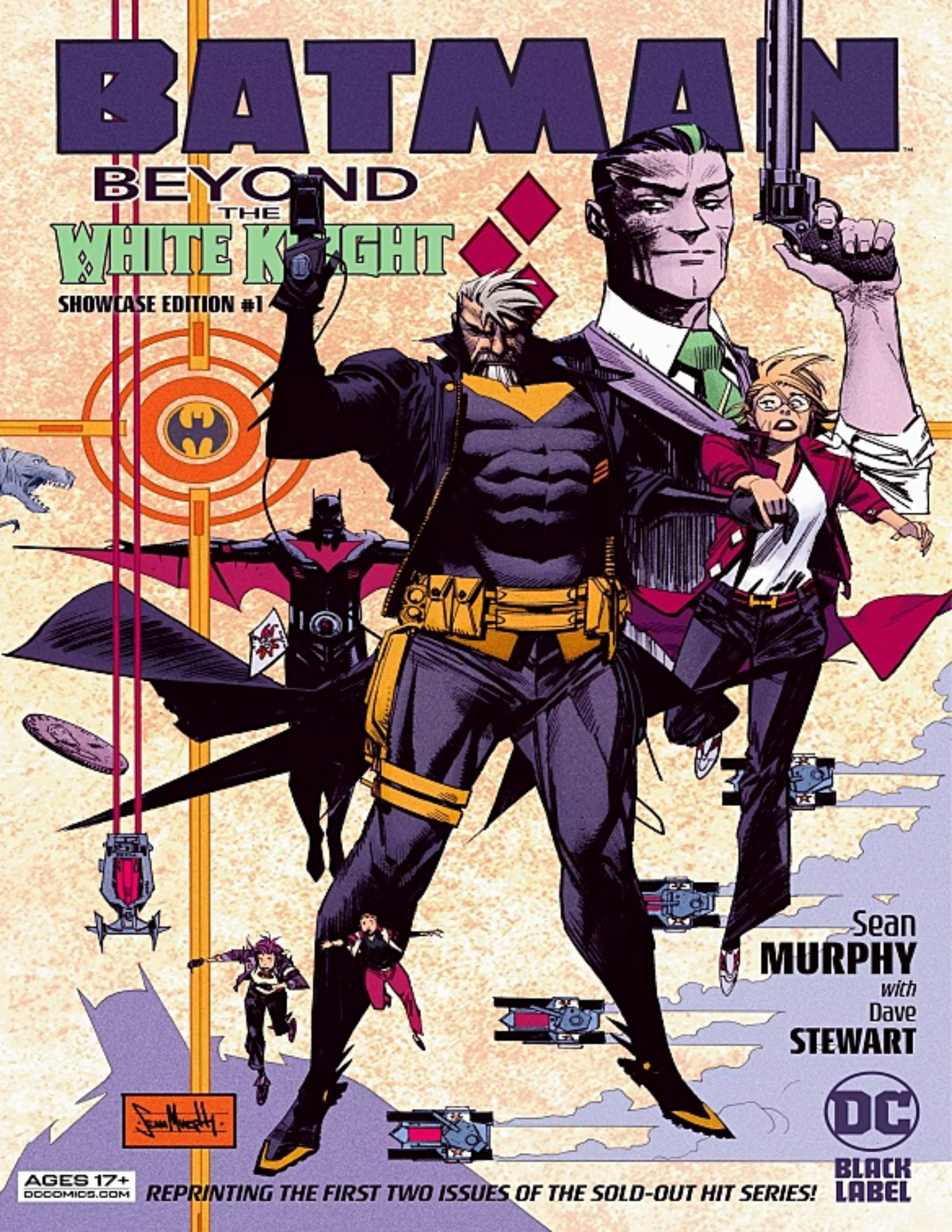
BATMAN
BEYOND
THE
WHITE KNIGHT
SHOWCASE EDITION #1
Sean
MURPHY
with
Dave
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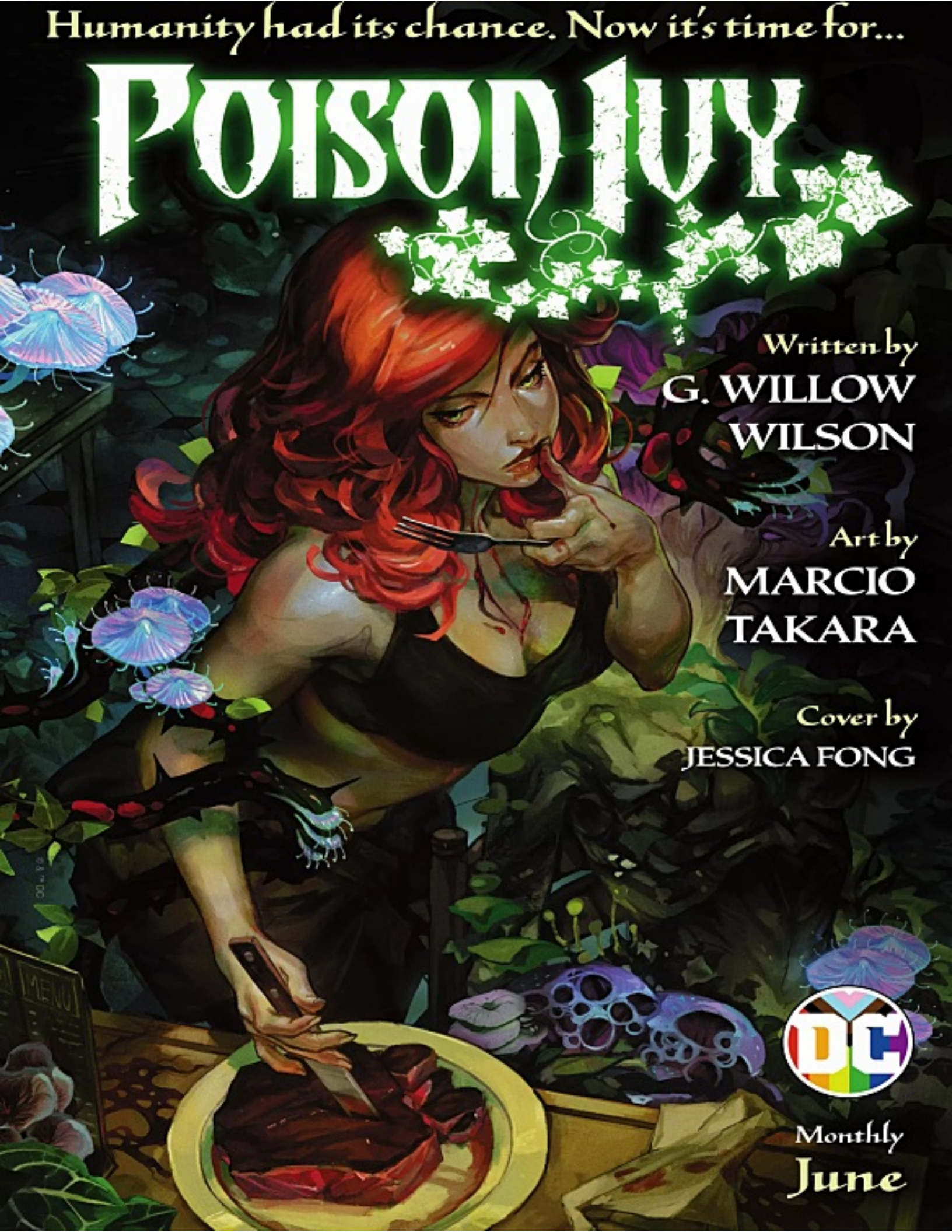
Humanity had its chance. Now it's time for...
POISON IVY
Written by
G. WILLOW WILSON
Art by
MARCIO TAKARA
Cover by
JESSICA FONG
DC
Monthly
June

BATMAN
BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT

SHOWCASE EDITION #1

SEAN MURPHY • Script, Art, Cover
DAVE STEWART • Colors & Cover Colors
ANDWORLD DESIGN • Letters

