



JEPH LOEB

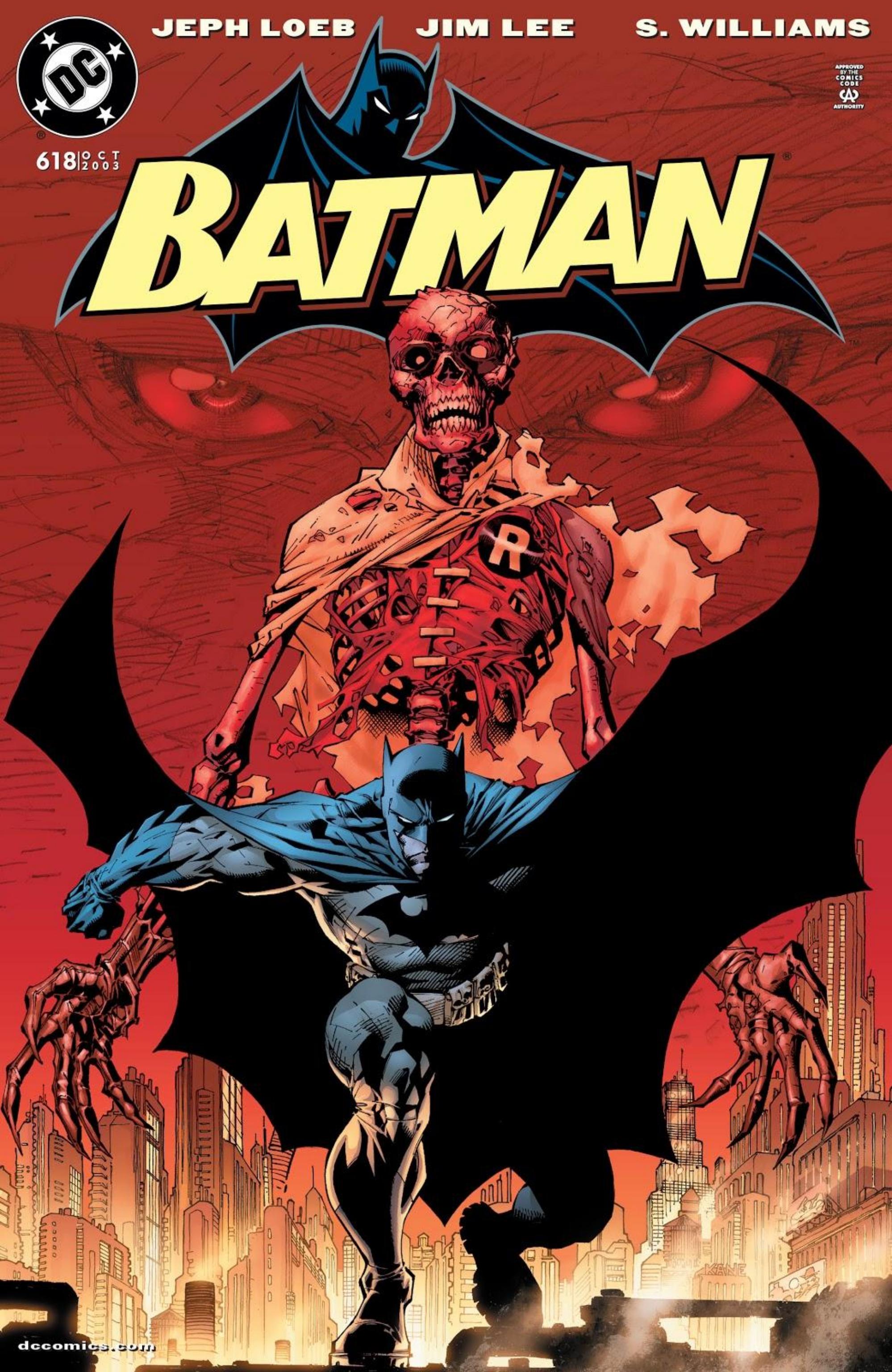
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S. WILLIAMS

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AO  
AUTHORITY

618 OCT 2003

# BATMAN





Jason Todd is dead.  
The Joker killed him years ago.



However, it is not impossible  
for the dead to come back to life.

I KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE  
DOING.  
YOU'RE  
THINKING ABOUT  
WHEN I DIED.

HOW  
THERE'S BLOOD  
ON YOUR HANDS  
BECAUSE YOU  
COULDN'T GET  
THERE IN TIME TO  
STOP THE JOKER  
FROM KILLING  
ME.



Superman died.  
Green Arrow died.

And they are alive today.



Jason was buried here.  
The grave is empty.  
His corpse is gone.

KEEPING SILENT.  
GATHERING YOUR  
THOUGHTS. HOPING  
TO RATTLE YOUR  
OPPONENT.

I'LL  
MAKE IT  
SIMPLE FOR  
YOU.  
YOU'VE  
GOT TO GET  
TO ME --  
--BEFORE  
I SLIT THIS  
PRETENDER'S  
THROAT.

TELL ME,  
BATMAN.  
YOU LET ONE  
ROBIN DIE.  
WANT  
TO GO FOR  
TWO?

