



UNIVERSE

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# BATMAN



TYNION IV  
MARCH  
MOREY

TON  
Fair  
2019

WHO HAS  
**BLOODY DESIGNS ON THE DARK KNIGHT?**

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YOU KNOW,  
OSWALD... I'VE  
BEEN TAKING IT  
ALL IN.

WATCHING THIS  
CITY FROM EVERY ANGLE.  
LISTENING THROUGH EVERY  
MICROPHONE. OBSERVING  
THROUGH EVERY  
CAMERA.

GOTHAM IS  
AN EQUATION, AND I  
HAVE SET MY MAGNIFICENT  
MIND TO SOLVING IT. IN  
SOLVING IT I SEEK TO  
SOLVE MYSELF.

A RIDDLE  
WITH NO SOLUTION.  
A RIDDLE BEFITTING  
A RIDDLER!

I HAVEN'T  
SLEPT IN THREE MONTHS. I'M  
STARTING TO FORGET THE SENSATION.  
MILITARY-GRADE MIND-ENHANCING  
AMPHETAMINES WILL DO THAT, I  
SUPPOSE. I'VE BEEN ALTERING  
THE FORMULA...

EDWARD...



DC COMICS  
proudly  
presents

# P THEIR DARK DESIGNS PART 2

THIS DEVIL  
WILL FIND  
**NOTHING** OF THE  
PENGUIN'S WORTH  
TAKING.



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CLOSE UP  
SHOP, EDWARD.  
USE ONE OF THE  
FEW DOZEN ALIASES  
YOU HAVE AT YOUR  
DISPOSAL. DISAPPEAR  
INTO A BORING,  
NORMAL LIFE.  
SOMEWHERE  
WARM.

I TRIED  
AND I COULDN'T,  
OSWALD.\*

WHAT ARE  
YOU GOING  
TO DO?

I WILL NOT  
SEE MY EMPIRE TORN  
DOWN BY AN OUTSIDER.  
I AM DOING THE SMART  
THING. I AM CLEANING  
HOUSE. I'VE JUST  
ELIMINATED MY  
INNER CIRCLE.

SO  
WAR,  
THEN.

\*RIDDLE THOUGHT HE COULD LEAVE  
CRIME BEHIND IN YEAR OF THE  
VILLAIN: THE RIDDLE #1! --BEN

I HAVE BEEN  
FILLING THE  
GUTTERS OF  
THIS CITY WITH  
BLOOD SINCE  
I WAS JUST  
A CHICK.

THEY UNDERESTIMATE  
THE FAT, SHORT MAN WITH  
THE RIDICULOUS CLOTHES  
AND THE BIRD FIXATION.  
BUT EVEN BATMAN HASN'T  
BEEN ABLE TO KEEP ME  
BEHIND BARS.

WE MADE A  
DEAL, OSWALD.  
**THE DESIGNER IS**  
COMING TO  
COLLECT.

HE  
CAN  
TRY.

ONE  
POLICE  
PLAZA.  
OLD GOTHAM.

OH,  
FOR THE  
LOVE OF GOD.  
STOP COWERING  
AND JUST DO  
SOMETHING  
ALREADY.

SIR...  
WHAT'S YOUR  
CALL?

BOOK  
THEM.

YES,  
COMMISSIONER  
BULLOCK.

CATWOMAN,  
ARE YOU STILL WITH  
THE BODY?

IF ONLY  
YOU HAD SOME  
**HORRIBLE BAT-THING**  
I COULD TRANSMIT THIS  
SMELL THROUGH. I DON'T  
THINK YOU'D NEED  
TO ASK THE  
QUESTION.

WHAT  
MAKES YOU  
THINK I DON'T  
HAVE THAT  
DEVICE?

THAT'S  
ONE YOU  
CAN KEEP  
TO YOURSELF,  
DARLING. I'M  
NEARLY DONE.

IT'S  
STRANGE. YOU'D  
THINK SOMEONE  
LOOKING TO REPLACE  
YOUR BLUEPRINTS FOR THE  
WAYNE REBUILD PROJECT  
WOULD HAVE CHOSEN  
A BUILDING THAT  
WASN'T ALREADY  
FINISHED.

WHICH?

THIS  
ONE. THE  
TRICORNER  
YARDS  
CAMPUS.

