



DC
COMICS™

15

SCOTT
SNYDER
GREG
CAPULLO
JONATHAN
GLAPION

DEATH OF THE FAMILY

BATMAN

THE NEW 52!



Capullo
12
+fco

...like you, made of bone
and tissue and blood.

...LITTLE BIRDS
AND BATS, I KNOW
WHO ALL OF YOU ARE!
AND IN LESS THAN
THREE DAYS, YOU'LL BE
DEAD, DEAD, DEAD
BY BATMAN'S
HAND!

THAT'S RIGHT,
BATSSS! I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE UNDER THAT LITTLE
MASK! AND MORE TO THE
POINT, ALL OF YOU OUT
THERE, LISTENING...

YOU ARE
NOTHING--BUT
DEGENERATE
FILTH!

THERE'S THE
SPIRIT, HON! I SOOO
LOVE IT WHEN YOU
TALK DIRTY...

STAY
WHERE YOU
ARE!

YOU KNOW
NOTHING,
JOKER.



WHAT
THE--?!

LOOK OUT!
LOOK OUT!

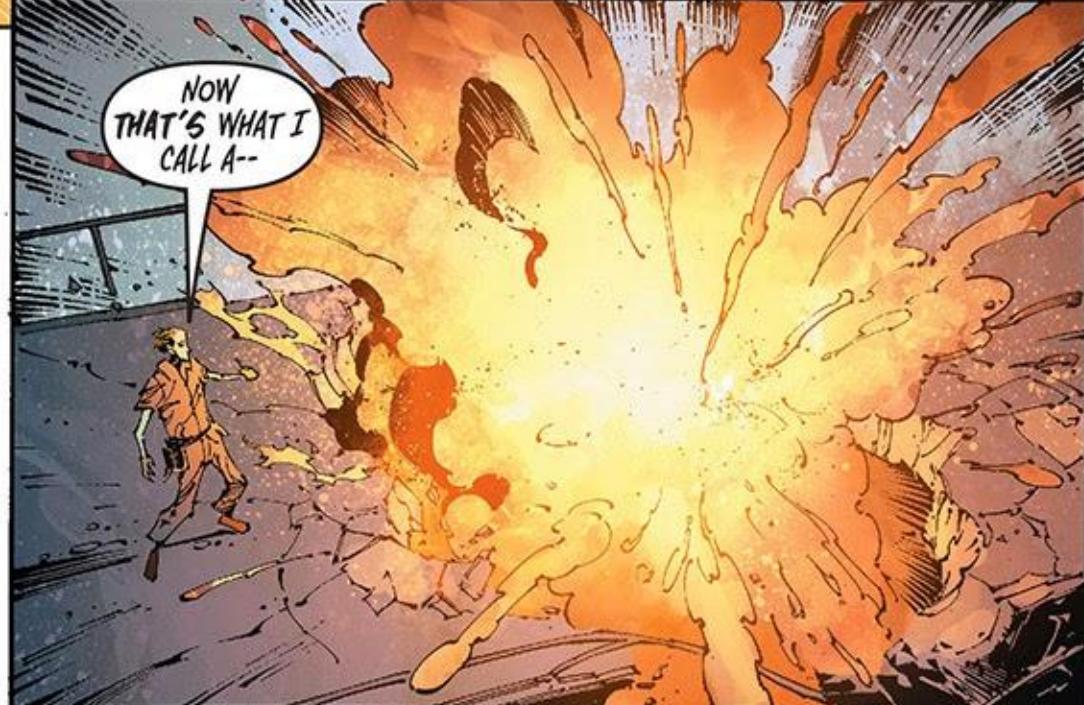
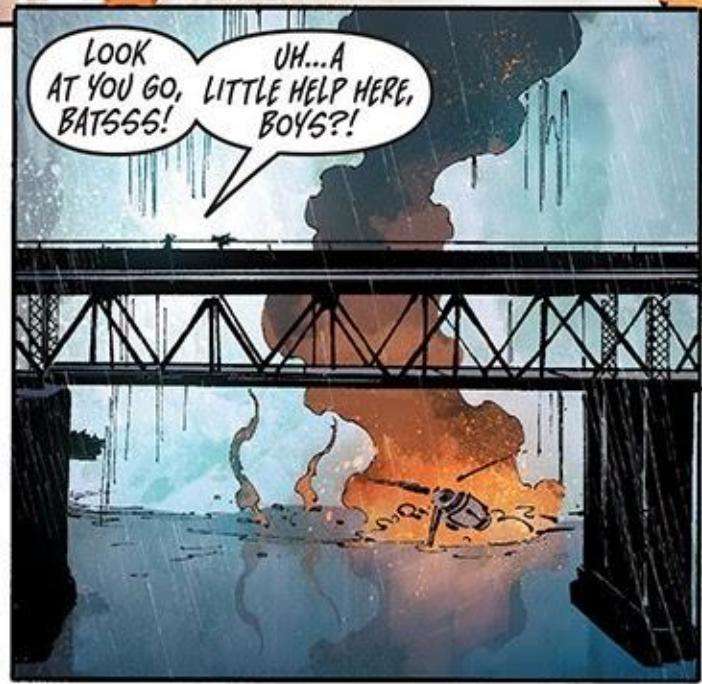
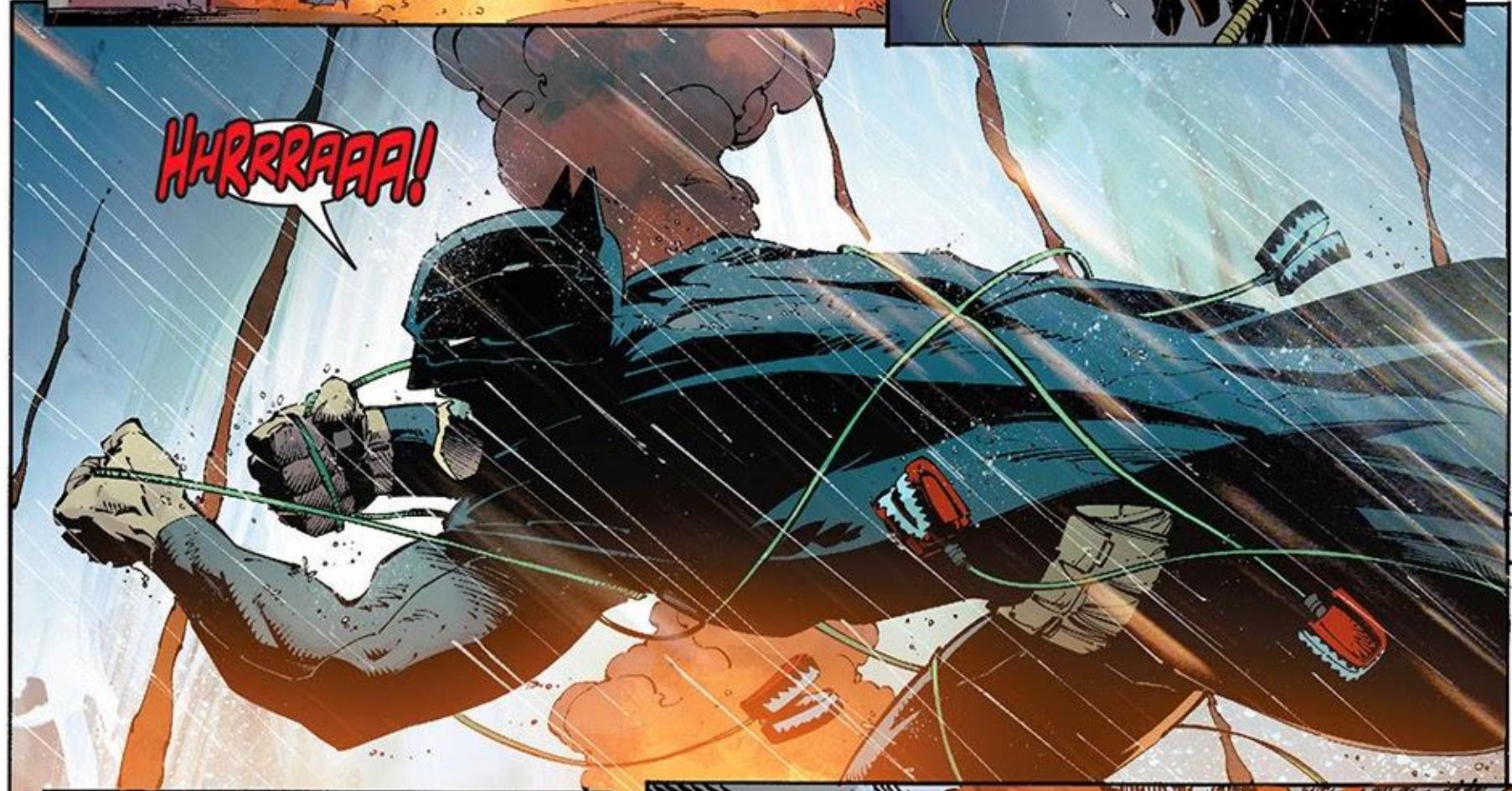
JOKER'S
GOT MEN IN THE
TREES! REPEAT!
IN THE--

