



677
JUL
2008

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
A
AUTHORITY

R.I.P. 

BATMAN®



GRANT
MORRISON
TONY
DANIEL
SANDU
FLOREA

dccomics.com

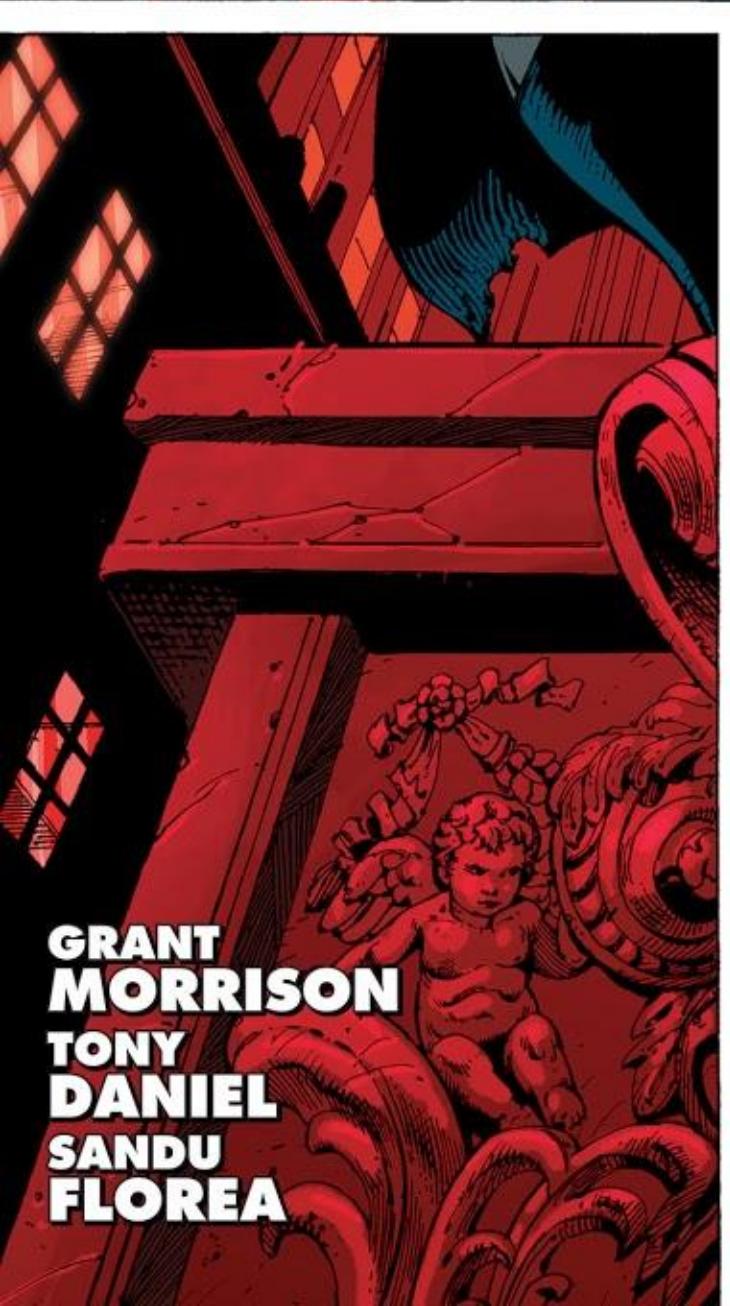


677
JUL
2008

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

R.I.P.

BATMAN



GRANT
MORRISON
TONY
DANIEL
SANDU
FLOREA

dccomics.com

WHO?



WHO
ARE YOU
WORKING
FOR?



BATMAN B.R.T.P. BATMAN in the UNDERWORLD

WHO IS THE
BLACK
GLOVE?!

GRANT MORRISON writer
TONY DANIEL penciller
SANDU FLOREA inker

GUY MAJOR colorist
JARED K. FLETCHER letterer
JEANINE SCHAEFER assoc. editor
MIKE MARTS editor

ALEX ROSS and TONY DANIEL covers
BATMAN created by BOB KANE



I NOTICED ONE OF THE BLACK CASEBOOKS WAS MISSING FROM THE DRAWER, ALFRED.

