



BLACKEST NIGHT

2
OF 3
NOV '09

BATMAN



PETER J.
TOMASI
ARDIAN
SYAF
VICENTE
CIFUENTES



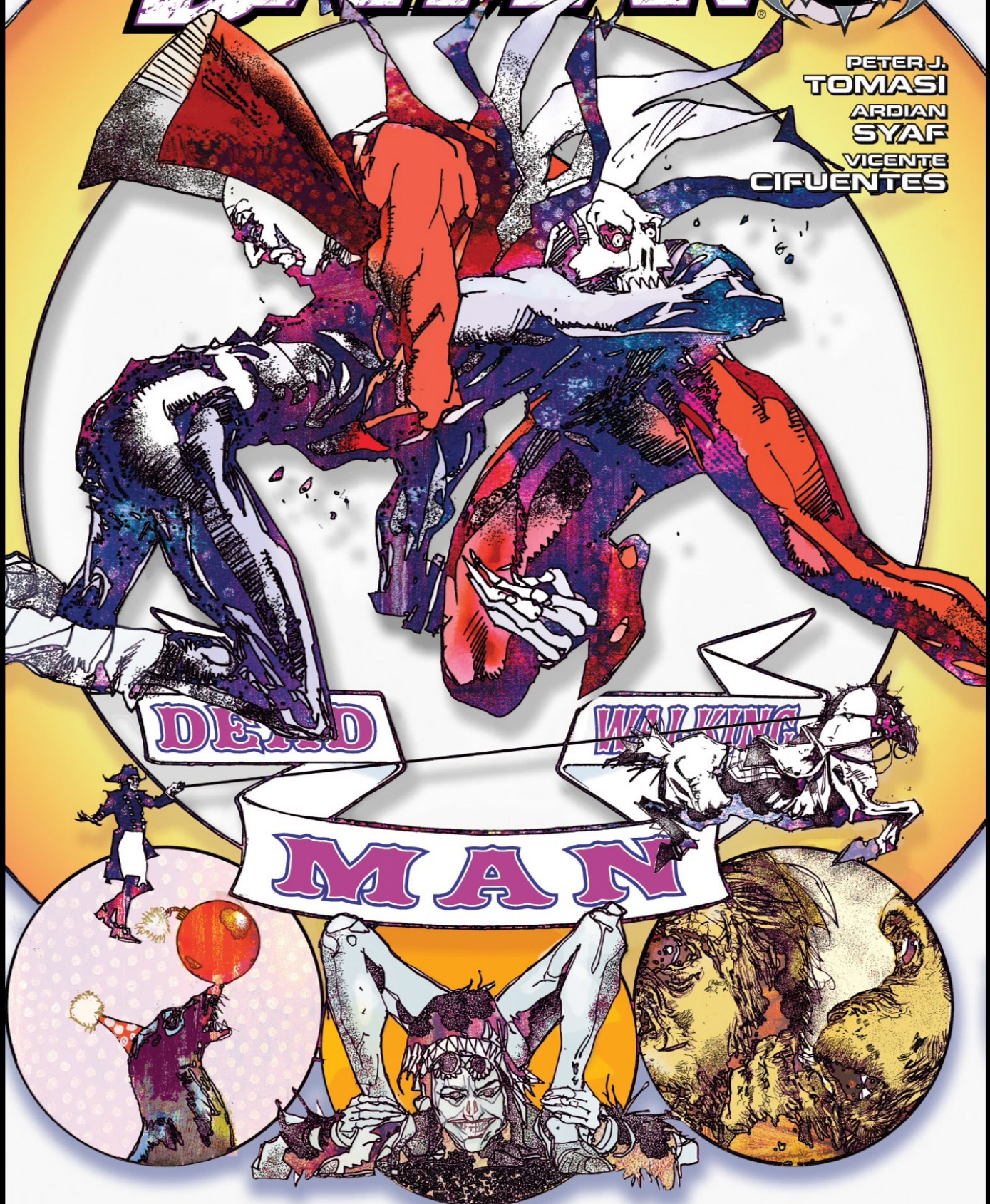
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GOTHAM CITY.



