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BATMAN

ANNUAL

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AA
AUTHORITY



GRAYSON • GUILLET • CAMPANELLA



BOUGH

BREAKS

DEVIN GRAYSON - WRITER
YVEL GUICHET - PENCILLER
ROBERT CAMPANELLA - INKER
JAMES SINCLAIR - COLORIST
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
DARREN VINCENZO - ASSOCIATE EDITOR
SCOTT PETERSON - EDITOR



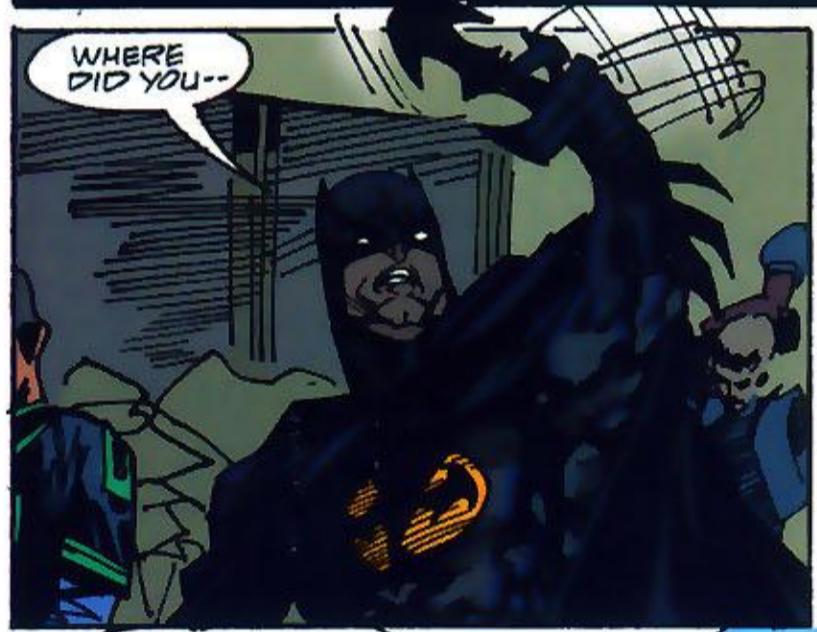




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COMMISSIONER.

WONDERED
IF YOU MIGHT
STOP BY.

ANY ODD ACCUSATIONS COME
THROUGH TONIGHT? STRAY BATARANGS?
BATMAN SIGHTINGS?

NO PHYSICAL
EVIDENCE, BUT I
WROTE UP A
REPORT THAT
MIGHT
INTEREST YOU.

HELP ANY?

YES, IT COULD BE
RELATED. I'LL LOOK
INTO IT, THANKS.

WE'RE NOT ABOUT TO HAVE
ANOTHER BATTLE OF THE
BATMEN, ARE--

Hm. CAN'T
BLAME A MAN
FOR TRYING.

ROBIN, GET
AZRAEL ON
SCREEN.

OH, MEY, HI.
10-4. STAND BY.

OEE!

GOT HIM.

DO YOU HAVE VISUAL
CONTACT AND A VOICE ID
MATCH CONFIRMING THAT
IT'S JEAN PAUL?

YEAH.

TRANSMIT.

AZRAEL...

CAN I BE
OF SERVICE,
BATMAN?

CAN YOU
ACCOUNT FOR
YOUR ACTIVITIES
AND WHEREABOUTS
OVER THE PAST
FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS?

CERTAINLY, IF IT
WOULD HELP. IS
THERE A--

WHAT ABOUT YOUR OLD
ARSENAL? THE EQUIPMENT
YOU USED WHEN YOU
SUBSTITUTED FOR
ME AS BATMAN?

WELL, ASIDE FROM THE
CUSTOMIZED ARMOR--WHICH
YOU QUITE RIGHTLY WOULDN'T
LET ME KEEP AFTER ALL
THE MISTAKES I MADE
TRYING TO FILL IN FOR
YOU--

--I HAVEN'T LOST
ANYTHING, IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU'RE--

MM. THANK
YOU FOR YOUR
TIME.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
HE--

NOT A
CLUE.



... AND WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS, THE CRADLE WILL FALL...

... AND YOUR BABY GOES TO HELL, WHILE I LEARN TO CRAWL!

HA HA HA HA HA

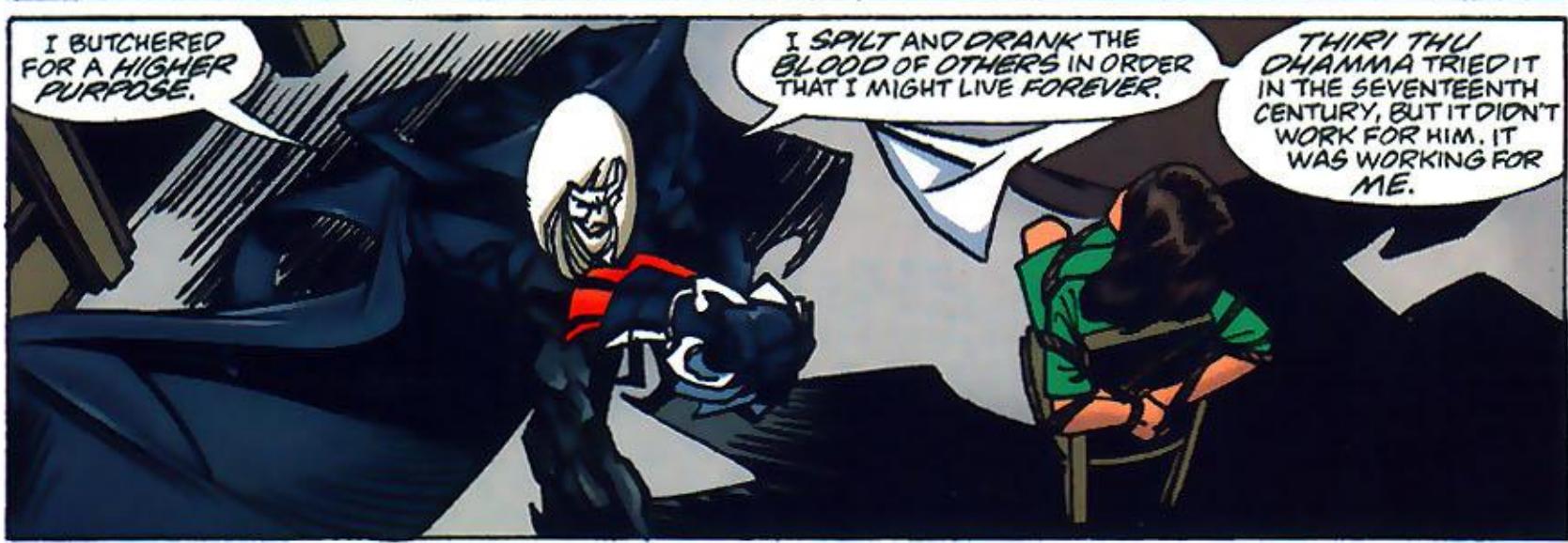
LUH-LUH-LEAVE ME ALONE! DEMON!

