

# BATMAN

580



HAMA • McDANIEL • STORY



# GOING UN DE

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YOU WANT  
THE WITCH'S GEM  
SO BAD,  
PUPPET?

THEN  
EAT IT!!



YOU ARE BLIND TO  
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE  
JUST AS FELONIOUS  
AS CAMILLE.

YOUR CRUSADE  
TO BUILD A BETTER  
LIFE FOR OTHERS  
IS FLAWED.  
YOU CAN'T  
BUILD HOPE...

HLLKKK!



...ON DIRTY  
MONEY. ON BLOODY  
MONEY.

KUKKK!



GIVE IT UP,  
ORCA, BEFORE  
SOMEONE ELSE  
GETS KILLED.

LIKE  
YOU. OR  
BALIN.

UHN! WEAK...  
HKKKK... NEED...  
HKKK... WATER...





"FASHIONS BY CAMILLE"  
MANUFACTURING  
FACILITY NUMBER  
6, ON THE WEST  
SIDE.

LISTEN UP, YA MONGRELS.  
YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT WE'RE  
GONNA BE MOVING 'CUZ OF...  
LEGAL REASONS.

THIS MEANS I  
WILL SOON LOSE  
FOUR DAYS OF PRODUCTION  
OUT OF THIS FACILITY  
DURING THIS  
RELOCATION.

THIS MEANS I  
WILL... UH, MS.  
BAYDEN-SMYTHE...  
WILL LOSE FOUR DAYS  
WORK OUTTA  
YOUSE.

I NEVER  
LOSE ANYTHING  
THAT'S MINE.

I NEV... UH,  
MS. BAYDEN-  
SMYTHE... DON'T  
LOSE NUTHIN'  
NEVER.

YOU ARE NOW ON 18-HOUR SHIFTS TO  
COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS. FOR THE  
SAME PAY, OF COURSE. ANYONE  
NOT LOYAL TO ME, OR TO MY  
PRODUCT, CAN LEAVE. NOW.

UH... WE'RE  
NOW ON 18-HOUR  
SHIFTS...

BUT WE CAN'T MOVE  
OPERATIONS INTO THE  
GOTHAM AQUARIUM  
UNTIL THE EVICTION  
OF --

DEAR WERNER, YOU ACCOUNTANTS  
WORRY SO. YOU SIMPLY PREPARE  
TO HANDLE MR. SLEAZAK IN  
THE MORNING.

I WILL TAKE CARE  
OF OUR NUISANCE  
SQUATTER, DR.  
GRACE BALIN.

YOU DON'T  
LIKE IT - GIT  
OUT!

THE OLD GOTHAM CITY AQUARIUM COMPLEX.



Nearly every fact about the life and work of Dr. Grace Balin that can be discovered reveals a life founded in hope.

Grace was born into a lower-class family as the youngest of eight siblings. Despite bleak circumstances, it was soon apparent to all that she was different. Special.

She was a very bright light in a very dark world, and the source of that light was her hope for a better tomorrow. She earned a full academic scholarship to Gotham Gate. It was during her freshman year that, for the first time, she saw the ocean.

It changed her forever. To her, the sea was... immeasurable. Powerful. Majestic.

Unconquerable. Much like her hope.

