



RIDLEY  
LASHLEY  
LOKUS

# I AM BATMAN



WELCOME TO  
**NEW YORK,  
BATMAN!**

AGES 13+  
DCCOMICS.COM

A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a green hoodie and pants, is sitting on the edge of a crashed airplane. He is holding a bow and arrow, looking towards the viewer. The airplane is tilted and partially buried in a jungle setting with palm trees and other vegetation. The sky is a mix of pink and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is a colorful, illustrative comic book art.

Thirteen-year-old Oliver Queen is about to get a crash course in being a hero.

# GREEN ARROW STRANDED



A new graphic  
novel for kids

March

written by  
**BRENDAN  
DENEEN**

illustrated by  
**BELL HOSALLA**



LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.

...PLEASE...

YOU'RE WELCOME.

"OKAY, WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?"

"WELL, MR. MAYOR, WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT IS..."

...BATMAN.

THAT'S  
NOT THE REAL  
BATMAN. THAT  
PERSON IS,  
UH...

YOU  
KNOW...BLACK.  
UHH...AFRICAN-  
AMER--

I BELIEVE  
THE CURRENT  
PHRASEOLOGY  
IS BIPOC.

YES,  
SIR, MR.  
MAYOR.



AND THIS?

SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE OF BATMAN BREAKING UP A GANG SHOOTOUT IN MIDTOWN.

HMM. FIVE SHOOTERS, AND NOT ONE OF THEM COULD HIT HIM. HOW DOES A GUY MOVE THAT FAST?



WE'VE GOT A BUNCH OF THESE. CIVILIAN-RECORDED CELL PHONE FOOTAGE OF BATMAN TAKING OUT AN EXTREMIST IN TIMES SQUARE.

WHAT KIND OF EXTREMIST?

THE KIND WITH AN ASSAULT WEAPON WHO'S LOOKING TO KILL PEOPLE. BATMAN SHUT HIM DOWN.

THE BATMAN IN GOTHAM CITY'S A GREAT DEAL MORE CAMERA SHY.

THIS BATMAN SEEMS TO WANT TO BE SEEN, MR. MAYOR.



WELL, WE'VE SEEN HIM. CLEARLY NEW YORK CITY HAS ITS OWN BATMAN.

THE QUESTION IS, MR. MAYOR: WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY, YES, IT SOUNDS--

STUPID.

NAKANO TRIED THAT IN GOTHAM WITH THE MAGISTRATE.\* AFTER THAT #\$\$%-SHOW, NEXT ELECTION HE'LL BE RUNNING FOR HIS POLITICAL LIFE.



\*BACK IN THE EPIC CROSSOVER "FEAR STATE." --BEN & DAVE



WE NEED TO PUT TOGETHER A SPECIALIZED TAC SQUAD WITH ORDERS TO TAKE HIM OUT.

SO, TO BE CLEAR, COMMISSIONER BECKET, IN THE WORLD WE CURRENTLY FIND OURSELVES LIVING IN, YOU'D ORDER A POSSE OF POLICE OFFICERS TO HUNT DOWN AND KILL AN UNARMED BLACK MAN WHO'S EXERCISING HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN FELONIES AS THEY'RE BEING COMMITTED.



MASKS ARE COMING TO NEW YORK. THEY'RE ALREADY HERE, AND WE CAN'T STOP THEM.

ALL WE CAN DO IS MAKE SURE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS BEST FOR THE CITY.

WE DO THAT HOW?



WE DEPUTIZE THIS BATMAN.

WE CREATE A SPECIALIZED POLICE UNIT TO WORK WITH HIM, AND TO MAKE SURE HE FOLLOWS THE LETTER OF THE LAW.

HE WANTS TO BE VISIBLE? SOME KIND OF... OF SYMBOL? OKAY. BUT WE MAKE HIM OUR SYMBOL.

"...WHY THE HELL COULDN'T HE GO TO LOS ANGELES?"

