

P R O J E C T
B

AN UNOFFICIAL BATMAN STORY

1



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"PROJECT B"

Story and Artwork

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English Translation

**NIELSON S.
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Disclaimer:

Batman is a registered trademark of DC Comics and Warner Bros. Entertainment Company. This story is just a humble tribute to the greatest character ever. "Project B" is a non-profit comic book, created as passion project and not intended for sales of any sort. Come on, folks! We love you, let us tell this story!

"Who are you?"

What would **your** Batman movie be like?" That was what somebody asked me in early 2012, when we were discussing "The Bat" movies. It was our lunch hour at the trade school where I used to teach. That sounded like I was being challenged so I replied: "By the end of this working day I will give you my version of a Batman movie". I've always been fond of the character — actually, it was because of Batman stories that I started collecting, drawing and writing comic books — but I've never really thought about the creating my own story for one of its movies. I already had experience writing my own independent comics for the past five years or so and I considered myself an expert as far as The Big Bat is concerned. After this reflection I entered the classroom where my students were waiting and... I don't know, it probably was the worst class I have ever taught, but that afternoon the "Project B" idea was born.

When I started taking it seriously, I was completely determined to show everyone who Batman really was and how the movies had gotten the essence of the character all wrong. So, I selected the best stories and graphic novels in my collection from the 80s and 90s, looking to improve my main idea with the cream of the crop. When I finished reading I realized that this was much bigger of a task than I had imagined. By

checking out every story which have been told in different periods I realized that there were "many" Batmen. Facing such a grand accomplishment by others, I was lucky to quickly understand that I've been dealing with an icon. A symbol of about 75 years old (at that time) and quite different from other characters. Batman wasn't only depicted by writers, it had been felt and lived by each one of them. Batman was just the armor enclosing the soul of its writers and it inspired them to tell their version of the story.

From then on I could thoroughly comprehend that Batman's essence was not in the story that was being told, nor in the attitude that he took, nor in the catchphrases. Batman's essence was in the deepest spot of its soul, what touched everyone who knew the character, who have identified themselves with it and were conquered by it. Deep down, Batman is a lonely child frightened with the bitterness of the world. And it is pretty difficult for me to imagine someone not identifying with this feeling. At some point in their lives someone who appreciates the character may have asked "what would Batman do in this situation?". That's because he stands for strength, struggle, overcoming, willpower, intelligence, guts, skill, cunning, violence, vigor and, above all, justice. I came to think that all those wonderful



authors that I used to venerate, while writing their Batman stories, they themselves were "Batmen". They incorporated the frightened children, afraid of a world of bitterness, even though they were different to one another. I was taken a back by my insight. To keep going with this project I needed to ground it — a concept, a starting point — in order to avoid unaware repetitions of what I used to read as a fan. And it was just by a brief comparison with Superman, one of the greatest icons of DC and superhero comic books that I found out the answer. I asked myself: what's the main difference between Batman and Superman, they being fighters for justice seeking the same ideals? My own answer was that the young boy who became Superman was raised by a couple of good sensitive and fragile people. They were the boy's models and when he grew up all he wanted to be was a simple human being just like the couple that raised him. On the other hand the young Bruce Wayne had lost his parents early in his life and he was raised with the help by his own friend and butler Alfred, who taught him to be someone else beyond his own weakness, something superior and unbeatable. That's the difference between the two heroes to me: one wanted to be an ordinary human being with all its weakness although he is almost a deity; while the other, keep putting his best effort to be the strongest, canniest, most intelligent and unbeatable, despite being fragile and vulnerable like everyone of us. Finally, I've got my starting point.



I could spend time thoroughly breaking down my creative process, but I think the final product should speak for itself. My initial impetus was about how I would make my Batman movie, the one I would like to watch in the theatre. However, a movie production is rather expensive and, of course, I'm not a film-maker. To have this story out there I had no options than to tell this "Bat" saga in the original format, the same way he was created —as a comic book story. The adventure in your hands is the product of 8 years of hard work, including script creation, concept illustrations, final drawings, color, texts and everything else I have to work on to survive and support my family. This is only my version of Batman. There's no intention to compare with today's version or any other prior versions already released by its creators or the character rights-holders. I have no intention to sell this work or acquire any other form of financial profit. This work is just a fan's humble attempt at homage to the character who has changed his life and to celebrate the many authors who have made Batman so special by revealing a small part of themselves in each of the characters versions. Batman is a character whose rights belong to DC Comics/Warner Bros, but it is also a part of the soul of everyone who like the character, everyone who had the courage to open one of its comics and to spend a night in Gotham City. And if someone in the future asks me who do I think I am to risk such a bold attempt, I will be able to answer ironically: "I am Batman". Good reading!

Oliver das Santos Borges.
May, 2020



P R O J

CHAPTER
THE LIGHTS OF A



RI
A DARK CITY



"Pain is in your flesh, it is part of life, it is mother and father of good and evil. From it comes all the worst and best things in this world. Do not run away, it's no use. Embrace your pain and choose your own path..."



June 21 - 2012

My name is Alfred Pennyworth, I am a psychologist graduated from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. I never officially practiced my profession because I had serious problems in my native country, but that's another story. There was a time when I was going through a very difficult phase and in the search for meaning in my life I ended up in Australia. I enlisted in the support forces for the United States and ended up in Khe Sanh, Vietnam. There I met a friend. I call him a friend, because that is the name given to good people who change our lives forever. He was a young doctor named Thomas, I have never seen a better person. Energetic, altruistic, a man of integrity. He always knew how to value the most important moments, the simplest moments. He never had to be a doctor, he was born wealthy, but he was there trying to stop the blood that was being spilled in that war.

We spent eleven weeks together, but due to the wear and tear of the war, it felt like we had known each other for a lifetime. I tried to help him in helping the wounded in combat, until one day I became one of them. Okay, I admit that that war didn't help me in the search for a purpose, but that man's words and dreams filled me with hope and a desire to know a land of opportunity called America.

When the war was over and I had nowhere to go, he offered me a job as a manager in his property back in America. Anyway, he saved my life twice, and I am here today because of him ...

Not too long after I came here, my friend passed...leaving his son under my care. A prodigy of unusual intelligence, only 8 years old.

Alan Moore.

Deep Inside of Your Mind

The son of a marriage with a beautiful young woman who the same tragic destiny took charge of.

The purpose of this manuscript is to talk about this boy, who lost his parents in such a brutal way - and how much that disturbed him.

I will not publish this as a case study. Ethically speaking, I am almost a relative of his, and that makes my job a bit dubious in professional terms.

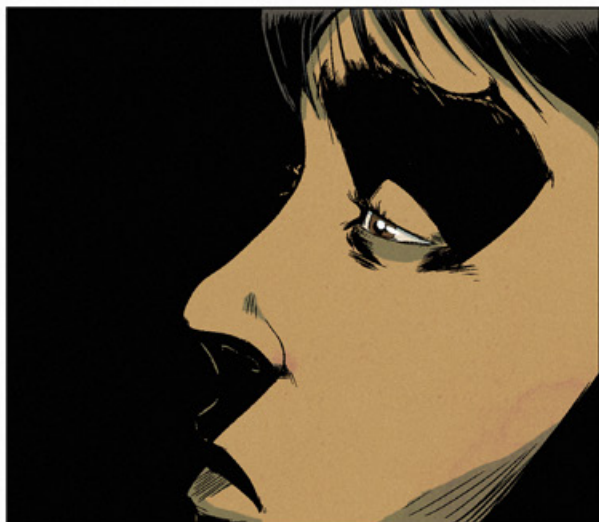
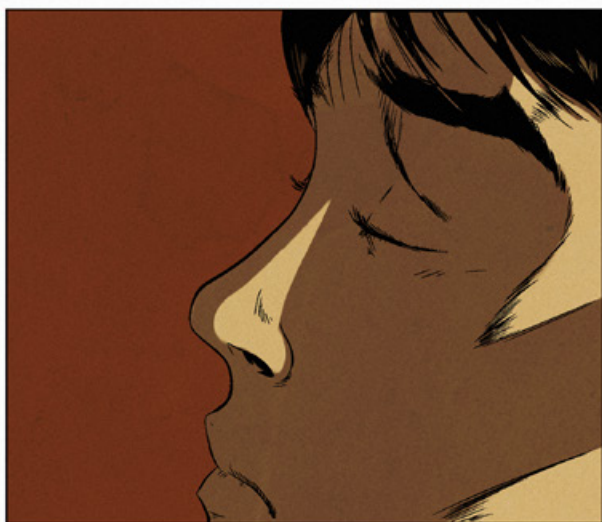


The boy was very upset after having seen his parents killed before his eyes.



