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JUL 96

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# BATMAN





# IF ANDIES TO EBILACK

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HIS NAME IS ROMAN SIONIS, SON OF YOUR GOOD FRIENDS.

HE CALLS HIMSELF BLACK MASK NOW-- AND HE ESCAPED WHEN I CHOSE TO STOP THE MAN TRYING TO KILL HIM.

I'D LIKE TO THINK I DID IT IN MEMORY OF YOU... OUT OF LOVE FOR YOU.

YOUR DEATHS DESTROYED WHAT I WAS AND WHATEVER I WOULD HAVE BECOME IN YOUR PRESENCE...

AND YOUR MURDERS CREATED WHO AND WHAT I AM.

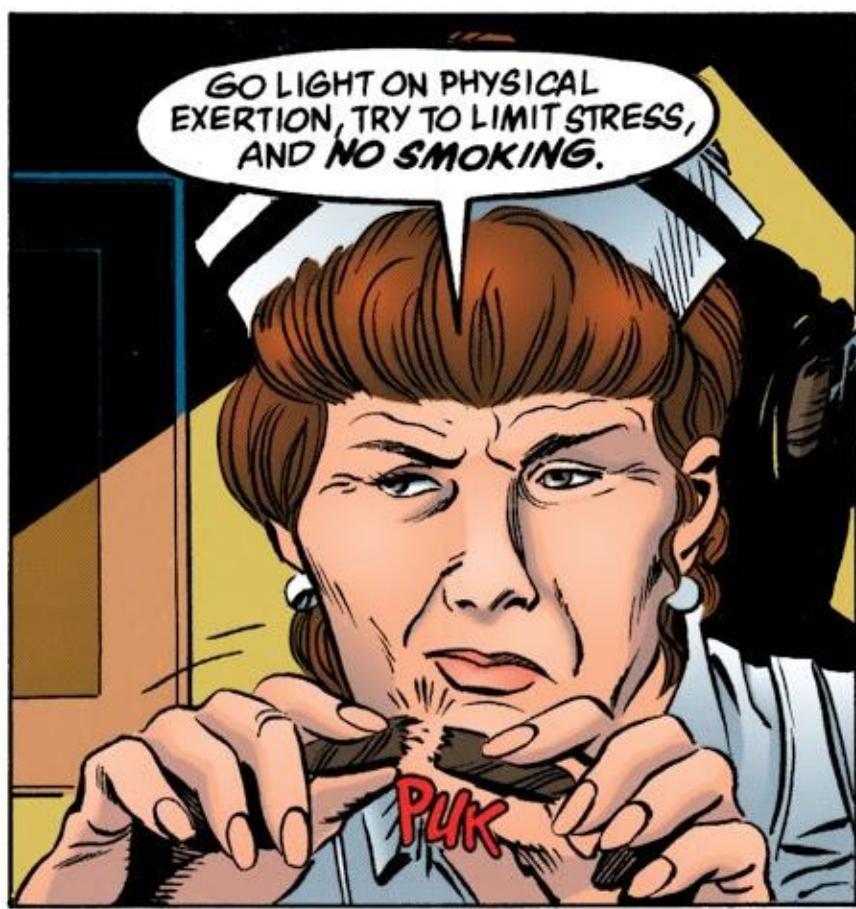
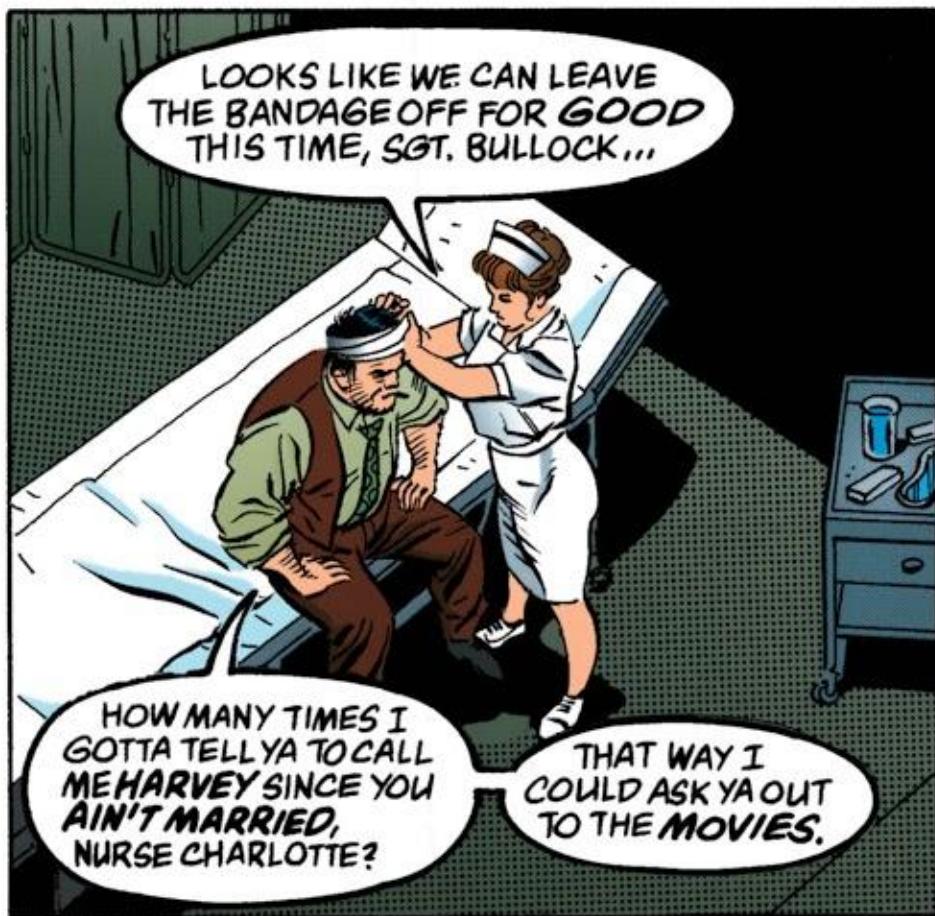
AFTER SEEING YOU FALL TO A KILLER'S GUN, I MUST STOP EVERY OTHER MURDER I CAN-- NO MATTER WHO THE INTENDED VICTIM.

