




I REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MOVED TO GOTHAM, I HATED THAT YOU COULDN'T SEE THE STARS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I WASN'T AN ASTRONOMY BUFF OR ANYTHING.

I PROBABLY JUST WANTED A REASON TO BE MAD, BUT IT SEEMED LIKE A BIG DEAL THEN.

MY DAD SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER THAT THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF STARS, BECAUSE YOU COULD ALWAYS SEE THE BRIGHTEST.

THEY WERE STILL UP THERE, DOING THEIR JOB TO LIGHT UP THE NIGHT.



I TRY TO BE THAT NOW FOR THE PEOPLE OF BURNSIDE.





AFTER ALL, THE  
WORLD COULD  
ALWAYS USE A BIT  
MORE LIGHT.

## THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN HEAVEN

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

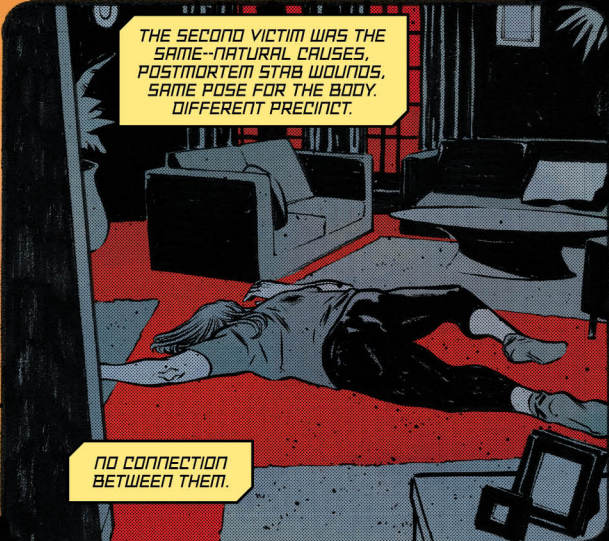


THERE'S A SERIAL  
KILLER ON THE  
LOOSE IN MY  
NEIGHBORHOOD.  
AN ARROGANT  
ONE AT THAT.



THE COPS WEREN'T EVEN  
SURE IT WAS MURDER  
WHEN THEY FOUND THE  
FIRST VICTIM.

HE DIED OF A  
HEART ATTACK,  
BUT WAS STABBED  
AFTERWARD.



THE SECOND VICTIM WAS THE  
SAME--NATURAL CAUSES,  
POSTMORTEM STAB WOUNDS,  
SAME POSE FOR THE BODY,  
DIFFERENT PRECINCT.

NO CONNECTION  
BETWEEN THEM.



WHOEVER'S DOING THIS ISN'T  
THE TRADITIONAL COMPULSION  
KILLER. THEY AREN'T TARGETING A  
SPECIFIC TYPE OF PERSON AND  
THEY CAN KILL UNTRACEABLY.

THEY COULD HAVE  
STAYED TOTALLY  
OFF OUR RADAR.