My hope in recording this story is for someone — after all this ends — to be able to tell me who was more insane. Him for taking everything to hellish lengths...

...or me, for allowing it.



NO! NO! NO! NO!
NO ... NOT AGAIN!



DADDY..
MOMMY!?





WHO ARE YOU!?

WHERE
DID YOU
TAKE
THEM?



I DIDN'T TAKE THEM.

WHEN I GOT HERE, THEY
WERE ALREADY GONE.



WHERE ARE THEY?

BRING THEM BACK!



WHERE THEY WENT, EVEN I
CAN'T REACH THEM.

TIME IS THE *SUPREME GOD* AND
NO ONE CAN FIGHT AGAINST
IT. WITH EACH PASSING SECOND
THEY WILL BE MORE DISTANT AND
ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT WILL BE
MEMORIES.

BUT I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR
PARENTS, I'M HERE FOR *YOU*. YOU
HAVE TO BE STRONG

BUT HOW? I'M ALL ALONE.



YOU DON'T NEED TO BE ALONE.

I'M HERE WITH YOU.





BUT WHY I CAN'T SEE YOU?
>SNIFF<

WHERE ARE YOU EXACTLY?
>SNIFF<

I'M CLOSER THAN *ANYONE*
CAN BE.

AND YOU CAN SEE ME...

...I AM *ALL* AROUND YOU NOW.

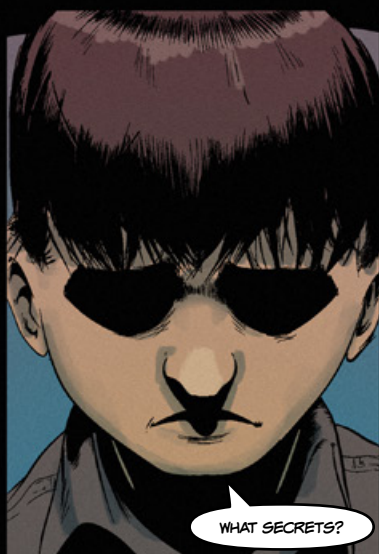
BUT I CAN'T SEE A
THING...

DON'T YOU HAVE A BODY?

I'LL, IF YOU CREATE ONE FOR ME.

I CAN LOOK HOWEVER YOU WANT
ME TO. I CAN GIVE YOU
EVERYTHING YOU WANT, MAKE YOU
STRONG AND *UNBEATABLE* AND
WITH ME YOU WILL NEVER BE
AFRAID AGAIN.

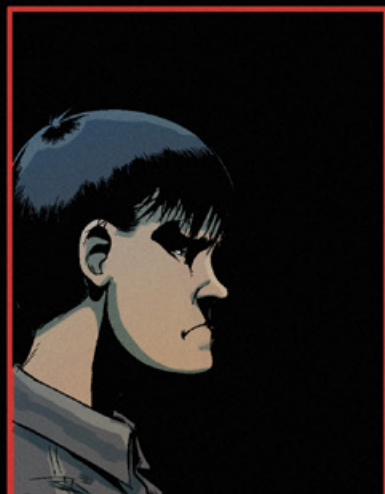
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS *UNRAVEL*
MY SECRETS.



WHAT SECRETS?

WHAT SECRETS ARE HIDDEN IN
THE DARKNESS? I CAN'T SURVIVE
IN THE LIGHT, BUT I *NEED* THE
LIGHT TO LIVE. *ONLY YOU* CAN
TAKE ME TO THE LIGHT ...

BUT FOR THAT ... YOU WILL HAVE
TO KNOW ME *VERY DEEPLY*. TAKE
ME IN, HUG ME, CONNECT WITH ME
LIKE A DIP IN THE POOL. AND YOU
WILL BECOME *INVINCIBLE*.



His name is Wayne, Bruce Wayne.

CHAPTER ONE

"THE LIGHTS OF A DARK CITY"



... and this is his story.

Story and Artwork
OLIVER BORGES

Colors
JIMMY G

DAYS OF TODAY GOTHAM CITY

We live in Gotham.

Known world wide as "America's City of Lights"... a place that claims to be the historical cradle of the art and culture in the United States.

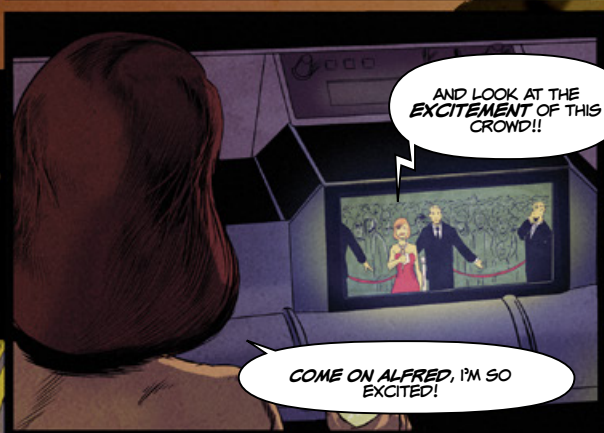
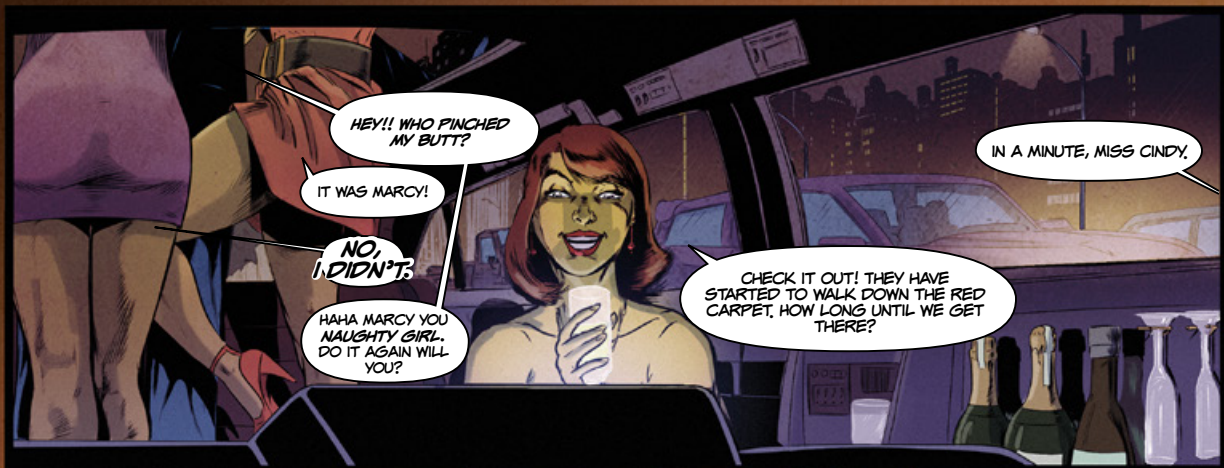
Dreams of a bright beginning for many. Tragic and cruel end is the reality for others. Today I call it the "City of Lies". Its spotlights and luminous advertisements obscure the real light that is already rare here.

it is through these streets that the cheerful and adventurous boy I met walks.



But time turned him into a sad and lonely man.







GOOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET

VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.



...SO WHEN WE WERE IN
UKRAINE, WE MADE
CONTACT ...



TWO DAYS EARLIER

GOOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

...WITH A CIRCUS THEATER
COMPANY THERE AND WE DECIDED
TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP. AND
THAT'S WHEN WE CREATED A NEW
FACE FOR THE SHOW.



...FINALLY, WE GOT SOME
INVESTORS AND STARTED TRAVELING
THE WORLD. IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG
FOR US TO GET NEW ARTISTS
FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND ASIA.
AFTER SOME TIME, ON A PERSONAL
TRIP, I FOUND A COUPLE OF ACROBATS
HERE IN GOTHAM, WITH A YOUNG BOY
OF ONLY 5 YEARS OLD, BUT ALREADY
WELL TRAINED
IN THEIR ACT.

MY PARTNER THOUGHT THAT
HAVING GOTHAM NATIVES IN
THE CAST WOULD BE GOOD
FOR ADVERTISING. AND HE
WAS RIGHT, NOWADAYS THEY
ARE OUR MAIN ATTRACTION
HEHE.

