

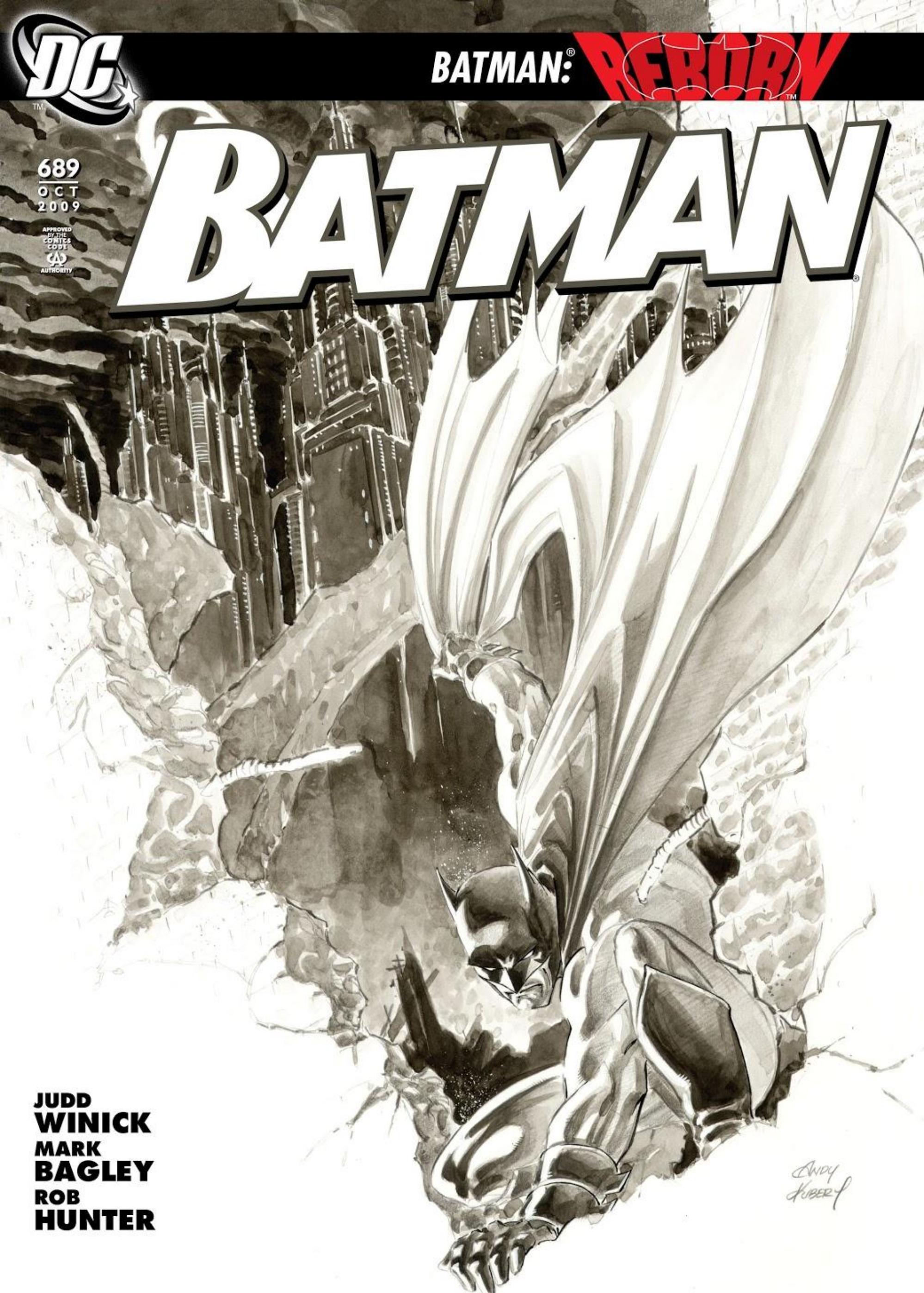


BATMAN® REBIRTH™

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BATMAN



JUDD
WINICK
MARK
BAGLEY
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LONG SHADOWS PART TWO NEW DAY, NEW KNIGHT



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PARTY'S OVER.