BUT IN THIS CASE, I PREVENTED THE MURDER OF A MAN WHO HIMSELF MIGHT COMMIT MURDER AT ANY MOMENT.

AND SO TONIGHT-- MAYBE FOR MANY NIGHTS TO COME-- I MUST TRY TO STOP HIM.

I MUST TRY TO STOP BLACK MASK.







BLACK MASK KEPT A BLACKMAIL DIARY ON THE MEMBERS OF HIS OWN GANG-- NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND INCRIMINATING DATA TO KEEP THE FALSE FACE SOCIETY IN LINE.

IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE ABANDONED THEATER HE USED AS HIS LAST HIDEOUT.

WHAT THE--?!

IT'S MINE NOW.

YOU'VE DROPPED YOUR MASK AND LOST YOUR BOSS, STANTON ...

HUH--?!



OH. BUT H-HOW... HOW SHOULD I KNOW? YOU FLUSHED HIM OUT! HE RAN! HE'S G-GONE!

AND HIS DIARY HELD NO PERSONAL DATA.

I'M TELLIN' YA,  
MONToya, I COULD  
BE IN LOVE.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN  
HAD YOUR FIRST DATE,  
HARV.

HEY, NEVER  
UNDERESTIMATE TWO  
WEEKS TOGETHER IN  
A HOSPITAL.

WHAT DID  
SHE DO, HARV--  
MOTHER YOU?

NAW, BUT ONCE  
SHE ALMOST CHUCKED  
A BEDPAN AT ME.

TOUGH WOMAN--ALWAYS  
READY TO STEP IN AND TAKE ANY  
BULL BY THE HORN.

ADMIRED NURSE CHARLOTTE  
EVEN WHEN SHE WAS SNAPPIN' MY  
MORNING STOGIES IN HALF.

GOOD  
LUCK, HARV--  
YOU'LL NEED  
IT.

NOT ME, BABE--  
I'M A BIG MAN WITH  
A HAIRY CHEST AN'  
LOTS O'  
AFTERSHAVE.

YOU WANTED TO SEE  
ME, SARAH? -- EXCUSE ME,  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON.

YES. AS YOU WELL KNOW,  
IT IS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S  
DUTY TO REPRIMAND INAP-  
PROPRIATE BEHAVIOR ON THE  
PART OF HIS OR HER SUB-  
ORDINATES...

