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KING  
JANÍN  
BELLAIRE

# BATMAN™



GUEST-STARRING:  
**CONSTANTINE**

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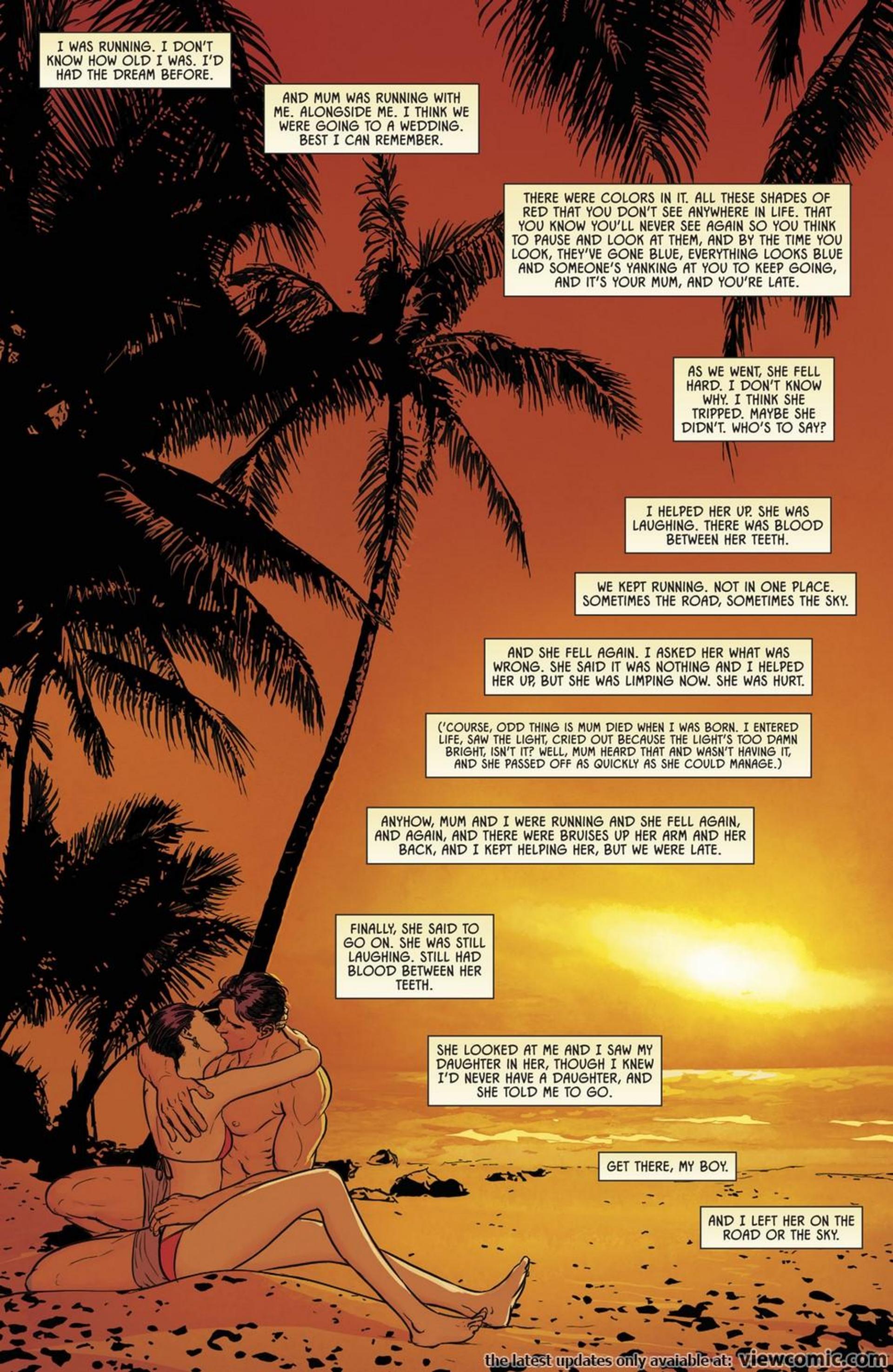




I REMEMBER MY  
FIRST CIGARETTE.

