

GOTHAM NARROWS. 7:00 A.M.

MAYBE LESS?



STORY  
**SCOTT SNYDER** and  
**TONY PATRICK**  
WRITER  
**TONY PATRICK**  
ARTIST  
**CULLY HAMNER**  
COLORIST  
**LAURA MARTIN**  
LETTERER  
**DERON BENNETT**  
MAIN COVER ARTIST  
**CULLY HAMNER**  
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS  
**DECLAN SHALVEY** and  
**JORDIE BELLAIRE**  
EDITOR  
**BRITTANY HOLZHERR**  
GROUP EDITOR  
**BRIAN CUNNINGHAM**  
BATMAN CREATED BY  
**BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**  
Special Thanks to  
**REBECCA TAYLOR** and  
**MARK DOYLE**

DC COMICS  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

# BATMAN AND THE SIGNAL

# GOTHAM BY DAY

PART ONE: MORNING

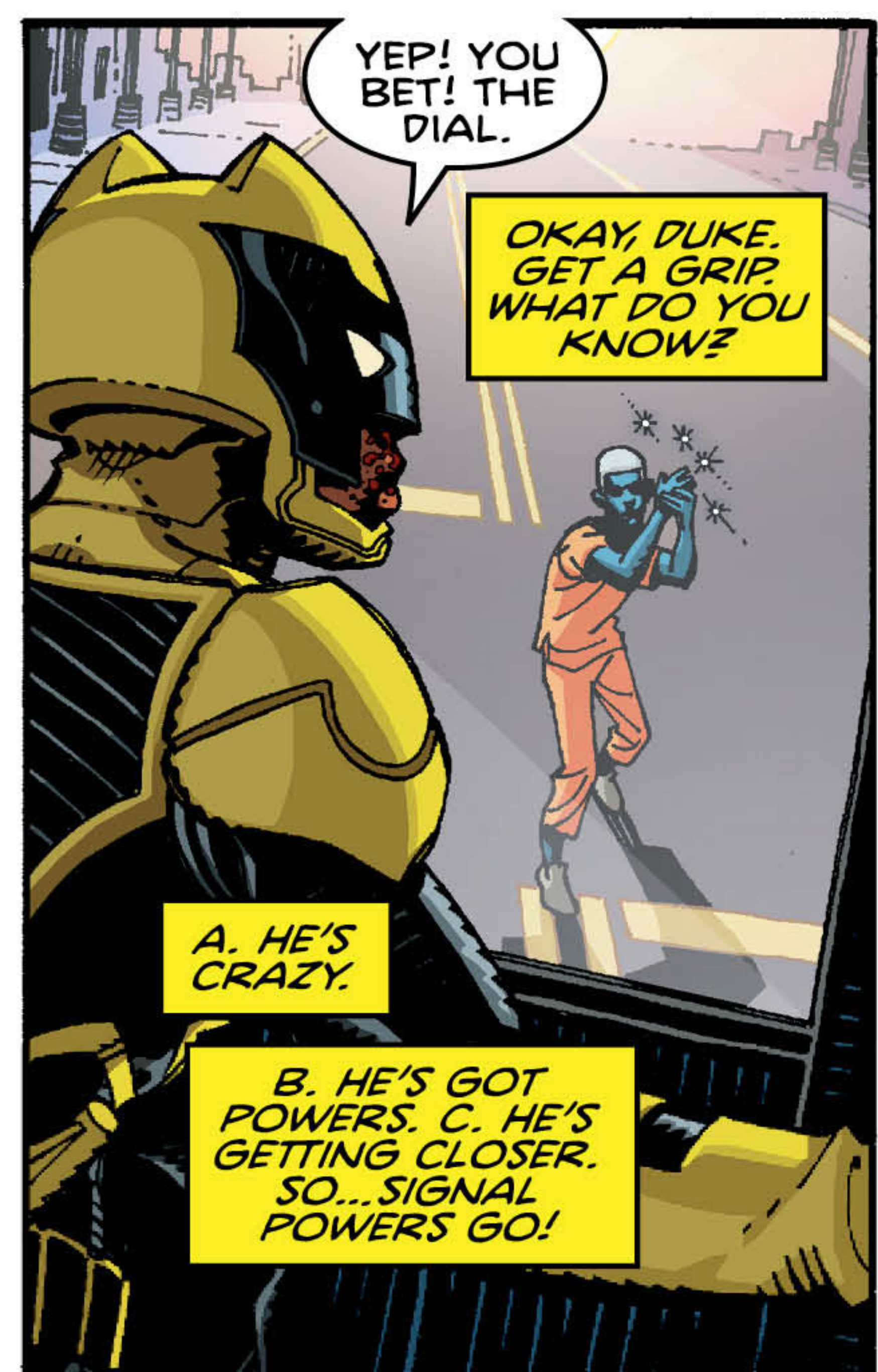


EVERYONE  
OUT! NOW!  
GET TO SAFETY  
BEFORE--

EY YO.