YOUR BEHAVIOR  
DURING THE ARREST  
OF TOMMY "MANGLES"  
MANCHESTER WAS NOT  
ONLY INAPPROPRIATE,  
IT WAS DOWNRIGHT--

WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO--  
SUSPEND ME? I  
ALREADY QUIT,  
REMEMBER?

HOW CAN I FORGET?  
THERE'S A SCAR ON THIS DESK  
WHERE YOU SLAPPED YOUR BADGE  
DOWN -- NOT TO MENTION THE  
SHATTERED DOOR PANE I HAD  
TO REPLACE.

IT WAS MY DOOR LONG ENOUGH  
TO GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO SLAM IT ON  
WHAT I THOUGHT WAS MY LAST  
TIME OUT!

YOUR RESIGNATION,  
JIM, WHICH HASN'T BEEN  
ACCEPTED YET -- NOT  
OFFICIALLY.

LOOK, I DIDN'T  
ASK YOU HERE TO  
DISCUSS THE  
DOOR ...

THEN WHY  
DID YOU  
SUMMON  
ME?

TO  
ASK YOU TO  
RECONSIDER.

RECONSIDER  
WHAT?

YOU WANT ME TO  
STAY ON THE FORCE -- AS  
YOUR "SUBORDINATE"  
-- SO YOU AND YOUR NEW  
PAL MAYOR KROL CAN  
SUSPEND ME?

STOP  
IT, JIM!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE AFTER TOMMY MANGLES LIKE THAT AND YOU KNOW IT!  
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN HURT--!

GUESS YOU DIDN'T TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT MANGLES...

I SAW HIM, AND I KNOW YOU'RE A BIG STRONG MACHO MAN--BUT YOU'RE YEARS PAST PROVING IT.

YOU AND KROL YANK MY JOB OUT FROM UNDER ME-- AND YOU THINK I'VE GOT NOTHING TO PROVE?

YOU'RE NOT A YOUNG MAN ANYMORE, JIM, AND YOUR HEART--

LISTEN TO ME, COMMISSIONER! NOBODY QUESTIONS MY HEART-- NOT EVEN AFTER IT STOPS BEATING!

PLEASE, JIM...  
MR. JAMES GORDON TO YOU, COMMISSIONER-- WHETHER YOU OFFICIALLY ACCEPT MY RESIGNATION OR NOT!

AND IF YOU WANT TO KEEP PAYING ME, MAIL THE CHECKS--

--BECAUSE I WON'T BE AROUND HERE ANYMORE!

SLAM  
KABOOM!



WEARING A MASK,  
FRANKLIN--TO SELL DOPE  
IN YOUR OWN APART-  
MENT?







EXOTIC EXPERIENCE,  
THIS BATTERED CHARIOT OF  
YOURS, HARVEY.

SWEET,  
AIN'T SHE?

THE AROMA ALONE--  
LIKE AN ASHTRAY IN A  
BAKERY...

EVEN YOU CAN'T SNAP  
ALL MY STOGIES, CHARLOTTE  
--AND AS FOR THE OTHER  
SMELL...

AREN'T WE A  
LITTLE OLD TO BE  
HOLDING HANDS  
ON THE STREET,  
HARVEY?

GAVE A LIFT TO  
MY PARTNER MONToya--  
HOPELESSLY ADDICTED  
TO DONUTS, POOR  
WOMAN.

OLDIES  
BUT GOODIES,  
CHARLOTTE.

SNOT IN R.E.M. CALLED  
THE BEATLES "ELEVATOR  
MUSIC," BUT ONE THING  
THE BEATLES ALWAYS HAD--  
ASIDE FROM BETTER CHOPS  
THAN R.E.M.--WAS LOVE  
FOR WHAT CAME BEFORE.

