

THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS WERE ALWAYS A SPRAWL OF WAREHOUSES, LIGHT INDUSTRY, AND RAIL YARDS. TENDRILS OF GENTRIFICATION SNAKED THROUGH IT. SO, IN ONE WAY, IT USED TO BE A *BEGINNING*.

AFTER THE DOME APPEARED, IT BECAME THE PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING *ENDED*.

IS THAT IT, WAYNE? YOU'RE STICKING TO YOUR RIDICULOUS STORY?

GOTHAM'S MOST FAMOUS PLAYBOY BILLIONAIRE IS TRYING TO WORM HIS WAY INTO METROPOLIS'S CRIME ORGANIZATIONS...?

S'MATTER, GOTHAM TOO TOUGH FOR YOU, RICH BOY?

YOU KNOW THAT OLD SAW, "BEHIND EVERY GREAT FORTUNE LIES A GREAT CRIME?" A LOT OF MONEY ALSO BUYS GOOD PR, AND ARTISTIC SPIN-MEISTERS. THE WAYNES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD THE VERY BEST.

WHAT A CROCK! SHOULD I THRASH HIM MORE, MR. WHALE?

NO HURRY, NIKKA.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE STREET

LARRY HAMA—WORDS
PHILIP TAN—RENCIS
JASON PAZ & ROB HUNTER—INKS
ELMER SANTOS—COLORS
STEVE WANDS—LETTERING
TAN, PAZ & SANTOS—COVER
CHIP KIDD—VARIANT COVER DESIGN
WITH ART BY MIKE MANLEY
& DICK GIORDANO
HOLZHEER & KRAIGER—ASSISTANT EDITORS
MARIE JAVINS—EDITOR
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



BUT STILL, HIS PROPOSITIONS ARE QUITE TEMPTING!

HE IS OFFERING ALL OF HIS POLITICAL PULL AND INFLUENCE TO HELP US IN OUR MORE COMMERCIAL ENDEAVORS.

FOR A HEFTY SLICE, OF COURSE.



THAT'S THE MOST CONVINCING PART...

...THE SHEER NAKED GREED.



AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT BRUCE WAYNE IS STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK HE CAN PULL ONE OVER ON TOBIAS WHALE.

BUT IT PAYS TO PLAY SAFE.



JOHNNY VALLI IS MY NEW MUSCLE. HE'S GOING TO HURT YOU UNTIL YOU START BLEEDING THE TRUTH.

CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, JOHNNY.

YOU GOT IT, BOSS.



HUH! YOU COULD HAVE JUST LET ME AND ICE PICK IKE AND LITTLE LEON GO TO TOWN ON HIM--

THE NEW GUY NEEDS TO SHOW ME WHAT HE CAN DO, NIKKA.

DON'T ROCK THE PLATFORM TOO HARD, JOHNNY. THE ONLY THING HOLDING IT UP IS THE SHEER FORCE OF THE DOME.



"YOU SHOULD REALLY BE TAKING IT EASY UNTIL YOUR BACK HEALS COMPLETELY, BRUCE..."

WHERE TO, BOSS?

BACK TO HEADQUARTERS.



... ESPECIALLY IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE INTIMIDATING PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE OF THE CAPE AND COWL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN METROPOLIS, JEAN PAUL?



THE GREEN LANTERN PARALLAX EVENT DREW ME HERE. HOW COULD AZRAEL MISS A GATHERING OF HEROES LIKE THAT? I JUST HAD THE MISFORTUNE TO LINGER TOO LONG AND GOT TRAPPED BY THE DOME.

A YEAR SLIPPED BY, AND I REALIZED THAT WHALE WAS GETTING CLOSE TO TAKING OVER THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION NETWORK. THOUGHT AN INSIDE JOB WAS THE WAY TO GO.

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD THE SAME IDEA.