And look at 'em go. Bruce, I gotta tell ya, this job could have been fun for you sometimes if you ever let it.

YOU'RE SHOOTING AT ME THROUGH THE CROWD?!



WHOEVER
YOUR BOSS IS--
HE WON'T LIKE THAT!
THIS ISN'T A PACK
OF GANGSTERS,
WHO EXPECT A BIT
OF DANGER EVEN
DURING THEIR
DOWN TIME!



THE
PATRONAGE
IS MOSTLY
WEALTHY
CIVILIANS!



BAD
ENOUGH THAT
I'VE SHOWN UP TO
RUIN THEIR EVENING,
BUT NEARLY
GETTING CLIPPED
BY THE SECURITY
DETAIL?!



I ASSUME THEY'RE GOING TO WANT THEIR MONEY BACK!



And that is what this evening is actually about.



Ruining business.

THIS IS GOOD.

YEAH. YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, BOSS, BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW THIS IS GOOD FOR US.

AND, I SWEAR TO GOD, MR. DENT, NO DISRESPECT, BUT I'M NOT REALLY SEEING HOW THIS IS GOOD FOR... WELL... YOU?

YEAH?

YEAH. YOU'RE GETTING A BIT, Y'KNOW...

USA NOW

THE DARK KNIGHT STRIKES BACK!

CRIME ALLEY QUIET

OPINION

POLLS SHOW BAT POPULARITY IS A RISING TREND!

LY BUGLE
BATMAN
THREAT
OR
MENACE?

GOTHAM POST
- THE LESS -
DARK KNIGHT?

GOTHAM GLOBE
BATMAN
ON THE
PROWL
... OBSESSIVE.

10 INDICTMENTS
FROM BATMAN
ARRESTS!



TELL THEM
THE PARAMETERS
AGAIN, DOUBLE THE
FEE. BRING ANYONE
STILL INTERESTED
TO ME.

I'LL TELL
THEM WHERE
THEY NEED
TO GO.

LOOK
AT HIM
WORK.

HE'S
SMILING
AGAIN,
HUUH?

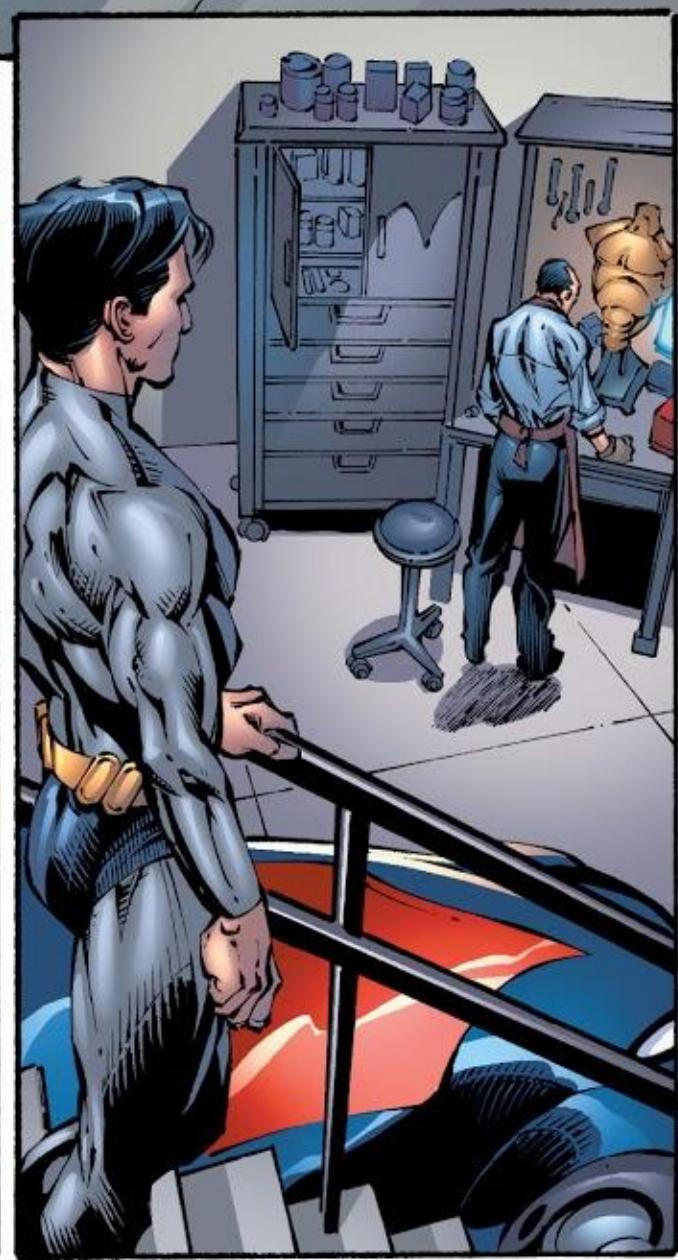
HE'S
HAPPY.

