

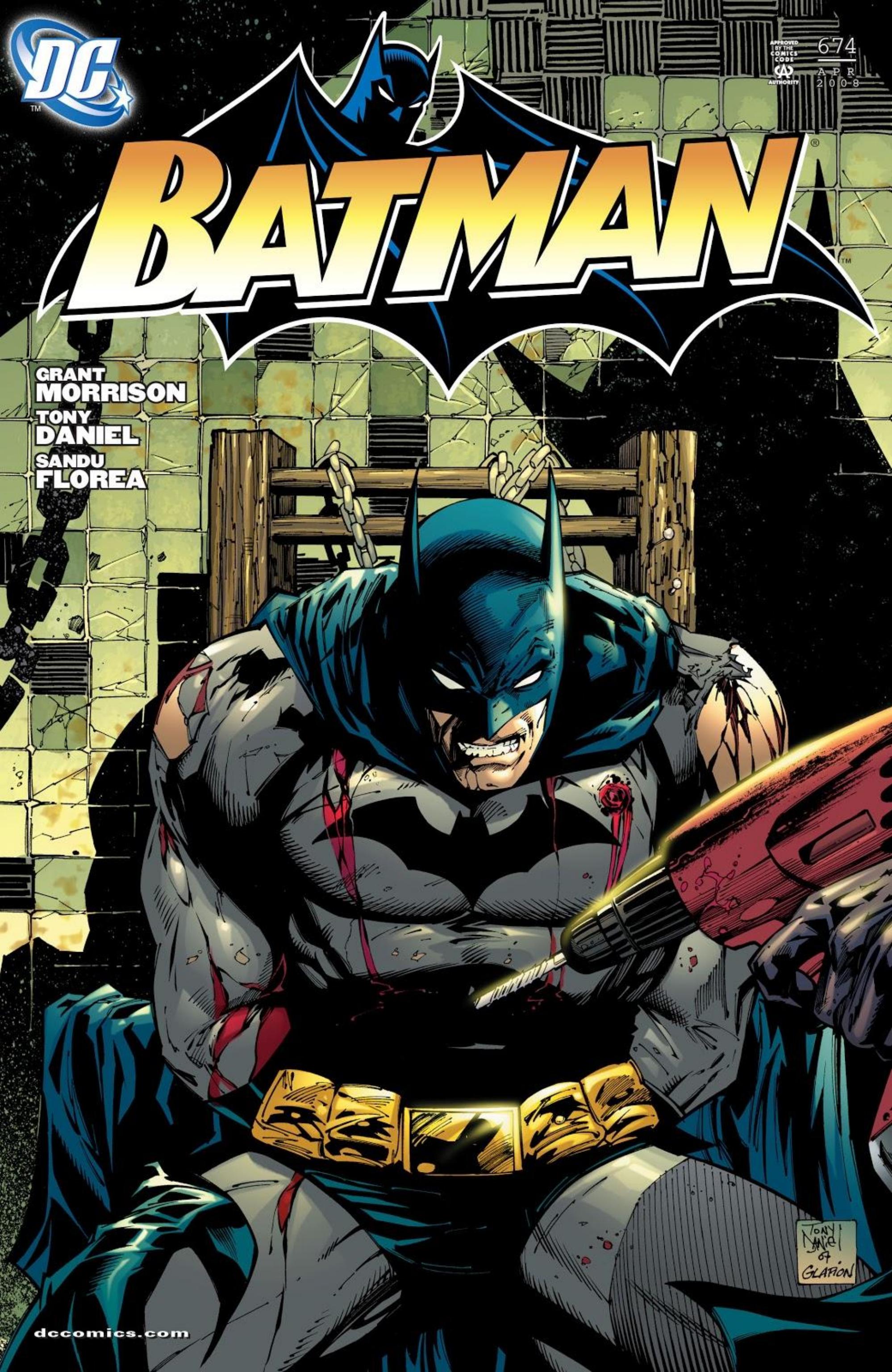


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BATMAN

GRANT
MORRISON
TONY
DANIEL
SANDU
FLOREA



YOU KNOW
YOU WERE DEAD
FOR ALMOST FOUR
MINUTES BEFORE
I RESUSCITATED
YOU.

The accent is
East Side Gotham.

Scholarship
boy.

Breathes like
an athlete.

Cop #3 in a
Batman suit.