BATMAN created by
BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

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BATMAN™

BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT

Sean **MURPHY** *with* Dave **STEWART**

BOOK ONE

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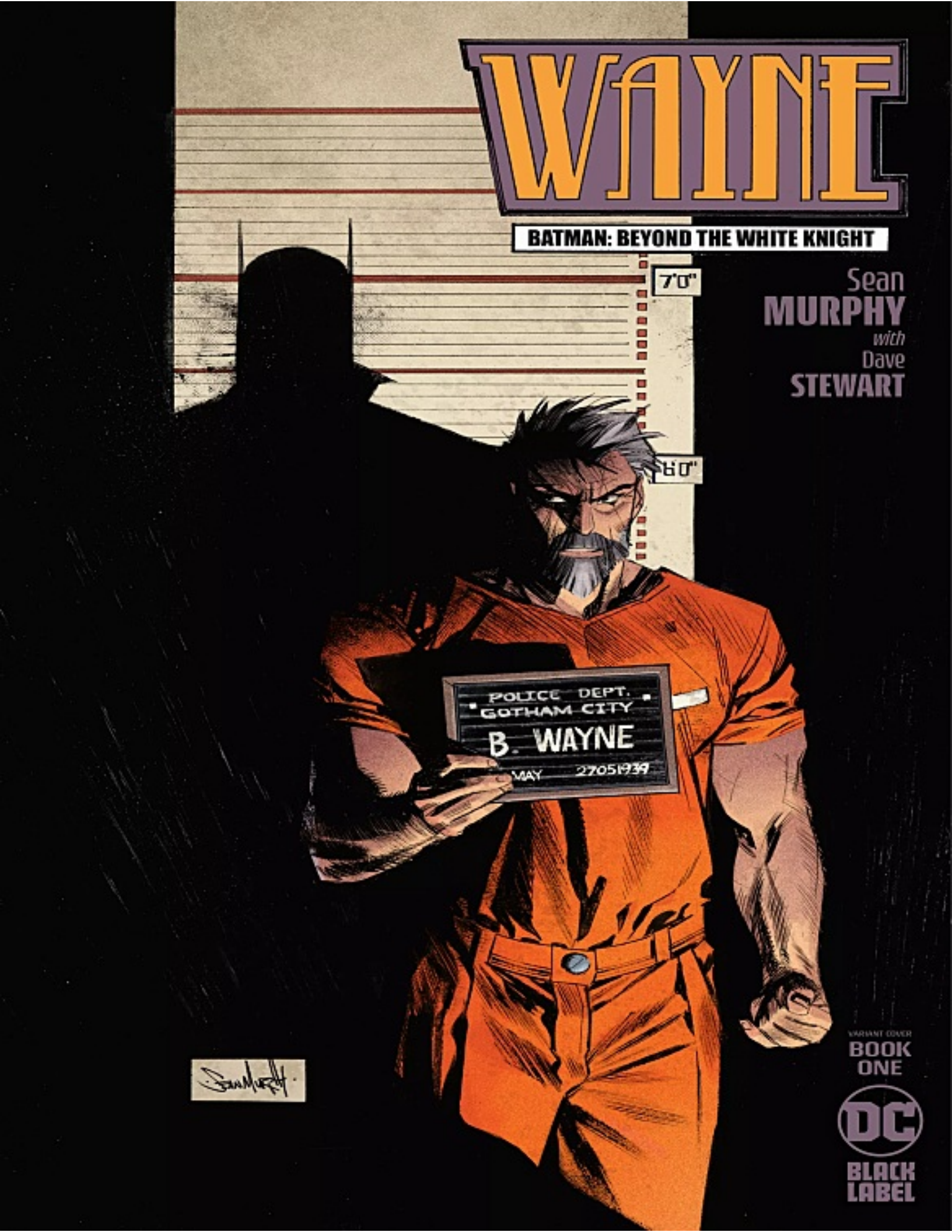
WAYNE
BATMAN: BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT
Sean MURPHY with Dave STEWART
7'0"
6'0"
POLICE DEPT.
GOTHAM CITY
B. WAYNE
MAY 27051939
VARIANT COVER
BOOK ONE
DC
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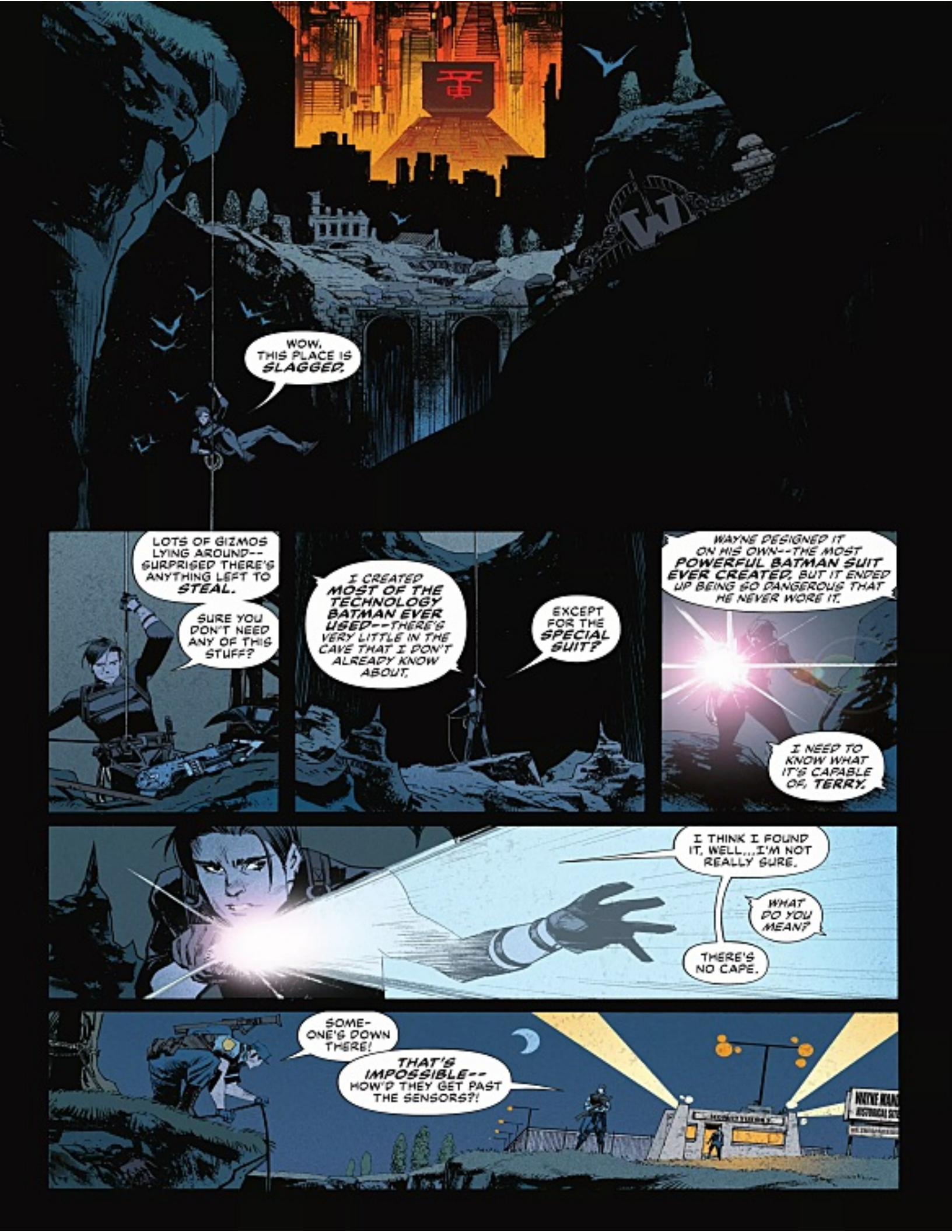

WOW, THIS PLACE IS SLAGGED.
LOTS OF GIZMOS LYING AROUND--SURPRISED THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT TO STEAL.
SURE YOU DON'T NEED ANY OF THIS STUFF?
I CREATED MOST OF THE TECHNOLOGY BATMAN EVER USED--THERE'S VERY LITTLE IN THE CAVE THAT I DON'T ALREADY KNOW ABOUT.
EXCEPT FOR THE SPECIAL SUIT?
WAYNE DESIGNED IT ON HIS OWN--THE MOST POWERFUL BATMAN SUIT EVER CREATED, BUT IT ENDED UP BEING SO DANGEROUS THAT HE NEVER WORE IT.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF, TERRY.
I THINK I FOUND IT, WELL...I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'S NO CAPE.
SOMEONE'S DOWN THERE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--HOW'D THEY GET PAST THE SENSORS?!

CALL IT IN TO COMMANDER GRAYSON.
SCREW GORDON.
WHAT ABOUT COMMISSIONER GORDON?
SHIT--THEY KNOW I'M HERE!
PUT ON THE SUIT.
BUT YOU SAID IT WAS DANGEROUS!
I'LL TRY AND HELP YOU BY HACKING INTO ITS CPU.
SLAGGIT!
WHOEVER'S IN THERE, YOU ARE TRESPASSING IN A RESTRICTED AREA!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
OKAY... NOW WHAT?
BATMAN?!

KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
OKAY, WAYNE--WHAT MAKES THIS SUIT SO SPECIAL?
ARGH!
SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH MY HAND!
IMPRESSIVE--RETRACTABLE CLAWS IN THE GLOVES...
VAAAP
VAAAP
VAAAP
HOLY SHOCK!
...FLEXIBLE ARMOR MADE FROM A CARBON ALLOY...
OH, MAN--I DIDN'T MEAN TO HIT HIM THAT HARD!
THOKK
...ENHANCED STRENGTH AND SPEED...
IS HE OKAY?
...BUT WHAT DO THESE EXTENSIONS DO?
WHAT EXTENSIONS?!
OH MY GOD, WAYNE--YOU'RE A GENIUS.

JESUS, THIS THING CAN FLY?!
KEEP YOUR ARMS EXTENDED, USING THE WINGS TO GLIDE. THE BOOTS WILL PROPEL YOU AS NEEDED.
EWOOSH
GTU
MOTOROL

YOU COULD HAVE WARNED ME! HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M NOT AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?
DON'T WORRY, TERRY...
WITH THIS SUIT, WE WON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
NOW COME HOME.
DEREK POWERS

BEEP BEEP BEEP
THIS IS THE SECOND RIOT THIS MONTH!

LET ME GUESS--THE SONS OF AZRAEL AGAIN?
SPOUTING THEIR USUAL BULLSHIT--THEY DESCEND FROM A NOBLE BLOODLINE, THIS LAND BELONGS TO THEM, AND THE TRUE SAVIOR OF GOTHAM ISN'T BATMAN--IT'S AZRAEL.
STONEGATE
THERE IS ONE DIFFERENCE THIS TIME--THEY HAVE A HOSTAGE...

...CAPTAIN TODD.