R



The terrible irony is that when Jason died...

DID YOU THINK YOU COULD TAKE ME WITH ONE PUNCH?

BDFF

IN MEMORIAM  
GENE GRUENWALD  
1962 - 1998

...in the madness of grief...

THIS WAS ALWAYS OUR PROBLEM.

...I actually considered ...

YOU SAW ME AS SECOND-RATE.

DOK

...putting Jason in a Lazarus Pit myself.

NOT BEING ABLE TO BE AS GOOD AS THE "OTHER" ROBIN!

THWAK

I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...

# BATMAN

CREATED  
BY  
**BOB  
KANE**

**BATMAN**

Chapter Eleven

## THE GAME

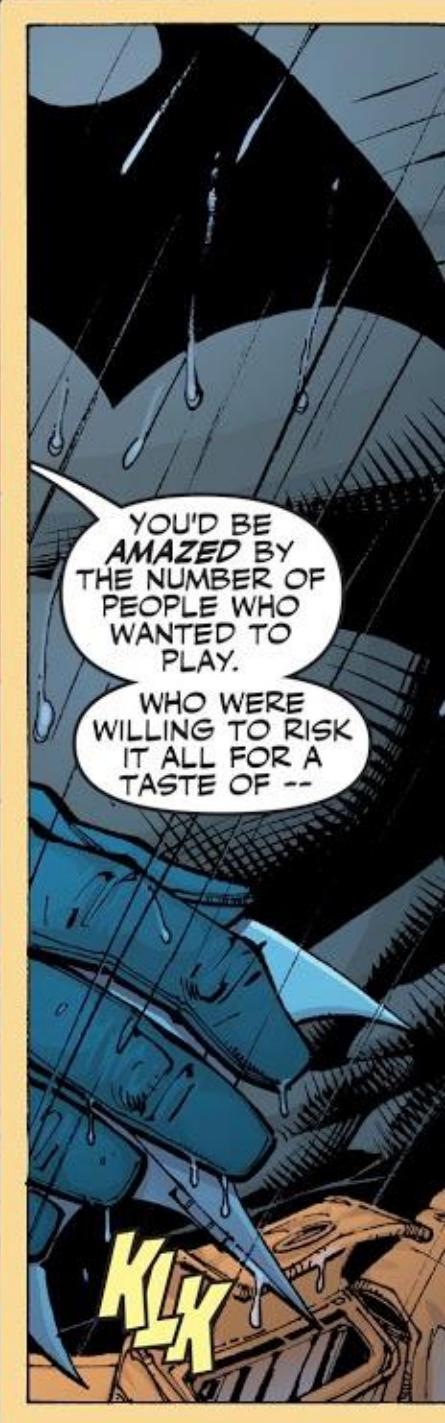
HOW COULD  
YOU LET ME  
DIE?

