



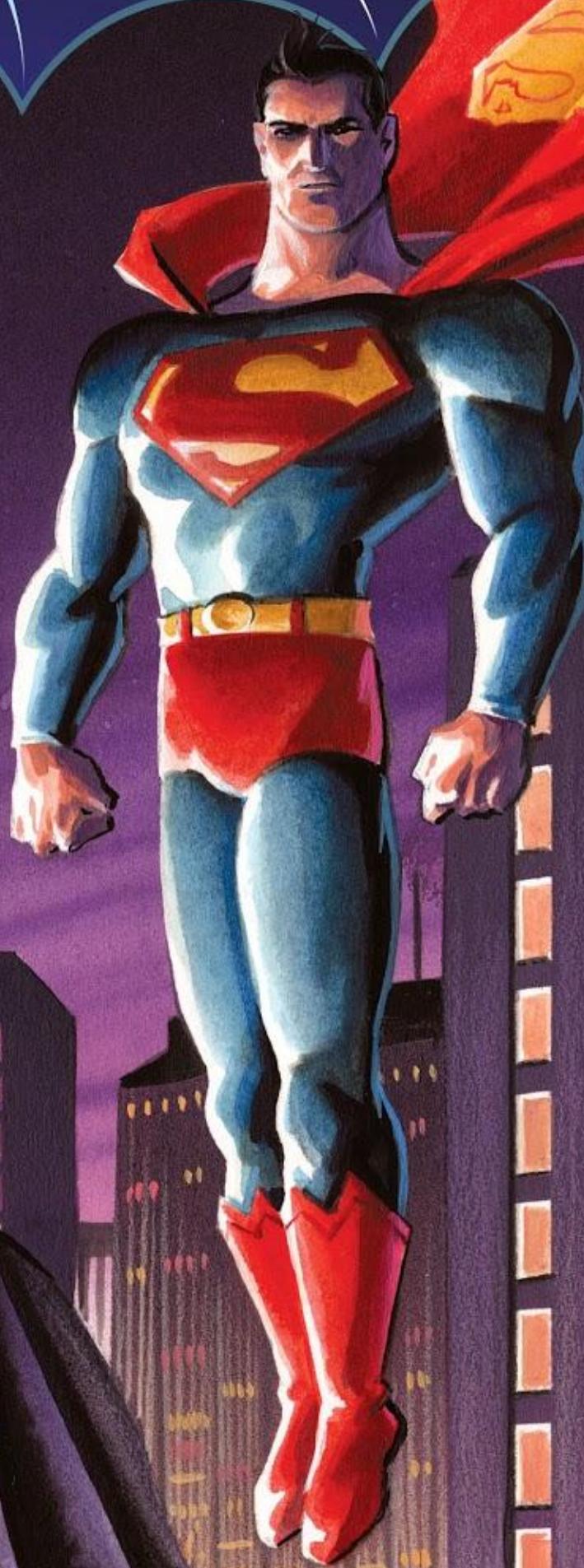
640 JULY 2005

WINICK
LEE
SMITH

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AOA
AUTHORITY

BATMAN

OLD FRIENDS?



GOTHAM CITY.

IT IS A WORLD UNTO ITSELF.

A CORNER WHERE LIGHT SOMETIMES SEEMS AFRAID TO SHINE.

RECENT EVENTS HAVE SEEN IT FALLEN INTO AN EVEN DEEPER SHADOW, AND WITH A BLACK HEART MANNING ITS HELM.

BUT THE CERBERUS WHO GUARDS IT WILL NEVER YIELD.

DESPITE THAT FACT, UNCERTAINTY WEIGHS HEAVY UPON HIM.

HE SENSES GREAT UNREST.

BUT ITS PRESENCE RADIATES WITH FAMILIARITY.

IF HE WOULD EVER SPEAK OF IT, HE WOULD SAY THAT HE FEELS AS THOUGH HIS PAST HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM.

BUT TO BE HAUNTED, YOU NEED A GHOST.

AND GHOSTS COME FROM THE DEAD.

AND THIS ISN'T ABOUT
THE DEAD, BUT OF
ONE WHO SEEMS TO
BE AMONG THE LIVING.

THE RED HOOD.

VERY ASTUTE.
WHAT WAS YOUR
FIRST CLUE?



Family REUNION PART 2

WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY

JUDD WINICK - Script
PAUL LEE - Pencils
CAM SMITH - Inks
ALEX SINCLAIR - Colors
PHIL BALSMAN - Letters
MICHAEL WRIGHT - Associate Editor
BOB SCHRECK - Editor

