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MAHNKE
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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AD
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

A ROBIN'S
TALE



And it is these
"ghosts" that have
me at my business
today...

YOU MAY
TAKE A BRIEF
LEAVE OF YOUR
DUTIES,
GENTLEMEN.

...here at the
unmarked grave
of Jason Todd.

SIR?

IF YOU'D BE
SO KIND AS TO HAVE
YOUR ENTIRE UNIT SHUT
DOWN ALL SYSTEMS
AND TAKE LEAVE OF
THE AREA...

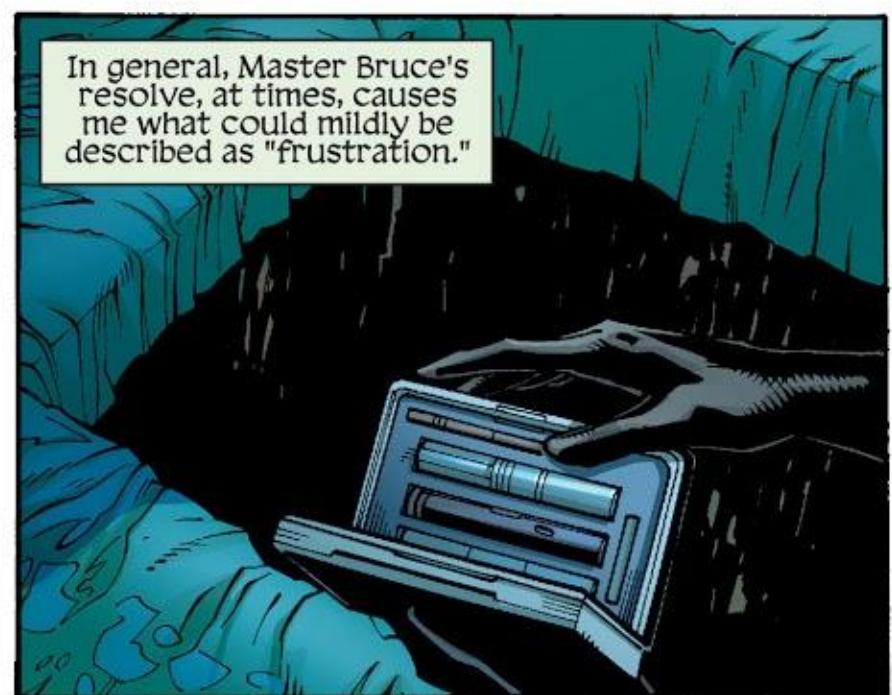
...YOU WILL
NOT BE NEEDED TO
GUARD THE LOCATION FOR
THE NEXT FIVE TO EIGHT
HOURS.

AGAIN?

SHOW ME
YESTERDAY, FOR I
CAN'T FIND TODAY

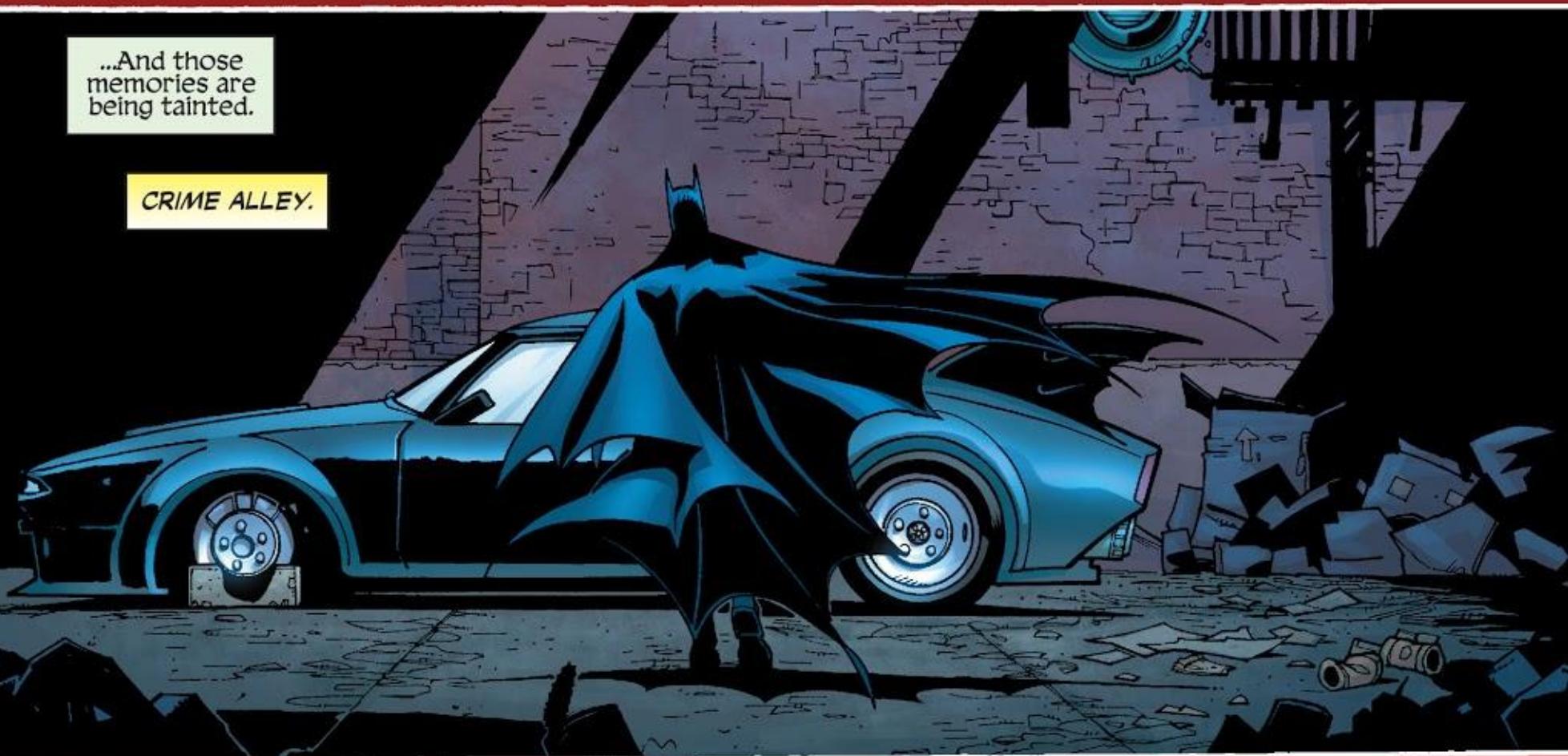
JUDD WINICK - writer
DOUG MAHNKE - penciller
TOM NGUYEN - inker
PAT BROSSEAU - letterer
BRANDON MONTCLARE - assist editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE





...And those memories are being tainted.

CRIME ALLEY.



YEARS AGO.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

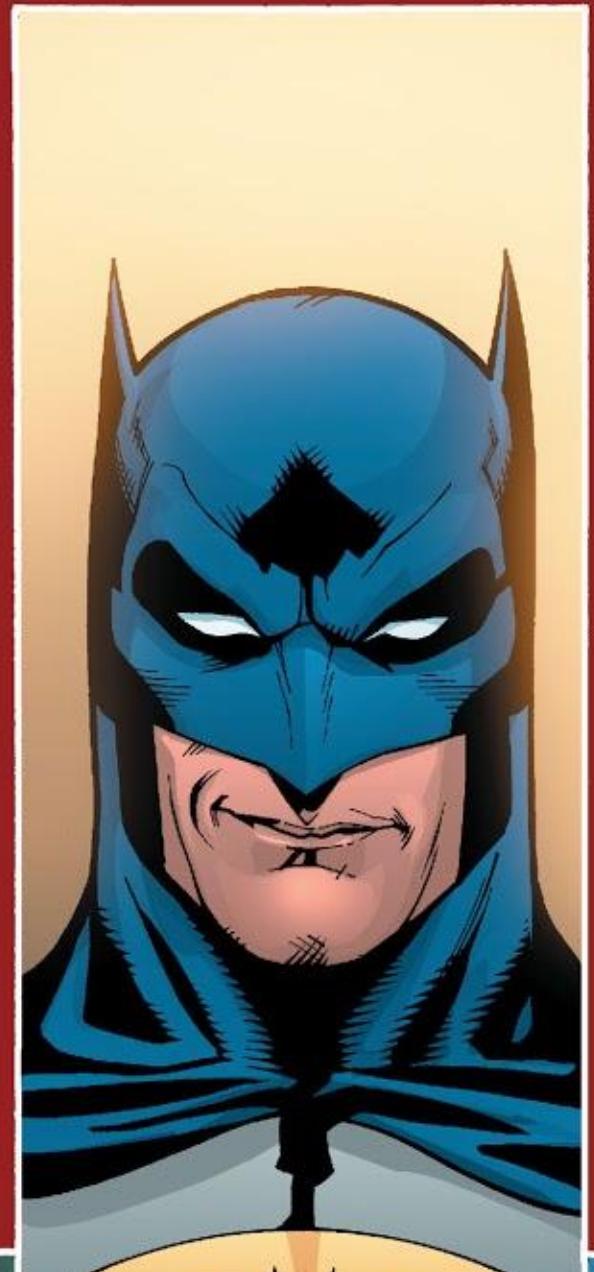
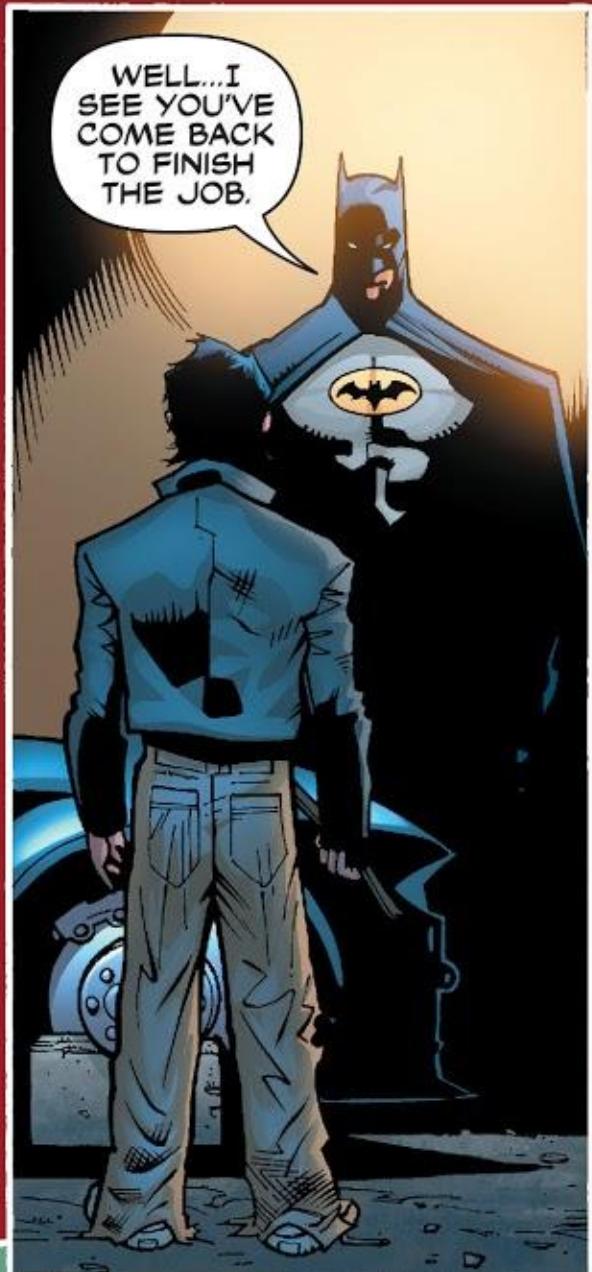