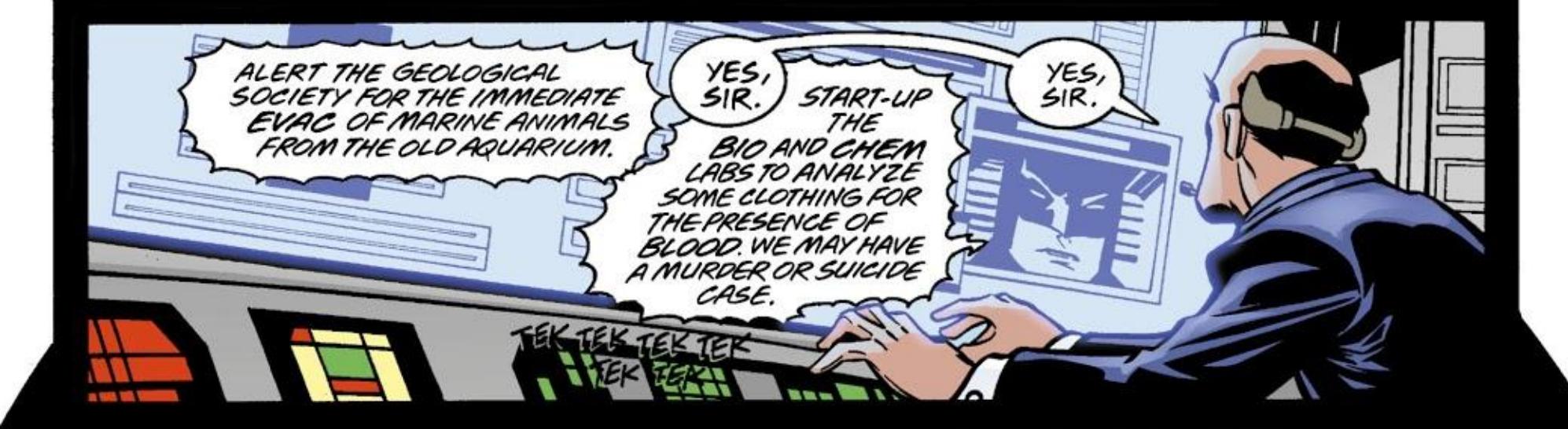
Her Ph.D.s in Marine Biology and Bio-Medicine soon followed. She took root in Gotham with a position at the Aquarium and, three years later, used her skills and passion to found an after-school program so inner-city kids could experience the beauty of the sea.

What does it take to break that strong a hope in a person like Grace?

It wasn't the seemingly endless tide of human misery she encountered in the lives of her inner-city kids.

It wasn't the accident that crippled her, leaving her unable to do the research diving she loved so much.

Now, nearly every fact about the life and work of Dr. Grace Balin that can be discovered fits inside a detective's field kit.



RESIDENTIAL  
UNIT B-5:01B.

MR. SLEAZAK, TIME  
WAITS FOR NO MAN, ESPECIALLY  
SO FOR A FURTIVE BUILDING  
INSPECTOR.

MORNIN', MS. BADEN-  
SMYTHE. EARLY BIRD GETS  
THE WORM AND ALL THAT.

WE GOT SOME  
PROBLEMS  
HERE, LADY.

YOU NEED MAJOR  
REWIRING AND PLUMBING  
WORK TO GET THIS  
BABY UP TO CODE.

AND  
THAT'S JUST  
FER  
STARTERS.

I SEE.

YOU NEED  
STRUCTURAL.

YOU NEED  
FIRE-DOORS.

YOU NEED AN  
EXTERMINATOR.

YOU GOT A  
LOT OF NEEDS.

S'OK. I  
GOT A LOT  
OF NEEDS,  
TOO.

WERNER, PERHAPS YOU  
AND MR. SLEAZAK COULD  
DISCUSS OUR REMEDIATION  
PLAN TO RESTORE THIS  
UNIT TO CODE?

CERTAINLY.

NOW TO THE  
MATTER OF GETTING  
OUR ENTRENCHED  
SQUATTER, DR.  
BALIN, TO MOVE.

ALL SHE NEEDS IS  
FOR SOMEONE TO LIGHT  
A LITTLE FIRE UNDER  
HER.

NOK NOK

AND I HAVE  
THE PERFECT MAN  
FOR THE JOB.

UM,  
H'LO?

AHHH.  
THERE  
HE IS  
NOW.

OPEN THE DOOR, KID.  
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

MMMMMM.  
CHARMING.  
WELL? DO YOU  
KNOW WHO I AM,  
MY LITTLE  
MISCREANT?

UM, YEAH.  
YOU'RE MS.  
BADEN-SMYTHE.  
YOU  
OWN THIS  
BUILDING.

AND  
YOU'RE  
MY MOM'S  
BOSS.