BATMAN
HAPPY. YOU
DON'T SEE THAT
EVERY DAY.

NO,
YOU SURE
DON'T.

YOU'VE
BEEN
FLIPPING
THAT COIN
A LOT
LATELY.

I KNOW...
I'M HAPPY,
TOO.



WELL, SIR...
DAMIAN NEEDS
MORE ROOM.
HE'S QUITE
SPARTAN IN SO
MANY RESPECTS,
BUT IN OTHER
WAYS--

HE LIKES TO KEEP
A TON OF MARTIAL
ARTS EQUIPMENT WITHIN
REACH AT ALL TIMES.
I KNOW.

AND HIS BED-
SIDE TABLE IS LIKE A
CHECK-OUT COUNTER AT
A SPY AND SECURITY
STORE.

EXACTLY.
SO I WAS CLEARING
SOME OF THE OLDER
STORAGE AREAS FOR
HIM AND CAME ACROSS
SOME OF MASTER
BRUCE'S
DRAWINGS.

SCHEMATICS?

NO, SIR.
DRAWINGS FROM
WHEN HE WAS A
BOY. CHILDREN'S
DRAWINGS. BEFORE
WE LOST THE
WAYNES.

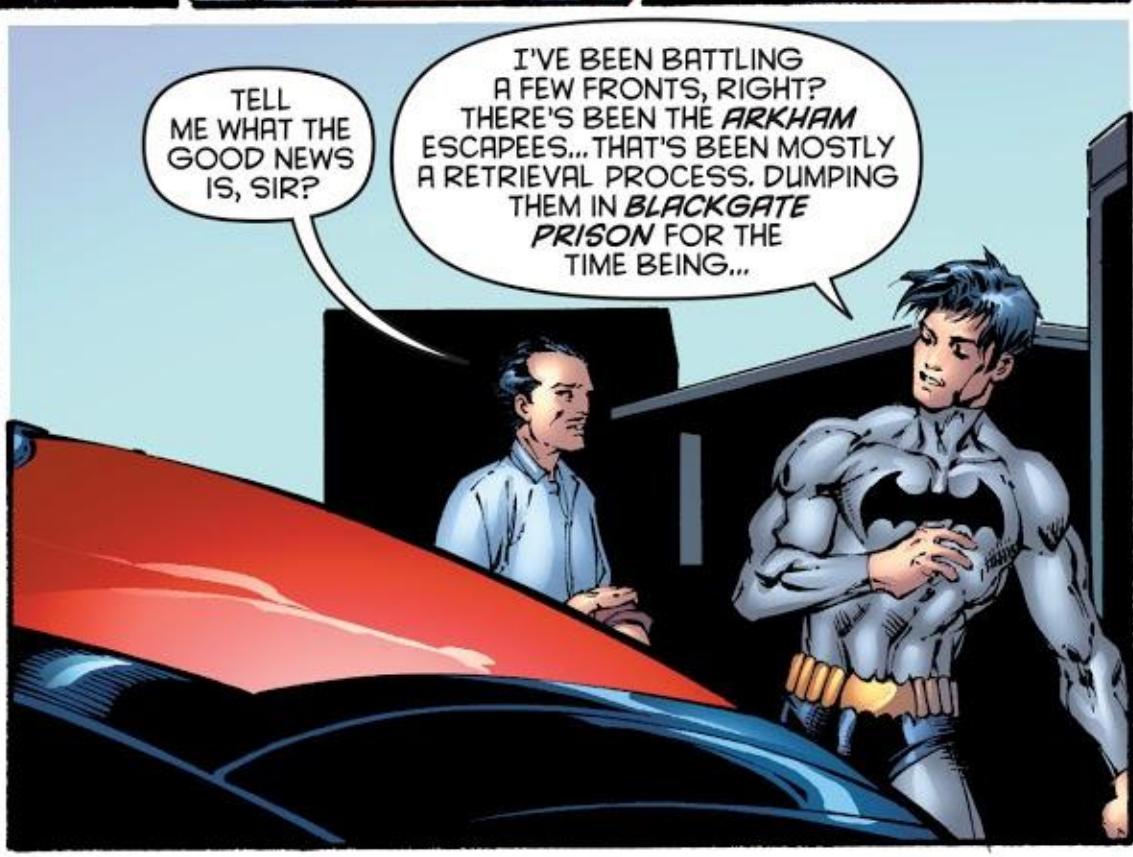
REALLY?
WHAT...WHAT
DID HE
DRAW?

