

# BATMAN



HAMA • McDANIEL • STORY

5 8 1



# ORGANIC Part 3 DIVER DOWN



YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE DEALING  
WITH HERE. YOU ARE  
GOING TO GET  
YOURSELF KILLED.

HOW  
TOUCHING.

I'LL TRY TO  
DEMONSTRATE THE  
SAME LEVEL OF CONCERN  
AS I GRIND YOUR  
VERTEBRAE WITH MY  
BARE HANDS.

DO I LOOK  
LIKE SOME  
HELPLESS  
INVALID TO  
YOU, BATMAN?

I DO NOT WANT,  
OR NEED,  
ASSISTANCE  
FROM YOU.

AAACK!!

WITHOUT ME  
YOU'D BE DEAD  
ALREADY.

OOOFFF!!

I DO NOT NEED  
ANYONE RIGHT NOW  
--EXCEPT  
THAT WITCH  
CAMILLE!

WHOOUFFF!!

IT HAS TAKEN BATMAN  
YEARS OF INTENSE  
TRAINING AND  
EXPERIENCE TO  
LEARN HOW TO  
SURVIVE SITU-  
ATIONS LIKE THIS...

... AND HE KNOWS THAT ORCA, ALONE AND UNPROTECTED, AND BLIND IN HER RAGE AND IGNORANCE, WOULD BE DEAD IN MOMENTS.

AAACK! MY EYES!

CAMILLE!!

ORCA, DON'T BE A FOOL AND CHARGE IN THERE ALONE!

BE A COWARD ON YOUR OWN TIME, BATMAN!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE DARK!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHI--

-!!EEEE!

THE ONLY ADVANTAGE NOW IS THAT BATMAN CONTROLS A MORE DEFENSIBLE POSITION.

MOST OF THE GUARD HAS BEEN POSTED AROUND THE SHIP'S PERIMETER, SO THEY MUST PASS THROUGH HIM TO GET BACK INSIDE.

IF ORCA CAN SURVIVE THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS ALONE, SHE MAY LIVE TO REGRET HER ACTIONS.

You!!!

CAMILLE  
BADEN-SMYTHE!!

WE MEET AGAIN,  
WITCH OF GOTHAM.

I HAVE BROUGHT  
SOMETHING YOU HAVE  
BEEN SO DESPERATELY  
SEARCHING FOR.

WELL, WELL, WELL.  
RETURNING TO THE  
SCENE OF THE CRIME  
IS SO PEDANTIC. SO  
PREDICTABLE. SO  
BOURGEOIS. SO...

...YOU.

I HAVE BROUGHT YOU THE  
FLAME OF PERSIA.

I NOW UNDERSTAND YOUR DEEP  
ASSOCIATION WITH THIS COLD, HARD,  
LIFELESS GEM. IT SO CLOSELY  
EMULATES YOU.

YOU'VE ADMITTED FREELY THAT IT IS WORTH  
SIX MILLION DOLLARS. I WILL RETURN IT TO YOU,  
WITCH, FOR A MERE TWO MILLION.

PATHETIC BEAST. I'M AFRAID  
THAT YOU'VE MADE A TERRIBLE  
MISCALCULATION.

THAT MAGNIFICENT  
JEWEL ISN'T EVEN  
MINE!

I WON'T PAY YOU A  
SINGLE PENNY FOR ITS  
RETURN. YOU CAN BURY  
IT ON THE OCEAN  
FLOOR FOR ALL I CARE!

NOOOO!!

THIS... THIS  
CAN'T BE  
HAPPENING...

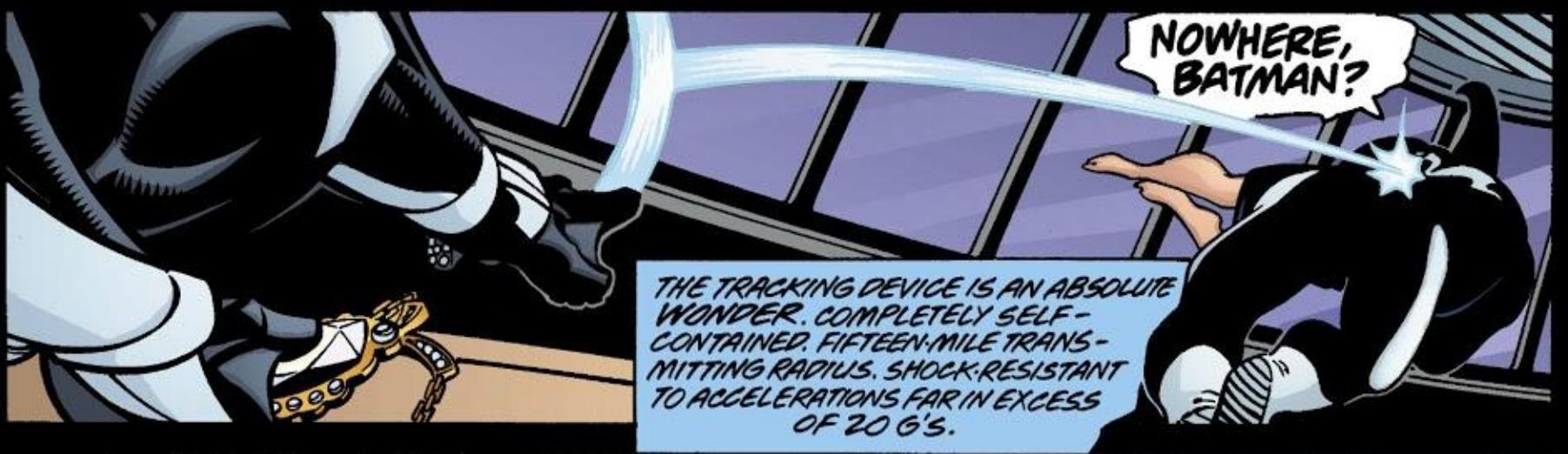
ALL THE EFFORT  
... ALL THE PAIN...  
ALL THE  
SACRIFICES...