SELECTION WILL
BE ARDUOUS, GENTLEMEN,
AND WE EXPECT ONLY THREE
OF YOU TO MAKE IT ALL
THE WAY.

BUT AS YOU KNOW,
WHATEVER YOUR PERSONAL
OPINION, BATMAN'S WAR ON CRIME
IS SHOWING REAL RESULTS ON THE
STREETS AND NOBODY WANTS TO
LOSE THAT ADVANTAGE.

MISTER FARELLI, YOU HAVE
A QUESTION BEFORE I INTRODUCE
YOU ALL TO DOCTOR HURT, OUR
MILITARY LIAISON?

FUNNY.
THAT'S HOW
IT ALL GOT
STARTED.

SOMEBODY
WONDERED WHAT
WE'D ALL DO IF
BATMAN DIED.

Everything
he says.

I'M SOMETHING OF
A BATMAN SPECIALIST.

I'VE STUDIED HIS
PSYCHOLOGY UNDER
PRESSURE.

IT WILL BE
MY PRIVILEGE
TO TURN YOU ALL
INTO FEARSOME
CREATURES OF
THE NIGHT.

Every move
he makes.

Everything
is a clue.

Concentrate.

BATMAN DIES AT DAWN

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BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE

LOOK
AT YOU.

BLEEDING,
BEATEN, GRASPING
FOR LIFE.

NGH!

Concentrate.

THIS IS
THE FIRST TIME
I'VE SEEN YOU UP
CLOSE SINCE THAT
NIGHT ALL THOSE
YEARS AGO.

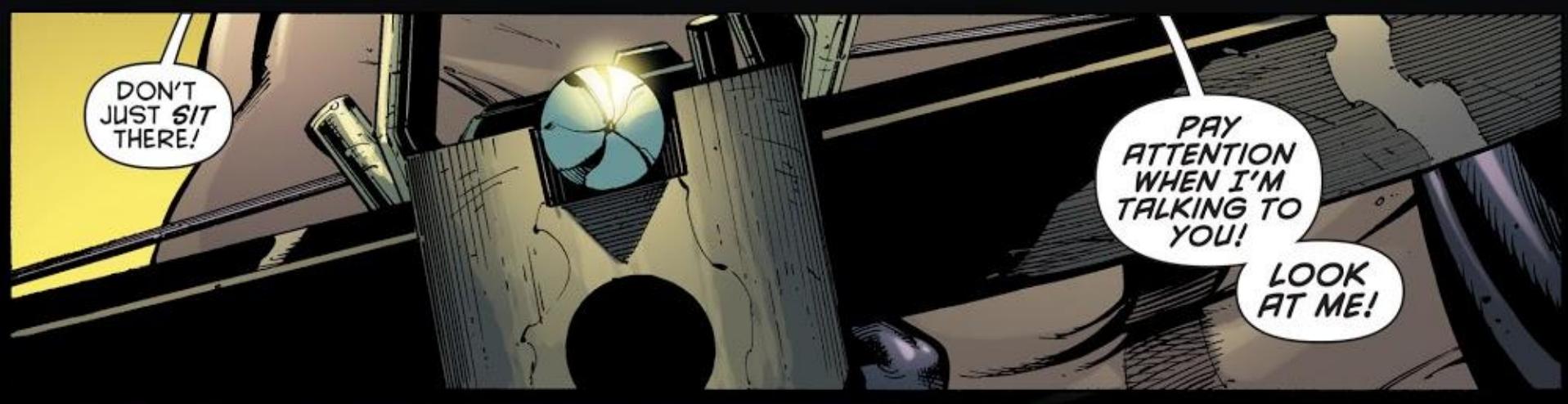
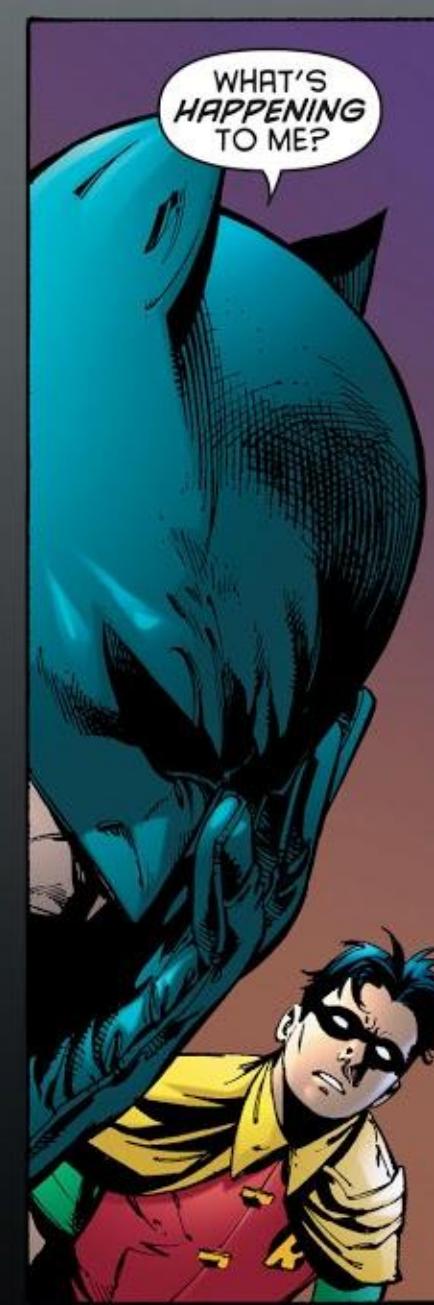
I WANT
TO SAY
YOU DON'T
LOOK LIKE
MUCH.

