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WILLINGHAM
CAMUNCOLI
HOPE

WAR CRIMES

BATMAN





WILD CRIMES PART 4

JUDGMENT AT GOTHAM

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BATMAN
CREATED
BY

BOB
KANE

JOKER AND BLACK MASK
ARE DETERMINED TO KILL
EACH OTHER.

SAY
GOODNIGHT,
GRACIE.

AND I'M HONESTLY
TEMPTED TO LET THEM.

THINK I'M
BEATEN?
NEVER!

BUT, AS MUCH AS THAT
WOULD SOLVE SO MANY
PROBLEMS, I CAN'T.

I'M
BLACK
MASK!

DO YOU
IMAGINE I WOULD
EVER LET MYSELF
BE BEATEN BY SOME
DERANGED ESCAPEE
FROM THE NUT
HOUSE?

ENOUGH!

DESPITE SO MANY RUMORS TO THE CONTRARY, ANY NEED I HAVE FOR VENGEANCE IS MITIGATED BY MY SENSE OF DUTY.

AND ONE CAN'T EVER SET DUTY ASIDE, EVEN FOR AN OUTCOME THAT WOULD CLEARLY SERVE THE GREATER GOOD.

LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT, BUDDY, BUT I THINK I'VE LEFT THE OVEN ON AT HOME.

BATMAN!

NOT SO FAST, JOKER.

TOO BAD.

YOU, TOO, BLACK MASK. STICK AROUND.

I WANT TO HAVE A WORD WITH BOTH OF YOU.

STILL, DOING IT THIS WAY DOES HAVE ITS COMPENSATIONS.

MY FISTS FIT SO NICELY
INTO THEIR GUTS.

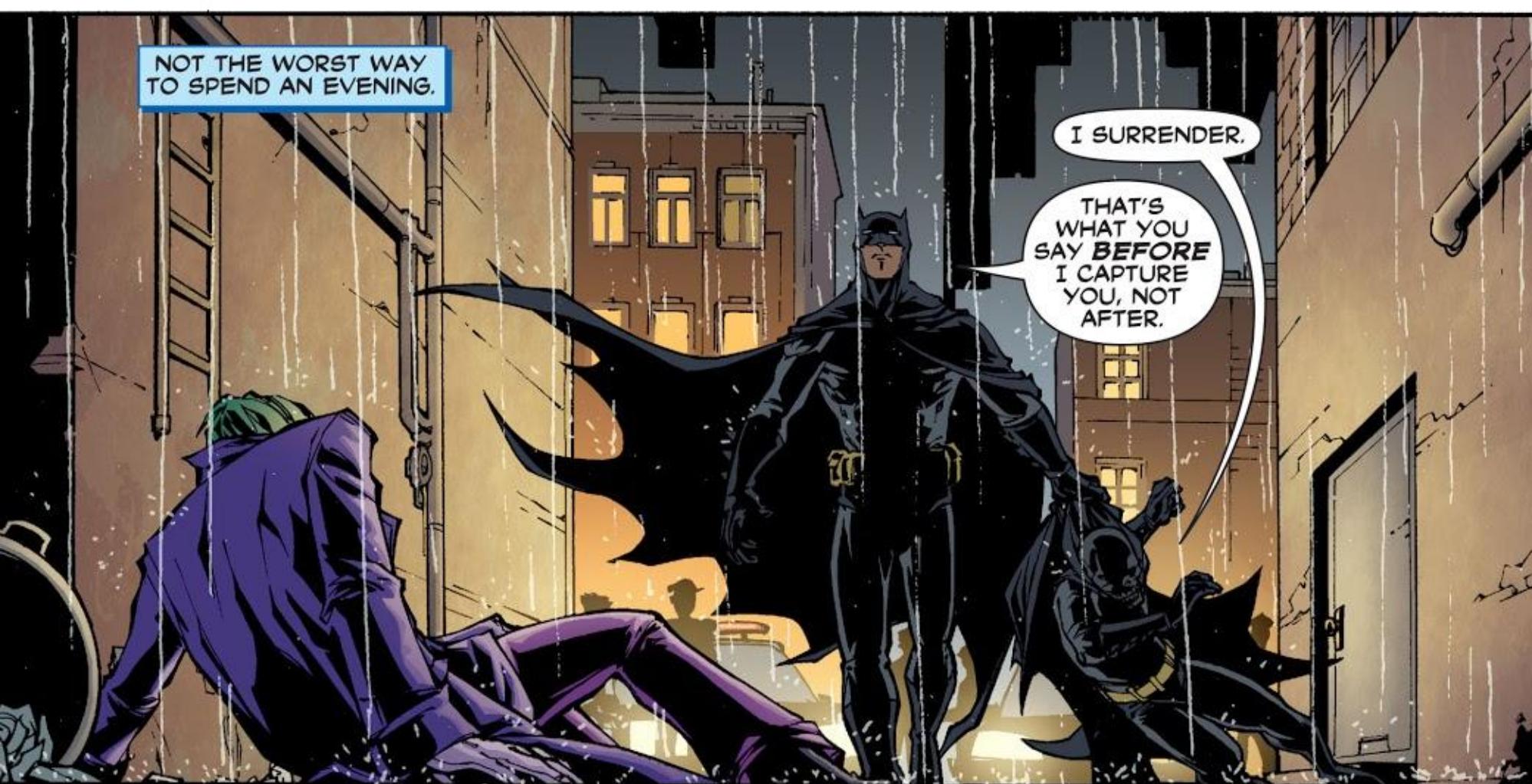
WOOF!