SO. YOU.  
YOU'RE ON  
THE DIAL, EH?  
YOU'RE ONE  
OF US?



YEP! YOU  
BET! THE  
DIAL.

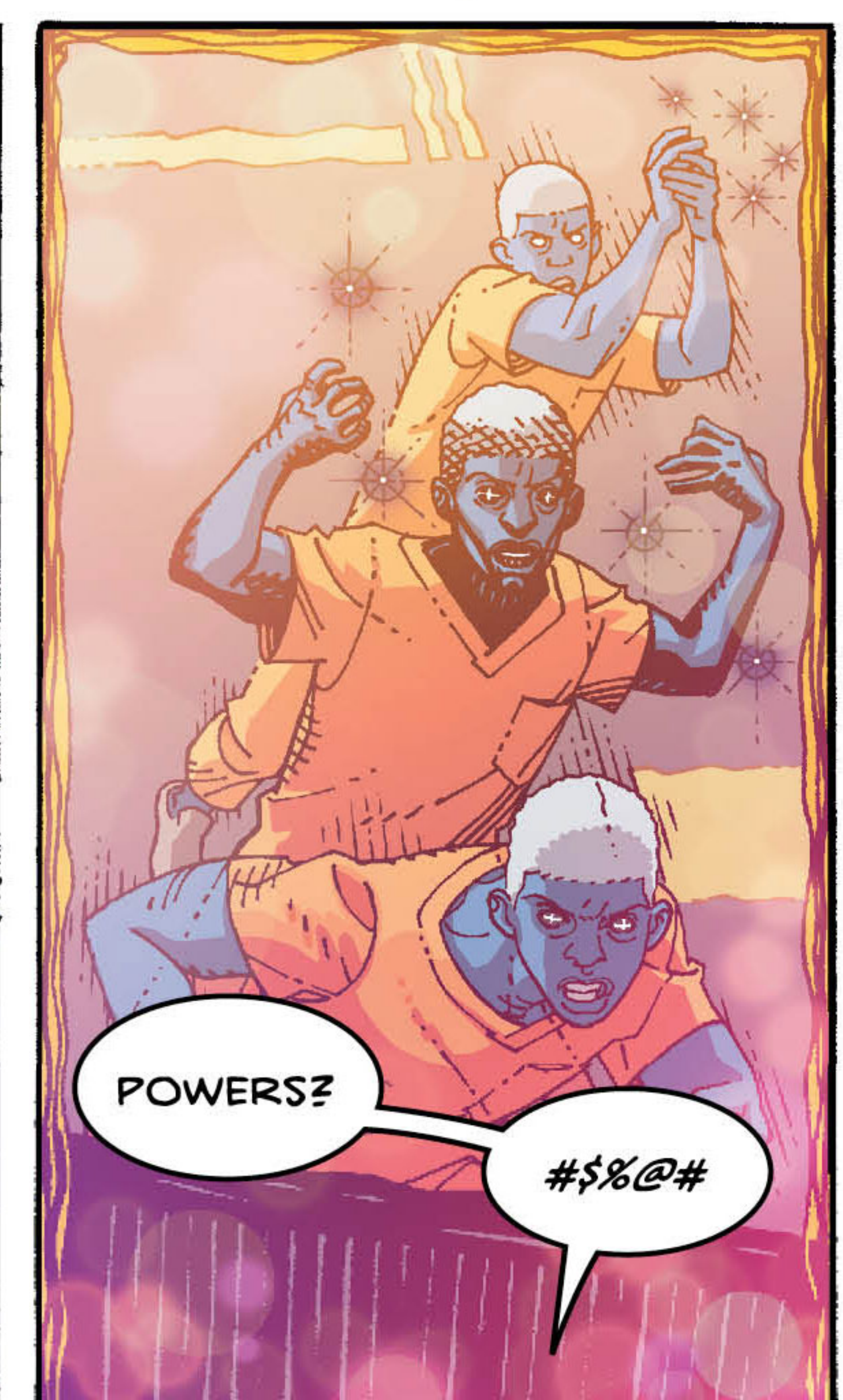
OKAY, DUKE.  
GET A GRIP.  
WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW?

A. HE'S  
CRAZY.

B. HE'S GOT  
POWERS. C. HE'S  
GETTING CLOSER.  
SO... SIGNAL  
POWERS GO!



OUT  
LOUD THEN.  
POWERS...  
ON.



