



BATMAN

NO.428

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by STARLIN,
APARO &
DeCARLO

Book Three
of Four

a Death in the Family

The Batman
was too late.

And now Robin
lies in rubble,
still,
silent,
shattered.

Can he possibly
be alive?



APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

A DEATH in the FAMILY

CHAPTER 5

JASON!

WHERE
ARE YOU?!

I WARNED YOU NOT TO TAKE
ON THE JOKER BY YOURSELF.

I BEGGED YOU TO WAIT,
JASON, BUT OF COURSE
YOU DIDN'T.

YOU NEVER LISTEN.
WHY? WHY?

WHY DIDN'T I SEE THAT YOU
WERE TOO YOUNG FOR THIS
KIND OF WORK?

HOW COULD I HAVE
BEEN SO STUPID?

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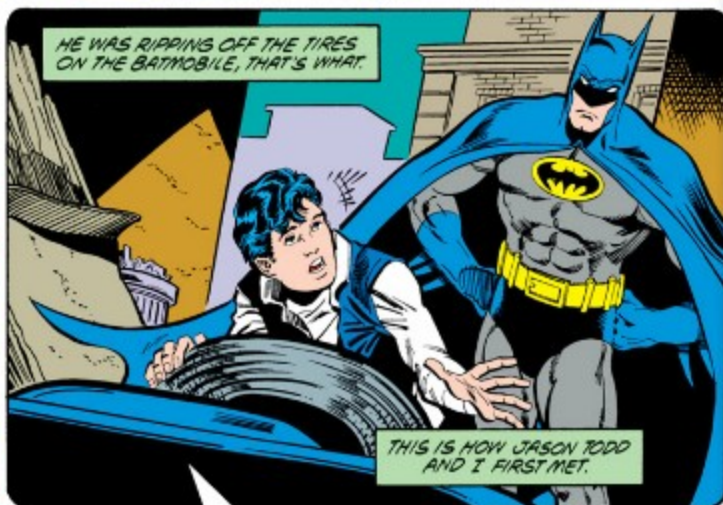
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SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE... NOT GOING TO MAKE IT...

I'M STUNNED AND MY MIND DRIFTS...

YOUNG JASON HAS RUN AWAY FROM HOME, SIR.

I TRACKED JASON DOWN TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

UNFORTUNATELY HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE HEADING THIS WAY.

SO WAS MY OLD Foe, THE JOKER.

JASON HAD THREE WOMEN WHO HE SUSPECTED MIGHT BE HIS REAL MOTHER. HE STRUCK OUT ON THE FIRST TWO.

BUT HE HIT PAYDIRT WHEN WE CAME TO THAT FAMINE REFUGEE CAMP, HERE IN ETHIOPIA.



I CAN STILL SEE THE HAPPINESS ON THE BOY'S FACE WHEN HE REALIZED THE SEARCH FOR HIS REAL MOTHER HAD COME TO AN END.

I LEFT JASON AT THAT CAMP, TO GET TO KNOW HIS MOTHER BETTER.

IT SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT THE TIME.



HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT JASON WOULD DISCOVER THAT HIS MOTHER WAS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE JOKER?



THE JOKER PLANNED TO HIJACK A SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TO REPLENISH HIS OPERATING FUNDS.

HE PLANNED TO SUBSTITUTE A LOAD OF HIS LETHAL LAUGHING GAS IN PLACE OF THESE SUPPLIES.



I HAD TO GO AFTER THE SHIPMENT WHICH WAS HEADED FOR A REFUGEE CAMP. HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE DIED IF I HADN'T.

JASON WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR MY RETURN, BEFORE GOING AFTER HIS MOTHER AND THE JOKER.



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WOULDN'T WAIT...

SHEILA...

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

JOKER...



...HE TIED US UP... SET BOMB TO EXPLODE...

...WANTED TO ELIMINATE... ALL EVIDENCE... OF HIS BEING HERE...



...JASON TRIED... TO RESCUE ME...

...WE... ALMOST... MADE IT... SO CLOSE...