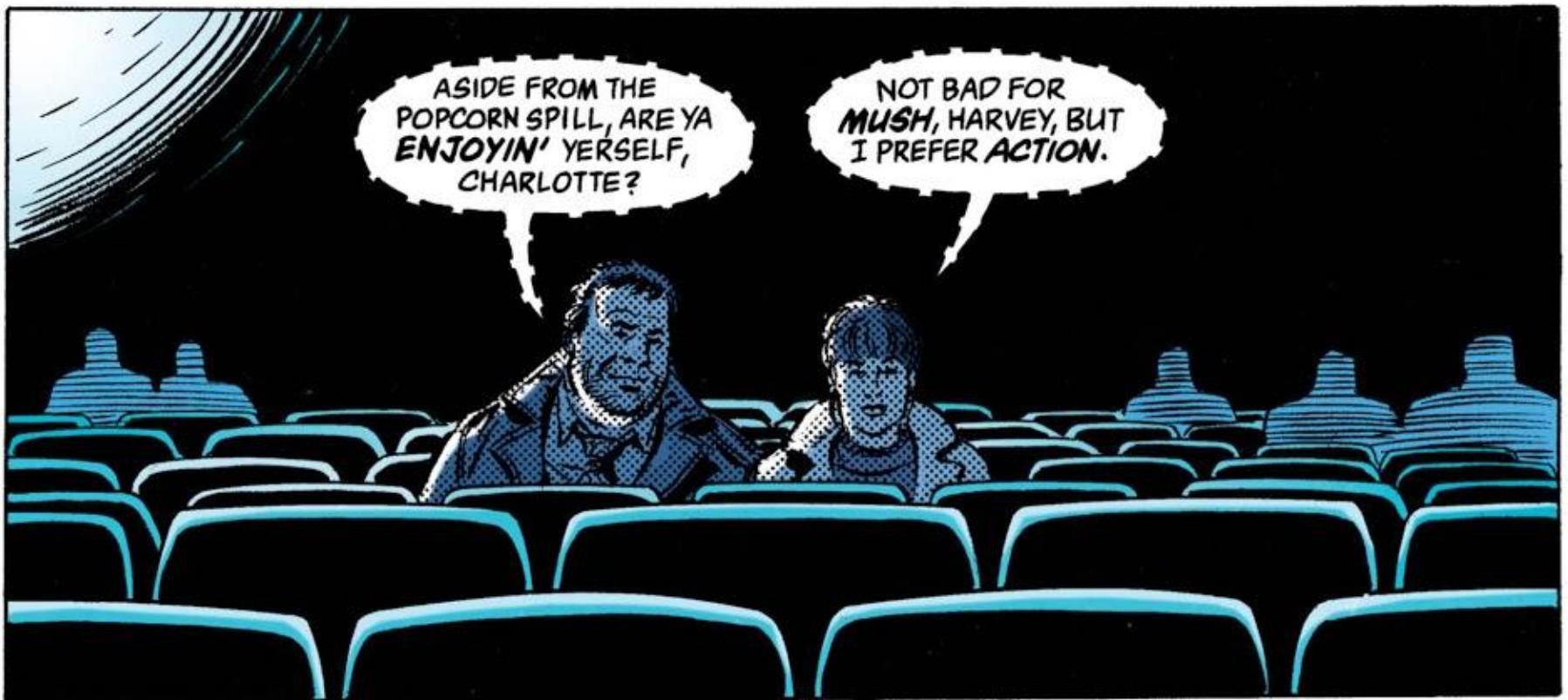
YOU MEAN RESPECT  
FOR THEIR ELDERS? LIKE  
CHUCK BERRY, ELVIS, AND  
LITTLE RICHARD?