TODAY, WE ARE
THE SECOND BEST CIRCUS IN
THE WORLD, SECOND ONLY TO THE
GRAND CIRQUE DU SOLEIL. IT IS
LIKE MY FATHER USED TO SAY AND
BEFORE HIM, MY GRANDFATHER
ANTHONY AND BEFORE THAT, MY
GREAT GRANDFATHER, THE GREAT
GIUSEPPE ANGELINE:
"RAIN OR SHINE, THE
SHOW MUST GO ON".



WELL, LOOK HERE, JACK I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS:



YOU'RE A GREAT ARTIST, A TALENT I'VE NEVER SEEN, BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED...



I CAN'T HAVE YOU ON THE SHOW, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER YOUR ARREST WE ALMOST HAD TO CLOSE THE DOORS, IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD, MARKETING-WISE, TO HAVE YOUR IMAGE LINKED TO THE CIRCUS AGAIN.



BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M GOING TO TALK TO MY PARTNER, AND IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, I CAN GET SOMETHING BEHIND THE SCENES, A MORE DISCREET JOB AND--



MIKE, YOU PIG!! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME SOMETHING BEHIND THE SCENES??! I HELPED THIS CIRCUS TO BE WHAT IT IS. IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, THIS CIRCUS WOULD HAVE CLOSED ITS DOORS LONGAGO!! AND NOW YOU STRAIGHT-FACED TRY TO HUMILIATE ME LIKE THIS?! I'M AN ARTIST!



HEY JACKO! CALM DOWN MAN !! DON'T TAKE IT THAT WAY. WE WERE LIKE BROTHERS, REMEMBER?

I REMEMBER YOU WASTING YOUR FATHER'S MONEY WHILE WE ALL WORKED HARD HERE.



BUT YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE HERO OF THIS CIRCUS... YOU SAVED US, MY FRIEND.



SAVED US AS AN ACROBAT, KNIFE THROWER, MAGICIAN AND ALSO IN YOUR MASTERPIECE: JOKO THE SAD CLOWN. FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, HUH?



IT'S NOT THAT MUCH, BUT IT CAN HELP YOU START YOUR LIFE OVER.



I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BEG FOR A HANDOUT, MICKIE, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.



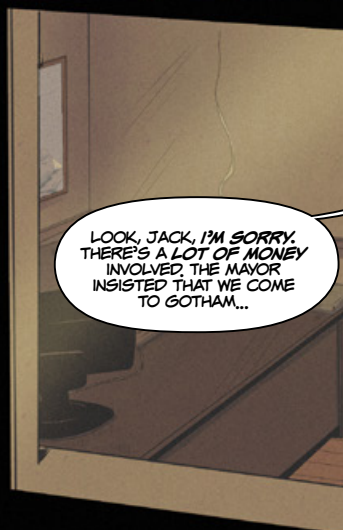
NOW, FOR THE OLD DAYS ...

TAKE IT EASY JACK! YOU DON'T HAVE TO...



I'LL TAKE SOME OF YOUR WHISKEY, YOU NEVER KNEW HOW TO DRINK ANYWAY.

HUH! THAT'S ALL RIGHT.



LOOK, JACK, I'M SORRY. THERE'S A LOT OF MONEY INVOLVED. THE MAYOR INSISTED THAT WE COME TO GOTHAM...



...AND HE'S DOING A HUGE PR PUSH TO RAISE THE CITY'S MORALE. WE CAN'T TAKE ANY RISKS. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU COME BACK AFTER THE OPENING NIGHT...



DON'T YOU WORRY MIKE...

...AFTER RETHINKING MY PROPOSAL.



YOUR OPENING NIGHT WILL BE UNFORGETTABLE FOR THE WHOLE CITY... AS FOR ME, I KNOW HOW TO GET BY.



I CAN'T SAY THE SAME REGARDING YOU, MICKIE... ANYWAY, BREAK A LEG!



THERE HE IS!

HEY JACK! DID YOU MAKE IT?



NOW THE SON IS THE BOSS... MICHAEL ANGELINE, THAT SON OF A BITCH HAS ALWAYS ENVIED ME. HE WON'T BACK DOWN

AND WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO, NOW?



WHAT ANY ARTIST WOULD DO... TO SHOW HIM MY TALENT.



AND AFTER RUNNING AROUND THE WORLD, G.I.C RETURNS TO GOTHAM ONCE MORE... THERE'S A LOT OF CELEBRITIES ARRIVING HERE AND THE SHOW WILL BEGIN IN A LITTLE WHILE. NOW A BREAK FROM A SPONSORS AND WE'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE OR TWO.

GOtham INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET

VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.

GOTHAM IS A CITY OF MANY LAYERS, IT WOULD BE TOO EASY TO CALL IT A GOOD OR A BAD PLACE.

THIS IS THE 103.7 MHZ YOUR **GOTHAM TALKS - THE CITY VOICE**. THE RADIO THAT'S ALWAYS IN EVERY CORNER, WONDERING WHAT **GOTHAM'S** CITIZENS HAVE TO TELL US.

NOW SPORTS! **GOTHAM'S GOLIATHS** ARE IN THE **SEMIFINAL** OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH GOOD ODDS OF WINNING THIS YEAR. **ISN'T THAT RIGHT BENSON?**

OF COURSE **JEFF!** THAT'S IF THE **METROPOLIS METEORS** MAKE IT EASY. SPEAKING OF FACILITATING, IT SEEMS THAT THINGS ARE FAR FROM EASY FOR CRIMINALS IN THIS CITY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN **BENSON?**

IT SEEMS THAT **THE ONE** THAT MANY CONSIDER AN **URBAN LEGEND**, HAS COME OUT AGAIN—

NO! REALLY?!

I'M SERIOUS!!

THERE'S THAT TOP LAYER WHERE THE SPOTLIGHTS FOCUS ON. IT'S FULL OF SHINE AND GLAMOUR, WHERE EVERYTHING IS BEAUTIFUL AND ATTRACTIVE....

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT HORRIBLE CASE ABOUT THE 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL NAMED **GRACE?** AND THE TWO WEALTHY BOYS ACCUSED IN HER RAPE AND MURDER?

USUALLY INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL LAYERS BELOW THIS, BELIEVE THAT THEIR DESTINY IS TO BE PART OF THAT UPPER LAYER. THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING MIXES ...

UNFORTUNATELY, I REMEMBER **BENSON**, THE CASE WAS **DISMISSED** DUE TO INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AND THE CRIMINAL EXPERT REPORT **DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY** FROM THE ARCHIVES.

LIFE BECOMES AN ENDLESS BATTLE IN SEARCH FOR SPACE, A PLACE, EVEN IF TEMPORARY, IN THE WORLD OF DREAMS.

THAT'S RIGHT **JEFF...** IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE **DIDN'T AGREE** WITH THE COURT'S DECISION.

AND, LIKE **SALMON** AGAINST THE CURRENT, THEY ALL RISK TOO MUCH...

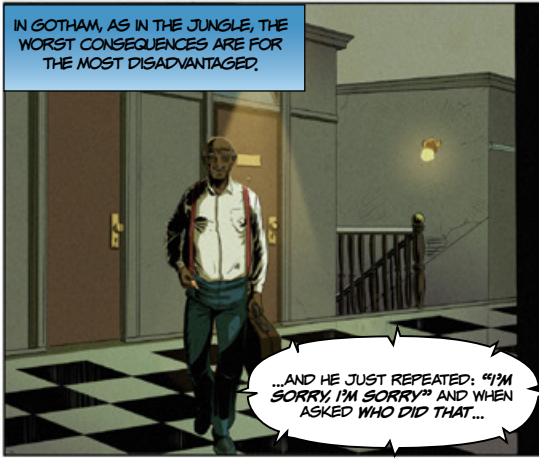
THE GUYS WERE FOUND TODAY IN A WASTELAND...

...BUT THE RISKS ARE MANY, AFTER ALL, THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE ISN'T FORGIVING...

...ONE OF THEM IS IN A **COMA** WITH HEAD TRAUMA AND THE OTHER HAS **TWO FRACTURES** IN THE SPINE ...

...AND THERE IS ALWAYS A PREDATOR LURKING.

IN GOTHAM, AS IN THE JUNGLE, THE WORST CONSEQUENCES ARE FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED.



...AND HE JUST REPEATED: "I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY" AND WHEN ASKED WHO DID THAT...

...HE SAID IT WAS A "DEMON WITH BAT WINGS."



JEANIE!?

