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JAN  
2007

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BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN®

OSTRANDER  
MANDRAKE



GROTESK

[dccomics.com](http://dccomics.com)

JANUARY 10TH,  
10:48 P.M.

GCPD UNIT 12  
FOLLOW UP ON  
ANONYMOUS CALL.  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
AT GOTHAM CITY  
DOCK 42.

10-4,  
DISPATCH. HAVE  
JUST ARRIVED AT  
DOCK 42. UNIT 12--  
OUT.

WHATTA  
THINK, HANNIBAL?  
THE JOKER  
MAYBE?

RELAX, ROOKIE.  
HALF THESE CALLS  
TURN OUT TO BE  
NOTHING.

JUST KEEP  
YOUR HEAD  
COOL AND YOUR  
EYES OPEN.

WHAT'S  
THAT?! WHO'S  
THERE?!

...KILL...  
MEEE...

# GROTESK

PART 1

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11:36 P.M.

WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT, MILHONE?  
WHAT "FORENSIC  
SPECIALIST"?

RIGHT THERE--  
BY THE BODY!  
GARY PETERSON! SAYS  
HE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS.  
IF YOU'VE LOST FAITH IN  
GC CSI, COMMISSIONER  
GORDON, JUST  
SAY SO!

YOU THERE!  
EXPLAIN  
YOURSELF!

OH, HI,  
JIM!

GUESS  
YOU DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE ME,  
IT BEING SUCH A  
DARK NIGHT  
AND ALL.

OH, IT'S YOU,  
PETERSON.

SORRY,  
MILHONE. I...uh...  
I FORGOT ABOUT  
ASKING PETERSON  
TO LOOK IN ON  
ALL THIS...

YOU  
COULD HAVE  
JUST ASKED AND  
I WOULD'VE SENT  
YOU THE AUTOPSY  
RESULTS.

I'M  
TAPPED INTO  
YOUR COMPUTERS  
ALREADY, JIM.  
SOMETIMES IT'S  
BETTER TO SEE  
EVERYTHING  
FIRSTHAND.

YOU NEED TO  
GET A HOBBY.  
OR A PET.

ANYWAY, THIS IS THE  
THIRD SUCH KILLING LIKE  
THIS. PART OF THE FACE IS  
SLICED AWAY AND THE  
VICTIM SET ON FIRE.

THE OTHER TWO  
WERE JAQUI TREMAYNE--  
WORKED FOR OMNIMED,  
A DIVISION OF ZEITS  
PHARMACEUTICALS--  
AND GEORG WILLIAMSON--  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
BUSINESSMAN, UPPER  
MIDDLE CLASS.

NO CONNECTIONS  
OF ANY KIND BETWEEN  
THEM. MAYBE ONCE WE  
I.D. THIS BODY, WE'LL  
FIND ONE.

I DOUBT IT.  
HIS NAME WAS  
DONNY LUCIDO--  
MOBBED-UP LOAN  
SHARK. USED TO  
WORK FOR CARMINE  
FOCARELLI--

--BUT WAS  
TAKEN OVER BY A  
RUSSIAN MAFIA TYPE  
NAMED PERUN.

GREAT. JUST  
MORE CONFUSION.  
HOLD ON A  
SECOND.

COMMISSIONER,  
WE'RE DONE WITH THE  
STATEMENTS.

OKAY.  
SO...

I HATE IT  
WHEN HE DOES  
THAT...

11:51 P.M.  
THE BATCAVE.

I UNDERSTAND  
THAT THE TABLOIDS,  
WITH THEIR CUSTOMARY  
UNDERSTATEMENT, HAVE  
NAMED THE KILLER  
"GROTESK."

ANY  
INSTRUCTIONS,  
SIR?

RUN  
THE PROGRAM THAT  
DOWNLOADS ALL THE  
GC CSI REPORTS AS  
THEY COME IN,  
ALFRED.

AND WHERE  
WILL YOU BE,  
SIR?

SOME THUGS  
VISITED LESLIE  
THOMPKINS' CLINIC  
LAST NIGHT.

IF THEY  
COME BACK TONIGHT,  
I WANT TO BE THERE TO  
EXPLAIN WHY THAT'S A  
BAD IDEA.

JANUARY 11TH.  
12:16 A.M.

THE CLINIC OF  
DR. LESLIE THOMPKINS.

DR.  
FRANKLIN?  
  
