



APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
COP
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

553

APR 98

G A T A C L Y S M

THREE
MOENCH,
JANSON &
BUSCEMA

Buckingham
+
K-NOLAN



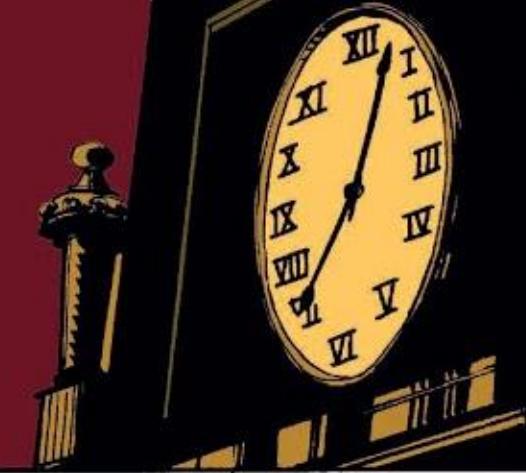
CATACLYSM: PART THREE **LIFELINES**

DOUG KLAUS SAL GREGORY ANDROID TODD JORDAN B. DENNIS BATMAN
MOENCH JANSON BUSCEMA WRIGHT IMAGES KLEIN GORFINKEL O'NEIL CREATED BY
WRITER PENCILLER INKER COLORIST SEPARATOR LETTERER ASSOC. ED. EDITOR BOB KANE

GOTHAM:

THE EARTH
QUAKES...

...WITH A FORCE
MEASURING
APPROXIMATELY
7.6 ON THE
RICHTERSCALE.



THE WAYNECORP
BUILDING, OFFICE
OF LUCIUS FOX:

YES, DEAR, I
KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT
I JUST WRAPPED UP
THE QUARTERLY
REPORT.

I'LL BE HOME
IN ABOUT--

EH?



7:03 PM PLUS SEVEN SECONDS:
POWER AND PHONE LINES START
GOING DEAD.

HELLO?!
ARE YOU
THERE?!

N-NO, IT CAN'T BE A
NUCLEAR HIT! THERE'S NO
FLASH-- NO MUSHROOM
CLOUD!





WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT ABOUT THIS BUILDING? ARE WE GOING TO COLLAPSE? GET CRUSHED?

OH NO... I CAN'T--

STOP IT!

LIKE ALL WAYNE-OWNED REAL ESTATE, THIS BUILDING IS CERTIFIED TO WITHSTAND AN 8.5 QUAKE OR WORSE.

IT... IT IS?

B-BUT... HOW DO YOU KNOW, MR. FOX?

I WAS PRESENT WHEN CERTAIN ADVISERS ARGUED AGAINST THE SHEER COST OF QUAKE-PROOFING BRUCE WAYNE'S HOLDINGS...

THOSE ADVISERS NO LONGER WORK FOR WAYNE-CORP.

THEY'RE IN OTHER BUILDINGS NOW... SOMEWHERE OUT THERE.

"AND THANK GOD... I PURCHASED MY HOME FROM BRUCE WAYNE."



7:04 PM: FOUR OF GOTHAM'S TALLEST SKYSCRAPERS TOPPLE LIKE DOMINOES, KILLING 749 PEOPLE INSTANTLY AND LEAVING 53 OTHERS WITH MAJOR AND MINOR INJURIES...



HAD THE QUAKE OCCURRED SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER, DEATHS IN THESE FOUR BUILDINGS ALONE WOULD HAVE NUMBERED IN THE THOUSANDS.



7:05 PM: RUPTURED GAS MAINS BEGIN EXPLODING.



7:06 PM: THE FIRST MAJOR FIRES ALREADY RAGE OUT OF CONTROL.

7:07 PM: GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

THE ROOF SPLITS...

...AND PARTIALLY COLLAPSES.

STARTING THE EMERGENCY SIRENS-- NOW-- AND GET ME THE MAYOR'S OFFICE!

HELLO? MADAME MAYOR--?

HELLO! IS ANYBODY--

WHA--?!

AHN--!

H-HELP... N-NEED... HELP...

KRUNSCH

WAYNE MANOR: THE PRIVATE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE HIMSELF WAS, IRONICALLY, THE SOLE WAYNE REAL ESTATE HOLDING THAT COULD NOT BE QUAKE-PROOFED.

BUILT DIRECTLY ABOVE AN EXTENSIVE CAVERN NETWORK-- PART OF THE VERY FAULT ALONG WHICH THE QUAKE HAS TRAVELED-- THE MANOR HAS ABSORBED THE FULL BRUNT AND FURY OF THE FORCES UNLEASHED.

