

GOTHAM CITY.

F-BOOM! BA-BLAM! BA-BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

THEY SAY YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.

I'VE PROVEN YOU CAN. MORE THAN ONCE.

BUT WHEN HOME IS GOTHAM CITY YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF...

FREEZE!

OR DON'T.

...WHO THE HELL WANTS TO GO HOME?!

THESE SONIC BLASTERS BATMAN HAS ARE FREAKING AWESOME!

I SO HAVE TO BUILD ME ONE OF THESE SUITS!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU BUT I'M CERTAIN YOU'RE SAYING SOMETHING STUPID!



MY NAME IS JASON TODD. I GREW UP IN THIS TOWN, WHERE THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE THE FREAKS AROUND YOU IS TO BECOME ONE YOURSELF.

SOME PEOPLE MAKE IT OUT AND NEVER LOOK BACK.

MOST DON'T.

WELL, BATMAN-- THAT WAS A LITTLE OVER THE TOP, NO?

NOT AT ALL.

I'VE BEEN TRACKING THIS "UNDERBELLY" THING FOR A WHILE, IT'S BEEN A THORN IN THE SIDE OF THE GCPD FOR QUITE SOME TIME. HAD THE DAMN THING PINNED TO THE DEATHS OF AT LEAST FOUR BEAT COPS.

OUR INTEL WAS LIMITED BUT AT THE VERY LEAST WE KNEW IT WASN'T HUMAN.

WHICH MEANS IT'S NOT ENTITLED TO CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.

YEAH, THE GUY IN THE ARMORED SUIT IS WORRIED ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS.

BUT SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, DOES THAT SUIT OF YOURS COME IN ARSENAL RED?

WE'RE WORKING A CASE HERE, **BATMAN**.

THE LAST THING WE NEED IS YOU MAKING A MESS OF IT.

YOU KEEP UP THE SASS AND YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE YOUR OWN MESS, RED HOOD. YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN RAP SHEET A MILE--

FOUR.

THREE.

TWO.

WHY ARE YOU COUNTING?

JASON TODD-- FORMER ROBIN, NOW THE **RED HOOD**

ROY HARPER-- ROCKABILLY GENIUS KNOWN AS **ARSENAL**

PARTNERS FOR HIRE. YES, REALLY.