...HE TURNED OUT... TO BE... SUCH A... GOOD KID...

...ALL HIS PROBLEMS... AND HE... STILL... TURNED OUT GOOD...



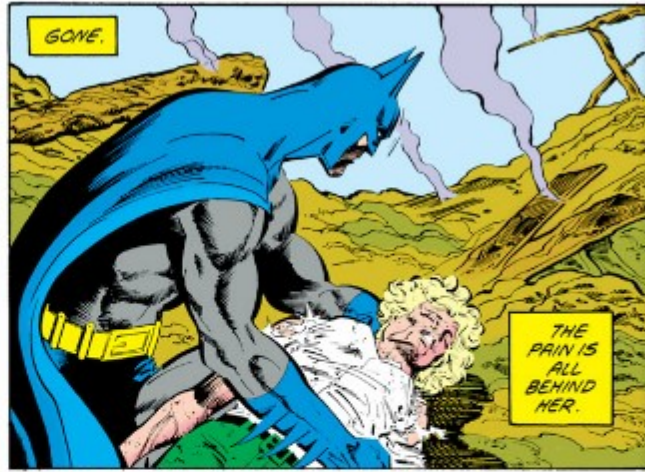
...HE'S... MUCH BETTER... THAN I DESERVE...

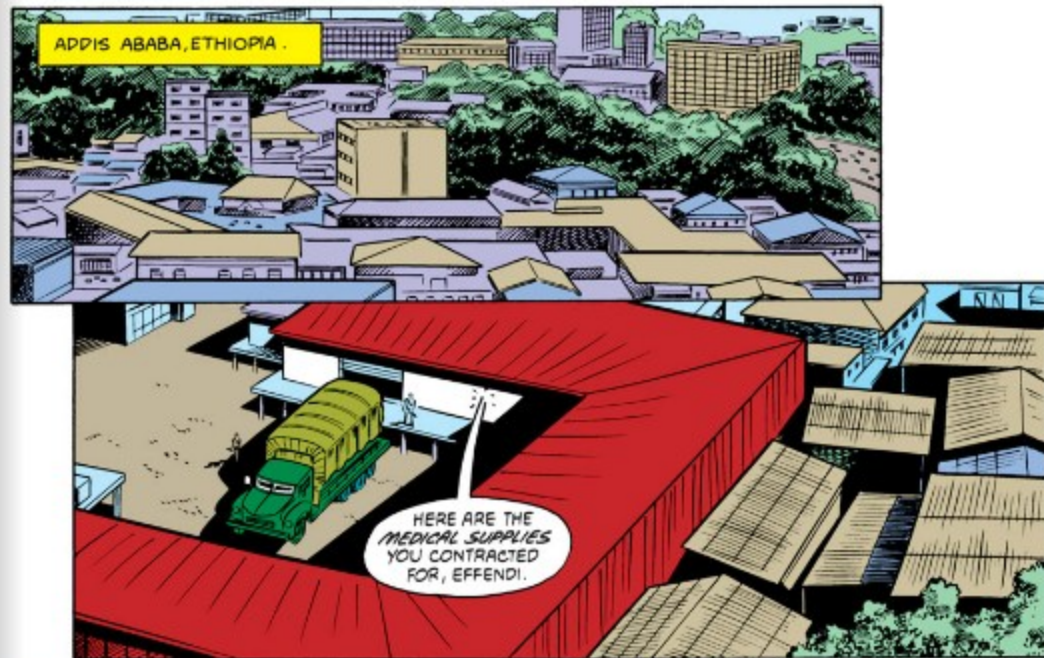
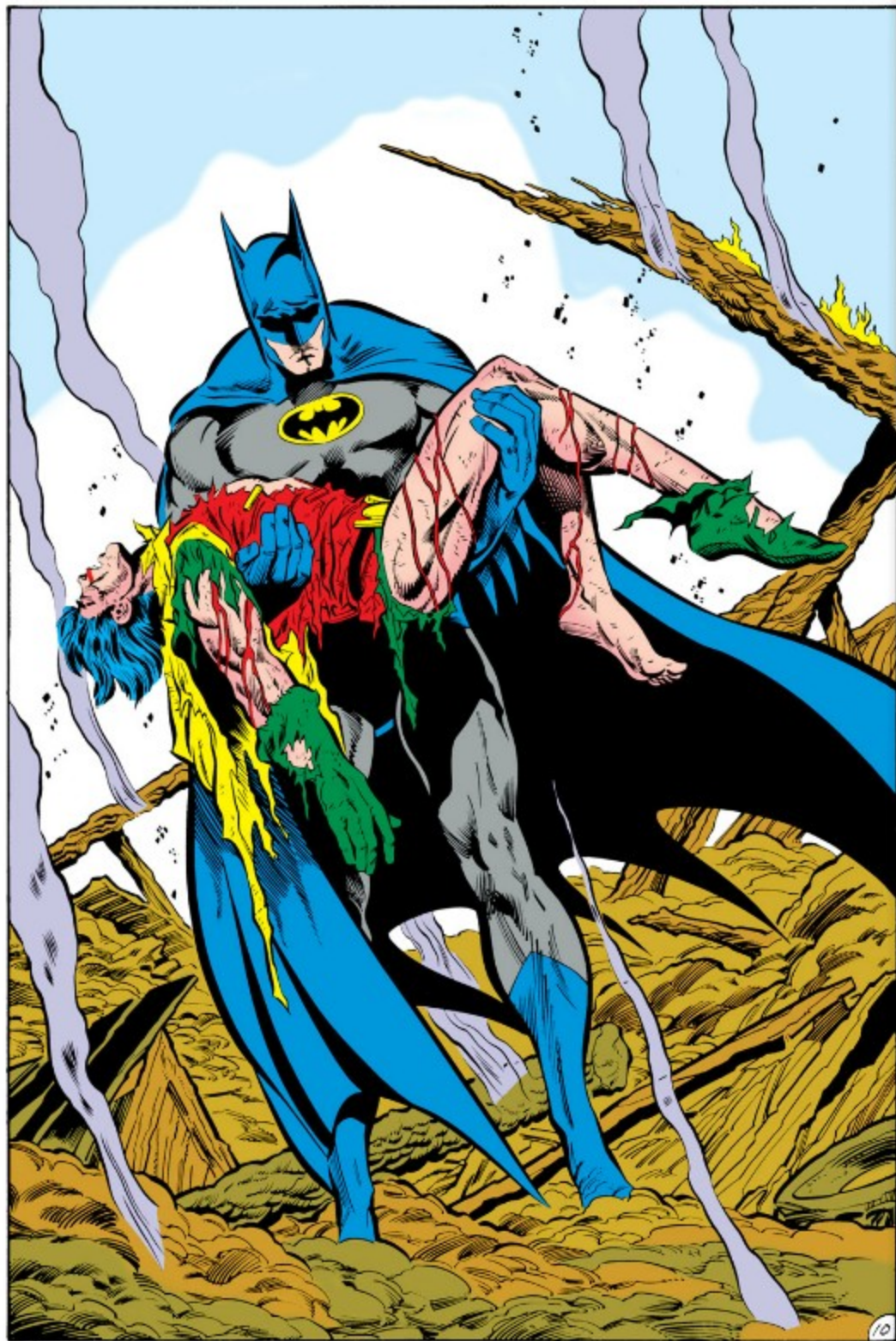
...MUCH BETTER...



...HE THREW... HIMSELF... IN FRONT... OF ME... IN FRONT OF ME...

...HE TOOK... THE MAIN BRUNT... OF THE BLAST...







WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE IRANIAN SECRET SERVICE.

MY, MY! NOW WHAT WOULD A COUPLE OF THE AYATOLLAH'S BOYS WANT WITH ME?



OUR SUPERIOR HAS A BUSINESS PROPOSITION HE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

HE'S WAITING IN THE REAR OFFICE.



HERE! HOLD THIS.

I'LL SETTLE UP WITH YOU BOYS WHEN I GET BACK.

