

# BATMAN

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APPROVED BY THE  
COMICS CODE  
AUGUST  
2000

VOTED THE CENTURY'S MOST POPULAR COMICS CHARACTER

HAMA • McDANIEL • STORY • COLLAZO



# HE WHO LURKS

LARRY HAMA  
writer  
SCOTT McDANIEL  
penciller  
KARL STORY and  
HECTOR COLLAZO  
inker

JOHN COSTANZA  
letterer  
ROBERTA TEWES  
colorist  
WILDSSTORM  
FX separator

JOSEPH ILLUDGE  
associate editor  
BOB SCHRECK  
editor

BATMAN  
created by  
BOB KANE

BETWEEN THE ROSE  
CARMETHINE OF SUNSET  
AND THE HOT PINK OF  
DAWN, WHEN NIGHT  
BLANKETS THE CITY  
KNOWN AS GOTHAM...

...THE DENIZENS OF THE  
DARK COME OUT TO FEED  
THEIR VARIOUS AND  
SUNDY HUNGRERS.



THE MORE EXPERIENCED  
OF THE CHILDREN OF  
THE NIGHT KNOW THE  
DANGER OF CROSSING  
PATHS WITH THE CAPE  
ONE.

THEY KNOW TO  
WAIT UNTIL HE  
IS GONE.

SUCH A WISE AND  
EXPERIENCED ONE  
IS ADRIAN LUPUS.

SO WISE AND EXPERIENCED  
IS ADRIAN LUPUS THAT HE  
HAS RAISED HIS AVOCATION  
TO THE LEVEL OF AN ART.





BEING IN CONTROL  
IS PART OF THE  
ART, YOU SEE.



KNOWING WHERE ALL  
THE SURVEILLANCE  
CAMERAS ARE IS PART  
OF IT, TOO.



HE KNOWS THAT  
THE ELEVATORS  
HAVE CAMERAS  
IN THEM AS WELL.



BUT NOBODY CARES  
ABOUT THE FIRE STAIRS.



THE STAIRS ARE  
QUITE SAFE, AND  
BEING SAFE IS AN  
IMPORTANT PART  
OF HIS ART.



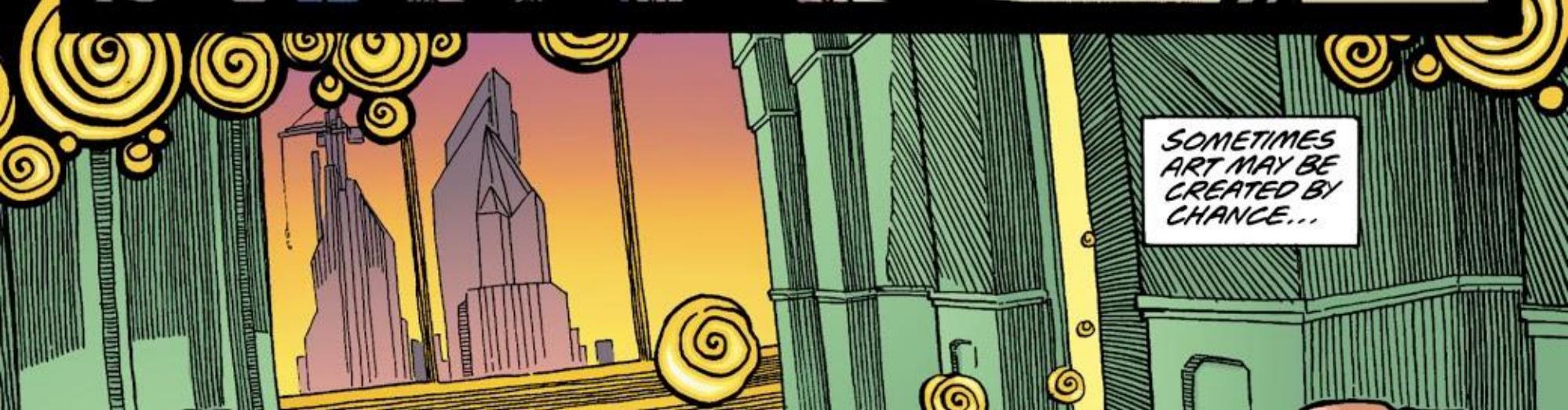
CHOOSING A HIGHER FLOOR IS PART OF THE ART AS WELL.