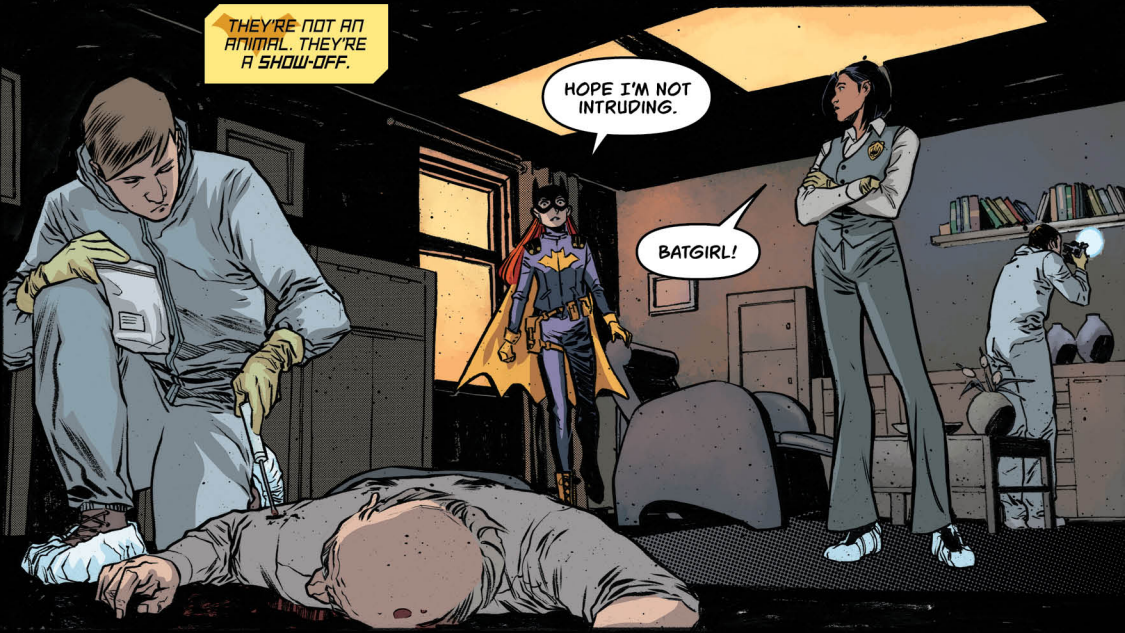
THEY'RE JUST  
CHOOSING NOT TO.



THEY'RE NOT AN ANIMAL. THEY'RE A SHOW-OFF.

HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING.

BATGIRL!



EVERYONE, GIVE US A MINUTE.

WHAT?! SHE'S NOT LAW ENFORCEMENT! WE--

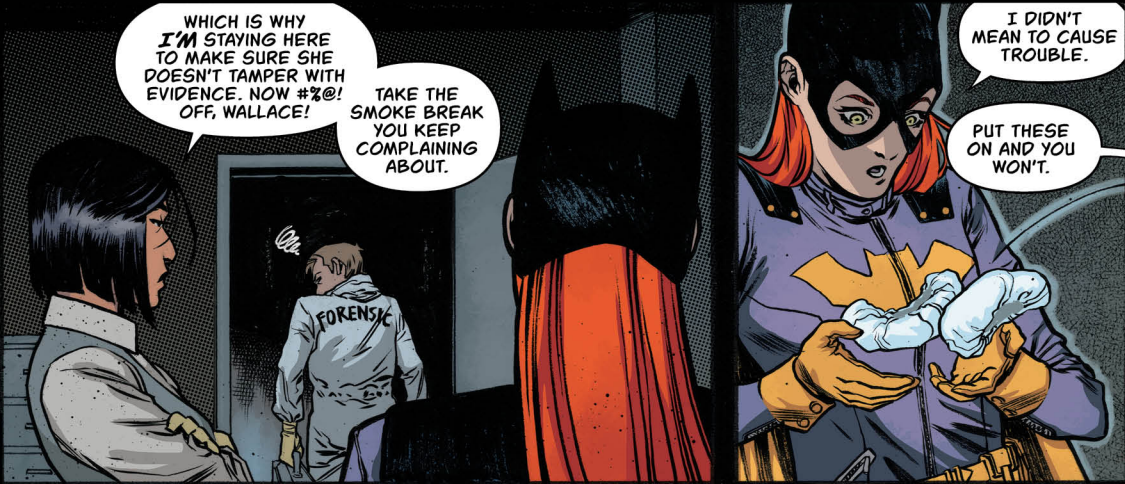


WHICH IS WHY I'M STAYING HERE TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TAMPER WITH EVIDENCE. NOW #%&! OFF, WALLACE!

TAKE THE SMOKE BREAK YOU KEEP COMPLAINING ABOUT.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO CAUSE TROUBLE.

PUT THESE ON AND YOU WON'T.



