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RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COMKING
JANÍN
FORNES
BELLAIRE

BATMAN

IF THE DARK KNIGHT LOSES,
GOTHAM FALLS!

"I SEE
YOU."

KRAKOOH

DC Comics Presents

"RIDDLE, JOKER, PSYCHO-
PIRATE, HUGO STRANGE,
GOTHAM GIRL, VENTRILOQUIST."

"EVEN THIS...
HOLLY
ROBINSON."

"I SEE ALL
OF YOU."



"HOW YOU
MADE THIS."

"FROM THE VERY
BEGINNING."

The Fall and the Fallen Part 3

"FROM A MAN ON A
PLANE CRASHING INTO
THE GROUND."

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"HUGO ARRANGED FOR THE PLANE. AT YOUR DIRECTION.

"THIS BROUGHT THE BAT TO THE EDGE, TO CONTEMPLATING HIS MORALITY.

"WHAT HE HAD DONE, WHAT HE HADN'T.

"WHAT HE WANTED MOST. NEEDED MOST.

"LETTING HIM KNOW WHAT HE WAS AND WHAT HE WASN'T.

"AGAIN, AT YOUR DIRECTION.

"THEY SET UP A SCENARIO WHERE BATMAN WOULD HAVE TO COME TO YOU, WOULD NEED A TEAM OF CRIMINALS TO DEFEAT YOU.

"AND, USING HOLLY, SUCH A PERFECT SETUP, YOU HAD HER LOCKED UP, LINED UP, READY TO GO, WAITING TO BE CHOSEN.

"SELINA KYLE.

"THE CATWOMAN.

"YOU PUT THEM TOGETHER, GAVE THEM A MISSION.

"WAS IT VENTRiloquist? WAS HE THE ONE? DID HE SUGGEST IT TO BATMAN IN A SUBTLE WAY?

"OR WAS HE JUST ON THE TEAM TO ENSURE THAT YOU KNEW EVERY MOVE, EVERY GESTURE?

"EITHER WAY, THE BAT SAW WHAT HE HAD TO HAVE ON THAT PLANE AND THEN ON THAT MISSION.

"AND YOU PROVIDED IT FOR HIM.

"THERE SHE WAS. RIGHT AT HIS SIDE, WITH A WHIP AND A MEOW.

"FULFILLMENT. LOVE.

"YOU'RE A VERY CLEVER MAN."



"THEN.

"AFTER
THEY WERE
TOGETHER.

"HE COULDN'T KNOW.
HE COULDN'T SUSPECT.

"WHO WAS...
PULLING THE
STRINGS.

"VENTRILLOQUIST'S
INFLUENCE AGAIN?

"HAHA.

"SO YOU
ACTED THE
FOOL.

"FOLLOWED HIM
BACK TO GOTHAM.

"SHOUTED AND WAILED
AS HE KNEW YOU WOULD
SHOUT AND WAIL.

