



THE JOKER WAR

PART
FOUR

BATMAN

TYNION IV
JIMENEZ
MOREY
AGES 13+
dccomics.com

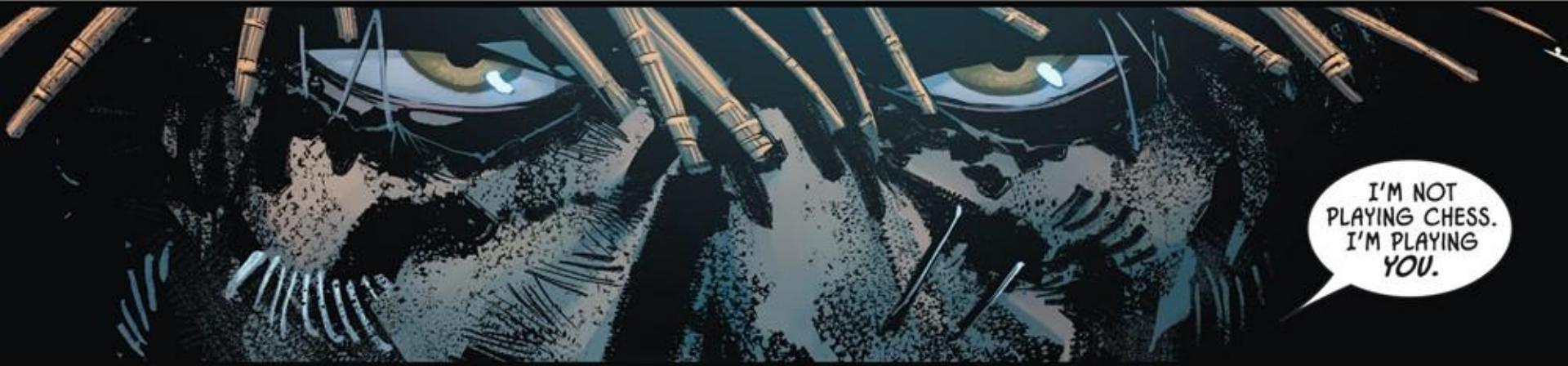
98



PUNCHLINE?

I'M GONNA
CHANGE YER
NAME TA
KNOCKOUT!

-FINCH-





"CAN'T YOU
HEAR IT?"

MASTER
BRUCE...MASTER
BRUCE, WHERE
ARE YOU?

HERE,
ALFRED.

I TRUST
THAT ON SOME
LEVEL YOU REALIZE
HOW EXPENSIVE IT'S GOING
TO BE TO KEEP A SUPER-
COMPUTER FROM
RUSTING OUT IN A
DAMP CAVE.

LOOK, I
WANT YOU TO SEE
SOMETHING.





TEA...
SOUNDS
NICE...

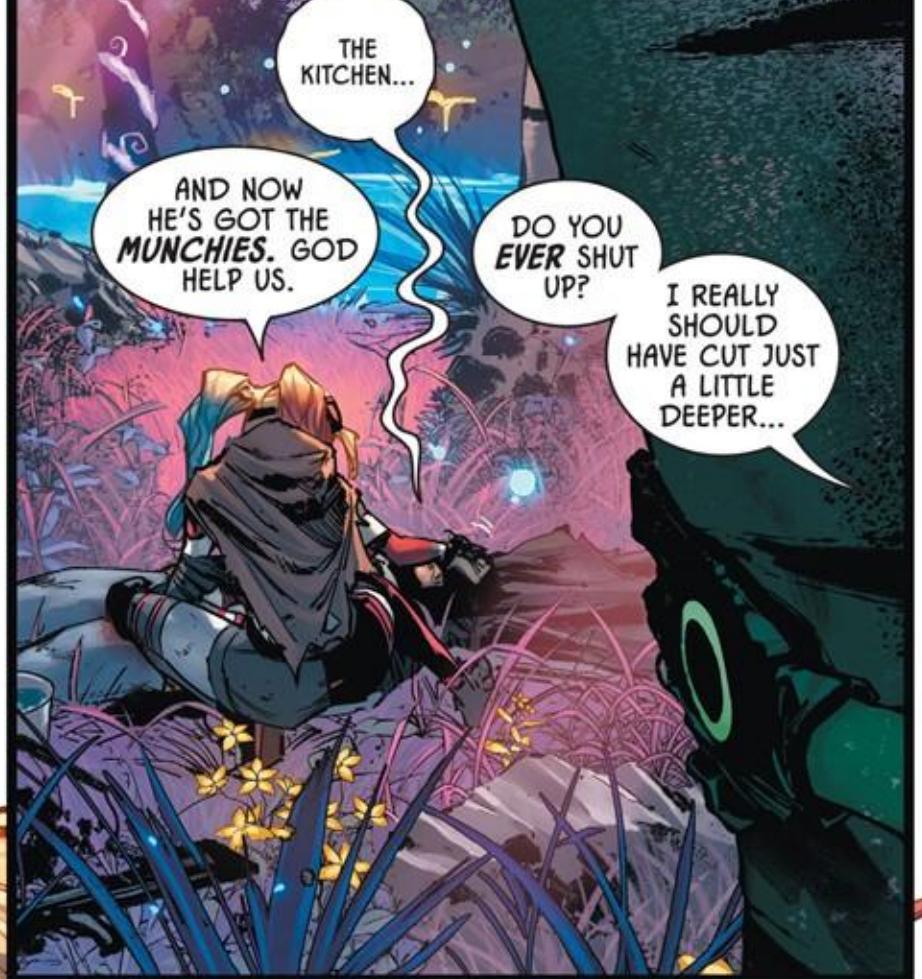
HELL NO.
YOU'VE HAD
ENOUGH
TEA.

