



COUGH COUGH!

PUDDIN'...

I'M FINE.

THAT SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING. HOW LONG--

I'LL SEE A DOCTOR LATER.

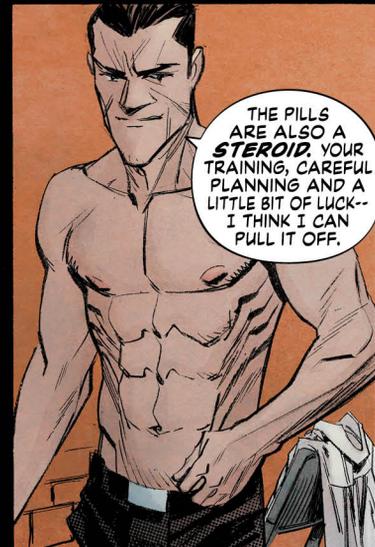
I AM A DOCTOR!

SOMETIMES THE PILLS UPSET MY STOMACH--NOT A BIG DEAL.

ARE YOU GOING TO TRAIN ME OR NOT?

SIGH

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?



BATMAN'S GETTING DESPERATE. I'VE TAKEN THE POLICE, HIS FAMILY, GOTHAM CITY--I'VE BEATEN HIM IN EVERY WAY EXCEPT ONE: A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FIST-FIGHT.

BUT...HE'S BATMAN.

THE PILLS ARE ALSO A STEROID. YOUR TRAINING, CAREFUL PLANNING AND A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK--I THINK I CAN PULL IT OFF.

JUST DON'T HIT THE FACE.



GOOD. AGAIN.



WATCH MY WAIST, IT'LL TELL YOU WHERE I'M GOING TO MOVE.



YA GONNA FIGHT BACK OR WHAT?

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU--



NOT THE FACE!

YOU THINK BATMAN IS GONNA AVOID YOUR PRETTY FACE?



I'M A COUNCILMAN NOW! ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF BACKPORT.

SO?

SO HOW'S IT GONNA LOOK IF I HAVE A BLACK EYE?

EHH, QUIT YER WHINING AND GO PUT ON YOUR MAKEUP..

"...AND DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW."



YOU'RE LATE.



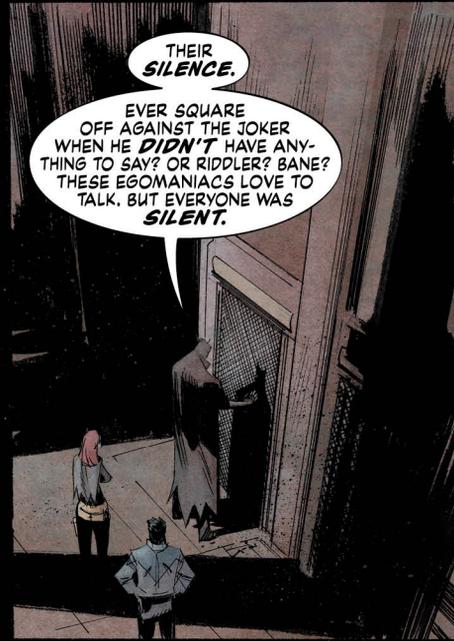
WE WERE TALKING WITH GORDON.



**TWO MASSIVE ASSAULTS:** ONE IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT, THE OTHER AT **GCPD** HEADQUARTERS. BOTH INVOLVED SUPER-CRIMINALS WHO **NEVER** WORK TOGETHER.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE UNUSUAL.

WHAT?



THEIR SILENCE.

EVER SQUARE OFF AGAINST THE JOKER WHEN HE **DIDN'T** HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY? OR RIDDLER? BANE? THESE EGOMANIACS LOVE TO TALK, BUT EVERYONE WAS **SILENT**.



EXCEPT FOR **HATTER** AND **NEO JOKER**. I THINK THEY HIJACKED THE OTHERS USING HATTER'S **MIND CONTROL CARDS**.



BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY HATTER CARDS.

