

DC
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BATMAN®

REBIRTH™

688
SEP
2009

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AUTHORITY

BATMAN

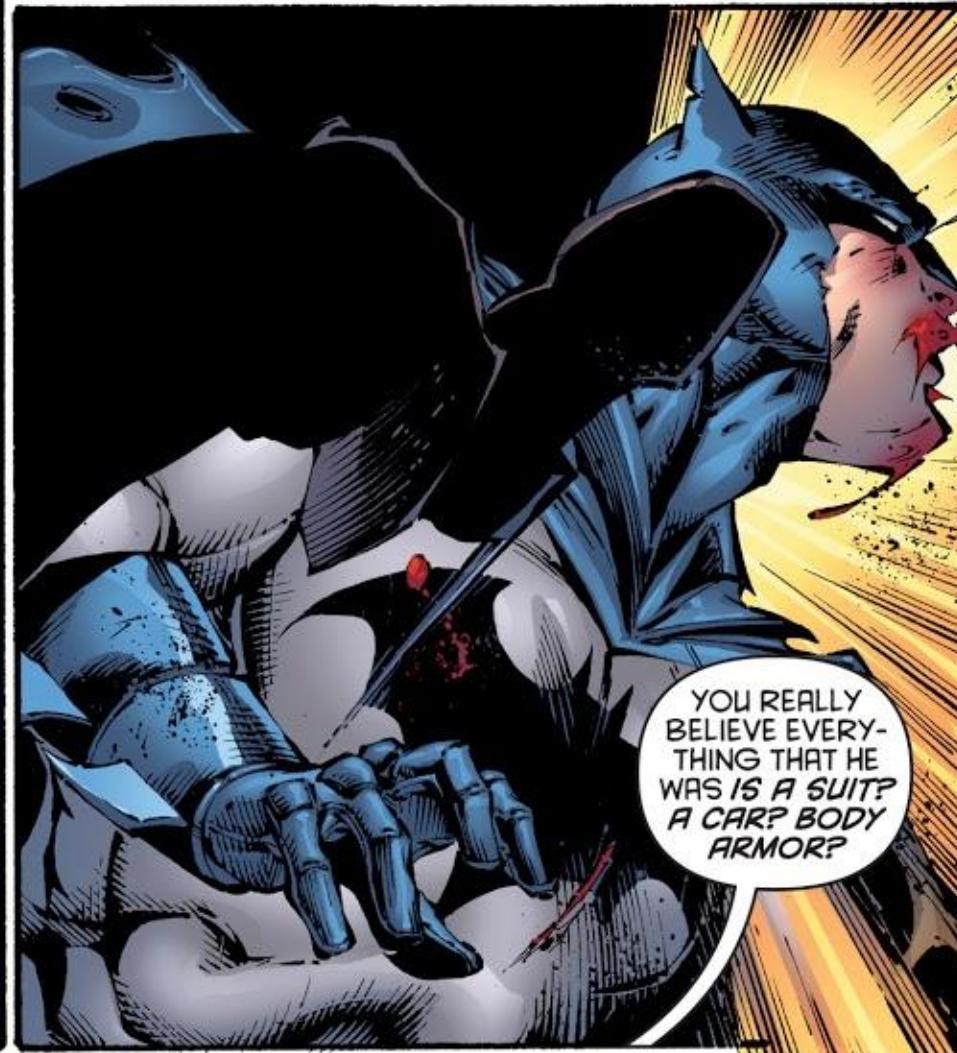


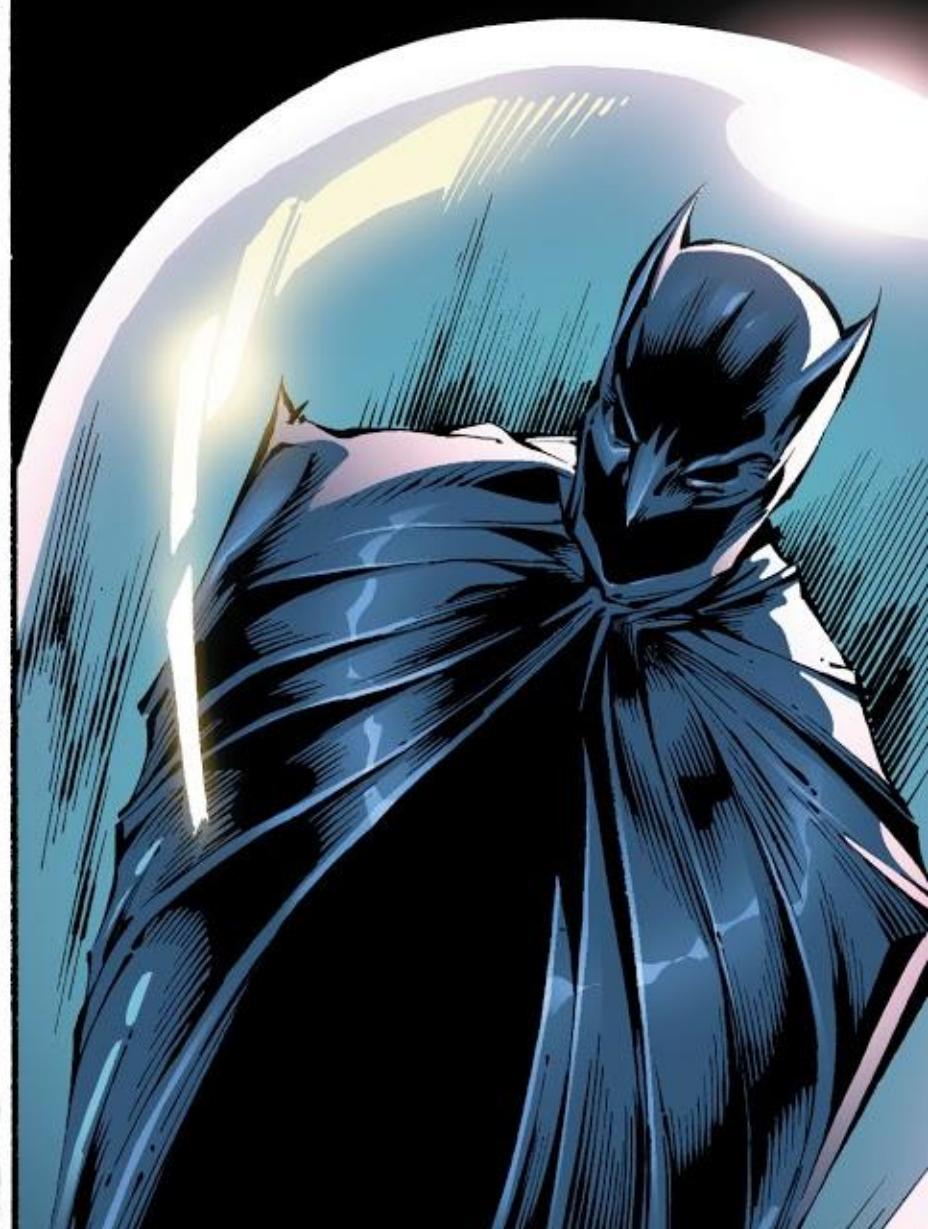
JUDD
WINICK
MARK
BAGLEY
ROB
HUNTER

THREE WEEKS FROM NOW.