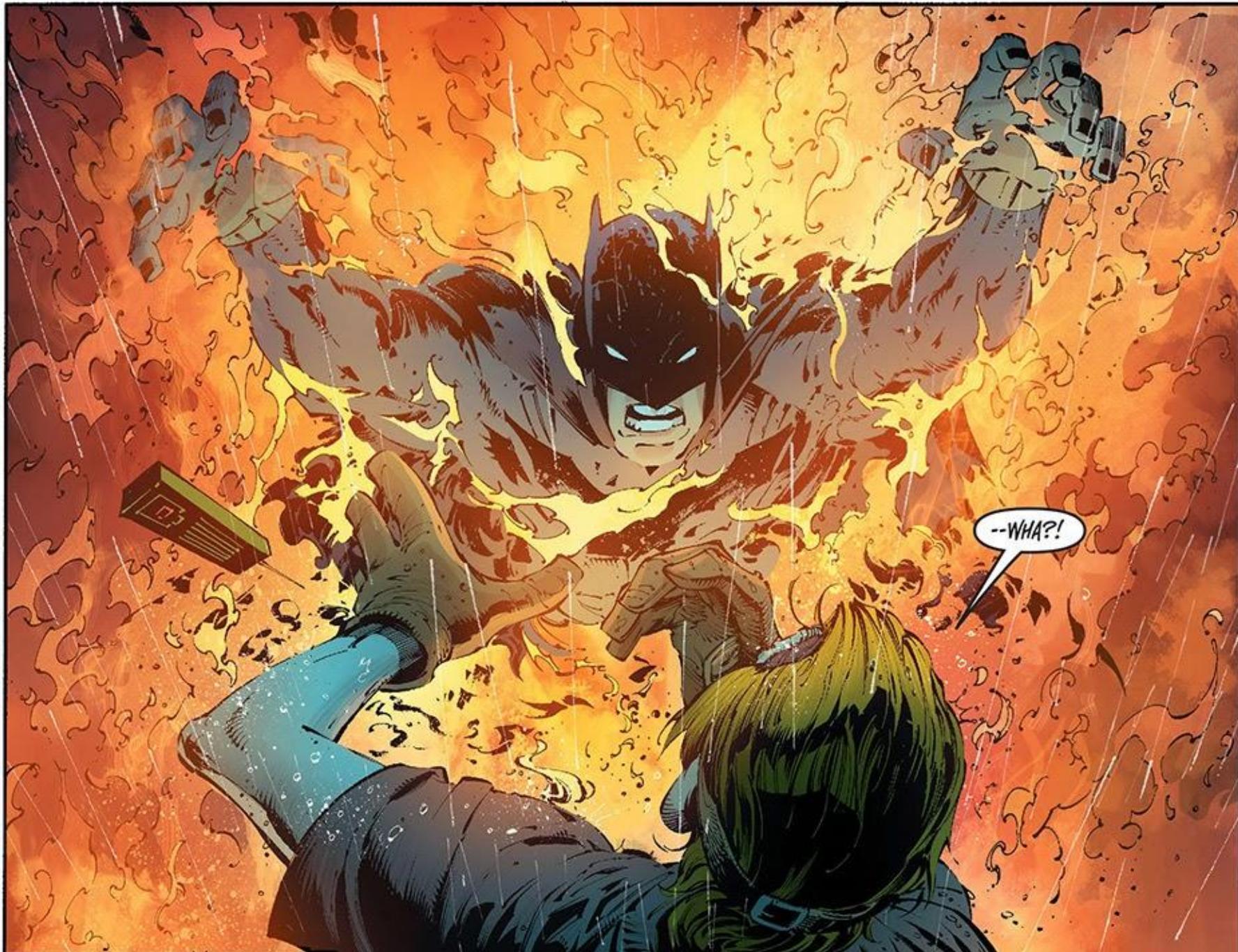
AAAIEEE!