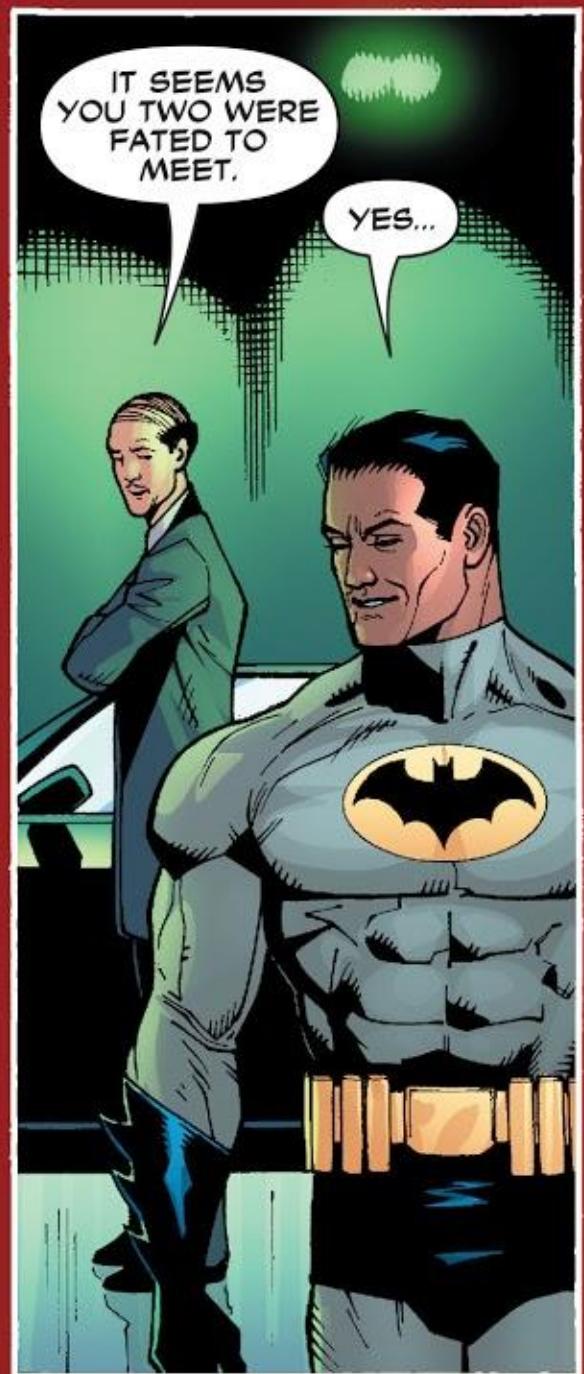
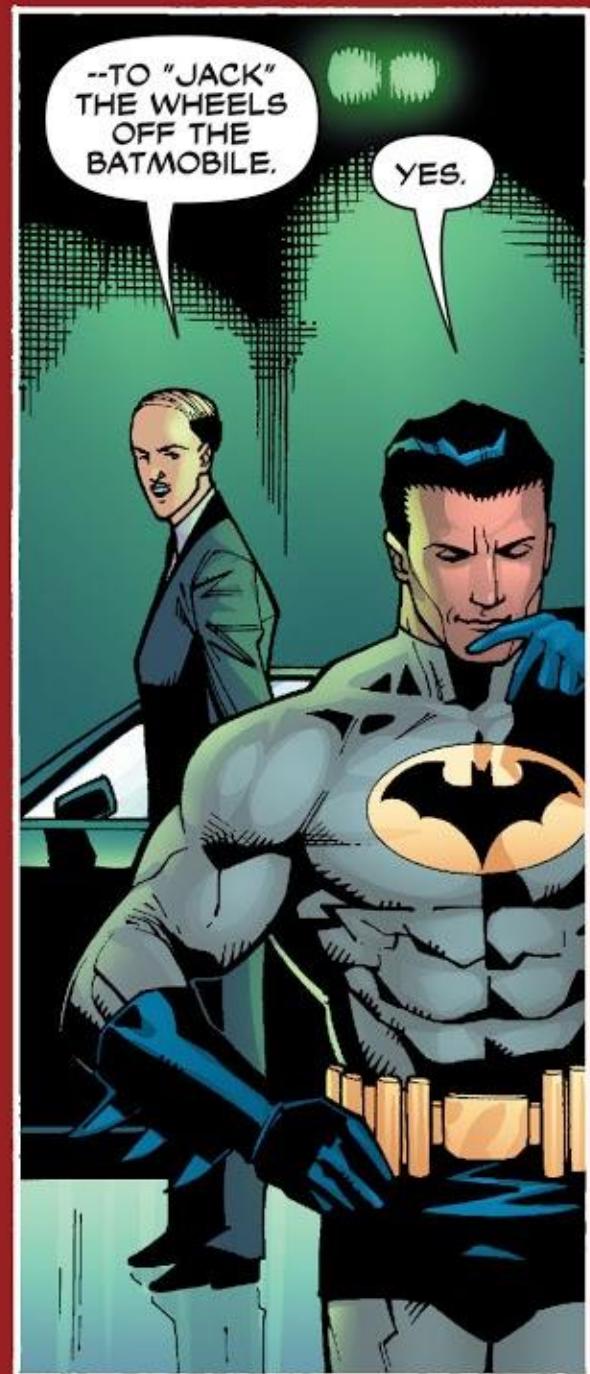