I NEED TO PIN DOWN SIMON HURT'S LINKS WITH JOHN MAYHEW AND SOME OF THE OTHER NAMES CONNECTED WITH THE BLACK GLOVE.

The Black Glove.

Starring
Mangrove
Pierce

John
Mayhew
film

SIR?

I BELIEVE I COMMITTED MOST OF YOUR HANDWRITTEN NOTES TO BAT-COMPUTER FILES, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY.

PERHAPS I LEFT THE ORIGINAL AT MY DESK.

SO IT'S ALREADY ON HERE?

THIS IS ONE OF JOHN MAYHEW'S MOVIES.

IT'S THE STORY OF TWO INNOCENT LOVERS CORRUPTED AND DESTROYED BY A GROUP OF SUPER-RICH GAMBLERS.

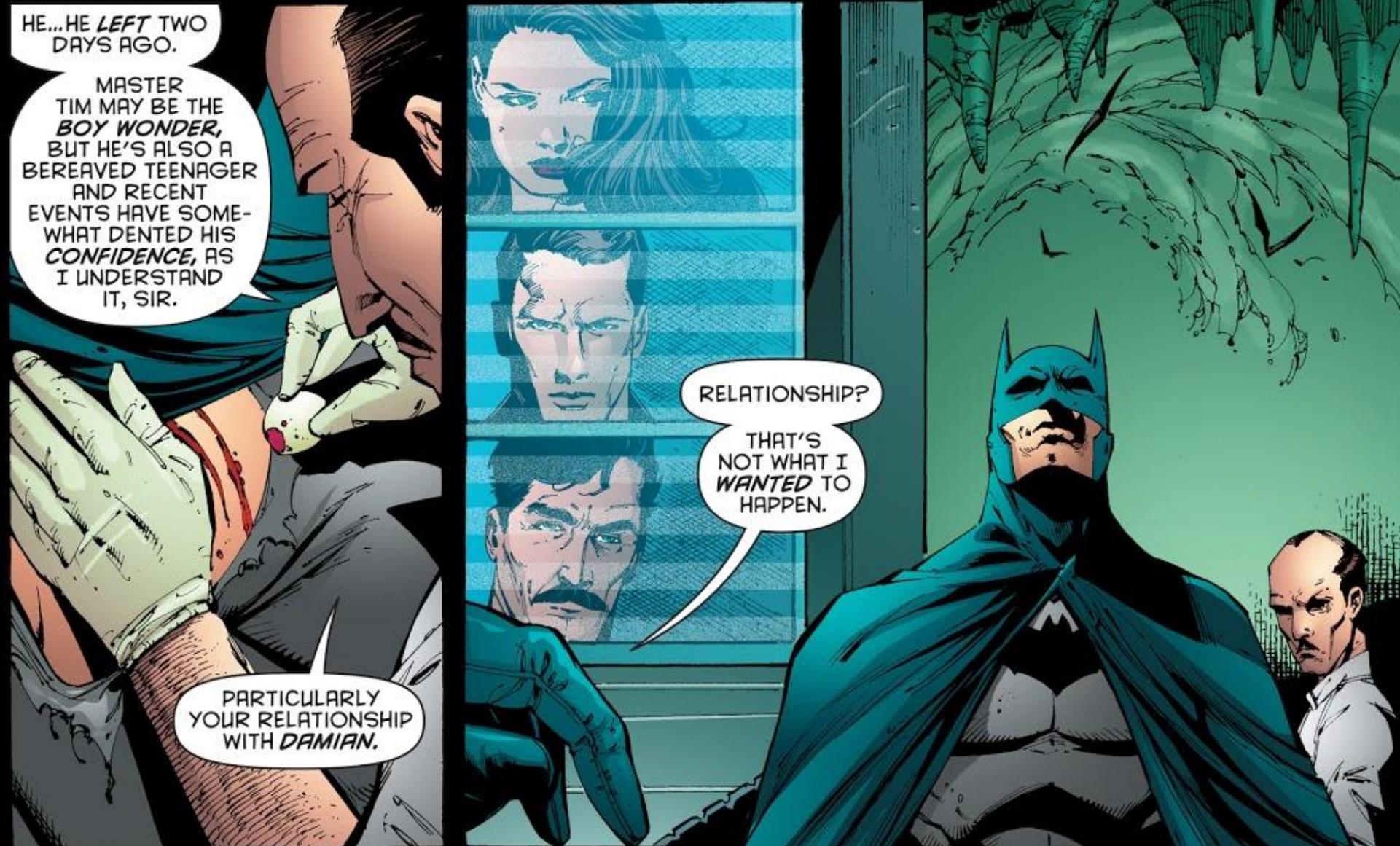
I'VE CERTAINLY HEARD OF IT.

