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BATMAN

VERSUS

PREDATOR

DARK HORSE
COMICS

2
OF 3



Summary 91 ©

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

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Good Morning Gotham NEWS 2

...AN ANONYMOUS TIP-OFF, POLICE FAILED TO CAPTURE THE MULTIPLE MURDERER AT A JUNK-YARD IN GOTHAM'S EAST END.

JENNIFER, ARE YOU THERE...?

YES, MEL... AND BATMAN'S BADLY DAMAGED CAR WAS SEEN SPEEDING FROM THE SCENE, AS POLICE ARRIVED!

WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF A BLOODY BATTLE INSIDE THE YARD...

EARLIER, A WEIRD NET-WEAPON-- BELIEVED USED IN THE SLAYING OF ALEX YEAGER AT THE SQUIRE CENTER-- WAS TAKEN FOR FORENSIC TESTS...

SOURCES REPORT THAT ITS METAL HAS DEFIED CHEMICAL ANALYSIS--

COMMISSIONER! IS BATMAN STILL ALIVE...?

THE KILLER-- COULD HE BE A MONSTER FROM ANOTHER WORLD?

NO COMMENT.

AND WE'VE JUST HEARD THAT SOME GRISLY TROPHIES HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED HERE--

THEY'RE SAID TO INCLUDE THE MISSING REMAINS OF CHAMPION BOXERS MARCUS KING AND BULL BERSAGLIO!

NOW, BACK TO YOU, MEL...



...LEADING PROPERTY TYCOON, RAYMOND SQUIRE, SPOKE OF HIS ASSOCIATE ALEX YEAGER'S DEATH, WHICH HE WITNESSED.

HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR LEO BRODIN'S RECKLESS USE OF FIREARMS, BATMAN AND I COULD HAVE CAPTURED THE KILLER--

GORDON? HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT--

YOU'RE DAMN LUCKY BRODIN HAD THAT SHOTGUN, SQUIRE, OR YOUR SKULL MIGHT BE IN A BAG DOWNTOWN, TOO.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT CRAP, DO YOU?

I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS! I'M A VERY BUSY MAN...!

ME, TOO. WHAT IS IT NOW, LIEBERMAN?

MY APOLOGIES, RAYMOND. OFFICIAL BUSINESS, Y'KNOW...

I'M VERY UNHAPPY WITH YOU, GORDON. VERY UNHAPPY.

INSULTING MY IMPORTANT FRIENDS IS BAD ENOUGH...

ALLOWING SOME MADMAN TO KILL ONE IS UNFORGIVABLE.

YOU'D BETTER BE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO CATCH WHO-EVER'S DOING THIS--

--OR I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A PLATE, GORDON. UNDERSTAND?

IF THAT'S ALL...





...FRIGHTENED OF THE BOGEYMAN LIKE WHEN YOU WERE A LITTLE BOY, LEONARD?

MA! I'M NOT FRIGHTENED... JUST TAKIN' PRECAUTIONS!



EVEN FORGETTIN' THE KILLER, I'M STILL GONNA HAVE TO FIGHT EVERY TWO-BIT HOOD IN TOWN FOR A PIECE OF YEAGER'S ACTION!

FACE IT, MA, I'M A TARGET. HELL, WE'RE BOTH TARGETS--EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME!

Tsk, tsk, LEONARD, WON'T YOU EVER LEARN?



LET THE OTHER BOYS HAVE THE PENNY-ANTE RACKETS. YOU COULD DO BETTER...

THE KILLER'S GIVEN US WHAT WE'VE WAITED FOR: YOUR CHANCE TO GO LEGITIMATE!



BOARDROOM HERO

MAKE A DEAL WITH THAT STUFFED SHIRT, RAYMOND SQUIRE...

WITH WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT HIS EX-PARTNER--NOT TO MENTION HIS SO-CALLED HEROICS--YOU COULD RUIN HIM...



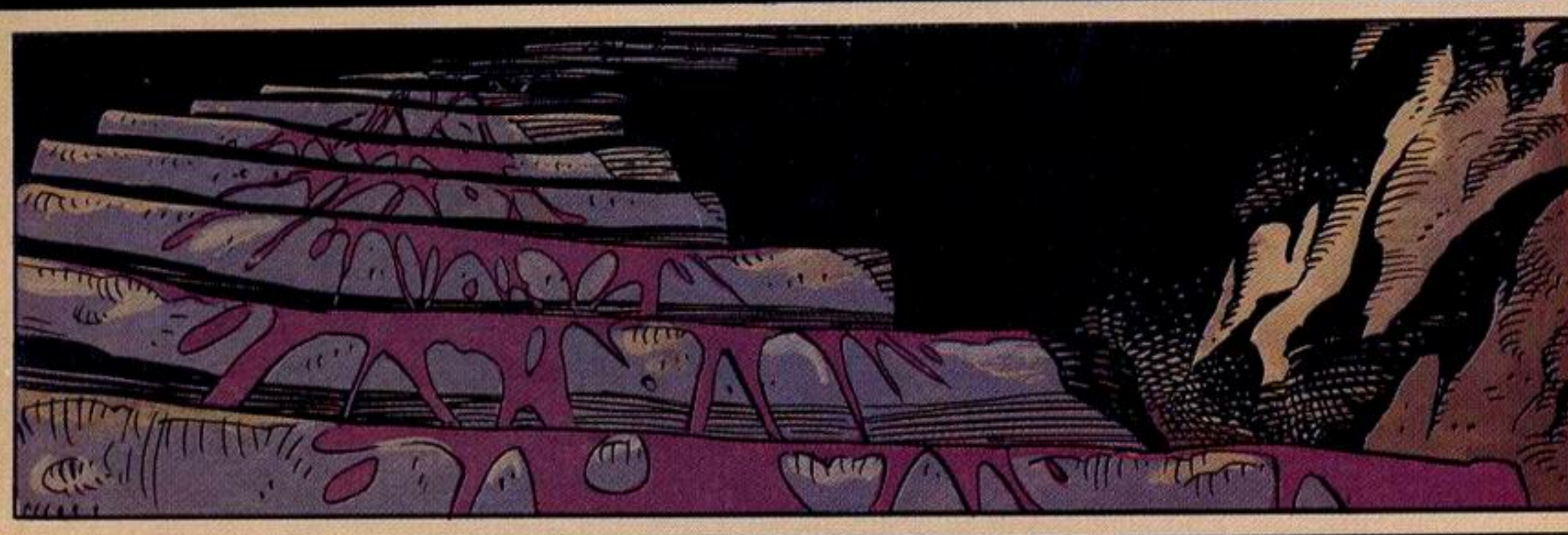
BUT TELL HIM YOU'LL KEEP QUIET FOR A PIECE OF HIS CORPORATION'S ACTION--AND A SEAT ON THE BOARD!

YOU CAN TAKE YEAGER'S PLACE... THINK OF IT, LEONARD--YOU'D BE RESPECTABLE! A REAL BUSINESSMAN!

MA, YOU'RE THE NEATEST!