BATMAN created by BOB KANE

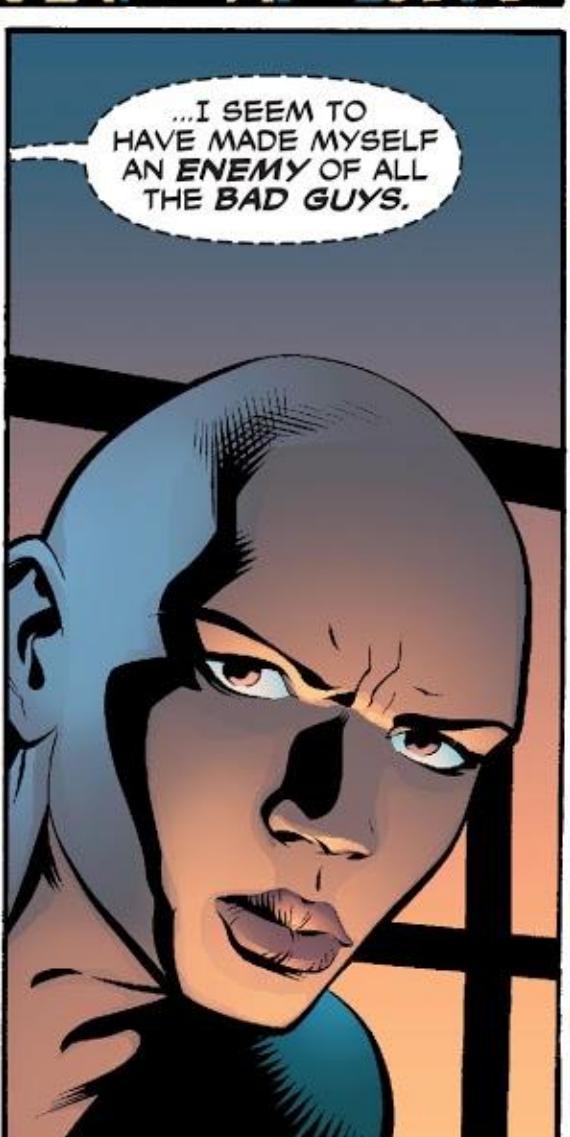




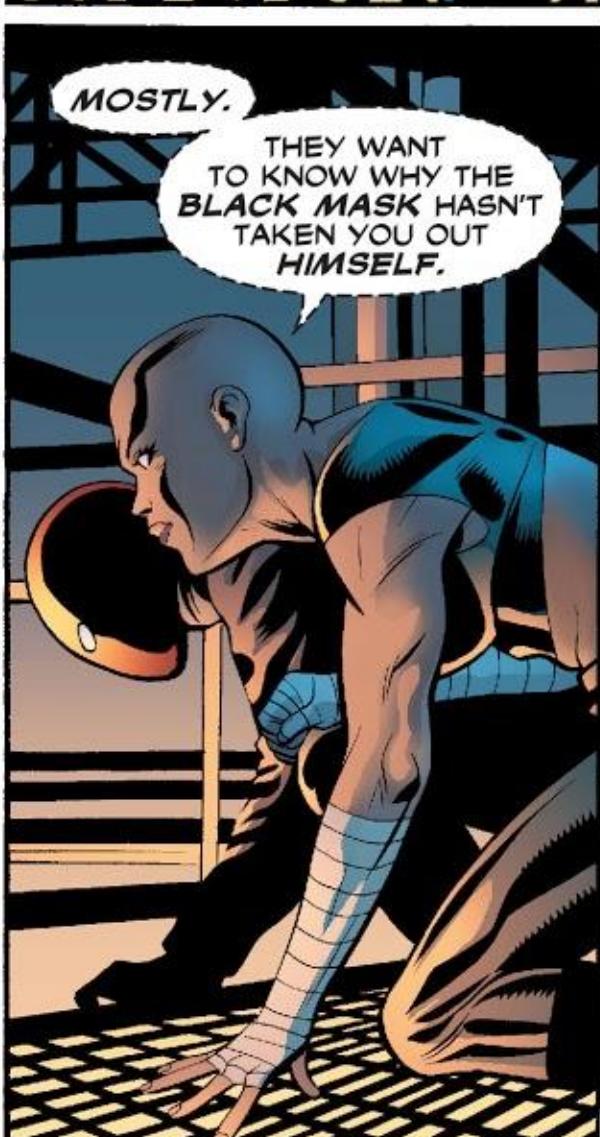
SO...
WHAT HAVE I
MISSED?



BESIDES THE
FACT THAT THESE
BOYS WOULD LOVE
TO HAVE MY HEAD
ON A PIKE?



...I SEEM TO
HAVE MADE MYSELF
AN ENEMY OF ALL
THE BAD GUYS.



MOSTLY.

THEY WANT
TO KNOW WHY THE
BLACK MASK HASN'T
TAKEN YOU OUT
HIMSELF.



WELL,
I GUESS THAT
TELLS US I'M EITHER
LUCKY OR VERY
GOOD.

EITHER
WAY...

HAVE
YOU GOT
IT ALL?

CHILL.
ALMOST
THERE.