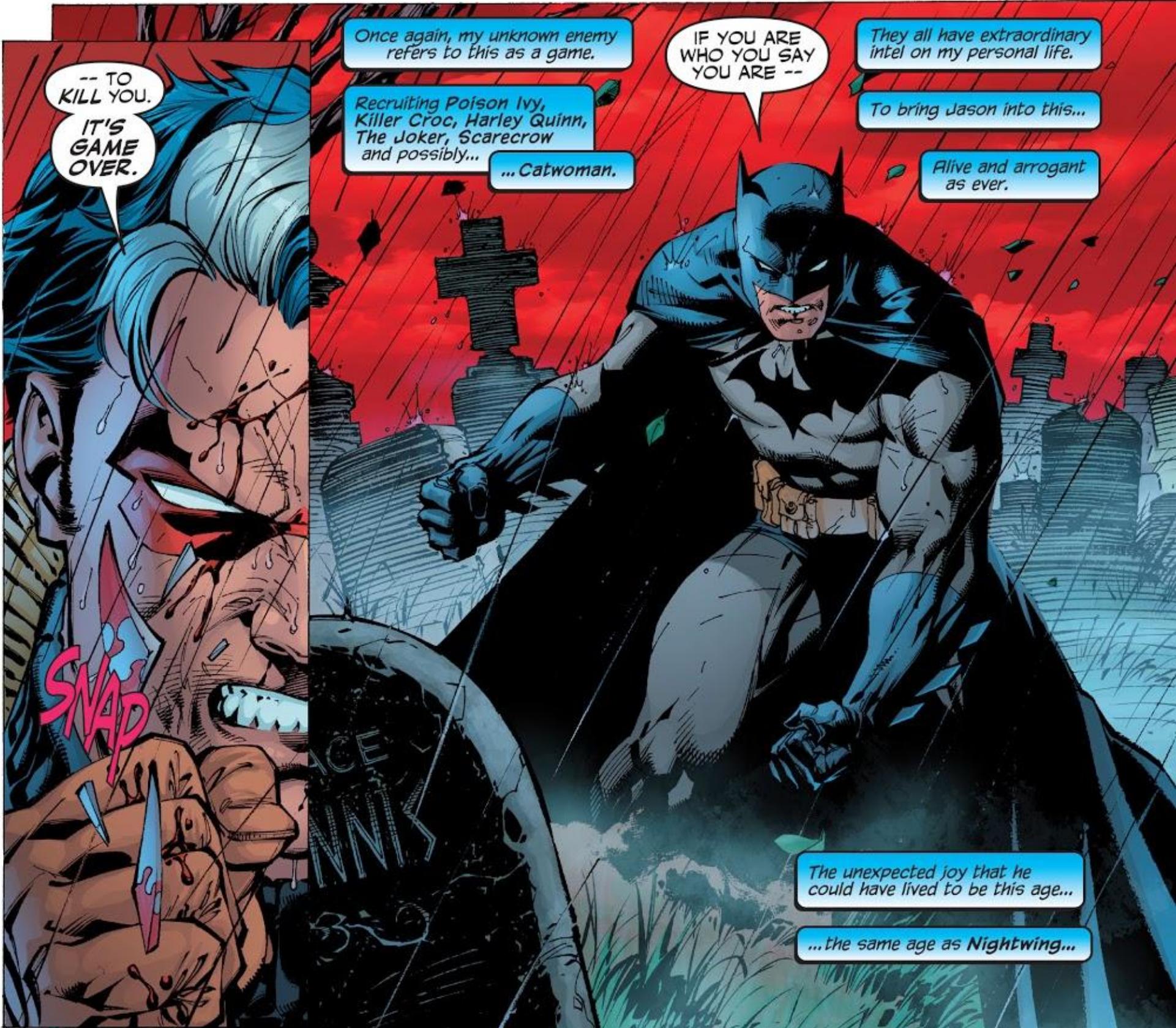
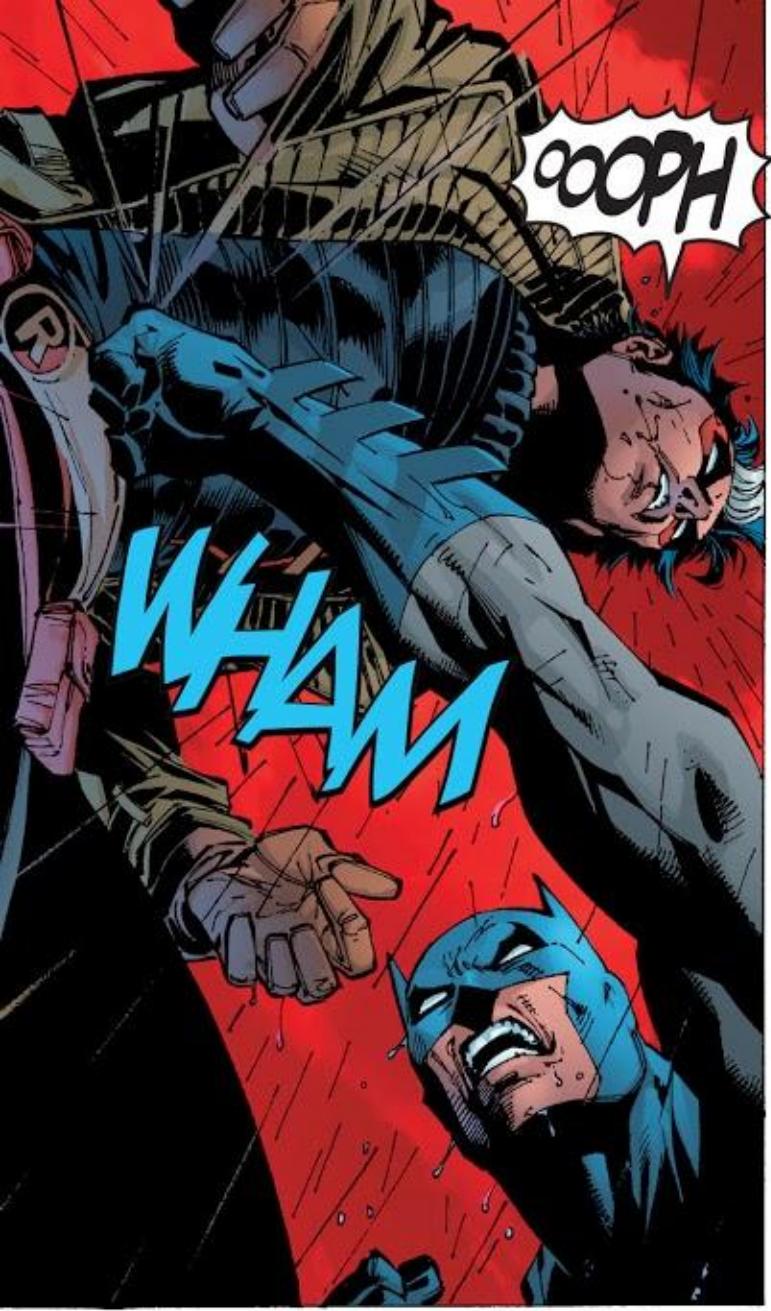
I would have done anything  
to save Jason's life.

Jeph  
**LOEB**  
writes

Jim  
**LEE**  
pencils

Scott  
**WILLIAMS**  
inks  
Richard  
**STARKINGS**  
letters  
Alex  
**SINCLAIR**  
colors  
Bob  
**SCHRECK**  
edits  
Michael  
**WRIGHT**  
associate edits  
special thanks to  
Mark  
**CHIARELLO**









Bottom line...  
Jason was never  
this good.