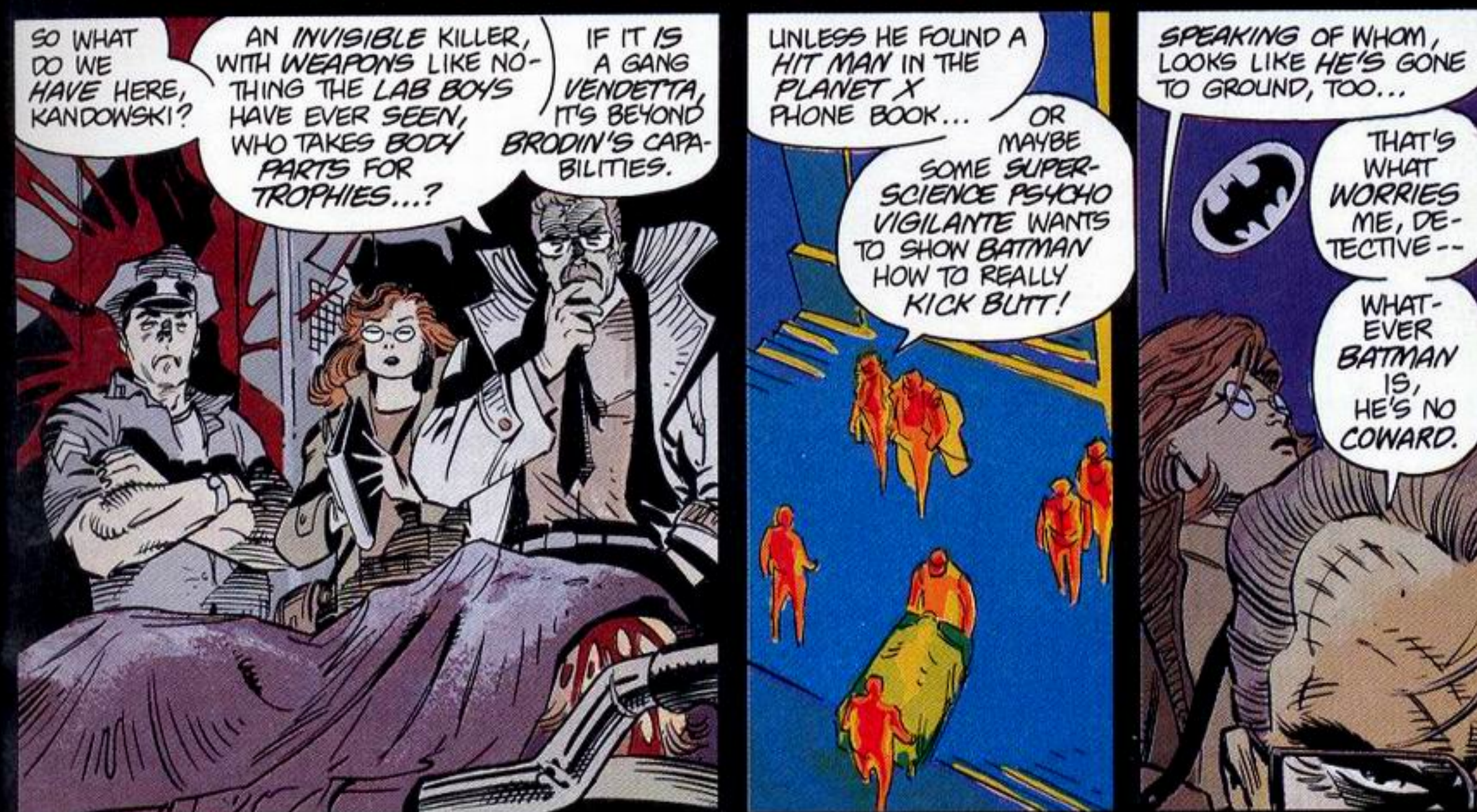
...FOR ALL HIS BIG TALK ON TV, SQUIRE WAS TERRIFIED, GOING TO GROUND UPSTATE--

LEASTWAYS, I FIGURE THAT'S WHAT HIS SECRETARY WAS BABBLING ABOUT.



AFTER YESTERDAY, THERE WERE GUARDS ALL OVER THE BUILDING, BUT NONE OF THEM EVEN SAW THE KILLER.

HE FILLETED SQUIRE IN THE ELEVATOR AND SPREAD WHAT HE DIDN'T WANT ALL OVER THIS MODEL, LIKE SOME KIND OF MESSAGE...



SO WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE, KANDOWSKI?

AN INVISIBLE KILLER, WITH WEAPONS LIKE NOTHING THE LAB BOYS HAVE EVER SEEN, WHO TAKES BODY PARTS FOR TROPHIES...?

IF IT IS A GANG VENDETTA, IT'S BEYOND BRODIN'S CAPABILITIES.

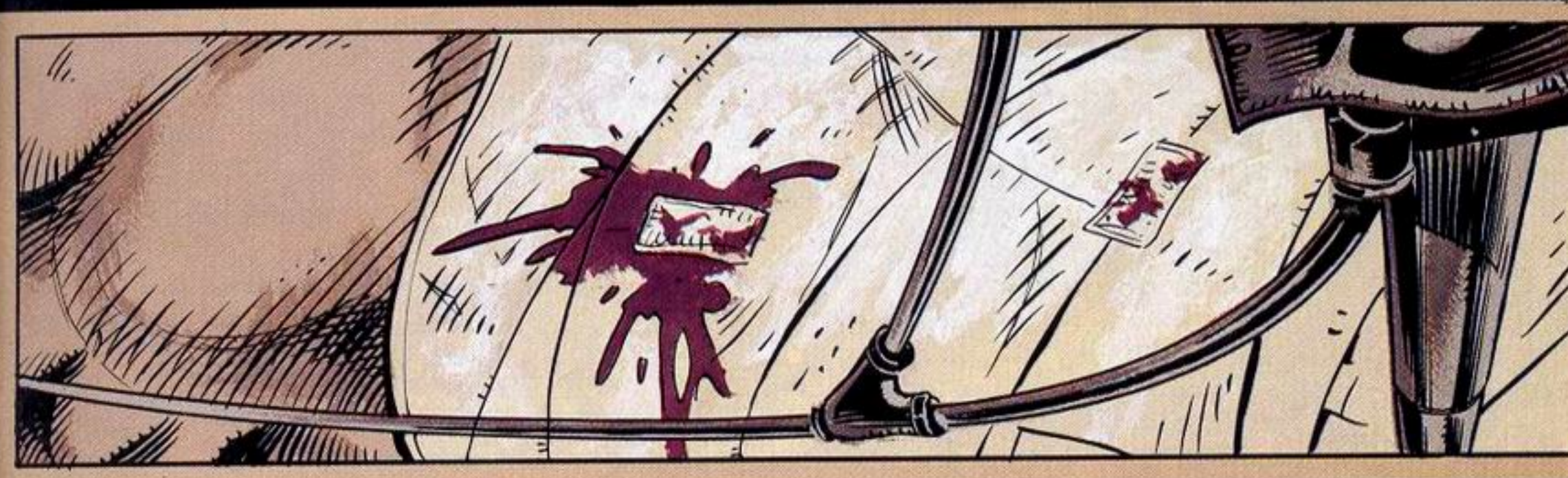
UNLESS HE FOUND A HIT MAN IN THE PLANET X PHONE BOOK...

OR MAYBE SOME SUPER-SCIENCE PSYCHO VIGILANTE WANTS TO SHOW BATMAN HOW TO REALLY KICK BUTT!

SPEAKING OF WHOM, LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONE TO GROUND, TOO...

THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME, DETECTIVE--

WHATEVER BATMAN IS, HE'S NO COWARD.





I TELL YOU, FRIENDS--
THIS KILLER IS A DEMON
FROM HELL, COME TO
CLAIM HIS OWN...

THE VIOLENT, THE
WICKED, AND THE GREEDY!
PURIFY YOUR SOULS, THAT
YOU DO NOT BECOME
HIS PREY!

JUST 'CUZ THE KILLER'S
LAID LOW FOR A COUPLA
DAYS, MA, I STILL DON'T
THINK WE SHOULD BE
OUT.

"OFFENSE IS
THE BEST
DEFENSE,"
LEONARD...

YOU
OUGHT
TO BE
HUNTING
DOWN THIS
KILLER, NOT
HIDING
FROM HIM.

WHY,
YOU
ALREADY TOOK
A POT SHOT AT
HIM-- SAVED
BATMAN'S LIFE,
EVEN!

SUN-
DAY'S
CHURCH,
LEONARD.

BESIDES, NOW
SQUIRE'S GONE, I
NEEDED GUIDANCE
FROM ABOVE...

AND IF HE'S DEAD OR
RUNNING SCARED NOW,
ALL THE MORE CHANCE
FOR YOU TO BE A
HERO...

YOU COULD BECOME
FAMOUS, LEONARD--
THE GUY WHO CLEANED
UP GOTHAM!

SO, MAY
THE LORD HAVE
MERCY ON YOU
ALL...

AND AS YOU LEAVE,
I'D REMIND YOU TO GIVE
GENEROUSLY TO THE
RESTORATION APPEAL
FOR OLD ST. MARTIN'S
CATHEDRAL...





MASTER
BRUCE?
ARE YOU
AWAKE...?

WH-WHAT
TIME IS IT,
ALFRED?

IT'S SEVEN
IN THE
EVENING,
SIR. A
MONDAY.

HOW...
AM I?



I TOOK IT UPON
MYSELF TO ALERT
THE AUTHORITIES,
SIR...

Hmm... STILL
AT LARGE, EH?

ALFRED,
I
NEED
SOME
THINGS...



RATHER POORLY,
I'M AFRAID, SIR. A
GREAT DEAL OF
BLOOD WAS
LOST.

YOU SUSTAINED
DEEP PUNCTURE
WOUNDS, EXTENSIVE
LACERATIONS, THIRD-
DEGREE BURNS, AND
SEVERE CONCUSSION.
YOU'RE LUCKY TO
BE ALIVE.

AND THE
KILLER?



AND TELL ME-- IS
EVERYTHING QUIET
TONIGHT?

ONE CAN
ONLY PRAY
SO, MASTER
BRUCE.

...SO-CALLED "SEE-THROUGH" SLASHER HAS BEEN BLAMED FOR SEVERAL UNEXPLAINED DEATHS AND A VARIETY OF PROPERTY DAMAGE OVER THE LAST WEEK.

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON REFUSED TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS--

--OR TO COMMENT ON THE APPARENT FAILURE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL TO SUMMON BATMAN FOR SEVERAL NIGHTS.

DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM MAYOR LIEBERMAN, CITY AUTHORITIES SEEM POWERLESS TO BRING THE MYSTERIOUS -- SOME SAY ALIEN -- MURDERER TO JUSTICE... AND THERE ARE FEARS OF CITIZENS TAKING THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.



IN THE POWER VACUUM LEFT BY THE DEATH OF ACKNOWLEDGED GANG BOSS ALEX YEAGER, GOTHAM'S UNDERWORLD HAS BEEN WRACKED BY A WAVE OF VIOLENCE.