PLEASE, SIR. MY SUPERIOR IS NOT USED TO BEING KEPT WAITING.



IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE MY CUE TO JUMP THROUGH A HOOP?

SORRY, EFFENDI, I DON'T DO REQUESTS.



IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET TO KNOW ME, ABDUL, YOU'LL FIND THAT THE JOKER ISN'T IMPRESSED BY...

...JUST...

...ANYONE.

ULP!



I HAVE A POSITION IN MY GOVERNMENT I WISH TO OFFER YOU, MONSIEUR JOKER.



I REMOVE WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF JASON'S COSTUME THAT COULD HAVE IDENTIFIED HIM AS ROBIN BEFORE CALLING THE AUTHORITIES.

THEY'VE GOT A MILLION QUESTIONS. THIS TAKES UP MOST OF THE DAY.



BRUCE WAYNE PATIENTLY ANSWERS THEIR EVERY INQUIRY.



NO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE EXPLOSION. MAYBE SOMETHING THEY HAD STORED THERE?

THE VICTIM'S NAMES WERE SHEILA HAYWOOD AND JASON TODD. THEY WERE MOTHER AND SON.



YES, I'LL SEE TO HAVING THE BODIES FLOWN BACK TO THE STATES FOR BURIAL.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.



THE COPS CONTINUE THEIR SEARCH FOR THE CAUSE OF THIS TRAGEDY, EVIDENCE I'VE ALREADY REMOVED FROM THE SCENE.

LET THEM WRITE IT OFF AS AN ACCIDENT. THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO BE INVOLVED.

THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER.



IT'S SOMETHING THE JOKER AND I SHOULD HAVE SETTLED BETWEEN US A LONG TIME AGO.



I DON'T LOCATE THE WAREHOUSE THE JOKER USED UNTIL THE FOLLOWING NIGHT.

I KNOW HE'LL BE LONG GONE FROM HERE, BUT IT'S GOT TO BE CHECKED OUT ANYWAY.



THE JOKER MAY HAVE LEFT A CLUE TO HIS WHEREABOUTS, ALONG WITH THE BODIES OF HIS DISCARDED HENCHMEN.

I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THE RIGGED SMILES OF THE JOKER'S VICTIMS.