POWERS?

##%@#



WHY'RE YOU  
HIDING? YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
SPECIAL?!



BEFORE WE START,  
I JUST WANT TO  
SAY, I KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE THINKING.

OH YOU  
DO, DO  
YOU?

YOU'RE THINKING, HELL  
NO. YOU'RE THINKING,  
WE HAVE ENOUGH  
BAT-PEOPLE ALREADY.  
LOOK AT THIS TABLE.

DAMN  
RIGHT, IT'S A  
FREAKING--

CLOWN CAR. I KNOW. (OR A CIRCUS, BECAUSE  
NO CLOWNS.) THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY GOOD  
NAMES LEFT. AND NOW A NEW KID? WE'D BE  
BETTER OFF LOSING SOMEONE THAN--

WHOA  
THERE,  
NEWBIE.

SORRY,  
SORRY.

LOOK, POINT IS,  
YOU'RE THINKING  
THIS ISN'T GOING  
TO WORK.

WHY? BECAUSE I'M  
THINKING IT, TOO. HELL, I  
DREAM ABOUT BEING AT  
THE WEEKLY BREAKFAST  
TABLE TO REPORT IN.

AND THERE'S NO  
PLACE FOR ME.

DUKE,  
WAIT...

NOT JUST BECAUSE  
I'M GREEN, OR  
BLACK, OR YELLOW.

BUT BECAUSE I'M  
DIFFERENT. I HAVE POWERS;  
BIOLOGICAL POWERS NO  
ONE UNDERSTANDS YET.

LEAST OF ALL ME. I'M A  
WALKING DETECTIVE CASE  
SURROUNDED BY DETECTIVES.

THE DREAMS? THEY  
USUALLY END WITH BAD  
OMENS. FLAMING HORSES,  
DEMON BATS.

THERE. RIGHT  
ON TIME.

REAL TALK, JUST  
LIKE YOU, I GIVE THIS  
WHOLE SIGNAL THING  
A WEEK BEFORE IT ALL  
GOES BELLY-UP.

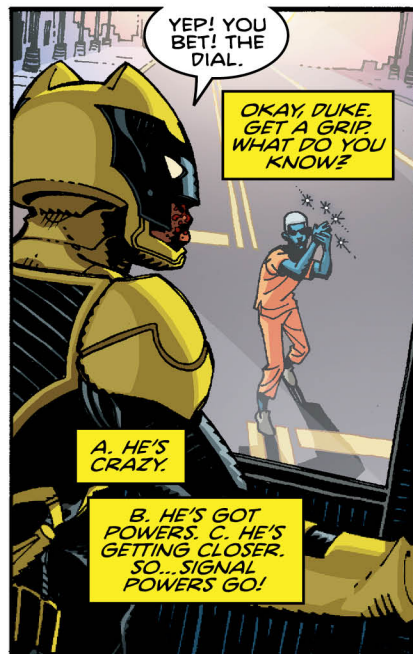


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## PART ONE: MORNING



OUT  
LOUD THEN.  
POWERS...  
ON.



