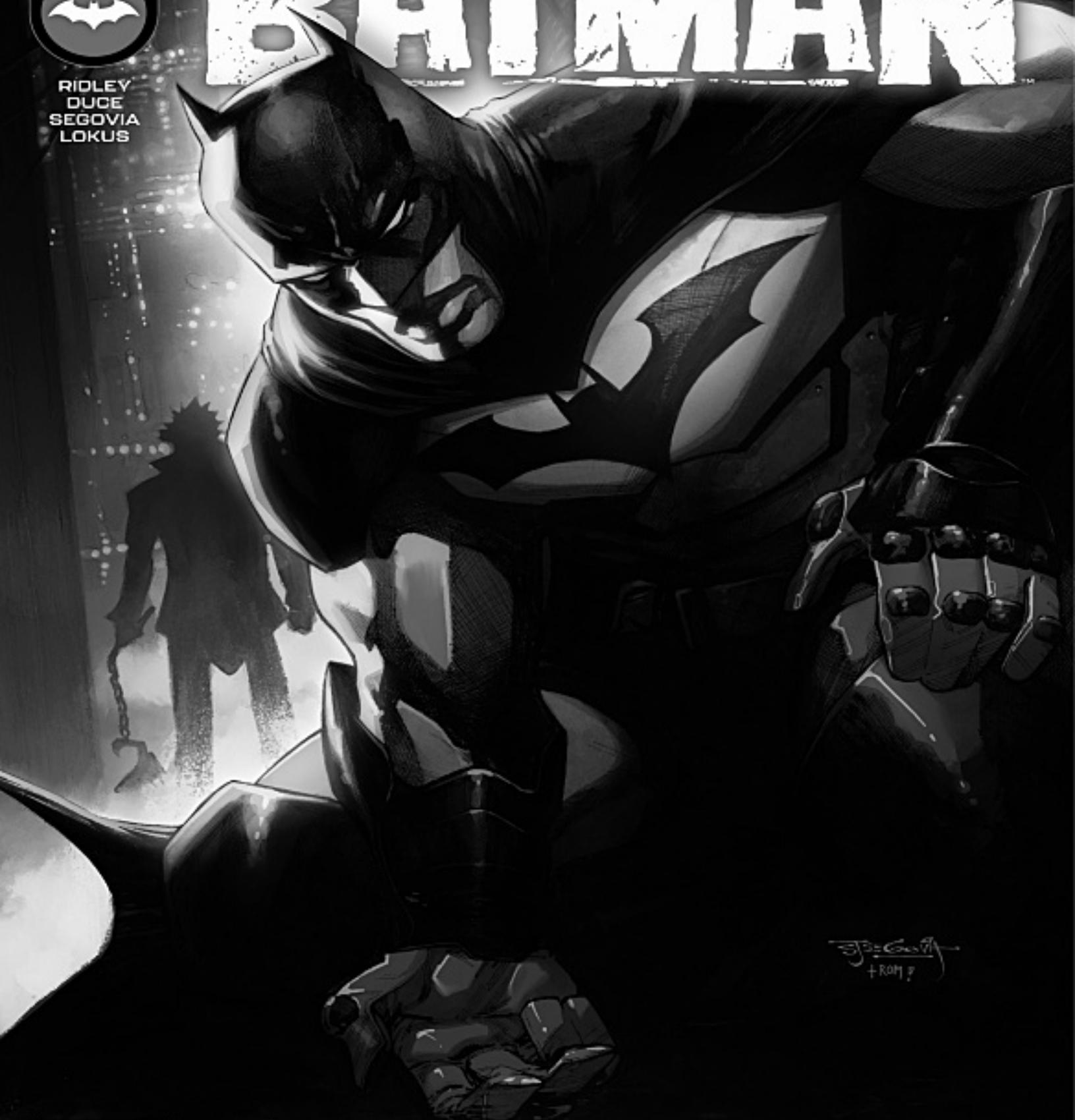




RIDLEY
DUCE
SEGOVIA
LOKUS

TEAM BATMAN



SEGOVIA
+ ROM P.

AN ALIEN PRINCESS DISGUISED AS A HUMAN BOY FACES HER FEARS...
AND FINDS HER **POWER**.