WHERE ARE THE OTHER GUARDS?
BUDGET CUTS, REMEMBER? HALF OUR GUYS ARE LAID OFF.
GIVE ME YOUR WEAPON.

YOU HEARD HIM.
WHAT?! WHY ME?
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR TURN.

SONS OF AZRAEL.
RELEASE THAT MAN.
WAYNE

CRACK

WHUDD

THOKK

BRUCE WAYNE,
OR RATHER, BRUCE BAKKAR-- THE FALSE SON OF GOTHAM,*
*See Batman: Curse of the White Knight. --Brittany

WHY SHOULD WE SPARE HIM?
:...GASP...:

JEAN-PAUL VALLEY OWES ME A DEBT FOR SAVING HIS LIFE.
I'M ASKING YOU TO HONOR THAT DEBT BY SPARING THIS MAN.
YOU TRIED TO KILL AZRAEL!
I DID KILL HIM.
BUT THEN I BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE WITH A BLOOD TRANSFUSION.
SO IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE AZRAEL'S BLOOD WAS SACRED, THEN KNOW THAT HIS BLOOD IS NOW MY BLOOD.
THE FALSE SON OF GOTHAM LIES--
ENOUGH!
AZRAEL TOLD ME ABOUT THE DEBT.
HE HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU, BRUCE. YOU MIGHT BE AN ENEMY--BUT LIKE OUR FATHER, YOU'RE ALSO A GREAT WARRIOR.
AND A MAN OF HONOR.
OOF!
THE SONS OF AZRAEL AGREE TO RELEASE THE SON OF BATMAN.
I'M NOT HIS SON, ASSHOLE.
CONSIDER THE DEBT PAID.

I'VE SPENT YEARS IN MY CELL READING, REFLECTING, AND MEDITATING, DOING MY BEST TO FIGURE OUT HOW IT ALL WENT WRONG.

AND I REALIZE MY MISTAKES STARTED WITH YOU.

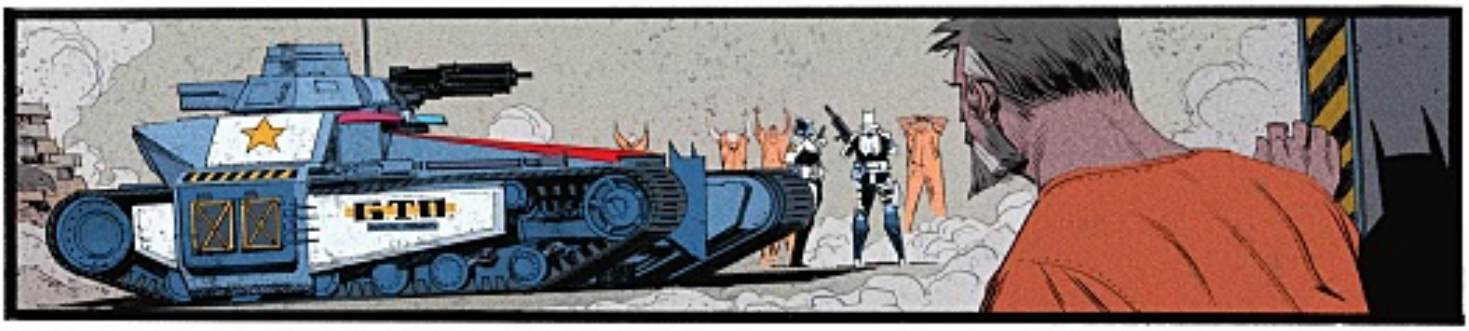
BECAUSE YOU WERE THE FIRST...

"BUT MY MISTAKE WASN'T BRINGING YOU IN--YOU NEEDED A HOME, SO I PROVIDED ONE.
"MY MISTAKE WASN'T TRAINING YOU--YOU WERE AN ANGRY KID, SO I SHOWED YOU HOW TO HARNESS THAT RAGE.
"AND I DON'T THINK ALLOWING YOU TO BECOME ROBIN WAS A MISTAKE, EITHER.
"I LOVED YOU LIKE A BROTHER, AND THAT WAS MY BIGGEST MISTAKE. BECAUSE WHAT YOU REALLY NEEDED...
"...WAS A FATHER.
"SAME WITH DICK, BARBARA, AND TIM.
"THAT'S WHAT YOU ALL WANTED FROM ME, AND I NEVER FULLY APPRECIATED THAT."

I WASN'T CAPABLE OF BEING WHAT YOU NEEDED ME TO BE.
AND THAT'S REALLY WHY I LOST YOU.
IT WASN'T JUST THE JOKER.
IT'S TRUE--PART OF ME HOPED MY TIME IN STONEGATE WOULD GIVE US A CHANCE TO SORT THINGS OUT.
BUT I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR NEVER COMING TO SEE ME.
SO IF THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU...
...THEN I JUST WANT TO SAY I'M SORRY.
RUMMMMBLE
CRASH

ANY PRISONER CAUGHT RESISTING ARREST WILL BE PUNISHED.
OR WORSE.
GRAYSON
GTO

USE WHATEVER FORCE YOU DEEM NECESSARY.
VAAAP
VAAAP
VAAAP
GTO


GTO

G.T.O.
WAYNE-POWERS

G.T.O.
WAYNE-POWERS
DEREK POWERS?!

DICK, WHAT THE HELL *IS THIS THING?*
AND WHY ARE YOU ALL DRESSED LIKE THAT?

ANSWER ME, GOD DAMN IT--WHY DO YOU ALL LOOK LIKE *BATMAN?!*
A LOT HAS CHANGED IN GOTHAM, BRUCE.
GRAYSON
GTO

DUKE?
YOU USED TO HAVE EYES EVERYWHERE, *EVEN FROM IN HERE.* WHAT MADE YOU STOP PAYING ATTENTION?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
COME ON-- I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR CELL.
THOMAS
GTO

The TRIAL of BATMAN
I KNOW YOU TRIED TO DO WHAT WAS BEST BY GIVING YOUR FORTUNE BACK TO GOTHAM. AND FOR A WHILE, IT WORKED--ESPECIALLY IN PLACES LIKE *BACKPORT.*
BUT *POWERS* MOVED AGAINST YOU AFTER THE TRIAL, AS CEO OF *WAYNE MOTORS,* HE WAS ABLE TO STOP YOU FROM DISSOLVING HIS COMPANY.
LIVE

THEN HE GOT THE CITY TO GIVE HIM MILLIONS FROM THE *WAYNE CHARITY FUNDS* TO BUILD NEW BAT-TECH FOR A BIGGER, BEEFED-UP GTO.
OF COURSE HE DID.
GTO

WHAT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE I TRIED TO DO? THE OUTREACH PROGRAMS, THE MONEY FOR EDUCATION, OFFSETTING PEOPLE'S TAXES--
MOST OF THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
GTO

THE GTO ESSENTIALLY ENDED CRIME IN GOTHAM, BUT IT CAME AT A COST.
THAT'S WHY THE BUDGET'S SO TIGHT IN PLACES LIKE THIS--POWERS USES A TON OF THE CITY'S FUNDING TO FUEL THE GTO. EVEN THE GCPD HAS BEEN CUT BACK.
THE DEPARTMENT'S BEEN SPLIT UP?

EXACTLY.
AND LET'S JUST SAY COMMISSIONER GORDON AND COMMANDER GRAYSON DON'T EXACTLY GET ALONG.
GTO

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT POWERS HIJACKED THE WAYNE FORTUNE TO MAKE HIMSELF RICH?
THAT HE STOLE MY COMPANY AND TURNED IT INTO A WEAPONS MANUFACTURER?
AND THAT GOTHAM IS NOW A POLICE STATE BEING PATROLLED BY AN ARMY OF SUPERCHARGED BATMEN?!
SORRY, BUT IT GETS WORSE.

THIS WAS RECORDED THREE HOURS AGO, AT THE RUINS OF WAYNE MANOR.
REC
TWO SECURITY GUARDS ARE ALREADY IN THE HOSPITAL. ONE'S IN CRITICAL CONDITION.
OH MY GOD, SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET KILLED.

THIS ISN'T A COINCIDENCE.
POWERS IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS...

"...AND HE NEEDS TO BE STOPPED."
TREMONT
TECHNOLOGY
ZORRO

...STILL NO WORD ON THE BATMAN ATTACK AT WAYNE MANOR. BUT IN OTHER BAT-NEWS, BRUCE WAYNE WAS ONCE AGAIN ABLE TO ASSIST PRISON GUARDS IN STOPPING ANOTHER RIOT...
THERE'S A NEW BATMAN?

YOU THINK UNCLE BRUCE KNOWS?
BRYCE. WE DON'T TALK ABOUT YOUR UNCLE ANYMORE--YOU KNOW THAT.
BUT--
I MEAN IT!
WHUMP

...

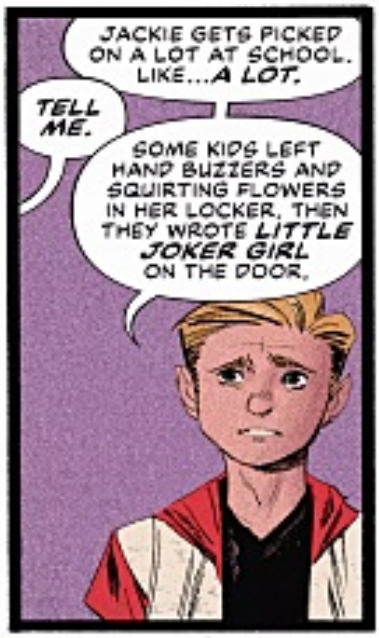
I'M SORRY, KIDDO--I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNAP. IT JUST...HASN'T BEEN EASY WITHOUT HIM.
WHY'D HE STOP LETTING US VISIT?
THAT'S A LONG STORY.
NOW...GO GET CLEANED UP FOR DINNER.