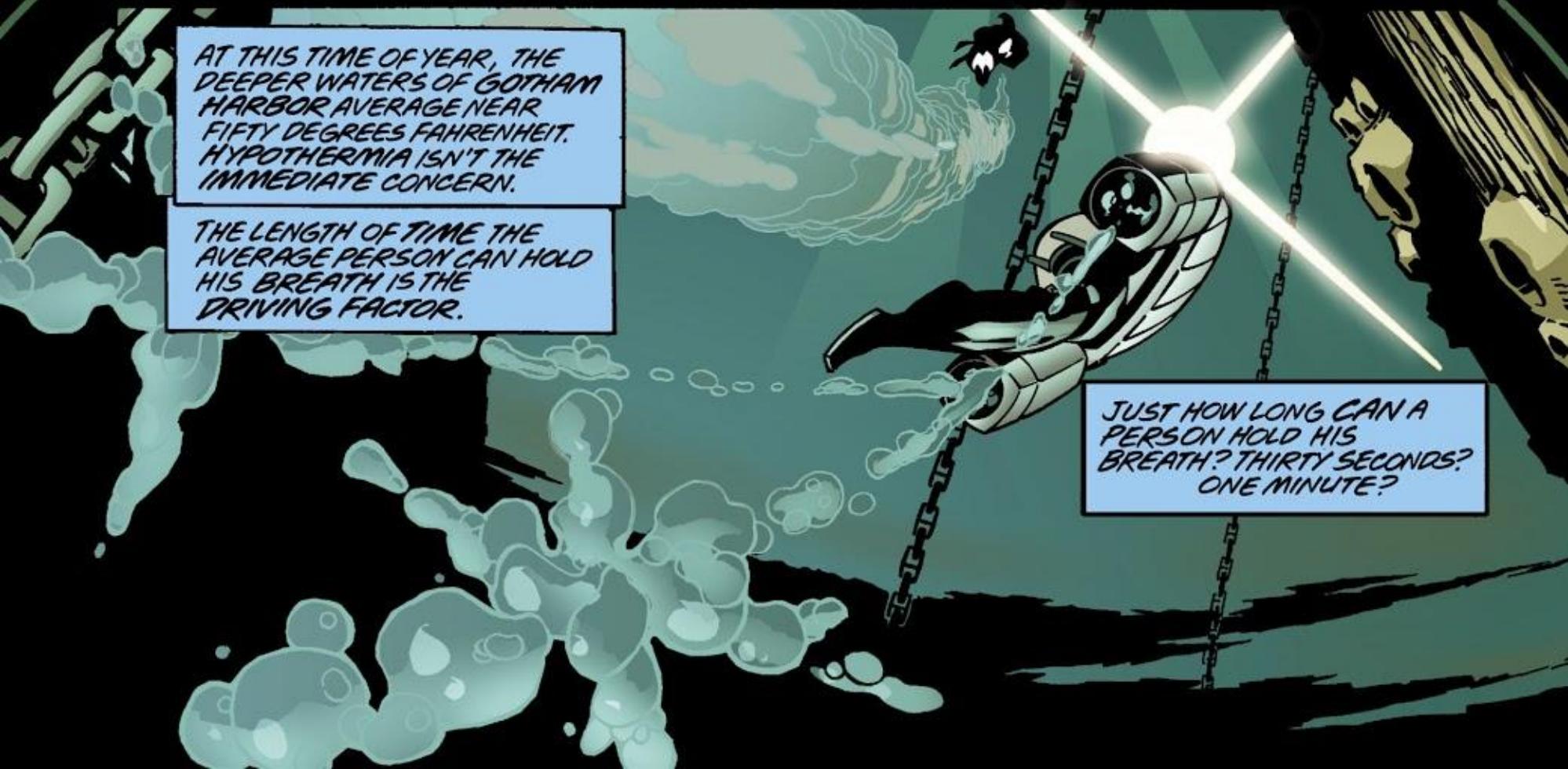