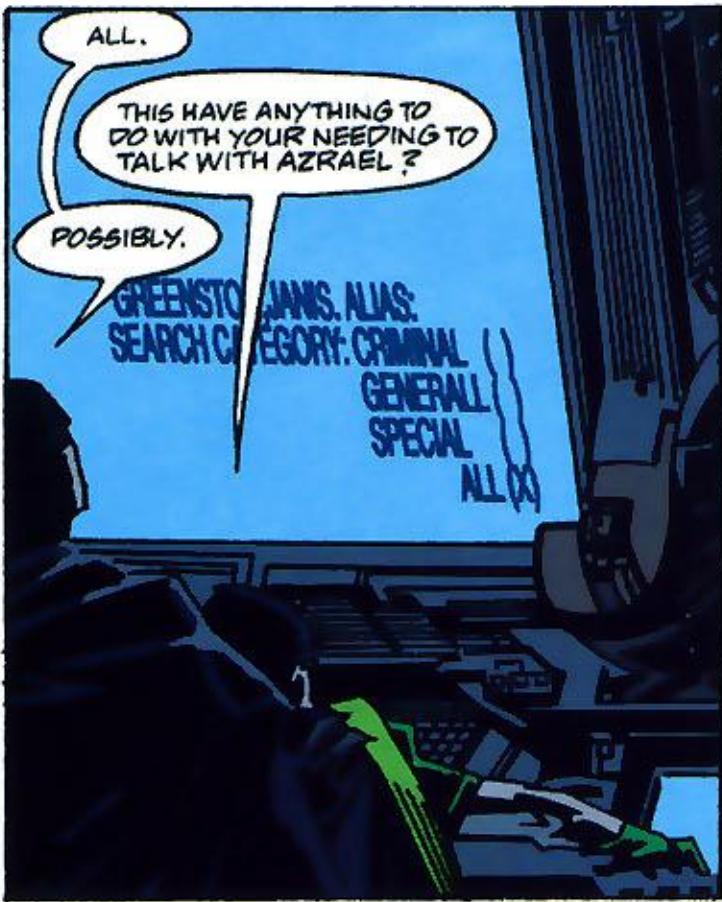
DEMON? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

BECAUSE I THINK IT'S MUCH SWEETER THAN THAT!

IMMORTALITY IS WITHIN OUR GRASP! THIRI THU DHAMMA WAS RIGHT.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?







...YOU SEE, THIS ARMOR WAS THE LAST THING I SAW BEFORE I FELL TO MY DEATH. STANDING THERE, DOING NOTHING.

THAT'S HOW I FOUND IT AGAIN-- IT HAD THE STINK OF GUILT ON IT.

INTERESTING STORY.

YOU!

THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THAT SUIT IS EFFECTIVE IN GOTHAM HAS ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED.