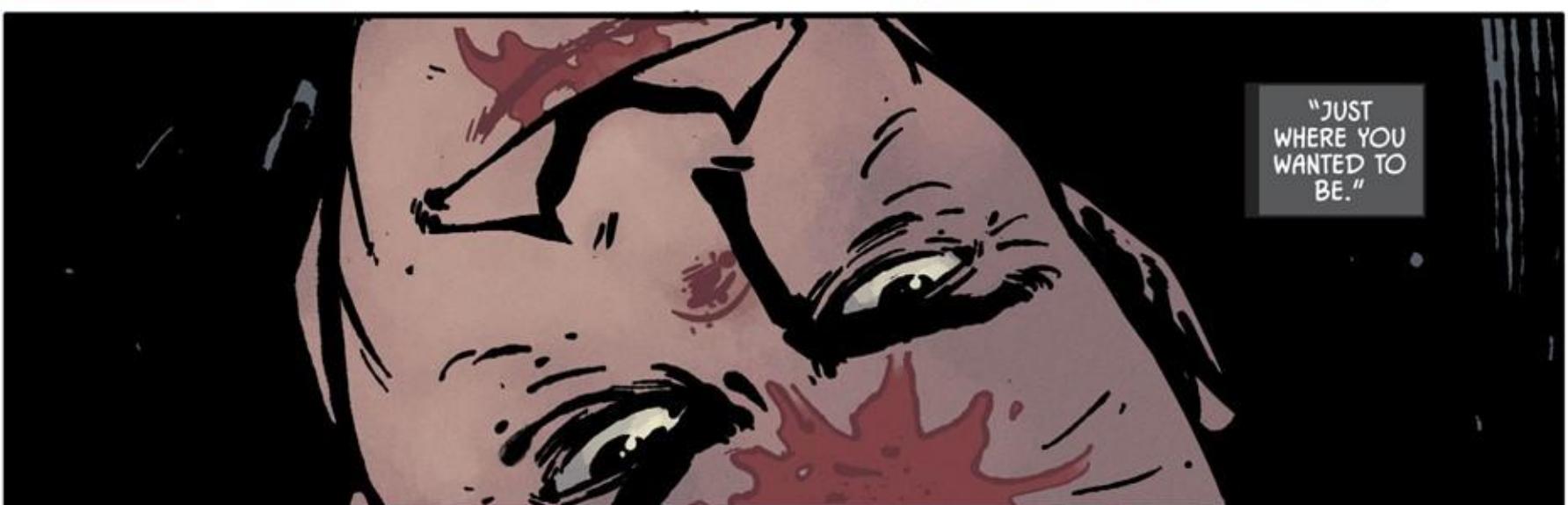
"I AM BANE!" AND ALL
OF THAT NONSENSE.

"YOU ROARED
YOUR NAME INTO
HIS BLOODY
FACE.

"YOU WERE JUST
ANOTHER ONE OF
THE HAREBRAINED
VILLAINS HE'S ALWAYS
CONTESTED.

"HOW EASY
AND FAMILIAR
THIS ALL WAS.

"HOW
FUN."



"HOW DID YOU KNOW HIM SO WELL?"

"HOW DID YOU KNOW TO LEAN BACK THEN, LET HIS RELATIONSHIP GROW?"

"LET THE CAT AND BAT BE ON THE ROOFTOPS AND ALL WOULD BE GOOD."

"SO THAT THE QUESTION HE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO ASK COULD BE ASKED."

"YOU ARE MANY THINGS, FRIEND, BUT TO UNDERSTAND A MAN LIKE THAT... YOU NEED..."

"THE PAIN OF MORTALITY HE FELT ON THAT PLANE COULD BE REPLACED BY THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE."

"IT WAS THE JOKER AND THE RIDDLER, I THINK."

"YOUR ACE IN THE HOLE. OR YOUR ACE AND YOUR @##%@/ &."

"THEY KNEW HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE, KNEW HIS SECRETS--THE GREATEST SECRET."

"THAT HE WAS NO DIFFERENT FROM THE FRIVOLOUS VILLAINS HE STALKED."

"OR PERHAPS, IT IS BETTER STATED, THEY UNDERSTOOD WHAT BATMAN FEARED."

"THE ABSENCES OF THIS DISTINCTION. THE MONSTER MASKED AS A MAN."

"HOW KNOWING THIS, HE MIGHT CLING TO A SLIVER OF HUMANITY. TO HER. TO THE POTENTIAL..."

"TO HIS REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS DESIRE."

"YES. THAT'S WHAT THE BATMAN IS, ISN'T IT?"

"ON A FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL ONLY THEY GRASPED, THEY TOLD YOU."

"HE'S A JOKE. HE'S A RIDDLE."

