



STEPHANIE...
I *CAN'T*
STRESS THIS
ENOUGH.

WE *NEED*
YOU TO TELL US
WHAT THE FIRST
VICTIM SAID
TO YOU.

THOMPKINS FREE CLINIC.



I *TOLD* YOU
TO KEEP IT TO
YOURSELF,
HARPER.

SORRY, STEPH...
A *SUPER-VILLAIN* SHOWING
UP IN YOUR HOSPITAL ROOM
SEEMED WAY TOO BIG
FOR THAT.

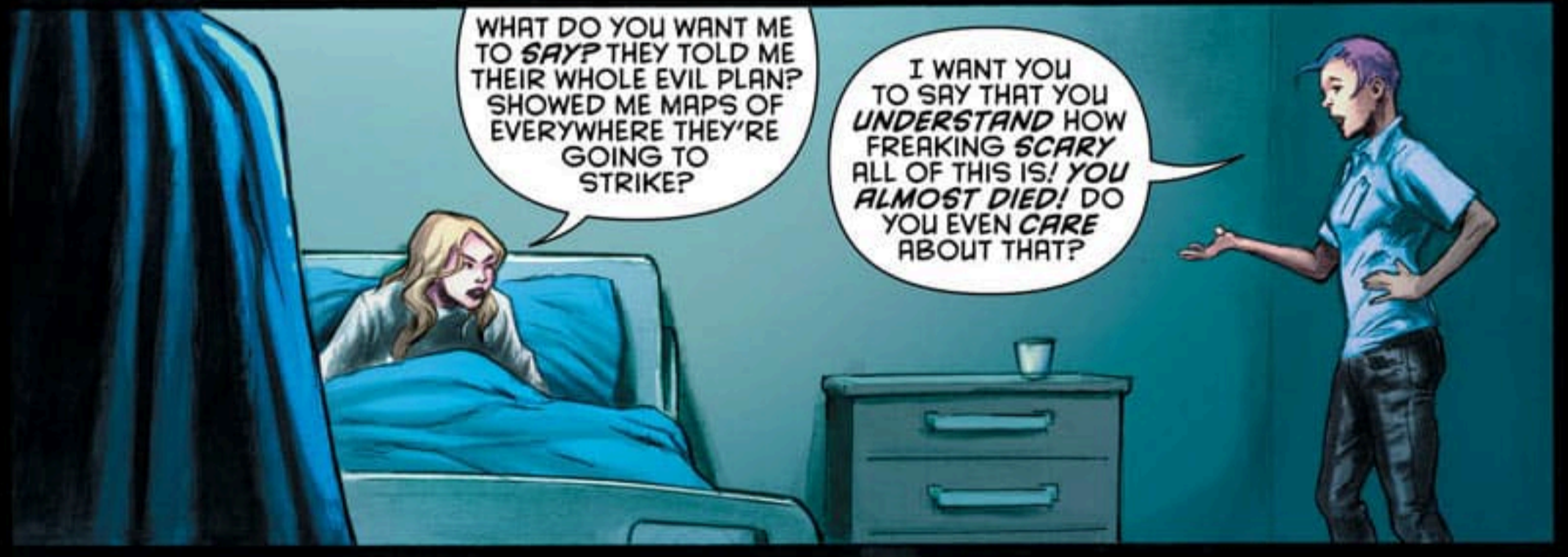


THE *VICTIM*
SYNDICATE SAID
THEY'RE GOING TO
STRIKE AGAIN
TONIGHT. DO YOU
KNOW HOW *SCARED*
PEOPLE ARE OUT
THERE? THEY SAID
PEOPLE WERE
GOING TO
DIE.



NOT
IF *BATMAN*
UNMASKS.

STEPH...



WHAT DO YOU WANT
ME TO *SAY*? THEY TOLD ME
THEIR WHOLE EVIL PLAN?
SHOWED ME MAPS OF
EVERYWHERE THEY'RE
GOING TO
STRIKE?

I WANT YOU
TO SAY THAT YOU
UNDERSTAND HOW
FREAKING *SCARY*
ALL OF THIS IS! YOU
ALMOST DIED! DO
YOU EVEN *CARE*
ABOUT THAT?



HARPER.
ENOUGH.



ALL I WANT IS THE TRUTH, STEPHANIE. I DON'T WANT ANYBODY ELSE TO GET HURT... ALL I WANT TO DO IS HELP.



LIKE YOU HELPED THE VICTIM SYNDICATE?



...



I WOKE UP AN HOUR AGO, AND SUDDENLY I'M AMBUSHED BY ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS AND BATMAN.