I INTEND TO TAKE DOWN TOBIAS WHALE, BUT MY METHODOLOGY IS NOT AS BRUTAL AS YOURS. WE HAVE THE SAME GOAL, SO THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, IS THERE?



A TEAM-UP?

YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN MY WAY IF IT COMES DOWN TO A MESSY ENDING, ARE YOU?

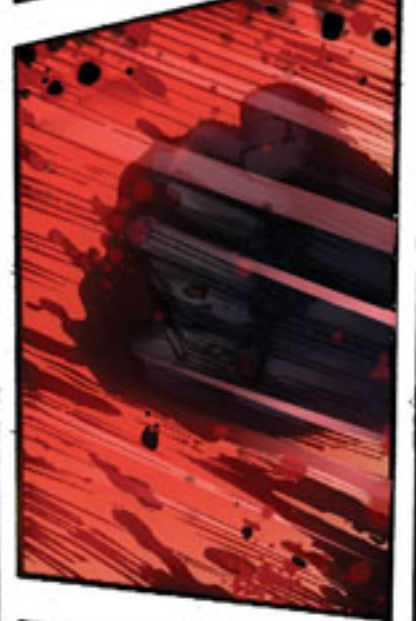


ODDS ARE BETTER IF WE WORK TOGETHER. WE CAN DEAL WITH THE FINE-TUNING WHEN THE MATTER COMES UP.

AND FOR THE SAKE OF VERISIMILITUDE, YOU HAD BETTER NOT HOLD BACK ON THIS BEATING.


I'M FINE WITH WORKING TOGETHER--BUT, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THE BEATING?

JUST GET ON WITH IT.

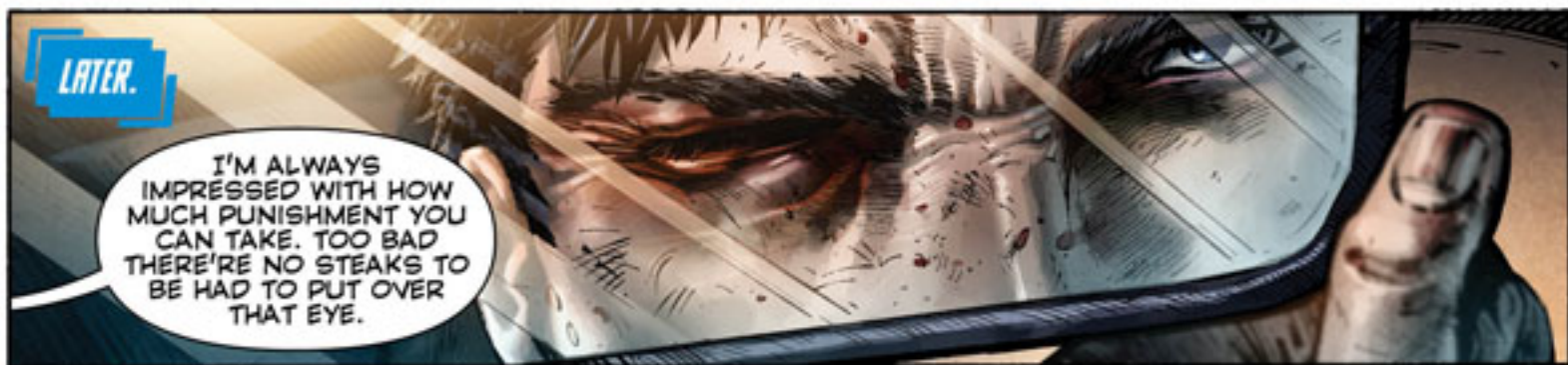


THAT SHOULD SUFFICE.

I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT I WORKED OVER AREAS UNRELATED TO YOUR BROKEN BACK RECOVERY.



ALWAYS THE GENTLEMAN, AREN'T YOU, JEAN PAUL?



LATER.

I'M ALWAYS IMPRESSED WITH HOW MUCH PUNISHMENT YOU CAN TAKE. TOO BAD THERE'RE NO STEAKS TO BE HAD TO PUT OVER THAT EYE.