Galaxy

The Prettiest Star

WRITTEN BY

Jadzia Axelrod

ART BY

Jess Taylor

A NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL FOR
YOUNG ADULTS

© & ™ DC





DOES HE SCARE ME? YEAH, HE SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME.



DC Comics Proudly
Presents

**TOTAL
BATMAN**
**EMPIRE STATE
OF MIND PART 4**

JOHN RIDLEY WRITER
CHRISTIAN DUCE &
STEPHEN SEGOVIA ARTISTS
REX LOKUS COLORS
TROY PETERI LETTERS
STEPHEN SEGOVIA &
ROMULO FAJARDO JR. COVER
GERARDO ZAFFINO &
RAIN BEREDO, MATEUS
MANHANINI VARIANT COVERS

DAVE WIELGOSZ
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY
EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED
BY BOB KANE WITH
BILL FINGER

I DON'T
LIKE BEING
HUMILIATED.

BLAM







WHAT
THE HELL IS
THAT? HE'S
DOWN!

HE'S A
GANG HITTER.
KILLED AT
LEAST SIX
PEOPLE.

WE'RE
POLICE!
EQUAL OR
LESSER
FORCE.

YOU
DIDN'T
SEE HIS
GUN?

I SAW YOU
DISARM HIM.
I SAW THAT. THEN
I SAW YOU BEAT
HIS ASS.

WE ARE NOT
THOSE PEOPLE,
UNDERSTAND?

WHAT I
UNDERSTAND,
WHAT I KNOW,
IS THE MAYOR
SAYS YOU
WORK WITH
ME, NOT THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND.

GET THAT
PIECE OF
#*%\$! PUT
AWAY. I WILL
TEXT YOU A
STATEMENT
FOR YOUR
ARREST
REPORT.

WHAT THE
HELL WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?

NOT THIS
PUNK, THAT'S
FOR SURE.

"WHAT YOU HAVE
TO UNDERSTAND
ABOUT MY
CLIENT, HE'S
KIND OF
ECCENTRIC."

HE HAS SOME
PECULIAR TASTES IN
REAL ESTATE, BUT
HE'S PREPARED TO
MEET THE PRICE ON
THE RIGHT PIECE OF
PROPERTY.

MR. LITVI...
LITVINO--

LITVINOV,
BUT CALL
ME VOL.

VOL,
WHEN YOU
SAY YOUR
CLIENT HAS
"PECULIAR
TASTES"...

HE VALUES HIS PRIVACY, IS VERY
SECURITY-MINDED...HE'D LIKE
SOMETHING THAT'S CENTRALLY
LOCATED, BUT VERY
DISCREET.

IT
SOUNDS
LIKE HE'S
LOOKING FOR
AN UPSCALE
BOMB
SHELTER.

THAT
MIGHT BE
ONE WAY
OF PUTTING
IT.

VOL, YOUR
ACCENT, IS
THAT--

RUSSIAN.
YES.

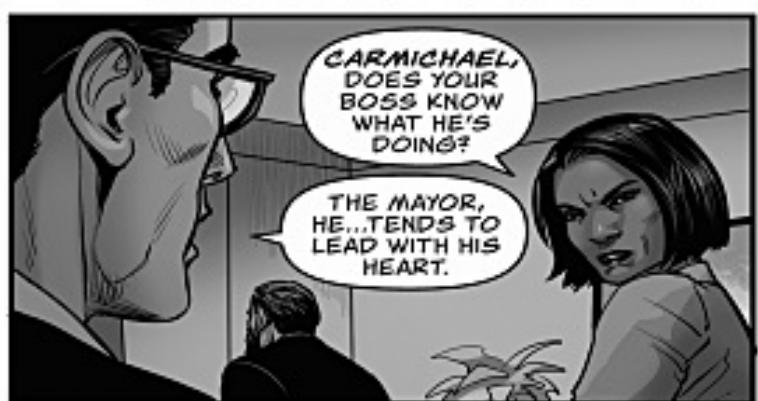
JUST TO BE CLEAR,
WHEN I HAVE A RUSSIAN
NATIONAL SHOWING UP
REPRESENTING AN
ANONYMOUS CLIENT
WILLING TO PAY CASH
FOR NEW YORK REAL
ESTATE...

I MEAN,
RUSSIANS,
OLIGARCHS...
YOU JUST HEAR
STORIES.