CARS.
DINOSAURS.
AIRPLANES...HE
WAS QUITE
GOOD.



ALL THAT STOPPED, OF COURSE... AND THE DARKNESS FELL... BUT IT LEFT ME COMPARING THOSE LIGHTEARTED MOMENTS TO THE TIMES THAT WOULD COME.

SIR, MY ROLE IS TO STAND IN THE SHADOW OF A GREATER SHADOW. I WASN'T CERTAIN I COULD BEAR IT WITHOUT HIM HERE. BUT YOU MAKE IT EASY, RICHARD. YOU... YOU ENJOY THE LIGHT.



...THEN THERE'S THE OTHER WAVE. EVERYTHING FROM ARMS DEALING TO ILLEGAL CLUBS TO DRUG TRAFFICKING.

NUMBER-WISE THERE'S BEEN AN UPTICK, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TACKLE IT BECAUSE OF THE VAST AMOUNT OF TIPS.



THERE'S A LOT OF RATS OUT THERE WILLING TO TALK LATELY.

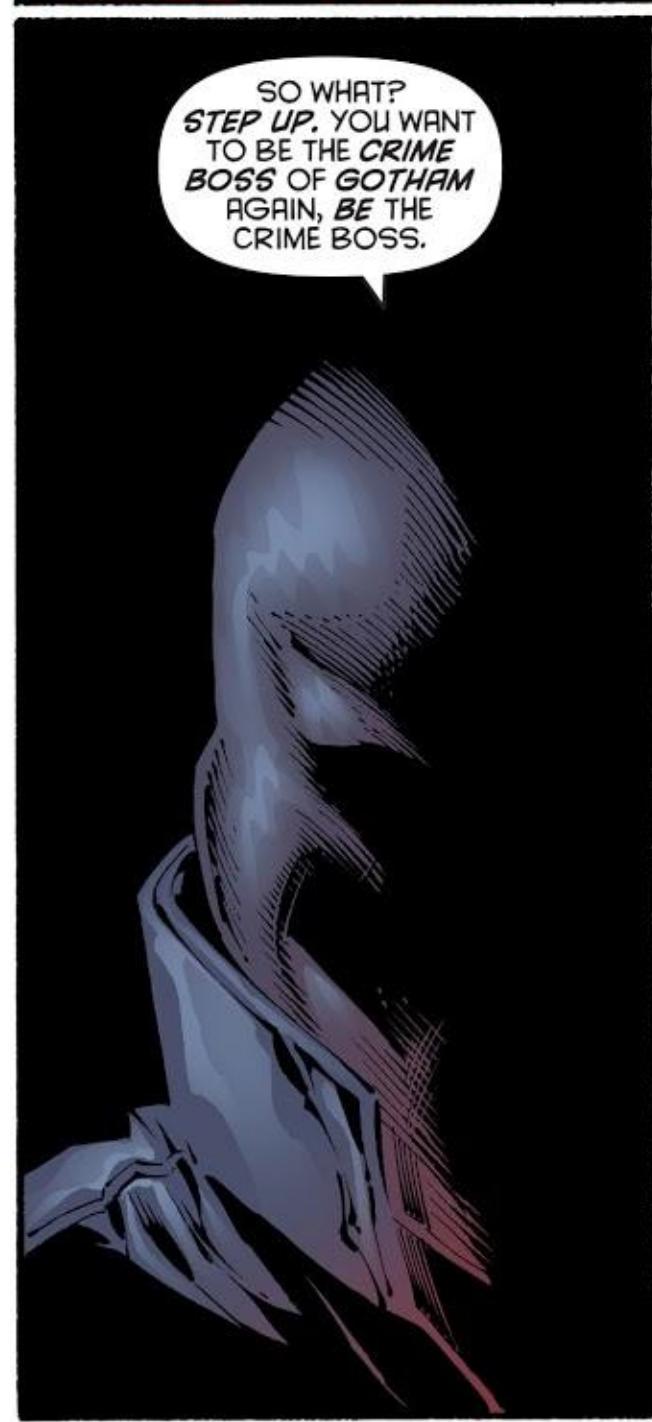
WHAT DOES THAT TELL YOU?

I THINK THAT MOST OF THIS IS COMING OUT OF ONE ORGANIZED CRIME GROUP. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHO HEADS IT UP.

AND I THINK SOMEONE IS SETTING ME UP.

AND THAT'S GOOD?

SURE. NOW I KNOW TO WATCH MY STEP FOR LANDMINES.





I PERFORM BETTER IN COOLER CLIMATES. FOR THAT, I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.

WORD IS THAT YOU HAVE COMMAND OVER SOME OF THE LESS... "CONTROLLABLE" ELEMENTS IN OUR FAIR MUNICIPALITY.



YOU HEARD THAT, HM?

YES, I DID. "UNCONTROLLABLES" LIKE YOUR ESCORT? THAT MUSCLE YOU BROUGHT WITH YOU?



"IS HE THE SOLDIER?"

"YES, OSWALD, THAT'S LYLE BLANCO. FORMER SPECIAL FORCES, CAME BACK FROM THE DESERT THE VICTIM OF TOP-SECRET GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTATION."



