



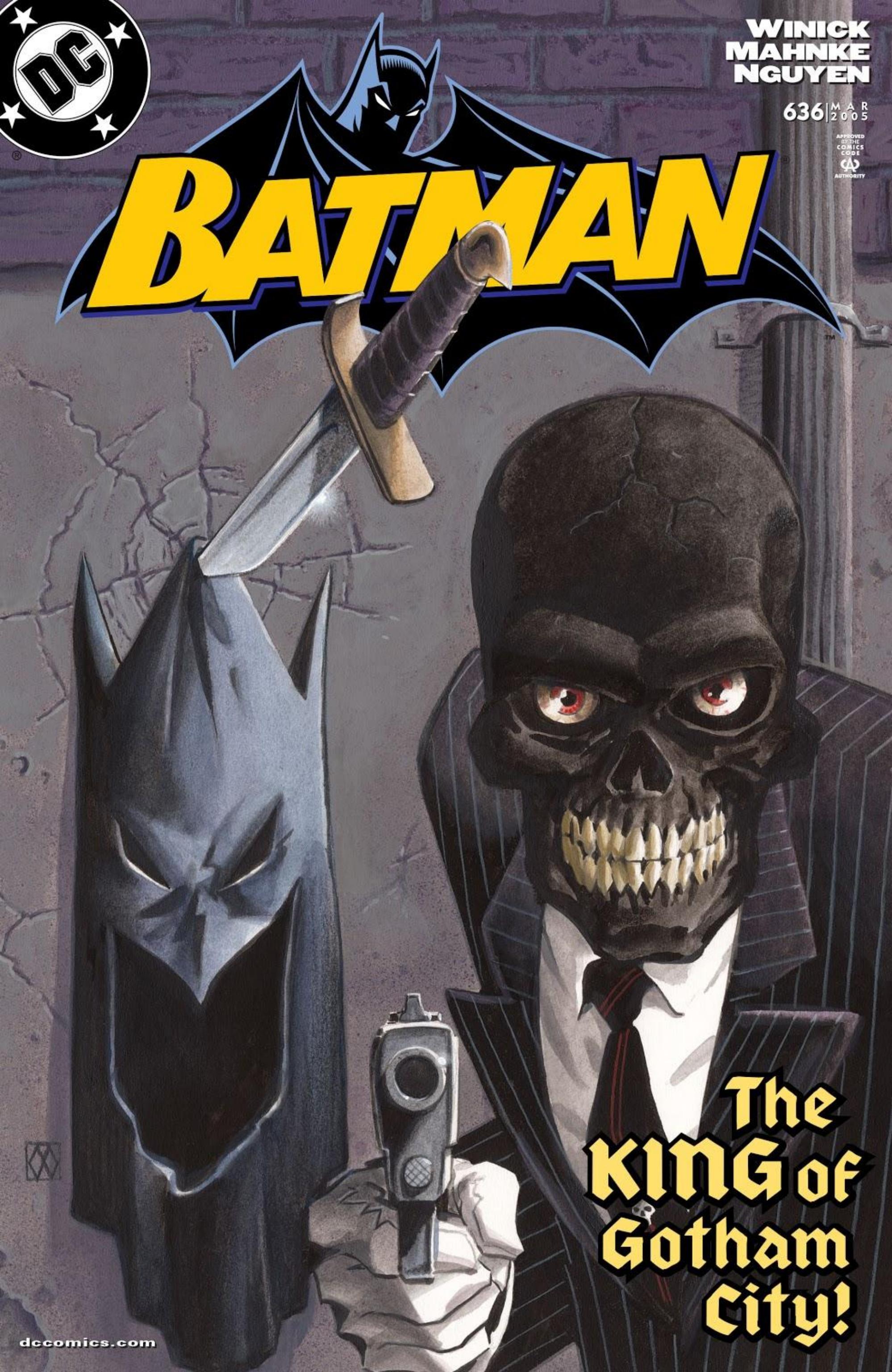
WINICK  
MAHNKE  
NGUYEN

636 MAR 2005

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AOA  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

The  
KING OF  
Gotham  
City!



