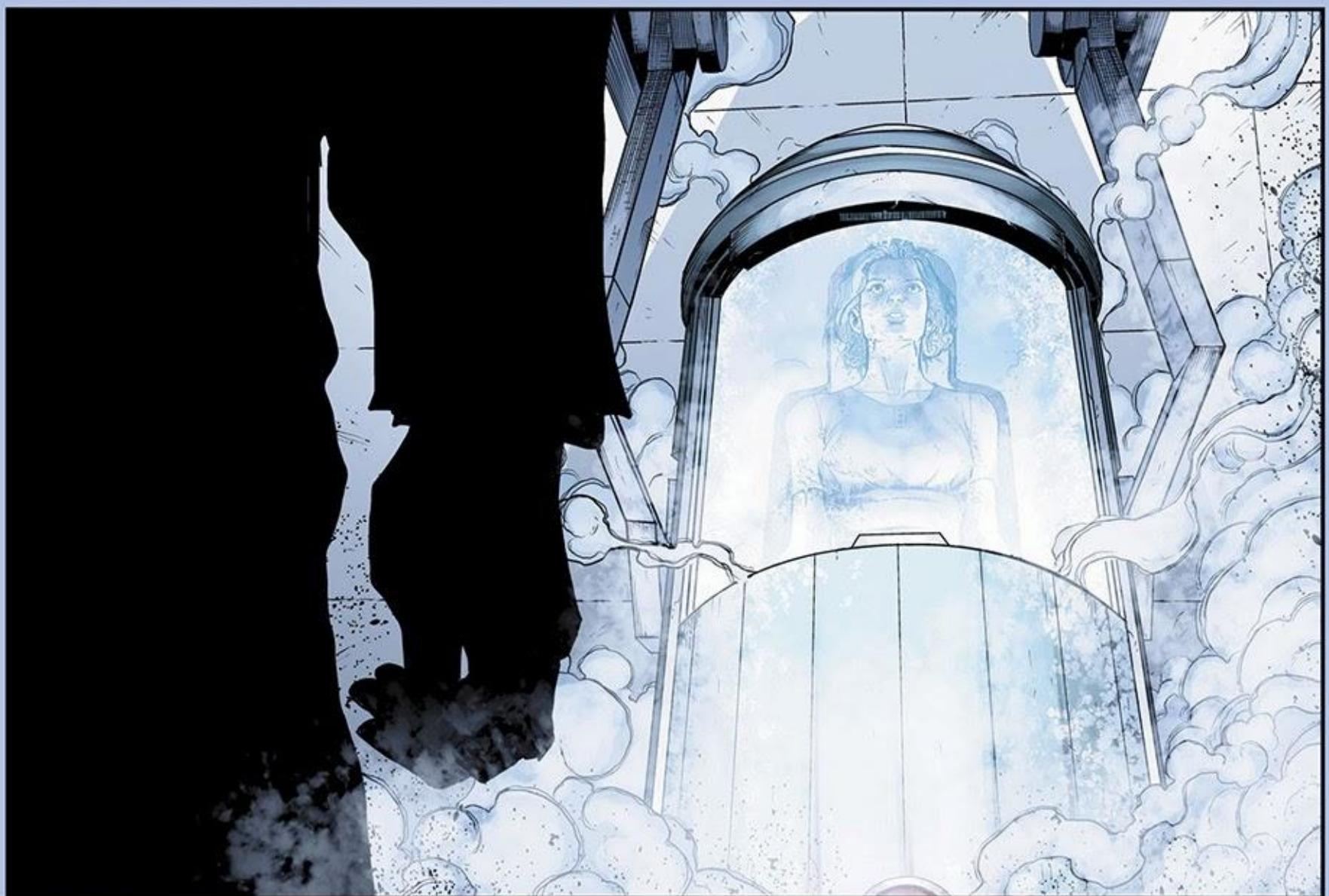
IN FACT, WEREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO TRANSFER THE REST
OF THESE OLD CRYO-PRESERVED BODIES HERE TO
THE GOTHAM UNIVERSITY BIO-LAB?

I FEEL I WAS PRETTY
DIRECT IN SAYING I WASN'T
COMFORTABLE CONTINUING WITH
THIS LINE OF RESEARCH.