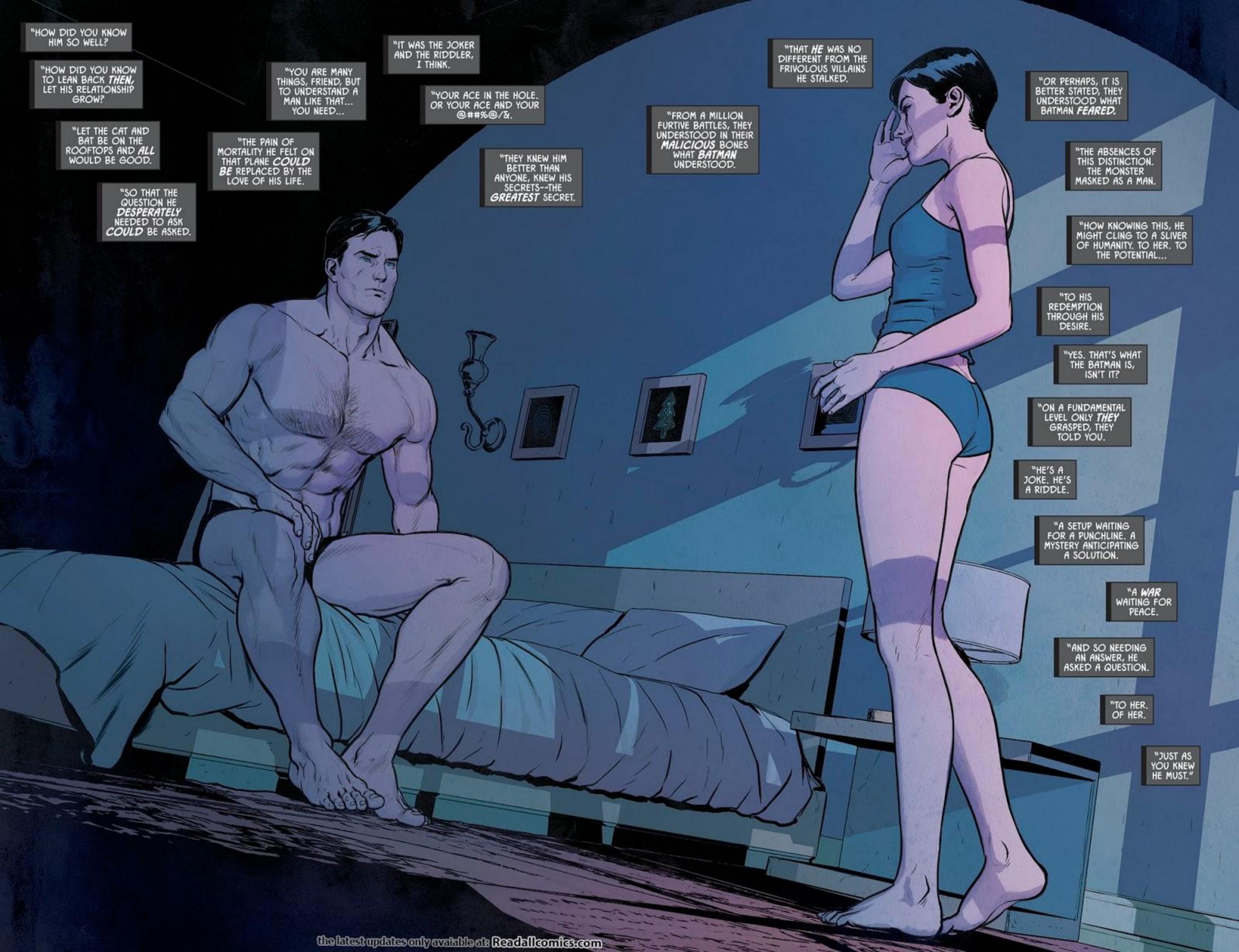
"A SETUP WAITING FOR A PUNCHLINE. A MYSTERY ANTICIPATING A SOLUTION."

"A WAR WAITING FOR PEACE."

"AND SO NEEDING AN ANSWER, HE ASKED A QUESTION."

"TO HER. OF HER."

"JUST AS YOU KNEW HE MUST."