I'M
LOOKING AT
A DEAD MAN,
RIGHT?







NOW.

LONG SHADOWS PART ONE OLD SINS CAST LONG SHADOWS

THE DARK
KNIGHT
RETURNS!

OR RATHER,
HE'S BACK FOR
THE THIRD TIME
THIS WEEK.

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

WITH
THE NATIONAL
GUARD STILL A DAILY
PRESENCE, AND MARTIAL
LAW AND CURFEWS STILL
IN EFFECT, MOST ARE
HEARTENED BY
SUCH A VISIBLE
PRESENCE.

BATMAN HAS
AGAIN BEEN CAUGHT
ON VIDEO IN THE ACT OF
THWARTING A CRIME
IN PROGRESS.

BOX
NEWS

MONICA PEARSON



THIS EVENING
IT WAS AN ALLEGED
ARMS DEAL. SOURCES
CLOSE TO THE GOTHAM P.D.
ARE WITHHOLDING
SPECIFICS--

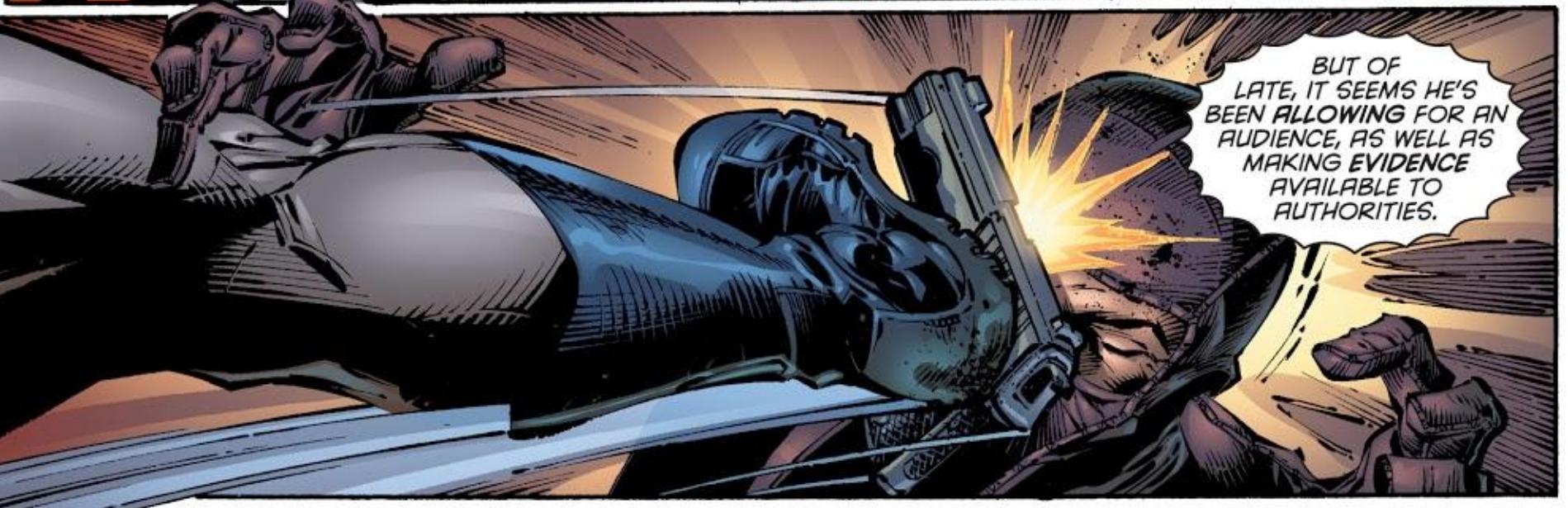


--BUT STATED
THAT BATMAN
HAS MADE
PROSECUTION OF
THE ALLEGED GUN
TRAFFICKERS
POSSIBLE.



IN THE PAST,
FOOTAGE OF THE
BATMAN WAS QUITE
RARE, EVEN IN AREAS
WITH VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE.

IT'S BELIEVED
THAT THE DARK
KNIGHT HIMSELF
WOULD DISABLE
THE CAMERAS.