YOU
UNDERSTAND MY
CONCERN.

SURE,
I GET
IT.

"I APPRECIATE THAT
YOU'RE WORRIED,
TANYA, BUT YOU HAVE
NO REASON TO BE."



"...THAT DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION."

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

JUST PULLING UP SOME FILES.

ON MY COMPUTER, KEENAN?

THE COMPUTER BELONGS TO THE NYPD.

AND WE'RE ALL... BROTHERS, AREN'T WE, CHUBB?

GET THE D*#% OUT OF HERE, KEENAN.

LISTEN, THIS ISN'T GOTHAM. WE DON'T SIT AROUND WAITING FOR MASKS TO DO FOR US. WE DO FOR OURSELVES.

YOU CAN EITHER GET ON BOARD WITH THAT, OR YOU CAN END UP OVERBOARD. AND--TRUST ME--YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FLAPPING AROUND IN NEW YORK HARBOR ALL BY YOUR LONESOME.

'CAUSE I PROMISE YOU, IF IT COMES TO IT, I WILL DROWN YOU.

"DO YOU FEEL THREATENED?"



"ARE YOU UP FOR THE WORK?"

FOR REAL,
JACE...

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GIVING ME SUPPORT, AND YOU BRING THE GLUM. WHAT'S UP?

...NOTHING...

YOUR ATTITUDE ISN'T NOTHING, SO...WHAT IS UP?

JUST... STUFF, TAM. SOME DAYS IT'S HARD BEING A FOX.

YOU SOUND LIKE TIFF. I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER.

SHE'S NOT DOING REAL WELL. IT'S LIKE SHE'S... I DON'T KNOW. SHE FEELS GUILTY ABOUT ME BEING POISONED.

WHY?

I DON'T KNOW. BUT WHATEVER THE REASON...WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR HER.

I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE MYSELF OUT.

I THOUGHT I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, BUT I GOT SHOWN UP. BAD.

I'M NOT SURE I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

NOBODY HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET BY ON THEIR OWN.

SAME AS I TRUST YOU'LL BE THERE TO HELP TIFF FIND HER WAY...

"...TRUST THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU TO HELP YOU."

CENTRAL PARK.

HELLO,
JACE...

WELCOME TO
NEW YORK.

BELATEDLY.

HADIYAH...

YEAH, UH...
I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T
CALL WHEN I
FIRST GOT
HERE...

IT'S
ALL RIGHT. I'M
NOT LOOKING
FOR EXCUSES.
I'M JUST HAPPY
TO SEE YOU.

SO,
WHAT'S UP
THAT I
FINALLY GET
A CALL?

I NEED
SOME OF
YOUR GOOD
INQUISITIVE
THINKING.

ON...

THESE
MURDERS THAT HAVE
BEEN HAPPENING IN THE
CITY: DEVLIN RUBEL,
COMMISSIONER
BECKET...

YOU CALLED
TO TALK ABOUT
MURDERS?

MY MOTHER'S SETTING
UP AN IMPACT FUND TO
HELP THE CITY. IF
THERE'S A WAY WE CAN
DO SOMETHING ABOUT
THESE KILLINGS...

HMM, YEAH.
AND THEN
THERE'S THE
TRUTH.

THE TRUTH IS I CAME
TO YOU BECAUSE YOU
KNOW SOMETHING
ABOUT--

ABOUT
KILLING?

I...NO.
I DIDN'T
MEAN
THAT.

YOU
KNOW ABOUT
CHARACTER.

YOU'VE SEEN THE CRIME
SCENE PHOTOS? WHAT KIND
OF PERSON DOES THAT TO
ANOTHER HUMAN BEING?

HMM.
MAN RAY.

MAN RAY?
WHO'S--

THE
SURREALIST ARTIST.
YOU KNOW ABOUT
SURREALISM, DON'T
YOU?

I...YOU
KNOW, I
MEAN...

OKAY. WE'RE
TAKING A LITTLE
"WELCOME TO
NEW YORK"
FIELD TRIP.

FIELD
TRIP TO
WHERE?

"I'M TAKING YOU OVER TO M.O.M.A."

SURREALISM. IT'S AN ARTISTIC MOVEMENT THAT BEGAN IN EUROPE JUST AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR.