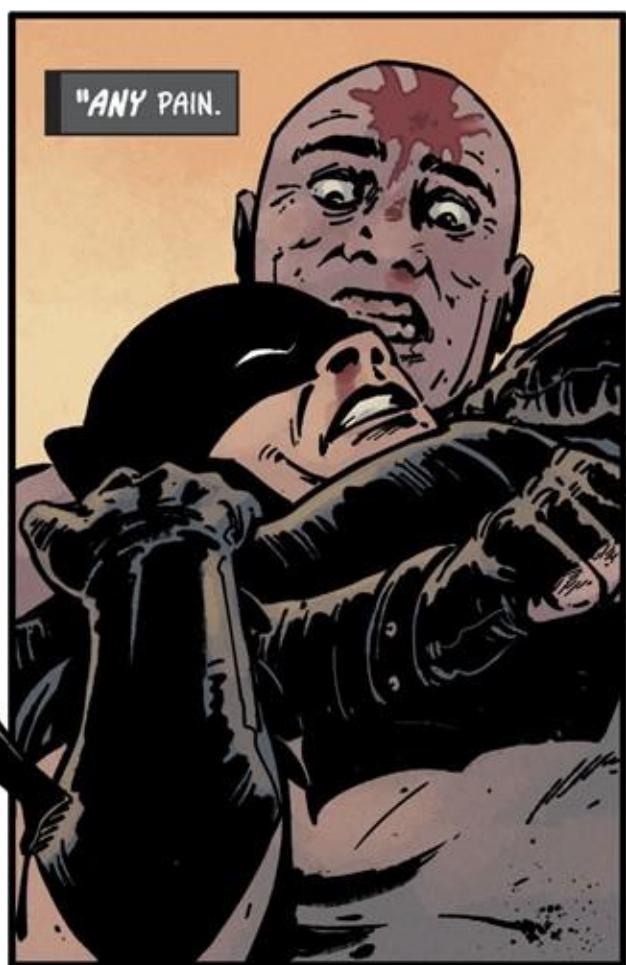


"THIS IS WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOUR PLAN."

"IT'S ORIGINAL."

"EVERY VILLAIN FOR HOW MANY YEARS HAS THOUGHT TO GIVE BATMAN...PAIN."

"ANY PAIN."



"THEY'VE HEAVED HIM INTO SHARK-INFESTED WATERS."

"THEY'VE BEATEN HIS BOYS TO DEATH, RED GORE SPLASHING ON THEIR FACES."

"THEY'VE STABBED HIM AND SHOT HIM AND SHOCKED HIM AND BURNT HIM."

"THEY'VE TORMENTED HIM IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY."

"BROUGHT HIM TO HIS KNEES."



"FORCED HIM TO THE GROUND."

KRAKK





"EVERY DAY."

"EVERY DAMN DAY."

"THEY TRY TO END HIM."