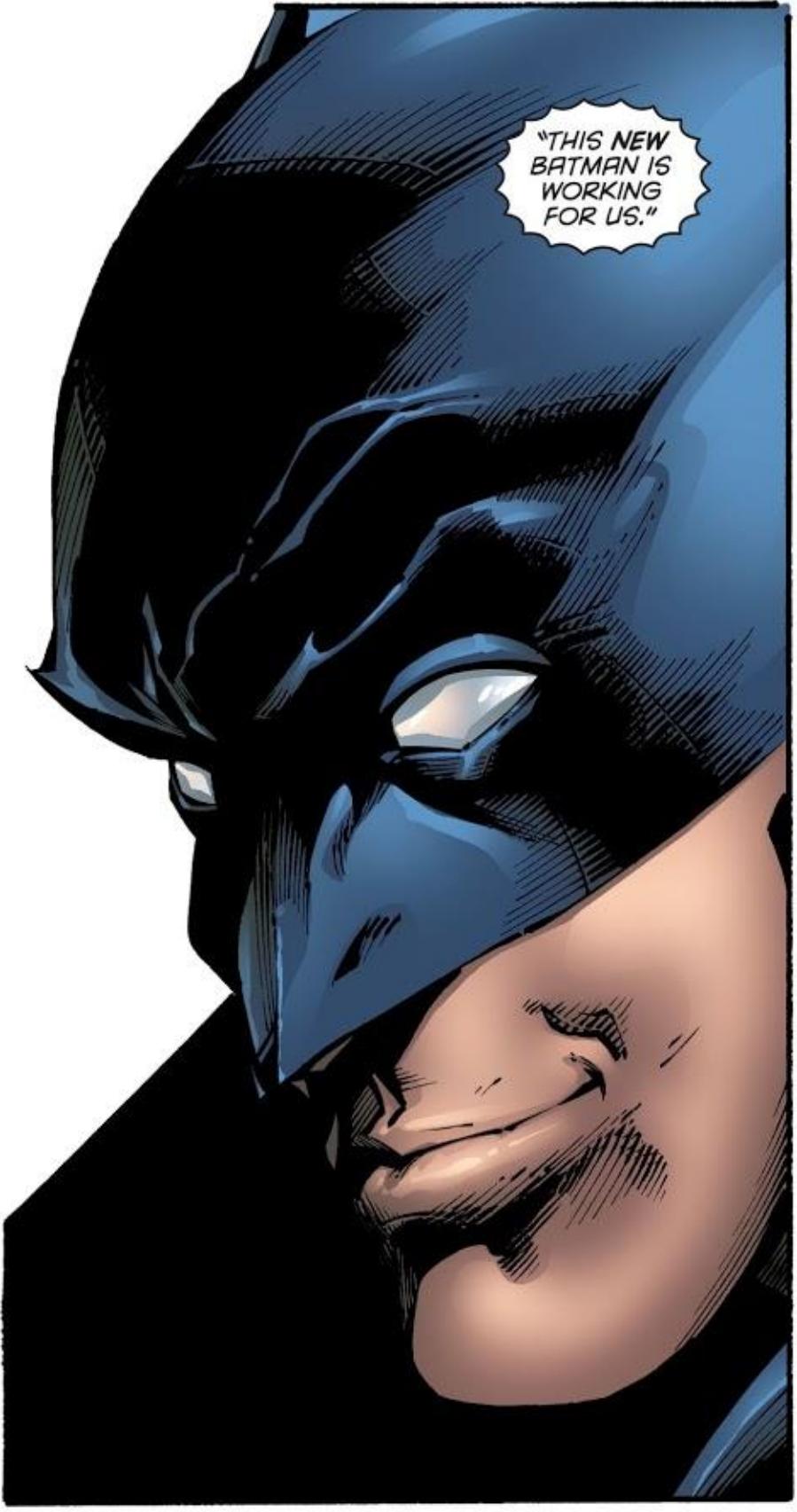
BUT OF
LATE, IT SEEMS HE'S
BEEN ALLOWING FOR AN
AUDIENCE, AS WELL AS
MAKING EVIDENCE
AVAILABLE TO
AUTHORITIES.



TO QUOTE
ONE SOURCE INSIDE
GOTHAM P.D., "NONE OF
IT'S FACE TO FACE, BUT
BATMAN IS LEAVING CRIME
SCENES SO CLEAN THAT IT
STAYS WITHIN THE LAW,
AND EVIDENCE CAN
BE GATHERED
UNTINTED.



"WE DON'T
KNOW WHERE
THIS NEW APPROACH
IS COMING FROM
OR WHY, BUT WE
LIKE IT."



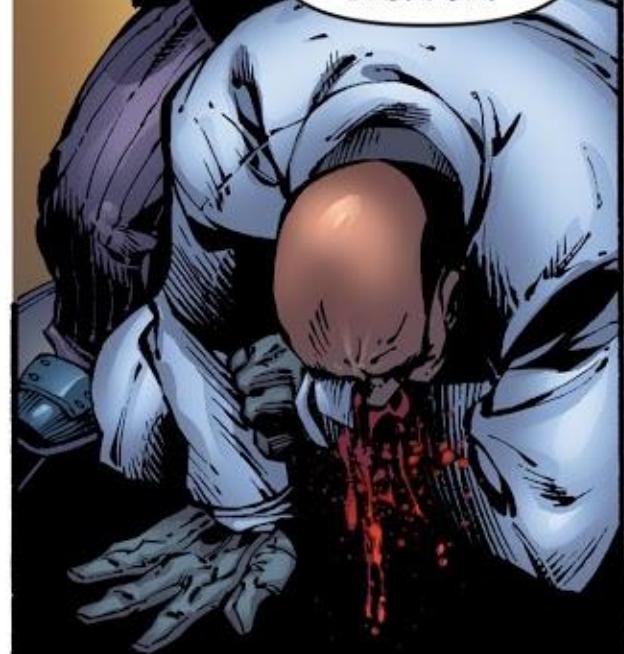
"THIS NEW
BATMAN IS
WORKING
FOR US."



YOU THINK THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE JOB WAS THE PROBLEM?! HOW ABOUT FOURTEEN TRICKED-OUT MERCENARIES UNLOADING AN ENTIRE ARMORY ON CAMERA?!



THEY ALL GOT ARRESTED, YOU CRETINOUS, MOUTH-BREATHING LEG BREAKER!



DO WE ALL GRASP THE DEFINITION OF "LOW-KEY"? DO WE ALL UNDERSTAND THAT, FOR A BRIEF SPELL, WE WERE GRACED WITH A LESS-THAN-EFFICIENT BATMAN? HE WASN'T SO... PROACTIVE!



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME I WAS ABLE TO STRETCH MY WINGS! AND HE, THE DREADED MAN IN BLACK, DIDN'T REALIZE OR FEEL THE NEED TO CLIP THEM!



BUT NOW HE'S BACK AND MUGGING IT UP FOR THE MEDIA! THERE'S A POWER VACUUM IN THIS TOWN, BOYS. I AM A CHILLED BREATH AWAY FROM RUNNING THIS CITY. IF HE KNOWS IT'S ME OUT HERE, THEN OUR GOOSE IS COOKED! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

WE DO. I THWEAR TO GAD, I'M THORRY--



I WAS SPEAKING RHETORICALLY.
IDIOT.



GOTHAM CITY P.D.

COMMISSIONER,
IT'S ONLY BEEN
FIVE MINUTES.



HOW LONG DO
YOU USUALLY
WAIT?

A BIT
LONGER THAN
THIS, SERGEANT
PIKE...BUT NOT
TONIGHT.