SIR, THAT'S RATHER A NASTY WOUND.

MM.

IT'S SHOWING AT THE GOTHAM VILLAGE CINEDROME.

I COULD USE YOUR TAKE.



WELCOME
TO GOTHAM
CITY!

OF COURSE,
NO ONE EVER
SAID IT WOULD BE
EASY TO CRUSH
THE BATMAN.

THIS HAS
BEEN A **LONG**,
PAINSTAKING
PROCESS WHICH
IS **FAR** FROM
COMPLETE.

BUT THIS
SELF-RIGHTEOUS
DO-GOODER, THIS
ARROGANT, DAMAGED
LITTLE **ARISTOCRAT**, IS
ABOUT TO FACE A LONG-
OVERDUE RUDE
AWAKENING.

THE **BLACK
GLOVE** HAS
DECIDED TO TEACH
OUR UPSTART
IDEALIST A **LESSON**
HE WILL NEVER
FORGET.

WHAT WE
ARE ABOUT
TO DO WILL
BE A WORK
OF ART.

NOTHING
LESS THAN THE
COMPLETE AND
UTTER **RUINATION**
OF A NOBLE
HUMAN SPIRIT.

YOU HONESTLY
BELIEVE YOU CAN DO
WHAT NOT EVEN THE
JOKER OR **TWO-FACE**
OR ANY OF THE **OTHERS**
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO
ALL THESE YEARS,
DOCTOR HURT?



NO ONE KNOWS HIM BETTER THAN I DO.

THE EXTREME LENGTHS TO WHICH OUR BOY HAS GONE TO MAKE HIMSELF **STRONG** ARE POWERFUL INDICATORS OF THE **WEAKNESS** HE FEELS HE MUST OVERCOME.

THAT WEAKNESS IS STILL THERE, INSIDE.



THE FRACTURE THAT WILL BREAK THE MAN.

IF YOUR GARGOYLE HENCHMAN DID HIS WORK CORRECTLY, M'SIEUR LE BOSSU, THE LIBRIUM ON THE BLADE WILL MAKE BATMAN MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE INDUCTION TRIGGER PHRASE I PLANTED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.



YOUR TARGETS, HIS FRIENDS, AWAIT.



ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS PUSH. AND BATMAN SELF-DESTRUCTS.



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline



NO,
DAMMIT,
WAIT A
MINUTE!

BRUCE
WAYNE
DOESN'T
DESERVE
THIS!

ED SHELDRAKE OVER
AT THE GAZETTE
WANTS TO RUN WITH
THE STORY.

I CAN'T
KEEP A LID ON
THIS PAST THE
WEEKEND.

BRUCE
IS RECKLESS AND
INCONSISTENT... BUT
SCHIZOPHRENIC?

NO.

SHOW ME
ONE SHRED OF
EVIDENCE TO BACK
ANY OF THIS UP BEFORE
YOU ASSASSINATE THE
MAN'S PARENTS ALL
OVER AGAIN!

WOULD I DRAG YOU UP
HERE JUST TO SWAP TITTLE-
TATTLE, COMMISSIONER
GORDON?

DURING THE
GOTHAM GRAND
CENTRAL BOMB SCARE,
A DOSSIER TURNED UP
IN AN EMPTY LUGGAGE
LOCKER AND FOUND ITS
WAY TO THE GAZETTE
NEWSDESK.

