

BUT MAYBE IT'S  
SIMPLE! MAYBE  
HAPPINESS IS JUST  
LAUGHTER! HEH.  
MAYBE THAT'S ALL.

SOME ANTHROPOLOGISTSSSS.  
THEY THINK LAUGHTER DEVELOPED  
AS A COURTING CALL.

OTHERS SAY IT EVOLVED  
AS A REACTION TO  
INCONGRUITY. THE BODY'S  
GAG REFLEX TO LIFE. HEH.

THE THING IS,  
SCIENCE DOESN'T  
KNOW A LOT  
ABOUT LAUGHTER.  
ITS NATURE.

BUT MOST THINK LAUGHTER  
STARTED AS A GROUP  
SIGNAL TO LET THE TRIBE  
KNOW EVERYTHING IS OKAY.

THAT'S WHAT LAUGHTER IS  
FOR ME. IT MEANS I DID  
MY JOB. PEOPLE FEEL SAFE.  
LIKE WHEN I WAS A BOY...  
RUNNING IN THE YARD.  
RUNNING... HEH.

LAST LAUGH WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE PEOPLE  
FEEL SAFE. IT TOOK TWO HOURS TO GO INTO EFFECT...  
SEALING OFF ENTRY-POINTS...PROTECTING THE SKIES.

BUT THE CITY ISN'T WHAT  
I THOUGHT IT WASSSSS.

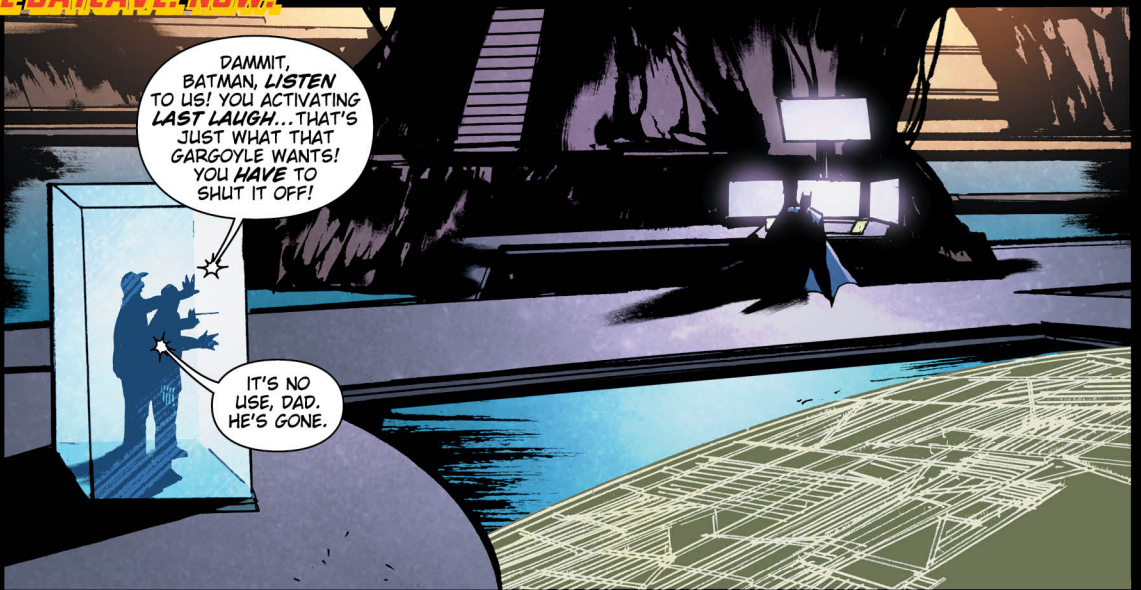
RIGHT NOW, NO  
ONE IS LAUGHING  
OUT THERE...

...SOON, THOUGH...THE  
LAUGHTER WILL COME...

sssshhh.  
LISTEN.

