

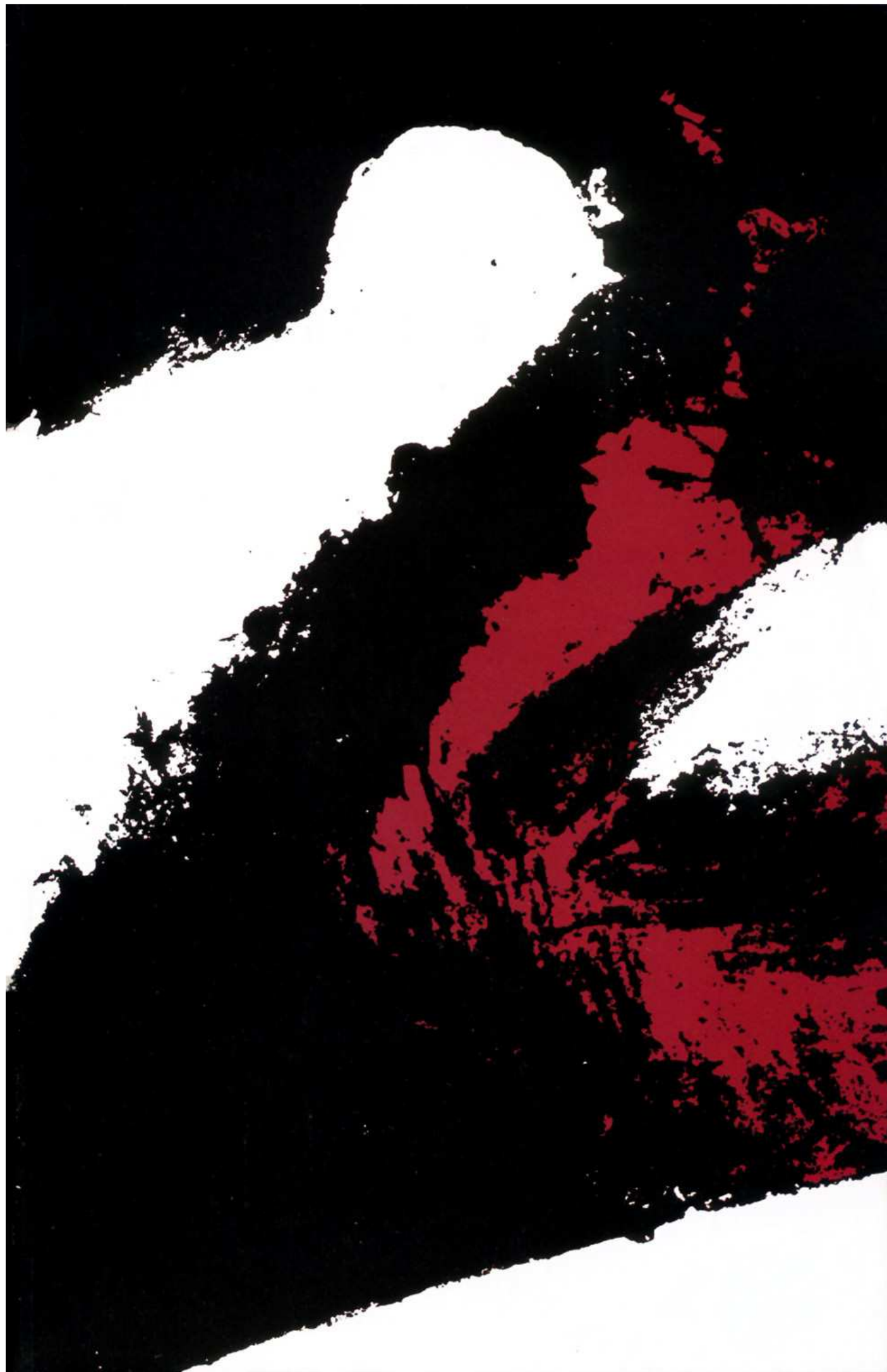
THE DARK KNIGHT STRIKES AGAIN FRANK MILLER LYNN VARLEY

DC COMICS 2













# The Daily Planet Magazine



**Superhero Chic**  
How far will it go?

NOW WHO'D  
WANT TO CENSOR  
LITTLE OLD ME?

HAS  
EVERYBODY  
GONE **NUTS**?  
WHAT IN **HELL**  
IS GOING  
**ON**?

JUST WHEN YOU  
THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE  
TO GET OFF YOUR SORRY  
**BUTT** AND HAUL IT OUT OF  
THE **HOUSE**, WE'VE GOT  
**CRAZY PEOPLE** RUNNING  
AROUND IN **COSTUMES**  
THAT LOOK LIKE THEY'RE  
**SPRAYED ON**!

ARE THEY  
**HEROES**--OR  
ARE THEY **ASS-**  
**HOLES**?

I THINK  
THIS WHOLE  
**SUPERHERO**  
THING IS  
PLAYING  
WITH THE  
**PUBLIC**.

JUST  
LOOK AT THE  
**POLLS**.

OH,  
PISH-  
TOSH.

THE **AMERICAN**  
**PEOPLE** ARE A PROOL-  
ING PACK OF **TROGLDYTES**.  
THIS IS **EXHIBITIONISM**,  
PURE AND SIMPLE.

**SYMPTOMATIC**  
OF THE **COARSENING**  
OF OUR CULTURE.

WHAT'S  
THAT MEAN?  
WHAT'S HE  
**TALKING**  
ABOUT?

chat LIVE with **BLACK CANARY** @  
[www.superchicksrule!.com](http://www.superchicksrule!.com)





chat LIVE with WONDER CHICK @  
[www.superchicksrule!.com](http://www.superchicksrule!.com)



IS THERE  
SOMETHING YOU'RE  
AFRAID OF, MISTER  
PRESIDENT?

WHY BAN THE  
TIGHTS? AT LEAST  
THEY'RE WEARING  
SOMETHING.

THAT  
BLACK CANARY  
IS HOT.

SHUT UP! I'M  
TALKING!

SO NOW THE  
PRESIDENT BRINGS  
THE HAMMER DOWN  
ON THREE BOUNCY  
TARTS--

--FOR MAKING  
THE LONG GREEN BY  
SHAKING IT FOR ADOL-  
ESCENT BOYS WHO'VE GOT  
TESTOSTERONE COMING  
OUT OF THEIR EARS AND  
GROWN MEN OLD ENOUGH  
TO BE THEIR FATHERS!

AN EXECUTIVE  
ORDER BANNING THE  
SUPERCHIX! WHAT'S  
WITH THAT?

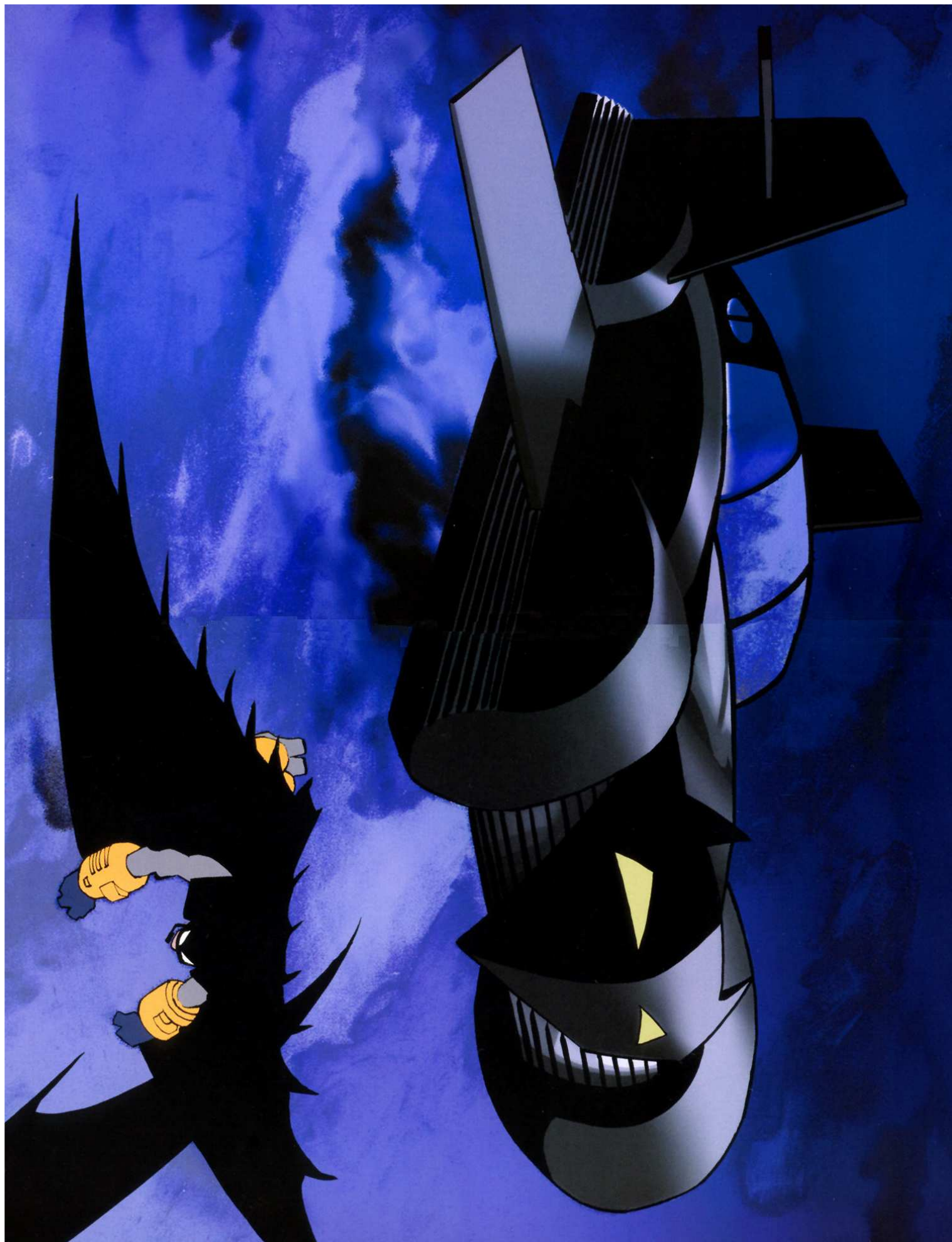
WHAT'S  
HE SO SCARED  
ABOUT?

chat LIVE with BATCHICK @  
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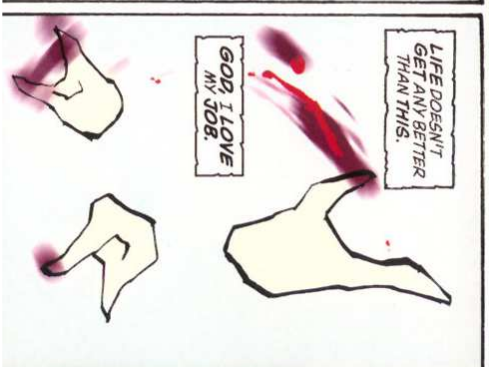














MY FIRST CHANCE TO  
TRY OUT MY NEW CAPE  
ON FRESH MEAT.

I CHERRY-PICK  
MY TARGETS.

ROBERT "BUZZ"  
RUBER-EXXON,  
THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE.

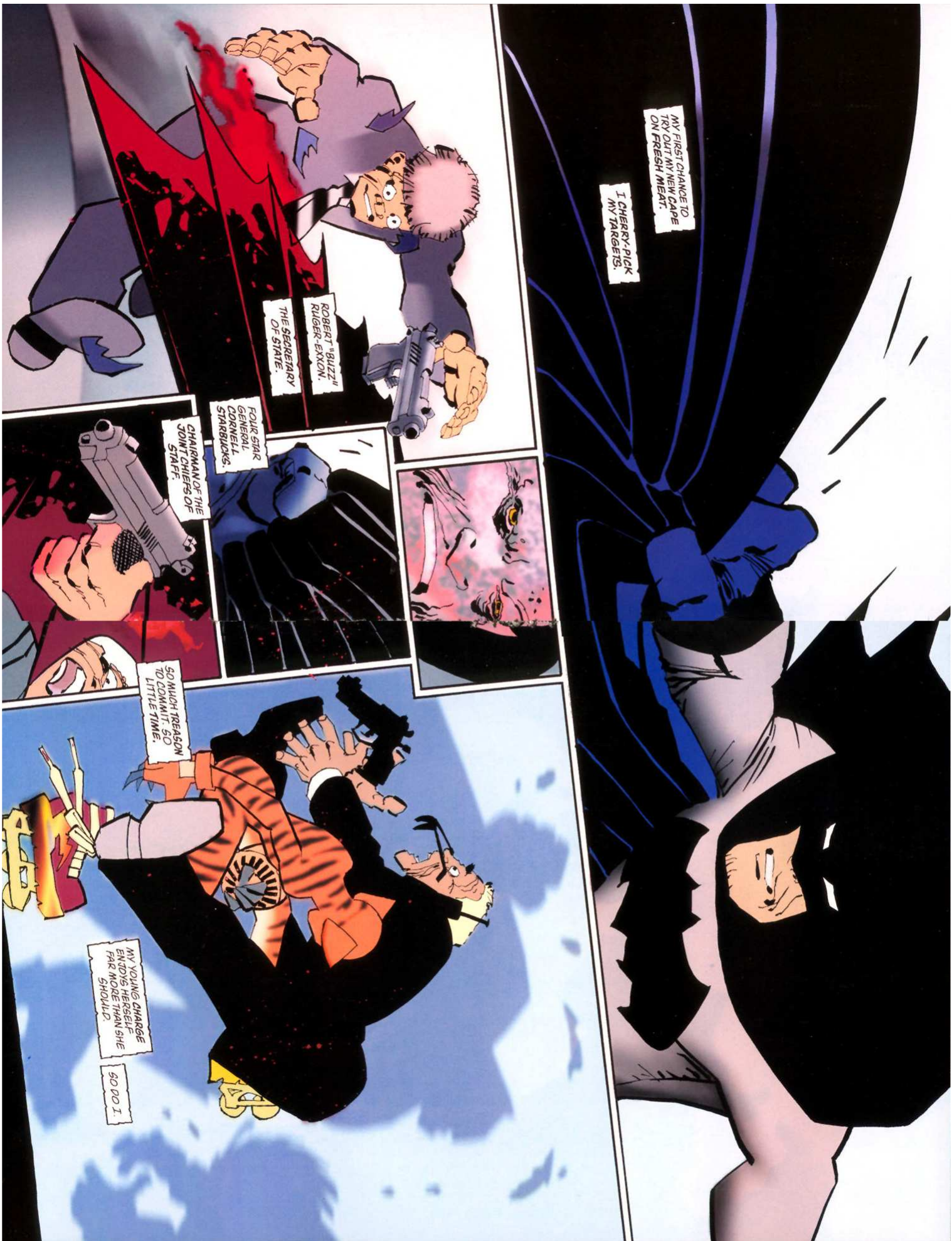
FOUR STAR  
GENERAL  
CORNELL  
STARBUCKS.

CHAIRMAN OF THE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF  
STAFF.

SO MUCH TREASON  
TO COMMIT, SO  
LITTLE TIME.

MY YOUNG CHARGE  
ENDS HERSELF  
FAR MORE THAN SHE  
SHOULD.

SO DO I.





FEEL THAT SHUDDER, LUTHOR? IT WASN'T AN EARTH-QUAKE. IT WAS YOUR DATABASE. THE ONE YOU KEPT ON NEARLY EVERY HUMAN BEING THERE IS.

THE ONE THAT LET YOU BLACKMAIL TERROCRATS, BRIBE OR MURDER EVERYBODY WHO OPPOSED YOUR LITTLE HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE PLANET. IT'S GONE.

AND DON'T GET YOUR HOPES UP. I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS. YOUR PHONES ABOUT TO RING.

