

BATMAN



HAMA • McDANIEL • STORY

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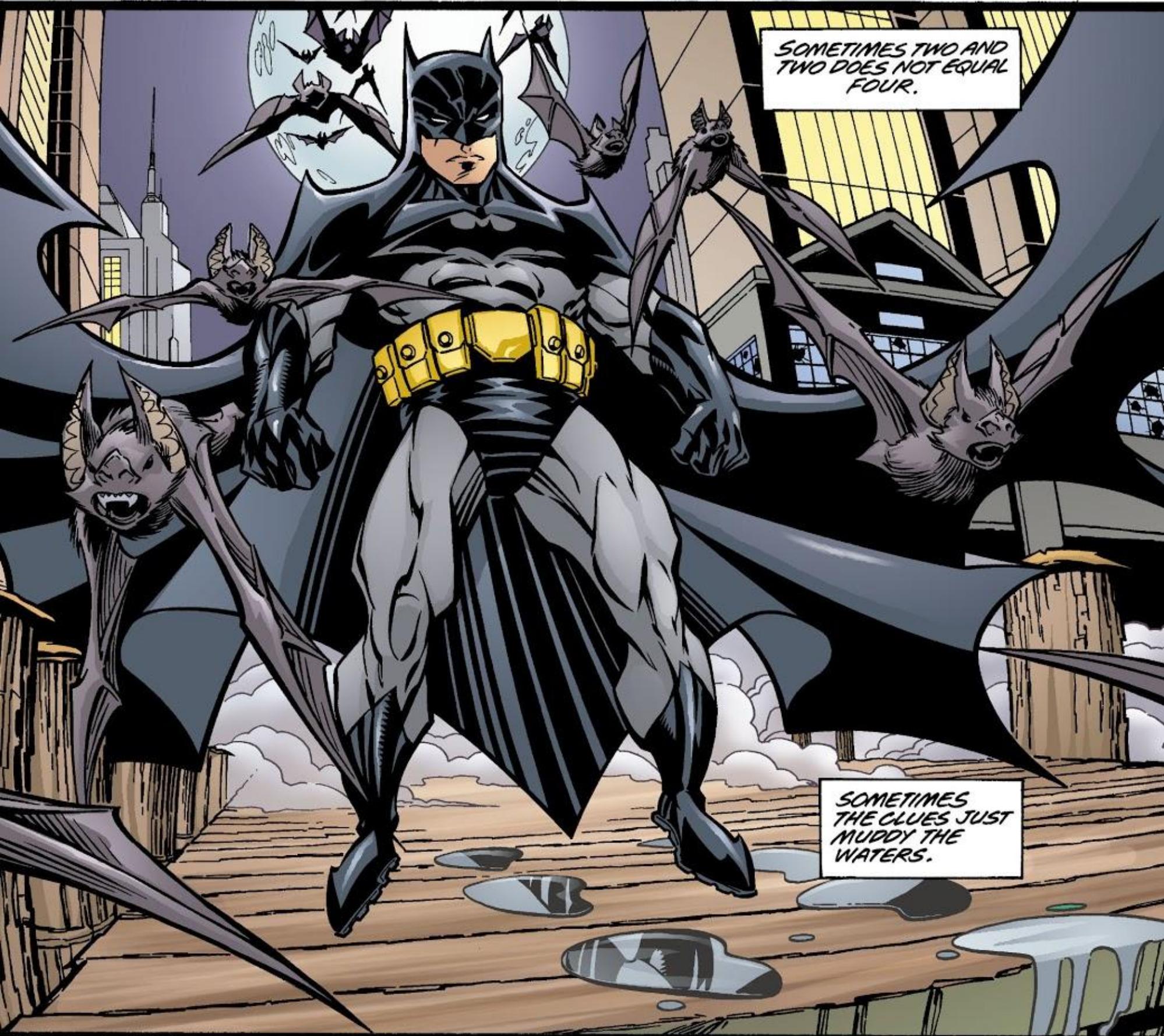


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ORCA PART ONE

"A Matter of Principle"



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THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IS SEEMINGLY CRYSTAL CLEAR.

A VERY LARGE BAREFOOT PERSON EMERGED FROM THE RIVER, WALKED HALFWAY DOWN THE PIER...

...AND THEN, DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR.

THIS MIGHT BE AN ACCEPTABLE CONCLUSION TO SOME...

...BUT NOT TO BATMAN.