I'VE HAD WORSE.

EASIER TO GET OVER A FEW BRUISES THAN THE PAUCITY OF FILET MIGNON AND CHATEAUBRIAND.

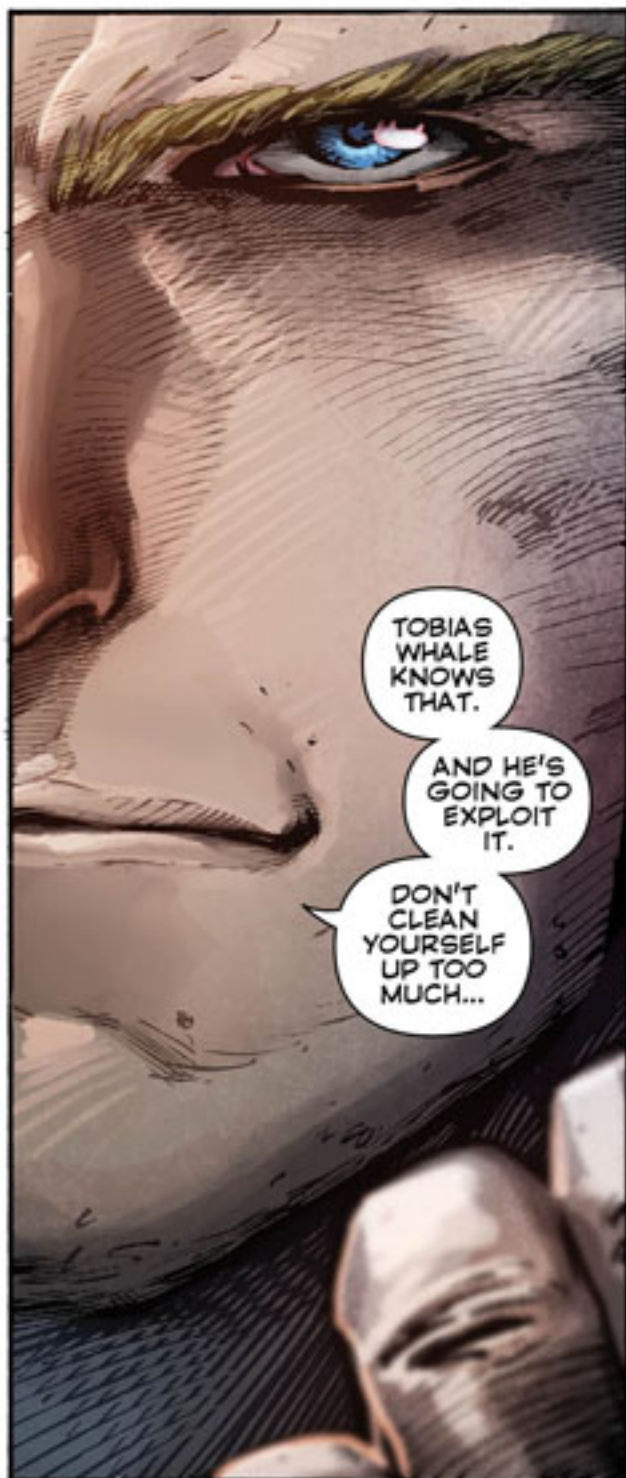
NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT'S IN THE STUFF THEY GIVE US TO EAT, EXCEPT THAT IT'S HALFWAY PALATABLE AND PROVIDES ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS AND FIBER...



...BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP EVERYBODY FROM QUEUING UP FOR THE STUFF AT THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTERS.



WHATEVER IT IS, PEOPLE STILL NEED IT AND WANT IT. THAT GIVES IT VALUE.



TOBIAS WHALE KNOWS THAT.

AND HE'S GOING TO EXPLOIT IT.

DON'T CLEAN YOURSELF UP TOO MUCH...