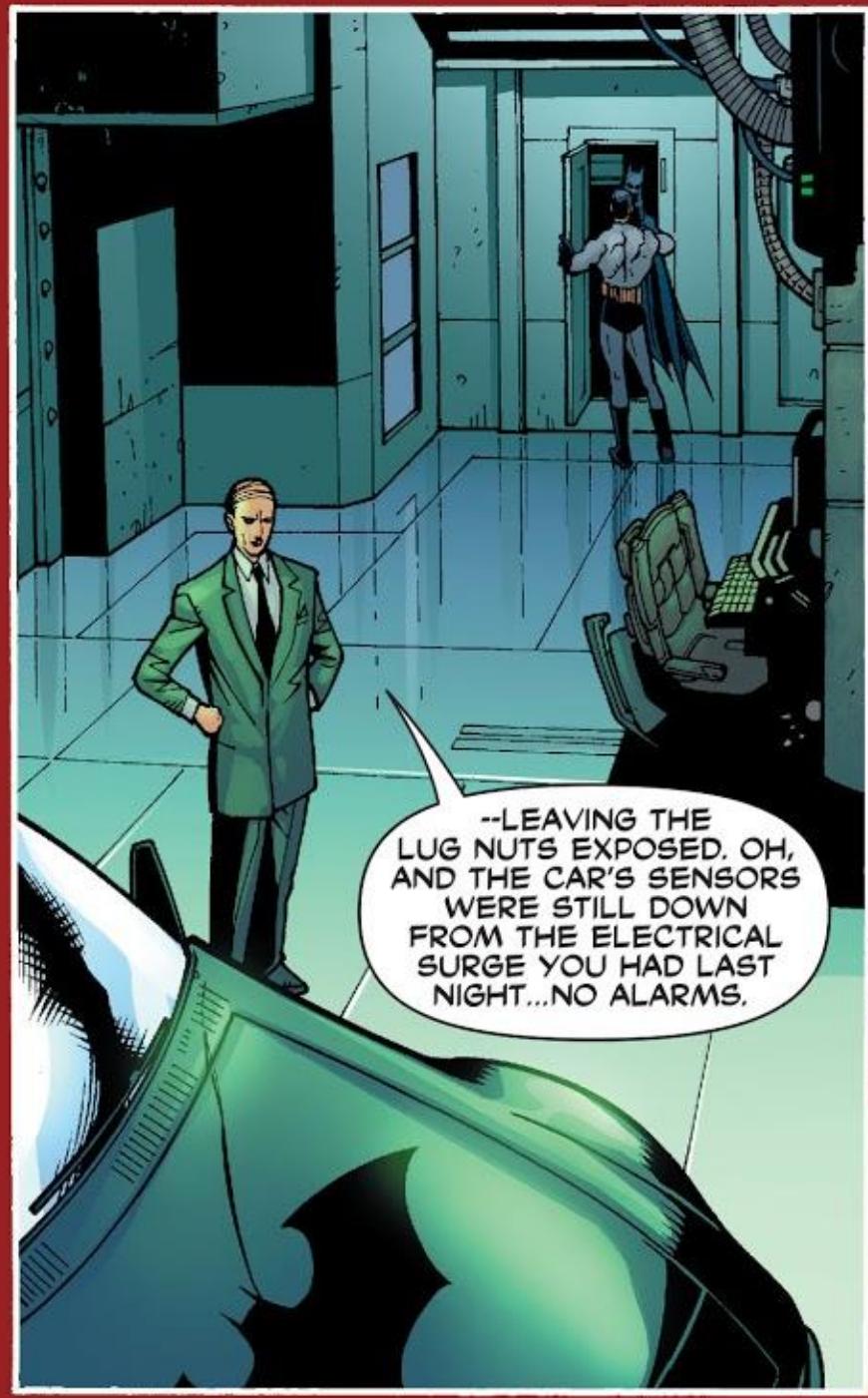
UNREAL.