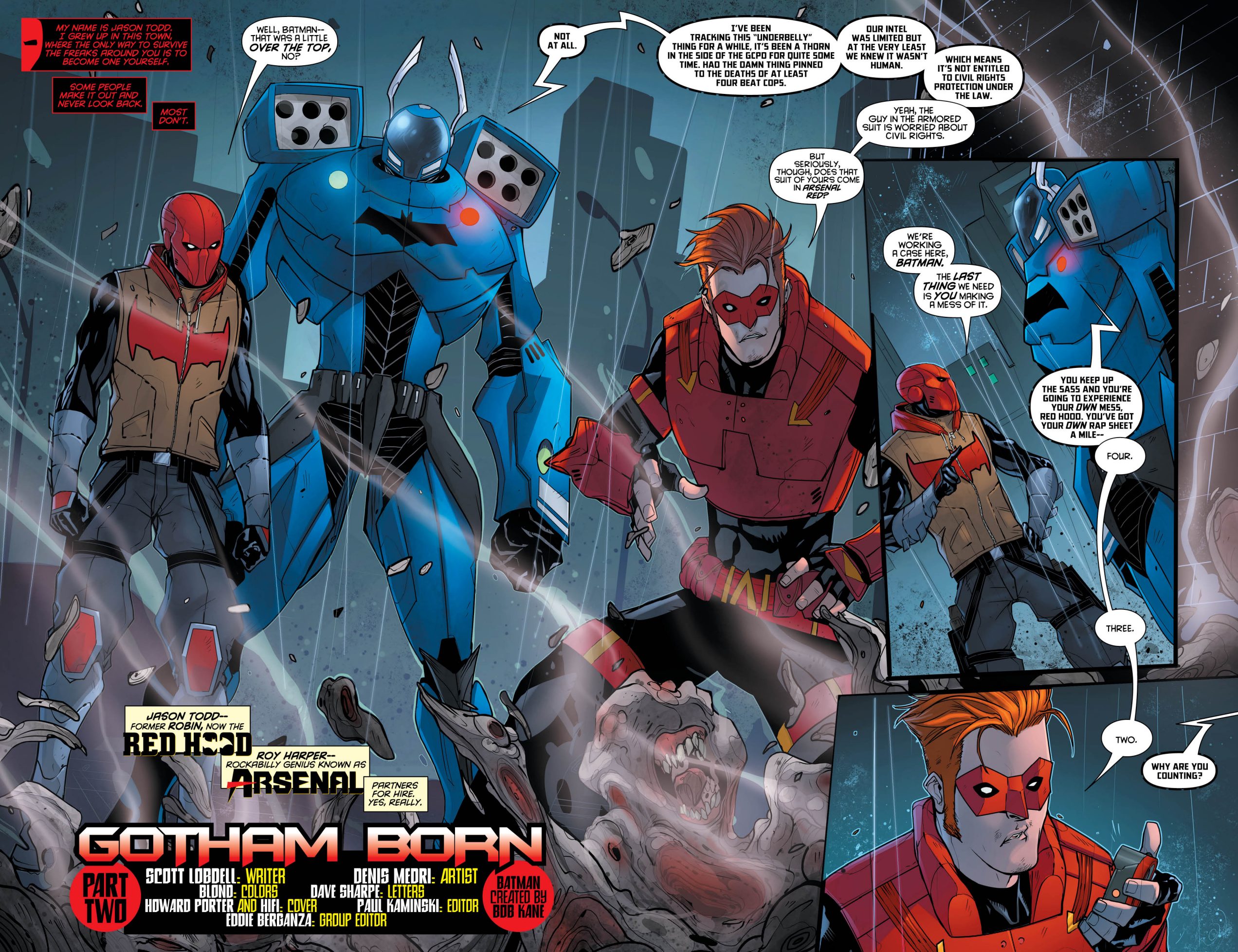
GOTHAM BORN

PART TWO

SCOTT LOBBELL: WRITER
BLOND: COLORS
HOWARD PORTER AND HIFI: COVER
EDDIE BERGANZA: GROUP EDITOR

DENIS MEDRI: ARTIST
DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS
PAUL KAMINSKI: EDITOR

BATMAN
CREATED BY
BOB KANE





ME, BATMAN.

HE WAS COUNTING DOWN TO ME.

YOU CAN'T KILL A THOUGHT THAT IT IS ALIVE.

I AM PRIMAL.

I AM UNSTOPPABLE.

AND, UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU...



...I AM... ANGRY!

BRUCE WAYNE, BATMAN, TOOK ME IN AS A KID AND RAISED ME AS A PARTNER IN HIS WAR ON CRIME, A ROBIN.

