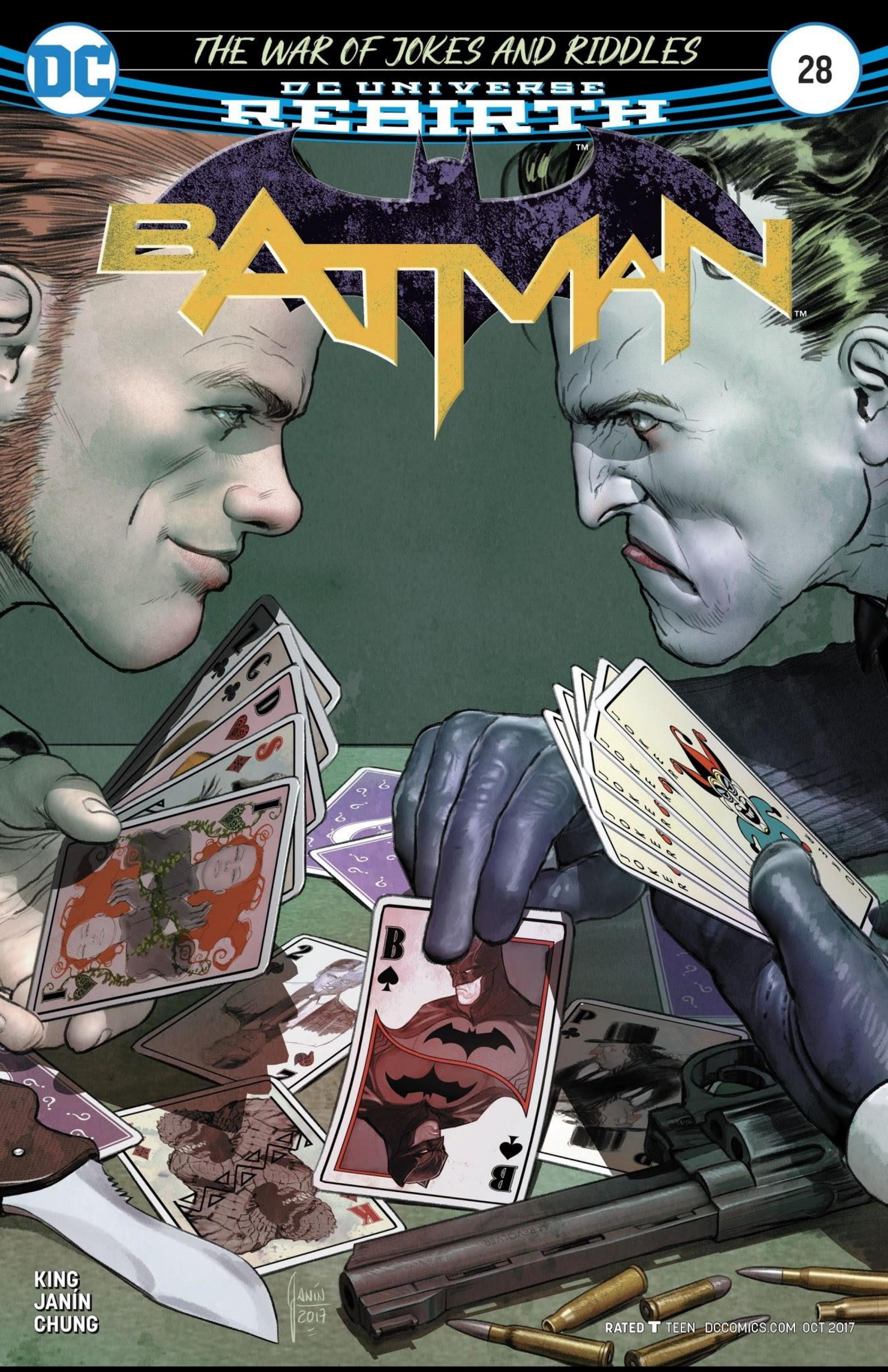

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DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH

UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ORIGINAL ATOM, RAY PALMER!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PANIC IN THE MICROVERSE

TM & © DC Comics

A 6-PART STORY BEGINNING IN ISSUE #12!

WRITTEN BY STEVE ORLANDO ART BY IVAN REIS & FELIPE WATANABE SEPT

DC UNIVERSE
REBIRTH
28
BATMAN
KING
JANÍN
CHUNG
RATED T TEEN DCCOMICS.COM OCT 2017

"I TOLD HIM NOT TO GO.

"'HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE MAP?' HE ASKED ME.

"'I'VE SEEN THE MAP,' I SAID.

"'THE CITY HAS FALLEN,' HE SAID.

"'THE CITY HAS FALLEN BEFORE,' I SAID.

"'THIS IS GOTHAM,' I SAID. 'THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.'

"'WHAT HAPPENS NEXT,' I SAID, 'IS WE CATCH IT.

"'YOU AND I, GORDON. WE RAISE IT BACK UP.'

"HE DRAGGED ON HIS PIPE.

"THEN HE LAUGHED AS SMOKE CAME FROM HIS MOUTH.

