

THE AIRSHIP SEQUOIA. MOBILE BASE OF BATWOMAN.



HELLO, DR. CARROLYN.

MY NAME IS **KATE KANE**, AND I'M THE LEGAL GUARDIAN OF MY SISTER, **ELIZABETH KANE**, WHO IS A PATIENT AT THE **WEIÑE KANINCHEN SANATORIUM**.

WE'VE HAD A **FAMILY EMERGENCY**, AND I HAVE TO SPEAK TO **BETH** IMMEDIATELY.

I AM **SO, SO, SO SORRY**, MS. KANE!



BETH IS OUT ON A HIKE WITH SOME OF OUR OTHER WARDS--UNDER COMPLETE MEDICAL SUPERVISION, OF COURSE.

SHE'S EXPECTED TO RETURN TOMORROW, BUT I'M AFRAID NONE OF THE GROUP CAN BE REACHED FROM THE SANATORIUM--

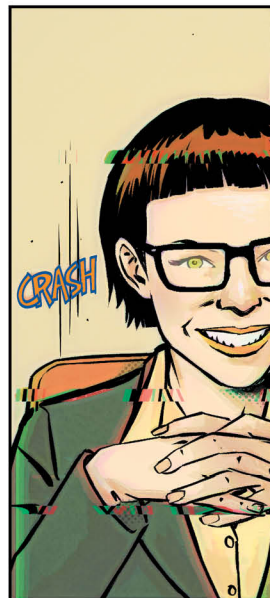


WE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A **SNOWSTORM** IN THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS, AND IT HAS BEEN **QUITE OBFUSCATING**.

WHAT AN **INCREDIBLY IRRESPONSIBLE AND CONVENIENT** TURN OF EVENTS.

UNFORTUNATE, BUT, I'M AFRAID, **TRUE**.

AS TRUE AS, SAY, **SAFIYAH SOHAIL** AND THE **MANY ARMS OF DEATH** KIDNAPPING ONE OF YOUR PATIENTS WHILE YOU COVER FOR THEM?



LIARS.

BLIB

ROTTEN, WRETCHED, GODFORSAKEN LIARS.

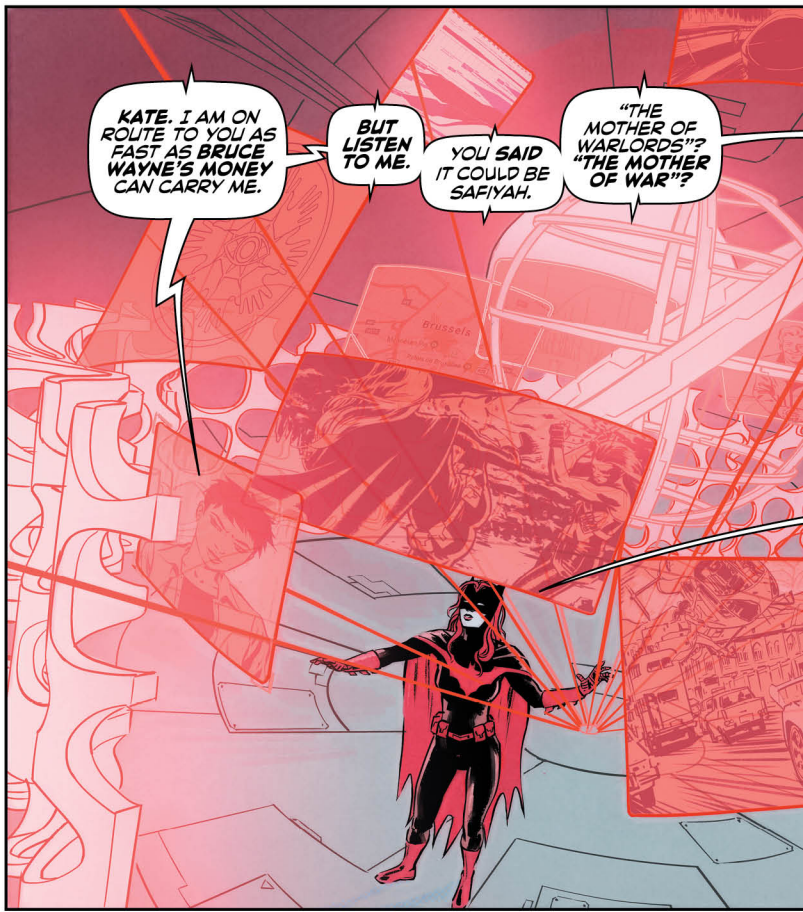
SAFIYAH HAS MY SISTER.

THE DESCENT INTO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.