ART IS PERFECTION.  
ART IS BEING ABLE  
TO MAKE ALL THE  
PIECES COME  
TOGETHER.



ART IS THE  
WINDOW TO  
THE SOUL OF  
THE CREATOR.



SOMETIMES  
ART MAY BE  
CREATED BY  
CHANCE...



... LIKE SCULPTURE  
DONE WITH "FOUND  
OBJECTS."

BUT THIS  
ISN'T ONE  
OF THEM.

OH, THE OFFICE  
EQUIPMENT COULD  
FETCH A PRETTY  
PENNY, BUT MERE  
BURGLARY IS NOT  
A PART OF THE ART.

THIEVERY IS BUT  
GREED COMPOUNDED  
BY LAZINESS.

THE ART IS MUCH  
MORE. OH, YES.  
MUCH, MUCH  
MORE.

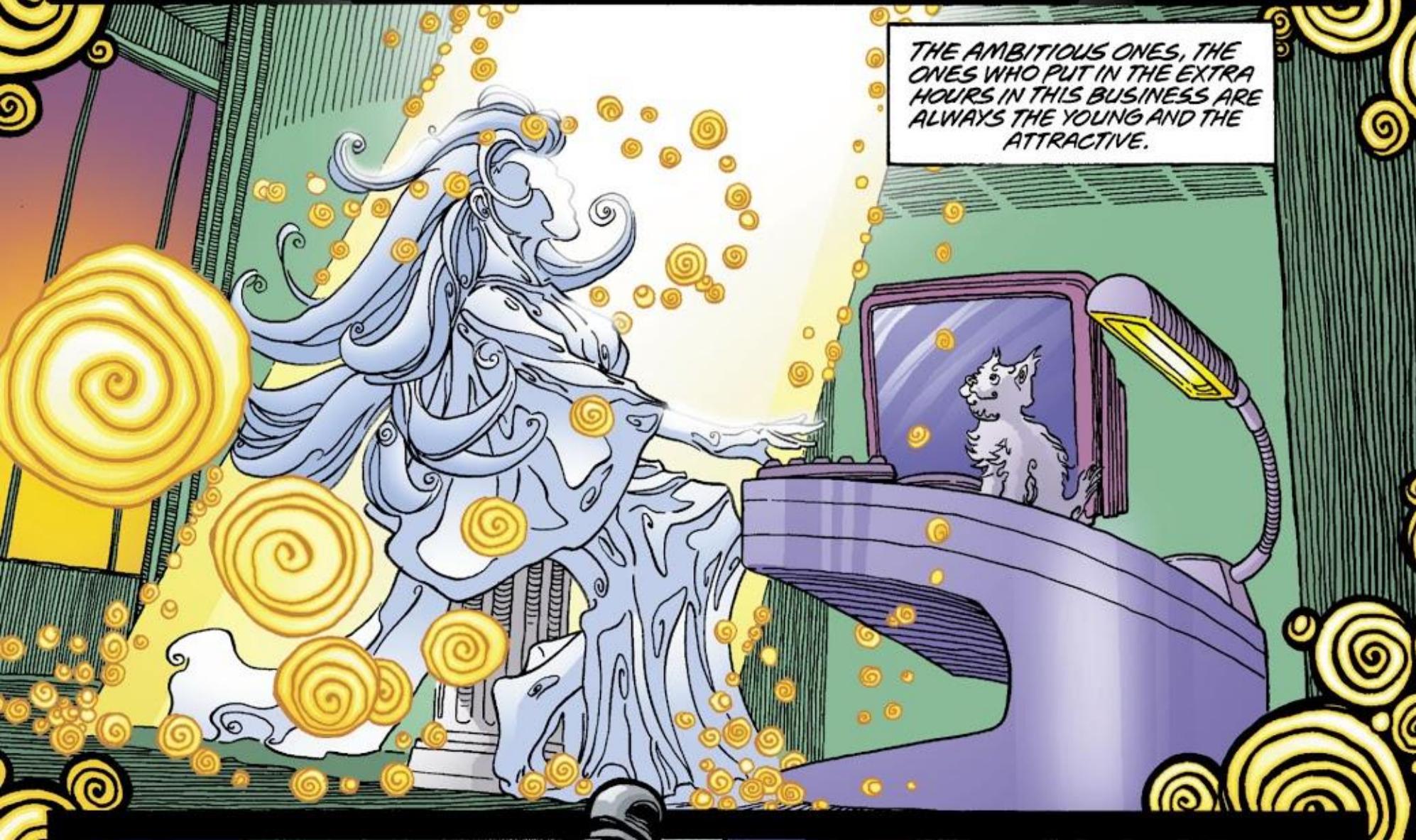
THIEVERY  
IS A MERE  
THRILL.

