

GCN BREAKING NEWS: MICHAEL AKINS APPOINTED NEW MAYOR OF GOTHAM • GCN SPORTS: KNIGHTS DROP GAME 7 TO DC B



IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO THE HONORIFIC, I HAVE TO SAY.

WILL YOU ADDRESS THE RUMORS OF THE VIGILANTE BATMAN'S SECRET ARMY OPERATING IN THE STREETS OF GOTHAM?



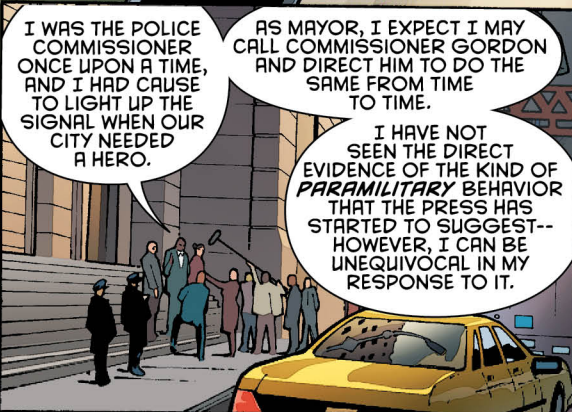
MAYOR AKINS IS NOT TAKING ANY QUESTIONS.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, HAMILTON.



PLEASE FORGIVE DEPUTY MAYOR HILL. OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION HASN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO DISCUSS THE PROVERBIAL BAT IN THE ROOM, BUT IT IS NOT MY INTENT TO SIT BACK AND IGNORE THE FACT THAT THERE IS A BATMAN IN THIS CITY.

I ALSO WILL NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT OUR CITY SEES THREATS BEYOND THE ORDINARY, AND I RESPECT THAT IT MAY TAKE THE HELP OF EXTRAORDINARY PERSONS TO SUBDUDE THOSE THREATS.



I WAS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, ONCE UPON A TIME, AND I HAD CAUSE TO LIGHT UP THE SIGNAL WHEN OUR CITY NEEDED A HERO.

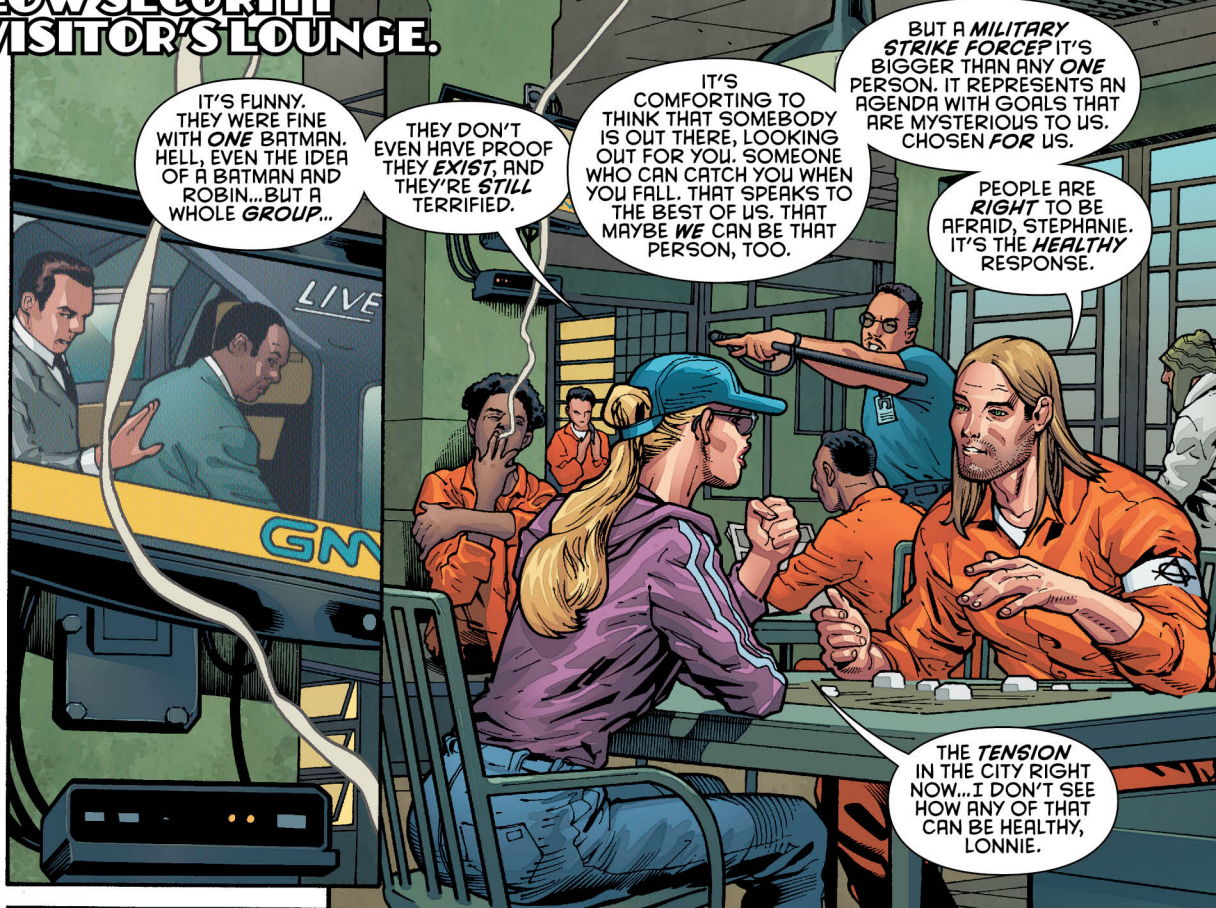
AS MAYOR, I EXPECT I MAY CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON AND DIRECT HIM TO DO THE SAME FROM TIME TO TIME.