I HAVE  
TO ADMIT,  
I'M A LITTLE  
DISAPPOINTED.

I MEAN,  
I KNOW YOU  
WERE DISTRACTED  
BY GETTING  
A LITTLE ACTION  
WITH CATWOMAN.

THEN,  
THE DEATH OF  
TOMMY ELLIOT  
REALLY PUSHED  
YOUR BUTTONS.

THAK

GOING AFTER  
THE JOKER--  
RA'S AL GHUL--  
--EVERYBODY  
BUT THE RIGHT  
SOMEBODY.

C'MON,  
BATMAN --  
IT WAS RIGHT  
IN FRONT OF YOU  
THE ENTIRE TIME.

JUST LIKE  
THE PURLOINED  
LETTER--  
EDGAR ALLAN POE'S  
STORY --

THE  
VERY FIRST  
DETECTIVE  
STORY.

REMEMBER?  
SOMEONE CUT YOUR  
BATLINE?

The Purloined Letter --  
when the answer  
is in plain sight.



*It was a batarang.*



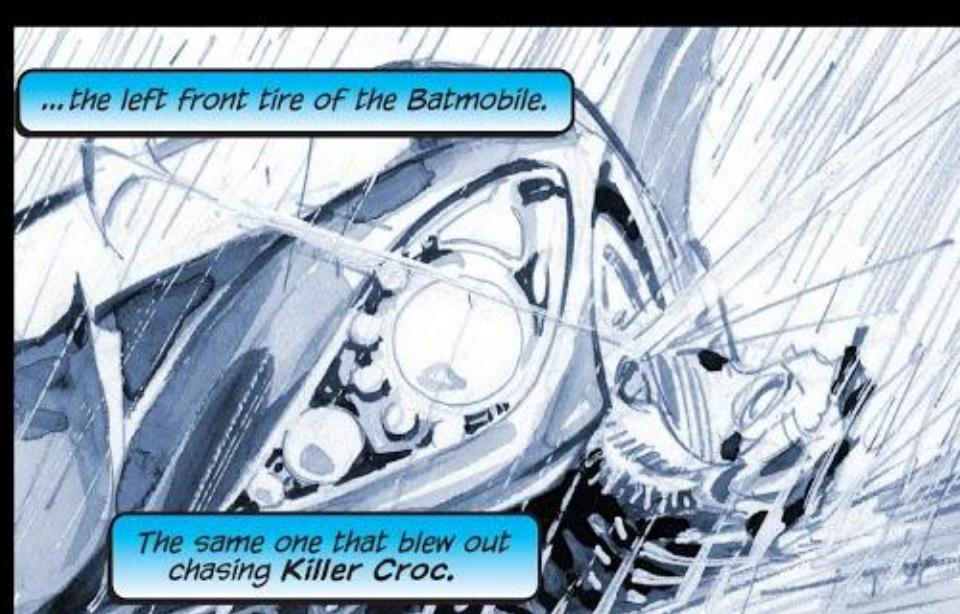
*It was by design that I landed in Crime Alley.*



*I cannot always collect them at a crime scene.*

*Where we first met.*

*Where Jason was stealing...*



*...the left front tire of the Batmobile.*

*The same one that blew out chasing Killer Croc.*



**PUTTING ALL THE CLUES TOGETHER, HUH?**  
I CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T GIVE YOU A SPORTING CHANCE.



**BUT...**

YOU MAY HAVE A LOT OF FACTS.  
PERSONAL HISTORY. ANECDOTES.  
YOU MAY EVEN HAVE SET UP ALL THOSE INCIDENTS TO ECHO WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.



YOU ARE NOT  
THE ROBIN WHO  
DIED.

To make it perfect...  
For me to truly believe  
that this was Jason...

...he would have called me "Bruce."

Whoever orchestrated this --  
and I believe that person knows --  
withheld my secret identity.





EVEN  
IN THE END...  
JASON KNEW HOW  
MUCH I LOVED  
HIM.



I could never forget you...

It is even possible that this impostor did not know that Jason Todd was Robin.