AND WHERE IS YOUR SISTER?
SHE SHOULD'VE BEEN HOME BY NOW.

CREEEK
:GASP:

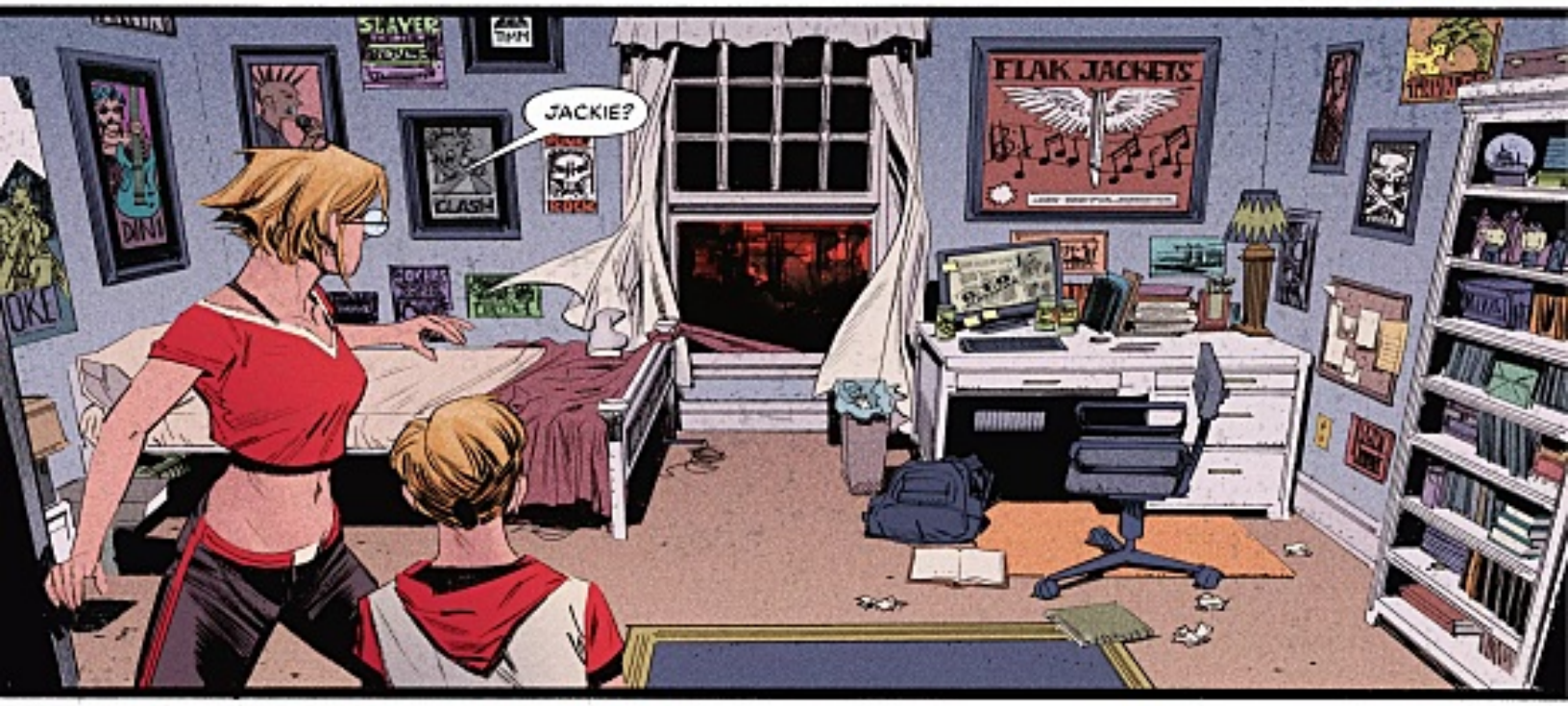
SORRY I'M LATE... PUDDIN'.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT.
LIKE THE SHIRT? FOUND IT IN DAD'S OLD STUFF.
THERE'S EVEN SOME BLOOD ON IT. THINK IT'S DAD'S, OR MAYBE UNCLE BRUCE'S?
THAT WAS JOKER'S SHIRT--NOT JACK'S!
LIKE THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.
SLAP
MAYBE THIS IS WHO I AM--THE WHOLE CITY KNOWS THAT BRYCE IS THE GOOD ONE...
...SO MAYBE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MORE LIKE JOKER, AND THAT'S WHAT SCARES YOU.
WHAT THE HELL'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
LET'S JUST SAY THAT I DISCOVERED YOUR SECRET.
FOUND A FEW INTERESTING DETAILS ABOUT YOU AND DAD...
...AND DAD.

I DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HER ANYMORE.
WHAT AM I DOING WRONG, BRYCE?


JACKIE GETS PICKED ON A LOT AT SCHOOL. LIKE...A LOT.
TELL ME.
SOME KIDS LEFT HAND BUZZERS AND SQUIRTING FLOWERS IN HER LOCKER, THEN THEY WROTE LITTLE JOKER GIRL ON THE DOOR.

THEY'RE PICKING ON BOTH OF YOU?
NO, JUST HER.
WHY DIDN'T SHE MENTION ANYTHING?

JACKIE--LISTEN, I'M REALLY SORRY. AND I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SLAPPED YOU--


JACKIE?
FLAK JACKETS
SLAYER
CLASH

MOM...
...IS THIS TRUE?
JOKER KILLED BY QUINN
G.T.O.
CLASSIFIED

ERROR....
FZZZRAP
THWIP
FZZZRP
WOOSH
YOU'RE ONLY A FEW MONTHS AWAY FROM A PAROLE HEARING.
YOU'VE HELPED US QUASH A DOZEN RIOTS AND PROTECTED MY MEN A LOT OVER THE YEARS, WITH ALL THAT GOOD BEHAVIOR, THERE'S A CHANCE YOU'LL GET OUT SOON.
SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

IS THAT WHY YOU SHUT THEM ALL OUT--REFUSED VISITS FROM HARLEY, DICK, BARBARA, AND ALL THE OTHERS?
BATMAN IS STILL OUT THERE, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.
IF I DON'T FIX THIS, THEN MORE LIVES WILL BE RUINED.
THEY NEED TO MOVE ON. AND SO DO YOU.
LISTEN--I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE.
AND YOU DIDN'T FAIL ME, BRUCE.
I FAILED YOU--BY GETTING CAUGHT.
"THEN I FAILED YOU AGAIN BY GIVING YOU UP.
I WISH I'D NEVER MET BRUCE WAYNE.
"I WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE LET ME GO. JOKER IS A MANIAC, BUT HE'S ALSO ONE SMART SON OF A BITCH.
"AND HE KNEW THAT LEAVING ME ALIVE GAVE HIM ALL THE POWER."

"IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO RECOVER.
"I LIVED ON THE STREETS WHILE MY SCARS HEALED.

"AFTER ENOUGH TIME PASSED, I FINALLY FOUND THE COURAGE TO COME AND SEE YOU.
"ALL I WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME AND TELL ME *EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.*

"BUT THAT ALL DISAPPEARED WHEN I SAW *HIM...*

"...*DICK GRAYSON.*
"I THOUGHT I WAS SPECIAL--THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN WAS *OUR* THING, AND THAT I COULD NEVER BE REPLACED.
"THAT'S WHEN I SET OUT ON MY OWN, DRIFTING IN AND OUT OF DIFFERENT LIVES.

"A BRAWLER...
PIT FIGHTE
"...A BODYGUARD...
"...A COLLECTOR.
"...A SOLDIER...
"WHATEVER PAID THE BILLS."

EVENTUALLY I GOT HIRED AT STRYKER'S ISLAND IN METROPOLIS, AND ONE DAY I GOT THE CALL FROM MONTOYA, SAYING YOU'D TRACKED ME DOWN.
YOU'RE NOT REPLACEABLE, JASON. YOU ARE SPECIAL. AND YOU LEFT A GIANT HOLE IN MY LIFE.
I GUESS...I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FILL IT EVER SINCE.
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
I'M NOT MAD AT YOU, BRUCE. I KNOW YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD.
WITHOUT YOU, I'D HAVE CROSSED YOUR PATH SOONER OR LATER AS A CRIMINAL.
YOU PROBABLY KEPT ME OUT OF PRISON.
YEAH, HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT?
HA!
I'M SORRY TOO, BRUCE--FOR NOT COMING TO SEE YOU.
MAYBE WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU WANT TO ADMIT.
"MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW."
*See the upcoming book Batman: White Knight Presents: Red Hood #1. --Brittany

YOU DON'T NEED CLOSURE, BRUCE--YOU NEED A NEW BEGINNING. WITH ALL OF THEM.
NO. I CAN'T HAVE THEM INVOLVED.
GOTHAM IS A DIFFERENT CITY NOW--FOR YOU, AN UNRECOGNIZABLE FUTURESCAPE.
AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO AFTER TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE OUT THERE...DEREK POWERS AND BATMAN.
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED HELP--A LOT OF IT.
ARE YOU AND I GOING TO BE OKAY, JASON?
...
I'LL GIVE YOU TEN MINUTES BEFORE I SOUND THE ALARM.