# BILLIONAIRES' ROW, MANHATTAN.

JACE...

LOOK AT YOU. STILL CAN'T GET USED TO THE CLEAN FACE.

NEW CITY, NEW LOOK, MA.

THE WAY YOU'RE STARING OUT THE WINDOW, I GET THE SENSE YOU DON'T LIKE THE VIEW.

YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT MONEY AND PRIVILEGE, MOM.

NOTHING SAYS "WE'RE NOT LIKE YOU" LIKE LIVING ON THE 84TH FLOOR OF A BUILDING ON BILLIONAIRES' ROW IN MANHATTAN.

WE AREN'T LIKE OTHER PEOPLE, JACE.

OTHER PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT SECURITY. A WALK-UP IN BROOKLYN WASN'T GOING TO WORK.

AND MORE THAN THAT...





I DON'T SEE WORKING WITH MASKS AS BEING A GOOD IDEA AT ALL.



PETE, YOU'RE THE POLICE COMMISSIONER. I'M THE MAYOR. I APPRECIATE THE COUNSEL, BUT MY ONLY OBJECTIVE IS DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR NEW YORK.

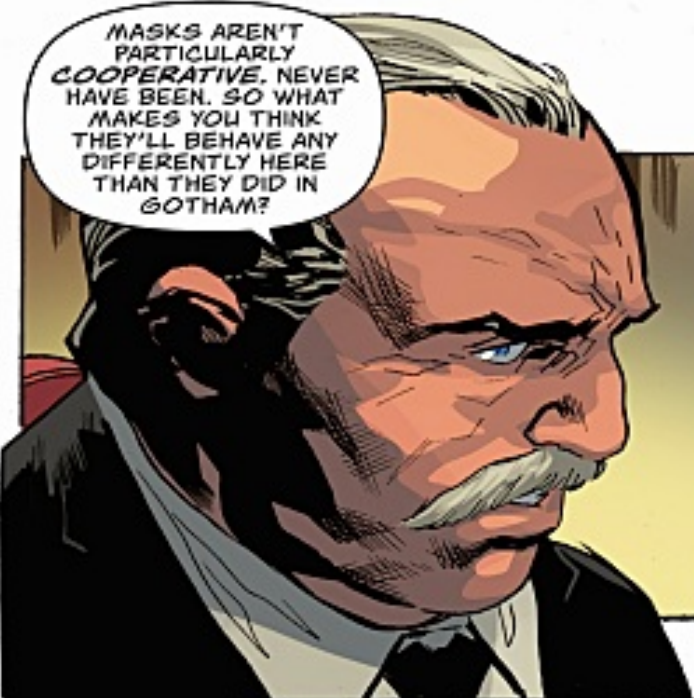
AND CLEARLY THE GOTHAM MODEL DOESN'T WORK.




CARMICHAEL, YOU'RE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR CITY AFFAIRS. THIS ONE'S ON YOU.

I WANT IT HANDLED, AND HANDLED IN A WAY THAT IT DOESN'T GO SOUTH.

YES, SIR, MR. MAYOR.



MASKS AREN'T PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE. NEVER HAVE BEEN. SO WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY'LL BEHAVE ANY DIFFERENTLY HERE THAN THEY DID IN GOTHAM?




BECAUSE I'M NOT GIVING HIM A CHOICE.

AND HE'S NOT GIVING US ONE.


THE BATMAN IN NEW YORK.

I MEAN...




"RIGHT NOW YOU AND I AND TIFFANY NEED TO BE TOGETHER FOR TAM WHILE SHE GOES THROUGH PHYSICAL THERAPY."


"WE NEED TO BE A FAMILY. WE NEED TO SUPPORT HER..."




I KNOW. BUT I'M STILL DOING PROJECTS FOR DAD AT FOXTECH. AND TO BE REAL...




...I KINDA DO MY BEST WORK AT NIGHT.