YOU'RE
PROBABLY SEEIN'
A WHOLE SINGIN'
AND DANCIN'
NUMBER RIGHT
NOW. BATMAN: THE MUSICAL
ON ICE. EVERYONE WITH
THOSE BIG FOAM
HEADS.

IVY, IF YOU'RE LISTENING THROUGH
YOUR PLANTS, THIS WOULD BE A
REAL GOOD TIME TO SHOW UP
AND TELL ME WHETHER I GOT
THE DOSES RIGHT.

I NEED
POINTY EARS
OVER HERE TO
GET HIS @\$\$\$@
TOGETHER.

JUST A
NICE QUICK DAY
TRIP, NOT A FULL
WEEKEND AT
WOODSTOCK.



PAMMY?
IS THAT
YOU?

AW... YOU
THOUGHT IF YOU
BROUGHT BATMAN
HERE YOU COULD
LURE YOUR OLD
GIRLFRIEND OUT OF
HIDING? THAT'S
SWEET.

BUT
HARLEY, YOU
REALY SHOULD HAVE
PICKED SOMEWHERE
A WHOLE LOT LESS
FLAMMABLE.

PUNCHING
BAG! ER...
I MEANT...
PUNCHLINE!

DC COMICS PRESENTS

THE JOKER WAR

PART FOUR

JAMES TYNION IV WRITER JORGE JIMENEZ ARTIST
TOMEU MOREY COLORS CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS
GUILLEM MARCH & TOMEU MOREY COVER
FRANCESCO MATTINA VARIANT COVER
DAVE WIELGOSZ ASSOC. EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

TELL ME
WHAT YOU SEE,
MASTER BRUCE. WHICH
TEA AM I POURING
FOR YOU?

IT'S YOUR
DARJEELING BLEND.
THE ONE FROM THE
CUPBOARD TO THE
LEFT OF THE
PANTRY.

YOU KEEP
IT IN A GLASS JAR.
YOU WOULD BRING IT
TO ME IN THE CAVE ON
THE CASES WHERE I WAS
MOST DISTURBED AND
FRIGHTENED.

YOU THOUGHT
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
IT WAS YOUR WAY OF
TELLING ME YOU KNEW I
WAS AFRAID, BUT THAT I
WOULDN'T SAY IT OUT LOUD,
AND YOU WERE TELLING
ME IT WOULD ALL
BE OKAY.

I TRIED
MAKING IT THE
MONTH AFTER YOU
PASSED, BUT IT
DIDN'T TASTE
THE SAME.

IF ONLY
YOU'D STUDIED
UNDER THE GREAT
TEA MASTERS OF
CHINA IN YOUR
TRAVELS.

IF
ONLY.

TELL ME
HOW BAD
IT IS.

HE'S USING MY FAMILY'S MONEY TO TIE UP
THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO KEEP HIS GANGS ON
THE STREETS, TERRORIZING PEOPLE.
KILLING PEOPLE.