WHO COULD RESIST
THE SCOOP ON THE
SORDID SECRET HISTORY
OF THOMAS AND
MARTHA WAYNE?

ARE WE
TALKING ABOUT
THE SAME
PEOPLE?

THOMAS
WAYNE WAS A
PHILANTHROPIST,
A BRILLIANT
SURGEON!

WHO EVIDENTLY
TRANSFORMED
INTO A BRUTAL,
FOUL-MOUTHED
DEGENERATE ON
BOOZE AND HARD
DRUGS.

WHO KNOWS
WHAT THE BOY
WITNESSED.

THAT'S IF
HE ACTUALLY IS
WAYNE'S SON AND
NOT THE CREEPY
BUTLER'S.

I DIDN'T
WRITE IT.
SEE FOR
YOURSELF.

MR. MAYOR, I KNOW ALFRED PENNYWORTH.

WE'RE TALKING OLD SCHOOL ENGLISH GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN...

STAGE NAME, "BERGLE".

HE'S AN ACTOR!

GUESS HE FOOLED YOU TOO, GORDON, JUST LIKE HE DID THE WAYNES.

...OH, YEAH...THAT ONE.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT JOHN MAYHEW, MANGROVE PIERCE, MARSHA LAMARR, THOMAS WAYNE AND FAITHFUL ALFRED.

THE GIRL WITH THE BRAIN-DEAD EXPRESSION AND THE NEEDLE TRACKS IN THE MIDDLE IS MARTHA.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

IT WAS COMPILED BY A DETECTIVE HIRED BY MARTHA WAYNE'S FAMILY.

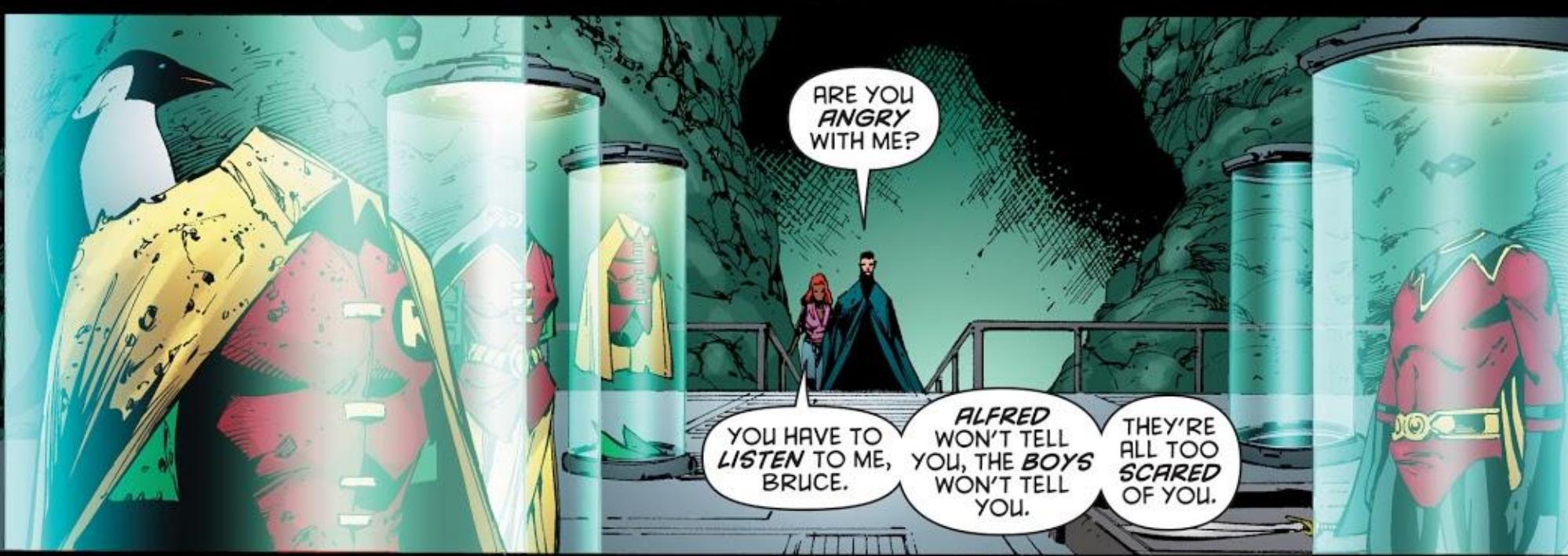
TURNS OUT THE GUY'S STILL ON OUR "UNSOLVED CRIMES" FILE SINCE HE DISAPPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY OVER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO...