THAT'S ABSOLUTELY  
CORRECT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT  
IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU  
WHETHER OR NOT I WILL  
FIRE YOUR MOTHER  
AND EVICT YOU TWO  
FROM THIS UNIT.

IF YOU DO NOT DO AS I  
SAY I WILL PUT YOU  
AND YOUR MOTHER ON  
THE STREETS OF  
GOTHAM.

AND YOU WILL  
MOST CERTAINLY  
DIE THERE.

ALL YOU MUST DO  
IS SIMPLY LIGHT THE  
RAG, THEN THROW  
THE BOTTLE AT THE  
ENTRANCE TO THE  
AQUARIUM.

CAN YOU DO  
THAT FOR YOUR  
MOTHER?

YUH...  
YEAH...

KLIK

WUH...  
WHAT?

DON'T  
BE SEEN.

HEY, MY MISTAKE,  
LADY. YOU ARE UP  
TO CODE!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTION OF THE GOTHAM WATERFRONT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SALMAN'S DEAD.

I TOLD HIM NOT TO GO. I SEEN A LOT OF THINGS GOIN' ON DOWN AT THE DOCKS. BAD THINGS.

I HEARD BATMAN WAS THERE.

BATMAN!?! I WAS TERRIFIED WHEN HE SHOWED UP HERE THE OTHER DAY.

IF HE HAD BLINKED, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE FAINTED.

TERRI, WE ALL WERE SCARED.

I WANTED TO PUT THIS ROSE ON SALMAN'S GRAVE.

BUT NOBODY COULD TELL ME WHERE HIS BODY WAS TAKEN.

CARLA, THAT STINKS.

YOU SURPRISED AT THAT, JAKE? ANIMALS GET MORE RESPECT THAN US.

THE ONLY PERSON THAT TREATS US DECENT IS GRACE BALIN.

IT'S A SHAME WHAT HAPPENED TO HER. POOR GIRL.

THANKFULLY SHE'S STAYING WITH SOMEBODY AT THE TENEMENT UNTIL SHE FIGURES OUT HER NEXT MOVE.

SHARON, WHO'S THE NEW GUY?

I DON'T KNOW. ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HIM.

YO, CORPORAL. WANNA WARM UP BY THE FIRE?



THE BASEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL UNIT BS-013. HOME OF THE IMPROMPTU SOUP KITCHEN RUN BY DR. GRACE BALIN.

FREEZING OUTSIDE

GET OFFA MY FOOT

QUIT SHOVING

BOILING IN HERE

MOMMA, I'M HUNGREREEEEEE

UM, MS. BALIN?

MS. BALIN?  
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF SOUP.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

JUST DO YOUR BEST. SERVE IT UP UNTIL IT'S ALL GONE.

BETTER GET MINE

DON'T CUT IN FRONT

QUIT SHOVIN'

SHE GOIN' TO GET MORE?

DADDEEE,  
I'M HUNGREREEEEEE

EUGENE, I'M TAKING A BREAK FOR A MINUTE.

OH GOD  
OH GOD  
OH GOD  
IT NEVER ENDS.  
HOW CAN THERE BE  
SO MUCH MISERY  
IN THE WORLD?

SORRY KID

NO MORE?

I'VE FAILED THEM.  
FAILED THEM ALL.

AND NOW...

...I'D TRADE  
THIS, THE FLAME  
OF PERSIA, THIS  
SIX MILLION  
DOLLAR ROCK...  
...FOR  
A CART FULL  
OF FOOD.

YOU IN LINE AGAIN??

KIDS  
DIDN'T GET ANY

GRACE,  
CAN I COME  
IN? I HAVE  
TO TALK TO  
YOU FOR A  
MINUTE.

SURE,  
TONY.  
(SNIFF)

I WAS JUST...  
THINKING.

YOU  
GOT  
SECONDS??

I DID IT. I SET UP ANOTHER  
"MEET" TO FENCE THAT  
JEWEL, THE FLAME OF  
PERSIA.

IT'S JUST... WELL, GRACE, I'M  
NERVOUS. THESE GUYS ARE NEW  
TO GOTHAM, AND THEY LOOK  
REALLY DANGEROUS.