WHOOPS.





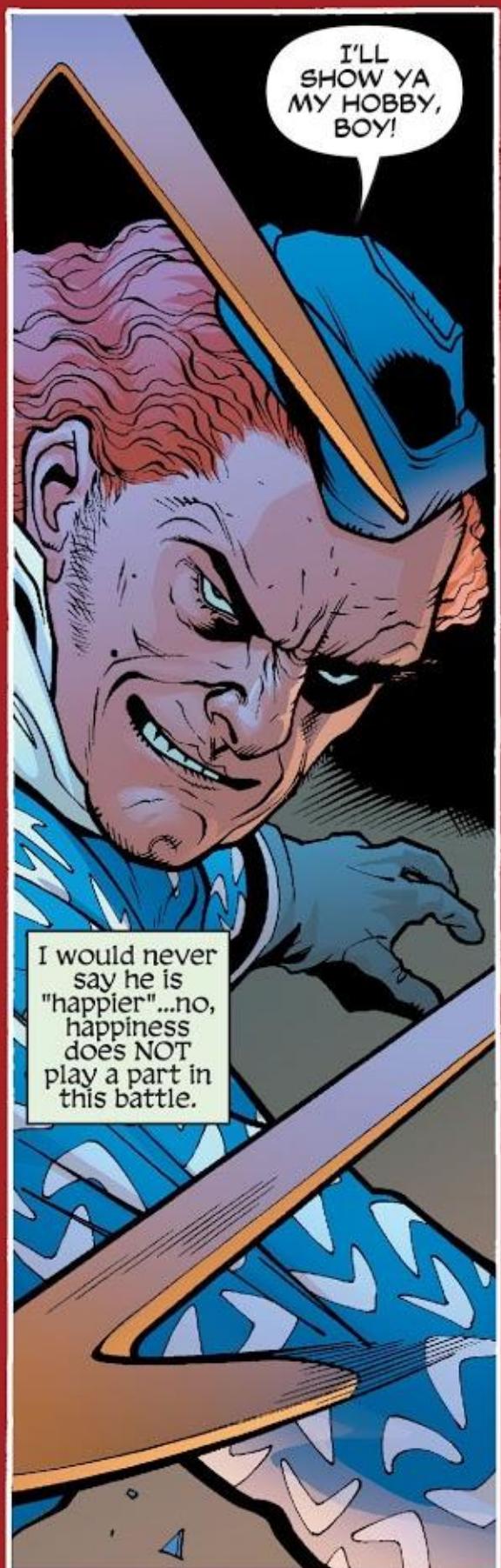


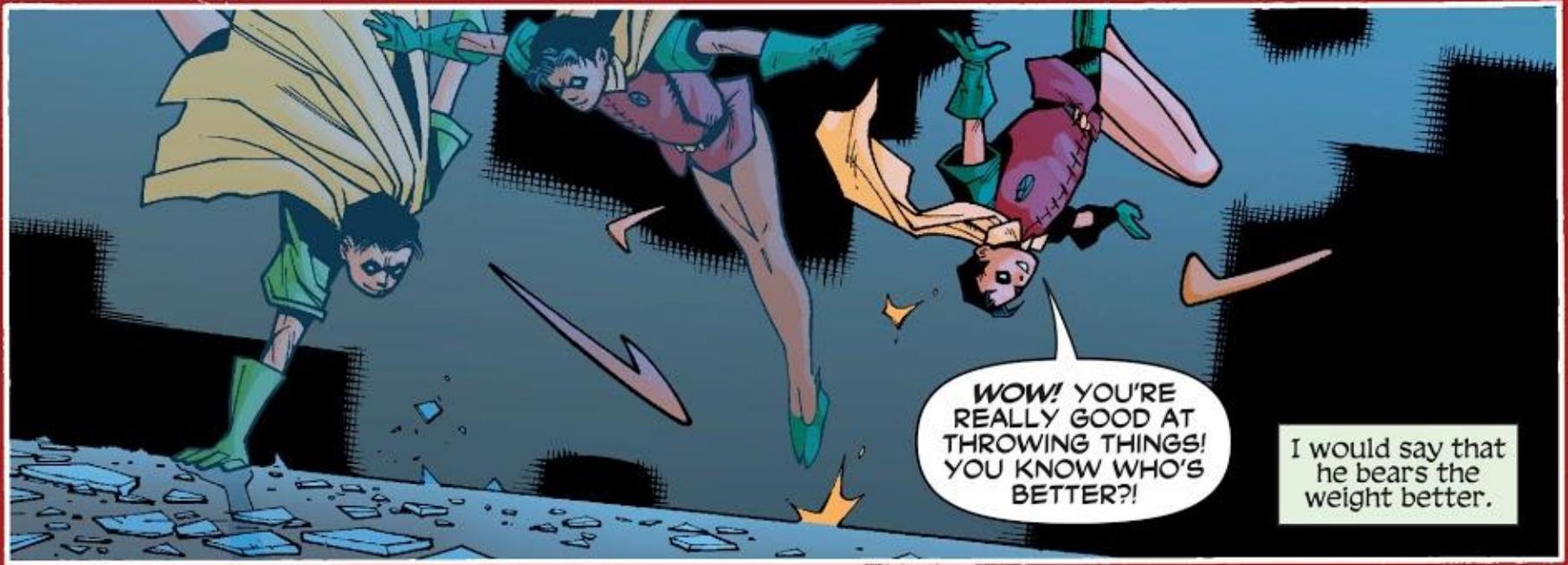
"HIS NAME
IS JASON."



It wasn't long after
that Master Bruce
bestowed the
young man with
another name.

He liked
having him out there.





AND
THIS
GUY...