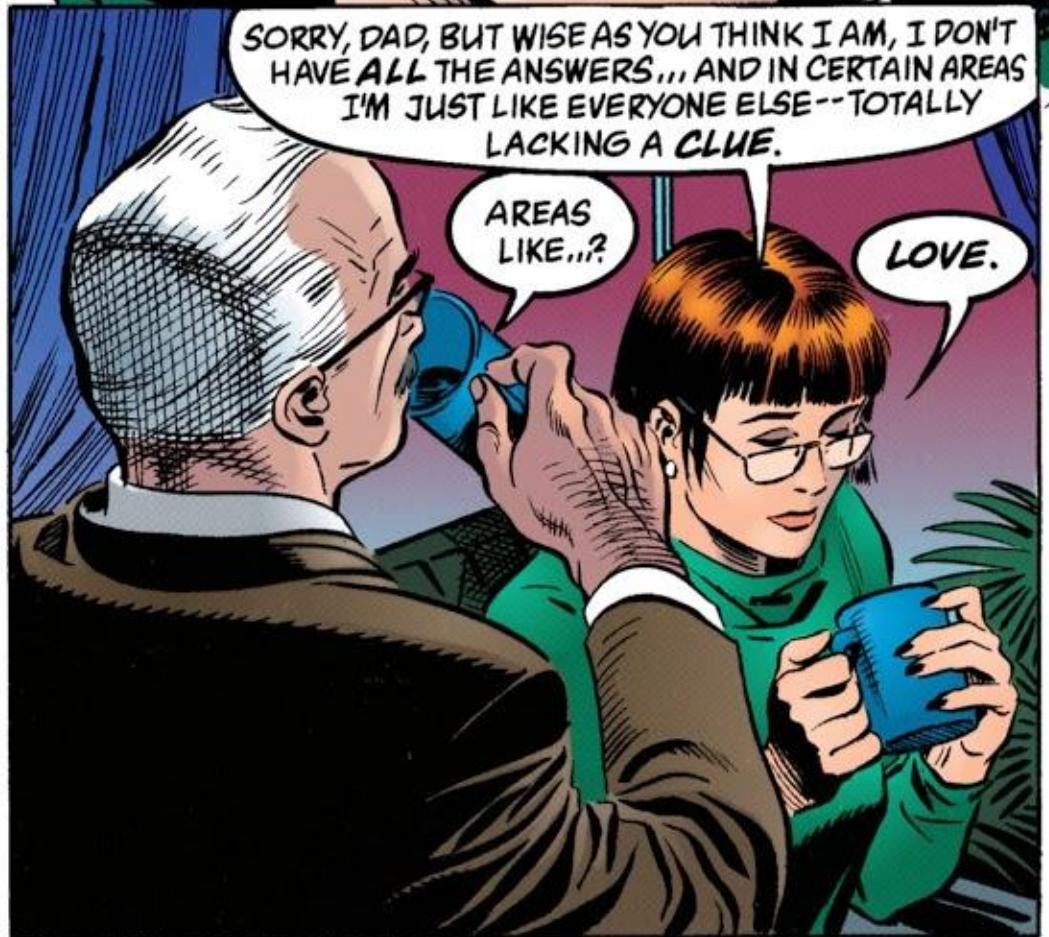
AWRIGHT, SO MAYBE  
IT'S A GOOFY ANALOGY,  
CHARLOTTE...

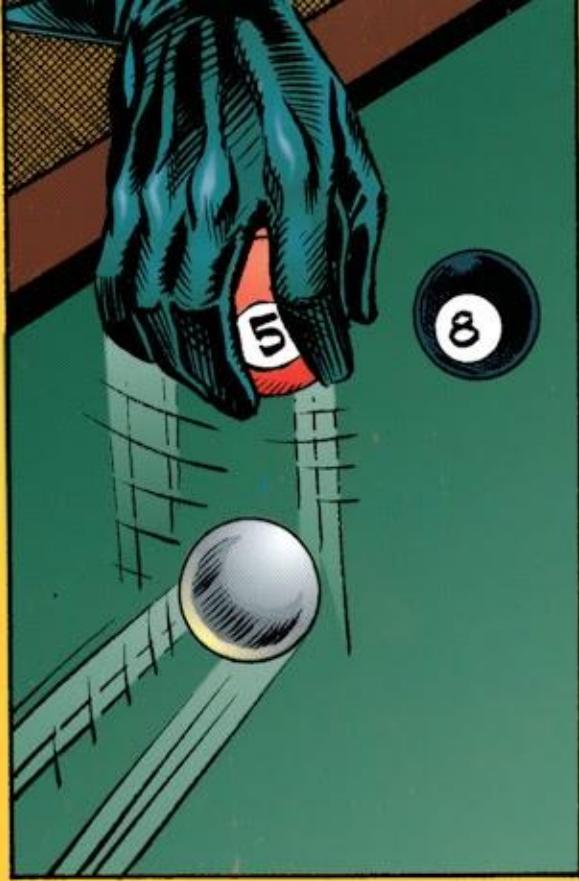
...BUT I  
STILL WANNA  
HOLD YOUR  
HAND.