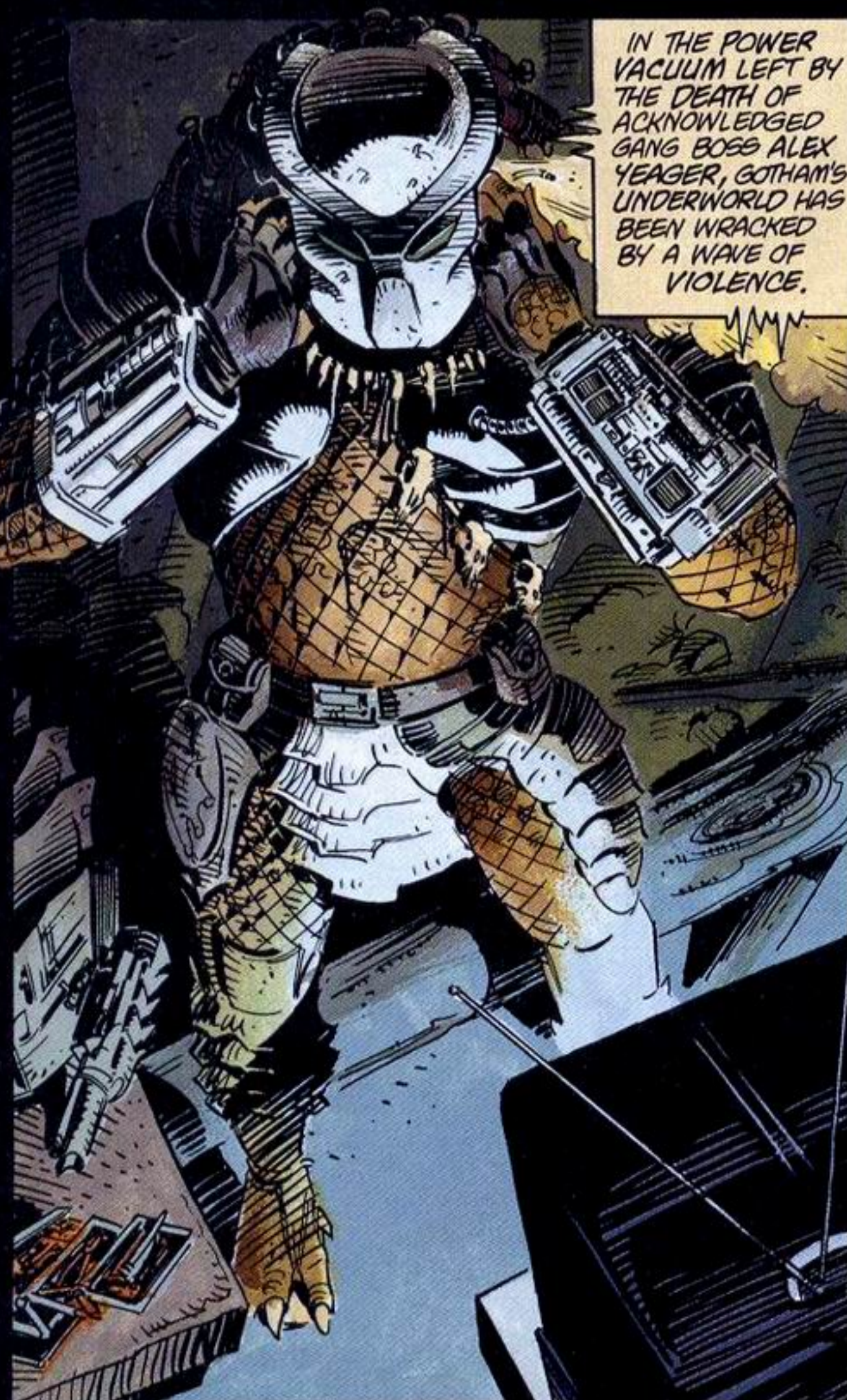
FROM HIS HOME ON WESTGATE DRIVE, COMMUNITY LEADER LEO BRODIN ISSUED THIS CHALLENGE...

IT'S TIME THE KILLER WHO'S UPSETTIN' OUR CITY WAS HUNTED DOWN!

SO, IF HE'S OUT THERE WATCHIN', HEAR THIS--



--LEO BRODIN'S GONNA GET YOU, BUDDY!





...SLASHER
DON'T HAVE A
CHANCE!

THERE'S GOTHAM,
YOU VEGAS BOYS,
THE TEAM FROM
THE APPLE--EVEN
A BLUNCH O'
YEAGER'S TOP
GUNS HAVE
COME OVER...

IT'S GONNA
BE SOME
BEAR HUNT!



AN' SOME BEAR.
S'POSE IT COMES
HUNTIN' US?

AW, TAKE IT EASY.
WE GOT RAZOR WIRE,
LAND MINES, AND
ENOUGH ORDNANCE TO
STOP AN ARMY--



W-WAIT...



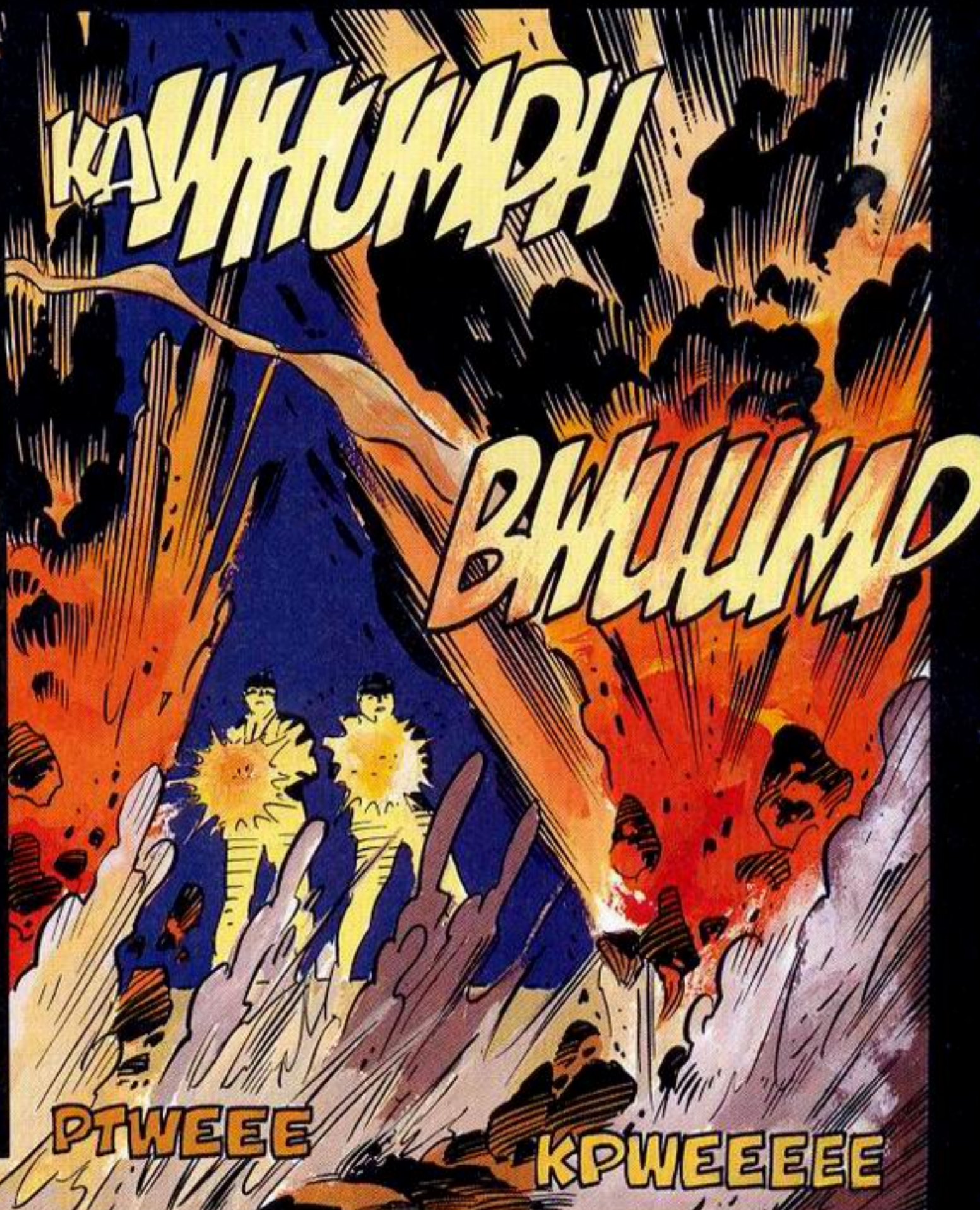
BY THE
FENCE--
LIKE A
MIRAGE
...SEE?

WELL,
HIT THE
CREEPY
B--



BRAKABRA

BRAKABRA



KAHHHUMPH

BWHUMP

PTWEEEE

KPWEEEEEE



WHERE'D HE GO?

TOO MUCH SMOKE. CAN'T--



YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR BACK



HOLY MOTHER OF--



CHONK

CHUNK



EEEEAAA!