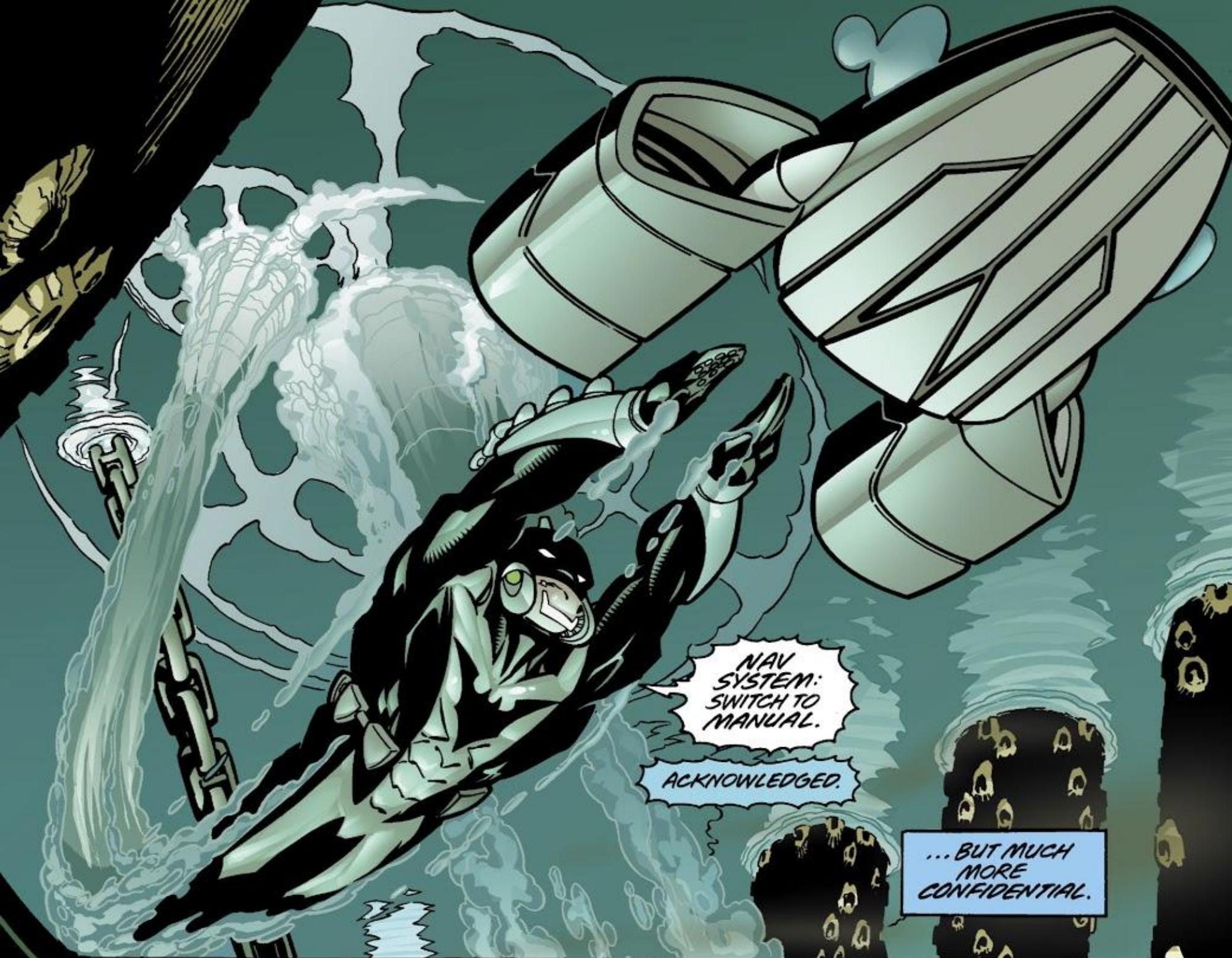
...FOR  
NOTHING!