HH. FEED IT  
INTO THE BAT-COMPUTER.  
I'LL HAVE LUCIUS RUN A  
COMPARISON. THERE WILL BE  
MESSAGES BETWEEN THE  
TWO DESIGNS.

YOU DID  
SAY YOU WANTED  
TO HEAR COMPETING  
VISIONS FOR  
THE CITY.

NOT  
EXACTLY  
WHAT I HAD  
IN MIND.

FIVE  
ASSASSINS.  
AND A PLAY  
FOR WAYNE  
REBUILD.

YES?

YOU'VE BEEN  
ON THIS CASE  
FOR A WEEK. DO YOU  
HAVE A SENSE OF WHO'S  
MOVING AGAINST YOU?  
WHAT THEY'RE  
PLANNING?

SELINA.  
WHAT'S WRONG?  
WHY ARE YOU  
NERVOUS?

WHAT, ARE  
YOU READING MY  
PULSE RIGHT NOW,  
TOO? THAT AND  
THE SMELL?

NO.  
I KNOW YOU.  
THERE'S SOMETHING  
YOU'RE NOT  
SAYING.

WATCHING SOMEBODY'S  
HEAD COOKED FROM  
THE INSIDE OUT ISN'T  
EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN  
MIND THIS EVENING.  
THAT'S ALL.

KEEP YOUR HEAD  
IN THE GAME,  
BATMAN.

THERE ARE  
DANGEROUS PEOPLE  
AFOOT IN THE CITY,  
AND THERE'S WORK TO  
DO. YOU GET ON WITH  
IT. I'LL HANDLE  
THE BODY.

SOMEONE ELSE  
HAS DESIGNS ON  
THIS CITY, AND THEY'VE  
MADE THEIR FIRST  
MOVE.

THAT  
WON'T GO  
UNNOTICED.

I HATE  
THIS COSTUMED  
CRAP.

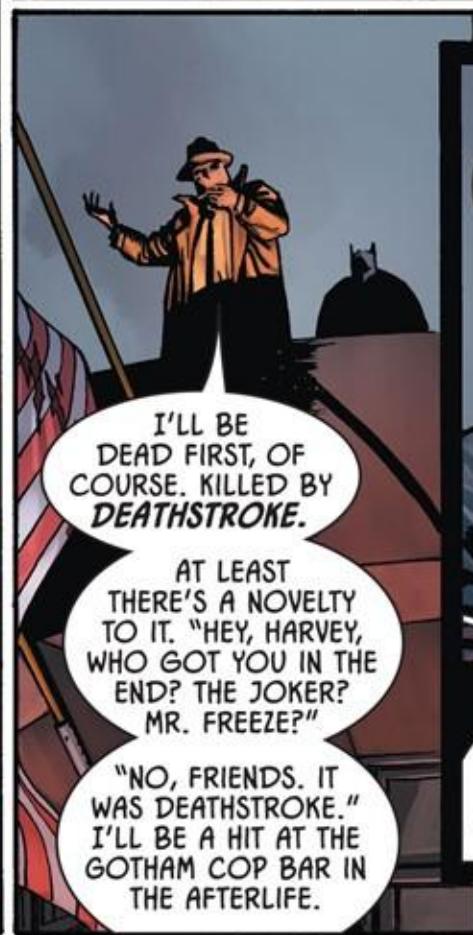
I  
KNOW.

YEAH? THEN  
KEEP THEM IN YOUR  
#%@# HOUSE. OR  
CAVE. OR VAMPIRE COVEN  
OR WHEREVER THE HELL YOU  
HANG UPSIDE DOWN  
DURING THE  
DAYTIME.

COMMISSIONER  
BULLOCK.



I'M A SEAT-WARMER. WE BOTH KNOW IT. BRUCE WAYNE ISN'T GOING TO BUILD A BIG FANCY NEW GCPD HEADQUARTERS AND GIVE IT TO ME. DUNCH IS ALREADY PUTTING OUT FEELERS.



## THE BLACK BLOCK.

WHEN THE WAYNE REBUILD COMMITTEE OFFERED THE CITY A NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS, FREE OF CHARGE, THIS WAS THE GOAL, FIRST AND FOREMOST.

NINE SECURE HOLDING CELLS FOR THE TRULY DANGEROUS. CELLS THAT COULD HOLD BANE, OR RA'S AL GHUL, OR THE JOKER. THE SORTS OF PLAYERS I NO LONGER TRUST TO ARKHAM.