SSSCHUUUNK

...TOLD ME THIS PLACE WAS SECURE, LEONARD!

GET IN THE STRONG ROOM, MA...



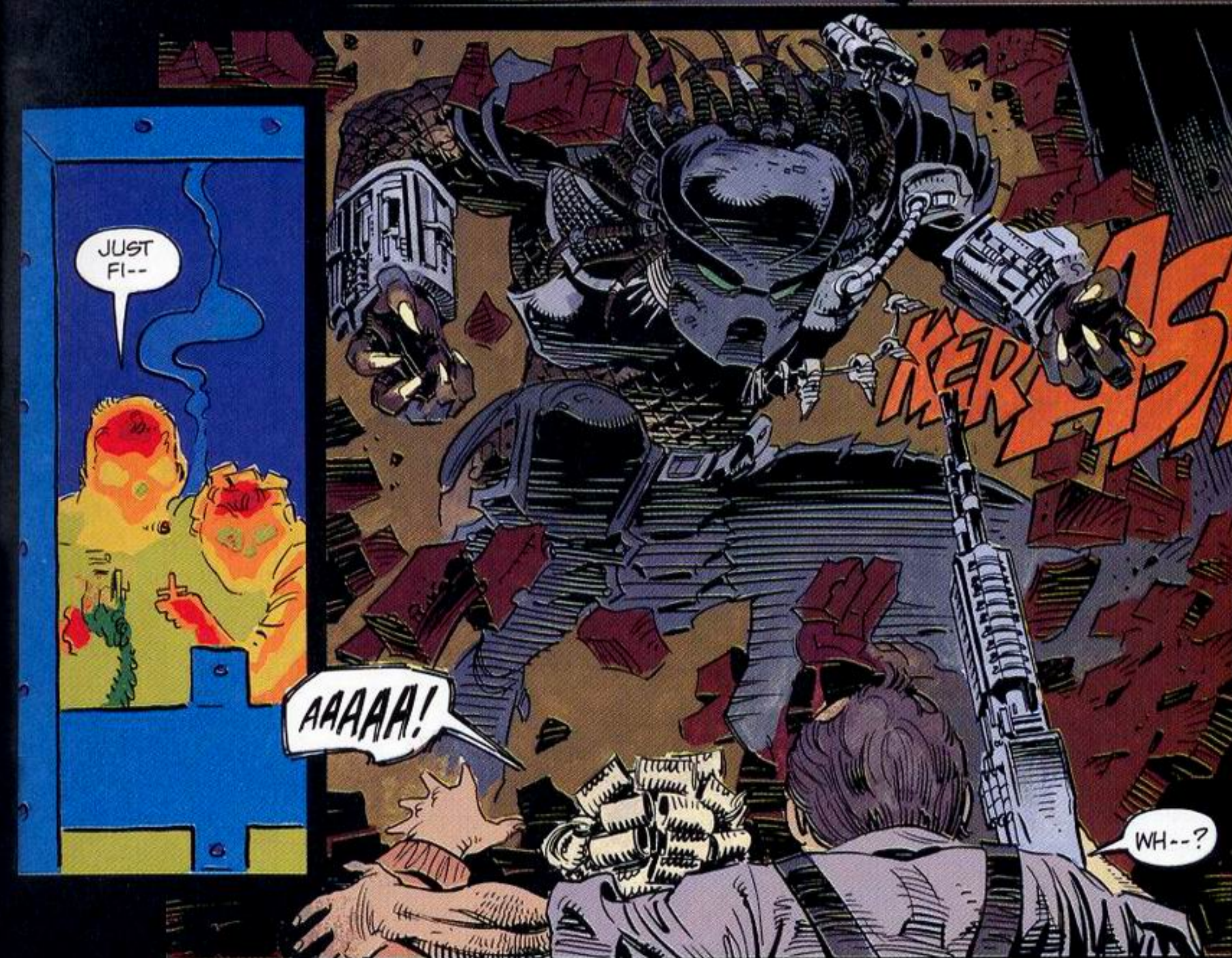
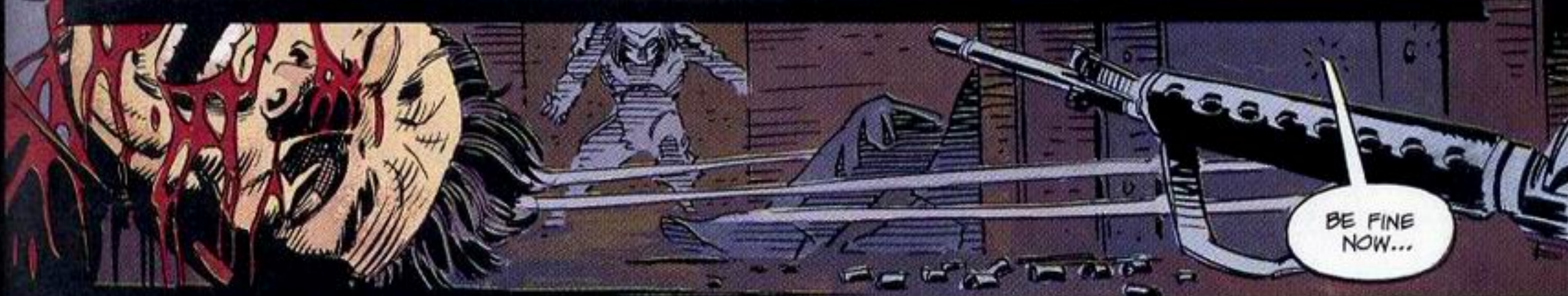
SCHUUUNK

AAAA--!!

YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE, PROMISE.

TWENTY OF MY BEST MEN OUT THERE, MA-- NOTHING'LL GET BY THEM!

BRRRAAKKKAHABRAAKKA





MAY AS WELL
PULL THE PLUG
ON THE LIGHT,
SIR.

IT'S BEEN
A WEEK
NOW...

--BRODIN'S DEATH. BUT
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN CITIZENS TRY TO
ENFORCE THE LAW
THEMSELVES!

I HOLD THE POWER
IN THIS CITY AND I'LL
SEE THAT THIS MASS
MURDERER IS
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!

SWITCH
HIZZONER OFF,
TOO, KANDOWSKI. I
NEED TO THINK.

ANY-
BODY
LEFT
ON THE
LIST?

ONLY
ONE,
SIR...

ALWAYS
WAS A
LONG SHOT,
I GUESS...

GOOD
EVENING.
WAYNE
MANOR...
HOW MAY
I HELP
YOU?

...DID
YOU SAY
"BATMAN,"
COMMIS-
SIONER?



YES... I- I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM. FIND OUT IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, AT LEAST...

I'M CALLING WELL-CONNECTED AND INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS LIKE MR. WAYNE, IN THE HOPE THAT SOMEONE MIGHT KNOW WHERE---



MR. WAYNE'S OUT OF TOWN...

NO IDEA WHEN HE'LL BE BACK. I SEE...

SURE... THANKS.



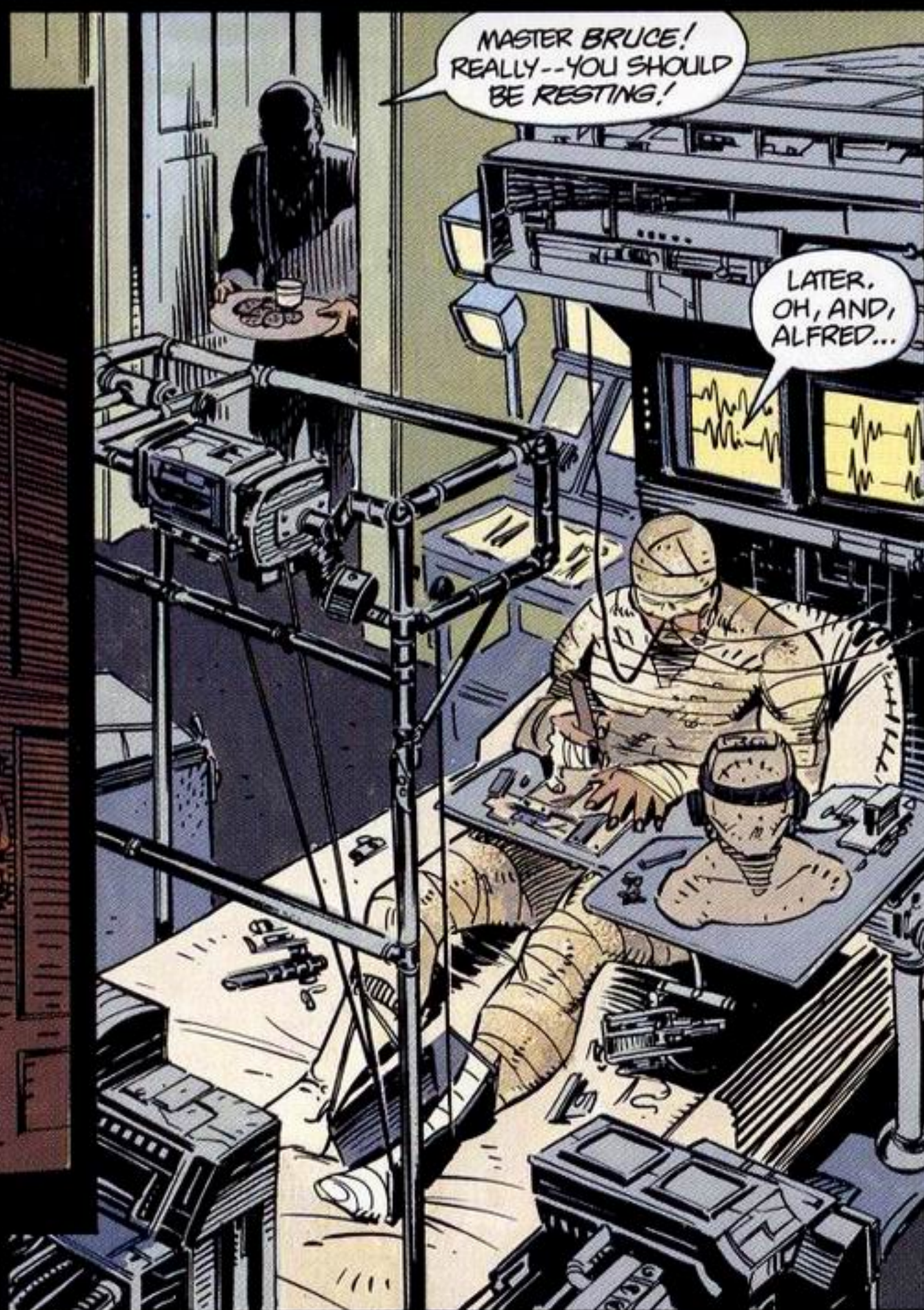
TALK ABOUT CLUTCHING AT STRAWS!