SPLOSH
PERIME
FENCE
SECURI
CAMER
FIVE POKER CARDS BEGIN ARGUING OVER WHO IS THE BEST IN THE HAND...

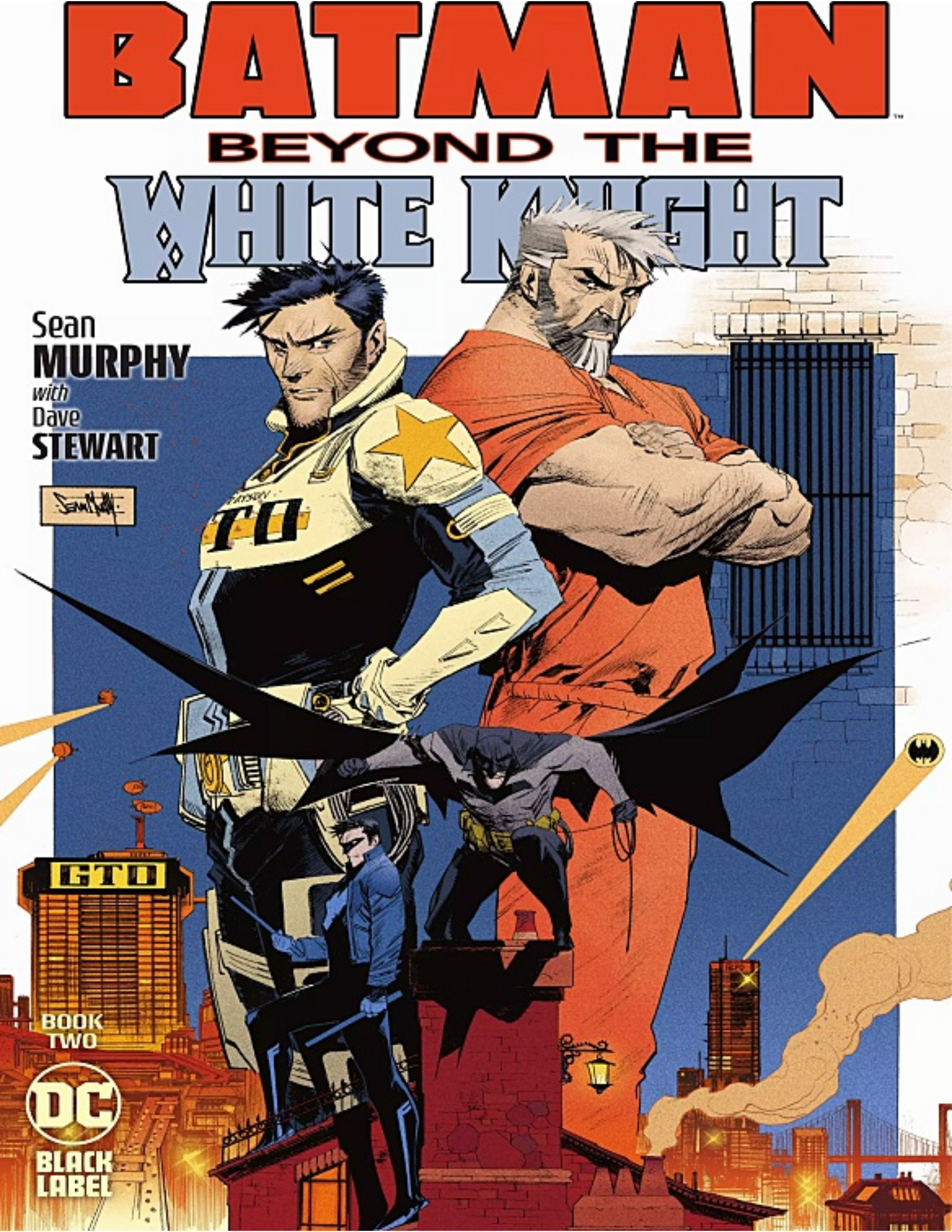
WHO'S THERE?
...AND THERE'S GOOD REASON TO ARGUE--THERE ARE FIVE OF A KIND, AND THEY'RE ALL JACKS.
THE FIRST CARD GOES "I'M THE JACK OF CLUBS--I'M THE BEST BECAUSE CLOVERS ARE LUCKY!"
I KNOW THAT VOICE.
THE SECOND CARD GOES "I'M THE JACK OF SPADES--I'M THE BEST BECAUSE SPADES ARE A WEAPON!"
THE THIRD CARD GOES "I'M THE JACK OF DIAMONDS--I'M THE BEST BECAUSE DIAMONDS ARE RARE!"
THE FOURTH CARD GOES "I'M THE JACK OF HEARTS--I'M THE BEST BECAUSE LOVE CONQUERS ALL!"
THE FIFTH CARD STARTS LAUGHING, TELLING THE OTHERS HE'S GOT THEM ALL BEAT.
THE OTHER CARDS ARE CONFUSED. "HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? THERE IS NO FIFTH JACK!"
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SHE KILLED YOU--
THE FIFTH CARD JUST SMILES AT THE OTHERS AND SAYS...

"BECAUSE I'M *THE JOKER,* AND I CAN BE WHATEVER I WANT."
TO BE CONTINUED

BATMAN™

BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT

Sean **MURPHY** *with* Dave **STEWART**



BOOK TWO

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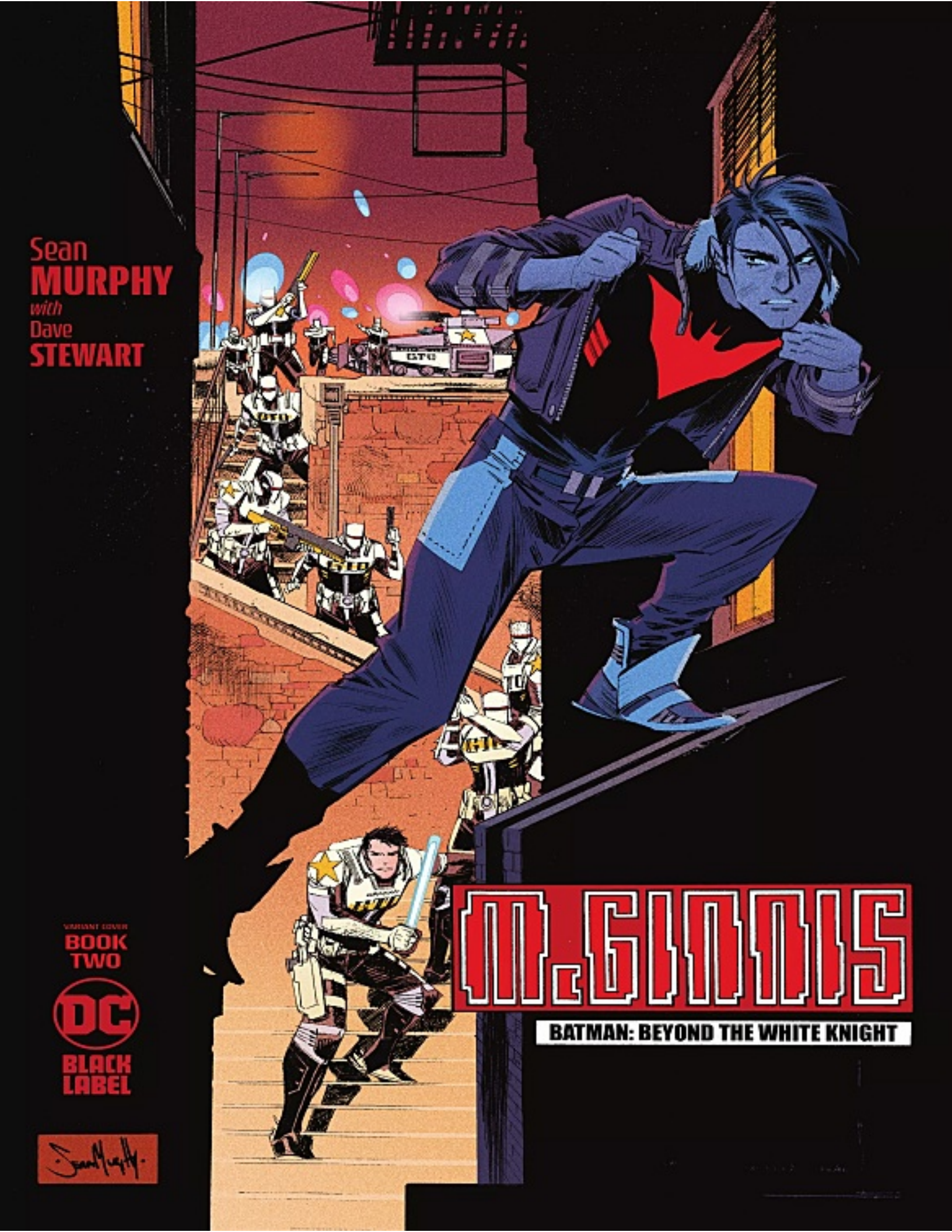
Sean
MURPHY
with
Dave
STEWART
VARIANT COVER
BOOK
TWO
DC
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LABEL
M.GINNIS
BATMAN: BEYOND THE WHITE KNIGHT

ONE MONTH AGO.
BACK OFF, KID! LET US MAKE THE ARREST--
THIS MAN KILLED MY FATHER!
I DON'T WANT HIM ARRESTED--I WANT HIM DEAD!
TRUST ME--I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE FEELING. BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY TO HANDLE IT.
GRAYSON
KNOCK
HEY!
ASSAULTING A GTO OFFICER--
--THAT'S A MANDATORY SIX MONTHS!
TERRY MCGINNIS, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST...
OFFICER FLINT, CALL A BUS FOR THE SUSPECT. I'LL DEAL WITH TERRY.
WE HAVE RULES, DICK!
MY RULES.
AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIS NAME IN THE REPORT.
COME ON, KID...