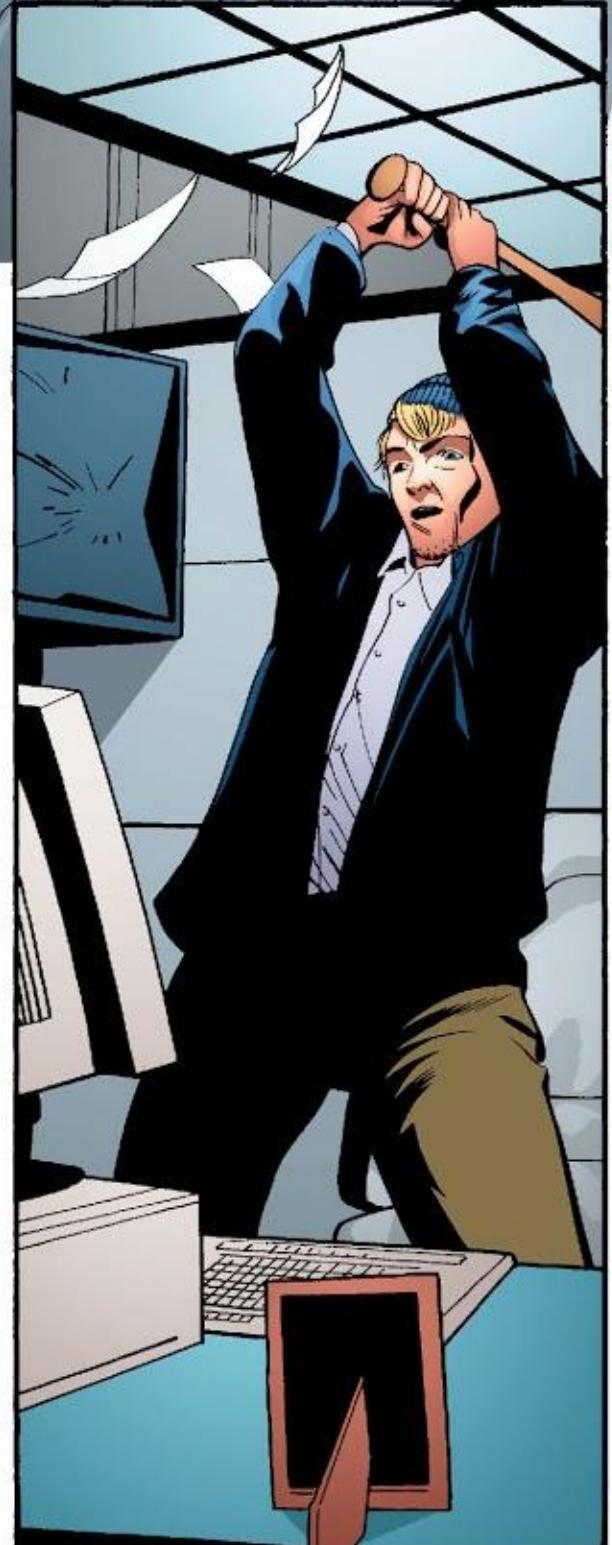
I'M DROPPING IN
THE WORM. IT'LL EAT
THROUGH THE ENTIRE
MAINFRAME BY
MORNING.

DO WE
HAVE EVERY-
THING?

THIS'LL
COVER ALL OF
IT. WE'VE GOT THE
HARD DRIVES, AND
THEY WON'T
HAVE SPIT.

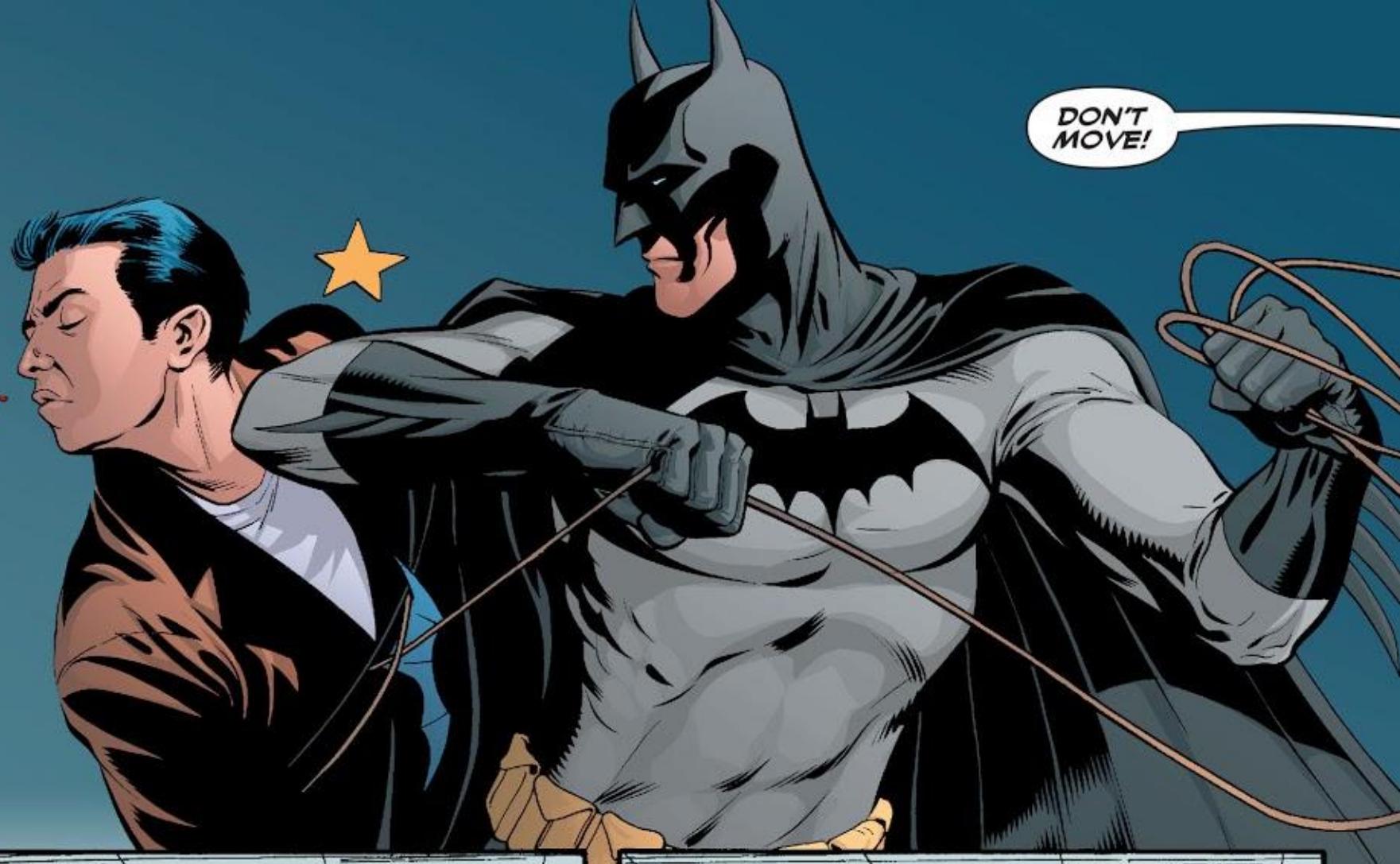
NOW,
TAKE THE
PLACE
APART.