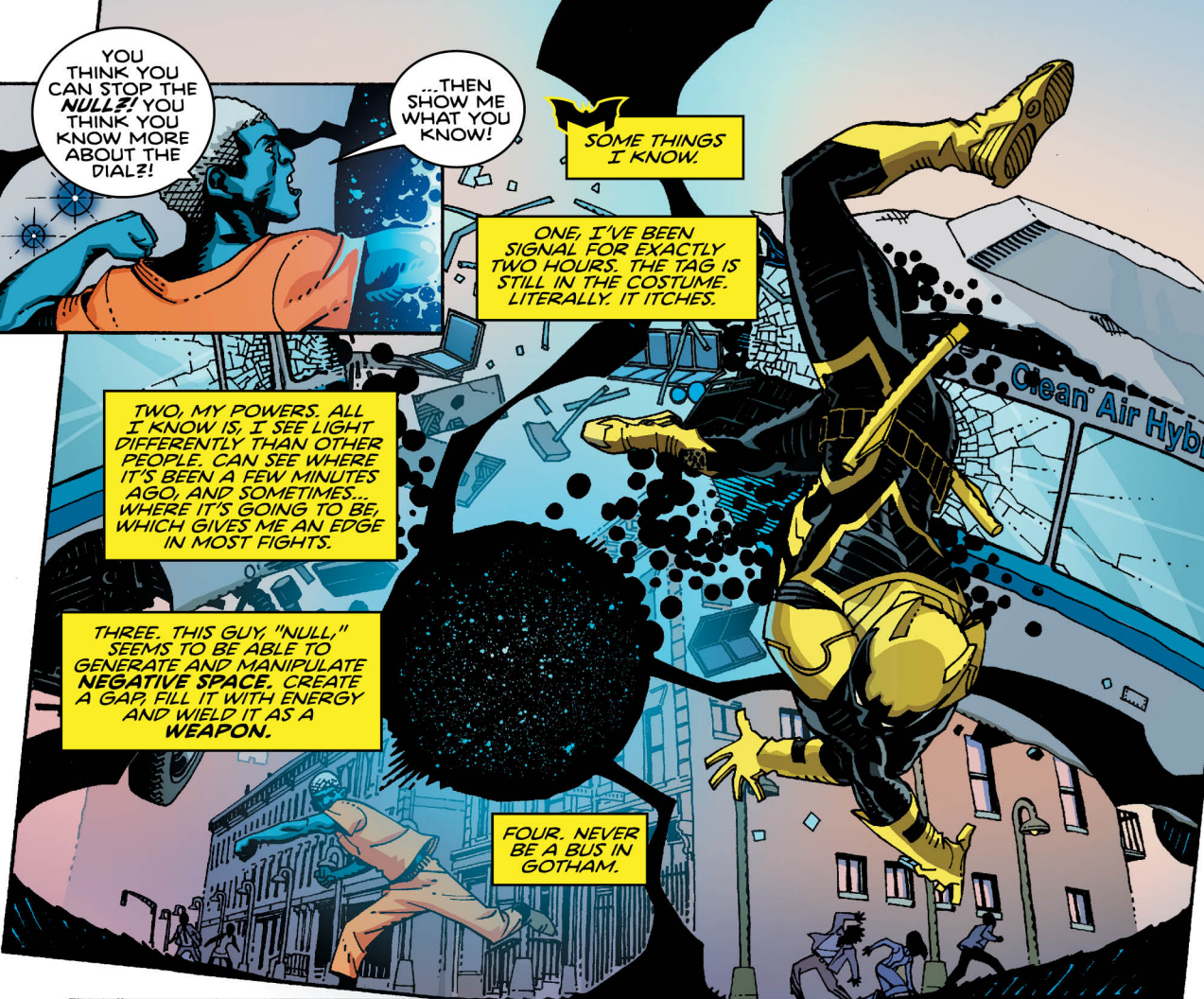
POWERS?

#\$%&#



WHY'RE YOU  
HIDING? YOU  
THINK YOU'RE  
SPECIAL?!





YOU  
THINK YOU  
CAN STOP THE  
**NULL!** YOU  
THINK YOU  
KNOW MORE  
ABOUT THE  
DIAL?!

...THEN  
SHOW ME  
WHAT YOU  
KNOW!

**SOME THINGS  
I KNOW.**

**ONE, I'VE BEEN  
SIGNAL FOR EXACTLY  
TWO HOURS. THE TAG IS  
STILL IN THE COSTUME.  
LITERALLY. IT ITCHES.**

**TWO, MY POWERS. ALL  
I KNOW IS, I SEE LIGHT  
DIFFERENTLY THAN OTHER  
PEOPLE. CAN SEE WHERE  
IT'S BEEN A FEW MINUTES  
AGO, AND SOMETIMES...  
WHERE IT'S GOING TO BE,  
WHICH GIVES ME AN EDGE  
IN MOST FIGHTS.**

**THREE, THIS GUY, "NULL,"  
SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO  
GENERATE AND MANIPULATE  
NEGATIVE SPACE. CREATE  
A GAP, FILL IT WITH ENERGY  
AND WIELD IT AS A  
WEAPON.**

**FOUR. NEVER  
BE A BUS IN  
GOTHAM.**



I CAN FEEL IT.  
YOU'RE ONE OF US.  
YOU **KNOW**. SO  
SHOW ME HOW  
YOU USE IT!

LISTEN,  
"NULL" OR  
WHATEVER YOU  
CALL YOURSELF,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO--

**NO!  
SHOW  
ME!**



ALL RIGHT, ALL  
RIGHT. YOU WANT TO  
SEE EVERYTHING I'VE  
GOT? ALL MY SECRET  
SUPERPOWERS?



SHOW  
ME.

OKAY,  
STAND  
BACK...  
HERE I  
GO.



**KRACK**





OKAY, SO NOT MY FINEST MOMENT.