...SOMEONE WANTS A WORD WITH YOU.

NICE WORK, TERRY. YOU CAUGHT FIXX FASTER THAN THE GTO COULD.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE YOU A BADGE.

SO WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN HIM?
THANK YOU, RICHARD--I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
TERRY, GET INSIDE.
NOW.

I HAD THEM PULL UP YOUR JUVENILE RECORD. SHOPLIFTING, BURGLARY, AUTO THEFT--PRETTY IMPRESSIVE FOR A 17-YEAR-OLD.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

EVERYONE IN THE CITY KNOWS WHO YOU ARE, MR. POWERS.
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM TO YOUR FATHER?
YEAH--YOU WERE HIS BOSS.
HE WAS ALSO MY BEST FRIEND.

I KNOW THINGS HAVE BEEN TOUGH AT HOME--ALL THE FIGHTS BETWEEN HIM AND YOUR MOTHER, BUT I ALSO HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT HE REALLY LOVED YOU.
NO HE DIDN'T.

PEOPLE LIKE WARREN HAVE A HARD TIME SHOWING IT. THEY EXCEL IN THEIR WORK AND AMBITION, BUT OFTEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF THEIR PERSONAL LIVES.
HE NEVER EVEN TOLD US WHAT HE DID FOR A LIVING.
YOU CAN BLAME ME FOR THAT--IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR US TO SHARE ANYTHING ABOUT THE PROJECT.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, I CAN TELL YOU.

I'LL MAKE YOU A DEAL--I'LL HAVE THE GTO ERASE YOUR CRIMINAL RECORD SO YOU CAN HAVE A FRESH START, AND IN EXCHANGE, YOU'LL COME WORK FOR ME.
DOING WHAT?
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE--I THINK YOUR FATHER WOULD BE PROUD TO SEE YOU CONTINUE HIS WORK.
GTU

MR. FIXX WASN'T SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH--SOMEONE HIRED HIM. HELP ME FIND THE PEOPLE WHO WERE REALLY BEHIND IT, AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO TAKE YOUR REVENGE.
NOT EVEN THE GTO WILL BE ABLE TO STOP YOU.

I'M LISTENING.
GOOD.
NOW...
SMASH

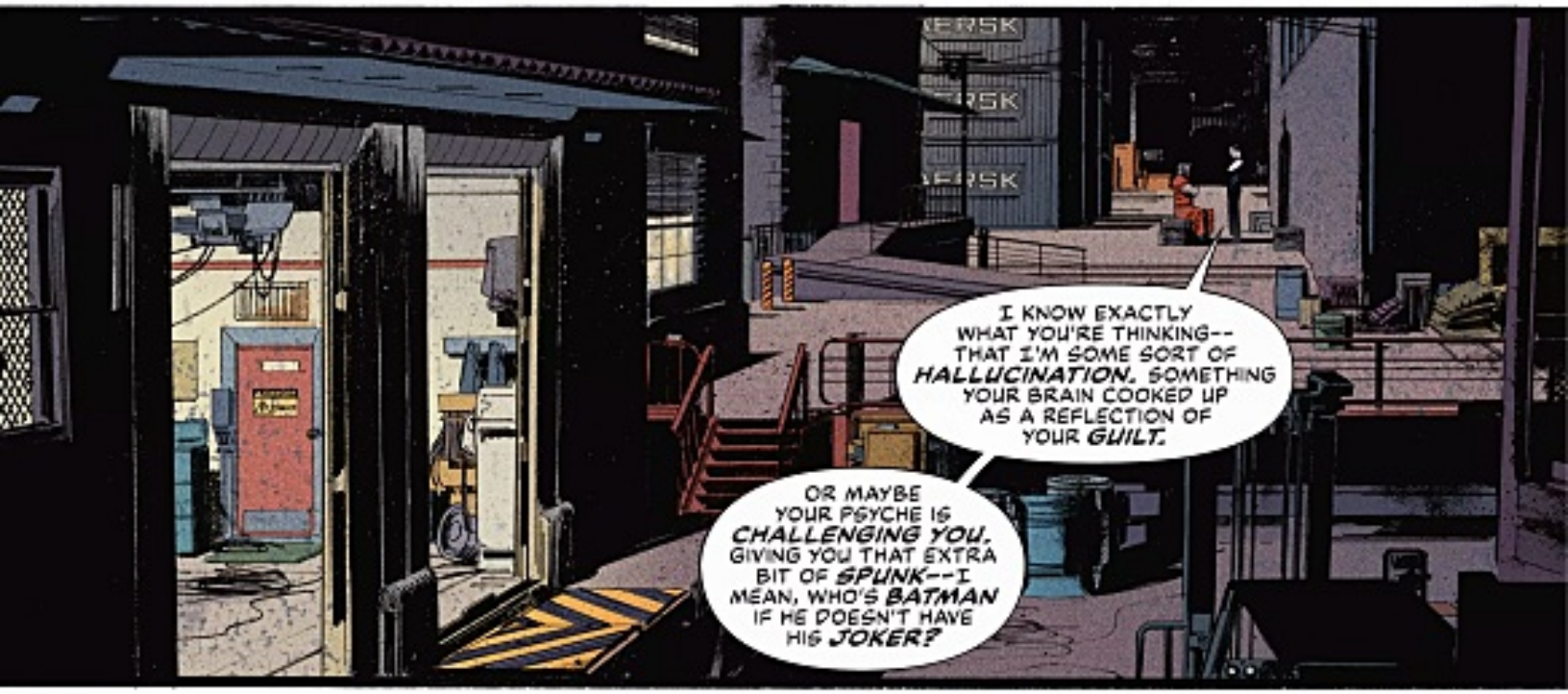
NOW.
"...TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT *BATMAN.*"

JOKER!
I'M NOT JOKER--I'M JACK.

I SAW HER PUT A BULLET IN YOUR HEAD!
CALM DOWN SO I CAN EXPLAIN.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU? ARE YOU EVEN REAL?
SIT DOWN, BATS.

...
SIT.


I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING-- THAT I'M SOME SORT OF HALLUCINATION. SOMETHING YOUR BRAIN COOKED UP AS A REFLECTION OF YOUR GUILT.
OR MAYBE YOUR PSYCHE IS CHALLENGING YOU. GIVING YOU THAT EXTRA BIT OF SPUNK--I MEAN, WHO'S BATMAN IF HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS JOKER?

AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO GIVE YOU A THAT FREUDIAN WEDGIE--THE ANSWER IS NO.
I'M NOT A HALLUCINATION.
A HOLOGRAM. BUT WHERE'S THE PROJECTION COMING FROM?
INSIDE YOUR HEAD.

WHAT?!

REMEMBER YEARS AGO, WHEN I KICKED YOUR ASS ON THAT ROOFTOP?
I REMEMBER YOU GETTING LUCKY.
boop

THE GTO BLINDED ME WITH A BAT-SIGNAL WHILE JIM GAVE ME A CONCUSSION WITH A STOLEN BATMOBILE.
SO IT WASN'T EXACTLY A FAIR FIGHT--

BUT I CREATED THE GTO, REMEMBER? AND ORCHESTRATED THAT ENTIRE NIGHT.
SO, YEAH...I 100 PERCENT KICKED YOUR ASS, BATS.
NICE TO SEE YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT PERSONALLY, THOUGH.

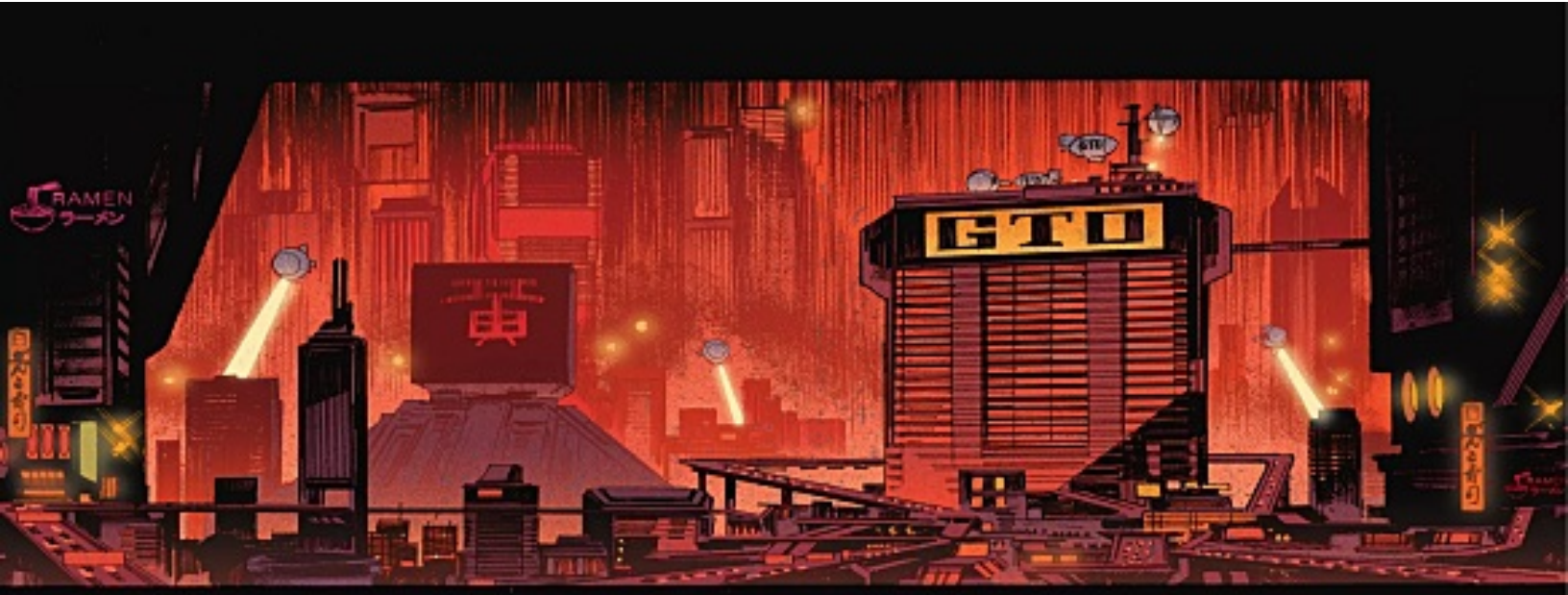
AND THAT'S WHEN YOU PUT A MICROCHIP IN MY HEAD--WHEN I WAS UNCONSCIOUS? SOMETHING YOU STOLE FROM HATTER?
CLEVER LITTLE SCAMP, WASN'T I?

