

THE BOWLER AND THE BAT

WRITER
IAN EDGINTON

ARTIST
MATTHEW DOW SMITH

COLORIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE

LETTERER
WES ABBOTT

COVER
MICHAEL AND LAURA ALLRED

EDITOR
KRISTY QUINN

DC COMICS ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN

BOOM! STUDIOS EDITOR
CHRIS ROSA

BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

THANK YOU FOR ACCOMPANYING ME TO THIS RARE GEMSTONE EXHIBITION, MR. WAYNE. YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THE TROUBLE. YOU'RE A BUSY MAN.

IT'S MY PLEASURE, MISS GOUGH.

SINCE WAYNE ENTERPRISES AND UNITED AUTOMATION WILL SHORTLY BE DOING BUSINESS TOGETHER, IT MAKES SENSE FOR US TO GET BETTER ACQUAINTED.

AND PLEASE, CALL ME BRUCE.

VERY WELL. I'M MICHAELA.

EXCUSE MY BRITISH RESERVE, BUT AS A WOMAN IN INDUSTRY, THE EXPECTATION OF MOST MEN IS THAT YOU'RE ONLY THERE TO LOOK PRETTY, MAKE TEA AND TAKE SHORTHAND.

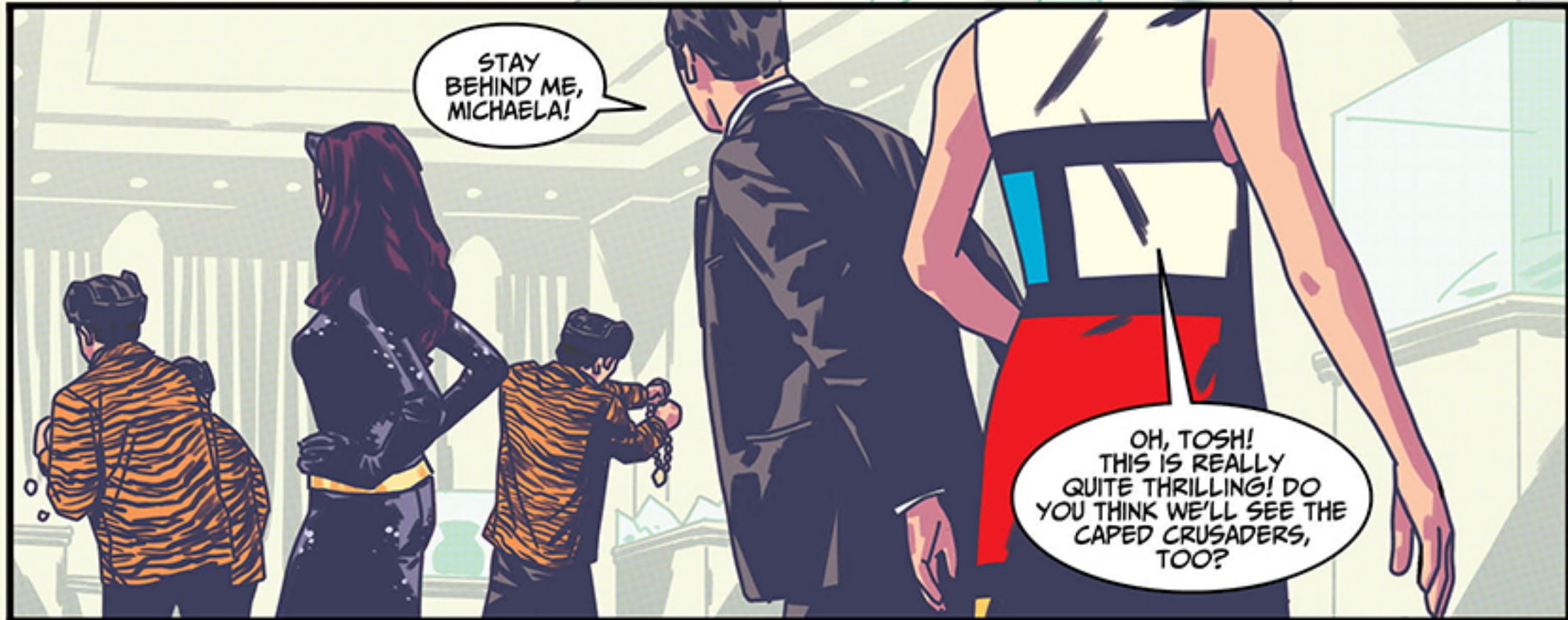
THE LAST THING THEY EXPECT IS FOR YOU TO BE RUNNING THE COMPANY?

QUITE SO.

WE ARE FIFTY PERCENT OF THE PLANET'S POPULATION. I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME WE WERE TREATED EQUALLY, DON'T YOU?

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.





**MEANWHILE,
IN THE
BATCAVE...**

YUK! I KNOW
CRIME-FIGHTING'S A
DIRTY BUSINESS, ALFRED,
BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT I
HAD IN MIND!