WILLPOWER.

POWER LEVELS
46.65%



COMPASSION.

POWER LEVELS
46.69%



AVARICE.

POWER LEVELS
46.72%



RAGE.

POWER LEVELS
46.75%



FEAR.

POWER LEVELS
46.77%

POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
GOTHAM CITY.

BLACKEST NIGHT

BATMAN

WHO BURNS WHO



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EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING WANTS TO RUSH TO MY PARENTS' GRAVE SITE AND MAKE SURE THEIR BODIES HAVEN'T BEEN DISTURBED.

BUT THERE'S NO TIME, DAMN IT.

LIVES ARE IN JEOPARDY.

AND LIFE TRUMPS DEATH EVERY TIME.

HAVING SEEN WHAT HAPPENED TO TIM'S PARENTS' GRAVE, ALONG WITH BRUCE'S, THERE'S NO REASON TO THINK MINE HAVE BEEN LEFT UNTOUCHED.

SOMEONE-- SOMETHING-- IS DEFILING THE BODIES OF PEOPLE WE LOVED AND WE'RE POWERLESS AGAINST IT.

BUT ONLY FOR THE MOMENT.

STICKING TO THE OLD SAYING THAT "FOOLS RUSH IN WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD," I SENT DEADMAN, OUR RESIDENT GHOST AND CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO AN ANGEL, OVER TO RECONNOITER POLICE HEADQUARTERS BEFORE WE GO IN.

DEADMAN CAME BACK WITH SOME DISTURBING NEWS THAT, COUPLED WITH THE INFO THAT GREEN LANTERN UPLOADED ABOUT THESE BLACK RINGS TO THE JLA SERVER...

... MEANS WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME HEAVY FIREPOWER IF WE'RE TO HAVE A CHANCE AT STOPPING THESE BLACK LANTERNS...

BOOOM

OUR FIRST STOP IS THE ARMY RESERVE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

SHINING THE
BROKEN BAT SIGNAL
MEANS THEY'RE
LOOKING TO GET
MY ATTENTION...

...WELL, THEY MOST
CERTAINLY GOT IT.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

AND
HERE I THOUGHT
GUNS WERE ON THE
"THINGS WE DON'T
USE" LIST.





NO GUNS.

NOT ONLY TO HONOR BRUCE'S MEMORY, BUT IT'S THE WAY THIS WORKS. IT'S OUR CODE. GOT IT?

WE'RE ONLY USING THESE FLAMETHROWERS BECAUSE ALL THE INFO WE GOT FROM DEADMAN AND JORDAN SAYS BLACK LANTERNS ARE DEAD ALREADY, AND WE UNFORTUNATELY NEED TO TRY ANYTHING WE CAN TO SLOW THEM DOWN BEFORE THEY KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE.



NO PROBLEM.

WE ONLY BURN ZOMBIES, I GET YOU.

WHAT KIND OF WEAPONS TRAINING HAVE YOU HAD, DAMIAN?



YOU SERIOUS?

VERY.

WELL, AFTER MY MOTHER FINALLY LET ME OUT OF THE BIO-TUBE, I TOOK TARGET PRACTICE EVERY MORNING WITH HER AFTER I TURNED SEVEN.

COCONUTS, SILHOUETTES, AND SKEET SHOOTING.



GREAT, "BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS" BROUGHT TO YOU BY TALIA AL GHUL -- MOM OF THE YEAR.

AND I CAN FIELD STRIP MOST ANYTHING FROM AN M-16 TO AN AK-47, EVEN FIRED A BUNCH OF THOSE L.A.W.S. ROCKETS YOU'RE STRAPPING ON YOUR BACK.



A MISSPENT YOUTH, HUH? GUESS YOU DIDN'T GET AROUND TO MERIT BADGES.