THE BLOCK IS ENCASED IN TEN FEET OF CONCRETE, LINED WITH REINFORCED STEEL, AND OUTFITTED WITH EVERY SENSOR LUCIUS AND I COULD THINK OF WHEN WE DESIGNED IT.

THEY ARE CELLS FOR ESCAPE RISKS. TO BUILD IT, I HAD TO IMAGINE A CAGE THAT COULD HOLD ME. HOLD THE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO KEEP THE BLOCK ON CONSTANT WATCH. THERE IS ONLY ONE ENTRYWAY. THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO OPEN IT.

ONE REQUIRES TWO OFFICERS TURNING DNA ENCRYPTED KEYS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE OTHER IS A SECRET, ONLY KNOWN TO LUCIUS AND MYSELF.

SLADE.

BATMAN.

LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. I DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR TIME.

I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU WHO HIRED ME. THE OTHERS DON'T KNOW, SO DON'T BOTHER ASKING THEM. OR DO. I DON'T CARE.

THIS CAGE IS A CUTE TOUCH. IT WON'T MATTER, BUT IT PRESENTS A CHALLENGE. THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT GOTHAM. NEVER EASY HERE.

I'M NOT A GAMESMAN LIKE MOST OF THE COSTUMED SET. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE METAPHORS AND ALL OF THAT.

BUT I LIKED WHAT MY EMPLOYER WAS WILLING TO TELL ME ABOUT THEIR PLAN. AND I LIKED WHAT THEY WERE WILLING TO PAY ME.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN'T DISMANTLE YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY'RE PAYING ME CASH?

CLOCK'S TICKING, BATMAN.

I NEED TO MAKE MY FIRST KILL BEFORE DAYBREAK, AND FIRST I NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS RIDICULOUS PRISON OF YOURS.

WISH ME LUCK.



YOU DON'T GET TO LEAVE AN OLD MAN ON A ROOF TALKING TO HIMSELF AND THEN COME INTO HIS HOUSE BARKING ORDERS.

ANYWAYS, THAT'S A STUPID IDEA. CHESHIRE'S NAILS, HER HAIR, HER CLOTHES, HER DAMN PERFUME...IT'S ALL POISON. THE READINGS ON THESE WAYNETECH SCANNERS WERE OFF THE CHARTS.

SHE'S IN FULL QUARANTINE UNTIL WE CAN GET A TOXICOLOGIST.



THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE COUNTING ON.

DO IT.



CLAY... THEY'RE USING CLAY.  
SHE'S NOT A PERSON. SHE'S A BODY DOUBLE.

PUT OUT AN ALL-POINTS BULLETIN FOR JADE NGUYEN. THE ASSASSIN KNOWN AS CHESHIRE. THERE ARE GOING TO BE BODIES TONIGHT IF WE DON'T ACT FAST.



LUCIUS.

I'M GOING  
TO NEED TO GET  
USED TO THESE LATE  
NIGHT CALLS,  
AREN'T I, MR.  
WAYNE?

YES. I'M  
SORRY. UNTIL  
I FIND A  
SUITABLE--

OH, I'M  
JUST TRYING TO  
MAKE YOU FEEL  
GUILTY. I'VE BEEN WATCHING  
**EVERYTHING** GO DOWN  
FROM MY REMOTE COMPUTERS  
AT HOME. JUST POURED  
MYSELF A NICE SHOT  
OF ESPRESSO.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
HAVE?

EACH OF  
THE CRANES WE'RE  
USING FOR THE WAYNE  
REBUILD IS OUTFITTED WITH  
STATE-OF-THE-ART CAMERAS.  
I HAVE HIGH-RESOLUTION  
FOOTAGE 360 DEGREES  
FROM THE MAST OF  
EACH CRANE.

I'M PULLING  
UP FOOTAGE FROM  
THE BUILDING WHERE  
YOU APPREHENDED THE  
ASSASSINS EARLIER  
TONIGHT.

AND THERE  
SHE IS. CHESHIRE  
MADE HER WAY OUT  
AFTER THE **NIGHT-**  
**CLIMBER** TOOK  
FLIGHT.

GIVE ME  
HER CURRENT  
TRAJECTORY. YOU  
CAN PATCH IT  
DIRECTLY INTO  
THE SUIT.