"'DO YOU EVER LISTEN TO YOURSELF?' HE SAID.

"'I BET YOU DO.

"'BUT HONESTLY, PAL, DO YOU EVER BELIEVE WHAT YOU HEAR?'"

"BY THAT POINT IN THE WAR, JOKER HAD CAPTURED MOST OF GOTHAM'S UPPER WEST SIDE.
THE JOKE'S ON YOU

"RIDDLER HAD THE EAST.
YOU ARE THE ? SOLU TIO

"BETWEEN THE TWO WAS THE PARK, WHERE MOST OF THE OVERT FIGHTING OCCURRED.
"WAVES OF MEN AND WOMEN CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER.
"LAUGHING AT THEIR JOKES. MARVELING AT THEIR RIDDLES.

"ONCE A DAY, FOR AN HOUR, THE TWO SIDES WOULD QUIET, LET THE AUTHORITIES IN.
"TO COLLECT THE BODIES."

"DURING ONE OF THESE QUIETS, TO ARRANGE HIS MEETINGS, GORDON LEFT TWO LETTERS IN THE PARK.
"HE SAID HE WANTED TO TALK. UNARMED. JUST TALK.
"MAYBE FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS.

"THE RIDDLER'S RESPONSE WAS A THIRTY-SEVEN PAGE LETTER.
"IT DICTATED WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO WEAR, HOW TO WALK.

"THE JOKER USED LIPSTICK TO WRITE ON THE BACK OF A DEAD MAN.
"'COME IN YOUR UNDIES.'

"'THEY'LL KILL YOU,' I SAID.
"'THEY'LL TRY,' HE SAID."

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THEY ASKED FOR YOU.
BOTH OF THEM.

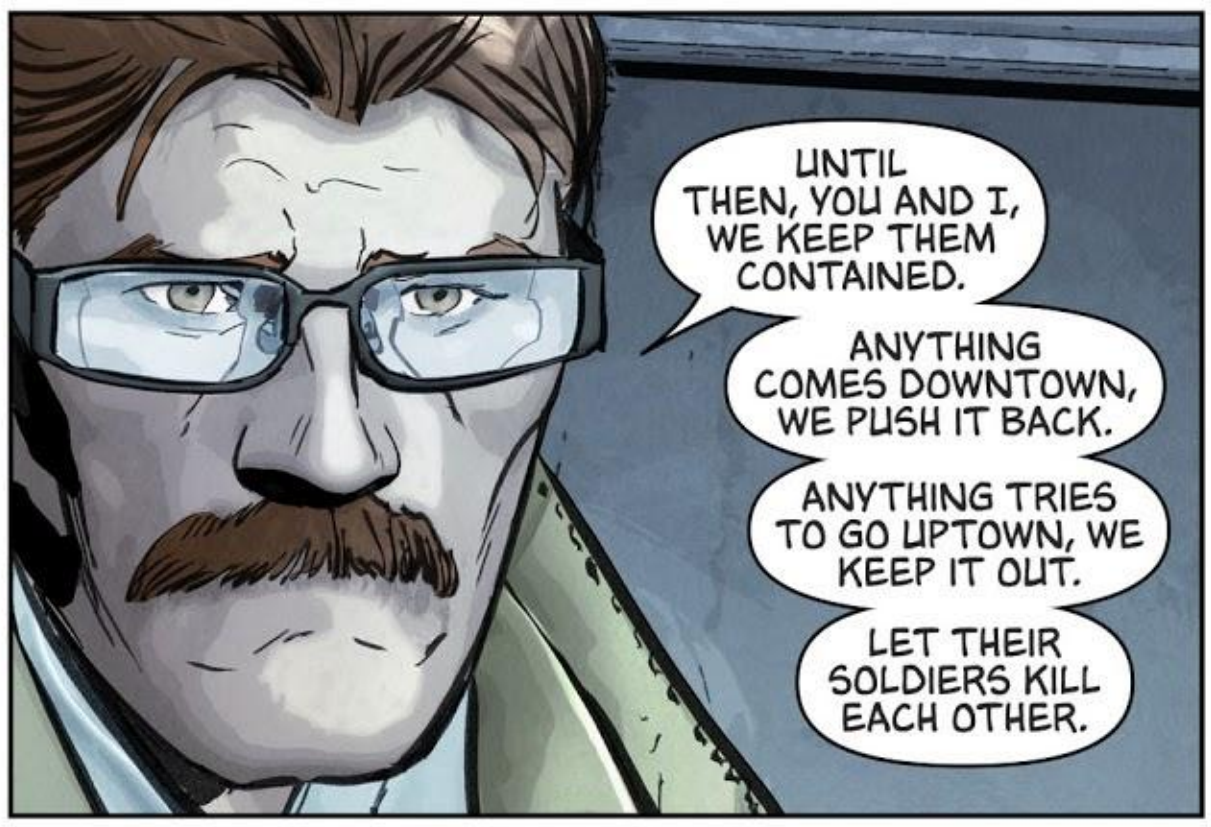
"BRING *ME* THE BATMAN AND THE WAR ENDS."