NO--GET OUT OF MY HEAD!
:GASP:
BATS?
MY CHEST! SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH ME.
HEART ATTACK? I CAN'T BREATHE.

IT'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT--LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE THEM.

I MEAN, CONSIDERING YOUR HISTORY, HOW COULD YOU NOT HAVE ANXIETY? CHILDHOOD TRAUMA, LIFETIME OF OBSESSIVE BEHAVIOR, A BROKEN LEGACY, ABANDONED FAMILY--

WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?!


RAMEN
GTO

JASON LET HIM OUT, DUKE.
HOW ELSE WOULD HE ESCAPE?
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET.
4

THERE'S ONLY ONE GUARD FOR EVERY THIRTY PRISONERS. AND THE SECURITY SYSTEM HASN'T BEEN UPGRADED FOR YEARS--
SO THIS IS MY FAULT? STONEGATE'S FALLING APART BECAUSE THE GTO EATS UP TOO MUCH OF THE CITY'S BUDGET?
DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR EMAILS WITH BARBARA.
GRAYSON
GTO

YOU DON'T NEED TO SPY ON ME, DICK--I ALREADY EXPRESSED MY CONCERNS TO YOUR FACE.
TURN AROUND, GO BACK TO STONEGATE, AND ARREST JASON TODD.
NOW.
THOMAS
GTO

I DIDN'T JOIN THE GTO TO GET INVOLVED WITH PERSONAL GRUDGES--
THAT WAS AN ORDER.
#1 DAD

THEN I QUIT.
#1 DAD

GTD
IT'S COMPLETELY UNRECOGNIZABLE, ISN'T IT?
HARD TO BELIEVE A CITY CAN CHANGE SO MUCH IN YOUR ABSENCE.
THEN AGAIN, MOST CITIES DON'T GET INFUSED WITH A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR FORTUNE, THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF LAND, AND COUNTLESS OTHER RESOURCES THAT ONE FAMILY HAS ACCUMULATED OVER SEVEN GENERATIONS.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
YOU NEED MY HELP, BATS.
NO I DON'T.
AND NEITHER DOES SHE.

BATMAN KNEW HOW TO USE EVERY STREET, ALLEYWAY, AND ROOFTOP TO HIS ADVANTAGE--
I'M NOT BATMAN.
THAT'S MY POINT-- YOU'RE NOT NEARLY AS PREPARED AS YOU USED TO BE! GRANTED, YOU'VE MOSTLY AVOIDED DAD BOD, BUT YOU'RE STILL WAY PAST YOUR PHYSICAL PEAK.

MOSTLY AVOIDED?
FACE IT-- YOU NEED ME.
YOU'RE AN ALGORITHM IN MY HEAD, WHICH MEANS YOU'VE BEEN LOCKED UP IN STONEGATE ALONG WITH ME.
SO YOU KNOW AS LITTLE ABOUT NEO-GOTHAM AS I DO--

OH REALLY?
I KNOW THE LOCATIONS OF EVERY GTO CAMERA, THAT YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED ON THREE OF THEM, AND THAT POLICE ARE MINUTES AWAY FROM THIS POSITION.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

BY HACKING INTO THE CITY'S SERVERS, I CAN FIND ANYTHING WE NEED.
I'M LIKE ALFRED, ROBIN, AND A BAT-COMPUTER ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!
I DON'T TRUST THE JOKER.

I'M NOT THE JOKER.
AND HOW DO I REALLY KNOW THAT?

BRUCE WAYNE-- YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

DICK.
GET ON THE GROUND, FACE DOWN! PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD!
LISTEN TO ME--I KNOW WHO STOLE THE BATMAN SUIT!

IT WAS DEREK POWERS--HE HIRED SOMEONE TO STEAL IT FROM THE BATCAVE!
THERE ARE TOO MANY COINCIDENCES--

DEREK POWERS SAVED THIS CITY, SUCCEEDED WHERE YOU FAILED--HE ENDED CRIME IN GOTHAM.
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM LIKE I DO.
TWO MORE BAT-TANKS ARE ON THEIR WAY.

YOU'RE PARANOID, BRUCE. IMAGINING THINGS.
I WISH THAT WAS TRUE, DICK.
HEY, WAS THAT A DIG AT ME?!

THE BATTERY IN HIS SUIT IS CHARGING UP, AND HIS HEART RATE IS INCREASING. HE'S ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING.
I CAN SEE THAT.

FZZZZZZ

WHUDD
THE SUIT IS MADE FROM REINFORCED KEVLAR--HE WON'T FEEL YOUR PUNCHES.

AND YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HIT WITH THAT BATON--IT'S CARRYING 100,000 VOLTS.

AND THAT HELMET IS A LOT HARDER THAN YOUR THICK SKULL, BATS, SO WHATEVER YOU DO...
KRAK!
...DON'T GET HEADBUTTED!

FZZAP
ARGH!

FACE IT, BRUCE--THE GTO'S ACHIEVED WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WORKED FOR,
BY DOING WHAT BATMAN WOULDN'T.
I'M DOWNLOADING BLUEPRINTS ON HIS SUIT, LOOKING FOR A WEAKNESS--

DON'T EMBARRASS YOURSELF.
LET GOTHAM REMEMBER YOU IN YOUR PRIME...
...AND NOT LIKE THIS.
THE BACK OF HIS KNEE. USE HIS BATON.

GRAB
ARGH!
FZZAP

WE CAN'T LINGER--THE OTHERS WILL BE HERE SOON.
IS HE OKAY?

ARGH... WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
HE'S FINE--THE SUIT'S BEEN SHORTED OUT, BUT THE BATTERY WILL RECHARGE QUICKLY.

SORRY, DICK.
BUT YOU TOOK THE WRONG LESSONS FROM EVERYTHING I TRIED TO TEACH YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT GOTHAM, YOU IMPRISON THE CRIMINALS...

...NOT THE ENTIRE CITY.
SHAKESPEAREAN BETRAYAL? DEEP-SEATED FAMILIAL RESENTMENT? A FATHER FORCED TO TEACH HIS SON A BRUTAL LESSON IN TRUTH AND HUMILITY?
EVEN THE EPIC WAY YOU DELIVERED THAT LAST SENTENCE!
GOD I'VE MISSED THIS, BATS!
GTO

KNOCK IT OFF.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU--YOU CAN TOTALLY TRUST ME!
YOU GAVE ME TACTICAL ADVICE, AND I WENT WITH IT. WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM TRUST.

WHAT DID YOU TAKE FROM HIS BELT?
A GRAPPLING GUN AND SOME WIRE.
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING--WHY AREN'T THEY COMING UP ON MY OTHER SENSORS?

BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT ELECTRICAL OBJECTS, THEY DON'T GIVE OFF HEAT, AND THEY'RE NOT MADE OF METAL.
THEY'RE BASED OFF BLUEPRINTS I CREATED YEARS AGO--
--POWERS MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE WORK.

CAMERAS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TRACK YOUR GADGETS, BUT THEY'LL STILL BE ABLE TO TRACK YOU.
I KNOW--I NEED TO GET OFF RADAR AND BECOME A GHOST, AND I THINK I HAVE JUST THE THING--

IT'S A BATSUIT, ISN'T IT?!
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A NEW BATSUIT SQUIRRELED AWAY SOMEWHERE! SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER SEEN!
POKKK

"THE SUIT'S MORE AMAZING THAN I EVER IMAGINED."

I JUST HOPE YOU CAN WORK OUT THE KINKS--I ALMOST KILLED THOSE TWO GUARDS.
THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT, AND THEY'RE EACH BEING LOOKED AFTER.

BESIDES, THERE ARE ALWAYS SETBACKS WHEN THERE'S INNOVATION.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PROJECT YOU MENTIONED WHEN WE FIRST MET?
EVER THE DETECTIVE--I SUPPOSE THAT'S IN KEEPING.