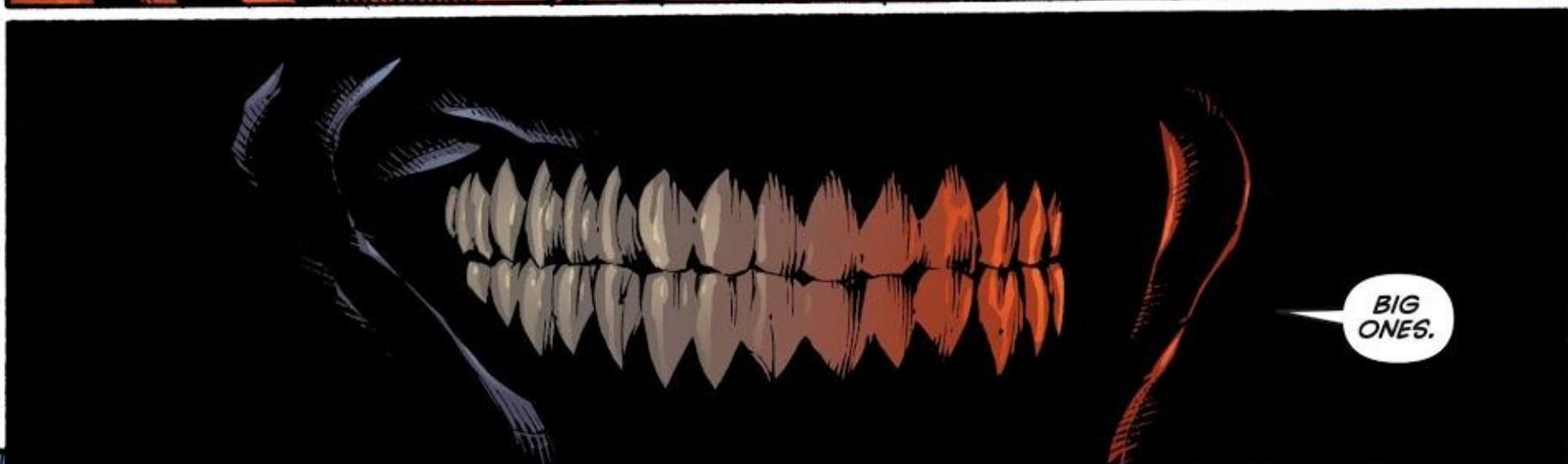
"HIS UNIQUE... SIDE-EFFECTS CONTINUED ONCE HE RETURNED TO GOTHAM... KILLED TWENTY-THREE PEOPLE BEFORE THE POLICE CAUGHT HIM."



"AND DO YOU KNOW THE ONLY REASON THEY CAUGHT HIM?"



AFTER HIS LAST MELEE, HE COULDN'T MAKE HIS ESCAPE. HE KEPT FALLING DOWN... FROM LAUGHING TOO HARD.

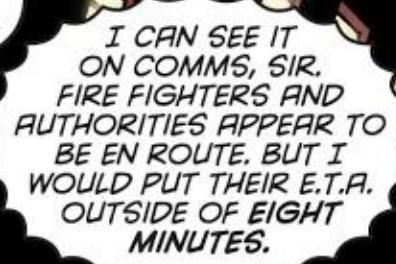




I'D SAY TO CONTACT ME ONLY IF IT'S SIGNIFICANT...



...I'VE GOING TO HAVE MY HANDS FULL.



I CAN SEE IT ON COMMS, SIR. FIRE FIGHTERS AND AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO BE EN ROUTE. BUT I WOULD PUT THEIR E.T.A. OUTSIDE OF EIGHT MINUTES.



YEAH. THE FIRE'S NOT GOING TO WAIT THAT LONG.





And then there's the new exterior speakers. A lot more bang for the buck.

RESIDENTS!
THE FORM IS
NONTOXIC!

CONTACT
WITH YOUR SKIN
AND EYES IS NO
DANGER!

WALK
THROUGH IT!
HEAD FOR THE
STAIRS AND
EMERGENCY
EXITS!

Bruce developed the foam a few years back, but its only application was for combat.

He always kept his eye on the battle.

UH OH.

BEED

Then again, I guess
I could learn something from that.

CHOO

Okay. That's interesting.
Not lethal for me. The car
can take a lot worse.

But I don't think
I'm the target.

And the building's not
close to being clear.



ALFRED!
I'M EXECUTING
A STAGE THREE
FIELD TEST!

IT APPEARS
YOU HAVE LITTLE
CHOICE, SIR!



SO
GLAD YOU
AGREE!

We gave the car flight, but it's not the Batwing. There're some serious issues with maneuverability.