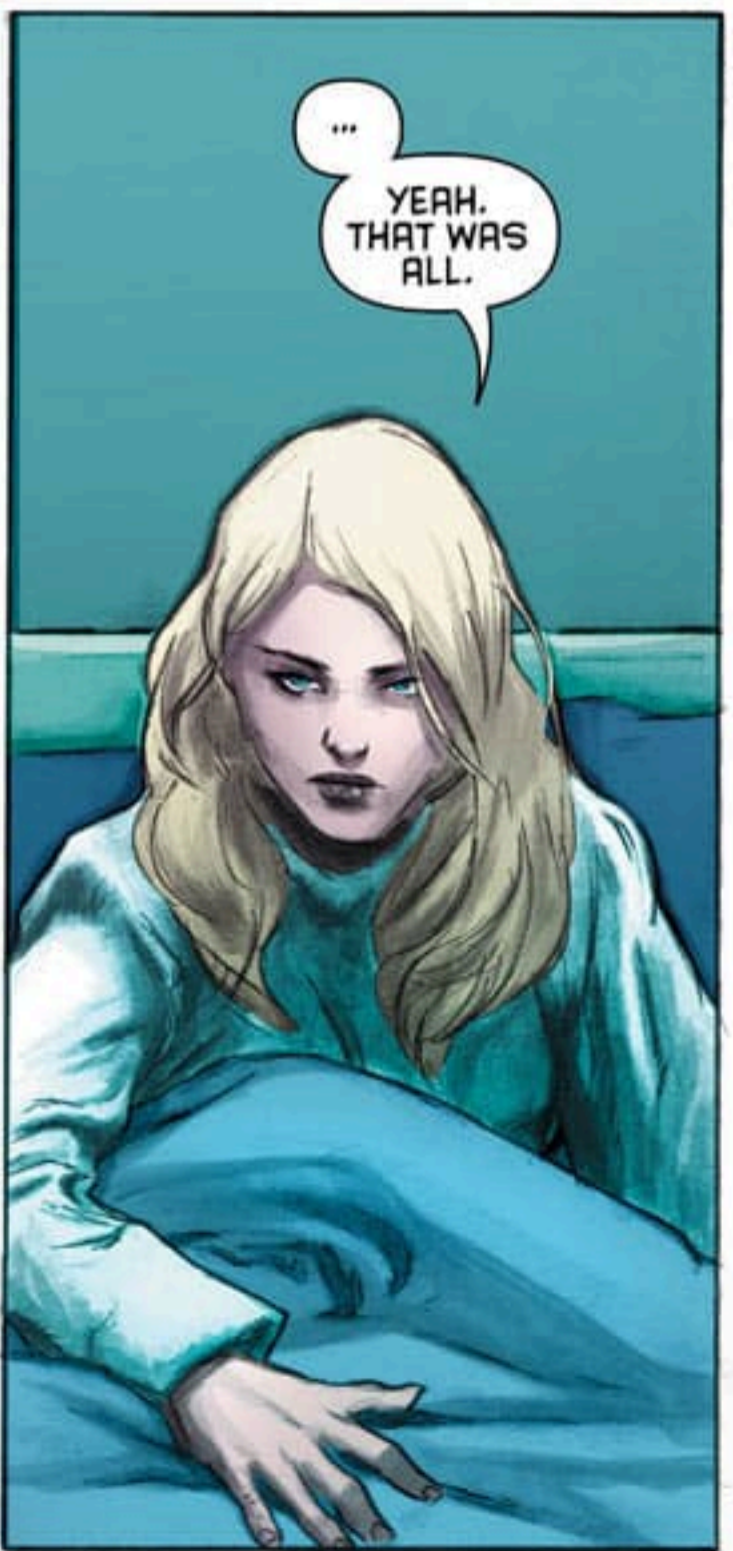


THE FIRST VICTIM SAID THEY WERE SORRY, BATMAN.

THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT ME, AND THAT THEY WANTED TO MAKE SURE I WAS OKAY.



THAT WAS ALL?



...
YEAH. THAT WAS ALL.



HOW DID IT GO?

POORLY.



I WANT THE ENTIRE TEAM IN THE BELFRY IMMEDIATELY, READY TO STRIKE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE, WHEN THE VICTIM SYNDICATE ATTACKS. GET THE BULLET TRAINS UP AND ACTIVE, AND GET *BATWING* TO COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO COUNTERACT THEIR ABILITIES.



ANYTHING ELSE?

I WANT YOU TO BRING IN *LESLIE* FOR THE *PSYCH EVALUATIONS* YOU'VE WANTED. IT'S TIME.



SURE. I'LL BRING IN THE OTHERS, BUT WE SHOULD LET *STEPHANIE REST*.



NO. BRING HER IN.

SHE KNOWS *SOMETHING*, AND WE NEED TO FIND OUT *WHAT*.

THE VICTIMS SYNDICATE

PART THREE: UNFORGIVEN

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IT WAS RIGHT HERE, WASN'T IT, ALFRED?



THAT FIRST NIGHT IN COSTUME, I WAS TAKING DOWN MEMBERS OF THE RED HOOD GANG. A BULLET WENT THROUGH THE WALL OF A TENEMENT. THEY WERE FIRING AT ME, BUT THEY HIT HIM AND HIS HUSBAND.

YES, SIR. I REMEMBER. THE HUSBAND DIED, YOU COVERED THEIR MEDICAL BILLS FOR A YEAR.



BUT THAT WAS THE SECOND NIGHT, SIR. THE WHOLE UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR WITH THAT CITY BUS. THE FIRST NIGHT WAS MORE INTIMATE, I SEEM TO REMEMBER.



DID ANYONE GET HURT?



FORGIVE ME, SIR. I DON'T REMEMBER.



I USED TO KNOW ALL THEIR NAMES.

I THOUGHT I COULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO GOT HURT IN THIS WAR.

BUT I DON'T REMEMBER THEIR NAMES, ALFRED. ANY ONE OF THEM COULD BE THE FIRST VICTIM. ANY ONE OF THEM.



SIR, MIGHT I ASK A QUESTION?

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM RIPPING OPEN THESE OLD WOUNDS? ARE YOU WORRIED THERE'S A KERNEL OF TRUTH TO WHAT HE'S SAYING? THAT PERHAPS THIS CITY WOULD BE SAFER WITHOUT A BATMAN?



OR IS ALL OF THIS ABOUT MASTER TIMOTHY?

I DON'T KNOW, ALFRED.