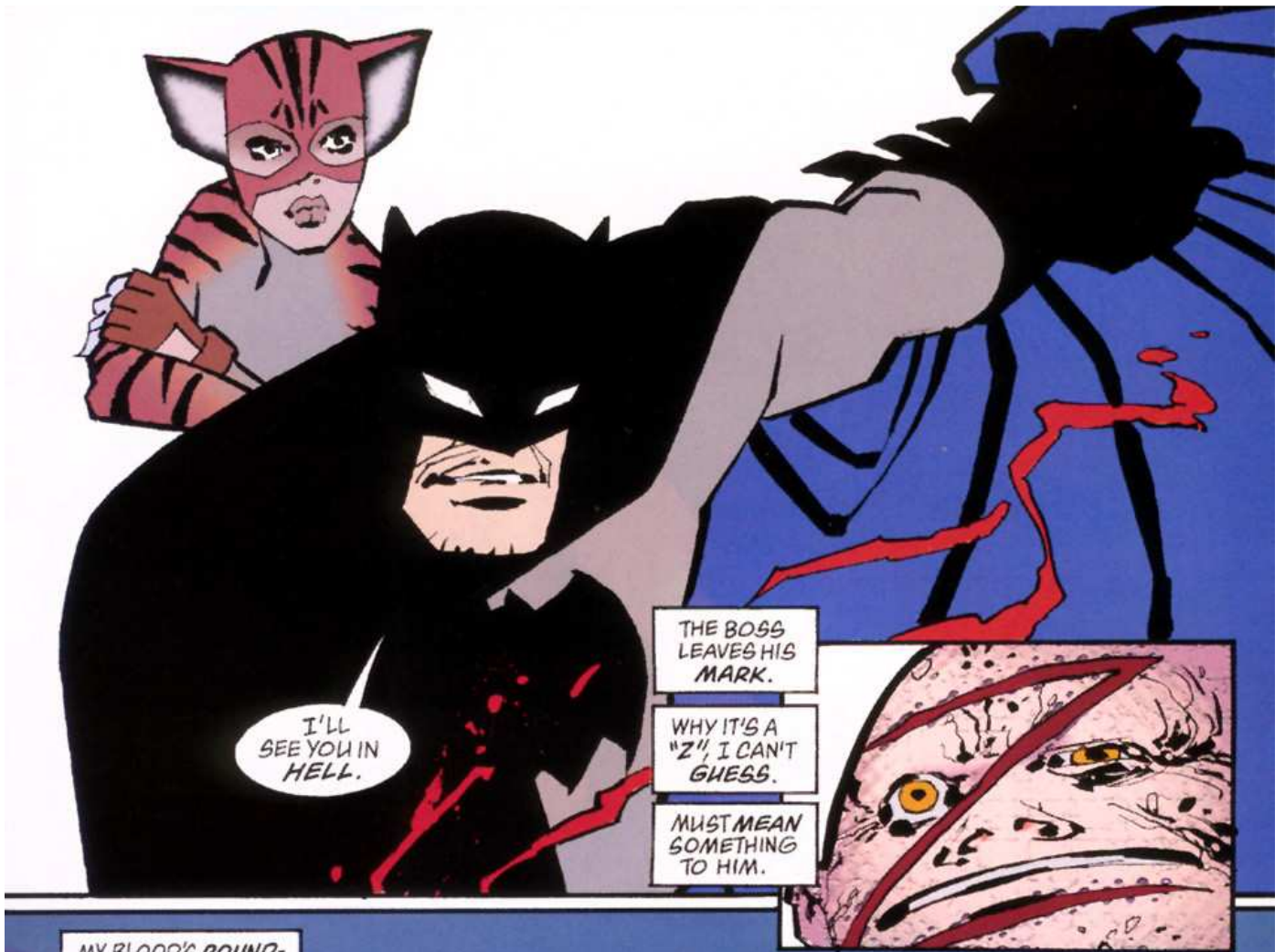


**BBRINGGG**

MY AGENTS JUST TOOK OUT THE BACKUPS IN MOSCOW, TOKYO, LONDON... AND YEAH, I NAILED THE COPY IN ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, TOO.

YOU'RE GOING DOWN, THUG.





I'LL  
SEE YOU IN  
HELL.

THE BOSS  
LEAVES HIS  
MARK.

WHY IT'S A  
"Z", I CAN'T  
GUESS.

MUST MEAN  
SOMETHING  
TO HIM.

MY BLOOD'S POUND-  
ING IN MY EARS.

I SQUEEZE TIGHT ON  
THE STEERING MECH-  
ANISM SO HE WON'T  
SEE MY HANDS SHAKE.

I DIDN'T SCREW  
UP. NOT ONCE.

AND WE SCARED  
THE CRAP OUT OF  
LEX LUTHOR.



STRIKING  
TERROR.

BEST  
PART OF THE  
JOB.



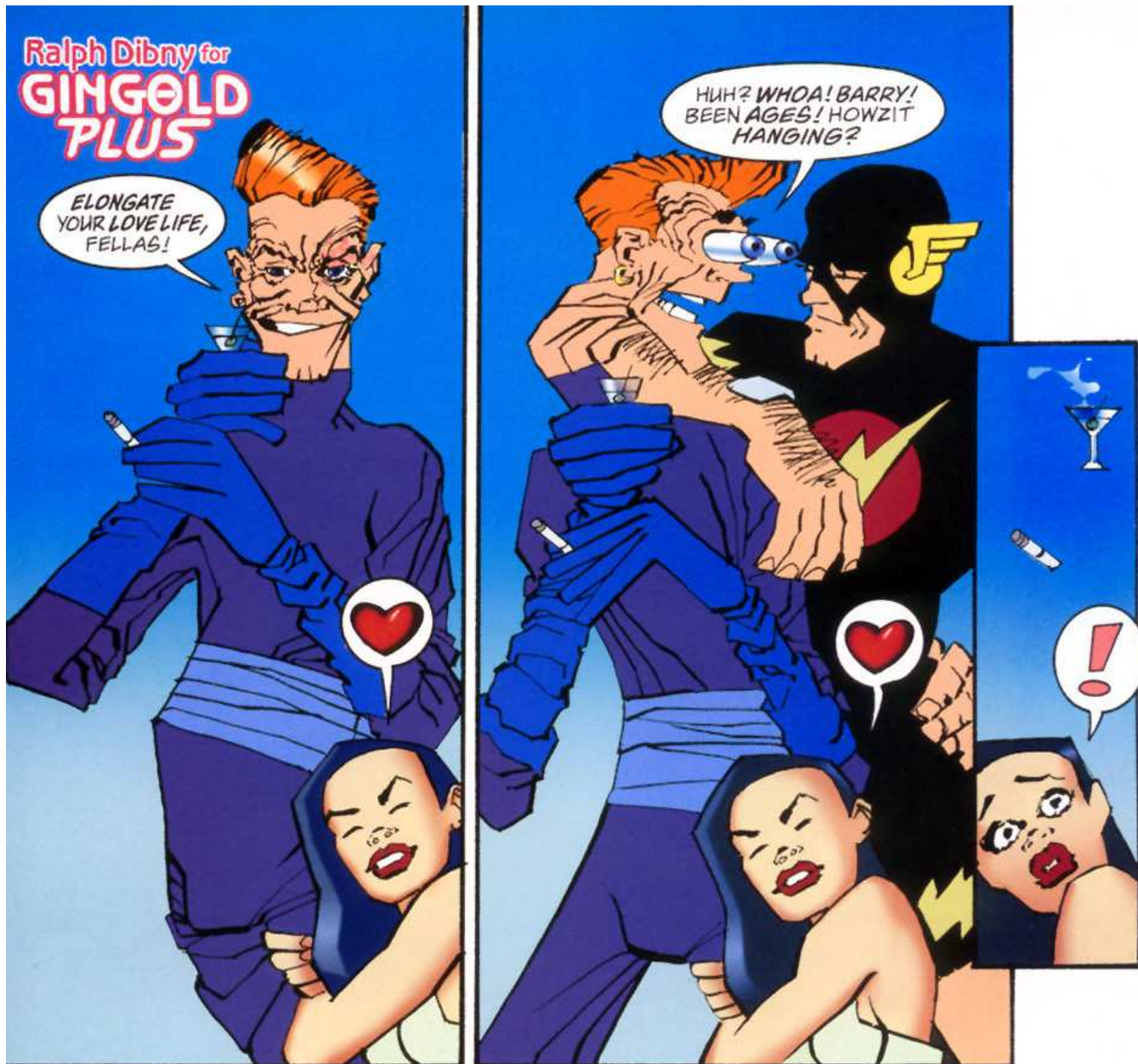
WE SCARED THE  
CRAP OUT OF  
LEX LUTHOR.



Ralph Dibny for  
**GINGOLD  
PLUS**

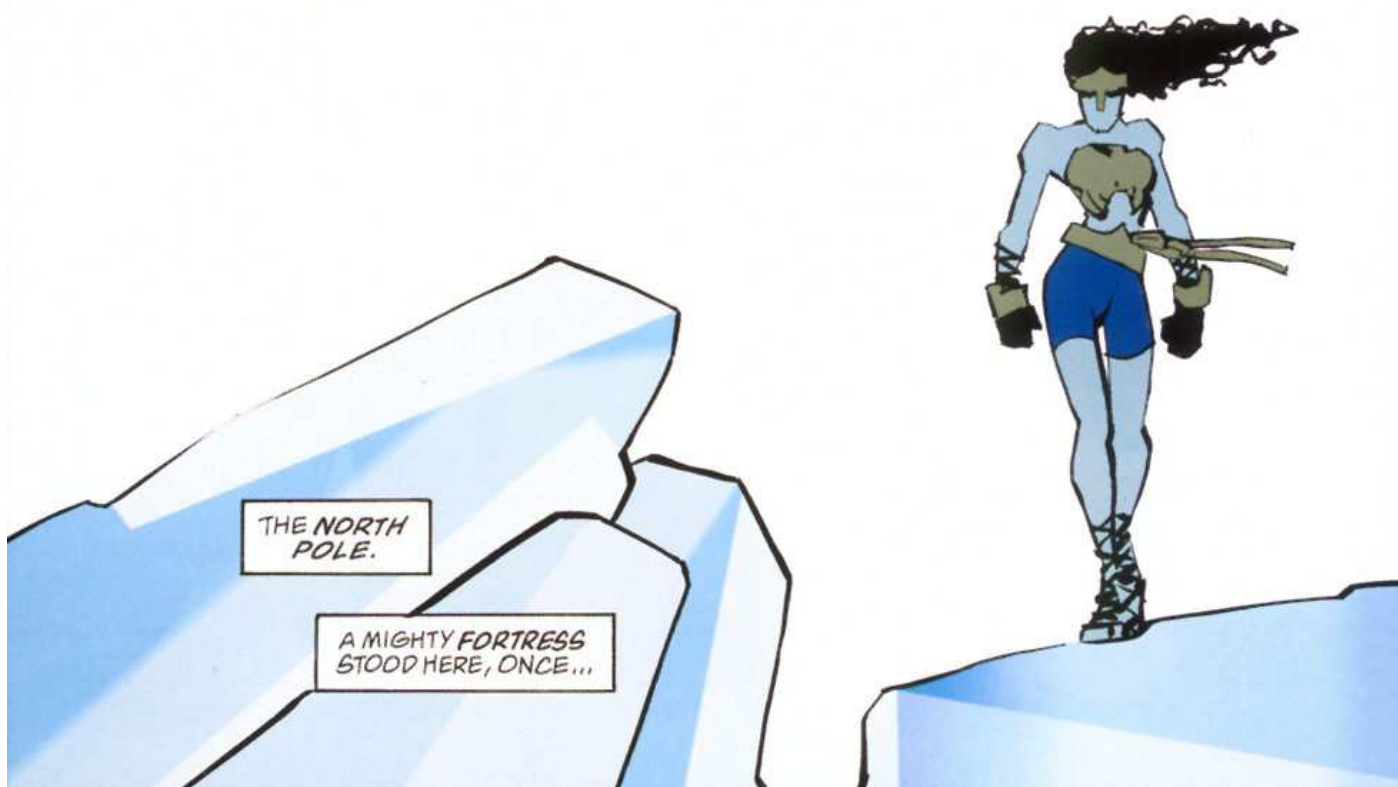
ELONGATE  
YOUR LOVE LIFE,  
FELLAS!

HUH? WHOA! BARRY!  
BEEN AGES! HOWZIT  
HANGING?



THE NORTH  
POLE.

A MIGHTY FORTRESS  
STOOD HERE, ONCE...





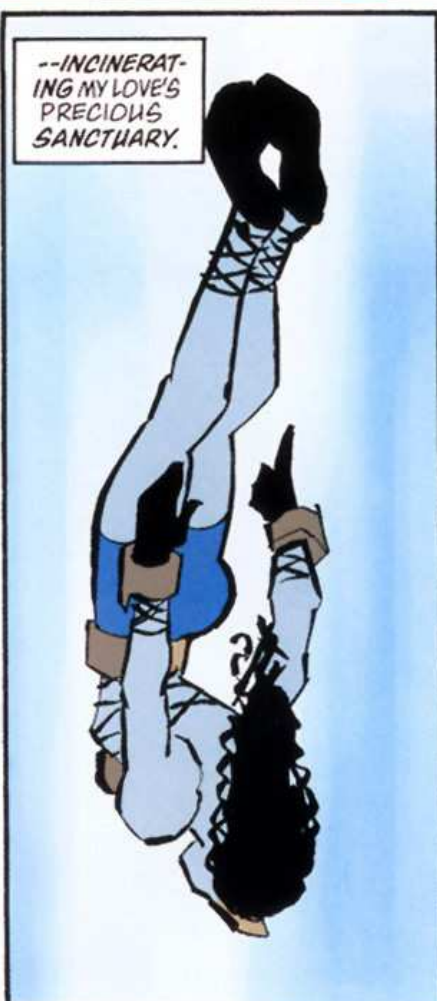


...A FORTRESS  
OF SOLITUDE.



BUT THEN  
CAME LUTHOR  
AND BRAINIAC.

THEN CAME FIRE,  
STREAKING FROM  
THE SKY--



--INCINERAT-  
ING MY LOVE'S  
PRECIOUS  
SANCTUARY.



MY LOVE.

CLARK.

SPEAK  
TO ME.





LARA. HOW  
IS SHE?

INFURIATING.  
WILLFUL. JUST  
NOW SEVENTEEN.

HER FATHER'S  
DAUGHTER.  
STRONG. SMART.

AND, DARLING--  
SHE FLIES.



SHE'D LOVE TO  
MEET YOU. SHE  
PINES FOR YOU.

SHE'S CONFUSED--  
ABOUT THINGS ONLY  
YOU COULD POSSIBLY  
EXPLAIN.



NEVER.

THEY ARE ALWAYS WATCH-  
ING. IF I MEET HER--THEY  
WILL KNOW SHE EXISTS.  
THEY MUST NEVER KNOW  
SHE EXISTS. NEVER.

SHE MUST  
NEVER BE  
THEIR  
SLAVE.



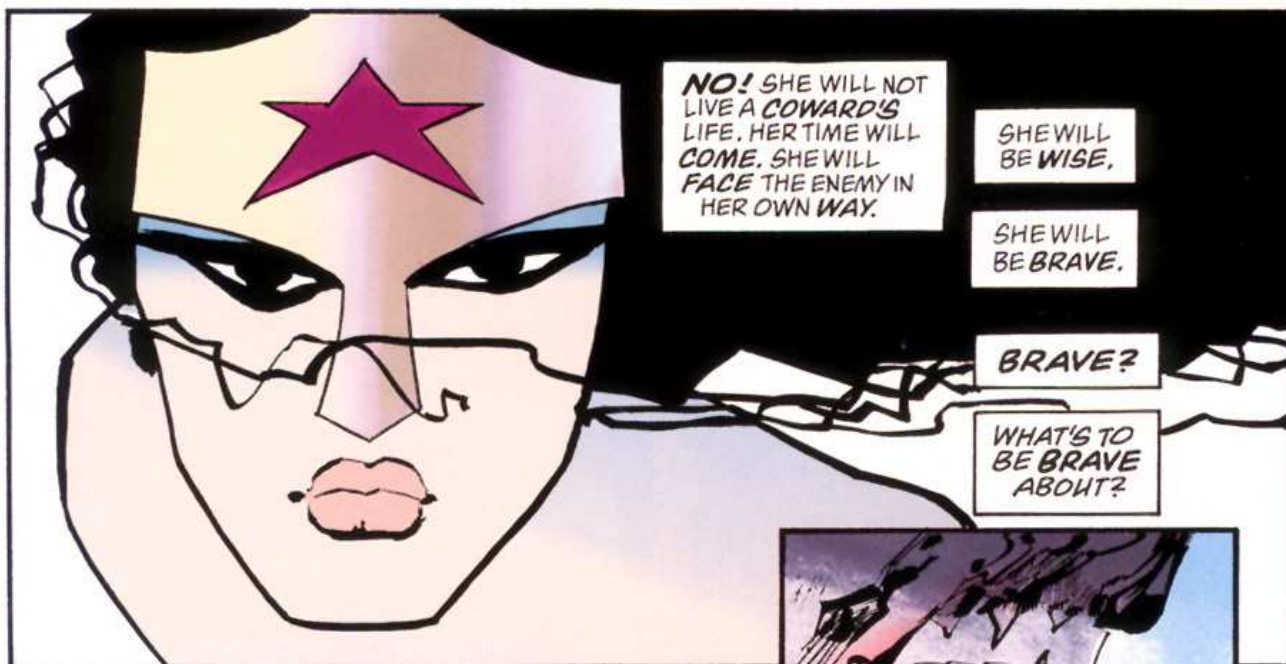
SWEAR TO ME--  
YOU WILL NEVER  
LET THEM NEAR  
HER.

MY TIME IS  
DONE. BUT  
YOU MUST  
STAY STRONG.  
FOR LARA.  
NEVER LET  
THEM NEAR  
HER. NEVER  
LET THEM  
KNOW OF  
HER.

NEVER.

SWEAR!





**NO!** SHE WILL NOT LIVE A **COWARD'S** LIFE. HER TIME WILL **COME**. SHE WILL **FACE** THE ENEMY IN HER OWN WAY.

SHE WILL BE **WISE**.

SHE WILL BE **BRAVE**.

**BRAVE?**

WHAT'S TO BE **BRAVE** ABOUT?



WHAT **FIGHT** IS THERE LEFT TO **FIGHT**? IT'S **OVER**. IT'S BEEN OVER FOR YEARS. WE HAD OUR WAR FOR **HUMAN FREEDOM**--AND WE **LOST**.

WE'RE **BEATEN**. **CRUSHED**. WE'RE A **JOKE**. WE'RE **WORSE** THAN A **JOKE**.

WE **RUN** ABOUT, **STOPPING** THIS **DISASTER** AND **THAT**--**QUIETLY**, **SECRETLY**--AND **DO NOTHING** ABOUT THE **EVIL** THAT **RULES** THE **WORLD**!




WE DO WHAT WE **MUST**. WE **SAVE LIVES**--AND WE **WAIT** FOR A **CHANCE**.

JUST ONE **SLENDER CHANCE**. THAT'S ALL WE'VE EVER NEEDED. IN ALL OUR **ADVENTURES**. OVER ALL THE YEARS.



WE WILL **PERSEVERE**.





FORGET IT,  
DIANA. IT'S  
TOO LATE.