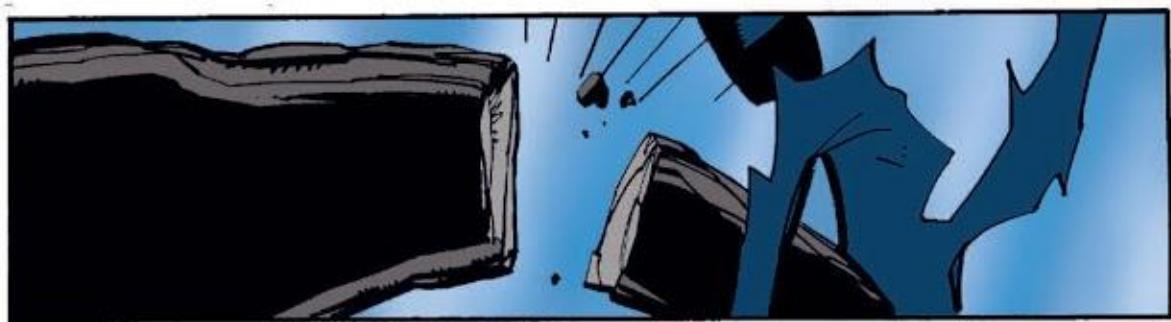
PART OF THE STRUCTURE, IN FACT, HAS COLLAPSED THROUGH THE THIN CRUMBLED CRUST OF ITS FOUNDATION...

...AND NOW RESTS AS RUBBLE IN THE MAIN CHAMBER OF THE CAVERN SYSTEM BELOW.

H-HELP...

DEAR GOD...
P-PLEASE...
HELP ME...

ALFRED--?





POLICE HEAD-
QUARTERS:

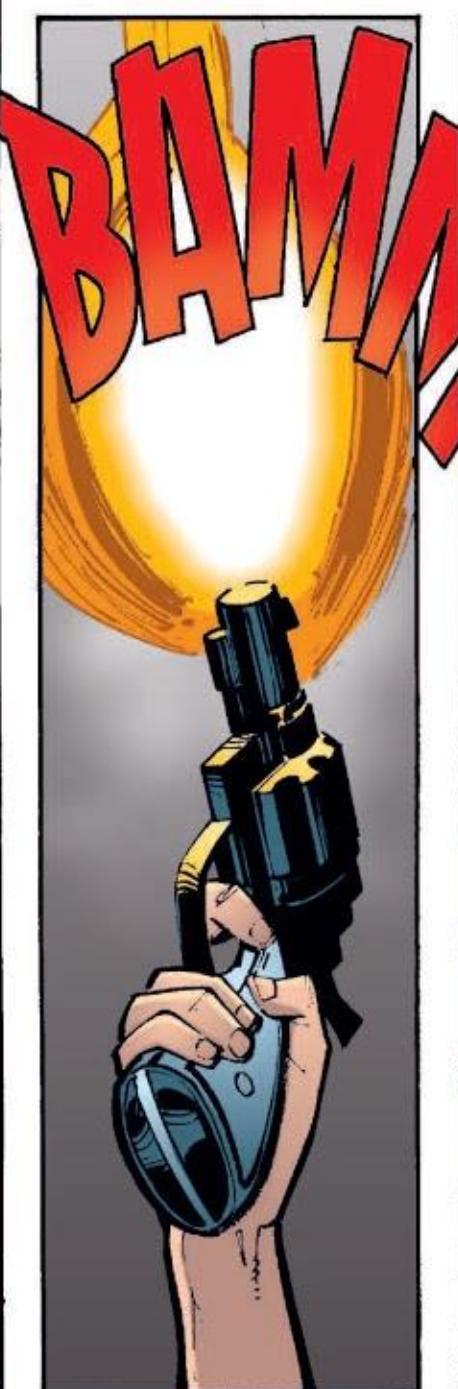
WH-WHAT
HAPPENED...?