NOW, LET'S HEAR SOME MUSIC: GUNS N ROSES - WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE.

IN GOTHAM EVERY DAY A LIGHT GOES OUT, A LIGHT OF HOPE AND JOY, BUT BECAUSE OF THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SPOTLIGHT...



...NO ONE NOTICES.



DAD..

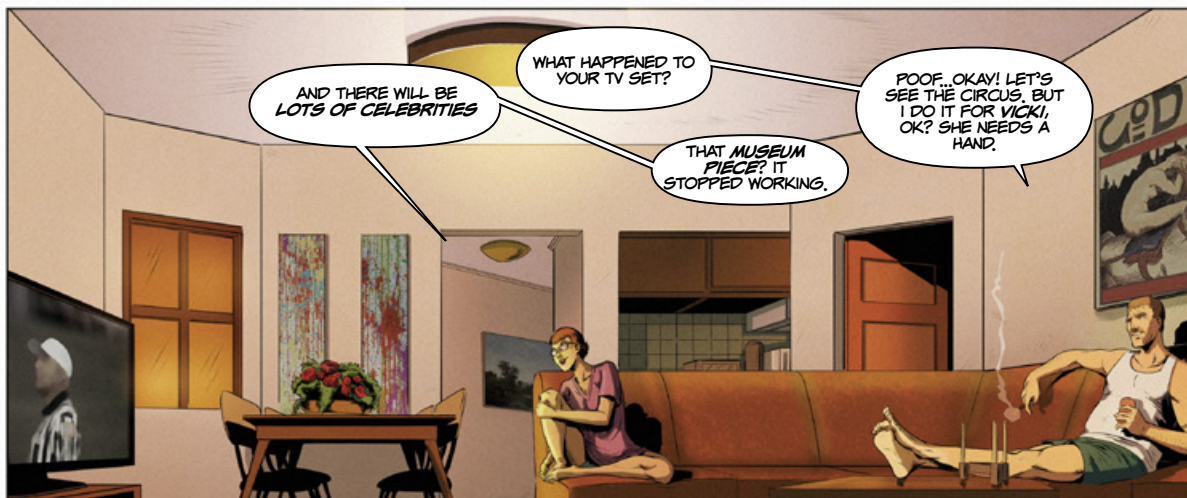
DAD?!

DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME! YOU PROMISED TO LET ME WATCH THE G.I.C RED CARPET SPECIAL. VICKI IS PRESENTING.

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! CAN'T A MAN SEE HIS GAME ON HIS DAY OFF?!

JAMES W GORDON, THIS IS A FOOTBALL RERUN, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE MATCH RESULT... COME ON DAD! MY BEST FRIEND IS ON TV!



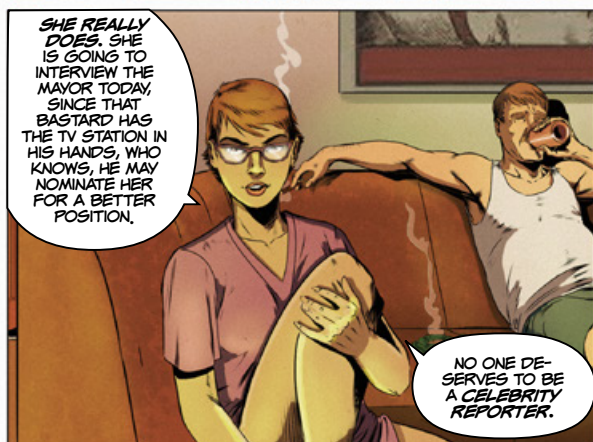


AND THERE WILL BE
LOTS OF CELEBRITIES

WHAT HAPPENED TO
YOUR TV SET?

THAT MUSEUM
PIECE? IT
STOPPED WORKING.

POOF...OKAY! LET'S
SEE THE CIRCUS, BUT
I DO IT FOR VICKI,
OK? SHE NEEDS A
HAND.



SHE REALLY
DOES. SHE
IS GOING TO
INTERVIEW THE
MAYOR TODAY,
SINCE THAT
BASTARD HAS
THE TV STATION IN
HIS HANDS, WHO
KNOWS, HE MAY
NOMINATE HER
FOR A BETTER
POSITION.

NO ONE DE-
SERVES TO BE
A CELEBRITY
REPORTER.



LIVE ON GOSSIP,
JESUS!

HEY, REMEMBER IT
WAS THE MAYOR WHO
GOT YOUR INTERNSHIP
AT THE COURT OF LAW.



I KNOW, AND IT IS THE LEAST HE CAN DO,
'CAUSE YOU ARE THE BEST EMPLOYEE HE
HAS, THE FACE OF GOTHAM CITY JUSTICE.

WELL, WE ARE BACK AND IT'S A NIGHT
THAT WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR A LONG
TIME TO COME.



I'M NOT THE FACE, I'M
THE HAND ... THE FACE IS
HARVEY AND HE SEEMS TO
BE A GOOD MAN, BUT WE
ARE NOT ALONE, WE HAVE
YOU NOW.



THE ONE THIS
CITY HAS BEEN
WAITING FOR.



GUYS, YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WHO JUST GOT HERE! OUR MAYOR **HAMILTON HILL**, THE FIRST LADY **HELLEN HILL** AND THEIR SON **MICHAEL**. OF COURSE HE WILL HAVE A WORD WITH US.




IT IS WITH **GREAT HONOR** THAT THE CITY OF GOTHAM BRINGS THE **GIC** BACK TO THE CITY. THIS CIRCUS THAT SHOWS AMERICA AND THE **WORLD** HOW IMPORTANT OUR CITY IS TO THE CULTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. MAYOR AND ALSO THE FIRST LADY WHO WAS BEAUTIFUL, AS ALWAYS, IN HER **WONDERFUL** **VERSACE**.

GUYS, DID YOU KNOW THAT GIC HAS THE **GUINNESS RECORD** FOR THE **LARGEST CIRCUS STRUCTURE IN THE WORLD**? ISN'T IT AMAZING? IT'S REALLY **GIGANTIC**! WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND THE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT **5,000 PEOPLE**...

300 EMPLOYEES STRIVE DAILY TO BRING YOU THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH, AND GNN IS COVERING THIS MEMORABLE PARTY HERE ON THE RED CARPET AND ALSO FROM ABOVE! OUR HELICOPTER IS FLYING OVERHEAD AND OUR REPORTER **JERRY SUMMER** WILL TELL US HOW THINGS ARE UP THERE.





LOOK VICKI, I CAN SAY FOR SURE THAT IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT WE SEE GOTHAM'S CENTRAL PARK SO BEAUTIFUL. AND MORE PEOPLE ARE COMING!

WE CAN NOW SEE A LINE OF CARS AND LIMOUSINES TURNING ROUND THE CORNER OF THE NEXT BLOCK, SAY THERE VICKI, WHO HAS BEEN THERE WITH YOU?

JERRY, THE DAWSON SISTERS, FROM THE TWINS TOO MUCH SERIES, HAVE PASSED THROUGH HERE, THE SINGER HENRIQUE SABRINNE, LARRY TOMPSON (OUR TELEVISION HOST) AND NOW--



...WAYNE

IT'S HIM!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

IT'S HIM!

MR. WAYNE !!





HELLO MISS VALE! I LIKED THE PHOTOS OF ME THAT YOU RELEASED. IT MUST HAVE COST A FORTUNE IN THE HANDS OF THE PAPARAZZI.

IF YOU WANT I CAN SEND YOU SOME FOR FREE.



JUST LET ME KNOW YOUR CONTACTS DETAILS.



RIDICULOUS...



VICKI... VICKI...!

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.



WE ARE STILL ON.

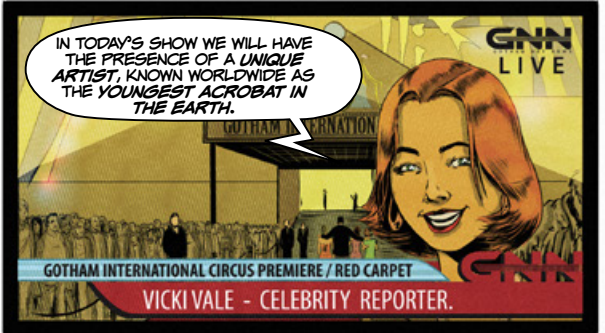
?!?

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.



HE-HE WELL... AND THAT WAS BRU-- I MEAN, BRUCE WAYNE, GUYS...

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.