AND FIGHTING THE JOKER, TWO-FACE, AND ALL THE OTHER FREAKS WHILE SWINGING AROUND GOTHAM ON A WIRE DRESSED IN RED, YELLOW AND GREEN WAS YOUR IDEA OF BEING IN THE BOY SCOUTS AND PLAYING IT SAFE?



ALL RIGHT, LET'S STICK TO THE PLAN.

OH YEAH, AND A HELLUVA PLAN IT IS IF YOU'RE SUICIDAL.

DEADMAN, I'M GOING TO TRUST YOU'RE STILL FLYING AROUND UP THERE, SO YOU GET AS MANY OF THE COPS TO SAFETY...



...WHILE WE DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THESE BLACK LANTERNS.

GOTTA SAY, SOMETIMES IT PAYS TO ALREADY BE DEAD.



HORRIBLE, ISN'T IT?

TO BE SPLATTERED WITH THE WARM BLOOD OF PEOPLE YOU KNOW. PEOPLE YOU ONCE CARED FOR.



I CAN TASTE YOUR FEAR GROWING, GETTING STRONGER WITH EACH BEAT OF YOUR HEART.

THE SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS PERMEATING YOUR SOULS...



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO ANTICIPATE DEATH?

THE DREAD OF ALL YOU KNOW AND LOVE BLINKING OUT AS FAST AS I CLEAVE THROUGH YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS LIKE WARM BUTTER.



NOT TO WORRY. YOUR PAIN AND DISCOMFORT WON'T LAST LONG.

THE KING SNAKE IS HERE TO DEVOUR YOU WHOLE.



YEE-HA! IT'S TIME TO LET THE TRIGGER TWINS GET YOUR BLOOD UP!



HOLD TIGHT, BARB--

ZZRAK
ZZRAK

ZZRAK



--WE'RE GOING DOWN THE HARD WAY!



YOW! THAT'S GOTTA HURT!

ZZRAK
ZZRAK

PAIN LIKE THAT KINDA MAKES YA WISH YOU WERE DEAD, HUH?

DON'T WORRY, ME AND MY BRO ARE HERE TO OBLIGE!

C'MON, LITTLE PIGGIES-- SQUEAL FOR US!



YOU SICK BASTARDS!

SKLUNCH



MMMM, MMM, GOOD.

WHEN YOUR EMOTIONS GET ALL RILED UP AND YOUR PULSES RACE, IT'S LIKE ADDING A NICE HEAPING OF HORSERADISH TO A JUICY PIECE OF FILET MIGNON--GIVES YOUR HEARTS THAT MUCH MORE FLAVOR.

FEAR.

POWER LEVELS 46.89%

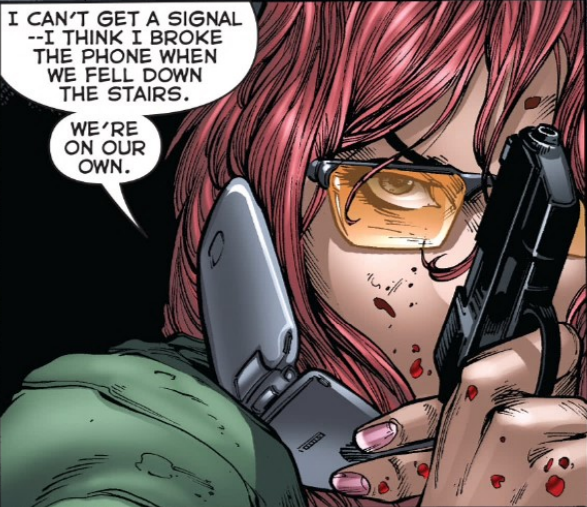
CAN YA HEAR ME CHOMPIN' AWAY?! WE'RE COMIN' FER YA, GORDON!



MY PEOPLE ARE DYING OUT THERE AND I'VE PUT YOU IN HARM'S WAY, BARB!