WALLACE IS GOOD PEOPLE, BUT THIS IS DEFINITELY BAT-LEVEL WEIRDNESS.

WALK ME THROUGH IT, DETECTIVE...

...KHATRI, I'D ASK YOURS, BUT IT SEEMS RUDE.







MEET MR. ASHLEY WRIGHT. QUIET GUY. WIDOWER. RUMORS FROM THE NEIGHBORS SAY THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HOOKER OR TWO, WHICH MEANS HE'S NAÏVE ENOUGH TO BRING THEM TO **HIS** PLACE.

THE WEIRD THING IS, HE WASN'T STABBED TILL AFTER DEATH. I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THIS M.O. IN OTHER PRECINCTS. I'M GUESSING THEY WERE LIKE THIS.



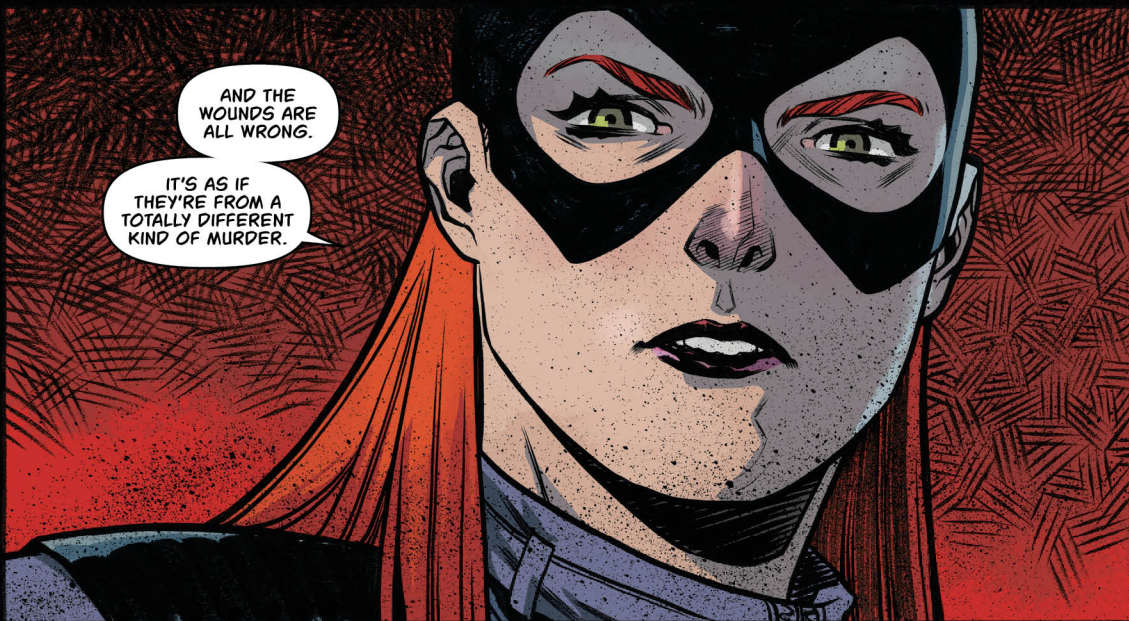
"NOT LIKE THIS.



"EXACTLY LIKE THIS. ESPECIALLY IF HE DIED OF AN APPARENT HEART ATTACK.



"THE CUTS ARE THE SAME, TOO. AS IF SOMEONE WERE USING A TEMPLATE TO MAKE THEM.




AND THE WOUNDS ARE ALL WRONG.

IT'S AS IF THEY'RE FROM A TOTALLY DIFFERENT KIND OF MURDER.






MY MIND LAYS  
OUT THE STORY  
LIKE A MOVIE.




THE SHALLOW  
CUTS ON THE  
BACK, THEY'RE  
FROM SOMEONE  
RUNNING AWAY.




THE AWKWARD  
STAB ON THE  
SIDE, LIKE HE  
TRIPPED.



THEN A SLASH  
OVER IT. DID HE  
GET UP?