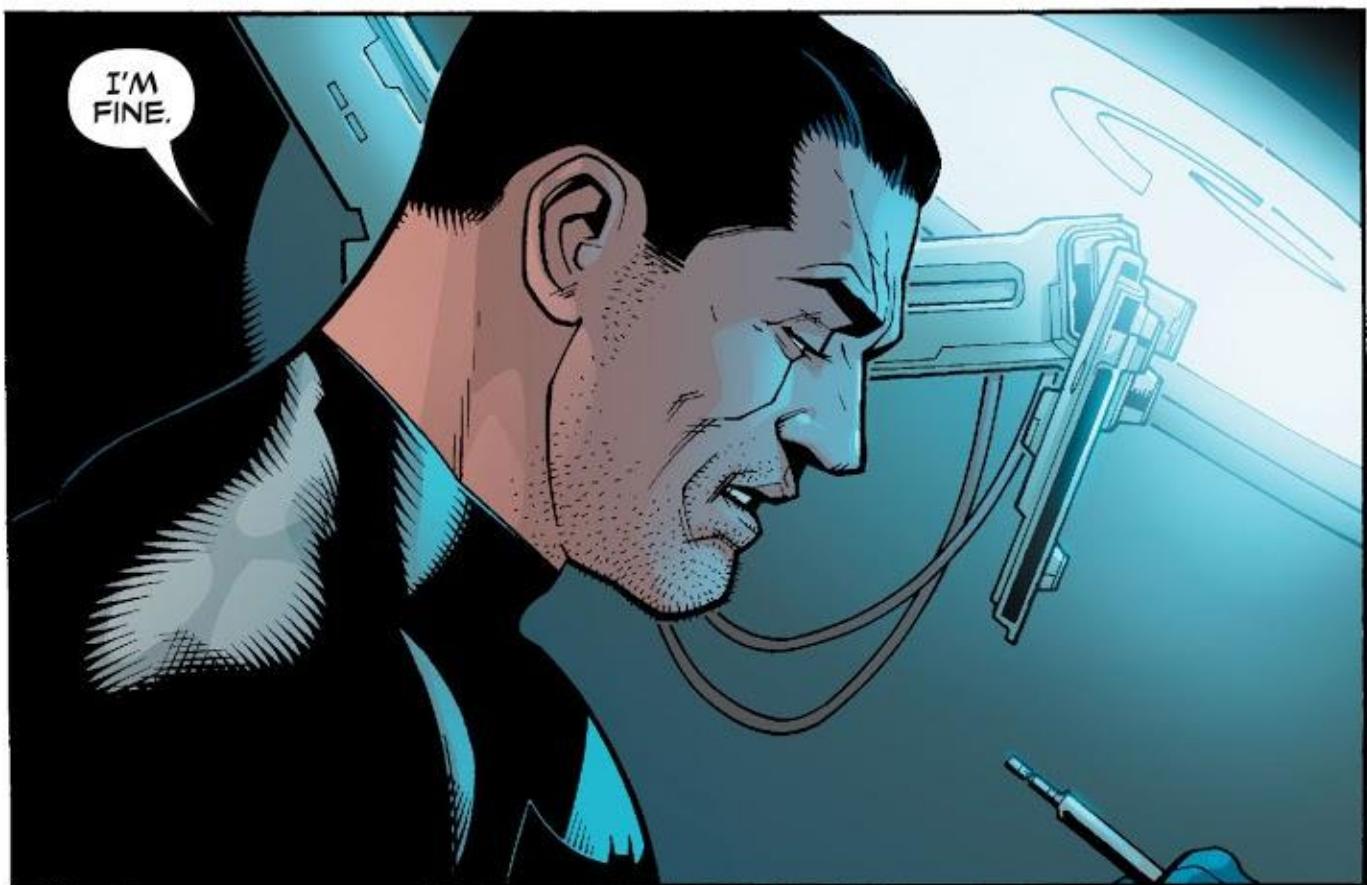
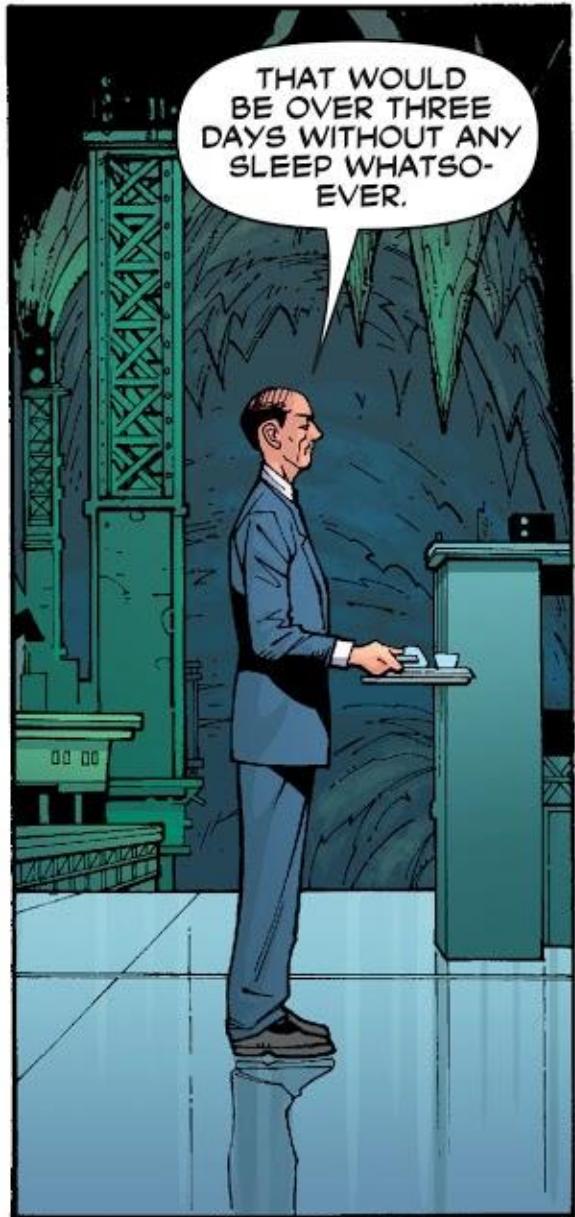
CRACK

