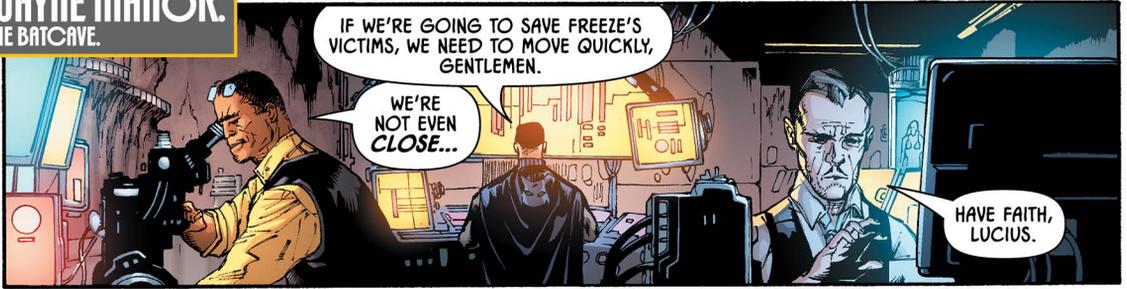


**WAYNE MANOR.
THE BATCAVE.**



IF WE'RE GOING TO SAVE FREEZE'S VICTIMS, WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY, GENTLEMEN.

WE'RE NOT EVEN CLOSE...

HAVE FAITH, LUCIUS.

GOTHAM PINE BARRENS.



ARE YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS, VICTOR?

THE ONLY THING I'VE *EVER* FIRED IS A WATER GUN.

THE WEAPON'S VERY ATTUNED TO YOUR MOVEMENTS AND IMPULSES, NORA.

A LITTLE PRACTICE AND IT WILL BECOME SECOND NATURE.

AFTER A FEW MAJOR HEISTS TO...*SECURE* OUR FUTURE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WIELD A WEAPON AGAIN.



STILL NOTHING ON THE LAST SYNTHETIC CELLULAR X-FACTOR IN THE WOMEN OR THE THEATER-GOERS...

IT'S EVADING ANY AND ALL CLASSIFICATION, BRUCE.

IT KEEPS ALTERING ITSELF... IT'S *BIZARRE*...



ALMOST.

I CAN'T DO IT.

RELAX, YOU'RE A NATURAL ATHLETE. LET YOUR EYE AND HAND BECOME ONE.

FEZAK



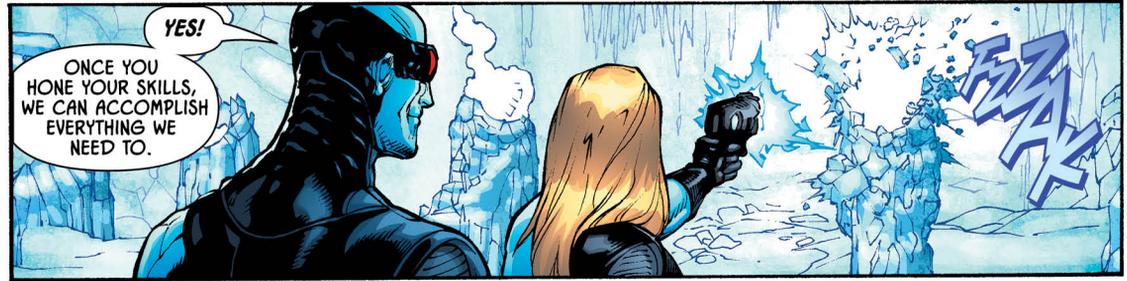
I'M NOT DOING ANY *GOOD* HERE, ALFRED.

I SHOULD HIT THE STREET INSTEAD OF LETTING THE GCPD HUNT DOWN FRIES.

FOCUS.

YOU ARE WHERE YOU NEED TO BE AT THIS JUNCTURE, MASTER BRUCE.

*THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE PRIOR TO THE EVENTS OF *BATMAN* #77. --PAUL



YES!

ONCE YOU HONE YOUR SKILLS, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH EVERYTHING WE NEED TO.

FEZAK

SO OFF WE GO.

TILL DEATH DO US PART.

TOGETHER AS ONE.

BUILD OUR ASSETS WITHOUT LEAVING BEHIND TOO MUCH HUMAN WRECKAGE.

AT FIRST I'M WORRIED THAT HER HESITATION WILL GET HER KILLED, BUT AS TIME GOES BY HER SKILL SETS GROW...