IN TODAY'S SHOW WE WILL HAVE THE PRESENCE OF A UNIQUE ARTIST, KNOWN WORLDWIDE AS THE YOUNGEST ACROBAT IN THE EARTH.

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
VICKI VALE - CELEBRITY REPORTER.



RICHARD GRAYSON STANDS OUT IN THE ARTISTIC WORLD FOR MAKING INCREDIBLE ACTS AT JUST 12 YEARS OLD.

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
RICHARD GRAYSON - ARTIST FROM GIC



SON OF ACROBATS JOHN AND MARY GRAYSON, TWO CIRCUS ARTISTS WHO STARTED THEIR CAREERS IN GOTHAM AND TODAY ARE THE APPLE OF GIC'S EYE.

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS PREMIERE / RED CARPET
FLYING GRAYSONS - ARTISTS FAMILY FROM GIC







WHAT CAME NEXT WAS A SHOW NEVER
SEEN BEFORE IN THIS CITY.

A CHARMING WORK OF ART, LIGHT,
MUSIC AND SOME OF THE
GREATEST ACROBATS ON THE
PLANET TELLING A STORY ADAPTED
FROM A ROMANCE ABOUT A FLOWER
AND A HUMMINGBIRD THAT FELL IN
LOVE WITH EACH OTHER.

THEY COULDN'T LIVE APART AND
WANTED TO SHARE THE BEST OF
THEIR WORLD WITH THEIR BE-
LOVED, THE HUMMINGBIRD, BEING
WHO IT WAS, KNEW WELL THE
FLOWER'S WORLD, WHEREAS THE
FLOWER KNEW NOTHING BEYOND
HER GARDEN, LIMITED TO HOW
FAR ITS EYES COULD SEE...

...UNTIL THE HUMMINGBIRD TOOK
THE FLOWER TO DISCOVER THE
WORLD OF BIRDS.

THE SHOW CONTINUES AND IT IS
AS BRILLIANT AS EXPECTED...



...BUT EVERYTHING REMAINS
NORMAL

...UNTIL *THEY* APPEAR IN THE
ARENA

**THERE
THEY ARE!**


THE WHOLE CROWD
CHEERS AND APPLAUDS.
THE STORY COMES TO A
PAUSE WITH ALL THE
UNCONTROLLABLE
SCREAMING AND
WHISTLES.

THERE THEY ARE:
THE GRAYSONS.
ALSO DUBBED:
THE FLYING GRAYSONS.










LE PARKOUR,
NAME DERIVED
FROM THE TERM
"PARCOURS"...

...WHICH TRANSLATED
FROM FRENCH MEANS
ROUTE..



... IT IS A SPORTS
PRACTICE THAT
CONSISTS OF A
PERSON RUNNING
THROUGH A TERRITORY
OF OBSTACLES...



...USING ONLY THEIR
BODY AND
MIND SKILLS.

SPEED AND ENDURANCE
IS BASICALLY WHAT IS
NEEDED, AS IT IS A VERY
DANGEROUS ACTIVITY...



...A VERY THOROUGH
KNOWLEDGE OF THE
TRACK... OR BETTER
SAID, OF THE ROUTE,
IS FUNDAMENTAL.



AND WHERE DOES THIS ROUTE LEAD?



BUT WHAT IS "LE PARKOUR" SPIRIT?



NOBODY KNOWS, BUT THE PRACTICE
REQUIRES CONSTANT IMPROVISATION...



YES, TO IMPROVISE IN THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES IS TOO RISKY.



WHO AM I, IF NOT AN
OUTCAST FROM
SOCIETY, LIKE A *STRAY
DOG*, SOMEONE
WORTHLESS
HIDING IN THE
DARKNESS.

BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS...

...I USED TO BE UNDER THE
SPOTLIGHT.

BEFORE EVERYTHING,
BEFORE THE FUN...

... THE ADDICTION ...

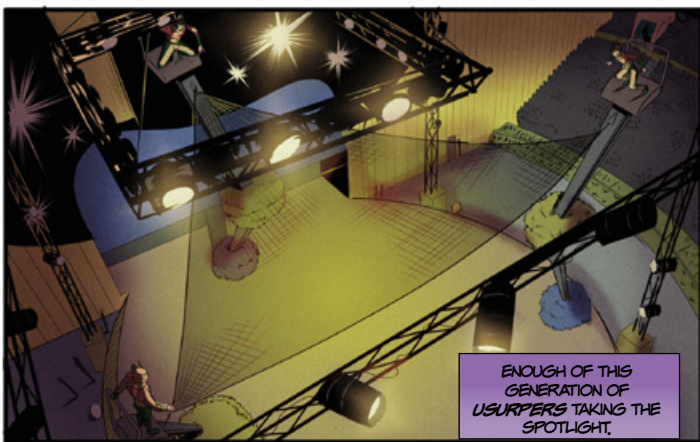
... THE BETRAYAL ...

... THE HUMILIATION.

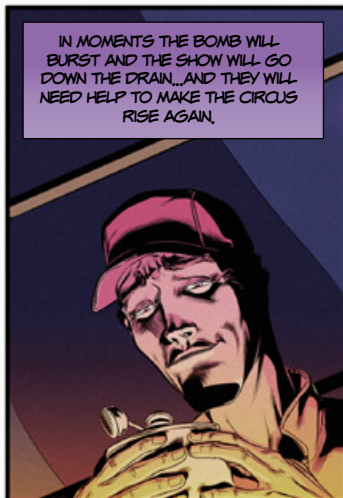




BUT THIS PHASE I'M
GOING THROUGH NOW IS
ABOUT TO END



ENOUGH OF THIS
GENERATION OF
USURPERS TAKING THE
SPOTLIGHT.



IN MOMENTS THE BOMB WILL
BURST AND THE SHOW WILL GO
DOWN THE DRAIN...AND THEY WILL
NEED HELP TO MAKE THE CIRCUS
RISE AGAIN.



IT'S TIME FOR OLD JACK
TO SHINE AGAIN.

A TOAST TO THAT...



FLOOSH



JOHN! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

IT LOOKS LIKE A SHORT CIRCUIT, THE BULB BLEW UP ...



IT LOOKS LIKE MY PLATFORM IS ALSO COMPROMISED



AND WHAT? WE STOP OR ...?



I DON'T KNOW, THEY DIDN'T TURN OFF THE MUSIC, IT WILL BE ...?



FOR THE LOVE OF GOD! WHAT IS GOING ON?

SOMETHING QUITE UNLIKELY. LIGHT FIXTURE NUMBER 8 CAUGHT FIRE.



WHATEVER HAPPENS, THEY CAN'T STOP!!

I WILL...



...THEY ARE BRINGING DOWN THE BACK-UP LIGHTING...



DAD, WHAT--!?



LOOK, THE NET IS ON FIRE!!