MR. WAYNE,
WE CAN DO
BOTH! WE CAN
PURSUE NEW FIELDS
LIKE VITRIFICATION
WHILE STILL PURSUING
OUR ORIGINAL
RESEARCH ON THE
REANIMATION OF
CRYO-PRESERVED
INDIVIDUALS.

BOTH...WELL, BE CAREFUL,
DOCTOR. AND KNOW THAT YOU'LL BE UNDER
CLOSE EXAMINATION UNTIL WE DECIDE WHAT
TO DO WITH YOUR PROJECTS DOWN HERE.





"...AND PULL YOU FROM THE ICE."

NORA...

I'VE
DONE IT, MY
DARLING. I'VE
CREATED THE
**PERFECT
FORMULA.**

IT WORKED
ON THE COURT
OF OWLS' UNDEAD
SOLDIERS. IT SHOULD
BE **MORE** THAN
ENOUGH TO BRING
US TOGETHER.

NO...

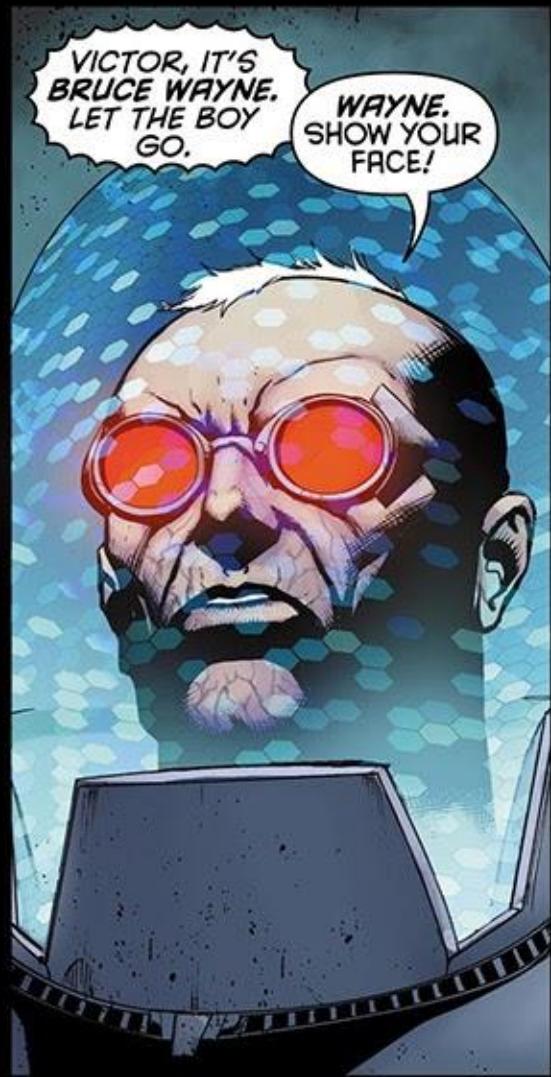
...WAYNE...
WHEN I GET MY
HANDS ON
YOU--

SORRY, BUT
MR. WAYNE IS
OUT FOR THE
EVENING...