DR. STAVRIDES  
NEEDS TO SEE  
YOU BEFORE YOU  
LEAVE.

TELL  
HER I'LL BE  
RIGHT THERE,  
JOANN.











YOU ARE  
TOO MERCIFUL  
WITH THEM,  
BATMAN!

I GIVE  
THEM THE  
JUSTICE THEY  
DESERVE!

I--  
**GROTESK!**





I WILL CURE THIS CITY  
OF YOUR INFECTION! I WILL  
PURIFY IT WITH FIRE!

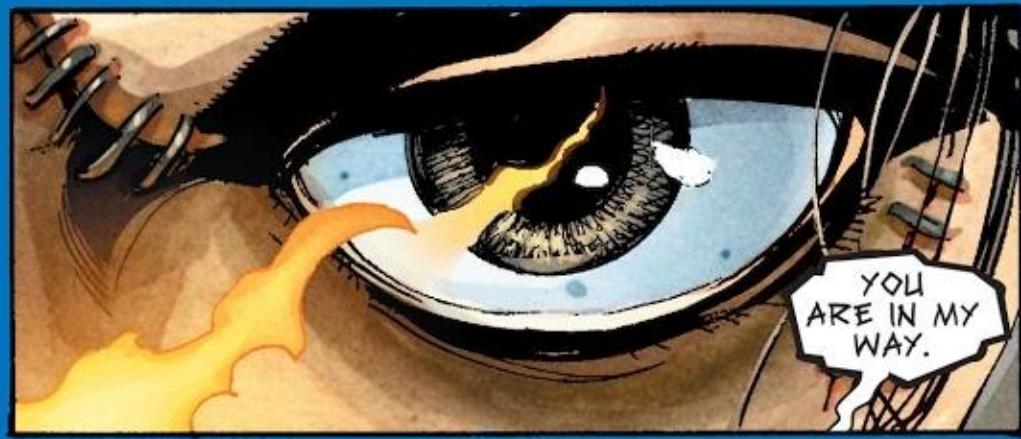
CRUN!

ENOUGH!