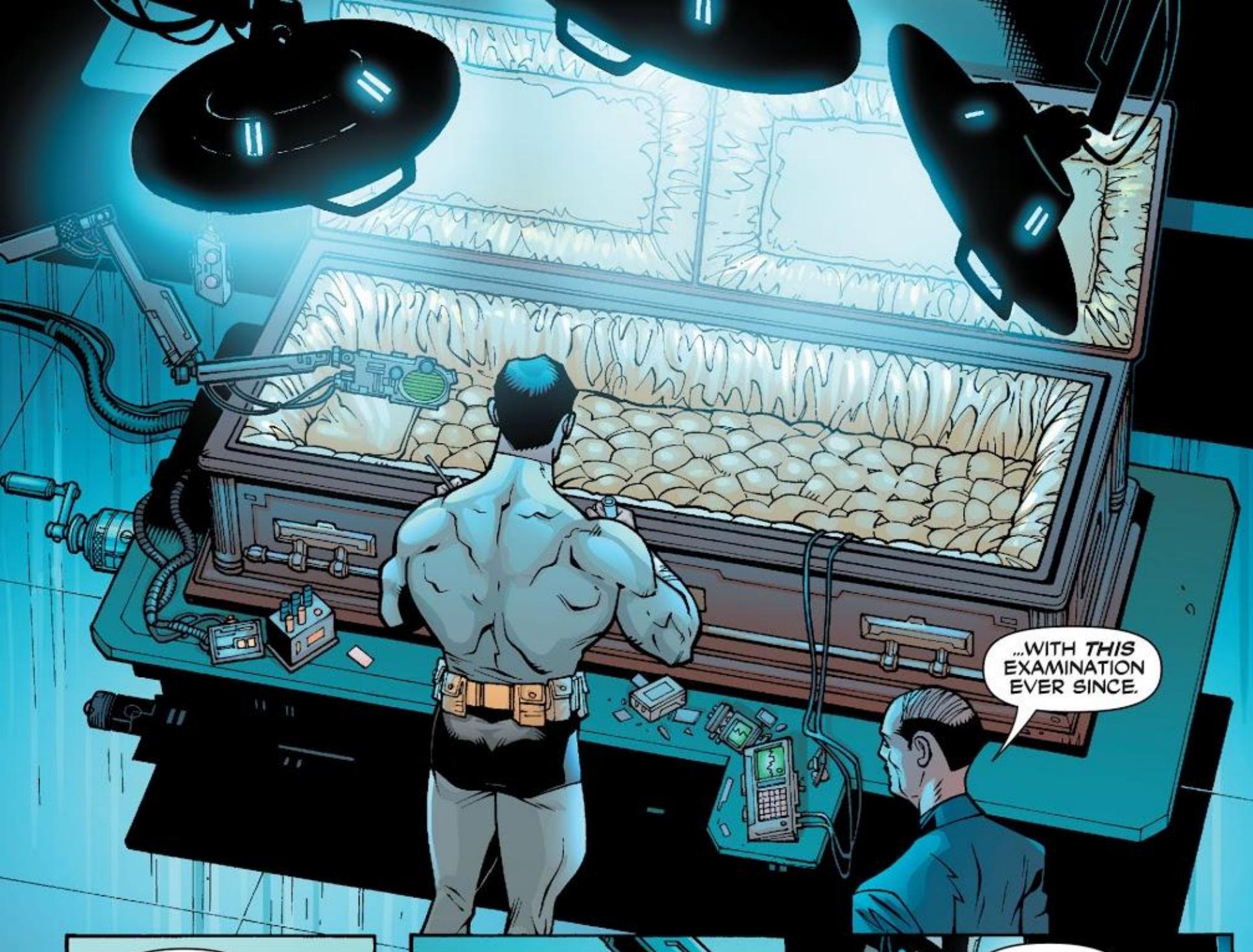
It's not
entirely
untrue.

...IS REALLY
NOT UP FOR A
STANDING OVATION!!!
ARE YA?

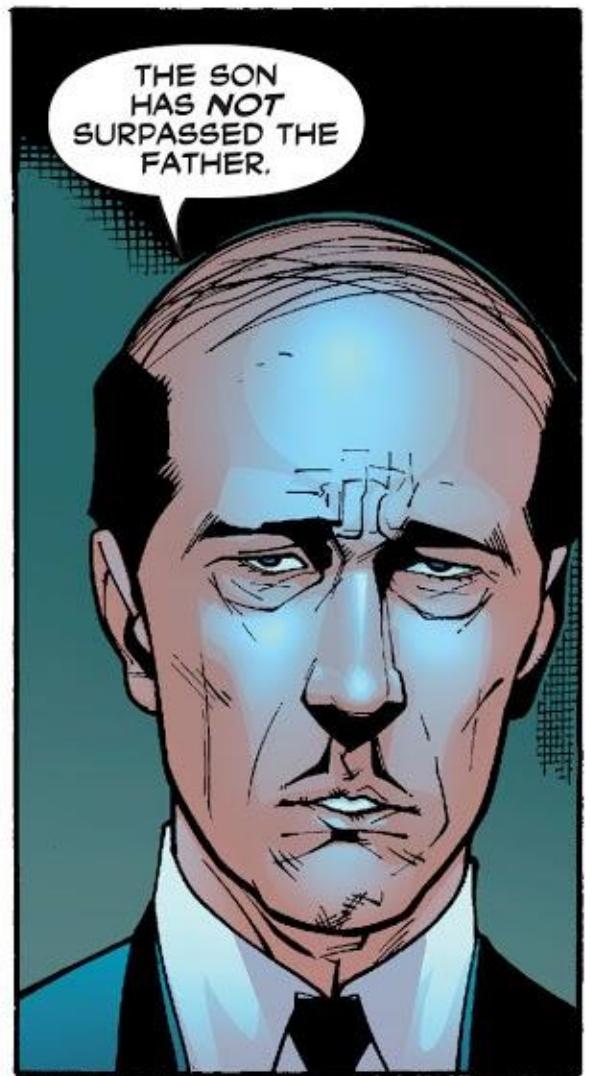
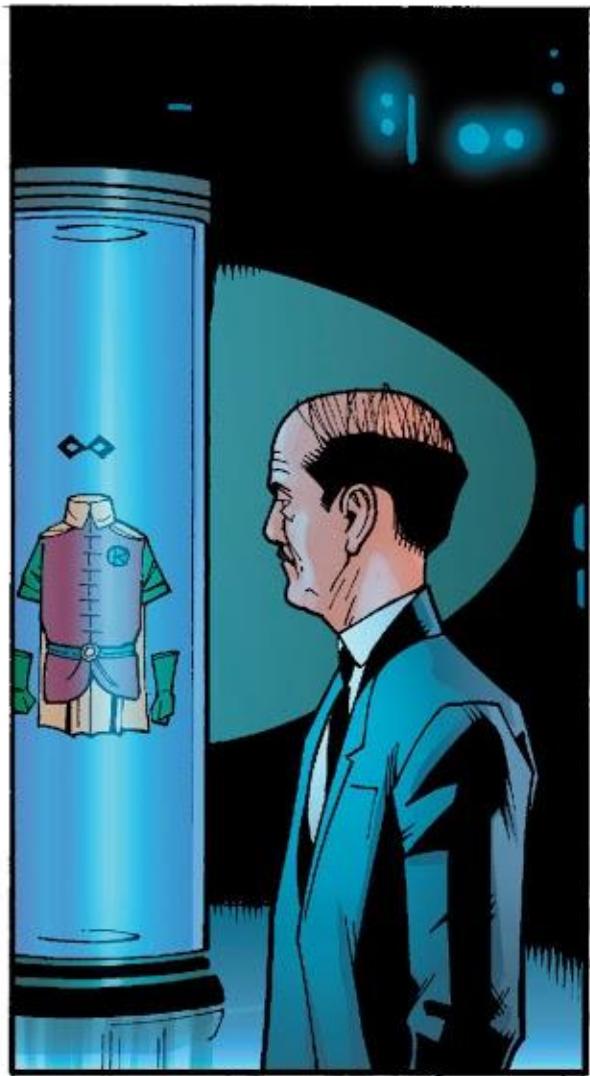
But the whole truth
was obvious.