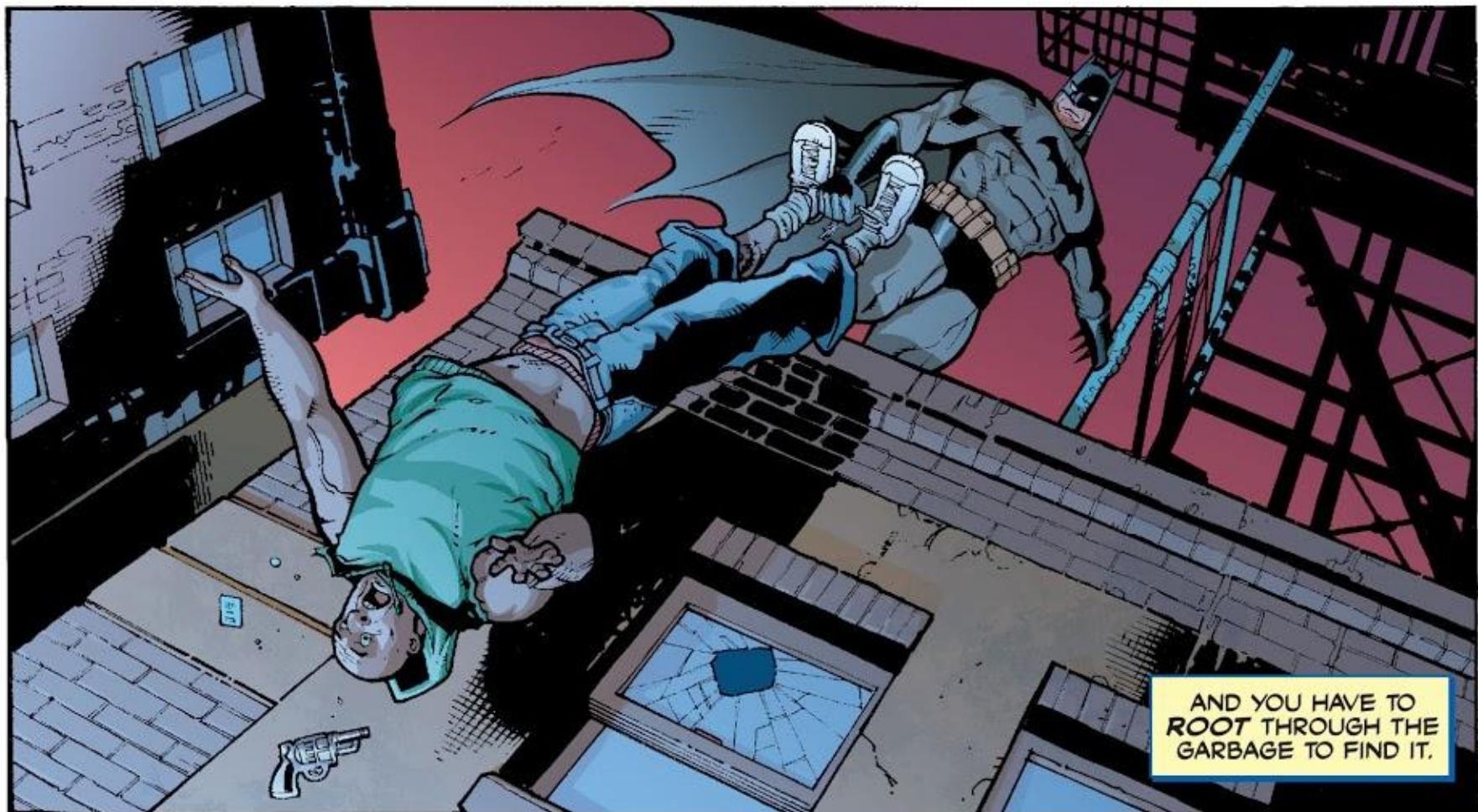
GOTHAM.

**I**NFORMATION TRAVELS ON MANY ROUTES.

# UNDER THE HOOD

PART 2  
FIRST STRIKE

SCRIPT-JUDD WINICK  
PENCILS-DOUG MAHNKE  
INKS-TOM NGUYEN  
COLORS-ALEX SINCLAIR  
LETTERS-ROB LEIGH  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR-MICHAEL WRIGHT  
EDITOR-BOB SCHRECK  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



CONVERSION BY  
**WILDSTORM**

**I**N THE LAST FEW YEARS, I'D COME TO RELY ON ORACLE, BARBARA GORDON. WE ALL DID.



UTILIZING EVERY KNOWN FORM OF SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT, SHE HAS BEEN THE EYES AND THE EARS FOR THE GOINGS-ON IN NOT JUST GOTHAM, BUT MANY OF OUR SISTER CITIES.