ALAS, MASTER
ROBIN, THIS IS A BATCAVE
IN NATURE AS WELL AS NAME.
UNFORTUNATELY, ITS ORIGINAL
OCCUPANTS ARE NOT QUITE
SO FASTIDIOUS IN THEIR
ABLUTIONS!

DEET-DEET-DEET

HOLY TELE-
COMMUNICATION!
THAT'S BRUCE'S
EMERGENCY WRIST
RADIO!

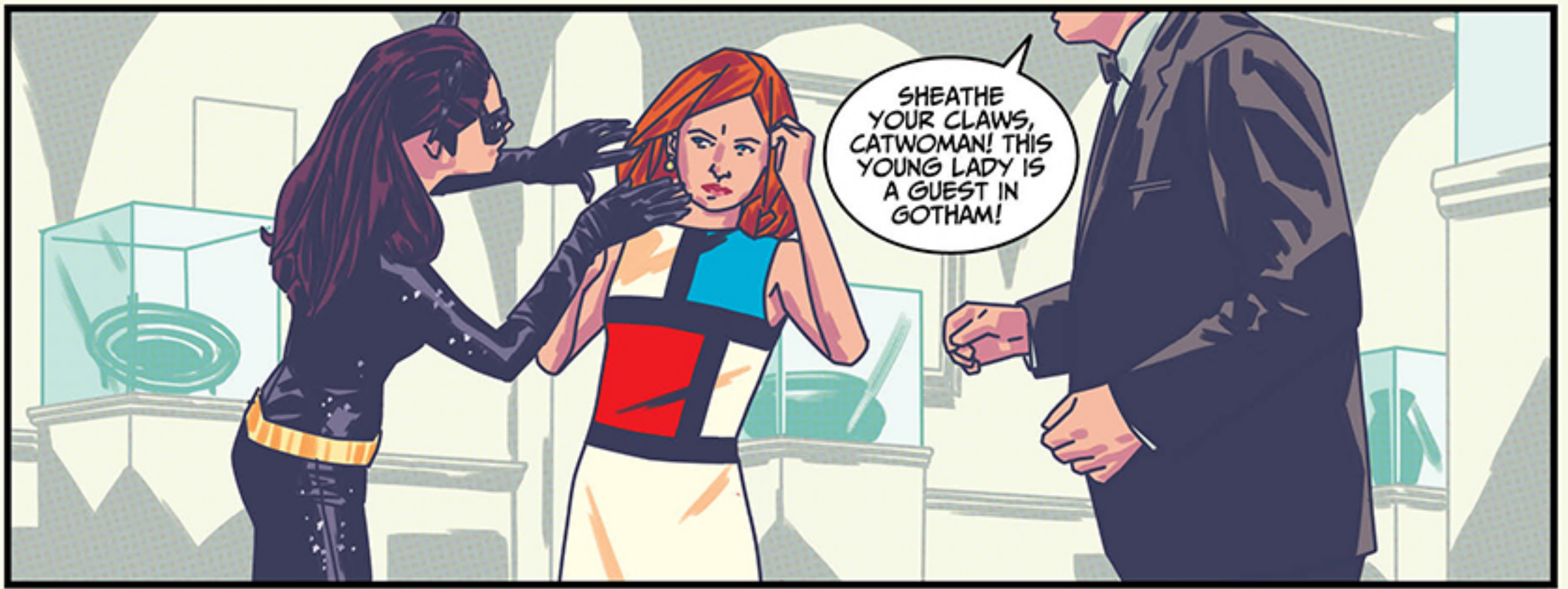
BRUCE!
BRUCE? CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

HE'S TRANSMITTING
BUT NOT RECEIVING!
WHY WOULD HE
DO THAT?

AS MUCH
AS I DEPLORE
EAVESDROPPING,
IT MAY WELL BE
PERTINENT TO
DO SO.

GOSH, ALFRED,
YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S
LISTEN IN.

MY, MY!
AREN'T YOU
A PRETTY
PAIR!



SHEATHE YOUR CLAWS, CATWOMAN! THIS YOUNG LADY IS A GUEST IN GOTHAM!



CATWOMAN!



TO THE BATMOBILE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DRIVE, ALFRED! DO YOU HAVE YOUR OUTFIT HANDY?

CLEAN AND PRESSED AS ALWAYS, SIR!



SHE ONLY WANTS MY EARRINGS, BRUCE. THEY'RE MADE FROM TIGER'S EYE--A CHATOYANT GEMSTONE.

SENSIBLE GIRL. SHE'S NOT YOUR CUSTOMARY EYE CANDY, MR. WAYNE.



PERMIT ME TO DO YOU A FAVOR, KITTEN. YOU CAN DO BETTER. BOYS, TAKE HIM BACK TO SCHOOL AND TEACH HIM A LESSON!