YOU KNOW YOU CAN COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE. AND WHEN TAM'S BETTER, IF YOU'RE STILL UNCOMFORTABLE HERE...



NEW YORK IS A BIG CITY, JACE. AND YOU'RE YOUR OWN MAN. I TRUST YOU TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.



THAT'S ALL I WANT, MA...



TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

DO THE RIGHT THING!

BROWNSVILLE.  
BROOKLYN.

DROP THE GUN.

GIVE UP.

%@#\* YOU!







BATMAN...WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

REALLY, OFFICER? THREE AND A HALF MINUTES TO RESPOND TO A "SHOTS FIRED" CALL?



WE'RE UNDER-RESOURCED. NEIGHBORHOODS LIKE THIS...THE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T SEE THEM AS A PRIORITY.

YEAH, WELL... I DO.

AND WE APPRECIATE YA. PEOPLE OUT HERE DESERVE THE SAME PROTECTION PEOPLE GET IN MANHATTAN.



BUT TELL THAT TO THE COMMISSIONER.

NOT SURE HE CARES ABOUT MY OPINION. BUT CONSIDER ME A RESOURCE.

MOST OF US ALREADY DO.

AND, BATMAN...



WELCOME TO NEW YORK.

"HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR YOU, DETECTIVE?"

GOING GREAT. NOTHING LIKE TRYING TO EARN BACK SENIORITY IN THE BIGGEST POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AMERICA.

LOOK, NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT WHEN SOMEBODY FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO MEET WITH A COP IN A LONELY PLACE IT'S USUALLY 'CAUSE THEY WANT THEM TO WEAR A WIRE.

THAT'S NOT HOW I'M LOOKING TO UP MY PAY GRADE.



NOT LOOKING FOR YOU TO RAT ON ANYONE, DETECTIVE. BATMAN'S IN NEW YORK.

I'VE SEEN.

GOOD. BECAUSE WE'D LIKE TO YOU HEAD UP A SPECIAL CRIMES TASK FORCE TO WORK WITH HIM.



YOU FOR REAL? BATMAN'S THE REASON I GOT RUN OUT OF GOTHAM.

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND THESE MASKS HAVE TO BE CONTROLLED.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL CHAOS.

MAYOR VILLANUEVA FEELS DIFFERENTLY. HE THINKS IF WE ENGAGE WITH BATMAN--

THIS GUY'S NOT BATMAN.