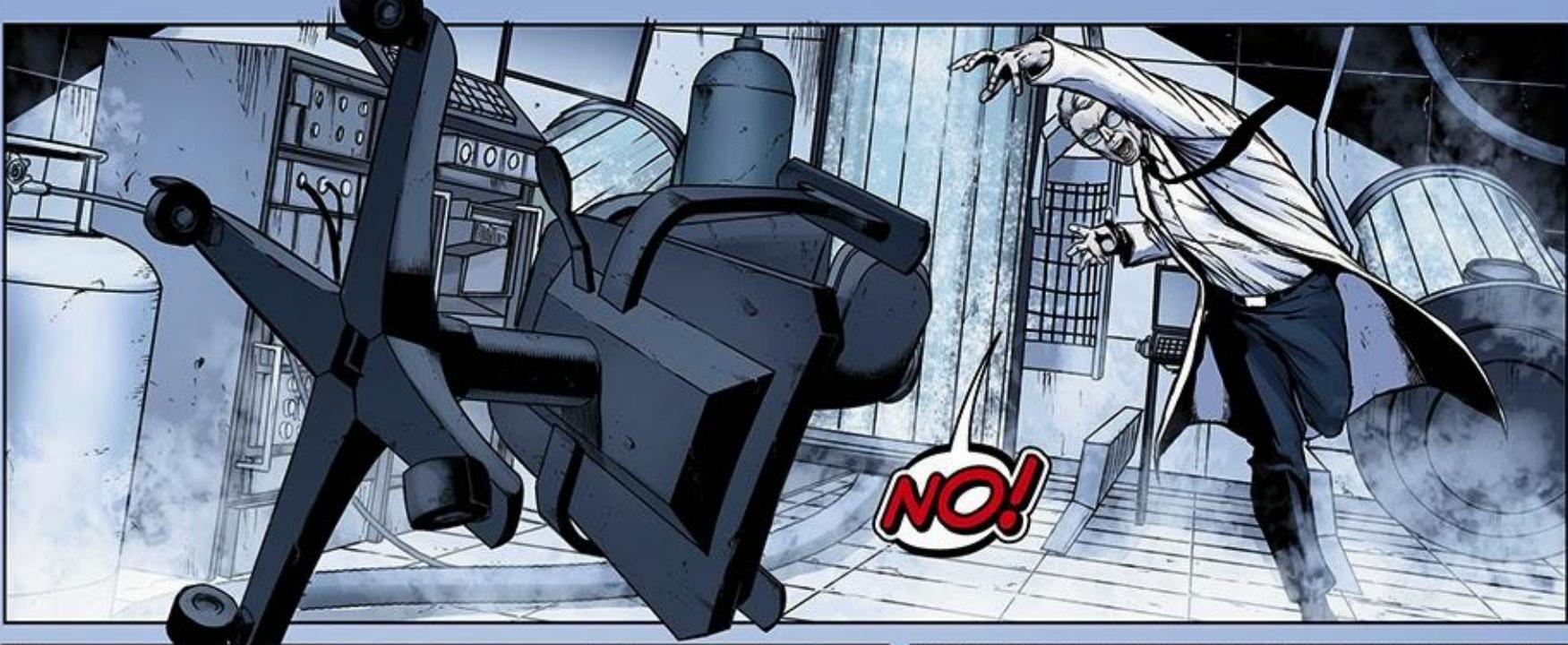












THE CHEMICALS
SEEM TO HAVE RADICALLY
ALTERED HIS BIOLOGY... IT'S AS
THOUGH EACH INDIVIDUAL SKIN
CELL IS CAPTURING AND
STORING THE COLD.

HIS BODY
TEMPERATURE IS RUNNING AT
TWENTY-THREE DEGREES FAHRENHEIT,
IT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE FOR
HIM TO STILL BE **ALIVE**... IF IT
WEREN'T FOR THE SUIT, I'M NOT
SURE HE WOULD BE.

WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF HE
EXPOSED HIMSELF
TO ANY KIND OF
HEAT?

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO SAY FOR
SURE, BUT I
THINK HE'D
BOIL ALIVE.

WHUH--
QUIET, HE'S
WAKING UP...
WHERE ARE THE
GOGGLES?
WHUH--

HERE, THESE SHOULD HELP THE
PAIN... YOUR EYES HAVEN'T QUITE
RECEIVED THE MESSAGE FROM
THE REST OF YOUR BODY.

YOU'LL NEED TO
KEEP THESE ON AT **ALL**
TIMES TO PREVENT YOUR
EYES FROM FREEZING
IN THEIR SOCKETS.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND,
ME? YOU'VE BEEN IN A
TERRIBLE ACCIDENT... IT'S
A MIRACLE YOU **SURVIVED**
AT ALL, MR. FRIES.

MY GOD!
HE'S BREAKING OUT!

NO PLE--
AAAGH!
WAYNE...

**...BRUCE
WAYNE!**

"...I'M COMING FOR YOU."



YOU
CANNOT HIDE FROM
ME, MR. WAYNE.



YOU
WILL GIVE ME
BACK MY...