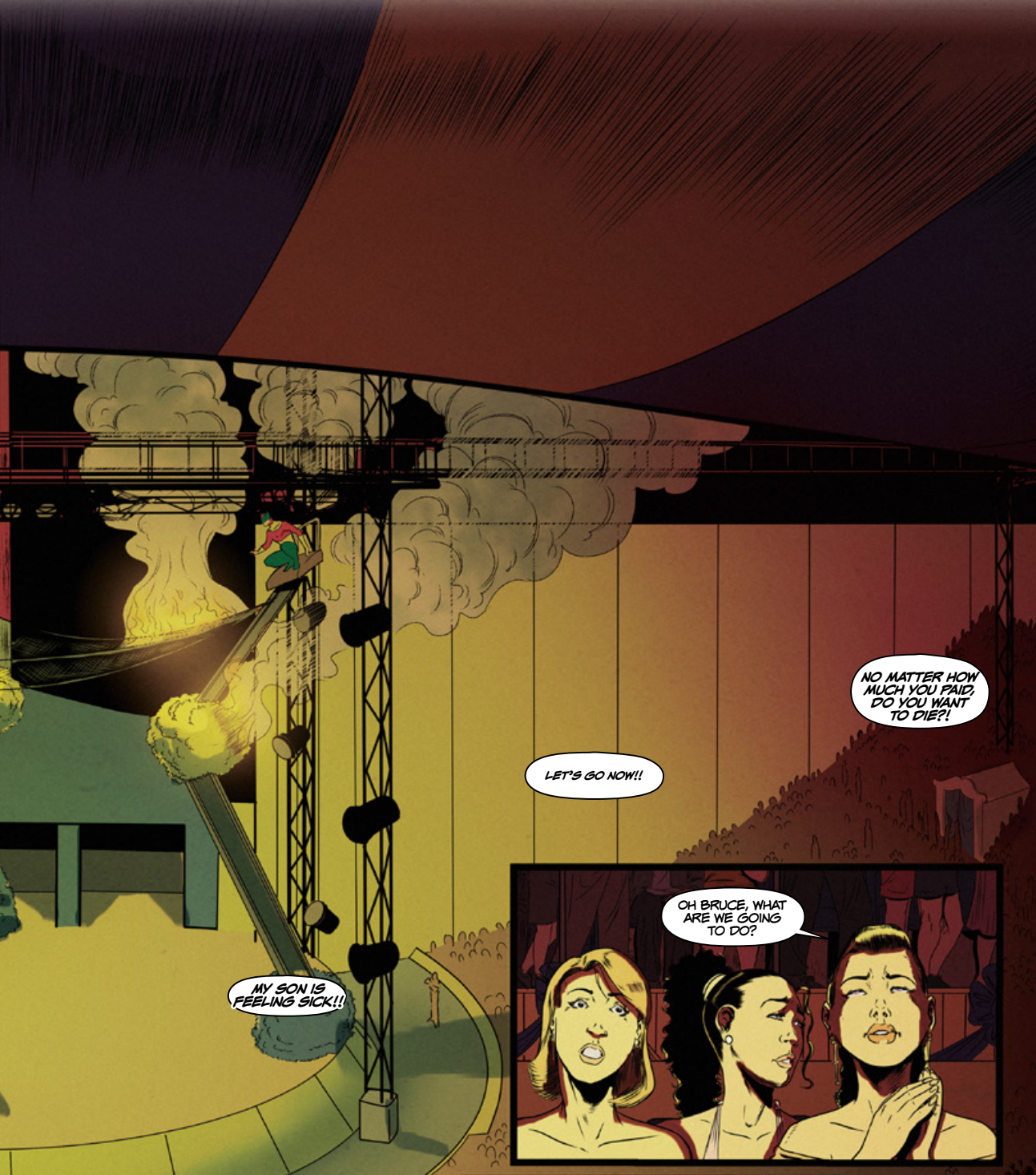


IT'S A FIRE!! WE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!!

IS THAT SERIOUS?!

GET OUT!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
GODDAMMIT!!



NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PAID, DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!

LET'S GO NOW!!

MY SON IS FEELING SICK!!



OH BRUCE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?



BRUCE?!



ATTENTION OLD OWL, CAN YOU HEAR ME? WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY OF TYPE O3, OVER...



HERE IS THE OLD OWL
SPEAKING, HOW COME THERE
IS AN EMERGENCY?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL
AT THE CIRCUS, WHY DIDN'T
YOU TELL ME YOU WERE GOING
OUT? OVER...

I DIDN'T LEAVE, BUT I'M LEA-
VING NOW ... TAKE THE CAR TO
THE EAST WING OF THE PARK,
I WANT TO AVOID THE EYES OF
THE CROWD, OVER...



DAMN VICKI, WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE?

I DON'T KNOW CHANG, BUT
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUR
CHANCE TO GET OUT OF
THIS CELEBRITY THING AND
START COVERING REAL
NEWS.



DON'T WASTE A
SECOND, PARTNER.



I'M 25 SECONDS AWAY
FROM THE PLACE.



SKREEESSHHH

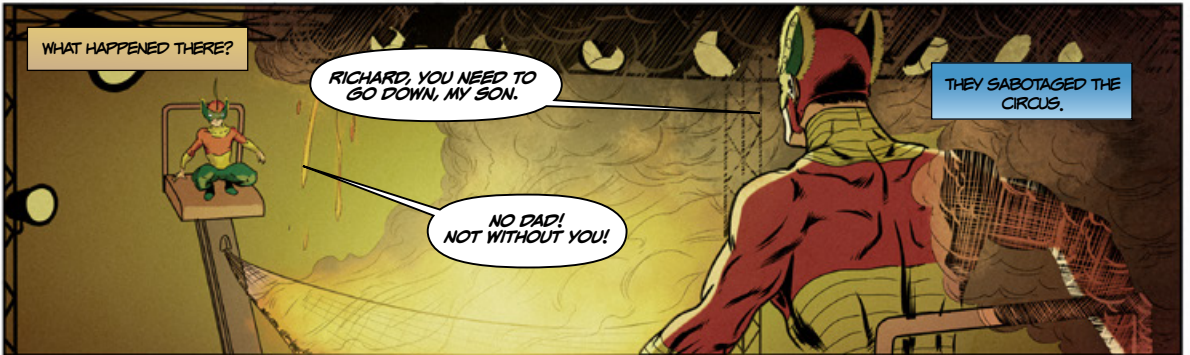
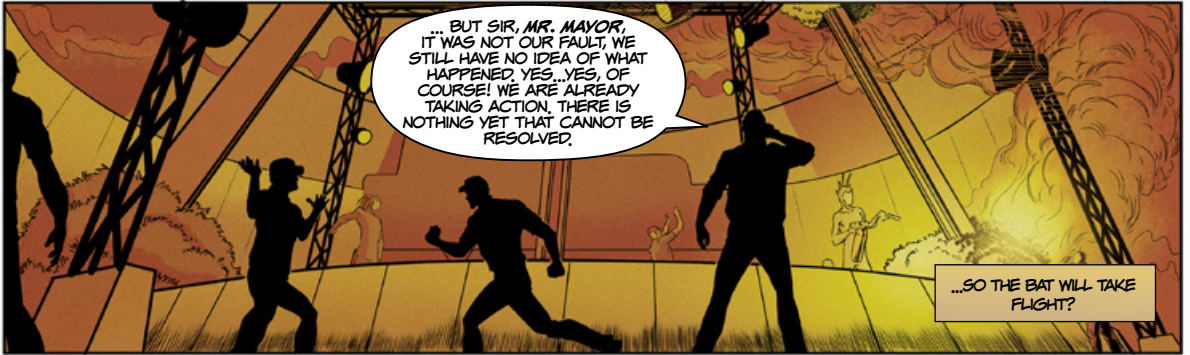


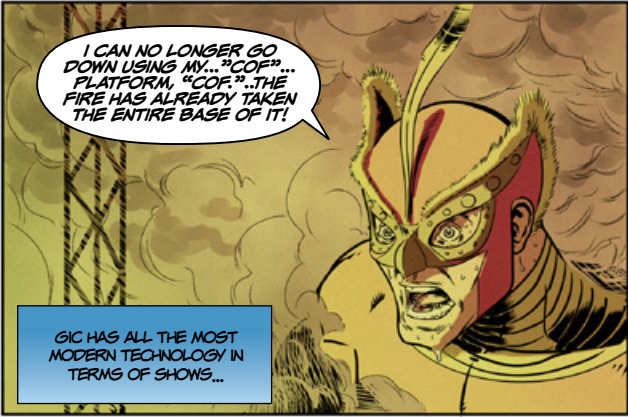
EXCELLENT SYNC
ALFRED, LET'S
GO!



WE WILL HAVE A
TYPE 12 ACTION
MANUEVER.

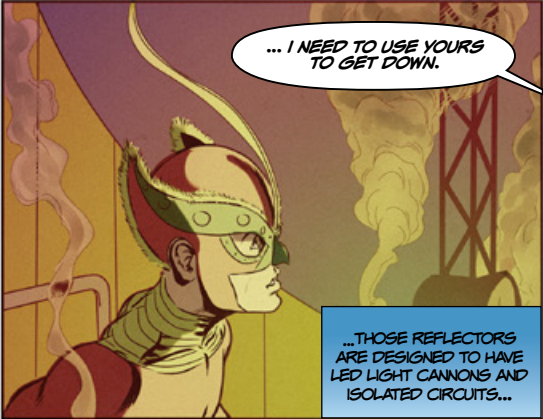
BUT WE NEVER
DID ONE OF THOSE
IN PRACTICE.





I CAN NO LONGER GO DOWN USING MY... "COF"... PLATFORM, "COF"... THE FIRE HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE ENTIRE BASE OF IT!

GIC HAS ALL THE MOST MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN TERMS OF SHOWS...



... I NEED TO USE YOURS TO GET DOWN.

...THOSE REFLECTORS ARE DESIGNED TO HAVE LED LIGHT CANNONS AND ISOLATED CIRCUITS...