AIN'T THAT THE DANGEST THING?

IT'S LIKE SHE JUST FLEW AWAY...

SHE? YOU SAW HER?

YOU DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN', WILLY...

...LEASTWISE, NOT AS FAR AS THE BAT-GUY IS CONCERNED!

UHH... HE'S RIGHT! I DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN'!

WHATTAYA
DOIN' HERE ON
THE WRONG
SIDE O' THE
TRACKS,
BATMAN?

WHY AIN'T YOU
HANGIN' WITH THE UPTOWN
SWELLS YOU'RE SO
TIGHT WITH?

YEAH! AIN'T YOU THE
TAME HOUSE-HERO OF
CAMILLE THE HEEL,
THE SLUM LORD AND
SWEATSHOP OPERATOR?

BEAT IT, CAPE-MAN!
YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER
BULLY-BOY FOR THE
OPPRESSORS!

HE AIN'T NOTHIN'
BUT A STOOGLIE
FOR CAMILLE, THE
WICKED WITCH OF
GOTHAM!

HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

HOW DID THE DARK KNIGHT COME TO BE REGARDED AS A PAWN OF THE PLUTOCRATS?

IT BEGAN THE WEEK BEFORE, AT A BLACK-TIE RECEPTION ON THE YACHT OF CAMILLE BADEN-SMYTHE.

THERE YOU ARE, YOU WICKED, WICKED BOY...!

...I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D NEVER SHOW YOUR FACE AT ONE OF MY LITTLE SOIRÉES, BRUCE!

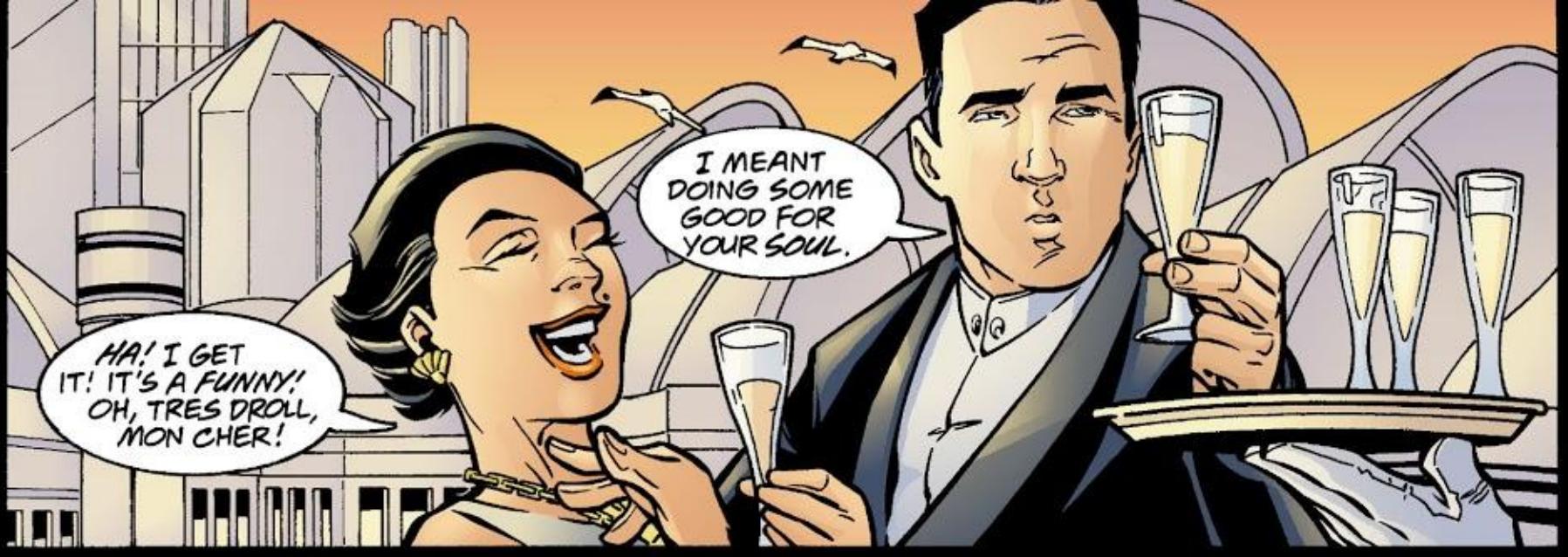
YOU'VE NEVER HOSTED A BENEFIT FOR THE GOTHAM ORPHANAGE BEFORE, CAMILLE.