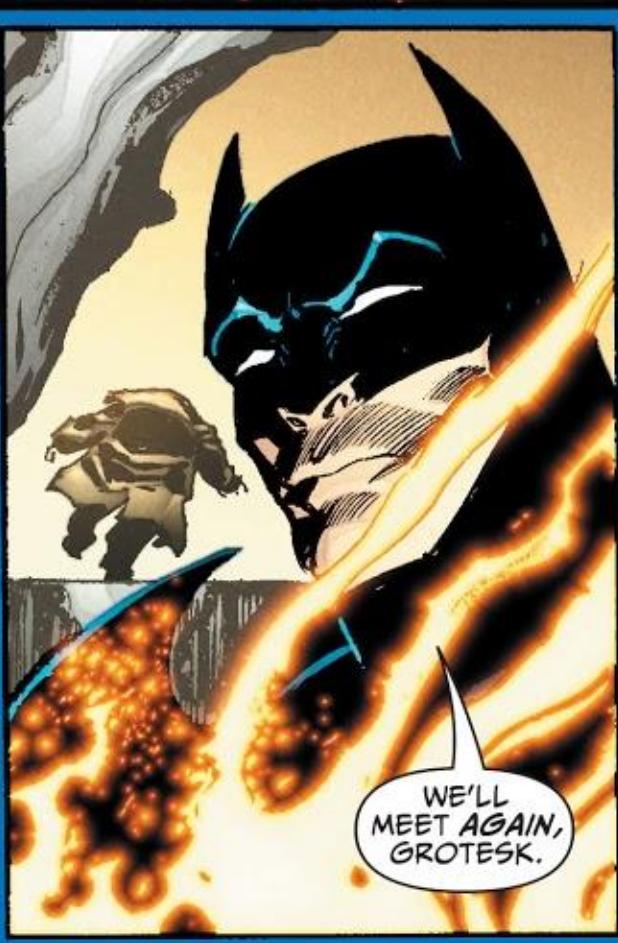
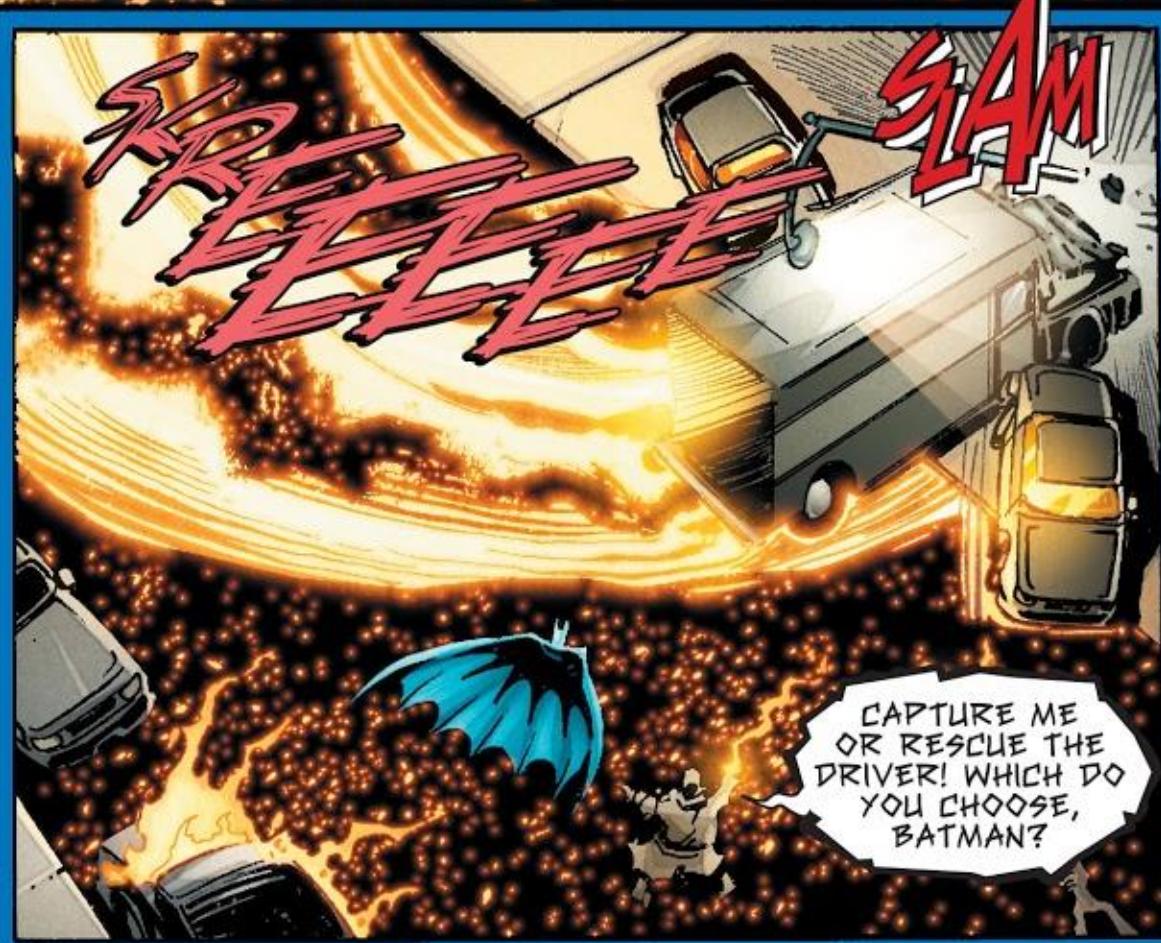
YOU  
HAVE KILLED  
ENOUGH FOR  
ONE NIGHT!

EH?