AND IMPACT MEAT AND
BONE WITH PERFECTLY
SATISFYING THUMPS.

THIS TIME THE ALLEY IS
BLOCKED ON EITHER END
BY THE ARRIVING POLICE.

WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING?

THIS TIME I DON'T
HAVE TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN CAPTURING
ONE AND LETTING THE
OTHER GET AWAY.



YOU
NEVER USED
TO LECTURE
THIS MUCH
IN THE OLD
DAYS.

YOU'VE GROWN
POSITIVELY
GABBY IN YOUR
DOTAGE.

AND YOU
SHOULD'VE
SEARCHED
ME.

DON'T
YOU KNOW
I ALWAYS
HAVE MORE
GUNS?

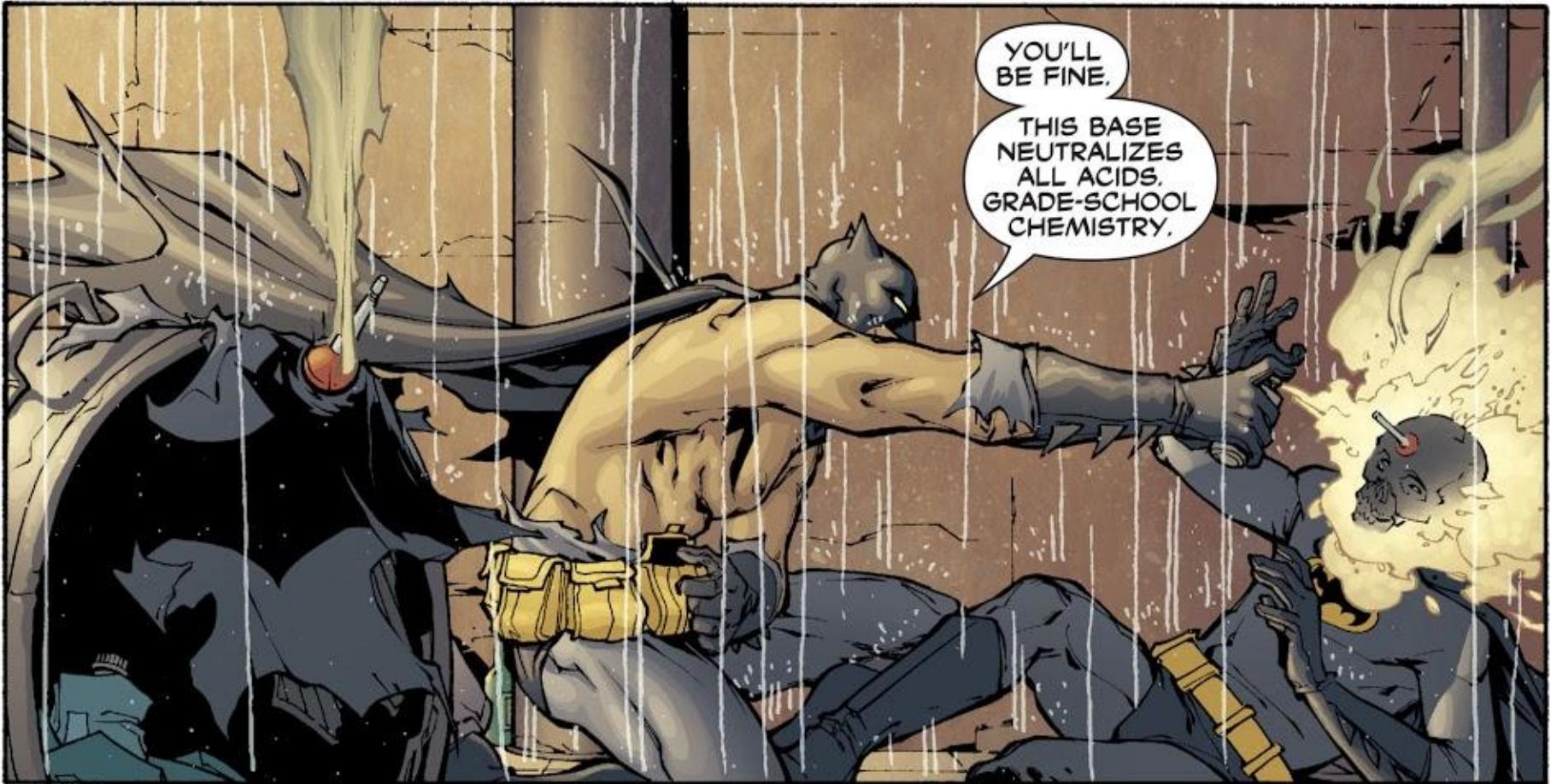
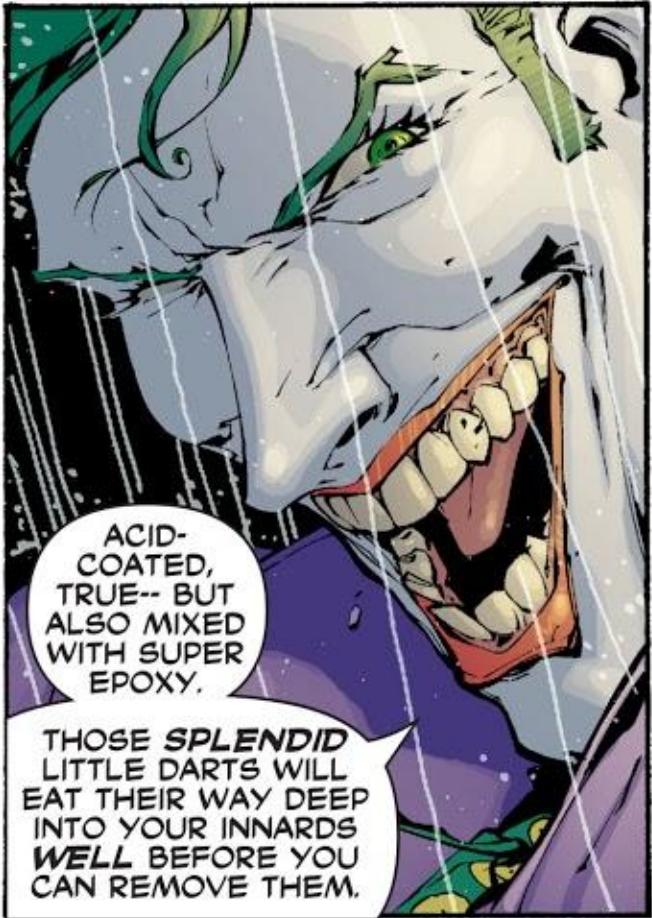
BUT
THEY'RE
TOYS!

BATMAN, KILL
THIS BRAIN-DEAD
IMBECILE! STOMP
HIS PASTY-WHITE
FACE IN!

SHUT UP,
MASK.







NONE
AT ALL.
SWEET
DREAMS.



DAYS PASS.

WELCOME BACK, GOTHAM.
RETURNING TO OUR BIG STORY--SEVERAL HIGH-PROFILE INDICTMENTS WERE HANDED DOWN FROM THE GRAND JURY TODAY.

