GOTHAM CITY.
MANY YEARS AGO.

I SWEAR, I'D *HIT* HIM IF I HAD THE CHANCE.

NOT THE *TIME*, JACOB.

WALKING DOWN A *BACK ALLEY* IN *THIS* DAMN CITY, IN *THAT* PART OF TOWN? WHAT THE HELL WAS HE *THINKING?*

MY FATHER WAS RIGHT. THEY SHOULD HAVE THROWN WAYNE INTO ARKHAM YEARS AGO WITH THE OTHER LUNATICS. HE NEVER APPRECIATED THE KIND OF DANGER OUT THERE...

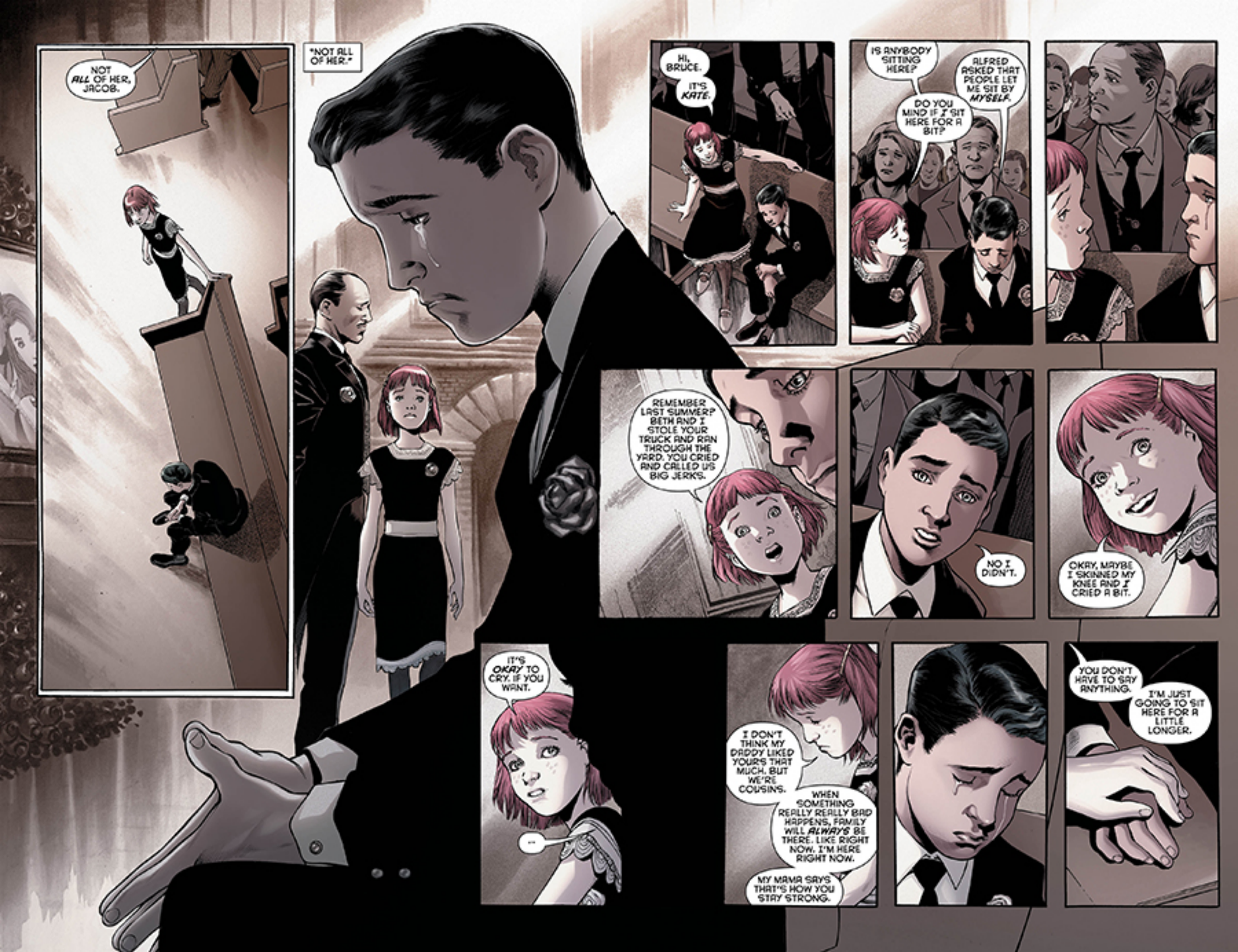
THOMAS NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT ANYBODY EXCEPT *HIMSELF.*

JAKE. THINK OF THE *GIRLS.* IMAGINE ALL OF THAT GETTING INTO *THEIR* HEADS.