YES, THE SUIT IS PART OF THE PROJECT. BUT IN ORDER TO WORK OUT THE KINKS, I'LL NEED YOU TO FIND A FEW MORE ITEMS AROUND THE CITY.
YOU SURE MY FATHER WAS OKAY WITH ALL THIS STEALING?

WARREN DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE PROJECT BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH DANGER WE WERE IN.
WHAT KIND OF DANGER?
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I THINK YOU'RE READY.

IT'S OKAY, TERRY.
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.

GTO
OH MAN...
...THIS MUST REALLY PISS YOU OFF.
GCPD
EVEN WITH ALL THE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR SUIT--NOT TO MENTION THAT CHILDISH MIDLIFE CRISIS ON TANK TREADS--YOU STILL GOT YOUR ASS HANDED TO YOU BY A GUY IN HIS SIXTIES?
PUT OUT AN A.P.B.--THE ENTIRE GCPD SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR HIM!
SO THE ALL-POWERFUL GTO ACTUALLY NEEDS THE HELP OF REAL POLICE OFFICERS AGAIN?
THAT'S AN ORDER, BABS!
YOU DON'T OUT-RANK ME, DICK! THE GTO IS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT PROGRAM, REMEMBER? YOU MADE SURE OF IT.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT YOU WERE FIRED--YOU TRIED TO SHUT DOWN THE GTO!
AND YOU JUST STOOD BY WHILE POWERS HAD ME REMOVED. DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO DEFEND ME--
THE GTO CAUGHT EVERY REMAINING SUPER-CRIMINAL IN GOTHAM! SOME THINGS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO LET GO OF.
BUT NOT OUR RELATIONSHIP?
IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO STICK IT TO BRUCE THAN IT WAS FOR YOU TO BE WITH ME.
BABS--

JOKER AND ALL THE OTHER SUPER-CRIMINALS MIGHT BE GONE, BUT THERE'S STILL CRIME IN GOTHAM--LIKE THE THEFT OF OUR FREEDOM, THE INVASION OF OUR PRIVACY, AND THE OPPRESSION THAT FORCES US TO LIVE UNDER YOUR MILITARY REGIME!
PEOPLE ARE SAFER THAN EVER.
ARE THEY? SUICIDES ARE UP, NOT TO MENTION DRUG USE AND HOMELESSNESS--
IF YOU, ME, AND BRUCE HAD GROWN UP IN NEO-GOTHAM, NONE OF US WOULD HAVE LOST OUR PARENTS!
AND NONE OF US WOULD HAVE RESORTED TO VIGILANTISM.
WAKE UP, DICK--YOU'RE STILL A VIGILANTE.
THE ELITES DON'T NEED TO UNLEASH SUPER-CRIMINALS TO SCARE GOTHAM INTO SUBMISSION ANYMORE--THEY HAVE YOU TO DO IT.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY BRUCE ESCAPED, DICK...
FLINT
GT
"...IT FINALLY GIVES THE GTO A CHALLENGE."
YOU OKAY, DICK?
GTO
FLINT
GTO

ACCORDING TO THE GCPD DATABASE, THERE ARE TWO UNDERCOVER UNITS WATCHING THE HOUSE. I'LL TRY TO GET AN EXACT LOCATION--
I SEE THEM.
WHERE?
NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES OF THE BLOCK.
AND HOW--
GOVERNMENT VEHICLES ALWAYS USE FLEET CARS WITH CHEAP HUBCAPS.
SEE?
IMPRESSIVE.
WOOSH
YOU AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS THOUGHT I WAS JUST A GUY IN BODY ARMOR LOOKING TO BRAWL. YOU KEPT FORGETTING THAT I WAS MOSTLY A DETECTIVE.
I KEEP TELLING YOU, BATS--I WASN'T THE JOKER.
AND I KEEP TELLING YOU--STOP CALLING ME BATS.

I DON'T SENSE ANY CAMERAS OR SENSORS.
YOU SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.

WOOSH

GET YOUR HAND OFF ME.

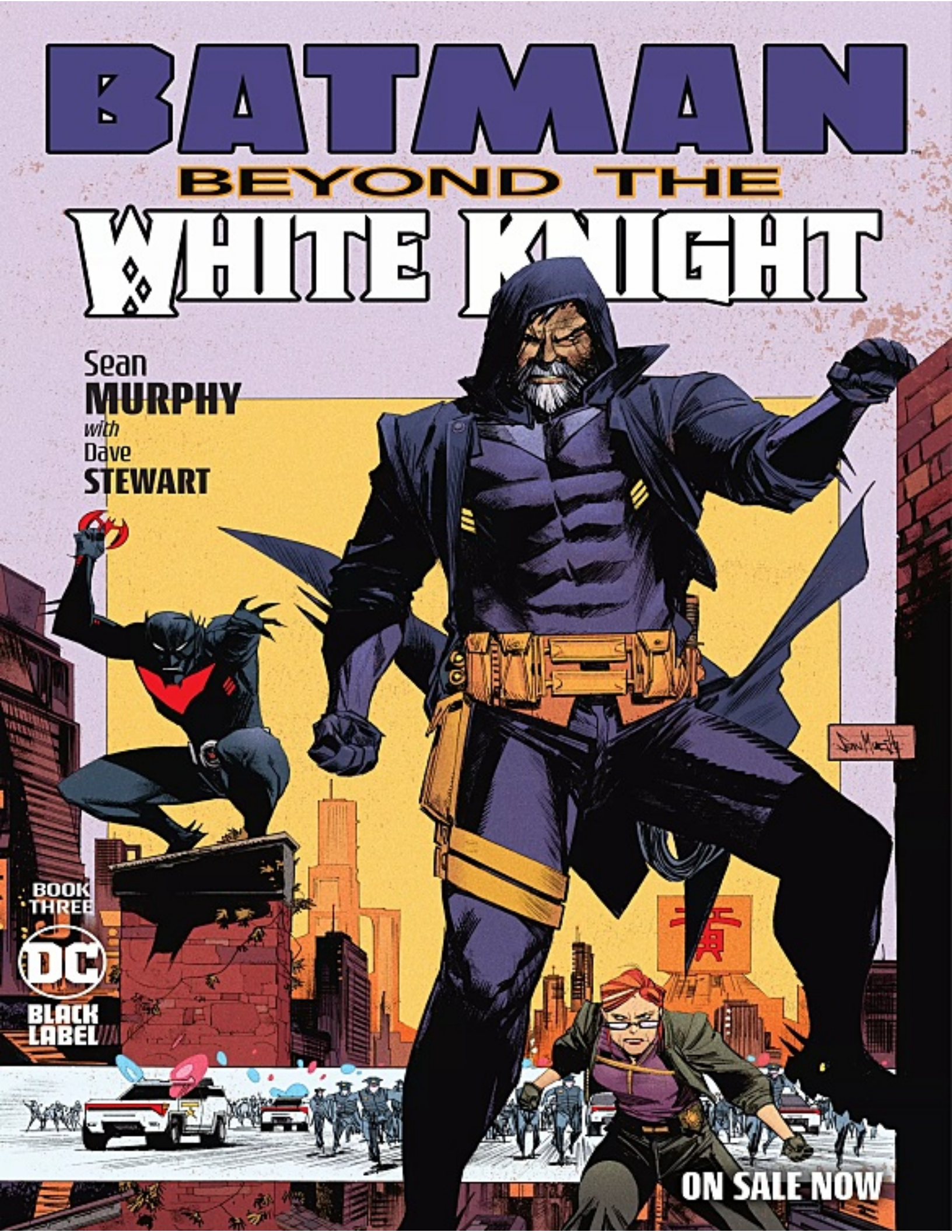
NEEK

CLICK

WHOA! SO THIS IS LIKE A MINI BATCAVE?
I CAME HERE AFTER AZRAEL BLEW UP THE MANOR. IT'S ONE OF A DOZEN SAFE HOUSES I HAD AROUND THE CITY.
NICE MOTORCYCLE.
THANKS.
ROOM FOR TWO?
THAT'S NOT HAPPENING.
OH COME ON--NO ONE HAS TO KNOW!
YOU WON'T EVEN FEEL MY ARMS AROUND YOU!
WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
THIS.
:GASP:
I KNEW IT.

OH MY GOD, IT'S PERFECT!
ALL BLACK WITH YELLOW ON THE CHEST? VERY RETRO.
TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO PUT IT ON.
WAYNE

WE'VE HAD NO CONTACT FOR YEARS, AND NOW I FIND YOU SNEAKING AROUND THE BASEMENT WITHOUT EVEN SAYING HELLO?
OH MY GOD...
I THOUGHT I'D BE PREPARED FOR THIS MOMENT, BATS, BUT I'M SPEECHLESS.
SHE'S... STUNNING.
I'LL BE LEAVING SHORTLY.
I...DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT TO SEE ME, I JUST NEEDED A FEW--
OF COURSE I WANT TO SEE YOU.
YOU'RE NOT JUST MY CLOSEST FRIEND, BATS.
YOU'RE MY HUSBAND.
UHHHHHH... OKAY, BACK UP A SECOND.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MISSED SOMETHING.
TO BE CONTINUED.


BATMAN
BEYOND THE
WHITE KNIGHT
Sean
MURPHY
with
Dave
STEWART
BOOK
THREE
DC
BLACK
LABEL
ON SALE NOW

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Art for *Batman: Beyond the White Knight* #3 by Sean Murphy with Dave Stewart

A 104-PAGE ANTHOLOGY FROM COMICS' TOP TALENT

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