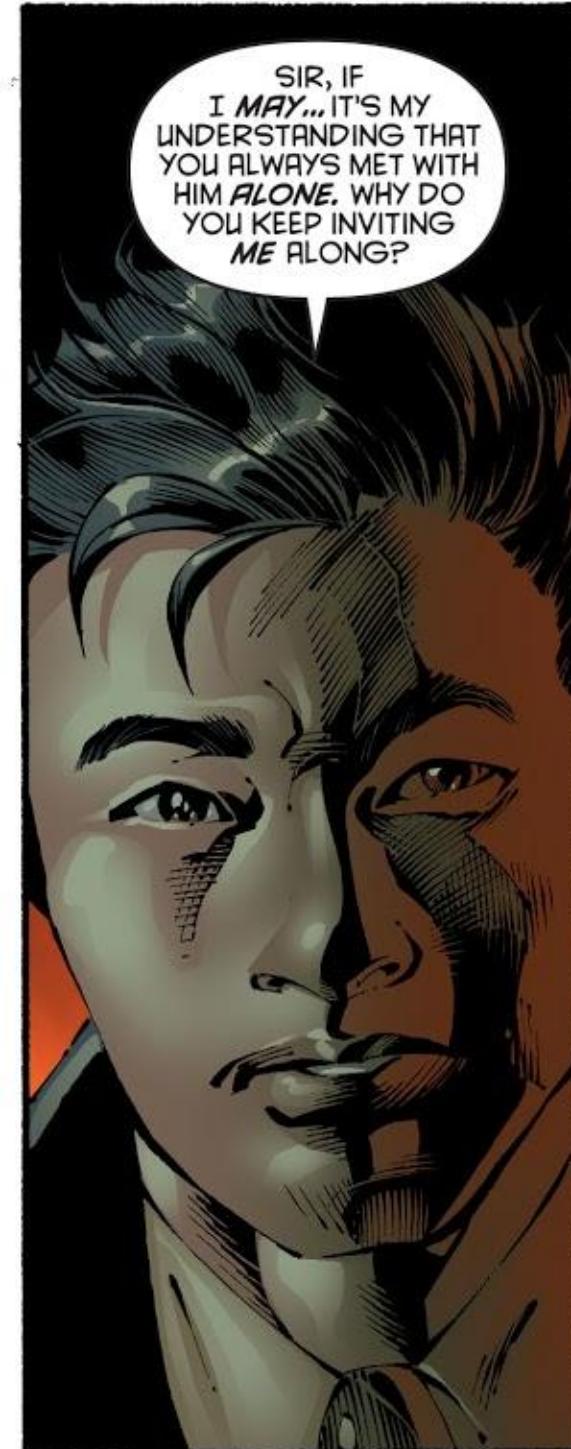
WE'RE
LEAVING?

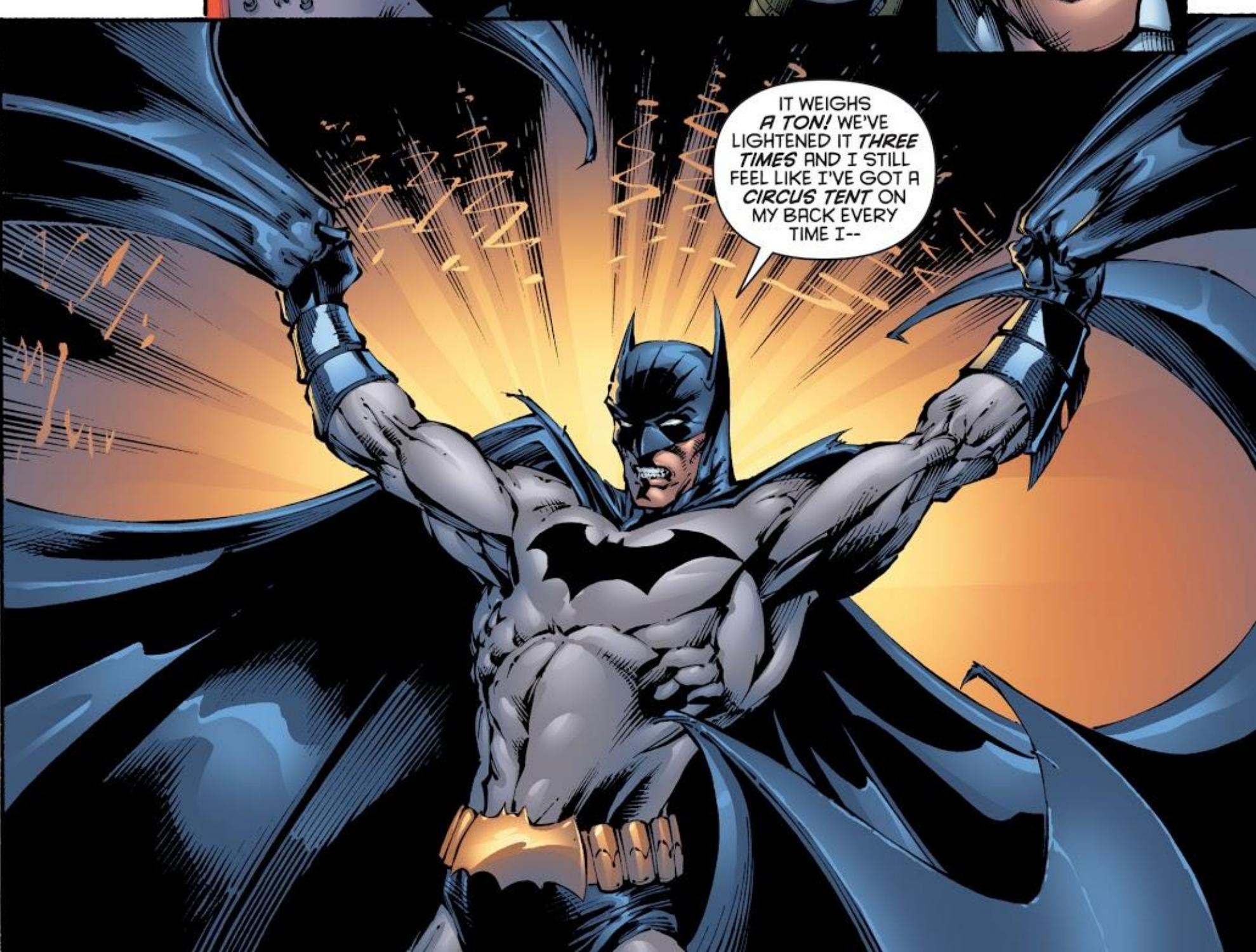
WE'RE
LEAVING.

SIR, THIS IS THE **FOURTH** TIME
IN TEN DAYS WE'VE COME UP
HERE TO ESSENTIALLY FLIP
THE SIGNAL ON AND OFF...
AND THEN LEAVE.

ARE WE
TRYING TO SEND
SOME SORT OF
MESSAGE?