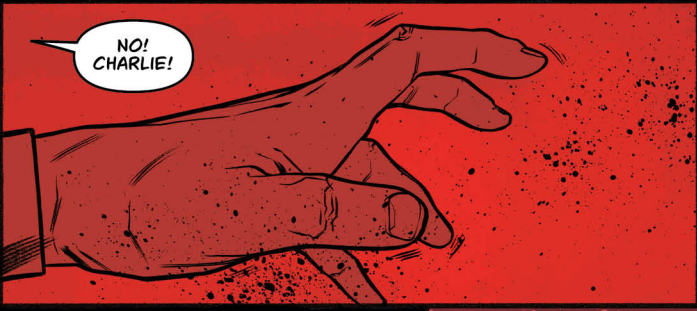


NOT FOR LONG. SEVERAL  
MORE STAB WOUNDS IN  
THE BACK, INCLUDING WHAT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN THE  
FATAL ONE, IF HE WEREN'T  
ALREADY DEAD.



WHICH MAKES  
NO SENSE IN  
THIS SHOEBOX  
APARTMENT.





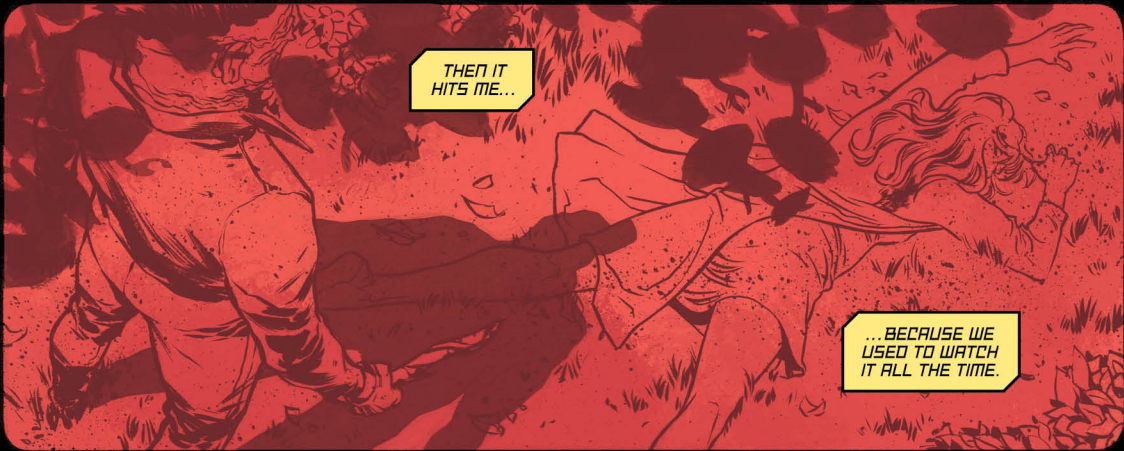
NO!  
CHARLIE!

WAIT... WHY DID I  
THINK OF THAT?



NO!  
CHARLIE!

WHY DO I  
KNOW THIS  
MURDER?



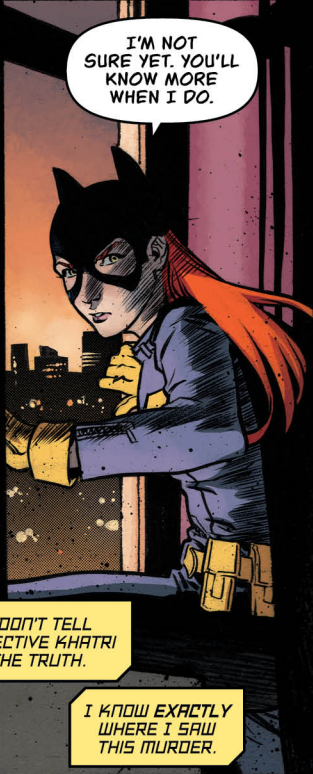
THEN IT  
HITS ME...