AND I HAVE TO USE EVERY ATOM OF MY BEING NOT TO THROTTLE THE ABSOLUTE LIVING, DYING, THRICE-DAMNED DAYLIGHTS OUT OF SAFIYAH--

--TO GET BETH BACK.

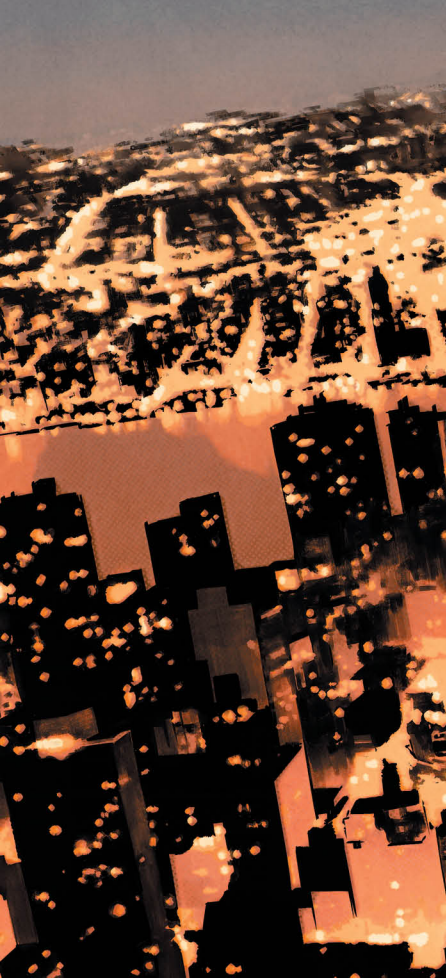


KATE. I AM ON ROUTE TO YOU AS FAST AS BRUCE WAYNE'S MONEY CAN CARRY ME.

BUT LISTEN TO ME.

YOU SAID IT COULD BE SAFIYAH.

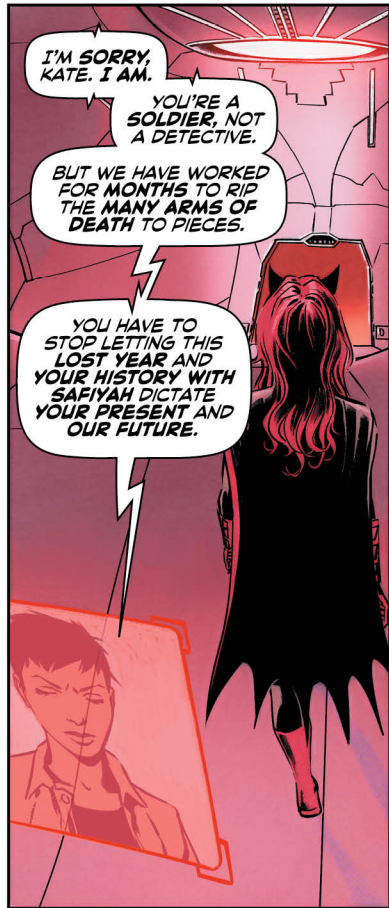
"THE MOTHER OF WARLORDS"? "THE MOTHER OF WAR"?



TAHANI WOULD NEVER WORK FOR SAFIYAH. SHE SAID SHE WASN'T SAFIYAH'S PLAYTHING ANYMORE, TOLD THE TWINS IN CHARGE OF THE MANY ARMS OF DEATH TO BURN THE ISLAND DOWN--

LISTEN TO THE TWINS' OWN WORDS.

"TAHANI HAS NO IDEA WHO SHE TRULY SERVES."



I'M SORRY, KATE. I AM.

YOU'RE A SOLDIER, NOT A DETECTIVE.

BUT WE HAVE WORKED FOR MONTHS TO RIP THE MANY ARMS OF DEATH TO PIECES.

YOU HAVE TO STOP LETTING THIS LOST YEAR AND YOUR HISTORY WITH SAFIYAH DICTATE YOUR PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE.



YOU KNOW IT'S SAFIYAH.

THIS IS NOT DENIAL, JULIA. THIS IS NOT WISHFUL DRINKING.

I KNOW SAFIYAH'S HAND IS IN THIS.

BUT I THINK IT'S BIGGER THAN HER.

YOU MEAN YOU WANT IT TO BE BIGGER THAN HER.



