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BATMAN



GOTHAM CITY.

False Faces don't talk. It's a fact.

And it's not because of loyalty.
Or even stupidity. They just
seem to be brainwashed.

This one's
no different.

They usually operate in
packs of four or more.
So my first thought is--he's
a deserter--having the sense
to realize the *Black Mask's*
days are numbered.

False Faces don't talk.
So there'll be little
he can tell me.

WHAT?

40-45-47-77...
73-58-54-86...
40-45-47...

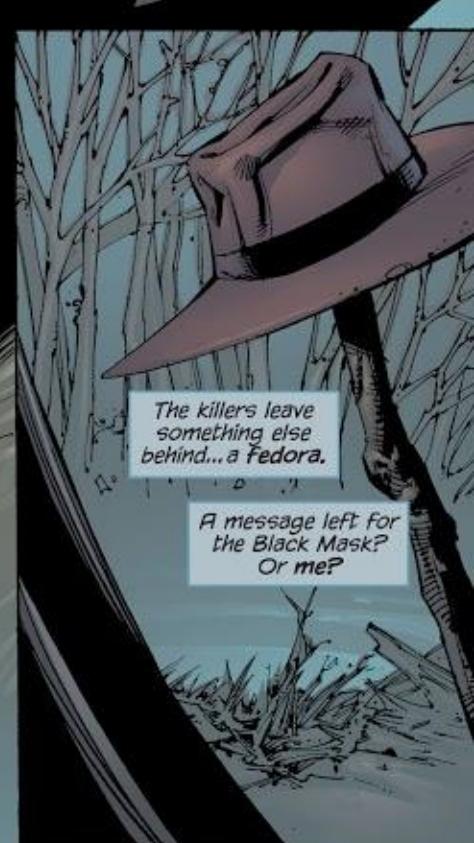
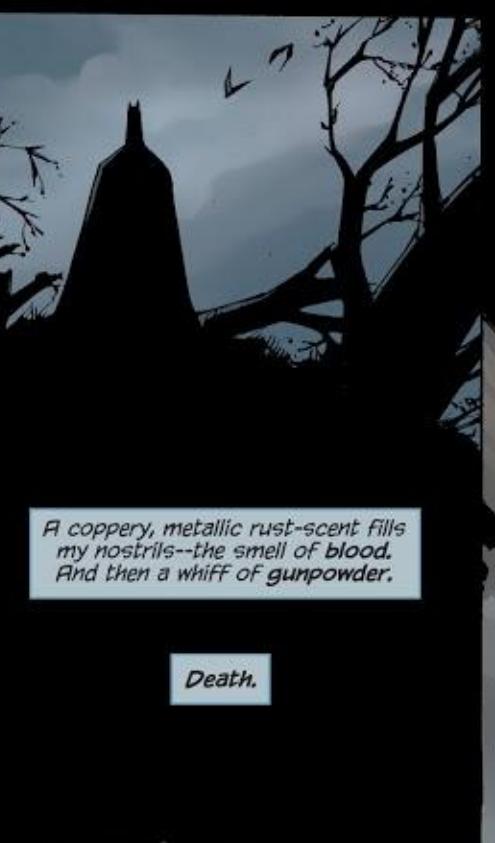
LIFE AFTER DEATH PART I

THE AWAKENING



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BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE**



THE FEDORA AND MACHINE GUNS CROSS MOST OF THE *USUAL SUSPECTS* OFF MY LIST.

TWO-FACE IS IN HIDING SOMEWHERE... AND PENGUIN IS UNDER BLACK MASK'S THUMB...

DR. ARKHAM HAVING ANY LUCK BREAKING THE *MENTAL HOLD* OVER THESE GOONS?

HE CAN'T FIGURE OUT THE TECHNIQUE USED TO *BRAINWASH* THEM. BUT HE'S PRETTY SURE THAT GIVEN TIME, HE'LL MAKE PROGRESS.

TROUBLE IS, TIME ISN'T OUR FRIEND.

ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY ABOUT THE FALSE-FACERS IN THESE MUG SHOTS?

TUESDAY MORNING, THE FIRST BANK OF GOTHAM. THE BOTCHED ROBBERY THAT TURNED INTO A BLOODY SHOOTOUT. YOU TELL ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING EXTRAORDINARY.