DON'T
MOVE!

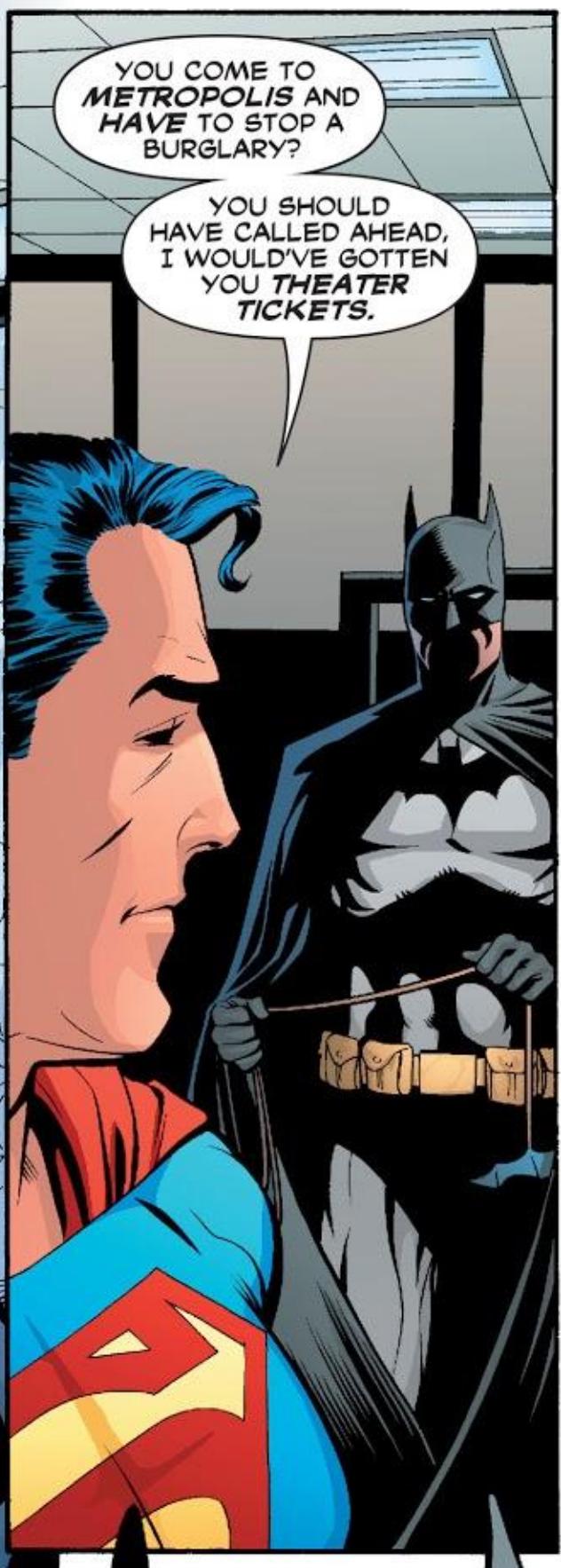


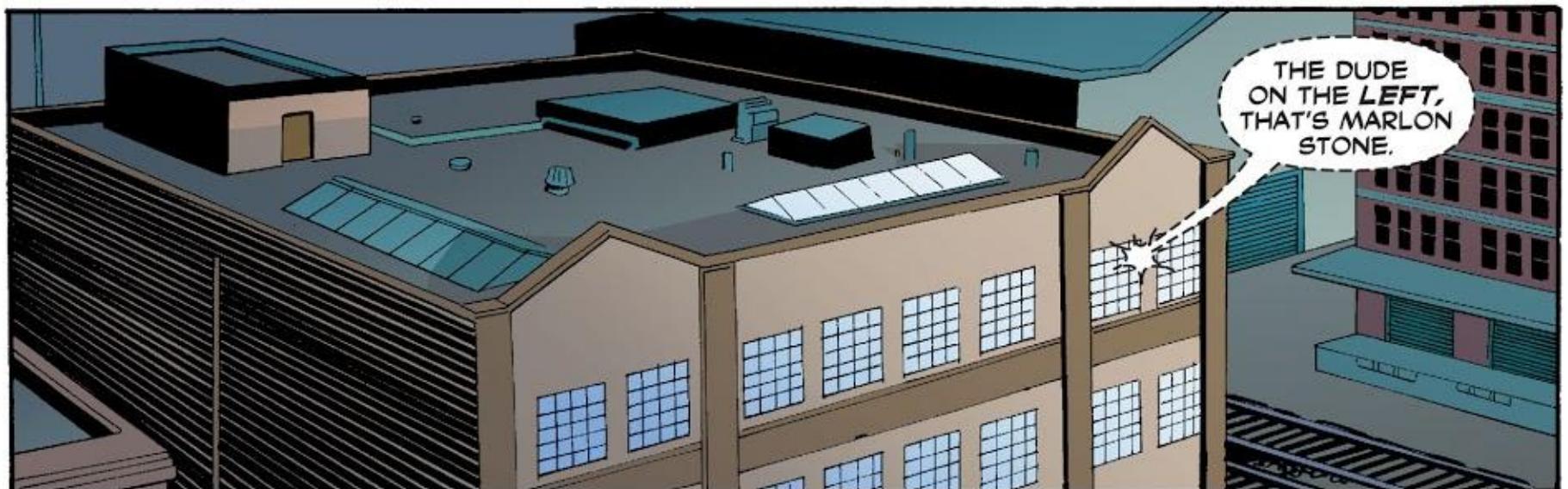
I NEVER HAD A DOUBT.