HELLO,
I'M
WINONA CHEN.

AND I'M DANNY FOX.
TOPPING THE LIST:
THE JOKER--REAL NAME UNKNOWN--
INDICTED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, WINONA? WILL HIS **DREAM-TEAM** OF ATTORNEYS GET HIM OFF ON "DIMINISHED CAPACITY" AGAIN?

THEY ALWAYS HAVE IN THE PAST, DANNY.
LET'S RUN THE TAPE.

I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL MY FANS.
YOU WONDERFUL KIDS KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE.

MR. JOKER!
OVER HERE! ANY COMMENTS?

AND A SPECIAL SHOUT-OUT FOR MY SPIRITUAL BROTHER AND BUSINESS PARTNER, BATMAN.

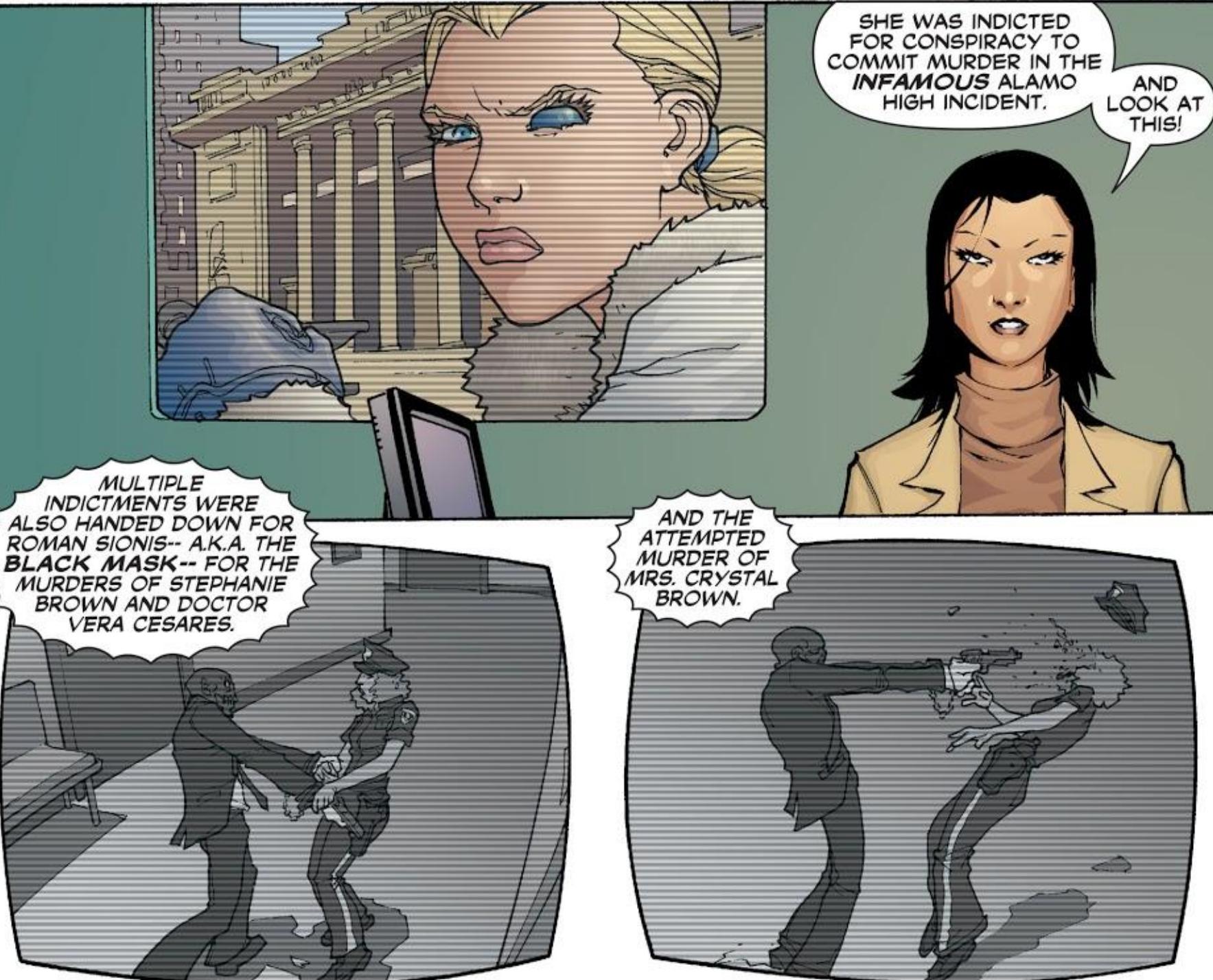
NO HARD FEELINGS, BRO. YOU ALWAYS KNOW BEST.
I LEFT THE ARKHAM RESORT MUCH TOO SOON. YOU FIGURED THAT OUT WHEN I COULDN'T.