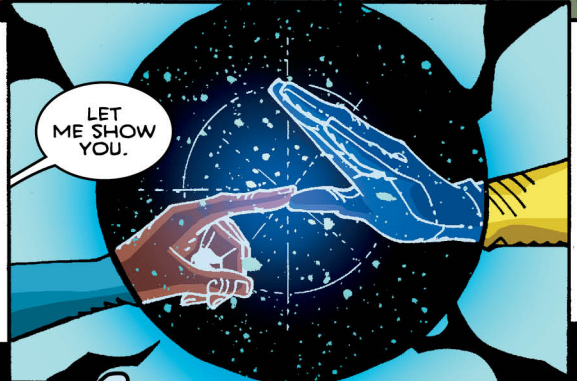
GOTTA GET TO HIM BEFORE HE REGROUPS.



BEFORE HE CAN--

I KNOW IT THOUGH, THE DIAL...

...IT GIVES ME STRENGTH.



LET ME SHOW YOU.



THE DIAL, YOUR POWERS... YOU... YOU CAN'T TURN THEM ON, CAN YOU?

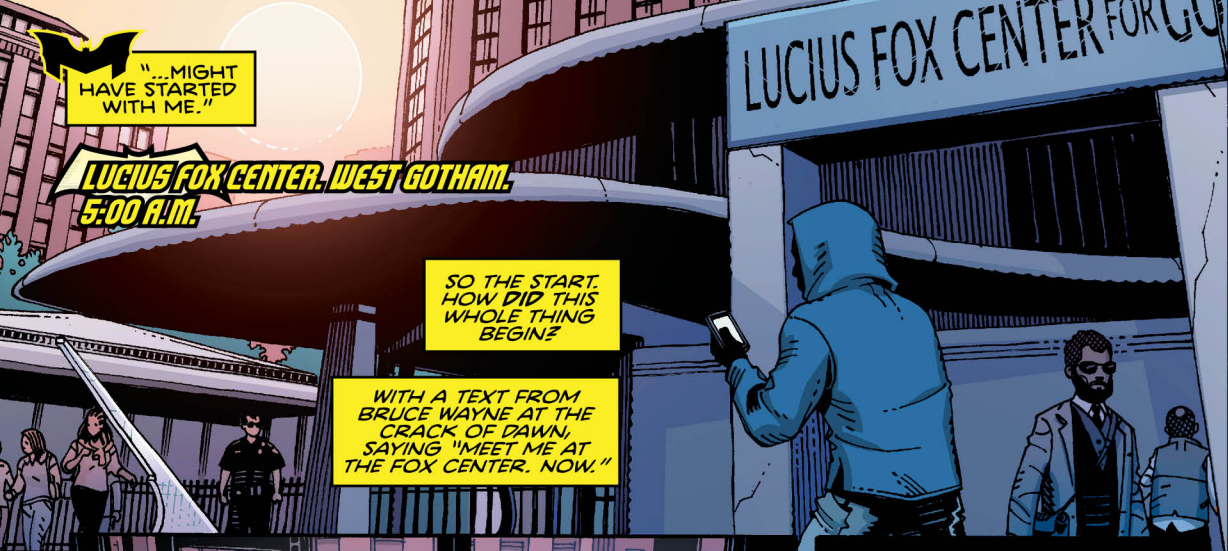
OF COURSE I CAN.



DAMMIT, DUKE, ENOUGH.

YOU NEED TO DO THIS. PICK UP THE SIGNALS. MAKE IT HAPPEN. NOW!





"...MIGHT HAVE STARTED WITH ME."

**LUCIUS FOX CENTER, WEST GOTHAM,  
5:00 A.M.**

SO THE START.  
HOW DID THIS  
WHOLE THING  
BEGIN?

WITH A TEXT FROM  
BRUCE WAYNE AT THE  
CRACK OF DAWN,  
SAYING "MEET ME AT  
THE FOX CENTER. NOW."

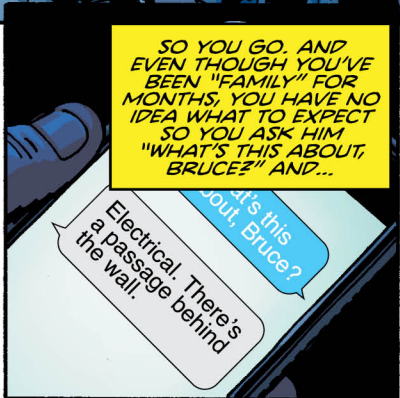


AND YOU WRITE  
BACK, "LIKE  
NOW, NOW?"

AND BRUCE  
WAYNE WRITES  
BACK...NOTHING.

MEANING, "I'M  
BATMAN."