...

MARTHA WAS MY *SISTER*, GABI.

MY SISTER IS *DEAD.*


NOT ALL OF HER, JACOB.
"NOT ALL OF HER."
HI, BRUCE.
IT'S KATE.
IS ANYBODY SITTING HERE?
ALFRED ASKED THAT PEOPLE LET ME SIT BY MYSELF.
DO YOU MIND IF I SIT HERE FOR A BIT?
REMEMBER LAST SUMMER? BETH AND I STOLE YOUR TRUCK AND RAN THROUGH THE YARD. YOU CRIED AND CALLED US BIG JERK'S.
NO I DIDN'T.
OKAY, MAYBE I SKINNED MY KNEE AND I CRIED A BIT.
IT'S OKAY TO CRY. IF YOU WANT.
I DON'T THINK MY DADDY LIKED YOUR'S THAT MUCH. BUT WE'RE COUSINS.
WHEN SOMETHING REALLY REALLY BAD HAPPENS, FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE THERE. LIKE RIGHT NOW. I'M HERE RIGHT NOW.
MY MAMA SAYS THAT'S HOW YOU STAY STRONG.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING.
I'M JUST GOING TO SIT HERE FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

NOW.

ALFRED. WE'VE TAKEN BACK THE BELFRY.

OH, THANK GOODNESS. WE WERE APPROACHING THE "LINE IN THE SAND" MOMENT. I WAS ABOUT TO REACH OUT TO OUR FRIEND IN METROPOLIS.

I STILL NEED YOU TO PREPARE A CALL. THE *BLACK LINE*.

I'LL GET IT READY THIS INSTANT.

WE NEED TO TALK.

YES, WE DO.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO HIRE A CLEANING LADY OR SOMETHING. THESE COLONY FREAKS REALLY MESSED UP THE JOINT.

THERE'S GLASS EVERYWHERE.

TRUST ME, IF THERE WAS ONE CONTINGENCY PLAN I THOUGHT TO COMPENSATE FOR, IT WAS SMASHED WINDOWS...THEY'RE PART OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION.

THE BELFRY *HEALS* ITSELF. THERE ARE REPLACEMENT PANELS IN THE WALLS THAT DEPLOY WHENEVER NEEDED. WE'VE GOT, I'D SAY, TWO MORE SETS?

AND NO CLEANING LADY. THINK INDUSTRIAL-SIZED ROOMBAS.

CRIPES, KID. YOU DESIGNED ALL THIS YOURSELF? WHY THE HELL ARE YOU EVEN IN THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS?

...

TAKE THESE TWO DOWN TO THE HOLDING CELLS, AND GET THEM OUT OF THOSE SUITS. WE CAN'T RISK THEM ESCAPING.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

I MADE MY DECISION, STEPH. NEXT SEMESTER I'LL BE STARTING WITH THE IVY UNIVERSITY SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM. AND I'LL BE DEVOTING MYSELF *FULL TIME.*

NO MORE RED ROBIN?

NOT FOR *NOW*, ANYWAY.

IVY'S ONLY A 90-MINUTE TRAIN RIDE AWAY...

FASTER ON A BAT-CYCLE.

THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS SHOULD HAVE WORKED. A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM, EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER, DRAWING ON EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I USED TO SKETCH THE IDEAS I HAD INTO A NOTEBOOK. *CRAZY* IDEAS, THINGS THAT WOULD TAKE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO REALIZE.

THINGS LIKE A BATCAVE IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM THAT *HEALS ITSELF* WHEN IT GETS *HURT?*

YEAH. STUFF LIKE THAT.

THIS IS MY GIFT TO ALL OF YOU. THIS IS THE IMPORTANT THING. IT'S WHAT'S GOING TO LAST WHEN I LEAVE GOTHAM.

AND WHEN WILL YOU TELL *BATMAN?*

WHEN ALL THIS COLONY STUFF IS OVER. I DON'T WANT TO DISTRACT HIM.

DISTRACT, OR *DISAPPOINT?*