## REGENCY AN AFFAIR SLEEPLESS TO REMEMBER IN SEATTLE

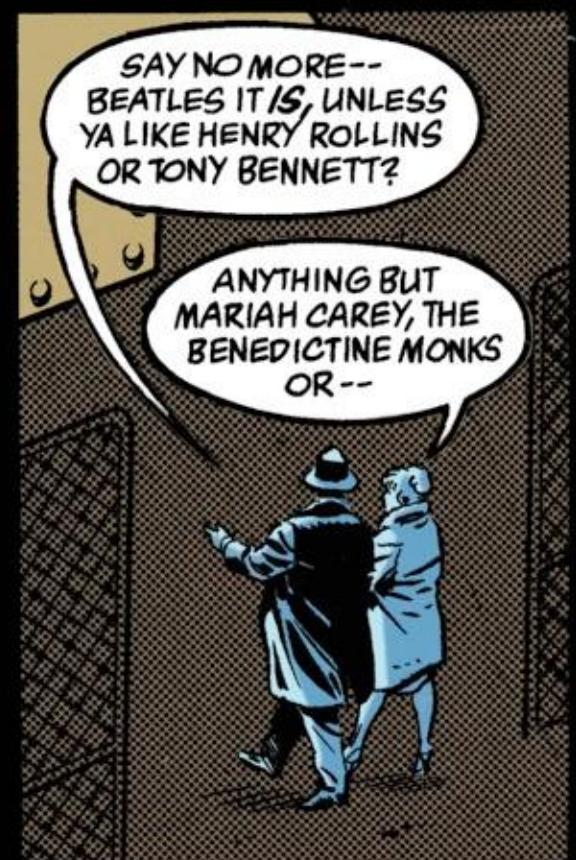






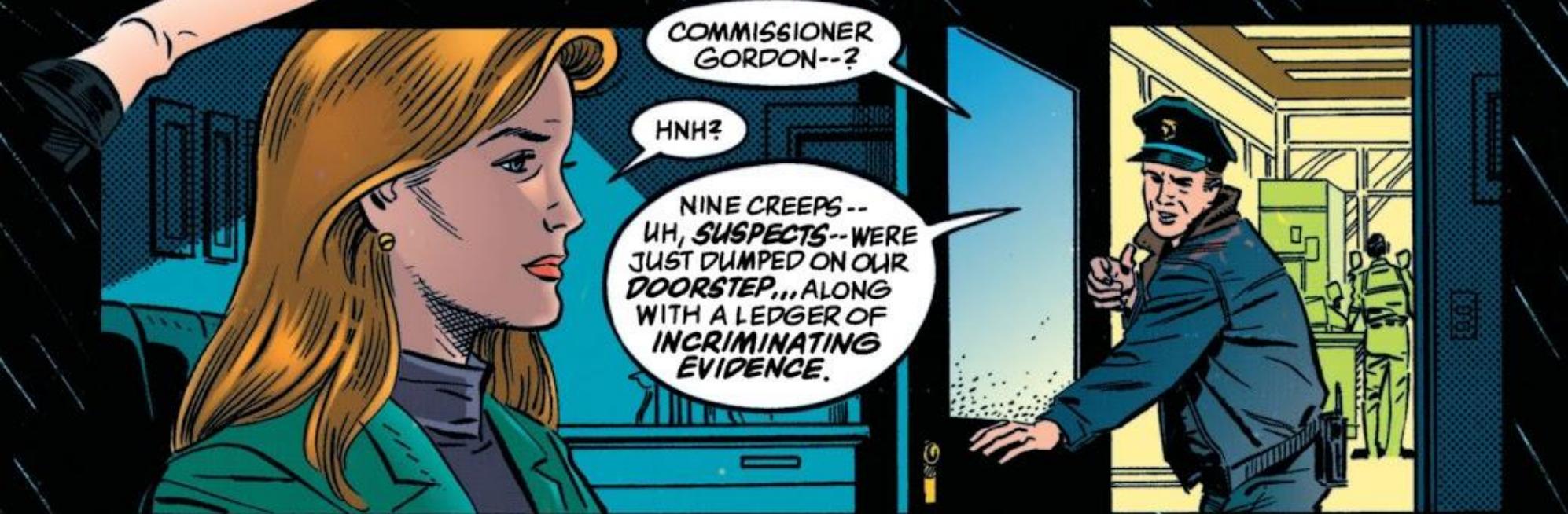












MOTHER,  
FATHER...LOVE  
IS NOT  
ENOUGH.

THEY'RE  
EVERWHERE...  
AND THEIR WORK IS  
TOO RANDOM.

I CAN  
ONLY FIND  
SO MANY...  
AND I CAN  
NEVER STOP  
THEM ALL.

I'VE  
FAILED  
YOU...

...BUT IN  
YOUR NAMES...  
IN YOUR  
MEMORY...

...I WILL  
NEVER STOP  
TRYING.



...NOT FADE AWAY.





**novus**  
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