IT WAS IN  
A DREAM.





I WAS RUNNING. I DON'T KNOW HOW OLD I WAS. I'D HAD THE DREAM BEFORE.

AND MUM WAS RUNNING WITH ME. ALONGSIDE ME. I THINK WE WERE GOING TO A WEDDING. BEST I CAN REMEMBER.

THERE WERE COLORS IN IT. ALL THESE SHADES OF RED THAT YOU DON'T SEE ANYWHERE IN LIFE. THAT YOU KNOW YOU'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN SO YOU THINK TO PAUSE AND LOOK AT THEM, AND BY THE TIME YOU LOOK, THEY'VE GONE BLUE, EVERYTHING LOOKS BLUE AND SOMEONE'S YANKING AT YOU TO KEEP GOING, AND IT'S YOUR MUM, AND YOU'RE LATE.

AS WE WENT, SHE FELL HARD. I DON'T KNOW WHY. I THINK SHE TRIPPED. MAYBE SHE DIDN'T. WHO'S TO SAY?

I HELPED HER UP. SHE WAS LAUGHING. THERE WAS BLOOD BETWEEN HER TEETH.

WE KEPT RUNNING. NOT IN ONE PLACE. SOMETIMES THE ROAD, SOMETIMES THE SKY.

AND SHE FELL AGAIN. I ASKED HER WHAT WAS WRONG. SHE SAID IT WAS NOTHING AND I HELPED HER UP, BUT SHE WAS LIMPING NOW. SHE WAS HURT.

('COURSE, ODD THING IS MUM DIED WHEN I WAS BORN. I ENTERED LIFE, SAW THE LIGHT, CRIED OUT BECAUSE THE LIGHT'S TOO DAMN BRIGHT, ISN'T IT? WELL, MUM HEARD THAT AND WASN'T HAVING IT, AND SHE PASSED OFF AS QUICKLY AS SHE COULD MANAGE.)

ANYHOW, MUM AND I WERE RUNNING AND SHE FELL AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND THERE WERE BRUISES UP HER ARM AND HER BACK, AND I KEPT HELPING HER, BUT WE WERE LATE.

FINALLY, SHE SAID TO GO ON. SHE WAS STILL LAUGHING. STILL HAD BLOOD BETWEEN HER TEETH.

SHE LOOKED AT ME AND I SAW MY DAUGHTER IN HER, THOUGH I KNEW I'D NEVER HAVE A DAUGHTER, AND SHE TOLD ME TO GO.

GET THERE, MY BOY.

AND I LEFT HER ON THE ROAD OR THE SKY.

I GOT TO THE WEDDING AND THERE WAS A MAN THERE WITH A SHINE IN HIS EYE.

HE CAME UP TO ME, HE LOOKED LIKE ALL THE BOYS I'D GROWN UP WITH, AND I ASKED HIM WHAT HIS PROBLEM WAS, AND WITH A LIVERPOOL LILT HE ASKED ME WHERE MUM WAS.

I TOLD HIM, MUM'S DEAD, AND HE ASKED WHO I'D BEEN RUNNING WITH.

THAT WAS JUST A DREAM, I TOLD HIM. AND I SMILED AND THERE WAS BLOOD IN MY TEETH AND IT WAS A COLOR HE'D NEVER SEEN BEFORE, THAT HE KNEW HE'D NEVER SEE AGAIN.

BUT *THIS* IS A DREAM, HE SAID.

I HIT HIM AS HARD AS I DAMN WELL COULD. I GAVE HIM WHAT MY FATHER'D BEEN GIVING ME FOR ALL THOSE YEARS. I PUT IT ALL IN THERE, AND HE DIDN'T SEE IT COMING. AND THIS WAS A MAN, YOU UNDERSTAND, WHO SAW A LOT COMING.