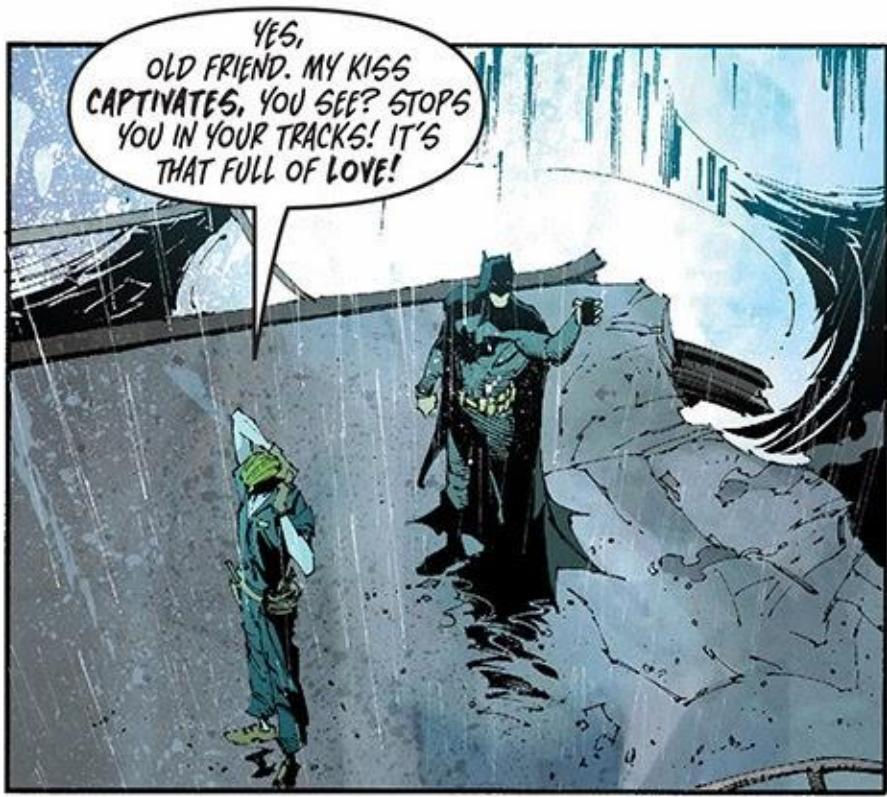
HHRRRAAA!

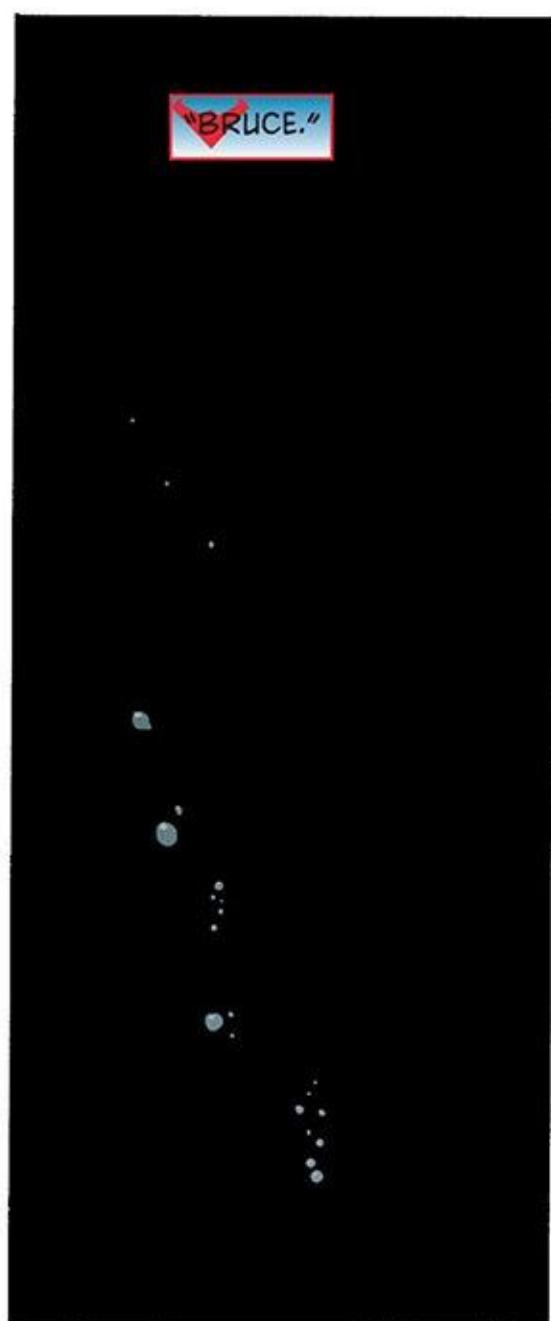
LOOK
AT YOU GO, LITTLE HELP HERE,
BOYS?!