BUT YOU DO,
DON'T YOU?

YOU'VE GOT
SOMETHING.

YOU
SHINE.

I...I must have blacked out again.





I SCORED
A DIRECT HIT TO
YOUR CHEST WITH
AN EXPLOSIVE
SHELL.

EVEN YOUR
ARMOR COULDN'T
PROTECT YOU
FROM THAT KIND
OF IMPACT.

YOUR
HEART ACTUALLY
STOPPED.

THAT'S
FOR WHAT
YOU DID TO MY
ARM WITH YOUR
BATARANG.

Four
minutes.

Can't be far
from the roof
of police HQ.

We're
all rooting
For ya,
Bruce.

Heh heh
heh

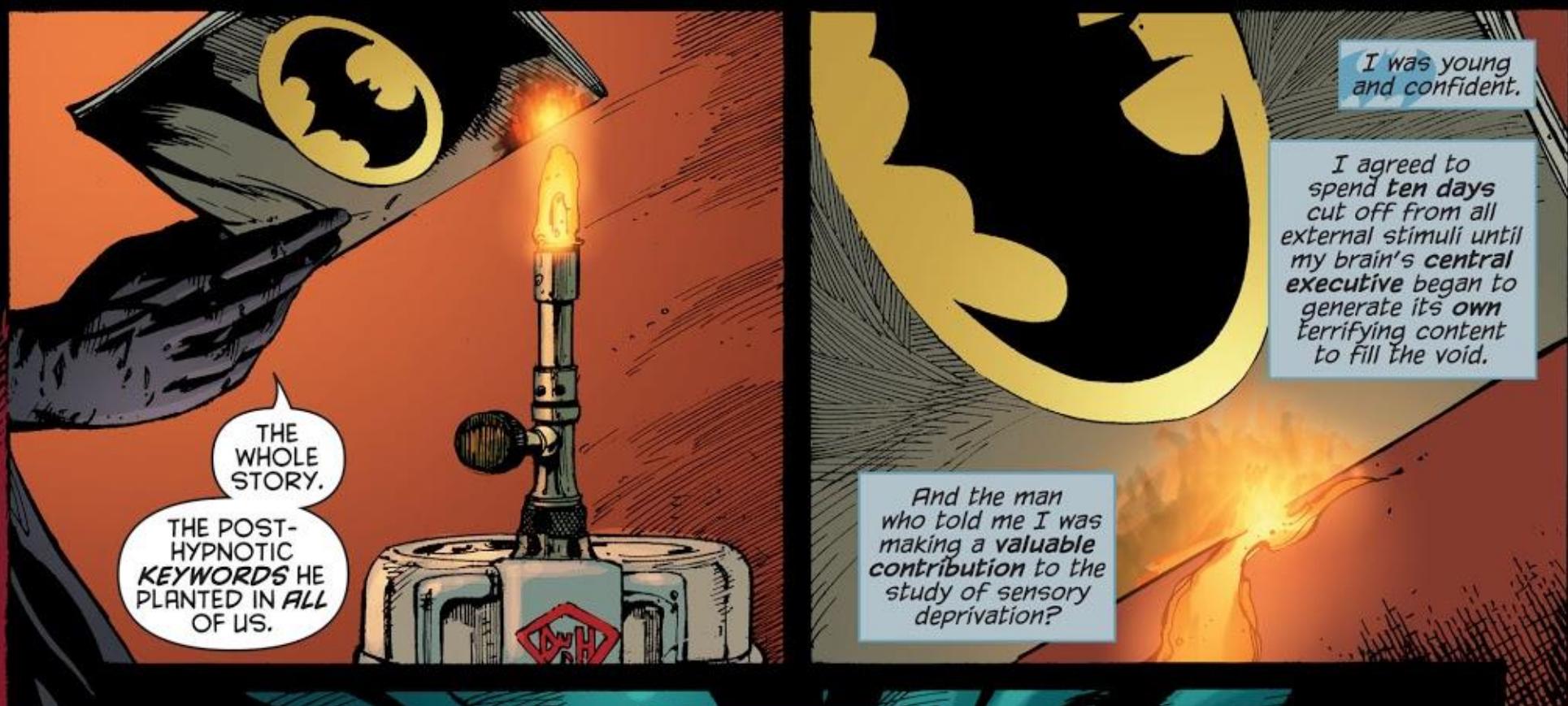
Every
word he
says, every
move he
makes...