I MEAN, THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE GROSZ.  
THEY'RE ORGANIZED, AND THEY DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT FLASHING THE MONEY AND  
THE CARS AND THE GUNS...

THROW  
THE BUM  
OUT

OWIN

WE  
STARVIN'  
OUT  
HERE

SWEATIN'  
MY GIGGY  
OFF

SORRY  
HONEY

GOTTA  
FIND SOME FOOD

BUT... BUT I'LL GO... IF  
YOU NEED ME TO...

... IF YOU  
WANT ME  
TO...

TONY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D  
DO THAT FOR ME. FOR THEM.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY  
BETRAY YOU LIKE GROSZ  
BETRAYED SALMAN?

I COULDN'T LIVE WITH  
MYSELF IF YOU GOT HURT TOO.

GIMME BACK MY  
GLOVES FOOL

I'M GONNA  
BUST YOU ONE  
GOOD

LEAST  
IT'S NOT,  
RAININ'

GOTTA  
FIND SOME  
FOOD

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT??

THESE  
GUYS ARE IT.  
THEY'RE OUR  
LAST CHANCE.

NO. I'M A FOOL FOR NOT  
THINKING OF THIS SOONER. I'LL  
TAKE THE JEWEL TO THE ONE  
PERSON THAT'D PAY WHAT  
IT'S WORTH.

I'LL TAKE IT  
TO CAMILLE  
BADEN-SMYTHE.

OWW!  
WE  
STARVIN'  
OUT HERE

BINGO!

HA! YOU  
GOT THAT  
RIGHT!





CLUES ARE LIKE JIGSAW PUZZLE PIECES. TAKEN INDIVIDUALLY, THEY DON'T MEAN MUCH. BUT, LINE THEM UP IN THE PROPER ORDER, AND THE PICTURE BECOMES CRYSTAL CLEAR. SIMPLE.

PROVIDING YOU ARE DEALING WITH ONLY ONE IMAGE.

THE PROBLEM IS, LIFE OFTEN OVERLAPS THE IMAGES, MAKING IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHICH PUZZLE PIECES GO WITH WHICH IMAGE.

IT TAKES KEEN PERCEPTION AND REASONING AND EVEN INTUITION TO SEPARATE THE IMAGES.

THE TASK THIS NIGHT IS TO SEPARATE AND CLARIFY THE OVERLAPPING IMAGES OF CAMILLE BADEN-SMYTHE, OF ORCA, AND OF DR. GRACE BALIN.

CHK

THE FACT THAT ONE INDIVIDUAL PIECE CAN BELONG TO SEVERAL IMAGES DOESN'T MAKE THE PROCESS ANY EASIER.

CHK

...SNIFF...

CHK

C'MON... SNIFF...

SOME WOULD SAY THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THIS WORK IS SO FASCINATING.

CHK CHK

OTHERS WOULD SAY THAT IS PRECISELY WHY THIS WORK IS SO SURPRISING.

STUPID...  
SNIFF...

TURN OVER A  
NEW PIECE. TO  
WHICH IMAGE  
DO YOU BELONG?

CHK

C'MON C'MON  
C'MON STUPID  
LIGHTER WON'T  
LIGHT WON'T  
LIGHT

NO NO NO  
NO STUPID  
STUPID

AWWW C'MON  
C'MON GONNA  
GET CAUGHT  
STUPID LIGHTER

HEY--

AAAAA-  
AHHH!!

LEMMIE GO!  
LEMMIE GO!!

WOOA  
THERE,  
BIG  
GUY.

IT'S OK-- I'M  
NOT GOING TO  
HURT YOU. I  
JUST WANT  
TO TALK...

...IT'S  
EUGENE,  
RIGHT?

YU...YEAH.

YOU'RE A GOOD KID,  
EUGENE. I SAW YOU INSIDE  
HELPING PEOPLE.  
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THIS... THIS LADY...  
CAME TO... SHE CAME...  
MS. BADEN-SMYTHE...  
SHE OWNS MY... SHE  
SAID IF I DIDN'T...