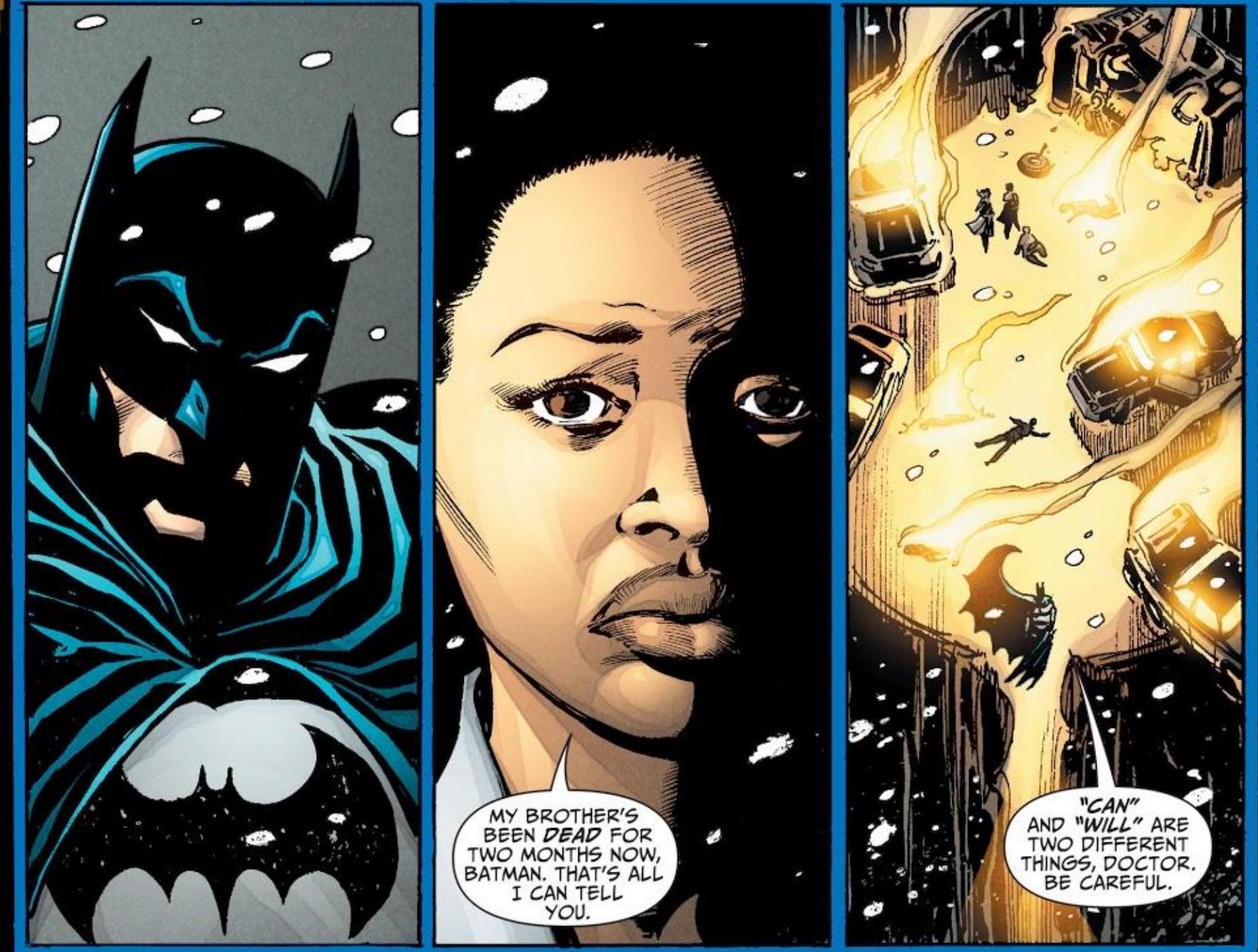
TWAM







A dynamic comic book panel featuring a large, dark, multi-limbed alien creature breaking through a glass surface. The word "BOOM" is written vertically along the left edge of the creature's body, and the word "BANG!" is written horizontally across its midsection. The background is filled with bright, radial energy or explosion effects.



1:39 A.M.  
THE BATCAVE.

THE WEATHER SERVICE SAID WE COULD SEE AS MUCH AS TWO FEET OF SNOW BY DAYBREAK.

I HOPE YOU'RE IN FOR THE EVENING.

IT DEPENDS, ALFRED.

I NOW KNOW WHY THIS GROTESK SNIPS OFF BITS OF HIS VICTIMS' FACES. HE SEWS THEM TOGETHER TO MAKE A SORT OF MASK.

WHAT I DON'T KNOW YET IS HIS CONNECTION TO AMINA AND HER BROTHER, WAYNE.

HE WAS A PLASTIC SURGEON. VERY SUCCESSFUL.

HE WAS KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION AND WAREHOUSE FIRE DOWN IN THE DOCKS AREA TWO MONTHS AGO.

FDGC INVESTIGATORS SAID IT WAS DEFINITELY SET, MAKING IT ARSON.

AMINA WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY HER BROTHER ONLY FROM A TATTOO ON THE BODY.

I SEEMED TO RECALL YOUR DATING AMINA FRANKLIN-- TWO YEARS AGO, WASN'T IT?

"YES. I MET BOTH HER AND HER BROTHER, WAYNE, DURING A CHARITY EVENT TO BENEFIT LESLIE'S CLINIC ON THE RESTORED STAR OF GOTHAM."

"INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HE WAS THERE WITH JAQUI TREMAYNE--ONE OF GROTESK'S VICTIMS."