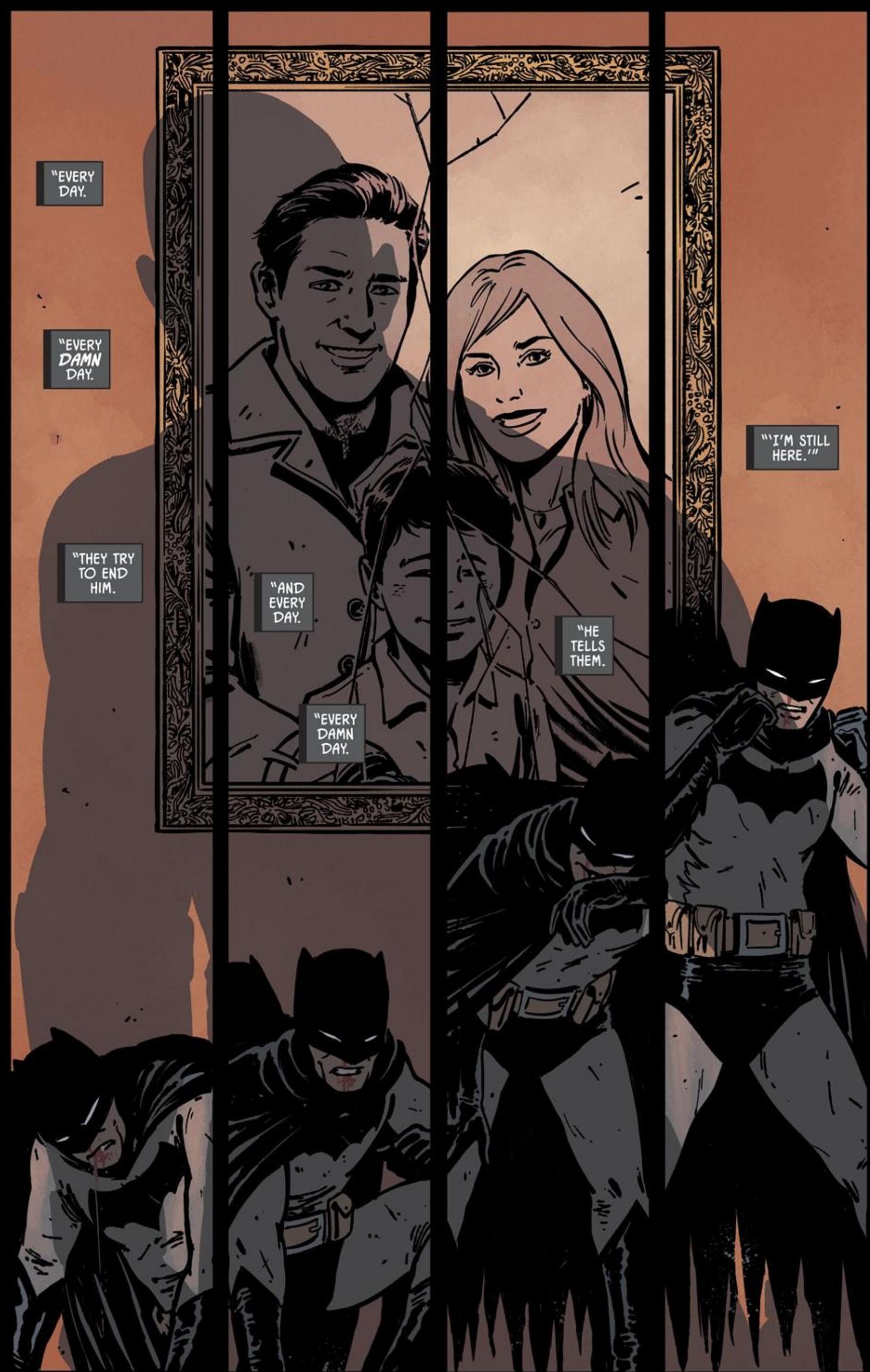
"AND EVERY DAY."

"EVERY DAMN DAY."

"HE TELLS THEM."



"I'M STILL HERE."



"BUT YOU.

"YOU WENT
A DIFFERENT
WAY.

"YOU GAVE
HIM JOY.

"HAPPINESS.

"YOU GAVE HIM
SOMETHING NO ONE
HAD GIVEN HIM. NO
ONE HAD TRIED.

"NO MORE
PUNCHING, NO MORE
RAVING AND BACK
BREAKING.

"A PURPOSE TO HIS LIFE,
A SOLUTION TO HIS
EXISTENTIAL DILEMMA.

"SOMETHING HE COULD
FINALLY PUT ABOVE HIS
FANCY, SACRED VOW.

"HE HAD FAMILY, YES,
BUT THEY WERE ALL
SOLDIERS IN HIS WAR.

"PEOPLE FOR HIM TO
SELFLESSLY PROTECT
AS THEY SELFLESSLY
PROTECTED HIS CITY.

"SHE.

"OH YES,
SHE.

"SHE WAS
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT.

"HIS LOVE FOR HER WAS
NOT THE ALTRUISTIC
LOVE OF A FATHER FOR
HIS CHILDREN.

"IT WAS THE UTTERLY
MERCENARY LOVE
OF A MAN IN NEED.

"A LOVE SO DYNAMIC, SO
VIGOROUS, IT MIGHT HELP THAT
POOR BOY IN CRIME ALLEY.

"CRYING AT THE
FEET OF HIS
PARENTS.

"KNOWING HE
WAS BROKEN.

"WONDERING IF
ANYTHING COULD
MAKE HIM WHOLE
AGAIN."



"AND THEN
YOUR FUN
BEGAN."

CRASH

"YOU
REPROGRAMMED
SKEETS."

"OR, I ASSUME,
RIDDLER DID."