Years ago,
I took part in a
ten-day isolation
experiment.

I hallucinated
the death of Robin.

I felt so guilty
I almost gave
up being Batman.

It
happened
here.





YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND?
THIS AIN'T GOT
NOTHIN' TO DO WITH
POLICE CORRUPTION,
NOR ANYTHING ELSE
BATMAN TELLS
YOU!

THIS IS ABOUT
LOYALTY!

SIR.

THESE MEN
AND ME, WE WERE
VOLUNTEERS
TOGETHER.

THEY WERE
MY BROTHERS AND
I MADE A PROMISE I'D
TAKE CARE OF THEM,
ESPECIALLY AFTER...
AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED.

YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT THEY
SUFFERED.

SO TELL
ME!

THIS IS OVER,
FARELLI!!

GCPD AND THE
MILITARY WERE
TRAINING MEN TO
TAKE BATMAN'S
PLACE, IN CASE
ANYTHING EVER
HAPPENED TO HIM...
AND IT ALL WENT
WRONG.

RIGHT HERE IN THE
BASEMENT AT POLICE
HEADQUARTERS.

PLACE HAS
BEEN SEALED
OFF FOR
YEARS.

...THIS ALL
HAPPENED BACK
WHEN I GOT
DEMOTED TO
PATROLMAN...

MY
GOD.

BUT SIR,
YOUR LEG--
I CAN LIMP
JUST FINE!

GET
ME DOWN
TO THAT
BASEMENT
NOW!

Concentrate.

Three policemen,
trained to take my
place in the event
of my death.

Of course they had
to test them against
me one night.

JOSEF
MULLER.

AN ACE
MARKSMAN.

YOU BROKE
HIS HANDS.

But
there was
something
they lacked.

A
missing
edge.

And
so...

Branca
WAS A FAMILY MAN,
STRAIGHT UP AND
DOWN.

DID EVERYTHING
HE WAS TOLD.

HE LET DOCTOR HURT
DOSE HIM WITH VENOM
SHOTS AND EVENTUALLY
MONSTER SERUM.

NOBODY REALIZED
WHAT IT WAS DOING TO
HIM UNTIL HE KILLED HIS
WIFE AND KIDS.

And so they
locked him in
the abandoned
bath house.

Kept him supplied
with girls, TV,
pizza and drugs.

GOD
HELP ME.

I AM THE
BATMAN.
AND
THIS IS HOW I
CAME TO BE.

I thought the three were
ghosts, isolation chamber
flashbacks, hallucinations
of the Batman
I could have been.

Could I have been
made to think that?

WE'VE STUDIED THE FOOTAGE, MODELLED HIS BODY LANGUAGE AND MANNERISMS AND COME TO A VERY SIMPLE CONCLUSION.

TRAUMA, SHATTERING TRAUMA, IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE ENIGMA OF BATMAN.

...IS TURNING TO ASH IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES.

He can't disguise his voice enough to conceal his age.