NOW
THAT'S WHAT I
CALL A--









BRUCE!

JOKER,
HE--

IT'S OKAY, BRUCE. IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE GOT HIM. THE WATER FOR AN ESCAPE HE'S IN CUSTODY. THROUGH THE PIPELINES, BUT JASON HERE CAUGHT HIM AT THE ENTRY POINT FOR THE GOLD STAR.

YEAH,
WELL, YOU'RE
WELCOME.

DON'T
GET COCKY,
TODD.

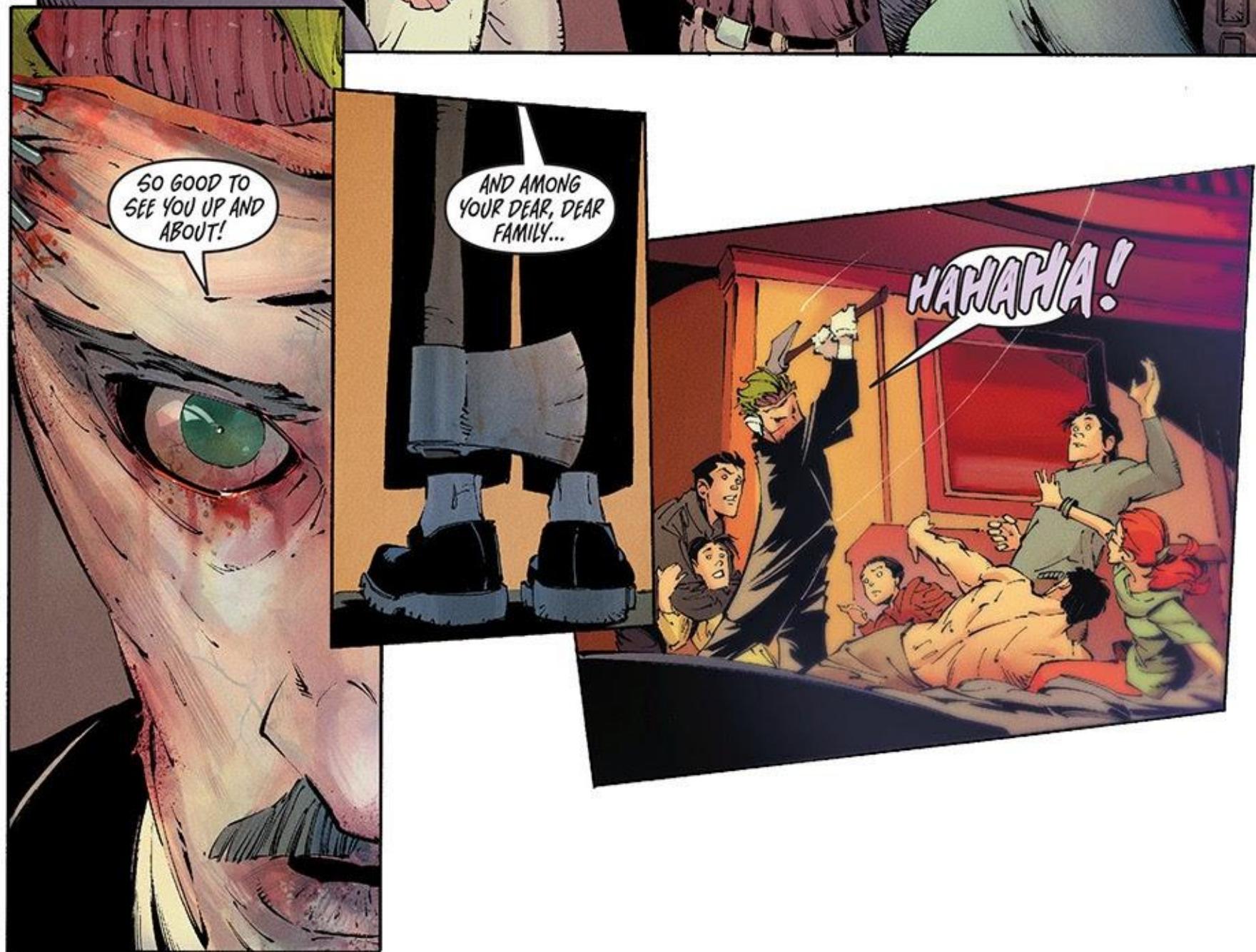
AND ALFRED?
ALFRED'S ALL
RIGHT?

HE'S FINE,
BRUCE.