SINCE SQUIRE GOT THE CHOP, ALL THE HIGH-ROLLERS HAVE HEADED FOR THE HILLS...!



WHO WAS THAT, ALFRED?

NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, SIR...



MASTER BRUCE! REALLY--YOU SHOULD BE RESTING!

LATER, OH, AND, ALFRED...



... WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE REMOTE CONTROL FOR THE TV?







...ARE
YOU,
MASTER
BRUCE?

MASTER BRUCE
MASTER BRUCE
BRUCE

...HERE AT CITY
HALL, COMMISSIONER
GORDON IS STILL IN
CONFERENCE WITH
MAYOR LIEBERMAN--



YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T OVERDO
THINGS, Y'KNOW,
SIR...

--NO DOUBT
EXPLAINING THE
DIFFICULTIES
OF FINDING A
KILLER WHO CAN
NOT BE SEEN--



WAIT--
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING!

nntf

OH,
MASTER
BRUCE...



'I'M ALL RIGHT
... JUST
TIRED...

OF COURSE YOU ARE,
SIR. PAST YOUR BED-
TIME, I FANCY.

A CORONER'S
AMBULANCE
HAS JUST
ARRI-- *

klik



NO...
GORDON...

Shh,
MASTER
BRUCE.
YOU'RE NO
USE TO
HIM LIKE
THIS...

MIGHT I
REMINDE YOU
OF THE OLD
ADAGE-- "HE
WHO FIGHTS AND
RUNS AWAY..."



...LIVES T' FIGHT...
'NOTHER DAY...?

QUITE
SO,
SIR.

PROVIDING HE
DOESN'T KILL
HIMSELF IN
THE MEANTIME,
THAT IS.



DEAD, INJURED, OR
JUST PLAIN AFRAID--

BATMAN HAS
DESERTED
GOTHAM!





FIVE MINUTES PAST, NOW...

DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN, COMMISSIONER...?

I--I DON'T KNOW.



SO--THE SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION WILL GO AHEAD, WITH YOU IN CHARGE?

KILL IT, SON. IT'S OVER--

COMMIS-SIONER...!

KEEP THAT CAMERA RUNNING.

UNTIL A NEW MAYOR IS ELECTED, I GUESS SO, YES...

SIR...THE LIGHT?



SIR--A MOBILE UNIT JUST CALLED IN. THEY'VE SEEN SOMETHING, DOWN AT THE OLD CATHEDRAL, ST. MARTIN'S--

SOUNDS LIKE THE SLASHER!

KANDOWSKI...WE'VE HAD THIRTY REPORTED SIGHTINGS ALREADY THIS SHIFT!



YES, SIR, BUT THE DETAILS--IT ...IT SMELLS DIFFERENT. I'VE GOT A FEELING--

THEN DO WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO, DETECTIVE. THIS COP'S GOT TO TRY AND CATCH SOME SLEEP...



I'LL BE AT HOME.



AND ONCE LIEBERMAN STARTED TO THROW HIS WEIGHT AROUND, HIS FATE WAS SEALED, TOO. WHICH LEAVES...

JIM-- ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE IN NO DANGER?

--AND ANOTHER THREE RIGHT OUTSIDE IN THE STREET. I'M SAFE ENOUGH...

DANGER...? THERE ARE THREE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BEST MARKSMEN ON THE ROOF, FRIEND--

I HOPE SO-- BECAUSE, WITH THE MAYOR DEAD, I... I THINK YOU'RE NEXT.

GO TO HEAD-QUARTERS, STAY THERE--

BING BONG

COMMISSIONER...?

WH--? HOLD IT-- SOUNDS LIKE THAT DAMN NEWS TWO REPORTER SNOOPING AT THE DOOR...