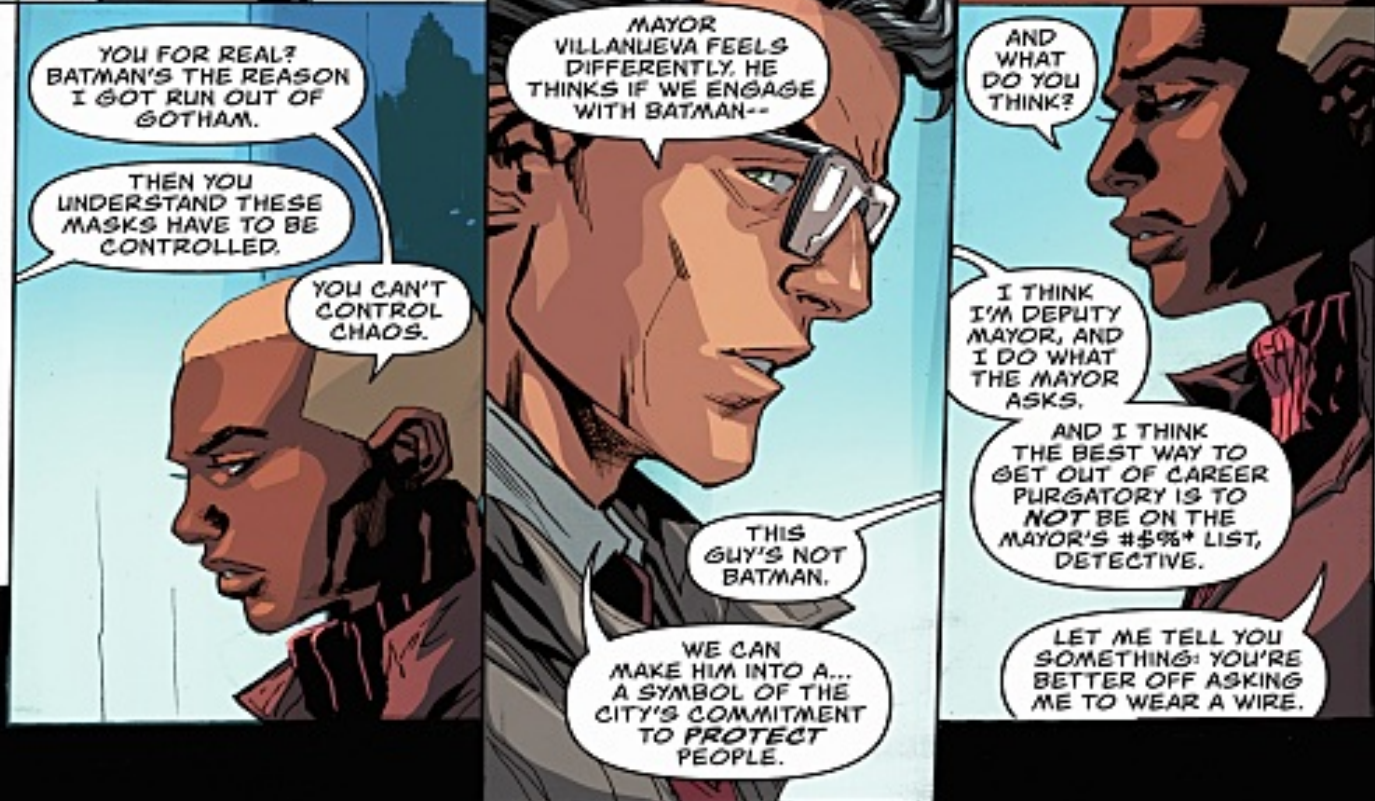
WE CAN MAKE HIM INTO A... A SYMBOL OF THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECT PEOPLE.


AND WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK I'M DEPUTY MAYOR, AND I DO WHAT THE MAYOR ASKS.

AND I THINK THE BEST WAY TO GET OUT OF CAREER PURGATORY IS TO NOT BE ON THE MAYOR'S #\$\$\$\* LIST, DETECTIVE.

LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: YOU'RE BETTER OFF ASKING ME TO WEAR A WIRE.





IS IT THAT HARD TO BE A TEAM PLAYER?


COMMISSIONER MONTOYA ASKED ME TO BE A TEAM PLAYER IN GOTHAM, AND AS SOON AS IT SERVED HER PURPOSE SHE BOUNCED ME TO NEW YORK.

I CAN'T SPEAK TO WHAT HAPPENED IN GOTHAM, BUT YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE HERE.

THAT'S YOUR PITCH? FOR ME TO BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY SCOUT?



MY PITCH IS FOR YOU TO DITCH THE SELF-PITY, AND BE A GOOD COP.



I DON'T LIKE BATMAN. I DON'T TRUST BATMAN...

NOT ASKING YOU TO DO EITHER.

...AND IF I'M GOING TO EVEN CONSIDER BEING ON THIS TASK FORCE I WANT TO BRING IN MY OLD PARTNER FROM GOTHAM. I NEED SOMEBODY EXPERIENCED IN DEALING WITH MASKS.



WHATEVER IT TAKES, DETECTIVE. AND ON BEHALF OF THE MAYOR...

"...WELCOME TO THE UNIT."



VOL,  
MAN...

GOOD TO  
SEE YOU,  
BRATAN.

THANKS  
FOR  
COMING.

JACE...!

THANKS  
FOR THE  
INVITE.  
BUT...