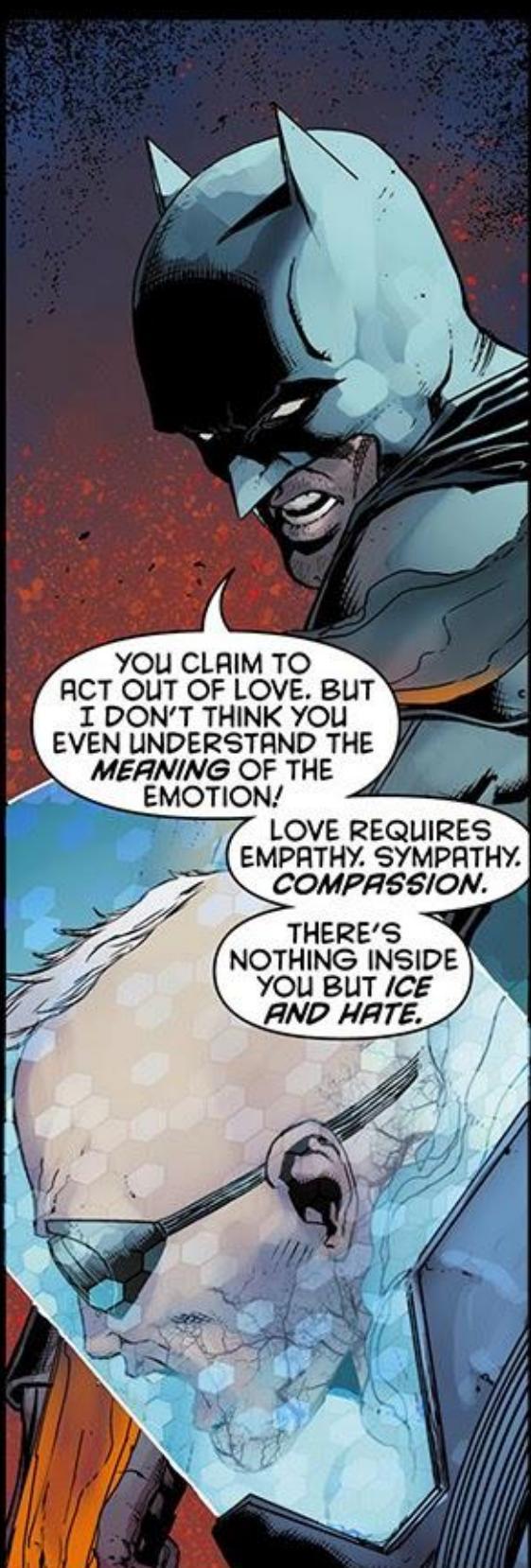
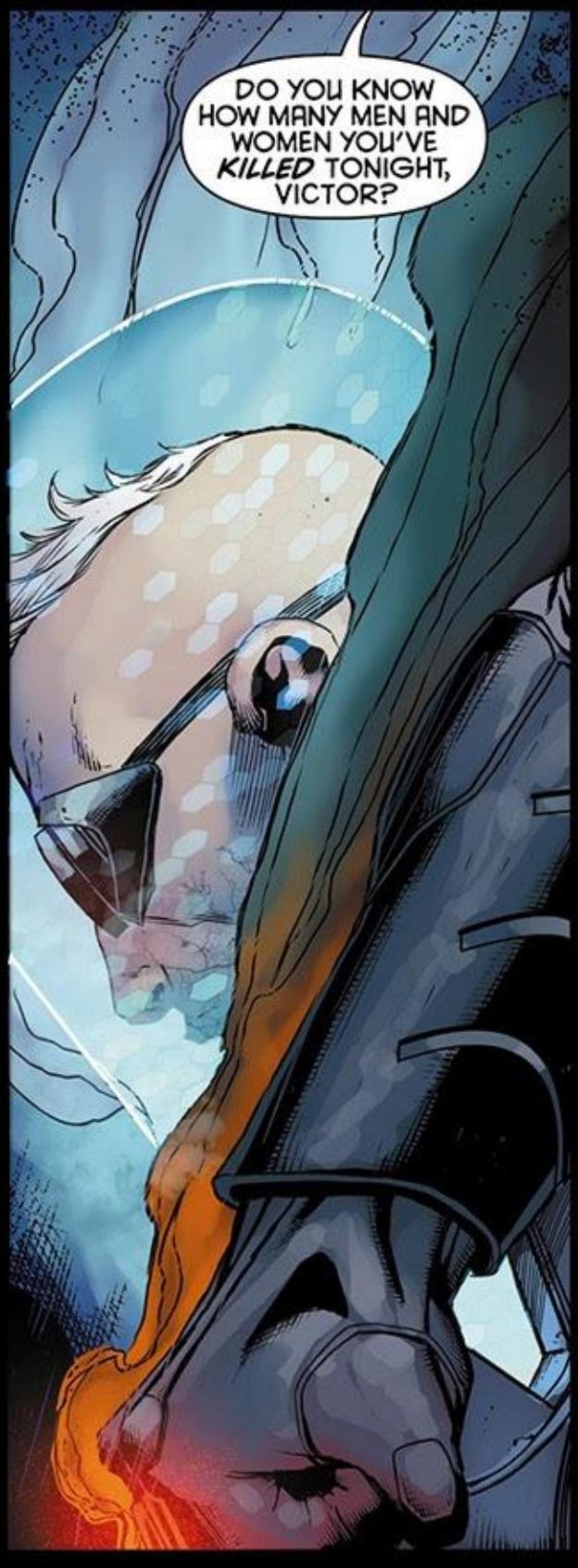
...NORA?