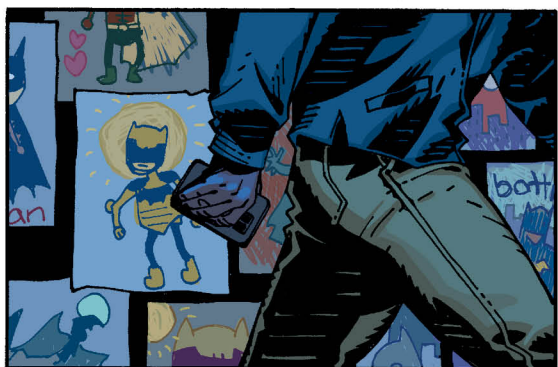
MEANING,  
"YES, NOW."



SO YOU GO, AND  
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE  
BEEN "FAMILY" FOR  
MONTHS, YOU HAVE NO  
IDEA WHAT TO EXPECT  
SO YOU ASK HIM  
"WHAT'S THIS ABOUT,  
BRUCE?" AND...



BEHIND THE  
WALL. OKAY  
THEN.



SO YOU GO TO  
ELECTRICAL...

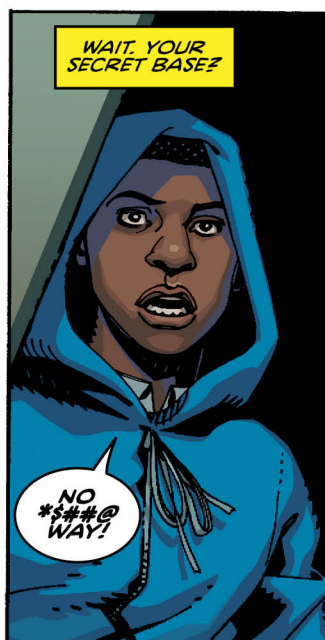


AND YOU FIND A  
PASSAGE BEHIND  
THE LIGHT PANEL...

AND YOU HEAD  
DOWNSTAIRS...



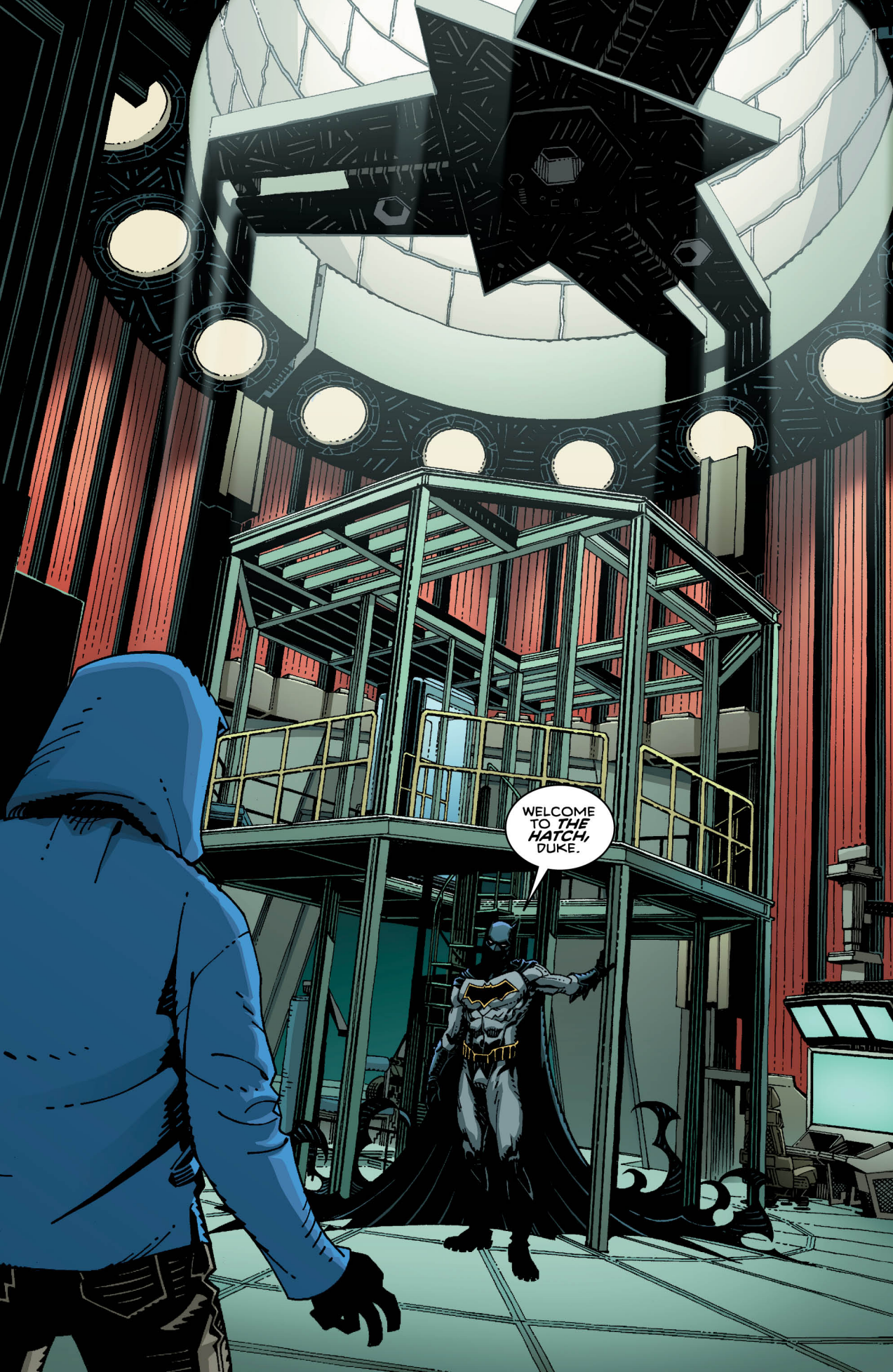
...TO YOUR  
SECRET BASE  
AND...