...I HAVE THE FEELING YOU DIDN'T  
BRING ME TO NEW YORK FOR  
SOME SIGHTSEEING.


THAT, UH...  
THING YOU WERE  
HELPING ME WITH  
IN GOTHAM.

I'M GONNA KEEP  
IT GOING HERE IN  
NEW YORK.

I THOUGHT  
YOUR NIGHT  
JOB WAS, MAYBE,  
A TEMPORARY  
GIG.

I'M SURE  
A LOT OF PEOPLE  
THOUGHT THAT.  
BUT THEY'RE  
WRONG, AND I'M  
STILL HERE.





HERE FOR HOW LONG? YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED.

THIS ISN'T GOTHAM. THERE'S NO FEAR BOMB, OR LAUGHING GAS. JUST PEOPLE WHO USE CRIME AS A WAY TO TERRORIZE CITIZENS.

IT'S NOT YOUR DEAL, PRIYATEL. YOU GOT TO THROW SOME PUNCHES IN GOTHAM, WORKED THINGS OUT WITH YOUR FATHER...

WHATEVER ELSE YOU THINK THERE IS TO DO--

HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE.

VOL, YOU STARTED HACKING BECAUSE YOU KNEW THAT POWER UNCHECKED IS A TOOL OF OPPRESSION.

I STARTED HACKING TO STEAL MONEY AND MEET GIRLS. "CHECKING POWER" WAS YOUR IDEA.

AND YOU GOT TO DO ALL THREE OF THOSE HITTING UP OLIGARCHS WHO WERE GETTING RICH OFF THE BACKS OF REGULAR PEOPLE.

HACKING'S ONE THING. DOING THIS IRL IN NEW YORK... WE'RE GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE.

WE'RE GONNA GET INTO SOME GOOD TROUBLE.

AND MAYBE YOU'LL MEET A NICE WOMAN WHO'LL SET YOU STRAIGHT ALONG THE WAY.

SPEAKING OF...HOW'S HADIYAH?

I...HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED TO HER YET.

"HAVEN'T REALLY," OR "HAVEN'T"?