"SKEETS MANIPULATED
THE EVER-MANIPULATABLE
BOOSTER GOLD INTO
A FUN GAME."

"AND BOOSTER
SHOWED BATMAN A
WORLD WHERE THERE
IS NO BATMAN."

"WHERE
BRUCE IS
CONTENT."

"SO THAT BRUCE
COULD KNOW WHAT HE
MEANS TO THE WORLD."

"AND THE WORLD, THIS
WORLD WITHOUT BATMAN,
IS AS IT WOULD BE."

"A
HORROR."

"BATMAN RETURNS,
TELLS HIS LOVE OF
HIS ADVENTURE."

POW

"CATWOMAN
LEARNS OF THE
HORROR."

"THEN YOU
SEND IN THE
JOKER."

"AN OLD
FRIEND OF
SELINA'S."

"SOMEONE SHE
SHOULDN'T
LISTEN TO."

"WHOM SHE'S
ALWAYS
LISTENED TO."

"AND HE
DELIVERS THE
MESSAGE THAT
ONLY HE CAN."

"HIS SPECIALTY,
THE TRIFLE OF
CHAOS THAT
UNBALANCES
THE WORLD."

"HE CAN'T
BE HAPPY, HE
SAYS, AND
BE BATMAN."

"MARRY HIM,
HELP HIM,
LOVE HIM..."

"AND YOU
KILL BATMAN."

THWOKK

"YOU BIRTH
THE HORROR."

POW

"WHICH BRINGS
US TO TODAY.



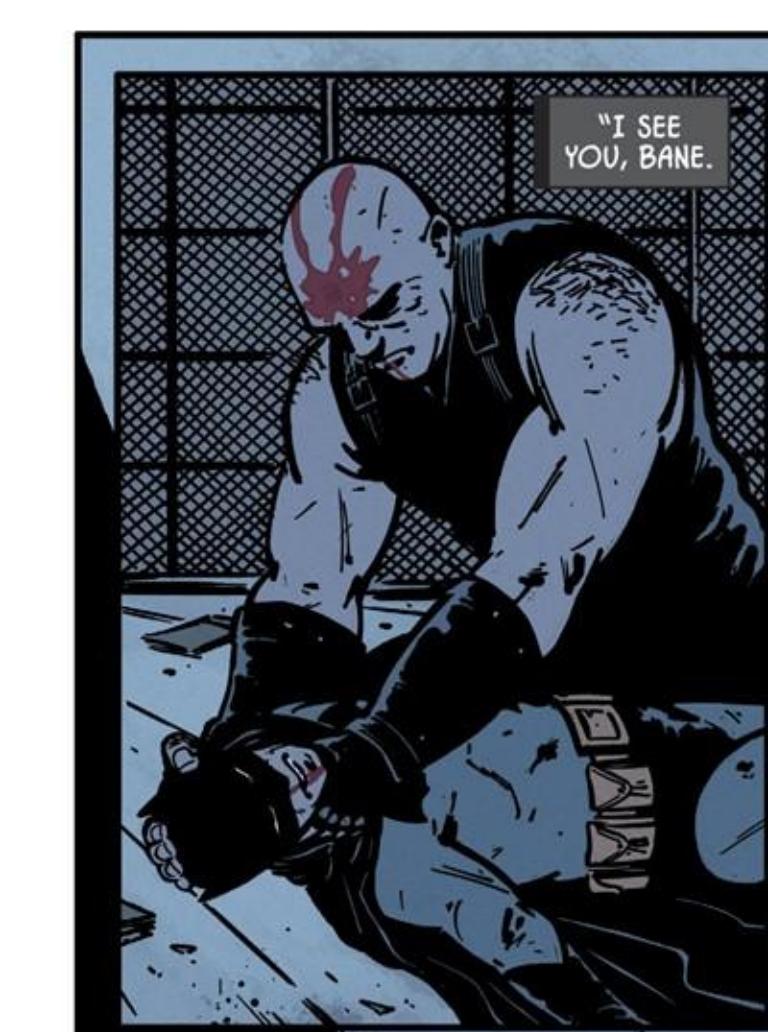
FINGER TOWER

KANE
PLAZA

"TO THE
WEDDING."