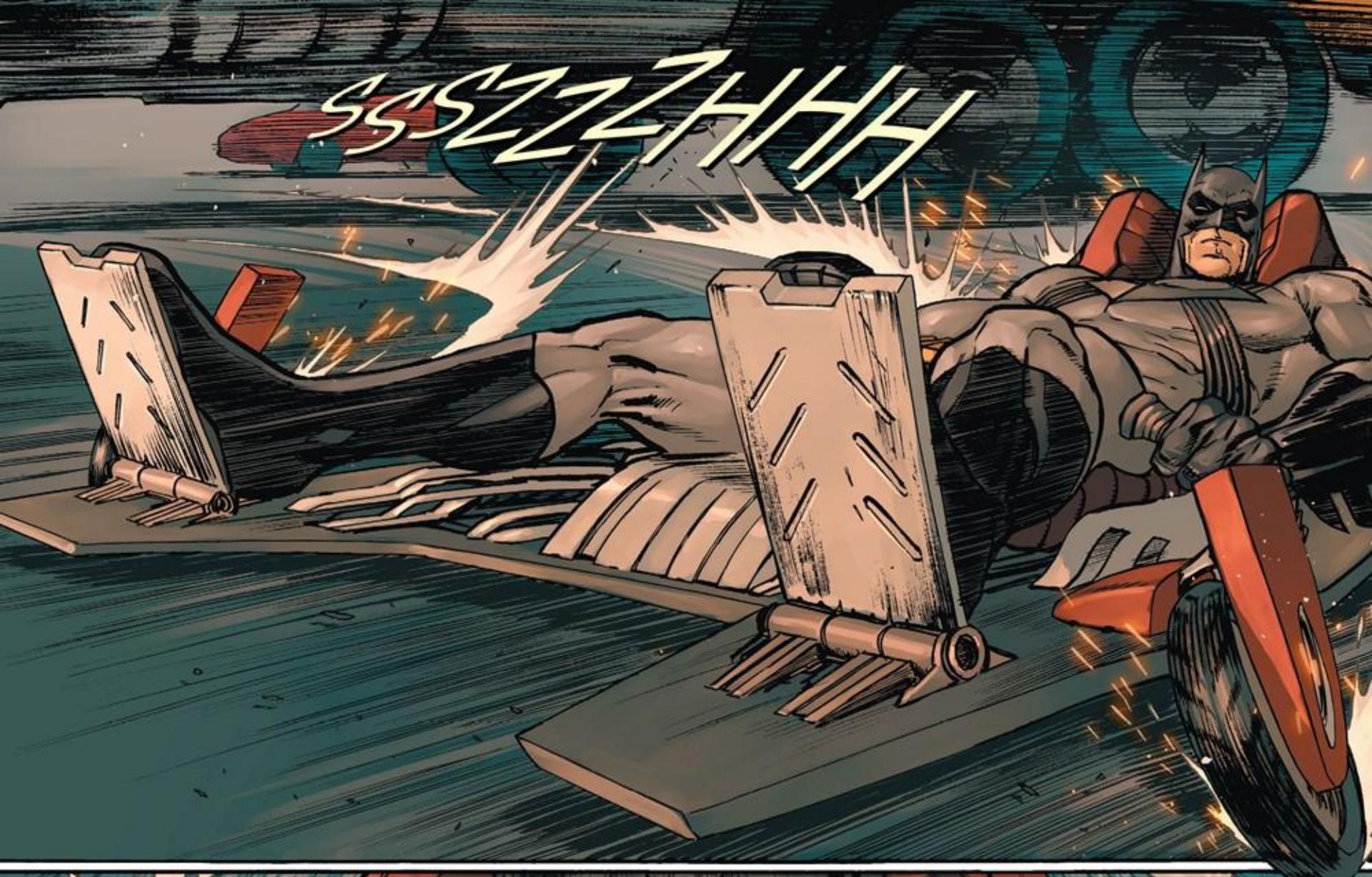
IF I MAY...  
SHE'S MOVING  
THROUGH MIDTOWN.  
THE BUILDINGS ARE  
TOO DENSE THERE TO  
GET TOO CLOSE  
TO HER...

I THINK  
IT'S TIME TO  
TRY A SLIGHTLY  
DIFFERENT  
APPROACH.

THE BAT-  
SHOT.