THOSE DAYS ARE OVER.



I CAN'T RELY ON ANYONE ANYMORE.



HEY.



NIGHTWING.  
DICK GRAYSON.  
THE VERY FIRST  
BOY WONDER.

WARM  
NIGHT.

YES.  
UNSEASONABLY  
SO.

THIS TIME  
OF YEAR IT MAKES  
THEM CARELESS.  
COMFORT MAKES  
THEM CARELESS.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT'S WORSE.  
THE FACT THAT WE'RE  
MAKING SMALL TALK  
ABOUT THE  
WEATHER...

...OR THE  
FACT THAT YOU  
COULD TURN IT  
ON A DIME INTO  
CRIME-  
FIGHTING.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?  
CHECKING  
UP ON ME?

THAT'S  
EXACTLY WHAT  
I'M DOING HERE. IN  
LIGHT OF RECENT  
EVENTS...

...I THOUGHT IT  
WOULDN'T HURT FOR  
ME TO STAY CLOSE  
TO HOME. AND WITH  
MY LEG STILL  
HEALING UP...





THE HANOVER TOWER.

THIS ISN'T DURABLE ENOUGH.

IT IS,  
I PROMISE  
YOU.

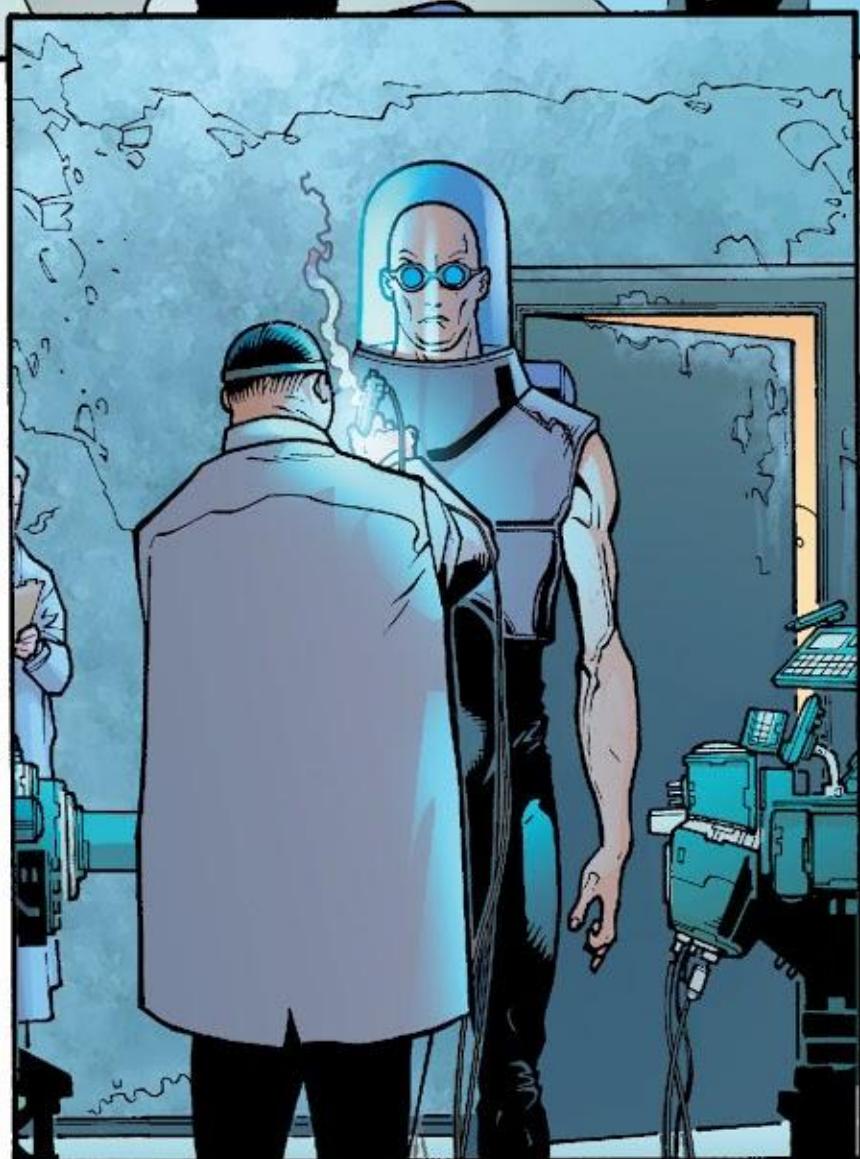
MR. FREEZE.