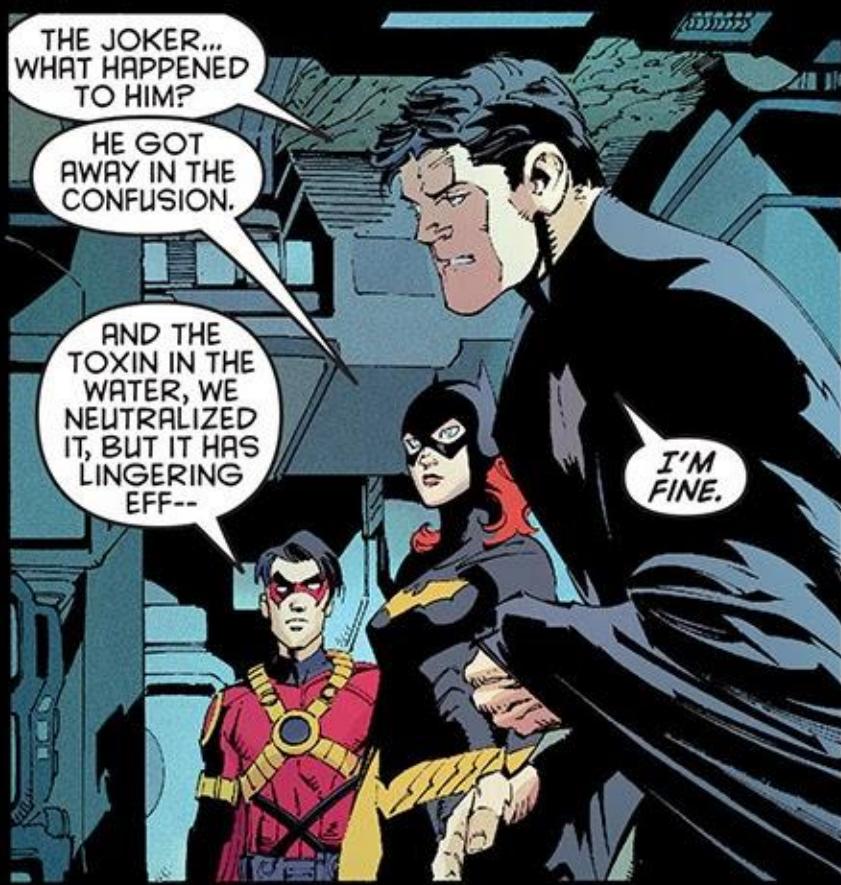
JOKER WAS
KEEPING HIM IN
A STORAGE UNIT,
OF ALL THINGS.
DOWN IN THE
NARROWS.

ONE CUP OF
EARL GREY, TWO
FRESH WHITE GLOVES
LATER...HE'S BACK
IN ACTION, FATHER.
SEE?

ALFRED...?







HOW
COULD YOU
NOT TELL
US?

BECAUSE I
WAS AFRAID.

BECAUSE I
BELIEVED THAT YOU'D
LET YOUR *EMOTIONS*
GET THE BETTER OF YOU,
AND BY DOING SO,
YOU'D GIVE HIM THE
UPPER HAND.

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
TELLING US THAT HE TOOK
ALFRED, MEANING HE KNOWS
WHO WE ARE, WOULDN'T
HELP US UNDERSTAND
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST?

YES... BECAUSE HE
DOESN'T KNOW.

HE TOOK ALFRED
BECAUSE OF *Bruce*
Wayne's CONNECTION TO
BATMAN, INCORPORATED. JOKER
NEEDED SOMEONE TO HELP
HIM PREPARE SOME
CELEBRATION.

IF YOU WERE
JOKER, ALFRED
WOULD BE YOUR
FIRST CHOICE.

THAT'S WHAT
YOU SAID AT
THE HOSPITAL,
Bruce,
BUT THERE'S
BEEN MORE
EVIDENCE
SINCE THEN.

THE OTHER DAY
HE FREED RAYA FROM
PRISON--AN ENEMY
OF *DICK GRAYSON*,
NOT NIGHTWING.

AND THEN HE
CAME AFTER MY
MOTHER!

DAMMIT,
YOU'RE NOT
UNDERSTANDING
HOW HE
THINKS!

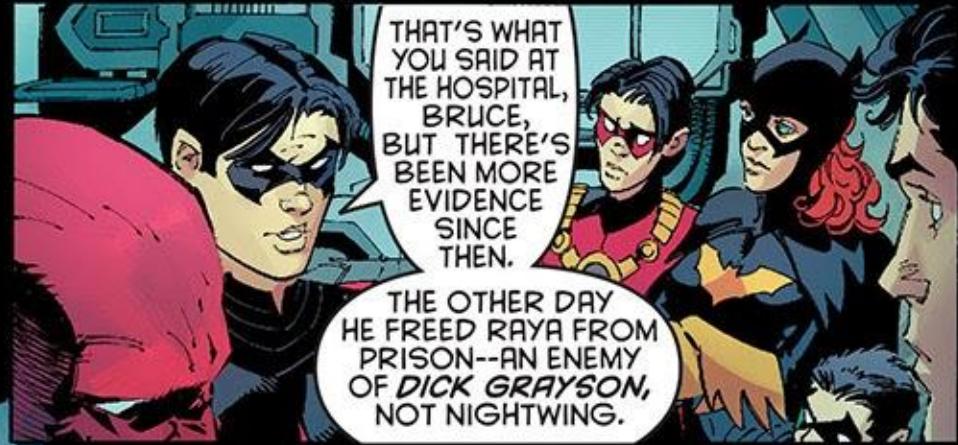
THEN EXPLAIN IT.
I SAW THE FOOTAGE
FROM THE G.C.P.D. WHAT
DID HE MEAN, YOU
HAVE HIS *CALLING
CARD*?

AND WHAT'S
THE *SECRET* HE
WAS TALKING ABOUT,
THE ONE YOU'RE
KEEPING FROM US?
WHAT IS HE GETTING
AT, *Bruce*?

GO ON.
NOW.

FATHER...

IT WAS A
LONG TIME
AGO...



“...SOON AFTER I BECAME BATMAN.
BEFORE ALL OF YOU. NOT
LONG AFTER MY FIRST BATTLE
WITH HIM AT THE RESERVOIR.

“HE USED A BLIMP
AND TRIED TO
GAS THE CITY.”

YOU CAME! AND
HERE I WAS SO WORRIED
I MADE YOU UP! THAT YOU
WERE A FIGMENT OF MY
IMAGINATION! FAKE AS
THE TOOTH FAIRY!