LET'S NOT
GET AHEAD OF
OURSELVES,
PIKE.





YOU USED
TO WEAR A
CAPE, SIR.

YEAH,
BUT IT WAS
MADE OF NYLON
AND ENDED AT MY
BUTT! THIS IS LIKE
WEARING A BALL
GOWN MADE OF
KEVLAR!

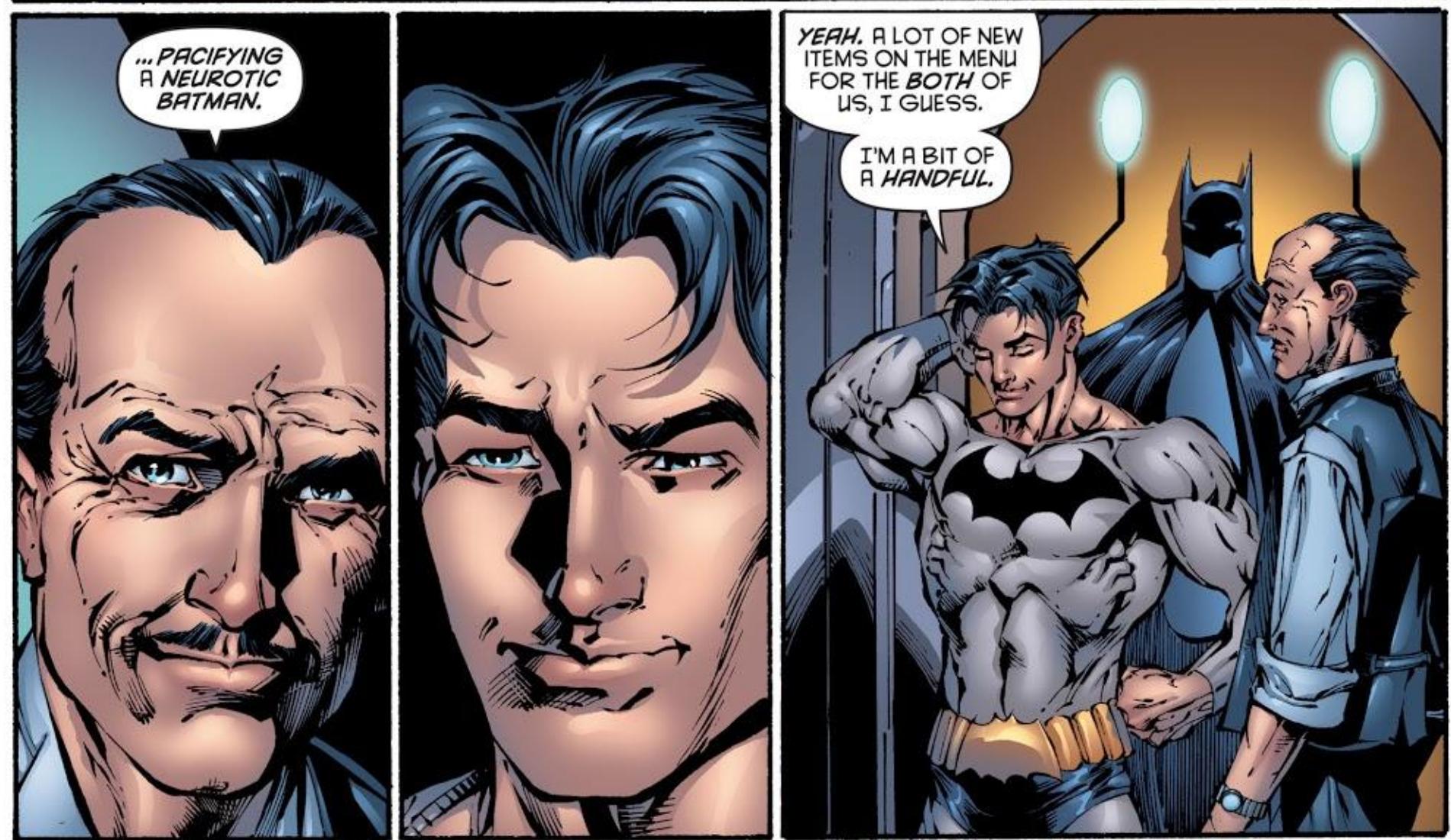
SIR, IF I MAY SUGGEST...
REGARDING THE VISION,
WE CAN WIDEN THE EYES
ANOTHER THREE
CENTIMETERS ON EITHER
SIDE. AND REGARDING
THE CAPE, YOUR
FIGHTING STYLE DIFFERS
FROM MASTER BRUCE'S.
HE WAS LESS...
AIRBORNE.

I'M NOT
GOING TO
AUGMENT HOW I
FIGHT FOR THE
SAKE OF THE
COSTUME!

OF COURSE NOT,
SIR. BUT THERE ARE
SEVERAL TYPES OF
MATERIAL WE CAN
EXPERIMENT WITH.
LIGHTER BUT NO
LESS DURABLE.

I WANT TO WORK UP
SOMETHING NOW.
I'M NOT GONNA GET
KILLED OUT THERE
BECAUSE I...

WHAT?



"...READY FOR TRAINING."

AGAIN!

GOOD.

