



BRUCE. WHAT DO YOU THINK MAGIC IS?

MANY YEARS AGO.



IT'S A TRICK.



OKAY, YEAH. IT'S A TRICK.



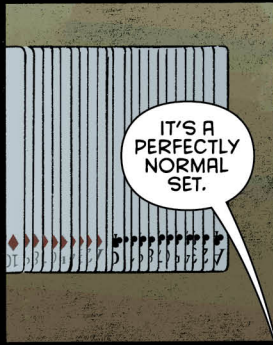
THAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO START.



LET'S SAY I HAVE A DECK OF CARDS.



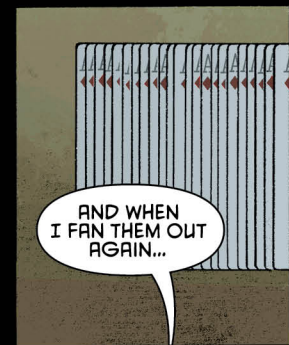
I FAN THEM OUT, SO YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENT SUITS.



IT'S A PERFECTLY NORMAL SET.



THEN I SHUFFLE.



AND WHEN I FAN THEM OUT AGAIN...



EVERY SINGLE CARD IS AN ACE OF DIAMONDS.



WHY IS THAT MAGIC?



IT'S THE CRAFT OF SLEIGHTING THE DECK OUT OF SIGHT AND REPLACING IT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.

YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT. THE MAGIC IS THAT I STARTED BY ASSERTING ONE REALITY, BUT THEN YOU PROVIDED A CONTRADICTIONAL REALITY THAT REPLACED THE FIRST ONE WITH THE POWER OF SUGGESTION.



WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?

SUGGESTION IS A LOT MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU THINK IT IS.



LET'S UP THE SCALE. YOU'RE STANDING ON THE FLOOR IN A ROOM, AND ALL IS AS IT SHOULD BE. THE LAWS OF PHYSICS ARE AT WORK.



AND THEN LET'S SAY SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'RE DOING ASSERTS THE INVERSE.

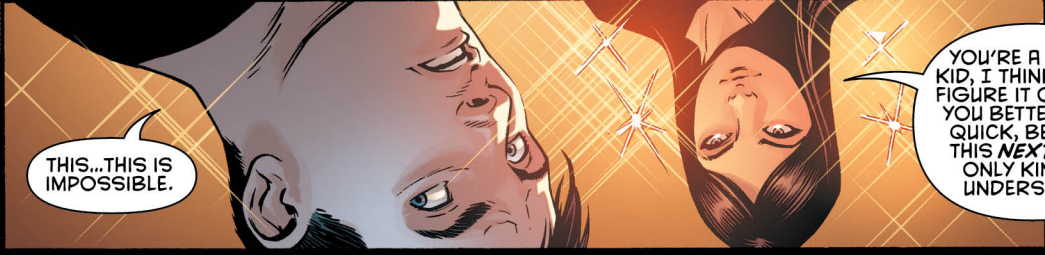


EDISPU NWOD.





NOW THAT'S MAGIC.