HE GOT BACK UP. AND HE WAS ANGRY. HE WAS SHOUTING ALL THE WORDS HE KNEW. AND NOW HIS ACCENT WAS ALL LORD BUTTOCKS OF BRIGHTON TOFF.

WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?! DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!

THERE IT WAS THEN.

A CIGARETTE IN MY HAND. I PUT IT TO MY LIPS. SET THE FIRE TO IT.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, I SAID, AND I TOOK IN THE SMOKE AND LET IT OUT.













THE CLUE  
TWO-FACE LEFT  
INSIDE THE DEAD  
TWINS.

THERE  
WERE TWO  
POSSIBLE ANSWERS.  
**TWO** POSSIBLE  
LOCATIONS.

FOOTBALL  
KNIGHTS  
STADIUM OR  
THE BASEBALL  
KNIGHTS  
STADIUM.

I'M  
COVERING  
ONE. SHE'S  
COVERING THE  
OTHER.



ALONE?

SHE'S  
GOOD.

SHE  
DOESN'T NEED  
ME.

SHE'S  
FINE.

I'M SURE.  
BUT MIND IF I ASK  
A QUESTION?

WHY DID THE  
JAIL LET **MASTER**  
**Bruce** KILL THOSE  
CHILDREN?

THEY  
COULDN'T  
HAVE DONE  
ANYTHING  
TO STOP  
THAT?

AND FOR THAT  
MATTER, IN THE MEAT  
LOCKER...

HOW'D IT  
TAKE YOU SO  
LONG TO FIGURE  
OUT PYG WAS  
YOUR BOY?

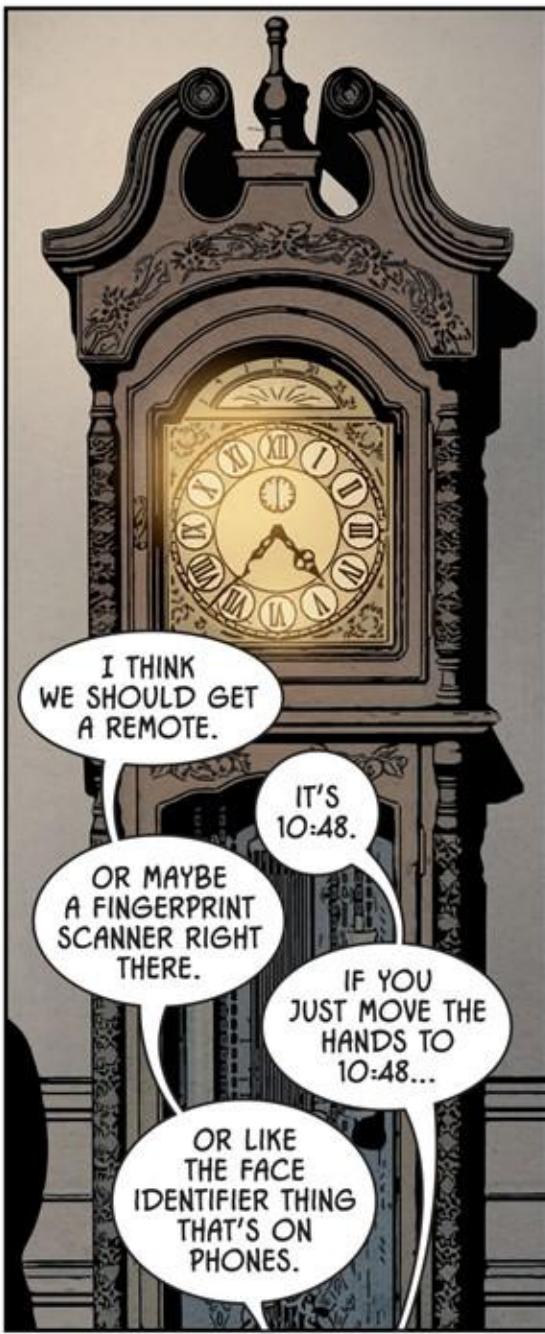
AIN'T YOU  
THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST  
DETECTIVE?