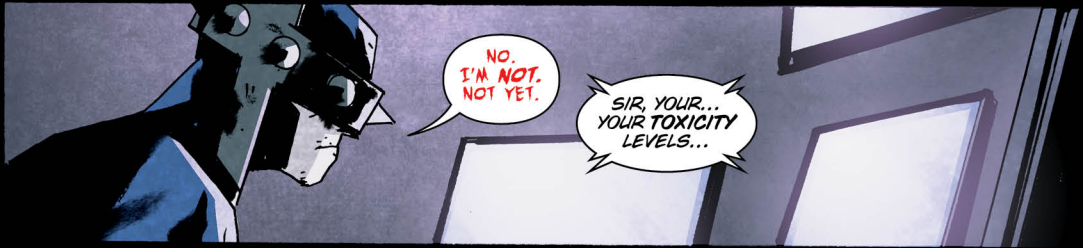
ANY MOMENT  
WE'LL HEAR  
THE SOUND.





DAMMIT, BATMAN, LISTEN TO US! YOU ACTIVATING LAST LAUGH... THAT'S JUST WHAT GARGOYLE WANTS! YOU HAVE TO SHUT IT OFF!

IT'S NO USE, DAD. HE'S GONE.



NO. I'M NOT. NOT YET.

SIR, YOUR... YOUR TOXICITY LEVELS...



...I SEE MAYBE TEN PERCENT HEALTHY BLOOD CELLS LEFT. THE SLIGHTEST RISE IN ACTIVITY AND YOU'LL CROSS THE THRESHOLD.



YOU NEED TO SLOW DOWN, MAYBE GO INTO CRYO--

I SAID. NOT YET.



THEN WHY, BATMAN?! WHY DID YOU SET OFF THE PROTOCOL?

BECAUSE, JIM, IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.



LAST LAUGH CO-OPTS THE CITY'S POWER GRID. THE GRIM KNIGHT WILL LIKELY BE ABLE TO HACK INTO IT IN A MATTER OF HOURS. TAKE IT OVER... BUT UNTIL THEN, WE CONTROL IT.

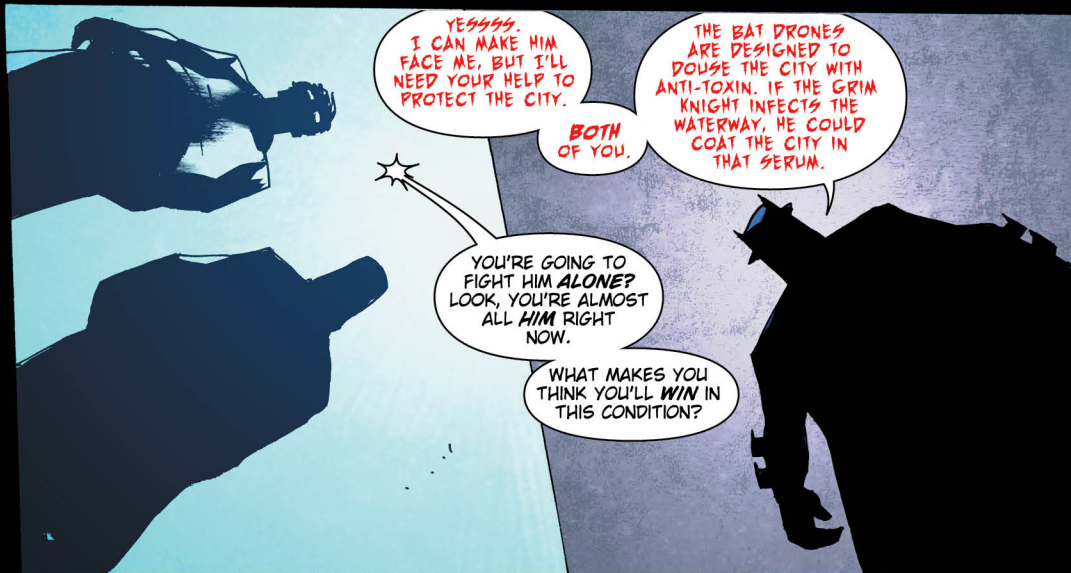
WE CONTROL THE CITY'S POWER.





SO WHAT?!  
WHAT DOES A  
MATTER OF  
HOURS DO?

IT GIVES US  
TIME. TIME TO SET  
A TRAP FOR HIM.  
DOESN'T IT?



YESSSSS.  
I CAN MAKE HIM  
FACE ME, BUT I'LL  
NEED YOUR HELP TO  
PROTECT THE CITY.