He liked having
him out there.









Life goes on.

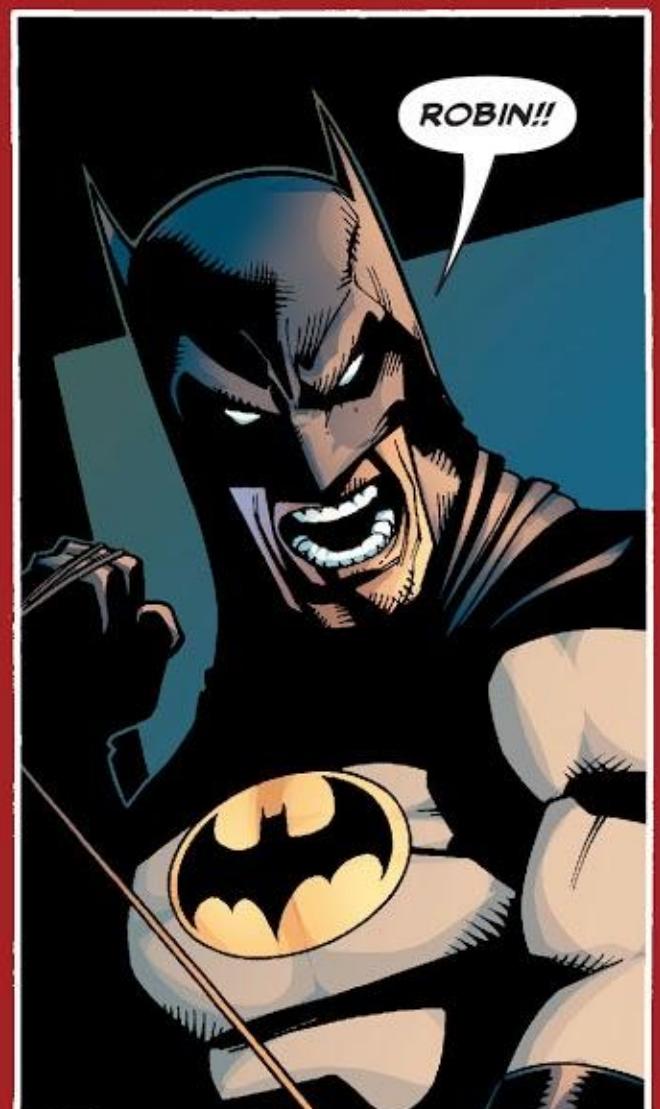
Times change.

DON'T
MOVE, OR
I'LL--

And people
change with them.

YOU'LL
WHAT?
SHOOT
ME?







He knew that Jason Todd was NOT Dick Grayson.

It wasn't about skill, or about endurance, or even their will to succeed.

No. It was that Jason had a "mean streak."

Jason was dangerous.

And as a father... he was at a loss for what to do.

I'VE BEEN STUPID.

SIR?

BLIND, ARROGANT, CARELESS AND STUPID. I KNOW THIS IS THE SAME COFFIN...THIS IS THE VERY ONE WE BURIED HIM IN, BUT...

I'VE GONE OVER EVERY INCH OF IT, TRYING TO FIND ANY CLUE OF TAMPERING.

ANY SIGN THAT HANDS HAVE BEEN LAID UPON IT...AND IN WHAT MANNER...

AND WHILE SEARCHING FOR THOSE MARKERS...THOSE MISTAKES...I OVERLOOKED SOMETHING...



I MISSED
SOMETHING.
SOMETHING
I CAN'T
EXPLAIN.