BRUCE WAYNE,  
eh? I GUESS I'M  
INDEBTED TO  
YOU.

YOUR FOUNDATION  
IS FUNDING A DEVICE I'M  
WORKING ON. I-GORE.  
JAQUI SAYS IT WILL  
REVOLUTIONIZE  
SURGERY.

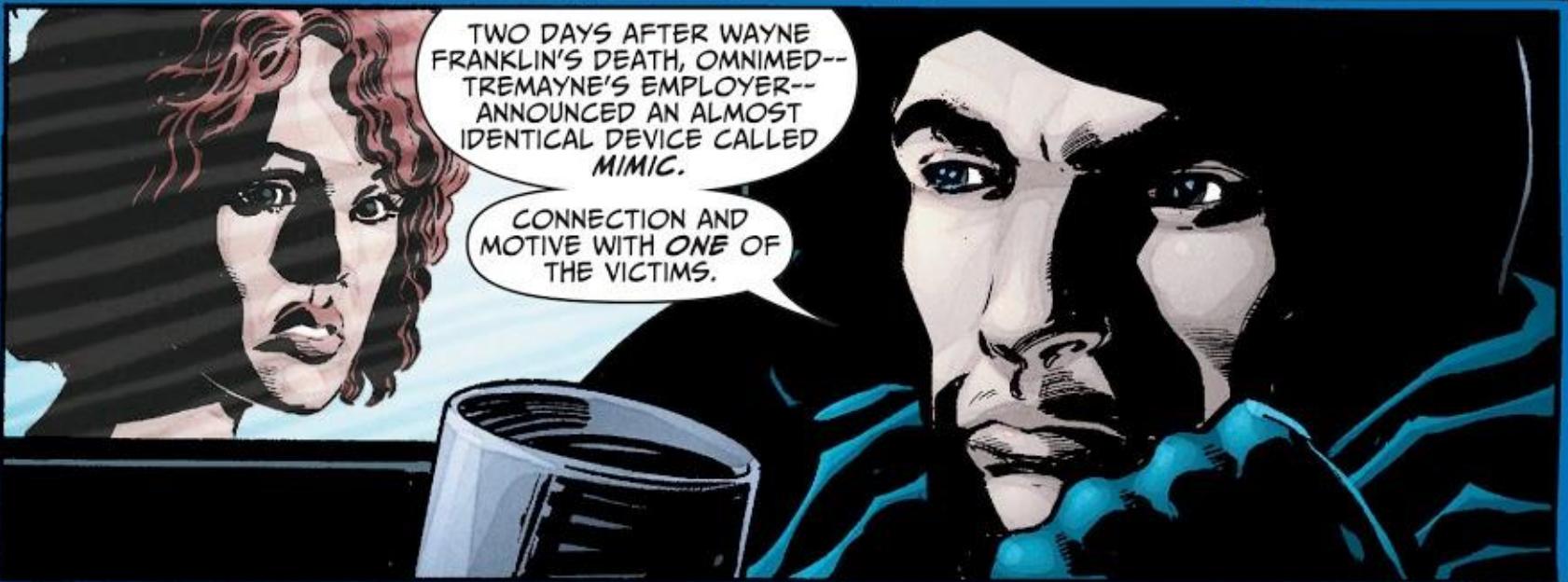
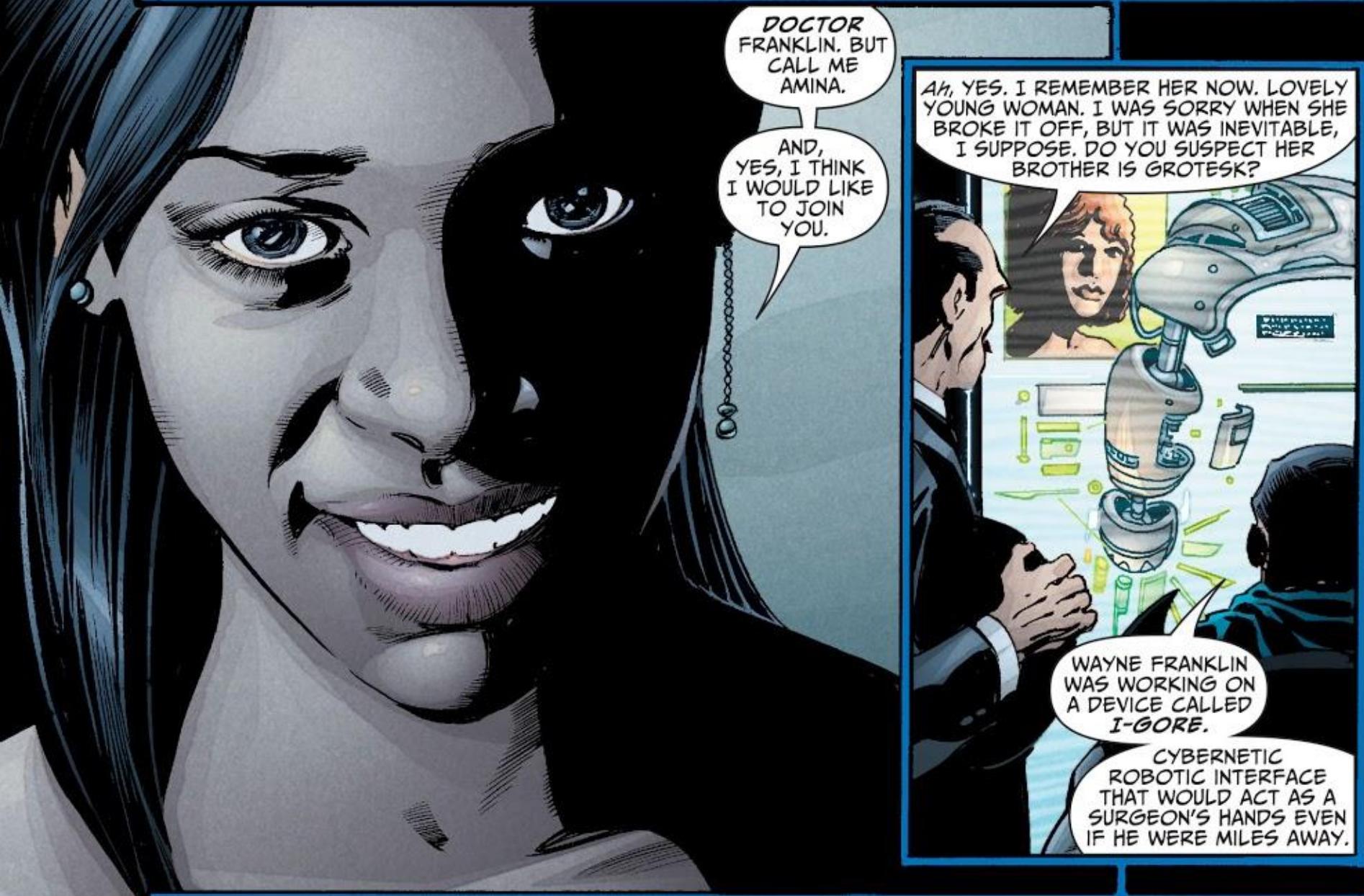
YOU KNOW,  
DARLING, THERE ARE  
SOME WHO CALL  
YOU THE BLACK  
BRUCE WAYNE!