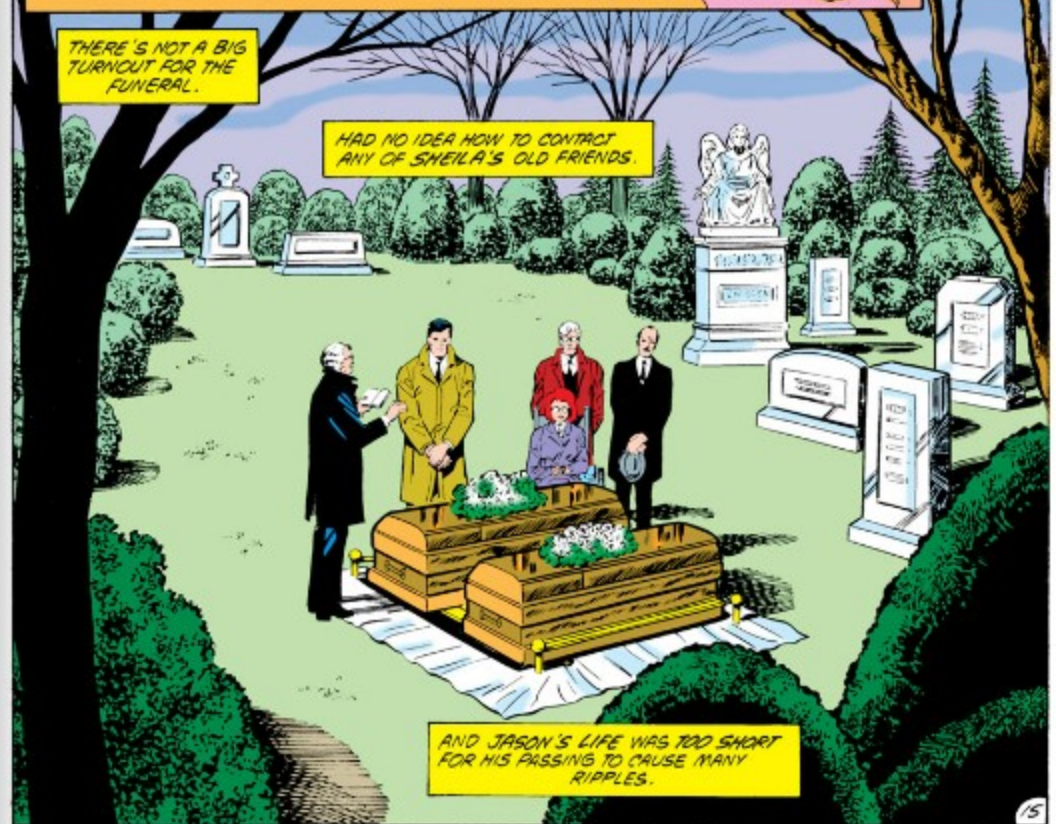


I HIT THE JACKPOT, BUT NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DEDUCTIVE REASONING ON MY PART.



I TAKE THE JOKER AT HIS WORD AND HEAD HOME.

SHEILA AND JASON ACCOMPANY ME IN THE PLANE'S CARGO BAY.



THERE'S NOT A BIG TURNOUT FOR THE FUNERAL.

HAD NO IDEA HOW TO CONTACT ANY OF SHEILA'S OLD FRIENDS

AND JASON'S LIFE WAS TOO SHORT FOR HIS PASSING TO CAUSE MANY RIPPLES.



YOU SEE, THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE NEW ROBIN IS DEAD.

THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO REMAIN, IF I WANT TO MAINTAIN A SECRET IDENTITY.

YEAH, I KNOW THAT'S COLD BUT THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE.

IT'S A MEAN, CRUEL WORLD OUT THERE.



SHOULD I GET IN TOUCH WITH MASTER DICK, MASTER BRUCE?

HUH?



NO... NO, ALFRED I'LL HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF.



NO HELP FROM NOW ON...



... THAT'S THE WAY I WANT IT.



IN GOTHAM CITY, THERE'S A DELI, DRUGSTORE, NEWSSTAND AND DEPARTMENT STORE ON THE CORNER OF FORTY-SECOND AND FIRST.

IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT'S WHERE THE JOKER WANTS TO MEET.



IN METROPOLIS, THERE'S TWO PARKING LOTS, ANOTHER DELI AND AN OFFICE BUILDING ON THOSE CORNERS. NO.

BUT IN NEW YORK CITY...



THE UNITED NATIONS PLAZA.

THIS HAS GOT TO BE IT!



THE JOKER WANTED ME TO KNOW HE WAS COMING TO THE U.N.

BUT WHY?

WHAT IS HE PLANNING?

I'VE GOT TO FIND SOMETHING TO TELL ME WHAT THAT MADMAN'S UP TO.



THEN, JOKER, IT'LL BE JUST YOU AND ME.

I'VE EXCUSED THE EVIL YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST BECAUSE OF YOUR INSANITY.



I'LL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

BATMAN!



SUPERMAN?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED ME TO STOP BY.



WHY?

BECAUSE THEY GUESSED YOU'D BE HERE.

HOW DID THEY KNOW THAT?

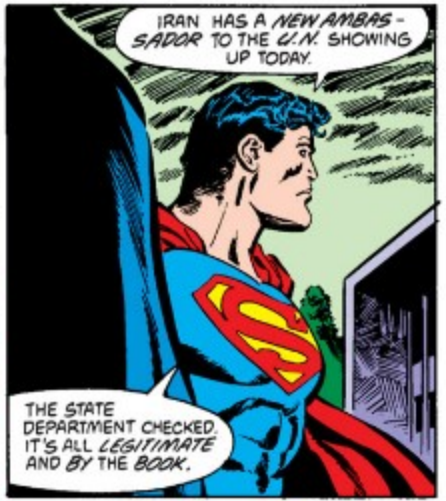
THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED THEM THAT YOU MIGHT SHOW UP TO CAUSE TROUBLE

SUPERMAN, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



THIS IS *NOT* GOING TO BE EASY TO EXPLAIN, BATMAN.