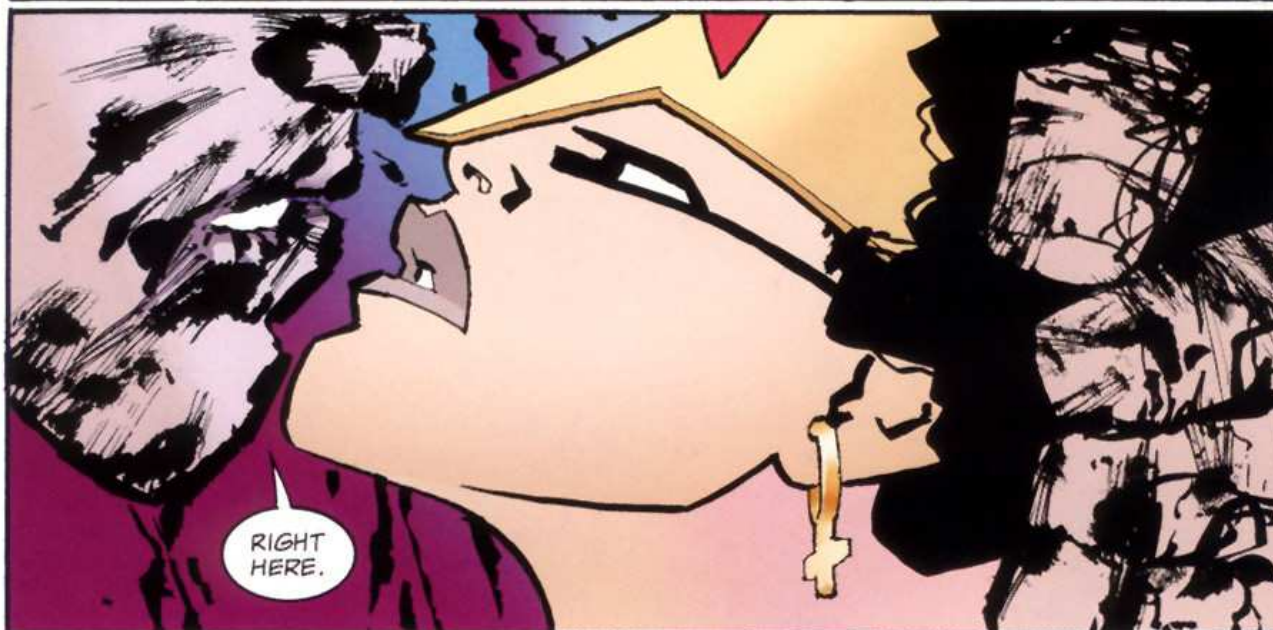
LOOK AT ME.  
I'M AS GOOD  
AS DEAD.

BRUCE BROKE ME  
DOWN INTO *PIECES*  
LIKE I WAS A HIGH  
SCHOOL GEOMETRY  
PROJECT.

I'VE LOST IT.  
I'M FINISHED.

I HAD A  
GOOD RUN...

































-- SEVEN -  
POINT - EIGHT -  
ON THE  
RICHTER SCALE!  
THE PENTAGON DENIES  
ANY THERMONUCLEAR  
DEPLOYMENT:



--EVACUATING  
THE ENTIRE BIG ISLAND  
OF HAWAII--



WE NUKE  
ANYBODY, THEY'RE  
GONNA DAMN SURE  
KNOW THEY BEEN  
NUKED!



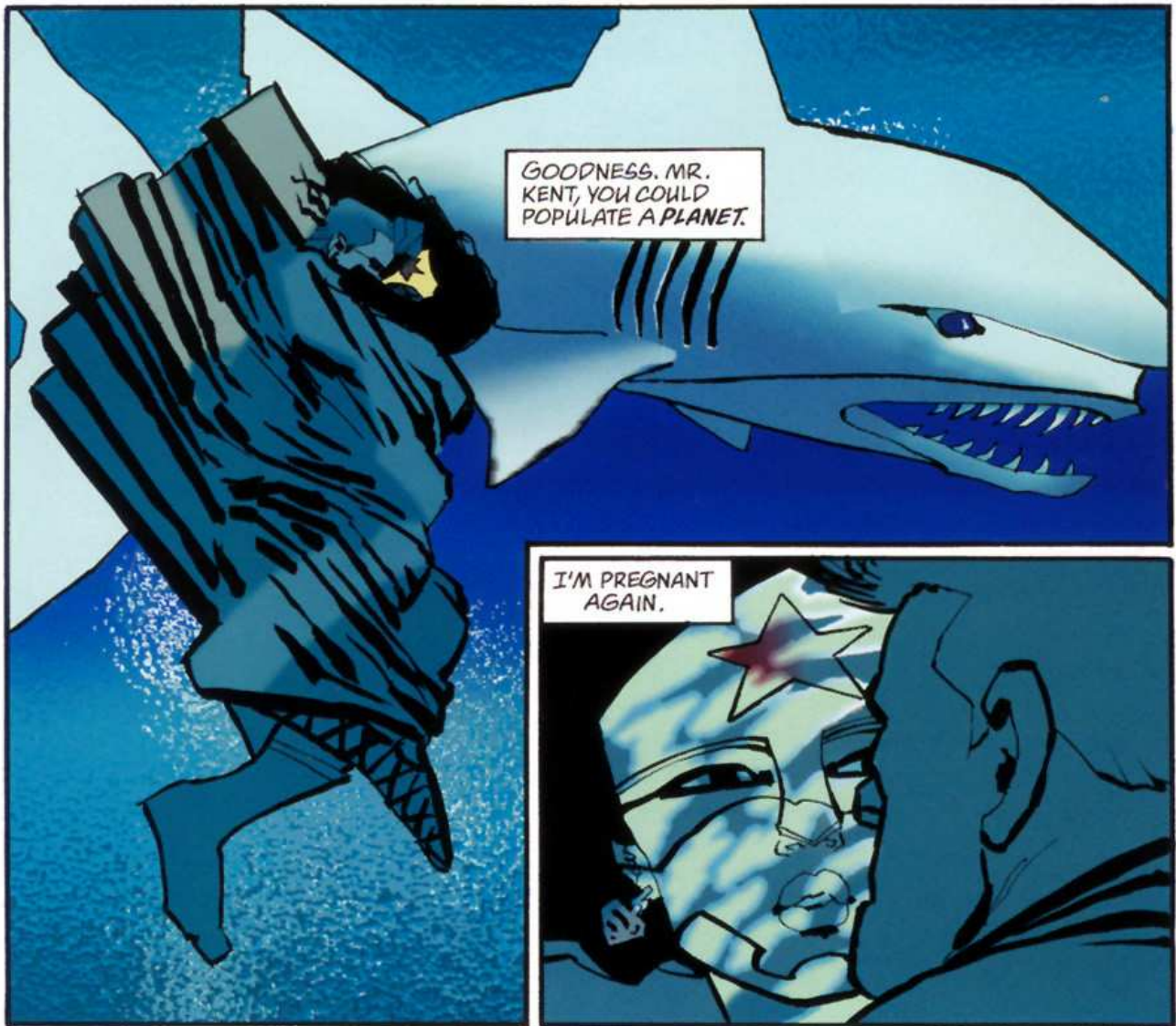
--HURRICANE  
WINDS HAMMER  
THE WEST  
COAST--



CLARK.

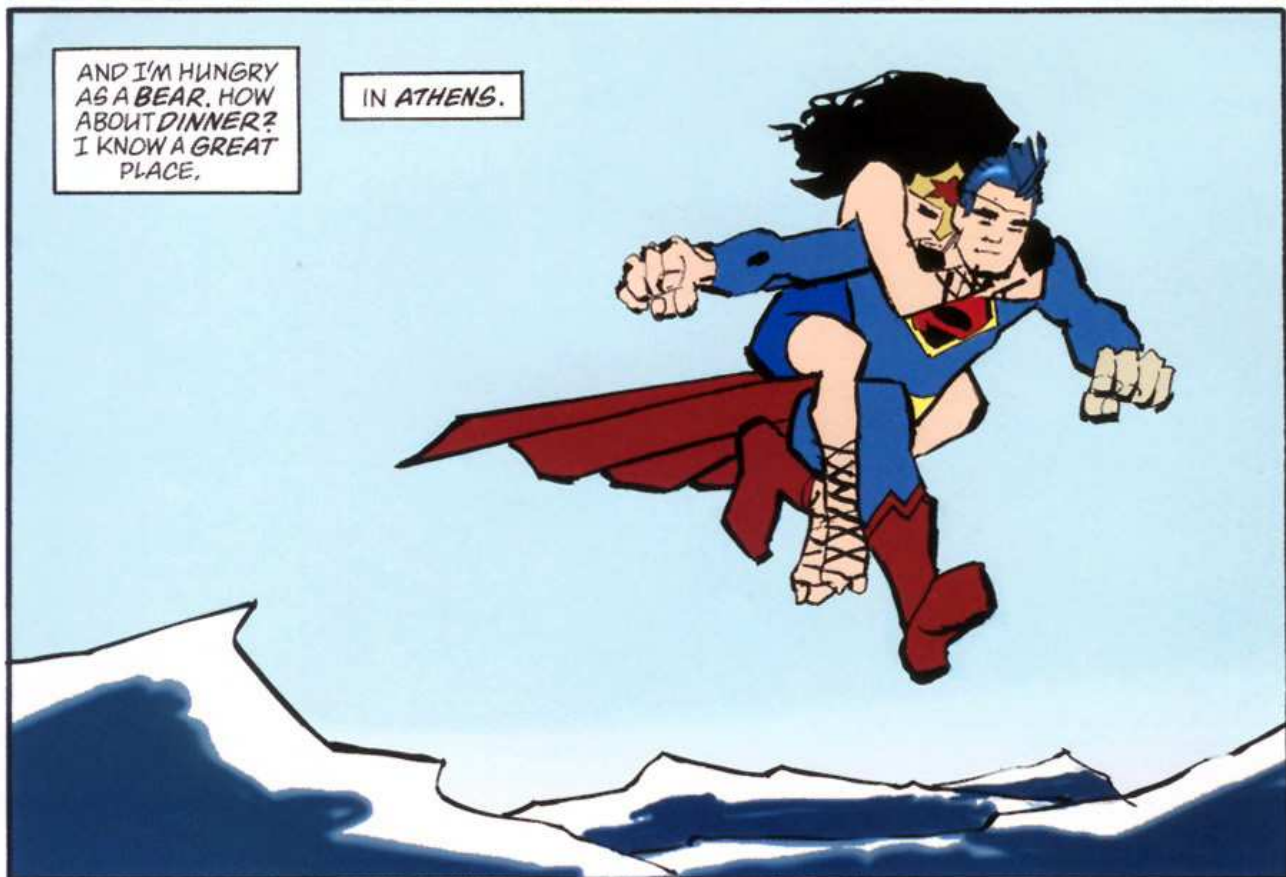
THE EARTH  
MOVED.





GOODNESS. MR. KENT, YOU COULD POPULATE A PLANET.

I'M PREGNANT AGAIN.



AND I'M HUNGRY AS A BEAR. HOW ABOUT DINNER? I KNOW A GREAT PLACE,

IN ATHENS.





AHEM.

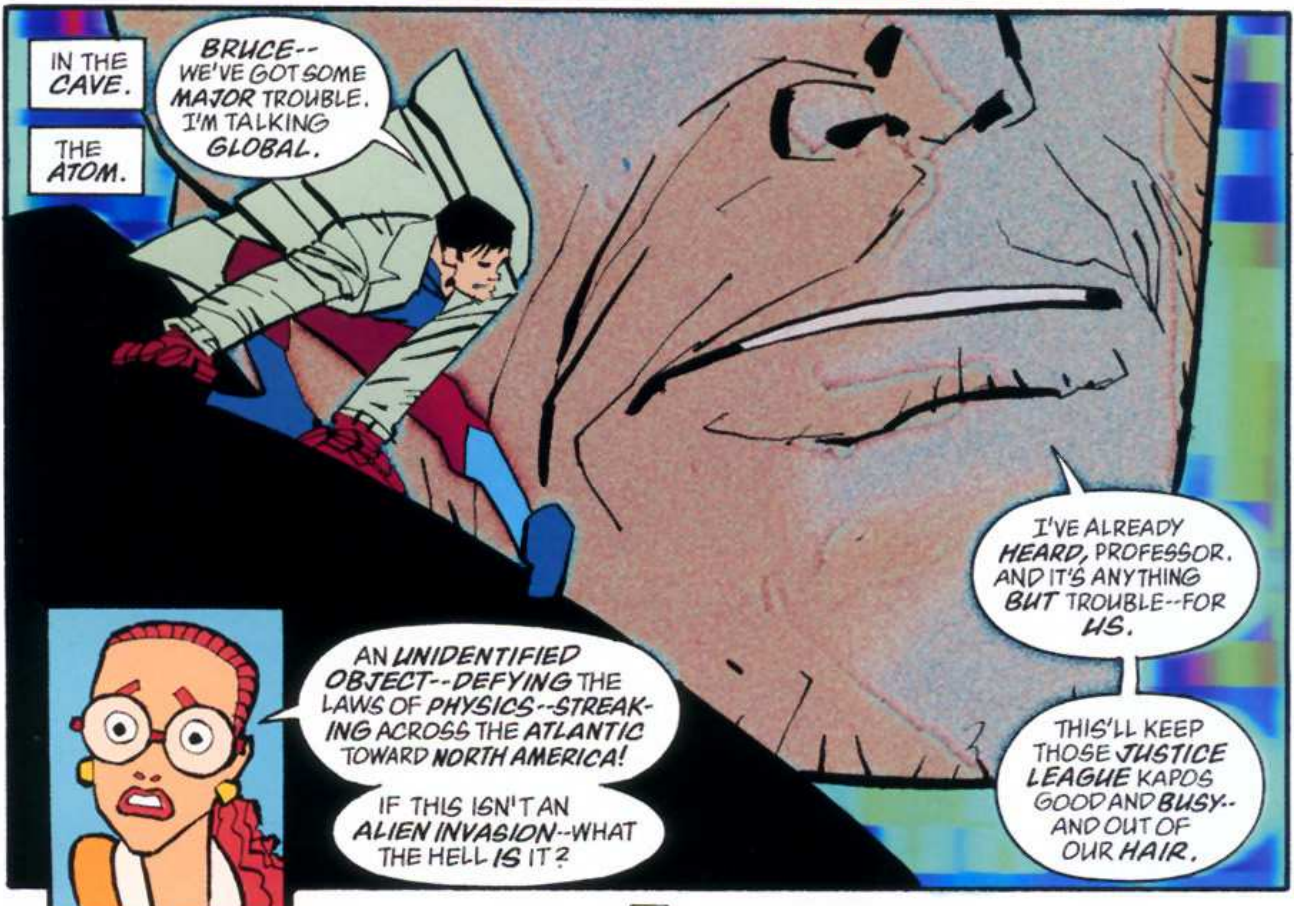
THANKS FOR  
GETTING THE BIG  
GUY BACK UP AND  
RUNNING, DIANA.  
HE'S GOT WORK  
TO DO. SO DO YOU.  
DUTY CALLS.

WE'VE GOT  
YOUR BASIC **BILLIONS-  
IN-PERIL** ACTION HAP-  
PENING. THE **HUMAN  
RACE** NEEDS SAVING.  
YOU KNOW THE  
DRILL.

--CONFIRMING  
THAT **CONTACT** HAS BEEN  
ESTABLISHED WITH AN  
EXTRATERRESTRIAL  
INTELLIGENCE--

HERE  
COMES THE  
SIGNAL!

--HUNDREDS  
SLAUGHTERED--NO  
COMMENT FROM THE  
WHITE HOUSE--



IN THE  
CAVE.

THE  
ATOM.

BRUCE--  
WE'VE GOT SOME  
MAJOR TROUBLE.  
I'M TALKING  
GLOBAL.

AN UNIDENTIFIED  
OBJECT--DEFYING THE  
LAWS OF PHYSICS--STREAK-  
ING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC  
TOWARD NORTH AMERICA!

IF THIS ISN'T AN  
ALIEN INVASION--WHAT  
THE HELL IS IT?

I'VE ALREADY  
HEARD, PROFESSOR.  
AND IT'S ANYTHING  
BUT TROUBLE--FOR  
US.

THIS'LL KEEP  
THOSE **JUSTICE  
LEAGUE** KAPDS  
GOOD AND **BUSY--**  
AND OUT OF  
OUR HAIR.



AM I *WRONG*, OR ARE WE TALKING *ALIEN INVASION* HERE? LIKE FROM ANOTHER *PLANET*?

NOT MY *LINE OF COUNTRY*, *CARRIE*.

WE MOVE ON *ARKHAM TONIGHT*.

WHOOF!

HEY! NOT SO FAST!

CURRENT PROJECTIONS INDICATE IT'S HEADED FOR *METROPOLIS*

--TWENTY MILLION SOULS-- AT THE *MERCY* OF...WHAT?

EXCUSE ME FOR *PUSHING IT, BOSS*--BUT LAST I HEARD, *BAD GUYS FROM OUTER SPACE* ARE THE KIND OF THING YOU TAKE SORTA *SERIOUS*.

AREN'T THEY?

HE KNOWS SOMETHING.

HE ALWAYS DOES.

NATIONAL DEFENSE MISSILES *MISS* THEIR MARK-- THERE'S NO *STOPPING* THAT THING--

--FREEWAYS *CHOKED* AS FRIGHTENED *CITIZENS* TRY TO *FLEE METROPOLIS*--

STAY GRIM.