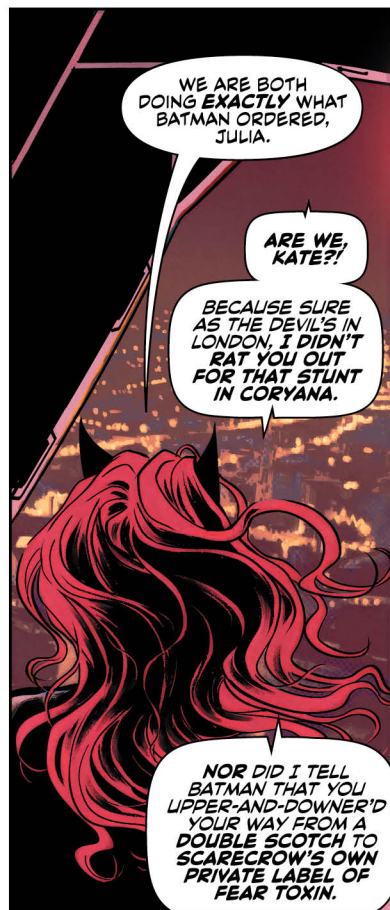
KATE, SAFIYAH'S BEEN PLAYING YOU LIKE NERO'S @###@### FIDDLE.

SHE LEFT CORYANA IN DANGER, WHICH LURED YOU BACK TO THE ISLAND.

YOU KICKED OUT THE KALI CORPORATION, AND LEARNED THEY WERE A FRONT FOR THE MANY ARMS OF DEATH, AND SAFIYAH'S EX, TAHANI, WAS WORKING FOR THEM!

YOU TRACKED DOWN THEIR LAB IN THE SAHARA, AND RIGHT WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TO CAPTURE THEIR AGENT FATIMA, SAFIYA APPEARED, AND FATIMA ESCAPED AND DECLARED THEIR SPOOKY TERRORIST PLAN "COMPLETE"!

THEN SAFIYAH ANNOUNCED SHE HAS BETH AND YOU HAVE TO RESCUE HER!

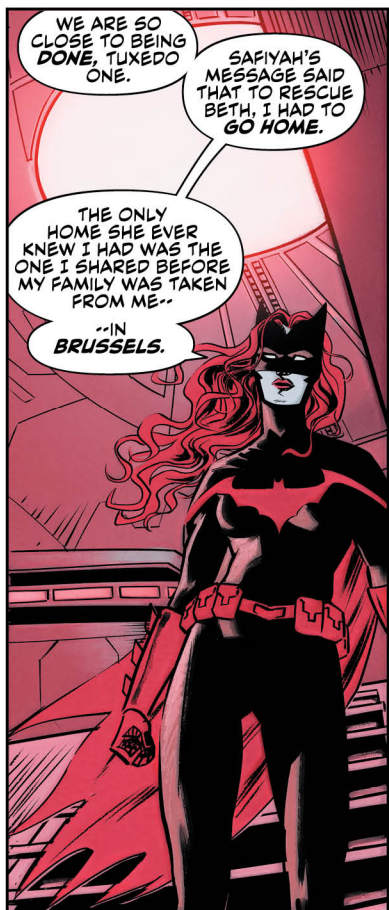


WE ARE BOTH DOING EXACTLY WHAT BATMAN ORDERED, JULIA.

ARE WE, KATE?!

BECAUSE SURE AS THE DEVIL'S IN LONDON, I DIDN'T RAT YOU OUT FOR THAT STUNT IN CORYANA.

NOR DID I TELL BATMAN THAT YOU LIPPER-AND-DOWNER'D YOUR WAY FROM A DOUBLE SCOTCH TO SCARECROW'S OWN PRIVATE LABEL OF FEAR TOXIN.

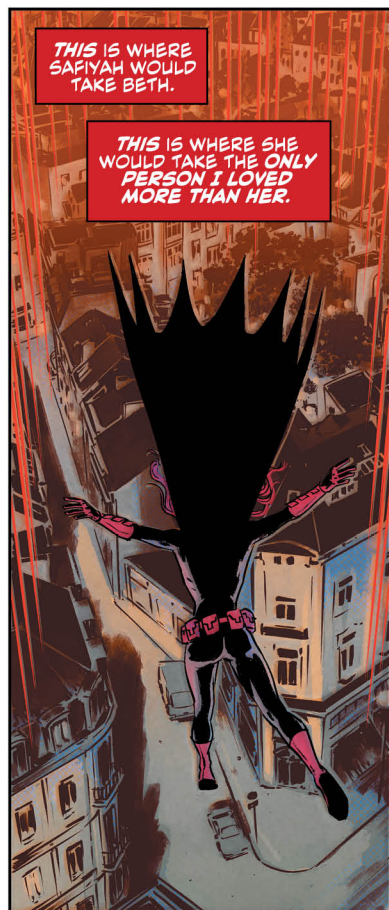


WE ARE SO CLOSE TO BEING DONE, TUXEDO ONE.

SAFIYAH'S MESSAGE SAID THAT TO RESCUE BETH, I HAD TO GO HOME.

THE ONLY HOME SHE EVER KNEW I HAD WAS THE ONE I SHARED BEFORE MY FAMILY WAS TAKEN FROM ME--

--IN BRUSSELS.