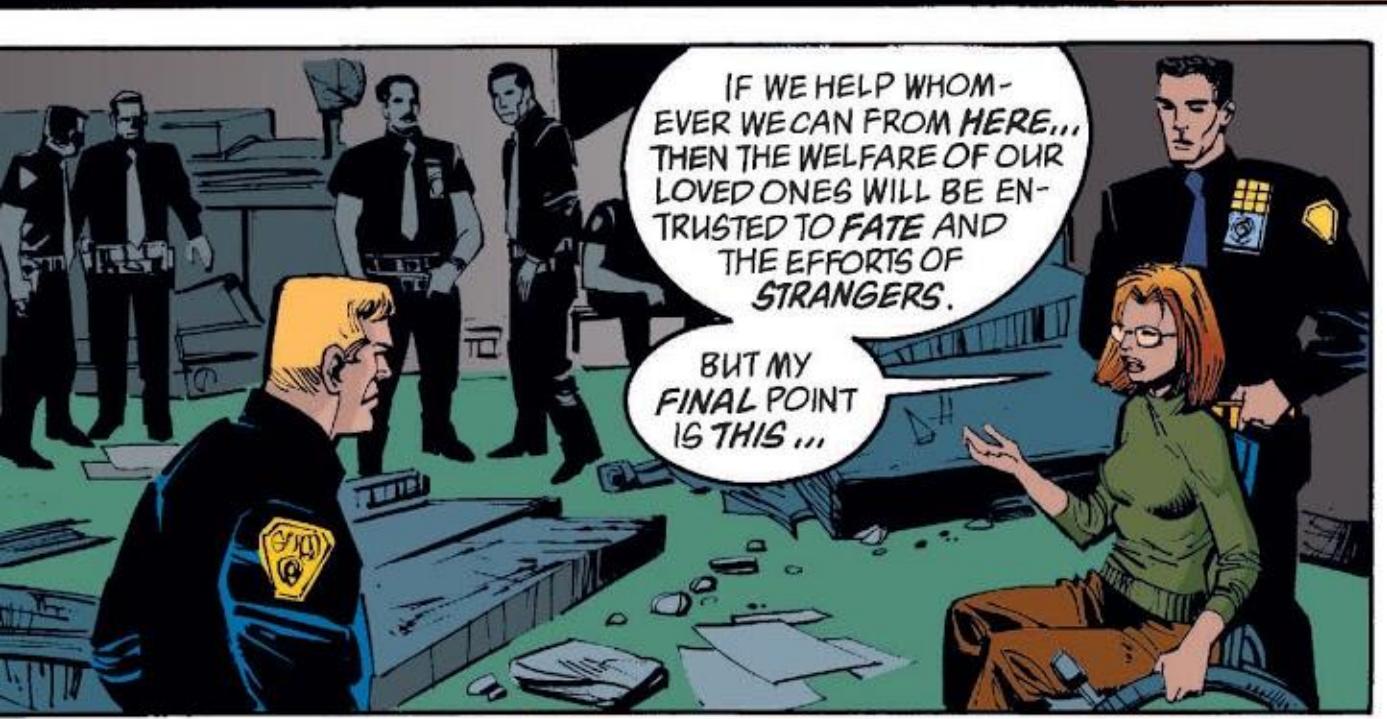
L-LIKE...THE
END OF THE
WORLD...