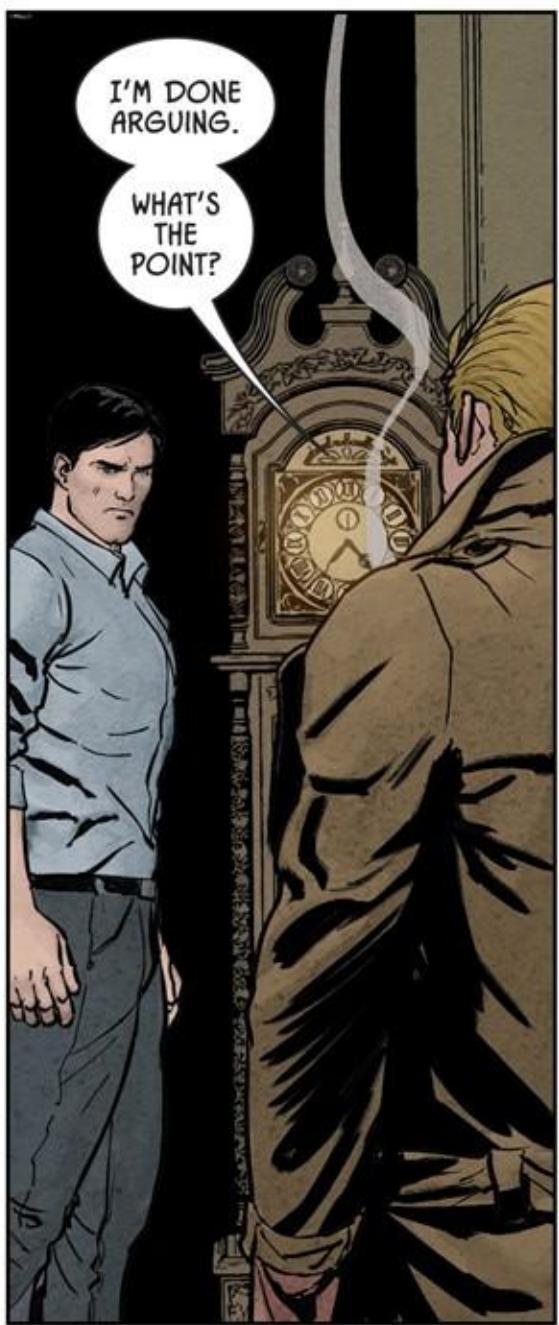


She's  
fine.

SHE'S  
FINE.

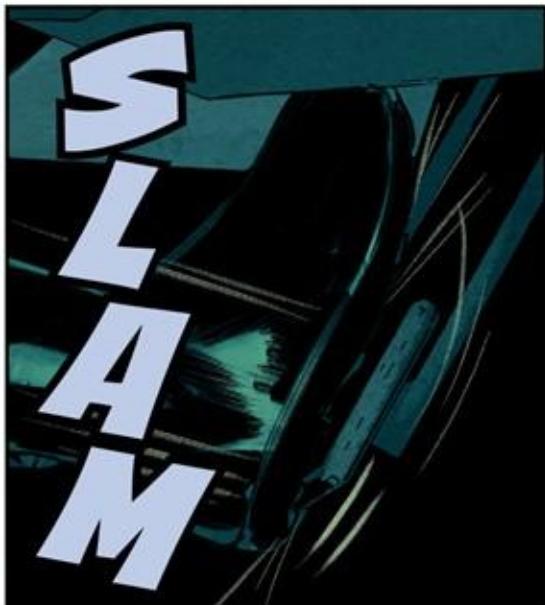








"SOMETHING'S  
WRONG. WHAT'S  
WRONG?"