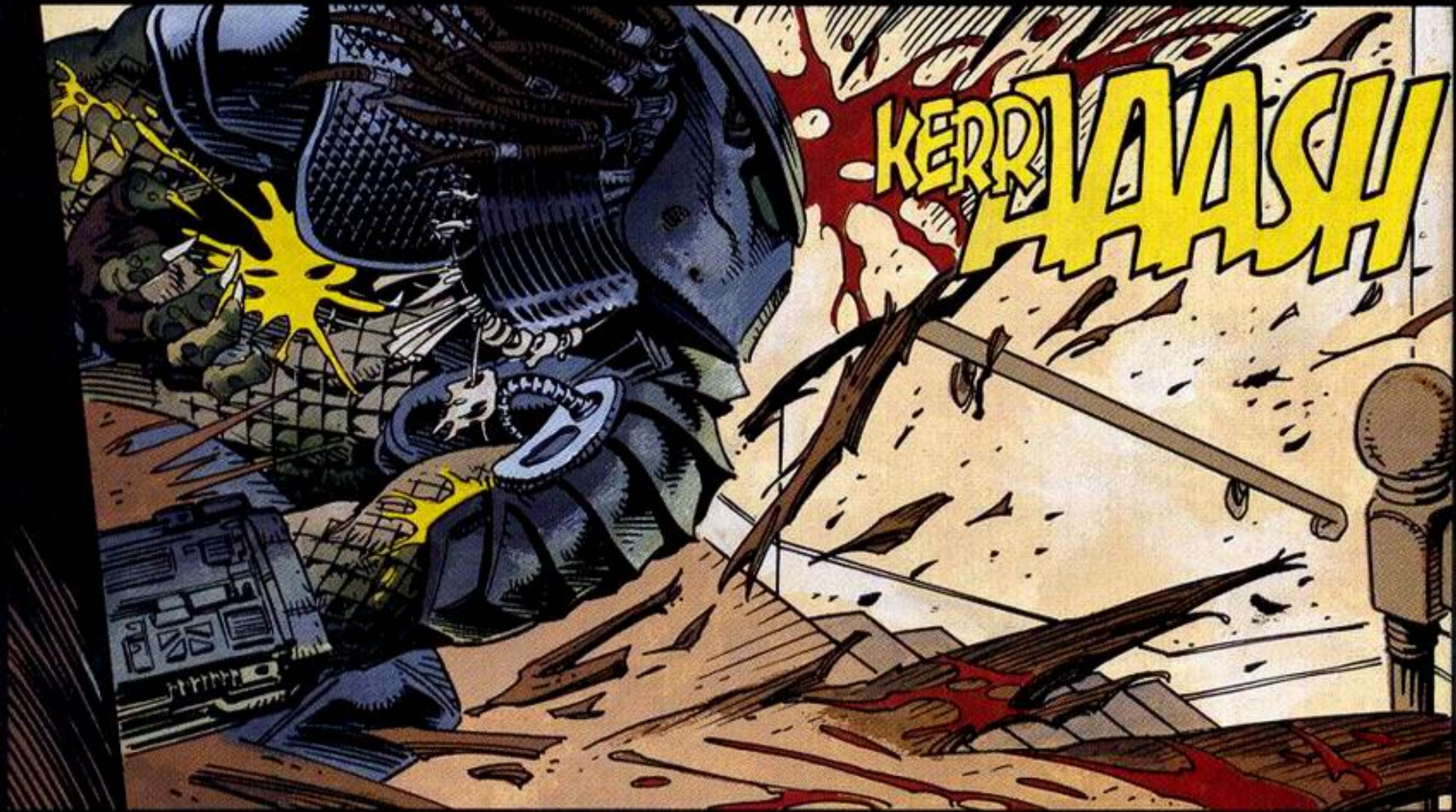
HELLO, DEAR

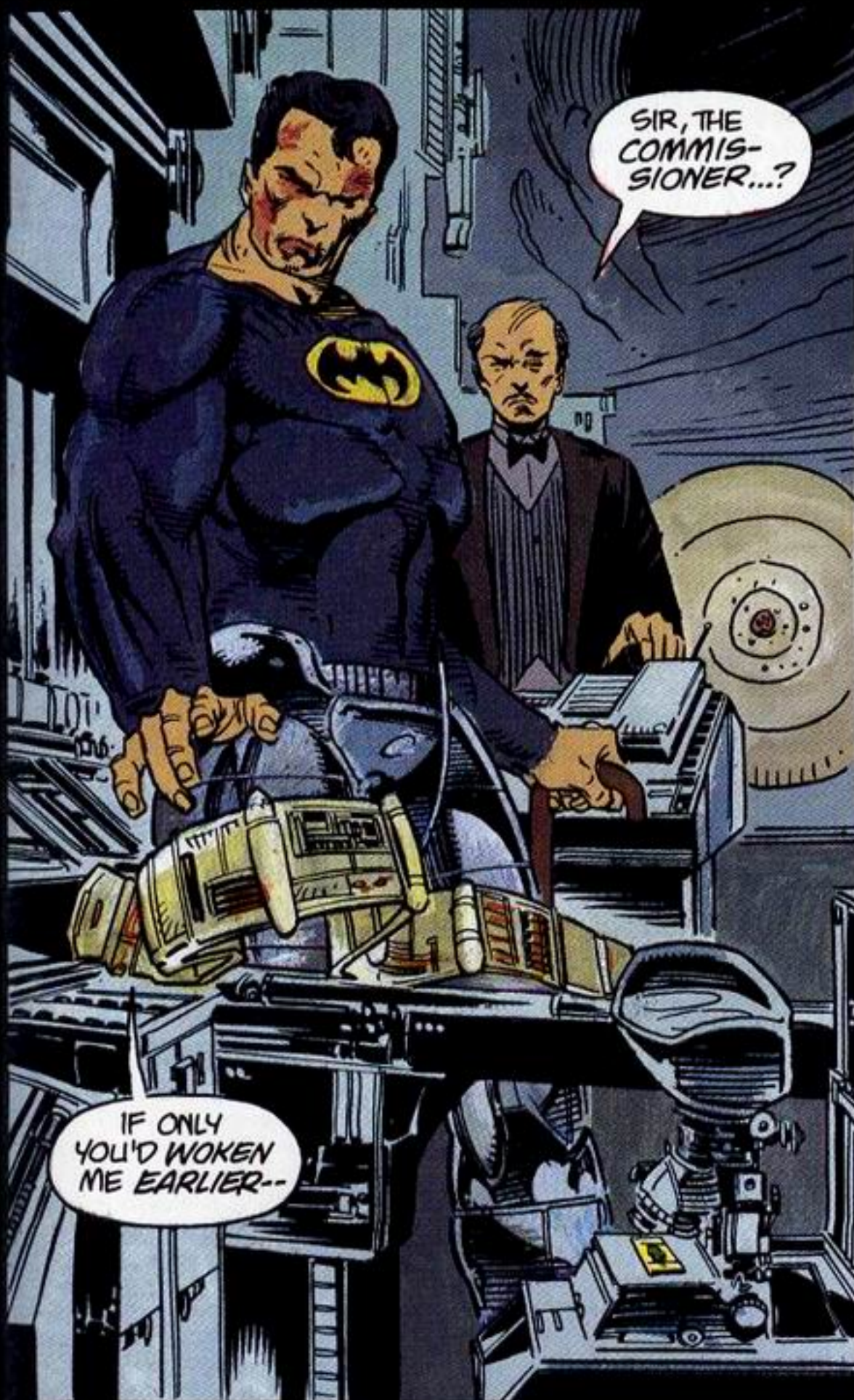
I DON'T KNOW HOW IN BLAZES YOU TALKED YOUR WAY THROUGH MY MEN, YOUNG LADY, BUT--

JIM!
NO--!

SCHUUUNK







SIR, THE COMMISSIONER...?

IF ONLY YOU'D WOKEN ME EARLIER--



AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, SIR, BUT THERE'S HARDLY BEEN TIME TO FULLY--



BUT, MASTER BRUCE, YOUR INJURIES, THE CONCUSSION ...AND YOUR EYESIGHT'S STILL--

SORRY, ALFRED--IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU'VE ACTED FOR THE BEST...



BUT I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO AS I AM. SEE--

I'M NOT HELPLESS...OR ILL-EQUIPPED. DOES EVERYTHING CHECK OUT?



AND THE AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS?



EVERYTHING IS PRIMED AND READY, SIR, BUT I MUST IMPORE YOU NOT TO--

YOUR CONCERN'S APPRECIATED, ALFRED.

BUT FOR NOW, PLEASE... JUST GET CLEAR.



YES, MASTER BRUCE.



SHE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE, SIR. NOTHING YOU COULD'VE DONE.



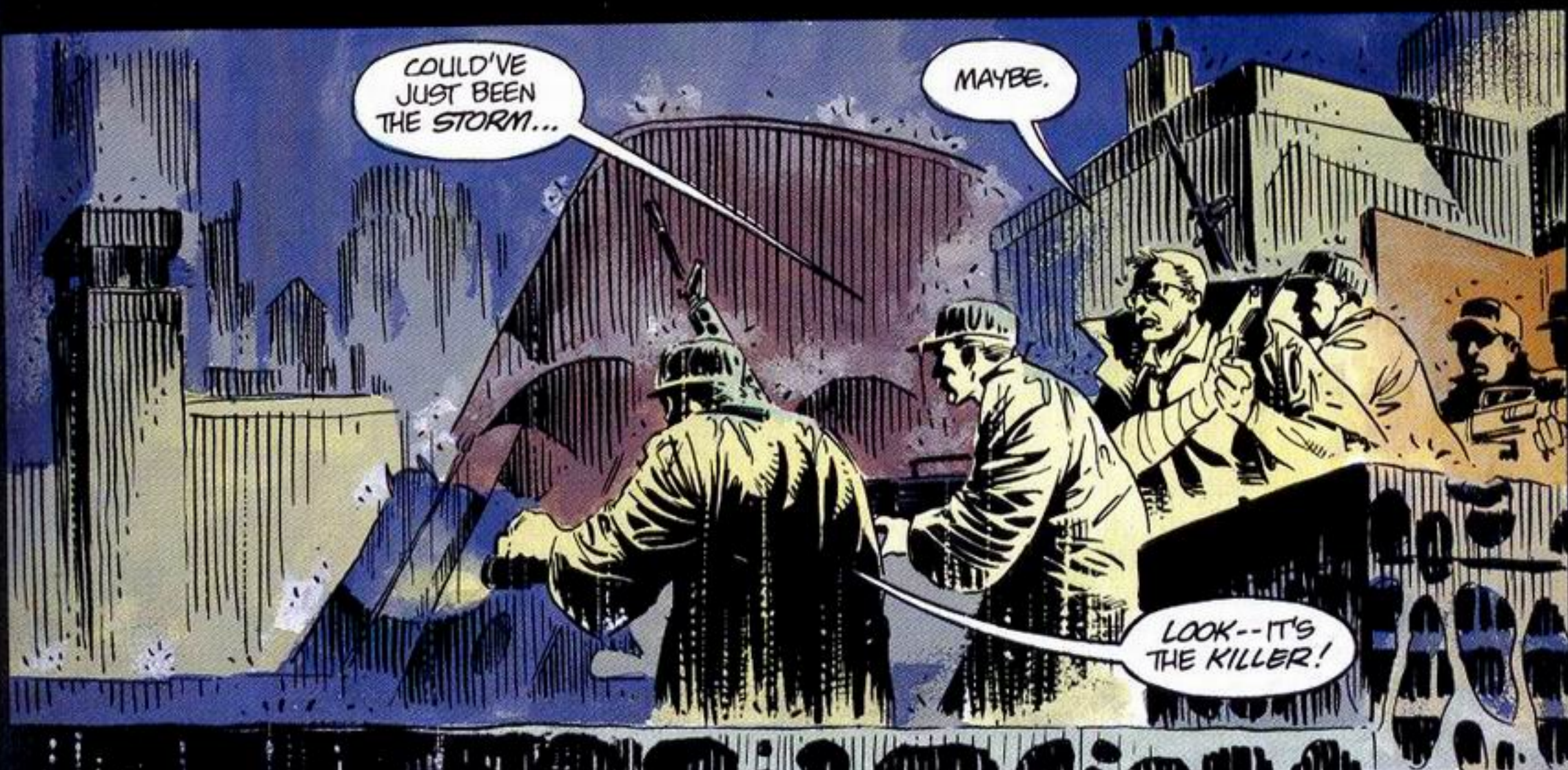
THE KILLER WAS LONG GONE WHEN WE ARRIVED, BUT AT LEAST...