POOR...

AHHHH... YOU  
MAY NOT PAY  
FOR THE  
JEWEL...

...PATHETIC...



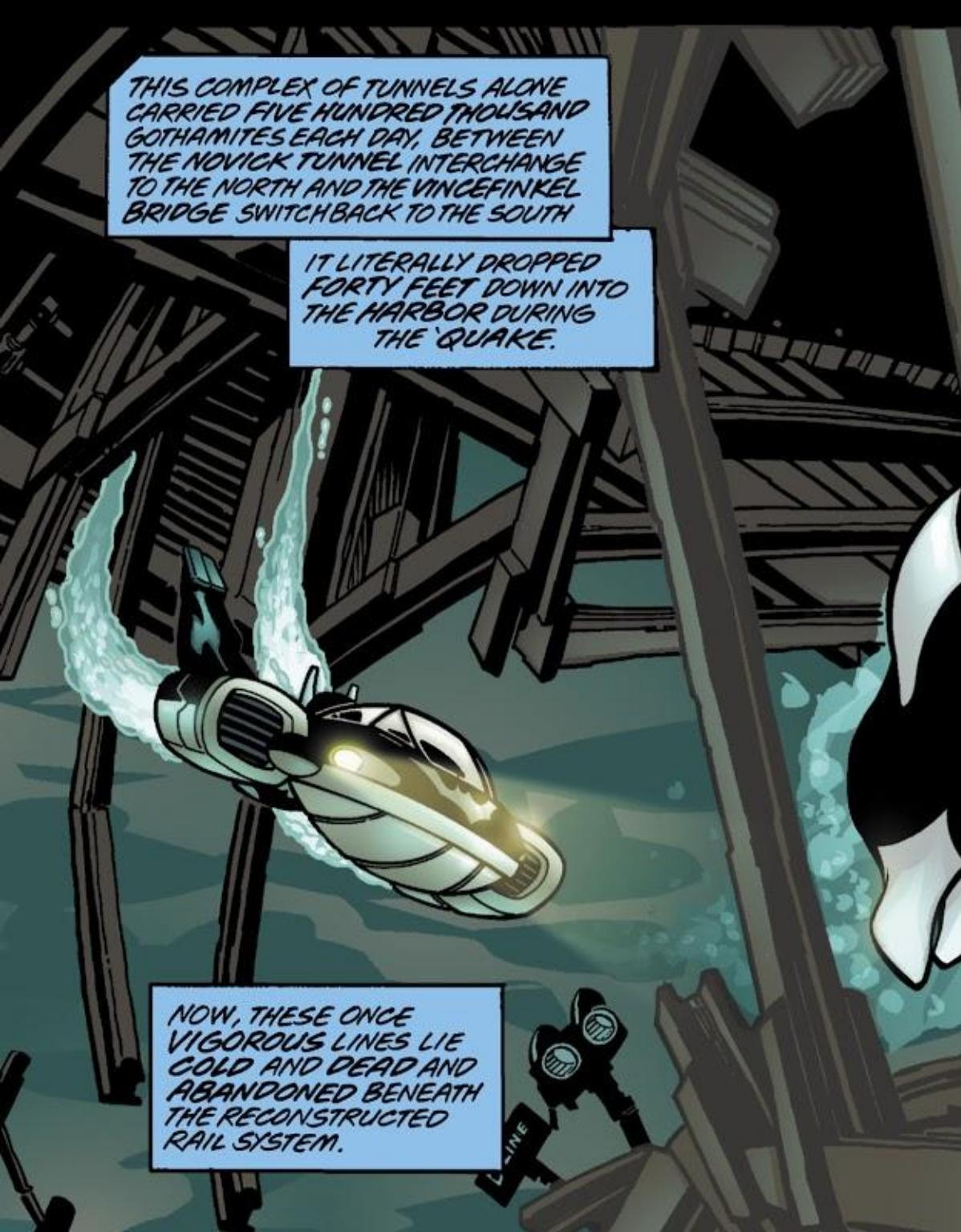




THIS ONCE WAS THE PORT AUTHORITY'S MAIN COMMUTER SUBWAY ROUTE ON GOTHAM'S WEST SIDE, RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE GOTHAM RIVER.

THIS COMPLEX OF TUNNELS ALONE CARRIED FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND GOTHAMITES EACH DAY, BETWEEN THE NOVICK TUNNEL INTERCHANGE TO THE NORTH AND THE VINCEFINKEL BRIDGE SWITCHBACK TO THE SOUTH

IT LITERALLY DROPPED FORTY FEET DOWN INTO THE HARBOR DURING THE 'QUAKE.



NOW, THESE ONCE VIGOROUS LINES LIE COLD AND DEAD AND ABANDONED BEHIND THE RECONSTRUCTED RAIL SYSTEM.



JUST HOW LONG CAN A PERSON HOLD HIS BREATH?



TIME IS RUNNING OUT. THIS CHASE CAN GO ON FOR TOO LONG.

DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE DESPERATE MEASURES.

DESPERATE, BUT FAR FROM RECKLESS.

THE STRIKE IS AS DEVASTATING AS IT IS PRECISE. HARD, ADVANCED COMPOSITE ALLOYS DRIVE SOFT, RUBBERY FLESH INTO A TANGLED WEB OF OXIDIZED STEEL.

THE CHASE, FOR THE MOMENT, IS ENDED.

BUT THERE IS A CALCULATED COST TO EACH COMBATANT.

FOR BATMAN, HIS SOLE ABILITY TO STAY IN THE BATTLE IS COMPROMISED.

FOR ORGA, LOSING GOUTS OF AIR FROM HER BRUTALLY COMPRESSED LUNGS MAKE HER, FOR THE FIRST TIME, PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE SENSATIONS EXPERIENCED BY OTHERS LESS ADAPTED TO THIS ENVIRONMENT.

IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS THAT A KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM IS USUALLY MUCH MORE SUCCESSFUL...

... WHEN THE VICTIM IS KEPT ALIVE.

DEEP BELOW WAYNE MANOR...

MASTER  
BRUCE, ARE  
YOU THERE,  
SIR?

ROGE...; GKKKZZZ;  
LFRED...; ZZZKKK;  
WHAT DI...; SZZZKK;  
FIND?

SIR, IT APPEARS THAT DR.  
GRACE BALIN WAS TO BE EVICTED  
FROM THE OLD GOTHAM AQUARIUM  
MONTHS AGO, BUT DISPUTED  
JURISDICTION OF THE ANIMALS HAS  
DELAYED HER EVICTION INDEFINITELY.

THE AQUARIUM IS NOW A  
HOLDING OF CAMILLE BADEN-  
SMYTHE, AND SHE IS ACTIVELY  
PURSUING ITS REZONING  
FROM EDUCATIONAL TO  
COMMERCIAL.

INTERESTING.  
WHAT DID YOU FIND  
ABOUT THE JEWEL,  
THE FLAME OF  
PERSIA?

SIR, THE FLAME OF PERSIA IS  
ACTUALLY THE PROPERTY OF A MR.  
DELEONIBUS, AN OUSTED EUROPEAN  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND ONE OF  
MS. BADEN-SMYTHE'S MANY  
FORMER HUSBANDS.

IT APPEARS THAT SHE ADDED  
THE GEM TO HER ALREADY GENEROUS  
ALIMONY AGREEMENT "FOR GOOD  
MEASURE." A RATHER VINDICTIVE  
GESTURE ON HER PART, I MUST SAY.

ACCORDING TO ORACLE, WHO IS ASSISTING  
ME WITH THIS ASPECT OF THE TRACE, THE  
JEWEL WAS ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED BY MR.  
DELEONIBUS USING FUNDS HE EMBEZZLED  
WHILE STILL IN OFFICE.  
THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL INSURANCE  
REWARD FOR ITS RETURN.

THE MATERIAL OF PARTICULAR INTEREST CONCERN'S DR. BALIN'S RESEARCH NOTES WHICH DESCRIBE MANY UNAUTHORIZED GENE-THERAPY STUDIES. THERE IS A CONCENTRATION OF STUDIES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN REGENERATION OF SPINAL CORD TISSUES FROM ORCA SPINAL CORD TISSUES.

IT WAS THE UNAUTHORIZED GENE-THERAPY STUDIES, AND NUMEROUS HUMAN TRIALS, THAT ULTIMATELY RESULTED IN HER GRANT'S TERMINATION.

THE ORGANIC MATERIAL INSIDE THE VIAL YOU DISCOVERED IS THE END PRODUCT OF BALIN'S RESEARCH.

ITS CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ANALYSES ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE, SO ANY EFFECTS IT MAY HAVE ON A HUMAN ARE ONLY SPECULATIVE AT THIS POINT.

HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT THE MATERIAL IS HIGHLY UNSTABLE WHEN IN CONTACT WITH SEA WATER.

CURIOS...; GKKKZZZ... AND CURIOUSER, ; ZZZKKK: WHAT ABOUT TH ; ZZZKKK: LOTHING?

MASTER BRUCE, THERE IS NOT A TRACE OF BLOOD ANYWHERE ON DR. BALIN'S SHREDDED CLOTHING.

AND, SIR, "SHREDDED" IS NOT THE RIGHT ADJECTIVE. IT IS MORE ACCURATE TO SAY "BURST".

REMARKABLY, HER CLOTHING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BURST APART AT THE SEAMS, NOT SHREDDED BY A SHARP OBJECT.

GOOD JOB, ALFRED.

THAN...  
; GGZZKK:  
...OU SIR.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO  
BREAK THE INDOMITABLE  
WILL IN A BEING LIKE ORGA?

WAS IT THE HOPELESSNESS  
OF FAILING THOSE SHE MOST  
DESIRED TO HELP?

WAS IT THE AGONY OF  
GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO  
THE SHOULDER AND  
NECK?

OR WAS IT THE TWO  
BULLETS TAKEN IN  
THE CHEST AT  
POINT-BLANK  
RANGE?

EVEN AS THE BLACKNESS  
AROUND THE CORNER OF  
HER CONSCIOUSNESS  
GROWS, CAMILLE IS  
AWARE OF THE IRONY THAT  
SHE HERSELF WILL DIE...

TRACK  
2  
SUBWAY

...AS THE DIRECT  
RESULT OF THE  
MORTAL WOUNDS  
SHE INFILCTED ON  
ORGА.

HOW...  
FITTING.

BUT FOR THE  
TRULY HEROIC,  
IT IS NOT  
ACCEPTABLE  
FOR ANYONE  
TO DIE.

GASP!  
COUGH! COUGH!  
SPUTTER!

HACK  
HACK!  
SPUTTER!

STAY  
HERE.