ART IS CAPABLE  
OF TRANSFIGURING  
YOU.

BUT ART IS DEPENDENT  
UPON THE WHIMS OF  
THE MUSES.



SOMETIMES THE MUSES  
ARE LESS THAN FORTHCOMING...





ART IS THE NEXUS OF  
CREATIVITY, INSPIRATION  
AND SKILL.



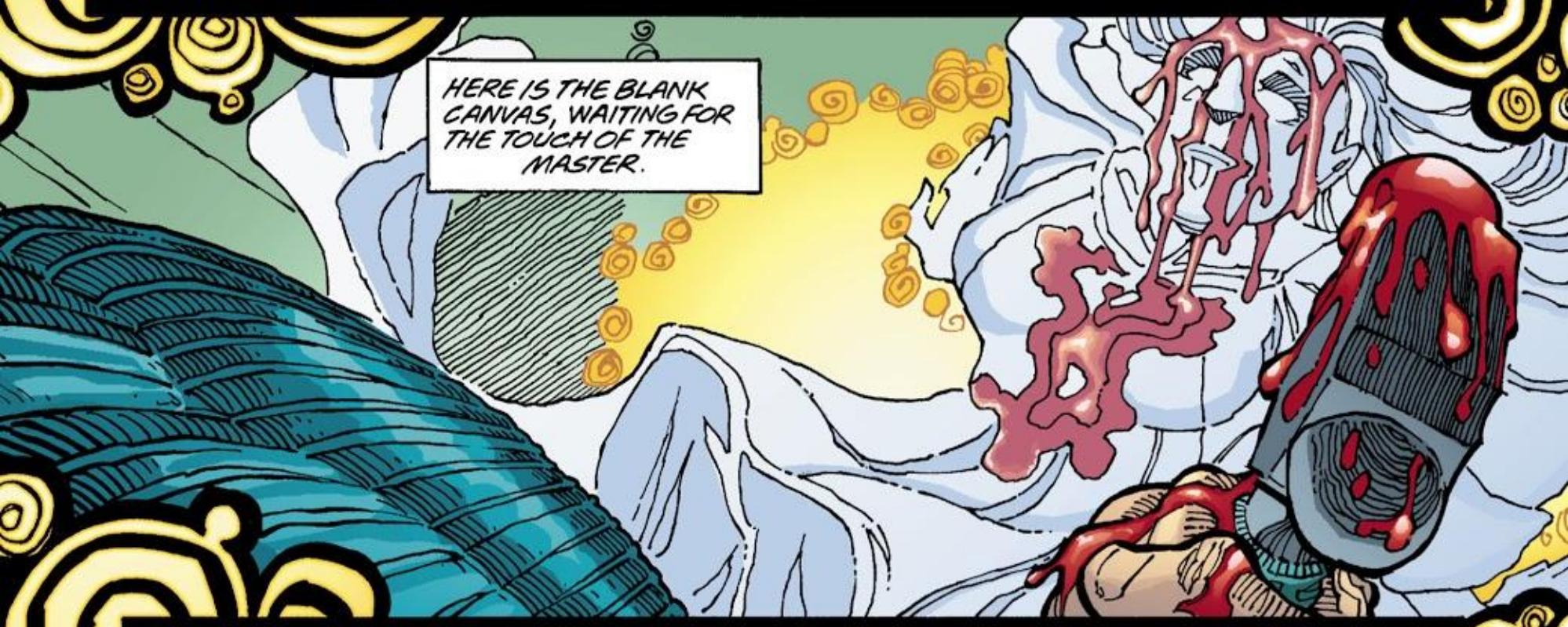
SOME SAY THAT IT IS THE  
FINGER OF GOD MOVING  
THE TOOLS OF THE TRULY  
INSPIRED...