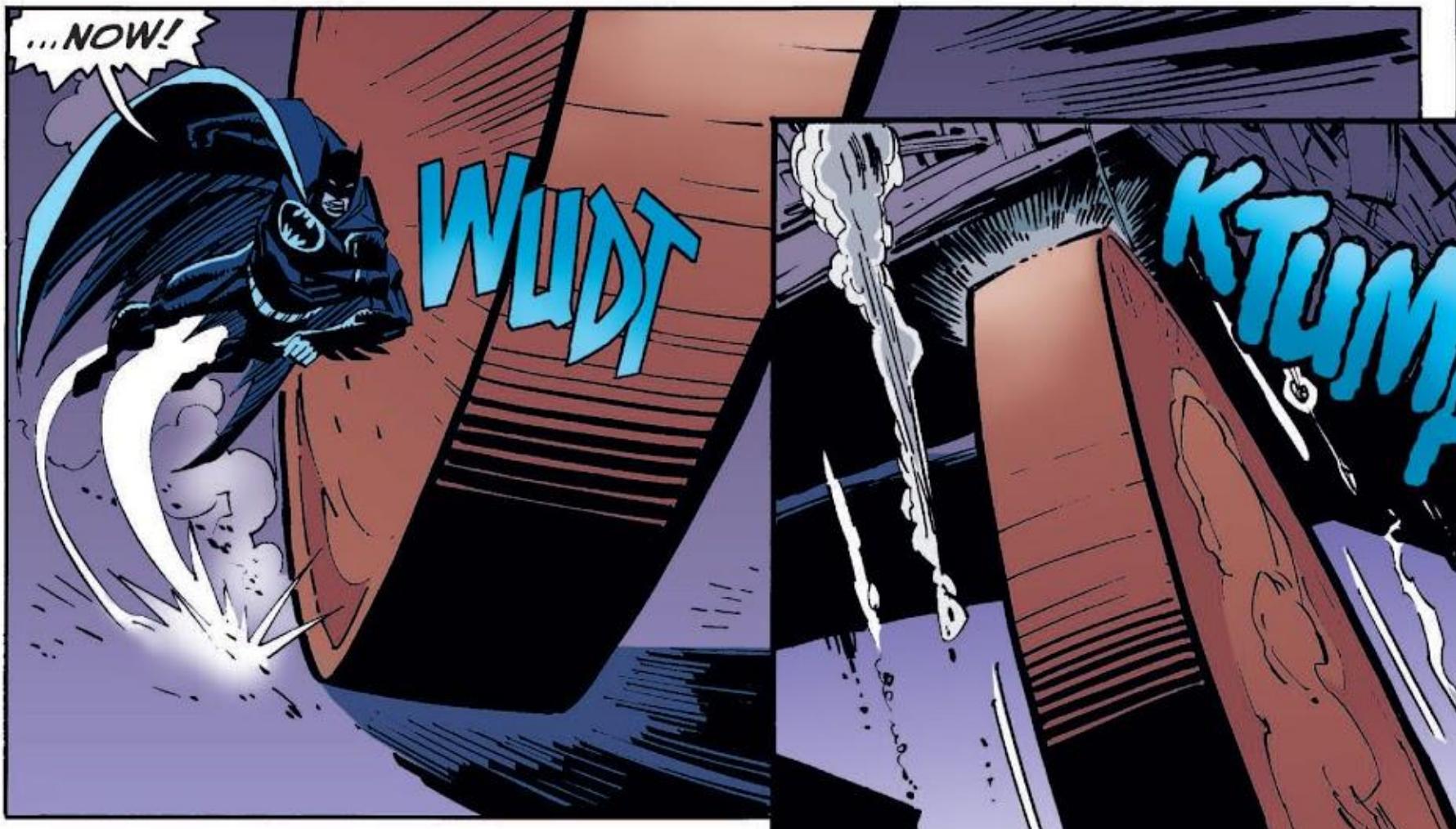
G-GOTTA GET
OUT OF HERE...
GET HOME...