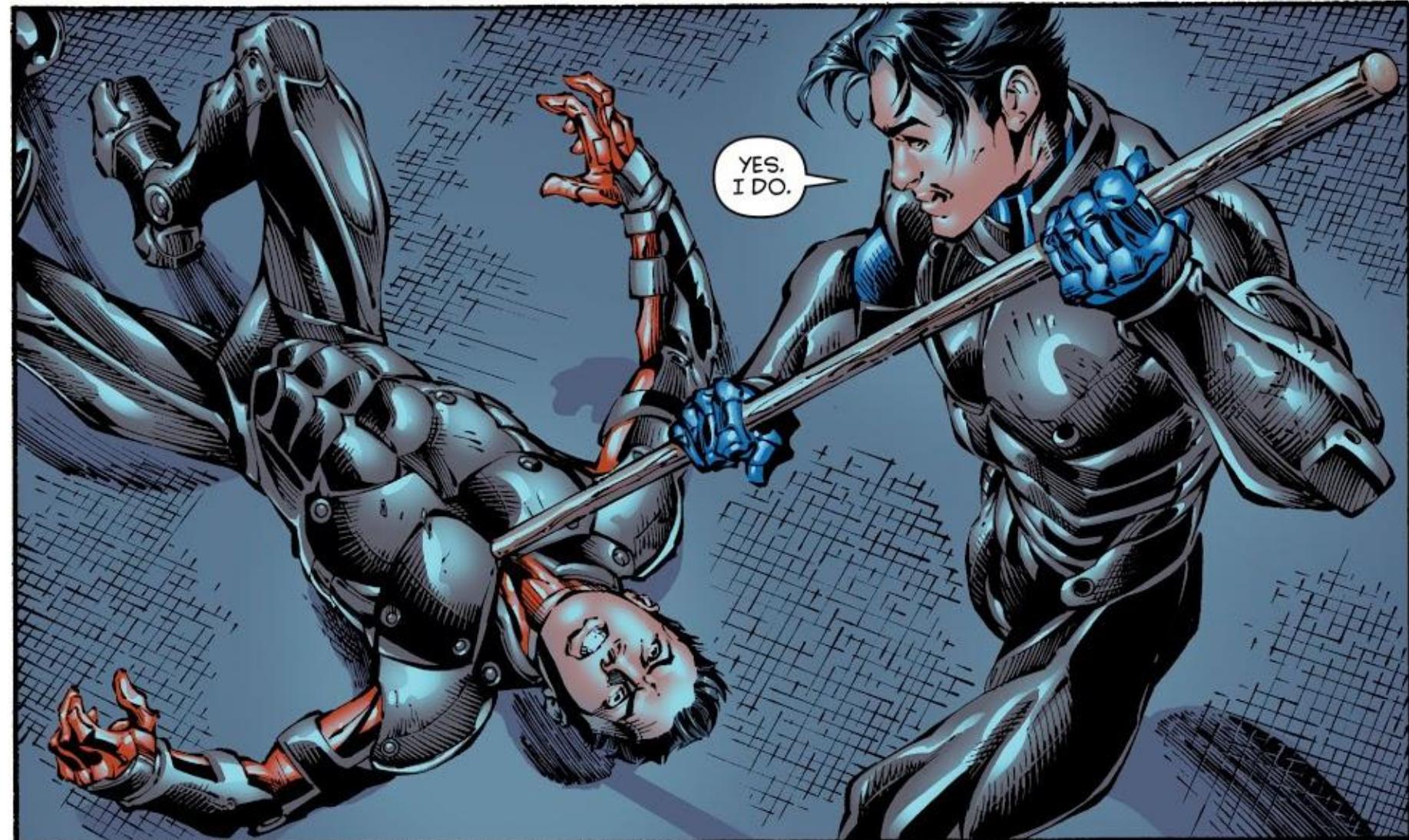
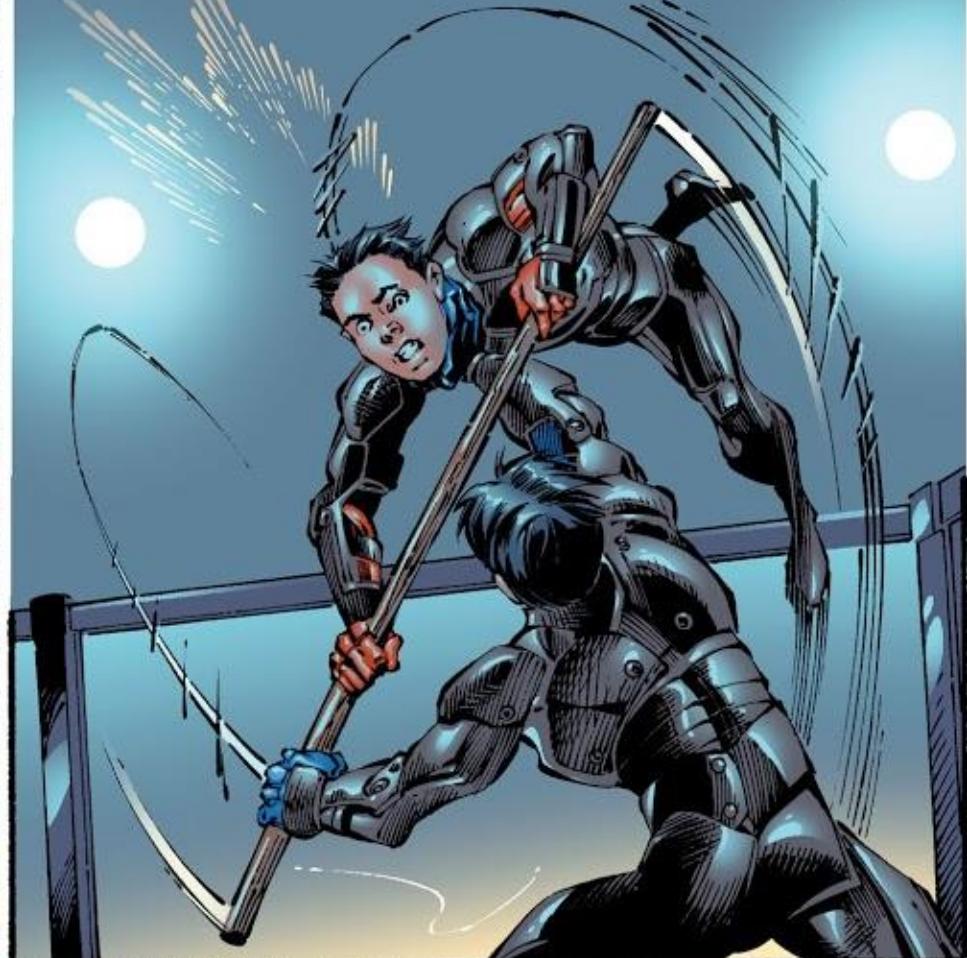
BETTER.

NO. DON'T ANTICIPATE.





YOU
ALWAYS
TALK SO
MUCH?!



YES.
I DO.

AND WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE,
SPORTING THE "R" ON MY CHEST,
I NEVER SHUT UP. ESPECIALLY
WHEN FIGHTING.

IT KEPT ME LOOSE.
MY MIND WAS GOING A
MILE A MINUTE JUST LIKE MY
BODY. THAT WORKED
FOR ME.

BRUCE
LIKED IT
BECAUSE IT
DISTRACTED
WHOEVER WE
WERE BATTLING.

I'M NOT GOING TO
BE YOUR DAMNED
DISTRACTION.

I'M NOT
YOU.

NO.
YOU'RE NOT.
AND I'M NOT
BRUCE.

YOU HAVE
EXPECTATIONS
FOR WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
"BATMAN AND ROBIN." BUT WE
REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT
THAT IS YET. WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO LEARN.