...OTHERS SAY THAT  
SOME ART BEARS  
THE CLOVEN PRINTS  
OF SATAN.



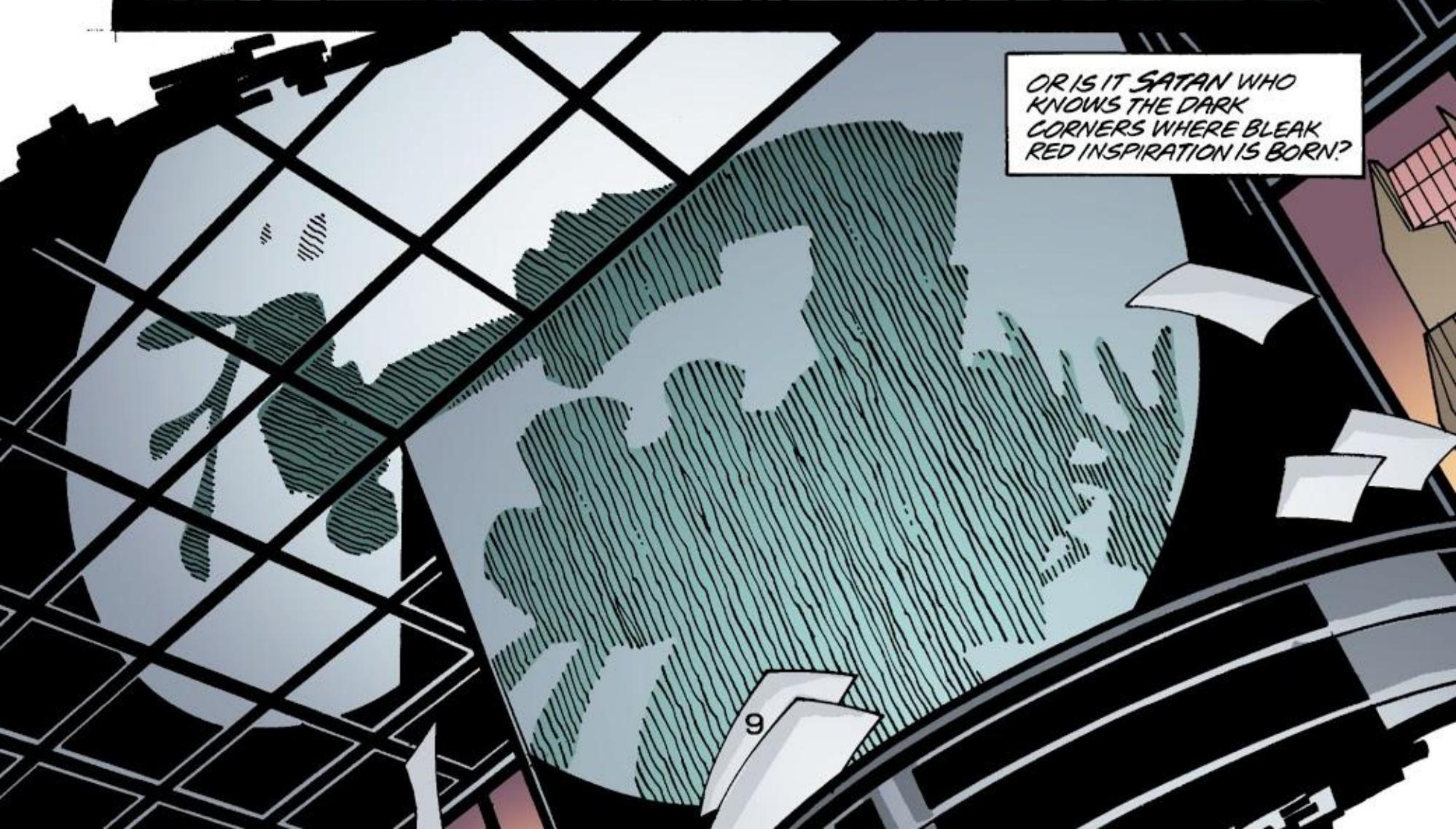
BUT METAPHYSICS  
IS BEYOND ONE  
SUCH AS ADRIAN  
LUPUS.