...IF I DIDN'T... THROW... THROW  
THE BOTTLE AT THE AQUARIUM... ME  
AN' MY MOM... SHE SAID ME AN' MY  
MOM WOULD DIE... SHE'D FIRE MY  
MOM... AN'... AN'... AN' WE WOULDN'T  
BE ALLOWED... TO LIVE HERE ANY...  
ANYMORE...

...AN' THERE WERE GUYS...  
BIG... BIG GUYS... AN' I  
THINK THEY HAD GUNS... AND  
STUFF... AND THERE WAS THIS  
OTHER GUY... AN' HE HAD THIS  
BIG BAG FULL OF MONEY...  
AND...

EUGENE,  
IT'S OK. IT'LL  
BE OK. I  
PROMISE.

SHOW ME  
WHERE THIS  
HAPPENED.

THEY CAME IN HERE. AN' I LIVE RIGHT OVER THERE.

EUGENE, THE MEN WITH THE MONEY-- DID THEY STAY OUT HERE, IN THIS AREA?

I THINK SO.

WHEN YOU START BUILDING AN IMAGE, EACH PIECE IS TRULY A MYSTERY. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS PLACE IN THE IMAGE ARE MANY.

AS MORE AND MORE PIECES OF THE IMAGE SNAP INTO PLACE, THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EACH REMAINING PIECE DECREASE ACCORDINGLY.

IN FACT, NEAR THE END, YOU CAN PREDICT WHAT THE REMAINING MISSING PIECES MUST BE.

DID THE MEN WITH THE MONEY EVER LEAVE THIS AREA?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO. I'M NOT SURE. NO... I THINK.

NO RESPECTABLE GAMER CAN WALK AWAY FROM A PUZZLE WITH ONE OR TWO OF THE PIECES MISSING.

IT'S THAT SENSE OF INCOMPLETENESS, THAT LACK OF PERFECTION, THAT DRIVES THE DEDICATED GAMER TO FIND THE MISSING PIECES, NO MATTER WHAT.

EUGENE...

...EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT SOON.

NO MATTER WHAT.

PORT  
SIDE  
CLEAR.  
OVER.

ROGER  
THAT.

...AND IF I EVER FIND  
ANY OF YOUR MEN IN THAT PART  
OF THE SHIP AGAIN YOU WILL  
BE SCRUBBING TOILETS UNTIL  
YOUR'RE ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL  
SECURITY. DO I MAKE  
MYSELF CLEAR?

VERY CLEAR,  
MS. BADEN-  
SMYTHE.

LATER THAT NIGHT, AT THE  
SUPERYACHT OF CAMILLE  
BADEN-SMYTHE. MOORED  
AT GOTHAM HARBOR.

EACH IMAGE IS NOW NEARLY  
FULLY FORMED. IT'S TIME TO  
PREDICT SOME OF THE  
REMAINING MISSING PIECES.

THE FIRST CONCERN  
CAMILLE'S SOON-TO-  
BE-ARRIVING GUEST.

I WISH TO RETIRE  
TO MY PRIVATE QUARTERS.  
I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING... DELICIOUSLY HOT...  
MAY HAPPEN ON GOTHAM  
NEWS NETWORK TONIGHT.  
AND I DON'T WANT TO  
BE DISTURBED.

CAN YOU HANDLE  
THAT?

YES,  
MA'AM.