THIS IS WHERE SAFIYAH WOULD TAKE BETH.

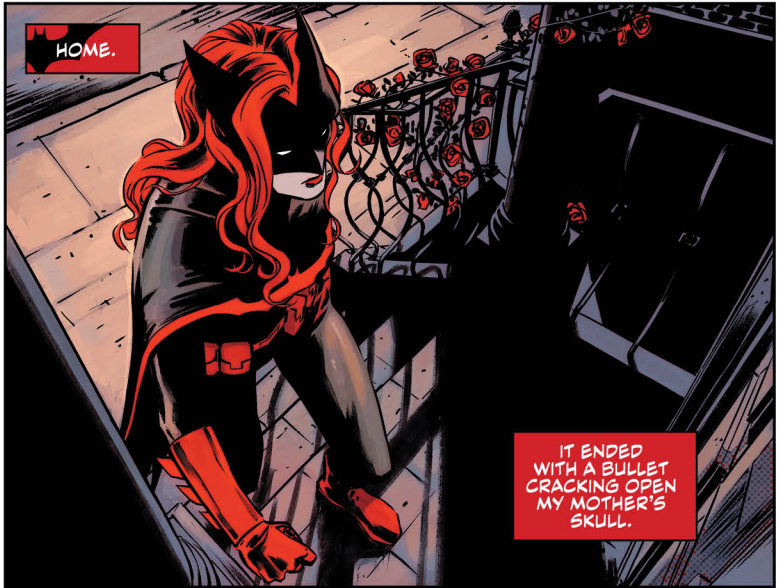
THIS IS WHERE SHE WOULD TAKE THE ONLY PERSON I LOVED MORE THAN HER.

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF KANE

PART ONE

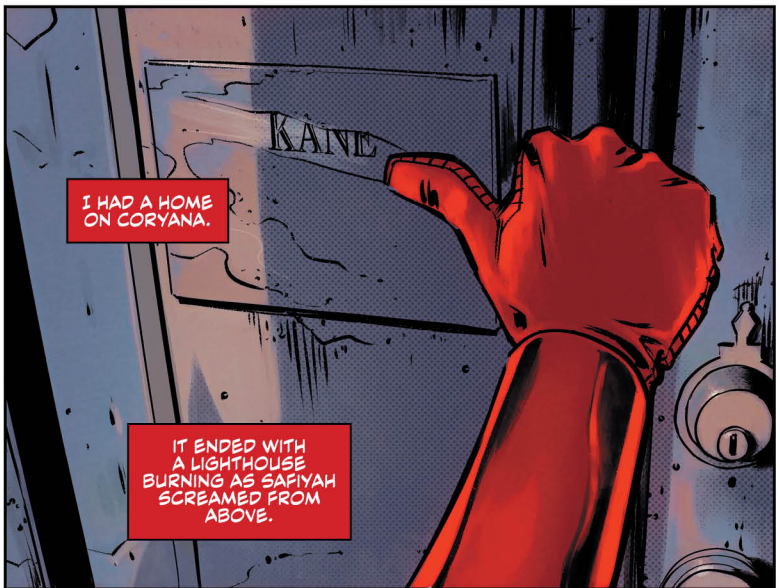
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HOME.

IT ENDED WITH A BULLET CRACKING OPEN MY MOTHER'S SKULL.



I HAD A HOME ON CORYANA.

IT ENDED WITH A LIGHTHOUSE BURNING AS SAFIYAH SCREAMED FROM ABOVE.



AND I HAD A HOME IN GOTHAM.

WUMP

IT ENDED WHEN ALICE'S HAND SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS AS SHE FELL INTO THE BAY.*

*SEE BATWOMAN: ELEGY. --BRITTANY

ALL THE HOMES
AND PARADISES
AND SAFE HAVENS
I HAVE KNOWN...

...AND I SAW
THEM ALL
DESTROYED.

I'VE READ
THE FILES.

IT'S BEEN **FIFTEEN**
YEARS SINCE ANYONE
LIVED UNDER THIS
ROOF--

--AT LEAST,
FOR MORE THAN A
TWENTY-DOLLAR
FIX AND A PLACE
TO GET OUT OF
THE COLD.

BUT THE HOUSE
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
BEEN ABANDONED
FOR **FAR LONGER.**

KIDS WHISTLE
WHEN THEY WALK
PAST IT, TO AVOID
BAD LUCK.

ADULTS CROSS TO
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE STREET.

IT SPREADS ITS
TENDRILS ALONG THE
BLOCK--RUMORS OF
CULTS, OF MONSTERS,
OF A THING WITHIN
THE WALLS.

A **DISEASE** TO
EVERYTHING IT
TOUCHES.