YOU COME TO METROPOLIS AND HAVE TO STOP A BURGLARY?

YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED AHEAD, I WOULD'VE GOTTEN YOU THEATER TICKETS.

I CAME TO TALK.





HE'S RUNNING WHAT'S LEFT OF THE EAST SIDE TRAFFIC. NEXT TO HIM, THAT'S JAY KIRANO, HE'S MOSTLY A DISTRIBUTION GUY.

HE PREFERENCES BEING STREET MUSCLE, BUT I DON'T THINK THE BLACK MASK LIKES HIM AS A SOLDIER. HE'S GOT TOO MUCH OF A TEMPER.

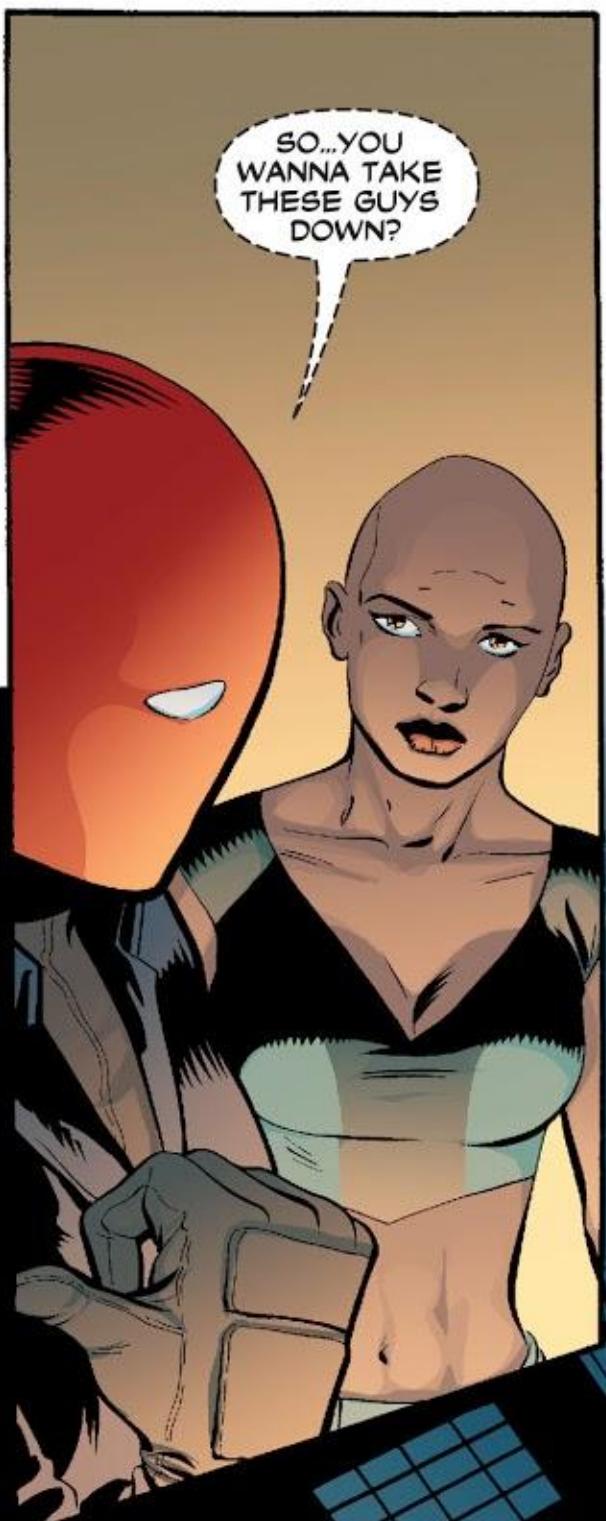


AND THAT LAST PIECE OF GARBAGE IS TEDDY REESE. HE STARTED OUT AS A PIMP, THEN MOVED ON TO A KIDDIE PORN RING BEFORE HE FELL IN LOVE WITH NARCOTICS.