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

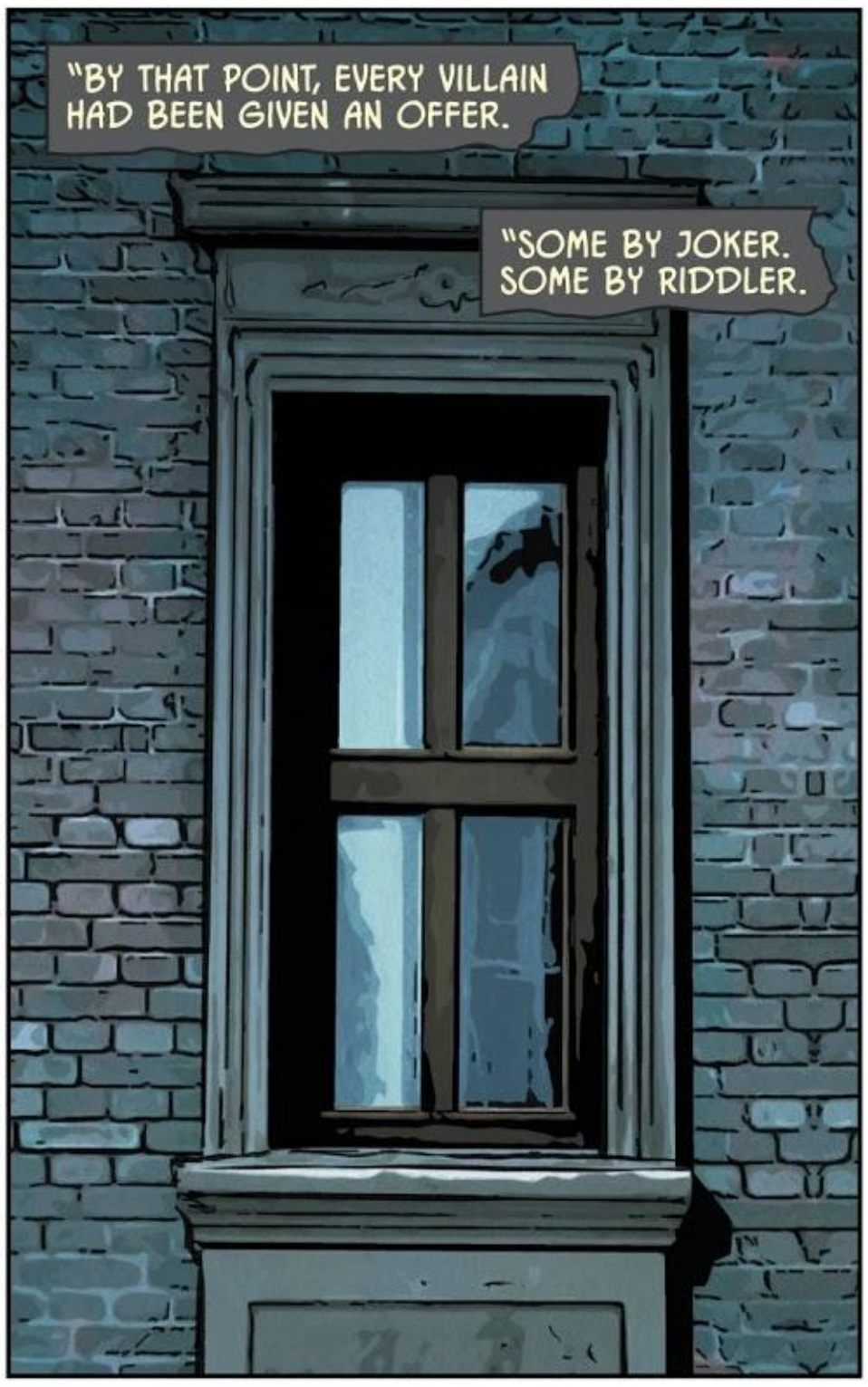
WE NEED TO GO IN.
NO, I SAW IT. THEY WANTED ME TO SEE IT.
JOKER'S GOT THE WHOLE CITY WIRED WITH BOMBS.
RIDDLER'S GOT GUARDS EVERYWHERE WITH GUNS POINTED TO CIVILIANS.

WE GO IN WRONG, THEY SEE A *HINT* OF YOU, HOW MANY DIE?
I'M NOT REPEATING THE JOKE FACTORY INCIDENT.
IT WASN'T FUNNY THE FIRST TIME.

I'VE CONTACTED THE FEDS.
THIS IS A WAR, WE GO IN LIKE IT'S A WAR.
NOT COPS AND MASKS. OVERWHELMING FORCE.


UNTIL THEN, YOU AND I, WE KEEP THEM CONTAINED.
ANYTHING COMES DOWNTOWN, WE PUSH IT BACK.
ANYTHING TRIES TO GO UPTOWN, WE KEEP IT OUT.
LET THEIR SOLDIERS KILL EACH OTHER.

AND KEEP THEM FROM GETTING NEW SOLDIERS.