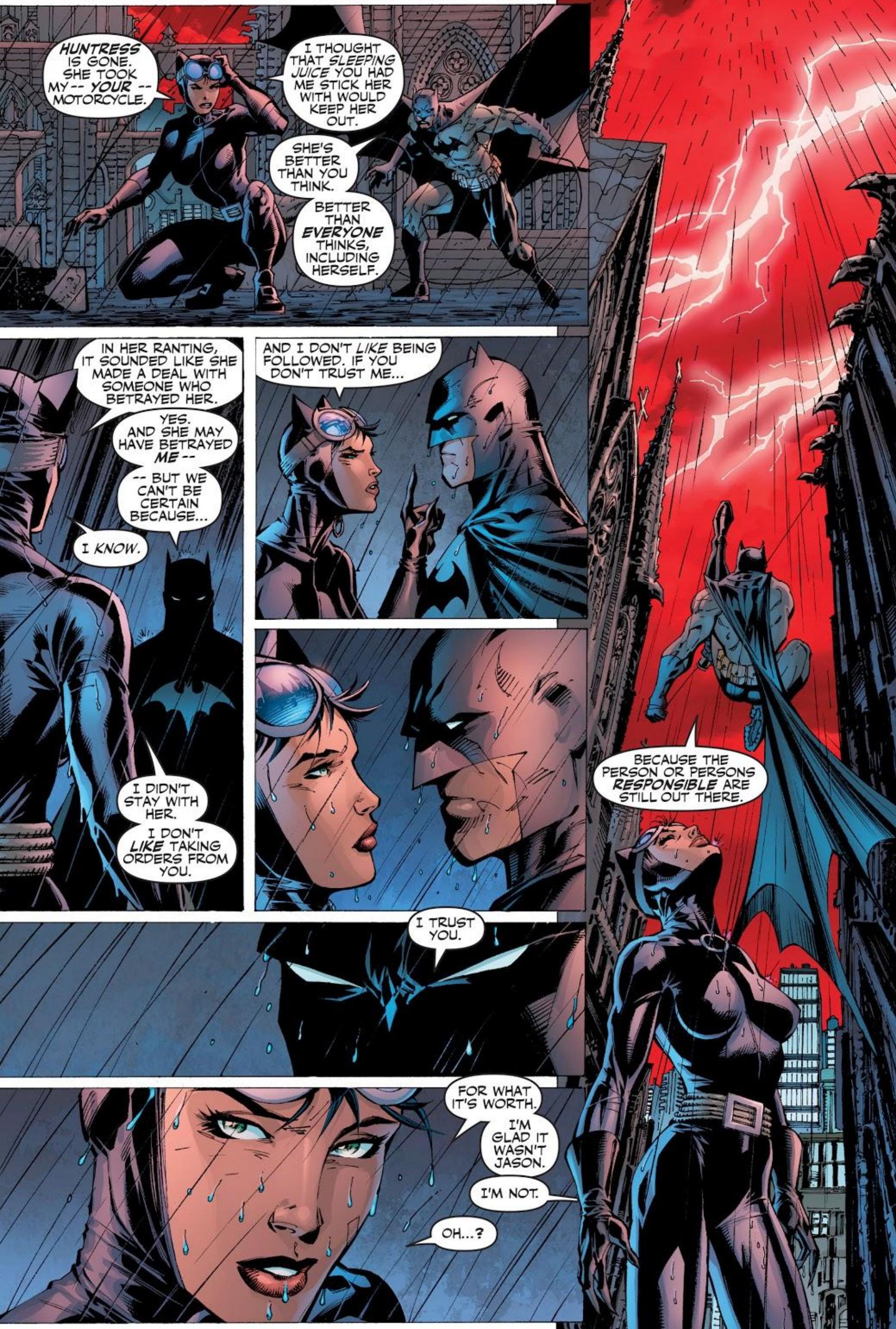
He could have been told to put on a costume and come to this open grave. Given what to say... up to a point.