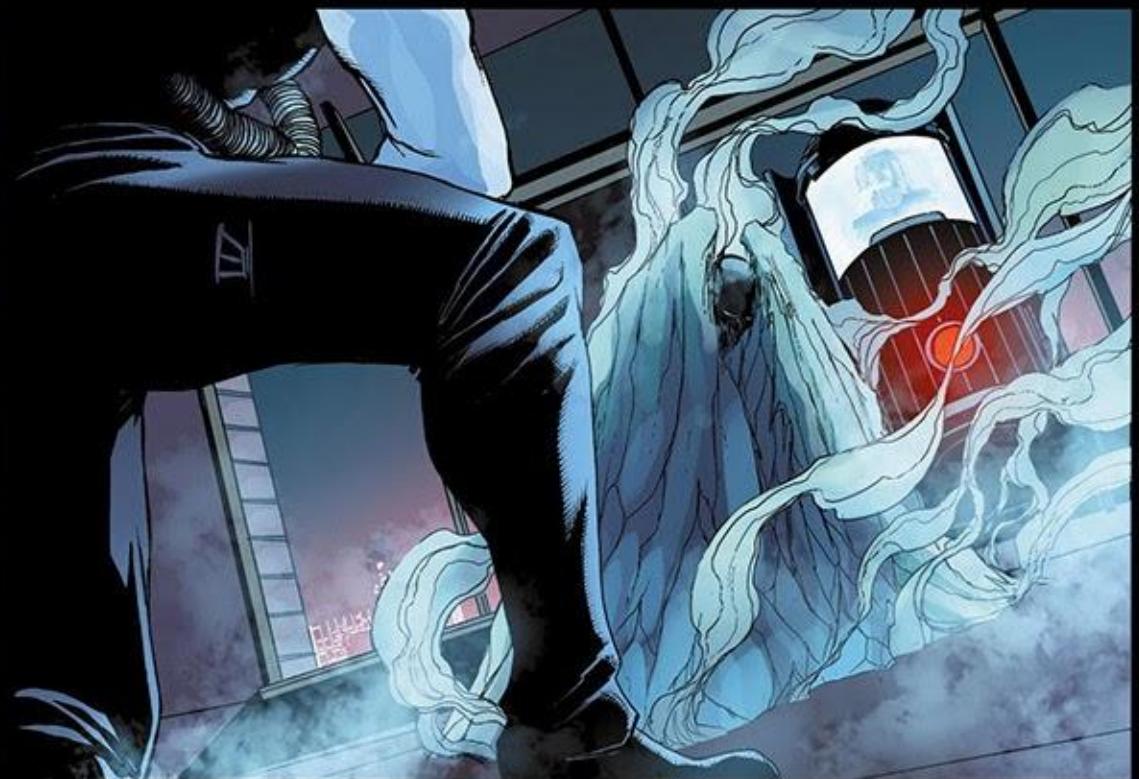
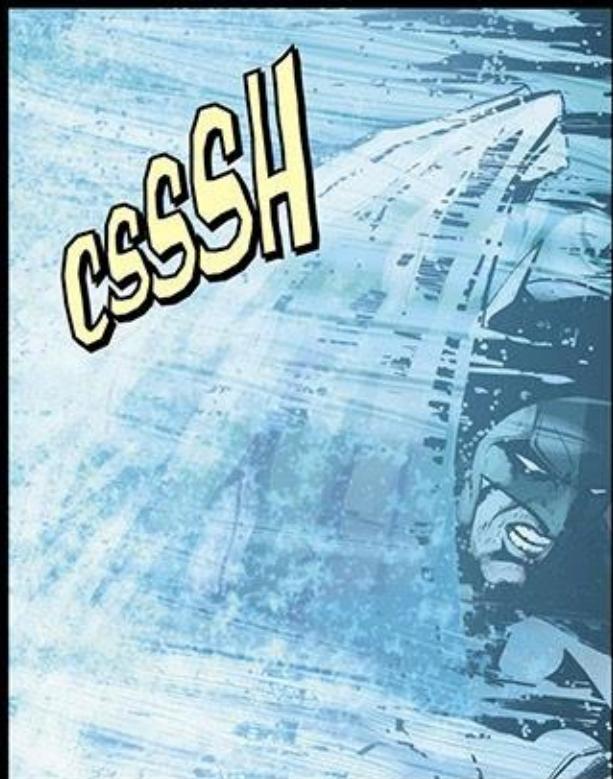