I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT MYSELF.



IRAN HAS A NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. SHOWING UP TODAY.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT CHECKED IT'S ALL LEGITIMATE AND BY THE BOOK.



THE POLICE CAN'T TOUCH HIM.

SO IT SEEMS THIS MAN NOW HAS COMPLETE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

THAT MEANS NO ONE CAN ARREST HIM FOR ANY CRIMES IN THIS COUNTRY.



NEITHER CAN YOU!



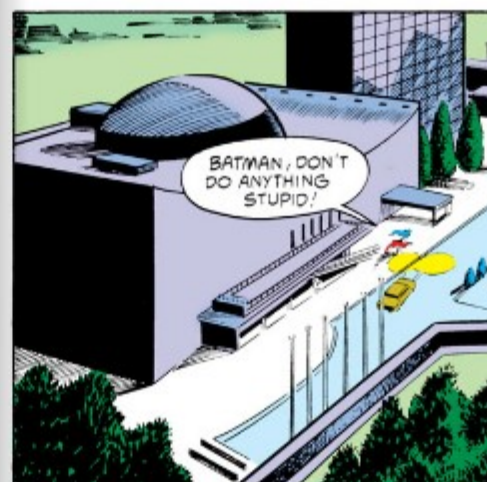
I'M SORRY, BATMAN. THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS.

THIS IMMUNITY ALSO COVERS ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW HE MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED BEFORE BEING APPOINTED TO THE POST.

WE HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THIS MADNESS. DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IS A TWO-WAY STREET. IF WE DON'T HONOR IRAN'S RIGHTS IN THIS MATTER, THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO RESPECT OURS.

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY EVER DID OR DID YOU JUST FORGET HOW THEY TOOK OVER OUR EMBASSY A FEW YEARS BACK.

IF YOU TRY ANYTHING, BATMAN, IT COULD CAUSE AN INTER-NATIONAL INCIDENT.





NOW ISN'T THIS TOUCHING!

MY OLD PALS, SUPERMAN AND BATPAST, HAVE COME TO CONGRATULATE ME!

IT'S TRUE, GUYS. I'M THE NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N.!

EAT YOUR HEARTS OUT.



BATMAN 101

• BATMAN BEGINS! •

- Detective Comics (1937-2011) #27-33
- Batman (1940-2011) #1-4
- Batman: Dark Victory #0-13
- BATMAN: YEAR ONE**
- Batman #404-407
- Batman: The Long Halloween #1-13

• DARK TIMES FOR THE DARK KNIGHT! •

- Batman: The Cult #1
- BATMAN: DEATH IN THE FAMILY**
- Batman #426-429
- BATMAN: HUSH**
- Batman #608-619
- BATMAN: HEART OF HUSH**
- Detective Comics #846-850
- BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL V. 1**
- Batman #491-497
- Detective Comics #659-663
- BATMAN: NO MAN'S LAND**
- Batman: No Man's Land #1
- Batman: Shadow of the Bat #83-#84
- Batman #563-#564
- Detective Comics #730-#731
- Legends of the Dark Knight #116

• THE BATMAN FAMILY! •

- All-Star Batman & Robin the Boy Wonder #1
- Batman: Black and White #1
- Batman/Catwoman: Trail of the Gun #1
- Gotham Central #1
- Batman and Robin (2009-2011) #1-6
- Superman/Batman #1

• THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE! •

- Dark Knight Returns #1
- Batman Beyond (1999) #1
- Batman Beyond (2011) #1

• THE CITY HE PROTECTS! •

- Batman: Arkham City #1
- Batman: Gates of Gotham #1
- Batman: Streets of Gotham #1
- Planetary/Batman: Night on Earth #1