TO BE  
BLUNT, I WANT  
TO SEE IF IT WORKS.  
LET'S LIVE A LITTLE  
DANGEROUSLY,  
SHALL WE, MR.  
WAYNE?





NORMALLY I  
DON'T DO THIS  
KIND OF WORK  
FOR FREE...



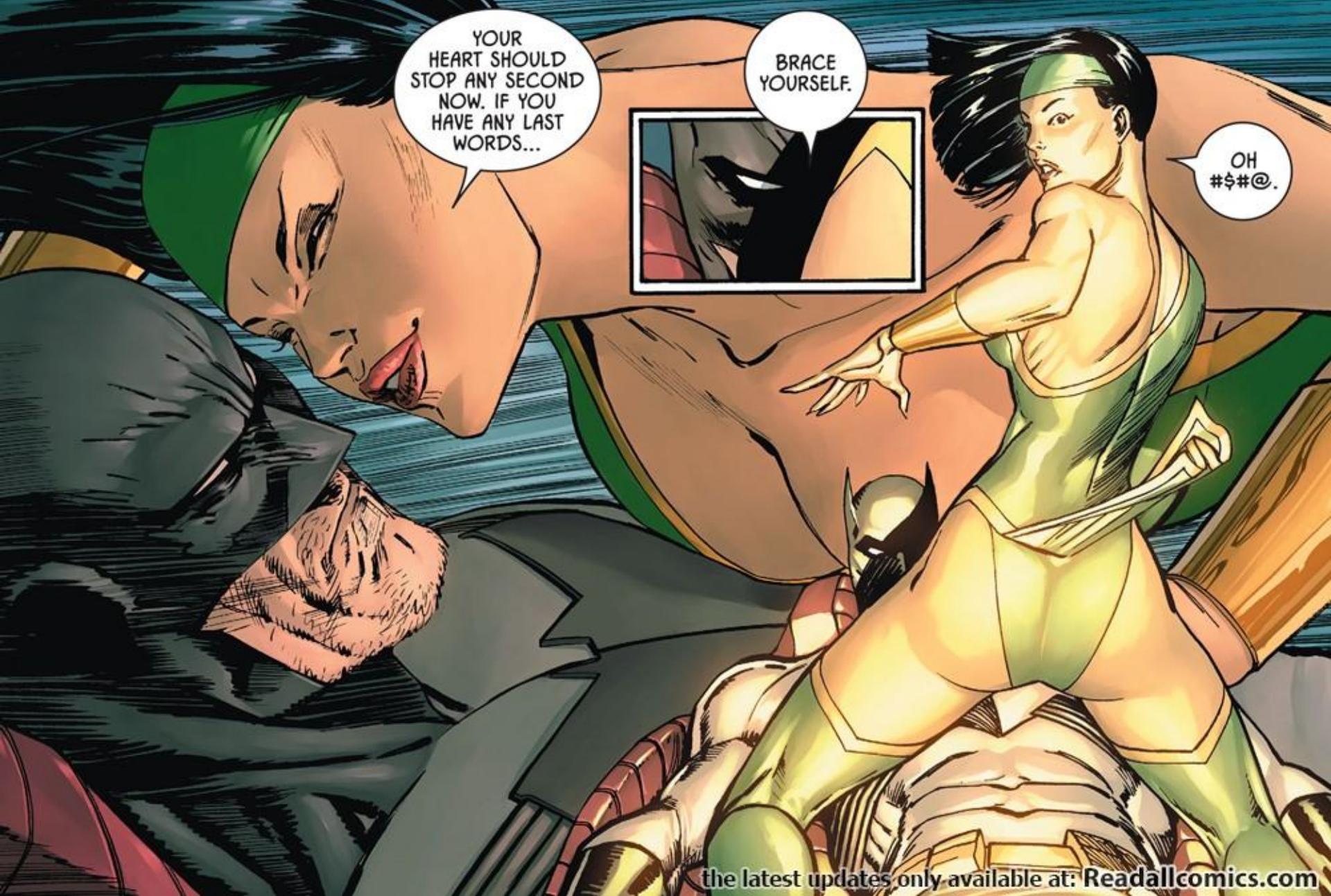
...BUT JUST  
THINK OF WHAT  
I'LL BE ABLE TO  
DO TO MY RATES  
IF I KILL  
BATMAN.