IT'S OVER
VICTOR.













HER NAME WAS
NORA FIELDS, AND
SHE WAS BORN IN
1943.

SHE WAS DIAGNOSED
WITH AN INCURABLE HEART
CONDITION WHEN SHE WAS TWENTY-
THREE YEARS OLD. SHE HAD JUST
GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE.



SHE WAS ENGAGED
TO BE MARRIED TO A
YOUNG LAWYER WHEN
IT HAPPENED.

HER FAMILY
DECIDED TO PUT
HER UNDER A NEW
AND CONTROVERSIAL
TREATMENT, WHERE ONE
DAY SHE MIGHT AWAKEN
AND FIND A NEW LIFE
IN A FUTURE WHERE
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE
TO DIE AT AGE
TWENTY-FIVE.



SHE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO
UNDERGO CRYONIC STASIS,
VICTOR. YOU WROTE YOUR
DOCTORAL THESIS ON HER
OVER A DECADE AGO.

THE CHANCE TO
STUDY HER WAS THE
ENTIRE REASON YOU CAME
TO WORK AT WAYNE
INDUSTRIES. SHE'S BEEN
IN THIS BUILDING FOR
YEARS.



"YOU NEVER KNEW HER,
AND YET YOU COME BACK,
TIME AND TIME AGAIN."

"MR. FREEZE OUT TO
SAVE HIS DYING WIFE FROM
THE CRUEL BUSINESSMAN
WHO TOOK HER AWAY."

"BUT WE BOTH KNOW
THAT'S A FARCE, VICTOR.
SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE
YOUR GRANDMOTHER,
FOR GOD'S SAKE."

I KNOW HER BETTER THAN ANYONE, BATMAN! I LOVE HER! WE ARE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER!



YOU DON'T LOVE HER. YOU NEVER HAVE!



YOU'RE JUST A MADMAN REACHING OUT FOR THE ILLUSION OF LOVE IN THE ONLY THING YOU'VE EVER CARED ABOUT...



...THE COLD.

YOU LOVE THE COLD, VICTOR. EVEN IF YOU DID BRING HER BACK, YOU'D END UP DESTROYING HER.