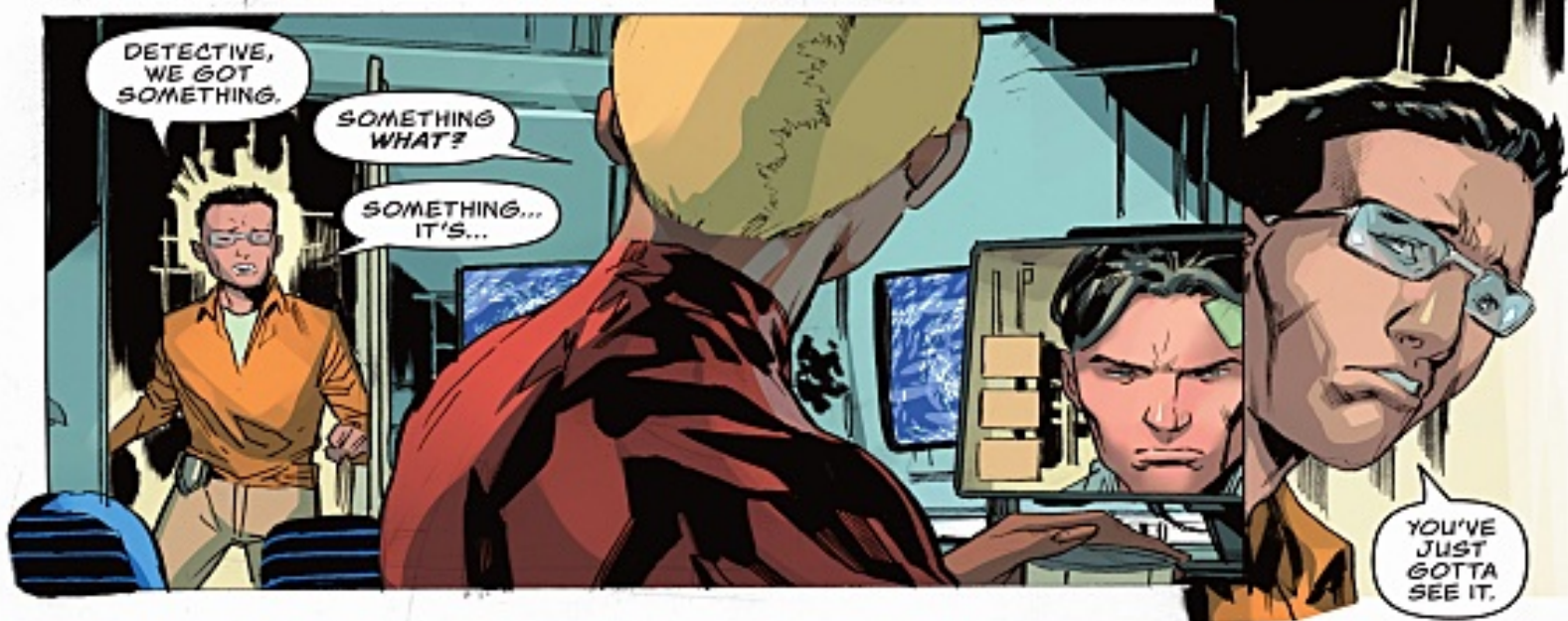
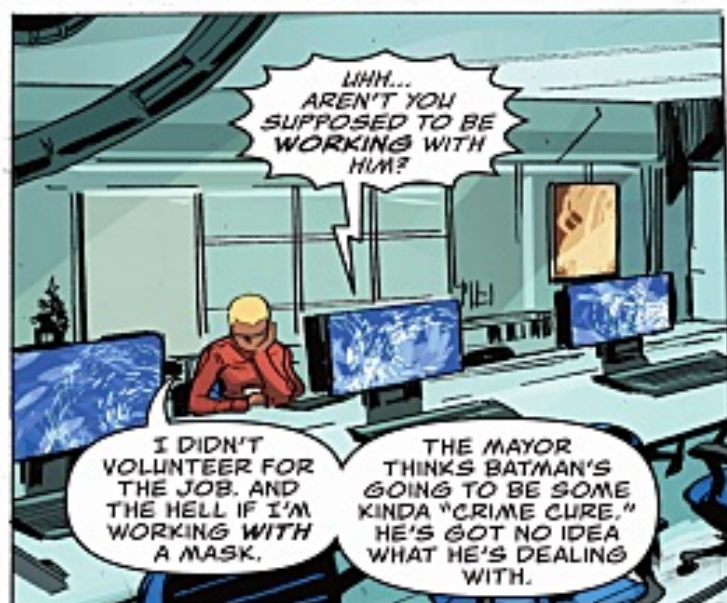
UHHH... HAVEN'T.

WOW, YOU ARE SUCH AN ASS.

SO, YOU GOING TO STAY AND HELP ME OR NOT?

SUCH AN ASS.

"I DON'T KNOW, CHUBB. COMING OUT TO NEW YORK..."





JACE, YOU THERE?

YEAH, I'M HERE.



GOT A MESSAGE RUNNING ON REPEAT ON A SOCIAL THREAD FROM MAYOR VILLANUEVA'S OFFICE, REQUESTING A MEETING WITH BATMAN.



IF YOU WERE TRYING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION... LOOKS LIKE YOU NAILED IT.

SEND ME THE LOCATION.

YOU SURE THAT'S A GOOD IDEA?



I'VE GOTTA START BUILDING TRUST.

I DON'T HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE ANY OF THIS IS GOING TO END WELL.



FOR REAL, VOL...



...YOU GOTTA WORK ON YOUR WINGMAN SKILLS.

WHERE'S THE MEET?

"HE WANTS TO MEET  
ON LITTLE ISLAND."

MR.  
MAYOR...