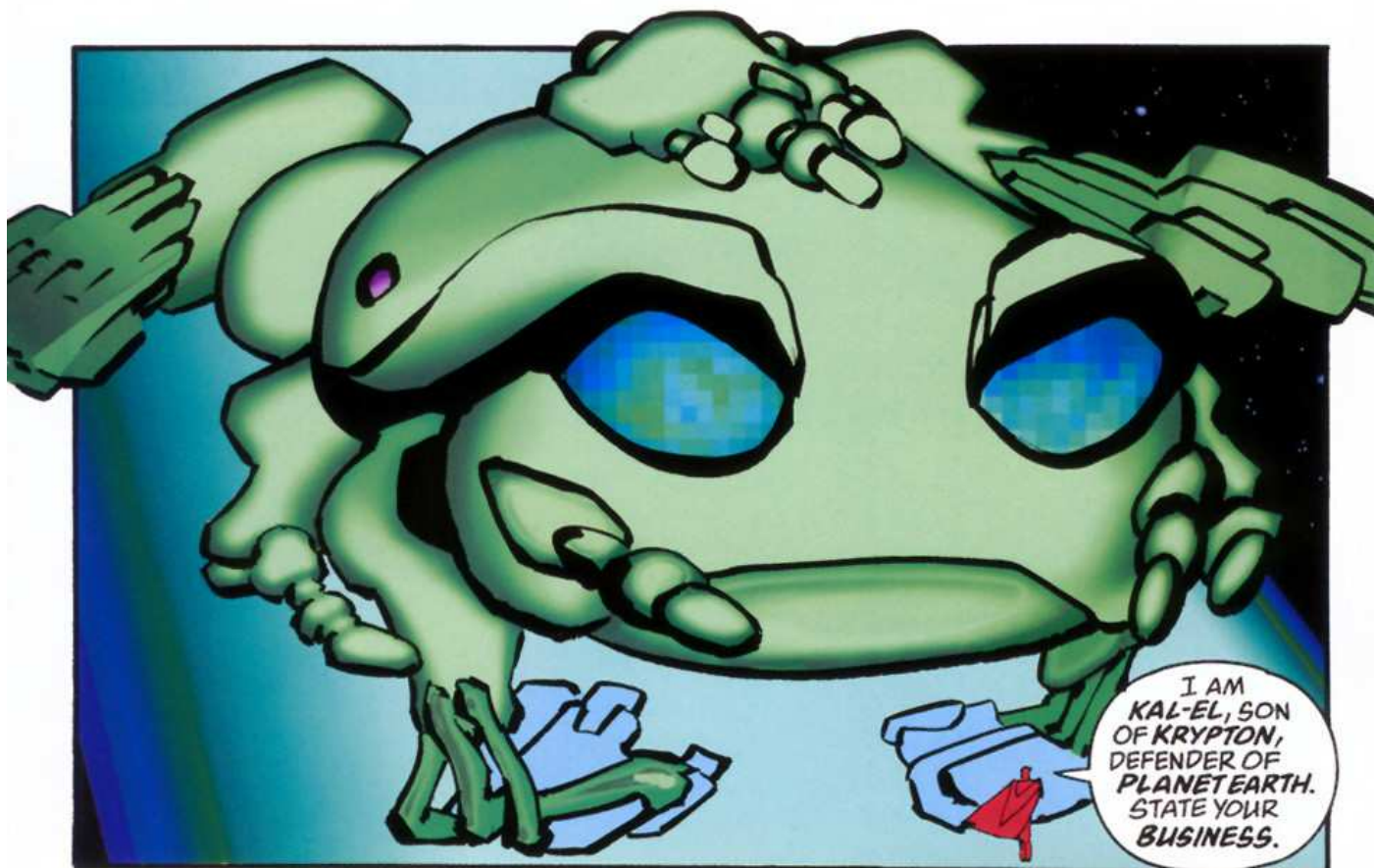
DON'T BREAK INTO A *RUN*. DON'T LAUGH LIKE A *SCHOOL-BOY*.

DON'T LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH FUN YOU'RE HAVING.

















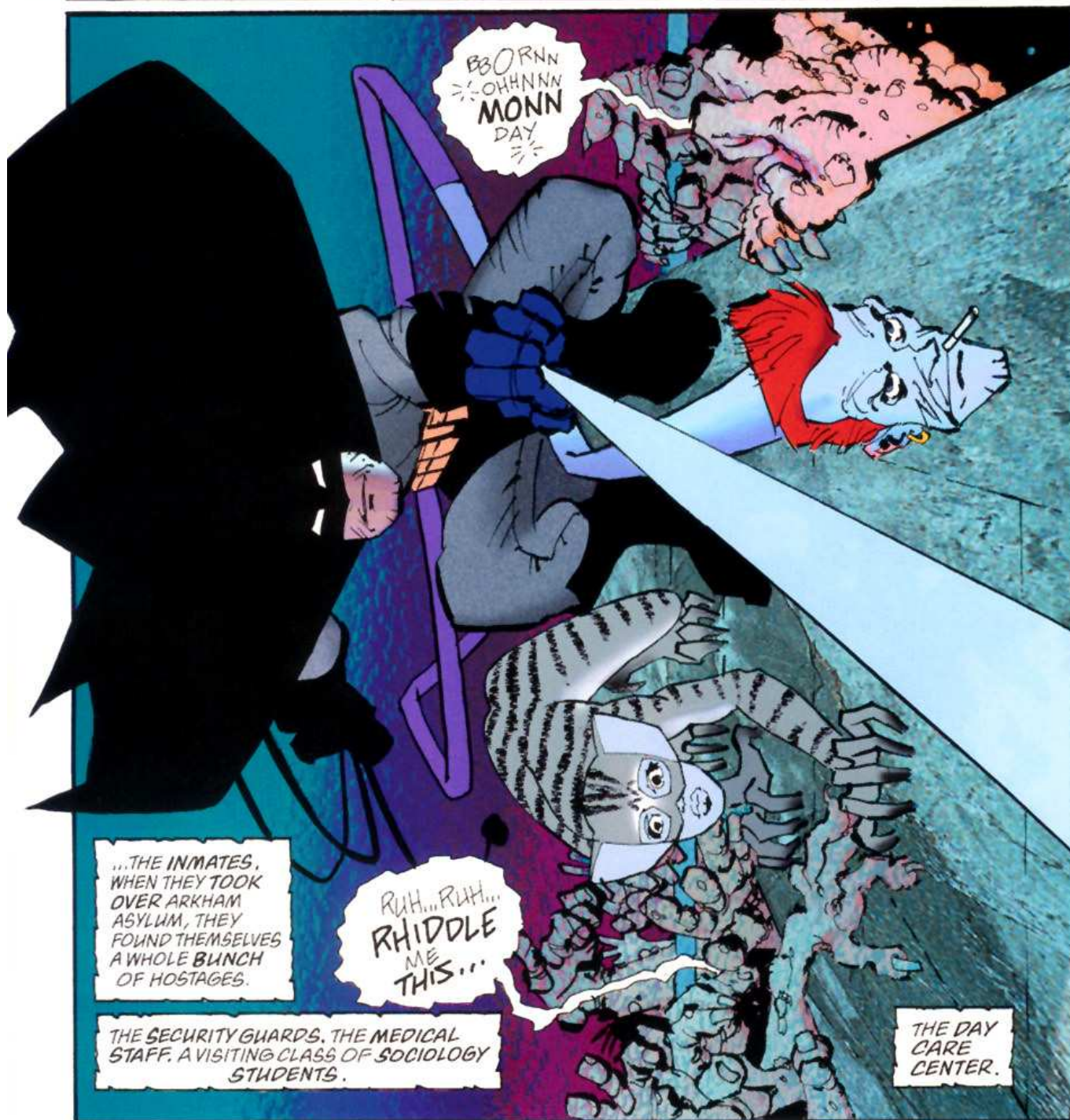
IT'S HIM!

THEY SAID HE WAS DEAD!

THEY SAID HE NEVER EXISTED!

IT'S REALLY HIM!

THE INMATES SCREECH AND GURGLE AND RETCH AND CURSE...



BBORNN  
OHNNNN  
MONN  
DAY


...THE INMATES, WHEN THEY TOOK OVER ARKHAM ASYLUM, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES A WHOLE BUNCH OF HOSTAGES.

RUH...RUH...  
RHIDDLE  
ME  
THIS...

THE SECURITY GUARDS. THE MEDICAL STAFF. A VISITING CLASS OF SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS.

THE DAY CARE CENTER.





YEAH, THEY HAD  
HOSTAGES BY THE  
BUSHEL -- AND A  
LIST OF DEMANDS  
AS LONG AS YOUR  
ARM.

STATE NEGOTIATORS  
REFUSED THEM THE NUNS,  
AND CHOIR BOYS, AND  
CANDY STRIPERS AND  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS --

-- BUT THEY ALLOWED  
THE LUNATICS ALL MANNER  
OF COSTUMES AND  
STUFFED TOYS AND  
HOUSEHOLD PETS AND  
MULTISCREEN ENTER-  
TAINMENT CENTERS AND  
EXOTIC INSECTS --

-- AND GALLONS  
AND GALLONS OF  
STEAK SAUCE.

THE INMATES  
TURNED DOWN  
AN OFFER OF  
FOOD.

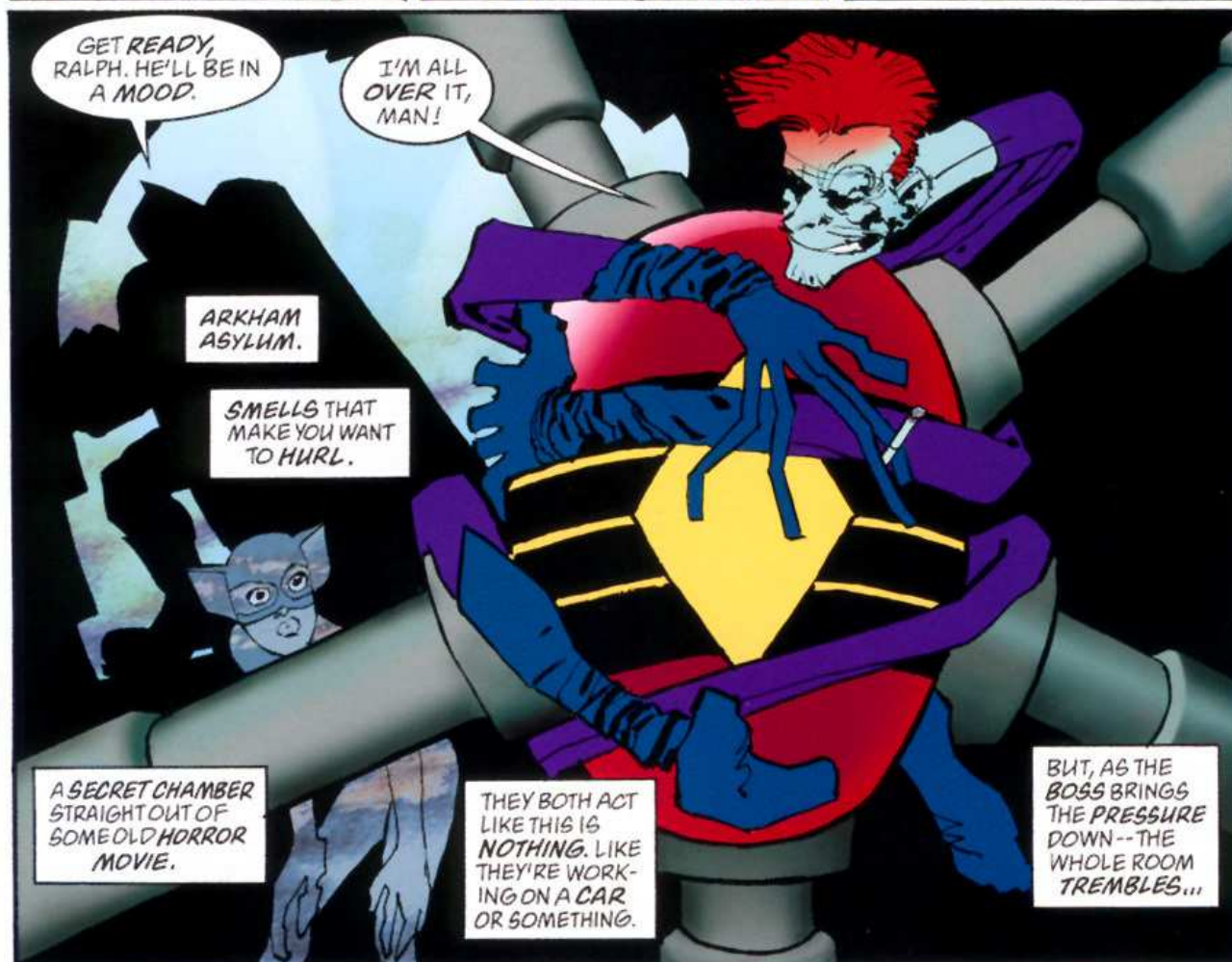
THEY SAID THE  
HOSTAGES  
WOULD LAST THEM  
FOR MONTHS.

THAT WAS  
FIVE YEARS  
AGO.

BY NOW, THEY  
MUST BE DOWN  
TO RATS AND  
COCKROACHES.

AND EACH  
OTHER.





GET READY, RALPH. HE'LL BE IN A MOOD.

I'M ALL OVER IT, MAN!

ARKHAM ASYLUM.

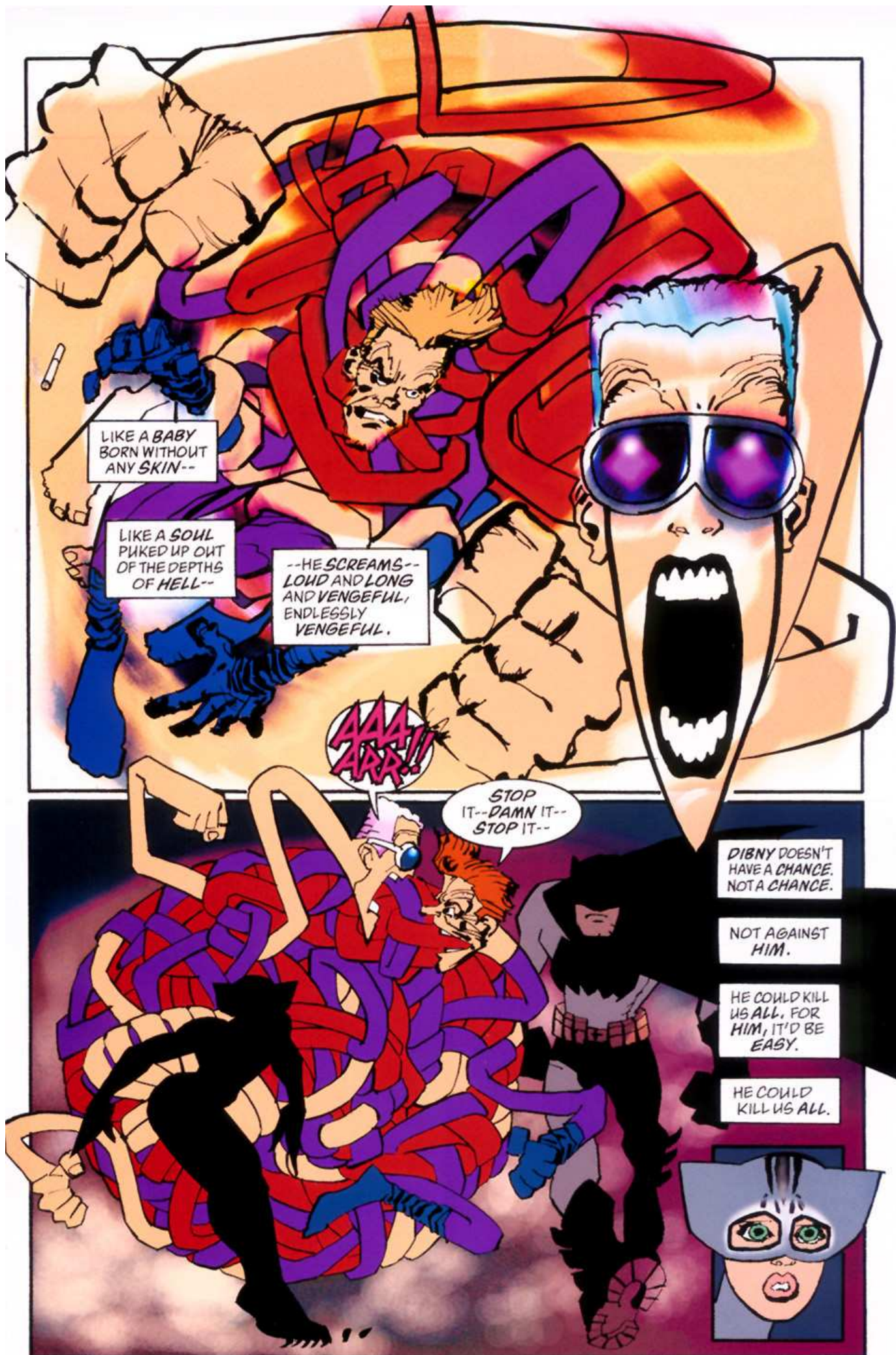
SMELLS THAT MAKE YOU WANT TO HURL.

A SECRET CHAMBER STRAIGHT OUT OF SOME OLD HORROR MOVIE.

THEY BOTH ACT LIKE THIS IS NOTHING. LIKE THEY'RE WORKING ON A CAR OR SOMETHING.

BUT, AS THE BOSS BRINGS THE PRESSURE DOWN--THE WHOLE ROOM TREMBLES...





LIKE A BABY  
BORN WITHOUT  
ANY SKIN--

LIKE A SOUL  
PUKED UP OUT  
OF THE DEPTHS  
OF HELL--

--HE SCREAMS--  
LOUD AND LONG  
AND VENGEFUL,  
ENDLESSLY  
VENGEFUL.

AAA  
AAA!!

STOP  
IT--DAMN IT--  
STOP IT--

DIBNY DOESN'T  
HAVE A CHANCE.  
NOT A CHANCE.