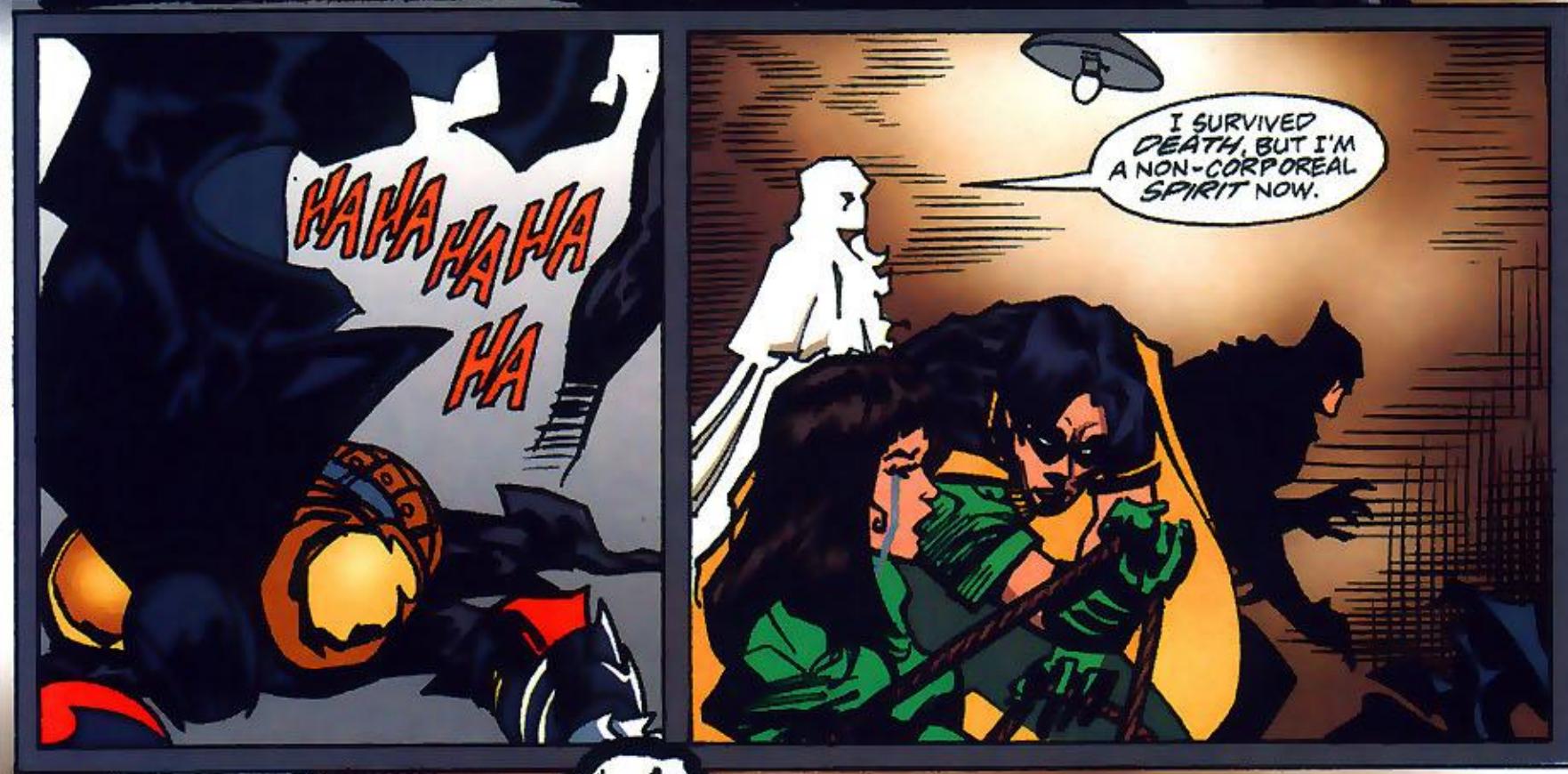
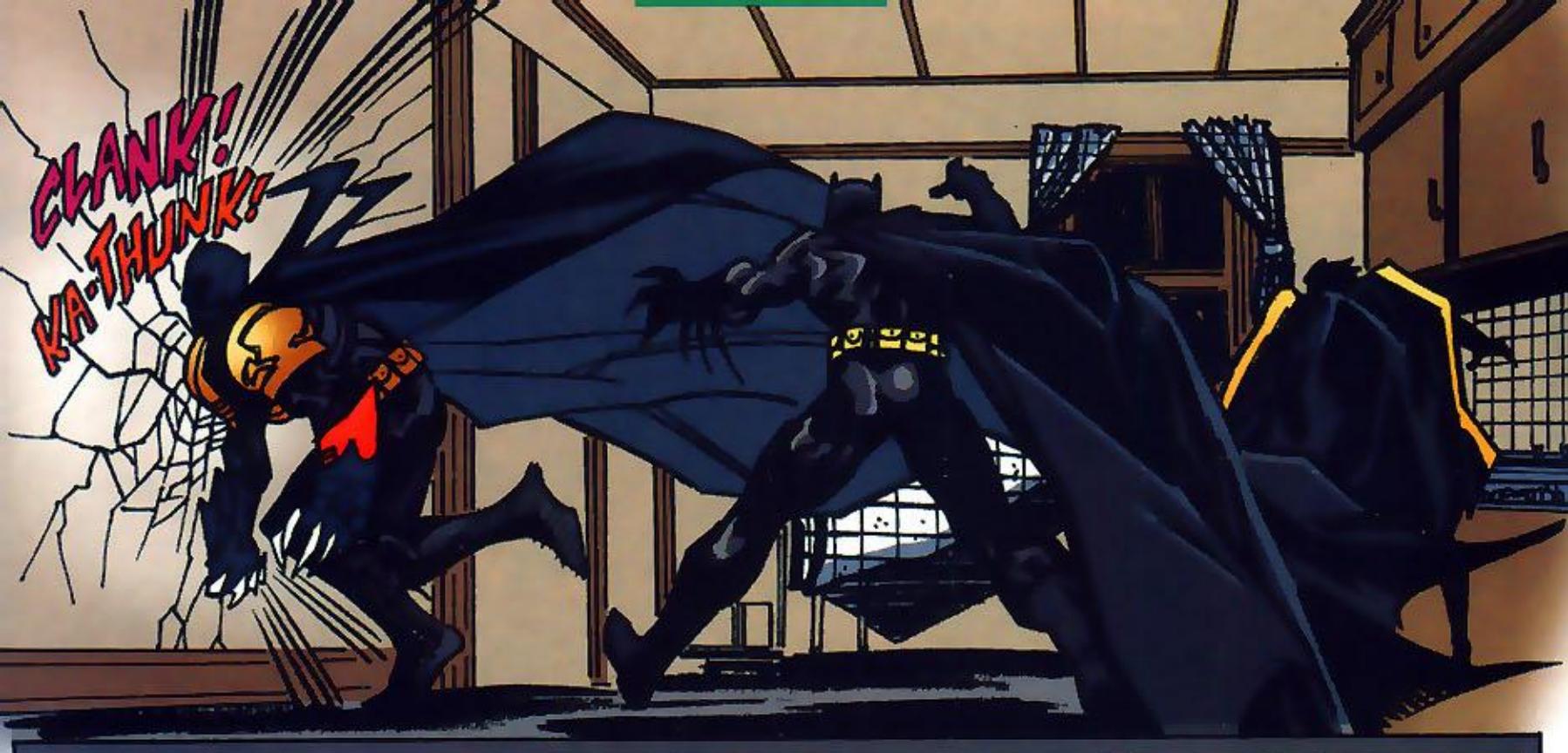
OH, HAS IT?