IT FEELS  
THIN,  
WEAK.

YOUR PREVIOUS  
ARMOR, THOUGH A  
**SCIENTIFIC MARVEL**,  
WAS COMPOSED OF  
ALLOYS THAT WERE,  
SHALL WE SAY,  
SOMEWHA  
OUTDATED.

THE SUIT I AM PRESENTLY FASHIONING IS STATE OF THE ART. IT IS NEARLY IMPERVIOUS, AND ALTHOUGH IT FEELS AS YOU DESCRIBED, "THIN," IT IS MERELY LIGHT-WEIGHT.

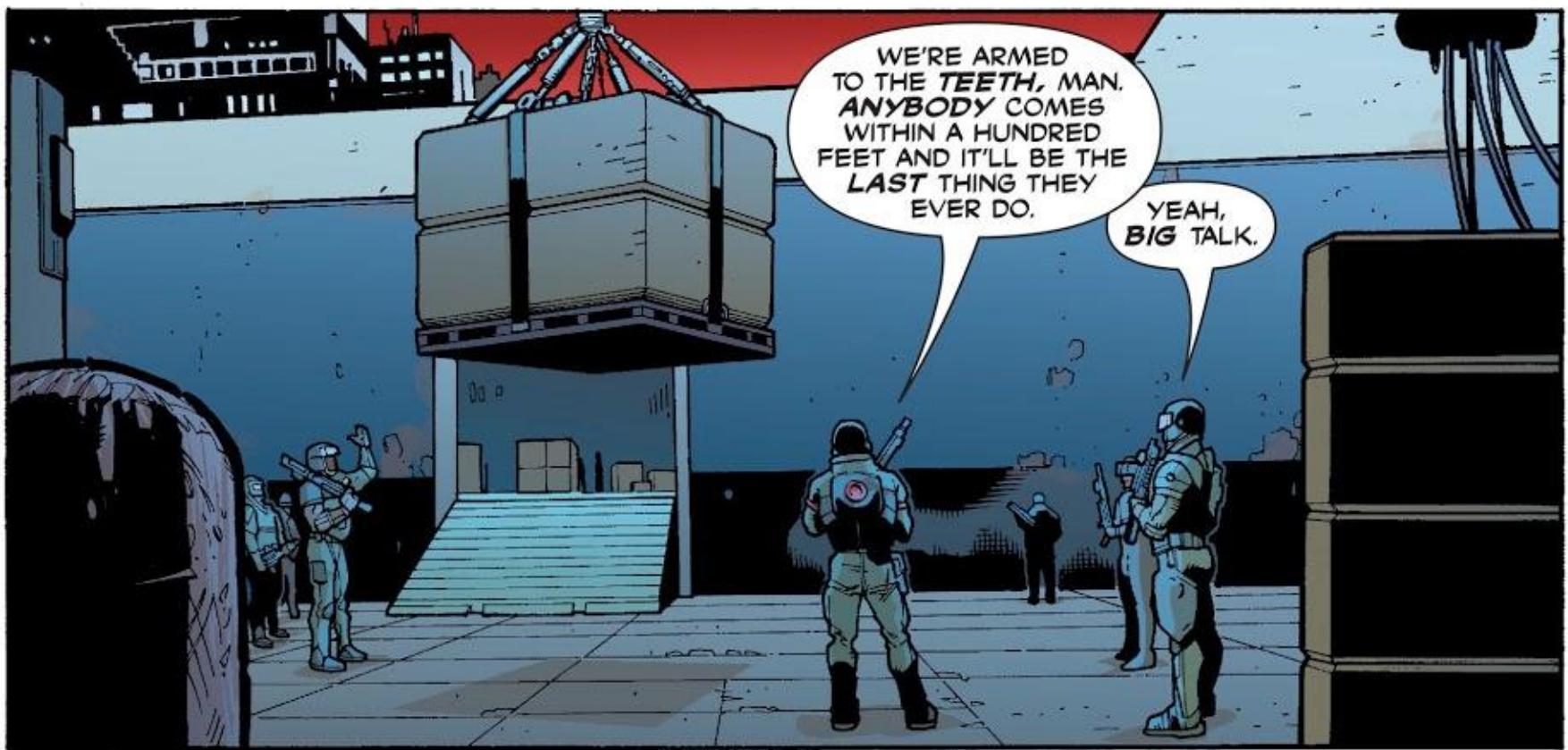
YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN THAT BRAWN DOES NOT NECESSARILY CONNOTE POTENCY.