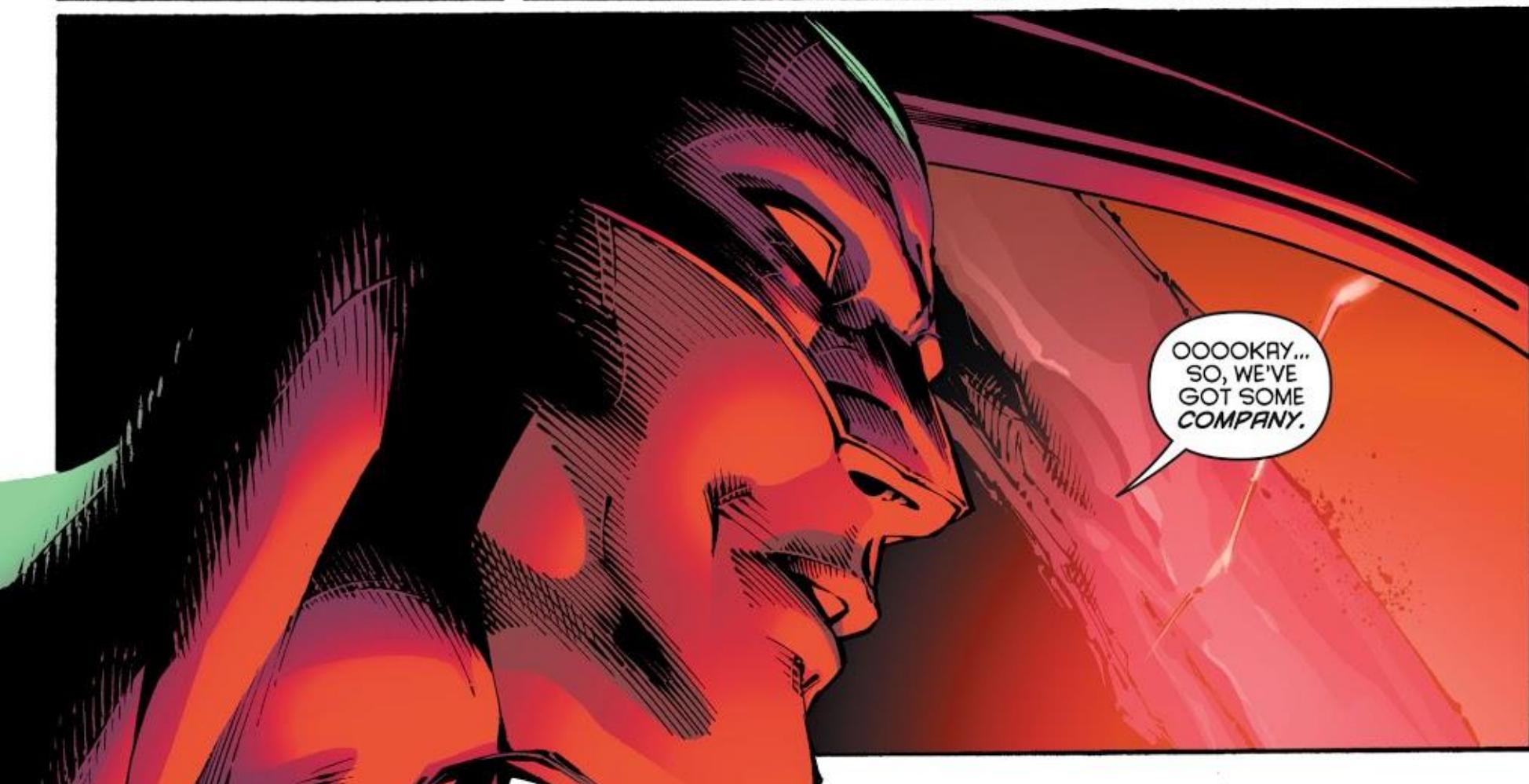
But Firepower's
not a problem.



It's never been
a problem.

Even if it's just high-powered sonics.

And firepower will buy me the real estate I need to get in close and see just what's making a meteor shower fly sideways from a rooftop. Now, if I can--



Clayface...

IF YOU
MAKE ME
ASK TWICE, I'LL
TAKE THE WHOLE
THING DOWN
WITH EVERY-
ONE IN IT!

...and a well-
armed friend.

ALFRED?

SIR?

I JUST
STEPPED ON
A LANDMINE.

THIS
IS NOT GOOD.

NEXT...
CLAYFACE STRIKES!
PENGUIN TAKES A DIVE!
TWO-FACE MAKES HIS MOVE!



novus
Distributions