HERE IS THE BLANK  
CANVAS, WAITING FOR  
THE TOUCH OF THE  
MASTER.



WHO BUT GOD AND  
THE ARTIST KNOW  
THE UTTER JOY OF  
CREATION?



OR IS IT SATAN WHO  
KNOWS THE DARK  
CORNERS WHERE BLEAK  
RED INSPIRATION IS BORN?

WHETHER THE LIGHT  
OF CREATION WAS A  
BOLT FROM THE  
FIRMAMENT OR A  
GOUT OF FLAME  
FROM THE FURNACE  
MATTERS NOT.

THE RAPTURE OF THE ACT  
IS A SPASM FROM THE  
VERY CORE OF BEING.

A TIDAL WAVE OF  
PURE ECSTASY  
RISING FROM  
UNPLUMBED  
DEPTHES.

BUT WHAT  
IS THIS?

COULD  
IT BE?



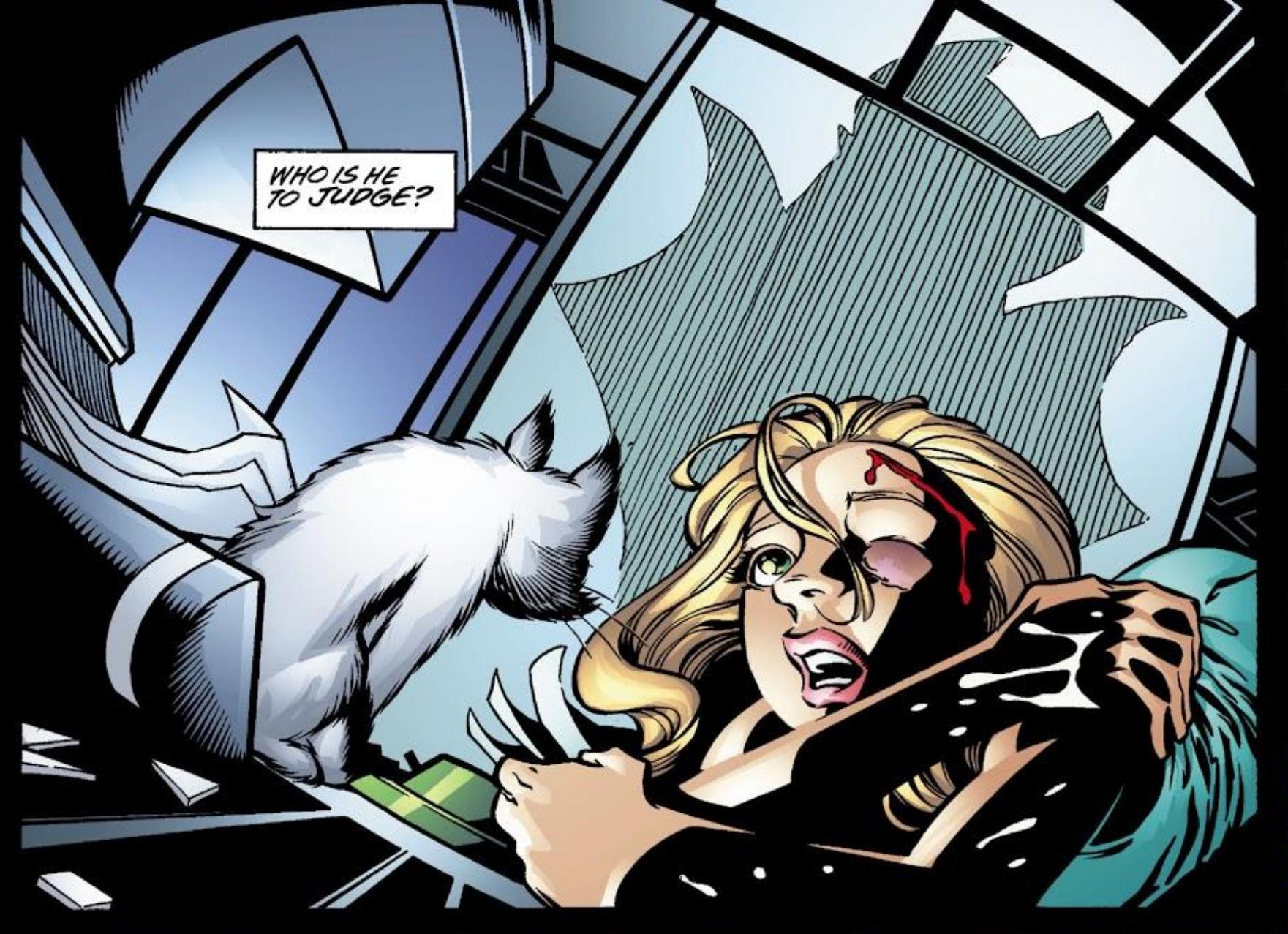
IT IS!  
IT IS...!