I'D SAY SHE QUALIFIES. MIDDLE-AGED MOM-TYPE.

BINGO. THAT'S TRISH GLUMBRACKER. DIVORCED MOTHER OF FOUR. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, TO BOOT.

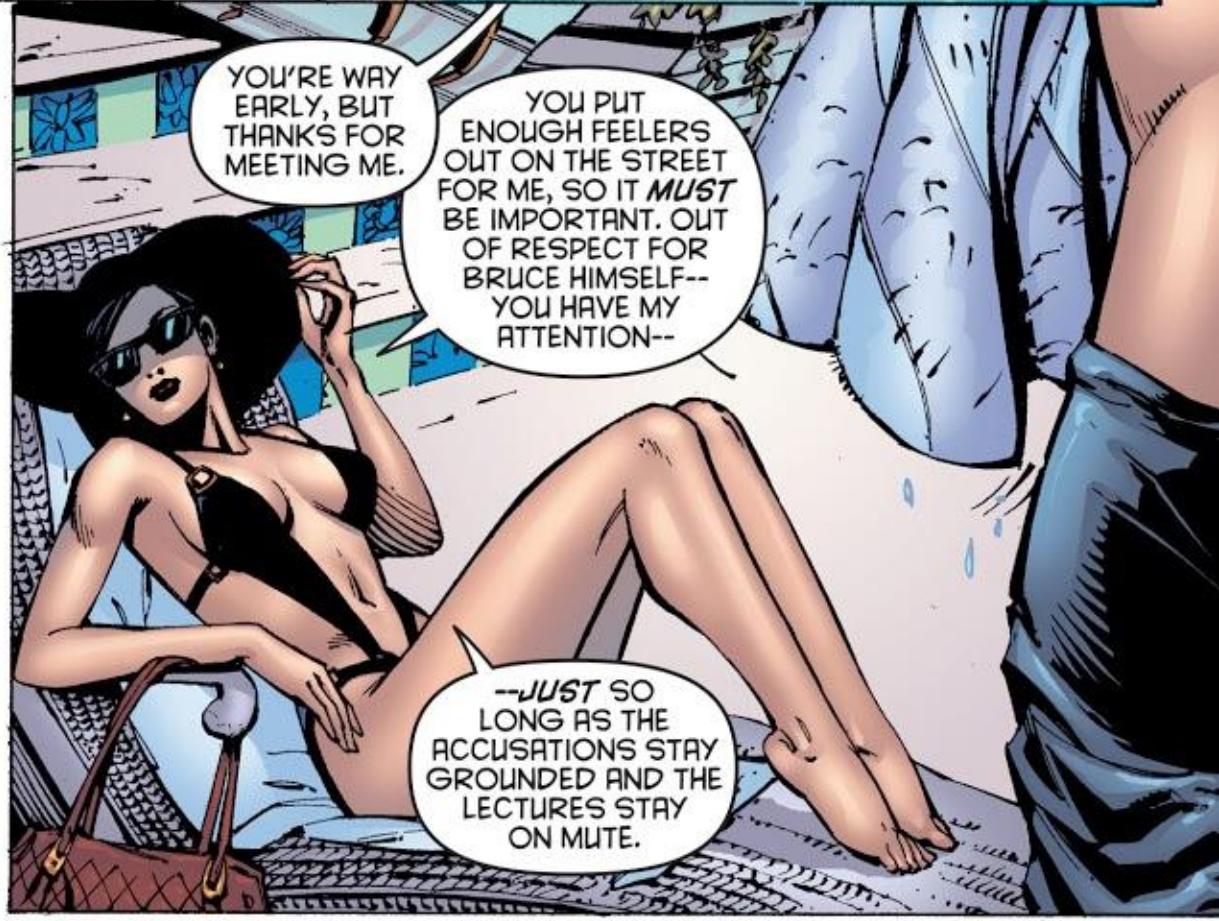
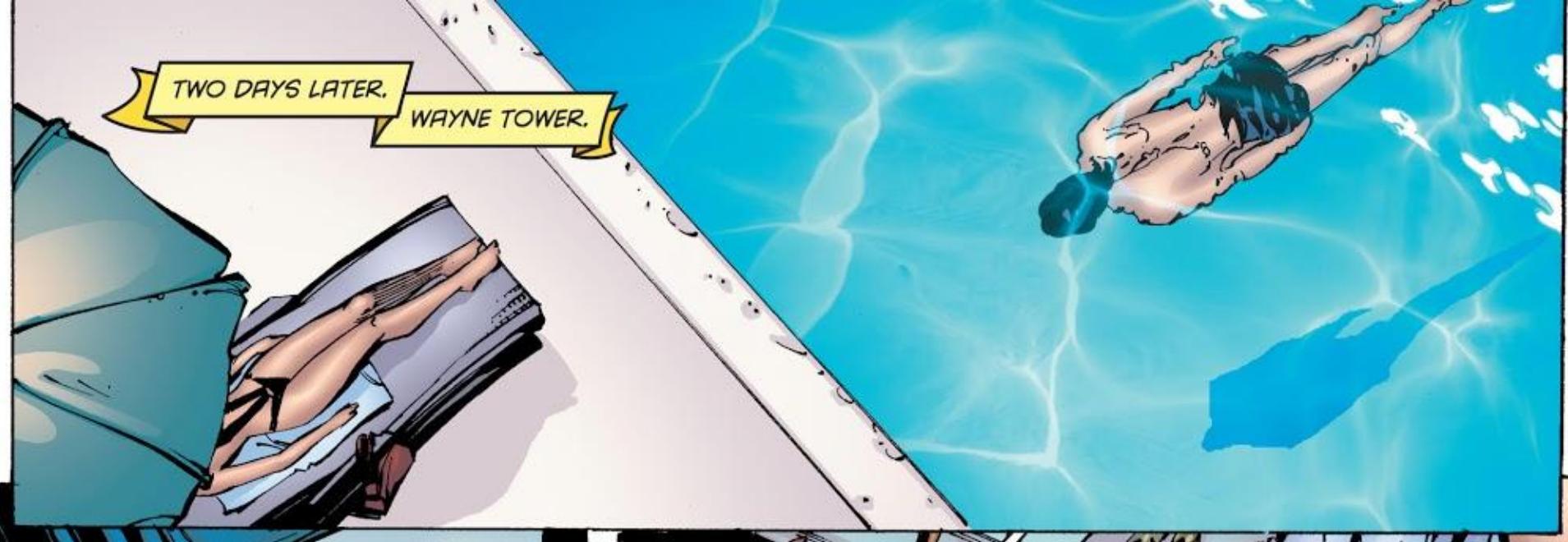
SHE FIRED THE FIRST SHOTS, SPARKING THE BLOODBATH. HER THREE ACCOMPLICES DIED AT THE SCENE.