NEXT TIME
I'LL BE FULLY
RESTED BEFORE
I ESCAPE FOR
MY NEXT
PERFORMANCE
TOUR.

AND OF COURSE
I APOLOGIZE TO
EVERYONE FOR THE
LOW BODY-COUNT
THIS TIME. I PROMISE
IT WON'T HAPPEN
AGAIN.

WOW, THAT
DUDE IS COLD.
BRRRRRRRRR.
WHAT'S NEXT,
WINONA?

REPUTED
ODESSA MOB
BOSS, ALEXANDRA
KOSOV, ALSO
TOOK THE PERP-
WALK TODAY.





BUT BLACK MASK IS NO LONGER IN CUSTODY-- YOU'LL RECALL-- AFTER ESCAPING LAST WEEK, DURING HIS OWN ARRAIGNMENT.



BUT THE SURPRISE OF THE DAY HAS TO BE LOCAL GOTHAM CELEB ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, WHO WAS INDICTED TODAY FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER.



THE CHARGES CAME AFTER THE ANONYMOUS DELIVERY OF A PREVIOUSLY UNAIRED TAPE TO THIS STATION.

PLEASE, BLACK MASK, DON'T KILL ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING! I'LL WORK FOR YOU ON THE INSIDE! I'LL FEED YOU ALL THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION YOU WANT!



THAT WAS FOOTAGE FROM LAST SUMMER'S INFAMOUS CLOCK TOWER INCIDENT, WASN'T IT, WINONA?

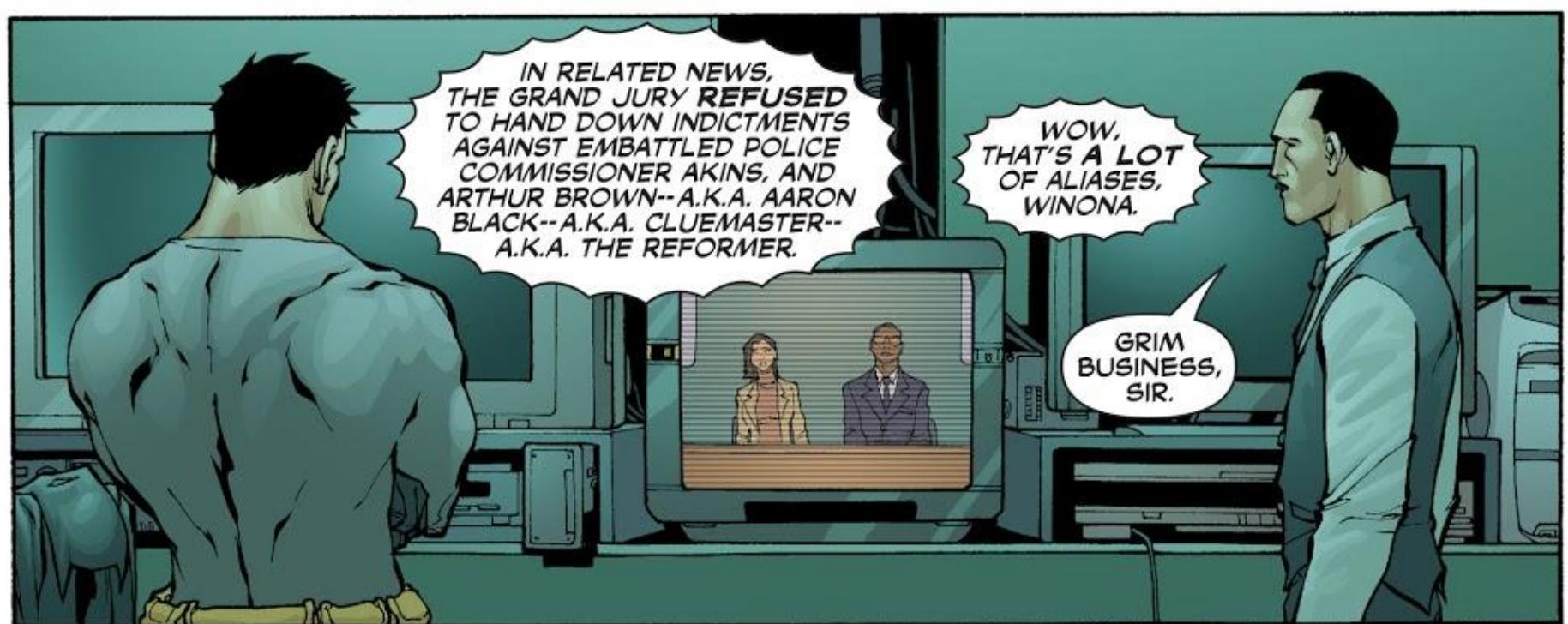
IT SURE WAS, DANNY. AND THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS IN POSSESSION OF A RECORDED PHONE CALL BETWEEN RODRIGUEZ AND BLACK MASK...