NOW YOU HAVE A GUESS WHAT HE WAS ALL SET TO MAKE PUBLIC.

DID YOU KNOW MARTHA'S FOLKS CLAIMED THOMAS WAYNE HAD THEIR DAUGHTER MURDERED AND FADED HIS OWN DEATH?

THOMAS WAYNE, COMMISSIONER.

HE MIGHT EVEN STILL BE ALIVE FOR ALL WE KNOW.









I HAVE TWO CUSTOMIZED CRAY MAINFRAMES RUNNING SIMULTANEOUSLY, ANALYZING EVERY SCRAP OF DATA, LOOKING FOR A PATTERN I KNOW IS THERE.

YOU KNOW, LIKE THE DEAD MAN'S HAND THE JOKER DEALT ME WHEN I WENT TO ARKHAM ASYLUM TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE BLACK GLOVE?

TWO 8s, TWO ACES, RIGHT?

WHAT'S THE 8TH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET?
THEN THINK 8s... AND 8s.
TWO RED, TWO BLACK.
...OH MY GOD. ...H.A. H.A. ...

AND EACH CARD HAS A SPECIFIC FORTUNE-TELLING SIGNIFICANCE AND A WHOLE RANGE OF NUMEROLOGICAL AND QABALISTIC CORRESPONDENCES BEFORE WE EVEN GET TO COLOR SYMBOLISM AND FOLKLORE.

AND IF I DON'T KNOW ALL THIS STUFF, IF I MISS A TWIST, IF I CAN'T "MATCH WITS" WITH ANY ONE OF A DOZEN DEEPLY DISTURBED, BRILLIANT SADISTS, SOMEONE COULD DIE.

BRUCE...

...WHAT IF IT'S YOU?

WHAT IF
THE BLACK
GLOVE IS
YOU?

DON'T
JUST WALK
AWAY!

BRUCE!

WHO WOULD
HATE BATMAN
MORE THAN THE LITTLE
BOY WHOSE LIFE WAS
SACRIFICED SO
THAT BATMAN
COULD LIVE?

WHO WOULD
REALLY KNOW
YOUR EVERY
WEAKNESS?

WHO COULD
MATCH YOUR
EVERY MOVE,
LIKE YOU SAY?

WHO HAS YOUR
LOVE OF MYSTERIES AND
PUZZLES AND GAMES AND
THE RESOURCES TO WAGE
WAR... AGAINST HIMSELF?

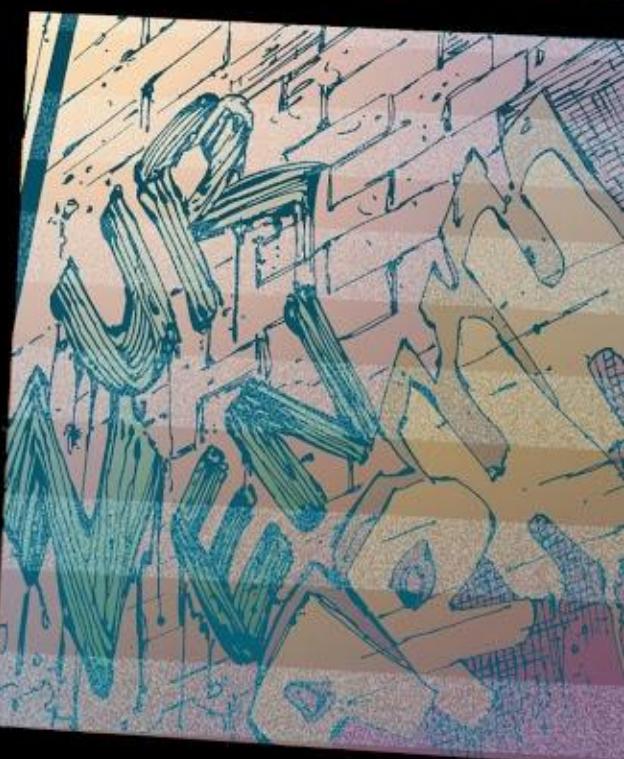
BUT DOCTOR
HURT HAD ME IN
AN ISOLATION
CHAMBER FOR
TEN DAYS.