The time frame fits for the Lane case.

Family slaughtered by so-called "satanists".

THERE.

IN HIS EYES, THAT MOMENT WHEN HE VOWS REVENGE.

AH.

Lane was pensioned off, forgotten... but still programmed for vengeance.

Gordon was reinstated as Commissioner.

Only the original volunteers, sworn to silence, remembered the three Batman replacements still out there, waiting.

And Doctor Hurt?

DOCTOR HURT WAS THE DEVIL.

SOMETIMES HE VISITS THIS WORLD TO DESTROY THE GOOD AND MAKE SLAVES OF MEN LIKE ME.

THEY POURED HOT GLUE INTO MY BROTHER'S EYES... CARVED OBSCENITIES INTO MY SISTER'S FLESH...

...SO I COULD BE DRIVEN BY DEMONS, JUST LIKE YOU.

HOW ABOUT HERE FOR THE FIRST CUT?

OR HERE?

OR MAYBE JUST TAKE THE WHOLE THING?!









What if there existed an invisible, implacable foe who'd calculated my every weakness?



Who had access to allies, weapons and tactics I couldn't imagine.



An adversary whose plots and grand designs were so vast, so elaborate, that they went unnoticed...

...until it was too late.



How could I prepare for a challenge like that?

Would I have the resources to deal with it?



I've often wondered.

Uhhh



This... this is your chance...

If... if you kill me now, you can stop what's going to happen.

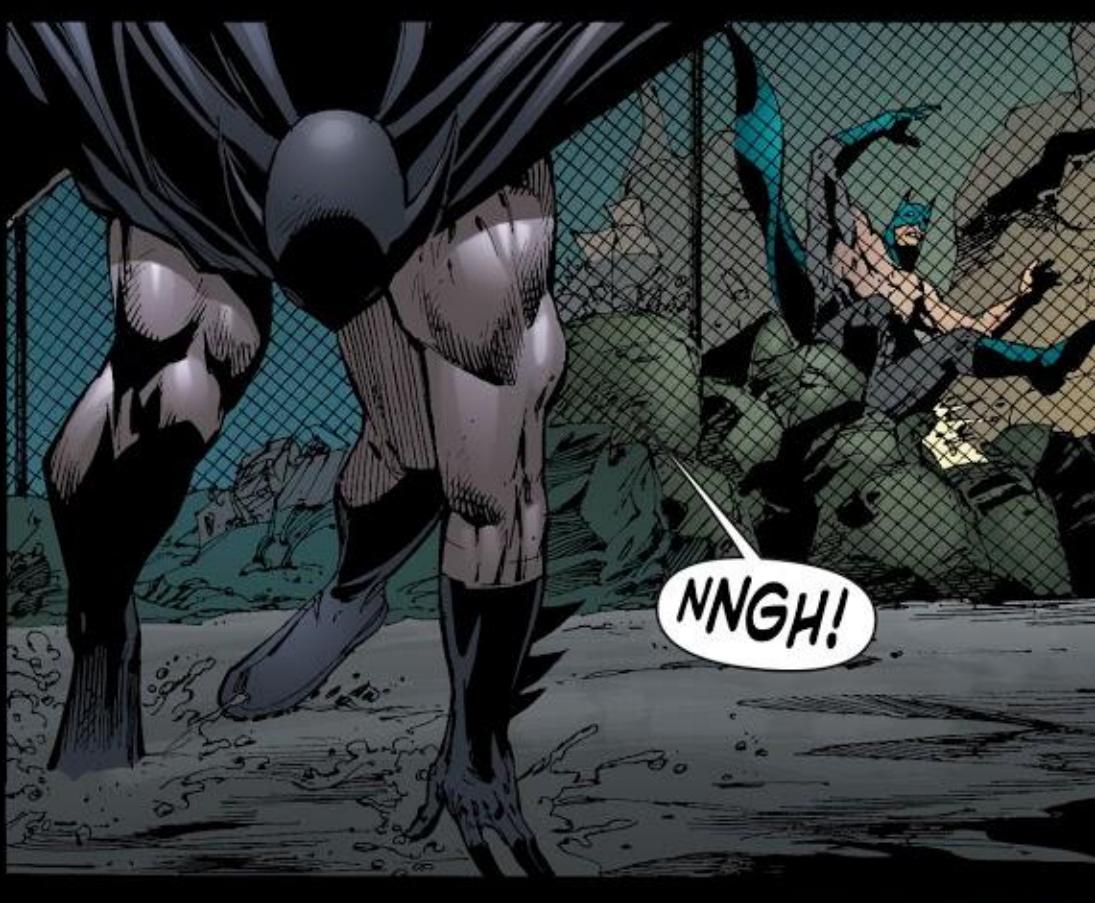
Well, then.