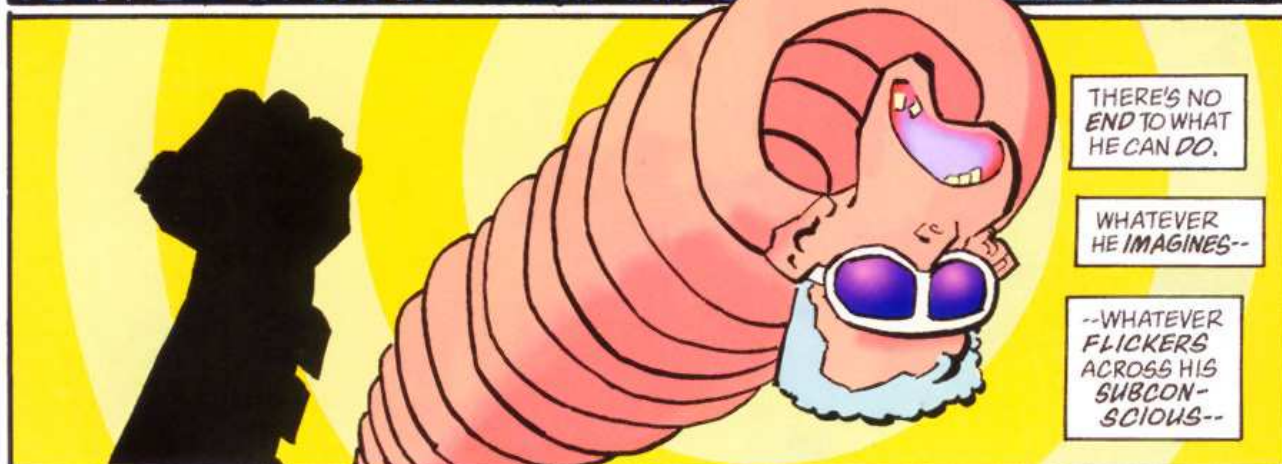
NOT AGAINST  
HIM.

HE COULD KILL  
US ALL. FOR  
HIM, IT'D BE  
EASY.

HE COULD  
KILL US ALL.



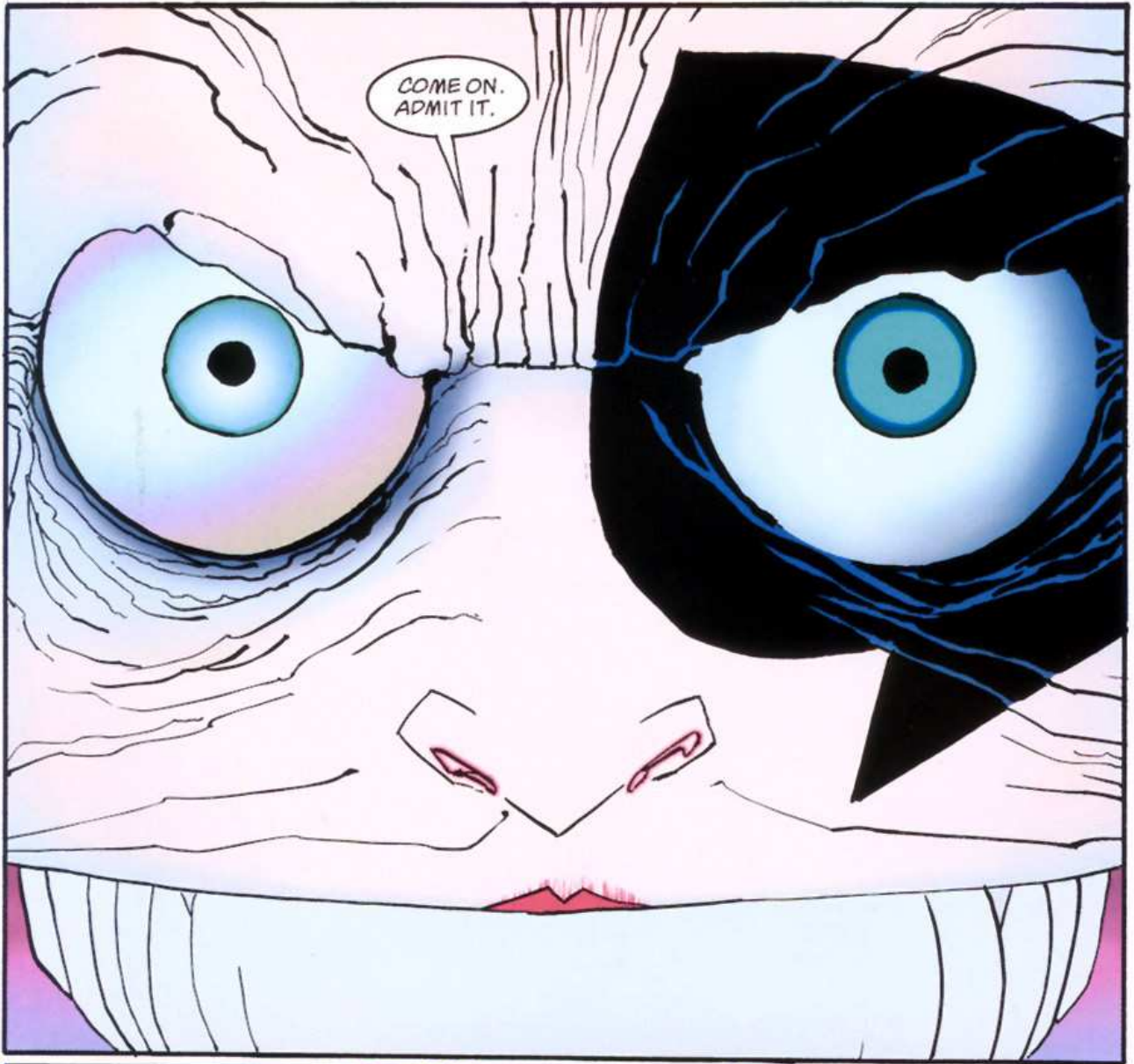




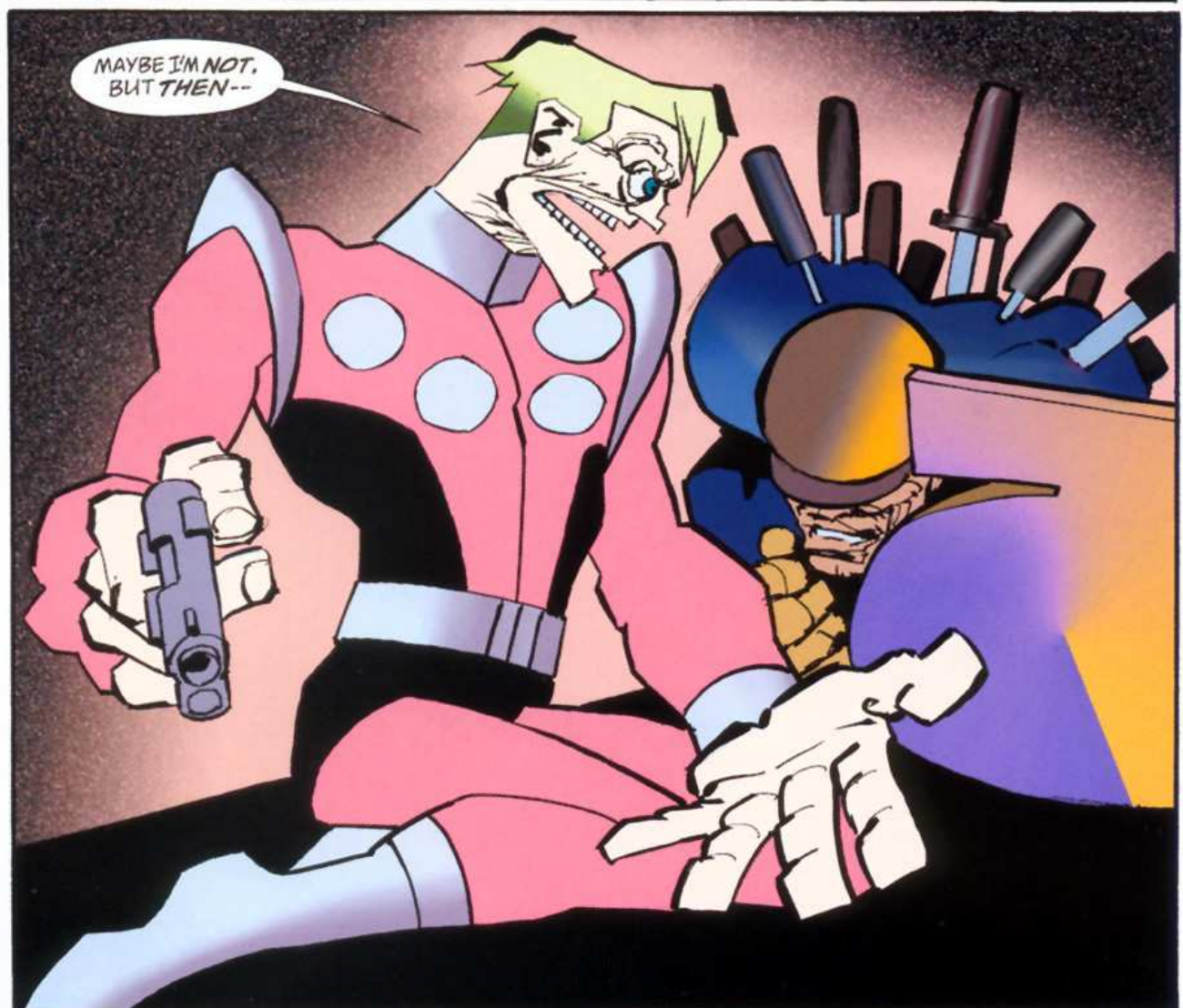
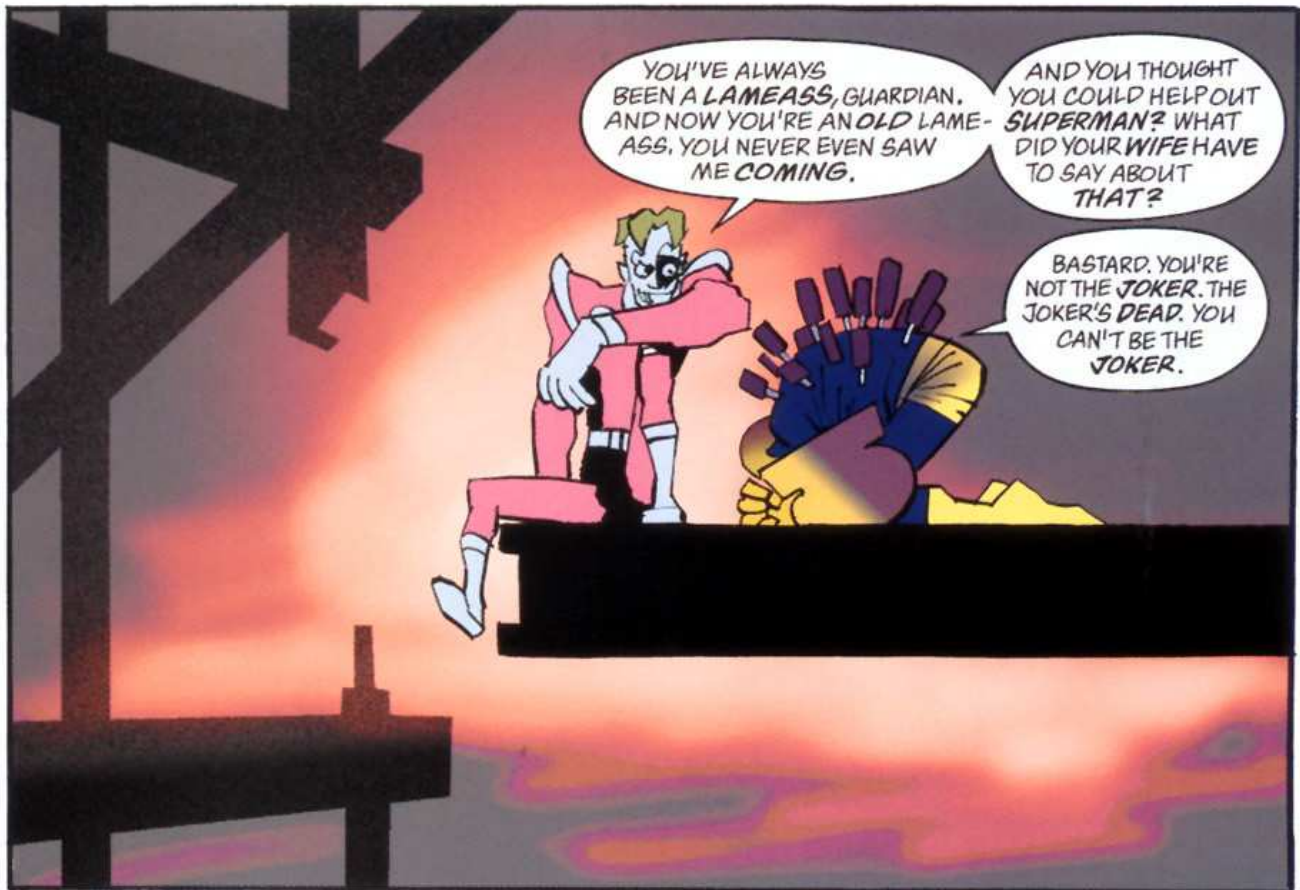


















IT'S HIM! I SAW HIM!

WE ALL SAW HIM! IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S BACK!

IT'S HIM! IT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S ALIVE!

AND HE'S REAL!

WHOOPS! THERE HE GOES AGAIN!

WHO CARES IF THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T EXIST? HE'S A GREAT AMERICAN!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--

--THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN THIS TIME OF PERIL, WE MUST OPEN OUR HEARTS TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS--

AW, DAMN IT!

SUPERMAN'S FIGHTING A WICKED BIGASS ALIEN ROBOT AND SCHOOL'S CLOSED TOMORROW. COOL.







BLOOD EVERYWHERE-- MY GOD--

C'MON, SUPES! UP AND AT 'EM! HIT 'EM WITH THE OLD ONE-TWO!

EMERGENCY ROOMS OVERFLOWING WITH WOUNDED--PARAMEDICS UNION REMAINS ADAMANT--REFUSES TO END ITS STRIKE--

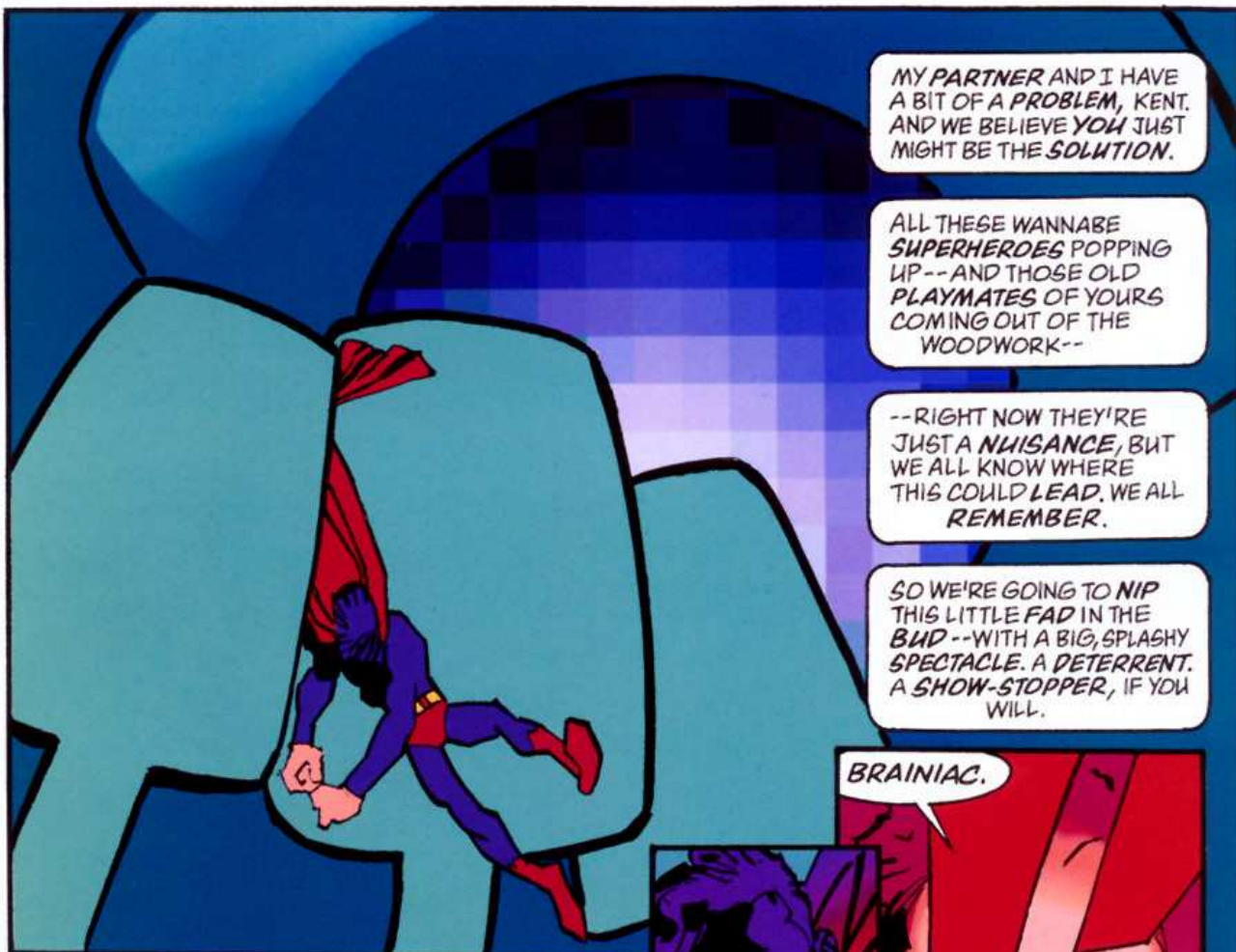
I CAN'T FIND MY WIFE!