THE  
CURKER!



THE SPOILER!  
THE PHILISTINE!

WHAT DOES ONE  
SUCH AS HE  
KNOW OF ART?





PERHAPS IT IS POSSIBLE TO REASON WITH HIM? EXPLAIN THE ART TO HIM LOGICALLY AND CALMLY?



NO! IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE DARK LURKER IS QUITE INSANE AND SINGLE-MINDED!



THERE CAN BE NO UNDERSTANDING EXPECTED FROM THE CAPE MADMAN...



... NOR ANY MERCY AT ALL!



WHAT'S THAT?

FOOTSTEPS COMING UP THE STAIRS?

HOW CAN HE BE  
EVERWHERE?

CLOMP!  
CLOMP!  
CLOMP!

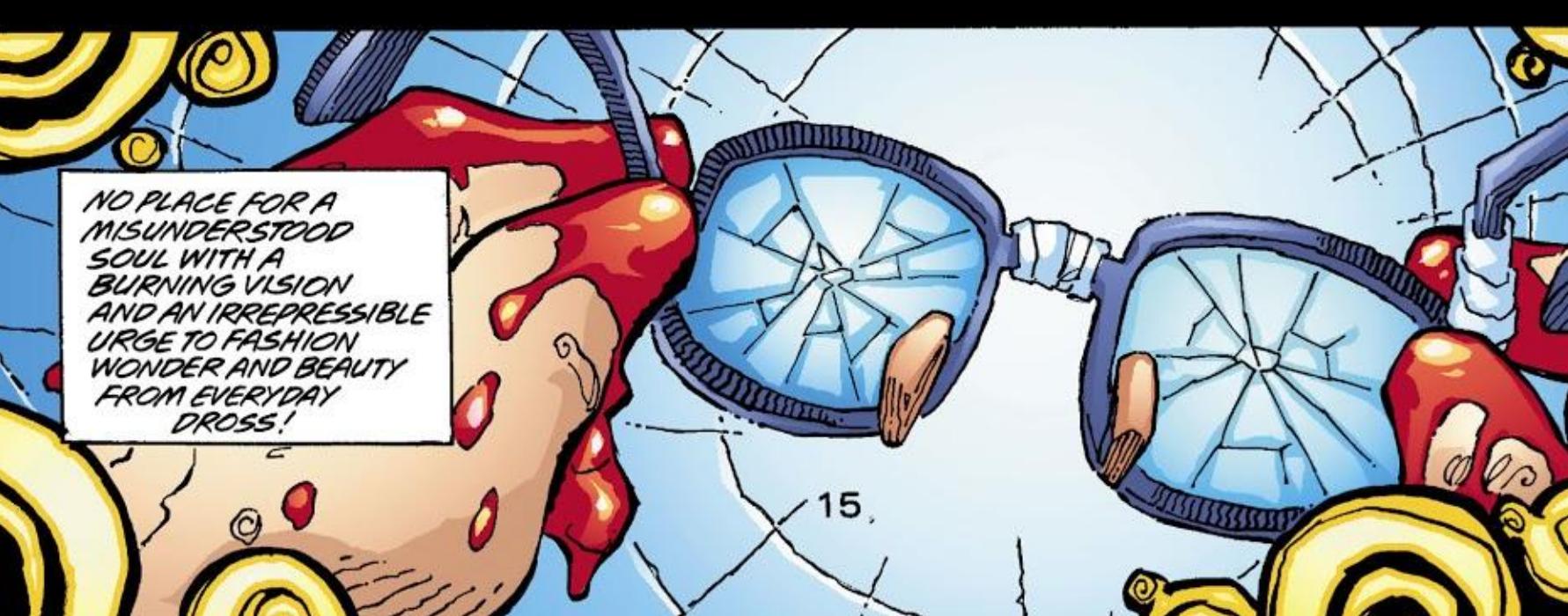
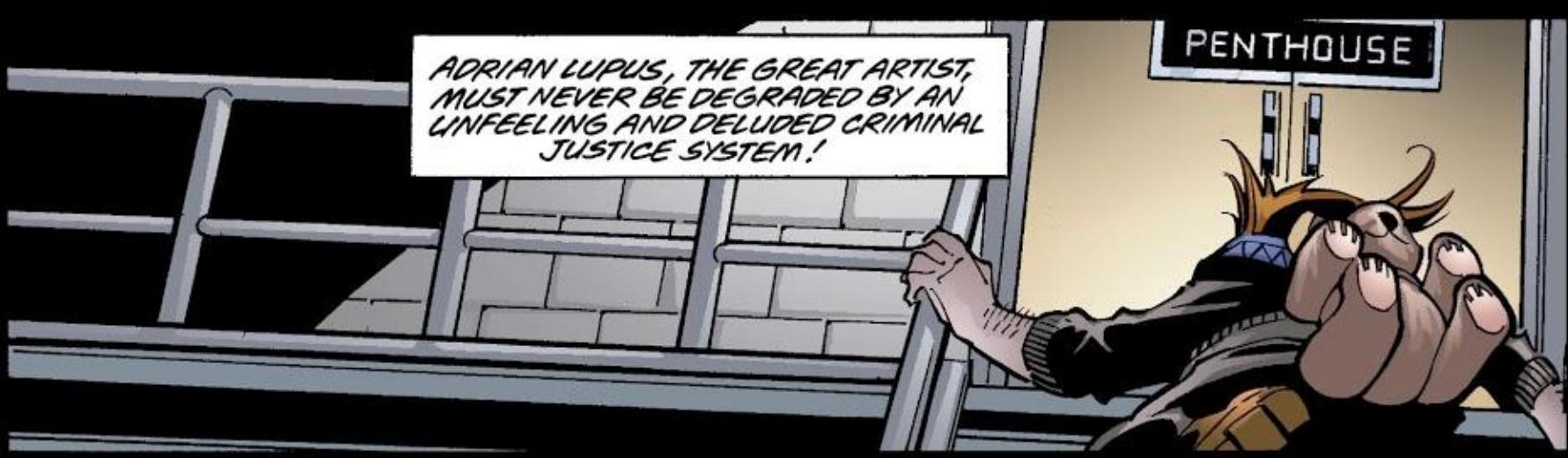
IS HE SOME SORT  
OF DEMON OR  
AVENGING ANGEL?