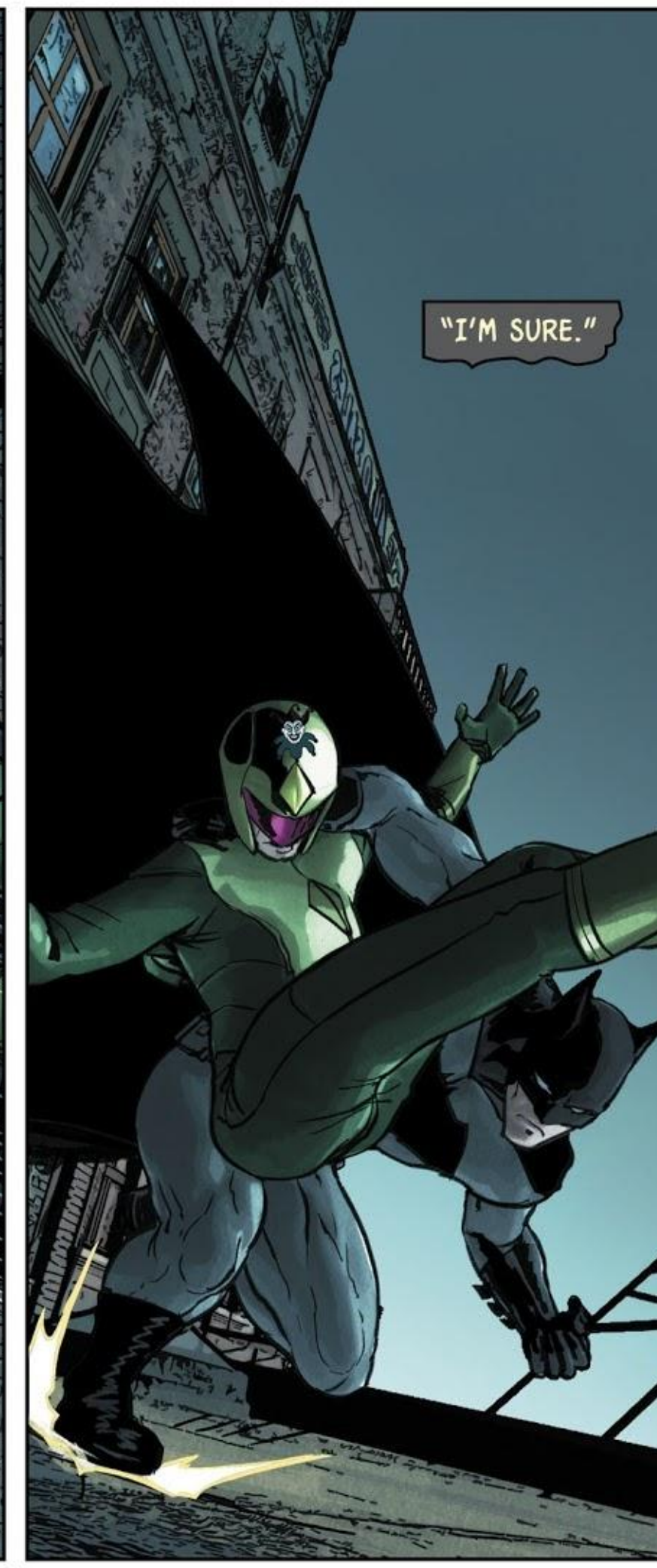
"WITH A NOTABLE EXCEPTION."

KITE MAN?

PLEASE.

HELL YEAH!

"I KNEW YOU WERE THERE."


"I'M SURE."

I KNEW YOU WERE THERE!

I'M SURE.

"YOU EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS A MARONI CRIME FAMILY APARTMENT.

"THE FAMILY HAD STOLEN A FORTUNE FROM YOU.

"WITH THE WAR ON, YOU WERE TAKING THE FORTUNE BACK."

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WHY HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN A SIDE?
I'M NOT LIKE THEM. THEY'RE CRIMINALS.
YOU'RE CURRENTLY BREAKING INTO A SAFE THAT'S NOT YOURS.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
I'M NOT LIKE THEM. THEY'RE *UNSUCCESSFUL* CRIMINALS.

DO I NEED TO WORRY ABOUT YOU?
ARE YOU CHECKING UP ON ME, BAT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO *PROTECT* ME?

NO.
NO ONE NEEDS TO PROTECT YOU.
OH.

WELL THEN, YES.
YOU *VERY* MUCH HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

"AFTERWARD, I SLEPT. WHEN I WOKE, YOU WERE GONE.
"WITH THE DIAMONDS."
"OKAY, YES, BUT IN MY DEFENSE, I DID WARN YOU.
"I'M NOT EXACTLY *UNSUCCESSFUL*."

"THAT AFTERNOON, THE BATTLE OF SNIPERS BEGAN.