BATMAN.  
IS IT BATMAN,  
OR THE  
BATMAN?

I'M NOT  
PARTICULAR.

GOOD TO  
KNOW.

SO, UH...BATMAN,  
MAY I ASK WHAT  
EXACTLY YOU'RE  
DOING IN MY  
CITY?

NOT HERE  
TO START TROUBLE.  
REGULAR PEOPLE  
HAVE TO KNOW THEY  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
FORGOTTEN.

I'M JUST TRYING  
TO BE PART OF THE  
SOLUTION.

THE "SOLUTION" NEEDS  
TO BE BETTER THAN THE ONE YOU  
ALL'VE COME UP WITH IN GOTHAM,  
BECAUSE THAT CITY IS A HOT MESS.

IF YOU  
THINK I'M  
GOING TO  
LET THAT  
HAPPEN TO  
NEW YORK--

NOT MY  
INTENTION.

INTENTIONS ARE  
DIFFERENT FROM  
RESULTS. RESULTS  
ARE THE ONLY THING  
I CARE ABOUT.

YOU'RE HERE.  
I CAN'T UNRING  
THAT BELL.

BUT I'M A NEW YORKER BORN  
AND RAISED. WHEN THE DAY COMES,  
I'M GOING TO BE BURIED IN A PLOT  
NEXT TO MY FATHER IN THE BRONX.

I CAN DIE,  
BUT THIS CITY WILL  
SURVIVE. YOU, THE MASKS  
WHO ARE COMING  
AFTER YOU--YOU ARE NOT  
GOING TO DESTROY NEW  
YORK. I'M GOING TO  
MAKE DAMN SURE  
OF THAT.

STARTING RIGHT NOW  
YOU'RE NO LONGER AN  
INDEPENDENT OPERATOR.  
YOU'RE PART OF THE  
CITY'S SPECIAL CRIMES  
TASK FORCE.

I WASN'T  
AWARE THE CITY  
HAD A SPECIAL  
CRIMES TASK  
FORCE.

UP UNTIL TODAY,  
I WASN'T AWARE THE  
CITY NEEDED ONE.  
CLEARLY IT DOES. AND  
YOU'RE ON IT.



AND IF I REFUSE?

THEN I WILL BRING THE ENTIRE MIGHT OF MY CITY AGAINST YOU.

AND I SWEAR IT WILL MAKE THE WORST YOU HAD TO DEAL WITH IN GOTHAM FEEL LIKE A FOOT MASSAGE.



DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE PART OF THE "SOLUTION," I BELIEVE YOU CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK...

...BUT ONLY IF WE WORK TOGETHER.



"DID BATMAN TAKE THE MAYOR'S DEAL?"

HE TOOK IT.

THE MAYOR... HE'S NOTHING BUT A WOKE IDEALIST. HE THINKS WITH ENOUGH OF THESE SJWS HE CAN TRIP INTO ANOTHER TERM.

VILLANUEVA IS AN IDEALIST, BUT HE ACTUALLY BELIEVES HE'S DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE CITY.

AND WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE, CARMICHAEL?

I BELIEVE I'VE GOT A POLITICAL FUTURE, AND MY FUTURE'S NOT GETTING SCREWED JUST BECAUSE THE MAYOR DECIDES HE'S GOT A FASCINATION WITH MASKS.

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THIS SPECIAL CRIMES TASK FORCE OF HIS.

HEADED UP BY A FORMER GOTHAM COP WHO'S GOT NO LOVE FOR MASKS.

THE WHOLE THING IS BUILT TO SPILL, AND WHEN IT DOES ME AND MY POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS WILL BE WATCHING FROM A SAFE DISTANCE.

YOU REALLY ARE ONE HELL OF AN OPERATOR.

THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME IN THIS CITY, COMMISSIONER. BEYOND THAT...


YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.

"HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM?"




DEVLIN RUBEL. OLD-MONEY NEW YORK. ONE OF THE CITY'S BIGGEST PHILANTHROPISTS.