IN RELATED NEWS, THE GRAND JURY REFUSED TO HAND DOWN INDICTMENTS AGAINST EMBATTLED POLICE COMMISSIONER AKINS, AND ARTHUR BROWN--A.K.A. AARON BLACK--A.K.A. CLUEMASTER--A.K.A. THE REFORMER.

WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF ALIASES, WINONA.

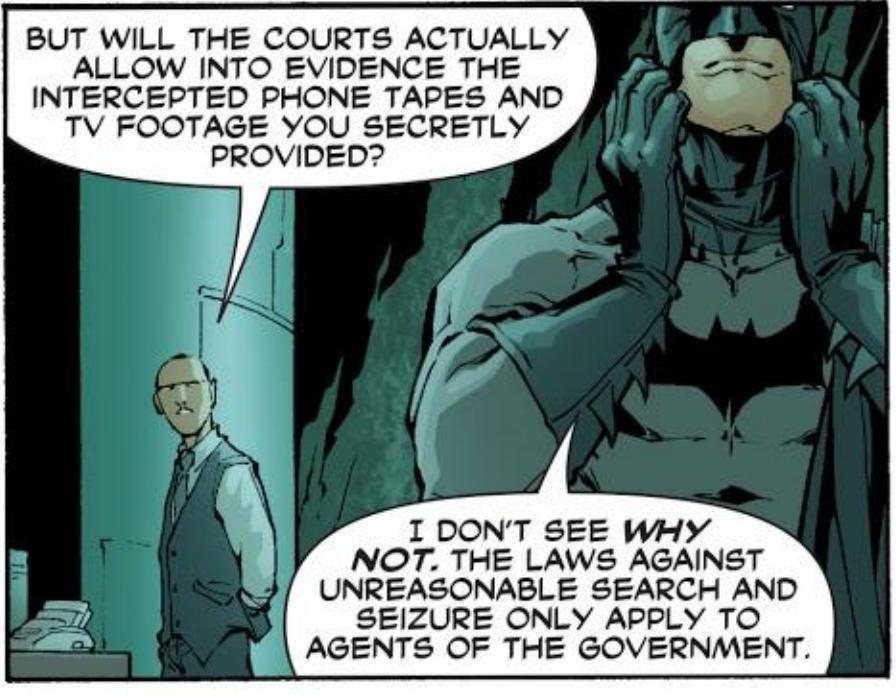
GRIM BUSINESS, SIR.



BUT IT'S GOOD TO FINALLY GET THE GANG WAR MATTERS BEHIND US.

THERE ARE STILL THE TRIALS TO GET THROUGH, ALFRED.









SIX HOURS LATER I'M DEEP INSIDE AFRICA. I'VE CHASED THE RISING SUN, WHICH LEAVES ME ONLY A FEW HOURS OF DARKNESS LEFT.