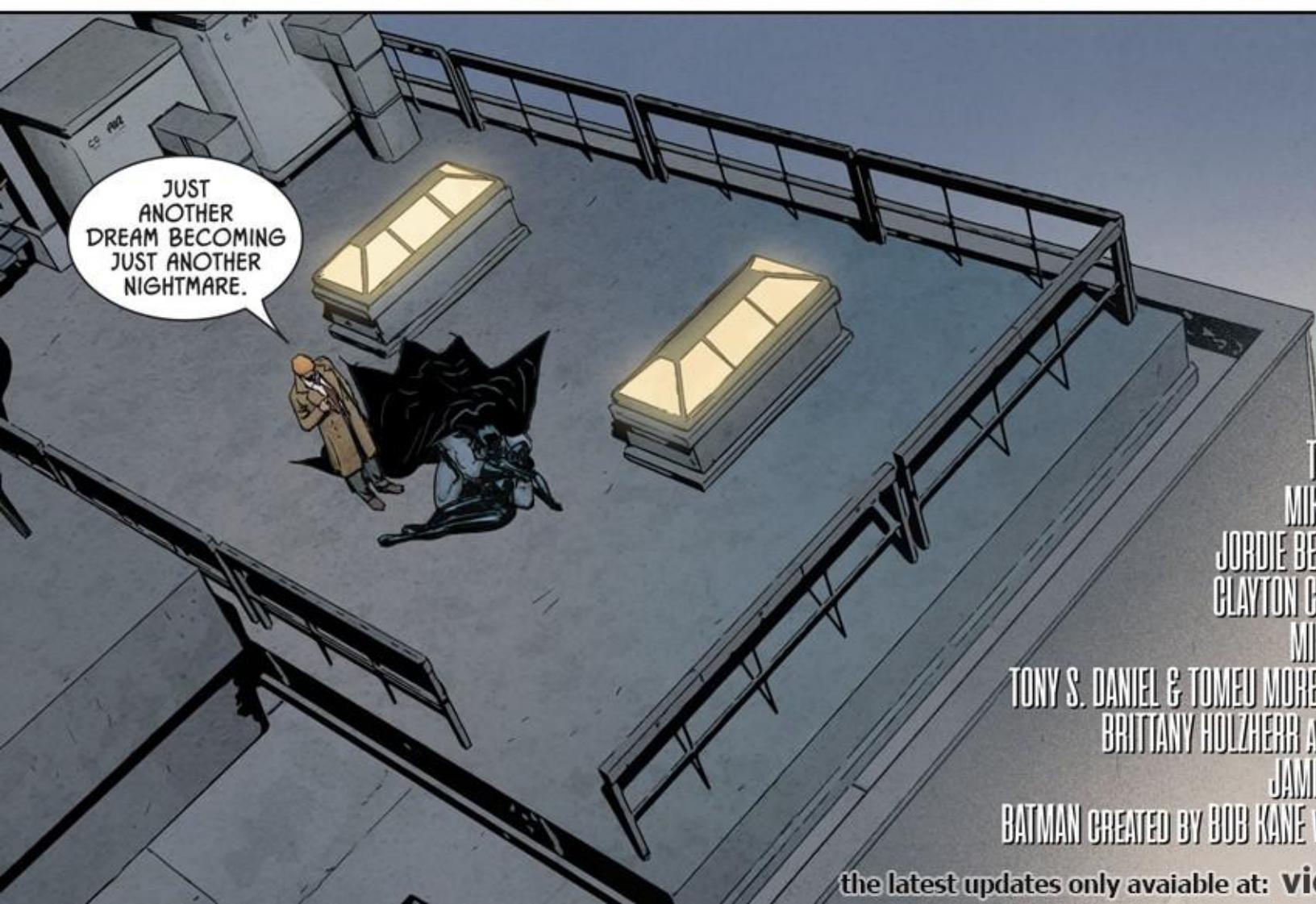






DC COMICS PRESENTS

KNIGHTMARES, PART 3  
"Smoke and Mirrors"



JUST ANOTHER DREAM BECOMING JUST ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.

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