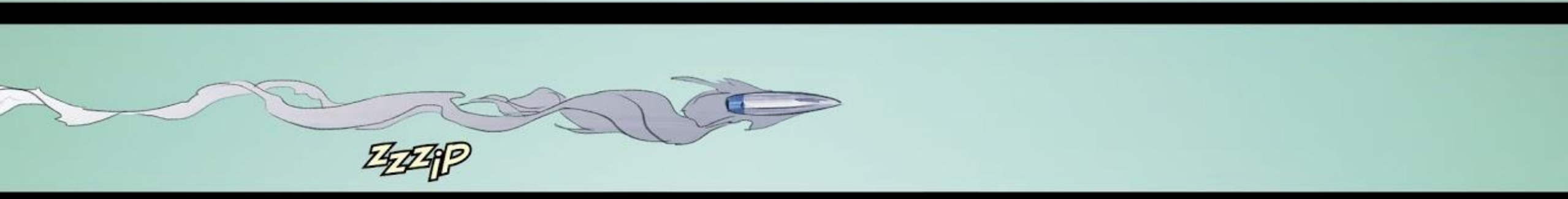
"AFTER GORDON DIDN'T RESPOND TO HIS OFFER, RIDDLER ORDERED DEATHSTROKE TO LEAVE THE WEST SIDE.
"AND KILL ME.

"JOKER, WHO HAD A MAN IN RIDDLER'S RANKS, LEARNED OF THIS MOVE.
"AND SENT DEADSHOT OUT OF THE WEST SIDE.
"TO KILL ME.

"THE TWO SET UP NESTS OVERLOOKING GORDON'S ROOF.
"AS THEY WAITED FOR THE SIGNAL TO COME ON.
"THEY EACH SAW THE OTHER RIGHT ACROSS THE WAY."

Aimpoint
HK

ZZZiP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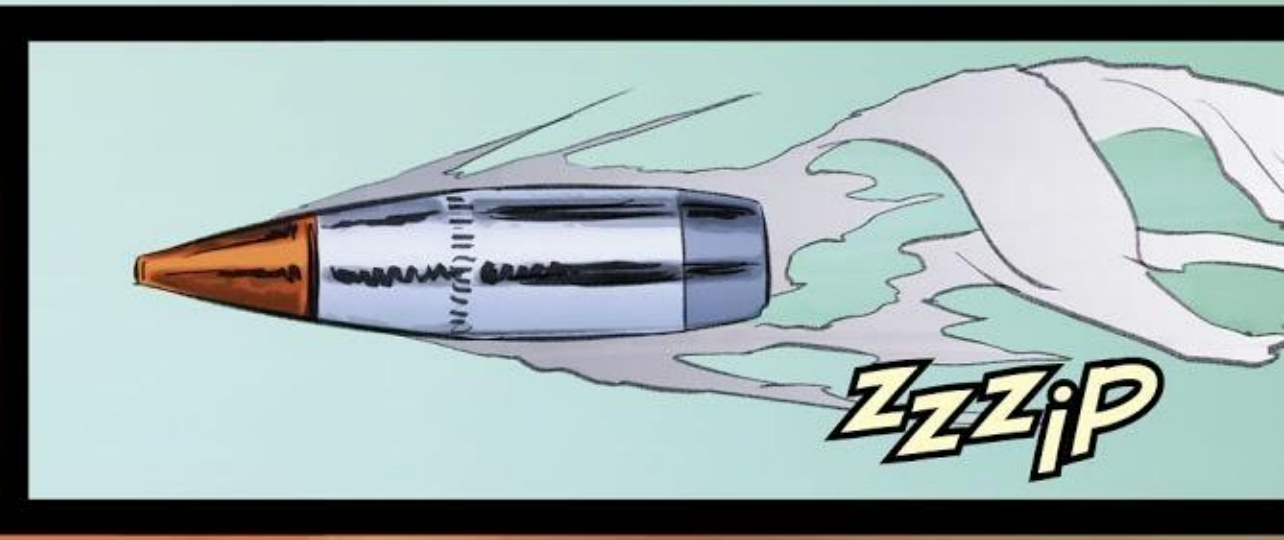
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KKRRNCHH
"THEY WERE, UNFORTUNATELY, WELL MATCHED."

"THEY FOUGHT, HARD.
"I CHASED THEM WHERE I COULD. STOPPED THEM WHERE I COULD.
"BUT THESE WERE THE BEST MERCENARIES IN THE WORLD.
"AND I WAS A YEAR AWAY FROM KICKING A TREE.
"ON THE THIRD DAY, DEADSHOT BOMBED A BUILDING.
"TWENTY-EIGHT PEOPLE DIED.
"IT TOOK FIVE DAYS.
"ON THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR FIGHTING, FOUR PEOPLE DIED IN THE CROSS FIRE AS THEY SNIPED CRUELLY ACROSS THE GOTHAM CENTRAL TERMINAL.
"ON THE FOURTH DAY, THEY WENT BACK TO GUNS.
"SIXTY-TWO.
"SIXTY. TWO.
"GONE."
"ON THE SECOND DAY, FOURTEEN DIED WHEN THEY SPRAYED M-16S INTO A CROWD.

"ON THE FIFTH DAY...
"IT TOOK FIVE DAYS.
"FIVE DAYS OF WATCHING THEM MURDER MY CITY AS THEY TRIED TO MURDER EACH OTHER.
"FIVE DAYS WHERE JOKER AND RIDDLER GOT TO HAVE THEIR WAR WHILE I CHASED THEIR MINIONS.
"FIVE DAYS OF DEATH. FIVE DAYS OF BLOOD. FIVE DAYS!
"AND ON THE FIFTH DAY...
"IT TOOK *FIVE DAYS!*"
"BAT? BRUCE? ARE YOU--"
"I'M...I'M FINE. I'M SORRY.
"IT'S JUST... I...
"...I CAUGHT UP WITH THEM ON THE *FIFTH* DAY."