HE'S TAKEN
THE FORTUNE. THE
MANOR. WAYNE ENTERPRISES.
HE HAD LUCIUS POISONED
AND FORCED HIM TO HELP
MODIFY MY VEHICLES
INTO SOMETHING
DEADLY.

HE'S GOING
TO KILL THOUSANDS
MORE AFTER MAKING THEM
WATCH THE SAME MOVIE I
WATCHED THE NIGHT I
LOST MY PARENTS.

GOTHAM
CITY'S DEATH BOUGHT
AND PAID FOR BY THE
WAYNE FORTUNE.



YOU
SAW IT FROM THE
BEGINNING.

THE JOKER
LIVES IN A COLD,
DEAD WORLD, WHERE
YOU AND HE ARE THE
ONLY REAL LIVING
BEINGS.



HE MOCKS
LOVE AND FAMILY BY
PULLING HIS ACOLYTES CLOSE
TO HIM. MAKING A JOKE OF
YOUR FAMILY. YOUR
RELATIONSHIPS.

BUT HE'D
JUST AS SOON PUT
A BULLET IN THEIR
HEADS IF THAT GAVE
HIM THE UPPER
HAND AGAINST
YOU.

HE PUTS
SO MANY LIVES
AT RISK SO YOU
KNOW YOU CAN'T
SAVE THEM
ALL.



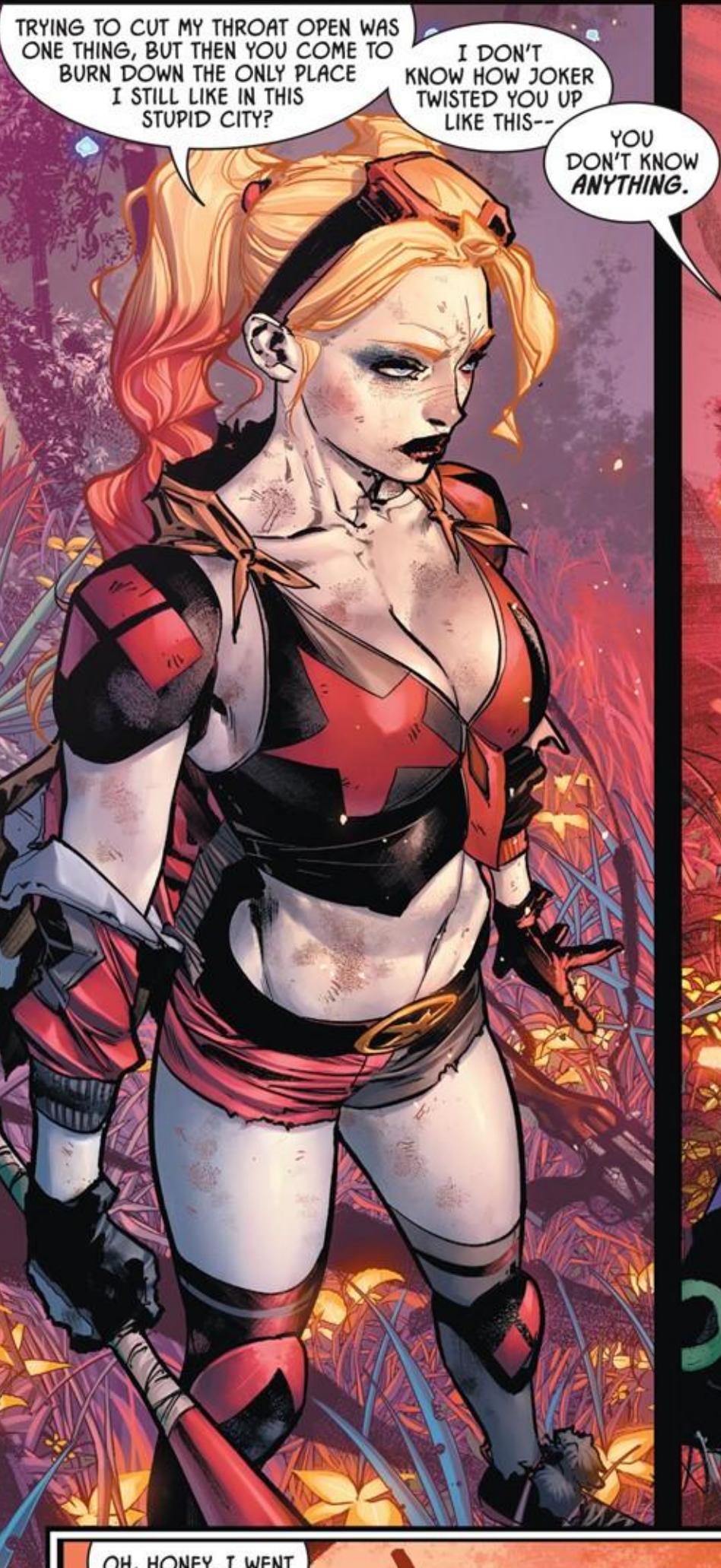
BECAUSE HE KNOWS
YOU ARE HIS
OPPOSITE.