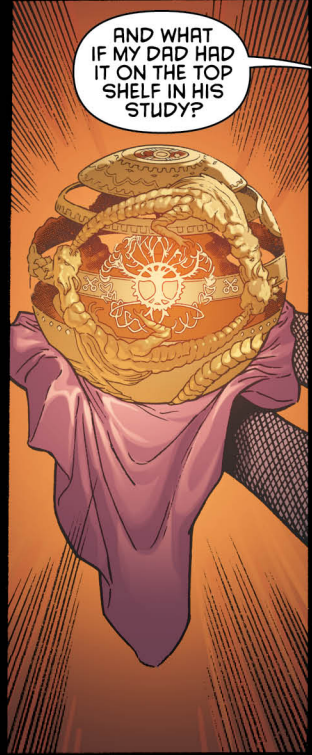


THIS...THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

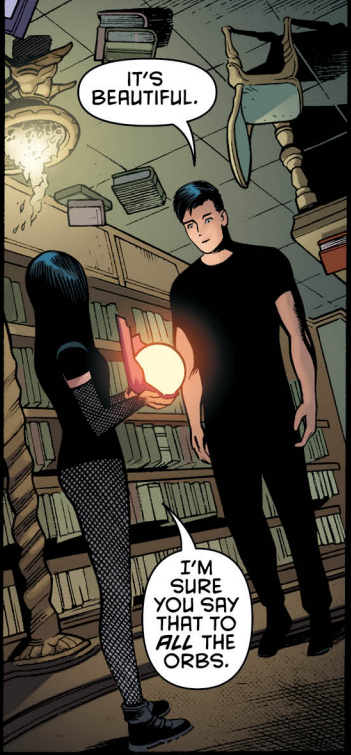
YOU'RE A SMART KID, I THINK YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT. AND YOU BETTER DO IT QUICK, BECAUSE THIS *NEXT* BIT, I ONLY KIND OF UNDERSTAND.



WHAT IF THERE WERE AN *ARTIFACT* THAT LET YOU REWRITE YOURSELF WITH A VERSION WHO *KNEW* THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?



AND WHAT IF MY DAD HAD IT ON THE TOP SHELF IN HIS STUDY?



IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

I'M SURE YOU SAY THAT TO *ALL* THE ORBS.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT IS IT?



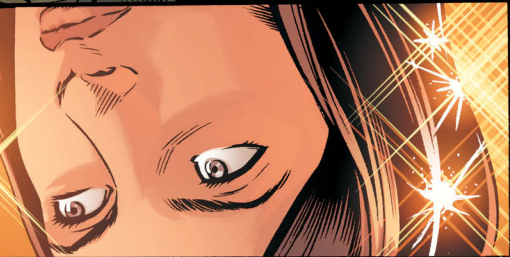
# INTELLIGENCE

PART 4:  
GHOST IN THE SHELL

JAMES THYNION / WRITER  
ALVARO MARTINEZ / PENCILS  
RAUL FERNANDEZ / INKS  
BRAD ANDERSON / COLORS  
SALLY GIARRANO / LETTERS  
YASMINE PUTRI / COVER  
RAFAELA RUBIO QUERO / VARIANT COVER  
DAVE WIELGOSZ / ASSISTANT EDITOR  
CHRIS CONROY / EDITOR  
MARK DOYLE / GROUP EDITOR  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE  
(WITH BILL FINGER)  
ZATANNA CREATED BY  
GARDNER FOY & MURPHY ANDERSON

LET'S SAY WE UP THE SCALE AGAIN. LET'S SAY YOU EXIST IN A REALITY WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING YOU DESPERATELY WANT TO KNOW.

FOR INSTANCE, WHETHER ALL THIS TRAINING IS GOING TO WORK OUT. WHETHER YOU'LL SUCCEED IN BECOMING WHAT YOU WANT TO BECOME, SO YOU CAN GO BACK TO THE CITY YOU LOVE.



OH CRAP.

WHAT?

IF YOU DO NOT JOIN US, GIOVANNI, YOU KNOW WHO I WILL HAVE TO TURN TO FROM YOUR WORLD.

THIS IS A RECKLESS LINE OF THOUGHT. THE OBEAH MAN IS A FAR DARKER FORCE THAN YOU CAN COMPREHEND.

