



Dark Knight

part 1 of 4

FRANCIS MANAPUL PLOT
SCRIPT

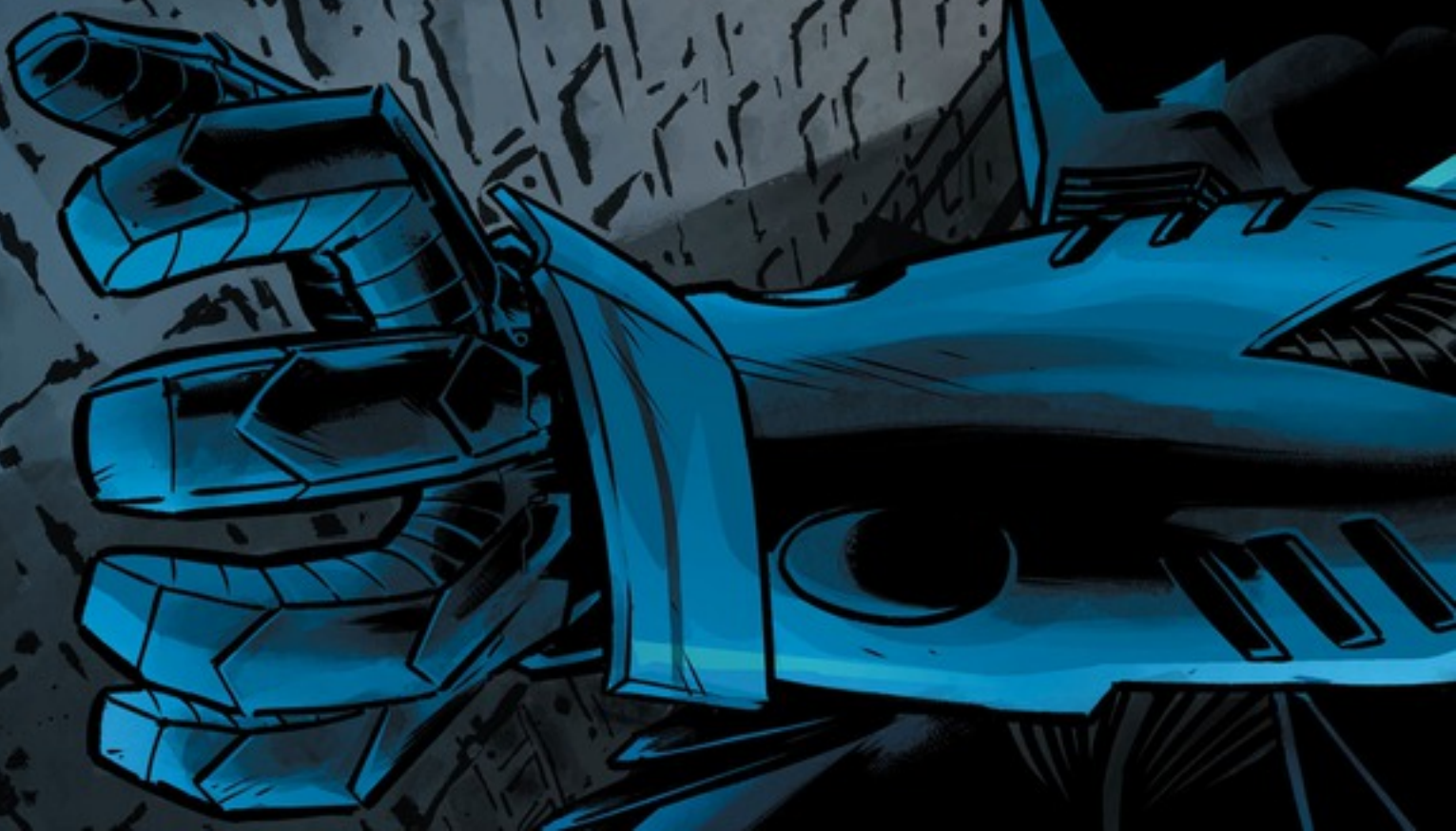
€ BRIAN BUCCELLATO ART

€ BRIAN BUCCELLATO COLORS
FERNANDO BLANCO LETTERS

BRIAN BUCCELLATO COVER
JARED FLETCHER LETTERS

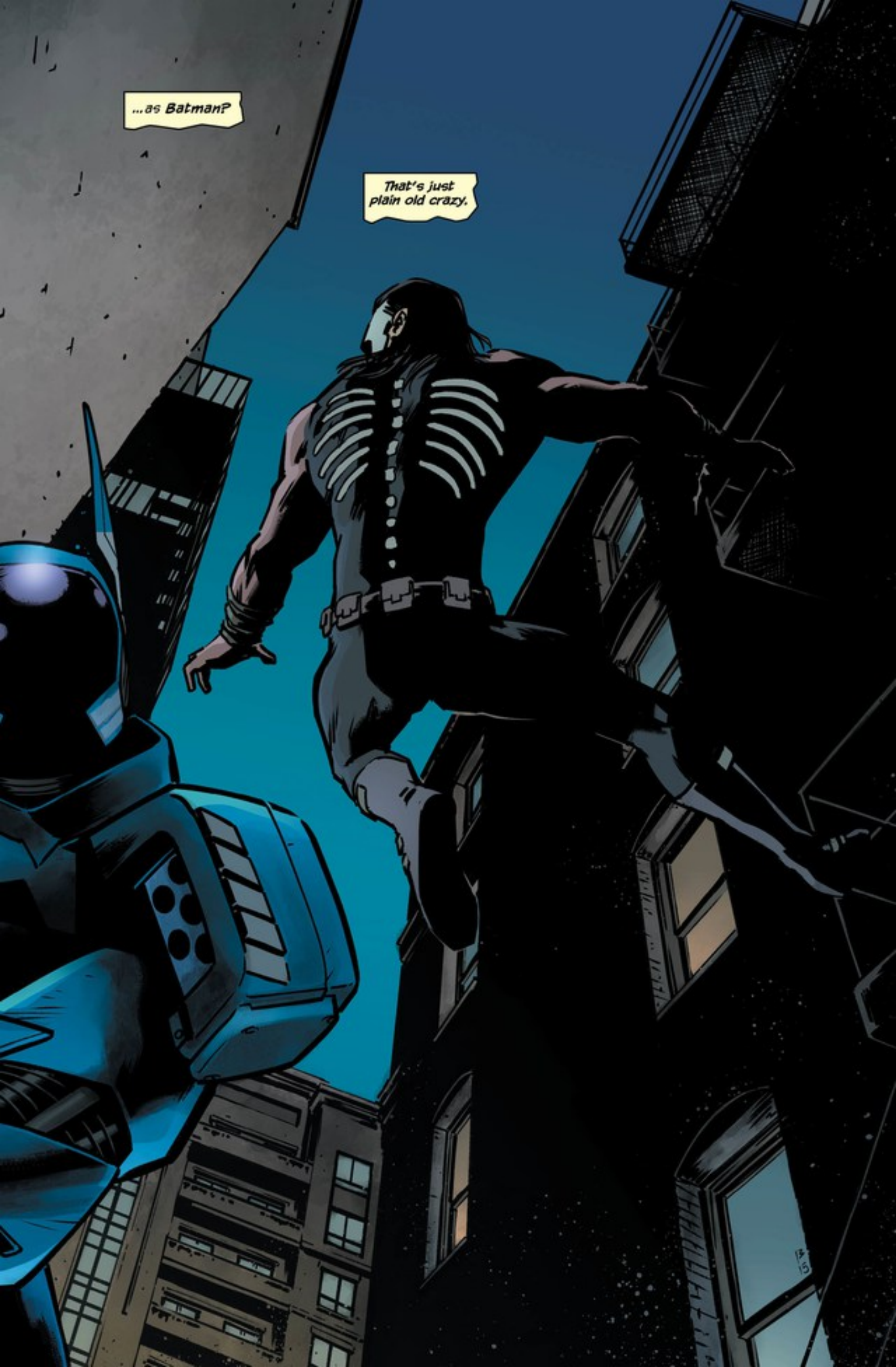
FRANCIS MANAPUL and JOHN KALLIS
PAT GLEASON and JOHN KALLIS
Joker 75th anniversary cover

REBECCA TAYLOR associate editor
MARK DOYLE editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE



...as Batman?

*That's just
plain old crazy.*



*Losing Batman hit this city hard--
harder than most want to admit.
Seemed like every crook and
freak-show thought it was
open season with him gone.*

*It didn't take long before the
powers-that-be decided Gotham
needed a new symbol of hope.*

*Well, maybe not new...
but an updated,
official version.*

*A police-sanctioned vigilante
may sound like an oxymoron, but
there's logic to it. The department
working hand-in-hand with Batman
seems like the best of both worlds.*





I thought they were crazy.
But one way or another, one
of my men was going to end
up in this robot monkey suit.



So, if someone has
to put their life
on the line...

...it's gonna be me.



I may be the one in the suit... but I'm not going at this alone. I've got a whole support team backing me up.



And I'm not foolish enough to think I'm going to replace the real deal. But we owe it to the man who wore the mask to do our best to honor his legacy.



If that means taking down this Day of the Dead-looking chump who had the stones to try a bank job--so be it.



I'm just hoping I don't get myself killed by one of these nut jobs.



BIP BIP BIP