SHE SUFFERED ONLY MINOR INJURIES. AND SHE'S A *BLANK SLATE*, LIKE THE OTHERS.



TWO DAYS LATER.

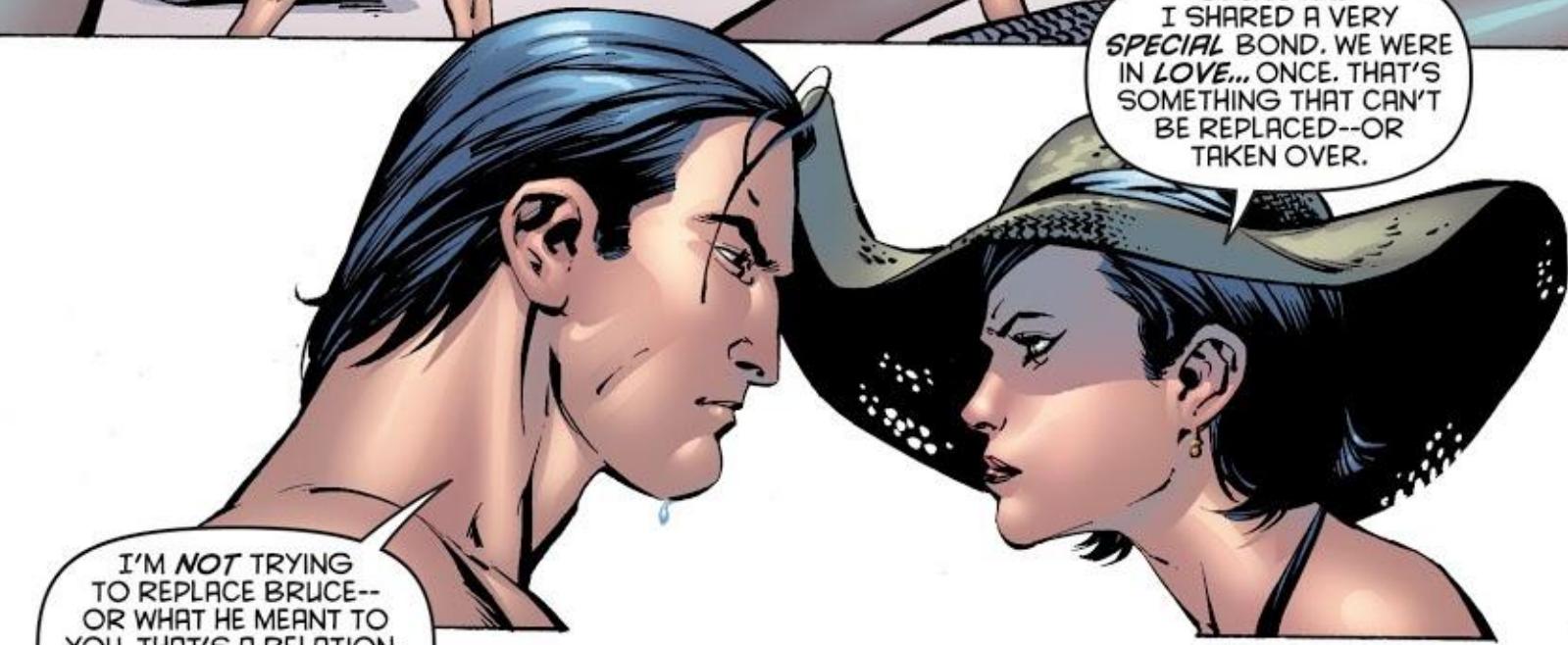
WAYNE TOWER.





BECAUSE YOU OWE IT TO THE MANTLE. YOU OWE IT TO BRUCE.

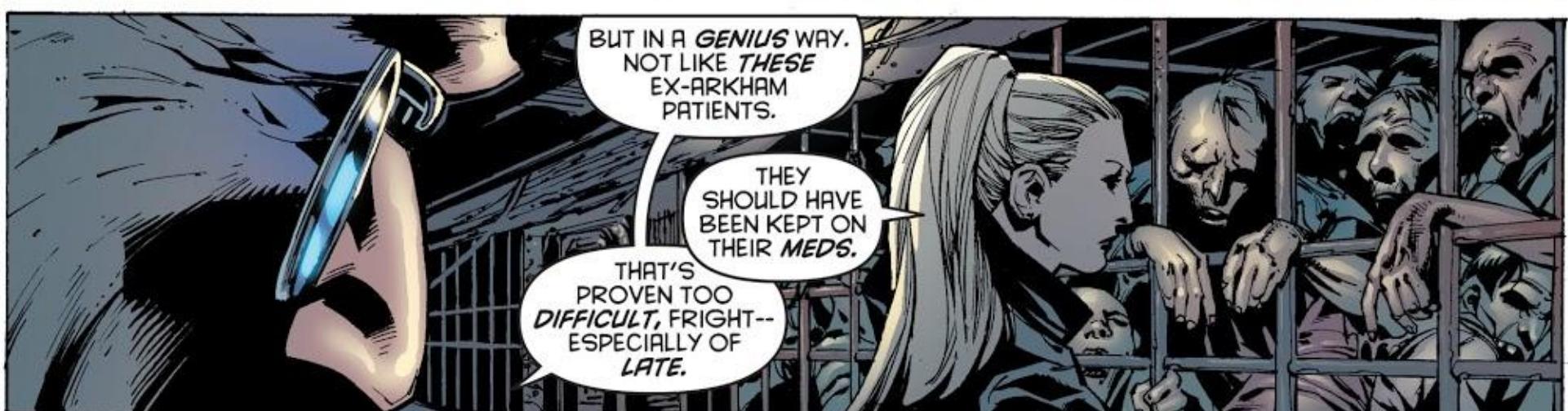
BRUCE AND I SHARED A VERY SPECIAL BOND. WE WERE IN LOVE... ONCE. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE REPLACED--OR TAKEN OVER.