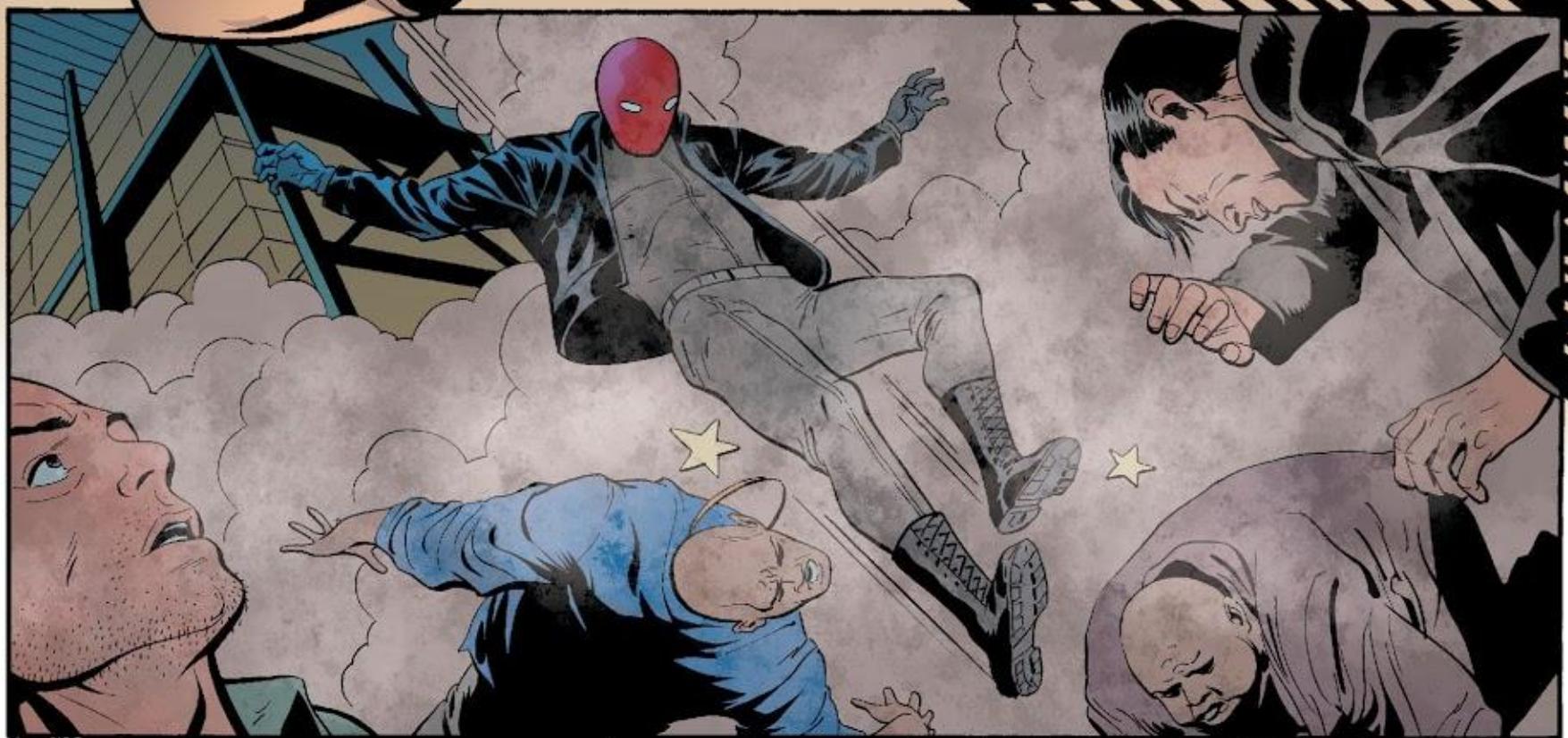
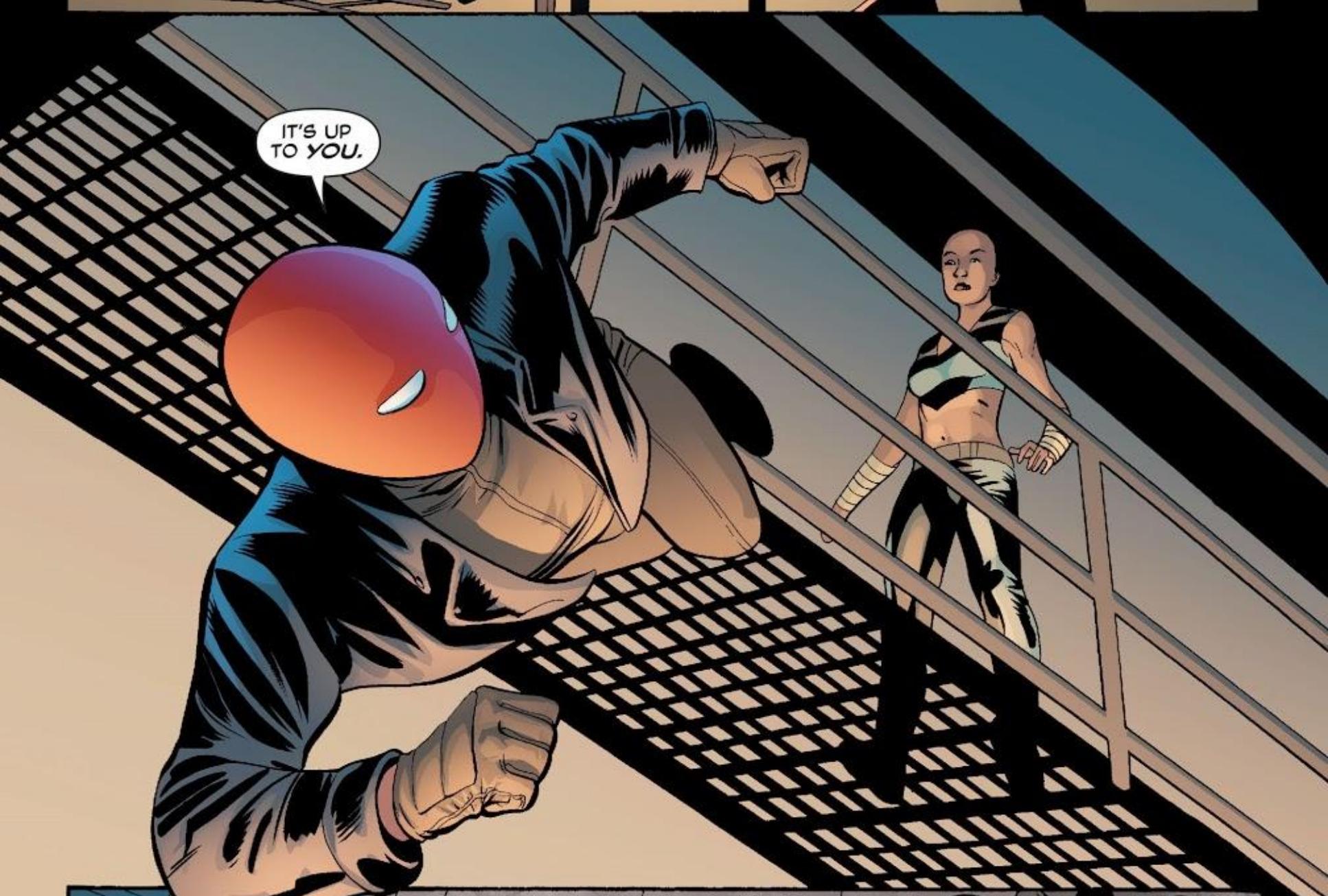


I'D SAY IT WAS BECAUSE I KEEP MY EAR TO THE GROUND, BUT THESE GOONS MAKE MORE NOISE THAN A RHINO AT THE BALLET.