THERE IS
NO DIFFERENCE
TO HIM IN TAKING
ONE LIFE OR A
MILLION
LIVES.



BUT
THERE IS TO
YOU.





YOU THINK
YOU'RE **SOMEBODY**
BECAUSE YOU HAD SOME
KIND OF IDIOTIC COME-
TO-GOD MOMENT AFTER
YOU LOST THE
JOKER?

SOMEBODY'S
BOUGHT INTO THEIR
OWN **HYPE**.

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT YER
TALKIN' ABOUT,
KID.

OF
COURSE
I DO!

EVERYONE
KNOWS HOW
PATHETIC HARLEY
QUINN IS!

"THE **BRILLIANT** YOUNG
GRADUATE STUDENT
WHO GOT A GIG AT
ARKHAM TO WRITE HER
DISSERTATION ON THE
BADDEST OF THE BAD."

"WHERE SHE MEETS
THE **JOKER**.

"AND FINDS OUT THAT
UNDERNEATH ALL THAT
LIPSTICK AND HORROR
IS A **SENSITIVE** GUY, AND
IF ONLY THAT ROTTEN
BATMAN GOT OUT OF
THE WAY, THEY COULD
BE HAPPY TOGETHER."

"SO SHE BUSTS HIM OUT AND
BECOMES HIS MAIN SQUEEZE..."



...BECAUSE
SHE'S TOO #\$_\$\$_
STUPID TO REALIZE
SHE WAS JUST A
MEANS TO AN
END.

AND WHAT
THE HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?

I WAS IN
SCHOOL WHEN I SAW
THAT THE WORLD WAS
FALLING APART AROUND
ME, AND EVERYONE
WAS **PRETENDING**
IT WASN'T.

"I FELT LIKE I WAS
GOING CRAZY."

"UNTIL I HEARD
HIM SPEAK."

"IT TOOK ME A YEAR TO FIND
HIM, OUT IN THE WORLD, TO
JOIN HIS CAUSE AND TAKE
DOWN THIS FAKE SOCIETY."

"IT TOOK LONGER TO
PROVE TO HIM THAT I
WAS SERIOUS.*

"I BELIEVE IN
THE JOKER.
IN WHAT HE
STANDS FOR."

"AND I'LL BE AT HIS SIDE
WHEN HE FINALLY **KILLS**
BATMAN, AND WE TAKE THIS
WAR FROM CITY TO CITY,
UNTIL **EVERYONE** HAS
HEARD HIS MESSAGE."

*TO SEE THE ORIGIN OF PUNCHLINE,
SEE THE JOKER 80TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL, ON SALE NOW! --BEN

Y'KNOW?
I FEEL **SORRY**
FOR YOU, KID.
YOU STILL DON'T
SEE THAT WE'RE
EXACTLY THE
SAME.

I THOUGHT MR. J HAD A
HEART. YOU THINK HE
HAS A **BRAIN**.

BUT HE'S NOT
DOING THIS FOR
ANY OF THE REASONS
YOU THINK HE IS. HE
DOESN'T BELIEVE
IN **ANYTHING**.

HE'S A
MANIPULATOR.
HE'S
MANIPULATING
YOU.

YOU DON'T
GET IT. YOU WANT
EVERYONE TO BE
AS **STUPID** AS
YOU WERE.

WSH

KACK

I FEEL
SORRY FOR
YOU, PUNCHY. BUT
NOT SORRY ENOUGH
TO NOT KICK
YOUR ASS.

THERE'S
NOTHING IN
THIS WORLD HE'S
EVER GOING TO
CARE ABOUT
MORE THAN THAT STUPID
BAT.

THWAK

YOU'RE
WRONG.

AND
I'LL PROVE
IT.