NO,
BUT I’LL
TAKE SOME
TEETH.

“I KNOCKED HIM
INTO THE BAY...”

"...I USED THE BATBOAT TO DRAG THE GAS CELL OUT INTO THE WATER BEFORE IT INFECTED ANYONE."

"THEN I RUSHED BACK TO LOOK FOR HIM. I SEARCHED THE BAY FOR HOURS, TRYING TO FIND SOME SIGN OF HIM, BUT THERE WAS **NOTHING**."

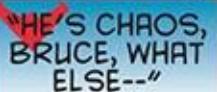
"AFTERWARD, THE WHOLE WAY BACK TO THE CAVE, I REMEMBER BEING SO ANGRY WITH MYSELF FOR NOT CATCHING HIM. I WAS ACTUALLY **SHAKING** WITH ANGER."

"I'D NEVER GOTTEN THAT WAY ABOUT AN UNFINISHED CASE BEFORE. **NEVER**. I WAS JUST STARTING TO UNDERSTAND HIM, YOU SEE. THE RESERVOIR GAVE ME A SENSE OF HIM. BUT NOW I WAS JUST STARTING TO UNDERSTAND..."

 "UNDERSTAND WHAT, BRUCE?"

"THAT HE WAS **DIFFERENT** FROM THE REST, TIM. THAT HE WAS ABOUT SOMETHING **ELSE**, AND WILLING TO **DO ANYTHING** TO MAKE HIS POINT."

 "WHAT POINT?"

 "HE'S CHAOS, BRUCE, WHAT ELSE--"

 "QUIET. GO ON, BRUCE."

"AFTER SEARCHING THE BAY AND FINDING NOTHING, I TOOK THE BOAT BACK TO THE CAVE. I CAME IN THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE SOUTH PALISADES THAT I'VE SINCE CLOSED OFF."

"AFTER SURFACING, I WENT DIRECTLY UPSTAIRS TO THE MANOR AND SLEPT..."

"...OR TRIED TO."

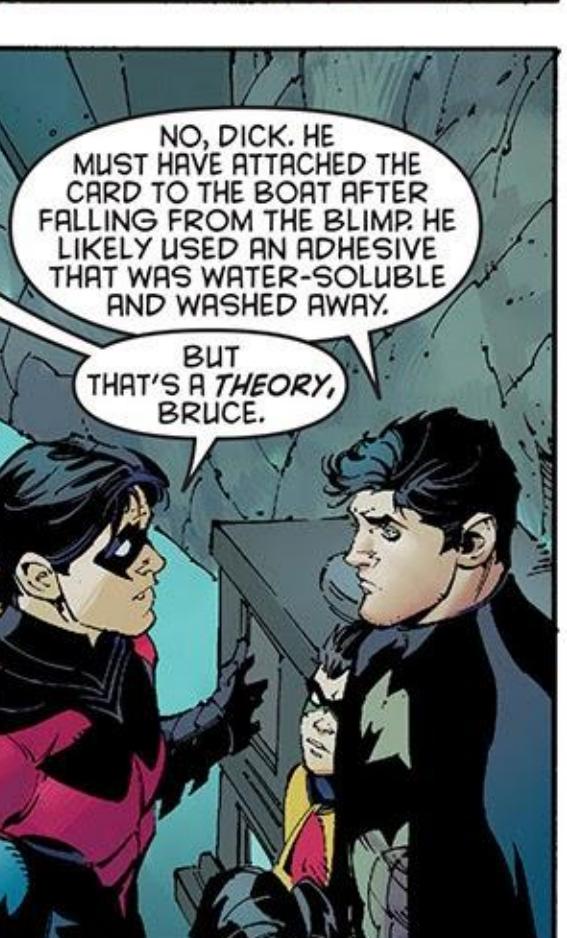
"BUT JUST HOURS LATER,
I CAME DOWN TO THE
CAVE AGAIN, TO REVISIT
THE CASE. ALL OF IT,
FROM THE SLIDE
CONTAINING THE WASTE
THAT MADE HIM, TO THE
TOXIN FROM THE BLIMP."