YOU
CAN WATCH.
OR YOU CAN
JOIN ME.



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METROPOLIS.

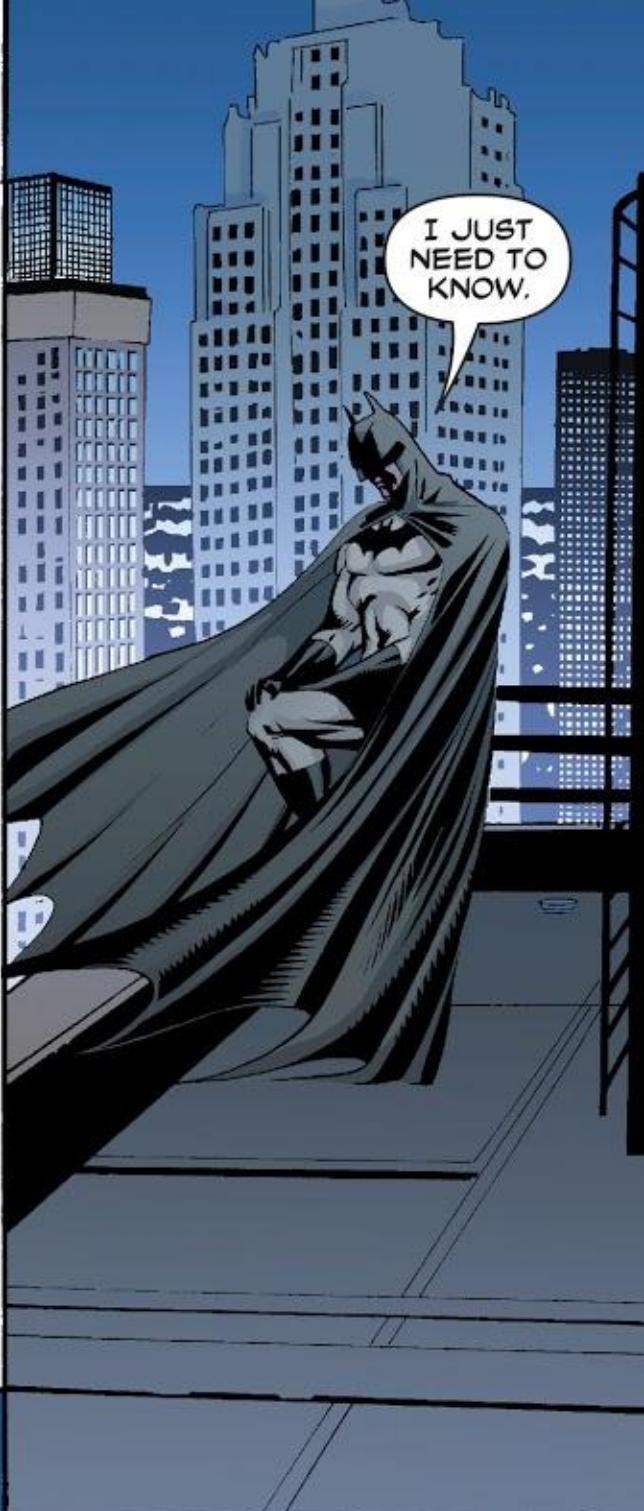
WAS I
NOT BEING
CLEAR?

NO, YOU
ARE...

...I'M NOT
SURE WHAT
YOU MEAN.



I JUST
NEED TO
KNOW.



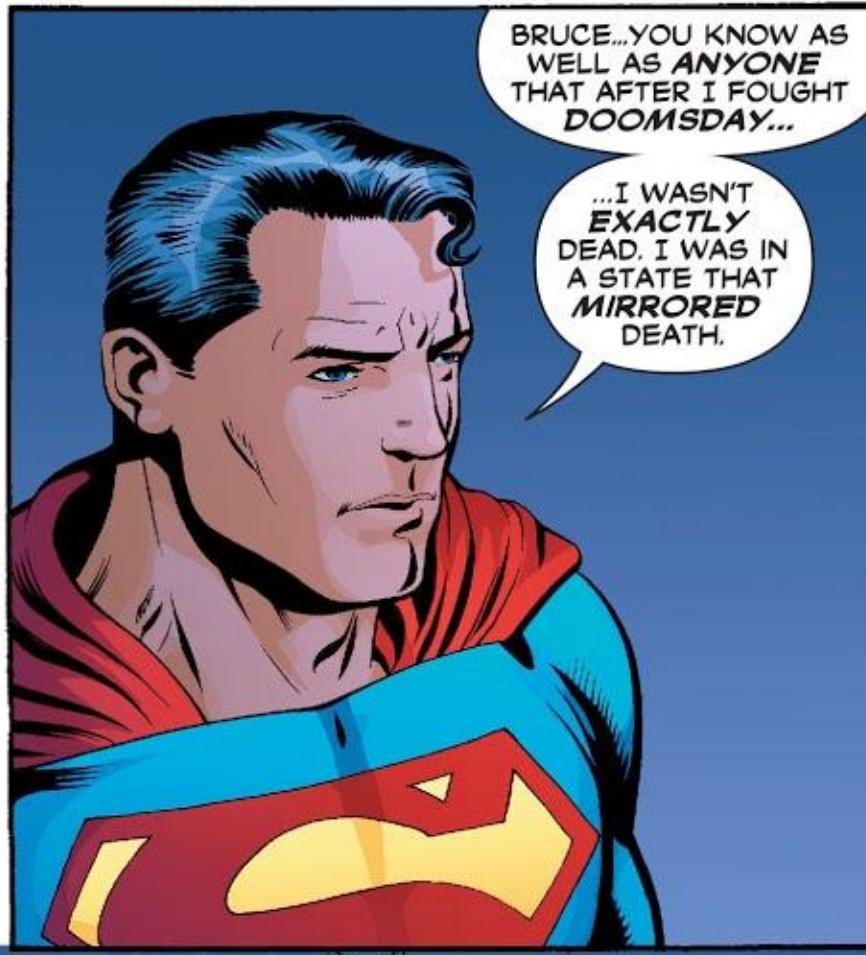
YOU DO
KNOW. YOU WERE
THERE. WHAT ELSE IS
THERE...I WOULDN'T
LIE TO YOU.