THE BAT DRONES  
ARE DESIGNED TO  
DOUSE THE CITY WITH  
ANTI-TOXIN. IF THE GRIM  
KNIGHT INFECTS THE  
WATERWAY, HE COULD  
COAT THE CITY IN  
THAT SERUM.

BOTH  
OF YOU.

YOU'RE GOING TO  
FIGHT HIM *ALONE*?  
LOOK, YOU'RE ALMOST  
ALL *HIM* RIGHT  
NOW.

WHAT MAKES YOU  
THINK YOU'LL *WIN* IN  
THIS CONDITION?



HEH,  
BECAUSE OF  
EXACTLY THAT,  
JIM... I AM  
ALMOST ALL  
HIM...



"...SO I KNOW  
HIS ONE  
WEAKNESS."

COME  
ON...COME GET  
IT...YOUR LITTLE  
AWARD...

...THAAAAT'S  
RIGHT...YOU  
KNOW YOU  
WANT IT...

CRIME ALLEY

CRIME ALLEY

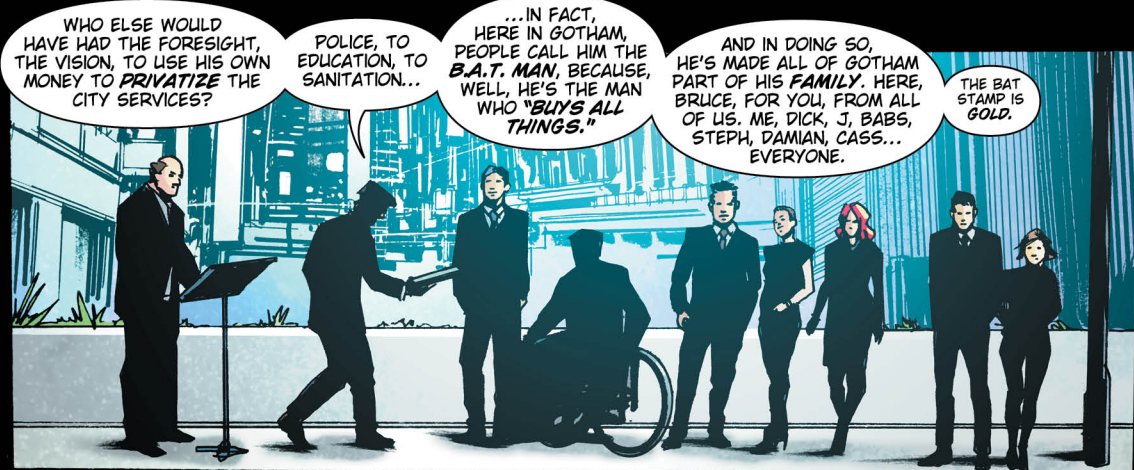
zzzzzz

B/P

AND  
AS WAYNE  
FOUNDATION HEAD,  
IT IS MY PRIVILEGE  
TO PRESENT THIS  
AWARD TO THE  
ONE AND  
ONLY...

...BRUCE  
WAYNE.





WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE HAD THE FORESIGHT, THE VISION, TO USE HIS OWN MONEY TO *PRIVATIZE* THE CITY SERVICES?

POLICE, TO EDUCATION, TO SANITATION...

...IN FACT, HERE IN GOTHAM, PEOPLE CALL HIM THE *B.A.T. MAN*, BECAUSE, WELL, HE'S THE MAN WHO "*BUYS ALL THINGS*."

AND IN DOING SO, HE'S MADE ALL OF GOTHAM PART OF HIS *FAMILY*. HERE, BRUCE, FOR YOU, FROM ALL OF US. ME, DICK, J, BABS, STEPH, DAMIAN, CASS... EVERYONE.

THE BAT STAMP IS GOLD.