IF HURT
IS THE BLACK
GLOVE... OR PART
OF THE BLACK
GLOVE... IF...

OH, POOR
BRUCE.

THIS IS SO
TERRIBLE.

I'M SO
SORRY.



IF IT'S ME, THE
BAT-COMPUTER
WILL KNOW.

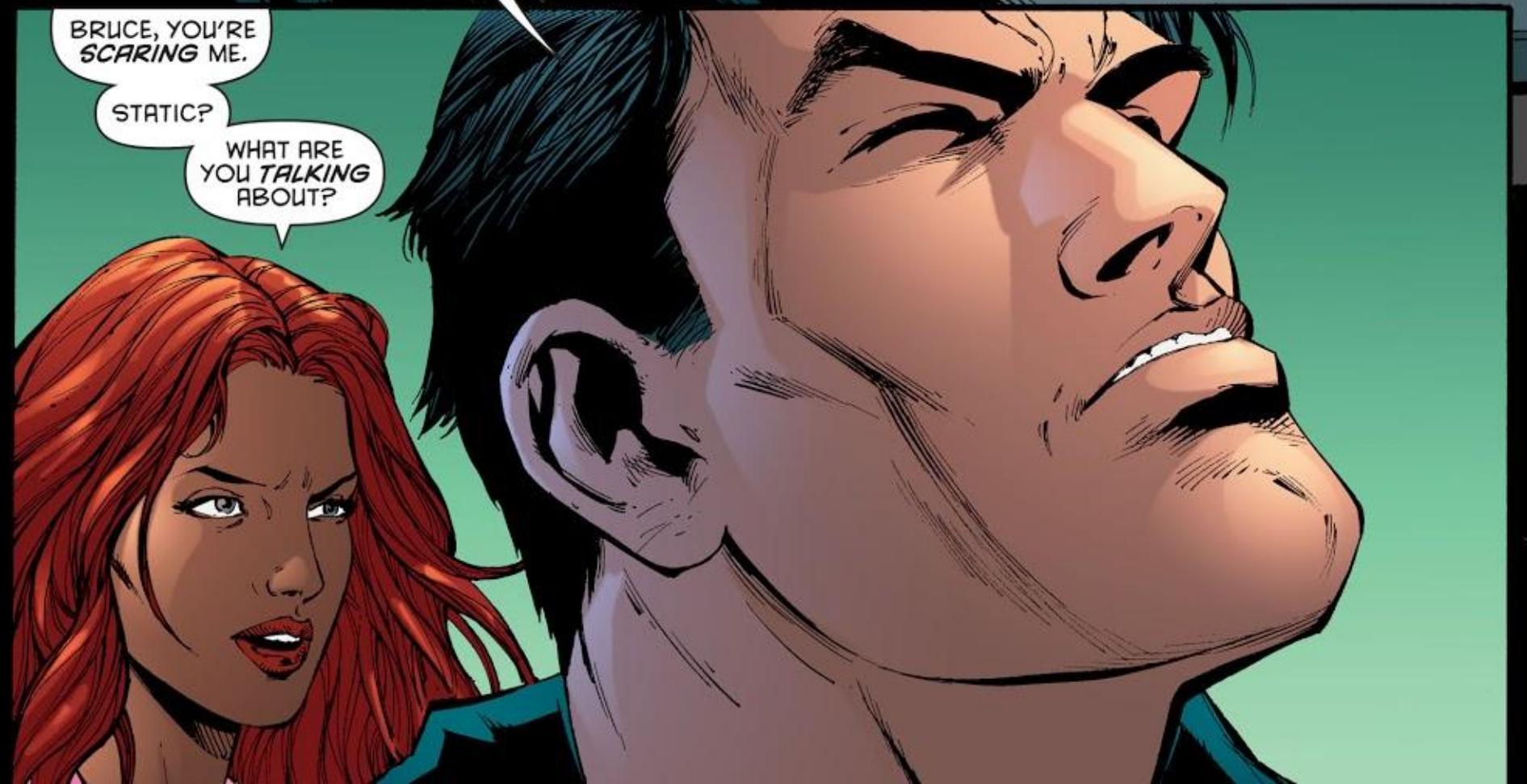
IT'S...WHAT THE
HELL'S WRONG
WITH IT?