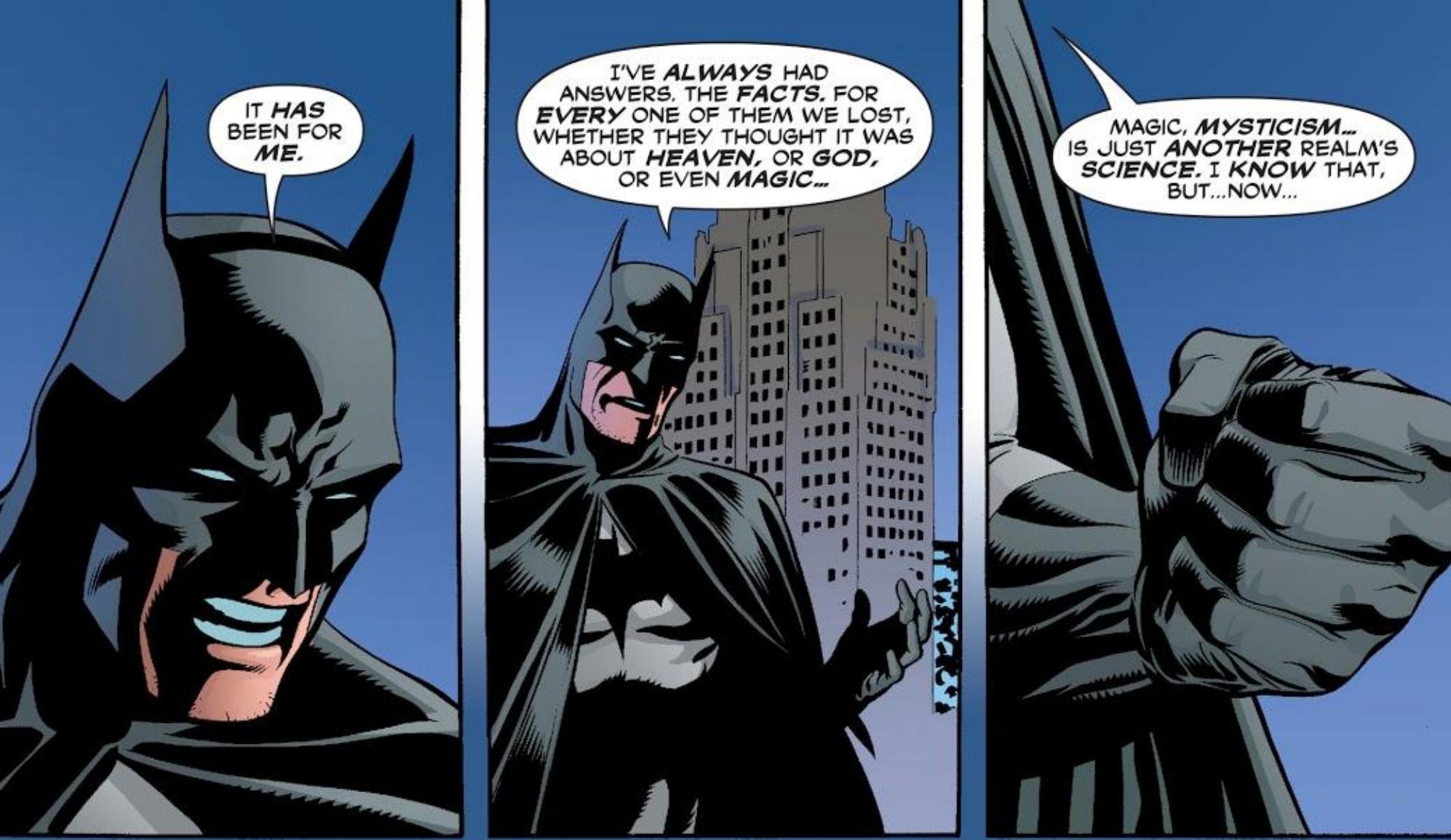
I KNOW.
I JUST NEED...
MORE.



YES.







I THOUGHT
YOU SAID YOU
TOOK OUT THE
DUDES COVERING
THE DOOR.

I DID.

I MUST
HAVE MISSED
A FEW AROUND
BACK.

YOU
THINK?

TRY AND STAY
AIRBORNE! THEY'LL
NEVER GET A GOOD
SHOT OFF!

KRAAK AAK AAK AAK KRAAK AAK