POW
ENOUGH!

POW
THIS ENDS TODAY!

POW

I AM ENDING THIS TODAY!

CLNNK
DO YOU HEAR ME?!

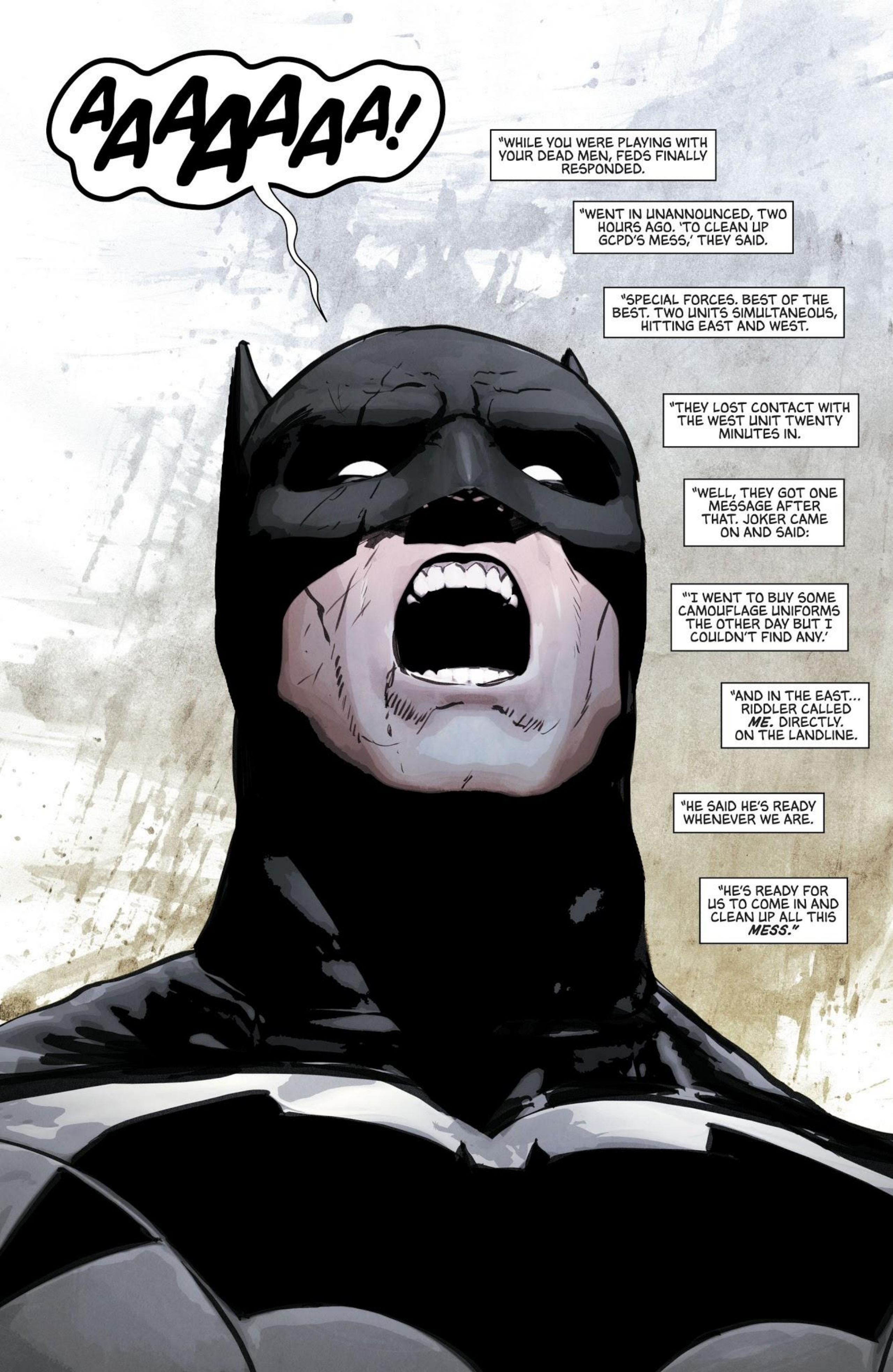
I'M DONE!
KRKK

YOU'RE DONE!
KRKK

NO MORE!

NO MORE!

NO... MORE...