I... I have my sidekick, too...





If my hypothetical ultimate enemy can be imagined, I can't help considering the possibility that he actually exists.







FROM THE WRITER OF
ALL-STAR SUPERMAN & JLA

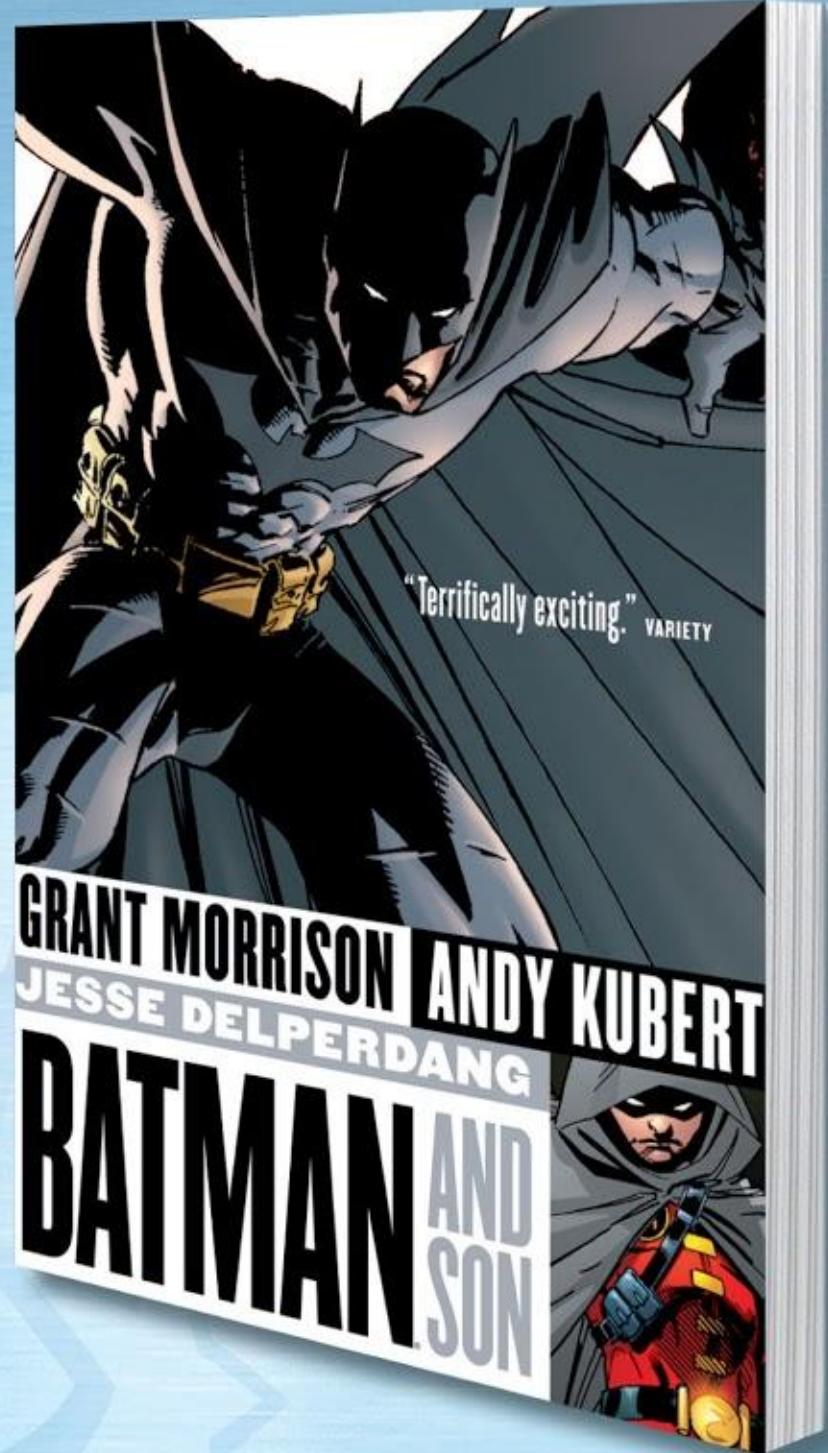
GRANT MORRISON

with ANDY KUBERT

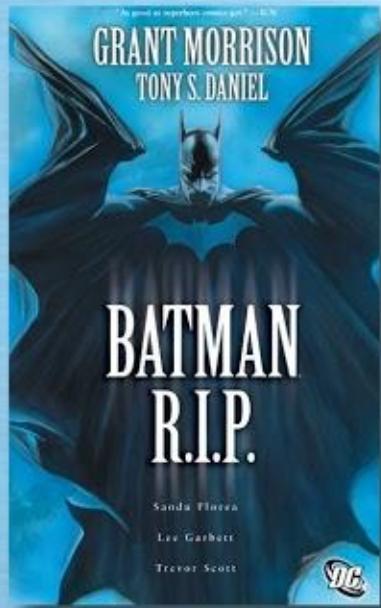
"As good as superhero comics get."
— IGN

"Morrison and Quiteley have the magic touch."
— MTV SPLASH PAGE

"The best title that DC Comics
is currently publishing."
— CRAVE ONLINE