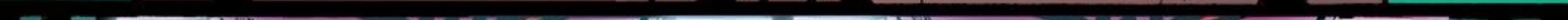
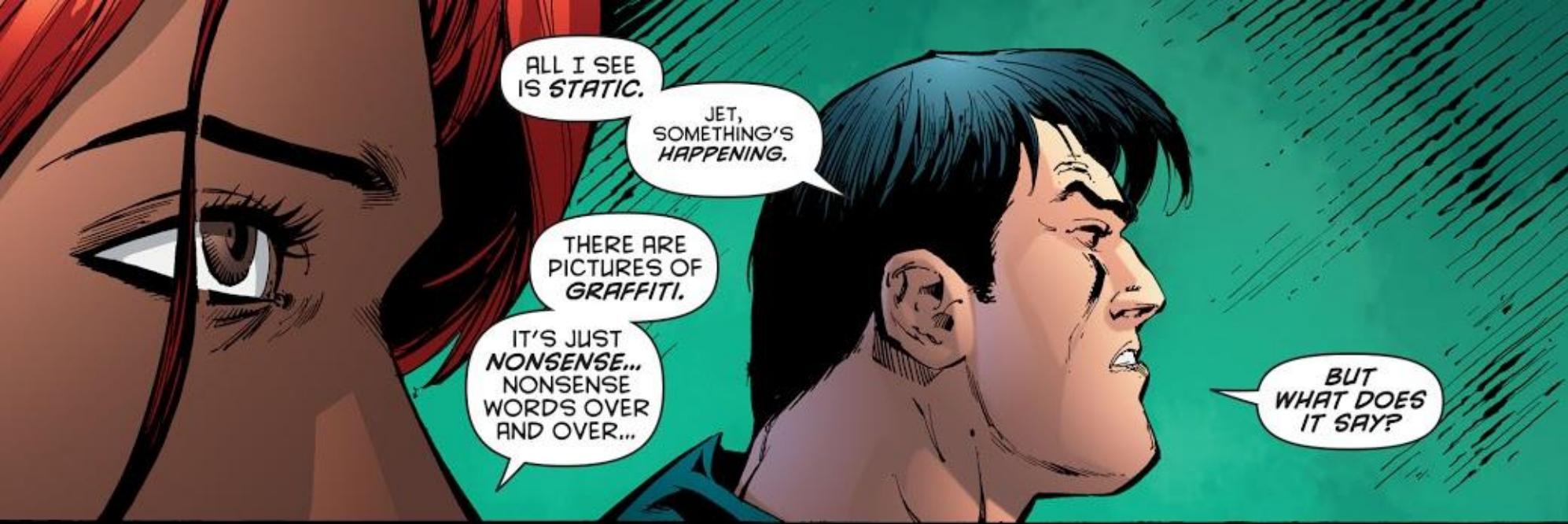
JUST
STATIC ON THE
SCREENS.

BRUCE, YOU'RE
SCARING ME.

STATIC?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?







SIR!

MASTER
BRUCE?!

I ONLY JUST
GOT BACK FROM THE
BLEAKEST FILMGOING
EXPERIENCE I'VE EVER HAD
THE MISFORTUNE TO ENDURE
AND I SMELLED MORE
THAN JUST...

FFAAUHHH!

BURNING.



AH, LA
BAS.

DEEP
WHERE NO
ONE CAN
FIND YOU.





NEXT in BATMAN R.I.P. The Club of Villains takes Gotham!
The fate of Bruce Wayne! And the shocking return of the FIRST BATMAN?