AT LEAST HE DIDN'T... TAKE ANYTHING, SIR.

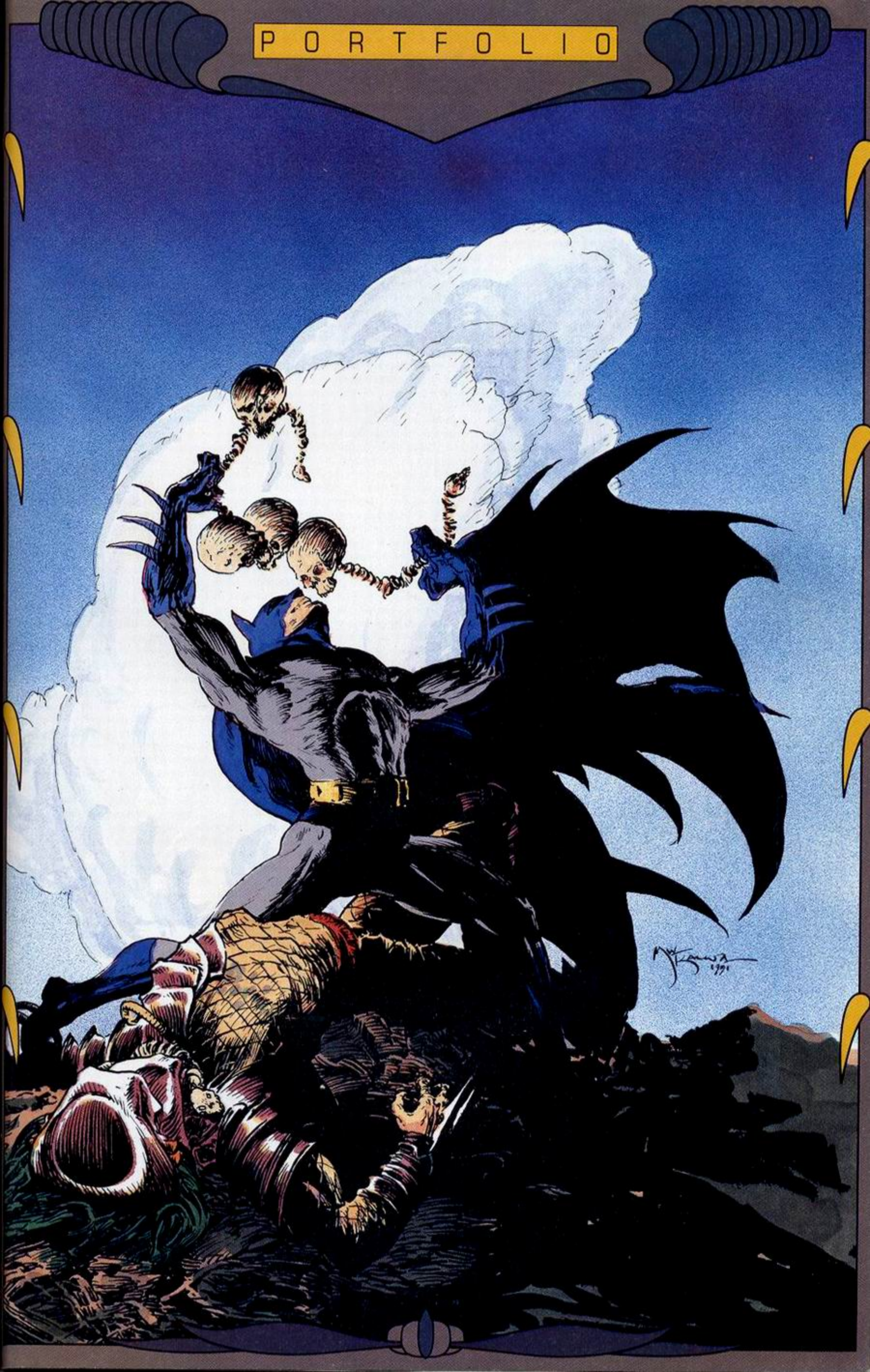


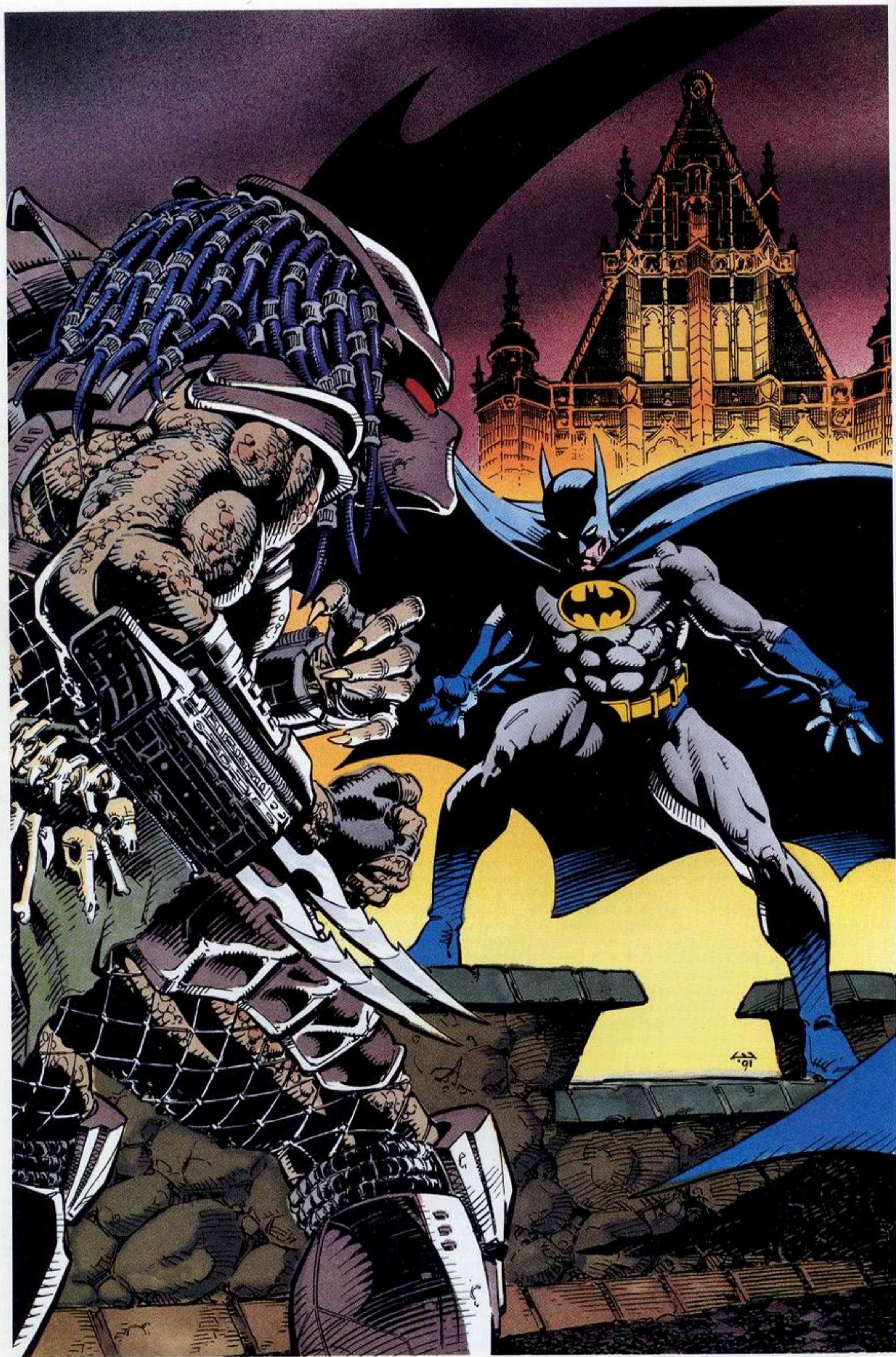
KKZZT







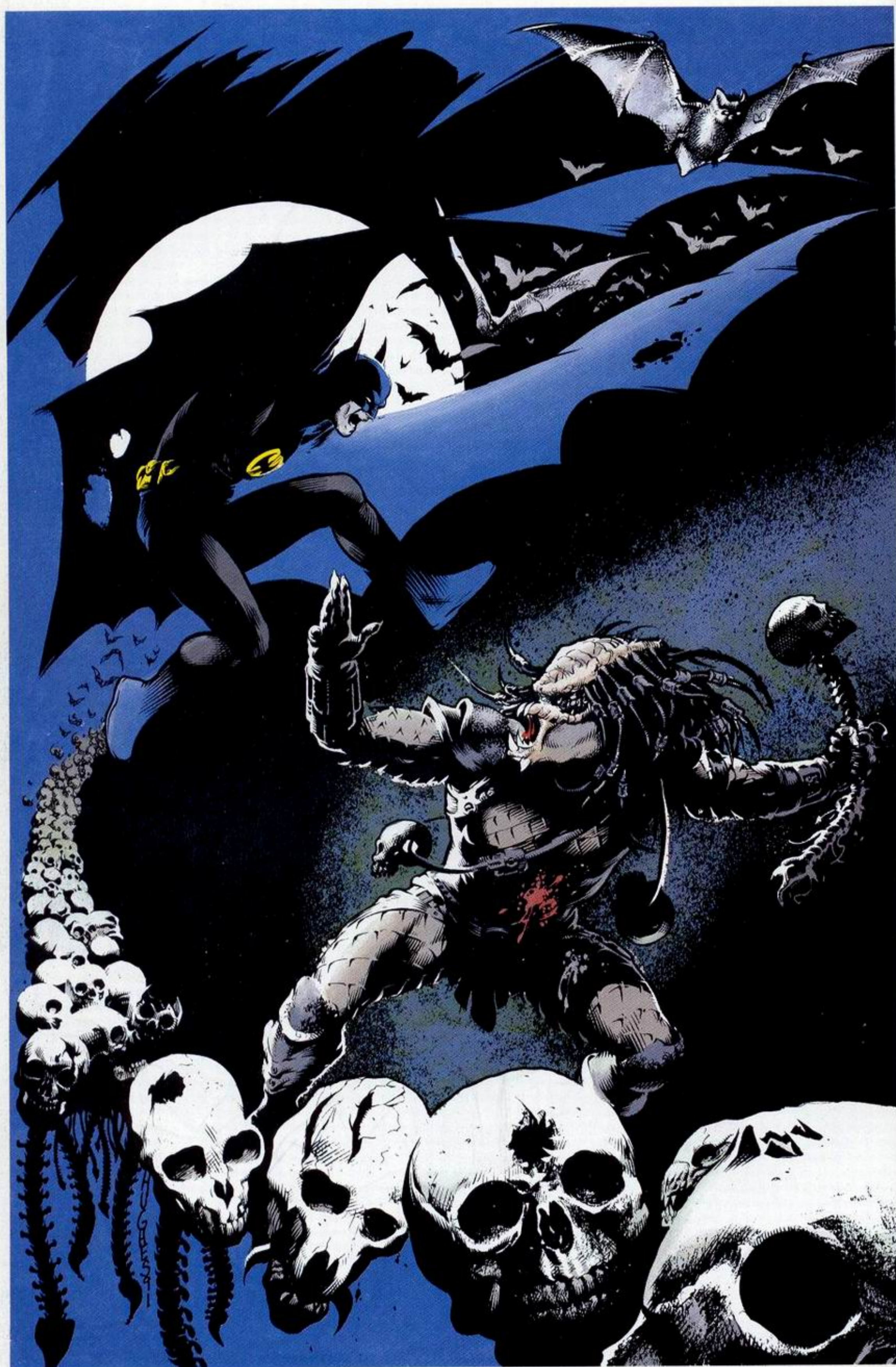


