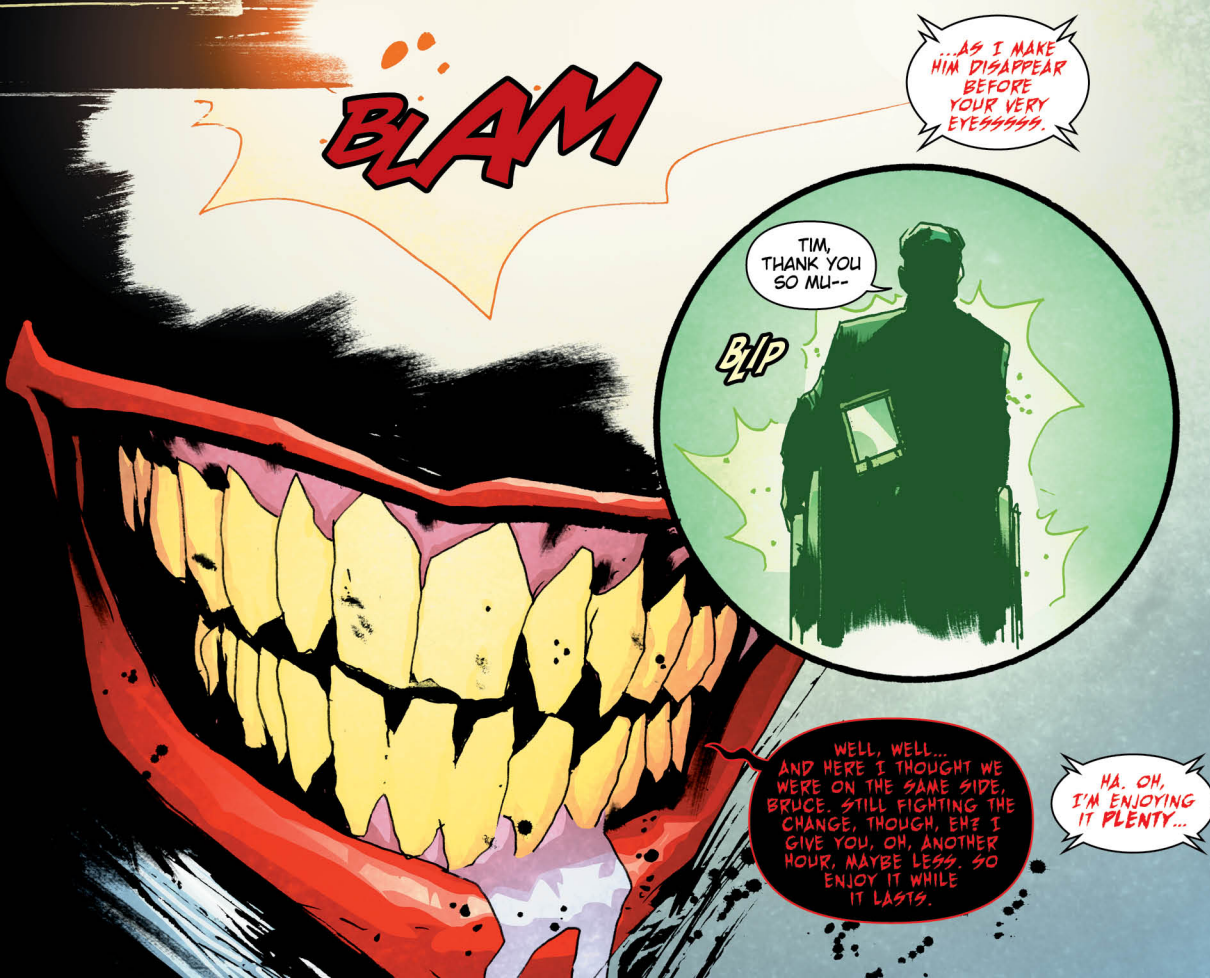
PFFT. GOLD FLAKE. CHEAP-ASS KIDS.

AWW. IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.

BRUCE IS THAT YOU?

IT IS, MONSTER. NOW WATCH YOUR TARGET CLOSELY...

KLIK



BLAM

...AS I MAKE HIM DISAPPEAR BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!!!!!!

TIM, THANK YOU SO MU--

BLIP

WELL, WELL... AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE, BRUCE. STILL FIGHTING THE CHANGE, THOUGH, EH? I GIVE YOU, OH, ANOTHER HOUR, MAYBE LESS. SO ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS.

HA. OH, I'M ENJOYING IT PLENTY...