



IT DIDN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY.



THIS WAR. ALL THE PAIN. ALL THE LIVES LOST.

I THINK--

I THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT...



...IF YOU'D JUST BEEN A FRIEND.



I'M NOT TO BLAME FOR THE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS, CLARK.



OH, YOU SANCTIMONIOUS ****!

THD



I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE ALIEN.
WHY ARE YOU INCAPABLE OF A HUMAN RESPONSE?

I REGRET... A LOT OF WHAT HAPPENED, BUT NOT ALL OF IT. I DON'T REGRET WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET.

AND WHAT WE COULD HAVE ACHIEVED TOGETHER, BRUCE...



BUT, NO.

LOIS GONE. OUR CHILD. OUR CITY...

AND YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON ME.



YOU JUDGED ME. YOU SAW THE WORST IN ME. YOU FOUGHT ME.

WELL, CONGRATULATIONS. YOU WON. THE WORLD IS YOURS NOW.

I DON'T WANT THE WORLD. I ONLY WANT TO REPAIR WHAT YOU TORE APART.



AND YOU WANT TO DO THAT? RESTORE THE WORLD TO WHAT IT WAS?

REBUILD THE BROKEN STATUS QUO?

GIVE THEM BACK THEIR PETTY SQUABBLES OVER LAND AND RELIGION AND MONEY?



I DON'T DOUBT YOU CAN. A MIND LIKE YOURS COULD EASILY SHAPE THE WORLD.

BUT BATMAN'S VISION FOR THE WORLD? THAT WOULD BE TRULY TERRIFYING.

AND NO ONE IS LEFT WHO WOULD TELL YOU THE TRUTH.



"ALFRED IS GONE."

"ALL OF YOUR ROBINS ARE GONE."

"DICK."

"TIM."

"JASON."

CAM 004
"DAMIAN."

"YOU FAILED THEM ALL."



GOOD-BYE, CLARK.

THAT'S IT. GO.

TURN YOUR BACK ON ME AGAIN.

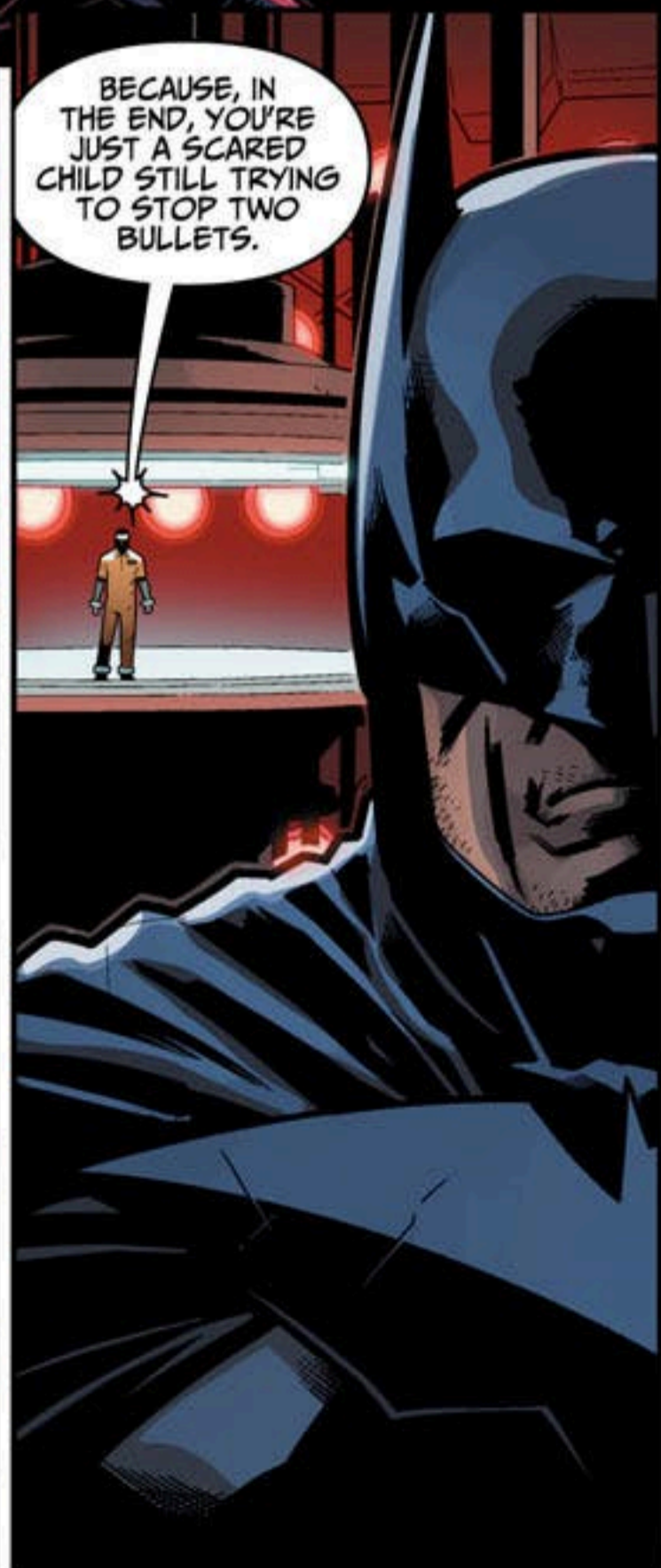


HIDE BEHIND YOUR LITTLE BRUCE WAYNE MASK. CONVINCE THEM YOU'RE THE ONE TO LEAD.