SPARKY!

GHUUKK

SUPERMAN WILL SAVE US! HE HAS TO! THAT'S WHAT HE DOES!





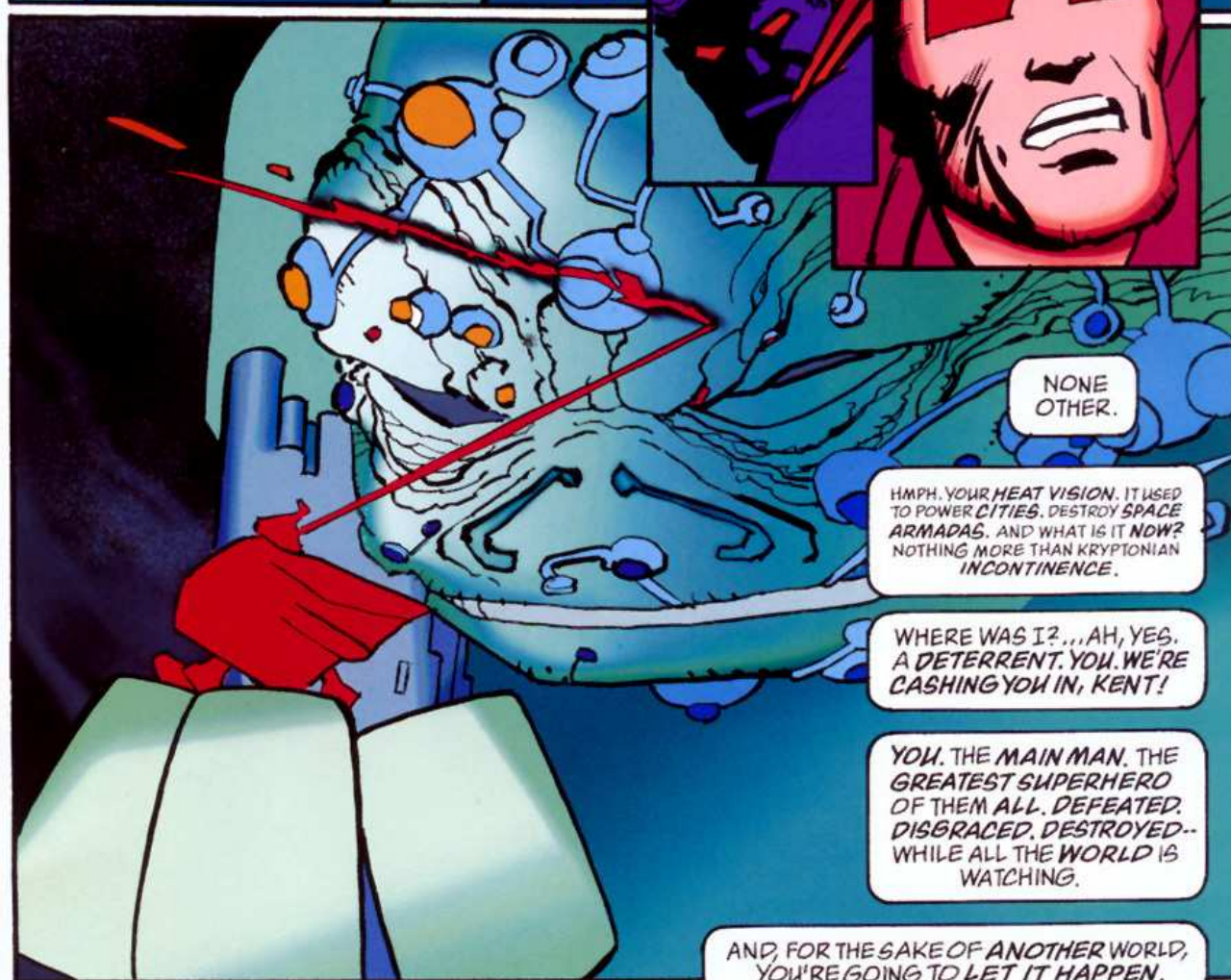
MY PARTNER AND I HAVE A BIT OF A PROBLEM, KENT. AND WE BELIEVE YOU JUST MIGHT BE THE SOLUTION.

ALL THESE WANNABE SUPERHEROES POPPING UP-- AND THOSE OLD PLAYMATES OF YOURS COMING OUT OF THE WOODWORK--

--RIGHT NOW THEY'RE JUST A NUISANCE, BUT WE ALL KNOW WHERE THIS COULD LEAD. WE ALL REMEMBER.

SO WE'RE GOING TO NIP THIS LITTLE FAD IN THE BUD --WITH A BIG, SPLASHY SPECTACLE. A DETERRENT. A SHOW-STOPPER, IF YOU WILL.

BRAINIAC.



NONE OTHER.

HMPH. YOUR HEAT VISION. IT USED TO POWER CITIES. DESTROY SPACE ARMADAS. AND WHAT IS IT NOW? NOTHING MORE THAN KRYPTONIAN INCONTINENCE.

WHERE WAS I?... AH, YES. A DETERRENT. YOU. WE'RE CASHING YOU IN, KENT!

YOU. THE MAIN MAN. THE GREATEST SUPERHERO OF THEM ALL. DEFEATED. DISGRACED. DESTROYED.. WHILE ALL THE WORLD IS WATCHING.

AND, FOR THE SAKE OF ANOTHER WORLD, YOU'RE GOING TO LET IT HAPPEN.





ANOTHER WORLD. YOUR  
BELOVED KRYPTON. NOTHING  
LEFT OF IT NOW BUT RADIO-  
ACTIVE SPACE GARBAGE--  
AND YOU--

--AND TEN MILLION LIVING  
SOULS. THE LAST OF YOUR  
SPECIES. SHRUNK. BOTTLED.  
POWERLESS. HELPLESS. AT  
MY MERCY.

TURN TAIL AND RUN-- AND KANDOR  
LIVES ANOTHER DAY. FIGHT ME--  
AND THE LAST OF YOUR KIN DIE  
SCREAMING YOUR NAME.  
BLAMING YOU, KAL-EL OF KRYPTON.

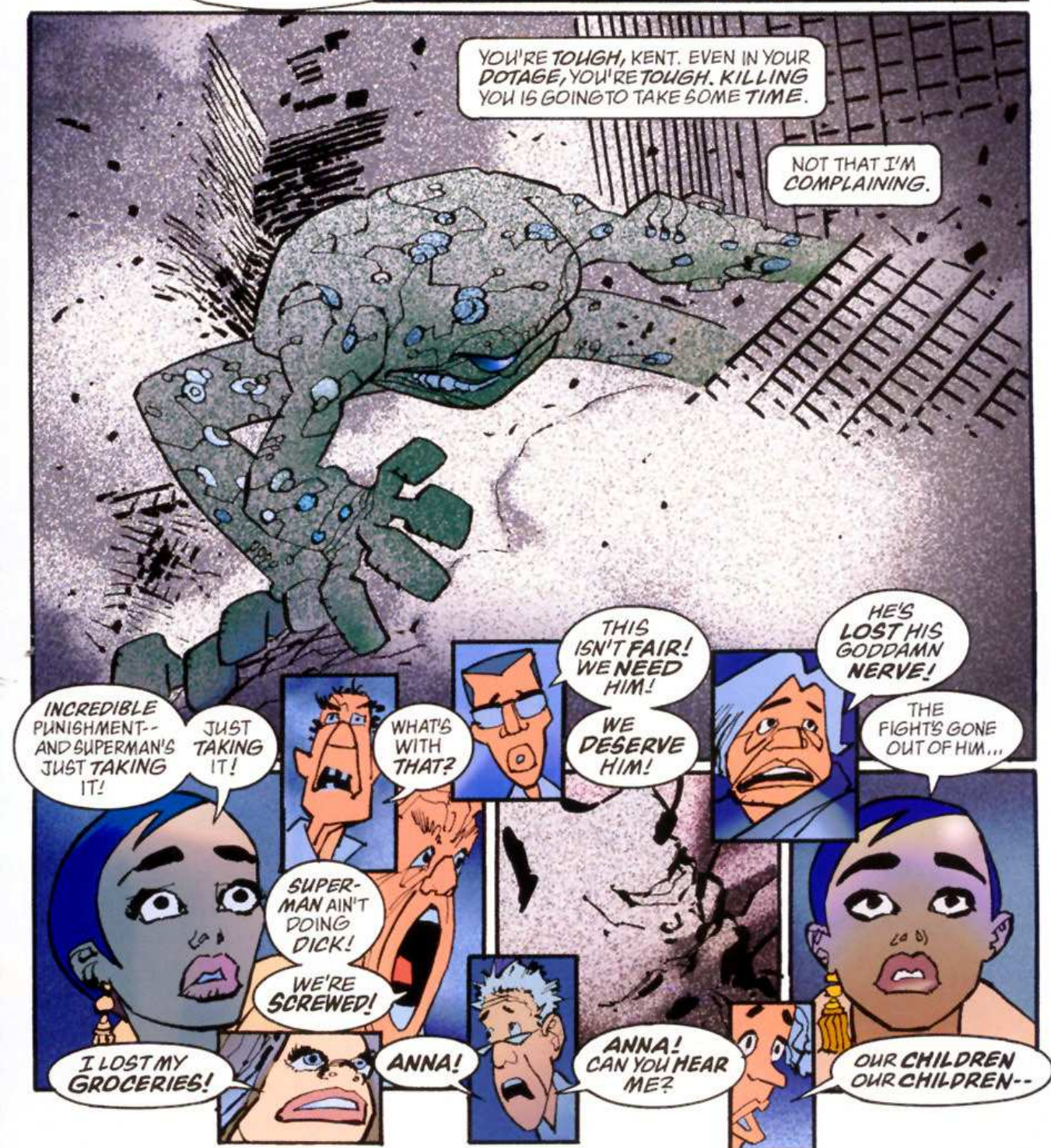


I WON'T  
FLEE. NOR WILL  
I FIGHT.

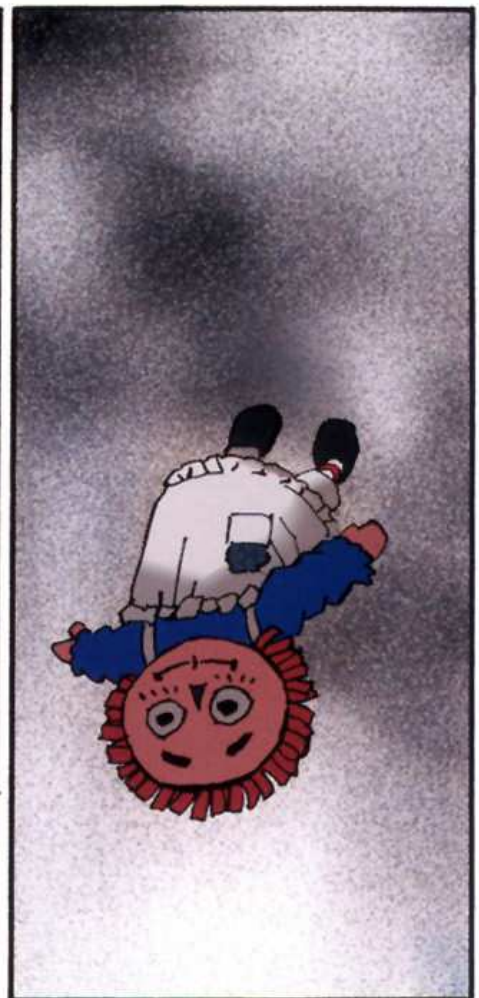
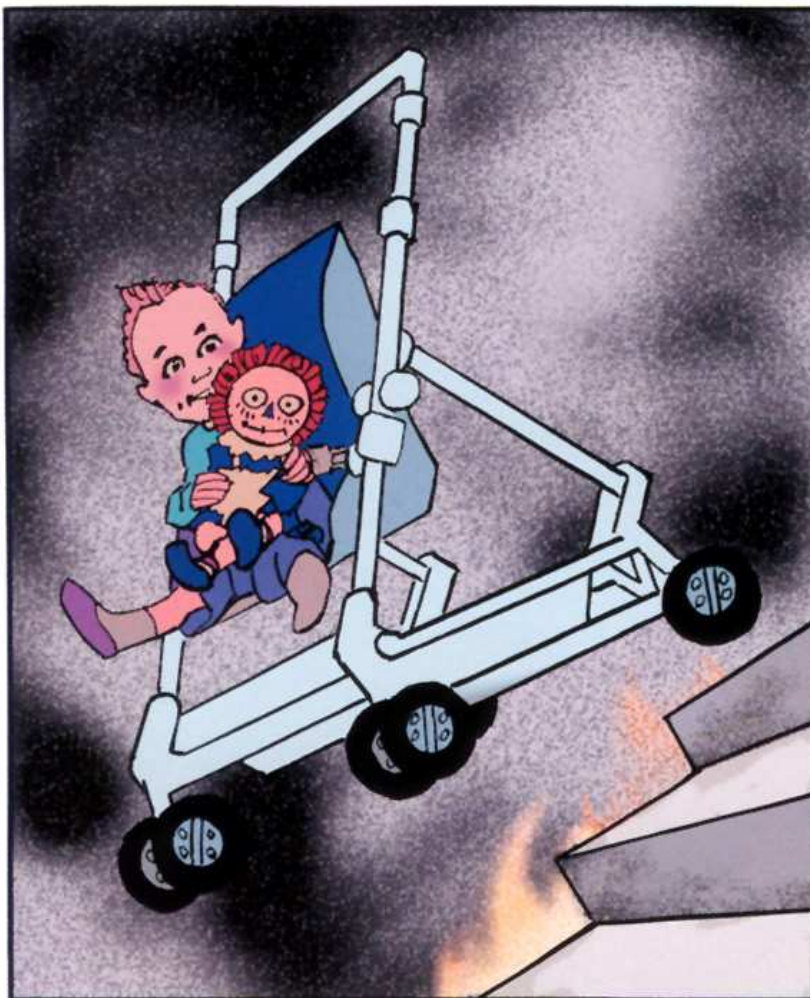
DO YOUR  
WORST.











**DAMN IT, BRUCE! PEOPLE ARE DYING! LAST I REMEMBER, SAVING INNOCENT LIVES WAS PART OF OUR JOB DESCRIPTION!**

**MAN, YOU'RE AS THICK AS CLARK IS! THAT ROBOT IS A TRICK-- TO FLUSH US OUT-- SO THEY CAN KILL US!**

**THIS IS MY SHOW! MY WAR! WE FOLLOW MY STRATEGY!**

**IN THE CAVE.** **BARRY ALLEN. THE FLASH.**

**HE'S GETTING A LITTLE WEAK IN THE KNEES.**

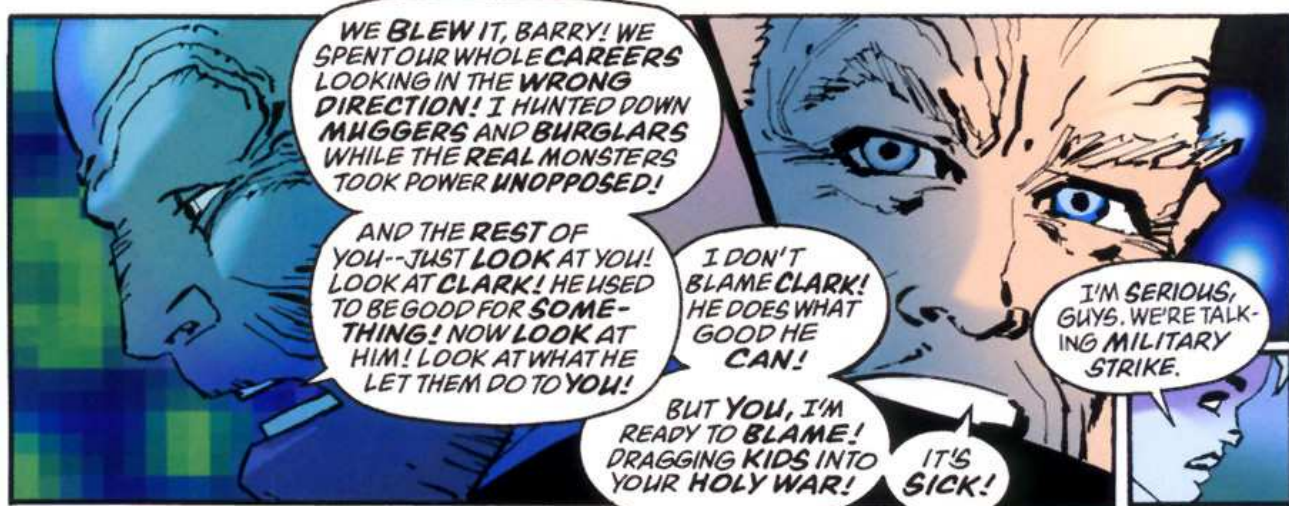
**YOUR "WAR"--IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A WAR TO YOU, HASN'T IT?**

**IT SURE AS HELL HAS! AND IF ALL YOU DEPUTIZED LITTLE PUBLIC SERVANTS HAD SEEN IT FOR WHAT IT IS, WE WOULDN'T BE LIVING IN A DAMN SLAVE STATE!**

**GENTLEMEN--I'M GETTING SOME MAJOR READINGS FROM THE PENTAGON. SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN LARGE.**

**GUYS?**





WE BLEW IT, BARRY! WE SPENT OUR WHOLE CAREERS LOOKING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION! I HUNTED DOWN MUGGERS AND BURGLARS WHILE THE REAL MONSTERS TOOK POWER UNOPPOSED!