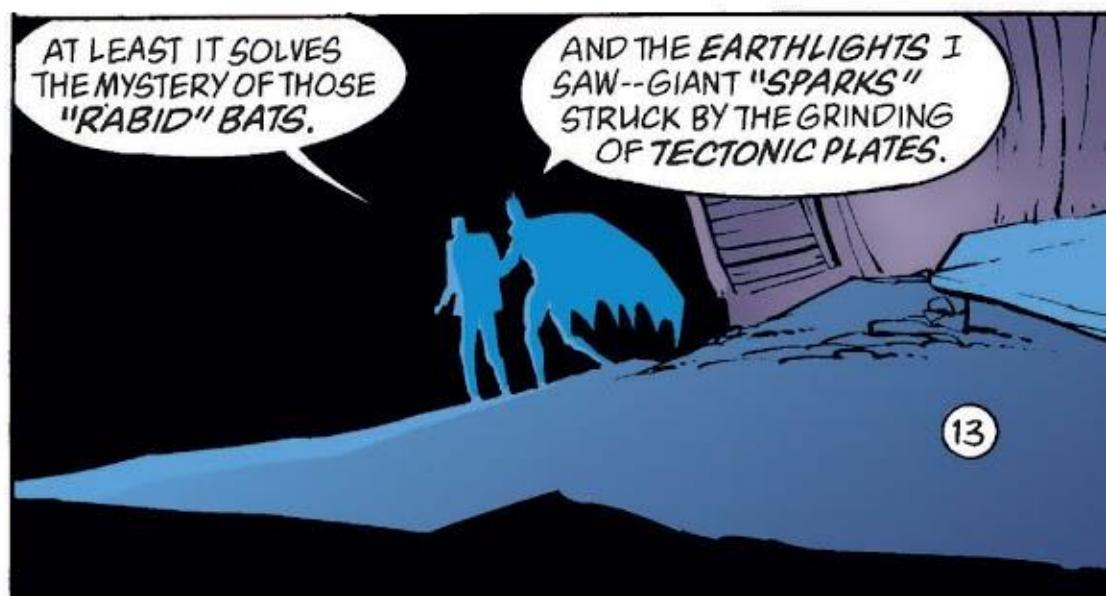
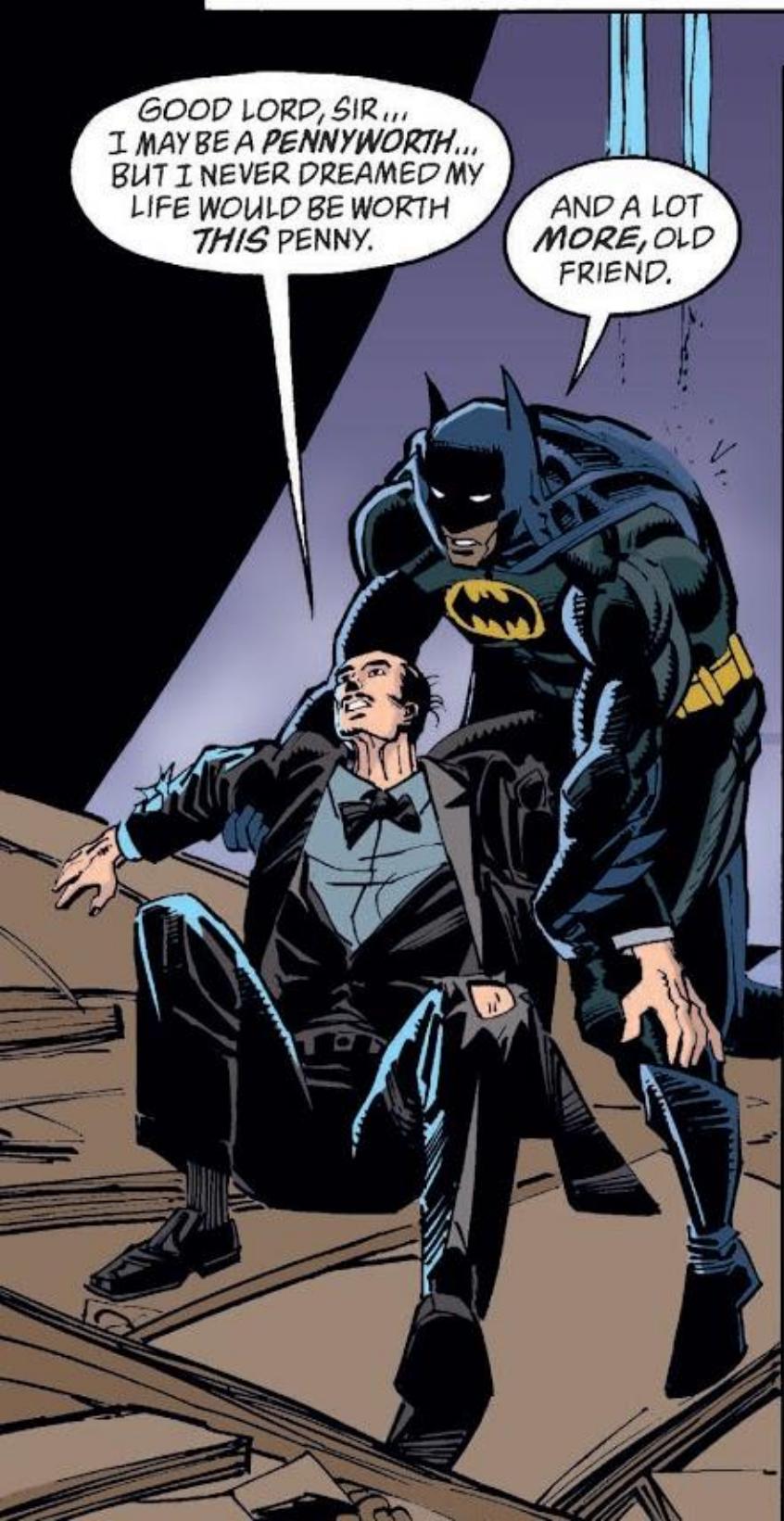
YEAH...
MY WIFE AND
KIDS...