REALLY? WHY  
SHOULDN'T THEY  
CALL HIM THE  
PALE WAYNE  
FRANKLIN?

IT'S  
FASCINATING  
BEING WITH TWO  
MEN WHO HAVE  
SUCH REPUTATIONS  
WITH WOMEN.

I DON'T KEEP  
SCORE, DOCTOR  
FRANKLIN.

IF YOU AND  
MISS TREMAYNE  
WILL EXCUSE  
ME.



IF WAYNE FRANKLIN IS GROTESK,  
MASTER BRUCE, THEN WHOSE BODY  
DID HIS SISTER IDENTIFY?

WHO DIED IN  
THAT FIRE?

I'M GOING TO START LOOKING INTO  
THE R&D DIVISION OF OMNIMED,  
WHERE THEY SUPPOSEDLY  
DEVELOPED MIMIC.

ANSWERS  
AREN'T IN HERE,  
ALFRED.

MIGHT  
I POINT OUT IT'S  
UNLIKELY ANYONE  
WILL BE THERE AT  
THIS TIME OF  
NIGHT?

MIGHT  
MAKE IT THE  
BEST TIME TO  
FIND AN HONEST  
ANSWER.

DO YOU THINK  
MISS AMINA IS  
INVOLVED IN ALL  
THIS, SIR?

OTHERS DO.  
AND THAT PUTS HER  
IN GREAT DANGER,  
ALFRED.

TO BE CONTINUED