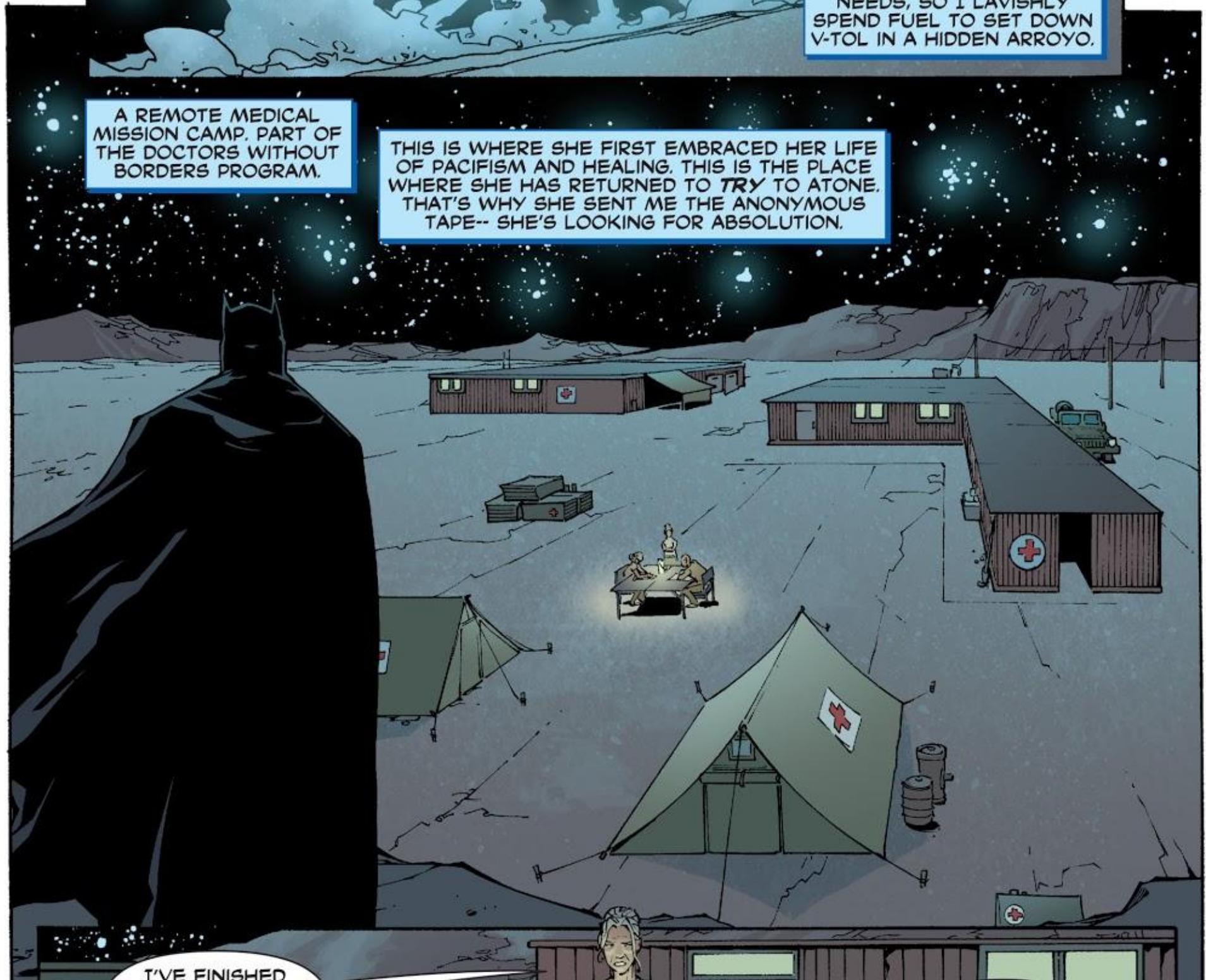
I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST.



A REMOTE MEDICAL MISSION CAMP. PART OF THE DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAM.

THIS IS WHERE SHE FIRST EMBRACED HER LIFE OF PACIFISM AND HEALING. THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE SHE HAS RETURNED TO TRY TO ATONE. THAT'S WHY SHE SENT ME THE ANONYMOUS TAPE-- SHE'S LOOKING FOR ABSOLUTION.