GOTTA
FIND A WAY TO
REACH--









SHOULD WE EMERGE FROM THIS UNSCATCHED, SIR, WE SHALL FACE A MAJOR CLEANUP...

...ALTHOUGH I FEAR THE FAMILY SILVER MAY BE BEYOND SALVAGE.

LET'S JUST CONCENTRATE ON "EMERGING UNSCATCHED," ALFRED...

STAIRS TO THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK ARE SEALED OFF-- BATMOBILE TUNNEL COLLAPSED, ALONG WITH THE TUNNEL TO THE DRAKE HOUSE.

OH DEAR.

PERHAPS THE QUAKE OPENED NEW WAYS OUT OF THE CAVE...?

ONLY ONE I'VE SEEN LEADS STRAIGHT DOWN TO HELL.

THEN WHAT CAN WE DO, SIR?

HOPE THE SCUBA GEAR ISN'T CRUSHED.

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE COMMISSIONER GORDON WAS-- WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

I HAVEN'T HEARD, MA'AM.

ALL RIGHT-- LET'S GET THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FREQUENCY...

"FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS ALL THE FIRES SPARKED BEFORE THE POWER WENT OUT..."

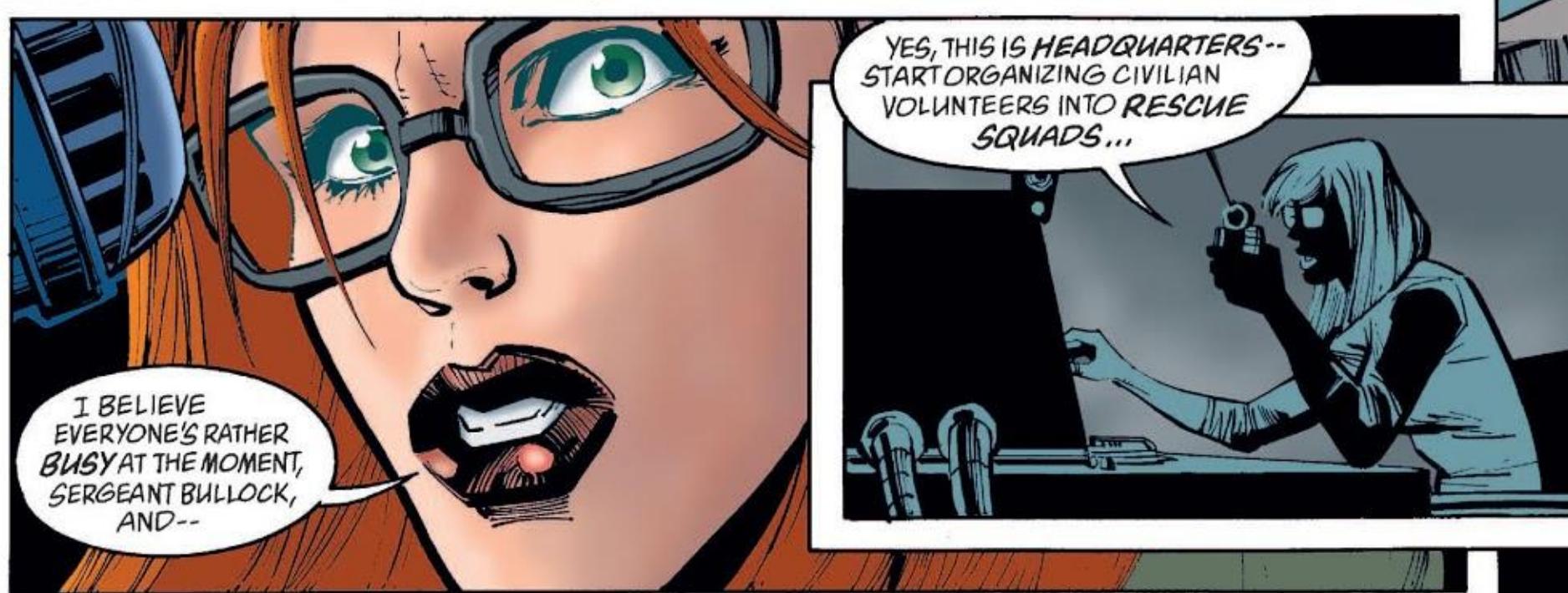
F.D.G.C.

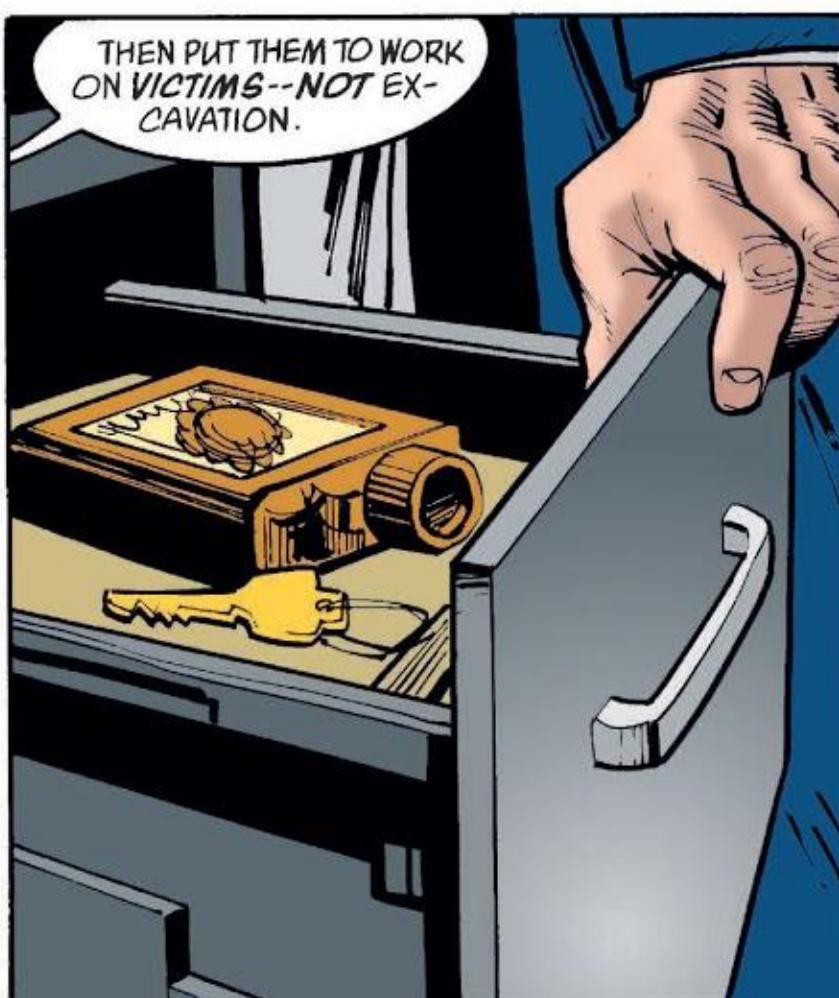
THE SITUATION, LADY? TRY CHAOS!