WAIT. YOUR  
SECRET BASE?

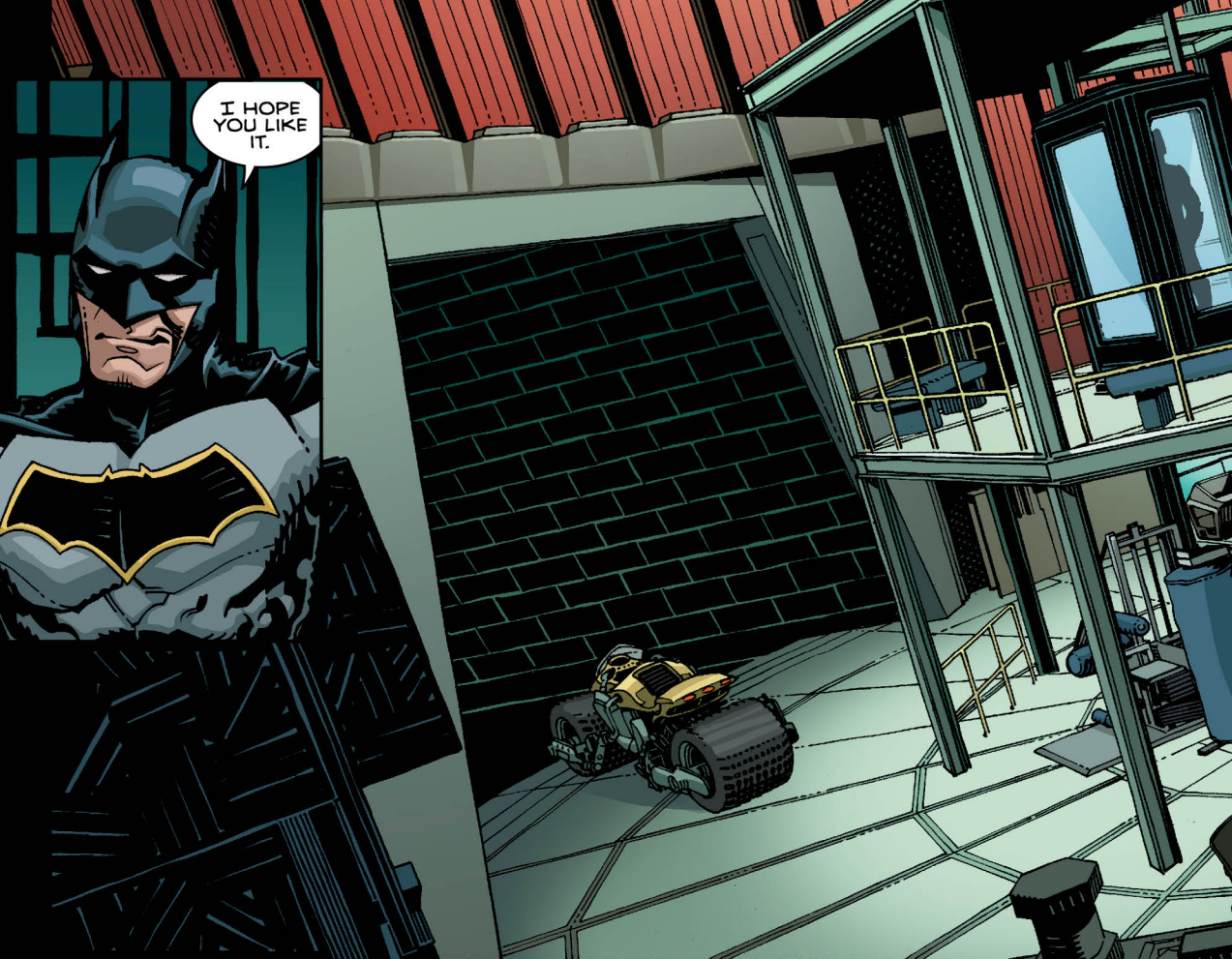
NO  
\$\$\$@  
WAY!