A LITTLE WHILE BACK, BRUCE GAVE EVERYTHING IN DEFENSE OF THIS CITY, AND BATMAN WAS NO MORE.*

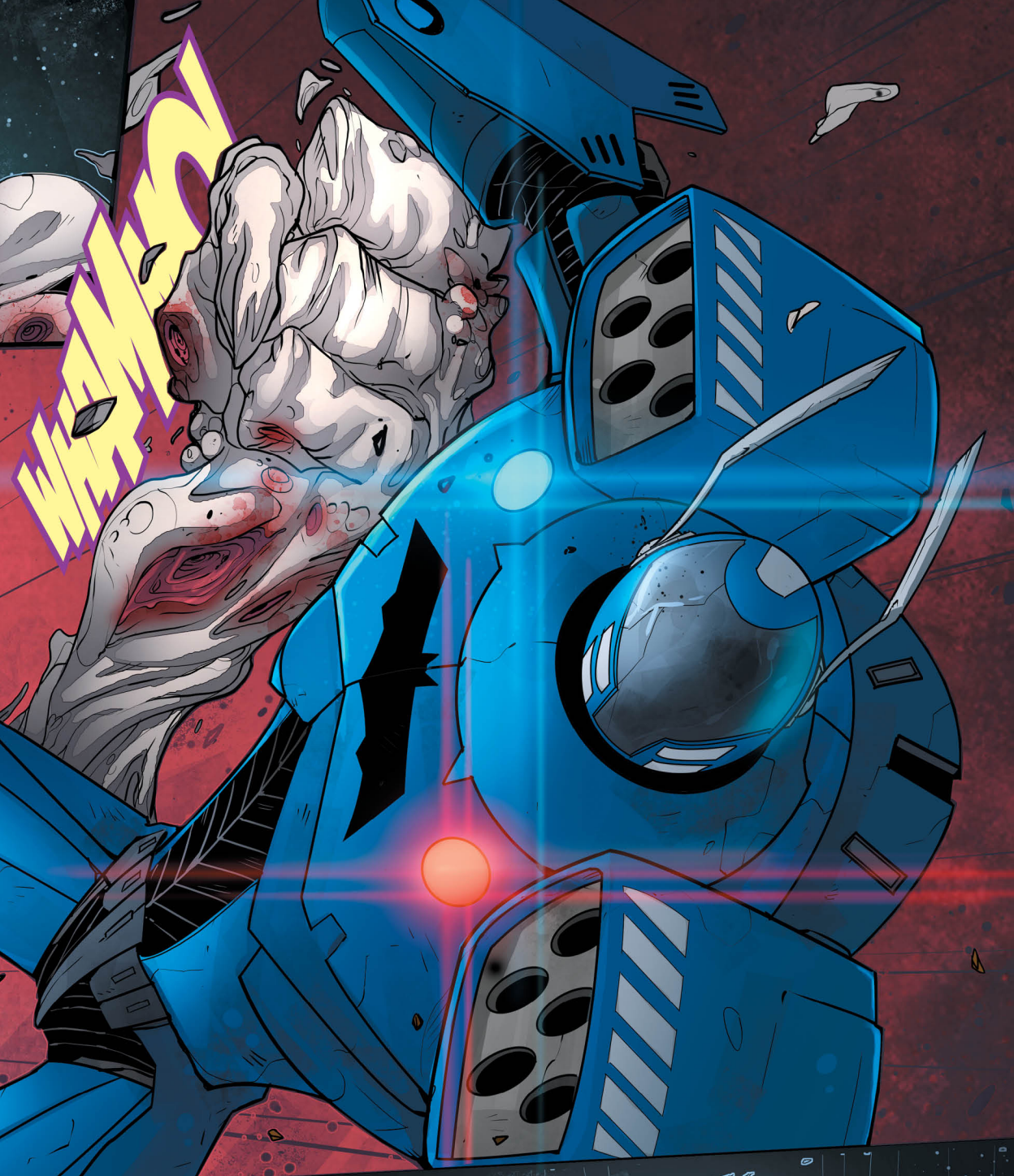
WHOEVER IS UNDER THAT MASK IS NO BRUCE WAYNE.

THAT'S FOR SURE.

BRUCE WOULD HAVE ASKED WHY WE CAME TO GOTHAM-- WHO WE WERE FIGHTING, THE NATURE OF THE THREAT.

HE WOULD HAVE WORKED WITH US TO FIGURE OUT HOW BEST TO TACKLE A MUTUAL THREAT, INSTEAD OF GETTING IN MY FACE.

*SEE BATMAN: ENDGAME FOR THE ENTIRE EPIC STORY! --PAUL



WAAAAH!



HEY, YOU.

GENTLEMAN, YOU MADE A GREAT EFFORT TO TRACK ME DOWN.

CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT MY JOB OFFER?



NOT AT ALL.

WE'RE HERE TO KILL YOU.

FOR REALS THIS TIME.

HAA HA AHAAAHA ANA HAAHAH!