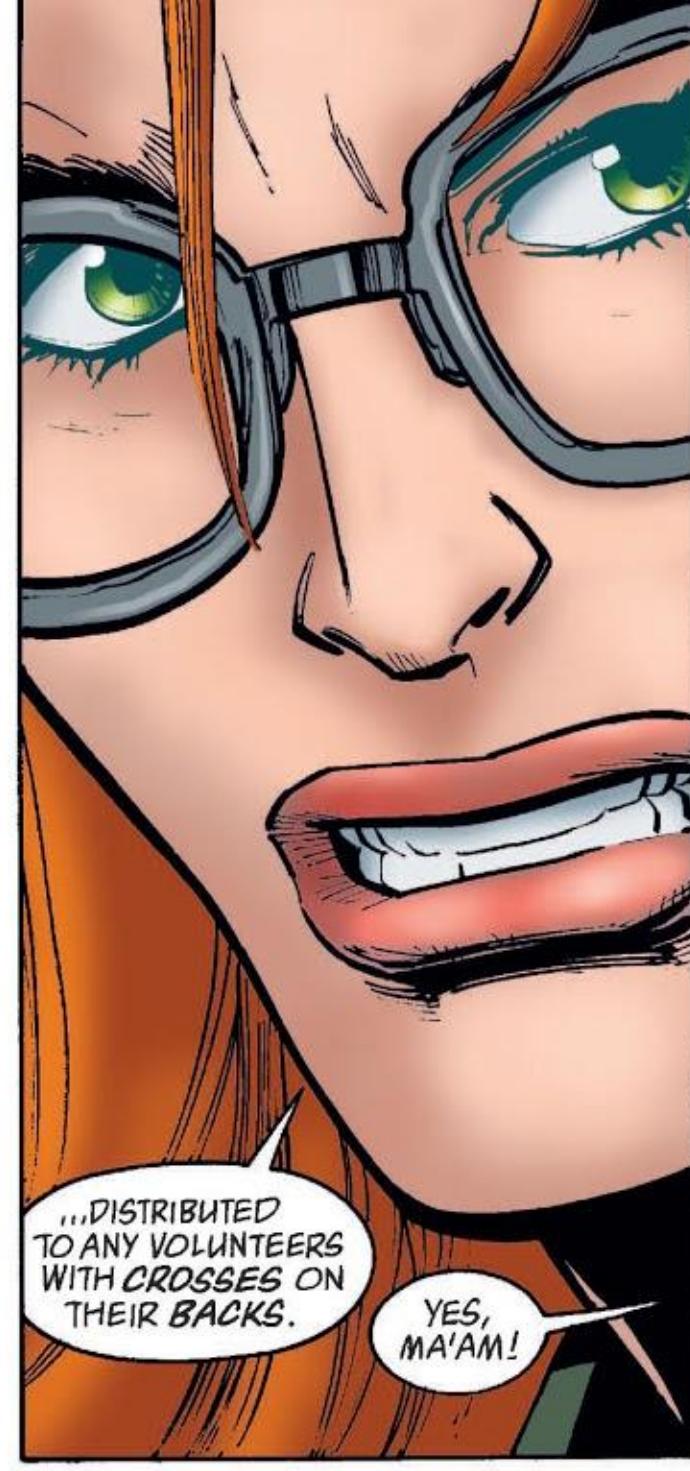
NO WATER PRESSURE! ALL THE MAINS ARE RUPTURED! GEYSERS SHOOTING FROM THE STREETS EVERYWHERE!