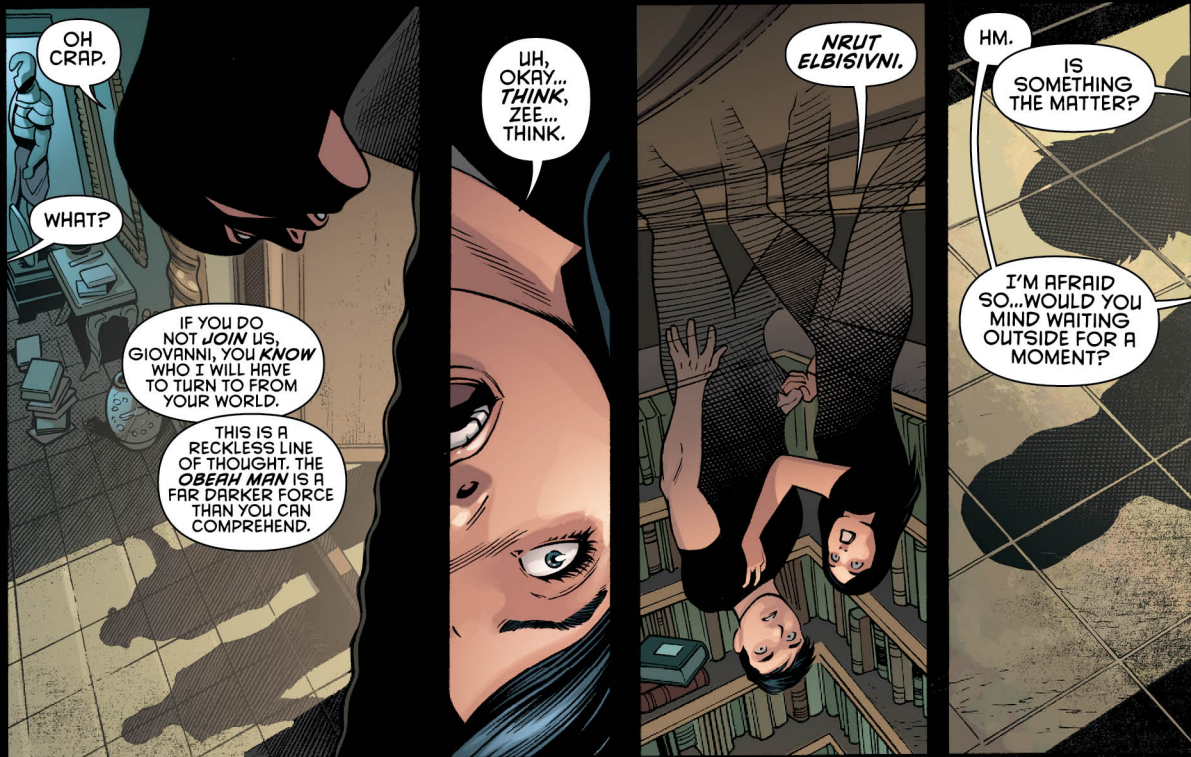
UH, OKAY... THINK... ZEE... THINK.

NRUT ELBISIVNI.

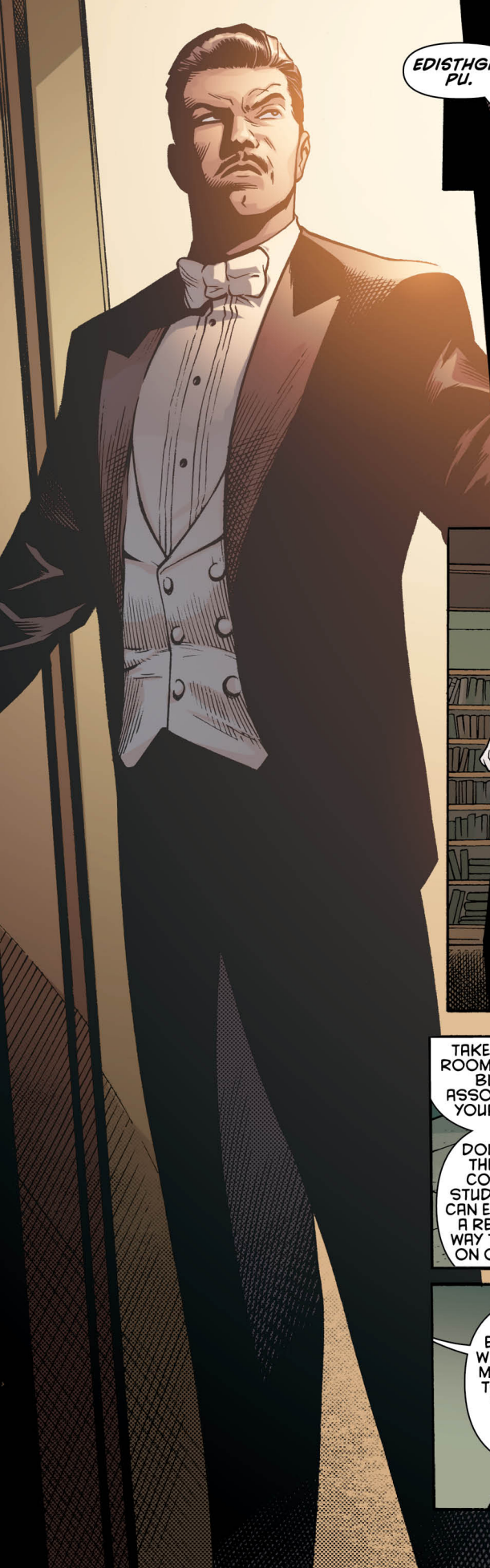
HM.