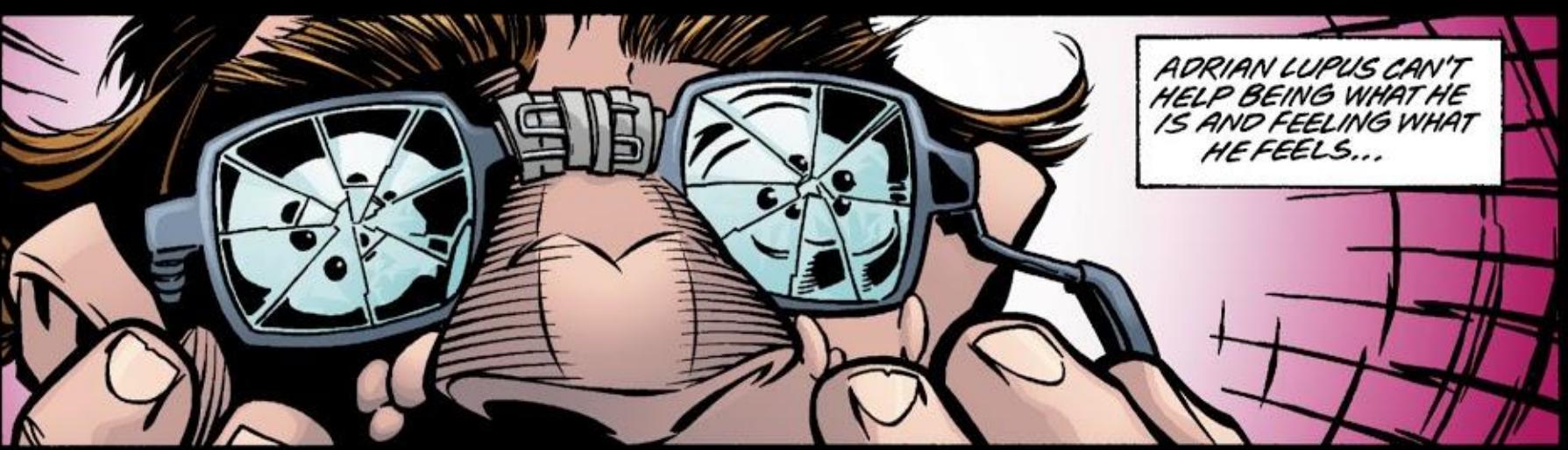
CLOMP!  
CLOMP!

SOME WINGED FURY  
SET ON A DOGGED AND  
HARROWING PURSUIT?

OR A RELENTLESS  
MYRMIDON SERVING  
SOME UNFATHOMABLE  
OLYMPIAN DEPUTATION?

CLOMP!  
CLOMP!  
CLOMP!







WHERE IS JUSTICE  
IF TRUTH AND  
BEAUTY ARE TO BE  
DENIED?



WHAT MANNER OF JUSTICE  
CAN BE EXPECTED FROM A  
MANIACAL VIGILANTE IN  
A MASK AND COWL?



JUSTICE FROM A  
MADMAN? IT IS  
TO LAUGH!!



HAHAHAHAHA!



HA!



HUBRIS WILL  
BE THE DOWNFALL  
OF THE LURKER!



TRUE ART WILL  
WIN OUT!



THE LURKER HIMSELF  
WILL BE THE MAGNUM  
OPUS, CREATED IN  
GREAT POUNDING ARCS  
BY THE TOOL OF THE  
MASTER!

AHA! THE BRITTLE FRACTURING  
SOUND OF CREATION! THE  
ROAR OF THE WIND BETWEEN  
THE SPHERES!

AND THUS IS THE  
LURKER DEFEATED  
BY ART AND PURITY  
OF PERCEPTION!

THUS  
IS--

IMPOSSIBLE!  
HOW CAN  
THIS BE--?

--IS THE LURKER  
POSSESSED OF  
MULTIPLE  
LIVES?

THE LURKER WILL  
NEVER HAVE THE  
SATISFACTION OF  
DRAGGING ADRIAN  
LUPUS BEFORE A  
TRIBUNAL!



NEVER!  
THE ART WILL  
LIVE ON  
FOREVER!



THE CREATIONS  
OF ADRIAN LUPUS  
ARE IMMORTAL!



IN YEARS TO COME,  
THERE WILL BE  
WONDERMENT AND  
AWE AT HIS  
UNMATCHED VISION!



THIS VERY HAMMER  
WILL BE ENSHRINED  
WITH THE TOOLS OF  
OTHER GREAT  
MASTERS!



THOUSANDS  
WILL LINE UP  
TO SEE IT AND--