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED THINGS WOULD GO FROM BAD TO WORSE ONCE A GREEN LANTERN SMASHED INTO THE DAMN LIGHT!

THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT, DAD, SO STOP BLAMING YOURSELF!



I CAN'T GET A SIGNAL --I THINK I BROKE THE PHONE WHEN WE FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.

WE'RE ON OUR OWN.



SHHHHHHHHH



DAD-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING-- DON'T--

SSSH.



YAGHHH!

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T DROP YOU UNTIL AFTER I EAT YOUR HEART.

BLAM BLAM





--WE ARE GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM



BOOM
BOOM



RRAGH!

BOOM
BOOM



BOOM
BOOM



BOOM

I'M EMPTY!



HERE!



skritch



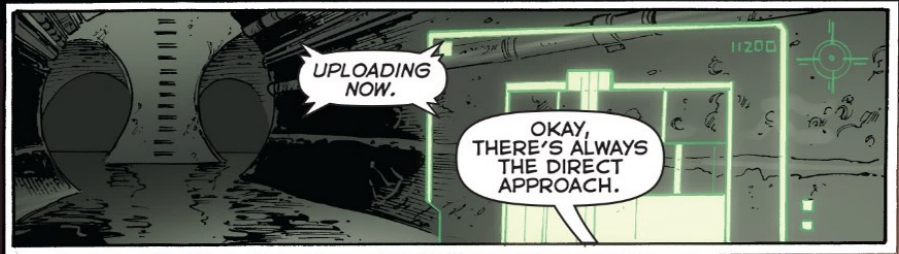
IT'S NO USE!
THE DAMN THING KEEPS REBUILDING ITSELF!

BOOM

ALFRED,
I NEED THE
ARCHITECTURAL
PLANS OF POLICE
HEADQUARTERS
UPLOADED TO MY
MASK INTERFACE
IMMEDIATELY.

WE
NEED TO FIND A
WAY IN THAT GIVES
THE ELEMENT OF
SURPRISE.

ON THE WAY,
RICHARD.



UPLOADING
NOW.

OKAY,
THERE'S ALWAYS
THE DIRECT
APPROACH.



THERE IS
NO NEED TO HIDE
IN THE SHADOWS
ANY LONGER,
BATMAN!

SOON THE
BLACKEST NIGHT WILL
ENVELOP THE DARK
KNIGHT...

...AND YOUR
MIGHTY HEART WILL
PROVE A GREAT
DELICACY!

BRING IT
TO US!

PLEASE...
S-S-STOP...

OR WE WILL SCOUR
THE CITY AND DINE ON
EACH AND EVERY ONE
OF YOUR FELLOW
GOTHAMITES...

...SAVORING THE
DISTINCT SUBTLITIES
OF THE FEAR, RAGE,
LOVE, COMPASSION
AND WILLPOWER
COURSING THROUGH
THEIR SOULS!



I THOUGHT WE PLANNED ON
DOING THAT NO MATTER WHAT,
BLOCKBUSTER?

SHUT UP
AND KILL THE
LAST OF THESE
COPS!

THEY'RE A
DISTRACTION.





COME TO US,
BATMAN!
IT'S
TIME
FOR---

DING



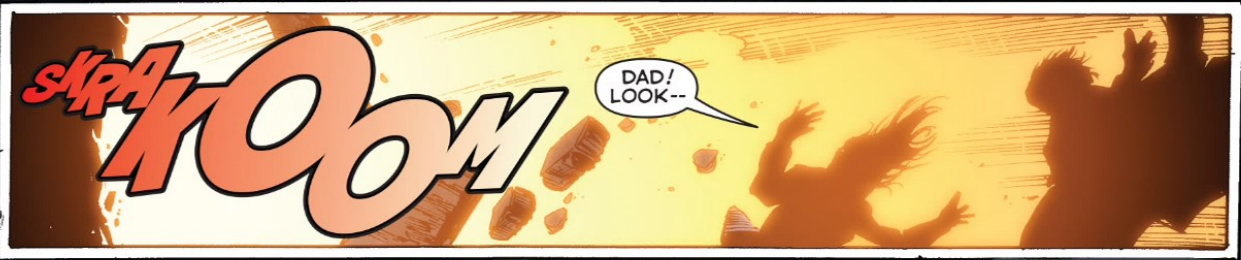
...RETRIBUTION.