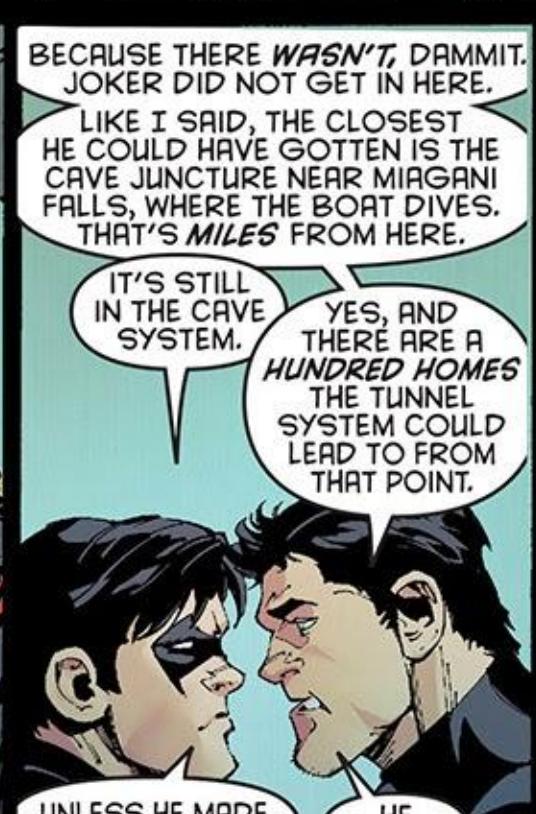
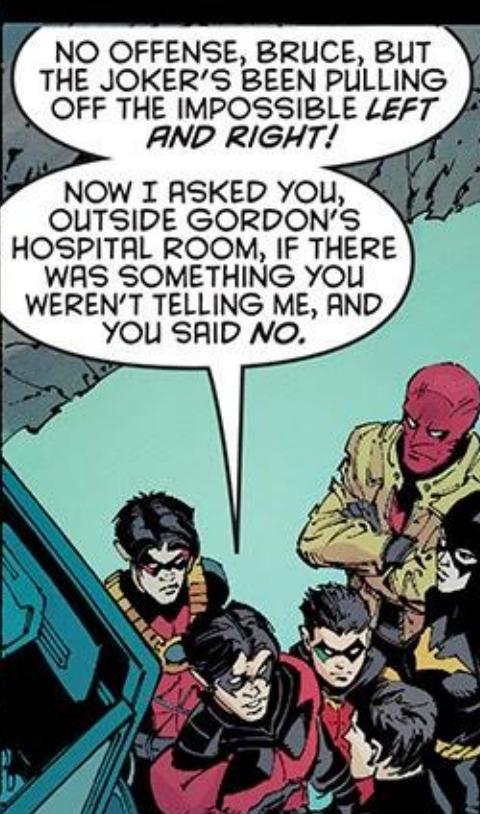
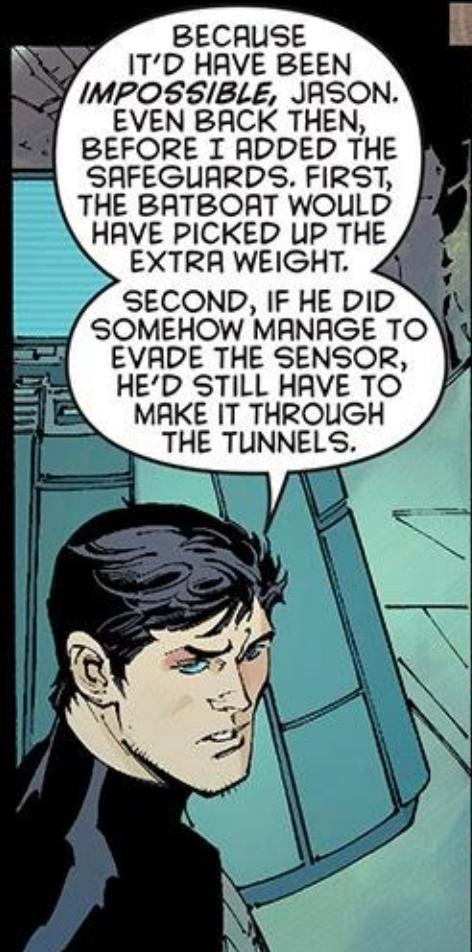
"BUT WHEN I GOT
DOWN TO THE CAVE, I
FOUND SOMETHING..."

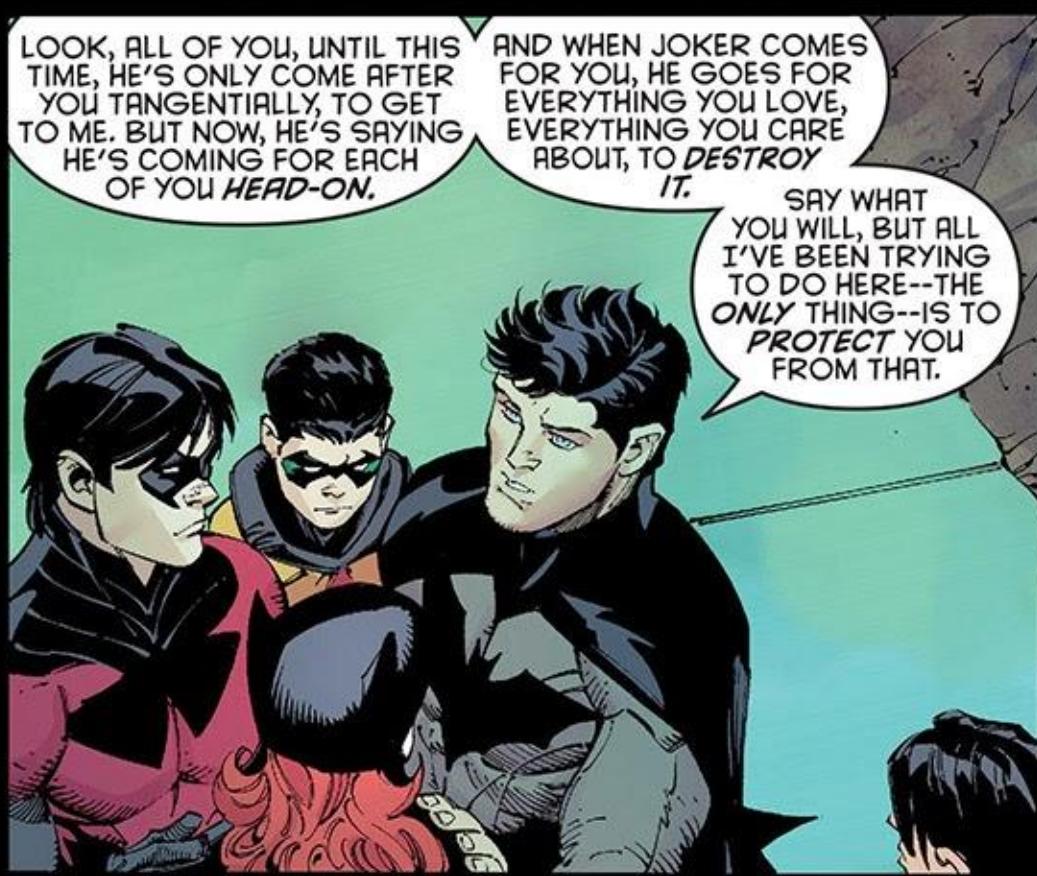
"FOUND WHAT, FATHER?"

"THERE IN THE WATER
BESIDE THE BOAT."