IT WAS A WAY FOR ARTISTS TO MAKE SENSE OF, AND BRING BEAUTY TO, AN OTHERWISE GROTESQUE WORLD.

HOW DOES THIS "MAKE SENSE" OF ANYTHING? IT LOOKS LIKE A BAD DREAM.

ASIDE FROM YOUR NARROW VIEW OF WHAT CONSTITUTES ART, SURREALISM'S DEFINED BY THE ABSENCE OF REASON. THE LESS LOGIC, THE MORE BEAUTY.

WHEN I SHOWED YOU THE CRIME SCENE PICTURES, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MAN RAY.

THERE WAS A LEGENDARY MURDER IN LOS ANGELES IN THE 1940S, THE BLACK DAHLIA KILLING. A YOUNG WOMAN TORTURED, VIVISECTED, AND PUT ON DISPLAY LIKE RUBEL AND BECKET.

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THE MURDER WAS INSPIRED BY MAN RAY'S ART.

I DON'T THINK THESE CRIMES ARE CONNECTED, BUT...

EMMANUEL RADNITZKY, A BRILLIANT AMERICAN ARTIST WHO WENT BY THE NAME MAN RAY.

THE REASON I THOUGHT OF HIM...

...I DO THINK THIS KILLER IS SOMEONE ARTISTICALLY INCLINED, DISSOCIATED FROM THOUGHTS OR FEELINGS, AND YOUNG AND STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERPOWER HIS VICTIMS.

THAT SHOULD NARROW THE SUSPECTS CONSIDERABLY.

ONE MORE QUESTION. YOU EVER HEAR OF SOMETHING CALLED "THE HOTLIST"?

NO, BUT I CAN ASK AROUND.

THANK YOU, HADIYAH.

OF COURSE. AND, JACE, WHATEVER THE REASON...

...IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.

"A SENSE OF FEAR CONTINUES TO GRIP NEW YORK TONIGHT."

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, MAYOR VILLANUEVA ADDRESSED THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING POLICE COMMISSIONER BECKET'S GRAPHIC MURDER.

HOWEVER PEOPLE MAY FEEL ABOUT BECKET'S UGLY PRIVATE STATEMENTS, HIS MURDER CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.

WE ARE DEVOTING EVERY RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO FIND THE KILLER.

IN THE HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY, I DON'T KNOW THAT WE HAVE EVER SEEN A CRIME SO VICIOUS...

...OR A PERPETRATOR WHO IS THIS EVIL.

IF THE KILLER IS LISTENING: I SWEAR I WILL BRING YOU TO JUSTICE.

ARS GRATIA ARTIS.

"I FEEL LOST. I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOT NO PURPOSE..."

I JUST...I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO
BE DOING
HERE IN NEW
YORK.

YOU SHOULD
BE DOING EXACTLY
WHAT YOU'RE DOING,
TIFFANY: GOING TO
CLASSES, SETTING
ALL YOUR SCHOOL-
WORK DONE...

MOM, FOR
REAL--I COULD
HAVE BEEN
DOING THE
SAME BACK IN
GOTHAM.

I MEAN,
I WANTED TO
BE HERE FOR
TAM, BUT
SHE'S DOING
GOOD--

SHE'S
DOING
WELL.

JACE IS BUSY
WORKING FOR DAD.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR THING,
SO...WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO BE DOING?