WILL.

RAGE.

FEAR.





AH, WE SEEM TO HAVE MISSED A FEW SNAILS.

...BARBARA... NO...



JAMES GORDON. YES. I REMEMBER YOU, WE HAD A FEW ROWS BACK WHEN I TOOK CONTROL OF CHINATOWN FROM THE TRIAD GANGS YOU LET RUN RAMPANT ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

HEAVY BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES, DEEP WRINKLES, I'D SAY TIME HAS NOT BEEN KIND TO YOU, SIR.

LET'S SHOOT 'EM UP AND EAT.

NOT JUST YET, MY TRIGGER-HAPPY FRIEND.

FIRST HE WILL WATCH HIS DAUGHTER DIE.

YOU LOOK SO PROUD OF HER.

BUT NOW YOU'LL NEVER HEAR HER VOICE AGAIN SAY THAT SIMPLE, YET MAGICAL WORD: "DADDY" --WELL, EXCEPT MAYBE YOU'LL HEAR HER SCREAM IT AS WE TEAR OUT HER HEART.



...KAKK...
...LOOK WHO'S CALLING... THE KETTLE BLACK...



...SON OF A BITCH...

AH, YES, GORDON, A NICE MIXTURE OF FEAR AND RAGE IS MAKING MY MOUTH WATER.

TIME TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE.

GAKK

YOU ARE PEAKING, GORDON. YOUR HEART WILL BE QUITE DELECTABLE, ESPECIALLY WHEN HER WARM BLOOD SPLASHES ACROSS YOUR FACE.

UNNN

YAGGH!

YOU HEARD THE MAN-- GET YOUR HANDS OFF HER!

YAGGH!

FWAK

KRAK

WHAT---

UFFF

HANG ON, DADDY-O...



...WE'RE GOING FOR A LITTLE RIDE!

OMIGOD-- BARBARA-- WHAT THE HELL--

NO!

SKLATCH



THIS GAL'S KEPT IN GREAT SHAPE AND SHE'S GOT TERRIFIC MUSCLE MEMORY TO BOOT!

SKASH



ALLEY OOPS!

ALREADY DONE. THANKS TO BATMAN AND ROBIN'S DIVERSION, ANY COPS THAT WERE STILL ALIVE I GOT OUT OF THE BUILDING.



OMIGOD... BARBARA... HOW...

NAME'S DEADMAN, GORDO, AND RIGHT NOW YOUR DAUGHTER'S PERFORMING SOME TRICKS 'CAUSE OF ME.

AIN'T NO MIRACLES--AIN'T NO MAGIC--

BATMAN TOLD ME ABOUT YOU YEARS AGO.

THEN YOU'RE UP TO SPEED ON MY ACT SO JUST GO WITH THE FLOW, JIMMY-BOY.

CAN YOU KEEP BARBARA SAFE--I'VE GOT TO STAY AND HELP GET THE WOUNDED--



GOOD THING YOUR DAUGHTER'S KEPT HER UPPER BODY MUSCLES FROM ATROPHYING, BUT SHE SURE AS HELL'S GONNA BE FEELING MIGHTY SORE IN THE MORNING--

--IF WE GET TO SEE ANOTHER MORNING, SO LET'S GET MOVING!





I'M COMING IN FOR A SECOND PASS-- ACTIVATE YOUR SUITS' MAGNETIC SIGNATURE HARNESS!



ACTIVATED!