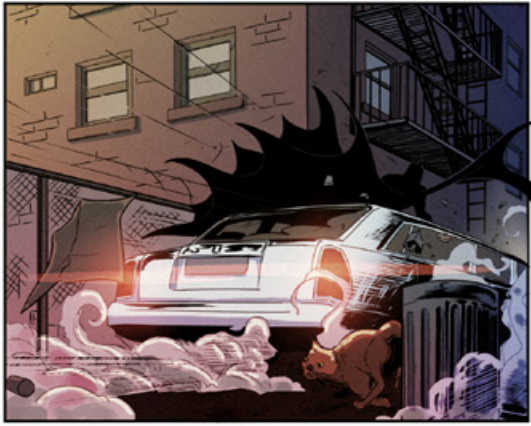


KRINCH!



I'M GOING DOWN!

THIS MEANS THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE FIXTURES TO GO IN SHORT CIRCUIT OR EVEN EXPLODE.



KA-CH!



SURELY THEY WOULD HAVE A SAFETY PLAN FOR A POSSIBLE FIRE, ALFRED...



THE BAT IS IN THE AIR, TESTING, OVER...

HOWEVER, IT IS NOT NORMAL FOR SOMEONE TO PREPARE HIMSELF FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.



"COF", "COF"... I CAN'T SEE THE SAFETY NET ANYMORE!



WAIT A LITTLE MORE DEAR, THE NET IS ALMOST ALL ON FIRE. IT WOULDN'T TAKE IT!



JOHN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?



I CAN'T BREATHE ANYMORE, DEAR. IF I STAY HERE...



...I WILL PASS OUT AND FALL.

IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT...



...WITH ALL THAT FLAMMABLE MATERIAL ON THE STAGE... IF THE ARTISTS HAVE NOT LEFT THE STAGE SOON...

THEY'LL BE TRAPPED.

JUMP TO THE
RIGHT JOHN!

NO! WAIT, THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT IS
COMING!

JOHN STAY CALM!

I'LL JUMP...

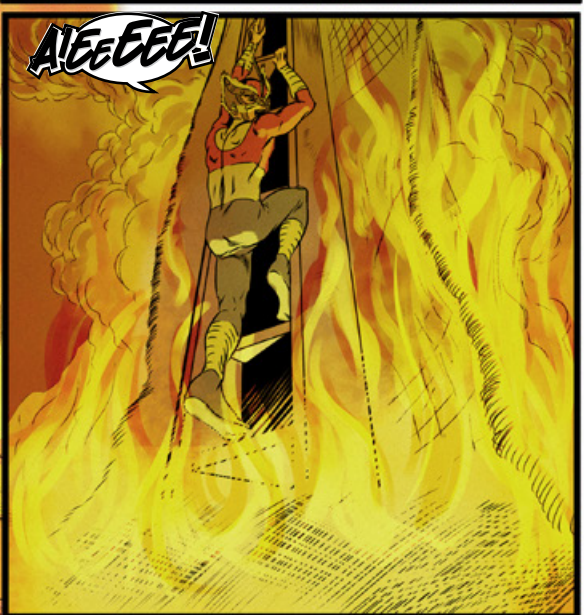
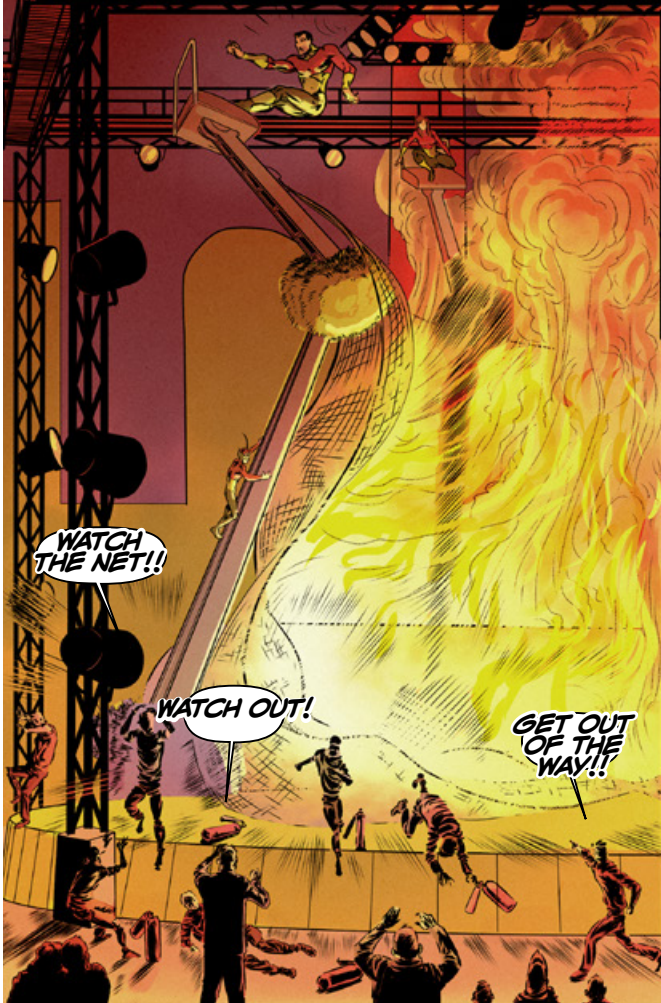
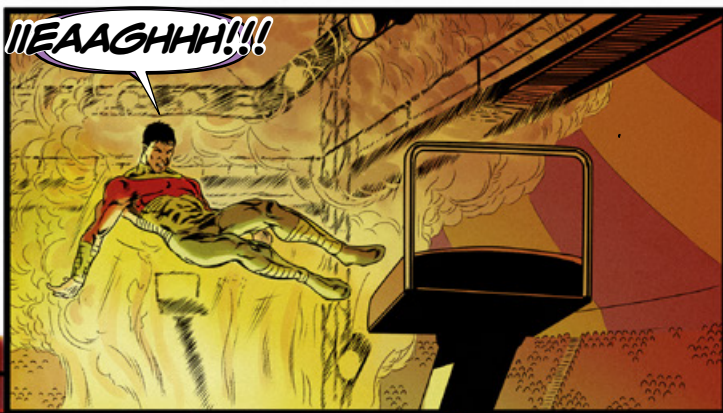


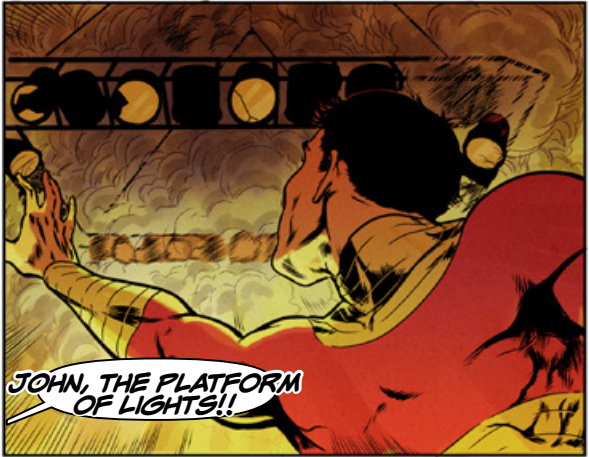
I HAVE TO BE FAST!

!!EAAGHHH!!!

JOHN...















MY GOODNESS!
OUR CRAZY FRIEND
IS BACK!



ARF, ARF, ARF WE
GOT ... ARF ... GO
ARF NOW!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
YOU WERE SUPPOSED
TO JUST TURN
OFF A FEW LIGHTS.



WELL, MY FRIEND,
I THINK THIS TIME...

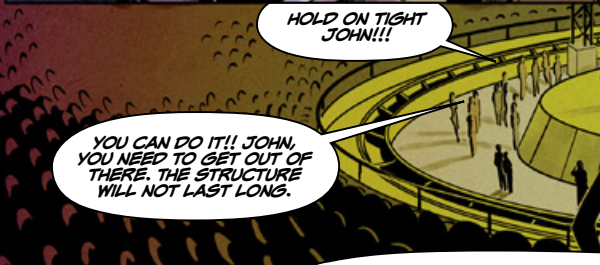


...YOU'VE GONE
TOO FAR.



HE!

HOLD ON TIGHT
JOHN!!!



YOU CAN DO IT!! JOHN,
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF
THERE. THE STRUCTURE
WILL NOT LAST LONG.



VICKI VALE YOU CRAZY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THIS
IS NOT YOUR STYLE, BUT IF YOU GET THOSE IMAGES,
YOUR LIFE WILL CHANGE.