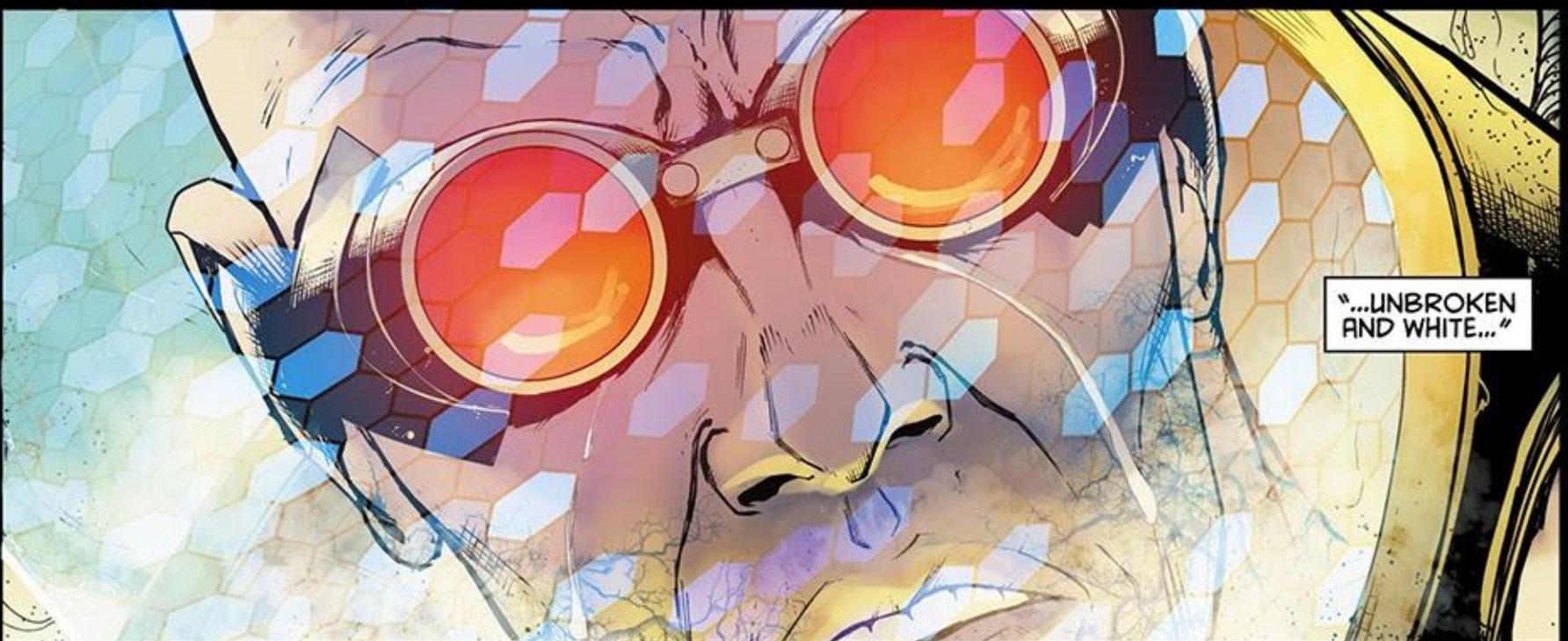
BECAUSE YOU LOVE AN IDEA, VICTOR. AN OBSESSION. AND THAT I DO UNDERSTAND.



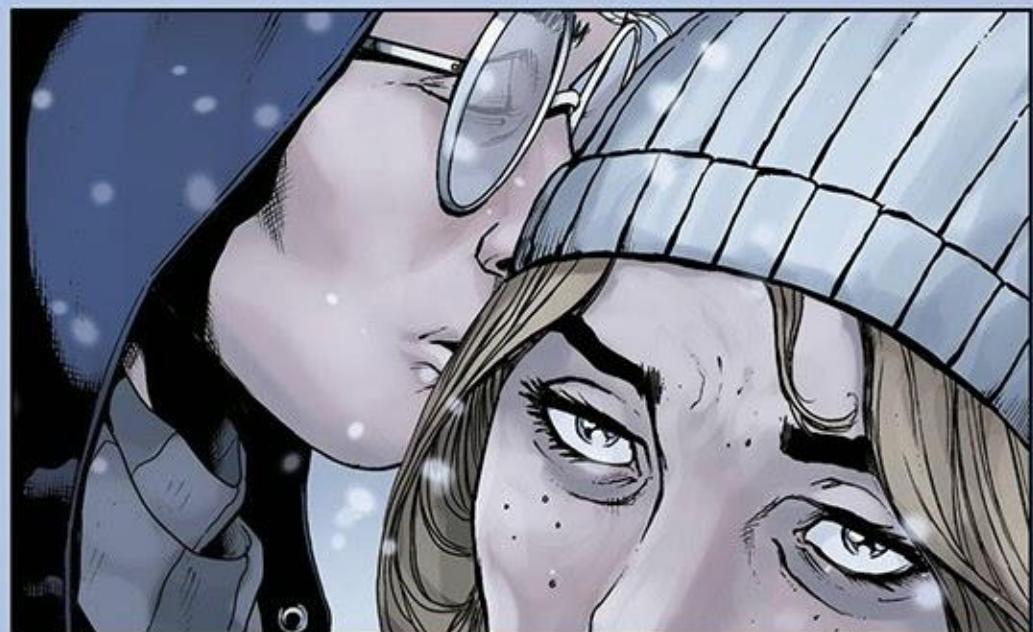
BUT IT'S OVER. YOUR SUIT'S BEING OVERLOADED WITH YOUR PERFECT FORMULA.

THE COMPOUND YOU HOPED TO RAISE NORA WITH, JUST LIKE THE COURT OF OWLS RAISED ITS LEGION OF TALONS.









THE END