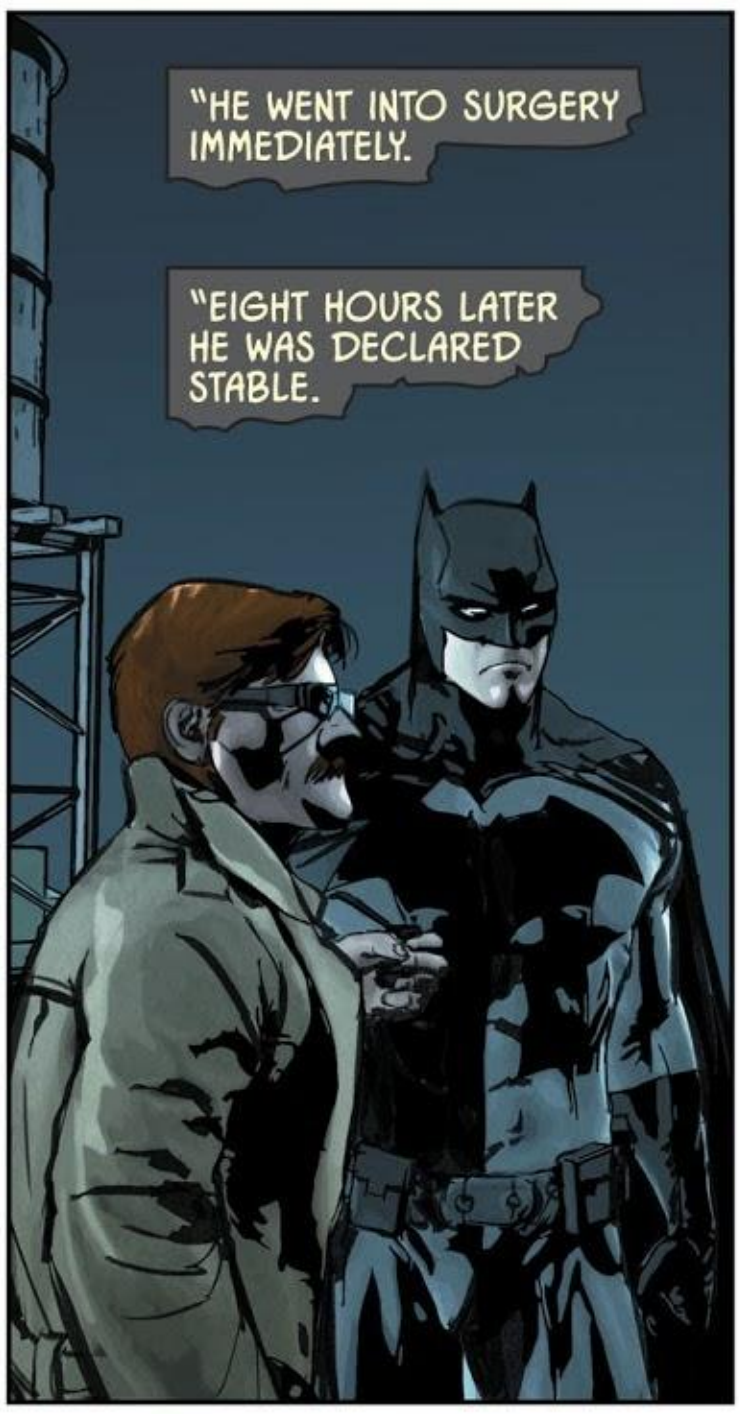

AAAAAA!
"WHILE YOU WERE PLAYING WITH YOUR DEAD MEN, FEDS FINALLY RESPONDED.
"WENT IN UNANNOUNCED, TWO HOURS AGO. 'TO CLEAN UP GCPD'S MESS,' THEY SAID.
"SPECIAL FORCES. BEST OF THE BEST. TWO UNITS SIMULTANEOUS, HITTING EAST AND WEST.
"THEY LOST CONTACT WITH THE WEST UNIT TWENTY MINUTES IN.
"WELL, THEY GOT ONE MESSAGE AFTER THAT. JOKER CAME ON AND SAID:
"'I WENT TO BUY SOME CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS THE OTHER DAY BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANY.'
"AND IN THE EAST... RIDDLER CALLED *ME.* DIRECTLY. ON THE LANDLINE.
"HE SAID HE'S READY WHENEVER WE ARE.
"HE'S READY FOR US TO COME IN AND CLEAN UP ALL THIS *MESS.*"

CITY ALWAYS FALLS.

WE ALWAYS CATCH IT.

"FIVE DAYS AFTER THEY TOLD GORDON I COULD END THIS WAR.

"FIVE DAYS AFTER I SAW YOU.



'THAT MUCH HEAD TRAUMA,' THE DOCTOR SAID, 'IT WAS A MIRACLE HE SURVIVED.

"'NOTHING BUT A MIRACLE.'"

THE WAR OF JOKES & RIDDLES

PART 3

TOM KING SCRIPT
MIKEL JANÍN PENCILS, INKS & COVER
JUNE CHUNG COLORS
CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS
NEAL ADAMS & HI-FI VARIANT COVER
MAGGIE HOWELL ASST. EDITOR
MOLLY MAHAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JAMIE S. RICH EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**

THE DARK KNIGHTS RISE!
DARK NIGHTS
METAL
DC
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MISTER MIRACLE

From the team behind THE SHERIFF OF BABYLON comes a new 12-issue limited series featuring a unique new take on one of Jack Kirby's most beloved creations. From the Hugo Award-nominated writer of BATMAN and *Vision*, Tom King, and illustrated by Mitch Gerads, this is MISTER MIRACLE as you have never seen him before!