DID YOU RETIRE IT AFTER YOU REALIZED THAT ONCE INSIDE IT YOU WERE CAPABLE OF KILLING?

NEVER MIND MY MOTIVES. LET'S DISCUSS YOURS.

MY MOTIVES ARE VERY SIMPLE. I WANT WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

DO YOU REMEMBER, BATMAN?



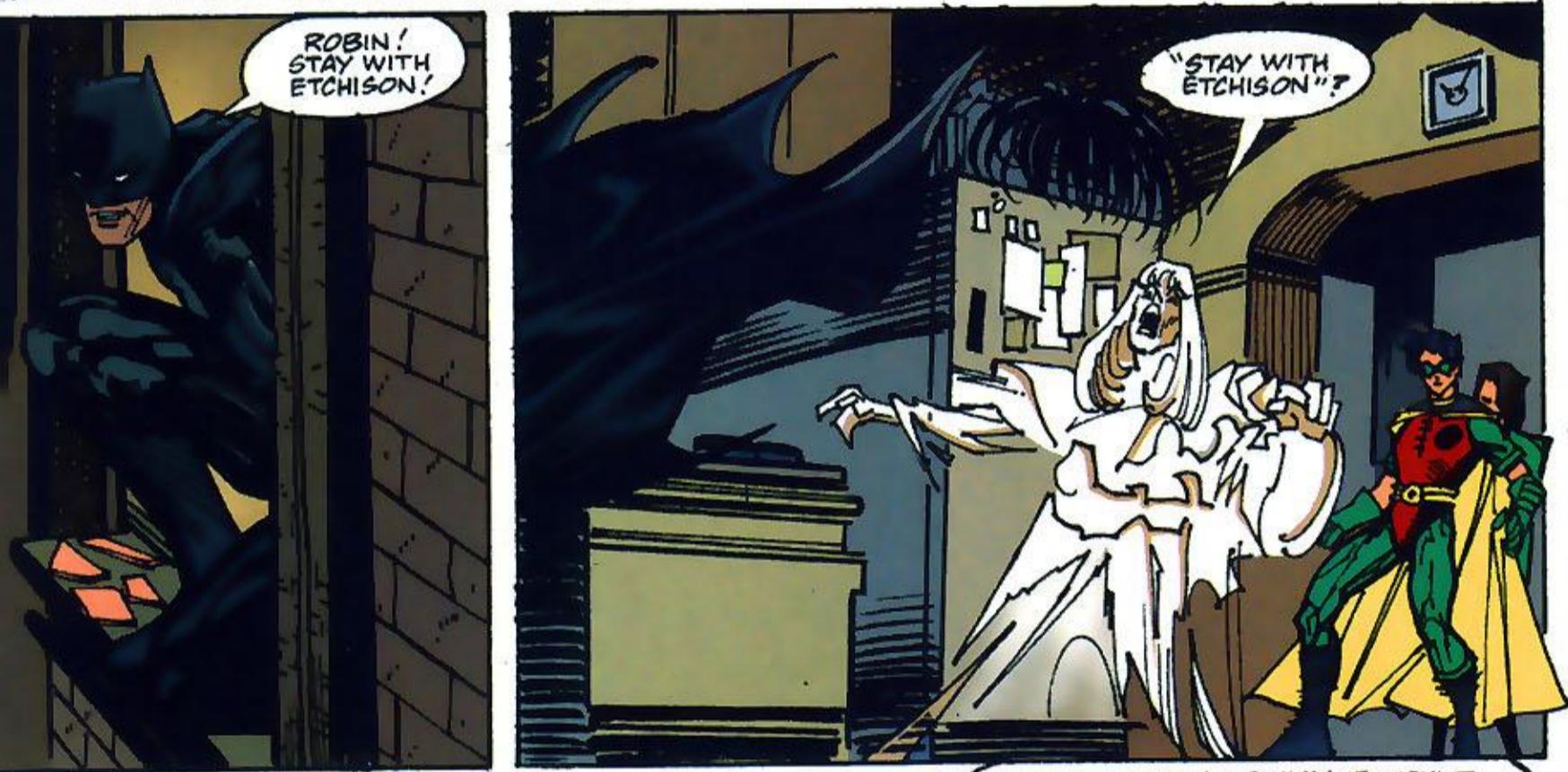
LITERALLY!
HAHAHA
HA HA!

YOU KNOW,
I SHOULD
THANK YOU,
BATMAN.

I FIGURE IT'S YOUR GUILT
THAT KEPT ME TIED TO LIFE.
WITHOUT YOUR REMORSE,
I MIGHT NOT HAVE
GOTTEN THIS SECOND
CHANCE.

ENGH.

I'M ONLY SORRY YOU'VE
COVERED UP YOUR
SHAME SO NEATLY. I
THINK MORE PEOPLE
SHOULD KNOW, DON'T
YOU?