"I FOUND HIS CARD."









...he's been planning for a year, plotting and watching, but to pull off everything he intends, he needs help.

At the reservoir, he used a cellular signal in his remote to contact men hiding in the trees.



Those men, the help he's using, is where I can get to him...

...get to him before he gets to them. Before he does whatever he's planning to do to Alfred. It's the only way, beating to him his punchline. Ruining his joke.



I traced the cellular signal Joker sent to a pre-paid cell phone number. A burn phone. Purchased with cash at a Gotham electronics shop nine days ago.

The phone is untraceable, but traffic light footage of the corner shows a man exiting the shop at the time of the purchase.



A man identified by the computer as "Dylan McDyre." Forty-five years old. Widowed. Four children. And McDyre resides...



"...ALL THE GUARDS FROM ARKHAM."

Dylan McDyre. A nine-year veteran officer of Arkham Asylum. I assumed he and a few others had taken up with Joker, out of greed or fear.

But the story he tells me, there in his dining room... it's something worse than I expected.



A story about an asylum held hostage by a madman. A killer who sent the guards home every night, the ones with families, forced them to pretend everything was fine.

To pretend that the Asylum was business as usual, while the whole time, day by day, the inside was being transformed...

...transformed into what exactly, McDyre wasn't sure.

No one was, he said. But he saw glimpses down the hall.

Saw miles of current brought in, generators and cable, mortar and spackle and paint.

He heard the screaming, too, saw bloody towels come down the hall in a wheelbarrow. Heard bodies going down the incinerator chute.

The metallic bang, bang, bang and then the thud. The smoke and smell and laughter from above, always the laughter...

"Whatever he was changing it into," McDyre said to me, "he said it was for you, Batman. He said he was making it your castle, a place to come home to."

So now, Bruce,
as you enter, tell
yourself he's just
a man. Like you.

Tell yourself he has
flesh that can be
ripped, bones that
can be shattered.

That he needs
to breathe, to
sleep, to eat.

Prove it to yourself.

Stare back at him,
into those damn
eyes. Stare
into them until
he flinches.

Until you see them
work like human eyes.
Until you see the
pupils change.

It happens all of a
sudden, just a tiny
shift, but there it is.
You stare back and
you see it. The smallest
flicker in the pupils, but
still. And you say to
yourself, see? Beneath
it all he's just what
you thought he was.

And ignore the fact
that what you saw
those tiny pupils do
was expand. Expand
for you after you
stared back long
enough. Ignore the
fact that what you
saw those black
points expand with...

A man.

...was love.

DC COMICS presents BATMAN in
DEATH OF THE FAMILY

BUT HERE'S THE KICKER

SCOTT SNYDER
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GREG CAPULLO
penciller

JONATHAN GLAPION
inker

FCO PLASCENCIA
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RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT
lettering

KATIE KUBERT
editor

MIKE MARTS
editor

GREG CAPULLO &
FCO PLASCENCIA
main and variant
covers

BATMAN
created by
BOB KANE

NEXT:
**CASTLE OF
CARDS!**

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

STARRING
JOKER
& THE RIDDLER

SCOTT
SNYDER &
JAMES
TYNION IV
WRITERS
JOCK
ARTWORK
DAVE BARON
COLORS
TAYLOR
ESPOSITO
LETTERS
KATIE
KUBERT
ASSISTANT
EDITOR
MIKE
MARTS
EDITOR

LET'S SEE IF
YOU CAN GET THIS
ONE...WHAT'S AN ELEVEN-
LETTER WORD FOR
SELF-DISGRACE?









YOU'LL FIND THE KEY CARD TO THE DOOR ATTACHED TO THAT POOR GUARD YOU JUST GUNNED DOWN.

YOU CLEARLY WANT ME INVOLVED IN WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT PLANNED OUT THERE, SO OPEN THE DOOR.

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR YOUR GAMES, JOKER.

DON'T LIE TO ME, EDDIE. YOU'RE AAALWAYS IN THE MOOD FOR GAMES.





NOBODY CAN PUSH HIM TO HIS LIMIT LIKE YOU CAN. NOBODY ELSE IS A FRACTION AS SMART AS OUR GLORIOUS BAT-KING!

IF YOU DIDN'T SEND OUT YOUR LITTLE CLUES, HE'D NEVER CATCH YOU! BUT THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, ISN'T IT? YOU SEE THE BIGGER GAME... JUST LIKE MEEE!





BUT SO ARE YOU!
THAT'S THE POINT, DON'T
YOU SEE? BUT QUICKLY
NOW...WE MUST FINISH
GETTING READY.

CARE TO TAKE
A GUESS AT WHAT
I HAVE IN STORE?
I KNOW YOU'RE
CURIOS.

THIS IS JEREMIAH
ARKHAM'S DOCTORAL
DIPLOMA.

WELL, I HAD TO DRAW
ON SOMETHING! IT LOOKED
SO LONELY UP THERE, DUSTY
IN ITS FRAME. I THOUGHT I'D
PUT IT TO BETTER USE
THAN HE EVER DID.

I'M SURE HE
APPRECIATES IT...
WHEREVER HE IS. ONE OF
THE CLOSETS I THINK...
BUT NO MATTER.
TAKE A LOOK...

I THINK I
CAN GUESS WHAT
YOU HAVE PLANNED,
JOKER. I'VE KNOWN
YOU LONG ENO--

I DON'T... I
DON'T UNDER-
STAND.

IT'S NOT FOR
YOU TO UNDERSTAND,
MY BOY! THIS IS
JUST FOR HIM
AND ME.

BUT TRUST ME,
YOU'RE GOING TO WANT
TO COME ALONG FOR THE
RIDE. THIS IS GOING TO
BE SOMETHING TO
REMEMBER!

TO BE
CONTINUED...