... BECAUSE WE  
USED TO WATCH  
IT ALL THE TIME.



I'VE  
SEEN THIS  
MURDER.

WHAT?  
HOW?!

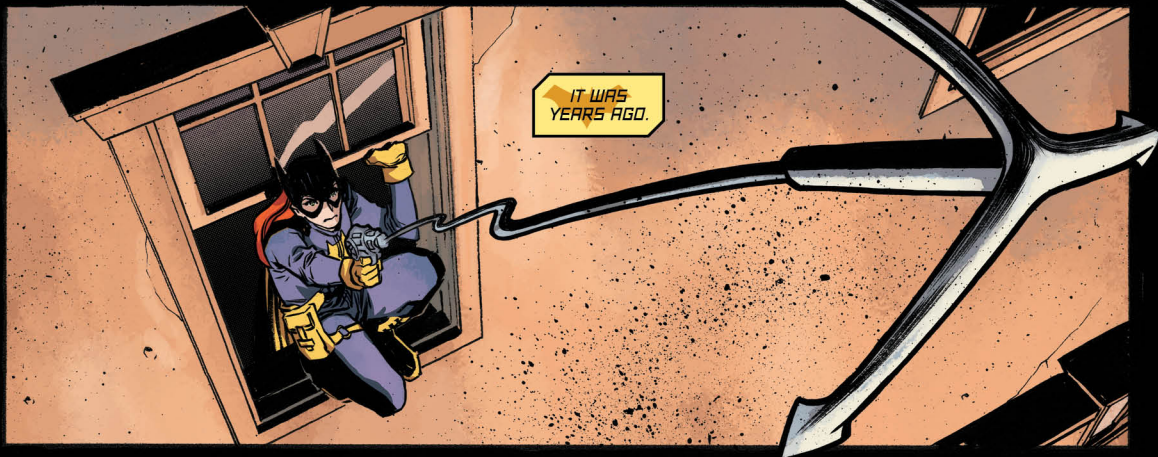


I'M NOT  
SURE YET. YOU'LL  
KNOW MORE  
WHEN I DO.

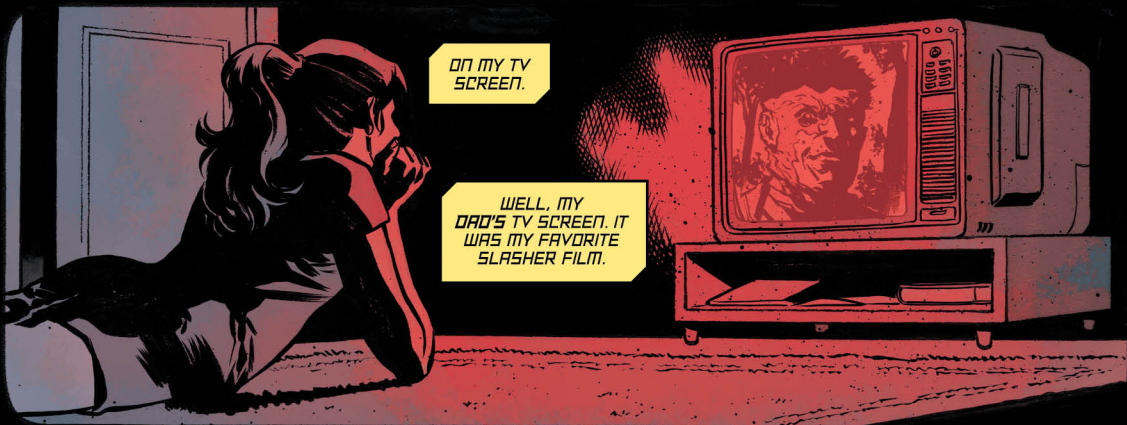
I DON'T TELL  
DETECTIVE KHATRI  
THE TRUTH.

I KNOW EXACTLY  
WHERE I SAW  
THIS MURDER.