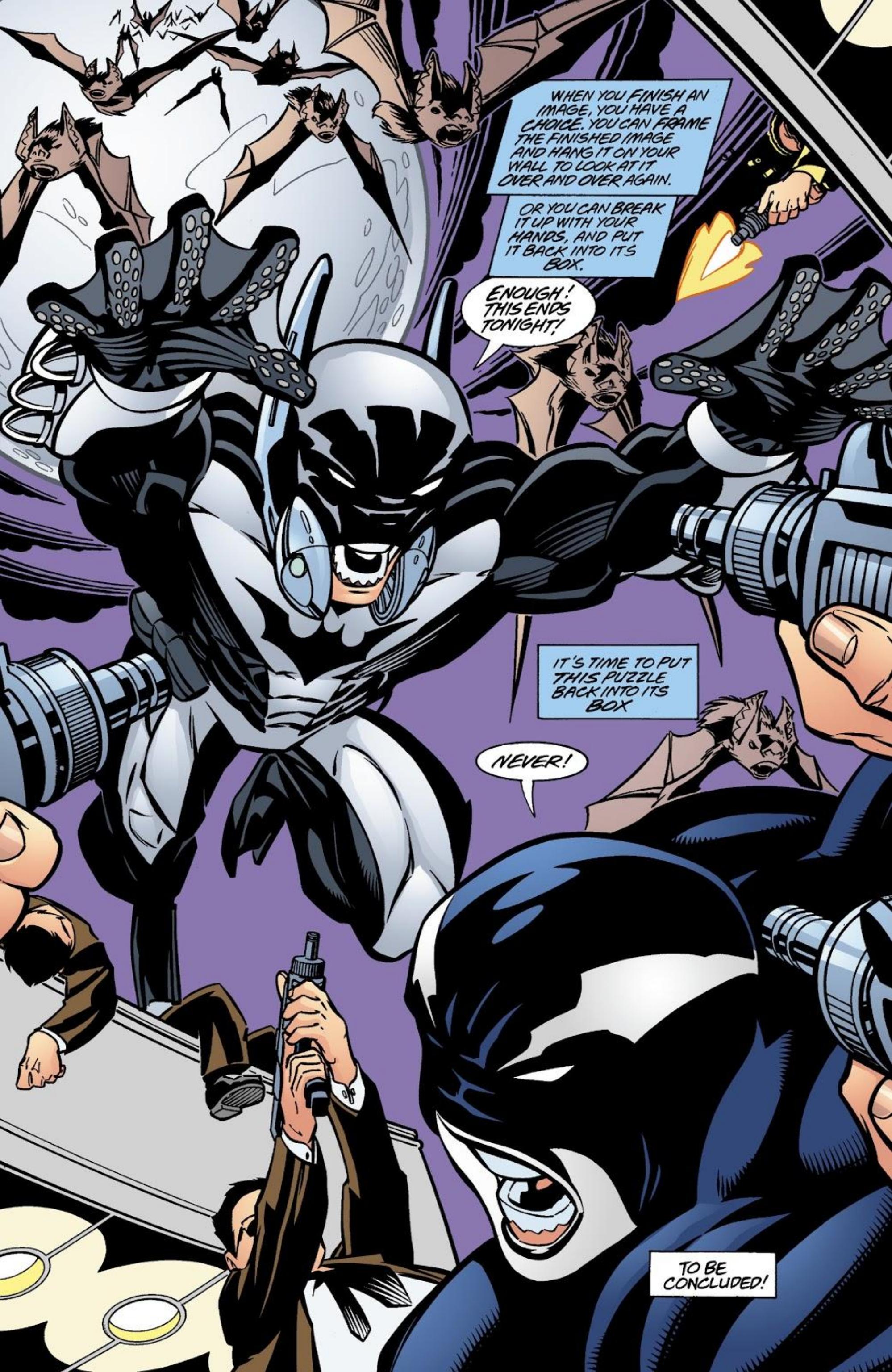
"I GUARANTEE IT."

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE  
LIKE THE EXHILARATION  
OF HAVING YOUR  
PREDICTION...

...BECOME  
REALITY.

CAMILLE!





WHEN YOU FINISH AN IMAGE, YOU HAVE A CHOICE. YOU CAN FRAME THE FINISHED IMAGE AND HANG IT ON YOUR WALL TO LOOK AT IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

OR YOU CAN BREAK IT UP WITH YOUR HANDS, AND PUT IT BACK INTO ITS BOX.

ENOUGH!  
THIS ENDS TONIGHT!

IT'S TIME TO PUT THIS PUZZLE BACK INTO ITS BOX

NEVER!

TO BE CONCLUDED!