We caught up with the creative team to ask them about their new book.

Tom King: When I first started doing this project, I started talking with creators like Mark Waid, and one of the things I came across was people saying, *You didn't know Mister Miracle was Jack Kirby's Jesus? He's Jesus as an escape artist*. That's utterly ridiculous, but the writer in you is like, *I get to play with Jesus as an escape artist*. On the other side of that you have Darkseid, who's the horrible evil that walks.

DC: What's it like working on a new story with a Kirby character?
King: No one can out-Kirby Kirby. You can't make an epic as great as he did. It's like trying to make *Star Wars* again, or like trying to rewrite the *Iliad*. You *can* take those grand cosmic space-opera themes and internalize them and use them to tell a very personal story. That's what appealed to me about it. We were going to take the bigness of Kirby and turn that into the intimacy of Mister Miracle's life.

DC: Tell us about the art for Mister Miracle.
Gerads: *Mister Miracle* is super-fun because I get to play with fantasy, but at the same time I think I play with fantasy differently than most comic book artists. I still play with it in the real world. One of the fun things for me is taking all of these Kirby designs and taking the crazy world of New Genesis and the crazy world of Apokolips and boiling it down to more *Game of Thrones*. All that stuff is still there and the motifs can still be there. But I'm bringing it down to a base level that everyone can understand, and it feels a bit more tactile and real.

***ISSUE #1** GOES ON SALE **AUG 9**!*

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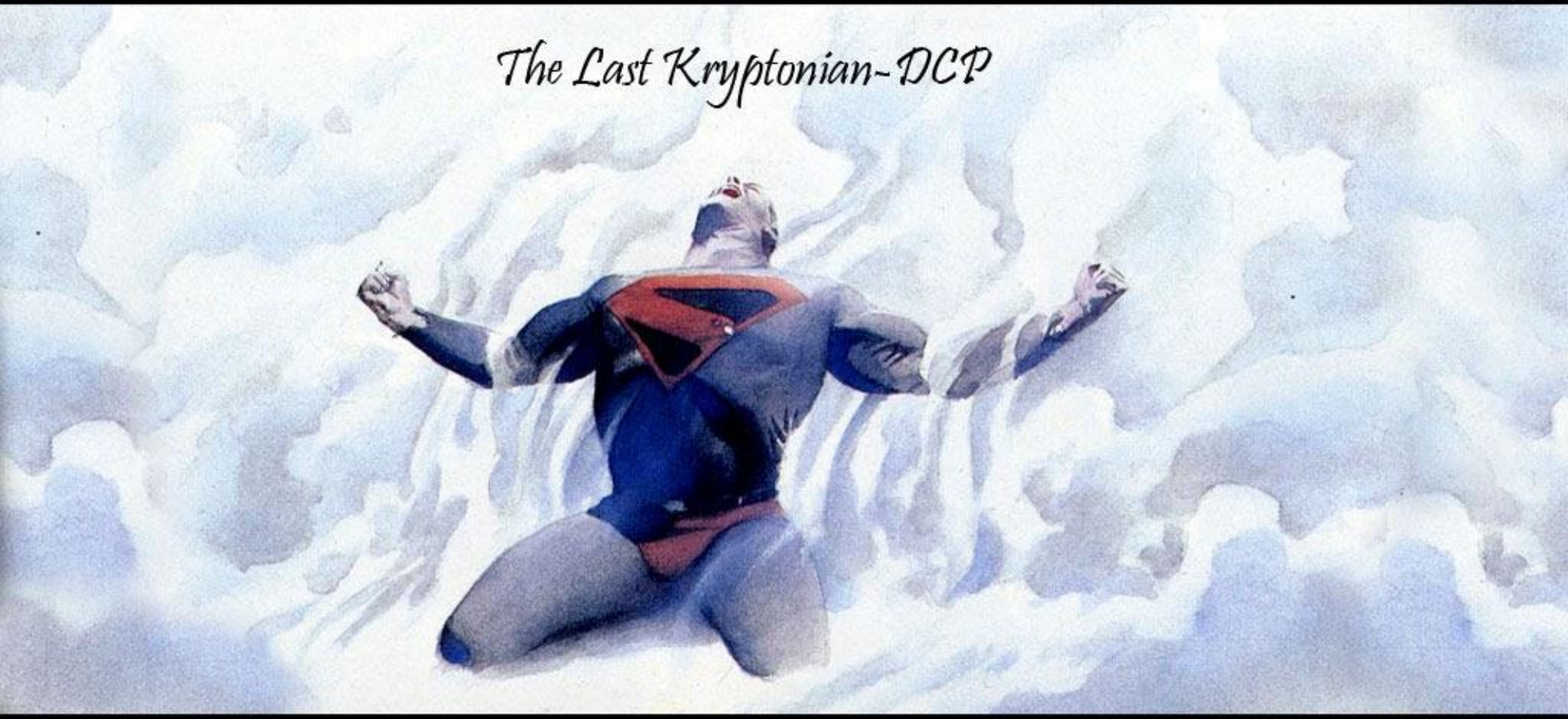
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