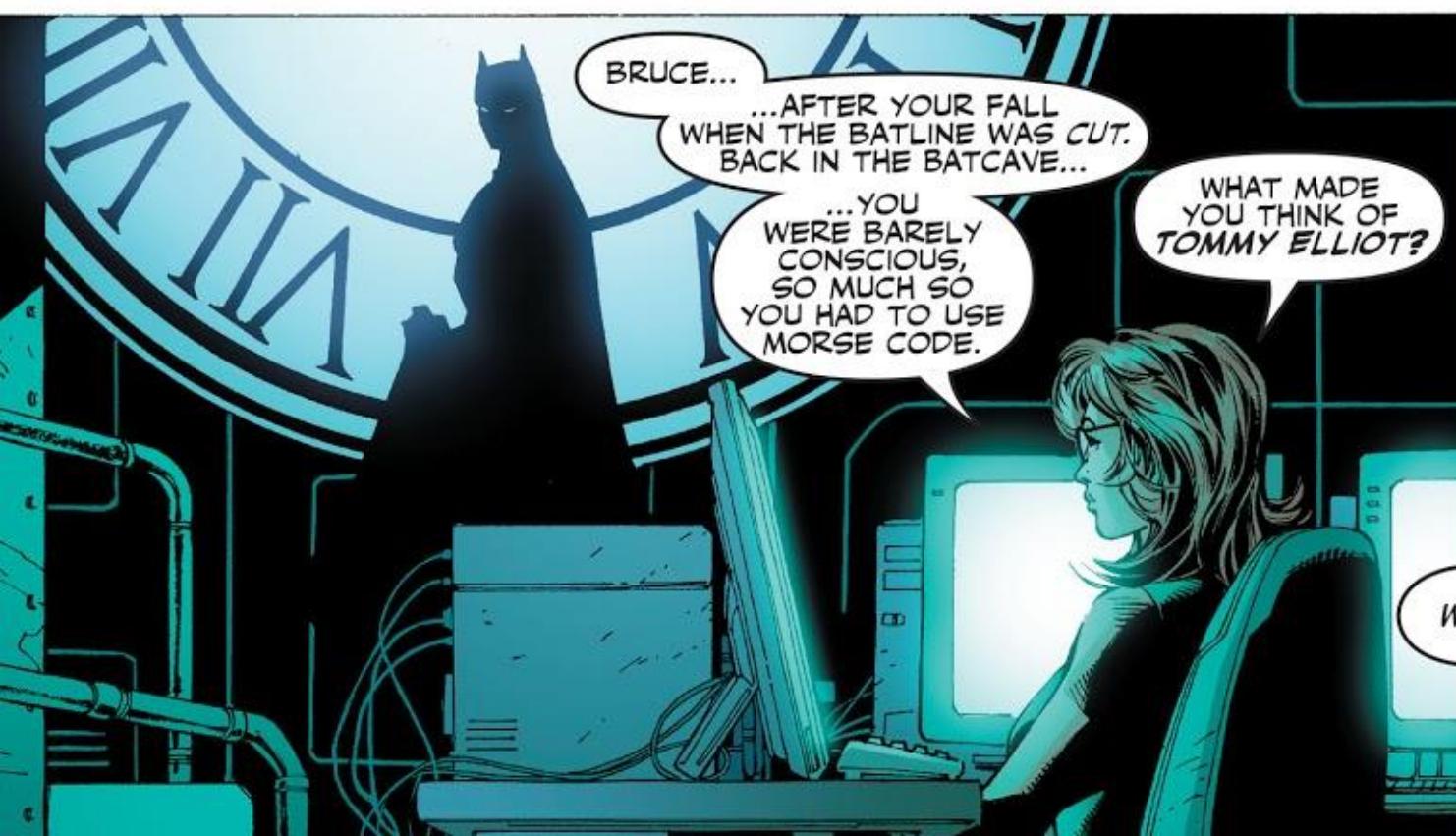
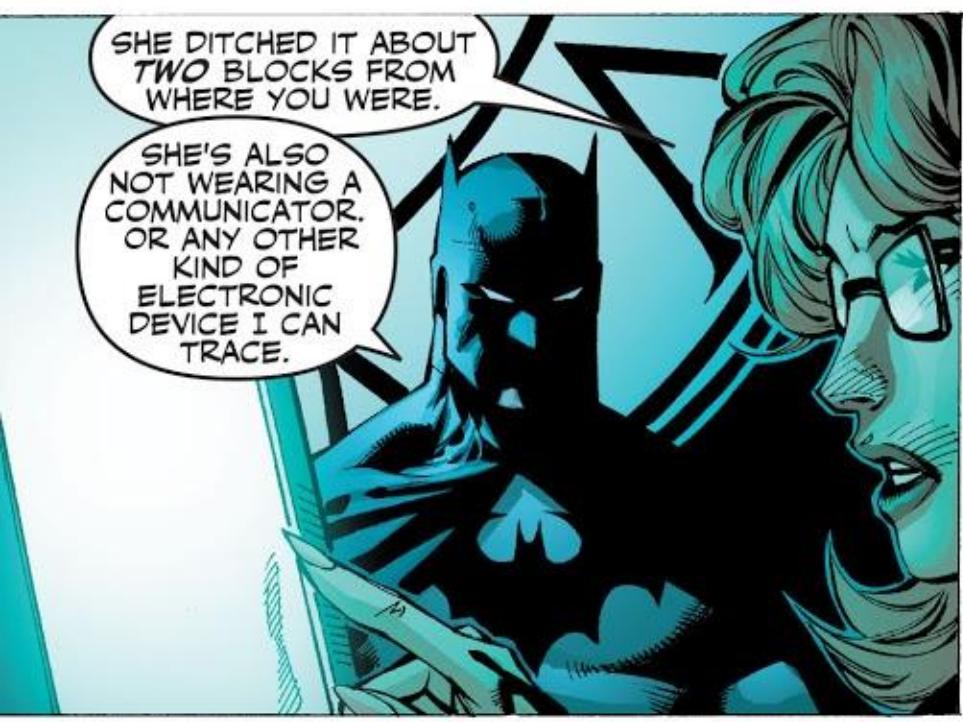
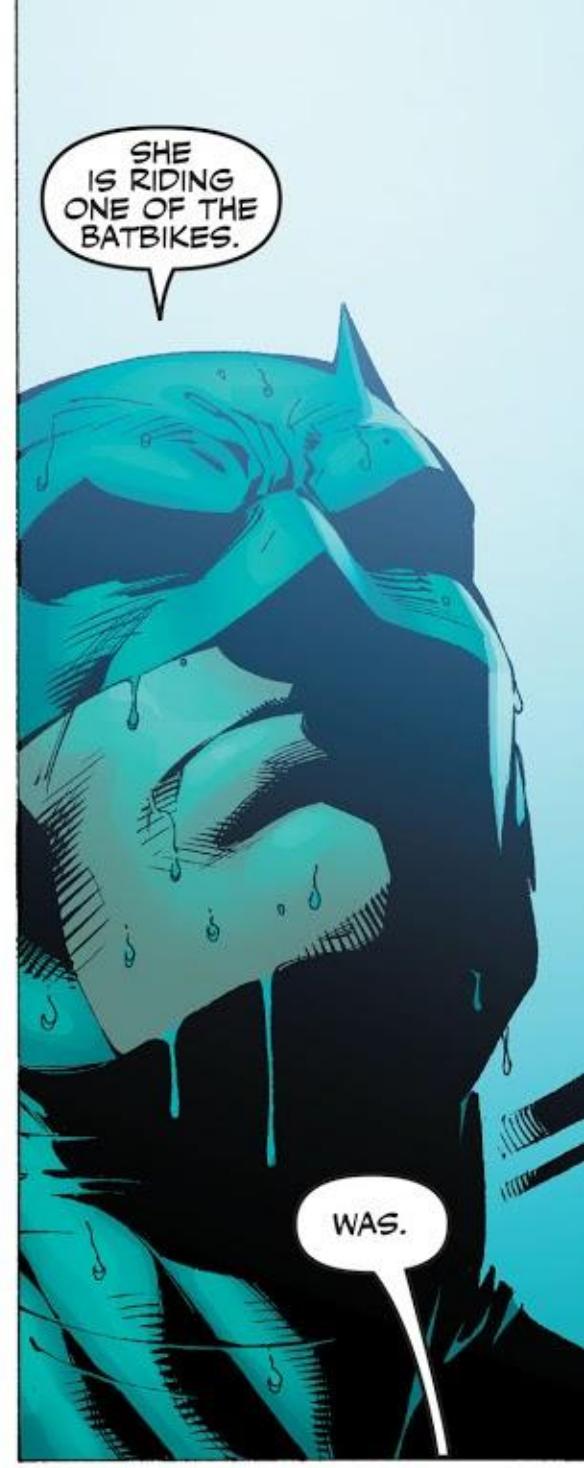
He never referred to himself as "Jason"... and I never called him that either.