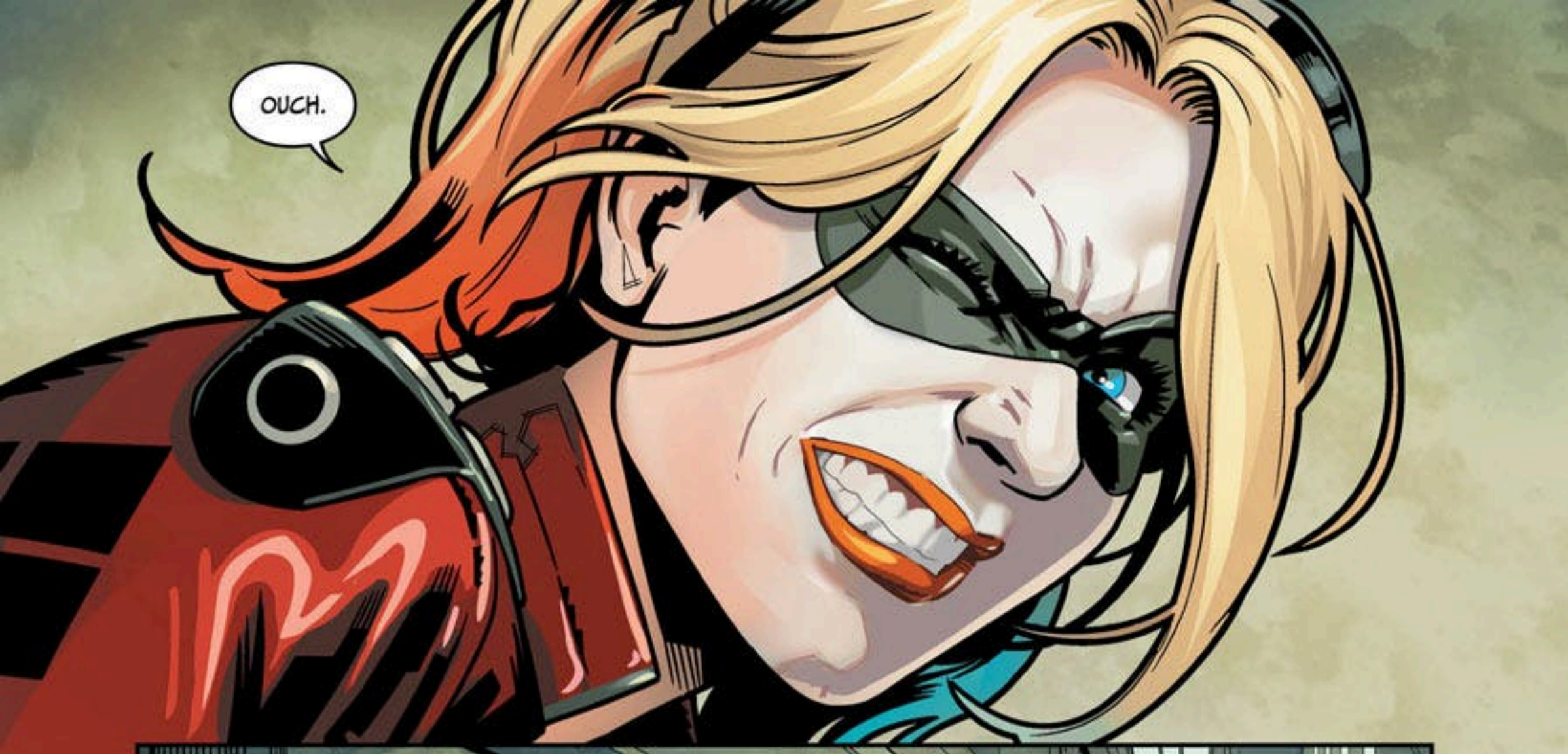
BUT YOU AND I KNOW THE TRUTH.

ONCE YOU TAKE THE REINS, YOU WILL NEVER RETURN THE WORLD TO THE PEOPLE.

YOU WILL ALWAYS SEEK ULTIMATE CONTROL.



BECAUSE, IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST A SCARED CHILD STILL TRYING TO STOP TWO BULLETS.



OUCH.



THAT LINE ABOUT A SCARED CHILD TRYING TO STOP TWO BULLETS. COLD.



CUPCAKE?



I ACTUALLY HAD TWO CUPCAKES. YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HAPPENED.

YOU ATE ONE.

TRULY, YOU ARE THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.



LOOK, BATS. SUPERMAN SNAPPED A LONG TIME AGO.

THAT'S MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION. AND WHAT HE SAID IN THERE--

WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

IT... HUH?



THE WORLD IS UNSTABLE. IF WE DON'T HELP SHAPE IT, OTHER FORCES WILL. NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.

URGH. THAT NATURE. ALWAYS ABHORRING THINGS.



AND THE WORLD CAN BE BETTER. BUT THAT CAN'T BE DONE BY ME ALONE. I CAN SEE MY... SHORTCOMINGS.

YEAH. THEY'RE PRETTY OBVIOUS.

WE'LL NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH WORLD LEADERS, BUT WE'LL NEED OUR OWN COUNCIL.



AND HARLEY--

IT'S OKAY. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO ASK. YOU'VE LOST SO MANY PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A WHILE.

I WON'T CHANGE MY LOOK OR MY IDENTITY. AND WE'LL NEED TO BE EQUALS. I WON'T BE ANYONE'S SIDEKICK.



WHA--?

SHHHH.



I HAVE A PHONE CALL TO MAKE. THEN, I'LL DECIDE IF YOU CAN CALL ME ROBIN.