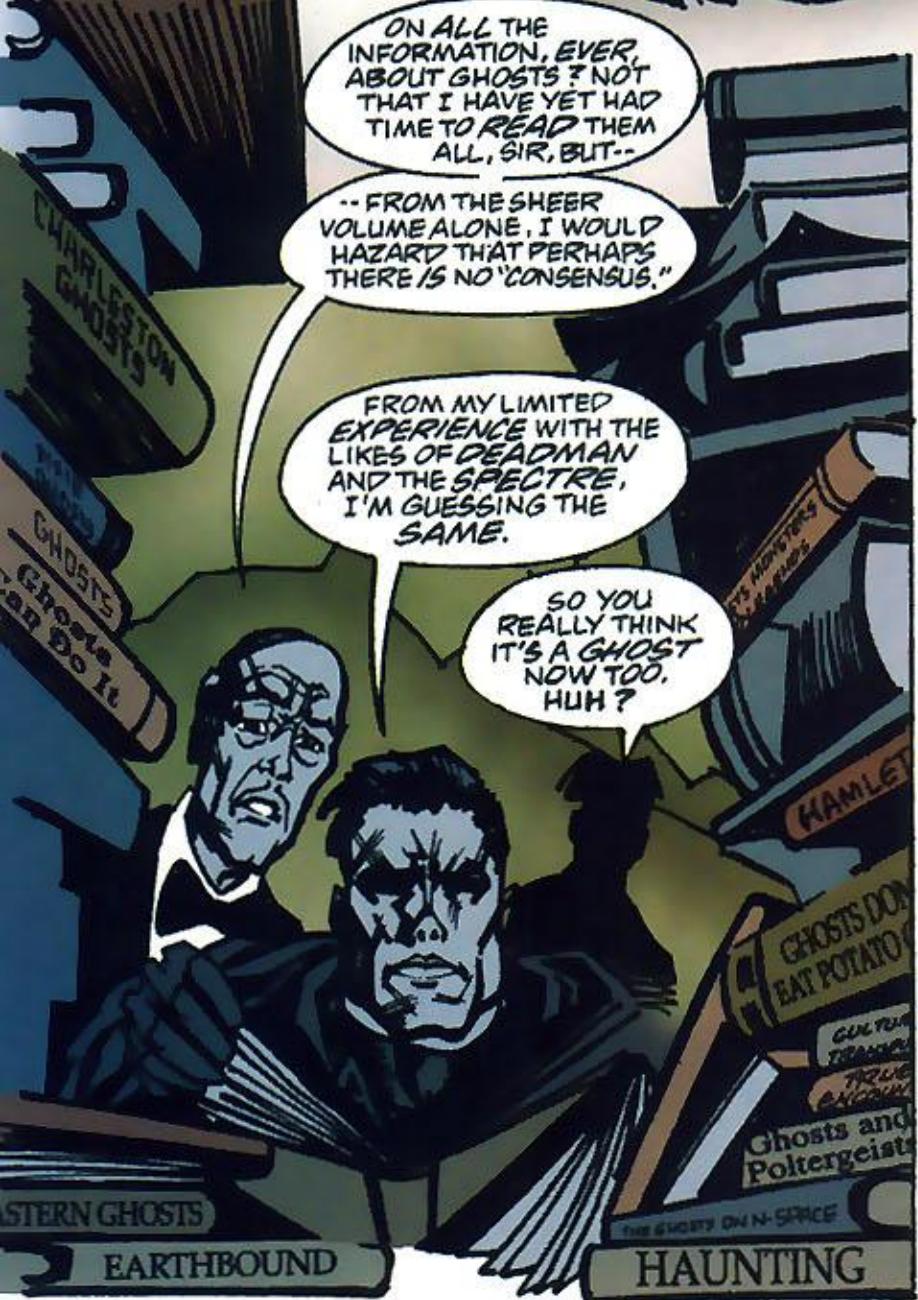












A WOMAN OUT THERE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. NOT TO MENTION THAT IF ABATTOIR GETS HIS WAY, WE'LL HAVE A SUPERNATURALLY POWERED SERIAL KILLER ON THE LOOSE.

HEY, ABATTOIR SAID IT WAS YOUR GUILT THAT WAS HOLDING HIM TO THE PHYSICAL PLANE. I GUESS BECAUSE YOU LET JEAN PAUL FILL IN FOR YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DO YOU THINK MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THAT?

MASTER TIM HAS AN EXCELLENT POINT, SIR.

PERHAPS YOU CAN EXORCISE THIS GHOST BY EXORCISING YOUR OWN REMORSE?

NO, THAT'S NOT IT.

WELL, DO WE EVEN KNOW THE FULL RANGE OF HIS POWERS? DOES HE?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT AN EXPERT ON GHOSTS.

ON THE CONTRARY, SIR, I WOULD THINK THAT YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, WOULD BE QUITE THE EXPERT.

"WELL, THIS IS
NO GOOD!"

IT WAS MUCH
SCARIER! FILLED
WITH MOLTEN
LEAD, I TELL
YOU!

PLEASE!
- ENGH! - I NEEDA-
DOCTOR!

AH! THERE WE ARE!
MUCH BETTER!

I'M IN LABOR!
I'M BEGGING YOU!
HELP ME!

YES, YES... LIKE THIS.
I REMEMBER THE MOST
EXCRUCIATING
PAIN...

WE NEED
HELP!
OH GOD, OH
GOD!

SCARED, ARE
YOU? GOOD.

FEEL FREE TO MISCARRY
AT ANY TIME NOW. I'M
ANXIOUS TO TRY ON MY
NEW SKIN.

YOU'RE
ONE CRAZY
SONUVA--

LOOK! LOOK! LIKE
THAT! THAT'S HOW
HOT IT WAS!