WELCOME  
TO THE  
HATCH,  
DUKE.





I HOPE  
YOU LIKE  
IT.



DUKE, FROM THE MOMENT I  
MET YOU, DURING RIDDLER'S  
ZERO YEAR ATTACK, WHEN  
YOU WERE A BOY, YOU WERE  
ALWAYS ABOUT ONE THING...  
FINDING A NEW WAY TO BE  
A HERO IN GOTHAM.  
SOMETHING INDEPENDENT  
OF THE PAST, AND...  
OF ME.



BRUCE...  
TRAINING  
WITH YOU HAS  
CHANGED MY  
LIFE.

BUT I'VE  
BEEN THINKING  
ABOUT IT--

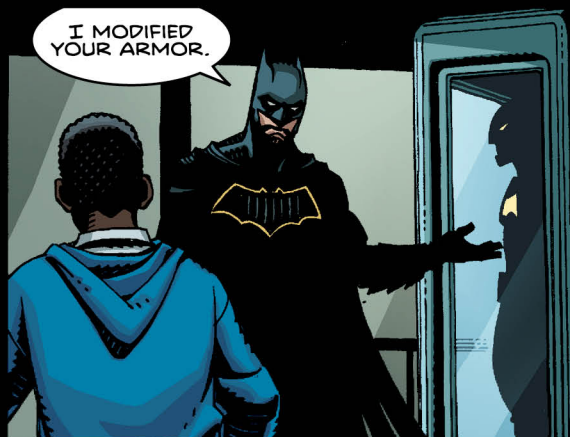
--AND WITH MY  
PARENTS THE WAY  
THEY ARE, WITH  
ALL OF IT...



I JUST  
WORRY  
THERE'S NO  
PLACE FOR  
ME.



THE TRUTH IS, I  
NEED HELP. I NEED  
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS  
THE CITY, BUT SEES IT IN HIS  
OWN WAY--A DIFFERENT  
KIND OF HERO TO HELP  
ME. A DAYTIME  
PROTECTOR.



I MODIFIED  
YOUR ARMOR.





BRUCE, THIS IS... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

I DON'T DESERVE THIS.

YES, YOU DO.

YOU'VE TRAINED WITH ME LONGER THAN MOST ALLIES. AND YOU'VE SHOWN YOURSELF TO BE SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT, DUKE.

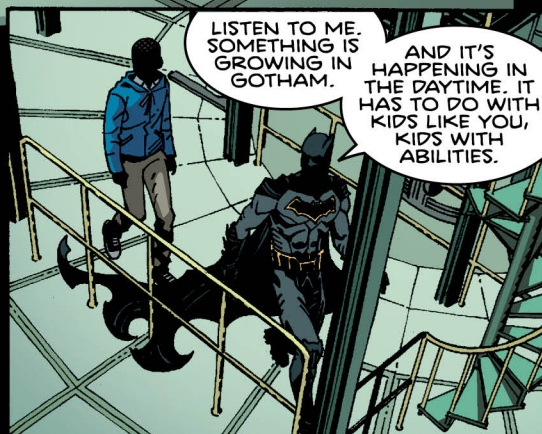
REALLY?



YOU'RE WRONG. YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING.

NOW FOLLOW ME TO LEVEL TWO.

Wait. I have a level two?



LISTEN TO ME. SOMETHING IS GROWING IN GOTHAM.

AND IT'S HAPPENING IN THE DAYTIME. IT HAS TO DO WITH KIDS LIKE YOU, KIDS WITH ABILITIES.



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I'LL ADMIT, IT'S SHINY, BUT...

...BUT I NEED TO KNOW, BRUCE. DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M THE WAY I AM?

DO YOU KNOW... MORE THAN YOU'RE SAYING?



NO.

NOW IF YOU ACCEPT, YOU'LL NEED A NAME.

I'VE SEEN YOUR NOTES, DUKE. **LARK?** TOO SOFT. AND NO BATS COME OUT BY DAY.



I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT. MY MOTHER, SHE'S A SOCIAL WORKER, AND SHE ALWAYS GOES OUT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING TO MEET HER CLIENTS.

SHE SAYS IT'S THE BEST TIME TO SEE THINGS CLEARLY. TO SEE THEM IN A NEW LIGHT.