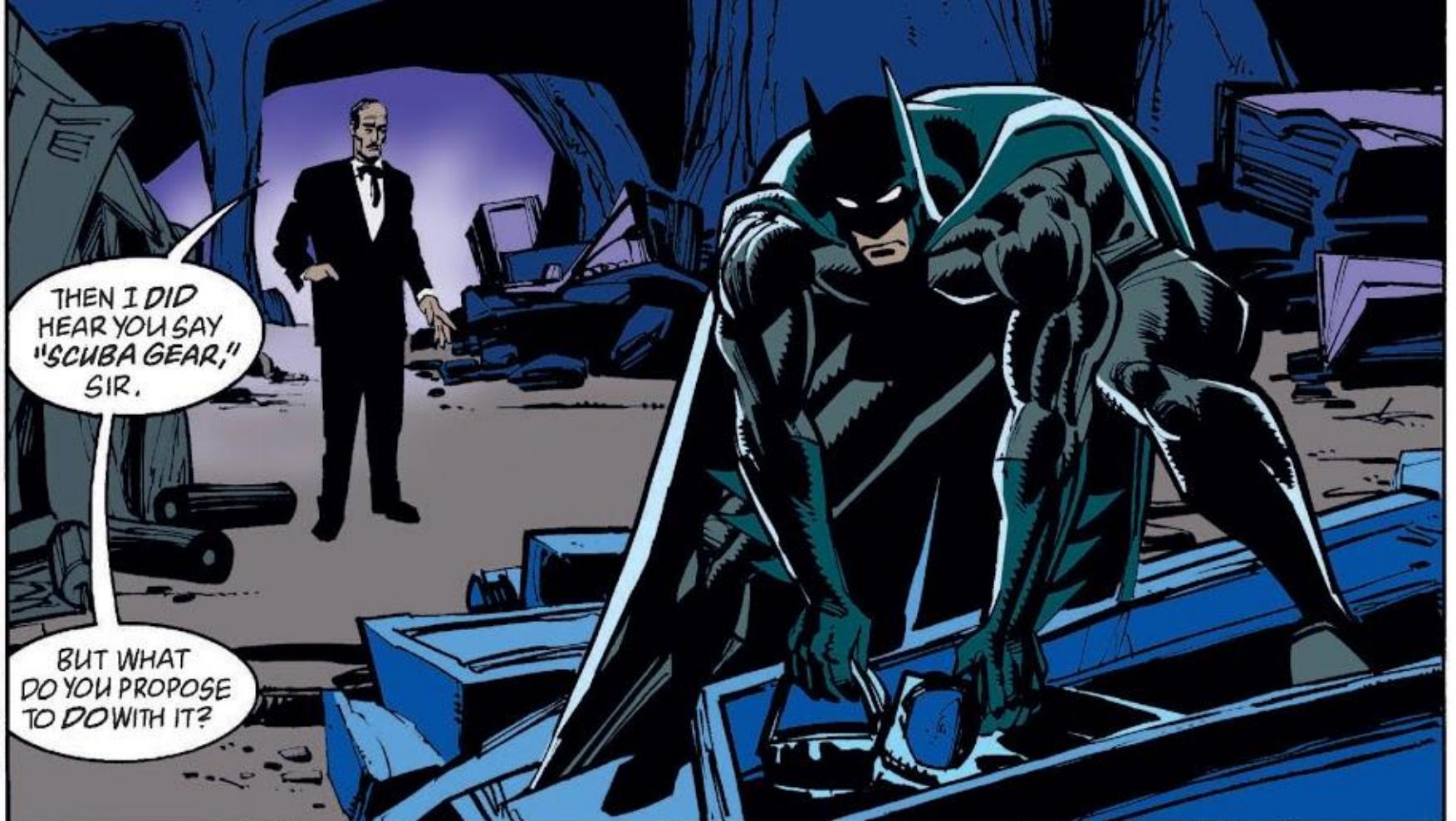
THEN START LINKING YOUR HOSES...











YOU REALIZE, SIR, THIS STREAM COULD RUN FOR MILES UNDERGROUND, NEVER REACHING THE SURFACE...

...AND SHOULD AN AFTER-SHOCK OCCUR WHILE YOU'RE STILL IN IT--

IT'S THE ONLY WAY, ALFRED.

THIS CAVE'S BECOME
A TRAP I'VE GOT TO
ESCAPE.

THERE'S NO
GUESSING THE
SITUATION UP
ABOVE.

NO
ARGUMENT
THERE,
SIR.

DON'T TAKE
FOREVER,
COMMISH...

SHUFFE

BLASTED THING'S
HEAVIER'N A BELL FOR
ADANO.

ALL CLEAR,
SERGEANT
BULLOCK!

SHYEW!

KRUMPSH

YOU'RE PROB'LЯY WORRIED ABOUT
YOUR WIFE, COMMISH, BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHERE--

SARAH'S ON
ASSIGNMENT
WITH
MACKENZIE
BOCK.

WELL, HARD-
BACK'LL TAKE CARE
OF HER.

IF HE DOESN'T, SHE'LL
TAKE CARE OF HIM.

NOW STEP LIVELY,
SERGEANT--THERE ARE
OTHERS WHO NEED
HELP.

AND THEY'LL GET
IT, COMMISH, BUT NOT
TILL YOU SHOW THAT
MUG TO YOUR
DAUGHTER.

MORE FIRES THAN THE CITY'S EVER SEEN, MS. GORDON-- AND WE'VE GOTTA WASTE DOZENS OF HOSES ON EACH ONE.

NO OTHER WAY, CHIEF, NOT UNTIL THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REACHES US--AND THAT'LL BE HOURS.

OVER AND OUT.

ANY WORD ON SERGEANT BULLOCK OR MY FATHER?

WE NEED ALL THE EXTRA HOSES THEY CAN BRING, AND MORE FIRE-BOATS SENT FROM--

AHEM.

D-DAD...?

CARRY ON, BARBARA. YOU'RE DOING FINE.

NO, MA'AM, BUT--

OKAY, SWITCH TO THE FEMA BAND.

BUT A LOT BETTER NOW, DAD.

SIR? IT'S, AH...
STILL NOT TOO LATE
TO CONSIDER AN
ALTERNATIVE
COURSE OF--

AT LEAST
VENTURENO
FARTHER
THAN--

--THE
HALFWAY POINT
OF YOUR AIR
SUPPLY.

HOLD TIGHT,
ALFRED--AND KEEP
THE FAITH.

PLASH

8:32 PM:

THE FIRST
AFTERSHOCK
HITS.