IS THAT DIRT?

CLAY.

CLAYFACE IS THE **ONLY** SUPER-CRIMINAL WE HAVEN'T SEEN -- HE HAS TO BE INVOLVED.



BRUCE, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

THE **GTO**-- YOU WANT ME TO JOIN. NO CHANCE IN HELL.

NAPIER HAS CHANGED.



**NOTHING HAS CHANGED.** THE JOKER GOT OUT OF ARKHAM AND IS TRYING TO HURT GOTHAM WITH HIS LATEST SCHEME-- WE'VE SEEN IT A HUNDRED TIMES.



GOTHAM IS **CHANGING**, AND IT'S OFFERING US A CHANCE TO CHANGE **WITH IT**.

HAVE YOU **FORGOTTEN** EVERYTHING THE JOKER'S DONE?



OF COURSE WE HAVEN'T! BUT UNTIL HE BREAKS ANY **LAWS**, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

YOUR WAY **ISN'T WORKING!** AND THE **GTO** IS THE PERFECT COMPROMISE-- WE REBUILD **TRUST** WITH THE GCPD WHILE KEEPING AN **EYE** ON NAPIER.

DICK...

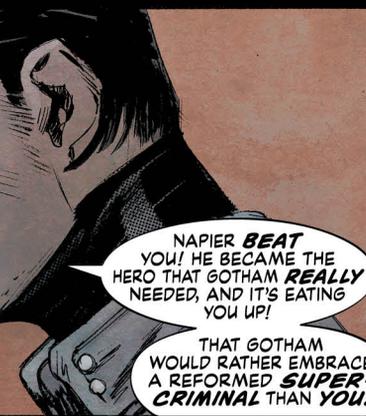


YOU WANT NAPIER TO WIN, DON'T YOU?

BECAUSE IT PROVES ME **WRONG**. BECAUSE IT **FINALLY** GIVES YOU A REASON TO BELIEVE YOU'RE **BETTER** THAN ME. THAT I'M NOT ONLY **YOUR** VILLAIN, BUT **GOTHAM CITY'S**.

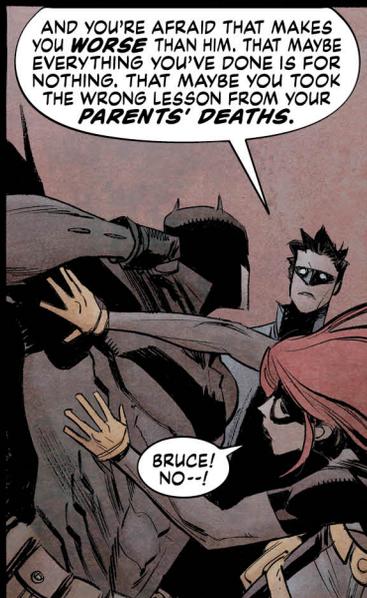


GUYS...



NAPIER **BEAT** YOU! HE BECAME THE HERO THAT GOTHAM **REALLY** NEEDED, AND IT'S EATING YOU UP!

THAT GOTHAM WOULD RATHER EMBRACE A REFORMED **SUPER-CRIMINAL** THAN YOU.



AND YOU'RE AFRAID THAT MAKES YOU **WORSE** THAN HIM. THAT MAYBE EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE IS FOR NOTHING. THAT MAYBE YOU TOOK THE WRONG LESSON FROM YOUR **PARENTS' DEATHS**.

BRUCE! NO--!



TOSS



YOU BOTH SUCK, YOU KNOW THAT?

WHY IS IT ALWAYS SUCH A PISSING CONTEST, AND **WHY AM I ALWAYS STUCK IN THE MIDDLE?!**



BUT--

BRUCE GAVE YOU **EVERYTHING**, DICK! YOU DON'T GET TO TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT.



AND BRUCE-- YOU NEED TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT YOUR NEXT MOVE, BECAUSE **GOTHAM'S LOSING PATIENCE** WITH YOU!