IT'S TEDIOUS, I KNOW, DARLING, BUT ONE MUST AT LEAST GIVE THE APPEARANCE THAT ONE CARES ABOUT THE HOI POLLOI THESE DAYS, MUSTN'T ONE?

IT MIGHT DO YOU SOME GOOD TO DO THE REAL THING SOME DAY...

...CARE, THAT IS.

DO ME SOME GOOD? YOU MEAN TURN A PROFIT?







IT'S STILL STEALING!

NOT IN
MY
BOOK...

...I CALL IT
LIBERATION!

SECURITY! WHAT AM
I PAYING YOU FOR?? STOP
THAT THIEF AND GET MY
DIAMOND BACK!

CONSIDER
HER STOPPED,
MA'AM!

DON'T SHOOT! THERE
ARE PEOPLE IN
THE WAY!

GET
BEHIND THE
TABLE AND STAY
DOWN!

I TOLD
YOU NOT TO
SHOOT

SHE'S GETTING AWAY,
YOU BUMBLING
INCOMPETENTS!

AND YOU'VE GOT SOME
NERVE, BRUCE WAYNE,
INTERFERING WITH
MY SECURITY!

I JUST SAVED
YOU FROM A NUMBER
OF WRONGFUL
DEATH LAWSUITS,
CAMILLE.

MY LAWYERS
COULD HAVE SETTLED
THEM FOR A LOT
LESS THAN SIX
MILLION!

IS THE VALUE
OF A HUMAN LIFE
THAT NEGOTIABLE?

THERE ISN'T ANYTHING
UNDER THE SUN THAT'S
NOT NEGOTIABLE.

THE POINT
IS DEBATABLE.

IF EVERYTHING WERE
TRULY NEGOTIABLE,
THERE WOULD BE NO
SAINTS, NO HEROIC
LAST STANDS...

...NO CRIME-
FIGHTERS.

THAT WHICH WE DO
FOR LOVE, HONOR OR
RIGHTEOUS OBLIGATION
IS NOT NEGOTIABLE...

...UNFORTUNATELY,
IT IS ALSO OPEN
TO INTERPRETATION.

BATMAN
WATERFRONT
COMBS WATERFRONT
FOR JEWEL THIEF
"It's about time!" says
heiress Baden-Smythe

SOMETIMES, WHEN TWO AND TWO FAIL TO EQUAL FOUR, IT BEHOOVES ONE TO EXAMINE THE VALIDITY OF THE ADDENDS.

IF ONE IS IN PURSUIT OF A CRIMINAL SELF-STYLED AS AN ORCA...

... IT WOULD DO TO ASCERTAIN AS MUCH AS ONE CAN ABOUT THE AQUATIC NAMESAKE.

... THE ORCA OR THE KILLER WHALE IS ACTUALLY A TYPE OF DOLPHIN. ORCINUS ORCA IS A TOOTHED AQUATIC MAMMAL WHICH PREYS ON SQUID, OTHER CETACEA AND LARGE FISH.

EXACTLY WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW, BATMAN?

Dr. Grace Balin

Dr. Grace Balin

AS MUCH AS IT TAKES TO UNDERSTAND THE UNDERPINNING OF THIS PARTICULAR CRIMINAL MIND, DR. BALIN.

OF ALL THE CREATURES IN THE SEA, WHY CHOOSE THE ORCA AS A NAMESAKE?

PERHAPS BECAUSE IT IS FAITHFUL AND TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN?

OF COURSE, THESE ARE TRAITS THAT HAVE FALLEN OUT OF FAVOR IN THESE SELF-INVOLVED TIMES.

INTERESTING. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHERE YOU WERE DURING THE TIME OF THE ROBBERY?

I WAS HERE
ALONE, WORKING
ON MY RESEARCH
PROJECT.

I AM AFRAID
I HAVE NO
WITNESSES TO
SUPPORT MY
ALIBI. IS THAT A
PROBLEM?

NOT AT
ALL, DR.
BALIN.

THEN COME
WITH ME, AND I
SHALL INTRODUCE
YOU TO
ESTHER.

BEAUTIFUL,
ISN'T SHE?

IN A
DECIDEDLY
DEADLY
WAY.

EXACTLY.

ORCA HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO ATTACK OTHER WHALES THREE TIMES THEIR SIZE. THEY ARE AS FEARLESS AS THEY ARE FIERCE.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE SPECIES.