I'LL SHOW
YOU WHAT JOKER
REALLY BELIEVES ONCE
I KILL BATMAN
MYSELF.

YOU TAKE YOURSELF SO SERIOUSLY, MASTER BRUCE. BUT BATMAN IS A **CHILD'S DREAM**. THAT YOU CAN TRAVEL THE WORLD AND LEARN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO SAVE EVERYONE.

AND THERE IS A PART OF YOU THAT BELIEVES YOU **CAN**.

AND THAT DREAM IS POWERFUL, AND BEAUTIFUL, AND YOU **MUST HOLD ONTO IT**.

BUT THERE IS A WEIGHT TO THE PROMISE YOU MADE TO YOURSELF AS A BOY. IT WOULD CRUSH ANY OTHER MAN. AND IT HAS NEARLY CRUSHED YOU MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.

AND SINCE YOU LOST ME... IT'S COME THE CLOSEST I'VE SEEN.



I'M SORRY.
NO, BOY.
LISTEN TO ME.
LOOK ME IN
THE EYES.

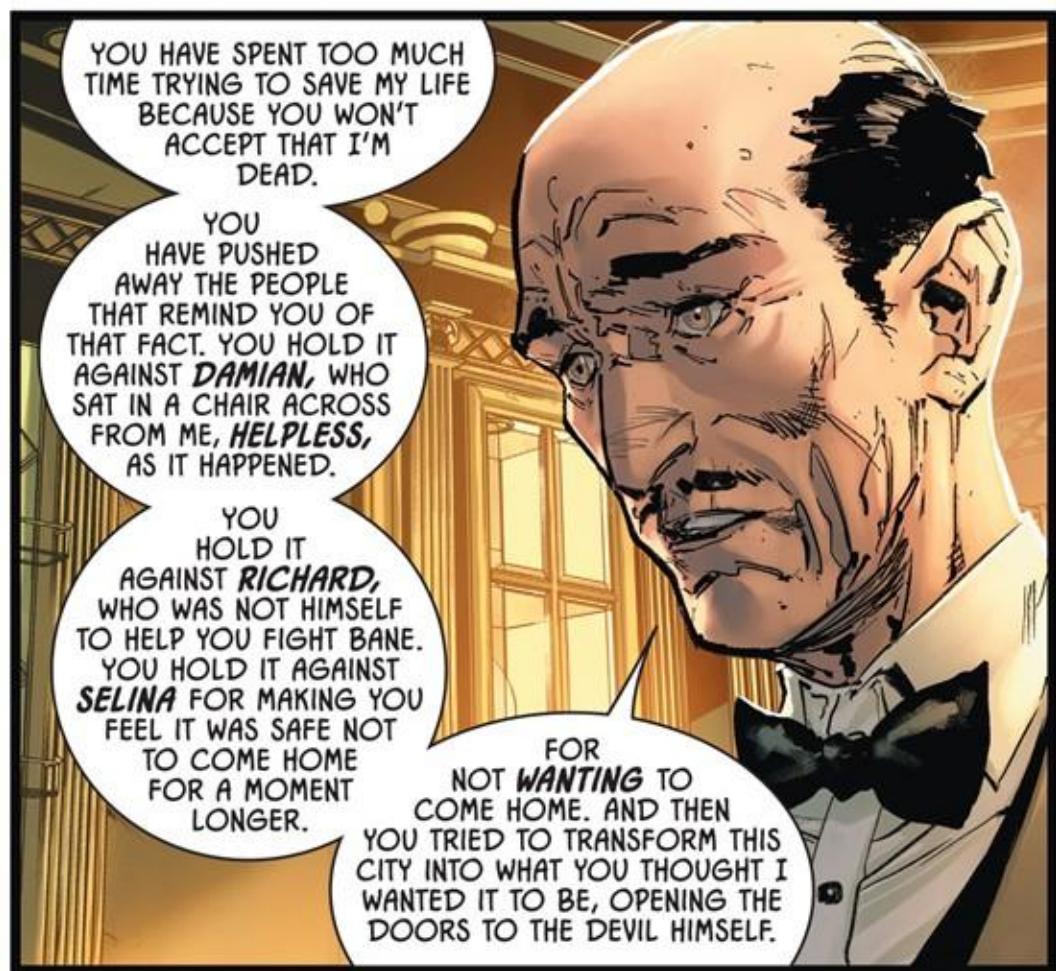
YOU HAVE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE BECAUSE YOU WON'T ACCEPT THAT I'M DEAD.