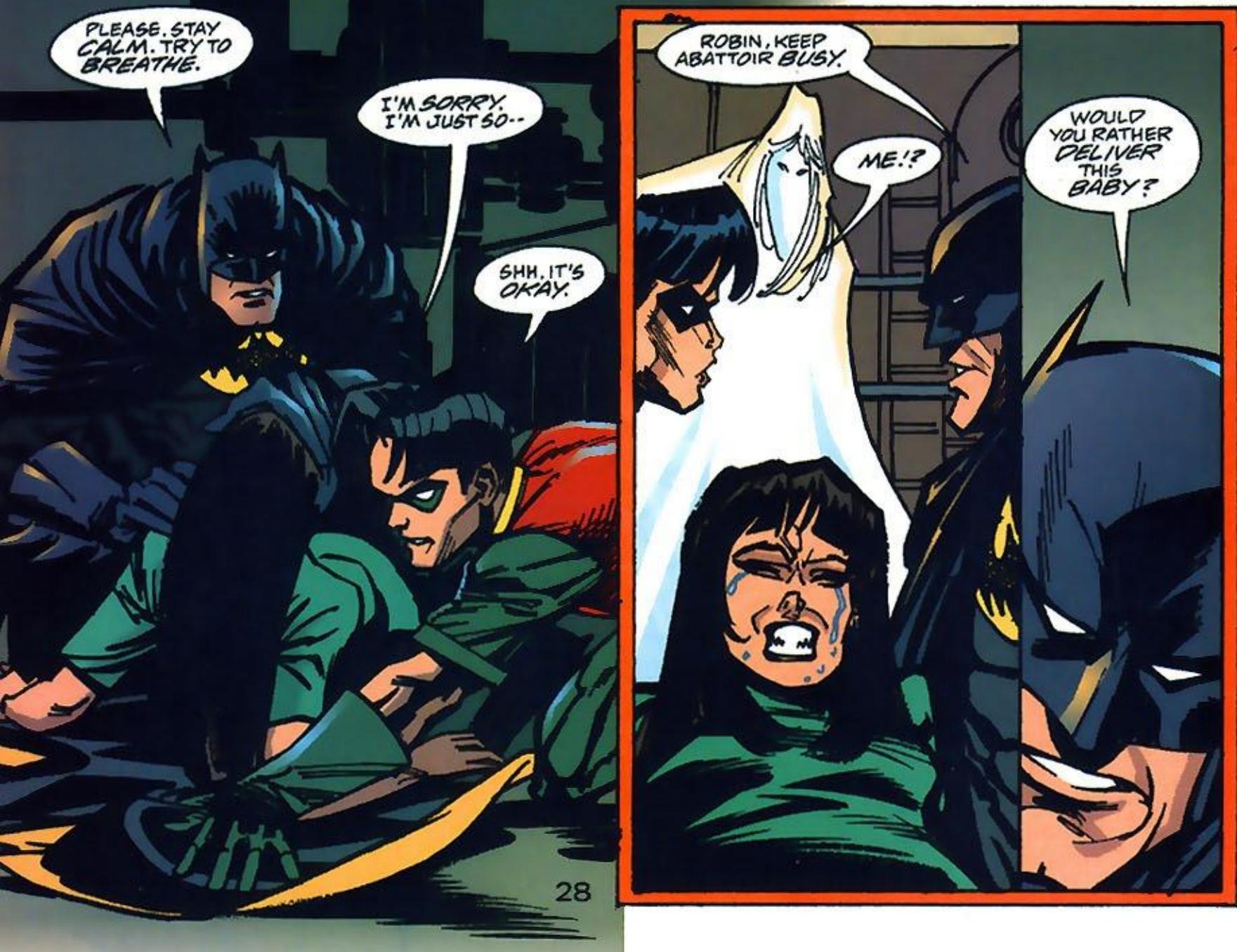
RETURNED TO
THE SCENE OF THE
CRIME, HMM,
BATMAN?

DO YOU REMEMBER
THE SMELL OF MY BURNING
FLESH? MY SCREAMS?

DO THEY
WARM
YOU IN
YOUR
SLEEP?

YOU'RE NOT VERY
PERCEPTIVE FOR A
DEAD MAN, ETKAR.
I'M NOT THE MAN
WHO--

BATMAN,
WAIT!
WE'VE GOT A
PROBLEM
HERE!



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FINE.
I COULD
USE A
DRINK--

--OF BLOOD!
KEI-YA!

BAM!

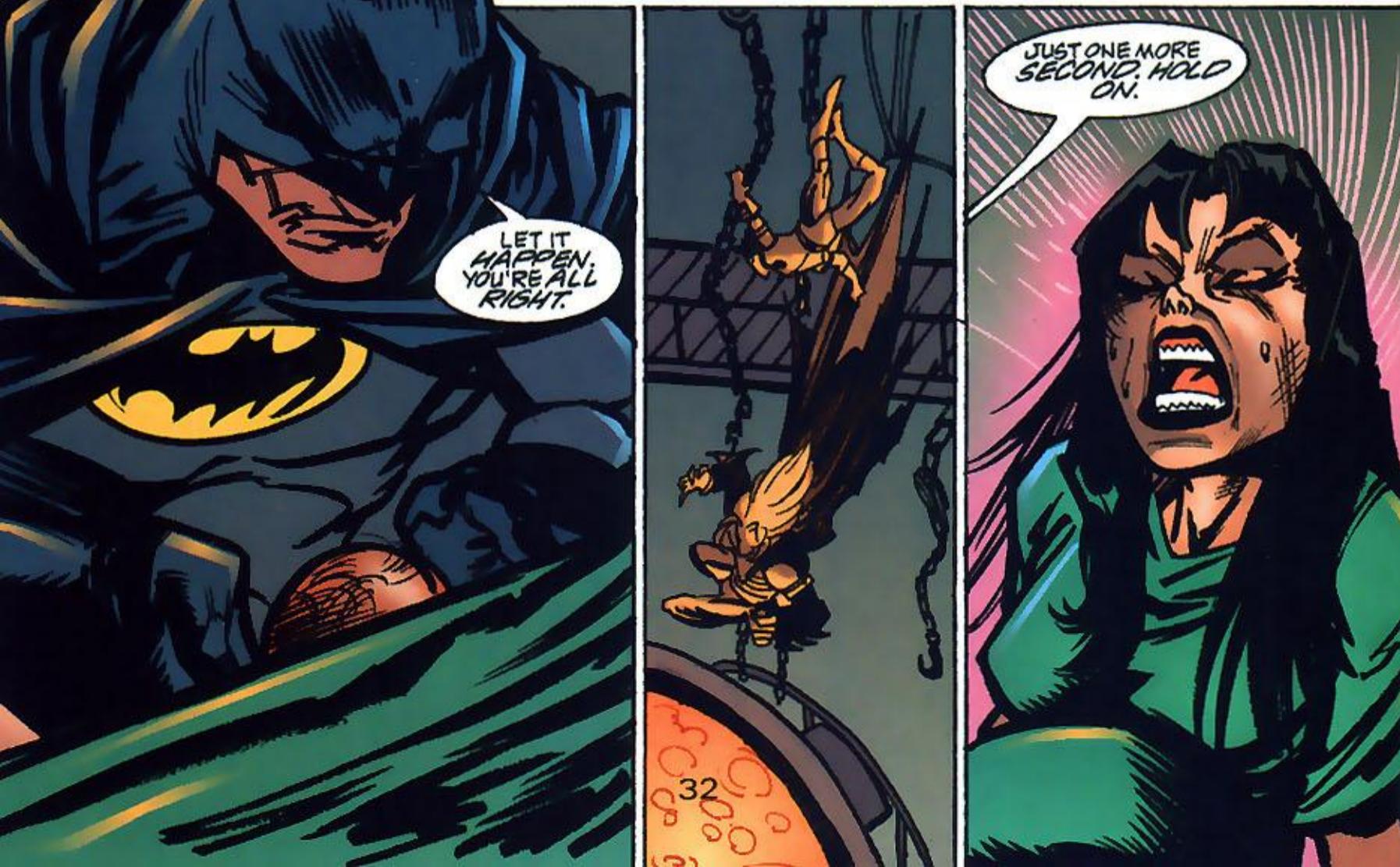
HA! KNOCK THE
ARMOR AROUND ALL
YOU LIKE! YOU CAN'T
HURT ME!