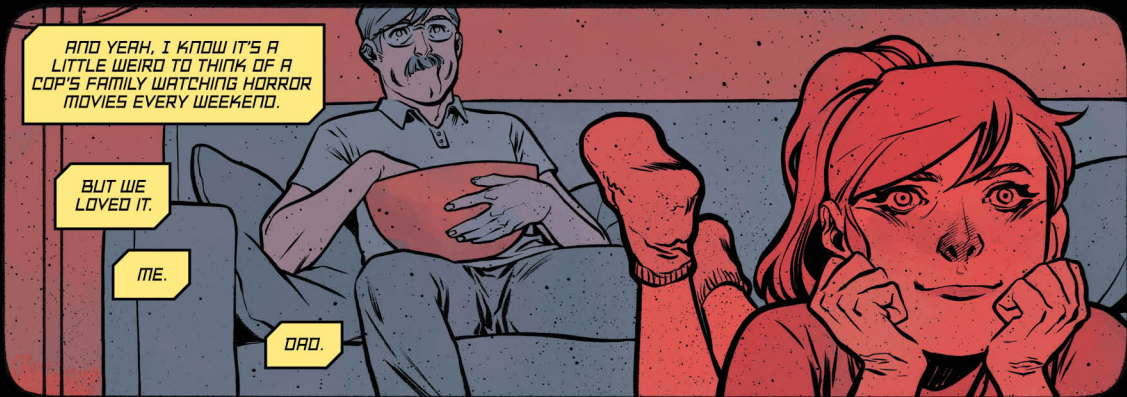


IT WAS YEARS AGO.



ON MY TV SCREEN.

WELL, MY DAD'S TV SCREEN. IT WAS MY FAVORITE SLASHER FILM.

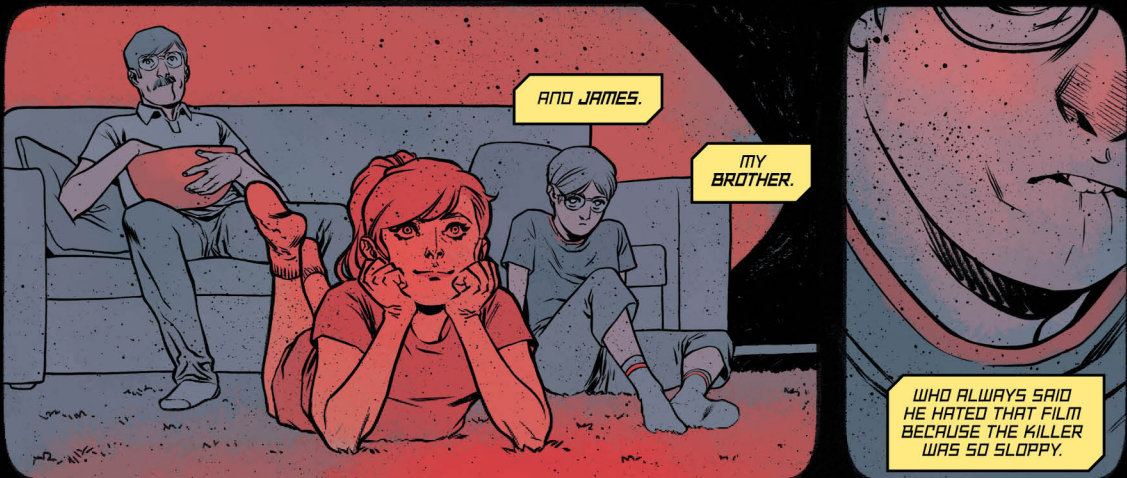


AND YEAH, I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD TO THINK OF A COP'S FAMILY WATCHING HORROR MOVIES EVERY WEEKEND.

BUT WE LOVED IT.

ME.

DAD.



AND JAMES.

MY BROTHER.



WHO ALWAYS SAID HE HATED THAT FILM BECAUSE THE KILLER WAS SO SLOPPY.