WE? NO. BUT I AM, FRIGHT. HE'S THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE PROCEDURE.

HIS BRAIN-FUNCTION HAS BEEN HELD STEADY BY ME FOR YEARS.



...DR. DEATH HAS JUST JOINED MY *MINISTRY OF SCIENCE*, ALONG WITH YOU AND HUGO.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HIM.

NO! LOOK AT WHAT THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM IS DOING TO ME!

I DON'T FEAR ANY MAN... YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT, BLACK MASK.

IT'S HIS POISONS. HIS CHEMICALS. MY SKIN IS SO SENSITIVE...

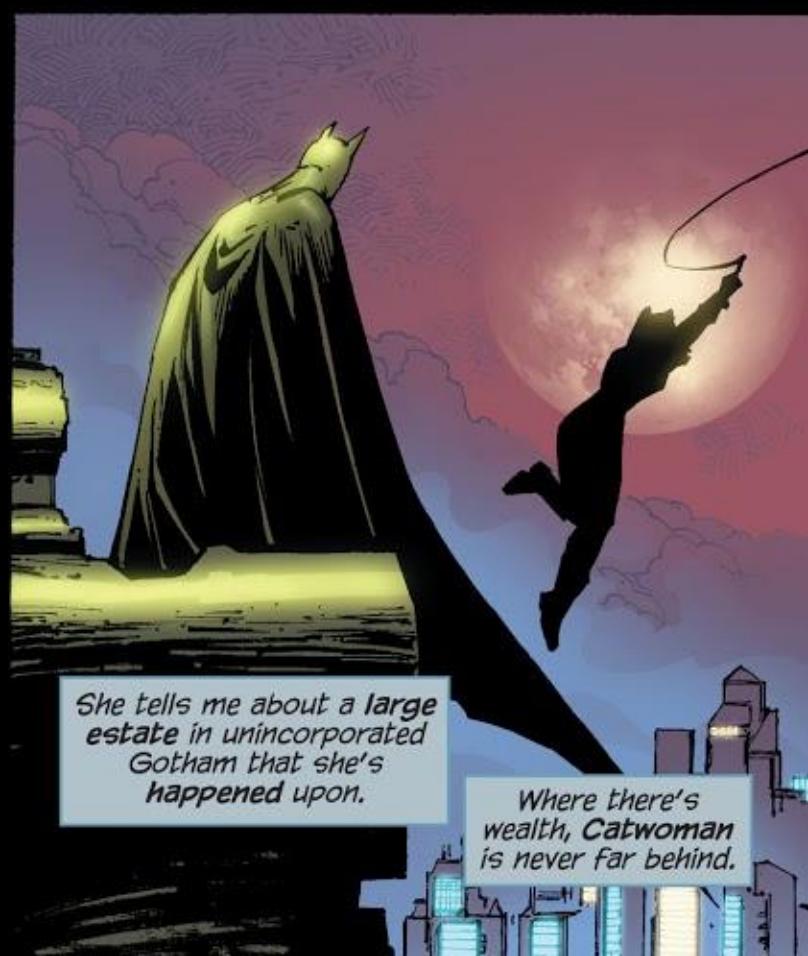
HIS WORK IS CONDUCTED UNDER ONLY THE MOST *CONTAINED* ENVIRONMENT. PLEASE MAKE OUR NEW MEMBER FEEL WELCOME.

WE HAVE FAR MORE TO WORRY ABOUT THAN YOUR COMPLEXION, FRIGHT.

SMACK

PROFESSOR STRANGE, YOUR MIND-INFLUENCING THERAPY ISN'T PROVING RELIABLE ENOUGH FOR MEMBERS OF THE FALSE FACE SOCIETY TO ADEQUATELY CARRY OUT MY DESIGNS.

THEN IT'S CONVENIENT THAT THE *GOOD DOCTOR* IS READY TO BE AWAKENED.



She noticed the cars first.
The Rolls Royces, the Bentleys, the Ferraris... and
then came the trucks.

Men with fedoras
and machine
guns followed.

The government seized this
land when the poppy fields were
discovered. The United States'
largest opium manufacturers,
right here in Gotham City.

HEAR DAT?
SOUNDED
LIKE A
RABBIT.

SNAP THUMP
THUMP THUMP

Only the workers were
ever prosecuted--sent
to prison or deported.