ONLY...  
UUNNNNGGG...  
ONE...  
CHANCE...

GIVE ME...  
HHHHGGGKK...  
ALL THE  
SERUM...

BE ORCA  
PERMANENTLY...  
BUT HGGLLKK  
ALIVE...

NO!! I FORBID  
YOU TO DO  
THAT!

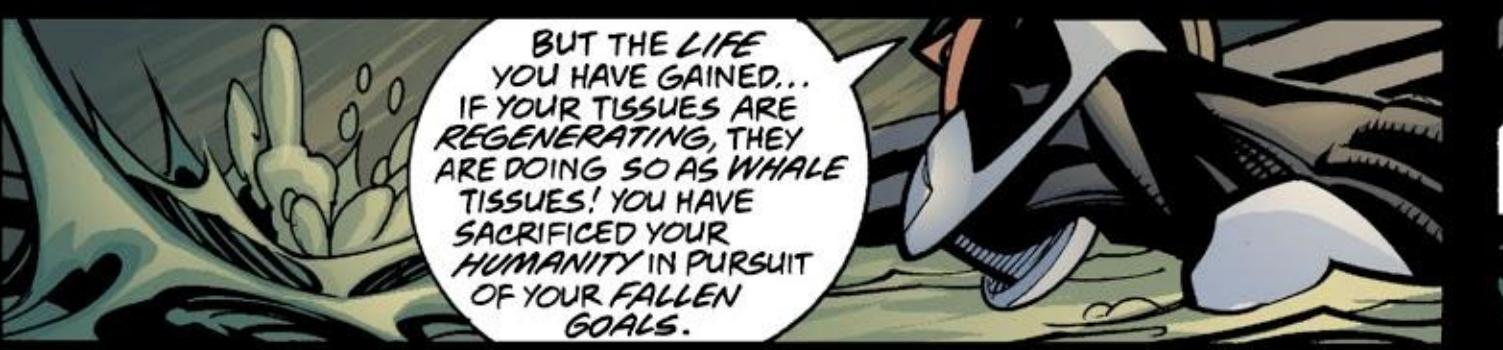
THAT BEAST  
IS A FELON AND AN  
ATTEMPTED MURDERER!

HOW DARE YOU PARTICI-  
PATE IN CREATING SUCH A  
MONSTER! THE BLOOD OF ALL HER  
VICTIMS WILL BE ON YOUR HANDS!

WE ARE EACH  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
OUR OWN  
ACTIONS.

I CANNOT  
ALLOW... I WILL  
NOT ALLOW... HER  
TO DIE.

YOU FOOL!  
WHAT HAVE YOU  
DONE??!!





WAIT!!



LATER THAT WEEK, AT THE PLAZA HOTEL.

MAN O MAN, CAMILLE IS REALLY STEAMING IN THERE. SHE IS SICK, TIRED, HUNGRY AND RIGHT ON THE EDGE.

SHE MAKES A PIT VIPER LOOK LIKE A POLLYANNA.

JOEY, YOU TALKED TO SALLY, RIGHT? WHAT'D HIS SECRETARY SAY?

"HE FEELS TERRIBLE ABOUT HIS INTERFERENCE DURING THE JEWEL ROBBERY, AND HE WANTS TO PERSONALLY APOLOGIZE FOR HIS BEHAVIOR OVER LUNCH. HE SIMPLY LOST HIS HEAD, MOST LIKELY DUE TO CHEAP CHAMPAGNE."

THIS GUY'S, LIKE, TWO HOURS LATE. SHE'S GONNA BITE HIS HEAD OFF.

BRUCE WAYNE.

HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO HONOR YOUR SOCIAL COMMITMENT. AND TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY.

OH, IT IS INDEED MY PLEASURE.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT LIFE IS VERY MUCH LIKE TENNIS. THE BALL REPRESENTS OUR CHI, YOU SEE...

YES, YES, THAT'S ALL VERY GOOD, BUT...

AND OUR SMOOTH BUT PURPOSEFUL STROKES ALIGN THAT CHI WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR CLAY UNIVERSE...



MR. WAYNE, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO SAY TO ME?

STEP INTO THE BALL, CAMILLE. STEP INTO THE CHI.

SALVATORE, REMOVE THIS COLD, UNEATEN FARE AND PREPARE A FRESH, HOT MEAL FOR OUR LUNCH. IMMEDIATELY!

OH, PLEASE, DON'T BOTHER, I ATE HOURS AGO, THANKS SO MUCH!



BE THE  
BALL,  
CAMILLE.  
BE THE  
BALL.

OOOOOO!