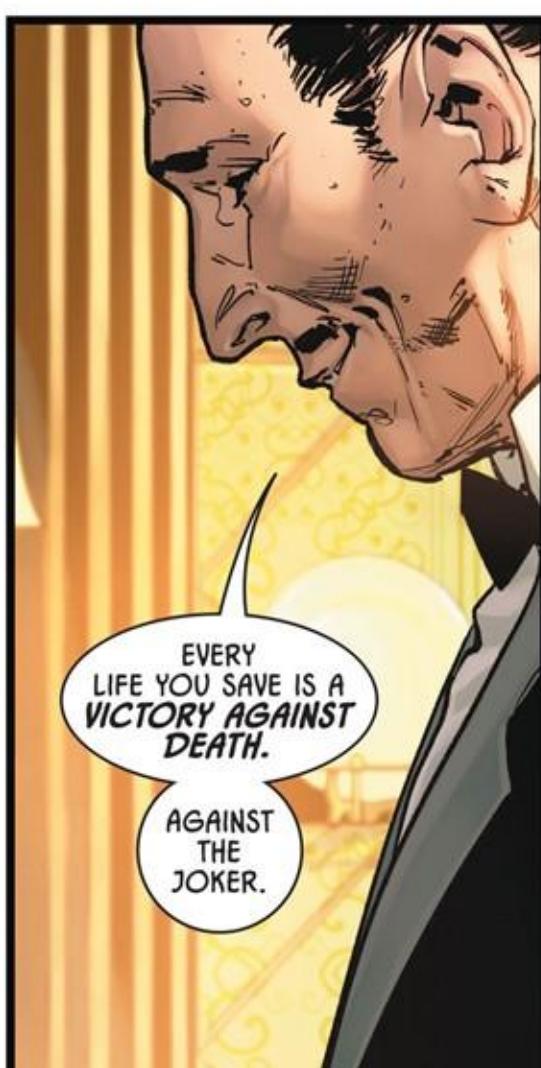
YOU HAVE PUSHED AWAY THE PEOPLE THAT REMIND YOU OF THAT FACT. YOU HOLD IT AGAINST **DAMIAN**, WHO SAT IN A CHAIR ACROSS FROM ME, **HELPLESS**, AS IT HAPPENED.

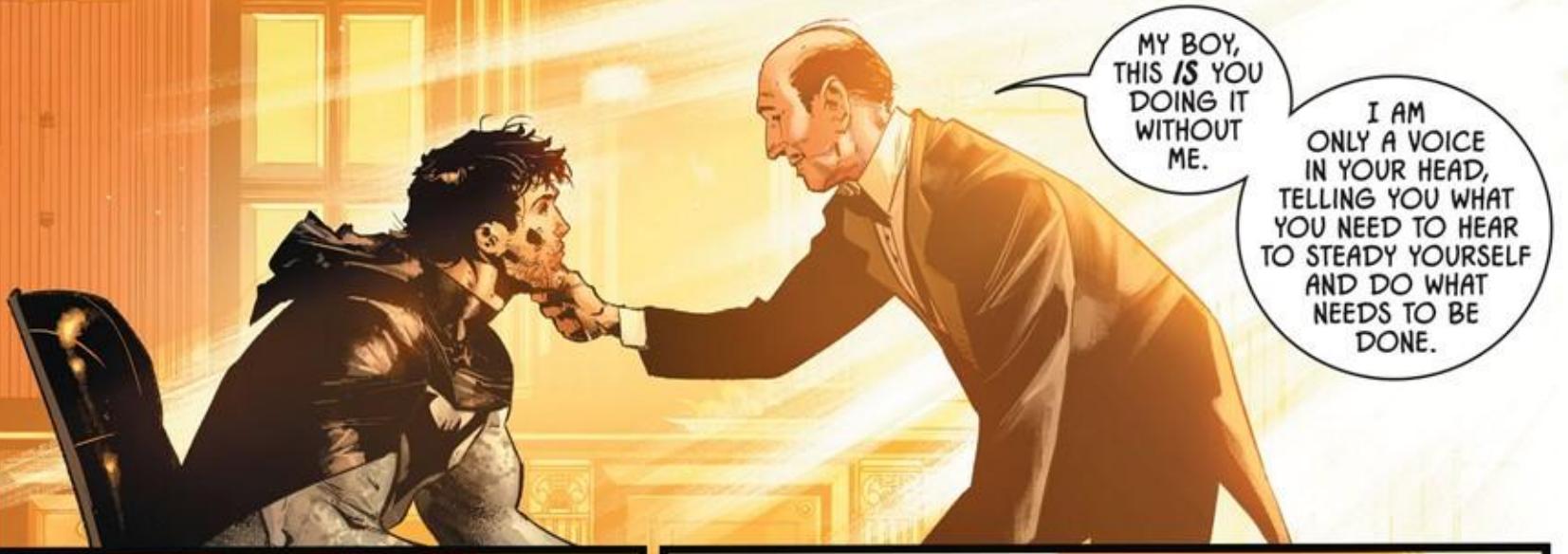
YOU HOLD IT AGAINST **RICHARD**, WHO WAS NOT HIMSELF TO HELP YOU FIGHT BANE. YOU HOLD IT AGAINST **SELINA** FOR MAKING YOU FEEL IT WAS SAFE NOT TO COME HOME FOR A MOMENT LONGER.