SUNNNE

I CAN SEE THERE'S A NEW MAN BEHIND THE COWL, GRAYSON!

YOU LET THE TARANTULA KILL ME!

YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED HER, BUT INSTEAD YOU SIMPLY LET ME DIE.

KLANG

SUFFF



I'M SURE YOUR MENTOR WOULD HAVE BEEN DISGUSTED WITH YOUR ACTIONS THAT NIGHT IN BLÜDHAVEN.

I CAN FEEL YOUR AGITATION GROW AS MY WORDS BITE DEEP.



DO YOU THINK THESE PUTRID FLAMES CAN STOP US FOR LONG?!

YAARGGGH!!

HERE'S HOPING!



I'M PICKING UP TWO CIVILIANS RIGHT BELOW US!

WHERE? I DON'T SEE...



...THEM.



... BARBARA...



C'MON, GORDON, WE NEED SOME DISTANCE.

... GOTTA CATCH...



THROTTLING DOWN FOR HOVER SPEED.

GET READY.



I'VE GOT THEM.

...MY BREATH...



DEADMAN.

YEAH, SORRY TO GET YOUR HOPES UP THERE, GRAYSON. WHEN I MERGED WITH HER, I SAW YOU GUYS HAVE A...

HISTORY.



WELL, AS THEY SAY, "PAST IS PROLOGUE."

GIVE ME YOUR HAND, COMMISSIONER! IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF HERE AND REGROUP!



BLOCKBUSTER,
KING SNAKE,
VENTRILOQUIST, THEY
CAME BACK FROM THE
DEAD--

--LOOKING
FOR US--FOR
BATMAN.



I HEARD
A LOT OF CHATTER
ON THE JLA FREQUENCY
COMING IN--IT'S NOT
ONLY GOTHAM THAT
THIS IS HAPPENING
TO--



--THOSE BLACK RINGS
GLOWING ON THEIR HANDS ARE
PLOWING INTO CEMETERIES
EVERYWHERE.

THE
DEAD ARE
RISING--
GOOD AND
BAD.

AND THERE'S
NO WAY TO DESTROY
THEM--FIRE'S JUST A
TEMPORARY STOP-
GAP.



WHEN YOU CALLED ME A
FEW HOURS AGO, DICK, AND
SAID THAT *THEIR* GRAVES
WERE EMPTY...

...THERE'S
A GOOD CHANCE MY
MOM AND DAD--AND YOUR
PARENTS--COULD NOW
HAVE THOSE RINGS ON
TOO AND BE ONE
OF--



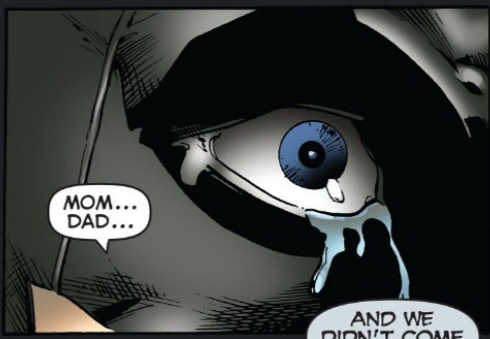
SMASH



HEY, TIMMY!

THAT'S A SHARP NEW HERO GETUP YOU GOT THERE, SON!

HOPE YOU DON'T MIND OUR DROPPING IN ON YOU LIKE THIS, BUT IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN OUR LITTLE BOY.



MOM... DAD...

AND WE DIDN'T COME ALONE.



WE BROUGHT SOME SURPRISE GUESTS-- SHOWBIZ FOLKS YOU MIGHT KNOW!



NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A HIGH-WIRE ACT!

THE FLYING GRAYSONS ARE FINALLY BACK TOGETHER!



NOT FOR LONG!

EVERYONE TIGHTEN YOUR SECURITY HARNESSES!

WE'RE GOING DOWN!



NEXT:

BATMAN

VS. THE
FLYING GRAYSONS!