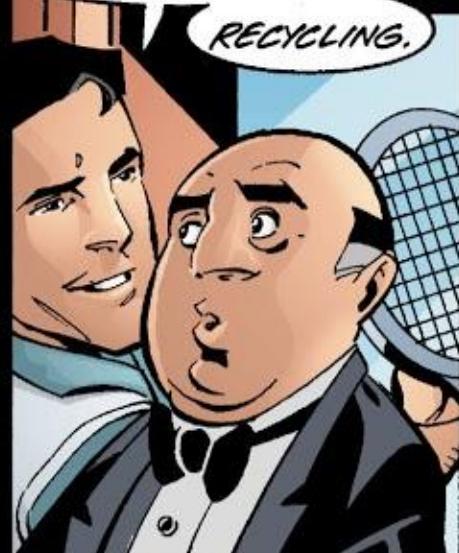


NOW YOU KNOW THE  
SECRET OF THE  
WAYNE FORTUNE.

RECYCLING.

5 CENTS  
A BOTTLE.  
IT REALLY  
ADDS UP.

THINK  
ABOUT  
IT.



IT  
REALY  
ADDS  
UP.

LATER THAT DAY, AT THE OFFICES OF  
THE GOTHAM CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION.

WHERE'S THE  
FILE ON THE EAST  
SHORE DEVELOP-  
MENT?

NO, NO, THAT'S RECLAMATION  
STUFF. I WANT THE CODES FOR  
EAST SHORE NEW CONSTRUCTION.

I'M SORRY, PHIL. ALL THESE  
JOBS ARE STARTING TO RUN  
TOGETHER IN MY MIND. I'M  
GETTING LOST IN THE  
CODES.

I KNOW WHAT  
YOU MEAN. WE GOT  
CODES FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION,  
REBUILT EXISTING, RECLAMATION  
AND REFURBS ALL MIXED WITH  
GRANDFATHER CLAUSES,  
WAIVERS, SEISMIC  
ADDENDUM...

WHERE  
YOU GOING,  
FRANK?

TELL YA WHAT. YOU  
EGGHEADS SORT OUT THE  
RIGHT CODES. I'LL BE  
BACK IN THE MORNING TO  
DO YER INSPECTIONS.

ELVIS  
HAS JUST  
LEFT THE  
BUILDING.  
HA!

NICE.

FRANKIE, MY  
MAN, YOU ARE  
A WINNER!

WHAT  
THE...

YEEEEE!!

THE NEXT WEEK, AT  
RESIDENTIAL UNIT B-5:013.

...IS GNN MORNING  
NEWS. I'M WENDY WONG.

THE STUNNING AVALANCHE  
OF CHARGES IN OUR  
SURPRISINGLY COMPLEX  
LEAD STORY IS BEGINNING  
TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT  
IMPACT.

LATE LAST WEEK HEIRESS  
CAMILLE BADEN-SMYTHE WAS  
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY PENDING  
HEARING ON MULTIPLE  
CHARGES, THE MOST  
SHOCKING OF WHICH IS 'ARSON.'

SOURCES INSIDE THE MARSHAL'S  
OFFICE HAVE CONFIRMED EXCLUSIVELY  
TO GNN THAT MS. BADEN-SMYTHE'S  
FINGERPRINTS WERE FOUND ON A  
MOLOTOV COCKTAIL ALLEGEDLY INTENDED  
TO BURN DOWN THE OLD GOTHAM AQUARIUM.

AND THIS IS ONLY THE FIGURATIVE 'TIP OF THE ICEBERG.'

CHARGES HAVE ALSO BEEN FILED  
ON TWO OTHERS INVOLVED IN THIS  
CASE. BUILDING INSPECTOR FRANK  
SLEAZAK, FROM THE OFFICES OF THE  
GOTHAM CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
CORPORATION, HAS BEEN BROUGHT  
UP ON FRAUD CHARGES.

SLEAZAK THEN IMPLICATED WERNER  
GUTTENBERG, ACCOUNTANT TO MS.  
BADEN-SMYTHE, IN THAT FRAUD.  
GUTTENBERG, IN A LAST-MINUTE PLEA-  
BARGAIN, REVEALED HIS PRIVATE RECORDS  
ON THE BUSINESSES OF MS. BADEN-  
SMYTHE IN EXCHANGE FOR LENIENCY.

THESE RECORDS HAVE OPENED THE DOOR TO  
A VERY WIDE INVESTIGATION OF MS. BADEN-  
SMYTHE'S OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

HER ESTATE IS NOW UNDER POWER OF  
ATTORNEY, AND SWEEPING MANAGEMENT  
CHANGES ARE IN PROCESS FOR ALL OF  
HER VENTURES.

THE FAMOUS JEWEL, THE  
FLAME OF PERSIA, STOLEN FROM  
MS. BADEN-SMYTHE BY AN ALLEGED  
"SUPER-HUMAN" FELON, HAS BEEN  
RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL  
OWNER, ONE LEONARD  
DELEONIBUS.

ALTHOUGH THE RECIPIENT OF THE  
REWARD FUNDS HAS NOT BEEN DISCLOSED,  
THE MONEY IS ALREADY BEING USED TO  
GENTRIFY A DERELICT WATERFRONT  
TENEMENT OWNED BY MS. BADEN-  
SMYTHE AND TO BUILD A NEW  
COMMUNITY CENTER IN THAT  
SECTION OF THE CITY.