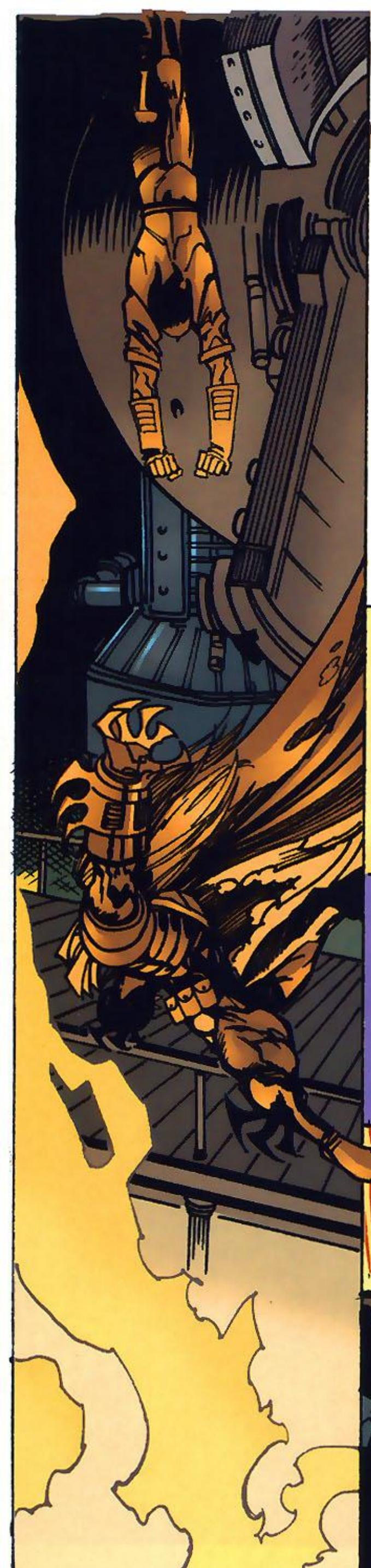
THUNK!

MAYBE
NOT TWO
POINTS!