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

I'M AFRAID SO... WOULD YOU MIND WAITING OUTSIDE FOR A MOMENT?





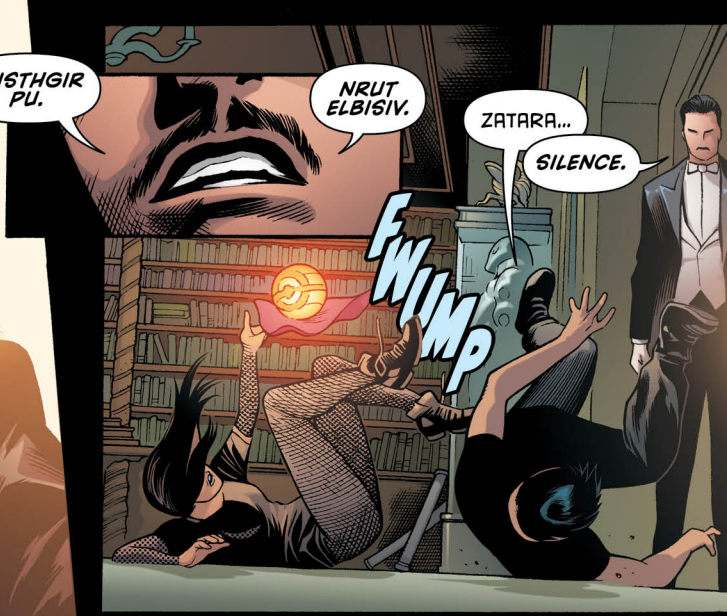


EDISTHGIR  
PU.

NRUT  
ELBISIV.

ZATARA...

SILENCE.



SO, BRUCE, YOU  
KNOW THE **TRUTH**  
ABOUT WHAT  
WE ARE.

I WON'T... I  
WON'T TELL ANYONE.  
I PROMISE... YOUR  
SECRET, IT'S SAFE  
WITH ME. YOU KNOW  
ME, ZATARA. YOU  
KNOW YOU CAN  
TRUST ME.



I KNOW,  
MY BOY. YOU HAVE  
A GOOD SOUL. BUT  
I'M AFRAID **THIS**  
MEMORY WOULD BE  
FAR TOO  
**DANGEROUS** FOR  
YOU TO KEEP.



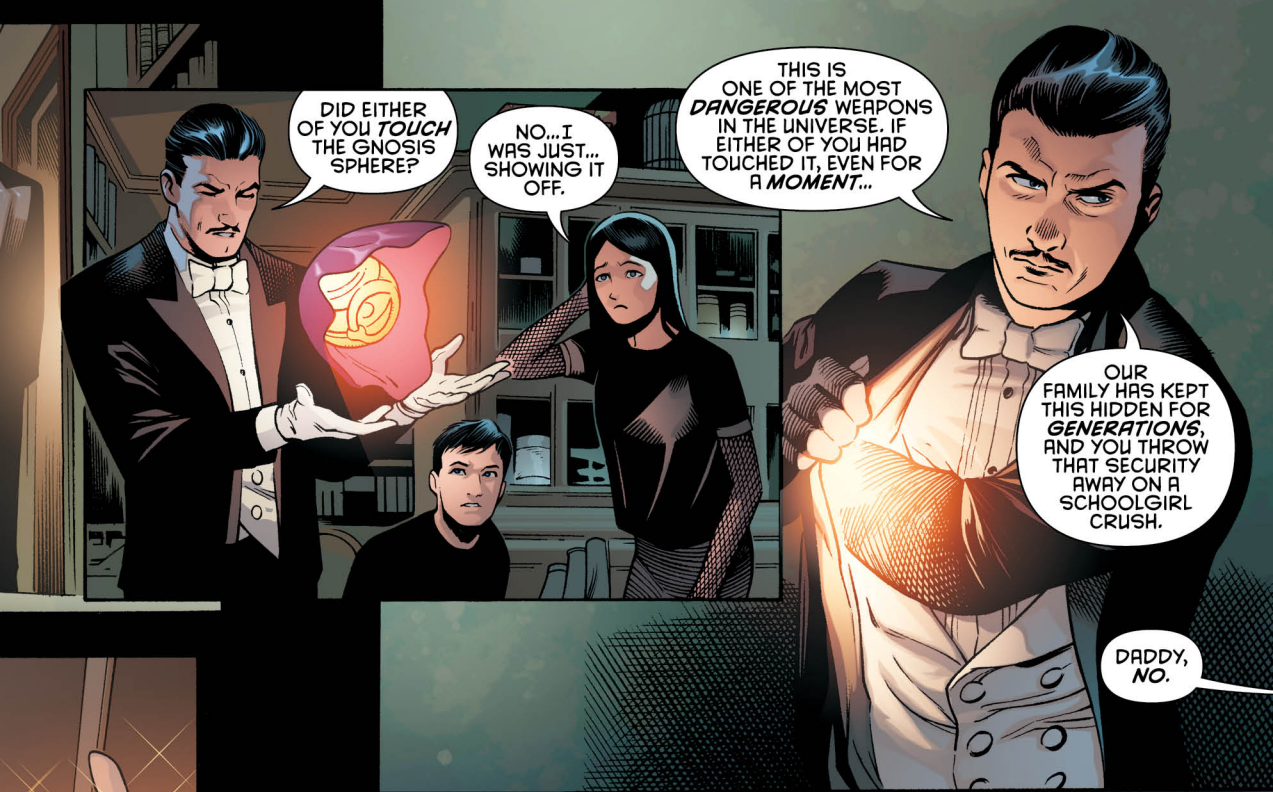
TAKE HIM TO HIS  
ROOM, AND LET MY  
BUSINESS  
ASSOCIATE IN ON  
YOUR WAY OUT.