AND  
TONIGHT...

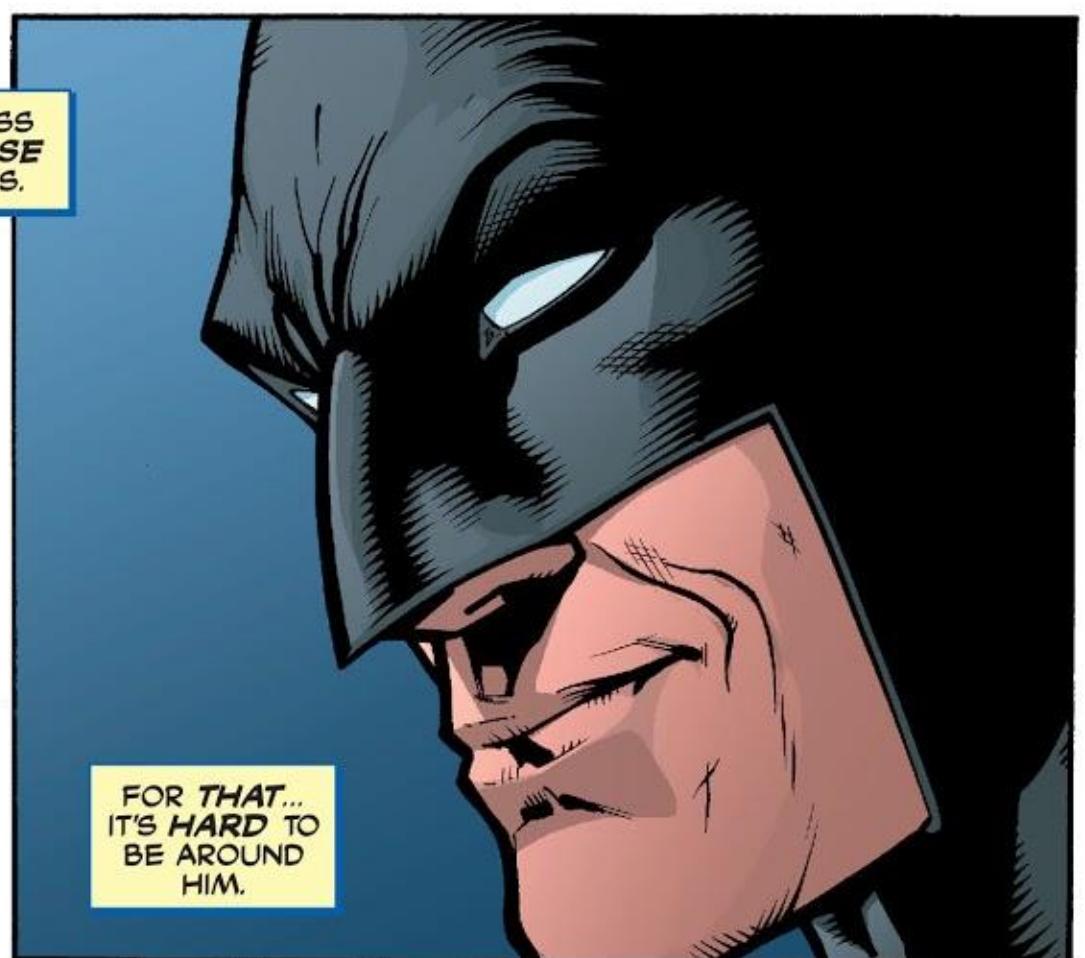


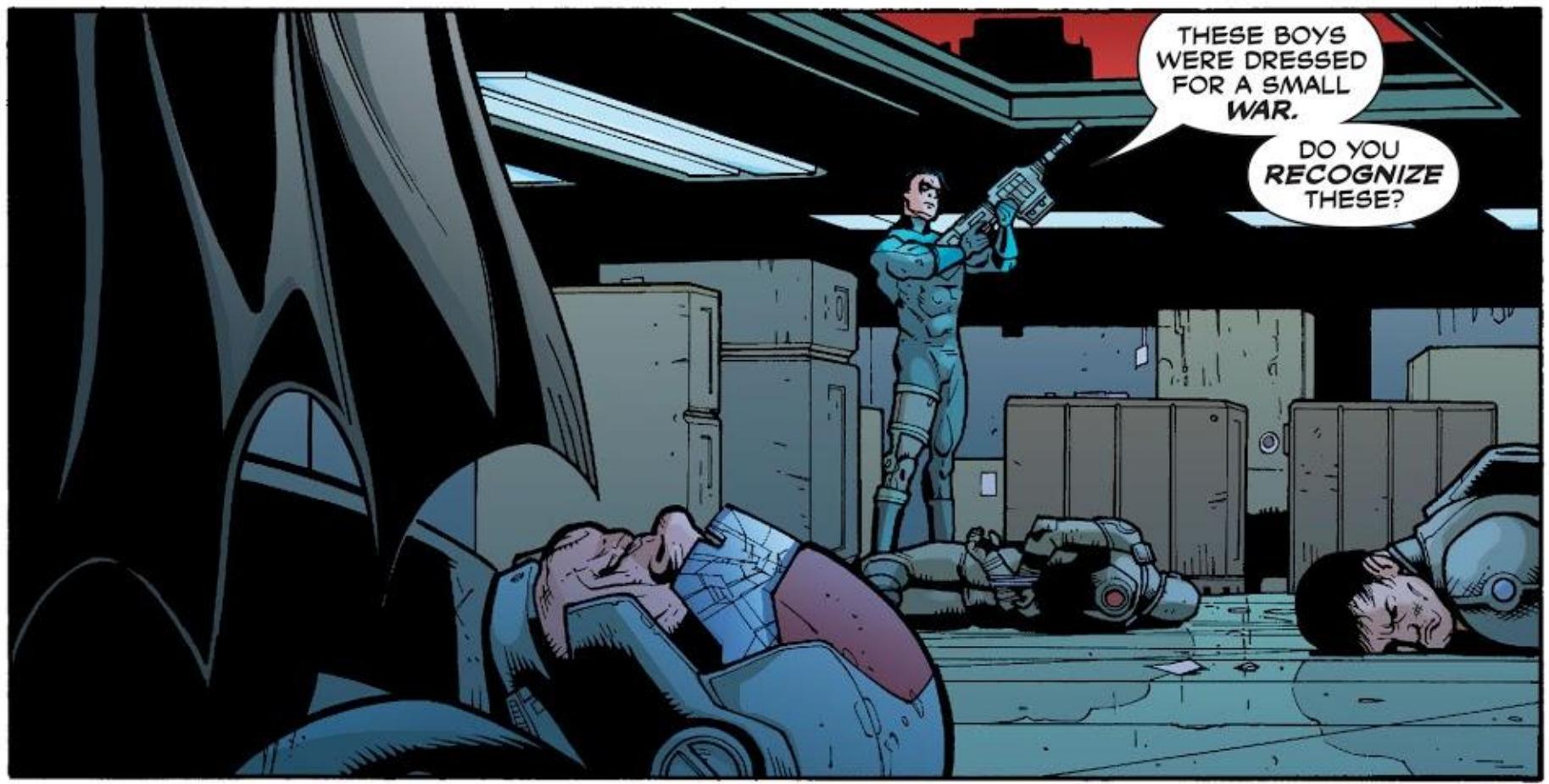
...IT'S ALSO ABOUT THE  
COMPANY I KEEP.



IT'S DIFFERENT  
WITH HIM OUT  
HERE.















NOT JUST  
FAST. AGILE.



HE'S JUST  
MAKING IT.