"I SEE
YOU, BANE."



"WHAT YOU'VE
DONE."



"WHAT YOU
ALWAYS DO."



"YOU LIFT
HIM UP."



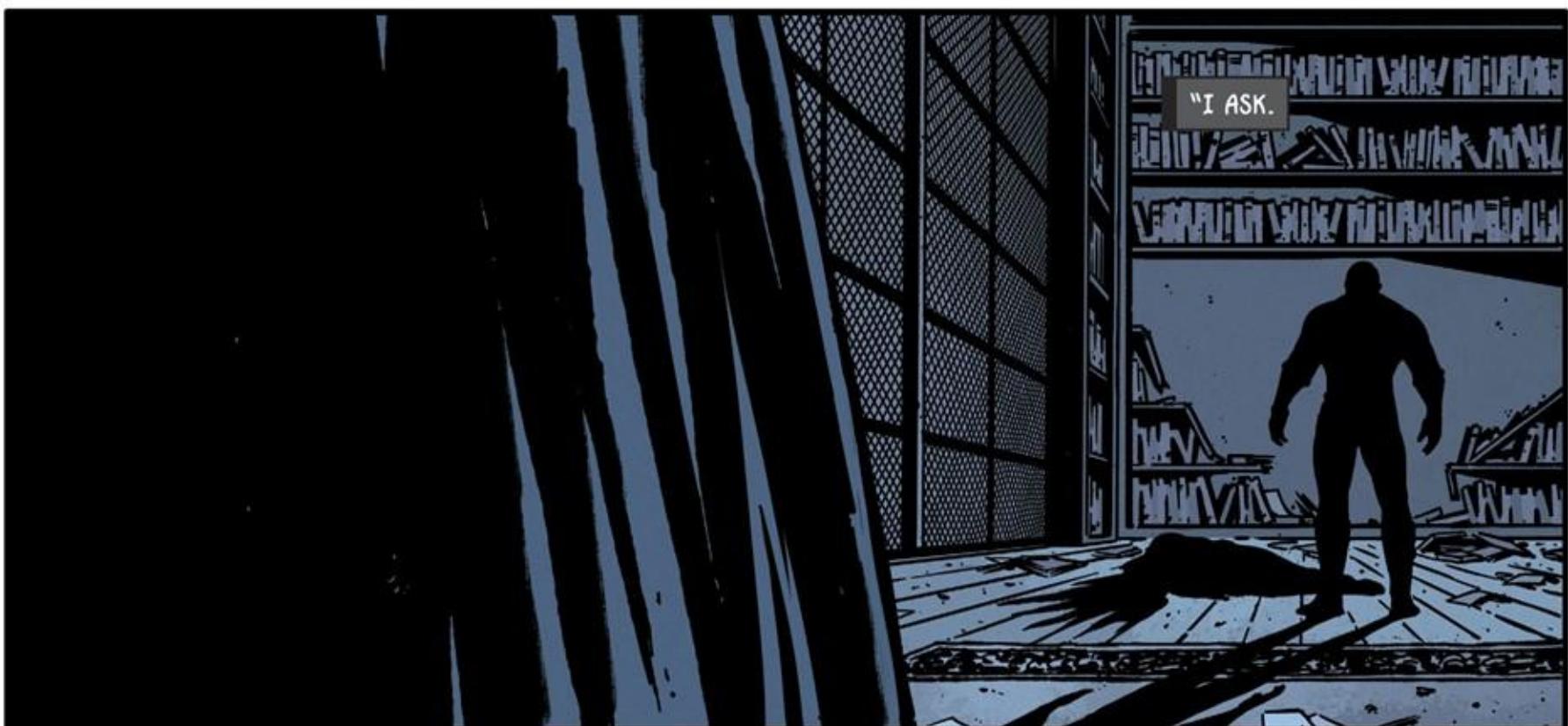
"JUST TO
BRING HIM
DOWN."



"AND SO I
ASK YOU,
FRIEND.



"I ASK.



"HOW MIGHT
I HELP?"