JOHN! LISTEN TO
ME!!

I CAN'T STAND IT
ANYMORE!



OH MY GOSH! NO!



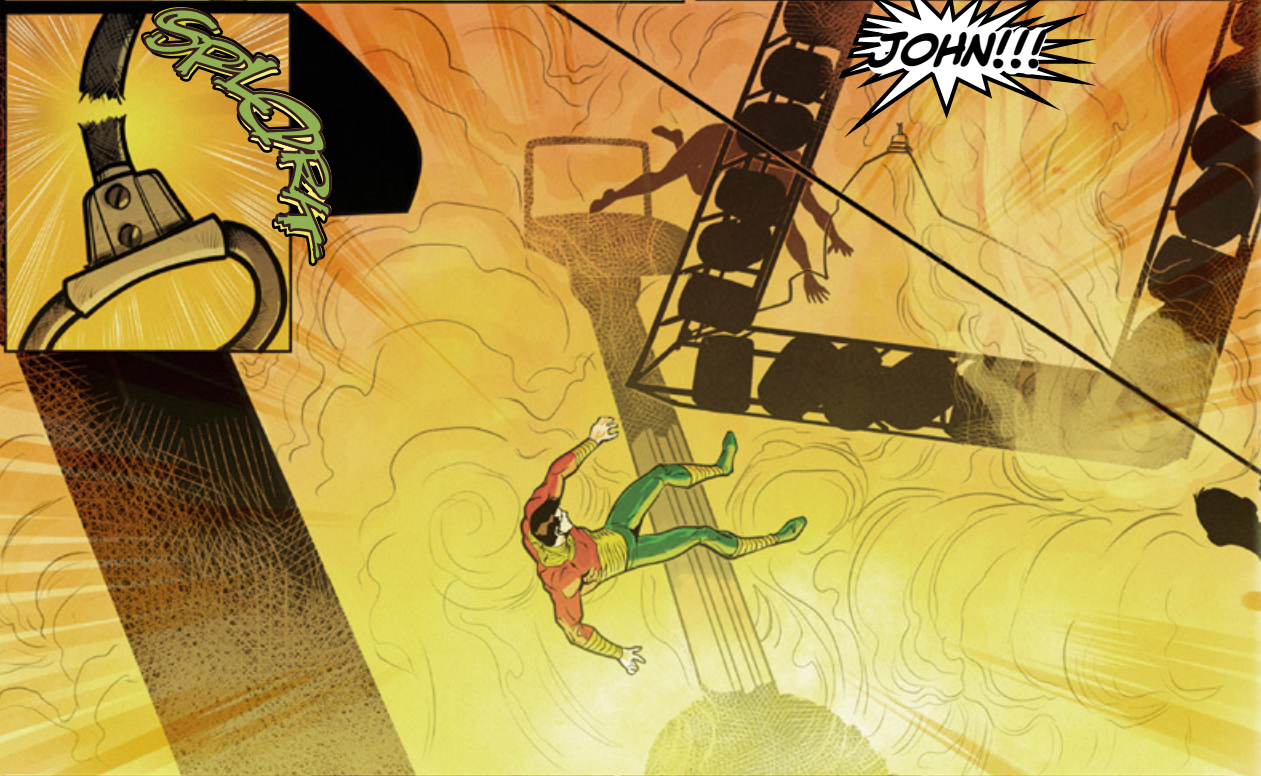


HOLD ON DAD,
HELP IS HERE!



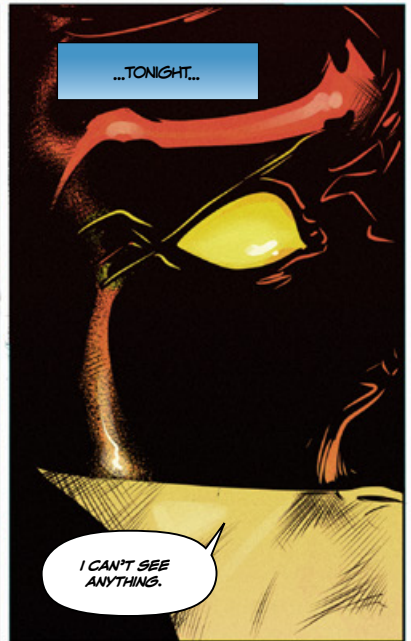
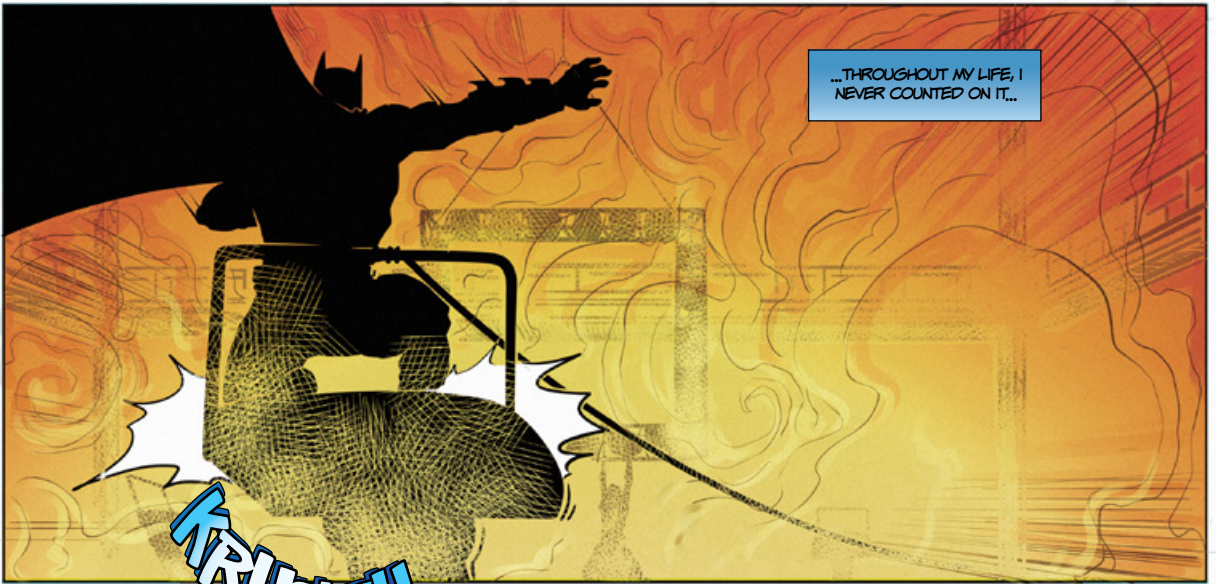
DEAR, HEAR MY
VOICE...WHATEVER
HAPPENS, DON'T
LET GO.

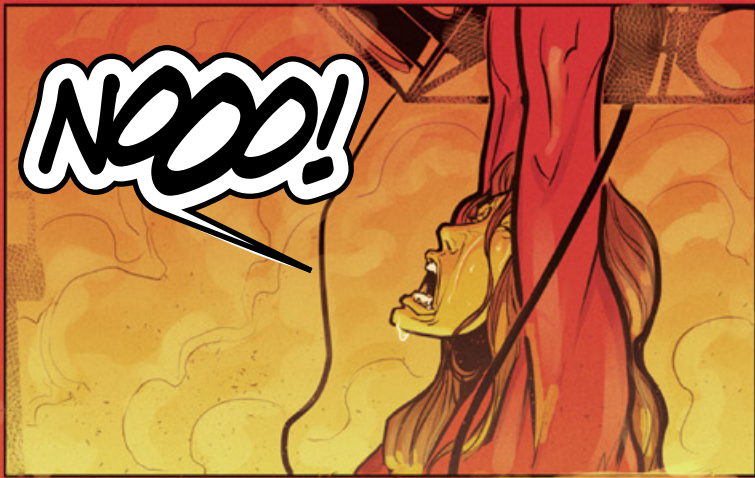
I... I...



JOHN!!!







...THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT.





BUT IT STILL WASN'T
ENOUGH.



...MOM!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Special Thanks:

Nielson Borges (father)

For presenting me the universes of comics and cinema. This project would never have happened without this introduction.

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For her help typing at the beginning of this project.





Uccelli



GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

This issue is dedicated to my beautiful and intelligent wife
Isis Caroline, whom since the beginning supported me,
closely following each stage of the production of this story.
She gave me decisive opinions at crucial moments
in this process.



Next chapter: "GEARS"

On "Project B" issue #02.
Be part of this project. Keep on following us on projectbfanfic.com