**A**ND THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT HIS  
MOTIONS.

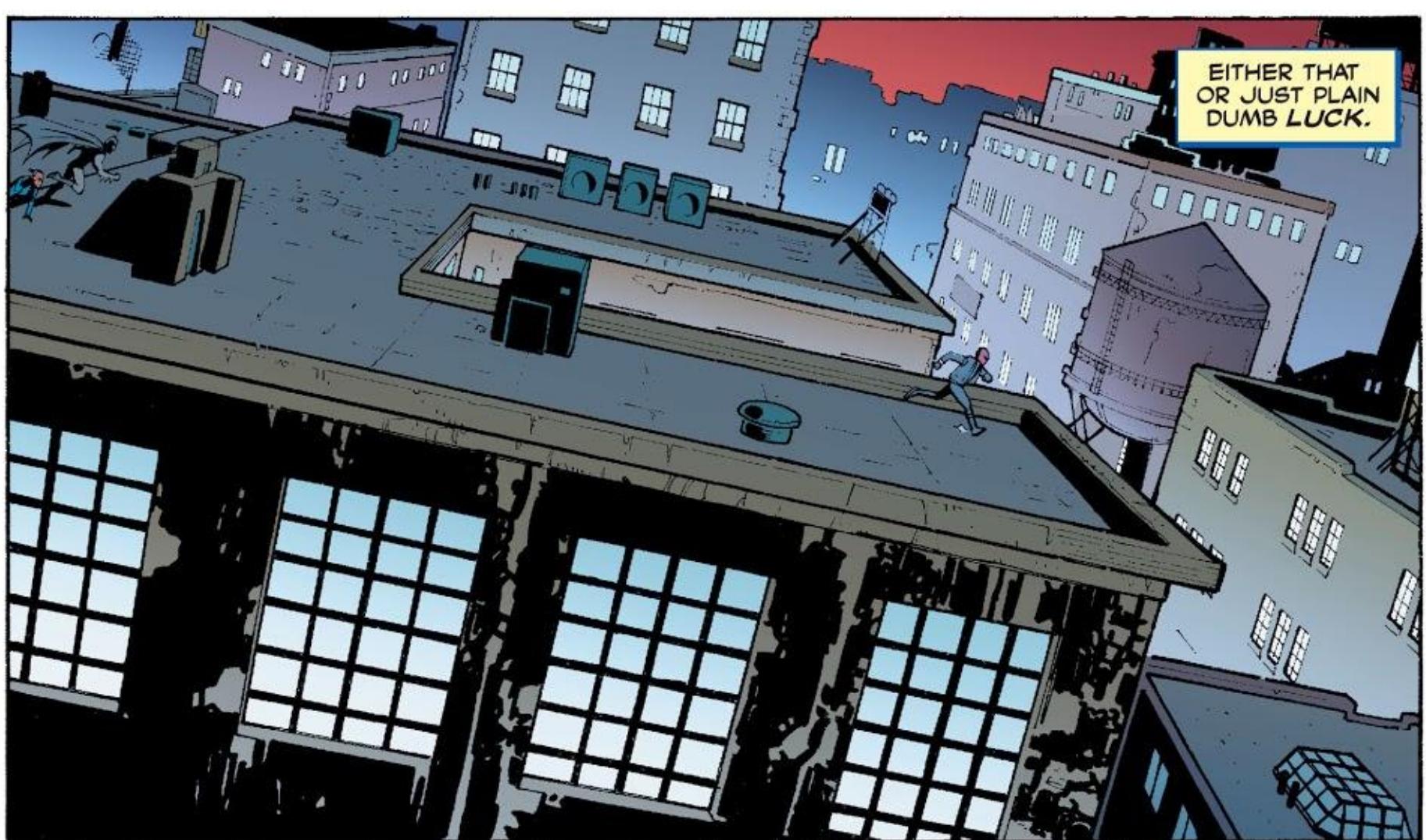


SOMETHING  
FAMILIAR.

THAT WAS  
**INTERESTING.**  
HE CUT THE LINE  
BEFORE IT  
WENT TAUGHT.