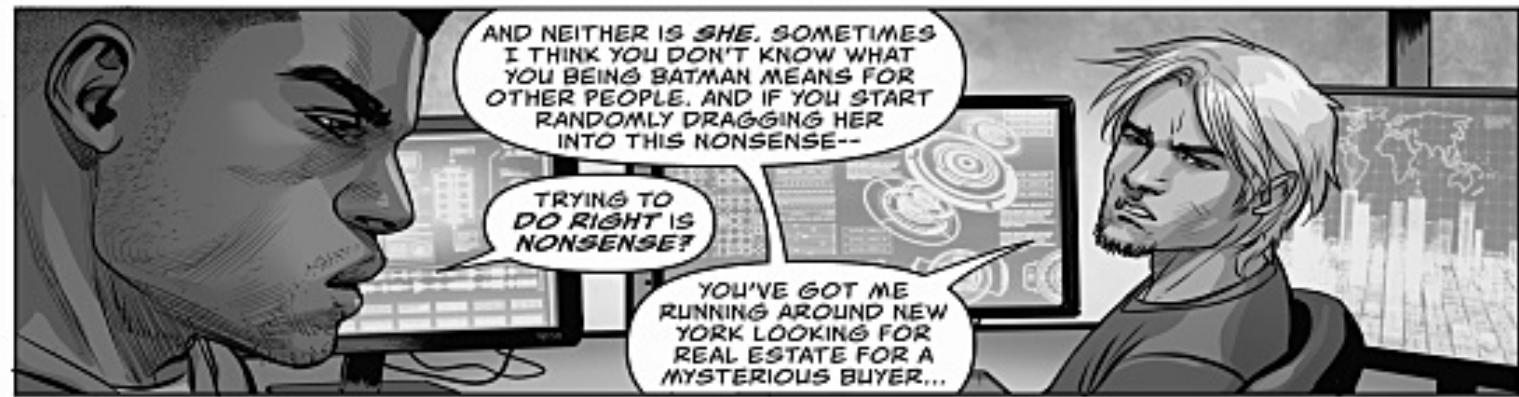
I STARTED
PRACTICING LAW
AGAIN, BUT I WAS
DRIVEN MORE
BY A HATRED OF
"MASKS" THAN
A SENSE OF
PURPOSE.

FOR ME,
BEING IN NEW
YORK, THIS IS
AS MUCH ABOUT
ME TRYING TO
FIGURE OUT
WHO I AM
AS ANYTHING
ELSE.

WELL,
YOUNG LADY,
SOMETIMES
THE BEST WAY
TO DO FOR
YOURSELF...

MAYBE YOU
SHOULD COME
WORK AT OUR
JOB-TRAINING
CENTER.

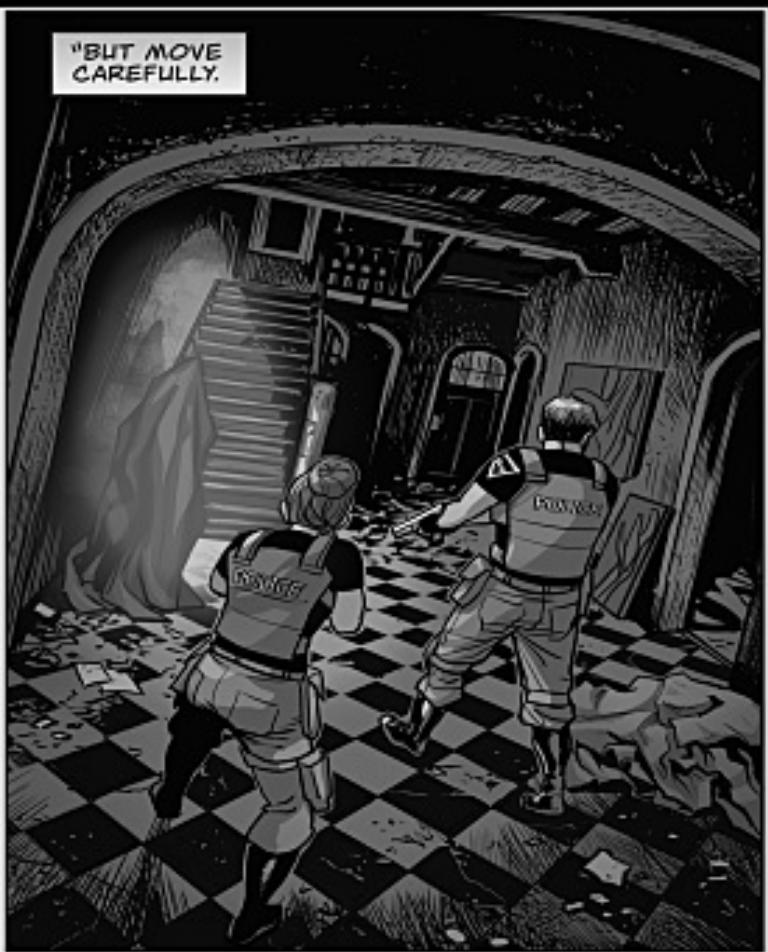
THAT'S FOR
WOMEN WHO ARE
COMING OUT OF
INCARCERATION. I'M
DOWN WITH WHAT
YOU'RE TRYING TO DO,
BUT...I DON'T KNOW
HOW WORKING
THERE HELPS
ME.