FOR NOT **WANTING** TO COME HOME. AND THEN YOU TRIED TO TRANSFORM THIS CITY INTO WHAT YOU THOUGHT I WANTED IT TO BE, OPENING THE DOORS TO THE DEVIL HIMSELF.

I FAILED.







-GASP-

YOU... YOU'RE AWAKE... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. THE TOXIN IN YOUR SYSTEM...

HAS NO HOLD OVER ME ANYMORE.

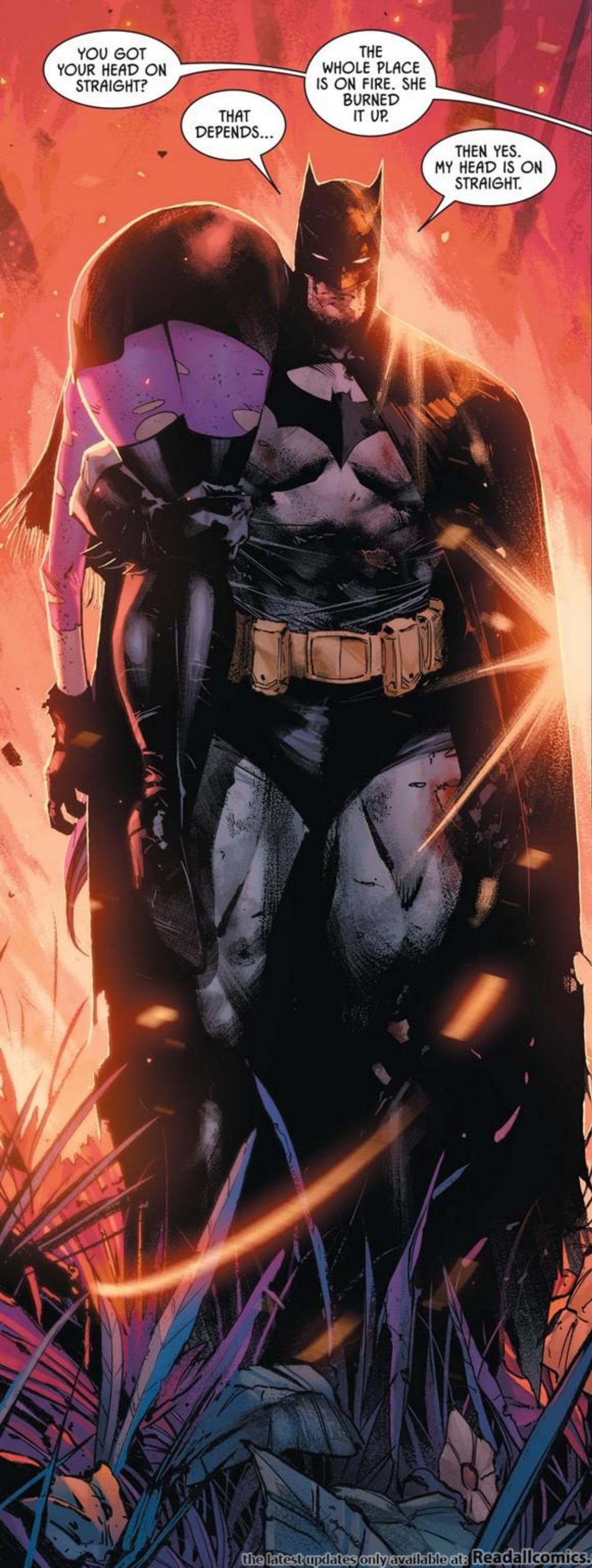
BUT HOW... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