THE FEW AIRSTRIPS HERE ARE TOO PUBLIC FOR MY NEEDS, SO I LAVISHLY SPEND FUEL TO SET DOWN V-TOL IN A HIDDEN ARROYO.



I'VE FINISHED THE INVENTORY OF THE NEW SUPPLIES, DOCTOR. WHAT'S NEXT?

NEXT IS YOU GET SOME SLEEP, LESLIE. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.



WHAT'S HER STORY? SHE HAS TO BE TWICE AS OLD AS ANY OTHER VOLUNTEER BUT DOES TWICE THE WORK.

I DON'T KNOW. LESLIE JUST SHOWED UP LAST MONTH AND VOLUNTEERED FOR GRUNT WORK.

YOU PURPOSELY WITHHELD TREATMENT FROM STEPHANIE. YOU LET HER DIE. WHY?

IT'S ODD. SHE RESEMBLES A DOCTOR WHO USED TO WORK HERE, YEARS AGO, AND I THINK SHE HAS MORE MEDICAL TRAINING THAN SHE LETS ON.

ALL AMERICANS LOOK THE SAME TO YOU, NURSE. LET IT GO.

LESLIE THOMPKINS-- YOU HAVE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.

BRUCE.
SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP. GOOD. NOW WE CAN FINISH THIS.

I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO CLAIM IT WAS A LEGITIMATE TRIAGE DECISION-- ALLOCATION OF TIME AND RESOURCES UNDER EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.

BUT WE BOTH KNOW BETTER, BRUCE. TRUTH IS I WANTED TO END IT ALL-- ALL THE SECRET WARRIORS IN HOODS AND CAPES. THE ENDLESS VIOLENCE.

I COULD NO LONGER BE A PARTY TO SUCH MADNESS. BEST TO SACRIFICE ONE TO CAUTION OTHERS FROM PUTTING ON THOSE STUPID MASKS.

WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE THAT? SHE HAD A FULL LIFE AHEAD OF HER.

A LIFE OF CONTINUING TO BE THE CREATURE YOU AND YOUR KIND TURNED HER INTO.

NO, DON'T ARGUE WITH ME, BRUCE. I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE AND WHAT I'VE BECOME.

WE'RE BOTH MONSTERS NOW. I WATCHED YOU SPEND A LIFETIME MAKING YOURSELF INTO ONE, BUT I GUESS I HAD TO OUTDO YOU.

I MANAGED TO DO IT IN ONE HORRIBLE MOMENT THAT ERASED EVERYTHING I'VE EVER STOOD FOR.

I'M READY TO END THIS NOW. I'VE BURNED MY MEDICAL LICENSE AND GIVEN MY FORTUNE AWAY-- SET UP A TRUST FUND FOR STEPHANIE'S DAUGHTER.

BUT I'M TOO COWARDLY TO TAKE THE LAST STEP. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HERE FOR, BRUCE.

YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

YES, I DO.

BUT I DON'T KILL-- WHICH IS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, ONE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US.

AND I DON'T MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS WITH MURDERERS.

DO YOU IMAGINE GIVING MONEY TO STEPHANIE'S DAUGHTER MAKES UP FOR EVEN A FRACTION OF YOUR CRIME?



WHAT CHILD
WOULDN'T PASS UP
A FORTUNE TO
HAVE HIS PARENTS
BACK?



I JUST
WANTED TO
DO SOMETHING--
ANYTHING--
TO END THE
MADNESS.

AND IN SO
DOING UNLEASHED
A CYCLE OF EVENTS
THAT RESULTED IN A
NUMBER OF MURDERS.
IT DIDN'T END WITH
STEPHANIE.



IT NEVER
ENDS,
BRUCE!

AND THAT'S
WHY I KEEP
FIGHTING.

BUT I'VE
NEVER TAKEN
IT UPON MYSELF
TO DECIDE WHO
LIVES AND
WHO DIES.



I NEVER THREW
ANOTHER CORPSE ON
THE PILE, THINKING, "**THIS**
WILL SHOW THEM ALL! THIS
WILL BRING EVERYONE
TO THEIR SENSES!"

THAT'S A SICK
IDEA FROM AN
EVIL MIND.