WHAT
EXACTLY
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
TELL ME?

DON'T
ANTICIPATE.

WANNA GO
AGAIN?

YES.

GOOD.
LET'S
HIT IT.

ELSEWHERE...

THEY BROUGHT
THE HEAT RIGHT ON
THEMSELVES. TRYING
TO MOVE THAT MUCH
MILITARY GRADE
HARDWARE.

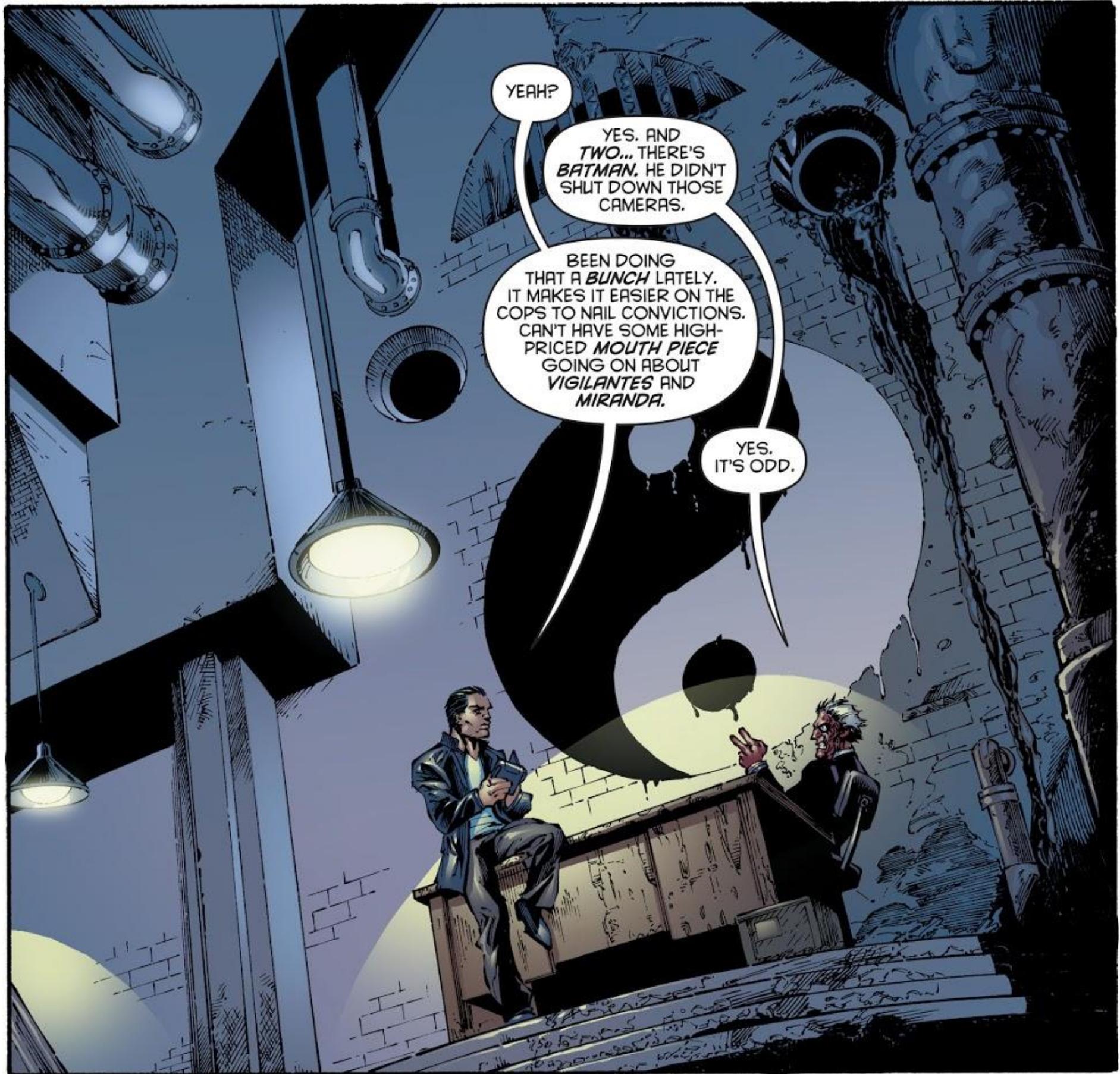
AND THE
CAMERAS...

HARVEY DENT,
TWO-FACE.

TWO THINGS
WRONG WITH
THAT THOUGHT,
BENNY.

ONE,
IT WASN'T A
"THEY" THAT
PULLED THE
JOB. IT WAS
PENGUIN.





THAT WAS SORT OF THE POINT I WAS WARMING UP TO THERE. WHY DO YOU NEED TO SEE BATMAN FIGHT IT OUT WITH A BUNCH OF TOP SHELF MERCS, IF WE ALREADY WATCHED IT ABOUT A HUNDRED TIMES ON THE TUBE.

YOU HAD ME RECORD THAT CRAP OFF OF EVERY DAMN--

BENNY, I LIKE YOU. YOU'RE SMART. SO MUCH SMARTER THAN THE REST OF THESE THUGS WE HIRE. IT'S FOR THAT REASON I LET YOU QUESTION ME SO MUCH. BUT...