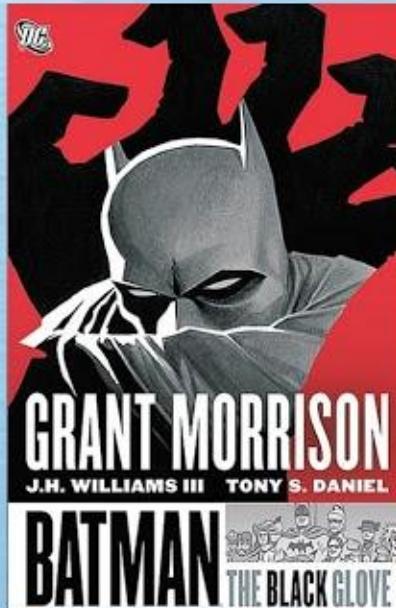


BATMAN:
R.I.P.



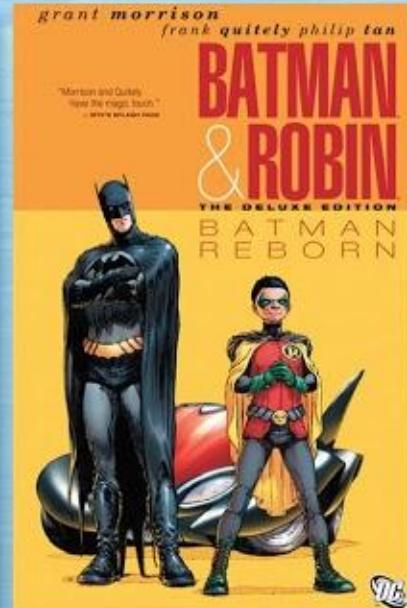
with
TONY DANIEL

BATMAN:
THE BLACK GLOVE



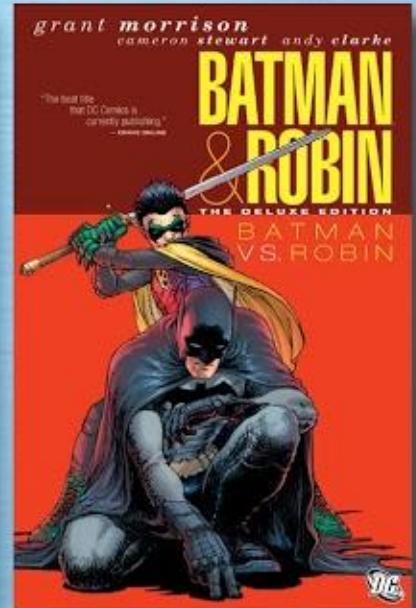
with
**J.H. WILLIAMS III
& TONY DANIEL**

BATMAN AND ROBIN
DELUXE EDITION VOL. I:
BATMAN REBORN



with
**FRANK QUITELY
& PHILIP TAN**

BATMAN AND ROBIN
DELUXE EDITION VOL. 2:
BATMAN VS. ROBIN



with
**CAMERON STEWART,
ANDY CLARKE
& DUSTIN NGUYEN**

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