"BUT MOVE CAREFULLY."



"MANRAY THINKS HE'S A SAVIOR..."



"...BUT HE IS TWISTED, TWISTED BEYOND HELP."

...JESUS...

CHUBB,
IT'S MUELLER.
WE FOUND
SOMETHING.



BATMAN,
YOU THERE?

I'M
HERE.

"...WE NEED
TO KEEP THIS
QUIET."

WHAT'D
YOU FIND,
DETECTIVE?

IT'S
INSIDE.

KEENAN?
IT'S DESANTE.
THEY FOUND
SOMETHING.



THE
BUILDING WAS
ABANDONED,
BUT IT'S PRETTY
OBVIOUS OUR GUY
WAS SQUATTING
HERE.

WHAT
WHITAKER AND
MUELLER FOUND,
BEST WE CAN
TELL IT'S SOME
KIND OF...

A
PROOF OF
CONCEPT OF
HIS NEXT
VICTIM.

YEAH,
THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

BUT IT
DOESN'T
TRACK. IF YOUR
PROFILE OF
THE KILLER IS
GOOD.

IT IS.
THE KILLER
IS TRYING
TO EXPOSE
CORRUPT
PEOPLE.

THEN YOU
SEE WHY
WE'VE GOT
TO KEEP
THIS ON THE
DL.

...YEAH...

IF IT TURNS
OUT MAYOR
VILLANUEVA
IS DIRTY, YOU
AND I ARE
***@#%\$.

