

**OLD WAYNE TOWER.
THREE MONTHS AGO.**



THIS IS A **REALLY** GOOD IDEA. I CAN'T STOP **THINKING** ABOUT HOW GOOD AN IDEA THIS IS. THE **WORLD** WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO BUILD AROUND IT...

YOU SOUND SURPRISED, TIM.



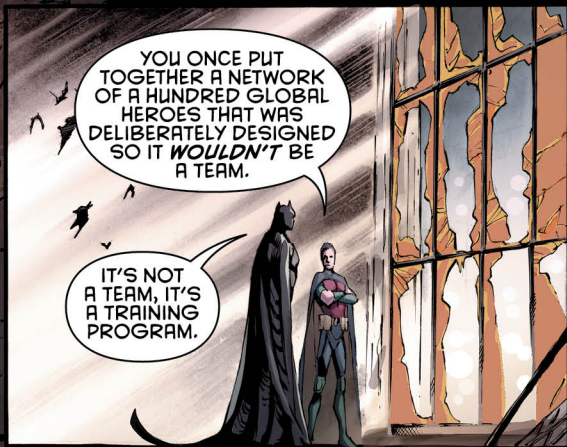
DON'T PRETEND THAT THIS IS **NORMAL**. THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT **ALL**.

YOU'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A TEAM.

YOU **HATE** TEAMS.



I DON'T HATE TEAMS.



YOU ONCE PUT TOGETHER A NETWORK OF A HUNDRED GLOBAL HEROES THAT WAS DELIBERATELY DESIGNED SO IT **WOULDN'T** BE A TEAM.

IT'S NOT A TEAM, IT'S A TRAINING PROGRAM.



OF **COURSE** IT'S A TEAM, BRUCE. IF IT WERE A TRAINING PROGRAM, YOU WOULDN'T BE BRINGING **ME** IN. YOU SEE WHAT IT CAN BE JUST AS MUCH AS I DO.



NO, I DON'T. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE.

TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE, TIM.

IF YOU STOPPED TRYING TO **PUSH AWAY** EVERYONE WHO YOU INSPIRED, AND GAVE THEM A WAY TO WORK **WITH** US, IN A **CONTROLLED** SYSTEM, WE COULD SOLVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS THAT ONE DARK KNIGHT HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE.

FIRST WE MAKE IT SO THAT OUR PEOPLE CAN BE **ANYWHERE** IN THIS CITY THE MOMENT THEY'RE NEEDED. IMAGINE WE DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION ABOUT **WHAT** CALL TO TAKE, WE COULD TAKE THEM **ALL**.

AND THEN FURTHER, BRUCE. **PAST** THE CRIME-FIGHTING.

IMAGINE THE BAT-MEDICS ON THE SCENE, SAVING LIVES. IMAGINE VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PRISONS AND ASYLUMS **TALKING** TO THE PEOPLE WHO WENT DOWN A DARK PATH, SHOWING THEM THE LIGHT. OFFERING THEM FORGIVENESS AND ACCEPTANCE.

TRUST, NOT FEAR. COLLABORATION, NOT COERCION.

BRUCE, WE CAN REDEFINE WHAT BATMAN MEANS TO THIS CITY. WE COULD MAKE GOTHAM SAFER THAN ANY CITY ON THE PLANET.

ALL OF THAT COULD START RIGHT HERE.

WHAT'S WITH THE BELL?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT. THEY SAY WHEN GOTHAM WAS FIRST FOUNDED, THERE WAS AN ORNATE BELL IN THE FIRST COURTHOUSE. IT WOULD RING WHEN THE FINAL VERDICT WAS ABOUT TO BE GIVEN.

THEY CALLED THE BELL **JUSTICE**.

THE COURT OF OWLS MIGHT HAVE STOLEN IT TO DISHEARTEN THE CITY, HIDING IT HERE WHEN THEY MADE THIS PLACE THEIR TALON NEST. THIS MIGHT BE SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

WHEN WE START BUILDING THE NEW BASE, WE CAN HAVE IT MOVED.

NO. LET'S KEEP IT.

MAYBE, IF WE DO OUR JOBS RIGHT, IT'LL RING AGAIN.

TIM...
THANK YOU.

I KNOW I'LL FAIL, FROM TIME TO TIME, TO SEE THAT BIG PICTURE. TO SEE WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR. I'LL FORGET TO TRUST. I'LL FORGET TO REACH OUT...

WHEN THOSE MOMENTS COME, BRUCE. I'LL BE HERE.

RIGHT AT YOUR SIDE.

THE VICTIM SYNDICATE

PART FOUR: DEATH WISH

THE THOMPKINS FREE CLINIC.
NOW.

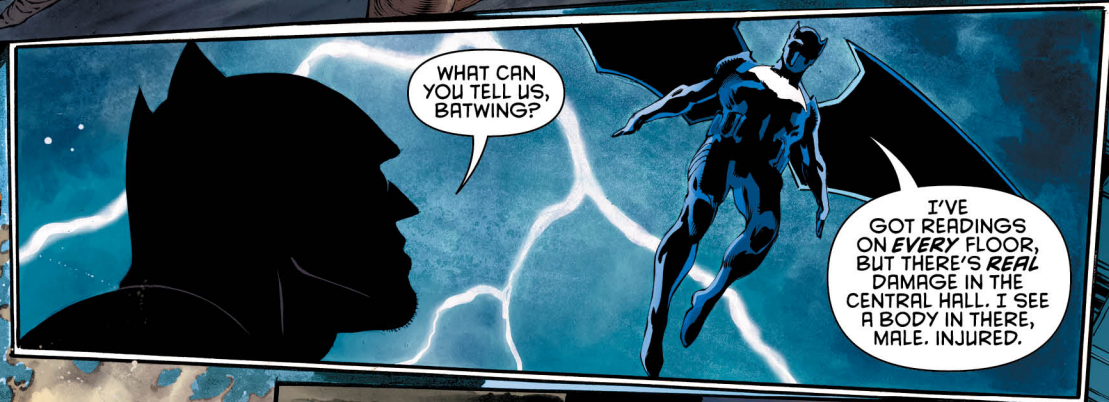
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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER



THE VICTIM SYNDICATE ARE IN THERE, WITH INNOCENT PEOPLE.



WHAT CAN YOU TELL US, BATWING?

I'VE GOT READINGS ON EVERY FLOOR, BUT THERE'S REAL DAMAGE IN THE CENTRAL HALL. I SEE A BODY IN THERE, MALE. INJURED.



EACH OF YOU TAKE A FLOOR.



THIS ENDS TONIGHT.