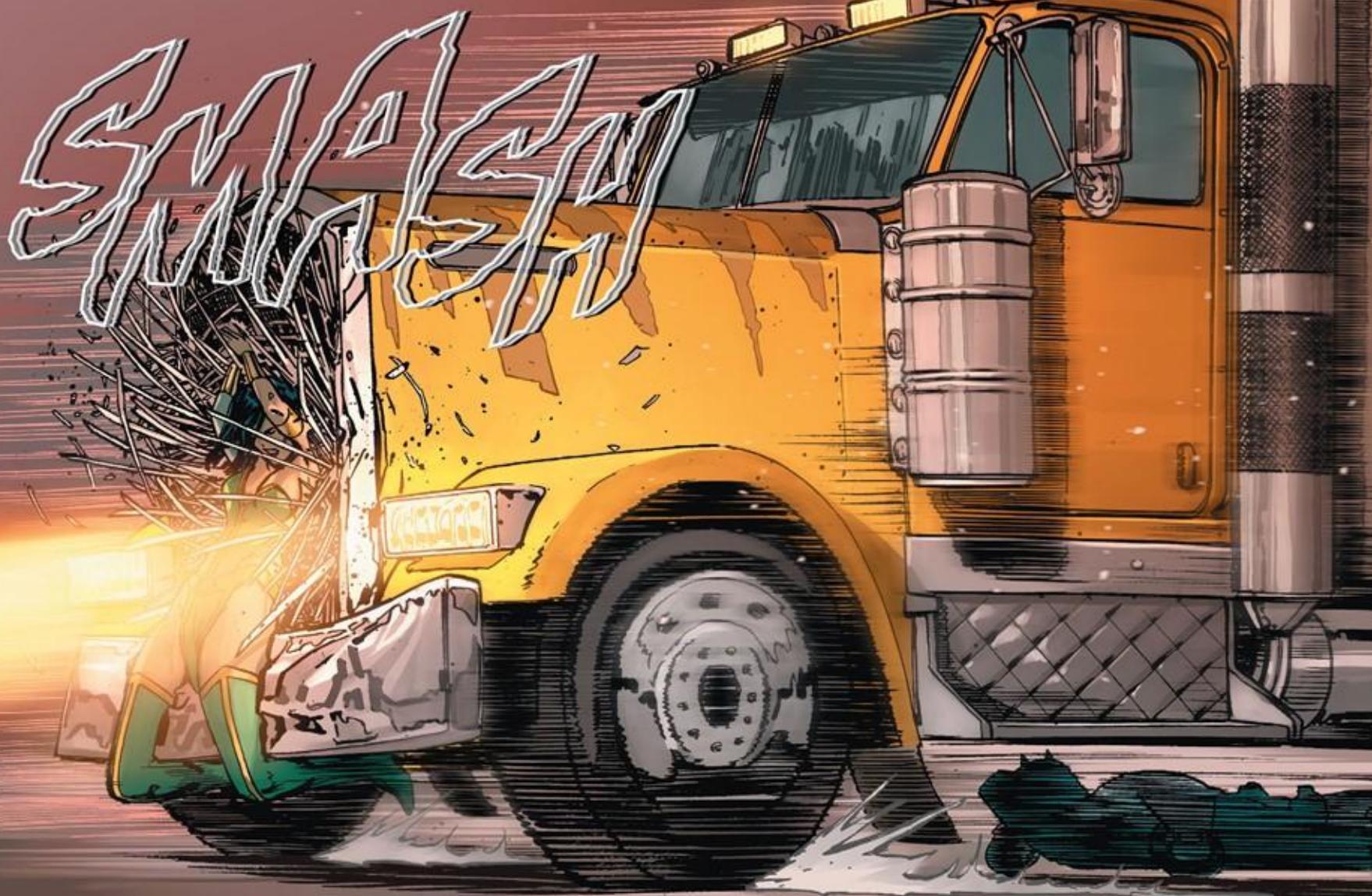
ZZRRKK

YOUR  
HEART SHOULD  
STOP ANY SECOND  
NOW. IF YOU  
HAVE ANY LAST  
WORDS...

BRACE  
YOURSELF.

OH  
#\$#@.









...BUT I'M  
AFRAID THAT  
GIVES *ME* THE  
ADVANTAGE.

NEXT: DIGGING INTO THE PAST!

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