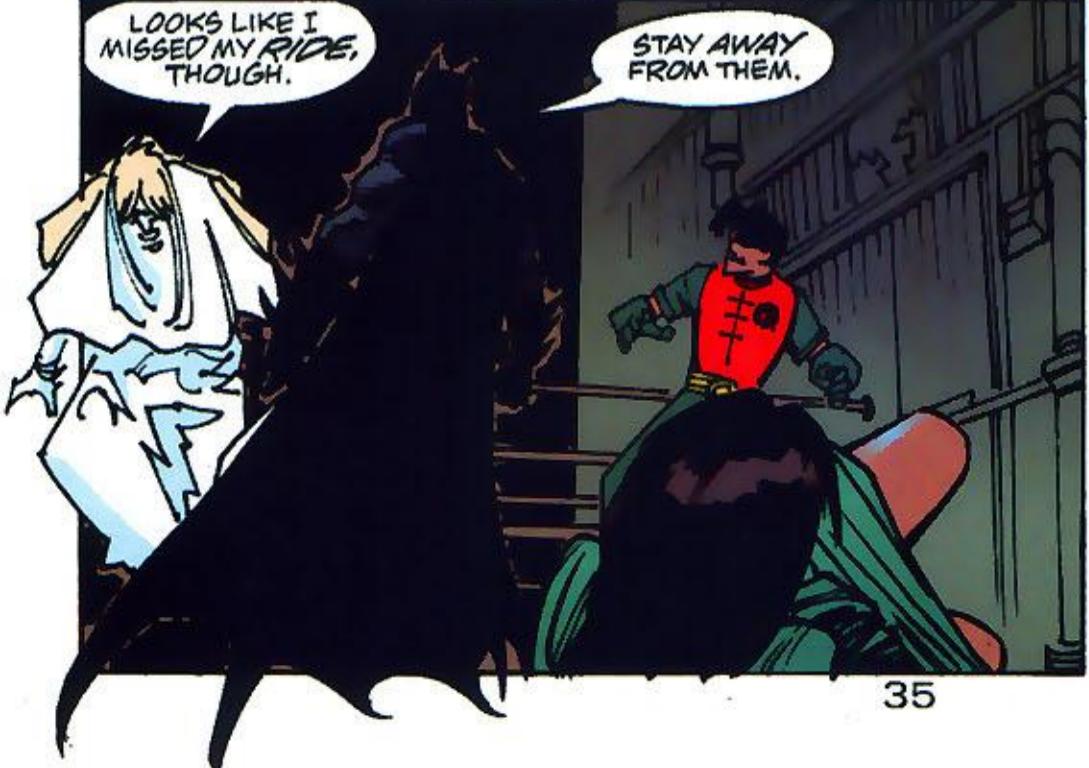


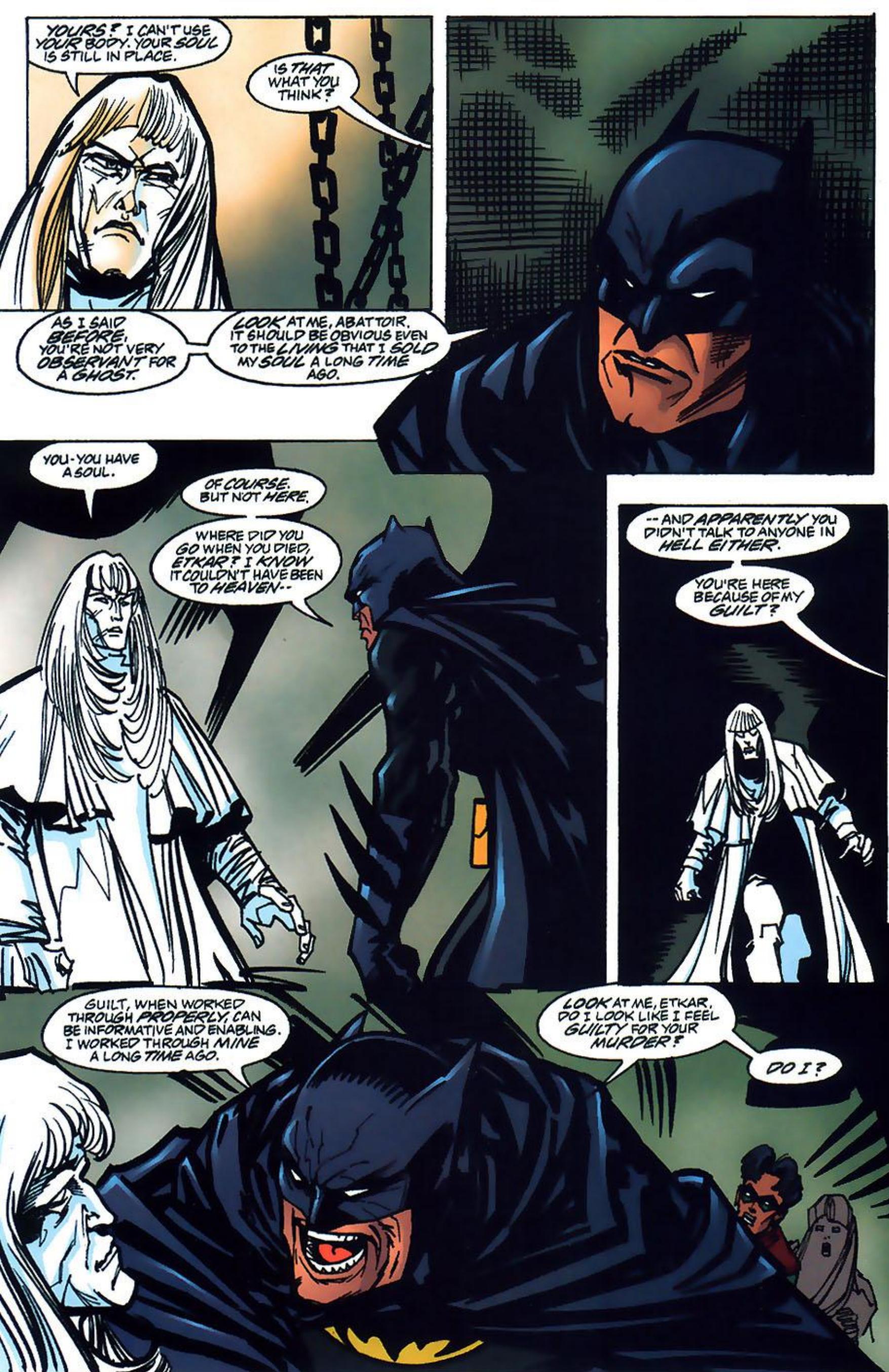












TRYING TO TAKE THE BODY OF AN UNBORN... YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO TO TALK TO ABOUT GETTING A NEW BODY.

YOU JUST WENT RIGHT OVER THE RIVER WITHOUT QUESTION...

THE RIVER? WHAT RIVER?

JUST AS WELL THAT YOU STAYED OUT OF CHARON'S WAY, THOUGH, I SUPPOSE. NOBODY GETS TO HIM AND BACK SAFELY ANYWAY.

CHARON? YOU MEAN THE BOATMAN ON THE RIVER STYX? ON THE WAY TO HADES?

I-I'M NOT AFRAID OF CHARON! I'LL DRINK HIS BLOOD TOO!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FIND HIM.

I CAN FIND HIM! I CAN FIND ANYONE!

ROBIN, CALL THE MEDICS FOR MRS. GREENSTON.

WH- WHERE DID YOU SEND ABattoir?

I'M NOT SURE.



THE HAUNTINGS CONTINUE IN FLASH ANNUAL # 11