That was when the Falcone
crime family ruled this city
inside and out. City Hall,
the courts, the police... they
had their hands in all of it.

THAT AIN'T
A RABBIT.
THIS WAY!

Mobsters.
But who...?

SNAP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

TUMBL!

Bruce purged Gotham of
the mob's main players.

But it looks as though
they're attempting
a comeback.

Not on my watch.

I don't like what
I see from here. I'll
need to get in closer.

Much closer.

TRIP!



There goes the element of surprise.

POOM



Mario Falcone.
If I wasn't seeing it with my own magnified lenses,
I wouldn't believe it.



He was the "good son".
He fought alongside Bruce and the
Commissioner against his father,
Carmine "The Roman" Falcone.

The Falcone family history
is riddled with tragedy. His
misfit brother Alberto was
apprehended as the serial
killer known as Holiday.



Two-Face murdered his
father just before Holiday
was sent to Arkham Asylum
for rehabilitation.



After his release, Holiday
was killed by his own
sister, Sofia Gigante--



--who, not to be outdone by
her brother, went on a killing
spree of her own. And just
like her Father, she too was
murdered by Two-Face.

It proved too much for Mario.

Last I heard he was institutionalized in Chicago.

But he's here now and looking every bit the gangster his father was.

I BOUGHT THIS LAND, BATMAN. AND YOU'RE TRESPASSING ON IT BEFORE I'VE EVEN MOVED IN.

I THOUGHT WE WERE PALS. WHAT ON EARTH WOULD MAKE YOU COME HERE AND DISRESPECT ME SO?

A STINK BLEW INTO TOWN. I FOLLOWED IT HERE.



I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN A LEGITIMATE
BUSINESSMAN. YOU
KNOW THAT.

I'M DEEPLY
OFFENDED BY
YOUR HOSTILE
ACTIONS.

YOU'RE NOT
WELCOME
HERE.



NOR YOU IN
GOTHAM.

KILL
THIS WISE
GUY.



POOM

COVER YOUR
MOUTHS! HE'S
TOSSSED SOME
KINDA SMOKE
GRENADE!

BRATATTAA



KRAK



HOLD YOUR
FIRE! YOU'LL
SHOOT EACH
OTHER!

HE WENT
THIS WAY--
I SWEAR I
SEEN HIM,
BOSS!

TIKTOK

TIKTOK

CHA-CHAK

KR-CHING.

DIAMONDS,
PEARLS, GOLD
AND...HMM.
MAPS?

HE
DISAPPEARED,
MR. FALCONE.
LONG GONE
BY NOW.

GET THE DOGS
OUT. MAKE SURE
THIS PLACE IS
SECURE BEFORE
WE GET BACK
TONIGHT.

AND THE
NEXT TIME YOU
SEE BATMAN,
THERE'LL BE NO
CHITCHAT.
JUST KILL HIM.

GOT IT,
BOSS.

SHOOT.
DID I HEAR
HIM SAY
DOGS?



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DEVIL'S SQUARE.
100 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL.

RAISE THE
THERMAL-OXYGEN
LEVELS. GOOD.
GOOD. A BIT
MORE...

BODY
TEMPERATURE
68 DEGREES...
70... 74... 78...

HEART RATE
STABILIZING.
56 BPM. 60.

SLOWLY.
SLOWLY. OR IT WILL
SHOCK HIS SYSTEM.
WE DON'T WANT HIM TO
SUFFER ANOTHER
CARDIAC ARREST.

82 DEGREES...
RISING. 85.
86. 89.

HEART RATE
PLUS 70.
NOW 82.

STEADY,
DAMN IT.
THAT'S
RIIIIGHT.

ERGH....
GUHHH....
-COFF-
-COFF-

D-D-D-DDDDDEEEEEEETTT-DEET-ET-ET-ET-ET-EFFFFE

THAT'S RIGHT,
DOCTOR. OPEN
YOUR EYES.

YES.

FIRE UP THE
HEAT LAMPS, YOU
IMBECILES. I DIDN'T
BRING US THIS FAR
JUST TO HAVE
HIM DIE FROM
HYPOTHERMIA.





...BUT
THIS...THIS
BELONGED
TO YOU.

NEXT: BATMAN AND HUNTRESS JOIN FORCES!



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