...HER TIMING AND SENSE OF DANGER AMPLIFIED BY EACH NEW EXPERIENCE.

I'M MORE WORRIED THAT SHE'S STARTING TO ENJOY THE PAIN SHE'S CAUSING.

THERE'S A STREAK OF CRUELTY I HAD NEVER NOTICED BEFORE...

...AND MY MIND QUICKLY FIXATES ON THE REGENERATION SERUM LEX LUTHOR GAVE ME...

...IS IT CHANGING NORA'S BASELINE PHYSIOLOGY...

...INTO A WOMAN I WILL NO LONGER RECOGNIZE?



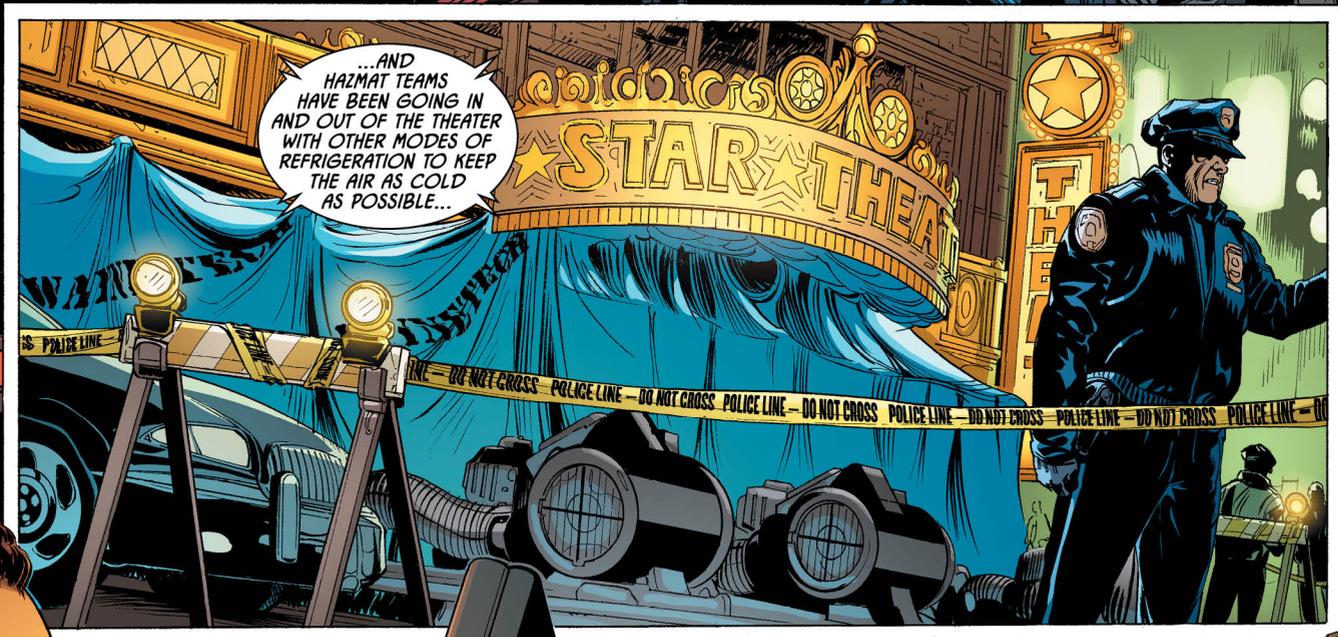
DAMN IT!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

ONCE THE CRYOGENIC VICTIMS ARE FROZEN THERE'S A POINT OF NO RETURN.

...AND AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE THEATER'S ATMOSPHERE OF ABSOLUTE ZERO IS BEING MAINTAINED WITH HUGE INSULATED TARPS. THE OVER FOUR HUNDRED FROZEN VICTIMS ARE BEING KEPT ALIVE BY LARGE COOLING BLOWERS SUPPLIED BY WAYNETECH UNTIL SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO SAVE THEM...

BZZZZ

SLAMM



...AND HAZMAT TEAMS HAVE BEEN GOING IN AND OUT OF THE THEATER WITH OTHER MODES OF REFRIGERATION TO KEEP THE AIR AS COLD AS POSSIBLE...

I'VE CRACKED IT!

I CAN SAVE THEM! THE SERIUM SHOULD WORK!

... IS THAT POSSIBLE?

...YES... YES... IT IS...