PEOPLE HATE THE RICH, BUT...GOD, CHUBB... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

THE CRAZINESS... YOUR WORST NIGHTMARES COME TO LIFE...THE SLOW CRAWL TO HELL...



ALL THE %\$#\* THE BATMAN ATTRACTS... IT'S COMING, TANAKA.



DC Comics Proudly  
Presents

# J.M.M. BATMAN

## EMPIRE STATE OF MIND PART 1

JOHN RIDLEY WRITER  
KEN LASHLEY ARTIST  
REX LOKUS COLORS  
TROY PETERI LETTERS

OLIVIER COIPEL &  
ALEX SINCLAIR COVER  
FRANCESCO MATTINA  
AND KHARY RANDOLPH  
& EMILIO LOPEZ  
VARIANT COVERS  
ALEXIS FRANKLIN  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
VARIANT COVER

DAVE WIELCÓSZ ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR  
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH  
BILL FINGER

AND IT'S  
COMING FOR  
US.

NEXT:

THE ART OF  
MURDER!



THEY THOUGHT IT WAS HEAVEN. IT TURNED OUT TO BE HELL.

# THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE



Volume ONE

"The perfect marriage of masterful writing and exquisite art, get ready to be swept up in a riveting emotional tornado that will, quite literally, blow you away. Surprising, terrifying, and wholly original, make no mistake—this is the book of the year."

—Damon Lindelof (*Lost*, *Watchmen*, *The Leftovers*)



Written by the bestselling author of *Batman*, *The Joker*, and *Something Is Killing the Children*

**James Tynion IV**

Art by

**Álvaro Martínez Bueno**



Ages 17+

The first collection of the hit horror series

March

# CRISIS

## ON INFINITE EARTHS

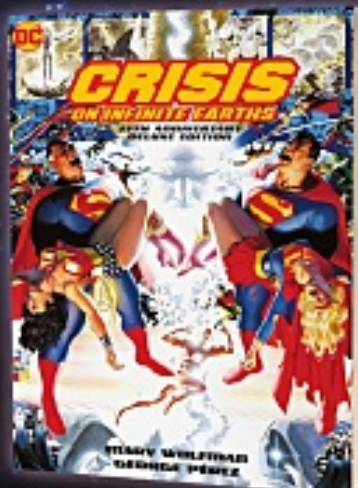
was the first companywide crossover to make good on its promise of lasting change. This classic story written by Marv Wolfman and illustrated by George Pérez transformed the DC Universe forever.



## WORLDS LIVED, WORLDS DIED— AND COMICS WERE NEVER THE SAME.

All the greatest DC heroes from across time and space join forces to stop an individual more powerful than any they've ever faced—a mysterious being known as the Anti-Monitor who has begun a crusade across the Multiverse to bring about the end of all existence.

As their planets are obliterated one by one, can the heroes of different Earths band together to stop the destruction of all existence? It's going to take the combined powers of two Supermen, the Flash, a new Superboy, Supergirl, Alexander Luthor, and countless others to fight the madness—and not all will survive.



No DC fan should miss out on reading this essential graphic novel that inspired countless other stories including *Infinite Crisis*, *Identity Crisis*, *Final Crisis*, and more.

It was even adapted as a crossover between the DC TV series on The CW, including *Arrow*, *Supergirl*, *The Flash*, and *Black Lightning*.

**GET THIS CLASSIC  
AT A COMICS SHOP  
NEAR YOU!**

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics DANIEL CHERRY III Senior VP - General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP - Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP - Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP - Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP - Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP - Revenue

I AM WOMAN is April 2022. Published monthly by DC Comics, 2900 W. Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91505. GST # is R123071872. Copyright © 2022 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact [dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com](mailto:dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com). For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit [dccomics.com/gc/ratings](http://dccomics.com/gc/ratings). DC - a WarnerMedia Company.

*The Last Krypton*



onian-DCP