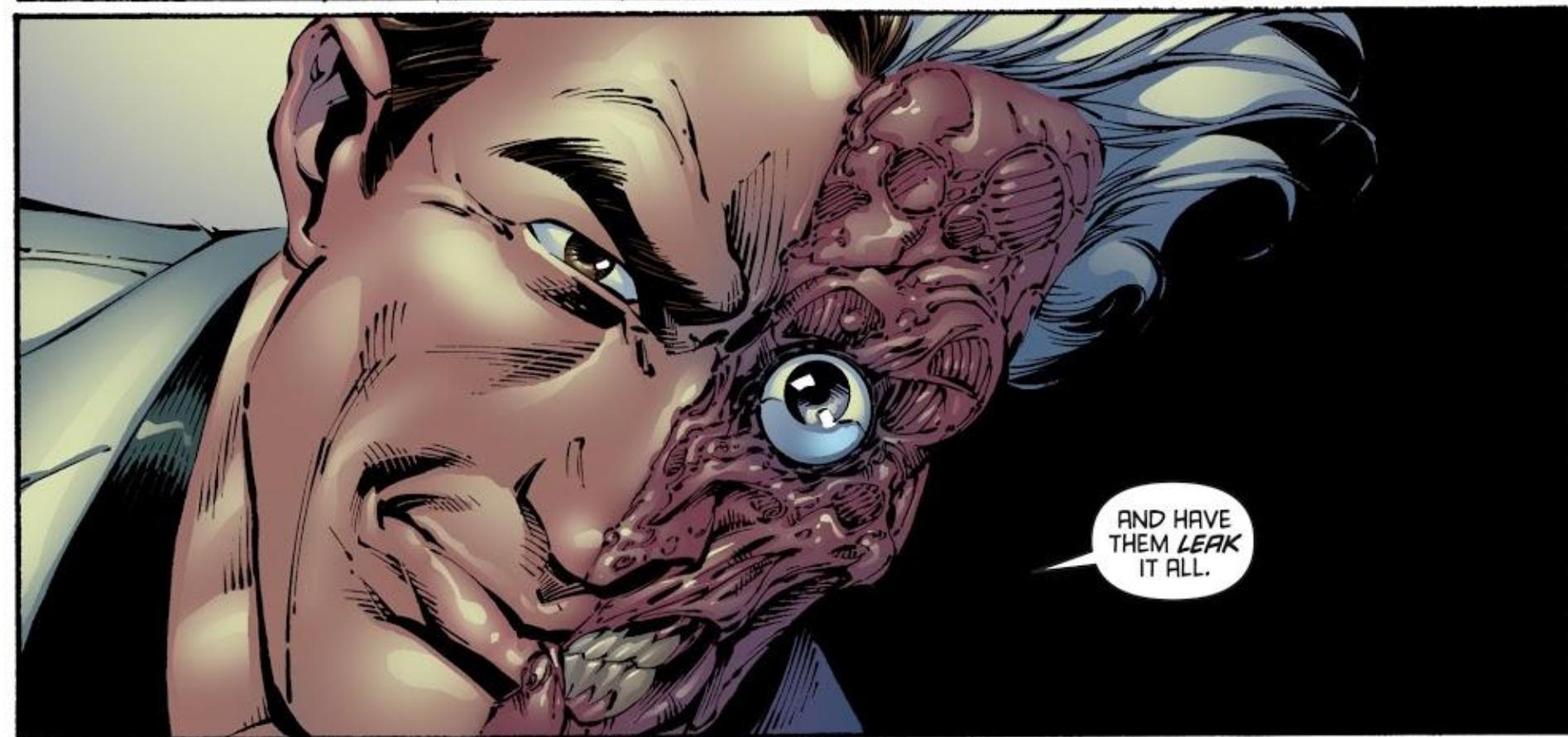
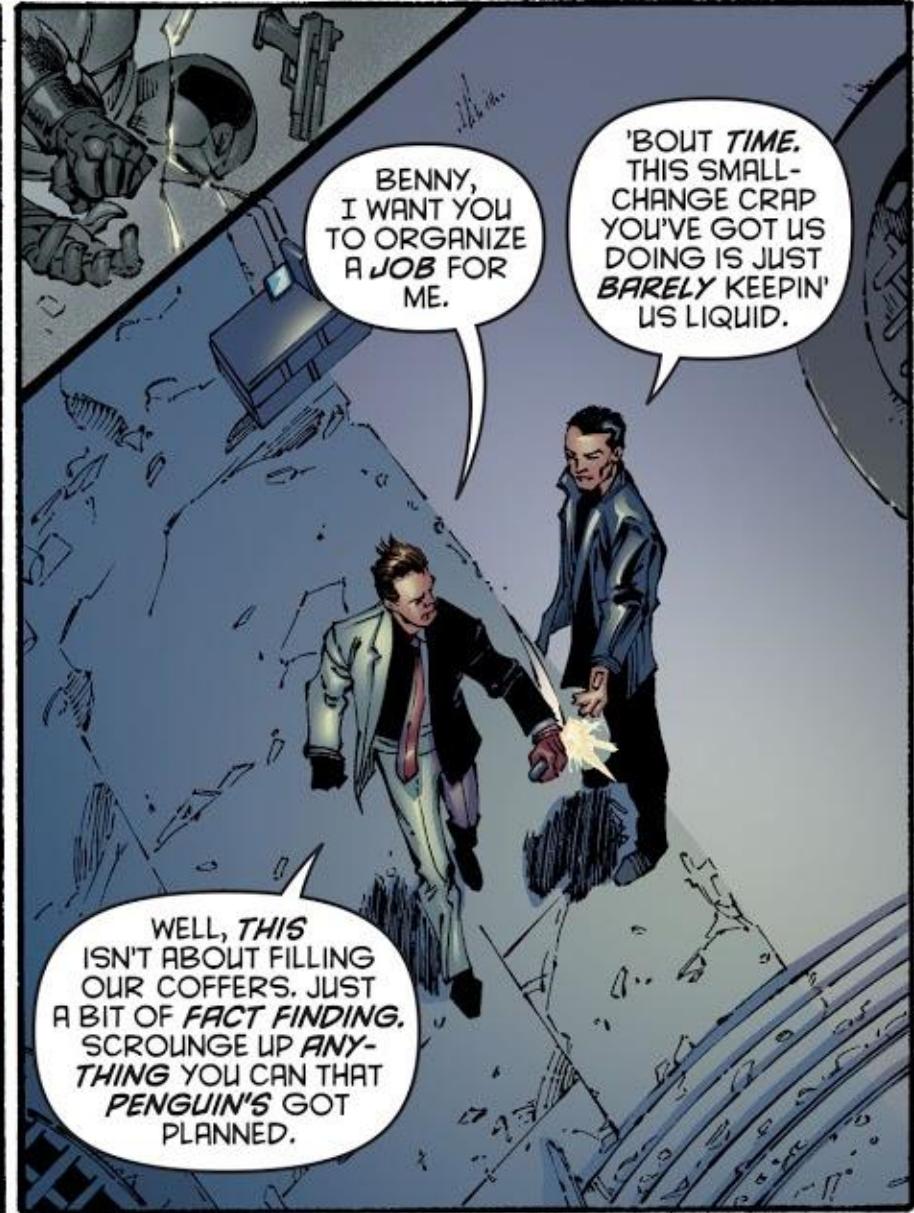
DON'T PUSH IT.

RIGHT. SORRY. MY BAD. I'LL JUST HIT "PLAY" AND DO MY JOB.

SO, THIS HERE IS FROM THE OTHER CAMERA. THE "OPPOSING ANGLE."

IT IS.

IT SURE IS.







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