WAYNE INTERNATIONAL  
HAS GENEROUSLY OFFERED  
TO MATCH, AND EVEN EXCEED  
THOSE FUNDS FOR THIS  
WORTHWHILE CAUSE.

Coming Soon!  
REC CENTER

EACH YEAR, THE GROUND OF HEART ISLAND OPENS UP TO ACCEPT 3,000 LOST SOULS. VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES, UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS, THE POOR AND THE HOMELESS ALL END UP HERE.

ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST. SALMAN JARED, MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL.

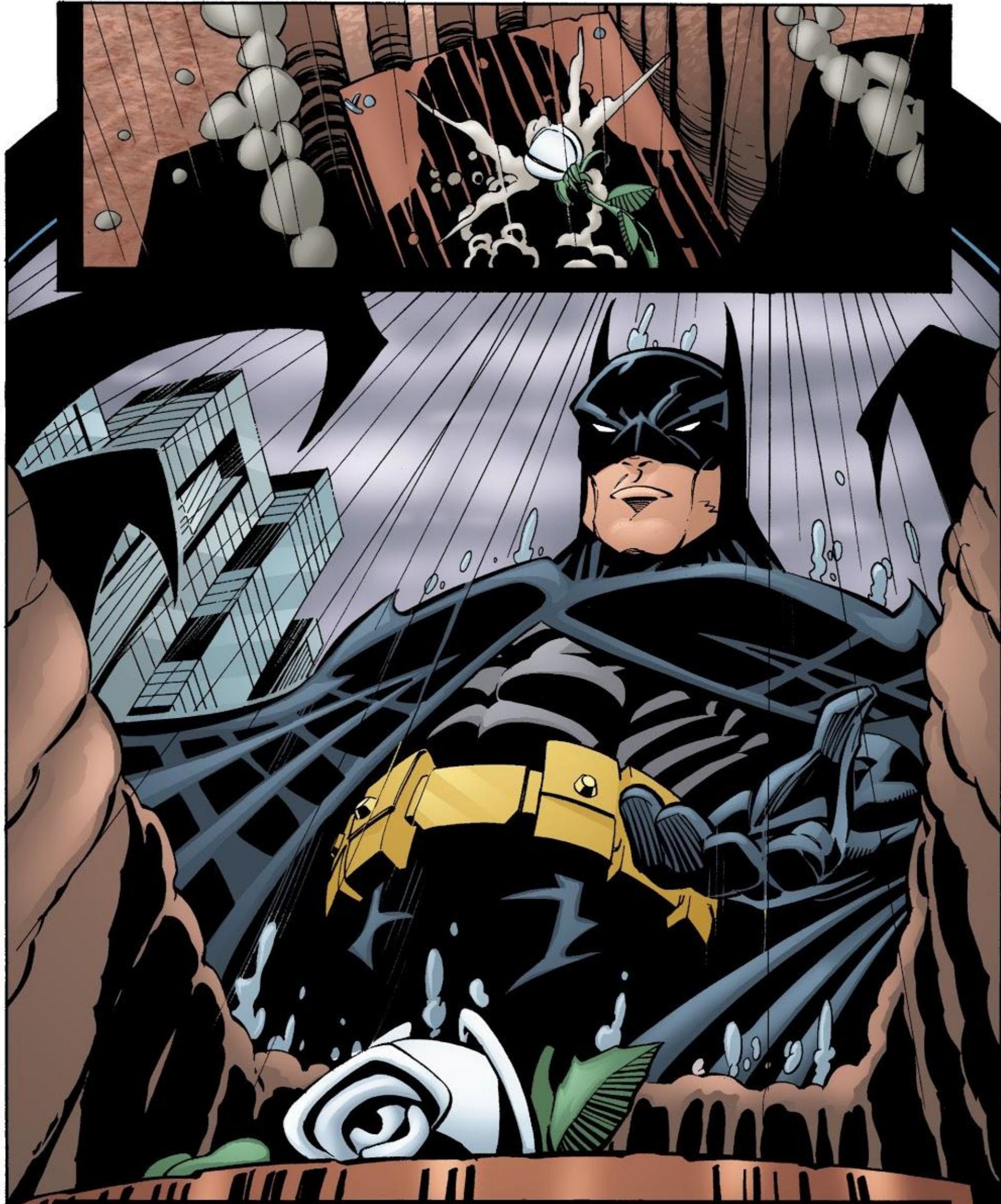
PASTOR, IT'S STARTIN' TO RAIN. IT'S LOOKIN' NASTY UP THERE.

HOW'S 'BOUT WE LEAVE THE FILL FOR THE NEXT SHIFT? MEBBE IT'LL BLOW OVER BY THEN.

I'M SURE JARED WON'T MIND.

HOW SAD. IN A CITY OF EIGHT MILLION SOULS, NOT ONE OF THEM CARES FOR MR. JARED.





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