AND THE REST OF YOU--JUST LOOK AT YOU! LOOK AT CLARK! HE USED TO BE GOOD FOR SOMETHING! NOW LOOK AT HIM! LOOK AT WHAT HE LET THEM DO TO YOU!

I DON'T BLAME CLARK! HE DOES WHAT GOOD HE CAN!

I'M SERIOUS, GUYS. WE'RE TALKING MILITARY STRIKE.

BUT YOU, I'M READY TO BLAME! DRAGGING KIDS INTO YOUR HOLY WAR!

IT'S SICK!



TARGET: COSTA RICAN RAIN FOREST.

WARS ARE ALWAYS FOUGHT BY CHILDREN! AND THERE ARE ALWAYS INNOCENT CASUALTIES! YOU CAN'T FREE A PLANET FROM TYRANNY AND KEEP EVERYBODY HAPPY THE WHOLE TIME!

YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME? THEN FIGHT ME, DAMN YOU! BUT DON'T TELL ME TO COMPROMISE! I'VE SEEN WHERE YOUR COMPROMISES HAVE GOTTEN US!

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THOSE BASTARDS CAN DO?

MISSION IN PROGRESS.

CODE NAME: THANAGAR.



THANAGAR.

JESUS.



BARRY, YOU'D BETTER--

I'M AT THE RAIN FOREST-- THERE'S SMOKE EVERYWHERE--

WHAT THE HELL?--THIS IS CRAZY...





...BRUCE, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO GET HERE. THE WHOLE FOREST IS ON FIRE. AND WE'VE GOT DINOSAURS.



FIRE UP THE BATMOBILE, ROBIN.

THAT'S CATGIRL. GET A CLUE.



STILL DEFIANT, THE SUPERCHIX TOOK THEIR CASE DIRECTLY TO THE VERY NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS ASSIGNED TO SHUT THEM DOWN!

WE THOUGHT WE WERE DOING OUR LITTLE SHOW FOR THE BOYS.

US GIRLS, WE'VE GOT A THING FOR MEN IN UNIFORM.



MASSIVE DESERTIONS FROM THE NATIONAL GUARD--







SO  
YOU'RE THE  
CREEPER,  
HUH?

HOW'S  
THIS  
FOR  
CREEPY?

GAAA!

SUPERMAN'S  
A PUSSY!



FIGHT'S  
GONE  
OUTTA  
HIM.

BATTED AROUND  
LIKE A RAG DOLL! LIMP  
AS A DEAD FISH! GOT  
ALL THE FIGHT OF A  
SACK OF SHIT!



WAY TO  
STAGE A COMEBACK,  
DUDE.

THIS  
IS GETTING  
BORING.

FIGHT'S  
GONE OUTTA  
HIM.



His fingers  
TREMBLE,  
veins FILLED  
with TOXINS--  
and hungry  
for MORE.

His VOICE  
is WET  
GRAVEL.



SET ME UP,  
HEINKEL. JUST  
TO TAKE THE EDGE  
OFF.



The place STINKS of SMOKE and URINE and VOMIT. Its every SURFACE is TACKY with carcinogenic TAR.

They call it a "WATERING HOLE." That is a LIE. WATER brings LIFE. LIQUOR brings FALSE CONFIDENCE and DULL WITS and BROKEN LIVES and SLOW DEATH.

Someone COUGHS incessantly.

GUY WAITING FOR YOU, TABLE IN BACK. HE'S GOT NO FACE.

HEARD ABOUT SUPERMAN? FIGHT'S GONE OUTTA HIM.

IT HAPPENS.

SAGE. BEEN A WHILE.

SO WHEN'D YOU TAKE UP DRINKING, BUD? NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T.

I WISHED TO SIT HERE. I PAID FAIR RENTAL FOR THIS CHAIR AND TABLE.

CUSTOM DICTATED I BE GIVEN THIS GLASS OF POISON.

I AM NOT, HOWEVER, UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO CONSUME IT.

YEAH, I FIGURED IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT. JUST TRYING TO GET YOUR GOAT.

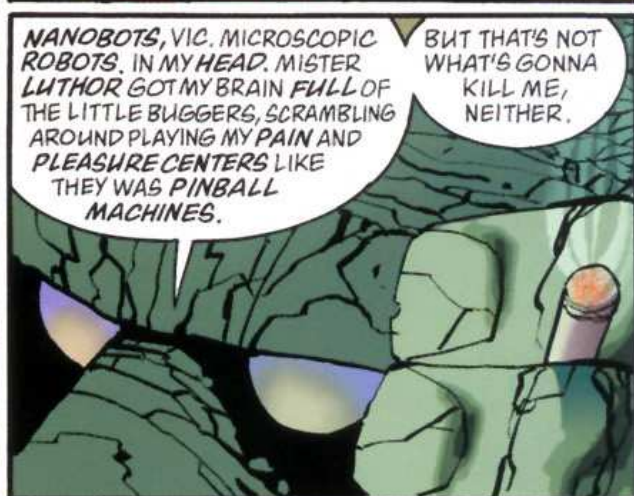
YOU SHOULDN'T OUGHTA HAVE COME LOOKING ME UP, VIC. YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.

I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE-- AND I'M USELESS TO YOU.

JOHN JONES.

MANHUNTER from MARS.

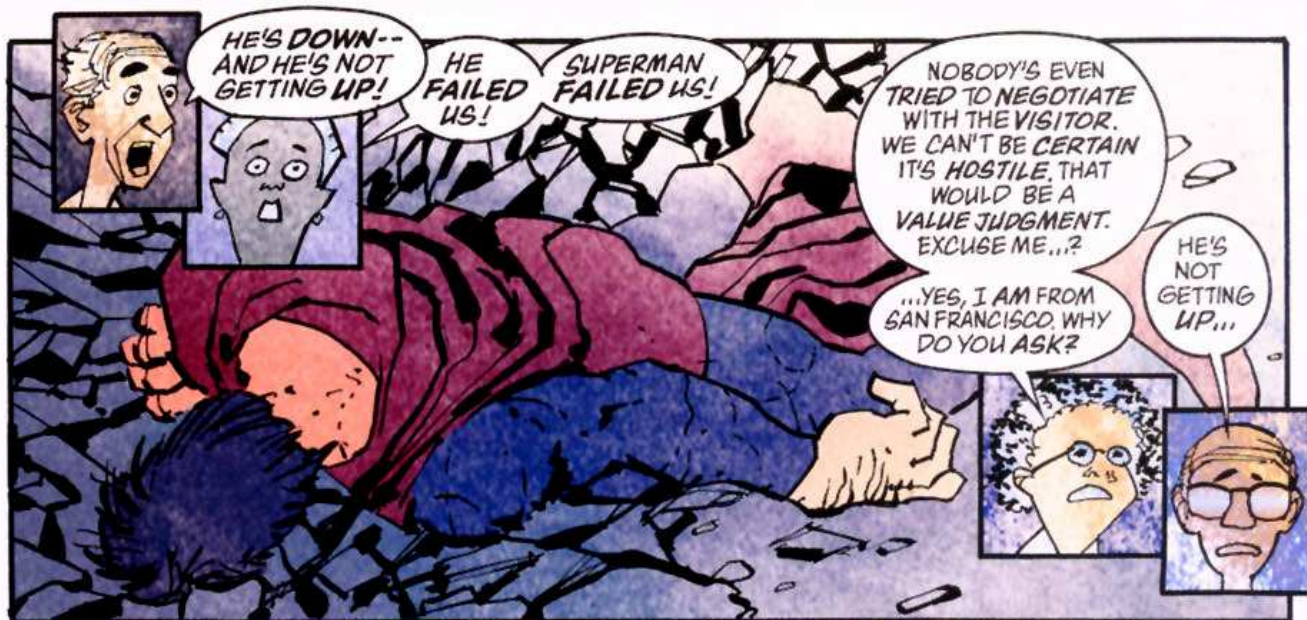












HE'S DOWN--  
AND HE'S NOT  
GETTING UP!

HE  
FAILED  
US!

SUPERMAN  
FAILED US!

NOBODY'S EVEN  
TRIED TO NEGOTIATE  
WITH THE VISITOR.  
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN  
IT'S HOSTILE, THAT  
WOULD BE A  
VALUE JUDGMENT.  
EXCUSE ME...?

...YES, I AM FROM  
SAN FRANCISCO. WHY  
DO YOU ASK?

HE'S  
NOT  
GETTING  
UP...



MOTHER.

HE NEEDS  
ME.



NO. NOT  
YET.

NOT  
YET.



I AM TRAINED.  
I AM READY.

I HAVE THE  
POWER.



WAIT. LET ME  
SHOW YOU WHAT  
YOUR DEAR OLD  
MOMMA CAN DO--

--WITH A  
LITTLE HELP  
FROM ZEUS.









FROM: HOOD  
TO: BATFART  
RE: WHILE YOU  
WERE OUT...

...a great, big, steaming HEAP  
hit the FAN, Bruce.

Kitty's dish was SOLID, like  
always. Your girl doesn't  
miss a TRICK. JONES  
stumbled out of the  
GIN MILL she'd  
pegged, right  
on SCHEDULE.

JONES had SAGE in tow. VIC SAGE.  
And the damn RIGHT WINGNUT  
was chatting him UP something  
FIERCE.



I got that  
old feeling.



METAL  
flew.



It found  
JONES.

SAGE  
pulled  
HEAT.



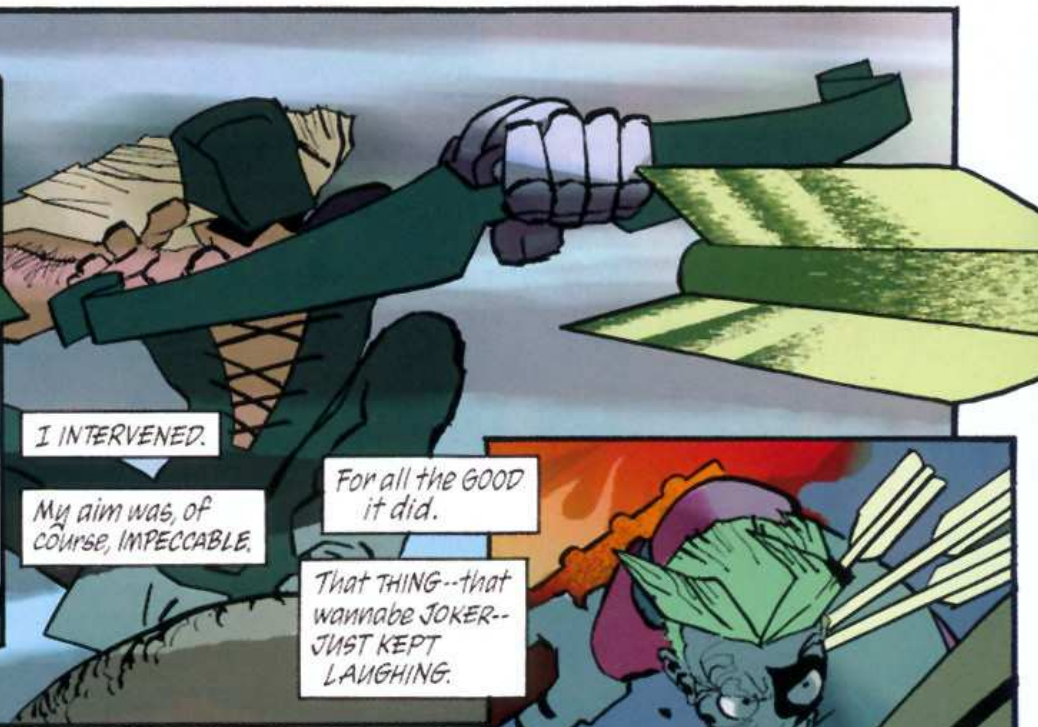
He popped off  
THREE HOT ONES--  
EACH of them a  
SURE KILL.

A MONSTER  
burst out  
LAUGHING.





PAIN  
IN THE  
ASS...



I INTERVENED.

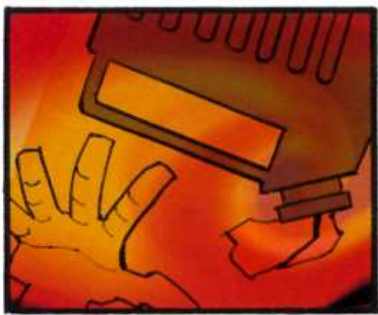
My aim was, of  
course, IMPECCABLE.

For all the GOOD  
it did.

That THING--that  
wannabe JOKER--  
JUST KEPT  
LAUGHING.



It made a  
SOCK MONKEY  
out of SAGE.



About then, I  
noticed the  
GAS CAN.

There was no  
helping Jones.



He was dead  
as hell.

And JOKER-  
BOY went  
right up  
WITH him--

--and NEVER  
STOPPED  
LAUGHING.



I got SAGE  
clear.

THAT much, I  
did right.

EXACTLY  
that much.





MY FRIEND  
IS DOWNED



MY LIMBS  
ARE HEAVY



MY CITY  
SCREAMS

MY ENEMY  
GIGGLES



MY LOVER  
FALLS TO EARTH

MY TIME  
IS DONE





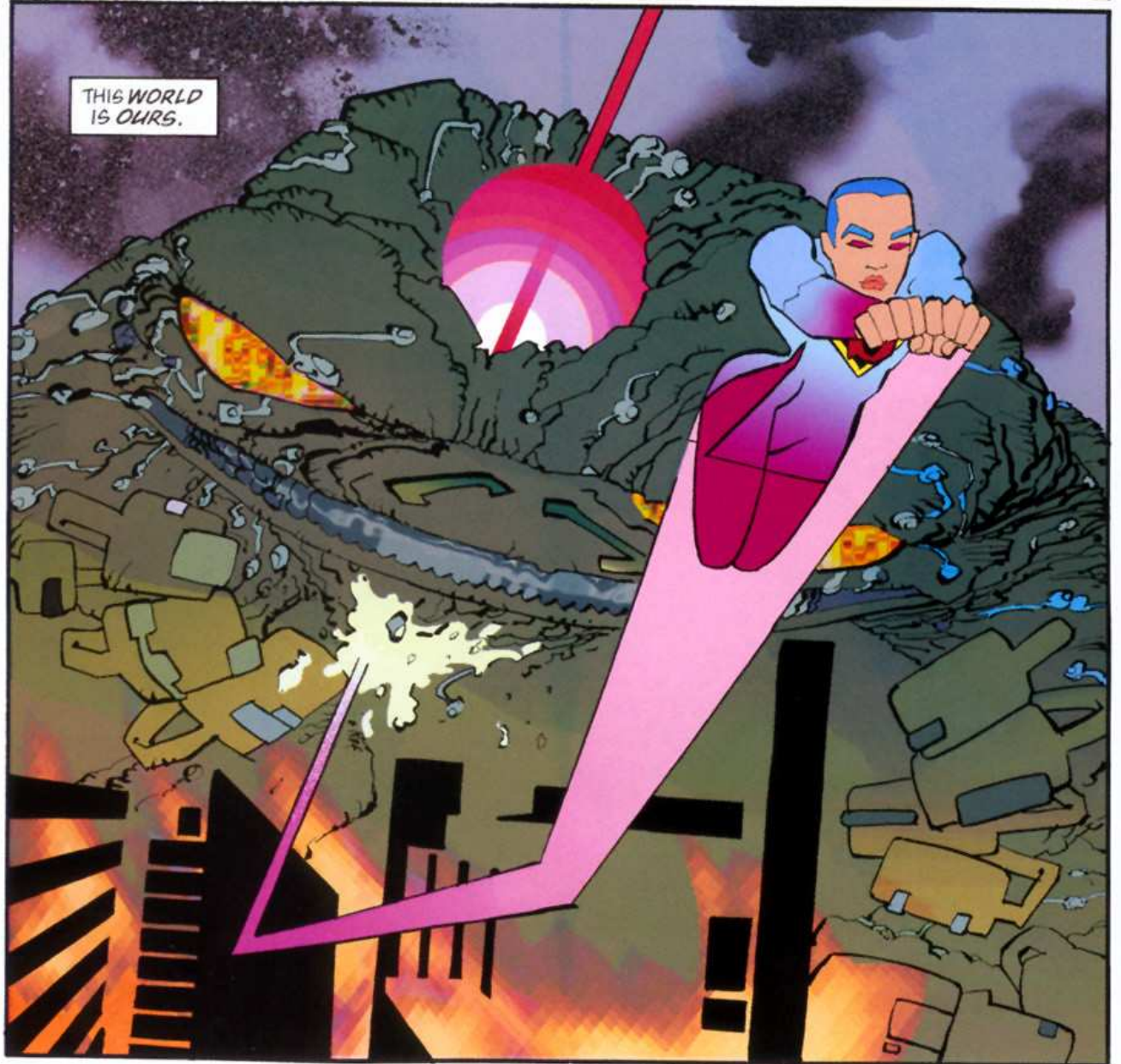


FATHER.

YOU ARE  
WRONG.















YOUR  
WORLD TURNED  
AGAINST ITS  
HEROES.



MOTHER  
AND FATHER  
TRIED TO TAKE US  
AWAY FROM  
YOUR PLANET--  
TO RETURN TO  
OUR HOMEWORLD  
THANAGAR.

WE WERE  
BLASTED  
FROM THE  
SKY.



WE CRASHED  
HERE, IN THIS  
FOREST.

THOUGH  
IN EXILE, WE  
THRIVED.



FATHER  
BUILT OUR  
HOME.

MOTHER USED  
THANAGARIAN SCIENCE  
AND HER OWN FERTILE WITS  
TO BRING ANCIENT SPECIES  
BACK TO LIFE.



MY SISTER  
AND I EARNED  
OUR WINGS.

THIS  
WAS A HAPPY  
PLACE.