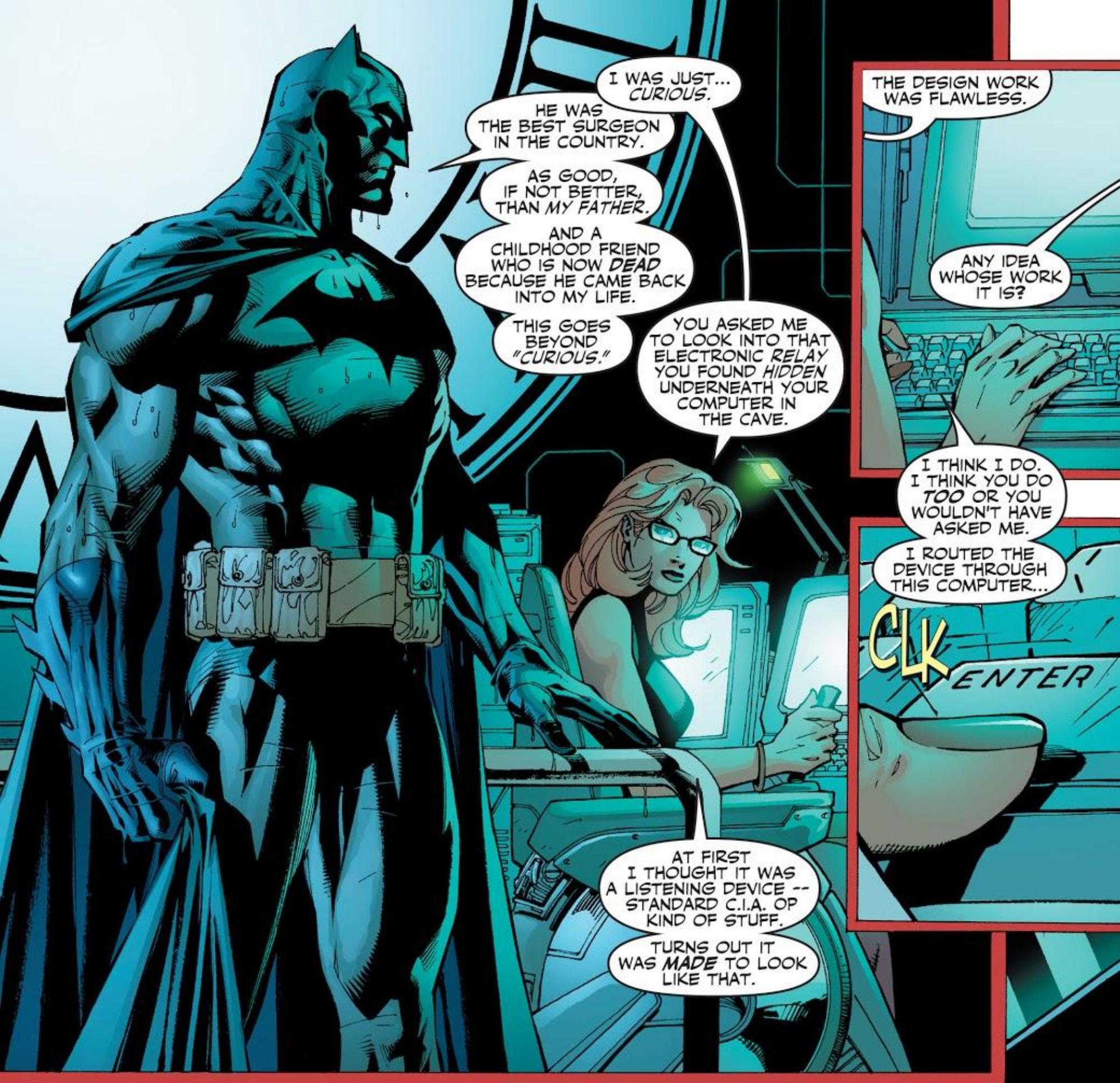
CLAY.