I SHOULD. ORCA ARE CENTRAL TO MY RESEARCH PROJECT...

...AT LEAST WHILE I STILL HAVE A RESEARCH PROJECT.

I TAKE IT YOUR FUNDING IS IN JEOPARDY.

MORE LIKE NONEXISTENT.

I HAVE SOME LITTLE INFLUENCE WITH THE WAYNE FOUNDATION. PERHAPS I COULD...

I WOULDN'T GO CRAWLING TO BRUCE WAYNE.

HE'S NO BETTER THAN HIS PAL CAMILLE BADEN-SMYTHE.

TWO AND TWO
DO NOT ALWAYS
EQUAL FOUR...

...ESPECIALLY IF
YOU ARE DEALING
WITH RECEIVERS
OF STOLEN GOODS.

TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND? YOU
GOTTA BE
JOKING...?

...THAT THERE IS THE
FLAME OF PERSIA!
ORCA SAID IT'S
WORTH SIX MIL,
EASY!

IT'S TOO HOT TO
FENCE HERE IN THE
STATES. IT HAS TO BE
TAKEN TO AMSTERDAM
AND CUT UP.

ZO, YOU ARE HAFINK
A BOAT TO TAKE IT TO
AMSTERDAM? NO? TOO
BAD. WE ARE PAYINK
TWO HUNTRIT T'OUSANT,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

SO TELL ME,
MS BADEN-SMYTHE, ARE
YOUR DESIGNER
JEANS ACTUALLY
MADE IN
SWEATSHOPS?

WE WERE DECEIVED
BY OUR SUPPLIERS! WE
HAD NO IDEA THAT
CONDITIONS IN THE
FACTORIES WEREN'T
UP TO STANDARD!

WHAT ABOUT
THESE COMPLAINTS
FROM TENANTS IN
THE BUILDINGS YOU
OWN ABOUT
INADEQUATE HEAT?

THIS ROCK AIN'T
GOIN' FOR CHUMP
CHANGE! ORCA TRUSTED
ME TO GET A GOOD DEAL!
I'M OUTTA HERE!

YOU ARE
BEINK OUT ISS
CORRECT...

BLAMM

...THE DIAMOND
ISS GOINK NOT
ANYWHERE!

LET'S TALK
ABOUT MY DIAMOND,
SHALL WE?







NOT FOR
LACK OF
TRYING!



THANK YOU,
BATMAN!



SAVE YOUR THANKS
FOR THE GOTHAM
P.D. WHEN THEY
COME TO TAKE
YOU AWAY!

SO THESE ARE
YOUR TRUE COLORS,
BATMAN?
SIDING
WITH SCUM
LIKE GROSZ
AND EXPLOITERS
LIKE BADEN-
SMYTHE!



THEY HAVE
RIGHTS AS WELL
AS ANYBODY
ELSE.

PROTECTING
THEIR RIGHTS DOESN'T
MEAN I AGREE WITH
THEIR VIEWS OR
CONDONE THEIR
ACTIONS.



NOW, IF YOU WILL HAND OVER
THE FLAME OF PERSIA AND
SURRENDER YOURSELF, I'LL
SEE TO IT THAT YOU'RE
TREATED FAIRLY--



TREATED
FAIRLY???

HOW FAIR IS
THE SYSTEM WHEN
YOUR PAL CAMILLE
FUNDS THE CAMPAIGNS
OF ALL THE CROOKED
GOTHAM POLITICOS?



ANSWER
ME THAT,
BATMAN!

WHAMM!



OUR SYSTEM
ISN'T PERFECT, BUT
IT'S THE BEST
THERE IS.



THWAMM



HOW CAN YOU HAVE ANY
RESPECT FOR A SYSTEM THAT
PROTECTS AN ESURIENT PARASITE
LIKE CAMILLE BADEN-SMYTHE!



THOOOF

WHOMP!

I DON'T NEED
TO SEE YOU, BATMAN!
I CAN FIND YOU BY
SCENT ALONE!

YOU DIDN'T
ANSWER MY
QUESTION!

TINAM!
TINAM!
TINAM!

YOU HAVE NO
MORE RIGHT TO STEAL
FROM HER BECAUSE
SHE'S RICH AND
OBNOXIOUS...

... THAN SHE
HAS TO EXPLOIT
PEOPLE BECAUSE
THEY'RE POOR AND
POWERLESS.