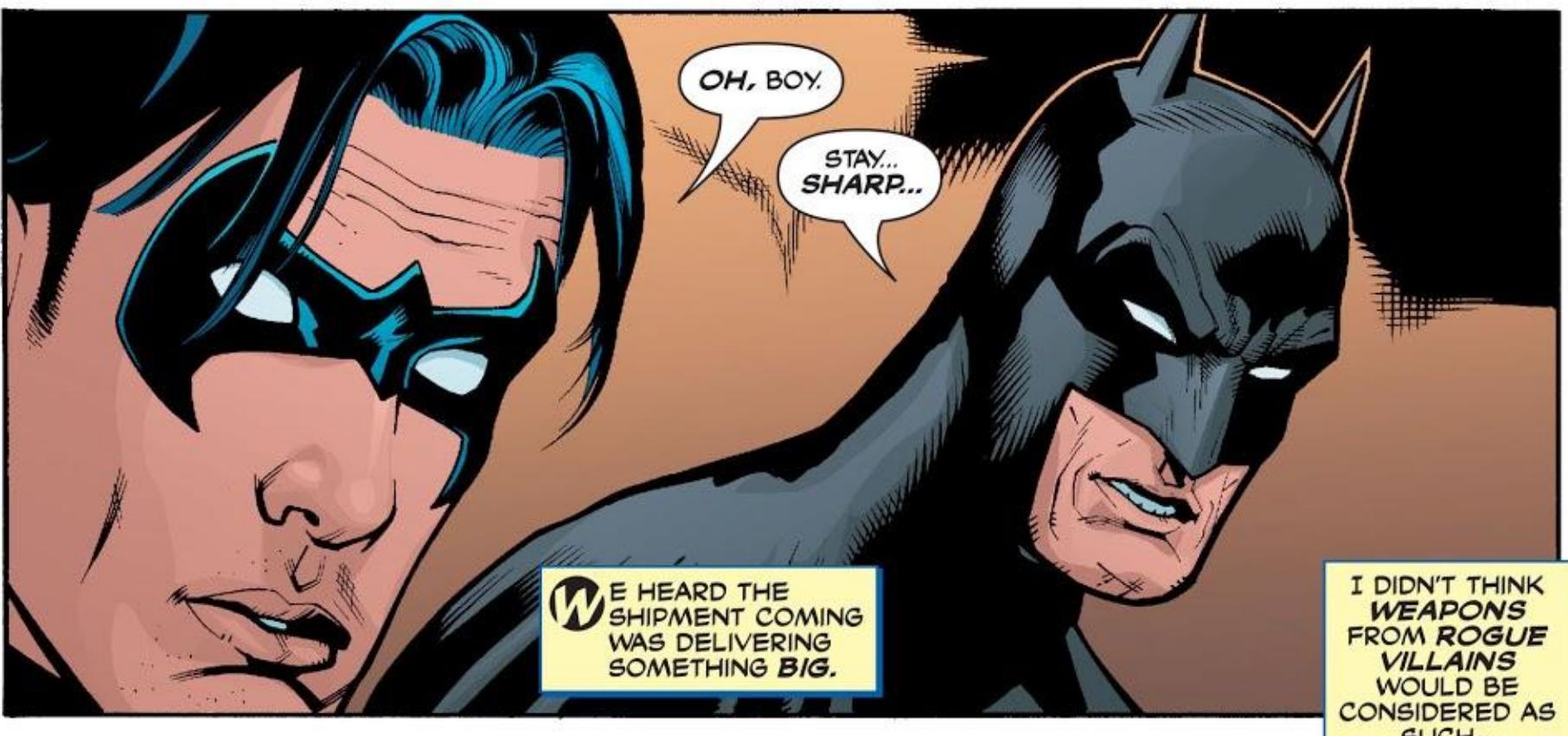
THAT WOULD  
HAVE TO HAVE  
BEEN  
PRACTICED.

EITHER THAT  
OR JUST PLAIN  
DUMB LUCK.



BUT NO, IT'S  
NOT LUCK.





**H**HIS...THIS  
IS BIG.

IT IS CALLED  
AMAZO.

IT IS A HIGHLY ADVANCED  
ANDROID EQUIPPED  
WITH SPECIFIC  
ABSORPTION CELLS.

IT ACQUIRED AND  
POSSESSES THE ABILITIES  
AND POWERS OF SEVEN  
MEMBERS OF THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE.

ITS PRIMARY  
FUNCTION IS TO  
DESTROY THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE.

I GUESS  
I WILL JUST  
HAVE TO SETTLE  
FOR YOU  
TWO...

STAY  
SHARP.

To Be Continued...