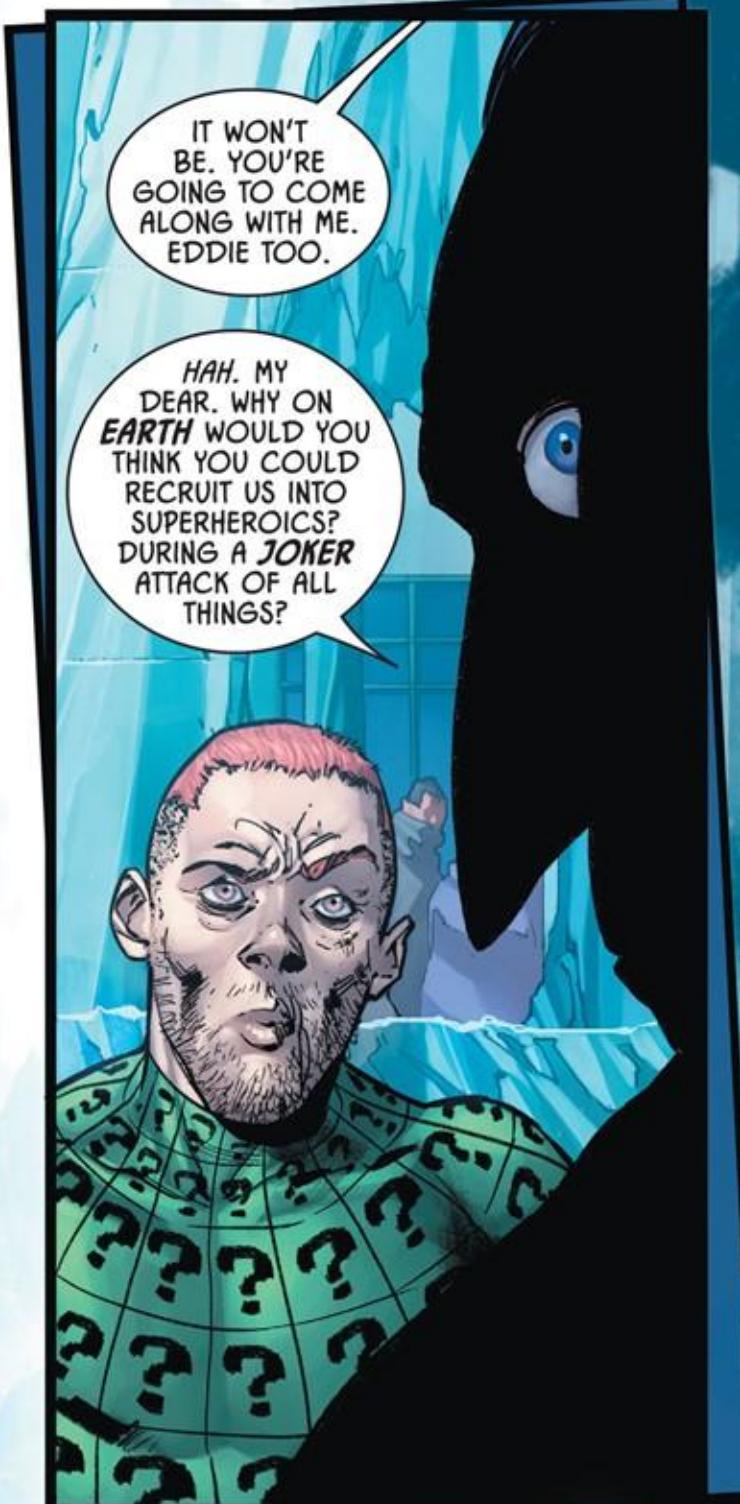
I'M...

ABOUT \$@%# TIME YOU DID THAT.

SHE HAD THIS WHOLE SAD-SACK STORY, AND IF I HAD TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER MINUTE I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO OFF MYSELF.

YOU KNOW WHAT? MAYBE IT'S GOOD I DIDN'T END UP A REAL SHRINK.





NEXT: THE FINAL SIGNAL!