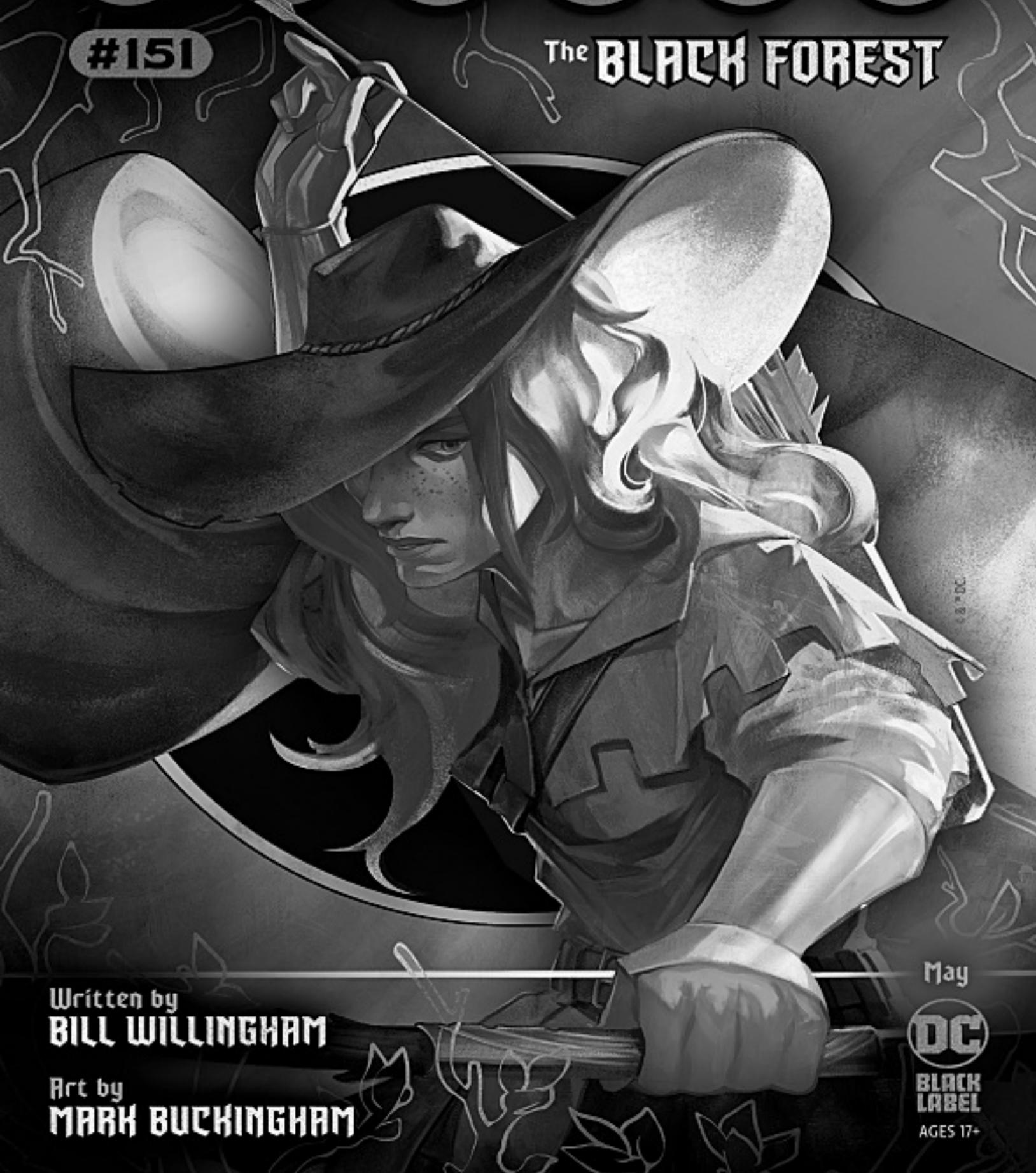
NEXT:
**EVERYBODY'S
DIRTY**

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS. A NEW ADVERSARY ARRIVES.
THE LEGENDARY SERIES RETURNS!

FABLES

#151

The BLACK FOREST



Written by
BILL WILLINGHAM

Art by
MARK BUCKINGHAM

May



BLACK
LABEL

AGES 17+

DC NATION

SPOTLIGHT ON

AQUAMAN

ANDROMEDA

INTERVIEW WITH RAM V AND CHRISTIAN WARD

The King of Atlantis meets cosmic horror in *Aquaman: Andromeda* by writer Ram V and artist Christian Ward. In this new three-issue DC Black Label series, a massive, mysterious structure has been discovered at the most remote point on Earth... and it seems like it's waking up.

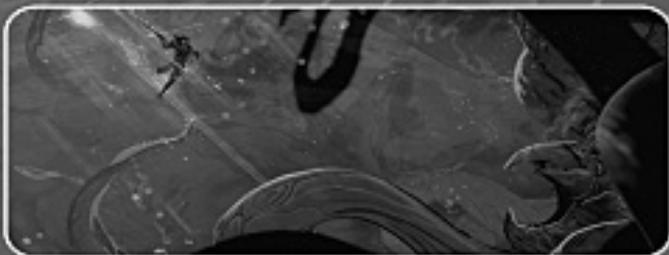
What's the high-concept pitch for *Aquaman: Andromeda*?

Ram V: *Aquaman: Andromeda* follows a crew of scientists sent in to investigate an unidentified object landing at Point Nemo in the Pacific. In the course of this, they encounter the creature that landed in the ocean—but they also have first contact with Aquaman, who has been brought there for mysterious reasons.

As we'll go on to discover, being underwater in the ocean accounts for a lot of pressure, and the things we tried to drown in our past begin to resurface once again.

In what ways do Aquaman and his world lend themselves to horror?

Christian Ward: For me, the ocean is an incredibly terrifying place. Essentially, it's outer space on Earth. Aquaman is the king of this place, so it made natural sense to use the terrifying aspects of that alien environment to bring out the horror—and of course, Aquaman exists within that. So we've leaned on that to do something quite scary.



Ram, how did you come up with the mysterious entity the crew discovers in this series?

V: The creature actually comes from DC history and lore. Part of what I love about comics is that it genuinely feels like a 100-year-old tapestry that everyone's worked on, and you get to come in and have your time with it for a while. I really enjoy going back to decades of history and picking out one thing—"Why hasn't anyone used this?"

Christian, how did you balance your flair for bright colors with the dark depths of the ocean?

Ward: This is a book of two halves. You've got your big, bombastic action sequences—which are so thrilling to draw, and incredibly thrilling to read. But it's also a book with very quiet, but quite intense, very psychological moments. There's a flashback sequence that's very muted, but I think out of the whole book, for all of the big moments, that's probably my favorite sequence.

DON'T MISS

**AQUAMAN: ANDROMEDA #1,
ON SALE IN JUNE!**



Ages 17+

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