I HAVE NOT SEEN THE DIRECT EVIDENCE OF THE KIND OF PARAMILITARY BEHAVIOR THAT THE PRESS HAS STARTED TO SUGGEST-- HOWEVER, I CAN BE UNEQUIVOCAL IN MY RESPONSE TO IT.



GOTHAM CITY HAS A POLICE FORCE. IT DOES NOT NEED A SECOND.

ARKHAM ASYLUM. LOW SECURITY VISITOR'S LOUNGE.



IT'S FUNNY. THEY WERE FINE WITH **ONE** BATMAN. HELL, EVEN THE IDEA OF A BATMAN AND ROBIN... BUT A WHOLE **GROUP**...

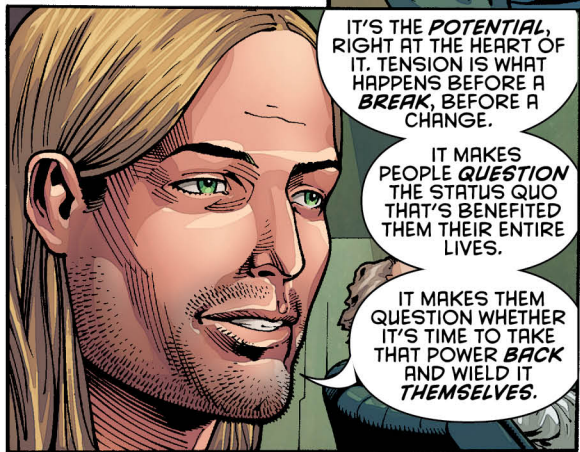
THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE PROOF THEY **EXIST**, AND THEY'RE **STILL** TERRIFIED.

IT'S COMFORTING TO THINK THAT SOMEBODY IS OUT THERE, LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. SOMEONE WHO CAN CATCH YOU WHEN YOU FALL. THAT SPEAKS TO THE BEST OF US. THAT MAYBE **WE** CAN BE THAT PERSON, TOO.

BUT A **MILITARY STRIKE FORCE**? IT'S BIGGER THAN ANY **ONE** PERSON. IT REPRESENTS AN AGENDA WITH GOALS THAT ARE MYSTERIOUS TO US. CHOSEN FOR US.

PEOPLE ARE **RIGHT** TO BE AFRAID, STEPHANIE. IT'S THE **HEALTHY** RESPONSE.

THE **TENSION** IN THE CITY RIGHT NOW... I DON'T SEE HOW MANY OF THAT CAN BE **HEALTHY**, LONNIE.



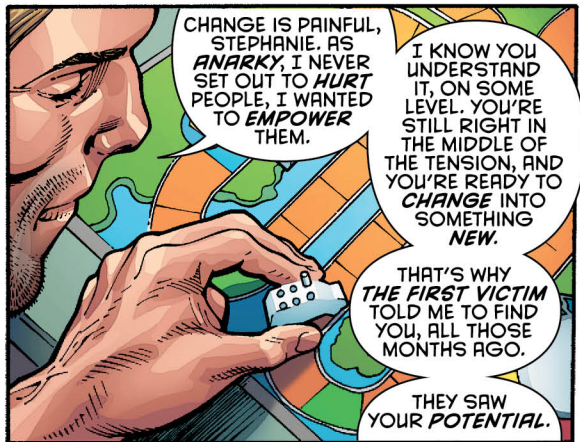
IT'S THE **POTENTIAL**, RIGHT AT THE HEART OF IT. TENSION IS WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE A **BREAK**, BEFORE A CHANGE.

IT MAKES PEOPLE **QUESTION** THE STATUS QUO THAT'S BENEFITED THEM THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

IT MAKES THEM QUESTION WHETHER IT'S TIME TO TAKE THAT **POWER BACK** AND WIELD IT **THEMSELVES**.



AND HOW MANY PEOPLE NEED TO GET **HURT** ALONG THE WAY?



CHANGE IS PAINFUL, STEPHANIE. AS **ANARKY**, I NEVER SET OUT TO **HURT** PEOPLE, I WANTED TO **EMPOWER** THEM.

I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND IT, ON SOME LEVEL. YOU'RE STILL RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TENSION, AND YOU'RE READY TO **CHANGE** INTO SOMETHING **NEW**.

THAT'S WHY **THE FIRST VICTIM** TOLD ME TO FIND YOU, ALL THOSE MONTHS AGO.

THEY SAW YOUR **POTENTIAL**.