THEN  
CAME THE  
FIRE.

FROM  
THE  
SKY.



MOTHER  
ORDERED US  
HERE, INTO THIS  
CAVE.

AND  
SHE  
FLEW.





SHE  
CALLED  
FOR HER  
HUSBAND.



HE  
FOUND  
HER.



THERE  
WAS NO-  
WHERE TO  
RUN.



LOVERS,  
THEY DIED.



THANAGARIANS DO NOT  
BELIEVE IN FATE. WE DO  
NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY-  
THING IS BEYOND THE  
POWER OF  
MIND AND  
BONE AND  
MUSCLE AND  
WILL.

I DO NOT  
ACCEPT THESE  
DEATHS. I DO  
NOT ACCEPT  
THIS CRIME.



YOU'RE  
GOING TO GET  
WHAT I NEVER  
GOT.



RETRIBUTION.





YOU KNOW, ALL THINGS BEING EQUAL, I **HATE** LOSING ONE OF THOSE **BIG** ONES. **BODIES**, I MEAN. THOSE GREAT, BIG, CITY-STRADDLING WHOPPERS THAT COST A FORTUNE.

BUT FINDING **YOU** IS WORTH LOSING A HUNDRED OF THEM. A THOUSAND.



LARA, HOW LOVELY, HOW YOUNG, HOW POWERFUL. YOUR DEAR OLD DAD IS GETTING A BIT LONG IN THE TOOTH, SUGAR. BUT YOU--

--WE'LL GET DECADES OF SERVICE FROM YOU.

I'LL BE THE DEATH OF YOU, MONSTER.

DEATH? AS IN KILLING? I THINK NOT, SUPERGIRL.

AGAINST THE RULES, BABE. YOU'RE WEARING THE FAMILY CREST.

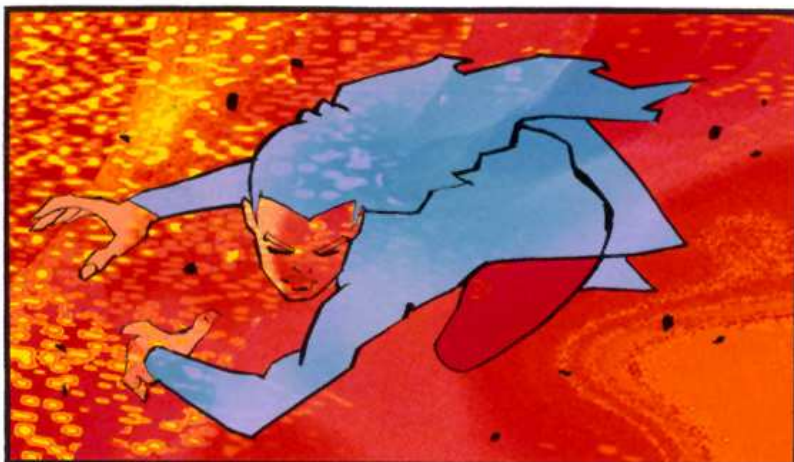


YES, I WEAR IT.

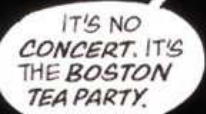
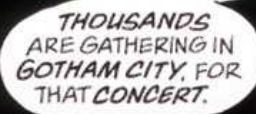
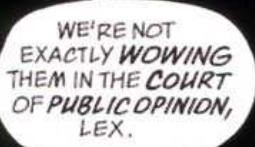
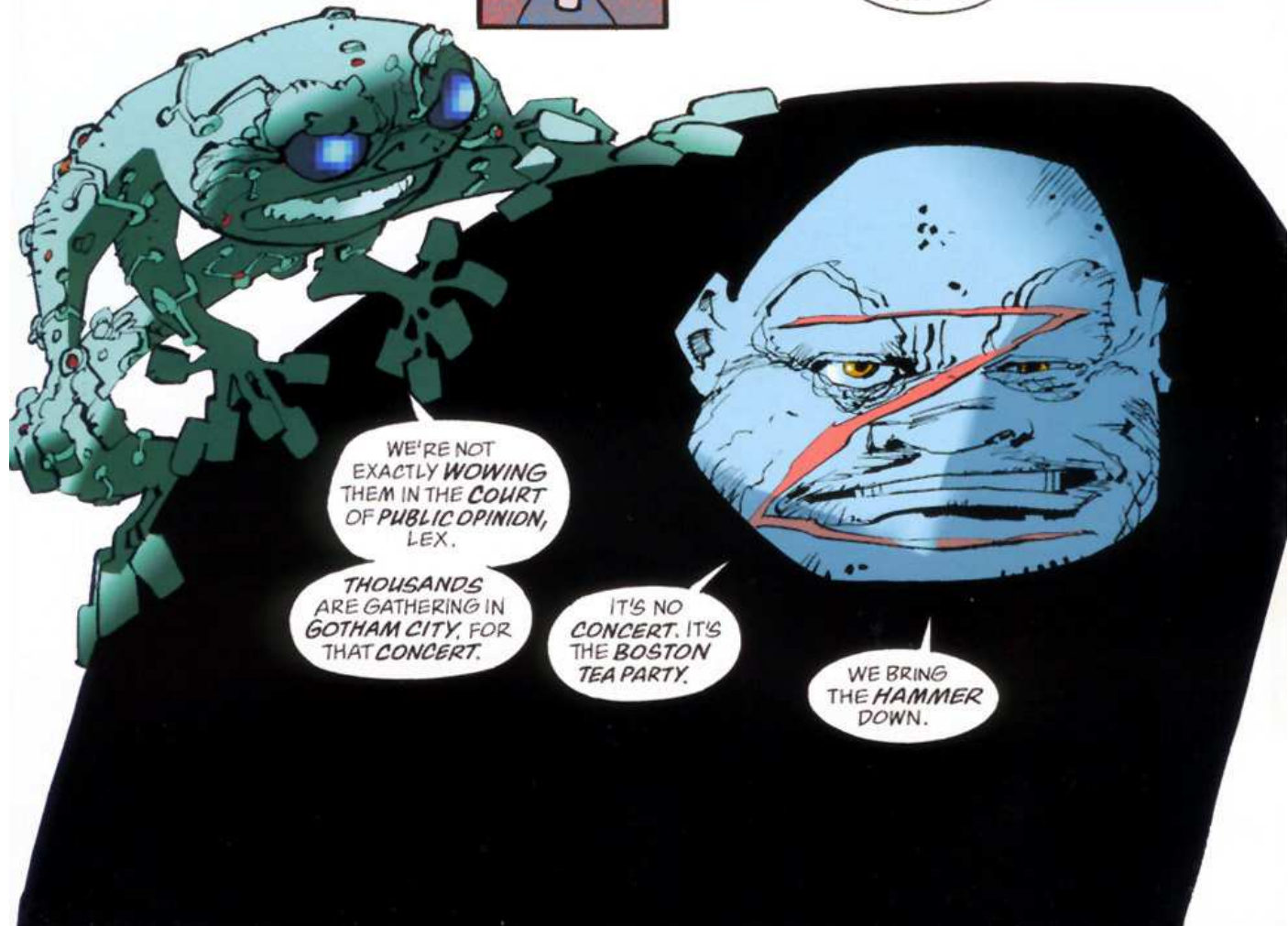
BUT I'M NOT FROM KANSAS, YOU SON OF A BITCH.

I'M AN AMAZON.











THE PLAN IS  
CARRIE'S. IT'S  
FLAWLESS.

I NEVER COULD  
HAVE CONCEIVED  
IT. NOT IN A  
MILLION YEARS.

GOING PUBLIC  
HAS NEVER BEEN  
MY STYLE.

NATIONAL  
GUARD TROOPS  
FLAT-OUT REFUSE  
TO BUST THE  
SUPERCHIX!

AUTHORITIES  
SEND IN AN ARMORED  
DIVISION OF GRADE  
SCHOOL SECURITY  
OFFICERS!

THE  
SUPERCHIX  
ARE UNDER  
ARREST! AND  
THE CROWD IS  
NOT HAPPY!

FIRST WE LET  
THE BAD GUYS  
DO SOMETHING  
BIG AND STUPID.

THEN WE LET  
THEM FALL  
INTO OUR  
HANDS.

LIKE  
RIPENED  
FRUIT.

LETHAL  
FORCE  
AUTHORIZED.  
ON MY  
ORDER...

MY GOD--  
THEY'RE GOING  
TO OPEN  
FIRE!

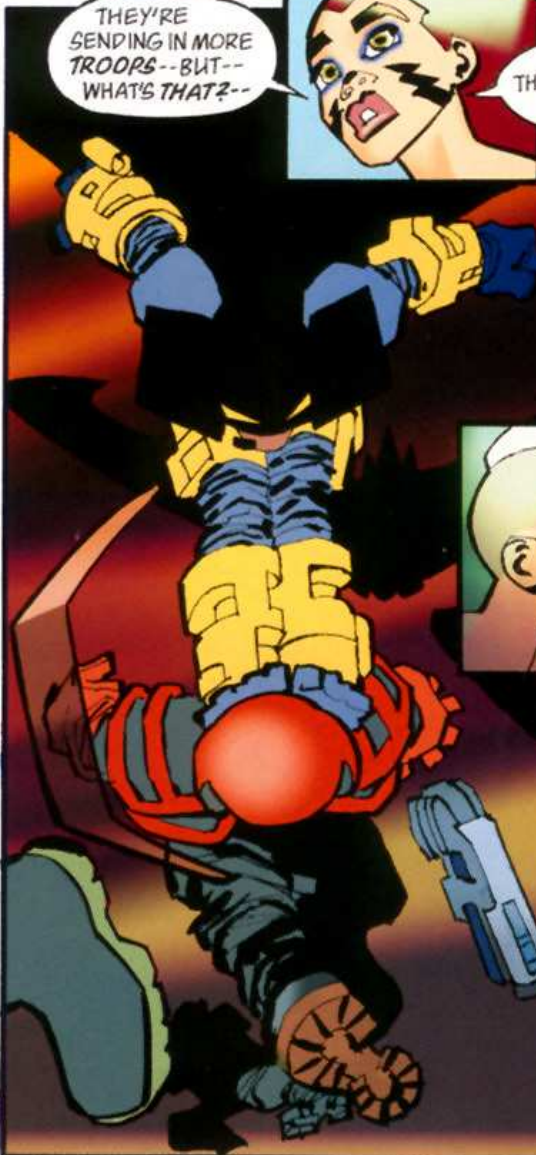
ON MY  
ORDER...

...HUH?





GO HOME.



THEY'RE  
SENDING IN MORE  
TROOPS--BUT--  
WHAT'S THAT?--



--WHAT  
THE HELL--WHAT'S  
THAT--?



THEN WE LET  
THE FOLKS  
SEE HEROES.



OVER  
THERE--IS  
THAT--

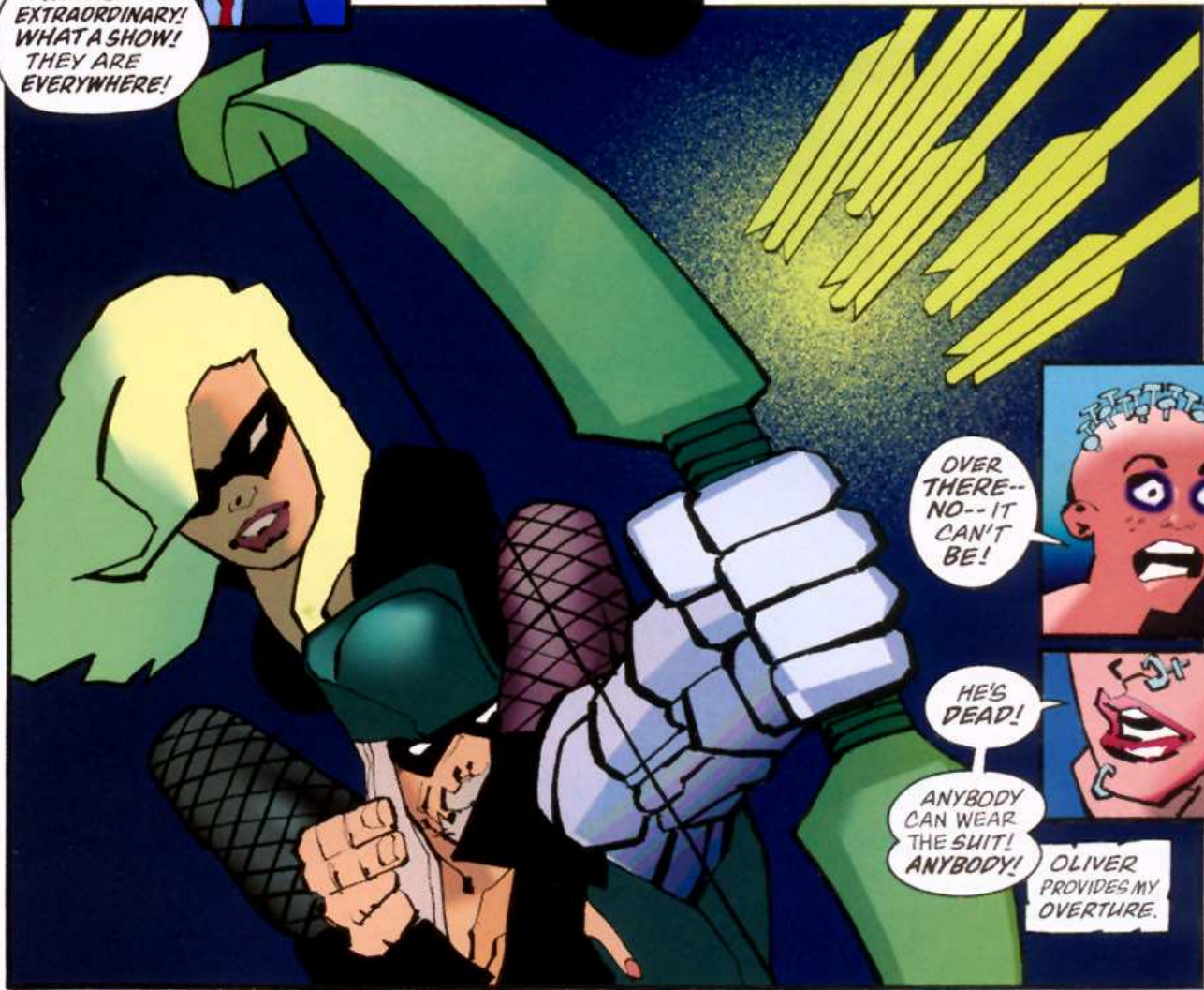


LOTS OF  
HEROES.





THIS IS  
EXTRAORDINARY!  
WHAT A SHOW!  
THEY ARE  
EVERYWHERE!



OVER  
THERE--  
NO-- IT  
CAN'T  
BE!

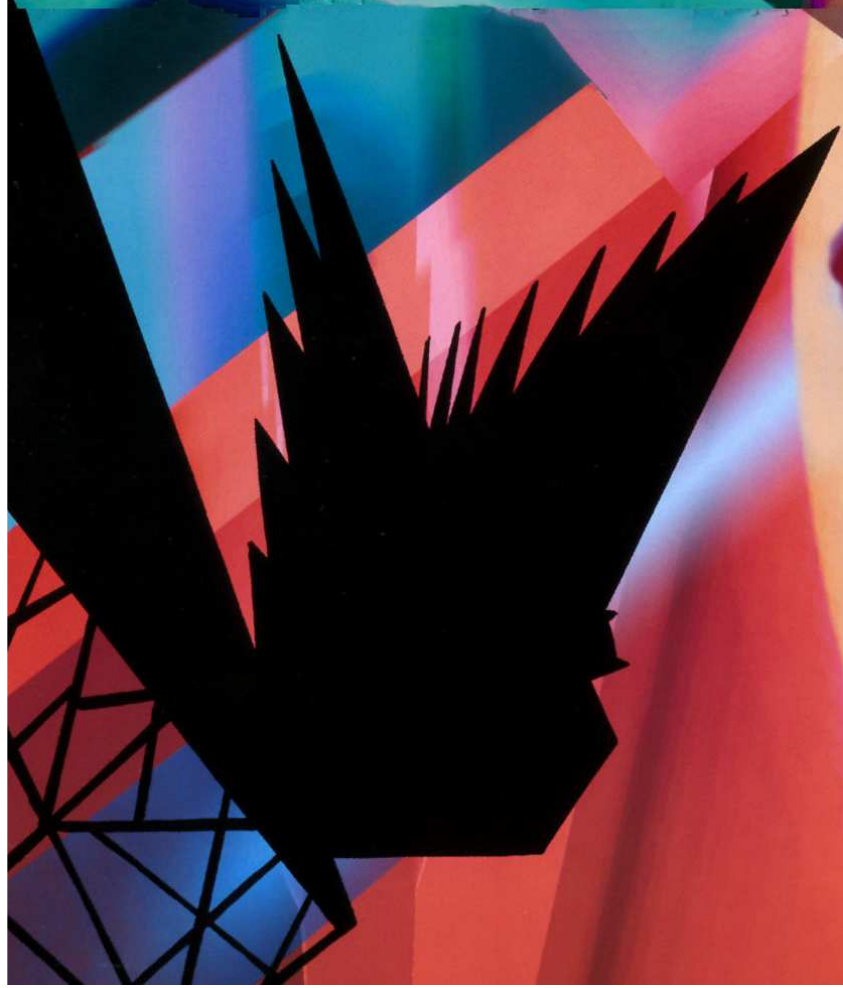
HE'S  
DEAD!

ANYBODY  
CAN WEAR  
THE SUIT!  
ANYBODY!

OLIVER  
PROVIDES MY  
OVERTURE.



HIS AIM IS,  
OF COURSE,  
IMPECCABLE.









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