DON'T WORRY.  
THE BOY MAY  
CONTINUE HIS  
STUDIES HERE. WE  
CAN EVEN DISCUSS  
A RESPONSIBLE  
WAY TO LET HIM IN  
ON OUR SECRET.



MY DEAR,  
ZATANNA....  
EVENTUALLY YOU  
WILL UNDERSTAND  
MY ACTIONS HERE  
TODAY. WHEN THE  
WEIGHT OF ITS  
POWER FALLS  
UPON YOUR  
SHOULDERS.





DID EITHER OF YOU TOUCH THE GNOSIS SPHERE?

NO...I WAS JUST... SHOWING IT OFF.

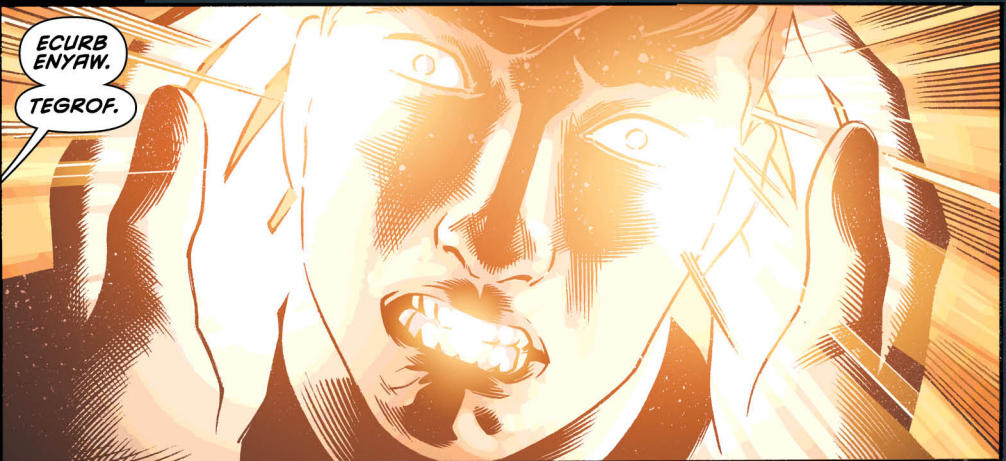
THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS WEAPONS IN THE UNIVERSE. IF EITHER OF YOU HAD TOUCHED IT, EVEN FOR A MOMENT...

OUR FAMILY HAS KEPT THIS HIDDEN FOR GENERATIONS, AND YOU THROW THAT SECURITY AWAY ON A SCHOOLGIRL CRUSH.

DADDY, NO.



DAD, NO!



ECURB ENYAW.

TEGROF.



BRUCE... BRUCE, ARE YOU OKAY?

I...I THINK SO...



OOF!

SORRY. DIDN'T MEAN TO BUMP INTO YOU THERE...



HM.