WHEN  
DID YOU  
KNOW?











HAROLD.

HAPPINESS.

When I first met Harold he was all alone. Friendless. Homeless. But gifted when it came to the repair of machines and electronics.

For a long time he worked in The Cave. Access to the cars, the computers. Always silent... in many ways, as alone as when I found him.

YOU CAN... SPEAK.

Through the years, I used all my resources to find a way to repair Harold's body.

But... medical science is not like crime. There is not always an answer.

THIS WAS SOMETHING FOR ME.

YOU HAD GIVEN ME SO MUCH.

I DIDN'T WANT TO ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE.

HE SAID HE COULD HEAL ME.

MAKE IT SO I WASN'T MUTE.

SO I COULD STAND UP LIKE A MAN.

I THOUGHT THAT EVEN IF I HAD BEEN TRICKED...

YOU ARE MY HERO.

YOU WOULD ALWAYS WIN... FORGIVE ME...

HAROLD... I CAN FORGIVE YOU...

HE KNEW WHO YOU WERE WITHOUT THE MASK.

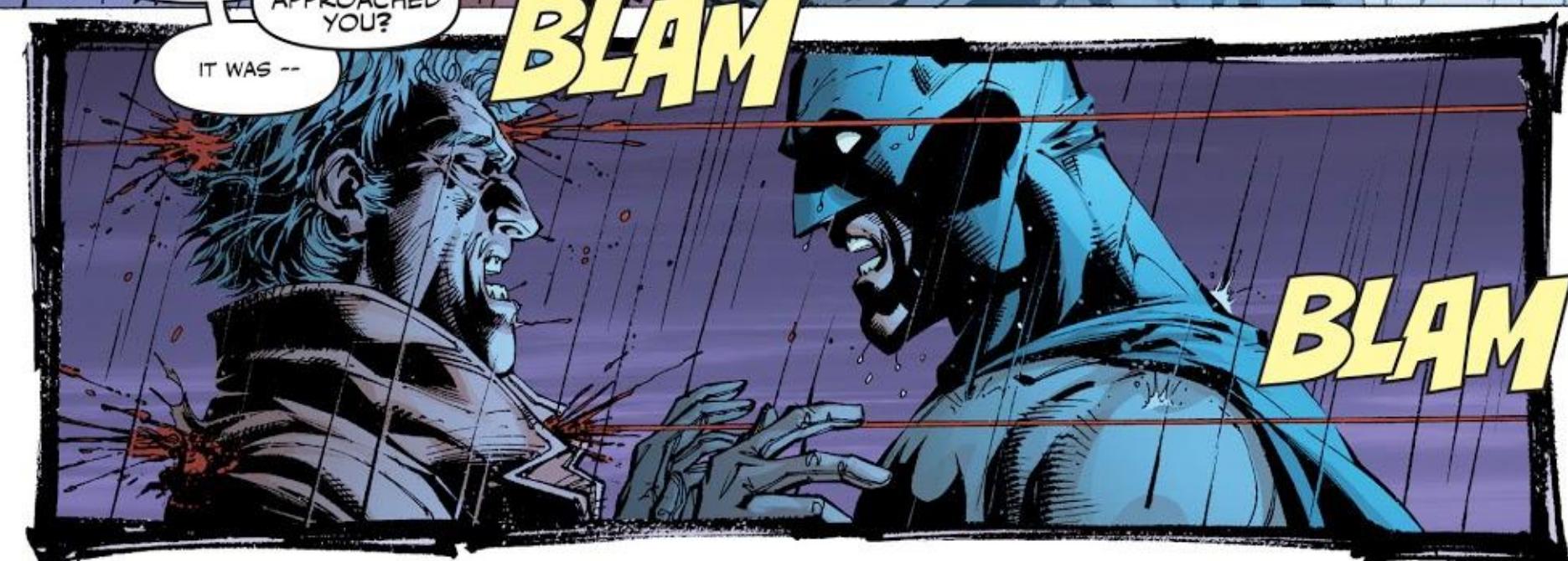
HE KNEW ABOUT THE CAVE AND WHAT MY JOB WAS.

ALL HE ASKED WAS THAT I ADD THE CIRCUIT RELAY TO THE COMPUTER. I BUILT IT TO HIS SPECIFICATIONS, BUT I MADE SURE IT COULDN'T HURT YOU.

WHO APPROACHED YOU?

IT WAS --

THE DESIRE TO BE HAPPY CAN BE VERY POWERFUL WHEN EXPLOITED.





WHAT IS  
A FRIEND?



A SINGLE SOUL  
DWELLING IN TWO  
BODIES...

To Be  
**CONCLUDED!**