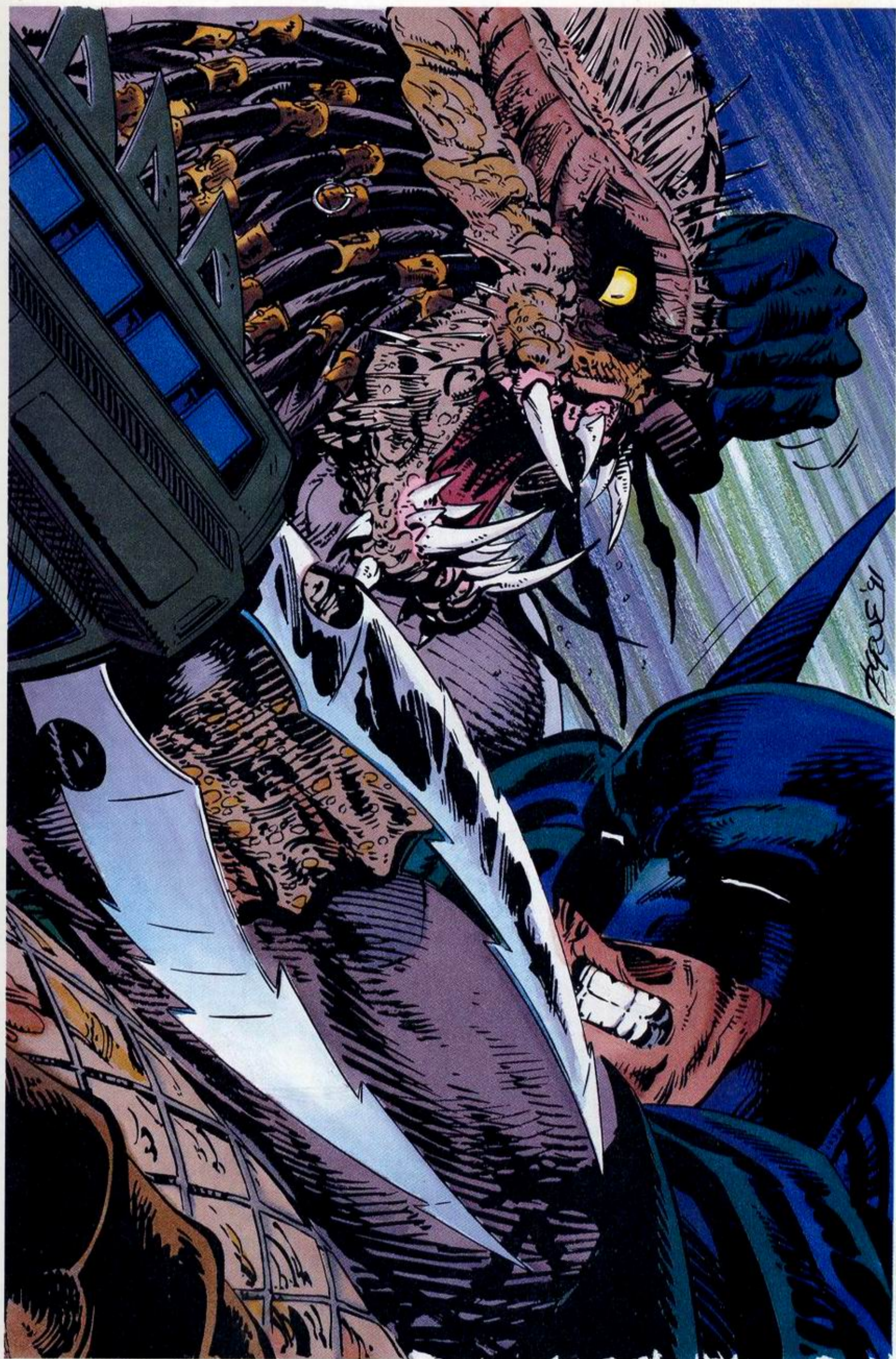






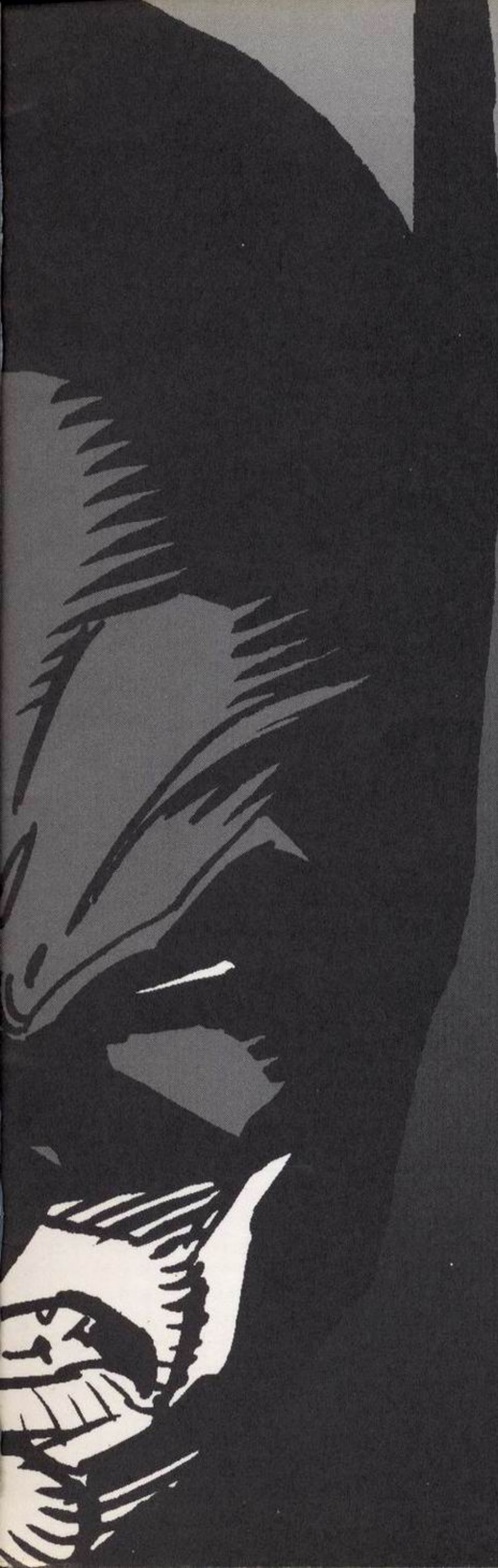


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